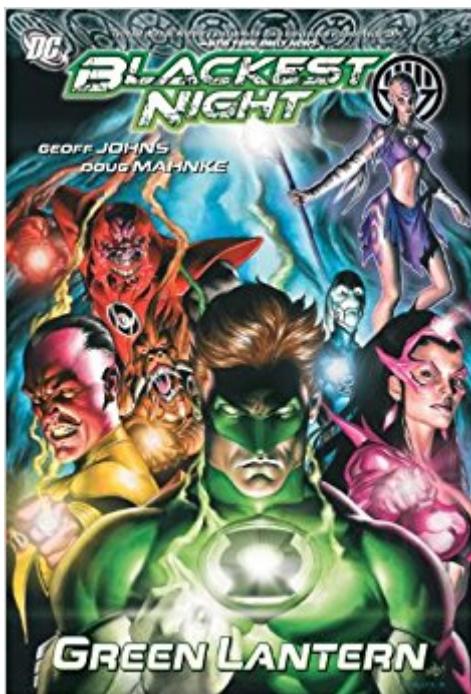


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# Green Lantern: Blackest Night



## Synopsis

Comics hottest writer Geoff Johns (GREEN LANTERN: SINESTRO CORPS WAR, THE FLASH, ACTION COMICS, JSA) and superstar artist Doug Mahnke (JLA, BATMAN, SUPERMAN) raise the dead in this must-read tie-in to the most anticipated comics event of the year, BLACKEST NIGHT. This hardcover collection starring Hal Jordan expands on the War of the Light as the evil Black Lanterns descend on all of the Corps throughout the universe, explains villain Black Hand's connection to death and the Black Lantern corps and features key plot points that are essential to enjoying the storyline to its fullest. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The dead will rise. And that's good news for comic book readers in Space Sector 2814."-- New York Daily News From the Hardcover edition.

Geoff Johns has written Infinite Crisis, 52, Green Lantern, X-Men, The Avengers, Superman, and much more. Doug Mahnke has pencilled Aliens, Batman, Seven Soldiers: Frankenstein and Superman: The Man of Steel. He is now the artist on Stormwatch: Post-Human Division. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a multi part story that is a mix of emotions, literally. The first few parts of the story are very slow, stick with it, it gets better. The art is nice and for a newbie to the storyline it was not intimidating to read. I read this because I wanted some back story on the characters from Injustice 2,

and this is where I decided to start, to see if I could follow an arc and to see if I wanted to read more. Thankfully the first parts being slow didn't intimidate me. I had fun with this read and will read more DC comics in the future.

I gave Blackest Night four stars because it was pretty much relentless action almost from beginning to end and I felt readers need the occasional breather. It also seemed to be incomplete, missing a lot of back story with events happening with no resolution. Having read THIS book (confusingly ALSO called Blackest Night) it's clear to me that the actual story is interlaced between the core Blackest Night series and the ongoing Green Lantern series and possibly the Lantern Corps series. Reading just one book leaves a ton of questions open. For example in Blackest Night the Spectre is taken over by the Black Lantern Corps and then... nothing. In this book the Spectre is a member of the Corps with no explanation and has a HUGE impact. You need both books to make sense of it. This book offers up the back story on how the various lantern corps joined together to fight the Black Lanterns. As much as Blackest Night needs this book this book needs Blackest Night even more. The fact of the matter is that I enjoyed this collection more than the Blackest Night mini-series itself and that may be because I read this second and it felt a lot more complete. Since it's from the Green Lantern series it's much more Lantern Corps centric featuring the ongoing fighting between the seven colored corps including battles between Atrocious and Larfleeze and Sinestro and Carol Ferris so on. One question I had was how come Larfleeze seems to have diminished in power since I last read about him. In previous books he was supposedly as powerful as an entire corps with his amazing 100,000% fully powered ring but now he seems about on par with Atrocious or Sinestro. Mongul makes a fantastic appearance in a dual with Sinestro. When the Black Lanterns finally start pouring forth all the corps are forced to put aside their differences just to stay alive. Besides the Spectre this collection also spends more time on the new ring wielders and I won't reveal who they are but they are well established DC characters with personalities to match the rings. There is a major appearance by Parallax that I don't remember being mentioned in the Blackest Night and Hal Jordan makes a desperate decision that seems unlikely given his past. This book also features Sinestro after his dramatic transformation but never shows how it happened. The point I'm trying to make is that if you intend to only get one of the two books you're going to get a very muddled, incomplete story and you can drop my review score down at least one star. If you get both it's a very good story but even then I wouldn't put it amongst the all time greats in the history of comics. Geoff Johns may have gone to the well a few too many times milking the same themes over and over again. Yes, we know that Hal feels shame over his time under the control of Parallax and we all

know the Sinestro is still pissed that Abin Sur gave his ring to Jordan but we really need to get past these things and move on. The Blackest Night series as a whole doesn't really have the big event feel of other DC big events because it occurs over a very short period of time and consists of little more than a lightning strike by the Black Lanterns that I estimate is resolved within a day or two in comic book time. It also focuses on a much smaller group of characters than other events. This collection is mainly about Hal, Sinestro, John Stewart and to a lesser extent Carol Ferris, Atrocious and Larfleeze (who always rocks). One final thing to note is that this book does not have an ending; you have to read the main Darkest Night book to get that.

The story might be great, but you'll never know it by reading it in this format. Blackest Night was a huge event, with its own title, several separate tie-ins and crossovers into Green Lantern and Green Lantern Corps. DC dropped the ball, big time, with these collected editions by not collecting them in order, but rather by collecting them by title. There's no primer telling you what chapter in some other book to read next so you can follow along. Reading these as standalone stories is a frustrating unenjoyable exercise. I waited a year to read this story, got them all in hardcover, and was extremely disappointed in its execution, DC should be ashamed.

**MUST BUY ALONGSIDE GREEN LANTERN: BLACKEST NIGHT.** Geoff John's run on Green Lantern is amazing and is the perfect place to start reading Green Lantern. Blackest Night is an original take on a zombie-apocalypse story of sorts, only inside the DC universe. Great villains. Amazing story/art. poor organization of the story by DC.

First, let me state this. Aside from Batman, DC has never been my favorite source of comic material. But GEEZ, this compilation was unbelievable. From start to finish I did not want to put this down. Blackest Night is one of the darkest reads I have ever had (including Stephen King novels). The depth that this volume went to is beyond what I have seen in any other comic. Marvel Zombies isn't on the same wavelength as Blackest Night. Not saying it isn't good, but the story behind this is just so dark and the characters and the range of emotions they have to suffer through is so deep that you have to wonder whether they will make it through this in one piece, even IF they survive. If you don't know much about DC (like me) then some of this might confuse you, as the writers definitely gave a little homage to dedicated DC readers, which I am sure they appreciated. Please pick this up. Even as a solo read, this novel is amazing. The artwork is second to none and the story is fantastic!

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