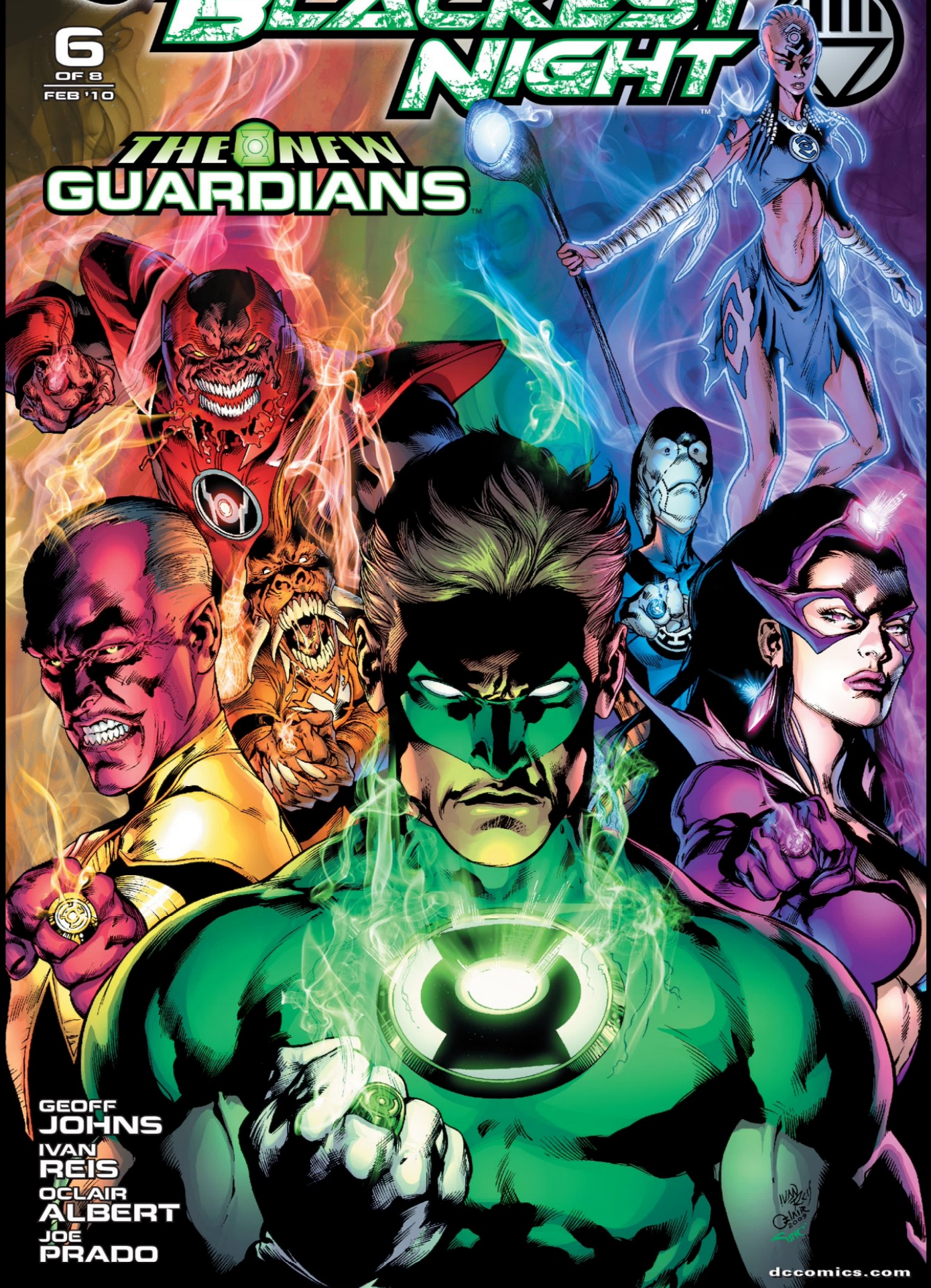




6
OF 8
FEB '10

BLACKEST NIGHT

THE NEW GUARDIANS



GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO

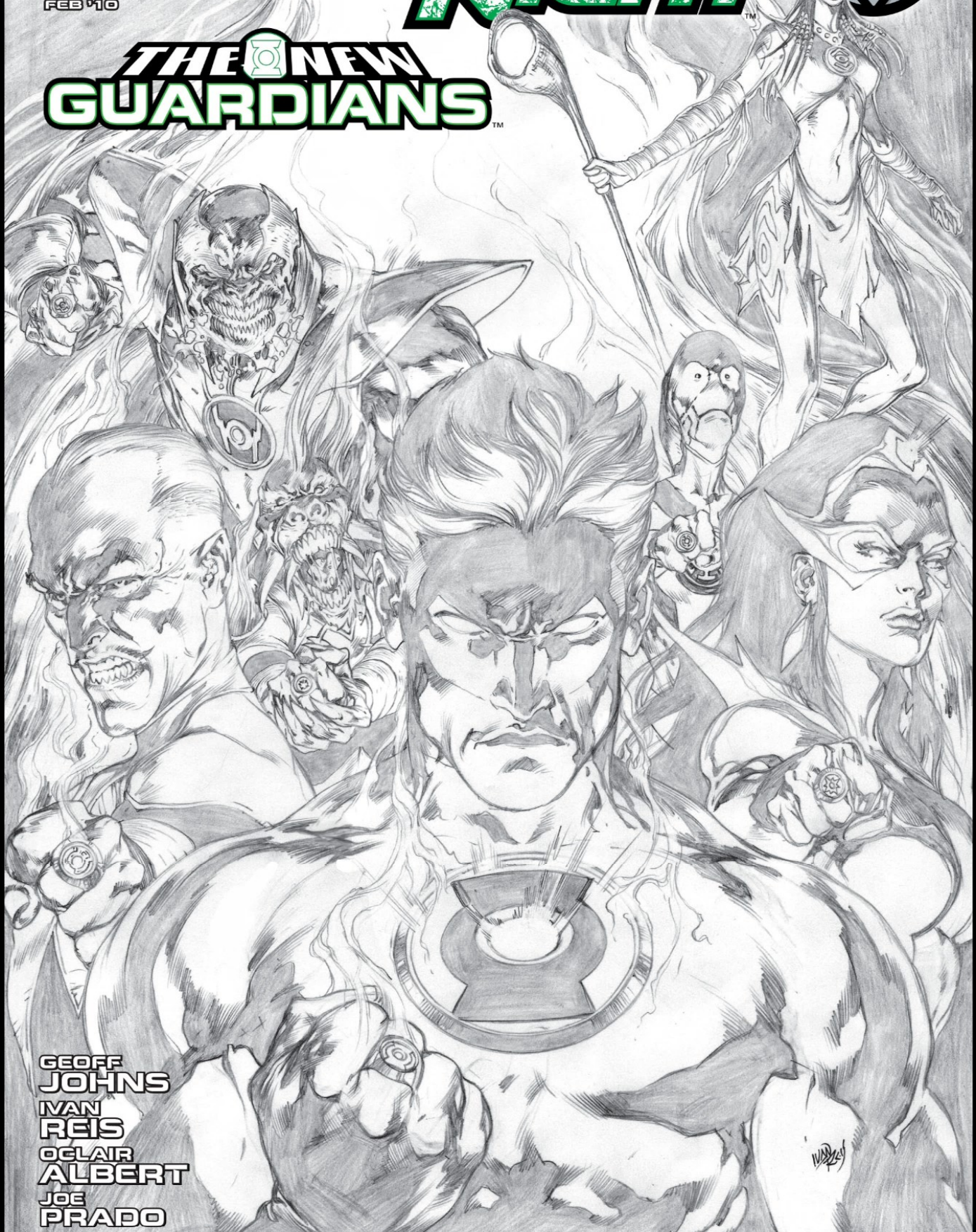


6
OF 8
FEB '10

BLACKEST NIGHT



THE NEW GUARDIANS



GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO

WALBY



6
OF 8
FEB '10

BLACKEST NIGHT

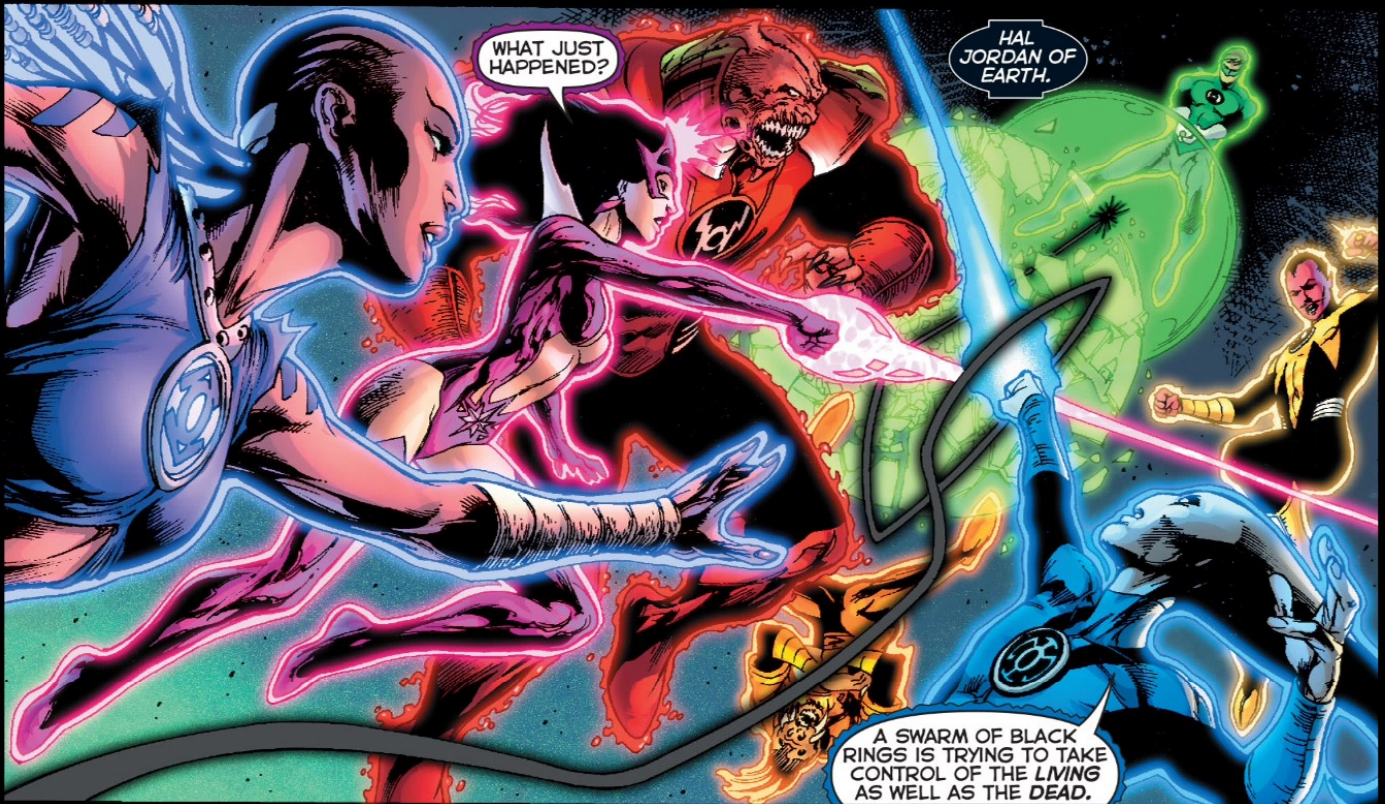


GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO



ZMIGLIZI'09

COAST CITY.





NEKRON GAVE US A STAY OF EXECUTION, BUDDY, BUT OUR TIME IS UP.

NO MORE FIGHTING OVER SCRAPS OF EXISTENCE LIKE WE DO. NO MORE GOOD GUYS OR BAD GUYS.

MY NAME IS HAL JORDAN.

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

I WAS KILLED TRYING TO REIGNITE THE SUN.

BUT I WAS RESURRECTED BY KYLE RAYNER AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.



NO MORE ANYTHING.

OLLIE DIED IN A PLANE EXPLOSION, BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE WHEN I WAS PARALLAX.



WONDER WOMAN WAS SLAUGHTERED BY A DEMON, BUT SHE ESCAPED HADES AND FOUND LIFE AGAIN.

SUPERMAN FELL AT THE HANDS OF DOOMSDAY AND THEN WAS REVIVED BY KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY.



BARRY ALLEN OF EARTH.

WHEN BARRY RETURNED A FEW WEEKS AGO, I STARTED TO THINK DEATH AND RESURRECTION WERE ONLY PART OF THE JOB.




BUT IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

COME I HUNGER.

BLACKEST NIGHT

GEOFF JOHNS WRITER • IVAN REIS PENCILLER • OCLAIR ALBERT & JOE PRADO INKERS
 ALEX SINCLAIR COLORIST • NICK J. NAPOLITANO LETTERER • ADAM SCHLAGMAN ASSOC. EDITOR • EDDIE BERGANZA EDITOR
 COVER: REIS • ALBERT • SINCLAIR ALT. COVER: RODOLFO MIGLIARI



I'VE STARTED THE FIRE BURNING, JORDAN, BUT A GREEN LANTERN IS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF THE KILL SHOT.

I WANT THE KILL SHOT TOO!

FINISH SUPERMAN OFF BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEONE, NAMELY YOU.



NO.

HAL JORDAN OF EARTH.

SUPERMAN'S NOT DEAD, SINESTRO.

HE CAN'T BE.



IF YOU'RE INTENT ON KEEPING YOUR RING HOLSTERED, WE MIGHT AS WELL LIE DOWN AND DIE.

CONTRARY TO INDIGO'S BRIGHT IDEA, WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY THE BLACK LANTERN.



I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT YOUR RETURN, BARRY. I FELT IT BECAUSE I'M JUST LIKE YOU.

I'M STILL DEAD.

BARRY ALLEN OF EARTH.



YOU WERE THE FIRST
LIFELINE NEKRON CREATED.
HE KEPT YOU FROM TRULY
PASSING ON.

BART?

WE
CAME BACK
BECAUSE HE
WANTED US
TO, BUT WE
BELONG TO
NEKRON.

BARRY
ALLEN OF
EARTH.



HEY, WALLY! WHEN
ARE YOU GOING TO
STOP PICKING
ON ME?!

WHAT HAPPENED TO
BART? IS HE--?

I DON'T KNOW,
WALLY.

BUT
PROTECT
HIM AND
YOURSELF. I
NEED TO GET
RID OF THIS
TAGALONG.



BARRY
ALLEN OF
EARTH.

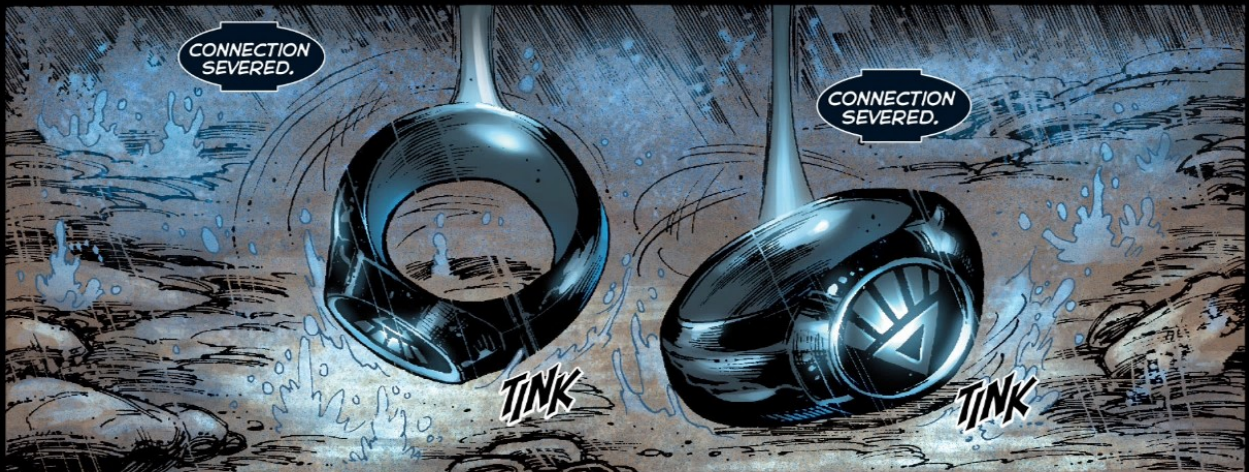
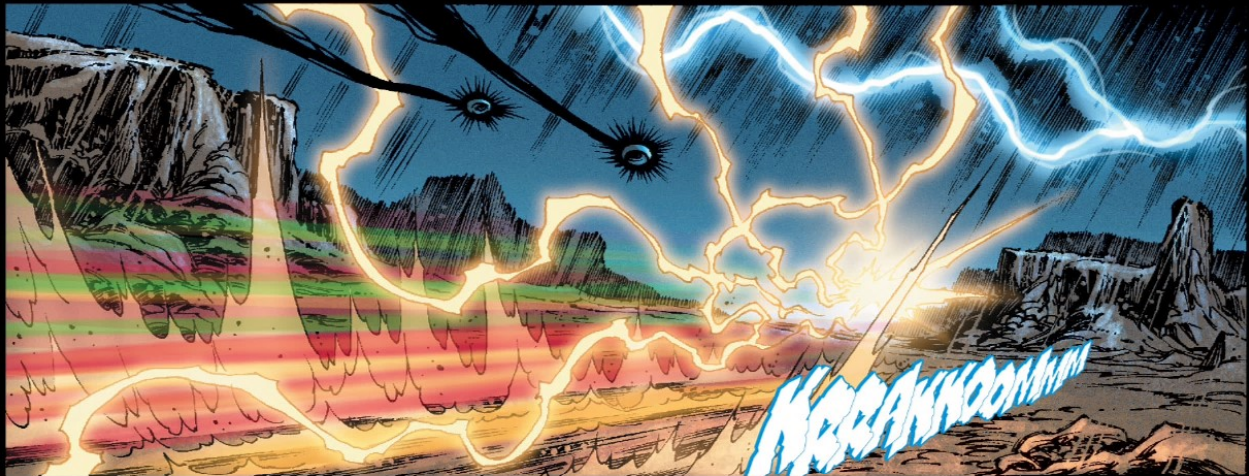
HAL!
THROW
ME A LINE.

WHAT ARE
YOU--?

HAL
JORDAN OF
EARTH.



JUST HANG,
ON.





WITHOUT A COSMIC TREADMILL, TIME TRAVEL IS GUESSWORK AT BEST, BUT I WAS HOPING IT'D BE ENOUGH.

TIME TRAVEL?

BLACK HAND AND NEKRON REANIMATED BRUCE AND USED HIM TO TRIGGER AN EMOTIONAL REACTION IN ALL OF US THAT THE BLACK RINGS LATCHED ON TO.

I RAN US **TWO SECONDS** INTO THE FUTURE TO BREAK IT.



AS LONG AS WE DON'T JUMP OUT OF OUR BOOTS AGAIN, THE RINGS WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GRAB ONTO.

BUT WHY WAS BRUCE THE ONLY BLACK LANTERN THAT COMBUSTED ON ITS OWN?

I DON'T KNOW.



IF WE STOP THIS, DO SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN DIE?

DO WE DIE, BARRY?



I SURE AS HELL HOPE NOT.



YOU WANT TO HATE ME SO BADLY, BUT YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU, RAY?

EVEN AFTER BURNING SUE AND BREAKING DAMAGE'S HEART, YOU STILL CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO FEEL ANYTHING BUT PITY.

OH, SWEETIE. I LOVE YOU--



AAAH!!!



COME HERE OFTEN? AND IF YOU DO, WHY?

JEAN?

JUST ON THE OUTSIDE, SHORT STUFF. IT'S DEADMAN. I'VE BEEN LEAPING INTO THESE BLACK LANTERNS TRYING TO LEARN A THING OR TWO, WHICH I THINK IS DOING SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE. TO ME.

YOU AND FISH-WOMAN BEING THE ONLY THINGS STILL ALIVE INSIDE THEIR NETWORK DREW ME RIGHT TO YOU.



CONTAMINATION DETECTED. REROUTING.

I C-CAN'T STAY IN THIS BAG OF BONES ANY LONGER, B-BUT YOU'VE G-GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND W-WARN THEM.

I CAN HEAR THEIR DIRECTIVE. LIKE A WHISPER. EVERY BLACK LANTERN IN THE UNIVERSE... EVERY ONE OF THEM...

... IS COMING TO EARTH.



GET OUT, BOSTON BRAND!!!



JEAN BROUGHT US HERE, ATOM, BUT DO YOU NEED HER TO TAKE US OUT?

NO.

GOOD.



DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE I LEFT YOU!
I LOVE YOU, RAY!
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!

GO! AND DON'T LOOK BACK.



EVERY BLACK LANTERN IN THE UNIVERSE?



HOW MANY DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?



"I DON'T KNOW."

IF ANYONE ON EARTH CAN READ ME, THIS IS GREEN LANTERN JOHN STEWART.

YOU'VE GOT INCOMING.



WHOSE RING ARE WE LEAVING OUT OF?

I SAW ONE OF THE BLACK HOLES FLICKERING, LIKE IT WASN'T WORKING PROPERLY.

I FIGURED IT MIGHT BE ONE ON ITS LAST--



--LEGS--

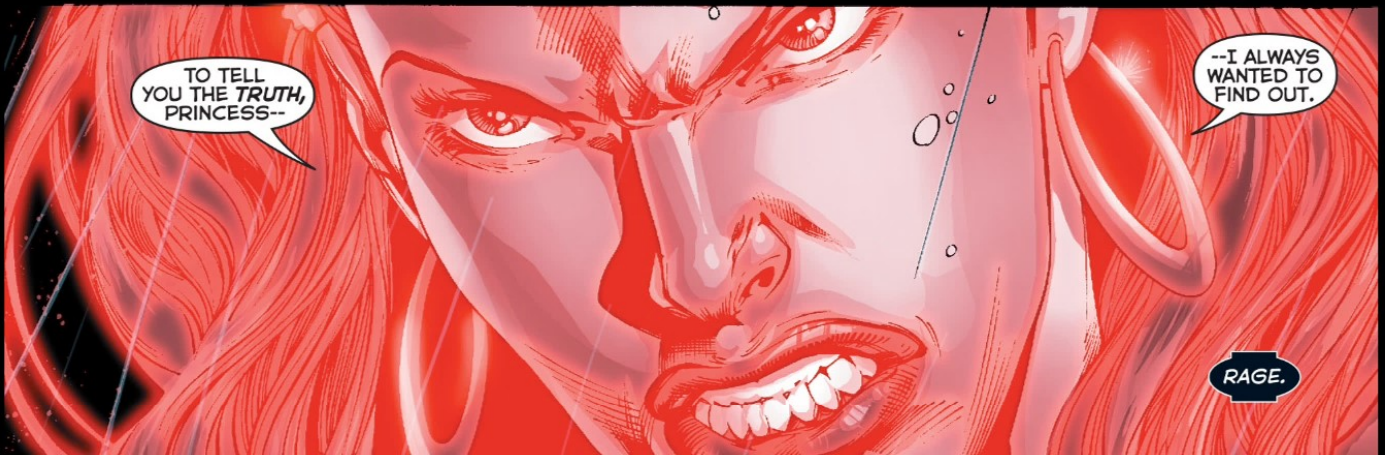


ATOM!
STAY DOWN!



I WILL HOLD HER. FIND THE FLASH.

YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FACE ME, MERA?



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PRINCESS--

--I ALWAYS WANTED TO FIND OUT.

RAGE.



CONNECTION SEVERED.

AAAAAIEEEEE!

YOU ESCAPED THE BLACK RING?

WE OUTFRAN IT. TOO BAD.



WHAT NOW, HAL? EVEN TOGETHER WE DID NOTHING TO THE BLACK LANTERN POWERING THESE THINGS.

BECAUSE EVEN TOGETHER WE'RE A FRACTION OF THE WHITE LIGHT.

GREEN LANTERN IS CORRECT. WE MAY BE ABLE TO UNIFY TO DESTROY A SINGLE BLACK LANTERN, BUT NEKRON HIMSELF--

WILL REQUIRE EVERYONE CHANNELING THE LIGHT OF LIFE.



WE NEED ALL OUR CORPS TO UNITE AND USE EVERY BEAM WE HAVE TO DESTROY THE BLACK LANTERN BATTERY.

MY TRIBE CAN GATHER THEM, GANTHET, BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME.



THEN I WILL JOIN THIS FIGHT NOT AS A LEADER REMOVED, BUT AS ANOTHER LIVING BEING FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



YOUR RING HAS BEEN ABLE TO REPLICATE ITSELF BEFORE IN TIMES OF GREAT NEED. IT WILL AGAIN.



I AM GANTHET OF OA.



I WELCOME MYSELF TO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

WE CAN DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO HALT NEKRON UNTIL THE OTHERS ARRIVE.



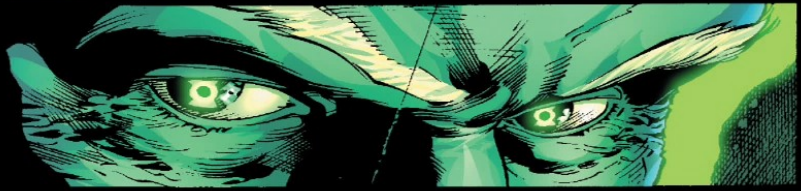
TELL US HOW.

ALTHOUGH YOU EACH WIELD DIFFERENT LIGHT, YOUR RINGS ARE ALL BASED ON OAN TECHNOLOGY. AND THUS, UNKNOWN TO YOU, THEY CONTAIN THE SAME SAFEGUARD:

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF OA, IN THE SHADOW OF BLACKEST NIGHT, THE RINGS ARE CAPABLE OF DEPUTIZING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

YOU DON'T CONTROL OUR RINGS!

NOR DO I WISH TO, ATROCITUS, BUT AS MY LAST ACT AS A GUARDIAN--





--I'VE ALREADY TRIGGERED THE PROCESS.

SCANNING FOR RAGE.



SCANNING FOR HOPE.

SCANNING FOR LOVE.

SCANNING FOR AVARICE.

SCANNING FOR FEAR.

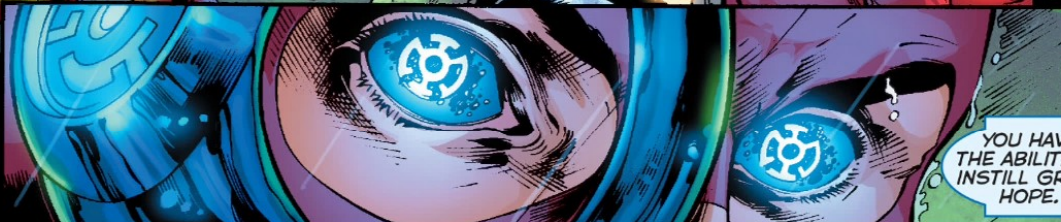
SCANNING FOR COMPASSION.

YUH-OH.



SENTIENT LOCATED.

BARRY ALLEN OF EARTH.

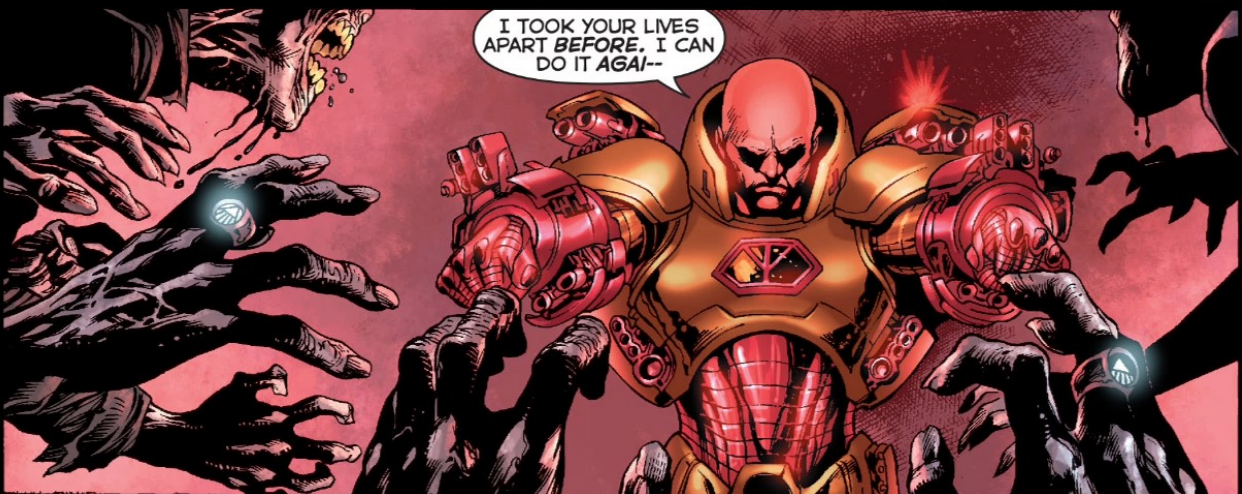


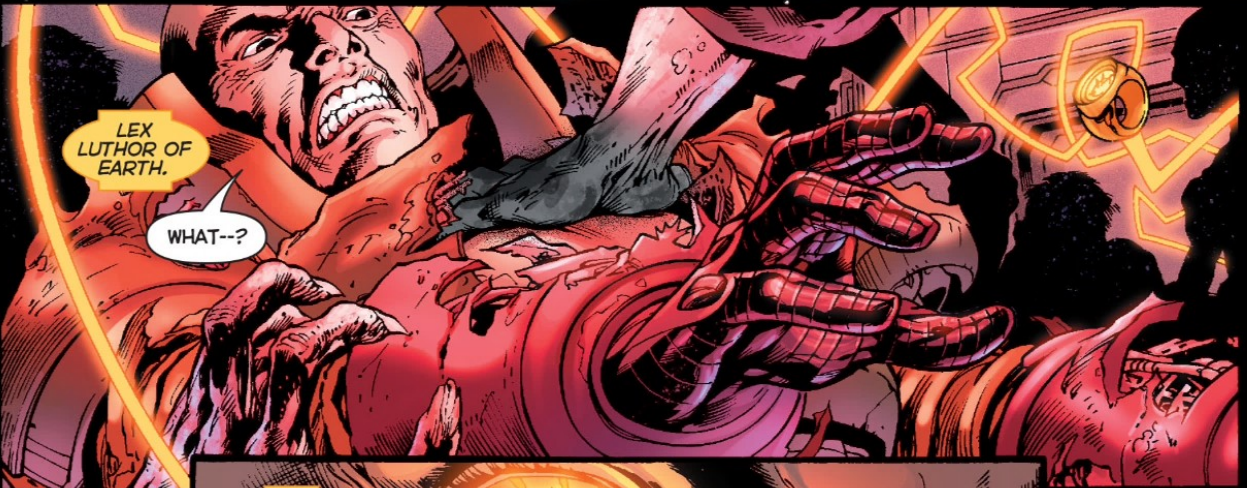
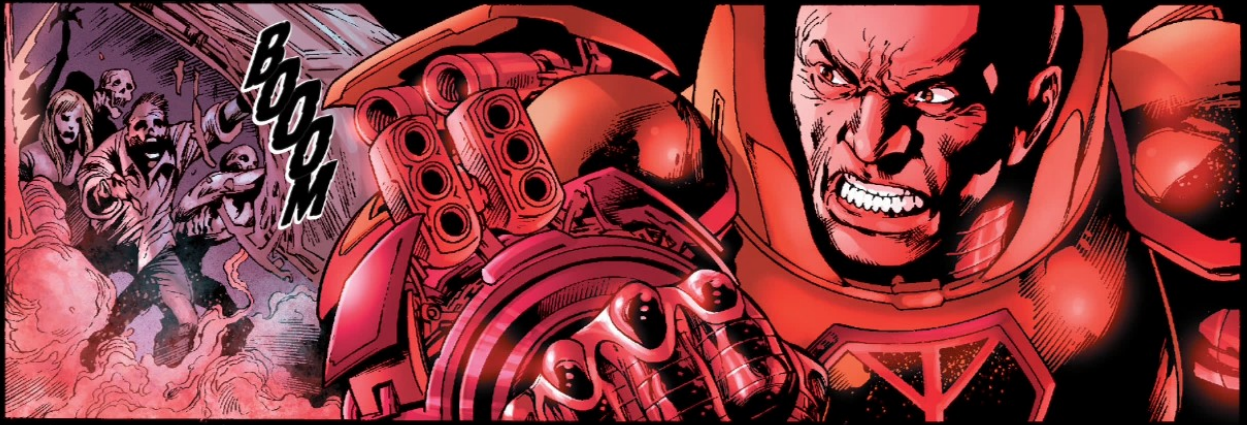
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO INSTILL GREAT HOPE.



OH, NO! NO, YOU DON'T!!
GET BACK HERE!

"I DON'T SHARE WITH ANYONE!"







AAAAHHHHH!

KAWWW
KAWWW



WHAT IS IT?

OH, G-GOD! OH, GOD, G-GET IT OFF OF ME!

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



WHAT HAS MY DELICIOUS FEAR GAS SHOWN YOU?

KAWWW



AND WHY WON'T IT SHOW ME?!



I WANT TO FEEL IT TOO!



BUT NOT EVEN THE UNDEAD CAN FRIGHTEEN ME.

I NEED HIM. I NEED TO BE HUNTED BY THE BATMAN!

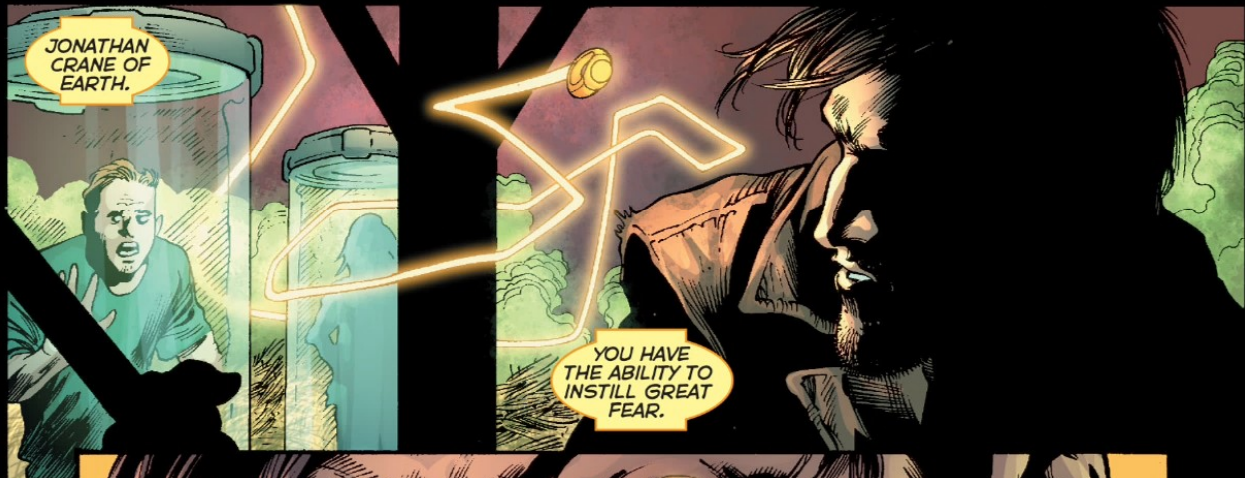


I'LL LEAVE YOU LIKE A TRAIL ACROSS THE STREETS OF GOTHAM.

WHEN THE CROWS CIRCLE AND FEED, HE'LL COME LOOKING FOR ME.

I NEED IT.

HELP ME!!



JONATHAN CRANE OF EARTH.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO INSTILL GREAT FEAR.



WELCOME TO THE SINESTRO CORPS.



THERE THEY ARE. I'VE GOT TO--

--GREEN ARROW? OLLIE?!

NOT OLLIE TOO. PLEASE, NOT--



RAY PALMER OF EARTH.

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO FEEL GREAT COMPASSION.



WELCOME TO THE INDIGO TRIBE.

NOK.



DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.

YOU HAVE GREAT LOVE IN YOUR HEART.

MERA OF EARTH.

YOU HAVE GREAT RAGE IN YOUR HEART.



RRRAARRR!

YOU BELONG TO THE RED LANTERN CORPS.

BABUM



DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.

DIANA PRINCE OF EARTH.

STAY AWAY.





ALL
WILL BE
WELL.

NEXT:
BLACK HAND UNLEASHED!

THE BOOK OF THE BLACK

THE BURNED-IN THOUGHTS OF WILLIAM HAND:

CHAPTER 1, VERSE 5

SHE WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.

I COULD HEAR HER FROM MY ROOM. SHE WAS MY AGE. SHE WAS TEN. AND HER FATHER HAD DIED. WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS IN THE VIEWING ROOM, SHE HAD DUCKED AWAY AND HID BY THE STAIRS IN THE SEWING ROOM WHERE MY MOTHER STITCHED ALL THE SUITS AND DRESSES TOGETHER.

MY MOTHER TOOK PRIDE IN EVERY SHIRT AND SOCK SHE MADE. SHE TOLD ME THEY HAD TO LOOK GOOD FOR GOD WHEN THEY REACHED HEAVEN. "WHAT DOES EVERYONE DO IN HEAVEN?" I ASKED HER. "DO THEY JUST WALK DOWN STREETS OF GOLD AND WAVE TO ONE ANOTHER? DO THEY PLAY CHESS OR TAG? DO THEY PAINT OR PLAY FOOTBALL? WHAT DO THEY DO?"

BY THE LOOK ON MY MOTHER'S FACE, I COULD TELL SHE HADN'T THOUGHT OF IT MUCH. "YOU SPEND ETERNITY WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY," SHE NODDED AND SHOVED ME OUT OF THE ROOM. "NOW I HAVE THREE SUITS AND A BLOUSE TO STITCH UP SO YOU GO AND PLAY WITH YOUR BROTHERS. AND IF THEY DON'T LET YOU THIS TIME, YOU COME AND TELL ME, BILLY, OKAY?" BEFORE I ANSWERED, SHE SHUT THE DOOR AND THE WHIRRING OF THE SEWING MACHINE CLICKED BACK ON.

I CREEPT DOWN THE STAIRS, CLUTCHING THE OLD WOODEN RAILING AS I PEERED DOWN AT THE SOBBING GIRL. THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR I COULD SEE HER BLONDE HAIR CURLED TIGHT AND PINNED BACK. SHE WORE A BLUE DRESS WITH A WHITE BOW. I PURPOSELY STEPPED ONTO THE SECOND TO LAST STAIR, LETTING IT CREAK AS IT ALWAYS DID. THE GIRL TURNED AROUND, WIPING HER EYES. "WHO ARE YOU?" SHE ASKED. "I'M BILLY. I LIVE HERE. WHO ARE YOU?" "MY NAME IS SUZIE. MY FATHER DIED," SHE WHISPERED, HOLDING IN TEARS.

I ASKED HER WHY SHE DIDN'T GO IN TO SEE HIM. SHE SAID IT WASN'T HIM ANYMORE. IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HIM. HE HAD DROWNED THREE DAYS EARLIER, AND HIS BODY WAS LEFT IN THE WATER TOO LONG. EVEN MY FATHER COULDN'T DO MUCH TO HELP.

I WASN'T ALLOWED TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAME INTO OUR HOME, BUT I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THIS GIRL. SHE STARED INTO MY EYES, WAITING FOR ME TO SPEAK. I TRIED TO REMEMBER WHAT MY FATHER ALWAYS SAID WHEN HE MET THE PEOPLE WHO CAME INTO OUR HOME.

"I'M SORRY," I STATED.

SUZIE HUGGED ME CLOSE, THE BLUE SATIN OF HER OUTFIT AGAINST MY WHITE SHIRT. SHE PULLED AWAY AND HER SMILE DEFIED HER TEARS. "IT'S OKAY, BILLY. ONE DAY, DADDY AND I WILL BE IN HEAVEN TOGETHER."

I ASKED HER WHAT SHE AND HER FATHER WOULD DO IN HEAVEN. SUZIE SMILED AND TOLD ME THEY WOULD PLAY WITH THEIR DOG, CHEWIE. THEY WOULD COOK DINNER TOGETHER LIKE THEY ALWAYS HAD. AND RIDE THEIR BIKES AROUND THE BLOCK. I RAN MY FINGERTIPS ACROSS THE FABRIC COVERING HER SHOULDER. I LOOKED INTO HER EYES.

"YOU SHOULD BE BURIED IN THIS DRESS."

SUZIE RAN BACK INTO THE VIEWING ROOM. I WENT BACK UPSTAIRS. AN HOUR LATER, I WATCHED HER LEAVE FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW.

SHE WAS STILL CRYING.

I LOVED HER DRESS.

