



FATHER.

I  
IMAGINED YOU  
TALLER.

*Brash.*

*Defiant.*

*Self-confident  
to a fault.*

*When I think of what  
Damian was like when  
I first met him...*

*...those are  
the traits I  
remember most.*

# RISE OF THE DEMON

## PART 5

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER



Talia raised him secretly, hiding his existence from me for years.

Ever the daughter of Ra's al Ghul, she was molding him to lead the League of Assassins.

When she finally introduced us...

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD, DAMIAN.

FASTER.





... he was on his way to being a monster.

At first, Damian was drawn to his grandfather's world.

But he left with Ra's, never to return.

Eventually, I won that battle and hoped the day would come when he'd take my place.

I passed the mantle of Batman to Terry McGinnis.

My true son was gone, but one I'd come to think of as a son took his place.

MCGINNIS. YOUR TIME HAS COME.

Though it may not last the day.





DAMIAN!  
DON'T!

**CHUFF**



FATHER.  
YOU SHOULD KNOW I WOULDN'T KILL A COMPROMISED, WEAK OPPONENT.



ESPECIALLY ONE SO INFERIOR.  
THERE IS NO SATISFACTION IN KILLING A PRETENDER.



HOW WOULD I KNOW?  
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HERE MAKES ME REALIZE THAT I BARELY KNOW YOU ANYMORE.

I STILL KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU THOUGH.



LIKE THE FACT THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER CAME FOR ME...  
...YOU'D COME FOR THE PRETENDER.



I WANTED TO COME FOR YOU BUT I COULDN'T.

I WAS--

HELD CAPTIVE BY TERMINAL.

HELPLESS AS HE DRAINED YOUR FUNDS.\*

THANKS FOR THE HELP.

\*SEE BATMAN BEYOND #5--JIM

SO LONG AS MONEY REMAINED IN YOUR ACCOUNTS, I KNEW YOU WERE STILL ALIVE.

I KNEW THE PRETENDER WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO YOUR RESCUE.

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

JEALOUSY?

UH...

...rrrrrebooting of system complete. Filters for sonic interference engaged.

INCONCEIVABLE.

THOUGH I AM STRUCK BY YOUR LOYALTY TO SOMEONE SO INFERIOR.

Operational efficiency and power levels at 72 percent due to exterior suppression technology.

You are cleared to engage the enemy.

INFERIOR.