

The hero and the villan

By animi

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*A story from diffrent members of the team (or a villan's) point of view about Raven's and slades growing love life. (to find who's point of veiw it is, look at the chapter title) *long*

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1 - Raven

I stared out of the window dejectedly. I had just saved the world, my father had no more control of me, Azarath, as well as Arella, were safe, and I have become considerably more open. (Not to mention I was awarded extra helpings of French toast during the aftermath party.) But still something was nagging at the corner of my brain; like my sub-conscience was tapping at a file that was stuck within the cabinet of my mind. I just couldn't put my finger on it, and it bothered me to the point that I was skipping meals to meditate. Everyone thought I was sick or something and left me alone. (Though this illness excuse was very convenient, it was also absurd. My healing abilities boost my immune system immensely and it is therefore impossible for me to contract any disease.) But my meditation sessions proved nothing except an increase of the feeling that there was something that was just out of my reach. I became so irritable that Starfire stopped asking me to "do the hanging out" (which she had been doing every day at exactly 12:14:56) and Beast Boy started to wonder if I had become a portal for yet another universe-conquering demon.

Finally the answer presented itself, and it was so obvious that I was amazed that I didn't realize it immediately. But I was too thick-headed I didn't realize it until around 2:00 am the following week. (Funny how answers always present themselves in the middle of the night- I'm assuming that your sub-conscience takes over when you conscience that you normally feel during the day is at rest.) That day Robin was sitting at the window staring at a book, and I could tell he wasn't reading-not because his eyes weren't moving, with that mask it is impossible to tell- but his fingers weren't moving. It's an annoying habit of Robins to tap on the book he's reading. I sat down next to him and decided to be blunt:

"Something the matter?"

Robin looked up startled. He obviously had been so deep in thought he hadn't noticed me just looming over him. Huh. Weird. I didn't think Robin could have a deep thought. I do like Robin- don't get me wrong- but he doesn't normally seem to pry too deeply into things. When things are given to him, he takes them straight up. He closed the book he hadn't been reading and replied:

"No- what gave you that idea?" Yeah right like I'll believe that.

"You seem distracted- and before you ask me how I know let me tell you it's painfully obvious."

He sighed, "Yeah, it's just after Trigon left, I thought the only thing we would be doing is stopping Slade, and he's no where to be found."

That was it. The distracting nagging was gone only to be replaced by the nervous feeling in my stomach at Slade's name. That was really weird- I don't think that had ever happened before. Or, at least, that's what I told myself. But I had to answer Robin, so I pulled out the most pathetic response I think I've ever told.

“Oh. Okay. Alright”

I could have hit myself. Robin didn't seem to notice though, thankfully, he had fallen back to musing about this lack of Slade. I swept to my feet and went to my room to think about the odd churn in my middle. But when I sat down to meditate with my mirror- because I obviously assumed it had something to do with my emotions- I had this sudden urge not to. And for some odd reason, I obeyed. I stuck my mirror back on my table, and got up and left. I told myself something about being hungry, though I really wasn't and left my room.

Over the next week, the same thing happened every night and every morning I would sit down to enter my mind, and something else would come up distracting me that was somehow so much more important than my current task and I would get up and leave. On the rare occasion it really was more important, like a mission, I would be so eager to not have to make up an excuse and still be able to leave, I would just phase through my floor to the lowest level where we all met to leave. (You have to understand that though I perform it quite often, phasing through things isn't the most pleasant feeling- like you are being crushed between a dryer and an extremely obese person on an already packed subway car. This feeling worsens the longer you are phasing- the person next to you has been eating one to many Wonka bars.) Then Friday night, or technically Saturday morning, at 2 am, I awoke. And it hit me. What the feeling was. What was nagging at me. The lack of Slade. I was.... *missing* his presence. I *wanted* to see him again. I *wanted* to hear another one of his scathing remarks. And that feeling in the pit of my stomach, was that a feeling of longing, or..... *love*? I couldn't believe it. I couldn't stand it. I threw back my covers and without even bothering to put on my cloak, I threw myself into the pits of the emotional abyss of my mind.

I found what I was seeking quite easily. She was right there, and the image that took over the normal background of night and the road and islands with one tree on it was my room. Except it had changed so much and in such a way, I almost gagged. The walls were covered with pictures of Slade. Pictures of all shapes and sizes. Pictures that each had a different image of Slade on it. Profile view, third quarter. There he was narrowing his eye. There he was jumping out of the way of Robin's bird-arang. There was a picture of him grabbing me, on that fateful day he came back. I shuddered, yet somehow, I really liked it. Somehow, I wanted to stay in that room, and just stare all day long. She must have noticed. She jumped out of the shadows of the room to mummer at me,

“You like it don't you?”

I jumped at the sound- I had been inspecting the picture of Slade holding me with his head close to mine and really didn't want to look away, but I did.

“I- uh- It's interesting.”

She grinned. Love looked a lot different than I thought. She was decked in not the normal robes that I and all my other emotions wore. She instead wore a floor length dress that looked like a cross between a fancy wedding dress and a prom dress in a deep mauve; the dress however did have a hood like my robes. God it was odd to see me like that.

“I knew you would like it. I spent so much time preparing it. For some reason, you never seemed to

acknowledge me like you did all the others. But you are now”

She laughed and clapped her hands together. I tried to ignore the fact that I knew she was right.

“I don't know what you were thinking, but I am in love with no one, and especially not Slade.”

I tried to be lofty about it, but she just shook her finger and clucked her tongue and continued speaking in that low mummer of her voice.

“You can't say that. Your feelings for him have grown incredibly over time. You were already- dare I say it- “crushing” on him when Robin was his apprentice. The less you saw of him, the more your feelings for him grew. When Terra betrayed you for Slade and became his second apprentice, your feelings of distrust erupted into feelings of hate and envy. Why chose this pathetic girl for his trainee, when right there in front of his nose was you? When you and she were fighting and she started to ask you what “hurt the most” you immediately thought of Slade. The more she taunted you the more your feeling of loss on your side was, and it burst. Then he “died” and you were caught between immense sorrow for your love and relief. You can't feel this way about him, and now he was gone and you didn't have to worry about it. Then he came back- and finally!- it was for you! He acknowledged you, was coming for you, but it was because of Trigon and your love and joy was drowned in fear of your father. Now he's gone and all you want is him back.”

She smiled, and I knew I was blushing. She was right and I felt so ashamed. How could I feel affection for someone who was trying to destroy me? I turned and fled back to my room.

2 - Raven

I was beside myself. I couldn't come to terms with it. I- in love. And with my arch foe! (Well, I guess that isn't fair. Slade is more Robin's foe- Mumbo mine, but that's besides the point. I didn't sleep at all that night knowing that if I did I would dream of him.

I fell asleep despite what I had told myself. Sure enough, I dreamt of him. We were fighting and he was winning. Slade knocked me down, but instead of falling into oblivion, like it is with most dreams, I fell into him. (He pushed me to the ground, and somehow I ended up leaning into him. Weird huh? Anyway-) How Gravity did that I don't know, but he leaned into me and- I woke up. I knew I wanted to say something to him. But my voice was stuck in my throat.

I shook myself. But it just couldn't be shaken off. I was in love with Slade. I had to do something. I had to tell someone. I couldn't let Love stay bottled up in me. Anger learnt of my fight and drive. I can control her. Love, however, I have no experience with. I don't know when she'll strike and I don't know how to fight back.

Love, unfortunately, realized this rather quickly. I realized that she realized during breakfast. I was pouring syrup on my waffles when I noticed that I had only covered half with the stuff. There were two squares- and only two squares- filled in on the opposite side too. It didn't take much imagination to imagine Slade. I had never eaten so quickly.

Everywhere I looked I saw Slade. In food, in my books, in my meditations, and somehow in my eyelids. Every time I closed my eyes, I saw Slade there. This lead to complications. I would be looking into my Cheerios, and the whole grain spheres would swim together to form Slade's face. My face would go glassy, and I would remember his voice, his scathing remarks, the fierce grip on my arm, his breath in my ear, his-

“RAAAaaaaaaven!”

I would jerk out of thought and Beast Boy would be standing over me looking quite agitated.

“Normally, you at least listen to my jokes! You, of course, always tell me how `mediocre' they are, or how I need to transform into turtles more often or something.”

“Maybe you're getting better?”

Absolutely false, but it got him to be quiet and let me continue to fantasize about Slade.

I traveled into my emotional state more and more, always visiting Love, and talking to her. I had finally `admitted' to her that I did feel love for Slade, but being Love, wouldn't she already know? The whole issue always made me feel a little woozy, so I let it drop. I knew I had to tell someone. She meant for me to tell someone. If I didn't, I would fall deeper and deeper into her spell. Something I could not afford to

do. After the whole end of the world episode, I had been being monitored incredibly closely. It was as if any moment Trigon would erupt from me once again- something I had to urge over and over again that it would never happen. They needed to calm down. Anyway, our conversation was as following:

“Why are you doing this to me? I can't focus. I can't concentrate on anything but him. I've been becoming paler and paler. They all think I'm sick. I-“

“Well, you're love-sick!”

“When will you stop tormenting me through my cereal?”

“Built up love isn't healthy. You need an outlet. You must tell someone. You have to get the feeling off your own chest, and trust someone else with the information.”

I scoffed. “I can't tell anyone!! I can just imagine me going up to Robin `Have you found Slade yet? Why so interested? Oh, well it just turns out I'm in love with him.'??”

She did NOT get the point. “Why not?”

“This team is my home! It's my family! If I told them I was in love with someone that has been trying to destroy that for months, years, I would never be able to come back into the city, much less back home, here!”

“There has to be someone you can trust won't talk. Starfire?”

I snorted.

“Beast Boy?”

“The last person that told him she had any association with Slade is now st-“

And it hit me. The person I could tell. The one person I knew wouldn't be talking any time soon. Terra. Yes, I still despise her, yes, I will never trust her again if there is some way to revive her, and yes if she does come back, I'll have to find a way to turn her to stone permanently, but SHE WON'T TALK!! I could tell her anything, and she wouldn't be able to utter a word. But she is technically still alive, so I would be telling a person. Ah it was perfect. Not to mention the fact that I had milked the sorrow a bit, to make everyone else feel better. I wanted to celebrate, but it was like the world had ended to everyone else, so I faked it. But no one knew, so they would find no suspicion in me going out to visit her. Ha ha- it was perfect!

I went the next day. I brought flowers for effect. It didn't take to long to shake off Beast Boy who wanted to come along. I just told him, I really needed to see her alone. His eyes watered and said he understood and left me alone.

I left the flowers on the plaque that we had left her. I was a little in the dark about how to start though, so I said what I felt.

“Terra you traitor!”

I felt a little better so I continued.

“However much I stand to that concept, I came here for a reason. I just need to tell someone. Someone who won't tell anyone. So here I am!”

I sighed. Even telling a (to my mind) inanimate object was hard.

“I- I've... fallen in love. I know if you were real you would be laughing at me but it's true. You'll never guess who it is either. Do you know that so many people think I'll end up with your boyfriend? Yeah, Beast Boy and me- funny huh? It's not him don't worry.”

I sighed again. I just had to get this over with.

“I've... fallen in love with- with-..... Slade. I can hardly believe it. I know if you were real, you'd be in shock, but it's the truth. I can't stop thinking about him. It's like everywhere I go, he's there. I can't meditate with out seeing him. He's in my dreams too. I don't know what's come over me, but it's true. I am in love with the super villain of the Titans- Slade.”

“Really? Why that's quite interesting Raven. I never would have guessed.”

My insides turned to ice. I had prepared for this moment. When I said to- but it wasn't supposed to happen like this. I must have looked like such an idiot, talking to this statue. I flushed as I turned slowly to face Slade.

“How long have you been there?”

“Why don't we go on a nice long walk and... chat?”

3 - Slade

This is impossible. Absurd even. I do not know what has come over me, but I will find out. Ever since I came back this impossible- absurd- thinking has taken over me. Mind body and spirit. That is probably why the Titan's have yet to hear from me. But if this feeling is in fact what I think it is, why have I not resumed my battle with the Titans? Do I not wish to see her again? No. I must keep my distance. This feeling of affection to one of my enemies will hinder my plans. Not to mention that she will never feel the same. I am a villain to her. The villain to her. One of the only ones she has known her whole life save my "savior"- her father. But what was the point of coming back? I have no plans any more- or none I could perform with out an apprentice. And of course the ones I plan to destroy have an intimate friendship I have- but I haven't and I will not think that way. I will continue my destruction of the Titans- apprentice or none. I will not give any of those supposed feelings any more thought. This has all just been a bad memory. Probably just after affects from my resurrection. Of course- that must be it. After affects- absolutely nothing that will hinder any plans of mine.

Four days later.....

I cannot believe myself. I have developed feelings unheard of for someone in my position. She is my enemy. She is my foe. I must destroy her with the rest. It is nessacary to accomplish control of this city once more. But I cannot help thinking of her. Why? Has she ever done anything to me? Have I ever? I know the answer is no. Not in the way I feel. It has been like this ever since I came back. She was there- she was the one I needed. But I felt so- how do you describe it. I knew I needed to see her. Straighten this out. Immediately. But how to do it? I cannot infiltrate the tower. That would be sure madness. I would have to watch her patterns. See how she moves- where she moves. Where she goes and when, if she has a schedule. This will be fun.

Two days later.....

This has been anything but fun. I cannot believe myself. I have fallen in love- with a titan. I thought that watching her would make my "confusion" go away. Then there would be no need to speak with her. I found out how terribly wrong I was. The effect was exactly the opposite. The longer I watched her the more this "confusion" grew. I found soon that this was no confusion. This was the one thing I had avoided my whole life. Love. I could not let feelings interfere with my work. My goals in this life. She would interfere to no extent. She would not simply interfere. She would demolish them. She would halt them completely. And of course I must enter that I was not even sure of her feelings for me. I expected the worst, as would any logical man or woman. I was her foe, as she was mine. I had tried to annihilate her through a former friend. I then nearly killed her friends and her when I came back and was working for her father whom she hated. She had no reason to love me the way I loved her. I told myself over and over to forget about her. To forget what I had seen when watching her. To forget everything and go back

to the way I felt before I came back. But thinking, how did I feel before I came back? Did I feel differently? Or perhaps I felt the same but simply would not come to terms with it. It was defiantly something to ponder. So I would. And I still wished to speak with her.

I followed her. She left and went to the place I least expected her to go. To Terra's memorial. She had brought flowers but I knew they didn't mean anything. She spoke her mind to the statue. And what a mind she had. I was amazed. I was stunned. How could this be? How could this happen to someone like me. I firmly believe in karma. What you give will be given back threefold. What comes around goes around. This is not what I gave. I gave her nothing but hell. And yet she gives me her love. I didn't understand but I am a man of the moment. I came out from my hiding place. I confronted her. And I took Dear Raven on a little walk.

4 - Beast Boy

I don't know what's going on. Raven has been acting so weird lately- I mean- weirder than usual. She's been telling me that my jokes are improving. Every time she comes out of her room, she has this dreamy expression on her face, which always disappears once I talk to her. Oh, but she hardly comes out of her room anyway! She's just been locked up there and will hardly come out- even for missions. A few days ago, it was like her room contained disease or something. She hated to be in it, and now, she won't even leave for my infamous tofu eggs. (Or any other meals for that matter- but mine are defiantly the best.) I wonder what's up. I thought it was just aftermath from the Trigon thing- but now I know that it's deeper than that. I decided to talk it over with Robin.

"Hey- Robin."

"Yeah, Beast Boy? Something up?"

I was flustered. I didn't really want to just go up to him and say- 'well, I'm really worried about Raven.' Because that would just sound-

"Really? I mean she's hardly been out of her room, but isn't that normal for her?"

I nearly fainted. Somehow my inner thought came out aloud. I was even more flustered and sounded like a fish out of water.

"Well.. yeah... but not nearly as much as she is now, and she's been telling me that I've been improving with my jokes!"

"Wow- that is weird for Raven. I guess she's just got a lot on her mind since Trigon came and all. I wouldn't worry about it."

I grumbled. That just didn't sound like the case. I mean, if she did have a lot on her mind because of Trigon, then wouldn't it show right away? She didn't start acting strange until a week, or maybe two- was it three? No it hasn't been that long... hmm...- any way, she didn't start acting funny for days at least. I was determined to find out.

That night Raven left to go see Terra's statue. I wanted to come with her, but she told me she needed to be alone with her. I understood. I had snuck out time and time again to see her without anyone there. But that was funny too. Raven didn't seem all choked up when Terra- and it's been a while since it happened and Raven hasn't gone to see her yet. Part of my mind just told me that since the Trigon episode, Raven decided it was time to go and see her, but the other part told me that something was up- and I didn't know what. I was tempted to follow her. It took me a whole fifteen seconds to give into that temptation.

She had obviously just transported herself there with that black thing that she does. I think it's called

phasing, or something, but when I got there she had just finished talking to Terra. Her sentence had ended with the word "Slade"- or was it "made"- "maid?" I don't know, but Slade seemed the most logical. Suddenly a voice came out of the shadows and both Raven and I froze. Slade.

A "walk" he said he wanted to take her on. Yeah right like I will believe that. I was so tempted to follow. I knew that Raven and I could take Slade on- but Raven just got up and followed. How weird is that? I turned around and decided to get the rest of the team on this mission. Slade is not one to be joked with. I don't know what he wants with Raven, but he'll have to get it past me before I let him do anything to her.

6 - Raven

I knew I should be terrified. I knew I should have struck. I knew I should have called for help. I knew that no matter how much I should have, I wouldn't. There he was standing in front of me. My heart skipped beats, my pulse rushed. I needed to do something- to say something- and of course I didn't. I sat there dazed for about 3 seconds, and then I got up and followed him. This is what I wanted. I KNOW that this is what I wanted, because that odd feeling in the pit of my stomach came up again. I wondered what he was thinking. My mind got lost in that thought- maybe he was thinking, "I am finally with her. Everything is going according to plan. I will finally make her mine." Or was he thinking, "What is this girl thinking. I am her enemy. I am not one to love, she will be punished!" I almost shuddered at that thought. Then there was always "I don't know what spell this girl is under. What would make her want me of all people. But now that I think of it... maybe that spell isn't so bad to be under." And then he would turn to me, and clutch at my shoulders. He would look into my eyes and see the feeling I had for him, and he would realize that feeling himself. His eyes (eye?) would soften and he would take off his mask, revealing himself to me. He would lean forward, slowly, ever so slowly, to gaze at me from a better angle, but he would soon realize that he wasn't stopping, that he didn't want to stop. Our noses would tap and he would pause, but he's too taken now to stop. His eyes would close and tilting my chin up we would share-

"Raven- what are you doing?"

I shook myself. What was I doing? I didn't know. I shook my head again.

"Nothing. I'm sorry."

I glanced up at him, expecting him to snort and continue walking with a remark such as "Obviously." But he didn't. He just looked at me- not in a glaring kind of way either- just a kind of glance. He seemed to lose himself for just a moment and then.

"We're not there yet. Keep walking."

And turned away. Some invisible bond seemed to break, and I was able to walk again. I stared at him the whole way- he didn't seem to notice. We kept walking for some time, and I wondered where we were going- and then I saw the old library looming in front of us. I expected to gasp, to draw back, to start glowing and insist that we go somewhere else, but I did none of those things. I just kept walking. The evil had passed, Trigon was gone. That place gave me no fear any more. Or was it just because I was with him? For some reason, I felt safe with him. I was so stunned by that thought that I had to repeat it to my self. I- felt safe, with the one man who's business profession seems to be "destroy the teen titans and take over the city." Weird. He glanced back at me.

"Are you alright?"

My head shot up. What did he ask?? Did he just ask- but I guess I need to answer.

“Yes I am.” I tried to make my voice icy- needless to say the attempt failed miserably. He noticed and grinned- or at least, I think he did. His voice seemed to smile as he said.

“I'm not going to hurt you. I can understand why that would be hard to believe, but believe me, I am not going to hurt you.”

We had managed to trudge up to the library steps. I couldn't resist asking. As his back turned to me once more, I blurted out-

“Why?”

My question seemed to echo and took a while to fade. He didn't turn to me but he answered.

“I don't know.”

I couldn't have been more confused. He didn't know. Did that mean he didn't know what he felt about me? Does that mean he does love me, and just doesn't want to tell me? No. That can't be it. Slade would not let something like love enter his soul. He pulled open the door, and walked inside, motioning me to do the same. He turned to me and sighed. Yes. Slade- villain- sighed.

“Raven.....”

I did not believe what he said next I just couldn't believe it. I shook my head to let it register. I just couldn't believe it was true.

7 - Beast Boy/ Raven

"Well we've GOTTA do something!!! Are we just going to stand around while Raven is in the hands of that lunatic???"

I was frantic. I had run all the way from Terra to the Tower to get the news out. And- it seemed to all be in vain. They just stared at me.

"I don't believe that Raven would just walk willingly into the hands of our greatest and most formidable enemy. Not without a fight. We all have seen what Raven can do. I don't think she..."

I cut Robin off with a groan.

"But you didn't SEE her!! She looked... I don't know... like she was under a spell or something. Her eyes got all glazed over and she kind of floated up to follow him. It was indescribable."

"You just did a pretty good job of describing it." Cyborg said while raising his eyebrow.

I was so frustrated. I felt like screaming. Whatever just happened would probably explain all that was going on with Raven lately. Her zoning out, the fact that her sarcastic remarks were getting less and less- it could all be explained by this but they just wouldn't listen to me! I grabbed Robin.

"We HAVE to go after her. I don't know why Slade took her and not us, and I don't know what he wants to do with her, but... we have to go!"

Finally- Starfire spoke.

“Maybe Beast Boy is right- this is a strange turn of events. The villain Slade is known for his trickery and doing of bad things to us. He must be stopped anyway- is now not “the time” that Robin constantly speaks?”

And with that, we (all of us) left.

I couldn't meet his eye after he told me. I- it was a trick. He must know... but how would he know of my feelings... my emotion toward him... however odd or twisted they might be. And yet... he had told me that lately I had been interrupting his dreams... that I filled them. I was always there inside of him, and he didn't know why. He had taken me to find out, he said. He thought that this would make my figment stop haunting him. I didn't know what to say. What was there to say? Was I to thank him? To tell him to get lost? No. That wouldn't do. Here it was... my chance to tell all. Really a moment I think I had been dreaming of for quite some time. But how was I to start the conversation. I was silent.

“Are you frightened? Does this disturb you in some way? It is true we are... an unlikely pair, but if this feeling is correct, are we strong enough to fight it down? And if we are, do we have this right?”

Slade spoke and took a step towards me. I was frozen. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't move, I couldn't raise my voice- I was trapped within myself... Is this how all feel when in- dare I say it- love? Was Juliet to, as useless around Romeo? What about that stupid story with the glass slipper? Was this how the protagonist felt? (What WAS her name? It escapes me. Cindy, or Cathy or something like that, like I ever cared.) Does Starfire feel like this when around Robin? No, obviously not, after all she still fights by his side does she not. Hey, would this- fighting along side of the one I... love lift the “curse” that I am under? He took another small step towards me. He didn't want to make any moves without my first consent. How gentlemanly. *

“I am neither frightened nor disturbed. In fact, I too have been haunted by *your* image in my sleeping hours. I feel that after Trigon... our stars have been crossed, if you understand my meaning, though we are fated to forever be apart.”

I could almost see him grinning.

“Very romantic. Shakespearean, almost. Have you ever read Romeo and Juliet? You are almost quoting it.”

I flushed. I hadn't even noticed it. It just came out. He didn't seem to be mocking me though, just stating. How odd.

“Raven would you truly leave your friends all for my sake? To follow this hunch might lead to disaster, on either one of our parts. Are you prepared for such ridicule?”

I inwardly smiled. I can't believe that I thought him to be so dumb. I hadn't thought he would pick up my intent in the “stars have been crossed” bit but he had. Of course, now that he had, that left a lot of thinking on my part. Was I ready to forsake home and lifelong friends to follow a man that for almost my whole titan “career” had done nothing but harm us? I couldn't chose one without leaving the other. I opened my mouth to speak, to give him my answer and as I did, the rest of the titans came bursting in upon the scene.

*Authors note: Yes, scoff all you disbelievers in Slade (and this couple), but I think that Slade is very much so a gentleman. You just have to look deep enough.