



IT WAS THE NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

AND THIS WANNABE
SANTA CLAUS HAS
A MACHINE GUN.

AS WALLY WEST, IT BUMS ME OUT
TO SEE THIS GUY RUINING PEOPLE'S
HOLIDAY, BUT AS KID FLASH, I'LL
HAVE NO PROBLEM DROPPING HIM
OFF AT THE NORTH POLE...A.K.A. THE
CENTRAL CITY POLICE STATION!

NORMALLY I'D BE TRAINING
WITH THE FLASH, BUT TONIGHT
IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP THE
STREETS SAFE BECAUSE...

DATE NIGHT

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...MY AUNT IRIS IS ON A DATE.



YOUR TABLE.



BARRY, GIVE ME YOUR CELL PHONE.

WHAT...? I--

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T LOOK AT YOUR SEARCH HISTORY.



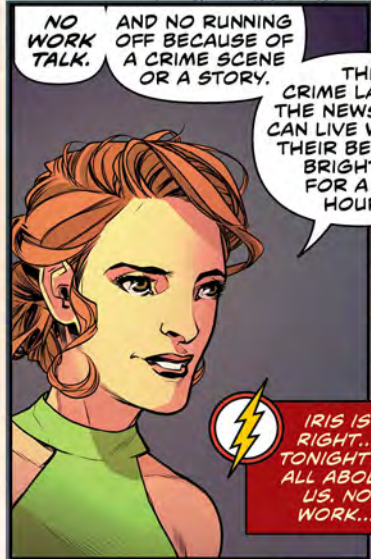
HERE, IF YOU CAN KEEP OUR CELL PHONES AWAY FROM US UNTIL WE PAY THE CHECK THERE'LL BE A NICE TIP IN IT FOR YOU.



IRIS... WHAT'RE YOU...?

SINCE WE'RE BOTH ON THE SAME PAGE THAT THIS IS IN FACT A REAL DATE...

...THERE WILL BE SOME GROUND RULES TONIGHT.

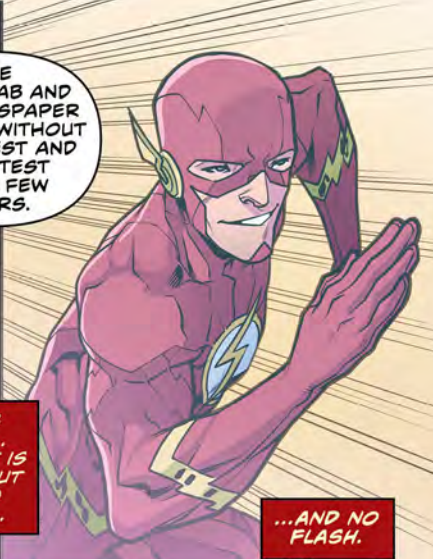


NO WORK TALK.

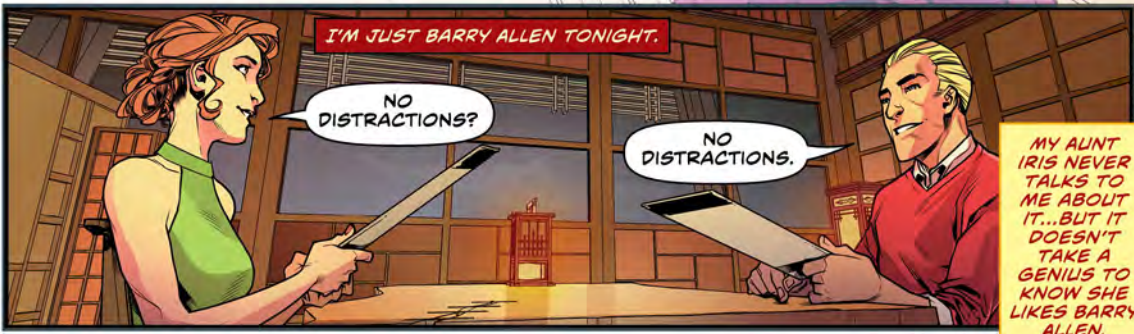
AND NO RUNNING OFF BECAUSE OF A CRIME SCENE OR A STORY.

THE CRIME LAB AND THE NEWSPAPER CAN LIVE WITHOUT THEIR BEST AND BRIGHTEST FOR A FEW HOURS.

IRIS IS RIGHT... TONIGHT IS ALL ABOUT US. NO WORK...



...AND NO FLASH.

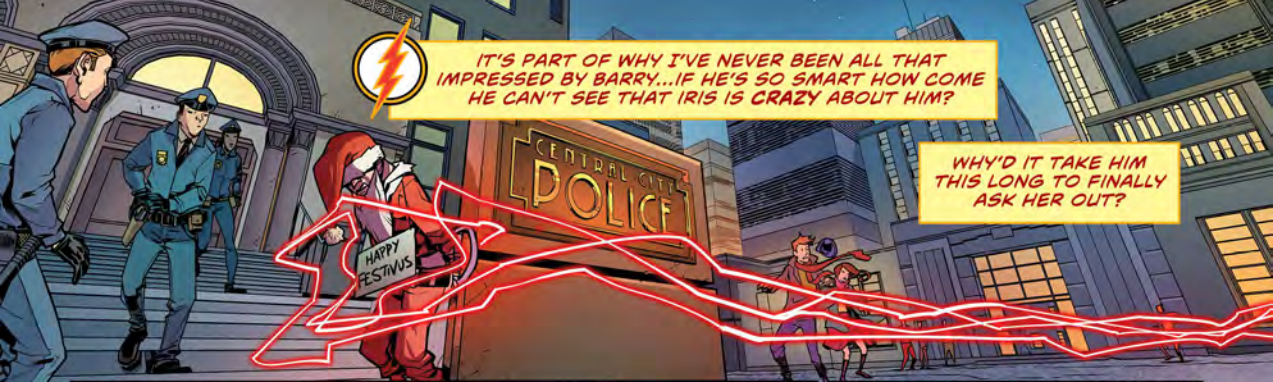


I'M JUST BARRY ALLEN TONIGHT.

NO DISTRACTIONS?

NO DISTRACTIONS.

MY AUNT IRIS NEVER TALKS TO ME ABOUT IT... BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO KNOW SHE LIKES BARRY ALLEN.



IT'S PART OF WHY I'VE NEVER BEEN ALL THAT IMPRESSED BY BARRY...IF HE'S SO SMART HOW COME HE CAN'T SEE THAT IRIS IS CRAZY ABOUT HIM?

WHY'D IT TAKE HIM THIS LONG TO FINALLY ASK HER OUT?

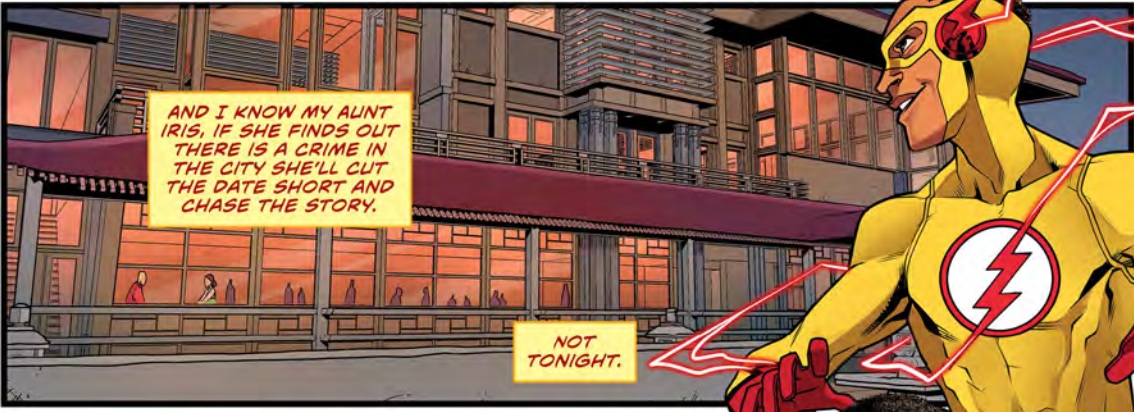
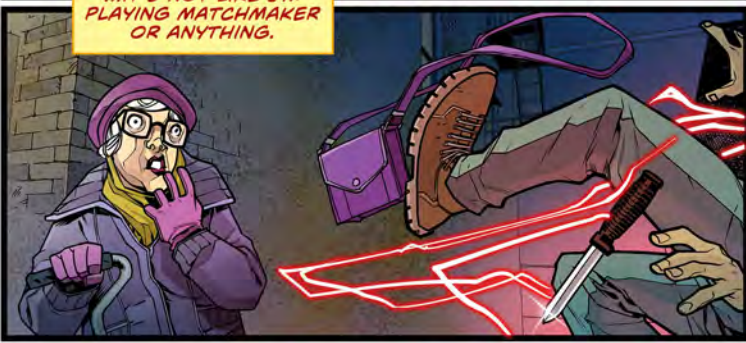


BUT BECAUSE I KNOW HOW IRIS FEELS, I HAVE TO HELP...

...IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLAYING MATCHMAKER OR ANYTHING.



SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS...DISASTERS, SUPER-VILLAINS...AND IT ALWAYS RUINS THEIR TIME TOGETHER.



AND I KNOW MY AUNT IRIS, IF SHE FINDS OUT THERE IS A CRIME IN THE CITY SHE'LL CUT THE DATE SHORT AND CHASE THE STORY.

NOT TONIGHT.



I'M ON PATROL AND NOTHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN CENTRAL CITY ON MY WATCH.

THIS IS GONNA BE EASY.

TTRPSSSHHHHHH

 OH NO!
TAR PIT?!

WHY DID I
JUST JINX
MYSELF
LIKE THAT?





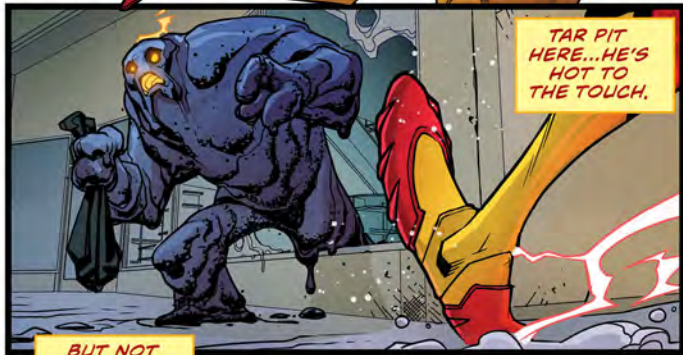
I DON'T KNOW A WHOLE LOT ABOUT TAR PIT. HE'S ONE OF THE FLASH'S ROGUES, BUT LIKE... NOT ONE OF THE ROGUES' ROGUES...

HOLIDAY SHOPPING BETTER HAVE MADE THIS PLACE SOME CASH!



...THEY ALL LEFT CENTRAL CITY WHEN THE NEW SPEEDSTERS ARRIVED.*

* THE FLASH #2!



TAR PIT HERE...HE'S HOT TO THE TOUCH.



BUT NOT TOO BRIGHT CONSIDERING HE STAYED BEHIND.

HEY TAR PIT! YOU PICKED THE WRONG NIGHT TO PLAY GRINCH!

I'LL NEED TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM THE RESTAURANT--OTHERWISE IRIS WILL SEE HIM.



C'MON, KID...WHERE'S YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT? CAN'T YA JUST LEMME ALONE TONIGHT?!



I JUST HAVE ONE OTHER WORRY...



...WHERE IS THE FLASH?!