

WATCHTOWER

5.19 | "Ritual"

Written by
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Based on the character of 'Chloe Sullivan,'
created by Al Gough and Miles Millar

Based on characters from
DC Comics

PRODUCED BY
TheVPN (www.vpn-tv.proboards.com)

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MAIN CAST

CHLOE SULLIVAN	Allison Mack
BRUCE WAYNE / BATMAN / RA'S AL GHUL	Christian Bale
HELENA KANE	Kayla Ewell
JAMES GORDON	Dylan Walsh
KATE KANE	Deborah Ann Woll
LUCIUS FOX	Charles Michael Davis
RENEE MONTOKA	Stephanie Beatriz
ARCHER SULLIVAN-QUEEN	Jace Norman
OLIVER QUEEN	Justin Hartley

SPECIAL GUEST CAST

DINAH LANCE / BLACK CANARY	Alaina Huffman
DUSAN AL GHUL	Bryan Greenberg
TALIA AL GHUL	Stana Katic
NYSSA AL GHUL	Yvonne Strahovski

GUEST CAST

CARRIE KELLEY	Liv Hewson
DAMIAN WAYNE	Asa Butterfield
DUKE THOMAS	Michael Rainey Jr
ERIC MORAN	Noah Gray-Cabey
JACK WHEELER	Lorenzo James Henrie
KARL FOX	Eka Darville
RA'S AL GHUL	Jason Isaacs
SARAH ESSEN	Vera Farmiga

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A scared DAMIAN (dressed as ROBIN) stands at the end of the alleyway, watching on as a traumatised BATMAN cradles a dead and bloodied JOKER in his arms. (See 'Robin').

The moment hangs between them.

It dawns on Batman that his son saw everything - he saw him become a killer. His shock soon turns to rage.

BATMAN

What are you doing here?

Batman rises from the ground. Joker slumps to the side.

The echoing THUD sends a chill down Damian's spine, and he backs up further from an approaching Batman.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Why are you in that suit?

DAMIAN

I just- I wanted to help.

BATMAN

Do you want me to bury you like I did Jason? Is that what you want?

DAMIAN

No, I-

BATMAN

Do you have a death wish?

Batman latches onto Damian and pulls him in. The light catches his face - he appears teary-eyed and scared.

DAMIAN

Please-

BATMAN

You want to be Robin? You want to follow in his footsteps?

DAMIAN

Please stop. Don't hurt me.

The words singe into Batman's soul. He immediately releases hold of his son, and looks at his hands with unfamiliarity.

BATMAN

Hurt you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMIAN
(breaking)
I'm sorry.

Damian darts off out of the alley, and away from his father.

BATMAN
Damian, wait, I'm-

Batman looks back to see that his son is gone...

INT. TEMPLE, LAZARUS PITS - NIGHT

Damian, sword in hand, looms over a bloodied BRUCE who slumps to the floor. His betrayed eyes stare up at his son.

TALIA (O.S.)
No! Help him.

Surrounding Damian stands the AL GHUL family: NYSSA (in the body of Vicki Vale), DUSAN and a shackled TALIA.

TALIA (CONT'D)
You can't just let him-

CRACK! Dusan backhands Talia. She fumbles over.

DAMIAN
Don't worry mother.

Damian crouches to Bruce's side, and watches as he succumbs to his last breath. Damian smiles down at him.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
I'll help him when it's time.

Bruce's eyes drift off. The life in him clearly fades...

Damian rises, and looks back to Nyssa. He holds out his hand and gestures for her to offer something up.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Now.

Nyssa searches inside her jacket and withdraws a VIAL. She hands it to Damian, and he EMPTIES IT ON BRUCE'S WOUND.

The BLOODIED WOUND begins to stitch back together... healing-

Talia squirms on the ground, and shifts to rise.

TALIA
No, don't-

Dusan KICKS her back down, and keeps her there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA (CONT'D)
(erupting)
Bruce!

Damian watches with child-like glee:

A light seems to restore in Bruce's dead glare, and he soon GASPS with new life. He scans the world around him. His confusion shifts to a cunning grin of victory, and he STANDS.

Damian scatters back with the rest of his "family." Waiting.

DUSAN
Father?

Bruce shifts to Dusan with recognition. It's true. This is no longer Bruce Wayne. It is, in fact, RA'S AL GHUL.

RA'S
Finally.

OFF the family reunion now complete...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Ra's steps into the main temple and examines the familiar territory. He soon looks back to see his family gathered behind him: Dusan, Talia, Nyssa, and now Damian.

RA'S

Thank you. All of you. You have all done your part to see that this prophecy is fulfilled tonight.

(to Talia)

Even those more reluctant to it.

TALIA

Go to hell.

RA'S

Oh, sweetheart. Now why would I do that when I just got out?

Ra's looks to Damian - a new face in his world...

RA'S (CONT'D)

You must be my grandson.

Damian lights up as if meeting a celebrity.

RA'S (CONT'D)

I wish to speak with young Damian alone. If that's okay.

Talia wrestles against her restraints. Dusan holds her.

TALIA

No. I will not let you dig your claws into him. You're not getting anywhere near my son.

Talia rips free from Dusan and moves for Ra's-

Nyssa latches onto Talia and pulls her in. She holds a sharp blade to her throat, and quickly draws blood.

DUSAN

No, don't-

Dusan WAVES his hand- an invisible force PULLS the blade free from Nyssa's hand and away from Talia. It hits the ground.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

We need everyone in this room alive for the ritual to work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RA'S

Dusan is right. The punishment for your sister's grotesque mutiny and blatant disloyalty towards our family can be arranged once the ritual is complete.

Ra's looks to Damian with a warm smile.

RA'S (CONT'D)

Our focus must be united around the transference of power in selecting Damian Al Ghul as the Demon's Head, preserving this family's legacy.

NYSSA

My apologies, father.
(to Dusan)
Let's go.

Nyssa turns with Dusan, and they drag Talia out of the room.

Left alone, Ra's narrows in on a wide-eyed Damian.

RA'S

It's so good to finally meet you, my boy. I can feel how much love you hold for this family. I feared this mortal vessel I inhabit would have corrupted you against your true lineage. I'm delighted to discover that was not the case.

DAMIAN

As far as I'm concerned, you're my true father. *That* is where my loyalty lies.

Ra's smiles at exactly what he wanted to hear.

RA'S

Good. Because I have a very special task for you - something you cannot let anyone else in this family know about.

DAMIAN

What is it?

RA'S

I need you to retrieve my tomb. My coffin - where my true form lies. I assure you that this is crucial for the ritual to work.

OFF Damian, swelling with pride to be chosen...

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE - NIGHT

A deceased GORDON lies on the ground with lifeless eyes staring up at the ceiling. Beside him, SARAH sits by the crumbling wall in a state of clear shock.

CRUNCH. Footsteps approach. Debris is cleared...

Out of the wrecked entrance, a concerned CHLOE surfaces and scans the tarnished house around her. She soon finds Sarah.

CHLOE

Sarah? What-

Chloe's eyes shift to Gordon, blood stained clothes, dead.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(breaking)

Gordon?

Chloe steps over the rubble, and drops by Gordon's side. Her hands barely touch him, moving over clear STAB WOUNDS, then tremble with shock. It's clear Gordon has been dead a while.

SARAH

I found him like this.

A startled Chloe slings back around to Sarah, lost in her own grief. She appears almost robotic, trapped in a state.

CHLOE

The missile strike, it must have-

SARAH

No. Someone did this. Someone stabbed him. Twice.

Chloe struggles to process, her world spiralling around her.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Jim. My Jim. He was left to bleed out on his own. No one there to hold his hand. To tell him that it'll be okay, that he's loved, that he's fought so hard for-

Tears begin to fall on Sarah's face. She blinks, maybe for the first time in hours. She looks back to Chloe.

SARAH (CONT'D)

He must have been so scared.

Chloe reaches out and HOLDS Sarah's hand. Comforting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

I'm sorry, Sarah. I'm so sorry.
But I don't think we should be
here. I don't think it's safe.

SARAH

I'm not leaving him.

CHLOE

What if the person who did this
comes back?

Sarah unveils a LOADED SHOTGUN by her side-

SARAH

I'm counting on it.

Chloe recoils, realising what this means- a need for revenge.

SARAH (CONT'D)

When they do come back here, I'm
going to make them pay.

OFF Chloe, unable to escape her sympathy for Sarah...

EXT. RESISTANCE BASE (RUINS) - NIGHT

LUCIUS studies his mobile phone in his hand: an extra bar of
signal faintly BLINKS on the screen until it comes in solid.

RENEE (O.S.)

We found a shelter.

Lucius looks up from his phone to find RENEE.

RENEE (CONT'D)

It's a little banged up but at
least it puts a roof over our heads
while we recover.

LUCIUS

I'm not sure there's much time for
us to spend *recovering*. We should
be preparing for what's next.

RENEE

We don't know who sent those
missiles or why they sent them. It
doesn't have to mean there's some
big, bad wolf waiting in the
shadows to come and finish the job
on those who survived.

Lucius offers a face that can only be described as "Really?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RENEE (CONT'D)

Okay, I guess that sounds a little naive - especially coming from me - but until we do know what we're up against here, there's no point ignoring all the trauma and pain these people are going through. They need to heal, to rest, to be given even the smallest of time to process what's happened.

LUCIUS

I'm just worried we're a little too vulnerable right now against whatever is clearly on it's way.

RENEE

I know. But people lost a lot of loved ones from this and not all of them are ready or even capable yet of throwing hands or pulling triggers. They need time.

(off Lucius)

Given what you've lost, I thought you of all people would understand.

Lucius looks back at his phone - the wallpaper screen is an image of a smiling KARL cuddling with LUCIUS. Happy.

LUCIUS

You're right.

RENEE

Not exclusively.

Lucius shifts to Renee, her chilling fear on display now:

RENEE (CONT'D)

If this was just a taste of what's to come, then none of them are ready to confront it. Not even sure if we are.

OFF the fearful state they're left in...

INT. TEMPLE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dusan and Nyssa guide Talia, hands bound by chains, through the narrow hallway in pursuit of the cells.

TALIA

I know you don't want to believe me, but bringing Ra's back is a mistake that we will all pay the ultimate price for if you don't rectify it immediately.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUSAN

So it's okay if you want to bring
father back from the great beyond
when it suits you, but when I do
it, you get all miserable over it.

TALIA

The difference is, I was willing to
put him in the ground the second he
no longer served me. You wish to
see him rule forever.

NYSSA

This is about Damian, and our
future, not about Ra's and his,
which you may have noticed if you
didn't spend all your time worrying
about your mortal lover-boy.

DUSAN

Oh come on, she's grieving.

NYSSA

If it makes you feel any better,
sister-

Nyssa pulls Talia around to face her.

NYSSA (CONT'D)

In the ground is where you'll be
when you no longer serve *us*.

Nyssa pushes Talia forward, into-

INT. TEMPLE, CELLS - NIGHT

Talia stumbles into the cell room. Dusan and Nyssa follow in
close behind her, guiding her towards an empty cell.

DUSAN

You will wait here until we come
for you. Try to escape and I'll
use magic to break every bone in
your body if I must.

Dusan uses a key to unlock the cell. He then turns to Talia,
and unlocks her chains. The CHAINS DROP TO THE FLOOR.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

Father only wants you alive, he
never said in what condition.

NYSSA

Come on.

Nyssa holds a knife to Talia and guides her towards her cell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYSSA (CONT'D)

Be a good little puppy, and do what-

Talía WHIPS around-

Swiping the blade out of Nyssa's hands, Talía slinks around her, and SLICES HER THROAT OPEN. BLOOD SPURTS.

Talía spins in to face Dusan, blade raised, when- *SWOOSH!*Dusan FLICKS his hand out and an invisible force SWIPES Talía aside, and to the ground. She hits it hard.

NYSSA (CONT'D)

(gurgling)

Brother...

Nyssa clutches her bleeding throat, and staggers back. She falls into the arms of Dusan who catches her, and lowers her gently to the ground. Blood stains the both of them.

DUSAN

Hold on, Nyssa. I got you.

Dusan looks back over his shoulder to see that no one is in sight. Talía is gone. He looks back to his sister in panic.

INT. TEMPLE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

A fleeing Talía races through the hallway, to freedom...

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Bruce walks through the trashed cave - items scattered throughout, glass painting the floor, gadgets thrown around.

TALIA (O.S.)

Apparently our son can throw quite the temper tantrum.

Bruce turns to find Talía stood by the stairs. She enters.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Alfred informed me this was Damian's response to you.

BRUCE

Never took Alfred for the *throwing someone under the bus* type, but-

(beat)

I found Damian wearing the Robin suit. He followed me into the alley where I was confronting Joker and, uh... he saw me. He saw me take another man's life.

The guilt eats at Bruce. He looks away in shame.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRUCE (CONT'D)

I never wanted Damian to think the worst of me, but now? He's seen it with his own eyes. He's seen the darkness that's been inside me this whole time and now that he knows I'm capable of bringing it to the surface - he's *scared* of me, Talia.

TALIA

Whatever fear he may have of you from this one moment, I'm sure it will pass. I think the better question is can you live with it?

Bruce looks back to Talia - almost exposed.

TALIA (CONT'D)

The Bruce I knew would have chased after his son when he left. You let him go. You're worried that look he gave you will be forever worn on his face and serve as a reminder of the darkness you want to forget exists inside you.

BRUCE

You think I pushed him away?

TALIA

No. I think you let him leave.

Bruce deflates, a moment to collect himself and his thoughts.

BRUCE

I never wanted kids. I didn't ask for this. None of us did.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Huddled over a portable device, DAMIAN watches the screen that shows LIVE SECURITY FOOTAGE of the batcave. He adjusts an earpiece that CRACKLES with the audio:

BRUCE (O.S.)

I wasn't meant to be a father.

A hurt Damian rips the earpiece out and turns off the device.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Bruce's pain is soon replaced with longing and love. Talia watches as his wrestles with the conflicting emotions.

BRUCE

But then I met him. Damian. And he has been such a gift in my life.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRUCE (CONT'D)

(beat)

He's made me realise how important being a Dad really is to me. It's far larger a purpose in my life than I could have ever imagined.

TALIA

That's how I feel being his mother.

BRUCE

Losing Jason... I mean, he was like another son to me. I loved him like he was my own, and he'd still be alive if I didn't- if I stopped him from putting on that damn suit.

Bruce approaches the LARGE GLASS CABINET that is inscribed with the moniker 'Robin.' A deep sadness hits him.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Seeing Damian tonight - wearing that *exact* same suit... it made me think of a world where I lost him too, and I snapped.

TALIA

Perhaps our son doesn't so much want to be this "Robin" and follow in Jason's footsteps, as much as he wants to find a purpose.

Bruce suddenly looks to Talia as if she has the answers.

TALIA (CONT'D)

I think it's time for him to embrace the other side of his lineage and begin his training.

BRUCE

Can you promise that you'll keep him safe? No matter what?

TALIA

I would never let anything bad happen to him. You know that.

A simple nod from Bruce. *He knows.*

AN ECHOING BEEP sounds from the computer system.

Bruce and Talia flock to the large monitor and see an indicator BLINK on the screen. 'DAMIAN WAYNE.'

BRUCE

Got him.

Talia clings to Bruce's arm for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

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13.

TALIA
Bring our boy home.

OFF Bruce acknowledging the severity of the situation...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SHELTER (NEW BASE) - NIGHT

Lucius and Renee emerge towards a new enclosed shelter - a cul-de-sac of damaged buildings that remain standing in a sea of demolished buildings.

On the road, resistance survivors are being combat trained by familiar faces (CARRIE, JACK, ERIC and DUKE).

RENEE (O.S.)

It makes you feel good, doesn't it?

Lucius looks back to Renee, who briefly smiles with hope.

RENEE (CONT'D)

Seeing these kids evolve into
heroes right in front of our
eyes... makes me feel really good
about the future.

Lucius looks back to the team:

Jack offers a hand to a survivor, pulling them back up. They share a laugh. Behind them, Carrie, Eric and Duke continue training others in hand-to-hand combat.

LUCIUS

It certainly looks a lot brighter
if it's in their hands.

RENEE

I know it's not much yet, but if we
can get everyone on a level of self-
defense that can keep them safe
against whoever or whatever is on
it's way then we just might stand a
chance. At least until help
arrives, which can be any day now.

LUCIUS

Right. Kate and Helena.

Renee seems to shift uncomfortably from the mention.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

Sorry. You haven't really talked
about the breakup.

RENEE

I was a little busy dying.

LUCIUS

Well, I'm glad you didn't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The two share a brief laugh. A nice moment of levity.

RENEE

I think a part of me will always love her, but it doesn't take a genius to figure out we're not right for each other. The right person propels you towards the best version of yourself - they hold you to that standard.

Lucius seems to smile, remembering his person...

RENEE (CONT'D)

Kate and I - we always fell backwards together. It was nice to not be in the dark by myself whenever it happened, but this time was different. This time I slid back all on my own. I didn't have her to hold onto because she had changed. She was better.

A single tear slips from Renee's eye. She looks to Lucius.

RENEE (CONT'D)

I think it's because of Helena. I think she was the right person for Kate this whole time.

(composes)

So I can't be mad at that, can I?

LUCIUS

You can be a *little* mad.

Renee chuckles, then wipes her tears.

RENEE

No. It's good. I'm happy for her.

LUCIUS

I'm sure when we make it out of here, you'll find your person.

RENEE

I hope so. And who knows? Maybe we'll all get normal lives after all of this.

A pang of sharp pain hits Lucius. His demeanor shifts.

LUCIUS

There is no normal life for me without Karl.

Lucius twirls his WEDDING RING with grief, then leaves. A sympathetic Renee watches on, feeling his pain...

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah remains in the same spot on the floor in her state of shock and grief, while Chloe sits opposite her, leaning up against a singed chair among the wreckage and debris.

SARAH

We were going to make a run for it.
Get out of the city. We talked
about leaving when the bridges
first went down - when you had
found that ARGUS chopper.

(defeated)

I can't help but think he'd still
be alive if we just left.

CHLOE

You don't know that.

SARAH

Jim would have done anything for
me. He always took care of me even
when I didn't want him to. He
would have gone if I told him
that's what I wanted to do, but I
didn't. I chose to stay.

CHLOE

You're this city's Commissioner,
and so was he before he became it's
Mayor. No two people are more
committed to Gotham than you were.
You swore an oath to protect it. I
don't believe for a second that you
or Gordon could have left it
behind. I think you know that too.

Sarah tilts back her head in frustration. The tears keep
building. She's done fighting them.

SARAH

(breaking)

I can't get up. I can't walk out
of here and leave, Chloe. Not with
him still here. It's like- it'd be
like admitting that he's gone and
that this is real and it's
happening and I don't want to face
that- I *can't* face that, I won't.

Chloe feels that raw grief, and tears build in her own eyes
just watching Sarah's heart break. She just listens.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I didn't plan on a future without
him in it. So I want to stay. I
want to be with him. Forever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chloe simply nods, understanding it's too early.

DUSAN (O.S.)
That can certainly be arranged.

Chloe and Sarah SNAP around to find:

A sinister Dusan stands in the ruins of the house with a wicked grin stitched across his face.

DAMIAN (PRELAP)
How did you get here?!

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A confrontation with Bruce and Damian, stood opposite each other in an abandoned building.

Bruce's eyes drift to Damian's arm.

Damian notices, then grips his arm tight. He searches, then feels a bump. His eyes focus in on a SCAR in his upper arm.

DAMIAN
You're tracking me, aren't you?

Damian pulls out a blade, and PUSHES INTO HIS UPPER ARM-

BRUCE
Damian, stop-

Bruce RUSHES at Damian. He pulls away, blade out as a fashioned weapon keeping Bruce at bay.

DAMIAN
Stay the hell away from me.

BRUCE
You don't want to hurt me, son.
And you don't want to hurt
yourself. Put the knife down.

DAMIAN
I heard what you said. I know that
you never wanted me - that I'm just
some reminder of how messed up you
really are.

BRUCE
That's not-

DAMIAN
(erupting)
Stop lying to me!

Bruce is rattled by the unchecked anger exuding from Damian.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Just tell me the truth. *Please*.

A deep breath. Bruce unravels:

BRUCE

Your mother's father- your *grandfather*- he's a bad man, but a powerful one. I turned to him when I lost someone close to me, and I later learned that it didn't come without a price.

(beat)

He took from me - and from your mother - to create you.

Damian squirms, disgusted and disturbed.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

I didn't know about you until you were much older. That's why I haven't been a part of your life from the beginning, and I regret that immensely.

DAMIAN

Oh, stop it. Don't even bother. I heard every word you said.

BRUCE

You must have missed the part where I said I wanted nothing more than to be a good father to you. I want to be there for you, Damian.

DAMIAN

Just admit it already. Jason is more of a son to you than I ever was, and at least he is someone you can be proud of and love.

BRUCE

(hurt)

That's not true...

DAMIAN

No. No, it is.

BRUCE

I *am* proud of you and I do love you. If you don't know that then I'm failing more at this parenting gig than I thought. I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

It should have been me in that suit, out there with you every night, not some *strange kid* you pulled off the street.

BRUCE

Damian...

Bruce tries to move closer, but Damian SLASHES out the blade-

DAMIAN

Stay back!

Bruce sees the same anger and vengeance in Damian that exists inside him. The same look of fear earlier on Damian's face is now worn on Bruce's.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm not just a reminder of the darkness that lives in you.

(beat)

Maybe I am the darkness.

Bruce shifts to the declaration. *What is happening?*

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm a 'bad man' just like my *real father*.

BRUCE

I am your real father.

DAMIAN

I don't ever want to see you again.

Damian STICKS the knife back in his upper arm, and SLASHES-

BLOOD SPRAYS against the floor. A DEVICE drops in the small droplets - the TRACKING DEVICE removed...

Bruce can only watch as Damian flees once again.

INT. TEMPLE, LIBRARY - NIGHT

Damian is bewildered by the large library that exists within the temple. He is breathless, lost in a sea of BOOKSHELVES that fill the room. *This is going to take a long time.*

The door suddenly CLICKS behind him. He SNAPS around to see:

A stunned Talia stops in her tracks upon sight of Damian, but her fear is soon replaced with relief.

TALIA

Son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Damian RIPS the blade off the table, and aims it towards a stunned Talia. A threat on her life.

TALIA (CONT'D)

You *would* fashion the same blade
you slain your father with to
strike me down, too.

DAMIAN

Neither of you brought me into this
world. I have no loyalty to keep
you in it.

The blade presses against Talia's cheek. She moves against it, her eyes shifting to the world around them: the vast array of books, the shelves, the library. It CLICKS.

TALIA

Why are you here?

Damian PULLS his blade away - a fear of being busted.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Did he ask you to find his tomb?

Damian can't hide the truth on his face. Talia gasps.

TALIA (CONT'D)

He's playing us. He's playing all
of us. This isn't about you
anymore, son. It's about him.

GREEN MIST erupts behind Talia and Dusan emerges with a healed and vengeful Nyssa by his side.

DUSAN

Get her.

Nyssa CLAWS for Talia-

DAMIAN

Wait!

Nyssa stops short of Talia-

Damian approaches Talia with a growl in his voice, more confident than ever before.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Where is it?

TALIA

We're in it.

A beat. Damian slinks back, a little confused...

(CONTINUED)

TALIA (CONT'D)

Father's tomb is under the temple
where I could keep an eye on it
should any mad man - or apparently
any *son of mine* - would dare think
to bring him back.

DAMIAN

Thank you.

Damian looks to Nyssa, and offers a nod.

Suddenly, Nyssa STRIKES Talia over the back of the head and
knocks her out. She hits the ground in a heave.

OFF a victorious Damian...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. TEMPLE, TOMB - NIGHT

A LID slides off to unveil SKELETAL REMAINS with a large amulet around the neck-

Looking down into the tomb stands Ra's (still in Bruce's body). He smiles with satisfaction, then turns back to face his audience: a doe-eyed Damian.

RA'S

It's here. You found it.

A beaming smile appears on Damian's face. But the satisfaction evident from Ra's soon fades.

RA'S (CONT'D)

Do you mind me asking how?

Damian's demeanor drops. He becomes fearful.

RA'S (CONT'D)

You couldn't keep my request of you a secret, could you?

DAMIAN

Talia found me in the library. The second she saw me there, she knew what you had asked of me. I didn't have to say anything, I swear.

RA'S

You have no reason to fear me, son.

Ra's places his hand on Damian's shoulder. But the touch feels cold, rather than warm.

RA'S (CONT'D)

I know far too well how hard it can be keeping things from Talia. She can read anyone like one of the many books in that library.

Damian notices that his hand hasn't moved off his shoulder.

RA'S (CONT'D)

I'd like to know if she told you anything else after she learned what you were up to. Did she say anything else to you?

DAMIAN

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RA'S

Are you sure?

DAMIAN

Talia still believes that after all of this, I can go back to being her son and I'll turn my back on you and the rest of my family. She clearly doesn't know me as well as she thought she did.

(beat)

She would do anything that I asked of her, and all I asked was about the location of your tomb.

RA'S

Good.

Ra's lifts his hand off of Damian and returns to his tomb.

RA'S (CONT'D)

You will make the perfect Demon's Head. I will guarantee it.

Damian swells with pride. He feels like he passed a test.

Ra's turns back to face Damian, now appearing on a throne of sorts in front of his tomb.

RA'S (CONT'D)

Gather the rest of your family and bring them here. It's time.

DAMIAN

As you wish... *father*.

And Damian turns, ready to fulfill his destiny...

BRUCE (PRELAP)

Damian isn't coming back.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Bruce returns to the cave where Talia waits for him.

BRUCE

At least not with me.

TALIA

Why? What happened?

BRUCE

He heard us talking earlier, and he misunderstood *everything* I was trying to say.

(beat)

He thinks I never wanted him here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA

That's ridiculous.

BRUCE

I know. But there's no convincing him otherwise. I knew he had this jealousy about Jason, but I thought it stopped and started with being Robin. I didn't realise he thought I never loved him. He's my boy.

Talialia grabs Bruce's arm, a comforting touch.

TALIA

If mortal ways of reaching him won't work, we're going to have to do things my way.

BRUCE

And what exactly does that involve?

TALIA

My family have a unique way of connecting to each other - it's an ancient practice that allows us to connect our minds despite whatever physical boundaries or limitations may be in our way.

BRUCE

Translation?

TALIA

I can get inside his head and I can speak to him.

Talia moves obstacles out of her path to clear the floor, then sits down, legs crossed, arms out, in a meditating pose.

A confused Bruce can only watch on behind her.

TALIA (CONT'D)

This should only take a second.

The world narrows around Talialia. Deep in thought. A black fog seems to enclose around her, then THUD-

Talialia's eyes widen. She SNAPS out of her state.

BRUCE

What is it? What's wrong?

TALIA

I'm being blocked.

(realising)

Someone else is speaking to him...

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Damian appears frozen in the alley, a deep fog circling around him until he's entrenched in BLACK. He slowly opens his eyes and looks around to find an approaching Dusan.

DUSAN
Hello, nephew.
(off Damian)
It's nice to finally meet you.

OFF a confused Damian, uncertain of what is happening...

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A visibly shaken Sarah holds tight to the shotgun by her side as she stares up at Dusan, stood in the room with a smile.

DUSAN
You know, I came back here to see if I had to finish the job. After waiting so long to finally slide a knife in that poor excuse of a man and watch the life drain from his eyes, I'd have *hated* to find out he somehow survived.

Opposite them, Chloe rises with violent anger. The ground simply CRUNCHES with her movement.

DUSAN (CONT'D)
This doesn't concern you.

Dusan WAVES his hand at Chloe-

A force LAUNCHES Chloe off the ground, and propels her into the decayed wall. It SHATTERS as she moves through it.

Sarah RISES with the shotgun, and turns on Dusan- BANG!

The BUCKSHOT scatters away from Dusan with a FLICK of his wrist. He grabs onto the shotgun, TWISTS it up, then SWINGS it out of Sarah's hands. It disappears in the ruins.

SARAH
(breathless)
No...

Dusan then grips tight onto Sarah's injured arm, and digs his fingers in hard. She HOWLS in agony.

With his other hand, Dusan latches onto Sarah's throat and drives her into the wall. It CRACKS with impact, and the strength against her turns her face beet red. Choking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUSAN

I've been so focused on the timeline of events giving way for me to finally give your husband the *fate* he deserves, I almost forgot how crucial a role you played in derailing my plans years ago.

SARAH

(choking)

You don't... scare me...

DUSAN

I don't want to scare you, *Commissioner*. I want to kill you.

Dusan removes his hand from Sarah's arm, then aims it out for the SHOTGUN. It LIFTS from the ground, then gravitates back towards them... the gun presses against Sarah's head.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

Any last words?

Sarah musters a strained nod, choking under the hold.

SARAH

Behind... you.

Dusan slightly shifts to look over his shoulder:

A battle-scarred Chloe SLASHES a shard of glass and pierces it through Dusan's back. He recoils in pain.

Sarah slides free, and the gun drops with her. She crawls to the weapon, picking it back up in her possession.

Dusan HOLDS OUT HIS HAND-

An invisible force HOLDS Chloe at bay, and she tenses as if her entire body has frozen over. Stiff. Still.

DUSAN

I've seen your future, Chloe. I know how your story ends. Don't tempt me to shorten it.

CHLOE

Don't you get it? Don't you see?

Dusan narrows in on Chloe, angrier and angrier with her.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

The fact your doppelganger isn't around to stop you is because *your* story is about to end. And something tells me it's not because you get what you want.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A CLICK echoes behind Dusan, and he turns-

Sarah steadies the weapon, then fires- BANG!

Dusan OBLITERATES with the BUCKSHOT. It's as if he evaporated with the hit.

Chloe staggers forward, released from the hold. She looks to a relieved Sarah, lowering the gun.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(erupting)
Look out!

Sarah turns to find:

Dusan STRIKES Sarah across the face, and the force is powerful enough to propel her across the room.

DUSAN
I'm an echo of an echo of an echo
and I won't stop coming back until
I finish what I came here to do.

CHLOE
No!

Chloe charges Dusan, but he simply swipes her aside. He is laser-focused on a struggling Sarah.

SARAH
I'll kill every last one of you for
what you've done to my family.

Sarah reels the shotgun back into possession, and rolls over to face an approaching Dusan.

CRUNCH. Dusan slams his foot down against Sarah's arm.

A BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM BELTS from Sarah, and her aim unsteadies. Dusan KICKS the gun from her hand, peels her up, then PUNCHES her back down. Blood SPLATTERS beside her.

Sarah deliriously looks around the room as it SPINS-

CHLOE (O.S.)
(erupting)
Sarah!

Dusan rolls his eyes. He looks back to a struggling Chloe, and SCRUNCHES HIS HAND at the ceiling-

DEBRIS collapses in on Chloe and pins her to the ground.

Chloe struggles to push the debris off, then looks to her right to see the CORPSE of GORDON. She gasps, and quickly looks away. This is a nightmare.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Dusan looks back down at Sarah to find the SHOTGUN-

SARAH

This is for my son.

BANG! Dusan OBLITERATES with the BUCKSHOT.

Sarah cranes up, and steers the gun around in search of his return -- Dusan reappears beside her, furious. BANG!

Dusan is replaced by an EXPLOSION OF DUST-

SARAH (CONT'D)

That was for my husband.

Sarah rises, and moves her aim further around the room.

Dusan materialises behind her. Sarah SNAPS around-

SARAH (CONT'D)

And this is for me.

Dusan catches the barrel of the gun, and TILTS IT UP- BANG!

The BUCKSHOT hits the ceiling.

Dusan pulls the gun out of Sarah's possession and throws it aside. He grabs onto her and DRIVES HER INTO THE WALL.

OFF Sarah, lift off the ground and choking...

RA'S (PRELAP)

And so it begins.

INT. TEMPLE, TOMB - NIGHT

Ra's stands at his tomb, before his family: Dusan, Talia, Nyssa, and a bewildered Damian.

RA'S

Our ritual to select a new heir, to
transfer the legacy of our lineage
to a new ruler, a new Demon's Head.

(beat)

Our boy, Damian Al Ghul.

Damian swells with pride.

RA'S (CONT'D)

But first, the incantation for this
ritual cannot be read without our
bloodline being linked - binding us
together for this all to occur.

A slight chuckle escapes Talia. Everyone looks to her and the disturbance. Her chuckle turns into ROARING LAUGHTER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NYSSA

You psycho. What's so funny?

RA'S

Yes. Enlighten us. Please.

Talía's eyes light up with hope and she eases.

TALIA

The binding spell you need requires
a mistress of magic that died years
ago. It's over, Ra's.

DUSAN

(realises)

The binding spell.

Dusan looks to Talía with a widening smile.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

I was there when it was performed.

(to Ra's)

You don't need some top-hat wearing
witch. I can do the spell.

RA'S

Good. Then let's not waste any
more time.

Ra's approaches, and the family scatter into a circle. When
Dusan takes Talía's hand, the rest join hands. Gathered.

DUSAN

(spell)

*Ni eht elcric, lla era eno. Etinu
su rehtegot ni efil dna ni htaed.
Refsnart eht stirips.*

ENERGY emits from all them -- it BUILDS into the center,
connects, then erupts back into each family member. They
then rip free of each other.

NYSSA

Did it work?

RA'S

There is *one* way to find out.

Ra's withdraws a SMALL BLADE and SLICES UP HIS HAND--

The same LINE OF BLOOD appears on every person's hand, and
they all move from the cut.

A pleased Ra's smiles, then moves for his tomb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RA'S (CONT'D)

Thank you, Dusan. You have always
been loyal to me - even when it
hasn't been in your best interest.

Dusan shifts with confusion.

Ra's reaches his tomb, and places his BLOODIED HAND down onto
it. He looks back to his family - his EYES BLACK - and
chants an incantation:

RA'S (CONT'D)

(in latin)

*Take the souls and feed the vessel
of the one true Demon's Head. May
the sacrifice of this three
generational bloodline breathe new
and eternal life for the Demon's
Head to rise once more and to never
fall again. Rise. Rise. Rise.*

A STRIKE of pain hits:

Dusan, Nyssa, Talia and Damian all stagger forward in agony,
feeling the pang of sacrifice.

DUSAN

What are you doing?!

Ra's simply smiles back.

A struggling Dusan clutches his chest, and soon IGNITES WITH
BLUE ENERGY. He HOWLS in pain.

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dusan RIPS free of Sarah and she slinks down to the floor,
gasping for air. Dusan IGNITES WITH BLUE and OBLITERATES.

Chloe crawls out from the debris to find a free Sarah.

CHLOE

You did it.

SARAH

(struggling)

That... wasn't me.

OFF the confusion between the two...

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE (SHELTER) - NIGHT

Lucius moves through the shelter:

Injured civilians are being nursed by other survivors
throughout the rooms. A collective effort of recovery.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lucius reaches the back door, and peers out to see:
The city beyond is in total ruins. Complete devastation.
BZZ. BZZ. A confused Lucius digs into his pocket.

LUCIUS
What the hell?

Lucius takes out his phone, then tenses in disbelief.
The phone reads 'KARL CALLING.'
OFF the shock and confusion radiating from Lucius' eyes...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE (SHELTER), BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Lucius closes the door behind him and enters onto the back porch. He holds a phone up to his ear.

LUCIUS

Karl? Is that really you?

INTERCUT BETWEEN: LUCIUS and KARL on the phone-

KARL

Lucius? Oh my god. I finally got through. I can't believe it.

LUCIUS

How is this possible?

KARL

I've been calling every morning, noon and night, hoping to reach you. I didn't want to believe the news. I couldn't. And now it's actually worked. You're really here. You're alive.

LUCIUS

I thought- I mean I *saw*-

Lucius is lost for words. His mind is racing.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

I was shown a video of you being attacked. You died.

KARL

What? What are you talking about?

LUCIUS

You're okay? I mean - no one has tried to hurt you or anything?

KARL

I'm fine. I've just been staying at a hotel outside the city. Who told you I was dead?

LUCIUS

Look, it doesn't matter. All that matters is I get to see you when all this is done. You have no idea how much I've missed you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARL

You should have told me what was going on. I could have stuck by you. We could have gone through all of this together.

LUCIUS

No. No, I needed you to be safe.

KARL

I went looking for my suit. I found it. I can be in Gotham in a few hours. I can come find you.

LUCIUS

No!

A panicked Lucius calms himself, and eases back to normal.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

No, I don't want you to get involved. It's too dangerous. I need you to stay put - to be safe.

KARL

Lucius, I can't-

LUCIUS

Please. Just wait for me. Help is on the way. This will all be over soon. I promise.

Karl struggles, but reaches new clarity:

KARL

I've waited this long, what's a few more days, right?

Lucius leans into the phone, longing for him.

LUCIUS

I love you so much.

KARL

I love you.

LUCIUS

Wait.

(beat)

If you can reach me from outside the city, then that means...

(realising)

I got to go. I'll call you back as soon as I can.

OFF Lucius, opening the door and disappearing in a rush...

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A still Damian stands in a haze with thick black fog around him with Dusan stood firmly in the BLACK.

DAMIAN

Who are you?

DUSAN

Guess it shouldn't surprise me that my sister hasn't told you a great deal about me. My name is Dusan Al Ghul. I'm your Uncle.

DAMIAN

How are you *here* - what exactly is happening right now?

Damian appears confused at the world around him, scanning it-

DUSAN

Our family have a strong bloodline and have conquered many ways of reaching out to each other for our own self-preservation. This is one of many. And it's how I'm here.

DAMIAN

But you're not *really* here, right?

DUSAN

No. Right now I'm stuck in a cell with no way of using my powers to escape. But I'm sure it's only a matter of time before I'm free.

Dusan moves around Damian, studying him, reading him:

DUSAN (CONT'D)

In this state, I can hear your thoughts. Feel your feelings. I'm sure you can hear and feel the same with mine. So you know you can trust me, don't you?

A beat. Damian closes his eyes to narrow in on those thoughts and feelings. He opens his eyes, then nods.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

You have a bright future. A real destiny. And it doesn't involve being a sidekick to a withering old man in a bat-suit.

DAMIAN

You've seen the future.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUSAN

I've seen *futures*. They don't always end up how they're supposed to - free will and all that - but what I do know is that you're meant for great things. You're not this *Robin*. You're a King. One that will command his own army.

DAMIAN

The league of assassins.

DUSAN

You can see it, too. You see how you have a much greater purpose in this world than to have limits placed on you by a mankind that can never truly understand you.

Damian shifts to Dusan, the two now face-to-face.

DAMIAN

You think I'm what the prophecy has always been about?

Dusan smiles. They're finally on the same page.

DUSAN

My initial translation of the text was wrong. It was never me. It was you. The duality was never about me and Kyle Williams, it was about you being the *firstborn* of a hybrid connection. You are the one-

DAMIAN

-to rise, and the rest will fall.

DUSAN

You know what must be done.

Dusan steps back, into the black, and disappears.

TALIA (O.S.)

Damian!

Damian SNAPS around to find his mother, Talia. She appears as Dusan appeared before - now in his place.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Come home to me. Please.

OFF Damian, now aware of his destiny...

INT. TEMPLE, TOMB - NIGHT

The hope in Damian's eyes has faded. A blue light IGNITES from his chest, and he stumbles over in agony.

Talia looks to see her son collapse. She writhes in pain, twisting against the force, and moves for him.

TALIA
Damian. Hold on.

DAMIAN
(howling)
Make it stop!

Talia looks up to a thriving Ra's, arms out, relishing...

TALIA
What is this? What are you doing?!
This isn't the ritual.

RA'S
It's my ritual.

A blue light BURNS from Talia's chest now, and she grips the ground in pain. Behind her, Nyssa lights up, too.

RA'S (CONT'D)
Tonight, the souls of our bloodline
will restore the true Demon's Head
to his original form - now with
eternal life. I will rule again.

NYSSA
(breaking)
Father?

Nyssa stumbles over, the pain now unbearable.

Ra's approaches a betrayed Dusan, still fighting hard against the inevitable. He remains the only one still standing.

RA'S
The prophecy you spent so much time
trying to deliver was mistranslated
this entire time. It's never been
about any of you, my children. It
has always been about the
preservation of the Demon's Head.

DUSAN
(struggling)
No. You're making it about you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RA'S

I know you think my time has come and gone, but this was really just the beginning. And you have all played such an important role in seeing to it that this day comes.

TALIA

Go to hell.

A scared Damian trembles, then looks to Talia with tears.

DAMIAN

Mum? I don't want to die.

Talia reaches for Damian, and holds his hand.

Dusan notices the two, then gives into the pain. His knees give out, and he hits the ground in agony.

Ra's moves for a scared Damian.

RA'S

You really did have a higher calling, my boy. This family needed one more descendant for the ritual to offer *eternal life* to that which this family serves. You were the final piece to fulfilling this destiny. My destiny.

Ra's stands taller than ever before, accepting his fate.

RA'S (CONT'D)

The ritual is now complete. Ra's Al Ghul can rule again. Forever.

A BLUE LIGHT IGNITES from Ra's chest, then RIPS from his body and travels to the tomb. It SLAMS into it.

The vessel of Bruce collapses over. He gasps with new life: it's Bruce, back in his own body, but weak.

TALIA

(relieved)

Bruce?

The two share a look.

Talia feels love, one final time, then the BLUE LIGHT RIPS FROM HER CHEST AND SLAMS INTO THE TOMB. Her corpse remains.

BRUCE

(erupting)

No!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A panicked Nyssa looks over at her sister's corpse, then succumbs to her own. Her soul RIPS from her body and travels into the tomb. The tomb now GLOWS.

The vessel of Vicki's body remains on the ground. Gone.

Bruce looks away, unable to see it. He moves for Damian.

DAMIAN

Dad? I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

BRUCE

I'm not going to lose you. I won't let them take you.

DUSAN (O.S.)

It's too late.

Bruce looks over to see a struggling Dusan, on his knees, with tears streaming down his face. He is full of regret.

DUSAN (CONT'D)

This is all my fault.

Dusan looks up, accepting his fate-

The BLUE LIGHT from his chest rips, and SLAMS into the tomb.

The dead remains of Dusan drop back, onto the ground, eyes glued to the ceiling with all hope drained.

Damian looks to Bruce, realising it's time:

DAMIAN

I just wanted to matter. I just wanted to *be* something, I-

The BLUE LIGHT at Damian's chest FIZZLES-

An EXPLOSION of blue energy erupts between Bruce and Damian, throwing them apart. The two lie there, unconscious.

OFF the tomb as the blue glow begins to fade...

CHLOE (PRELAP)

You think he'll be back?

EXT. GORDON RESIDENCE, BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Chloe steps out onto the back porch where Sarah sits, nursing her wounds. They're both battle-scarred.

SARAH

Seemed pretty final to me. I think he'd have come back by now if it wasn't, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chloe takes a seat next to Sarah.

CHLOE

Right. That bastard never really did know when to give up.

SARAH

I guess I don't either.

Chloe looks to Sarah with a deep sympathy.

CHLOE

You just lost him. No one expects you to just... move on.

SARAH

But I can't stay here. Can I?

Chloe shakes her head. Sarah deflates. The two sit in the silence of it all for a beat, then Chloe perks up.

CHLOE

You know, I was married to someone else before Oliver.

SARAH

Really?

CHLOE

Yeah. His name was Jimmy.

Sarah's eyes light up.

SARAH

What happened?

CHLOE

He was killed right in front of my eyes. He died in my arms.

SARAH

I'm sorry.

CHLOE

I'm not telling you this out of some twisted way to minimise what you're going through, I just-

(beat)

I know what that kind of loss- that kind of pain can do to a person. I know what it did to me.

Chloe looks back out at the city. The sun seems to be rising on the horizon. Night eventually due to become day.

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

You are such a light in this world, in this city, and it kept Gordon on the straight and narrow. Hell, it often kept him from doing things he knew he would regret. I don't want to see that light diminish because of the darkness others bring into your orbit.

SARAH

Is that what happened to you?

CHLOE

I spent a lot of time isolating myself from the rest of the world, hiding up in an ivory tower away from the people who cared the most about me. I pushed them away because I was too scared to let myself get hurt again.

Chloe looks down, almost reliving the pain. She soon looks back to the rising sun.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Even though it turned into me creating the Watchtower, and reaching all of these wonderful heroes who have gone on to save the world countless of times, it took a long time for me to realise that I still had a future beyond the one I'd pictured in my head for so long. The one I thought I'd get to share with Jimmy.

SARAH

I just don't see how I could ever get to a point where I'm okay in a world without him. I don't think I'd ever want to be okay without him. It just feels so wrong.

CHLOE

It's all done in baby steps.

SARAH

What's the first step?

Chloe looks to Sarah with an all-knowing pain.

CHLOE

Honouring what you had by laying him to rest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sarah takes in a deep breath, struggling to even admit that this is her reality. She builds the strength to do so.

A loud THUD (O.S) echoes.

Chloe and Sarah SNAP around in fear of what it means. They rise from their seats, and return to the door.

INT. GORDON RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Chloe and Sarah emerge through the demolished house with slow and cautious steps, then turn down the hall to find--

A shocked Lucius stands in horror at the sight of a long-deceased Gordon in the wreckage of the house.

CHLOE

Lucius?

Lucius' SNAPS around to find Chloe and Sarah.

OFF the reunion between the three...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A worried Bruce and Talia stand by the computer system when they suddenly hear approaching footsteps.

Out of the dark, an emerging Damian appears. He returns.

TALIA

Oh, thank the gods.

Talia rushes to Damian and pulls him in for a hug. He looks past her at Bruce, who offers his own look of relief.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming back to us.

DAMIAN

I'm sorry I ran away.

Damian pulls from the hug. Bruce approaches.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

(to Bruce)

And I'm sorry I basically threatened you with a knife.

BRUCE

I'm the one who should be apologising, not you.

(beat)

I'm sorry if I ever made you feel like I wasn't proud of you or that I didn't love you. It couldn't be further from the truth.

(off Damian)

Look, the circumstances of you being in our lives are... unique, to say the least. But they are very much welcomed.

TALIA

We love you.

Talia grabs Damian's face in her over-bearing way, and plants a kiss on his forehead. Damian scrunches his face, then pulls away with a slight chuckle.

DAMIAN

Gross.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALIA

Now that I've stopped The Sensei
and my father is rid of this world
once again, it's safe for you to
come back with me. If you wanted.

Damian looks to Bruce, as though he would disapprove...

BRUCE

The choice is yours, son.

DAMIAN

I think... there might be more for
me than all of this.

Damian looks around at the BAT-FAMILY SUITS on display in
their GLASS TUBES. Bruce nods in agreement.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Being here but not *being here*... it
just makes me feel like I don't
quite belong. I don't say that to
hurt you, but-

BRUCE

No, I get it.

TALIA

Perhaps introducing you more to the
other parts of your lineage will
give you the answers you seek.

Damian tries to hide his secret smile...

DAMIAN

I'm looking forward to it.

Talia grabs Bruce's shoulder with comfort.

TALIA

Thank you. For everything.

A simple nod from Bruce.

Talia turns her back, and grabs for Damian to come with her.

DAMIAN

Goodbye, *Bruce*.

Damian turns with his mother, and a wicked grin stitches
across his face. An acknowledgement of his true agenda.

OFF Bruce, twitching from the mention of his name...

INT. TEMPLE, TOMB - NIGHT

A gasp. Damian ERUPTS from his slumber, and looks around the room to find everything in ruins: Dusan, Talia, and Nyssa (the body of Vicki) lay dead on the ground.

Further down lies Bruce, motionless and unresponsive.

DAMIAN

No.

Damian rushes to Bruce, and drops to his side. He shakes him out of his slumber. A startled Bruce rises.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Oh, thank god. I thought- I thought I lost everyone.

Bruce sharply turns to the tomb. He studies it.

BRUCE

It didn't work.

DAMIAN

Clearly.

Bruce looks back to his son, confused by the remark.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

I should be dead if it did.

(breaking)

I don't understand why I'm still here and they're not. Why Mum is gone, but I- I just- I don't get it. Why not me?

Bruce pulls Damian in for a hug. He holds him tighter than he ever has before - father and son.

BRUCE

Because- because you're my son.
My kid. You're a Wayne.

Damian wells up with tears and embraces the hug.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Come on.

The two pull from the hug. Bruce offers his hand out.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

Let's go home.

A beat. Damian looks at Bruce's hand, hesitates, then takes it. Bruce guides his son away.

OFF their departure, and the dormant tomb...

EXT. GORDON RESIDENCE, BACK YARD - DAY

The sun has risen over the house. A bright new day.

In the yard, Sarah stands in front of a makeshift, freshly-dug grave where a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of Gordon lays.

SARAH

This is the hardest thing I've ever
had to do.

Sarah addresses an audience of two - Chloe and Lucius.

SARAH (CONT'D)

James Worthington Gordon was the
best man I've ever known.

INSERT - An obvious cough triggers GORDON, on the porch, to turn. He finds SARAH on his footpath. *This was the first time they met. ('Kin')*

SARAH (CONT'D)

He devoted his life to two very
important things. His family.

INSERT - GORDON rushes to BARBARA and unties her. Free, she wraps her arms around him and they hug. *('Taken')*

SARAH (CONT'D)

And this city.

INSERT - GORDON enters a warehouse, gun out in front, dressed in his police uniform. *('Hunt')*

SARAH (CONT'D)

He served the city of Gotham as the
Commissioner of the GCPD, and later
as the city's Mayor where he served
two full terms.

INSERT - A TV SCREEN hosts a CAMPAIGN PHOTO of a smiling GORDON with a large BLUE TICK beside it. *('Ceremony')*

SARAH (CONT'D)

He loved that job.

(beat)

Somewhere along the way, Jim knew
that the law wasn't enough to
protect those two things he loved
so much. That's when his faith
changed to believe in something
even greater. Heroes.

INSERT - GORDON turns from the FLOODLIGHT that shines the BAT-SYMBOL in the sky. He turns to find BATMAN. *('Partnership')*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH (CONT'D)

When so many people in this city
can be corrupted, I think it was
being around *them* that kept him
decent - let him stay a good man.

INSERT - An isolated GORDON stares up at the night sky with a
sense of hope ('Checkmate')

SARAH (CONT'D)

And he was good. He was the best.

Sarah breaks - her hands catch her tears.

Chloe and Lucius move for her and they envelop her in a warm
embrace. Sarah soon composes herself.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Thanks. I think I need a moment
alone, if that's okay.

LUCIUS

Take all the time you need.

Chloe and Lucius leave, allowing Sarah her privacy, while
they arrive by the side of the house. Lucius latches onto
Chloe, stopping her from climbing the stairs.

CHLOE

Lucius? What is it?

LUCIUS

I didn't come here because I was
worried something happened to you
and Sarah - let alone *Gordon*.

(beat)

Something's happened. Something
good. Very, very good.

Chloe grows more confused.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

I got a call from Karl. He's
alive.

CHLOE

Lucius! Oh my god, that's amazing.

Chloe pulls Lucius in for a hug. He nudges out of the
embrace with urgency-

LUCIUS

I know, I know, but that's not the
point. He's in a hotel outside of
the city, which means-

(off Chloe)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

The signal has widened. The people
we can reach with a call...

A crushing revelation hits Chloe like a brick:

CHLOE

I can call Oliver.

OFF the burning realisation and rising hope within...

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - DAY

A shot of the city, partly in ruins, with the morning sun
burning bright over it. In the distance, a JET appears...

INT. JET - DAY

DINAH pilots the jet, while OLIVER and ARCHER sit in the back
with their belts buckled.

DINAH

Almost there, boys.

ARCHER

Thank god.

Oliver looks to his son. Archer is paler than normal.

OLIVER

Not a fan of flying?

ARCHER

I think that's been established
over the many times you've taken me
on business trips.

A MASSIVE hit of turbulence-

Oliver reaches out and grabs Archer's hand. He calms him.

OLIVER

Everything okay?

DINAH

Ollie, get in here.

Oliver unbuckles, and rushes to Dinah's side.

OLIVER

What is it?

DINAH

Something protecting the skies of
Gotham has locked a missile on us.

A SMALL MONITOR displays a MOVING OBJECT that tails the
aircraft. It moves to follow each movement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLIVER

What? Who would do that?

DINAH

Whoever is interested in keeping
this city in a complete and total
No-Man's-Land.

Dinah looks to Oliver, fear in her eyes.

DINAH (CONT'D)

I can't run the risk of you and
Archer being here if that missile
hits us.

OLIVER

Can't you outmaneuver it?

DINAH

It's matching my every move.

Oliver looks back at a terrified Archer. He double takes
between him, and Dinah, piloting.

OLIVER

Here, I'll take over. You get
Archer, and-

DINAH

No. I will not let that boy grow
up without a father. You and I
both know how important it is to
have at least one parent in our
lives. I have to do this.

OLIVER

Dinah.

DINAH

Go. Get the parachutes and aim for
land. Don't worry about me.

Oliver slinks back, realising what this means.

OLIVER

Thank you... for everything.

DINAH

Goodbye, Ollie.

OLIVER

Like hell. I'll see you in Gotham.

A shared look. Dinah nods.

Oliver turns back, and passes a scared Archer. He moves for
a cabinet which he opens to unveil PARACHUTES.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHER
What's going on?

OLIVER
Someone's targetting the jet. We
have to jump. Here.

Oliver unbuckles Archer, and fastens the first parachute to him. He then moves to fasten his own.

ARCHER
What? What about Dinah?

A quick look from Oliver says it all.

ARCHER (CONT'D)
No. No, she has to come with us.

OLIVER
Come on, we don't have much time.

ARCHER
No, we can't leave her.

DINAH (O.S.)
I'll be fine, Archie. Go!

Oliver pulls Archer towards the door. He OPENS IT-

A colossal wind pulls at them, and rips from outside. The two stand at the center of the doors.

OLIVER
Follow my lead.

Archer simply nods. Oliver pulls him around, and PUSHES him through the passage- the wind SWEEPS Archer away...

Oliver DIVES through the passage, following his son-

EXT. SKIES - DAY

Oliver and Archer descend from the jet. They slightly turn, mid-air, and see:

The MISSILE spins and moves with the jet, in fast pursuit of it. It seems to FLY OVER it and miss. A beat, and it pivots back around and CONNECTS- BOOOOOOOOOOM!

A FIERY EXPLOSION rips from the jet-

OLIVER
(erupting)
No!

Debris and shrapnel from the jet scatter across the skies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Oliver and Archer descend even further...

CLICK. CLICK. The parachutes pop off, and EXTEND. Oliver and Archer guide with the wind towards land.

OFF the image of the DESCENDING BROKEN JET...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FIVE

EPILOGUE

FADE IN:

INT. TEMPLE, TOMB - DAY

A MAN enters. Slow, cautious footsteps as they approach the tomb. It appears to periodically GLOW.

He reaches it. The tomb now seems to HUM.

HANDS claw at the lid, and slowly peel it off to unveil:

RA'S AL GHUL, in his original form (sporting his famous beard, grey-black-hair, and green robes). He sits up with beaming new life, and faces the unidentified man.

RA'S

You.

A cunning grin stitches across his face.

RA'S (CONT'D)

You hate Bruce Wayne and that boy
of his just as much as I do.

(beat)

We're going to go to Gotham and we
are going to destroy every last
thing they hold dear, before
killing them ourselves.

The man simply nods.

OFF a resurrected Ra's Al Ghul, wide-eyed and smiling...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE