



VILLAINS 2

AUGUST 2015

BATMAN VILLAINS

IRL

By Jenni Villarreal

Gotham is overstuffed with scary, weird, bad people who do ridiculously atrocious things on a regular basis. Batman and the other good guys have a lot to handle. But we all have to handle people we'd really rather not deal with in our day-to-day lives. These "villains" aren't dousing anyone with fear gas or stealing jewels from a museum, but they're still making work, school and our social media feeds a worse place.

THE JOKER

Batman version: A literal killer clown who is not actually very funny, if we're being honest.

IRL version: The friend you followed on Twitter before realizing that their whole feed was littered with bad jokes -- at least, you think they're supposed to be jokes.

HUSH

Batman version: A childhood friend of Bruce Wayne's who grew up to be a giant, jealous jerkface who wanted to destroy Bruce for not also growing up to be a giant jerkface.

IRL version: Hush might actually be the worst IRL villain -- the hater. They are terrible. The light version just posts dumb, mean things on your Facebook page or talks junk behind your back. The heavy version will honestly try to hurt you in some way. The fact that the person

the hater hates most is themselves is cold comfort to their victims.

HARLEY QUINN

Batman version: A sweet but somewhat twisted soul who fell in love with the Joker (uh, gross) and took forever to shake her passion for him.

IRL version: We all have at least one friend who cannot stop picking the absolute worst people to date, and even when they find a good one, they fixate on the jerk who broke their heart. They usually don't put on clown makeup, though. Usually.

THE RIDDLER

Batman version: A super smart guy who likes to give Batman riddles that are clues to his crimes. That seems like a lot of extra work that only benefits Batman, which doesn't strike us as all that smart. His question-mark fashion is on-point, however.

IRL version: We all know someone who makes things harder for themselves (or us) than they need to be: the boss or teacher who gives you pointless busy work; the friend who wants to debate everything to death before finally going with the crowd; the parent who insists you do things their way, even though your way is faster, cheaper or easier.

POISON IVY

Batman version: An actually green person who loves plants and crusades for the environment almost to the exclusion of all else. She has a one-track mind.

IRL version: You probably have more than one Poison Ivy in your life: your cousin, who is consumed with sports and can't talk about or watch anything else; your roommate, who will only listen to one kind of music (or worse, only one band!),

or the friend who only wants to play video games. Like Poison Ivy, these people should probably branch out.

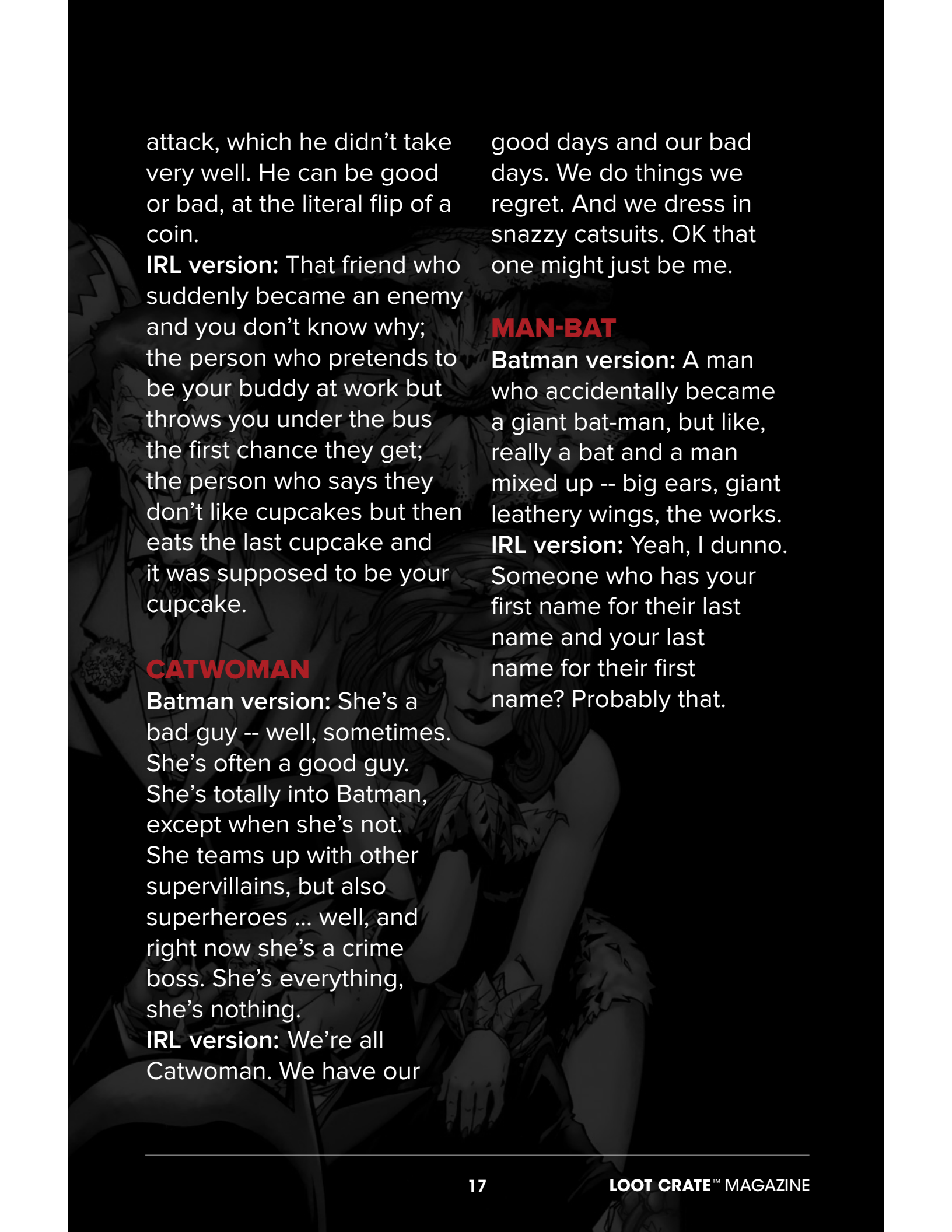
THE SCARECROW

Batman version: This dude uses a fear toxin to freak people out, and he dresses as a scarecrow ... which is odd, because people are not afraid of scarecrows for the most part.

IRL version: The person in your life -- could be your aunt, or an ex-boss -- who somehow finds out about every terrible thing that happens in the world and makes sure to post it on Facebook or Twitter or whatever. If they're not trying to freak people out then why in the world do they do it?

TWO-FACE

Batman version: A former DA who doesn't actually have two faces -- half of his face is scarred from an acid



attack, which he didn't take very well. He can be good or bad, at the literal flip of a coin.

IRL version: That friend who suddenly became an enemy and you don't know why; the person who pretends to be your buddy at work but throws you under the bus the first chance they get; the person who says they don't like cupcakes but then eats the last cupcake and it was supposed to be your cupcake.

CATWOMAN

Batman version: She's a bad guy -- well, sometimes. She's often a good guy. She's totally into Batman, except when she's not. She teams up with other supervillains, but also superheroes ... well, and right now she's a crime boss. She's everything, she's nothing.

IRL version: We're all Catwoman. We have our

good days and our bad days. We do things we regret. And we dress in snazzy catsuits. OK that one might just be me.

MAN-BAT

Batman version: A man who accidentally became a giant bat-man, but like, really a bat and a man mixed up -- big ears, giant leathery wings, the works.

IRL version: Yeah, I dunno. Someone who has your first name for their last name and your last name for their first name? Probably that.