

ST. HADRIAN'S FINISHING SCHOOL.

ENGLAND. THEN.



WHAT IS MY TITLE?

IT'S **MATRON, MS. BERTINELLI.**

CORRECT. AND DO YOU KNOW THAT MATRON HAS **TWO** MEANINGS? ONE MEANS "DIGNIFIED AND SOBER MARRIED MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN."

THE OTHER MEANS "A WOMAN IN CHARGE AT A BOARDING SCHOOL OR PRISON."

NOW, I HAVE NO NEED OF A MAN TO DIGNIFY ME. SO, I EXPECT YOU TO TREAT ME AS THE LATTER DEFINITION, **LOTTI DUFF.**

Ehm...YES, MATRON. NO MORE BACK TALK.

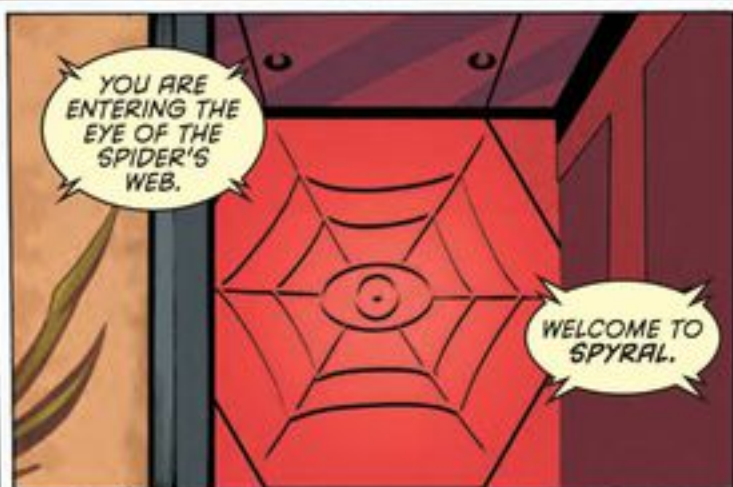
THANK YOU. NOW, OFF TO SUPPER WITH YOU. I HAVE THINGS TO DO.



->SIGH->
IF I WAS EVER SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS, GOD FORGIVE ME.

"EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN..."

VOICE IDENTIFIED. **BERTINELLI, HELENA. CODENAME: MATRON.**



YOU ARE ENTERING THE EYE OF THE SPIDER'S WEB.

WELCOME TO **SPYRAL.**



WE ARE THE WORLD'S PREMIER SPECIALISTS IN MIND EROSION, BRAINWASHING AND MISDIRECTION. REALITY IS AN ELABORATE DECEPTION.

HAVE A NICE DAY.

SUBLEVEL MINUS 3,
SPECULATIVE CHICANERY
LABORATORY, HOW CAN
I HELP YOU?

ALERT
MR. MINOS THAT
I AM HERE FOR MY
1900 APPOINTMENT,
PLEASE.

YOU
ARE NOW
ENTERING M.I.S.T.--
MENTAL IMAGE
SIMULATION
THEATRE.

DISCONTINUE USE
IF YOU EXPERIENCE
TEMPORARY BLINDNESS,
PERMANENT LOSS OF
BRAIN FUNCTION,
FEELINGS OF
DEJA VU...

...OR
FEELINGS
OF DEJA
VU.

GOOD EVENING, MATRON.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING
THIS MEETING WITH ME. AS
YOU ARE AWARE, WE HAVE
AN IMMEDIATE JOB
OPENING AFTER THE
UNFORTUNATE LOSS
OF AGENT 25.

IT IS
SPYRAL POLICY
TO ALLOW AGENTS
TO NOMINATE
THEIR NEW
PARTNERS.

DO YOU HAVE A
CANDIDATE TO
PRESENT?

I DO.

EXCELLENT.

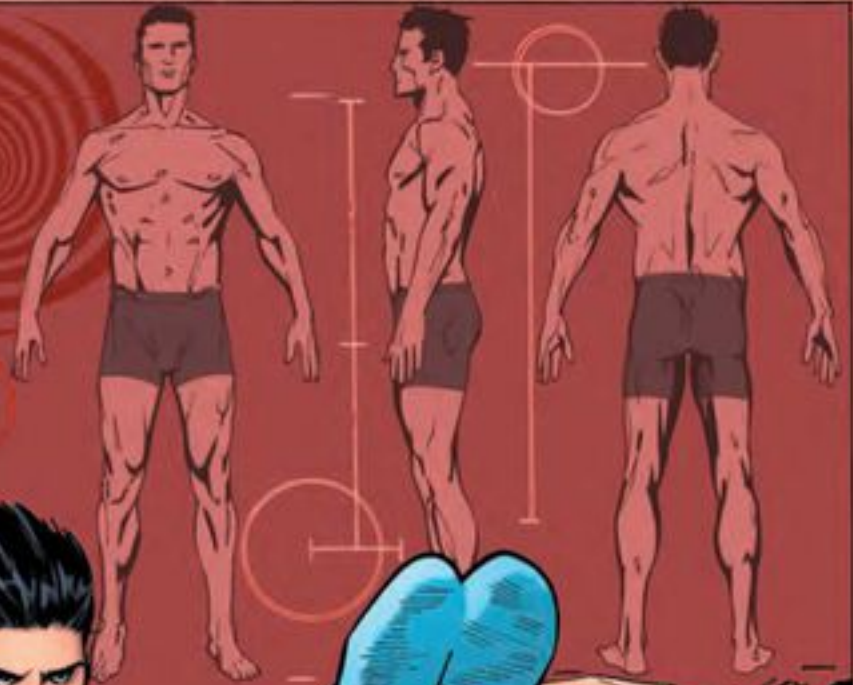
HYPNOS
MEMORY FILE
WIRELESS UPLOAD
COMPLETE. BEGIN
PRESENTATION.

PLEASE
SHOW
ME.

MY
PLEASURE, SIR.
I NOMINATE--

"--RICHARD JOHN 'DICK' GRAYSON, AMERICAN, ROMANI DESCENT, TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD, 178 CENTIMETERS, 80 KILOGRAMS.

"DICK GRAYSON WAS BORN TO CIRCUS PERFORMERS JOHN 'GIOVANNI' GRAYSON AND MARY GRAYSON.



HE GREW UP ON THE ROAD, TOURING WITH THEM IN HALY'S CIRCUS, AND PERFORMING TRAPEZE AND ACROBATIC ACTS ALONGSIDE THEM AS THE FLYING GRAYSONS.


"DICK WAS A NATURAL PERFORMER, AND A FAVORITE OF THE SHOW. A REVIEW FROM 'CIRCUSPEANUTS.COM' STATES, 'YOUNG DICK IS FEARLESS AND CHARISMATIC, WITH A DISARMING SMILE...'

"WHILE ON A TOUR STOP IN GOTHAM CITY, OWNER C.C. HALY REFUSED TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY TO ANTHONY ZUCCO, AN ENFORCER FOR MOBSTER SAL MARONI.

"IN RETALIATION, ZUCCO ARRANGED FOR THE GRAYSONS' LINES TO BE WEAKENED WITH ACID, CAUSING JOHN AND MARY TO FALL TO THEIR DEATHS. DICK WITNESSED THE MURDER."

"...AND 'THE COOL EASE WITH WHICH THE BOY SAILS THROUGH THE AIR WITHOUT A SAFETY NET IS SURE TO IMPRESS EVEN THE MOST JADED TRAPEZE FAN. 4.5 OUT OF 5 PEANUTS.'"






*GRAYSON WENT INTO FOSTER CARE, BUT ESCAPED HIS CARETAKERS NIGHTLY AND USED HIS ABILITIES TO TRACK DOWN ZUCCO, A MAN WHO HAD SINCE DISAPPEARED.

*DICK'S ATTEMPTS WERE HAMPERED WHEN HE WAS REMANDED INTO THE CARE OF *BRUCE WAYNE*, MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST AND NOTED PLAYBOY, A MAN OUR RESEARCH HAS REVEALED TO ALSO BE THE NOTORIOUS VIGILANTE, *THE BATMAN*.

*SEE DNA EVIDENCE: *PARAGON ARRAY*. SEE 'CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW,' *THOMPSON, LESLIE*.

*AT SOME POINT, DICK REALIZED THAT HIS GUARDIAN AND THE GOTHAM VIGILANTE WERE ONE AND THE SAME, AND WAS AWARDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME HIS PARTNER.

*GRAYSON TOOK THE IDENTITY 'ROBIN,' PERHAPS IN REFERENCE TO THE AMERICAN BIRD, OR THE ENGLISH FOLK HERO ROBIN HOOD. EITHER WAY, IT RESULTED IN A QUITE *FLASHY* UNIFORM.



GRAYSON SHOWED INCREDIBLE PROWESS, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, AT BATMAN'S SIDE, AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AIDING IN THE ARREST AND INCARCERATION OF A NUMBER OF GOTHAM'S NOTORIOUSLY COLORFUL COSTUMED CRIMINALS...

WHILE, PRESUMABLY, BECOMING A MUCH NEEDED FOIL TO THE BATMAN, WHOSE OWN GRIM OBSESSION WITH REVENGE COULD EASILY HAVE CAUSED HIM TO CROSS THE LINE AND DESTROY THE RELATIONSHIP HE ENJOYED WITH GCPD.

INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS SAVED BY THIS "DYNAMIC DUO" IN THE *GOTHAM GAZETTE* POINT OUT THAT THOUGH IT WAS TYPICALLY BATMAN WHO HALTED THEIR ATTACKERS, IT WAS OFTEN ROBIN WHO STOPPED TO SEE IF THEY WERE WELL.

"ONE MAN DESCRIBED HIM AS...ahem... 'A PRETTY COOL LITTLE DUDE.'"