



SUPERGIRL®

61
OCT 01

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BY THE
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UTHORITY

DAVID
KIRK
RIGGS

CASUALTIES
OF WAR!

UM...
BREATH
MINT...?



KIRK & RIGGS 2001

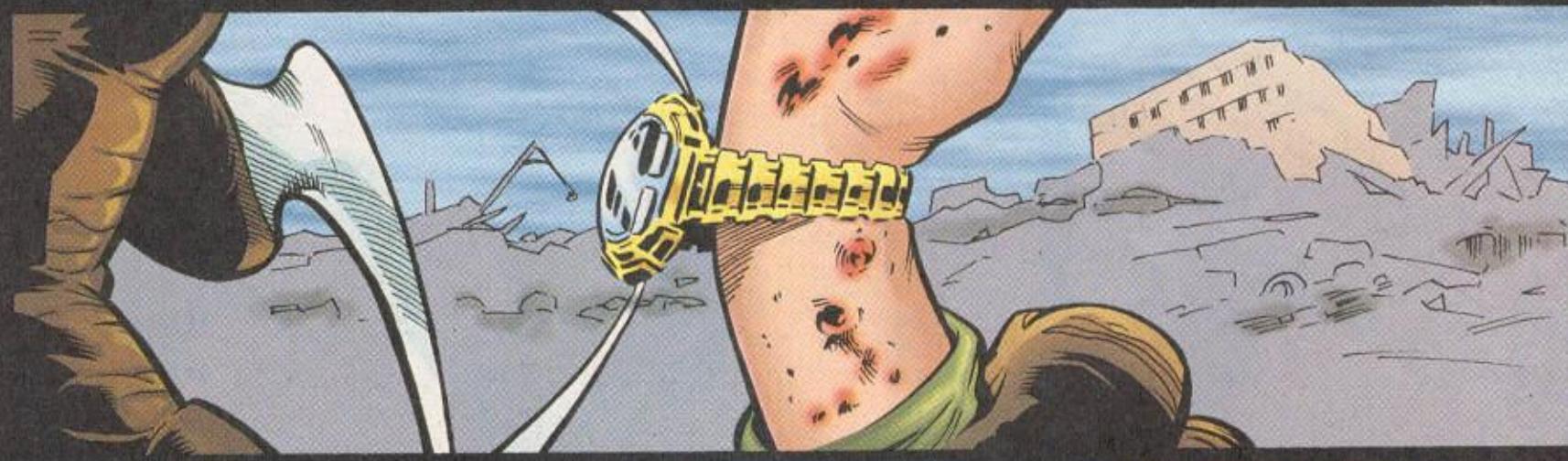
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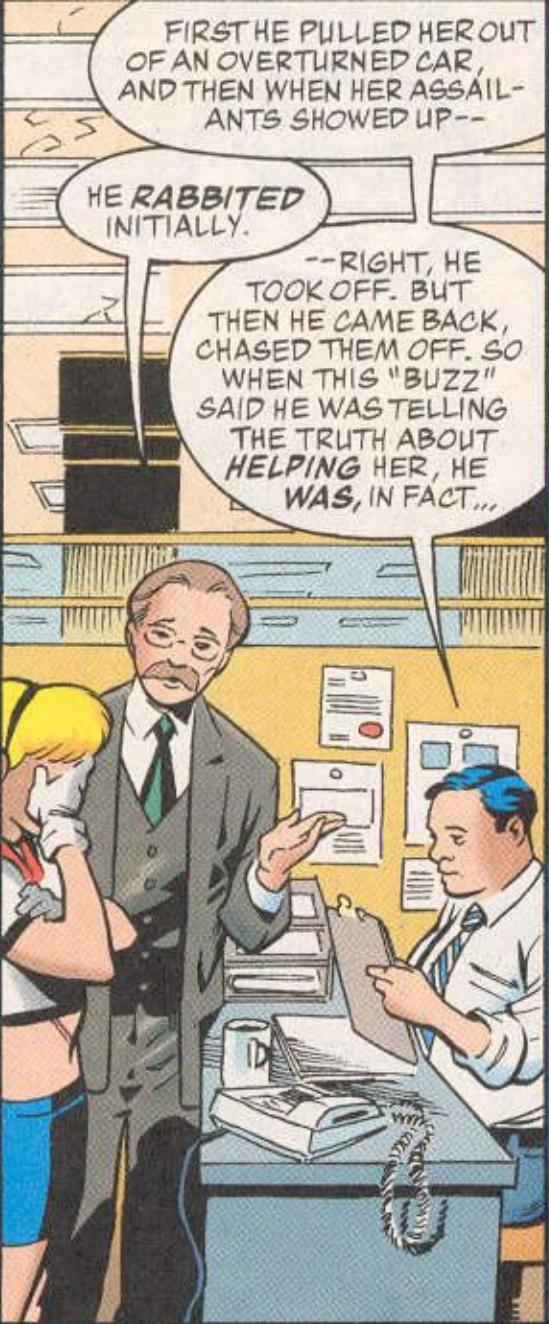
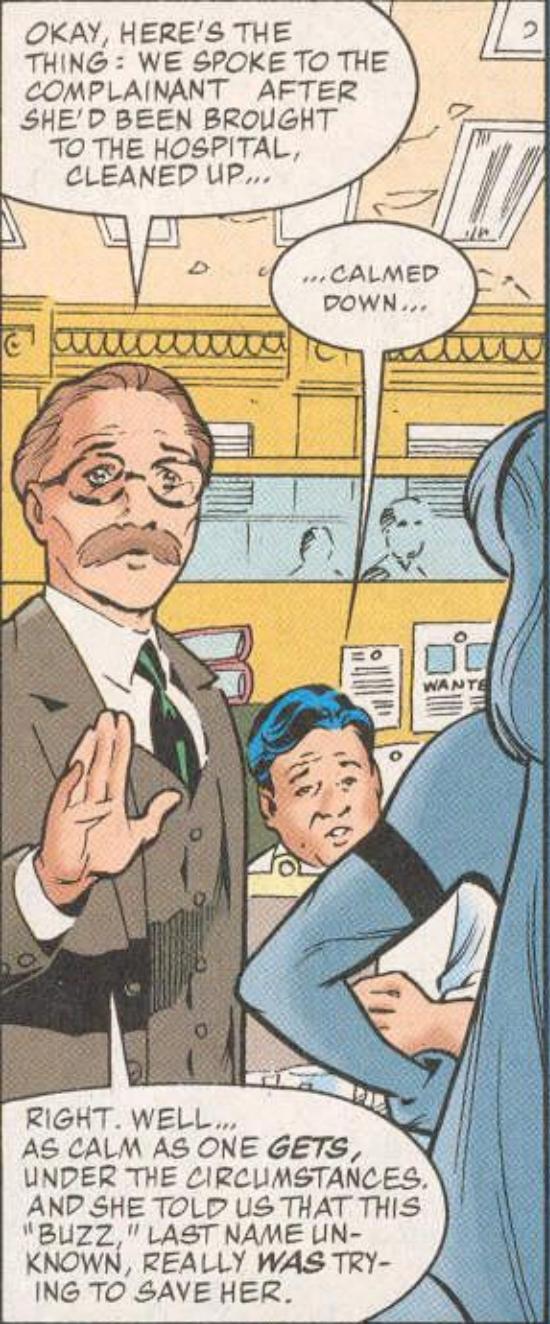


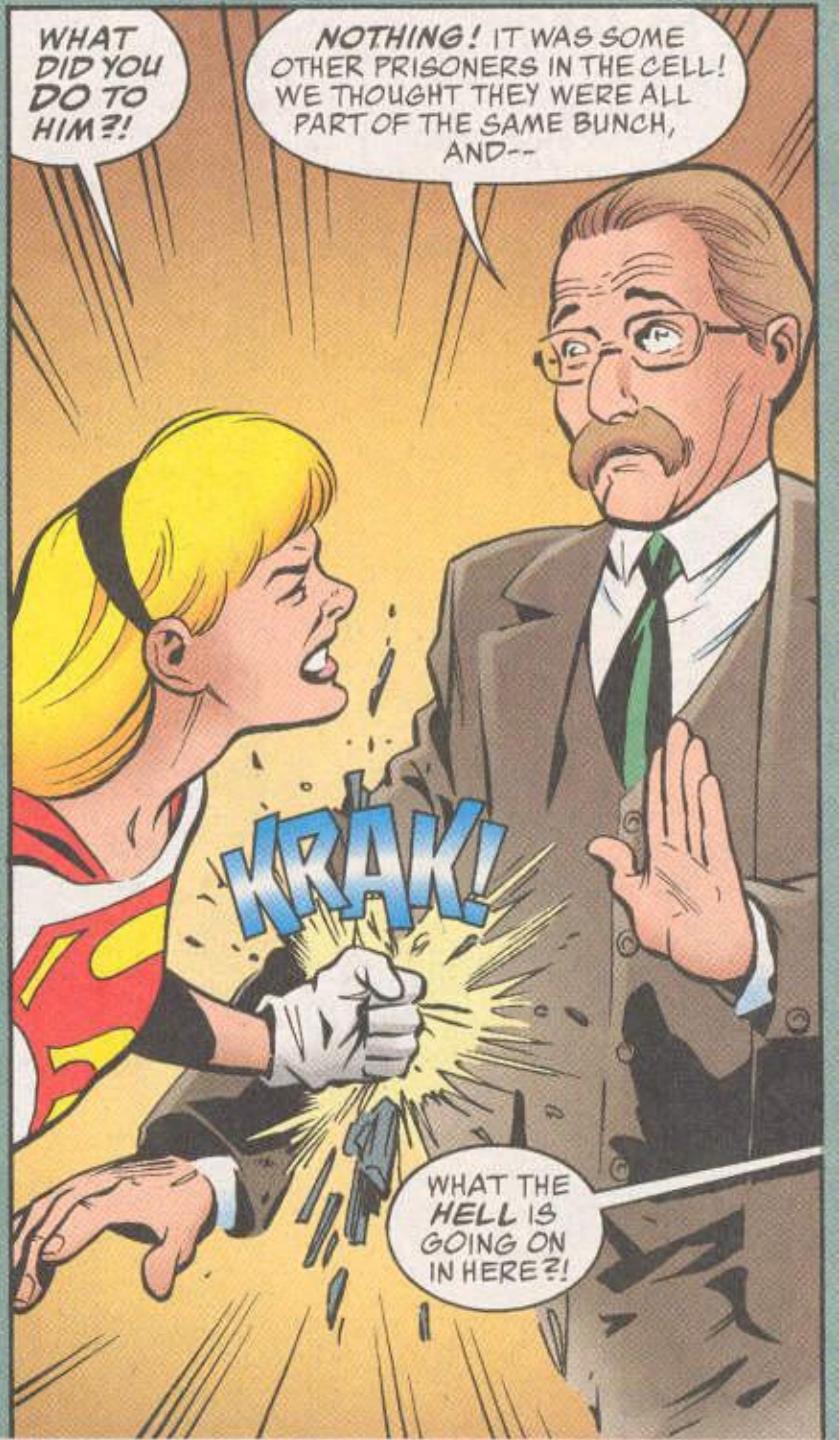
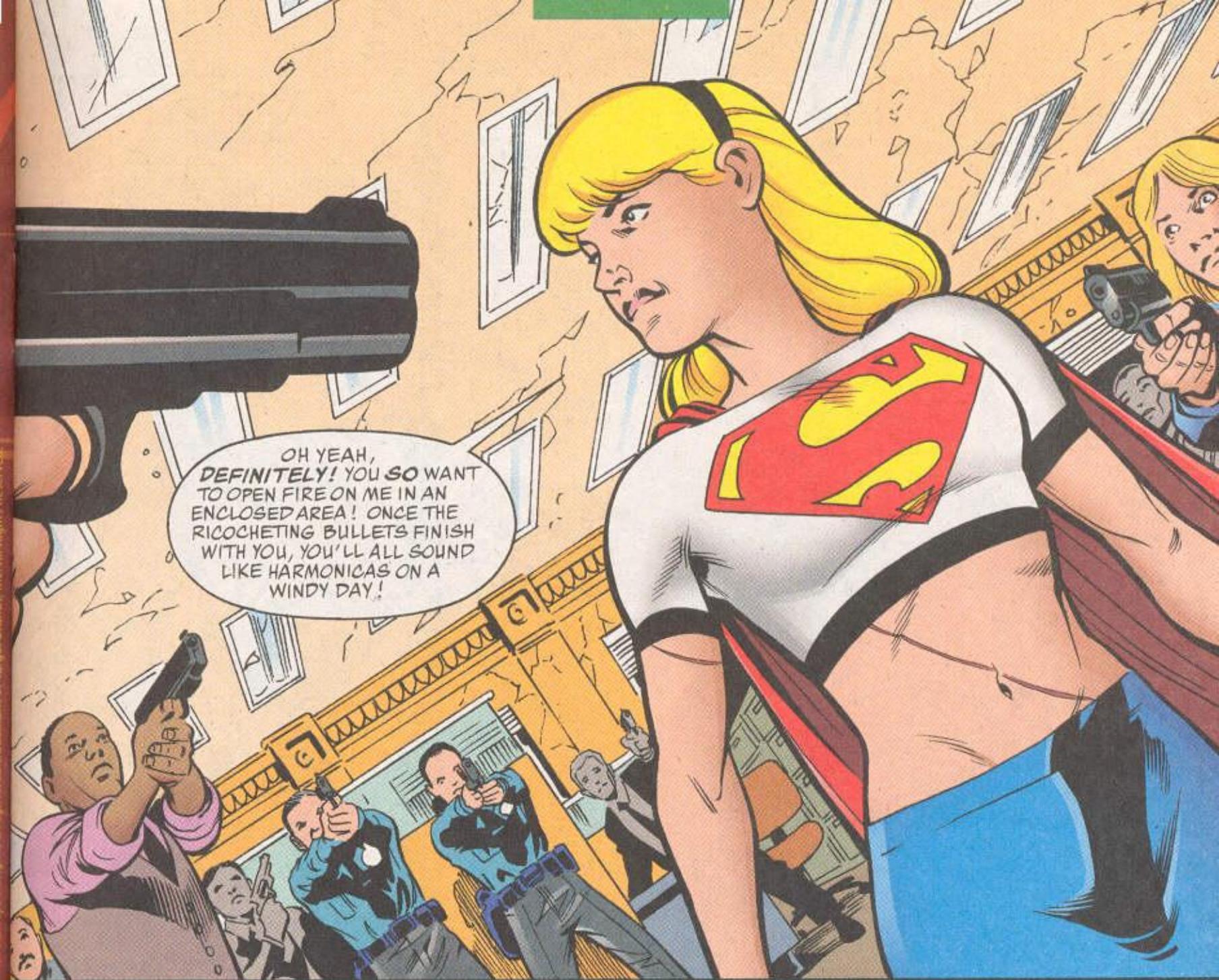


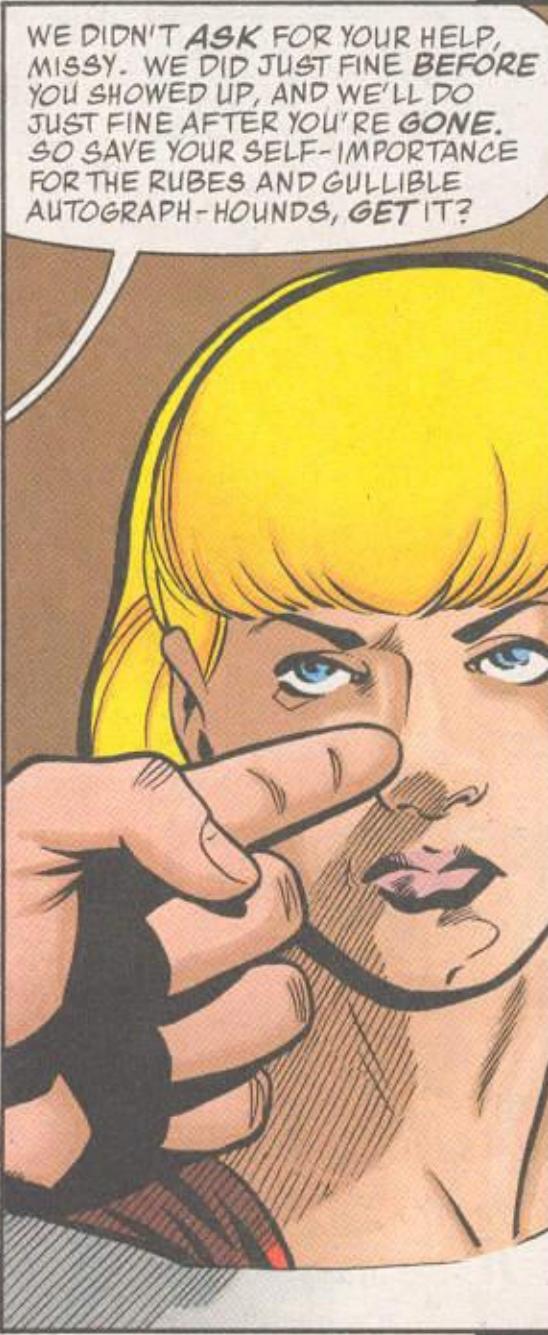
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It's all their fault. I mean, okay, sure... I could've been more supportive of Buzz when he said he was innocent. But he was still, y'know... **Buzz**. A demon in human form. Not to be trusted, ever.

No. No, the problem was that I believed the police's version of the events. Probably because my dad's such a great cop, so I just figured that they were as high-quality as him.



Although, y'know, trusting him when he was telling the truth **might** have been a good idea.

Is it... Is it really all my fault--?



I should never have trusted them--



Huh? What the heck is--?

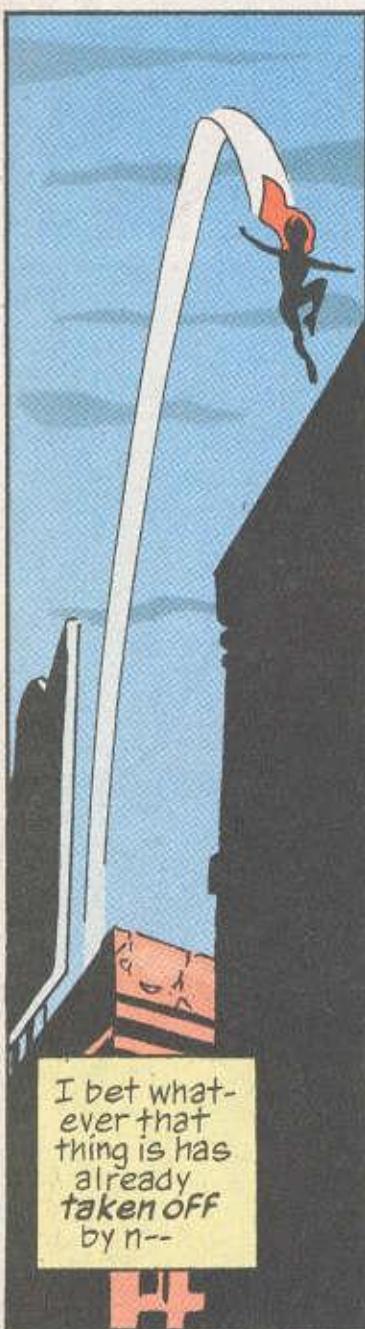
I thought all the aliens who came as a result of the Imperix migration had left Earth. Who's that--?

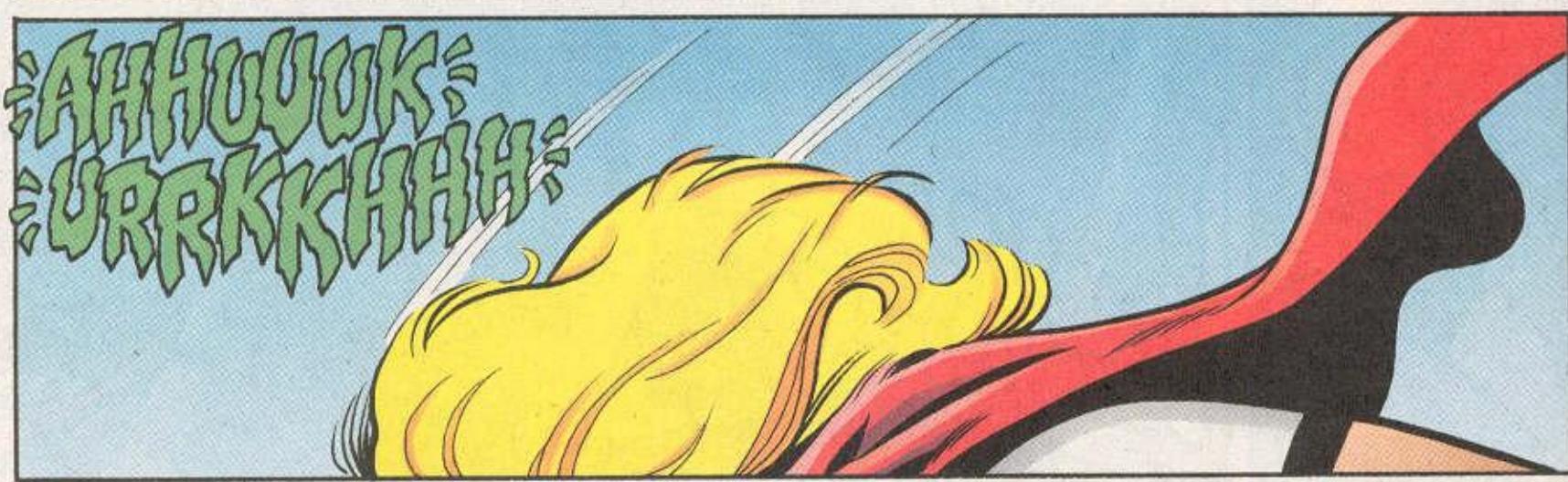
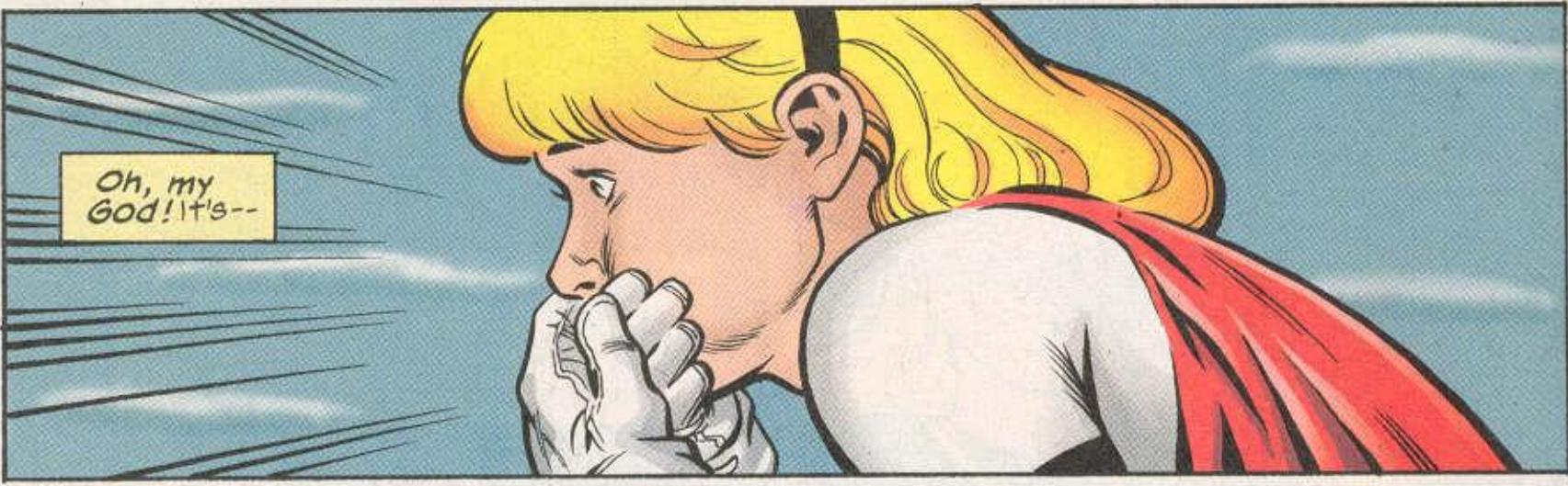


Fudge! I forgot
--I should never
try to look
behind myself
while in mid-leap!



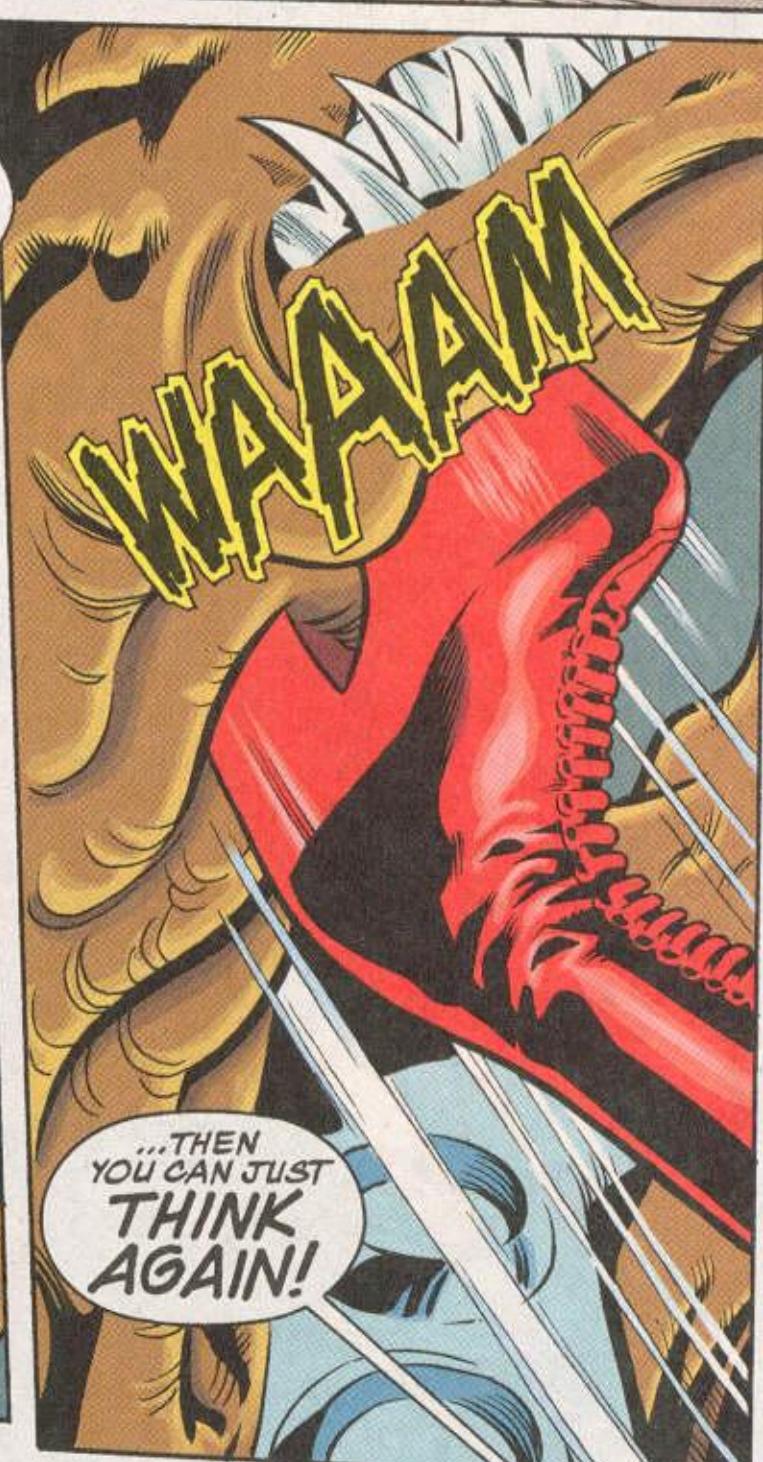
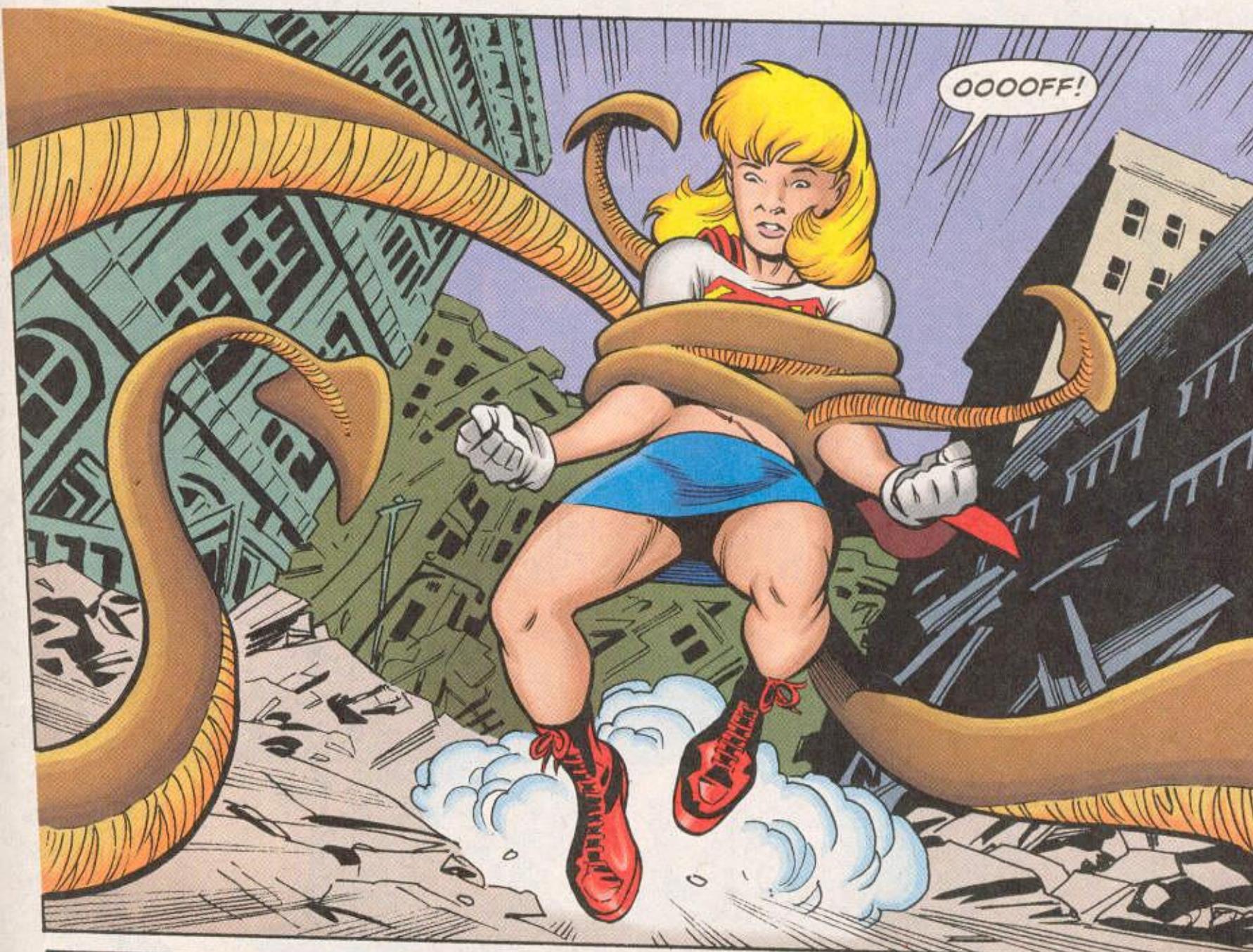
Gaaaahhh! I hate not being able to
Fly! Leaping an eighth of a mile, only
faster than a speeding bullet, bending
steel, nothing less than a bursting
shell penetrating my skin...





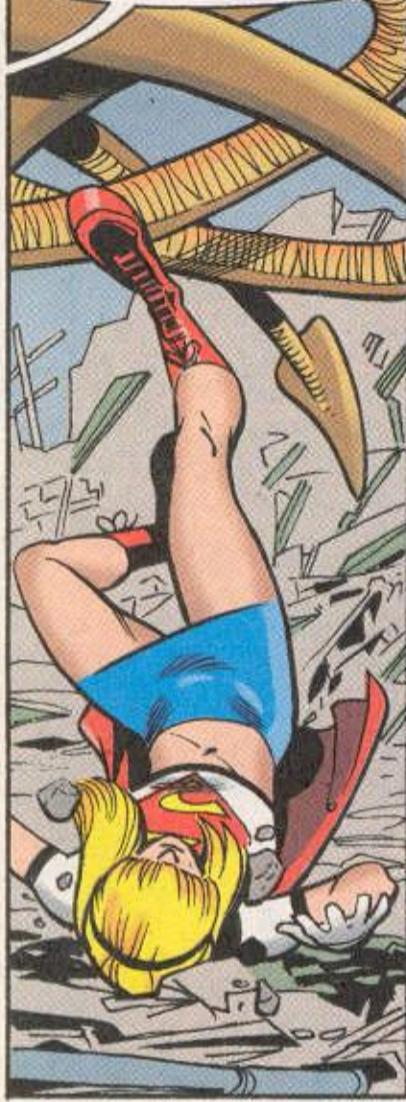


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IMAGINE MY INCREDOULITY, THEN. HERE I AM, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, AND SUDDENLY ONE OF THE LOCAL FAUNA DECIDES TO ASSAULT ME.



WELL, OF COURSE I ASSAULTED YOU!

WHY "OF COURSE"? BECAUSE SIMPLE CIVILITY IS JUST TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR HERE?

"CIVILITY"? YOU'RE A... A MONSTER! A BIG, UGLY MONSTER!

OH, REALLY? HOW AM I THE MONSTER WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME FOR NO REASON?

NO REASON ??

YOU KEEP REPEATING WHAT I SAY! DO YOU HAVE A NERVOUS DISORDER OF SOME SORT?



YOU ATE THAT WOMAN'S BODY, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

WHY NOT? SHE HAD NO USE FOR IT ANYMORE. I WAS SIMPLY BEING POLITE.

POLITE?!

SEE, THERE? YOU DID IT AGAIN, JUST NOW--



SHE WAS A HUMAN BEING! HOW IS DEVOURING HER POLITE?

AS OPPOSED TO... WHAT? LEAVING HER FOR VERMIN TO CONSUME, AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO? PERMITTING HER FAMILY TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER SHATTERED, BLOODY AND, QUITE FRANKLY, DISGUSTING MORTAL REMAINS, PRESUMING THEY EVER FOUND HER?

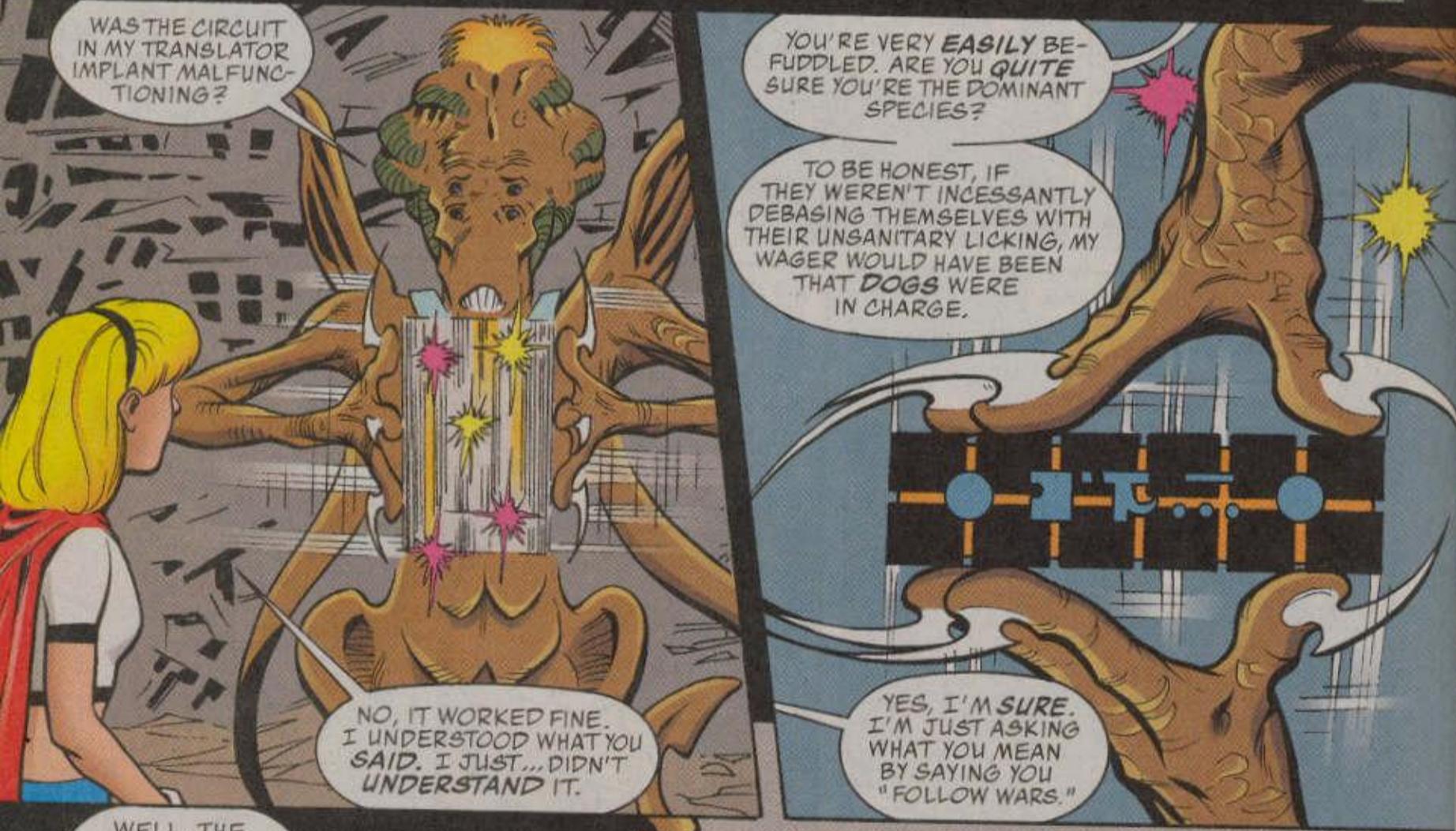


I PROVIDED A PUBLIC SERVICE. YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME.

I SHOULD BE THANKING HIM.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN. THE REPETITION BUSINESS. YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE THAT CHECKED.





IT CROPS UP AGAIN AND AGAIN ON ENDLESS WORLDS WITH ENDLESS VARIETY. RURAL, CIVIL, REVOLUTIONARY, INTER-SPECIES, PLANETARY, INTER-GALACTIC... WAR IS ALL THE SAME. BEINGS FIGHT. BEINGS DIE. AND WHEN THE DUST SETTLES...

I SHOW UP.

I GO THROUGH THE WAR ZONES AND I SCAVENGE. I FIND OBJECTS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE WHO STUDY EARTH CULTURE. PRIVATE COLLECTORS, OR MUSEUMS...

THERE ARE MUSEUMS ON OTHER WORLDS... WITH EARTH ARTIFACTS?

SOME INDIVIDUALS FIND YOU ALL CHARMING BECAUSE YOU'RE SO UN-ADVANCED. THEY TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WORLD, CONSIDER YOU THEIR "DISCOVERY."

OH, YES. FOR A BACKWATER WORLD WITH NO SPACE FORCE, YOU HAVE QUITE A FOLLOWING.

OF COURSE, SHOULD YOU GAIN WIDESPREAD POPULARITY...

...THEY'LL LOSE INTEREST AND SAY WE "SOLD OUT." THAT'S ANOTHER UNIVERSAL CONSTANT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT--?

HEY--!

JUST ENDEAVORING TO SPARE YOUR OVERLY TENDER FEELINGS.

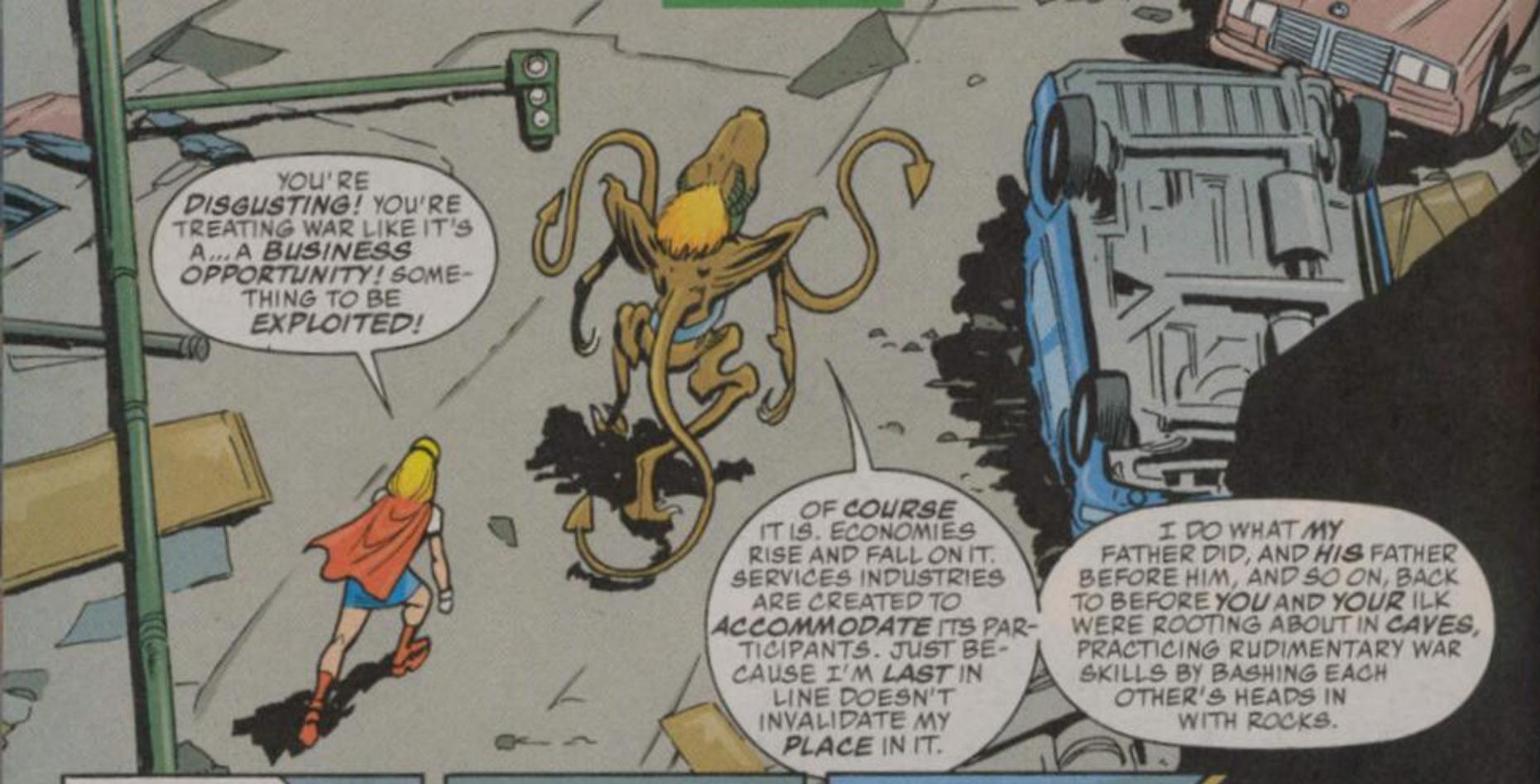
THAT'S ONE OF MY FAILINGS.
-munch- BEING OVERLY CONSIDERATE.

IF I WAITED A THOUSAND YEARS AND DID THE EXACT SAME THING, I'D BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST. WOULD THAT MAKE THEFT OF PROPERTY ACCEPTABLE?

I'M NOT SURE I'M SEEING THAT SIDE OF YOU. I'M SEEING A GHOUl WHO ROBS PEOPLE OF THEIR PROPERTY AND LEAVES NOTHING BEHIND.

IT'S NOT THE SAME THING...

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S A HYPOCRITE.



THIS ISN'T MY FIRST TIME ON EARTH. I'VE COME HERE FROM TIME TO TIME. THE TOYS ARE MY PERSONAL COLLECTION.

THE DEMISE OF THEIR PREVIOUS OWNERS RESULTS FROM BORDER DISPUTES... ATTEMPTED GENOCIDES... ETHNIC CLEANSINGS... "ROUTINE BOMBINGS"... SO MANY NAMES, WITH SUCH A UNIFORM RESULT.

DON'T YOU DARE LECTURE ME.

SO DON'T LECTURE ME ABOUT "SHAME," SUPERGIRL.

I... APOLOGIZE FOR THE MELODRAMATICS. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR SPECIES THAT BRINGS OUT THE WORST IN PEOPLE... EVEN IN YOURSELVES.

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY, FORGET IT. I'VE NEVER WAGED WAR ON ANYONE...

OH, OF COURSE NOT. I'M SURE YOU'RE A TESTAMENT TO YOUR SPECIES.

LOOK... TO BE TRUTHFUL... I USED TO BE LIKE YOU. INNOCENT. NAIVE. HOPEFUL.

I'LL WAGER YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR RACE CAN ACTUALLY LEAVE WAR BEHIND SOMEDAY.

WELL... SURE! I MEAN, IF THE IDEA OF BETTERING OURSELVES, OUTGROWING WAR AND VIOLENCE... IF THAT'S A HOPELESS FANTASY...

...IF THIS IS AS GOOD AS WE'RE GOING TO GET...

...WHAT'S THE POINT OF ANYTHING?

EXACTLY.



I'VE LIVED TWO OF YOUR CENTURIES, CRISSED-CROSSED THE GALAXY A DOZEN TIMES. SEEN THE POINTLESSNESS OF WAR, AND THE HOPELESSNESS OF TRANSCENDING THE IMPULSES THAT BRING IT.

I'VE SEEN BILLIONS OF WASTED LIVES, AND MILLIONS OF WASTED EXCUSES, ALL FROM SUPPOSEDLY RATIONAL BEINGS TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS ALL NECESSARY.

TO STOP CARING... OR TO PRETEND YOU DIDN'T CARE? THEY'RE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

PERHAPS. BUT THE RESULT IS THE SAME, SO REALLY... IT DOESN'T MATTER.

FOR A TIME, I THOUGHT I WOULD GO MAD FROM IT. I THOUGHT THE UNIVERSE WAS MAD.

EVENTUALLY, I LEARNED THAT MADNESS WAS THE NORM... AND THE ONLY INSANITY WAS THINKING OTHERWISE. I LEARNED... TO STOP CARING.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I CAN SMELL QUITE A FEW CORPSES BURIED IN--

NO. NOT THERE. NOT THIS PLACE. NOT THESE PEOPLE. JUST... NO.

THIS WAS A HOUSE OF WORSHIP, I BELIEVE. THEY DIED... WHILE PRAYING FOR PROTECTION. AND NOW YOU'D PROTECT THEIR DEATHS, WHEN THEIR DEITY DIDN'T PROTECT THEIR LIVES.

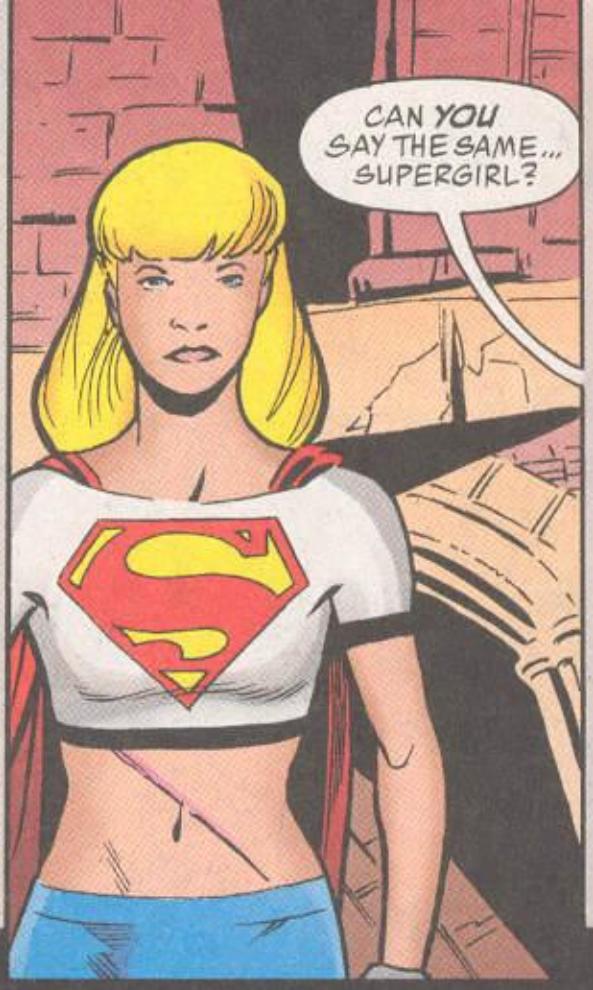
WOULD I DO YOU A GREATER FAVOR BY HONORING YOUR REQUEST... OR BY ACTING AGAINST YOUR DESIRES AND SHOWING YOU THAT YOUR BATTLES CARRY THE ROT OF HOPELESSNESS?

WHAT REACTION WOULD YOU FEAR, SUPERGIRL? OR WOULD YOU ADMIT TO BEING AFRAID OF ANYTHING?

AH, WELL...
QUESTIONS BEST
ANSWERED BY WISER
HEADS THAN MINE.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY. I
LEAVE THEM TO YOUR
OVERTAXED RESCUE
AND CLEAN-UP
CREWS.

ULTIMATELY, I AM
BY NATURE A PEACEFUL
SOUL WHO HAS NEVER
KILLED, NEVER ATTACKED
ANYONE UNLESS PROVOKED,
AND NEVER TRIED TO
RATIONALIZE AWAY MY
OWN INACTIONS OR
GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

CAN YOU
SAY THE SAME...
SUPergirl?



"CAN YOU SAY THE
SAME?" Where the
hell does he get off?



What does he expect,
that I should just...
just give up? Resign
myself to...to I don't
know what.

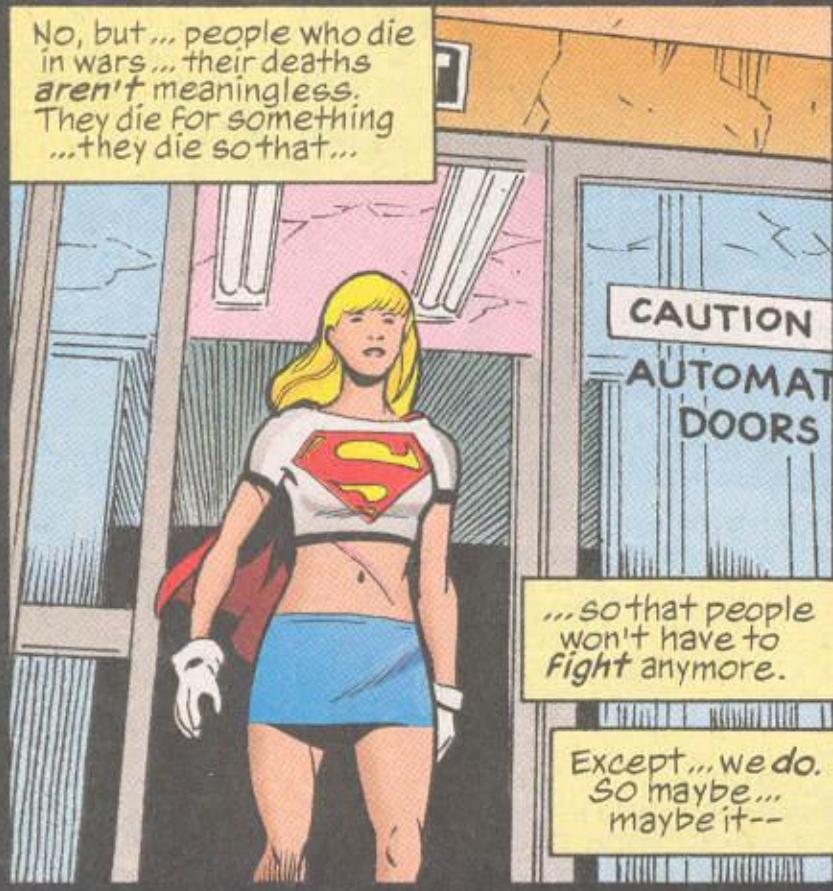
Am I afraid of
anything? OF
course not! He
was just trying
to mess with
my mind...

Although... Imperiex...
came so close to
killing me...♥

And if I had died...
would it have been
y'know... a big deal?
Or would I have just
been a casualty of
war? A meaning-
less statistic...?

LAST ISSUE.

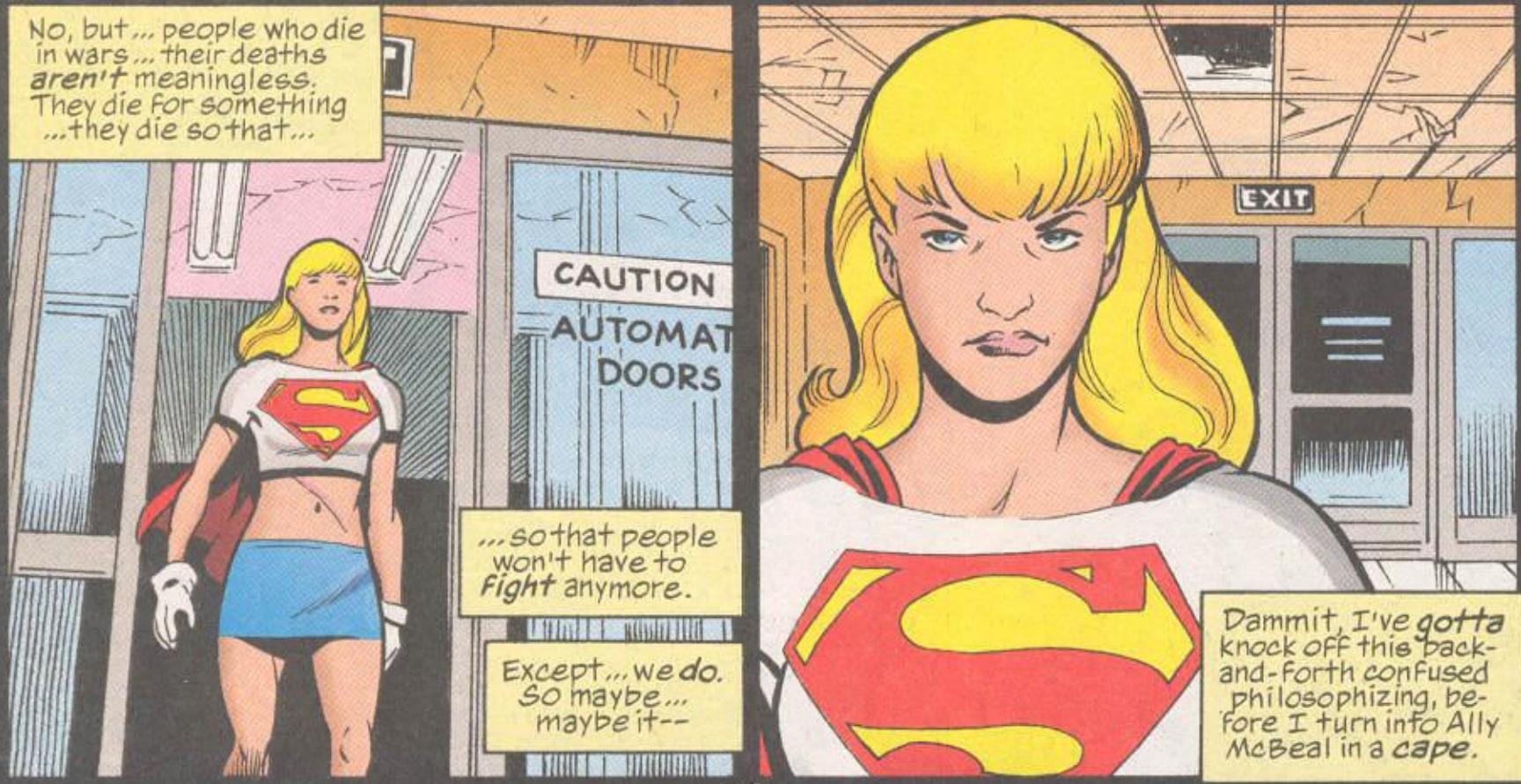
No, but... people who die
in wars... their deaths
aren't meaningless.
They die for something
...they die so that...

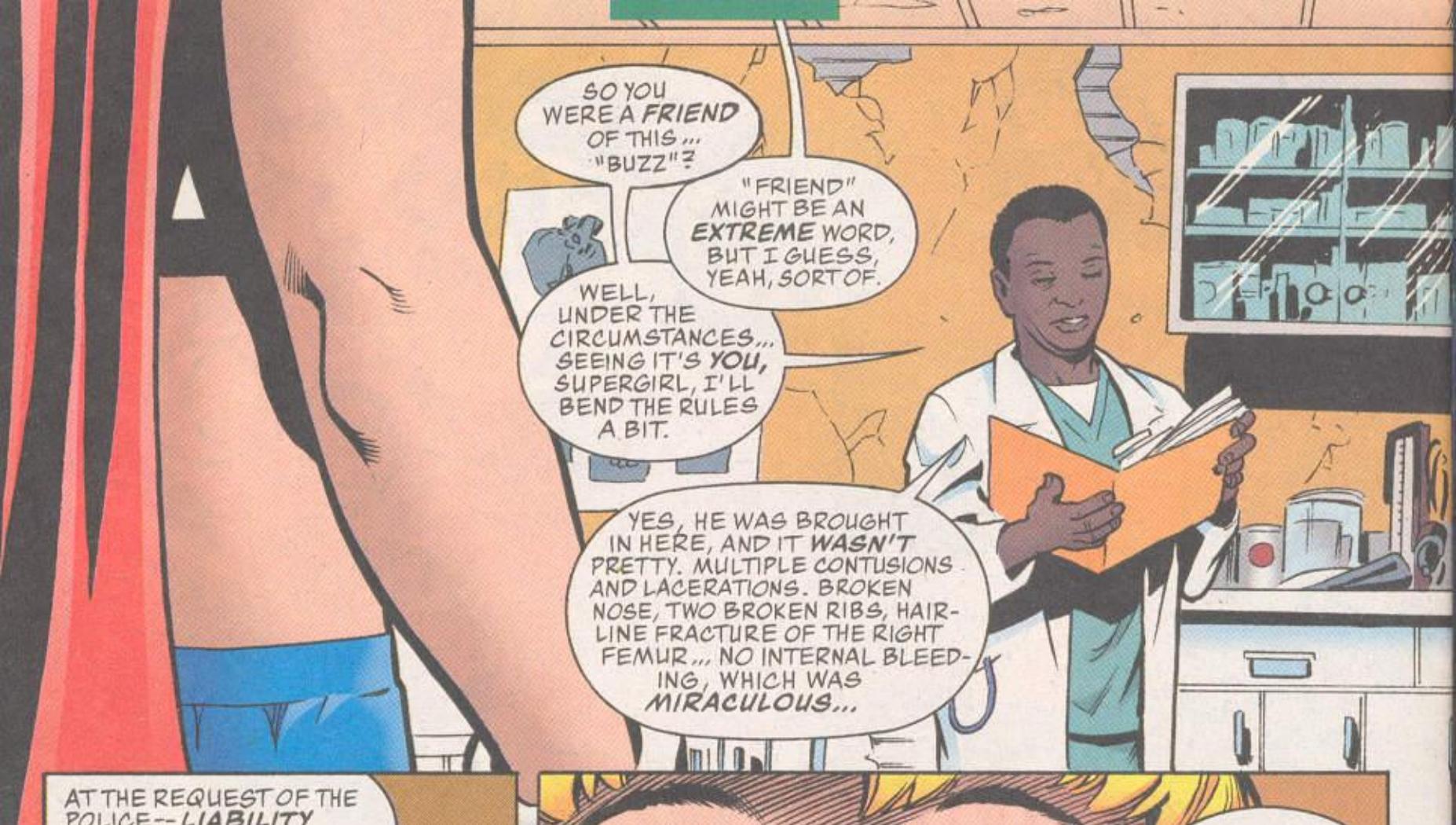


...so that people
won't have to
fight anymore.

Except... we do.
So maybe...
maybe it--

Dammit, I've gotta
knock off this back-
and-forth confused
philosophizing, be-
fore I turn into Ally
McBeal in a cape.





AT THE REQUEST OF THE POLICE—LIABILITY PURPOSES, MOST LIKELY—WE TOOK PHOTOS OF HIM WHEN WE ADMITTED HIM. HERE.



Thanks for the vote of confidence. I'll return the favour sometime.

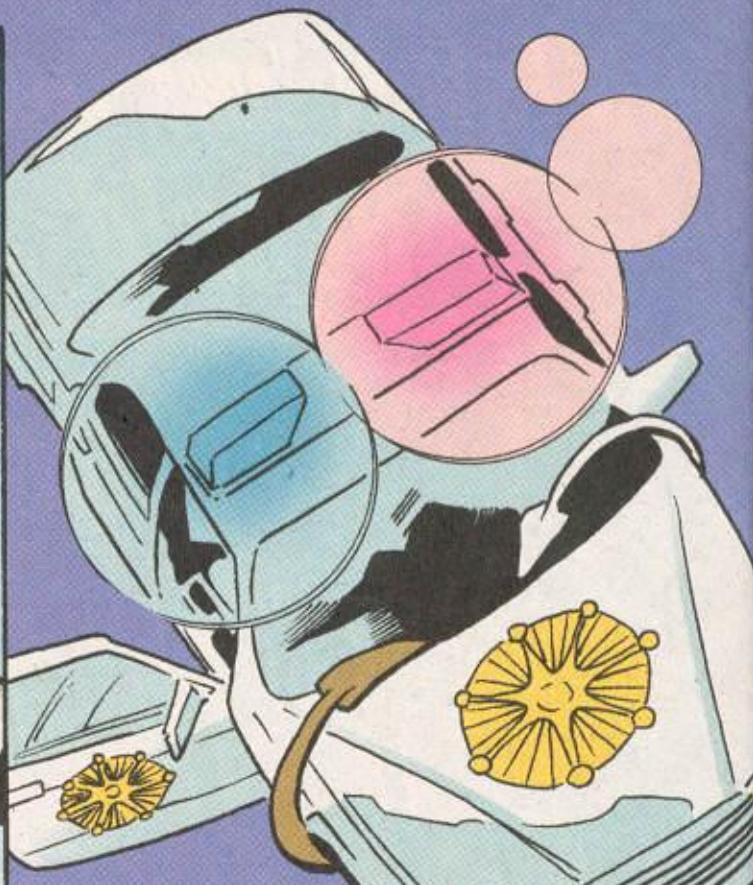
—B

Gotham City. He's gone to Gotham City. That has to be what the Bat-signal meant. Unless he's just messing with me.



He blames me for this... I know it. But... it wasn't my fault. Surely I can get him to see that. I...

SUPERGIRL!



THERE'RE MONSTERS
EVERYWHERE, CAPTAIN.
SEEMS TO ME IT SHOULD
BE RIGHT AT HOME
WHEREVER IT GOES.

"RIGHT AT
HOME"?

JUST
IGNORE
HIM.
HE'LL GO AWAY
WHEN HE'S
DONE.

"JUST
IGNORE
HIM"?

WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE
HIM! YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO
STOP THAT... THAT
THING!

YOU
KNOW, YOU KEEP
REPEATING ME. EVER
THINK YOU MIGHT
HAVE A NERVOUS
DISORDER?

I
DO?

"I KNOW WHAT? I THINK
I'LL SAVE MY "SELF-IMPORTANCE"
FOR THE RUBES AND GULLIBLE
AUTOGRAPH-HOUNDS. AS FOR YOU
GUYS, I HEAR THAT YOU DID JUST
FINE BEFORE I SHOWED
UP..."

...AND I'M
SURE YOU'LL
DO JUST
FINE WHEN I'M
GONE.



Dear DC (re SUPERGIRL #57):

Buzz became one of my favorite villains in comics during his first run in SUPERGIRL. Now he's become one of my favorite supporting characters.

Peter David hasn't been this hilarious in months. The conversation between Buzz and Dominique was priceless, particularly the lung cancer comment. I hope she'll fall in line with characters like Comet and Twilight in that we'll see more of her and that she'll play a key role in a future story.

Even if Linda didn't need Buzz's guidance in this story, I was deeply affected when he got sliced. I'm hoping ol' Doctor Fate has the cure for him.

RUSTY SHACKLEFORD
POSTED TO DCCOMICS.COM

The good Doctor cured Buzz's physical ailments, Rusty, but as you saw in issue #58, his greatest wounds are the ones caused from his past. And after Supergirl turned her back on him in issue #59, it appears Buzz has decided to give back till it hurts!

Dear Giant Flies (re SUPERGIRL #57):

The new fly girl villain is refreshing, though she needs a better name. I also think Linda needs more nonsupernatural villains.

I also think the search for the Supergirl essence has dragged on long enough. Hopefully, we will see her go and Linda stay. I don't believe in angels, and I don't like them (except maybe if they are sexy). I like male demons even less, but I might learn to like Satan Girl. Seriously, though, I prefer less of the supernatural theme, which is seldom part of the Superman family of books, since Superman was invented by two science-fiction fans.

I think the standard color for Supergirl's underwear is red. Or maybe that was the pre-CRISIS brand.

As for the lettercolumn, I suggest "Skirting the Issues."

JOHN DE LA CRUZ
POSTED TO
DCOSUPMAIL@AOL.COM

Thanks, John, though your lettercolumn could suggest that "skirting" the issues means going around them...something we're **not** prone to doing. And you're spot-on regarding the supernatural elements that crop up in SUPERGIRL—they're **not** part of the other Super-titles, which is **precisely** one of the reasons Peter enjoys going in that direction. That said, while there's no intent to completely fade out the supernatural elements, we've been looking to strike more of a story balance these days. Just check out these past three issues, not to mention the past year, as well as Supergirl's involvement in the Superman books, and I think you'll notice a difference. And if that's still not enough, have a look at our next letter for a different perspective...

Dear DC:

In all the hoopla about how we all like or hate the "new" Supergirl, it seems that most of us have forgotten the wonderful blending of continuity. And as I make learning useless information a hobby (you never know when a little useless knowledge will come in handy), I have a few things to say about the changes.

First, her powers and their new limitations—I love the fact that they are almost identical to those of Superman when he debuted in 1938. In today's world, only the diehard longtime fans would realize that, and I think it is important to note that for all the new fans.

Second, the idea that she wears a wig as Supergirl is a wonderful tip of the hat to Kara having to wear a brown wig as Linda Lee, to say nothing of the "continuity" mentioned in SUPERGIRL #50. A great tip of the hat to Kara's death in CRISIS (Linda's guardian angel being Kara was a nice touch, too).

And finally, I love the new costume. So what if it is just like the animated Supergirl? I think it works for her. Granted, when Linda "finds herself," I think the costume should go back to the old classic, but in a character that is paying homage to several aspects of her origins, I think it is a good move for now.

Change usually brings out the nastiest in the fans of the character in question (anyone remember the stink the "new" Green Lantern caused?), but I felt I had to note that in the change lies a lot more depth and homage to the original character than people realize.

Great job all around, people. Keep it up.

COMICNERD01
POSTED TO
DCOSUPMAIL@AOL.COM

P.S. Buzz makes for great comic relief. Keep him around a while. Every character should have a thorn in their sides. Just ask the YJ kids about Impulse.

Actually, asking Young Justice about Impulse might **not** be such a hot idea right now...especially in light of what happened to him during "Our Worlds At War" in IMPULSE #77 this month. As for Supergirl, we couldn't say it better ourselves, so many thanks for being so articulate!

—Mike McAvennie
War's strangest bedfellow.

OTHER WAR-RELATED ISSUES THIS WEEK:

ACTION COMICS

#782: To stop the War, will Superman unleash an even greater threat?



WONDER WOMAN #173:
Paradise...Lost to Darkseid?

NEXT WEEK:

WORLD'S FINEST:
Burying the dead, and the consequences of War!



NEXT MONTH:

On the flip side of the War, Supergirl heads for Gotham City in search of Buzz, but finds Two-Face! Peter, Leonard, Robin and the gang offer their two cents in SUPERGIRL #62!



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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

This month's cover features yet one more problem looming over Supergirl's head, thanks to Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs, and Richard and Tanya Horie!

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