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KIRK + RIGGS '98/99

"For Those Who Came in Late..."

THERE'S THE SUBJECT OF OUR GET-TOGETHER, SIR. SUPERGIRL, THE MAID OF MIGHT... PRESENTLY IN NOT-SO-GAY PARIS, FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE IN THE GRIP OF THE ENERGY-DRAINING PARASITE.

WHO SAYS THERE'S NEVER ANYTHING GOOD ON TELEVISION?

PETER DAVID, writer
LEONARD KIRK, penciller
ROBIN RIGGS, inker
GENE D'ANGELO, colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON, seps
BILL OAKLEY, letterer
FRANK BERRIOS, asst. ed.
MIKE McAVENNIE, editor

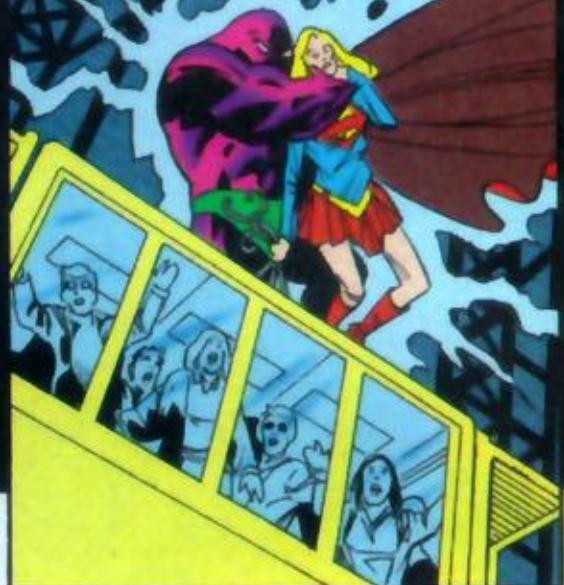
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I'M STILL NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN WHY YOU CALLED THIS MEETING, CARL. WHAT IS THERE ABOUT SUPERGIRL I DON'T KNOW?

IN ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUERY: I CALLED IT SINCE I FELT IT WELL PAST TIME THAT WE GOT ACQUAINTED.

AS TO THE LATTER... I THINK IT IMPERATIVE YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH SUPERGIRL HAS CHANGED IN RECENT MONTHS.



IMPRESSIVE. ALREADY, HER HEALING ABILITY IS COMPENSATING FOR THE ENERGY LOST TO--

WAIT. BACK UP.

WHY, YES.





YOU ARE FAMILIAR, OF COURSE, WITH THE RESIDENTS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

HOWEVER, THERE IS A THIRD TYPE OF BEING, WITH TIES TO BOTH. THEY ARE CALLED EARTH-BORN ANGELS.

THEY DO GOD'S WORK ON EARTH, AND MAN'S WORK IN HEAVEN. AT LEAST THE TRULY ADVANCED ONES DO. AT ANY GIVEN TIME, THERE ARE THREE... AND OF ALL THE CELESTIAL BEINGS, THEY ARE AMONG GOD'S FAVORITES. THEY GOVERN FIRE, LIGHT AND LOVE. NOW SUPERGIRL...



...IS THE CURRENT EARTH-BORN ANGEL OF FIRE. SHE HAS FLAME VISION, WHICH IS SIMPLY AN ALL-PURPOSE BURNING TOOL... AND HER WINGS.

SHE IS PRESENTLY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WINGS AFFECT ONLY THOSE WHOSE INTENT IS TO DO HARM. SHE IS, HOWEVER, WRONG.

HER WINGS ONLY IMPAIR THOSE WHO BELIEVE, AT SOME LEVEL, THAT THEY DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED. A LITMUS TEST OF THE SOUL, IF YOU WILL. FOR INSTANCE...



...IN AN EARLY BATTLE WITH DESPERO, HER WINGS WERE LETHAL TO HIM.* TO SOME DEGREE HE REGRETS HIS ACTIVITIES... NOT THAT ONE WOULD KNOW IT TO LOOK AT HIM.

WAIT--WE JUST LEFT SUPERGIRL LETTING THE PARASITE FALL TO HIS DEATH. IS SHE GOING TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN...?

NEVER. BECAUSE SHE KNOWS--INSTINCTIVELY-- THAT IF SHE KILLS...



BUT AN AGENT OF MINE--FRACTURE--HAD NO GUILT OVER HIS ACTIONS, AND SO WAS RELATIVELY UNDAUNTED.**

** ISSUES #21-22.

* ISSUES #17-18.



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I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THE "CREATION" ASPECT OF ALL THIS. AND WHO IS BUZZ?

AN EARTH-BORN ANGEL IS A BEING CREATED UNDER VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. ONE WHO IS DEEMED WORTHY MUST SACRIFICE HIS OR HER LIFE TO SAVE ONE WHO IS, IN EVERY WAY, BEYOND HOPE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT ANGEL? TO SUPERGIRL'S PREDECESSOR?

TRUST ME, MY DEAR FELLOW...

...YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

I know I wanted to get some sightseeing done while in Paris, but somehow this wasn't the way I pictured it.

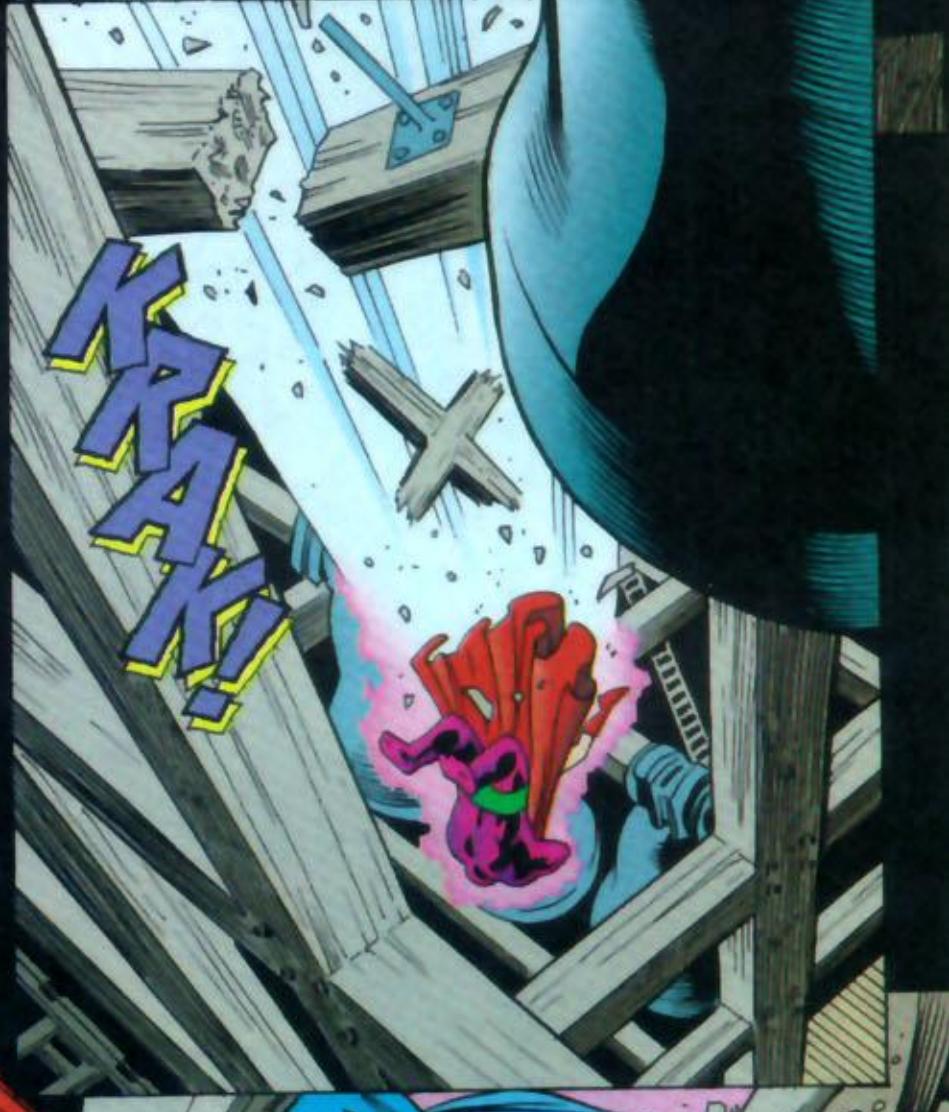
There he goes, ducking into the Notre Dame bell tower.

Have to be extremely careful. Parasite, on his own, has always been vicious enough...

...but ever since he absorbed the mind and personality of Dr. Torval Freeman, he's got brains and cunning to match his brute force.

Then again, I've got a bit of experience as a merged individual myself--

HAH!!
CAUGHT
Y'NAPPIN',
BLONDIE!



YOU SAID THAT SHE WAS "MERGED" INTO THIS EARTH-BORN ANGEL STATE. WHO IS SHE MERGED WITH?

WE'RE NOT QUITE CERTAIN. YOU SEE, WE PAID NO ATTENTION TO SUPERGIRL UNTIL HER EARTH-BORN ASPECT MANIFESTED, SO WE'VE BEEN PLAYING CATCH-UP.

WE MANAGED TO UN-COVER SOME INFORMATION, BUT THERE ARE STILL GAPS IN OUR KNOWLEDGE. BUZZ KNEW... BUT HE AND THE CHAOS LORDS HAVE KEPT THAT INFORMATION TO THEMSELVES. SHE DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES, AND THAT MAY LEAD US TO HER.

ONE SUCH IS THE GIRL YOU SAW BEFORE-- LINDA DANVERS. MISS DANVERS IS AN ARTIST WHO FELL IN WITH BUZZ, WHO IN TURN APPEARED TO ALL HER WORST TRAITS... OF WHICH THERE WERE MANY.

WHO'S THE BOY HERE WITH DANVERS? HE LOOKS LIKE...

A SMALL CHILD. NO ONE OF CONSEQUENCE.

SHE WAS ONCE REPORTED AS MISSING, PRESUMED DEAD. SUPERGIRL REPORTEDLY "SAVED" HER... AND SINCE THEN, MISS DANVERS HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A MODEL CITIZEN.

THEN MAYBE SHE'S THE PERSON THAT SUPERGIRL MERGED WITH.

POSSIBLY. THEN AGAIN, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CHANGE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF BECOMING SUPERHEROES. ALTHOUGH IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MISS DANVERS IS IN PARIS AT THE MOMENT... AS IS SUPERGIRL. HOWEVER, SUPERGIRL'S PRESENCE MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THIS INDIVIDUAL...

WAIT A MINUTE... NOW WE'RE INSIDE ONE OF THE BUILDINGS? DO YOU HAVE CAMERAS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, CARL?

NOT YET.

WE DO HAVE EXTENSIVE, AND SUBTLE, MOBILE UNITS, HOWEVER. MOST DISGUISED AS BIRDS, CATS, SQUIRRELS. NEXT TIME YOU FEED A FUZZY CREATURE IN THE PARK... BE SURE TO WAVE AT US. NOW, AS I WAS SAYING...

THIS IS MATTIE HAROURT, A BRIGHT YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT AND CLOSE FRIEND OF LINDA DANVERS. SHE'S ALSO HAD DIRECT DEALINGS WITH SUPERGIRL, RANGING FROM BEING SAVED BY HER TO HAVING HAD A MAJOR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION DURING A DEMONSTRATION AT STANHOPE UNIVERSITY.*

RICHARD MALVERNE. WEALTHY FAMILY, BUT RICHARD PREFERENCES TO MAKE HIS OWN WAY... ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT AVERSE TO A FEW PERKS, SUCH AS A HORSE AND A FANCY CAR. WE BELIEVE HE... FANCIES... MISS DANVERS. AND THEN THERE'S--

--ELIZABETH PERSKE, PHILANTHROPIST AND A FORMER SUPERGIRL MENTOR WHO'S NOT QUITE AS BRIGHT AS SHE LIKES TO THINK SHE IS. BUT EVEN IF SHE WERE HALF AS SMART AS THAT, SHE COULD STILL POSE A PROBLEM...



THIS IS A DISASTER, ELIZABETH! JUST A PURE DISASTER! I DON'T KNOW WHERE LINDA GOT OFF TO... PROB'LY HIDING SOMEWHERE, CRYIN' HER EYES OUT! AND I CAN'T BLAME 'ER!



NOW, RUDY... DON'T LET THE POWER YOU'VE DRAINED GO TO YOUR HEAD.



...A HIGH FROM ON HIGH!



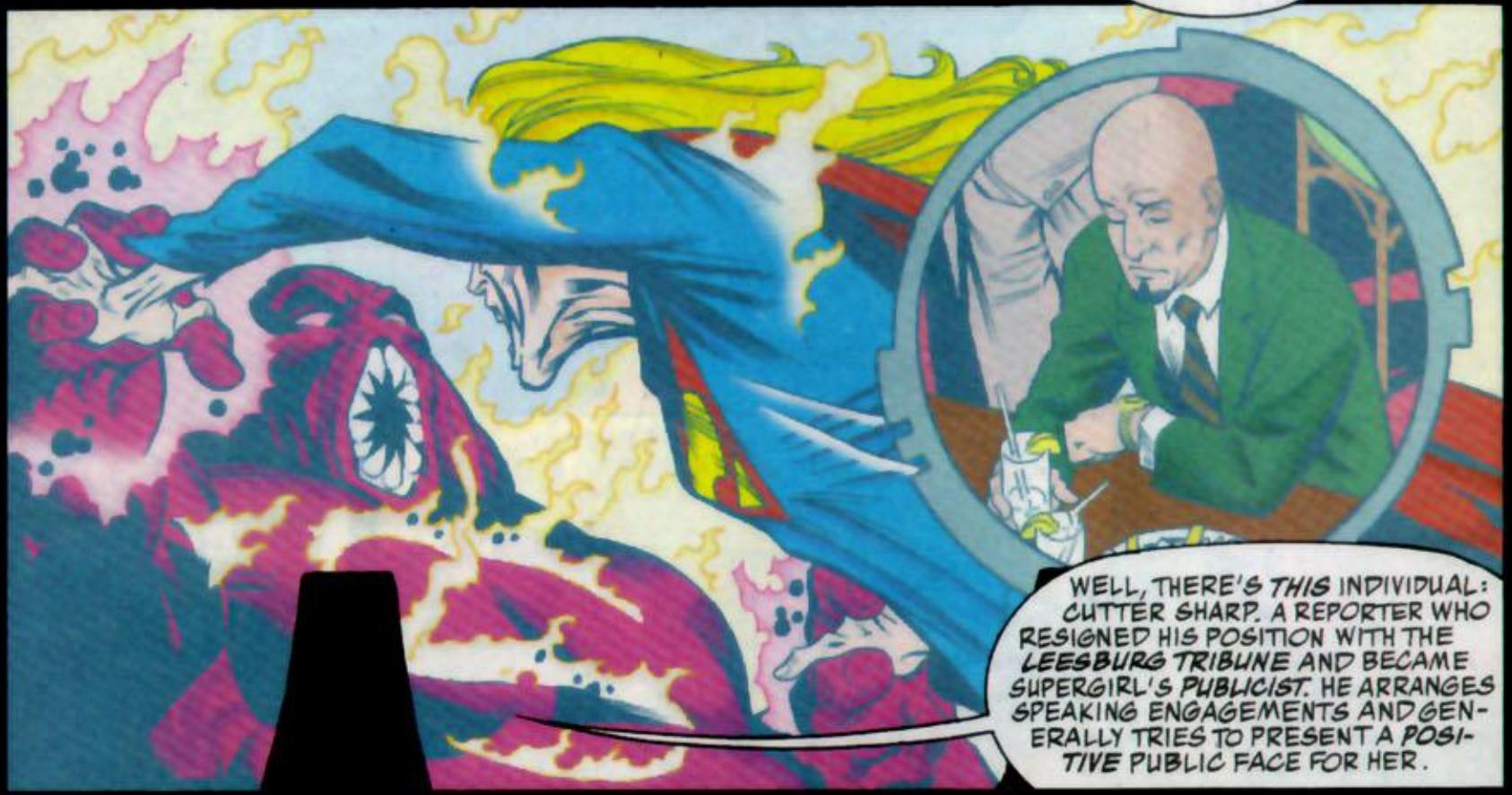
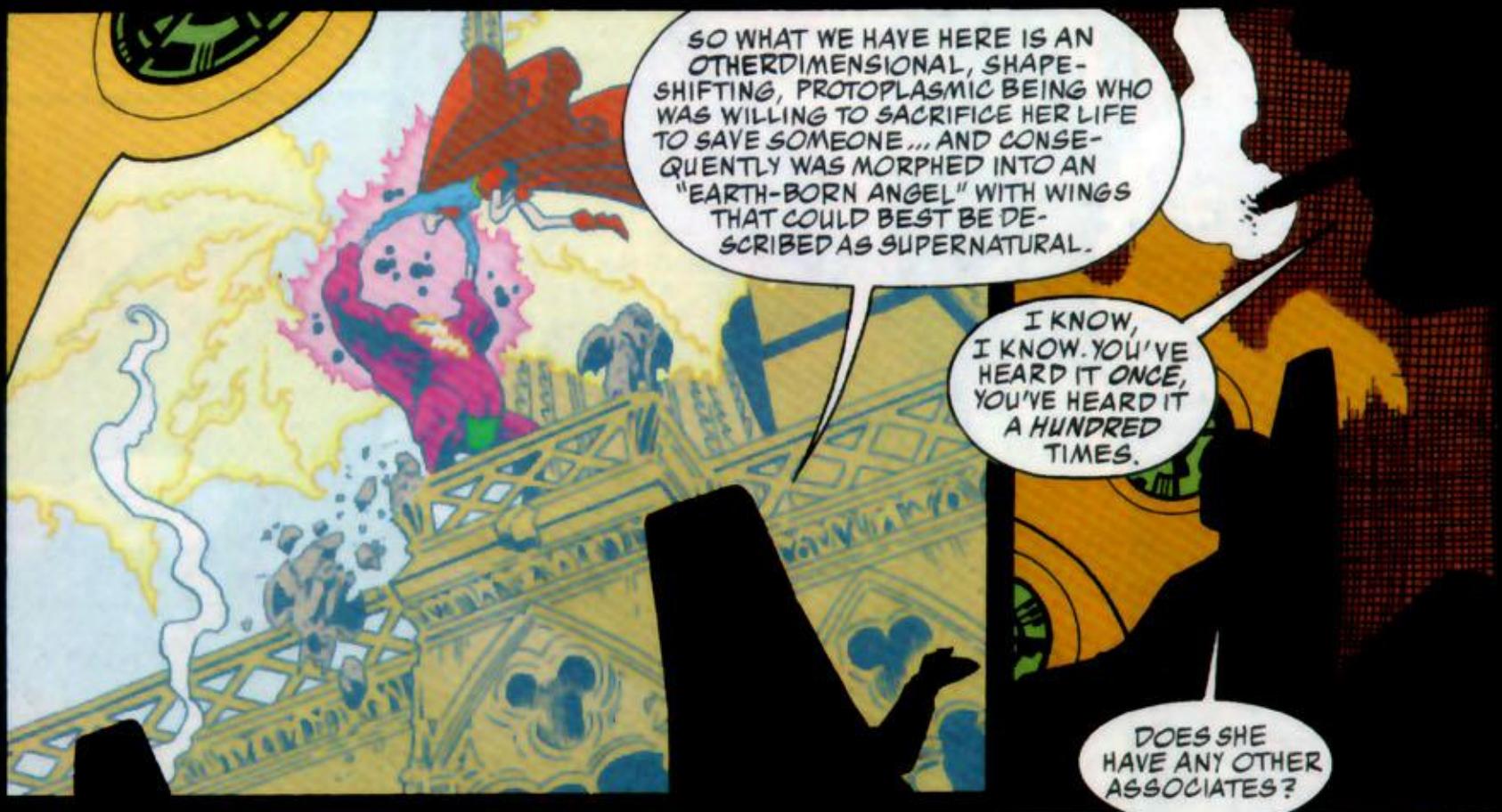
AND SHE'S MAINTAINED HER STRENGTH, TK BLASTS, INVISIBILITY AND SHAPE-SHIFTING?

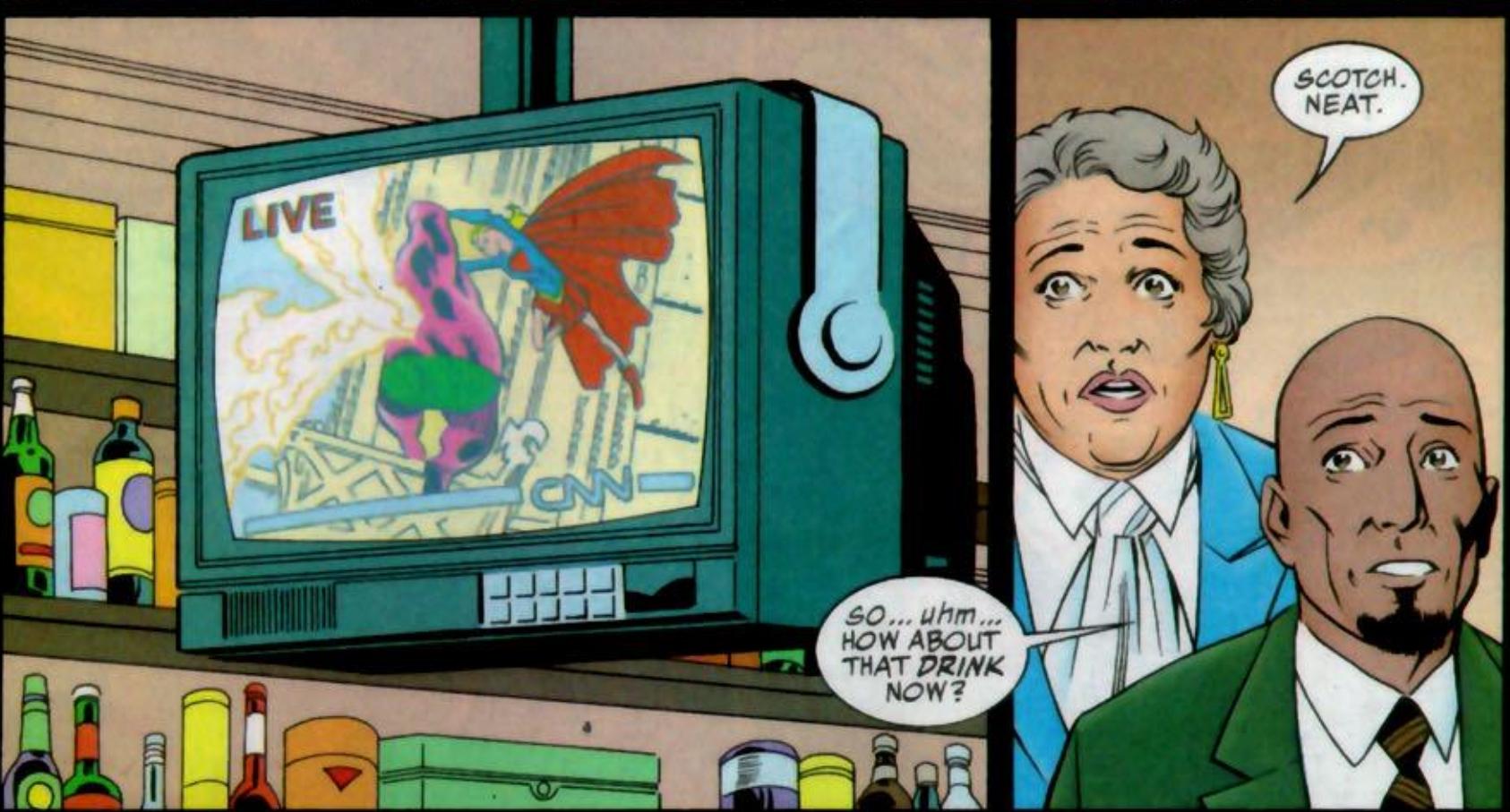


AH... LET'S WATCH AS THE PARASITE DESTROYS HIMSELF.

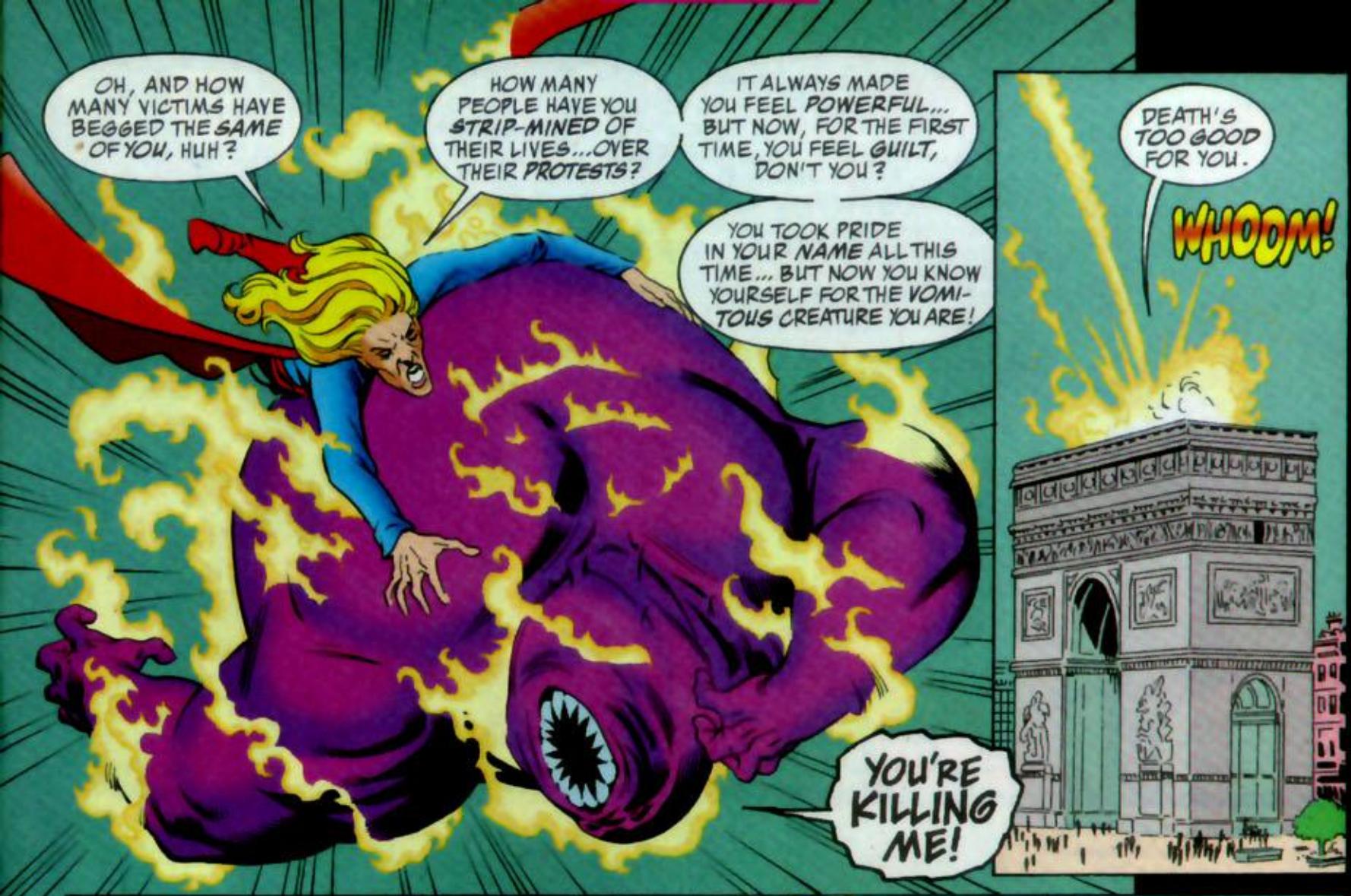












RUDY... FOR
GOD'S SAKE,
RUN! MAYBE
YOU CAN--



YOU PATHETIC MONSTER!
YOU HAVE NO COMPASSION...
NO LOVE OF BEAUTY...
NOTHING TO RECOMMEND
YOU OR ELEVATE YOU!

YOU TAKE AND
TAKE AND TAKE,
AND GIVE NOTHING
BACK!

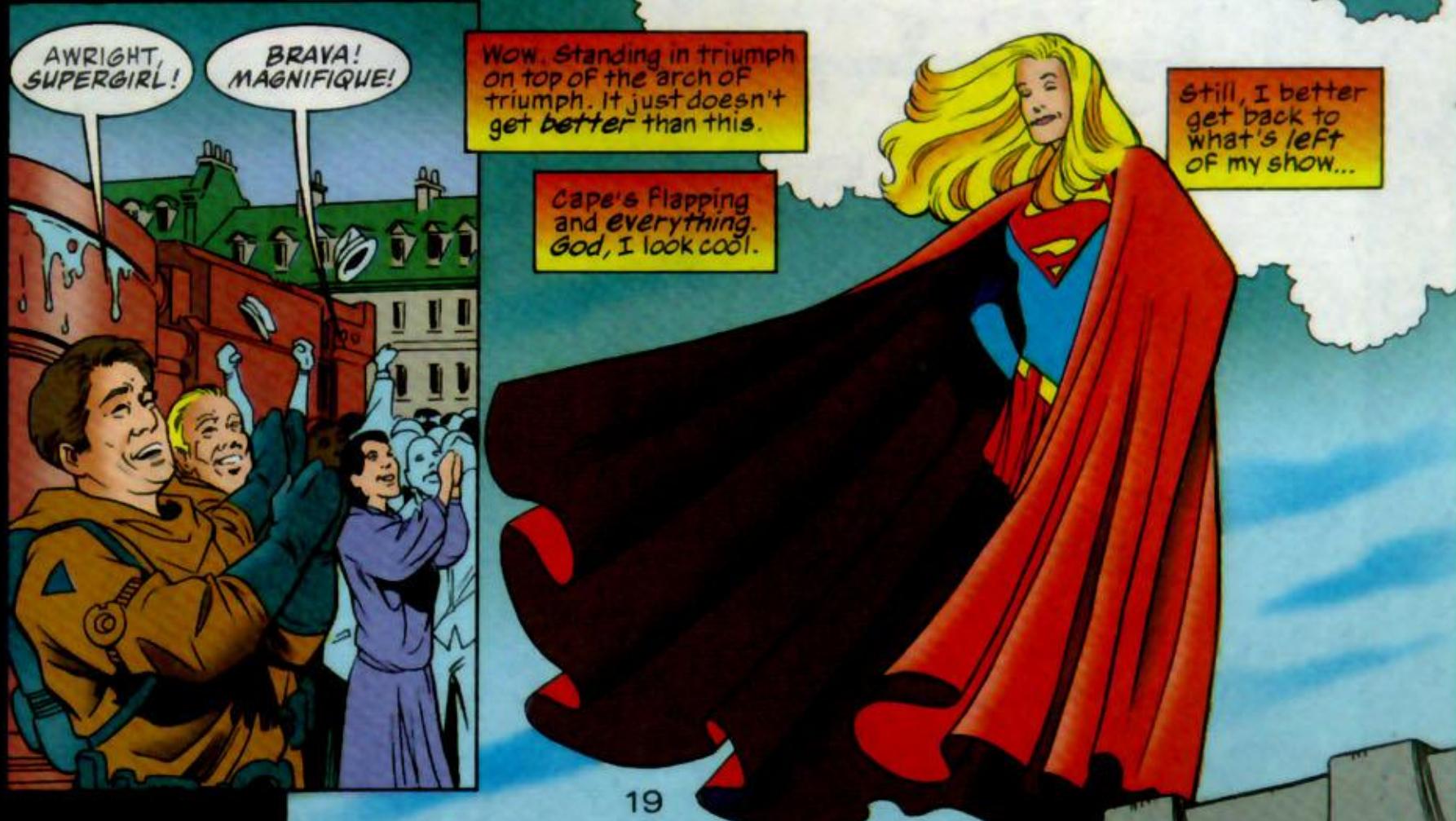
YOU SURVIVE ONLY
AT THE EXPENSE OF
OTHERS, AND ELE-
VATE YOURSELF...

... BY THINKING THAT
TAKING SOMEONE
ELSE'S STRENGTH
MAKES YOU STRONG!
WELL, IT DOESN'T!

TRUE STRENGTH
DOESN'T COME FROM
OUTSIDE... IT COMES
FROM WITHIN!

AND INSIDE...
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND
DONE... LIKE ANY
MOSQUITO... ALL YOU
ARE...







SO... THAT
BRINGS YOU CURRENT.
THEREFORE I'D LIKE
TO KNOW NOW IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED IN
ASSISTING ME...

YOU STILL
HAVEN'T TOLD
ME HOW.

INFORMATION.
RESOURCES.
AN ASSORTMENT
OF WAYS I'LL BE
HAPPY TO SHARE
WITH YOU IN
FUTURE CHATS.

IN RETURN, I
WILL SHOW YOU
HOW TO SAFELY
HARNESS THAT
UNEARTHLY POWER
YOU SAW HER
DISPLAYING.

I SHALL...
CONSIDER IT. ALTHOUGH,
TO BE BLUNT, I SUSPECT
YOU'VE BEEN LESS THAN
CANDID WITH ME. I THINK
THERE'S INFORMATION
YOU'RE HOLDING BACK...
PERHAPS HER "MERGED"
IDENTITY, OR OTHER
ITEMS.

STILL... I CAN
UNDERSTAND
THAT. EVEN
RESPECT IT.
KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER, AFTER
ALL.

NO, IT'S NOT,
LEX. YOU CAN
HAVE KNOWLEDGE
WITHOUT
POWER. THAT'S
PHILOSOPHY.
AND POWER
WITHOUT KNOWL-
EDGE NEATLY
SUMMARIZES
THE HISTORY OF
MANKIND.
ONLY POWER
IS POWER.

VERY DROLL,
CARL. VERY
DROLL.

HOW DO YOU COME UP
WITH SUCH SAGE OBSER-
VATIONS, ANYWAY?

GOD
KNOWS.



We're going for a bit of change of pace this month, taking a look at some general comments about *SUPERGIRL* and many of the recent developments in the life of the Girl of Steel that have led to wide discussion on the Internet. And we're going to hold off commenting until the end.

Dear DC:

I know I'm bound to tick somebody off by saying this, but I never really liked Supergirl until she died in CRISIS #7. In there, I thought she was portrayed with nobility and that she was interesting.

Having said that, I should also say that I have every issue of the new series and a lot of post-CRISIS comics featuring her. I not only enjoy the series because I think it's well written and fun, but it wanders into a lot of controversial issues, treats those issues with respect and usually explores them in an interesting, mature and human way. The issue on free speech has got to be my

favorite to date, primarily because it maturely addressed the multifarious aspects of that issue. And despite the fact that anything religious can be really controversial, and numerous writers shy away from it for that reason, Peter David explores religion, an integral aspect of our society that isn't going to go away any time soon, from multiple perspectives while balancing it with the fact that this is still a comic book, not a religious publication. I never thought it possible that I would enjoy *SUPERGIRL* so much.

I'm hoping that the recent angry protoplasmic Matrix was right, and that Supergirl isn't really an angel, but at this point, I'm willing to follow where Peter leads. I'm just glad that she has a human identity again (as she has the length of this series) even though her current origin could qualify as one of the weirdest.

FRANKLIN
POSTED ON-LINE

Dear DC:

Maybe it's just me, but I'm having a real problem with Supergirl being an "Earthborn angel." First, she was a being of protoplasmic matter that merged with Linda Danvers, and now they're trying to sell her as an angel? What's wrong with this picture? I don't buy it and I don't like it. Having a character as an angel and as a super-hero is not stupid, it's actually kind of cool, but making Supergirl an angel—now, that I find to be a dumb idea. She was never portrayed this way before, so why is she now? Why do writers always feel the need to muck up perfectly good characters? Change is not always a good thing. In this case it was a very bad thing.

I hate the entire concept as it is now. Teleportation? Fiery wings? Give me a break. This is not Supergirl. Just leave well enough alone. I wasn't too keen on the protoplasmic thing at first, but I accepted it because she was still pretty close to being the same as the original...but this new thing is just totally ridiculous. I'm this close to dropping this book altogether! I just hope things improve soon or I can't continue to support this book.

RICK BLAIR
POSTED ON-LINE



Dear SUPERGIRL Team:

Supergirl is my favorite DC character. I was reading an earlier post wherein someone was upset with what Peter David had done to their favorite character, Supergirl. I am pretty conflicted on this particular issue. I have been a fan of Peter David's going back to his Spider-Man "Jean DeWolf" storyline. I was thrilled to know that Supergirl was getting a new title and that Peter David would be writing it. And I have faithfully purchased every issue. And I have been thrilled to see a SUPERGIRL monthly title survive for so long. And I understand that in large part the survival of this book is directly related to Peter David. My conflict is this: as much as I believe that Peter David is a writer/storyteller superior to anyone who has written Supergirl in an ongoing title, I am not happy with the direction of the book. My sense is that Peter David has no loyalty to Supergirl. I think he is imagining stories and placing the characters in the necessary positions to tell the stories, but with no real investment in Supergirl in any traditional sense. It may be that the traditional take on Supergirl would be doomed to failure each and every time regardless of creator (I don't think so). My quandary is this: As long as there is a life form that looks like Supergirl in its own comic book, I'll buy it. Supergirl done this way is better than Supergirl done no way.

PRESBY
POSTED ON-LINE

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[PLAY FOR KEEPS]

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Dear DC:

The problem with Supergirl as anything but an angel is that she will always come off as a poor copy of Superman. Even their names, despite the fact that they're roughly the same age—he's a man and she's a girl. Before the Crisis, she flew around in a too-short skirt handling things that Superman didn't get to. At least as an angel she has unique powers and personality. People who just want Superman in a skirt may not like this. "Get rid of the wings and the teleportation." Why? So she can go back to being a weak Superman clone? She's coming into her power and people want to shut her down, put her back into the silent place where Kara Zor-El used to live. Typical.

I agree that it seems female characters get revised with abandon while male characters are nearly immune to change. There are, of course, exceptions: Hal Jordan, Barry Allen and Oliver Queen are all dead. Aquaman got his hand cut off. But the outcry against Orin losing his hand was louder and more vehement than the changing of Supergirl from a Kryptonian into a ball of Silly Putty. I know, she ceased to exist first, but not by much.

People do change. I think it's wonderful that Supergirl (who should really be Superwoman at this point) is maturing and transforming. My contention is that people are so frightened by change that the precious Superman and Batman can barely change costumes or grow their hair out without some vocal people having a collective aneurysm. This applies to the small, vocal number of people who prefer Kara Zor-El to Matrix/Linda Danvers.

Deep breaths. Accept. Read. Enjoy. Or buy something else and move on.

HARLEQUINN
POSTED ON-LINE



To the Super Crew:

I'm new, so I thought I'd throw in my two cents.

First off, why can't Supergirl be an Earthborn angel? Because she wasn't one twenty years ago?

Quite frankly, I like this version better than Matrix. I think Roger Stern is a great writer, but there was only so much he could do for Supergirl. This is why I missed the

first two issues of this series, despite Peter David's involvement. Now, I'm sorry I did.

As for the Silver Age, I missed it, but I got the impression that when DC did the CRISIS (something else I missed) that they were merely trying to fix a few things, like multiple timelines and such. And because it was messy, certain heroes had to die, like Barry Allen and Kara Zor-El. Had they lived, would they be admired as much as some folks note now? Honestly, we can't say, because that's not what happened. But things change, just like life. Whenever someone does something, there's always going to be someone who objects because their favorite character was ruined, even if it's just Bat-Mite or some Green Lantern from another planet who appeared in maybe twenty issues.

My point of contention is always this: if a writer wants to make changes, I don't mind, just as long as he does them well. If the story is good, I don't mind. I really disliked Energy Superman Red/Blue. Why? Was it the changes? Partially, but I also thought the story wasn't that good, nor were the plot reasons for the changes adequately explained.

So, we have an angel. Why is this a problem? I personally prefer comics that explore the religious angles; they're interesting.

No one seems to be objecting to demons or Hell popping up. Meanwhile, there was the Spectre as the wrath of God. I don't see anyone bringing that up. So, why not more beneficial aspects of the Almighty? I think that's what Zauriel and Linda both represent, and that's fine by me, because despite their divinity, Linda especially, they seem flawed and less than perfect. With that said, maybe Zauriel should pop into SUPERGIRL sometime. I'd like to see how he reacts to Wally and Linda (more than the two panels in JLA/TITANS).

RAZORWITT
POSTED ON-LINE

Interesting comments all around, and just the tip of the iceberg on Supergirl's standing as an Earthborn angel. There is a lot of speculation and a lot of opinions floating around about her, and we're not going to set any rules concerning what you should think on this topic. As the Matrix mystery has been cleared up recently, we're opening the forum to your take

on that and what the future holds for the protoplasmic material that wanted to be Supergirl. Plus, in a few months, the often-requested Zauriel makes an appearance.

As everyone can see by our letter column this month, the on-line action is jumping. If you want to write in, by hand or by typing, please don't hesitate. Write to SUPERGIRL, DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Letters can be e-mailed to DCOMaureen@aol.com, or posted on our web site, keyword DCCOMICS.

NEXT MONTH:



Everyone shows up next month! OK, well, not everyone, but Supergirl seems surrounded by her entire supporting cast, the new mystery Mr. Carnivean, and even Young Justice! But you should check out YOUNG JUSTICE #12 first to see what kind of monkey is on the kids' back, and why the heck they're making life hell for Supergirl. The gang's all here in thirty!

Maureen McTigue
—investigating the risks

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1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

That Parasite just sucks on this month's cover by Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs and Patrick Martin.