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## Episode 238 – The Girl on Fire 2 - Not Catching Fire

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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.

The room was already occupied, with both Maya and Celena seated. Maya was tapping away at a tablet while sitting on the couch, sporting a sandy-brown hair in a ponytail and wearing a simple grey track suit. Celena meanwhile was at the table, with a variety of notes spread out before her.

Maya paused in her work to lean back over the edge of the couch. She scanned the material on the table and gave a low whistle. This elicited a simple "What?" from Celena in reply.

"You're really getting into this," Maya said matter-of-factly.

"Hey, it's a spot of fun," Celena replied.

"Given how you and Dan were on about versus matches, I should have figured they were a hobby for you."

"Not really a hobby..." Maya put down the tablet and turned her full attention to Celena as the taller woman tried to come up with the words. "I've always been a competitive person really, so it's kinda fun to match people up like this."

Maya reached over and scooped up a sheet of paper. She took some time to scan the notes Celena had made of one of the many fanfic characters they were assembling. "Quite in-depth, too."

"Hey, isn't this meant to be your job or something?" Celena replied.

"How so?"

"You're the head-shrinking spy, right? You said part of your job was target profiling and all. So I figured you'd be the one to assess our 'volunteers.'"

"Sounds too much like work," Maya replied lazily dropped the sheet back on the table.

"Oh, so what do you do for fun?" Celena asked, likewise abandoning her notes.

"Now you're head-shrinking me?" Maya asked back, smiling.

"I figure even you can't be a spy 24/7," Celena told her. "Unless that's why you're really here."

"Trust me. No ulterior motives. I'm here because I'm having fun."

Celena tried to stop a smile from cracking across her face, but eventually surrendered to the inevitable. "Having fun. Now I know you're lying."

"Can't trust a spy, right?" Maya offered. Celena only sighed in response, prompting her to lean closer. "Personal reasons? You said you'd worked with agents before, if I recall."

"True," Celena grumbled, her smile long gone.

"But closer than you said, right?"

Celena looked her in the eye. Try as she might, she could see nothing but earnest concern from the other woman. "Yeah, actually." Maya nodded her understanding, and Celena pressed on. "I got in trouble way back when I was an enlisted soldier. I was headed for a court martial, but the brass had a different idea. Someone from an attached agency needed assets for an operation, and I fit the bill nicely."

"And it was that or the stockade," Maya guessed.

"Pretty much."

Maya nodded her understanding. "Let me guess. Disgraced soldier parleys field experience into a position with a criminal or terrorist organisation..."

"And feeds info straight out to a handler," Celena finished. "Why do I get the feeling you've run that sort of op yourself?" She glared at Maya, daring her to reply.

"Actually, it's exactly the kind of work I despise," Maya said sternly. "I serve my state voluntarily, and I would hope everyone else does so too. But that means I won't see people forced into roles they wouldn't want for themselves."

"So that's why you change yourself around so much," Celena concluded. "So you don't have to rely on an outside asset."

"Part of it. It's naive, I know," Maya replied.

Celena scoffed. "It's honestly not what I expected from you," she said. "So... Sorry. If I wasn't exactly friendly."

"Let me guess, 'it's not you, it's your job?'" Maya asked sweetly.

"Yeah, pretty much."

They both nodded their unspoken understanding. Maya leaned in once more and said "So tell me how that all ended up?"

The door cracked open before she could answer, admitting Dan and Tsuneo. "I'll tell you later," Celena muttered.

"Ladies! Good to see me?" Dan asked boldly as he stepped inside. Maya and Celena simply glanced at each other and chuckled to themselves. "What?" Dan asked from the doorway.

"They're conspiring against you," Tsuneo said as he stepped past to the table. He nodded to Maya and Celena, and glanced down at the information spread across the table. "Going over our contestants?"

"Figuring out their attitudes and potential alliances," Maya said with a slight smile.

"Thanks for doing all this," Tsuneo offered.

"No worries. We got a lot done between us," Celena replied, matching Maya's smirk.

"Really?" Dan asked. He leaned in towards Celena, a sly grin etched across his face. "You two were 'swapping stories,' huh?"

Before Celena could wreak her vengeance, the Voice spoke up out of nowhere, saying "Glad to see you all here."

"Oh look, a Scottish Terrier," Dan replied.

There was a brief silence as they glanced at Dan, allowing him a momentary self-satisfied smirk. Before long, the Voice chimed back in again. "As this particular team is assembled, I've lined up-"

"A self-indulgent superhero fic with an overblown original female lead," Celena deadpanned.

"Hey, remember that Star Wars fic we started with? Can we have more of that?" Dan asked.

"You mean the self-indulgent Star Wars fic with an overblown original cast herd?" Celena shot back.

"Yeah, that sounds like it," Dan replied.

"Anyway," the Voice pressed on, "I've brought you three more chapters of 'The Girl On Fire.'"

"That's the self-indulgent superhero fic with an overblown original female lead?" Celena asked, grinning from ear to ear.

"Yeah, that sounds like it," Dan replied with a matching grin.

"Amazing," Maya muttered, watching the pair of them.

With that, they all took their seats. Tsuneo glanced up at ceiling. "So you said the fic takes a different tack from here on, Voice. What are we looking at?"

"These chapters are more action than romance oriented," the Voice replied.

"Some action, at last," Celena said. "That can only be a plus." With that, the big screen switched on, switching the world over to script format.

Dan: Okay, because I wasn't paying attention, what happened last time?

Celena: Nothing.

Dan: Seriously? It's gotta be more than that.

Celena: You're right. Lots of nothing.

Dan: Much better.

> Chapter 6

> The team made it to the study and waited for their mission.

Tsuneo: Since we spent five chapters waiting, we're just going to sit here and wait some more.

> "Alright team, the mission is find the injustice league and find out what they're planing," said Bruce.

Maya: You have to wonder how hard it is to find a man with a blazing skull.

> "How do we do that?" asked Aqualad.

Dan: Well, Flash and Kid Flash could do a lightning fast recon of the area, J'onn and M'gann could scan for hostile minds, Zatara and Zatanna could try and sense Wotan's chaos magic...

> A holographic computer pop up and show a map of the city, two dots appeared. "There are two possible locations that the injustice league could be," said Bruce, "One is at an abandoned hospital and the other is a warehouse."

Dan: Or they could just check two random places in town. That works too.

> "What happen to the hospital?" asked Wally.

Celena: They abandoned it, weren't you listening?

> "There was a fire, they manage to get rid of the flames,

Dan: Just hucked them out with the trash.

> but the hospital couldn't be fix," said Stephanie.

Tsuneo: So rather than redevelop the lot, they let it stand empty for decades.

> "Correct, me, Phoenix, and Media have encounter a few villains there before," said Dan.

Celena: Moose Tailings here has its own supervillains?

Tsuneo: Genovese's law states that a superhero's presence in an area will attract or create supervillains.

> "How far apart are these locations," asked Dick.

> "About 3 miles," said Bruce.

> "Only a second, if you're a Flash," said Barry, as everybody glare at him.

Maya: Most of them can fly or teleport or the like, if I recall.

Dan: Yeah, but still! Three miles!

> "Anyways we're splitting up into two teams," said Bruce,

Dan: [Batman] Everyone with their own movie comes with me. Movies, Oliver. Not TV shows.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] Just be glad Hal's not here.

> "Everybody make sure you have your

> uniforms and weapons, we'll leave when the it gets close to dark."

> Everyone nodded and left the study.

Dan: [Superboy] I'm beat. What's on the tube?

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Smell you geeks later.

> 20 minute later

> Everybody went upstairs to prepare for the mission, except for Dick, he was always prepare.

Celena: Even when flying internationally?

Tsuneo: Always prepared.

Celena: Even when in the shower?  
Tsuneo: Always.

> "Hey Stephanie."

> "Yeah."

Dan: [Robin] Nothing. [Pause] Hey Stephanie.

> "Can I talk to you about something," asked Dick.

> "Sure," said Stephanie, she grabs Dick's hand and took him into the sitting room (Basically it's like a library).

Tsuneo: Is it, fic? Because I had no idea what a sitting room was.

> "So what's up?"

Maya: [Robin] An elaborate yet unobtrusive chandelier.

> "Well Stephanie, you see," said Dick but is having a hard time to say the words.

Celena: Well I guess he wasn't prepared then.  
Tsuneo: Alright, alright.

> "Yes," said Stephanie, her eyes sparkling like diamonds.

Maya: Ouch. I think I've got some eye drops for that.

> "I....I.....I really like you," said Dick. Stephanie was surprise at what he said.

Celena: Really, girl? Why else would he be following you around like a lost puppy?  
Dan: Because Batman told him to keep her under close surveillance?  
Celena: Actually, yeah. That works.

> "I'm so sorry that I said  
> that, I don't know what has gotten into me, I understand if you never talk to me," said Dick as he  
> was about to leave the room,

Tsuneo: Robin specialises in drive-by confessions.

> until something grab him. Dick turn to see what grab him

Celena: It's c-list Bat-villain Blockbuster!  
Dan: [Blockbuster] Ain't much work out there for a Nightwing rogue.

> and it was Stephanie.

> "I really like you too," said Stephanie with a smile.

> "Really?" asked Dick.a

> "Yeah, I've never felt like this for any guy, but you're different," said Stephanie.

Maya: So he's different to no other guy that she's felt this for?

> "Do you want to go upstairs and talk?" asked Dick.

> "Sure," said Stephanie,

Celena: [Phoenix] 'cause sitting around here and talking is so five seconds ago.

> this time Dick grab her hand and they went upstairs to her room.

> 25 minutes before the mission

> Dick and Stephanie have talked for hours, Dick told her; his past relationship with Batgirl

Tsuneo: Who isn't even Batgirl at this point.

Dan: Time machine dating. It happens.

> and

> Zatanna. Stephanie told him; her past relationships with guys who wanted nothing to do with her.

Maya: Which is why they were in relationships with her.

Celena: And by 'past relationships,' she means 'guys she wouldn't stop pestering.'

> They both decided to tell everybody tomorrow,

Celena: Believe me, they know.

> they head towards the basement, where everybody

> was waiting. Once the basement door was close,

Dan: They never got out again.

> Dan got a secrete keyboard to appear and started

> to type the code. Once he finish the portal appear

Maya: [GLaDoS] Hello and welcome to the Enrichment Center.

> and everybody with through with duffel bags;

Tsuneo: Zatara levitated his through, just to show off.

> carrying their uniforms and weapons. Then the league, team, and the three new members arrive at

> the base in the mountain.

> "Alright changing rooms are over there," pointed Dan,

Celena: In between the danger room and Cerebro.

> "There are two rooms one can be for the girls and one for the boys."

Maya: [M'gann] Is that how it works? Silly me.

> Everyone noddod and proceed to get dress,

Dan: [Flash] I'm done.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] I'm done.

Maya: [M'gann] I'm done.

Celena: [J'onn] I'm done.

Dan: Fine. Everyone \*else\* went and got dressed.

> then everyone walk towards the bioship. They got in and prepare for takeoff.

> In the bioship

Celena: And now for a blow-by-blow account of takeoff preparations...

> "So during the day you guys wear white and at night you were black," said Kid Flash.

Dan: They also wear their sunglasses at night.

> "Yes, but there the same designs on our suits," said Phoenix.

> "So Phoenix does Flamethrower let you do patrol by yourself?" asked Zatanna.

> "No, Flamethrower can be very protective of me," said Phoenix.

Maya: [Phoenix] It's like, dad, I'm so thirteen already! I can like, take on the Fearsome Five myself!

> "Boy, don't I know that feeling," said Robin eyeing Batman.

Tsuneo: So overprotective that he lets you lead your own team on covert missions.

> Phoenix giggled at Robin and gave him a huge smile, Robin smile back.

Dan: [Robin] Duh, girls...

> "We're getting close," said Miss Martian.

> "Alright, this is how we're going to do this," said Batman,

Dan: [Batman] Flash and Impulse, go north. Superboy, you take Bumblebee and Manos Y Manos around the side, along the scenic route. Blue Devil and Zauriel, get their attention with an impromptu performance of "Heaven is a Place on Earth."

Celena: What about Wildebeest?

Dan: [Batman] Wildebeest is fine just how he is.

> "Team, Phoenix, Red Arrow, and Black Canary, you take the hospital."

Celena: [Groucho Marx] Alright, but don't ask where I'm going to take it.

Dan: Snare drum.

> "The rest of us takes the warehouse and if there's an emergency call us,"

Tsuneo: [Batman] If we need to call you in an emergency, we will feel deeply ashamed.

> everybody nodded, "Good, now let's get to work."

> The bioship made it to the hospital, M'gann let her uncle J'onn take control of the bioship. Then the

> young justice team, Phoenix, Red Arrow, and Black Canary

Celena: [Black Canary] Why do I get stuck with the kids?

> got off the bioship and landed on top of the roof and watch the bioship left.

Dan: [Kid Flash] Bye! Bye now! See ya! [Pause] What are we doing here again?

> "Alright, Robin do you have a layout of the hospital?" asked Aqualad.

> "No, there's no record of this hospital," said Robin looking at his wrist-computer.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Apparently it appeared out of thin air one day, already burnt to the ground.

> "Phoenix, how well do you know this hospital?" asked Aqualad.

> "Like the back of my hand," said Phoenix smirking,

Maya: [Phoenix] It's the local kids' favourite make-out spot.

> "There are six levels including the basement."

Dan: It's a side dungeon, so most of the monsters are re-used sprites with new names and colours.

> "Ok, we'll split up and each get a level," said Aqualad, "Superboy, M'gann take the fifth level;

> Artemis, Kid Flash take the fourth level; Red Arrow, Zatanna take third level; Rocket, Black Canary,

> and I will take the second level; Robin, Phoenix take the first level;

Tsuneo: [Aqualad] Everyone divide up into your arbitrary pairings. Black Canary, you just shuffle your feet and look awkward.

> we will all be on mind link

> understood." Everybody nodded, "Good, Miss Martian link us up."

> 'Is everyone on?' asked M'gann.

Dan: [Kid Flash] I'm not!

Maya: Shh!

> "Ow!" yelled Phoenix holding her head.

> Robin hold Phoenix and said, "It hurts at first, but you'll get use to it."

Celena: [M'gann] I absolutely promise not to rifle through your memories too much.

> "I'll hold you up to that," giggle Phoenix.

> 'Alright lets move' said Aqualad.

Dan: [Aqualad] If we are all done flirting, that is.

> First level

> "Dang, I can't believe it's still standing," said Robin.

> "I know," said Phoenix.

Tsuneo: Yes, we can tell just what a dire state it's in from the elaborate description.



> Room by room, they enter and look around, but found nothing.

Celena: And we get to watch. Room. By. Room.

> 'Aqualad, we've check the first level and found nothing' said Robin.

> 'Ok, most of us are almost done, you and Phoenix start searching the basement.'

> 'Ok' said Robin, "So where's the basement?"

Maya: [Phoenix] Downstairs.

Dan: Snare drum.

Tsuneo: Bonk on the head.

> "Follow me Boy Wonder," said Phoenix as she grabs Robin's hand.

> Once they reach the door of the basement, Robin got a funny feeling in his stomach

Celena: Madame Z's beef stew was not all it was cracked up to be.

> and went to open the door. He slowly open the door and found darkness,

Dan: It's a darkness-projecting supervillain! Actually no, it's just a dank basement.

> but he was use to being the Dark Knight's partner and all.

Celena: I mean, obviously he was. Seriously. Don't know why I even brought it up.

> Slowly Robin and Phoenix went down the stairs, every step they made creek,

Tsuneo: Until their boots were waterlogged and they were surrounded by frogs.

> until finally they made it to the bottom. Phoenix made a small ball of fire so they could see

> and all that was there were spider webs, bunt marks, and boxes.

Dan: The walls?

Tsuneo: Boxes.

Dan: The doors?

Tsuneo: Spider webs.

Dan: The signs?

Tsuneo: Burn marks. That's all that was there.

> "How long has this hospital been here?" asked Robin.

> "50 years," said Phoenix, "It burn down 10 years ago."

> "Wow, like I said it still standing," said Robin.

Celena: [Phoenix] And like I said, 'can it, buster, we're working here.'

> "Yep," said Phoenix

Maya: [Phoenix] Well, we wouldn't be in it if it wasn't.

> then she saw something. "Robin."

> "Yeah."

Celena: [Phoenix] Nothing. [Pause] Hey Robin?

> "We're not alone."

> "What makes you say that?"

Dan: Superman, Martian Manhunter... Hawkman, maybe.

> Then a knife flew across the room and landed on a box.

Dan: Not so much thrown at anyone as casually tossed there.

> "That's why!" yelled Phoenix as her white lens went wide.

Tsuneo: [Phoenix] My previously unmentioned precognition saw the knife before it was thrown!

> "Stay on your toes," said Robin as he pulled out a batarang.

Maya: Quietly wondering how he got Bruce's equipment mixed up with his own.

> Phoenix and Robin were back to back scanning the basement to see what other surprises might  
> appear out of nowhere.

Celena: Knife-throwing ambusher, care to jump in here? No?

> "I'm going to send a message to the others," said Robin, Phoenix nodded. 'Team this is Robin be  
> very careful when you come to the basement, we're not alone.'

Tsuneo: [Robin] And apparently our telepathic link stopped working too.

> 'What!? Is the Injustice team there?' asked Kid Flash.

Dan: [Robin] Just some knife nut. I think it's Brutale.

> 'We don't know, but Phoenix saw a shadow and then a knife came out of nowhere,' said Robin.

Maya: [Phoenix] A shadow... yeah. Let's go with that.

> 'Stay alert! We'll be there in a minute,' said Aqualad.

Dan: You know, this may be an odd time to ask, but if they had a spare team member, couldn't they  
have just sent Black Canary down to the basement to start with?

Celena: Yep, you're right.

Dan: I was?

Celena: That was an odd time to ask.

> 'Ok,' said Robin, "They're on their way down here."

> "Good, but we could use the help," said Phoenix.

> "Why? Am I to much of a challenge for the Girl on Fire and the Boy Wonder?" said a mysterious

> voice.

Tsuneo: 'Boy Wonder' is being a bit kind to Peeta...

> "That wasn't the team, right?" asked Phoenix. Robin shook his head 'no'.

Celena: Not unless Red Arrow is a ventriloquist.

> "I was afraid you might say that."

> "Come on Phoenix, you can't be afraid of me," said the mysterious voice, "I mean we do have a  
> history."

Dan: Say, maybe that's why she's afraid of him...

> "Do you know this person?" asked Robin.

> "Unfortunately, I do," groan Phoenix,

Maya: It's one of those random guys who wanted nothing to do with her.

> "Come on out and show yourself Ghost Flame."

> Then heavy footprints started to walk towards Robin and Phoenix,

Tsuneo: Before stumbling on a burnt, cobwebbed box.

> as the mystery person enter the light Phoenix had.

Celena: [Game show host] And will our Mystery Guest sign in please!

> He looks just like Flamethrower, except he look more like the Ghost Rider,

Dan: So, nothing like Flamethrower?

> but without the skull and flames.

Dan: So, like Nicholas Cage on a motorcycle?

> "I glad you remember my name," said Ghost Flame.

Tsuneo: [Ghost Flame] Better than I can do, bwahaha!

> "How can I forget," growled Phoenix.

Maya: [Phoenix] You friended me on Facebook and kept sending me all those dumb jokes.

> "Aren't you going to introduce me to your friend?" asked Ghost Flame.

Celena: [Phoenix] 'Friend' is a strong word...

> "Robin this is Ghost Flame," said Phoenix.

Maya: [Phoenix] Ghost Flame, this is Robin.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Phoenix, this is Ghost Flame; Ghost Flame, this is Phoenix.  
Dan: [Ghost Flame] Robin, this is Phoenix; Phoenix, this is Robin.  
Tsuneo: [Robin] Phoenix, this is Ghost Flame; Ghost Flame, this is the door.  
Celena: Bonk on the head.  
Dan: Snare drum.

> "You forgot one part," said Ghost Flame

Dan: [Ghost Flame] I am your father's brother's nephew's cousin's former roommate.

> as he got close to Phoenix and grabbed her wrist.

Celena: Sure, just let the flaming madman wander on up to you there.

> Phoenix wince at the pain of her wrist, Robin was about to do something

Celena: Play the tuba!  
Maya: Invest in the commodities market!  
Tsuneo: Compose a sonnet!  
Dan: Go for a beer!

> until Ghost Flame made a wall of fire to separate him from Phoenix.

Dan: Robin went down, down, down and the flames went higher.

> "I'm Phoenix's uncle, also Flamethrower's older brother.

Tsuneo: [Ghost Flame] Also his father's son and cousin's cousin, just in case that wasn't clear.

> Chapter 7

> Author's note: Thank you all for the reviews! It always makes my day when I get a review and  
> follower.

Celena: Follower, demented stalker... Eh, same difference.

> In this chapter there will be a lot of mind link conversations and people speaking another  
> language. Hope you enjoy it! :)

Maya: Oh boy! Mind link conversations!  
Dan: And foreign languages too!  
Maya: It's everything I want in a fic!

> Previously

Dan: Episode V. It is a dark time for the Rebellion.

> "You forgot one part," said Ghost Flame as he got close to Phoenix and grabbed her wrist.

Celena: Of all the goofs they left in the DVD release...

> Phoenix wince at the pain of her wrist, Robin was about to do something

Dan: Yup. Beer it is.

> until Ghost Flame made a wall of  
> fire to separate him from Phoenix. "I'm Phoenix's uncle, also Flamethrower's older brother."

> Continue

Celena: Insert coin to continue?

Dan: What a shame, I'm all out.

> Phoenix tries to release herself from Ghost Flame's grip, but he just tighten his grip.

Maya: [Phoenix] Oh no, if only I had superpowers right now!

> Robin gave Ghost Flame a glare and tries to find a way through the fire wall.

Celena: Watch out, he's going to pout you to death.

> 'Team are you getting close?' asked Robin.

> 'We're all at the door, but we can't open it,' said M'gann.

> 'What?'

Maya: You heard it folks, eight junior superheroes and a member of the Justice League defeated by a door.

> 'We're trying everything to get in, but so far nothing work,' said Black Canary.

Celena: [Robin] Have you tried turning the knob on your side?

Dan: [Aqualad] But I do not have a knob on my side.

Tsuneo: Bonk on the head.

> 'Guys you need to hurry! Phoenix is in trouble and I can't get to her.'

> 'We'll try to get in there as fast as we can my friend,' said Aqualad.

Tsuneo: [Aqualad] If only this door was designed to open and let people through!

> "Your friends won't be able to get in here," said a creepy voice.

Dan: [Robin] They're not my friends.

Tsuneo: [Creepy Voice] Well the... guys... you work with... won't... I lost that one.

> "O no, you're in here too," moan Phoenix.

> "That was rude," said the voice as his footsteps got closer to Ghost Flame and Phoenix.

> Once he enter the light, Robin notice he was older than Ghost Flame but dresses like him.

Tsuneo: So like Ghost Rider, except not like Ghost Rider and older.

Dan: Sam Elliot?

Tsuneo: That works.

> "Who are you?" growled Robin.

> "Me? Well you can call me Black Flame," said Black Flame as he got closer to Robin.

Tsuneo: Black Flame and Ghost Flame. With all the fire-related names out there, can't you come up with something better?

Dan: Yeah, like 'Sparkler' or 'St Elmo's Fire' or 'Hotplate' or 'Illegal Mexican Firecraker.'

Tsuneo: You know what, never mind.

> "So who is this Phoenix, your boyfriend?"

Maya: [Phoenix] Actually, we've broached the possibility of a relationship, but haven't really started dating...

Tsuneo: [Robin] Not helping.

> "Who want's to know," growled Phoenix trying to break free.

> "Well I do," said Black Flame

Dan: [Black Flame] So I can put it on my Facebook wall... Of evil!

> as he grab Robin by his cape and swung him across the room.

Celena: [Black Flame] Anyone for a game of racquetball?

> Robin hit the wall and grunted and fell to the ground. Black Flame started to walk towards him and  
> grab him by his hair.

> "Stop it Black Flame!" screamed Phoenix.

Tsuneo: [Black Flame] No. Because you didn't say the magic word.

> Black Flame just ignore her and got Robin on his feet and

> he was about to punch him, until Phoenix threw a fire ball at him.

Celena: [Phoenix] Quarter circle forwards punch! Take that!

> "I said LEAVE HIM ALONE!"

Dan: Fear the scrawny thirteen year-old girl.

Maya: Oh yeah, they're the worst.

> Then Phoenix broke free from Ghost Flame's grip and punch him in the stomach causing him to fall.

Celena: His villain cred crumbles when the Secret Society hears he was punched out by his teenage hostage.

> Then Black Flame ran towards Phoenix and had his fist in flames.

Dan: Uh, dude? Your hand, it's uh...

Tsuneo: I think he knows.

> "Phoenix look out!" shouted Robin as he got out a batarang and threw it under Black Flame's feet,  
> causing him to trip.

Tsuneo: Remind me why we're meant to be scared of these clowns.

Maya: The strangely impenetrable door is their backup.

Tsuneo: Wow, vicious.

> "Is this how you treat your grandfather Phoenix," asked Black Flame.

Celena: Unfortunately, yes. It makes family get-togethers rather tense.

> Robin made his way to Phoenix, "So Black Flame is your grandpa and Ghost Flame is your uncle?"

Maya: [Phoenix] Yah, like we established that, y'know!

> "Yeah, I'll explain everything later," said Phoenix,

Celena: [Phoenix] See, when a Silver Age villain gets a new legacy version...

> "I think we should contact the team."

Dan: [Robin] You don't have to tell me, they're in my head too.

> "Good idea," said Robin, "They should have been here by now."

Celena: But instead they went out for smoothies.

> 'Guys are you there?'

> 'We're here dude, but we still can't get in,' said KF.

> 'How can you not get in?' asked Robin.

> 'We don't know Robin but the door is shut tight,

Dan: [Shouting] Door not open! Why door not open?

Tsuneo: Dude, did you try pushing?

Dan: Oh yeah, silly me.

> we contact the others and told them the situation,' said Rocket.

Celena: Batman somehow manages to facepalm by telepathy.

> 'Is everything alright?' asked Red Arrow.

Maya: Actually, yeah. They seem to pretty much have everything under control.

> 'Lets just say that I'm having a family reunion,' said Phoenix, 'I'll explain everything later.'

> 'Are you two alright?' asked Aqualad.

> 'We're ok,' said Robin.

Dan: [Aqualad] But is everything alright?

Maya: [Phoenix] Yeah, we've got time to quip. It's cool.

Dan: [Aqualad] I just want to make sure you two are alright.

Tsuneo: [Robin] You're not my dad, y'know.

> Then a fire ball came flying at Robin,

Tsuneo: [Robin] Oh yeah, those guys. Forgot about them. Marginally less okay.

> but Phoenix push him to the ground and landed right on top of him.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Significantly less okay.

> "You ok sweetie?" whisper Phoenix.

> "Yeah, now that you're here," whisper Robin.

> "Aww, look at that," said Ghost Flame.

Tsuneo: [Ghost Flame] As your uncle, I'm happy you've found a responsible young man you care for.

> "It warms my heart," said Black Flame, "O wait my heart made out of stone."

Dan: Odd superpower, not sure how it fits the fire theme.

> Phoenix and Robin got up and got in fighting positions.

Maya: Only shooting fire one at a time, letting them get back up... They're all so accommodating in this fight.

> "So do you wonder why your friends can't get in?" asked Ghost Flame.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Let me guess, the door's laced with Kryptonite?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Uh, no.

Tsuneo: [Robin] It's made of some substance that can't be phased through?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Well no...

Tsuneo: [Robin] It's in some kind of magic dead zone that Zatanna can't effect?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Not really, you see...

Tsuneo: [Robin] It's on fire, and burns anyone who comes near it?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Wow, wish I'd thought of that.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Then what could be so powerful to keep the whole Team out?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] We put a "Keep Out" sign on it.

> "What did you do?" asked Phoenix in an angry tone.

> "Well me and Ghost Flame weld the door shut with our fire powers," said Black Flame as fire appeared in his hand.

Maya: [Black Flame] This somehow happened after you entered without you noticing it.

> "Wait Superboy can easily break the door even if it weld," said Robin.

Dan: Or punch through the wall.

> "No he can't," said Phoenix, Robin look at her confuse. "Our fire powers is more stronger, than  
> normal fire, maybe more powerful than lava."

Celena: So? It's still a steel door in a normal frame.

> Robin's white lens went wide.

> "So imagine what our powers can do on a person's skin," said Ghost Flame.



Tsuneo: [Robin] Sort of like napalm, then?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Wait, what?

Tsuneo: [Robin] Well, napalm burns at about 800-1,200°C, about the same as lava.

Dan: [Ghost Flame] No, we're uh... Way hotter than that!

Maya: [Phoenix] Closer to what, then?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Uh... Like what do you mean?

Maya: [Phoenix] Well, like a thermite which gets up to 2,500°C.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Or an oxyacetylene torch which can reach 3,500°C.

Maya: [Phoenix] When you think about it, 'maybe hotter than lava' isn't all that impressive...

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Look, it's really hot, alright?

> Then Black Flame's body was cover in flames and so did Ghost Flame's,

Celena: And not a single "Flame on" from any of them.

> then they were about to charge. Robin was ready to defend himself until Phoenix push him away.

> 'Phoenix what are you doing?' asked Robin.

Celena: [Phoenix] This is my story and I'm the star, dammit.

> 'You need to get that door unlock and I'll distract them,' said Phoenix.

> 'No, I can't let you get hurt.'

Tsuneo: See, this is why dating within teams is always a bad idea.

Dan: Yeah? Who's your fiancé again?

Tsuneo: Uh... Different branches.

Maya: Fiancé?

> 'You'll get hurt worse if those flames hit you and I rather it hit me instead of you,' said Phoenix, then

> her dark brown hair turn into fire.

Dan: My god! The girl actually is on fire!

Maya: Oh, so that's why there was all the fuss about a haircut last time.

Tsuneo: That sounds dangerously like planning in this fic.

> Robin's white lens went wide as he watch her hair change. 'Please Robin.'

> 'Ok but be careful,' said Robin.

> 'I'll try,' said Phoenix smiling at him.

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Look, as long as one of you is gonna fight us, I'm happy.

> Robin smile back and went to the door, he watch how Phoenix fight her grandfather and uncle.

Maya: Bickering about allowance... Now they're fighting about her taste in boys...

> Every move they hit, it's like they're evenly match.

Tsuneo: [Black Flame] Wait, we can't beat a teenage girl two-on-one?

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Dad, we stink.

> Robin place some bomb disks around the door

> and send a message to the team to stand back. Robin kept checking on Phoenix and its the same;  
> she's blocking their punches, kicks, and flames.

Celena: Providing they're all perfectly fit I can see nothing wrong with two healthy men beating the living daylights out of a little schoolgirl.

> Then Robin took cover as the bombs went off, then  
> Superboy punch the door and enter the room with everybody else following.

Tsuneo: Everybody?

Dan: Even Secret, Empress and The Ray.

Tsuneo: Everybody?

Dan: Even Sobo and Wildebeest.

Tsuneo: Wow, that is everybody.

> "M'gann, Aqualad, you guys better stay away," said Robin.

> "Why? What's going on?" asked M'gann.

Maya: We don't want you contributing at such a late stage.

> Robin was to answer until they heard Phoenix screamed. "Phoenix!" yelled Robin and started to run  
> towards where he left her with the team following very close.

Tsuneo: [Aqualad] But wait, why are we staying away?

> When they finally reach her it wasn't a pretty site,

Tsuneo: What with the boxes and spider webs and burn marks.

> Phoenix was on the ground with her grandpa and uncle just laughing at her.

Dan: [Ghost Flame] Now that's a lousy haircut. Who did it, your mum? Hahaha!

Tsuneo: [Black Flame] And you know what else? Your costume looks stupid! Hahaha!

> Robin didn't even think, but started to run towards then and kick Black  
> Flame in the face and Ghost Flame in the gut. Once they fell to the ground he went to check on  
> Phoenix.

Tsuneo: They obligingly stayed down for another little heart to heart from our leads.

> "Phoenix," said Robin as he carefully shaking her.

> "Robin?" asked Phoenix as she open her white lens on her mask.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Phoenix?

Maya: [Phoenix] Robin?

Tsuneo: [Robin] Phoenix?

Maya: [Phoenix] Robin?

Tsuneo: [Haley] Vanessa?

Maya: [Vanessa] Me?

> "Are you ok?" asked Robin as he brush her hair out of her face.

> "I will be," said Phoenix as she got up with Robin's help.

Dan: Press X to revive homie.

> They saw everyone else fighting Ghost Flame and Black Flame,

Tsuneo: Nothing important, just the reason they're here.

Maya: I thought they were here to find the Injustice League.

Tsuneo: Oh yeah. So what were Ghost Flame and Black Flame doing hanging around down here anyway?

Celena: Well it is the local kids' favourite make-out spot.

> Artemis and Red Arrow shot arrows that explode water.

Dan: Respect the trick arrow. The trick is that they all explode.

> Superboy and Black Canary were doing hand combat, Zatanna was

> doing magic, Rocket was using kinetic energy,

Celena: Really? And here I thought Black Canary was using magic, Zatanna was using kinetic energy, and Rocket was being a sarcastic bitch.

> Kid Flash was running around distracting them and

> M'gann and Aqualad weren't fighting that much the flames were getting to them.

Dan: Dan was looking around for his beer.

Celena: Celena was growling about the lousy fight scene.

Maya: Maya was referring to herself in the third person.

Tsuneo: And Tsuneo was headed for the door.

> "We need to get them out of here," said Robin, "Can you walk?"

> "Yes," said Phoenix.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Can you fly?

Maya: [Phoenix] Dunno... Do I have superpowers? I keep forgetting.

> Then Robin and Phoenix join the battle, It was getting intense, but the heroes were getting an

> advantage.

Celena: Since it's now eleven-on-two, you'd bloody well hope so.

> "I had enough of this!" yelled Black Flame

Dan: And a couple of the reviewers.

> as a big ball of fire appeared and it kept getting bigger.

Celena: It encompassed the entire hospital!

Maya: Bigger!

Celena: It overshadowed all of Moose Tailings!

Maya: Bigger!

Celena: It was visible from space!

> "Which one of you runts want a piece of this?" He eyed the young justice team, Red Arrow, Black

> Canary, and Phoenix.

Dan: They all pointed at Roy.

> "How about you sweetie?" said Black Flame looking at M'gann and threw the fire ball at her.

> Everything went in slow motion

Maya: His fireball has the power to effect time?

> the fire ball kept getting closer and closer, M'gann close her eyes as

> tears were falling. She knew that she was going to die, but she felt something no someone push  
> her.

Celena: Kid Flash was of course fast enough to rescue her.

> M'gann open her eyes to see who push her and it was Phoenix,

Celena: Nope, he's just standing around slack-jawed like everyone else.

> she landed on the ground and watch Phoenix face that fire ball. Time sped up back to normal

Dan: Clock King shook his head in dismay.

> and Phoenix got swallowed up by the fire ball, Ghost Flame and Black Flame were laughing.

Maya: Black Flame's high-pitched snigger somewhat ruined the effect.

> Robin was shock at what happen and

> was about to go in the fire ball but was being held back by Red Arrow. Then a fire ball hit Ghost  
> Flame and Black Flame.

Maya: Now who could this be?

Tsuneo: Certainly not any of the main characters.

Maya: Because none of them have fire projection powers?

Tsuneo: Because none of them are allowed to contribute.

> "What have you two done to my daughter?!" yelled Flamethrower.

> "For the record bro, we weren't aiming at her, but she decided to be a hero," cackle Ghost Flame.

Dan: Phoenix, don't be a hero! Don't be a fool with your life!

> "You will both pay for what you have done," said Flamethrower in an angry tone and his body was  
> cover in flames. He launch himself at his father and brother, he was on fire literally on fire.

Maya: Is he on fire?

Tsuneo: His body was cover in flames.

Maya: Yes, but is he on fire?

Tsuneo: He was on fire literally on fire.

Maya: As long as we've cleared that up.

> Punches

> were being thrown, fire was all over the place, and Flamethrower never looked scarier; anger came  
> over him.

Celena: Then bewilderment, and vague nausea.

> He was almost as scary as Batman,

Dan: Actually, you got me. He was almost as scary as Killer Moth.

> not to soon Ghost Flame and Black Flame were unconscious.

Dan: [Superboy] Wow. I kinda wish I could have done that.

Tsuneo: [Aqualad] Because of how they hurt our newfound comrade?

Dan: [Superboy] What? No, I'm still ticked off about that whole door thing.

> He then walk to the ball of fire and place his hand on the ball,

Maya: Yelped, leapt back and sucked his fingers.

> then the fire ball got smaller and smaller until it was no more.

> The team's eyes widen at the sight of Phoenix lying on the ground out conscious.

All: [Monotone] We are all surprised.

> With burn marks

> all over her body and small scratches with blood dripping and uniform in shreds.

Celena: Yes, the fire had scratched and torn at her.

> Robin immediately ran to her side, "Phoenix," and gently shook her.

Tsuneo: No, her undiagnosed spinal injury! Oh, never mind.

> "Mami nu mami nu merg," said Phoenix, her eyes still close.

> Robin was shock that she spoke Romanian and was sad at what she said.

> "What did she said?" asked Zatanna.

Maya: I think it roughly translates as "authour appeal."

> "She said mommy no mommy don't go," said Robin.

> "Was she speaking Romanian?" asked Red Arrow.

Dan: [Robin] Yes, Roy. We established that.

> "Yes," said Robin eyeing his beautiful angel.

Celena: I could really go for some Dick Grayson/Zauriel slashfic right about now.

Tsuneo: I... don't know how to respond to that.

> "How did you get here so fast?" asked Black Canary.

Dan: [Flamethrower] I took the subway.

> "When you told us the villains that Phoenix and Robin were facing I hurried as fast as I can," said

> Flamethrower.

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] I couldn't miss their latest round of humiliation.

> Then he went to his daughter and gathered her in his arms. "The others should be here soon."

Dan: Pfft, that Flash, he's such a slowpoke.

Celena: Superman too, the lazy bum.

> "I'll contact them," said Black Canary as she took out her communicator.

Tsuneo: Don't you think that with two Martians present, both teams would be telepathically linked?

Maya: I'm surprised the authour even remembered the Justice League was here.

> "Is Phoenix going to be ok?" asked Artemis.

Dan: She'll never play the harpsichord again.

> "She will when we get back that's when I'll fix her up," said Flamethrower holding his child closer.

> "Why did she speak Romanian?" asked M'gann.

Celena: So we could talk about her more.

> "It's her first language," said Flamethrower, "Her mother's first language was Romanian, although

> she did spoke english, Phoenix picked up on Romanian and I followed along."

Maya: So it's not her first language, since you're from an English speaking household.

> "Hey Rob, it's just like you," said Kid Flash elbowing his best friend.

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Because of how much Bruce speaks Romanian at home.

> "The league is outside waiting for us outside and a medical bed is ready for Phoenix," said Black

> Canary and put her communicator away.

Tsuneo: So what did they find at the warehouse while all this was happening?

Dan: What warehouse? They were off playing golf.

> Everybody nodded and started to head outside, Robin was very close to Flamethrower; he wanted

> to make sure Phoenix was safe and she was going to be alright.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Back off, kid, you're cramping me.

> Once they arrive at the bioship

> Martian Manhunter was next to a medical bed where Flamethrower put his daughter.

> "O my god Phoenix!" yelled Media and ran towards her niece.

Maya: [Media] Her hair! Who did this to her hair?

> "What happen to her?"

> "It was the nightmare," said Flamethrower, Media's white lens widen and she stroke Phoenix's hair.

> "What's the nightmare?" asked Aquaman.

Dan: [Aquaman] "What's the nightmare?" Seriously, is that it for me? Why am I even in this thing?

> "The nightmare is a ball of fire, that if a person gets suck in than their worse nightmare attacks  
> them," said Flamethrower eyeing his child.

Tsuneo: A fireball that causes nightmares? Is that a linked power?

> "So that's why she push me away,"

Celena: [M'gann] Since I'm better equipped to handle a mental attack.

> said M'gann and started to cry, Superboy hold her very close to him.

> "Nu, nu, nu lasati-ma," screamed Phoenix. Everybody looked at Phoenix

Dan: [Flamethrower] Yeah, that happens. You try not to notice.

> and worried were on their faces.

> "We need to hurry back," said Flamethrower.

Dan: [Flamethrower] I don't want to miss the game. I know, I'm recording it, but it's just not the same if it isn't live.

> M'gann nodded and took control of the bioship.

> "Ucide-mi in schimb! Ucide-mi in schimb!" screamed Phoenix as tears were rolling down her face.

Tsuneo: Superman was making arrangements to hold Ghost Flame and Black Flame, but I suppose that doesn't matter.

> Flamethrower, Media, Batman and Robin's eyes widen at what she said.

> "What did she say?" asked Icon.

Celena: Something about a bad thing... and evil thing... And talk of the end of the world.

> "She said early no, no, no don't leave me," said Flamethrower, "Now she's saying kill me instead!  
> kill me instead!"

Tsuneo: That's nice. Look, why don't you just give us subtitles and be done with it?

> Everybody was shock at the last thing Phoenix said.

All: [Monotone] We are all shocked.

> Then Phoenix started to toss and turn, but Flamethrower hold her down

Tsuneo: And shot her full of morphine.

> and started to whisper Romanian words in her ear trying to calm her down.

Maya: "Now you stop acting out, young lady" doesn't quite cut it.

> But Phoenix still struggle and more tears were coming down, until Robin came, sat her up  
> and hug her so close to him.

Celena: [Phoenix] Aack... Robin... Choking...

Dan: [Robin] Shhh... It's for the best.

> Phoenix's tears then turn to hiccups, but was moaning of the pain. All  
> Robin did was hold her very close to him and whisper Romanian words and stroke her hair.

> "Eu sunt aici si voi fi mereu aici pentru a va proteja," whisper Robin to Phoenix's ear. (I'm here and  
> I'll always be here to protect you)

Dan: Until he gets a bad haircut and runs off to Bludhaven.

> Chapter 8

> The bioship finally arrived at the mountain, once they were inside Flamethrower gathered his  
> daughter in his arms and ran to the nearest medical bed.

Celena: Done with a chapter of self-indulgent drama? Time for more self-indulgent drama!

> Media was right on his heel but went into a different room,

Maya: The 'different room,' right between the 'next room' and the 'other room.'

> the league and the team followed Flamethrower.

All: [Monotone] We have nothing better to do.

> "Is there anything you need help with?" asked Wonder Woman.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Well, my daughter's burned half to death, but apart from that...

> "No there's not much we can do," said Flamethrower as he grabbed a white blanket and place it  
> over Phoenix body, leaving her head expose.

Celena: You fold that last bit over if anything changes.

> "There must be a way?" asked Zatara.

Tsuneo: Like if someone around here could use magic, hmm?

> Flamethrower was about to say something until Media came running in the room with a jar in her  
> arms.

> "Here it is Flamethrower," said Media as she hand him the jar.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Dear, while I do love your marmalade, I hardly think this is the time...

> "Thank you," said Flamethrower as he accept the jar and place it on a nearby table. "Can you ladies  
> please remove Phoenix's uniform?" asked Flamethrower looking at Media, Wonder Woman, Black  
> Canary, M'gann, Artemis, Zatanna, and Rocket.

Maya: Yes, it takes all seven of them to undress one girl.



> "Of course," said Black Canary and then lead the girls towards to the bed.

> "Media once she's undress rub the stuff on her burns," said Flamethrower.

Celena: "The stuff" is the technical term, of course.

> "I will," nodded Media.

Maya: [Media] Yes, \*dear,\* that's what I brought it for, \*dear.\*

> Then all the men left the room, so the women could treat Phoenix.

Tsuneo: It's at this point you realise that the authour has absolutely no idea what to do with such a large cast.

> "So what was that stuff in that jar?" asked Superboy.

> "It's a lotion I made to treat those types of burns," said Flamethrower.

> "Can't any lotion treat her burns?" asked Aquaman.

Dan: [Aquaman] And can I get a real line in here sometime?

> Flamethrower was about to answer but Robin stepped in. "No the fire that Black Flame and Ghost  
> Flame is more hotter than lava."

> "No way!" screamed Kid Flash, "There's something that's hotter than lava."

Maya: [Kid Flash] I had never heard of the sun before!

> "Yes, me and Phoenix have that power too," said Flamethrower.

Celena: [Superman] Good, then can you explain the whole nightmare fireball thing? It doesn't make any sense.

> "Does this lotion only work on you and Phoenix?" asked Batman in his monotone voice.

Dan: [Batman] I'm getting paid to show up, but you can't pay me enough to shill this.

> "It can work on anybody, but it takes longer on me and Phoenix."

Maya: Magic cure-all lotion! Don't ask how or why, it just does.

> "So Ghost Flame and Black Flame are related to you?" asked Aqualad.

> Flamethrower just stared at the ground and said, "Yes I am, I'm Ghost Flame's brother and Black  
> Flame's son."

Dan: [Flamethrower] And we have a lotion that heals burns from them.

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] And we all have the same fire powers.

Dan: [Flamethrower] And our powers are hotter than lava.

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] And Ghost Flame and Black Flame are my brother and father.

> "What happen?" asked Superman.

Dan: Something about a bomb and getting a signal...

> "Well after my mom died, my dad and brother took it really hard and so did I." "Me, my brother and  
> father started to do a lot of crime,

Tsuneo: Not any real, specific crime, mind you... Just general crime in a criminal sort of way.

> but then something change my life forever."

> "What was it?" asked Flash.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Flashpoint.

Tsuneo: [Flash] Yeah... Sorry 'bout that.

> "I met Mellina," said Flamethrower as his voice went quiet when he said that.

> "Who's Mellina?" asked Icon.

Celena: [Icon] And why are we just parroting your lines?

> "Mellina was my wife," said Flamethrower as he stared at their faces.

Dan: [Flamethrower] This story is freakin' me out, man!

> "She was amazing, she showed me how live my life again."

Maya: [Flamethrower] She took control of every miniscule detail of my existence. We were married.

> Flamethrower took of his mask and wipe his eyes, "So I gave up

> my life of crime and I left with Mellina and lived in Gheata, we got married and then we had

> Stephanie."

Dan: So we got married and we bought us a house and had two beautiful children, Nathaniel and Super Fly.

Celena: And everything was oh so peachy.

> "Everything was perfect I mean I discover there was oil in my land and I became rich,

Tsuneo: So 'found oil on his property' somehow becomes 'owns the most oil industries...' Whatever that's supposed to mean.

> Mellina was a famous singer and a stay at home mom,

Celena: And it's so easy to pull off, like being a part-time president or a telecommuting astronaut.

> but then Ghost Flame and Black Flame came here and started to cause trouble,

Tsuneo: Any reason?

Dan: [Flamethrower] Look, I can't even figure why they were in the hospital, and we've already passed that scene.

> then I became Flamethrower."

> "So Medilla isn't Stephanie's mom?" asked Green Arrow.

Tsuneo: [Batman] No, Oliver, we established that.

> "No Medilla is Mellina's sister and Madam Z is her mother, they move in after the passing of my wife  
> to help me take care of Stephanie."

Celena: As they clearly have no lives of their own.

> "What happen to your wife?" asked Red Arrow.

> "Roy!" yelled Green Arrow.

Dan: [Red Arrow] Yeah, that's right, everyone blames Roy. But you were all thinking it!

> "No it's alright, if we're going to be working together than you all need to know this," said  
> Flamethrower.

Dan: Oh boy, here comes the infodump. Brace yourselves.

> "Well I was in a business meeting, Mellina was at singing at a bar and she took our  
> six-year-old child."

Tsuneo: I thought she was a stay at home singer mum.

Maya: Well, the bar was in their back yard.

Tsuneo: Oh, right.

Celena: I don't know what bothers me more; that a supposedly famous singer is performing in  
a local bar, or that she dragged her kid along with her.

> "When she was done, she has to exit out in the alleyway, anyway she and  
> Stephanie were just leaving and then a mugger came out in front of them with a gun."

Celena: Joe Chill on his Alaskan holiday.

> Flamethrower's voice than change to Dan Porter.

Tsuneo: Turning from a snidy sneer to a high-pitched nasally whine.

> "He asked Mellina for all her money and jewelry  
> and she gave him all she had, but he didn't remove the gun." "Mellina push Stephanie behind her  
> and without warning he shot her, a centimeter above her heart,"

Dan: It's the little details like that which make origin story muggers the best.

> said Dan as he tried to hide the tears,

Tsuneo: Then decided he'd milk them for all they're worth.

> "Mellina fell to the ground and Stephanie went to her and the mugger ran, Mellina lived long  
> enough to tell Stephanie how much she loves her and me."

Celena: [Flamethrower] And to get more milk.

> "I got a call from the commissioner of  
> Gheata telling me about my wife's death and that my six-year-old daughter won't leave her mother."

Dan: [Flamethrower] At least, not until she'd gone through her pockets.

> "When I finally got there Stephanie was hugging her mother so tight, police tried to get her off but  
> she refuse,

Tsuneo: Quick, we've got a traumatised six year-old! Get the jaws of life!

> but I got to Stephanie and pick her up and the look I saw on my little girl's face scarred me."

Maya: [Hoarse] I am vengeance! I am the night!

> Dan's pinch the bridge of his nose,

Dan: He can't believe this either.

> "Stephanie was cover in blood and I felt all the happiness  
> that my little girl had disappeared, she won't stop crying and spoke Romanian."

Celena: [Flamethrower] Being the considerate father I am, I don't speak a word of it.

> "After Mellina's  
> funeral, Stephanie wouldn't eat or sleep; she started to have nightmares, and she started to sleep  
> where Mellina use to sleep,

Tsuneo: Except that she wasn't sleeping, except that she was having nightmares when she wasn't sleeping, except that she was in fact, after all, sleeping.

> but then she got brave and told me she wants to train to capture the  
> man who killed her mother." Dan actually smile a little and continued

Tsuneo: As he fondly remembers the trauma that destroyed his daughter's life.

> "So I trained her how to fight  
> and how to control her fire powers, when she was eight she took down that guy and put him in jail."

Celena: Crime-fighting at eight? Even Damian was ten before he got a start.

> "Why does she call herself Phoenix?" asked Icon.

Maya: [Media] Because she's symbolic of the cycle of death and rebirth.

> "It was her nickname that Mellina gave her when Stephanie's power started to show," said  
> Flamethrower smirking.

Maya: [Media] Or, y'know, that.

Dan: So she had fire powers when she was six? I'm amazed she didn't wipe out the whole town in a temper tantrum.

> "Dang Robin that sounds like you," said Kid Flash,

Tsuneo: [Kid Flash] Except for the whole 'circus troupe' bit. Actually, it sounds more like Batman.

> Robin punch him in the arm, "Ow dude!"

> "Hey I'm the only one who can do that," said Artemis as she,

Celena: Promptly slugged him in the arm.

- > M'gann, Zatanna, Rocket, Wonder
- > Woman, Black Canary, and Media carrying Phoenix; now in black sweats.
- > "Sorry muscle spasm," said Robin, Batman gave a ghost smile at that response.

Dan: A Space Ghost smile, at that.

Maya: Is that a tangential reference to Bruce Timm listing Alex Toth as his major influence on character designs for the Batman animated series?

Dan: Uh... sure?

- > "How is she doing?" asked Flamethrower as he walk towards his daughter.

- > "She's a fighter," said Media handing him Phoenix.

Tsuneo: She's being played by Michael Jai White.

- > "I think it's time we go home," said Flamethrower, everybody nodded at that response and quickly
- > change out of their uniforms.

Celena: It seems we only have a half dozen characters. Phoenix, her family, Robin, and the poorly-defined mass that is everyone else.

- > Porter's Mansion

- > Once they all arrive at the mansion, Dan Porter took Stephanie to her room so she can rest and
- > everybody else decided to head to bed too.

Tsuneo: Superman and Flash decided to use their superspeed to travel to their respective-

Celena: Everyone went to bed.

Tsuneo: Well... Okay then.

- > 4:00 a.m.

Maya: The sun has already been up for hours.

- > Dick Grayson laid quietly in his sleep, but than he heard something that made his eyes wide open.

Celena: Damian was looming over his bed, breathing heavily again.

- > He quietly got out of the room and then he heard someone crying, Dick quickly went to find the
- > source of the person crying.

Maya: It was Roy in front of a Twilight marathon with a box or Oreos.

- > He found himself in front of Stephanie's room, he tried to open it but it
- > was lock, so he took out a paperclip and pick the lock.

Tsuneo: Mind you, there's no response from the parental fill-ins after their sort-of daughter's traumatic attack.

- > Once he got it unlock, he found Stephanie
- > curled up in a ball and she was crying. He quickly went to her bed and pulled her close to him.

> "Shh...shh...It's ok I'm here," said Dick rubbing Stephanie's back.

[Dan makes a variety of cracking and popping sounds]

> "Dick nu pot dorm cosmaruri pastra venire spate," sob Stephanie. (Dick I can't sleep the nightmares  
> keep coming back)

Tsuneo: [Phoenix] And they're on fire for no adequately explained reason.

> "Stiu, dar eu sunt aici si nu de gand oriunde," said Dick. (I know but I'm right here and I'm not going  
> anywhere)

Dan: [Robin] Whoops, Bat-signal, gotta go.

> They stayed like that for a few minutes, then Stephanie's sobs turn into hiccups.

Celena: Robin tried desperately not to laugh and failed miserably.

> "Poate va ruga sa sati cu mine in seara asta?" asked Stephanie.(Can you please stay with me  
> tonight?)

Tsuneo: [Robin] Well, let me check my schedule...

> "Desigur," said Dick as Stephanie scooted over so he can get under the covers with her. (Of course)

> Stephanie snuggle close to Dick,

Dan: Aaand Dutch oven!

> "Noapte buna Dick." (Goodnight Dick)

> "Noapte buns Stephanie vise dulci," said Dick as he kiss the top of her forehead and the two of  
> them fell asleep. (Goodnight Stephanie sweet dreams)

> 6:00 a.m.

Celena: Flamethrower finds them snuggling in the same bed and burns down the house in a fit.

> Everybody except for Bruce, Dick, and Stephanie were in the dinning room waiting for breakfast.

Celena: No? Okay, guess not.

> "Do you want me to go wake up Stephanie?" asked Medilla.

Tsuneo: I'm sorry, isn't she dead?

Maya: No, Mellina is tragically dead mum, Medilla is handy alive mum, remember?

Tsuneo: Silly me.

> "No, let her sleep, I'm going to call the school and let them know that she won't be at school," said  
> Dan taking a sip of his coffee.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] Did you even check on her?

Dan: [Flamethrower] She was brain-fried last night, but she'll be fine.

Tsuneo: [Batman] And people call me out on my parenting?

> "Do you do this often?" asked Clark Kent.

> "If she's injured yes," said Dan.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] You mean whenever she's injured you just leave her alone?

Dan: [Flamethrower] Hey, I know what's best for my pre-teen vigilante daughter.

> "Morning everyone," greeted Bruce Wayne. "Morning," was reply back, but he didn't see his son.

> "Has anyone seen Dick? I woke up this morning and he wasn't in the room and he's not here."

Tsuneo: Really? Batman didn't hear him leave last night.

Dan: Batman wasn't even there. He single-handedly cleaned up Moose Tailings' crime problems overnight. Okay, so that amounted to scaring a litterer, but still...

> "Haven't seen him since yesterday," said Conner.

> "Same here," said Roy, then everybody nodded in response.

Maya: No need to chime in folks, let's just assume you're all of one brain.

> "I wonder where he could be?" said a worried Bruce.

> "Maybe Stephanie knows," said Diana.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] World's greatest detective didn't think of that now, did he?

> "Let's go see," said Dan leading Bruce and the others to Stephanie's room.

Maya: [Wooden] Yes. That is the only possible answer.

> Once they arrive Dan quietly open the door and what they saw was so adorable.

Tsuneo: And faintly troubling to anyone who's ever had kids ever.

> Dick laid on his

> back with Stephanie's head laying on his chest, Dick had both of his arms wrapped protectively

> around her. Raquel quickly got out a camera and took a picture of them.

Celena: Within minutes it had been re-tweeted to half the known universe.

Dan: [Darkseid] Disgusting humans.

> "So going to use this as blackmail," said Raquel.

> "You better be sending that picture to all of us," said Zatanna, Raquel nodded in response.

> "Come on lets leave the love birds to sleep," said Clark leading everybody back downstairs.

Maya: And remember, Clark can 'gently lead' mountains. They're moving.

> Once they were gone Dan and Bruce just stared at their children and then looked at each other.

Dan: [Batman] Well, better schedule the team-up books.

> "I had a feeling those two will connect," said Dan with a smile.

> "I did too, I wonder when they're going to tell us," said Bruce smiling too.

Tsuneo: [Batman] I mean, he asked us if he could date Stephanie yesterday, but that doesn't count, right?

> "Soon I hope," chuckle Dan, Bruce chuckle as well. "Your son better treat her right."

> "He will," said Bruce.

Dan: There's nobody else in his life. Apart from Starfire. Or Batgirl.

> 8:00 a.m.

> Dick open his eyes as the sunlight hit them, he rubbed his eyes and then realize that he had

Dan: Woken up in a scene from Delta, to the smell of cooking newspapers.

> Stephanie in his arms. He gently shook her to make her wake up and getting a "Mhhmm," from her  
> and a yawn.

Celena: And her early-morning immolation. Didn't see that coming.

> "Good morning Dick," said Stephanie with a sleepy smile.

> "Good morning Stephanie," said Dick kissing the top of her head and then gently sat up and got off  
> the king size bed.

Celena: [Mumbled] Rich brat. [Tsuneo slowly edges away from her]

> "Ready to go downstairs to tell them."

Maya: [Phoenix] Let me run the test and I'll be with you. [Celena blindsides her with a cushion]

> "I guess," said Stephanie as she got out of her bed and then almost fell, but Dick quickly caught her.  
> "Oops, I forgot about my burns,

Tsuneo: [Phoenix] They kept me up all night in agony, but I forgot.

> thanks for catching me."

> "No problem," said Dick as he carefully got her on her feet

Celena: Slipped on a conveniently placed banana skin.

> and hold her to keep her from falling. "Can you walk?"

> "I can try," said Stephanie as she took a few steps forward but then collapse on her floor. "Ok  
> maybe I need more lotion on my legs."

Dan: So it does indeed put the lotion on, as it were, the skin.

Maya: Or yes, as they say, it does get the hose once more.

> Dick walks to Stephanie and squat down and pick her up bridal style, "Well I guess I need to carry  
> you," said Dick with a smile.



Celena: Or you could get the responsible adults to tend to the wounded...

> "Where do you need to go?"

> "Let's go downstairs and find my father."

Celena: Ah hell, what do I know?

> Dick carried her down the stairs,

Dan: Bumping her head on the banister, on the side table, on the Batmobile...

> they went to the dinning room and nobody was there,

Tsuneo: [Robin] Okay, how about I leave you here and go find them? You're getting kinda heavy...

Maya: [Phoenix] Keep carrying me, mongrel! Mush!

> then they

> went to the study and everybody was there. Everybody eyed Dick carrying Stephanie bridal style.

Celena: [Robin] Okay. So I know what this looks like...

> "Good morning sleepy heads," said Wally.

> "Did you guys had fun last night?" said Roy with an evil smile.

Dan: [Red Arrow] Because we did with the markers and the cameras and the silly string...

> "Shut up," said Dick putting Stephanie down, but still holding her. "So me and Stephanie have some  
> news for all you."

> "And what is this news?" asked Bruce eyeing his son.

Maya: [Stephanie] I'm horribly burned!

Dan: [Red Arrow] Yeah yeah, skip to the important stuff.

> "Well...well...me...and..Steph-."

> "We're going out," interrupted Stephanie.

> "Yeah," said Dick rubbing the back of his neck with one hand and the other holding Stephanie's  
> hand.

Tsuneo: [Robin] I mean, we haven't actually gone out or anything... We've sort of discussed it a little...  
It's more of a hypothetical dating scenario...

> Barry zoomed up beside Dick and ruffle his hair, "Way to go kid."

> Clark push Barry to the side and pull Dick in a hug and patted his head, "Our little birdie is growing  
> to fast."

Celena: "Our little birdie?" Sounds a little possessive there, Supes...

> "Cut it out," said Dick getting out of Clark's hold.

Celena: Is this turning into SuperBat? Not that I'm objecting, mind you.

> "Yeah guys go easy on him," said Oliver, "You might embarrass our little Dickie in front of his new girlfriend."

Dan: But that's what you have friends for, right?

Celena: You have friends?

> Everybody started to laugh even Bruce,

Tsuneo: Robin immediately checked for traces of Joker gas.

> Dick's face was turning red. Stephanie wasn't laughing, but  
> she did feel bad for her boyfriend Dick. A sneaky smile appeared on Stephanie's face as she grabbed  
> Dick's hand and pulled him close to her and then kissed him on his lips.

Maya: A move designed to help ease his embarrassment.

> Dick was surprised at what she did, but he was liking it and wrapped his arms around her.

> "You guys get a room," said Raquel.

Dan: [Robin] We just came from one!

> "Wow Dick just met her a couple days ago and look at him now," said Roy, "I'm a bit jealous."

Celena: But of which one?

Maya: Calm down there, girl.

> "I know right, he ended up with such a hot babe," said Wally.

> "What!" yelled Artemis throwing a shoe at her boyfriend.

Dan: [Austin Powers] A shoe? Who throws a shoe?

Celena: There actually was an obscure late-70s Spider Man villain called the Cobbler who had a variety of gadgets themed around footwear. And yes, he throws shoes.

Dan: Wait, there was?

Celena: Yeah. He only appeared twice though; after his debut he briefly teamed up with Apatosaurus Ajax.

an: Wow. [Pause] Hang on...

> "Ow! I'm sorry baby, you're the hottest babe in the world, please don't hurt me," winced Wally.

> Dick and Stephanie broke off from the kiss and started to laugh at Wally along with everybody else.

Tsuneo: [Robin] Definitely Joker gas.

> "Anyways Stephanie how are your burns?" asked Dan.

> "Still hurts," said Stephanie.

> "Ok well let's go and put more lotion before training," said Dan.

Maya: Magic cure-all lotion! Why we didn't bathe her in the stuff is beyond me.

> Stephanie nodded in response.

> "Training?" asked Dinah.

> "Yes, we at least train as much as we can," said Medilla.

Maya: [Black Canary] Don't know what you mean. We never do any of this training stuff.

> "Where do you train?" asked Bruce.

> "At the mountain more stuff to use," said Dan,

Dan: Rubber chickens, ball-peen hammers, anti-tank guided weapons... You know, stuff.

> "If you want to join us you can, just come to the basement as soon as you can."

Tsuneo: Sure, why not? Absolutely nobody here has anything better to do.

Celena: With their detailed schedules thrown out by Batman's absence, Clock King and Calendar Man are having fits.

> "I suggest you wear sweats,

Tsuneo: [Batman] We train in our costumes.

Dan: [Flamethrower] Oh. [Pause] Why didn't I think of that?

> come on Stephanie let's get those burns check out."

> "Ok dad," said Stephanie giving Dick a kiss on the cheek and followed her dad and aunt into a  
> different room.

Dan: Say, where's Madam Z in all of this anyway?

Celena: She died in her room two days ago and nobody noticed.

> 15 minutes later

> They all arrive at the mountain, they followed Dan to the training area

Celena: Fancy name for a hog pen.

Dan: Don't joke around. Hog wrestling can be great practice.

Celena: For what exactly?

Dan: For the next time they throw you in the hog pen.

> full of weights, punching bags, a sparring area, and gymnastic equipment.

> "Wow," said Conner wide his eyes and along with everybody else's eyes widen.

Celena: [Superboy] We have nothing like this at all in our secret mountain base.

> "Alright do you all mind some sparring?" asked Dan.

> "Sweet I want to go," yelled Wally. Everybody started to laugh except Dan, Medilla, and Stephanie;

Maya: And the audience.

> who looked confuse. "What I can do it."

> "Sure and I'm the tooth fairy," said Roy.

Dan: [Dwayne Johnson] I'm the tooth fairy. Ooh yeah!

> "Here I'll set up the sparing," said Medilla as she typed the names of everyone on the computer

Celena: [Media] Let's see... Kid Flash; B-A-R-T... Aquaman; N-A-M-O-R... Robin; [Rolls dice] T-O-Y  
W-O-N-D-E-R...

> and then push a button.

Celena: It's the random pairing generator.

Dan: No, it's the random versus battle generator.

Celena: Eh, it can be the same.

> First up: Wonder Woman and Phoenix said a computer male voice.

> "Of course it'll be me," said Stephanie crossing her arms.

Maya: It's almost like she's the center of the world.

> "So how does this work?" asked Diana.

Maya: Each of you chooses a superhero. First you say why your hero is better, then you say why the other hero is lame, then you call each other names and flame them.

> "It's just regular sparring, no powers just hand to hand compact," said Dan,

Tsuneo: [Flamethrower] Since we have super-strong aliens and regular teenagers in the mix, this is obviously fair and even.

> "The computer will tell you who loses and wins;

Celena: [Flamethrower] It has a bug so it always declares Killer Moth the winner, but it hasn't been an issue yet.

> who ever wins fights the next opponent."

Dan: Versus fight logic in a nutshell.

Tsuneo: Isn't this exactly what we were trying to avoid?

Dan: Also true.

> "Interesting," said Dinah.

Maya: She's just glad she's done her bit for this fic and doesn't have to get in there.

> Then Wonder Woman and Phoenix walked to the sparring area; Phoenix stood in a fighting position

> and Wonder Woman copied her movement.

> Began

Celena: This will be priceless.

> Phoenix started to run towards Wonder Woman, she was getting closer but Phoenix jumped in the air and did a flip.

Tsuneo: Then pranced across the stage and pirouetted off stage left.

> Phoenix managed to kick Wonder Woman in the back of her knees,

Celena: Wonder Woman managed to stand still and do nothing, apparently.

> causing her to

> stumble forward, than Wonder Woman threw a punch at Phoenix but miss her by a centimeter.

> Phoenix gave Wonder Woman a side kick,

Tsuneo: Wonder Woman put it on her shelf with her collection.

> but her leg was caught by Wonder Woman; she than swing Phoenix away from her,

Maya: It's an odd new take on the hammer toss event, but I think it'll catch on.

> but Phoenix rolled out of it and landed in a crouch.

Tsuneo: She had to be careful not to let the vastly more experienced combatant gain any advantage.

> Wonder Woman

> launched herself, but Phoenix jumped in the air and landed her foot in Wonder Woman's back;

Dan: Apparently passing through each other while they're at it.

> causing her to slam to the ground.

> Finish....Winner Phoenix

Celena: The shit? Seriously? We're meant to swallow that this little girl can outfight Wonder Woman? Even without her powers, she's still one of the most skilled and experienced warriors in the DC universe. What the hell can fire-brat possibly have over her?

Tsuneo: It's her stupid fic?

Celena: No other reason in the world.

> Diana was out of breath and couldn't believe what skills that Phoenix have.

Maya: [Wonder Woman] It's just so ridiculously implausible!

> Than Diana rolled onto

> her back and was breathing heavily. Everybody was amaze at what they saw even Batman and

> Robin.

Dan: See, Celena? It's not just you.

Celena: At least the fic recognises how stupid it is.

> "Are you going to be ok?" asked Stephanie reaching her hand out to Diana.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] I have ploughed my way single-handedly through the legions of Hades, little girl.

Maya: [Phoenix] Sooo...

Celena: [Wonder Woman] Yes, I will be okay!

> "Yes, I have to say your quiet a fighter," said Diana as she accept the hand and carefully got up.

> "You need to thank Medilla for that she taught me everything I know," said Stephanie with a smile.

Celena: Yes, the Amazons' ancient combat arts are no match for... Where the heck is Media from anyway?

> "Well I congratulate you," said Diana shaking Stephanie's hand.

> "Thank you," said Stephanie as she let go of Diana's hand and watch her leave to join the others.

Celena: [Wonder Woman] That does it, I'm talking to my agent.

> Next: Phoenix and Robin

> Stephanie's and Dick's eyes met and they knew what they had to do,

Maya: Run off and join a circus.

Dan: He came from a circus.

Maya: Run of and join an accounting firm.

> so Dick walk towards where Stephanie was standing.

Tsuneo: [Robin] I'm going to get pantsed, aren't I?

Maya: [Phoenix] And in front of all your friends, too!

> He prepare himself in a fighting position, as Phoenix did the same and they both waited.

Tsuneo: Side shot of them both, then zoom in on Robin's eyes, then on Stephanie's, cut to Robin focusing... Then a random shot of a bored donkey for no real reason.

> Begin

> Robin and Phoenix ran towards each other, but only to flip out of each other's way.

Dan: Robin and Phoenix can totally flip out and kill everything.

> Phoenix threw a

> punch, but only to be caught by the boy wonder. Robin did a side kick, but it was block by Phoenix's

> arm.

Dan: Robin tried a V-Sign Stogie, but Phoenix blocked with a Four-Fingered Straight Guard.

> Every punch and kick that was throw or swing were either block or missed, neither of them

> could land a hit on each other.

Tsuneo: This is what happens when turtles do battle.

> Everybody watch at the couple and were amazed, Batman and

> Flamethrower knew that their kids were evenly match.

Tsuneo: So she has expert martial arts training and fire powers.

Dan: And is a fighter pilot rock star kickboxer.

Celena: And a genius polymath scientist composer.

Maya: And a super-rich mutant gadgeteer.

Tsuneo: At least she's a reasonable and balanced character.

> Phoenix and Robin tried everything they could think of,

Celena: Hide their rare Magic: The Gathering cards?

Tsuneo: Everything.

Celena: Insinuate they support the Superhuman Registration Act?

Tsuneo: Everything.

Celena: Hit them with the Rock of Gibraltar?

Dan: That's in Batman's utility belt.

Celena: ...wow.

> but they were staring at each other breathing heavily.

Dan: From the looks of things, they're about to make out.

Maya: All too likely, I think.

> Robin ran towards his

> girlfriend and did a spin kick, Phoenix caught his foot and swung him away. Robin landed and saw

> Phoenix about to punch him but caught her fist and push her away.

> Finish

Tsuneo: Computer's sick of this as well.

> Robin and Phoenix stopped and looked at each other and waited patiently for the results.

> Winner Phoenix and Robin

> "Wow, that's a first," said Dan.

> "A tie," said Medilla.

Tsuneo: So by versus fight logic, that means Robin's better than Wonder Woman?

Celena: Yes, the teenage old boy is a better fighter than the immortal super-strong Amazon warrior.

Dan: Versus fight logic.

> Then all the sudden a red alarm went off in the mountain,

Tsuneo: The computer's sick of this and is desperately trying to change the scene.

> causing Dan, Medilla, and Stephanie started to run into the changing room

Maya: Actually, it was just Madam Z calling to say lunch was ready.

Dan: Probably should have checked before changing.

> and so did the league and team. After they all change in their

> superhero outfits, they all gather around a big computer and a map appeared on the screen.

Maya: It's a map of Hutt River Provence, so it's not really helping.

> Then a red dot appeared on the map and then securities cameras appeared.

Tsuneo: [Batman] Your cameras deploy to monitor you while you're watching the map?

Dan: [Flamethrower] Yeah, it sounded like a good idea, but when you say it like that...

> "I think the Injustice Team has finally decided to come out of their hiding place," said Flamethrower.

Dan: The who now?

Tsuneo: You know, the supervillains they came up here to find.

Dan: Sorry, nope.

Tsuneo: The reason they emptied out the full rosters of both teams?

Dan: Not ringing any bells.

Tsuneo: [Sighs] Poison Ivy's with them.

Dan: Hmmm... Yeah, now I got it.

> "We better hurry, if we want to catch them," said Batman,

Tsuneo: It turns out they were under a rock on the Yukon border.

> as everybody nodded, ran towards the bioship and took off.

With that, the screen switched off and the world switched back to prose.

"No more action?" Dan asked.

"Do you really want more action from this?" Celena shot at him.

"Well, it's better than the romance." He paused for a second, and shook his head. "Actually, no. No it's not."

"No, stupid us wanting something out of a fic," Celena spat.

"Then could you tell me what you did get out of it?" The Voice asked.

"Well nuts to me if I wanted more action in this heap," Celena all but growled out. "Because that's exactly what I got. Naturally, the action content is as bad as the rest of the fic. The fights are vaguely described for the most part, just saying 'she held them off' or 'they were evenly matched;' really, just ways to push how awesome Stephanie's meant to be without even trying. Naturally she hogs all the attention in the fights like everywhere else; even when she's alone with Robin against her family, he does practically nothing while she handles them herself. Of course, the exception is the sparring match against Wonder Woman, which is described in blow-by-blow detail, just to show how Stephanie somehow has every advantage over her. That one sticks in my craw the most; it's such a transparent attempt to say 'I'm so much better' by effortlessly going over a top-tier character."

Maya nodded her agreement, and picked up from where Celena left off. "Unfortunately, it's not just the action scenes that are played for attention. Every scene in the fic is coldly calculated to garner as much attention for Phoenix as possible. When they're not doing anything they're talking about her or her relationship with Robin; she saves M'gann just so she can have a chapter's worth of everyone worrying and fretting over her; the backstory exposition is all about her early life and how she was effected with barely a mention of the rest of the family... Every effort is made to direct as much attention, admiration and sympathy towards her, to the point where it smothers the audience."

"Uhm, see the problem with that..." Dan paused, and corrected himself. "No, actually, there's a lot of problems with that, but the big one to me is, for all that, she's still really weak as an actual characters. Y'know, we really know so little about her as a person, rather than a supposed superhero, that she comes off as really hollow. Problem is that all the characters in the fic are the same. Flamethrower gets a little bit of development on the backstory infodump chunk, but we don't know how that whole thing has affected him as a person... Or even if it has at all. Of course, Media is worse, since she doesn't seem to exist except as a replacement for Stephanie's mum. I half expect Flamethrower to



call her 'Mellina' at random points without anyone noticing."

"It was the plotting that was the worst for me," Tsuneo said.

"What, the whole 'why is everyone even here' thing?" Dan asked him.

"Not just that, unfortunately, but it was thrown into sharp relief. See, they start by splitting up the two teams, then seal everyone but Robin and Phoenix off behind the all-powerful door. Even when it's finally busted down, there's a brief mention of them all fighting but no actual action in it. Flamethrower shows up and solves everything, but with Phoenix hurt, everyone just... Stands around and does more nothing. See, it's all a family problem with family powers and family supervillains, so he can lock out the rest of the cast... only his solutions make no sense whatsoever. Sure, the magic lotion works wonders, but they never bother checking on her, but wait for her to come down in the morning. Along the way you realise there's no reason for any canon characters to be there beyond Robin and Batman. Problem is, the authour seems to have realised that too, and much of the plotting is weak excuses to keep everyone else out of the way."

"And that seems to be it. Thanks as always," the Voice said.

"We should probably thank him for letting us use the apartment," Tsuneo said, gesturing at the paperwork spread out behind them.

"Naw, you'll just give him a big head," Dan replied. "If he has one."

"Dan, you abuse the facilities more than any of us," Tsuneo shot back.

"True. But if you ain't paying rent, don't take it up with the landlord."

"There's an asset for you," Celena muttered to Maya.

"Pass," came the flat-out reply.

Tsuneo stood and offered a hand to Maya, asking "Ready to go?"

Maya graciously took his hand and stood, as Celena stared at the pair. She turned back to the mercenary and told her "We were going to finalise some details of the contest over a meal." She glanced down at her tracksuit and added, "Well, after I get changed."

"While we stick around here and get to know each other better," Dan added, leaning over to Celena.

"Fine." She scooped up a sheaf of papers from the table, and all but threw them in Dan's face. "You sort."

"I'll leave you to it," Tsuneo said. He turned to leave with Maya at his side, while Celena looked on amused. "Hope you don't mind," he added.

"Not at all." On the way out, Maya hooked an arm around Tsuneo's and asked "Now, what was this you said about a fiancé?"

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Author's notes:

Girl On Fire is a gem that just keeps going. As of this writing there are five more chapters after these, so there's room for at least one more episode of the series. Hopefully, it'll keep providing us with such

magic moments as impenetrable doors and magic lotion for a long time to come.

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? Impenetrable doors? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

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> Then a knife flew across the room and landed on a box.