



SUPERGIRL®

51

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SUBJECT NUMBER
THIRTY-SEVEN IS FREDERICK
FRANKENSTEIN, A.K.A. "RIOT."
OBSERVATION ON EIGHTY-NINTH DAY
OF INCARCERATION, AS HIS NOW-
NORMAL SLEEP RHYTHMS ARE
GUIDING HIM TOWARD
NORMALITY.

FREDERICK'S PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT IS QUITE MARKED. IT APPEARS THE GROTESQUE EXTERIOR EFFECTS OF THE TEMPORAL PHASE GENERATOR WHICH RESULTED IN THE SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND THE "RIOT" PERSONALITY CAN BE REVERSED.

HOWEVER, I
REMAIN CONCERNED
ABOUT THE LONG-
TERM MENTAL
EFFECTS.

MY FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH
FREDERICK HAVE BEEN LESS THAN
POSITIVE. I THINK HE'S COME TO VIEW
ME AS SOME SORT OF JAILER INSTEAD
OF A SIMPLE RESEARCHER CONNECTED
TO THE METROPOLIS SPECIAL CRIMES
UNIT DIVISION.

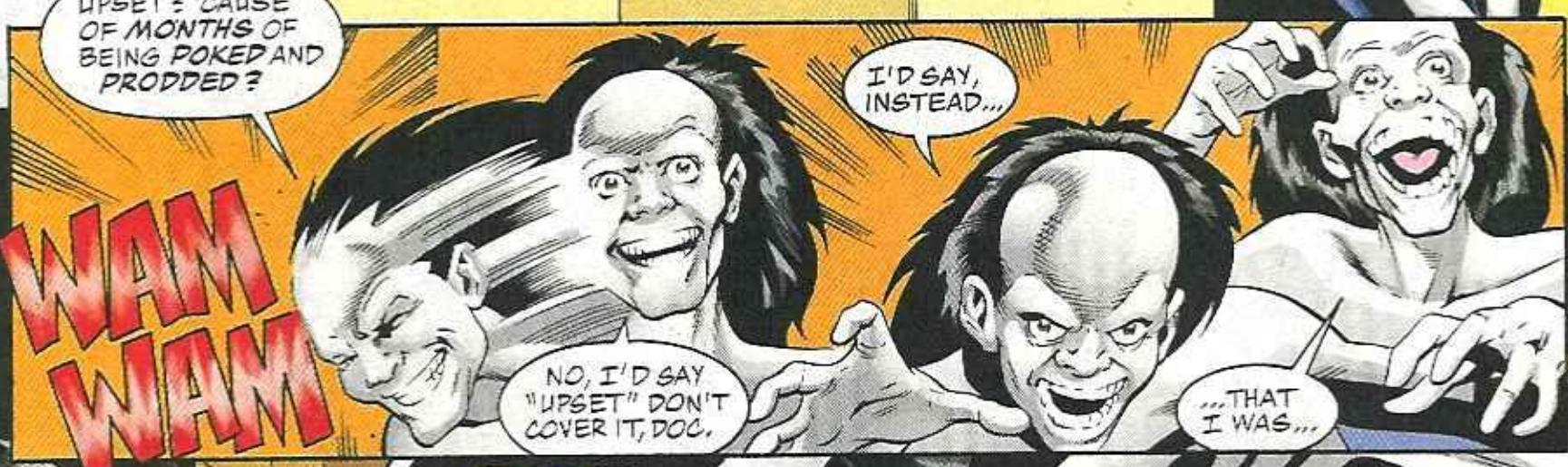
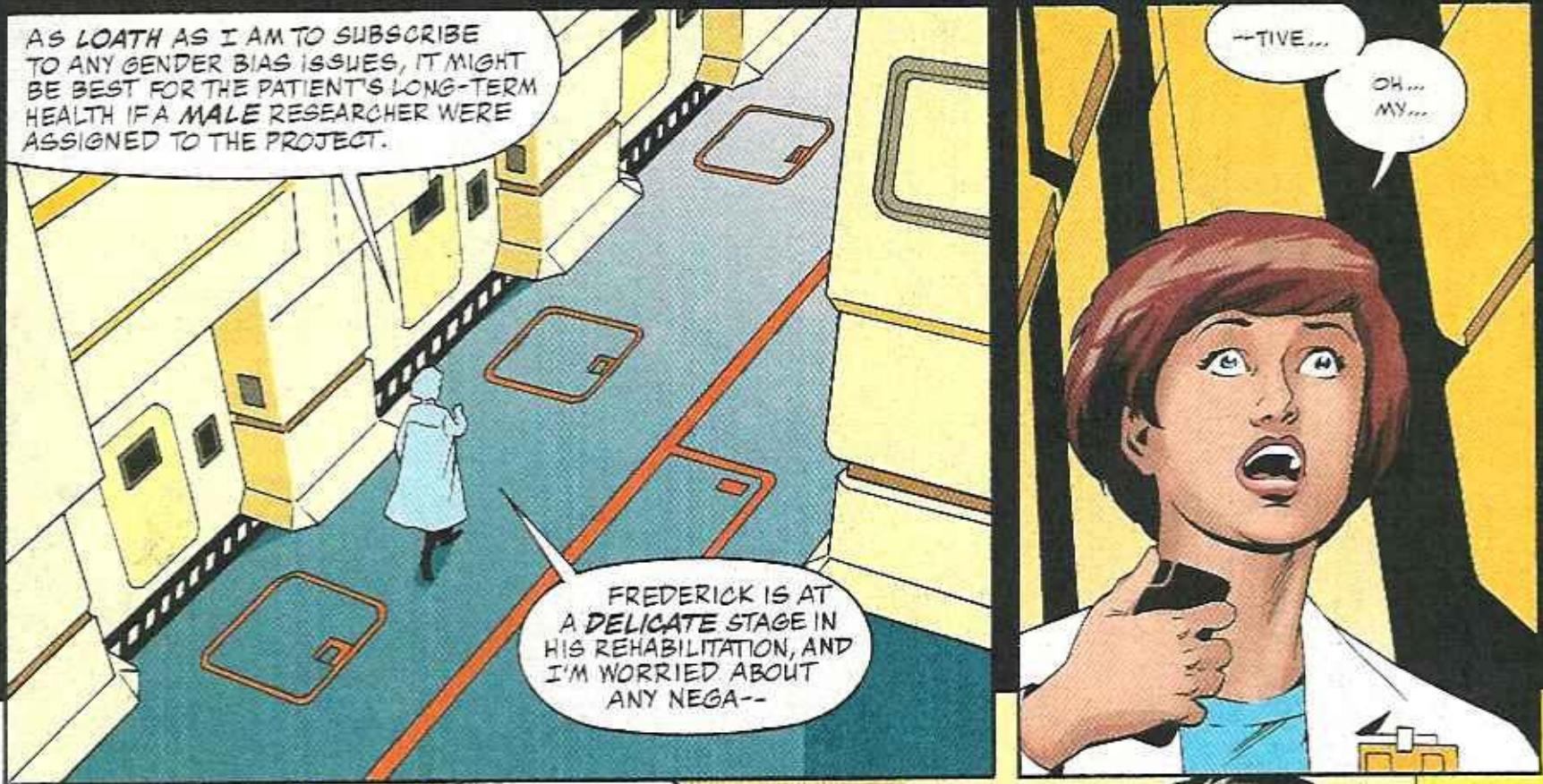
THE FACT THAT FREDERICK SEEMS
TO HAVE A DEEP-SEATED HOSTILITY
TOWARD WOMEN IN GENERAL--STEM-
MING FROM AN APPARENT LACK OF A
FULFILLING LOVE LIFE--MAY HAVE
EXACERBATED THE SITUATION. LIKE ALL
OF US, FREDERICK MAY SIMPLY WANT
TO LOVE, AND BE LOVED IN
RETURN...

MY GOD...
THAT'S A SONG
LYRIC. PERHAPS
FREDERICK ISN'T
THE ONLY ONE
WHO SHOULD BE
GETTING MORE
SLEEP.

THAT AND THE FACT THAT I HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH OF A SOCIAL LIFE AS HE DOES ISN'T HELPING. I MEAN, JEEZ, EVEN HE'S STARTING TO LOOK GOOD TO ME.



AS LOATH AS I AM TO SUBSCRIBE
TO ANY GENDER BIAS ISSUES, IT MIGHT
BE BEST FOR THE PATIENT'S LONG-TERM
HEALTH IF A MALE RESEARCHER WERE
ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT.



making a splash

 Feel like I'm
remembering
my own life
From a fog.

Like I've gotten
a divorce...
From myself...

Once, I was a part
of something... divine.
Celestial. And
now I'm...

...I don't know
what I am,
anymore. I'm...
I'm...

PETER DAVID, writer
LEONARD KIRK & ROBIN RIGGS, artists
GENE D'ANGELO, colorist
DIGITAL CHAMELEON, seps
BILL OAKLEY, letterer
MIKE McAVENTIE, editor

HERE, LUV.
WE'RE HERE.

METROPOLIS. YOU KNOW WHERE
YOU WANTED TO GO. REMEMBER?

Huh?

RIGHT,
RIGHT... AND
STOP CALLING
ME "LUV."

ANYTHING
YOU SAY, LUV.

AND I WOULDN'T SOUND
SO SNOTTY IF I WERE YOU.
'MEMBER, YOU NEED ME
MORE THAN I NEED YOU.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT
FOR A SECOND. IF THAT WAS
TRUE, YOU WOULDN'T BE
HERE. YOU WANT SOMETHING;
I'M JUST NOT SURE WHAT
IT IS YET.

I'M USING
THE LADIES'
ROOM. STAY
PUT.

JAWOHL,
MEIN
FUEHRER.

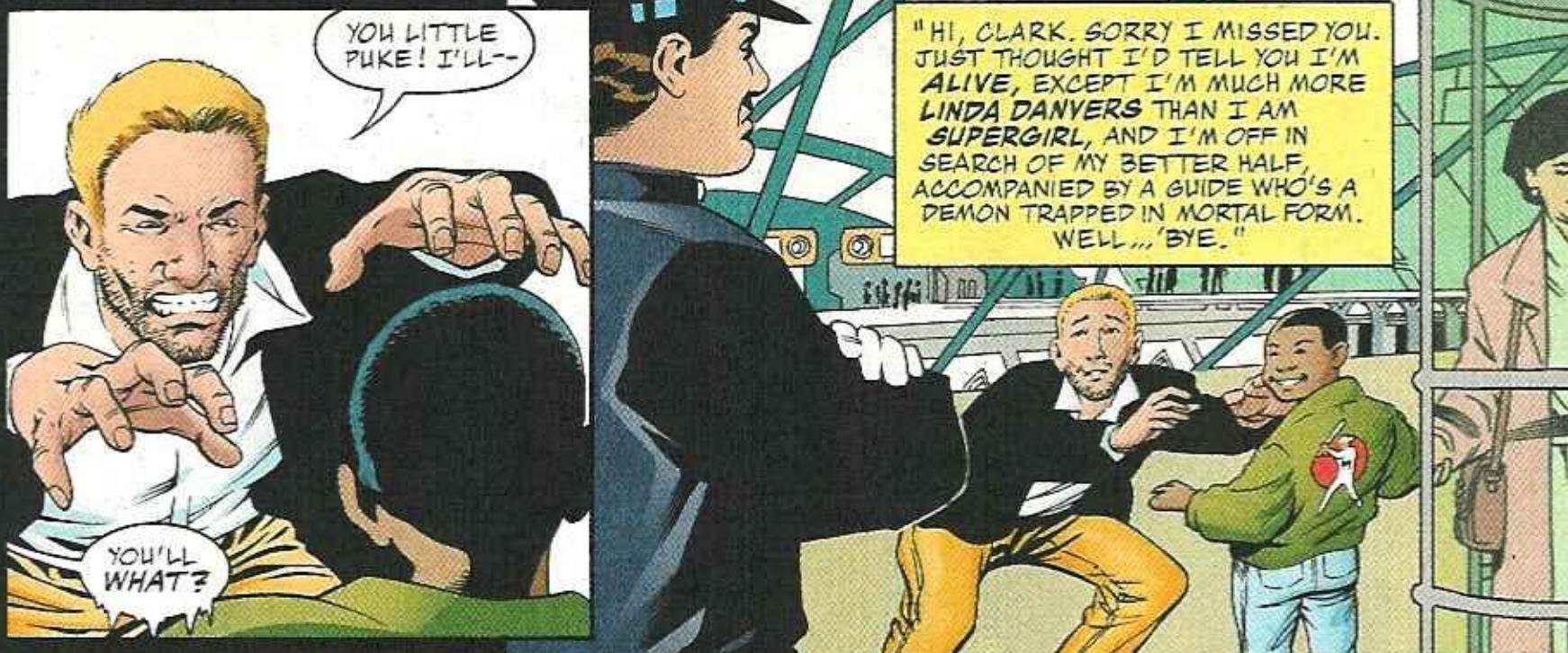
GOT A
PROBLEM,
KID?

YOU'RE
A BAD MAN.
I KNOW
IT.

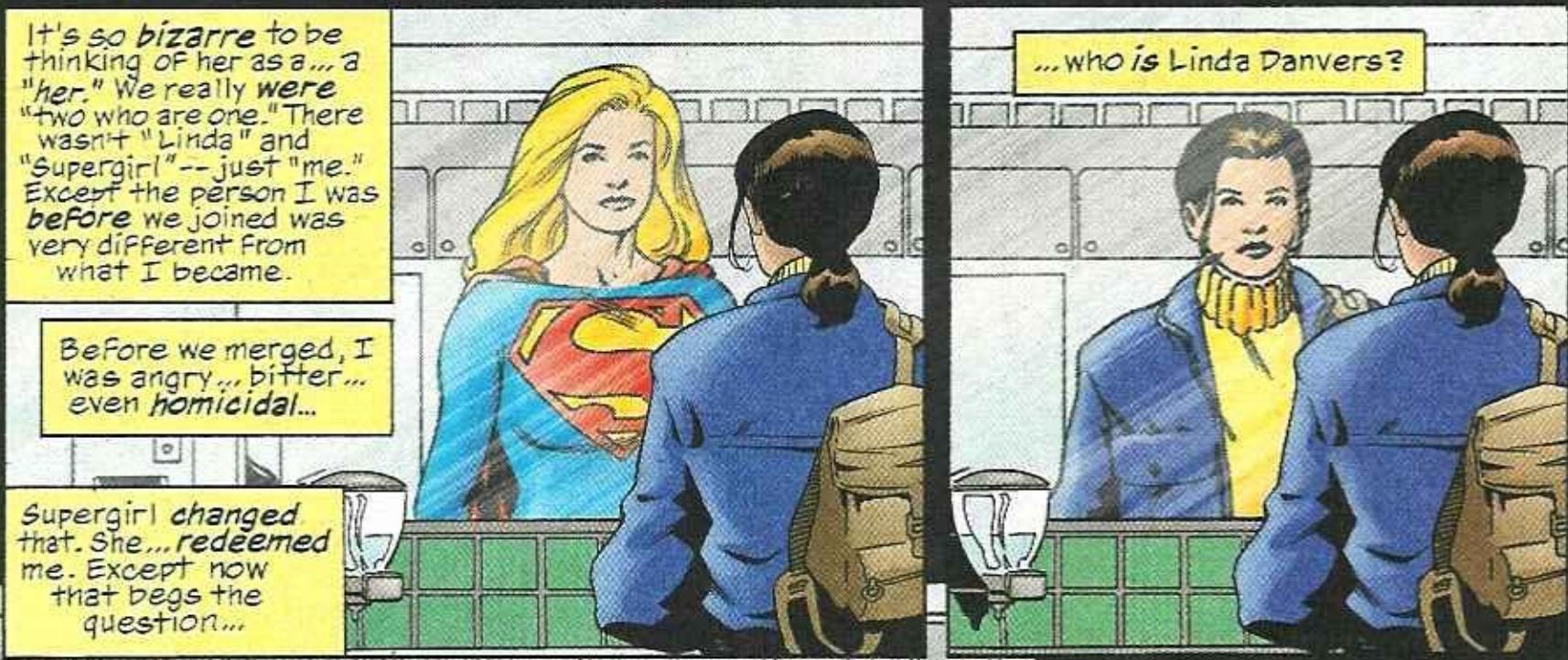
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
HOLD ON... I GOT IT HERE
SOMEWHERE... IT'S ONLY
A FEW HOURS OLD, SO
IT'S STILL A LITTLE
WARM...

OWWW!

ME? Nah. I'M A SWEETIE.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I HAVE
THE HEART OF A LITTLE BOY.



"HI, CLARK. SORRY I MISSED YOU. JUST THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU I'M ALIVE, EXCEPT I'M MUCH MORE LINDA DANVERS THAN I AM SUPERGIRL, AND I'M OFF IN SEARCH OF MY BETTER HALF, ACCCOMPANIED BY A GUIDE WHO'S A DEMON TRAPPED IN MORTAL FORM. WELL... 'BYE.'"



Who knows? Maybe I'm supposed to redeem Buzz, somehow. Maybe it's part of some... some test Wally...

...or whoever...

...set up. Maybe it's...

AW, MO.

Well, that was fast.

ENJOYING THIS, ARE YOU? YOU'RE A BIG CITY COP, AND I'M UNARMED. WHY NOT JUST SHOOT ME?

JUST KEEP IT UP, SMART GUY. WHERE'S YOUR I.D.?

NEXT TO MY E.G.O. AND MY SUPERE.G.O.

IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?

HE'S GOT THAT SYNDROME WHERE YOU JUST BLURT OUT WHATEVER CROSSSES YOUR MIND, AND YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOURSELF...

UH...YEAH...

CARPAL TUNNEL...?

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY EXPLAINS HIS BEHAVIOR...

KIND OF. HE'S MY, UH, BROTHER. HE'S, UH...

OKAY, MISS. GET HIM OUT OF HERE.

WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?

IT'LL UPSET YOU.

SO YOU WON'T TELL ME?

SURE I WILL. I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE DEPRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING, SO I CAN MAKE YOU FEEL WORSE.

THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL START NOW. I'M MORTAL. NOTHING'S MORE DEPRESSING THAN THAT. I HATE IT.

SO DO I. BEFORE, I COULD WHOMP ON YOU AND YOU COULD TAKE IT. NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUNCH YOU ONCE AND YOU GO DOWN LIKE A--

HOLEEE...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY LEFT THE WATER RUNNING.

I'D TOSS DOWN MY COAT FOR YOU TO WALK ON SO YOUR HIGHNESS WON'T GET HER FEET WET ...BUT I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHERE TO START.

SOMETHING HAPPENED HERE!

OH, REALLY? Y'THINK? STOP THE PRESSES!



CITY ROOM.

NOPE, CLARK KENT ISN'T HERE. WOULD YOU LIKE HIS VOICE MAI--

NOPE, NEITHER IS LOIS LANE. THEY'RE BOTH OUT ON ASSIGNMENT. CONSIDERING WE JUST HAD A TIDAL WAVE DUMPED ON US,* THAT SHOULD BE EASY TO UNDERSTAND. WOULD YOU LIKE HER VOICE MAI--

NO, MISS, I'M NOT THEIR SECRETARY. I JUST ANSWERED THE RINGING PHONE 'CAUSE I WAS WALKING PAST AND I THOUGHT, "HEY, THEY'RE NOT HERE AND MAYBE THIS IS A STORY." ARE YOU A STORY?

* SUPERMAN #162-163

ME? Nah. I'M AS BORING AS THEY COME.

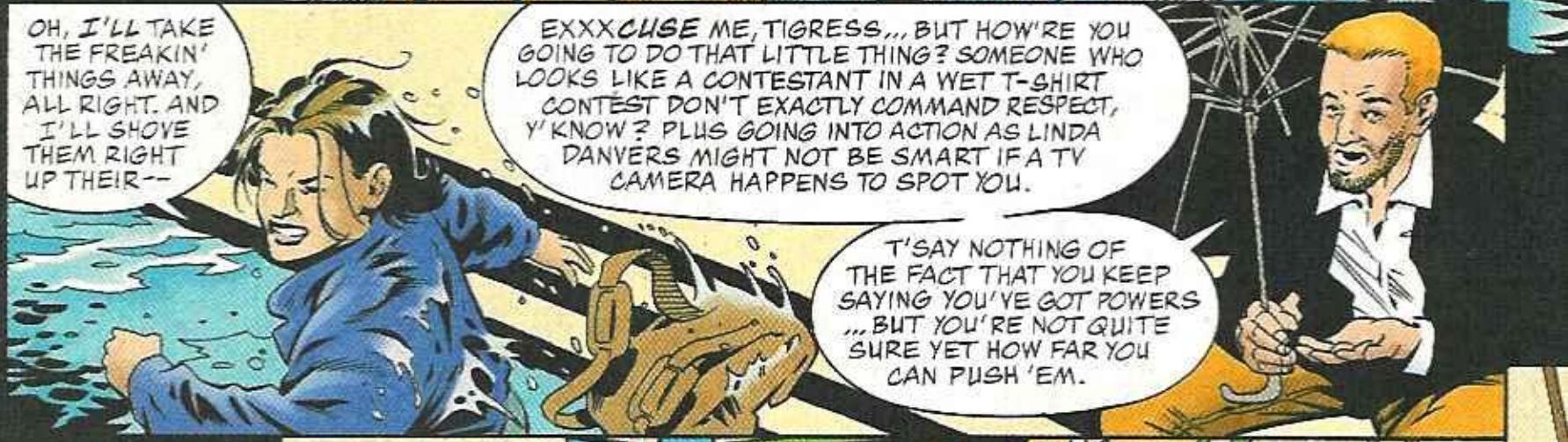
YOU GOT A REALLY NICE VOICE, BY THE WAY. THANKS, CUTIE.

"THANKS, CUTIE"? OLSEN, M'MAN, YOU STILL GOT IT.

"THANKS, CUTIE"? WHERE THE HELL'D THAT COME FROM? I MEAN, SURE, HE SOUNDED KINDA CUTE, BUT...

WAIT... AWWW, MAN, I THINK THAT WAS OLSEN!

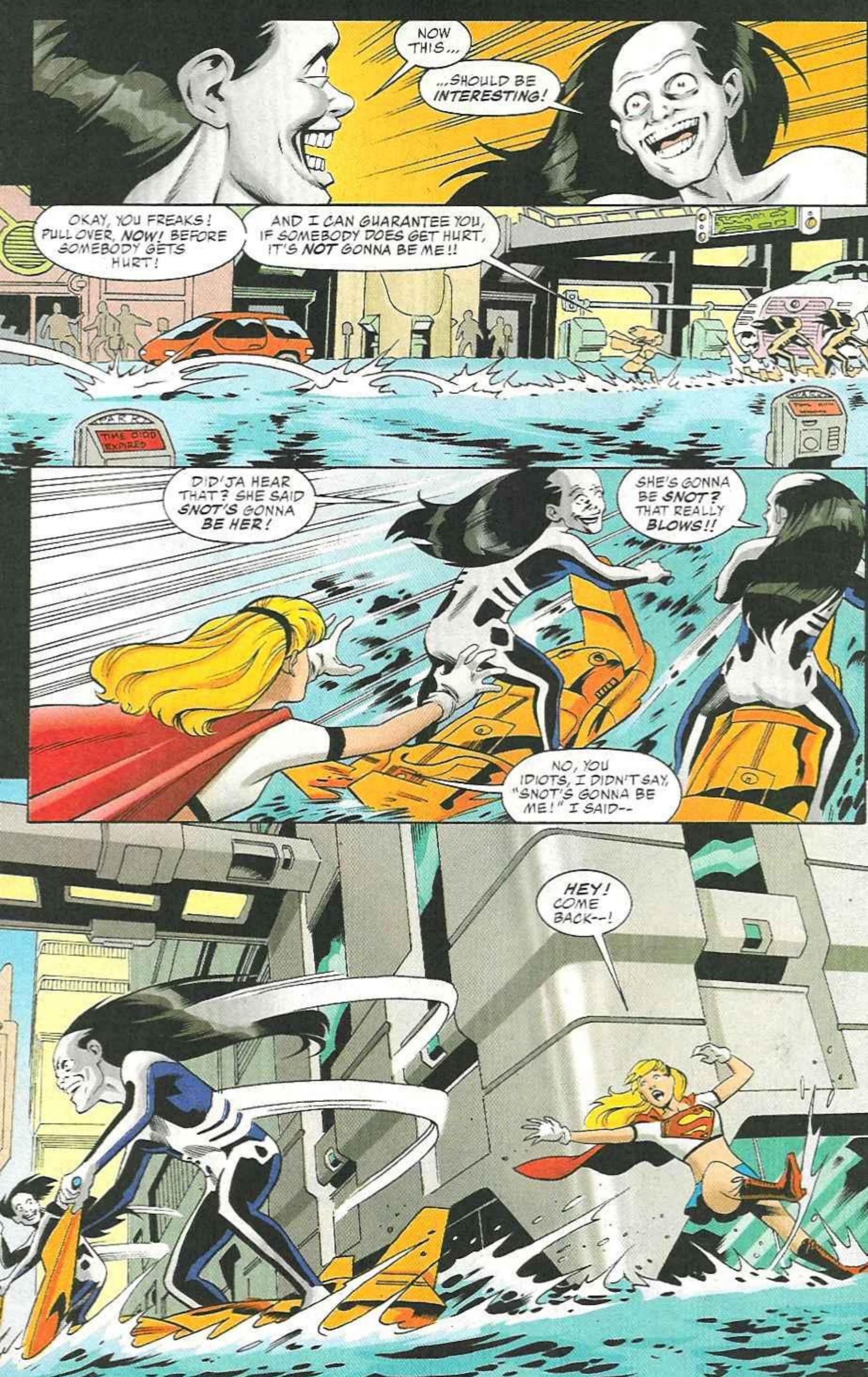








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Well, I'm reasonably sure that, if there was a speeding train on this track, I'd be *faster* than it. So that's a plus.

And that should certainly make me faster than two idiots on jet skis.

Now if only I guessed their path correctly--

Bingo! There they are!

NO, SERIOUSLY,
ALL KIDDING
ASIDE... YOU
DA MAN!

STOP, PLEASE!
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING
ME!

NO,
YOU
DA MAN!

Yes! It's comforting to know that, no matter what else has changed...

So now let's see if I can...

SNAPP

...I can still bend steel in my bare hands...

...or gloved hands, as the case may be.

Four of them?! Where'd the other two come from?!

Well, time enough to sort that out later, after I...

...grab them?

What the hell...? One minute they're all over the place, and the next they're scarcer than Adam Sandler's Oscar chances! What else can go wrong with this whole--

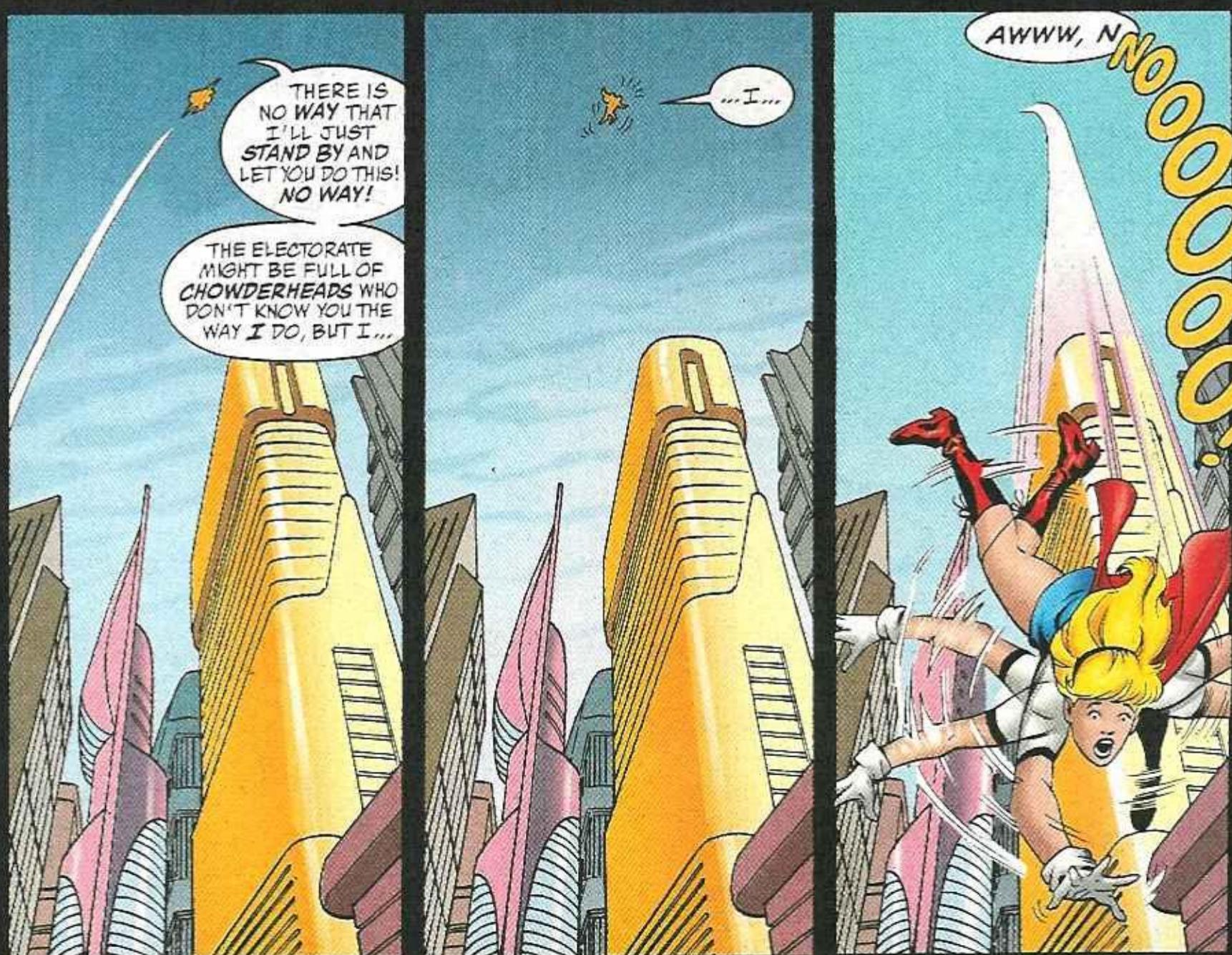
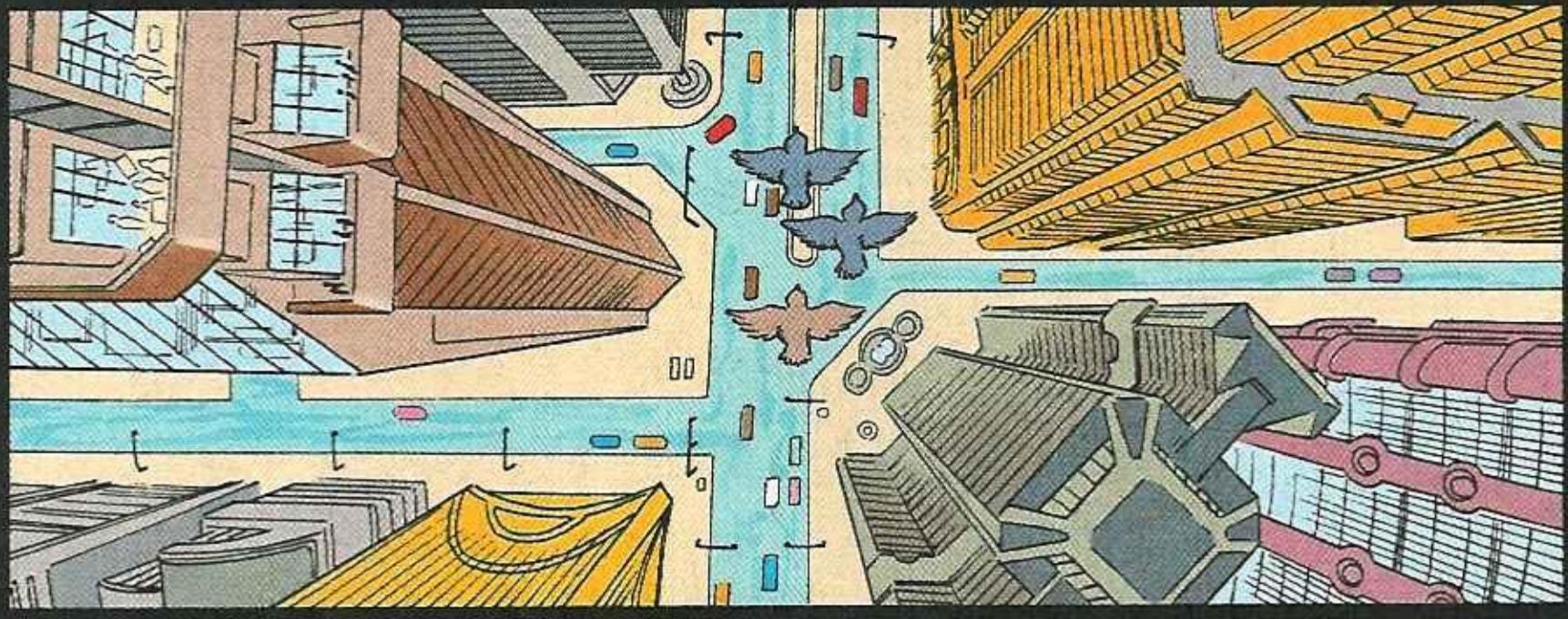
OKAY! FREEZE!

SHOULD'VE KNOWN. SUPERMAN DIED, AND ALL THE SUPERMAN WANNABES SHOWED UP. NOW IT'S SUPERGIRL PRETENDERS!

Oh, boy.







YEAH... YEAH,
DOIBY, I JUST SAW
THAT MOVIE LAST NIGHT...
THE ONE WITH BRUCE
WILLIS AS A FLYING
CABBIE...

YEAH, I LOVE
THE PART WHERE THE
GIRL FALLS INTO HIS
CAB! WHAT'RE THE ODDS
OF SOME CABBIE LIKE
ME BEING IN JUST THE
RIGHT PLACE AT JUST
THE RIGHT--

WAAM

WHAT THE
HELL?! WHAT
HIT ME--?!

OH, YOU
GOTTA BE
KIDDIN'
ME.

HI. COULD YOU...
MAYBE... TAKE ME
TO THE LEXCORP
BUILDING...?

I... DON'T HAVE
ANY MONEY ON ME,
BUT I'M... KINDA IN
PAIN AT THE
MOMENT...

YEAH...
YEAH, SURE,
MISS. YOU JUST,
uh... SITT TIGHT.
I'LL BRING YA
RIGHT THERE. NO
CHARGE.

METRO CAB
ARE 0.00

Oookay... so... let's recap... I'm faster than a speeding train... can bend steel in my bare hands... and apparently, instead of flying, I can leap an eighth of a mile. Problem with that is, it also means I get to fall an eighth of a mile.

I wonder if I'm still bulletproof. And not only that...



...I wonder what I'm hoping to accomplish, seeking out Lex. He'll just think I'm what those cops said... a Supergirl impostor.

What a day this is turning out to be.



I hope to God it doesn't get any worse.



TO BE
CONTINUED!

The end of SUPERGIRL #47 certainly was a shocker for everyone, judging from the reactions. Let's take a look...

Dear Supergirl:

"Everybody versus Supergirl" ...it says on the cover of SUPERGIRL #47, which makes you think it's a fun action issue. Oops, not really. The shock ending was truly shocking. Dick is dead. And what a horrible "dead" it was.

I can't imagine how Supergirl/Linda must feel right now. Not only wasn't she around to support Dick in his final moments, and maybe she wasn't able to convince him to take a more practical course of action, but she is also responsible for the return of his cancer. At least, that's how she's going to feel.

The Unholy warned her back in issue #43 not to release Buzz. She only did that to get him out of Dick, but now it doesn't really matter, does it? Dick is dead, and it seems as if Buzz is on his own private little carnage. I actually feel like telling Supergirl "told you so," but I'm sure she is tormented enough.

Just when you think things can't get worse for Supergirl, they do. So many things are going on in this book right now. I have a feeling the payoff in issue #50 is going to be a great ride; I just hope Supergirl will survive it.

MICHAEL BREGMAN
GAN-YAVNE, ISRAEL

Well, Michael, we know that despite being hit so hard on an emotional level, at least Linda survived the experience, and it's made for some very interesting changes as you've no doubt seen this issue. She may not have the same raw power as before, but she's still very tough, and as these past few issues have shown us, there's nothing worse than a tough, ticked-off Super-person!

Dear Editor:

Well, it's not a very good time to be dating a member of the Super-Team, is it? Months ago in SUPERBOY, we saw the demise of Tana Moon, and now, in SUPERGIRL #47, Dick Malverne has followed her out. But, unlike Tana, it looks like Dick's death might be a bit more permanent. Or will it?

I don't know a whole lot about Supergirl pre-CRISIS, but I know there was a Dick Malverne in that life, too. And on a number of occasions, our Dick Malverne has made reference to feeling like he knows Linda from a past life. So if Dick and Linda are, perhaps, like Linda Park and Wally West, perhaps Linda (Danvers) will draw this Dick Malverne back again. Regardless, it was a good, shocking, gross last page.

Also notable were the special effects as Supergirl traveled to the Between City—very effective and cool. But the colors were far too muted in this issue. Compare this battle with Chemo versus the original battle with Chemo, and look at how bright the colors were there. Maybe we can get some special, less "newsprinty" paper for the fiftieth issue?

Sylvia made reference to helping Linda through prayer once before; did we see that scene, or is it an untold story? As much as I'd like to see that, I'd also like to see Superman and the other heroes looking for Supergirl. Other than the Titans, we don't often see what the other heroes think of her, and even Superman seems to begrudge her at times, so it would be nice to see him worried about her.

Overall, it was fun to see all the past villains together, and this title is certainly gaining speed toward issue #50. See you next month.

BRIAN SEIDMAN
NEW YORK, NY

Chemo's first appearance in issue #5 was on much glossier paper, Brian, hence his glossier look than in issue #47. And Sylvia's prayers were certainly a big help for Linda in issue #31.

If you want to see Superman react to the "new" Supergirl, check out next issue as well as her next appearance in SUPERMAN #164. Don't be too surprised, though, if she's too busy with her own problems to worry about what Clark thinks.



Dear DC (re SUPERGIRL #47):

This is my first time writing, so bear with me. I feel sorry for Linda,

Supergirl, her parents and friends. I wish you guys would stop throwing demons, devilish disciples and monsters at Supergirl so Linda can have a life.

She needs to patch up her friendship with Mattie (if she still has one), spend time with her parents. Supergirl also needs to touch base with Cutter, and since he's handling her P.R., she should reveal her secret I.D. to him so he'll know how to find her.

Supergirl also needs to confront and expose Dr. Bob Smith and his Church of the "S," especially after what happened to Dick Malverne. And I wish you'd get rid of Buzz! He's worse than Mxyzptlk (and believe me, that wasn't easy to type). I'm looking forward to issue #48.

BILL JOHNSON
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

As your comments prove, Bill, SUPERGIRL certainly stirs up all kinds of emotions. You may not always like what happens to Linda, but it only shows how much you care about her and about what happens to her. As for always facing monsters, demons and the like, we intend to offer more variety for Linda on her new roads to self-discovery. We hope you enjoy the journey!

NEXT MONTH:

Linda Danvers isn't the same Supergirl she was before. So what does the Prankster want with her, and how does that all tie in with Riot? Find out from Peter, Leonard, Robin, Bill, Gene, DigiCham and Mike in SUPERGIRL #52!

—Maureen McTigue
over there, in the corner



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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs and Patrick Martin reveal what's underneath the costume this month in a reversal of roles from the cover of issue #1!

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