



# BLACKEST NIGHT

3  
OF 3  
DEC '09

# BATMAN



In Loving memory  
of  
John and Mary  
Grayson  
"THE FLYING  
GRAYSONS"  
Loving  
Mother  
and  
Father

PETER J.  
TOMASI  
ARDIAN  
SYAF  
VICENTE  
CIFUENTES



Andy  
Dobson  
SINC





# BLACKEST NIGHT

3  
OF 3  
DEC '09

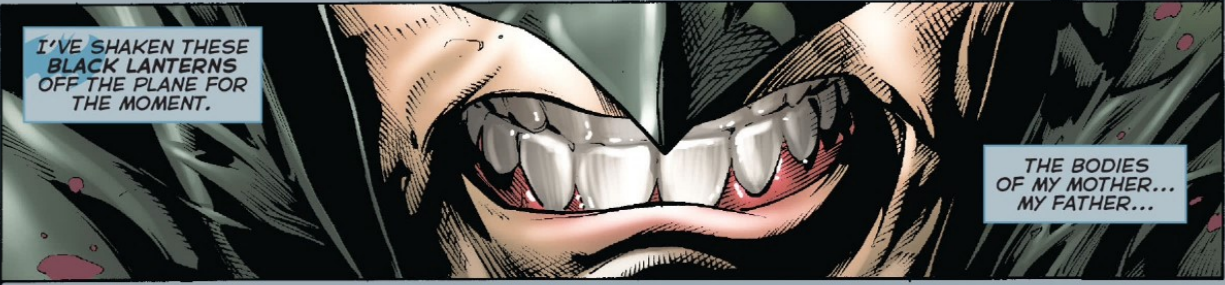
# BATMAN



PETER J.  
TOMASI  
ARDIAN  
SYAF  
VICENTE  
CIFUENTES







I'VE SHAKEN THESE BLACK LANTERNS OFF THE PLANE FOR THE MOMENT.

THE BODIES OF MY MOTHER... MY FATHER...



TIM'S PARENTS, TOO.

SOMEBODY'S USING THE DEAD AGAINST US.

THE DEAD WE KNOW.

THE DEAD WE LOVE.

THE DEAD WE HATE.



AND RIGHT NOW I NEED TIME TO FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE BECAUSE THESE... CREATURES SEEM DAMN NEAR UNSTOPPABLE.

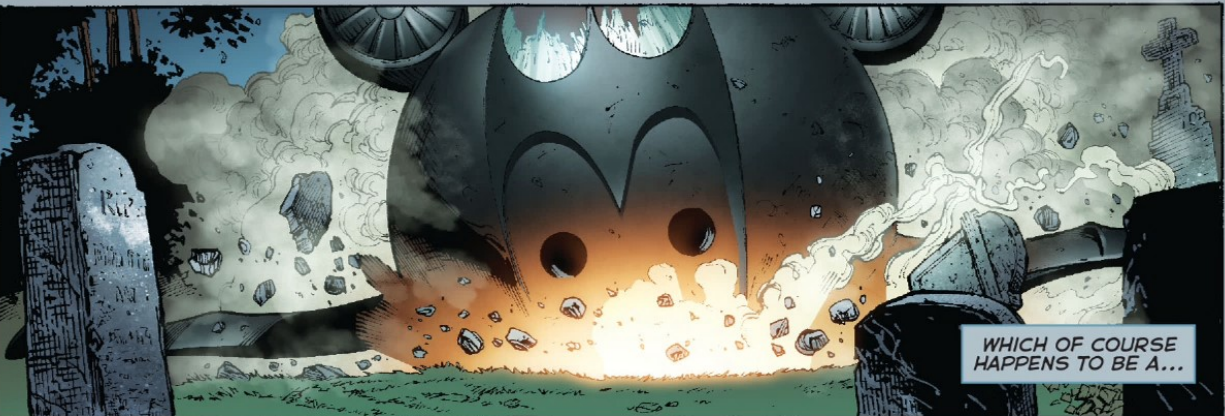
I'D LIKE A FEW MINUTES TO COME UP WITH A GAME PLAN, BUT WHO AM I KIDDING...



...RIGHT NOW I'LL SETTLE FOR A FEW SECONDS...



...WHILE I LAND THIS THING AT THE CLOSEST PLACE I KNOW WHERE NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS ARE THIS TIME OF NIGHT.



WHICH OF COURSE HAPPENS TO BE A...



...CIRCUS?



WELCOME  
ONE AND  
ALL...

...THE FLYING  
GRAYSONS  
ARE BACK IN  
TOWN!

# BLACKEST NIGHT

# BATMAN

## WHO BURNS WHO

CONCLUSION

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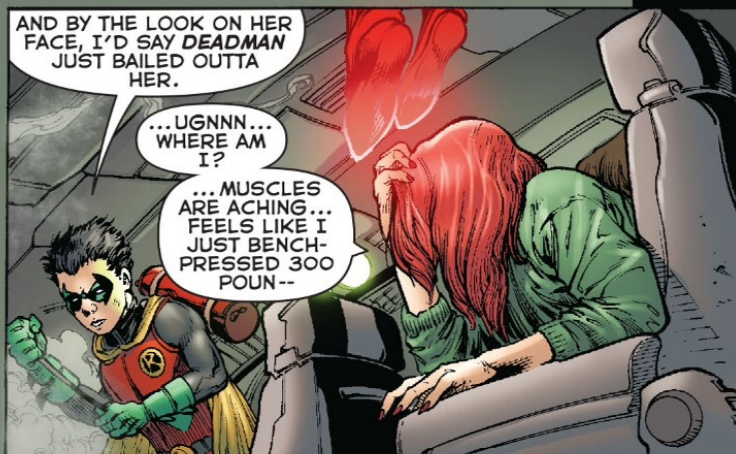


ROBIN. NO, THE OTHER ROBIN. DAMIAN, IS BARBARA AND GORDON OKAY?!?

YEAH.



YOUR OLD GIRLFRIEND AND HER POP ARE FINE--WE'RE ALL FINE, THANKS FOR ASKING.



AND BY THE LOOK ON HER FACE, I'D SAY DEADMAN JUST BAILED OUTTA HER.

... UGNNN... WHERE AM I?

... MUSCLES ARE ACHING... FEELS LIKE I JUST BENCH-PRESSED 300 POUN--

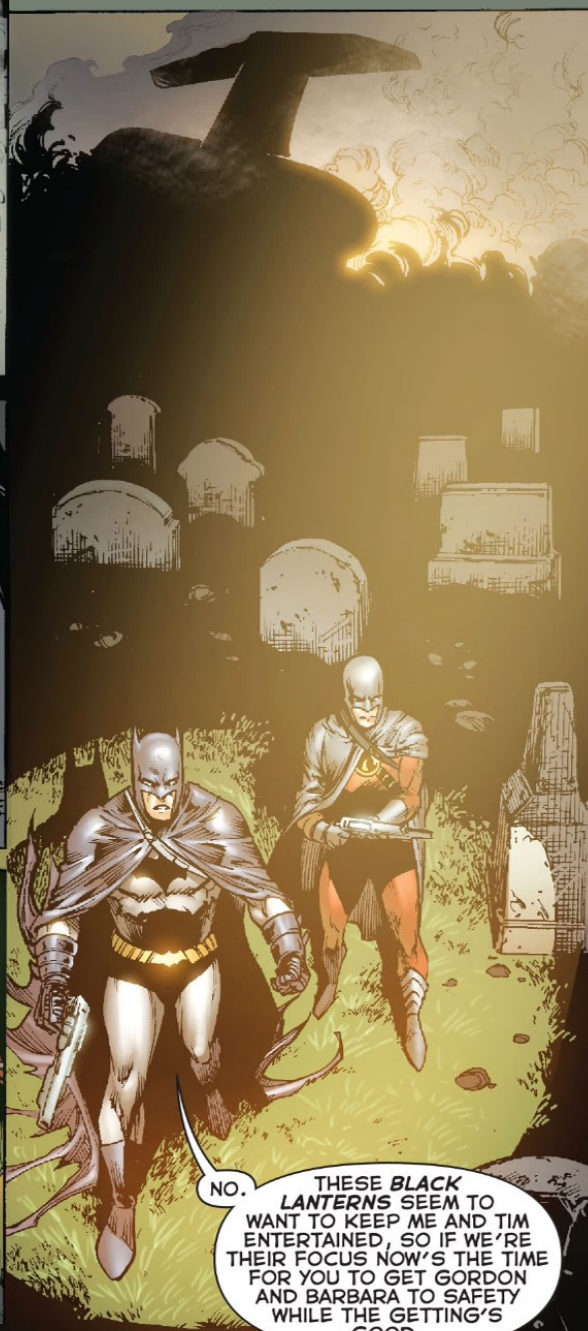


DAD?!

RELAX, OL' GUY'S TOUGH, JUST A BAD BUMP ON THE HEAD.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GORDON?

OUT COLD. I'M COMING TO JOIN--

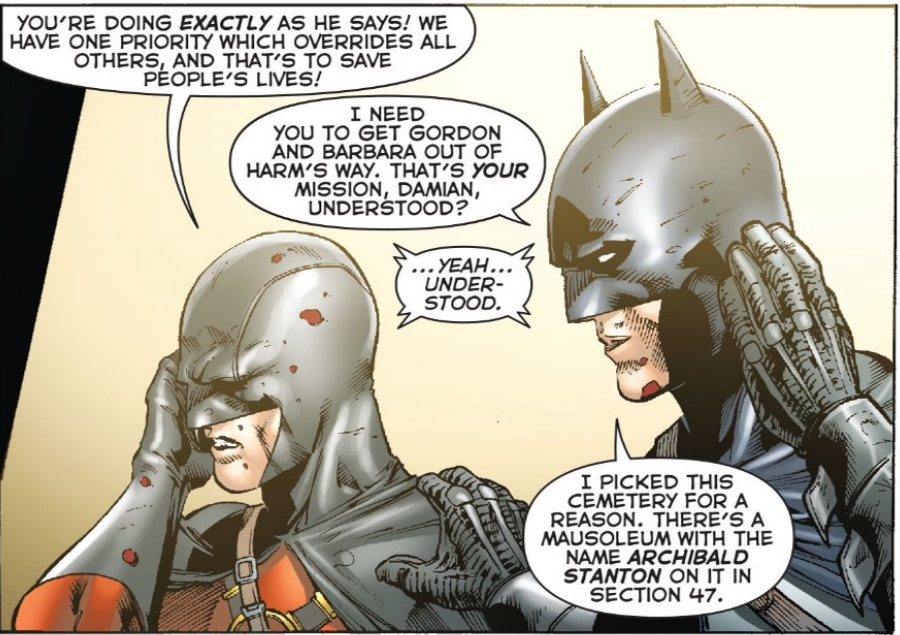


NO. THESE BLACK LANTERNS SEEM TO WANT TO KEEP ME AND TIM ENTERTAINED, SO IF WE'RE THEIR FOCUS NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOU TO GET GORDON AND BARBARA TO SAFETY WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD.





TTT  
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE. I'M STAYING WITH YOU AND DRAKE TO KICK THESE THINGS' ASSES.



YOU'RE DOING EXACTLY AS HE SAYS! WE HAVE ONE PRIORITY WHICH OVERRIDES ALL OTHERS, AND THAT'S TO SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES!

I NEED YOU TO GET GORDON AND BARBARA OUT OF HARM'S WAY. THAT'S YOUR MISSION, DAMIAN, UNDERSTOOD?

...YEAH... UNDERSTOOD.

I PICKED THIS CEMETERY FOR A REASON. THERE'S A MAUSOLEUM WITH THE NAME ARCHIBALD STANTON ON IT IN SECTION 47.



IT'S ONE OF THE MANY SECRET TUNNELS AROUND THE CITY BRUCE HAD CONSTRUCTED OVER THE YEARS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

ONCE YOU GET INSIDE, OPEN THE COFFIN LID WITH YOUR KEY SEQUENCE, YOU'LL SEE THE TOUCH-PAD UNDER THE MARBLE ANGEL AND--

AND WE'LL FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD BACK TO UNDER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION TOWER.

GOT IT. ON MY WAY.



NOW LISTEN, WITH WHAT I'VE PICKED UP FROM DEADMAN BEING INSIDE ME AND THINKING ABOUT WHAT BLOCKBUSTER SAID--

WE NEED A NEVER-ENDING SUPPLY OF FIREPOWER IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF KEEPING THESE LANTERNS AT BAY UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BEAT THEM.

EXACTLY, AND I'VE GOT JUST THE GUY.

DEADMAN, I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME. WE NEED YOU TO PAY SOMEONE A VISIT.

I'M ALL EARS, BATS.





TSK, TSK.

IT NEVER ENDS.



NO! NO!



JASON BLOOD, WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

AND WHO IS WE?

BATMAN AND FRIENDS.



AND HE SENDS AN ERRAND BOY TO ASK FOR MY ASSISTANCE.

IS THAT A YES?

FLUMP



I AM NOT JOINING IN THIS CURRENT CALAMITY.

GOOD NIGHT, SIR.



WELL, IT'S NOT YOU WE WANT ANYWAY. WE WERE WONDERING IF YOUR BUDDY COULD COME OUT TO PLAY.





HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I COME IN AND GET HIM?



AARGGH!  
GONE, GONE, THE FORM OF MAN...



... ARISE THE DEMON, ETRIGAN!

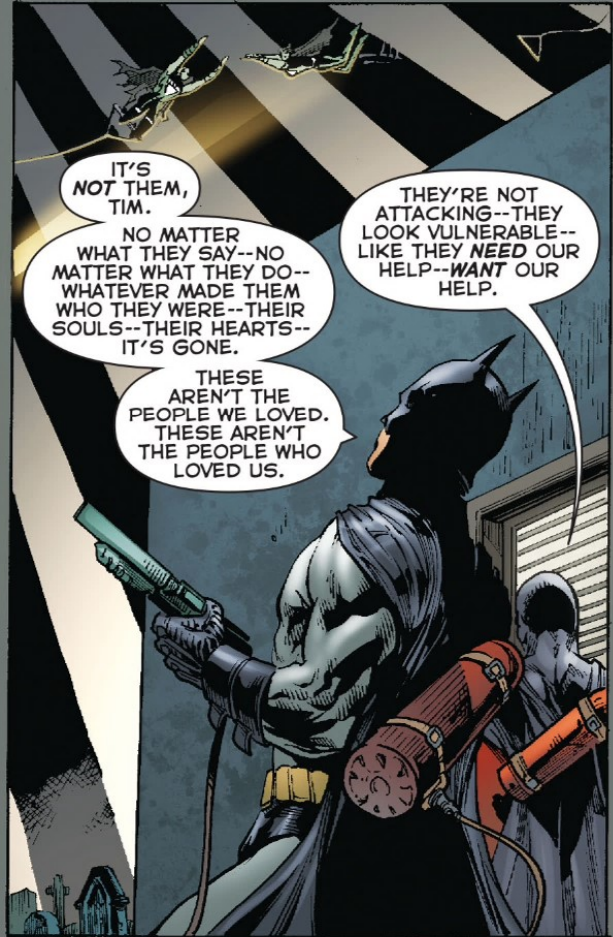




THIS LOOKS LIKE MY FATHER'S APARTMENT.

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

NO, YOU?



IT'S NOT THEM, TIM.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY--NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO--WHATEVER MADE THEM WHO THEY WERE--THEIR SOULS--THEIR HEARTS--IT'S GONE.

THESE AREN'T THE PEOPLE WE LOVED. THESE AREN'T THE PEOPLE WHO LOVED US.

THEY'RE NOT ATTACKING--THEY LOOK VULNERABLE--LIKE THEY NEED OUR HELP--WANT OUR HELP.



YOU SAW THOSE OTHER ONES ON THE ROOF, TIM, THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY--

MAYBE THESE ARE DIFFERENT.



I-I'M LOOKING FOR ROBIN.

I THINK MY LIFE MIGHT BE IN DANGER.

MAYBE IF WE SAVE THEM THIS TIME...





HE'S ON MY ROOF! YOU'RE MY WITNESS--I'M JUST DEFENDING MYSELF...

...MAYBE THIS IS OUR SECOND CHANCE AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IT.



YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT WE CAN'T--



CAN'T WHAT?!

THINK OF ALL THE AMAZING THINGS WE'VE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED--FROM DEADMAN TO THE SPECTRE, FROM THE PHANTOM STRANGER TO THE NEW GODS--TO US LOOKING FOR HELP FROM A DEMON--

--SOME KIND OF LANTERN POWER RINGS BRINGING OUR PARENTS' BODIES BACK TO LIFE...THE LIST IS ENDLESS...

...DON'T YOU SEE, DICK... ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE--THAT'S WHY I KNOW THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE EVEN BRUCE IS ALIVE.





YOU HAVE TO LET THEM GO. YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

THESE THINGS ARE PUTTING ON A SHOW, AND WE'RE IN THE FRONT ROW.

WHAT IF THIS IS ALL ABOUT DO-OVERS?



WILL.

COMPASSION.

WHAT IF I STOP MY DAD FROM DYING AGAIN?

LOVE.

HOPE.



LISTEN TO ME--IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, TELL TIM I LOVE HIM...

UNDER-  
STAND? MAKE SURE HE HEARS THAT!

SOME-  
TIMES THEY  
COME BACK,  
DICK.

AND  
MOST OF  
THE TIME THEY  
DON'T, TIM.



HEADS UP,  
RICHARD!  
IT'S  
TIME TO  
FLY!





YEARS MELT AWAY WHEN I HEAR MY FATHER'S VOICE SHOUT OUT HIS FAMILIAR COMMAND.

I INSTINCTIVELY REACH UP FOR HIS CATCH.



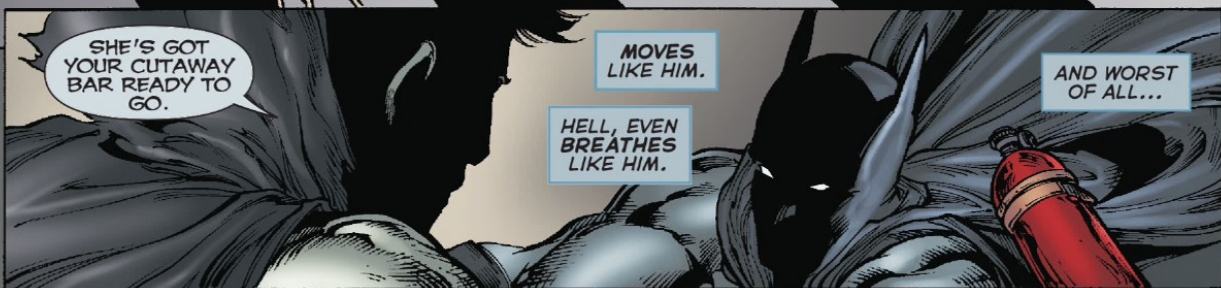
SUDDENLY ALL THE PEARLS OF WISDOM AND WORDS OF WARNING I JUST THREW AT TIM MEAN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

I'M A HYPOCRITE.



THINK YOU CAN PULL OFF A QUAD, SON, AND LAND UP THERE ON THE BOX WITH YOUR MOM?

SOUNDS LIKE HIM.



SHE'S GOT YOUR CUTAWAY BAR READY TO GO.

MOVES LIKE HIM.

AND WORST OF ALL...

HELL, EVEN BREATHES LIKE HIM.



HIS EYES.

I CAN'T LOOK AWAY.



IT'S MY FATHER'S EYES.

AND GOD HELP ME, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BURN THEM.

WILL.

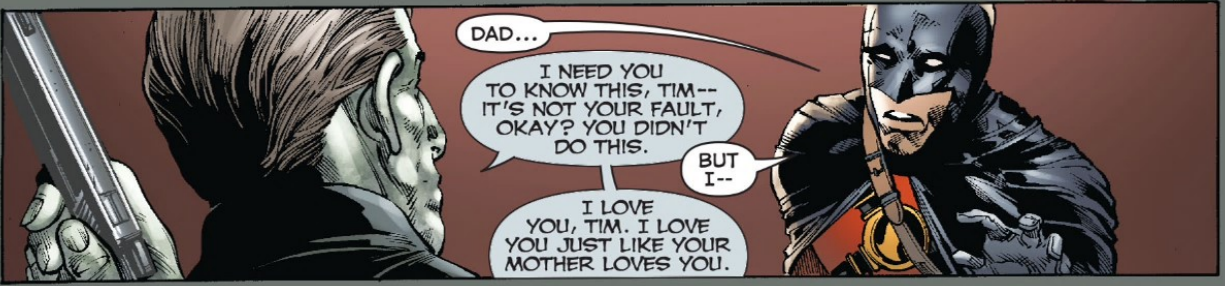
RAGE.





DAD...

YOU LISTENING, TIM? GOOD. THEN UNDERSTAND ONE THING: IF YOU DON'T GET HERE, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.



DAD...

I NEED YOU TO KNOW THIS, TIM-- IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, OKAY? YOU DIDN'T DO THIS.

BUT I--

I LOVE YOU, TIM. I LOVE YOU JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER LOVES YOU.



WHAT YOU DO... FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE... IT'S WORTH IT, TIM.

NEVER QUESTION IT.

IT'S WORTH IT.

DAD, PLEASE...



DAD. WE'RE ALMOST--

TELL DICK TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...



NO!

BAM





ARE YOU **JUST** GOING TO STAND THERE? YOUR FATHER NEEDS YOU!

MOM?



DAD! DOWN!

BLAM BLAM BLAM



NUUHH!



I'VE GOT YOU, DAD...

SHLANG

ARGHH!

SHLANG



...I'VE GOT YOU.

UNNNN--

YOU TRIED TO KILL MY DAD!

SKRAK

AND I STOPPED YOU, BOOMERANG!

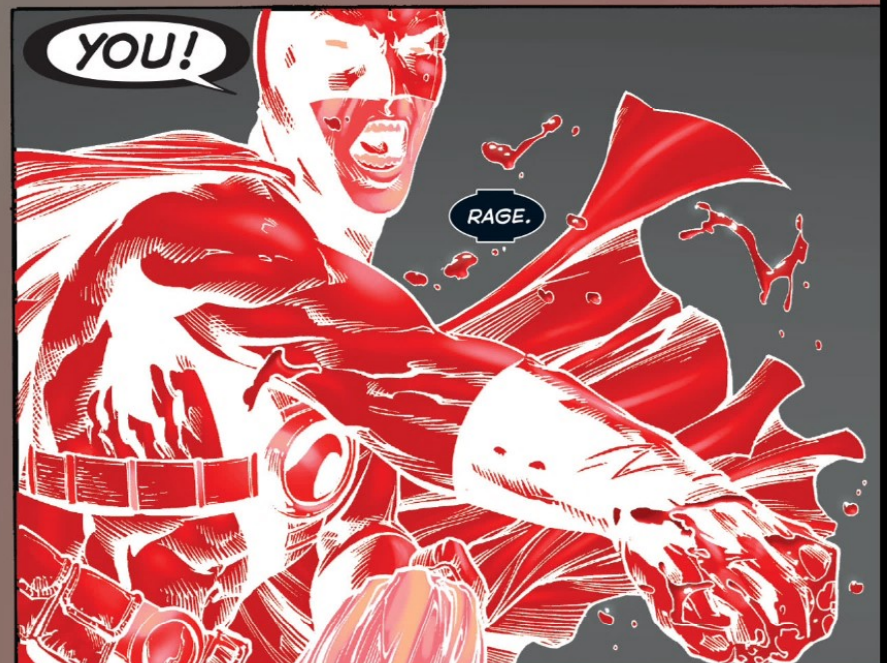
I

SKRAK

STOPPED

YOU!

RAGE.







YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG-WILLED BOY, DICK.

EVEN NOW, SWINGING UP HERE WITH YOUR FAMILY...



...YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT DESTROYING US...

...WHEN ALL WE WANT TO DO IS SPEND A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS TOGETHER BEFORE--

BEFORE YOU TRY TO KILL ME.



NO.

BEFORE HE TRIES TO KILL US AGAIN.

"HE"?



WHO'S HE?

**SNAPP**







THAT SOUND OF WET MEAT HITTING A HARD FLOOR NEVER GETS OLD.

I CAN WATCH THEM BIRDS FALL ALL DAY.

THAT VOICE...



ZUCCO!



THEY DON'T MAKE TRAPEZE WIRE LIKE THEY USED TO, HUH?



IT'S THAT SMILE.

OH WAIT, YES THEY DO.

HAHAHA!

THAT SAME DAMN SMILE ZUCCO HAD ON HIS FACE THE NIGHT HE MURDERED MY PARENTS.

LIKE SEEING THEIR BROKEN BODIES LYING THERE LIKE RAG DOLLS WAS FUNNY.

THAT THEIR DEATHS MEANT AS MUCH TO HIM AS STEPPING ON TWO ANTS ON THE SIDEWALK.

STOP SMILING!







YOU'VE LET YOUR EMOTIONS RULE YOUR HEAD, LADS.

YA BOTH GET GOLD STARS FOR BEING HUMAN.

YEAH! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

THESE ORPHAN BOYS KNOW HOW TO DELIVER KNUCKLE SANDWICHES!



RAGE.

RAGE.



YOUR HEARTS HAVE BEEN MARINATING IN EMOTIONAL LEVELS THAT ARE OFF THE CHARTS.

YOUR COMBINED RAGE IS ALMOST BEYOND COMPARE.



IT'S TIME TO FEED, SON.

ARGHH!

YAAGHH!

HANG ON, BATS, I'M COMING--





--AND HELL'S COMING WITH ME!



FWOOOSH

NOW'D BE A GOOD TIME TO DUCK AND COVER!



AND IF THOSE CAPES HAPPEN TO BE FLAME RETARDANT, I'D BE WRAPPING 'EM AROUND MY BUTT RIGHT ABOUT NOW!



NOT SURE HOW MUCH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE OL' ETTY HERE HAS IN THE TANK, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD 'EM OFF...

...OR HOW LONG I CAN MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THIS BEAST!





TIM,  
IT'S NOT TOO  
LATE. WE CAN STILL  
BE TOGETHER AGAIN.  
STOP THE FIRE AND  
LET US--

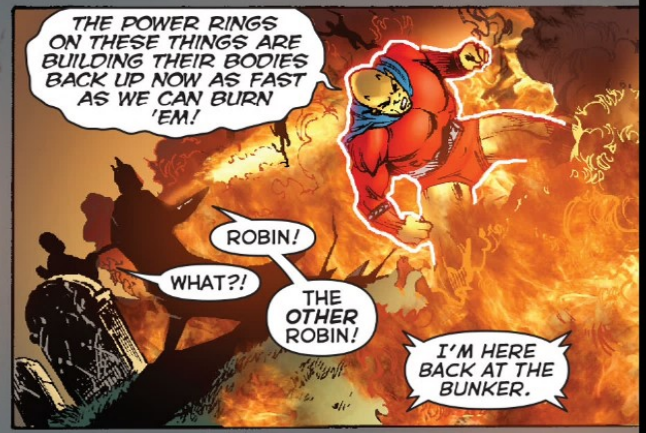
YOU'RE  
DEAD! MY MOM  
AND DAD ARE  
DEAD!

I'VE LET  
THE PAIN OF LOSING  
THEM CLOUD MY MIND WAY  
TOO MANY TIMES--THAT  
THERE MIGHT BE SOME  
KINDA RESTART  
BUTTON...



THERE'S NO BRINGING  
YOU BACK--YOU'RE JUST  
EMPTY HUSKS!

I'VE FINALLY  
REALIZED MY MOM  
AND DAD LIVE NOW ONLY IN  
MY HEART AND THAT'S WHERE  
THEY'RE GONNA STAY--'CAUSE AS  
LONG AS I'M ALIVE, THEY'RE ALIVE!



THE POWER RINGS  
ON THESE THINGS ARE  
BUILDING THEIR BODIES  
BACK UP NOW AS FAST  
AS WE CAN BURN  
'EM!

ROBIN!

WHAT?!

THE  
OTHER  
ROBIN!

I'M HERE  
BACK AT THE  
BUNKER.



IN THE  
ARMORY--THERE  
SHOULD BE ONE OF MR.  
FREEZE'S GUNS THAT  
WE CONFISCATED--  
SEND IT TO  
ME!



ON MY  
WAY!

NO, LOCK  
IN ON MY SIGNAL  
AND SEND IT BY ONE  
OF THE WINGERS I  
USED WHEN I WAS  
NIGHTWING!

BUT I COULD  
BRING--

JUST DO  
AS I ASK,  
DAMN IT!

OKAY,  
IT'S ON ITS  
WAY--BUT THIS IS  
THE LAST TIME I  
HOLD UP THE  
REAR!





RUNNING ON EMPTY HERE.

ME TOO.

COULD USE ME SOME HONEY-LEMON DROPS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAR THEY PUSHED ME--HOW MUCH I WANTED TO KILL BOOMERANG...

PUSHED US.

WE WERE STUPID--ALLOWED OURSELVES TO BE EMOTIONAL PAWNS. THESE LANTERNS HIT ALL THE RIGHT BUTTONS--

--MANIPULATED US TO EXTREMELY HIGH EMOTIONAL STATES BECAUSE SOMEHOW THEY NOURISH THEMSELVES OR GENERATE POWER FROM IT.



I'M OUT!

ME TOO!

CEMETERY'S SURE AS HELL A STRANGE PLACE TO MAKE A LAST STAND.

BUY US A LITTLE MORE TIME, DEADMAN!

I'VE GOT AN AIRMAIL DELIVERY COMING IN SINCE I SEE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF THIS!

HOPE YOU SPRUNG FOR FIRST CLASS 'CAUSE I'M DEALING WITH TWO GUYS IN HERE WHO AREN'T VERY HAPPY ABOUT MY LITTLE PUPPET-MASTER ACT--

--CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK FOR TOO MUCH LONGER!

MAIL'S ARRIVED.

**SLAK**











WHY HAVE I BEEN SUMMONED HERE?

WHAT HAS THAT FOOL, BLOOD, PUT ME IN THE MIDDLE OF?



THIS BEAST HAS NO HEART, I AM UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT.

HANDS OFF ME, VILE CREATURES!



THE VARIED ABOMINATIONS THIS CITY REGURGITATES PUTS EVEN HELL TO SHAME.

ONE MISSISSIPPI, TWO MISSISSIPPI...



... THREE MISSISSIPPI, FOUR MISSISSIPPI...

SEARCHING...

... FIVE MISSISSIPPI... SIX MISSISSIPPI...

SEARCHING...

SEARCHING...

SEARCHING...

SEARCHING...









YAARGHH!

SK  
KR  
EE  
EE  
SS  
SH



... GET HIM  
OUTTA THERE,  
DEADMAN...



... HURRY,  
DAMN IT...



... BEFORE  
IT'S TOO  
LATE!

FVWV  
FVWV  
FVWV  
FVWV





**RRAAGH!**

**SKK  
RK  
KSHH**



YOU  
OKAY?

YEAH,  
YOU?

YEP,  
JUST THE WORST  
BRAIN FREEZE I'VE  
EVER HAD.



I KNOW YOU'RE FLOATING  
AROUND SOMEWHERE, SO NICE  
GOING, BRAND, THANKS FOR  
THE SAVE.

AND  
I KNOW YA CAN'T  
HEAR ME, BATS, BUT  
MAYBE YOU GUYS'D BE  
BETTER OFF STAYING  
ON ICE. THIS IS NOT  
LOOKING GOOD.

THOSE RINGS  
UP THERE NEED BODIES.  
OUR JOB'S TO SEE THEY  
DON'T FIND THEM.



EXACTLY. NOW WE TAKE WHAT  
WE'VE LEARNED AND USE IT--  
PASS IT ON--

--SO WE CAN FIGHT  
THEM TOMORROW.

**END**