



IN TIMES PAST
THERE WAS A MAN
MADE OF DARKNESS.

HAUNTED BY HIS OWN HISTORY, THE
MAN LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE
REAL HORRORS OF LIFE WAS THAT
YOUR LIFE COULD BE AFFECTED BY
THE MALICIOUSNESS OF OTHERS.



AT HIS WORST,
HE TURNED TO
MISDEEDS AND
MISCHIEF...



...BUT ONE DAY HE
WAS BLESSED WITH
FRIENDS AND LOVE.
HE FOUND HOPE...



...AND GAVE
UP HIS WICKED
WAYS.



THE MAN OF
DARKNESS LIVED
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER...

Central City.

...BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.



WE'RE BEING WATCHED...

...BY AN UNSEEN FORCE THE OLDER WALLY WEST SAW WHILE HE WAS LOST IN THE SPEED FORCE...AND EVER SINCE HE RETURNED THERE HAS BEEN SOMETHING ON MY MIND.

IF FRIENDS WERE FORGOTTEN...

...ARE THERE OLD FOES THAT WE FORGOT, TOO?

BARRY?

BARRY ALLEN? ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

WHAT... YES. YES.

WHAT DID I SAY?

I'M... SORRY. WALLY HAD A PROBLEM AT SCHOOL?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM, HE'S NOT AT SCHOOL. THEY CALLED. HE'S BEEN DITCHING.

WHAT? HE HAS?

AND HIS GRADES ARE GOING DOWN. A LOT.

I KNOW YOU AND WALLY HAVE HAD YOUR UPS AND DOWNS, BUT HE STILL NEEDS SOMEONE WITH A CALMER DISPOSITION TO TALK TO... I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HAVE A CHAT WITH HIM.

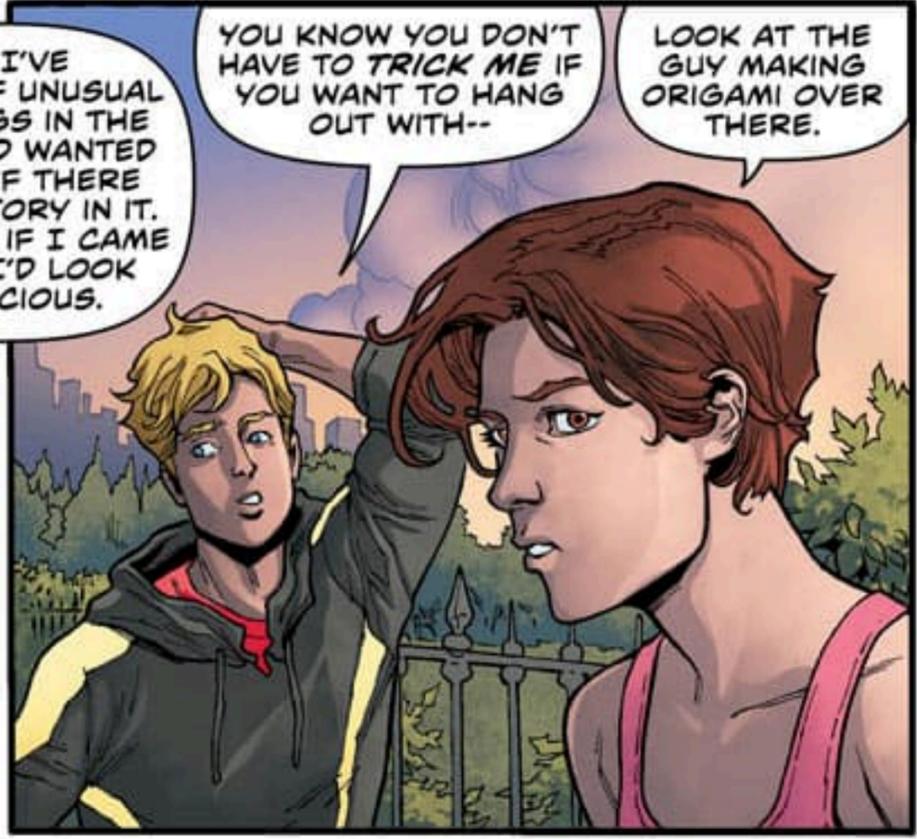


NEED TO PRETEND THAT I'M WINDED FOR A MOMENT.



IS THIS WHY YOU INVITED ME TO JOG WITH YOU?

NO, I'VE HEARD OF UNUSUAL MUGGINGS IN THE PARK AND WANTED TO SEE IF THERE WAS A STORY IN IT. THOUGHT IF I CAME ALONE I'D LOOK SUSPICIOUS.



YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRICK ME IF YOU WANT TO HANG OUT WITH--

LOOK AT THE GUY MAKING ORIGAMI OVER THERE.



YOU MEET THE WEIRDEST PEOPLE IN THIS PARK.

SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IS...



...OFF.



YOUR HEAD NEVER LEAVES THE LAB, DOES IT, BARRY?

I BET YOU SEE CRIME SCENES EVERYWHERE.

YOU'RE NOT WRONG.



EVERYBODY EMPTY YOUR WALLETS!



BENEDICT BOOKER, A.K.A. PAPER CUT, NEW TO CENTRAL CITY, TOO NEW TO HAVE MUCH INFO ON HIM.

EVER SINCE THE ROGUES SKIPPED TOWN, I'VE BEEN HEARING RUMBLINGS AT CENTRAL CITY PD THAT SOME NEW CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN SHOWING UP LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES.

NOT KNOWING WHERE THE ROGUES ARE WORRIES ME. IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE GONE INTO HIDING, BUT EVERY TIME THEY HAVE, IT'S LED TO BAD NEWS.

OR GET CUT!

THE SPEED OF DARKNESS PART ONE

Joshua Williamson Writer Felipe Watanabe Penciller
Oclair Albert Inker Chris Sotomayor Colorist Steve Wands Letterer
Carmine Di Gandomenico Cover Dave Johnson Variant Cover
Amedeo Turturro & Diego Lopez Assistant Editors
Brian Cunningham Editor

Back to FLASH #2

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT PAPER CUT BEFORE—

BARRY! LOOK OUT!
IRIS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

SAVING YOUR LIFE!

CAN'T RUN AWAY AND BECOME THE FLASH AS LONG AS IRIS IS HOLDING ON TO ME. SHE COULD FIGURE OUT THAT HER FRIEND BARRY ALLEN IS THE FLASH.

I'M NOT SEEING MONEY HERE, PEOPLE!

MAYBE I NEED TO CUT A BIT DEEPER THIS TIME!

BUT MY SECRET IDENTITY ISN'T WORTH LIVES BEING LOST.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR A DISTRACTION. I HAVE TO ACT NOW.