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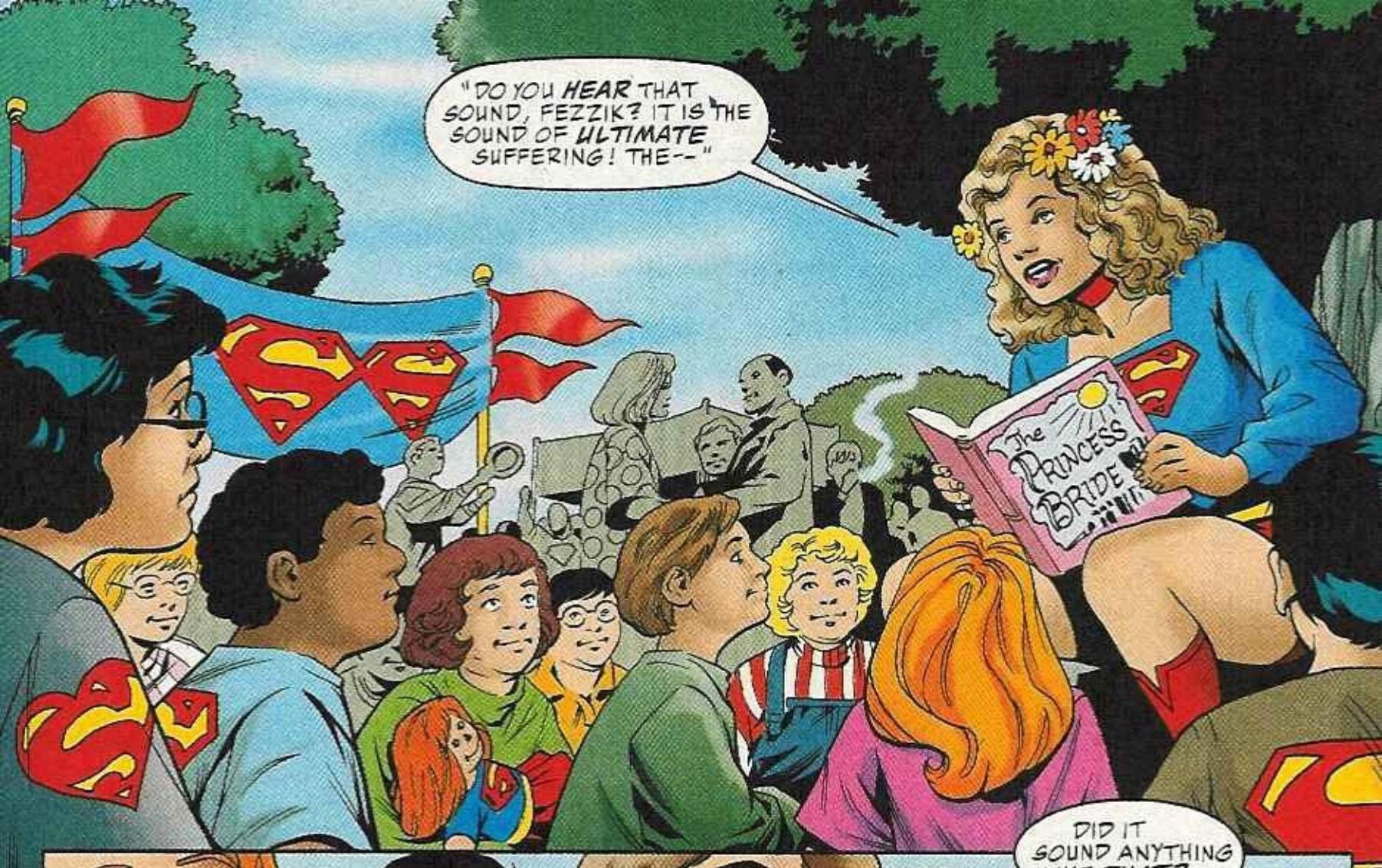
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WOOOOOOOO





LINDA...
HONEY... IT'D
BE BEST
IF--

20

S



"LINDA, I CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT... BUT IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE DICK JUST DREW A BAD CARD. THE CANCER PREEXISTED THIS SITUATION, APPARENTLY..."

"...AND AS FOR THIS 'DEMON' STUFF, WELL..."

"...THAT'S A LITTLE OUT OF MY LEAGUE."

SPARE A DRAG?

OH, KISS OFF, MATE!

I'M WARNING YOU--

AAAHHHHH!

WARNING ME OF WHAT, BUZZ?

TH-THAT IT'S UNFILTERED, HIGH ONE.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, BUZZ. I KNOW WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE. I KNOW IF YOU'VE BEEN BAD OR... WELL... JUST BAD.

YOU'VE TRIED TO THWART MY EFFORTS. THAT WAS A MISTAKE, BUT A HARMLESS ONE. HARMLESS TO ME, THAT IS.

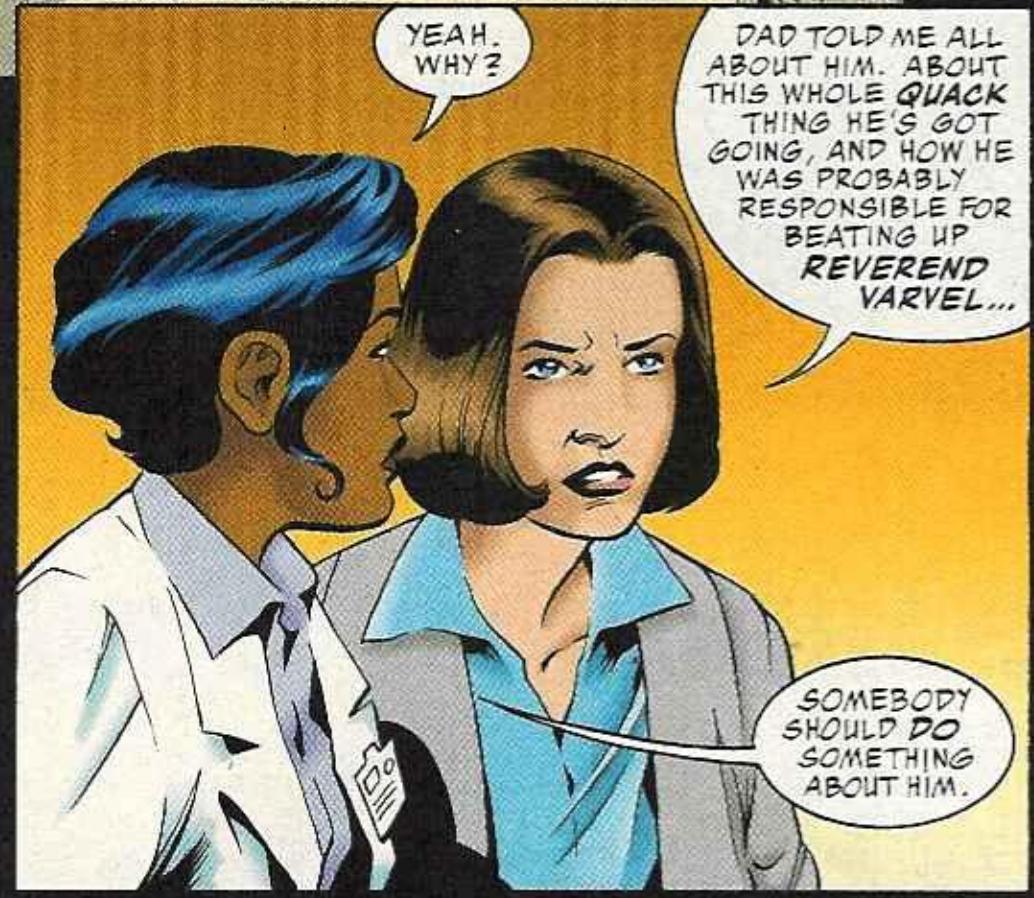
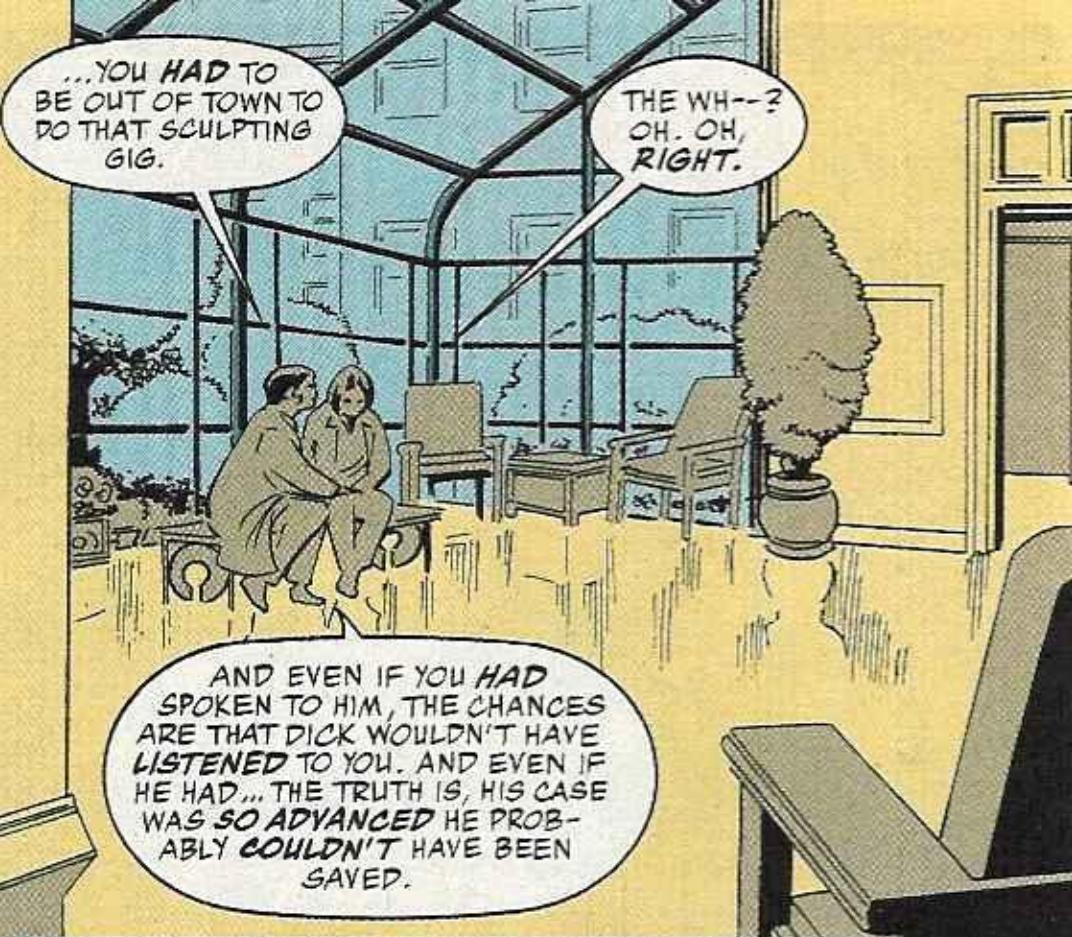
THIS IS THE END TIME, BUZZ,
AS PREDICTED. THE TURN OF
THE CENTURY IS NIGH, THE
MILLENNIUM APPROACHES.

I... I THOUGHT
THE CENTURY HAD
ALREADY TURNED...?
AND THE WORLD'S
STILL HERE...

OH, GOOD
LORD.

ALL RIGHT, ONE MORE TIME:
THERE'S NO YEAR ZERO. THERE'S
A HUNDRED YEARS TO A CENTURY.
SO THE LAST YEAR OF THE 20TH
CENTURY IS 2000, NOT 1999.

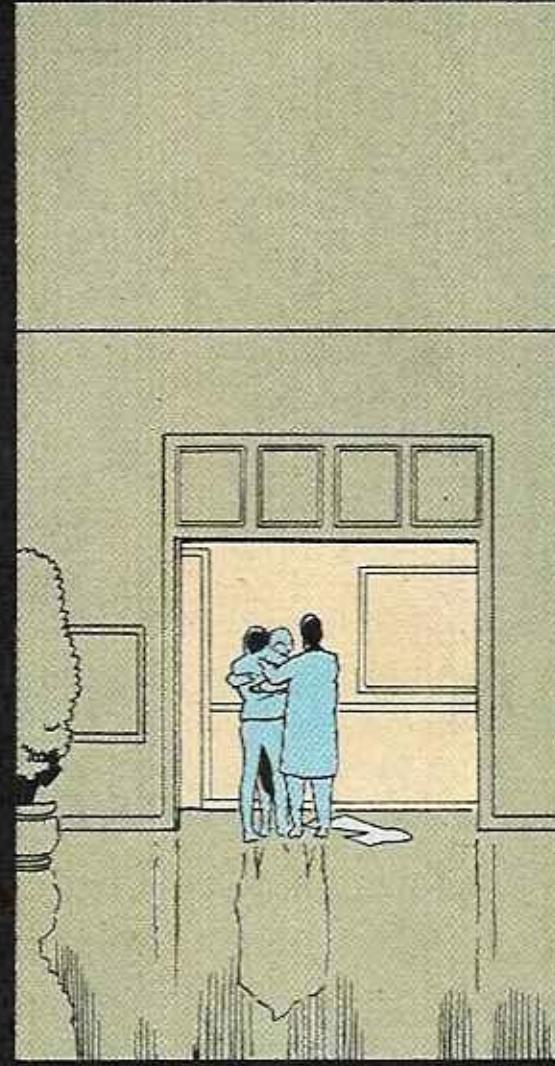




I...I KEEP TRYING
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT
THE LORD'S PLAN IS.
HE...MUST HAVE
ONE, RIGHT?

HE MUST HAVE
LOVED DICK...SO
MUCH...TO BE SO
ANXIOUS TO...TO TAKE
HIM HOME
AND...

...AND
AWAY FROM
MEEEEEE...

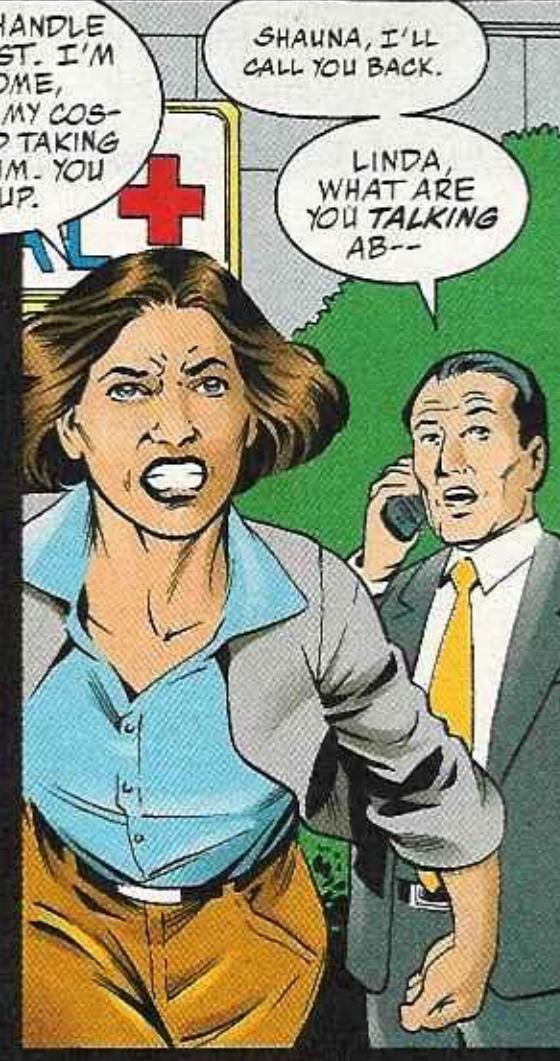
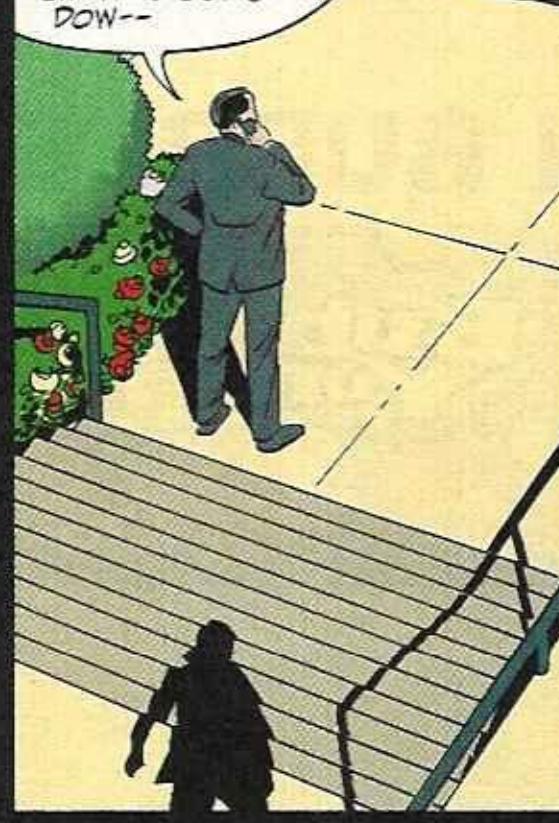


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT CHARGE WE'RE
BUSTING HIM ON,
SHAUNA. JAYWALKING,
TAKING TOO MANY
DIET PILLS... I DON'T
CARE ANYMORE.
SMITH IS GOING
DOW--

LET ME HANDLE
SMITH FIRST. I'M
GOING HOME,
GRABBING MY COS-
TUME, AND TAKING
CARE OF HIM. YOU
CLEAN UP.

SHAUNA, I'LL
CALL YOU BACK.

LINDA,
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
AB--



YOU REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW?

BURG
HOSPITAL

B-BUZZ?
WHERE
DID--



"ALL RIGHT, FRED.
I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT'S HAPPENING..."

CAN YOU
FEEL THE HEAL-
ING POWER OF
SUPergirl, MY
FRIENDS?

"SHE'S GOING AFTER
SMITHY, IS WHAT'S
HAPPENING."

FEEL HER
GLORY! FEEL HER
MAJESTY! FEEL THE
ILLNESS UNABLE TO
WITHSTAND THE
CLEANSING FIRE
OF--

TING
ALL

YES!!

"AND NOT ONLY THAT...
BUT I SUSPECT SHE'S IN
FULL JUDGMENT
MODE."

WHAT
IN THE--?

OH... MY
GOD...

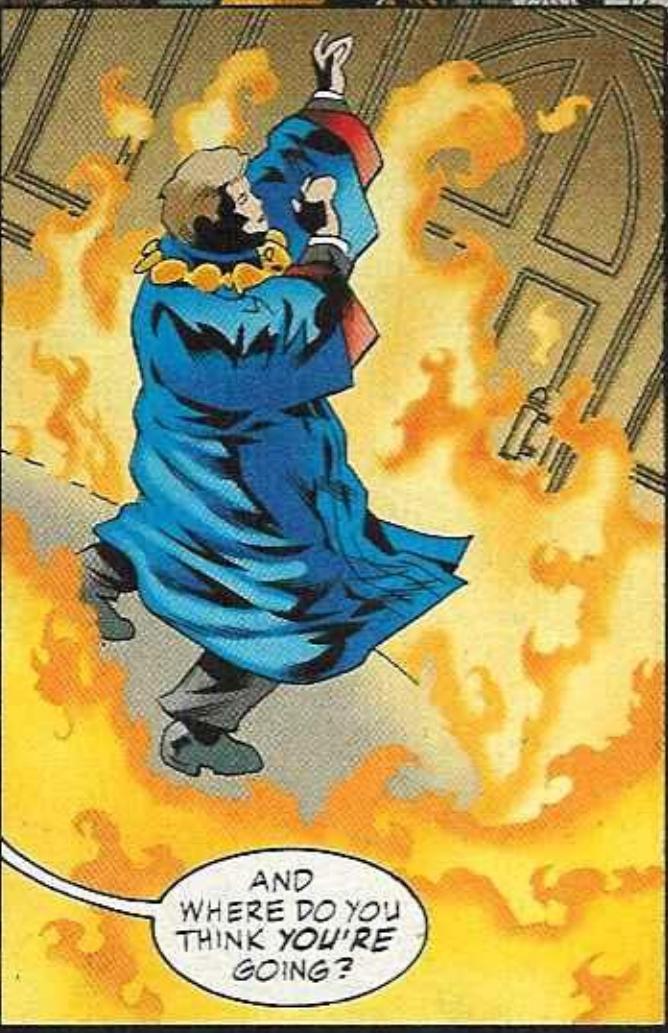
"AND IF SHE'S IN THAT
MODE... IF SHE IS--"

--THEN NOTHING
CAN SAVE EITHER OF THEM."













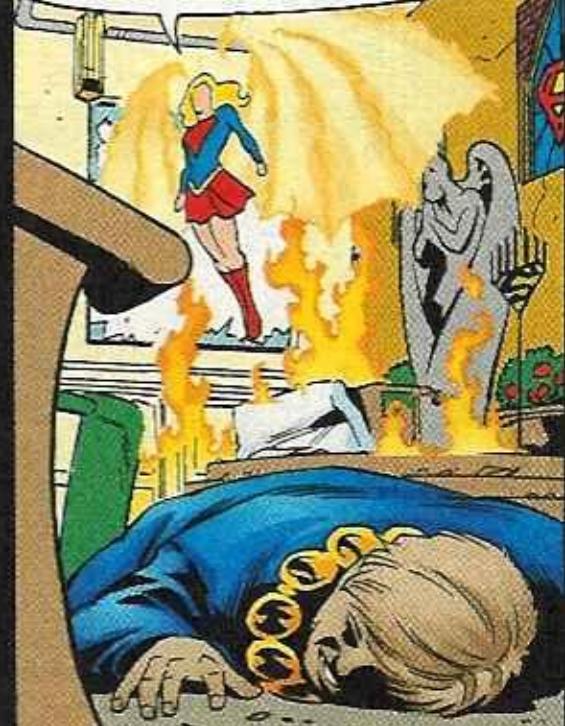
YOU WILL STAY THERE, ON YOUR BELLY, UNTIL THE POLICE COME FOR YOU. YOU WILL CONFESS YOUR SINS TO THEM. YOU WILL ADMIT TO YOUR FRAUD. YOU WILL ADMIT TO YOUR ATTACK ON THE REVEREND VARVEL.

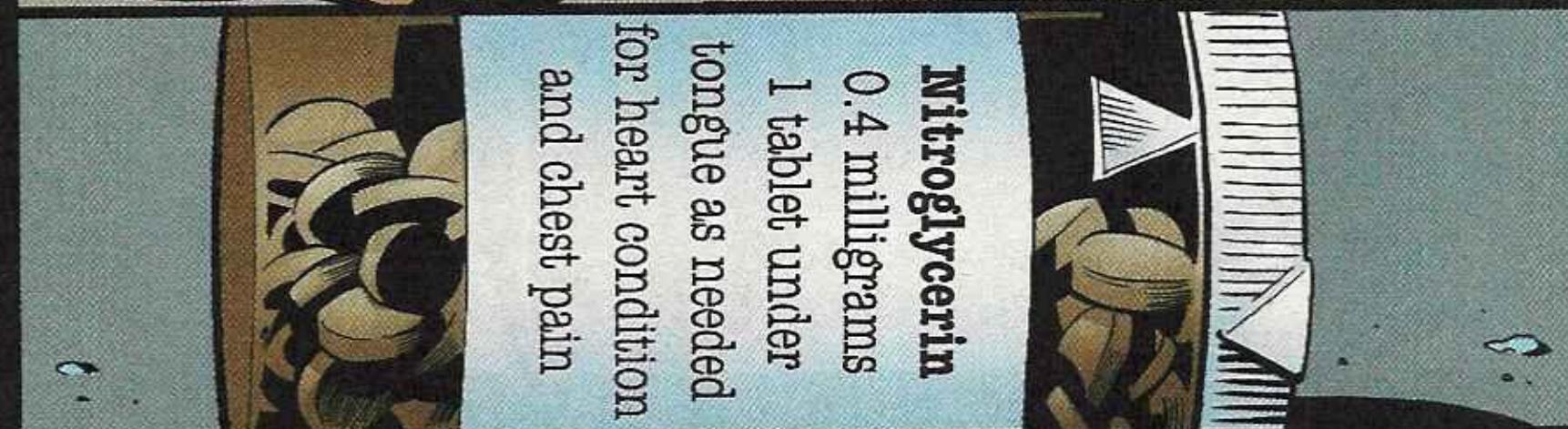
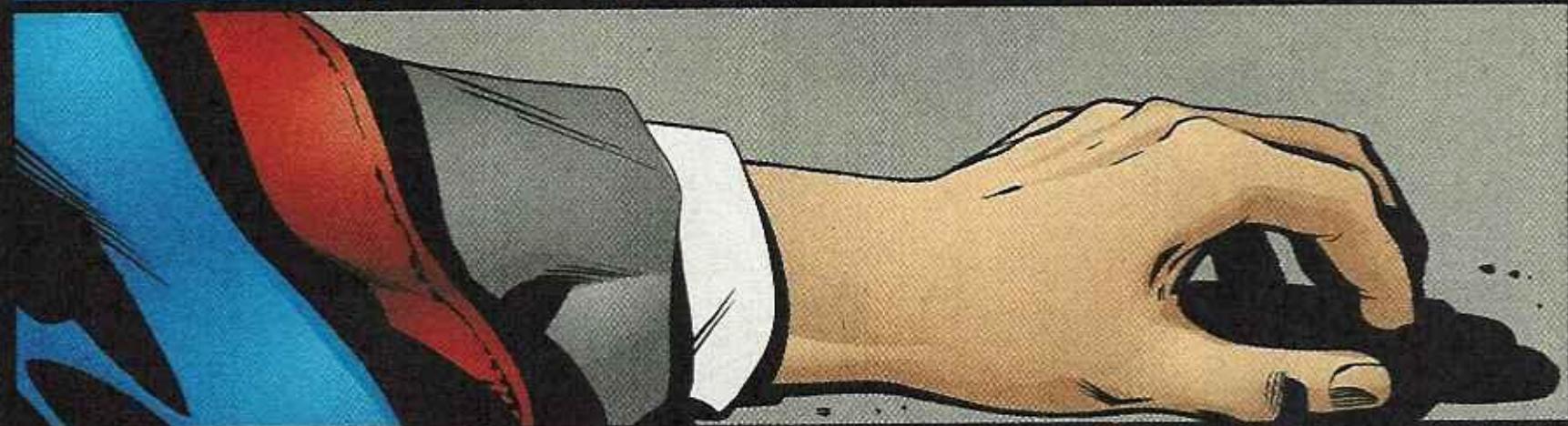
AND THEN
YOU WILL GO
TO JAIL... UNTIL
YOU ROT.

SUCH IS MY
JUDGMENT. AND
IF YOU DO NOT
CARRY IT OUT...

...THEN MAY
GOD HAVE MERCY
ON YOUR SOUL...

...FOR I
CERTAINLY
WON'T.





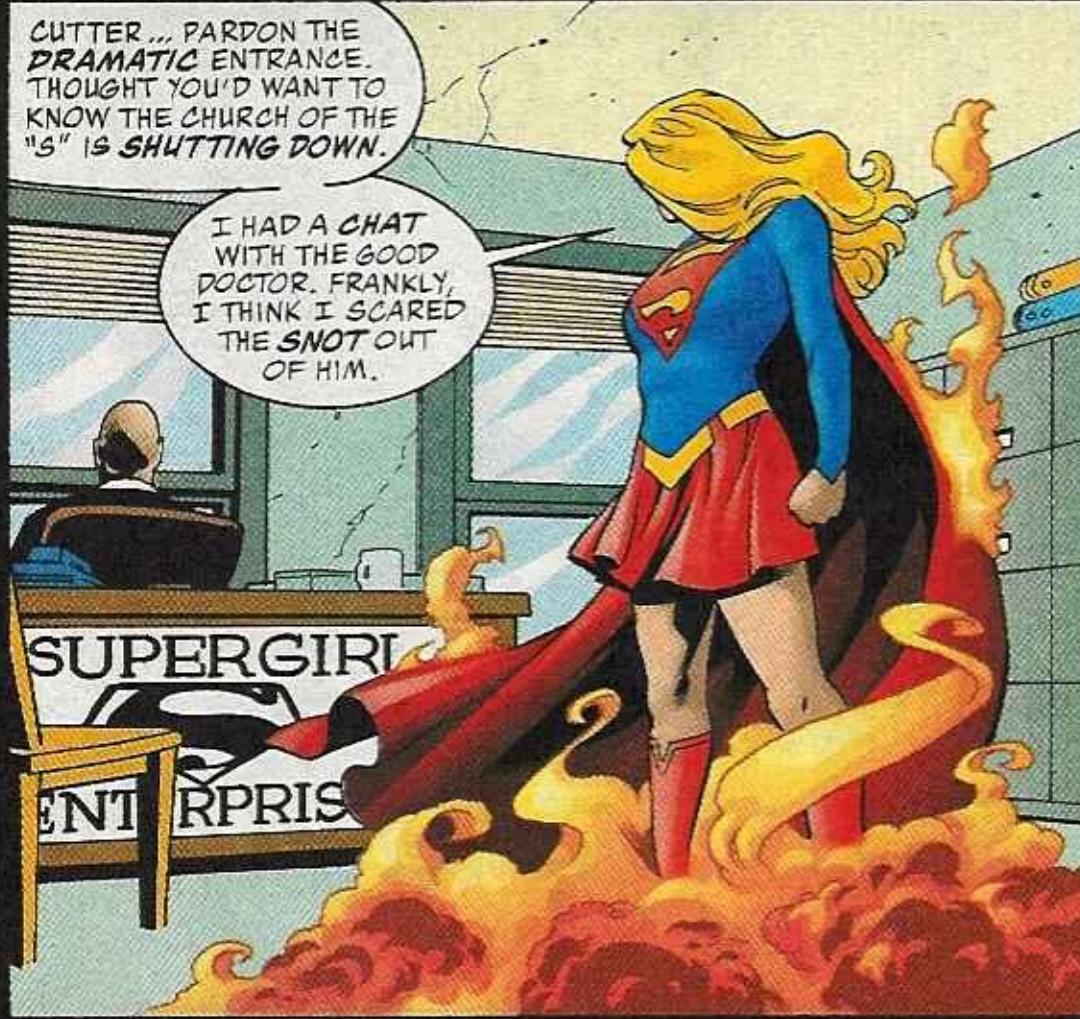


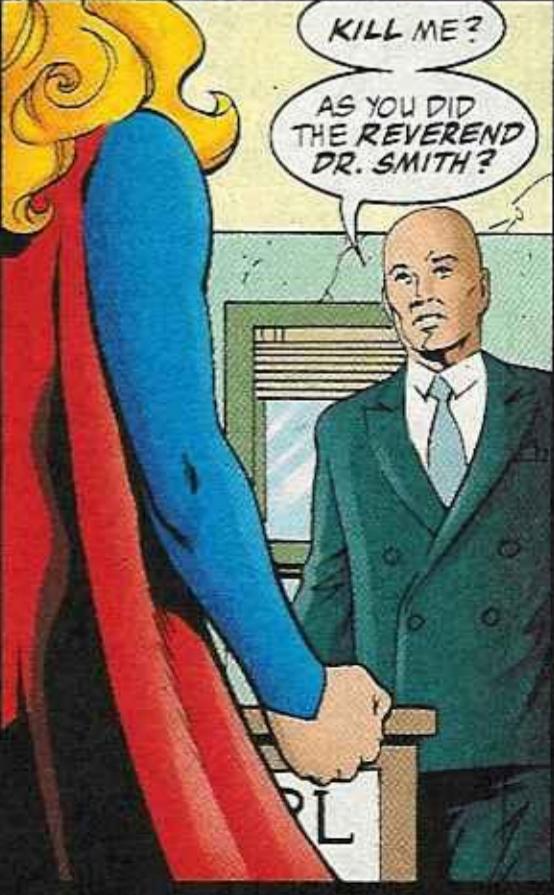
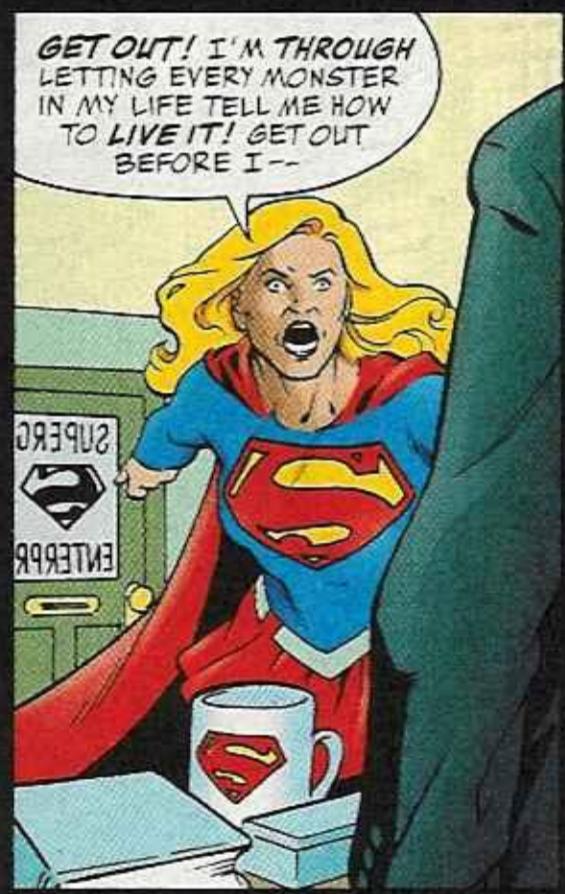
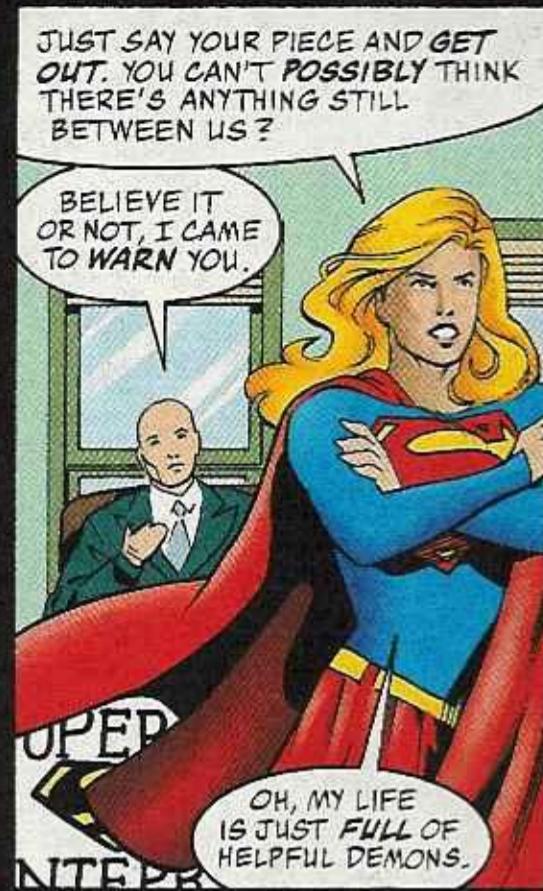
SHOOM SUPergirl



ENTERPRISES

It's like I'm on some sort of wild high. That was the first time in ages I used my power and felt great about it.





HE SUFFERED A MASSIVE HEART ATTACK... DURING YOUR LITTLE CONFERENCE OR AFTER, NO ONE'S SURE.

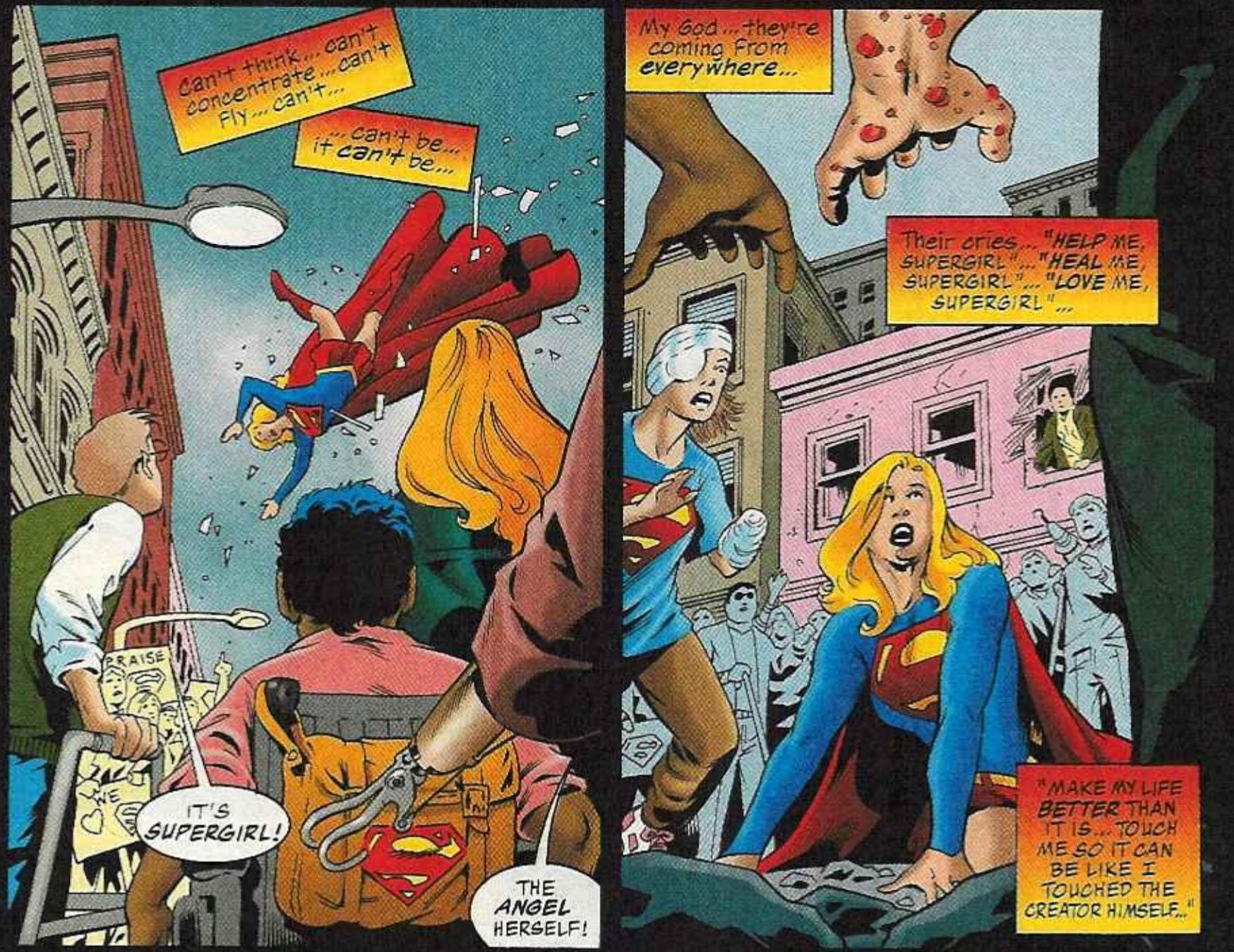
CHECK AT THE HOSPITAL, IF YOU WISH. IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.

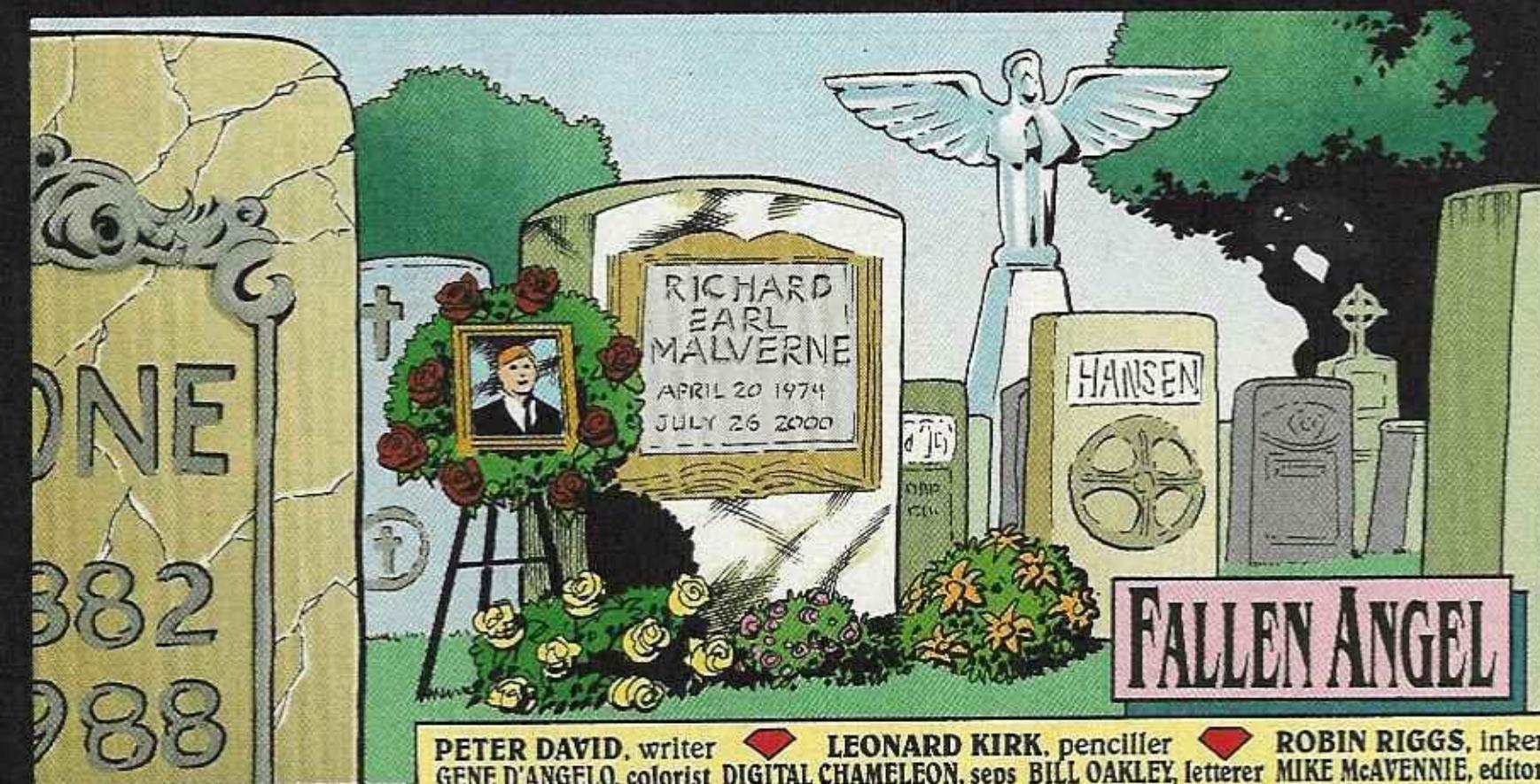
I WISH I COULD SAY... YOU DIDN'T MATTER TO ME, EITHER.

YOU!

;sigh:
"ME."







A few questions are answered, but even more spring up in **SUPERGIRL #44!**

Dear SUPERGIRL Team:

SUPERGIRL #44 was full of exciting developments, building up toward something big. Ever since I started reading SUPERGIRL last year (and I did get most of the back issues, of course), I've been expecting a big climax. Where is it? I know it will arrive eventually, but so far every issue just makes things more complicated and exciting... I hope some subplots will be resolved soon, or I'll just explode! We don't want that, do we?

You may love or hate the dominant religious aspects of this book, but no one can deny that SUPERGIRL is unique and unpredictable. I really don't know if Supergirl is an angel or a demon, and I really don't know

what's going on with the Church of Supergirl, or whether Dick is going to live or die... Please provide some answers to these mysteries before the end of times! Having Andy return next issue is a good start.

MICHAEL BREGMAN
GAN-YAVNE, ISRAEL

The reaction to Andy's return and Dick's death probably wasn't what you were expecting, Michael, but they certainly are answers! And with the events that unfolded in this issue, it's more than likely the Church of the "S" is about to expect a severe drop in attendance!



Dear Maureen:

Last issue—**SUPERGIRL #43**—I thought Supergirl got a rough deal, being accused of acting without thinking, when she took the only option she had available. This issue—**SUPERGIRL**

#44—I'm not so sure. If Linda had paused for a moment, she might have realized that helping Buzz would hurt Dick. On the other hand, would she rather have Dick die, or live with a demon inside him?

At the same time, though she hasn't had time to realize it yet, if Supergirl could cure that baby, can't she cure Dick as well? And what are the consequences of using that power? Buzz said something very interesting... "You have to learn to rein yourself in, or it's going to get you into all sorts of trouble." Could this be the "fall" that everyone's been alluding to? Personally, I'm not so sure I understand Buzz. Is he on the side of demons or... well, angels? He's sometimes bad, but other times (**FINAL NIGHT** comes to mind), he's saved Linda's life. Is Buzz just a big softie at heart, or is something else going on?

BRIAN MANNING
TOLEDO, OHIO

It's safe to say, Brian, that with Buzz it's always something else, but naturally, where Linda is concerned, he has a special interest. And as for that baby, you might well be rattled by his appearance next issue!



Dear Maureen:

Few comic books have taken on the touchy subject of religious sincerity versus religious fanaticism as well as **SUPERGIRL #44**, and few have done it in such an engrossing, spectacular way. Could it be that the mysterious Judah is correct about Supergirl? Could it be that the angelic status isn't as "heavenly" as she believes, as attested by the batlike appearance of her fiery wings? Or is she being set up for a fall by some unseen force, as appears to happen on page 15? No wonder this story is entitled "Shadows of Doubt."

It looks like the "S" in "Church of the S" should stand for "sinister." I certainly hope that Rev. Varvel is not dead. He's become an interesting cast member in his own right, one who wants to protect the citizens of Leesburg from any cults that may prey on their minds. Likewise, I admire Supergirl for wanting to set the record straight about herself at Stanhope University, before the situation got out of control through no fault of her own.

The dialogue in this title is always realistic; witness the conversation between Cutter and Supergirl on pages 9-10 (especially the "babe"

part). There were some powerfully dramatic moments in both story and art all through this issue: Linda's pain at seeing Dick Malverne suffer and her furious transformation to Supergirl on page 7, her confrontation with Buzz (appearing, oddly enough, like the face of God in the clouds), the healing of the child, Shauna and Fred's horrific discovery on page 17, and the explosive battle with Judah. Thanks once again to Gene D'Angelo and Digital Chameleon for making it all so bright and flashing!

I also enjoyed the small but effective touches, like Linda's shadow on the title page, the student's costume on pages 10 and 13 (Hey! I remember that outfit from the 1970s comic-book collection!), and the realistic, marbled look to the Supergirl statue on the cover.

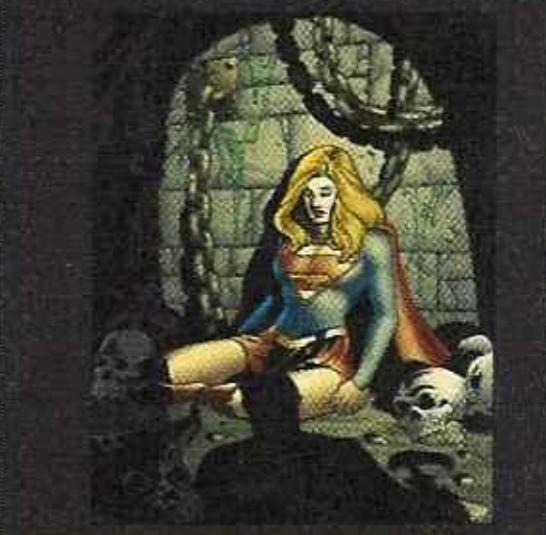
Anxiously awaiting the return of Comet next issue!

NEIL AHLQUIST
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

It's all the small details, Neil, that make the bigger picture that much better. Glad you're enjoying them.

NEXT MONTH: Closing in on the 50th-issue explosion, next month we find out where Supergirl has fallen, why she won't get up, and what effect it's having on the world! Peter David, Leonard Kirk, Derec Aucoin and Robin Riggs cover the world and beyond in **SUPERGIRL #49**!

—Maureen McTigue
tripping and falling



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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Supergirl says goodbye to Dick Malverne on this month's cover by Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs and Patrick Martin.

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