

HUMAN GIRLS TYPICALLY MATURE BETWEEN TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

MY HYBRID SPORELINGS HAVE REACHED THAT STAGE IN 25 WEEKS.

Thorn
13 wks

AND THEY ARE GETTING RESTLESS.

I'VE GIVEN THEM NAMES THAT REFLECT THEIR PERSONALITIES.

ROSE.

HAZEL.

Hazel / Rose
11 wks

My Girls
25 wks

AND THORN, THE HYBRID CREATED IN VICTOR'S SECRET LAB FROM MY STOLEN RESEARCH.

CLEARLY THEIR PLANT DNA IS DRIVING THIS ACCELERATION IN GROWTH. THEIR POWERS ARE JUST STARTING TO MANIFEST. I HAVE TO PROTECT THEM UNTIL THEY'RE READY TO SURVIVE THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

AND THE WORLD IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.

BUT THIS ALL BEGS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION...

GOTHAM FIRE RAGES

Wednesday night at the Botanical Gardens.
By Doug Peters and Jason Walker

GOTHAM- Last night the Gotham Botanical Gardens once again found itself the victim of suspected foul play.

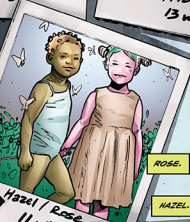
Bodies found at the Gardens still remain unidentifiable.



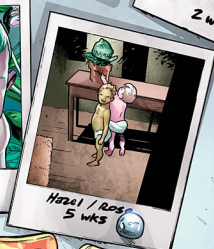
GOTHAM BOTANICAL
GOTHAM BOTANICAL



2 wks



Rose / Hazel
15 wks



Hazel / Rose
5 wks

LET US OUT



rose

HOW LONG WILL THEY LIVE?

MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT
TRANSGENIC HYBRIDIZATION IS
A SUCCESS. AS A SCIENTIST,
I SHOULD BE HAPPY.

BUT NOW I'M RESPONSIBLE
FOR THESE GIRLS. THEY LIVE,
THEY THINK, THEY FEEL.

AND THE WORLD CAN
BE CHALLENGING
FOR BEINGS LIKE US.
I SHOULD KNOW.

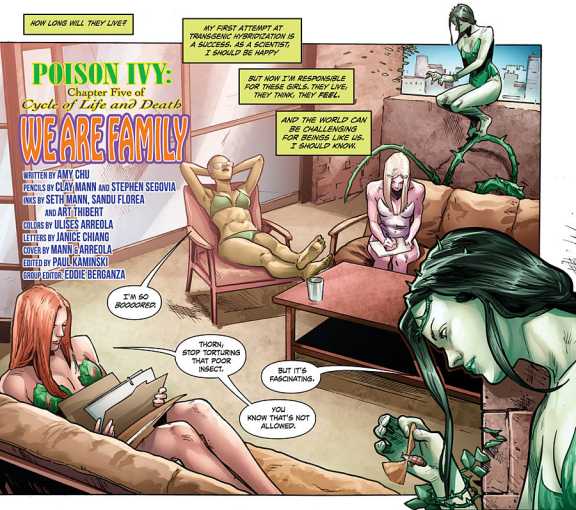
POISON IVY:

Chapter Five of
Cycle of Life and Death

WE ARE FAMILY

WRITTEN BY AMY CHU
PENCILS BY CLAY MANN AND STEPHEN SEGOVIA
INKS BY SETH MANN, SANDU FLOREA
AND ART THIBERT

COLORS BY ULISES ARREDOLA
LETTERS BY JANICE CHIANG
COVER BY MANN & ARREDOLA
EDITED BY PAUL KAMINSKI
GROUP EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA



I'M SO
BOOOORED.

THORN,
STOP TORTURING
THAT POOR
INSECT.

BUT IT'S
FASCINATING.

YOU
KNOW THAT'S NOT
ALLOWED.

THORN--A PRODUCT OF HER ENVIRONMENT.
BORN AND USED AS A LAB RAT FOR
SECRET EXPERIMENTS AT THE GOTHAM
BOTANICAL GARDENS.

PERHAPS IT
WAS BOTH.

I TOLD HER IT
WAS ALL JUST
A BAD DREAM.

WAS IT FEAR
OR RAGE THAT
TRIGGERED
HER ABILITY TO
TRANSMUTE
FLESH TO
PLANT?

I DON'T
THINK SHE
BELIEVES
ME.

I RESCUED THORN AND DESTROYED THAT LAB. BUT QUESTIONS REMAIN.

LUISA CRUZ, MY MENTOR AND FOREMOST SPECIALIST IN THE TAXUS BACCATA, THE YEW TREE.

FOUND POISONED IN HER OFFICE.

MURDERED FOR OUR JOINT RESEARCH.

ALBERTUS ERIC GRIMLEY, HEAD OF THE SOTHAM BOTANICAL PLANT SCIENCES DEPARTMENT.

ALSO FOUND DEAD IN HIS OFFICE. MYSTERIOUSLY DESSICATED.

AND VICTOR LEE, LAB ADMINISTRATOR. THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE ENTIRE SECRET OPERATION.

WHY WOULD HE KILL GRIMLEY? THEY WERE FRIENDS, PARTNERS. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

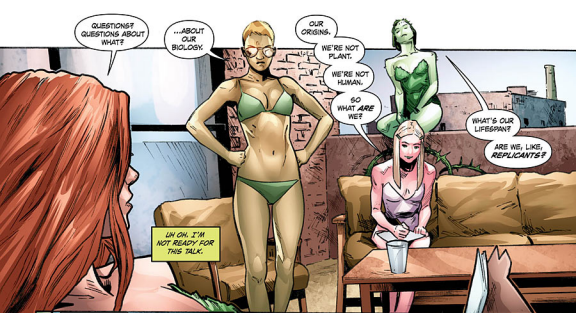
BUILDING DISASTER AT GO BOTANICAL GARDENS
GAS LEAK BLAMED. ARCHITECTURAL LAND

THE PAPERS ARE CALLING THE EXPLOSION AT THE LAB A 'GAS LEAK.' WHO IS COVERING UP MY HANDWORK?

AND WHAT BROKE INTO OUR HOME? TO WHAT END?

WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS...





QUESTIONS?
QUESTIONS ABOUT
WHAT?

...ABOUT
OUR
BIOLOGY.

OUR
ORIGINS.

WE'RE NOT
PLANT.

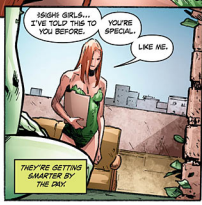
WE'RE NOT
HUMAN.

SO
WHAT ARE
WE?

WHAT'S OUR
LIFESPAN?

ARE WE, LIKE,
REPLICANTS?

UH OH, I'M
NOT READY FOR
THIS TALK.



35IGHT GIRLS...
I'VE TOLD THIS TO
YOU BEFORE.

YOU'RE
SPECIAL.

LIKE ME.

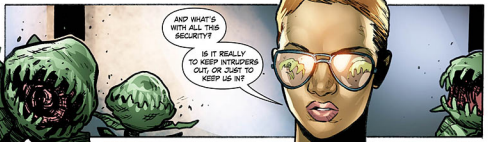
THEY'RE GETTING
SMARTER BY
THE DAY.



AND HOW DID YOU
GET TO BE YOU? WERE
YOU LIKE US? ARE
THERE OTHERS?

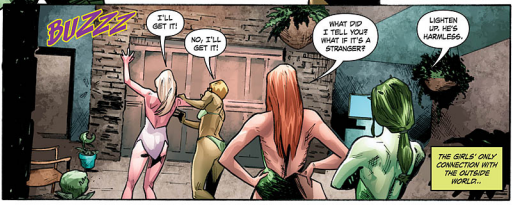
I WAS BORN
HUMAN, AND YES,
THERE IS ANOTHER
LIKE ME.

HE WAS A SCIENTIST,
TOO. ALEC HOLLAND.
BUT THAT'S A WHOLE
OTHER STORY...



AND WHAT'S
WITH ALL THIS
SECURITY?

IS IT REALLY
TO KEEP INTRUDERS
OUT, OR JUST TO
KEEP US IN?



BUZZZ

I'LL
GET IT!

NO, I'LL
GET IT!

WHAT DID
I TELL YOU?
WHAT IF IT'S A
STRANGER?

LIGHTEN
UP, HE'S
HARMLESS.

THE GIRLS' ONLY
CONNECTION WITH
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD...

