

BATMAN

"OFF-BALANCE"

(MUTTERING) AN HOUR I BEEN WAITIN'.
DON'T KNOW WHAT NICO WANTED TO MEET
HERE FOR, ANYWAY.

HE DIDN'T, TWITCH,
I DID.

YOU!

YOU TRICKED ME?

(nervous stammer) WHAT DO YOU WANT?

INFORMATION.

ON THE SOCIETY OF SHADOWS. WORD IS,
THEY'VE STARTED OPERATING HERE.

TELL ME ALL ABOUT THEM.

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

10 TWITCH: (stammering) HEY, THERE AIN'T THAT
MUCH TO TELL. I MEAN, I ONLY WORKED
down 1/2 FOR 'EM, OKAY? NOT WITH 'EM.

11 BATMAN: IT'LL HAVE TO DO. NOW TALK.

12 TWITCH: OKAY, OKAY. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO
HAVE THEIR CLAWS IN EVERY DIRTY DEAL
IN GOTHAM.

13 IN FACT, WORD ON THE STREET IS THEY
GOT SOMETHIN' MAJOR GOIN' DOWN
TONIGHT.

14 GONNA BOOST SOME KINDA NEW
ULTRASOUND GIZMO OR SOMETHIN'.

15 BATMAN: WHO RUNS THE SHOW?

16 TWITCH: STRANGE DUDE, STRANGEST THING ABOUT
THESE GUYS, COME TO THINK OF IT.

17 GOES BY A CODE-NAME: VERTIGO. THEY
SAY HE'S (breaks off) (GASP)

(CONT.)

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

188 RA'S:

THEN CHOOSE A TARGET AND TEST IT,
DAUGHTER. WE MUST BE CERTAIN IT HAS
SURVIVED ITS ORDEAL INTACT.

189 TALIA:

(startled GASP)

190

THE BATMAN, HE SABOTAGED IT SOMEHOW!

(Surprise)

191 RA'S:

SO, EVEN IN DEFEAT, THE DETECTIVE
MANAGES TO ACHIEVE SOME SMALL
MEASURE OF VICTORY.

192

AS YOU SAID, DETECTIVE, THIS IS NOT
OVER.

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

18 TWITCH(CONT.): PLEASE, HE MADE ME TALK! I DIDN'T
WANNA!

19 SHADOW AGENT #1: OOF!

20 BATMAN/SHADOW AGENT #1: (impact GRUNTS; SOUNDS of EXERTION)

21 SHADOW AGENT #2: NO ONE BETRAYS THE SOCIETY.

22 TWITCH: NO, PLEASE!

23 (trailing CRY)

24 SHADOW AGENT #2: SUCH BE THE FATE OF ALL TRAITORS.

25 BATMAN: YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT.

26 SHADOW AGENTS #1 & #2: (impact GRUNTS)

27 (impact GRUNTS)

28 (startled GASPS)

29 *ENGAL* MAY THE SHADOWS LIVE FOREVER. *20*

30 BATMAN: (small SNARL)

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(20 Min.)

BATMAN

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"OFF-BALANCE"

31 GORDON: BATMAN?

32 BATMAN: OVER HERE, JIM.

33 GORDON: I HEARD TWITCH GOT AWAY, THANKS TO A
COUPLE SHADOW AGENTS.

34 BATMAN: AND WHEN I TRIED TO NAIL THEM, THEY
USED SOME SORT OF GAS TO ERASE THEIR
OWN MINDS.

35 GORDON: YEAH, THAT FITS WITH WHAT LITTLE WE
KNOW ABOUT THEM.

36 BATMAN: BUT SOMETHING TWITCH SAID MAKES ME
THINK THEY'RE GOING AFTER
WAYNETECH'S NEW SONIC DRILL.
TONIGHT, WHEN IT COMES INTO GOTHAM.

37 TELL BULLOCK HE SHOULD ADD MORE
GUARDS, JUST TO BE SAFE.

5

"OFF-BALANCE"

38 GORDON: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DON'T KNOW
ABOUT?

39 (GRUMBLING) I ONLY ASSIGNED THAT
DETAIL A COUPLE HOURS AGO.

40 HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

41 ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GONNA NAIL
HIS FEET TO THE GROUND.

42 FIRST UNIFORM: YOU WANT WE SHOULDN'T TOUCH THE
DRILL-THING

43 RIGHT, MR. FOX?

44 FOX: NOT UNLESS YOU HAVE TO.

45 AND BE CAREFUL,

46 IT'S THE ONLY WORKING PROTOTYPE FROM
OUR LAB IN CHICAGO.

47 2 N.D. WORKMEN: (STRAINING SOUNDS)

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

48 FOX:

49

50 FIRST UNIFORM:

BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT COULD BE
DANGEROUS.

51 FOX:

WELL, IT'S INTENDED FOR USE IN
BUILDING EXCAVATIONS, OIL RIGS AND
THE LIKE, BUT...

52 BULLOCK:

(over him) RELAX, KID, THAT GIZMO
AIN'T GONNA HURT NOBODY AS LONG AS
HARVEY BULLOCK'S ON
TOP OF THINGS?!

WHO ARE YOU?

53

54

55 FOX:

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OX:

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

56 VERTIGO: THE FIRST THING I WANT IS FOR YOU TO
STOP ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS.

57 THE SECOND IS A POWERFUL WEAPON, AND
I THINK YOUR DRILL WILL DO NICELY.


58 BATMAN: AND I THINK YOU'LL "DO" 10 TO 20 IN
STONEGATE, MINIMUM.

59 VERTIGO: ~~THE~~ BATMAN. I SUPPOSE THIS HAD TO
HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.

60 BATMAN: YOU'LL WISH YOU'D MADE IT LATER.
61 NOW YOUR SOCIETY WILL BE NEEDING,
62 A NEW BOSS?

63 VERTIGO: OOF!

64 BATMAN/VERTIGO: (GRUNTS of exertion)
65 (startled CRIES)

66 VERTIGO:  YOU!

(20 Min.)

BATMAN

"OFF-BALANCE"

67 BATMAN:

(impact GROAN)

68 VERTIGO:

COME. WE'RE DUE BACK BY THE TOLLING
OF THE HOUR.

69 BATMAN:

(GRUNTS of exertion)

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

ACT I

70 ALFRED: (thru exertion) ... BUT ARE YOU
 CERTAIN THE LADY IN BLACK WAS
 WORKING WITH THIS VERTIGO CHAP?

71 BATMAN: HAD TO BE, ALFRED. HE'D NEVER HAVE
 BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE IF SHE HADN'T
 SHOWN UP.

72 AND SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T
 AFFECTED BY HIS WEAPON.

73 ALFRED: WEAPON, SIR?

74 BATMAN: THAT EYEPiece OF HIS. I THINK IT
 GIVES OFF SOME KIND OF RADIATION.

75 IT MUST DISTORT VISUAL PERCEPTION
 AND SENSE OF BALANCE SOMEHOW,
 CREATING THE ILLUSION THAT
 EVERYTHING AROUND YOU IS TOPSY-
 TURVY.

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BATMAN

10

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

76 ALFRED:

MY WORD!

77 BATMAN:

NOT THAT IT MATTERS. NOTHING ABOUT
THAT

78

CAN GIVE ME ANY CLUES TO HIS
WHEREABOUTS.

79

HE MENTIONED RETURNING TO HIS BASE
BEFORE THE "TOLLING OF THE HOUR",
WHICH SUGGESTS A CLOCK TOWER OR A
CHURCH BELL,

80

THEN FLED WEST. YET THERE'S NO SUCH
STRUCTURE THAT COULD CONCEAL A
HIDEOUT, NOT WITHIN 50 MILES TO THE
WEST.

81 ALFRED:

MIGHT I SUGGEST, MASTER BRUCE, THAT
YOU TAKE A BREAK?

82

IF YOU KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE
THIS, YOU SOON WON'T KNOW YOUR RIGHT
HAND FROM YOUR LEFT.

83 BATMAN:

ALFRED, YOU'RE BRILLIANT.

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

84 ALFRED: SO I'VE HEARD.

85 BATMAN: WITH MY HEAD TURNED AROUND LIKE
THAT, I COULDN'T TELL ONE DIRECTION
FROM ANOTHER. *change*

86 THEY DIDN'T ESCAPE TO THE WEST, THEY
WENT EAST!

87 THERE, ALFRED. THAT HAS TO BE THE
PLACE.

ADR 88 SHADOW AGENTS: (WALLA: ad-lib martial arts BATTLE
CRIES)

89 SHADOW AGENTS #6 & #8: OOF!

90 BATMAN: ~~(thru exertion)~~ FOUR AGAINST ONE.
NASTY ODDS.

91 TALIA: I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK
YOU.

92 SHADOW AGENTS #6 & #8: (impact GRUNTS)

BATMAN

"OFF-BALANCE"

(20 Min.)

SO I SEE.

STILL, THE GESTURE IS APPRECIATED.

DON'T MENTION IT.

(impact GRUNT)

JUST WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

THAT WOULD BE TELLING.

AND IT WOULD MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

AS OF NOW, THIS BATTLE IS ENDED.

(trailing CRY)

FILTHY CREATURE.

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BATMAN

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(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

103 BATMAN: I'VE BEEN CALLED WORSE.
104 WHAT HAPPENED TO,
105 MY MASK. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH
IT?

106 TALIA: EASIER TO CLEAN YOUR WOUNDS THIS
WAY.

107 BATMAN: THEN YOU KNOW. YOU KNOW THAT I'M --
(breaks off)

108 TALIA: HUSH. WHO KNOWS WHAT OTHER EARS MAY
BE LISTENING?

109 BATMAN: (thru pained GASPS) JUST WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

110 TALIA: MY NAME IS TALIA. AND I, TOO, HAVE
BUSINESS WITH THE SOCIETY OF
SHADOWS.

111 BATMAN: WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?

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(20 Min.)

BATMAN

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"OFF-BALANCE"

112 TALIA: PERSONAL BUSINESS.
113 SUCH AS I IMAGINE YOURS MUST BE.

115 BATMAN: POINT TAKEN.
115 IT'S A SIMPLE ENOUGH LOCK. I CAN
GET IT OPEN WITH -- (breaks off)
116 MY BELT!

117 TALIA: HOW UNFORTUNATE.

118 BATMAN: I APPRECIATE THE SYMPATHY, BUT WHAT
WE NEED RIGHT NOW IS A LOCK-PICK.

119 TALIA: I KNOW.
120 WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM, DON'T YOU
THINK?
121 NOW COME. QUICKLY. THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT EVIL VERTIGO MAY DO
WITH YOUR SONIC DEVICE.

122 BATMAN: SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE A HISTORY.

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BATMAN

15

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

123 TALIA: YES. THE MAN ONCE WORKED FOR MY
FATHER,
124 UNTIL FATHER AT LAST CAME TO
RECOGNIZE THE BLACKNESS IN HIS SOUL.

125 SHADOW AGENTS: (impact GRUNTS)


126 TALIA: WHEN HE LEARNED OF VERTIGO'S
INTENTIONS, MY FATHER SENT ME AS HIS
EMISSARY,
127 TO KEEP THE DEVICE OUT OF VERTIGO'S
HANDS.

128 BATMAN: HOW KIND OF HIM.
129 WHY SHOULD YOUR FATHER EVEN CARE?

130 TALIA: BECAUSE HE IS ONE WHO IS INVOLVED
WITH ALL ~~HUMAN~~ ^{HUMAN} MANKIND.

131 BATMAN: NOW WHAT? FLIP A COIN?

132 TALIA: THIS WAY. IT LEADS TO THE LAB.



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BATMAN

16

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

133 BATMAN:

"LAB"? WHAT LAB?

134 TALIA:

UNLOCKED. HOW CONVENIENT.

135

YOU DO, OF COURSE, REALIZE THAT THIS
IS A TRAP?

136 BATMAN:

NATURALLY. BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO
WE HAVE?

137 VERTIGO:

Guyp
WELCOME, FRIENDS. YOU'RE QUITE
RIGHT, I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
(LAUGHTER)

*Lead
N.Y.*

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BATMAN

17

(20 Min.)


"OFF-BALANCE"

ACT III

138 BATMAN: YOUR LITTLE DIZZIFYING TRICK WON'T
STOP US, VERTIGO.

139 VERTIGO: MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. YOU SEE, YOU'LL
HAVE TO GET ACROSS THIS ROOM ALIVE.
AND THAT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT,
140 CONSIDERING THIS ENTIRE LABORATORY
HAS BEEN RIGGED TO DESTROY YOU.
141 OH, AND IN CASE YOU THINK THAT ONCE
I GO, MY DISORIENTING EFFECT WILL GO
WITH ME, THINK AGAIN.
142 I'VE PLANTED DUPLICATE VERTIGO
143 DEVICES THROUGHOUT THE ROOM, TO
MAINTAIN THE EFFECT ONCE I'VE
DEPARTED.
144 GOOD-BYE, AND GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL
NEED IT.

145 BATMAN: YOU OKAY?



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(20 Min.)

BATMAN

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"OFF-BALANCE"

146 TALIA:

MY CONTACT LENSES -- I LOST THEM
WHEN WE FELL. THEY COUNTER THE
DISTORTION EFFECT. WITHOUT THEM,
I'M AS HELPLESS AS YOU.

147 BATMAN:

I DON'T DO "HELPLESS".

148

C'MON, TAKE IT. I CAN GET US
THROUGH THIS.

149 TALIA:

~~HOW?~~

150 BATMAN:

I TRUSTED YOU. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

151

STOP!

152

WAIT!

153 TALIA:

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

154 BATMAN:

DOWN!

155

CLEAR.

156 TALIA:

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

406-550

(20 Min.)

BATMAN

19

"OFF-BALANCE"

157 BATMAN: SIMPLE. I JUST KEPT MY EYES CLOSED.

158 TALIA: YOU WHAT?

159 BATMAN: THE ONLY WAY TO NEUTRALIZE THE
VERTIGO EFFECT,
160 WAS TO RELY ON MY OTHER SENSES TO
SEE US THROUGH.

161 TALIA: ALRIGHT. I AM IMPRESSED.
162 NOW WHERE TO?

163 BATMAN: UP.
164 GOING SOMEWHERE, VERTIGO?

165 VERTIGO: NO. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

166 BATMAN: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

167 VERTIGO: THEN I WILL FINISH YOU BOTH MYSELF.

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BATMAN

20

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

168 TALIA:

CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

169

ONLY ONE THING TO DO.

Love

170 BATMAN:

NO!

171 VERTIGO:

(HOWL of pain)

172 BATMAN:

(GRUNT of exertion)

173 VERTIGO:

(trailing CRY)

174 BATMAN:

WITHOUT VERTIGO TO LEAD THEM, HIS
AGENTS HAVE ALL FLED?

175 TALIA:

YES. THE SOCIETY OF SHADOWS IS NO
LONGER WHAT IT WAS.

176 BATMAN:

WELL. I'VE GOT TO GET THIS BACK TO
GOTHAM CITY -- (breaks off)

177 TALIA:

WAIT. I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE LIKE
THIS. (CONT.)

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BATMAN

21

(20 Min.)

"OFF-BALANCE"

178 TALIA(CONT.):

NOT WITH THE DRILL.

179 BATMAN:

I THOUGHT I FINALLY KNEW WHICH SIDE
YOU WERE ON [WHEN YOU SAVE MY LIFE]

180

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER,

181

CONSIDERING THAT YOU KNEW WHERE
EVERYTHING WAS IN THE MONASTERY.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE?

182

UNLESS YOU WERE ONE OF THEM?

183 TALIA:

I AM TRULY SORRY, BATMAN. IT COULD
HAVE BEEN, SWEET.

184 BATMAN:

THIS IS NOT OVER.

185 TALIA:

VERTIGO HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, FATHER.

186 RA'S:

SMALL WONDER YOU SEEM SO PLEASED.
THEN YOUR MISSION?

187 TALIA:

A COMPLETE SUCCESS. I SECURED THIS,
JUST AS YOU ASKED.