

Justice League Unlimited

"Cat And Canary"
(Script)

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"Cat and Canary"

TEASER

EXT. CITY STREET/CORNER OF ALLEY - LATE AT NIGHT

A dimly lit street in an industrial zone; around three in the morning. Not a time many cars or people are around.

A SHADY CHARACTER peeks out from the alley and looks around. Then his eyes fix O.S., and he motions "coast is clear" to:

AN IDLING TRUCK, at the curb up the street. Leaving its headlights off, the truck quietly rolls into the alley.

INT. ALLEY

The truck pulls up to a loading dock, where more TOUGH GUYS are waiting for it. They begin to unload heavy CRATES from the back of the truck, into an OPEN WAREHOUSE.

TILT UP to the rooftops overlooking the alley. A WOMAN is watching from the shadows. It's BLACK CANARY. Still shrouded in darkness, all we see is a beautiful face, and her LONG BLOND HAIR. She raises a finger to her ear.

CANARY

Wildcat, it's Black Canary. Where are you?!

(pause, no answer)

Wildcat!

Finally, she hears a deep, gruff voice, breathing hard:

WILDCAT (O.S., FILTERED)

Little... (grunts)... busy right now.

CANARY

You all right? You need any help?

CUT TO:

INT. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE - CLOSEUP ON WILDCAT

A VERY MUSCULAR HERO, in a full-face cat mask. The LIGHTS ARE SO BRIGHT around him that the bg drops out into blackness. A FIST CONNECTS WITH HIS CHIN. He takes it like it's candy, and dishes one back to whoever's at the other end of this fight.

WILDCAT
 (impact grunt)
 Me, need your help?
 (punching grunt!)
 When has that ever happened?

He delivers a NASTY JAB toward CAMERA, and we hear:

OPPONENT (O.S.)
 (punched GRUNT!)

CANARY (O.S., FILTERED)
 Well I need you, and it seems like
 you're never around when I do!

Wildcat blocks a few, throws a few, as:

WILDCAT
 You don't need me.
 (grunt -- grunt...)
 Maybe you did once. Not anymore.
 (big punch grunt!)
 But cool your jets, and I'll get
 there when I can.

EXT. ROOFTOP - BACK TO CANARY

She's frustrated and pissed.

CANARY
 (angry sigh!)
 Don't bother. I'll do it myself.

INT. FIGHT - ON WILDCAT

suddenly regretting it.

WILDCAT
 Wait. I said I'd --

CLICK -- she's gone. Wildcat slumps a second, mad at himself --
 and the dropped guard lets his opponent get in a GOOD ONE.

WILDCAT (CONT'D)
 (impact UGH!)

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE

CLOSE ON A CRATE - hitting the floor with a CRASH. The THUG LEADER STEPS IN and flips the crate open: It's loaded with ASSAULT RIFLES.

The Leader points, directing the two thugs who brought it in.

THUG LEADER
Over there.

The two thugs carry the crate OFF, as the leader spots something that annoys him O.S.

THUG LEADER (CONT'D)
Danks. We interrupting your
private life?

ON DANKS - the tech-geek of the crew, who's sitting on the tailgate of the truck with his eyes glued to a laptop, as the other thugs unload crates right around him.

DANKS
Pay-per-view webcast. It's almost
over.

THUG LEADER
Are you kidding me?! Have you
looked around?!

DANKS
("chill")
Dude. The last one with this guy
only went one round.
(defensive)
I'm not missing it. It cost me an
arm and a leg.

THUG LEADER
I'm gonna cost you an arm and a
leg if you don't --

ON THE TAIL OF THE TRUCK

Suddenly, the truck's rear door SLIDES SHUT from above -- making Danks LEAP INSIDE to avoid getting sliced. The laptop CLATTERS to the ground, forgotten.

DANKS

(YELP! - then O.S. muffled)

Hey!

INSERT CLOSE UP - THE LAPTOP ON THE GROUND: Slightly cracked, its IMAGE FLICKERING -- we see snippets of the webcast. Two fighters, in a chain-link cage, in wide shot on a small screen.

A CROWD (O.S.)

(cheers!)

BACK TO WIDE - Black Canary JUMPS DOWN onto the tail of the truck from the roof, and --

CLOSE-UP - JAMS a stiletto heel into the tailgate's latch, preventing it from opening as it's TUGGED from inside.

THE THUGS IN THE WAREHOUSE

including the Leader, look up. For the first time, they and we get a good look at:

BLACK CANARY

standing on the tail running board. TILT UP - starting at the spike-heeled boots, up past the fishnet stockings and the black strapless teddy, to the face framed in flowing blond hair. Now that's a superhero outfit.

CANARY

Kinda late for a charity dropoff,
isn't it, boys?

ON THE THUGS - amazed -- and loving what they see.

THUGS

(under-breath: "Whoa!" / "Who ordered
room service?" / "I thought we were
just moving guns"...)

The leader grins broadly, and walks unwisely close. His eyes are definitely not watching hers.

THUG LEADER

And what are you gonna do about
it... dressed like that?

CANARY

You'd be surprised. It makes an excellent diversion.

She KICKS him in the chin, sending him flying backwards.

THUG LEADER

(UGH!)

And with that, before the others even react, Black Canary FLIPS THROUGH THE AIR and into their midst. A skilled martial artist with blinding speed, she makes quick work of the closest thugs - punches, roundhouses, and Trinity-like over-the-back-of-the-head kicks flying with fluid ease.

THUGS

(assorted grunts, flying cries and OOFs!)

INSERT - THE LAPTOP - and the cage fight. Still no way to see who the participants are.

CROWD (O.S.)

(Cheers!)

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Oh, harsh! Did I hear something break?

BACK TO CANARY

forcing a thug backwards against a pile of crates with a barrage of punches -- WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP!

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S., CONT'D)

And another! And another! You're seeing a living legend in action!

Another PAIR OF THUGS CHARGE HER from behind, and barely looking Canary grabs a loose WOOD PLANK off the crates and SWINGS IT AROUND, taking them both out.

PAIR OF THUGS

(BIG OOFs!)

OTHER THUGS - see how things are going, and decide to bail. They run for the truck.

ON THE REAR OF THE TRUCK - as Danks finally gets it open from inside. He barely sees what's going on, before he's driven back into the truck by other thugs leaping on.

DANKS
(thrown cry!)

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
This is one for the record books,
folks.

ON THE THUG LEADER - recovering; he stumbles over to one of the crates, and scoops out an assault rifle. He aims it at Canary - but she KICKS IT out of his hand before he can fire.

THUG LEADER
(cry!)

Then Canary grabs his arm, and KICKS, ONCE, TWICE, under his arm into his ribs -- and then THROWS HIM OS.

THUG LEADER
(two impact grunts, then flying
cry, and OOF!)

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
It's almost too pitiful to watch!
We could have a knockout in record
time!

The leader HITS a nearby wall, and goes down, unconscious.

THUG LEADER
(moans...)

CANARY - then spins and sees --

THE TRUCK - as its tail door SLIDES DOWN, and it REVS away from the loading dock.

CANARY - takes a deep breath and lets loose a SONIC SCREAM --

BLACK CANARY
(SCREEEEEEEE!)

It's so powerful the truck GETS LIFTED RIGHT OFF THE GROUND and CRASHES into the far wall of the alley -- ending up half-askew. As the wheels spin idly, we see the driver and Danks in the cab, out cold.

DANKS AND DRIVER
(unconscious groans...)

CANARY - stands at the loading dock door -- surveying her handiwork -- all the thugs around her unconscious. Then she hears:

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
I don't think this one's getting
up again! And that means we have
a winner...

Canary sees the laptop lying on the floor near her feet. She looks closer --

FEMALE ANNOUNCER (O.S., CONT'D)
...Still the undefeated champ...

CLOSE ON LAPTOP, LYING ON THE GROUND

-- just in time to see the FEMALE ANNOUNCER (hereafter ROULETTE) raise the winner's hand in victory. PUSH IN on the winner:
It's Wildcat.

ROULETTE (ON LAPTOP, CONT'D)
(drawn-out)
WIIILD-CAAAT!

CANARY - slumps. She was afraid of this.

CANARY
(sighs)

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. WATCHTOWER - EXERCISE ROOM

GREEN ARROW is in the gym alone, working out with a punching bag, when he hears a friendly -- and flirtatious -- voice.

CANARY (O.S.)
What's your story?

He turns, and sees:

BLACK CANARY - leaning against the doorway. In that outfit.

CANARY (CONT'D)
Most people, after they sold a
company for three billion dollars,
would just kick back and relax.

ARROW - is startled, but also pleased. He grins, and lays on the charm.

ARROW
I'm not most people. Besides,
after taxes, and the lawyers are
through with you... you're lucky
if you see a billion and a half.

Canary smiles back, and walks toward him.

CANARY
My heart bleeds.
(extends her hand)
Black Canary.

ARROW
Green Arrow.
(shakes)
I've noticed you around.

CANARY
I know.

She nods to a nearby mat.

CANARY (CONT'D)
You happy punching the bag, or you
wanna go a few rounds with me?

Green Arrow raises an eyebrow at that one.

CANARY (CONT'D)
I am talking about sparring.

ARROW
Oh. Love to.

CUT TO:

THE EXERCISE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Arrow and Canary circle each other on the mat, looking for an opening. Canary takes a swing; Arrow sidesteps and grabs her arm. Puts his other hand on her waist to show her what she's doing wrong. For a moment, it looks like a tango.

ARROW
You're telegraphing. You gotta center yourself.

CANARY
(smiles)
Center myself. Got it.

They break apart and circle again. She tries another swing. This time he uses her momentum to flip her over. She lands face down on the mat, and he pins her with one arm behind her back, and his face close to hers.

ARROW AND CANARY
(both breathing deeply)

She cranes back to look at him -- throws her hair the other way.

CANARY
You're good.

ARROW
You should see me when I'm trying.

CANARY
I'd like that. In fact, I could use your help on something. But the League can't know. I'll explain once we're on the surface.

ARROW
I don't know, sounds fishy.

CANARY

I promise, it's for a good cause.
 (he doesn't move)
 Howabout a wager? If I can get
 out of this hold, you help me.

ARROW

(grins, clenches tighter)
 Deal.

ON A WALL - as instantly Green Arrow FLIES HEAD OVER HEELS INTO
 FRAME, HITTING THE WALL.

ARROW (CONT'D)

(flying cry -- then OOF!)

He ends up in a heap on the floor. As he recovers, Canary steps
 into frame, towering over him.

ARROW (CONT'D)

(groan...)

CANARY

Next time... center yourself.

She holds out her hand to help him up. Arrow rubs his sore
 chin, considering this woman... then takes her hand.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. METROPOLIS - CITY STREETS - DAY

Black Canary TEARS THROUGH TRAFFIC on her motorcycle. Arrow
 sits behind her, holding on for dear life. Both are helmeted.

CANARY

You can hold tighter if you want!

Surprised, he takes her up on it -- wraps his arms around her
 waist.

ARROW

So tell me about Wildcat! What's
 so secret you couldn't talk about
 it in the Watchtower?

CANARY

He's doing MetaBrawls. Illegal, no-holds-barred cage fighting. Mostly metahumans, super-powered criminals, guys with chemical enhancements. Only rule is, they fight 'til one guy stays down.

ARROW

Why's he doing it?

CANARY

He loves to fight! As Ted Grant, he was the world heavyweight boxing champ!

ARROW

I remember! But doesn't he get enough fighting in the League?

CANARY

I think the League's part of the problem! It's like he's going through some sort of mid-life crisis!

ARROW

(incredulous)

"Mid?"

She ignores him -- and gets more tender.

CANARY

I'm worried something's gonna happen to him.

On that, Arrow gives Canary a long, questioning look. Then he stiffens his lip. So that's the way it is...

THE CYCLE - ZOOMS OFF down the street.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FIGHT ARENA

ON THE CAGE, a high, chain-link ring, in the center of a small, exclusive arena -- only a couple hundred seats. Currently, cage and stands are empty. PUSH IN ON A ROW OF BETTING WINDOWS at the top of the stands. A light is on in a room behind them.

INT. ROULETTE'S OFFICE - BEHIND THE BETTING WINDOWS

ROULETTE sits at a desk, counting cash, and tapping numbers into a computer. She's tough, old-fashioned showbiz management. Her <DOOR OPENS O.S.> and she looks up.

It's Wildcat, looking rather grim.

Roulette keeps counting bills, all business.

ROULETTE

Wildcat. What do I owe the pleasure?

WILDCAT

Come to a decision. I'm not fighting anymore.

ON ROULETTE'S HANDS - which stop counting -- but only for a second and then they start right up again. TILT UP to her face -- she smiles accommodatingly.

ROULETTE

Yeah? What brought this on?

WILDCAT

It's interfering with my work, and I ain't been showing up for my friends.

ROULETTE

(smirks slightly, to herself)
...You mean the Justice League?

WILDCAT

That's right.

ROULETTE

(keeps counting, low-key)
Timing's a shame. Atomic Skull's in town, wanted a shot at you. But don't worry about it. I'll tell him you quit.

WILDCAT

(sharper-edged)
Knock it off. I know what you're doing, and it's not gonna work. I've made up my mind.

Roulette hesitates, then grins patronizingly.

ROULETTE

Well, you're a good man, 'Cat.
You care about the right things.

WILDCAT

(uncertain)

...I didn't think you'd be so
supportive.

She gets up and walks around her desk.

ROULETTE

What, of the League? How can I
fault you for being loyal to them?
They're heroes! You must have to
swallow a lot of pride, being one
of the only -- "normal" humans in
the group.

She gets closer to him, laying it in. And from Wildcat's
deflating posture... it's working.

ROULETTE (CONT'D)

No super powers, no Green Lantern
ring, not even a pile of gadgets
like Batman's. Always the one who
can't do what's needed. But hey.
You walk out that door, and I'll
respect it. But if you want to
stay where people love you, where
you're the king, then don't go.

WILDCAT - looks at the door... and doesn't go.

DISSOLVE TO:

A PARKING LOT - DAY

Canary -- now as DINAH LANCE (with brown hair, and in more
modest attire) -- stands with her arms crossed skeptically,
beside a sleazy TICKET SCALPER who's working out of the back of
an SUV. The Scalper's making busywork, moving stuff around the
SUV, organizing the CDs in his auto-changer...

SCALPER

"MetaBrawl?" I don't know, maybe I heard of it once. But what makes you think I'm the guy to talk to?

DINAH

I got it from some friends.

Scalper stops shuffling CDs, and eyes her closely.

SCALPER

How do I know you're not a cop?

DINAH

Oh, I'm not a cop.

He shakes his head -- not satisfied. Leans in closer.

SCALPER

How do I know you're not a problem?

DINAH

How much for you to not care if I am?

Pause. ...Then the scalper smiles.

SCALPER

For that, ten grand.

Without missing a beat, Dinah turns and shouts.

DINAH

Ollie!

ON OLIVER QUEEN - nearby, leaning against Dinah's motorcycle. He walks over.

DINAH (CONT'D)

I need ten thousand dollars.

His face falls. Then he bolsters himself up.

OLLIE

I get it now.

He turns and walks away. She hurries after him, and stops him back by the cycle.

DINAH

What?

OLLIE

You didn't invite me along for my fighting skills. You can handle yourself better than I can, as you so easily proved. You brought me along for my money. I'm just a sap.

DINAH

Oh come on! You knew I was a better fighter than you! If you were so offended, why'd you come along?

He hesitates. Neither is admitting what's on their minds.

OLLIE

'Cause I'm a man of my word.

DINAH

Then help me.

He purses his lips. Fine. They head back to the scalper.

OLLIE

(to Scalper)

Deal. I just gotta...
(eyes Dinah again)
...get the ten grand.

SCALPER

You do know that was for one ticket, right? If you're both going, it's twenty.

Ollie eyes Dinah. This is pushing his limits.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A NIGHT CLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A simple awning-covered entrance with a velvet rope, a LINE OF PEOPLE waiting to get in, and a BIG BOUNCER at the door.

Ollie and Dinah, now in night attire, work their way up the line. Dinah looks ahead at the club entrance.

DINAH
This is an arena? It just looks
like a night club.

OLLIE
(humorless)
I think that's the point.

They make it to the front, and Ollie shows their tickets to the bouncer. He opens the rope and lets them in.

INT. NIGHT CLUB

Uncertain, Dinah and Ollie follow the others through a MODEST LOUNGE, and straight to a back hallway...

INT. NIGHT CLUB - BACK HALLWAY/STAIRCASE

...which leads to a LONG STAIRCASE, heading DOWNWARD...

...which opens at the bottom onto...

INT. THE ARENA

From the top of the stands, they take it in: The cage, the betting windows, the HUNGRY CROWD finding their seats and placing their bets...

CROWD WALLA
Wildcat and Atomic Skull! / I
think the 'Cat might just get
slaughtered this time! / Yeah?
Put a little on the side about
that?

Ollie looks disgusted just listening to it. Dinah looks around, and spots:

THE ENTRANCE TO A SIDE CORRIDOR. Cinder block walls, fading into darkness.

DINAH - nudges Ollie.

DINAH
This way.

They make sure no one's looking, and disappear down the hall.

INT. BACKSTAGE CORRIDOR

The pair slips carefully down the deserted corridor, Dinah in the lead. She stops at a corner, and peeks around. Then silently points for Ollie to look. He does.

A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA is in a ceiling corner farther up the hall, PANNING BACK AND FORTH. It hasn't looked their way yet.

Ollie pulls his collapsible bow out of the lining of his jacket, along with an arrow. He shoots the arrow at the camera.

ON THE CAMERA - The arrow PIERCES its metal side, and SPARKS FLY. The tiny light on top of the camera DIES and it stops panning.

BACK TO THE PAIR - They move onward.

INT. WILDCAT'S DRESSING ROOM

Wildcat is alone, shadow boxing, when there's a <KNOCK ON THE DOOR>.

WILDCAT

Yeah!

THE DOOR - opens. It's Dinah. Ollie enters more slowly, behind her.

BACK TO WILDCAT - surprised, and instantly angry.

WILDCAT (CONT'D)

(barks)

What is this?!

DINAH

We want to help you, Ted. We want to get you out of here.

Wildcat pulls off his mask, to reveal TED GRANT: Sixties, maybe even seventy; grizzled; nose busted more than once. Jack Palance on Andro: He's old, but he can still kick *your* ass.

TED

What for? It look to you like I have a problem?

DINAH

You do, if you don't see what you've become here. You're entertainment for them! The rooster in a cockfight!

TED

(snaps)

Fighting is what I do! It's all I was ever good at, and I'm still good at it. I'm Wildcat, the guy who fights.

A beat, then, quietly, he adds:

TED (CONT'D)

That's what I am.

DINAH

(tender, softly)

You're so much more than that.

Ollie watches. Uncomfortably.

TED

Anyway, I can leave any time I want. I don't need "help."

DINAH

Then leave. Right now.

TED

Uh-uh. Fighting Atomic Skull tonight. You know he deserves a beating.

He heads for his locker, to keep getting ready.

DINAH

Ted, come on --

He spins back.

TED

I was the greatest! I beat 'em all! Now look at me! Most of the time they keep me up in that spaceship, babysitting! They call me to do real work less and less! Don't you think I see where this is going? I don't shoot beams from my eyes, I can't turn myself invisible --

(pointed, at Canary)

I don't even have a supersonic bird-call.

DINAH

So that's it? You're angry at metahumans, and down here you get to beat on them?

Ted pulls his mask back over his face, and turns back toward his locker. Dinah grabs his arm.

DINAH (CONT'D)

Am I getting too close now-?

Wildcat spins at her, SHOVES her away.

WILDCAT

Drop it!

DINAH

(shoved cry, then grunt!)

She falls backward, hits the floor.

OLLIE

Hey! Settle down!

Ollie marches toward Wildcat -- and Wildcat grabs him by the collar and winds up a punch with the other hand.

WILDCAT

(to Dinah)

What's he doing here?!

Dinah leaps to her feet and blows up... at Ollie.

DINAH

Stay out of it, Ollie!

Ollie stops, stunned. Wildcat lets him go, and Ollie marches out of the dressing room.

OLLIE
That's it. I'm done.

THE CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

Dinah emerges, finds Ollie pacing outside. He turns on her, pissed.

OLLIE
What are you putting me in the middle of this for? You guys obviously have your own stuff to work out --

DINAH
What stuff? I'm trying to help a friend!

OLLIE
(points at the door)
That sure looked like you were more than friends!

Dinah stops short -- realizing --

DINAH
Did you think...? Ted is like a father to me. He trained me. Trained a lot of us in the League, and kept an eye on us when we starting out. I owe him.
(looks back at the door)
...Now I guess training isn't enough anymore.

Ollie listens, and lets it sink in. He's starting to get why this is so important to her.

OLLIE
...And you want to get him out of this quietly, so he doesn't end up thrown out of the League.

DINAH
(gravely)
Or worse.

OLLIE
(sighs, accepts)
All right. But I saw the look in
his eye. He's not gonna budge.

Dinah nods, and stiffens her lip.

DINAH
Then I hope I can count on you for
plan "B."

OLLIE
(offended)
I've never had any complaints
before.

DINAH
All right then.

He looks around. All he sees is empty corridor.

OLLIE
There's no place to change.

DINAH
Then we do it right here.

She turns around and starts to undress. Ollie starts to do the
same -- then sneaks a peek behind him.

DINAH (CONT'D)
You drop something?

He turns away.

CUT TO:

INT. ARENA

MONTAGE: It's FIGHT NIGHT, and the arena is BUZZING...

ROULETTE (O.S.)
Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to
MetaBrawl!

The stands are filled; money is passing hands right at the seats...

The TICKET WINDOWS are mobbed, BOOKIES taking bets...

ROULETTE (O.S., CONT'D)

Place your bets and take your seats...

OTHER COSTUMED VILLAINS AND METAHUMANS stand by the dressing room hallway: Men and women alike, some with massive, oversized muscles, others with radiation-glowing body parts, one with stretchy limbs (could use Ten and Jack from "Wild Card")...

ROULETTE (O.S., CONT'D)

And get ready for the historic match-up, the clash of Titans...

ROULETTE - stands in the middle of the cage, shouting into a mic that hangs down from the rafters.

ROULETTE (CONT'D)

...between Atomic Skull... and Wiiiild-Caaat!

A FLASHBULB POPS, AND SCENE CUTS TO:

OTS CROWD - ON THE CAGE - THE FIGHT - LATER

As arms and the backs of heads gesticulate in the fg, inside the cage Wildcat circles ATOMIC SKULL: A guy in full-body tights and gloves, who's only exposed part is his FLESHLESS SKULL -- which is FLAMING with released radioactivity. Skull makes his move -- connecting with a POWERHOUSE PUNCH that sends Wildcat reeling backwards.

CLOSER - IN THE CAGE - ON WILDCAT

Wildcat regains his balance. He wipes a droplet of blood off his lip. Smiles. And CHARGES BACK INTO ATOMIC SKULL.

ON ATOMIC SKULL

as he TAKES IT IN THE GUT and goes down to the mat.

ATOMIC SKULL

(OOF!)

Wildcat stays on top of him -- grabs him by the collar and PUNCHES.

REVERSE - OTS ATOMIC SKULL - CLOSE ON WILDCAT

bearing over CAMERA, laying PUNCH after PUNCH directly into Skull's O.S. face. Wildcat's teeth are gritted -- he's relishing it. His knuckles are smoldering.

THE CROWD - is loving it.

CROWD
(CHEERING!)

Suddenly, a TEARGAS ARROW SOARS OVERHEAD.

THE CROWD reacts --

CROWD
(COUGH! COUGH! -- and panic
walla, "What is that?" / "What's
happening?")

As the gas swirls down into the crowd --

GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY - look on from a high railing. Canary turns and runs off, as Green Arrow threads another arrow and shouts to the crowd:

ARROW
Show's over, folks! Forever!

The crowd wastes no time STAMPEDING THE EXITS.

A PAIR OF BOUNCERS at one exit gets out of the way of the crowd -- and runs down to attack Arrow.

ARROW - sees 'em coming. He threads an arrow and SHOOTS.

ON THE ARROW MID-FLIGHT: Its HEAD SPLITS - releasing a BOLA-WIRE between the separating halves.

ON THE TWO BOUNCERS - running down the aisle as the bola-arrow WRAPS AROUND THEM, cinching them together. They FALL the rest of the way down -- tumbling right past Green Arrow.

BOUNCERS
(cinched grunts and tumbling oofs!)

ON WILDCAT AND ATOMIC SKULL IN THE CAGE

Mid-trading punches -- when they see what's going on.

WILDCAT
(ENRAGED GROWL!)

Roulette RUNS THROUGH the bg outside the cage, pointing.

ROULETTE
Get them!

Forgetting Wildcat, Skull runs for the cage's gate. Wildcat TACKLES HIM from behind and pummels him again.

ON CANARY

fighting another bouncer in the wings. She overwhelmingly outmatches him -- CHOPS, KICKS flying faster than he can see. The bouncer goes down having never gotten a shot in.

Then Canary looks past him to see --

THE VILLAINS AND METAHUMANS - racing up the wings toward her, in one angry, superpowered mob. She READIES HERSELF, when --

ARROW - fires an arrow in a high arc, toward her direction.

THE ARROW peaks over the villains, and BURSTS OPEN INTO A NET. The net DROPS DOWN, entangling the mob of metahumans.

METAHUMANS
(angry, tangled grunts!)

Canary looks at Arrow. Impressed.

CANARY
Guess the toys make up for your shortcomings.

ARROW
(winks back)
One way or another, I get the job done.

Then a bouncer comes CHARGING AT HIM with a metal pipe. Arrow pulls another arrow out of his quiver and SHOTS it. It hits the pipe in the bouncer's hand and emits an ELECTRIC SHOCK -- ZZZZAPPP!! The bouncer CONVULSES and DROPS.

BOUNCER
 (electrocuted GROAN, then impact
 grunt)

CLOSE ON THE VILLAINS IN THE NET

where one of them is using his GLOWING, RADIOACTIVE HAND to burn right through the netting. The net falls away, and the lot of them rise up.

ARROW AND CANARY - see. Gulp.

CANARY
 Nothing in there that lasts any
 longer?

ARROW
 That usually isn't a problem.

They BRACE THEMSELVES for a big fight --

-- when Wildcat JUMPS between the heroes and the mob, and waves for everyone to stop where they are.

WILDCAT
 Hold it!

The superthugs hesitate -- for now. Wildcat looks at Canary.

WILDCAT (CONT'D)
 Just what do you think you're
 doing?!

BLACK CANARY
 If the only way to get you outta
 here is to take this place down,
 then so be it. You better decide
 whose side you're on.

Wildcat glowers at her. Then he looks to the side --

-- where Roulette is standing, waiting for his decision.

BACK TO WILDCAT. The decision isn't hard. He steps aside, letting the supervillains encircle Canary and Arrow...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE ARENA

RESUME - a split second after we left -- Green Arrow and Black Canary surrounded by supervillains. Canary leans sideways to Arrow:

CANARY
 (corner of her mouth)
 Sorry about getting you into this.

ARROW
 Forget the apology. Just do that
 sonic scream of yours.

CANARY
 I can't. It would kill them.
 Besides, I have a better idea...

She suddenly turns, and calls out to Roulette.

CANARY (CONT'D)
 How'd you like to see two League
 members fight each other? Me and
 Wildcat. In the cage, right now.
 That make you some money?

ON ROULETTE - in the stands above the circle of villains. Her eyes LIGHT UP at the idea.

ROULETTE
 Oh, definitely.

CANARY
 Then here's the deal: If I win,
 you ban Wildcat from cage fighting
 forever.
 (turns, to Wildcat)
 And if I lose, I'll never bother
 you again.

WILDCAT
 Forget it!

ROULETTE
 Can't do that, 'Cat. It's way too
 good an idea.

She runs back to the cage, grabs the mic from overhead, and shouts to whoever's left at the exits:

ROULETTE (CONT'D)

Everyone! Settle down, everything's okay! In fact, it's fantastic -- because after a short intermission, Wildcat is going to fight Black Canary! That's right, two "good guys" fighting each other, and one of them's her!

She points to:

CANARY. And that outfit.

ON THE EXITS - and the stragglers who were trying to evacuate. They see Canary and hear Roulette's words, and...

STRAGGLERS

All right! / Sounds great! / That
I gotta see!

BACK TO ROULETTE - She knows she has 'em.

ROULETTE

So just file back to your seats, call your friends to come on back -- and between now and the starting bell, PLACE... YOUR... BETS!

THE CROWD

(CHEERS!)

People start filing back to their seats, getting on their cell phones -- and heading for those betting windows.

ROULETTE - smiles at the response. All is well again in her world. Then she turns grim and barks orders at the villains:

ROULETTE

Take those two to a dressing room, and keep an eye on 'em!

ON ARROW AND CANARY - as the circle of supervillains CLOSES...

CUT TO:

WILDCAT'S DRESSING ROOM

Roulette watches as Wildcat paces.

WILDCAT

No way. I'm not fighting her. I only fight guys who have it coming. That's all I've ever done.

ROULETTE

Rationalization, is all that was. You loved the fight.

WILDCAT

Well I'm not gonna love beating up one of my own students. I ain't doing it.

ROULETTE

If you trained her, she can take care of herself, right? She knew what she was getting into.

She moves closer, more threatening.

ROULETTE (CONT'D)

And if you don't do this, I'll never let you fight in that cage again. And I expect you to win, no matter what. Don't take a fall, don't even go easy on her. You're still my star attraction and I need you undefeated. Ruin that, and I'll put you out to pasture as quick as the League. Are we clear?

Wildcat glares at her silently -- then turns and SLAMS HIS FIST INTO A WALL.

MATCH CUT TO:

THE HALLWAY

where a PAIR OF BOUNCERS see the wall CRACK from Wildcat's punch, a few yards from where they're standing. The pair are guarding a second dressing room door.

PUSH IN on this door's peephole...

INT. THE SECOND DRESSING ROOM

where Green Arrow checks out the peephole. Then he turns and walks back toward --

BLACK CANARY - stretching, getting ready to fight.

ARROW

Well, your challenge bought us some time, but it still looks like we're gonna have to fight our way outta here. Still against using the scream?

CANARY

You don't understand. If we leave here without Wildcat -- or worse, use my power to force him out -- he'll just come right back. We have to settle this the only way he understands.

ARROW

You mean you're really gonna fight him?

CANARY

I have to. And beat him. It's the only way to make him stop.

Arrow shakes his head, surprised. He sits on the edge of a table, where his quiver rests. While they talk, he casually slides an arrow out of the quiver, and twirls it between his fingers.

ARROW

I thought that was just you pretending again.

Canary stops stretching, and looks at him.

CANARY

What does that mean?

ARROW

Like all that flirting you did up
at the Watchtower. The way you
acted interested to get me to come
with you.

CANARY

Who said that was pretending?

Arrow reacts. Then he shakes his head again.

ARROW

Oh no. I know your game now.

CANARY

(looks away, hurt)
It's not always a game.

ARROW

No? Come here, look me in the
eye, and say so.

She walks closer to him, looks him in the eye...

CANARY

(confused)
Why are you holding your breath?

He points the arrow at her. GAS SPRAYS OUT.

Black Canary drops, unconscious, and he catches her in his arms.

Just then, the DOOR OPENS, and Roulette steps in. She REACTS to
what she sees.

ARROW - lets out the breath he's holding.

ARROW

(blows air out, then)
Don't worry. You'll still get
your main event.

WIPE TO:

INT. THE ARENA

ON THE CROWD - in their seats, eagerly listening to:

ROULETTE (O.S.)
 Ladies and Gentlemen! Prepare
 yourself for the world's first
 cage fight between two good guys,
 right here at MetaBrawl!

CROWD
 (Cheers!)

IN THE CAGE

ON ROULETTE AND WILDCAT - the latter pacing like an animal,
 while Roulette works the mic.

ROULETTE
 However... there's been a change
 in the program! Instead of Black
 Canary...

Wildcat spins toward her -- what?!

ROULETTE (CONT'D)
 ...Wildcat will be fighting...

ON THE CAGE GATE - as Green Arrow steps in. He removes his
 quiver, and sets it on the floor in the corner.

ROULETTE (O.S. CONT'D)
 Greeeen Arrroooow!

CROWD
 (Cheers!)

From the sound of it, the crowd is fine with this. But --
 WILDCAT - isn't. He SNARLS at Roulette --

WILDCAT
 This wasn't the deal!

ROULETTE
 So? Still works for me.

She heads out of the cage and closes the gate behind her, as
 Green Arrow steps closer and puts up his dukes.

ARROW
 What's the matter, big guy? You
 afraid?

Wildcat still doesn't accept it. He shouts to Roulette as she passes outside.

WILDCAT
He's not a fighter!

ARROW
I know what it is. Maybe you
prefer to fight women.

That did it. Wildcat spins around and WHACKS Arrow right out of frame.

ARROW
(punched GRUNT!)

He tumbles backward into the fence -- but stays on his feet, and heads back for more.

CUT TO:

INT. CANARY'S DRESSING ROOM

ON BLACK CANARY - on the floor, just starting to stir...

CANARY
(waking groan...)

She looks around, realizes what must have happened, and struggles to her feet and toward the door.

CUT BACK TO:

THE CAGE

as Arrow SWINGS at Wildcat. Wildcat easily dodges -- and returns with a JAB into Arrow's exposed side.

ARROW
(OOF!)

Taking it as well as possible, Arrow comes back with ANOTHER SWING -- which also finds nothing but air. Barely breaking a sweat, Wildcat PICKS ARROW UP and spins him over his head.

ON THE HALLWAY TO THE DRESSING ROOMS - as Canary runs out into the arena, and sees:

ARROW AND WILDCAT - as Wildcat HURLS ARROW INTO THE FENCE near the gate. He hits the ground -- not far from his quiver.

ARROW
(BIG IMPACT!)

Arrow stays down for only a beat, then claws his way weakly up the fence, and hangs on with his fingers.

Canary runs up to the gate and almost opens it -- but two of Roulette's BOUNCERS grab her by the arms. She struggles with them and shouts to Arrow.

CANARY
(struggling grunts, then:)
What do you think you're doing?!

ARROW
(groaning)
...Teaching the teacher a lesson.

He pulls himself back onto his feet, and runs O.S. A second later, he's FLUNG BACK IN.

ARROW
(impact GRUNT!)

CANARY
How's that going?

ARROW
Better than you'd think.

Wildcat MARCHES OVER, and starts SLUGGING ARROW like a ragdoll, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT -- Arrow no longer has the strength to raise a resistance, so he just hangs onto the fence to stay up.

ARROW'S FEET - are like rubber -- wobbling, barely holding any weight.

CANARY - still struggling with the Thugs, can't stand it.

CANARY
Wildcat! Stop it!

WILDCAT - doesn't let up.

WILDCAT
He asked for it!

ARROW
 (weakly)
 So when are you gonna start,
 has-been?

Wildcat's EYES FLARE -- nobody calls him that. He PUNCHES AGAIN.

ARROW (CONT'D)
 (impact grunt!)
 I'm not even metahuman, and you're
 too old to knock me out.

Okay, that really did it. Wildcat rips Arrow off the fence with one hand --

WILDCAT
 (GROWLS....)

-- and gives Arrow an upward-cutting SLUG TO THE CHEST that sends him soaring backwards...

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CAGE - and INTO THE FENCE AGAIN. This time, Arrow just slides limply to the mat -- no fingers grabbing hold -- no sound. Just meat in green.

CANARY - CRINGES.

CANARY
 Arrow!

WILDCAT - marches over to him.

WILDCAT
 Had enough, smart guy?

Arrow doesn't respond. Wildcat jabs him with his boot, goading him.

WILDCAT (CONT'D)
 Get up. I'm not done.

Nothing. Wildcat bends down, touches Arrow's chest. Then more concerned, he checks a wrist for a pulse.

CLOSE ON WILDCAT - his eyes REACT, ALARMED.

THE WRIST - drops from Wildcat's hand limply.

Wildcat springs to his feet, and backs away from the body.

CANARY - pulls away from the bouncers, and runs to the fence --

CANARY

Is he-?

WILDCAT - spins toward her, wild-eyed... then hangs his head in shame.

PAN SOME FACES IN THE CROWD - hesitant at first, not sure what to make of it... and then they BURST OUT CHEERING.

CROWD

(CHEERS!)

WILDCAT - snaps to the sound of the cheers -- he looks around, disbelieving... and then he hurries out of the cage.

As he steps out of the gate, Canary throws herself at him, grabbing his costume, PUNCHING his chest and his face -- all to no effect. He takes it without resistance or feeling.

CANARY

(screams)

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

ROULETTE (O.S.)

I'll tell you what you did!

Canary turns toward the voice. Roulette runs down to them from the wings.

ROULETTE (CONT'D)

(excitedly)

You've taken the fights to a whole new level! Think of the word that'll spread from this! Anything's possible here! Next time you fight, we'll clear millions!

WILDCAT

No.

Roulette stops, looks at him. She can't believe it.

WILDCAT (CONT'D)

I'm out. Never again.

He walks off toward the lockers, a deflated man.

CANARY watches him - her face a mix of emotions.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER

PAN THE STANDS - they're empty now. PAN ENDS ON THE CAGE, where Black Canary now kneels beside Green Arrow's lifeless body, still lying where it fell.

CANARY

(quiet)

You might've noticed... I'm not too good with guys.

CLOSER - ON CANARY AND ARROW

She picks up one of his hands, and holds it.

CANARY (CONT'D)

I'm so used to using my looks as a weapon, it's not easy for me to be real.

(then, more pissed off)

So just when I was finally starting to tell you, you go and get yourself killed? For what, some macho image of saving me? This was not the way to impress a girl.

ARROW

(weak, gravelly)

...Next time I'll try flowers.

CANARY - looks at his face -- her eyes LIGHT UP --

ON ARROW - his eyes still adjusting -- he grins weakly, then nods toward --

HIS FIST - which now opens to reveal a high tech arrowhead in his palm.

ARROW (O.S., CONT'D)

It's a Stunner. Stops the heart for a few minutes.

CANARY - finally catches her breath:

CANARY

The lesson... You wanted him to see what it would feel like to kill someone.

Arrow nods.

ARROW

Think it worked?

Suddenly a SHADOW FALLS on them. They look up.

It's WILDCAT. He nods somberly.

WILDCAT

It worked.

WIDER

Wildcat and Canary help Arrow to his feet and they start to leave the cage.

Roulette is leaning against the gate, waiting for them, watching the whole scene cynically.

ROULETTE

(to Wildcat)

Who are you kidding? You're not gonna be happy stuck up on that ship. I give you a month, and you'll be back here, crying for me to give you another chance. Mark my words, Wildcat. I know your kind, and you will fight again.

CANARY

You're right, he will. Just not here.

And with that Canary spins around, and --

CANARY (CONT'D)

(SCREEEEEEEE!)

releases her SONIC SCREAM -- destroying the empty seats -- the ticket booths -- the cage -- even the walls themselves.

ROULETTE - sees the whole place coming down, and RUNS for the dressing room hallway --

-- but as she makes it under the arch, a SEAT TUMBLES DOWN from above, and KNOCKS HER TO THE GROUND, unconscious.

ROULETTE
(impact grunt! -- then moans...)

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - HALLWAY OUTSIDE EXERCISE ROOM

ON WILDCAT - seen through the door to the exercise room. He's standing in front of a (little- or even unseen) class of new recruits. He's gruff -- the drill sergeant at work:

WILDCAT
...Don't matter what your super power is. If you're not watching three-sixty around you, you're toast. Now every class or two, we get someone who literally has eyes behind their head. The rest o'you gotta learn how to grow 'em.

PULL BACK as he delivers this speech, to reveal Black Canary watching him proudly from the doorway.

ARROW (O.S.)
How's he doing?

She looks up -- and sees Green Arrow approaching.

CANARY
Good. How about you? Recovering okay?

They walk down the hallway as they talk, the sweeping stars and planet out the window beside them.

ARROW
I've had worse.

CANARY
I wouldn't brag about that.

He grins and nods. She hesitates...

CANARY (CONT'D)

Listen... I know this is all kind
of out of order, but would you
like to get a cup of coffee or
something, and talk? And just --
get to know one another?

Arrow eyes her, uncertain.

CANARY (CONT'D)

I'm buying.

That makes him smile. He gestures.

ARROW

Lead the way.

They walk off, as we...

FADE OUT.

THE END