

WE SHOULD CELEBRATE MOM ON HER BIRTHDAY, I KNOW. IT'S JUST... THIS DAY HAS ALWAYS BEEN EASIER TO REMEMBER. I KNOW EXACTLY WHEN IT IS WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT A CALENDAR.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF HER...

"...I CAN'T HELP BUT GO BACK TO THAT MORNING."

JUST ONE LAST LOOP AND... THERE WE GO. I'LL HAVE NO CLIP-ON FOR MY SON.

I DON'T KNOW, MOM. I THOUGHT A BOW TIE WOULD BE COOL... BUT WHAT IF IT MAKES ME LOOK NERDY?

YOU LOOK HANDSOME, BARRY. BUT THAT'S TRUE NO MATTER WHAT YOU WEAR.

MOM ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.

DO I HAVE TO RUN IN THE RACE AT SCHOOL? WHAT IF I FINISH LAST?

ALL THAT YOU CAN DO IS TRY YOUR HARDEST. THEN YOU CAN RUN HOME--FAST AS THE WIND--AND WE'LL CELEBRATE.

YOUR FATHER AND I LOVE YOU, NO MATTER HOW YOU FINISH.

I HAD NO IDEA...

"...THAT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME I'D SEE HER ALIVE."

COMICSTV



"WE HAD FIELD DAY AT SCHOOL, AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN THE HUNDRED-METER DASH. I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I LISTENED TO MOM AND WENT THROUGH WITH IT. I REMEMBER FEELING SO PROUD."

WHERE YOU GOING, ALLEN?

HOME TO SHOW MY MOM THE RIBBON I WON.

YOU DIDN'T WIN ANYTHING, SLOW-POKE. THAT'S JUST A PARTICIPATION RIBBON. EVERYBODY GOT ONE.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. GO HOME TO YOUR MOMMY AND CRY!

"I SHOULD'VE NOTICED SOMETHING WAS WRONG AS SOON AS I SAW THE DOOR HAD BEEN BROKEN OPEN. BUT ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS GET TO MOM AS FAST AS I COULD, SO SHE COULD TELL ME ONE MORE TIME THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY."

"I THINK DEEP DOWN I KNEW--"

COMICOSITY



"--I WAS TOO LATE."

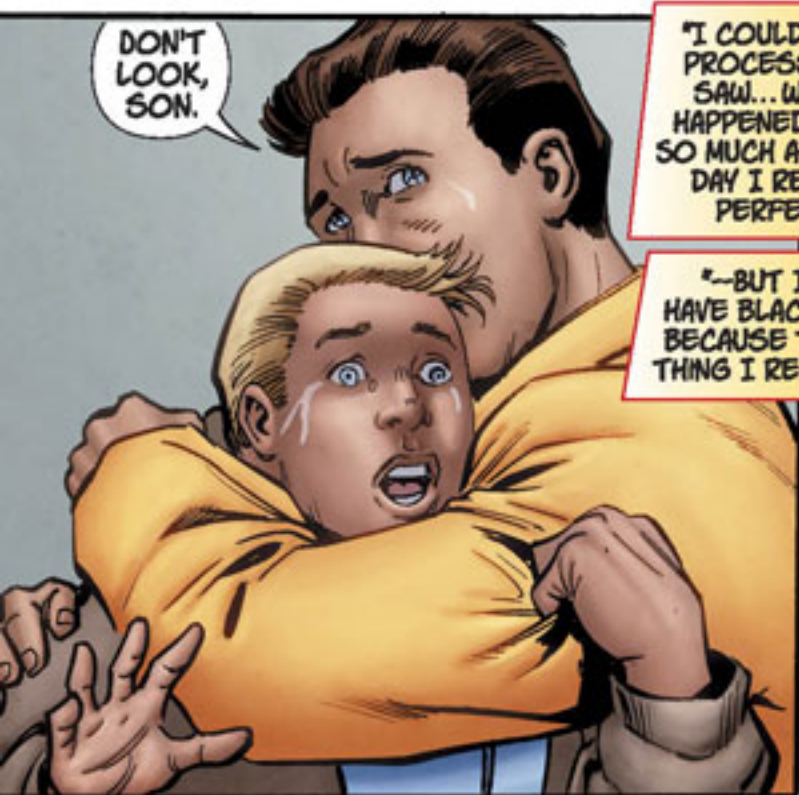
BARRY--!



DON'T LOOK, SON.

"I COULDN'T EVEN PROCESS WHAT I SAW... WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MOM. SO MUCH ABOUT THAT DAY I REMEMBER PERFECTLY--"

"--BUT I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT, BECAUSE THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER--"



"...WAS THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD LEFT BEING DRAGGED AWAY IN HANDCUFFS."

DAD!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF NORA ALLEN. ANYTHING YOU SAY...



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM? WHAT HAPPENED?!

HOLD ON, KID. I'VE GOT YOU.

"THEY SAID IT WAS AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE, THAT NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE INDICATED SOMEONE ELSE KILLED HER. BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. I WOULDN'T."

"THE DOOR HAD BEEN BROKEN FROM THE OUTSIDE. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING I COULDN'T QUITE REMEMBER..."

"I KNEW THE REAL KILLER WAS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, AND I WOULDN'T REST UNTIL I FOUND HIM."







"IF I WAS GOING TO TRACK DOWN THE EVIDENCE TO FIND MOM'S KILLER, I NEEDED TO LEARN EVERYTHING I COULD ABOUT FORENSICS."



MISTER ALLEN. ONE MORE TIME TARDY TO MY CLASS AND YOU'LL DROP A LETTER GRADE.

SORRY I'M LATE, PROFESSOR CARLSON. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

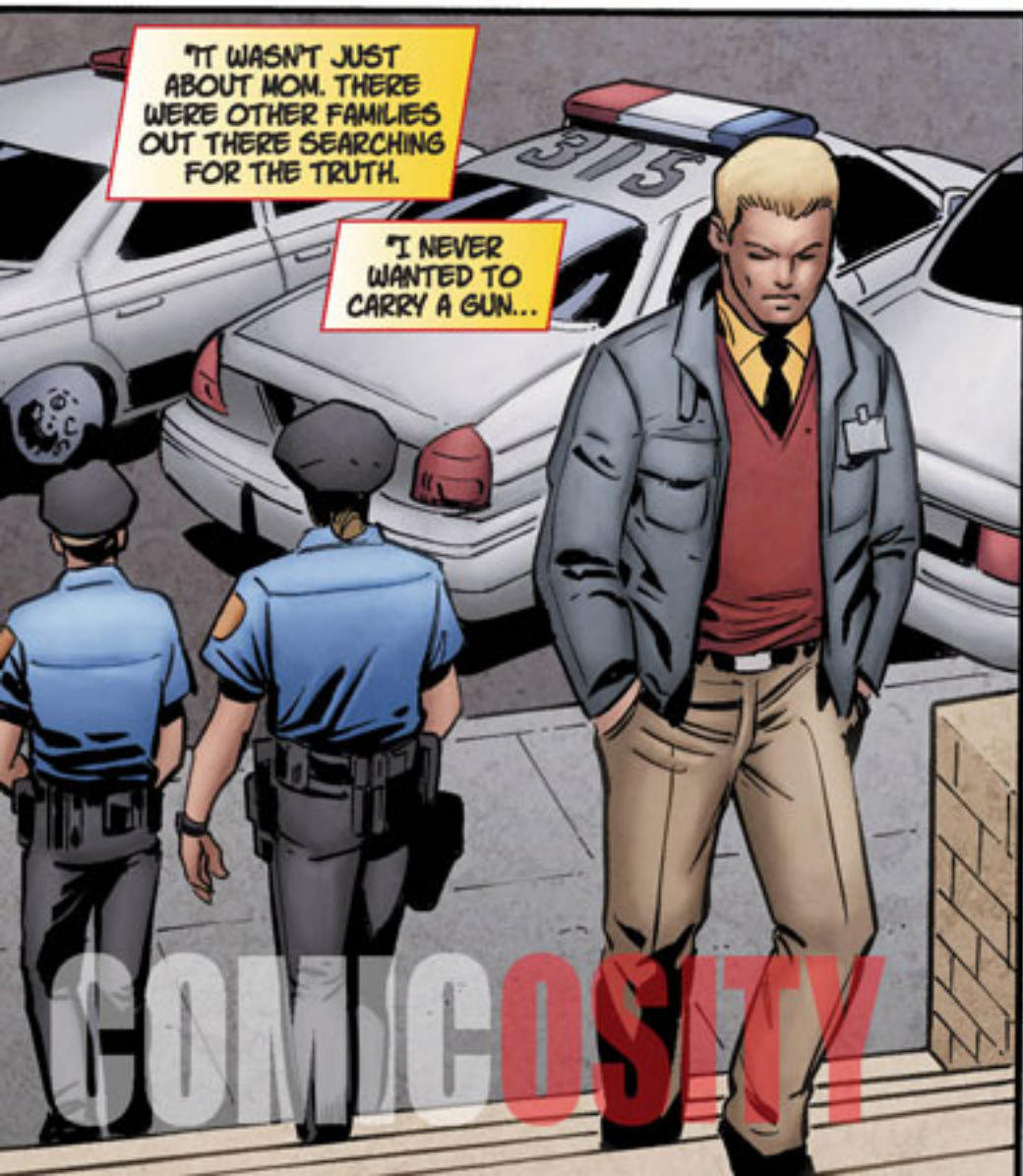
"AT LEAST I MADE IT TO GRADUATION ON TIME. I HAD MY DEGREE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE. NOW I COULD TURN MY SKILLS TOWARD MOM'S CASE."



"IT FELT GOOD..."



"...UNTIL I REALIZED I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO CELEBRATE WITH."



"IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT MOM. THERE WERE OTHER FAMILIES OUT THERE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH."

"I NEVER WANTED TO CARRY A GUN..."



"...BUT I COULD STILL BRING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE."