

**THE FLASH**  
**"Reignited"**  
**Issue #1 of 5**  
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**Third Revision - September 22, 2005**

**PAGE ONE**

**PANEL #1**

Across the top of the page - an ESTABLISHING SHOT OF the Pacific Coast Highway. A beautiful, idealized, Baywatch-like representation of the Santa Monica shoreline...

1. CAPTION (BART): My name is Bart Allen.

**PANEL #2**

A beat-up Oldsmobile Delta 88 convertible - one door is a different color from the rest of the car (the car is red, the door is yellow - yes, I know the symbolism is kinda anvil-licious, but go with me here) - slows down near A BEVY OF BEAUTIFUL VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS on the beach...

...and behind the wheel is BART ALLEN (21, long haired, still kind of young and punky), enjoying the view...

2. CAPTION (BART): Wanna know what I love about my life?

**PANEL #3**

TINY. Bart steps on the accelerator -

**PANEL #4**

- Bart's Oldsmobile SPUTTERS - cars behind him HONK - the volleyball-playing beauties laugh... the guy in the Porsche behind Bart gets mad:

3. GUY IN THE PORSCHE BEHIND BART: Could you BE any slower?

**PANEL #5**

Bart smiles, unfazed, as his car putters away...

4. CAPTION (BART): I am not the fastest man alive.

PAGE TWO

**PANEL #1**

TOP TWO THIRDS OF THE PAGE: a splashy, blue-skies-and- sunshine image that gives a nice sense of the scope of Los Angeles' superhighways as Bart makes a leisurely stroll of his drive.

**NOTE: Throughout this book, there should be a distinct color palette difference between Keystone and Los Angeles. Whereas Keystone should be predominantly grey - a hard working industrial burgh with an angular, no-nonsense feel - Los Angeles is full of saturated colors, accentuated by the gold of an ever-burning sun.**

Additionally, the Los Angeles of this new Flash should not be the cliché of show business. Our new organizing metaphor is the freeway - an endless horizontal geography that conveys endless motion within a sprawling whole. Just as the connection between Wally West's speed and the city he called his home was the city's character as a blue collar burg dedicated to the manufacture of cars, airplanes - of motion itself - the connection between Bart and his adopted hometown is one of a scattered landscape (like Bart's own mind) connected by an adamantine network of motion (like Bart's power).

1. CAPTION (BART): I am not The Flash.
2. BART: (singing to the radio) Duh-nuh-nuh-nuh, nuh-nuh, nuh-nuh-nuh, WE LOVE IT!
3. CAPTION (BART): Yeah, yeah. You and everybody else probably assumed I'd be wearing the tights and hood ornament by now...
4. CAPTION (BART): ...but with all I've been through, I just want a normal life in a new town. That's right. Normal. Common. Ordinary.

BOTTOM THIRD OF THE PAGE

**Title and credits - including the familiar "THE FLASH" logo - only here, the word "FLASH" has a crudely drawn line through it: as if Bart edited the logo with a sharpie!**

**PAGE THREE**

**PANEL #1**

Bart walks down a dark alley - his back to the camera. In the extreme foreground: a garbage can, the Flash suit inside!

1. CAPTION (BART): If I wanted to get all emo on it, I'd be like "Boo-hoo, I'm The Flash no more."

2. CAPTION (BART): But that's not how I roll.

3. CAPTION (BART): How about I just explain with some highlights from the messed-up life of Bartholomew Allen, esquire - aka "Daredevil Allen," aka "Impulse," aka "Kid Flash?"

The following captions float over two vignettes illustrating Bart's comments - instead of a traditional panels, the images are divided by a jagged lightning bolt motif.

**VIGNETTE #1: Bart as a very small child, suspended in a fetal position by wires - his brain attached to a mass of wires, his body crisscrossed with tubes and other ultra high-tech medical gear. It's a disturbing sight - none of it seems designed to heal or comfort.**

4. CAPTION (BART): I was raised in solitude in the thirtieth century, where scientists genetically engineered me for super speed - without even asking.

5. CAPTION (BART): Eventually I had to come to the 21st century - don't ask me why, it's complicated.

**VIGNETTE #2: Bart as Impulse/Kid Flash - in a SLAM BANG TABLEAU - besieged on all sides by his enemies - most notably a shotgun-wielding Deathstroke.**

6. CAPTION (BART): Of course, I got dragged into the family business. Being a speedster with the last name "Allen" is like being born into a family of Italian firefighters...

7. CAPTION: ...it's not like you have a choice. So, while most kids worried about zits, girls and driver's licenses, I fought crime and watched the people I love get attacked and murdered. Yeah - good times.

**PAGE FOUR**

**PANEL #1**

Across the page, NO BORDERS. The DC Heroes - Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman: all in various states of SCREAMING in agony, as if caught in a crisis that is - well - infinite.

1. CAPTION (BART): Then came the Infinite Crisis. Now, I know a thing or two about crises, and lemme say... dang.

**PANEL #2**

The speedster heroes - Jay, Wally and Bart - all caught in a massive SHOCKWAVE.

2. CAPTION (BART): The Speed Force, the mystical source that powers every speedster, got totally obliterated.

**PANEL #3**

Wally West, sans Flash uniform - living and loving Linda Park and their children in a living room...

3. CAPTION (BART): And Wally West? The third man to carry the name of The Flash? The one who rode me until I earned his respect?

**PANEL #4**

WIDER TO REVEAL - that Wally West's dream life is taking place in a weird, amorphous limbo!

4. CAPTION (BART): He's kicking it in this weird limbo where he gets the eternal illusion of a perfect life where he doesn't have to be The Flash!

**PANEL #5**

Bart and Jay Garrick (holding his hubcap helmet under his arm) - stand ALONE before a sign that reads "WELCOME TO KEYSTONE CITY... the city spreads before them in all of its sprawling midwestern, big--shouldered glory!

5. CAPTION (BART): Anyway, me and Jay Garrick - the Old School Flash, my teacher and mentor - came home. We were civilians now.

**PANEL #6**

A CLOSE UP of Bart's finger - he's wearing the Flash Ring!

6. CAPTION (BART): I did keep one little slice of superhero bling-bling.

7. CAPTION (BART): I'm sentimental like that.

**PAGE FIVE**

**PANEL #1**

Wearing coveralls, Bart works on an the Delta 88 seen in the first page (only here it's rusting, and badly in need of repair) at VINNIE'S HOUSE OF BIG BLOCKS - a cozy, grease-stained, old school garage festooned with American muscle car parts.

1. CAPTION (BART): Life without the Speed Force was kinda great. I had new priorities, like earning some cash money...

**PANEL #2**

Bart in his room at the Garrick brownstone. The place is messy, festooned with music and movie posters. Bart trains his eyes squarely on his computer monitor, blocking out everything else:

2. CAPTION (BART): ...and totally killing on Iron Hawk Knight Quest. Don't know IHKQ? The world's biggest online RPG?

3. BART: KNEEL BEFORE BARTHUS - OR HE SHALL SMITE YOU!

4. CAPTION (BART): You don't even want to know the amount of butt I've kicked.

**PANELS #3-#5**

SMALL - IN A ROW ACROSS THE PAGE - A series of shots of Bart sitting in a movie theater -

- Panel #3) - Bart offers popcorn to a completely disinterested Michael Turner-type pretty girl.

5. CAPTION (PANEL #3 TOP - BART): I even tried to get myself a girlfriend.

- Panel #4) Laughing uncontrollably at the movie while a second stereotypical pretty girl regards him with disdain.

6. CAPTION (PANEL #4 - BART): And by that I mean a normal girlfriend.

- Panel #5) Bart finally catches a smile from a cute, tattooed alterna-girl with a pierced nose.

7. CAPTION (PANEL #5 - BART): Let me clarify my definition of "normal."

**PANEL #6**

The theater is an old-fashioned marquee and box-office joint. A movie palace: all lit up and romantic in the night. Bart kisses alterna-girl outside the theater...

8. CAPTION (BART): A normal girlfriend doesn't up and turn into a slime mold from the planet Zaitar, or go into temporal witness protection for finding out my secret identity.

**PANEL #7**

...Bart and alterna-girl stop kissing. She smiles. Bart returns the smile.

9. CAPTION (BART): There was just one tiny catch to my brand-new "normal" life...

**PAGE SIX**

**PANEL #1**

SMALL - SAME AS PANELS #2 & #3 BELOW. Bart and alterna-girl exchange good-byes...

1. ALTERNA-GIRL: Wanna ride home?

2. BART: I'll walk.

**PANEL #2**

SMALL. Bart smiles.

**PANEL #3**

SMALL. Alterna-girl is now alone. The only sign of Bart is an action line where he stood.

**PANEL #4**

HUGE! DOMINATES THE REST OF THE PAGE! Bart runs as Keystone turns into a SPEED BLUR behind him.

3. CAPTION (BART): I NEVER REALLY LOST MY POWERS!

4. CAPTION (BART): I don't know how I kept them and didn't much care.

5. CAPTION (BART): It wasn't hard keeping it secret. With the Speed Force gone...

6. CAPTION (BART): ...and the less I used my powers, the less I relied on them.

7. CAPTION (BART): I could feel myself becoming an average joe and I liked it.

8. CAPTION (BART): 'cause you know what happens when you don't use your muscles for a while?



**PAGE SEVEN**

**PANEL #1 - #3**

SMALL - ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE. Bart struggles to put the brakes on - he stumbles - he slips...

1. CAPTION (BART): They atrophy.
2. BART (PANEL #1): ...whoa...
3. BART (PANEL #2): ...whoa!
4. BART (PANEL #3): WHOA!

**PANEL #4**

...then tumbles and falls on his butt - leaving a huge skid mark/divot behind him...

**PANEL #5**

Bart looks up to see where he has fallen...

**PANEL #6**

A HUGE PANEL SHOWING the Flash museum. Bart has stumbled right in front of the statue of Wally West.

5. CAPTION (BART): I know what you're thinking. How unheroic! How ungrateful! How unworthy!
6. CAPTION (BART): But think about Wally. He turned his back on the Flash legacy. For himself - for his family.

**PANEL #7**

A CLOSE UP ON BART: looking up at Wally.

7. CAPTION: (BART): He'd understand.

**PAGE EIGHT**

**PANEL #1**

A wrapped gift under his arm, Bart rushes across the street toward the Garrick's brownstone - still in his coveralls from the garage - barely sliding away from an oncoming TRUCK -

1. CAPTION (BART): And let's be honest. The Rogues were gone... Keystone didn't need a champion - right?

2. SFX: HONK!

3. BART: I'm walking here!

**PANEL #2**

Bart BURSTS through the front door of Jay and Joan Garrick's brownstone.

4. BART: Am I...

**PANEL #3**

REVERSE ANGLE to REVEAL the dinner table at the Garrick home - with Jay at the head, surrounded by FRIENDS as Joan clears the dishes.

Behind the table is a large sign that reads "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAY." Balloons and streamers decorate the dining room.

Everybody stares at Bart.

5. BART: ...late?

**PANEL #4**

A sheepish Bart approaches the table, holding out the gift.

6. BART: Uh, sorry about - the garage was in-freakin' sane and - I didn't even get a chance to change and - happy birthday?

7. JAY: Thank you.

8. BART: There's uh - some grease on the wrapper -

**PANEL #5**

Bart watches as Jay tears away the gift-wrapping and looks at the gift inside with some confusion.

9. JAY: It's - a T-shirt?

10. BART: Yeah, I have one just like it.

11. JAY: What is a "Strong Bad?"

**PANEL #6**

Bart is about to answer when -

12. SFX/BOOMING VOICE FROM OUTSIDE: **I HAVE COME FOR YOU FLASH!**

**PAGE NINE**

**PANEL #1**

WHAT THE HIGH HOLY HELL? Everyone springs to their feet to look out the window - great concern on their faces...

...OK, let's not mince words, it's not so much great concern as much as it is that they are all super-mega-crap-in-your-pants-utterly FUCKSTRUCK!

**PANEL #2**

Bart and Jay dominate the panel - framed by the front window of the Garrick brownstone as seen from the outside - as they, and the assembled guests react to what is clearly a hideous sight -

1. JAY: Sweet mother of -

- but Jay's statement is cut short as the story flows right into:

**PANEL #3**

A HUGE REVERSE ANGLE showing what Bart and Jay have already seen:

A MASSIVE SWARM of black, baseball-sized micro-bots! Swirling over the skyline - forming a gigantic, monochromatic face in the sky. A frightening, baleful, pulsating visage that resembles none other than -

**THE KILG%RE!**

Scourge of the Pleiades cluster and nemesis of The Flash from times past!

2. THE KILG%RE: **SURRENDER FLASH! GIVE ME VENGEANCE OR KEYSTONE CITY DIES!**

**PANEL #4**

The face flows out of shape, swarming into a vicious flow - an almost liquid army of vicious micro-bots...

3. SFX: **WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSSSSSSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!**

**PANEL #5**

The swarm completely engulfs one of the more salient skyscrapers of the Keystone architecture -

- it's an awesome and frightening sight, a great edifice completely taken over by a lethal black cloud!

**PAGE TEN**

**PANEL #1**

The Swarm of micro-bots squeezes into the massive skyscraper: a giant black hand crushing a thin clay pot -

1. SFX: **CRACK! CCRRAACCKK! CCCRRRAAACCKKK!**

**PANEL #2**

IMPLODING THE BUILDING WITH AN AWFUL CRUSHING NOISE!

2. SFX: **KEEEEERRRRRRRRRRRROOOOOOOOOOOOSSSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHH!**

**HOLY MOTHERFUCKING SHIT!**

**PANEL #3**

- before reforming into the hateful face of The Kilg%re as the shattered remains of the building fall to the ground like a storm of dust!

3. THE KILG%RE: **THIS IS FINAL WARNING! SURRENDER FLASH - OR WATCH YOUR CITY'S END!**

**PANEL #4**

RESUME ON JAY AND BART. Watching from the window. Everyone continues to stare dead ahead in fear and surprise - except for Jay, who has already turned to go - a resigned look on his face.

4. JAY: Excuse me.

5. BART: Jay...?

**PAGE ELEVEN**

**NOTE: The horizontal divisions between the panels on this page are dominated by SFX text of The Kilg%re's BOOMING VOICE, echoing the words "SURRENDER FLASH! SURRENDER NOW!" It is crucial that the dialogue on this page play rushed - pressured by the cataclysm developing outside!**

**PANEL #1**

Bart enters Jay's study. Remember Mr. Incredible's office? This is something like that, all wood paneling and masculine brown leather. If comics could convey smells, this office would have the pleasant aroma of Old Spice and the masculine scent of broken-in leather. Memorabilia from Jay's superhero days is arranged on the walls with neat, military precision -

- only Jay is taking his Flash jersey down from a hanger!

1. BART: Are you smoking crack? You can't go out there - you don't even know what that thing is!

2. JAY: I know that face. The Kilg%re.

**PANEL #2**

Bart gives a total and complete "WTF?" look as Jay removes the shirt he's wearing...

3. JAY: He must have found a way to download his conscience into a swarm of self-replicating micro-bots. Every time he destroys something he uses the raw material to build more of himself.

4. BART: But... Wally already fragged this guy!

**PANEL #4**

...and puts on his Flash jersey.

5. JAY: Obviously he's none too happy about that...

6. BART: ...this isn't your fight.

7. JAY: It wants the Flash. I'll give it The Flash.

**PANEL #5**

Jay removes his winged helmet from a display case on a shelf as he casts his eyes on Bart - his expression resigned:

8. JAY: Just call for help. Hal, Clark, Diana, anyone you can -

9. BART: No!

**PANEL #6**

A SMALL CLOSE-UP as Jay gives Bart his best attempt at a "what the hell" look.

10. JAY: Hell, Bart. You gotta die of something.



**PAGE TWELVE**

**PANEL #1**

Jay races down the street toward the menacing creature!

1. CAPTION (BART): I gotta hand it to the Old Man, he's got guts like I'll never know.

2. CAPTION: The only thing between him and certain death was a hubcap and a jersey, but he still raced into battle like it was the Golden Age.

**PANEL #2**

The creature rears up over Jay - HEAVING A MIGHTY ROAR OF BATTLE!

3. THE KILGORE: **FFFFFFFFLLLLLLLLAAAAAAAASSSSSSSHHHHHHHH!**

**PANEL #3**

A tendril-like formation of micro-bots lashes out from the main mass and wraps around Jay - who cries out in pain!

4. JAY: AAARGH!

**PANEL #4**

Bart watches the melee from the sidewalk outside the Garrick brownstone: Joan stands by him, petrified, her face completely overtaken with horror -

5. JOAN: Oh God... please... no...

- and the look on Bart's face is one of unrelenting guilt. Right now he hates himself as much as we hate him for not doing what he needs to do!

**PANEL #5**

An EXTREME CLOSE-UP of Bart's eyes - stricken - full of fear and apprehension - the eyes of a boy who doesn't know how to be The Flash.

**PAGE THIRTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

Bart turns to Joan -

1. BART: Don't worry...

...and what comes next happens in a whip of a second - but for Bart, the moment plays as if in slo-mo...

**PANEL #2**

...the ring opens as the street, Joan and everything in this world vanishes around Bart!

2. BART: If he wants The Flash...

**PANEL #3**

The familiar (and eagerly awaited) scarlet costume pops out of the ring...

...BART STANDS ALONE AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND NOW.

**PANEL #4**

...and looms over Bart like a spectre - a harbinger of the crashing demise of his dreams of normalcy.

3. BART: I'll give him The Flash.

**PAGE FOURTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

Bart races down the street as The Kilg%re carries a struggling Jay Garrick over the Keystone skyline with it's tendril-like appendage.

1. THE KILG%RE: **REVENGE!**
2. CAPTION (BART): The Old Man was still alive...

**PANEL #2**

Bart speeds up the side of one of Keystone's tallest buildings - one with a particularly tall spire -

3. CAPTION (BART): ...but he wasn't gonna last much longer...

**PANEL #3**

- from which he launches himself at super speed up into the air  
- heading straight for the Kilg%re's outstretched tendril -

4. CAPTION (BART): ...so I leaped without thinking.

**PANEL #4**

- AND PULLS JAY FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE MONSTER!

5. SFX: **THWOOOOOM!**

**PAGE FIFTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

The Kilg%re's micro-bot face contorts into a mask of rage -

1. HE KILG%RE: **NOOOOOOO!**

**PANEL #2**

- as Bart Races down the façade of a building, carrying an unconscious Jay in his arms -

2. SFX: **ZOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!**

3. CAPTION (BART): The Old Man had a few broken bones, maybe a concussion... but he'd live.

**PANEL #3**

- and SKIDS to a stop in the middle of the street - surrounded by stunned, amazed PASSERS BY!

4. PASSER-BY: Is it...?

5. PASSER-BY #2: It is - he's back!

**PANEL #4**

Bart looks around at the assembling crowd, indicating the still-unconscious Jay:

6. BART: GET HIM OUT OF HERE! GO!

**PANEL #5**

The people scatter - some of them drag Jay away - as Bart looks up to see The Kilg%re - looming above!

7. THE KILG%RE (OFF PANEL): **YOU WILL DIE!**

**PANEL #6**

A CLOSE UP ON BART - looking up, pissed and loaded for bear!

8. BART: Come get some.

**PAGE SIXTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

The Kilg%re engulfs Bart!

1. SFX: **THHHHHWWWWAAAAAAMMMMMPPPPP!**

2. CAPTION (BART): You know - when I said "come get some"...

**PANEL #2**

The Kilg%re rises above the city - it's face finally registering glee -

3. THE KILG%RE: **AT LAST!**

4. CAPTION (BART): ...I didn't expect him to run with it.

**PANEL #3**

Bart struggles inside The Kilg%re - punching out the micro-bots as fast as he can!

5. CAPTION (BART): Also, it quickly dawned on me that my plan to punch out all these little tennis balls of death...

6. CAPTION (BART): ...kinda blew.

**PANEL #4**

Bart is now upside down - but still punching away! His arms blurring as he destroys one micro-bot after another!

7. CAPTION (BART): I needed a "Plan B."

**PANEL #5**

Bart holds out one arm and spins it - creating a whirlwind.

8. CAPTION (BART): Step one: make a hole.

**PANEL #6**

THE FLOATING SWARM - SEEN FROM A DISTANCE: As Bart's whirlwind punches through the morass of micro-bots - allowing him a space from which to fall out!

**PAGE SEVENTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

An exaggerated perspective shot as Bart falls through the skies - and the head of The Kilg%re swirls into a deadly swarm - gunning for The Flash!

1. CAPTION (BART): Step two: Think. I speed-read the entire San Francisco Public Library, I gotta have some idea how to disable half a million micro-bots!

2. THE KILG%RE VOICE: **DIE FLASH DIE!**

3. CAPTION (BART): An electromagnetic pulse. That would knock out the circuits in each and every one of those things.

**PANEL #2**

Bart catches himself on a nearby building - running down the incline as the swarm follows, unstoppable.

4. CAPTION (BART): Of course, Jay could probably zip to a hardware store and build an EMP bomb out of spare parts with enough time left over to write a check and chew the fat with the cashier.

**PANEL #3**

Bart zips through a downtown street - the swarm in hot pursuit - cutting a swath through the city and getting closer -

- and the forward-facing end of the swarm has grouped into a smaller version of The Kilg%re's face - SCREAMING FOR BART'S BLOOD!

5. THE KILG%RE VOICE: **THERE IS NO ESCAPE!**

6. CAPTION (BART): Me? I was getting real tired - remember what I said about what happens to muscles when you don't use them?

**PANEL #4**

SMALL. C.U. on Bart - GASPING for air - and SWEATING!

7. CAPTION (BART): They atrophy.

8. SFX: Pant! Pant! Pant!

**PANEL #5**

Bart keeps running - and the swarm keeps chasing!

9. CAPTION (BART): So how does a guy like me release a burst of electrons to ionize the air into a circuit-destroying cloud of magnetism?

**PAGE EIGHTEEN**

**PANEL #1**

Keystone recedes into the background as Bart runs down one of the many freeways leading out of the city - stepping over all of the cars going in the opposite direction -

- and forcing the swarm away from his beloved Keystone and all of the potential innocent victims there!

1. CAPTION (BART): Let's just say that The Flash has a couple of friends who are - well, less than normal.

**PANEL #2**

REVERSE ANGLE: framed by an encroaching iris of mini-bots, Bart runs past a sign that reads -

**IRON HEIGHTS MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON**

- and in the distance up ahead - the dark, dreaded stronghold itself.

2. CAPTION (BART): Now, contrary to popular belief, not everyone imprisoned at Iron Heights is a complete Flash Hater...

**PANEL #3**

SEEN AS A MULTIPLICITY OF FLASHES TO CONNOTE THE VELOCITY OF THE ACTION - Bart leaps over the gate to the prison - tumbles in mid air and lands on the grounds - heading for the front gate!

3. SFX: **WHOOOSH!**

4. CAPTION (BART): Deep in the bowels lives a man who had the harsh luck to be working at a nuclear plant on the same day it went Chernobyl...

**PANEL #4**

A GUARD steps out of the front door to the prison - and Bart ZIPS by!

5. SFX: **ZOOM!**

**PANEL #5**

The swarm of micro-bots doesn't adjust to the narrow entrance fast enough and SLAMS into the prison façade (just as the hapless guard tosses himself out of the way)!



6. SFX: **CRASH!**

**PANEL #6**

FROM ABOVE: A dramatic shot showing the height of the vast, imposing windowless space as Bart runs down the wide main hallway of the dark keep that is Iron Heights...

7. CAPTION (BART): ...this poor guy became a walking nuclear reactor. His life was hell 'til The Flash got him special treatment at Iron Heights.

8. CAPTION (BART): His name is Neil Borman, but most people know him as...

**PAGE NINETEEN**

**PANEL #1**

A BIG ESTABLISHING SHOT OF NEIL BORMAN'S CELL INSIDE IRON HEIGHTS - FULLY TRICKED OUT BY S.T.A.R. LABS TO EMPLOY THIS TRAGIC FIGURE'S RADIOACTIVE BODY TO GENERATE POWER FOR THE ENTIRE PRISON.

Fallout sits on his bed in all of his transparent-skinned, glowing-eyed glory - looking up at the shaft of light cast into his room as Bart stands at the threshold to his cell.

1. CAPTION (BART): **FALLOUT!**

2. CAPTION (BART): And his entire body is made of highly-charged electrons!

3. FALLOUT: (confused - doesn't know what to make of this) Who are you?

**PANEL #2**

Bart steps up to Fallout... who recoils.

4. BART: I'm The Flash - and I need a favor!

5. FALLOUT: No... you're not him... you don't look like him...

**PANEL #3**

CLOSE UP ON BART: harried, needing to get this done.

6. BART: What? I'm wearing the suit, right?

**PANEL #4**

CLOSE UP ON A BEFUDDLED FALLOUT.

7. FALLOUT: I don't believe you.

**PANEL #5**

CLOSE ON AN EXASPERATED BART.

8. BART: Fine, then, don't. Just do me a favor and shoot a beam of highly-charged electrons - okay?

**PANEL #6**

WIDER TO INCLUDE BOTH BART AND FALLOUT.

8. FALLOUT: Where?

9. THE KILG%RE VOICE (OFF PANEL): **NOW YOU DIE FLASH!**

**PANEL #7**

CLOSE ON BART: pointing with his thumb.

10. BART: Uh... that-away?



**PANEL #6**

CLOSE UP ON THE RED GLOWING EYES WATCHING BART - and whoever, or whatever is in there, mutters something...

7. THE THING BEHIND THE BARS: It is exactly as I have foreseen...

**PAGE TWENTY-ONE**

**PANEL #1**

SMALL - ON BART'S SLEEPING FACE - as a shaft of light from an opening door streams across his face.

1. CAPTION (BART): After seven days, I got my wake up call.

**PANEL #2**

REVERSE ANGLE ON THE BEDROOM DOOR as Bart sits up. A man stands in shadow at the threshold. Tall. Angular. The physique of an aging but still able-bodied hero. Jay Garrick.

2. JAY: I guess I ought to thank you.

**PANEL #3**

Bart sits up, looking guilty as sin as Jay stands before him.

3. CAPTION (BART): I was SO busted. I lied to the Old Man for almost year.

4. BART: I can explain.

**PANEL #4**

CLOSE UP ON JAY - who is clearly hurt by both Bart's deception as well as what he has to say...

5. JAY: I don't care for explanations.

**PANEL #5**

WIDER: as Bart tries to match Jay's eye-line - but the old Dirk Squarejaw has his thousand yard stare on - and Bart is no match.

6. JAY: You don't want what you have, that's fair enough, but I taught you better than to lie when you could have been out there helping those who needed you.

**PANEL #6**

Bart is crestfallen, feeling about two inches tall as Jay finishes what he came to say.

7. JAY: I thought you'd finally grown up.

**PAGE TWENTY-TWO**

**PANEL #1**

BART RUSHES ACROSS THE PAGE IN FULL FLASH REGALIA - A BRILLIANT TRAIL BEHIND HIM...

1. CAPTION (BART): I just wanted to be The Flash the one time - to save the Old Man...

2. CAPTION (BART): ...but he's an old soldier. All he sees is The Flash legacy - I knew he wanted me to do my duty.

**PANEL #2**

Bart steps out of a convenience store, pulling a duct-taped, ski-masked STICK-UP GUY out of there while two cops rest on their cruiser, drinking coffee, eating donuts and waving.

3. CAPTION (BART): But the moment I tried being The Flash, two things happened...

4. CAPTION (BART): ...one, there was like zero metahuman activity - I was just doing the 5-0's work for them!

**PANEL #3**

Bart stands near the side wall of an OFFICE building - around the corner is an assembled formation of COP CARS and SWAT VANS, with the usual coterie of kevlar-suited officers. A POLICE NEGOTIATOR talks through a bullhorn -

5. POLICE NEGOTIATOR: LET THE HOSTAGES GO -

6. CAPTION (BART): The other? Well... my powers were a little... wonky.

**PANEL #4**

Bart takes a step back from the wall, determined -

7. CAPTION (BART): Like when I tried to vibrate through a wall during a hostage crisis -

**PANEL #5**

-and SLAMS against the wall!

8: SFX: **SPAP!**

9. BART: OW! SONOFA -!

**PAGE TWENTY-THREE**

**PANEL #1**

TELEVISION SCREEN: Bart, with a bloody nose poses with some SWAT members - on the foreground, a REPORTER narrates.

1. CAPTION Of course, I eventually rescued the hostages...
2. REPORTER: The Flash, who seems to have developed a nose bleed! Guess there's no Kleenex in that suit!

**PANEL #2**

WIDER TO REVEAL JAY: standing in front of the TV: shaking his head as a sheepish-looking Bart enters the brownstone.

3. CAPTION (BART): ...but it wasn't good enough for the Old Man.

**PANEL #3**

Bart stands on a city street - handing a purse to a MUGGING VICTIM - in the middle of a crowd of REPORTERS, CAMERAMEN and PHOTOGRAPHERS.

4. CAPTION (BART): Not to mention that I couldn't even bust a purse snatcher without having every reporter in town show up...

**PANEL #4**

SAME: only Bart now signs autographs for an assembled crowd carrying pro-Flash placards (FLASHERS FOR FLASH! WE LOVE U FLASH! FLASHERS DO IT QUICKLY!)...

5. CAPTION (BART): ...or my new online fan community...

**PANEL #5**

An ARTIST steps out of the crowd - hands Bart a business card:

6. CAPTION (BART): ...and more than a couple of weirdoes.
7. ARTIST: I'm doing you in bronze for the Flash Museum. Give me a call so I can measure you!
8. CAPTION (BART): Then came the straw that broke the Bartman's back...

**PANEL #6**

ECU ON BART'S EAR-MOUNTED RADIO RECEIVER:



9. POLICE RADIO VOICE: Control this is Juliet #1028 - Gorilla Grodd is attacking the Keystone Bank!

**PAGE TWENTY-FOUR**

**PANEL #1**

Bart dashes away - leaving the business card suspended in mid-air and the assembled the crowd in the dust!

1. CAPTION (BART): Grodd. Ho-lee crap.

**PANEL #2**

CLOSE UP ON BART'S FACE - apprehensive, maybe even afraid...

2. CAPTION (BART): Three telepathic tons of pissed-off megalomaniacal super-intelligent primate. One of The Flash's worst arch nemeses!

3. CAPTION (BART): No backup. No Wally. No Jay. Just me.

**PANEL #3**

Bart speeds into the Keystone City Bank -

**PANEL #4**

- to face the one, the only - GORILLA GRODD! SMACKING a guard with a sack of cash and sending him flying over some loan officer desks as he ROARS and RAGES in a terrible RAMPAGE!

**PAGE TWENTY-FIVE**

**PANEL #1**

The Flash (a multiplicity of him to demonstrate superspeed) circles Grodd - punching him everywhere he can!

1. CAPTION (BART): I wasn't gonna do anything fancy.
2. CAPTION (BART): Just get in a few thousand punches before he telepathically scrambled my brain!

**PANEL #2**

Grodd collapses in a heap!

3. SFX: **KA-THUNK!**
4. CAPTION (BART): It seemed too easy...
5. CAPTION (BART): ...but I couldn't afford to take any chances, this was Gorilla freakin' Grodd for the love of...

**PANEL #3**

Grodd's head rolls off - revealing a GEEKY-LOOKING GUY with broken glasses underneath the suit!

6. CAPTION (BART): ...oops.
- Bart looks at this with disbelief as a BANK CLIENT - an ELDERLY LADY - looks down at Stubbs.
7. ELDERLY LADY: It's just a kid in a suit! You darn-near killed him!
  8. CAPTION (BART): Fan-freakin'-tastic. Some asshat puts on a robotically-enhanced Gorilla Grodd costume to heist a bank, and all the sudden, I'm the bad guy!

**PANEL #4**

9. NEWSCASTER: The would-be bank robber, Leonard Stubbs - an unemployed robotic engineer - announced plans to sue the city for allowing The Flash free rein as a violent vigilante.

**PANEL #5**

10. SNOTTY TV PUNDIT: A lot of people are wondering - is this the same Flash we used to know and love? Is this bumbler the old Kid Flash trying to take over before his time?

**PANEL #6**

WIDER TO REVEAL JAY: Watching the TV and shaking his head as a sheepish Bart enters the brownstone.

11. SNOTTY TV PUNDIT (FROM THE TV): Do we want a Flash who can't tell Gorilla Grodd from a monkey suit?

12. CAPTION (BART): I knew it then. The Old Man would never forgive me.

**PAGE TWENTY-SIX**

**PANEL #1**

Night. The Delta 88 - now patched up to the same shape seen in the first page - sits in front of Jay Garrick's Brownstone.

Bart steps off the front porch - carrying a pair of large duffel bags.

1. CAPTION (BART): Look. If you don't get it by now, maybe you never will. I had to slow down.

2. CAPTION (BART): I needed a life. Some experience. A point of view on being a real human being before I could be The Flash.

**PANEL #2**

CLOSE UP: on The Flash ring - resting on a bronze background, but what exactly is it?

3. CAPTION (BART): And my little piece of super bling-bling?

**PANEL #3**

WIDER TO REVEAL: that Bart has stuck the ring to the out-stretched hand of the statue of Wally West in front of the Flash Museum - with a piece of gum no less!

4. CAPTION (BART): Let's just say I wasn't feeling sentimental anymore.

**PANEL #4**

On the Delta 88, moving away from the Flash Museum - the statues of Jay, Barry and Wally looming in the background as Bart drives in the opposite direction from his destiny.

5. CAPTION (BART): Wally would have understood.

**PANEL #5**

**NOTE: This scene is a repeat of a scene that will be appear in the Infinite Crisis and takes place in the amorphous limbo to which Wally West ultimately commits himself.**

The style, color - the ethereal barrier separating it from the other panels - and even the lettering of this vignette makes it clear that this is a flashback to another place in the space-time continuum.

Bart, in his Kid Flash regalia, looks up at someone off panel and saying:

6. BART: *I don't know how to be The Flash.*

**PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN**

**PANEL #1**

A CONTINUATION OF THE PREVIOUS PANEL - only now REVEALING THAT BART IS TALKING TO WALLY, dressed as The Flash, who looks down at him, beatifically, with acceptance and love:

1. WALLY: *Just be yourself, Bart.*

AND THIS BLEEDS INTO...

**PANEL #2**

LARGE. This is where we catch up to the present day - to the images on the first page - with Bart driving his beat-up Delta 88 down a Los Angeles freeway...

2. CAPTION (BART): And that's how I wound up in Cali. I love it here. I have an honest job...

**PANEL #3**

SMALL - FLOATING ON PANEL ONE: Bart in a STARBUCKS-LIKE uniform labeled "PERKOPOLIS," holding up a cup of premium coffee -

3. BART: Who had the Tall Grande Venti, no fat, no whip?

**PANEL #4**

ALSO FLOATING ON PANEL #1. Same as above - only Bart is in the background, ogling a co-worker, a pretty young cashier who looks a LOT like Keri Russell. This is TESSA.

4. CAPTION (BART): I have an almost-girlfriend... Tessa. She's an actress. Uh... actor. Sorry.

**PANEL #5**

ALSO OVER PANEL #1. A CHP Motorcycle pulls up behind Bart. Siren BLARING.

5. CAPTION (BART): ...and I CHiPs on my six. Great.

**PANEL #6**

Bart talks to the CHP, who stands by the Delta 88 on the shoulder, writing him a ticket...

6. CHP: You have any idea how slow you were going? We have a posted minimum on these freeways, Keystone!

7. CAPTION (BART): Little did I know, that on the day I was stopped for being too slow, I'd meet the reason I chose to come to the City of Angels...

**PANEL #7**

Bart and the CHP look aside as something terrible happens just off the frame! But what?

8. SFX: **SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEECCCCCCHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!**



**PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT**

**PANEL #1**

HUGE: REVEALING WHAT BART AND THE COP ARE SEEING - a huge-ass-mofo SUV, leaping over the divider and coming right at them - it's every Los Angeles driver's worst nightmare come to life!

Bart and the CHP stand there looking up - paralyzed.

1. CAPTION (BART): Crazy L.A. drivers with their SUV's and cell-phones. This one actually jumped the divider and almost took us out.

2. CAPTION (BART): In the old days, I would have gotten us out of there... but I wasn't used to thinking fast anymore...

**PANEL #2**

A CLOSE UP on Bart and the CHP as they SCREAM like the hapless victims they are about to become!

3. BART AND THE CHP (SHARED SPEECH BALLOON): AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!

4. CAPTION (BART): He was there in a flash, if I do say so myself.

**PANEL #3**

A SUPERHERO (who cannot be clearly seen since the event takes place so fast that he is a complete blur on the frame) ZOOMS! into the action as the SUV reaches its apogee -

5. SFX: **SHWWWOOOP!**

**PANEL #4**

- and catches the free-flying vehicle in mid-air - right above the covering Bart and CHP!

**PANEL #5**

C.U. on the CHP and Bart - looking relieved as all hell, and grateful to the superhero standing before them.

6. CHP: Neo Vortex!

**PAGE TWENTY-NINE**

**PANEL #1**

CLOSE UP ON NEO VORTEX: and, dude, this is one handsome latino guy. If you can imagine the looks of Jimmy Smits and the debonaire gravitas of Raul Julia (and I think you can) with metal-rimmed, aviator-style goggles, a sporty goatee, and a head of beautiful, shiny black hair, you have an idea of what this incredible hero looks like.

1. CAPTION (BART): Yep, Neo Vortex.

**PANEL #2**

A total hero shot of Neo Vortex - in his trademark capeless black leather suit with the "N" design that starts at his thigh and winds around both sides of his costume - standing on the median -

- and HOLDING THE SUV OVER HIS HEAD WITH ONE HAND!

2. Caption (BART): Let me tell you: this guy was a rock star. One of the new crew that came up after the crisis.

**The panel transitions in a blur to a more expressionistic illustration of Bart's thoughts -**

**PANEL #3**

- a night-time shot of Neo Vortex - lit by the bright lights of the city - bounced off a hundred mirror-surfaced buildings - and the full moon behind him, this image of Neo Vortex looks like one of those glorious Michael Mann images of choppers cutting through the skies of L.A.

It's just freakin' beautiful.

3. CAPTION (BART): His real name was Doctor Antonio Lopez. He was researching pan-dimensional travel when a freak accident gifted him with psychic abilities.

4. CAPTION (BART): Armed with telekinesis, ESP and - above all - great wisdom, Neo Vortex vowed to bring peace to Los Angeles.

5. CAPTION (BART): In a year, Neo Vortex stopped the flow of guns and drugs in L.A., personally got thousands of addicts into rehab and negotiated peace between the gangs of South Central.

**PAGE THIRTY**

**PANEL #1**

**BLURRING BACK TO THE MOMENT OF BART'S RESCUE FROM THE FLYING SUV:** as Bart looks up at Neo Vortex, who now stands next to the SUV, now harmlessly placed on the median.

1. BART: Thank you Neo Vortex!

**PANEL #2**

CLOSE ON NEO VORTEX, smiling.

2. NEO VORTEX: Stay safe, kid.

**PANEL #3**

Neo Vortex takes off!

3. CAPTION (BART): Yep. L.A. was hooked up. They had the Vortex!

**PANEL #4**

DOMINATES MOST OF THE PAGE: Bart rolls down the freeway - sunglasses on and a big smile on his face -

- as Neo Vortex flies above, a heroically-poised crusader in the full bloom of his ability!

4. CAPTION (BART): Los Angeles didn't need The Flash...

5. CAPTION (BART): ...and neither did I.

And off this moment - as Bart drives toward his new life: a common, ordinary, lumpen life in a new town with its own superhero...

...a superhero that isn't Bart Allen...

**END OF ISSUE**