



Detective Comics #21

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The Batmobile was racing back to its shelter, after what seemed like months of being gone from its home. The driver sat at the wheel, his eyes staring straight ahead underneath his cowl. He, too, felt as though he hadn't been home in months. The entire Luthor/Starro crisis had drained him, and he hated to admit that, but it was true. Even his endurance had run its course, and he was looking forward to finally getting out of the suit, into a hot shower, and a couple hours of down time.

Four, maybe five hours tops, then he needed to get back on the trail of Luthor. He knew the villain had escaped the explosion, but what he feared the most was that he had the thumb nails as well. Something he was going to have to bring up at the next League meeting.

He sped around the corner to the apparent dead end. His eyes saw nothing but solid rock hurtling towards him, but his mind was used to it, and he had already flipped the switch that would open the huge door and allow his custom built vehicle to go hurtling into the entrance of the cave. He checked in his rearview mirror, a habit, to make sure that it closed behind him.

At last, he was back. He pulled the car up next to the others and got out slowly, his muscles aching, and his head pounding from the beating he had taken at the hands of the Bizzaro clones. *A hot shower and just a few hours of sleep, that's all I need.* He thought to himself.

As he walked towards the stairs at the far end of the cave, he heard the familiar voice of his major domo clearing his voice. He hadn't even realized he was down there. He *was* tired.

He turned toward the voice, "Can it wait, Alfred. I'm exhausted."

"I suppose it can wait, Sir. As long as that's alright with Master Drake, here," came the reply as he swiveled the chair around and the young man looked up at the caped crusader, his face etched in something close to total fear.

Bruce's eyes blazed behind his mask. "How?... When?..."

"While the world was ending," Alfred replied, seemingly nonplussed. "He came in through the far east entrance that I've been reminding you that we needed to work on."

"I've been a little busy lately," Batman growled.

"For the last ten years or so, yes," Alfred replied with an arched eyebrow.

Tim Drake cleared his throat and the two men looked down at the young boy. If he could have melted into the chair at that moment, he would have gladly done it.

"If I can just say one thing...?"

"Only if it has to do with a medical condition that impairs your long term memory," Alfred suggested, crossing his arms.

"Umm, no, actually I just wanted to tell you that I'm not going to say anything to anyone! I swear! I'm the best secret keeper in school. Nobody knows that Johnny Vincent got to second base with Katie Beach-er, or that Caleb Prater was the one who dropped the cherry bombs in the teacher's bathroom. I've kept both of them a secret for over a year now. Haven't told a soul."

"You just did," Batman stated coldly.

"Oh, yeah..."

Commissioner James Gordon walked into his office feeling like a man twice his age. The soldiers were gone, out of his city, and for that he

should have been happier than he was. But as was typical in his life these days, just about the time the sun would start to come out, more clouds would appear.

This morning's clouds were in the shape of a summons and complaint he had received from his estranged wife. She was filing for divorce, and for sole custody of little Jim. He tossed the papers on the desk with the rest of the mail and slumped in his chair. He wanted to call her, but knew better. He had to wait until he was calmer, wait until she was calmer. He also didn't want to admit yet that this was probably the best thing for them... well... for her and their son, at least.

A knock at the door interrupted his thoughts. He shoved the papers into his desk. "Come in."

The door opened and Sarah came in, followed by a young woman who seemed to be of Spanish or Mexican descent. Gordon watched her eyes as she walked into the room. They went around the office quickly, and he could tell that she was taking everything in as quickly as she could. He liked that, and was instantly impressed.

"Commissioner, this is Renee Montoya. She just transferred here from Hub City. Thought you might want to meet her before she gets assigned to the MCU."

Jim stood up and shook her hand. It was a very firm grip, another first impression that he liked. "I've read your file, Ms. Montoya, and it's impressive. You've got a terrific track record and the Major Crime Unit needs a detective like you."

"Happy to be here, Commissioner," she replied cautiously. "Although I have to admit that coming to Gotham is a real experience."

"Well, Hub City isn't exactly Metropolis," Jim replied with a wry grin.

She relaxed a bit and chuckled, "That is true, but at the same time, we don't have psycho killers with green hair and giant reptiles that walk upright and live in the sewer, either."

"Yeah, we're special that way. Anyway, welcome aboard, Ms. Montoya. Sarah, I want Montoya here to be partnered with the best we have."

She nodded, "Crispus Allen needs a partner, and they would probably be perfect together."

"Excellent choice. Good luck Renee," he said, shaking her hand again and watched the two of them leave.

He sat back down in his chair and leaned forward, taking off his glasses and rubbing his eyes. He wondered if his daughter, Barbara, was up yet. There was a three hour time difference between Gotham and Vegas, which would make it close to seven in the morning out there. He decided against it, no need for her to know about any of this yet, anyway.

Alfred and Batman stood in the far corner of the cave whispering to each other as Tim continued to sit in the chair. He was trying not to be scared, but this was *The Batman* he was facing. It still felt like a dream to him. Batman was really Bruce Wayne! In a way, it all seemed to make sense. Of course Batman was one of the good guys, so really he had nothing to worry about... or that's what he kept telling himself so he wouldn't freak out at the moment.

"What do you suggest we do with him, Sir?" Alfred asked.

By his butler's tone, Bruce could tell that even Alfred was at a loss for words, or deeds. Although he wouldn't consider this the worst case scenario, this was in his top three. He was still trying to deal with the fact that Vicki knew, let alone this teenage neighbor that he knew nothing about.

"At this point, I don't see that we have much of a choice. I've got to have time to look into his and his families past. There's been so much going on, I've neglected to investigate our new neighbors."

Alfred arched an eyebrow, "Most people do that with a knock at the

door and fresh baked goods.”

“Funny. No, we’ve got to let him go, for now. Put the fear of God into him and hope it works, until I can come up with another solution.”

“Frighten a child? Well there’s something new to put on your ever growing resume.”

“If you’re bucking for a raise, Alfred, you’re not doing a good job.” Bruce mumbled in frustration.

They stared at each other; years of friendship/partnership had given them the ability to speak to each other without any words. Their eyes told each other everything they needed to hear.

Batman swung around, his cloak following him, and marched back to the chair that the young man sat at. He could see Tim Drake tense up as he approached. He stopped in front of the chair and stared down at the boy. The moments ticked by, the only sound echoing from the cave was the sounds of the bats flying high above them. Then he slowly removed his cowl, revealing his full face to the young man.

Tim’s eyes became like saucers at the unexpected moment. He didn’t know what to say, really couldn’t say anything. He was afraid to speak, afraid of what could be coming next.

Without any warning, and quicker than Tim had ever seen anyone move, Batman’s left arm had snapped out and his hand had grabbed Tim by his belt buckle. He pulled the kid out of the chair and forced him to stand up. His right hand came up in front of Tim’s face with his index finger right between his eyes.

“At the moment, you seem to have me at a disadvantage,” Bruce began. “But it’s just a moment. I think you’re a highly intelligent kid, and I think you know that if you breath one word of this to anyone... and I mean *anyone* not only will you have the wrath of Batman down on you, but your family will be dealing with all the power that Bruce Wayne holds in this town. Is that understood?”

Tim nodded his head, daring not to speak, which was easy since his

tongue had seemed to grow three sizes larger than his mouth.

“Get him out of here Alfred. Take him up the stairs and walk him home. Don’t escort him to the door, though. There’s no reason why we should get his parents involved... at this point.”

“Very good, Sir.” Alfred replied as he motioned for the boy to follow him.

“My mother’s dead,” Tim blurted out. He didn’t mean to do it, hadn’t planned on it. There was no reason to tell this guy anything, even though he already knew that Batman was going to investigate everything in his life after this.

Another pregnant pause as the young man who had discovered what so many had tried desperately to do for many years stared at the millionaire hero.

“That’s too bad.” Bruce mumbled as he turned his back to the boy and waited until he heard them both walk away.

By the time Alfred had returned, Bruce was back in the mansion and in his robe. Although he was exhausted, he was beginning to wonder if he would be able to sleep at this point.

The butler walked up to him, “He’s been returned, Sir.”

“Good. You know what to do?”

Alfred nodded. “I will remain there until you get the sleep you need. And sir, it was the best thing to do, at the moment. If you want to know what I think, which admittedly seems rare these days, I think he’s a good, honest young man, with a very sharp mind.”

Bruce shook his head, “Not true Alfred... I always want your opinion, even when I say I don’t.” He began to walk up the stairs to his room when he stopped and looked back at Alfred, a small smile creasing his face. “What *did* impress me, was that when I yanked him up, when I was in his face, he was scared... I knew that, but he didn’t shake or tremble. He held it together.” Then he left for his bedroom.

Alfred watched him go, sighed, and then headed towards the cave, to fulfill his duty.

Renee Montoya walked through the offices of Gotham City's Major Crime Unit, amazed at the organized chaos that was everywhere. She was led to the back of the room where she saw a young African American man talking to a more middle aged gentleman.

They stopped as her and Sarah arrived.

"Crispus Allen, this is your new partner, Renee Montoya. She just transferred here from Hub City. She's got the best credentials I've seen in a detective since... well... you. Make her feel welcomed and show her the ropes, will ya. Oh, and this guy here is Captain David Cornwell. He's the first shift Commander and your immediate superior.'

Montoya shook both of their hands, Crispus' was firm and steady, but Cornwell's was much tighter, squeezing harder than he needed to. He stared into her eyes, and she knew then that he was not going to be the most pleasant man to get along with. She tightened her grip just as hard and they let it linger there, before wisdom told Renee to be the first to release.

"You're just in time," Cornwell said to her. "I was just sending your partner down to 12th and Main. Hooker was found in her apartment several minutes ago, throat was slashed, the call just came in. Both of you get down there now."

Crispus gave Renee a weak smile. "Welcome to Gotham. Hope you got plenty of rest on your way here, 'cause you won't be sleeping much anymore."

"Sleep is overrated anyway," Renee said with a shrug as Crispus grabbed his hat and the two of them headed out.

It was as good a hiding place as any, at least until he had everything he needed for his revenge. Finding lackeys had been the easiest part. This was Gotham, after all, they ran a dime a dozen in this town.

Two-Face held court in an old chewing gum factory. The sign outside *"Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun"* had stood the test of time, but the factory itself had closed its doors over ten years ago, and had not aged well. Still, with the money that he had stashed away for years, and the fact that he was able to pull it out before the police could freeze his accounts had helped make a section of the old factory a little more comfortable.

Still, he was Harvey Dent, and living in a broken down shack of a building was not where he belonged. He was destined for greater things. He just needed the right timing, the right opportunity.

Then there came a knock at the door.

He motioned for one of his men to answer it. When he did, Harvey watched as a young man, no more than ten came in holding some kind of letter. Although it was apparent that he was nervous, his eyes showed that he was much wiser than his age gave away.

"Mr. Dent?" He asked as he walked up to the scarred man whose newest suit had been tailor made for him.

"How the hell did you find me, kid?" Harvey growled.

The street kid shrugged, "Trade secret. There's a bunch of us that know exactly where all you guys are. It's how we earn our extra money."

The side of Harvey's face that was maimed seemed to twinkle and he absently reached into his pocket and pulled out his coin, flipping it in the air as he considered the kid.

"What do you want?"

"I was told to give you this," the boy replied, thrusting the letter out in front of him.

Two-Face motioned for his man, Sid, to get it, which the thug did, and then brought it over and handed it to his boss. Harvey opened the letter, which he noted was on bright white letter head, and if he had to hazard a guess, appeared to have been written with an old fashioned quill and ink.

Dear Mr. Dent,

My associate and I would first like to send our condolences to you for your recent tragedy. It is always painful when the one's you trust the most stab you in the back. We both know exactly how you feel. This is why we are asking you to come, and meet us, hopefully to explore business arrangements that would benefit all of us. We are already well on our way to taking this city from the old warlords, and we feel that you could be the right man to lead the next generation of powerful businessmen who could run this city. If you are intrigued, please accept our invitation with the goodwill that it is sent with and join us tonight, at my Penthouse, twelve midnight, atop the Iceberg Lounge. If you do not show, then we will assume that you are not yet ready to take your place along side two of Gotham City's most powerful crime lords. If you take this letter and double cross us, and I do apologize for the bad pun my good man, then you shall suffer the same fate as that of Rupert Thorne.

*Sincerely,
Oswald Cobblepot, Esq.*

Dent read the note twice. It had appeared that opportunity had knocked at his door. However, if he could also use this letter as a weapon against Penguin and whomever his associate was. Perhaps by helping to bring them down, he could reclaim some of his glory. He may never again be considered *Apollo*, but he might be able to...

NO! That was never going to happen, not after everything he had done. He continued to flip his coin as everyone stared intently at him. Then he tossed the coin into the air and watched it land in his palm, the good side up.

"Yeah, I'll be there."

The boy turned around to leave, but what he heard next made his freeze

in his tracks. It was the cocking of a gun. He turned back slowly to see Two-Face pointing it directly at him.

“However, I’m not too keen on anyone knowing where I’m at, either. The question is, do I kill the messenger or not?”

The street urchin, for the first time, showed a hint of fear in his face.

“Let’s see how this plays out, ‘kay kid?” He said as he flipped the coin again and let it land in his left palm. The scratched side lay there in front of him.

“Tough break, huh kid,” Dent sighed dramatically. “Seems that this is one of those times when I gotta do what I gotta do.”

The boy closed his eyes tightly as Harvey aimed the gun, and then swung it to the right and shot a hole right through Sid’s chest. His henchman fell to the floor. The boy had jumped at the rapping of the weapon, and then opened his eyes in time to see the shocked face of the hired hand fall to the floor, a pool of blood beginning to seep onto the floor.

“Bu...bu...but I thought you were going to shoot...”

“You?” Dent finished the question. “Of course not; you didn’t hand me the message, he did. I want you to send a message back to Penguin and inform him that I will be there, but if he ever threatens me like he did in this letter, I’ll personally split him in two. You got me, boy?”

The child nodded and turned and ran away quickly.

After he had left, another one of Harvey’s men walked up to him, his face still in a state of shock.

“But boss... Sid...?”

“Was an idiot. I knew from day one that he was still one of Maroni’s men. I just needed him to leak enough information back to him that I wanted him to know. Now you and the others clean up this mess. I hate a dirty floor, except when I like them, of course.”

Bruce Wayne woke from one of the most fitful sleeps he could ever remember having. He must have been even more exhausted than he realized.

He showered quickly and then made his way downstairs, and into the secret entrance to his home. As he walked down the steps he saw Alfred sitting at one of the computer stations, wearing a set of headphones and sipping on some tea. He glanced up to see his boss staring down at him.

"The microphone that you planted on young Drake's belt buckle is working perfectly, Sir. Since he has been home he has called two friends, a Stephanie and a Johnny. I'm assuming it's the same Johnny that was able to slide into second base with Katie Beacher. He did not say one word to either of them, however. He then proceeded to do some rather difficult Calculus questions, from what he was muttering, and then had dinner with his father. It appears that his father works quite a bit. Normal conversation between father and son; there is obviously a lot of love there. Now he's back in his room. Not sure what he's doing, but the music he is playing sounds like someone is trying to drown a cat."

"Thanks, Alfred. Great analysis, by the way, you may have missed your calling. You should have become a psychiatrist."

Alfred removed himself from the chair, "In this place, I wear many hats."

"Anything on the police scanners?"

"The usual, I suppose. Several robberies and one murder; a prostitute. Detectives Allen and Montoya have been assigned to that case."

"Montoya?" Bruce asked.

"She's just been transferred in from Hub City. This is her first case here, from what I gather."

"Thank you again, Alfred. I'm going to spend some time looking into the Drake's and then I'll be going out on my nightly patrol as soon as the

sun falls.”

“Very good sir, I shall bring you down nourishment before you leave.”

Bruce said nothing more as he put on the headphones and cringed at the music, but then turned to one of his many screens and began to type in the name Timothy Drake. It was time to find out exactly what his neighbors were all about.

“Her street name was Misty Day, but her real name is Karen Walker. She was born in Montgomery, Alabama and ran away from home when she was seventeen. She lived in Chicago for a year, then moved to Detroit, and finally here to Gotham. She had several prior convictions for prostitution and drug possession in all three cities.” Montoya said as she sat down at her new desk across from her partner.

Crispus looked the file over. “You’re quick, I like that.”

Renee didn’t respond to the compliment, “Preliminary reports from the M.E. is that she was killed by a slash across the throat, but she won’t say anything official until she’s finished with her exam. She said she’d call us as soon as she was finished.”

Detective Allen began flipping through the crime photos that had been taken early in the day. “There was no forced entry, which means Walker either knew her killer, or was stupid and left the door unlocked.”

“If she lived in *that* neighborhood, she wasn’t stupid enough to keep the door unlocked,” Montoya mused as she too scanned the pictures. She stared at one in particular, and then handed it back to her partner. “Notice the bruise marks around the front of the neck? My guess is that she was facing her attacker when they slit her throat, probably holding her down.”

“Or against the wall,” Allen chimed in as his desk phone rang. He picked it up and talked into it quietly for several moments and then hung up, smiling sheepishly. “The wife, wondering when I’m going to be home.”

“Well our shift ended over an hour ago. Why don’t you head home to

them and I'll finish up the paperwork. In the morning we can go back to the crime scene and talk with the neighbors again."

Crispus nodded, "Alright, but don't stay too late. The night-shift will be here soon and they're a whole different breed of people. You got any family?" He asked suddenly as he was putting on his coat.

She stared at the pictures, never looking up. "My parents live here in the city, that's it."

Crispus Allen was a good detective. The finality in her voice told him that she didn't want to talk about it anymore. He said goodnight and headed out the door. His new partner was going to take a little getting used to.

After her partner had left, Renee kept staring at the picture of the woman's body, the open gash in her throat, the clutter around the corpse. That's when she saw it. How could they have missed it the first time they went through the apartment. It was a picture that was lying on the ground next to her, the glass shattered. In the picture were Karen Walker and a woman with an uncanny resemblance to her, probably her mother by the look of it. The picture was in Robinson Park and behind the two ladies was a man who was blurred, as if trying to get out of the picture. His head was ducked low and his overcoat was pulled up around his head.

She got up and headed back to the apartment.

Alfred walked into the cave to see Bruce pulling the cowl back over his head.

"Leaving so soon, Sir?"

"I want to check out that murder scene."

"And how did the background check go with the Drakes?"

"Tim is an all A student who has never missed a day of school in his life.

He's on the track and baseball teams, all American kid. His father seems to pan out. Banker in loans, no record at all, not even a parking ticket."

"Yet, something about him is bothering you?"

"For being a loan manager, his bank seems to send him on a lot of trips both in the United States and abroad. His wife was murdered two years ago in a botched robbery attempt at a convenience store in the small town that they used to live in. The killer was never caught. There just seems to be something a bit off about the entire thing."

"I see... and this murder that you are going to investigate? Why not just let the police handle a regular homicide?"

Batman turned around and headed for his car, "Honestly don't know. Just a weird feeling, that's all."

Alfred watched the car streak off into the night. He turned back to the picture of Tim Drake that Batman had left on the screen. A very happy looking boy, but a boy who's mother had been murdered. He knew Master Bruce well enough to know he wasn't going to let that go, and in the back of his mind, he couldn't help but have that feeling that this was a bit of dejevú.

Harvey Dent had made it to the Iceberg Lounge without any problems and got in the private elevator that went to the penthouse. He had considered taking some of his men with him, but the coin had told him not to, and so far, the coin had not failed him at all.

The elevator door opened to a very luxurious apartment, done tastefully in black and whites. The furniture was a metal and glass. He noticed a very expensive chandelier hanging from the ceiling as he stepped down into the sunken living room.

"Do you like it?" Came the voice of Oswald Cobblepot as he entered from a darkened hallway. "I had it imported from France. It did not come cheap, and is an heirloom of Marie Antoinette, herself. I'm very proud of it."

"Of course you are," Two-Face said, his good eye narrowing with suspicion. "I'm here. Now would you care to tell me why?"

"I see your accident has scarred your manners as well," Penguin replied sarcastically. "Very well, business first, then. Allow me to introduce the third member to our little gathering. We've had an on again, off again, partnership for some time now."

The short man motioned to the same hallway and Dent watched as the man he knew as Black Mask walked out. He was shocked, but refused to allow it to show.

"Rumor has it that you were dead."

A hollow voice from inside the skull shaped mask replied. "Yes, that has helped me immensely while I have continued to shape my Empire."

"What Empire," Dent scoffed.

"Oh, I've been growing quite the little business in the last few months, as has Mr. Cobblepot here, thanks to the untimely death of Rupert Thorne."

"Whatever," Harvey replied impatiently. "If I'm here 'cause you want me to be one of your lackey's, you've got another thing coming. I'm a boss man, not a thug."

"Of course, Mr. Dent," cooed Black Mask. "We all are. However, you seem to be a big fish with no pond to call your own. We would like to help you with that."

"Go on."

"As Oswald's letter stated, it is time for changes in Gotham, and the old ways are almost gone. It's time for this city to be run by younger and smarter men. You, just like the two of us, could be one of those men: A ruler of his own kingdom."

"So far, so good, but I'm still not sure what your getting at. Just come out with it, damn it."

“There are still two obstacles in our way,” Penguin replied quickly so not to have the two men begin any kind of argument. “Once they are eliminated, we can take control of everything that is theirs.”

“Who?”

“The first one would be your ex-father-in-law, Boss Maroni. Even though he’s in jail, he still maintains his power. He must be eliminated.”

“I see no problem with that at all,” Two-Face said with an evil grin. “And the other?”

Black Mask stepped down to enter the circle with the other two men. “Carminе Falcone. Once he is removed, we can take our rightful places, divided evenly of course, and rule this city like those old idiots could have never imagined.”

Harvey Dent considered all of this for a moment and then, as the other two expected, pulled out his coin and flipped it into the air. When it came down they waited as he stared at it for a moment.

“Looks like you two have yourself a partner,” he chuckled menacingly.

To Be Continued

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

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From the same author on Feedbooks

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 #17 (2007)

Detective Comics: The Two Faces of Harvey Dent, Part 1 (of 2).

Detective Comics #20 (2007)

Detective Comics: The Enemy of My Enemy.

Detective Comics #19 (2007)

Detective Comics: Helpless

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 then 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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