



Titans: The Lazarus Contract

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They are the greatest young heroes this world—or any world—has ever known. They are the Titans. And now, from the void between the worlds, one of their most legendary members has emerged.

Wally West, a.k.a. Kid Flash, has returned. Powered by the Speed Force, he's brought the secrets of time and space following in his wake.

And with those secrets comes a prize that Deathstroke, the most lethal foe the Titans have ever faced, would do anything to claim: the rebirth of his long-dead son.

Now Titans from every team—past, present or future—must unite to stop the killer called Slade from claiming his sinister prize. Can the Titans and the Teen Titans work together to stop this evil? Or will the two teams turn on each other, leaving Deathstroke to seize control?

Discover the answer in TITANS: THE LAZARUS CONTRACT! One of the greatest Titans tales ever told, from the creative team of Christopher Priest, Dan Abnett and Benjamin Percy! Collects TITANS #11, TEEN TITANS #8, DEATHSTROKE #19-20 and TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #1.

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From Reader Review Titans: The Lazarus Contract for online ebook

Will Robinson Jr. says

This book was okay. I have been really enjoying the Titans series written by Dan Abnett. So of course I have to read the first Teen Titans crossover event. The story is actually quite good and filled with emotion. Basically longtime Titans foe Deathstroke aka Slade Wilson is plotting to use the Speed force, the secret to the speedsters in the DC comics universe to go back in time and save his eldest son from death. It is a truly tragic coincidence that Slade's son died in battle going up against the earlier team of Teen Titans. What is nice about this story is the interactions between the older titans and Damian's aka Robin's younger titans team. The art was okay but not great in some parts. Though I enjoyed the writing from Priest on the Deathstroke issues I just found them too distracting from the main action of the story. I also found that some of the Titans acted very different from how they are in other DC comics books. I really felt like they took away the original Wally West's power set and had to make him seem like a coward. Long time Flash fans may not like this and even Nightwing doesn't seem like the same character you may be reading in his solo series. I have not read the original Judas Contract Teen Titans story arc so I can not say how this compares. It was a fun read and not a bad crossover story.

James DeSantis says

Well...this was a something. So you know of Judas Contract right? I mean even if you haven't read of it you know of it. From Slade being a creepy villain who uses one of the teen titans who is sleeping with him (teen people. As in like 15 years old) and then Nightwing emerges from it all. So of course such a big event they had to re-create it.

Slade wakes up one day and says no...I want to save my son. The crazy fuck who died from fighting the titans. How to do that? Try to do some Flashpoint shit. He kidnaps both Wally's (There's the red head and the black Wally Flash now) and uses both of them in terrible ways. The result has the Titans and Teen Titans teaming up but really just to talk. There is almost no fighting in here and really just leads to Slade starting a "new" life.

Good: The ending is easily the best part. I loved seeing where Slade was going and his new direction sounds batshit insane but fun. I also enjoyed the moments of him trying to save his son but no matter what his son would never listen.

Bad: The dialog. Dan...DAN!!!! Why do you keep having characters talk so...unreal like? I mean do we need them to repeat everyone's name 500 times. Ugh, see my Titans volume 1-2 review to get more of my hatred for his writing style of Titans to understand. Also Damien seems WAY off here and does unspeakable things that make no sense.

Overall a lackluster event for three ongoing comics all ranging from bad (titans) to decent (teen titans) to really good (Deathstroke). This doesn't help any of them except maybe the end for Deathstroke. Can't give it higher than a 2 out of 5.

C.T. Phipps says

I'm not a big fan of the cult of Deathstroke: The Terminator. I think he's a fine villain but a lot of comic book characters attempt to portray him as an invincible avatar of badassitude. However, he is a decent enough character when used sparingly. In this case, the *THE LAZARUS CONTRACT*, is a sequel to the first modern Titans story where Deathstroke attempts to undo the death of his eldest son with time-travel.

It just requires him to beat both Kid Flashes and steal their power, which is already a pretty big leap of faith. Much is made of the "insanity" of trying to alter time so his son doesn't die but I'm not sure this is actually a thing which makes sense in the setting. After all, Professor Zoom alters the timeline all the time in order to screw with Barry Allen. Then again, I suspect the *FLASHPOINT PARADOX* event is something we're supposed to keep in mind as somehow saving Barry's mother led to the end of the world despite her originally being alive.

One thing I like about this comic, though, is how thoroughly it deconstructs the idea of Slade Wilson as a father figure. The book shows he was a horrific father and even his attempts to warn his eldest son that he's going to die are hampered by the fact the original Ravager absolutely hates him. Slade wasn't so much abusive as simply neglectful, uninspiring, and dismissive--which I like since it gives him serious but believable flaws and expands his characterization beyond being an uber-assassin.

The biggest problem with this story is, aside from the contrivances of time-travel and Slade effortlessly owning two Flashes, is the fact it requires you to know the original story of how Slade Wilson's son died. A recap of the events or flashback to the death of Ravager as well as how it affected Deathstroke would be good for readers who may not know the classic story. It would be a good time to actually retell the story, in fact, as I wasn't even aware of it still being in continuity post-New 52.

What's left is basically a mediocre but serviceable story about how Deathstroke easily defeats the 2nd and 3rd fastest men alive before stealing their powers to alter time. It makes Deathstroke out to be a superpowerful threat to reality but unable to accomplish the simple goal of dealing with his family. That's a good contrast but it relies a little too heavily on the idea Deathstroke is a threat who could defeat the two most powerful Titans.

8/10

Alan says

Usually I'm not fond of what seems to be forced crossovers. What sells this tale are the Deathstroke, and his supporting cast bits, especially in the epilogue. Writer Christopher Priest has discussed, a little, on line some of the creative freedom he has been given, which really comes to fruition, again in the last chapter.

Publisher DC Comics delivers on that freedom in the epilogue. Priest permits Deathstroke to use the Bible and religion as weapons to obtain cooperation from those he is recruiting. Deathstroke may no longer be a villain after the revelations he experienced earlier in the book, but I don't think he is a hero either. Much like Vic Mackey in the television show *The Shield*, Deathstroke is an engrossing amoral character whose story I

end up being drawn into, and even rooting for him when I think I shouldn't.

The story's basic concept is that Deathstroke hits upon a way to time travel with the goal of saving his deceased son (really the dead son I don't think is a spoiler for anyone who knows anything about Deathstroke). The whole Lazarus Contract is a nice concept, but in many ways is a MacGuffin in this story. The Teen Titans, and Titans were uninteresting characters for me.

If you have ever watched the The Shield, begin reading this title with the start of the Christopher Priest run. I think you'll like it.

Chad says

Deathstroke decides out of the blue to go back in time to save his son Grant who died years ago. So he kidnaps both Wally Wests to steal their speed. There's something about a Lazarus Contract between Deathstroke and Nightwing that Nightwing hid from the rest of the Titans but it's never explained well. Robin, of course, goes off half cocked and fouls everything up. The story ends with Slade Wilson setting off in another direction.

Ken Moten says

This was an interesting experience. I get why this crossover is viewed controversially, but since I was coming-off Deathstroke the story featured here worked in my favor. I know that what had originally been wanted was a retelling of The New Teen Titans: The Judas Contract, one of the most famous stories in superhero comics (for those not familiar, that's season 2 of the 2000s animated adaption of Teen Titans, at least a more kid-friendly version). Priest was over-ruled by editors (a theme of his career) and had to make a new story on-the-spot.

I actually think it was done well-enough for what it was, and it leads into Deathstroke volume 4 perfectly.

R.C. Rejino says

There's quite a few things I can say about the Lazarus Contract event from DC. First of all, this event directly ties into the Titans, Teen Titans, and Deathstroke Rebirth series as Deathstroke aka Slade Wilson wants to use the speed force to save his son from the past.

The plot itself in concept isn't bad, and while reading, I didn't find myself confused by it or left wondering "how does THAT work?" But what I did find odd was, perhaps, the pacing from the third and then the fourth (and final) issue that tied into this arc. It's no secret that while I have been loving the Titans and Teen Titans series, I didn't care too much for the Deathstroke Rebirth series - part of this is due to the fact that I just don't care for the character of Slade Wilson (which is ironic, considering I loved him in Arrow), but I was didn't like how the Deathstroke Rebirth series was written, either. It's the issues that the writer from Deathstroke handles that I found to be where I started to lose interest/find the pacing in this arc odd. Whereas the first two

issues seemed to be more of a slow burn, the last two issues go by way too fast - part of this is definitely because of how on edge the teams are and how dire the situation is in addition to Slade's own impatience to save his son, but that doesn't excuse the writing from being badly paced.

There are, however, some fantastic things from this crossover that I loved. Seeing the Titans and Teen Titans come together in an attempt to work together was incredibly satisfying from how great the interactions were between members from each team. Some of my personal highlights were Damian and anyone from Dick's team or everyone on the Titan's commenting on Beast Boy's constant quips. I liked how the teams did actually function mostly well together, and I did find it funny how both teams seemed to listen more to Damian at first instead of Dick because of how Dick and Slade made a deal in the past. It was also great to see some of the team ups between characters like Starfire and Donna Troy, who both wondered if they should be leading their respective teams, as well as Tempest and Jackson Hyde's interactions to where Hyde admits he has no idea who he is or what he is, but Tempest vows that if Hyde wants help that he will help him figure out who and what he is (and tbh I may lowkey ship it).

However, Pre-New 52 Wally West and New 52 Wally West meeting was something I had been wanting for a long time and to see it finally happen while they were both kidnapped and being manipulated by Deathstroke was genius.

I could go on and on about how much I loved the team's interactions, but I won't. It was what did really work for me in this event, even in the back half of the arc, but despite how fun that was and how sound the plot seemed, the pacing really did make the arc feel like it was falling apart incredibly fast.

Overall, the Lazarus Contract isn't a bad arc, and I definitely think if you like the Titans series as well as the Teen Titans series that it is worth the read, as it does have major repercussions for the plots of those two series, but it's not an event that I imagine I'll find myself ever really wanting to revisit.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

I'm a fan of the Rebirth Titans, Teen Titans, and Deathstroke series. They're all very different, and the characters all share a lot of history, so a crossover between them makes a lot of sense. So the fact that it's a little lacklustre is a shame.

The set-up's good enough - Deathstroke wants to use the Speed Force to go back in time and save his son, Grant, from becoming the Ravager and dying. Enter Kid Flash, and Wally West Flash, pursued by bears/Teen Titans & Titans. When it turns out that Nightwing has a brutal secret from his past that ties him to Deathstroke himself, things get very, very tense. And then it kind of ends on a whimper rather than a bang.

The fallout from this event is a lot more interesting than how the event ended, really. There are huge changes for both Wally Wests, and Slade himself, so it's worth the journey, but it feels a bit cheap to have this story act just as a springboard for those rather than being complete in itself. I think I mentioned something similar about another story earlier, but I can't remember which one it was.

The usual suspects from the regular series pencil the crossover, which is a nice change - I always feel like if you're having a crossover, you'd want your issue to be indicative of the series, so people who don't usually read one of the series can look and react accordingly. I'm much more likely to carry on with a series if I

know what the quality is like in a crossover than if it's a guest writer/artist. So we get Brett Booth on Titans, Khoi Pham on Teen Titans, and Carlo Pagulayan on Deathstroke, while the versatile Paul Pelletier pencils the special to finish it off. That's a good line-up of artists right there.

So close, and yet so far.

Quentin Wallace says

This wasn't bad but it came out of nowhere. Deathstroke steals the Flash's powers (2 of them actually) in order to travel back in time and his son Grant who died in a battle with the Titans. The Titans didn't kill him, however, he was killed by the superpowers he received from a group known as the Hive.

So we see both group of Titans team up to stop Deathstroke, and we find out there was some shady dealings going on with Deathstroke and the leaders of the two groups. Overall this was a little too convoluted and it didn't mesh well with the ongoing Deathstroke series.

It looks like Deathstroke is supposedly turning over a new leaf and going the superhero route now, but I tend to doubt his sincerity so we'll see.

Wing Kee says

Pretty bad.

World: The art is fine, it's the same artists for the main book so you get what you get. The world building is a mess. This is an event so all these three books come crashing together and then the tone of the world gets fucked. There are so nice little touches here and there about the past but mostly it's just a mess.

Story: The story is dull, cliché and against everything that Slade is which makes me scratch my head. Sure we've been moving towards this for a while with his series but it's a stretch and the end oh man. There is a lot of science gobbledy goop here that's just too much for believability. Then there are the dumb stupid characters who make stupid dumb decisions to force the story. The Titans and the Teen Titans banter which is all over the place. The end...so stupid.

Characters: These are not the characters from the main series. They don't act like they do. They don't talk like they do. All their actions here are for the story and it's ridiculous. I hate event books for this reason. The biggest departure is Deathstroke and Wally they are just...man...I don't know where to start. New52 Wally has been an issue in the the Flash book, he's an issue in the Teen Titans book what is wrong with DC? Why are they making this character so whiney, stupid, and just a brat. Yes we need an arc for him but all he does is blame and whine. He needs better writing. Wally does not deserve this.

This event was stupid. Don't read it.

Onward to the next book

Kyle Berk says

To tell who's the truth I didn't have any interest in this. I have not read any of the current Titans or Teen Titans so an event centered around them was not something I was signed up for.

However I have been reading Christopher Priest's Deathstroke, which is fantastic. And a few issues of this event take place in Deathstroke's title. So it looked like something I'd have to read before volume 4.

I was surprised by how much I ended up enjoying the current Teen Titans line up. This piqued my interest and I may check out that comic now.

However the event is penned by three writers and only one of them has an interesting section in this event, Christopher Priest.

When Deathstroke out of the blue decides to get back his lost son Grant who died in a very famous Teen Titans storyline (Judas Contract) it's jarring to say the least, but the pure Deathstroke issues are well written, and the idea is interesting but the characters are all over the place. Damien seems to have lost some of his maturity, Kid Flash is annoying, Starfire is just there, Dick is too much like Bruce here, and Wally seems to have lost his mojo.

It's not something I'd recommend but is required reading it seems for Deathstroke's title. The ending was pretty well done though.

2 stars

Shannon Appelcline says

Deathstroke resurrects a Lazarus Contract to seek vengeance for his dead son, Grant. This (re)union of Deathstroke, the Titans, and the Teen Titans is a sort of crossover that benefits all the comics, because it brings the Teen Titans up to the next level, it grounds Deathstroke, and it reminds the Titans of their past. The plotline is also an interesting one, as the relation between Deathstroke and the Titans, and how they "caused" the death of his son is one of the pivotal events in Slade's chronology (and, even with the guest appearances of all the Titans, and even with the labeling of this as a Titans book, this still very much a Deathstroke book).

The fundamental problem with this crossover is that by focusing so much on history it reveals what a shambles DC continuity is. Because it was apparently the original Titans, not the New Teen Titans, who now had the adventures in the late '70s and '80s, so it was the older sidekicks who hunted down HIVE and got involved with Ravager and Slade. And Slade apparently decided to pause his contract against the Titans, rather than completing it, which is what happened in pre-Flashpoint continuity, just before the destruction of HIVE. So does that mean that Terra never existed? That the Judas Contract never occurred? That Geo-Force never had and lost a sister? And why does the real Wally West remember this retconned continuity when he's supposed to be the one who comes from before Flashpoint? And why doesn't he seem to recognize Raven at all? (And why is she now 12 years old?) Sigh.

It turns out that this sort of continuity-laden return to the past has less impact when no one knows what the

continuity actually is.

TehBeast says

Sooo boring, I'd rather read Dc superhero girls than this. I honestly was sleeping when reading this. Wally giving his powers to Deathstroke is so dumb. Also most of the time it was just talking, nothing else happening. Only thing keeping me away from two stars was the art. Art by Brett Booth was not bad. (But Flash's head is humongous). If you really want to buy it..... don't its not worth buying

Shannon Cleveland says

I read this graphic novel without having read the ones previous to it in the Titans/Teen Titans crossover. I however have a pretty extensive superhero knowledge so I could follow along with the story pretty easily.

This story follows Deathstroke's (aka Slade Wilson's) plot of revenge towards the Titans whom he blames for his son Grant Wilson's death. He plans to use Kid Flash's power to rewrite history and bring his son back, while leaving his other children behind. I really enjoyed this story, I tend to lean more towards emotionally gripping stories opposed to just action packed ones. There are many action scenes though that are beautifully illustrated. I also tend to love crossovers, seeing as they usually showcase many conflicting personalities (example: Damian Wayne's Robin and Dick Grayson's Nightwing) which make the plot that much more interesting. I also highly approve of LGBTQ characters being represented in various media (briefly in this novel.)

Overall, a great addition to my graphic novel collection. And may I say I'm also pleased to finally have a comic with Beast Boy alive in it! Other than the older comics he tends to always be absent!

Georgie says

Sooooo boring, absolute garbage.

This book proves my dislike of Wallace West, like he literally almost destroys the world giving his powers to Deathstroke, he is the cause of the madness.

The writing is absolutely boring there is no good dialogue, no humour, no emotion, just dialogue. It felt like talking to a robot.

The only issue I like is the last one with Deathstroke it's pretty cool and nice and I might give Christopher Priest another chance

In the end don't buy this, get it from the library.
