

CHARACTER ARC



The Blue Beetle prequel, **Dish Soap**, is based on an expansion of existing comic book IP, **DC Rebirth**, with an origin story reboot that moves the storyline one generation into the future. The son of Jamie Reyes, Gustavo, a dishwasher mechanic by trade, is orphaned by gun violence, and abandoned as a child at a county junk yard by a stranger who saw his mother perish at the hand of senseless crime.

With the story focused on character and the birth of a next-generation superhero, the prequel allows the audience to meet our future Blue Beetle in the milieu that causes his emergence - **before he gets his powers**. A social narrative at heart, exploring the themes and impact of an epidemic - the phenomena of gun violence, mass shooting and terrorism, escalated by extremist media, random, senseless and public crime - comes to a final hostage situation that inspires new gun technology.

With the local township also facing catastrophic space weather, threat of eminent domain by the Space Corp military base, and meddlesome federal interventionism, the people of Highwater Hills desperately need an ally to protect them from a social fabric that has glamorized violence into a elitist lifestyle, celebrated by medialites and art patrons of the Hillside cosmopolitan enclave.

Soon after the **collusion of social class and violence** becomes evident to Gustavo, and he learns the true origin of his identity - that his father had protected Highwater and that his mother was killed in an act of organized retaliation - **he accepts a fate** offered by Space Corp to design **new space guns**. But unwittingly, giving in also means his spine will become embedded with alien scarab technology.