

Justice League Unlimited

“Double Date”
(Script)

#257-469

Written by Gail Simone
(7/9/04)

*REVISED: July 14, 2004

"Double Date Cast List"

HUNTRESS/HELENA BERTINELLI - Young, rash, occasionally unpredictable superhero, of Italian descent, but raised in the states. Helena is a teacher during the day, so she speaks well, and is no fool. But she has a temper she's barely able to control and a serious hunger for vengeance. Her parents were involved in organized crime, and she maintains a chip on her shoulder over that. Huntress carries a small one-handed crossbow.

BLACK CANARY/DINAH LANCE - (As previous, see "CAT AND CANARY") Beautiful young superheroine. Dinah's got a huge heart and a wry wit, but is one of the best martial artists in the world, and is highly competitive. She has one superpower, the CANARY CRY-basically a sonic hurricane that comes from her vocal chords, which is capable of smashing through brick.

GREEN ARROW/OLIVER QUEEN - (As previous, see "CAT AND CANARY") Oliver is one of the richest superheroes in the league, with a personal fortune over three billion dollars. However, he desperately believes in doing the right thing, and money has been a mixed blessing for him. Green Arrow's talent with archery is nearly superhuman.

THE QUESTION/VIC SAGE - (as previous, see "FEARFUL SYMMETRY ") a creepy guy in a trench coat, fedora, and FACELESS MASK. "Brusque" and "conspiracy nut" would both be understatements. His main driving force is his curiosity, and he actually relates poorly to most other humans. His off-putting manner might work too well, as he's generally pretty lonely.

STEPHEN MANDRAGORA - Normally clad in an expensive business suit, Mandragora is an albino crime boss with pink and black eyes, and a shocking white main of hair. He's massively muscled, and speaks with an imperious, European tone, always implying the threat of danger. He likes pushing people's buttons. He seems brutal and cold, caring about nothing. He sees himself as a predator and most of humanity as mere rabble.

AGENT KING FARADAY - Cocky, a little bit superior. Kind of an old-fashioned, hard-hitting G-man type, but with modern speech. Bit of a tough guy.

"Double Date" Cast List (cont'd)

ALFONSO BERTINELLI - Huntress' father, an old school Cosa Nostra-type crime lord, very loving with his family. A bit paunchy, with a mustache. Not really a dangerous type. Two lines, Italian accent.

MARIA BERTINELLI - Huntress' mom, pretty, aged forty, definitely a few pounds heavier than Helena. One line and a scream.

FEDERAL AGENTS - Non-speaking generic Federal agents.

J'ONN J'ONZZ - (as previous) - The only difference with J'onnn here is that he genuinely wants to see Huntress let her anger go, and he's genuinely remorseful at kicking her out of the League. He feels some empathy with her loner stance, in other words.

EDGAR MANDRAGORA - Stephen's six-year-old son, who is afflicted with the same genetic disorder as his father, but is a complete innocent. One line.

CECIL - Just a big, dumb security guard for Mandragora, who is nevertheless interested in the finer things.

TONY - The smaller of the two guards, Tony is a bully even though Cecil could crush him like a gerbil.

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TEASER

EXT. NIGHT SKY - STARS

Pan down to MANSION, surrounded by ten foot concrete fence and ornate metal gateway. Surrounding the wall is a hedge of shrubbery.

TONY and CECIL, both carrying belts with sidearms, walkie-talkies, and nightsticks, walk in front of the gate, obviously on their regular patrol.

CECIL

...but how come when I make the scones, they don't got that good flavor like yours, Tony?

Tony smacks the CECIL on the back of the head.

TONY

Do I haveta tell you again how you gotta add the orange zest, Cecil? You gonna make me give you the recipe again? You're killin' me here, Cecil. Killin' me!

Their attentions turn when they hear the sound of a tree branch SNAP. Tony grabs his pistol, and Cecil pulls out his nightstick.

CECIL

I heard somethin'...

TONY

Shut up, Cecil. I'm tryin' ta listen.

CECIL

Why you gotta be so mean alla time, Tony? I'm always nice to you.

TONY

You're killin' me, Cecil!

A small, purple crossbow bolt whips out of the shrubbery.

Tony has his gun up at the ready, near his face, and we follow the bolt as it hits his gun, knocking it from his hand.

CLOSE on the concrete wall behind them, as the bolt nails the gun to the wall through the trigger guard. The gun is still spinning around the bolt from the impact.

TONY (O.S.)

Gaah!

HUNTRESS leaps from the shrubbery, punches Tony's stomach. She's moving quickly, silently.

TONY

(Impact grunt!)

CECIL swings at her with his nightstick, which she dodges under, delivering a vicious spin kick into his abdomen.

CECIL

(Impact grunt!)

As TONY and CECIL are starting to fall forward, Huntress leaps first onto the back of Tony, then the back of Cecil, and finally, somersaults over the fence in three quick motions.

INSIDE THE FENCE - MANICURED LAWNS IN FRONT OF THE MANSION

Huntress lands from her somersault, one hand gently touching the ground for a perfect three point landing. She shoots her crossbow up at the third floor window; the bolt has a line attached.

INT. MANSION, UPSTAIRS HALLWAY WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

The window creaks open, and Huntress climbs inside carefully. She pulls a small aerosol can from her belt and sprays out a fine mist, which reveals lasers criss-crossing the hallway.

She LEAPS through the lasers, tucking and rolling to come out unscathed on the far side, in front of a grand bedroom door.

INT. MANDRAGORA'S OPULENT BEDROOM — DARK — CONTINUOUS

The door opens, letting a sliver of light in as Huntress slowly but confidently steps in. The room is extravagant with a hunter's theme, rifles and the mounted heads of ALBINO big game (white rhino, white tiger) on the wall. In the center of the room is a huge four poster feather bed, apparently occupied.

Huntress, half in shadow, speaks to the occupant of the bed.

HUNTRESS

Stephen Mandragora. Been a while.
I've changed some since we met *
last. But you haven't changed. All
*
these years, you've been building
your empire, with thievery and
murder.

Huntress, in close, as she cocks her crossbow.

HUNTRESS

But it ends tonight.

SIDE VIEW as she raises her crossbow, then FIRES a bolt.

View of the BED as several shots fly into the large, body-shaped mass. Down FEATHERS fly all about the room with each impact.

A beat, then Huntress rips the expensive down comforters off of the bed. She's stunned by what she sees.

HUNTRESS

No.

The BED, now with the comforters off, and only a heap of pillows underneath, deliberately arranged to form the impression of a body. FEATHERS continue to fall at random. As Huntress stares in disbelief:

J'ONN (O.S.)

(filtered)

Huntress!

CLOSE

Huntress puts a finger to her ear.

HUNTRESS

J'onnn, I--

J'ONN (O.S.)

You were warned!

WIDER

Huntress's body begins to shimmer; she's transported out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. WATCHTOWER - (CONTINUOUS)

Huntress materializes in one of the Tower's transporters. She looks around and sees J'onnn approaching.

J'ONN

(Barely controlled
anger)

You were told to stay away from
Mandragora. You have violated my
direct orders.

(beat)

You've crossed the line.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. WATCHTOWER, TRANSPORTER ROOM

Huntress is now clearly furious.

HUNTRESS
You've been watching me?

J'ONN
Given what occurred tonight, I
felt it was a wise precaution.

CLOSE UP on Huntress' angry, flashing eyes.

HUNTRESS
You know what Mandragora did. And
I almost had him, he should have
been there, but someone tipped
him...
(she trails off)

Huntress tilts her head and squints at J'onnn.

CLOSE

J'ONN's face -- impassive.

HUNTRESS (O.S.)
You did it.

J'ONN
I had Mandragora moved, yes, for
his own protection. And yours.

WIDER

HUNTRESS
All right, J'onnn. So I get some
Justice League demerits. Fine.
Just spare me the lecture. I can
find him without your help.

J'ONN

You misunderstand. Tonight was a *
test...and you failed.

(beat)

Pack your things, Huntress.
You're out.

Huntress is stunned.

J'ONN (CONT.)

You'll need to turn in your
identification card. Immediately.

Huntress looks like she's almost about to cry for a moment, but then her face turns angry.

HUNTRESS

FINE. I hope you choke on it.

She throws her card at J'on. It bounces off his chest. He then watches Huntress walk out of the room.

WIPE TO:

INT. WATCHTOWER - CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Huntress walking, still angry. She stops as she hears THE QUESTION muttering to himself from inside a room.

QUESTION (O.S.)

Cadmus, Cadmus, wherefore art
thou, Cadmus?

She walks to the doorway of the Question's room. We see his nameplate, which is simply a question mark.

INT. WATCHTOWER - THE QUESTION'S QUARTERS - (CONTINUOUS)

The Question, from behind, as he works at his computer. The room is dominated by a large bulletin board, which has many scraps of paper tacked to it, connected by colored lengths of yarn. This is his CONSPIRACY board.

QUESTION

(to himself)

I know there's a connection.
Don't think I won't find it.

One of Huntress' crossbow bolts flies right by Q's head, slamming into the bulletin board. Q sees this and is startled. He turns around to see...

The very beautiful Huntress, leaning casually in the doorway, still holding up her crossbow. Even though she's just fired a bolt at his beloved board, there's no question that she's very, very hot, particularly to a guy who doesn't show his face much.

HUNTRESS

Maybe you're not looking in the right direction. You're the League's data guy...the conspiracy buff, right? Wildcat says you're a nutjob.

QUESTION

Funny, he says the same thing about you.

HUNTRESS

He's right.

He turns away from her and back to his work, ignoring her.

QUESTION

Okay, bored now. Goodbye.

HUNTRESS

(teasing)

You must be the ugliest guy of all time, Question. Hiding your face like that.

QUESTION

(Trying to sound impatient)

Go away.

Huntress enters the room and looks at the Conspiracy board more closely. She raises one hand to touch it.

QUESTION

Don't touch that.

Huntress ignores the warning and traces some of the lines with her fingers.

HUNTRESS

(flattering)

Wow...I had no idea that the Girl Scouts were responsible for the crop circle phenomenon...

QUESTION

Few people do. Few even think to ask the question.

She turns to face him, mildly amused.

HUNTRESS

Well, I have a question for you, then. Do you know what apophenia is?

QUESTION

Apophenia, noun; the tendency to see connections where none exist. Did you come here just to make fun
*
of my work?

HUNTRESS

No, Q. I came to help you. And let's just keep the rest of the League out of it, shall we?

She taps the wall behind her, where the bolt is.

HUNTRESS

Here's the deal...

CLOSE on the bolt, which has punctured the slip of paper with the word CADMUS on it.

HUNTRESS (O.S.)

I tell you what I know about Cadmus...

CLOSE ON HUNTRESS

Suddenly very serious:

HUNTRESS (CONT.)

... immediately after you help me find what rock Stephen Mandragora is hiding under.

CLOSE ON QUESTION

as he pauses, considering her offer.

QUESTION
Hmph. Interesting.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

A typical suburban home. There are two plain cars in the driveway, both black and nondescript. Next to the house is a tree, and we should see a bit of a tree fort in that tree.

MANDRAGORA (O.S.)
(Sounds of food being messily
devoured)

INT. SUBURBAN SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

The interior of the home is very generically Brady-esque, complete with fireplace, large dining table, and wood paneling.

Pan over the spectators of this scene: two federal agents, BLACK CANARY and GREEN ARROW. They're clearly appalled by whatever it is that's making all the loud chewing sounds. The first agent has a hand up to his face, trying not to look, the second squints and flinches, Canary raises an eyebrow and covers her mouth, and Green Arrow simply looks appalled, as the sounds continue.

NEW ANGLE

STEPHEN MANDRAGORA is at the dining room table, with many empty trays in front of him. He's a massive albino, and we can see he's muscular, even under his suit. He's sucking raw oysters from the shell while giving his confession to AGENT FARADAY. A tape recorder is recording on the table between them.

MANDRAGORA
(O.S., between noxious
chewing and slurping
sounds)
I believe that individual passed
beyond the veil at the hands of
one Tommy Monaghan, who himself
later mistakenly fell onto a train
track, I am told...

FARADAY

Now why is it that most of your criminal acquaintances seem to be deceased?

MANDRAGORA

Perhaps my friends are simply prone to misfortune, Agent Farraday.

FARADAY

My job is to prep you to testify before the Grand Jury, Mr. Mandragora. You're going to have to come up with a lot more than some mook who may or may not be around anymore if you want immunity from prosecution.

MANDRAGORA

I'm doing my best. You can't blame me for being nervous. I have enemies everywhere.

CLOSE ON

Black Canary and Green Arrow, unfazed at this point.

MANDRAGORA (CONT.)

Even Justice League enemies.

BACK TO MANDRAGORA'S

as he smiles mischievously.

MANDRAGORA

Besides, I am ravaged by hunger. Feed me, and I shall squeal on all manner of former associates.

He turns his pink and black predator's eye to

HIS POV

Black Canary, who remains impassive. PAN TO Green Arrow, not so controlled.

BACK TO MANDRAGORA

MANDRAGORA

Speaking of squealing, Black
Canary....I notice you can't take
your eyes off of me. One can
hardly blame you.

CLOSE ON

Green Arrow's hand, holding his bow, as his fist clenches
tighter.

BACK TO MANDRAGORA

Grinning.

MANDRAGORA

Perhaps after Agent Faraday helps
absolve me of my alleged crimes...
*

He smiles, revealing sharpened teeth.

MANDRAGORA (CONT.)

...I could put you in a cage and
have you sing for me.

WIDER

Green Arrow starts forward, angrily pointing a finger.

GREEN ARROW

Listen, you giant tub of...

Faraday looks at Green Arrow wearily.

FARADAY

Green Arrow, may I remind you that
you're here strictly in a security
capacity, to stand guard during
our questioning of Mr. Mandragora?

Mandragora smiles delightedly.

MANDRAGORA

Yes. Why don't you go and fetch me another four platters of oysters, like a good little leprechaun? I'm sure your girlfriend and I will have much to discuss while you're gone.

(He licks his lips juicily, making a smacking sound.)

I like my oysters sweet, by the way. Sweet and juicy.

Green Arrow rushes towards him, only to be stopped by two agents.

Canary smiles wryly, her eyes never leaving Mandragora's.

BLACK CANARY

Let him talk, Arrow. With all the enemies he's made, he never knows if he's eating his last meal.

MANDRAGORA

(Amused laughter, fading out)

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY IN DISREPUTABLE NEIGHBOORHOOD -- NIGHT

Huntress is by her motorcycle. She has a cell phone in one hand and is pacing as she speaks.

HUNTRESS

(testy)

All right, Q. You said you'd help me. Where are they keeping Mandragora? Well?

We hear a FLAT CLICK and a DIAL TONE. She looks at the phone angrily.

HUNTRESS

(coldly)

Oooh, you did NOT just hang up on me.

She turns at the loud sound of a muscle car engine. It's the Question, in a hot-looking, super-sweet customized GTO hardtop.

QUESTION

Figured I'd cut out the middleman.

She looks at the car, clearly impressed. He opens the driver's side door for her, then scoots across to the passenger's seat.

HUNTRESS

Oh, baby doll.

She looks back at her bike. Then at the car. No contest. She gets in and takes the wheel.

INT. CAR - (CONTINUOUS)

Huntress smiles at him, her first genuine smile.

HUNTRESS

Oh, just for the record...

CLOSE on her hand as she slams it into gear.

HUNTRESS (O.S.) (CONT.)

...I usually prefer my dates to have a face.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The car peels out, leaving a trail of scorched rubber on the asphalt.

CUT TO:

INT. MANDRAGORA'S SAFE HOUSE - SAME TIME

Things have gotten worse. GREEN ARROW looks ready to throw down with Mandragora, who sits smiling.

GREEN ARROW

(to agent)

Five minutes, that's all I need.
Just give me five minutes...

AGENT

Arrow, if you'll please calm
down...

GREEN ARROW (CONT.)

...I'll teach this pompous jerk
some manners.

Faraday is furious.

FARADAY

Listen, Justice League or not, you will sit down and behave!

GREEN ARROW

You heard what he said!

Mandragora's making a mock sad face.

MANDRAGORA

Oh, dear. Did I offend you somehow, little man? My most sincere apologies.

ON BLACK CANARY

Confident, arms crossed. Almost smug.

BLACK CANARY

Faraday's right, Arrow. Relax. Nothing this guy can say is going to affect me one way or the other.

CLOSE ON MANDRAGORA

He's loving this, for some reason.

MANDRAGORA

Is that right? Well, then perhaps you won't mind explaining how a lovely young lady like you ends up with a nobody like him. Were all the real men in the Justice League already taken?

CLOSE ON Black Canary as she starts a slow burn...

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. MANDRAGORA'S SAFE HOUSE - THE FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Canary and Arrow are pushed out the door, which SLAMS shut behind them. They're both a bit shame-faced and surprised. Canary is holding her right hand, as if it hurts a bit.

They look at each other.

BLACK CANARY

I hope you're proud of yourself.
Now we have do guard duty from
outside.

GREEN ARROW

"Hope I'M proud of myself?"
YOU'RE the one that punched him!

BLACK CANARY

Yeah, but...ow. It was like
punching a brick wall. There's no
fat on that man.

Green Arrow grabs her hand. She starts to pull it away.

GREEN ARROW

Will you let me look?

She watches him, not displeased, as he touches her hand gently, looking for broken bones. He doesn't know she's looking at him fondly.

GREEN ARROW

I think you'll live to punch
suspects another day, Pretty Bird.
Let's find some higher ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAFE HOUSE YARD - TREE WITH FORT - LATER

BLACK CANARY (O.S)

This is ridiculous. I can't
believe we're going to all this
trouble to protect a killer.

INT. TREE FORT

This is just a simple wooden tree fort in the tree outside the Mandragora safe house. Canary is pacing impatiently, but Green Arrow is just sitting, watching her go back and forth.

GREEN ARROW

It's how it goes, Dinah. They let
a bad guy go free, and he rats out
dozens of others. It's not
perfect.

Black Canary is looking out at the stars.

BLACK CANARY

No. No, it isn't. Makes you wonder
how his victims would feel, if
they knew.

She looks down at the house below. She's still facing away from him, not looking at him. There's a small silent pause. Then he reaches for her hand.

GREEN ARROW

Hey. You gonna get all serious on
me?

He pulls her down onto his lap.

BLACK CANARY

(laughter)

You bet.

She gives him a serious kiss on the lips. As they sit like that, her arms around him, HEADLIGHTS wash over them from below.

EXT. SAFE HOUSE YARD - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

A police car comes up the driveway.

EXT. TREE HOUSE

BLACK CANARY

More cops...

*

GREEN ARROW

So? The more the merrier.

The Question's GTO pulls up (lights out), a good distance from the patrol car so as not to be seen.

BLACK CANARY

Someone else, too.

CUT TO:

INT. MANDRAGORA SAFE-HOUSE - FRONT DOOR

Mandragora is sitting at the table, sweating nervously, yelling at Faraday, who sits across from him.

MANDRAGORA

Who are these guys? I haven't
seen them here before.

FARADAY

Keep your big shirt on, Mr.
Mandragora. They're checking 'em
out.

MANDRAGORA

You check 'em out! That's your
job, do it!

FARADAY

(sighs)

He gets up and moves O.S., toward the door.

NEW ANGLE - THE DOOR

Looking IN, over the cops' shoulders, at the two agents who
block the doorway. Faraday can now be seen approaching the
cops.

FARADAY

Okay, guys, let's see some I.D. *

The cops don't respond; quizzical looks appear on the faces of
Faraday and his two agents. Then:

NEW ANGLE - THE COPS

They are Cecil and Tony in cop uniforms, smiling.

TONY

Nice night for a distraction,
ain't it?

FARADAY

What in the world?

Mandragora's huge hand clamps down on Faraday's head,
effortlessly lifting him off the ground. Then he's thrown
across the room. This should be swift and brutal; we need to
see that Mandragora is inhumanly strong.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAFE HOUSE – FRONT LAWN – NIGHT

Huntress and Question rush from the car, turning the corner around the garage...

Only to find Green Arrow and Black Canary standing in the pathway, spoiling for a fight. Canary's confident, maybe even eager, to fight. Green Arrow's a little more cautious, but he's got an arrow notched and aimed in their direction.

BLACK CANARY

You're not going in that house,
Huntress. That, I promise.

Huntress carefully moves a bit closer.

HUNTRESS

(bluffing badly)
I'm here on League business,
Canary.

GREEN ARROW

That's not what J'onn said. We
just called him.

TWO SHOT

Huntress whispers conspiratorially to Question.

HUNTRESS

Okay, that didn't work.

QUESTION

Maybe this will...

The Question turns and throws a punch at Green Arrow, decking him.

GREEN ARROW

(impact grunt)

Huntress LEAPS at Canary with a flying kick.

HUNTRESS

TSAiiiiiiYAH!

Canary puts up her forearm to block. As they fight, it's important to show that while Huntress is talented and crazy, Canary is a better fighter.

Meanwhile, Green Arrow is on the ground, looking up at the Question.

GREEN ARROW
Why are you doing this, Question?

QUESTION
You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

Question dives at G.A., who rolls out of the way.

QUESTION
(impact grunt)

Huntress now has the upper hand on Canary and is nailing her with punches.

HUNTRESS
And here...(Exertion grunt!) ...I heard you were some kind of brilliant fighter.

Canary suddenly flips Huntress over with one leg, so that Huntress crashes through the windshield of the police car.

HUNTRESS
(impact grunt)

Canary gets to her feet.

CANARY
You heard right.

Huntress starts to climb out of the police car, but before she can get very far, Question is flung through the windshield.

QUESTION AND HUNTRESS
(impact grunts)

GA

Is standing nearby, watching with satisfaction. Canary now comes up beside him, but before she can say anything,

A LOUD ALARM goes on in the house (and continues on).

Canary rushes to the house and knocks the door in with one powerful kick.

Meanwhile, Huntress gets up painfully.

Arrow has notched an arrow and it's pointed at Huntress.

GREEN ARROW

I strongly advise you to stay
down. These impact arrows are
non-lethal, but they hurt. A lot.

CANARY comes out of the house, slightly frantic.

BLACK CANARY

He's gone. Mandragora is GONE.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. THE SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

RESUME, inside the house. Green Arrow is checking on the agents, helping them to their feet, as Canary is berating a defiant Huntress. They look just about ready to throw down again.

CANARY

Do you have any idea what you've done?

HUNTRESS

Yes. I hunted a murderer. A murderer the League is protecting.

Green Arrow steps between them.

GREEN ARROW

We don't have time for this.
We've got...

Arrow catches a glimpse of the Question surreptitiously picking up a SMALL KEY from the floor.

GREEN ARROW

...to ask the Question what it is he just picked up and put in his pocket.

The Question tries to look innocent, pointing at himself.

QUESTION

Me?

Green Arrow lifts his bow slightly towards the Question.

GREEN ARROW

Don't make me ask again.

CLOSE UP on the Question's hand, as he pulls a door key out of his pocket. The key has a small tag attached to it.

QUESTION (O.S)

Oh, you mean THIS.

Black Canary grabs the key, none too gently, then examines it.

BLACK CANARY

It's a storage key. For a place
down by the train station.

Green Arrow's eyes narrow.

GREEN ARROW

All right. You two stay here.
Don't make me sic Black Canary on
you. You've only seen her nice
side so far.

Huntress and the Question watch as Dinah and Green Arrow leave.
Huntress painfully slaps the Question on his arm, and he grabs
it instinctively.

QUESTION

Ow! What was that for?

HUNTRESS

All that crazy mystery man mojo
and you couldn't even pick up a
clue without being seen?

The Question rubs his arm. He'd be smiling, if he had a face.

QUESTION

The key wasn't the clue. The key
was mine.

He holds up a small pamphlet, about the size of a checkbook.

QUESTION

Now this list of container ship
arrivals I palmed while they were
yelling at you? That's the clue.

INT. TREE HOUSE - NIGHT

Green Arrow and Black Canary are on their stomachs (laying down
*
on a the tree house floor). *

BLACK CANARY

(Whispering)

I don't get it. Why aren't we on
our way to the train station?

Green Arrow holds a finger to his lips (the shhhhhh signal) as he looks out towards the driveway.

We see the driveway, as the Question's car pulls out. Green Arrow moves the finger from his lips to point the same finger at the other pair as they leave.

GREEN ARROW

Because I know when I'm being
conned.

BLACK CANARY

You're cute when you're an
insufferable smarty-pants.

THE QUESTION'S CAR tears away into the night.

THE ROAD - SUBURBS - NIGHT

The Question speaks, without looking at Huntress.

QUESTION

You don't know a thing about
Cadmus, do you?

Huntress looks down at her lap.

HUNTRESS

I needed your help.

QUESTION

Why is Mandragora so important?
What is it that he did to you?

HUNTRESS

You wouldn't understand.

QUESTION

Wouldn't understand what? That he
worked for your father, Alfonso
Bertinelli? Or that your father
was himself a powerful crime boss?

Huntress' eyes widen in surprise as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE — LIMITED COLOR PALETTE

An eight-year-old Helena Bertinelli, not a care in the world, walking through a park holding hands with her mom and dad. Helena is so very happy.

QUESTION (V.O.)

You were just a child. You certainly didn't understand what your father did for a living.

Three goons in dark suits follow the Bertinellis, heads turning to keep watch for rival families.

QUESTION (V.O.)

You just knew that when he talked, people listened. That he always had his 'guys' around him to do whatever he said..

A young, maybe 25 year old, Mandragora. A bit thinner, but still with that horrible grin, walking behind them all.

QUESTION (V.O.)

...and that the most frightening one was always Mandragora. Looking into his eyes was like looking into an empty pit.

INT. BERTINELLI'S BEDROOM — FLASHBACK

The room is furnished in opulent old-world style. Huntress' father, panicked, sweating, as he shoves Helena in the closet.

MARIA BERTINELLI

(Background, muffled)

He's coming!

(screams)

ALFONSO BERTINELLI

Get behind me, Helena! It'll be all right!

QUESTION (V.O.)

One terrible night, Mandragora decided he no longer wished to take orders. Your father hoped to protect you by hiding you in a closet.

OUTSIDE THE CLOSET DOOR (SLIGHTLY AJAR)

Eight-year-old Helena's eye, open wide in terror. We don't see what's going on in the bedroom, we only see Helena witnessing something awful

END FLASHBACK

Huntress, looking away from the Question, tears in her eyes. Then back to the Question, watching the road.

QUESTION

But you saw it all, Helena. Stephan Mandragoro killed your parents while you watched helplessly, isn't that what happened?

Huntress is stunned.

HUNTRESS

If you know all that...

*

The Question is impassive.

HUNTRESS (O.S.)

Then you probably know what I'm going to do to Mandragoro when I catch him. So why help me?

QUESTION

(With Hamlet-style intonation)

That is the question.

SIDE OF THE CAR as Question adjusts his side view mirror.

QUESTION

Somebody's following us.

CLOSE UP-SIDE VIEW MIRROR - We see Black Canary on her motorcycle, with Green Arrow hanging on for dear life.

Huntress looks back.

HUNTRESS

Lose them.

Question grabs the stick.

QUESTION

Like airline luggage.

Huntress and Question are slammed against the headrests as the car speeds forward.

THE ROAD - INNER CITY GOTHAM - NIGHT

The chase is moving into the main city and out of the suburbs, as Black Canary goes zooming by on her motorcycle, Green Arrow hanging on desperately behind.

GREEN ARROW

You're not supposed to drive when you're angry.

BLACK CANARY

They're heading towards the waterfront! Hang on!

GREEN ARROW

It's so funny you think you have *
to tell me that.

CITY STREET - UNDER AN ELEVATED TRAIN TUNNEL - NIGHT

Profile as the GTO goes ZOOMING by...followed almost immediately by Canary and Arrow, going equally fast.

IN THE CAR, the Question touches his JLU earpiece. Huntress looks angry.

BLACK CANARY (O.S.)

Stop the car, Question! Pull over!

QUESTION

Stop following us, Canary.

HUNTRESS

Is that her? Give me that.

Huntress rips the earpiece from Question's ear.

QUESTION

Hey!

Huntress barks into the com-link.

HUNTRESS

You want a piece of me, Blondie?
Bring it.

...and TIGHT ON HER FOOT slamming down on his, which happens to be on the gas pedal.

THE ROAD - INNER CITY - CONTINUOUS

The car rockets forward even faster. Huntress throws the earpiece out onto the road, where BS heedlessly runs over it.

The car, now nearly out of control, drives right up the bed of a flatbed truck. The bed is tilted at an angle to the ground, so it's just like a jumping ramp. The car is completely airborne...

ELEVATED TRAIN TRACK, as the car lands hard, sending sparks everywhere. Black Canary heads directly for the same truck bed as previous. ON Green Arrow, as his face looks doomed.

GREEN ARROW

This is so unnecessary.

THE MOTORCYCLE IN AIR - SLOW MOTION. The motorcycle lands hard. Black Canary and Green Arrow race down the track, their voices vibrating with the thump of the rail ties.

GREEN ARROW

Are we dead yet?

BLACK CANARY

No.

GREEN ARROW

Are we dead yet?

BLACK CANARY

Look, if we die, I promise I'll let you know!

THE GTO

Drives into the ELEVATED TRAIN TUNNEL, its taillights fading in the darkness. Question and Huntress react, as the HORN and SOUND of an oncoming train approaches them. They are nearly blinded by its headlamp. It's coming closer by the second.

HUNTRESS

Train.

QUESTION

I see it.

HUNTRESS

Train!

QUESTION

I see it!

At the last possible instant, the Question quickly turns into an intersecting tunnel, the train hurtles by right behind them and continues down the tracks.

THE MOTORCYCLE

Black Canary drives right into the train tunnel at high speed. The train is heading right for them.

BLACK CANARY

Whoops.

Green Arrow toggles his com-link.

GREEN ARROW

J'onn! Get us out of here! Now!

GA and BC are immediately TELEPORTED off of the bike, which SMASHES into the train.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GOTHAM DOCKS - NIGHT

Green Arrow and Black Canary MATERIALIZE and slam into the water (at least twenty yards past the docks at 60 mph). There is no sound for a moment, then they both surface, wet and unhappy, and begin swimming to the docks.

BLACK CANARY

(Sputtering)

I can't believe you! I rebuilt
that bike by hand!

GREEN ARROW

You're absolutely right. I'm sorry
I saved our lives.

BLACK CANARY

(inarticulate GROWL)

She swims towards the shore alone.

GREEN ARROW

And J'onn thinks Huntress is the
unstable one.

GA swims after her.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GOTHAM DOCKS - NIGHT

It's a typical small dock in a big city, filled with smaller cargo and pleasure vessels. Question and Huntress are walking along the docks, amid the large crates. We see a large crane, holding a palette full of metal pipes and rebar, in the large loading area.

HUNTRESS

Look, there are a hundred ships
leaving here a day. If Mandragora
is trying to get out of the
country, how are we supposed to
know which one he's on?

QUESTION

What if he isn't hopping a
freighter? What if he's playing a
more subtle game?

HUNTRESS

No more questions, okay? What are
you saying?

QUESTION

What if he's here to meet a freighter? As it happens, there's one coming in from his home country this very evening. Come on.

The Question and Huntress rapidly scurry away. A few moments later, Canary and Green Arrow pull themselves up from under the dock. They heard everything.

CUT TO:

EXT. A BERTH ON THE DOCKS - NIGHT

Huntress and Question watch from behind a crate as a white limousine pulls up near the docks themselves, right in front of a small freighter.

EXT. BOW OF THE FREIGHTER - we see the name 'GREAT WHITE' painted on the side.

EXT. DOCKS - WHITE LIMO - Tony is driving, and he gets out to open the door for Mandragora, who exits his specially designed car.

BACK TO Huntress behind the crate.

HUNTRESS

That's him. He's mine. You take the two guards. Ready?

Before she can act, however...Canary leaps from the crates nearest Mandragora, kicking out with one leg to kick at his face.

BLACK CANARY

(angry battle cry)

Mandragora grabs her by the leg, however...he's faster than he looks, and flings her into more crates.

BLACK CANARY

(Painful grunt!)

Back to Huntress in her vantage point, close up as she watches.

HUNTRESS

I'm really starting to dislike
that woman.

EXT. DOCKS — LOADING AREA — NIGHT

Mandragora looms over Black Canary, who is struggling to get up, painfully. He's smiling, and he pulls back one huge fist, about to smack her down for good. He's interrupted by a voice, and he turns back to see.

GREEN ARROW (O.S)

HEY.

CLOSE ON Green Arrow, who has notched several of the non-lethal arrows at once and is pointing them directly at Mandragora. We see the tip is a blunt disc, not an edged arrowhead.

GREEN ARROW

I got your plate of oysters right
HERE, big man.

Mandragora hesitates only briefly, then goes back to attack position over Canary.

GREEN ARROW

Warned you.

He lets the arrows fly...and we quickly pan to Mandragora, who is hit by several, which seem merely annoying to him as they bounce off his skin. He turns and runs towards Green Arrow like a locomotive. Green Arrow as he stands his ground, his fist at the ready, but...

The Question jumps in front of Green Arrow and punches Mandragora hard, in the face. It slows Mandragora for a minute, then he merely smiles that horrible smile.

MANDRAGORA

(Surprised Grunt!)

Mandragora throws one arm in a mighty sweeping blow against both Green Arrow and the Question, sending them flying painfully.

CRATES, as Question and Green Arrow are sent flying, landing in a heap of wooden boxes, smashing them to bits. Arrow hits the crane, and looks up to see the palette of rebar and pipes sway a little. He realizes it's not going to fall, and looks relieved.

GREEN ARROW

Whew.

CLOSE ON The Question, laying sprawled painfully on the ground. They both are in pain.

QUESTION

(pained)

Thought you might need some help.

GREEN ARROW

(pained)

I do. Know anybody?

Mandragora picks up a huge chunk of metal pipe, preparing to use it like a baseball bat on the two injured Leaguers. He is right in front of a stack of crates.

ON Canary, looking fiercely determined, ready to protect her teammates, face him.

BLACK CANARY

Didn't anyone ever tell you,
Mandragora? No one messes with
the Justice League.

BC utters her astonishing CANARY CRY, which should look almost like a horizontal hurricane as it BLASTS Mandragora.

CLOSE on BC as she gives it her all.

CLOSE on Mandragora as his shirt RIPS off his chest, his flesh UNDULATES, and the crates behind him EXPLODE from the force of the Canary cry.

Canary stops, obviously drained. She's given her best.

MANDRAGORA (O.S)

(Cruel, but hearty laughter)

Mandragora, smiling, reaches down to pull Canary off the ground by her hair, painfully. He reaches out with his other hand to squeeze her throat...

HUNTRESS (O.S.)

Mandragora.

ON Huntress, as she stands, crossbow aimed at Mandragora.

HUNTRESS

I've got special arrows, too: The pointy kind that'll go right through you. Put her down. Now.

Mandragora hesitates, then drops the struggling Black Canary.

CANARY

(impact GRUNT)

Mandragora holds up his empty hands.

MANDRAGORA (ALMOST CHEERFULLY)

Very well, then. I surrender. Back to Federal custody, I suppose?

CLOSE UP on Huntress' face, as her eyes narrow.

HUNTRESS

Not this time.

Huntress turns to a noise from the gangplank near the freighter. Mandragora's son EDGAR runs up the gangplank, afraid for his father.

EDGAR (FEARFUL)

Papa!

Huntress stands firm, not dropping her aim, as the boy is scooped up in his dad's embrace. Mandragora smiles, and this time, it's not malicious. He's proud of his son.

MANDRAGORA

Edgar!

Huntress stares at the scene, not knowing what to do. Mandragora turns to her, playing for sympathy,

MANDRAGORA

While I was still in the old country, a rival criminal organization kidnapped my son.

EDGAR looks at Huntress in fear for his father.

MANDRAGORA

It took me all this time to
arrange his rescue. Rest assured
that his captors were taught the
error of their ways.

HUNTRESS

Rest assured, I'm about to teach
you the same lesson.

Mandragora looks down at the crossbow, then back up at Huntress.

MANDRAGORA

All I wanted was for my son and I
to disappear, together.

Huntress is expressionless. She's going to shoot this guy.

MANDRAGORA (CONT'D)

Get behind me, Edgar. It will be
all right.

QUESTION (O.S.)

Huntress!

We see Question, holding his possibly-fractured arm. A weary and
battered Black Canary and Green Arrow behind him, looking
genuinely sympathetic.

QUESTION (CONT'D)

Is this really what you want?

HUNTRESS' POV

On Mandragora then panning down to reveal Edgar, peeking out
pitifully from behind his father, he's in the identical pose as
little Helena, peering out of the closet in the flashback.

HUNTRESS

Ice cold as she COCKS her crossbow.

Mandragora SHOVES his son away from him.

EDGAR

(startled CRY)

HUNTRESS

No.

Huntress FIRES.

THE LIGHTING STRUCTURE ABOVE THE DOCKS

as the bolt SEVERs the chain holding the palette of rebar and pipes.

MANDRAGORA

looks up, but doesn't even attempt to move, as the palette lands on him, spilling pipes and rebar everywhere, and driving him halfway through the thick wooden planks of the dock. He's not dead, but he's not getting up anytime soon, either.

MANDRAGORA
(keep alive MOAN)

HUNTRESS
That's not what I want at all.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SAME WATERFRONT DOCKS - DAWN - AFTERMATH

Several police cars and an ambulance are on the docks, lights still flashing. Two cops have TONY and CECIL in handcuffs. Faraday is putting Mandragora in a special paddy wagon. Mandragora looks out at Edgar, who is with a social services worker and a police officer. Edgar sadly WAVES at his father. The back doors of the vehicle SLAM SHUT.

Nearby, we see the Question's GTO parked near the smashed palette.

QUESTION
Mandragora never had any intention of cooperating with the prosecutors. He was just stalling until his son arrived. Their new identities were already in place, not to mention a Cayman island account full of ill-gotten gains to finance their new lives.

HUNTRESS)
You knew all along that the kid was going to be on that freighter.

QUESTION

I do my homework.

*

HUNTRESS

Then why go to all the trouble to help? Why risk your life for me?

Question pauses, then finally speaks.

QUESTION

(Clears throat)

Because I like you.

HUNTRESS is taken aback, as if creeped out and surprised at the same time. Then something else comes over her, and she smiles.

CLOSE UP as she grabs his tie and pulls him in for a big KISS. * She breaks the kiss, and holding his tie like a leash, pulls him out of frame.

QUESTION

Where are we going?

HUNTRESS

Don't ask so many Questions.

Surprised Green Arrow and repulsed Black Canary watch Huntress and Question walk off.

CANARY

I'm sorry, but ewww.

FADE OUT.

THE END