



IN THIS LIFE,
THERE ARE
PLANNERS AND
IMPROVISERS.

PLANNERS LIKE TO
THINK AHEAD AND DEVISE
A STRATEGY. IMPROVISERS
PREFER TO MAKE IT UP AS
THEY GO ALONG,
BECAUSE, HEY, WHEN DOES
ANYTHING IN LIFE EVER
GO ACCORDING TO PLAN?

THE PRESENT.

CONVERGENCE
THE LOVE SONG OF
STEPHANIE BROWN
PART 2

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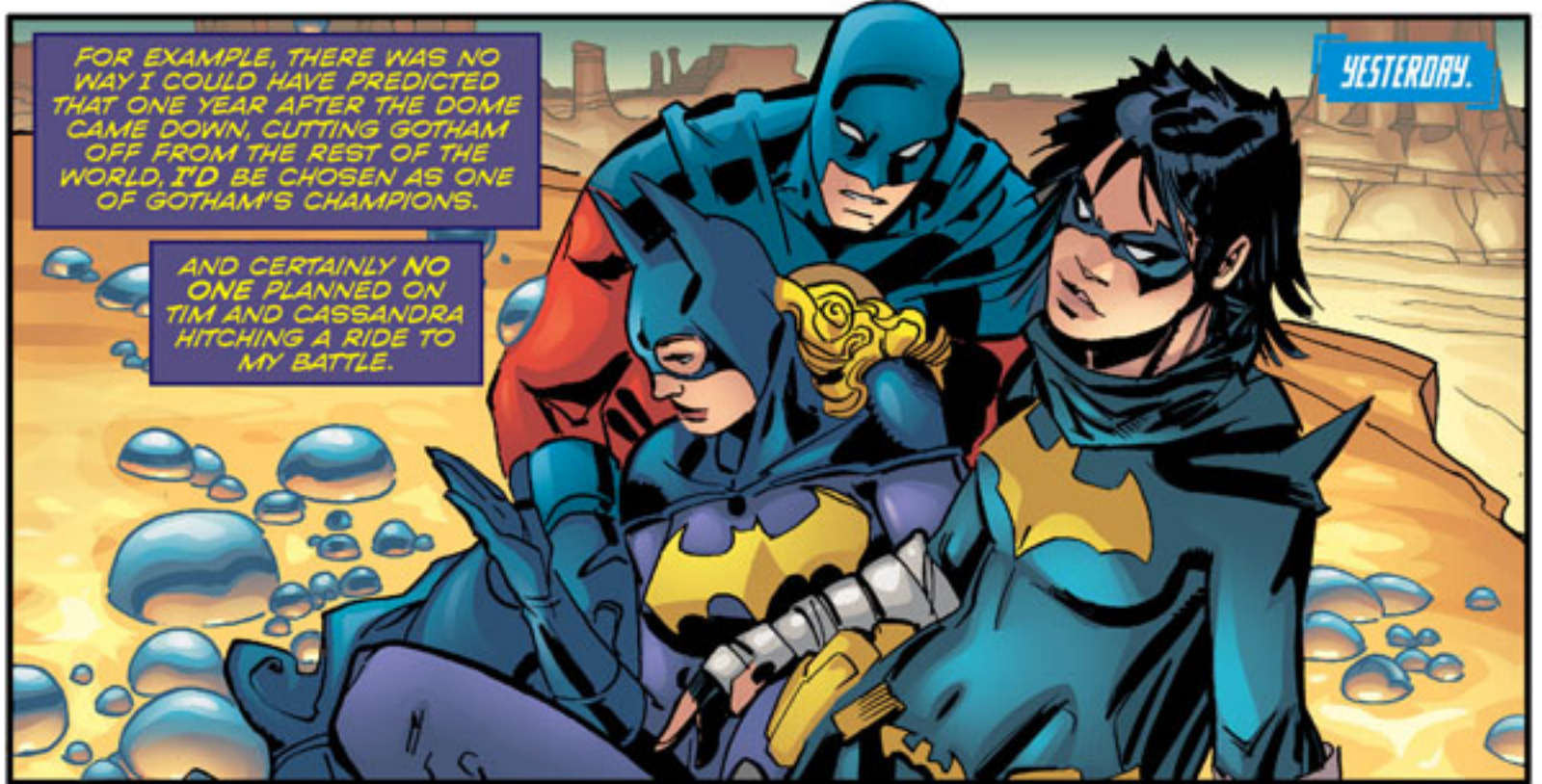
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FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT ONE YEAR AFTER THE DOME CAME DOWN, CUTTING GOTHAM OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, I'D BE CHOSEN AS ONE OF GOTHAM'S CHAMPIONS.

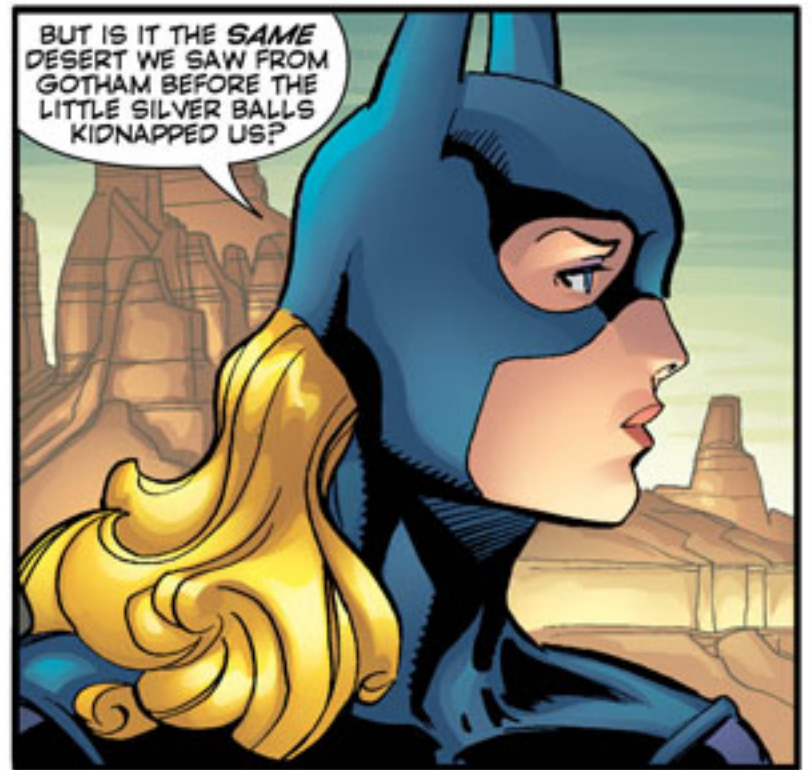
YESTERDAY.

AND CERTAINLY NO ONE PLANNED ON TIM AND CASSANDRA HITCHING A RIDE TO MY BATTLE.



ANYONE KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

WELL, IT'S A DESERT.



BUT IS IT THE SAME DESERT WE SAW FROM GOTHAM BEFORE THE LITTLE SILVER BALLS KIDNAPPED US?



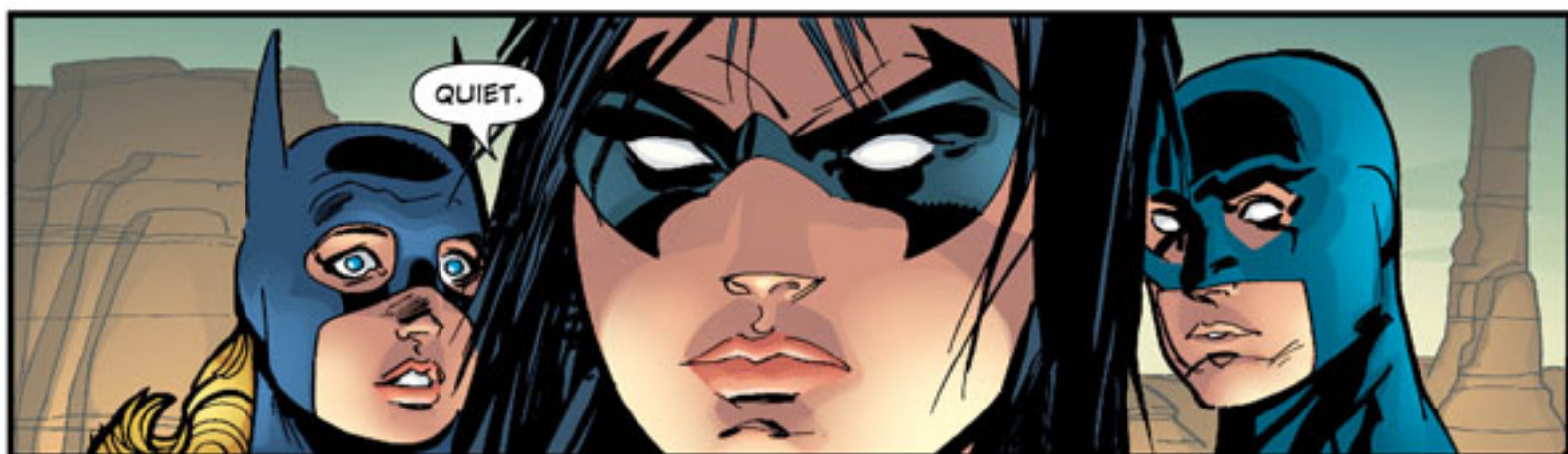
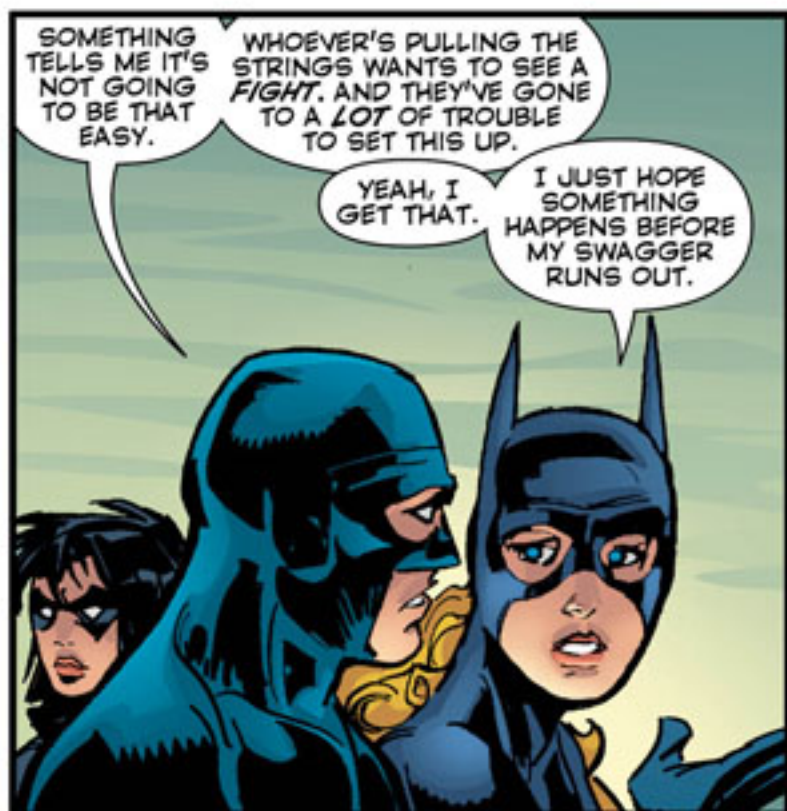
DOESN'T MATTER.

IT'S A BATTLEFIELD. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.



SORRY, CASS, BUT I HAVE TO DISAGREE.

THERE'S ONLY TWO PEOPLE FIGHTING TODAY--ME, AND WHOEVER THE ENTITY PICKED AS MY ADVERSARY.





"YOU NEVER KNOW WHO COULD BE WATCHING...AND LISTENING."



CRUD. YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. I NEED TO WATCH WHAT I SAY.

BUT WHAT IF I'VE BEEN PAIRED UP WITH SOMEONE WHO'S GOT PSYCHIC POWERS?



HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH A PSYCHIC? YOU CAN'T STOP YOURSELF FROM THINKING WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T.

WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN, CASS. BUT I CAN'T.

AND EVEN YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS ALL THE TIME.

MAYBE MY OPPONENT'S HERE RIGHT NOW!



MAYBE THE ONLY REASON WE THINK NO ONE'S HERE IS BECAUSE SOMEONE'S MESSING WITH OUR MINDS!

YOU'RE PSYCHING YOURSELF OUT. DON'T.



LOOK, THINK OF THIS AS A CHALLENGE STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MIDDLE AGES. YOU'RE A KNIGHT, STEPH. THE IDEA IS TO SEE WHICH CHAMPION PREVAILS.



YEAH, I GET THAT, BUT THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO ACCORDING TO PLAN, TIM.

TAKE YOU GUYS, FOR EXAMPLE. YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE TRANSPORTED HERE WITH ME, BUT YOU WERE.

TRUE, BUT--



I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD ASSUME ANYTHING.

LIKE, WE THINK WE'RE ONLY UP AGAINST ONE PERSON.

BUT WHAT IF MY OPPONENT BROUGHT SOMEONE OVER, TOO?

Hmm...

SO, YEAH, LOOK'S LIKE I MIGHT'VE CALLED THIS ONE RIGHT. EITHER THE WELL-DRESSED APE'S A NATIVE, OR CATMAN DIDN'T COME HERE ALONE.

THE PRESENT.

THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS?

THAT'S GENERAL GRODD-- AND THE REASON MY FRIENDS ARE ALL DEAD.

"GRODD'S ARMY WAS BEATING US BACK IN CAPE TOWN, SO I TOOK A LITTLE SIDE TRIP TO GOTHAM TO BUY SOME WEAPONS.

"THEN GRODD SNIFFED ME OUT AND THE DOME TRAPPED US BOTH FOR A WHOLE DAMN YEAR."

"WAIT, YOU WERE IN GOTHAM, TOO?"

"SAME CITY, DIFFERENT UNIVERSE. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, THE DOME SAPPED GRODD'S POWERS.

"TAKE AWAY THE TELEPATHY, THE SUPER STRENGTH AND THE POWER OF SPEECH, AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE? ONE DEPRESSED GORILLA, THAT'S WHAT.

"I FIGURED DEATH WAS TOO GOOD FOR GRODD, SO WE PUT HIM IN THE ZOO WITH AN ELDERLY FEMALE NAMED ZELDA.

"THEN THE DOME CAME DOWN AND GRODD GOT HIS POWERS BACK."

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU STUPID APE. COME A LITTLE CLOSER.