

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN A GUNMAN MURDERED HIS PARENTS, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR ON CRIME! BY DAY, HE IS A MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY... BUT BY NIGHT, HE PROWLs GOTHAM CITY TO PREY ON THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD AS THE DREAD...

BATMAN

... BUT ON THIS NIGHT, THE WORLD'S MOST FEARSOME SPECIES OF VERMIN MAY WELL PREY ON HIM! FOR THE DEADLIEST MAN ALIVE IS A SPECIES UNTO HIMSELF-- AND HIS NAME IS ...

YARRRR

INCREDIBLE! A TOTALLY SOUNDLESS EXPLOSIVE!

IF NOT FOR THAT BRIEF FLASH, I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE NOTICED THAT BREAK-IN DOWN THERE!

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THE DEAD ON ARRIVAL CONSPIRACY



THE HOLE IN THE BUILDING'S WALL IS STILL RED-HOT WHEN THE BATMAN SWINGS THROUGH IT...

...ABANDONS HIS ROPE... SOARS ACROSS A PITCH-BLACK ROOM... AND KICKS OUT HIS FOOT TO STAB A WALL-SWITCH...



...FLOODING THE ROOM WITH LIGHT!

I'VE SEEN SOME UNUSUAL ROBBERIES IN MY TIME, BUT A POST OFFICE--??

AND THAT'S NO ORDINARY GUN THAT GUY'S PULLING, EITHER!

THE BATMAN'S PERFORMED AN AMAZING FEAT...



...BUT SOMEHOW THE ROBBERS ARE LESS THAN PARALYZED WITH AMAZEMENT--SO...

OKAY "JUNIOR" --YOU SHOWED OFF YOUR FANCY PIECE!

NOW WOULD YOU MIND POINTING IT SOMEWHERE ELSE?



IF THIS WERE THE MOVIE I SAW ON THE LATE SHOW LAST NIGHT...

...THIS WOULD BE THE PART WHERE SOME OTHER GUY GUNS ME FROM BEHIND!

BUT, THEN, STUFF LIKE THAT ONLY HAPPENS IN THE MOVIES!

THIS LETTER--IT MUST'VE BEEN WHAT THEY CAME FOR--

HUNH? HE'S WEARING SOME KIND OF COSTUME--? I'VE NEVER SEEN A GET-UP LIKE THAT BEFORE...

... AT LEAST, NOT ON ANY PUNK WORKING GOTHAM!

I SHOULD'VE REALIZED THE MINUTE I SAW THAT SILENT EXPLOSION...

... I'M NOT DEALING WITH RUN-OF-THE-MILL RIP-OFF ARTISTS HERE!



>UNNH!<

BLAST! SO... FASCINATED BY THAT COSTUME... I'M GETTING CARELESS--!

TRYING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT--? LET THEM...

AT LEAST I'VE STILL GOT THE LETTER--!

... THEY WON'T GET FAR!

OH, NO?

IF YOU THOUGHT THE COSTUMES WERE FANCY, BATMAN-- THIS NEXT TRICK IS GOING TO KNOCK YOUR COWL OFF!

I STAND CORRECTED...

... AND AMAZED! THEY'VE GOT SOME SORT OF ANTI-GRAVITY RAY--!

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!

CLICK

INSTANTLY, HE WITHDRAWS A MINIATURE CAMERA FROM HIS UTILITY BELT, INSERTS INFRARED FILM, AND...

THEY'RE BEING DRAWN UPWARD-- BUT WHERE TO?

HOPEFULLY, THE FILM WILL TELL ME SOMETHING MY EYES CAN'T!

AND AFTER THE CRIMINALS
HAVE VANISHED...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY
BE SO IMPORTANT
ABOUT ONE LETTER--

--WHAT?! IT'S
ADDRESSED TO...
BRUCE WAYNE!?

THIS SCAM IS
GETTING
STRANGER BY
THE MINUTE!

BRUCE WA
WAYNE

HOURS LATER, LIGHTED WINDOWS
IN A PENTHOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE
FOUNDATION BUILDING INDICATE THE
BURNING OF MIDNIGHT OIL...

ALFRED--THIS
LETTER IS...
INCREDIBLE!

I'LL READ PART OF IT
TO YOU--
LISTEN...

"DEAR MR.
WAYNE: IF
YOU ARE
READING
THIS, I
AM DEAD..."

I was born in
India as one of a set of
Siamese twins! The hospital told
my parents that my brother died
during the operation that separated
us...

...18 months
ago, I learned that
they'd lied--and my brother was
actually kidnapped...

...by members of a secret
cult of Cobra-worship-
bers! According to a
prophecy in their scriptures, my
brother was destined to be
their next leader...

All my life, I'd experienced
strange sensations--inexplicable
pains and pleasures! Recently,
I scoured their cause:



...and was raised by the cult--
who prepared him to become their
master, training him in all
their arcane, rituals and
martial skills!



By an accident of nature called
"Physical Telepathy," I felt
whatever my twin felt--and
Vice Versa!



When he would be injured--I would feel the pain too!

I am his principal obstacle to world domination--for if I should die, he dies as well!

Recently, KOBRA kidnapped the woman I loved--MELISSA McNEIL! When I saw her last, she'd been brainwashed--turned against me.*



My parents are dead--and now Mel is gone. I have nothing left to live for...

*AS SHOWN IN KOBRA #7! --PAUL

...SO IF YOU'RE READING THIS, IT MEANS I'VE RISKED MY LIFE TO STOP KOBRA--AND DIED!



BUT THE CULT REMAINS--AND MUST BE ABOLISHED! ONLY A GREAT DETECTIVE--LIKE YOUR FRIEND, THE BATMAN--CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT...



My evil brother became KOBRA--and led the cult into crime... building it into a global criminal organization of vast and almost unlimited power!

...AND HE MUST--OR EARTH IS DOOMED! GOOD LUCK--JASON BURR.

THAT'S ALL I WROTE--I SWEAR!



ALL? AS IF YOU HAD NOT DONE ENOUGH--!



ME?? LOOK, MAN, YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELF! YOU RESURRECTED THE BODIES OF OUR PARENTS!

YOU USED THEM TO LURE ME INTO THIS TRAP!

NATURALLY, MY PRIVATE-EYE FRIEND FIGURED I WAS DEAD...

...AND, OBEYING MY LAST WISHES, HE SENT THE LETTER TO WAYNE!

DON'T BLAME ME--IF YOU HADN'T CAPTURED ME... *YUNNK*... HE WOULDN'T HAVE SENT IT!

YOUR ESPECIOUS LOGIC AMUSES ME, BURR... AS DOES YOUR AGONY!

THAT AGONY IS MADE POSSIBLE BY MY NEURAL NEUTRALIZER DEVICE--WHICH NEGATES THE TELEPATHY BETWEEN US!

SSOON, THE NEUTRALIZER WILL WEAR OFF--

--AND I MUST WAIT SSEVERAL HOURS BEFORE IT CAN BE USED AGAIN!

FOR NOW, I MERELY PUNISH MY MINIONS FOR FAILING TO RECOVER THAT LETTER-- AND YOU, FOR WRITING IT!

BUT MARK ME WELL, BROTHER--WHEN I CAN NEXT USE THE NEUTRALIZER...

...YOU WILL DIE!

TURN TIME AHEAD ONE HOUR-- TO THE MASKED MANHUNTER'S DISTINCTIVE JET, SOARING OVER THE ATLANTIC...

IT'S ALL TOO INCREDIBLE FOR WORDS, ALFRED! I BARELY REMEMBER JASON...

...FROM WHEN I MET HIM ONCE-- ALONG WITH HIS FATHER. BRUCE WAYNE WAS ONCE A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER IN BURR INDUSTRIES.

IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THE BOY'S LETTER--BUT IT'S TRUE!

YES--AND MY PHOTOS CLINCH IT! THIS CRAFT MUST BE THE "ARK" JASON WROTE ABOUT...

...COMPLETE WITH THE "MASKER" THAT MAKES IT INVISIBLE--

--WHICH EXPLAINS WHY IT ONLY SHOWED UP UNDER INFRARED LIGHT!

SOMETHING
ON THE ARK'S
PONTOONS
CAUGHT MY EYE--

--AND A BLOWUP
REVEALED TRACES
OF NEEDLES FROM
THE UNIQUE AROLLA
PINE--

--WHICH GROWS ONLY
AT VERY HIGH
ALTITUDES.

...THE SUM OF
THE EVIDENCE
SUGGESTS I
COME HERE!

THE
SWISS
ALPS!

ADDING IN
THE LUCKY/CLUE
OF THE PINE
NEEDLES...

IN THE LETTER,
BURR REFERRED
TO KOBRA
HAVING THE
POWER TO
RAISE THE
DEAD!

ONLY ONE
OTHER MAN
I KNOW CAN
DO THAT!

SENTINEL
427 TO
EXCAVATION-
CONTROL!

WE ARE
DUE TO BE
RELIEVED BY
SECOND
DETAIL--

THE
MOUNTAIN
STRONGHOLD
OF MY OLD
ENEMY...

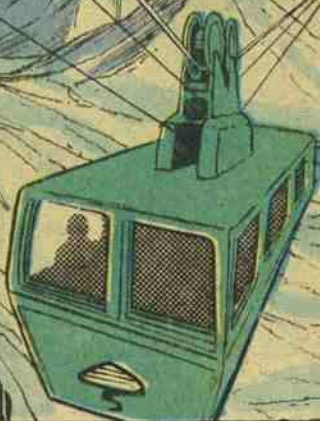
...RA'S AL GHUL!

"NO DOUBT I'LL FIND
CLUES TO KOBRA'S
WHEREABOUTS THERE!"

THUNK

IF IT'S AN
EXCUSE TO
KNOCK OFF FOR
THE DAY YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR--

--WILL
I DO?





AIEE!
IT IS THE
BAT!

BUT HOW--?
THE TRAM IS
THE ONLY
MEANS OF
TRANSPORTATION
HERE--!

TRUE--UNLESS
YOU HAVE A
PLANE LIKE MINE...



...AND A
PARACHUTE!

FOR YOU,
"SABU"-- A
TEMPORARY
"LIGHTS-OUT"...



POK

...WHICH I'LL TRY
TO MAKE A BIT
MORE PERMANENT!



MEANWHILE, INSIDE
THE CONCRETE BUNKER
THAT ONCE STOOD AS
THE LAST BASTION OF
RA'S AL GHUL'S DOMAIN...

YES, 427-- WE
ARE COMING TO
RELIEVE YOU!



HAIL, SERVANT
OF MAJA-NAJA!
SPEAK THE WORD!

UH... HAIL!



HOW DARE HE--
REFUSING TO SPEAK
THE PASSWORD--?!

LOOK! HE IS NOT
OF US! HE IS WHITE-
SKINNED!



DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM? IT IS THE BATMAN!

SOUND THE INTRUDER ALARM!

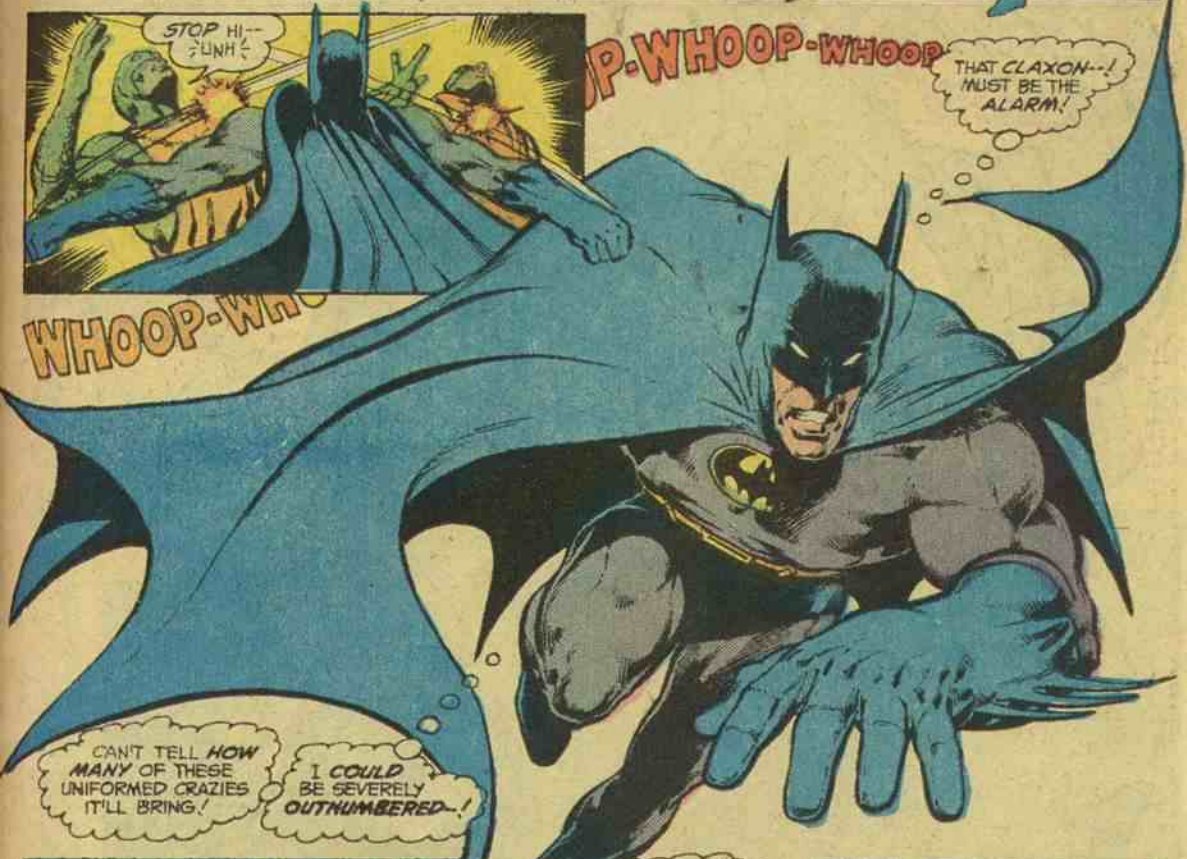


STOP HI--
LUNH<

P-WHOOP-WHOOP

THAT CLAXON--! MUST BE THE ALARM!

W-HOOOP-W-HOOOP



CAN'T TELL HOW MANY OF THESE UNIFORMED CRAZIES IT'LL BRING!

I COULD BE SEVERELY OUTNUMBERED--!



WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

... NAMELY...



KLUDD

... TAKE ON ALL OF THEM!

ZERMATT INSTALLATION TO ARK! COME IN, ARK!

--YET HE BATTLES ON--
LIKE A DEMON FROM HELL!

GO AHEAD,
ZERMATT!

SSO I
SSSEE,
IDIOTS!

INTRUDER AT ZERMATT
EXCAVATION--THE BATMAN!
WE OUTNUMBER HIM--

EVEN AS THE MINIONS FRANTICALLY
ATTEMPT TO FELL THE DARKNIGHT
DETECTIVE, KOBRA'S SNEERING VISAGE
CRACKLES INTO FOCUS ON A MONITOR-
SCREEN...

THERE IS BUT
ONE WAY TO
SSSTOP HIM--

--THE RECENTLY-
INSTALLED
VOICE-ACTIVATED
VENOM-SSPRAY
UNIT!

DOLTS!
KEEP THE
DETECTIVE
IN POSITION!

FROM THE
MONITOR,
KOBRA'S VOICE
RESONATES
THROUGH THE
CHAMBER... AND,
IN RESPONSE,
LIGHTS BLINK INTO
LIFE BEHIND
THE BATMAN--
ACCOMPANIED
BY A SOFT
HUM OF
HIDDEN
MOTORS...

COMPUTER!
BEGIN ACTIVATING
SSSEQUENCE--
CODE YS-2-37-K!

SEQUENCE...
ENGAGED...



WITH A SOUND LIKE THE HISSING OF A SNAKE, A CORROSIVE ACID MADE FROM COBRA-VENOM ENVELOPS THE BATMAN IN A FINE MIST...



THE SEARING PAIN IS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR THE DETECTIVE--AND, IN SECONDS...



UNCOUNTED HOURS LATER, WHEN THE MASKED MANHUNTER PRIES OPEN HIS EYES ONCE MORE...



...BUT IT'S KINDA HARD TO BE HAPPY ABOUT ANYTHING WHEN YOU'RE BEIN' MEASURED FOR A COFFIN, SO TO SPEAK!

YOU'RE BURR--? BUT HOW? ACCORDING TO YOUR LETTER--



WHAT... WHO--?

YOU CAN'T SEE ME-- I'M BEHIND YOU! THE NAME'S BURR...

... JASON BURR! I TAKE IT BRUCE WAYNE GAVE YOU MY LETTER!

I'D SAY I'M HAPPY TO MEET YOU...

MY BROTHER'S COMMUNIQUE WAS A TRIFLE --AH--PREMATURE, BATMAN

YOU? YOU'RE
KOBRA?

THAT IS
CORRECT.

I TRUST YOU
RECOGNIZE
THE POOL OF
BOILING
LIQUID BENEATH
YOU...

...THE
SO-CALLED
LAZARUS
PIT?*

*LAST SEEN IN
THE RECENT
BATMAN
COLLECTORS'
EDITION.
--PAUL

I HAVE BEEN USING
THE FORMULA FOR
THE PIT'S CHEMICAL
BATH FOR QUITE SOME
TIME NOW.

WHEN PERSONS
ARE RESSURRECTED
BY IT--AS I HAVE
MODIFIED IT--
THEY RETURN TO
LIFE UNDER
MY CONTROL!

THUS, ITS
SSECRET
MAKES ME
INVINCIBLE!

TO RULE EARTH,
I NEED ONLY
KILL POWERFUL
POLITICAL
LEADERS...

...AND THEN
RESTORE
THEM TO LIFE...

...UNDER MY
DOMINATION!

MELISSA!
MY GOD!
HE'S BROUGHT
MELISSA
HERE, BATMAN--

SHE IS MY
CONCUBINE
NOW--

--TOTALLY
AND
IRREVOCABLY
MINE TO
COMMAND!

ISN'T THAT
RIGHT,
MY DEAR?

YES...
MASTER...

THE PIT HAS A MOST
INTERESTING PROPERTY--
ITS SOLUTION CONTAINS
HIGHLY ACIDIC CHEMICALS!

IT MAY RESURRECT
THE DEAD--BUT ON
THE LIVING, IT HAS
THE OPPOSITE EFFECT...

...IT
KILLS!

YOU
AND BURR
WILL DIE,
BATMAN!

THEN
YOU WILL
INSTANTLY
RETURN
TO LIFE--

--AS
MY
SLAVES!

BUT...IF
BURR DIES--
YOU'LL
DIE, TOO!

I THINK NOT,
DETECTIVE.

IN YOUR LAST MOMENTS,
BROTHER--WHY DON'T YOU
EXPLAIN THE NEURAL
NEUTRALIZER TO THE
BATMAN?

I HAVE BUSINESS TO
ATTEND TO! FAREWELL!



WITH THAT, THE DANGLING
PAIR BEGINS TO DESCEND
TOWARD THE BUBBLING
CHEMICALS...

BUT ONCE THE
SERPENTINE CRIMINAL
DEPARTS...

ACIDS?
HAM...
IT'LL BE
TOUGH,
BUT IT'S
WORTH
A TRY!



LISTEN, BURR--
WHEN I GIVE THE
SIGNAL...

...CLOSE YOUR EYES...
...LUNNHH... AND SWING
YOUR BODY UPWARD...

...AWAY
FROM THE PIT...

...AS MUCH...
AS YOU CAN--!

IT'S MADDENING FOR BURR, NOT KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING
BEHIND HIS BACK--BUT IT'S JUST AS WELL...

COULD JASON BURR
SEE THE BATMAN'S
SUPPLE BODY TWISTING
LIKE A CIRCUS
CONTORTIONIST...



...HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE
THAT ANY MAN COULD
PULL LOOSE A WIRE
FROM THE CABLE IN THE
MECHANISM OVERHEAD
--WITH HIS TEETH...



...AND USE IT TO
UNBUCKLE HIS BELT!

IN FACT,
THE BATMAN
DOESN'T BELIEVE IT
HIMSELF...

...ALMOST!

OKAY,
BURR--
NOW!



THE BELT SPLASHES
DOWN INTO THE
LAZARUS PIT...



BWADOOOOM

AND WHEN THE LAST SHOCK-WAVES HAVE DIED...

I DID LIKE YOU SAID-- AND I AVOIDED THE WORST OF IT!

I GOT BURNED A LITTLE--BUT I'LL SETTLE FOR BEING ALIVE!

...SO I CAN PULL FREE OF THE HANDCUFFS... ZUNNH!

IT WORKED! THE MECHANISM'S STOPPED MOVING--IT'S BROKEN!

YOU OKAY, KID?

GOOD. NOW HANG ON --I'M GOING TO KEEP SWINGING...

-- DID IT! NOW YOU TRY THE SAME THING!

I'M GOING AFTER SNAKE-EYES!

GOOD THING I REMEMBERED THE EXPLOSIVE PELLETS IN MY UTILITY BELT...

...THE ACID IN THE PIT WAS ENOUGH TO DETONATE THEM!

BLAST! HERE COME KOBRA'S GOONS! I CAN'T REPEAT MY EARLIER PERFORMANCE...

...SINCE I GOT BURNED IN MY ESCAPE-ATTEMPT, TOO...

C'MON, KOBRA-- WHERE'S YOUR SNAPPY REPARTEE? MUST I PROMPT YOU?

IN SECONDS...

WHAT--?!

THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU SAY, "CURSES! FOILED AGAIN!"



...NOT TO MENTION NEARLY RIPPING MY HANDS OFF! IN MY PRESENT CONDITION, I JUST CAN'T GO AGAINST ALL OF THEM, SO...

ALL OF YOU --HOLD IT RIGHT THERE--

--OR YOUR BOSS CHECKS OUT--HERE AND NOW!



AMAZING! THEY MUST NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT ME--OR THEY'D NEVER HAVE BOUGHT MY BLUFF--!

GOOD WORK, BATS! NOW WE CAN SPLIT..



...AND WE'RE TAKIN' YOU WITH US, MEL!

I DUNNO WHAT MY DARLING BROTHER DID TO MESS WITH YOUR HEAD--

--BUT I'LL FIX THAT--BELIEVE IT!-



NOW THROW DOWN YOUR ZAP-GUNS, BOYS--MOVE IT!



DEFTLY, BATMAN PICKS UP ONE OF THE DISCARDED WEAPONS, AND...

WE'RE LEAVING NOW--AND NONE OF YOU'D BETTER FOLLOW US...

...OR YOU'LL SPEND NEXT MONTH SCRAPING KOBRA OFF THE MOUNTAINSIDE!



BURR--GO AHEAD! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

GOT TO COVER THE DOOR WITH AN AVALANCHE--TO MAKE SURE OF MY ODDS!

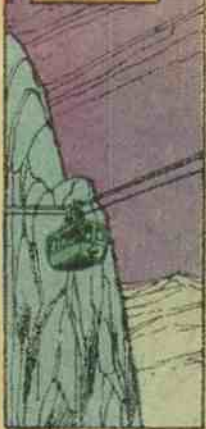
SUDDENLY
KOBRA JABS
AN ELBOW INTO
HIS CAPTOR'S
STOMACH...



NOTICE THE
GLOW AROUND
ME! THE NEUTRALIZER'S
EFFECT HAS NOT YET
ENDED!

YOU HAVE BEEN A MOST
FORMIDABLE OPPONENT,
BATMAN! BUT THE TIME
FOR TRIFLING IS OVER!

AT THAT
MOMENT...



I DON'T CARE
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO YOU, MEL... I
LOVE YOU...

I'LL ALWAYS
LOVE YOU...



DARLING-- YOUR
LIPS... TH-THEY'RE
SO COLD--!

COLD AS
A DEAD
MAN'S--?!



NO... DEAR
GOD, NO...





AT LAST-- I HAVE DONE IT!

MY WITLESS SIBLING NEVER GUESSED THE McNEIL WENCH WAS DEAD--

--NOR THAT HER TIARA WAS A THOUGHT-CONTROL DEVICE!

HOW DELICIOUS-- I ORDERED HER TO KILL HIM! AH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH!



YOU... FILTHY... SCUM!



I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYONE IN MY LIFE-- BUT I SWEAR TO GOD...

...TONIGHT... I JUST MAY... CHANGE... ALL THAT!

KROW

MUTE WITH TERROR, AND SLIPPING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, KOBRA STAGGERS BACKWARD FROM THE BATMAN'S BLOWS...



... AND SUDDENLY SEEMS TO FLING HIMSELF FROM THE CLIFF--!

MY GOD! HE--HE'S KILLED HIMSELF!



BUT, NO! AS HE FALLS, KOBRA TOUCHES A STUD ON HIS WRIST-WEAPON, AND THE ANTI-GRAVITY BEAM STABS DOWN FROM THE ARK!...



DAMN YOU, KOBRA! YOU MAY HAVE WON THIS BATTLE-- BUT YOU'LL LOSE THE WAR!

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL DESTROY YOUR EMPIRE!

SOON THE WORLD WILL KNOW ABOUT YOU-- AND IT'LL BE PREPARED FOR YOU!



AND I SWEAR ON THE CHASM THAT IS JASON BURR'S GRAVE...

... YOU WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!

I SWEAR IT!

END

BWARE THE BATMAN'S WRATH IF YOU MISS HIS MONTHLY MAGAZINE--OR HIS REGULAR APPEARANCES IN DETECTIVE COMICS, BRAVE & BOLD, AND WORLD'S FINEST!