

MAHARASHTRA CRICKET STADIUM.

PUNE, INDIA.







DOES IT UPSET YOU LOOKING AT THOSE OLD PICTURES, MASTER BRUCE?

NO, ALFRED, ACTUALLY IT DOESN'T.

IT'S KIND OF... COMFORTING TO SEE HOW MUCH MY PARENTS LOVED ME EVEN IF I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THEM OR YOU WHATSOEVER.

AND ENOUGH OF THE *MASTER* STUFF ALREADY.



THEY BROUGHT YOU ALONG ON A GREAT MANY TRIPS ABROAD. GREECE, SPAIN, ITALY, FRANCE, CHINA--DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE PLACES YOU VISITED? THE EIFFEL TOWER, THE GREAT WALL?

WISH I COULD SAY I DID, BUT I SIMPLY DON'T.

IS IT WISE TO KEEP POKING AT THE PAST? IT DOES HAVE A WAY OF SOMETIMES BITING BACK.



TELL ME MORE ABOUT MY PARENTS. WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?

YOUR MOTHER HAD AN ADVENTUROUS SOUL AND A BACKBONE OF STEEL, AND YOUR FATHER HAD AN OPEN HEART AND AN OPEN MIND.

THEY MADE A WONDERFUL COUPLE AND--

BING BONGG



I'LL FINISH THAT THOUGHT SHORTLY.

GOOD EVENING, HOW MAY I--

--HELP YOU.

HELLO, MISTER PENNYWORTH. WE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO BRUCE.

of GIANTS and MEN

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I DO NOT MEAN TO SOUND BRUSQUE, BUT AS I TOLD SUPERMAN SEVERAL DAYS AGO, THERE'S A GREAT MANY REASONS WHY MASTER BRUCE CANNOT HONOR HIS JUSTICE LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES ANY LONGER.

SOMETHING'S COME UP SINCE THEN, ALFRED.

A CRISIS, I ASSUME, OF EPIC PROPORTIONS?

COULD DAMN WELL BE, BUT LET'S HOPE NOT.

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT WE'RE STRONGER WITH BATMAN ON OUR SIDE, ESPECIALLY IN FULL-OUT *DETECTIVE MODE*, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW.

SO GETTING HIM BACK SOONER RATHER THAN LATER IS VITAL.

IN OTHER WORDS, MISTER PENNYWORTH, WE WANT TO SEE IF THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THE BRUCE WE *NEED* IS STILL THERE--

--LOOKING FOR A LIFELINE TO GRAB ONTO AND PULL HIMSELF OUT OF THE FOG.

WHAT BRUCE HAS BEEN GIVEN IS A *LIFELINE OF ANONYMITY*--NO HISTORY, NO BAGGAGE, NO TRAGEDY...*NO ENTANGLEMENTS*.

HE'S TRULY FREE TO WALK IN THE LIGHT AND START OVER.

AND AS MUCH AS YOU DON'T WANT TO FACE IT, THE BRUCE WAYNE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS SIMPLY NO LONGER THERE.

IF WE DIDN'T BELIEVE THE *DIRE SITUATION* WE'VE DISCOVERED WARRANTED KNOCKING ON YOUR FRONT DOOR, YOU KNOW WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE, ALFRED.

WE'RE ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO REACH OUT TO BRUCE ONE LAST TIME TO HELP SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES.

WELL THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE ASKING *ME* INSTEAD OF ALFRED?