



Blackest Night

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Throughout the decades, death has plagued the DC Universe and taken the lives of heroes and villains alike. But to what end? As the War between the different colored Lantern Corps rages on, the prophecy of the Blackest Night descends and it's up to Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps to lead DC's greatest champions in a battle to save the Universe from an army of undead Black Lanterns made up of fallen Green Lanterns and DC's deceased heroes and villains.

Collecting: *BLACKEST NIGHT* #0-8, *BLACKEST NIGHT DIRECTOR'S CUT* #1.

Blackest Night Details

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Author : Geoff Johns (Writer) , Ivan Reis (Illustrator) , Oclair Albert (Illustrator) , Joe Prado (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Blackest Night for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

Zombie superheroes vs. non-zombie superheroes – that’s basically what Blackest Night is. The storyline entails both sides punching one another until – guess what? – the superheroes win!

This is a 300+ page book that really doesn’t explore further than this basic premise and therefore could’ve been far, far shorter than it was. From the moment the Black Lanterns show up at the start, resurrecting dead superheroes to fight the ones who’re alive, nothing much changes until the book ends. It’s such a tedious read. Green Lantern and Flash battle Black Lanterns... 100 pages later, more Black Lanterns show up and more superheroes show up to fight them... 100 pages later, same thing as 100 pages ago... 100 pages later... same thing as 100 pages ago. The end.

Don’t expect character development or nuanced storytelling, it’s just big brash superhero Event nonsense where one boring fight scene follows another with so many characters crammed on the page that you can barely make out what’s happening. Blackest Night is the comics equivalent of a Transformers movie and, like Michael Bay’s big budget stinkers, is unfathomably popular.

Geoff Johns throws in what seems to be an interesting idea in the final act where he makes non-Lantern DC characters into Lanterns – Lex becomes an Orange Lantern, Flash becomes a Blue Lantern, Mera becomes a Red Lantern, and Scarecrow (Batman villain) becomes a Yellow Lantern, Atom becomes a Purple Lantern – but this inclusion doesn’t change the trajectory of the story one iota. More pointless fighting ensues.

There was one scene that made me laugh – on one of the numerous splash pages, a Lantern from each colour of the spectrum raises their ring and chants their oaths and it made me think that if only the Power Rangers took Poetry 101, this could be their book. Those rhyming couplets are so lame – except for the Red Lanterns, every stanza ends in a variation of “might” (light, bright, etc.). And the way they solemnly stand there looking like the weirdest rainbow ever, saying these moronic lines... thanks Geoff Johns for that moment of levity, even though I’m sure it was supposed to be serious and whatever.

Ivan Reis’ artwork is just ok. It’s detailed but is too much of the DC house style to be considered beautiful or distinctive. And it’s just so busy – some splash pages literally feature hundreds of characters punching one another! I can’t say it’s particularly good, despite the skill and effort obviously on show.

I realise there are numerous other books that tie in to this one – that I definitely won’t be reading – but you can just read this one and still understand what’s going on. It’s a really straightforward story: bad guys show up to kill everything, good guys stop them. Given that the entire book is one extra-long fight sequence, it’s not complicated to follow.

Johns also makes Earth the centre of the universe which I thought was a stupid concept and a bit too egotistical. The villains suck – Black Hand and Necron. Could they have more obvious villain names? Dark Evil Menace maybe or Pestilent Death Villain? The only thing frightening about the bad guys in this book is the bad dialogue Johns has them spout every time they appear. Their “characters” make Punch and Judy shows look like realist performances in comparison.

Blackest Night is representative of the worst excesses that superhero comics, particularly Event comics, are guilty of: it’s dumb, loud, far too long, and boring. If shit comics are what you’re after, look no further than

Blackest Night.

Anne says

Reread: 2015

And my opinion *still* hasn't changed...

This was probably my favorite event...ever.

When I read this for the first time, it blew me away! Not only that, but it solidified me as a Green Lantern junkie forever.

Exhibit A:

At this point, I don't even know how many GL titles I've read, and I'll be the first to admit that I find very few of them exceptional these days.

But.

I can't stop. I keep chasing the dragon in the hopes of finding another book that makes me feel the way this one originally did.

BECAUSE IT WAS BADASS!

There's more to it than this, but the Black Rings basically turn a bunch of dead superheroes into zombies.

Zombie Aquaman!

Zombie Batman!

Or is it?

In fact, **zombie** any superhero who had *ever* been dead, and then come back to life!

In case you were wondering, that's...like, all of 'em!

The Black Hand is this absolute psychopath who was endowed with the power of the Black Lantern. All of this ties into the BIG BAD, Nekron, who is sort of the embodiment of death. Ish.

Whatever! He's evil, he's in charge of dead people, and he's trying to fulfill a billion year old prophecy. A prophecy that those little blue bastards on Oa have been keeping a secret from everyone. Because they're **bastards!**

And, apparently, they're also not above a little cannibal action.

There are tons of things I love about this storyline, but one of the best (in my opinion) is that this heavily features Barry Allen. There aren't as many great comics with Flash in them as I would like, and (especially lately) the Justice League hasn't been using this character to his full potential in the title. So, if you've been looking for something that shows off the very best of the Scarlet Speedster? You may want to check this one out.

This may be Hal's title, but Barry is the heart and soul of the mission.

A big complaint about this one is the way it was used to *fix* quite a few of the **dead capes** that DC wanted to bring back to life.

Hell, I've made fun of it for doing that, myself!

shrugs

Fuck it, it's fun! And, honestly, how could I argue with anything when they decided to bring Aquaman back?

It's DC vs Zombies! What's not to love?!

Original review:

(view spoiler)

Bookwraiths says

I liked it, but the last couple issues were hard to get through, because -- as other reviews have already said -- things quickly turn into an ordinary slugfest without any real plot. Sure, it was cool to see Lex Luthor with a ring, but what did it do to develop the story? Nothing. Same with Superman and Wonder Woman and all the rest. Guess what I am saying is this should have been even better than it was.

Eli says

Easily in my all-time favorite comics. I told myself I was just going to finish part 3 last night and sleep. Then I read parts 4 and 5. Then I gave up and read it before I went to sleep. And let me tell you, it was better than sleep.

Geoff Johns really crafted something amazing here. The storytelling was phenomenal and the dialogue was impeccable. Ivan Reis... *slow clap evolves into a disturbing cacophony of congratulation* ... This guy can illustrate. He's one of my favorite artists now. His work here was jaw-dropping. Some of the full 2-page panels just blew my mind with how detailed they were.

I'm not really going to go into the plot because there's just *so. much. there.* But Johns and Reis really made a distinct impact on my introduction to the other five Lantern Corps. I had always known about the Green Lantern Corps and the Sinestro Corps, but I didn't know there were five others. And then other forms of light: black and white.

And then the sheer number of other characters in this. It was a Green Lantern comic, but the entire Justice League, Teen Titans, etc. was in this thing. And the way they changed the characters for this comic was so awesome. I LOVED IT. What can I say? Superhero crossovers make me extremely happy.

I'm really glad I thought to pick this comic up. It really just made me so happy. Amazing artwork, great storytelling, a plethora of awesome characters, tons of WTF and "oh, sh*t" moments. What more could you ask for?

P.S. (view spoiler)

Patrick says

A bunch of people were talking about how much they enjoyed this story, and Green Lantern is one of the very few comics I used to read and enjoy as a kid (though very briefly). So I decided to try it out.

Maybe it's the fact that I don't read many mainstream superhero comics, so I have trouble following these big crossover events where everyone and their 30 years of dramatic baggage is brought into the spotlight. I don't know who so-and-so's dead girlfriend was 10 years ago. I didn't read that story, so it doesn't have any emotional impact for me.

It's also possible that the structure of the story just didn't work for me. This series of graphic novels was presented in a rather non-linear fashion. And while I respect the artistic choice, I didn't enjoy it.

Lastly, I'm not a big fan of end-of-the-world events fought by hugely overpowered heroes. It's really hard to pull off in a narratively appealing way. Since I don't have a big emotional attachment to the 100 characters involved or their elaborate backstories, it ends up coming across to me as a series of escalating shark jumps followed by a series of Deus Ex Machina resolutions.

I expect that a lot of die-hard DC comic fans will get a lot more out of this than I did, and as a result enjoy it

a lot more.

Michael says

I'm sure I'll annoy Green Lantern fans everywhere by saying I don't honestly see what the big deal about this cross-over event is.

I should probably preface that by saying that I'm more a Marvel than a DC reader, so part of this could be my own natural bias coming into play. And part of it could be that I haven't read every single issue of Green Lantern leading up this storyline, so I could be at a huge loss on picking up the nuances of the tale.

That said, I found this storyline tedious and a bit off-putting. I'd heard a lot of buzz about it and figured this comic book line had to be better than the tedious Green Lantern movie we got last year.

Yeah, not so much.

It's got some good art and it's engaging at certain points. But overall, this didn't do a lot for me.

Richard says

Here it is, the culmination of everything that Geoff Johns has been doing in his groundbreaking Green Lantern run. And it's so epic that it affects more than just the Green Lantern stories, it becomes a major DC Comics event that rocks the entire universe! As prophesied, the rise of the different colors of the emotional spectrum and the ensuing conflict between them has stirred Nekron, the embodiment of death. He begins to re-animate the dead across the universe to join the "Black Lanterns" in an effort to extinguish all life and emotion in the universe. So the DC heroes, as well as all seven Lantern Corps have to contend with fighting zombified versions of their dead loved ones, fallen partners, and past enemies, in an effort to protect all life in the universe.

I read this in tandem with the tie-in Green Lantern: Blackest Night, and it seems totally necessary to read it this way in order to truly follow and appreciate the story, especially because Geoff Johns wrote both comics as part of his huge story. You can find the issue reading order somewhere online. I wish they released a big book combining all of this because it really is one big story. I probably wouldn't have liked this as much if I didn't read both books at the same time.

This is an action-packed epic that brought the elements of a pure horror story to the DC Universe, as our heroes basically fight super-zombies. And characters dying and coming back to life has always been a major part of DC comics and I loved that this event looks at this trend in a new way. Even though, again (as expected), it suffers a bit from over-crowdedness, this story is chock-full of memorable moments and twists that I won't spoil here. And I was so happy to see a DC crossover event that was centered around the Green Lantern mythology. This event is a must-read if only for the way it completely changes the DC universe. I don't think I ever give these big superhero books 5-stars because they're so busy and barely ever stand alone, being dependent on a lot of knowledge from previous stories. And most times the focus on that stuff and the

plethora of characters leaves no room for much meaningful character development. But, the art here is fun. Green Lantern books are always known for their insane splash pages, but there's some stuff in here that really takes the cake!

StoryTellerShannon says

MINI REVIEW: in which Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps must save Earth from an undead apocalypse which includes fallen heroes and villains. Impressive artwork and character reveals are good but the plotting of the story goes back and forth at the expense of the over the top action (and we have to read crossovers to "get" the entirety of the tale). Then again, this is Green Lantern. It makes Superman seem mundane in its action sequences.

I finally learned what all those different green lanterns colors mean. Sorta.

Written by Geoff Johns and artwork by Ivan Reis, Joe Prada and Oclair Albert.

ARTISTIC PRESENTATION/PANELS: B plus to A minus; ACTION SCENES: B plus to A minus; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B to B plus; STORY/PLOTTING/PANELS: B; DC MYTHOLOGY: B to B plus; WHEN READ: end of September 2013; OVERALL GRADE: B to B plus.

EisNinE says

My Blackest Night: A Victim Speaks Out

Right back at ya, big guy. And Geoff Johns sucks too.

Please excuse the 300-proof hatred; I'm a vitrioholic. And apologies to my GR friends who liked 'Blackest Night'. I feel terrible that you genuinely find this shit entertaining (I'm kidding, of course; it's theoretically possible that people who deliberately baptize themselves in the Hulk-piss Kool-Aid of Spandex-wearing cosmic super-douchebags Hal Jordan & Kyle Rayner, it all makes perfect sense.

Even superhero fans without a PhD in Green Lantern history may be familiar enough with the chaotic 'structure' of crossover events to make sense of it, and... enjoy it(?). But as someone with a limited knowledge of both, and lacking a personal DCU Rosetta-stone (as well as any desire to own one) for sorting out all the various line-wide reboots, clusterfucks & 'shake-ups' (like the shocking introduction of Superman's Super-mullet)... even if I could forego the hand-carved granite & limestone versions for a handy digital format Android App. Sometimes people confuse bad editing & convoluted, directionless writing for narrative complexity. 'Blackest Night' is too awful to for even the lamest excuse. I still think the Green Lantern is the worst of the classic heroes; my first attempt left me just as cold as the first... the Green Lantern is a strangely unimaginative and farcical jewelry-powered bad-idea-accumulator. Perspectives. They make

the world a ~~hellish~~ beautiful place to live.)

The 'comic event' that DC and Marvel thoughtfully provide for the faithful fanboys, who have learned to subsist on whatever shit the 'Big Two' excrete, is a storyline that wanders off at oblique angles to include as many characters and monthly titles as it can. It's origins are shrouded in mystery... oh shit, hold on...

Nope, I guess I was just being lazy, 'cause they actually aren't mysterious at all. Thanks, Wikipedia!

It started with 'Zatanna's Search', written by Gardner Fox to include several DC superhero titles (Hawkman, Detective Comics, The Atom, Green Lantern, & Justice League of America), way back in 1964. Twenty years later, notorious wunderkind/former editor-in-chief Jim Shooter re-introduced the crossover event in Marvel's 'Secret Wars', which was either pure genius or a complete waste of paper; either way, it did put a slick looking black outfit in Peter Parker's closet (which soon became an alien parasite with the consciousness of some evil villain, after fans decided they would forever curse artists to draw the classic Ditko costume, with all it's annoying spider-web details. The classic Spidey-animators just said 'fuck it, I'm not drawing that shit 5000 times an episode').

The big crossover event is so shamelessly marketing based, you might think fans would avoid it as an affront to their intelligence, but you'd be wrong. Characters from titles with anemic sales are shoehorned into whatever cosmic menace the event deals with, and tendrils of sub-plot extending from the convoluted narrative of the 'maxi-series' pull readers into titles they're not usually interested in, using the event as a 'jumping-on' point. 'Blackest Night' was huge business for DC, 'master-minded' by Geoff 'Golden Boy' Johns to shrewdly capitalize on the success of Kirkman's 'The Walking Dead' and 'Marvel Zombies'.

After reading reviews and interviews that made Johns sound like Alan Moore multiplied by Grant Morrison plus Joss Whedon cubed, I made the mistake of checking out his work. I have no legitimate excuse for buying *two* hardcover 'Blackest Night' volumes, and I'm pretty sure that fateful purchase has somehow stained my soul. I wish I could blame it on drugs. I probably should have spent the money on crack instead, because I think 'Blackest Night' does more long-term damage to your mental processes. I'll take the shitty heroin withdrawal instead.

And why the *fuck* I ever thought that a story about Green Lantern fighting zombies would be readable I'm not sure. I plead temporary insanity. You've got a half dozen writers, some of whom are trying to create their own complicated superhero stories, and don't appreciate having to accommodate whatever scraps of plot they're supposed to write into their own tale -- just to satisfy idiotic editorial demands. They've got deadlines, ferfucksake; they're beating themselves about the cerebellum with toasters and dildos, trying desperately to dredge up just *one more* issue that stays on the right side of the suck-line, nevermind the dead-line. Then you've got about twenty different artists fighting for pages, and the further afield from 'Blackest Night' and 'Blackest Night: Green Lantern' you get, the fuglier the patchwork crazy-quilt gets. In fact, Ivan Reis is pretty terrible, IMO, and he's supposed to be a 'star' name. Doug Mahnke is actually a very talented artist, with an ability to shift styles with ease, but he's changed for the worse to satisfy the fans who think Reis is a genius.

None of the volumes were numbered, and 8 or 9 of these 'Blackest Night' hardcovers were released within a *two week period*, collecting over 2500 pages of material originally published over a 36-week period. That might have something to do with the confusion Johns creates, as bit-players in spandex jump and fly about, screaming things at one another before being turned into zombies. Huge gaps in the story are addressed with helpful captions directing the reader to some other volume they should rush to the store and purchase. When it directed me back to the other volume I DID own, I decided to start reading it, hoping that by reading two unspeakably fucking awful books simultaneously, some act of comic-book alchemy might occur... but no.

Combining two shitty books makes for one long, shitty story. It didn't even seem to fill in the plot gap I had been told it would explain by the trusty caption. I'll never trust captions again.

I think the story might have had something distantly related to a coherent narrative when the individual issues were published, but because the order sends you deliberately from one title to the next, forcing you to buy 5 or 6 issues per month, collecting the story as hardcovers -- based on title -- means each book is a chopped up mess. The silly little recaps don't do much to make the story enjoyable; only fans who followed this 'event' when it was released in a stapled format are going to get any satisfaction from this. For anyone who isn't familiar with the Green Lantern Corps or Sinestro, this is going to seem like a boring, cynical, unoriginal attempt to cash in on the zombie thing. Taking these books on their own merits -- DC gives the reader no better ideas on how to read or judge them, other than buying them all and devouring 2500 pages at once -- means Geoff Johns seems utterly clueless about writing stories that appeal to new readers. This is pure deus ex machina.

I don't remember much about the story. After a few years of counselling I was able to put my 'Blackest Night' behind me, but I still begin moaning and rocking back-and-forth uncontrollably when anyone talks about how great Geoff Johns is. DC followed this event with a sequel, and it was inevitable they'd call it 'Brightest Day'. It gave birth to its own healthy litter of hardcovers. I don't believe in burning books, but I did the next best thing and returned both 'B.N.' copies to my local 'Chapters' store, even though I hadn't purchased them there. I didn't have a receipt, of course, but it's surprising what a few minutes of sustained weeping can accomplish. Muttering between sobs about 'the institution' and how you 'never meant to hurt anyone' can only help the situation. The ability to froth at the mouth on command is probably the most useful talent there is, but if you're not blessed with such a gift, just bite your tongue or the inside of your cheek -- bloody drool is almost as good.

The secret is to not ask first. And don't ever speak with near-sighted ostriches that think they're smart. The ratio of their golf-ball-sized brain to their enormous body-mass should give them an intelligence-level somewhere between fungus and flatworm.

A Mysterious Review That Might Be Related to the Book in Question, But Written By A GR-Friend Instead

Scarlet Cameo says

-RTC-

Bradley says

Totally freaking kick-ass.

It took a hell of a long time to get through, considering that it is interspersed through a whopping 106 issues of story set-up, main and side action, and the epic fight on so many different fronts. One issue here, one issue there meant that I was eagerly checking the list to see when the main action would come back around.

I could have cheated and read this and a few of the Black Lantern volumes and ignored the rest, but I'm very pleased to have gone ahead and read them all, including the issues in a few volumes that were only partly Blackest Night related.

I learned a lot about the DC universe, too. Am I impressed? Yeah, I am. I thought I was just a Marvel Junkie.

Do I have to turn in my fanboy badge?

Gianfranco Mancini says

IT'S DC UNIVERSE VS ZOMBIES SHOWDOWN!!!

Not bad at all and Ivan Reis amazing hyperdetailed artworks are just over the top, but my knowledge about DC characters is still too much flawed to fully appreciate this event basing its roots on several past events that I've not read about like main villain past appearances and the (temporary, of course) demises of iconic characters like Batman, Aquaman, Martian Manhunter and something like a thousand of heroes/villain I've never heard of...

Luckly I've read last year Identity Crisis and Hawkman: Endless Flight storylines so I could appreciate for good the dramatic (and so brutal) fight of Hawkman and Hawkgirl against poor zombified Ralph and Sue Dibny, Carter's pain for his beloved not remembering him, Atom's grief and much more.

There are a few intense deaths and horrific moments in this volume, but they were just sporadic and without the gore and the black humour I was just expecting for after reading similar "Superheroes vs Zombies" comics like Marvel Zombies.

Really enjoyed storyline and artworks, but first half was for me far better than second half where cheesiness level just went off scale... and these praises of Green Lantern movie in preface and appendix just reminded me Deadpool 2 post-credit scene and made me laugh a lot!

But for these flaw, this is great read if you are into superheroes, space-opera and zombies.
Just not a good idea for a chance buy if you aren't an expert of DC universe continuity and characters.

Sesana says

After reading the meandering and disappointing Countdown to Final Crisis and confusing and disappointing Final Crisis, it was so, so nice to read a DC crossover that delivers. If you haven't been keeping up on the new spectrum of Lanterns, I'd suggest reading Blackest Night: Tales of the Corps first.

So, where does Blackest Night succeed where Countdown and Final Crisis didn't? Unlike Countdown, Blackest Night has a tight, focused story that, while epic in scope, doesn't wander from what's really important. Unlike Final Crisis, Geoff Johns delivers a clear, driving narrative. And there's a true emotional connection here, probably best expressed through Barry Allen. Barry is, after all, still fresh off being dead for 23 years, and still learning who's been lost. And there are the Black Lanterns, which are basically zombies, and that's always a plus.

I was really pleased with the art. Including the entire spectrum of Lanterns leads to some beautiful splashes of color against nearly black backgrounds, and it's a pretty effect. I also think that the artistic team did an admirable job of depicting White Lanterns without making them look like holes in the page. I do have to wonder, though, why all the Star Sapphires had to be women in very small costumes. I don't think fanservice has much to do with love.

Skip says

Just did not like this at all. Could not follow the plot, which was basically re-animated dead zombie superheroes battling current alive ones. I do not know enough of the DC League of Justice characters and their normal personas to follow who is who, and what animosities exist. The story was presented in a very disjointed and non-linear way. SO gGlad to be done so I can read something enjoyable again.

Alejandro says

The dead will rise and the universe will fall!

I bought this in its single comic book issues, but I've chosen this TPB edition to be able of making a better overall review.

This TPB edition contains "Blackest Night" #0-8. Featuring the main story of the "Blackest Night" event.

Creative Team:

Writer: Geoff Johns

Illustrators: Ivan Reis with Doug Mahnke (in issue #0)

DEATH V LIFE: DAWN OF BLACK LANTERNS

The Guardians of the Universe were afraid of the Blackest Night, and not only because it was an apocalyptical omen, but because they lied to everybody about many things, some for good reasons and others not, but lies are lies, and never a path paved with lies has ever lead to a good destination.

The Black Lanterns are invading all the homeworlds of each Emotional Spectrum corps, since they are the only ones able to put a fight against them, but since Earth has been a factor to beat many other crisis before, it was a smart move to send troops over there too and recruiting dead heroes and villains with superpowers into the Black Lantern Corps ranks won't hurt neither...

...or is there another reason to invade Earth?

Green Lantern Hal Jordan and The Flash Barry Allen get in the middle of the dead invasion and it's harder than any other battle before since their fallen comrades now are the enemies.

The Black Lantern Main Battery is empowered with the corpse of the Anit-Monitor and Black Hand is the Black Lanterns Herald, **BUT...**

...is there to rise the real leader of the Black Lantern Corps and his role in the "behind-the-scenes" of the DC Universe will prove to be more relevant than anyone could guess before, a role so crucial that if the heroes are able to beat him...

...the DC Universe mechanics may never be the same!

THE PAST HAUNTS, THE FUTURE ESCAPES

The Atom, Mera and the current Firestorm (Jason Rusch + Gehenna) will be haunted for their loved deceased ones and friends...

...with deathly repercussions changing the future forever.

But they aren't the only ones, since all over the world, the dead ones are rising causing stress to the living that a victory seems impossible.

Ganthet was expelled from the Guardians of the Universe but...

...he left a final wildcard in the pages of the Book of Oa that will change the battlefield in uncontrollable ways, if for the best or the worse, will be hard to foreseen.

However, not all dead will rise giving a clue about why all those deceased are able to rise from death, also not all dead will be in command of the Black Lanterns giving an advantage to collect Intel from enemy lines, and moreover, not all dead are what they seemed to be giving hope for the future of the DC Universe.

The *Blackest Night* is here!

RISE!!!

