



Detective Comics #17
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Detective Comics

Issue #17: "The Two Faces of Harvey Dent"

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Alfred Pennyworth walked the empty halls of Wayne Manor, an unusual look of concern on his face. His employer was not in the cave, not in his chambers, nor in the den. Yet, he was somewhere in the mansion. Alfred always knew when Master Bruce left, even if he wasn't told personally.

He made his way up the third floor flight of stairs and into a section of the mansion that hadn't been used since... well since much happier days. It had been Martha Wayne's floor, for her many talents and charities that she worked on. Each room had been used for a particular hobby, craft, or an office. Since that tragic night, this floor had only been frequented twice, both by Alfred himself. Very little was left up here, Master Bruce had never stepped foot up here, as far as he had known.

He walked quietly down the long hallway, noticing that the entire floor was due for a good cleaning, when he heard a slight noise from the room at the end of the hall. He stopped, puzzled for a second, and then preceded down to the end of the hall. He picked up a rather expensive antique vase that was sitting on a corner table and raised it over his head as he peered into the room.

Bruce Wayne sat on the floor of his mothers study going through an old trunk that Alfred had remembered leaving there. It was full of memorabilia, but he hadn't been aware that Bruce had known about it. Of course, it was Bruce Wayne, he should have known better.

"Come in Alfred," Bruce said without turning around. "I've been meaning to go through this stuff for some time now, just hadn't gotten around to it."

"I don't want to disturb you, Sir."

"There's a lot of stuff here that goes back on both sides of the family, you know." He was still not looking at his friend, but his voice was low and husky, something that did not go unnoticed by Mr. Pennyworth.

"Yes Sir. I am aware." Alfred moved into the room and stood behind him. He could count on one hand, the times that he ever felt uncomfortable around his employer. This would probably be added to them. Yet, he knew Bruce wanted him here, so here was where he would be.

"Did you know my Great Great Grandmother was part of the women's movement in Gotham to allow women to vote?" Bruce let out a short laugh. "Of course you did. Ironic, isn't it?"

"What's that, Master Bruce?"

"I spent my entire life learning all I could about everything that's out there in the world. To make my job easier for me, and harder for those I hunt. Yet, you know more about me and where I come from, then I probably ever will."

There was a silence. Alfred Pennyworth was caught off guard and not sure what to say. Finally he cleared his throat, "May I ask what brought you up here to begin with, Sir?"

"Yes, I had remembered that my mother had kept a good luck token up here, for me, when I got older. I was searching for it to give as a gift, at dinner tonight."

"You and Ms. Vale are going out?"

"We're double dating with the Dent's. Kind of surprising since Boss Maroni's trial begins tomorrow, but Harvey was insistent that we do it. He said his wife doesn't get out much since they came to Gotham."

"Very good, Sir. I shall have the limo gassed and ready to go."

Bruce nodded, but had yet to turn around. After another couple of moments of silence, Alfred turned to leave, when he felt Bruce's hand on his arm. He turned back to see a very somber face staring directly into his.

“Alfred... you know I could never... I mean... without you...”

“Without me, Sir, you would have no clean cloths, hot food, and you would probably stink up to high heaven if I didn’t drag you out of the cave once in a while.”

They looked at each other and Bruce broke out into a grin. Alfred arched his eyebrow at him, feigning disgust, and then as he turned to leave, a small smile crept over his face.

Commissioner James Gordon sat behind his desk, looking at the picture of his son and his wife that he had just sat there. He touched it for a moment, wishing that perhaps by doing so, he could remember the feel of his son’s skin on his own as he used to hold him.

They had only been gone a few weeks, but it already felt like six months had went by. He missed them terribly, even though Barbara had been good about calling three to four times a week, to keep him updated on Jimmy’s life, and of course to check on her husband’s recovery.

A knock on the door brought Jim out of his thoughts and he looked up to see Sarah Essen standing at the door.

“You wanted to see me, Commissioner?”

James smiled and stood up, using his cane to steady himself. He couldn’t wait to be able to get rid of the damn thing. “Please, Essen, come in and have a seat. I was hoping to speak to you before my press conference tomorrow. I’ve been going over your files and I have to say that I’m more than impressed with your work. In fact, I’d like to promote you, if you’ll accept it.”

“Really? Detective? That would be a sudden jump, Sir.”

“No, not detective. Actually the jump I’m suggesting is a bit higher than that. I need someone that I can trust; someone that I know is a good cop, and a good person. Someone with a level head, who can think in tough situations, both in the line of duty and all the other bull that this office

has to deal with.”

Sarah had leaned forward, a confused look on her face. “Sir, I’m not following you.”

“I want to appoint you as my Deputy Commissioner.”

Gordon could barely suppress the grin that came to his face as he watched Sarah Essen’s jaw drop, her eyes open wide.

“Commissioner... you can’t be... I mean... why?”

“I just told you Essen, you’re file is exemplary. There’s only one other person on this force that I’ve seen that has impressed me as much, and I’m promoting him to Detective. We need a few more good ones on the force. So all I ask is that you sleep on it, and think it over, and get back to me in the morning. I’d prefer before ten, when my press conference is going to be held. I’d like to announce it then.”

He stood up and walked to the front of the desk and sat on it, in front of her. “Sarah, I know this seems sudden, and it seems like it came of the clear blue, but I’ve always gone with what my gut has told me, and my gut tells me that you *are* the person for this job. So please, think very hard about this. I plan to turn this city around, and I could use someone like you on my side.”

Sarah Essen nodded and stood up. She hadn’t said anything in the last couple of minutes, and to be honest, was afraid to speak at all. Her mind was whirling with all sorts of thoughts, and questions, and she couldn’t get any of them to come out clear enough to form an intelligent sentence.

That was, until she got to the door and turned around. Then she asked the only question that she could form, and it had nothing to do with her promotion. “Commissioner, just out of curiosity, who did you promote to detective?”

“Crispus Allen. And by the way, the first thing I will ask of you, if you take this offer, is to stop calling me Commissioner and start calling me Jim.”

She opened her mouth to reply, thought better of it, and shut it quickly. Instead she just turned and walked out of the office.

Now to check on our star witness for tomorrow's trial and then back here to catch up on this paper-work, Gordon thought and let out a large sigh.

"So tell me, Gilda, what's your story?" Vicki Vale asked the wife of Gotham's D.A., as they sipped champagne.

The young woman smiled shyly, "I don't understand..."

"Well, we've heard about Harvey's rise to fame tonight, and everyone knows about Bruce, over here, but you're so quiet and shy, I was just wondering where you came from, your background and all that. Chalk it up to professional curiosity."

Gilda let out a slight giggle. "Well my life isn't very interesting, Vicki. I was orphaned as a child and spent most of my years going from one orphanage to the next. Eventually I was out on my own, moved away from Gotham, found and fell in love with Harvey, and moved back when he got the job here. That's about it."

"That's it? Actually sounds like there's a ton of interesting stuff you may be leaving out. Where did you meet Harvey? What cities have you lived in? What did you do for a living?"

Bruce Wayne wrapped his arm around his girl. "Perhaps, darling, Gilda isn't fond of being given the third degree."

"What?! I was just trying to learn a little more about our newest friend."

"Some people like to keep their lives to themselves," Bruce said smiling, but quickly squeezing Vicki's shoulder.

The reporter got the message and smiled at the Dents. "I suppose they do. Sorry about that."

Gilda waved her hand in the air. "Really, it's no big deal. I'm just not

that exciting of a person. However, I do need to use the little girl's room, and would hate to go alone."

"Then I am right there with you. We ladies have to keep up the tradition that our mothers passed down to us, you know." She laughed as she stood up, gave Bruce a wink and walked away with Gilda Dent.

"She is a beautiful woman," Harvey said of Vicki Vale.

"As is your wife," Bruce replied. "So, are you ready for tomorrow?"

Harvey leaned back in his chair. "This one is going to be so easy; a ten year old could do it. Thanks in part to Batman's help finding the assassin and getting him to confess."

"Hope you have him hidden somewhere safe."

Harvey nodded, "Only two people know where he is, Gordon and myself... well, and Batman. I was wrong about him when I first got here. I might not approve of his methods all the time, but he's trying to do right by this city, I can see that now. And thanks to him, this is going to be an open and shut case."

"Well, just in case, I wanted to give you this," Bruce said as he pulled a coin out of his pocket. "My mother gave it to me a year before she died. It's a very rare, two headed coin. She said it would bring me luck. I thought it couldn't hurt to have it on you."

"I never took you as a superstitious person?"

"I like to surprise people once in a while," Bruce said with a slight grin.

It was late; nearly two-thirty, and he had taken Vicki home right after dinner was over. The short conversation he had had with Harvey made him uncomfortable.

Only two people know where he is, Gordon and myself... well, and Batman."

He had heard those words before, and he pondered them as he stood in the shadows on the rooftop, over looking the safe house where Maroni's hired killer was being held. His cloak flapped in the gusty night wind. Only the three of them had known about Thorne being taken into custody, and yet, somehow, Maroni had found out about it. He'd hired two hit men. One to take out Thorne, and the other to take out Thorne's killer. It was the only part of the mystery that he hadn't solved yet. Who was giving Maroni his information?

Movement down below, caught his eye. The two plain clothed officers in the unmarked car across the street had been caught off guard and were being taken out, by two thugs.

He'd never tell this to anyone else, but sometimes he hated it when he was right. He dove off the side of the building and fired the cable around a nearby street lamp.

He swung in fast, nailing one of the men in the face with both feet. He followed through on the swing and did a mid air somersault, tucking himself in tight, waiting for the bullets to fly. He was not disappointed. As he came out of the basic gymnastic move, he came up with two batarangs, and threw them with the precision brought on by years of training.

Both hit their marks, and the second gunman dropped his weapon as the first blade stuck into his hand. The second cut him across his arm, causing him to scream out in pain. Batman came in for the final knockout and took him out in one punch.

The two men in the car were alive, having not been touched yet.

"Call for back up," Batman ordered as he ran towards the building. He knew that the two men out there were only there to take out those cops. The real danger was still inside.

He leaped up the stairs three at a time and broke the door in with his shoulder. The room he was looking for was on the third floor. He looked up the staircase and judged the amount of space he had, then fired his cable again, straight up. He let the cord pull him into the air as he bypassed the steps altogether.

Arriving at the top, he grabbed the railing and leaped over it, pulling out a batarang and, seeing that the door was already open, marched into it. He kept his ears open but did not miss a step. There was no time for stealth.

He heard the guy begging for his life as he entered the small living room. Two men in trench coats and Fedora's were standing over him, guns drawn.

Batman threw the batarang at the back of the first one's head and it hit its mark, knocking the guy out cold. Still walking, never missing a beat, he was on top of the second one before the guy could fully swing around. With a deft flick of his left hand, Batman knocked the would be killers gun away. With his right hand, he smacked the guy hard enough to send him crashing into the cheap coffee table.

The Dark Knight picked the man up and brought their faces together. "Who sent you?" He growled.

"Can't say," the hit man mumbled.

"Let's start with the fingers, and then I'll continue by breaking the hand and work my way up."

"Break every bone in my damn body, pal. No way I'm going to tell you anything."

"So you're really afraid of Maroni more then you are of me?"

"You got it!"

A mean smile crossed Batman's lips. "Yes, I did."

The, would be killer dropped his head, "Aww, crap."

Five minutes later the place was swarming with cops. Commissioner Gordon had been woken and was giving orders, when he saw the movement that he was meant to see. After barking out a few more commands

he began to make his way past the police and into a side alley. He stood there for less than thirty seconds when he heard the voice behind him.

“Maroni’s got someone on the inside.”

Gordon turned to see just the white eyes in the shadow, “Can’t figure out how. You, me, Dent and the four guys we hand picked knew where he was. All four of the officers seemed spotless, but I’ll put them through the ringer.”

“This is the second time Maroni knew what was going on. He also knew about Thorne’s transfer. And that time, only the three of us knew. The officers had no idea until it was going down.”

“I’ll be watching our witness myself, for the rest of the night. Nobody is going to get to him. He’ll be in court, tomorrow.”

“I know.” Came the short reply, and then the eyes disappeared.

The largest courtroom in the city had been chosen for the biggest trial of the last two decades. Large vaulted ceilings and some of the original oak wood, both in the rafters and on the bench, made it an awe inspiring spectacle.

The place was filled to capacity. The trial of a mob boss as big as Maroni had not been seen for nearly twenties years. The press was allowed in the back, and big name faces of Gotham were all over the place, including Carmine Falcone, who sat near the front. Just behind him and to the left was Oswald Cobblepot. James Gordon was there, as well as Harvey Bullock and Detective Crispus Allen. Harvey Dent was also pleased to see that his wife had shown up to support him, but was a bit taken aback at the absence of his good friend, Bruce Wayne.

They all rose as Judge LaBeau walked into the court room, and sat when he did. The jury was given their instructions and Havey proceeded to give his opening statements. His voice rose and lowered at just the right time. He swore to the jury that with only the testimony of one man and Maroni himself, he would prove without a shadow of a doubt that Boss

Maroni had murdered Rupert Thorne. There were murmurs from the crowd.

Attorney for the defendant, Russell Smith, was next to speak, informing the Jury that once again the law had picked on the wrong man. A simple business man who's standing in the community was enough for the law enforcement of this city to single him out. He would show that there was room for doubt, since other, more unscrupulous and influential men, were constantly wanting to destroy the good reputation of Mr. Maroni.

After the opening remarks, that lasted about fifteen minutes each, Harvey Dent called his first witness to the stand... Detective Crispus Allen. Detective Allen was instructed to give the details of the night in question, and proceeded to do so with the precision and accuracy that all officers used after being sworn under oath. He recounted the events that led to the shooting of Rupert Thorne, by the man later identified as Saul Marcioni.

Under cross examination Detective Allen admitted that he did not see Marcioni shot down by the second assassin, since Crispus, himself, had already been shot and was unconscious after that. He also admitted that Officer Gordon took him from his duty at the hospital and drove him to the location of Rupert Thorne, without any proper authority to do so. Then he stepped down.

The Judge declared a ten minute recess, which at that time, most everyone stood up and began to mil around. As James Gordon stood, for just the briefest of moments, he could have sworn he saw movement from the rafters up above. A cape, to be exact. He smiled to himself. Why wasn't he surprised?

When the recess finished, Harvey Dent called Commissioner James Gordon to the stand. Still using his cane, Gordon walked up and swore the oath, before seating himself into the witness chair.

Harvey Dent's examination was short and to the point. He gave Gordon the right questions to explain exactly what had happened the night Thorne was murdered. At best, the examination lasted maybe fifteen

minutes.

When Russell Smith stepped up, he quickly went over what Gordon had already said, but then out of no where, turned the questioning in a totally different direction.

“How well do you know D.A. Harvey Dent?”

“Objection your honor!”

Russell put his hands up in the air, “You’re honor, if you give me a bit of leeway here, I promise you, I shall make my point rather quickly.”

“I’ll allow it, but do it very quickly, Mr. Smith.”

“Thank you, your honor. Please, Commissioner, answer the question.”

“Harvey and I have a very close professional relationship. We’re both driven to see that Gotham City is cleaned up from the filth that has infected this...”

“Thank you Commissioner. On the night you were moving Rupert Thorne, from his home, to the hotel room, you stated that you kept it quiet, and avoided telling any of the proper authorities, is that correct?”

“That’s what I said, yes.”

“So you and Mr. Dent were the only one’s who knew about this move?”

“Objection again, your honor,” Harvey said jumping up from his table. “We have established all of this.”

The judge caught the look that had passed between Harvey and James Gordon. “Objection, over ruled. You will answer the question, Commissioner.”

He hesitated for a moment and Smith was about to ask the question again when Gordon let out a sigh, “No, there was one other.”

“Who was that? A superior officer, by any chance?”

"No... it was... it was The Batman."

There was a murmur from the crowd and the judge banged his gavel for silence.

"So you are telling the jury that you chose not to inform your superior officers of the midnight change, to make sure that Thorne was protected, but you did inform a known vigilante?"

Another pause. "Yes." Came the reply.

"No further questions, your honor."

"Re-direct?" The judge asked, looking at Dent.

"No further questions at this time," Harvey said quietly.

After Gordon had stepped down, Harvey took a moment to steel himself and then stood up. "The prosecution calls Gerald Devin to the stand."

Boss Maroni was visibly agitated at the sight of the hit man as he walked to the witness box and swore the oath.

"What is your name and your occupation?"

"My name is Gerald Devin and I do personal favors for many of the crime lords in and around Gotham City."

"Does this include assassinations?"

"Yes," he mumbled.

"Were you hired recently by Boss Maroni to do a 'hit' for him?"

"Yeah, I was paid fifty-thousand dollars to rub out Tommy, 'four finger' Proloni. Boss Maroni was going to have him take out Rupert Thorne, and he wanted me there to take out Tommy. He knew that Tommy was

going to be caught and didn't want him ta sing."

Maroni jumped up from his seat, "That's a bold faced lie!"

The judge's gavel came down hard and the room was silenced.

"Have you worked for Boss Maroni before?"

"Yeah, I have."

"Have you done other hits for him?"

"Yeah, I've made other people disappear for the guy."

"Would you be willing to inform the police of where those bodies were and who they were?"

The room got deathly quiet. Harvey Dent, the man nick-named Apollo, was slowly and deliberately walking towards the defense counsels table as he asked the question. His eyes never left Maroni's, and there was a confident smirk that played on his face.

"Yeah," Devin finally said. "Yeah, I'll tell ya where all of Boss Maroni's bodies are buried."

The court room erupted in an explosion of noise, Boss Maroni jumped up in a rage, his right hand holding on to some kind of jar, and that's when all hell broke loose.

Ten minutes earlier, high up in the rafters of the oldest courtroom in Gotham City, Batman was watching the proceedings closely. Something was amiss, but he wasn't sure what. It was that feeling that he got, his gut telling him that something was in the air. It was the way Boss Maroni had been acting since they had come back from recess. His right hand was constantly in his suit pocket. Fiddling with something.

When Devin entered the courtroom, Maroni's demeanor became even more agitated. His instincts kicking in, Batman was now crouched on the

rafter, his eyes focused on nothing but the crime boss. So when Devin agreed to unbury every body that Maroni had ever buried and the courtroom erupted into noisy chaos, he was prepared, and saw it happening seconds before anyone else.

Harvey Dent had made his way to the defense table, just as Boss Maroni jumped up, his hand coming out of his suit coat, a jar clasped firmly in his fist; the top was already off as Batman dived toward the defendant. He realized though, that his timing was off, he was going to be too late to stop Maroni from doing whatever it was he was about to do.

His mind racing, Batman grabbed his batarang in mid-air and flung it towards Harvey Dent, allowing it to wrap around the D.A., as Batman held onto the rope at the other end. He gave a quick jerk and Harvey went flying backwards just as the liquid from the jar was thrown at him.

The acid missed its mark and Dent fell to the floor. Batman landed on the defense table and gave Maroni a swift kick that sent him flying backward and over his chair. The courtroom erupted into chaos as people jumped up and began to run out of the room. The two Bailiffs were heading towards the table, but Batman had already swung around and with a giant leap, had taken back to the air and crashed through one of the large windows along the side of the courtroom. He disappeared as quickly as he had entered the room.

The Bailiffs had grabbed Maroni as the judge was screaming for order in the court. It would be twenty minutes, before order would be restored...

It was no big shock to anyone that court had been cancelled for the rest of the day as Boss Maroni was taken back to police headquarters to be processed with another set of charges.

Gilda had found a visibly shaken Harvey next to Commissioner Gordon, and after assuring her that he was fine, had told her to go home, for him it was going to be a long night.

After the courtroom was cleared, only Harvey and James Gordon remained.

"You owe him your life, you know." Jim said.

"I know. What I really want to find out, though, was how Maroni got that acid into the courtroom to begin with. We're barely keeping up with him... he's always a half a step ahead of us. What the hell is going on, Jim?"

Gordon shook his head. "I don't have any idea yet, but we will find out. Listen, you've been through a lot, today. Why don't you finish giving your statement to the officer in charge, and then call it an early night. I'm sure Gilda could use the comfort as much as you could."

Dent nodded, "You're right. But I'm not going to rest until we find this mole."

Alfred found Batman in the cave, every computer screen on and faces of many of Gotham's crime bosses appearing in each of them. He was leaning back in his chair, brooding. The pose was one he had seen many times. There was that one last piece of the puzzle missing, that he could not reach, yet.

"Coffee, sir?" He offered.

Bruce said nothing, but nodded. He looked at all the players on the screen, but none of them were making sense. That was when he noticed the silent alarm flashing on the counsel to his right.

He shot up fast, "We've got an intruder on the grounds, Alfred. Stay here and I'll..."

"Not necessary, Sir," Alfred sighed as he put down the coffee. "That would be our new neighbor's somewhat precocious thirteen year old son. It seems that he has a keen interest in your fishing pond, as well as most of our grounds. I've discussed his 'dropping in' with him already, but I shall go have another chat with the young man. I may have to speak to his parents."

Bruce relaxed a bit. "Just what we need, a junior detective living next door."

"Still can't figure it out?" Alfred asked, diverting the discussion back to the problem at hand.

"It's someone I'm missing, Alfred. Someone who's had first hand knowledge of everything we've been doing. Penguin was my first guess, but there's no way he would have known about Thorne's transfer. Nobody knew about that except Jim, Harvey, and myself."

"... and me, Sir."

"What?"

"Well, if you look at it rationally, you did fill me in on everything. Technically, I'm a suspect as well."

"Don't be absurd. I trust you with just about..." His voice trailed off and an eyebrow arched. "There is someone I've never ran a check on, though. Someone who could be seen just as trustworthy in the eyes of another. Damn, I hope I'm wrong."

He began to work furiously at his counsel, punching up all the information he could find on the one person he had over looked. Her name came up, but the history he had been given, and what he found after a half hour of digging, were not the same thing. His blood ran cold.

He flipped a switch on his communication device. "Alfred, I'm leaving. Harvey Dent is still in danger. I only hope that I'm not too late."

Harvey Dent had stopped to by Gilda a dozen roses. What she had witnessed was going to haunt her for a long time, and he needed to reassure her that what had happened was a fluke, not a daily occurrence.

When he walked into the house he was struck by how dark it was. Gilda

had always been the kind to leave lights on as she walked through the house, but the only light coming from inside, this night, was in the kitchen.

A light, and voices...

"You've got to leave now; it's not safe for you to be here. You remember what I told you to tell father, though. He was an idiot to try and use that acid on Harvey. It wasn't meant as a weapon, but as a means of escape. Now it's going to be harder to break him out."

Harvey slowed down as he walked through the hall; that was Gilda's voice.

"I'll tell him, miss, but he ain't gonna like hearing it."

"Too bad, father never liked hearing the truth; stubborn old goat."

Harvey heard the back door close, but not before he peaked around and saw the guys face who his wife had been talking too. He recognized that face... it was one of Maroni's goons. Harvey's world began to turn upside down.

He stepped into the door frame just as his wife turned around. Her eye's widened, and the phone began to ring.

"What the hell is going on, Gilda?" He asked in a half whisper.

"Harvey... I didn't expect you to be home... oh dear."

The phone continued to ring, but neither of them answered it; the machine did, however.

This is the Dent's residence. We are unable to come to the phone...

"Your father?" Harvey asked, still trying to wrap his head around what he had just heard.

Please leave your name, number, and a brief message, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Gilda's eyes flared, "This is not the way I wanted you to find out, Harvey. Sorry, dear husband."

"Harvey, this is Commissioner Gordon, are you there? Harvey, pick up, it's urgent."

Harvey felt the rage, the anger, the betrayal all flood into him at once. "You! You've been the leak this whole time."

Harvey, we need to talk immediately. I've just received information from a mutual friend of ours. Harvey, we need you to come back to the office. I'm sending a car for you.

"You could say that," Gilda said as she began to slowly move toward the back door. "Or you could really say that you have, now couldn't you. This wasn't the way it was supposed to go, Harvey. Daddy and I just wanted you in our pocket, in case we needed you. It would have made Daddy a real big player, to have his own D.A. in his back pocket. And in time you would have, cause we love each other, baby..."

"SHUT UP!" Harvey screamed. "You used me! YOU!!! You lied to me from day one!"

Gilda shrugged. "Well you do mean a lot to me, Harvey, but daddy set this up years ago. Picking just the right guy. Someone we knew would go far, and make it to the top. You think it was a coincidence that you were picked to come here to Gotham? Daddy had to pull a lot of stings, not that your own credentials didn't help... they did. You're a smart, smart man, Harvey. You could help daddy make it to the top. You could run this city when he passed on. This could all be yours."

She had reached the door, but in one quick motion, Harvey was on top of her and tossed her to the side, making sure the door was shut and locked.

"Nobody uses me, anymore. Nobody abuses my trust, ANYMORE!"

Gilda went to get up and he slapped her across the face, hard. She stumbled back, a look of horror covering her face. She was looking into

the eyes of a man who had finally snapped, and she knew she was in terrible trouble.

He lunged for her, but she grabbed the door to the basement and swung it open, striking him in the face. As he stumbled back, she ran down the steps. She needed something to protect herself... anything.

Harvey shook off the blow and heard her small sobs as she fled to the basement. He sneered, knowing that there was no way out. Gilda was the final straw. He was done with this life, with this charade. The only woman he had ever truly loved had been playing him, just like all the others. There were no winners when you played the game by the rules that society laid out before you. He was done playing with those rules.

He walked down the steps slowly, deliberately. He wanted her to know he was coming. He wanted her to know that Boss Maroni's daughter was not going to be saved from this. Her daddy could not protect her.

When he reached the bottom of the steps, he heard a slight movement to his right. He grinned as he turned, his arm raised, but he was not expecting what he saw.

Gilda was standing there, a smug look on her face. In her hand was a jar, not unlike that of which her father had had just hours ago. His eyes widened in realization, but it was too late. He turned to get out of the way, but the acid was already in the air. He felt it hit the side of his face, and he screamed in agony.

"If you can't join us, baby, then you've got to pay. Sorry, daddy's rules."

Harvey felt the flesh on the side of his face begin to melt away. The pain as agony, but his rage was stronger. He reached out blindly and found an errant screwdriver that had been lying on his work bench.

The screwdriver flew up in his hand and then came down in her skull. She shook once, and then fell to the ground, dead.

He was gasping from the pain. His one eye was blinded. He was beginning to feel weak. He stumbled towards the steps, but before he did, he kicked the body of his dead wife.

“Sorry, Gilda. Harvey Dent doesn’t play by ‘daddy’s rules’. He plays by his own rules from now on.”

To Be Concluded!

If you enjoyed this story, you can find more tales of your favorite DC heroes at DC2 Universe.

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All-Star Comics #4 (2006)

All-Star Comics: Plastic Man.

A day in the life of DC2's most malleable hero. Join him and his partner, Woozy Winks, Jr. as they stop a bank heist, confront a mad scientist, and rip on Booster Gold!

New Outsiders #3 (2006)

New Outsiders: The Full House.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

Introducing the all new Royal Flush Gang!

When the New Outsiders bust up a seemingly routine drug shipment, they find that the weapons being used on the street are anything but normal. Can they discover who is behind this new technology before every mob family becomes acquainted with the new weapons?

New Outsiders #4 (2006)

New Outsiders: Nothing Beats a Royal Flush.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The New Outsiders and The Royal Flush Gang clash for the first time. Lines are drawn, enemies are made, searches continue, and Joker makes his presence known in a big way!

New Outsiders #5 (2006)

New Outsiders: To the Victor...

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The New Outsiders vs. The Animates

The Royal Flush Gang vs. The Animates

The New Outsiders vs. The Royal Flush Gang

The Royal Flush Gang vs. The Joker

When the dust settles, who will be left standing?

New Outsiders #6 (2006)

New Outsiders: Broken Arrows.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The search for a fourteen year old runaway sends Green Arrow, Black Canary, and guest star Speedy, into a dark, disturbing, and

all to real world that will open old wounds and takes Ollie and Dinah's relationship to a new level.

New Outsiders #7 (2006)

New Outsiders: Preludes and Nocturnes.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

A day in the lives of Batgirl and Zatanna as they are confronted by old friends, lost family, and the dangerous mob enforcer, Skorpio, who has arrived in Las Vegas to work for a new employer.

New Outsiders #8 (2006)

New Outsiders: For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The Scarapellis...

The Bertinellis...

The Huntress...

Two shocking revelations...

One crucial decision...

...and Adrian Chase's world will never be the same again...

New Outsiders #9 (2006)

New Outsiders: On the Horizon.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The gang is back together as they discover exactly who Mr. Wonderful really is. Does he have anything to do with the looming Crisis? You better believe it! What role do the New Outsiders have in the big event? It all starts here, folks!

New Outsiders #10 (2006)

New Outsiders: Riders on the Storm.

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 4!

As the war rages, the Outsiders find themselves stranded on Apokolips, searching desperately for a lost teammate. But as the Hunger Dogs rise in revolt, will it be too late for one of the Outsiders, trapped in the clutches of Darkseid's depraved torturer, Desaad?

New Outsiders #11 (2006)

New Outsiders: Aftermath, Part 1.

The Crisis may be over, but The New Outsiders find that the aftermath will be just as devastating as they return from Apokolips to find that Las Vegas is under martial law, and the Joker is spreading chaos everywhere.

New Outsiders #12 (2006)

New Outsiders: Aftermath, Part 2.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE!

The New Outsiders and The Teen Titans join forces to bring down The Royal Flush Gangs!

Meanwhile, Nightwing and Batgirl hunt down The Joker, but to confront the Crown Prince of Crime, they must first confront that horrific night that still haunts their memories.

New Outsiders #13 (2006)

New Outsiders: Forsaking All Others.

You are cordially invited to attend the wedding of Oliver Jonas Queen to Dinah Laurel Lance. But where is Adrian Chase, and why won't he be attending the wedding?

Justice League #6 (2007)

Justice League: Public Enemy Number One.

Aquaman is wanted by the American Government for crimes against America. He has been branded a terrorist and President Maxwell Lord has demanded that the Justice League bring him in. What will they do?

You don't want to miss this one! This year's Crisis starts here!

Detective Comics #22 (2007)

Detective Comics: Opening Salvo.

As three of Gotham's most powerful underground figures begin their rise to the top, Batman faces three seemingly unrelated mysteries; but are they as random as they appear to be?

Detective Comics #18 (2007)

Detective Comics: The Two Faces of Harvey Dent, Part 2 (of 2).

Detective Comics #16 (2007)

Detective Comics: Masks, Part 4 (of 4).

Detective Comics #14 (2007)

Detective Comics: Boiling Point.

Gotham is becoming a war zone! Mob bosses are looking at each other with more than a little suspicion. The GCPD is stretched thin, and a new Commissioner is needed. Who will the Mayor choose? Who is pulling all the strings? Who is trying to take over Wayne Enterprises? Revelations abound. With an ending that will leave you speechless.

Detective Comics #15 (2007)

Detective Comics: Masks, Part 2 (of 4).

With James Gordon's life hanging in the balance, and Gotham City in an all out war, three heroes gather together to keep him alive. But can even Batman, Nightwing, and Batgirl keep James safe from the assassin that Black Mask has hired to finish the job?

Detective Comics #20 (2007)

Detective Comics: The Enemy of My Enemy.

Detective Comics #19 (2007)

Detective Comics: Helpless

Detective Comics #21 (2007)

Detective Comics: First Impressions

Bruce Wayne meets Tim Drake! James Gordon meets Renee Montoya! And just wait until you see who Two-Face meets...

Detective Comics #23 (2007)

Detective Comics: The Falcone and the Snowman.

Detective Comics #24 (2007)

Detective Comics: Would You Like Fries With That?

Batman's battle with Mr. Freeze continues, and the mysteries of Karen Walker and Jack Todd intertwine. The dangerous trio of Two-Face, Penguin, and Black Mask make a bold move, and before it all ends, betrayal will lead to murder!

Detective Comics #25 (2007)

Detective Comics: Wheel in the Sky.

Is Alfred dead? Are Penguin and Two-Face dead? Why is the DEO in Gotham? And who murdered Karen Walker? Questions begin to be answered as we focus our attention on Detectives Renee Montoya and Crispus Allen. Also a confrontation you never thought you'd see in the DC2 Universe: Chloe Sullivan vs. James Gordon!

New Outsiders #20 (2007)

New Outsiders: Shattered.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

As the Checkmate Super Soldiers are taken over by a deadly threat, it's up to Batgirl and Zatanna to find a way to switch them off and help the Justice League and the rest of the Outsiders. But what Zatanna finds at Cadmus will send her reeling, and the rest of the Outsiders face the fact that they may never be together again.

Justice League vs. America #4 (2007)

Justice League vs. America: Fade to Black.

The penultimate chapter of this year's huge event! The secret of the super soldiers is revealed, but can they be defeated? Martian Manhunter sends a small force to face the threat that has put America on the brink of destruction, and, when all hope is lost, help comes from the most unexpected of people... but is it too late? An ending that's guaranteed to send shivers down your spine!

New Outsiders #14 (2007)

New Outsiders: Same Thing In Reverse.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

Sister vs. Sister

Black Canary vs. Black Canary

Secrets are revealed. A year-long plot is exposed. And two Outsiders' lives will begin to spiral out of control.

Justice League #3 (2007)

Justice League: Mystery in Space, Part 1.

With the threat of destruction looming over the citizens of Thanagar, Carter Hall's son has come looking for his long-lost

father. The Justice League stand ready to aid him, but will they be able to help save his home planet?

New Outsiders #15 (2007)

New Outsiders: Eye for an Eye.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The truth is out and Adrian Chase is determined to make the people who were involved with his wife's death pay. Meanwhile, Huntress searches for her man, all the while being hunted by a mob informant with a grudge of his own. Can the rest of their team find them before tragedy strikes?

Justice League #4 (2007)

Justice League: Mystery in Space, Part 2.

The Justice League has been divided! While one team races to aid Thanagar, another team helps Katar Hol in preparing his people for the inevitable. And the only thing standing between Despero and the great planet of Thanagar? The Martian Manhunter!

New Outsiders #16 (2007)

New Outsiders: And So It Goes.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

This is it! The story of Huntress and Vigilante ends here. And when the dust settles, nothing will ever be the same for this group of heroes.

Justice League #5 (2007)

Justice League: Mystery in Space, Pt. 3 (of 3): Sacrificial Lamb.

The final battle between the Justice League and Despero is here! But exactly how will they defeat the alien powerhouse? And how much sacrifice will one hero endure to end the threat? Action and intrigue abound in this pulse-pounding conclusion!

New Outsiders #17 (2007)

New Outsiders: Divergences.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The tragic events of last issue are felt by all as each remaining member of the team consider where they are going to go from here. Zatanna returns, and a new mystery begins.

New Outsiders #18 (2007)

New Outsiders: T.O. Morrow Never Dies.

The mystery surrounding The Red Tornado's origin comes to an explosive conclusion as he and Batgirl discover the truth surrounding his "birth".

Justice League #7 (2007)

Justice League: Laying the Foundation.

Like a phoenix from the ashes, the Justice League rises from the Crisis, stronger than before, and with more members... but who?

New Outsiders #21 (2007)

New Outsiders: That's a Wrap.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

The crisis is over, and so are the New Outsiders, by the looks of it. Who will stay, and who will go? And who lurks in the shadows, waiting for the right time to strike.

Plus, a turning point in the life of Kate Spencer!

New Outsiders #24 (2007)

New Outsiders: Letting it Simmer.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

Kate Spencer's world is turned upside down in more ways than one when she meets her real mother, and finds out what has happened to The Squealer. What exactly is going on with Batgirl? Who are the mysterious hooded figures?

Plots thicken and the final member of The New Outsiders is revealed! A new threat is revealed! All this and a battle royal between Manhunter and Huntress!

New Outsiders #22 (2007)

New Outsiders: Red or Black.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

Roulette is back! Huntress and Black Canary face off against their mentors in a battle for Batgirl's life. Kate Spencer comes to a very big crossroad in hers, and Grace stumbles upon some unexpected help from a very unexpected hero.

New Outsiders #23 (2007)

New Outsiders: Breaking the Rules.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE

As Black Canary and Huntress fight for their lives as well as the life of Batgirl, help is about to come from three very different heroes... in fact you could even call them... outsiders.

Detective Comics #26 (2008)

Detective Comics: When One Door Closes...

The thrilling conclusion as Batman faces off with Two-Face for the first time! Tim learns the full truth about his father and his mother. And the fate of Black Mask and The Penguin! With an ending that will... well... you'll see!

Detective Comics #27 (2008)

Detective Comics: The Remains.

Bruce Wayne is the main focus of this issue as he deals with the newest member of his household, the news that the Clown Prince of Crime has become a... mob boss??? And with Vicki Vale gone he finds a new companion by the name of-- Selina Kyle. All this and the fate of the Penguin!!!

Detective Comics #28 (2008)

Detective Comics: In the Still of the Night.

Batman finds that control over his city is slipping away from him as Gotham's underworld continues to be flipped upside down, and unbelievable alliances are being made. But who's pulling the strings?

Detective Comics #29 (2008)

Detective Comics: Walking the Line.

As things begin to go from worse to critical in Gotham, Batman reluctantly turns to help from the most unlikely of sources. But just how far will the Dark Knight go to bring down one of his greatest enemies?

Plus, The Demon loses his most powerful pawn, and all of Gotham may pay the price!

Detective Comics #30 (2008)

Detective Comics: The Punchline.

The Joker has been used... and he's not happy! The battle between Batman and The Demon may be for nothing, if The Joker has his

way! A double sized explosive issue that will end as all Joker tales end... in death and destruction!

Detective Comics #31 (2008)

Detective Comics: Beneath the Rubble.

After The Joker's massive destruction, Gotham City is under Martial Law! Villains and mob bosses are making last ditch efforts to solidify their positions, and James Gordon must stand alone against one of his former friends and allies.

Detective Comics #32 (2008)

Detective Comics: Cape and Cowl.

This is it, folks! Tim Drake puts on the mask, the cape, the uniform! His first official appearance as Robin, the new Boy Wonder! Just don't let Alfred and Dick find out...

Guest Starring: The New Outsiders' Batwoman!

Teen Titans Annual #1 (2008)

Teen Titans Annual: Thicker than Water.

A picnic between Nightwing and Starfire on a sunny New York afternoon turns into a nightmare as some very familiar aliens appear to take their Princess, and Kory and The Titans come face to face with Starfire's sister!

Teen Titans West #1 (2008)

Teen Titans West: I Left My Heart...

Not seen since the Teen Titans Annual #1; Bumblebee, Risk, Golden Eagle, and Speedy are now joined in San Francisco by Omen, Hawk & Dove, and Aqualad as a new chapter in the history of the Teen Titans begins.

An adventure that will reveal not only the origin of at least one member of this new team, but also change the life of someone else in the DC2 Universe!

Teen Titans West #2 (2008)

Teen Titans West: United We Stand.

Continuing where it left off, the team of heroes continue to battle the creature in the San Francisco Bay, and all seems lost... that is until Golden Eagle and Aqualad show up to help save the day!

Action Comics #39 (2009)

Action Comics: Kon-El, Part Three

There's a new, and younger, Superman up for bid, but which insane genius will get his hands on him? Lex Luthor? Dr. Ivo? Dr. Sivana? Or will Superman, Supergirl, Captain Marvel, and Mary Marvel be able to stop this potential weapon from falling into the wrong hands?

Action Comics #40 (2009)

Action Comics: Kon-El, Part Four

This is it! The conclusion to DC2's first appearance of Superboy! Featuring: Dr. Ivo, Amazo, Captain Marvel, Supergirl, Lois Lane, Lex Luthor, Dr. Xadu, and uhhh, oh yeah... Superboy!

Rogues Gallery #16 (2009)

Rogues Gallery: ?

He knows not who he is, or where he came from. Fragmented memories envelope him, but only to the point of confusion. A scar that he does not know how he received is his only clue to his past. He is an enigma wrapped in a mystery, and he's about to be... reborn!

Wonder Woman #35 (2009)

Wonder Woman: A Parting Gift, Part One (of Two).

The Gods are gone, but for Diana, there is still one more little detail that has been left behind. Wonder Woman is in for the surprise of her life - possibly a very short life!

Wonder Woman #36 (2009)

Wonder Woman: A Parting Gift, Part Two (of Two).

Who is Cassandra Sandsmark and why does she want to kill Wonder Woman? Who is Dr. Doris Zuel and why does she want Cassandra so badly? Join us for the conclusion to the story that introduces not one, not two, but three new characters to the DC2!

Teen Titans West #3 (2009)

Teen Titans West: The Enemy of My Friend.

What is Speedy's mission for Checkmate? This issue reveals that, as well as the nemesis that the TTW are up against! And if that's

not enough, there's a revelation that will have lasting effects for two major DC2 characters!

Teen Titans West #4 (2009)

Teen Titans West: When Doves Cry.

The Thanagarians and the Rannians battle over the city of San Francisco while the Teen Titans West (with the help of Katar Hol, Cyborg, and Starfire) try to stop the plans of Kanjar Ro. By the time this issue is over, a shocking revelation will rip apart two members of this non-group group!

Teen Titans West #5 (2009)

Teen Titans West: And Away We Go.

The stunning (and really long-awaited) conclusion to the first arc of the West Coast Titans! Hawkman and Golden Eagle have just discovered they're brothers; but will they embrace as family? And the machinations of Kanjar Ro and Byth come to a head! Will The Titans West survive their first adventure together!

The Flash #36 (2010)

The Flash: Impulse Control.

With the historic first meeting of Tim Drake, Conner Kent and Cassie Sandsmark having happened during the holidays, it's no surprise that Bart Allen would finally appear in the DC2. But it may come as a surprise when we reveal just how long he's been here...



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