Power Differentials

by laxit21

Summary

Oliver Queen merged with the Spectre in order to become something else to defeat the Anti-Monitor and save all of existence. Once the dust settles following the Crisis, the new power dynamic in the Arrowverse is a little hard for some people to adjust to.

(Written after Crisis Hour 3, but before Hour 4, so this is probably AU because I'm sure Crisis isn't gonna end like this)

Notes

I don't know how Crisis is gonna work out/end, but here's what popped into my head when the thought "Oliver's basically a god now" occurred to me.

Basically, Oliver finally getting the respect he deserves. And Barry (and others) learning what it's like to not be the one with the most power.

See the end of the work for more notes
Chapter 1

It was over very quickly. For a battle that determined the fate of the world, the fate of the entire multiverse, the majority of the seven paragons expected the fight to last longer. In the end, the Anti-Monitor was defeated rather easily. One moment he was squaring up to fight Oliver, the next moment he was a burnt corpse on the ground. His army of shadow demons ceased to exist the moment he fell.

A moment after that, the seven paragons were on the Waverider, looking out at the earth, which had been restored. All eyes turned to Oliver, who looked at them impassively with his glowing green eyes.

“How-? You died, how are you-?” Kara started to ask, but wasn’t able to find the words.

“In dying, Mr. Queen was given the chance to become something else.” The Monitor explained.

“What is he now, an alien?” Lex Luthor asked. “Cause we didn’t need any more of those.” He shot a dirty look to Kara.

“Something infinitely more powerful than I am.” The Monitor answered. “The closest word your language has to what he is would be “god”.”

Oliver hadn’t spoken the whole time and vanished while Novu was speaking. He had become the Spectre in order to defeat the Anti-Monitor and save all of existence. His work was now done and it was time for him to go. He couldn’t stay here.

He stopped in Bloomfield before leaving this plane. He felt that he owed that much to Felicity, she should at least know the truth of what happened. He told everything, from Mia and William arriving from the future, to his death fighting to save Earth 38 to becoming the Spectre. By the time his tale was over, she understood why he was going to stay dead as far as anyone knew. Why it would be years before they could be reunited. Knowing that there was more at stake than just their family, Felicity said goodbye once again, this time hopeful due to the fact that she knew she would see Oliver again.

The seven paragons struggled to adjust to the new universe they found themselves in. The multiverse had been whittled down to one universe, Earths merged together and only the seven of them remembered what used to be. Or much about the Crisis. The paragons all struggled to find their footing, none moreso than Barry.

He had survived the Crisis, despite Novu claiming he wouldn’t. Everything had been set right, but it felt like something was missing, Or rather, someone. His daughter Nora. One night, after Iris had fallen asleep, Barry found himself restless. Suddenly, he remembered something the Monitor had said before he sent everyone home.

“Mr. Queen has become something else….something more powerful than I am….the closest word you have is “a god”.” That’s what Novu had claimed.

Barry suddenly had an idea. It took him weeks to find Oliver. No matter where he searched or who he asked for help, he couldn’t find Oliver anywhere on Earth. In the end, Oliver found him. One moment, Barry was in the Speed Lab, the next he found himself in a spacious kitchen. The former Green Arrow was standing on the other side of a marble counter.
“I understand you’ve been looking for me.”

“Where am I?”

“That’s not important right now.” Oliver answered. “You wanted to see me, I’d like to know why.”

Barry launched into his story. He told Oliver everything about Nora. Where and when she’d come from, her time in Central City between late 2017 and mid-2019. The chain of events that led to her being erased from existence. He told Oliver everything he could think of, anything that might be important, before telling Oliver why he was here. He wanted Oliver to use his nearly unlimited powers to un-erase her from existence.

“-so you’ll do it, right?” Barry ended his speech.

“No, I’m afraid not.”

“Wha-? The Monitor said you’re basically a god. And you’re saying you can’t do it?” The speedster said.

“I never said I couldn’t do it. I’m simply refusing to.” He answered.

Oliver had become very different since becoming the Spectre. He’d never been the most expressive person, but now his tone was too formal, almost cold. Barry also found it unsettling looking into his friend’s glowing green eyes.

“You’ve told me what I should change. When and where the changes could happen. I’m sure you could even tell me how you’d like Nora to continue to exist without altering the events that happened afterwards.” Oliver continued. “The question you haven’t answered yet is why. You haven’t given me a single reason why I should do this for you.”

“I- she’s my daughter. If it was Mia-.”

As soon as Barry mentioned Mia, he lost any chance of convincing Oliver of anything. Mia, who would grow up without her father because he couldn’t reside in the Earthly dimension for very long. Mia, who currently was a toddler being raised alone by Felicity in the Bloomfield cabin because no one could know of her existence. Barry’s comment made Oliver think of Felicity, his soulmate, who he wouldn’t see for decades, not until she had fulfilled her destiny as he had his. Only Oliver, given omnipotence, could see the endgame of all of this. Why things needed to be this way, why Oliver Queen needed to be dead as far as the world knew, why this was always the way things were going to end.

“I’m just saying that if you or Felicity came to me-.” Barry continued.

He should’ve stopped talking since, as far as Barry knew, Felicity thought Oliver was dead. The paragons collectively agreed to tell her that he was killed in the fight and his body couldn’t be recovered. She was heartbroken and grieving, as far as he knew.

“The answer is no, Barry. And it’s final.” Oliver said, staring straight into his eyes. Into his soul. He found himself getting angry that Barry wanted him to use his position as the Spirit of Vengeance, the literal embodiment of God’s wrath, to bring back a single person who had caused Crisis to happen even earlier.

Barry blinked and found himself back in the Speed Lab. After everything he’d done for Oliver, how could he say “no” now?
Chapter 2

Chapter Summary

A brief Olicity interlude post-Crisis. Oliver shows off his little piece of the universe.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

Felicity sighed as she laid down in bed, the bed that felt so empty without Oliver in it. Mia was finally at the age where she was sleeping through the night, so Felicity would be getting a full night’s sleep for the first time in a long time. If she managed to fall asleep that is, because ever since Crisis, ever since Oliver paid her a visit, sleep seemed further away than ever. Still, Felicity laid down and closed her eyes, hoping some rest would come.

She had only closed her eyes for a few seconds when she felt someone move her hair out of her face. She slowly opened her eyes and saw someone looking down at her.

“Oliver?” She asked, sitting up suddenly. She wasn’t in the cabin anymore. “I- where am I?”

“My own little slice of the universe.” He said. “Look familiar?”

The shock of seeing Oliver kept her from recognizing the room she was in. “Is this- this is Ivy Town.”

“When I started creating this place, my home now that I can no longer permanently reside on Earth, I wanted to model it after somewhere that I felt happy. So, I made our house in Ivy Town.” He said. “I almost modeled it after the cabin, but I was worried it might make it confusing for you.”

“What do you mean? How am I here?” She asked. She was excited, so happy to see Oliver again, but Felicity Smoak wouldn’t be Felicity Smoak if she didn’t ask questions.

“You’re asleep and I’m…..using my vast cosmic powers to visit you in your dreams. Or maybe I brought your consciousness onto this plane. You were always the one better at explaining than I was.” He said. “Bottom line, I needed to see you. A bit selfish of me, but-.” Oliver was the Spectre now, he was an immensely powerful being, and he missed his wife. All he wanted to do was see his family, so he bent the rules a little bit.

On instinct, Felicity reached her hand out to touch Oliver’s cheek. She was a little surprised that she was able to actually touch him, but wasn’t going to complain. “After everything you did, everything you sacrificed, you’re allowed to be a little selfish.”

“I’ve missed you so much.” He said.

“Me too.” She admitted. “I don’t- it hasn’t even been more than a few months, but I- I don’t know how I’m supposed to get through the next two decades. And you, you’re here, all alone and-.”

“I waited twenty-seven years to meet you, and another six before I could truly be with you. I can wait, and Mia needs you.” He said.
“She’s….she’s growing so fast. I wish you could be there to see it.”

“I can see it, and I’ve been watching over her. Even if you can’t see me, I’m always there.” One of the perks of Oliver being basically a god was that he could see everything. Mia might not grow up with her father, but he wouldn’t miss getting to watch her learn and grow. “And believe me, she’s going to be amazing.”

“Of course she is.” Felicity said defensively. “Look at who her parents are.”

They stayed like that for a while. Holding one another, enjoying being able to be together, even if this wasn’t entirely real and Felicity would eventually need to wake up. In this moment, Oliver Queen and Felicity Smoak were the only people in the entire universe.

“I’m sorry.” He said after a long moment. “I wanted to come back home. I tried- I did everything I could, tried every option I could think of and I couldn’t-.”

“It’s okay.”

“No, its not.” He said. “I have nearly unlimited power, I’m practically a god, I could do anything, except be with my family. I’m the second most powerful being in existence and I can’t do the one thing I want to do.”

Felicity wanted to reassure him, but couldn’t find the words. She opened her mouth to speak, but before she could say anything, she heard a distant cry.

“Is that-?”

“It’s Mia. She’s awake.” He said, sadly. “It’s time to wake up, Felicity.”

“Will I- I’ll see you soon, won’t I?” She asked. She knew she needed to go, that she needed to take care of Mia, but at the same time, she didn’t want to. She wanted to stay here with Oliver, even just for a little bit longer.

“I’m never too far away, even if you can’t see me.” He said, leaning down to kiss her.

Felicity closed her eyes and when she opened them, she was back in the cabin. She let out a deep sigh before getting out of bed to check on her daughter.

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Suggestions?
The more time that passed after Felicity “visited” Oliver in his little corner of the universe, as he called it, the more she was convinced it was a dream. A very nice dream, but a dream nonetheless. It hadn’t happened again since that night, and the longer she thought about it, the less sense the situation made. Why was that the only night that had happened? Why would Oliver’s slice of paradise be Ivy Town and not somewhere in Star City? She wanted it to be real, make no mistake, but she wasn’t able to convince herself that it really had happened.

The same night that Felicity finally accepted that it was most likely just a dream, she laid down to sleep. When she opened her eyes, she was back in Oliver’s dreamworld. This time, instead of being in the bedroom in Ivy Town, she was standing in the kitchen where she’d tried, and failed several times, to cook for Oliver.

“Great, I’m dreaming again. Or hallucinating.”

“This isn’t a dream.” He said. “I don’t know quite how to explain what it is, but I’m real, you’re real. We’re both really here. It’s the middle ground, between me coming to Earth and you coming here and being stuck here.”

“You say I’m here, but when I open my eyes, I’m gonna be back in the cabin and the only thing I’ll have to show after this conversation is the memory of it happening, which could also be explained as a very vivid dream.” She pointed out. “I miss you, I like seeing you, but if this isn’t even real, I-.”

“If you wanted a keepsake, you only need to ask.” Oliver reached out and held one of her hands. With his other hand, he pulled a flower out of the vase on the counter. Felicity watched in awe as the white flower’s petals fell off and new petals, some red, the rest green, began sprouting out of the stem. He held it out to her when the flower was fully bloomed once again.

“How- this is the same shade of green as your suit.” She said, her brain refusing to work beyond that. She took the rose and studied it.
“And the same shade of red as your favorite lipstick.” He said. “It’s a symbol of us.”

“Oliver Queen, the Spectre. Using his godlike powers to give his wife flowers.”

“Well, you did tell me that I should get you flowers more often.” He said.

“It’s beautiful.” She said. “What do- what do you do here anyway? Because last time, you told me you were the embodiment of God’s vengeance, but it doesn’t seem like you’re doing much of that recently.”

“I do that when I’m needed. At the moment, that’s not what the multiverse needs from me.” He answered. “I build a little more of this place everyday, expanding my powers. And I watch. I watch you, I watch Mia, and William. I watch our friends and teammates. I try and make sure what happened during Crisis can’t ever happen again.”

“So, you spend all of your time here just….watching other people. That sounds lonely.”

“It’s not all I do.” He assured her. “But its my favorite part. The best part.”

“I wish I could stay here with you, I wish you didn’t have to be alone.” She said.

“One day, you will. When I left, you swore you would find me again. And if my life has taught me anything, its that Felicity Smoak does not fail.” He said.

They talked for a little while longer before their time together ended. Oliver kissed Felicity goodbye and when she opened her eyes, she was back at the cabin. She was holding the red and green rose Oliver had created in her hand. The rose from her dream was in her hand. It had been real.

Felicity spent the next several days incredibly giddy, happy that it hadn’t been a dream or a hallucination. She was still walking on air when she received a knock at the door. She opened it to find Sara on the other side.

“Hey, it’s been….a while.” Sara said. No one had seen Felicity since the funeral, and while Sara had reached out to her, she didn’t get much response back. “I was in the neighborhood.”

“I don’t know how you made it as an assassin when you can’t seem to lie very well.” Felicity said with a smirk. “If you wanted to visit, you can just say so. Come in, Mia’s asleep.”

Sara walked into the cabin and sat down at the breakfast bar. Felicity asked her friend how the Legends were doing, if they’d had any crazy adventures lately, if they’d met anyone famous. She gave vague answers, seeming to be battling with herself over something.

“There’s something I need to tell you.” She blurted out. “It’s about Oliver.”

“Okay.” Felicity said, taking a seat.

“It’s about Crisis and how he died.” She said. “After it was over, those of us who remembered what happened, we agreed not to- we decided it was better if everyone believed he died during the fight. He- Oliver’s alive Felicity.” She knew the paragons had agreed to do things this way, but it felt wrong. It felt so wrong to let Oliver’s wife and daughter go on believing he was dead.

“I know.”
“He died, but then came back as something else and- did you just say “I know”? She asked.
“How-?”

“Before he left to go to….whatever plane or pocket universe he resides in now, he came here and
he told me everything.” Felicity said with a shrug. “And to be fair, if he hadn’t, I still wouldn’t
have believed he died.”

“Why not?”

“You guys told me Oliver was dead, but couldn’t show me a body. Do you want me to list all of
the people we thought were dead, despite not seeing the body, who turned up alive later? Oliver on
the Gambit, you, Malcolm Merlyn, Slade, Oliver again, the list goes on.” She said.

“J’onn didn’t- at the funeral, he said you believed us, the story we told you.”

“I tricked the guy who can read minds? Maybe I should’ve been an actress.” She joked. “Thank
you, for coming clean. Even though I already knew. Can you tell me why the paragons didn’t
wanna tell me?” It was a question she didn’t have an answer to, even months later, and she wanted
to know.

“I wanted it, but they thought…..since he can’t stay on Earth, they thought it was just easier this
way. Oliver “died”, he can’t come back and if you knew he was alive, it would be too cruel.”

“It’s not.” She said. “I still see him sometimes, in my dreams. Well, we don’t know what they are
but-.” She brushed her finger against a red and green rose that was by itself in a vase. “He made me
this, you know.”

Sara chuckled. “Only Oliver Queen would use his powers to make his wife pretty flowers.”

They talked for a little while longer before Sara got a call from Ava and needed to leave. The pair
said their goodbyes and Felicity told her to come back whenever she felt like it.

“Don’t tell the other paragons that I know.” Felicity asked. “I just- I want it to be my little secret.”

“My lips are sealed.” Sara vowed. “Tell Mia her Auntie Sara says hi.”

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Thoughts? Prompts?
Chapter 4

Chapter Summary

After his conversation with Oliver, Barry pays someone a visit.

Chapter Notes

The last two chapters were nice, back to the regularly scheduled Barry Allen nonsense

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Barry couldn’t believe Oliver’s nerve. They had been friends, and allies, for years. After all the battles they’d fought to together, all of the bad guys they defeated, the speedster was shocked that Oliver refused to bring back Nora. If bringing her back was beyond Oliver’s abilities, he would’ve understood, but that wasn’t the case. He was able to do it, but didn’t want to. Barry sat in the Speed Lab, furious but unsure of what to do about it.

On a separate plane of existence, Oliver watched Barry react to his refusal. While the archer would’ve preferred to spend some more time watching Mia play, he knew he couldn’t leave the speedster to his own devices. If the past was any indication, Barry made bad decisions when there was no one around to ask him what he thought he was doing. He watched Barry process the answer he received before the Flash stood up and sped out of the room.

One of the perks of Oliver’s new powers was that his brain wasn’t limited by human perception anymore. He could see everything at once, including Barry as he sped out of Central City. it didn’t take Oliver long to realize where he was headed.

“Please don’t.” He said to no one in particular. He didn’t know what Barry thought would happen, but he knew he wouldn’t be getting what he wanted in either case.

Barry raced from Central City to Bloomfield, to the cabin where Felicity lived with Mia. He tried to race towards the front door, but found himself being thrown back and tumbling down the stairs leading to the door. He stood up, brushed himself off and tried again. He was thrown backwards, again, and fell down the steps, again.

“What the hell?” He asked.

“I was about to ask the same thing.” Felicity called from the window. “Sorry, part of the security system protects the house from metas. You should’ve told me you were coming.” She walked over to the security panel and shut off the dampener. Once the control panel was hidden once again, she opened the door and let Barry inside.

“Sorry to just show up.” He said. “I should’ve called.”
“Maybe, but since you’re already here….what’s up?” She asked. She wondered if, like Sara, Barry had changed his mind about lying to her.

“Where’s Mia?”

“At one of the neighbor’s houses. She has a playdate.” She said. “Something wrong?”

He sighed. “Did I- I never told you about Nora, did I?”

“Your mother? Yes, you’ve told me about her.”

“No, not my mother. My daughter.” He said. “She is- was a speedster, like me.”

“You have a kid? And you didn’t tell anyone?” She asked. “I mean, I know I can’t really throw stones at that particular glass house, but- I thought I would’ve found out that Iris was pregnant.”

“She wasn’t.” He said. “Nora is, was from the future. She traveled back in time last year to help us defeat a future villain of mine, one case that went unsolved even in her time, and we stopped Cicada, by destroying the weapon that gave them their abilities.”

“Okay…”

“Because we destroyed Cicada’s weapon, we altered the chain of events that led to Nora’s birth. She- she was erased from existence.” He said. He was smart enough not to mention the fact that Nora being erased also meant that Crisis happened in 2019 as opposed to 2024.

“That’s terrible, but I don’t know why you ran all the way here to tell me about her.”

“After Crisis, I was hoping- I guess I somehow thought, when everything got sorted out, she could come back.” He said. “She didn’t, but I asked Oliver and-.” He trailed off. Felicity thought Oliver was dead, and he almost spilled the beans that he wasn’t.

Felicity studied Barry while he was talking and spoke when he trailed off. “You know, you don’t strike me as the religious type, but I guess people can surprise you.”

“What do- “religious type” I don’t follow.”

“You just said you asked Oliver for help after Crisis, the crisis he died during. So, if you asked him, isn’t that kinda like praying or appealing to your ancestors or something?” She pointed out. “He’s- he’s gone, hopefully he’s somewhere nice, but I don’t think he can help you with this Barry.”

As Barry listened to Felicity, he realized he had a choice here. He could explain to her what had really happened, tell her that Oliver wasn’t dead, and was just refusing his request. Or, he could pretend like he’d meant “I asked Oliver” in the way she was interpreting it.

“I guess I thought…Oliver survived on that island, alone, for five years. Kinda hard to convince myself that he’s really gone. Or that he somehow can’t pull some strings up there for me.”

“What if he doesn’t have to?” Felicity suggested. “After all, if Cicada was stopped in 2019, she didn’t have a reason to come back from the future. She could be alive and happy in the future for all we know.”

“Uh. I guess I didn’t think about that.” He admitted. “Thank you. Sorry I crashed your day.”

“Well, at least some things don’t change.” She remarked.
Barry left the house and sped off. Felicity was probably right. Nora wasn’t here because he was there with her in the future and he never disappeared. Everything was going to be fine.

Felicity watched Barry leave. She was a little annoyed that she’d given him an opening to come clean, but he didn’t take the chance. Why wouldn’t he tell her the truth? He clearly had a reason, but she couldn’t think of what it was.

Oliver watched Barry and Felicity’s conversation in his dreamworld. “She’s not. Nora West-Allen does not exist, in any timeline.” He said. “I wish I could say I’m sorry, but you did tell my wife I’m dead.”

Barry slowed down as he reached Star Labs. He was a few yards away from the door when a storm cloud appeared right over his head and a bolt of lightning struck him. As soon as it appeared, the cloud dissipated.

Cisco was walking into the building at the same time and saw Barry get struck. “That was really weird.”

“Yeah, it definitely was.” He said.

“That was for lying to my wife.” Oliver said with a slight smirk.

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Thoughts? Suggestions?
Chapter 5

Chapter Summary

Barry has some performance issues, Felicity tries to understand his actions and the speedster gives someone a suggestion that could be a big mistake.

Chapter Notes

I'm in denial about Arrow's finale being tonight, so I wrote this.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

After Barry returned to Central City, he started thinking about his trip to Bloomfield. In hindsight, he really had no idea why he’d gone to see Felicity in the first place. While he wanted Nora back, there wasn’t anything Felicity could do to bring her back. On top of that, he’d almost spilled the beans about Oliver being alive, just somewhere else. The last thing anyone needed, with all the changes Crisis had caused, was for Felicity to be running around trying to get Oliver back. No, it was better for her to believe he died saving the multiverse.

Barry had been struck by lightning, again, but this time, he wasn’t able to shake the experience off so easily. If he didn’t know any better, he’d say that somehow, the bolt wasn’t like the one that gave him his powers. He felt different, but couldn’t exactly pinpoint why.

Felicity watched Barry speed off and turned the metahuman dampener back on. Everything she did, she did to protect William and Mia. Even if some of the security measures made people uncomfortable. Yes, Barry was a metahuman, but there were also a number of dangerous metahumans who might want to hurt the Green Arrow’s family. Not to mention that the Ninth Circle was still out there.

A part of Felicity felt a little bit happy when she saw Barry get thrown back by the forcefield twice. Perhaps it was some bitterness because Barry got to go home to Iris and Oliver didn’t. Or maybe she was only happy in hindsight, when Barry had the perfect moment to tell her about Oliver, but chose to run away instead. Or, most likely, it was because Barry came to her house, the house of a grieving widow, to tell her about the “death” of a child who hadn’t even been conceived yet and could still be born. His actions felt very selfish to her, so she couldn’t bring herself to feel bad about his current situation.

Felicity enjoyed the temporarily quiet house after Barry left. With a toddler around, quiet moments were few and far between. She sat there sipping her coffee until she heard the front door open and someone walk in.

“Oh, you didn’t need to stop and pick Mia up.” She said.

“I was walking past Mrs. Carver’s house anyway.” William said, handing Felicity his sister.
“Speaking of Mrs. Carver, she wanted to make sure everything was okay? I guess when you dropped Mia off, you seemed a bit distracted.”

“It was- I had a feeling we were gonna have a visitor and I didn’t want Mia to be here if things didn’t go well.” She said. She almost said “it was nothing” but knew she shouldn’t lie to Will.

“Is something wrong? Are we in danger?”

“No, not at all.” She assured him. “Barry stopped by, and I didn’t want Mia to have to hear Mommy’s loud voice if he was being a doo-doo head.”

“Fair enough. Why did he visit?”

“I think he just needed to talk to someone. I don’t know why he came here when he has friends and his wife in Central City though.” She said with a shrug. Mia started to close her eyes. “Oh, I think someone got home just in time for a nap. I’m gonna go put her down, okay?”

“I’ll get started on my homework.” William said.

Felicity laid her daughter down in bed and stood there just watching her for a little bit. “I know Daddy is watching over us, but I really wish he could be here for moments like this.”

“Dada.”

“That’s right. Dada, he’s watching over us, but I know he wants to be here to give us all hugs and kisses.” She said. “Go to sleep, Little Star.”

Even though Mia was fussy when Felicity would put her down for a nap, she always fell asleep easily. Soon, she was starting to doze off while Felicity tidied up her room. When she was sure Mia was asleep, she started talking.

“He wanted you to bring her back, didn’t he? He found you, or you found him, and he asked you to give him Nora back.” She said. “And you said “no”. You said “no” so he came to see me. What did he think that I was going to do? Somehow talk you into doing it? Not a very good plan.”

Oliver listened to Felicity talk through Barry’s visit and smiled. This whole situation was way beyond what most people could wrap their heads around, yet Felicity had already figured out exactly what had happened, and more importantly, why.

When Mia woke up from her nap, the clouds had dissipated and it was sunny outside, the perfect weather for Mia to run around and play with William for a little bit before dinner. Oliver couldn’t give Bloomfield nice weather everyday, but once in a while couldn’t hurt.

Barry was speeding around a store, getting as many customers away from the armed robbers as possible. He ran towards a woman with a baby carrier, but wasn’t able to stop himself in time to grab ahold of her. Instead, he shot right past her and crashed into the wall. Shaking it off, he managed to get her outside on the second attempt, but when he went back in to stop the robbery, something else happened. When he went to confront the pair, they were somehow able to both see him, and shoot at him. Sure, they mostly missed and the one bullet that hit him grazed his arm, but it was still confusing.

Barry tied the men up and went back to Star Labs. After he’d changed out of the Flash suit, Cisco approached him and asked what had happened during that call.
“I don’t know. They could- somehow, they could see me, even when I was moving at my top speed.”

“Uh….you weren’t moving at your top speed, dude. When they shot you, it was more like my top speed, or someone a little faster. Not like….you weren’t zipping around like you normally do.” He said.

“What?”

“I think we need to get you down to the Speed Lab.” He said.

Barry went there and started running on the special treadmill they’d made for him. His team watched his vitals as he moved. For a little while, everything seemed to be normal, but then his speed would yo-yo drastically. When he started moving too slow and flew off the treadmill, he looked at Caitlin and Cisco.

“What’s happening to me?”

“No clue, but your speed is- it’s being really inconsistent.”

Thinking that maybe the issue was mental, not physical, Barry called it a day. He went home for a while and was just puttering around the house when he got a phone call. Kara wanted to know if he could meet her for a drink.

Barry met Kara at a bar halfway between Central and National City. It was nice to talk to another paragon, the only people who remembered Crisis, and it helped him keep his mind off of the problem he was having and the situation with Nora.

As soon as Kara walked into the bar, he could tell that she wanted to meet up with him because she needed to vent. She took a seat and asked him how things were going, but soon she started talking about her problems.

Lex Luthor suddenly being considered a hero by the whole world was difficult for her to wrap her head around. Sure, J’onn had managed to give Clark, Alex and a few others their memories from before Crisis back, but millions of people still thought he was a hero, and were praising him and she hated it.

“I just- I wish there was something I could do. Some way that I could fix this.” She said, finishing her rant.

“If I could go back and change this, I would.” He’d tried to bring Nora back by going back and changing how they stopped Cicada. Unfortunately, a side effect of the new multiverse meant that he couldn’t change pre-Crisis events. He couldn’t even visit that point in time. “There’s someone who might be able to.”

“Who?”

“The guy who created this new world we’re living in.” He said. “If you can find Oliver, wherever he is, maybe he can do something.”

Kara wasn’t sure if that was a good idea. She also wasn’t sure that it wasn’t a good idea. She thought about it for a few seconds before asking Barry how his team was doing.

Chapter End Notes
Comments? Suggestions?
Chapter 6

Chapter Summary

Oliver tries something new and is given a chance to vent. Kara makes a decision about what to do about Luthor.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Oliver watched Barry and Kara talking at the bar. Even though he knew what would come next, a part of him hoped that his two friends, the two people he sacrificed his life for, wouldn’t continue to try and convince him to use his powers to benefit themselves. He wasn’t sure if this was part of their grieving process, somehow, or if they just lacked self-awareness, but he found himself getting angry at them, but mostly Barry, for their attitudes lately.

Barry and Kara went their separate ways after a while and Oliver turned his attention back to the multiverse as a whole. For the most part, everything seemed to be perfect. When he rebooted the universe, he brought some people back to life, yes, but he also wanted to be sure that the city he fought so hard to save for so long would stay safe. With his city now safe, Oliver could spend time watching over his family.

Oliver watched as William chased after Mia in the cabin’s yard. Both his kids were smiling and laughing. The longer he watched, the angrier he started to get. As happy as he was that Mia and William were going to grow up together and happy, he should be there. He’d been an archer, a hero who had no powers, why did he have to be the one to die to save the multiverse? What made Barry so much more important than him?

Becoming the Spectre, he rebooted the universe and brought back his family, who were destroyed by the Anti-Matter wave. He wouldn’t ever regret that, but he was angry at the price he had to pay. Oliver watched his kids play before they had dinner and eventually, they both went to bed. When he knew Mia and William were both asleep, he decided to give something a try.

After Mia and William were both asleep, Felicity sat in the living room with a glass of wine and her tablet in front of her. She had a few things she needed to get done for work, and on top of that, she wanted to check in on a few people. She was typing away and only realized she wasn’t alone when she reached for her glass of wine and saw an arm hand it to her.

Jerking backwards, Felicity jumped when she saw her husband sitting next to her. She kissed him and then pulled away. “Did I fall asleep on the couch? That’s not gonna be good for my neck.”

“No, you’re awake.” He said. “You normally come to me, this time I thought I should come to you.”

“But I thought- you said you couldn’t stay on Earth after you became the Spectre.” She said.

“I can’t stay, no. Not permanently. There’s nothing in the rules that say I can’t visit.” He said with
a smile. “And I needed to get away from…..where I was.”

“What do you mean?”

“When I’m there, I can see everything. But here? Here I can’t, and that’s a blessing.” He said. “Especially when what I’m seeing is making me rethink whether I should’ve rebooted the universe the way that I did. Because some people are bitter that I didn’t automatically fix everything for them completely.”

“You mean Barry.”

“Not just him, but he’s part of the problem.” He said. “I died. For him and Kara, and the rest of existence, but specifically for them so that the universe wouldn’t lose them. I didn’t know, when I died, that I was going to become the Spectre. I died, so that when the Anti-Monitor appeared, they’d be around to fight him. I sacrificed myself for them. And for some reason, that’s not enough. I gave everything I could, but it still wasn’t enough. I wasn’t enough.”

“No, no. That is not true. It was more than enough. You are more than enough.” She said fiercely. “They are the problem. He is the problem. Sometimes, you do things for people because you think they’re worth it, and it turns out you’re wrong.”

“He tried to use you and Mia to sway my argument.” He said. “When he asked me to bring Nora back, he said that if the situations were reversed, and we came to him about Mia, he’d do it without a second thought.”

“I guess it’s a good thing that its not up to him then.” She shrugged. “I don’t mean that in a bad way, its just- Barry strikes me as someone who does what feels good or right in the moment. I think one of the reasons you became the Spectre is because you’re willing to do the hard thing, make the tough call, even if it means you don’t always get what you want.”

“Maybe.” He said. “I wish I could stay here but- I created this universe, and it needs me to keep things in balance. Without balance, something like the Crisis could-.”

“You already explained all of this to me, remember?” She said. “Am I happy about this? No, I can’t say that I am, but you’re still alive, kinda. I still get to see you. It’s an adjustment but we’ll make it.”

“Assuming I don’t mess the whole thing up.”

“You won’t. I don’t think you know how to fail.” Oliver might not have won every battle he fought, but he did win every war, to one degree or another. He saved his city countless times, he saved the world, and then the multiverse. Now, he had nearly unlimited cosmic powers. The multiverse couldn’t be in safer hands than his.

He rested his forehead against Felicity’s. “I have to go, but I’ll see you soon.”

“I’ll be waiting.” She responded.

He stood up from the couch and his eye caught the red and green rose he’d created for her. “How do you explain the rose to other people when they ask?”

“Sara’s the only person who has, and I told her the truth. If anyone else asks, I’ll say I found it on the Internet and it reminded me of you.” She said. “I know it sounds selfish, but it’s the one thing I have of yours that I don’t have to share with someone else.”
He gave her a sad smile before vanishing and returning to his own dimension.

Back in his domain, he turned his attention back to the rest of creation. There were so many moving parts he needed to keep an eye on, so many potential problems he couldn’t let get out of control.

After watching Kara struggle for days over what to do about Lex, he knew the moment she decided to reach out to him about the situation. As Oliver did with Barry, he let Kara run around, ask ally after ally for help reaching out to him, trying to find him before he let himself appear to her.

She seemed startled when she found herself standing in front of him. “Hi Oliver, I-.”

“I’m not going to bring it back, Kara.” He said. “I’m not going to reverse the destruction of Krypton.” He knew this wasn’t why Kara wanted to talk to him. He wanted to know how she would react to his assumption though. Would she reveal her real desire? Or would she try to cover her ass and pretend Oliver’s incorrect theory was true?

“I- that’s not why I wanted to see you.” She said quietly.

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Thoughts?
Chapter 7

Chapter Summary

Oliver and Kara have a chat, which goes a little bit better than the one he had with Barry.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

As Oliver did with Barry, he let Kara run around, ask ally after ally for help reaching out to him, trying to find him before he let himself appear to her.

She seemed startled when she found herself standing in front of him. “Hi Oliver, I-.”

“I’m not going to bring it back, Kara.” He said. “I’m not going to reverse the destruction of Krypton.” He knew this wasn’t why Kara wanted to talk to him. He wanted to know how she would react to his assumption though. Would she reveal her real desire? Or would she try to cover her ass and pretend Oliver’s incorrect theory was true?

“I- that’s not why I wanted to see you.” She said quietly. “I need help with-.”

“I know why you’re here, Kara.” He said. “In the universe that was, Lex Luthor was a known criminal that no one trusted. Now, the world sees him as a hero. And you’ve come to me to ask me to “fix it”. I knew what you were going to ask before you did. it’s one of the perks of being what I am now.”

“If you knew, why’d you bring up Krypton?”

“I wanted to see what you’d say. Krypton was your home planet. It’s not outrageous to think that one day you, or perhaps your cousin, will come to me and ask me to undo what happened to it.” He said. “it was also your one chance for an “out” to not have this conversation.”

“What do you mean?”

“I don’t think you fully understand what I’m capable of. I could bring Krypton back, but I won’t.” He explained. It sounded mean to say, but without the planet’s destruction, Kara and Clark wouldn’t be very important. Bringing the planet back would mean they’d have no purpose in this new universe. “I won’t because it would cause too much of a ripple effect and I just got this new universe to settle. Still, I would’ve understood you trying to bargain with me to save Krypton. Instead, you want me to solve the problem you have with a single person.”

“Don’t- you’re making it sound like I’m trying to take the easy way out.”

“Well, that’s kinda how it looks from here.” Oliver was starting to understand part of why the Spectre couldn’t live on Earth. If he was easy to find, people would never stop coming to him, looking for an easy, magical solution to their problems. “It’s not my job to fix all of your problems for you. While I couldn’t stop you from trying to find me, I will admit I’m a little annoyed that Barry nudged you in this direction.” Oliver said. “I wouldn’t fix his problem, why would he think I’d fix yours?”
“His problem?” Kara asked.

“He asked me to fix something for him, and I said no. Just like I’m saying “no” to you about changing everyone’s minds about Lex.” He said.

“I- yes, I do want everyone to stop worshipping the ground Lex walks on, but I didn’t come here for that. Well, I wanted to ask, I thought I could at least ask and the worst you could do was say “no” but that’s not- I’m a big girl, I solve my own problems. I’m just lost as to how I’m supposed to show everyone that Lex can’t be trusted.”

“And one day, you will figure it out, but unmasking Lex Luthor like he’s a Scooby-Doo villain is going to need to wait.” He said. “There are other, more immediate threats you need to consider.”

Even if Lex Luthor was a “good guy” now, he was still Lex Luthor. Sooner or later, he’d show his true colors. Sooner or later, he’d do something that Supergirl or Superman could expose him for. Lex could wait. Leviathan and their plans couldn’t.

“Like what?”

“I made it clear I wasn’t going to just hand you all of the answers, Kara.” He said. “What was your biggest concern before the Crisis started?”

Before she could answer, the room around her faded and she found herself back in her apartment. “Well, that was cryptic and unhelpful. I wonder what he meant, problems I had before Crisis?”

“This is why gods never wanna talk to mortals.” Oliver said with an eyeroll. “You always want some kind of divine intervention, even when it’s not called for.”

“Yes, I find mortal beings to be very-.”

“You might have a long lifespan, Novu, but you’re still mortal. You can still die.” Oliver said. “And I’d advise you to leave before I decide to show you how mortal you really are.”

He understood that the Monitor served an important role in Crisis and ending the Crisis, but Oliver was still angry that he was recruited only to die. He died in order to become something else, but he still died and he was still angry about that. Being the Spectre meant that he’d have to watch his children grow up from afar and that’s the last thing that he wanted. Wisely, the Monitor left after Oliver’s not-so-vague threats.

Oliver exhaled as he watched people on Earth live their lives completely ignorant to the bigger plans at work. it was a little refreshing, watching people who had no idea what was really going on around them. Life seemed so simple.

“That’s two paragons down. I wonder how long it’ll be before the rest of them come asking for something.” He remarked. “Except maybe Sara. I don’t think she’d storm in asking for something.”

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Thoughts? Suggestions?
Chapter 8

Chapter Summary

The paragons come to an agreement and Felicity learns about Crisis

Chapter Notes

This chapter is going back in time to right after Crisis ended, because I realized I hadn't shown Spectre-Oliver's reunion with Felicity and that needed to happen.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

After the Anti-Monitor was defeated, the Monitor didn’t immediately send the paragons to Earth. Instead, he kept them aboard the Waverider, saying they needed to come to an agreement on a few matters before he could release them.

“Meaning what, exactly?” Lex asked.

“The Earth you remember is not the Earth you are returning to. For one thing, you’re no longer from different Earths, but the same.” He answered. “For another, the Crisis this universe remembers wasn’t as….spectacular as the one you do. Unless you prefer being seen as insane, you need to listen to what I must tell you.”

He started going over all of the changes that had been made when this new universe was created. Most of them were minor, but a few would definitely take some getting used to. The Monitor was interested in making sure the paragons didn’t make the Crisis or Oliver’s sacrifice meaningless by causing another one to occur. When he was done explaining, he asked if there were any questions.

“Where did Ollie go?” Sara asked. Oliver had vanished from the deck of the Waverider and he wasn’t dead, so he needed to be somewhere.

“I don’t know. He is beyond my sight at the moment.” The Monitor answered. “I imagine he is looking to find his own footing, as an immensely powerful being in this new paradigm. That is another topic you must discuss and come to an agreement on.”

“What do you mean?” Kate asked.

“Oliver Queen, as the world knows him, cannot remain on Earth. He is too powerful and there would be consequences. The seven of you must decide how you will explain his disappearance to the rest of the world.” He said. “I’ll leave you to discuss.”

When the Monitor left the bridge, the paragons stood around looking at one another. “Can’t we just say that he died, tragically, to save the world and be done with it?” Lex said.

“Is that what we’re going to tell everyone?” J’onn asked.

“Why wouldn’t we tell everyone the same thing?” Ryan asked. “I mean, I didn’t know Oliver, so I
feel like I’m missing something here.”

“You mean, do we tell Felicity, his wife, that he’s dead when he really isn’t.” Sara said.

“Even if he’s not dead, he can’t be on Earth. You heard Novu.” Barry said.

“I….kinda agree with Barry.” Kara said. “Telling her he’s alive would just make everything worse for her.”

“If it was Iris, or Alex, you’re really saying you’d want them to think you’re dead?” Sara challenged. Both heroes nodded, but she noticed a slight hesitation.

“You know how Felicity is, if we tell her he’s alive out there, somewhere, she’s gonna spend the rest of her life trying to get back to him.” Barry said. “Who knows what that could mean or the destruction it could cause.”

“There are seven of us, so there can’t be a tie. Why don’t we just put it to a vote?” Kate suggested.

“Fine by me.”

“Okay. All in favor of telling Felicity the truth?” Sara and Ryan raised their hands. “All in favor of letting everyone, including Felicity, think Oliver’s dead?” Kate, Kara, J’onn, Lex and Barry raised their hands.

Lex agreed because he wanted to finally get off of the Waverider. Kate and J’onn voted the way they did because it seemed like the most pragmatic option. Kara and Barry both claimed that telling Felicity the truth would be too painful, but Sara was certain that it wasn’t the only reason.

“Fine.” Sara said. “For the record, this is really fucked up, but I’ll go along with this.” For now, at least.

While the paragons were arguing aboard the Waverider, Felicity was putting Mia down for a nap. Her daughter had been very fussy lately, almost as if she knew something terrible was going on. Trying to keep Mia calm was hard enough, but assuring William that everything was going to be okay was another challenge entirely.

She was walking out of Mia’s nursery when Archer announced someone was approaching the house. Her heart stopped when the system told her who it was.

“Oliver Queen is entering the residence.”

The door opened slowly and Felicity stood there frozen as Oliver walked into the cabin and closed the door behind him. The pair stood there, staring at one another until Oliver spoke.

“Hi, honey.”

Hearing his voice spurred Felicity forward and she practically threw herself into her husband’s arms. He caught her and wrapped both arms around her, holding her close. After a few minutes of simply enjoying the fact that Oliver was alive, and here, Felicity started peppering him with questions.

“Does this mean-? Is it over? You’re done saving the multiverse, right?”

“Yes.” He said. “And no.” She pulled away slightly. “The Crisis is over, but- the multiverse was
destroyed, this Earth was destroyed and in order to bring everything and everyone back, I had to become something else. And I was the only one who could.”

“What does that mean?” She asked. “And what’s wrong with your eyes?” Oliver had blue eyes. That was one of the first things Felicity ever noticed about him. Oliver Queen had blue eyes, so it was a little disconcerting to see that now, they were a glowing green hue.

“I needed to bring everyone back. I couldn’t-.” He started to say. “The only way everything could be fixed was to, quite literally, recreate the universe, but I couldn’t do that as Oliver Queen. And now, I’m no longer just Oliver Queen, but also the Spectre.”

“Okay. So, now you’re Oliver and a Spectre. That’s….it’ll take some getting used to and I don’t know how we’re gonna explain this to everyone, but its fine. We’ll figure it out.” She said. “I’m just glad you’re home.” He looked away from her guiltily. “What?”

“I can’t- I can’t stay here, on Earth. Not permanently at least.” He admitted.

“What?”

“I’m….the Spectre is powerful, powerful enough to create an entire multiverse out of almost nothing.” He said. “I’m basically God, or at least a god. This plane of existence isn’t- if I stay here for too long at any one time, a lot of very bad things would happen.” He started listing things that he instinctively knew would happen if he tried to stay and before he got too far down the list, she stopped him.

“That’s- you don’t need to continue.” She said, before she started rubbing her forehead. “This isn’t fair. You fought for years, saved so many people. You saved the freaking world, and this is the thanks you get? You can’t come home; you don’t get to be with your family. It’s not- you deserve better than this.”

“All of those things you mentioned? I’ll get them, just not right now.” He said knowingly. “For right now, though, I need to be “dead” as far as everyone knows, again, and you’ve got a job to do, raising Mia.”

“But I’ll see you again?” She asked. “Please tell me this isn’t actually goodbye.”

“Our love is so much bigger than the freaking universe, as you said. Of course it isn’t goodbye.” He said before kissing her. “I love you.”

“I love you too.” She said.

They kissed for a few minutes before he pulled away. “I need to go. Soon, Sara, Barry, Kara, Kate and J’onn are gonna arrive to tell you that I died. Even though, they know I didn’t.”

She wasn’t quite ready to let him go, so she sat there, rubbing his cheek until she heard several voices call her name. Oliver vanished before her eyes and she took a few seconds to collect herself before heading to the door.

“Felicity,” Barry said, “I don’t really know how to say this.”

“No.” She said. “Please don’t say it. Don’t tell me that-.”

“Oliver’s gone. I’m so-.”

“Go away.” She said, bracing herself against the deck. “All of you. Just- go!” Felicity had put on a
brave face when she was talking to Oliver, but upon him leaving and the paragons telling her that he was dead, she finally was able to let her feelings out. “Did you not hear me? Get lost before I make you all leave!”

Kate and J’onn left without a fuss. Barry and Kara looked like they wanted to say something else, but decided better of it. Sara stayed the longest.

“I know you don’t wanna hear this right now, but if you need anything, anything at all, you know how to find me.” She said before walking away. “Why did you do this, Ollie?” She asked the sky.

“I didn’t want to.” Oliver answered from another plane.

Chapter End Notes

Comments? Thoughts? Suggestions?

End Notes

I take prompts if anyone wants to suggest them.

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!