# THE CAPED CRUSADER

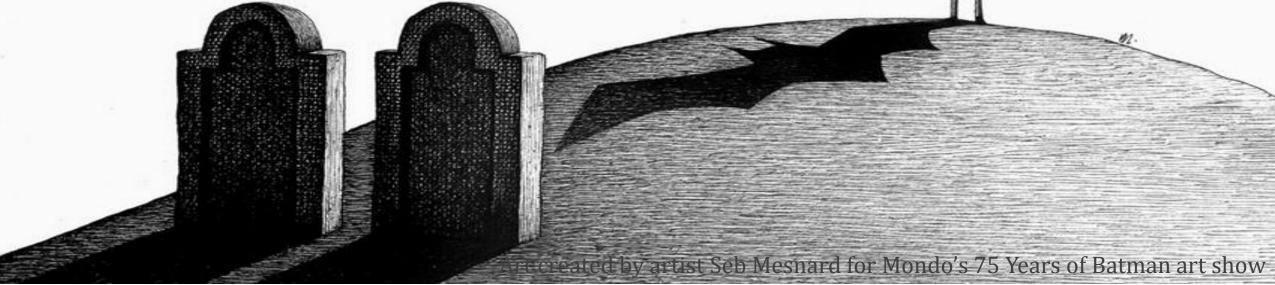


## DARK KNIGHT

IN MAY OF 1939, CLOSE TO A YEAR AFTER THE FIRST TRUE-BLUE SUPERHERO, SUPERMAN, APPEARED IN ACTION COMICS #1, WRITER BILL FINGER AND ARTIST BOB KANE INTRODUCED A SUPERHERO IN DETECTIVE COMICS #27 OF A MUCH DIFFERENT STRIPE: THE BATMAN!



WITNESSING THE MURDER OF HIS PARENTS WHILE WALKING HOME FROM THE MOVIES, A YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE VOWS TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO FIGHTING CRIME.





AFTER YEARS OF STUDY AND TRAINING, HE DONS A CAPE AND COWL, SECURES HIMSELF AN ASSORTMENT OF GADGETS, AND GOES OFF INTO THE NIGHT TO DO BATTLE WITH GOTHAM CITY'S CRIMINAL ELEMENT.

BATMAN WAS BORN.

#### A CAPED CRUSADER

EQUAL PARTS SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE SHADOW, DICK TRACY, AND DOC SAVAGE, THE CAPED CRUSADER NEVERTHELESS EMERGED AS A WHOLLY UNIQUE ENTRY IN THE PULP HERO CANON, AND FOUND HIS PLACE AS THE PERFECT COUNTERPART TO SUPERMAN.



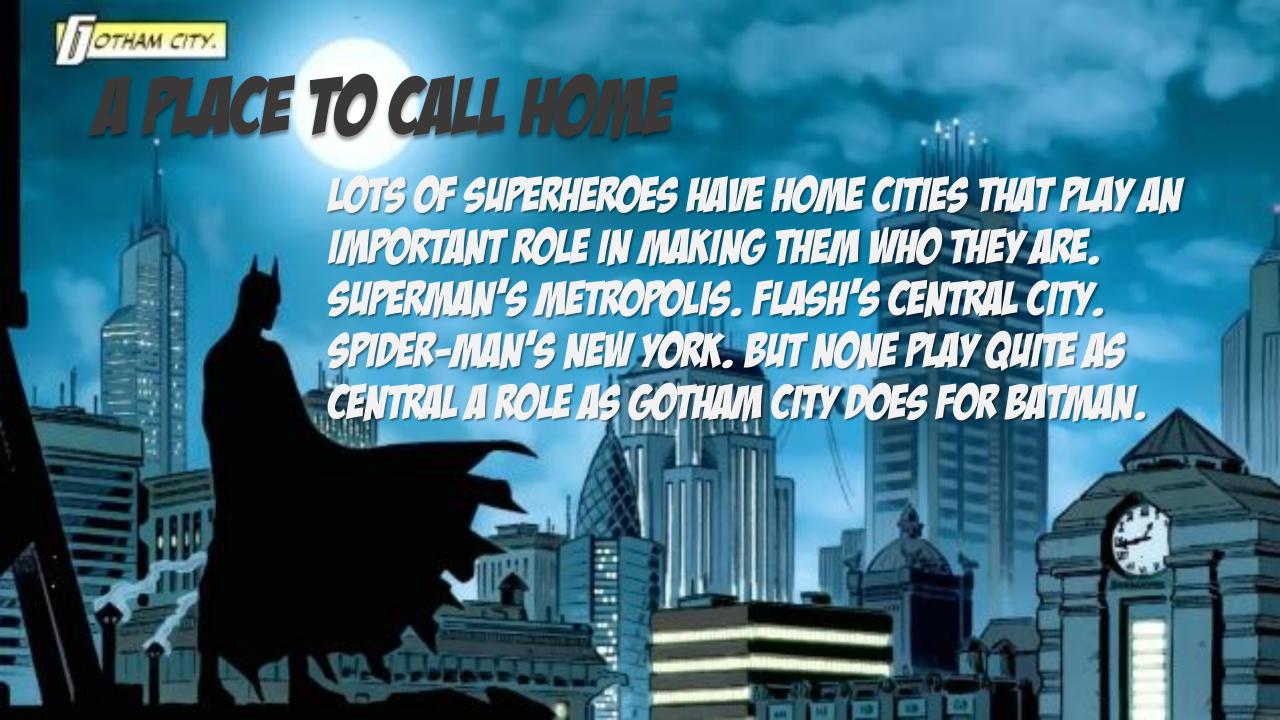
### OPPOSITES IN FACT

#### SUPERMAN

- STANDS FOR HOPE AND JUSTICE
- RAISED IN RURAL KANSAS BY A FAMILY OF MODEST MEANS
- BORN WITH SPECTACULAR POWERS
- HAS A MEAGER SALARY AS A REPORTER

#### BATMAN

- STANDS FOR FEAR AND VENGEANCE
- RAISED IN THE CITY OF GOTHAM BY A FAMILY OF EXTRAORDINARY WEALTH.
- A MERE MAN, WHO HAS PUSHED HIMSELF THROUGH RIGOROUS TRAINING TO BECOME AN EXPERT INVESTIGATOR AND FIGHTER.
- VASTLY WEALTHY FROM FAMILY MONEY



### INSPIRED BY REAL CITIES?

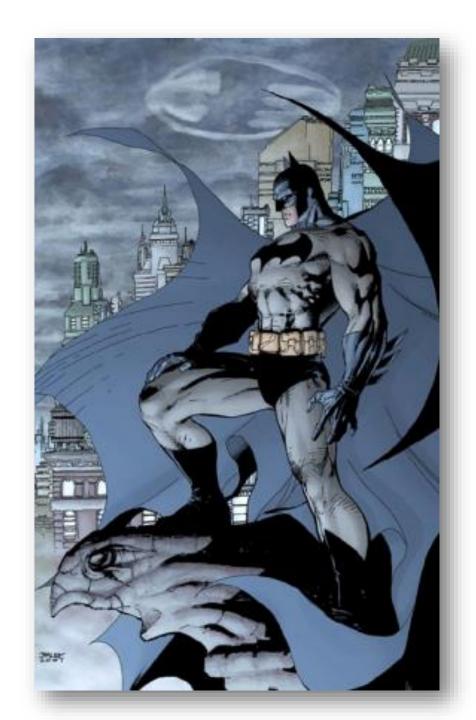
- · IS GOTHAM MEANT TO BE A FICTIONAL NEW YORK CITY? MAYBE.
- ITS NAME IS BORROWED FROM WASHINGTON IRVING'S REGULAR USE OF THE TERM TO REFER TO NYC IN HIS 19TH CENTURY SATIRICAL MAGAZINE SALMAGUNDI.
- THERE IS SOME ASSOCIATE GOTHAM WITH CHICAGO, THOUGH. IN PART THAT'S BECAUSE OF CHICAGO'S HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO THE MOB, ESPECIALLY TO MOBSTER AL CAPONE.

### WHAT IT REALLY REPRESENTS ...



IT'S A BIT OF A MISTAKE, THOUGH, TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT CITY GOTHAM IS "REALLY" SUPPOSED TO BE. IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ANY ONE OF THEM. RATHER, GOTHAM IS THE DARK REFLECTION OF ALL AMERICAN CITIES— THE SEEDY UNDERBELLY OF URBANIZATION.

IT DOESN'T JUST HAVE CRIME—IT'S RIDDLED WITH CRIME. IT DOESN'T JUST HAVE SOME CORRUPTION—IT'S WHOLLY CORRUPT. IT DOESN'T JUST HAVE INCOME INEQUALITY—IT'S DEFINED ENTIRELY BY THE HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS.



## MAN OF JUSTICE

BATIMAN FITS INTO GOTHAM IN A WAY THAT NO OTHER SUPERHERO FITS INTO HIS OR HER SURROUNDINGS. HE IS A CREATION OF THE CITY.

### A VIGILANTE IS BORN

WHEN ITS PERVASIVE CRIME GOT SO BAD THAT IT FINALLY IMPACTED THE CITY'S ELITE WITH THE MURDER OF THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE, GOTHAM SPAT OUT THEIR SON AS A RESPONSE: A BILLIONAIRE TURNED VIGILANTE WHO TARGETS EVERYONE FROM CORRUPT POLITICIANS TO POLICE ON THE TAKE AND FIGHTS EVERYONE FROM LOW-END BURGLARS TO MASTER CRIMINALS.



#### BARELY ACCEPTED?

FOR THEIR PART, THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM ENDORSE THE CAPED CRUSADER IMPLICITLY IN THEIR HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPTS TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE AND EXPLICITLY WITH THEIR REGULAR CRIES FOR HELP, SHOWCASED BY GOOD COPS LIKE JIM GORDON SHINING THE BAT-SIGNAL INTO THE NIGHT SKY WHEN BATMAN'S SERVICES ARE NEEDED.

