



Action Comics #18

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"Doomsdays, Part One of Three: "The Tide"
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Cover by MischiefDragon

I am a reasonable man. I was in control of my actions and I acknowledge that they may have been seen by some as reckless, others as irresponsible, and by most, illegal. But I stand by them, and that's all a man, or woman, can do. Stand by his or her actions, and live with the consequences.

En Route to Metropolis Mercy General:

Clark Kent gurgled as his pain worsened and his wounds burned. He'd never experienced pain like this. Kryptonite? Of course that was painful, but he had never really understood the pain of humanity. Or the pain of being a human as bullets tear through your chest. That was a downer, especially for someone who once was referred to by the media as the 'Man of Steel'. He seized in the back of the ambulance, and gripped the side of the bed, as a wave of pain wracked his body. He had once believed himself to be human. Sure, he didn't feel pain when the Sun was shining bright, but as a child he had stubbed his toe, he had bruised his ankle and cut his knee. He had nearly drowned in Crater Lake, and he remembered clearly how Lana had to save him. But as he later discovered, this was his first exposure to the 'meteor rocks' that he eventually discovered were fragments of his dead planet. Kryptonite. He felt another wave of agony coming. He didn't welcome it.

"Don't worry chum," a voice whispered, "we're getting you help."

He turned his head, and smiled as he saw the grin of a familiar face, clad in black and grey. "B-Bruce?"

"Don't worry, Kal!" Another voice, feminine, strong, beautiful. "We

brought something to help!" Diana. "This won't hurt one bit!" She held the Purple Ray and flicked a switch, and with a swirl of light he was complete! He rose up out of the bed, his wounds healing themselves, bullets popping out of his body as his biochemical aura returned! He stood, looked at Lois who sat weeping and smiled, then took her by the hand, lifted up and—

He coughed blood and grit his teeth. Lois held his hand as he lay in the bed, the ambulance rushing through traffic. "C-Clark? Help is nearly... Help is..." She sobbed, and clutched his dirty, grimy hand tightly. "Don't leave me."

"Sorry... Lois..." He drifted away from the pain, and welcomed the darkness. "So... *sorry*..."

Meanwhile:

He hid in the shadows as the helicopter buzzed by. He was close now. Close to neutral soil. Hobs Bay. The Hall of Justice. He needed to explain to someone with clout. Someone with power. Wonder Woman? Aquaman? They would help. He needed a place to rest, a place to get his breath back, before moving on. But neutral soil. Yes. The Guardian held on tightly to his shield, his only weapon in his battle.

"Harper!" He turned, his eyes wide. He was discovered!

Interlude.

Gotham City:

"This is insane!" howled Hunter, fiddling with the inner mechanics of his craft, "how can my archives be incomplete? This is... Wait..."

"Rip Hunter, eh?" muttered Alfred. "Is that your real name, sir?"

Rip turned from the controls of his time ship, wires exposed and clippers in hand. "Rip Hunter? Sometimes I think it is, but no. It's not. I had to change my name throughout history to prevent—"

“Villains from travelling to the past and removing you from the board?”

“Exactly,” nodded Hunter, splicing two wires together, and watching numbers run down his screen like rain. “Exactly.”

“Can I help you in any way?” inquired Alfred Pennyworth, resisting the urge to grab the hose and spraying down the dirt encrusted sphere before him.

“Umm... You could grab that hose and give my old baby a wash down...” he smiled and winked. “If you want, that is.”

“How is that...” Pennyworth paused. “How did you do that?”

“Time travel, my friend, time travel.” He vanished from sight for a moment, delving inside the inner working of his ship, and grabbed a long, insect-like device from inside a compartment of the circuitry. “What the hell is this?”

“It doesn’t look pleasant, I can tell you that, sir.”

“It doesn’t belong here. Looks... Oh come on, it looks evil. It looks like an evil time disruption device. But this technology...”

“What are you thinking, sir?”

“I’ll be back in a minute,” grunted Hunter, sealing the sphere and powering up the time engine. “A minute.”

End Interlude.

Meanwhile:

He threw his shield, and was shocked to see it hover in midair. “Calm down, Harp. It’s us.” Caesar levitated the shield back over to his friend with a blast of tangible energy, and then walked over to his shadowy hideaway. “What’s happening?”

"I'm a fugitive," stated the Guardian, carefully rubbing clean his golden shield with his black trouser leg.

"From?" inquired Lightray, his eyes darting from one end of the alley to the other, his hyper senses aware of every movement in the area. "You're a hero. Heroes aren't fugitives."

"It's all subjective, Sollis. The government think they own my powers, so they think they own me. They want their investment back."

"Then we should take the fight to THEM, Harp," grunted Caesar, cracking his knuckles. "You're the least fugitive person I know, so they've got this wrong. We can go to the press. Go to someone. Get the truth out."

"Lois knows. So does John Henry."

Caesar pouted jokingly. "So we're the last to know?"

"This is serious Caesar; I need to get to—"

Lights flashed and spotlights shot down, enveloping the dark alleyway in bright light. Caesar cringed, his eyes adjusting, whilst Harper immediately brought up his shield, deflecting the light some what. Lightray stared the beams down, his eyes perfectly attuned to every spectrum of light in existence.

"JIM HARPER. STAND DOWN."

"Go," ordered Harper, "they're not here for you."

"I think you need to remember," corrected Lightray, his eyes sparking with light, "that I am a God, Jim Harper. You do not hold any power over me."

"And I'm a troublemaker anyway," quipped Caesar, his wave beginning to glow as he began to weave a silent spell. "So I think you'll find we both have your back."

"You're not the only ones," came a mechanical voice. The trio turned, helicopters roaring above them, as Steel arrived, his armour dented and

damaged, but functioning. "We vowed to protect this city, right? And if we can't protect ourselves..."

The Guardian sighed. "I don't deserve friends like you."

"Let's not make this a chick flick moment, Harp," smiled Caesar. He then looked at the helicopters as they approached, and the sound of vans and cars as they all pulled up and troops marched out, "let's make it something Bruckheimer would be jealous of."

"Ready?" Asked the Guardian.

"Ready." Came the voices of the others.

Metropolis Mercy General:

Lois sat outside the surgery as they operated. She had been waiting for what had seemed hours, and she was still crying. Steve Lombard sat beside her, a kind hand on her shoulder. Ron was emailing to Perry, writing the story as it unfolded on his laptop, sending in drafts to the Editor-In-Chief and receiving corrections almost instantaneously from him. Perry was waiting anxiously at his desk, the other members of the bullpen crowding round his door as he stared at the phone.

"Chief?" The reporters cringed as Jimmy Olsen arrived by his door, ready for another shouting match to begin.

"Olsen," started White, something blazing in his eye. The other began to back out, but then they realised what it was, hiding behind the eyes of Perry White. It wasn't rage, or anger, but fear, fear at the loss of a friend's life, a friend who Perry almost considered a son of sorts. "What you got for me?"

"It's big," came the reply from Jimmy, as he took out a memory stick. "Just like we imagined." He paused. "What's wrong?"

"It's Kent..."

"CK? What's happened?!"

"He's been shot."

The colour drained from Jimmy's face, "C- CK?"

Metropolis Mercy General:

"...Suction?" The surgeon placed the scalpel on the metal tray with the rest of his instruments and took a breath. He had patched up the internal bleeding, but... He didn't know. There was a weird discolouration to the patient's internal organs, and he didn't know what to make of it. "Haemostats." He slowly moved the instrument inside the opened wound, and grimaced. "Can I get more suction?" A nurse abided, his quivering hand irritating the surgeon as he tried to work. "What are you so nervous about?"

"I read this guy's articles... He's my hero..."

"Right, well, get the blood out the way, I can close the internal injuries, and I think..." He strained for a moment with his words, and then smiled. "...I have the final bullet."

Tpkt.

It fell into a jar of bloody water, bloody rising off of it as it sank to the bottom of the container. The surgeon smiled. "Closing."

Meanwhile:

They were outnumbered. Outgunned. A man in a green beret at the front of the group of soldiers raised a walkie-talkie to his mouth. "The call has been made."

"GO!" shouted Harper, diving at the soldiers, shield raised. A horde of men in black armour scattered as he barrelled into them, his golden shield glistening in the spotlight. He grit his teeth, his enhanced strength straining against the immense mass behind the shield, and then he pushed a group into the van, spinning around as he did that and kicking

another attacker in the face, before picking up an electric truncheon from one of the men's hands. They weren't heavily armed, not believing the golden Guardian would put up any kind of fight, but they were wrong. So very wrong. He jammed the weapon into the ribs of one of the men. It didn't even faze him. So he slammed it in his face and dove back, his shield tight in his hand.

"So brute force is the only answer?"

No reply.

"Well, I wouldn't have it any other WAY!" He dove into a massive group of the men, not aware of his friend's plights.

Caesar was weaving spells, faster than ever. He turned electricity into dust., but suddenly the armoured men stopped attacking him. Why? He smiled. He had scared them, blatantly. Then he heard the muttering. What was that? Hebrew? He span around and saw a group of urbane looking magicians with books open. So the government was employing mystics now? Amateurs. He smiled. What were they doing? He could turn the pages into water, the bindings into snakes. He began to whisper himself, moving his hands in a swift arcane movement, but suddenly the world rumbled, and something formed from the concrete below their feet. What the hell was going on?

"Emet." The lead sorcerer took a strange looking wand and pointed it at the shapeless mass, and the word burned brightly onto it, until the shape became a living mass, inanimate becoming alive, a living Golem!

"Oh, you have got to—" Caesar didn't get to finish his sentence before he was swatted across the harbour, toward the pier. "—Uhhff—"

"Destroy." Whispered the sorcerers.

Metropolis Mercy General:

Lois watched as the surgeon came out of the operating theatre, and was immediately met by two familiar looking men. One wore dark sunglasses, and had a cane in his hand, and the other was in a

wheelchair, a thick red beard covering his face. Familiar but... Names al-
luded her. She had to know. She stood up with a start, startling Steve,
and went to speak to them, but suddenly fell over as she bumped into
someone. Her purse spilled open, her keys and her purse falling out
across the sterile floor. She looked at the man who had bumped into her,
also on the floor, picking up his fingers. An unlit match rested between
two thin lips, and his thin moustache made him look quite sinister in a
day-go manner.

"Sorry about that, ma'am," he apologized with a distinct Irish twang,
"didn't see you there."

"Then you should watch where your going!" She snarled, passing him
his matches to him as she stood up, her hair an untidy heap and her eyes
surrounded by running make up.

"My apologies, ma'am." He smiled and bowed, and then went on his
way, and as Lois looked back to the surgeon, he was a lone, scratching
his head.

"Hey! Hey!"

"Yes?"

"What's happened, how's Cla— Kent? How is he?"

The surgeon paused, "as I was telling your friends, he's stable, and in
ICU."

"Friends?"

"Yes."

"I don't know who..."

BOOM!

"What was that?!"

"Explosion?!" gasped the surgeon, panicking.

"No, familiar..." He eyes widened. "Clark!!" She ran to his room, followed by Lombard and Troupe, laptop in hand, and the surgeon, as well as two security guards. "Come on!" They arrived in the ICU, and found a space where Clark Kent should be lying. All the equipment was gone, everything, and no one else was untouched. "You... Lost... Clark... Kent!"

Meanwhile:

Something was in the air. It slowed him down, but what? He didn't know. It hurt to think. He tried to speak, but his voice wouldn't carry, "J-Jim," he managed, but no one heard. He looked to the lifeless Caesar, "C-Caesar," he muttered, but he was getting breathless. What was this? He turned to Steel, who was getting pummelled by energy fire, and he could see the metal of his armour beginning to melt... They were heroes! They were losing! *How is this... How was...* He was down with one shot. His biological solar energy reserves sapped in an instant, the result instant pain. His skin was burning and his uniform was scorched. He winced as he saw a man approach him. Caesar was battling strange golems, Steel massive robots, and the Guardian was lost in a horde of the armoured agents. "We have a New God in custody. We studied. We waited. We built. And now we have it. A defence," he raised the energy weapon at Lightray, his skin pale and his hair limp. "A weapon."

"Y-You will never win."

"That's what Gravyen said. Before we dissected him."

"Gravyen?!" Bastard son of Darkseid? Lost during the Apokolips War on Earth, could they, the humans, could they have ended his threat? Is that a good thing? Or is it... Thoughts exploded in his mind like bursts of light. But something was still slowing his movements! Something was binding him down!

"Do you know what Radion is, Sollis?"

Radion. Of course Lightray knew. It was legendary, the only element... His eyes widened as he saw the glow of the energy weapon. "By..."

Highfather!"

"Yes, Gravyen told us the legends too. Radion, the only element that can kill a New God, and we've just released particles of it into the immediate area... Your wings have been clipped!"

"AND YOU TALK TOO MUCH!" A loud voice shouted, as the taunting official was swatted into the side of a building, and crumpled into unconsciousness. Lightray turned to see a battered and bruised Caesar behind the Golem, and behind them, the sorcerers that summoned it lying unconscious in a heap. "Silly little man!" Caesar smiled, "you think I don't know how to twist the strings that control a Golem?" He rubbed blood from the side of his nose. "Though it did take some extreme measures to make me remember..." He shrugged. "Let's help the others!"

The Hall of Justice:

Medical Labs:

"His blood. Run it again." Charles McNider was used to this kind of emergency. The Flash (present, not past) had arrived at his home, explained to him the situation, and now he was here, overlooking one of the greatest hero's treatments. Except if this was Superman... These bullet wounds were a bit abnormal, weren't they? And the fact that his blood was currently borderline human, with strands of disorganized Kryptonian DNA... That couldn't be right, could it?"

"I don't know how to explain this..." Niles Caulder rolled to the side of Superman again, the hero being kept alive by a mix of alien technologies that he could barely understand, and checked his pulse. "This is all wrong..." the Manhunter from Mars had materialized (materialized? Or...) in the Doom Patrol headquarters, and explained the situation to him. This was his kind of case, yet this man, with his cane and his black sunglasses, was also here... What was going on?

McNider looked over to Caulder. "The DNA?"

"Yes... It's a mess. Like it's been through a mixer and then digested and then stuck back together by a monkey."

McNider nodded. "An apt analogy, friend." McNider overlooked Superman once more, the bullets still lodged in his sternum, but stable for now. "I want to remove the blood clots against the heart. This cell damage is so severe..."

"But what if it's the blood clots that are keeping him alive?"

McNider paused in his thinking, and turned to his wheelchair bound colleague. "Explain."

"We x-rayed him, and he's got clots pushing against his aorta... If we remove it, we could start more bleeding... But if he's stable for now, I wouldn't mind trying to figure out why his DNA is such a mess."

"Good call."

The Hall of Justice:

Meeting Room:

Batman punched the palm of his hand, and looked around to the other Justice Leaguers present, and then stood up with a start. "I don't like this, we should be doing something more than sitting around!"

Wonder Woman placed her hand on her friend's shoulder, and nodded slowly. The Flash was the first one to speak. "McNider and Caulder are the best metahuman physicians known to man, Bruce. We've got to trust them."

"I do trust them, but we've finally found Superman and now this? Shot. Through the chest." Batman turned to the Martian Manhunter. "Is the shooter still in custody?"

J'onn nodded. "The MCU is keeping up posted."

"I don't like this, friends." Diana fiddled with her lasso as she spoke. "Someone has gone to great lengths to hide Kal's whereabouts from us, and now we have found him... It stinks of a trap."

The Atom shrugged. "We've been looking for a Superman, Diana. A

Kryptonian. You've seen his DNA, it's a mess. None of our instruments could have detected what was going on inside his body."

"True..." She paused. "Maybe he was hiding himself?" Wonder Woman looked around. "Maybe he was ashamed to confront us with the fact that he no longer had his powers."

"Excuse me?" Batman looked at the Queen of Themyscira and scowled. "What do you mean?"

"Kal is the best of us, and maybe... The proudest." Green Lantern smirked slightly, but didn't interrupt. "He lost his powers, and now—"

"Kal is not..." started Hal, "Superman wouldn't do that. So don't—"

"Justice League." A hollow voice filled the room.

The Atom turned "What is that?"

"Transmission." Green Lantern hurried over to the Monitor wall, but the Flash beat him to it. "From..."

Barry turned to Hal, attempting to verify his findings. "Is that right?"

Green Lantern's ring sparked and fizzled, and then died down. "Yes."

Batman tensed, and walked toward the other heroes. "What is it?"

"A transmission from the Fortress of Solitude."

"Justice League of Earth." The words were spat out, disgusted. But the voice... Like a monster.

"Who is that?"

The screens all turned black on the monitor wall. Then they began to flicker alive with a mass... A grey and horrendous mass, that slowly came into view. Green Lantern was the first to speak. "What is that ugly monstrosity?"

Wonder Woman grimaced. "Kru-El."

Batman nodded. "Doomsday."

"I hear my dear brother is incapacitated." Growled the voice.

The Flash nudged Green Lantern. "When did he get so eloquent?"

The Atom grimaced and began to type on the computer. "More importantly, how did he know about Superman?"

The Martian Manhunter began to follow The Atom's lead, and began checking the computer systems.

Batman pressed a button on his belt and pulled a scanner from a pouch. His eyes turned to slits. "We've been hacked by a superior technology. Kryptonian. When did Kru-El get so damn intelligent?"

"I adapted, little human." Kru-El. Bastard brother of Kal-El. Disowned son of Jor-El. Hound of General Zod. Captured by Lex Luthor. Traded to Darkseid. Mutated into this. "And now I have something to ask of you."

"You of all people are in no position to ask anything of us?" Wonder Woman growled, her fists clenched.

"How much do you value your Earth? Or my brother?"

Batman grimaced. "What do you mean?"

"My brother is a husk. His body destroyed by radiation."

The Atom turned to Green Lantern. "(Radiation? What kind of... Red sun radiation!)" The hero hurried out of the room to McNider and Caulder.

"If you want the cure to my brother's ailment..." Doomsday smiled, massive chunks of bone around his mouth, grey skin stretching to form an inhuman grin. "You need me. My blood. My blood is stronger than any known substance on your Earth. Able to cure any ailment Kryptonian in nature. You must come here. And take it from me."

Green Lantern pointed his ringed finger at the view screens. "What is this?"

"I'm challenging you, little Justice League of Earth... To a battle. To the death."

Wonder Woman's eyes widened. "Hera..."

Stryker's Island:

The guard tapped his taser truncheon (patented exclusively to LexCorp Industries) against the bars of the cell. They were trying to get this creep transferred. He was trouble, and they didn't need that kind of hassle in Stryker's. They were over capacity anyway, and now with super freaks like this, with their super needs and their super rights... Like he said, trouble. "You wanted to see your lawyer, Killgrave (stupid name), and he's here. Come with us." He tapped the bars again and they shuddered open.

"Thank yuh kindly." Thaddeus Killgrave smiled as he followed the guard down the long corridor leading to the visiting area.

"For a genius, you ain— you aren't so eloquent, are you?" The guard smiled.

"Oh, I apologize, screw. The accent? A habit. You don't get along with any of the prisoners here with a gimmick for super intelligent violence, you understand?" Thaddeus smiled as the guard spluttered silently. "My lawyer, eh?"

"Yeah."

"Haven't seen him here for a while, you know? They don't like representing people like me." Killgrave smirked sweetly. "You understand, of course?"

"Whatever." The guard tapped the entrance into the visitors room. Thaddeus Killgrave's lawyer was a sickly looking man, gaunt and pale, his

hair thinning and his attaché brief case worn and battered, sitting on his lap like a barrier against harm coming to him. "You've got however you need." He checked his watch. "Which leaves you about twenty three minutes before visiting hours are done."

"Thank you kindly, dear screw."

"H-Hello, Killgrave." The lawyer was nervous. Rightly so.

"I don't have time for you."

"E-Excuse me? You asked for m-me to be here."

"Yes, yes, because the visiting rooms have the weakest walls." Thaddeus smiled. "You understand, of course?" He began to remove his shirt to reveal an intricate layer of technological weave, thin circuitry that peeled off his chest like latex.

"O-Oh, no..."

"Yes, my friend. I'm escaping. And I'm not leaving here alone." He began to program the weave with a speed unlike the lawyer had ever seen. Thaddeus noticed the lawyer's gaze and turned away from him, hiding his work as he continued to shape and mould.

"W-What is that?"

"Phantom Zone technology. It's going to create..." He finished his creation, and revealed a small sphere to the lawyer. "Negative dimensional space."

"What?"

"A void." He threw the ball at the wall and it hit the surface hard, before freezing in time and space in front of the duo. "A void that will need to be filled."

The room shuddered and a thunder crack filled the prison after wall after wall collapsed on itself. There was a roar of sheer delight as cell doors one after the other popped open. Villains leaped out, their

metahuman dampeners (patented exclusively to LexCorp Industries) short-circuited, and then they unleashed chaos.

But they didn't stay in the prison for long. Walls fell to biochemical discharge, explosive sweat, napalm breath, and then Metropolis... Metropolis was in sight.

And so it began.

To be continued!

ACTION COMICS PRESENTS:

Escape To Krypton!

Part Five/Finale: "MENTAL!"

Written by Roy Flinchum

Edited by Charlie Wilkins

"There are new words now that excuse everybody. Give me the good old days of heroes and villains. The people you can bravo or hiss. There was a truth to them that all the slick credulity of today cannot touch."

—Bette

Davis

Maggie Sawyers' head hurt. The screaming child didn't helping anything either. The last thing she remembered was being with Harper on a roof. Suddenly the memory came into sharp focus, like being splashed with ice-cold water. She tried to sit upright but her body refused to move. Her vision cleared slowly and she could see the paramedic staring down at her. She suddenly realized that the 'screaming child' was in fact the wail of the ambulance's siren, and she was strapped down to a

gurney. At least she wasn't paralyzed, she thought, that's always a plus.

"Where are we?" She rasped.

The paramedic laid a reassuring hand on her shoulder. "Take it easy Captain Sawyer, we're en-route to the hospital, don't try to talk."

"Get me out of this, I don't need a hospital, I need to get to MSCU HQ—" Maggie was becoming more lucid by the minute and more agitated by the second. "—RIGHT NOW."

"Captain you need a... "

"Listen," interrupted Maggie. "You can let me out of here, or drop me at the station, or let me call in a squad car, or *I can book you for interfering with police business*, because *right now* there is one **hell** of a officer back there who I'm pretty sure is in for the fight of his life and I need to help him. If you **keep** me from doing **that** and something happens to him..." She paused. "I will make you wish that you had simply done what I asked. What's it going to be?"

The paramedic rapped on the window and motioned for the driver to pull over.

"Smart guy," nodded Maggie.

Guardian flattened himself as much as he could against the abandoned patrol car. Bullets from the MPD and the SCU smashed into the wrecked vehicle and cut up the pavement around it.

A little man dressed all in black stood in the middle of the street directing the officer's torrent of bullets toward the pinned hero. "C'mon out Guardian! Your buddies want to play! Don't you want to play with them?" shrieked Crowley above the din of the gunfire.

Ping, K-Pow, Vree, P-Tang, The whizzing bullets almost sounded musical, in fact, Harper, could hear a pattern. Some officers were reloading and some were firing at a different rate. Harper listened for the opening.

There! He sprang out from behind the now almost skeletal patrol car, and ran for a nearby alley.

Crowley was mind controlling over a dozen men and women, his focus was broad and his aim not to good. Guardian weaved and somersaulted, picking the pattern of the shots, taking the ones that couldn't be avoided on his shield. *Tang! Speow!* The lead careened off the metal.

Harper dove for the alley, the bullets tearing up the bricks behind him.

"NO", Crowley screamed. The officers, the SCU, all fell abruptly silent and dropped where they were standing. The telepathic villain reached out his mind into the nearby buildings and homes. There, petrified and shaking behind his front door, watching the scene unfold outside his ramshackle apartment, was Mark Altizer. Mark suddenly felt his mind go numb and he no longer had control over his malleable plastic-like body. "Perfect." Crowley grinned.

Harper assessed his situation and surveyed his environment. Trash cans. Fire-escape. Windows. He measured each chance and opportunity with his strategic mind and shot each possibility down. *I could leap onto the trash bin reach the fire-escape and go in through one of the windows. That would mean exposing a civilian possibly in the apartment to danger and mind control by... What was it he called himself? Mind Eater? Nasty.* Harper thought. *Better to take this to the roof then if I can lead him to a more deserted area where he can't...* Harper's thoughts were interrupted as the alleyway went dark. "What...?"

Against his will Mark's elasticized body had stretched between the two buildings making up the alleyway. He had never been this porous before, it hurt, but Crowley didn't care, this wasn't his body. He poured Mark into each little nook and cranny between the buildings, completely sealing off the alleyway and trapping guardian inside.

Guardian could hear a faint whistling sound and as his eyes adjusted to the darkness he could make out a huge stretched eye above him. A pin-hole of a mouth that would close when the whistling stopped, then open as it began again. Guardian could feel a slight breeze brush his skin. It

dawned on him suddenly. Crowley was using this guy to suck the air out of the alleyway and suffocate him.

Crowley could see Guardian below him through Marks stretched eye, as he sucked the air from the alley he exhaled it out his nose on the other side. "How's it feel Guardian? I'm going to suck the life right out of your lungs, Hero Man!"

Guardian could feel himself already getting light-headed. "Don't know what your beef is with me Braniac, but here's shield in your eye!" Guardian hurled his shield upward and struck the giant eyeball. The sudden pain caused Crowley to lose focus and Mark reverted back to human shape. Less dangerous? No. Crowley enlarged Marks fist and shot them as if they were on rubber bands at Guardian as he bounded up on the trash bin and up the fire escape toward the roof top.

"What my beef is? You HEROES are all they same! You think you're so much better than the rest of us!" Guardian dodged the giant fists slamming into the wall next to him and leapt up onto the roof. Still a little woozy from lack of oxygen, Guardian hesitated and Marks supple limb wrapped around his throat, tightening suddenly and almost crushing Harpers air way.

Crowley pulled himself up onto the roof, using Guardian as an anchor. Harper crouched to the floor to avoid being pulled off the roof, his knees shaking and buckling underneath the weight.

Crowley loomed over him. His rage had contorted Mark's face until it was a caricature of hate. Mark's other arm wrapped around the Guardians body and, like some giant flesh colored anaconda, began to squeeze. Harper felt the first rib crack and exhaled a small grunt that only allowed Crowley to squeeze even tighter.

"Get away from him"! Maggie's voice boomed. Crowley stretched his head around. A twenty-foot tall black and silver crystalline robot pointed its arm toward Crowley. Inside sitting in the womb chamber surrounded by monitors and conduits sat Maggie Sawyers.

"This is your last warning! Release the Guardian!" The crystal device she was encased in absorbed Maggie's voice and amplified it to the outside.

Crowley released his hold on Mark and his elastic body snapped back to its human shape and he passed out, the poor metahuman's brain overloaded from Crowley occupying it.

Guardian slumped to the ground, coughing as he tried to pull air back into his lungs. Each breath caused his cracked rib to radiate his chest with pain.

Crowley stepped out from his hiding place and into the street.

The giant crystalline robot peered down at Guardian and spoke with Maggie's voice. "Harper, are you all right? Harper?"

Guardian looked up and blinked his eyes to clear the pain. "Captain?"

"It's me, Jim." Maggie used the robot sensors to scan his vitals. She saw the extent of his injuries, his cracked rib. "We've got to get you to a hospital. You're hurt."

"Where did that come from?" Guardian asked between ragged breaths.

"A little gift from Mr. Irons and a mutual Kryptonian friend of ours," even in the chaos, he could tell she was smiling, "I'm taking it out for a little test drive."

"Ughh, Maggie you've got to get that out of here, if Mind Buster gets inside you while ..."

"Too late blue boy!" Crowley jumped up onto the roof from the fire escape. He reached out his mind and touched Maggie's.

The villain screamed and hugged his arms around his head, teetering back toward the edge of the roof, and the Guardian looked on in wonderment.

John Henry Irons was no newcomer to the hero game and had tried to

anticipate every battle situation. This included what he called a 'redundant bio-feedback' circuit. If the robot were to encounter thought waves other than the operators, they would be rerouted to a separate circuit and then back out along the incoming transmission. The robot shivered slightly while matching Crowley's frequency. The result? Crowley was in agony.

"NO!" The Guardian leapt for the villain as he disappeared over the edge of the building. Harper grabbed Crowley's ankle and swiveled himself around underneath him. "Dammit!"

For the second time this day Jim Harper found himself falling toward the ground. He ignored the pain in his chest and tried to position himself so that his shoulders would take the brunt of the impact. Crowley twisted in his arms and Jim thought briefly about letting him go, but he wasn't going to let the maniac that killed Belle get off that easy.

The officers that Crowley had taken over were just beginning to rouse from their brain-overload induced sleep when Harper and Crowley hit the windshield of the patrol car still parked underneath the building with an almighty crash.

The glass cut through Harpers uniform and into his skin beneath, leaving wide gashes of red. Crowley was unharmed, shielded by the Guardian's body. Crowley began to punch Guardian as they lay in the wreckage.

"Stop it! I'm supposed to be the good guy! Why won't you let me win? I just wanted to be the good guy! But you wouldn't let me, so now I'm gonna' have to be the bad guy and kill you!"

Crowley heard the sound of the robot stepping around the building. It sounded like two shards of glass rubbing together. He reached out his mind, further than he had ever reached out before, making sure to avoid touching the woman in the robot. He commandeered every man, woman and child still left in Krypton Square. And he smiled.

Crowley stood facing the robot as people began to flow to him from nearby apartment buildings and alleyways. Some had powers, some did not. The officers again became pawns of Crowley and began to fire their weapons. Shots bounced off the crystalline hull of the robot. Some back into the crowd. Maggie began to back away. Bolts of energy shot out from dozens of hands, striking the robot in the chest and causing it to falter backwards.

Some people began to fly upwards toward the robot. Inside, Maggie watched on the monitor screens. The robot's systems were already dealing with some of the damage caused by the energy blasts. Maggie did not want to open fire on these people; they were after all being controlled, she knew that. Little green reticules popped up on the monitors over the people that were flying towards her.

Her fingers flew over the keyboard in front of her.

Weapons system retargeting. Maggie heard in her head. The little green reticules blinked out and one larger one reappeared over Crowley.

Maggie's finger hesitated over the fire button. People were beginning to swarm around Crowley. "Damn" she swore. Still, she knew that if she didn't take the shot more innocent people would die.

The robot shuddered. The people outside were hitting it.

"MIND-EATER"! Maggie heard a shout. Harper stood behind Crowley and his crescent shaped barricade of people.

Crowley turned. "NO, it can't be! Why won't you die! I don't know why I can't get into your mind Guardian but I won't have to because my slaves are going to tear it from your skull!"

Guardian was battered and cut, streaks of blood trickled down his body. Crowley's mind controlled army began to march toward him.

Jim Harper reached behind him, stuck into the strap that usually held his shield was Belle Jackson's Microwave rod.

Jim pointed the rod toward Crowley and said. "This is for Belle."

The rod fired and Crowley felt nothing, for about a second.

The waves passed through his body vibrating at 2.5 billion times per second. His blood began to boil. His brain shut down, and Crowley collapsed to the street. His puppet army fell as well. Freed of his mind control, their brains shut down, to rest.

Ding, Ding, Ding, Beep, Beep, Ba-doop, Ba-doop.

Harper lay in his bed listening to the sounds of the hospital all around him. He couldn't escape it, due to his heightened senses, but he welcomed the calm. In fact, his senses were so heightened, he heard Maggie's soft footfalls before she even entered the room.

"Hi Captain Sawyer, how's tricks?" he asked with a smile.

Maggie entered the room, surprised, "Harper, how did you know it was me?"

"A little trick I picked up from Batman." Jim winked.

Maggie felt herself blush, then quickly got to business.

"The perp's name is Lucian Crowley, we're still investigating. He's currently in the medical wing at Styker's, coma they say. Something about the radiation you blasted him is affecting that part of his brain that allowed him to control others, medical scientific mumbo jumbo. If you ask me, the bastard can stay in a coma."

"How are the officers? All the people? Ms. Grant?"

"They're all fine, slight headaches." Maggie walked over and switched on the TV set suspended from the ceiling.

Cat Grant's stood in Krypton Square talking to the camera. Across the bottom of the TV the news ticker read.

Cat Grant new WGBS investigative reporter involved in capture of Krypton Square killer.

“This reporter would like to personally thank Captain Sawyer of the Metropolis Special Crimes Unit, and the Guardian, for not only apprehending The Mind Eater but for saving my life as well. Be sure to tune in tonight at eight on your local GBS stations for exclusive footage of the Battle for Krypton Square. This is Cat Grant, for WGBS News.”

Maggie turned the sound down. “She did pretty good for herself, she’s alright. How are you Jim?”

“A little sore”, Harper grinned widely, “But I’ll be right as rain in a few days.”

Maggie laid her hand on Jim's. “Good, we need you back in action as soon as possible cowboy.”

Epilogue:

The walls of Styker’s Island held some of the most notorious Metahuman prisoners the world had ever seen. And now Lucian Crowley could count himself among those infamous individuals.

“Still no response?” The young doctor, asked.

The attending nurse completed Lucian’s sponge bath. “No sir, no response. How long has it been?”

The young doctor absent-mindedly studied the medical chart. “Almost two weeks now, but I think we’ll start to see some improvement soon.”

The nurse smoothed Lucian’s pillow. “You’re new here aren’t you? I’m Margaret Nelson.” The young Doctor smiled at the pretty nurse.

“Oh yes, I am new here. I hope I can do some of my best work within

these walls. I'm pleased to meet you Margaret. My name is Dee, Dr. John Dee."

Fini?

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

Tales of the Green Lantern Corps Special: Facets (2005)

Tales of the Green Lantern Corps Special: Facets.

There are 3600 Green Lanterns in existence throughout the universe and there are the seconds, the people ready to take on the mantle of Green Lantern when their predecessor falls. Moving away from Sector 2814 with this one shot, we focus the spotlight on Jar Kell, Green Lantern of Sector 3598, who is having the worst day of his tenure in the Corps!

Batman #0 (2005)

Batman: Shadow of the Bat.

Meet Bruce Wayne. Business man. Playboy. All public masks... But the one beneath it all, the one, true mask... is cloaked in the shadow of the bat!

Meet Batman. Masked vigilante, master of the rarest disciplines of martial arts that grace this earth, mysterious protector of Gotham's streets.

Live his earliest years in this book!

In this issue, Bruce Wayne takes to the streets in the guise of Batman for a quiet night of patrol, and gets more than he bargained for...

Jim Gordon, Harvey Bullock and Sam Merkel investigate seemingly random, but seriously violent, attacks on computer programmers all hired by Enigma Corporation...

Batman #1 (2005)

Batman: The Smoking Gun, Part 1.

Something stirs beneath Metropolis and Batman comes a-calling for the first meeting of the worlds greatest heroes!

Batman #2 (2005)

Batman: World's Finest?

The Worlds Finest team unite to defeat the unstoppable monstrosity discovered last issue, and to defeat it, Batman must join forces with... Lex Luthor?

The Flash #0 (2005)

The Flash: Time Flies, Prelude.

Barry Allen was struck by a bolt of mysterious lightning, and then discovered he had the power of super speed! Follow this series to read the trials and tribulations of the Scarlet Speedster! See the Rogues gallery form and a mysterious villain put into motion a scheme that could destroy the history of the Flash!
Blood will run!

The Flash #1 (2005)

The Flash: Time Flies: Ice Cold Man...

Barry Allen is the happiest man alive! Oh sorry... Barry Allen is the fastest man alive! Everything 's falling into place for the scarlet speedster...

So obviously...

Something has to go wrong!

The Flash #2 (2005)

The Flash: Time Flies: Whispers.

It's Flash Day in Keystone city, and the entire city has come out to celebrate!

And what better time for a Rogue to pop up his head and try and kill them all?

Secrets will be revealed, new mysteries will be woven and one character is going to be changed forever in the latest part of Time Flies!

The Adventures of Superman #4 (2006)

The Adventures of Superman: Black Zero, Part 2: War on Solitude. Second in the biweekly crossover running through Adventures of Superman and Action Comics!

In the rebuilt Fortress of Solitude, Superman battles his greatest, most evil foe... It's not General Zod, Lex Luthor or Metallo and not even Braniac or Parasite... Who exactly?

Action Comics #2 (2006)

Action Comics: Black Zero, Part Three: Fearful Symmetry.

Third in a biweekly crossover running through Adventures of Superman and Action Comics!

Now that the threat has been revealed, and the Man of Steel has been removed from the picture, just what does the evil villain have in mind for Metropolis?

You won't believe the answer!
And is the man who defeated Superman just a pawn in a much greater game?

The Adventures of Superman #5 (2006)

The Adventures of Superman: Black Zero, Part 4: Men of Steel.
Fourth in a biweekly crossover running through *Adventures of Superman* and *Action Comics*!

Superman and Green Lantern Jar Kell reach Metropolis, but an evil lurks on the inside as well as on the outside, awaiting the two heroes and setting a deadly ambush.

Action Comics #3 (2006)

Action Comics: Black Zero, Part 5: Endgame.

The fifth and final chapter of the biweekly crossover running through *Adventures of Superman* and *Action Comics*!

Superman learns the true nature of his people in the conclusion of **BLACK ZERO!**

The Adventures of Superman #10 (2006)

The Adventures of Superman: Doomsday.

THIS IS THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 1!

This is it! The greatest crisis the world has ever faced is upon the heroes of the DC2, and nothing will be the same ever again!

The plans of the evil god Darkseid have come to fruition at last!

It's all-out war as Apokolips invades Planet Earth: heroes will rise-- and some will fall before it's done!--- and unlikely allies will be made! And not even Superman is safe when Darkseid sets his sites on the Man of Steel! You won't believe how this one ends!

Action Comics #4 (2006)

Action Comics: Must There be a Superman, Part One: Fragments and Facets.

Superman has left Metropolis? Lex Luthor targeted for death?

Metropolis invaded by aliens? The return of a threat from the past?

A revelation that will leave you reeling and... Joey from *Adventures of Superman #3*?

Action Comics #5 (2006)

Action Comics: Must There Be A Superman? Part 2 of 2: War Crimes and Amnesty (Or, the One with all the Action).

Tomar Re will make sure Lex Luthor stands trial for the murder of Jar Kell if it's the last thing he'll do! The only man standing in the way of his fury? A Superman wracked with insecurity, who must overcome his fear of the unknown once more to save his arch foe! Will he pull through to save the day?

Action Comics #6 (2006)

Action Comics: Full Circle and the End.

A forgotten hero, kidnapped in his hey day and trapped in an inescapable prison is released by a freak accident after the death of one of his wretched captors... How will this man react to a world not his own?

Batman #3 (2006)

Batman: A Riddle Wrapped In E. Nigma, Part 1 (of 2).

He's here! The Count of Conundrum! The Prince of Puzzle himself... The Riddler! Edward Nigma has arrived in The Batman's world, and Gotham City won't ever be the same again! Continued from the events of #0, Batman is about to have the worst night in his short career...

Detective Comics #9 (2006)

Detective Comics: Escapism.

Someone has arrived in Gotham, someone who's very existence could bring about the end of humankind as we know it. So when someone is sent from his home to pursue and drag him back to the fiery hell he escaped from... You can bet Batman will be on the scene!

Batman #8 (2006)

Batman: Half [A] Life.

Two villains make their DC2 debut in this issue, as one reflects on his life before villainy in Arkham, and another emerges from the shadows to destroy the city! Will Batman stand a chance against this deadly double threat of devilry? Not without a little help from the one man he wouldn't expect assistance from!

Batman #4 (2006)

Batman: A Riddle Wrapped in E. Nigma, Part 2: Clueless?

The conclusion to The Riddler story arc and also the conclusion of Charlie's run on the book! Expect some major twists and turns as Batman and Harvey Bullock race against time to rescue Gotham's elite computer programmers from being murdered by a mysterious villain known only as "The Question Mark Slasher"!

What's wrong with Edward Nigma? What happened all those years ago that changed Michael Hughes into a so called Crime Prince of Conundrum?

Batman #9 (2006)

Batman: Crooked Smiles.

There are rumors circling in Gotham that the Crown Prince of Crime has returned! Are the whispers true? Or is someone trying to scare the inhabitants of the city? Batman intends to find out...

Batman #10 (2006)

Batman: Apokolips History X.

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 3!

The hordes of Apokolips continue to overrun the planet, and in Gotham City Batman protects the one man that Darkseid wants the most, the only man to ever escape from his clutches: Scott Free, Mister Miracle! As Jim Gordon and the GCPD form a desperate last line of defense, the Dark Knight makes his plans to get the son of the Highfather out of the city before its inevitable fall!

Detective Comics #10 (2006)

Detective Comics: Duel.

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 12!

Battered and besieged, Gotham City is occupied by the forces of General Steppenwolf, as the rag-tag forces of the GCPD lead a guerrilla resistance and the Dark Knight Detective himself is stalked by Darkseid's own master assassin Kanto! It's a battle royale in the Batcave, the winner take Gotham!

Batman #11 (2006)

Batman: From the Pit, Part 1 (of 2).

As The Batman patrols the night, an old friend rolls into town, and an old foe escapes from Arkham Asylum and begins to wreak havoc in Gotham City!

Batman #12 (2006)

Batman: From the Pit, Finale.

The body count builds as Batman and his new ally fight through the night, and as the Dark Knight finds a survivor from Zsasz's killing spree, he hands the dying victim over to the one woman he thinks can save her, but then paints a target on her back! That woman? Leslie Thompkins!

Batman #13 (2006)

Batman: Too Many Santas Will Kill You.

Batman uncovers a deadly plot to kill one of the wealthiest businessmen in Gotham... Bruce Wayne! And on Christmas Eve of all nights, with a legion of assassins after him, all with murder on their minds, how will the Caped Crusader save the day?

The Flash #3 (2006)

The Flash: Time Flies: A Conversation with my Predecessor...

After the events of last issue, Barry Allen is confronted by Jay Garrick, who has many things to tell the new Speedster...

And not all of them good!

And behind the scenes, new Rogues are born!

The Question Quarterly #1 (2006)

The Question Quarterly: The Death of Vic Sage, Part 1.

Vic Sage is a unique entity in Hub City... A famous journalist who tells the truth in a city of lies and deceit, who becomes an enemy of every criminal in the city with his latest expose! So when corruption and evil crawl beneath the skin of the Hub, and only one man dares fight the never-ending battle for justice, when Vic Sage dies... Who is The Question?

The Question Quarterly #2 (2006)

The Question Quarterly: The Death of Vic Sage, Part 2.

Everything is falling apart in the Hub. Lives are ending, lies have been revealed and the truth... Is the one thing that keeps one man, our 'hero', going. But when the truth is at last revealed, and the

implications of that fully understood... The one sane man in Hub City might conform to the general taste in insanity...

The Question Quarterly #3 (2006)

The Question Quarterly: Desolation Row.

For our final issue we have a change of pace as things get dark and gritty in Arkham Asylum. Think you've seen Vic Sage at his lowest? You'd be wrong. Think this is the end? Only for now, as The Question faces a darker threat than he has ever before, as Arkham Asylum suffers a jailbreak at the hands of two dastardly DC2 villains who make their debut in this issue... So when the inmates run free... Where is The Question?

The Flash #7 (2006)

The Flash: Time Flies, Conclusion! Part One: Everyone, Run Fast! Flashback! We return to the past, two months since Issue Three, and The Flash is facing one of his greatest challenges... The Rogues have formed before their time, a leader clad in yellow showing them the way to destroy Barry Allen's life... With a loved one lying paralyzed in bed, and his friends falling all around him, what hope has The Flash got?

The Flash #8 (2006)

The Flash: Time Flies, Finale.

Professor Zoom, The Reverse Flash, stands revealed to Barry Allen and Jay Garrick... Who is he? How is he? And why?

The Flash #9 (2006)

The Flash: Speed Demon.

A malevolent figure appears in Titans Tower, confronting Wally West AKA Kid Flash, and then vanishes, leaving the young speedster with a foreboding prophecy that comes true almost as suddenly as he appeared! With Kid Flash taken over by some mysterious entity, who you gonna' call?

The Flash #10 (2006)

The Flash: Flashes of Lightning.

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 10!

The body count continues to rise!

The hellbores are falling and soon the earth will be remade in the

image of Apokolips! But not if the Flash can help it! It's a battle to the death as the despicable Desaad and Darkseid's own bastard son Gravyn plant the doomsday device called the Infernal Machine in Keystone City. Can the Flash outrace destiny--- or will the Black Racer be waiting for him at the finish line?

The Flash Annual #1 (2006)

The Flash Annual: Eulogies.

Jay Garrick, the Golden Age Flash, is dead, and two months later, with the world healing, it's time for his funeral. 'Nuff Said.

The Question #1 (2006)

The Question: The Devil's Fingers.

The Question #2 (2006)

The Question: See No Evil.

The Question is still heading for Las Vegas when he drives into the wrong city at the wrong time, where the citizens are gripped with terror as a new, horrific serial killer is murdering women left and right with no discernible pattern... Until the right pair of eyes gaze onto the problem...

The Question Annual #1 (2006)

The Question Annual: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

The Question is in Las Vegas and a mystery has caught up with him from a friend of the past (is there any other kind?) and two heroes in his way.

The Question #3 (2006)

The Question: A Night In Their Arms.

The lights of Las Vegas welcome a lone traveler onto its streets. Yes, after so many months, The Question has arrived. Why is he here? What is so important to him? What is so important to the whole DC2? The conspiracy continues here.

Powers, Inc. #6 (2006)

Powers, Inc.: Life During Wartimes.

Steel wakes up a new man in the first part of this story, and in the second, Prysm discovers her true identity among the stars, and everything falls apart for her new life as her father is betrayed!

Action Comics #17 (2007)

Action Comics: The Linear Man Is Our Only Hope.

Action Comics #13 (2007)

Action Comics: Convergence, Part 1 (of 2): The Thing That Should Not Be...

Something's coming to Smallville, leaving a trail of corpses in its wake! Clark Kent enjoys some down time from his responsibilities with a game of catch, while Lois Lane has to babysit a new reporter at the Daily Planet... But what has the DEO got to do with all this?

Action Comics #14 (2007)

Action Comics: Convergence, Part 2 (of 2): With Teeth!

Action Comics #19 (2007)

Action Comics: Doomsdays, Part 2 (of 3): Shadow On the Sun

Action Comics Annual #2 (2007)

Action Comics: Doomsdays, Part 3 (of 3): Burein Sukuracchi.

DC2 Special #2: World's Finest (2007)

DC2 Special: World's Finest.

Batman #14 (2007)

Batman: Instinct.

The topside of Gotham City has been rebuilt over the past year thanks to Wayne Enterprises and their charitable efforts, but the sewers are another problem entirely... So when sewage workers are vanishing into the darkness, who does Batman think is the number one suspect?

Batman #15 (2007)

Batman: Masks, Part 1 (of 4).

Bruce Wayne is having a good day. Too bad he hasn't been in the Cave since he got in last night with Vicki Vale. Because when he gets down there and logs on, he's going to discover the terrible fate that has befallen James Gordon. And he isn't going to be happy. Not by a long shot.

The Flash #21 (2007)

The Flash: Ride the Lightning.

Lightning strikes once more in the Twin Cities, and you won't believe the consequences!

Batman #17 (2007)

Batman: Hizzoner, The Joker!

Green Lantern #8 (2007)

Green Lantern: Brave New World, Part 1.

A threat from the stars descends from the Heavens, searching for a battery to power the most devastating weapon known to all existence! Hal Jordan, Green Lantern, is all that stands between this villain and his target, and you won't believe the conclusion!

The Question #4 (2007)

The Question: Sneaking Mission.

The conspiracy deepens as a new player enters the game, and the puppet-master reveals himself to one of the cast! With more from the Agents of the DEO, and two buddies from another book making an appearance, you won't want to miss this as this arc continues!

The Question #5 (2007)

The Question: The Double-Edged Sword.

The con is on as The Question and his superfriends infiltrate "Hell" and search for what they're looking for. But as they delve deeper and deeper into Area 15... They realize that something is terribly terribly wrong in this government run complex!

The Question #6 (2007)

The Question: Knocking on Heaven's Door.

Blind, defenseless, lost in the bowels of hell and at the mercy of a master of torture. The Question meets Dr Moon... And witness the return of four characters you'd never thought you'd see again, spinning out of The Question Quarterly...

The Flash #20 (2007)

The Flash: Random Flashes.

In one day, a man's world can be turned upside down. Barry Allen is about to have one of those days. And you won't believe the consequences...

The Question #7 (2007)

The Question: Here With Me.

An Extra Sized Finale Issue!

You've seen The Question taken to his lowest by Steel Hand, you've seen him in Arkham Asylum, you've seen him on the road and you've seen him tortured at the hands of Dr. Moon. Travis Clevenger and Bill Nodell find their way to Area 15, only to be confronted by a very powerful someone who doesn't have The Question's best intentions in mind, and inside "Hell" itself... People are dying... But by whose order? And what familiar face makes his "welcome" return to the world of the DC2? All these questions answered and more... Including the most important one asked! What is it? Who asked it? And why?

Wonder Woman #23 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Day of Champions.

Wonder Woman battles a close friend, and then is given another task by Athena! With the balance of the world at stake, the Greek Gods aren't the only ones who have noticed, and another champion joins the battle against the greatest threat to humanity since... Forever!

Nightwing #26 (2008)

Nightwing: Boy Hostage.

Nightwing is in deep when a confrontation with an old foe goes awry, and he ends up more than six feet under inside a metal casket in New York harbor!

Action Comics #28 (2008)

Action Comics: Family is Like...

Superman returns home to find his cousin Kara confused and bewildered, and she's not the only one! Lois and Clark a couple? Who is the NEW Clark Kent? Plus another family member finds Superman, and it's not a happy reunion!

Action Comics #29 (2008)

Action Comics: Sons & Daughters of Krypton.

After the shocking final moments of last issue, Superman faces the challenge of a lifetime, and a foe he never thought he'd meet in combat?

It's Father Vs Son across the world, as Jor-El battles his son for his subjugation of the Planet Earth...! You can probably guess Lex Luthor has had a hand in this!

Green Lantern Corps: Liberation #1 (2008)

Green Lantern Corps: Liberation: Invasion.

Our intrepid squad of heroes are on their way to Oa for the last stand against the Manhunters and their mysterious Grandmaster! Who is underneath the hood of the robotic killing machines master? What could possibly go wrong if the Green Lanterns go past Rann? What indeed...

Detective Comics #33 (2008)

Detective Comics: Trial by Fire, Prologue.

A new creative team and a new direction!

Dick Grayson has adopted the mantle of the Bat and has to face all the evil that comes with it! Seeds are sown for months to come as Batman is stalked by an unseen foe, battles against the citizens of Gotham itself, and is targeted by a familiar team! Meanwhile, Harvey Bullock and the GCPD are drawn into a horrendous murder mystery, one that shakes Bullock to his very core!

Also featuring a back-up feature written by Charlie Wilkins & Samantha Chapman!

Detective Comics #34 (2008)

Detective Comics: Trial by Fire, Part 1.

Lucius Fox returns to Wayne Manor and Dick Grayson makes a big decision about Gotham City! The Batman continues his nightly patrols, only to run into a little trouble, the kind offered by... The Suicide Squad!

Batman Vs the Suicide Squad! It begins here!

Detective Comics #35 (2008)

Detective Comics: Trial by Fire, Part 2 of 3.

The calm before the storm. The Suicide Squad nearly had him, he wasn't prepared, and if Bruce was something, he was always

prepared. So with Dick fighting for his life beneath the cowl of the Bat, he needs to rethink his approach. He needs to draw up battle plans. But when push comes to shove, will he really be able to defeat the Suicide Squad, even with a little help from his friends?

Detective Comics #36 (2008)

Detective Comics: Trial by Fire, Part 3.

Batman, Batwoman, Blue Beetle and Robin vs. the Suicide Squad! As the Squad launch their attack during a Wayne Enterprises ball, nobody will come out on top! Be here for the extra-sized finale to this arc!

Wonder Woman #26 (2008)

Wonder Woman: The Dead-Beat.

In the aftermath of her battle in the Underworld, Wonder Woman returns home to recuperate, but meanwhile, across the world, danger rises and chaos looms...

Wonder Woman #22 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Day of the Dead.

Wonder Woman faces the challenge of a lifetime on the first of three days that will shape her world for the months to come! Featuring the return of two DC2 villains, Wonder Woman is tasked by her patron Gods to take down a threat powerful enough to destroy even them!

Wonder Woman #24 (2008)

Wonder Woman: All Hope...

Wonder Woman descends into the Underworld, and as the world above waits with baited breath... Down below... Something rises!

Wonder Woman #25 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Era.

One tiny event can change everything, and for Wonder Woman, former princess of the Amazons and current defender of the dead isle of Themyscira, currently situated where New York used to thrive, that is a fact she knows too well. With the world in ruins due to something that happened in the world a century ago, during the modern age of superheroics, Wonder Woman is the last Amazon.

With a chance to change the world for the better... Will she take it?

Wonder Woman #27 (2008)

Wonder Woman: The Herald, Part One (of Two). Dreams haunt Wonder Woman that aren't hers, leading the Queen of the Amazons on a mission to save a lost soul, and battle a threat that she could never dream possible!

Wonder Woman #28 (2008)

Wonder Woman: The Herald, Part Two (of Two): Hands Bound. "She is coming!" he screams, and rightly so too, as Wonder Woman is hot on the heels of the someone, or something, that haunts the dreamscape of all of humanity.

Wonder Woman #29 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Twilight.

Twilight over Paradise Island. Beautiful dark blue skies streaked with orange and yellow, running together like an oil painting. The majority of the island slept. Doom's Doorway stood loomed on the outskirts of the city, the imposing mountain silent in the receding darkness of the coming morning, and the guards stood as vigilant as ever. None were expecting what would emerge from the twilight.

Wonder Woman #30 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Potential.

The Cheetah returns, and Wonder Woman must deal with the chaos rout! President Jeb Stewart visits Themyscira House, and so does the White King of Checkmate! That's right, Steve Trevor returns into Queen Diana's life, and the Gods take note!

Wonder Woman #31 (2008)

Wonder Woman: Dystopia, Part One (of Three).

Things start falling apart. Donna Troy is haunted by dreams of her past, Diana is confronted by a shocking new destiny, Mt. Olympus suffers a crisis of its own, and Steve Trevor is not left untouched by the growing evil that spreads across the world. This is only the beginning...

Batman #34 (2009)

Batman: Don't Say a Word.

In this issue, Commissioner Gordon, Sergeant Bullock, Black Mask, Wildcat, Hush, Robin, Alfred Pennyworth and even Batman! The mysterious bandaged man known as Hush strikes in Gotham, but what is he up to? And why does he have his sights set on James Gordon! Robin gets some training from one of the elite fighters of the DC2, and Batman can't catch a break... all that, plus who is the stranger that stalks the Narrows?

Batman #35 (2009)

Batman: The Big Heat.

Black Mask returns to the streets of Gotham City with a whole lot of darkness in his heart and a massive wanting to inflict pain on every single living person that walk the streets. Batman and Robin come face-to-face with the Grey Ghost, and discover the murderous vigilante's true identity... a man with ties to Bruce Wayne's dark past! All this, and The Dark Knight rises as the scarlet hooded girl and the big bad white wolf with his ruby red lips stalk the Narrows and circle the mysterious man into what could be his demise! Intrigued? All this, inside!

Batman #37 (2009)

Batman: When The Man-Bat Flies..."

A murderous villain stalks the Narrows, emulating Jack the Ripper! Is history repeating itself once more? The Dark Knight intends to find out, in his own imitable way! And meanwhile, an old foe resurfaces on a murderous rampage that the Batman will struggle to stop-- and you won't believe the final scene!

Detective Comics #39 (2009)

Detective Comics: What Are You Afraid Of?

Arkham Asylum has been replaced by a bigger, better institution, spearheaded by Wayne Enterprises. During the prisoner transfer, an old enemy escapes-- but in twenty minutes, what can one mad man do? A lot, it seems, as secrets and horrors from Jonathan Crane's past haunts Gotham City as a living embodiment of fear runs free!

Batman #39 (2009)

Batman: Surface Tension.

Jason Todd is Batman?! Dick Grayson is missing, presumed insane?! This issue, Black Mask makes a move against the city, prompting the new Batman and Robin team to launch an all out offense on the Gotham Underground, all the while Hush and Constantine Drakon make their presence known in Gotham City, and while two "old" players appear on the scene, promising many nights of mayhem for the city of Gotham!

Batman #40 (2009)

Batman: Confinement.

Dick Grayson fights for his life against the villainous Nicholas Lucian, the devilish madman who holds him captive, all the while edging closer and closer to the darkness that consumes the city he vowed to protect! Batman comes faces-to-face with his arch-foe, and it's not who you think! Batwoman joins the search for the missing Dick Grayson, racing against time, unsure if he's even alive!

Green Lantern #20 (2009)

Green Lantern: Secret of the Star Sapphire.

Hal Jordan, Green Lantern of Sector 2814 faces a threat from the past as the Star Sapphire of the Zamorans barrels down on Earth, to test the Oan representative of Earth! It all begins here, as a new era for Green Lantern begins!

Batman #41 (2009)

Batman: Until Death.

Meet The Flesh-Monger. Meet The Prince of Lies, and his loyal aide-de-campe Milo Vesuvius. Meet the Gun-Moll. Meet Boss Synth. Meet the new breed of villainy that Gotham City must accept as her own-- even if she doesn't want to. How will a Batman and Robin team survive if they can't trust one another? And will Dick Grayson survive the night?

Green Lantern #21 (2009)

Green Lantern: Infect, Part 1.

In the aftermath of last issue, Hal Jordan is pulled across the universe for a debriefing by the Guardians of the Universe-- and is briefed on the secret history of the Zamorans! All this, and Guy Gardner returns-- and he's not entirely himself...

Batman #42 (2009)

Batman: Fear of the Dark.

Beneath Gotham City, Batwoman, The Dark Knight, Robin and Batman are at the mercy of Brimstone and his cohorts Charaxes and Killer Croc! The torture of Dick Grayson comes to a head, Jason Todd and Barbara Gordon are exposed to a mind-altering substance that shifts their perceptions from sanity to madness, and all the while, a greater threat looms over Gotham City as the gangs move toward war!

Green Lantern #22 (2009)

Green Lantern: Infect, Part 2.

All-out-war over Coast City's skies as Hal Jordan battles Guy Gardner, with the safety of the entire universe at stake! Chloe Sullivan returns, as these two ring-wielders slug it out, and you won't believe the events that unfold!

Green Lantern #23 (2009)

Green Lantern: Infect, Part 3 (of 3).

One man heads to Oa, triumphant, whilst another finds himself trapped on Earth -- and the Green Lantern Corps shut down their home-base and issue a kill-on-sight order to ensure that they do not fall!

Wonder Woman #32 (2009)

Wonder Woman: Dystopia, Part Two (of Three).

The pieces fall into place as Themyscira is besieged by the entire world, Donna Troy steps up and Zenobia follows, Athena's plan begins to unfold and Ares takes the fight to Kronus on Paradise Island! Diana's fate is revealed and Steve Trevor and Apollo begin their own counterattack, and below, in the Underworld, Persephone raises an army of the dead, and begins their march to the world above!

Wonder Woman #34 (2009)

Wonder Woman: The Good Old Days.

In the future, the world is a different place, all thanks to one woman. In the past... Wonder Woman faces a blast from the past, a long forgotten secret from The Apokolips Imperative!

Batman #46 (2010)

Batman: The Way Things Will Be.

Bruce Wayne is back, so what does that mean for Gotham city?
Jason Todd is about to find out.

Shazam! Special #1 (2010)

Shazam!: Sons of their Fathers.

Action Comics #47 (2010)

Action Comics: Heart Of Kryptonite, Soul On Fire.

Green Lantern #27 (2010)

Green Lantern, Love Lost, Part 2.

Hal Jordan takes his daughter and Chloe Sullivan to Rann, where the ringslinger teams up with Adam Strange to face some demons, and Chloe shares a heart-to-heart with Alanna. Meanwhile, people close to Hal Jordan are visited by a strange apparition, and not all of them make it out intact, and Guy Gardner pays a visit to Carol Ferris, who is still seeing visions of a dead man as plain as day!

Green Lantern #24 (2010)

Green Lantern: A Day Like Any Other.

Green Lantern 2814.2, Hank Henshaw, returns to Earth, and takes on all the duties of his partner, Hal Jordan, in the aftermath of Infect! But with Mongul prowling on the outer fringes of the solar system, and Coast City in his sights, how will one of the greatest, most talented Green Lanterns perform? The ultimate test for Hank Henshaw begins!

Green Lantern Annual #2 (2010)

Green Lantern Annual: The Rise and Fall of Sinestro.

Sinestro has been a presence since the earliest days of the DC2--infected with the LEGION virus, enraptured by Parallax, used and abused and made a pawn in a game he never wanted to play in. But what happens when Sinestro is freed from all the possessions and the mind control? What happens then? What happens when Sinestro roams the universe once more?

Green Lantern #25 (2010)

Green Lantern: Requiem.

Across the universe, chaos begins to unfurl. Mongul hurtles away from Earth, hoping to avoid the colossal rage that the Green Lantern Corps is aiming to unleash, Hal Jordan and Guy Gardner at the forefront of the tidal wave of emerald might that wants the yellow-skinned intergalactic terrorist's head! Meanwhile, just because the world is looking one way, doesn't mean that the rest of the galaxy stops ticking over-- something is looming on the horizon, and it means nothing but trouble for the Corps and beyond!

Green Lantern #26 (2010)

Green Lantern: Love Lost.

Guy Gardner inducts John Stewart into the Green Lantern Corps, whilst Hal Jordan receives a phone call from an old flame-- Carol Ferris is back on the scene, and is she seeing things, or is an old face really back? Will this spell trouble for the burgeoning relationship between Hal and Chloe Sullivan?

Green Lantern #28 (2011)

Green Lantern: Love Lost, Part Three (of Four).

One year later... and we're back. The story continues.

Green Lantern #29 (2011)

Green Lantern: Love Hurts, Part Four (of Four).

Heroes live, heroes die.



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