



3
OF 8
NOV '09

BLACKEST NIGHT



GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO



W. Reis
Oclair
Sinc

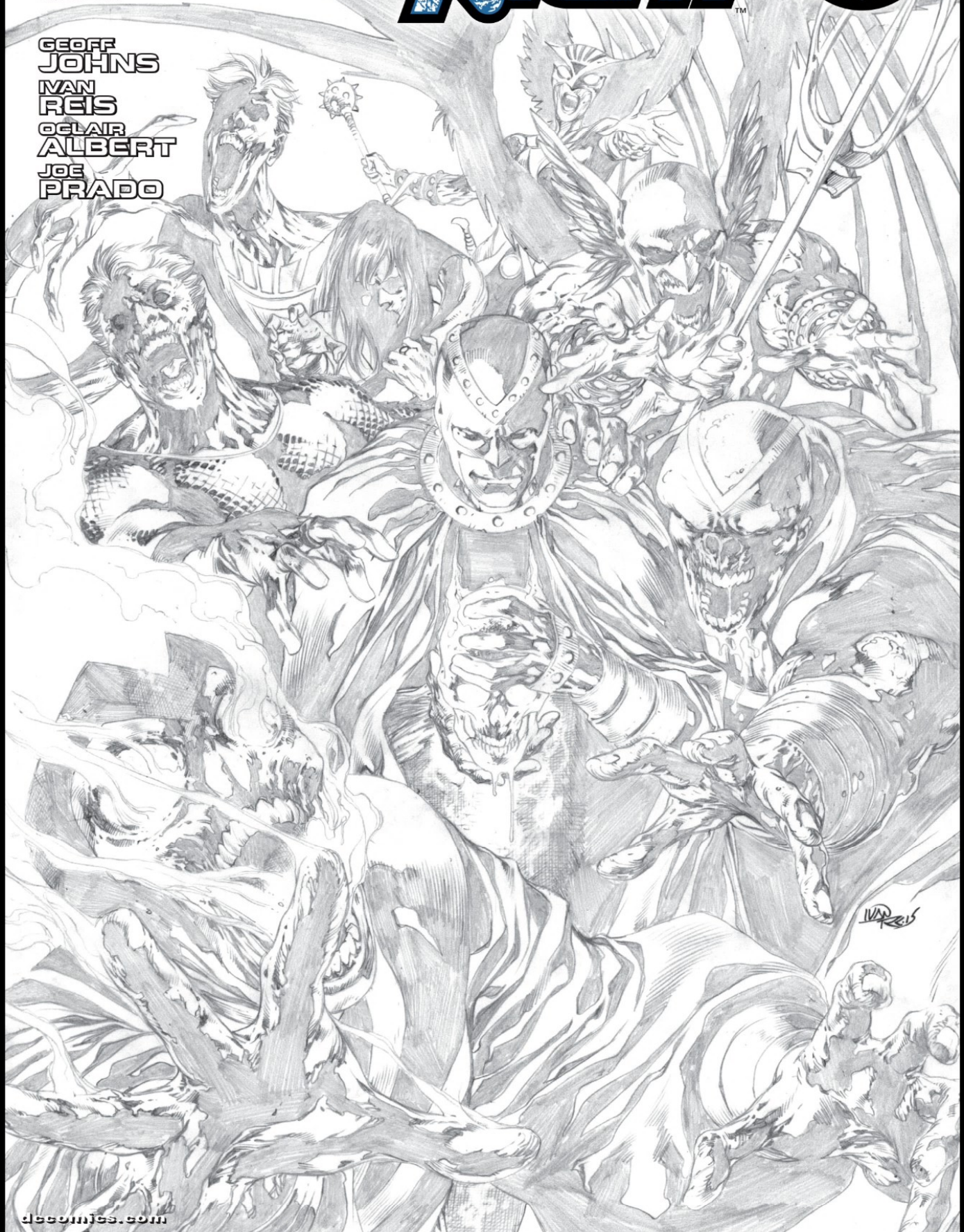


BLACKEST NIGHT



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IVAN REIS

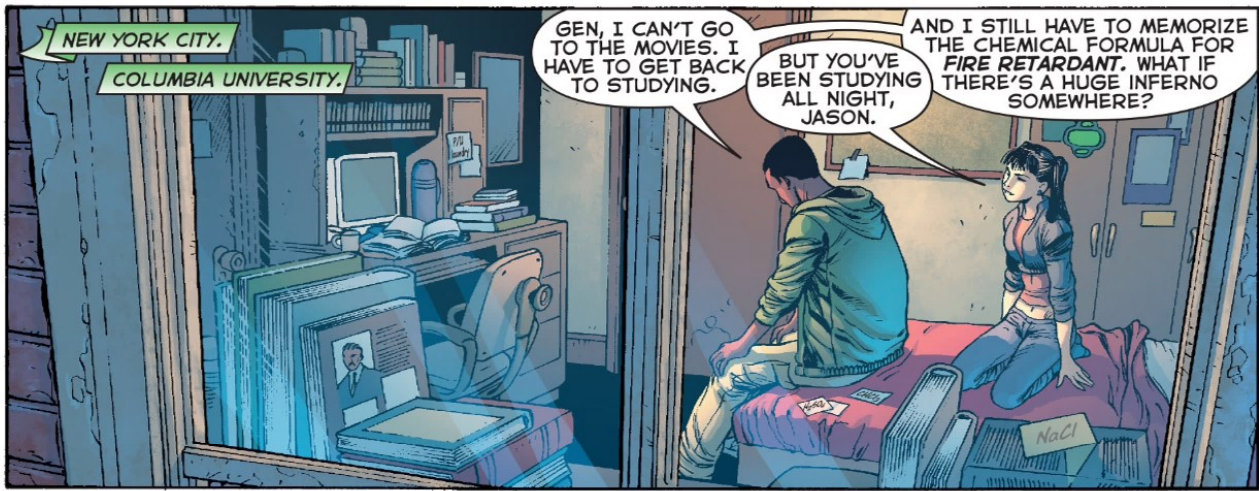


BLACKEST NIGHT

3
OF 6
NOV '09

GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO





NEW YORK CITY.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

GEN, I CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIES. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO STUDYING.

BUT YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING ALL NIGHT, JASON.

AND I STILL HAVE TO MEMORIZE THE CHEMICAL FORMULA FOR FIRE RETARDANT. WHAT IF THERE'S A HUGE INFERNO SOMEWHERE?



WHenever you obsess over your flashcards that means something's bothering you.

IT'S NOTHING.

YOU BARELY SAID ANYTHING AT DINNER.

I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING.

CAN YOU TALK NOW? PLEASE?



GEN, I JUST STARTED COLLEGE. YOU'RE BARELY OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. I'M NOT READY TO GET ENGAGED.

WHAT? BUT HOW DID--?

WHEN WE'RE SUPER-HEROING AROUND, OUR MINDS ARE LINKED. AND YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND A FAMILY ARE SO STRONG I CAN'T HELP BUT HEAR THEM.

IT'S JUST, I LIKE YOU SO MUCH, JASON. AND SINCE I MET YOU, EVERYTHING'S BEEN SO GREAT. IT'S HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE.



AND I WANT ONE TOO. I DO.

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST TRYING TO GET THROUGH CHEMISTRY 201.



IF MY THOUGHTS ARE BOTHERING YOU...

...IF IT'S BETTER FOR US...

...MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE FIRESTORM ANYMORE.



GOTHAM CITY.



DO YOU HAVE WORMS IN YOUR EARS, E-MAN? I CALLED DIBS ON THE FLASH!

THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER AND THE STRETCHABLE SLEUTH HAVE BEEN PALS SINCE THE WORLD-FAMOUS ELONGATED MAN CRACKED HIS FIRST CASE. MATCHSTICK! IF ANYONE'S TUGGING ON BARRY'S HEARTSTRINGS IT'S GONNA BE ME.

C'MON, BARRY! GIVE YOUR OLD DUCTILE PAL A HUG, AND BEFORE YOU SAY IT, I'LL SAY IT--

--YOU WERE RIGHT, GOING PUBLIC WITH MY SECRET IDENTITY WAY BACK WHEN? NOT THE BEST IDEA I EVER HAD, WAS IT, SUE?

OH, RALPH, DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR BOUNCY LITTLE BRAIN! EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST.



I'D RATHER BE SPILLING GREEN ARROW'S BLOOD, BUT I'LL SETTLE FOR YOUR POMPOUS ASS, JORDAN.

MAKE HIM USE HIS WILLPOWER, CARSTER, MAKE HAL FIGHT BACK.

IT GETS ME HOT.

THAT I DON'T THINK I WANT TO SEE.



SPILL IT, BARRY! SEEING ME? WHAT ARE YOU FEELING? A LITTLE FEAR? A LITTLE HOPE?

WHOMEVER DID THIS TO YOU CROSSED ONE HELL OF A LINE.

OH! ANGER! I LIKE IT!

BLACKEST NIGHT

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 COVER: REIS - ALBERT - SINCLAIR ALT. COVER: ETHAN VAN SCIVER WITH HI-FI



I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T NOTICE THIS BEFORE, FLASH, BUT YOU'RE A LOT LIKE PROFESSOR STEIN.



YOU'RE BOTH BORING OLD DUDES WHO KNOW ALL ABOUT CHEMICALS AND GIGAWATTS AND JUNK.



I HATE THINKING TOO HARD ABOUT STUFF THAT SUCKS, BUT RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

THERE'S A BIG EMPTY SPOT IN MY HEAD WHERE THE PROFESSOR USED TO HANG. I'VE GOT A VACANCY THAT NEEDS TO BE FILLED.

HOW ABOUT YOU BE MY NEW NERD BRAIN, FLASH?



THE RONNIE RAYMOND I KNEW MIGHT'VE MADE LESS THAN AVERAGE GRADES, BUT HE NEVER SAW PROFESSOR STEIN AS A HUMAN DATABASE.

HEY, I GOT A "B" IN P.E.

ONCE.



YOU WANT TO TRY AN EXPERIMENT, "FIRESTORM"?

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TAKE THIS BLACK RING OFF.





I HATE BEING IN THE DARK.



RAY? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I JUMPED THROUGH THE PHONE LINE TO CARTER'S HOPING TO HAVE A LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART. HE TOOK IT LITERALLY.

I SHRUNK DOWN INTO HIS RING TO GET A BETTER LOOK. IT'S NOTHING LIKE YOURS, HAL.



THE RING HAS THE SAME POROUS STRUCTURE AS BONES. OR DARK-MATTER: THE UNSEEN SKELETAL ANATOMY OF THE UNIVERSE.

"IT'S LACED WITH MICROSCOPIC WORMHOLES THAT ARE CHANNELING SOME KIND OF ENERGY TO WHO KNOWS WHERE... WHO KNOWS WHY..."



...WHY DID THESE THINGS GO AFTER CARTER AND KENDRA FIRST?

MY BEST FRIEND IS DEAD, HAL. AND I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING BACK THIS TIME.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE OF AMERICA.



HELLO?!



HELLO?
IS ANYONE
HERE?



SOMEONE
TURNED ON THE
EMERGENCY SIGNAL,
JASON.

WHO DO
YOU THINK IT
WAS?

THEY USED
AQUAMAN'S
CODE.

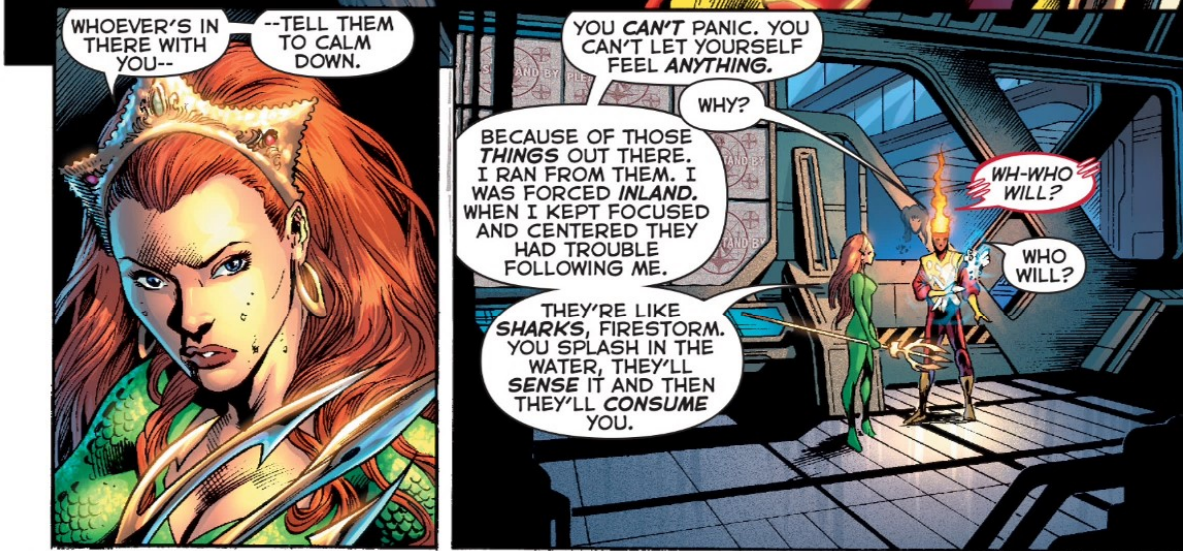
AQUAMAN'S
DEAD.



THIS IS
TOTALLY CREEPING
ME OUT.

YEAH...







RAY?
RAY, STAY
WITH US.

LET'S
SEE WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
I TURN THE AIR
AROUND YOU
INTO GUN-
POWDER.

WE'VE GOT
TO REGROUP,
HAL. LET ME
ZIP US OUT
OF HERE.

GET OUR
BEARINGS.
CLARK AND
DIANA. WALLY
AND JAY.



YEAH! YOUR
FRICTION
LIGHTS THAT
RIGHT UP!



WE WERE
NEVER REALLY
TIGHT, WERE
WE, HAL?

DON'T THINK
I DIDN'T
CATCH YOU
SCOPING OUT
SUE WHEN SHE
WAS WEARING
A SKIRT.

AND
YOU, RAY.
YOU'RE NOT
LOOKING ME
IN THE EYES.
WHAT'S
WRONG?

YOU STILL FEEL BAD ABOUT
WHAT JEAN DID TO MY LADY,
DON'T YOU? WORSE YET--



COMPASSION.

--YOU STILL
FEEL BAD FOR
JEAN. SHE WAS A
TERRIBLE PERSON.
RAY. SHE LEFT YOU.
SHE MURDERED
MY WIFE.

IT
WAS--NNN--AN
ACCIDENT.

JEAN BROUGHT
ALONG A FLAME-
THROWER "JUST
IN CASE." SHE
KNEW WHAT SHE
WAS DOING.

COMPASSION.

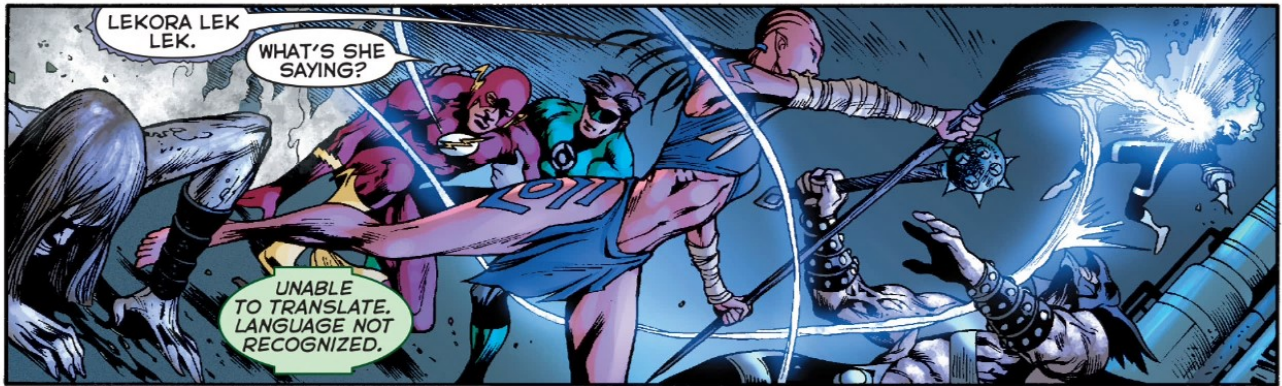
IT'S SO HARD TO FIND IN
THIS SOCIETY, ISN'T IT, BUN?

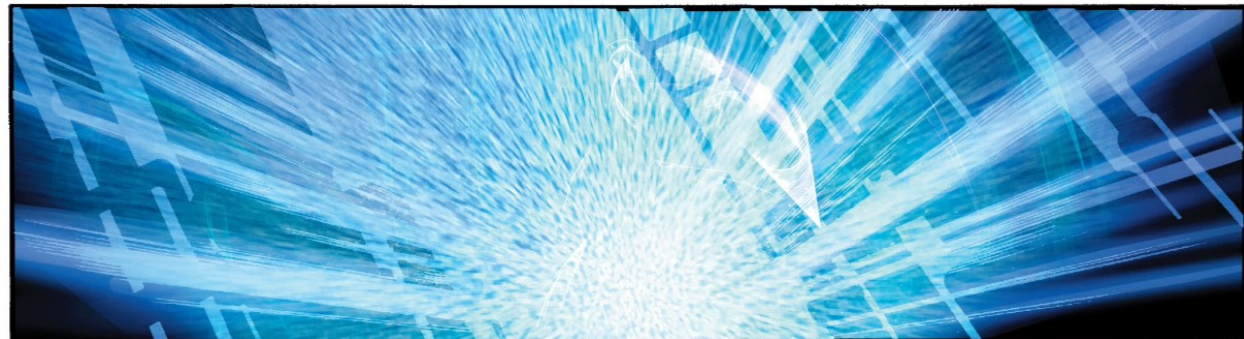


AHH!

BUT A
LITTLE
BIT CAN
GO SUCH
A LONG
WAY.







WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.



FLASH?

MERA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THOSE THINGS KILLED GARTH.

AQUALAD?!

THEY KILLED GARTH AND HE BECAME ONE OF THEM.



THEY DID THE SAME THING TO THE HAWKS.

RAY?



I CAN SENSE YOUR EMPATHY FOR OTHERS. YOU HAVE SPENT MUCH OF YOUR LIFE IN SUBATOMIC ISOLATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR KIND.

OUR LIGHT DESIRES TO HEAL YOU.

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

WHEN WE WISH TO, GREEN LANTERN.



LORO KLEK. YES. THEY COLLECT A GREAT MANY POSSESSIONS.



WHO ARE THEY? THE PURPLE LANTERNS?

THOUGH WE DISCARD NAMES AS WE DISCARD EVERYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH INDIVIDUALISM, YOU MAY CALL ME INDIGO-1.

I AM THE CHOSEN LEADER OF THE INDIGO TRIBE.

YOU WERE RIGHT, HAL. YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO CATCH ME UP ON.

WHERE DO I START--?



THE BEGINNING SEEMS NECESSARY.

THE BEGINNING? IN THE BEGINNING THE UNIVERSE BELONGED TO THE DARKNESS--

--AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT.

FOR SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS, THE UNIVERSE WAS NOTHING BUT BLINDING WHITE LIGHT.

THEN THE DARKNESS FOUGHT BACK AND THE WHITE LIGHT WAS SPLINTERED.

EVERY SENTIENT BEING BORN FROM THE LIGHT NOW CONTRIBUTES TO ITS EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM. OUR STATE OF BEING ADDS TO ITS RESPECTIVE LIGHT, AND IT CAN BE COLLECTED AND CONDENSED INTO POWER.

TODAY, THE RED RAGE ALL LIFE FEELS IS HARNESSSED BY AN ANCIENT ENEMY OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE-- ATROCITUS AND HIS PACK OF RED LANTERNS.

THE ORANGE LIGHT OF AVARICE HAS BEEN CLAIMED, LIKE THE LIVES OF THE ORANGE LANTERNS, BY THE OBSESSIVE AND GLUTTONOUS LARFLEZE.

THE BLINDING YELLOW TERROR IS WIELDED BY THE RENEGADE GREEN LANTERN SINESTRO AND HIS SELF-NAMED CORPS.

THE GLOW OF BLUE HOPE IS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION, KEPT ALIVE ONLY BY THE UNDYING FAITH OF SAINT WALKER AND A HANDFUL OF OTHERS.

THE BALANCE OF THE SPECTRUM AND THE ESSENTIAL LIGHT TO DESTROYING THE BLACK LANTERNS SHINES IN THE HANDS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

AND THE VIOLET THROES OF LOVE EMPOWER THE STAR SAPPHIRES, WHO ATTEMPT TO CONVERT ALL TO THEIR WAY OF BEING.



MY TRIBE MAINTAINS THE INDIGO LIGHT OF COMPASSION, WHICH SADLY REMAINS ELUSIVE TO MOST BEINGS.

TODAY, THE DARKNESS FIGHTS BACK AGAIN. IT'S BEGUN AN ASSAULT ON THE CORPS.

THEIR HOMEWORLDS ARE UNDER ATTACK BY THE BLACK LANTERNS.



SO THE DEAD ARE INVADING THE CORPS HOMEWORLDS...BUT WHY ARE THEY INVADING EARTH?

I BELIEVE IT IS BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR KIND HAVE HALTED ENDLESS THREATS AGAINST THE UNIVERSE.

YOU CAN HEAR ME?

AND THE BLACK LANTERNS ARE NOT THE INVADERS IN THIS WAR. WE ARE THE INVADERS. WE ARE THE TRESPASSERS. BUT WE BRING GOODNESS. WE BRING LIFE. IT IS A SHAME SO MANY DO NOT LIVE IT WELL.



THESE BLACK LANTERNS AREN'T REALLY THEM.

AREN'T REALLY WHO?

RALPH AND SUE, J'ONN AND RONNIE.

RONNIE RAYMOND? HE'S OUT THERE TOO?

BARRY'S RIGHT. WHEN RALPH WAS TURNED TO ASH, SUE HAD NO REACTION.

BUT THAT THING KNEW EVERYTHING ARTHUR DID. ALL THE PAIN HE ENDURED BECAUSE OF ATLANTIS.



MAYBE THE DEAD AREN'T WEARING THE RINGS. MAYBE THE RINGS ARE WEARING THE DEAD. MAYBE THE RINGS ARE SOME SORT OF ADVANCED ORGANIC COMPUTER THAT DOWNLOAD THEIR MEMORIES BECOMING SOME SORT OF...OF SIMULATOR PROGRAM TO ATTACK US...

...BUT WHY--?



THEY FEED OFF EMOTION. THOSE THAT RISE DO SO TO ELICIT SUCH A RESPONSE.

BUT WE CAN STOP THEM. YOU DID. YOU CHANNLED HAL'S POWER RING.

GREEN LIGHT, REINFORCED WITH ANOTHER SUCH AS OURS, WILL NEUTRALIZE THE BLACK RINGS AND LEAVE THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO CONVENTIONAL DAMAGE.

ONCE DESTROYED, THE RING INITIATES A FEEDBACK, WHICH RENDERS THE BLACK LANTERN INERT. THE MORE SHADES OF THE EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM SHINING TOGETHER, THE STRONGER THE LIGHT.



THAT IS WHY WE HAVE COME TO YOU, GREEN LANTERN. TOGETHER, THE SEVEN CORPS CAN REPLICATE THE WHITE LIGHT OF CREATION. TOGETHER WE WILL BE CAPABLE OF LOCATING AND DESTROYING THE SOURCE OF THE BLACK RINGS.

YOU HAVE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE FIVE REMAINING CORPS.

SUCH AS CAROL FERRIS.

CAROL? WHAT ABOUT CAROL?

SHE IS ONCE AGAIN THE STAR SAPPHIRE. SHE IS ON ZAMARON.

THEN WE'RE GOING TO ZAMARON FIRST--



HAL, HOLD UP! IF WE NEED A GREEN LANTERN TO TAKE APART THESE BLACK ONES, WE NEED YOU, JOHN, GUY AND KYLE AREN'T HERE.

UNTIL THEN, FIND ALAN SCOTT. AND ANYONE ELSE WHO CAN WIELD LIGHT. THE RAY. HALO. MAYBE THEY CAN DO SOME DAMAGE.

WE NEED MORE THAN THAT. DEATH IS LITERALLY SWEEPING ACROSS THE EARTH.

DEATH IS OVERRATED.

HEY, MERA JUST WATCHED AQUAMAN ORCHESTRATE THE MURDER OF AQUALAD. RAY WAS NEARLY SKEWERED BY ONE OF MY WIFE'S BEST FRIENDS.

DON'T JUST TELL ME DEATH IS OVERRATED. TELL MERA. TELL RAY.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT--

TELL YOUR FATHER.

BARRY. DON'T GO THERE--

I HAVE TO GET THROUGH THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS SOMEHOW.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?



I WANT YOU TO HELP US GET EVERYONE WE CAN TOGETHER. HELP US WITH A PLAN OF ATTACK BEFORE YOU FLY OFF.

POWER RINGS-- GREEN OR YELLOW OR AQUA-BLUE--THIS IS YOUR ARENA.

I CAN'T BELIEVE AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF COAST CITY AND YOUR POSSESSION BY PARALLAX AND AFTER CLAWING YOUR WAY UP FROM THE ABSOLUTE BOTTOM TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK--



--YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED. YOU STILL FLY OFF HALF-COCKED.

YOU STILL LIVE EVERY DAY LIKE IT'S YOUR FIRST.



AND SINCE YOU'VE GOTTEN BACK YOU'VE BEEN LIVING EVERY DAY LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST.

THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE WAS ALWAYS LATE BECAUSE HE STOPPED AND BEFRIENDED THE PEOPLE HE SAVED. HE SPENT HOURS METICULOUSLY ANALYZING A CRIME SCENE SO HE COULD FIND JUSTICE FOR A VICTIM THAT DIDN'T HAVE ANY.

HE SLOWED DOWN AND REJOINED THE REST OF US EVERY CHANCE HE GOT.

YOU'RE RUNNING NONSTOP BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID IT'LL BE TAKEN AWAY AGAIN.



YOU'RE RIGHT, HAL. I AM AFRAID TO LOSE IT AGAIN.

BUT I LEARNED THE HARD WAY, AFTER EVERYTHING THE REVERSE-FLASH DID WHEN HE BROUGHT ME BACK, I NEED TO SLOW DOWN. FOR MYSELF. MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. IRIS. WALLY. YOU.

I MISSED A LOT OF GOOD TIMES WE COULD'VE SHARED WHILE I WAS AWAY. AND A LOT OF BAD TIMES WE COULD'VE HELPED EACH OTHER THROUGH.



THIS IS ONE OF THEM, HAL. THIS IS WHY I'M BACK.

LET'S BOTH SLOW DOWN AND FIGURE OUT A PLAN.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BARRY. I'M--





WE'RE
BAAAAACK!



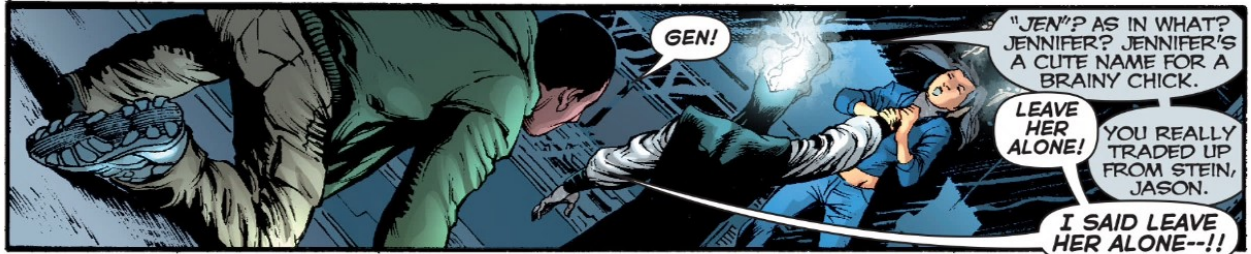
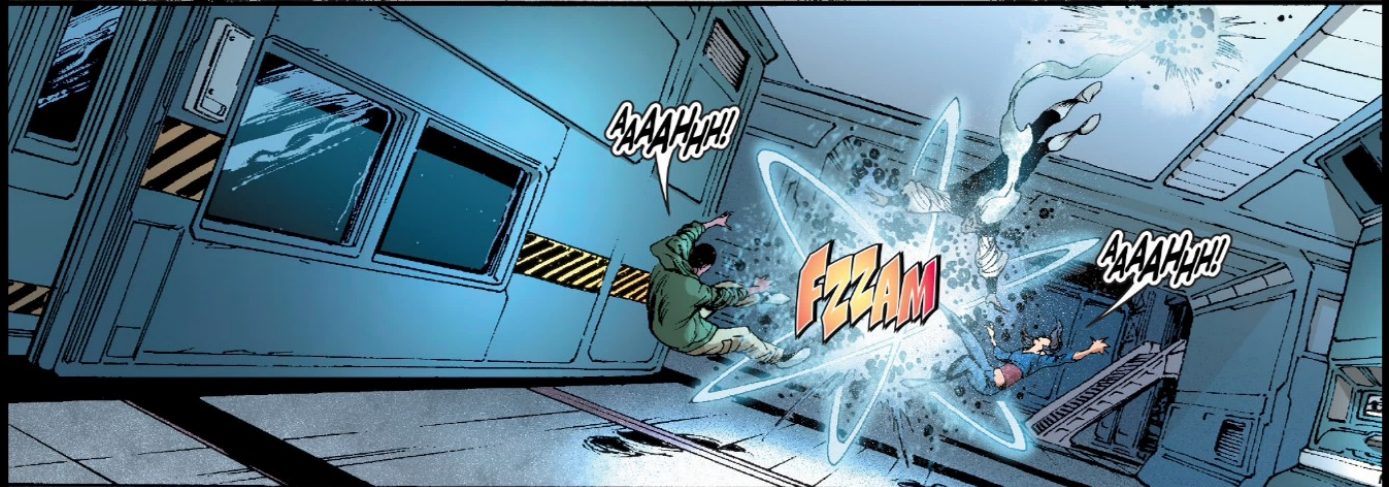
NOK
NEK NEK
KLEK?

NOK.
WE
MUST
GO.

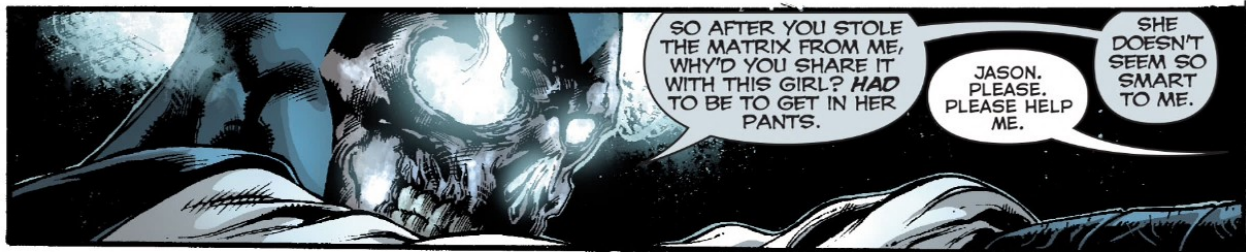
HEY! WAIT
A SECOND--



ONE WALL OF
HYDROCHLORIC ACID,
COMING UP!







SO AFTER YOU STOLE THE MATRIX FROM ME, WHY'D YOU SHARE IT WITH THIS GIRL? HAD TO BE TO GET IN HER PANTS.

JASON. PLEASE. PLEASE HELP ME.

SHE DOESN'T SEEM SO SMART TO ME.



DON'T YOU HURT HER!

I'M NOT HURTING HER, JASON. WE ARE. AND WHAT DO YOU CARE? DO YOU CARE? WHY? YOU'RE SMARTER THAN HER, AREN'T YOU? YOU GOT A LOT OF THINGS RATTLING UP IN THERE. FORMULAS AND JUNK.



SO IF YOU'RE THE MIND AND THE BODY OF THE NEW AND IMPROVED FIRESTORM--

--WHAT DO YOU NEED THIS DOLL FOR?

JASON? ARE YOU IN THERE?

J-JASON?!



--HERE, GEN! I'M RIGHT HERE!

SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

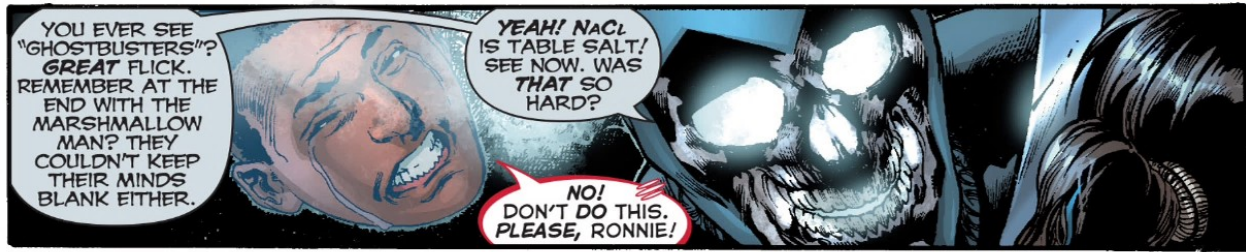
AH, COME ON. GIMME A GOOD COMPOUND. SOMETHING SIMPLE. WHAT'S THE CHEMICAL FORMULA FOR TABLE SALT?

#@#% YOU!

I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANYTHING.



JASON?!
WHERE ARE YOU?!



YOU EVER SEE "GHOSTBUSTERS"? GREAT FLICK. REMEMBER AT THE END WITH THE MARSHMALLOW MAN? THEY COULDN'T KEEP THEIR MINDS BLANK EITHER.

YEAH! NaCl IS TABLE SALT! SEE NOW. WAS THAT SO HARD?

NO! DON'T DO THIS. PLEASE, RONNIE!



YOU'RE SCARED, BUT HOW SCARED ARE YOU?

SHOW ME!

NO! NO, PLEASE!!

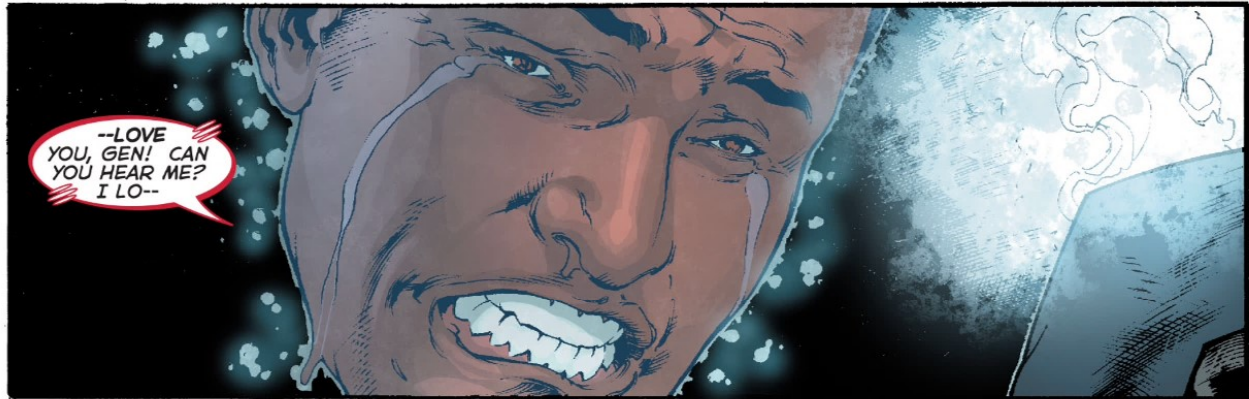
IT HURTS!



YOU KNOW THAT LONG LIFE YOU WANTED WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND? GUESS WHAT, SWEETIE? THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.

GEN!

I WANT A FUTURE TOGETHER! I WANT US TO BE--

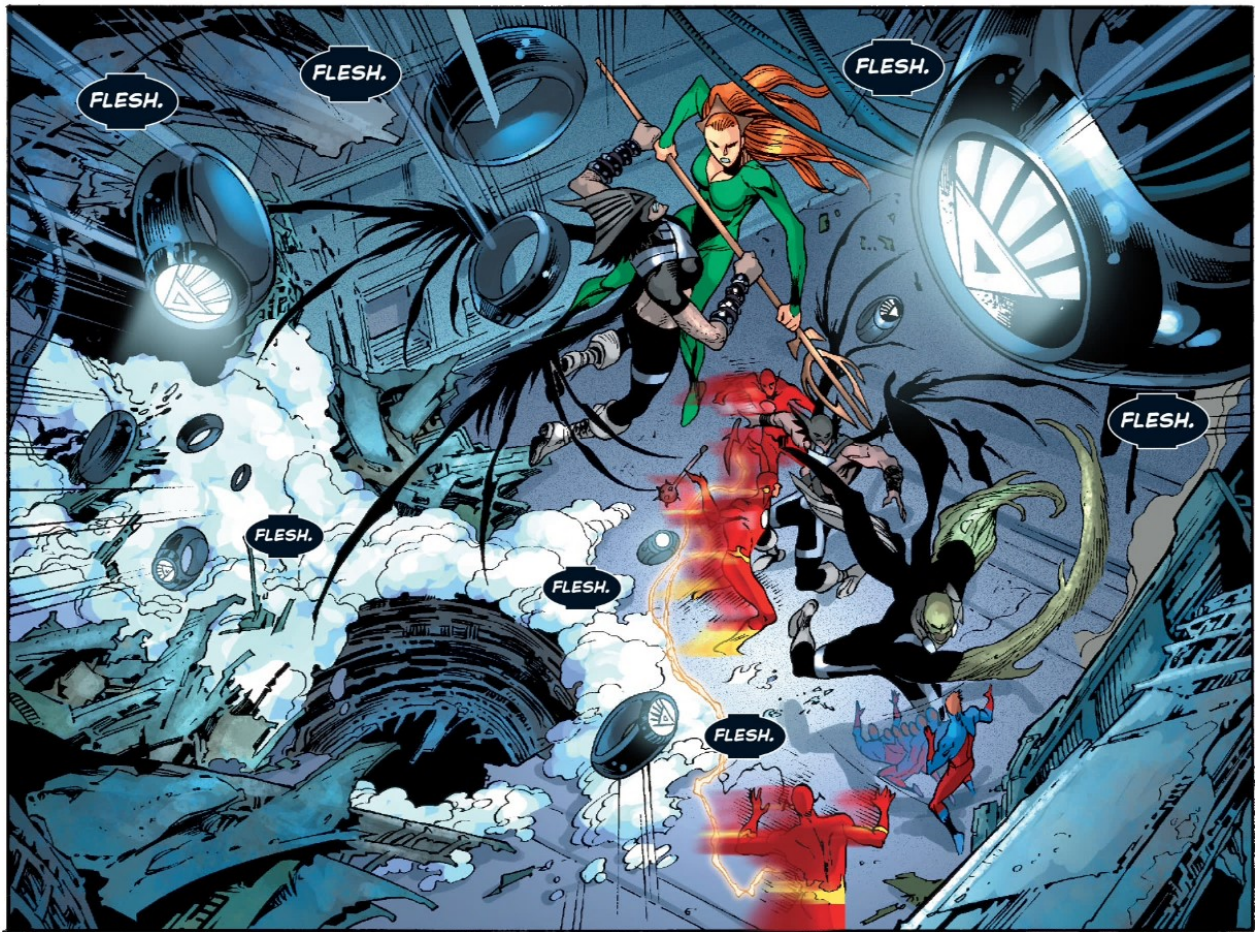


--LOVE YOU, GEN! CAN YOU HEAR ME? I LO--



BITCHIN'.

POWER LEVELS 56.56%



YEAH. YOU LOVED HER, NERD.

... OH, YOU'RE ANGRY NOW, JASON? GO AHEAD AND YELL. I'LL TAKE THAT TOO.

YEAH. I'LL BURN THROUGH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT 'TIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.

POWER LEVELS 56.57%

POWER LEVELS 56.58%

POWER LEVELS 56.59%

MAN, YOU'RE LIKE A NEVER-ENDING BATTERY.

THIS RULES.

JOHN MONROE OF EARTH.

ARTHUR LIGHT OF EARTH.

MAXWELL LORD OF EARTH.

CRYSTAL FROST OF EARTH.

JOHN RAVENHAIR OF EARTH.

ALEXANDER LUTHOR OF EARTH-3.

ALEXANDER LUTHOR OF EARTH-3

RISE.



COME ON, GUYS. THERE'S A FEW LEFT UPSTAIRS.

LORD, WELL

NEXT:
POWER-LEVELS 100%

THE BOOK OF THE BLACK

THE BURNED-IN THOUGHTS OF WILLIAM HAND:

CHAPTER 1, VERSE 2

VENGEANCE IS NOT JUSTICE. VENGEANCE IS RAGE.

I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD ANGER. THOUGH I WAS OFTEN THE RECEIVER OF A FURY OF FISTS. THE DAY MY PARENTS FOUND THE FAMILY DOG STUFFED LIKE THE OTHER ANIMALS I'D COLLECTED AND MOUNTED, I WAS SCOLDED AND PUNISHED. I HEARD MY MOM CRYING. SHEDDING TEARS OVER MARBLES AND ME. I HEARD HER CALL ME A MONSTER. I HEARD MY FATHER SAY HE'D FIX IT. FIX ME. I SUPPOSE I HADN'T REALIZED HOW DIFFERENT I WAS UNTIL THEN.


THAT NIGHT MY BROTHERS WOKE ME UP. THEY DRAGGED ME OUTSIDE THROUGH THE CEMETERY AND OUT OF EARSHOT. THEN THEY TOOK TURNS BEATING ME WITH A THICK, OLD STICK UNTIL IT BROKE. AS IT TORE MY SKIN, I WONDERED IF THIS WAS THE SAME STICK THEY USED TO PLAY FETCH WITH MARBLES, BUT I'D BE GIVING MY BROTHERS TOO MUCH CREDIT FOR SELF-AWARENESS AND IRONY. THEY CERTAINLY NEVER DISPLAYED MUCH BEYOND CONFUSION, REPULSION AND ANGER. AT LEAST TOWARDS ME. THEY WERE ANGRY ABOUT WHAT I DID. ABOUT HOW I "RUINED THIS FAMILY." ABOUT WHO I WAS. AND MY MOTHER WAS ANGRY WITH HERSELF AND MY FATHER. SHE BLAMED THEM FOR WHAT I DID.

I WAS NEVER ANGRY WITH ANYONE. I DIDN'T FEEL MUCH OF ANYTHING, SAVE CURIOSITY FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR. MY LACK OF ANGER, OR ANY SIGNIFICANT EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO THE THINGS MY BROTHERS PUT ME THROUGH THROUGHOUT OUR CHILDHOOD, IS SIGNIFICANT IN WHY I WAS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS UNIVERSAL CLEANSING.

I RELATE MORE TO THE DEAD THAN THOSE ALIVE.

EXCEPT FOR THE DETECTIVE WHO WAS KILLED AND BONDED TO "GOD'S" SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. A FORCE OF WRATH THAT CLAIMS TO BE BORN FROM THE GREAT WHITE LIGHT OF CREATION. THOUGH IT FLIES IN THE FACE OF THE CONCEPT OF AN ALL-LOVING GOD. THIS SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS TIED TO AN ANGRY DEAD MAN. THIS ODD MERGING OF DEATH AND COSMIC FORCE CALLS ITSELF THE SPECTRE. IT'S CONVINCED ITSELF IT BALANCES THE SCALES OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT, THOUGH IT DOES SO THROUGH BLOODY AND BIZARRE ATTACKS ON THOSE IT DEEMS ESCAPED JUSTICE. BY WHOSE STANDARDS, I DO NOT KNOW. SOMETIMES SOCIETY'S. SOMETIMES RELIGION'S. WHATEVER STRIKES ITS MOOD OR DESIRES. BUT THIS ENTITY, THIS THING HAS CONVINCED ITSELF THAT IT IS BOTH PURE AND GOOD DESPITE THE BLOOD ITS WHITE HANDS SOAK IN. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY IT WEARS GLOVES. TO HIDE THE BLOOD ON ITS HANDS.





TO MY LORD, THE SPECTRE
IS NOTHING MORE THAN RAGE WITH
DELUSIONAL AWARENESS.

AND TODAY
RAGE GIVEN DIRECTION BY
A DEAD DETECTIVE. IT SEEKS
TO THRUST TWISTED DEATH
UPON THOSE TARGETED BY
GREAT ANGER AS IF DEATH WERE
A PUNISHMENT. DEATH IS PEACE.
WHY IS THAT SO HARD TO
UNDERSTAND FOR SOME?

FOR MY MOTHER AND FATHER. FOR MY
BROTHERS. I DIDN'T KILL THEM OUT OF
ANGER. I KILLED THEM SO I COULD PUT MY PAST
TO REST AND TRULY BECOME THE BLACK HAND.
THEY DO NOT ARGUE OR DISLIKE BEING ENVELOPED
BACK INTO THE DARKNESS. THEY DO NOTHING.

THEY WILL ALL ENTER THE BLACKNESS.
THAT IS THE TRUE UNIVERSE BENEATH THE ONE
THEY DWELL IN. LIKE BUGS LIVING IN THE SLIME
COVERING STONE. EVEN THE PHANTOM STRANGER,
THE ONE WHO LIVES OFF THE SECRETIONS OF MY
LORD'S BIRTH, WILL SEE THE DARKNESS.

THOUGH I DO NOT FEEL ANGER,
I STILL SEE RED.

I SEE THE BLINDING CRIMSON POWER BATTERY ON YSMAULT,
FORGED INTO EXISTENCE BY ATROCITUS OUT OF THE BLOOD FROM THE
REMAINING INVERSIONS. ATROCITUS BELIEVES, UNLIKE HIS RED LANTERNS,
THAT HE CONTROLS THE RAGE FLOWING THROUGH HIS VEINS AND THEIRS AS IF RAGE
WERE CONTROLLABLE. HE IS ANGRY WITH THE GUARDIANS AND SINESTRO AND
HAL JORDAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS SECTOR, YET ATROCITUS
WAS ANGRY LONG BEFORE FOR A GREAT MANY SINS HIS OWN.
AGAIN, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT.
BUT I WILL HELP CONSUME IT.

THE SPECTRE IS IMPRISONED AND
FUELING HIS RETURN. THE DEAD DETECTIVE
DISCARDED. THE PHANTOM STRANGER
WILL FACE THE TRUTH BEHIND HIS
EXISTENCE AND THEIRS.

WILL HE
BE ANGRY?

CAN HE BE
WHEN RAGE
IS GONE?

WILL I
EVER FEEL
ANGER?

I
DO NOT
BELIEVE
SO.

