

YOU KNOW, OSWALD... I'VE BEEN TAKING IT ALL IN.

WATCHING THIS CITY FROM EVERY ANGLE. LISTENING THROUGH EVERY MICROPHONE. OBSERVING THROUGH EVERY CAMERA.

IF YOU'RE SO SMART WHY AREN'T YOU RICH?

IF YOU...

EYE

GOTHAM IS AN EQUATION, AND I HAVE SET MY MAGNIFICENT MIND TO SOLVING IT. IN SOLVING IT I SEEK TO SOLVE MYSELF.

A RIDDLE WITH NO SOLUTION. A RIDDLE BEFITTING A RIDDLER!

I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THREE MONTHS. I'M STARTING TO FORGET THE SENSATION. MILITARY-GRADE MIND-ENHANCING AMPHETAMINES WILL DO THAT, I SUPPOSE. I'VE BEEN ALTERING THE FORMULA...

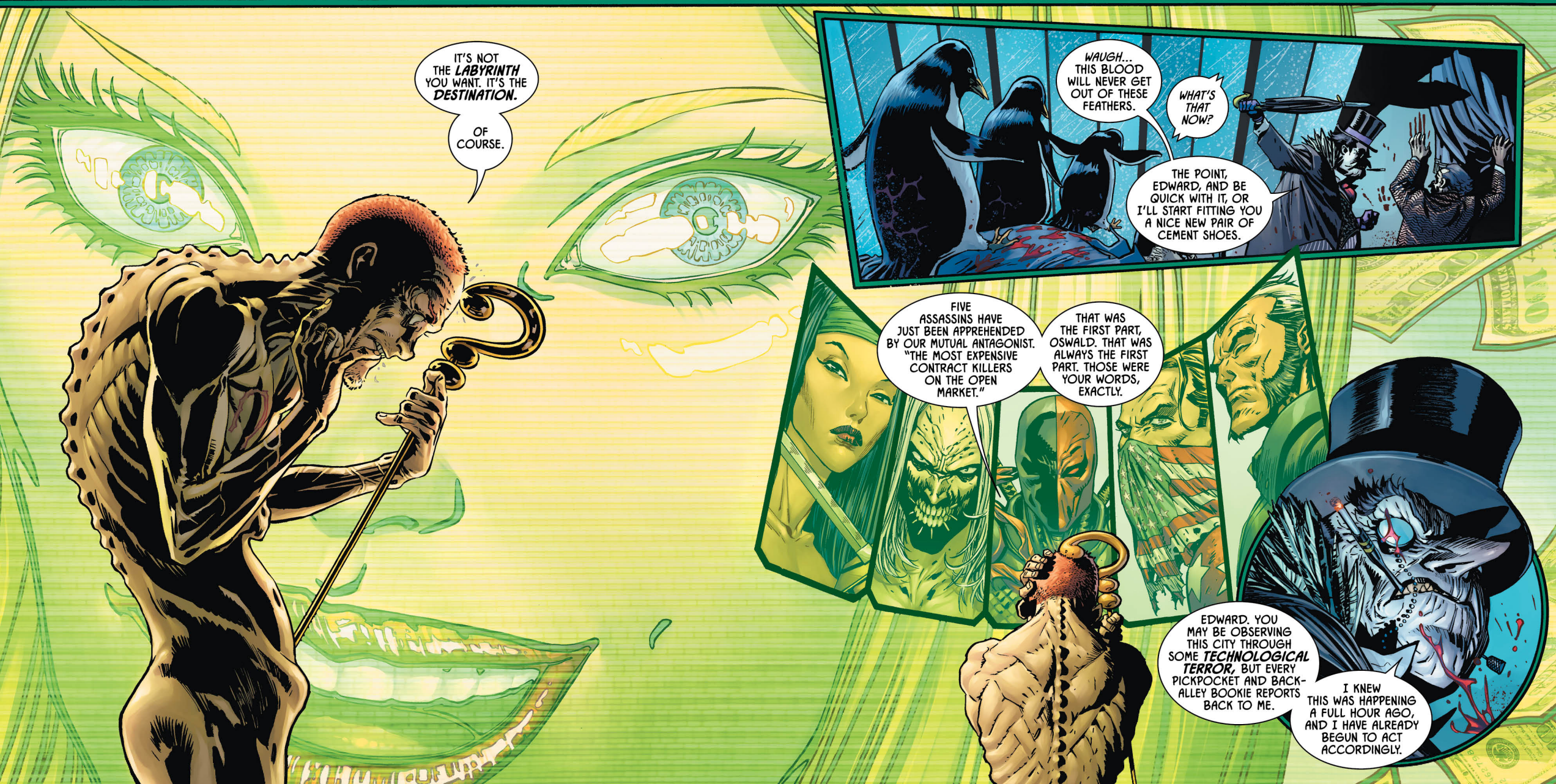
EDWARD...



...I DO NOT APPRECIATE THIS INTRUSION.

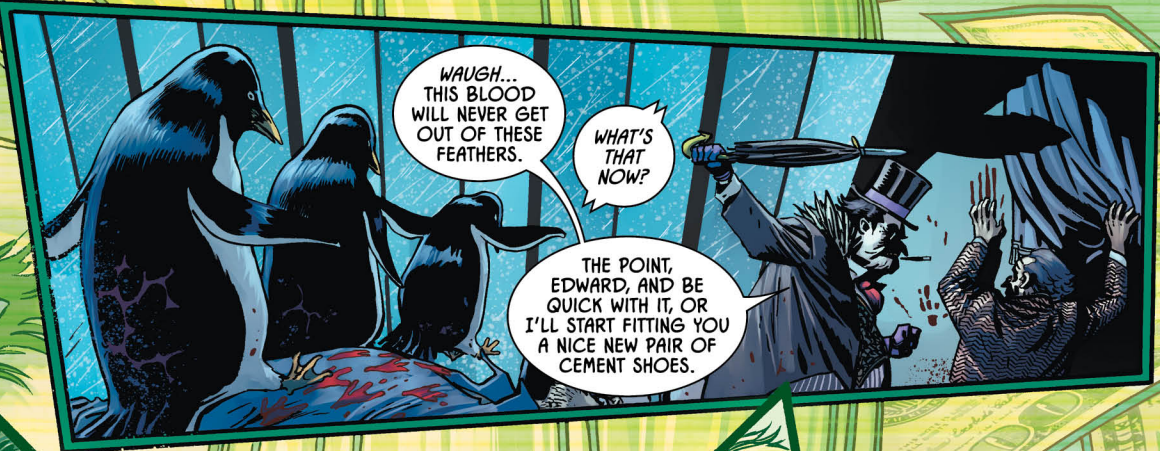
THIS IS A PRIVATE LINE, AND I AM WORKING...

LISTEN. THIS IS IMPORTANT. I'M SORRY... I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO ANYBODY BUT MYSELF IN QUITE SOME TIME... I'M GOING A BIT... NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'LL FOCUS.



IT'S NOT THE LABYRINTH YOU WANT. IT'S THE DESTINATION.

OF COURSE.



WAUGH... THIS BLOOD WILL NEVER GET OUT OF THESE FEATHERS.

WHAT'S THAT NOW?

THE POINT, EDWARD, AND BE QUICK WITH IT, OR I'LL START FITTING YOU A NICE NEW PAIR OF CEMENT SHOES.

FIVE ASSASSINS HAVE JUST BEEN APPREHENDED BY OUR MUTUAL ANTAGONIST. "THE MOST EXPENSIVE CONTRACT KILLERS ON THE OPEN MARKET."

THAT WAS THE FIRST PART, OSWALD. THAT WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST PART. THOSE WERE YOUR WORDS, EXACTLY.

EDWARD. YOU MAY BE OBSERVING THIS CITY THROUGH SOME TECHNOLOGICAL TERROR, BUT EVERY PICKPOCKET AND BACK-ALLEY BOOKIE REPORTS BACK TO ME.

I KNEW THIS WAS HAPPENING A FULL HOUR AGO, AND I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ACT ACCORDINGLY.

DC COMICS  
proudly  
presents

# THEIR DARK DESIGNS

PART 2

THIS DEVIL  
WILL FIND  
**NOTHING** OF THE  
PENGUIN'S WORTH  
TAKING.



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CLOSE UP SHOP, EDWARD. USE ONE OF THE FEW DOZEN ALIASES YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. DISAPPEAR INTO A BORING, NORMAL LIFE. SOMEWHERE WARM.

I TRIED AND I COULDN'T, OSWALD.\*

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I WILL NOT SEE MY EMPIRE TORN DOWN BY AN OUTSIDER. I AM DOING THE SMART THING. I AM CLEANING HOUSE. I'VE JUST ELIMINATED MY INNER CIRCLE.

SO WAR, THEN.

\*RIDDLER THOUGHT HE COULD LEAVE CRIME BEHIND IN YEAR OF THE VILLAIN: THE RIDDLER #1! --BEN

I HAVE BEEN FILLING THE GUTTERS OF THIS CITY WITH BLOOD SINCE I WAS JUST A CHICK.

THEY UNDERESTIMATE THE FAT, SHORT MAN WITH THE RIDICULOUS CLOTHES AND THE BIRD FIXATION. BUT EVEN BATMAN HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP ME BEHIND BARS.

WE MADE A DEAL, OSWALD. THE DESIGNER IS COMING TO COLLECT.

HE CAN TRY.