



"Turning and turning, the widening gyre. The Falcon cannot hear the falconer..."

NO, MY DEAR. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR YEATS.

I, DOCTOR DAEDALUS, AM THE UNSEEN STAR IN WHOSE GRAVITY YOU, MY CHILDREN, MUST ORBIT.



FATHER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU SAID ONE OF US WOULD BE THE VESSEL OF YOUR RETURN. NOT THIS PRETENDER.

DON'T YOU SEE, SISTER? OUR DESTINY, EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED FOR...



...IT WAS ALL A TRICK. THE CROWN WAS NEVER TO BE OURS. ONLY HIS.

TO WEAR THIS CROWN IS TO FLY TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN. THE MIND INSIDE THIS VESSEL IS GONE.



BUT DO NOT WEEP, MY DAUGHTERS. YOU CAN STILL SERVE THE COMING CATAclySM.



IF YOU ARE WILLING.



IF WE ARE WILLING?

WHEN HAS CHOICE EVER FACTORED INTO OUR LIVES?

AH YES. YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SING.

YES. HOW FOOLISH OF ME...



"...TO WANT SOMETHING FOR MYSELF."

GRAYSON, THE SYNDICATE'S NEUTRALIZED AND THE SCHOOL IS SAFE. IT'S TIME TO GO.

NO-CAN-DO, TIGER. I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TRADE PUNCHES WITH KING FARADAY. I CAME HERE FOR HELENA.



THE TRACKER I PLACED ON HER BODY JUST STARTED PINGING. SHE'S BEEN TAKEN, WHICH MEANS ONE OF THE ASSASSINS MUST'VE SLIPPED PAST--

NO ONE SLIPPED PAST.

MIDNIGHTER'S CORRECT. SHE HASN'T BEEN TAKEN. SHE'S GONE.



THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THINK ABOUT IT, IDIOT. THE PLAN THAT'S BEEN IN MOTION SINCE THE DAY YOU ARRIVED HERE. THE TRUE INTENT BEHIND SPYRAL.



THE RETURN OF DOCTOR DAEDALUS IS AT HAND...

"...AND HELENA IS HIS CHOSEN VESSEL."

MY DAUGHTERS.

I GAVE YOU THE ONLY CHOICE YOU EVER NEEDED: *KILL OR DIE.*

NOW, IF *ONE OF YOU* WOULD JOIN ME, I HAVE NEEDS BEYOND THIS TAWDRY CELLAR.



ONE OF US.



NO, LUKA. I... I REFUSE HIM.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE TWO ARMS OF THE SAME ENDLESS SPIRAL. NOT EACH OTHER'S EXECUTIONERS.



PLEASE.

LUKA.



YOU CAN MAKE THE *SAME CHOICE.*



I'M SORRY, GRAYSON.

WHAT IS *HAPPENING* RIGHT NOW, TIGER? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAEDALUS HAS PLANNED?

BECAUSE THE *SPYDER* HAS BEEN PLAYING US ALL, BUT IT COULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO WIN.

I HAVE HIGHER ALLEGIANCES THAN YOU.



DICK, I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU THIS...



...BUT I THINK YOUR PARTNER WORKS FOR CHECKMATE.

The **SECOND COMING**

WRITERS / JACKSON LANZING & COLLIN KELLY ARTIST / ROGE ANTONIO COLORIST / JEREMY COX
LETTERER / CARLOS M. MANGUAL COVER / MIKEL JANIN EDITOR / REBECCA TAYLOR GROUP EDITOR / MARK DOYLE
JOHN ROMITA JR. VARIANT COVER INKED BY DANNY MIKI COLORED BY LAURA MARTIN

SORRY, DICK. THIS ISN'T MY SCENE.

DOOR.

STAND DOWN, GRAYSON. THIS IS OUR OPERATION NOW.

OUR OPERATION?

LIKE THE MAN IN BLACK SAID.

I'M WITH CHECKMATE. AND I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

YOU WERE BLINDED BY EMPATHY.

BISHOP FIVE, DAEDALUS IS MAKING HIS GAMBIT.

OR IS IT HER GAMBIT?

SHE IS YOUR ALPHA TARGET. KILL THE ENEMY ROOK AND USE THE TRACKER TO GIVE CHASE.

CONFIRMED, BLACK KING. I KNOW HIM LIKE A BROTHER. HE WON'T STAND IN MY WAY.

TIGER, IF YOU OR MAXWELL LORD TOUCH HELENA, I'M GOING TO RIP THOSE STRIPES OFF YOUR FACE!

PSHOWWWW

I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE PERFECT BOARD.

DAEDALUS GONE. SPYRAL IN SHAMBLES. GRAYSON SOON DEAD.

AND THE TRUE PRIZE, UNDEFENDED...

...WAITING FOR ITS LORD.