

The gym was found to be an environment suited to fit men and women to train and improve, even if its primary purpose was to be an external means for less-than-fit people to work out to reach the other side. It just seemed that such a contrast of people could lead to discrimination and fatphobia, despite them coming over to fix that very problem!

Fortunately for one gym in Bludhaven, those discrepancies faded, offering a place for bigger people to work out and lose weight in peace.

Partly because one of the co-owners of the Grayson Gym was over eight hundred and fifty pounds.

Koriand'r (Or Kory Anders-Grayson) checked her watch, letting one of her trainees know that daytime was almost up. The belly-heavy pear was kneeling as a customer was doing sit-ups with dumbbells in hand, with her own hair tied up and wearing just enough cover to somewhat pass as human. She likely would have looked a bit ridiculous in this setting even if Kory explained she owned the place.

As he finished his reps, Kory called time for everyone inside. As they all prepared to leave for closing, they all thanked the extra-large woman for her hospitality. The heroine also known as Starfire may have been a heavy foodie and truly loved her size, but she was always willing to help others achieve the shape they desired. The Tamarean smiled, silently hoping no one noticed past her contact lenses to help her look a little more human.

As the last customer exited the building, Kory put all the equipment away and hovered up her stairs while letting her hair down and lifting her shirt up just a bit. As she settled into the second story of the building, her living area, the woman of the house pulled her phone out to text "You are in the clear!"

To which her husband responded by sliding down a fireman's pole from the third story, Nightwing's "Nest" as it were. A small base of operations to store the former Robin's gear. When he landed, Dick saw his beloved wife sit down on the reinforced couch in a position to face him rather than the tv.

"Sooo, how was your night of action?" Kory asked excitedly.

Dick replied with a chuckle, "Yeah not much, I thought crime would be going back up with the snow disappearing, only a matter of time though."

The tubby heroine slouched on her pad, letting her belly partially spill over the edge, "Richard, I would hope you would want crime to stay down!"

Her husband laughed while walking over to the other side of the couch, leaping over to take up the other side, a side that was getting less roomy over time, "Okay, good point. The night just gets a lot more boring when it's your day to run the shop."

"Awww," Kory responded, "Well, I have an idea to make your days less boring..."

Dick smirked, when Kory leaned in, letting her soft body smush against him was a feeling the leaner hero never grew

tired of, but he was in for a surprise at Kory's actual idea, "We can plan for your upcoming birthday!" she exclaimed with glee.

Dick blushed, "Wait, it's not today is it?"

"No dummy, it is not for a couple of weeks, but we have a good amount of surplus income to afford something special this year!"

"Heh, okay...there is something I wanted to do for a bit now," Richard replied.

Kory hovered back up, rising up and down with joy, "Ooh, is it some kind of adventure with our friends? I can invite those Avengers from the other world too! I would like to meet up with MJ again--"

She was cut off by Dick raising his hand, "I mean kinda? But honestly, I wouldn't need that many people in attendance...I wanted to try skydiving."

Kory beamed up again, "That sounds fun! I mean, you cannot fly so it sounds a little concerning but if I am with you it won't be a concern!"

"Honey, you're given a parachute."

"Oh. That makes sense."

Getting up from the couch to the kitchen table where Dick's computer rested, they started looking up places to arrange such an occasion. Kory looked at the images of people smiling as they exited the plane and the bigger smiles when they landed. She jiggled with excitement as Dick found a place near Bludhaven to book until his face sank.

The ample alien asked what was the matter, when Dick explained plainly, "There's a weight limit, about two hundred and fifty pounds, two-seventy max..."

Kory looked on blankly, checking the screen with the list of rules and requirements herself. It was a bit of a rude awakening, despite all of Starfire's powers and physiology

that made her size nearly irrelevant to her abilities, her size could still be a hindrance.

Dick tried to offer a different activity they could do together, but Kory assured him it would be fine, they would do something together later that day. Even if silently, she lamented that it would likely only involve her eating a copious amount of food only serving to make her larger and more activities unavailable to her.

Self-consciousness was not a feeling Starfire was used to, so when she slumped into bed with her partner, she went to sleep without any snacks or feeding like usual.

Unbeknownst to either hero, there was a camera, on some display vase, watching and listening. To go out in the open and such a public display... Well, whoever the spy was would have quite a serious opportunity on their hands...

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The weeks passed by, and Dick and Kory made the arrangements for the dive as well as getting some of their

hero friends to cover Blüdhaven for the day. All in all, it was shaping up to be quite the perfect day.

Kory awoke from her slumber, the previous night spent with her husband's "early birthday gift" left her with a food coma and a stomach that seemed to fly up to the ceiling from her point of view. As she hovered out of bed, she put away the special occasion funnel from last night and got dressed. Heading to the kitchen to use whatever remains they had to cook Richard some breakfast.

Of course, she would likely still end up eating a majority of it, Kory sighed, the Tamarean tried limiting her food intake recently. Not that there was any hope she could lose enough weight to join her husband in his experience, Kory still was a tinge disappointed that this lifestyle completely consumed her. There were benefits for sure, it gave her a connection with her friends, the good feelings the fat gave were unbelievable, and it was unintended spice she needed for her and Dick's marriage. But the fact that even trying to hold back proved fruitless left her remorse.

Kory cooked up a batch of French toast and egg with sides of bacon, salivating as they were steaming, before putting them on a plate and floating towards their bedroom.

Dick woke up to his wife's belly in his face and being served breakfast, if he didn't know better he'd have assumed he'd gone to heaven.

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Hours later, Dick and Kory had arrived at the sky-dive base upstate. Bludhaven would be protected by Hawkgirl and Green Lantern for the day, so the most trouble the couple had to worry about was finding a suitable car for Kory to ride in. They did eventually, but the fact she had to sit in the back rather than next to her husband didn't help her feelings. Still, the two were conversing the whole road trip whether about how grateful Dick was for Kory to help this happen or how special the rest of the day would be.

Getting out of the car, Kory spotted a black Lamborghini parked next to them, out of the driver's seat stepped a tall,

thin man with a grey half-head of hair and mustache to boot, dressed like he was going to embark on a hike. Alfred Pennyworth approached the couple, smiling at the birthday boy and his wife. Behind him hopped out one of Dick's successors, Tim Drake, the Robin on the Teen Titans at the moment.

Ever since repairing their relationship with the older Titans, Dick and Kory have been visiting the tower for occasional lessons to the newer young heroes.

Which made Starfire remember getting stuck in the doors she hadn't walked through since she was still skinny, earning a laugh from Superboy and the others.

Alfred hugged his old ward, "Happy birthday Richard, I apologize for Master Bruce's absence, he's dealing with some rather urgent cases back home. He passed on a note, hoping it would soften the blow," he poshly explained.

Dick opened the note to find a few hundred bucks inside. He rolled his eyes, "Typical, Kory can you keep them company,

I'm gonna check in and get fitted," he said as he walked into the center.

Kory smiled while raising her glasses with her private company, no longer needing to hide her pupil-less eyes. "He's just moody that's all, it is very nice of you to come over! This is going to be fun!"

Tim smiled at his sub-teacher, "I only wish I could go with you guys, this whole thing sounds super fun!"

Kory laughed nervously, "Oh I'm not attending, I passed the weight limit a long while ago...Still, I brought binoculars! We won't miss a second!"

The two visitors hesitated upon Kory's remark but didn't feel like bringing it up. Her huge leaps in weight over the past few years were always awkward to talk about with anyone besides her fat friends and husband.

The time came for Dick and the other sky-divers to get on the plane and perform their death-defying stunt. Before Dick

boarded, his wife waddled up to give him a quick kiss, "Have fun flying honey," she whispered.

"Heh, people usually ask for flight when listing off their most wanted superpowers, but I have to admit. I've learned to love falling too," Dick replied, kissing the love of his life before boarding the plane.

Kory stepped back and joined Alfred and Tim to watch the scene.

Unbeknownst to all of them, a truck was far outside the landing zone. And someone was mounting a sniper on top, watching the plane rise with even more precision than the official onlookers...

Kory's eyes were glued to the binoculars, not only to keep sight of her husband but to ignore the multiple other onlookers staring at the 6'4" and over eight hundred pound woman. Once the plane was just getting out of sight she spotted a door opening. People were beginning their dives!

Dick looked out the aircraft, it was a weird feeling to dive not for some world-saving feat but rather for leisure. But the acrobat was learning to let himself relax more and more he was with Kory, more than anyone he thanked her for letting him fly.

After a deep breath, Dick jumped off the aircraft.

It was the most liberating feeling he felt in a long time.

He fell through the air with grace, letting his weight and stance guide him through the path the instructors set for him. If only Kory were with him, Grayson could have wished it would last forever.

But what he didn't see was the glimmer of a sniper. It focused on Dick then went down. The brain behind working nine times as fast to calculate the perfect shot. Once they had it, they fired the gun.

Seconds later, Dick was getting ready to reel out his parachute, until he felt a graze by his neck. The shot left a

device that would tase Dick, rendering him nearly unconscious!

Down on the ground, Kory was watching the whole thing, she leaned over to Alfred also keeping a keen eye on the boy, "That doesn't look right, Dick just...stopped moving suddenly..." she whispered.

Tim took Alfred's binoculars to see for himself, "Oh god, Kory he's totally limp!"

Kory panicked, she asked the two to cover for her while she ran to the center. Once out of view Starfire immediately flew up, blasting her clothes off to reveal her super-suit. She flew as fast as she could to catch her husband. Thanking X'hal her weight didn't hinder her strength and speed, only enhancing it!

But of course, she couldn't have anticipated the trap laid for her.

Once she was close to Dick's falling body, Kory slowed down and flew underneath, with any luck it would be a soft landing. She flew up and caught her husband in the softness of her belly. The cushioning prevented any injuries he would have suffered otherwise.

Starfire tried waking Dick up, but once she realized she couldn't she began to pull his parachute. Just then another shot was taken! Right on her cheek (Well, formally her neck, her double and triple chins destroyed that) shocking the Tamarean! Even as Dick was floating to the ground in his chute, Kory would keep falling and falling until...

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Dick Grayson awoke to Alfred and Tim trying to wake him. He shot up, realizing what happened, "Oh my god, Oh no, Tim, were any other divers losing control?"

Robin shook his head, "Only you and..."

Nightwing reached for his neck pulling the taser device, realizing this was a sabotage, then he counted how many were checking on him.

"Alfred. Tim. Where. Is. Kory? Is she helping the others?" He demanded of them.

The two could only look at each other with grief.

Unbeknownst to them, Kory was in a truck bed, covered in tent wrap to hide her huge form. She was being moved back to Bludhaven...

Hours later, she woke up freezing cold. Normally Starfire didn't get cold, all the body heat and solar absorption made sure of that. Whatever this room was doing it wasn't making it cold...it was stealing heat.

Kory tried looking around only to find she was immobilized by chains. Not good. There weren't any windows, so this was some cruel cell made for her then. She could see a faint outline of a door, much too small for her somehow. Must have been

lowered through an open ceiling she thought. Before the heroine could try to make an escape plan based on that information, the door opened to reveal a shadow man who pressed a button on a remote. Once he did, the chains began stealing more heat from Kory's body!

She could barely stay awake, wanting to pass out more than anything right now, all until she heard the man speak.

"Long time no see, Princess".

Kory recognized that voice anywhere.

A voice she hadn't heard in years.

She looked up to find herself in the clutches of a madman in a blue-scaled suit adorned with a half-orange half-black mask. The man who made Kory and her Titans' friends hell for years.

Slade Wilson.

Deathstroke.

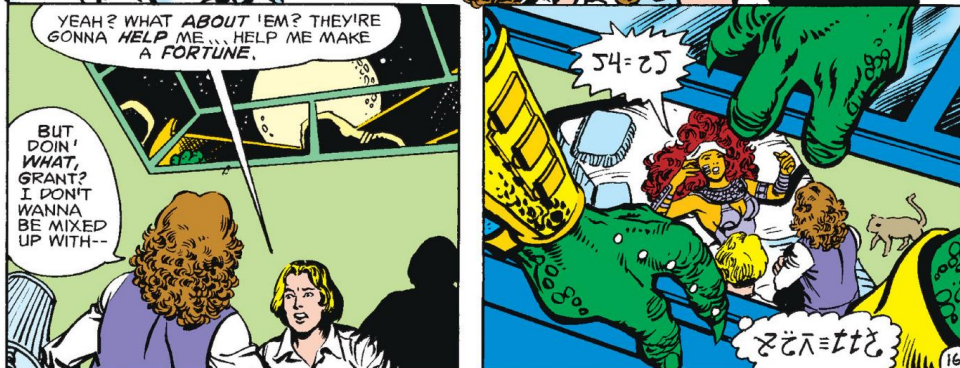
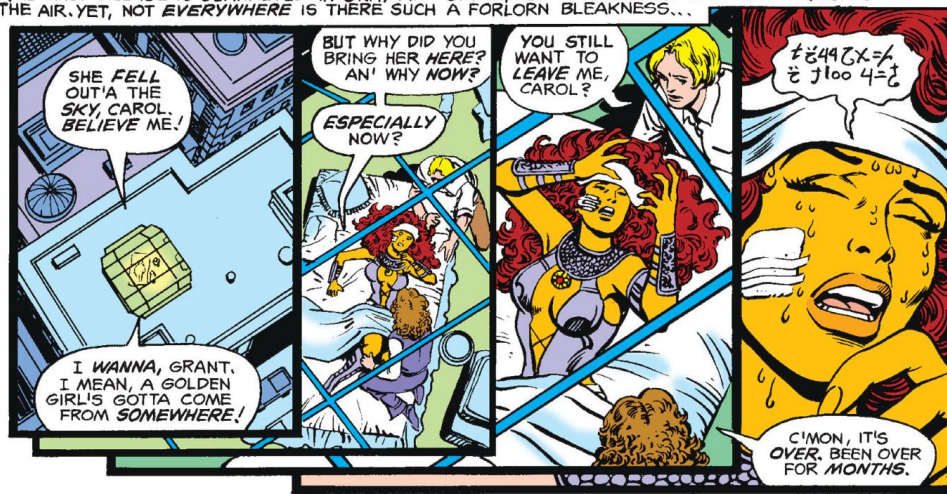
"Shall we catch up on old times?"

TBC

PART TWO

Years before...

THE EAST VILLAGE IS BLANKETED IN GRAY AND GRIME, AND THE STENCH OF CHEAP LIQUOR STAINS THE AIR. YET, NOT EVERYWHERE IS THERE SUCH A FORLORN BLEAKNESS...



In the present, Kory awoke from her freezing cell, her usually warm, weighty body struggling to retain heat and power within herself. It was becoming increasingly difficult for one simple reason.

The eight-hundred-sixty-pound heroine known as Starfire could feel herself getting lighter.

It wasn't anything major yet, but her clothing was becoming a tinge looser. Kory was confused as to why this was occurring. She may have been growing more conflicted about her weight as of late, but the ample alien never wished to be captured by one of her greatest enemies to remedy that!

And to speak of the devil, her captor, Slade Wilson, also known as Deathstroke the Terminator, entered her cell.

The assassin tapped his staff against the floor, akin to a walking stick, only to draw attention from the Tamarean, who was finding it hard to focus.

Slade took a knee to talk to his prisoner, "Alright princess, I got a little job for you, an opportunity to stretch your legs, get you back in fighting shape."

She would have spat in his face if Kory could muster the energy. Instead, she merely asked the question, "W-why? Why did you c-come back, Slade?"

The mercenary grunted, "After you Titans humiliated me, even going so far as to claim my daughter as one of your own, I needed to forget about you for a while. I took the easy jobs, only running into a few super-types along the way. None of them fared well, of course," he said with a chuckle.

Slade stood up, beginning to unlock Kory's chains, "But guess what happened? I got bored. And one day, on the anniversary of Grant's death, remember him? I visited his gravestone again. And I...I realized I really missed the stupid damn kid. And I remembered a talk with his old girl Carol, about just how he got into this situation in the first place."

When Kory was unchained, Slade grabbed her curls and forced her to stand up, then leaned in close to make sure she heard

him loud and clear, "A pretty little alien crashing in their apartment..."

As he led her out of the cell, Kory remained silent, praying she would find some way to escape soon...And that Dick would find her soon..

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Nightwing was currently tossing two men through one window. They proved useless in his search.

Luckily now he had a whole bar full of subjects, if only because there was rarely a whisper of criminal activity that didn't pass through this location.

The bartender shouted at the hero to back off, to which he received a fast dome to the face with an escrima stick.

Nightwing shouted with all his fury, "WHERE IS STARFIRE?!"

With everyone's traps shut, the former boy wonder had to resort to other methods of getting information. He walked up

to the biggest guy he saw in the room, looking up to see the man's eyes. Big muscle guy, Dick thought, before snapping his knee with a swift kick. As he fell down in pain, Nightwing grabbed his other stick and activated its taser feature, "Don't worry, it's capped at just enough volts not to fry a man, but unless someone wants to give answers we can always figure out how much voltage that actually is..."

If the man wasn't screaming before, he certainly was now even as Nightwing brought it closer and closer to his mouth...

"WAIT."

Nightwing looked up to see a smaller man raise his hand, he didn't look too young or old and like he didn't leave the bar much. Nightwing got off the broken beefcake whimpering in pain.

The informant finished his drink and then explained, "I don't know where that other flyin' gal you pal around with is, but I heard the chatter of a bunch of villain mooks moving

underground. Dunno if it's related but it's worth a dig I suppose." he ended with a shrug.

Nightwing sneered down at him, before turning to leave the bar. But not before stepping on his former victim's knee one last time.

As the acrobat swung up to a nearby rooftop, he called the rest of the heroes searching for the lost Tamarean, Hawkgirl (Kendra Saunders), Green Lantern (Jessica Cruz), and Linda Park covering the internet's leads while Wally was on League business elsewhere.

"I maybe got a lead, only broke a few bones to get it too," Nightwing informed the crew.

Jess cringed on her end, "Please don't go into the details on that," the six hundred-pound belly-heavy space peacekeeper may have skipped dinner to conduct this search but she wasn't looking forward to feeling like heaving up lunch that night.

"You can tell me about it if you like," Kendra replied while flying around the Bludhaven area, her four hundred and fifty-pound form looking like a ball with wings to onlookers above, "Always like how you Bat folk go about crushing skulls!"

Nightwing just sighed, normally he would have liked to joke alongside his wife's friends, but with said wife gone, he wasn't in the mood, "It may be a dead end, but some supervillains are heading underground for some reason. It's better than nothing. Kendra let me know if you see anything that looks suspicious and I'll be right over," Dick started accessing files on his phone, "I'm sending you files of every crook Kory and I have fought since we moved here. Could be some sick revenge play".

Privately Linda wanted a chat, "Listen, Dick, we can search for a little while longer but you can't overextend yourself. I understand-"

"No. Linda. You don't."

"You think I've never lost Wally before? That I never was obsessed about wondering when my husband would run back through our door, and I'm not a superhero either. I'm not asking you to give up, I am asking you to rest for the night," the reporter pleaded from her home in Keystone City, her five hundred pounds and eighty-pound pear was sitting at her desk with multiple laptops and maps around her. If anything, Linda knew she wasn't getting any sleep herself tonight either.

Nevertheless, she let out a sigh of relief when Dick replied with a simple "Fine" and she felt like she deserved a rest too.

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Deep below, Starfire was at least grateful to be out of her cold cell but being dragged to some sort of arena in a shock collar and still no natural sunlight gave Kory very few blessings to count. And standing in the middle of it all was Deathstroke. Remaining silent as two cages were loaded in.

The cages open to reveal a figure from each walking out, the first Kory recognized was Orca, a villainess whose weight nearly rivaled her own, albeit with significantly more muscle on top. She'd been a thorn in Bludhaven's ports with her gang, but Nightwing and Starfire were always quick to stop her.

But Kory wasn't exactly thrilled at the prospect of fighting her in this tired state...

The other was KGBeast, a hulking mercenary with a gun attached to him, he was currently filling it with strings and strings of bullets. Starfire was less familiar with him, but she heard of him going toe to toe with Batman himself.

"Starfire?!" Orca exclaimed while stretching, "This is the target, oh that'll be fun. I'm still feeling those burns you gave me two months ago!"

Kory ignored her to look at her longest-lasting foe in the arena, "What is this, Slade? Do you not believe you can defeat me all by yourself?"

Deathstroke grimaced, "This is a test, princess. When I came out of retirement, I was hoping to continue where we left off. Only to find you had completely lost your body to your vices, where's the honor and triumph in defeating a near-half-ton blob like you?

The assassin raised three fingers, then dropped one down, "I don't want an unearned victory, I want to defeat you and your husband at your best." Slade dropped another finger, "So you'll keep fighting until you're back in a proper fighting shape..."

And then he dropped the last finger to make a fist.

Kory looked at her captor with disbelief, "Wait, this is all just to make me thin again?!" was all she said before getting punched square in the face by a charging Orca.

Starfire was caught off guard, but she managed to roll over and reaffirm herself. Spotting KGBeast aiming, she quickly took to the skies to make his shots harder while avoiding

Orca. She fired off a starbolt at the gun-toting Russian, only grazing him. But when she tried to fire another bolt she could only manage a sputter of energy.

While flight was a natural ability for Tamareans, her Starbolts were a result of an experiment, charged by all the excess solar energy she absorbed. As her form grew wider and wider, to the point where even if Starfire was wearing a less revealing outfit, she was technically showing more skin to absorb energy than before with her bingo wings alone!

And all of that being nearly gone hadn't happened to Kory in her entire life.

While flying to avoid KGBeast's line of fire she waited for him to reload before she dove in at Orca, tossing the whale woman at the merc. Starfire looked to Deathstroke, still observing everything, she dashed over to him before-

BLAM

Kory felt a bullet scrape her leg causing her to fall off balance. She looked back to KGBeast, still trying to move

Orca off himself, "We were given explicit instructions, to try to bring you down and make sure you don't touch our client," he explained.

Starfire grimaced, using her natural strength to turn towards her opponents, flying low to the ground (relatively at least, she didn't want her belly to drag against the ground) dashing left and right as she got closer and closer. The Titan-sized heroine knocked KGBeast back and then caught an incoming fist of Orca's. She continued fist-fighting the shark of a woman, Kory still retaining her Okkaran martial arts training as a child fought with finesse rather than pure brute strength, unlike Orca.

In time, the black and white mutant slipped up, as Starfire decked her across the jaw, making her tap out.

But Kory's victory would be short-lived as KGBeast tackled her with all his might! After hitting her enough to daze her out of focus, he aimed his gun right at her face, "Let's see if you are the bulletproof sort of alien, da?"

However, he would never find out, as a shot behind him went off. And KGBeast fell to the ground, Starfire moved him off her body, only to notice the blood spilling from his forehead...

Kory was shocked, looking at Slade holding his smoking staff, "They were instructed to beat you, not kill you. That's going to be my job."

Starfire would have jumped him immediately had her shock collar not been activated right then and there.

Deathstroke walked up to his prisoner, "I suppose we can check on your weight loss progress, gotta have burned a lot of calories there" he noted.

Kory used her last seconds of consciousness to pray to X'Hal that Dick would find her soon...

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For the past week, Nightwing had been tracking super-criminal activity all over the city, each slipping past his fingers. Until now.

Speeding downtown was a truck with a rather large man, his muscular form required a bigger vehicle for transport. But it made for rather a conspicuous ride.

As such, Blockbuster was making an easy trail for Nightwing, not helped by him throwing scraps of the truck at the hero and his motorbike. Luckily Dick was quick to avoid it all. He reached for a pellet in his gauntlet and tossed it at the truck. Blockbuster coughed and tried swiping the smoke away, only to see Nightwing launching his bike into the air...getting off it...and using it as the largest escrima stick he's ever used. And smacking Blockbuster right in the face with the tire to boot.

When Ronald Desmond came to, he awoke to see not just Nightwing, but a very mad Hawkgirl and Green Lantern as well.

Desmond laughed nervously, "Listen, I don't want any trouble, I was just moving--"

Nightwing grabbed him by his torn shirt growling, "Cut the \$%#& Ronald. You wanna lie again, just remember who turned you from the top boss of this city to just another two-bit-thug for hire."

Now Desmond laughed genuinely, "Well, I remember you and that alien girl you pal around doing the job. 'Course it musta been before she let herself go--"

Dick punched Blockbuster again, "Funny, that friend is exactly what I wanted to talk about today."

Hawkgirl raised her mace towards the villain, "Criminals have been transported all over the city, where are you all meeting?"

Blockbuster shrugged, "I just got a word for a match that offered a mighty fine reward, seemed like a fun way to kill a weekend."

Nightwing looked at Jessica and snapped his fingers. The girthy Green Lantern nodded and used her ring to lift Blockbuster up. The trio of heroes all started floating up with him. He was a bit confused until Grayson spoke up, "Here's the deal, we'll let you go when you tell where you were going for this "match", but we're going to keep going up higher and higher in the meantime. Look down real quick for me please?"

Blockbuster compiled curiously, only to be shocked at the view, Nightwing chuckled, "We're already above the highest building in Bludhaven, so try not to stall for too long."

The washed-up crime lord started panicking, "You wouldn't, your kind don't kill!"

Hawkgirl slung her mace over her broad shoulder, "Have you seen my weapon of choice lately?"

Blockbuster started sweating, he was beginning to lose breath already, better in the hospital than this he supposed.

"Okay okay fine, we were supposed to go to the Blackburn tunnel! But I never heard of the place, I sweat that's all I know."

Nightwing grimaced. He and the girls dropped back to the roof. While Blockbuster was dropped from the building...and stopped once the rope tied to his foot was taut.

"Aww see I-I knew you wouldn't really kill me!" Desmond exclaimed.

Nightwing muttered to himself, "You're all making it very difficult though."

Kendra and Jessica looked at each other with concern for their friend, Jess floated over in front, "Hey, I know you miss her, but Kory wouldn't want you to betray yourself for her sake. We'll find her, but we won't stoop to their level to do it okay?"

Nightwing just stopped, standing in silence.

Then his voice started quivering, "I, I just, I just want to know that she's okay. She was giving up...so much for me lately. Kory doesn't know I know but she's been getting self-conscious about her weight, thinking it was ruining our opportunities in the long run."

"That's ridiculous," Kendra said, "She's like the entire reason Jess and I are as proud of our bodies as is!"

Dick answered, "She couldn't join me for my birthday activity, it just spiraled from there. We try our best but most of the world isn't built for someone her size. I just want to tell Kory that...I don't care about any of that. These last few years have been the happiest I've had...I just want to see her again."

Jessica leaned in for a hug, followed by Kendra, their obese bodies only squishing him half as much as Kory usually did. Dick thanked them but now had to focus on the investigation to come.

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Back home Linda had come over, her frame nearly taking as much of the couch as Kory had, she was looking through maps of Bludhaven year by year. Meanwhile, Dick was cross-referencing across books he had on the city's history. Jessica would have joined him but was checking on Kendra in another room, she looked like she was meditating in some way.

The belly-heavy Mexican woman asked what she was doing, to which the usually winged heroine replied noting her own way of checking history.

Jessica decided to leave it at that, leaving Kendra alone. Well. Sort of.

Hawkgirl was rarely alone, visible only to her, she looked upon her own past lives. While her reincarnation cycle spanned across space and time, there were quite a few who lived throughout most of America's history.

"Blackburn, that sound familiar to anyone here?" Kendra asked, only to see most shake their heads.

"Well actually-!" a voice raised, one with a thick southern accent much like a cowgirl, "That name does indeed ring a bell!"

The woman in front of Saunders more so resembled Shayera, being a thin redhead, but her western attire communicated her deal clearly, "Name's Cinnamon...Ain't this a wee bit ironic?"

Kendra rolled her eyes, still finding it ridiculous that between all her past lives only she was fat, even including the one nicknamed after food, "Okay, let's get to the point, what's Blackburn?"

Cinnamon explained, "Well you see, back in my day Blackburn was a tunnel for smugglers to trade and sell our goods, bein' by the sea made for easy getaways too. Unfortunately, as the tides came in, access to the tunnel was lost."

Kendra rubbed her first chin, and hiding Kory underground definitely seemed likely. But what were the chances? "Was anyone able to use it after it got flooded?"

The cowgirl shrugged, "I heard a few dug their way back to retrieve some treasure they left behind, but nothin' concrete. But with a few hundred years difference? Who's to say?"

Kendra pondered, this was certainly a lead of sorts, if she could get an approximate location, she only wished her past lives could actually point it out to her on a map but seeing as they were all astral beings it was unlikely.

Kendra exited the room, telling the rest of the crew what she learned. Linda snapped her fingers and waddled back to her laptop, looking up old tunnel fixtures in the city, specifically near the coastline, and she found a closed-down area...

Linda pinged the location, "That's gotta be it, it's gotta be."

Dick put a hand on Mrs. Park-West's broad shoulder, "I can't thank you or Kendra enough, All of you, you made this whole ordeal so much easier to take, now let's find out who to--"

At that point, the detective spotted a gleam on one of his shelves that shouldn't be there. All the curtains were closed, there was no way a vase should have a reflection of light that way...Unless.

Dick stormed over, the girls only became confused when he started looking closely at the vase, even more so when he smashed it on the ground! Jess floated over asking what he was doing.

Dick held up a tiny camera, no smaller than a pupil, but it was a device Nightwing recognized from a very particular case in his past...

"I know who took Kory...and we have to hurry if there's any hope of her getting home alive..." He said with a newfound fury as he smashed the camera.

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Slade Wilson sat in a chair, fingers against his mouth as he observed Koriand'r's "progress", the Tamarean had conquered everything thrown at her. Shrike, Double-Dare, Brutale, Paragon, and just about every thug with a grudge in Bludhaven rallied up to fight their old enemy. And despite the constant exhaustion she felt, Kory always got back up for the next fight.

She was looking smaller and smaller though.

It wasn't too noticeable to anyone not looking closely, but with her condition, Kory had lost about five to seven pounds a day. It occurred to the mercenary that this crusade to whip her back into fighting shape would be a long one. Which concerned Slade since his camera in the Grayson's apartment was discovered. Overall it looked like his package would need to be moved as fast as possible.

The pleasure of watching Starfire nibble on bits of lettuce and bread in her cell would have to be put off for now.

Inside, Kory valued every bit of food and rest she could get. She wasn't going to ask for pizza and burgers or the like,

the heroine was getting slightly better treatment than what she endured in the Citadel after all. Every bit of strength was going to be necessary.

Frankly, the weight loss was bothering Kory more than she thought. Perhaps it was the realization of the cruel irony. Maybe it was the discovery that this whole worry of her was silly, that her large frame was something she should have been proud of regardless of what the world would accommodate. She didn't know how much she had lost at this rate but Starfire had no choice but to show Deathstroke just how wrong he was to dismiss her for her size. Any day now.

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"This is it?" Kendra asked.

"I triple-checked!" Linda insisted over comms.

Green Lantern and Hawkgirl floated over a patch of ocean with Nightwing standing on a barrier made by the former.

"Huh," the winged wonder scoffed, as Nightwing tapped his mask.

After a couple of seconds of scanning Dick perked up, "Found something, some wall of steel deep down. That flood was no joke back in the day."

Jessica nodded at Kendra, then used her ring to make an impenetrable and airtight sphere. Then they all dove into the waters.

The large Lantern looked at all the fish swimming away from them as well as the trash dumped everywhere, "Sure am glad this is smell proof, right?"

Dick pointed towards their destination, "C'mon, according to Garth the ocean's way worse than space anyway. So let's keep moving."

Linda perked up again in his ear, "Calm down, just focus on Kory and finding her."

"I got it," he responded, once they got to the wall it was going to be as quick as an operation as they could. Thus no backup would be coming. Especially with history up to repeat again.

Forming out of the bubble, Jessica made a hard light drill to pierce through the metal. So now Deathstroke's base was about to get a whole lot more wet.

Deathstroke noticed the rumbling, he was promising Lady Vic he'd pay her extra if she agreed to fight the Titan-Sized Tamarean after helping transport her.

He saved himself some money by tossing Vic towards the wave of running water as he hopped in the van containing Kory's mobile cell. The lady for hire was helpless, regretting ever taking this job until she was picked up out of the water...By Hawkgirl. The villain sighed, but figured being caught would be better than drowning.

Deathstroke looked at the rearview mirror, the waves still chasing him in this tunnel. Any hope of this being a freak

accident died as he found three heroes flying through the air. Grumbling, Slade took out his bostaff and leaned it against the gas pedal, and crawled out the window.

After getting on the roof, the assassin started calculating his chances. Whipping out his sword, he figured this would be a light challenge.

Green Lantern flung Nightwing at his wife's captor, who was quick to defend himself. After exchanging a few blows, Dick sputtered between breaths, "W-why Slade? Why did you come back?"

"A conversation for another time, Grayson," Deathstroke replied while dashing with his blade, making sure to keep his balance, "I'd say I'm helping your wife out, but not only was I going to kill her anyway, but it seems to me you actually enjoyed seeing your princess let herself go!" He mocked the acrobat trying to stay aboard the moving vehicle.

Eventually, a turn came, causing Slade to punch his opponent away, lean in and turn the van in the right direction, then resume his fight. Catching Dick's attempt at a sucker punch.

But he also saw Hawkgirl charge in to join in the fight. With her flight capabilities, she didn't need to worry about falling off into the water. She swung her mace at the villain alongside Nightwing. Unfortunately, he seemed to keep up just fine.

Slade nodded his head, "I don't know too much about you Hawks I'll admit, are your wings a part of your body?"

Kendra snapped, "What's it to you?"

Deathstroke grabbed his winged opponent by the leg, before jumping to tackle her! Caught off guard her hefty body slammed against the roof as Slade took his sword and stabbed through her left wing at the hilt!

"Wanted to know how much that would hurt. Now stay out of my fight," he sneered as he kicked her body off. Thankfully Jess

was able to catch her. Unfortunately with the flood and now carrying two whole people, she wasn't sure if her focus could compensate enough to help...

Slade turned back towards Dick, cracking his neck, "Think you can take this alone Grayson? With no Titans to save you?" he taunted with confidence.

Just then he felt something under him give way. Then Kory had burst out the roof!

"You've made. A very. VERY. Big mistake Slade." She said with a fury...

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Earlier inside the cell, Kory had noticed the commotion. It didn't take long to guess her friends had come for her! She looked around, it was still cold but as the vehicle moved faster and faster her cells were warming up. With all the noise the Tamarean hoped she wouldn't get noticed if she-

CRINK

Kory continued pulling her chains more and more, struggling to fully shatter them like she usually would. Until finally she had torn them off the hinges! There was a large thud above her as well, she floated up and punched up again and again until she was able to rip her way out of the cell!

Starfire's eyes glowed green with anger, she could barely see her friends and lover through the emotions she felt seeing the man who had kidnapped her, held her prisoner and made her body feel unworthy for the past week and a half.

"Kory!" Dick exclaimed from behind, he was almost never as happy to see her bottom that was wider than three of him again. But Starfire was all about business now. She charged at Slade who tried blocking with his sword. Her punch however was too strong and still pushed him off balance. Nightwing tried to follow up with a jump and punch landing only to get a kick to the stomach in return.

Slade sputtered out as he tried getting up again, "Gonna...gut...you both...one day," he ran up at the duo. But despite being so tired, Nightwing and Starfire moved as they always do. Kory being the big target taking the big hits and hitting back even bigger, while Dick dodged around with smaller more precise strikes.

Deathstroke was good, very good in fact, but in circumstances like this, very good wasn't good enough.

Kory gripped him by the collar, "So, Slade. Am I still too big to fight you?" she said with a sneer.

Deathstroke merely stared daggers back at her, "Like I said, this is be over when I say it's ove-" Kory denied him of his cool exit as she punched him out into the coming flood.

Once the merc didn't pop up back of the water, Kory and Jess left the truck behind, and everyone sped ahead to the end of the tunnel, while there was a gate blocking their path it was no match for the over-half-ton of women charging at it.

After what felt like an eternity, they all finally reached the surface. They had reached sunlight. Kory almost couldn't believe it. She fell to the ground, her stomach squishing against it. Starfire could have slept in the sun for the rest of the day. Unfortunately, she did have to move when the authorities came.

Starfire cuddled in a comforter blanket basking in the sun. She could feel her power and strength returning by the second. But even more uplifting...She saw the people of the city, they were cheering for her, proclaiming how much they missed her. Some even made quick signs saying "Welcome Back!!!"

It brought a warmth to the alien's heart greater than the sun.

Nightwing walked up to his wife, without a word embracing her softness. Kissing any part of her body he could reach. He looked up, trying not to break into tears seeing the love of his life again.

Kory leaned down to kiss him, letting him know he didn't need to say anything. After confirming with her friends that she wasn't needed, Dick and Kory flew back home. To catch up on lost time..

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A mile away, a man washed up on shore, covering his face with a hand where his eye patch normally would be. Slade lost a lot in the wave and his attempt to reach land. It was going to be a tough recovery period. And a weird one too, considering the floating ship above him.

Slade only grew more confused as a woman almost as big as Kory and nearly identical to boot walked out of it.

The shapely woman spoke down to him, "Hello, Mr. Wilson, is it? You've impressed me, not everyone can keep my sister out of my spying sight for so long."

The assassin didn't say a word, only processing the information being relayed to him. Clearly, this form ran in

the family, but why seek him out? Revenge on her sister's behalf?

The lady he would come to know as Blackfire kneeled close, "I'd LOVE some competent help knocking her down a peg. I happen to need some muscle as me and some...acquaintances head out on a journey that may or may not involve us getting the chance to put so much of my sisters' heads on a pike..."

Slade's expression remained unchanged.

"We also have a lot of money," Kom said bluntly.

At that point, the mercenary finally weighed his options, and hitched a ride into space and eventually, out of this dimension...

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Kory rested on the roof of her home gym, soaking up the sun. She had weighed herself after she and Dick "caught up" and found she now weighed seven hundred and eighty-six pounds. It

was almost unbelievable the loss she went through. The alien was still incredibly fat, evident by her finishing a dozen donuts her friends had dropped off.

Everyone understood Kory needed some alone time, but they all pitched in to offer a treat for her troubles. From Jess and Kendra, to Wally and Linda, to the Titans, even Alfred and Tim offered some food from the manor with a note apologizing for not being able to help more.

Kory burped a little as she finished the note along with the pie they sent, she looked at her husband climbing on the roof carrying a box.

"You are quite determined to help me return to my original weight aren't you?" she said with a giggle.

Dick chuckled, "Kind of, I just. You know I love you right? All of you."

Kory rested her hand on her double-rolled stomach, "I know. I should have known that more."

Dick rested the box on a table beside her while picking up the empty case his wife made, "I can't live without you either, you know that too." She nodded, "And you know that means I will do anything for you."

"Dick, what is this about?" Kory asked.

"...I didn't bring it up because I wanted to surprise you that day but. I do want to start a family with you," Dick said, his wife intrigued, "I finally thought that I was *ready* for something like that. But this whole ordeal showed me that I really don't know."

Kory squeezed her husband tight, he could feel the tears rolling down her shoulders, "Oh X'Hal, Richard...If this experience has taught me anything it's that you will always be there for me when I need it most..."

Dick sniffled, "You too...But what if-" Kory cut him off with a kiss.

"We can talk about it later but know that we want the same thing. I'm sure I can talk to MJ about it when I see her again," She reassured him, "One other thing...What's in the box?"

Dick laughed, he got up and opened it up to reveal, "I never got around to eating my birthday cake either, it's just been sitting in my fridge as we all searched for you."

Kory joined her husband in laughter, getting her titan-sized body up off her lounge chair as he started cutting up slices. He had a few slices of his own birthday cake of course, but an even greater gift was watching his wider wife finally eat it with him. And there would be plenty of gifts for the future...

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