



BLACKEST NIGHT



7
OF 8
APR '10



Ivan Reis
Oclair
Albert

GEOFF
JOHNS
IVAN
REIS
OCLAIR
ALBERT
JOE
PRADO



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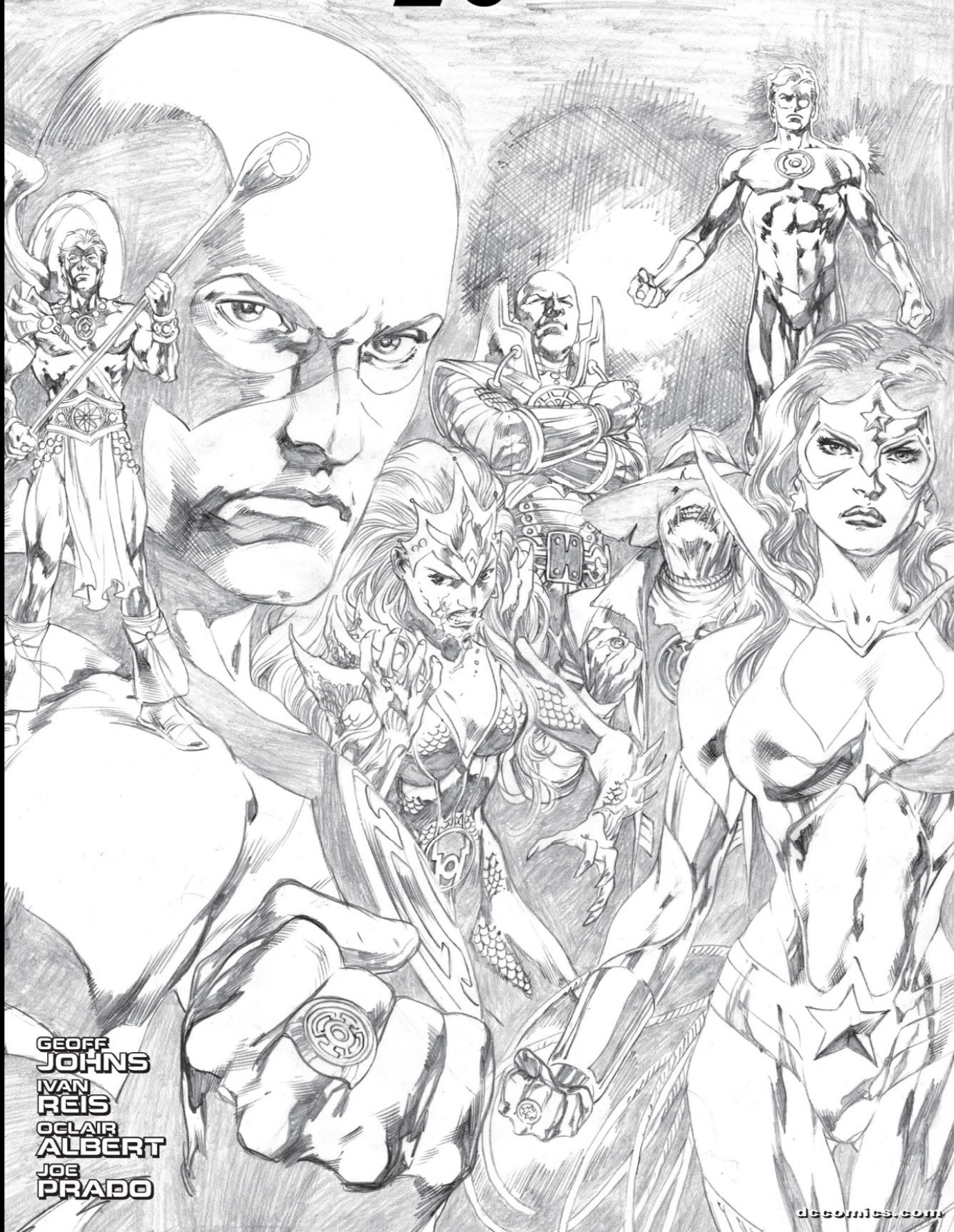
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COAST CITY.

YOU ARE THE OLDEST LIVING BEINGS IN OUR UNIVERSE, THEREBY MAKING YOUR CONNECTION TO THE WHITE LIGHT STRONGER THAN ANY OTHERS.



YET YOU BURY IT AS DEEPLY AS YOU BURY YOUR EMOTIONS.

LIKE THOSE ON THIS WORLD BURY BODIES.



WHY HAVE YOU SPENT EONS FIGHTING SO HARD TO PROTECT LIFE WHEN YOU DON'T LIVE IT, CREATURE?

WHY DID YOU VOW TO GUARD THE UNIVERSE?

I...



...I DO NOT REMEMBER.



HOW SHOCKING. OUR BEAMS ARE AS USELESS AGAINST NEKRON AS THEY ARE THE BLACK BATTERY. IF ANYTHING, HE'S ENJOYING THIS.

CONNECTION SEVERED.

CONNECTION SEVERED.

AAAAAEEEE!

NOT AS MUCH AS ME!
FLY, MY MONKEYS!



NEKRON DOES NOT ENJOY ANYTHING, SINESTRO.

NEITHER DO THE GUARDIANS. NOT LIKE MY PEOPLE ONCE DID.

I FELT JOY LONG AGO, ATROCITUS. AND I HAD HOPED TO AGAIN. BUT IT IS NOT MEANT TO BE.

I WANT HIS SCYTHE, GUARDIAN! BRING IT TO ME!

I AM NOT YOUR SERVANT YET, LARFLEEZE. NOT UNTIL NEKRON FALLS.



I'M USED TO BEING OVERLOOKED, BUT NEKRON'S NOT GIVING ANY OF US A SECOND GLANCE.

BECAUSE NEKRON'S NOTHING LIKE THE EVIL WE ERADICATE DAY-TO-DAY, ATOM. HE'S NOT GOING TO LAUNCH INTO A LECTURE AND MAKE THIS PERSONAL. IT ISN'T.

BUT IT IS TO ME, LANTERNS.

ALL MY LIFE I'VE WATCHED OTHERS MORE BEAUTIFUL AND BLESSED.



LIFE FAVORS SOME AND IGNORES OTHERS.

BUT OUR RESPECTIVE STANDINGS ARE IRRELEVANT WHEN IT COMES TO DEATH. IN DEATH, WE ARE ALL EQUAL. WE ARE ALL SILENT AND COLD.



STILL BELIEVE ALL WILL BE WELL, WALKER?

YES.

AND SOMEWHERE WITHIN YOU, ATROCITUS, YOU BELIEVE THAT TOO.



YOU? I REMEMBER YOU, ALIEN.

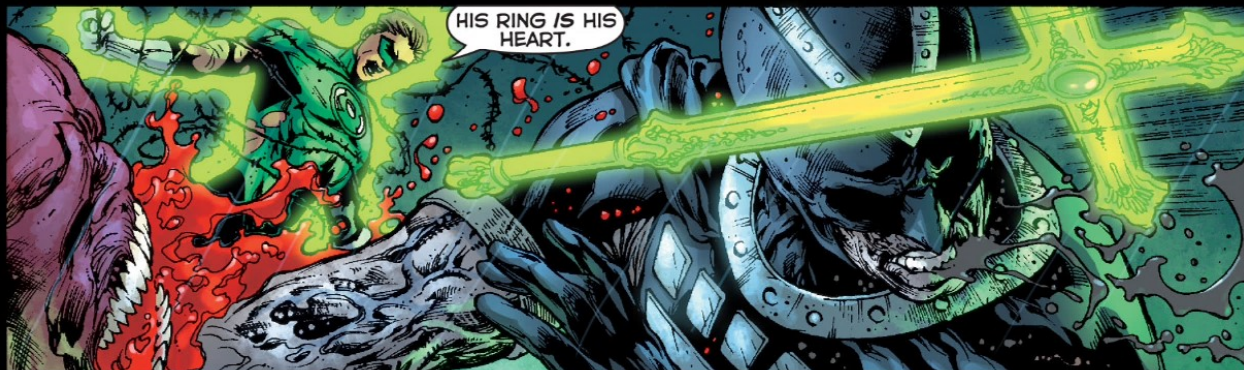
AND I YOU, EARTHBOY. YOU ARE THE DOORWAY TO THE BLACK. I TRIED TO END THIS A LONG TIME AGO--



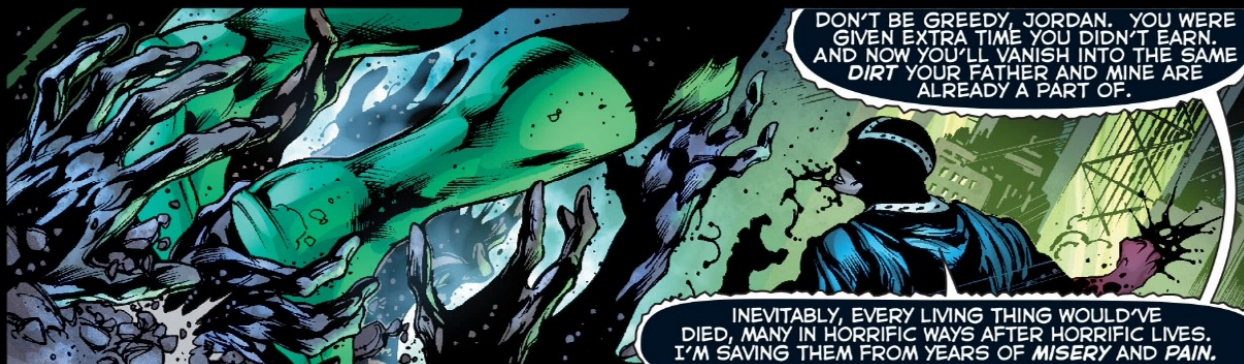


WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

AAAAHH!



HIS RING IS HIS HEART.



DON'T BE GREEDY, JORDAN. YOU WERE GIVEN EXTRA TIME YOU DIDN'T EARN. AND NOW YOU'LL VANISH INTO THE SAME DIRT YOUR FATHER AND MINE ARE ALREADY A PART OF.

INEVITABLY, EVERY LIVING THING WOULD'VE DIED, MANY IN HORRIFIC WAYS AFTER HORRIFIC LIVES. I'M SAVING THEM FROM YEARS OF MISERY AND PAIN.



LIFE'S NOT ALL DOOM AND GLOOM, HAND--

-- UNLESS YOU CHOOSE TO SEE IT THAT WAY.



OH, OH, I CERTAINLY DO.

NOW IT WON'T HURT MUCH LONGER. SO DON'T BE AFRAID.

WHAT IF WE WANT TO BE?



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY WRETCHED EXISTENCE I FEEL ALIVE!

YOU AND YOUR KIND WANT SILENCE?

I WANT SCREAMS! I WANT YOUR SCREAMS!



SCARECROW?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, LUTHOR? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING GOOD.

OR THINK OF IT THIS WAY, LEX.

IF YOU DON'T JOIN IN NOW YOU WON'T HAVE A WORLD LEFT TO FEED YOUR OVERSIZED EGO.



THIS IS MY MOMENT!



NO.

IT'S MINE.



MINE!



WHAT THE HELL IS LUTHOR DOING?!

HE HAS SUCCEMDED TO THE ORANGE LIGHT.



GIVE ME IT, CRANE!

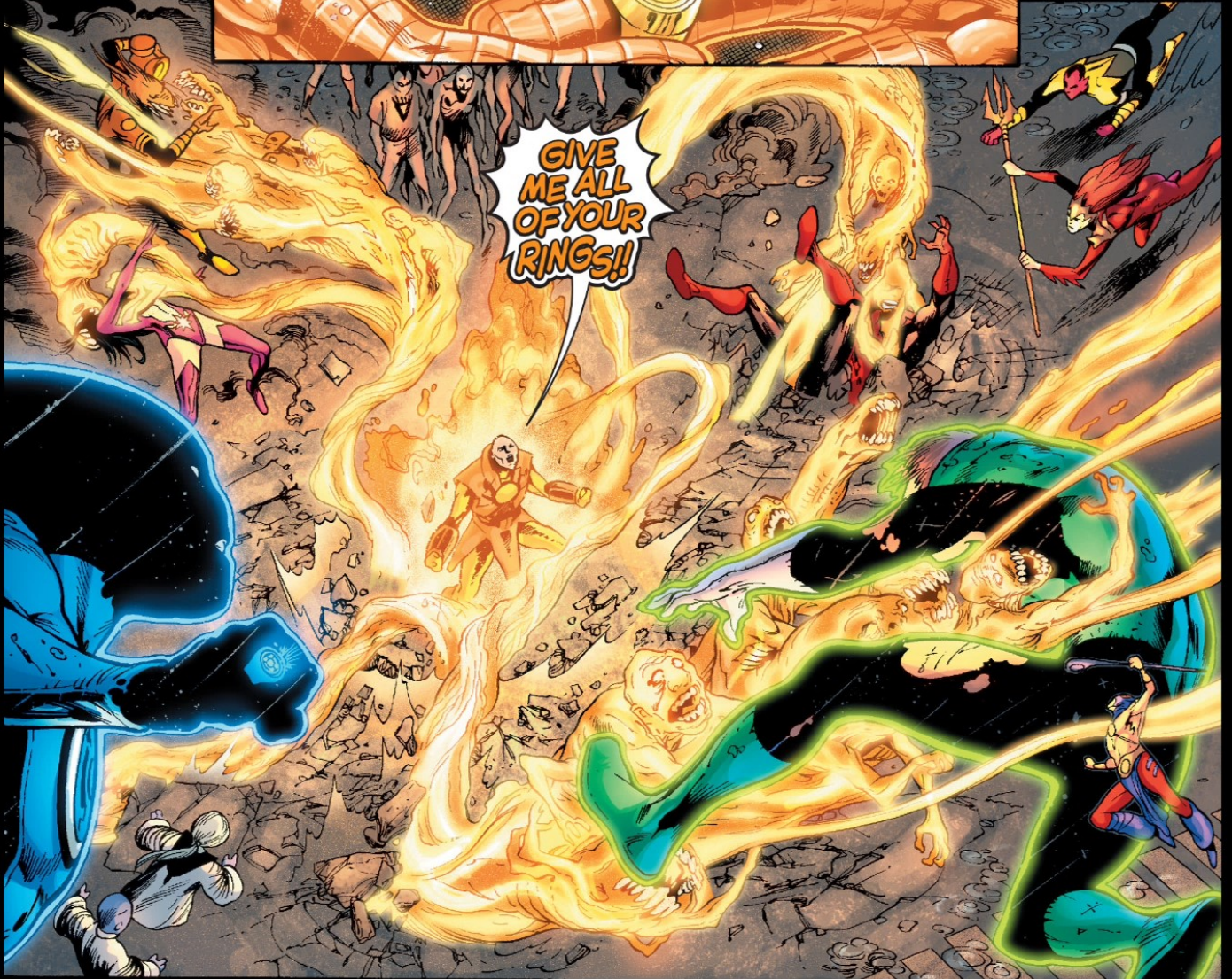
HEY! HEY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT--!



GIVE ME YOUR RING!



NOOAAAARRRRHHH!



TEN THOUSAND FEET ABOVE COAST CITY.



--MORE BLACK LANTERNS UP HERE THAN PEOPLE ON EARTH.

I'M DOING WHAT I CAN TO KEEP THEM BUSY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LAST LONG.

HAL? DOES ANYONE READ ME?

RECEPTION SUCKS UP HERE, DOESN'T IT, MR. STEWART?



IT'S BECAUSE I'M BOUNCING EVERY LANTERNS' S.O.S. TO A LITTLE OLD LADY'S RADIO IN OMAHA.



AIR WAVE?

IN SPACE, ONLY WE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM.



WARNING, EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM DETONATION IMMINENT.





BARRRRR!!!

OUTTA THE FRYIN' PAN AND UP ##@% CREEK.



HALT YOUR ASSAULT, GREEN LANTERN. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FIGHT AGAINST ANOTHER LIVING BEING.

TRY TELLIN' THAT TO THE REDNECKS, INDY.

CONNECTION SEVERED.



NONE OF YOU WILL BE TELLING ANYONE ANYTHING, MR. GARDNER. I CONTROL THE VOLUME OUT HERE.



AAAIEEEEE

CONNECTION SEVERED.

CHOW!!!



YOU DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A SHOUTING MATCH WITH KILOWOG.

LANTERNS. HEAR US.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS RECORDED MESSAGE, THEN THE SITUATION IS AS DESPERATE AS PROPHESED...

...WHICH IS WHY I AM ORDERING YOU TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY ALLIANCE WITH THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS TO THE OTHERS...

...THESE BLACK LANTERNS WILL FEED ON WORLD AFTER WORLD, TURNING THEM INTO PLANET-SIZED GRAVEYARDS AS THE MANHUNTERS DID RYUT...



...THEREBY SEVERING ALL BONDS OF LOVE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE...

...BUT IF WE UNITE AS ONE CORPS AND FOCUS OUR COMBINED LIGHT...

...ALL WILL BE WELL.



UNITE AS ONE CORPS? KEEP DREAMIN'.

IF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS WAGE THIS WAR ALONE, EACH OF YOU MUST FACE THREE BILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE BLACK LANTERNS WITHOUT SUPPORT.

AND IF WE TEAM UP LIKE GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS, HOW MANY OF THESE FLYIN' DEADHEADS DO EACH OF US RINGSLINGERS GOTTA HACK AND SLASH OUR WAY THROUGH?



TWO BILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWELVE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

AND THAT'S AN IMPROVEMENT?



YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO WATCH OUR BACKS?

THEY'VE GOT GOOD REASON TO, KYLE. THEY DON'T--?



-- AND WE END UP LIKE THEM."

CONNECTION SEVERED.

CONNECTION SEVERED.

CONNECTION SEVERED.



I CAN FEEL SOMETHING WORKING THROUGH ME. IF SOMEHOW I CAN DESTROY THESE BLACK LANTERNS WITH A TOUCH--

--MAYBE I CAN DAMAGE THEIR POWER SOURCE--



NEKRON.

AAAAAIEEE!



LET ME OUT.

CYBORG... SOMETHING... SOMEONE... IS IN THERE.

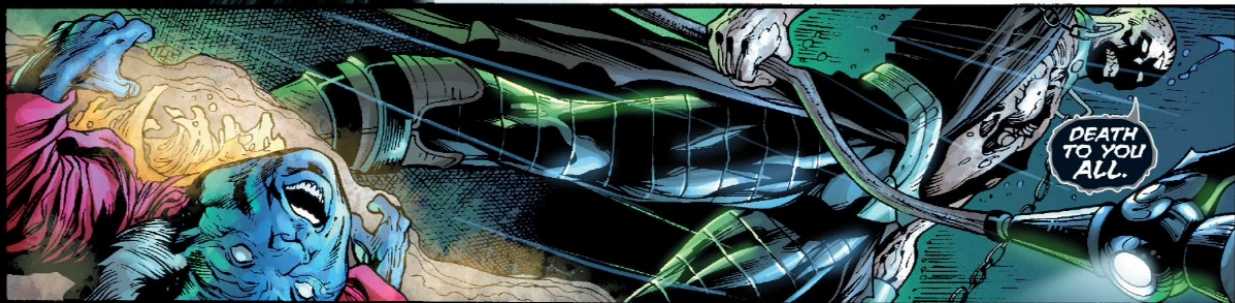




THE T-TRUTH...
WHAT I REALLY
WANT...
...IS TO BE
SUPERMAN.



OF
COURSE,
YOU DO.



DEATH
TO YOU
ALL.



WHAT'S
NEKRON DOING,
GANTHET?

HE'S MURDERED ONE
OF THE GUARDIANS.
HE'S BEGUN TO
MAKE CONTACT.

CONTACT?
WITH WHAT?

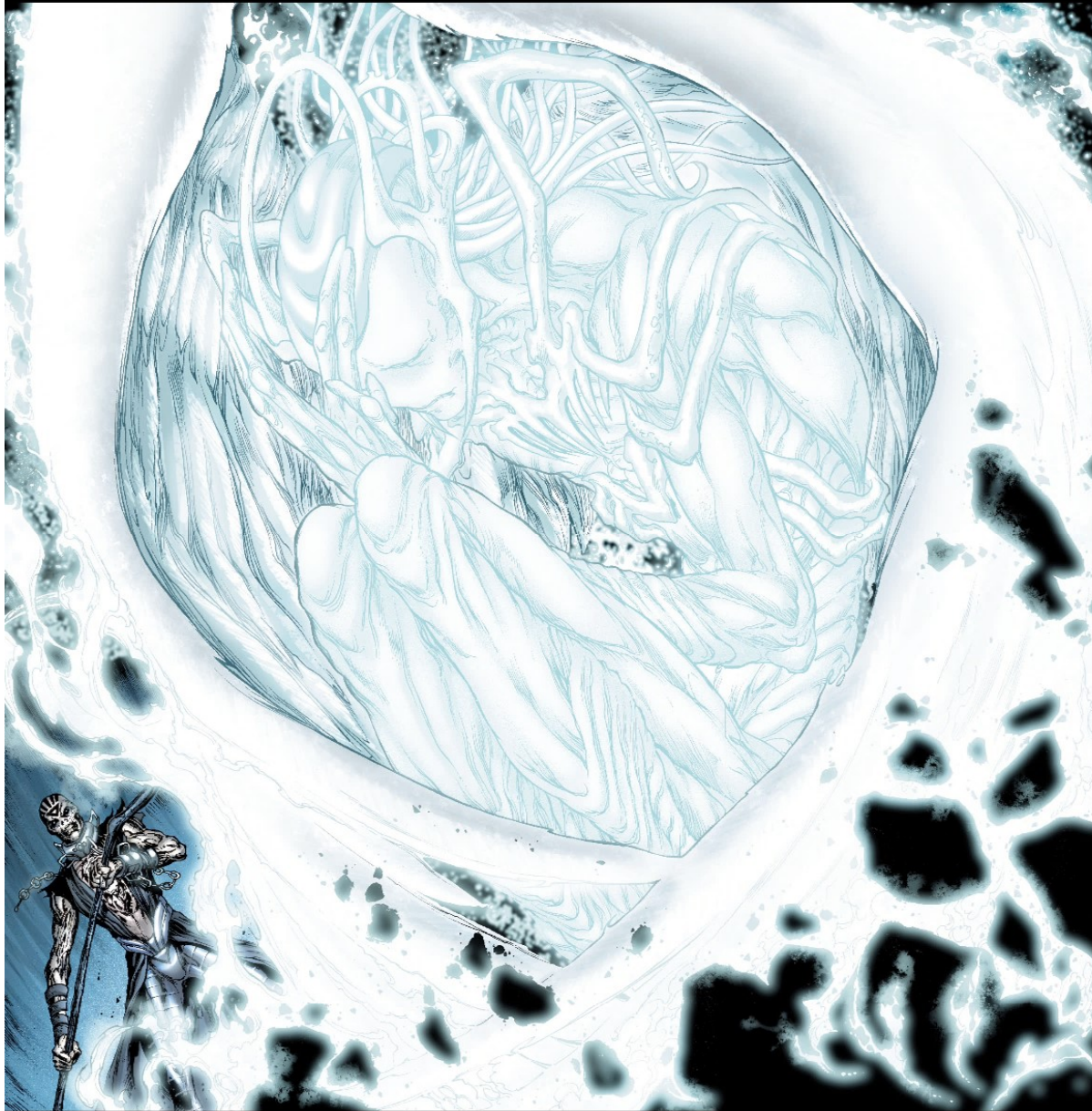


TRESPASSER.



RISE.



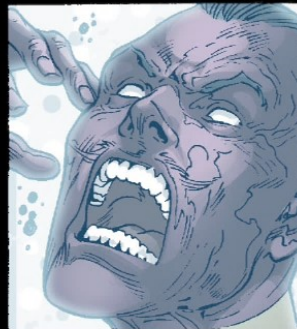


HE SAID "LET THERE BE LIGHT."
AND THERE WAS.

IT'S SO BRIGHT, I WANT IT!
WHATEVER IT IS!

NO. I WANT SOMETHING NEW, HUMAN.
I WANT YOUR LIFE!

I WANT ALL OF YOUR LIVES.
INVADERS.





WHAT IS THAT?

THE ENTITY.

THE ENTITY?

THE LIVING LIGHT BESTOWED UPON THIS UNIVERSE THAT TRIGGERED EXISTENCE ITSELF.

THE GUARDIANS MAY BE THE OLDEST LIVING BEINGS, BUT LIFE DID NOT BEGIN ON OUR WORLD.

LIFE BEGAN ON EARTH.

WE BURIED THIS FACT TO KEEP THE ENTITY PROTECTED.



AS YOU BURIED PARALLAX IN THE CENTRAL POWER BATTERY? AS YOU BURIED THE MASSACRE OF SECTOR 666?

IT WAS IMPERATIVE WE NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO EARTH. WE DID OUR BEST TO KEEP HUMANS FROM THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS--

UNTIL ABIN SUR. WHEN HE WAS DYING, HE KNEW ALL OF THIS, DIDN'T HE? THAT'S WHY HE CAME TO THIS WRETCHED WORLD.

YOU LET MY FRIEND DIE WITH EVERYONE, WITH ME, THINKING HIM MAD.

YOU DESTROYED ABIN SUR TO PROTECT YOUR LIES!

YOU LET THE UNIVERSE BELIEVE LIFE ORIGINATED ON YOUR HOMEWORLD TO JUSTIFY YOUR AUTHORITY!



SINESTRO--!

NOW I WILL JUSTIFY MINE!



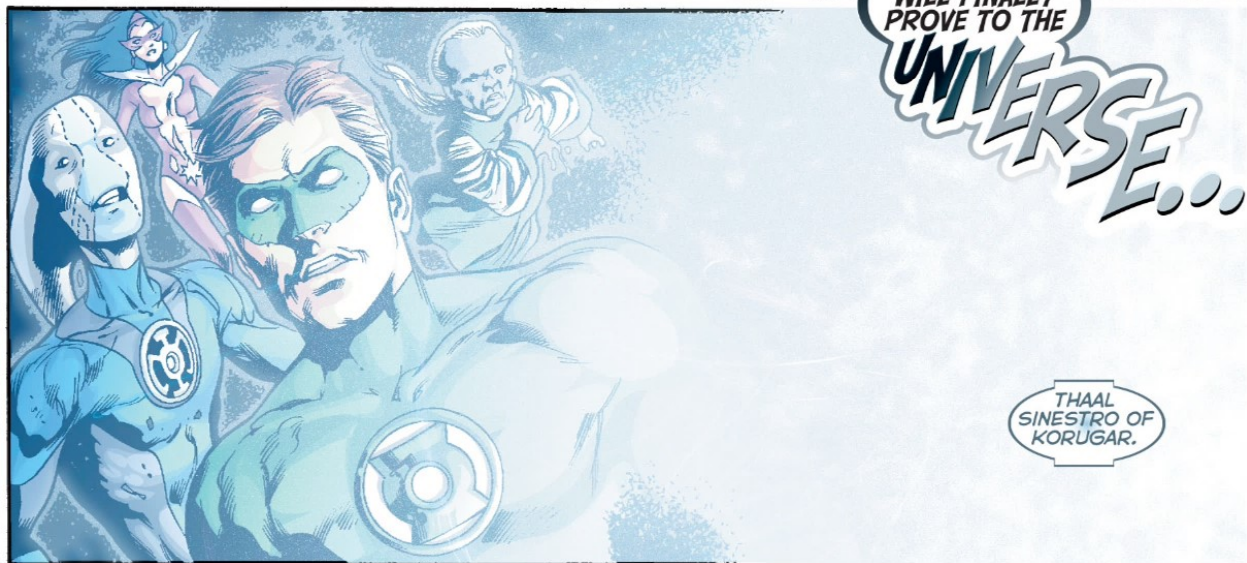
WHEN NEKRON STRIKES THE ENTITY... W-WE SHARE THE PAIN.

BECAUSE WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. WE ARE ALL ALIVE. EVERY LIVING THING IN THE UNIVERSE IS DYING.

WHY ISN'T IT FIGHTING BACK?

THAT'S IT, BARRY. THE ENTITY. IT'S LIKE PARALLAX AND ION. A LIVING POWER. AND NEKRON DUG IT UP FOR US.

IT JUST NEEDS A PILOT.





I AM THE
GREATEST
LANTERN
OF THEM

ALL!

DESTINY
AWAITS.

NEXT:
**BEWARE HIS
POWER!**



THE BOOK OF THE BLACK

THE BURNED-IN THOUGHTS OF WILLIAM HAND:

CHAPTER 1, VERSE 6

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, I KILLED A BOY.

I HATED TRAVIS TRUMAN THE DAY I MET HIM. IT WAS THE FIRST DAY OF SEVENTH GRADE AND I DIDN'T LIKE MOVING CLASSROOMS EVERY FIFTY MINUTES. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS JUST THAT. YOU ARRIVE. YOU SIT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. BUT JUNIOR HIGH WAS DIFFERENT. IN JUNIOR HIGH I WASN'T LEFT ALONE.

I WALKED INTO THE FIRST PERIOD OF THE FIRST DAY CLUTCHING MY BOOKS. MY HAIR HUNG IN MY FACE, HIDING MY EYES. "TAKE A SEAT," THE TEACHER HUFFED AS IF HE'D TOLD THE SAME THING TO EVERY STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL AND WAS GROWING WEARY OF IT. BUT I WAS THE FIRST ONE IN THE CLASSROOM. THE FIRST STUDENT HE HAD ALL YEAR. TRAVIS TRUMAN WAS THE SECOND.

THE TEACHER BEAMED WHEN TRAVIS WALKED IN. TRAVIS, THE PRINCIPAL'S SON. TRAVIS SAT IN FRONT AND SMILED. HE KNEW EVERY BOY AND GIRL WHO CAME IN AFTER HIM. THEY SAT AROUND TRAVIS HOPING TO GET HIS ATTENTION. AND THEY GOT IT. I THINK, ACCORDING TO TRAVIS, HE OWNED THE SCHOOL. EVERYONE ACTED LIKE THAT ANYWAY. EVERYONE BUT ME.

ONE DAY, I FOUND A RAT IN A TRAP IN THE BACK OF THE CLASSROOM. SO I TOOK IT OUT AND HELD IT IN MY HANDS. ITS EYE STARED UP AT ME, DEAD. IT WAS COLD. AND COVERED IN DIRT.

I WAS ENTRANCED UNTIL A PIERCING SCREAM STARTLED ME AND I DROPPED THE RAT. BETSY KING WOULDN'T STOP SHOUTING UNTIL THE TEACHER TOOK HER AWAY. TRAVIS AND THE OTHER KIDS STARED AT ME AND MY DIRTY HAND. I WIPED IT OFF ON MY PANTS, BUT IT ONLY SMUDGED THE DIRT. "BLACK HAND," TRAVIS CALLED ME. AND ALL THE KIDS JOINED IN. THEY NEVER LEFT ME ALONE.

I HATED TRAVIS TRUMAN. I WANTED HIM DEAD.

SO DID PAUL FABERMAN. PAUL GOT IN A FIGHT WITH TRAVIS AFTER HE CALLED PAUL A BUNCH OF NAMES. BUT TRAVIS NEVER GOT IN TROUBLE. HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL'S SON. PAUL DID DETENTION FOR A WEEK. AND THE KIDS SAID THE BLACK EYE HE GOT WASN'T FROM TRAVIS. IT WAS FROM HIS FATHER FOR GETTING IN TROUBLE. PAUL NEVER TOLD ME, BUT WE BECAME FRIENDS IN DETENTION. HE DREW PICTURES OF MONSTERS AND DEATH. WE WOULD WALK HOME AND MAKE UP STORIES AFTER DETENTION. WE WOULD PLOT ELABORATE WAYS TO KILL TRAVIS AND MAKE SURE NO ONE WOULD EVER FIND HIS BODY.

PAUL WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, WE DRESSED UP. PAUL WORE A DARK TRENCH COAT AND WHITE MAKE-UP. I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD'VE WORN BLACK SHOES, BUT HE SAID HE HAD TO STICK TO SNEAKERS. HE DIDN'T OWN BLACK SHOES.

I WORE SOME BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHES MY FATHER TOOK OFF A BOY WHO HAD DIED IN A CAR WRECK. I WAS "DEAD." PAUL SAID IT WAS A STUPID COSTUME.

WHILE WE WERE WALKING, WE SAW TRAVIS. AND SOMETHING HAPPENED TO US. WE BOTH WANTED TO FOLLOW HIM. AND WE BOTH WANTED TO KILL HIM. I PULLED A KNIFE OUT OF MY BAG. WHEN PAUL SAW THE METAL GLEAMING IN THE MOONLIGHT, HE PANICKED. I SUPPOSE THE REALITY OF WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO HIT HIM. OR AT LEAST THE CONSEQUENCES DID. "WE CAN'T KILL TRAVIS," PAUL STUTTERED. "WHY?" I ASKED. "BECAUSE THEY'LL KNOW IT WAS US. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW MUCH WE HATE EACH OTHER. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL!" CRIED PAUL.

HE WAS RIGHT. THERE WAS A MOTIVE. AND IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT I REALIZED, I DIDN'T NEED A MOTIVE. I JUST WAS LOOKING FOR A REASON TO KILL SOMEONE.

I STABBED PAUL IN THE THROAT SIX TIMES. FOUR MORE IN THE STOMACH. HE TRIED TO GURGLE OUT SOMETHING. I THINK HE ASKED "WHY?"

THEY ALWAYS DO. THEY THINK THERE HAS TO BE A REASON.

THAT HALLOWEEN NIGHT, I LEARNED DIFFERENTLY.

THE NEXT DAY, THE POLICE CAME TO TALK TO TRAVIS. I LEFT THE KNIFE IN HIS ROOM. HE CRIED WHEN THEY TOOK HIM AWAY. I TRIED TO CRY WHEN MY PARENTS TOLD ME MY BEST FRIEND WAS DEAD.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A MOTIVE, THEY'LL NEVER CATCH YOU.

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING.

