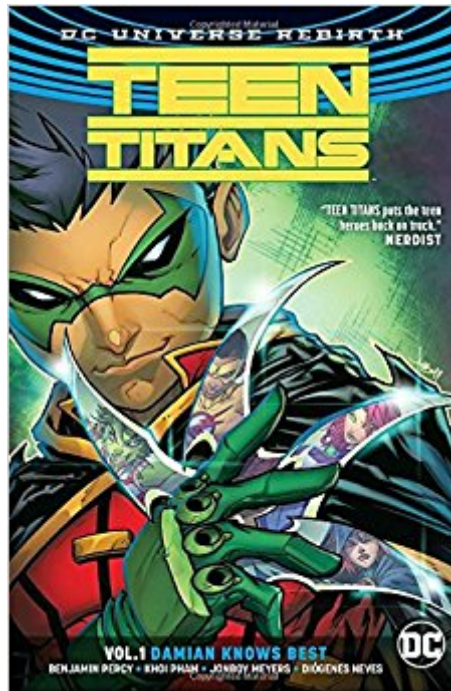




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Teen Titans Vol. 1: Damian Knows Best (Rebirth)



Synopsis

Exploding from the blockbuster DC Rebirth event, it's an action-packed new spin on one of the most famous superhero teams of all time, from writer Benjamin Percy (GREEN ARROW) and a titanic team of talented artists including Jonboy Meyers (Spawn), Diogenes Neves (GREEN LANTERN: NEW GUARDIANS) and Khoi Pham (The Mighty Avengers) comes TEEN TITANS VOL. 1: DAMIAN KNOWS BEST. His father is the world's greatest detective. His grandfather is the world's deadliest terrorist. He is Damian Wayne, a.k.a. Robin, Son of Batman and he now commands the Teen Titans. Whether they like it or not. When Starfire, Raven, Beast Boy and Kid Flash answer this brash new Boy Wonder's call for help, they find themselves on the front lines of a war between Damian and his immortal grandfather, Ra's al Ghul. The entire League of Assassins and the elite Demon's Fist are prepared to move against these young heroes, all to claim Robin for their own. And if these new Titans are toppled, so be it. The stakes are crystal clear: if they win, they live. If they lose, Robin will join the forces of evil and the rest of them are history. But with Damian in charge, sometimes death doesn't look so bad. It's a culture clash for the ages in TEEN TITANS VOL. 1: DAMIAN KNOWS BEST. Collects TEEN TITANS #1-5 and TEEN TITANS: REBIRTH #1.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Beautiful pages to look at, and makes you genuinely excited about what's coming down the

line. • Nerdist “Damian assembling his own version of the Titans is a great hook. • Newsarama

Benjamin Percy is the award-winning author of the new novel *The Dead Lands*, as well as *Red Moon*, *The Wilding* and the short-story collections *Refresh, Refresh* and *The Language of Elk*. A native of the high desert of Central Oregon, Percy also writes nonfiction that has appeared in *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Time* and more. He is the winner of the Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Award and the Plimpton Prize for fiction. Percy currently writes *GREEN ARROW* and *TEEN TITANS* for DC Comics.

I was hesitant to read this series at first, but Damian is quickly becoming one of my favorite Robins with the DC Rebirth banner.

This book collects *Teen Titans Rebirth* and the first five issues of the new version of *Teen Titans* with Damian Wayne leading a team that includes Starfire, Raven, Kid Flash (New 52 Wally West), and Beast Boy. To be honest, I began reading this book with trepidation because I’ve never really cared for the Damian Wayne character. He always seems like a bit of a jerk in the stories I’ve seen him with his actions in the *Teen Titans: Rebirth* issue being representative as he kidnaps each proposed member of the Titans in order to recruit them into the team. That’s a heck of a way to get started, but the fact is the Titans may have little choice but to join together as a highly trained team of young wannabe members of the League of Assassins want to earn their membership by killing each member of the *Teen Titans*. The threat is credible and the *Teen Titans* are well matched up to create a good challenge. The art is solid, but it’s mostly the character arc that makes Damian is relatable without betraying who the character is. He may be tough and arrogant, but he’s also lonely and socially awkward. I found myself sympathizing and connecting with this character in a way I hadn’t before. The way he proves himself to the team and gives it a sense of identity after the awkward start is what make the book a worthwhile read. ***Disclosure: I Received a free digital copy from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review***

I wasn’t originally planning on getting this book, but I’m glad I did. I really was into the idea of Jackson Hyde being a part of volume 2, but I didn’t want to miss out on volume 1, so I figured I’d

just get it for completionist sake. Story: We get a rather interesting origin book. We get some great segments detailing the lives and personalities of the various teens, each of them narrating their own entries in the first person. This was great as it's also a refresher in case you haven't read a Titans book in a while. I didn't read any of the New 52 Teen Titans books (and from what I understand, that's probably a good thing). As we learn about each teen, they all get incapacitated and kidnapped. They're all brought together, put in power nullifiers, and of course it's revealed that it was Damian who did all this to them. It's the only thing he knows, using people as pawns, tools, weapons at his disposal. He's such a little bastard at first! Benjamin Percy absolutely takes a stab at Scott Lobdell (the writer of the New 52 Teen Titans) when he writes Damian as saying the the Teen Titans of that era were criminals, losers, a JOKE. lol There is some level of fourth wall breaking there. I love what Percy has done in putting Damian in a situation where he would not only have to ask for help, but also put him in a situation where he can see a mirror image of his group and realize that people aren't just tools for someone's disposal. Damian would be able to see the value of friendship as opposed to the Demon's Fist, lead by his cousin Mara, who views her fellow assassins as nothing more than pawns in her game to best Damian and become the heir to The League of Assassins. By the end of the book, there is a strong sense of friendship vs. selfishness theme going on. I love seeing Ra's al Ghul in pretty much anything, so it was awesome to see him here! When you're reading about a bunch of teen superheroes, two of them sidekicks, one that's new to the whole hero game, go up against one of the most dangerous men to ever live, it really brings out the caliber of villain that Ra's is, but it also elevates the Titans to new levels. There's a wonderful dynamic going on with the Demon's Fist at the end that mirrors the Titans. I have to say that Percy and DC have put together a great team to start of the Rebirth era of Teen Titans. We have a great cast coming from wildly different backgrounds, and one thing that this title has always done in fantastic fashion is putting together a group of diverse people who can come together to be something much more than they are individually. We have Wally West II: a kid who learned that his "uncle" was actually his supervillain father. We have Raven: a daughter of a super demon who's afraid she'll become her father. We have Starfire: an exiled, ex slave who is really the rightful ruler of her planet. Beast Boy: a love addicted kid who acts goofy to cover up the pain of losing his family. Then, there's team leader Damian Wayne: son of Batman, grandson of Ra's al Ghul, torn between two destinies, one supremely good, the other unimaginably evil. Benjamin Percy did a wonderful job of putting together the right cast and making everyone likable, including Damian, which is NOT easy. I'm dying to check out volume 2! Art: I've never read a comic with art by any of the three artists here. Jonboy Myers is by far the best penciler here. I absolutely love his art and it's probably more

appropriate for this title than any other in DC's lineup. Just really fantastic lines, and the inkers interpret the art well. Diogenes Neves does one issue, and that art is fine as well. Khoi Pham does most of the issues in this book, and I have to say, while Pham's art isn't totally terrible (I have seen worse), I'm not a fan at all of this style! Pham draws Damian's head like a baby's. Literally, a baby's head on what's supposed to be a thirteen year old! Seeing that kind of takes one out of the immersion. It's just so blatant and distracting! It gets better as the book goes on, but that first issue by Pham is kind of cringe worthy when you see it for the first time. Overall: A great start to the Teen Titans of this era. A good examination of friendship. A great cast! With the construction of Titans Tower, it looks like this new super team is ready for their next adventure! I give this four stars only because of Khoi Pham's artwork. If all the issues would have drawn by Jonboy Myers, it'd be five stars.

Story: With the death (wink wink) of Tim Drake the Teen Titans pretty much disbanded, they each went their separate ways. One by one Starfire, Raven, Beast Boy, and the new Kid Flash are all taken but it's not by some nefarious mastermind. Ok well they are but Damian ultimately had a good purpose for it. Damian Wayne wants the Teen Titans to get back together again with him in charge. As Robin, Damian is ready to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors he's thirteen now and ready to prove to his father that he can do this. Damian's Grandfather, Ra's al Ghul, has plans of his own and unless Robin can convince the other Titans to work together again with him they are doomed. Art: This probably has some of my favorite art in it, Jonboy Meyers working both story and illustrations did a fantastic job at both. Khoi Pham, Diogenes Neves and all the colorist everyone, I loved it. The art was clear, detailed, the coloring was bold. I had to go back and just look at the art without reading the story. Characters: Damian Wayne/ Robin, Beast Boy, Starfire, Raven, Kid Flash, Ra's al Ghul, League of Assassins, The Demon Fist, Alfred and Batman. Review: Damian Wayne, that little **** I know and love. Damian tracks down, stalks, and masterminds the kidnapping of the new Kid Flash, Starfire, Raven, and Beast Boy all to prove they need him. Didn't even occur to him that they might find it offensive and not too keen on working with someone who basically insulted each and every one of them and then asked for a favor. You really see the dual sided nature that Damian is struggling with, being trained by Ra's al Ghul but trying to live up the standards of Batman and prove that he is up to the task that is being the leader of the Teen Titans. As they fight the Demon Fist, the villainous teen group that Ra's al Ghul created for

the League of Assassins, the Titans learn that Damian is more like his father than they all thought. And seriously Starfire is STILL a teenager?

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