

DURING THE REIGN OF VILLAINS KNOWN AS "FOREVER EVIL."

CENTRAL CITY.

"DO YOU REMEMBER, ALASTAIR? THE WHOLE TOWN WAS DARK EXCEPT FOR THE FIRES."

"THE HEROES WERE DISAPPEARED, THEY SAID."

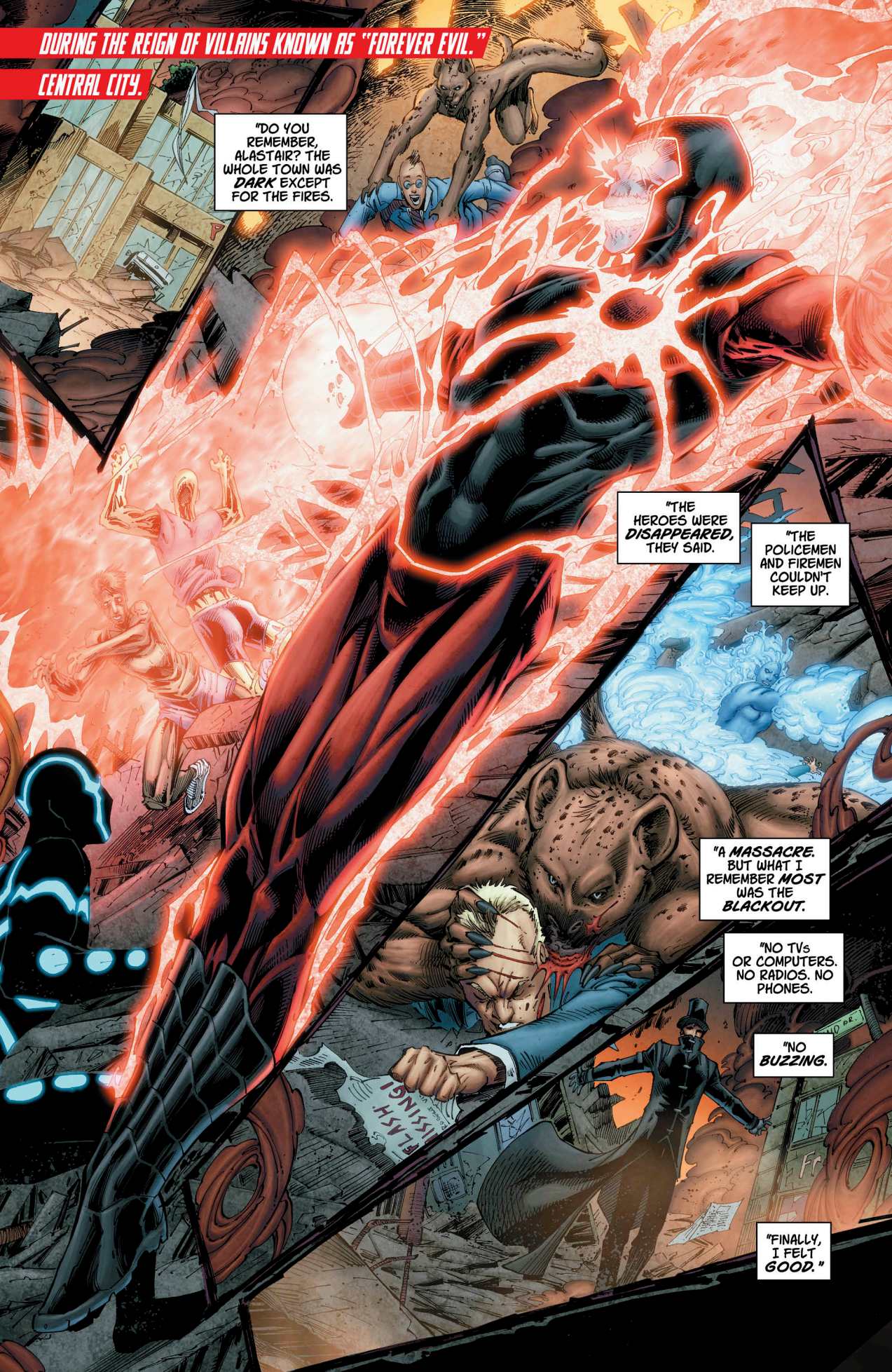
"THE POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN COULDN'T KEEP UP."

"A MASSACRE. BUT WHAT I REMEMBER MOST WAS THE BLACKOUT."

"NO TVs OR COMPUTERS. NO RADIOS. NO PHONES."

"NO BUZZING."

"FINALLY, I FELT GOOD."



"BEFORE THEN, LIFE WAS **EXCRUCIATING**. MOM SAID I WAS BORN SCREAMING AND NEVER STOPPED. 'CHRONIC PAIN' WAS ALL THE DOCTORS COULD TELL HER.

"**DOCTORS**. I DIDN'T NEED THEM TO SAY I WAS HURTING. I NEEDED THEM TO SAY **WHY**.

"THEN THE **HEROES** RETURNED AND CHASED THE VILLAINS OFF. THE TOWN WAS SAVED.

"THE BLACKOUT ENDED. TVS, COMPUTERS, RADIOS, PHONES...ALL THE **BUSY BUZZING** WAS BACK.

"SO WAS MY **AGONY**."

"THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED. IT WAS THE **BUSZING** HURTING ME ALL ALONG.

"A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I'D'VE HAD A PEACEFUL LIFE. INSTEAD, I WAS **TORTURED**. HOW WAS THAT FAIR?"

"I WAS **FURIOUS**."

"I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT, BUT ALL THE ANGER BOILED UP. I **EXPLODED**."

"SEE, THE BUZZING HURTS ME. BUT IT ALSO GIVES ME **POWER** TO MAKE **QUIET**."

MORE BUZZING...MORE POWER.

BRFFFT

BUT I CAN'T SUFFER ANYMORE, ALASTAIR. I **WON'T**. I'M GOING TO FEEL **GOOD** AGAIN...

NOW. CENTRAL CITY.



"...TODAY."

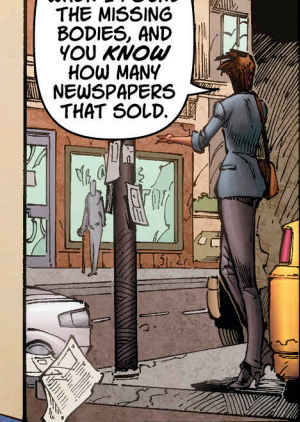
NEARBY.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU BELIEVE ME, DAVE. SOMETHING'S CHANGED WITH FLASH-- AND IT'S NOT JUST HIS COSTUME.

YOU TRUSTED ME WHEN I FOUND THE MISSING BODIES, AND YOU KNOW HOW MANY NEWSPAPERS THAT SOLD.



I'LL START WITH WHATEVER EVIDENCE THE CCPD HAS FROM THE FIGHT AT THE BANK. I'M SURE THE DEPARTMENT HAS A FILE ON THE FLASH. MAYBE I CAN FIND A LEAD TO CHASE.



YOU KNOW I HAVE A SOURCE DEEP INSIDE THE COP SHOP, DAVE. I CAN GET MY HANDS ON WHATEVER I NEED.



YEAH, I'M HEADING TO OUR REGULAR MEETING SPOT RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOT TO GO.



HEY! HOPE I DIDN'T KEEP YOU WAITING.

TWO VERSIONS OF THE FLASH. ONE CHASING A KILLER TWENTY YEARS IN HIS PAST; THE OTHER MAROONED IN A LAND OUTSIDE TIME, BOTH SUFFERING THE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES OF...

POWER LOSS

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THAT'S WHY I PICKED THIS PLACE. IF YOU'RE RUNNING LATE, I CAN KEEP MYSELF ENTERTAINED.

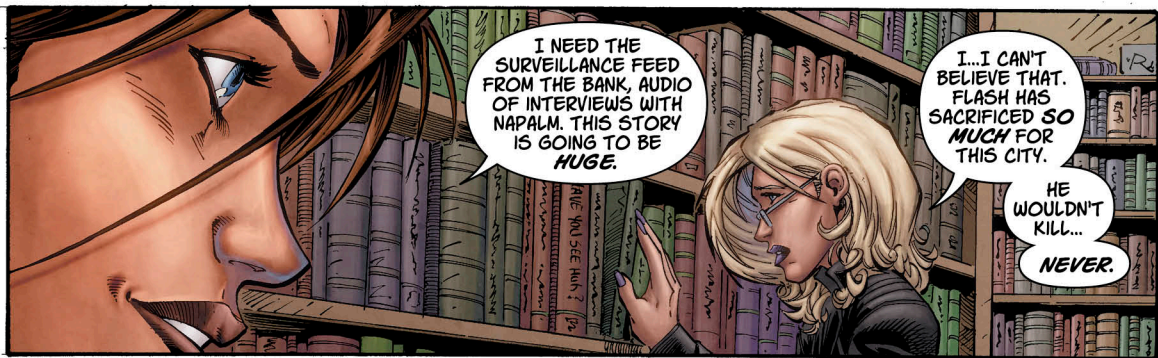
NOW, WHAT IS IT YOU NEED THIS TIME?

I'LL TAKE WHATEVER YOU HAVE ON THE FLASH. HE'S GONE OFF THE RAILS, PATTY.

SOME WITNESSES AT THE BANK SAID NAPALM'S INJURY WAS AN ACCIDENT--

I WAS THERE. I WATCHED FLASH DAMN NEAR SLICE NAPALM'S THROAT. HE'S A KILLER.

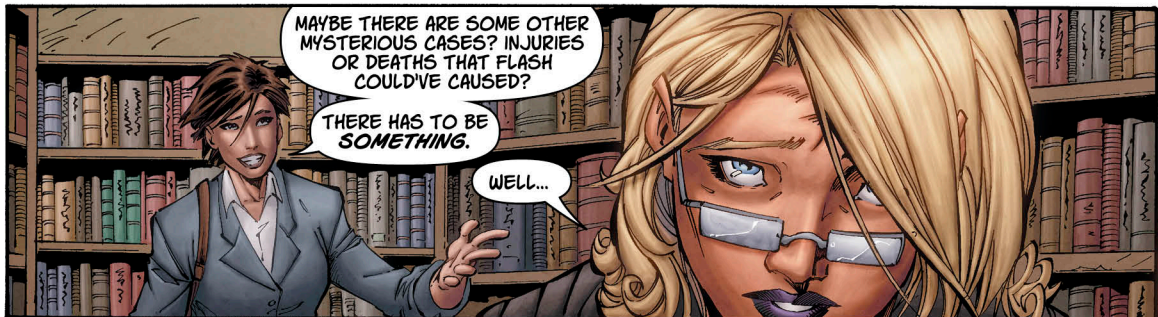




I NEED THE SURVEILLANCE FEED FROM THE BANK, AUDIO OF INTERVIEWS WITH NAPALM. THIS STORY IS GOING TO BE HUGE.

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT. FLASH HAS SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR THIS CITY.

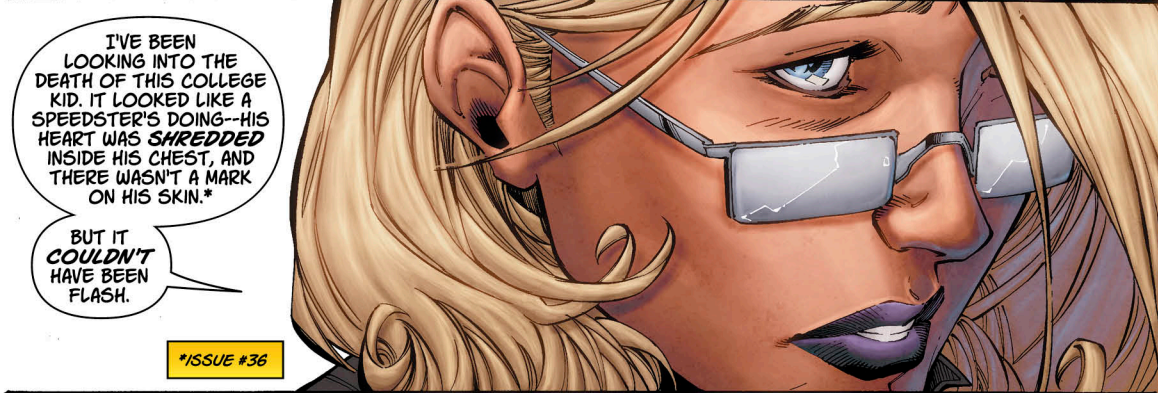
HE WOULDN'T KILL... NEVER.



MAYBE THERE ARE SOME OTHER MYSTERIOUS CASES? INJURIES OR DEATHS THAT FLASH COULD'VE CAUSED?

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING.

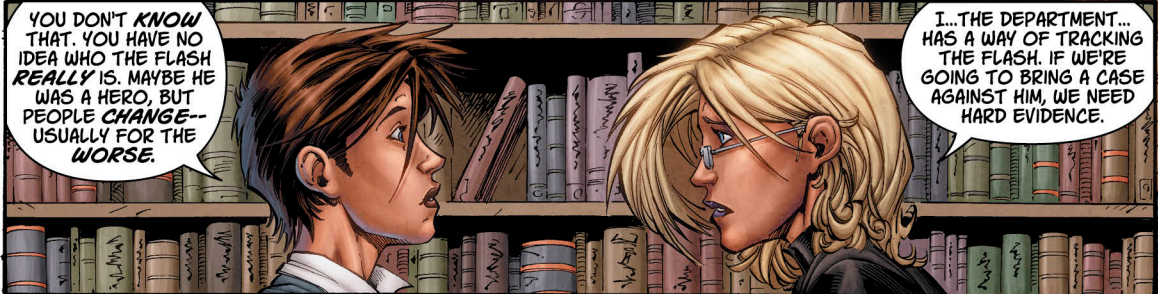
WELL...



I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO THE DEATH OF THIS COLLEGE KID. IT LOOKED LIKE A SPEEDSTER'S DOING--HIS HEART WAS SHREDDED INSIDE HIS CHEST, AND THERE WASN'T A MARK ON HIS SKIN.*

BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN FLASH.

*ISSUE #36



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE FLASH REALLY IS. MAYBE HE WAS A HERO, BUT PEOPLE CHANGE--USUALLY FOR THE WORSE.

I...THE DEPARTMENT... HAS A WAY OF TRACKING THE FLASH. IF WE'RE GOING TO BRING A CASE AGAINST HIM, WE NEED HARD EVIDENCE.



GREAT! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

I...I'LL CALL YOU WHEN HE'S ON THE MOVE.