



The Flash, Volume 5: Negative

Joshua Williamson

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The Flash, Volume 5: Negative Joshua Williamson

The Fastest Man Alive continues his monumental run in DC Universe Rebirth with THE FLASH VOL. 5!

Rising-star writer Joshua Williamson (ILLUMINATI, RED SKULL) continues his smash-hit run on the Fastest Man Alive with THE FLASH VOL. 5!

Dark clouds gather around Barry and his new family. Can The Flash act fast enough to save everyone he has ever loved?

Collects THE FLASH #28-32

The Flash, Volume 5: Negative Details

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From Reader Review The Flash, Volume 5: Negative for online ebook

Frédéric says

After his confrontation with Thawne last volume Barry is corrupted by the powerful negative speed force that he needs to learn to use before ravaging Central City.

The main plot is decent, an internal investigation on stolen evidence in the CSI that adds a new villain with a power that I would qualify as gross.

The effects of the negative speed force are challenging for Barry. He makes mistakes, causes damages and ends up more exhausted than ever- as if he wasn't late at work enough already, that'll cost him. He also becomes more aggressive, a counterpoint to his natural tendency to self-pity. He sure runs a lot of circles, wondering about himself, Iris, Wally and stuff so having him bark at Singh makes for a change.

A good average 3* book like the previous volumes-though a bit darker in tone- until the astoundingly mediocre last issue. Caricatural characters, cheesy dialogues right out from the 60's, corny situations... I even checked out if someone else than Williamson had written it. Nope, that was him all right. I don't know what went through his head for this one, I just hope it's an isolated incident. All the more since it sets up Barry's new environment for the near future.

Artwise it's 5 issues and at least 4 different artists. This lack of coherence just pisses me off, as it always does.

Kat says

Basic Plot: Barry copes with the negative speed force, the other changes in his life, and his job.

I think that the main purpose of this arc was just to get Barry into Iron Heights. I could be wrong, but there didn't really seem to be a single overarching plot to this arc beyond him dealing with the negative speed force. The art was a bit spotty, some of it was definitely of good quality but some looked rushed/messy.

Robert says

Much like superman and the lanterns, Flash has been so crazily overpowered that the only way to make him interesting is to constantly invent new and more ridiculous limits and restrictions, which just gets in the way of telling good stories.

TehBeast says

This was a good book. Even though it wasn't drawn by Carmine Di Giandomenico (drawn by Neil Googe) I loved the creativity with Bloodwork and the addition with the Negative speed force basically damages

everything it touches. Good book.

Chad says

I'm not a big fan of where the book appears to be headed. The negative speed force makes no sense to me. A negative speed force would just be the absence of motion, wouldn't it? It would make more sense if the speed force had been altered by the big bad from Doomsday Clock or something along those lines to make it destructive for now.

The Iron Heights issue appeared to have a lack of editing. For one thing a CSI permanently stationed in a prison makes zero sense in the first place. Prisoners would by no means be allowed to wear their costumes or anything other than a prison uniform, nor would men and women prisoners be allowed to fraternize.

The art was pretty solid. Neil Googe's art seems to be getting cartoonier and his heads growing larger than their bodies.

Joseph says

I've really enjoyed previous volumes of Williamson's Flash work, but this was just a whole slog to get through. I don't like this persona of Barry Allen as it seems out of character, and I'm a bit tired of the conflict between Iris/Wally and Barry. Additionally, the villain and the set up just wasn't interesting. As another reviewer notes, the part of the book that takes place in Iron Heights is ridiculous and silly. Art overall was good, but the story sunk this for me.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

I expect this actually collects #28-32, since #33 is part of Dark Nights: Metal and #34 is part one of a new story, so we'll pretend that I'm right since I make more sense than DC's solicitations.

#28-29 feed off of the events of the previous volume; with the Negative Speed Force coursing through his veins, Barry needs to relearn all of his powers since it makes him ten times deadlier and a hundred times more uncontrollable. It also feeds nicely into the character arc that Williamson is taking Barry on, the darkest parts of himself on full display.

#30-31 are then a second two part story featuring a new Rogue named Bloodwork, whose powers are a) gross and b) visually very interesting. The character himself isn't the most innovative, but he's one of the better new foes we've seen as part of Rebirth. We'll see if we see him again.

And then finally issue #32 sets up Barry's new status quo for the foreseeable future after his outbursts in the last few issues. This whole volume is pretty dark, and this one is exceptionally so.

The art is a bit more all over the place in this one than usual; Carmine Di Giandomenico takes the first issue, while Pop Mhan, Christian Duce, and Neil Googe show up for an issue or so each later on. It's a bit

inconsistent, but they're all decent in their own right; Di Giandomenico remains the best of them, without fail.

Negative may be the title for this one, but it's pretty solid. It's not as good as some of the stuff we've had already, or what comes after it, but it's by no means a bad collection.

Teena Evans says

Issue 34 of this arc totally saved it for me. The story is always great and so is the art but I felt it had been getting a little slow. Issue 34 art was fantastic!

Wing Kee says

A lot better but choked full of cliches.

World: Oh man, when Carmine Di Giandomenico is drawing this book I do not like it at all. I just do not feel his characters, they have weird weird faces and emote wrong. The art does get better when other artists are on it but they all seem to follow the really blurry scratchy Flash style (probably a Williamson idea). The world building this arc I have to say is much more contained, much more consistent and better constructed. I like the idea of the negative Speedforce and I like what's happening with Barry's world during this arc. It's smaller, it's more in line with a procedural, I like it.

Story: The story is way better paced than the previous run because this arc is slower. It takes it's time with the character interactions and it allows for the characters to breath. I enjoyed the procedural aspect of the story and the relationship aspect of the story. However, this book is not without it's faults. The villain is a straight on 90's villain and his motivations and backstory was something cringe worthy (oh well they can't all be gems). The stuff at Iron Heights was also over the top and tonally different from the rest of the arc with Wolfe being a cartoon character. The negative Speedforce is the same as Spidey's black suit, not super original but I am okay with that. I also like the interactions with Wally this time much much better, maybe Williamson is gonna fix Wally and the characters. Enjoyed this arc, still flawed and has a lot of old bad baggage but much improved.

Characters: Barry is more consistent (other than the really big issue I had with what he said at Iron Heights, I'm sorry that's just wrong for the character. Especially since he had a father there for the longest time...) I don't mind him being whiney and mopey cause that's where the character is at the moment in terms of relationship, but that does not should not change his hopefulness which Williamson did. I also like his interaction with the CSI and also characters in general, much more natural and less frenetic. Wally is so much improved in the little time he had in this arc, he's not as whiney and the relationship is better with Barry, let's hope that this is how Williamson fixes Wally cause he is a big problem for me at the moment. The villain, straight outta a 90's comic, stupid, hokey, but a Flash villain through and through (I didn't like it but I did kinda like it).

This was a much better arc. I've not been a fan of the series for a long time (the tail end of New52 was also rough). Please keep this series simple, let him do cases, slowly build Barry up and have him fight funny hokey rogues.

Onward to the next book!

Adam Spanos says

THE FLASH VOL 5: NEGATIVE follows Barry Allen as he struggles through the negative energy that is swallowing him up and leaving destruction in his wake, all the while fighting crime and trying to keep Central City safe.

Some of the things that draws readers to the Flash is his burning desire to help everyone at all costs and that his powers are never fully figured out and therefore are always surprising him. In the graphic novel, those themes are prominent and welcome. The artwork is great and such a unique new villain is introduced; one that could thwart Barry for years to come.

A pleasure to read and great world to escape to, THE FLASH VOL 5: NEGATIVE drew me in and I can't wait to read the next volume.

Norman says

I don't know if #34 actually belongs in this collection as I feel like it's a completely different storyline (also it feels extremely rushed and pretty stupid), so considering all the earlier issues, this one is good and full of development. It feels a bit filler-like, like we are just seeing Flash deal with his inner demons while dealing with the, I suppose, figurative Negative Speed Force. I liked it, though. Good writing, but the art was a little inconsistent. Mid-story artist switching, etc.

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James DeSantis says

In this volume The Flash is learning to deal with Venom taking over. Sorry, the Negative Speed Force.

I'm just teasing. This storyline does have a big venom vibe though but it's actually pretty entertaining so that's a plus.

Barry has lost almost everything. Even more he has the negative speed force as a part of him. What is it you ask? Well it makes him even stronger than before but also more dangerous. When he uses his powers it can create explosions or even kill people. It's a new power, and while it sounds useful, it could be very dangerous. On top of that we finally get Barry's life moving forward, with him starting a job at Iron Heights. Last but not least we have Wally and Barry beginning to work together again but of course it's not all cheerful smiles and high fives.

Good: I actually really liked Kid Flash and The Flash working together again. I just enjoy the idea of Barry

having a backup with him and being a mentor. I also enjoyed Barry flipping out and losing his shit. Getting to the point he holds too much on his shoulder and just about to lose it. I also enjoyed the new rogue, he was a unique look and a kind of scary power.

Bad: The negative energy angle is kind of been there done that. I didn't really find him battling with it that well done. I liked the bathroom scene but that's really it (and no dirty minds, not that type of bathroom scene). Also the art changes half way through a arc can be disjointed.

Overall, a solid follow up to the effects of running scared. While The Flash hasn't hit the 5 star rating I think Joshua is providing a solid fun storyline. Not as good as Johns or Waids but way better than anything in New 52 Flash. A 3.5 out of 5.

Dr Rashmit Mishra says

Well this was fun (sort of) . If I had to describe the story arc , I'd call it, the DC comics version of The Venom debut story arc. The difference being while Peter Parker enjoyed the Venom powers initially , Barry knows from the start that his powers are problematic and uncontrollable (for now) . Also the power , so far , hasn't shown signs of being a sentient being .

My problem with this was that I genuinely don't like the Negative speed force , and the finale felt a bit rushed (the one between Barry and Wally) , but overall I really did enjoy it , even enjoyed the bit where Barry lashed out at every one .

Also the art was weird for me . The coloring were just superb , but the sketches weren't . They looked off on many expressions , but again the colors were awesome

vibraniums says

read issues as e-books

4 stars
