

YEARS AGO.

MY GOD--
HOW DID YOU
GET THESE?



OKAY,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

DICK...YOU
KNOW AS WELL AS I
DO THAT HE HASN'T
BEEN ACTING RIGHT
SINCE **JASON**
DIED.

YOU
KNOW--?

LOOK, I
KNOW YOU'RE
NIGHTWING. YOU
USED TO BE
ROBIN.

THEN **JASON**
TODD BECAME
ROBIN, AND
WHEN **HE** DIED,
BRUCE WAYNE
WENT TO
PIECES.

DICK,
DON'T YOU
SEE--HE **NEEDS**
ROBIN.

HE
NEEDS HIM
TO REMEMBER
WHAT HE **USED**
TO BE.

WHO ARE
YOU?!



NOW.

TIMOTHY JACKSON DRAKE...

WHY DID YOU GO TO THEM, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?

BECAUSE, "MISTER OZ"...BATMAN WAS OUT OF CONTROL. HE WAS LOSING FIGHTS HE COULD HAVE WON IN HIS SLEEP JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE...AND HE WAS HURTING PEOPLE.

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A DARKNESS IN BATMAN. SOMETHING...ALMOST CORROSIVE. AND WITHOUT JASON... WITHOUT A ROBIN...

THAT DARKNESS WAS CONSUMING HIM. SOMEBODY NEEDED TO ACT.

YOU WERE JUST A BOY. YOU WERE LIVING AN ORDINARY LIFE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D PUT ON THE CAPE AND TIGHTS. THAT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION.

I WAS JUST GOING TO GIVE NIGHTWING THE PUSH HE NEEDED TO BE ROBIN AGAIN. THEN I'D JUST GO HOME, BACK TO MY LIFE.



AND WHY DID YOU GO TO HIM FIRST? WHY DICK GRAYSON...?

BECAUSE I WAS *THERE* THE NIGHT ROBIN BEGAN. BECAUSE I *SAW* TWO ACROBATS FALL TO THEIR DEATHS...

AND I SAW THE BOY WHO LEAPED FROM THE RAFTERS, WITH IMPOSSIBLE GRACE, PULLING OFF A MOVE THAT NO TEENAGER HAD EVER ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE, DESPERATE TO SEE IF THEY WERE OKAY.

THAT WAS HOW I PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, IN THE END. THAT'S HOW I *FOUND* THEM...

C'MON, DICK--THAT FLIP YOU DID AS ROBIN. IT WAS A QUADRUPLE SOMERSAULT.

THE CIRCUS RINGMASTER SAID ONLY *THREE* PEOPLE COULD DO THAT.

I *KNEW* THAT SOMERSAULT. KNEW IT LIKE I KNEW MY OWN NAME.

AND IT ALL MADE SENSE. BATMAN SHOWED UP AT THE CIRCUS AND TOOK YOU WITH HIM.

ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER, ROBIN MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE. IF YOU WERE ROBIN, AND YOU WERE BRUCE WAYNE'S WARD--

--I REALIZED BRUCE WAYNE WAS BATMAN.

I DON'T WANT TO SAY THE REST WAS EASY, BECAUSE YOU GUYS REALLY COVERED YOUR TRACKS.

BUT IF YOU GO IN *KNOWING* BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE BATMAN AND ROBIN, WELL, YOU CAN FIND THE CLUES TO PROVE IT.

I THOUGHT...I THOUGHT I WOULD IMPRESS HIM. THE WAY I'D PIECED IT ALL TOGETHER. AND GOD, I *WANTED* TO IMPRESS HIM.

I'D ONLY MET HIM THE ONCE, JUST AS A BOY. I WAS TERRIFIED BY THE CIRCUS, BUT HE CALMED ME DOWN. HE TOLD ME HE'D BE PERFORMING JUST FOR ME.

I JUST KNEW...IF I COULD CONVINCE HIM TO PUT HIS ROBIN COSTUME BACK ON...I WOULD SET THINGS RIGHT. I WOULD BE SAVING BATMAN. AND MORE THAN THAT, I WOULD BE SAVING *GOTHAM*.

BUT HE WOULDN'T *LISTEN*. WOULD HE?

BECAUSE EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS, I'VE KNOWN THE TRUTH. I'VE KNOWN THAT *GOTHAM CITY NEEDED* A BATMAN.



NO. HE DECIDED HE WOULD HELP HIM AS NIGHTWING.

I...I WAS ONLY THINKING OF THE TEAM...

OF WHAT BATMAN AND ROBIN MEANT!

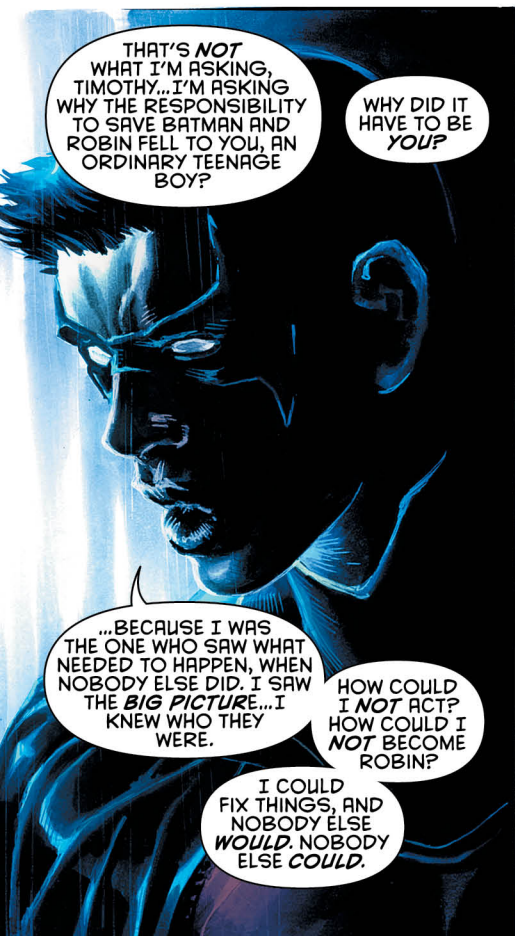
YOU CAN'T LET A LEGEND DIE LIKE THAT, DICK...

...YOU... CAN'T... LET... THEM... JUST... DIE.

AT TIMES MASTER DICK CAN BE AS STUBBORN AS HIS MENTOR. THEY SHARE AT LEAST THAT TRAIT IN COMMON.

CONSIDER YOUR SUCCESS. THEY SHALL BE WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN.

YEAH... BUT I STILL CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT'S NOT WHAT BATMAN NEEDS.



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING, TIMOTHY... I'M ASKING WHY THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN FELL TO YOU, AN ORDINARY TEENAGE BOY?

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE YOU?

...BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO SAW WHAT NEEDED TO HAPPEN, WHEN NOBODY ELSE DID. I SAW THE BIG PICTURE... I KNEW WHO THEY WERE.

HOW COULD I NOT ACT? HOW COULD I NOT BECOME ROBIN?

I COULD FIX THINGS, AND NOBODY ELSE WOULD. NOBODY ELSE COULD.



I WANT TO TAKE THIS ONE DAY AT A TIME.

BUT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TRY--

--WE'LL TRY.



SO WHY DID THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT REST ON YOU?

TWO-FACE HAD NEARLY KILLED THEM BOTH... SOMEBODY NEEDED TO HELP SAVE THEM, AND I KNEW WHAT TO DO.

THE SUIT... IT WAS JUST THERE, HANGING IN THE CAVE.



TWO-FACE... =>CHOK<= WHERE IS HE?

I LEFT HIM WITH ALFRED. THE POLICE SHOULD BE COMING.

POLICE? WH-WHO ARE YOU?



...ROBIN.

FOR NOW, JUST CALL ME ROBIN.



THANKS, MR. WAYNE... BRUCE.

I'LL TRY TO EARN YOUR TRUST.



YOU HAD ALREADY SAVED THEIR LIVES. YOU WERE ALREADY A HERO.


YOU COULD HAVE LEFT IT THERE.

SURE. I GUESS I COULD HAVE... BUT I REALIZED SOMETHING AROUND THEN...



"A HERO
DOESN'T NEED
A MASK."

ROBIN
COSTUME
S. ALFRED

A full-page illustration of Robin in his classic red, green, and black costume, standing in a high-tech control room. He is holding a sword and has a determined expression. In the background, there are computer monitors, a car, and a sign that says "BUT IT HELPS!".

A LONELY PLACE OF LIVING CHAPTER 1

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WITH GRATITUDE TO
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and JIM APARO

BATMAN CREATED BY
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"BUT IT
HELPS!"