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SUPergirl®



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IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE!

DAVID
KIRK
RIGGS

ROBIN REEFS

damned if you do...

My Fault. My own stupid Fault. Just the other day I was thinking how, IF I got married, on my wedding night my husband would turn out to be a demon.

I didn't even make it to the honeymoon. One second, I'm liplocking Richard Malverne, and the next...

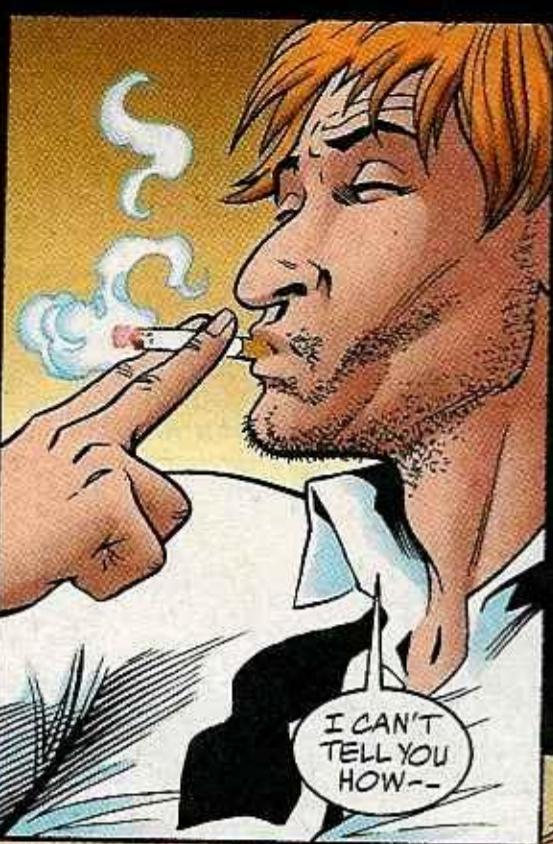
ADMIT IT.
LUV-Y' MISSED
ME, DIDN'TCHA?
AIN'T BEEN THE
SAME WITHOUT
OL' BUZZ.

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TALK FAST. HOW DID YOU "SAVE" DICK'S LIFE, AND HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE CHAOS LORDS?

I DIDN'T ESCAPE, LUV. WE HELL-BOUND DEMONS... WE'RE MORE THAN A STATE OF BEING. WE'RE A STATE OF MIND.

"WHEN THE CHAOS LORDS YANKED ME AWAY FOR 'FAILING' I SPLIT MY CONSCIOUSNESS AND PUT PART OF MYSELF INTO DICKY. THAT'S HOW HIS CANCER WAS CURED: I MADE HIS BODY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NO LONGER SICK, AND THE DAMAGE CEASED."

"I'VE DWELT IN HIM SINCE THEN. DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY MALVERNE, AGAIN AND AGAIN, WAS ALWAYS PRESENT AT SITES OF CHAOS?"

"I INFLUENCED HIM. MANIPULATED HIS HORSE, TOO, WHENEVER DICK WAS SLOW ON THE UPTAKE."

"THE FEMALE FURIES, TWILIGHT, MATRIX, PARASITE... THERE WAS DICK, OR THE HORSE HE RODE IN ON."

I'M DRAWN TO CHAOS, LUV, OR IT'S DRAWN TO ME. CAN'T HELP IT, I'M AFRAID. IT'S MY NATURE.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO FORM A TRUE, SOLID ATTACHMENT TO MALVERNE. WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY THAT YOU LOVE HIM...

YOU MEAN, YOU THOUGHT IF I DIDN'T LOVE HIM... I WOULDN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

Y' NEVER KNOW.

WHAT ABOUT MATTIE? SHE'S HAD TROUBLE AS WELL. ARE YOU IN HER, TOO?

Nah. SHE'S JUST GOT ROTTEN LUCK. HOW-EVER...

...SO THAT I COULD BE POSITIVE YOU'D BE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO DIVEST HIM OF MY ESSENCE.

"...SHE DOES
HAVE NICE
BUNS."

OKAY, MATTIE... YOU
CALLED ME. YOU WANTED
ME TO COME OVER TO
TALK ABOUT THINGS.

WELL,
I'M HERE. SO
WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT?

HEY! WHA-- WHAT'S
WRONG? WHAT'D
I SAY?

I CAN'T STOP THINKING
ABOUT YOU. I HAVEN'T
HAD A GOOD NIGHT'S
SLEEP IN WEEKS.

I... I MISS
YOU.

I-IT'S
NOT YOU!
IT'S ME!

YOU... DO?
EVEN AFTER
I WAS SUCH A
CREEP?

WELL, HONEY,
Y'KNOW... I'M A
CREEP, TOO. SO IT
FEELS KINDA
NATURAL.

HULLO? YES, THIS
IS MR. MALVERNE
...IN A MANNER
OF SPEAKIN'...

WUZZAT?
AM I INT'RESTED
IN CHANGIN' MY
LONG-DISTANCE
CARRIER?

CAN YOU
HOLD ON
A MO'?

YES,
SIR, I CAN
HOLD O--



EYARRGH!



PHONE SOLICITORS.
GOTTA LOVE 'EM.

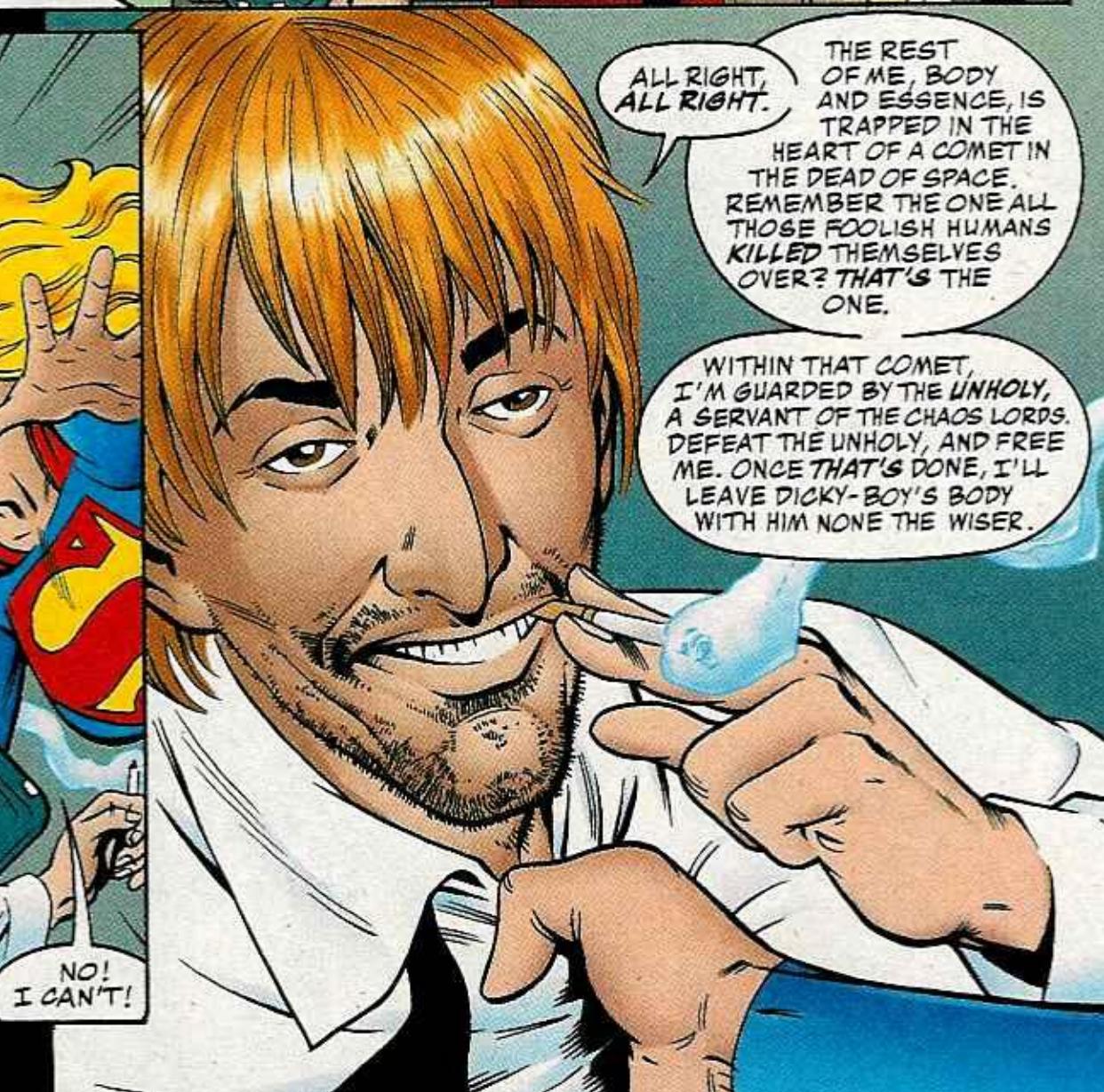
SO WHAT'S IT
GOING TO TAKE
TO GET YOU OUT
OF RICHARD'S
BODY?

WELL, I COULD
ALWAYS GET
INTO SOMEONE
ELSE'S BODY.
ANY VOLUNT--



DON'T EVEN
FINISH THAT
SENTENCE!

HEY, I'M
JUST KIDDING!
CAN'T YOU TAKE
A JOKE?



ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT.

THE REST
OF ME, BODY
AND ESSENCE, IS
TRAPPED IN THE
HEART OF A COMET IN
THE DEAD OF SPACE.
REMEMBER THE ONE ALL
THOSE FOOLISH HUMANS
KILLED THEMSELVES
OVER? THAT'S THE
ONE.

WITHIN THAT COMET,
I'M GUARDED BY THE UNHOLY,
A SERVANT OF THE CHAOS LORDS.
DEFEAT THE UNHOLY, AND FREE
ME. ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL
LEAVE DICKY-BOY'S BODY
WITH HIM NONE THE WISER.

NO!
I CAN'T!

NOW, IF YOU DON'T WISH TO HELP ME... WHY, THEN, I'LL JUST STAY RIGHT HERE, HIDDEN AWAY IN DICK'S BODY.

I CAN FIND A MAGIC USER TO GET YOU OUT... DOCTOR FATE, OR SOMEBODY...

BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, THIS BODY WILL BE DEAD. I PROMISE YOU THAT.

IF I DO FREE YOU, THEN YOU'RE BACK IN MY LIFE FOR GOOD AND MAKING TROUBLE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW...?

TRUE ENOUGH. BUT HERE'S ANOTHER INCENTIVE: HELP ME, AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR FRIEND COMET.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HOW EASILY I CAN DESTROY IT.

I PAY ATTENTION. YOUR CALL, LUV.

" ALL RIGHT, FOR RICHARD'S SAKE. AND COMET'S.

SO HOW DO I GET THERE? I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE, SO I CAN'T SHUNT...

GOT IT COVERED, LUV. I'VE STILL GOT A FEW RE-SOURCES.

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU--?

STOP!

TA.





My God... this is worse
than that trip I took
to Apokolips.*

They always say "keep
your friends close, and
your enemies closer"
... so I figured I'd be
able to ride herd on Buzz...

...but
this...
this...

Dammit, I hate spur-of-the-moment choices. I make them instantly and then spend the rest of my life second-guessing them.

Although if this keeps up... that won't be all that long.

HUNFFF!

AIR...TO
BREATHE...
COLD, BUT...
BUT AIR...

WOW. LOOKS
LIKE BATMAN
LEFT THE A.C.
RUNNING.

I...I
WONDER IF I'M
IN THE RIGHT...

PLACE...

Something tells
me I am.

I hear something.
Distant...but distinct.

This...isn't just a
comet...a product
of the normal
course of space
dynamics.

It's far more than that. It's a...
a place, created by the Chaos
Lords for...whatever they want. It...



People...or...or
souls...or...
something...

...From races all
over the galaxy...
Frozen, flies in
ember...

Hundreds...thousands
of them...but are they
alive or dead or...

...or both?

Let's see if my Flame vision can melt anyone free of--

Wait a minute... is that... it can't be...

ANDY?

Nothing. But there's got to be a way that--

It's too bizarre a coincidence... Andy vanishes, only to turn up here...

ANDY?!

But then again, who knows what constitutes "coincidence" when you're dealing with Chaos Lords.

The hell with my Flame vision. I had good old-fashioned muscles before I had toasty eyes.

ANDY?

HONEY, IS THAT YOU?

A HUMAN! A PATHETIC HUMAN!
HERE?

COME
TO ME, SUB-
CREATURE...

...LET ME GIVE
YOU THE KISS
TO DRAIN YOUR
SOUL!

Nope.
Not Andy.

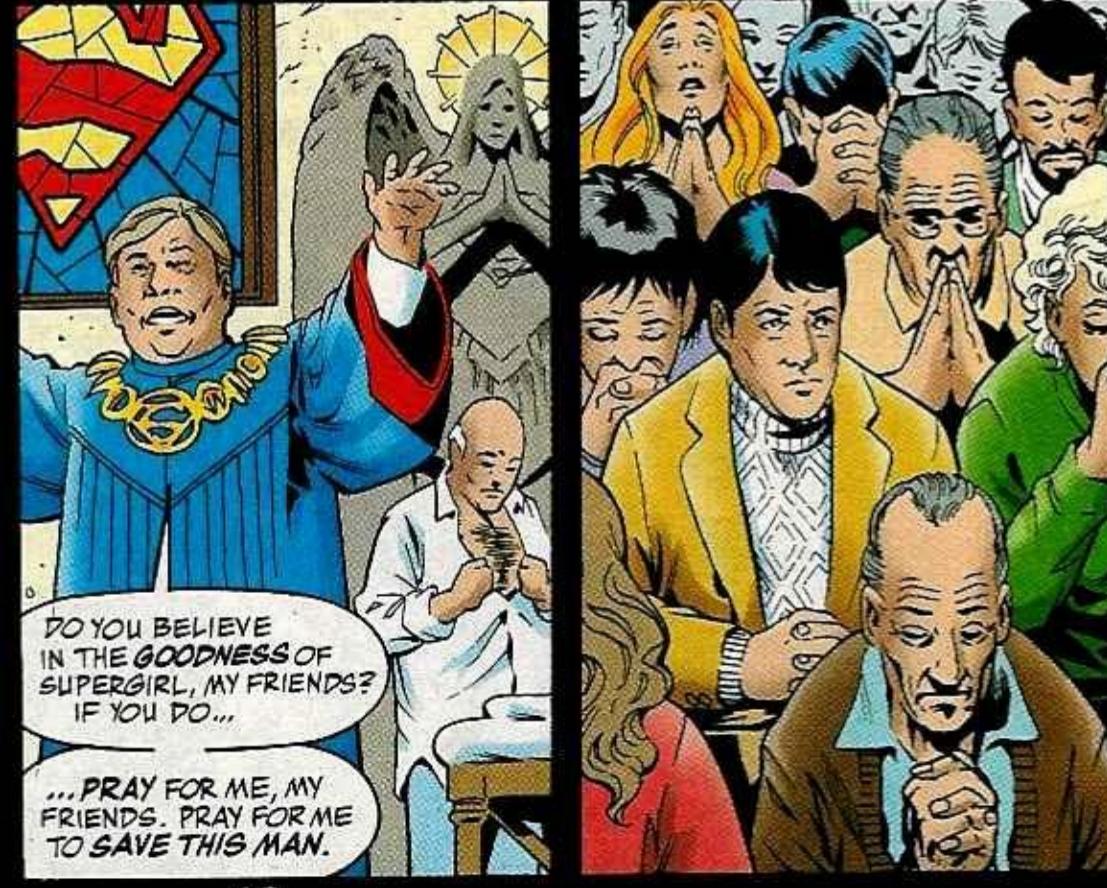
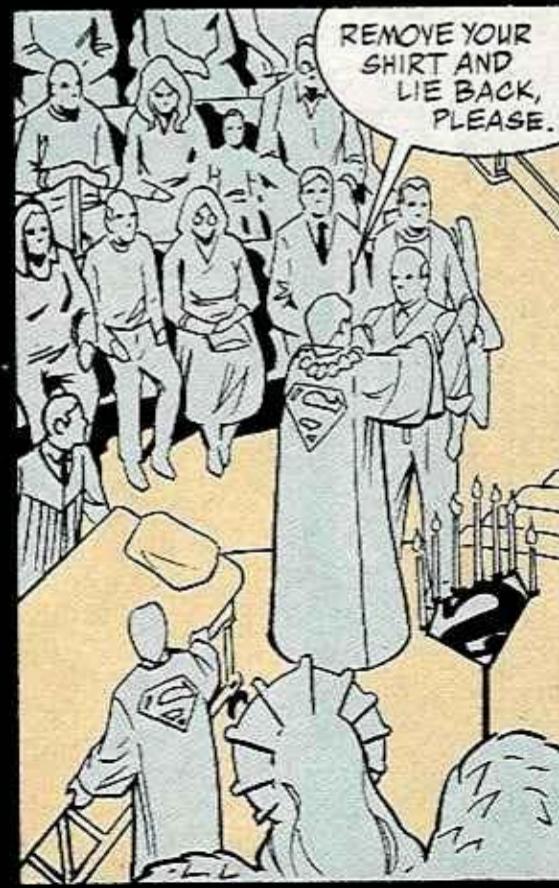
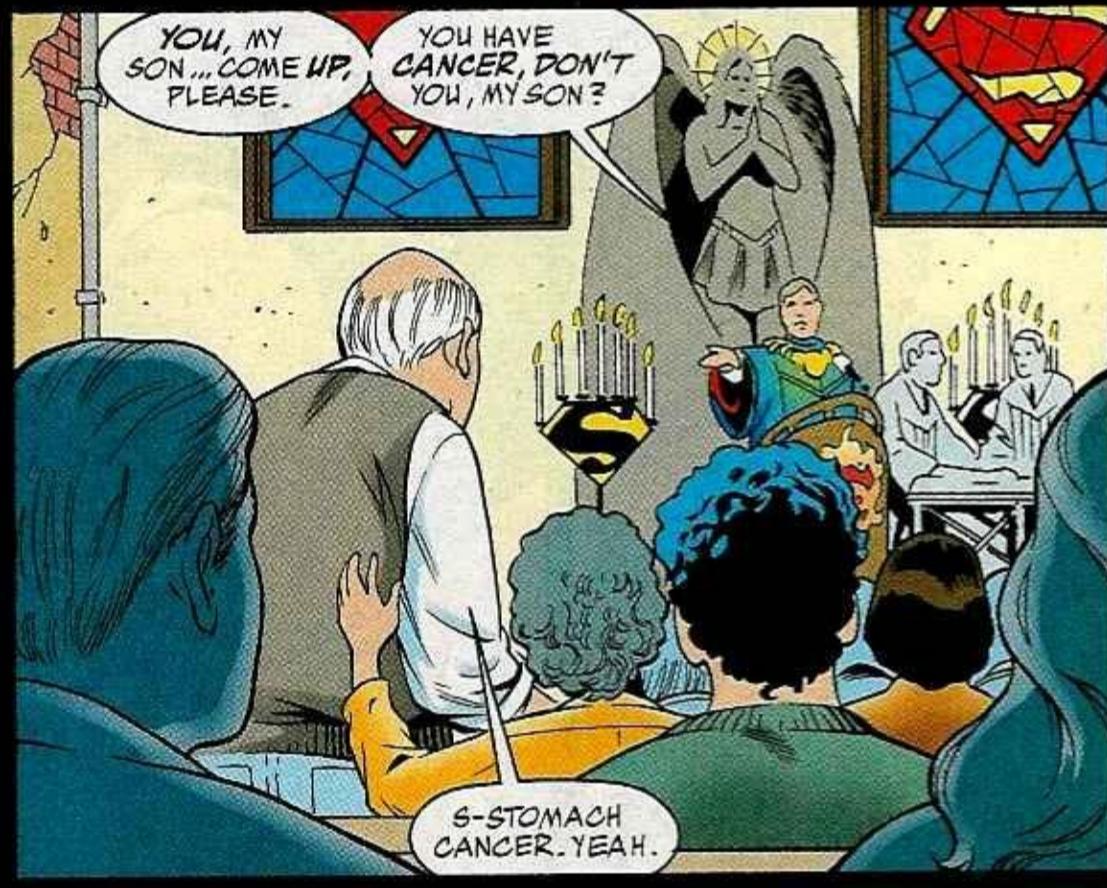
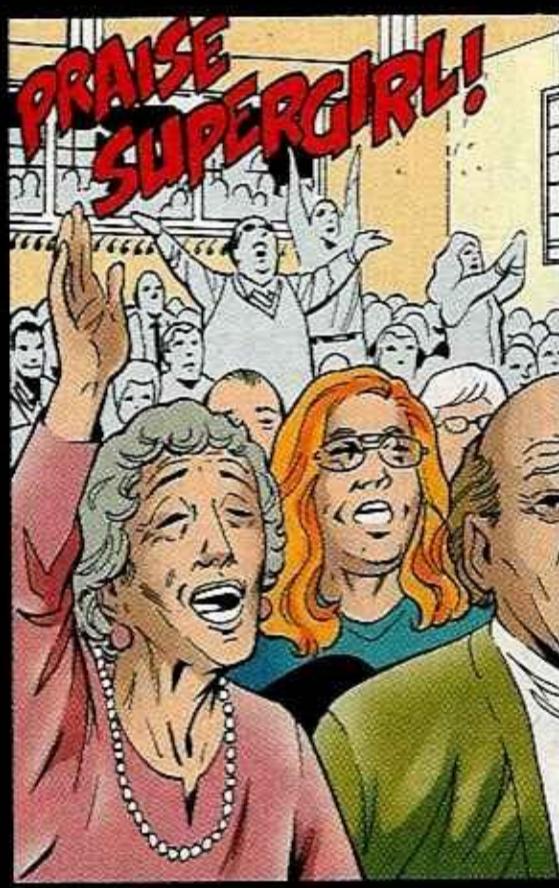
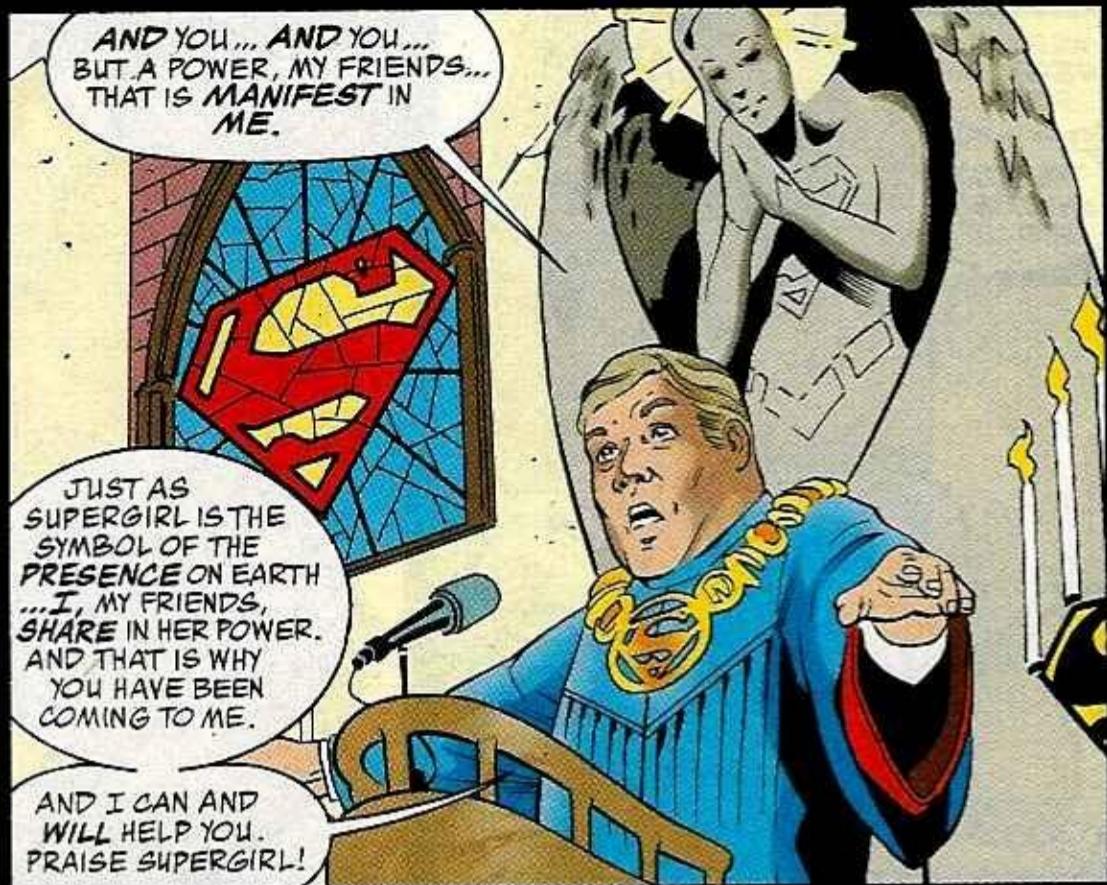
So much for trying to free whoever's trapped here. Innocent beings these are not. This is a place for misbehaving demons... an appalling enough concept in and of itself.

NO!
THE ICE
HAS ME
AGAIN!

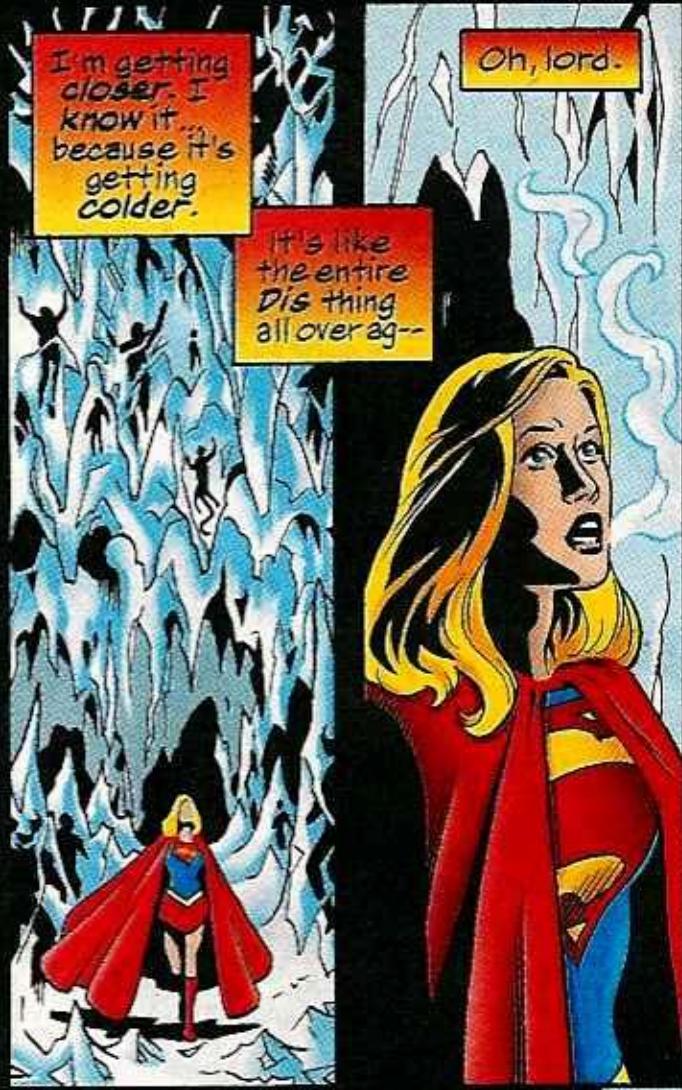
SUB-
CREATURE!
SAVE ME, AND
I WILL GIVE
YOU--

A telekinetic blast
should be more
than enough to dis-
lodge her... it.

Aw, darn.
I'll never
find out what
I would have
gotten. Poor
me.







Oh, lord.

It's like the entire DIS thing all over again.



Hmmm. Actually, it kinda works for me.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS HE NOT MAGNIFICENT?

HE IS ONE OF THE TWO MOST PROMINENT PRIZES BELONGING TO THE CHAOS LORDS.

AND WHAT WOULD THE OTHER BE?



I HAVE NO CHOICE.

THERE IS
ALWAYS A CHOICE,
EARTH ANGEL. IF YOU
FREE HIM, HE WILL
COMMIT EVIL DEEDS.
THEY WILL BE ON
YOUR HEAD.

HOWEVER, I CAN
HASTEN THAT END...

I'VE
HANDLED HIM
BEFORE. BUT
FOR NOW I HAVE
A BARGAIN
WITH HIM.

...SO THAT YOU
WILL NOT HAVE
TO WAIT AS LONG
FOR THE BARGAIN
TO GO BADLY.

A BARGAIN
WITH A DEMON IS
NO BARGAIN. IT WILL
BRING YOU GRIEF
IN THE END.

THOOM!

YOU HAVE BECOME
A PRIDEFUL LITTLE THING,
EARTH ANGEL. YOU COULD
HAVE SOUGHT AID FROM
OTHERS OF YOUR IK...
AVOIDED THIS,
PERHAPS.

THE TRUTH IS,
YOUR CONCEIT
PUSHES YOU TO
MISPERCEIVED
SELF-
SUFFICIENCY.

YOUR INTERPRE-
TATIONS HOLD LITTLE
INTEREST FOR ME,
CREATURE.

EEYAH!



YOU ARE
IN A CHAOS
REALM, EARTH
ANGEL. DO NOT
EXPECT YOUR
ABILITIES TO
PERFORM AS
THEY SHOULD.

YOU HAVE
THE OPTION
OF LEAVING.
IT IS WITHIN
MY POWER TO
SEND YOU
HOME.

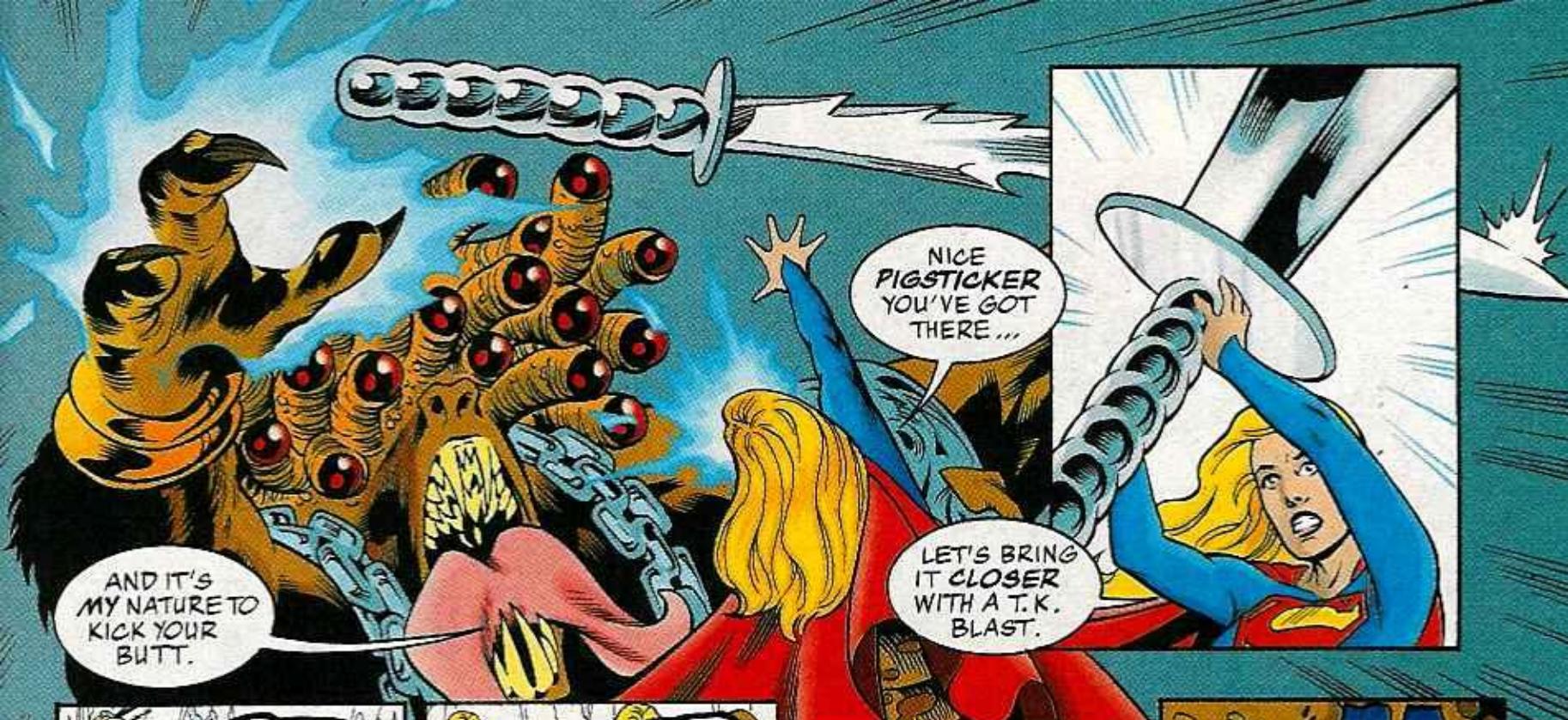
IF YOU DO NOT
...THEN MAY YOUR
GOD HAVE MERCY
ON YOUR SOUL.

THE DAY I
LET SOMETHING
LIKE YOU DICTATE
TERMS TO ME
IS--

--THE DAY
YOU DIE?
VERY WELL.

BUT PLEASE
UNDERSTAND..I
HOLD YOU ONLY IN
THE HIGHEST
RESPECT.

THIS BRINGS
ME NO PLEASURE.
IT IS... SIMPLY MY
NATURE.



My God... he's suffering from being blinded... and I'm the one who did it...

...and I don't care.

Me, the one who pontificated that there's good in every creature, no matter how evil.

I'd better not lose sight of that... when it comes to me.

GOT YOU!

THAT'S KIND OF RELATIVE, ACTUALLY.

WHY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I FEEL--

There. Good thing I caught a glimpse of the outside, so I could shunt us there.

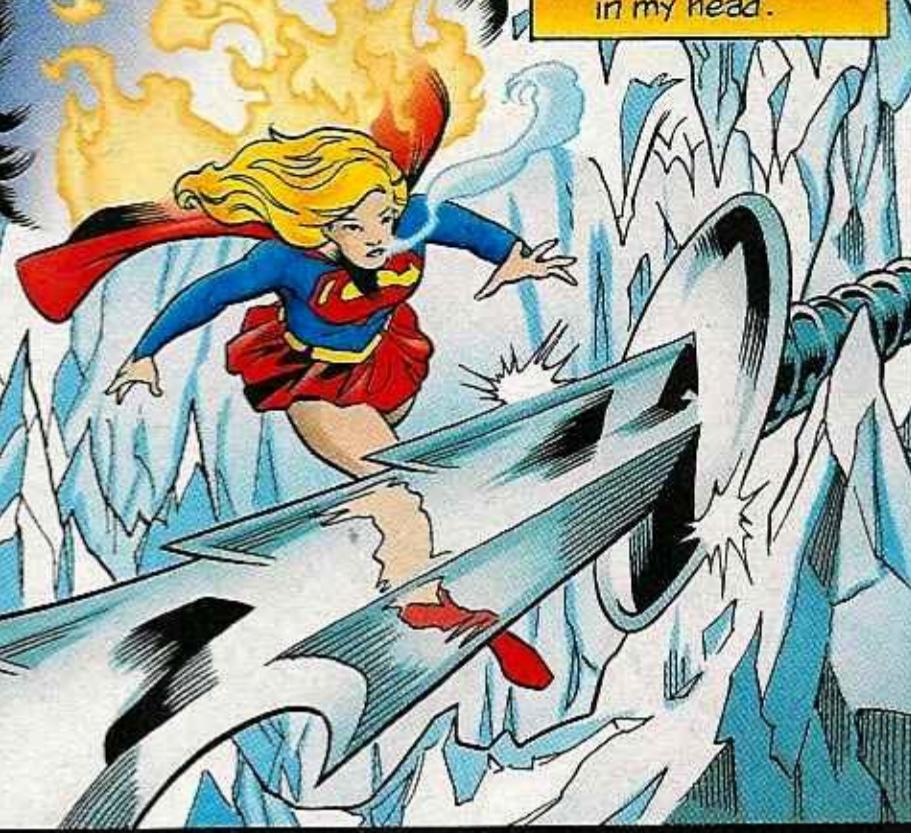
Freezing out here... but something tells me he won't be affected by it.

I, on the other hand, won't last more than a minute...

There. That should be all I need to free Buzz.

Free... Buzz... I can't believe those two words are together in my head.

Was the Unholy right? That I'm not seeking outside help... out of ego or something?



And I can't chance Buzz hurting Richard. I...

Uh-oh. Joyboy's back. That was fast.

No time to waffle about it, anymore.



If it would be done, then it best be done quickly.



