



APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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BLACKEST NIGHT

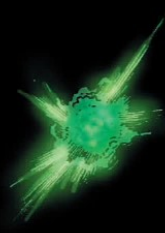


THERE WAS DARKNESS.

THEN THERE WAS LIGHT.

AND THE WAR BETWEEN THEM BEGAN.

WHEN A DYING ALIEN GAVE ME A RING OF GREEN WILL POWER, IT BECAME MY JOB TO BRIGHTEN THE BLACKEST CORNERS OF SPACE.



RECENTLY, THAT'S GOTTEN A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED.

I WAS A KID WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE SPECTRUM OF COLORS.

ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF THREE KNOWS IT.

R.O.Y.G.B.I.V.

I DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO IT. I WAS NEVER AN ARTIST.

I WAS JUST A GUY TRYING TO PROVE HE WASN'T AFRAID.

OF ANYTHING.



OR ANYONE.



MY NAME IS
HAL JORDAN.

I'M AN OFFICER OF
THE GREEN LANTERN
CORPS. SPACE
SECTOR 2814.

NO MATTER HOW
BRIGHTLY I SHINE MY
LIGHT TODAY, THE
SHADOWS WON'T
BE LIFTED.

BLACKEST NIGHT

Death Becomes US



Geoff Johns writer

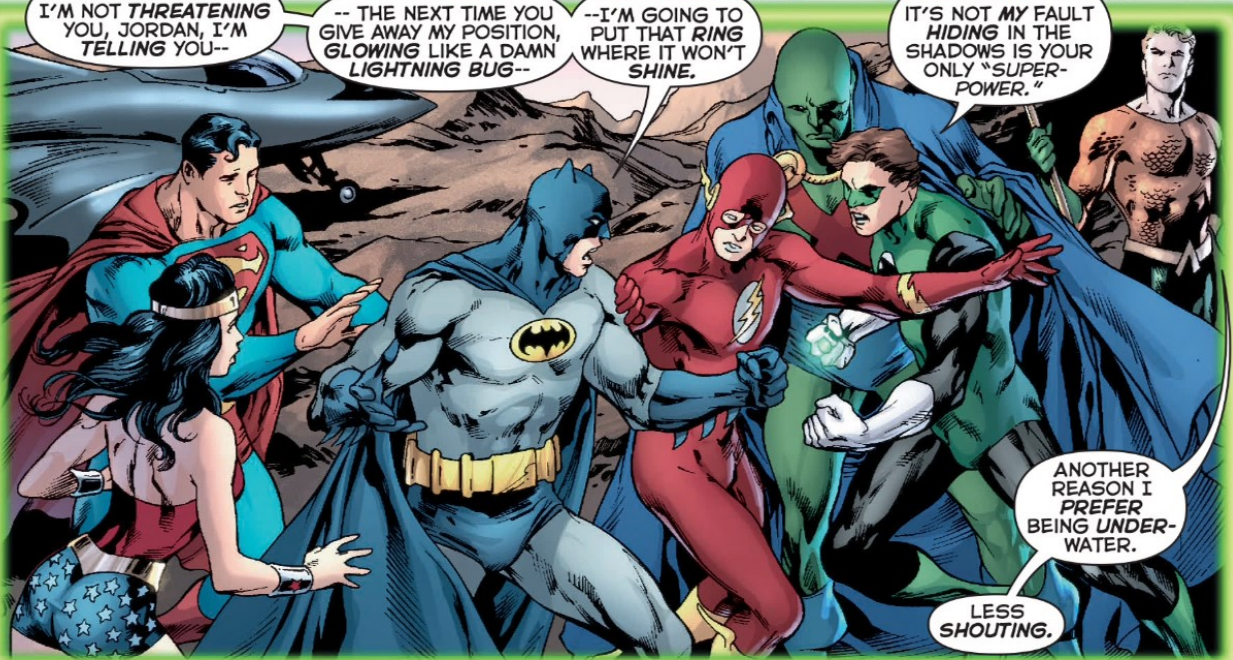
Ivan Reis penciller

Oclair Albert & Rob Hunter inkers

Alex Sinclair colorist Nick J. Napolitano letterer

Adam Schlagman assoc. editor Eddy Berganza editor

CAPTAIN HAL "HIGHBALL" JORDAN WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT AN INTERGALACTIC POLICE FORCE CREATED BY THE OLDEST BEINGS IN EXISTENCE -- THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE. PROTECTING EARTH AND ALL OF SPACE SECTOR 2814 FROM EVERY EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREAT IMAGINABLE, HAL JORDAN SHINES HIS LIGHT PROUDLY AS THE **GREEN LANTERN**





I CAN'T STAY LONG.

IT'S O--

I PICKED UP MORE CHATTER ON MY POLICE SCANNER.

IT'S OKA--

WITH NO BAT-SIGNAL LIGHTING UP THE SKY, EVEN THE COMMON SCUM IN GOTHAM ARE FEARLESSLY COMING OUT INTO THE NIGHT.

IT'S OKAY, BARRY.

TOO MUCH TO DO.

THIS IS IT? NO FUNERAL? NO SPEECHES?

ALFRED SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ONE.

HIS GRAVE'S NOT EVEN MARKED.

THEY NEEDED TO DISTANCE BATMAN'S "DEATH" WITH BRUCE WAYNE'S. THEY HAVEN'T PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED HIM DEAD, AND ROBIN'S INSISTING THAT BRUCE ISN'T REALLY GONE.

HE'S HOLDING ONTO HOPE. THAT'S WHAT DICK ALWAYS GAVE BATMAN.

I MEANT TIM DRAKE, BARRY. YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM YET.

HE'S THE CURRENT ROBIN.

RIGHT.

TIM DRAKE.

I LIKE HIM ALREADY.



HAS ANYONE TOLD YOU WHAT KIND OF SERVICE YOU HAD WHEN YOU WERE LOST TO THE SPEED FORCE?

I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO ASK.

YOU PACKED THE HOUSE, BARRY. PEOPLE CAME FROM EVERYWHERE. AND I DO MEAN EVERYWHERE.

THE FAR FUTURE, PARALLEL WORLDS, SUPER-INTELLIGENT GORILLA CITIES.



IT WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF MINE.

WHEN I WAS INFECTED BY PARALLAX, DRIVEN MAD WITH FEAR, AND THEY THOUGHT I WAS DEAD?

MY TOMBSTONE WAS DESECRATED. NOT BY MY ENEMIES. BY OLD ALLIES.



I DIED A SINNER.

YOU DIED A SAINT.



THAT'S MY POINT. DEATH ISN'T NECESSARILY THE END. NOT IN THIS LINE OF WORK. YOU. ME. CLARK. OLLIE.

MY FATHER. YOUR MOTHER. THEY NEVER CAME BACK. NO MATTER HOW HARD WE WANTED THEM TO.



BUT SOMETHING'S PRIED THE DOOR OPEN. THERE'S A BIGGER FORCE AT WORK, THAT MUCH I BELIEVE.

AND IF THERE'S AN ESCAPE, YOU CAN BET BATMAN'S ALREADY PLANNING IT.



"BATMAN ALWAYS HAD A PLAN."

"WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT WHEN WE GET THERE?"

BE AN OPTIMIST FOR ONCE, BATMAN. WE'RE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--



"-- WE'RE UNTOUCHABLE."

BATMAN WAS HIT BY DARKSEID'S OMEGA BEAMS.

SUPERMAN HELD HIS SKELETON IN HIS ARMS.

AND THEY BURIED HIM RIGHT HERE.



EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED, BARRY.

THE WORLD GOT MORE DANGEROUS.

OUR JOBS MORE DEADLY.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WASN'T UNTOUCHABLE ANYMORE.



"ARTHUR CURRY..."

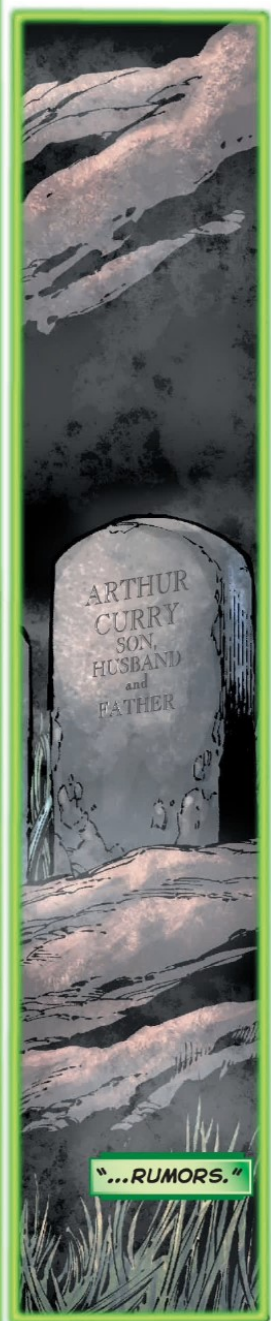
"...AQUAMAN..."

"...HE WAS KILLED AFTER SPENDING MONTHS TRAPPED IN SOME KIND OF MUTATED STATE.

"THERE WERE RUMORS OF HIS RESURFACING DURING DARKSEID'S ATTACK--"



"--BUT THEY WERE JUST THAT..."



"...RUMORS."



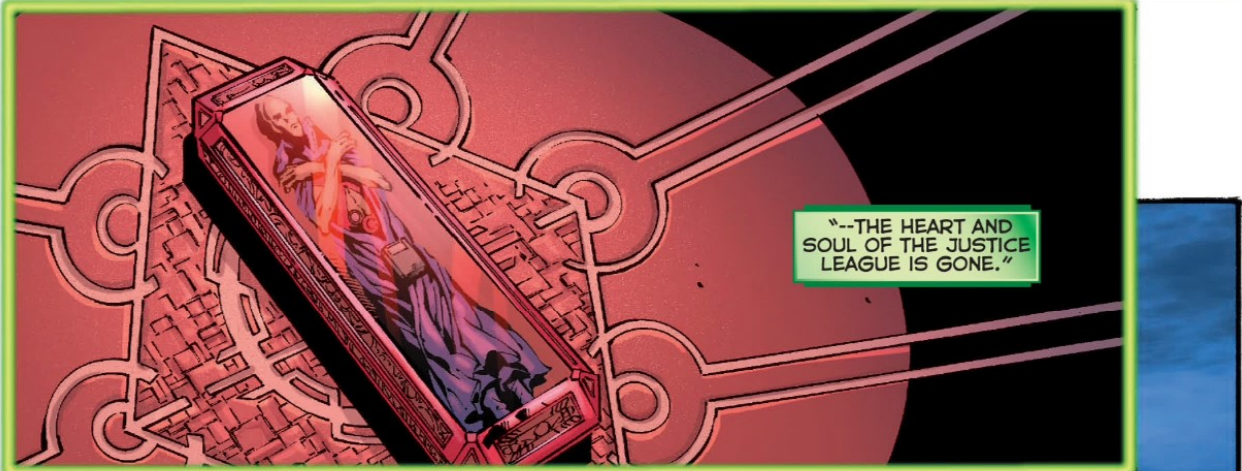
"J'ONN J'ONZZ..."

"...MARTIAN
MANHUNTER..."

"...HE WAS
MURDERED BY
DARKSEID'S
FOLLOWERS."



"HE'S BURIED
ON MARS--"



"--THE HEART AND
SOUL OF THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE IS GONE."



AND NOW SO IS
BRUCE.
I MAY NOT HAVE TALKED
WITH HIM LATE INTO THE NIGHT
ABOUT FORENSICS AND CRIMINAL
PSYCHOLOGY LIKE YOU...WE HAD
OUR DIFFERENCES, PLENTY
OF THEM...

"...BUT AFTER ALL WAS SAID AND DONE..."



YOU SAW THEM DIE IN FRONT OF YOU?

YES.

I DIDN'T KNOW.

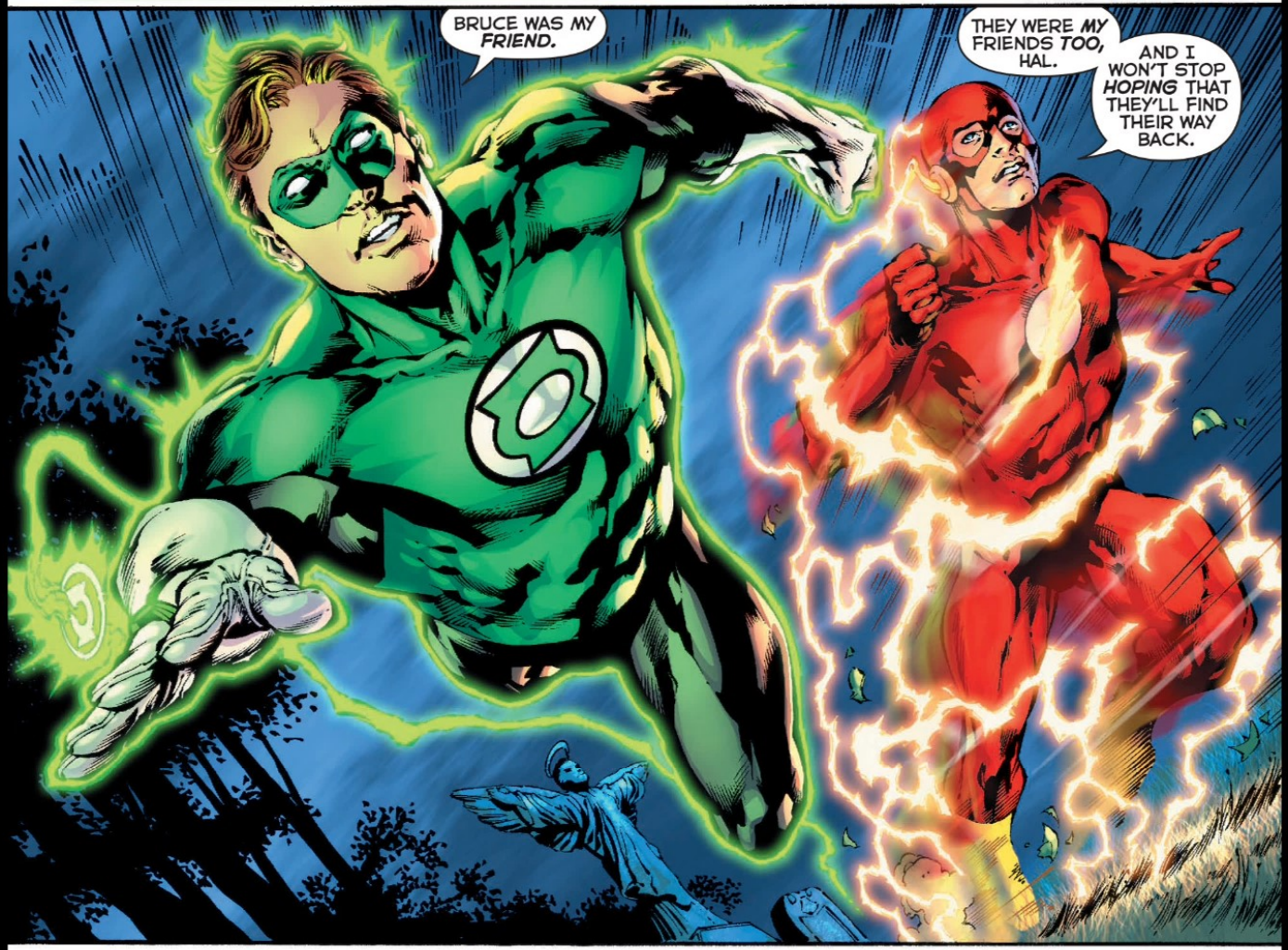
WHEN I WAS A KID--

YOU WATCHED A PLANE CRASH TAKE YOUR FATHER'S LIFE.

NO WONDER WE'RE BOTH SCREWED UP.



SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.



BRUCE WAS MY FRIEND.

THEY WERE MY FRIENDS TOO, HAL.

AND I WON'T STOP HOPING THAT THEY'LL FIND THEIR WAY BACK.



YES. THIS ONE.

"LIKE YOU AND I DID."



BY MY BLACK
HAND -- THE
DEAD SHALL
RISE!



Four years ago,

I was honored with the task of returning Hal Jordan to his rightful role as Green Lantern in GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH. But bringing back Hal Jordan wasn't my only goal. He was the cornerstone to a greater mythology, unmatched in its scope within the universe of DC Comics and beyond – the intergalactic police force known as the Green Lantern Corps. The stories over the next two years in GREEN LANTERN laid the foundation for SINESTRO CORPS. And the stories since then have laid the foundation for BLACKEST NIGHT. Although BLACKEST NIGHT will no doubt be dubbed an “event,” it is, and has always been, a story I've wanted to tell since I took the reins of GREEN LANTERN. It's a tale about the darkness those that wield the Lantern rings must shine their light on. It's a tale about the nature of death in a universe of super-heroes. And, like all Green Lantern stories, it's a tale about overcoming your greatest fears.

BLACKEST NIGHT will recharge the DC Universe as GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH recharged the Green Lantern Corps.

I know that comics dubbed events can disappoint, both on a retail level and a fan level. I know the frustration of delays and accessibility. Artist Ivan Reis, who will be illustrating BLACKEST NIGHT, and Doug Mahnke, new penciller of GREEN LANTERN beginning in July, will be working with me day and night to bring you a super-hero epic worth reading. And I'll be collaborating with my editors Eddie Berganza and Adam Schlagman, and writer Peter Tomasi of GREEN LANTERN CORPS, to oversee everything connected to BLACKEST NIGHT.

This July,
THE DEAD WILL RISE.
In more ways than one.



– Geoff Johns

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

EMOTION: Willpower

HOMEWORLD: Oa



HISTORY: Billions of years ago, the self-appointed Guardians of the Universe recruited thousands of sentient beings from across the cosmos to join their intergalactic police force known as the Green Lantern Corps. Possessing the ability to overcome great fear, the Green Lanterns patrol their respective space sectors with courage, honor and dedication.

POWERS: Wielding the emerald light from the emotional spectrum, the Green Lanterns are capable of creating constructs in the shape of whatever they imagine. The power rings also provide flight, force fields, communication and access to the nearly infinite knowledge held within the Book of Oa.

WEAKNESSES: New recruits often have difficulty using their rings against yellow, or fear, and even veterans can be vulnerable to the golden light if they give in to terror. Like all Lanterns, Green Lanterns must recharge their rings from their power batteries before the coalesced willpower contained in them is depleted, roughly the equivalent of twenty-four Earth hours.

inks: Christian Alamy Colors: Randy Meyers



RED LANTERN CORPS



RATCHET

SKALLOX

FURY-6

DEX-STARR

BLEEZ

ZILIUS ZOX

VICE

ATROCITUS

HAGGOR

UEONI

EMOTION: Rage

HOMEWORLD: Ysmault

HISTORY: Before the Green Lantern Corps, the Guardians brought order to the universe with an android police force known as the Manhunters. Due to a "programming glitch," the Manhunters murdered every living creature within Sector 666 before they were stopped. The only five survivors of the massacre formed a terrorist group targeting the Guardians called the five Inversions. Imprisoned on Ysmault, Atrocitus used his primitive prophetic rituals and the blood of the other four Inversions to harness the red rage rampant throughout the universe. He now uses his Red Lanterns as mad dogs against the targets of his rage: Hal Jordan, Sinestro and their respective Corps.

POWERS: Upon induction into the Red Lantern Corps, a Lantern's blood is expelled and replaced with a napalm-like plasma, which can be projected by the Lantern through their mouth. As long as anger is present, the red fire burns, even in the vacuum of space. The power rings also provide flight and force fields.

WEAKNESSES: Because red is on the farther edges of the emotional spectrum, Red Lanterns are unable to think clearly or be reasoned with. They rarely speak, save for their leader Atrocitus, and often attack without distinction. The blue light of hope can extinguish the red flame.

*Inks: Christian Alamy
Colors: Neil Ruffino*



AGENT ORANGE

EMOTION: Avarice

HOMEWORLD: Okaara, the Vega System

LARFLEEZE

HISTORY: Millennia ago, the Guardians of the Universe made a pact with the keepers of the Orange Light: As long as they kept it buried, their solar system would be out of the jurisdiction of the Green Lantern Corps. That pact was recently broken, and the sole remaining keeper of the Orange Light, Larfleeze a.k.a. Agent Orange, has unleashed his Orange Lanterns, seeking to steal and consume any and all rings.

POWERS: Agent Orange is capable of creating avatar Orange Lanterns of the beings he kills, literally stealing their identity postmortem.

WEAKNESSES: The orange ring is unable to drain power from a blue ring. Its interactions with the indigo ring are as yet unknown. The orange ring also has addictive side effects that have, to this date, gone unmeasured.

Inks: Doug Mahnke Color: Neil Ruffino



SINESTRO CORPS

EMOTION: Fear

HOMEWORLD: Qward



TEKIK

LOW

ARKILLO

SINESTRO

MURR THE MELTING MAN

LYSSA DRAK

KARU-SIL

KRYB

TRI-EYE

MARSH

ROMAT-RU

BEDOUIAN

SLUSHH

HISTORY: Sinestro was once considered the greatest Green Lantern of them all. After he was discharged and sentenced to the Antimatter Universe for abusing his power, Sinestro learned of a yellow light of terror that was being mined on Qward. Since then, Sinestro has drafted thousands of the most horrific, psychotic and sadistic beings in the universe to share his golden power and burn all who oppose it.

WEAKNESSES: The transmission and power of one of Sinestro's rings can be greatly disrupted by the presence of a Blue Lantern. Additionally, the yellow rings have the same recharging limitations as the other Lanterns.

POWERS: Like the green rings, the yellow are capable of creating constructs in the form of whatever its bearer can imagine, no matter how demented. The power rings also provide flight, force fields and communication.

Inks: *Christian Alamy*
Color: *RANDY MAYOR*



INDIGO TRIBE

EMOTION: Compassion

HOMEWORLD: Unknown



INDIGO

HISTORY: The universe has yet to discover the existence of the Indigo Tribe.

POWERS: Unknown

WEAKNESSES: Unknown

*Inks: Tom Nguyen
Colors: Neil Kuffano*



STAR SAPPHIRES

EMOTION: Love

HOMEWORLD: Zamaron

QUEEN
AGA'PO

THE LOST
SAPPHIRE

FATALITY

DELA
PHARON

RACE

MISS BLOSS

MIRI

CAROL
FERRIS

HISTORY: When the Guardians of Oa debated to abandon emotions eons ago, a splinter tribe of female Oans left to do the exact opposite - embrace them. They journeyed from world to world until they discovered the heart of the violet light on the planet Zamaron. Forging the crystallized world into their own, the Zamarons created an army of soldiers dubbed the Star Sapphires who wield the violet energy of love and have vowed to convert all to their way of light.

WEAKNESSES: Because violet is on the far end of the emotional spectrum, a Star Sapphire's thought process can be altered considerably, though that is not always the case.

POWERS: The Star Sapphire rings reach into the hearts of those who wear them and reveal their greatest love. The ring can also create a tether to an embattled love that is under threat and bring the Star Sapphire to its aid.

Inks: Christian Alamy
Color: Randy Mayor



BLACK LANTERN CORPS

EMOTION: Death

HOMEWORLD: The Dead World of Ryut

HISTORY: The mysterious Black Lantern rose around the corpse of the Anti-Monitor on the planet Ryut, a world once decimated by the Guardians' Manhunters. Its ultimate purpose and its creator are unknown.

POWERS: Unknown

WEAKNESSES: Unknown

SCAR

BLACK HAND



**WHO RISES?
FIND OUT JULY 15th IN
BLACKEST NIGHT #1**

*Inks: Tom Nguyen
Color: Randy Mayor*