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BY THE  
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DAVID  
KIRK  
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# SUPERGIRL®

## IMPRISONED BY THE CARNIVORE!



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I AM SO TIRED OF THIS SAME OLD SONG. A GIRL JOGGING ALONG, AND SOME GUY LEAPS OUT AND ATTACKS HER... SHE'S HELPLESS...

WHY WEREN'T YOU CARRYING A GUN? OR A KNIFE? SOMETHING TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

...AND NOW YOU COME CRYING TO US!?

URG POI

VICTIMS! WIMPS! WHINING LOSERS!

THAT'S ALL WE SEE ANYMORE!



SUPERGIRL 49. October, 2000. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUPERGIRL, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate \$27.00. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2000 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper.  
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DC Comics. A division of Warner Bros.-A Time Warner Entertainment Company

I TELL YOU, FRED,  
THE WHOLE WORLD'S  
GOING TO HELL IN A  
HANDBASKET, AND  
IT CAN'T GET THERE  
SOON ENOUGH  
FOR ME.



TELL ME  
ABOUT IT.  
THE JAIL'S  
NEVER BEEN  
THIS PACKED,  
EVER.



SO I'M NOT  
IMAGINING IT. THINGS  
HAVE GOTTEN WORSE  
LATELY?

TONS WORSE.  
NOBODY TAKES  
PERSONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
ANYMORE.



AND THEY  
COME TO US AND  
ASK WHAT WE'RE  
GOING TO DO ABOUT  
IT? "SERVE US!  
PROTECT US!"

AS  
IF WE'VE  
NOTHING  
BETTER TO  
DO!



WHERE'S THE  
PIONEER SPIRIT  
THAT MADE THIS  
COUNTRY GREAT?  
I ASK YOU!

I, LIKE YOU, AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE WAY OF THE WORLD THESE DAYS. IT SEEMS AS IF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE A JOKE.

THAT "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR" HAS BEEN REPLACED BY "EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF."

AND THAT GOD HAS NEVER BEEN FURTHER AWAY. THAT IT SEEMS, AS NIETZSCHE WROTE IN "THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA," THAT GOD IS DEAD.

AS YOU KNOW, I WAS HOSPITALIZED... A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE. I'M STILL NOT FULLY RECOVERED.

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS EVER SINCE. ANSWERS NOT READILY FORTHCOMING.

AND NOW I LOOK OUT UPON YOU... UPON THE CONGREGATION...

... AND I REALIZE THE ANSWER IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

NIETZSCHE WAS AN OPTIMIST.

HAVE A NICE DAY.





--THE INTERNATIONAL CRACKDOWN ON SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES WILL CONTINUE. NEWLY INSTALLED U.N. HEAD JOERG HAIDER PROMISES A NEW ERA OF--

BUNCHA HOLIER-THAN-THOU DO-GOODERS, Y'ASK ME.

COSTUMED HEROES, PICKING UP AFTER EVERYTHING! THEY'RE LIKE CRUTCHES FOR HUMANITY!

WHAT ABOUT SUPERGIRL?

WELL... SHE'S DIFFERENT. SHE'S NOT SELF-AGGRANDIZING LIKE THOSE OTHERS.

OH, SHE'S DIFFERENT, ALL RIGHT. DISAPPEARS FOR WEEKS ON END, SHOWS UP AND BREAKS MY WINDOW, - VANISHES AGAIN...

SHE'S NOTHING BUT AN UNRELIABLE--

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY?

I DON'T GET YOU. DO YOU LIKE GOING AROUND GIVING PEOPLE BAD NEWS?

OH, GOOD. A SEAT OPENED UP.

YOU AGAIN?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BUZZ? SLUMMING.

NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT LATELY?

WORLD'S GETTING WORSE. WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

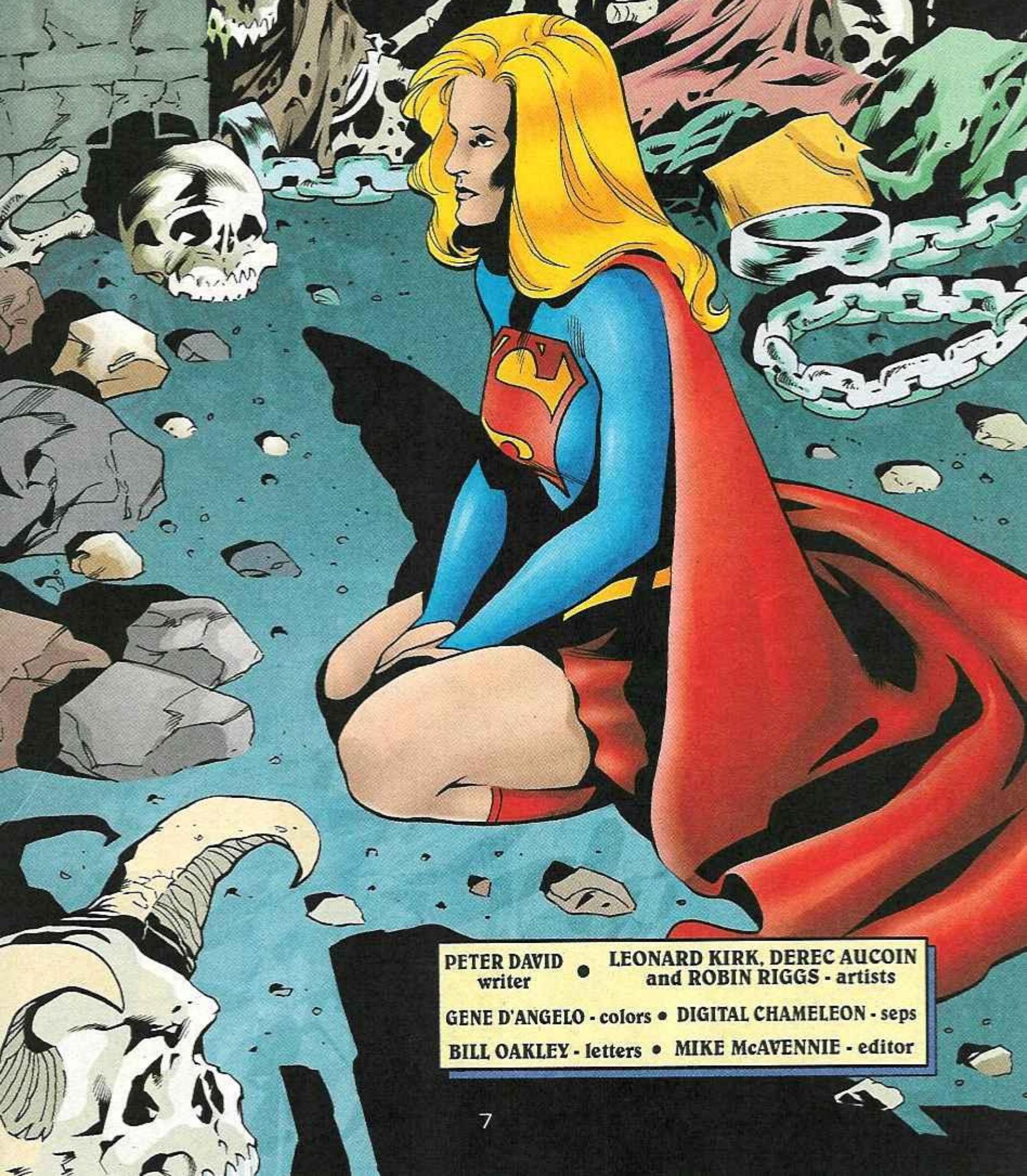
WELL... YES.

FINE. KNOCK YOURSELF OUT. WHY IS THE WORLD GETTING WORSE?

WELL... AS WITH MOST GREAT WINTERS...

"...IT WAS  
PRECEDED  
BY A GREAT  
FALL."

# "THROUGH A MIRROR DARKLY"



PETER DAVID • LEONARD KIRK, DEREC AUCOIN  
writer and ROBIN RIGGS - artists

GENE D'ANGELO - colors • DIGITAL CHAMELEON - seps

BILL OAKLEY - letters • MIKE McAVENNIE - editor

FINE. SHE'S MENTAL TOAST. I HAVE OTHER FISH TO FRY, LIKE FINALLY HAVING IT OUT WITH MY DEAR OLD MOM.

SO WHY AM I WASTING TIME HERE? SHE DOESN'T EVEN HEAR US.

"THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM. THE GOOD IS OFT INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES."

SHE'S IN SHOCK. CONTEMPLATING HER FUTURE... OR LACK THEREOF.

HER FAILURES, OR PERCEIVED FAILURES, HAVE OVERWHELMED HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HER MIND.

AS MARC ANTONY SAID OF CAESAR...

WE HAVE COME TO BURY SUPERGIRL, MY DEAR ANDY... NOT TO PRAISE.

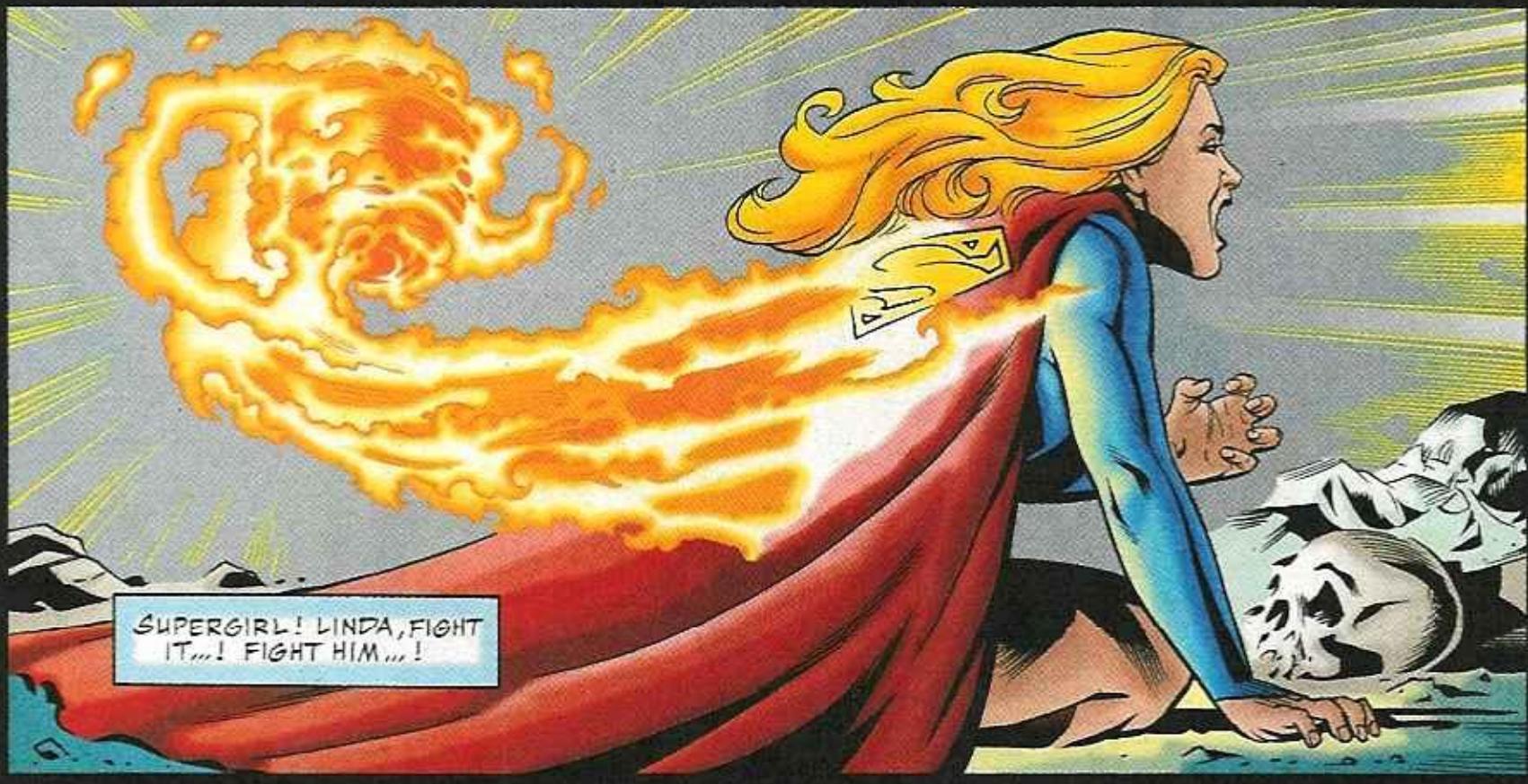
EXCEPT SHE IS BUSY BURYING HERSELF.

SUPERGIRL... SUPERGIRL...

FINE, CARL, WHATEVER. IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I'M HEADING TO MY FOLKS' HOUSE TO-- OWWWW! HEY!







I'M TELLING YA, MURMUR,  
YA SHOULD'VE SEEN IT. THESE  
FLAMING TEARS DRIP ON ME.  
AND THEN I DO THIS...

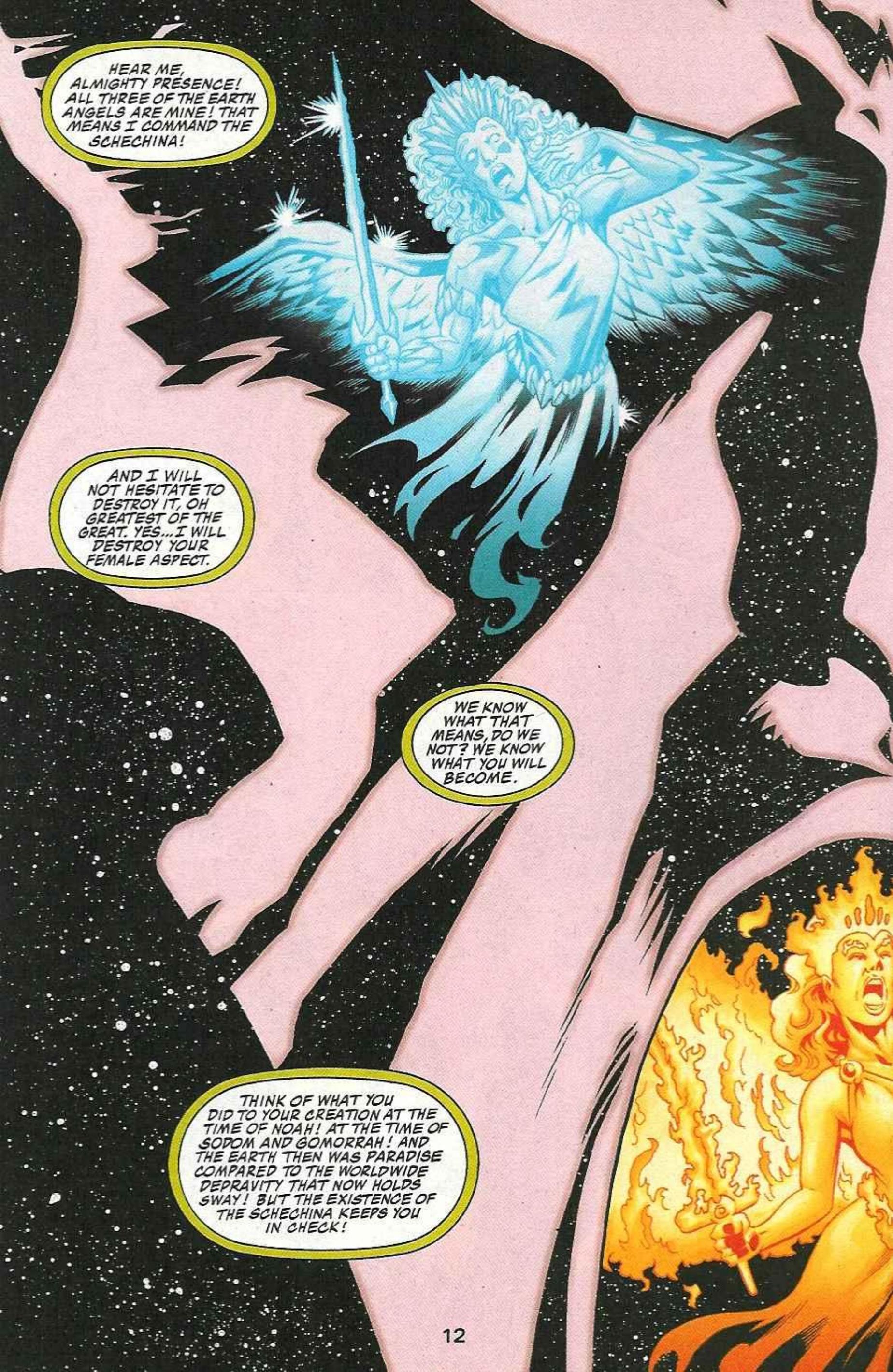
...AND SHE THINKS SHE  
CURED ME. \* DID I TELL YOU  
WHAT HER EXPRESSION WAS  
LIKE?

ONLY ABOUT  
A HUNDRED TIMES,  
MEEZLEBANE.

Y'KNOW,  
MURMUR, YOU  
GOT NO SENSA--

\* ISSUE #44.

HEAR  
ME!!



HEAR ME,  
ALMIGHTY PRESENCE!  
ALL THREE OF THE EARTH  
ANGELS ARE MINE! THAT  
MEANS I COMMAND THE  
SCHECHINA!

AND I WILL  
NOT HESITATE TO  
DESTROY IT, OH  
GREATEST OF THE  
GREAT. YES... I WILL  
DESTROY YOUR  
FEMALE ASPECT.

WE KNOW  
WHAT THAT  
MEANS, DO WE  
NOT? WE KNOW  
WHAT YOU WILL  
BECOME.

THINK OF WHAT YOU  
DID TO YOUR CREATION AT THE  
TIME OF NOAH! AT THE TIME OF  
SODOM AND GOMORRAH! AND  
THE EARTH THEN WAS PARADISE  
COMPARED TO THE WORLDWIDE  
DEPRAVITY THAT NOW HOLDS  
SWAY! BUT THE EXISTENCE OF  
THE SCHECHINA KEEPS YOU  
IN CHECK!



WITH YOUR  
"BETTER HALF" GONE, YOU  
WILL BECOME THE TERROR  
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. HE  
WHO BRINGS DEATH IN FIRE  
AND FLOOD AND FAMINE. THERE  
WILL BE NO MERCY, NO LOVE.  
YOU WILL WIPE OUT ALL YOUR  
CHILDREN WITH YOUR WRATH,  
FOR NONE WILL MEASURE  
UP.

ALL WHO HAVE  
ASSAILED THE GATES OF  
HEAVEN HAVE FAILED... FOR  
THEY TRIED TO STRIKE AT  
YOU FROM WITHOUT! BUT I  
STRIKE AT YOU FROM WITHIN,  
AND YOU HAVE NO DEFENSE  
...AGAINST YOURSELF!

THAT...  
PRESUMPTUOUS  
FOOL...



I THINK, OH  
HIGHEST OF THE HIGH,  
THAT BLACKMAIL MAY  
SERVE WHERE FORCE  
OF ARMS HAS ALWAYS  
FAILED.

TURN THE GATES  
OF HEAVEN OVER TO  
ME... OR SAY FAREWELL  
TO THE EARTH ANGELS,  
WHOM YOU CHERISH...



WHAT IS HE  
THINKING...?  
HE WOULD  
NOT DARE...

"I SUPPOSE, WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, THE OLD MAN REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH. OR IF HE DID... HE CHOSE NOT TO PURSUE IT. HE DOES, AFTER ALL, MOVE IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS."

"I KNOW, I KNOW... YOU'RE THINKING 'WELL, WHERE'S THE LAVA? THE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, THE WHOLE UNHOLY NINE YARDS?' BUT IT'S MORE SUBTLE THAN THAT."

"AND SO... CARNIVEAN SUCCEEDED."

"Y'SEE... ALL MORALITY IS A REFLECTION OF HEAVEN. KINGDOM COME PROVIDES THE ULTIMATE DEFINITION OF GOOD AND EVIL, RIGHT AND WRONG."

"SO IF THE POWER OF HEAVEN IS IN THE HANDS OF THE MERCILESS... OF EVIL... THEN PERCEPTIONS SHIFT, LIKE AN ECLIPSED SUN BRINGS DARKNESS."

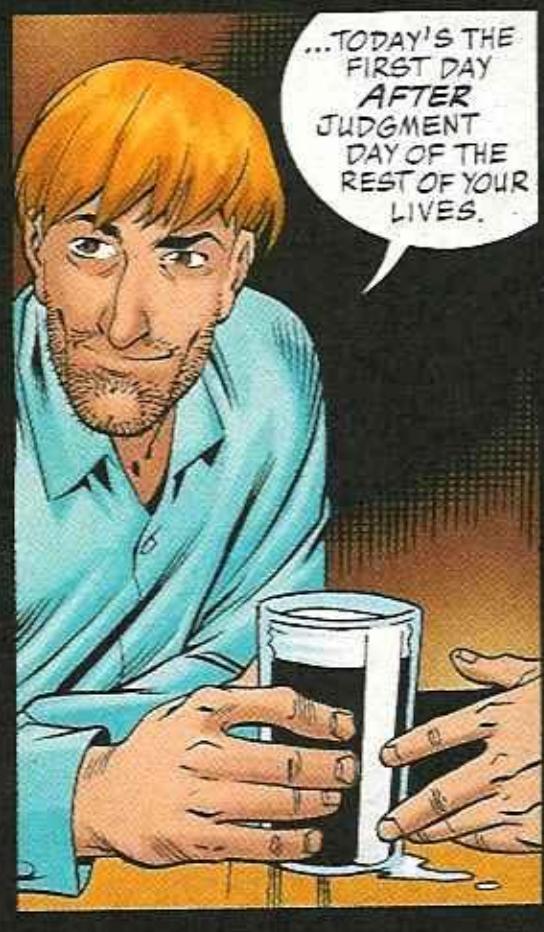
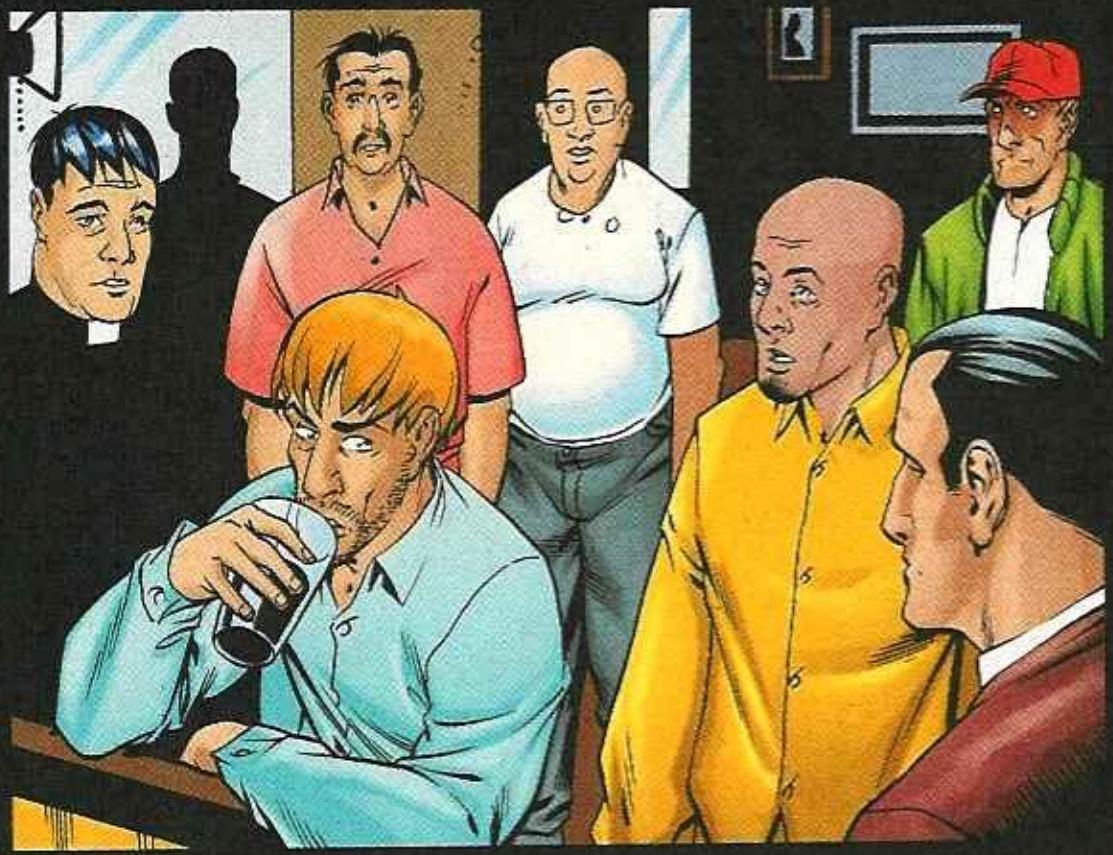


"THE MEEK NO LONGER INHERIT THE EARTH. THE MEEK GET TRAMPLED. MERCY, LOVE, COMPASSION... THESE ARE NOW SEEN AS WEAKNESSES. INTOLERANCE, ANGER, BRUTALITY, ALL BECOME STRENGTHS."

"HELL ISN'T A PLACE... WELL, IT ISN'T JUST A PLACE. NOT AS FAR AS YOU LOT ARE CONCERNED."

"JEAN PAUL SARTRE HAD IT RIGHT, Y'SEE, WHEN HE SAID, 'L'ENFER, C'EST LES AUTRES...'"

... "HELL IS  
OTHER  
PEOPLE."



LINDA... LINDA,  
YOU HAVE TO  
LISTEN TO ME...

LINDA, I  
KNOW  
YOU'RE  
UPSET...

UPSET...

LINDA, CARNIVEAN  
BELIEVES HE HAS  
ALL OF YOU IN HIS  
POWER, BUT HE  
DOESN'T. YOU STILL  
HAVE FREE WILL.  
YOU STILL HAVE  
YOURSELF... YOU, ANDY,  
EVEN BLITHE.

UPSET...

I...  
KILLED HIM  
... I KILLED  
SMITH...

SMITH IS  
DEAD, YES...

HE WAS TRYING TO  
TELL ME... I REALIZE  
NOW... BUT I WAS TOO  
BLIND... I CAUSED HIS  
HEART ATTACK... DID  
NOTHING TO SAVE  
HIM...

I'VE FAILED...  
I'VE FALLEN...

YOU HAVEN'T.

BUT I  
WILL...

YES.

BUT YOU CAN TAKE  
THE CARNIVORE  
WITH YOU.

NOTHING CAN  
STOP THAT NOW.

W-WHAT...?

LISTEN TO  
ME... LISTEN  
CAREFULLY...

THE CARNIVORE NO  
LONGER HAS NEED  
OF YOU. THE  
GODHEAD, ONCE  
GIVEN HIM, CANNOT  
BE TAKEN BACK. ONLY  
RELINQUISHED.

HE HAS LEFT THE  
DOOR OPEN FOR  
YOU, LINDA. YOU  
NEED BUT STEP  
THROUGH IT.

IN HIS ARROGANCE,  
HE CARES NOTHING  
ANYMORE FOR  
YOU OR YOUR KIN.  
ANDY HAS GONE  
OFF ON HER OWN.  
BLITHE LIES FOR-  
GOTTEN IN A  
HOSPITAL.

LINDA...?

I'M COMING HOME, MOM. AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE YOUR "LITTLE GIRL" NOW.

CARNIVEAN MAY HAVE MESSED WITH MY HEAD... ROUGHED ME UP...

...BUT HE'S OFF DOING HIS OWN THING NOW. COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ME. AND THAT MEANS...

...THAT AFTER YOU REJECTED ME ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, I FINALLY GET TO KICK SOME HORSE SENSE INTO YOU.

"IF ONLY BLITHE COULD SEE ME NOW."

CARL... CARL...

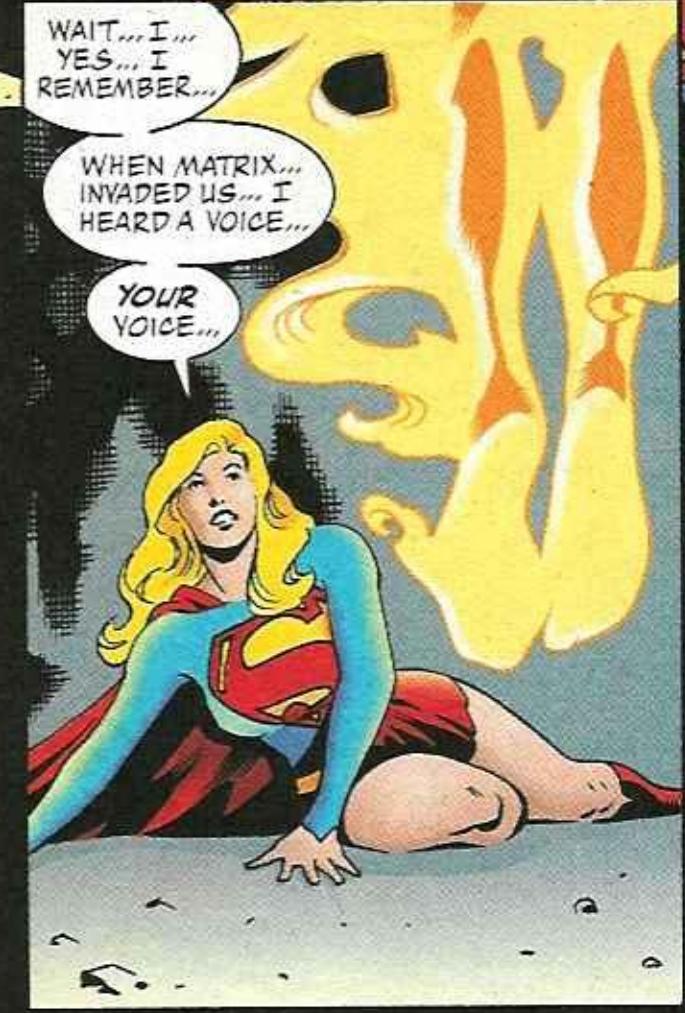
PLEASE... COME BACK...

NOPE. JUST A FRIEND...

...WITH NOTHIN' LEFT TO LOSE.

CARL...?

HAVE A DRAG AND LET'S CHAT.



HELLO, ANDREA. I KNOW YOU'LL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE... BUT I WAS HOPING YOU'D COME BACK.

I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY, WHEN YOU BROUGHT YOUR... GIRLFRIEND HOME.\*

\*SEE ISSUE #39.

I WAS SO ANGRY WITH YOU, THEN... AND FOR SO LONG AFTERWARDS.

BUT SOMEHOW, EVEN THOUGH DAD AND I SAID WE NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SOMEHOW...

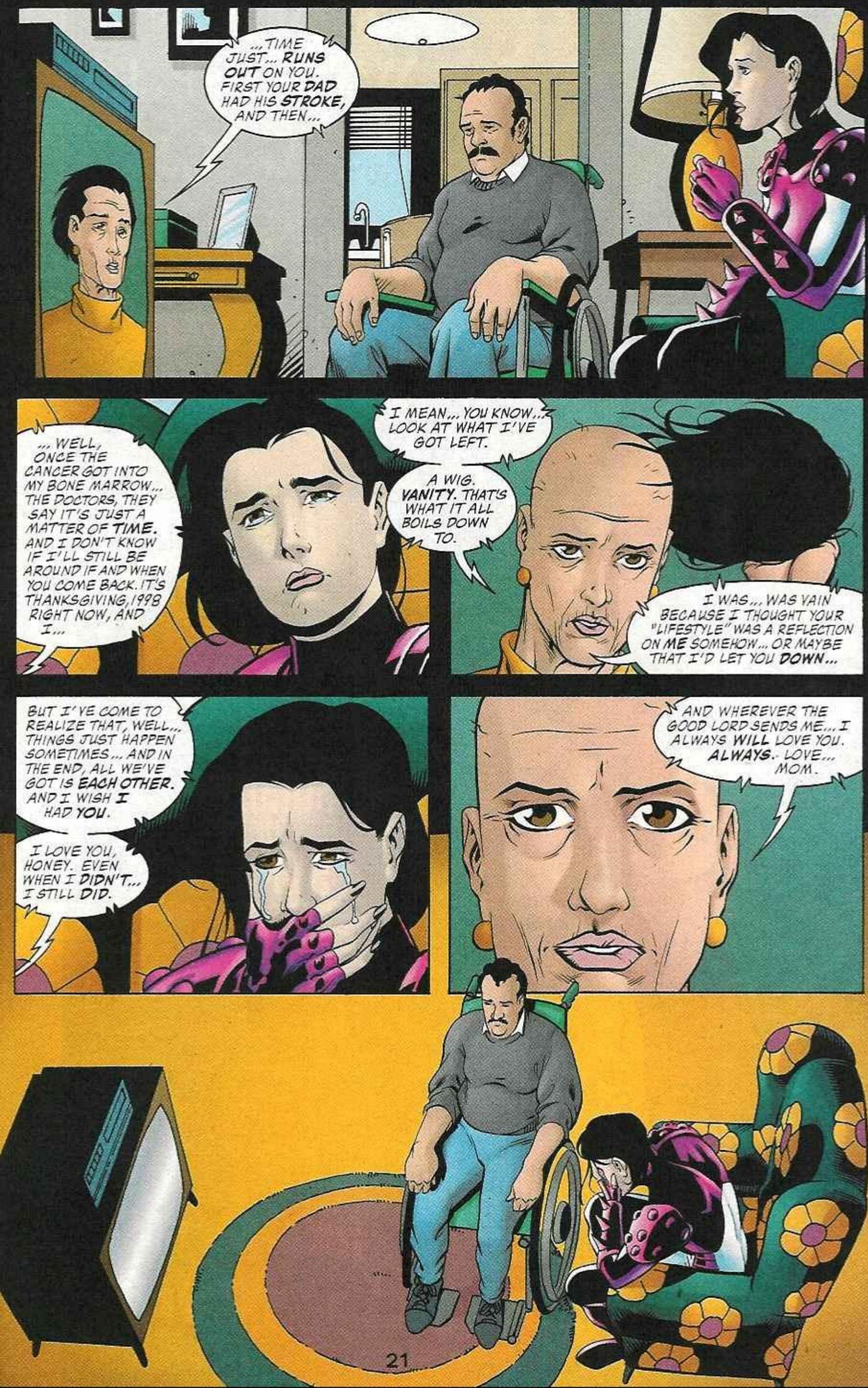
SOMEHOW, I JUST... JUST FIGURED YOU'D BE SO STUBBORN THAT YOU'D COME BACK.

I... I GUESS WE WERE WRONG.

THEN, WHEN WE WANTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU... TO TRY TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER... WE HAD NO IDEA WHERE YOU WERE. COULDN'T FIND AN ADDRESS FOR YOU. IT WAS LIKE YOU'D... DROPPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

AND I JUST... WELL...

YOU JUST... JUST FIGURE YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME, YOU KNOW? BUT SOME TIMES, WELL...



YOU NOT ONLY CAN STILL WIN, LINDA...  
BUT YOU HAVE TO. THE GIRL I'VE  
KNOWN ALL THIS TIME... WON'T EVER  
GIVE UP.

THE REST OF THE CELESTIAL HOST HAS LOST ITS  
POWERS THAT DERIVED  
FROM THE PRESENCE WHEN  
HE TURNED OVER POWER  
TO CARNIVEAN. BUT YOU  
AND THE OTHER EARTH-  
BORN DRAW YOUR STRENGTH  
FROM THE SCHECHINA, AN  
ASPECT OF THE PRESENCE  
WHOSE POWER BASE IS  
HERE ON EARTH.

AS LONG AS THE PRESENCE  
EXISTS, AND EARTH ITSELF  
EXISTS ... YOU HAVE THE  
POWER. IF YOU CHOOSE TO  
USE IT.

YOURS IS THE FIRE AND  
FURY. YOU ARE THE LEADER.  
YOU MUST BRING TOGETHER  
THE OTHER EARTH-BORN AND  
BRING DOWN CARNIVEAN.  
AND YOU CAN. I BELIEVE IN  
YOU, AS YOU MUST BELIEVE.

KNOW, LINDA ... THAT I  
HAVE BEEN WITH YOU  
LONGER THAN YOU  
SUSPECT. AND I  
ALWAYS WILL BE.



LINDA, MY LOVE... I'M SO MANY  
THINGS TO YOU. YOUR CHILDHOOD  
INVISIBLE PLAYMATE ... YOUR  
CONSCIENCE ... YOUR SECOND  
THOUGHT... A FIGMENT OF YOUR  
IMAGINATION...

...YOUR GUARDIAN  
ANGEL... HEAVENS,  
I'VE HAD SUCH A  
VARIETY OF  
NAMES...

...ALTHOUGH THE  
NAME I'M MOST  
FOND OF IS  
KARA.



TO BE  
CONCLUDED!

Make new friends, but keep the old, as the old saying goes. Supergirl may want to consider some new sayings, however, after her reunion with her old friend Comet in *SUPERGIRL* #45!



Dear Maureen:

Buzz was right: Just when we thought things couldn't get any weirder for Supergirl...

"Lost & Found" (*SUPERGIRL* #45) was one of Peter David's strangest stories yet. For starters, I was really shocked to see that Buzz actually kept his promise to Supergirl and led her to Andy's location! He also made her aware of The Carnivore, which forces us to ask him along with Supergirl on page 7, "What is this stupid game all about?"

I liked Fred Danvers's confrontation with Dr. Smith, but I'm even more interested in seeing

what Dick Malverne will do with his invitation to the Church of the "S". Then there's that bizarre scene with Judah, Carnivean and Lex Luthor, where the evil Carnivean proves that he's even more twisted than Luthor.

I was a bit disappointed to see that Supergirl dispatched Blithe so... blithely. Granted, she caught the Angel of Light by surprise, so maybe in the future we'll still get to see a knockdown fight between the two super-powered women.

There was one delightful page in the story, where Supergirl loses her temper and screams at Sylvia, who responds with a simple and effective "Do you need a hug?" This was one of those golden moments that Peter David has written between characters in this series.

This issue featured the most fluid, smooth artwork from Leonard Kirk and Robin Riggs yet. Supergirl's facial expressions on the first page (and throughout the issue) were exquisitely

drawn. The very colorful tableau that she visits with Buzz on the double-page spread made me fascinated with the Between City ruled by The Carnivore. I also enjoyed the cover featuring this issue's main characters, and page 18, where Supergirl prayerfully rises into the air and shunts to Andy's location. Then, of course, there are the final pages with Andy's spectacular transformation. WOW!

Whatever the outcome of this upcoming battle in the next issue, I'm hoping that Comet survives it — poor Andy and Linda have been through enough as it is! I think it would be really fun to see Comet get his own special or miniseries. How about it?

NEIL AHLQUIST  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

No plans for a Comet special right now, Neil, but we can keep it in mind. We do think, however, that Comet should survive his present ordeal before jumping into his own adventures!



Dear Maureen:

Quite a few revelations in *SUPERGIRL* #45. I assumed that, if Wally were God, then "The Carnivore" was a fancy way of referring to someone else (could it be... Satan?). But now we find out that The Carnivore left Heaven voluntarily instead of being "cast down," leading to this question: If The Carnivore isn't Satan, then is Wally—with their obvious resemblance—really God?

Now, not to continue playing devil's advocate, since Supergirl has more than enough demons to deal with, but it strikes me that Fred Danvers really doesn't have all that much evidence to accuse Reverend Smith of Reverend Varvel's beating. Yes, Smith threatened Varvel, but that's all that we readers have seen. Could there be yet another malevolent force at work in this book?

I'm impressed with how Sylvia Danvers handled her daughter this issue. Having conquered her misgivings about Linda's merging with Supergirl, Sylvia showed this issue that she's on her way to improving her parenting skills as well, forming the stronger kind of relationship that Fred and Linda already have. I was a little disappointed by Lex Luthor this issue, however. If he had this catch phrase, "PC Rolex," to use against Supergirl all this time, why didn't he use it another time, like when Supergirl broke into his office during the

*SUPERGIRL* miniseries? Lex is slipping in his old age.

Looks like things are picking up speed this issue. Looking forward to the *Supergirl/Carnivore* battle and issue #50.

BRIAN MANNING  
TOLEDO, OH

One of the greatest mysteries in parenting, Brian, is the father/daughter relationship. Many mothers try to pick up on it, but they have to be content with their sons. As for Lex Luthor, he's a shrewd businessman who knows when to use things and when to hold off on them. Obviously, this was one of his "using" times.



Dear DC:

Every time I think I have this book figured out, you go and come up with books like *SUPERGIRL* #45. I had really started to like Andy/Comet, and now you've gone and made her/him evil. I only hope it doesn't play out that the only way possible for this character's redemption is for her/him to nobly sacrifice her/his life to save Supergirl's. You've kept me surprised up to this point, so let's go against the grain at least one time, what do you say?

FRANK CARTER  
BURBANK, CA

If you're reading this, Frank, then you know exactly what's happened with Andy and Comet. Hope we gave you a nice surprise.

## NEXT MONTH:

In an extra-sized, all get-out issue in *SUPERGIRL* #50, it's the final showdown with Carnivean, and this particular battle will forever change Supergirl and Linda Danvers! The whole gang'll be here in 30 days, and you dare not miss this one!

—Maureen McTigue  
through the looking glass

**dccomics.com**

**KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL**

Not just another chain of fools handling this month's *SUPERGIRL* cover. Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs and Patrick Martin link it all together!

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1700 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY  
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