

# The Last Angel

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Submitted: December 29, 2005

Updated: January 13, 2006

*There is a strange presence in Jump City. Something strange lying behind all of the ominous snow. The Titans will have their hands full trying to figure out the mystery, but somehow a homeless boy might help them find the answers.*

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# 1 - Life on the streets

## Chapter 1

### Life on the streets

A young man wandered through the frozen streets of a frigid city, he shivered from the cold with every step. He looked up at all of the tall buildings looming over him and sniffed the liquid back into his nose. The frozen homeless boy kept walking, knowing that things had been worse for him before.

The boy stopped to rest in a mostly empty ally and sat between a few garbage cans. He sighed and closed his eyes, trying to go to sleep. He took a small gold medallion from around his neck and kissed it. Though no words could be heard from his lips you could tell that he was wishing the medallion a good night. The boy then rested his head against the wall and closed his eyes, falling asleep cold and hungry like he did every night.

It wasn't long before some punks came along looking for homeless people to pick on. The homeless boy, who had just gotten to sleep, woke up and saw the disturbance. He felt sorry for the other homeless people in the ally as they were kicked and teased and even beaten. He wanted to intervene, but thought it would attract too much attention. He stood up and decided it was smarter to retreat, but before he could take one step a punk put his hand on the homeless boy's shoulder. "Where do you think you're going?" The punk said, clenching his fist.

The homeless boy pulled his shoulder away from the punk and began to walk away, but the punk and his friends stood in his way. The homeless boy pushed past them and tried to walk away, but the punks grabbed him and slammed him into a wall. "You're staying here, like all the other losers." One of the punks said, punching the poor homeless boy on the chin. He fell to the snowy ground and the punks started to kick him.

The boy tried to crawl away but the largest punk rested his size thirteen foot on his back. The boy was trying to pull away from them. "Where are you going? Is this place your home? Isn't it good enough for you?" The large punk said mockingly as he picked the homeless boy up by the collar of his shirt. The punks all began laughing as he struggled.

The boy took a deep breath, and his eyes met the punk's eyes. The punk saw the strange golden color in the boy's eyes, he stopped laughing when he saw the boy's eyes begin to glow. "What are you?" The punk asked uneasily, forgetting to put the boy down.

The boy grabbed the large punk's hands and twisted them until he had to let go, then the boy punched the large punk into a group of garbage cans with amazing speed. Then he turned his attention to the other two punks and anticipated their attack. The skinniest one threw a heavy punch at him, but he

easily blocked it and kicked the skinny punk into the street. The boy looked at the third punk and threw a strong kick at his face, stopping just short of his nose. He lowered his foot slowly then pointed toward the street quickly. The third punk screamed and ran away. The boy heaved a deep sigh and began to walk down the street again. He looked back at the two punks lying unconscious in the street. "Sorry." The boy said under his breath.

Not far away a heartless pair of eyes watched the homeless boy walking down the street. "I found him, Jade. Should I move in?" A deep, emotionless voice asked into a cell phone.

The soft voice of a girl came through the receiver of the phone. "No sweetie, I don't want you getting hurt. Let him play with our little friends. Don't let me down Sammy baby." She said hanging up the phone.

Sam put away his phone and followed the homeless boy with his eyes. He made a signal across the street to a group of strong looking men. When they disappeared from sight, Sam turned and looked at another group. "Remember, we don't want you to hurt this kid. Bring him back with as few injuries as possible." He said pointing down at the homeless boy. The group of goons nodded in unison and ran to the street.

The homeless boy shivered as he walked down the street. He rubbed his chest to keep warm as he walked through the deadly cold of the city streets. He felt terrible, he wasn't used to this kind of cold. He thought that he would be escaping the cold by coming to Jump City, but something was wrong and the homeless boy could feel it had to do with him. He hated himself for bringing his bad fortune with him everywhere he went, hurting innocent people by letting his fights follow him.

The boy was about to find a new place to rest when he was confronted by another stranger. "It's time to go Tom... You can't get away this time, not unless you can defeat a whole army." The large stranger said to him snapping his fingers and summoning a large group of goons to surround the homeless boy.

The homeless boy, Tom, was afraid. He was afraid that he might actually lose this time. This had happened to him many times before, but tonight was different. He was tired and cold, and the beating from the punks had mad Tom dizzy. Tom's eyes began to glow again, brighter this time. Tom wouldn't be able to defeat an army, but he would certainly try.

### *Meanwhile*

Jump City was buried in snow. The streets and buildings appeared as a solid snowy wall. The snow storm had not let up since the week before. The snow had made almost all activity in the city come to a complete halt, people would go to and from work every day but life didn't feel at all the same. The Teen Titans especially were feeling the effects of the storm. They all took up hobbies to keep from going stir crazy. Cyborg went back to work on the T car and the training room, upgrading and rebuilding them to be bigger and better. Starfire and Beast Boy put together a puppet show that would perform comedy routines for the others. Raven practiced ignoring the puppet show and reading her old books, as usual. And Robin, the ever vigilant leader of the group, tested Cyborg's newly upgraded training room.

The training simulator had been upgraded to allow the Titans to practice piloting cars, motorcycles, and the T ship through multiple environments and with random obstacles. Robin was practicing his

motorcycle driving through a jungle environment, two attack drones chased him through the thick trees. "It's still too easy Cyborg." Robin said, shooting the drones out of the sky with the motorcycle's mounted turrets. Robin took off his helmet and was back in the tower.

Cyborg was standing at a computer monitor. "I think you're just getting used to dealing with that specific set up. The environment and enemies are supposed to be generated randomly, but the system is having a hard time processing the information." He walked over to Robin and took the helmet from him. "I'll work it out eventually. For now, we should get some rest. We've been working on this all day. We finally have some free time, we should use some of it to relax." He said, putting the helmet on a table and walking toward the door.

Robin sighed and followed him, but before either of them could get to the door, the alarm went off. "What was that you were saying about free time?" Robin said cynically, feeling excited to finally see some more action.

They ran to the living room and saw everyone else gathering around the giant monitor. "What's going on?" Robin asked, walking toward the others calmly.

Raven was tapping buttons on the keyboard, bringing up all possible information on the situation occurring down town. "It's a riot... About three hundred people tarring up the streets." She said, continuing to press a sequence of buttons. "That's weird." She said suddenly, looking up at the screen.

Cyborg stepped forward. "What is it? Something we should be worried about?" He asked trying to see what she sees on the screen.

Raven pointed at the location of the riot. "Look at the way its progressing... they are all moving as one group." She said as the marker on the screen moved along the map. "If it's a riot, why are they all going together like that? Wouldn't a riot be a bit more chaotic?" Beast Boy asked, looking at the rest of the group.

"Perhaps it is not a riot." Starfire said, sounding concerned. "But what else could it be?"

Robin turned and began to walk to the door. "No time to worry about that right now." He turned back to the others and signaled them to follow. "Titans, go!"

## 2 - Riot Control

### Chapter 2

#### Riot Control

Robin was quick to act, putting on his winter suit and jumping onto his motorcycle in what seemed to be one easy movement. He kicked the starter and sped into the snowy night, knowing that the others were hurrying behind him.

Beast Boy tossed Cyborg his coat. Cyborg slipped it on quickly then grabbed Beast Boy and tossed him into a closet across the room. Beast Boy jumped out of the closet and pulled a bunch of old socks off of his head. "We have to work a little more on that move... And get this closet cleaned." He said, reaching back and grabbing his mittens.

Starfire giggled as she helped Beast Boy out of the pile of socks. Then she remembered the current situation and took on a slightly more serious tone. "We must hurry, Robin has already left." She said, flying out of the room.

Raven was quiet as she pulled a sock out of Beast Boy's hair. "I don't even want to know who these belong to." She said, dropping the sock on the floor and flying after Starfire.

Cyborg and Beast Boy caught up to the others quickly and they hurried to the scene of the disturbance. Robin had Starfire carry him to the roof of one of the buildings so they could get a look at the whole thing from a safe distance. "Looks like they're all after one thing... But I can't tell what from here. We'll have to split up and go in from every direction." Robin told Starfire as she carried him back to the ground. Robin quickly formed his plan. "Cyborg, you go up the street from here and block them off from behind. Beast Boy, you go between the buildings and block all the exits to the east. I'll go the other way and block the west. Starfire, you fly past them and stop them from moving forward and causing anymore damage... And Raven, stay above them and try to find out what they are after and, if necessary, retrieve and protect it." He said, looking at each of them seriously. Robin could tell that they were ready. "Titans... GO!" Robin shouted, letting the group split up and take care of their assigned jobs.

Raven flew quickly to find what was causing these people to riot. "*This is strange... They all seem to be after one thing... But what?*" She thought, looking through the crowd as closely as she could. She saw something else that seemed out of place. "*All of the rioters are wearing the same style of jumpsuit... are they working together?*" She thought, just as she got to the center of the commotion. Raven looked around and saw the others approaching from all sides. She sighed and looked back at the crowd, Raven noticed something new. It was a boy in the middle of all the action, fighting against everyone else. Raven waved over to Robin and pointed at the boy when she got his attention. "It's him! He is the one they're after!" She shouted to him.

Robin pushed a few of the rioters out of the way and saw the boy, fighting as hard as he could against a whole army. He looked up at Raven and signaled toward the boy. "Help him!" He shouted as the rioters began to notice the Titan's interference. Robin pulled out his retractable staff and began to fight off the attacking rioters.

Raven didn't wait a second flying over to the boy. Raven put a dark aura around one attacker's shoes and swung him into a small group of others. The boy, who had been fighting the mob with a strange kick based fighting style, saw the attacker being flung around by his shoes. The boy kicked one of the other attackers away so he could see who enchanted the attacker's shoes. Raven saw the boy looking around as though he was confused. He looked up at her and looked as though he forgot about the fight going on around him. "Look out!" She shouted at him, just before a large set of knuckles crashed across his face. The boy fell to the ground limply, Raven was sure he was out cold. "Great..." Raven sighed, putting a barrier around the unconscious boy.

The groups of attackers around the boy were surprised that they couldn't get to him, they were even more surprised when Raven landed in front of the boy and put up a fighting stance. Raven waited until they were closer, then she transported herself and the unconscious boy to safety. Raven looked down at the army of attackers and saw the others fighting through the army. Robin was knocking attackers away with his retractable staff, Starfire was swooping down and pushing the attackers into each other, Cyborg had picked up a fallen lamp post and was using it to hold back and advancing enemies, Beast Boy had turned into a rhinoceros and was knocking back any enemies that tried to escape through the alleys.

Raven sighed and looked at the boy she had just saved, she was about to heal him when she noticed his bruises were already gone. She looked closer and saw that he wasn't out cold, but actually sleeping. "Now I know you aren't normal." She said quietly, standing up again.

Raven watched the boy snore for a few seconds before Robin appeared behind her. "Is he okay?" Robin asked, looking down at the boy.

Raven nodded. "He'll be fine... What about those people who attacked him?" She said, looking over the edge of the building. Raven's eyes widened when she saw that only the destruction from the fight had been left behind.

Robin shook his head slowly. "I don't know... Somehow they all just disappeared. I think they were trained to run just in case they met us. I have Cyborg and Starfire scanning the city for clues on who they might have been." He said, walking over to the unconscious boy and checking his pulse. "This kid might know something... I want you and Beast Boy to take him back to the tower and keep an eye on him until he wakes up." He said, standing up and pulling the air powered grappling hook gun out of his belt. "I'll be asking a few sources about information on who the attackers were, call me when the boy wakes up." Robin said just before he shot the grappling hook and swung off into the snowy sky.

Beast Boy landed next to Raven in the form of a snow owl. He transformed back into a kid and looked down at the unconscious kid. Beast Boy shivered as he looked at the boy. He had a joke in his head but, for some reason, he didn't want to tell it. "We should get back to the tower... The snow is getting pretty harsh." Beast Boy said, standing up straight and looking at Raven.

Raven was still looking at the boy as he snored lightly. "Yeah... I guess you're right." She said, feeling strange. *"Something is strange with this boy... He has a strange power, but I can't tell what it is yet."* She thought as she summoned her soul self to carry the three of them back to the tower.

# 3 - First Impressions

## Chapter 3

### First impressions

Raven and Beast Boy got the unconscious boy to the tower infirmary and made sure he was alright before they went to the living room to wait for the others. Beast Boy was oddly quiet for a while. "Is it just me, or does something not feel right about all this... I mean what if he is some kind of criminal or someone who is planning something sinister and this is all a set up for a big trap?" Beast Boy said, pacing around the couch as he pondered. "What if he's some kind of bait to hook us into something even we can't handle?" He asked, looking worried.

Raven sighed and sat down on the couch. "We can't know for sure about anything like that until we get a chance to talk to him... Some does feel weird about him though." Raven said, sounding far away. Raven kept picturing him sleeping, something about him made her feel different. Raven came back to the real world after a few seconds and looked at Beast Boy inquisitively. "What kind of trap would he bait for anyway?" She asked, sounding as though she was expecting a stupid answer.

Beast Boy looked serious for a second before he said. "A killer diet pill pyramid scheme!" Beast Boy sounded as though that was his actual idea. "Think about it... With us distracted with the kid, all kinds of toxic capsules are being labeled as the new diet craze. It's only a matter of time before the toxic diet fraud becomes lethal." He said, looking as though he had just solved the mystery.

Raven sighed and sunk her head into her hands. "Brilliant deduction... Chalk one up for Beast Boy." Raven said sarcastically.

The computer began to beep suddenly. Raven checked what was going on and saw something weird in the infirmary. "The boy must be waking up." Raven said slowly, turning to Beast Boy. "You go see if you can talk to him, I'll call Rabin and tell him the boy's new condition." Raven turned back to the computer and pressed the call button, she hesitated when she saw the increase of activity in the infirmary. "You better hurry Beast Boy, I think he might be scared about where he woke up." She said, glancing back at Beast Boy quickly.

Beast Boy walked out of the room quickly after he saw the readings coming from the infirmary. "Maybe I'm the one who should be scared... Who knows what kind of reaction he could have to strange people in a strange place." He said to himself, stopping in front the infirmary door. Beast Boy took a deep breath and opened the door. He walked in slowly and looked around quickly. The boy had gone missing. Beast Boy pulled out his communicator and called Raven urgently. "Big problem! He's gone!" Beast Boy shouted, searching the room more carefully.



Suddenly, Beast Boy was hit by a metal tray. He reeled around and rubbed the back of his head, where he was hit. Beast Boy saw the boy standing there with the now dented metal tray, looking scared and nervous. "Sheu aroi psuy?" The boy asked, dropping the tray and backing away.

Beast Boy stepped forward with his hands out to show that he didn't have any weapons. "Calm down... You're okay." Beast Boy told the boy, trying to sound calm.

The boy edged toward the door, keeping an eye on Beast Boy. "Sthas ashas xroiine unei!" The boy said, trying to sound scary. The boy turned and ran out the door and through the hall.

Beast Boy felt hesitant to follow. He felt the bump on his head and felt a little dizzy. Beast Boy saw the dented tray the boy used as a weapon. "I'm glad he only hit my head... I don't really use it that much anyway." He joked, laughing at himself for a second before he remembered he was alone. "Right..." Beast Boy sighed, running after the boy.

Raven was listening to the disturbance with her communicator. "Beast Boy... What was all that noise?" She asked into the communicator.

Beast Boy held up his communicator and responded as he ran. "The boy we found is too scared to talk... Not that it would do any good, he is speaking a strange language." Beast Boy said, rounding a corner to see the boy bashing his way through a door. "I'll get back to you." Beast Boy told Raven quickly before he put away his communicator.

The boy saw Beast Boy and looked frightened, he turned to face Beast Boy and tried to look scary. "Xith dagxi!" The boy shouted, snapping his right foot behind him in a strong kick that knocked the door down. The boy turned and kept running.

Beast Boy kept following him, trying not to get too close and scare the boy. "Wait! I'm not going to hurt you... I'm a friend." Beast Boy said, feeling panicked as he followed the boy.

The boy didn't seem to want to listen, he kept running in fear. He moved quickly to stay ahead of Beast Boy. "Liaphi mui alunei! Eh shehll neuth thalxi!" The boy shouted in his incomprehensible language. "Sthas ashas xroiine unei!" The boy shouted continuously as he ran away from Beast Boy.

The boy let himself get cornered after a few minutes of running, Beast Boy felt completely winded. "I... Just want... to help." Beast Boy gasped as he walked closer to the boy.

Beast Boy stopped and tried to catch his breath, he looked up at the scared boy he had been chasing through the tower and saw that his eyes were glowing. "Eh saehde, liaphi mui alunei!" The boy shouted, charging right past Beast Boy, knocking Beast Boy down as he ran past. "Eh deu neuth shaneth thu eyroth psuy!" The boy called back to Beast Boy as he ran away.

Beast Boy just sat there for a second and watched the boy run. He pulled out his communicator again and called Raven. "Your turn... He doesn't want to talk to me." Beast Boy said, lying back to rest after the chase.

Raven heard the call and sighed, getting up to find the boy and see if she would have any luck talking to

him. "Robin better get here soon... I'm not sure I can baby sit the new kid and Beast Boy at the same time for very long." She mumbled, slowly walking through the hall.

A small noise came from behind Raven, she turned around to see the boy trying to sneak away. She cleared her throat to get his attention. "Eh amu suroros... Eh gane neuth zehxeth psuy." The boy said slowly without turning to look at Raven.

Raven listened carefully to the tone of the boy's voice, she could tell that he was scared but didn't want to fight. Raven approached the boy slowly. "It's okay... You're safe here." She told the boy calmly.

The boy turned around to look at Raven, when he recognized her he looked down at his feet and said, quietly. "Eh amu suroros."

Raven didn't know what the boy was saying but she could tell he was becoming less frightened. "My name is Raven... What is your name?" She asked, hoping the boy would understand.

The boy seemed to hesitate, but he put his hand on his chest and said. "Mus neamui ehs... Tom." Tapping his chest when he said Tom.

Raven nodded in understanding. "Good, Tom, you can understand English." She said, trying to move closer to him.

Tom nodded. "Of course I understand... It was the first language I learned." He told her, stepping back cautiously. "I'm uncomfortable around strangers." He informed her, trying to sound polite.

## 4 - A boy named Tom

### Chapter 4

#### A boy named Tom

The group had gathered back at the tower when their search yielded no results and Raven called them about Tom waking up. Tom had agreed not to run if they kept their distance. They stood in the middle of the living room and let Tom sit closer to the door. Tom seemed to be loosening up and trusting them more with every passing minute. "Can you tell us a little about yourself?" Robin asked calmly, trying to decide whether or not to look Tom in the eye.

Tom hesitated for a second. He looked as though he was having a hard time remembering. "My name is Tom... Jones. I'm... 16 years old." Tom said sounding truthful, yet unsure. "I've been homeless since I was nine... I think."

Robin frowned at the answer, he didn't know what to make of the information. He looked at the others, who all had different looks of concern on their faces. It was as though they each saw something different but didn't know if they were really seeing it. Robin knew that Tom was more than a common homeless kid, something about the way he behaved and the way he moved told Robin that Tom was hiding something. "What about those people who attacked you? We weren't able to find a single trace of them." Robin said, crossing his arms and watching Tom closely.

Tom thought for a second. "I have no idea who they were or why they attacked me... I do remember that they aren't the first to try." He said, pulling out a small clump of scraps. "I collected these as clues... So far they haven't been any help." He said, tossing the scraps to Robin.

Robin inspected the scraps and saw that they were once pieces of clothing. "Where did you get these?" He asked, looking at the different insignias on the scraps. There were three different insignias, all of which Robin couldn't recognize.

Tom didn't have to think to answer this question. "I ripped them off of a few of the guys who attacked me... Those three groups are the ones that attack most often. I think they are after me... but I don't know why." Tom said, looking down at his feet.

Cyborg looked at the scraps for a second, trying to think of what to do with them. "I guess we could run a search on these three groups... Although this is all kind of confusing." He said, taking the scraps from Robin and setting them next to the computer. "You say these three different groups have attacked you, and that they are after you, but you don't know who they are or even why they are focusing on you." Cyborg said, going over all the current information out loud. "Something just doesn't add up... What is it they want from you?"

Tom shook his head. "I don't know why they want me... I don't know what they could use me for." He told them quietly.

Beast Boy looked around at the others then at Tom. "How could you guys not see it?" He asked suddenly, surprising the others. "I'm not usually the one to say this first, but it's kind of simple." Beast Boy said, sounding serious about what he was talking about. "This kid isn't normal... He has powers that can easily be harnessed for something, and those three groups all want to get to it first." He said, surprising the others further by showing his knowledge on the subject.

Raven had been quiet the whole time, she hadn't remembered to tell the others that she saw Tom fighting off the whole army of attackers on his own until they had shown up to help him. Raven would have said something about it sooner but she had been busy reading her books to find the language Tom was using when he was running from them. She shut the book and stood up. "Beast Boy might actually have a point." She said, turning her attention to Tom. "I saw Tom fighting just before I saved him from the people who were attacking him... I could tell by the way he moved that he wasn't just an average person."

Tom looked up at the group and coughed quietly. "I'm sorry to bother you." He said quietly to get their attention. When they were paying attention to him, he stood up and walked over to the computer where Cyborg left the scraps of clothing. "These groups have been after me for a while... They want something, but I don't really care what... If I stay here I'll be putting all of you in danger, and I just can't let that happen." Tom told them, coughing quietly every few seconds. "If it's alright with you... I'd like to keep my troubles to myself." Tom said as he began to walk out of the room.

Robin stepped in front of Tom quickly to block his path. "We can't just let you go out there on your own, not if something bad will happen." He said seriously, taking the scraps from Tom and holding them up. "It's our job to put these guys behind bars... even if it is dangerous."

Cyborg stepped forward and nodded at Robin's words. "He's right... We are here to help, even if we don't know all that much about these guys."

Starfire smiled at Tom as she stepped forward. "We will gladly lend our assistance. You no longer need to fight on your own." She told Tom kindly.

Tom looked at his feet. "But... I've made a promise that I wouldn't let anyone else get hurt because of me... It's something I'll have to figure out on my own." He said, taking back the scraps and putting them in his pocket.

Beast Boy put his hand on Tom's shoulder, he smiled at Tom and said. "Don't worry about it, we're pros at this kind of stuff. We'll help you figure this out, and we'll make sure that no one else gets hurt."

Tom looked at his feet, he looked as though he was crying for a moment. "Thanks... I... don't know what to say." Tom said in a quivering voice.

The mood in the room seemed to become very happy, yet calm. Cyborg smiled at Tom as he said. "No problem dude, you've said enough already."

Starfire jumped up and down excitedly. "What a joyous occasion, we have made a new friend." She said happily.

Robin gave Tom a kind grin and put his hand on Tom's shoulder. "Come on... you look like you could use a bath and a warm bed."

## 5 - A new titan

### Chapter 5

#### A new titan

Tom seemed slightly reluctant to follow as Starfire, Cyborg and Beast Boy dragged him around the tower to get him cleaned up. Beast Boy volunteered to lend Tom some clothing until he could get his own. "Not bad, he almost looks as good as me." Beast Boy joked when he saw Tom wearing his outfit.

Tom laughed quietly. "I don't know... you're kind of skinny, this feels a little tight." He told beast Boy bluntly. Cyborg and Starfire laughed their heads off as Beast Boy scoffed at Tom's comment.

Raven and Robin stayed in the living room to talk more about their new friend. "He used an ancient language, called 'Rashiel's tongue', thought to have died out over four thousand years ago... I'm not sure how he could have learned to speak the language so fluently, even with all of my books I was only able to find the alphabet. It says that the only people who ever bothered to learn the language were 'The Followers of Rashiel', a cult who believed in a giant, planet consuming dragon who would 'cleanse the taint of the world'... I have a hard time believing that Tom would think something like that though." Raven said, showing Robin a few pages from her books.

Robin scanned the pages that Raven showed him, trying to see if he could notice anything else of interest. "We wouldn't know what Tom might believe until we asked him, but I don't think that's an appropriate question to ask just yet... I think we should just keep an eye on him until we can figure out who is after him." Robin said as he tried to figure out the strange alphabet in the book Raven gave him.

Raven handed Robin another book. "I did manage to find something else on The Followers of Rashiel... I think this might be more important than the strange language." Raven said as she pointed to a symbol on the page she wanted Robin to see.

The symbol looked just like one of the symbols Tom had shown them on the scraps of clothing. Robin frowned at this new discovery. "You think he might have something to do with the cult?" Robin asked, looking closely at the symbol on the page.

Raven didn't know what to think, Tom had dealt with the cult but not as a member. He had to fight them on some occasion, but there was no way for them to know all the details at the moment. "Tom has had a run in with The Followers of Rashiel, but I don't think he was ever part of the cult." Raven told Robin, just before the others walked into the room to show off how clean they had made Tom.

Tom blond hair seemed to shine like gold now that it was clean, and his golden eyes had a calmer look to them. Beast Boy put his arm around Tom and pointed at his clothing. "It's like looking into a color

blind mirror.” Beast Boy said, patting Tom on the back.

Tom smiled and laughed quietly, but had to stop and cough for a few seconds. Starfire grabbed Tom's wrist. “You aren't feeling well, you have to eat something!” She said, sitting Tom in a chair and running to the refrigerator to grab one of her home remedies. She set a thick red goop in front of Tom and handed him a spoon. “Eat, you will feel better.” Starfire said, sounding slightly bossy.

Tom did as he was told before the others could warn him of Starfire's strange form of cooking. Tom ate the goop quietly, seeming to enjoy its spicy sweetness. He smiled at Starfire gratefully. “It has been a long time since I had such a nice, home cooked meal... And even longer since I had a meal that could cure a cough.” Tom said, continuing to scoop the thick red goop into his mouth.

Starfire capped and laughed at the news. “I'm glad you like it.” She said as she went to get more from the refrigerator.

The group was quiet as they watched Tom eat. They knew he wouldn't tell them much more than he already had tonight, at least, not until he spent a bit more time with them. It was getting kind of late by now, Robin had just realized how tired he was feeling. “It's been a rough day... We should probably get some rest for the night.” He told every one, as he started to walk toward the door.

Before Robin could leave the room the alarm went off again. Robin looked around at the others, they were all as surprised as him. Tom got up and looked confused at what he was hearing. “What's that?” Tom asked, looking around at the titans.

Robin signaled everyone to move. “Titans, go!” He shouted, Turning and running to the door.

Robin was surprised to feel Tom's hand on his shoulder, he could have sworn Tom was all the way on the other side of the room before he turned around, Tom would have had to move pretty fast to catch up so quickly. “You can't go without me... I can't let you fight unless I'm there to make sure that nothing bad happens to you.” Tom said seriously.

Robin turned to look at Tom and said. “Are you sure you're ready to fight? We don't want you to get hurt.”

Tom nodded and clenched his hand into a fist. “I'm ready to fight... Especially to protect you guys... You are the only people I have trusted enough to talk to since... I had a family.” Tom said, getting very serious toward the end.

Robin gave Tom an encouraging smile and put his hand on Tom's shoulder. “As long as we consider each other family... You might need one o these.” Robin said, handing Tom a communicator. “As long as you fight with us... You can consider yourself a titan.” Robin told Tom just before he turned and ran out of the room. Tom followed, looking confident that he could serve as the next new Titan.

## 6 - The Dancing Fiend

### Chapter 6

#### The dancing fiend

Robin led the team down town, past the area where the earlier disturbance was. They were close to the pizza place where they normally hang out when they heard something moving through the snow. "Look out team... We don't know what's out there." Robin told the titans quietly as he looked around the snowy street.

A strange noise came from down the street, it sounded like a car flipping over. Tom felt nervous as he stood behind Cyborg and Beast Boy. "What was that?" Tom asked Cyborg quietly.

Cyborg's robotic eye was bleeping as he looked through the falling snow. "It's a small group of punks... They look like they're... Dancing." Cyborg told the group quietly, walking over to Robin. "What's the plan?"

Robin looked back at the other titans. "Sneak attack." He whispered, disappearing into the snow.

Tom was surprised at how quiet the titans were as they made themselves invisible in the snow. "Wait... What are you doing?" He asked, trying to follow Beast Boy. Tom quickly lost track of the titans and found himself lost in the snow. "Great... First night out as a titan and you can't even keep up, good going genius." He said to himself scornfully as he tried to figure out what to do next.

Robin could see the trouble makers dancing through the dark streets, they looked well rehearsed as they slid in unison toward another car. It was strange to see the punks flip the car as though it was part of a destructive dance number. "*Okay... that's only a little weird.*" Robin thought, waiting to see any of the other titans in position before the attack.

Beast Boy was across the street, watching the punks as a large wolf. "*These guys have some pretty good moves... To bad I have to kick their butts.*" He thought, turning back into a kid and waving over to Robin. Robin waved back and waited a few more second to see if the other titans were in position.

Starfire had managed to fly past the punks without being seen, she saw that all the punks were dressed in the same white parka and red goggles. Starfire flew around quickly to see if she could find the leader of the gang, it wasn't too hard fortunately. He was standing on top of one of the flipped cars, two other tough looking punks stood close to him. The boss was dressed in a fancy white snow suit rather than just a parka, his red goggles seemed to glow brighter than the others. The two standing next to him weren't dressed the same as the other punks either, like they were more important than the other punks. One was a red haired girl, she wore a red jumpsuit that didn't look as though it should have kept her warm.



The other was a huge, hairy man, who looked as though he was wearing a thick fur coat, but it could have just been his own hair. *"They look formidable... not to mention their subordinates travel in great numbers."* She thought, waving down to Robin to show she was ready.

Robin ran in and slid across the snowy street, using his retractable staff to trip the group of punks who had just flipped the car. "Titans, GO!" He shouted, running through the falling white powder to attack the next group.

Tom heard the call coming from the opposite direction. "Darn... I'm not even going the right way." He said, smacking himself on the head as he tried to find his way to battle.

The gang leader looked up and was able to see the titan's through the snow. "What the... I know y'all ain't tryin' to come up and mess with Snow Man and his Yeti Boy Gang." He said, shaking his finger at Starfire. He looked down at the red haired girl standing next to him. "Lacy, baby, go show them we own this town now." He said, blowing a kiss to her.

Lacy stepped forward and looked up at Starfire. "With pleasure Snow Man." She said, jumping into the air in a fire ball. She seemed to have control over fire, which let her rocket through the night skies. Starfire was barely able to move out of the way in time, but Lacy missed and Starfire was able to counter attack.

Snow Man looked at the large hairy man, who didn't seem smart enough to know how to talk. "Help out the troops, Fuzzy." He demanded, pointing at Beast Boy. Fuzzy nodded and began to dance over to Beast Boy. "You can't beat the stylin' moves of my Yeti Boys." Snow Man yelled at the titans.

Cyborg and Raven were standing in the place of Snow Man's two lieutenants, both ready to attack. "Guess again punk." Cyborg said, aiming his sonic cannon at Snow Man. "Give up now and we won't have to kick your butt."

Snow Man chuckled at Cyborg's threat. "I don't think I have to worry too much about that... Do I boys?" He said, starting to dance on the car he was standing on. Cyborg and Raven were both grabbed by half a dozen of yeti boys each, surprised that they were ambushed so easily. "You can't fight the Snow Man in the snow, it just ain't done like that." Snow Man said, spinning around pointing at Raven. "Take her apart."

Beast Boy had his hands full, trying to fight his giant, hairy attacker. He saw Raven being attacked by the group of yeti boys. "Hey leave her..." Beast Boy shouted before he was smacked by Fuzzy's massive fist. Beast Boy wanted to help but he was busy trying not to get squished by the hairy behemoth.

Starfire heard Snow Man's command and flew down to help, but she was hit from behind by a ball of fire. "Don't tell me you forgot about me... I'm so hurt." Lacy said sarcastically as she threw another fireball.

Robin knew what was going on, manly because he was experiencing a similar problem. The Yeti Boys had surrounded him, and there didn't seem to be an end to their numbers. He was able to hold them off but he didn't know how long he would be able to keep it up.

Cyborg was throwing the Yeti Boys off of himself, but more just kept jumping on. He saw what they were doing to Raven, they were trying to rip her apart like they were told. "Yo! We aren't action figures, our limbs don't come off." Cyborg shouted, throwing one Yeti boy into four others. Cyborg began to run to Raven, but was quickly tackled by a large group of Yeti Boys.

Raven tried to escape, but the Yeti Boys were stronger than they looked and they knew to cover her mouth so she couldn't chant. Snow Man was dancing on the car faster. "That's right titans... you're all going to get ripped apart by me and my yeti boys... No one will forget our names after this." Snow Man said happily as he spun around again, He pointed to Raven and ran his left index finger across his throat. "Finish the job."

The Yeti Boys began to pull, but were quickly thrown aside by a set of golden fists. "No one is getting dismembered as long as I have something to say about it." Tom said, grabbing a Yeti Boy's hand and tossing him at Snow Man. Tom helped Raven up and made sure she was okay. "Sorry I took so long... I got a little lost." He said, innocently.

Snow Man got frustrated. "What? There are six of you? All the papers said there was only five... Whatever, Yeti Boys!" He said, sounding very angry. All the Yeti Boys stopped their attack and regrouped around Snow Man, as did his two lieutenants. "Alright gang, lets teach the titans how to grove." He said, pointing at the titans and tapping his foot. "First wave... Attack." He shouted, sending the front line of crazed dancers to fight the titans.

The titans had all regrouped to rethink the strategy. "Raven, Starfire, attack from above. Cyborg, Beast Boy, fight them head on. Tom, come with me." Robin said quickly as he ran into an alley. Tom followed closely as the others went off to fight.

Starfire blasted the pavement in front of the Yeti Boys to knock them down as Raven picked up the rubble fragments Starfire's blast left behind and threw them at the other Yeti Boys with her magic. Cyborg and Beast Boy charged in head first, Beast Boy turned into a Polar Bear and smacked the Yeti Boys aside as Cyborg followed up with his fists.

Tom followed Robin around the building, they snuck up on Snow Man and his lieutenants quietly. Robin pointed at Lacy. "Take her down quickly, I'll take the hairy one. Then we can focus on Snow Man." Robin said, running silently over to Fuzzy.

Tom did as he was told and ran up behind Lacy without a sound. Neither she, nor Snow Man could react quick enough to stop Tom's attack, he was behind her before either of them noticed. Tom put his left hand over Lacy's mouth to stop her from screaming and alerting the Yeti Boys, then he punched her in the neck with his right hand. Lacy passed out and Tom let her fall to the ground.

Robin had gotten to Fuzzy and managed to jump onto his back. "You could use a shave." Robin mocked quietly as he pulled out a flash bomb. Robin threw it in front of Fuzzy and it exploded into a blinding light. Fuzzy moaned and fell to his knees, rubbing his eyes. Robin quickly jumped in front of Fuzzy and kicked him in the chin to knock him unconscious.

Snow Man was barely able to react to losing his two lieutenants so quickly. "Yeti Boys, protect the Snow Man!" He shouted, but all the Yeti Boys were busy getting beaten up by the other four titans. He looked

back at Robin and Tom and put up his hands in a defensive fighting stance. "Alright... Looks like the Snow Man is going to have to teach you a lesson." Snow Man said, jumping down from the car.

Robin jumped in front of Snow Man and kicked him against the car he was standing on. "We're not too interested in anything you teach." Robin said, grinning as he spun around and kicked Snow Man with his heel. "But I'm sure every one else in prison would love to learn how to dance."

# 7 - Goodnight Titans

## Chapter 7

### Goodnight Titans

The titans had just finished cleaning up the streets of their fight with the Yeti Boy Gang. The last police car was speeding away as Cyborg and Beast Boy did victory dances. "Those guys had some pretty good moves, but they were nothing compared to Beast Boy." Beast Boy said, spinning around and doing the moon walk.

Cyborg looked at the clock in his arm and smiled at the others. "It's only four minutes past midnight, we still have time for a pizza celebration before bed." Cyborg said, rubbing his stomach.

Raven sighed and looked over at Tom, who still seemed to act a little shy around them. She walked over to him slowly, hoping not to surprise him. "Thanks." Raven said to Tom quietly.

Tom looked a little confused. "For what?" He asked innocently, scratching his head as though he didn't know what she was talking about.

Raven watched him scratch his head for a moment before answering his question. "For saving my life." She said slowly, as though speaking to a child.

Tom nodded in understanding. "No need to thank me, any of the others would have done the same thing." Tom said as he watched the others argue over whether or not they should get a pizza.

Raven watched Tom as he laughed at Beast Boy and Cyborg fighting over what pizza topping to get. "But none of the others were able to save me... You were there, to save me when no one else could... That's why I'm thanking you." Raven explained to Tom slowly.

Tom smiled at Raven. "I was just keeping my promise... I'll be there to help anytime you need it... Besides, you'd do the same for me." Tom told Raven, sounding more confident than he had before.

Raven just stood there and let Tom's words sit in her mind as she watched him walk over to Beast Boy and Cyborg. Robin and Starfire waked up next to Raven and watched Tom with her. Tom began to play in the snow, throwing some at Cyborg and Beast Boy to get their attention. "He seems... Happier than when we met him." Starfire said quietly.

Robin nodded. "I think he actually trusts us... I thought it might take longer, but Tom seems to be more comfortable with us now." Robin said, watching Tom throw a snow ball at Cyborg.

Raven smiled as she saw Tom laughing and playing with Cyborg and Beast Boy. "It's because he knows we can be like a family to him... We can be the thing he has lived without for so long." Raven whispered, almost to herself. "The thing Tom needed most was a family... he found us."

Cyborg and Beast Boy worked together to form a large snow ball, Tom had made a slightly small snow ball. "We're going to make a snow man... Hopefully, this one doesn't try to dance." Beast Boy said jokingly, as Tom lifted the smaller snow ball onto the larger one.

Robin and Starfire went to make the snow man's head, leaving Raven to watch. She simply rested against a car that hadn't been flipped over and watched her friends make a snow man.

When Robin and Starfire put the head in the snow man, Cyborg took a bunch of spare parts and old batteries on it to make a face. "Would you look at that... The cutting edge in snow man technology." Cyborg said, stepping back to let the others take a look.

The group had a laugh, then Robin gave the signal to head home. "We'll get pizza later... we should get some rest now, unless someone else decides to make trouble tonight." Robin said as he turned to walk home.

It didn't take long to get home, they were all eager to get a good night's rest. They all said their good nights and went to their rooms. Cyborg had cleared out a room for Tom. The room used to be for storage, but was now an empty room ready to be personalized. Tom sat on the large bed and relaxed a bit before lying down and falling asleep.

Raven sat in her room, not ready to sleep just yet. She practiced her meditation for a while. "Azerath Metrion Zinthos." Raven chanted repeatedly, calming her mind and clearing all thought.

Tom wasn't asleep for very long before he found himself in a nightmare. It was the same one that had been plaguing him all month. He was standing on the highest mountain top in the world, all Tom could see below were clouds. He felt calm and peaceful before he looked up into the sky. Something beyond terrifying was looming above the earth waiting to swoop down and snuff out all existence. It was a dragon, one far grater in size then Tom's mind could imagine. The dragon was big enough to take up half sky, even though Tom could tell that it wasn't even past the moon yet. It simply floated there, waiting for Tom to notice it. "**Eh amu gumuenex thu larothe.**" The dragon roared, nearly deafening Tom, despite the fact that it was nowhere near earth yet.

Tom knew the language the dragon was speaking, it was the same language he used when he was figuring out if he could trust the titans. "*I am coming to Earth.*" Tom thought as the dragon roared. Tom felt the same panic he felt every time he had this dream, like he was completely helpless. Tom looked back up at the dragon as it got ready to speak again. "**Psuy shehll liade mui.**" It roared, causing Tom to fall to his knees. "*You shall lead me.*" Tom thought, as he heard the roar.

Tom looked up at the dragon and felt the fear build up in his gut. "I can't... I won't let this thing come to earth." Tom told himself, trying to stand. The dragon bared its sharp, oddly shaped teeth at Tom, who then began to scream uncontrollably out of fear. The dragon was done talking to Tom, it swung a single claw at Tom to knock him off the mountain. Even though the dragon was so far away, it was able to reach the earth easily. Its one claw was easily the size of the entire eastern hemisphere. Tom closed his

eyes and waited for death, only to wake up to the sound of his own screaming.

Raven heard Tom screaming and got up to see what was going on. When she knocked on his door, Tom answered, looking very scared. "What happened?" Raven asked, Tom urgently.

Tom was breathing heavily, as though he had just seen the most horrifying thing in his entire life. He took a deep breath before giving his answer. "I... just had a bad dream."

## 8 - Old Wounds

### Chapter 8

#### Old Wounds

Starfire had woken up early that morning, hoping to find someone to play with. She went to the training room, where she would normally find Robin, but no one was there. Starfire sighed and turned around to go check another room and let out a small scream at the shock of finding that Tom was standing behind her. Tom was surprised by Starfire's outburst and jumped onto a light fixture hanging from the ceiling. Starfire giggled at Tom's reaction. "My apologies, I did not know you had followed me." Starfire told Tom, trying not to laugh at the spooked expression Tom's face.

Tom dropped down from the ceiling and landed gracefully on his feet. "Uh... no problem." Tom said, scratching the back of his head. Tom looked into the training room quickly. "What are you doing?" Tom asked quietly as his eyes looked across all of the equipment.

Starfire looked back into the training room. "I was looking for the others, I was wondering what they were doing this morning... I guess they have not yet awakened." Starfire said quietly as she closed the door.

Tom looked a little hurt by Starfire's words. "Do you not want to know what I'm doing?" Tom asked shyly as he looked down at his feet.

Starfire realized that she had made Tom feel uncomfortable and quickly tried to remedy the situation. "Forgive me, I did not ask because I already knew what you were doing." She said, smiling at Tom kindly. "You were following me, correct?"

Tom looked back up at Starfire and nodded. "I wanted to talk to you... I should get to know you and the others better if we are going to live together." Tom said quietly as he looked back down at his feet.

Starfire was glad to have someone to talk to, she took Tom's hand and led him to the living room. "We can talk and learn about one another while we eat the breakfast." Starfire said, giggling as she pulled Tom through the hall.

Tom ate everything Starfire put in front of him. He seemed to be very hungry, even though he was given plenty to eat already. Starfire was glad to have someone who liked her cooking, she was glad to know it wouldn't go to waist. Starfire sat and watched Tom eat for a while, smiling warmly at him each time he cleared his plate. "There was something you wished to talk to me about." Starfire reminded Tom as he cleaned his third plate of strange alien food.

Tom nodded and finished his food before he began to clear the table. "It's nothing really... I just thought I would need to know what to do if I wanted to get along well with the others." Tom said, taking his stack of plates in the sink to wash them.

Starfire smiled and jumped at the subject, she told him all about the odd habits of the other titans as she helped him wash the dishes. Tom laughed every few minutes when he heard some of the stranger habits of the titans. "Beast Boy actually ate all that tofu... that would probably kill anyone else." Tom said, in response to some of Starfire's information.

They both talked and laughed for a while, enjoying each others company while the others were still asleep. Starfire suddenly realized that she had been talking about the others the whole time, she hadn't learned anything about Tom. "Please, tell me how you came here. I would like to know more about you now." Starfire said, trying to sound as friendly as possible.

Tom stopped smiling, he looked as though he just remembered something painful. "I guess it's only fair that I tell you the whole story... at least, what I can remember." He said, setting down the last plate. Tom took a deep breath as he sat down to tell his story. "I was about... Nine when it happened." He said, thinking hard to remember all of the details. "My father was a small time detective for Central City PD named Adrian Jones. He had made some pretty bad enemies by doing his job well." Tom said, sounding as though he was lost in a dream.

Tom looked down at his hands and continued. "My brothers and I liked to pretend that we were as cool as our dad. Tony, my older brother, would put on dad's police hat and patrol around the house... Andrew, my little brother, would jump around and fight imaginary criminals." Tom had to stop and swallow back a lump in his throat, tears were beginning to form in his eyes. "My mom was a teacher... Her name was Ruth... I remember how happy she was when my father came home with news of a big catch... I remember that he was happy to catch a man named... Dennison... I think he was part of a crime syndicate or something like that. He came home and told us all about how he had to fight Dennison's right hand man, The Advocate, before he could catch Dennison. We were all really excited that my father had caught a big time criminal, the police chief was talking about big promotions."

Tom got really serious and quiet all of the sudden, like the pain from the memories was strangling him. "Three days later, Dennison and his associate broke out of prison... They wanted revenge on my father for their arrests." The tears began to run down Tom's face, he continued to speak quietly. "They broke down the door and began shooting... my father only had enough time to give me his lucky pendant and a few pages from a book about our family heritage before he made me escape out a window." Tom said, wiping the tears from his face. Tom looked up at Starfire, she could see an unspeakable amount of pain behind his eyes. "I haven't seen any of them since... I knew I just had to keep running."

Starfire's heart sunk when she saw the hurt in Tom's eyes. "I'm sorry... I should not have brought up such a painful subject." Starfire said as she put her hand on Tom's back to comfort him. "If it makes you feel any better... All of us can relate to your pain... We all have our sad stories to tell." She told him, trying to give him an encouraging smile. "I do have one more question... if you are willing to answer."

Tom nodded, drying the tears from his face. "I'll answer any question you ask... I don't have anything to hide." Tom told her, sounding less miserable.



Starfire was glad to hear Tom feeling better, she gave him another encouraging smile before she asked. "What information did the pages your father gave you contain?"

Tom pulled out some folded pages from his pocket, they were old and worn out. He unfolded them and showed them to Starfire. "It something that has been bothering me for a while... These pages tell me about my powers... but not all of the information is there." Tom said, pointing at some of the words on the front page. "The book my father took these pages from told about my family heritage, at least, that's what was told... I know I'm not human, but that bothers me... In truth I don't really know what I am."

## 9 - A meeting of the minds

### Chapter 9

#### A meeting of the minds

Not far away from the home of the titans, a meeting between some of the city's darkest minds was occurring. In the top floor of a new tall tower in the down town area, three evil-hearted masterminds met to discuss a common goal. At the end on a long table near a window overlooking the city, the man who organized the meeting sat and smiled at his guests. He was dressed in a fancy, black, pinstripe suit, similar to the style of suit his workers wore, only they wore grey. "I am glad to see that you trusted me enough to come on your own... Everyone else I work with would suspect that I'm going to start trouble and bring a whole army." The suit wearing man said smugly.

The suit wearing man held out his hand, the tall man standing next to him handed him a folder. "Thank you Mr. Cougar." The suited man said quietly as he opened the folder. The folder had information on the two guests he had invited to the meeting. "I trust that none of us have met before, so let's get the introductions out of the way before we get down to business." He said, putting down the folder and looking at his two guests. He held out his hand to the person sitting at the right side of the table. "Slade, welcome to my place of business, thank you for coming on such short notice." He said, not sounding very sincere. He motioned over to the person sitting to his left. "Grand Profit Freeman, same to you." He said quickly as he stood up and looked at the folder he was handed. "My name is Larry Dennison... Now that we have all that out of the way, we can get down to business." He said, looking at his information on Slade.

Slade was not a man who had the patience for simple niceties. "What did you call us here for...? I am a busy man and I don't like having my time wasted for no reason." He said sounding clam but very annoyed.

Profit Freeman nodded his head. "As am I Dennison... I'm not the kind of person who forgives wastefulness easily." He said, not sounding nearly as calm as Slade.

Dennison grinned as he looked through the folder he was given. "I assure you, I have a good reason for calling you both here... From what my sources have gathered, we have a common goal." Dennison said, laying the folder on the table. "All of us are searching for the same person... a young man who goes by the name Tom... of course, my sources are limited and a little hard to trust sometimes... but I'm sure this information is accurate."

Slade was listening to Dennison closely. "Your sources must be quite efficient at gathering information... I'm impressed that you have found out about my search." Slade said, sounding more angry then he had before. "It's true that I'm searching for the boy... but what business is that of yours?"

Dennison chuckled at Slade's question. "The boy belongs to me... You can't have him unless I say you can. That is the reason I've called this meeting, I want to know why you are after this boy." Dennison said, picking the folder up and handing it to Mr. Cougar.

Profit Freeman was outraged by Dennison's reason for the meeting. "You dare to say that you own this boy when he is clearly the property of my congregation! How dare you, call us here to demand to know our intentions. I swear to you, Dennison, if you make an enemy of The Followers of Rashiel, you will live only long enough to regret it!" Freeman shouted, slamming his fists on the table at the end of his rant.

Slade was standing and looking coldly at Dennison. "Why would you need us to tell you of our goals, don't you sources know of our plans?"

Dennison shook his head and held his hands out at his guests. "Gentlemen, please, keep it civilized. We are not here to shout or ask stupid questions... But to answer your stupid question, Slade, I already said my sources are limited and hard to trust sometimes." Dennison said, walking over to his chair. Dennison stood in front of his chair and leaned on the table with his hands. "Now here is the deal... you two tell me what you want Tom for and we might be able to work something out."

Profit Freeman stood up and pushed his chair away. "The Followers will not give away the secret of the congregation to a heretic such as you! The boy will be ours until we no longer need him... after that, he will be as those who has past from this plane." The profit said, walking to the door. "After The Followers are done with him... you may have him."

Dennison snapped his fingers and Mr. Cougar snapped to attention. "Advocate, retrieve!" Dennison shouted, pointing at the profit. Mr. Cougar was in front of the profit in the blink of an eye, he shoved him back to the table and back to his seat. "I'm afraid for what I need Tom for he has to be alive for at least a while." Dennison said as Mr. Cougar held the profit to the chair by his shoulder. "That's enough Mr. Cougar... I'm sure Mr. Freeman will be more than happy to make a deal now." Dennison said, shooing Mr. Cougar away with a lazy gesture.

Slade sat back down and folded his arms over his chest. "Neither of you will get the boy... he will be mine to train... I know of his skills and his great potential for power... If we are done here, I have things to take care of." Slade said, standing up again and beginning to walk out of the room. "If you are smart... you would not get in the way of my plans." He said over his shoulder coldly.

Dennison laughed at Slade's threat. "If you say so Slade... but you should know, your threats are little more than empty here." Dennison said as he watched Slade leave. Mr. Cougar was eagerly awaiting his order to go after Slade, he seemed to be waiting for it impatiently. Dennison leaned over to Mr. Cougar and whispered. "Don't kill him yet... we might need him later." Then he pointed at the door and shouted. "Advocate, capture!"

The profit seemed more tense now that he saw that Dennison wasn't afraid of the power of The Followers. "What is it you request?" Profit Freeman asked, sounding more timid now.

Dennison laughed and went to the large window overlooking the city, nothing could be seen through the falling snow but Dennison looked out at the city anyway. "Only that you let me have Tom first... Only until

he has made up for his father's transgressions." Dennison said, jumping slightly at the sound of painful screaming coming from down the hall. "It seems Advocate let himself get a little carried away with our friend Slade... Oh well, a few broken bones never killed anyone important."

# 10 - Wakeup Call

## Chapter 10

### Wake up call

Robin woke up late in the morning when he felt the tower shaking. He woke up and mumbled a few incomprehensible curses when he heard a loud boom come from somewhere in the tower. Robin got up and went to find the source of the disturbance, it didn't take long when he followed the shaking and noise. It was coming from the training room. "I wonder what they're doing in there." Robin said sarcastically as he opened the door. Robin saw Raven and Starfire standing close to the door and walked over to them. "What's going on?" He asked as he looked around the room.

Robin saw Tom sparring with Cyborg and Beast Boy. "They've been at it for hours... Cyborg wanted to see what Tom was capable of in combat so he challenged him to a match." Raven said, watching as Tom quickly dodged one of Cyborg's punches then rolled behind Beast Boy and shoved him into Cyborg.

Starfire covered her eyes as Tom swung a graceful kick at Cyborg's head, but she peeked through her fingers just in time to see Cyborg put up his arm to block the kick. Tom's foot made contact with Cyborg's arm and Tom had to jump back for a minute to get the feeling back in his foot. "Beast Boy joined the battle on accident. He walked between them without realizing and they forgot to stop... They still do not show signs of stopping." Starfire said in a sigh of relief.

Robin still felt a little sleepy, he began to regret staying up as late as he did. "Where they the ones making all the noise?" Robin asked, carefully watching Tom.

Raven and Starfire both shushed Robin and continued to watch the fight. Without any warning Tom dropped into an open stance and his eyes began to glow. Tom took a deep breath and began to move around Cyborg with amazing speed. Cyborg wasn't able to block all of Tom's super fast punches, so he swung on of his own and swatted Tom away. Beast Boy turned into a stegosaurus and swung his tail at Tom, but Tom regained his balance and caught it. Tom took another breath and swung Beast Boy by his tail and tossed him at Cyborg. Beast Boy turned back into a kid and toppled into Cyborg. Tom took another deep breath and ran at Cyborg, jumping high into the air to kick Cyborg from above. Cyborg caught Tom's foot and threw him to the floor, but Tom was able to catch himself. Tom stood up and was hit from the side by a green buffalo, Tom rolled back to the ground and let Cyborg catch him. Cyborg smiled when he saw that he had the upper hand and decided to defeat both Tom and Beast Boy at once, but Beast Boy didn't want to lose this match. Before Cyborg could throw Tom, Beast Boy charged and tried to ram Cyborg. While Cyborg was distracted with dodging Beast Boy, Tom pulled himself free and found that he had landed on Beast Boy's back. Beast Boy tried to buck Tom off as a bull, but Tom took a deep breath and punched Beast Boy unconscious. Beast Boy fell head first and Tom flew off,

unfortunately Cyborg was standing right in front of him. Tom took one more deep breath and grabbed Cyborg's shoulders, Tom pulled himself up to kick Cyborg while Cyborg charged up his sonic cannon. Tom knee meet with Cyborg's chin at the same time Cyborg fired his sonic cannon, both fighters flew to opposite ends of the room before they fell to the floor unconscious. The shaking in the tower finally stopped when all three of the fighters stopped moving.

Robin was speechless by this time, they were all fighting more intensely than he had ever seen them fight. "You said they were fighting like that for hours?" Robin asked Raven when they went to see if all of their friends were okay.

Raven checked Tom and Beast Boy for injuries and was relieved to find that they were just too tired to keep fighting. "They started a while ago... Cyborg wanted to know about Tom's powers. Tom's powers seem to be some sort of energy manipulation. He can control where his energy is focused, meaning he is able to change his strengths at will. He can make himself faster one second, then switch to being stronger, tougher, or even smarter." Raven explained, trying to tap on Beast Boy to wake him up.

Tom got up and helped Cyborg to his feet. "That sonic cannon really packs a punch." Tom said in a complimentary tone. "I'm glad I'm not one of your enemies... I'd hate to be hit by that more than once."

Cyborg smiled and patted Tom on the back. "You got quite a strong kick... I'm glad we're on the same team too." Cyborg said, almost laughing. They both helped Beast Boy to his feet and they all shared a laugh.

Beast Boy, Cyborg and Tom compared their new wounds and talked about the different moves they used in the fight while the others just stood back and watched. Robin watched them and was beginning to see that they had become best friends over the course of the fight. It was a strange way to get to know someone, but Robin could understand the feeling, after all, that was how he came to trust the others so much. "Alright guys... I think you all had enough... It's my turn to get to know Tom." Robin said, stepping onto the sparring mat.

Starfire seemed worried. "But Tom has not yet had a chance to rest and recover from his last fight... it would not be fair to ask him to fight again so soon." She said, watching Robin walk onto the mat as Beast Boy and Cyborg left.

Tom watched Robin walk onto the mat, he smiled at Starfire confidently. "Don't worry Starfire, I'll be alright." Tom told her to ease her concern.

Raven watched Tom as he stood in a ready fighting stance, waiting for Robin to make the first attack. "Tom knows what he's doing Starfire." Raven said to Starfire calmly, even though she felt the same concern for Tom as Starfire did. "Be careful." She whispered under her breath.

Robin and Tom charged each other at the same time, both ready for a long battle. "I'm not going to hold anything back... I'm going to fight with everything I have!" Tom warned Robin, smiling as Robin blocked one of his kicks.

Robin returned the smile, this was going to be a good fight. "I wouldn't want to fight you if you said otherwise." Robin said, attempting a counter attack. Tom dodged Robin's attack and got ready to throw another kick. Robin saw that Tom was determined to continue the fight. "We have something in

common... I won't hold back anything either.”

# 11 - Long Lost Brother

## Chapter 11

### Long lost Brother

The titans decided to get pizza after they had all wiped themselves out in the training room. They were all piled in the T car, Robin and Cyborg took the front seats and let the others sit in the back. Tom and Beast Boy were joking and teasing each other while the others just sat and laughed at them. "You're just jealous that you aren't green." Beast Boy said, posing like he was being photographed for a magazine.

Tom laughed and nodded his head. "You got me there." Tom said, pretending to be jealous.

Cyborg and Robin talked about the upgrades to the training simulator and all of the other stuff Cyborg had been working on for a while. "It shouldn't be too long before I get it working like it should... maybe another day, if I feel lazy about it." Cyborg said in response to one of Robin's questions about the simulator.

Robin nodded and looked out the window for a while, it was still snowing, but it could be seen though. "Try to finish it as soon as possible... we could use the practice, if only to maintain our current abilities." Robin said as he watched a few buildings pass by. Robin looked in a mirror and saw that Tom and Beast Boy were still teasing each other, he looked back out the window and took a deep breath. "Tom needs that training the most... He hasn't gotten a chance to learn how to use any of our vehicles yet."

Cyborg looked back at Tom quickly, then looked back at the road. "He hasn't even managed to make his own uniform yet... He looks weird having to wear Beast Boy's clothes." Cyborg said as they approached a red light. "We should help him out with some clothes before we make him learn to pilot the T ship."

Robin nodded. "I guess so... But he still needs to be trained soon." Robin said, watching as they got closer and closer to the pizza place.

The Titans enjoyed a nice quiet lunch, even though they couldn't sit at their normal table on account of the snow. The snow seemed to be endless, it had not stopped for almost two weeks. The Titans tried to ignore the falling powder and just tried to eat their pizza as though they were not bothered by the snow. Tom was glad to share a pizza with his new friends, it was the first pizza he had eaten in years. "I don't know how I survived without this stuff for so long." Tom said, taking another slice.

It wasn't long before the titans finished their meal and left, they all felt happier that the snow had let up enough for them to go back to their regular routine. They got back into the car, but this time, they were a lot quieter. None of them really had to say anything, they all felt the same sense of joy. It felt as though



the whole day had gone right and nothing could change the mood, but unfortunately, something did.

A loud thump was heard on the roof of the T car, a huge dent formed around the area of the sound. Cyborg swerved and to a stop and was about to get out to see what hit them, but whatever it was on the roof decided to save him the trouble. A large fist slammed through the roof of the car and grabbed Tom by the throat. Tom, tried to struggle, but the hand's grip was too tight. Tom did the only thing he could think to do, he took as deep of a breath as he could and focused his energy into his right hand. With all of his strength, Tom punched through the roof of the car and was able to strike the owner of the strangling hand in the chin. The person on the roof of the T car went flying and let go of Tom, Tom felt back to his seat and began to gasp for breath.

Cyborg looked around quickly to see where the insane attacker landed. "What the heck was that all about?" Cyborg asked, leaning out his window to see if he could find the attacker.

Tom looked up through the holes in the roof. "I have a really bad feeling about this." Tom said, rubbing his throat and hoping he had gotten rid of who ever it was that was strangling him.

Robin was looking back at Tom, wondering who else could have been strong enough to punch through the roof of the car. "I didn't recognize the hand that attacked us... it didn't look like it belonged to anyone we know." Robin said, turning back around and looking out the windshield. Robin saw someone standing in front of the car, he tapped Cyborg on the arm and pointed to the new person.

Everyone in the backseat could see the person standing in front of the car, he looked almost exactly like Tom. "I... don't believe it... Tony." Tom sighed, his eyes getting wider as he recognized his older brother standing before them. "He's still alive."

Tony grinned at the T car sinisterly as he charged it at full speed, Cyborg didn't know how to react to this sudden attack. Tony jumped at the car head first and held out his fists, smashing through the windshield and grabbing Tom before smashing through the rear window. "My brother is coming with me." Tony shouted as he pressed a pressure point on Tom's neck, Tom gasped slightly before passing out. Tony reached into one of Tom's pockets and pulled out Tom's communicator and crushed it in his hands. "If any of you try to follow us... he sleeps for good." Tony threatened as he slung Tom over his shoulder and jumped up to a near by street lamp and up to the roof of a short building.

After Tony got to the roof he disappeared from sight, the titans all jumped out of the T car and looked up at the roof of the building. "What... who... why did he...?" Was all Beast Boy could say as he tried to make sense of the loss of his new friend. "We have to do something." Beast Boy said sounding frantic.

Robin was shocked that Tom was taken away so quickly, he was trying to think of something that could be done. There was a shocked and sad silence in the group, they were all too overwhelmed to notice that the snow had picked up again. Robin's mind worked as quickly as it could, but he couldn't think of anything. "Tom was taken by his brother... We have to figure out why." Robin finally managed to say as he was being buried under the falling snow. "But we have to be careful... Tom might get hurt if aren't." He turned to Beast Boy. "Go after him... you're the best at following trails and least likely to be noticed." Robin said as he pointed up at the roof. Beast Boy nodded and turned into an eagle and flew in the direction Tony ran off with Tom.

Raven was looking up at the roof where Tony had disappeared with Tom. "What about the rest of us... there has to be something we can do." Raven said, sounding very tense.

Starfire nodded and stepped closer to Robin. "We must be able to pursue Tom's evil brother... We can not allow him to hurt our friend." Starfire said, eagerly awaiting the okay to fly after Tony.

Cyborg was patching up the holes in the T car as quickly as he could. "The T car is only damaged on the outside... it can still drive... if we hurry." Cyborg said as he watched the snow fall faster.

Robin walked over to the T car and opened the door. "We going to follow Beast Boy... no one is taking a member of my team if I have any thing to say about it."

## 12 - Past life

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Nine years before Tom meet the titans he was forced to leave his family behind as they were brutally taken from the world. It was a bitter cold winter night in Central City, the small house where the Jones family lived had become the target of a mad man's plot. "Ruth, help the boys get dressed." Adrian told his wife quietly as he got a box out from under their bed.

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Ruth sat up and could see the worried expression behind the long, blond bangs hanging over her husband's face. "What's happening?" Ruth asked urgently as she got up and walked to Adrian's side.

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Adrian stood up and put his hand on Ruth's face gently, staring into her eyes the way he did when they first met. "Ruth... I don't know what's going on... but I want you to know that, no matter what happens... I love you and the boys more then anything else in this world." Adrian said as he handed her the box he got from under the bed. "Take this... give it to the boys as soon as you're sure they are out of danger." Adrian said as he turned around and went to the closet.

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Ruth was silent for a moment, she knew something bad was going on. "Adrian, what is this?" Ruth asked as she looked inside the box.

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Ruth opened the lid slightly, but Adrian put his hand over hers and closed it again. "There isn't enough time... get the boys dressed and get as far away from here as you can." Adrian said as he went back to the closet and rummaged around for a weapon. "Take them out the out through their bedroom window and run to your mother's house. As soon as morning comes I want you to wait at the train station until noon, if I don't show up by then..." Adrian slowed down and stood up again, he was holding a gun in his hand as he turned around and looked at his wife. "I want you to buy a ticket to Steel City or Metropolis... anywhere you can go to forget about this place ever existed." Adrian said as he left the room and went to the living room.

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Ruth hurried to the boys' room and woke them up. Tom was already awake and standing next to the door. "Mommy... what were you and dad talking about?" The small boy asked as he walked closer to his mother.

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Ruth looked down at her young son and tried not to look scared. <i>"Tom always was the most like his father."</i> Ruth thought to herself as she kneeled down and hugged Tom. Tom seemed worried but kept calm as he looked up into his mother's eyes. "Don't worry Tom, it's nothing important." Ruth lied, hoping to keep Tom from panicking. "Help me wake up your brothers, we're going to visit your grandmother." Ruth said as she picked up Tom's younger brother, Andrew, from his bed and opened the window.

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Tom shook Tony to wake him up and grabbed a coat to keep warm outside. "Come on Tony, mom wants us to get up to go to granny's." Tom said as he slid his arms into his coat. Tony shoved Tom away and rolled over to try to get more sleep, but Tom pushed him a little further and made Tony tumble

out of his bed. "Come on Tony! We have to go now!" Tom said as tossed a coat to Tony.

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Tony stood up and looked angrily at Tom. "You're going to regret shoving me!" Tony shouted as he tackled Tom and pinned him to the floor. Tony was about to hit Tom when he saw that their mother was in the room and Tom wasn't just kidding around. "Why are we going to granny's?" Tony asked as he stood up and picked up his coat.

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Ruth sighed and looked out the window. "I'll explain later. Tony, you go first, then I'll follow. Tom you stay close to me, okay?" Ruth said motioning toward the window.

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Tony and Tom looked at each other nervously, then Tony hesitantly walked to the window and climbed out. Ruth picked up Andrew and climbed through. Tom was about to follow his mother when he heard a noise from down stairs. Tom walked over to the door and saw his father fighting with a tall stranger. The stranger threw a kick at Adrian's, but he easily caught it and dislocated the stranger's knee. The tall stranger fell down and a shorter man stepped forward. "Enough." The shorter man said as he pointed a weird weapon at Adrian and shot him. The beam from the weapon seemed to stun Adrian, he froze up and fell back against the wall. "I want answers Adrian, I promise your family will be spared." The shorter man said.

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Adrian took a deep breath and spat in the short man's face. "No dice, Dennison... They're long gone and there's no way you'll catch them now." Adrian said weakly, trying to move his arms.

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The taller man pushed his knee back in place, he showed no signs of pain. The tall man stood up and looked at Dennison. "Shall I finish him sir?" He asked coldly.

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Dennison smiled. "Why not... Advocate destroy." Dennison said, pointing at Adrian.

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Advocate stepped forward and raised his foot up to smash Adrian's head. "No!" Tom shouted, jumping out from his room and running in front of Advocate's kick and blocking it with both hands. "Don't hurt my dad." Tom yelled, his eyes welling up with tears as they glowed bright gold for the first time. Tom threw Advocate's foot to one side, making him lose balance. As Advocate fell forward, Tom punched Advocate's left eye, sending him flying into the far wall.

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Dennison stepped back in surprise. "Cripes! The kids a monster!" Dennison said as he aimed his weapon at Tom and fired. Tom gasped and fell to his knees. "You're as strong as your old man, that's very impressive for a kid your age." Dennison said walking over to Advocate. Dennison saw the wound over Advocate's eye and smiled. "You're lucky I picked you for the Advocate program, Mr. Cougar. If you didn't have those enhancements, the kids punch might have taken your head clean off." Dennison

said, seeming to joke about the situation. Dennison gave Advocate a pair of shaded glasses to his wound. "I want you to take Mr. Jones out side and finish the job... and be quiet about it." Dennison said, turning to Tom and walking over to his slowly.

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Advocate stood up. "Yes sir." He said in an almost mechanical voice. Advocate walked over to Adrian and grabbed him by the shoulder and pulled him outside.

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Tom stumbled to his feet and tried to go after them, but Dennison blocked Tom's path. "Leave my dad alone!" Tom shouted, throwing a weak punch at Dennison.

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Dennison laughed coldly. "You aren't going to hit me as hard as you hit Mr. Cougar... not without your strength to help you anyhow." Dennison said, shoving Tom away. "The beam I used won't let you use that power for at least a day." Tom got up and ran up the stairs to his room, but Dennison grabbed his wrist. "You aren't going anywhere until you tell me where your brothers are. I need the oldest one for a very important investment." Dennison said, trying to pull Tom back down stairs.

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Tom turned around. "Leave us alone!" He shouted as he put as much strength as he could into punching Dennison in the nose. Dennison screamed and let go of Tom to hold his nose.

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Tom ran into his room and climbed out the window where his mother and brothers were waiting. Ruth grabbed Tom's hand. "Come on, we have to hurry." Ruth said as she started to lead them away from the house.

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From the window Dennison called out to them. "You won't get as far as the end of your yard! Advocate, retrieve!" Dennison shouted, loud enough for the whole neighborhood to hear.

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Ruth handed the box of Adrian's belongings to Tom and told her sons to hide. "You three find places where no one will find you... Just stay there until I come for you." She said as she shoed them all away to hide. Ruth then turned and saw Advocate charging her, she put up her hands to fight even though she knew very little about self defense. "A mother's love will give her strength to move a mountain if that's what's necessary to protect her children." Ruth said as she thrust her fist forward into Advocates stomach and stopped him in his tracks. "I won't let you get them." She said as she pushed him away and punched him in the jaw.

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Advocate straitened up and looked at Ruth. "I will get them regardless of whether or not you stand in my way." Advocate said as he walked forward to engage the enraged woman in combat.

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Andrew and Tony weren't hiding very far away, they were inside an old shed where they stored lawn tools. "Mommy, no!" Andrew yelled, wanting his mother to stop fighting and go back to the way it was before the sun had set that night.

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Tony held his hand over Andrew's mouth. "Quiet... they'll find us." He warned in a whispering voice.

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Ruth tried her best to hold back Advocate, but she was no warrior. Advocate raised his hand high and slapped Ruth to the ground. "You are nothing but extra baggage... you are not necessary." Advocate said as he kicked the fallen woman out of the way.

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Andrew pulled away from Tony and ran out of the shed, to his mother's side. "Mommy... get up... please, you have to make them go away." Andrew said, barely able to speak through all of his tears.

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Ruth could barely move, she looked up at her youngest son and whispered the word `run'. Tony raced over to Andrew as fast as he could and picked him up. Andrew started screaming incoherently, not wanting to be separated from his mother. Advocate followed them slowly, knowing they had nowhere else to hide.

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Tom had hidden himself under the shed, in a small hole that a family of raccoons used to live in. Tom heard his brothers being carried away and wanted to help, but he felt too tired to move. "I'll save you... I promise." Tom whispered just before he passed out.

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Tom woke up from his dreaming memory to a slap in the face. Tom felt that his hands and feet were tied to a chair and he couldn't see anything in the room but a bright light. "Glad to see you're awake little brother." Tony's voice said from somewhere in the room. Tom tried to look around, but he felt to dizzy. Tony made it easier for Tom to see by stepping in front of the light and turning himself into an intimidating silhouette. "We have a lot of lost time to catch up on."

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## 13 - Making up lost time

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<b>Making up lost time</b>
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Beast Boy's keen eagle eyes were scanning the areas below as he flew past them, but he found no trace of Tom or his brother. Beast Boy landed on top of one of the buildings and turned into a bloodhound. Beast Boy could barely manage to pick up a scent, the wind and snow made his lungs burn from the cold. Beast Boy ignored his discomfort and followed in the direction of the scent he found.

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Beast Boy followed it to the edge of the roof and looked down below to the street where he saw something being buried by the snow. Beast Boy quickly turned back into an eagle and swooped down to see what it was. Beast Boy hovered just above the ground before he turned back into a human and picked up the object from under the falling snow. "I'm getting close." Beast Boy said to himself as he looked down at what he held in his hands. It was an amulet, the one Tom wore. Beast Boy put it in his pocket and turned back into a bloodhound so he could follow the scent further.

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The other Titans were all following Beast Boy's signal in the T car, shivering from the cold wind as it rushed at them through the broken windshield. Robin looked as though he was in a state of calm fury, the way he looked every time they were on their way to fight a new threat. Cyborg was trying to hold back the rage he felt for Tony busting up his car and taking Tom, he was saving it all up for the fight. Starfire watched Robin and Cyborg from the back seat and could easily understand their anger. Starfire looked over at Raven who seemed a bit tenser than usually did before a fight. Starfire could understand that feeling as well, they not only had to find a bad guy, they had to save their friend from him as well. Starfire was about to say something to Raven, but was interrupted by Cyborg. "Alright... I think Beast Boy found something." Cyborg shouted triumphantly, speeding up to get closer to Beast Boy's signal.

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Robin thought for a second. "Don't go to fast, if Tony hears the car he could hurt Tom before we get a chance to help." Robin said before he stopped to think of something new. Robin pulled out his communicator. "Beast Boy, we're going to keep some distance from you. I want you to give us a signal as soon as you find Tom and his brother so we can move in silently." Robin said into his communicator, knowing Beast Boy wouldn't be able to respond in his animal form. Robin watched Beast Boys signal move slowly, he knew Beast Boy was getting close now. Robin sat back and hoped that they weren't too late.

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Beast Boy followed the scent into an alley and knew that they had to be in one of the buildings. Beast Boy turned back into a human and took out his communicator. "I'm coming up on them now... they are in one of the two buildings I'm standing next to. I'll send you another signal when I find them." Beast Boy said before he turned into a snow owl and flew up to check all of the windows.

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Tom felt the room spinning beneath him as he looked up at Tony. "Why are you doing this?" Tom asked as his head finally started to clear.

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Tony was silent for a moment. "You are needed for a multi-billion dollar experiment, your body can generate and transfer energy better then any other source of power... you were the one Dennison really wanted." Tony said bluntly.

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Tom wasn't very surprised to find that Larry Dennison had been behind this, what really shocked him was that his brother was working for Dennison. "Why are you helping Dennison? Don't you remember what he did to mom and dad?" Tom shouted, only to be silenced by a smack to the face.

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Tony took a deep breath after hitting Tom. "Yes, I remember that night... as far as I'm concerned, Dennison did me and Andrew a favor." Tony said, walking over to the bright light. He moved it so that it would shine up and fill the whole room with light. "Mom and Dad would never have been able to handle the powers Andrew and I have... Dennison brought out our true strength, even though neither of us could do the things you do." Tony said, getting angrier as he spoke. "You were always the most like dad... it used to drive me insane when he would say how proud he was of you... you are the only one who can use the same power... the one I was supposed to get!" Tony said, walking over to Tom and grabbing his throat. "I started to hate you for having that power. I wanted to crush you, make you suffer." Tony said through his teeth, his eyes glowing red. Tom choked as he felt intense pain surge through his throat, Tony's hand felt as though it were made entirely out of poisoned needles. Then Tony forced himself to let go of Tom's throat. "Then I found out that my power is superior and the only thing special about you is that you can act as a battery." Tony said turning around so Tom couldn't see his face.

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Tom gasped for breath, frantically trying to stop the burning sensation in his lungs. "What are you going to do now? You've caught me, why am I not being used in any insane experiments?" Tom asked as he caught his breath.

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Tony turned around quickly to look at Tom. "Because, little brother, I haven't gotten a chance to see you in nine years. I wanted to get a chance to make up for lost time." Tony said, stepping forward again.

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Tony's eye glowed red as he reached out and touched Tom's forehead with his index finger. Tom gasped as pain rushed through his head. Tom screamed from the pure torturous pain, he lost all of his senses except for the ability to feel. When Tony moved his finger away, Tom could only sit there in shock. "I missed spending time with you little brother, doesn't it feel great that we can hang out again?" Tony asked mockingly. Tom felt tears streaming down his face, he wanted to die rather than face the pain again.

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Beast Boy heard Tom scream and flew to the window near the top of one of the buildings, he looked through the window and saw Tom tied to a chair. Beast Boy saw Tony standing over Tom. Tony's eyes were glowing red as he put his hand on top of Tom's head. Tom began to scream in pain. Beast Boy flew back a few feet and charged the window, changing into an armadillo at the last moment and rolling up to crash through the glass. "Back away from my friend or I'll squash you." Beast Boy said as he turned into a human then into a gorilla. Beast Boy charged the surprised Tony and punched him through a wall.

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Tom looked up as he regained his sight, the pain was starting to fade. Tom saw Beast Boy turn back into a human and begin to untie him. Tom felt more tears streaming down his face. "Beast Boy... run... Tony will kill you." Tom said, feeling himself shake as he tried to move.

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Beast Boy helped Tom stand up. "Don't sweat it, I took care of him." Beast Boy said confidently as they walked toward the door. Beast Boy reached for the door knob. "I thought this was going to be tough. I'll have to tell the others to relax." He said as he opened the door.

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Beast Boy jumped back in surprise as the door opened wider to reveal Tony standing there waiting for them. "Whatever made you think I'd make this easy for you?" Tony asked harshly as he punched Beast Boy across the room.

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Without Beast Boy's help, Tom fell to his knees. "Beast Boy... get out of here... he's too strong." Tom said weakly, trying to stand on his own.

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Tony simply pushed Tom down and walked toward Beast boy. Beast Boy stood up and turned into a tiger, but Tony punched him back into the wall before he could attack. "You should have listened to my brother green one, now nothing can save you." Tony said, his eyes beginning to glow red. Beast Boy changed back into a human as he felt horrible pain in his ribs were Tony punched him. The pain got worse as Tony held his hand over Beast Boy's heart. Tony laughed sinisterly as he watched Beast Boy write in pain.

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Just then, the window exploded and Robin stepped through the cloud of smoke. "Guess again Tony.

You're the one who needs saving." Robin said, taking out his retractable staff. "Titan's, GO!"

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