



ONCE UPON A TIME,  
THERE WERE THREE  
LITTLE SPOREBELINGS  
NAMED HAZEL, ROSE  
AND THORN.

THREE LITTLE  
SPOREBELINGS  
WHO GREW UP  
A LITTLE TOO  
QUICKLY...

...AND FOUND OUT THEY  
WERE VERY *SPECIAL*,  
WITH *SPECIAL POWERS*.

BUT EVERY  
NIGHT THEY HAD  
NIGHTMARES.

THEIR MOTHER TRIED  
AND TRIED TO PROTECT  
THEM FROM THE DANGERS  
OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD  
AS BEST AS SHE COULD.

BUT THIS IS  
NOT A FAIRY  
TALE...

...AND THE NIGHTMARE  
IS REAL.

# POISON IVY:

## Chapter Six of *Cycle of Life and Death* THE CONCLUSION

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GRIMLEY?!

BUT YOU'RE  
DEAD! DARSHAN  
FOUND YOU, AT  
THE LAB.

NO, I AM  
ALIVE.

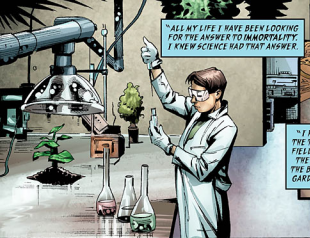
YESSS,  
I AM GRIM.

OUTGREW...  
MY... OLD...  
SKIN...

SCHLUFF

HOW--?

YOURRR RRESSEARCHHHH...



"ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER TO IMMORTALITY. I KNEW SCIENCE HAD THAT ANSWER."



"I ROSE TO THE TOP OF MY FIELD, BECAME THE HEAD OF THE BOTANICAL GARDENS LAB."

"BUT FOR YEARS THE ANSWER ELUDED ME."



"MY MIND REMAINED SHARP, BUT MY BODY... BEGAN TO DIE."

"ONLY VICTOR KNEW HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD."

WHAT ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS? WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A SCIENTIFIC LEGEND, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. THIS IS STAGE FOUR... AGGRESSIVE... METASTASIZED TO THE BRAIN AND LINGS.

THE RULES ARE CLEAR. AT 83 HE IS INELIGIBLE FOR ANY CLINICAL TRIALS. NO EXCEPTIONS, I'M SORRY...

DEATH IS NOT AN OPTION. WE WILL FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION.

WAYNE FOUNDATION



...THE MIRABILIS PLANT IS 2000 YEARS OLD...

...YEW TREE, 5000 YEARS.

"LONGEVITY. YEW. TAXUS BACCATA. THE SOURCE FOR TAXANES. A CANCER-FIGHTING TREATMENT."

"YOUR RESEARCH HAD SO MANY POSSIBILITIES."



CAREFUL...

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TRY THIS, SIR?

I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.



"IT'S WHY I ALLOWED YOU TO... GROW YOUR CREATURES."

"SO I COULD USE THE EMBRYONIC FLUID OF YOUR GENE-EDITING EXPERIMENT."



STEM  
CELLS.

YOU'RE  
TALKING ABOUT  
STEM CELLS.

FROM MY  
SPORELINGS.

YESSS, STEMM  
CELLSSSS, 5000  
SSMART, 1SSSLEY.



"I HAD... NO CHOICE.  
CELL REGENERATION WAS  
THE ONLY ANSWER.

IT'S  
WORKING!

I FEEL  
YOUNG AND  
STRONG  
AGAIN.



"MY PRRISON FERR  
TENN YEARRSS,  
I WAS FRREE.

MY LEGS--  
I CAN FEEL  
THEM GROWING;  
MUSCLE TISSUE  
INCREASING...



"BUT  
THERRE WERRE  
UNUSUAL SSIDE  
EFFECTSS...



WHAT AM I  
BECOMING?



DOCTOR  
GRWILEY?

"IT WAS  
GETTING  
HARDER AND  
HARDER TO  
HIDE... THE  
CHANGES.



"LUISSA... SSUSPECTED SSOMETHING.  
TRROUBLESSOME WOMAN.

I HAVE  
A PROBLEM, THERE'RE  
SOME IRRREGULARITIES WITH  
THE WAYNE FOUNDATION  
GRANTS.



"VICTORRR AND I HAD JUST FINISHED SSETTING UP THE SSECRET RRESEARCH FACILITY IN THE OLD WING, AWAY FROM PRYING EYES."

SEE? THERE'RE SOME VERY LARGE LINE ITEMS IN THE BUDGET, BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF THIS EQUIPMENT AT THE LAB --

"FORTUNATELY YEW BERRIES-- VERRY TOXIC."



"POISONING CAN TAKE SOME TIME... AS YOU KNOW."

"ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO GO THROUGH AND TAKE THE FILES I NEEDED TO DEVELOP MY OWN SPORELING CELL SUPPLY."

"A COUPLE OF CALLS TO BOARD MEMBERS AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION. IT WAS ENOUGH TO SHUT DOWN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION."



IT WAS YOU/ ALL ALONG.

YESSS YOU SAVED MY LIIIFFFE. BUT I NEED MORE CELLSSSS...

I SEE WHY YOU NEED MY SPORELINGS--



TUMORS-- YOUR CANCER CAME BACK.

AND I DESTROYED YOUR LAB AND STEM CELL SUPPLY.

YESSSS...

DARSHAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE A SOCIOPATH.

SOMEONE CALL MY NAME?