



## Arrow - A Generation of Vipers

*Susan Griffith , Clay Griffith*

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**Arrow - A Generation of Vipers** Susan Griffith , Clay Griffith

The second original novel based on the hit Warner Bros. TV show Arrow and concluding the first crossover between The Flash and Arrow novels!

Continuing from the events of THE FLASH: THE HAUNTING OF BARRY ALLEN, team Arrow and team Flash seek to eliminate the bizarre energy that threatens to kill the Scarlet Speedster. Their quest takes them to Markovia, where they must get past an army of mercenaries and assassins to face the enigmatic Count Wallenstein.

## Arrow - A Generation of Vipers Details

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## From Reader Review Arrow - A Generation of Vipers for online ebook

### Ricky says

The conclusion of the two-part crossover begun in *The Flash: The Haunting of Barry Allen*, *Arrow: A Generation of Vipers* is jam-packed with story threads. Not only does it have an all-new storyline centered on Oliver Queen and his team - early Season 4 vintage, roughly, so we pretty much get all Ollie, Dig, Felicity, and, thankfully, Thea as well - trying to recover an important artifact from the castle of an evil count in a country mashing up Austria and Russia, but we still have to deal with Barry's little problem of blurring out of space and time whenever he combines his speedster powers with emotional responses.

And then, because this is an *Arrow* story, we get a fair few flashbacks to Ollie's past. Not only to his old playboy life - including Tommy Merlyn, and Ghasi Lazarov, a previously unseen old friend from the same country he and his friends are currently hoping to pull off a sort of heist in - but also to his days on the island of Lian Yu, of course.

Clay and Susan Griffiths have their work cut out for them, juggling the many story threads over the course of 400 pages again. It's a delicate balancing act, but they pull it off with the aplomb of Andrew Garfield or Tom Holland as Spider-Man - that is to say, they do it well. Maybe there's a few too many scenes that aren't really necessary - like Barry almost getting honeypotted by a Russian agent, because it happens once, Ollie calls him out on his carelessness, and then it's all but forgotten - or, also, just about every Malcolm Merlyn scene because I'm still so over his extra ass after the show (as well as *Legends of Tomorrow*) ran his welcome into the ground years ago. But hey, those Malcolm Merlyn scenes, like a lot of others in both of the Griffiths' books, played out just enough like one of my old fanfics that I was very much able to appreciate them.

What I really appreciated, of course, was how the cast of *The Flash* being part of the story didn't feel like an afterthought. Sadly, it's not a perfect integration in most cases. Caitlin has just about nothing to do (except maybe a scene or two that plays out like a SnowBarry hurt/comfort fic, which the previous book had many more of), and neither does Joe - or Iris, which is a shame considering how much *Haunting* significantly improved her characterization compared to what we get on the show. (Virtually eliminating WestAllen romance was a massive help in that regard, of course.) But Cisco? Here, he gets an improved role compared to *Haunting*, because he gets to basically be the comic relief, as he should because it's his element. Though the source material tends to lapse into excessive grimdarkness at times, bringing in two of the brightest sparks from *The Flash* - even if one of them, his story is about him suffering serious psychosomatic torture and I just wanted to fraking hug the poor guy the whole bloodydamn time! - alleviates that most common *Arrow* flaw magnificently.

Though I'm disappointed that this is the end of the Griffiths' involvement with the *Arrowverse*, for now - I can always hope for a good *Legends* story where they put Wally West to good use 'cause *The Flash* never does, though that apparently owes somewhat to Keiynan Lonsdale's busy schedule too, or perhaps a *Supergirl* story that ignores the ridiculous ways in which the writers of that show bend over backwards to torture us poor Karamel fanpeople - I'm very happy that they again delivered some terrific material to cap off this duology - a duology which Marc Guggenheim has supposedly canonized, to my delight.

*Ave atque vale*, Flash and Arrow, till you guys return to my small screen in the new year.

And on another happy note - fellow Olicity fans, this book is for you too. No BS.

## **Chris Lemmerman says**

Yep. Love it.

The second part of the crossover that began in *The Haunting Of Barry Allen*, this book sees Teams Arrow and Flash travel to Markovia to track down the wormhole technology that could save Barry's life. Along the way we get an old enemy, a new enemy, some flashbacks (because what Arrow book would be complete without flashbacks?), self-doubt, self-loathing, and a whole lot of superhero action.

Great fun from start to finish. I really enjoyed how this tonally felt different to the Flash novel, even when we're reading from the perspective of the Flash characters. I also liked how well this threaded in and out of the Arrow mythos, weaving in Malcolm Merlyn (of course) and references to lots of other things from across the four seasons of Arrow that have passed before this novel is set.

It's still difficult to place this story in the timeline - Malcolm isn't Ra's Al Ghul anymore, so that's a thing, and this book references Harrison Wells from Earth-2 whereas the first book didn't, which means it can take place a lot further into Season 4 of Arrow/Season 2 of Flash than I first thought. And Laurel's not in this one either, so that's a factor to consider.

It's probably best not to think about it.

Not that it's an issue. This is a very solid, very enjoyable entry into the Arrowverse, and I hope to see more.

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## **Andrea says**

It was ok. Similar to *The Haunting of Barry Allen*, it starts off slow and takes a while to get interesting. I'm not a huge Arrow fan, so I wasn't as into this book, but I wanted to finish the story started in the Flash novel.

I WAS impressed with Malcolm Merlyn. I could hear John Barrowman delivering those lines, far more than the "voices" of the other characters.

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## **Lauren says**

This isn't a professional review but I would've loved this more if there was more Felicity in it. Just saying.

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## **Krystle says**

This book was not what I expected it to be. But it still was a very good way of passing time. Oliver and Felicity's scenes ...they were short but they were perfect.

Team Arrow defeats yet another big bad and everything is good in the world.

## Mervi says

The second book in a duology of books set in the Flash/Arrow tv-show universe. It's also a crossover between the Flash and Arrow tv-shows this time focusing on team Arrow.

The second book in the Flash and Arrow crossover starts immediately after the end of the first book, the Haunting of Barry Allen. I think it's set during fourth season of Arrow because team Arrow is Oliver, Felicity, Digg, and Thea as Speedy. Oliver is in relationship with Felicia and she's the CEO of Palmer Technologies.

Barry, the Flash, is experiencing blurring when he's afraid or stressed out and it's getting worse. He blurs (becomes motionless and insubstantial while hallucinating about his elder self and about Zoom as Wells) more often even though Oliver has taught him mediation which previously worked to keep the blurs under control. They're happening because of otherworldly plasma is multiplying in his blood stream. However, there might be a way to save him. One of Queen Consolidates' previous employees worked on a way to open stable wormholes. Since the plasma came (apparently) to Barry's blood stream during the wormhole incident (at the end of season 1), Cisco and Felicity think they can cure Barry with the machine. But the inventor is dead. Now the heroes must find his work and use it to cure Barry. However, other people want the research, too.

As a secondary plot, we get to see Oliver and Thea before Oliver goes to the island. Oliver has a Croatan friend Ghasi who gets into fights often. Oliver's other friends don't really like him and Thea downright despises him, but Oliver stays by his friend. In present time, Ghasi wants the research as well and is a cunning opponent. In the flashbacks we also get to see characters from the first season, such as Oliver's parents and Tommy Merlyn.

The main POV character is Oliver but we also get small glimpses from the POVs of Felicity and Barry.

This was just as a delightful read as the first book in the series: if you liked it, you're most likely going to like this as well unless you don't like Oliver. This being an Arrow book, it's centered on Team Arrow. In fact, the story switches very quickly to Star City. Barry and later Cisco joins them, but the rest of the team Flash don't really show. This was my big disappointment: I like the Flash show much more than Arrow. However, I don't think this book was as depressing as the Arrow show usually is: nobody left a relationship, died, or messed up their friendship. In fact, it's quite upbeat for an Arrow episode. It was also great to see John and Lyla kicking ass together because the show doesn't give them enough action scenes together.

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## Wayland Smith says

Part two of the crossover book event, this continues where The Flash: The Haunting of Barry Allen left off. The Rogues are defeated, but Barry is still suffering from his unique ailment. The crew moves to Star City as they trace down leads on the special experimental device that might hold the key to Barry's cure.

Just as the writers captured the feel of the Flash tv show in the first book, they do the same for Arrow here. Unfortunately, that means there's a lot of flashback in the novel, both back to Oliver's time on Lian Yu with Yao Fei, and to a point before that. Yet another person from Oliver's past is part of this story.

Things go international when the heroes have to go to Markovia to participate in an auction on the device Barry needs. Of course, you can't have an international arms deal without Malcolm Merlyn showing up to muddy the waters. Lyla and Speedy also get involved in the intrigue. Barry's waning powers make the shift to a more thriller/espionage kind of story work.

This concludes the team up, and, among other things, shows the friendships between all these characters, especially Barry and Oliver. It's a fast-paced, action-filled story. There were only two things that bothered me about it, one beyond the authors' control.

Book one of the story showed Flash and Green Arrow in their modernized costumes. Book two had them in the older versions, which really made no sense as a progression, even with the flash-backs. Again, not the writers' fault. My other quibble is that they use Cisco's Vibe powers a few times in this book to try and find something important. There was no mention of that happening in the first book when a big part of the plot was a desperate scramble to find a team of metahuman villains.

I enjoyed the story, and it really evoked the shows. Strongly recommended for fans of the CW-verse, fans of superheroes, and anyone who just likes a good action story.

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## Mike says

"Arrow: A Generation of Vipers" by Clay and Susan Griffith, is the sequel to "The Flash: The Haunting of Barry Allen" by the same pair of authors. If you're a fan of the CW TV shows that inspired these tie-in novels, as I am, you might find them an entertaining supplement to the seasons of those TV shows.

How to sum up the second book in this series? "More action, less heart." Oliver Queen and Team Arrow are headed to the fictional country of Markovia to bid big money--at an auction full of rich arms dealers, warlords, and various despots--on a wormhole generator. Why? To help cure The Flash, who is dying from plasma exposure he suffered at the end of season one of "The Flash" TV show. The theory is to draw the plasma out of his body with a stable wormhole. The problem? The generator tech is controlled by Count Wallenstein, who isn't any kind of humanitarian.

One of the main problems of the book is that they create a new antagonist for Green Arrow. Much of the book is devoted to this new villain, and that's not for the best. The authors also mirror the flashback structure of the "Arrow" TV show to explain who this new bad guy is and how he came to be a bad guy. I've always found the flashbacks of spoiled jackass Oliver Queen (before he spent "five years in hell" going from jackass to badass) to be the weakest part of the "Arrow" show. And this book doesn't dissuade me from that. The pace of the book slows a lot in the flashback sections. Spoiled Oliver, with Tommy Merlyn alive and well at his side, is still not that interesting.

The new villain, Ghasi (from Markovia, of course), is a normal human outfitted with biotech powers. He's like a video game villain, full of machinery to give himself metahuman powers. Anyway, there is a lengthy section in the early part of the book that fills us in about Ghasi--who was Oliver's booze and fast cars buddy--and Ghasi's dad (who worked for Oliver's dad) and were spies for Markovia.

Team Arrow hunts a wormhole generator prototype on U.S. soil--in direct conflict with Ghasi and his minions--for a long while before the inevitable trip to Markovia for the auction. Most of this U.S. section feels like filler that adds 150-200 pages to the book.

The Flash and Green Arrow both have roles to play in this story. But The Flash takes on a secondary role,

due to his illness. But he still has some fun moments, as does his good buddy Cisco. But the dark, grim mood of the "Arrow" kind of stories tend to bring the mood down. There's a lot of injuries and brooding and long, involved fight scenes. It plays better on TV than it does in book form. Malcolm Merlyn does make a guest ally (or is it guest villain?) appearance, which brings in some life to the story.

Where does this book go wrong? All over the place. Ghasi is not a terribly interesting villain. His powers are never fully explained. So it seems he has whatever powers the authors need him to have to keep the story limping along. One minute Ghasi is a murderous villain, the next he's a sullen creep with a soured man-crush on Oliver. The action in Markovia strains credulity at some points. After a long battle and a lot of soldier/mercenary deaths, the next day, business with the wormhole auction goes on as usual. Just step over the corpses, please. I also felt that the first book was more grounded in the mythology of "The Flash" than this "Arrow" book was. Going new places and meeting new people is not always the best idea for a tie-in novel.

Yet if you're a die-hard fan of the CW superheroes universe, you'll probably have an entertaining read with both of these "Flash/Arrow" novels. But if you're not a Berlanti-verse kind of reader (or don't know what "Berlanti-verse" or "Arrow-verse" means), you may want to point your peepers elsewhere.

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### **Josh says**

Much like the crossover episodes of Arrow & The Flash, this book emulates those episodes where characters pop up in each other's respective universes. This is the sequel to the book that got the ball rolling with an illness that gripped Barry Allen. Now the teams of The Flash and the Arrow are coming together to find a cure for him. Because the shows are still on, the reader knows that Barry/The Flash will come out on the other side, but it's still fun to see how all the events play out.

This novel shifts to the action to Oliver Queen's world, so we are introduced to a villain from his past. His appearance coincides with the team having to go on a hunt to Markovia to obtain a device that will hopefully aid in the recovery of Allen. I liked that this book again delves into the thoughts of the characters and fleshes out Queen's past both on the island and in his previous playboy life. Because I am a bit behind with the tv shows, some of the relationships of the characters or certain events were unfamiliar to me. That didn't prevent me from knowing what was happening or figuring things out, but I was in the dark for a few things.

I liked these crossover novels. They are highly enjoyable and the authors really capture the essences of the shows and the behaviors of the characters. Plus, the books are well-written.

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### **Ken says**

Billed as the second part of an epic crossover, I can't help but feel this was a massive letdown.

The story picks up from the events of the first book where the team are trying to find a cure for Barry's glitches, but with an introduction of a new villain and events taking place on the fictional Markovia it felt more like a continuation of an arc rather than focusing on the elements of the first part which hooked me into the story.

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## Joel Flank says

Picking up where *The Ghost of Barry Allen* ended, *Team Arrow* has tracked down a possible cure to the strange plasma which has infected the Flash, and while stabilized for now, it will eat him alive if the cure isn't secured. Unfortunately, it's held by Count Wallenstein, one of the elite of the nation of Markovia.

So, with the help of ARGUS, the Green Arrow and friends, along with the Flash himself travel into a fortress of an international criminal mastermind, to an auction attended by some of the most dangerous terrorists and criminals from around the world. Not on their home turf, halfway around the world, and not able to fight their way through, this super team up needs to finesse their way to the cure, and at the same time, make sure none of the other factions get their hands on it.

Another fun novel set in the Arrowverse, *A Generation of Vipers* does a great job in capturing the essence of the characters from the TV Shows, and allows telling a story which is out of budget, and features a hard to logistically arrange team up between shows. So it's a bonus on all levels, not just an episode of the week story. The stakes are high, the challenges are fitting, and it's a lot of fun to experience a team up of characters I've grown to love from the shows. Even the plot makes more sense than many of the actual TV shows :) An all around fun read.

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## miho says

I pre-ordered this book after becoming a fan of "The Haunting of Barry Allen" and then it took me so long to actually finish it - I think I was putting it off a bit because I knew there aren't any more of these... I really did not expect I'd love these books as much as I did. The plot was much better executed than in the CW shows they're based on. The characterisation was excellent, the relationships between characters were written really well considering it was a bit crowded with this crossover. All women were present in the narrative and totally badass and had a role to play. And the fight scenes - I'm in love with these fight scenes and have much respect for them since writing these in my stories is always such a challenge for me. I fully recommend this duology to anyone who likes Team Flash and Team Arrow but is disappointed with recent seasons of the TV shows. I really hope the Griffiths will write more for this universe - there will always be room on my shelves for more of this!

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## Ivy says

5 stars

Nice ending to the first book crossover. Liked that we were able to see more of Oliver's life before he became Green Arrow. The castle was cool. Ghazi was also very interesting.

Can't wait to read more Arrowverse novels!!!!

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## Barry Urbanek says

I really enjoyed this book. First off, I love the TV shows the Arrow and Flash. I enjoyed reading about the

characters; the authors wrote the characters as they are on the TV shows, so each was true to form and I had no problems imagining the characters speak their lines in the book.

The story was original and it kept me interested from the first chapter to the very last page. There was action in every chapter and I enjoyed that. The authors even wrote the flash back, which I like in the show.

I read this out of order; but it was the only one my bookstore had on the shelf. So now I will go back and read the first book and quite possibly this one again.

Great story and lots of action. If you a fan of the show you'll be a fan of this book.

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## Miguel says

*A Generation of Vipers*, the Arrow novel following from the *Flash: The Haunting of Barry Allen*, follows the familiar formula of the mid-season crossover. Whereas the *Flash* novel brought Arrow to Central City, this novel brings the Flash to Star City. Still, the two novels feel disjointed. Their plots are almost completely unrelated. While the first novel had Barry facing down a strange illness while a team of rogues terrorized the city, this novel's plot is about curing that illness.

*A Generation of Vipers*, then, works in ways *The Haunting of Barry Allen* didn't, but likewise stumbles in other ways. The first success is putting Oliver Queen at the center of the novel. The novel offers readers flashbacks to "before the jungle," and "in the jungle" to provide some much needed depth for Oliver. The novel attempts to grapple with some of Oliver's inevitable imposter syndrome and his penchant for taking in strays, even before he was stranded on a deserted island. These themes are generally satisfying. The novel gives readers a little bit more of Oliver than they have ever seen, even if it is ultimately inconsistent with where the television show takes the character.

In terms of plot, *A Generation of Vipers* leaves a lot to be desired. While it shares the fault of disjointed incoherence with *The Haunting of Barry Allen*, the general lack of spectacle and climax makes things feel thin. Oliver's foil, Ghasi, a friend from his pre-Lian Yu past, serves his purpose as a tool for character development dutifully, but he's not a compelling plot device. Much of the decisive action happens off-page. And, worse, the novel foreshadows a climactic showdown that simply never comes to pass. I was left scratching my head at many of the decisions about what was important to get onto the page. When Felicity masterminds a fascinating caper, we see Team Arrow inserting SD cards into a clandestine Markovian server. And yet, the results of their efforts are delivered only through exposition.

Still, the same virtues of character vivacity are present in this novel as they were in the novel's predecessor. The characters feel like their television counterparts, and the dialogue feels borrowed from the TV show. While I'm left wanting for a *Flash* or *Arrow* novel that reaches the height of pulp entertainment, this couplet is amusing enough.

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