



BLACKEST NIGHT

1
FIRST
ISSUE
OF THREE
FEB '10



THE
FLASH
GEOFF JOHNS • SCOTT KOLINS

KOLINS
TRANKS
ETHAN
09



BLACKEST NIGHT

1

FIRST
ISSUE
OF THREE

FEB '10

The

FLASH

GEOFF
JOHNS
SCOTT
KOLINS



THIS IS
THE FLASH.

IF YOU'RE
RECEIVING THIS,
CHANCES ARE YOU
ALREADY KNOW
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

CENTRAL CITY.

AVERNUS.

HIDDEN GRAVEYARD
OF THE ROGUES.

"BLACK RINGS HAVE
DESCENDED ON
EARTH AND ARE
RAISING OUR FRIENDS,
FAMILY AND ENEMIES
FROM THE DEAD.

"BUT THESE
BLACK LANTERNS
ARE NOT THEM.

"AND THEY
ARE NOT
UNSTOPPABLE."

KEYSTONE CITY.

THE WEST
FAMILY HOME.

GREEN
LANTERN
AND HIS CORPS
HAVE SET OUT
TO DESTROY THE
SOURCE BEHIND
THESE BLACK
RINGS.

THAT
LEAVES US
HERE TO
PROTECT
EARTH UNTIL
HE DOES.

WALLY--?

KEEP THE TV
OFF AND THE
COMPUTERS
UNPLUGGED,
LINDA. I DON'T
WANT IREY
GETTING
INVOLVED.

I LOVE
YOU.

CENTRAL CITY.

THE ROGUES'
SAFEHOUSE.

THESE THINGS
ARE ATTRACTED TO
ALL KINDS OF EMOTIONAL
OUTBURSTS--POSITIVE AND
NEGATIVE. SO FIRST THINGS
FIRST, KEEP YOUR
EMOTIONS IN
CHECK.

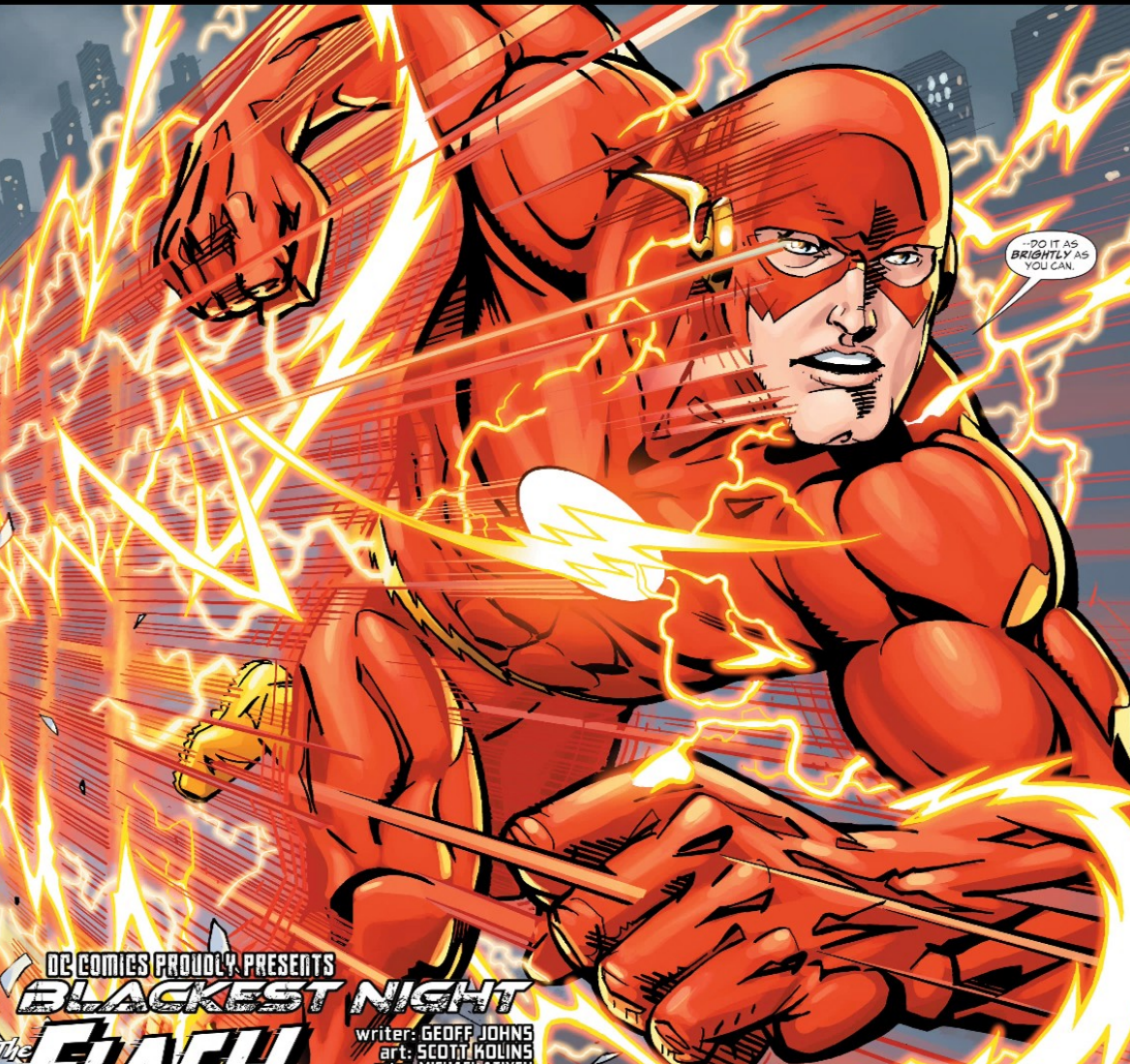
NOT A
PROBLEM.

WE'RE
ASKING ALL
OF YOU ABLE
TO SHINE--

**THE ROGUES:
THE LIVING**



**THE ROGUES:
THE DEAD**



DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
BLACKEST NIGHT
The **FLASH**
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STRUCK BY A BOLT OF LIGHTNING AND DOUSED IN CHEMICALS, POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. WITH EVERY STEP HE RUNS, THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER GENERATES AN ELECTRICAL ENERGY CALLED THE SPEED FORCE, ABLE TO BE TAPPED INTO BY OTHERS WHO SHARE HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE. TODAY, BARRY ALLEN PROTECTS AND SERVES THE WORLD OVER AS

The **FLASH**

THE REVERSE FLASH
PROFESSOR EOBRARD
"ZOOM" THAWNE

TECHNICALLY,
THOUGH, I'M
ONE OF THEM.

I WAS TWELVE WHEN
MY MOTHER WAS
MURDERED. THAT
WAS THE DAY I
STOPPED LIVING.

AND THE DAY
I STOPPED
MOVING
FORWARD.

I WAS
STANDING
STILL FOR
YEARS

I PUT MYSELF
THROUGH SCHOOL
AND STUDIED
FORENSIC SCIENCE.
I EVENTUALLY
JOINED THE
CENTRAL CITY P.D.

THEN THE
LIGHTNING HIT.

I BECAME
THE FLAME.

YEARS LATER, I RAN INTO
OBLIVION. MY BODY
BECAME A PART OF THE
SPEED FORCE.

I TRADED ALL SENSE OF
IDENTITY FOR TOTAL
ENLIGHTENMENT--

AND EVERY NIGHT,
I STAYED LATE,
PORING OVER
MY MOTHER'S
UNSOLVED CASE.

I HAD
NO LIFE
OUTSIDE
THE CRIME
LAB.

I WAS AS
DEAD AS
THESE BLACK
LANTERNS.

I STARTED
PUTTING ONE
FOOT IN FRONT
OF THE OTHER.

AND I STARTED
CONNECTING WITH
PEOPLE AGAIN.
THE ONES I SAVED
IRIS AND WALLY.

I BECAME
THE FASTEST
MAN ALIVE.

--UNTIL I WAS
RIPPED OUT OF THE
SPEED FORCE BY THE
TIME-TRAVELLING
REVERSE-FLASH.

HE NEEDED MY
POWER. AND HE WANTED
ME TO LIVE IN PAIN.

I FOUND OUT HE'D BEEN ATTACKING ME YEARS BEFORE I EVEN BECAME THE FLASH.

HE CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR EVERYTHING
"BAD" THAT
HAPPENED TO ME

STARTING WITH
THE MURDER OF
MY MOTHER.

HE TOOK
REVENGE ON
ME IN REVERSE.
I'M SURE HE
THINKS HE WAS

NORA ALLEN
IN LOVING
MEMORY

THE
MANIAC.

I COULD'VE
SNAPPED HIS NECK
ALL OVER AGAIN.

BUT THAT'S
JUST IT. BEFORE
I WAS LOST TO
THE SPEED FORCE
I KILLED THE
REVERSE-FLASH
DEFENDING THE
PEOPLE I LOVE.

HIS BODY WAS LATER
STOLEN BY THE ROGUES
AND RESECRATED.

BUT THAT MEANS THE REVERSE-FLASH THAT BROUGHT ME BACK--

--WAS FROM SOME POINT IN
TIME AFTER HE'D RETURNED
FROM THE DEAD.

I HAVE A RESURRECTION OF MY OWN IN THE DAYS AHEAD. BARRY. THANKS TO A GOOD FRIEND OF YOURS.

CAPTAIN COLD AND HIS SUPER-THUGS HAVE A THING AGAINST SPEEDSTERS, NO MATTER WHAT SIDE OF THE LAW THEY'RE ON

I HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT
TO HAL OR WALLY, BUT I
CAN'T HELP BUT THINK:

IS THIS WHAT
LEADS TO THE
RESURRECTION
OF EOBARD
THAWNE?

Welcome to
CENTRAL CITY
THE FASTEST CITY IN THE WEST

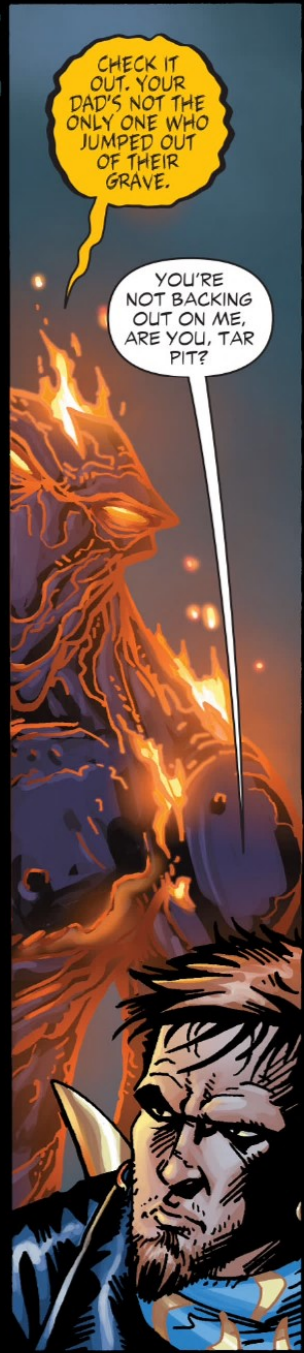
I RAVENTIME TO HAL OR W...
CAN'T HELP!



EVERY
GOOD BOOMERANG
COMES BACK.



MAYBE,
OWEN, BUT
NOT LIKE
THIS.



CHECK IT
OUT. YOUR
DAD'S NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO
JUMPED OUT
OF THEIR
GRAVE.

YOU'RE
NOT BACKING
OUT ON ME,
ARE YOU, TAR
PIT?



BACKING
OUT? I NEVER
SAID "YES."



YOU
DON'T HAVE
A HEART,
RIGHT?

HAVEN'T
HAD ONE SINCE I
ASTRALLY-PROJECTED
MYSELF INTO THIS PILE
OF BURNING ASPHALT
AND GOT STUCK.

SO?



FROM WHAT
I'VE HEARD, THESE
BLACK LANTERNS ARE
AFTER OUR HEARTS.
THEY SHOULDN'T BOTHER
YOU. SO YOU CAN
HELP ME.

WHEN MY
FATHER DIED,
I THOUGHT I
FINALLY FOUND
DIRECTION.
BUT I WAS
WRONG.

I WAS A
ROGUE, AN
OUTSIDER. A
"HERO" AND A
"VILLAIN."



I WANT
YOU TO HELP
ME FIND MY
FATHER.

I WANT
TO TALK
TO HIM.

FLESH.



I DON'T
THINK HE'S
GONNA SAY
ANYTHING
GOOD.



A comic book panel showing a large, muscular man with a lightning bolt tattoo on his chest (Dr. Doom) standing over a defeated figure. A speech bubble from the defeated figure says "TARGET LOCKED."

--NECK--

EOBARD
THAWNE OF
EARTH.

DOWNLOAD COMPLETE.

EOBARD THAWNE OF EARTH.

RISE.

HOW FAST CAN YOU RUN?

I CAN'T.

TOO BAD.



BARRY?

WALLY?



--HE JUST BROUGHT EVERY SPOTLIGHT IN THE CITY TO THE PRECINCT. TELL EVERYONE THAT NEEDS HELP TO MAKE THEIR WAY HERE.

GOT YOUR MESSAGE AND SPREADING THE WORD.



TITANS ARE ON THEIR WAY TOO, FLASH. WHERE SHOULD WE GO?



WHEREVER THERE'S TROUBLE, BART.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

GORILLA CITY. THEIR LEADER, SOLOVAR, IS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS ON EARTH. AND A DEAR FRIEND.

IF ANYONE CAN HELP, HE CAN.

BARRY, WAIT! SOLOVAR IS-- KZZKKZTT.

WALLY? YOU THERE?



BARRY ALLEN.



THERE'S
A NEW
BLACK
FLASH
IN TOWN.





YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A MESSENGER OF JUSTICE, BARRY.

BUT YOU CROSSED THE LINE.

CALM DOWN. YOU KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE SHOWED.



EOBARD THAWNE. THE REVERSE-FLASH.

RISEN LIKE THE REST OF THE DEAD BY A BLACK RING.

YOU BROKE MY NECK.

LOOKS LIKE THE BLACK FLASH NOW, BUT --

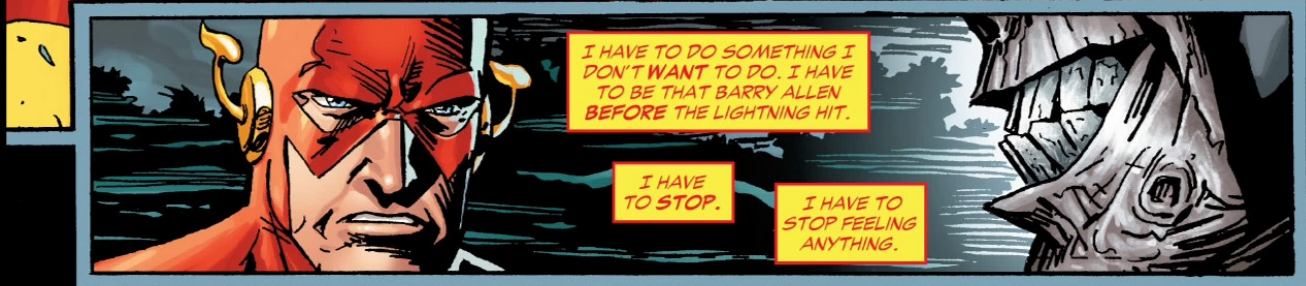


WHAT WOULD THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SAY?

WHAT WOULD IRIS SAY?

THIS BLACK LANTERN'S MEMORIES END WITH THAWNE'S THE DAY HE DIED. HE HAS NO IDEA I'VE DIED AND RETURNED.

HE'S LIKE THE OTHERS. HE'S JUST A PROGRAM.



I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO DO. I HAVE TO BE THAT BARRY ALLEN BEFORE THE LIGHTNING HIT.

I HAVE TO STOP.

I HAVE TO STOP FEELING ANYTHING.



SAY
SOMETHING.

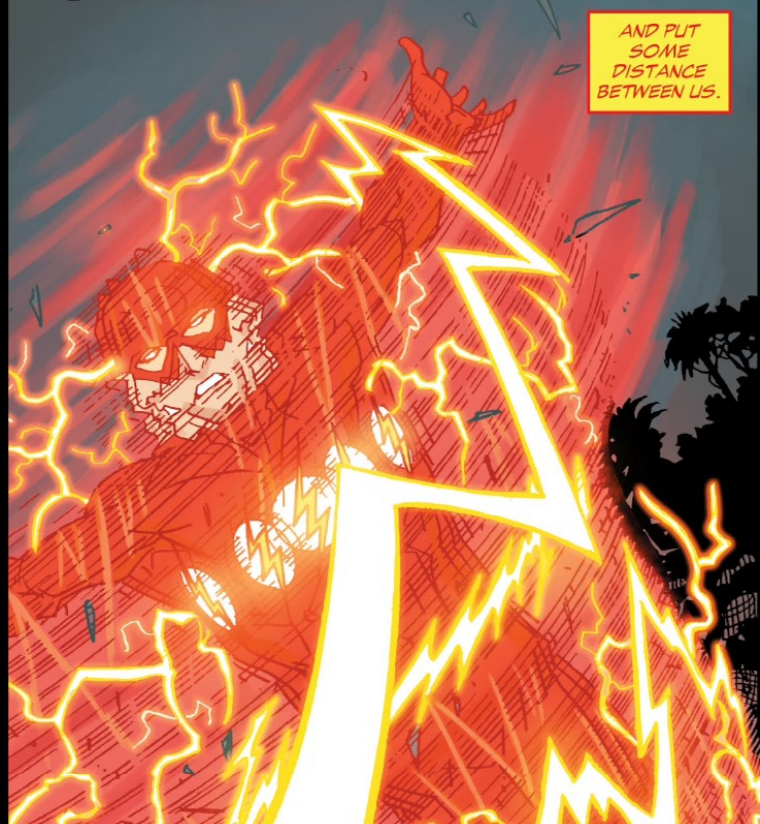
SAY
SOMETHING TO
THE MAN YOU
KILLED!



I CAN'T
ENGAGE
HIM.



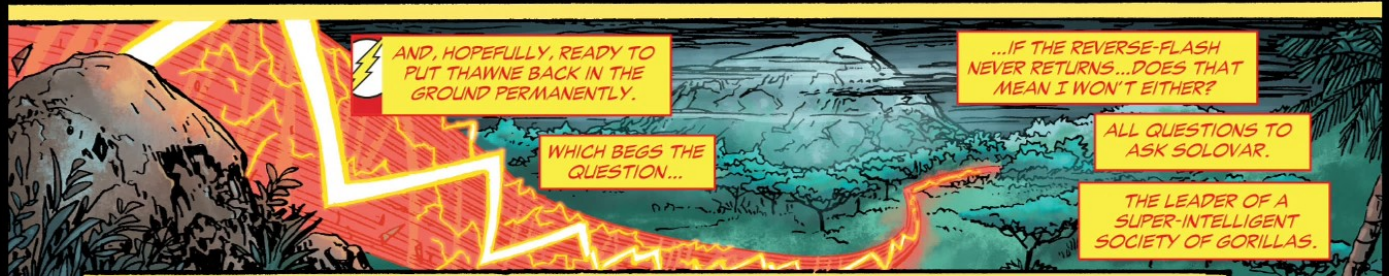
I HAVE TO
SHUT MYSELF
OFF FROM
ALL OF THIS.



AND PUT
SOME
DISTANCE
BETWEEN US.



BY THE TIME HE
LANDS, I'LL BE
FIVE HUNDRED
MILES AWAY.



AND, HOPEFULLY, READY TO PUT THAWNE BACK IN THE GROUND PERMANENTLY.

...IF THE REVERSE-FLASH NEVER RETURNS...DOES THAT MEAN I WON'T EITHER?

WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION...

ALL QUESTIONS TO ASK SOLOVAR.

THE LEADER OF A SUPER-INTELLIGENT SOCIETY OF GORILLAS.



I MET SOLOVAR YEARS AGO.



WE MADE AN UNEASY ALLIANCE TO STOP A ROGUE MEMBER OF GORILLA CITY:



GRODD.



AFTERWARDS, I SLOWED DOWN ENOUGH TO TALK WITH HIM. ABOUT JUSTICE.

ABOUT SOLOVAR'S PERSONAL LOSS AND MINE.

HE OPENED HIS CULTURE TO ME AND I OPENED MINE TO HIM.

FROM THEN ON, I SAW HIM OFTEN.



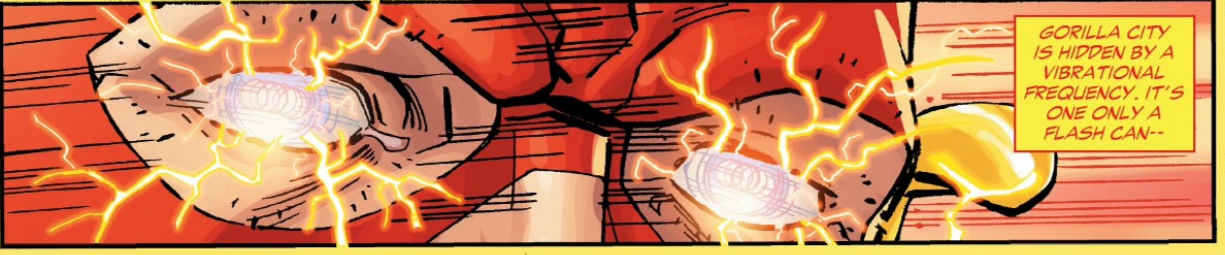
HE EVEN ASKED TO HELP WITH MY MOTHER'S CASE.

DESPITE BRUCE OFFERING, SOLOVAR WAS THE ONLY ONE I EVER SHOWED IT TO.

THE CASE IS SOLVED NOW. SOLOVAR WILL BE HAPPY I'VE GOTTEN SOME FORM OF CLOSURE.



HE NEVER DID.



GORILLA CITY IS HIDDEN BY A VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY. IT'S ONE ONLY A FLASH CAN--



--SEE?

THIS
IS HIS
M.O.

THE WORLD GOES
TO HELL AND
GRODD STRIKES.



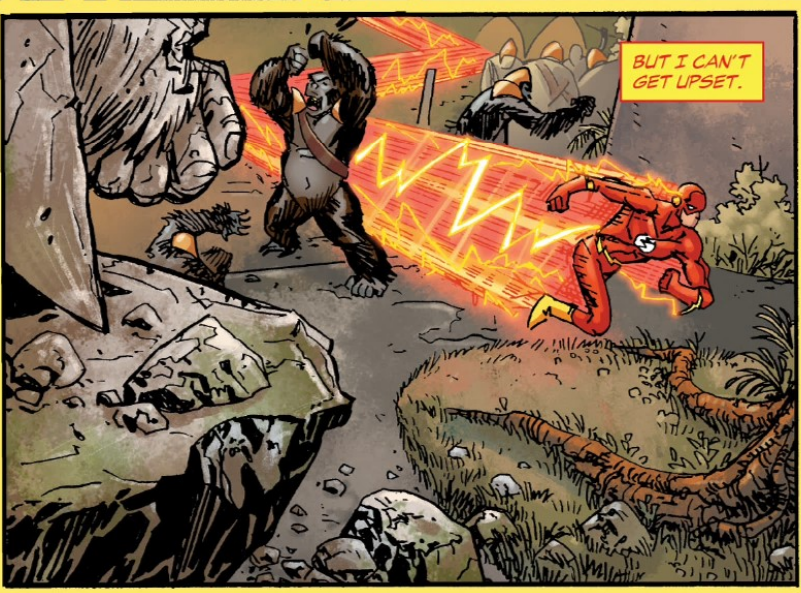
HE'S BEEN TRYING
TO RULE GORILLA
CITY FOR YEARS.

AND LIKE
THE REVERSE-
FLASH, LIKE
THE ROGUES.

GRODD USES
EVERY MISERY TO
HIS ADVANTAGE.

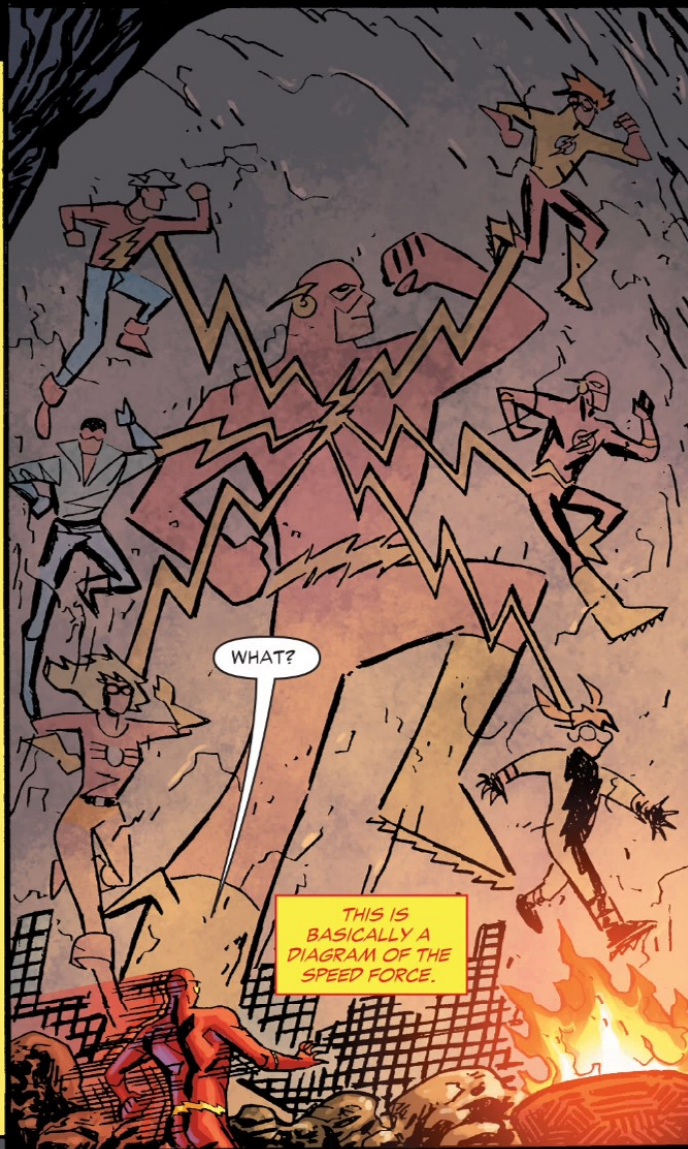


BUT I CAN'T
GET UPSET.



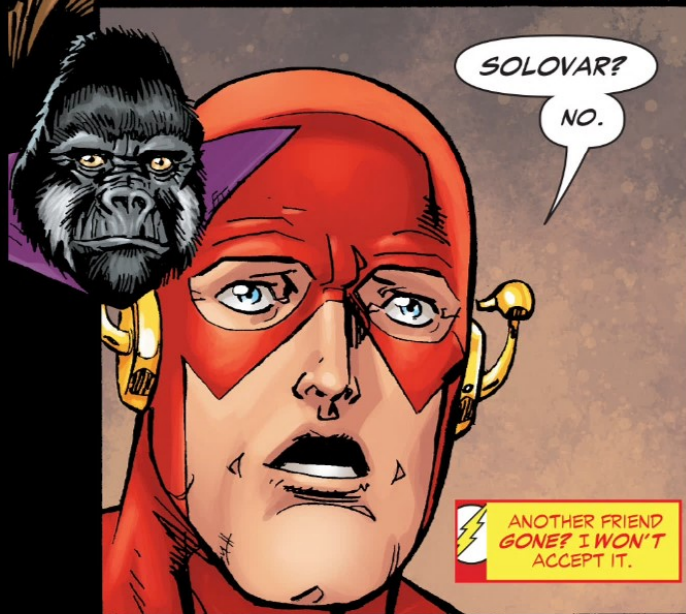
I CAN'T
GET ANGRY.







WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

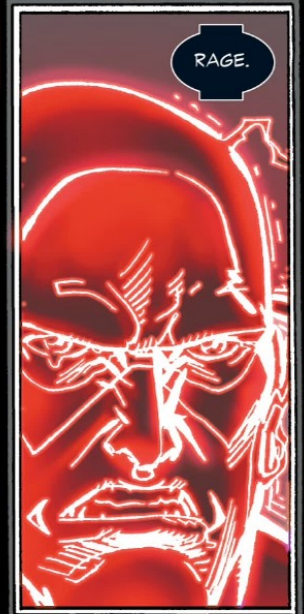


SOLOVAR?
NO.

ANOTHER FRIEND GONE? I WON'T ACCEPT IT.

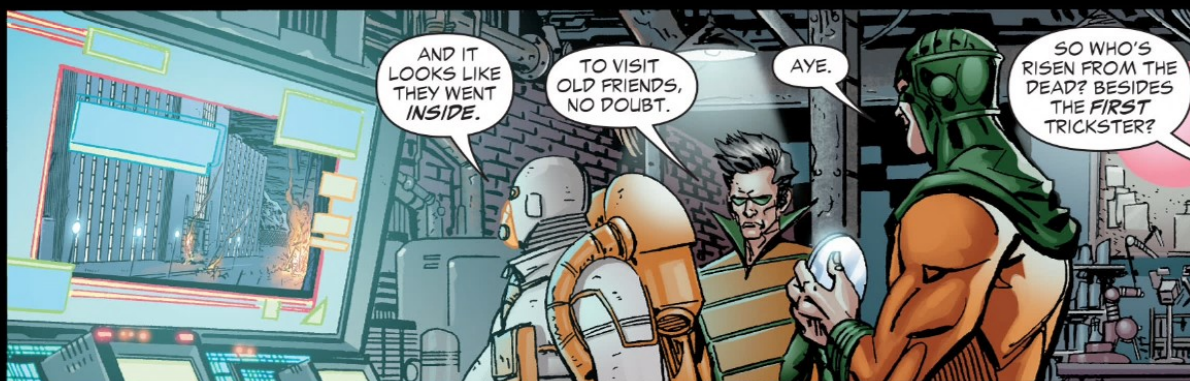


I WON'T.

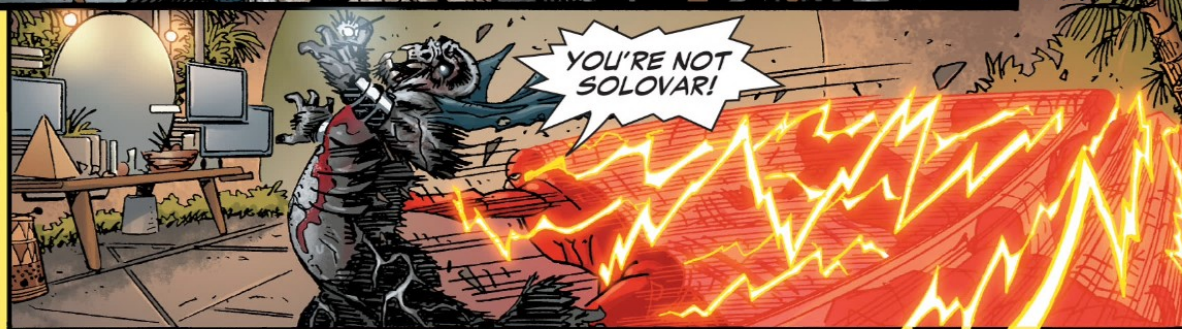
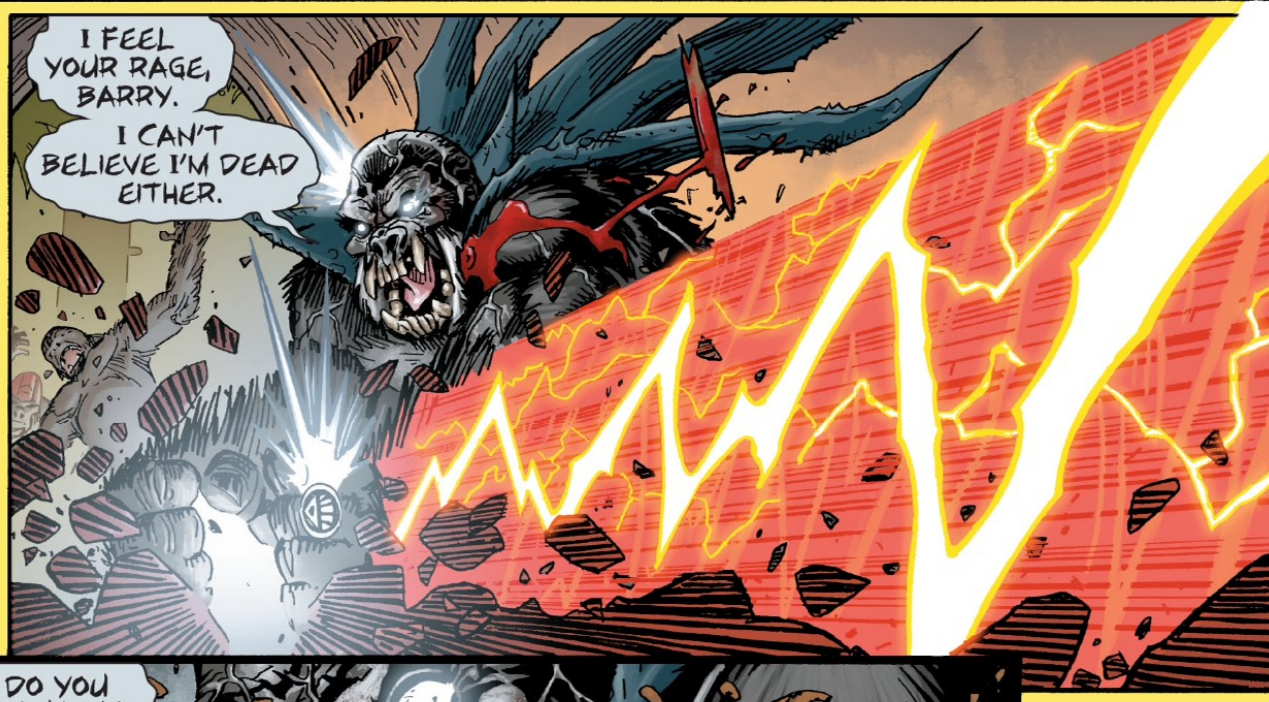


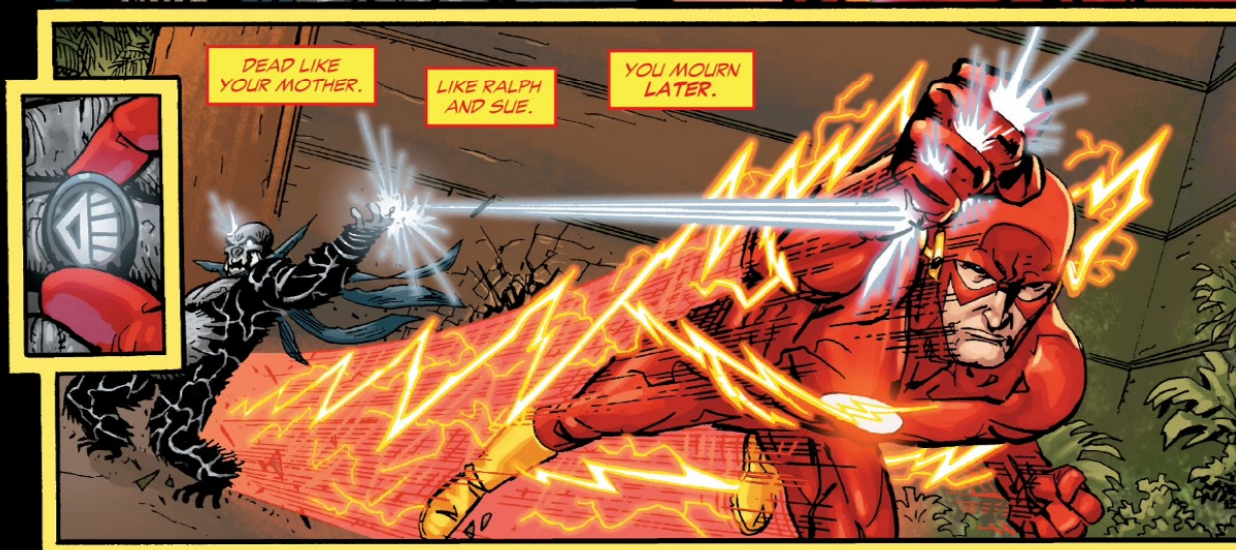
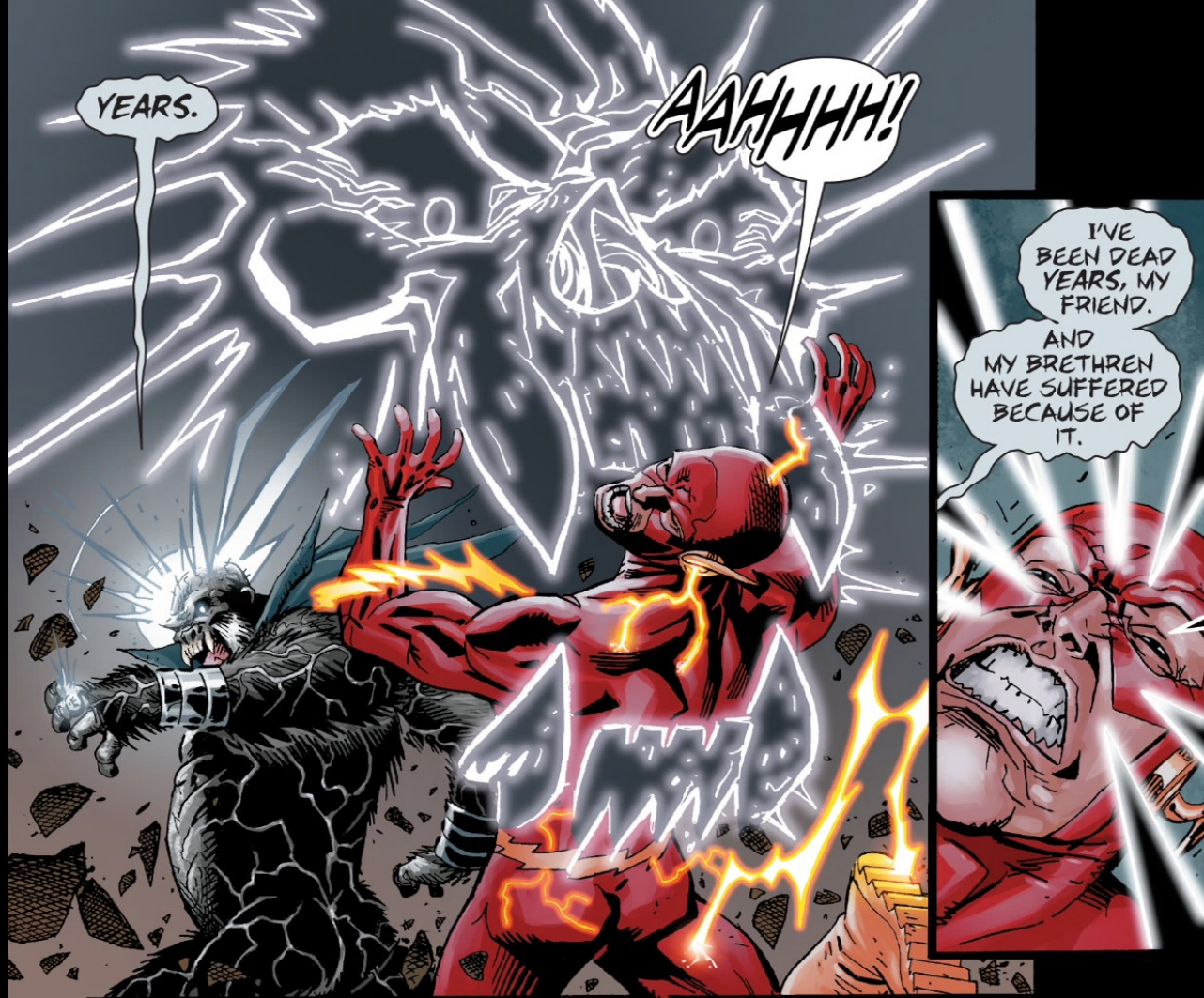
RAGE.

"THE BLACK LANTERN ROGUES ATTACKED IRON HEIGHTS PENITENTIARY."









KEEP
YOUR
HEART
STANDING
STILL--

--AND RUN
AS FAST AS
YOU CAN.

BA-RRY.

I DON'T
WANT TO
BEEEE LIKE
THIS.
BARRY,
HELP ME!

PLEASE,
HELP ME, OLD
FRIEND.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO.

LEAVE HIM
SCATTERED
ACROSS THE INDIAN
OCEAN. MILES
FROM ANYONE.

DAMMIT, STOP.
THEY'LL FIND
YOU, BARRY.

DON'T FEEL
ANYTHING. DON'T
FEEL IT. DON'T...

KRRRAKKOOOMMM

POWER
LEVELS
100%.

AAHHHH!

BARRY
ALLEN OF
EARTH.

YOUR
DEATH WAS
THE FIRST. YOUR
REBIRTH IS THE
LAST.

Welcome to
**COAST
CITY**
CITY WITHOUT FEAR
POPULATION: 2,765,321

WALLY.
BART.

CHANGE
OF PLANS.

"TELL
EVERYONE
TO GET TO
COAST
CITY."

IRON HEIGHTS
PENITENTIARY.

ALL
RIGHT,
GANG.

LET'S GO
SHOOT SOME
ZOMBIES.

NEXT:
**BLACK LANTERN
ROGUE WAR**

