



MR. BEARD MAN?

GET A MOTEL, FRIENDS. LAY LOW AS LONG AS YOU CAN.

THIS CITY'S GOING TO HELL.

AND I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING DRAGGED DOWN INTO THE FIRE.

I NEVER NOTICED THEM BEFORE.

THE STARS.

A GALAXY OF THEM, ALL THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

YOU KNOW THAT MOMENT WHEN A BARBER HOLDS UP A MIRROR TO THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD AND SAYS, "HOW DOES IT LOOK?" AND YOU FEEL, FROM THAT UNFAMILIAR ANGLE, LIKE YOU'RE STARING AT A STRANGER?

I FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN MY MENTOR—CYRUS BRODERICK, THE CEO OF QUEEN INDUSTRIES—BETRAYED ME.

I FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN JOHN DIGGLE PISTOL-WHIPPED ME AND ESCAPED WITH MALCOLM MERLYN, THE DARK ARCHER.

AND I FEEL THE SAME WAY NOW... DISORIENTED BY THE CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE...

...AS IF THE SUN HAS SUDDENLY SWUNG OUT OF VIEW, AND NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND THE CITY IS SUDDENLY ABLAZE WITH A DISTURBING CONSTELLATION I'M ONLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.





WHILE TERRORISM HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT, AUTHORITIES SAY IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE EXACT SOURCE OF THE EXPLOSIONS THAT TOPPLED THE **SPACE NEEDLE** LAST NIGHT.

MAYOR **NATHAN DOMINI** HAS ANNOUNCED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR LATER THIS EVENING.

HERE AT KOMA 2 NEWS, WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT ANSWERS HE CAN GIVE. THE LOSS OF THE LANDMARK FEELS LIKE THE DEATHBLOW TO AN ALREADY WOUNDED CITY.

CLOSED SCHOOLS, DESTROYED ROADWAYS, A LOCKED-DOWN AIRPORT, DEFUNDED AGENCIES, POISONED WATER, COMPROMISED FOUNDATIONS, AND VERMIN AND INSECT INFESTATIONS HAVE CRASHED THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

ECONOMISTS ARE CALLING IT AN UNPRECEDENTED FALL.



I DON'T KNOW IF THE NEWS COULD POSSIBLY BE WORSE.

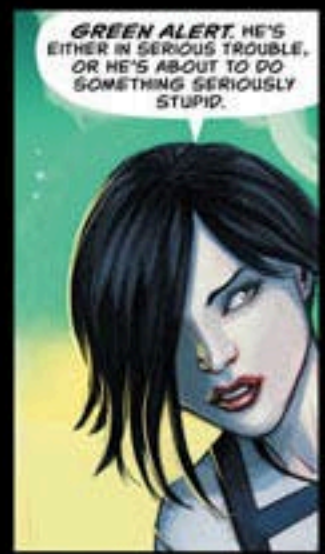
I READ AN ARTICLE THE OTHER DAY THAT 29 MILLION TONS OF SPIDERS LIVE ON EARTH, AND IF THEY ROSE UP AGAINST HUMANS, THEY COULD EAT US ALL IN **ONE YEAR**.

OTHER THAN THAT, I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOU.



BLACK CANARY! WHERE'S OLLIE?

I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING. HE'S NOT RESPONDING ON THE COMM.



GREEN ALERT. HE'S EITHER IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, OR HE'S ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING SERIOUSLY STUPID.



OR **BOTH.**

QUEEN INDUSTRIES? WHY WOULD HE GO BACK THERE?



"MY INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE **NINTH CIRCLE** BELIEVES SEATTLE WAS CONSTRUCTED AROUND A SERIES OF INTERLOCKING **LEY LINES**.

"CHANNELS OF DARK ENERGY THAT FORM THE SHAPE OF A **STAR**, WITH **QUEEN INDUSTRIES** AT THE CENTER.

"BENEATH THE **EVERGREEN CEMETERY**, IN THE **QUEEN FAMILY TOMB**, WE DISCOVERED A MASK INDICATING YOUR FATHER **ROBERT'S** MEMBERSHIP TO THE **NINTH CIRCLE**.

"AND BENEATH THE **U.W. LIBRARY**, IN THE **QUEEN FAMILY'S ARCHIVES**, WE DISCOVERED AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT THAT PREDICTED THE **RUIN OR RENEWAL** OF THE CITY WOULD DEPEND ON A **QUEEN**.

"IF **OLLIE'S** LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, THE ONLY PLACE HE'LL FIND THEM IS IN THE **CRYPTIC HEART** OF THE **QUEEN PROPHECY**."