

DC

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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
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# BATMAN



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09

I don't have  
time for this.

Not for games. Not  
for anything short...

...of the truth.

SNAP





Kitrina Falcone.

I'M USED TO JUST DOIN'  
THE DUMPING, NOT THE  
FISHING.

I HEAR YA, BUT  
MARIO WANTS US  
TO BE *SURE* THIS  
ONE'S STIFF. THIS IS  
KITRINA, HIS LITTLE  
SISTER WE'RE  
TALKIN' HERE.

LET'S  
OPEN 'ER  
UP AND  
SEE.

UH-OH.

GONE.

UNNH!

BAFF

BAFF

GAHK!

I learn that Kitrina  
the dirty little secret  
within the Falcone  
crime family.

They claim she's  
Mario's little sister.

And that she should've  
been inside that pine box  
they pulled out of the pond.

SO WHERE  
IS SHE  
NOW?

DISAPPEARED!  
VANISHED! HOW  
SHOULD I KNOW?

Wrong answer.

AN ABANDONED ANIMAL SHELTER IN GOTHAM...



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

WAKE UP,  
SLEEPYHEAD.  
THERE'S LOTS  
TO TALK  
ABOUT.

LIKE THESE  
MAPS OF  
DEVIL'S  
SQUARE.

YOU MEAN THE  
ONES YOU STOLE  
FROM ME? YEAH,  
LET'S TALK  
ABOUT THAT.

THEY WERE IN  
THE FALCONES' SAFE.  
THAT MAKES THEM FAIR  
GAME. BUT YOU SAY  
THEY'RE YOURS.  
EXPLAIN.

STARTING WITH WHO  
YOU ARE.

THE NAME'S  
KITRINA. I'M  
THE YOUNGEST  
DAUGHTER OF  
CARMINE, THE  
ROMAN,  
FALCONE.

THAT  
HAIRBALL  
YOU JUST  
COUGHED  
UP IS A  
BLATANT  
LIE.

TRUST ME,  
I'D KNOW.

LIKE I CARE  
IF YOU BELIEVE  
ME OR NOT. JUST  
GIMME WHAT'S  
MINE.

THE MAPS.  
RIGHT. ABOUT  
THOSE... INTERESTING  
WHAT THEY HIGHLIGHT--  
BUILDINGS, STREETS...  
EVEN DEVIL'S SQUARE'S  
UNDERGROUND  
INFRASTRUCTURE.

LOOKS  
TO ME LIKE  
A PLAN OF  
ATTACK ON  
THE BLACK  
MASK.

AND I HEAR YOU'RE  
IN CAHOOTS WITH THE  
**PENGUIN**. SO AM I  
GUESSING RIGHT THAT  
HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH  
THE FALCONES TO  
TOPPLE THE  
**MASK**?

THE  
GOVERNMENT'S  
**FIFTY MILLION  
DOLLAR  
BOUNTY?**

YOU GUESS  
WRONG ON ALL  
COUNTS. I **MADE**  
THOSE MAPS, I  
DESERVE THE BULK  
OF THE **BOUNTY**  
ON BLACK  
MASK'S HEAD.

I'M OPEN TO  
HIRING AN  
**ASSISTANT**.

?

ARKHAM ASYLUM...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, BATMAN. BUT YOU COULD'VE WAITED IN MY OFFICE.

I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE ASYLUM'S NEW ADDITIONS. PARTICULARLY THE PANIC ROOM, DR. ARKHAM.

IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE IN ALL OF GOTHAM CITY. STRONG AS ANY NUCLEAR SHELTER. A BIT COLD AT THE MOMENT, BUT THAT WILL SOON BE FIXED.

SMART MOVE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE ASYLUM'S RECENT SECURITY BREACHES.

BUT I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. SOMEONE ELSE...

THE BLACK MASK. I'VE ASSEMBLED A PROFILE ON HIM AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF HE MATCHES ANYONE YOU'VE SEEN HERE BEFORE.

I'VE ALREADY PUT MY OWN CHARACTER STUDY TOGETHER BASED ON WHAT I KNOW. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE'S EVER BEEN A PATIENT HERE...

AS A PERSON, I'D GUESS HE'S HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, NEAR GENIUS-LEVEL. AND HE OOZES CHARISMA.

PEOPLE TRUST HIM--TO THE POINT OF FOLLOWING HIM NO MATTER WHERE HE LEADS.

GOOD. THEN WE CAN COMPARE NOTES. YOU START.

HE'S WEALTHY.  
PERHAPS NEWFOUND  
WEALTH... WHICH WOULD  
EXPLAIN HIS STARTLINGLY  
ABRUPT RISE TO  
POWER.

HE'S NOT  
YOUR EVERY-  
DAY CRIMINAL  
MASTERMIND,  
BATMAN.

I'VE ALREADY  
COME TO MOST  
OF THOSE  
CONCLUSIONS  
MYSELF, DOCTOR.  
BUT I'M MORE  
INTERESTED IN HIS  
WEAKNESSES.

HE'S DERANGED,  
OBSESSED WITH POWER,  
UNSYMPATHETIC...

THOUGH HE  
ATTEMPTED TO  
KEEP HIS ARMY--  
THE PATIENTS  
TAKEN FROM ME--  
MEDICATED. SO  
THERE MUST BE  
SYMPATHY...

HE'S  
MEDICATING  
THEM AND BRAIN-  
WASHING THEM TO  
SERVE ONLY HIS  
NEEDS.

I'M LOOKING  
AT A DELUSIONAL,  
BLACK-HEARTED,  
CHARISMATIC, LEADER-  
TYPE. A MODERN DAY  
HITLER WOULDN'T BE  
TOO FAR OFF BASE,  
DOCTOR.

LIKE I SAID,  
WHOEVER HE IS,  
HE'S NEVER BEEN  
UNDER MY  
CARE.

I'VE  
SEEN EVIL  
BEFORE.

I'M SURE  
YOU HAVE. AND  
YOU'RE AFRAID OF IT.  
THAT EXPLAINS THE  
BULGE IN YOUR  
COAT.

ONLY A  
TEMPORARY  
MEASURE, BATMAN. UNTIL  
THE ASYLUM IS COMPLETE,  
I MUST TAKE EVERY  
PRECAUTION.

RUBBER  
BULLETS. I  
REFUSE TO USE  
LETHAL FORCE  
EVEN AT MY  
OWN PERIL.

IF IT BUYS ME  
ENOUGH TIME TO  
MAKE IT DOWN HERE  
WHERE IT'S SAFE,  
IT'S SERVED ITS  
PURPOSE.

WITH THE  
SECURITY YOU HAVE  
BOTH INSIDE AND OUT,  
DOCTOR, YOU  
SHOULDN'T HAVE TO USE  
THAT OR THE PANIC  
ROOM.

BUT BE CAREFUL,  
REGARDLESS.

My meeting with Arkham wasn't as productive as I'd hoped. He avoided presenting the Black Mask in too negative a light.

But his theory on the Mask coming into wealth recently... is interesting.

BEEP

BATMAN,  
I'VE GOT  
SOME  
NEWS.

VRUMMM

SHOOT,  
HUNTRESS.

I'VE GOT MARIO FALCONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING OUT OF TOWN.

HE PROBABLY JUST FOUND OUT HE'S HOMELESS. STAY ON HIM. I'LL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.

WHERE'RE WE HEADED, BOSS?

ANOTHER MILE UP. TURN OFF ON BAKER STREET. SOME OF OUR BOYS ARE WAITING FOR US THERE.

WE'LL LET OUR TAIL RIDE INTO AN AMBUSH.

IT'S A SHAME, TOO. A GAL LIKE HUNTRESS LOOKS A LOT BETTER WITHOUT BULLET HOLES.





THOOF

HUNTRESS--  
TAKE CARE OF  
FALCONE!

WATCH  
OUT FOR HIS  
CHAIN!

CHA-CHANK

PROBLEM  
SOLVED.

GAK!

I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE, BUT  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE THE  
REAPER.

CRUNCH

I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WHILE I HAVE A CLEAR SHOT AT BATMAN.

IF BY CLEAR SHOT YOU MEAN CARTED-OFF-BY-THE-POLICE WHILE-NURSING-BROKEN-BONES, THEN YOU'RE CORRECT!

LET ME ALLEVIATE THE PAIN FOR A WHILE.

SNAP

ARRGG! MY ARM! YOU BROKE MY--

THUD

First Black Mask and now the Reaper. Can't these guys make up new monikers for themselves?

BASH

I should be one to talk, right?

POOM

POOM

POOM

I HAVE A VERY OLD SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU, BATMAN. BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

Toxins. Too late.



Breathed in...  
too much...

->COUGH-<  
->COUGH-<  
->COUGH-<

YOUR  
RESPIRATOR,  
QUICK.

I'M OKAY...  
I'M IMMUNE TO  
THE CHEMICALS.  
->COUGH-<  
->COUGH-<

THAT CREEP  
IS GETTING  
AWAY--I'LL  
FOLL--

NO...



"...HE'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS."

RAAAHH!

SHHNNK

BAFF

WAAA!  
BTOWN!  
BTOWN!  
BTOWN!

THAT'S QUITE  
THE BEATING  
YOU'RE HANDING  
OUT, MASTER  
DAMIAN.

OH,  
IT'S JUST  
YOU.

I DON'T  
LIKE BEING  
SNUCK UP ON,  
THAT'S ALL.

AND WHAT  
ARE YOU HIDING  
BEHIND YOUR BACK,  
PENNYWORTH?!

YOUR HOMEWORK,  
SIR. I RECALL YOUR  
AGREEING TO SOLVE  
THE MYSTERY BEHIND  
THE GAS MASKS.

WHY WASTE MY  
TIME? GRAYSON  
PROBABLY HAS  
IT FIGURED OUT  
ALREADY.

OR HE  
SHOULD.

SSSSSSSS

I THINK I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THE FALCONE FAMILY LINE AND WHERE IT *STOPS*--AND IT'S NOT WITH HER.

WHETHER SHE'S A FALCONE OR NOT, I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH HER.

LIKE HER DETAILED MAPS OF BLACK MASK'S HIDEOUTS IN DEVIL'S SQUARE?

AND YOU LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT?

JUST TO SHOW YOU IN. SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NOT UNLESS SHE'S--

A MASTER ESCAPE ARTIST? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE IS. OPEN THE DOOR, SELINA.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... BRUCE TAUGHT ME THAT ROPE TRICK. IT'S *INESCAPABLE*.

APPARENTLY NOT TO HER.

AND THE MAPS! THEY WERE HANGING RIGHT OVER--

ANY IDEA WHERE SHE'D RUN TO?

ZIP.  
I SHOULD'VE PUT HER IN A CAGE.  
BUT THAT SEEMED INHUMANE--AT THE TIME.

IT'S ORACLE.  
I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.

DEEP DEEP DEEP

Oracle thinks she may know where Kitrina is hiding out. If that's where she's headed now, she'll find me waiting.

YEAH.  
BATS JUST LEFT.  
HE TOOK OFF IN  
HIS GYRO-BAT-  
COPTER-MOBILE--  
THINGY.

LISTEN,  
NO OFFENSE,  
BUT I HAVE TO FIRE  
YOU AS A CLIENT...  
NO, NO, YOU HAVE  
BEEN VERY  
GENEROUS. IT'S  
NOTHING TO DO  
WITH THAT.

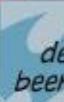
IT'S JUST--  
I HAVE OTHER  
PRIORITIES.  
THINGS ARE  
COMING BACK  
TO ME...

THINGS. JUST...FRAGMENTS.  
AND NONE OF IT MAKES ANY  
SENSE RIGHT NOW. AND  
FROM WHAT LITTLE HAS COME  
BACK, I'M REMEMBERING  
THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU  
VERY MUCH.

I'M SURE  
I'LL BE SEEING  
YOU AROUND,  
PENGUIN.

HWAK-WAK  
WAKK!

NOW...  
WHERE  
WAS I?



Oracle matched Kitrina to the description of a cat burglar who's been victimizing Gotham's south side.

It looks like the girl got by using stolen credit cards whenever the cash ran out.



Fifteen minutes ago, one of the victims' phone cards was used to place a call to Penguin's line at his old digs.

That call came from a public phone here.



The Fairmount Amusement Park. Abandoned for nearly eight years, but recently purchased by one of Gotham's most reviled criminals--Mad Hatter.

SPLASH



Someone just ran into the fun house. No doubt they're expecting me to follow.

I won't disappoint.



The magnetic field in my cowl  
should block any mind-control  
attacks by the Mad Hatter.

Crows...



Dozens of them.  
All around me.



Tearing into  
my flesh!

CAWW  
CAW CAW



Poison...

I've...got  
to...get out!

LOOK  
AT HIM.  
LOOKS LIKE A  
WOUNDED  
BIRD.

'CEPT  
HE'S A  
BAT.

WHO...?

HE DON'T  
LOOK SO  
TOUGH  
NOW, HUH?

THE BOSS  
LIKES HIM.  
HE'S HIS  
ONLY SHOT.



TRUST ME,  
BATMAN--WE'LL  
MAKE GREAT  
PARTNERS!

WAK!  
WAK!

 TO BE CONTINUED...



**novus**  
Distributions