



I AM BANE

DC UNIVERSE  
REBIRTH

20

# BATMAN



KING  
FINCH  
MIKI  
SCOTT  
BELLAIRE

RATED T TEEN DC COMICS.COM JUN 2017

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DC COMICS PRESENTS



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FINCH, MIKI & BELLAIRE-COVER  
TIM SALE & BRENNAN WAGNER-VARIANT COVER

# DAY FIVE

REBECCA TAYLOR-ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE  
WITH BILL FINGER  
BANE CREATED BY CHUCK DIXON,  
DOUG MOENCH & GRAHAM NOLAN



TO SAVE THE PLANE, YOU NEEDED TO DICTATE THE ANGLE OF ENTRY.

TO DICTATE THE ANGLE OF ENTRY, YOU NEEDED TO BE ON THE PLANE.

AND TO BE ON THE PLANE AS IT HIT GOTHAM HARBOR...

THAT WAS YOUR DEATH. COMING UP FAST.

OF COURSE, YOU CONSIDERED OTHER OPTIONS. IT'S YOUR POWER, LITTLE BOY.

YOU DON'T SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE--YOU SEE THE POSSIBILITY NO ONE ELSE SEES.

SO YOU RAN THROUGH EVERY SCENARIO, EVERY PERMUTATION, EVERY WAY OUT.

AND EVERY OPTION LED TO THE SAME OUTCOME.

THIS WAS YOUR DEATH.

COMING UP FAST.





I'M  
GOING  
TO KILL  
YOU.



EVERY  
DAMN  
NIGHT.



AAAAAA!



BUT YOU  
DIDN'T DIE.



DID YOU?

THEY SAVED YOU.

GOTHAM AND  
GOTHAM GIRL.

YOU SAW THEM  
SAVE YOU, AND YOU  
SAW ANOTHER...

...POSSIBILITY.

ON THAT PLANE, YOU  
KNEW YOU'D DIE.

AND YOU KNEW  
WHOEVER FOLLOWED  
YOU WOULD SOMEDAY  
SHARE YOUR FATE.

THEN YOU FOUND  
TWO GOOD KIDS WHO  
COULDN'T GET KILLED.

WHO WOULDN'T DIE LIKE  
YOU WOULD'VE DIED.

YOU WERE TEN.  
YOU GOT ON YOUR  
KNEES, THE BLOOD  
AND THE BLADE.

AND EVENTUALLY  
THERE WOULD  
BE NO BAT.

JUST GOTHAM.  
ALONE. IN FLAMES.

LIKE JASON DIED.  
LIKE DAMIAN DIED.  
LIKE DICK DIED.

LIKE TIM  
DIED.

AND YOU SWORE  
AN OATH TO  
WAR ON CRIME.

AND HERE, RIGHT  
HERE, WAS A WAY  
TO WIN THAT WAR.

WHAT A RELIEF  
THAT MUST HAVE  
BEEN FOR YOU.

AFTER ALL THAT  
TIME, ALL THAT  
PLANNING, ALL  
THAT ABUSE.

ALL THE QUESTIONS OF  
WHY YOUR PARENTS  
HAD TO DIE.

HERE WAS  
YOUR ANSWER.

ALL YOU HAD  
TO DO WAS HOLD  
ONTO THEM FOR  
A LITTLE WHILE.

TRAIN THEM, HONE  
THEM, TURN THEM  
INTO HEROES.

AND THEY  
COULD SAVE YOUR  
FATHER'S CITY.

YOU SAW IT  
SO CLEARLY.



THEN YOU SAW IT ALL SO  
CLEARLY, CRUSHED UNDER THE  
CARNAGE OF GOTHAM CITY.

AAAAAA!



SHE WASN'T DEAD.  
THAT WAS YOUR  
ONLY CONSOLATION  
IN THE WHOLE THING.



YOU COULD STILL FIX  
CLaire CLOVER,  
GOTHAM GIRL. YOU  
COULD STILL WIN  
YOUR WAR.

ALL YOU HAD TO DO  
WAS GET THE PIRATE  
BACK FROM BANE.

NOW, THIS WASN'T  
LEGAL--INVADING A  
SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.

YOUR FRIENDS  
WOULD NOT HAVE  
HELPED YOU.

SO YOU RECRUITED  
CRIMINALS, KILLERS.  
YOU LET THEM OUT.

AND YOU TOOK  
THEM TO SANTA  
PRISCA.

YOU KNEW HE  
COULD BEAT YOU.  
YOU KNEW HE KNEW  
HE COULD BEAT YOU.



SO, WHILE YOU  
EXECUTED YOUR  
PLAN, YOU LET  
HIM BEAT YOU.



TWICE.



ALL THAT PAIN.



BUT YOU HAD  
TO, RIGHT? YOU  
HAD NO CHOICE.

SHE WAS YOUR  
SALVATION.

SHE WAS  
YOUR VICTORY.

BBOWW

AND  
AFTER I  
DO IT.

AFTER  
I KILL  
YOU AND  
THEM.

I WILL  
SET FIRE  
TO THIS  
CITY.



YOU TOOK THE PIRATE  
BACK TO GOTHAM.

I AM  
BANE

AAAAAA!

KNOWING HE  
WOULD FOLLOW.

GNNN!

KNOWING HE WOULD DO  
ANYTHING TO GET IT BACK.

YOU WORKED  
EACH DAY TO  
RESTORE THE  
GIRL.

AS HE  
CAME TO  
YOUR CITY.

AS HE TORMENTED  
YOUR FAMILY.

AS HE  
FOUND  
YOU.

THE ONE MAN IN  
THE WORLD YOU  
KNEW COULD  
BREAK YOU.

AND YOU  
RAISED  
YOUR FISTS.

AND READIED  
FOR THE FIGHT.





AND, BEING THE  
GOOD SON YOU'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN, YOU  
CAME TO ME.

DON'T  
YOU KNOW  
WHO I  
AM?

ON YOUR FIRST  
STEP, YOU LOST THE  
PAIN OF THE BODY.

ON YOUR SECOND  
STEP, YOU LOST THE  
PAIN OF THE MIND.

ON YOUR THIRD  
STEP, YOU LOST THE  
PAIN OF THE SOUL.

YOU MOURNED US.

YOUR CARES  
AND WORRIES,  
YOUR GUILT.

DON'T  
YOU  
FINALLY  
KNOW  
WHO I  
AM?!

DON'T  
YOU  
FINALLY  
KNOW  
ME?!

THE LUNGS, THE  
FACE, THE STOMACH.  
ALL FELT NEW.  
AND STRONG.

ALL GONE.

YOU UNDERSTOOD  
THAT FATHER AND  
I HAD TO DIE.

AND YOU  
REJOICED THAT  
YOU WOULD  
SOON JOIN US.





I'M  
BATMAN.

FOR A MOMENT,  
HE BELIEVED YOU  
WERE DONE.

FOR A MOMENT,  
HE LEFT HIMSELF  
VULNERABLE.

AND AFTER THAT MOMENT,  
BANE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD  
THAT THOUGH YOU FALL,  
THOUGH YOU WANT TO FALL,  
THOUGH YOU NEED TO FALL...

YOU ARE  
NEVER DONE.

YOU VOWED TO  
WIN A WAR.

THE GIRL WAS  
YOUR WAY TO WIN.

AND SO  
YOU DID ALL  
OF THIS.

SUFFERED  
ALL OF THIS.

FOR THE  
POSSIBILITY  
OF...

NO.

...VICTORY.



NEXT ISSUE: BATMAN AND THE BUTTON!

END