



LAST RITES



685  
MAR  
2009

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
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# BATMAN

## CATWOMAN



# FACES OF EVIL



The total population of Vietnamese rhinos numbers maybe twelve.

This young male is set to be smuggled to a private zoo in Japan. Too bad the wealthy collector who shelled out five million for his capture will never receive his prize.



All that  
roughhousing  
won't hurt  
the rhino...

FEACES OF EVIL  
featuring  
*Catwoman*

# CATSPAW

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EAT SOMETHING.  
YOU'LL NEED IT.



YOU DIDN'T ASK IF THE FOOD  
WAS POISONED. WE MUST BE  
BUILDING TRUST.



DON'T  
RUSH ME. I THOUGHT  
YOU'D AT LEAST LIKE TO  
KNOW WHY I BROUGHT  
YOU HERE.



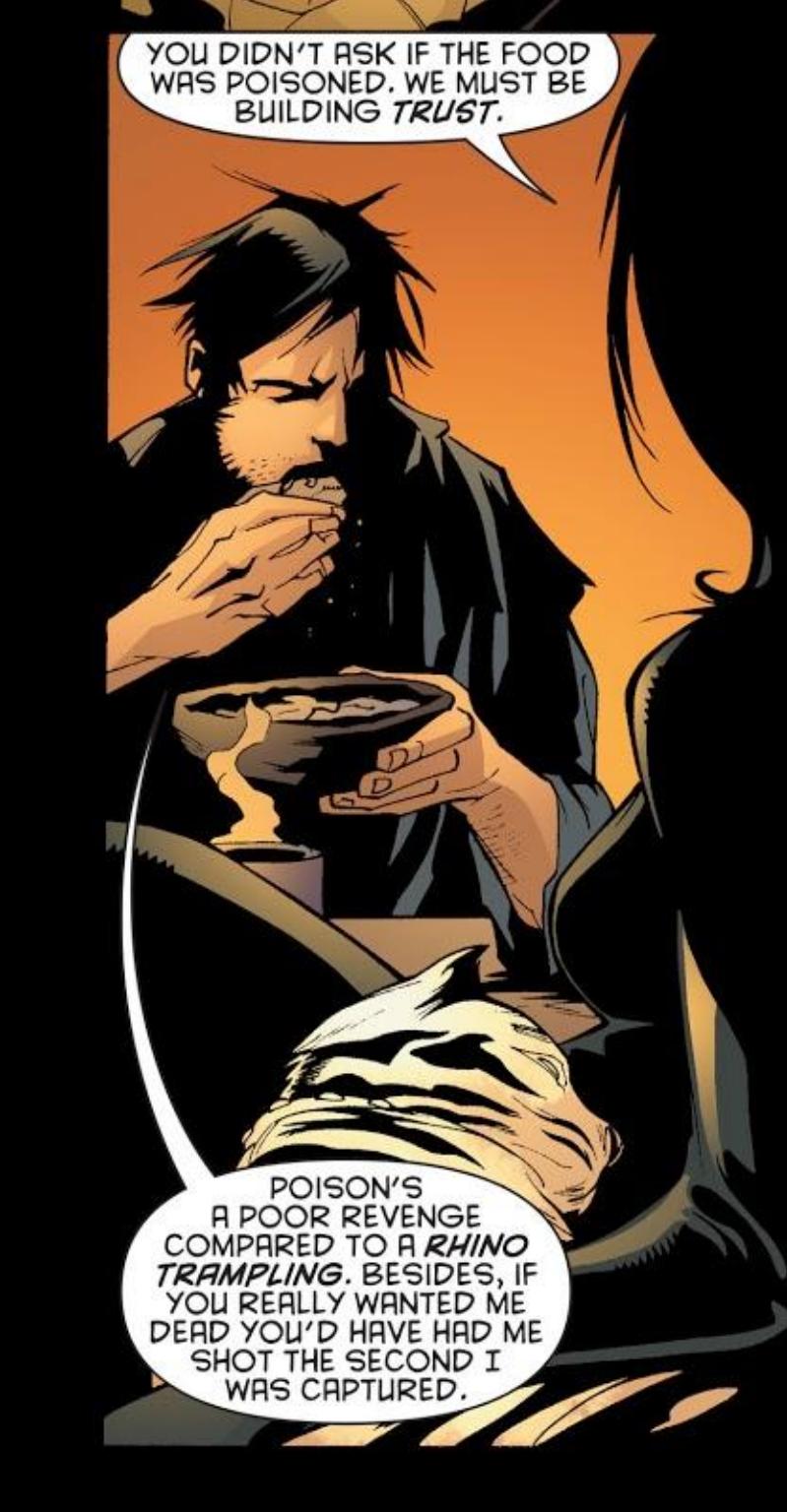
IT HAD OCCURRED  
TO ME.

LAST YOU  
HEARD FROM ME  
I WAS VACATIONING  
IN THE SEYCHELLES.  
LOVELY PLACE.  
EVER BEEN?



NO,  
BUT MAYBE  
I'LL SCATTER YOUR ASHES  
THERE.

GOT  
TO LOVE A  
DREAMER.



POISON'S  
A POOR REVENGE  
COMPARED TO A RHINO  
TRAMPLING. BESIDES, IF  
YOU REALLY WANTED ME  
DEAD YOU'D HAVE HAD ME  
SHOT THE SECOND I  
WAS CAPTURED.

I HAD BEEN ON THE ISLANDS A COUPLE OF WEEKS WHEN I WAS APPROACHED BY A PAIR OF LOWLIFERS OFFERING EXOTIC ANIMALS FOR SALE TO WEALTHY TOURISTS.

"These guys were middlemen for a network of poachers that operated throughout Southeast Asia. One of their biggest prizes was a rare clouded leopard."

"I played my part well, fully intending to buy the cat at whatever price they set."

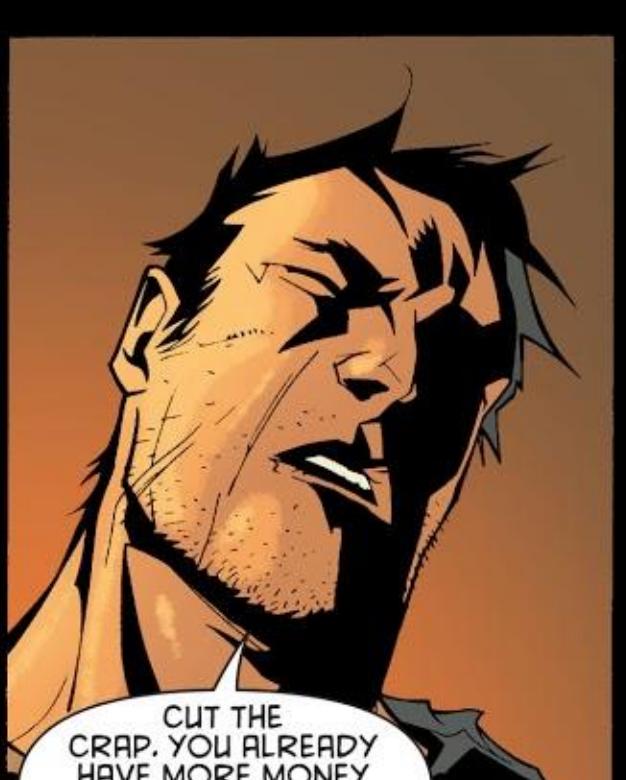
"An extra twenty thousand bought me the name of the country where the poacher's camp was based -- Vietnam."

"I have a big problem with people exploiting endangered wildlife. Once I pinpointed the camp, my next step was to infiltrate it."

"I announced I was cutting myself in on their operation. Fortunately Catwoman's reputation as a ruthless criminal worked in my favor."

"The fact that I beat their leader in single combat didn't hurt, either."

"Under my leadership I promised to turn their modest poaching operation into a worldwide black market powerhouse."



CUT THE CRAP. YOU ALREADY HAVE MORE MONEY THAN YOU COULD EVER SPEND. MY MONEY, I MIGHT ADD!



YOU CLAIM YOU'RE OUT TO SHUT THESE GUYS DOWN, BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?



YOU WERE SO PASSIONATE TO SAVE THESE BEASTS THAT YOU JUMPED IN WITHOUT A WORKABLE EXIT STRATEGY.

WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN, "BRUCE."



YOU SAID  
BRUCE COULDN'T  
HAVE BEEN IN VIETNAM.  
WHY? NO ONE'S  
SEEN HIM FOR WEEKS.  
HE COULD POP UP  
ANYWHERE, BUT  
YOU SAY THAT'S  
"IMPOSSIBLE."

SELINA...  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO BRUCE? I HEARD  
HE WAS A TARGET  
OF THE BLACK  
GLOVE.

I...I WAS  
STILL IN THE HOSPITAL  
WHILE THAT HAPPENED. I  
HEARD HE SURVIVED, BUT  
AFTER THAT...





SOUNDS  
FEASIBLE. BUT I'M  
GOING TO NEED SOME TIME  
BEFORE WE CAN DO THIS.  
STEALTH AND SEVERE MUSCLE  
DAMAGE DON'T GO  
HAND IN HAND.

FINE. BUT  
WE CAN'T WAIT  
TOO LONG.

AND  
HOW LONG  
IS "TOO--"

WE CAN  
GIVE YOU TEN  
SECONDS. THAT  
OKAY?

DAMN YOU,  
KYLE!

STOP  
WHINING. WE NEED  
YOU LIGHT ON WORDS,  
AS WELL AS ON YOUR  
FEET.

SOMETHING  
YOU OBVIOUSLY  
DIDN'T CONSIDER  
BEFORE YOU USED  
ME AS A PUNCHING  
BAG FOR A  
RHINOCEROS!

OH, I  
CONSIDERED  
IT.



SURE... GIVE  
ME A SECOND WITH  
MY FRACTURED  
RIBS...





Freedom couldn't come fast enough for these beauties.



What is it that makes some people think animals are more valuable because they're rare?



They're not collectibles. They won't be around in two hundred years, even if they are kept in good condition.



They're alive. Their only real value is if they are allowed to survive and flourish.



BRUH-AHH



YOU JUST  
COST ME A LOT  
OF MONEY.

I'M REAL TORN UP ABOUT  
THAT, SANG.

FORTUNATELY,  
I HAVE MANY CLIENTS WHO  
WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO  
ACQUIRE THE NOTORIOUS  
CATWOMAN.

BLAM

IF  
NOT ALIVE,  
THEN AS A  
TROPHY.

UNGHH!





I have no idea  
how much blood  
I've lost.



Sometimes  
I don't even feel  
my left foot hit  
the ground.



THEY'RE  
GRINING.

SCARE  
THEM OFF.



RATATATAT

THAT  
WILL HOLD  
THEM.



But not  
for long.



I prefer  
a more  
permanent  
solution.



Of course.  
And paid for with  
my money.

Enjoy it while you can,  
Kyle. It won't be long  
before I show you  
there's more than one  
way to skin a cat.



KINDA  
DOUBT THAT,  
TOMMY.

Damn...



HOW DID  
YOU FIND  
ME?

IT WAS SO UNLIKE HIM THAT WE  
CHALKED IT UP TO MISTAKEN  
IDENTITY.

NEXT DAY  
TWO FISHERMEN  
SHOWED UP IN  
LUCIUS FOX'S  
OFFICE TRYING TO  
COLLECT A REWARD  
PROMISED TO THEM  
BY BRUCE FOR  
SAVING HIS  
LIFE.

TEN DAYS LATER THE JLA  
GOT AN ALERT FROM  
**TASMANIAN DEVIL**  
CLAIMING HE HAD SEEN  
BRUCE WAYNE  
IN SYDNEY.

STARTED  
WITH RUMORS  
OF BRUCE WAYNE  
LEAVING THE  
PEREGRINATOR'S  
CLUB WITH AN  
AGING  
SOCIALITE.

AT  
THAT POINT WE  
STARTED TO TAKE THE  
"WAYNE" SIGHTINGS  
SERIOUSLY.

OH, SO THAT  
WAS THE HAIRBALL I  
ENCOUNTERED.



TAS DOESN'T KNOW BRUCE'S SECRET IDENTITY, BUT WAS AWARE THE JLA HAD AN ALL-POINTS ALERT OUT ON HIM... AFTER SPOTTING YOU, HE NOTED SOMETHING ABOUT WAYNE "SMELLING BAD."

AROUND THAT TIME SELINA SENT WORD YOU HAD TURNED UP IN 'NAM.



SHE SAW IT AS A WIN/WIN--WE HELP HER MAKE HER ESCAPE AND COLLECT YOU AS A BONUS.



A jungle filled with angry poachers and wild animals.

That's what's waiting for me if I survive the river. And even then, my wounds will be swarming with parasites.



Still, I'd rather take my chances there than deal with these two.



THE FACT THAT  
YOU CAN NOW PASS  
FOR BRUCE MAKES YOU  
A BIGGER THREAT THAN  
BEFORE.

