



DC  
COMICS™

26

THE NEW 52!

*The*

FLASH™

CHRISTOS N.  
GAGE

NEIL  
GOOGE

FEB. 2014

ED T TEEN

ON THE HUNT FOR  
SPITEFIRE!

Booth RAMPUND, House  
2013



CENTRAL CITY AIRPORT.

MY NAME'S  
BARRY ALLEN.  
I'M THE FLASH.  
THE FASTEST  
MAN ALIVE.

WITH AN  
ASTERISK.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS  
I GET MOST IS, 'ARE YOU  
FASTER THAN SUPERMAN?'

THE SHORT  
ANSWER IS YES.  
THE ACCURATE  
ANSWER IS MORE  
COMPLICATED.

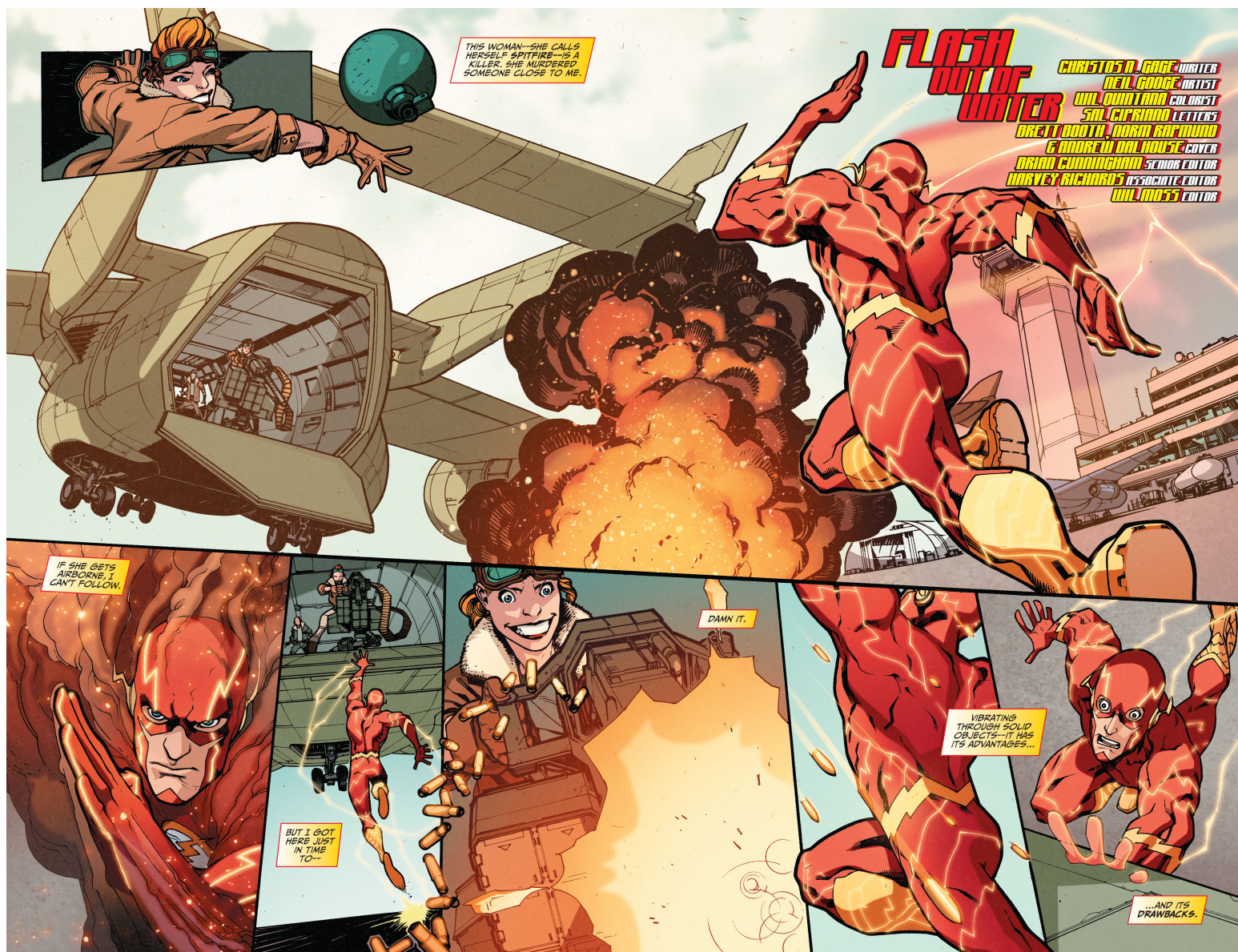
ON FOOT, RUNNING, I AM  
FASTER. I CAN DO THINGS  
SUPERMAN CAN'T DO.

LIKE VIBRATE THE MOLECULES OF  
MY BODY SO QUICKLY I CAN PASS  
THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS...AND  
THEY CAN PASS THROUGH ME.

BUT SUPERMAN CAN DO  
THINGS I CAN'T DO.

LIKE  
FLY.





THIS WOMAN--SHE CALLS HERSELF SPITFIRE--IS A KILLER. SHE MURDERED SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME.

# FLASH OUT OF WATER

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IF SHE GETS AIRBORNE, I CAN'T FOLLOW.

BUT I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO--

DAMN IT.

VIBRATING THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS--IT HAS ITS ADVANTAGES...

...AND ITS DRAWBACKS.





HNF!

WHMP



HAHA  
HAHAHA  
HA!

TOUGH BREAK,  
FLASH. I'LL CALL THE AIR  
FORCE BASE, MAYBE  
THEY CAN--



NO. I'M PRETTY SURE  
THERE ARE HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS ON BOARD  
THAT PLANE.

WE CAN'T RISK  
SHOOTING THEM  
OUT OF THE SKY.

I'LL CALL THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE. GET  
SUPERMAN OR WONDER WOMAN  
ON IT. MUCH AS I WANTED TO  
HANDLE THIS ONE PERSONALLY.



...HMM.

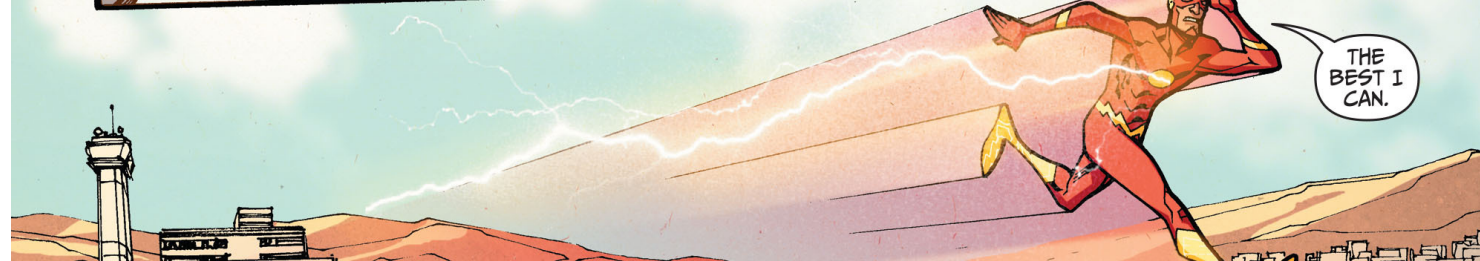
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THE LEAGUE'S DEALING  
WITH AN EMERGENCY IN THE UPPER  
ATMOSPHERE. A DISABLED SATELLITE.  
BY THE TIME THEY CAN GET A FLIER OUT  
HERE, SPITFIRE COULD BE LONG GONE.



THE AIR FORCE BASE--  
DO YOU THINK THEY'D  
TAKE ME UP?

SURE. I'LL CALL 'EM.  
BUT--I MEAN, NO OFFENSE--  
WHAT'S A GUY WHO CAN RUN REALLY  
FAST GONNA DO IN THE AIR?



THE  
BEST I  
CAN.



AND TO BE HONEST,  
PART OF ME IS GLAD.  
THIS IS PERSONAL...

...AFTER WHAT  
THEY DID TO  
DR. CARLSON.

THE MAN WORKED  
WITH DEADLY  
DISEASES. ANTHRAX,  
SMALLPOX--YOU  
NAME IT.

FAR AS WE CAN TELL, IT'S AN ACCIDENT. HE  
STUMBLES INTO A SHELF OF BEAKERS AND  
WHATNOT HOLDING ALL THOSE GERMS,  
THEY BREAK... TRAGIC, BUT NO  
SIGN OF FOUL PLAY.

**BLUE VALLEY.** JUST OUTSIDE OF CENTRAL CITY.

NORMALLY WE'D GET  
YOU C.S.I. GUYS IN TO MAKE SURE.  
FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THAT'S NOT AN  
OPTION HERE. AND THE DECONTAMINATION  
PROCESS IS GONNA DESTROY EVIDENCE.

SO YOU GOTTA  
DO THE BEST YOU CAN  
FROM OUT HERE. SORRY  
ABOUT THAT, ALLEN. I  
GUESS YOU COULD LOOK  
AT IT LIKE A CHALLENGE.

I PROBABLY WOULD...  
IF I DIDN'T KNOW THE MAN.  
DR. CARLSON WAS MY TEACHER,  
ONE OF MY MAJOR INSPIRATIONS  
IN BECOMING A FORENSIC  
SCIENTIST.

AH, HELL.  
SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I  
CAN CALL  
SOMEONE  
ELSE--

NO,  
I'LL CONSULT  
WITH A COLLEAGUE,  
PATTY SPIVOT, JUST  
TO BE THOROUGH. BUT  
THERE'S NO NEED  
TO APOLOGIZE. I  
WANT TO BE  
INVOLVED.

I OWE  
HIM THAT  
MUCH.



LATER.

THE BODY POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS STUMBLING BACKWARD INTO THE SHELF.

OR BEING **PUSHED**. THERE'S BRUISING ON HIS NECK THAT COULD SUGGEST A STRUGGLE.

IT COULD ALSO BE A SYMPTOM OF ONE OF THE PATHOGENS. WITHOUT GETTING IN THERE, WE CAN'T TELL.

I KNOW HE MEANT A LOT TO YOU, BARRY, AND IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT, BUT SOMETIMES TRAGIC ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.

"AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT AS WELL AS **YOURS**."

I REALIZE THAT. BUT DAMN IT, PATTY, HE WAS THE MOST CAREFUL MAN I EVER MET!

WE CAN'T GO INSIDE. BUT IF THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE HERE, THEY HAD TO GET AWAY SOMEHOW.

IT'S A DIRT ROAD. WITH NO TIRE TRACKS THAT DON'T MATCH DR. CARLSON'S CAR OR OURS.

SOMETHING YOU LEARN IN MY OTHER LINE OF WORK: THERE'S MORE THAN **ONE** WAY TO TRAVEL.

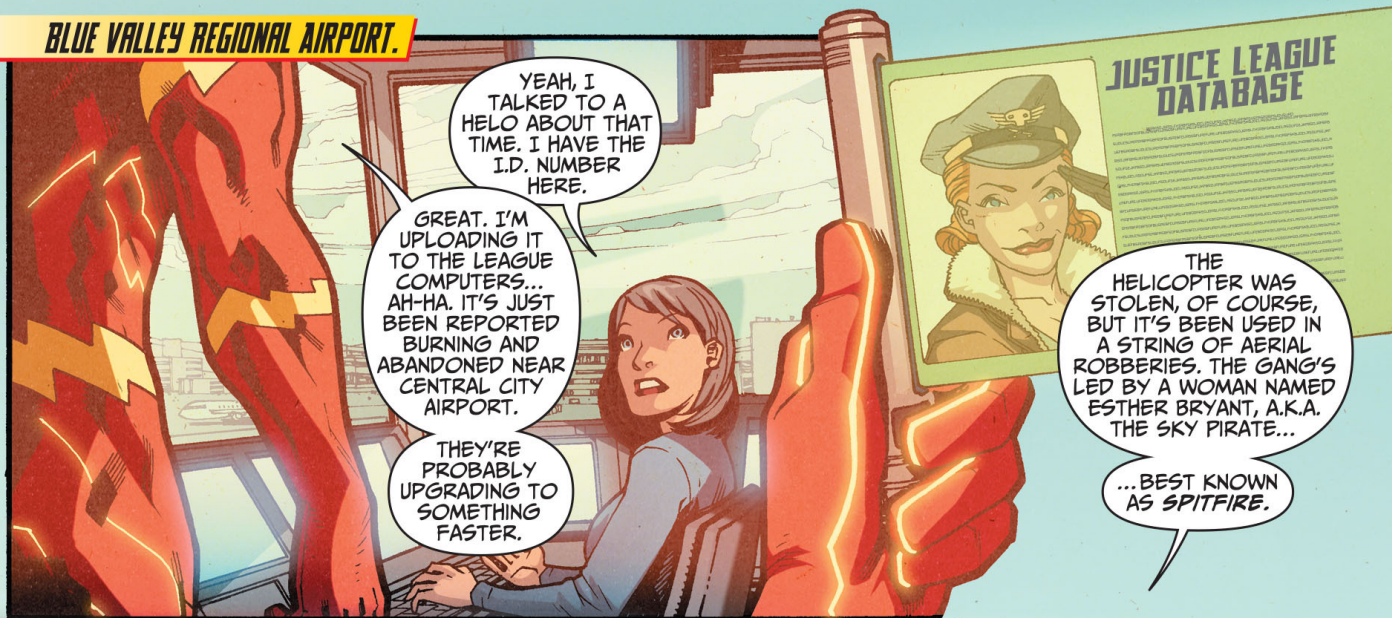
LOOKS LIKE THE KIND OF MARKS THAT WOULD BE MADE BY HELICOPTER LANDING GEAR.

HELICOPTERS AREN'T REQUIRED TO FILE A FLIGHT PLAN. NORMALLY THAT'D GIVE THEM PLENTY OF TIME TO GET AWAY BEFORE WE CAN TRACK THEM.

NORMALLY.



**BLUE VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT.**



YEAH, I TALKED TO A HELO ABOUT THAT TIME. I HAVE THE I.D. NUMBER HERE.

GREAT. I'M UPLOADING IT TO THE LEAGUE COMPUTERS... AH-HA. IT'S JUST BEEN REPORTED BURNING AND ABANDONED NEAR CENTRAL CITY AIRPORT.

THEY'RE PROBABLY UPGRADING TO SOMETHING FASTER.

**JUSTICE LEAGUE DATABASE**

THE HELICOPTER WAS STOLEN, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S BEEN USED IN A STRING OF AERIAL ROBBERIES. THE GANG'S LED BY A WOMAN NAMED ESTHER BRYANT, A.K.A. THE SKY PIRATE...

...BEST KNOWN AS *SPITFIRE*.

"SHE'S A FORMER STUNT PILOT. MOTIVATED BY A COMBINATION OF GREED AND THRILL-SEEKING.

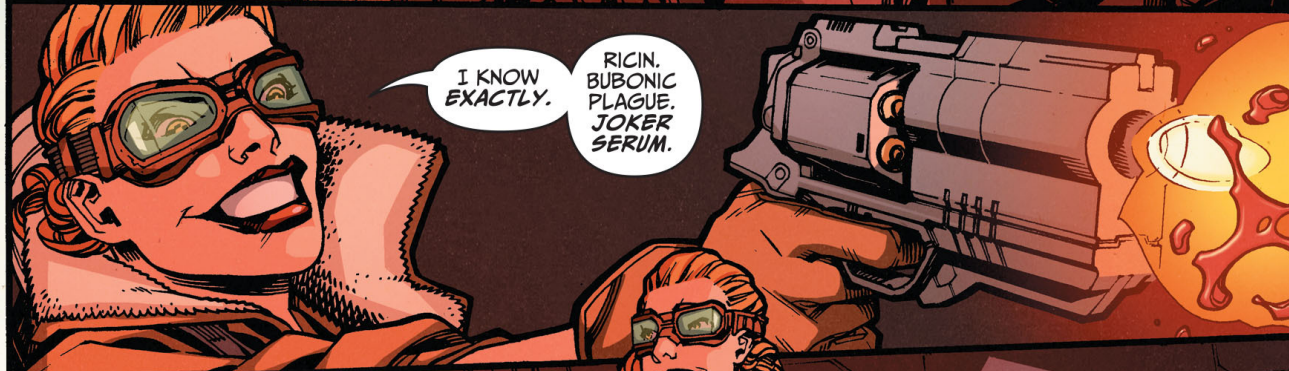
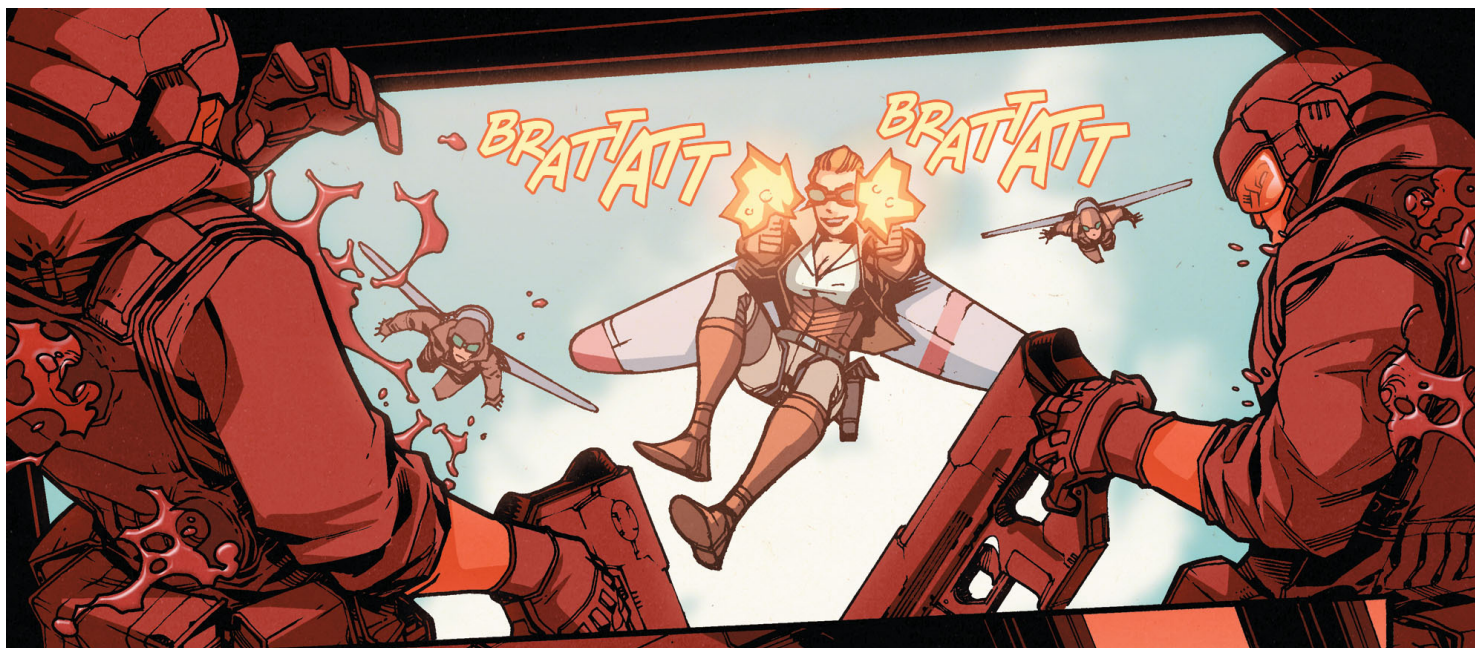
"SHE AND HER MEN LIKE A CHALLENGE AS MUCH AS THE MONEY. THEY DON'T JUST PULL HEISTS ON HIGH-VALUE TARGETS...

"...THEY DO IT IN WAYS NO ONE EVER IMAGINED POSSIBLE.

"THEY SET THEIR SIGHTS ON OBTAINING LETHAL PATHOGENS. BUT DR. CARLSON RESISTED. IT'S LIKELY THEY DIDN'T

"WE HAVE TO

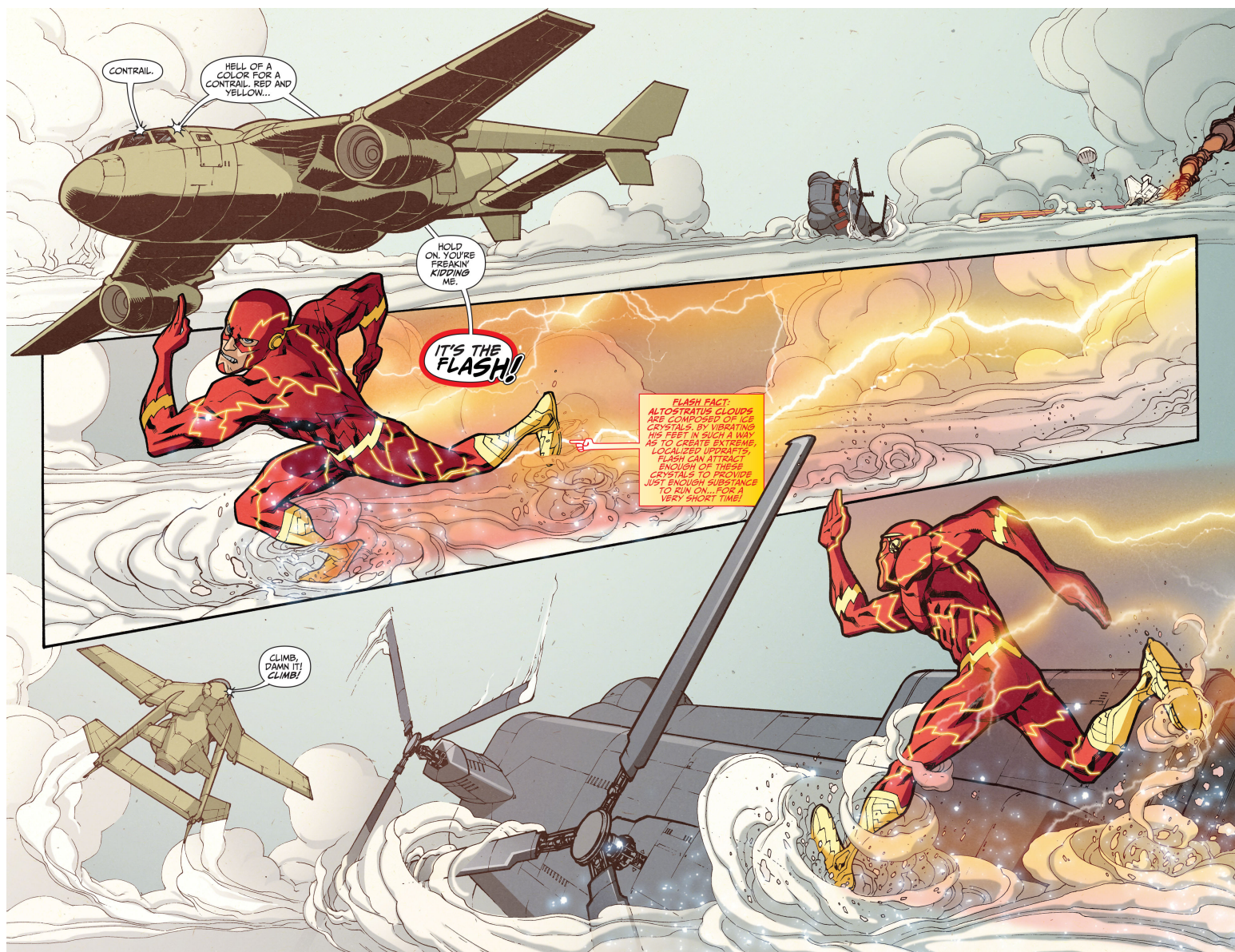




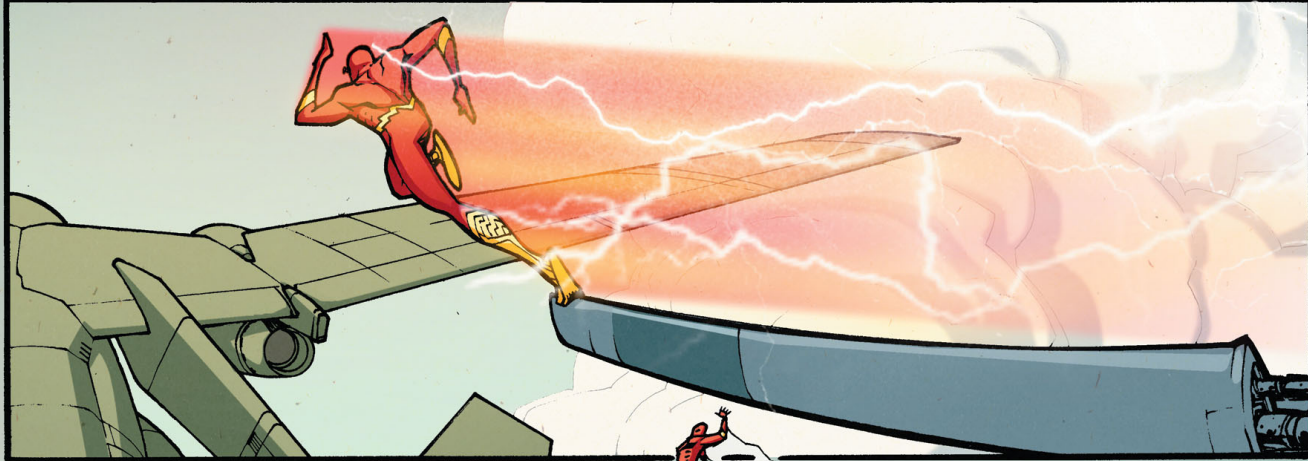
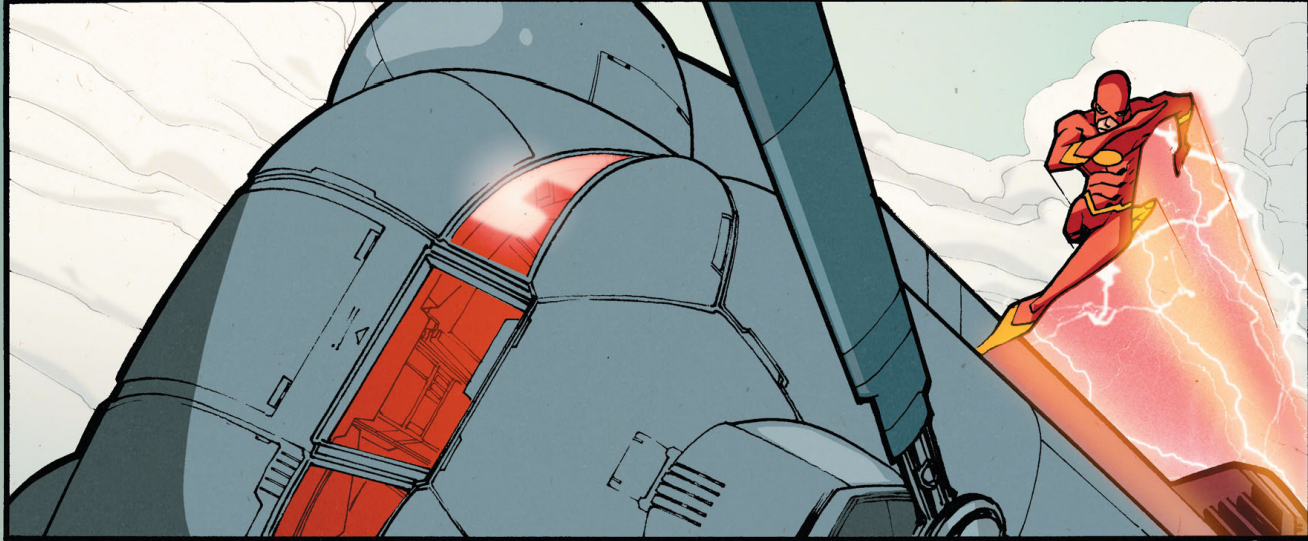
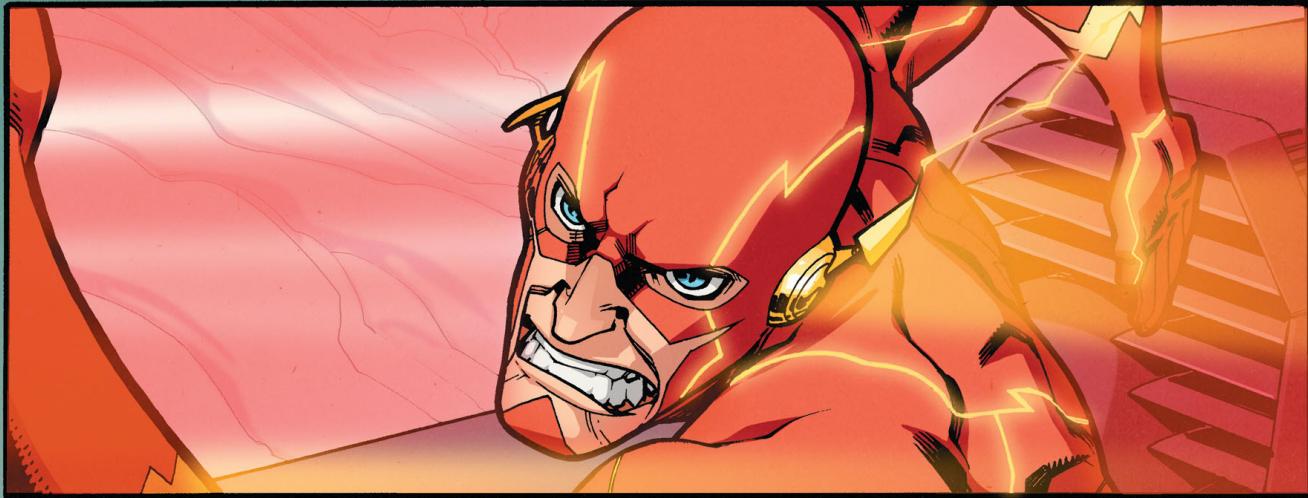

















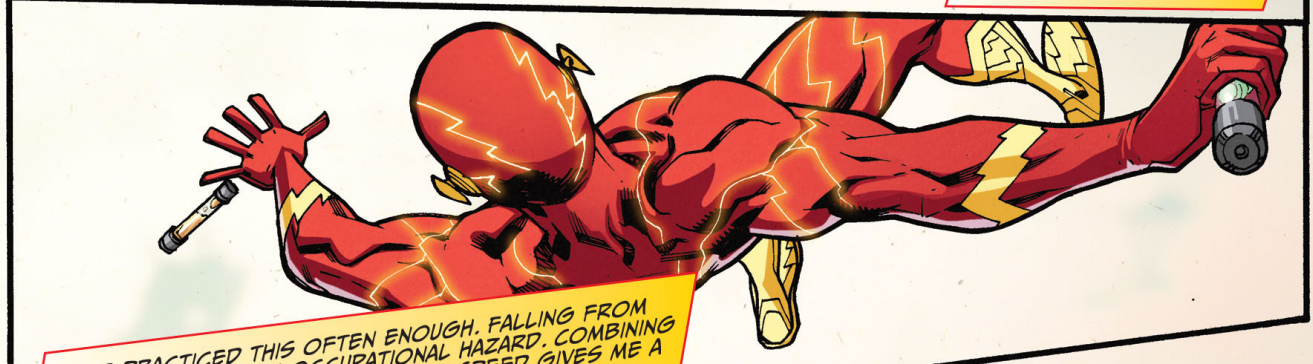


A large, olive-green military transport plane is shown in mid-air, tilted at an angle. The Flash is seen falling away from the plane, his body in a horizontal position. A small, cylindrical object is seen falling from the plane's side.

THAT WOMAN'S INSANE. NO...  
JUST AMORAL. WHAT SHE DID WAS  
EMINENTLY LOGICAL. DESIGNED TO  
GET RID OF ME. KILL ME AT BEST,  
SLOW ME UP AT MINIMUM.

The Flash is shown in a dynamic pose, falling through the air. He is holding a small, clear glass vial in his right hand. The vial contains a green liquid. He has a determined expression on his face.


CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT  
NOW. FIRST PRIORITY IS  
RETRIEVING THE VIALS.

The Flash is shown in a dynamic pose, falling through the air. He is holding a small, clear glass vial in his right hand. The vial contains a green liquid. He has a determined expression on his face.

I'VE PRACTICED THIS OFTEN ENOUGH. FALLING FROM  
GREAT HEIGHTS IS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD. COMBINING  
A FREE-FLYING TECHNIQUES WITH MY SPEED GIVES ME A  
PRETTY GOOD DEGREE OF MANEUVERABILITY.

The Flash is shown in a dynamic pose, falling through the air. He is holding a small, clear glass vial in his right hand. The vial contains a green liquid. He has a determined expression on his face.

OF COURSE, IT'S  
ONE THING TO DO  
IT WITH GREEN  
LANTERN STANDING  
BY IN CASE  
SOMETHING GOES  
WRONG...

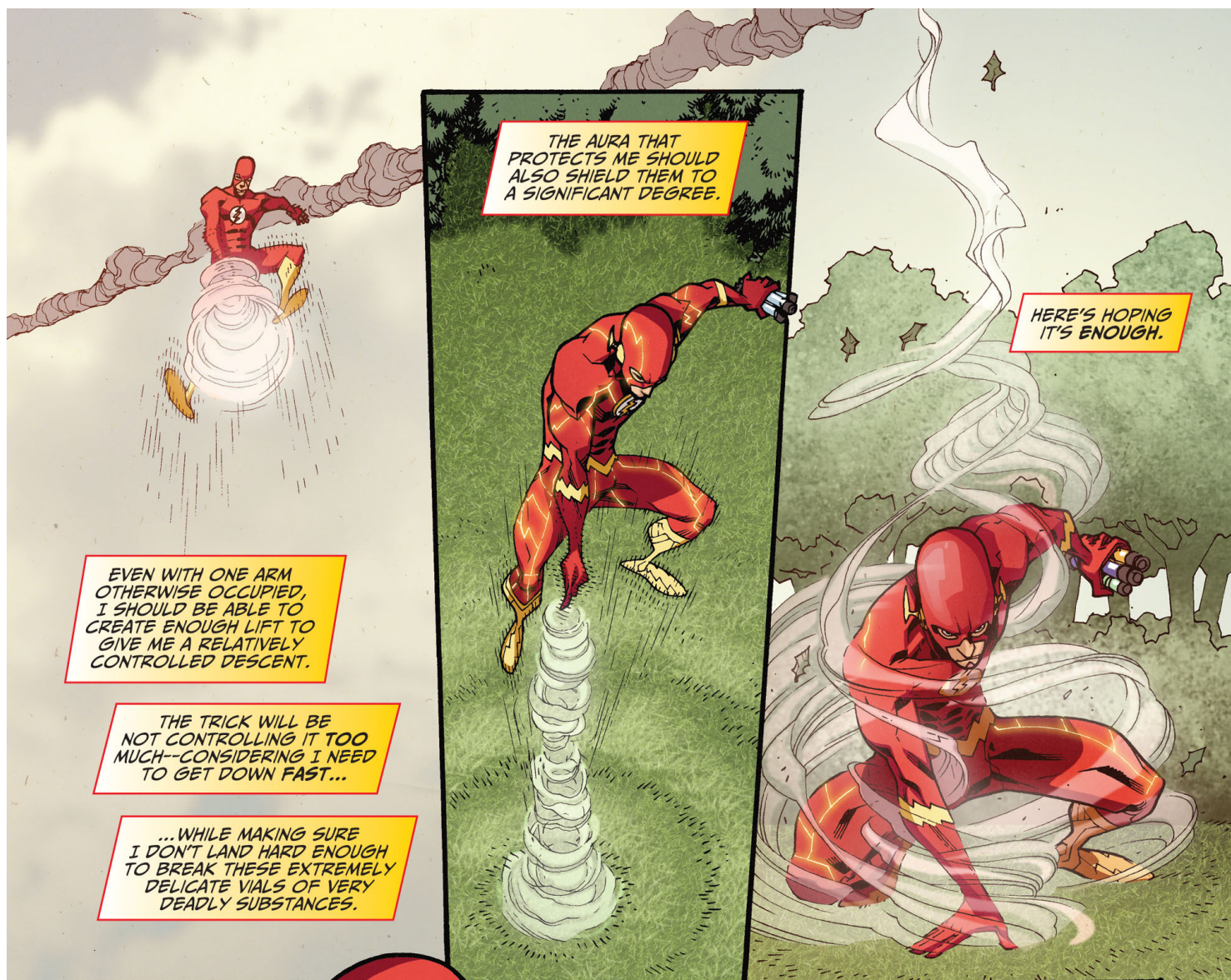
The Flash is shown in a dynamic pose, falling through the air. He is holding a small, clear glass vial in his right hand. The vial contains a green liquid. He has a determined expression on his face.

...AND ANOTHER WHEN  
YOU'RE CHASING  
SMALL GLASS TUBES  
OF PLAGUE.

The Flash is shown in a dynamic pose, falling through the air. He is holding a small, clear glass vial in his right hand. The vial contains a green liquid. He has a determined expression on his face.

GOT THEM. NOW  
THERE'S JUST THE





THE AURA THAT PROTECTS ME SHOULD ALSO SHIELD THEM TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE.

HERE'S HOPING IT'S ENOUGH.

EVEN WITH ONE ARM OTHERWISE OCCUPIED, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE ENOUGH LIFT TO GIVE ME A RELATIVELY CONTROLLED DESCENT.

THE TRICK WILL BE NOT CONTROLLING IT TOO MUCH--CONSIDERING I NEED TO GET DOWN FAST...

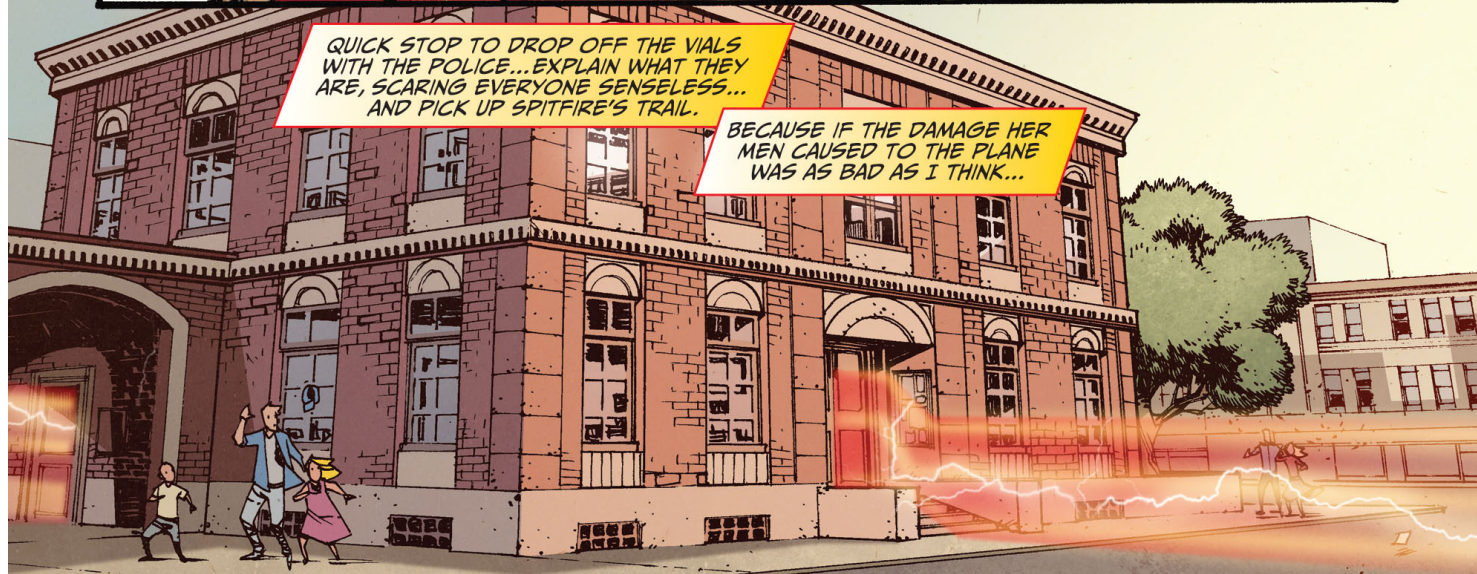
...WHILE MAKING SURE I DON'T LAND HARD ENOUGH TO BREAK THESE EXTREMELY DELICATE VIALS OF VERY DEADLY SUBSTANCES.



AND... EXHALE.

QUICK STOP TO DROP OFF THE VIALS WITH THE POLICE...EXPLAIN WHAT THEY ARE, SCARING EVERYONE SENSELESS... AND PICK UP SPITFIRE'S TRAIL.

BECAUSE IF THE DAMAGE HER MEN CAUSED TO THE PLANE WAS AS BAD AS I THINK...







...THEY'LL BE  
REACHING THE  
GROUND NOT  
LONG AFTER ME.



I  
CAN'T  
HOLD  
HER!

YES, THAT'S  
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN  
YOU FIRE MACHINE  
GUNS ON AN  
AIRPLANE...



THINGS  
BREAK.



BRATTATTA  
BRATTATTA

OH, WELL. I'VE  
GOT WHAT I NEED.  
THE GERMS... AND  
ONE HELL OF A  
DISTRACTION.

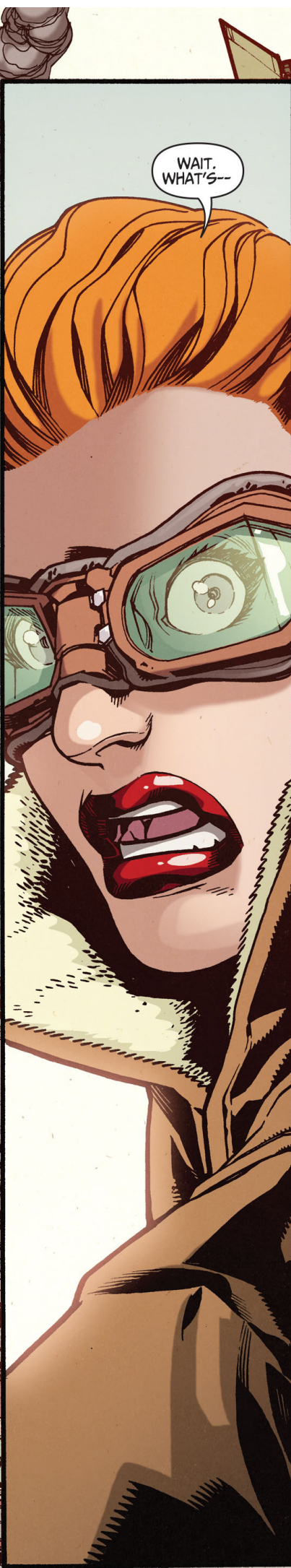
A BURNING  
PLANE...







...CRASHING  
INTO  
CHICAGO.




WAIT.  
WHAT'S--



OH,  
COME  
ON!





NO WAY TO STOP IT.  
ONLY HOPE IS TO STEER IT  
TOWARDS THE LANDING SPOT  
WITH THE LEAST CHANCE FOR  
COLLATERAL DAMAGE.



THE STADIUM. NO GAME GOING ON,  
SO IT SHOULD BE NEARLY EMPTY.



BUT "NEARLY" ISN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH.



I NEED TO  
MAKE SURE  
NO ONE'S  
THERE...



...WHEN  
IT HITS.



NOW TO DIRECT THE  
EXPLOSION UPWARD...

...SNUFF OUT  
THE FLAMES...

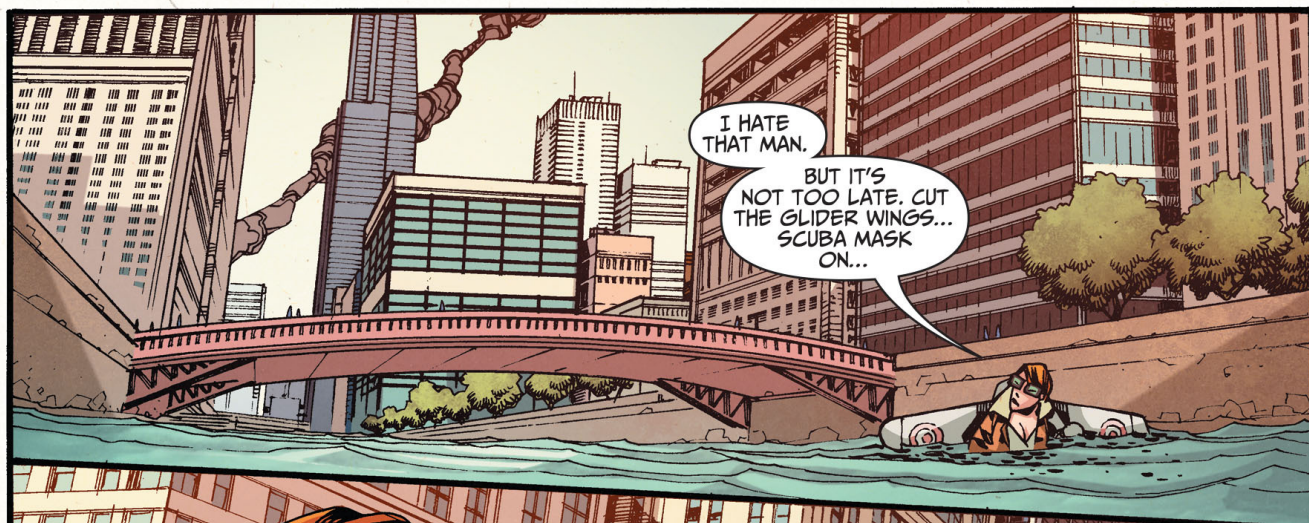
...AND WE'VE GOT A  
ROYAL MESS, BUT NO  
LOSS OF LIFE. I THINK  
DR. CARLSON WOULD  
APPROVE.

SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.

HEY, I AIN'T  
COMPLAINING.  
'LEAST YOU KEPT  
IT ALL IN A NEAT  
PILE.

ALMOST.  
THERE'S JUST  
ONE LOOSE  
END.









BROADCASTING FROM THE MOBILE PLANET CADMUSWORLD...

...IT'S THE C52000 NEWSFEED!

IT'S THE FUTURE OF NEWS WITH THE C52000 NEWS TEAM!

YOU CAN'T NAVIGATE THE 31ST CENTURY WITHOUT US!

THE WONDER TWINS AT CADMUS ARE READY TO DEBUT THEIR NEW JUSTICE LEAGUE TEAM! WILL THE EXPLOITED DNA OF THE ORIGINAL HEROES BE READY TO FLY...OR WILL THEY SHOW UP DEAD ON ARRIVAL? C52000 HAS THE REAL-TIME RESULTS!