



**19**  
DEC '07

# CHECK **1** MATE

**RUCKA  
BENNETT  
JADSON**

## THE WALL

**STRIKES  
BACK!**







"I'M CONCERNED, AMANDA. WE'RE VERY EXPOSED RIGHT NOW."

"WE'RE DOING FINE, FARADAY. THE BLACK QUEEN'S KNIGHT IS OFF THE BOARD WHILE SHE RECOVERS FROM HER INJURIES..."



"...HER BOSS IS LIKEWISE OCCUPIED ON THE RECEIVING END OF A LONG-OVERDUE REAMING AT THE U.N..."



"...WE'VE GOT MISTER TERRIFIC AND HIS BISHOP CHASING THEIR OWN TAILS BACK AT THE CASTLE..."



"...AND THE SURVEILLANCE ON THE BLACK KING'S TRIP TO TEL AVIV CAME BACK BETTER THAN WE COULD'VE DREAMED."



"WE'RE NOT EXPOSED, FARADAY. WE'RE IN CONTROL."

"EVERYTHING'S PLAYING OUT THE WAY WE PLANNED."

"I DON'T LIKE IT. I DON'T LIKE BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE."

"YOU THINK THIS IS DEFENSE?"

"KING, WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR HOW LONG? YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW..."





WHITE KING:  
MICHAEL HOLT—"MR. TERRIFIC"



WHITE QUEEN:  
AMANDA WALLER



WHITE KING'S  
BISHOP: THINKER



WHITE QUEEN'S  
BISHOP: KING FARADAY



WHITE KING'S  
KNIGHT: TOMMY JAGGER



WHITE QUEEN'S  
KNIGHT: WERNER VERTIGO—"COUNT VERTIGO"

"...I DON'T PLAY DEFENSE."

BELLE REVE  
FEDERAL  
PENITENTIARY,  
LOUISIANA

# BOOM

## 23



# FALL OF THE WALL PART 2

CONOPS: GREG KUCKA  
CONTROL: JOE BENNETT  
INTEL: JACK JADSON

SIGNALS: TRAVIS LANHAM  
RED SHIRT: SANTIAGO ARCAS  
DOUBLE-AGENT: RACHEL GLUCKSTERN  
POLITICAL OFFICER: JOAN HILTY

CHECKMATE CREATOR BY PAUL KUPFERBERG & STEVE ERWIN

MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SECURITY COUNCIL, CHECKMATE IS A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATE ENTITY LOYAL TO THE UNITED STATES, AND OPERATES IN THE SHADOWS OF AMERICAN THREATS ON A GLOBAL AND POLITICAL LEVEL, WITH UNDERCOVER PRISONS POSITIONED AROUND THE WORLD, FOUR HUNDRED TO PREPARE COVERED ACTION CAPABILITY, AND 120 BY FOUR PRISONS, EACH WITH A BISHOP AND A TRUSTED READER, CHECKMATE MUST CONSIDER THE PROS AND CONS OF POLITICS FROM BATHING TO PREPARE ITS GOALS.



BLACK KING:  
TALIB BENI KHALID



BLACK QUEEN:  
SASHA BORDEAUX



BLACK KING'S  
BISHOP: JESSICA MIDNIGHT



BLACK KING'S  
BISHOP: FANG ZHIFU—AUGUST GENERAL IN IRON



BLACK KING'S  
KNIGHT: BEATRIZ DACOSTA—"PIRE"



BLACK QUEEN'S  
KNIGHT: JOSEPHINE TAUBIN—"MADAMESELLE MARIE"



HOLT,  
BORDEAUX, THE  
REST OF THEM--  
THEY'RE NOT GOING  
TO STOP LOOKING  
FOR SCANDAL,  
AMANDA.

AND THE GAY  
BLADE DOWN THERE  
LEADS STRAIGHT  
TO WHAT WE'RE  
DOING HERE.

THEY  
CAN LOOK ALL  
THEY WANT, KING--  
THEY'LL NEVER  
FIND HER, NOT  
WHERE SHE'S  
GOING.



THE HELL WITH THE OTHER  
ROYALS, ANYWAY.

WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE NEEDS  
TO BE DONE. WHAT WE'RE DOING  
HERE, WE DO AT THE PLEASURE  
OF THE PRESIDENT...



...AND IF THE  
WEAK-KNEED  
POLITICOS AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
DON'T APPROVE,  
THEY CAN  
BITE MY BIG,  
FAT--

BASTARDS!!



YOU  
BASTARDS,  
YOU SONS OF  
BITCHES...











"...IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CLEAR THE BOARD OF ALL ITS PROBLEM PIECES."





...STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHAT YOU AND YOUR KNIGHT WERE DOING IN METROPOLIS AT THE TIME *MADemoiselle TAUTIN* WAS SHOT.

MARIE, *MADemoiselle MARIE*.

PLEASE SPEAK *CLEARLY* FOR THE *RECORD*, BLACK QUEEN.

I SAID, "*MADemoiselle MARIE*," MISTER AMBASSADOR.

JOSEPHINE TAUTIN HOLDS THE TITLE OF *MADemoiselle MARIE*.

THAT'S A TITLE OF SOME *DISTINCTION*, ISN'T IT?

THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICE AWARD IT TO AN AGENT PERHAPS *ONCE* IN A *GENERATION*, YES.

SHE'S CONSIDERED ONE OF THE *BEST* INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS IN THE *WORLD*, THEN, YOU AGREE?

WITHOUT HESITATION.

YET SHE WALKS RIGHT INTO A *SNIPER'S BULLET*.

IF YOU'RE *IMPLYING* THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY KNIGHT WAS *HER* FAULT, AMBASSADOR, YOU CAN JUST--

OF COURSE IT WASN'T *HER* FAULT, BLACK QUEEN.

IT WAS *YOURS*.

WHO WAS JONAH MCCARTHY, PLEASE?





HE WAS  
MY KNIGHT.

MY FIRST  
KNIGHT.



TAUTIN IS HIS  
REPLACEMENT.

YES.

AND MISTER  
MCCARTHY WAS  
REPLACED *WHY*,  
EXACTLY?

YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HIM.



FOR THE  
RECORD,  
PLEASE.

HE DIED  
IN THE LINE.  
A *KOBRA*  
LANCEHEAD  
KILLED HIM.

KILLED  
DURING A  
COVERT THAT  
YOU LED.

CORRECT.



YOU'VE BEEN  
BLACK QUEEN FOR  
*HOW LONG*?

TWO YEARS  
NEXT WEEK.

SO YOU'RE  
AVERAGING A  
KNIGHT A YEAR,  
WHILE THE *OTHER*  
ROYALS HAVE YET  
TO REPLACE  
*ONE*.



THAT'S  
*ONE* WAY  
TO LOOK  
AT IT.



YES IT  
IS, BLACK  
QUEEN.

ANOTHER WAY  
TO LOOK AT IT IS  
*NEGLIGENCE*.



THIS MATTER  
IS FORWARDED  
TO THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL FOR  
OFFICIAL  
REVIEW.

YOU MAY  
WISH TO *UPDATE*  
YOUR *RÉSUMÉ*, MS.  
BORDEAUX...



...YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO  
BE OUT OF  
A JOB...





S.T.A.R. LABS--  
BALLISTICS  
RESEARCH  
DIVISION--  
METROPOLIS.

I WON'T  
ASK WHERE  
YOU GOT IT.



PAWN 1705  
DUG IT OUT OF  
THE TARMAC AT  
THE SCENE.

IT WENT RIGHT  
THROUGH THE  
BLACK QUEEN'S  
KNIGHT.

YOU HAVE MY  
CONDOLENCES,  
JESSICA.



NOT  
NECESSARY,  
MARCEL. SHE'S  
RECOVERING IN  
HOSPITAL.

THEN SHE WAS  
VERY *LUCKY*. THAT'S  
A .338 LAPUA.

IF IT HAD BEEN  
FIRED IN ITS *ENVELOPE*,  
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH  
OF A *KNIGHT* OR MUCH  
OF A *BULLET* LEFT.



IT'S A SNIPER  
ROUND. MOST  
EFFECTIVE BETWEEN  
500 AND 1200  
METERS.

DID YOU  
FIND THE  
SNIPER'S  
*NEST*?

IT WAS  
A ROOFTOP,  
ROUGHLY 1500  
METERS  
AWAY.



WRONG  
TOOL FOR  
THE JOB.  
HMM...EIGHT  
LEFT TWIST,  
HIGH  
LAND...

...MY GUESS, THIS  
WAS FIRED FROM A  
*MINI-HECATE*, BUT  
OF COURSE I'LL WANT  
TO DOUBLE-CHECK  
THAT BEFORE I  
SWEAR TO IT.



BLOODY  
HELL.





THE  
HECATE  
IS A *FRENCH*  
SNIPER RIFLE,  
SASHA...

...WHOEVER  
SHOT JO WAS  
SENDING A  
MESSAGE.

GREAT, A  
SNIPER WITH  
A SENSE OF  
IRONY.

THERE'S MORE.  
ACCORDING TO  
MARCEL--

MARCEL?

--PARDON  
ME, PAWN 647--  
BOTH THE WEAPON  
AND THE ROUND  
USED WERE  
*POORLY CHOSEN*  
FOR THE  
TASK.

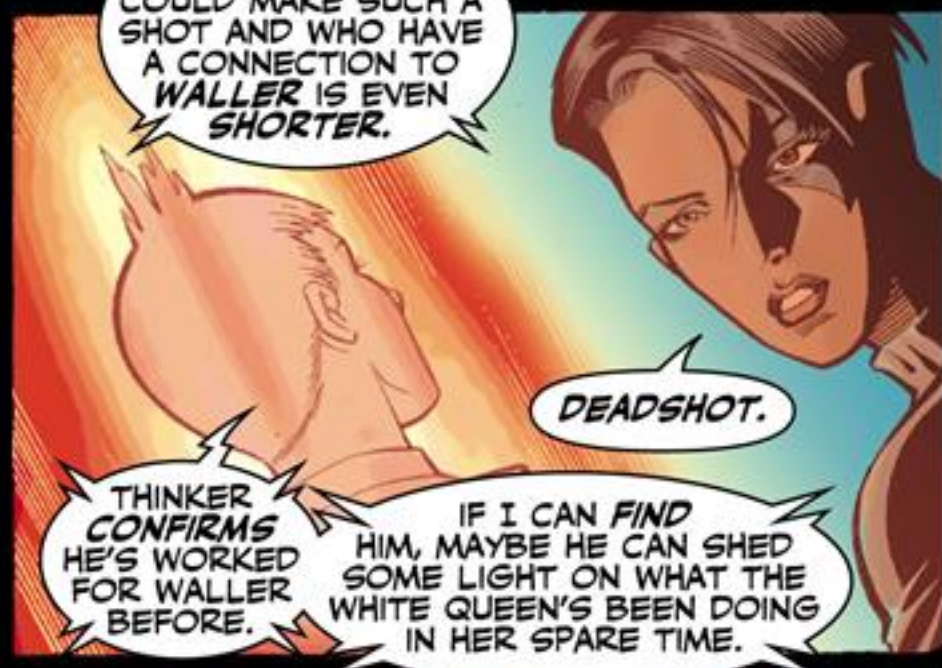
YET  
WHOEVER DID  
THE SHOOTING  
MANAGED TO HIT JO  
FROM A KILOMETER  
AND A HALF  
AWAY ALL THE  
SAME.



GIVEN THE DETAIL-  
ORIENTED NATURE  
OF MOST SNIPERS,  
I BELIEVE THESE  
"MISTAKES" WERE  
*DELIBERATE*.

THE LIST  
OF SHOOTERS  
WHO COULD *MAKE*  
SUCH A SHOT  
IS SHORT.

THE LIST OF  
SHOOTERS WHO  
COULD MAKE SUCH A  
SHOT AND WHO HAVE  
A CONNECTION TO  
*WALLER* IS EVEN  
*SHORTER*.



*DEADSHOT*.

THINKER  
*CONFIRMS*  
HE'S WORKED  
FOR WALLER  
BEFORE.

IF I CAN *FIND*  
HIM, MAYBE HE CAN SHED  
SOME LIGHT ON WHAT THE  
WHITE QUEEN'S BEEN DOING  
IN HER SPARE TIME.



TAKE  
TOMMY OR  
FIRE AS BACKUP,  
JESS. I DON'T  
WANT TO LOSE  
YOU, TOO.



TRAUTMANN'S  
AN ASS, SASHA.  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
JONAH WASN'T  
YOUR FAULT.

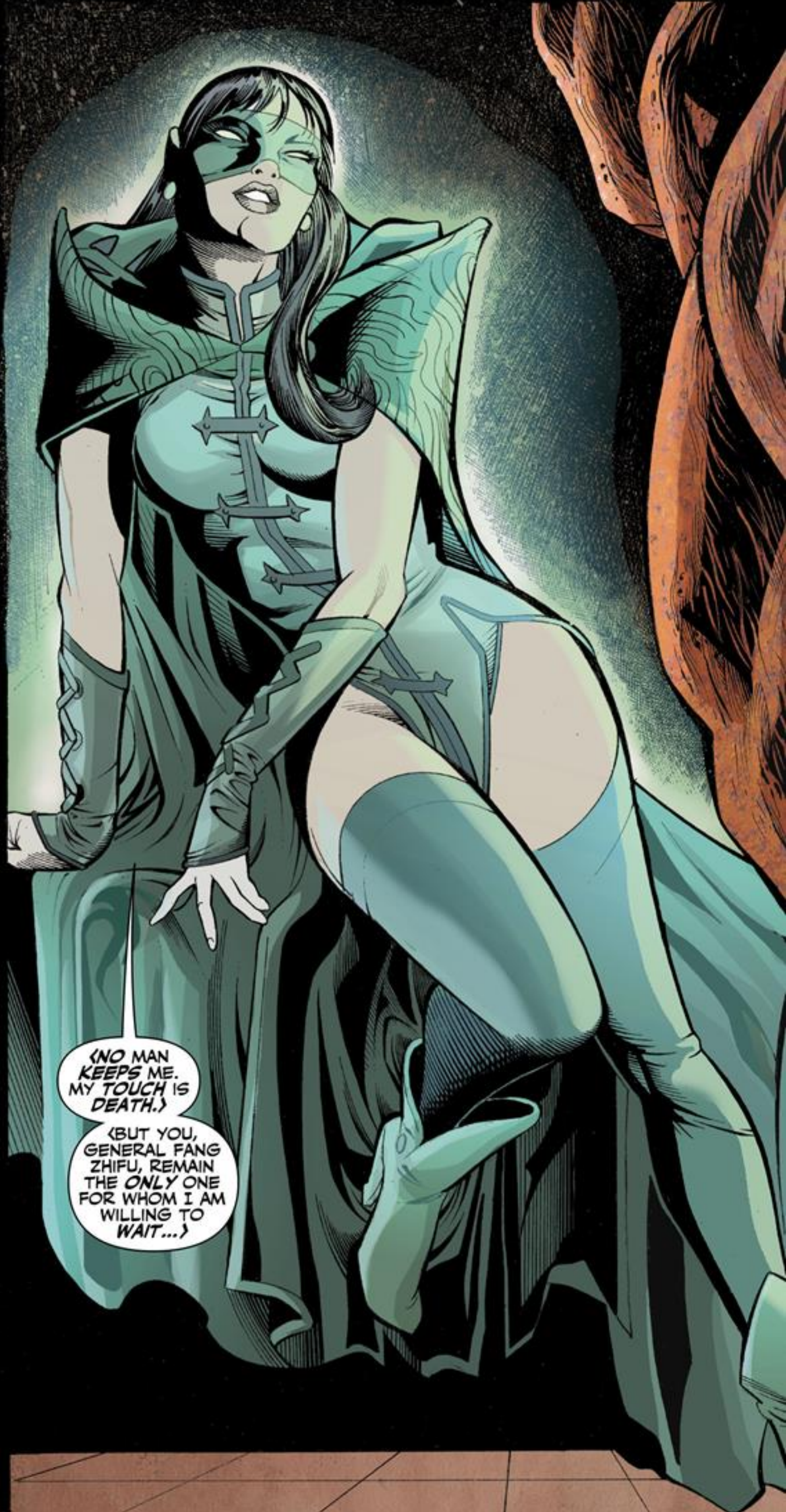
MIDNIGHT  
OUT.











«NO MAN  
KEEPS ME.  
MY TOUCH IS  
DEATH.»

«BUT YOU,  
GENERAL FANG  
ZHIFU, REMAIN  
THE ONLY ONE  
FOR WHOM I AM  
WILLING TO  
WAIT...»





⟨...SOMETHING  
I DO *GLADLY*,  
IF IT MEANS A  
CHANCE TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN.⟩

⟨YOU HONOR  
ME, BEAUTIFUL  
SPIRIT. IT IS...⟩

⟨...THE FEELING  
IS *SHARED*.⟩



⟨I KNOW  
IT IS, ZHI.⟩



⟨THE MAN YOU SEEK, FARADAY--  
HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES, AT  
A PRISON CALLED *BELLE REVE*,  
IN LOUISIANA.⟩

⟨HE APPEARS TO BE  
OVERSEEING THE TRANSPORT  
OF *DOZENS* OF WHAT THE WEST  
CALLS "SUPER-VILLAINS" FROM  
THERE TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION  
VIA A DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE.⟩



⟨THERE WERE  
SO MANY *EVIL  
MEN* THERE,  
I COULD HAVE  
POWERED MY  
PEOPLE'S ASTRAL  
HOME FOR A  
*YEAR* WITH THE  
*HARVEST* OF  
THEIR BLACK  
SOULS,  
ZHI.⟩

⟨EVEN  
FARADAY HAS  
A *DARKNESS*  
UPON HIM.⟩



⟨AS  
DO I.⟩

⟨NO, MY  
LOVE. YOU STAND  
IN *GRAY*, AS EVER.  
TORN BETWEEN *DUTY*  
AND *HONOR*.⟩









YOU HAVE TIME FOR A DRINK?



I'M FLYING DOWN TO D.C. IN AN HOUR TO BRIEF THE PRESIDENT IN PERSON.

HOW'S THE OPERATION RUNNING?

SMOOTH AS GLASS, MISTER AMBASSADOR.



AND THIS THING WITH SCANDAL?

WE SHIPPED HER OUT TODAY. BUT THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE OPERATION.

WHAT'S THE LATEST ON BORDEAUX?



I TALKED A GOOD GAME, BUT SHE WON'T BE EASY TO DISLODGE.

MY COLLEAGUES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL LIKE HER, AND THEY'LL OPPOSE ANY MOTION TO DISMISS.



I COULD EXERCISE THE U.S. VETO IF IT COMES TO A VOTE, BUT I'D RATHER NOT BURN THE POLITICAL CAPITAL.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT OUR EXPOSURE HERE, AMANDA. THE WHITE HOUSE DOESN'T WANT ANY BLOWBACK ON THIS.

THERE WON'T BE.



BUT YOU SAID--

THERE'S A SOLUTION TO EVERY PROBLEM, MISTER AMBASSADOR.

IF BORDEAUX, HOLT, AND KHALID ARE THE PROBLEM...



...THEN  
HERE'S OUR  
SOLUTION.



ARE THESE  
REAL?

YOU  
MEAN ARE THEY  
MANUFACTURED?  
NO, THEY'RE  
ALL LEGIT.

THESE COPIES  
ARE FOR YOU. IF NEEDED,  
YOU SHOULD DISTRIBUTE THEM  
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
AND THE OTHER PERMANENTS.

IT SHOULD  
BE ENOUGH  
TO GET US A  
CHANGING OF  
THE GUARD AT  
THE CASTLE.

HELL YES.  
AND WITH  
THE GUARD  
CHANGED...

...THE PRESIDENT  
WILL HAVE NOTHING  
TO WORRY ABOUT.





WHAT THE AUGUST GENERAL IS REPORTING FITS WITH WHAT THINKER AND I HAVE UNCOVERED.

SCANDAL IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. THERE HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARANCES LIKE HERS ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

THOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE ABDUCTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES.

YOU'RE SAYING ABDUCTED...

...SOME MIGHT SAY APPREHENDED. THEY ARE BAD GUYS, AFTER ALL.

IF IT'S APPREHENSION, WHY THE SECRECY?

MORE TO THE POINT--AND SPEAKING AS A SPECULATIVELY REFORMED MEMBER OF THE PERSECUTED GROUP--WHERE'S THE CAUSE?

THERE IS THIS TINY MATTER OF DUE PROCESS.

MY SOURCE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE BEING MOVED SOMEWHERE VIA DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE. SHE COULD NOT SAY WHERE.

FARADAY IS AT BELLE REVE, AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE COUNT VERTIGO HAS GONE TO JOIN HIM THERE. BOTH ARE CLEARLY ACTING UNDER WALLER'S ORDERS.

SO WHOSE ORDERS IS WALLER ACTING UNDER?

SHE STILL THINKS OF CHECKMATE AS A U.S. AGENCY.

WHICH WOULD VIOLATE HER STATUS AS WHITE QUEEN ON MULTIPLE GROUNDS.

ALL WE NEED IS THE PROOF.





MIDNIGHT  
AND FIRE ARE  
WORKING ON  
THAT RIGHT  
NOW--

I BEG  
YOUR PARDON,  
WHITE KING,  
YOU HAVE AN  
INCOMING PRIORITY  
TRANSMISSION...



...FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY  
GENERAL.

ROUTE TO  
T-SPHERES  
AND DECODE,  
THINKER.

DONE  
AND DONE.



MISTER  
SECRETARY  
GENERAL.  
GOOD TO  
SEE YOU,  
SIR.

I WISH  
I COULD SAY  
THE *SAME*,  
WHITE KING.  
IS THE BLACK  
KING WITH  
YOU?

I AM  
HERE, SIR.



GENTLEMEN,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
RESOLUTION 697-7.9,  
ALL CHECKMATE  
OPERATIONS ARE  
HEREBY *SUSPENDED*  
PENDING REVIEW,  
EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY.



FURTHER, BOTH THE  
WHITE AND BLACK KING WILL JOIN  
THE BLACK QUEEN IN FRONT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL FIRST THING  
TOMORROW MORNING...

WHAT? WHAT  
ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



...WHERE  
THEY WILL  
ANSWER THE  
*SERIOUS* CHARGES  
OF *MISCONDUCT*  
AND *WRONGDOING*  
THAT HAVE BEEN  
BROUGHT BY  
THE AMBASSADOR  
OF THE UNITED  
STATES.

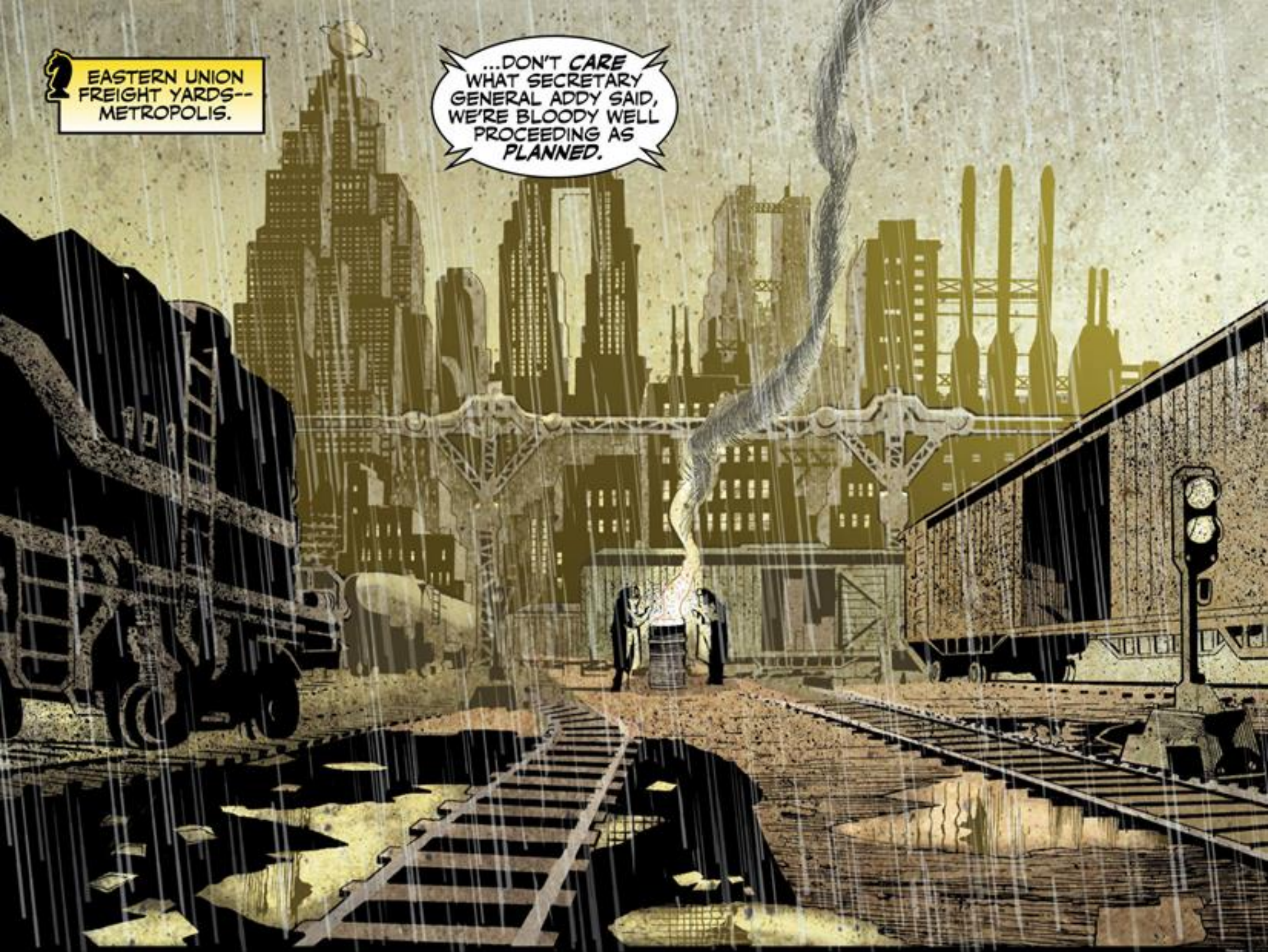


YOU  
*MAY* WISH  
TO HAVE *LEGAL*  
*REPRESENTATION*  
ACCOMPANY YOU,  
GENTLEMEN.



2 EASTERN UNION  
FREIGHT YARDS--  
METROPOLIS.

...DON'T CARE  
WHAT SECRETARY  
GENERAL ADDY SAID,  
WE'RE BLOODY WELL  
PROCEEDING AS  
PLANNED.



ANY  
SIGN  
OF  
HIM?

YOU GOT  
THE TIP FROM A  
TALKING CHIMP.  
OF COURSE  
THERE'S NO SIGN  
OF HIM.

THE  
CHIMP  
KNOWS HIS  
STUFF. KEEP  
YOUR EYES  
OPEN.

ACTUALLY,  
I WAS THINKING  
OF FINDING SOME  
MARSHMALLOWS  
AND...

...TARGET SPOTTED,  
APPROACHING FROM  
THE EAST. EIGHTY  
METERS TO YOUR  
LOCATION.

UNDERSTOOD.  
MOVE TO POSITION  
BAKER.

EN  
ROUTE.

KENZIE?

YOU.  
WHERE'S  
KENZIE?

HE  
SHOVED  
OFF. THAT  
THE GUN?

KENZIE  
SAID YOU'D  
GIVE ME FIVE  
HUNDRED  
TO DITCH IT  
FOR YOU.





KENZIE  
DOESN'T  
TALK THAT  
MUCH.

AND I DON'T  
WORK WITH  
PEOPLE I DON'T  
KNOW.

FIRE.



THAT'S  
MY PLAN.

NOT  
YOU--



--HER.

FWOOSH



HOLD  
STILL!

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH







