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The Flash, Vol. 1: Move Forward (The New 52)



Synopsis

Struck by a bolt of lightning and doused in chemicals, Central City Police scientist Barry Allen was transformed into the fastest man alive. Tapping into the energy field called The Speed Force, he applies a tenacious sense of justice to protect and serve the world as The Flash! The Fastest Man Alive returns to his own monthly series as part of the DC Comics' "The New 52" event with the writer/artist team of Francis Manapul and Brian Buccellato. The Flash knows he can't be everywhere at once, but he has seemingly met his match when he faces DC Comic's hottest new Super Villain, Mob Rule, who really can be everywhere at once! As Mob Rule wages a campaign of crime across Central City, including an electromagnetic blast that plunges the city into darkness, The Flash learns the only way he can capture Mob Rule and save Central City is to learn how to make his brain function even faster than before--but as much as it helps him, it also comes with a steep price. This volume collects issues 1-8 of the monthly series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With any comic reboot, we all either get excited or nervous when we hear about who writes and draws what comics. In case of the DC New 52, news of The Flash team was in the camp of nervousness for fans. Francis Manapul, who's made a name for himself doing some exquisite art work with Geoff Johns in Flash Vol. 1: The Dastardly Death of the Rogues! (Flash (Graphic Novels)) and The Flash Vol. 2: The Road to Flashpoint (Flash (Graphic Novels))--as well as his colorist Brian Buccellato--were announced as co-writers and artist. Two artists with no prior writing credits? That

makes anyone nervous. So how do these two do taking on an A-list character and filling in the shoes that Geoff Johns filled? Pretty darn impressed, if you ask me. THE FLASH VOL. 1: MOVE FORWARD collects issues #1-8 and is divided into two separate stories. Issues 1-5 deal with Barry Allen, crime scene investigator, enjoying his date with fellow police blood analyzer, Patty Spivot. Upon visiting a science exhibition, the place gets attacked by an organization by the name Mob Rules. After the attack, one of the dead assailants is an old friend of Barry's named Manuel, who Barry hasn't seen in years. Barry investigates into it, but Manuel (alive somehow) finds Barry and is trying to get away from some people. Come to find out, these people are hundreds of people that look just like Manuel! And issues 6-8 deal with an old Rouge enemy Leonard Snart, AKA Captain Cold, wanting revenge on the Flash.

Overall, this was a very fun and entertaining read for me. I've been a fan of The Flash television show which plays on the CW so I was pretty excited to get into some of the source material for where the show's writers get their wacky ideas. I obviously did not have the expectation that this would at all be the same thing as the show, but I definitely wanted it to be just as good. My feelings after reading are certainly a little mixed. On one hand, this was an action packed collection of issues which are lovingly rendered by some immensely gifted artists. On another hand, it's a narrative that isn't quite flat, but also isn't as approachable as DC Comics would lead you to believe. See although this is Volume 1 of this version of the character, it's not necessarily the beginning of the story. The Flash has already established himself as a hero, loved by many, but not trusted by others. All of the characters certainly get a proper introduction, from Barry Allen's (The Flash's) cute police girlfriend, Patty Spivot, to the icy Captain Cold. Despite everything being presented as fresh and new, I definitely got the sense that DC was trying extremely hard not to alienate or bore their current fan base. Some characters, like Patty Spivot, definitely feel like they are worked into the story in a seamless manner, but entrances for characters like Captain Cold are a bit more forced. This largely comes from the fact that some of these characters have history with the Flash by this point - a history that I as a reader am well informed of, but this is a case where they tell me rather than show me that Flash and Cold are old rivals. Now, yes I know who Captain Cold is from the show, but I wanted to get to know him in THIS world and have him (as well as others like Iris West) feel a bit more fleshed out.

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