

EL PASO, TEXAS.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF  
KORD INDUSTRIES...

I'VE  
BEEN STANDING  
HERE FOR ALMOST  
FIVE MINUTES,  
KORD.

YIKES!

ISN'T IT  
ABOUT TIME YOU  
NOTICED?



## TWO BEETLES-- AND A BAT!

JUST ONE MORE ISSUE TO GO FOR THE TEAM OF  
KEITH GIFFEN, J.M. DEMATTEIS & SCOTT KOLINS  
AND NO ONE'S HAPPIER THAN

JOSH REED, LETTERER • ROMULO FAJARDO JR., COLORIST  
ROB LEVIN, ASSISTANT EDITOR • JIM CHADWICK, HECTORED AND HARRIED  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER



Y'KNOW THAT "APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE" SHTICK COULD GIVE SOMEONE A HEART ATTACK!

AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH CORONARY ISSUES, THANK YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN EL PASO, ANYWAY?

I'VE COME TO SEE IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND.

EXCUSE ME?

WE'VE ONLY MET A FEW TIMES, KORD--

--BUT I WAS ALWAYS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT, DESPITE YOUR EMOTIONAL IMMATURITY, YOU WERE A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE--

"EMOTIONAL IMMATURITY"?

--NOT A RECKLESS IDIOT.



FIRST OF ALL, DRESSING LIKE A BAT AND SCARING THE CRAP OUT OF PEOPLE ISN'T EXACTLY THE HEIGHT OF MATURITY--

--AND SECOND OF ALL, I DIDN'T BUILD THIS BUSINESS BY BEING RECKLESS.

I THOUGHT YOUR FATHER BUILT KORD INDUSTRIES--WHILE YOU NEARLY BANKRUPTED IT. THREE TIMES.

AND BROUGHT IT BACK FROM BANKRUPTCY, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER. A VISIONARY HAS TO TAKE RISKS AND--

EXACTLY. AND YOU'VE BEEN TAKING RISKS WITH THAT BOY'S LIFE.

I'M MAKING HIM MY CONCERN.

JAIIME? THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE? WELL, HE'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.

REALLY, KORD-- PUTTING A CHILD IN HIGH-TECH ARMOR? SENDING HIM OUT TO PLAY SUPERHERO WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING OR--

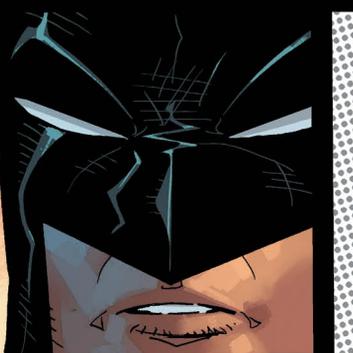
AT LEAST HE'S WEARING ARMOR! AS I RECALL, ROBIN BASICALLY RUNS AROUND IN HIS UNDERWEAR!

YOU'VE ENDANGERED THAT BOY'S LIFE AND LEFT THIS CITY IN RUINS IN THE PROCESS.

WE SAVED EL PASO! NO, NOT "WE"--JAIIME SAVED US!

THAT BOY IS MORE POWERFUL, MORE CAPABLE, THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!

REALLY?



YEAH! THAT'S NOT JUST ORDINARY BATTLE ARMOR HE'S WEARING, IT'S ALIVE...SENTIENT... AND--

AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO ALLEVIATE MY CONCERNS?

LOOK, JUST FLAP YOUR WINGS AND GO BACK TO THE PSYCHOS IN GOTHAM. PSYCHOS THAT, I HASTEN TO ADD, WEREN'T THERE BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP!





SO DON'T START LECTURING ME ABOUT--

STOP TALKING.

YES, SIR!

I'M GOING TO STICK AROUND FOR A FEW DAYS. I WANT TO STUDY THIS BOY. AND HIS... SENTIENT ARMOR. AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET IN MY WAY. UNDERSTOOD?

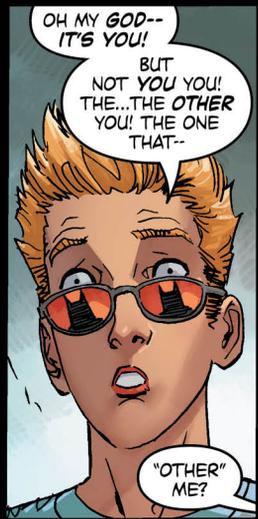
YES, SIR!



HEY, TED--

--I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THAT ALIGNMENT PROBLEM WITH THE "BUG"! IT WAS A QUICK FIX.

JUST HAD TO ADJUST THE GYROSCOPIC GENERATOR AND--



OH MY GOD-- IT'S YOU!

BUT NOT YOU! THE... THE OTHER YOU! THE ONE THAT--

"OTHER" ME?



NEVER MIND.

ONE MORE THING BEFORE I GO, KORD: STOP WRITING THOSE LETTERS TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--

--BEGGING US TO GRANT YOU MEMBERSHIP. IT'S EMBARRASSING--

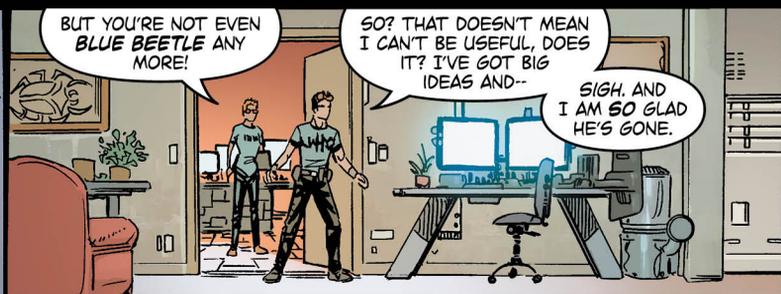
--FOR ALL OF US.



YOU WRITE TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

ONLY ONCE OR TWICE--

--A WEEK.



BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN BLUE BEETLE ANY MORE!

SO? THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T BE USEFUL, DOES IT? I'VE GOT BIG IDEAS AND--

SIGH. AND I AM SO GLAD HE'S GONE.



THAT IS ONE SPECTACULARLY SPOOKY DUDE. EVERY TIME I MEET HIM I'M TOTALLY INTIMIDATED. START ACTING LIKE--

LIKE WHAT?

WELL, EITHER I GET ALL UP IN HIS FACE--TRYING DESPERATELY TO PROVE THAT I'M NOT INTIMIDATED--OR I FOLD AND LET HIM BULLY ME.

AND WHAT'D YOU DO THIS TIME?



BOTH.

YEAH, WELL, HE SURE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE BATMAN I KNEW. OR I'M GONNA KNOW. OR WHATEVER IT IS.

TIME TRAVEL'S A BITCH, HUH?

TO SAY THE LEAST.

HE'S HERE BECAUSE OF JAIME, RIGHT?



YEAH. PAST FEW MONTHS OF INSANITY HAVE REALLY PUT EL PASO ON THE MAP. AND BLUE BEETLE WITH IT.

GUESS WE'RE ON THE LEAGUE'S RADAR NOW.

WHY COULDN'T ARION HAVE STAYED IN THAT DAMN TOMB OF HIS?



TOO LATE TO PUT THAT GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE.

SO...AH... YOU GONNA CALL THE KID? LET HIM KNOW?



TED...?

I'LL CALL HIM! I'LL CALL HIM!

YOU'D BETTER DO IT SOON--

"--OR JAIME'S IN FOR THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!"

ROSES?  
NAH. WAY TOO SERIOUS.

CARNATIONS?  
C'MON--WHO LIKES CARNATIONS?

DAISIES?  
HEY...THOSE MIGHT WORK!

...HOPE SHE SWOONS, JAIME!

THANKS, MR. BEHZADI! I HOPE SO, TOO!

NAOMI AND I HAVE NEVER HAD AN "OFFICIAL" DATE BEFORE AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT--

HEY! THAT'S PROBABLY HER NOW AND--

OH. IT'S TED.

SIGH. I'D LIKE TO GET THROUGH ONE NIGHT WITHOUT HIM CHECKING UP ON ME.

ZEEEP!  
ZEEEP!

JAIME-- LISTEN TO ME! I--

LOOK, TED, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT I'VE GOT A BIG DATE TONIGHT AND I'M LATE AS IT IS, SO--

--IT CAN WAIT TILL THE MORNING!

BUT, JAIME--

GOOD-BYE!

GAH!

YOU'D THINK AFTER I SAVED THE WHOLE FREAKING WORLD FROM ARION, TED WOULD LET ME HAVE SOME TIME TO MYSELF! BUT NO, HE--

UP IN THE SKY!

WHAT IS THAT?

LOOKS LIKE SKYWRITING, BUT--

HEY... LOOK!

NO! YOU CAN'T GO ON A DATE! YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW BEFORE--

LOOK, WHATEVER IT IS--