



BLACKEST NIGHT

77
JAN '10

Teen **TITANS**



**KRUL
BENNETT
JADSON
JOSÉ**

*JOE DEWITT
ARTIST
GEORGE PÓRZ
+
JASON
ROD
REIS*



TARGET LOCKED.

SLADE WILSON. ALAS--I KNEW HIM WELL. WELL BEFORE HE BECAME DEATHSTROKE THE TERMINATOR.

SLADE WAS THE BEST SOLDIER I HAD EVER KNOWN. AND WHEN HE RISKED EVERYTHING TO SAVE MY LIFE, I VOWED TO STAY AT HIS SIDE--NO MATTER WHAT.

I WOULD NOT CALL US FRIENDS. SLADE HAD NO USE FOR FRIENDS. FOR HIM, EVERY MOMENT WAS PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT BATTLE.

EVEN HIS DECISION TO GET MARRIED WAS TIED TO THAT DRIVE. ADELINE KANE WAS HIS SPECIAL FORCES TRAINER. ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE HE RESPECTED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



I WAS AT HIS SIDE WHEN SLADE UNDERWENT A MILITARY EXPERIMENT THAT TURNED HIM INTO A SUPER SOLDIER.

AND THUS DEATHSTROKE WAS BORN--A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. A MERCENARY FOR HIRE. AN ASSASSIN WHO REFUSED TO FAIL.



I NEVER FOUND TIME FOR A LIFE OF MY OWN WHILE I WAS IN SLADE'S SERVICE AS HIS FACILITATOR. HE WAS THE ONE WITH THE FAMILY--ADELINE AND THEIR TWO SONS, GRANT AND JOSEPH.

THE DAFT FOOL THOUGHT HE COULD HAVE IT ALL.

THE JACKAL FOUND SLADE'S FAMILY AND TRIED TO USE THEM AGAINST HIM. SLADE'S PRIDE WAS ALWAYS HIS GREATEST WEAKNESS.

ON THAT DAY, IT COST JOSEPH HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK.



ADELINE NEVER FORGAVE HIM. BEFORE SHE DIED, ADELINE TOOK HER OWN FORM OF REVENGE ON SLADE--HIS EYE.

GRANT UNKNOWNLY FOLLOWED IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS--VOLUNTEERING FOR HIS OWN EXPERIMENT WITH THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE H.I.V.E.

AS RAVAGER, HIS FIRST ASSASSINATION CONTRACT WAS TO KILL THE TEEN TITANS.



WHEN GRANT DIED FROM THE EXPERIMENT'S FATAL SIDE EFFECTS, SLADE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO COMPLETE THE CONTRACT.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS ONLY PROFESSIONAL FAILURE, BUT IT WASN'T FOR LACK OF TRYING.





WITH ONE SON MAIMED AND THE OTHER SIX FEET UNDER, SLADE DISCOVERED HE HAD MORE FAMILY--A FORMER LOVER, LILLIAN WORTH, AND THEIR DAUGHTER, ROSE.

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SLADE'S TRAGIC KARMA TO TERRORIZE ITS NEXT VICTIMS.

A NEW RAVAGER, SLADE'S JADED HALF-BROTHER, WADE DEFARGE, HUNTED DOWN LILLIAN AND ROSE TO FEED HIS OWN AGENDA AGAINST SLADE.



WHEN ROSE WAS LEFT ALONE, SLADE DID HIS BEST TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM HER--THINKING THAT IT WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP HER SAFE.

IN HINDSIGHT, PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE KEPT MY DISTANCE AS WELL.



BUT IT WOULD NOT HAVE MATTERED.



I SUPPOSE IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. HIS NAME SAID IT ALL.



EVERYONE AROUND HIM--REGARDLESS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT...

EVERYONE AROUND HIM DIES.

FINALLY, IT'S
SLADE'S TURN.

WILLIAM
RANDOLPH
WINTERGREEN
OF EARTH.

RISE.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

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From the journal of
W.R. Wintergreen, Major
British Army, Ret.

The house has been
quiet of late. Too quiet.




True, he is no
conversationalist.



But unlike most
adversaries, Slade
is most deadly
when he is alone.



It is no easy task -
making everyone
you care about
hate you.



But Slade has become a master of revulsion over the years.

Lately though, I fear that he may be pulling away from me as well. And that worries me.

He's keeping me in the dark regarding his agenda. His manner has been erratic, confusing, and even clumsy.

Whether he knows it or not, Slade needs someone close. Someone to keep him from crossing a line even he does not wish to cross.

Just like Kurtz lost in the Congo--without another face to watch him, I fear that Slade may journey too far into his own heart of darkness.

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THIS WAS WINTERGREEN'S LAST ENTRY. HIS FINAL WORDS RIGHT BEFORE I CHOPPED OFF HIS HEAD.



IT WASN'T REALLY ME. AT THE TIME I WAS POSSESSED BY THE MIND OF MY SON, JOSEPH, WHO HAD GONE MAD.

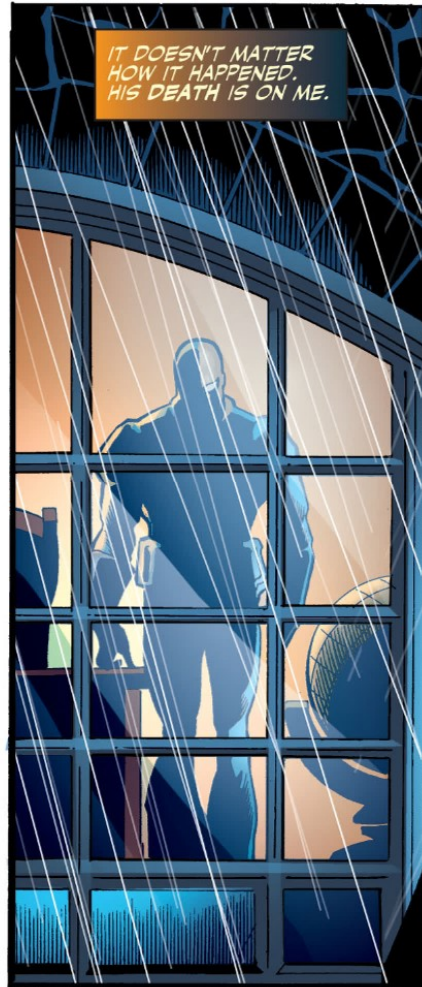


SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE, BUT IT'S NOT.

Slade has been a master of deception over the years. Although I may be a father from Andromeda, I'm not his father. Just like Kurtz lost in Congo--without another person to watch him, I fear that Slade may journey too far into his own heart of darkness. God help the world that comes next.



I DON'T MAKE EXCUSES.



IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW IT HAPPENED. HIS DEATH IS ON ME.

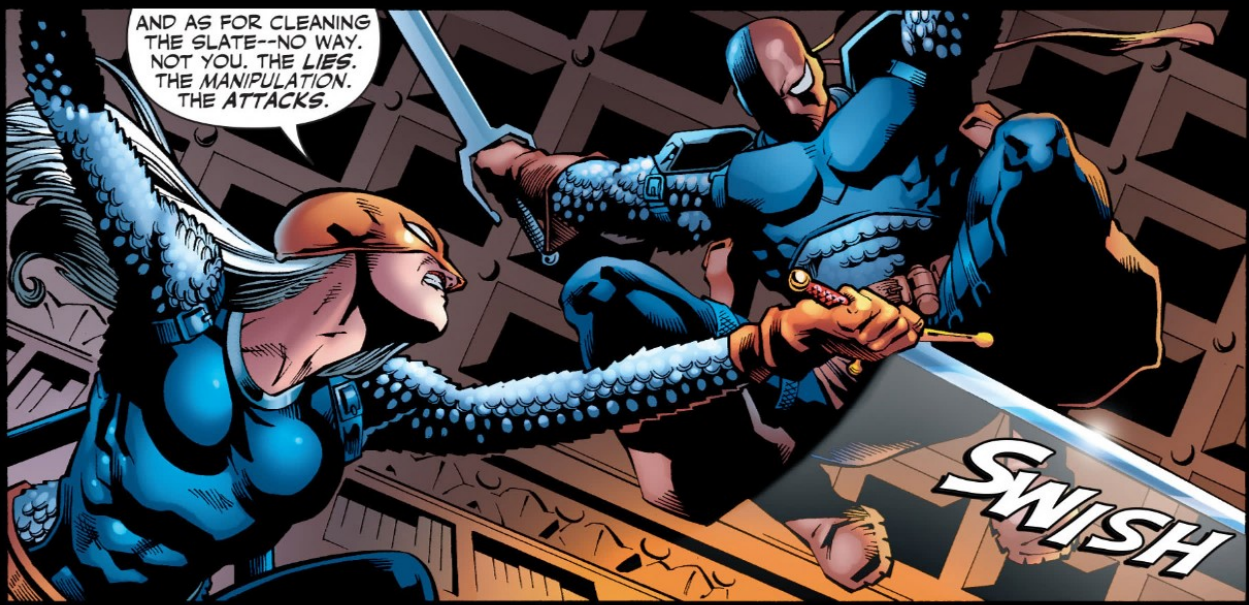


IT'S ALL ON ME.





"THE STORY IS SET AFTER THE MANAGER SECOND FIGHTER THAT ACHEMALLY RANG IN FROM TITANIUM."



YOU CAN HATE ME ALL YOU WANT. YOU SHOULD. BUT IT'S ALL BEEN FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.



SHUT UP!

THUMP

THAT'S SOMETHING A FATHER WOULD SAY. AND YOU'RE NO FATHER.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A GENE DONOR.

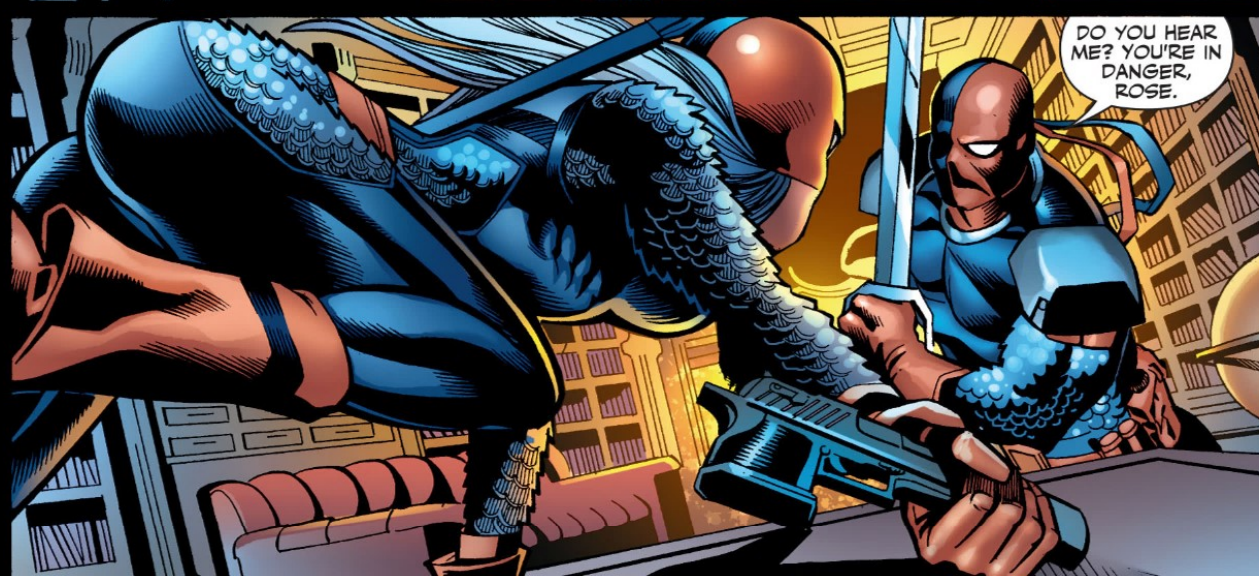


CLANG



I'VE TRIED TO MAKE YOU STRONG.

SLAM





YOU'RE THE ONE IN DANGER. MY MOTHER IS DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU.



AND ME? ALL YOU'VE EVER DONE IS TURN THE SCREWS IN ME-- TRYING TO BREAK ME.



BUT I WON'T BREAK.



SO YOU CAN STOP WITH THE ZOMBIE STORIES. IT'S PATHETIC.



IF YOU'RE REALLY PLANNING ON KILLING SLADE--



--YOU'D BETTER GET IN LINE.

IS... IS THAT?

GRANT?

YOU NEVER DID KNOW HOW TO USE A GUN.

GIVE ME THAT.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?



I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

WHAT PART OF UNDEAD DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?



I'LL HOLD HIM OFF. MOVE. NOW!

THAT'S MY DAD.



ALWAYS--
--PLAYING--
--FAVORITES.





YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER. IT'S PRETTY CLEAR HEAVEN'S GOT NO USE FOR YOU.



CAN YOU FEEL YOUR COSTUME MELTING-- FUSING WITH YOUR SKIN?



HELL, THIS MASK IS YOUR TRUE FACE. MIGHT AS WELL JUST MAKE IT PERMANENT, RIGHT?

AHHH!



HELL.





AW, DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL HAS DONE HIM SO PROUD.



BITE ME.

SLICE



GOOD AS NEW.



YOU MIGHT BRING SOME NICE CURVES TO THE COSTUME, ROSE...



... BUT YOU'RE NO RAVAGER.



I'VE LASTED LONGER THAN YOU DID.



YEAH, BUT THE END RESULT WILL BE THE SAME.



AHHH!



WILLPOWER.

RAGE.

FEAR.

YOU MAY BE MAD AS HELL, BUT YOU GOT A YELLOW STREAK IN YOU.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO FEAR.



BECAUSE SLADE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET.



WHAT? NO!



FEAR.

WILLPOWER.

RAGE.



ROSE!



I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

WADE???

WE'VE GOT HISTORY. CALL ME **UNCLE WADE.**



YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU GET AWAY WITH MURDER, DID YOU?



GET OUT OF MY WAY!



CRUNCH



SIR, I HAVE TO ASK.
IS THIS HOW YOU REMEMBER ME?

WINTERGREEN...

IT'S OKAY, SIR. I DIDN'T COME SEEKING REVENGE. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR KILLING ME.

NEITHER OF US DO.

RIGHT, ADELINE?



RIGHT, WILLIAM.

GOD...NO. NOT YOU TOO.



WHAT IS GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU?

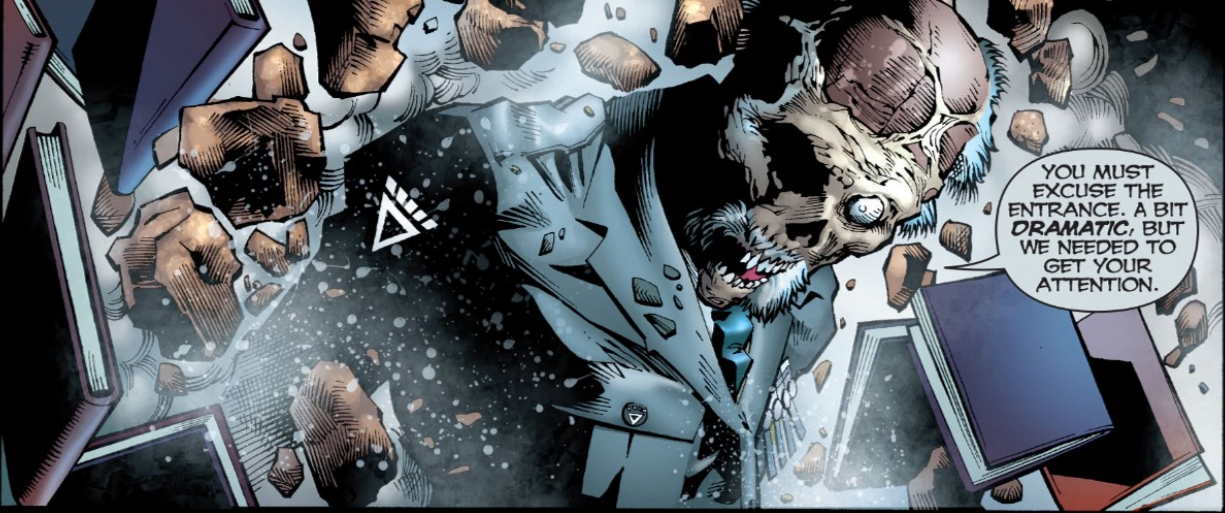
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, SLADE. WE KNOW YOU ARE VERY CAPABLE ON YOUR OWN. VERY STRONG WILLED. BUT WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU.



WILLPOWER.



THINK OF THIS AS AN INTERVENTION.

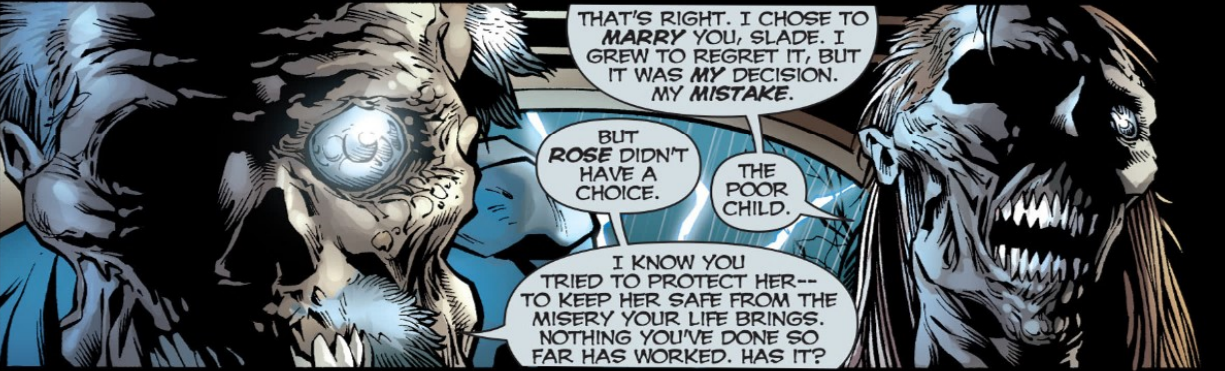


YOU MUST EXCUSE THE ENTRANCE. A BIT **DRAMATIC**, BUT WE NEEDED TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.



WHAT HAPPENED TO US, SLADE-- OUR UNTIMELY DEATHS. THEY WEREN'T YOUR FAULT.

TO BE FAIR, YOU HAD A HAND IN IT DUE TO YOUR PROFESSION AND YOUR PROXIMITY, BUT WE WERE ADULTS--WE CHOSE TO BE IN YOUR LIFE.



THAT'S RIGHT. I CHOSE TO **MARRY** YOU, SLADE. I GREW TO REGRET IT, BUT IT WAS **MY** DECISION. **MY MISTAKE.**

BUT **ROSE** DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.

THE **POOR** CHILD.

I KNOW YOU TRIED TO PROTECT HER-- TO KEEP HER SAFE FROM THE MISERY YOUR LIFE BRINGS. NOTHING YOU'VE DONE SO FAR HAS WORKED. HAS IT?



BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD DO IT-- SOMETHING THAT WOULD GET HER AWAY FROM YOU FOREVER.

THE ONLY WAY TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN--



--IS FOR YOU TO **DIE.**

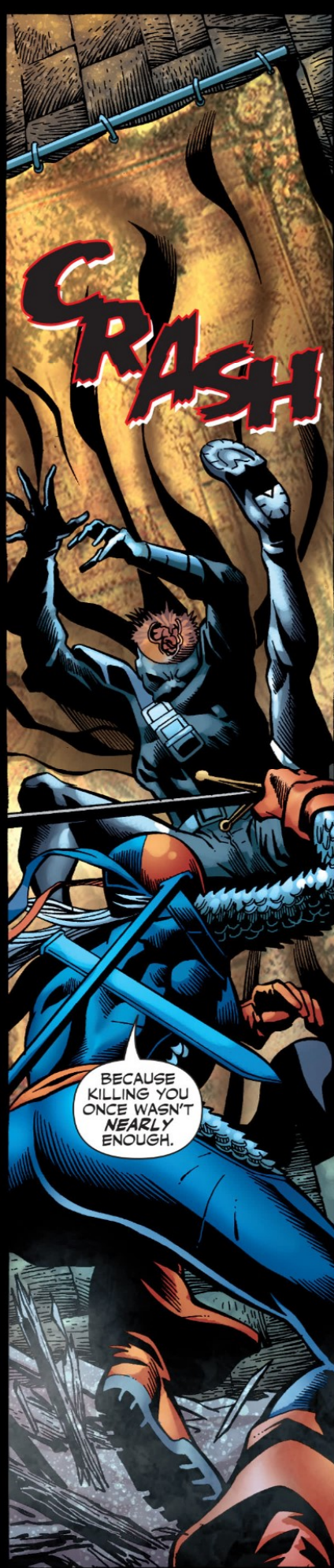


YOU'RE THE MURDERER. YOU KILLED MY MOTHER!



WHUDD

AND IF THIS IS REALLY YOU, WADE, I'M GLAD YOU CAME BACK.



CRASH

BECAUSE KILLING YOU ONCE WASN'T NEARLY ENOUGH.



TRY REGENERATING FROM THIS.





I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT GAVE YOU AWAY FIRST-- YOUR BIG CLUMSY FEET, OR THAT PUTRID SMELL.

STICKS AND STONES, ROSE. IT'S NO USE FIGHTING IT. ALL RAVAGERS DIE. JUST ASK DAD. IT'S WHAT WE DO.

NOT ME.

AAHHH!

SO--YOU CAN FEEL PAIN.



OF...

...COURSE I CAN, ROSE.



I'M ALIVE, AREN'T I?

--JOEY?

Next Issue...
MY BROTHER'S KEEPER