



"Claire"

THE BOWERY

THE NIGHT BEFORE





OH MY
GOD--
--HE'S
GOT A
GUN!

"7 1/2 People"
THE BRONX
THE MORNING OF



--A
SNIPER!!



WALLY--
WAIT--!

RELAX,
TANYA.
I'VE
GOT
THIS.



"MY NAME IS
WALLY WEST.

"I'M THE
FASTEST
KID ALIVE.

"WAY FASTER THAN A
DERANGED GUNMAN
ON A ROOFTOP
EIGHTY YARDS AWAY.



"TANYA AND I ARE
STUDENTS AT DEFIANCE--
'DEATHSTROKE ACADEMY'--
WHICH IS TO SAY--

"--WE'RE HEROES
BEING TRAINED BY THE
WORLD'S DEADLIEST
ASSASSIN.

"I SUPPOSE SOMEWHERE, ON SOME
PLANET, THAT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE."



"IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESURRECT HIS DEAD SON, DEATHSTROKE ONCE STOLE MY POWERS FROM ME.

"HE TELLS ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN THAT EXPERIENCE CHANGED HIM FOREVER.

"EVERYBODY ON TEAM DEFIANCE HAS THEIR OWN REASON FOR PLAYING DEATHSTROKE'S GAME.

"HERE'S MINE"

DEATHSTROKE

CREATED BY
MARY WOLFFMAN & GEORGE PÉREZ

DEFIANCE

CHAPTER FOUR

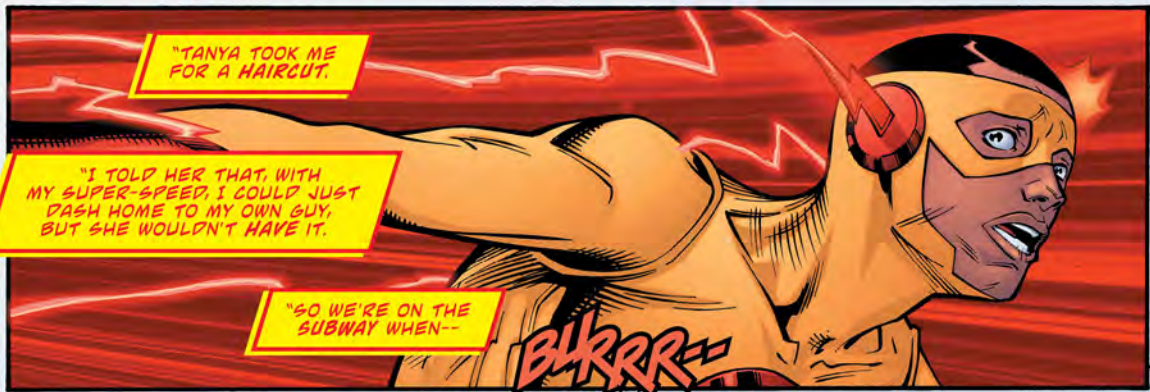
PRIEST — story DIOGENES NEVES — pencils JASON PAZ & TREVOR SCOTT — inks JEREMY COX — colors WILLIE SCHUBERT — letters
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"BEING FOURTEEN IS A LOT LIKE JOINING THE CIRCUS."

"YOU DREAM OF CHEERS ON THE HIGH WIRE."

"INSTEAD, EVERY DAY THERE'S A NEW SHOVEL."



"TANYA TOOK ME FOR A HAIRCUT."

"I TOLD HER THAT, WITH MY SUPER-SPEED, I COULD JUST DASH HOME TO MY OWN GUY, BUT SHE WOULDN'T HAVE IT."

"SO WE'RE ON THE SUBWAY WHEN--"

BURRRR



"--NO--"

"--HE'S FIRING."

--RUHHHATT--



"AND I'VE SCREWED THIS THING UP."

"SHOWING OFF FOR TANYA..."



--RATT--

"...I FORGOT THAT, EVEN WITH MY POWER, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CAN'T CONTROL."



"ONE IS MY RATE OF DESCENT."

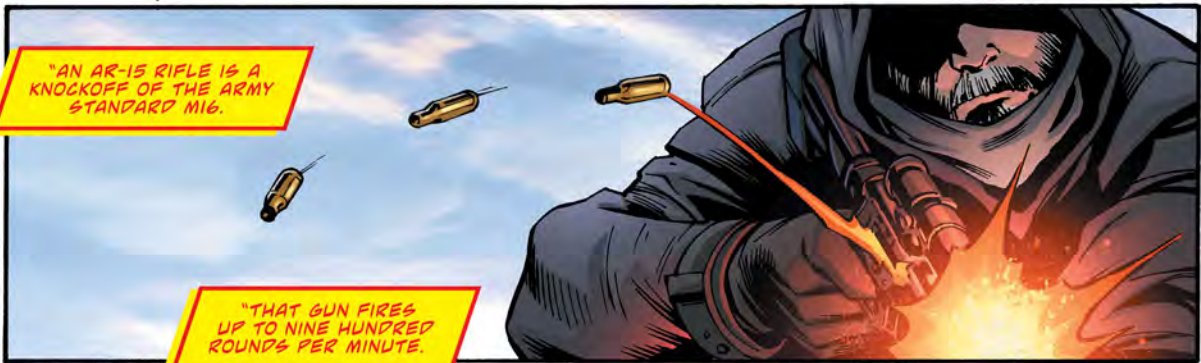
"I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER HOW FAST I CAN RUN DOWN A STAIRWAY."

"BUT THE MINUTE I LEAPT OFF OF THAT RAILROAD TRESTLE, I PUT SIR ISAAC NEWTON IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT."



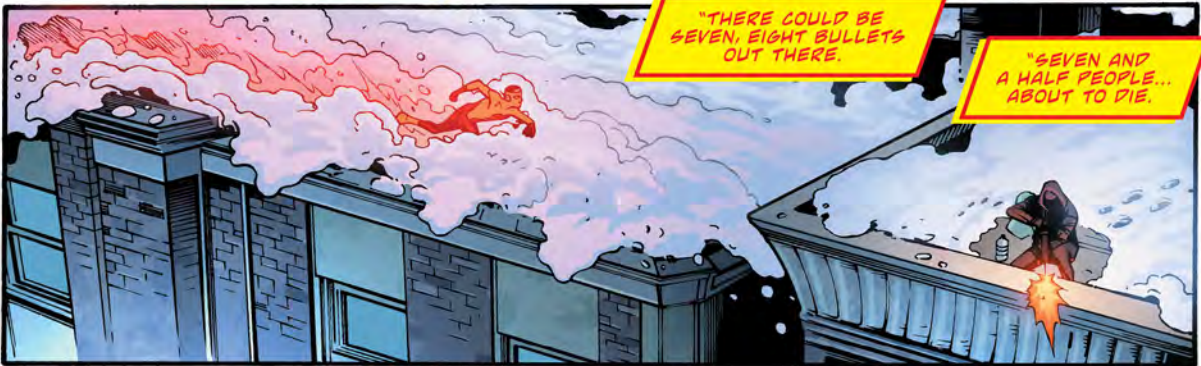
"IT TOOK 0.036 SECONDS FOR ME TO LEAP FROM THE TRACKS TO THE ROOF.

"FELT LIKE AN HOUR.



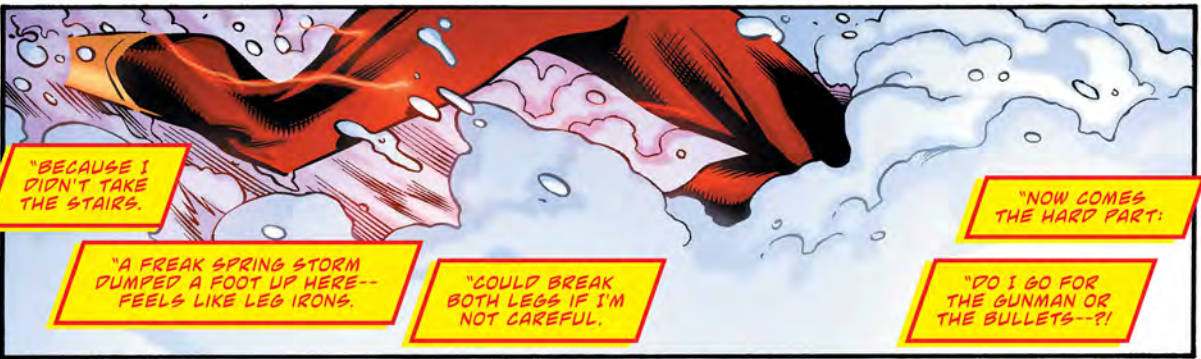
"AN AR-15 RIFLE IS A KNOCKOFF OF THE ARMY STANDARD M16.

"THAT GUN FIRES UP TO NINE HUNDRED ROUNDS PER MINUTE.



"THERE COULD BE SEVEN, EIGHT BULLETS OUT THERE.

"SEVEN AND A HALF PEOPLE... ABOUT TO DIE.



"BECAUSE I DIDN'T TAKE THE STAIRS.

"NOW COMES THE HARD PART:

"A FREAK SPRING STORM DUMPED A FOOT UP HERE-- FEELS LIKE LEG IRONS.

"COULD BREAK BOTH LEGS IF I'M NOT CAREFUL.

"DO I GO FOR THE GUNMAN OR THE BULLETS--?!



"I ZIP DOWN TO THE STREET TO SAVE SEVEN-AND-A-HALF PEOPLE--

"I TAKE HIM DOWN--

"--THAT GIVES HIM A SECOND SHOT.

"--THOSE BULLETS FIND THEIR MARK."