



# BATTLE FOR THE COWL

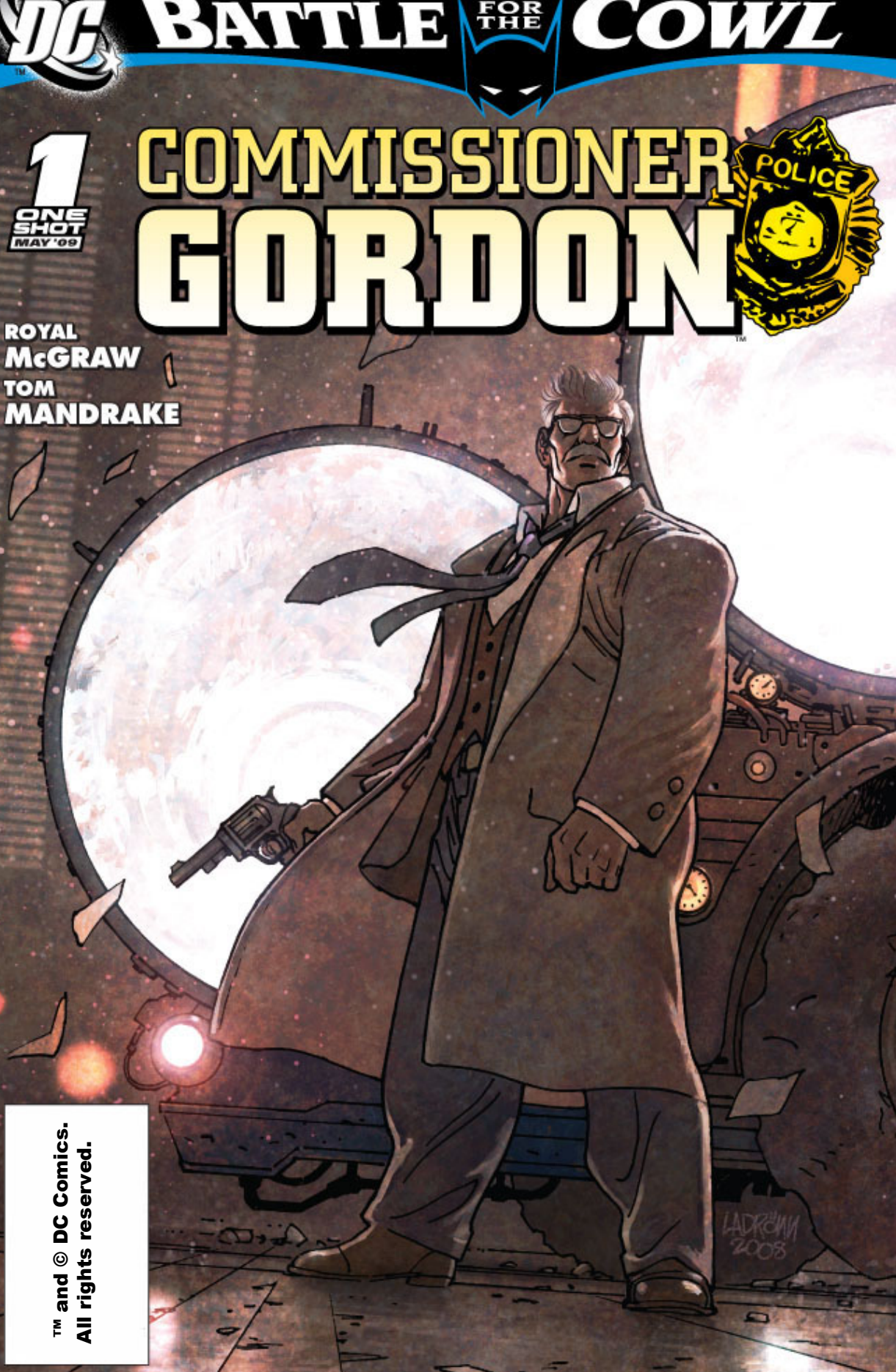


**1**  
ONE SHOT  
MAY '09

# COMMISSIONER GORDON



ROYAL  
McGRAW  
TOM  
MANDRAKE



LADKEM  
2008

™ and © DC Comics.  
All rights reserved.

Head ringing--

Flesh gone pins  
and needles--

Barely even feel  
my fingers.

Concussion?

No--

Breath gives  
it away.

Wherever I  
am... it's colder  
than sin.

NNH.

AH, THE  
CAPTIVE  
STIRS.

That voice--

I know it.  
Deep but tinny.  
Electronic.  
A voice from a  
speakerbox.

DO  
YOU KNOW WHAT  
PART THIS IS,  
COMMISSIONER?

YOU AND I  
HAVE BEEN HERE  
MANY TIMES  
BEFORE.

Somehow he  
must've taken me--

But how?

It happened  
so fast.

THIS IS THE  
PART WHERE **BATMAN**  
LEAPS DOWN FROM  
THE RAFTERS AND  
SAVES YOUR LIFE.

ONLY  
THAT *ISN'T*  
GOING TO HAPPEN  
THIS TIME, IS IT,  
COMMISSIONER?

WE BOTH  
KNOW THE  
TRUTH.



**BATMAN IS  
DEAD!**

# A COLD DAY IN HELL

WRITTEN BY ROYAL MCGRAW

ART BY TOM MANDRAKE

COLORS BY GUY MAJOR

LETTERS BY SAL CIPRIANO

ASST. EDITED BY

HARVEY RICHARDS

EDITED BY MICHAEL SIGLAIN

COVER BY LADRONN

BATMAN CREATED BY

BOB KANE

GCPD

24 HOURS EARLIER



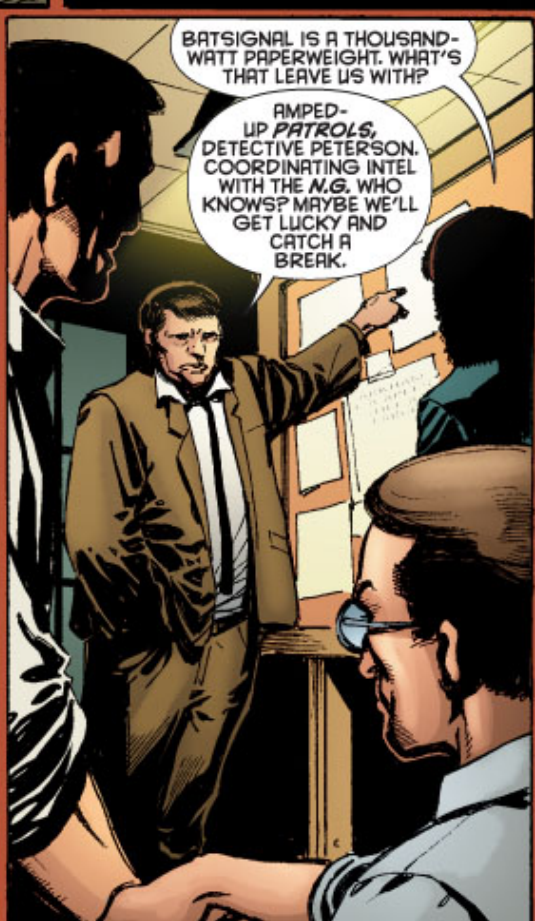
--RIOTING, LOOTING, FIRES BURNING UNCHECKED--

--DARING BREAKOUT FROM ARKHAM ASYLUM--

--NATIONAL GUARD ENFORCING A CITYWIDE CURFEW--

THIRD RESEARCH FACILITY HE'S HIT SINCE HE ESCAPED ARKHAM.

WHATEVER FREEZE IS UP TO, YOU CAN BET IT'S BAD NEWS.



BAT SIGNAL IS A THOUSAND-WATT PAPERWEIGHT. WHAT'S THAT LEAVE US WITH?

AMPED-UP PATROLS, DETECTIVE PETERSON. COORDINATING INTEL WITH THE M.G. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY AND CATCH A BREAK.



HEY, COMMISSIONER. WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE BIG BOARD AND SEE IF YOU HAVE--



SLAM

COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON

--ANY THOUGHTS?



NYAAAAHH!!



COMMISH, YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE, BULLOCK.

I WAS LOOKING FOR SOME *MATCHES* AND, WHEN I DIDN'T FIND ANY, I--

I GUESS I MADE QUITE A *MESS*, DIDN'T I?



MATCHES?

SO YOU'RE SAYING ALL THIS WAS JUST A *NICOTINE FIT*?



NOT EXACTLY.



I WAS JUST DOWN AT CITY HALL BRIEFING THE MAYOR ON THE *ARKHAM BREAKOUT*.

HE ASKED ME *HOW* WE APPREHENDED THE INMATES THE *LAST TIME* THEY ESCAPED.

YEAH? WHAT'D YOU TELL HIM?

THE *TRUTH*.



WE DIDN'T  
DO A *DAMN*  
THING.

BATMAN  
SAVED THIS  
CITY. ALL WE DID  
WAS CLEAN UP  
THE MESS.

NOW  
WITH HIM  
GONE OR  
WORSE, AND  
*BLACK MASK*  
BACK  
AGAIN...

I HATE TO SAY IT,  
BUT I'M NOT EVEN  
SURE WHERE TO  
*START*.

IF  
BATMAN  
WERE  
HERE--

BATMAN  
*AIN'T* HERE,  
BOSS. AND  
WORD ON THE  
STREET IS HE  
*AIN'T* COMING  
BACK,  
EITHER.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
BULLOCK.

I  
JUST--

COMMISSIONER--

--RADIO CAR  
JUST CALLED  
IN A VISUAL  
ON *VICTOR*  
*FRIES*...