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The Flash Vol. 2: Speed Of Darkness (Rebirth)



Synopsis

A part of DC Rebirth! A new storm brews over Central City and disproves the old adage about lightning never, well...you know. Just as Barry begins to feel overwhelmed fighting crime, a new speedster debuts--but just where did this amazing new friend come from? Spinning directly out of the epic events of DC UNIVERSE: REBIRTH, the Fastest Man Alive finds himself at the center of a DC Universe at a crossroads. From up-and-coming writer Joshua Williamson (Illuminati, Red Skull) and illustrator Carmine Di Giandomenico comes THE FLASH VOL. 2! Collects issues #9-13. Rebirth honors the richest history in comics, while continuing to look towards the future. These are the most innovative and modern stories featuring the world's greatest superheroes, told by some of the finest storytellers in the business. Honoring the past, protecting our present, and looking towards the future. This is the next chapter in the ongoing saga of the DC Universe. The legacy continues.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Joshua Williamson’s writing is on-point.”

“Writer Joshua Williamson makes [THE FLASH] as accessible as possible to new readers.”
“Comic Book Resources”
“plenty of action, emotion, and twists”
—Newsarama

Joshua Williamson lives in Portland, Oregon. His career as a comics writer kicked off the ground in 2007, and since then he has done a number of books for Shadowline, Image, Desperado

Publishing, Kick Start, and DC Comics. He has written the Uncharted limited series, based on the popular, best-selling video game series, Voodoo and Marvel's Illuminati and RedSkull. He is currently writing THE FLASH for DC Comics.

One of the best books ever I liked it very much and I liked how Joshua Williamson was awesome at writing

Standard Flash story. Writing is decent, but there is not anything special about the art.

It's mostly filler, but this volume has its brilliant moments. Story: Barry learns that Wally (the new Kid Flash) has been fighting crime without him to watch over Wally. Younger Wally meets older Wally and the two have a heart to heart. Wally feels like he's being left out of the loop because Flash won't tell young Wally his secret identity, and Wally learns a big secret about himself. We get a cool issue where Wally, behind Iris and Barry's back, fights a new rogue, Papercut, and kinda fails, with Flash having to step in due to Wally's arrogance and showboating. Wally decides to have Flash trust him again by stopping a "walking shadow" that's going around scaring people. But, Wally soon finds himself trapped in the Shadowlands by The Shade. Luckily, Flash steps in once more but they find out The Shade isn't in control of his powers and they all set out to find Shade's lover, Hope, and Iris. Wally finds out he has a power that Barry may not have, and he can use it against the shadows! I found this segment of the book wrapped up far too quickly. There was so much potential to define and further explore the Shadowlands. I felt as though we only see a very small portion of it. We go into the next story, which is a nice Christmas issue, with Wally going on patrol so Barry and Iris can go on a date. We get to examine Barry and Iris's relationship further as they were never together in this continuity. Meanwhile, Wally takes on Tar Pit and realizes that not all villains are black and white, and sometimes we can misjudge a situation or a person. It all wraps up nicely with some real heart! The last couple of pages set up nicely for the third volume, Rogues Reloaded, which I'm really looking forward to! Art: The art here is mostly "meh", but I LOVED the issue drawn by Felipe Watanabe. I'm familiar with his work on the New 52 Cyborg title after Ivan Reis left. His issue is great, and Kid Flash almost never looked so good! The other two artists are somewhat a discounted version of Carmine de Giandomenico, which is not saying much in my opinion. I'm not a huge fan of de Giandomenico's style, but he has his moments of artistic brilliance. The artists here do an acceptable job, but The Flash deserves better talent. I miss the days of Francis Manapul! Overall: It's mostly filler, but what we get here is a New Wally centric book, also narrated by him. I'm loving what

DC is doing with this character, and I'm glad they kept him around, even after bringing back classic Wally. The more I see of him, the more I like of him. There's some good, entertaining moments with Wally being funny, and cool with some of the things he does, and this title also was able to focus on developing this relatively new character. There was a nice setup for volume 3, and I'm definitely looking forward to that!

Something for Flash fans of every generation here. Much of the book focuses on the adventures of the young Kid Flash and his training by the Barry Allen Flash. The new hero seems very likable, though he is a bit too good, perhaps. In the midst of these stories, we also get some appearances from Wally West and a tease of Jay Garrick that ties into the larger mysteries of Rebirth. The central arc features a cameo by Shade. He seems very much the version from James Robinson's Starman series, but what was most interesting is that he seems to know of the "true" history of Allen and Iris West. In the current comic, they are struggling to be a couple, but previously their relationship was much more. Although I liked the overall story, I felt the art was not always appealing. This seems the norm for DC now with guest artists coming in to do an issue or two, but it makes the series feel too much like a try-out book.

So Kid Flash meets former Kid Flash who is now just Flash, but not the Barry Allen Flash, who is also hanging around. So many people have super speed now that it just makes me feel all the less speedy. The new supervillain in Central City is *Mr. Paper Cut*. Yes, if you don't empty your wallet, he'll give you one of those annoying papercuts. Seriously? A kid with safety scissors could defeat this villain. Kid Flash wants to prove himself, but he can't quite do it, even with a third string villain like Papercut. To make amends, he goes after an old Central City supervillain *The Shade* (vintage 1940s version). Of course, Kid Flash ends up as a captive in the Shadowlands, and of course Flash and Iris West suffer the same fate. The story turns from mediocre to ridiculous when Iris becomes the co-Queen of Shadowlands. The "possessed by evil" plot is the last refuge of deadline-driven writers who can't coax something original from their imaginations. The same is true of the intertwined "stop them before they open a portal to Earth and destroy everything" plot. Just as Flash and Kid Flash are about to be overwhelmed by Shadow Monsters, they take a break to have a heart-to-heart talk about all of Kid Flash's anxiety issues. Seriously? How about the anxiety of being devoured by

Shadow Monsters? I don't have much patience for soap opera even at appropriate moments, but tossing it in at a laughably inappropriate moment is just too much. Fortunately, F and KF are able to save the world with a (spoiler alert) fist bump (end spoiler alert). Just how silly is that? The art in this story is well, it's a sketchy style I don't want to get used to. The final story starts with Barry going on a date with Iris. Although you wouldn't know it because the two characters are drawn in a completely different way. They wouldn't recognize themselves. Not that the version of Barry Allen in the earlier story even remotely resembles Carmine Infantino's conception of the character, which is my book is the one true face of Barry Allen. The story's concept, which isn't bad, is that Kid Flash battles crime to give Barry and Iris a chance to have dinner together. The story features supervillain Tar Pit and has a nice little Christmas message. It doesn't redeem the volume, but it pulls a 2 star complaint fest into a 3 star review.

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