

HARLEY QUINN

"Harley Quinn vs Superman"

Written by

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Writer's note:

This story was written between seasons 2 and 3 of Harley Quinn, before details of season 3 were known. The story presumes that, as in some comics, Harley Quinn works to reform herself and become a hero. It is set after her decision to do so.

The story is based on the comic *Harley's Little Black Book #5* (2016) by Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti, which in turn was based on the comic *Superman vs. Muhammad Ali* (1978) by Dennis O'Neil and Neal Adams.

COLD OPEN

EXT. METROPOLIS - OUTSIDE METRO BANK - EVENING

All is peaceful in the city until -- BLAM! An explosion blows out windows from inside the bank. CITIZENS scream and run.

INT. METROPOLIS - METRO BANK - EVENING

The Royal Flush Gang, composed of KING, QUEEN, JACK, and ACE, walk out of the broken vault. They each carry sacks of money. EMPLOYEES run in terror.

KING

Ha-ha-ha-ha! Looks like the Royal  
Flush Gang is going to take the  
pot!

HARLEY QUINN (O.S.)

Not so fast, evildoers!

We see HARLEY QUINN dramatically posing with KING SHARK and CLAYFACE. POISON IVY stands behind them, nonchalantly filming the scene on her phone.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)

I'll see your robbery, and raise  
you one ass-kicking from Harley  
Quinn!

A beat.

JACK

Who?

POV: IVY'S CAMERA

HARLEY QUINN

(to Ivy)  
Ive, you getting this?

POISON IVY (O.S.)

Yeah, honey. I'm getting it.

HARLEY QUINN

(to King)  
Now stand down, or face justice!

KING

Seriously, Joker's old girlfriend  
is a hero now?

HARLEY QUINN

I am defined by more than my past  
relationships, and yes! I'm a hero  
now! Everyone knows that!

ACE

I didn't.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)

Everybody freeze!

Several POLICE OFFICERS rush in, guns drawn. Ivy puts them in  
frame. The officer speaking talks to his radio.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Control, we need backup! The Royal  
Flush Gang is robbing the Metro  
Bank with Harley Quinn!

HARLEY QUINN

WHAT? I'm not *with* them, I'm here  
to *stop* them!

CLAYFACE

(sad, to King Shark)  
Nobody's even mentioned us.

KING SHARK

(to Clayface)  
It might be for the best.

HARLEY QUINN

(to police)  
What the hell makes you think I'm  
with the Royal Flush Gang?

POLICE OFFICER

Well, you do look kinda like 'em.

HARLEY QUINN

No I don't!

A beat. Harley looks at the gang's outfits (black, white,  
red, and card motif), and her own.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)

Whatever! I'm here to do good,  
okay? So just let me-

A window off camera bursts open, and zooming into frame comes SUPERMAN! He immediately grabs King and holds him up.

SUPERMAN  
Game's over, Royal Flush Gang!

KING  
Superman! Noooo!

Superman starts a big, crashing fight with the gang. The police cheer. Harley, dejected, walks toward the camera.

HARLEY QUINN  
Ugh, forget it! Stop filming.

END IVY'S CAMERA POV

We see Harley and Ivy from the front. The fight with Superman continues loudly behind us.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)  
I swear. We work our asses off to find the gang's next target, and mister super-perfect-man here just shows up and steals our chance! Probably used his awesome, psychic power to sense crime, or whatever. It's bullshit!

POISON IVY  
I -- I'm pretty sure that's not one of his powers, honey.

The fight comes to a stop. We see Superman standing over the beaten Royal Flush Gang.

HARLEY QUINN  
(faux sweetness)  
Heeeeey, Superman! Sure do appreciate you showing up to help fellow heroes save the day!

SUPERMAN  
(zero respect)  
Oh. Harley. Batman told me about this. Look, the Justice League appreciates that you're, uh, helping out, but next time, just leave it to the real heroes. Okay? Great.

Superman flies off. Harley builds up steam like a boiling kettle.

KING SHARK  
"Real" heroes?

CLAYFACE  
Ooooo--

HARLEY QUINN  
GgrrrrrrRRARAAAAAA!!!!!!

END COLD OPEN

ACT I

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - NIGHT

Harley and the crew walk down the sidewalk. King Shark checks his phone. CITIZENS walk and shop in peace. One of the buildings nearby is a boxing gym.

HARLEY QUINN

Hey, universe! We need someone to ruin Harley's chance to prove she's a hero now. This looks like a job for -- Superman!

KING SHARK

Mmm, yeah, all the posts are about Superman taking down the Royal Flush Gang. No mention of us.

HARLEY QUINN

It's such bullshit! He's got all the superpowers; the perfect, goody-goody image; it's easy for him! Some of us normal people have to actually work for people's love!

As she walks backward to talk with Ivy, Harley bumps into a RANDOM PEDESTRIAN. She spins around.

HARLEY

(to Random Pedestrian)  
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!

The Pedestrian flees in horror.

POISON IVY

Just going to skip over the part where you called yourself "normal". Honey, you can't let one setback get to you. People will come around; just be patient.

CLAYFACE

That's right, Harley! You've got the star power, all you need to do is be ready for the opportunity to shine!

HARLEY QUINN

Right. Like a chance to show I'm a hero is just going to fall out of the sky!

Behind Harley, we see:

AN ALIEN SPACESHIP

The ship descends, and lands with a crash in the middle of the boulevard. People and traffic come to a stop. A ramp extends, and out steps the SCRUBB EMPEROR, his giant, savage-looking champion HUN'KA, and several SCRUBB SOLDIERS.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Earthlings! I am the Emperor of the mighty Scrubb Empire! Your primitive, pitiful planet stands no chance against us! Cower in fear at the feat of your new master!

A beat. The civilians just watch, uncertain.

The emperor looks to the soldiers, and clears his throat loudly. Taking the cue, they fire their sci-fi weapons randomly at the environment.

Instant mood change. People scream, run, and cower.

HARLEY QUINN

Oh, crap!

Harley and the gang duck behind a car. The firing stops.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Better. Now, by ancient Scrubb law, you will have one chance to avoid your conquest. Earth may select a warrior, a hero, to represent it in single combat with our champion, the mighty Hun'ka!

HUN'KA

Hun'ka!

SCRUBB EMPEROR

If yours is victorious, your world will remain free! Who will you send to challenge us? Who will stand for you?

Harley looks around. The civilians continue to cower. On King Shark's phone and several TV screens in shop windows, we see the Scrubb invasion live.

SCRUBB EMPEROR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Will no one in this world oppose us?

Harley grins, and stands up.

We see the emperor continuing his taunts.

SCRUBB EMPEROR (CONT'D)  
Is the Earth too cowardly to send a  
champion?

HARLEY QUINN (O.S.)  
Hey, scrubby!

Harley stands in front of the ship.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)  
You don't get to just come down  
here and insult Earth! If you want  
a fight, then I, Harley Quinn, will  
give it to you!

Ivy and the gang watch helplessly.

POISON IVY  
What the hell is she doing!?

CLAYFACE  
Good show!

The emperor lifts his hand. On his wrist is a hologram projector that creates screens for him. It scans Harley's face and speech to rapidly search earth's databases, then displays videos and analysis of her.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
(slightly interested)  
Harley -- Quinn? You are Earth's  
champion?

HARLEY QUINN  
That's right! And I'm telling you  
to-

Superman suddenly swoops down in front of her, facing the Scrubb dramatically. Cue the awesome music.

SUPERMAN  
Leave this planet!

The civilians cheer.

HARLEY QUINN  
Oh, damn it!

Superman gives her a cold look.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)  
 (faux sweetness)  
 I mean -- yay! Superman is here to  
 save us!

The emperor's holograms show him information on Superman.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
 Super -- Man. Then you represent  
 the Earth?

SUPERMAN  
 That's right, and you're not  
 welcome.

Superman walks toward the emperor. The Scrubb soldiers point their weapons at him, but his heat ray vision melts the guns. Superman grabs the emperor by the collar and lifts him up.

HUN'KA  
 Hun'ka!

Hun'ka starts coming at Superman, but the emperor raises his hand.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
 Hold! You cannot force us off your  
 world, "Super-man". Behold!

The emperor points up. We see:

THE NIGHT SKY

Amongst the stars, dozens of red points of light start glowing, and get brighter.

SCRUBB EMPEROR (CONT'D)  
 The Scrubb armada!

BATMAN (O.S., VIA RADIO)  
 Superman, we've got a problem!

Superman touches his ear, where he wears his communicator.

SUPERMAN  
 Batman, what is it?

EXT. SPACE - THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER - SAME

We see the watchtower floating above Earth. All around it, massive Scrubb ships aim down at the planet. The red lights are giant guns charging up.

BATMAN (O.S.)  
Dozens of alien ships taking aim at  
Earth!

INT. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER - SAME

BATMAN and a bunch of other JUSTICE LEAGUERS watch screens  
analyzing the threat. MISTER TERRIFIC sits at the controls.

BATMAN  
They appear to be charging weapons!

MISTER TERRIFIC  
If these readings are right...

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - SAME

We see Superman up close. Then we:

PULL BACK

To see Harley pressing her ear against his, listening in. He  
tolerates her. Barely.

MISTER TERRIFIC (O.S. VIA RADIO)  
One volley from those guns could  
wipe out North America in an  
instant!

Harley yells into Superman's ear.

HARLEY QUINN  
Well, can't you just blow 'em all  
up super fast, or something!?

SUPERMAN  
There's too many of them, Harley.  
Even for the Justice League.

He nudges her away, and puts down the emperor.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
Good; you see the futility of  
resisting us! Now, the rite of  
challenge shall commence! Only one  
of you can be Earth's champion; who  
shall it be?

SUPERMAN  
Me. I mean, obviously.

HARLEY QUINN

Wha-, hey! What do you mean  
"obviously"?

SUPERMAN

Quinn, I have superpowers! I'm-

HARLEY QUINN

Faster than a speeding bullet, and  
capable of leaping tall buildings,  
and erasing memory with kisses, and  
turning things to gold --

SUPERMAN

That's -- not all of that is real.

HARLEY QUINN

And everyone loves you for it, but  
you know what? Without your awesome  
powers, you'd be nothing!

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Well of course he won't have his  
powers!

HARLEY QUINN & SUPERMAN

Huh?

SCRUBB EMPEROR

We are not some backwater galactic  
empire; we know what a Kryptonian  
is! The challenge is fought fairly;  
no outside advantages such as an  
alien sun. You would be de-powered  
before the fight.

Superman: stunned. Harley: elated.

HARLEY QUINN

Oh, ho-ho-ho! Then I am DEFINITELY  
the better champion!

SUPERMAN

Harley, no! You are not the better  
choice!

HARLEY QUINN

Please! You, de-powered?

Harley catches sight of the boxing gym, and points to it.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)

Five minutes in a boxing ring, and  
I'd knock you flat!

The Scrubb emperor's device picks up on the conversation, and starts showing him information on boxing. We stay focussed on him and his screens while Harley and Superman continue to argue.

SUPERMAN

This isn't some exposition match,  
Harley, this is serious!

HARLEY QUINN

You'd be in for a serious ass  
kicking! Or -- punching!

The emperor sees videos of Earth boxing matches with cheering crowds. Unseen by others, he grins. He keeps his joy to himself as he interrupts their bickering.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Enough! These warriors shall battle  
in the form of their Earth sport,  
"boxing", as they have requested!

HARLEY QUINN

Wha-? No-no-no, that was just  
something I-

SCRUBB EMPEROR

The winner shall be champion, and  
face Hun'ka for Earth's freedom!

SUPERMAN

Wait! Can't we pick someone else?  
Or-

SCRUBB EMPEROR

You have had enough time to make  
your decision! There shall be no  
further delays!

HARLEY QUINN

You've been here like two minutes!

The emperor turns, and walks back into the ship with the other aliens.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Prepare yourselves, Earthlings! For  
tomorrow at this time, the one who  
holds your planet's fate in their  
hands shall be decided!

The ship closes up, and zooms back into space.

Harley and Superman stare skyward, and then at each other.

Ivy and the rest stand equally speechless.

A beat.

POISON IVY  
What the fuck just happened?

END ACT I

ACT II

EXT. THE ABANDONED MALL - MORNING

The sun rises over the Harley Quinn gang's base.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
Wild things going on today, people!

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

TAWNY addresses the audience.

TAWNY YOUNG  
Aliens showed up, emperor saying  
we're gonna have a duel or get  
conquered, and before that,  
Superman and supposedly "ex"  
villain Harley Quinn are gonna box  
for the chance!

INT. THE ABANDONED MALL - SAME

Ivy and King Shark sit on the couch, watching Tawny. Harley stands separately, happily putting on boxing gloves.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
The world is abuzz with speculation  
on who's gonna win, and we'll keep  
you up to date right here!

Ivy turns off the TV.

POISON IVY  
I honestly thought I had seen the  
upper limit on how crazy our lives  
could get, but -- THIS. Harley,  
what were you thinking?

HARLEY QUINN  
There wasn't time to think! All-  
mighty Emperor ADHD just showed up  
and started declaring stuff! But  
hey: I stepped up in an emergency  
and did the right thing. That's  
what heroes do!

KING SHARK  
Well, you've definitely got  
visibility now.  
(MORE)

KING SHARK (CONT'D)

The whole world's talking about the fight, though they mostly seem to think you shouldn't be in it.

Clayface stands in front of Harley.

HARLEY QUINN

Hmph! We'll show them!

(to Clayface)

Okay, sparring practice! You ready?

Clayface morphs into multiple famous boxers.

CLAYFACE

Just give me a moment; I want to pick the perfect pugilistic opponent for you!

HARLEY QUINN

Ugh. Just pick one already!

KING SHARK

Superman having to box someone without his powers -- I'm pretty sure that's been done. This whole thing just feels like appropriation to me.

Clayface morphs into Muhammad Ali.

CLAYFACE

Ah ha! Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!

KING SHARK

So -- what color are you? Originally?

CLAYFACE

Hm. Well, I think I find that offensive.

KING SHARK

I think I find THIS offensive!

POISON IVY

Oh my god. Harley! This fight is totally insane! I mean, how well can you even box?

Clayface comes at Harley, and she rapidly knocks him on his back. He over-acts his defeat.

CLAYFACE

Oh, Adrian!

HARLEY QUINN

(to Ivy)

Couple of semesters on my college team, and you know I'm a knockout!

POISON IVY

When you can fight dirty and agile, yeah. But boxing is a highly-regulated pummeling, and Superman has like a hundred pounds on you! And that "Hun'ka!" guy has like three hundred!

Harley expertly knocks down Clayface again.

POISON IVY (CONT'D)

(sigh)

Look, honey, what's really going on here? This is a fight for the fate of the whole planet, and it feels like all you want is a chance to punch Superman on camera.

HARLEY QUINN

(defensive, angry)

What? No! I'm thinking of the greater good! Superman is a rotten choice in a no-powers fight, and I am perfectly capable of saving the world! And it's high time he and everyone else realize it!

POISON IVY

(angry)

What does it matter if they realize it!?

We hear a knock on the door.

EXT. THE ABANDONED MALL - SAME

Harley opens the door, surprised to find BATMAN outside.

HARLEY QUINN

Wow. Bats? Since when do you knock?  
I-

Harley stares past Batman, as we:

PULL BACK

And see a giant, futuristic space shuttle parked behind him. This is a Justice League javelin.

BATMAN  
We need to talk, Quinn.

EXT. SPACE - A MINUTE LATER

The javelin flies up from earth toward the Watchtower.

INT. JAVELIN - SAME

Harley and the gang sit. Batman pilots.

POISON IVY  
So, maybe not a hero yet, but you finally get to visit the watchtower, right?

HARLEY QUINN  
Meh. Been once before. Joker and I were trying to blow it up.

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - A MINUTE LATER

Harley Quinn and her crew walk with Batman through halls of the Justice League headquarters. They arrive at the big screen and control console. Several heroes, including Superman and Mister Terrific, wait for them.

BATMAN  
Our green lanterns are currently off world, so we don't have any intel on this "Scrubb Empire". We can't know if they'll honor the terms of their duel.

Mister Terrific sits at the console. He brings up images and readings of the Scrubb armada. The fleet is gathered around a single, larger ship. Lines like radio waves flow from it to the others.

MISTER TERRIFIC  
What we do know is that the ship that emperor went back to is controlling the rest of the fleet. If we can infiltrate it, we might be able to shut it all down.

BATMAN

The Scrubb have sent us instructions for the fight. The two of you will be taken aboard the mother ship. Myself and Ivy will be allowed to act as seconds. Our plan is for the Atom to switch in as my double while I search the ship.

THE ATOM, a superhero with shrinking powers, grows from a spec to regular size beside Batman. Atom wears a not-so-perfect Batman suit, and does a not-so-perfect impression.

ATOM

(as Batman)

I'm Batman!

A beat.

BATMAN

We'll work on it.

CLAYFACE

Ooh! Batman! Take me with you! I could impersonate any alien you encounter!

Clayface transforms into a Scrubb soldier.

BATMAN

Can you stay quiet?

CLAYFACE

(loud)

Performing non-verbally is a subtle and ancient art! I-

POISON IVY

I'll help Batman. Clayface can be my double.

CLAYFACE

(sad)

Aw --

SUPERMAN

(to Harley)

The goal for us should be to keep the fight going as long as possible, and give the infiltrators time to sabotage the armada.

HARLEY QUINN

Well, no promises! What if I K.O.  
you in the first round?  
(laugh)

A beat. Nobody is amused.

SUPERMAN

(sigh)  
Listen, Harley. You've said you're  
turning over a new leaf, and we all  
really appreciate how hard you're  
trying --

HARLEY QUINN

(offended)  
Ohhhh, I'm "trying".

Ivy's hope for Harley peaceably cooperating fades.

POISON IVY

Oh, no.

SUPERMAN

But if you really want to defend  
the Earth, then for the greater  
good, we'd like -- that is, we  
believe it's best -- if --

BATMAN

We need you to throw the fight.

HARLEY QUINN

WHAT!?

KING SHARK

Hey, now!

CLAYFACE

The plot thickens!

Ivy doesn't react out loud, but she's sadly not surprised.

HARLEY QUINN

You want to rig the match? What  
kind of plan is that from the  
"Justice League"?

BATMAN

If all else fails, our goal should  
be to put the best fighter in the  
final.

HARLEY QUINN

Well, you're clearly not sure who that is, seeing as your "best" fighter needs me to take a dive!

BATMAN

Mmmmm.

Behind Superman, through the windows, we see the Scrubb ships pointing down at Earth.

SUPERMAN

Harley, this is about more than who can throw a better punch! This is the fate of the world, and we need a hero who's willing to lay it all down to win. You're just a --

A beat.

HARLEY QUINN

I'm just a what? Say it, boy scout.

SUPERMAN

An ex-villain using the title "hero" for publicity. The only reason you stepped up is because you knew the whole world was watching.

A long, tense silence. Harley's glare could kill. Everyone dreads her reaction, but Ivy is also angry with Superman. Harley steps right up and gets in his face.

HARLEY QUINN

Well tonight, while the whole world is watching, you are going DOWN!

EXT. SPACE - SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - SAME

The mothership and its fleet hang ominously over Earth.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

The room is dark and forboding. Several Scrubb soldiers stand guard. Hun'ka tries awkwardly to put on giant boxing gloves.

HUNK'KA

Hun'ka --

A SCRUBB ANALYST steps in. He walks over to:

## THE EMPEROR'S THRONE

Where the Scrubb Emperor sits, watching information on large holographic screens. We can't make out what's being displayed.

EMPEROR  
(to Analyst)  
How are they reacting?

SCRUBB ANALYST  
With great interest. Reports indicate that the planet, and the whole galaxy, is looking forward to seeing the Earthlings fight.

The emperor grins again.

EMPEROR  
Then this is going even better than we planned.

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - EVENING

The alien ship sits where it landed before. Police barricades keep citizens and REPORTERS back. People eagerly get video and pictures. Many crowd members express distaste for Harley with jeers and nasty signs. Harley, Ivy, Superman and Batman walk up the ramp onto the ship, guided by Scrubb soldiers. Harley and Superman sport their normal outfits with the addition of boxing gloves, and Harley wears trunks. Ivy wears a large, ugly raincoat, and carries a seed bag.

Tawny and her guest talk over the action throughout the rest of the episode.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)

The day is here, people. Harley Quinn versus Superman! We're told the aliens will send us video soon. With me, for our own commentary, is legendary boxer and hero Ted Grant, AKA Wildcat.

WILDCAT (O.S.)

Great to be here, Tawny.

The ramp retracts, doors close, and they're off.

INT. SCRUBB LANDING SHIP - SAME

Everyone stands quietly. The Scrubb Analyst is present.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)

So Ted, what do you think of this match up?

WILDCAT (O.S.)

Eh, even with this whole, "de-powered" thing --

The Scrubb analyst presses a button, and the lights turn red. Superman groans, adjusting to powerlessness. Harley sneers.

EXT. SPACE - THE SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - SAME

The landing ship approaches the vastly larger mothership.

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
 We're still talking about a scrawny  
 clown girl versus, you know,  
*Superman.*

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - HALLWAY - SAME

Two Scrubb soldiers escort them down the hall, walking beside Harley and Superman. Batman and Ivy walk behind them.

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
 I think I know who'll be defending  
 Earth, and I'm happy with that.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
 Well, one way or another, this is  
 exciting, folks! Easily in the top  
 five battles that determined  
 Earth's fate this year!

As they approach a split in the hall, Batman nods slightly to Ivy. She nods back, and they fall back a bit. Batman opens a pouch on his belt, releasing Atom. Atom grows to full size in his perfected Batman suit as the real Batman dashes into the other hallway. At the same time, Ivy throws off her coat, and dashes after Batman. The coat, actually Clayface, transforms into Ivy. The switch takes just a second; the Scrubb notice nothing.

BACK IN THE OTHER HALLWAY

Batman and Ivy hide behind a column. Batman takes out a scanner. Ivy reaches into her bag, and takes out a pod that grows into a vine wrapped around her arm.

BATMAN  
 Scans indicate all functions of the  
 ship are being controlled from one  
 room.

POISON IVY  
 Go figure. Even alien super  
 villains like to make it that easy.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

The arena is massive and empty. Harley and Superman are guided to stand facing each other ten feet apart. The Scrubb leave. The emperor speaks from behind the glass of an observation room above.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
 Now you will battle in the  
 tradition of your planet --

The floor under Harley and Superman lights up, and rises. A holographic, tangible boxing ring manifests around them.

HARLEY  
 Woah!

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
 Witnessed live by your entire world  
 --

Holographic jumbotrons appear above them, showing the ring.

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - SAME

The screens in shop windows show the fight. Citizens also watch on their phones.

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

Tawny sits behind a table next to WILDCAT. The fight appears on a screen behind them.

TAWNY YOUNG  
 There it is! We're live, people!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

The emperor's voice builds from his usual formal tone to that of a sports announcer.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
 As well as thousands of holo-  
 spectators from ACROSS THE GALAXY!

The room suddenly fills with a projected ALIEN CROWD, filled with all sorts of creatures. It's a packed arena now, and they roar with excitement.

The earthlings look around at the wild audience.

INT. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER - SAME

A bunch of heroes and King Shark watch the fight.

KING SHARK

Well, the tone of this changed quickly.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Welcome, beings of all species and genders, to this epic fight! In the blue corner, weighing in at 292 garzaks, Superman!

The audience cheers. Superman doesn't react.

SCRUBB EMPEROR (CONT'D)

And in the red corner, weighing in at 156 garzaks, Harley Quinn!

The audience cheers again. Harley feeds off their energy.

HARLEY QUINN

YEAH! I LOVE YOU ALL, WHATEVER-YOU-ARES!

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Now, the battle for Earth's champion -- begins!

The glass on the emperor's observation booth turns opaque, hiding him. A goofy looking ROBOT REFEREE hovers down from the ceiling, and addresses Harley and Superman.

ROBOT REFEREE

Fighters, to your corners!

Harley and Superman stand ready. The Referee uses one of its arms to bang a bell attached to its head. DING!

ROBOT REFEREE (CONT'D)

Fight!

Superman steps out from his corner slowly. Harley comes out fast and swinging. She throws lots of punches while he blocks. He tries a few quick jabs, but she easily dodges and keeps attacking.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)

Woo! Harley's on the offensive right away!

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
She's got great energy. We'll see  
if she can keep it up.

FADE TO:

TWO MINUTES LATER

Harley and Superman continue as they were.

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
First round's coming to an end.  
Superman looks like he's just  
trying to wait her out.

HARLEY QUINN  
What's wrong, Supes? You not gonna  
put up a real fight?

SUPERMAN  
I don't want to hurt you, Quinn!

Harley pauses, dropping the aggression.

HARLEY QUINN  
Superman, that's --

Superman, hopeful, lowers his guard. POW! Harley hits him in  
the face. He staggers backward.

HARLEY  
-- Too damn bad, because I WANT TO  
HURT YOU!

Harley rushes forward and punches wildly. Superman is backed  
into a corner, and can't do anything but block. Plenty of  
Harley's punches get past his defense. The audience goes  
wild.

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
OH! Not good! Superman's trapped in  
the corner!

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
Harley's turned the man of steel  
into a super punching bag!

DING! DING! DING! Round one is over. Harley stops. She leans  
in close to Superman before going to her corner.

HARLEY QUINN  
Saved by the bell, boy scout!

Superman has taken a real beating, complete with a bruised face. He sits in his corner for a much-needed break. Harley sits casually with a grin on her face.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - HALLWAY - SAME

SCRUBB SOLDIER 1 and 2 walk down the hall.

SCRUBB SOLDIER 1  
So, which earthling do you think  
will win?

SCRUBB SOLDIER 2  
It doesn't matter. Just as long as-

Batman and Ivy come out of nowhere and take the soldiers down in a flash. Ivy's vine on her arm serves as a weapon.

Batman checks his scanner again, and points down a hall. They move on.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Harley rises in her corner as Clayface takes away her seat.

CLAYFACE  
(as Ivy)  
You've got this, my love! Give him  
what-for!

DING!

ROBOT REFEREE  
Fight!

Superman steps out with a determined look, and throws the first punch. He's more serious now.

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
Seems Superman has finally realized  
he needs to do more than just  
defend.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
Harley still seems confident,  
though.

Harley, grin still on her face, tries to wind up for a big swing -- and BAM gets hit in the face by Superman. In slow motion, her face squishes, she spins around, and her body makes a THUD as she hits the mat. A roar from the audience.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
OH! A little too confident!

WILDCAT (O.S.)  
Strong hit from the man of steel.  
Let's see if she can get up before  
the ten count.

The Robot Referee hovers over Harley, counting.

ROBOT REFEREE  
One! Two! Three! Four!

Harley gets to her feet. Rage fuels her now. Superman remains serious.

ROBOT REFEREE (CONT'D)  
Fight!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

The Scrubb Emperor sits at his throne, watching the fight with Hun'ka, the Analyst, and more soldiers. The emperor's screens are still out of our sight. He looks at them with joy.

SCRUBB EMPEROR  
Just look at this reaction!  
(evil laugh)  
And it isn't even the main event  
yet.

HUN'KA  
Hun'ka.

DING! DING! DING!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Round 2 is over. Harley sits in her corner, bruised but determined. Superman sits stoically.

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
Sweet, super slugfest! These  
fighters are not pulling any  
punches!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Past the emperor and his coterie, we see the door to the control room slide open.

FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM

We see two unconscious Scrubb soldiers, Ivy, and Batman. The earthlings peak around the door. We see the emperor and the other Scrubb, but they obscure the emperor's screens. Batman and Ivy prepare their weapons --

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
But it looks like the match is  
still heating up, people! This next  
round is going to be intense!

DING!

BEGIN MONTAGE

We jump back and forth between the arena, and the control room.

Harley Quinn runs out of her corner in a rage.

The Scrubb see Batman's smoke grenades just in time to get blinded. As the emperor stands in shock, his screens turn off.

Harley falls onto the ropes, barely holding on. She manages to recover and goes back on the attack.

Hun'ka gets a sucker plant stuck to his face and struggles to pull it off as Batman takes out soldiers.

Superman takes hard hits to the gut and face.

Ivy takes out soldiers as Batman ropes up the emperor.

Harley falls to the mat.

In an awesome plant/bat combo move, Ivy and Batman knock out Hun'ka.

END MONTAGE

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Harley struggles to get on her feet as the referee counts.

ROBOT REFEREE  
Six! Seven!

Harley stands.

ROBOT REFEREE (CONT'D)

Fight!

Both fighters are tired, but Harley looks much worse. An unseen ALIEN SPECTATOR starts a chant that grows until the whole audience is in it together.

ALIEN SPECTATOR

Su! Par! Maan! Su! Par! Maan!

ALIEN AUDIENCE

Su! Per! Man! SU! PER! MAN!

Harley looks around in dismay at the thousands of beings cheering her opponent. Superman just stands ready.

WILDCAT (O.S.)

Well, sounds like the galaxy has picked their favorite to win.

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

Comments from the internet scroll on the screen beside the fight.

TAWNY YOUNG

Mmmm -- from the comments on the stream, most people from Earth feel the same way.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

DING! DING! DING! The audience boos. Harley slumps, exhausted, and slowly heads back her corner.

WILDCAT (O.S.)

Ah, saved by the bell.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

The Scrubb sit, tied in a bundle classic Batman style.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Foolish earthlings, this changes nothing! Release us, or your world will pay dearly!

POISON IVY

Uh, yeah, no. Sorry.

BATMAN

Let's see if we can interface with  
the controls.

Batman heads to the emperor's throne.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

(suddenly nervous)

Uh, wait! No! Don't touch that!

Batman gets the screens to come up. As before, we can't see  
what's on them, but Batman and Ivy can. They're shocked.

POISON IVY

What the hell is this?

BATMAN

The Scrubb, the armada, all of it --

They look at each other.

POISON IVY

But, that means that the fight is --

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Harley sits in her corner, emotionally defeated.

ALIEN AUDIENCE

SU! PER! MAN! SU! PER! MAN!

END ACT III

ACT IV

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - EVENING

Harley sits in her corner. Clayface, still disguised as Ivy, rubs her shoulders. He's worried about her.

CLAYFACE

(as Ivy)

Uh, Harley, my love, my sweet, I'm a bit concerned. Perhaps it's time I --

Clayface sees the real Ivy running toward them past the holographic crowd.

CLAYFACE (CONT'D)

Uh -- switcharoo!

Clayface dives onto the floor and transforms into the ugly coat again. Ivy rushes into the ring, and kneels beside Harley.

POISON IVY

Harley!

HARLEY QUINN

Ive? They're cheering him. The whole fucking universe -- wait, why are you -- what's up with Bats?

POISON IVY

Harley, listen: I don't have time to explain. Superman was right: this isn't about an audience, or reputation.

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - SAME

Civilians watch the screens in the store and on their phones.

POISON IVY (O.S.)

It's about the world. A lot of people down there are in real danger...

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

Tawny comments silently. Wildcat shrugs uncaringly.

POISON IVY (O.S.)  
 And they don't need their *favorite*  
 fighter to win...

INT. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER - SAME

The heroes and King Shark watch the fight.

POISON IVY (O.S.)  
 They need the *best* fighter to win.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Ivy puts her hands on Harley's shoulders.

POISON IVY  
 They need the best hero.

Harley looks at Superman. Across the ring, we see him sitting, attended by Atom. Sweat falls down his face. His eyes don't focus quite right. He breathes heavily. Harley sees what we do: he's in bad shape too.

Harley's face goes from lost to determined. Ivy sees it and smiles.

ROBOT REFEREE  
 Seconds out!

POISON IVY  
 Love you.

Ivy leaves the ring. Harley stands with more will to fight than ever. DING!

ROBOT REFEREE  
 Fight!

The fighters circle each other.

HARLEY QUINN  
 You said I wasn't willing to lay it  
 all down for the world. That I  
 should let "real" heroes fight.

SUPERMAN  
 Harley --

Harley starts attacking. Superman backs up under the pressure.

HARLEY QUINN

Well, I'm ready to fight for the  
people I love! I'm ready to die for  
the people that need me!

A punch hits Superman in the nose. He staggers.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)

And I don't care if you ever call  
me a hero, I'm NOT BACKING DOWN!

Harley and Superman both swing with all they've got. Their  
arms cross, and each take the other's punch right in the  
face. In slow motion, they both recoil.

Harley stumbles back. Her knees shake, but she stays  
standing.

Superman staggers. He stands for a moment, then his eyes roll  
up, and he falls face first. SPLAT.

The audience is shocked. Superman doesn't move at all as the  
referee hovers over him.

ROBOT REFEREE

One! Two! Three!

Ringside, Ivy watches, eyes wide with hope. Clayface peaks  
over the edge.

INT. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER - SAME

King Shark and the league watch with bated breath.

ROBOT REFEREE (O.S.)

Four! Five!

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - SAME

Citizens stare at the screens in shock.

ROBOT REFEREE (O.S.)

Six! Seven!

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

Tawny gawks. Wildcat pulls his hair in disbelief.

ROBOT REFEREE (O.S.)

Eight! Nine!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

Superman hasn't moved.

ROBOT REFEREE  
Ten! Knockout!

The referee hovers over to Harley, and raises her hand.

ROBOT REFEREE (CONT'D)  
Winner!

The audience goes wild with surprise. Poison Ivy and Clayface jump for joy.

POISON IVY  
YES!

CLAYFACE  
GOOD SHOW, HARLEY!

HARLEY QUINN  
I -- I won? I WON! WHOOOOOO!

POISON IVY  
THAT'S MY WIFE!  
(laugh)

TAWNY YOUNG (O.S.)  
Unbelievable, folks! Harley Quinn has just knocked out Superman! That means she's gonna be the one to defend the planet!

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

We see Batman's hand by the control chair. He watches the ring down below through the one-way glass. As team Harley celebrates, he presses a button on the chair.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

BATMAN (O.S., VIA LOUDSPEAKER)  
This is Batman.

His face appears on the jumbotrons.

BATMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
The Earth has never been in any danger.

Everyone goes silent. A beat.

HARLEY QUINN

Huh?

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Batman speaks to the world as the defeated Scrubb sit by, unable to act.

BATMAN

The Scrubb Empire is a fiction. A cover for a group of alien fight streamers who use holograms to fool planets into thinking they're being conquered.

We see the emperor's screens for the first time. The interface looks like video and analytics from YouTube, with many videos of aliens fighting on various planets.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - EVENING

The footage from the emperor's screens is on the jumbotrons. The earthlings stare in disbelief, except for Ivy.

BATMAN (O.S.)

They then stage fights, and broadcast them as live entertainment across the galaxy.

Atom kneels beside Superman. Superman manages to turn his head, dazed but conscious.

SUPERMAN

Wha-?

EXT. METROPOLIS - BOULEVARD - SAME

People stare at their screens, and look up at the ominous red lights of the Scrubb armada.

BATMAN (O.S.)

The Scrubb armada and its weapons?  
All fake.

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

Like everyone else, Tawny and Wildcat stare. Only Batman's face is on the feed.

A beat.

TAWNY YOUNG

Say what now?

The Scrubb emperor manages to get into the shot behind Batman, addressing the audience.

SCRUBB EMPEROR

Uh, yes, and after a brief pause,  
we'll be back with more great  
content, fans!

BATMAN

Not likely. The Green Lantern Core  
will deal with you. And now, this  
charade is over.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Batman presses another button. The sound of machinery winding down is heard throughout the ship.

EXT. SPACE - THE SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - SAME

The fleet of ships shimmer and vanish as the projectors on the mothership shut down. The mothership itself also shimmers, and mostly vanishes, revealing a much smaller ship beneath the facade.

INT. SCRUBB MOTHERSHIP - ARENA - SAME

The alien audience members boo as their fun is cut short. They then disappear as the ships did.

The robot referee yells at the control room, but his voice dips as he shuts down.

ROBOT REFEREE

Interferaaaaannnce --

The ring sinks back into the floor, dematerializing. The robots falls with a clang to the now barren arena.

Poison Ivy rushes to Harley.

POISON IVY

Harley, you did it! You beat  
Superman!

HARLEY QUINN

But it -- I was -- Ive, you KNEW?

POISON IVY

Yeah, well, Bats and I found out the whole crazy situation wasn't real, but standing up to Superman, that was real for you. I wanted to give you the chance to see it through; to really prove yourself.

HARLEY QUINN

(shocked)

By letting us think we were in a battle for billions of lives while we bludgeoned each other senseless in a dangerously stressful situation, all so I could prove an egotistical point to Superman!? I've -- that is -- fucked up!

POISON IVY

(surprised, guilty)

Well -- I mean -- I-I didn't-

Harley throws her arms around Ivy and gives her a passionate kiss.

HARLEY QUINN

I love you so much!

POISON IVY

(laugh, relieved)

Harley --

Ivy tries to kiss Harley again, but the slightest touch to her bruised face causes Harley to recoil.

HARLEY QUINN

Ow! Ah! Everything hurts.

POISON IVY

Yeah. Okay. Let's uh -- let's get you out of here.

Ivy and Clayface help Harley walk out of the arena.

Batman walks up to Atom and Superman. Superman watches Harley go, his face pensive.

INT. THE TAWNY SHOW - SAME

It's super awkward on The Tawny Show.

TAWNY YOUNG

Well, uh, that's all we have for tonight, folks! One way or another it was real -- er, it was fun!

WILDCAT

Eh, I always knew it was fake.

Tawny gives him a look. She is not convinced.

EXT. ABANDONED MALL - DAWN

The sun rises in the background. The mall casts a shadow over the parking lot, where the Justice League javelin sets down. Team Harley walks out toward their base.

King Shark and Clayface walk ahead. King Shark checks his phone.

KING SHARK

Well, the fight got plenty of interest while it was going, but now everyone's just saying it was rigged. I got to admit, the whole situation still felt appropriated to me.

CLAYFACE

I think a little appropriation is fine, as long as you put your own spin on it!

Behind them, Harley and Ivy walk together. Harley is covered in bandages, and carries her gloves.

POISON IVY

Sorry, honey. I guess even after all that weird-ass, galactically-televised boxing shit, you're back where you started.

HARLEY QUINN

Yeah. I know the whole goal here was to prove I'm hero material regardless of who cares, but it still would have been a nice irony if someone actually did!

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

I know one does.

Harley and Ivy turn around. Superman walks up to them from the javelin. He's still bruised, and not bandaged.

HARLEY QUINN

Supes? What are you still doing here?

SUPERMAN

(sigh)

People sometimes treat other people's lives like -- well, a spectator sport. They watch for idle fun, or just presuming someone will fail; they don't give them a real chance to prove themselves. In a world full of people who don't take your struggles seriously, I'm sorry I was one of them.

Superman smiles, and offers his hand in respect.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Good fight, Quinn.

A beat. Harley shakes his hand, touched.

HARLEY QUINN

Thanks, Superman. That means a lot.

Superman nods, and walks away, not toward the shuttle or the mall.

HARLEY QUINN (CONT'D)

So, any chance I could get in to the Justice League?

SUPERMAN

(laugh)

We'll see, Harley.

Superman steps out of the mall's shadow. Powered by the light of Earth's sun, he floats up, arms out in full Christ-figure mode. We see his bruises fade. He's back at full power and full, awesome, handsome health.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

The world could always use more heroes!

He winks, and flies up, up, and away!

Harley and Ivy stare at the sky where he disappeared. A beat.

HARLEY QUINN

Oh, COME ON! Just how awesome does he get to be?

POISON IVY  
Seriously! I mean, sunlight just  
magically heals him?

HARLEY QUINN  
You're the plant-themed one! Why  
does HE get that!?

POISON IVY  
Right? It's bullshit!

HARLEY QUINN  
Total bullshit.

THE END