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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AO
AUTHORITY

KELLY
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GARZA
ALQUIZA

SUPergirl®

ORIGIN
REVEALED!



YOU ARE A FAILURE, KARA.



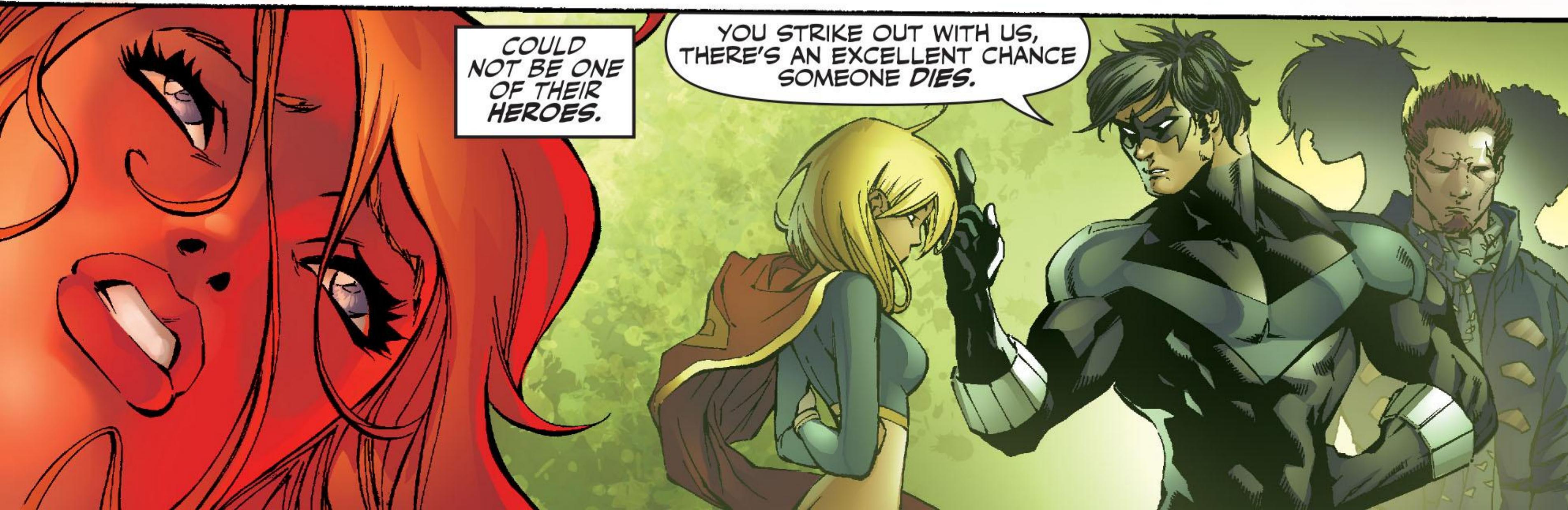
NONO
NONONO
NO...

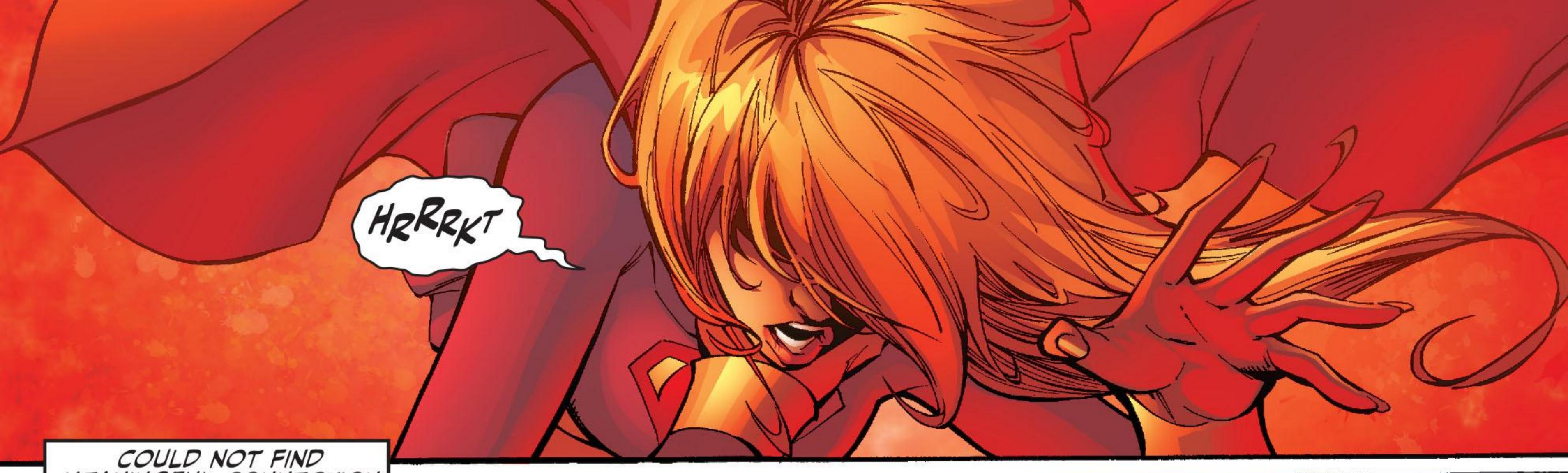
AN UTTER AND COMPLETE FAILURE.



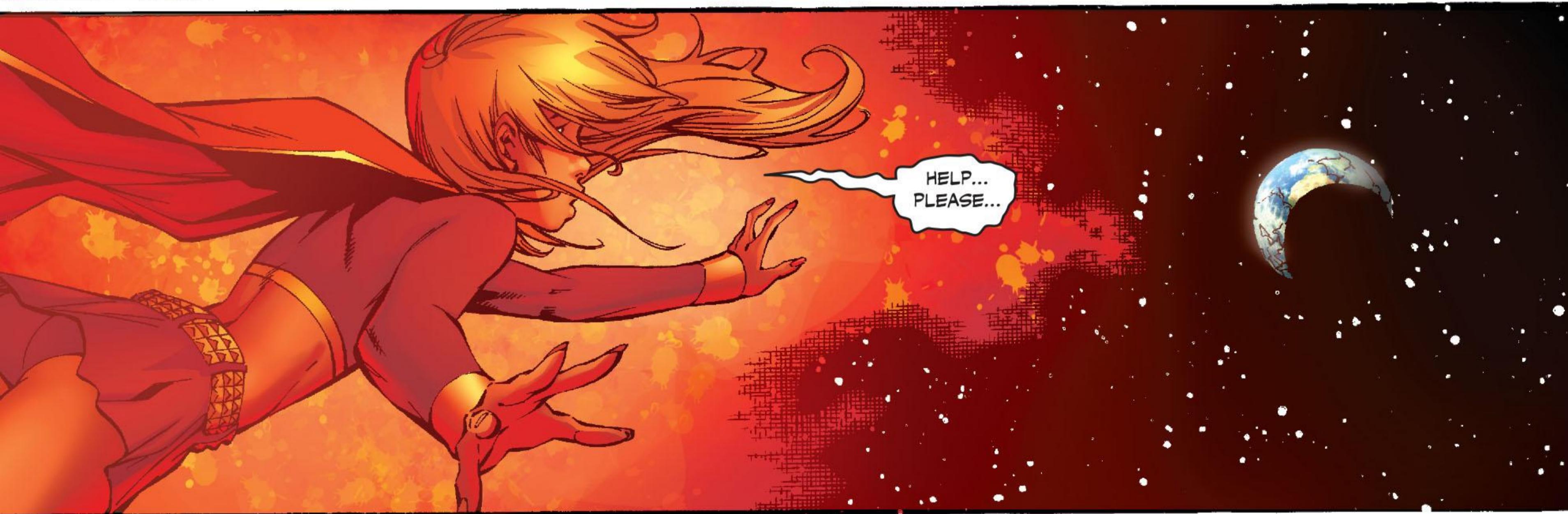
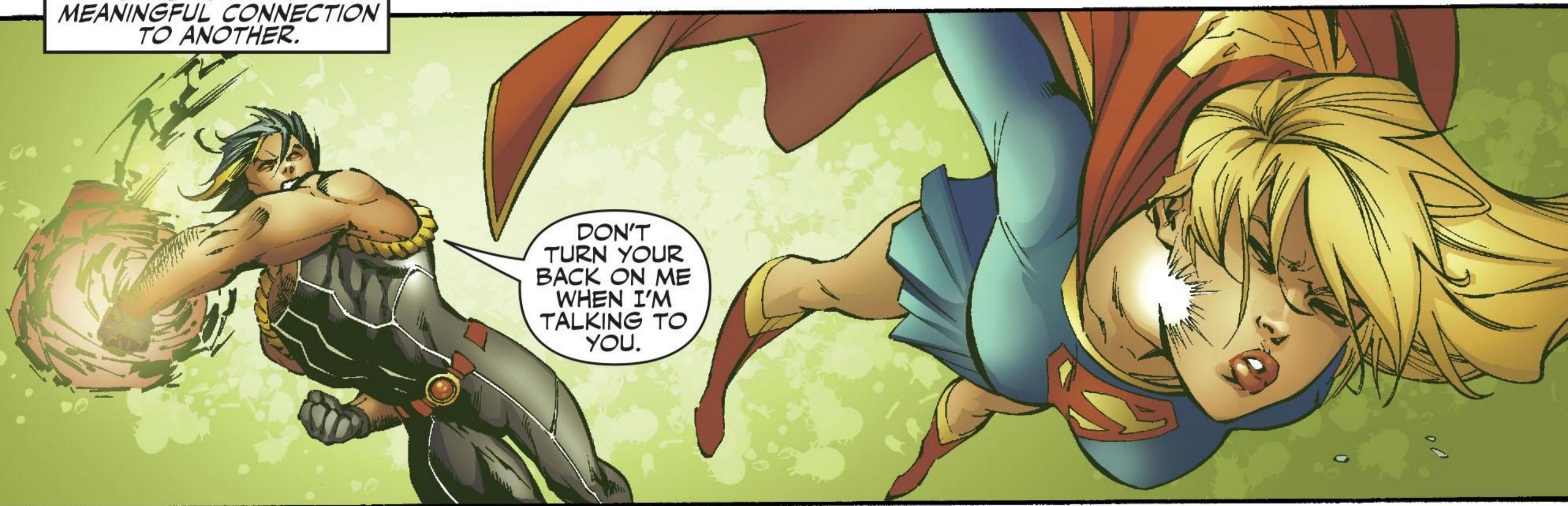
COULD
NOT BE ONE
OF THEIR
HEROES.

YOU STRIKE OUT WITH US,
THERE'S AN EXCELLENT CHANCE
SOMEONE DIES.

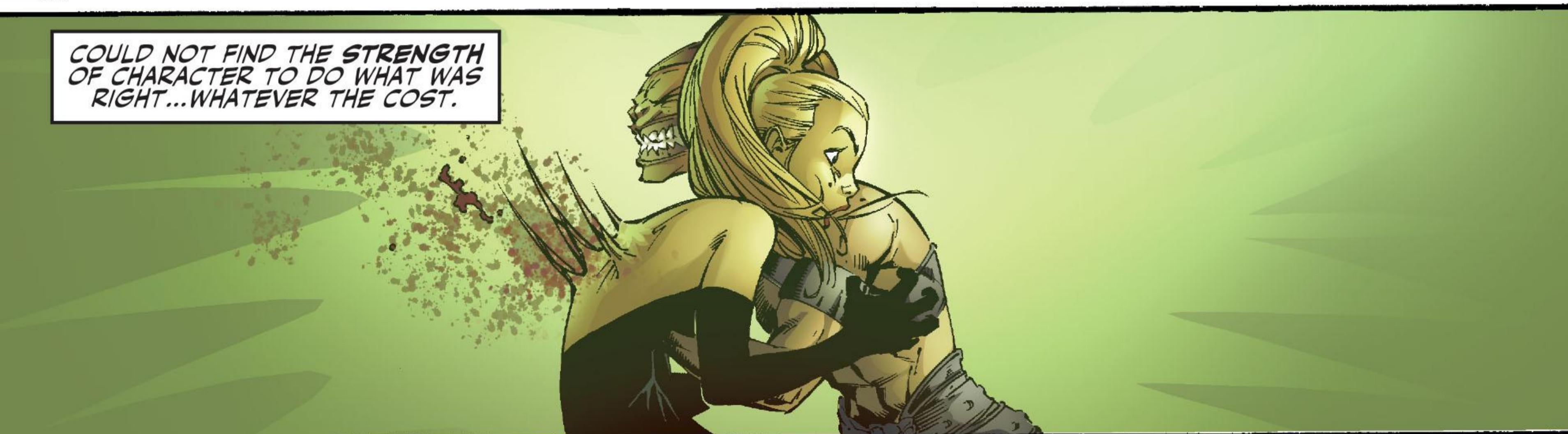




COULD NOT FIND
MEANINGFUL CONNECTION
TO ANOTHER.



COULD NOT FIND THE STRENGTH
OF CHARACTER TO DO WHAT WAS
RIGHT...WHATEVER THE COST.



...YOU
ARE READY TO
LISTEN TO YOUR
FATHER.

The TRUTH

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REMEMBER THE
GOOD TIME...



BEFORE ARGO
CITY'S FALL.

WHAT
IS THIS,
DADDY?

KRYPTON'S
GLORIOUS FUTURE.
AT LEAST, MY
VISION OF IT.

ONCE THE
COUNCIL APPROVES
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF MY **SUNSTONE CRYSTAL**
RESEARCH, I WILL BUILD YOU
A WORLD OF ENLIGHTENMENT,
DAUGHTER, OF UNLIMITED
PROMISE...

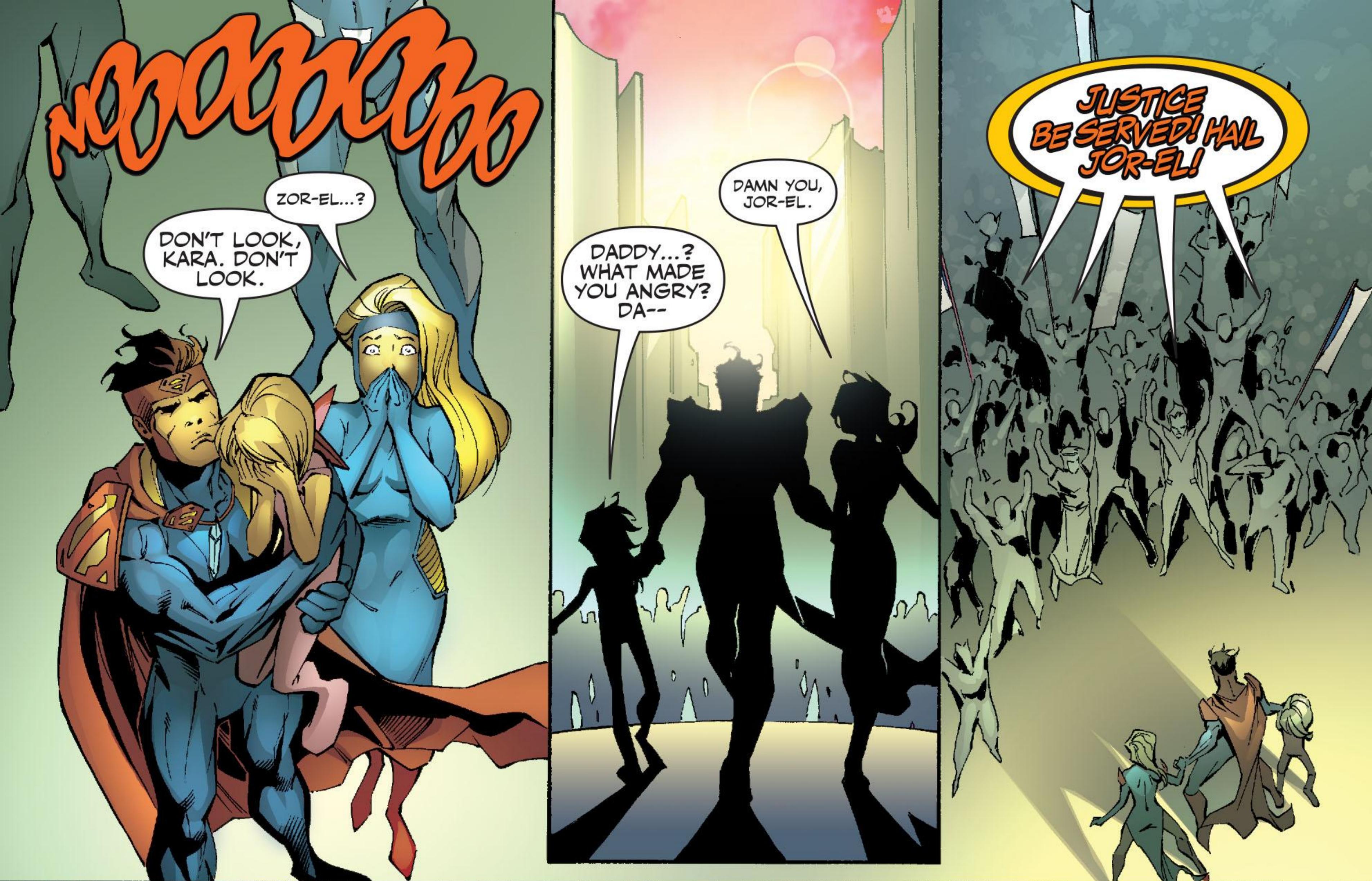
ALL BECAUSE
I DARED TO DREAM.
WHICH IS MORE
THAN I CAN SAY
FOR MY...

WHAT IS IT,
DADDY? WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

...BROTHER.







I WAS ONLY BEING METAPHORICAL THEN...YOUR MOTHER ALWAYS CHASTISED ME FOR SPEAKING TO YOU AS AN ADULT...

JOR-EL AND I HAD ENDLESS DEBATES ON THE ETHICS OF HIS "PHANTOM ZONE." I FOUND THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF HIS "COMPASSIONATE PUNISHMENT" DISTASTEFUL.

PEOPLE WEIGH HEAVILY THE COST OF CONDEMNING A MAN TO DEATH...BUT A "LIVING DEATH" IN AN "ENDLESS VOID?" HOW EASY WOULD IT BECOME TO SIMPLY ERASE OUR "UNDESIRABLES" WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, FREED FROM CONSEQUENCE?

IT BECAME VERY EASY. THOUSANDS WERE SENT INTO THE VOID. BUT AS THE COUNCIL CHEERILY METED OUT "JUSTICE"...

KRYPTON CHANGED. THE SHIFT WAS SUBTLE AT FIRST. UNDETECTABLE... UNLESS ONE LIVED IN ARGO CITY.

HERE, AT THE SITE OF THE "ORIGINAL SIN," SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING TO US...

A RISE IN CRIME. UNEMPLOYMENT. HOMELESSNESS. THE SCENT OF VIOLENCE IN THE AIR...ON EVERYTHING...

THE NEWSFEEDS WOULD SIMPLY WRITE IT OFF AS "URBAN BLIGHT." THE COST OF CITY LIVING.

WE WERE PAYING A PRICE...THAT PART THEY GOT RIGHT.

MANY TIMES, YOUR MOTHER AND I DISCUSSED LEAVING ARGO CITY. AS THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE WE COURTED BECAME LITTLE MORE THAN COMBAT ZONES, SHE ALL BUT BEGGED ME TO MOVE...

RUN!

PRETTY FAMILY. SOFT.

TAKE WHAT YOU WANT. JUST LET US PASS.

OH, WE WILL... TAKE, I MEAN.

DON'T BREAK THE LITTLE ONE UNTIL WE'VE ALL HAD A--

NO!!!

ZOR-EL!

BY RAO, GET YOUR HANDS OFF THEM!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO THIS WAY, ZOR-EL!
I--

BUT YOU KNOW ME, KARA. I AM A STUBBORN MAN. HOW DIFFERENT WOULD OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN, HAD I LEARNED TO LISTEN...

LEAVE US ALONE!



WEEE
KNOW
YOUUUU...

ONLY LATER, MUCH LATER,
WOULD I LEARN THAT THE
SUNSTONE CRYSTAL HAD
SAVED US. HAD I STABBED
THE HOST WITH METAL OR
BURNED HIM WITH FIRE, WE
WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

THE SHOCK OF
SEEING ONE OF
THEIR OWN
ACTUALLY HARMED
FRIGHTENED OFF
THE REST.

I QUARANTINED OUR FAMILY
WITHIN OUR HOME, AND
THREW MYSELF INTO STUDY.

WITHOUT PROOF OF WHAT
I'D SEEN, I KNEW THAT
THE SCIENCE COUNCIL
WOULD SIMPLY JUDGE
ME MAD. A MURDERER,
SELF-DEFENSE ASIDE...

SO I BEGAN WITH THE
CURE, THE CRYSTALS,
HOPING THEY WOULD LEAD
ME TO THE DISEASE
INFECTING ARGO CITY.

BUT WITHOUT
ACCESS TO THE
PHANTOMS
THEMSELVES, THE
PURSUIT WAS
POINTLESS.

I NEEDED
HELP.

ZOR-EL...? BROTHER, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

IT IS NOT JUST ME, JOR-EL. NOT JUST ARGO...

YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT... KRYPTON IS--

DOOMED. I KNOW!

I'VE DONE ALL THE CALCULATIONS AND... ITS CORE IS UNSTABLE, ZOR-EL. IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, NOW, THE PLANET WILL BE DESTROYED FROM WITHIN.

SEISMIC INSTABILITY. THAT'S ALL HE SAW. BLIND TO THE POISON HE HAD FED OUR PLANET...

BUT IF WE WORK TOGETHER... IF WE CONVINCE THE SCIENCE COUNCIL TO--

CLOSE THE PHANTOM ZONE. ZOR-EL. IT ISN'T SAFE.

YOU'VE COME TO LECTURE ME ABOUT MORAL DECAY? AGAIN?

EVER SINCE THE... EXILES... STARTED, SOMETHING HAS SEIZED HOLD OF THE MINDS OF KRYPTONIANS. OF THEIR SOULS. I'VE SEEN THEM--

GROUNDQUAKES WILL TEAR OUR PLANET APART, AND YOU WANT ME TO LISTEN TO GHOST STORIES?!

PHANTOMS, JOR-EL! FROM YOUR "EMPTY VOID!" SOMETHING CAME THROUGH, AND--

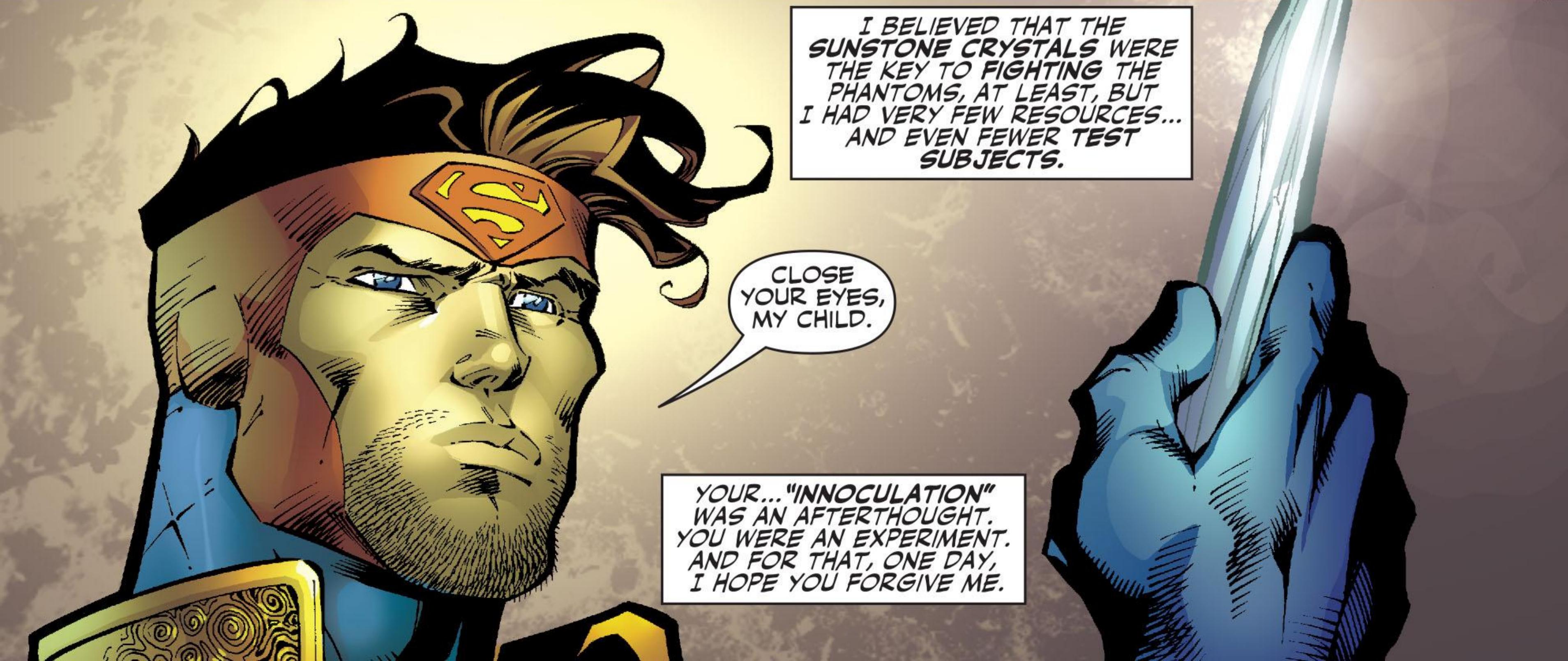
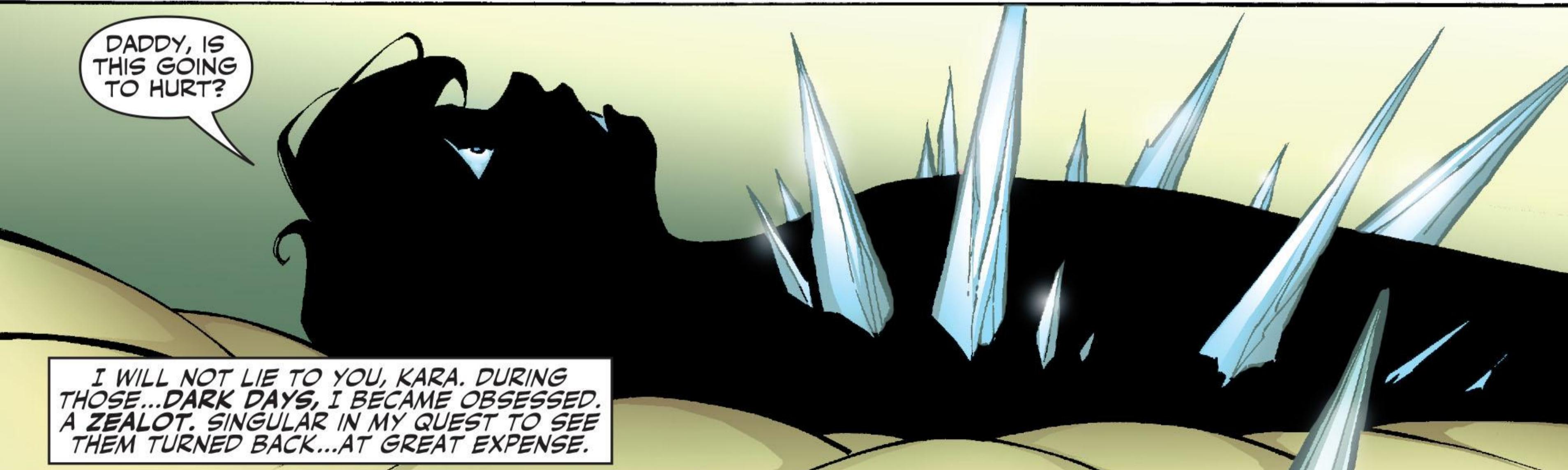
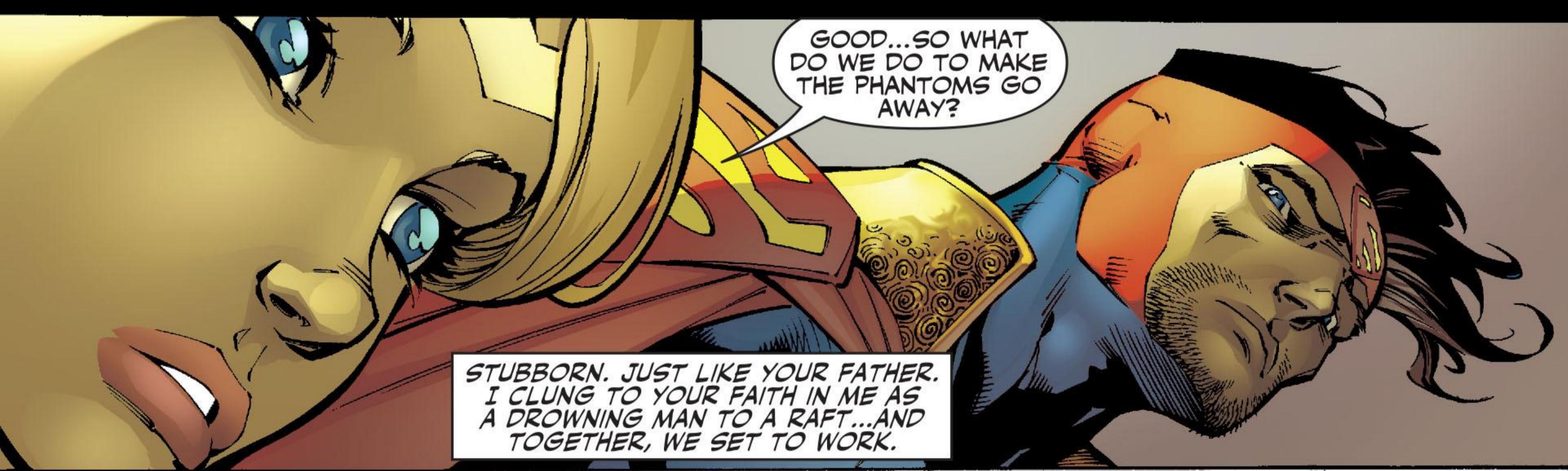
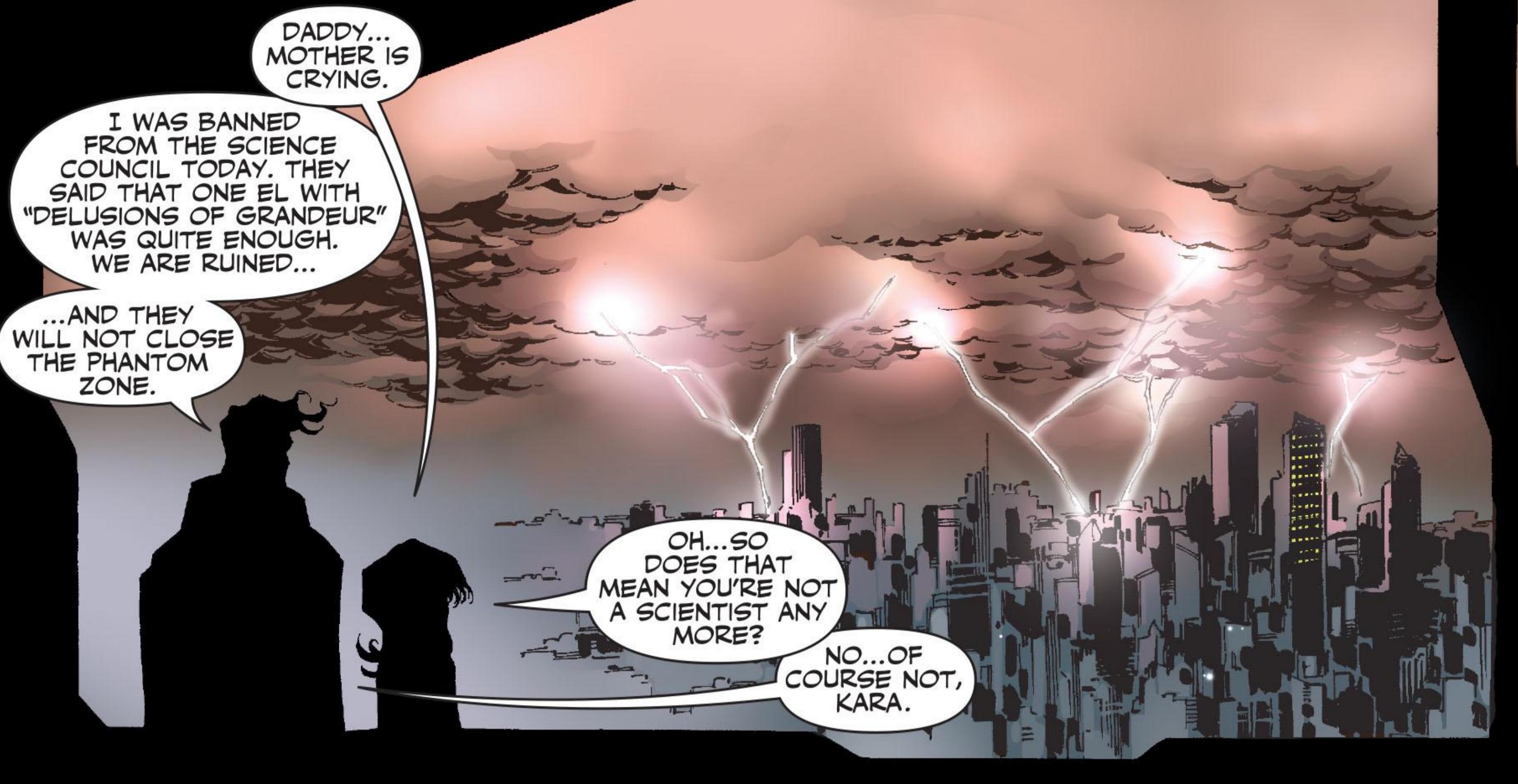
THIS IS JEALOUSY! YOU JUST CAN'T STAND TO SEE ME SUCCEED, EVEN IF IT COSTS US ALL OUR LIVES--

HAVE YOU HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID, YOU POMPOUS--?!

THE PROBLEM WITH BROTHERS, KARA, IS THAT NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY BECOME...

THEY ARE ALWAYS CHILDREN WITH ONE ANOTHER.





OF COURSE, THE PHANTOMS
CONTINUED TO SPREAD
WHILE WE WORKED IN
SECRET, HIDING FROM THE
WATCHFUL EYE OF THE
COUNCIL...

...AND HOW YOU
SUFFERED FOR IT.
TAUNTING. YOUR
FATHER BRANDED A
"MANIAC..." BUT YOU
NEVER LOST FAITH IN
ME, DID YOU?

LITTLE KARA HOUSE
OF EL...IT'S THE FAMILY
BORN OF HELL. IF SHE
LOOKS YOU IN THE
EYE...

IN THREE
DAYS YOU'LL
SURELY DIE!

NOT EVEN ON THAT TERRIBLE
DAY AT THE LEARNING ANNEX...
WHEN THE PHANTOMS CLAIMED
CHILDREN, AND I COULD NO
LONGER HIDE IN MY LAB.

YES. WASTE
NO TIME ON SORROW,
DAUGHTER. THEY ARE
THE LAUGHING
DEAD.

YOU-YOU'RE
SURE,
DADDY?

SOME OF
THEM ARE MY...
MY FRIENDS.

"YOU HAVE TO BE
STRONGER THAN THIS,
KARA. I-I NEED YOU
TO BE STRONG,
OR I CANNOT--"

"I WILL, DADDY.
I'LL BE STRONG
FOR YOU. WATCH."

YOU DIDN'T SPEAK A WORD.
YOU DIDN'T SHED A TEAR.
YOU JUST DID YOUR WORK, AS
YOUR FATHER HAD ASKED...

...AND I HATED MYSELF
FOR LACKING THE
STRENGTH TO DO IT
ALONE. BUT WE HAD
GONE TOO FAR TO
TURN BACK. WE WERE
AT WAR...

...CASUALTIES TO BE EXPECTED ON ALL SIDES.

AT LEAST WE GOT THEIR ATTENTION.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, KARA, YOU MUST TELL THEM THAT I MADE YOU DO IT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND--?

YOU... WE KNOW YOU.

YOU SSSSSTINK OF HIM.

THE ONE WHO TAINTED OUR REALM WITH TWISTED SOULS OF YOUR WORLD'S CRIMINALS. POISONED US WITH HIS HATRED FOR HIS ENEMIES.

WE GLEANED HIS SCENT FROM THE CHILD...BUT YOU...YOU ARE THE BREATH OF HIM...

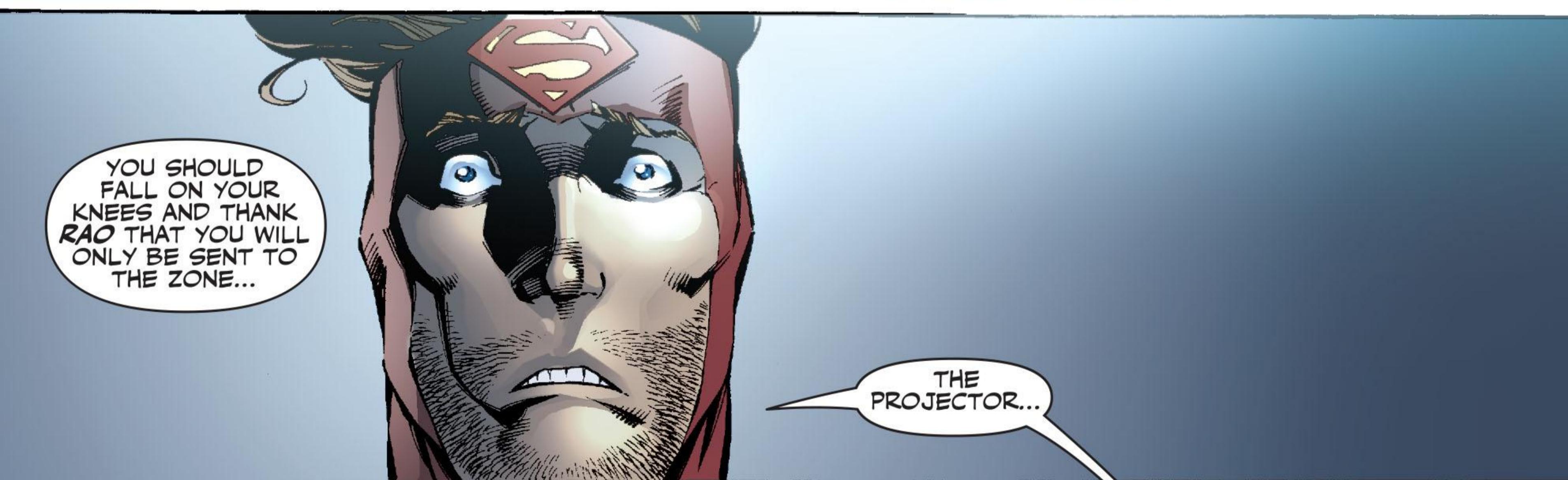
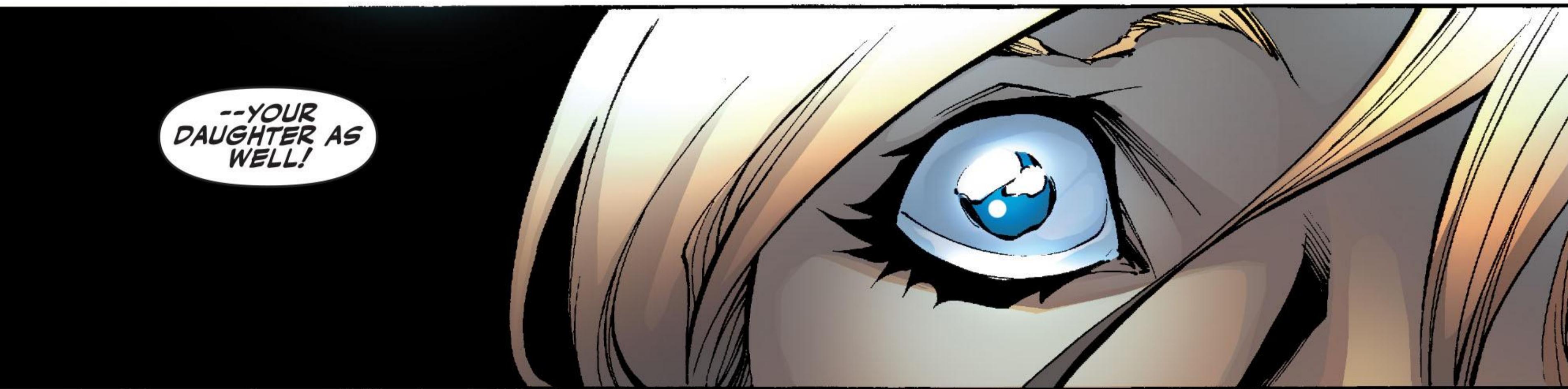
TALKING TO YOURSELF... A CLICHÉ, BUT I SUPPOSE IT FITS.

WHO, DAMN YOU?
...THE JAILOR.

BROTHER! THANK RAO. IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. TELL ME YOU'VE CLOSED THE ZONE...







THE REST WAS DROWNED OUT, BY THE FIRST OF JOR-EL'S "GROUNDFQUAKES." KRYPTON'S THUNDEROUS MOANS AS SHE FINALLY BEGAN TO DIE...

FATHOM

...MY BROTHER WAS RIGHT. WAS IT ALL CONNECTED? THE PHANTOMS ROTTING KRYPTON'S PEOPLE AND CANCER EATING AT HER CORE?

I WOULD NEVER KNOW...BECAUSE MY BROTHER AND I COULD NOT FIND IT IN OURSELVES TO LISTEN.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS...BUT AS THE HALLS OF JUSTICE FELL AROUND US... AS ARGO CITY SCREAMED AND BLED AND DIED...

I WAS RELIEVED. WE WERE ALL GOING TO DIE, BUT SO WOULD THE PHANTOMS...

IT WAS OVER... OR SO I THOUGHT.

WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED, ZOR-EL... YOU ARE STILL MY BROTHER. I--

PERHAPS... BUT NOT MY SON.

JOR-EL'S SON...HEIR TO THE HOUSE OF EL. I KNEW IT TO THE MARROW...

IF THAT CHILD LEFT KRYPTON...THE PHANTOMS WOULD GO WITH HIM.

I HAVE DESIGNED A SHIP. WITH THE SUNSTONE CRYSTALS, YOU CAN BUILD IT IN DAYS--

HAVE YOU EVER ONCE CONSIDERED, JOR-EL...THAT PERHAPS OUR WORLD DESERVES TO BE DESTROYED?

I PLEADED FOR HIM NOT TO SEND YOUR COUSIN AWAY. BEGGED... WHEREVER THE BOY WENT, PHANTOMS WOULD FOLLOW...

BUT WE KNEW THE TRUTH... KNEW IT FIRSTHAND. THE PHANTOMS HAD COME HOME.

BUT HOW CAN YOU TELL A MAN TO LET HIS ONLY SON DIE FOR SOMETHING HE DOES NOT BELIEVE EXISTS?

DO YOU THINK THIS ENDS WITH YOU? WITH YOUR DAUGHTER? WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL WE HAVE MADE ALL THE JAILOR'S KIND SUFFER...

HELP ME! IN RAO'S NAME--

I KNOW THAT YOU HATE ME, KARA. THAT YOU HATE YOURSELF. BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...

KARA!

DO IT NOW, KARA!

I DIDN'T MAKE YOU KILL YOUR MOTHER...

I MADE YOU
SAVE HER.

NONE OF IT WAS FAIR...
I KNOW. AND THE STRAIN
OF... WHAT WE HAD TO DO
CLEARLY FRACTURED
YOUR MIND.

BUT ABOVE ALL,
YOU MUST
REMEMBER THIS...

...IT WAS
NOT IN VAIN.
OUR WORK...
BRUTAL
THOUGH IT
WAS...

THANK YOU,
KARA...THANK YOU
FOR SETTING ME
FREE...

IT WAS NOT
IN VAIN.

IN THIS, WE DID
NOT FAIL...

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR PUTTING THE BURDEN ON YOU, DAUGHTER. BUT HAD I THE POWER TO REWRITE HISTORY, THAT WOULD BE THE LEAST OF WHAT I WOULD CHANGE.

THE SHIP WAS SMALL. YOU HAD THE CRYSTALS WITHIN YOU...AND EVEN AS A CHILD...YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRONGER THAN ME.

THAT IS THE TRUTH.

NOW YOU KNOW WHY I SENT YOU TO KILL THE CHILD KAL-EL.

KAPOW

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT AWAITS THE EARTH IF YOU FAIL.

GOODBYE,
KARA... RAO
PROTECT YOU.

**TO BE
CONTINUED...**



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