



Maximum Batman #6
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Maximum: Batman
#6: *Change, Not All of it Good*
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"To me, clowns aren't funny. In fact, they're kind of scary. I've wondered where this started and I think it goes back to the time I went to the circus, and a clown killed my dad."

- Jack Handy

"Dare to wear the foolish clown face."

- Frank Sinatra

Two days had passed.

It had taken all of Bruce's efforts, that night, not to lunge into the middle of the circus arena. It had taken all his efforts not to go home, put on the cape and cowl, and come back and spirit the boy away.

But he had not come this far to make such an obvious mistake. What he was going to do, he had to do quietly.

The boy had been taken to Gotham's orphanage system, the pitiful, corrupt excuse this city had for child services. The Circus had protested, but the city lawyers had insisted that they could not care for him. And unlike when Bruce had been in the same situation so many years ago, the boy did not have any money or connections to protect him.

Bruce knew all too well what would happen to Dick Grayson if he wound up in the orphanage system. That alone would have been enough to motivate him to act; from the beginning of his training, he had known the Wayne fortune would prove useful in more than just the obvious

ways.

But he wasn't just trying to save Dick from the orphanages. He had known there would be more to it than that as soon as he had seen the boys eyes.

It had never been his intention to have an active field ally, to train another in his vigilante craft. But he knew he was mortal, and vulnerable, and would not live forever. How long would it have been before someone like him would just happen to come along to protect the city?

Alfred, surprisingly, was against it, saying the boy was too young. But Bruce had pointed out that was the best time to start his training. After all, were not they themselves too young?

The Chief Clown was eagerly awaiting his money from the Consortium. He had pretended to grieve with the others. Pretended to be sad when the Gotham cops took Dick away, while privately rejoicing that the only potential problem for him had been removed.

But he was worried now, because the Circus was planning to move on as soon as the cops would let them, because it was clear they were losing Dick, too. He was worried that he might not get the money to pay off his debts.

But when the two Consortium toughs showed up, they didn't offer him any money, and they weren't smiling.

"What is it?" the Chief Clown frowned.

"Haly isn't gonna pay up," one of them said by explanation.

The Chief Clown stared at them uncomprehendingly. "But... .but I killed the Graysons!"

"Yeah. Now he's pissed about losing them and the kids. He'll whine to the cops, which means nothing. But we aren't getting our money, and he

says the circus will never come back to Gotham.”

“But... .but... that's not my fault!”

The younger thug drew his gun and shot him in the face.

The boy had looked around the Manor, impressed but unhappy. He had eaten the food Alfred had put in front of him, enjoying the chicken and stuffing, mashed potatoes drowning in gravy. But clearly he hadn't enjoyed it as much as he should have.

“Is there anything else you require, young master?” Alfred asked. To anyone else he would seem to be his usual polite self. But Bruce could tell he was strained.

“I want to go home,” Dick Grayson said sourly.

“You can't,” Bruce said. “If I hadn't have taken you in, you'd have gone to the Gotham Orphanage.”

“Well... ” the boy bowed his head. “Thanks. But now that you've bought me out from under them, you can send me back to the Circus.”

“If I did that, you'd just face the same situation again, in Chicago where the circus was going. Granted, the child welfare system there is better than in Gotham, but it's still not good.”

“Look, Wayne,” Dick looked up at him, and his eyes were full of anger and pain. “I appreciate you bailing me out. Really, I do. But the circus is the only life I know. I won't fit in here, and I won't fit in in some orphanage or foster home. The circus is my life.”

“And if the circus could keep you, they would,” Bruce said. “But without your parents, they can't even have a trapeze act, you can't do it all by yourself—”

“I could hide around, do other jobs under the tent,” Dick cut him off. “I

could be a roadie, a clown, an MC, a lion tamer, I could learn anything, I could do anything. The circus is outside the system, you don't understand. We live our own lives, we're outside the rules—"

"Not the rules of economics or state law concerning children," Bruce corrected him, sadly.

Dick flew at him. "IT'S MY LIFE YOU STUPID MARK! IT'S MY LIFE! YOU CAN'T TAKE IT FROM ME!"

He had sprung at Bruce from a sitting position, doing a handstand over the table, his feet arcing in towards Bruce's face.

It was a superb attack, and would have taken out anyone else quite nicely. Bruce was in no way bothered, in fact he was pleased.

He caught Dick's feet and spun him, and the lad landed heavily on the table, which creaked dangerously.

"I didn't take your life from you," Bruce said, remaining calm. "But it was taken, nevertheless. You can't go back to it. But that doesn't mean you can't do anything about it."

"What... .how did you... " Dick was staring at him. "What do you mean?"

"Dick... .I'm afraid... .your parents' death was no accident."

Dick was staring at him. "What?" he croaked in a voice just barely above a whisper.

"The trapeze robe was sabotaged. Weakened with acid." He gave an unhappy smile. "Being rich is a way to get outside the system too. Or at least make it work for you. I was able to get hold of the evidence."

"Yeah, dad said... ..dad always said Gotham cops were corrupt." He bowed his head. Then looked up at Bruce again. "Sorry I attacked you but—"

"Not at all," Bruce said. "Your technique needs some refining, but the

kick was very graceful, all the same. Anyway, the point is, your parents... ”

“Were murdered.” Dick sat up slowly. “Yeah... .okay, I get you. You're gonna help me find who did it?”

“Oh yes,” Bruce nodded.

“But... why? Why do you care, rich mark?”

“It is my business to care, Dick. And to me, the criminals are the marks. Come with me. I have something to show you.”

“Sir,” Alfred protested.

“Trust me, old friend.”

“It's not a question of trust,” Alfred bit out, showing unusual venom of his own. “It's a question of whether or not you're making the right decision.”

“It is the best and only decision, you'll see.”

Alfred hung his head. “I hope you're right.”

“What... .what is he on about?” Dick frowned.

“It's better to show, than tell.”

Dick stared.

And stared.

And stared.

“Oh. My God.”

He sat down, hard. Alfred was with him instantly, for all his misgivings.

The cave was rough, and raw, and nowhere near finished. But it had the computers, and the car. And, since the events of the Bane fight, the beginnings of a crime lab.

"Y... .you... you're that vigilante in the papers!" He stared up at Bruce. "I thought you were just like... an urban legend!"

"Or a carnival freakshow member?" Dick bristled until he realized Bruce meant no harm by it.

Bruce reached down and offered him a hand. Dick took it. "What I do is outside the normal rules of society, Dick. But it has it's own rules. Like the circus does; only harder and harsher. Think you can take it?"

Dick grinned and planted his feet in Bruce midriff. Air whooshed out of Bruce as Dick flipped him, but Bruce managed to land on his feet. "The murder of my parents already showed me how much harder it can be."

"Yes... but it's one thing to know how bad it is. Another thing to be able to fight it. I've been learning that one the hard way myself. Still."

"I'm willing to learn, I promise you that," Dick stood proud, but the fire in his eyes faded and was replaced by tears. "I want my old life back... but I can't have it, can I?"

"Not now," Bruce agreed. "And probably not ever. Eventually you might find another circus, but... ."

"But it wouldn't be the same, would it." It was not a question.

It was Alfred who answered. "No, young sir, it would not."

"You've come around?" Bruce raised an eyebrow at him.

"Not entirely, no. But... what's done is done."

"So... .um... what's first?" Dick asked.

“A little more sparring. Then... .we look at the evidence.”

Alfred rolled his eyes as they flew at each other.

Eddie Nashton had programmed all the known information about Batman into his computers. Admittedly, it wasn't much. But by the same token, even old-school gumshoes like him couldn't just pound the pavement looking for clues. Not on a case like this.

He had noted with passing interest, perusing the society section of the various newspapers, that millionaire Bruce Wayne had adopted circus orphan Dick Grayson, but if anything, that made Bruce an even less likely suspect in Eddie's mind. It was just possible, but terribly unlikely, that Wayne was someone who secretly financed Batman, but the adoption of Grayson made the odds on that even more remote. Nor did he think the adoption of Grayson was a cover.

Nashton's pet theory, at this point, was that Batman's financial backing was actually the military, or perhaps the FBI or CIA. As for the man himself, he was looking for an ex-special forces type. Slade Wilson, perhaps; he had gone underground some time ago. He hadn't even ruled out the possibility that it might be a team of men operating in rotation.

But from what Gordon had told him, Batman was almost certainly a Gotham native, or someone who had lived here most of his life. That narrowed it down... .

For Dick, the combat training wasn't as hard as it had been for Bruce. For one thing, he started younger; for another, his acrobatics background leant itself to combat more readily. Bruce told him it was both his weapon and his weakness; his agility gave him natural inclinations towards aikido; but too many fancy aerial flips could make him a target.

He came off the uneven bars, did a handstand, and started practicing his

kicks. It wasn't enough to be agile and acrobatic anymore; he had to be able to punch, kick and block while in midair, and time and aim his leaps effectively.

He had sparred with Bruce many times over these past few weeks, but at this particular moment Bruce was at the computer, checking something. He didn't look pleased. Alfred, standing off to one side, looked even less so. But that seemed to be nothing new for Alfred. The butler fed him and clothed him and saw to his room, but always Dick sensed disappointment and distance from him.

"Ask you a question, Alfred?" Dick asked.

"Of course," the butler said.

"Why do you hate me so much?"

"Dick," Bruce said distantly from the computer, not turning to look at them.

"I don't hate you, young Richard. Indeed, if anyone can understand the life we lead, it is someone in... your situation," Alfred said softly. "The problem is not you particularly. The problem is letting anyone else into our circle. Anyone at all. No matter how well they might grasp what we're trying to do. It increases the risks."

Dick shrugged. "Sorry man, but you know I can't go back to the circus. They've left now, anyway."

Alfred raised an eyebrow. "Man?" he echoed, though he sounded more amused than annoyed.

"I've invested a little money in Haly's Circus myself, Dick," Bruce said, still not looking around. "Partly to insure it will still be going without... your family's contribution. But mostly so one day you'll be able to visit them again."

"They said they're never coming back here," Dick pointed out.

"They're not. But that doesn't mean you can't visit them the next time

they're in Philadelphia, or New York, or—" Bruce broke off as some new information came up on the screen.

"What is it?" Dick and Alfred both came over.

"We already knew that the Chief Clown, Bob Finger, had been shot the day after your parents were killed... he's been comatose in hospital ever since..." Bruce abruptly stopped again.

"Yeah, and?" Dick had never liked the Chief Clown. Had barely remembered his real name. Guy always struck him as a creepy old man.

"And Captain Gordon, the only honest cop left in this rotten city, just filed his final report on the matter."

"You can read his files?" Dick raised an eyebrow.

"He doesn't like Batman much, but we have an... understanding. Anyway, his conclusion was that the Consortium shot him as a form of revenge."

"Revenge? For what?"

"Gordon believes they used him to kill your parents... and when the killing didn't have the desired result, they tried to kill him too."

"Probably would have killed him anyway," Alfred mused. "You're fortunate they couldn't go after you, Master Richard."

"So this cop thinks the crime bosses of Gotham used the Chief Clown to kill my parents." It was not a question. He was staring at the screen with an intense look that Bruce knew only too well.

"They probably wanted a bigger cut of the profits than they were currently getting," Bruce said.

"And also explains why old man Haly didn't wanna come back?" Dick's eyes never left the screen.

"I would say so, yes. I would theorize that the Clown probably had some

gambling debts, and hoped to pay them off by doing the dirty work.”

“Oh, his debts were no secret,” Dick agreed. He chuckled, but there was no humor in it.

Even as Dick tensed up and Bruce looked sadly on, Alfred began to relax. “It seems,” he said softly, “That your cause and ours are one and the same, Master Richard.”

“I woulda stood by you guys anyway,” Dick assured him.

“Even so,” Alfred said.

“Even so, yeah. And if this creep ever wakes up... .” Dick trailed off.

Bruce and Alfred shared a glance. They were a little worried about Dick's notion of revenge. But mostly, it was a look of approval.

“I think your costume is ready,” Alfred said. “It looks not so different from your acrobat costume, but changed enough that no one will make the connection. Also, of course, it has all our improvements built in, including Kevlar.”

Bruce gestured to the white box on a table. Dick had seen it, but hadn't asked.

“Do you really think I'm ready?” Dick asked.

“For full time crimefighting? Not remotely,” Bruce answered. “But I think one night of field experience would be no bad thing. And... at last... the car is ready.”

Dick went to the box and opened it. Taking out the vest and cape portions of the costume, his eyes glowed with pride and amazement.

Bolland Hospital

Theoretically, the Consortium could have had Finger whacked while in

the hospital. But so long as he was comatose, what was the worry? They could kill him if he woke up, or better yet, actually let the Gotham cops have a collar. They always had to keep arrest figures up, after all, and the way the Consortium looked at it, the cops would probably drop him into the general population, where he probably wouldn't survive anyway. Those who actually did manage to get convicted in this corrupt city, and couldn't get their sentences quashed, were the baddest of the bad indeed.

Or so it had been, until the man who had been the Chief Clown woke up.

The bullet had gone into his brain, and they had removed it. He had survived the procedure, but there had been damage to the frontal and temporal lobes.

Just as Dick Grayson was admiring his new costume, the man who had been the Chief Clown opened his eyes and sat up in bed. It was deep into the night shift, so the on-duty nurse was at her desk, and not on one of her rounds to check him in his room.

He looked around, eyes blank yet thoughtful. For a moment he almost looked like a living, breathing mannequin.

Then he disconnected himself from the monitoring equipment and got out of bed, uncertain at first on his legs, which hadn't supported him for weeks, and the muscles had begun to atrophy.

But quickly he mastered himself, and pushed open his unlocked door.

The duty nurse saw him coming. After a moment of startlement, she recovered herself. "Ah, Mister Finger, you're awake. The police will want to talk to you... ." she went to pick up the phone.

"Finger?" he said, still expressionless. "Finger isn't here anymore... .." He kept coming, with that terrible blank expression.

This was Gotham, and the night nurse was no flyweight; from under the desk she pulled both a (highly illegal) tazer, and can of pepper spray.

The man who had been the Chief Clown kept coming.

She fired both the tazer and the spray when he got close enough. The spray missed, but the tazer hit it's target, and he went down, twitching.

The nurse turned away and dialed 911.

But before the police operator could even pick up, he was back on his feet, impossibly; still trembling from muscle shock, he reached out and broke her neck with one swift movement.

Expression still blank, he hung up the phone. He looked down at the corpse.

"Too quick, to easy, no style," he said to himself, in a voice very unlike that of the man he had once been. "But still, it's a beginning. Yes... .a beginning... .. " he began to chuckle.

The chuckle became a laugh, which grew louder and louder, until he threw back his head and screamed an insane cackle.

Then, still laughing, he turned and bolted for the elevators.

To Be Continued...

If you enjoyed this story, you can find more alternate universe tales of your favorite DC heroes at [DC3 Multiverse](#).

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From the same author on Feedbooks

Batman #18 (2007)

Batman: Feline Persuasion, Part 1 (of 2).

Batman #19 (2007)

Batman: Feline Persuasion, Part 2 (of 2).

Suicide Squad #13 (2007)

Suicide Squad: Who Do You Trust? (A Justice League vs. America tie-in)

Suicide Squad #15 (2007)

Suicide Squad: New Blood, Part 2.

The Squad find Wilkerson and Malthus' lair, but things only get worse from there as the mad scientists release their nightmarish prisoner...

Suicide Squad #16 (2007)

Suicide Squad: New Blood, Finale.

The Parademon is on the loose! The Mad Scientists make a mad dash for freedom! And Killer Frost's friendship with Terra takes a turn that Terra doesn't like at all...

Suicide Squad #17 (2007)

Suicide Squad: Africa, Part 1.

When one of the few US-friendly nations in Africa nearly loses their leader to an assassination attempt, the Squad is sent to deal with the problem. But there is more going on than would first appear...

Suicide Squad #18 (2007)

Suicide Squad: Africa, Finale.

The Squad's trip to Africa concludes as the attempts on the lives of King Twaba and his Queen reach a fever pitch, and Terra faces an uncomfortable truth about herself.

Teen Titans #23 (2007)

Teen Titans: Not of This Earth, Part One.

Dagon returns to Titans Tower just in time to confront an alien consciousness. Starfire finds it familiar but doesn't know why; Cyborg is haunted by it, and Dagon himself is tempted by it. And that doesn't even begin to describe what it does to Raven...

Teen Titans #24 (2007)

Teen Titans: Not of This Earth, Part 2.

Possessed scientists run amok in STAR Labs, the Titans fighting back as best they can. Cyborg and Kid Flash each work on their own plans to resolve this nightmare. Will their ideas conflict, or does each have a part of the puzzle?

Teen Titans #25 (2007)

Teen Titans: Not of This Earth, Part Three (of Three). The "Not of this Earth" saga concludes! Cyborg's technical know how is put to the test against the alien menace, whilst Kid Flash is in a literal race against time to save Raven's soul!

Maximum Batman #1 (2008)

Maximum Batman: War on Crime, Part 1: The First Night

Maximum Batman #2 (2008)

Maximum Batman: War on Crime, part 2: "Law and Disorder."

James Gordon is a tough-as-nails SWAT squad captain, best cop in a city where almost every cop is bad. His efforts to fight corruption are frustrated at every turn....and then he meets....the Batman!

Maximum Batman #3 (2008)

Maximum Batman: "Anger Born of Fear."

The Consortium has had enough of Batman's interference; they send Bane, who lays a trap from which Batman, bruised and battered and exhausted, may not be able to escape.....

Maximum Batman #4 (2008)

Maximum Batman: "The Bat Rises."

Batman and Bane square off in a brutal fight to the finish, with Gordon waiting in the wings....

Suicide Squad #19 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Enchanted.

We learn much about the secret history of the Enchantress as she offers June a dreadful bargain she may not be able to refuse...

Suicide Squad #22 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Live for the Hunt.

Catman goes on a solo mission in order to re-establish his credibility, and runs headlong into Catwoman! But this will most definitely not be a friendly meeting of costumed felines...

Teen Titans #34 (2008)

Teen Titans: Mission to Zanda, Part One (of Three).

While Dick is away in Gotham being Batman, he sends Robin to the Titans to further Tim's training. But what neither Dick nor Tim could expect is that Speedy would come to the Titans with a top secret Checkmate mission to Zandia...

Suicide Squad #27 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Hurricane, Part Two (of Two).

The power of the living hurricane is finally unleashed and Katana and the Squad may have to worry more about survival than winning...

Teen Titans #26 (2008)

Teen Titans: Strategy.

The Titans go about their daily business, but the HIVE has targeted them....so who else would they hire for the job.....but Deathstroke?!

Teen Titans #27 (2008)

Teen Titans: Shifting Loyalties, Part Two (of Four).

The Suicide Squad/Teen Titans cross-over continues!

Following on from the events of Suicide Squad #20, the Teen Titans come face to face with the Suicide Squad as Cyborg tracks down his father. But this is not the only problem, as one of the old man's experiments is in the hands of a bitter Markovian king, and Speedy is torn between his loyalty to the Titans, his orders from Checkmate, and a ghost from his own past....continued next month in Suicide Squad # 21!

Suicide Squad #20 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Shifting Loyalties, Part One (of Four).

The Four part Suicide Squad/Teen Titans Crossover begins here! Assassination in Markovia calls Terra back to her unwanted home, dragging the whole Suicide Squad with her. The situation is more complicated than it first appears, with enemies on every side; a recalcitrant new King, a shifty pair of scientists, a group of dangerous insurgents, a sentient killing machine, and not least another super powered team on the way.....Continued in Teen Titans # 27!

Teen Titans #28 (2008)

Teen Titans: Shifting Loyalties, Part Four (of Four).

The "Shifting Loyalties" Titans/Squad crossover concludes as Terra, Cyborg, and Speedy must each face their personal demons; and King Gregor is confronted with the reality of the monster he's helped create. Battle rages on, for Cheshire and her soldiers are determined to conquer all...

Suicide Squad #21 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Shifting Loyalties, Part Three (of Four).

Cheshire steps forward with her troops and her plan to take Markovia. Speedy is haunted by her, and King Gregor unleashes his weapon...but there may be consequences he does not expect... concluded in Teen Titans #28!

Teen Titans #29 (2008)

Teen Titans: Wickersham Isle, Part One (of Three).

Wonder Girl first feels a terrible pain, and then vanishes. Who has taken her, and for what sinister purpose?

Teen Titans #30 (2008)

Teen Titans: Wickersham Isle, Part Two (of Three).

The Titans track Donna to a remote island off the coast of the Carolinas, but are not even remotely prepared for what awaits them there...

Suicide Squad #23 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Ride the Lightning, Part One (of Three).

The team gains two new members, but the spotlight is on the Electrocuter as his past comes back to haunt him...

Teen Titans #31 (2008)

Teen Titans: Wickersham Isle, Part Three (of Three).

Donna's fate hangs in the balance as the Titans fight the malevolent old wizard of Wickersham Isle.

Suicide Squad #24 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Ride the Lightning, Part Two (of Three).

More flashbacks into the Electrocuter's past, as he leads the team to Baja California and makes a shocking discovery!

Teen Titans #32 (2008)

Teen Titans: Choices, Part One (of Two).

Some time passes. Nightwing struggles to deal with recent events in Gotham as they put an additional strain on him. As Terra settles in with the team and her relationship with Beast Boy deepens. But just as all seems to be going so well, she receives a mysterious and threatening email that will put her Titans membership to the test...

Suicide Squad #25 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Ride the Lightning, Part Three (of Three).

The Squad chases the shadowy supremacist organization to Curaco, where a bloody final reckoning is at hand!

Teen Titans #33 (2008)

Teen Titans: Choices, Part Two (of Two).

Terra confronts the man who sent the blackmailing email, and must make a decision that will affect not only her future, but that of the Titans as a whole as well...

Suicide Squad #26 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Hurricane, Part One (of Two).

A terrible force is unleashed when someone is granted the power of nature's most nightmarish storms. Katana from Global Guardians guest stars.

Teen Titans #35 (2008)

Teen Titans: Mission to Zandia, Part Two (of Three).

Tim Drake is exposed to superhero action on the big stage for the first time, as the Titans experience the criminal paradise that Zandia has become first hand...

Suicide Squad #28 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Down With the Sickness, Part One (of Two).

Malthus' past comes back to haunt him, and the team splits in two to deal with a viral outbreak and those behind it...

Teen Titans #36 (2008)

Teen Titans: Mission to Zandia, Part Three (of Three).

The situation in Zandia comes to a head but the Titans aren't fully aware of what's going on...

Suicide Squad #29 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Down With the Sickness, Part Two (of Two).

The conspiracy behind the virus is more convoluted than anyone thought and Malthus makes a personal decision.

Suicide Squad #30 (2008)

Suicide Squad: Fracture, Part One (of Four).

The magical pact that June made with Enchantress finally moves center stage. Enchantress goads June on a quest to make her hold on Mitch permanent. What neither of them realizes is the consequences of this decision may very well tear the Squad apart...

Teen Titans #37 (2008)

Teen Titans: The White Rose, Part One (of Five).

The Titans discover Deathstroke's own mysterious daughter, Rose. But what is truly going on between father and daughter?

Maximum Batman #5 (2009)

Maximum Batman: "Bad Business as Usual"

Teen Titans #44 (2009)

Teen Titans: When Circe Comes Calling..., Part Three (of Three).

As the female Titans must battle their mind-controlled male counterparts, Wonder Girl must face Circe alone...and neither of them will be the same again afterwards.

Teen Titans #40 (2009)

Teen Titans: The White Rose, Part Four (of Five).

The Titans' conflict with the Lord of Time comes to a head....and they've barely had time to recover from that before Deathstroke makes his next move.

Teen Titans #38 (2009)

Teen Titans: The White Rose, Part Two (of Five).

Rose has had some small amount of time to settle in as a team member. But now comes the first real test, as the Titans face the return of....the Mad Mod?!? And they must do it without the help of a battered and bruised Kid Flash!

Suicide Squad #31 (2009)

Suicide Squad: Fracture, Part Two (of Four).

Enchantress, June and Mitch head towards South America in their search, unaware that they are being pursued...

Suicide Squad #33 (2009)

Suicide Squad: Fracture, Part Four (of Four).

Fracture reaches its conclusion. Neither June nor Enchantress nor Mitch nor the Squad as a whole will be the same again.

Suicide Squad #35 (2009)

Suicide Squad: War in the Corridors of Power, Part One (of Four).

"War in The Corridors of Power" begins, the last story in this era of the Suicide Squad. A conspiracy is brewing in the Pentagon, and former Squad member Malthus and his ally Wilkerson are swept up in it...

Teen Titans #39 (2009)

Teen Titans: The White Rose, Part Three (of Five)

With Kid Flash still injured, the Titans come across one of the most dreaded villains ever, a man who has crossed swords with the Justice League...the Lord of Time! What does he know about Rose's future?

Suicide Squad #32 (2009)

Fracture, Part Three (of Four)

Enchantress has found the staff. Now the Squad fractures.....and June and the Electrocuter must both make difficult, terrible choices.

Teen Titans #42 (2009)

Teen Titans: When Circe Comes Calling...

With Dick Grayson away in Gotham, Wonder Girl leads the team....just in time for Circe to show up. It seems that events in Donna's life are coming to a head...

Teen Titans #41 (2009)

Teen Titans: The White Rose, Part Five (of Five).

It all comes to a head as Deathstroke and the HIVE capture the Titans. Who are the people waiting in the shadows and what is their connection to Rose? And what secret is Rose hiding from Titans, Deathstroke and HIVE alike?

Suicide Squad #34 (2009)

Suicide Squad: Debriefing.

Amanda Waller has the unhappy task of making sense of the mess left behind in the wake of Enchantress, Frost, and Resurrection Man's departure.....and must also face a hidden threat within the walls of Belle Reve itself.

Suicide Squad #36 (2009)

Suicide Squad: War in the Corridors of Power, Part Two (of Four).

The final story of this era of the Squad continues as they must battle their way out of the Pentagon, when every soldier and officer present believes them traitors....but they may get help from an unlikely source...

Teen Titans #43 (2009)

Teen Titans: When Circe Comes Calling..., Part Two (of Three).

As the battle drags on, Circe makes a vital discovery that shifts the balance of power in her favor against Wonder Girl!

Suicide Squad #37 (2009)

Suicide Squad: War in the Corridors of Power, Part Three (of Four).

As Knockout and the Parademon take on the conspiracy's secret weapon, the rest of the team encounters the third and final conspirator. The revelation of that person's identity is something that Waller and Steel can barely believe...

Teen Titans #46 (2009)

Teen Titans: The Time That Shouldn't, Part One (of Two).

Who is the Professor? Why are Joseph and Grant Wilson working for him? Where did Lillith come from? Where did the girl with red wings come from? What does Checkmate have to do with it?

Where are the Titans? What is going on?!?

What is wrong with this picture?

A lot.

Teen Titans #45 (2009)

Teen Titans: True Heroism.

What makes a hero? How do you define a hero? The Titans, who are, met two who think they are, but are not.

Suicide Squad #38 (2009)

Suicide Squad: War in the Corridors of Power, Part Four (of Four).

The conspiracy's full extent is revealed, the Squad moves into action.....and a chapter closes in the annals of Squad history.

Nightwing Special #1 (2010)

Nightwing: Family Motive.

Suicide Squad #14 (2010)

Suicide Squad: New Blood, Part 1.

The exciting new Squad era continues here with a dramatic new story arc and an intriguing new team roster...

The Squad recruits a new member just in time to deal with the theft of a top secret weapon from the Pentagon. But of course, as usual, the Squad doesn't know everything they should about their target, or who stole it...



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