

JUSTICE LEAGUE: DOOM

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JUSTICE LEAGUE: DOOM
Outline For a DTV
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FADE IN:

EXT. GOTHAM DIAMOND EXCHANGE - NIGHT

It's more like a fortress. Stone walls, high electric fences, armed guards. Speaking of which, the only visible guard is face down.

A flutter of leather wings announces the silent arrival of BATMAN. He crouches, rolls the guard onto his back, and looks him over. Just as Batman feared, the guard is dead, a steel PLAYING CARD embedded in his chest, obviously thrown like a shuriken. Batman removes and examines the card, his eyes narrow. Batman gently closes the guards staring eyes, then moves on.

Not far away, Batman finds an oddly "grayed-out" section of the stone wall. He touches the natural-looking area of the wall to test it's solidity. Satisfied, he gingerly puts his hand *into and through* the grayed out area of the wall.

He pulls out his communicator and peaks. "This is Batman. I've found them." He looks at the HIGH TECH DEVICE at the base of the wall that is creating the intangibility effect. "I also know how they've been breaking into all these places without leaving any traces." The voice on the other end tells Batman to wait right there, help is on the way, but Batman's already gone...

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INT. GOTHAM DIAMOND EXCHANGE - NIGHT

Inside, the ROYAL FLUSH GANG is cleaning the place out, they've been at this a while. KING is giving instructions. ACE is using his great strength to rip open yet another wall vault. TEN and QUEEN, empty the vault into large containers. JACK is doing the same when he suddenly whirls and looks up at the shadowy catwalk, high above. "Peek-a-boo." His cybernetic eye GLOWS ominously. "I see you..." A LASER BEAM lances out from his eye. Batman, hiding in the rafters, dodges, but the laser cuts the catwalk support. Batman falls towards the floor, far below.

But not for long, he fires his grapnel gun, snags a strut, and turns his fall into momentum to swing around and plant both feet in Jack's chest. Batman continues his swing back up towards the opposite catwalk. QUEEN produces a DECK of STEEL PLAYING CARDS and throws them at Batman. They whip through the air like shuriken, their razor sharp edges slicing up Batman's cape, and despite his agile contortions, wounding him on his back, arms and legs. One card SEVERs his line, and he falls, a glass jewelry case cushioning his fall. He rolls to his feet to find Queen, her scepter glowing and pointed right at him. Batman foot-sweeps her, making her blast go wide, and rolls to his feet, grabbing a piece of broken mirror from the display case just in time to deflect a laser blast from Jack. King, already climbing onto his FLYING HOVER CARD, tells the team the job's over, they have to go. Ace lifts the huge Vault door and stalks Batman. King reiterates, they have to go, there's no way Batman's here alone. Ace smashes the Vault Door down on Batman's head, but it is stopped by a GREEN SHIELD.

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It's Green Lantern, and he's brought company. Flanking him are Superman, Wonder Woman, Flash, and J'onn Jonnz: The Justice League have arrived. Green Lantern is very alpha male, and can't help quipping about saving Batman's life. We gather in passing that there is tension between the men.

SETPIECE BATTLE SCENE

This is to showcase the Justice League, working spectacularly as individuals and as a team to take down the Royal Flush Gang. Establish the powers and personalities of the League, and establish thematic conflicts.

A lot of this battle is aerial, the RFG are flying around on their Hovercards, very fast, very agile, and using their powers and the location to full advantage.

At least one individual showoff moment for each Justice League member, and a big one for Batman, as he's going to be kind of a dick for most of the rest of the movie, and we need to be reminded why we're supposed to trust and like him, considering that he's going to betray us later.

Batman's big moment results in him taking a severe hit, he needs to be injured when he goes home, to help explain why he misses noticing something important in the next scene.

The fight goes very well for the JLA (this scene is to underline how badass they are) but King slips away, zooming through the multidimensional warp in the wall. When he exits, he's quickly taken down by CYBORG, who we learn as the Justice League arrives moments later, is not an official member of the team, but an unaffiliated consultant doing Batman a favor. He was called in to work on this case because of his technical expertise (his father did important

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original research in dimensional interface). Cyborg was so impressed by the Royal Flush Gang's tech that he forgot to go in and help with the fight, even now he's jacked into the device, directly pulling data off of it. Cyborg doesn't think there's any way the RFG created this device. It's beyond them, "Hell, it's beyond me."

The team agrees that this MO isn't typical of the Royal Flush Gang. GL intends to threaten some answers out of King. Wonder Woman uses her Lasso of Truth, but King honestly doesn't know, it's like someone erased part of his memory. Superman offers to take the RFG to custody, he's concerned that Batman took such a beating tonight. Batman "tough guys" it out, but doesn't really argue. The team goes their separate ways, promising to gather again when needed.

INT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

Batman gets into the Batmobile, adjusts his mirror. He thinks he sees a face in it for an instant and whips around, ready for action. There's no one there. He rubs his weary eyes, starts the car, and rolls away.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Batman drives in, he's injured and exhausted. ALFRED greets him with understated deadpan humor that doesn't undercut the deep relationship between the men. Batman want to work on the Data Cyborg turned up, Alfred insists on medical attention, food, and sleep first, in that order. Batman agrees, and they exit the cave, all systems going dark

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except for standby lights on some of the machines. This is a very creepy location.

A MOMENT LATER

The rear-view mirror of the Batmobile GLOWS and a beam of light pours out, reconstituting itself as MIRROR MASTER (the same face we "saw" for two frames in the mirror when Batman thought he saw something after the fight). Mirror Master calls someone on a communicator, identifies himself, and adds, "I'm in." The voice on the other end tells him to get to work, and he does. After defeating the Batcave's internal sensors (he's practically a hologram, there's nothing really there to detect), Mirror Master attaches a high-tech device ("purchased from Lexcorp for an obscene amount of money") to the Batcomputer. The device chugs away, on the monitor we see files rapidly being accessed, then a file copy progress bar filling up. Mirror Master suggests to the voice that he could look around while he's waiting, find out Batman's secret ID. The voice warns him off. The stakes are too high, the information he's there to steal is far more valuable than Batman's identity. "Besides, I already know it." The device chirps, signaling that its work is done. Mirror Master retrieves it and beams himself back into Batman's mirror, impatiently waiting for his ride out of the Batcave.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Time cut. BANE slogs his way through the creepiest swamp imaginable. It's dark, lit intermittently by shafts of sunlight breaking through the trees. Bane is attacked by a

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gigantic ALLIGATOR that drags him under the foul water. He emerges a moment later, the Alligator's broken neck clutched in one hand. He flings it away casually, disgusted by the water, not bothered at all by the Alligator. STAR SAPPHIRE, hovering nearby is amused. There are other villains already here, METALLO, CHEETAH, and the terrifying MA'ALEFA'AK. All are carrying a small GPS tracker that has led them to this spot. We gather from a conversation/minor fight that they have each received an invitation, and a substantial, no-strings cash advance, to come to this spot. But there's nothing here. At least, nothing until the swamp water in front of them begins to froth, and something begins to RISE.

EXT. LEAGUE OF DOOM HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Yep, it's a modernized version of the classic "Legion of Doom" headquarters from Superfriends. The door opens and a voice welcomes them inside.

INT. LEAGUE OF DOOM HEADQUARTERS - DAY

It's VANDAL SAVAGE, sitting at the center of a podium like the one the Supreme court sits at. There are three seats to either side of him, all empty except for the one filled by Mirror Master.

After introductions, and a hint that Savage is rumored to be immortal, we learn that he gave each villain a 10 million dollar advance just to consider joining him. They could have kept the money and not come, no harm done. In fact, many of their compatriots did just that (all of my plans have a

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built-in redundancy," he brags). But these five, and Mirror Master, each for their own reasons, have come to hear him out. Here's the pitch:

Each of them hates a member of the Justice League, and has been defeated by that member before. "You wish to see them dead. I have no personal enmity towards them, but I do have a plan, and they would stand in my way, so their deaths would serve my goals. We need each other."

Metallo disagrees. Why do they need Savage? Mirror Master butts in, "Because he has foolproof plans for how we can destroy them." Savage continues, "And because I will pay you 100 million dollars for each Justice Leaguer you take off the table."

Cheetah is a bit ahead of the others. Savage has committed over half a billion dollars just to get the JLA out of the way of another plan. Savage allows as to how he's very rich, compound interest since the invention of, well, money really adds up." Cheetah continues her thought, the payoff must be huge. "The payoff is inconceivably high. And any of you who would like to continue working with me are welcome to share in it, after you've taken out the JLA."

The villains consider the job, and are unanimous. They want to hear these "foolproof plans" to defeat the JLA.

Savage is pleased, he invites them to take their places in the chairs on the podium, as members of The League of Doom. Mirror Master turns on a gigantic monitor, which shows a PowerPoint labeled "Justice League: Doom," before switching to a frame labeled, "Target #1: Batman".

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INT. WAYNE MANOR - DUSK

Batman works in the Batcave, he's been cross-referencing police files all night, trying to crack a case, and has his cowl pulled off of his face. Alfred interrupts, tentative, and completely serious. He's received a call, there's been some bad news..

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

It's raining. Bruce Wayne is at his parents gravesite, shouting at the skinny, dour-faced CEMETERY DIRECTOR. "How could this happen?" We finally see what's upset him so badly. "Where are my parents' caskets?" The large granite MARKER is there, tipped over, but where the graves should be, there are two six-foot holes.

The Cemetery Director is apologetic, and asks Bruce to accompany him to his office. Bruce can't hear him, he's staring at the open graves, so angry that his eyes are filling with tears. He doesn't notice the Director behind him, taking an injection of Venom and Hulking out into the gigantic Steroidal form of BANE. His suit is shredded, revealing his costume. He pulls his mask over his face and allows as to how he "may have an explanation after all."

Bane stomps Bruce in the small of the back, propelling him across the open Grave and face first into his parents' marker. He falls into the bottom of his father's grave, stunned. He looks up to see Bane, standing at the edge of the grave, pressing the impossibly large granite marker over his head in both hands and slams it down into the grave. Bruce dodges, clambering clumsily to the edge of the muddy

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grave, clawing at the edge, trying to climb out. Bane grabs his wrist, lifting him up out of the grave and to his face. He punishes Bruce with powerful punches to the face. Bruce is on his knees, barely conscious, "What did you do with their... bodies?" "When we fought before, I broke the Bat. Today I break the man."

He stomps Bruce in the face, and everything goes black.

INT. WATERFRONT COP BAR - NIGHT

Detective JOHN JONES is enjoying a surprise birthday party after work. His colleagues love him, despite his over-serious nature, and he's having a great time. A very ATTRACTIVE WOMAN at the bar buys him a drink. He takes the drink over and talks to her. She asks him to light her cigarette, J'onnn tells her smoking is bad for her. She's flirting, but somehow threatening, John's sure he knows her. As he finishes his beer, she smiles and tells him to look at her. "Really look. Use your Martian Vision." He does, revealing that she's actually Ma'alefa'ak, shape-shifted into a female form. "What are you doing here?"

"Buying you a drink. It's laced with a chemical that has an odd effect on Martian biology. You couldn't taste it over the beer." John is ill, he's trying to hold it together. "It's a poison. Oh, it won't kill you, your body will filter it out through your skin in a few hours."

John drops the beer, and falls off his chair. His friends come over, thinking he's drunk. John can't hold his form anymore, he SHAPE SHIFTS back into the form of MARTIAN MANHUNTER. His co-workers are stunned to find out his secret

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identity.

Ma'alefa'ak continues, as wobbly J'onnn tries to stand.
"Unfortunately, you'll sweat the dangerous compound out of your pores. It's magnesium, by the way."

As ill as he is, J'onnn realizes what's about to happen, and tries to get away from the innocents in the bar, but it's too late, his sweat IGNITES and he burns like a human torch. Screaming in pain and fear, he staggers around the bar, setting everything he touches ablaze. His fellow cops try to extinguish him, but the flames won't go out, and in his pain and confusion, he attacks anyone who comes near him with inhuman strength. The Attractive Girl finishes her drink and leaves the burning bar, a smile on her face.

EXT. CENTRAL CITY CRIME SCENE - NIGHT

Central City Homicide is on the case. A gruff DETECTIVE wants to know if Crime Scene can tell them anything. The lead Crime Scene guy turns from the samples he was collecting to answer, it's BARRY ALLEN. Barry proceeds to brilliantly reconstruct the entire murder from a series of small, seemingly insignificant clues he's gleaned from forensic evidence. It's amazing, but Barry soft-sells it. He'll have to have his lab run all the tests first to be sure. The Detective knows better. Allen's always right about this stuff.

Another cop tells everyone that Mirror Master is robbing the new Mag-Lev Train from Keystone City right now. Barry orders his assistants to finish bagging and tagging, he's going over to the Train Station. "For what? It's a robbery in

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progress, not a crime scene."

"Mirror Master is there. It'll be a crime scene soon enough."

As soon as he's out of the other's sight, he activates his ring, releasing his costume. THE FLASH blurs across the landscape until he reaches the tracks, then runs down them, headed for the train.

EXT. MAG-LEV TRACKS - NIGHT

The train is a blur, moving at incredible speed, Police Helicopters trail the Train, but can't keep up, they're being left behind. The Flash zips up from behind, catching up quickly, then VIBRATES through the train's rear bulkhead to go inside.

INT. MAG-LEV TRAIN - NIGHT

Flash finds many security guards, bound and gagged on the floor. He unties one, who confirms it's Mirror Master, hitting a shipment of old cash, on its way to the Federal Reserve to be taken out of circulation and destroyed. Flash frees all of the security Guards in an instant, but tells them to stay where they are, he'll handle Mirror Master.

INT. VAULT ROOM - NIGHT

"You're going to need a bigger bag." Flash finds Mirror Master in a train car full of plastic-wrapped palettes of

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cash. Mirror Master fires a laser at him from a special "light cohering mirror" but the blast misses, Flash rushes Mirror Master but runs right through him, smashing open a palette of money, and slightly stunning himself. It was a hologram.

Now there are Mirror Masters all over the car. Which one is real? Flash doesn't care, he's fast enough to engage them all.

But they're all fakes. The real one appears, holding what he calls "The Hostage Box." "Inside is a baby that a passenger in the next car was kind enough to provide. At some point in the next thirty seconds, it will activate, and kill the baby. Unless you use your super-speed to get the kid out."

"It's a trap."

"Most probably, but you can't take that chance. Or pass up the challenge. Are you fast enough, Flash?"

Flash sticks his hand in the box, and feels nothing. The baby is another hologram. Flash screams in pain and pulls his hand out, a high-tech bracelet with a glowing light has been clamped onto his wrist. "Actually, it's bolted through you wrist." The instant of delay as Flash felt around for the non-existent baby was long enough to spring the trap.

The bracelet is a very powerful bomb. Mirror Master explains the rules to Flash. "If you try to remove the bomb, it explodes. "If you try to vibrate your hand through it, it explodes. If you wait 60 seconds, it explodes."

If you do decide to save the people on this train by getting away from it, there's one more thing: once you start

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running, if you decelerate—"

Flash finishes grimly, "It explodes." Mirror Master looks at his watch. You've got 12 seconds to decide what to do. I don't much care which way you go, because I'm not really here." He fades away.

Flash takes a beat to decide, and runs out the train, down the tracks and away. Mirror Master reappears to call after him, "Don't stop running!"

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Wonder Woman is already battling Cheetah on the top of the supports of the Golden Gate Bridge. Cheetah taunts Wonder Woman during a fierce hand-to-hand battle. Wonder Woman doesn't even know what Cheetah wants -until Cheetah draws blood. Wonder Woman has been drugged by a very specific hallucinogen. Cheetah takes advantage by giving her a bit of a beating.

As Wonder Woman gets her second wind, Cheetah finally springs her trap, pressing a button that sets off a series of controlled EXPLOSIONS severing a huge section of the bridge. A section of bridge is beginning to fall. Cheetah waves, and does a beautiful swan dive hundreds of feet to the water below, next to a speed boat, anchored nearby.

Wonder Woman reacts swiftly, flying down and using her infinitely elastic magic lasso to rope the free end of the bridge. She flies back and forth, creating a cats cradle web to support the section of bridge, just as the last supports fail. She reverses direction and flies above, straining with

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all of her might to support the free end of the bridge. This is the absolute limit of her power, it takes everything she's got to hold the section of bridge stable. She's tiring...

Cars on the bridge are hopelessly gridlocked. Some drivers honk impotently, the smart ones get out and run towards the "safe" end of that section of bridge. It's a nightmare.

Down on the water, Cheetah uses her binoculars to enjoy Wonder Woman's struggles for a moment before starting up her boat, and zooming away...

EXT. SALT MINE - NIGHT

Green Lantern is called in to help in a Die Hard-esque hostage situation. It's a stand-off between heavily-armed FBI and Police SWAT teams, and an unknown number of heavily-armed militia nuts, who have taken over the mine, intending to use it as their fort when the upcoming "Second American Revolution" takes place. They have at least six hostages, workers who were cut off when they took over the mine.

The Officers on the scene continue to give GL intel, but he waves it off, it's taking too long. He'll work it out on the fly, frankly, he can handle anything a bunch of gun nuts can throw at him.

GL makes a megaphone with his ring and announces himself, "This is Green Lantern, I'm coming in. If you harm any of those hostages, you'll answer to me."

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INT. SALT MINE CONTINUOUS

It's a labyrinthine, crystalline maze. Pitch-black, except for the light of Green Lantern's ring, refracted by the salt that makes up the walls, floors and ceilings. Some of the walls are semi-transparent, adding to the strangeness. It's creepy as hell, and otherworldly, shadows that might be an attacker are everywhere.

Eventually, someone dives down from above, firing automatic weapon that makes it's own light. The fusillade of bullets are deflected by GL's force field. Ricochets zing around the chamber, and we hear screams. GL takes down the shooter and uses his ring as a flashlight to look around the chamber. The light reveals that ricochets have taken down several other armed men.

Using a positioning scanner he makes with his ring, GL maps the cave, and identifies the positions of all the militia.

Armed with this intel, GL moves deeper into the cave.

Green Lantern goes through several other ambushes, handling them quickly and flawlessly with clever applications of his powers.

He frees the last hostage, a beautiful dark-haired woman. The last Militiaman hits a switch, setting off bombs all over the mine. The ceiling collapses, dumping tons of glittery salt debris on their heads.

INT. SALT MINE - LATER

Semi-protected by his aura, a dazed GL explodes out of the

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rubble he was buried under. He digs frantically, finding first the Militiaman who set off the charges, then tragically the last hostage. She's dead too. GL is stunned by the loss and by his failure.

"She sort of looks like me, doesn't she?"

It's Carol Ferris, GL's on again off-again girlfriend. She's somehow in the cave. GL is dazed, this all has a dreamlike quality. Carol continues, "She's beautiful of course, and the dark hair like mine. And the stench of your failure hanging over her."

Hal tries to explain, "I didn't mean to—"

"You didn't mean to get all of these people killed? You didn't mean to break my heart and drive me to become star sapphire?" She transforms into her alter ego in front of him, "What didn't you mean, Hal?"

Carol breaks him down psychologically, leading him to the inescapable conclusion that "I don't deserve this ring."

The ring drops from his finger and clatters on the ground, he sinks down next to the woman's corpse, holding her lifeless hand. Star Sapphire flies away..

EXT. DAILY PLANET - NIGHT

Lois Lane watches with the crowd as Henry Ackerson threatens to leap from the roof of the Daily Planet building. Lois has the story, he's a 56 year-old reporter who's been with the Planet since he was a copyboy. But the newspaper business is changing, and he was offered a downsizing package this

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morning. He accepted it, then went up to the roof. Lois can't help working on the story, she also can't help getting involved. She calls Clark, who is across town working on a another story. She gives him all the backstory, but he's already changing into Superman. The man standing next to Lois begs to differ with her interpretation of the facts. Appearances to the contrary, HE is Henry Ackerson. Lois looks up at the man on the roof, "Well then, who's that?"

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - NIGHT

Superman arrives and tries to talk "Ackerson" down, giving him both sensible and sensitive advice about how to remain relevant in a changing world. It's inspiring. Superman holds out a hand to Ackerson. Ackerson pulls a gun and shoots Superman point-blank in the chest.

To Superman's shock, he feels the bullet slam into him. He clutches his chest and takes his hand away.

Blood.

Ackerson explains: Kryptonite bullet. Ackerson reveals that he's actually Metallo, and opens the door to his chest compartment, bathing the already weakened Superman in Green Kryptonite radiation. Superman staggers backwards, and falls off the building, tumbling like a doll until he hits the street far below, cratering it.

INT. LEAGUE OF DOOM HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

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The League has returned. Vandal Savage is pleased. Six for six, that was a better percentage than he had even dared hope. He pays them, telling them they're free to go.

Ma'alefa'ak reminds him of his offer to let them share in whatever his real plan is.

Savage is pleased that they're still interested. He wonders if they will still be, after they hear his plan.

"You're not going to try to destroy the world."

"No. Half. Two-thirds at the most."

"I'm out." "Me too."

Someone asks what possible profit there could be to destroying the world. "Half the world," Savage interjects. He explains, "The first thing you have to understand is that I am old. Older than the human race."

Savage tells them his origin, a caveman who came across a glowing meteorite. The Meteor granted him great intelligence, and as he discovered later, immortality. "As far as I know, I cannot die."

MONTAGE

He's lived thousands of lives, he's been a laborer, a scientist, a priest, an artist, a healer, a thief -but most often, a conqueror. He was several of the most successful warlords of all time, taking over the known world on many occasions, always eventually allowing his empire to dissolve, "for the good of mankind."

But now, looking back on his life, none of his achievements were as satisfying as the first time he conquered the known

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world, as the chieftain of a Cro-Magnon tribe over 50,000 years go. He ruled over a world population of less than 20,000, introducing widespread tool use, the beginnings of agriculture, and a system of law. He was happy then, and the world ran like clockwork.

"You're taking over the world out of nostalgia?"

Hardly, he's taking over because it needs his guiding hand. Humanity doesn't seem know what to do with it, and they're prideful and belligerent. Lately they have developed technology that's makes effective control over them difficult. So before he takes over, he intends to soften them up.

"By destroying half the world."

"Those who survive will be more tractable. Like the cold, frightened Cavemen I first organized, the survivors will gladly follow a leader who offers food, comfort and order."

He offers them positions as his warlords, each with dominion over as much of the planet as the can hold. "Interested?"

Everybody's in, but Metallo wants to know how he's going to depopulate half the Earth. Savage presses a button and a wall slides back, revealing what looks like a gigantic, gleaming BOMB (it's actually a space-worthy missile).

INT. GRAVE - NIGHT

It's pitch black. We hear Bruce's awakening moans. The sound activates a digital recorder. Bane's voice, he's sorry he couldn't be here for this, but he has a big check to pick

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up. "You were worried about where I put your parents, they're very close."

Bruce manages to get to his keychain flashlight. He's laying face down in a pile of bones.

Inside a coffin.

Buried alive.

With his Father's bones.

As Bane's taunts continue, Bruce turns over and throws a punch at the top of the coffin. It splinters and soil falls in his face. Grimly, Bruce throws another punch.

EXT. WAYNE'S GRAVE - NIGHT

A hand erupts from the still-muddy, freshly-mounded earth. Bruce pulls himself out of the hole. Bane's made a very bad mistake.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Wonder Woman continues to strain, she trembles with the effort, but won't let go. Cyborg arrives, hovering via a jetpack attachment. How did he find her? Watching the news. The point is, she can let go now. The bridge is empty of people. Wonder Woman can't see it, from her point of view, the bridge is packed with people, she has to support it until they get off. Cyborg realizes she's out of her head, probably from the effort. To prove the Bridge is empty, he fires a sonic blast at it, blowing a hole in it. Wonder

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Woman is horrified until she realizes that there really isn't anything there. Exhausted, she lets go of the rope and the whole section crumbles into the ocean. What the hell is going on here?

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Bruce enters purposefully, discarding his suitcoat and shirt as he stalks towards a spare costume. Alfred enters, but Bruce cuts him off, pulling on his cowl. "I'm busy." Alfred is insistent, He's got terrible news, Superman's been shot. Alfred switches on a monitor and we see the scene, Superman, a disconsolate Lois at his side, at the bottom of a street crater surrounded by police and EMS. A reporter tells us that surgeons brought to the scene can't operate, Superman's flesh is too tough to cut.

Batman mutes the TV and punches up the Flash on his com-link. "Listen carefully, I need you to go to Starlab Kyoto and have them make a piece of kryptonite into a scalpel. Bring it to-

EXT. FLASH'S RUN - CONTINUOUS

Flash cuts him off, he's been running since he left the train, he can't stop or the bomb on his wrist will explode. Flash is running so fast that his surroundings are a blur. He's tiring, one way or another he's going to have to try something soon.

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Batman reacts, he recognizes the trap. "Keep running. I'll call back when I can."

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Alfred knows something is wrong with Batman, "What is it?" Batman puts a hand up, silencing Alfred as he paces and com-links J'onn. "J'onn, I need your help."

INT. WATERFRONT COP BAR - NIGHT

J'onn is still on fire, screaming in pain, fellow cops try to put him out with extinguishers, others try to wrap him with blanket, only to be knocked aside for their trouble. His com-link activates, "J'onn? J'onn?"

J'onn doesn't seem to hear him. Wracked with pain, he dives out of the window, leaving a flaming trail as he falls into the river below. Bubbles rise from the water.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Batman still calls out to him, we can hear horrifying sounds of J'onn's screams, and the fire burning. "J'onn! It's Batman."

Finally a response, J'onn's pained reply, "Batman...?"

INT. RIVER - NIGHT

"I'm still burning!" Underwater, John burns like a flare.

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INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Batman tells Alfred to get the Batwing ready. Alfred asks what's going on. Batman tells him, the Justice League is under attack. "By whom?"

"Me..."

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Exhausted Wonder Woman receives an open com-link call from Batman, who is now in his Batwing. He's warning the entire Justice League that they may be in danger. Cyborg taps in to the conversation. Batman thinks that's good luck. "I should have thought of it before, I can use you."

INT. SALT MINE - NIGHT

The conversation continues over Green Lantern, sitting listlessly on the floor of the cave in, still holding the woman's hand, his discarded ring in the extreme foreground. He says nothing.

EXT. FLASH'S RUN - CONTINUOUS

Batman continues, warning the League that they may be in extreme danger. Flash responds, "You don't say." He can't wait for help any longer.

Flash heads out to sea, running over the surface of the

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ocean. In super slow motion he puts on the breaks, cutting his feet to the side like an ice-skater, throwing up a huge wave as he begins to slow. An indicator on the Bomb on his wrist changes from green to yellow.

He VIBRATES his wrist and the Bracelet drops through his hand. As it falls, Flash begins to run away, and the device EXPLODES before it hits the water.

Flash is outrunning the huge and rapidly-growing fireball, but it gains on him, finally enveloping him. A long beat, and Flash emerges, singed by flames as the fireball dissipates, he falls, skipping across the surface like a stone, before coming to rest floating face down in the water. Time returns to normal, Flash turns over on his back, and exhales a sigh of relief.

INT. BATWING - NIGHT

Relieved that Flash is okay, Batman starts giving orders. They can still save Superman if everyone does exactly what he tells them.

EXT. RIVERFRONT - NIGHT

Wonder Woman's INVISIBLE JET arrives. Wonder Woman dives into the water, she has a syringe between her teeth, like Tarzan might hold a knife.

INT. RIVER - NIGHT

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Wonder Woman swims down to J'onn and, braving the flames, injects him. He screams...

Wonder Woman breaks the surface, towing J'onn, who is blackened from his experience. Cyborg extends his hand on a long cable and hauls them back up in the plane. J'onn morphs his skin back to normal, traumatized, but The injection was Aluminum Oxide, relatively harmless to a Martian, and perfect to counteract the Magnesium he was secreting. How did Batman know?

Wonder Woman, "We'll ask him when we see him, right now you have to prep for surgery.

Off J'onn's puzzled expression, the Invisible Jet banks away.

INT. SALT MINE - NIGHT

Batman finds GL still sitting on the floor. He sees the hostage's corpse. There's competition between the two men, and tension, but not now. Batman tells Hal that, however it looks, he didn't make a mistake. The absurdity of the statement brings Hal out of his lethargy. He bellows at Batman, I can't make mistakes, I had the most powerful weapon in the universe, and I let that girl die out of arrogance. Batman knows a little something about arrogance, he also knows about dead girls, and this isn't one.

He reaches into the girl's neck, and pulls out a foot and a half of her spine. It's metal. "She's a robot, they all were, placed here to convince you that you made a bad call. I say again, you didn't." Will is the source of Hal's

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powers, the intention was to undercut his self-confidence. He was also dosed with a hallucinogenic to make him more susceptible to suggestion.

Hal summons the ring back to his finger, "And it almost worked." Robots, advanced drugs, psychological profiling, No way Star Sapphire came up with this on her own.

Batman agrees, confessing. "I did this to you. To all of you."

EXT. METROPOLIS STREET CRATER - NIGHT

"You want me to perform surgery on him?" J'onn is not convinced this is a good idea. The area around the crater is cordoned off, Superman is wearing an oxygen mask. Wonder woman explains, she can restore Superman with her Amazonian "Purple Healing Ray," but the bullet must first be removed. "Which the surgeons can't do because nothing will cut him." Flash is at Star Lab Kyoto where a piece of kryptonite is being made into milled into a scalpel, but they're running out of time. They have to start now, and with J'onn's enhanced vision and shapeshifting powers, he's Superman's best hope. Cyborg is enthusiastic about the idea. "Good, because you're going to be doing the cutting."

It's Batman, in a Green Lantern-generated energy bubble. Batman shows Cyborg how to narrow the focus of his sonic blaster to a pinpoint.

A very reticent Cyborg begins cutting after Lois says "Please." It's not easy. J'onn turns his fingers into long, thin tentacles and removes the bullet. Wonder Woman bathes

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Superman in the purple beam of her Amazonian "Healing Ray."

A much too long beat.

Superman takes off his oxygen mask and sits up. The surrounding crowds burst into applause, the Leaguer's relief shows on their faces.

Superman finally speaks. "What's going on here?" Green Lantern looks at Batman, "Why don't you ask him?"

EXT. WATCHTOWER - SPACE

Establishing the orbiting headquarters of the Justice League.

INT. WATCHTOWER CONFERENCE BAY - SPACE

Batman explains what he thinks happened, the League was hit by a coordinated attack, intended to kill them, or failing that, put them out of commission. It's obviously the first step of a larger plan. Flash points out that the plans were "specifically targeted at our physical and psychological weaknesses. Obviously by someone who knows us very well."

GL picks up the thread, "Why don't you tell them who, Batman."

Batman confesses. He has studied every Justice Leaguer, past and present, and created contingency plans-

Wonder Woman interrupts, this is an inconceivable breach of trust.

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Batman continues, talking over her. The members of the Justice League are among the most powerful, and potentially dangerous people on the planet.

"You think one of us would go over to the other side?"

"Or succumb to mind control. Yes, it's possible." So he developed Fail Safes, secret files containing his plans for containing any or all members of the JLA should the need ever arrive."

Superman is outraged. "We would never do anything like that for you."

"Then you're damned fools."

The arguing gets hot, Cyborg "Just a visitor" tries to excuse himself. "No, you're part of this now."

The point, GL reminds them, is that Batman let "somebody stole his files and used them against us."

Batman's had time to work that out, he shows them security video of Mirror Master stealing the files from the Bat computer.

Flash frowns, it's not Mirror Master's MO. The technology, the scope of all this. He's not working alone.

Batman concurs, the encryption on his files is all but unbreakable.

The team lists the other suspects. They're also not capable of pulling this off, Metallo, Star Sapphire, Cheetah, Ma'alefa'ak. Batman chimes in, "Bane." The others are surprised he was attacked, too. "It was a good plan. They made me emotional, sloppy. It almost worked."

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Wonder Woman gets them all back on point, someone's trying to get us out the way. How do we find them and stop them?

Batman can. His encryption is almost unbreakable, but in the event it was ever broken...

Superman finishes, "You had a contingency plan."

The program calls home when it's decrypted and reports its location. He shows them the coordinates on a world map." Louisiana. Swampland.

INT. LEGION OF DOOM HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Savage leads his League of Doom in making final preparations for his plan. As they prepare the "bomb" (actually, it's a rocket, and they're waiting for the imminent launch window), we learn the details of the plan. The rocket will fly into the sun,, trailing a magnetic resonance. When it hits, it will create a solar flare, that will propagate along the magnetic breadcrumb trail, and eight and a half minutes later, destroy the sunside of the Earth. The accompanying EMP will shut down all high technology on planet for several years. Plenty of time for them to conquer what remains of humanity. The League of Doom HQ is Hard EM shielded, after the disaster, they'll have the only operating high-tech on Earth.

SETPIECE BATTLE SEQUENCE

Superman blasts through the ceiling, he's heard enough. The rest of the JLA follows. Batman should have realized it was

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Vandal Savage behind all of this, only he had the resources to pull it off.

The fight is spectacular. The Justice League is taking this personally, they've been humiliated, and badly hurt by these traps, and they plan to get some back. It's an even match though, and things don't really start going their way until they switch partners, and start double teaming/combining powers. They're slowly gaining ground.

Meanwhile, Cyborg hacks into the mainframe, and begins to shut down the countdown. Savage shoots him in the back, and they battle next to the launch controller. During the battle, Cyborg wins, accidentally "killing" Savage. As Cyborg tries to process his act of murder, Savage's body repairs itself, and he launches the missile early, filling the HQ with exhaust and heat.

The Justice League redoubles their efforts, they're no longer fighting to salve their own bruised egos, they're fighting to save the world. Savage laughs, it's too late. Nothing can stop his plans now.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Superman flies into space, chasing the missile. He catches it, very close to the sun's corona, and strains to destroy it. His best efforts barely dent it.

INT. LEGION OF DOOM HQ - DAY

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The heroes are finishing up the battle. They've defeated the League of Doom. GL is about to go help superman, when they all get a call from Superman to clear out the Building. They do, and the League of Doom joins them, just in time to see:

EXT. LEAGUE OF DOOM HQ - DAY

Superman, flying the missile back to Earth, it glows with the heat of re-entry. Unable to destroy it, he brought it back here. Superman and the missile crash into the League of Doom HQ. The black dome collapses inward, then it explodes in a huge fireball.

Superman walks out of it, the flames burning behind him, he collars Savage, who is laughing.

Diding he say that all of his plans have built-in redundancy? There were two missiles, as soon as the first one went off course, the second one launched automatically. "it should be hitting the sun right now."

EXT. SUN - SPACE

The second rocket strikes, and the sun produces a huge SOLAR FLARE that undulates out into space...

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Savage's League doesn't understand, they're in dayside, when the solar flare hits, they're dead too, so is Savage.

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I'll get better. And I'll conquer the world on my own, even without the technology I'd squirrled away.

Batman points out that they have less than 8 and a half minutes to save the world from a solar flare.

Superman thinks that maybe he, J'onn, and Wonder Woman could move the Earth out of the way of the flare. Cyborg says that's crazy, and begins listing all the reasons that it wouldn't work. "You got a better idea?"

"Maybe."

Cyborg shows them the Royal Flush Gang's dimensional shifting device, he thinks that the effect could be replicated—

Wonder Woman finishes: "on a planet-wide basis."

MONTAGE

They quickly sketch out a plan and divide up, Flash moving materials, erecting a huge tower that resembles the prongs on the Royal Flush Gang's device. Cyborg, Batman, and J'onn construct a controller. Superman changes the course of a river, restarting a hydroelectric dam to provide power for the device. Wonder Woman runs gigantic power lines to the tower. It's an amazing feat of construction, but it's too slow. They need a few more minutes.

Green Lantern tells them to keep working, he'll buy them the time. The League continues working, as GL flies up into space, trusting him implicitly, because that's what teammates do. Wonder Woman points this out to Batman, who is

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too busy to allow himself to feel shame.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern hovers in space, between the Earth and the oncoming Solar Flare. He gathers his will power and forms a GIGANTIC shield. The flare hits it, and it holds. GL strains with all his might. The shield is beginning to crack, but he's not going anywhere.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

The heroes attach the last of the big power cables. Is it going to work? We need to run a quick test.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern's shield SHATTERS and the solar flare continues. He's in a small force bubble, being buffeted like a pebble in a hurricane.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Forget the test. They switch it on and strange concentric rays emanate from it.

EXT. EARTH - SPACE

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The strange rays cover the Earth as the Solar Flare approaches. Just before it hits, the entire Earth becomes, semi-transparent and INTANGIBLE.

The Solar flare passes through the Earth. There's fire in the sky.

But the flare keeps going, and dissipates harmlessly in space, leaving the Earth untouched.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

The big machine burns out, just as the skies clear of fire.

EXT. EARTH - SPACE

The Earth becomes solid again, and continues on its way.

EXT. WATCHTOWER - SPACE

Establishing a time cut.

INT. WATCHTOWER - SPACE

Superman calls the official meeting of the Justice League to order. First business, some news. Vandal Savage was found guilty of crimes against humanity, his sentence? Life in prison, without chance of parole.

Second, welcoming the newest member of the Justice League by

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unanimous consent: Cyborg.

Finally, they must vote on whether Batman should be allowed to remain in the League. Each member in turn gives their reasoning, the issues of trust, and deception being foremost. Superman is especially harsh. It's pretty clear how the vote's going to go. Wonder Woman (definitely a "no" vote) asks Batman if he has anything to say in his own defense.

Batman is absolutely unrepentant. He lays out his case, the Justice League, as individuals, and even more so as a group, is too powerful for there not to be a check and balance against the possible misuse of their power. Superman is offended, he would never-

Batman cuts him off, continuing his excoriation of the League's arrogance. Their last mission is proof on its face of their unchecked power. If they can't see the potential dangers of an out-of-control League, even as a worst-case scenario, he doesn't need to wait for a vote. He's out.

He walks towards the exit, pauses, and turns back. "But I'll be keeping an eye on you. Somebody has to."

INT. WATCHTOWER HANGAR - SPACE

Batman's preparing his Batwing for the flight home. There's a tap on the cockpit. It's Superman. He gives Batman a small, foil, container. "What's this?"

Superman was convinced by Batman's speech. "If we, if I ever were on the wrong side, I want there to be somebody I can trust to keep the planet safe. Even from me."

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Batman opens the pouch, Superman winces in discomfort. It's the kryptonite bullet that Metallo shot him with.

Batman nods, pockets the bullet, closes the cockpit, and flies away, back towards the Earth. Superman watches, the other Leaguers gathering behind him.

FADE OUT.

THE END