

Leaving while I can"

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A one shot that might turn into more chapters later. Robin and Beast Boy share some sweet and awkward moments.

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1 - Leaving

"Won't you reconsider? There are still some test we have to complete before-" "No go Ricky." Zipping up the last suitcase the hero formerly known as Beast Boy packed the rest of his gear. He looked around the room...empty. All of his belongs, any evidence he'd ever lived in the Titans Tower, had been removed from the room leaving nothing behind but a bunk bed and bare green walls. Gar knew his friends were all sad at his leaving and under normal circumstances he would be too. But the circumstances weren't normal and he felt nothing but relief. "But, where will you go? Back to Africa?" Gar slung his last pack over his shoulder and turned to face his friend. He gave Robin a broad grin and pointed to his hair. "Look at this Ricky...what do ya see?" "Beast Boy-" "Blond. But a-nah...not just any blond! Natural blond." "BB we-" "And take a look at these babys!" Gar slide the tip of his finger over the top curve of his ear. "No points...round!" Robin took a deep breath and tried to collect his thoughts. Ever since the accident last week Beast Boy had spoken of nothing else but leaving the Tower and starting his new life as a normal teenager. Gar walked past Robin and out the door into the hall. Robin followed Beast Boy as they made their way down to the elevators. "And check this," Gar raised his hands slightly above his head for Robin to see. "Whats missing? Hm? Notice anything different?" Robin rolled his eyes behind his black mask while Gar continued on his self-satisfying dialogue. "No green." Gar grinned as he and Robin entered the metal cubicle. He thumbed the button for the bottom floor and leaned casually against the far wall of the elevator. "Not one fracking solitary green spot!! heheh....pale pasty white perfection!" Gar gazed at his long fingers with awe and admiration. To Robin...Beast boy wasn't being himself. Sure the changes he'd gone thru, the return to being quote unquote normal, gave Gar every right to no longer wish to be a super hero. Beast Boy had been granted a gift...the gift of a second chance at a life with everyday responsibilitys that didn't include saving the world or living with the knowledge that your enemies were everywhere ready to attack. Still, something was off. Robin played at watching the numbers blink across the top of the door when really his eyes were studying Beast Boy. He was just standing there as if he could've been any random Joe waiting for the doors of an elevator in a nameless building to open. Leaning, slouching, hands stuffed into his pockets, stupid half-grin plastered on his lips...too nonchalaunt. Gar was forcing himself to seem unaffected and happy about his new situation. Robin wasn't fooled. Something was very very wrong. As the doors finally slid open Gar sauntered out into the parking deck of the Titan's Tower leaving Robin to loiter behind at the elevator doors. Robin watched as Beast Boy made his way to other Titans gathered at the end of the room near the exit. He's really doing it...really leaving. Robin closed his eyes for a moment and focused his breathing. It was obvious now that no amount of talking would stop the once-shapeshifting Titan from leaving. As his friend, his leader, and the leader of all other Titans present Robin had to remain stoic and strong; he had to be glad for his commrade and give him his complete support. Still, as Robin watched BB handing out hugs to his friends and stealing kisses from any girl who stood still long enough the dark titan couldn't help but wish he wasn't leaving. Beast Boy's booming laughter brought Robin out of his wondering thoughts. With the flowing agility from years of matrial arts training Robin crossed the room with measured steps until he was lost in the thick of the party. Well wishes, tearing goodbyes, heartfelt urges to write often and forever flooded the room. Everything started to blur together once the music and laughter of all the new Teen Titans reached its high point. Beast Boy had taken his farewells in groups between three and four . For the last two hours it had felt like he'd been spun around a million times. Kisses, hugs, hardy pats on the back everything was spinning into one giant send off. Robin had been in much the same boat only instead of goodbyes his conversations had been mostly focused on battle

tactics and mission assignments. With the den raising it seemed impossible for the guest of honor to not be the center of attention. Yet, as Gar came to the middle of the room he turned just as Robin was also coming about. They barely brushed each other and both seemed startled at seeing the other again. Beast Boy tried to come up with something witty to say but he found himself momentarily speechless. How was he supposed to say goodbye to his greatest friend? Robin felt he should be the one to break their awkward silence and properly show BB his support. "Beast Boy I--" "Don't call me that." Robin was transfixed by the intensity in Gar's eyes. "Ricky...Robin....just call me Gar." Now the silence was doubly awkward and both Robin and Gar didn't seem to know how to change that. Finally Robin stuck out his hand. "Good luck...Garfield Logan." Beast Boy looked down at the hand offered to him as if he'd never seen one before. With deliberate slowness he took hold of Robin's gloved fist and pumped it up and down once. "You too...Dick Grayson." They stood still clutching each others palm for several minutes and miraculously no one bothered them. Neither one knew who moved in first. Yet after the initial motion they both just fell into it. Quick. Soft. The brush of a lip. They parted from each other slowly, as if time was standing still. After that moment neither one could meet the others eyes. Time started to move forward again and they were back with the party...back to reality. Turning away they headed for separate sides of the room. Ooo00000oooO "Dudes...awsome party." The five core members of the Teen Titans collective walked side by side into the open lot in front of the Tower. Dusk was just settling on the horizon and across the bridge connecting the titan's island to the city lightposts and neon signs were just starting to flicker on. Gar was in the middle of the tiny group with Cyborg and Raven on his left and Starfire and Robin on his right. It was a habit for the five teens to walk in formation always aware of each other; always supporting each other; always dependant on each other. More than a team...a family unit. Beast Boy looked around the vacant lot for his trusty "T-ped" moped. "Hey guys wheres my ride? Gots ta leave this shin-dig with some style ya know!" He looked up at Cyborg questioningly and when the half-human half-robot just grinned back at him Gar knew that something was off. Robin cleared his throat and tapped in a few commands on his communicator. From around the far side of the Tower came a roar of an engine and the squeel of tires burning out. Gar looked back behind him just in time to see a slick green blur revving its way toward their group at break neck speed. He started to back up but a reassuring hand from Robin on the small of his back stopped him. Gar watched in fascination as the green blur slowed down and screeched to a dead stop not more than a foot away from them. It was a motorcycle. A beautiful motorcycle. Dark green and painted to look like it was covered in scales. Built for speed with a low seat and tight body frame it had 'wild thing' written on either side with a sexy looking green cat-girl in a bikini lounging on the words and winking. Beast Boy's breath caught in his throat and could hardly believe how gorgeous everything looked. After a few minutes Cyborg walked up to the machine and ran a hand over the black leather seat. "She's all yours." He smirked at his friend and Gar finally found his tongue. "No way..." He murmured taking a step closer to the bike. "Yes way." Raven's lips quirked up into a small smile as she too went over to stand next to the motorcycle. "Hope you liked the paint job..." she blushed slightly, "I did that." "Yeah," Cyborg added. "And I've got this baby all supped up and ready for anything you could want! Hell, this thing might just fly if you ask it nicely." Starfire came to Gar's side and slipped her hands around his arm urging him forward toward his new treasure. "Do you like it my friend? It is much more desirable than your moped." Gar was once again speechless. This beautiful thing was for him. His friends had made him a gift that he didn't even know how to express his gratitude for. He ran his hands over the top of his new 'green machine'. He looked down at the perfect shine on the body and saw his own reflection in its glowing surface. His face looked green reflected off mirror coating of the bike and for a moment he thought he'd lost his new found normality. Then he caught a glimpse of his pale hand resting on the metallic frame and smiled with true joy. He was doubly blessed. Triplely blessed in fact. He was once again his normal self with a solid unchanging DNA or unstable shape and form. He had a brand new sweet ride that could carry him

anywhere his heart desired. And most of all, most importantly of all, he had four of the greatest friends anyone could ever have. Gar looked around at all their faces smiling at him and began to chuckle. "Damn...guys this is...damn...." He shook his head to try and keep from crying and got himself under control. He turned from the wonderous motorbike and motioned his friends to form a circle before him. "First off," he began looking each one in the eyes. " This...this...wonderful..." he indicated the bike and they all gave each other secret smiles and mental pats on the back for effecting him so. A wide grin spread over Gar's face as he continued. "Thank you all so much for everything you've done for me... Now that I'm leaving there are a few things I wanna tell you guys...get 'em off of my chest and stuff." He turned to face Raven and she tried to seem impassive like nothing was really effecting her. A sly look came over Gar's face. "Raven...take the stick out of your @\$\$." There was a pause (as would be expected) where no body moved or even breathed. Before she could send him into a flaming pit of hell Beast Boy continued. "You're a beautiful person Ray, inside and out. You've got a strong heart, a brilliant mind, and," Gar let his eyes roam up and down Raven's leotard clad figure, "a body that could stop traffic." Raven's cheeks turned bright red and off to the side a pile of rocks exploded. Beast Boy laughed and grabbed up his dark friend into a tight bear hug. "Theres nothing bad or evil about you girl...lighten up and have some frackin' fun for a change." He released her and she pulled up her hood in order to had the dorky grin spreading across her face. Beside Raven stood Starfire. Gar placed a hand on her shoulder and cocked his head to the side. "Starfire, girlfriend, you gotta get some street smarts. You don't do it soon and some badguy is gonna come with a contract saying you'll give out free hummers that you'll probably sign thinking he's talking about a car." Starfire blinked several times then asked. "Well, if they are not free sports utility vehicles then what are they?" Cyborg leaned over and whispered something into the tamarian's ear. After thinking it over for a moment Starfire nodded and hugged her departing friend. "Fear not Gar of the Field! I shall never take the position of a 'job blower'! My road smarts will prevent me!!" She squeezed her friend pressing her ample bust firmly against him (an old Tamarian traditon started by Bob and Earl). Gar was trying not to laugh too hard so he hugged her back and shook his head. "Forget what I said Star. Never change. Ever." Cyborg moved forward and snatched up his tiny friend in a noggy. "Ah man! I can't believe you're actually going! I can't believe I'm not going to have anybody to play 'stank ball' with or beat at Ultra Race Car 3000! And I really can't believe you're a blonde!" Gar laughed and hollared with Cy about the old times for five minutes before he detached himself from his metal friend and chuckled. "I don't really have any insites for you buddy. Just take care of my girls and treat Sarah right. She's a good woman man keep her close." Finally it was Robin's turn. The brief moment in the party seemed to return and wrap itself around them. Once again no words could be said, no sound could be heard, no movment could be made by either of the two teens. After a long pause Beast Boy locked his eyes with Robin. Robin wished more then anything something amazing would be said. Either from him or Beast Boy he didn't care which. A gesture. Robin thought, that's what I need to show him...something he can always remember something like...even as he thought about Robin knew the one thing that would be a sort of proof to Beast Boy. It wasn't just a gesture it was a matter of trust and caring. It was something honest and special that Robin could give his friend. Not just Gar but to all of his friends. They had earned it all of them. With careful slowness Robin moved his hands up to his eyes and slid off his ever present black mask. Beast Boy felt glued to the spot and he knew everyone around him was feeling the same way. Blue...He thought as, for the first time, he gazed into Robin's...Dick's...eyes. Gar had an overwhelming feeling of being honored and given a grade gift even greater then the motorcycle. He also felt complied to offer up his own gesture to his leader and friend. This time it was obviously Gar who moved first. The kiss lasted a bit longer then before and there was a moment they both took to just enjoy the pressure of each others lips. Once again the world came to a shattering halt where nothing moved. When the kiss ended and Gar pulled back Robin leaned after his retreating lips to draw out the wonderous feeling for a second longer. Gar turned from Robin to face

his friends. They all seemed stunned. He met their shocked expressions with a mischievous grin and walked up to Starfire. "Wellp...so long darlin!" and planted a wet kiss firmly on her lips. Starfire was startled but not nearly as startled as Raven when Gar whirled around and grabbed her by the waist as well. "Tell Madam Rouge I don't give a damn!" He mocked the old movie and dipped Raven for thick kiss. When he'd pulled her up he turned to Cyborg looked him up and down and said. "Sorry dude your too damn tall. You'll just have to ask the rest of them what it was like." He winked at his friend and hopped onto his new bike. He quickly revved the engine and let the machine purr beneath him before he looked over his shoulder at his friends. My friends...my family. He gave them all a big cheeky grin and waved before yelling out. "Now that...was FUN!!" Beast Boy kick started his green machine and sped off into the city across the bridge. Behind him standing underneath the giant tower he'd called home for five years stood his little family. They watched him until his license plate reading "its not easy" was unreadable. They watched him until the sound of his engine was long since silenced. They watched him leave with the hopes that he knew...he could always come home.

2 - Coming Home

"Lets get some more medical units in here! Move it people!! Everyone move back NOW!!" Robin surveyed the destruction around him and a part of his heart that was still innocent withered. All around were scattered bits of debris and smoldering rubble. Injured bystanders hustled and shoved their way past the stoic hero as they made their way to safety. On the far side of the demolished buildings the Titans with the dirtiest job were carrying away the dead bodies. Robin trusted the Teen Titans on "grave" duty to carefully see over the remains of the dead and to help their loved ones identify whatever was left after the tragedy. "Grave" duty was a horrendous job and no one volunteered for it. Even Jinx for all her talk about being a true villain shuddered at the thought of being assigned to that shift. You could always tell when a Titan's work cycle was coming around to "grave" duty. They became morbid, morose, sad, and enraged. Still, someone had to do it and it was better for a super hero to gently dig up the bodies than a messy crushing machine. Right now, Raven was conducting the "grave" shift and digging up anyone who looked like they might survive. With her were Jericho, BumbleBee, and Kid Flash all working together at the grim task. Robin kept in constant communication with his graveyard team and whenever one of them just couldn't take it anymore he'd send in a relief and send the effected Titan back to the tower. So far only Kid Flash had asked to be excused. He'd left the field of battle at a normal pace too overcome to speed off into the distance. Jinx had watched her partner leave and had come up to Robin to request that she take her friend's spot. Robin had just sent her away to the back of the buildings when he felt a gentle tug on his cape. A little girl stood beside him trembling and battered but still looking brave in her pink pj's. Robin knelt beside her and put a reassuring hand on her shoulder. "You should go find your parents little girl. Go over to that ambulance and ask the big metal guy for some help okay." The small child looked over her shoulder in the direction Robin was pointing but shook her head. "No, I know where my mommy and daddy are...I wanted to thank the green man." Robin paused to think of everyone he knew that was wearing green that day. "Do you mean the girl with glowing green eyes...or the boy dressed as a soldier?" The little girl tugged on his cape harder and stuck out her bottom lip in a pout. "No no no! The green man! He saved me and my little sister! First he was a birdy and then he turned into a man and saved us!" The girl stressed and battered so Robin could sympathize with her frustration. Still, it was hard for him to believe the description he'd just received. He thought over the possibilities for a moment then tried to get more information from the girl. After discussing it with her for several more minutes he took the little girl by the hand, reassured her that he'd thank her hero, and escorted her to Cyborg. "Send out a wide band distress call to every Titan and the Justice League...Tell them to keep their eyes open for anything green." Robin murmured the order to Cyborg as they watched the little girl being lead away to safety by her parents. "Anything to worry about?" Cy muttered back as he translated the message into code and set it over the radio signal. Robin looked off into the distance and narrowed his eyes at the smoldering building. "I'm not sure yet...might be something...might be the girl thought she saw RedStar or maybe Green Lantern was passing by and decided to help.... Too many possibilities to be positive right now." Robin raised an eyebrow to his friend. "Has Gar talked to you lately?" Cyborg motioned for a group of refugees to go to the ambulances to the left of the road. "Come to think of it I haven't heard from Logan in bout a month...He can't've lost my number...he had my left leg on speed dial." Cyborg frowned when Robin didn't laugh at his joke. That meant the situation was far worse then he could imagine. It wasn't that the child had seen BB...it was that she'd seen him without a cure. Green meant that something awful had happened to their friend. It meant that once again he'd gained the ultimate powers...and suffered the ultimate lost. Once in a lifetime

is bad enough. Twice...twice could drive a person over the edge. Just as Robin was about to call out to the graveyard shift to keep their eyes open his com-link beeped. "ROBIN!" Raven's unusually emotional shriek over the radio made it clear she was calling with bad news. Cyborg and Robin started running in her direction before she even started talking. "Raven! What is it? Is there a problem?" There was a moment of static followed with the sound of something large being heaved out of the way. As Robin looked up from his communicator he saw several large boulders tossed up into the air with the effortless strength of Raven's magic. He quickened his pace and made it to the site where all the titans on the grave shift had congregated. They were all staring down at a limp body lying on the hard rocky ground. They were just about to lift up the still form when Robin shoved Jericho and BumbleBee aside and fell to the ground beside the body of his fallen comrade. Robin tried to steady his panicking heart and pressed his ear close to the bare green chest of his friend to listen for a heart beat. At first nothing came. Not a tremor of life seemed left within the flesh and bones of the titan. And then...faint.... Slowly...almost not even there; the most beautiful sound in the world. Beast Boy had a pulse. "He's alive!" Robin shouted. Cyborg and BumbleBee both let out a yell of victory and Jericho and Jinx smiled from ear to ear. Raven's grin seemed ready to split her face as she erected a black disk beneath the three of them and flow them off to the nearest hospital. Robin cradled Beast Boy in his arms as Raven guided her flying disk smoothly through the sky. As Robin gazed down at his fallen friend his smile of relief and happiness faded. Everything was just as the little girl had said. Green. All green. And pointy ears too. Beast Boy...Gar, whenever he woke up would not be happy. Robin gently clutched his friend tighter and made a silent promise. No matter what happens Gar...I'll be there for you. We all will! 0oo0oo0 Raven kept her eyes locked on the pages of the ancient scroll she was reading. She had to keep them on the crumbling tomb in order to keep her sanity. The EKG machine in the Titan's Tower infirmary beeped steadily in the background of the darkened room and Raven was almost ready to blast it into the next dimension. The noise was driving her crazy and focusing on her spells seemed the only way for her to remain calm. Only she wasn't calm. She wasn't even close to it. Instead of focusing on her spells she had spent the last two hours of her shift re-reading the same paragraph over and over. With a final sigh of frustration she rolled up the scripts and walked over to the prone body attached to the beeping machine. He was sweating so Raven took a damp cloth from the nearby sink and gently began to wipe his forehead. His brow creased and he squeezed his eyes tight before blinking rapidly. He looked up at the ceiling for a long time through slitted eyes before he turned his groggy gaze to Raven. "Uh...uuhn....ra...Raven?" Raven dropped the cloth in surprise then bent down to look closely at his face. "Gar? Beast Boy? How do you feel? Are you alright? How many fingers do you see? Who is the president? Can you feel anything below your-" "Whoa, whoa, whoa...damn girl have you switched bodies with Starfire again? Stop with all the damn questions." Beast Boy muttered as he tried to push himself into a sitting position. A sharp blast of pain ran up and down his spine and spread throughout his legs and arms. His head started to spin and he fell back onto his pillow with a thud. "Oooh....oh gawd...kill me." Raven, still a little miffed about that Starfire switch comment, laid a gentle hand on his shoulder and tenderly pushed him back against his bed. "Rest now. You've still got a long way to go before you're all better." Gar looked down the length of his body. He was in a pair of his own pajamas and wrapped in several warm blankets. All round the medical bed he was laying on were gifts, balloons, and flowers of all kinds. Most of them read "get well soon" and "hang in there champ". One even had a pun that read "hang in there Chimp". That one must be from Cyborg. Beast Boy thought with a grimace. Beast Boy knew the joke was harmless still, he didn't know if he were ready yet to talk about the failure of his cure and his sudden appearance at the Titan's mission. Everything was still so confusing for him and last night felt like a blur. Last night... "How long have I been out?" He looked up at the IV tube running from his hand and thought that the bag looked a little low. Raven's eyes followed his and she gave him a small smile. "Its due for changing out soon. And to answer your first question you've been in a coma for a week." Raven patted him on the shoulder and

walked to the edge of the room. She turned on the lights and made a quick scan of the computers gathering all the information she would need to make her report. As she pulled out her communicator and began pressing buttons and calling out the good news of his recovery Beast Boy rested his head back and starred at the ceiling in thought. Holy Christ....a week. I can't believe it. Wasn't even out that long when I got sick...I wonder who found me...I was sure I was gonna die under that building...man....oh holy shoot!!! With a sudden burst of energy Beast Boy sat up and turned to leave his bed. "Oh cripes!! I gotta feed my cats! And my dogs! And my birds!! And my--" A gaint dark hand outlined with white power beams shot out from Raven and shoved Beast Boy unceremoniously onto his bed. "Stay down." She commanded calmly. She kept a mild pressure on him knowing he would be too weak to push it away and finished making her calls about him. After she was done she walked back to his bedside and dissapated the magic hand. Raven took a few seconds to readjust his rumpled blankets before speaking. "We know. They're all taken care of. In fact your 'pets' have become more of everybody's pets." Beast Boy settled back into bed and cocked an eyebrow at her. "Sooooooo....this means you've been to my apartment?" For a brief moment he could've sworn Raven snickered. When she looked back up from fixing his sheets he was positive she was trying to hide a grin. "Yes, we had to go get your things....Interesting decor by the way....did you paint those pink elephants yourself?" With a dramatic sigh Beast Boy huffed his old argument. "For the last time they were there when I bought the place!!!!" This time there was no hiding Raven's amusement and she picked up the chart at the end of the bed and looked toward the door. "I've gotta go and check some of these readings for accuracy on the main system in the mean time you should prepare yourself." Beast Boy blinked and watched her go. "Uh...Wait! Prepare myself for what?" He grabbed the edge of the bed and leaned in the direction she was leaving in. He didn't want her to go. She was his friend and it had been so long since he'd talked to any of the Titans. Plus the medical area always made him feel uneasy. It made him nervous to be left alone in it. Raven smiled at him from the door. "Don't worry BB...when I said 'prepare yourself' I meant that you should get ready...for this!" Raven opened the door wide and a flood of Titans and super-heros swarmed into the room all cheering, yelling, bareing gifts, and chatting at once. They made their way in a steady flow into the room for several minutes. Once the last of the large group had crammed into the room Raven quietly walked out. Outside the door standing off in the shadows of the hall Robin waited silently. Raven came right up to him and handed him Beast Boy's chart. "You should go in there too." she murmured softly. Robin took the clipboard and turned to leave without a word. In medical room a party was breaking out with Beast Boy in the center. But Robin wasn't ready to see BB yet. He had to look over the charts first. Read all the information he could. Robin couldn't face Garfield Logan until he knew exactly why he was once again green. *****Serty: Kinda short this time but not bad. Comments keep em coming folks!! Don't be shy to flame, blame or praise the work! Also, beware, I don't have a spell check!

3 - Garage Talk

"What is different with our friend?" It was the nightly meeting after a mission and every titan at the table was somber and subdued. Robin had just ended the last order of business when Starfire blurted out her question. It was what everyone was thinking but no one was saying. Beast Boy had been in a funk ever since the accident and no one seemed able to pull him out. Oh, he would party. He would dance and appear to be enjoying the hell out of himself. Most of the parties of late had been for him. Several members of the titans team had decided that all the green guy needed was some R and R. Aqualad took him to dances at Atlantis. Bumble Bee and Cyborg held big disco slash eating contest at the Titan's East Tower. And Starfire had served traditional tamranian cuisine for the last week. She claimed they were all supposed to promote laughter and feelings of good will (but mostly they just gave everybody a very long terrible trip to the bathrooms). Raven shifted uncomfortably in her seat and stared at her reflection in the glossy tabletop. Cyborg leaned on the table and rested his chin on his hands. "I think this is something..." He began carefully. "Something we can't really help him with." Starfire's eyes started to glow softly. "I do not accept that." She placed her hands firmly on the conference table and stood up quickly enough to knock her chair over. "This is unacceptable! Our friend is in pain! His heart is damaged and we MUST help him!" "How?" Raven asked quietly. "What would be appropriate? What would he accept? How do we even begin to know what to do for him?" Robin looked across the table at his dark friend. This whole situation had affected her the most. Everyday that BB had come to breakfast not hungry or come to practice a little too driven, a little too focused on destroying the droids, Raven seemed to take it personally. Robin tapped his fingers on the table and thought about what he'd found on the computer last night. Looking over Beast Boy's charts and comparing all the data revealed a truth that was undeniable and disturbing. Computers didn't lie. But apparently, super hero's did. "Someone should talk to him." Starfire crossed her arms and looked worriedly at the floor. "Yeah," Cyborg muttered. "Someone who's good at telling people the truth." Raven nodded her agreement. "Someone who has helped us all before at one time or another. Someone good at giving advice." Robin looked up from his thoughts and realized everyone was staring at him. He looked from one determined face to the other. "Someone," he began slowly, "like...me." Starfire smiled sweetly and unfolded her arms. "You have often helped me when my heart was troubled." Robin blushed and covered it up by coughing. He stood up and moved toward the door only to be stopped by a hand on his arm. Starfire floated just behind him with a look of concern. "Be careful with your words my friend. Remember to Beast Boy you are his 'boophgob' and that is very important thing. A best friends words are not taken lightly and should not be issued as such." Robin nodded and went to find Beast Boy. From the other side of the room Raven got up from her chair and went over to the kitchen area. "Starfire?" Star floated from the door to the counter. "Yes dear friend?" Raven turned on the sink and scrubbed the dishes. "I thought you said 'boophgob' meant 'genderless friend'?" Starfire grinned and Cyborg brought the plates from the "meeting" over from the table. "It does." Star said. "the word literally means 'genderless soulmate' in your language. It is a person who does not need to be any one thing they are simply the one who completes you." Star looked over at Cyborg and chuckled. "Like what Sarah is for you my friend." Cyborg paused as he picked up a dishtowel. He grinned mischievously and leaned over to Starfire. "Are you saying BB and Rob are-" Raven suddenly interrupted, "I thought you called me your 'boophgob' Starfire." Starfire giggled and took Raven's wet soapy hand. "You are." "OooOooOGar wiped the grease from his cheek and growled with frustration. Whatever was making that weird grinding noise he hadn't found it yet. Beast Boy's never really considered himself much of a mechanic and if anyone came down to the garage right now to see

the mess he'd made they'd agree. Every tool that used to be hanging on the walls or carefully placed in a toolbox was now scattered on the floor. Beast Boy looked at the mess he'd made and grimaced. Good thing Cyborg isn't in here...he'd freak at this disaster. Only thing worse than him coming in here would be if Robin-The double doors swished open and Robin walked into the room. He stopped short when he viewed the scattered pieces of metal, motorcycle, and tools laying haphazardly all over the room. Startled by the sudden appearance of the one he'd been thinking of Beast Boy froze. After carefully taking stock of every loose item Robin locked eyes with Gar and smirked. "Garf are you trying to rebuild the million dollar man or change the oil on your bike?" Beast Boy blushed and grinned sheepishly. There was something about Robin when he was being so blatantly arrogant. Robin joking also made the green teen feel warm inside. It made him feel excited and bolder than he'd normally be. Looking down at the mess Beast Boy shrugged and bent over to pick things up. "Heh...yeah...I guess I was trying to do the impossible. This thing is making a noise and I thought I could fix it myself." He grabbed a socket wrench set and a couple of rags and carried them over to the worktable. He stood before the table for a minute and realized how stupid he'd been for even thinking he could accomplish something this complex. He was no genius. He barely had a brain according to some people. Beast Boy closed his eyes and pinched the bridge of his nose trying to stop the headache that always came when his thoughts turned melancholy and depressing. Robin watched his friend carefully. This is what everyone had been worried about. For days, weeks, a month or two whenever Gar would try something and fail at it even if it was the simplest task like remembering to do the dishes he'd become somber and moody. Silently Robin moved beside his hurting friend. Just as he was about to place a reassuring hand on Beast Boy's shoulder all hell broke loose. With a shrieking howl Beast Boy's arms became thick with muscles and covered with heavy fur. He raised his might clobbering fists and smashed the table beneath them into pulp. "BEAST BOY!" Hearing his name seemed to bring the shape-shifter back to earth and he let his arms melt down into their original form. For a time both boys didn't move. Gar with eyes on the floor too ashamed to look up murmured softly, "Sorry...I don't know what...I just felt like I was..." He sighed heavily and shook his head. "Forget it...I just...Sorry...Sorry." Robin felt completely out of his element. On the one hand he wanted to let Gar cool off and have a good proper talk with him. And then again, he felt that if he didn't comfort his friend right then they'd never speak of this at all and he'd have lost his chance to help. Still, another part of him wanted to wrap his arms around those slight shoulders and hold the green boy until all his pain went away. A combination of the three was what Robin finally decided on. He placed a strong hand on Beast Boy's collarbone and he felt a shiver run through Gar's body. Robin leaned close to Gar's pointy ear and asked gently. "It's okay Garf...tell me what kind of noise the bike is making. We'll fix it together." Robin wasn't really sure how his suggestion would be received but he had to try to calm Beast Boy down so they could talk and the bike seemed his best bet. To his surprise, his suggestion was very welcomed. Beast Boy's mood did a total three-eighty and he perked up almost immediately. Spending time with Robin felt like the best idea he'd had in weeks. He grinned weakly at first and turned from the demolished table to the other mess he'd made that day. "It's kinda a grinding sound. Like something isn't fitting right. It's coming from here." Beast Boy pointed to the general area of the chain and Robin nodded. "I think know what we should do...first though we need to get this thing higher up." Robin almost suggested the table but stopped himself short and instead had Beast Boy morph into gorilla and place the bike on a bench. They worked together for some time speaking only in hushed tones and standing closer than they would normally. After the first few spills messes and guesses Robin had removed the top half of his costume and worked with it tied at his waist. Beast Boy watched in mild awe as Robin worked his mechanical magic in his v-necked tank top. Sweat dripping down his neck and over his collarbone made Beast Boy feel electric and the aroma floating in the air of Robin and Beast Boy's perspiration drifted around teasingly. Robin wasn't blind to the situation either and he had made several goof ups already because he'd been concentrating on that wonderful deep

purring noise Beast Boy was making every time their skin brushed together. They were getting to the source of the problem when Robin suddenly remembered why he'd sought out Beast Boy in the first place. This was a new feeling for Robin to forget something so important. Normally he couldn't take his mind off a project until it had been completed. Yet here with Beast Boy chatting about bikes, their friends, and working on a hunk of metal Robin felt totally at ease and able to relax. Still, he had to address the conflict at hand and a grinding noise in a motorcycle was not it. With a look of grim determination he handed the socket to Beast Boy and pointed at the place it needed to be used. "Right there and we'll have it." He instructed and watched as Gar carefully adjusted the socket's head to rest perfectly on the bit and started to turn it. Now is the best chance I'll ever have... Robin took a moment to clear his head and focus his thoughts. In the computer that was Dick Grayson's brain he brought up the data he'd been studying the night before. The data he'd been studying since Beast Boy came home. He stepped away from Gar and the bike and took a seat next to an ice chest. He reached in and pulled himself out a soda, cracked it open, then spoke slowly. "Garf?" Beast Boy was too preoccupied to turn around. "Hn?" Robin shifted for a minute then decided he was just stalling and dove right in. "Why did you lie to us?" The wrench clanged as it hit the floor and Robin had a sinking feeling that he'd gone too far too soon. Serty: Yet another short chapter but at least I left it on a cliff hanger. ^_^ I'd like to thank Aquaify who is the only person to have reviewed so far. Thanks to her there was a chapter 3. Chapter 4 will be coming soon...find out what Beast Boy lied about and why it's got him into such a funk. Plus!!! A somewhat more graphic interlude between the Boy Wonder and the Green Machine! ^_~ Comments are welcome!