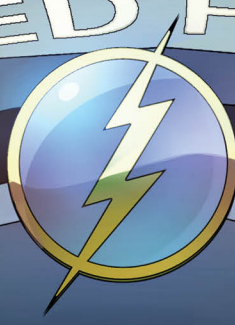


THE 25TH-CENTURY.

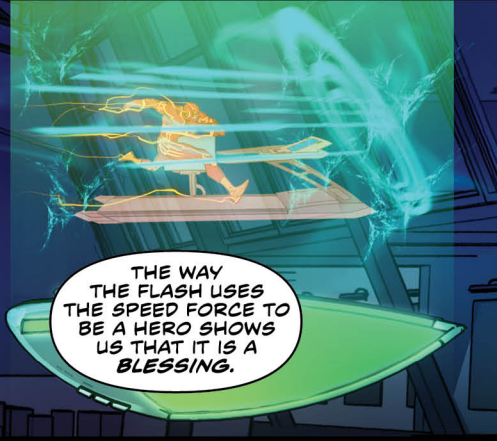
SPEED FORCE



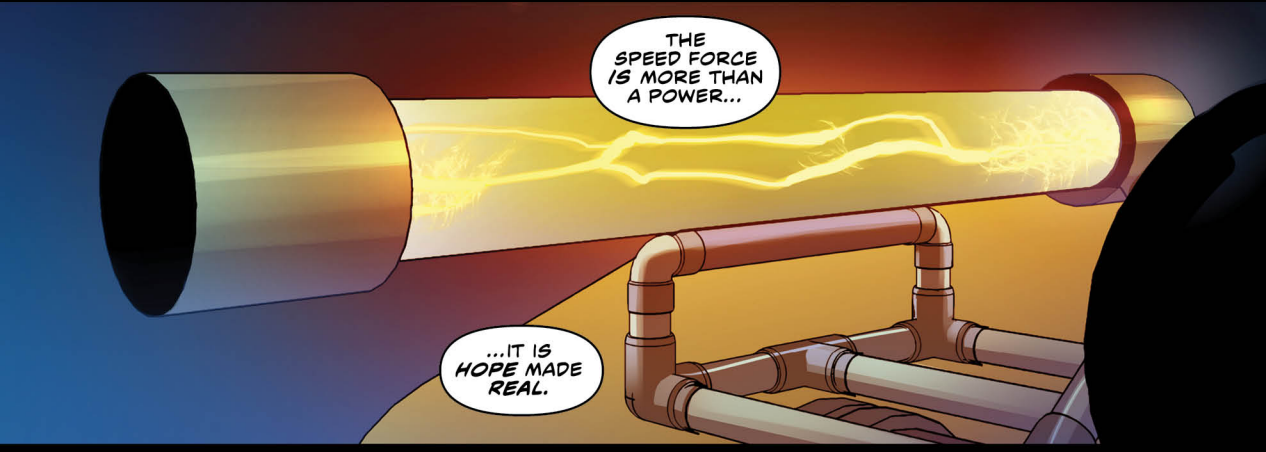
IT ALWAYS BOTHERS ME WHEN PEOPLE CALL IT A "POWER."



BECAUSE IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

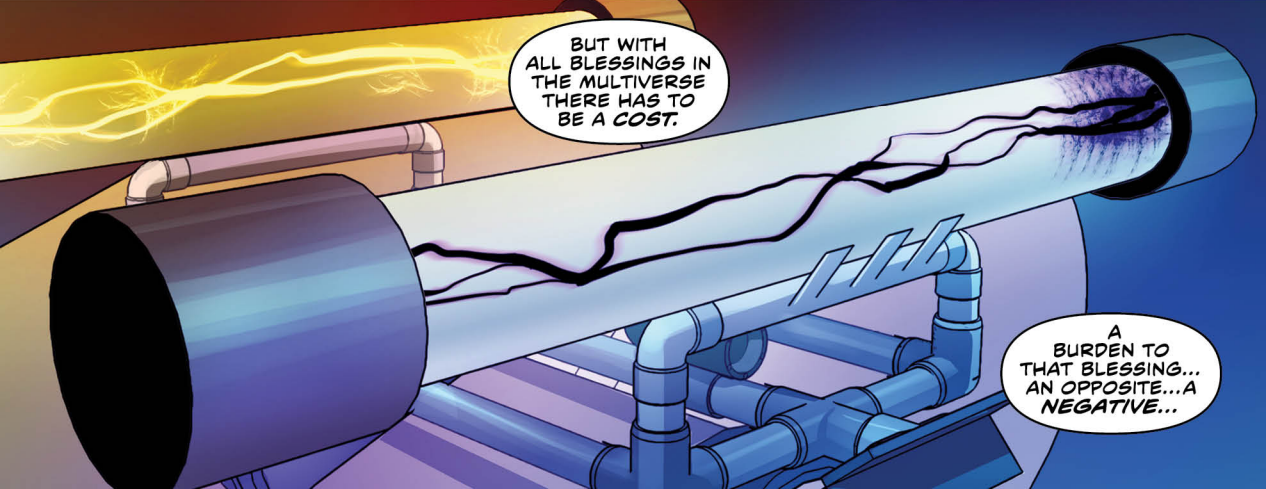


THE WAY THE FLASH USES THE SPEED FORCE TO BE A HERO SHOWS US THAT IT IS A BLESSING.



THE SPEED FORCE IS MORE THAN A POWER...

...IT IS HOPE MADE REAL.



BUT WITH ALL BLESSINGS IN THE MULTIVERSE THERE HAS TO BE A COST.

A BURDEN TO THAT BLESSING... AN OPPOSITE... A NEGATIVE...

"...A REVERSE."

Now.



MY GIRLFRIEND, IRIS, THREW ME A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY AT A MINIATURE GOLF COURSE. INVITED MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. EVEN HAL JORDAN SHOWED UP.

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE IRIS DIDN'T PUT MULTIPLEX ON THE GUEST LIST.

THIS REALLY DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TWO AGAINST ONE!

WE JUST NEED TO FIND THE REAL DEAL, GREEN LANTERN!

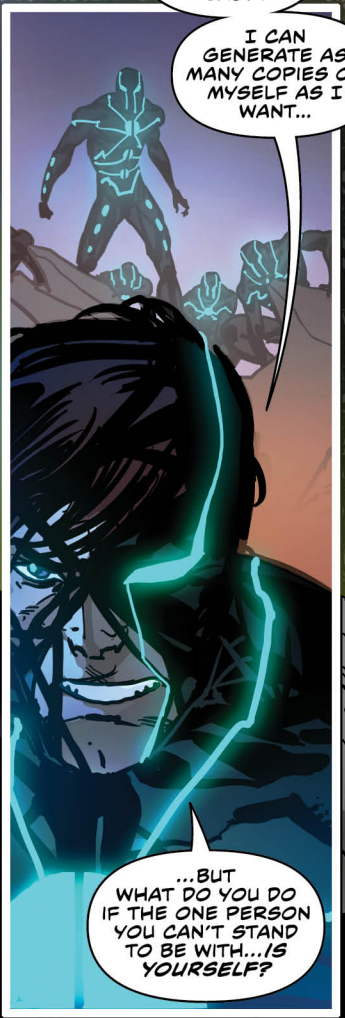
IRIS PUT THE PARTY TOGETHER FOR ME...AND I WAS SO LOST IN THOUGHT AND RUDE TO THE GUESTS...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T SHOWN UP. AND THAT'S WORSE THAN BEING LATE. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY BUT...



MULTIPLEX, A.K.A. DAYTON BLACK, WAS STALKING A WOMAN HE WAS OBSESSED WITH. I'D LIKE TO SAY IT RUINED MY BIRTHDAY PARTY, BUT I DID THAT MYSELF.

AM I THE ORIGINAL? I'M NOT EVEN SURE I KNOW ANYMORE, FLASH.

I CAN GENERATE AS MANY COPIES OF MYSELF AS I WANT...



...BUT WHAT DO YOU DO IF THE ONE PERSON YOU CAN'T STAND TO BE WITH...IS YOURSELF?



IRIS ACCUSED ME OF BEING DISHONEST...AND SHE'S RIGHT. SHE KNOWS THERE IS MORE TO BARRY ALLEN THAN JUST BEING DISTRACTED...AND I'M NOT SURE...

HE'S TRYING TO LOSE US IN THE CROWD!

 ...IF I CAN KEEP LYING TO THE WOMAN I LOVE.

...THAWNE...

MY DEAR IRIS... WEST?

IT IS STILL WEST, RIGHT?

IT'S SO VERY GOOD TO SEE YOU SO YOUNG AND... FULL OF LIFE.

IRIS!
RUN!

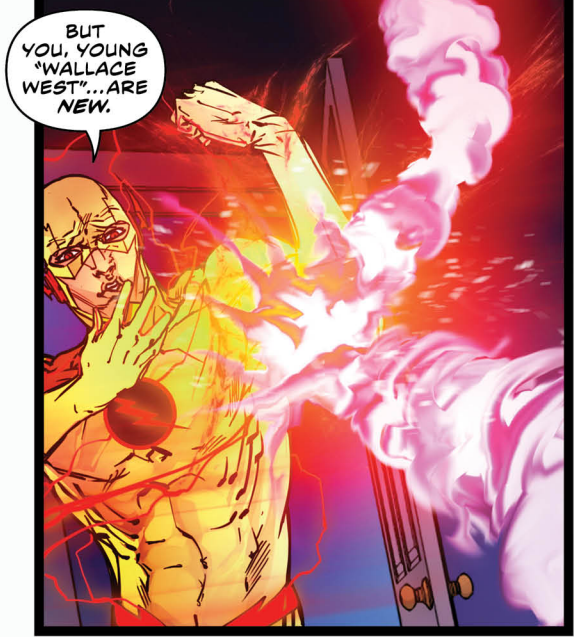
I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU, WALLY!

Y'KNOW...IN MY TIME... I WAS AN EXPERT IN ALL THINGS FLASH...BUT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER...
...THAT CHANGED.

WHOOSH

I'VE RACED NEARLY ALL OF THE FLASH'S PROTÉGÉS...

GET BACK, THAWNE!



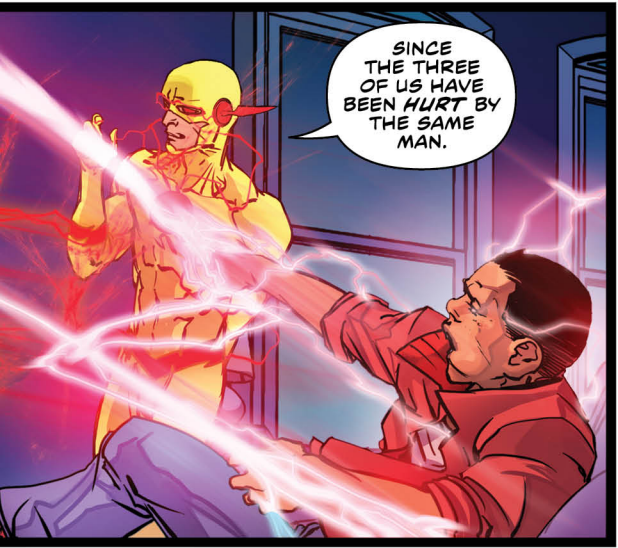
BUT YOU, YOUNG "WALLACE WEST"... ARE NEW.



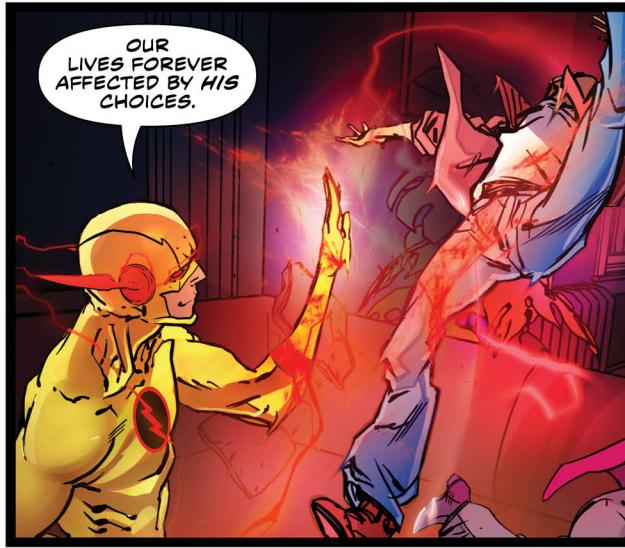
A CLEAR EXAMPLE THAT FLASH'S HISTORY WAS ALTERED WHILE I WAS...RECOVERING.

I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT ELSE HAS BEEN... REBOOTED.

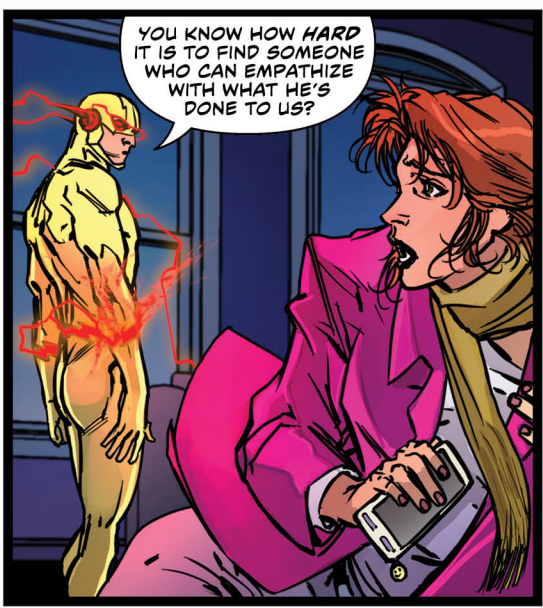
AND I WAS HOPING THAT YOU'D HELP ME FILL IN SOME BLANKS.



SINCE THE THREE OF US HAVE BEEN HURT BY THE SAME MAN.



OUR LIVES FOREVER AFFECTED BY HIS CHOICES.



YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN EMPATHIZE WITH WHAT HE'S DONE TO US?



AND IT WOULD MEAN OH SO MUCH TO ME IF YOU'D SHARE IN MY PAIN.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME PAIN...