
Episode 228 – The Girl on Fire - No, not that one

The door to the embassy's guest room crashed open leaving two figures - one tall and thick, wearing a grandiose uniform, the other short and slim in just a cocktail dress (and barely even that) - to stumble in, laughing and tangled in each others' arms. The shorter of the duo clumsily kicked the door closed before weaving around to face her swarthy companion directly. A sultry smile crossed her face and she reached up to peck him on the lips. He chuckled as she pulled back, and lunged down for a longer, deeper kiss. Within seconds he slumped in her arms, leaving her to stagger under his weight.

Maya gently lowered the ambassador's dozing form to the plush carpet of the richly appointed guest room. Before going further she slipped a pad from her purse and wiped the last of the soporific drug from her lips. She then crouched down next to him and checked on his breathing. Slow and steady, just as expected. He would be out for a couple of hours and would wake with a splitting headache. Serves him right, she thought with a touch of a smile.

She went to work. A quick pat down located his pass card. With that secured, she turned once more to her purse and drew out a small disc resembling a monocle. She pried open his right eye and held the monocle up to it. A few seconds later, a soft beep signalled it was done. She quickly tucked it away again and rose. She stopped by the door and smiled down at him. "Dream of me," she said, and slipped back into the hall.

The ambassador's office was close by. Maya paused by its door to check over the security panel. It was a fairly sophisticated three-stage system as expected; sophisticated that is, for the locals, not her agency. She tapped the liberated pass card above the keypad, then quickly typed in the code her backup had already retrieved. A sensor at the top of the panel irised open; she met it with the monocle from her purse. The small ins in her fingers projected an image of the ambassador's retina, matching the scanner's expectations. The door unlocked with the faintest of clicks, and with a quick check of the hall, she slipped through.

At this time of night, the office should have been abandoned, which made the lone figure inside a shock to Maya. She composed herself quickly enough, but not before he spotted by her. She recognised the dark skinned man just as fast as she spotted the wall safe he was rifling through - her own objective.

"Grey," she said with a sigh.

"Agent Pearl, was it?" He replied. A smirk crossed his face as he pulled a drive from the safe. "At least, it was on the beach at Fortran. Then again, you were a blonde back then."

Maya nodded, and couldn't help but smile as well. "As I recall, you left me to the authorities back then."

He shrugged. "Better that one of us got away than both."

"And you were all too happy to volunteer, right?" His only response was another shrug.

"Of course, that leaves us with..." He trailed off, holding up the drive.

It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the

room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts.

Maya and Tsuneo were already present, sitting on the couch. A wine bottle and a pair of glasses rested on the coffee table in front of them. Maya leaned back and brushed her long, dark hair back over her shoulder. "You wouldn't believe what happened next," she said with a smile.

"Honestly, it's a bit hard to believe already," Tsuneo told her. "I mean, come on. The dashing enemy agent there at just the right time?"

"He wasn't that dashing," Maya admitted. "And I may have embellished a little."

"Just a little?" Tsuneo asked, unable to suppress a smile.

"Maybe."

"The spy is asking you to believe her," Celena said from behind them. Both turned with a start to see her and Dan looming over the couch. While Celena's scowl spoke volumes, Dan's grin couldn't have been more encouraging, even without the thumbs up he shot Tsuneo.

"Well..." Tsuneo glanced back to Maya, a little embarrassed. "Obviously she can't spill all the details. Classified and such."

"So I swapped over the names," Maya said simply.

"Sure. Just that." Celena stepped past the couch and planted herself firmly between the pair.

Dan elbowed Tsuneo sharply as he passed and just said "You dog," before taking his seat.

Tsuneo looked haplessly between the two newcomers, but could only manage to ask "What?"

"Oh, just play it already. Voice!" Celena bellowed from the couch.

Out of nowhere, the Voice began. "Well, thanks for coming-" was all it managed before Celena cut it off.

"Yeah, skip it," she demanded. "What's the fic already?"

There was an awkward silence, as if the voice was trying to compose itself. "Um... Well, the fic is called 'The Girl on Fire-'"

The voice was cut off again, this time by Dan asking "So it's a 'The Hunger Games' fic then?"

"No, it's-"

"A songfic to Alicia Keys' 'This Girl is on Fire?'" came Maya's question.

"Well, rather-"

"A 'The Hunger Games' songfic to 'This Girl is on Fire?'" Celena asked shaking her head. "Because there aren't a thousand of those already."

Another awkward silence followed, this one longer and more drawn out until Tsuneo finally spoke. "Please go on, Voice."

"Well." The Voice took a second more to compose itself, before continuing. "It's actually a fanfic based on the first season of the 'Young Justice' cartoon."

"Roll it!" Celena called out. At her command, the screen lit up and the world switched to script format.

> The Girl on Fire by Phoenix M. 101

Dan: Katniss Everdeen is Artemis in Young Justice.

> Chapter 1

Maya: Strong opening. Let's see where they go with this.

> Author's note: This is my first story, so I hope you like it please review.

Celena: It's what I'm paid for.

> In this story Zatanna, Rocket, and Red Arrow are in it

Dan: Along with Gear, Secret and Wildebeest.

> and the team knows Robin's secret identity.

Tsuneo: Since the Bat Family is known to be so forthcoming.

Dan: So which Robin is it this time?

Celena: The random sidekick table says... Earth 2 Helena Wayne.

> I own nothing except my OCs

Dan: Also in this fic, Arise Atlantis Arise, episode 2 of Ultimate Doom and the first 10 minutes of Auto-Bop never happened.

> It was just another normal day at MT. Justice; Wally and Artemis arguing, M'gann in the kitchen

> making cookies,

Maya: [M'gann] I baked them with strychnine. Humans eat that, right?

> Kaldur reading a book, Robin on his computer, and the others were watching TV.

> "Give me back my arrows Baywatch!"

Celena: Yellow alert, we have hijinks inbound.

> "Not until you say please," said Kid Flash with a goofy smile.

> "Ugh!" growled Artemis as she started to chase her boyfriend.

> 5 minutes later Conner got tired of seeing the two running around,

Tsuneo: Spare us the looped footage, please.

> so he got up from the couch grab the couple and lifted them in the air so they won't escape.

Dan: [Superboy] Do you want a time out?

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] No, dad.

> "Listen you two I'm sick of you two running around can't you two just sit down and be quite!"
> shouted Conner.

Dan: [Superboy] Don't make me separate you.

Celena: [Artemis] Yes, dad.

> "Alright Supey, calm down," said Wally raising his hands in the air,

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] I plead the fifth! I never met the guy! My uncle owns a duck farm in Kent, I was there!

> "Ok Artemis you can have your arrows back if i get a kiss in return."

> Artemis rolled her eyes and muttered "Fine."

Celena: [Artemis] I'll kiss it better. [Clenches fist]

> Conner lowered Artemis and Wally on the ground and let go, Kid Flash run as fast as he can

Maya: And wound up in Flashpoint.

> of the room and came back with green arrows.

Dan: And Oliver Queen hot on his heels.

> Artemis tried to grab them but Wally quickly removed them out of her reach.

> "No no no, don't forget Arty, my kiss."

> Then Artemis grab Wally and kissed him, Wally drop the arrows and wrap his arms around her.

Tsuneo: Is someone gonna pick those up?

> "Dang you two get a room," said Rocket.

> Artemis and Wally continued to kiss they didn't even notice the computer announcing Red Arrow
> and a few members of the league.

> Recognized: Superman 01, Batman 02, Flash 04, Green Arrow 08, Aquaman 06, Martian
> Manhunter 07, Icon 14, Zatara 13, Red Arrow B06 (not for sure about the order)

Tsuneo: Numerical makes sense.

Dan: Naw, go for something like publication history or number of alternate Earths they've been in.

> "Team report to the meeting room," announced Batman.

> Everybody drop whatever they were doing

[They all make crashing noises]

> and quickly change into uniforms and went into the meeting room.

Tsuneo: There's a point, what were they doing in the base in civilian ID anyway? Usually they're either

training or preparing for a mission.

Celena: Hijinks were required.

Tsuneo: That doesn't-

Celena: Do not question hijinks!

> They all took their seats and waited patiently for why have they been called.

> "Good news Robin, you won't the youngest anymore," said Batman.

> "Really? Why's that?" asked Robin.

Dan: [Batman] His name's Damian...

> "Does this mean we're getting a new member," asked M'gann.

Tsuneo: No, it means Robin's fired.

> "Yes, and hopefully two more members on the league," said Superman.

> "Who are they?" asked Zatanna.

> "Their names are Flamethrower, Media, and Phoenix,"

Maya: A superhero named after the author's handle, eh?

Dan: You mean Jean Grey wrote this? I'd expect better.

> said Batman as three files appeared on the screen,

Maya: Height, weight, measurements, DoB, blood type, preferred plush toys, favourite Star Wars movie, Elvis or Beatles...

Tsuneo: I'd ask how he knows all this, but Batman.

> "Flamethrower and Phoenix are metahumans they have the power of fire."

Celena: With those names? Never!

Dan: I expected them to have the powers of ice cream and reincarnation.

> "What?!" shouted the team.

> "Wait then does this Media have any powers?" asked Rocket.

Tsuneo: She has the power of a stupid codename.

> "No she is human, but she has the skills of a warrior,"

Celena: Ans died to an hero.

> said Batman, "Also we have reason to believe that the injustice league is in their territory."

Tsuneo: Wait, do they have territory?

Dan: Sure! All superheroes have territory. Like Batman's got Gotham, Superman has Metropolis...

Celena: Aquaman has all the world's oceans, that stuff.

> "Where is their territory?" asked Robin.

> "It's a small city in Alaska," said Batman,

Dan: Population six, not including moose.

Maya: Lots of super crime in the Alaskan boondocks?

Dan: Yeah, that moose is hardcore.

> "So me and few members on the league are going to check it out and ask them to join us."

> "So does this have to do with me?" asked Red Arrow.

Dan: Yeah, what does this have to do with me?

Celena: Hush, you.

> "We were hoping you would come with us," said Green Arrow.

> "And the team to come along," said the Flash.

Tsuneo: Why?

Celena: Because it wouldn't be a fic without them.

Tsuneo: Okay, but why clean out both teams for a meet and greet?

Celena: Supervillains... have the day off?

> "Really?!" shouted the entire team.

Maya: They practiced long and hard to synch that up.

> "Yes, we all agree that all of you should come with us on this mission," said Martian Manhunter.

Tsuneo: [Martian Manhunter] No reason is supplied nor discussion entered into.

> "When do we leave?" asked Kaldur.

> "We will leave tomorrow morning," said Batman,

Dan: [Batman] Giving me enough time to slip away without you.

> "I want you all pack for a 2-3 weeks trip and I suggest you all packed warmly,

Celena: Because Alaska is otherwise known for its warm and inviting climate.

> team dismissed."

> With that said the team left with their mentors to get ready for the mission,

Maya: Red Arrow left with Batman by mistake. It happens sometimes.

> they are so excited that the young justice team get to go with the justice league on a mission.

Tsuneo: Okay, so let me get this straight. They're taking most of the Justice League and all of the Team up to the middle of nowhere for at least two weeks on a suspicion of supervillain activity and to meet some new heroes? A recon mission that any one of several members could probably do in a couple of hours? Did I forget anything?

Celena: That it's just the first chapter?

Tsuneo: Help me.

> Chapter 2

> Author's note:

Dan: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Oh gods I'm sorry.

> Thank you for the reviews, sorry about any grammar or spelling errors.

Celena: But checking is hard!

> Well here is chapter 2 enjoy. :)

> It was finally the day that the young justice team gets to go with the league on a very important
> mission.

Dan: Wally had been hopping up and down in the hangar waiting for everyone.

> The mentors of the young justice team is there with the team and Wonder Women

Maya: Wonder Woman now has the power of duplication.

Celena: Naw, they're just Jamie Madrox in drag.

Dan: Plausible.

> and Black Carney,

Celena: Black Carney! She has the power to sell corndogs well after the use-by date.

Dan: "Black Carney and the Wonder Women" does sound like a drag act...

> well except for Batman and Robin.

Tsuneo: Who had been there and back during the night.

> "Ugh! Where are they?" moaned Wally.

Dan: [Wally] Can we go? Can we go? Can we? Huh? Huh? I wanna go now!

> "Easy there Walls they'll be here shortly," said the Flash as he rested a hand on his nephew's
> shoulder.

> "How long has it been?" asked Conner.

Maya: Only one chapter, so far.

> "They're five minutes late," said Martian Manhunter.

> "Who's five minutes late?" asked a mysterious voice.

> Everybody jump and turn around to see the person who owns the voice,

Celena: He showed them his receipt.

> they found out that the

> voice belong to no other than the boy wonder Robin and another man standing next to him.

Dan: Hal Jordan had shown up, and was wondering why he wasn't included.

Celena: Because he didn't have a protégé to go with.

Maya: He could take Cassidy.

Celena: No. No he could not.

> "Hey guys, sorry we're late, Agent A won't let us leave the manor till we had all the necessary
> supplies," said Robin with a big smile on his face.

Tsuneo: [Alfred] Now Master Richard, did you pack your utility belt?

Dan: [Robin] Yes, Alfred.

Tsuneo: [Alfred] Did you remember to load the smoke pellets?

Dan: [Robin] Alfred, we went over the list.

Tsuneo: [Alfred] And the Shark-Repellent Bat-Spray?

Dan: [Robin] No...

> "Whoa Bruce is that you?" asked Superman.

Dan: [Batman] Don't tell anyone, but I'm Tommy Elliot.

> "Yes it's me, I'm just not wearing my Batman suit until we know what we're dealing with," sigh Bruce
> as he knew that question would pop out.

Celena: Which is why he's risking his secret identity in unknown territory without his equipment.

> "So we can go in our civils clothes?" asked Icon.

Maya: Bruce Wayne dressed by Cavils Klein.

Tsuneo: Why didn't they put this in the briefing?

Dan: And who gave Icon a line?

> "Yes, that way no one well suspect anything," said Bruce.

Dan: Not even the Spanish Inquisition.

> With that said everybody left the room to change into their civil clothes.

Dan: Wally usually wears uncivil clothes.

> Then they all arrive where

> the bioship was locate. M'gann had the bioship make extra seats so the everyone will fit.

Tsuneo: But no extra room, so it's a little cramped.

> M'gann

> took her place in the driver's seat, while the others sat next to their mentors, well in Wonder Women

> and Black Carney place next to each other.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] What are we even doing here?

Maya: [Black Canary] I've thought of two reasons for our inclusion.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] Please share them.

Maya: [Black Canary] Well, we'll possibly be important later in the plot given how much we stand out at this point.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] I'm sorry, but that makes too much sense given the planning we've seen so far.

Maya: [Black Canary] I thought so too. So I can only guess we're here to fill in random lines.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] Regrettably that is far more likely.

> The ship began to departure and their mission has just began.

> 3 hours later

Celena: They had to go back for Wally's bathroom break and again to switch off the lights in the cave, then once more for Rocket's Inertia Belt, and finally for another bathroom break for Wally. Flight time's only fifteen minutes.

> "So how much longer till we get there?" asked Kid Flash.

Dan: [Kid Flash] Are we there yet? Artemis punched me. I'm hungry. I'm tired. I wanna go home. I wanna juice box. Artemis took my juice box. Are we there yet?

> "Wally! That's the hundred time you asked," said Artemis.

> "It's actually the hundred and three times he asked," said Robin.

Tsuneo: All the fun of a road trip, now in fanfic format!

> "You kept track," asked Rocket.

Dan: [Joker] And I love you for it.

> "Yeah, I'm a bat it's what we do," said Robin as he look at his mentor.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Well, actually a bird but... Ah, you get the picture.

Maya: Obsessive compulsive behaviour is part of the training.

> Bruce couldn't help but smirk at his son's comment.

Celena: When did Damian get here and when did he do anything funny?

> "Well anyways how much longer?" moaned Wally.

Maya: [M'gann] We'll get there as soon as you be quiet.

[Long pause]

Dan: [Kid Flash] Are we there yet?

> "Another hour at tops," replied M'gann.

> 1 hour later

> "We're here," said M'gann.

> "Finally!" yelled Wally.

Tsuneo: Pacing!

> "Easy there Wally, we haven't even landed," stated Zatanna.

Celena: The word isn't "land." The word's "crash."

> "O, so we're boring we'll remember that on the next mission we decided to take the team with us,"

> said the Flash.

> "Nice going Baywatch, you'll get us all in trouble," yelled Artemis.

Dan: Flash family members get impatient. Then again, they probably could have run here in minutes instead...

> Wally was about to reply until Bruce gave him the bat glare, Wally quickly shut his mouth.

Tsuneo: I figure you'd be good at that.

Celena: I've got an NCO glare, which is getting there.

> "Where do you want me to land the bioship?" asked M'gann.

> "In between those mountains ahead," said J'onn,

Tsuneo: On the naturally occurring helipad.

> M'gann nodded and did what her uncle told her.

> Once the bioship landed everybody waited in their seats and waited for further orders.

Maya: [M'gann] Please remain seated while the bioship taxis to the terminal. Once the "fasten seatbelt" sign has switched off, passengers may retrieve their luggage from the overhead compartments.

> "Alright we'll leave our stuff here," said Bruce in his batman voice.

> "Why?" asked Icon.

Dan: And that's it for Icon, folks.

Celena: Usually he just sits up the back of the bioship.

> "I want us to find Flamethrower, Media, and Phoenix first, then will find a place to stay," said Bruce.

Tsuneo: Famous Bat-planning there, folks.

> "How are we going to do this?" asked Wonder Women.

> "Yes Batman, are we splinting up or what?" asked Black Carney.

Celena: Black Carney! She can summon spectral allies with the invocation "Hey Rube!"

> "No," said Batman, he then walks to Zatara, "Can you use your magic to find them?"

Tsuneo: The sum total of Batman's plan, folks. Ask a guy to magic it up.

> "Hmm, I can try," said Zatara, then a small map of the city appeared.

Dan: [Zatara] So we're here, and the donut shop is here. That'll be base camp.

> "reworhtemalF, aideM, dan xineohP lever ruoy noitacol." Then three dots appeared on the map.

Tsuneo: So what happens if he misspells one of his backwards invocations like that?

Maya: Ai, ai, uluhtC ngathf?

> "Is that them," asked Aquaman.

Maya: I'm beginning to think these lines are assigned purely at random. [Rolls dice] Celena, your response.

Celena: Bite me.

> "Yes," reply Zatara.

> "Alright let's get moving," said Batman as he and Robin led everybody out of the bioship.

Dan: [Batman] Everyone, remember where we parked.

> They weren't to far from entering the city until they heard a BOOM!

Tsuneo: [Superman] I knew we should have come in costume.

> Chapter 3

> They weren't to far from entering the city until they heard a BOOM!

> "What the hell was that?!" shouted Red Arrow.

Maya: A sound effect, most likely.

> "It sounds like an explosion," said Robin,

Dan: But it's actually a chicken.

Tsuneo: A chicken?

Dan: Damned strange chicken.

> "we need to do something."

> "Agree, Zatara is there anything you could do?" asked Batman.

Tsuneo: World's greatest detective! Asks the wizard to do it.

> "I could get us closer," said Zatara, "Everyone grab hands."

Celena: [Wonder Woman] You do know many of us can fly.

Dan: [Zatara] But it's my only line...

> Everybody did what Zatara told them to

> do then Zatara said, "ekaT su ot eht noisolpxe!" Then they all turn into light then disappear, then

> appeared to in front of the town hall then a giant robot appeared.

Dan: It was lurking behind the library waiting for them.

> "Woah! What is that?" asked Kid Flash.

> "Well, it's obviously a robot Baywatch," yelled Artemis.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Well it's obviously a rhetorical question, Artie.

> "Guys don't argue now we need to help these people," said M'gann.

> "M'gann right we need to do something," said Superboy.

Maya: I know, let's stand around and argue!

> "We can't do anything we don't have our uniforms and people will recognize us," said Green Arrow.

> "What do we do now?" asked Wonder Woman.

Maya: Be uncommonly helpful but otherwise ordinary citizens?

Celena: Disappear and quick-change like many of you do routinely?

Dan: Use your powers subtly and creatively to defeat the robot without tipping anyone off?

Tsuneo: Ask whose dumb idea it was to come in civvies?

> Batman was about to suggest something until they saw a stream of fire in the sky and it went
> straight to the robot.

Celena: Suddenly a meteor struck the robot and destroyed it.

Maya: What amazing luck.

> "Ok, everybody else saw that right?" said Zatanna.

> Everybody nodded, but they didn't notice that the robot shoot a fireball at them.

Tsuneo: World's finest heroes, folks.

> The fireball was

> getting closer and closer, they all huddle to protect one and another when they were about to feel
> the hit nothing happen.

Tsuneo: Until flash kicked up a torrent of snow to disperse the fireball.

Maya: Or Rocket expanded her force field to protect them all.

Dan: Or Superman blew it away with his ice breath.

Celena: Or Wonder Woman punched it.

> Robin quickly arose from his father's protection and saw a girl standing in
> front of the fireball with her arms right in front of her.

Celena: Or y'know, they could all be rendered helpless so our new girl can save them.

> Robin noted that she was around his age, also

> she had long dark brown hair, about as skinny as him, and her eyes cover by a domino mask. She's
> wearing a white unitard with flame designs covering all over the unitard and a skirt with triangle
> ends.

Dan: [Batman] And?

Tsuneo: [Robin] Her costume is quilted to provide protection in hand-to-hand and coated to resist heat, she's wearing an earpiece communicator and is flying on self-generated thermals.

Dan: [Batman] Not bad for a first glance.

> "Wow, she's beautiful," thought Robin.

Celena: I'm just glad we weren't treated to a slow-mo entrance and sparkles.

Maya: In text.

Tsuneo: In badly scrawled text.

> She slowly turns her head and her covered eyes met Robin's and said "Are you alright?" Robin
> nodded his head.

> "Good, now can you and your friends please get to safety," said the mysterious girl.

> "Su...su....sure," stuttered Robin, then quickly got everyone's' attention and moved quickly away.

Maya: Everyone else was apparently distracted by the moose.

Dan: The moose is the mastermind. I'm telling ya.

> "Who was that girl," asked Rocket.

> "It was Phoenix," said Robin.

> "Are you sure Rob," asked Wally.

Dan: Actually it was the Goblin Queen.

> "Yes, I'm for sure," said Robin his eyes still glued were he last saw Phoenix.

Celena: Let's see. The girl with fire powers who blocked a fireball wearing a fire-patterned costume where you've been looking for someone called Phoenix? Ya think?

Maya: Well, with that flame motif it could just as easily been Flamethrower.

Tsuneo: But Phoenix is the authour's handle.

Maya: Ah, of course. Thus the gushing entrance.

> "Well now what do we do?" asked Black Canery.

Celena: Oh, I don't know, maybe BLOW UP THE DAMN ROBOT?

> "We follow Phoenix and stay out of their way," said Batman, "After their fight we'll be able to get a
> chance to talk to them."

Dan: In shocking news the city of Moose Tailings, Alaska was burned to the ground while the Justice League looked on.

> Everybody nod their heads into agreement and followed where Phoenix headed off, and now there
> were two streams of fire surrounding the giant robot.

Dan: Good thing he's a Johnny Cash fan.

Celena: Yes yes, we get it.

> They saw a man with spike hair,

Maya: Good to see he's getting work after X-Men Evolution.

Dan: Ah, Wolvie stabbed him in X3.

Maya: Oh. Well, so much for that.

> he was

> wearing white body kevlar with red flames covering it, wearing a black leather jacket and wears a
> domino mask. They all knew that man was Flamethrower.

Tsuneo: They knew it because the narrator said so.

> "O my gods he's sexy," said Wonder Woman.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] The bodies of Olympians pale next to a guy from Alaska.

> "He's a stud alright," reply Black Canary.

> "Hey!" yelled Green Arrow.

Maya: She's just trying to make him jealous.

> "I really hope that he gets in the league," said Rocket.

Celena: [Rocket] So I can laugh at how 90s his costume is.

> "Me too," said M'gann, Zatanna, and Artemis.

> Superboy, Aqualad, Red Arrow, and Kid Flash all stared at girls with jealousy covering all over
> them.

Dan: [Red Arrow] Why am I getting fussed?

> Except for Robin, he's been watching Phoenix the whole time, he couldn't get his eyes off her.

Tsuneo: [Robin] The way her costume's riding up... I feel like I should tell her, but in public? In the middle of a battle?

> The battle that Phoenix and Flamethrower continue; it's a brutal battle, the robot's arms kept
> blasting fireballs all over the city but Phoenix and Flamethrower prevented them from damaging the
> city.

Maya: Yes, it's a brutal game of Pong up there.

> Then Flamethrower and Phoenix with all their might and powers

Dan: By your powers combined, I am Captain Self-Insert!

> went through the robot's steel causing it to get weaker and weaker, until the robot fell to the ground.

Maya: Oh, the dreadful heat! I may just faint away...

> Flamethrower quickly disabled

> the robot and the city's police officers went to work to remove the robot.

Dan: [Cop] Don't get many of these giant robots around these here parts.

Tsuneo: [Cop] Oh yah. Last time was during that crisis thing in '85.

> "Wow they did a very good job on that robot," pointed Aquaman.

> "Very good, they did awesome!" shout the Flash.

> "What do we do now?" asked Kaldur.

Celena: As a break from standing and gaping at things, why don't you all just stand around and gape at things.

> "Come on, follow me," said Batman.

> They walk towards where Phoenix and Flamethrower were at.

Dan: Say, if the cops are cleaning up the robot, what are those two doing?

Celena: At a outside, I'd say standing around and gaping at things.

> "Excellent work Flamethrower and Phoenix, we couldn't have done this with you," said the man

> shaking Flamethrower's hand.

Tsuneo: [Cop] Other police departments routinely handle giant rampaging robots, but not us.

> "No problem chief, glad we could help," said Flamethrower, "Lets go Phoenix."

> "Alright Flamethrower," said Phoenix.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Into the Flamethrowermobile, and off to the Flamethrowercave!

Maya: [Phoenix] La~ame!

> They were about to take off until Batman now Bruce Wayne

Tsuneo: Now Terry McGinnis, Dick Grayson or Damian Wayne.

> stop them.

> "Excuse me are you Flamethrower and Phoenix?" asked Batman.

Celena: Actually we're Combustible Girl and Incendiary Lad. Flamethrower and Phoenix are the next small town over.

> "Yes, that's us," said Flamethrower, "May I ask whose asking?"

Dan: [Batman] But I just asked who's asking who's asking.

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] Yes, now I'm asking who's asking who's asking.

Celena: And that's quite enough.

> Batman pulls Flamethrower closer to him and whisper into his ear, "I'm Batman

Dan: And it's 1989 and the movie's started.

> and behind me are a few members of the justice league and the young justice team."

Tsuneo: [Batman] There's Captain Atom, Mary Marvel, Blue Devil, Major Disaster and the other Dr Light.

Dan: [Batman] Along with Empress, The Ray, Secret, Wildebeest and Snapper Carr.

> Flamethrower nodded, "Alright follow me."

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] I routinely trust anyone who walks up and claims to be Batman.

Maya: [Phoenix] The town drunk has got him three times like that.

> Flamethrower lead Phoenix, the league and the young justice team to the edge of the city where it
> was safe to talk.

Dan: Just so you know, two local superheroes walking through the town with a dozen assorted citizens in tow is not suspicious in the slightest.

> "Alright what brings you all here in Gheata (Romanian for ice)?" asked Flamethrower.

Tsuneo: Let's just go right ahead and assume that's the name of the city.

Celena: They named an Alaskan city "Ice?" Brilliant.

> "Were here on a mission and to ask you and your partners to join us," said Batman.

> "Hmm well then may I ask what your mission is?" asked Flamethrower.

Dan: [Batman] We're looking for the most boring place in Alaska, and we think you're a shoe-in.

> "I prefer we were in a more secure place for us to give you that information," said Batman.

Tsuneo: More secure than revealing your identity to a stranger in the middle of the street?

> "Where are all of you staying?"

> "We can stay in our ship."

Maya: I counted nineteen of you. How are you all going to fit in there, let alone sleep?

> "No, you're guest in our city,

Maya: They say "city" with such confidence. A crossroad and a post office does not make a city.

Celena: I'd be more inclined to buy it if they described any damn thing around here.

> come and stay with me and my daughter in our house."

Dan: [Flamethrower] Sure, it's a rundown trailer but me and the sister-wife call it home.

> "No, we couldn't intrude."

> "It's alright,

Tsuneo: [Batman] No seriously, there's far too many of us. We shouldn't.

> Phoenix called Media and tell her we're going to have guests."

> "Ok dad," said Phoenix as she pulled out a communicator.

Tsuneo: Both parties are being ridiculously trusting in this exchange.

Maya: Don't you automatically reveal your secret ID and stay at the base of every superhero you meet?

Tsuneo: I don't think there is an answer to that.

> "So how far is your ship?" asked Flamethrower.

Dan: It feels farther by the second.

> "It's on the other side of the city," said J'onn.

Celena: And we'd better hurry up, it's double parked.

> "How fast can you get your ship here?"

> "My niece can bring it her under a minute."

> "I told Media and she's preparing for our guest," said Phoenix.

> "Ok, we'll take your ship to our base," said Flamethrower.

> "Ok," said Batman.

Celena: Gripping domestic arrangements are just what we want from a superhero story.

> Then the bioship arrived the league and the young justice team lead Flamethrower and Phoenix in
> and the ship took off.

Maya: [M'gann] I'm not just your taxi service, you know!

> Flamethrower told M'gann where their base is located, it wasn't that far. Once
> they arrived the base was a mountain,

Tsuneo: It used to be a molehill, but they... Well, you know.

> Flamethrower took out a communicator and mumble
> something then a little opening in the mountain form. M'gann guide the ship through the opening
> and landed gracefully, everybody got out of the ship and saw a women.

Maya: Was it a Wonder Women? They're looking for more members for their act.

> She had her brown hair in a
> tight bun, she was wearing a white unitard with a white ninja robe, and a domino mask.

> "About time you guys got home," said the woman.

> "Sorry Media, we lost track of time when we're having fun," said Phoenix with a smirk.

Tsuneo: Apparently they live with Super-Mum.

Dan: She gets in costume just to scold them.

> "Mhmm hmm, well anyways I told Madam Z about our guest," said Media.

> "What did she say?" asked Flamethrower.

Celena: Something about Norman Osborn and a gathering...

Dan: That's Madame Web, not Madam Z.

Celena: Close enough.

> "She wants to know if they're staying here or at the house," said Media.

> "I don't know, but we'll see," said Flamethrower,

Maya: The answer will be vital to the plot.

Tsuneo: I'm worried that it will.

> "So about this mission?"

> "First i think we should introduce ourselves, our superhero names and our identities," said Batman.

Dan: [Red Arrow] And I think we should ditch them and catch the game, but nobody listens to me.

> "Agree," said Flamethrower, as he removes his mask,

Celena: To peals of laughter.

> "I'm Flamethrower, but my real name is Dan Porter."

[They all glare at Dan]

Dan: What? It's not me!

Tsuneo: And Tom's dad was Dan Dyron...

Dan: It's not me!

> "Dan Porter! As in the same Dan Porter who owns the most oil industries," said Green Arrow.

Tsuneo: In... what, the world? North America? In a tiny Alaskan town?

Maya: The fic might want to add details to its outrageous claims.

> "Yes," said Dan, "Go on Media it's your turn."

> "Alright," said Media as she removes her mask,

Dan: And underneath is Tom Cruise.

> "I'm Media, my name is Medilla Daniels."

Celena: And she's the UN Secretary General? The director of Unicef? A cover model for Victoria's secret?

> "I guess it's my turn," said Phoenix as she took off her mask,

Tsuneo: Somehow I suspect it's always her turn.

> "I'm Phoenix, but my identity is Stephanie Porter."

Maya: Heir to the throne of Essex, no doubt.

> There were "hi's" heard from the league and team,

All: [Bored] Hi, Stephanie.

> as they knew its their turn to introduce themselves.

> "I'll go first," said Superman,

Dan: [Superman] My name is Augustus Freeman. I mean, James McArest! I mean - Damn, I always get it wrong.

> "I'm Clark Kent, but I'm also known as Superman."

Tsuneo: [Superman] I doubt you've heard of me.

> "And this is my protégé Superboy," as Clark stood next to next to his clone.

> "You can call me Conner Kent," said Conner.

Celena: [Superboy] Sometimes I'm Clark. It's confusing.

> "Menext,Hil'mFlashbutmyrealnameisBarryAl lan,"said the Flash in his speeding voice.

Tsuneo: He wants to get through this faster too.

> Dan, Stephanie, and Medilla just stared in confusion.

> "Um, uncle Barry you just spoke in your super fast voice," said Kid Flash.

> "O my bad, I talk really fast when I'm excited," said the Flash,

Dan: [Flash] And while you were standing around here, I saved a small town in Vietnam from an avalanche. Can't imagine what else I'd be excited about.

> "Let me start over, I'm the Flash, name is Barry Allen." "O and this is my protege Kid Flash."

> "Call me Wally West beautiful," said Kid Flash as he ran to Phoenix and kissed her on the hand.

Celena: You'll want to wash that, Wally.

> Robin was about to punch his best friend in the face or put him in a body cast, "Why? Am I feeling
> like this," thought Robin.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Was there something in the water here? Did I get airsick on the way over? Or some device in the robot?

> "Can it KidMouth," said Artemis, "I'm Artemis and I'm this goffball's girlfriend."

Maya: [Phoenix] What's it like going out with a golf ball?

Tsuneo: They're not really going to do this, are they?

Celena: Yep. Strap yourselves in, this'll be a bumpy ride.

> "I'm Roy Harper, but call me Red Arrow."

Dan: [Red Arrow] Or Speedy. Maybe Arsenal. Tried being Arrowcaster, but it didn't take.

> "I'm Green Arrow, aka Oliver Queen."

Tsuneo: [Green Arrow] Catch my hit show on CW.

> "Black Canary, please call me Dinah."

Celena: [Black Canary] And not some dippy lawyer.

> "I'm Aqualad, my name is Kaldur'ahm, but you can call me Kaldur."

Tsuneo: [Aqualad] You're probably looking for Garth instead.

> "I'm Aquaman, I'm Orin,

Celena: [Aquaman] I come from a cave where I mined crystals for robots.

> but call me Arthur."

Celena: [Aquaman] King of the Britons.

> "I'm Diana Prince, I'm also Wonder Woman."

Maya: A Wonder Woman, apparently. One of many.

> "J'onn J'onzz, but my earth name is John Jones."

> "M'gann M'orzz, but my earth name is Megan Morse."

Dan: D'ann, but my Earth name is... Dan.

> "I'm Zatanna."

> "I'm Zatara."

Tsuneo: They come as a matched set.

> "Rocket, but call me Raquel."

Dan: Tom Dyrton, I'm Da Dragon!

Tsuneo: Kevin Batterson, Kevin type.

Maya: Cassidy Blake, call me Your Majesty.

Celena: Andrikina Starwatcher, the Legend of Orin

> "Icon, call me Arnus."

Dan: You know what's amazing about that?

Tsuneo: That the authour actually thought listing off all the characters' names individually was a good idea?

Dan: No, Icon got another line.

> Then everybody turned to the famous dynamic duo, all eager for them to announce their names.

Dan: [Batman] You're kidding, right?

> "Bruce Wayne, I'm also the Dark Knight Batman,"

Dan: [Batman] And the Dark Knight Rises, the Dark Knight Returns, and even Dark Knight Strikes Again.

> said Bruce getting angry because everyone was staring at him and his son.

Maya: Batmen are easily startled when cornered.

> "And this is my protégé also my son..."

Dan: [Batman] Wait, which Robin are you again?

Celena: [Robin] Jason Todd, remember? We swapped six months ago.

> "ROBIN!" cut in Robin at a really loud tone. "I mean Robin, my name is Richard Grayson but call me
> Dick." Robin saw Phoenix giggle when he said his name really loud, "I'm such an idiot," thought

> Dick.

Maya: Ah, the longing looks, the flustered stammering, the warm feeling... You know what this means.

Tsuneo: Acute nausea.

Maya: That's not what Robin's feeling.

Tsuneo: I wasn't talking about Robin.

> "Well I can speak for all of us,

Maya: [Phoenix] Not me!

> is that it's an honor meeting you all," said Flamethrower.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Except you, Red Arrow. Go away.

> "Likewise," said Bruce, "Anyways we are here because the Injustice team is here."

> "Whose the Injustice league?" asked Media.

Tsuneo: And are they anything to do with the Injustice Team?

> "The Injustice league is a team of super villains, on this team is Count Vertigo, Atomic Skull, Black

> Adam, Joker, Poison Ivy, Ultra-Humanite, and Wotan," explained Batman.

Dan: Intense supervillain listing action!

> "So what are they doing here in Gheata?" asked Phoenix.

Tsuneo: I've been asking that all fic.

> "We don't know, that's why we're here, so we can figure it out," said Dick while he stares at

> Stephanie's brown eyes.

Maya: Stephanie Brown's eyes?

Dan: Only if it was Tim.

> "Dick is correct and we were hoping you could help us," said Bruce.

Celena: Because we clearly don't have enough people already.

> "Alright we will help you," said Dan as he shook Bruce's hand, "So you all must be hungry, bring
> your things."

> "May I ask why?" asked Clark.

> "Well you all can't just sleep outside Gheata is inspecting a snow storm,

Dan: Plus, y'know... Alaska.

> so you all are guest at the Porter's mansion," said Dan.

Maya: But I thought they hadn't resolved the burning "Mansion or Mountain" issue.

Celena: Does it matter?

Maya: Well there certainly isn't any other conflict here.

> "We couldn't, we don't want to intrude," said Diana.

> "It's alright Madam Z will be thrilled to have guests," said Medilla.

Celena: The Phantom Stranger and Nabu are already there.

Dan: That's Madame Xanadu, not Madam Z.

Celena: Who'd notice?

> While the adults were talking Phoenix was with the team.

Maya: [Phoenix] So like, I'm all beautiful and my dad owns everything and is rich and I have amazing fire powers and live in a huge mansion with an entire city all to my family and stuff.

Celena: That's nice, Cassie.

Maya: Stephanie.

Celena: Whatever.

> "So it looks like you guys will be staying with us," said Stephanie.

> "Yeah, I hope we can get to know you and your family better," said M'gann with a smile.

> "I hope to get to know you all too," said Stephanie smiling back.

Maya: [Phoenix] Except Roy, of course.

Dan: [Red Arrow] Hey!

> "Stephanie!

Dan: [Flamethrower] Honey, stop talking to those strange superheroes.

> Go set up the codes for our departure," yelled Dan.

> "Sure thing dad!"

Celena: Ha ha, dads and their departure codes.

> "Well you guys better get your stuff cause you'll soon be at my house."

> With that said Phoenix typed the codes for their departure, the league and the team just stared at
> the portal

Tsuneo: [Superman] There you go, they've got one too.

Dan: [Batman] Adam Strange should sue.

> and then follow Flamethrower, Media, and Phoenix, and found themselves in a basement.

> Chapter 4

> The league and the team found themselves in a basement.

Tsuneo: Basement, huh. Thrill-a-minute here, folks.

> "Umm why are we in a basement?" asked Barry.

Maya: Look out, the fic's become self-aware.

Celena: Next they'll ask why the whole team is here, or why they haven't done anything. [She glares

at Tsuneo]
Tsuneo: What?

> "It's the only place where we can transport without being notice," said Dan, "Follow me."

Tsuneo: [Flash] So I'm curious to know about the principles behind your portals.

Dan: [Flamethrower] We've got portals.

Tsuneo: [Flash] Are they based on the same Zeta tube technology...

Dan: [Flamethrower] Portals are neat.

Tsuneo: [Flash] Ookay.

> They follow Dan where they found themselves in a big mansion; as big as Bruce Wayne's mansion.

Maya: [Phoenix] It's even got a batpole over there, a stuffy old butler over there and of course, you've seen the secret hero cave.

> "Set your stuff there, there's someone I want you all to meet," said Dan.

Dan: Her name's Rebecca and she's a total-

Tsuneo: Probably watching us.

Dan: -Inspiration to all of us here!

> "Madam Z we're home!"

> "Who's Madam Z?" asked Wally.

Celena: Yeah, that's what I've been asking!

> "She's my grandma, Medilla's mom," said Stephanie.

> "What is she doing living with you and your parents?" asked Raquel.

Maya: [Madam Z] They've got the money and the big house, you think I'll let them ship me off to some village?

> "My parents?" said Stephanie in confession.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Steph, honey, we had that 'talk,' remember?

> "Yeah, Dan and Medilla are your parents right?" said Raquel.

Maya: Safe to assume, since no superheroes have lost parents.

> "Umm Medilla isn't my mom, she's my aunt," said Stephanie, everyone was speechless.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] An aunt, huh... Never heard of one.

> "So where is your mom?" asked Zatanna.

> "At the cemetery," said Stephanie as her voice lowered.

> "O I'm so sorry," said Zatanna.

Maya: [Phoenix] Naw, she works there as a caretaker.

> "It's ok, you didn't know," said Stephanie giving a small smile,

Celena: [Zatanna] I mean, I lost my mother too.

> but Dick knew she was hurting in the inside.

Celena: [Zatanna] Rocket lost her sister to a drug overdose.

> Dick put a comforting hand on Stephanie's shoulder, he knew what its like to lose a mother.

Celena: [Zatanna] But we're not in your little pre-teen drama, so we don't matter right?

> Nobody didn't know what to say,

Tsuneo: [Whispered] Psst! The script!

Dan: [Whispered] We're not in it! It's just got her and Robin.

> until an old woman came in the room.

Dan: [Red Arrow] I didn't know your mother was here.

Maya: [Madam Z] I'm his sister. His baby sister.

> "What's going on here?" said the old woman;

Celena: [Madam Z] Yer all cuttin' into my Bingo time.

> she was about in her 60s wearing a long black dress with her gray hair in a tight bun.

Tsuneo: It's... every grandmother ever.

> "And what are you three doing in your uniforms still."

> "We forgot to change," said Dan turning slightly red.

Maya: [Phoenix] I keep doing that. It's a wonder my whole class doesn't know my secret ID.

> "You three go upstairs and change,

All: Yes, granny.

> and I'll lead the league and the young justice team to their rooms," ordered the old woman.

All: Yes, granny.

> "Yes Madam Z," said Dan, Medilla, and Stephanie at the same time. "Now all of you follow me."

> 15 minutes later

> Everybody on the league and team had to share a room;

Tsuneo: And here I thought the bioship was cramped.

> the girls were with the girls, as the guys were with the guys.

Maya: Oh, is that how it works?

Celena: Rough it, princess.

> Everybody was downstairs until Dan, Medilla, and Stephanie, now out of their uniforms and into civil clothes led the league and the team to the dining room. The table was long enough for everybody to have a seat.

> "Dinner will be ready soon," yelled Madam Z.

Tsuneo: She was strangely prepared to have twenty or so guests on a moment's notice.

> "Alright mom," said Medilla.

> "Um why do you guys call her Madam Z?" asked Dinah.

> "I don't know, she just told us to call her Madam Z," reply Medilla.

Maya: Thank you, fic. That helped.

> "So Stephanie, how old are you?" asked Diana.

> "I'm 13 years old," reply Stephanie.

> "Hey you're the same age as our baby brother Dickie," said Wally, as Dick's face was turning red.

> "When's your birthday Dick," asked Stephanie.

> "March 20," reply Dick.

Celena: This is everything your parents tell you to talk about, which no real person actually talks about.

> "Hey my's March 26," said Stephanie giving him a smile.

Maya: Usually Calendar Man handles all her appointments.

Celena: Yay Calendar Man.

Maya: You're excited for Calendar Man?

Celena: As an option to this? Definitely.

> "Huh I guess I'm 6 days older than you," said Dick giving her a smile back.

> "It still doesn't change the fact that you'll always be our baby brother," said Roy, Dick became even more red.

Dan: Just moves him one vital step up the hazing totem pole.

> "Dinner is ready," said Madam Z as she brings a big pot.

> "What's in the pot?" asked Stephanie.

Dan: Last person who asked wasn't seen for days afterwards.

> "Beef stew," said Madam Z as she began to put stew in empty bowls.

Maya: No no, you ladle it into the full bowls. Doesn't she know anything?

> "Again," said Medilla, "We had that 3 times this week."

Celena: [Madam Z] I say yer havin' stew, yer havin' stew. Got it, missy?

Dan: Madam Z's experience in a jail kitchen shows through.

> "I don't care what you say I love grandma's beef stew," said Stephanie.

Dan: So here's a question. They live in a mansion, right? And Flamethrower's stupidly rich, right?

Maya: He owns the majority of an unspecified subdivision of oil companies.

Dan: Uh, sure. So how come her grandmother does all the cooking? Come to think of it, where are all the staff?

Maya: You know, I thought it was Tsuneo's job to think too much about the fic.

Tsuneo: It's a living.

Dan: That still doesn't... Ah, whatever.

> "Aww thank you dear," said Madam Z as she kisses Stephanie's head.

Celena: [Madam Z] Yer growin' up to be a good little yes-man.

> Once everybody's bowl was fill they started to dig in.

> "Mhmm this is the best stew i ever had," said Diana.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] The myriad workings of the Gods pale by comparison!

> "Agree," said Bruce.

Dan: [Batman] And I've dined with the world's elite.

> "Well you better not tell Alfred that," said Dick.

> "I know or I'll be dead," said Bruce.

Tsuneo: The Dark Knight fears but one man: His butler!

> "He won't kill you right?" asked Oliver.

> "Nobody knows," said Dick in a creepy voice, making Stephanie to giggle.

Dan: Much like his charge, Alfred trained for years in all corners of the world to become the world's finest butler.

> "Well I'm glad you all like your dinner," said Madam Z with a smile.

Tsuneo: We'll say that because two people responded.

Dan: Superboy's slipping his bowl to Wolf under the table, while Zatanna has suddenly gone on a diet.

> "Stephanie," said Dan.

> "Yeah dad," said Stephanie.

> "Aren't you forgetting something."

Tsuneo: A story? Action? Some reason why the world's top superheroes would all haul out to the

middle of nowhere and sit around having stew?

> "No."

Celena: [Flamethrower] Well you still haven't gotten changed.

> "Well if I remember correctly, tomorrow you get a haircut."

> "What?! No way I'm getting a haircut."

> "Stephanie I know you like your hair long,

Maya: So she can do fake shampoo commercials in the mirror.

> so do I, but if your hair gets any longer it's going to hard with your powers."

Dan: Wait, her hair interferes with her powers?

Maya: It's the reverse Samson effect.

> "Ok, but it's going to be shoulder length and in small layers."

> "That's fine, just don't forget."

> "I won't dad," said Stephanie,

Tsuneo: [Superman] Good thing we're all here to see a family talk about everyday matters.

> "Now if you'll excuse me I need to shower." Then she walk out of the

> dinning room into the kitchen then upstairs.

Maya: Wait, we're still eating, you didn't touch your- Ah, forget it.

> Dick watch her leave not even noticing that Zatanna was talking to him.

Dan: He heard the magic word: Shower.

Celena: She's thirteen.

Dan: Yeeks, sorry...

> "Dick?" asked Zatanna.

> "Dick, are you in there?" said Wally waving his hand in front of his best friend's face.

Tsuneo: Fast enough to cause a hurricane.

> Then Bruce notice his son's behavior and snap his fingers and Dick came back into the real world.

> "What?" asked Dick.

Dan: [Batman] You weren't focused. Clock King could have easily planted a timed detonator on you.

> "Are you feeling ok Dick?" asked Diana.

> "Yeah, why?" said Dick in confusion.

> "Well ever since we got here, you've been acting strange my friend," said Kaldur.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Well I'm not the one who's standing around, parroting stock responses to- Oh wait, I am.

> "I'm fine," said Dick.

> "He's right he is fine," said Dan,

Maya: Critical update: Dick is indeed fine.

> "It's just that something caught his eye, in this case someone."

> "Now it makes sense," said Bruce.

> "Umm what makes sense?" asked M'gann.

Celena: [Batman] Poison Ivy seeded the area ahead of time.

> "It means is that Dick Grayson likes Stephanie Porter," teased Artemis.

Maya: Seems that way, while it is in fact a clever ploy to win over the independent heroes.

> "What?! No I don't," said Dick.

> "O yeah, then why are your cheeks turning red," said Wally.

Tsuneo: The beef stew. Madam Z's recipe includes fourteen chillies.

Celena: And five different kinds of mustard.

> Dick quickly sank down in his seat. "Umm where's the bathroom?"

> "Up the stairs, take the left hall and four doors down on the right side," said Medilla.

Maya: Past the billiards room and the library, take a left at the costume storage and head straight through the munitions warehouse.

> "Thank you," said Dick as he quickly left the room and up the stairs.

Dan: [Icon] Guess he don't like the corn bread either.

> Once he reach the bathroom, he did his business

Tsuneo: The Girl On Fire: Bodily functions of junior superheroes in real time!

> and was about to join the others until heard a voice.

Celena: [Faint] Return the slab...

> He followed the voice and found himself on the other side of the mansion,

Dan: That voice really carries.

> he kept walking until he reach a door where the voice was coming from.

Maya: Hey voice, is that you behind there?

Voice: Oh, I'm staying out of this.

> He put his ear on the door so he can hear a

> little better, and Dick notice that the voice belong to Stephanie,

Celena: She gave it a name and a collar and kept it on a leash and everything.

> she was singing Because of You by Kelly Clarkson.

> Because of you

> I find it hard to trust

> Not only me but

> Everyone around me

Tsuneo: Folks, we're going to interrupt the scintillating action to type out song lyrics. Now I know it'll be hard, but we'll catch up with the fic again later.

> Dick knew what it's like to feel like that.

Maya: This highly forgettable pop song speaks to him.

> Because of you

> I am afraid

> I watched you die

> I heard you cry

> Every night in your sleep

> I was so young

> You should have known

> Better than to lean on

> Me

> "Stephanie sings like an angel," thought Dick.

Celena: [Robin] And I should know; there was one in the League.

> You never thought of

> Anyone else

> You just saw your pain

> And now I cry in the

- > Middle of the night
- > For the same
- > Damn thing
- > Because of you
- > I never stray too far
- > From the sidewalk
- > Dick continued to listen for a while, but didn't notice the water being turned off.

Tsuneo: As it would usually be louder than singing and all.

- > Because of you
- > I'm ashamed of my life
- > Because it's empty
- > Because of you
- > I am afraid
- > Because of you
- > Because of you

Tsuneo: And we're through it. Thanks for your patience everyone.

Dan: Huh? Did something happen?

Celena: No. Absolutely nothing.

- > Dick was sitting at the door listening to Stephanie's singing until the door open.
- > "O my god," screamed Stephanie.

Dan: Alright, so this is absolutely what it looks like.

Celena: Again, the kid's thirteen.

Dan: I feel dirty.

- > "O my god, I'm so sorry, so sorry," said Dick as he sees Stephanie with a towel wrap around her
- > and wet hair.

Maya: Almost like she'd just gotten out of a shower.

- > "What are you doing?"

Celena: [Robin] Checking for Injustice League surveillance. Why, what did you think it was?

- > "Umm I came upstairs to use the bathroom,

Tsuneo: Still didn't need that, fic.

> after I finish I heard you singing."

> "You heard me sing?" asked Stephanie.

Maya: [Robin] Over the shower, through the door and from the other side of the mansion. Somehow.

> "Yeah, I did and you sing so beautiful, I couldn't help but listen," said Dick rubbing the back of his
> head,

Dan: [Robin] Singing makes my scalp itch...

> "I'm so sorry though."

> "It's ok," said Stephanie,

Celena: [Robin] No, I feel sorry for myself. It was painful.

> "Actually I'm glad you were listening."

> "Really? Why?"

> "Cause you're the first person to complement my singing,"

Tsuneo: Seems unlikely.

Maya: Because she has a doting family, or because she's a seemingly perfect girl who everyone instantly loves?

Tsuneo: I want to say the first, but it's the second.

> said Stephanie as she gave Dick a kiss on his cheek. Dick froze in place,

Celena: Told you. Poison Ivy.

> Stephanie just giggle and grab his hand. "Come on, let's get
> going." She led Dick to another door, "Wait right here."

> "Ok," said Dick.

> 2 minutes later

Dan: SUPERHEROES!

> Stephanie came out of the room in a Robin t-shirt and black sweat pants.

> "So are you a Robin's fan," asked Dick as he laugh at the shirt.

Dan: [Robin] Oh hang on, I just said "a Robin's fan," should we-

Celena: Keep rolling!

> "Yeah, lets just say I'm his number one fan," giggled Stephanie.

Dan: Competition was fierce. All the ladies love Dick.

> Dick laughed with her and couldn't believe how cute she looks in that shirt.

Maya: Groucho Marx gag glasses were a bit of a turn-off, though.

> "Well I guess we better get back."

Maya: [Phoenix] Probably shouldn't have abruptly and rudely left them all in the first place.

> "Yeah," said Dick, "This is your house lead the way."

Dan: [Tsuneo] Though I downloaded the floor plan before we left...

> "Ok," said Stephanie as she grabs Dick's hand again.

> When they reach the dinning room where they last left everyone, the room was empty.

Celena: Mr Majestic was the only one left.

> "Where did they go?" asked Dick.

Tsuneo: Could it be that they attended to League business such as the source of the robot, or where the Injustice League is hiding out?

> "I guess my dad took them into the living room," said Stephanie and continues to hold hands with
> Dick and lead him.

> Once they reach the living room, they found everybody and boxes of board games.

Tsuneo: Or, you know, they could just be wasting more of our time with everyday inanity.

> "O no, board games," said Stephanie as she hid behind Dick.

Maya: As Kryptonite is to Superman and fire is to Martian Manhunter, board games are to Phoenix.

> "There you two are," said Medilla.

> "Where have you guys been?" asked Dan.

Dan: [Robin] Dicking around.

[They all groan]

> "Well after I finish my shower, I found Dick listening to me singing and waited for me to get dress,
> then we came here," said Stephanie.

Tsuneo: Recaps. When your fanfic isn't slow enough.

> "Holding hands?" said Barry.

> "Yes, holding hands,

Celena: [Pheonix] Now who has the solvent?

> now what's up with the board games," said Stephanie.

> "We decided to play a game, its way to early for bed," said Medilla.

Dan: You could patrol the city instead. Or follow up loose ends. Maybe check in on that robot thing. Or, y'know, anything superhero related, since you are superheroes and this is a superhero fic!

> "Well goodnight then," said Stephanie.

> "O no if i have to suffer you do too," said Dan as he went to his daughter and brought her to the couch.

Tsuneo: So if he didn't want to, then why are they even... [Sighs]
Maya: It's not worth it.

> Dick followed and sat between Wally and Roy and just stared at Stephanie.

> After a few hours

Tsuneo: Of staring blankly at her?

Dan: [Kid Flash] Robin? Team to Robin? Hey, did Grodd zap his brain again?

> of board games everybody turned to bed.

Tsuneo: Of course, while the world's greatest heroes were sitting around playing board games, crime was running rampant.

Dan: With Keystone City empty of speedsters, the Rogues were on a carefully orchestrated and very colourful crime spree.

Maya: Brainiac has gone and reformatted Metropolis again.

Celena: While in Gotham, Scarecrow and the Mad Hatter are free to do... Whatever they do.

Dan: And in Star City, the criminal elite realise how lame they are and go home.

> "Goodnight Stephanie," said Dick.

> "Goodnight Dick, see you in the morning," said Stephanie.

> "Yeah see you in the morning," said Dick as he slip in his room where Bruce was already there.

Dan: [Batman] And now this city's criminals will learn to fear the night.

Tsuneo: [Robin] But Wally's having a slumber party in his room.

Dan: [Batman] Oh, fine.

> Dick change into his pjs and crawled into bed, all he could think of is Stephanie; on how an angle she is

Maya: Just how she defines the intersection of two lines.

> and how she sings like one too.

Celena: Fondly remembering Zauriel's rendition of "God Gave Rock And Roll To You."

> Dick haven't felt this way ever since his relationships with Barbara and Zatanna,

Tsuneo: One whole months ago, the other arguably yet to happen.

> but this feeling seems to be more powerful than the others.

Tsuneo: Since they only just met and have barely interacted and all.

Maya: Never doubt the value of a sudden infatuation.

Celena: You'd know?

Maya: One of the tools of the trade.

> "What does it mean," thought Dick as he drifted to sleep.

Dan: That boy needs therapy.

Celena: Purely psychosomatic.

> After she said goodnight to Dick, she went into her room and change into her pjs and crawled into
> bed.

Tsuneo: Flamethrower won't let her have a secret cave of her own, so she makes one out of her
bedsheets.

> She couldn't get her mind off Dick, she has never felt this way to any boy she dated.

Maya: Her Klarion fanfics weren't nearly as stilted and mundane.

> "There's

> something about him that makes me want him," thought Stephanie, "What does it mean."

Dan: You're a nut! You're crazy as a coconut!

Celena: You're a thirteen year old with a crush. Congratulations.

> Chapter 5

> 5:30 in the morning

> "Dick"

[Dan knocks rapidly on the table]

> "Dick"

[Dan knocks rapidly on the table]

> "Dick"

[Dan knocks rapidly on the table]

Celena: Oookay, enough.

> "Huh," Dick's eyes quickly open and he saw the most beautiful girl right in front of him.

Dan: The hell is Starfire doing here?

Tsuneo: I think they mean-

Dan: I know what they mean!

> "Hey Stephanie, what's up?"

> "Trying to wake you up," said Stephanie with a smile,

Celena: [Phoenix] With the old "Pillow on the face" trick.

> "I want to show you something, if you want to come."

> "What is it?"

> "It's a surprise."

Dan: He's Bat Family. Surprise means mystery, which means he's already figured out what it is.

> "Sure why not?" said Dick as he got up.

Tsuneo: [Robin] It's not like I've got *sleep* to catch up on.

Maya: And here I thought he was sharing a room with Bruce.

Celena: He is. She's in for the fright of her life when she turns around.

> "Ok, meet me in the living room and bundle up it was snowing last night," said Stephanie.

Dan: In Alaska? You don't say!

> "Ok," said Dick, as soon as Stephanie left the room, he quickly got his thick coat and a pair of jeans.

Tsuneo: And his utility belt, demolition charges, grapnel and rope, spare Birdarangs...

> He quickly got downstairs to find Stephanie waiting for him in her big coat and sweats.

Celena: Looking for all the world like the Stay Puft marshmallow man.

> "Ready to go," asked Stephanie.

> "Yeah," said Dick.

> "Good," said Stephanie,

Maya: Shakespeare rises from his grave to note their witty and intricate banter.

> as she grab Dick's hand and lead him outside.

Dan: [Robin] Yep. Snow. I'm all choked up, let's go back inside.

> The whole yard of the Porter's mansion was covered in snow,

Tsuneo: It can only mean one thing...

Celena: Killer Frost! Or Captain Cold! Or Icicle or Icicle Jr... Or Mr Freeze, or Frostbite, or the other guy called Frostbite, for that matter.

> the sky was still dark, and there was

> a chilly breeze. Dick couldn't stop blushing, his hand was touching hers,

Maya: That or the freezing wind on his cheeks. Probably the wind.

> "That's the third time she took my hand, does this mean she likes me," thought Dick.

Tsuneo: Wait, he's counting?

Dan: Bat-training.

Tsuneo: More than that, is there some kind of guide?

Maya: Absolutely. Two more before midday and she's a stalker.

> "Ok, do you trust me?" asked Stephanie.

> "Yes, umm why?" asked Dick.

Celena: Bzzt! Wrong answer!

> "You'll see," said Stephanie with a smile.

> "Come on tell me I'm really curious," said Dick.

> "No."

> "Come on please," said Dick now giving Stephanie his famous puppy face.

Celena: Famous because...

Maya: Nobody has ever seen it before?

Celena: Exactly.

> Stephanie couldn't believe how adorable Dick looks, his baby blue eyes sparkling. "O my god, that is so cute."

Dan: [Phoenix] I want to love him and hug him and kiss him and cuddle him and call him George.

> "I know now tell me what we're doing?"

Celena: [Phoenix] Don't you know, we're freezing to death.

> "Alright ever since I was a little girl my mom would wake me up and bring me here," said Stephanie.

Maya: [Phoenix] I blame her for my insomnia.

> "Why here?"

> "To see this," said Stephanie as she turns Dick to the left a little.

Tsuneo: Little more, little more, now back to the right... Got it.

> Dick was watching to see what's going to happen, until he saw a glow coming from the mountains.

Dan: Good news is they found Atomic Skull. Bad news is he's burning down the city.

> The glow was spreading over the city it was so beautiful, Dick realize that the glow was the sun.

Maya: Actually, the moon's just really bright tonight.

> "Is that the sunrise," asked Dick still not taking his eyes off the sun.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Aaand I'm blind.

> "Yes, it's so beautiful," said Stephanie, "I always wake up this early so I could watch it."

> "It reminds you of her?" asked Dick.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Your mum was a giant ball of plasma?

> "Yes," said Stephanie as tears were threatening to fall.

> Dick pull her into a hug, "I know how you feel, I get that way sometimes too." "Why did you bring me here?"

Tsuneo: Imaginary word count?

> "Cause I knew you would understand," said Stephanie with a smile as tear fell down her cheek.

Tsuneo: [Robin] That despite being an active superhero, you're unable to move on from your mother's death?

> Dick used his thumb to wipe away the tear and just stared at her eyes,

Dan: [Robin] Oh god... Eye mole... Can't unsee...

> "She's so beautiful, yet fragile,

Maya: [Robin] How is she an effective crimefighter?

> all I want to do is kiss her," Dick thought. Dick was leaning in to kiss her on her lips until...

Dan: [C-3P0] Sir! I've completely isolated the main power coupling!

> "Hey Dick, where are you?" shouted a certain speedster.

Celena: Inertia? When did he get here?

Tsuneo: I think he means-

Celena: Professor Zoom has come himself, then?

Tsuneo: No, no it's-

Celena: Quicksilver? In a Young Justice fic?

Tsuneo: You're doing this on purpose.

> "Dam it Wally," thought Dick. "Over here Wally."

> "There you guys are we've been looking for you," said Wally.

Celena: Why? Batman knew where they were.

Tsuneo: Well, the fic doesn't say-

Celena: Batman *knows.*

> "O sorry for worrying you," said Dick sarcastically.

> "Well meet you guys inside," said Wally as he sped off to the house.

> "Sorry about that," said Dick rubbing the back of his neck.

Dan: [Robin] There's that itch again... Do I need to change shampoos?

> "It's ok," said Stephanie, "Come on lets go and get some breakfast."

> "Ok," said Dick as he curse himself for not kissing her.

> 6:20 a.m.

> After Dick and Stephanie got back to the mansion, they both went upstairs to change. Dick put his
> batman shirt, a pair of jeans, a black zip-up hoodie, and black sneakers.

Dan: Dan meanwhile had changed into his cowboy shirt and vest, work pants and pilot's boots.

Celena: Celena had taken the time to put on a grubby singlet and khakis.

Tsuneo: Tsuneo had stripped off his uniform and put on his jeans and military jacket.

Maya: And Maya was now a blonde librarian.

> Dick quickly went downstairs to find his father and friends at the dinning table,

Dan: And was wondering when Wildebeest had gotten there.

> but was disappointed that Stephanie wasn't there yet.

Maya: [Zatanna] Hey, Robin.

Tsuneo: [Robin] My life suddenly revolves around her! I mean, morning.

> He took a seat between Conner and Roy and waited patiently for her.

Dan: THREE HOURS LATER!

> "So Dick, what were you and Stephanie doing this morning?" asked Wally,

Tsuneo: [Tsuneo] Going over patrol routes, criminal behaviour, surveillance techniques... Why?

> that got every bodies attention.

> "Nothing she just wanted to show me something," said Dick.

Celena: Her collection of Robin memorabilia, Robin fanfics, Robin fanart, Robin sightings, Robin toenail clippings...

> "Sure she was," teased Roy.

> "She was, why do you guys want to know?" asked Dick.

Tsuneo: [Batman] Because you were AWOL in unfamiliar territory with an unaligned superhuman.

> "Because we love to see our baby brother fall for a girl," said Artemis.

> "I'm not falling for her," yelled Dick.

> "Then why are you blushing," pointed Zatanna.

Maya: Like I said, the wind.

> Dick was about to say something until he saw Stephanie walking in the room.

Dan: Then moon walking back out and dancing her way in again.

> She was wearing a school uniform;

Celena: Rollerskates, flak jacket, house colour hair ribbons and a tiara.

Dan: Damn strange uniform.

Celena: Damn strange school.

> tan skirt with a white shirt and a black jacket with her school's symbol,

Maya: Escutcheon Argent, on a bend Gules cottised Vert, between two mullets each within an annulet Gules, three escallops Or. Crest Upon a wreath of the colours, in front of a demi-griffin Vert, holding between the claws an escallop Or, three escallops fesswise Argent. Motto. Cave et aude

[They all stare at her]

Maya: Charles Darwin.

Celena: Show-off.

> she had white knee high socks and black shoes.

> "Good morning everyone," said Stephanie with a big smile.

> "Morning," was heard from the league and team,

All: [Bored] Hi, Stephanie.

> except for Robin, he couldn't keep his eyes off her.

Dan: [Kid Flash] Psst! Dude, line!

> "Morning princess," said Dan.

> "Morning daddy," said Stephanie, "Hey dad where's Medilla?"

Tsuneo: Absent from the fic in general.

> "She's in the kitchen with Madam Z, why?"

> "I need her help with my hair," said Stephanie.

Dan: Again with the hair. This must be important.

> "O well sit down, she'll be here in a minute," said Dan, Stephanie nodded and sat down.

> "Stephanie, I like your uniform," said M'gann.

Maya: [M'gann] It's so much like every other one I've seen!

> "O thanks," said Stephanie.

> "Waffles anyone," said Medilla carrying two plates of waffles and place them in the center of the
> table.

Dan: ROBIN! EATS! WAFFLES!

> Everybody quickly got their waffles before Barry and Wally got them.

Dan: [Flash] Too slow.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Way too slow.

Dan: [Flash] We ate these waffles before they were ready. Speed force, folks.

> "Hey Medilla, can you do my hair?" asked Stephanie.

Maya: [Phoenix] And can you make the world's finest heroes sit around and watch?

> "Sure, what do you want," said Medilla.

> "Can you give me a half-moon," said Stephanie.

Dan: I can give you a full moon.

Celena: Sit down.

> "Sure sweetie, do you have a brush and a hair tie?" asked Medilla.

> "Don't I always," said Stephanie pulling out a hair brush and hair tie. Medilla walked towards
> Stephanie's seat, grab the hair brush and hair tie and started to do her hair. All the women at the
> table watch Medilla do Stephanie's hair, it was like a mother and daughter moment.

Tsuneo: Thrill as a girl has her hair done!

> "Done," said Medilla.

> "Thank you," said Stephanie then she checks her watch and her eyes went wide. "Shit!"

> "Stephanie language! Put a dollar in the swear jar," yelled Madam Z.

Dan: Gasp as she is mildly disciplined by her grandmother!

> "Sorry grandma," yelled Stephanie, "I'm late for school." With that said Stephanie quickly went
> upstairs, and came back with a school bag and a big green coat. "Can I fly to school?"

> "No," said Medilla.

Celena: Can you remain in your seat for the gripping "flying to school" debate? I think not!

> "Please I'm going to be late," begged Stephanie.

> "I don't want you to expose your identity," said Medilla.

Maya: So Medilla isn't her mother, but she's pretty much only here to be Stephanie's mother.

> "Please," said Stephanie giving Medilla the puppy eyes.

> "Go ahead sweet heart," said Dan.

Celena: [Phoenix] Daddy said I could.

> "What?!" yelled Medilla.

Maya: [Media] We're going to have a little talk about parenting in the danger room later.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Oh dear...

> "Stephanie is a very smart girl and she won't expose herself, so go ahead and fly," said Dan than
> sip his coffee.

Celena: She'll fit in with all the other flying, flaming girls.

> "Thanks daddy," said Stephanie smiling, then kissed her dad on the cheek. Than she grab a dollar
> and put in a jar,

Tsuneo: It's the details that keep us hanging out for more.

> and kissed her grandma and aunt bye. "Bye everybody," said Stephanie giving a
> little wave, "Byes" were heard from the league and team.

All: [Bored] Bye, Stephanie.

> "Bye Dick," she said smiling at him.

> "Bye Stephanie," he said giving her a really big smile back.

Maya: [Phoenix] Bye Wally.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Bye Stephanie.

Maya: [Phoenix] Bye Conner.

Dan: [Superboy] Bye Stephanie.

Maya: [Phoenix] Bye M'gann.

Celena: Oh, stop it already!

> Once they heard the front door closed, everybody turned to Dick.

> "Why are you guys looking at me like that?" Dick asked.

Maya: They're all jealous of the attention. He's getting full scenes with another character, whereas they only get to chime in on random responses.

Dan: That and he's still in his pyjamas.

Maya: That too.

> "Dude, what do you two doing outside?," asked Wally.

Celena: Hey fic, we already covered this.

Tsuneo: Well, here it is again.

> "Yeah, what did you do to her?" asked Artemis.

> "I didn't do anything to her," said Dick.

Dan: [Robin] We were training together! Honest!

> "Well ever since we got here, you and Stephanie have been holding hands and sneaking out of the
> mansion," said Roy.

> "We didn't sneak out," said Dick getting irritated.

Dan: [Batman] Not making that much noise, you didn't.

> "Then why were you outside with her?" asked Conner.

> "She wanted to show me something," said Dick calming down a little.

> "What did she show you?" asked Raquel.

Dan: And can she show us?

Celena: Thirteen! [She smacks Dan across the back of his head]

Dan: I'm sorry! It comes naturally!

> Dick was about to say something, until he was interrupted by Stephanie's father.

> "It was the sunrise, right?" said Dan. Dick nodded as a response.

> "What dose the sunrise mean to Stephanie?," asked Dinah.

Maya: She loves those eighties toy cartoons.

> "Her mother would always get up so early just to see the sunrise," said Dan.

Tsuneo: So are they above the Arctic Circle? Because that would result in some very odd hours.

> "O," said Dinah.

> "And Dick she likes you too," said Dan.

Celena: Since we hadn't bludgeoned you with the obvious in the last five lines...

> "What?!" yelled Dick, "I don't like her."

Dan: [Flamethrower, angry] You think there's something wrong with my girl?

Tsuneo: [Robin] No! No, I mean she's great!

Dan: [Flamethrower, angry] Oh, so you were checking her out then?

Tsuneo: [Robin] Aaaugh!

> "Don't lie Dick, you're falling for this girl," said Bruce.

> "Whose side on you on?" asked Dick.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Why has the entire universe decided I have to like this girl?

Celena: It's her fic?

> "Nobody, the way your face turns red and how you act around her says everything," said Bruce.

Maya: It says he's running a fever and may be delusional. The symptoms are about the same.

> "I do not! I don't like her," said Dick.

> "O, so she's just another plain jane?" asked Bruce.

> "She's not a plain jane, she's an angel!" yelled Dick, then realize what he just said.

Maya: [Robin] Can I say she's a lesser divine messenger like a cherub instead?

> He gave his father a glare, as Bruce chuckle at him, than sunk down his seat.

> Every league member and the young justice team were teasing him,

Celena: Even Icon, the humourless conservative? Even J'onn, the stoic alien?

Maya: Every one.

Dan: Wolf's rubbing it in by whizzing on his leg.

> about calling Stephanie an angel. He was getting very irritated and just gave up.

> "Alright! I like her," said Dick.

Tsuneo: Four chapters in, the fic has reached its first plot point.

> "Aww our little Dickie is in love," said Oliver.

Tsuneo: Wow, Ollie's had as many lines as Icon.

Dan: You've been counting?

Tsuneo: I'm not sure I should respond to that...

> "Dick and Stephanie sitting in a tree k-i-s-s-i-n-g, first comes love then comes marriage, then comes

> Dick pushing a baby carriage," sang Wally, Roy, Artemis, and Zatanna.

Tsuneo: That's right folks, schoolyard teasing from a highly trained superhuman covert ops team.

> Everybody laughed except for Dan and Bruce,

Dan: [Batman] I never laugh.

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] But you just-

Dan: [Batman] Never. Laugh.

> in Dick's case he was embarrass.

> "She likes you too," said Dan.

> Dick quickly turn towards Dan, "She does?"

Dan: [Flamethrower] But she also likes Twilight, so go figure.

> "Yes, I've never seen her act this way around boys,

Celena: Mostly she just roasts them alive.

> you're the only person she showed the sunrise," said Dan.

> "Really?" said Dick smiling cause she likes him.

Dan: [Robin] Duhuh, happy...

> "Yes."

> "Sir, with your permission I would like to ask Stephanie out."

Dan: [Flamethrower] No. Hah! Oh, you so did not see that coming! The look on your face- Hah!

> Dan smiled, "You have my permission."

Celena: [Flamethrower] No seriously. Take her away. Please.

> 3:00 p.m.

Dan: In the past eight hours, crime rates have tripled across the States. Mr Freeze has brought Gotham to a standstill, Toyman's giant robot has walked off with three bank vaults, Dr Polaris has stolen Fort Knox, and Cheetah and Circe have waged an all-out war to determine who's the worse arch-nemesis.

> Dan, Medilla, Bruce, and the rest of the league members went into the study to discuss their next move.

Maya: M'gann quickly ferried Adam Strange up to Gheata to hook their teleporters up to the Zeta Tube network, allowing the Team to monitor crime in the League's absence.

> While the young justice team was in the entertaining room; they're playing jenga to pass the time.

Maya: I'm just kidding, they're wasting their time with games again.

> "Nice and steady Kaldur," said M'gann.

> Kaldur steadily place the jenga block on top of the tower.

Celena: Uh-huh, thrilling. Say, can't we spice things up a little?

Maya: Like say, using telekinesis to place the blocks?

Dan: Oh, or Wally could build the tower in the air faster than it could fall!

Tsuneo: Gods no, you make it sound like they're superheroes or something.

> "Nice going Kaldur, hey Rob it's your turn," said Wally, but no response.

> The team turned around to find their little brother gone.

Dan: Damian would later return with the Spook's severed head.

> "Not again," groan Kaldur as he pinch his nose.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Are we going to have to wait for him? Because I should totally get to have my turn instead.

> "How can he leave a room without anyone noticing?" asked Conner.

> "I guess that's why he's the ninja," said Zatanna.

Dan: So he wears a colourful headband with "Ninja" on it?

Tsuneo: Uh, no.

Dan: He gets weaker when there are other ninjas on his side?

Tsuneo: Dan?

Dan: He has an inexplicable rivalry with Black Manta?

Tsuneo: What is it with you and ninjas anyway?

Dan: Damn things are an infestation.

> "So what do you guys think of Dick and Stephanie," asked Artemis.

Celena: I'll save that for the reviews.

> "I think they'll be a real cute couple," said M'gann.

> "I agree," said Raquel, Conner and Kaldur nod in agreement.

Maya: [Rocket] Also the Injustice League sent a robot to destroy this city, but let's sit around and talk about Dick and Stephanie instead.

> "I think we should be happy for Dick,

Celena: I'm often happy for Dick.

Dan: Really?

Celena: No.

> after all he hasn't been this happy for a girl for six months."

Maya: Nothing says true love like two hormonal thirteen year-olds.

> said Wally, as everybody remember what happen when Dick dated Zatanna.

Dan: Her dad didn't approve.

Tsuneo: Zatarra?

Dan: Dr. Fate. And when Fate doesn't approve...

> *Flashback*

> The young justice team except Robin, all sit in the cave watching TV,

Celena: I'm beginning to wonder if any of them do any crime fighting, at all, ever.

> Wally had Artemis in his arms, as do Conner with M'gann.

Dan: Wait a sec, are we back at the start of the fic?

Tsuneo: Different stock scene, but just as stock.

> Kaldur had an arm wrapped around Raquel,

Celena: Naturally pairing up the black characters.

Maya: They kissed, you know.

Celena: Once, on new year's day.

Maya: So? There could be more.

Dan: Alright, do I have to separate you two?

Tsuneo: Folks, every shipping war ever.

> Zatanna was sitting on the floor reading one of her magic books, and kept checking her watch.

Tsuneo: She wanted to see if it was a performance diver watch, or still a two dollar cheapo.

> Recognize Speedy B06

> "It's Red Arrow," yelled Roy.

> "Hey Roy! What's up?" asked Kid Flash.

> "Angry, my landlord shut my water off," said Roy in an angry tone, "So I'm using your guys' shower."

Dan: Thrill as speedy makes bathing arrangements! Gasp in suspense as they sort out the shower order!

> "It's alright my friend," said Kaldur.

> Then Roy went off toward the shower room.

Maya: And like that... he was gone.

Celena: Wow, thrilling flashback. Let's go.

> "O man, I totally forgot I have a test tomorrow," said Zatanna, "I'll be in my room guys."

Maya: [Zatanna] Absolutely not summoning the exam's answers at all.

> "Ok," said the team.

> 2 hours later

Dan: Guys, this flashback is growing cobwebs.

> Recognize Robin B01

> "Rob, what are you doing here?" asked Wally, "I thought Batman needed you to stay in Gotham."

> "He does I just need my laptop, me and bats are working on a case," said Robin.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Because my supertech wrist computer obviously isn't enough.

Celena: Admit it, Dick. You're only here because the laptop has your stash of Pony fics.

> "Let me guess your laptop has information you need," said Artemis.

> "Yep," said Robin popping the "p", "So I'll be out of here in a sec."

> Robin walk towards his room and began his search for his laptop, but it wasn't in his room. "Where
> did I put it," thought Robin,

Dan: Somewhere, Bruce is shaking his head in shame.

> "Wait a minute I lend it to Zatanna, so she can type her paper."

Maya: You leant her the laptop with vital case information. Security at its finest.

> Robin quickly tidy up the mess he made in his search for his laptop.

Celena: Quick ninety minute pause to alphabetize his bookcase.

> Robin left his room and walks to

> Zatanna's room, he knock the door and no answer. He tried again, but nothing, Robin was starting

> to get worried for his girlfriend.

Tsuneo: Because there's no legitimate reason why she wouldn't answer.

> He quickly type in the code to unlock the door (Zatanna gave it to him when they first started dating,

Dan: That and he cracked it within seconds.

> but he was a polite boyfriend and knock first)

Tsuneo: [Robin] 'Scuse me, invasion of privacy?

> and open the door

> slowly, it was quite, he found the light switch and flip it. Robin was shocked at what he was seeing,

Maya: [Robin] It's a shocking revelation explaining the utter turnaround in character relationships!

[Normal] I'm just kidding, they're doing it for no reason.

> he was using the door frame to keep him from falling, Zatanna was naked in her bed with Roy.

Dan: Who was, for no reason we'll explore, dressed as John Constantine.

> "Robin!" yelled Zatanna, "What are you doing here?"

Tsuneo: [Robin] Well, Batman needed someone to talk to in the comics, so they invented a sidekick...

> "I came to get my-my-my laptop," said Robin trying not to stutter.

> "I can explain," said Zatanna sitting up, holding a blanket to keep her covered up.

Dan: [Robin] Okay, go on.

[Long pause]

Maya: [Zatanna] Alright, I can't.

> "Explain what?," said Robin,

Tsuneo: [Robin] That the authour needed to break up a couple to eliminate a perceived romantic rival?

> "That you're cheating on me, I thought you love me."

> "I do Robin, I really do," said Zatanna as she started to cry.

Celena: [Zatanna] Which is why I'm sleeping with your friend.

> "And you," said Robin pointing at Roy, "I thought you were my brother,

Dan: [Robin] I keep mistaking you for Jason.

> I thought you would never hurt me."

Tsuneo: [Robin] Apart from that time you mind controlled the whole League.

> "Robin, I'm so sorry," said Roy, "I never wanted to hurt you."

Dan: [Roy] I'm in bed with your girlfriend solely to cheer you up!

> "Neither did I," said Zatanna wiping away the tears.

> "Well you two have a funny way of showing it,"

Tsuneo: [Robin] You should have e-mailed me, at least!

> said Robin as tears were falling down his cheek. Then Robin step back and ran.

> "Wait Robin!" yelled Roy.

> "Robin!" screamed Zatanna.

Maya: [Zatanna] Give us a chance to justify this contrived situation!

> Robin didn't listen, he just kept on running,

Dan: I wish we could do the same.

Tsuneo: Nearly there.

> tears were falling down like rain. All he wanted to do is to

> go back to the manor and crawl in his bed and try to forget what happen. He was almost to the zeta

> beam, Roy and Zatanna were still screaming his name, the rest of the team witness Robin running

> and try to stop him but he was gone.

Dan: [Aqualad] What was that all about?

Celena: [M'gann] Well, my research says the misunderstanding and breakup are vital parts of the Earth mating ritual.

Dan: [Aqualad] Those are sitcoms.

Celena: So's this.

> Recognize Robin B01

> Then the team sees Roy in his pants and Zatanna in her bathrobe, they both knew they had to

> explain.

Tsuneo: Do they get to explain? Of course not.

> *Flashback ended*

Maya: Well that certainly explains how awkward those three have been all fic.

Dan: But they haven't...

Maya: No. They haven't at all.

> The team remember how much pain Robin was in, he acts like his normal self,

Maya: Almost like the authour only just made it up.

> but deep down

> inside he was still hurt. Until Phoenix came in the picture, it's like she healed him with a single look.

Tsuneo: And a pink crystal to the heart.

> "Hey guys," said a voice.

Dan: It's Wildebeest, wondering when he gets a look in.

> Everybody jumped and turned to find Dick and a girl; she looks like Stephanie, but her hair was

> different.

Celena: It's almost like she's had the haircut she's been talking about.

> "Woah, you guys look like you seen a ghost," said Dick.

Maya: [Artemis] Well, Zatanna and I went out for a stroll once...

> "The ghost is properly me, because my hair is different,"

Tsuneo: It means none of them can recognise you at all.

> said Stephanie putting her hand through

> her hair. Her hair is shoulder length, split in the middle, with short layers.

Celena: And the vital haircut subplot has reached its gripping conclusion.

Tsuneo: Her hair has had more attention so far than the injustice league. That really tells you all you need to know about this fic.

> "I like your hair," said M'gann with a smile, everybody nod in agreement.

> "Thank you," said Stephanie, "But I think it's to short."

> "Its perfect for you," said Dick as he brush her hair behind her ear.

> "Thank you," said Stephanie smiling and blushing.

Tsuneo: That's what was missing. They hadn't gushed all over Stephanie in half a chapter.

> Then there was a beep noise,

Dan: Fries are up!

> Dick check his communicator and then Bruce's voice came through.

Tsuneo: [Robin] What's happening?

Dan: [Batman] I'm in a car race against Steppenwolf for the fate of the world.

Tsuneo: [Robin] You are?

Dan: [Batman] I'm in teaming up with Jonah Hex to fight Mongul.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Again?

Dan: [Batman] Space Ghost and I are taking the Phantom Cruiser to stop the Beast Master.

Tsuneo: [Robin] That is both brave and bold of you.

> "Team we have a mission, please report to the study."

Tsuneo: Can it be?

Dan: We're actually getting some superhero action in this superhero fic?

> Then everybody follow Stephanie to the study, everybody is thinking what their mission is going to
> be.

Maya: Or it could abruptly end.

Celena: That works too.

With that, the TV screen went blank and the world returned to prose once more.

"What, we're done so soon?" Dan asked.

Tsuneo gaped at him. "Don't tell me you want more!" he exclaimed.

"Not more, but just... Y'know, something. It looked like the superheroes were going to do superheroing, and then that was it."

"To do superheroing..." Maya muttered, shaking her head in dismay.

"What's with that, Voice?" Dan asked.

The Voice chimed in on request. "Well, I do have plenty more of this fanfic-" A revelation that was accompanied by quiet groans. "But I thought it best to cut here, both for length and theme."

"Since stuff happens next time, and you couldn't let us have that right now," Celena stated.

"Sort of... Well, yes," The Voice admitted.

"So do we do reviews or not?" Tsuneo asked. "Since this is a part one, after all."

"Since the fanfic does change tack a little from here, I would appreciate your impressions of this first section," The Voice replied.

"Fair enough," came Tsuneo's response.

"Yeah so, the thing about the whole fic is..." Dan paused, looking for the right words. "It's so freaking dull. Really. Like, absolutely, completely dull. There's two minutes of action with the robot, and most of that is just standing and gaping while new girl and superdad wipe it out. And yeah, I get that action isn't the focus of the fic; it's meant to be a teen romance. But the romance is just plain dull! Robin follows Stephanie around, gapes at her and stutters a bit. Then the whole fire family does plain old boring family stuff without involving the cast at all. They serve stew! They do her hair! They argue about flying to school!"

"Which is a tiny bit superhuman," Maya interjected.

"Yeah, but even that manages to be dull. And the cast just sits around waiting for it to end. Really, so do we."

"The cast does nothing but sit and wait," Tsuneo added. "And supply stock responses, really. Actually, I can't think of any reason most of the characters are along. Batman gets a little bit of airtime as the arbitrary team leader and as Robin's guardian, but aside from that nobody says or does anything specific to their character. It's all stock responses and adulation of the Porter family. There's no reason given to empty out both teams, and they accomplish nothing that couldn't be done by Batman and Robin alone."

Celena nodded, and picked up from Tsuneo's review. "As bad as the canon cast get it, I feel that the fanfic's new characters are even worse. Flamethrower and Madam Z establish their place in the family, but it's mostly bouncing off Stephanie - talking about stew and haircuts is about it. Media however is the worst. They take great pains to say that she's Stephanie's aunt, not her mother but never really say why she's here. And all she does is fill in as, well, Stephanie's mother."

"They do identify her as a superhero, though," Tsuneo added. "Of course, that goes nowhere too."

"Exactly. Beats me why she even has a costume and a superhero name, since she doesn't exist beyond being Stephanie's surrogate mother."

"Medilla exists so Stephanie can have a teary tragedy and a happy nuclear family," Maya stated. "And why not? The whole fic revolves around her as much as any Mary Sue. Naturally she is rich and has

superpowers, but is still vulnerable and teary so as to garner attention and sympathy from the readers. The big problem in her case is not that she is supposedly perfect-

"Really?" Dan butted in. "Seemed that way to me."

"Well true, she's meant to be pretty much so. But rather, for being the main character and romantic lead, she is really such a weak character herself. We get infodumped on her family status in short order, and she has her big crying scene with the sunrise, but she really seems to have very little personality to speak of. All her appeal is described, not demonstrated, through Robin going on about how beautiful and vulnerable she supposedly is. It's not just that she lacks flaws, but she seems to lack character traits at all."

"That does nicely cover it," The Voice said. "Thanks once again."

"And with that, we're off," Dan said. He all but leapt to his feet and reached across the couch. To everyone's surprise, he took Celena's arm and indicated to the door. "Don't want to get in the way now, do we?"

"Get in the way?" Tsuneo asked, while Celena shook off Dan's grasp and stood. "No, we were just swapping stories, that's all."

"Really?" Celena asked, looking down on Maya.

"Absolutely. Nothing but," she responded sincerely.

The two locked gazes for a moment before Celena finally sighed. "Alright, fine. Just don't overdo it."

"C'mon, Celena," Dan said. "Let's go swap some stories of our own."

"Swap some..." Celena muttered as the two turned to leave. "You didn't really say that, did you?"

Tsuneo and Maya watched as the others departed, before turning back to each other. "What was that all about?" Tsuneo asked her.

Maya chuckled slightly and waved it off. "Oh, just some charming naïveté."

"Yeah... Dan can be a bit dull at times," Tsuneo explained.

Maya nodded, with an odd smile on her face. But rather than explain, she took up her glass once more. "So anyway. As I recall, you and Rick had to wind your way through that mountain pass..."

Author's notes:

Long and painful as it was, I chose not to riff directly on the song lyrics and let them just play out as typed. As the song is a professional piece and isn't a part of the authour's work, it seemed inappropriate to tackle it like the rest of the fic.

For clarity, I decided to do all character cues in their superhero IDs. The canon characters are generally better known as such, and the fic's new characters are introduced by those names first, even though they are barely used throughout these chapters.

Young Justice and related characters created by DC Comics

The Girl on Fire created by Phoenix M. 101

Maya Gold, Celena Harte, Tsuneo Tateo and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Flaming avian metaphors? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

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> "Another hour at tops," replied M'gann.
> 1 hour later
> "We're here," said M'gann.
> "Finally!" yelled Wally.