



# BLACKEST NIGHT

78  
FEB '10

# Teen Titans



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I KNOW WHO I AM. JOSEPH WILSON, SON OF SLADE AND ADELINE WILSON. I REMEMBER-- REMEMBER HOW MY MOTHER WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME-- ALWAYS WATCHING OVER ME.

MY FATHER...



...NOT SO MUCH.

HE WAS TOO BUSY MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF-- DEATHSTROKE.



THE ONLY TIME HE GAVE ME ANY ATTENTION WAS WHEN I WAS BAIT. HE MAY HAVE SAVED MY LIFE, BUT THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE CUT MY THROAT AND TOOK MY VOICE.

AFTER THAT, MY MEAK EXISTENCE CONTINUED UNTIL I DISCOVERED MY OWN SPECIAL TALENT--THE ABILITY TO POSSESS AND CONTROL ANY PERSON SIMPLY BY GAZING INTO THEIR EYES.

AND WHEN I JOINED THE TITANS, JERICO WAS BORN.



BUT THE EFFECT OF POSSESSING OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS QUICKLY BEGAN TO TAX MY OWN PSYCHE--SLOWLY DRIVING ME MAD.

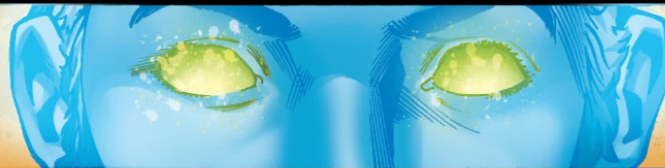
WHICH MADE ME AN EASY VICTIM ONCE MORE--THIS TIME FOR A DEMONIC POWER THAT WAS MUCH BETTER AT POSSESSION THAN I WOULD EVER WISH TO BE.

COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL AND IN DANGER OF KILLING EVERYONE I CARED ABOUT, MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.





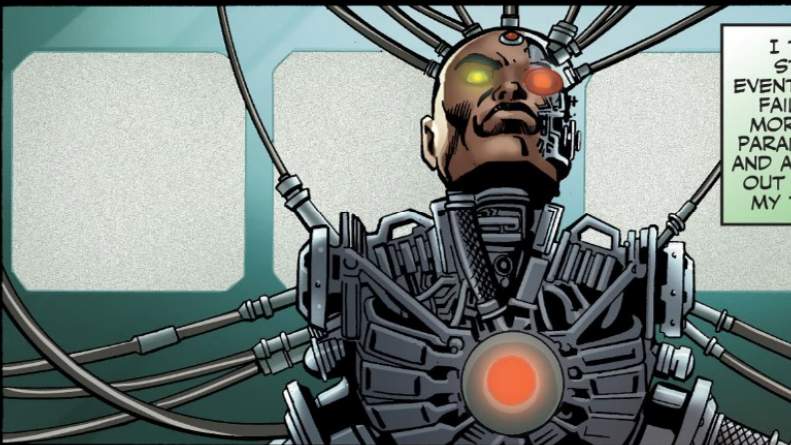
I SURVIVED--  
TAKING SHELTER DEEP  
WITHIN SLADE'S MIND.



BUT THE  
DEMON'S  
LINGERING  
REMNANTS  
STUCK WITH ME,  
AND I FOUND  
MYSELF SEEING  
MY FRIENDS  
THROUGH  
ENEMY EYES.  
ALL I COULD  
REMEMBER WAS  
HOW THEY TRIED  
TO KILL ME.

WITHOUT MY  
BODY AS AN  
**ANCHOR**, MY MIND  
DETERIORATED  
FURTHER. IN MY  
CRAZED STATE, I  
USED MY FATHER  
IN A TWISTED  
VENDETTA  
AGAINST MY  
FORMER  
TEAMMATES. I  
TRIED TO KILL  
THEM AGAIN AND  
AGAIN.

BUT THEY SAW THROUGH  
MY **INSANITY**. THEY SAW  
MY **PAIN**. AND LIKE THE  
TITANS HAVE ALWAYS  
DONE--THEY WERE  
THERE FOR ME WHEN NO  
ONE ELSE WAS.



I TRIED TO BE  
STRONG, BUT  
EVENTUALLY MY MIND  
FAILED ME ONCE  
MORE--MY INSANE  
PARANOIA RETURNED  
AND AGAIN I SINGLED  
OUT THE TITANS AS  
MY TORMENTORS.


I TARGETED THEM  
AGAIN--THIS TIME  
ATTACKING A WHOLE  
CREW OF KIDS I  
BARELY KNEW.

I DESERVED TO DIE AFTER  
ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS  
I'D DONE. ALTHOUGH MY  
FATHER WASN'T AROUND TO  
DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY,  
ANOTHER MERCENARY WAS.

**VIGILANTE** CARVED OUT  
MY EYES. MY MIND WAS  
STILL IN PIECES, BUT MY  
POWERS COULD NO  
LONGER TAKE ME DOWN  
THE PATH TO **DEMENTIA**.  
I WAS CURED.







OR, SO I THOUGHT.  
I STILL WEAR THE  
BANDAGES FROM MY  
INJURY, BUT I KNOW  
THE TRUTH HIDDEN  
UNDERNEATH.

MY EYES HAVE  
HEALED. I CAN FEEL  
THEM, HOVERING IN  
MY ONCE EMPTY  
SOCKETS--AND IT  
TERRIFIES ME.




ONCE AGAIN, I  
AM A DANGER  
TO EVERYONE  
AROUND ME.



HELLO, LITTLE  
BROTHER.

YOU GOT THE  
WORST LUCK,  
DON'T YOU?  
FIRST, YOU LOSE  
YOUR VOICE.  
THEN YOU LOSE  
YOUR SIGHT.

CRACK



WRITING'S  
ON THE WALL,  
ISN'T IT?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT  
WAS HAPPENING, BUT  
I WAS DEFENSELESS.  
I *DIDN'T* WANT TO  
POSSESS ANYONE.  
MY MIND MIGHT NOT  
RECOVER.

BUT I  
WANTED TO  
*DIE* EVEN  
LESS.





CONTACT.

SO I TOOK A  
LEAP OF FAITH.

# TORTURED SOULS

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...AND I'VE BEEN PAYING FOR IT EVER SINCE.

MY GOD, JOEY. WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID YOU--?

THAT *THING* CAME FOR ME IN THE HOSPITAL. IT TRIED TO KILL ME, SO I *HID* IN THE ONLY PLACE I COULD--INSIDE ITS ROTTED MIND.

LOST IN *DARKNESS*, ALL I SAW WAS *DEATH*. I COULDN'T TAKE CONTROL--THE PAIN WAS UNBEARABLE.

THE CLOSER MY MIND CAME TO HIS, THE MORE I FELT *DEATH* WEIGHING DOWN UPON ME.

YOUR *EYES*. THEY GREW BACK?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF. BUT IF THEY HADN'T, I'D BE *DEAD* FOR SURE.

I'M SO SORRY FOR WHAT VIGILANTE DID TO YOU. I SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH YOU. I SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED YOU. I'M YOUR *SISTER*.

AFTER THE HORRIBLE THINGS I'VE DONE, I'M SURPRISED YOU ALL DIDN'T CHEER HIM ON.

I TRIED TO KILL YOU, ROSE. I TRIED TO KILL ALL OF YOU.

I DIDN'T WANT TO. I DON'T WANT TO. IT'S NOT ME. I MEAN, IT IS-- BUT IT ISN'T.

WHENEVER I POSSESS SOMEONE, IT'S LIKE I LOSE MYSELF A LITTLE MORE--AND I FIND MYSELF CLINGING TO THE DISJOINTED REMNANTS FROM THOSE I'VE POSSESSED. I'M SICK.

BOO-FRIGGIN'-HOO.

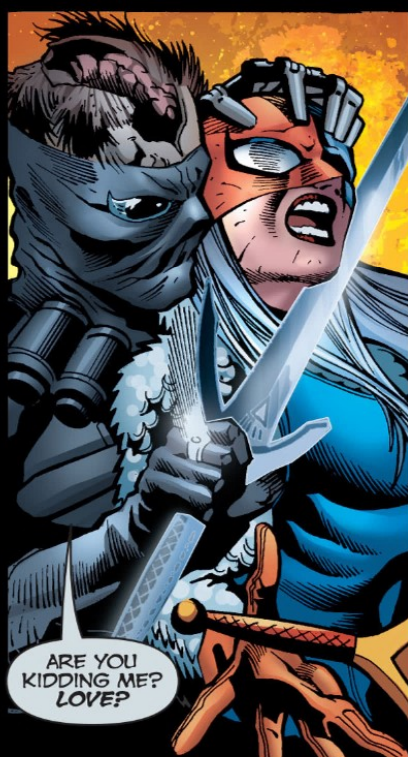












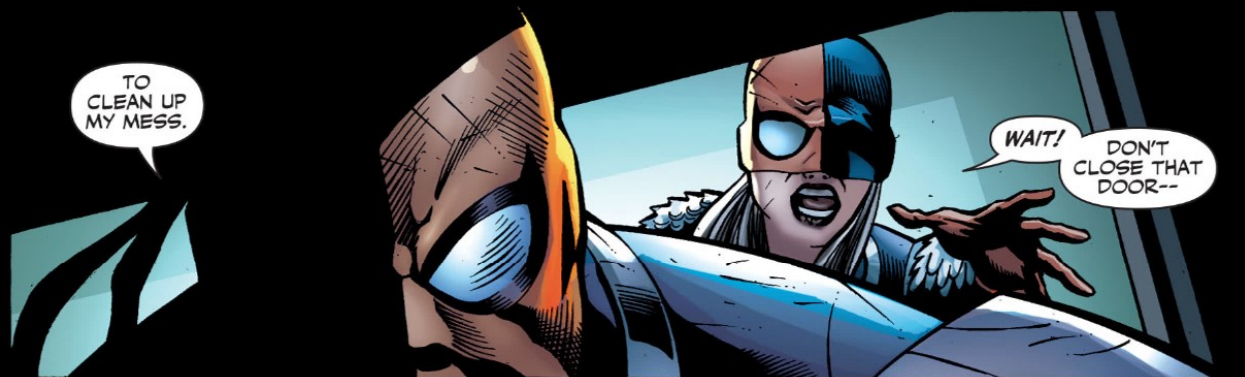




















SORRY FOR THE  
INTRUSION, BUT YOU  
TWO WON'T WANT TO  
MISS THIS, I'M  
CERTAIN.

HOW ABOUT IT,  
JOSEPH? SHOULD WE  
SHOW YOUR FATHER  
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO  
HAVE HIS THROAT  
SLIT?

ROSE, MAYBE  
YOU WANT TO DO  
THE HONORS.

LOOK AT ALL  
THE LIVES THAT HAVE BEEN  
DESTROYED BY YOUR *HUBRIS*,  
SLADE. YOUR INCESSANT  
DRIVE TO BE THE BEST.



GO TO  
HELL.



BUT I WONDER--  
WHEN IT CAME TO THE  
CONTRACT ON THE  
*TITANS*, YOU COULDN'T  
EVEN KILL A BUNCH OF  
*TEENAGERS*.



WERE THEY  
TOO MUCH FOR YOU? MORE  
THAN YOU COULD HANDLE?  
DOES THAT FAILURE STILL  
GNAW AT YOU?



SHALL  
WE SHOW  
YOU HOW  
IT'S  
DONE?





YOU'RE NOT WINTERGREEN. YOU HAVE HIS MEMORIES, BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM. WINTERGREEN KNEW THE TRUTH.

IT WAS NEVER ABOUT KILLING THE TITANS.



IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT MY CHILDREN.



I DIDN'T FAIL. I COULD HAVE KILLED GRAYSON OR LOGAN OR ANY OF THEM WHENEVER I WANTED.

BUT I KNEW MY CHILDREN WOULD ALWAYS BE IN DANGER IF THEY WERE IN MY LIFE. I LEARNED THAT LESSON THE HARD WAY WHEN JOSEPH WAS A BOY.



THAT WAS THE LAST DAY I LET MY EGO TRUMP THEIR SAFETY. BOTH AS DEATHSTROKE AND AS A FATHER.



HAVING THEM HATE ME WOULD PROTECT THEM. THE LESS LOVE BETWEEN US, THE LESS THEY WOULD BE TARGETS.



THEY COULDN'T HOPE TO SURVIVE WITH ME. BUT WITH THE TITANS--THEY WOULD BE SAFE. THEY COULD HAVE A FUTURE.



THEY COULD HAVE A FAMILY.

THE FAMILY I COULD NEVER BE.



LOVE.

JACKPOT.





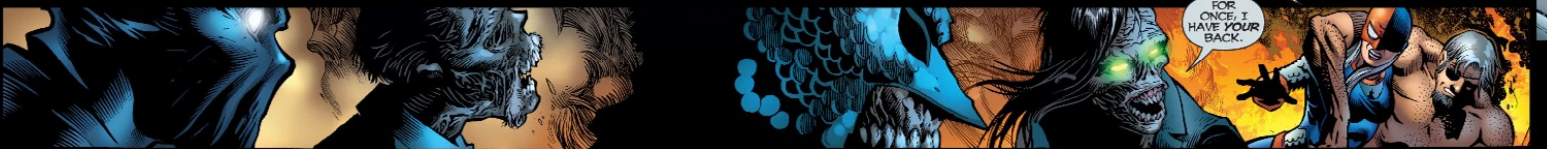








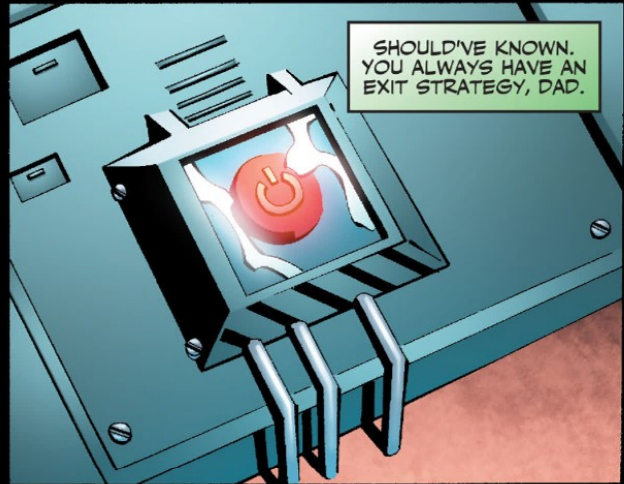
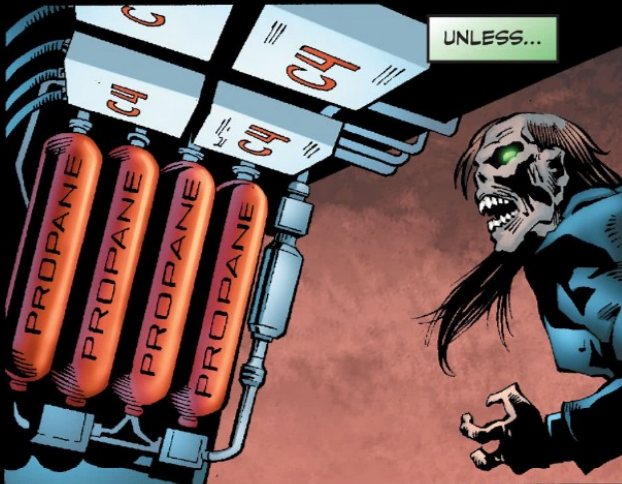
ARRAAGHH















JOEY! WE--  
WE HAVE TO  
SAVE HIM!

WE CAN'T!  
ROSE!



YOU DID THIS!  
IT'S YOUR  
FAULT!



IT'S ALWAYS YOUR  
FAULT.



I KNOW. I'M SORRY,  
ROSE.

I'M SO  
SORRY.

















THANKS...  
DAD.

YOU  
BOTH  
DO.

I MADE SURE  
TO TRAIN EACH OF  
YOU TO **SURVIVE**,  
BUT ALWAYS BELIEVED  
IT WOULD BE BEST TO  
KEEP YOU AWAY FROM  
ME. AND YET, TONIGHT  
WE MADE IT THROUGH  
THIS CRISIS BECAUSE  
WE WERE  
**TOGETHER.**



I THOUGHT  
THE TITANS WERE THE  
BEST POSSIBLE TEAM  
FOR YOU, BUT THE TRUTH  
IS THAT TOGETHER WE  
COULD MAKE THE **BEST**  
TEAM EVER.

WATCH OVER ONE  
ANOTHER. FIGHT THE  
**REAL** FIGHT. DO THINGS  
THE OTHER TITANS  
**NEVER** COULD. OR  
WOULD.

TOGETHER,  
WE COULD BE  
**MORE** THAN A  
TEAM. WE COULD  
BE A **FAMILY.**



YOU  
CAN'T BE  
SERIOUS!

I CAME  
HERE TONIGHT  
TO KILL YOU--**TO**  
**KILL YOU!** WHAT  
KIND OF FAMILY  
DYNAMIC IS  
THAT?



I'LL ADMIT THAT PART OF ME LOVES YOU--SOLELY FOR THE FACT THAT YOU ARE MY FATHER. BUT BELIEVE ME, IF I COULD CHANGE THAT, I WOULD.

YOU HAD IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME. STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM US. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.

WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR LIVES.

ROSE, WAIT.

I'M IN.

JOEY?? HE'S LYING. YOU KNOW HE'S LYING. HE'S DEATHSTROKE.

MANIPULATION IS WHAT HE DOES BEST.

MY BRAIN IS STILL A JUMBLED MESS. I NEED TO TRAIN MYSELF TO BETTER UNDERSTAND MY POWERS AND COUNTER THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON MY MIND.

BUT YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM.

NO, ROSE. YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM. YOU FORGET THAT I WAS INSIDE HIS HEAD FOR A LONG TIME. I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN YOU DO.

BESIDES, I NEED SOMEONE WHO WILL BE THERE IN CASE I GO OFF THE DEEP END. HE WAS ABLE TO STOP ME BEFORE WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD HANDLE IT.

I NEED HIM.





IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, SON.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D WATCH OUT FOR NEEDLES.



ROSE, PLEASE. DON'T YOU THINK I DESERVE A CHANCE? DON'T YOU THINK OUR FAMILY DESERVES A CHANCE?

YOU'RE NOT MY FAMILY.

WE'RE THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE.



NOT ANYMORE. NOT AFTER TONIGHT.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, BUT YOU DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

WELL-- I DID.

MY MOTHER IS ALIVE.



WHAT? IMPOSSIBLE. ROSE--LILLIAN IS DEAD.



THINK ABOUT IT, SLADE. ALL THESE CORPSES THAT CAME AFTER US WERE PEOPLE FROM OUR PAST. PEOPLE WHO COULD PUSH OUR BUTTONS--GET A RISE OUT OF US.

WADE. WINTERGREEN. GRANT. EVEN ADELINE. SO, WHY DIDN'T MY MOM SHOW UP? WHERE WAS **HER** UNDEAD CORPSE?

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.





ROSE, YOU CAN'T--

SHUT UP, JOEY. YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE. LIVE WITH IT--IF YOU CAN.

AS FOR ME, I'M GOING TO FIND THE ONLY PERSON SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE.



AND I SWEAR TO GOD, SLADE. IF YOU EVER GO LOOKING FOR HER, OR TRY TO CONTACT HER, OR EVEN GOOGLE HER NAME, I PROMISE-- I WILL KILL YOU.



DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE COULD BE RIGHT?



IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, JOSEPH. IT'S GIVEN HER HOPE.

THAT'S MORE THAN MOST OF US HAVE.

THE END