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SIMONE
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RYAN

RISE OF THE OLYMPIAN
PART 2

Wonder Woman®



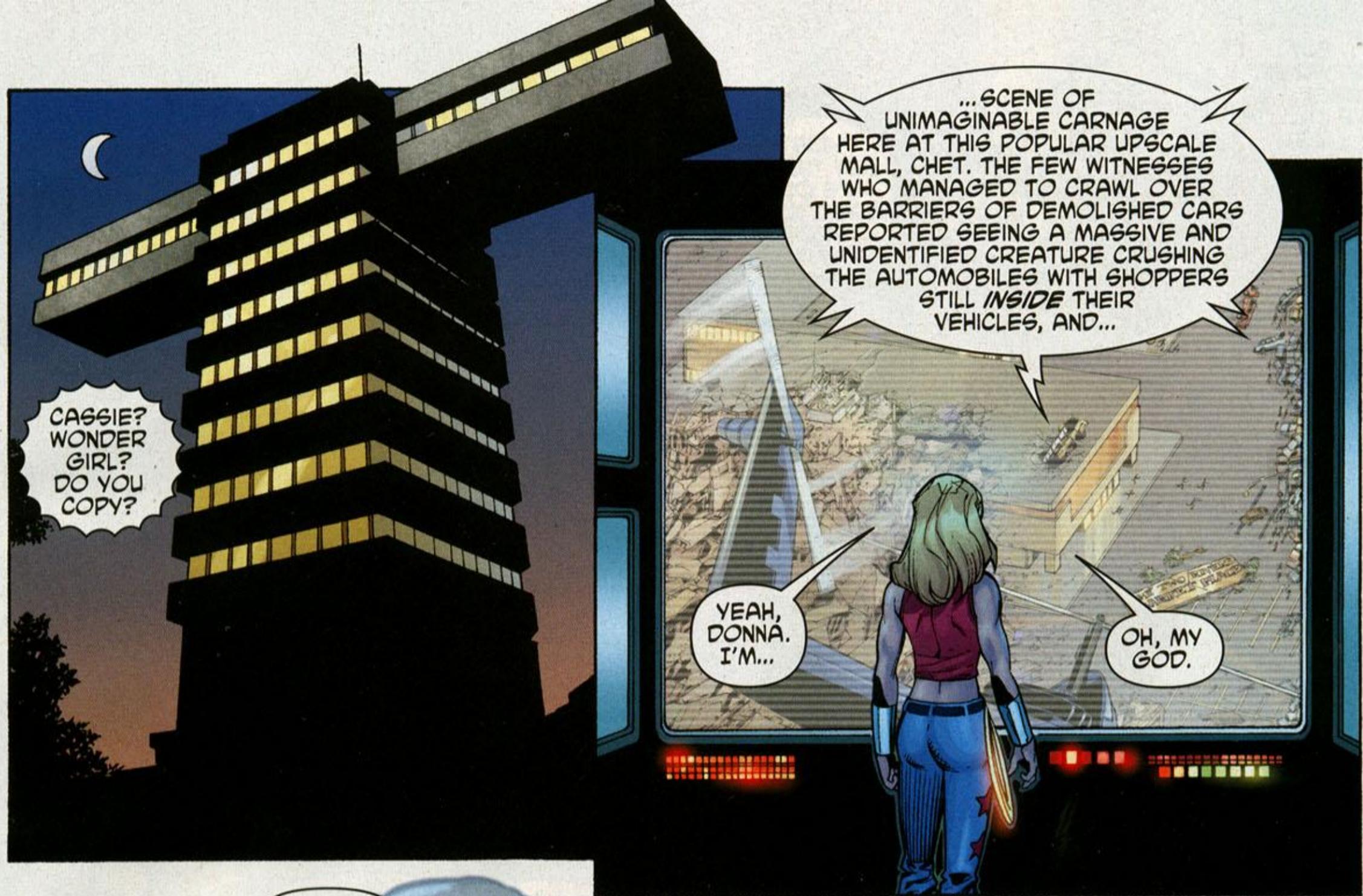
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RISE OF THE OLYMPIAN

part two: A Sense of Loss

CARL SIMONE--writer AARON LOPRESTI--penciler MATT RYAN--inker
BRAD ANDERSON --colorist TRAVIS LANHAM--letterer SEAN RYAN--associate editor
MATT IDELSON--editor WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON
AARON LOPRESTI & HI-FI --COVER
FRANK QUIETLY--VARIANT COVER



UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS ASSISTING THE RESCUE EFFORT AND WAS UNABLE TO COMPLY, AND AGENT TRESSER HASN'T BEEN SEEN WITHIN MILES OF THIS PLACE.

HMM. SO THAT BLOND MAN UP THERE...

JUST SOME RANDOM DUDE IN BLACK, AGENT GOH. PURE COINCIDENCE.

I SUGGEST YOU GO BACK AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVE, WINSTON.

AND THANKS.

HONEY, LISTEN. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME HERE.

It beat me, Tom.

That thing beat me.

YEAH, OKAY, IT DID, BUT WE CAN GET YOU OUT OF...

No, listen.

It beat me as a warrior.

I... I UNDERSTAND.

Know you do. Part of...

Part of why picked you.

Listen.

Can almost hear it.

Olympus.



"WE RULE NOTHING,
WE ARE WORSHIPPED
BY NO ONE."

"WE ARE
NOTHING."

"ARES
WILL WIN."

AND THE
DAUGHTER I
HELPED MAKE,
OUR HOPE, OUR
DREAM--

-SHE LIES
DYING, THE NAME
OF ANOTHER GOD
ON HER LAST
BREATH.

THE
FOOLISHNESS,
LORD... IS LIVING
PAST THE TIME
MEANT FOR
YOU.

I HAVE FOUND
THE STRENGTH
TO AVOID THAT
DESTINY.

YOU DON'T
CARE FOR ME, ZEUS.
BUT I WANT YOUR
PROMISE.

SAVE MY
PEOPLE. SAVE THE
AMAZONS.

HELP
THEM IN THEIR
MISSION OF
PEACE.

I BEG
THEE.

YOU
HAVE MY
VOW.

SECRET SOCIETY
HEADQUARTERS,
GOTHAM CITY

NO, YOU
DON'T GET IT,
DR. MORROW. IT'S
BACK. GENOCIDE'S
COME BACK.

I AGREED TO HELP
YOU SCIENCE TYPES WITH
THIS PROJECT UNDER
THE EXPRESS CONDITION
THAT I NEVER HAVE TO
BE ANYWHERE NEAR
THE FINISHED
PRODUCT,
MORROW.

YOU THINK I WANT IT HERE, FAUST? I HAVEN'T
SLEPT SINCE WE WOKE THE DAMN THING!

IT'S
KILLED
THE HIVE
AGENTS WE
HAD AS
GUARDS.

I JUST
WANT TO
WARN YOU:
WITH THIS
THING?

YOU'RE
ON YOUR
OWN. SORRY,
DOCTOR.

GENOCIDE?

PLEASE.
GOD. PLEASE.
HELP ME.

GENOCIDE?

YOU DON'T
WANT TO KILL
THAT WOMAN,
DO YOU?

I HATE
WOMEN.

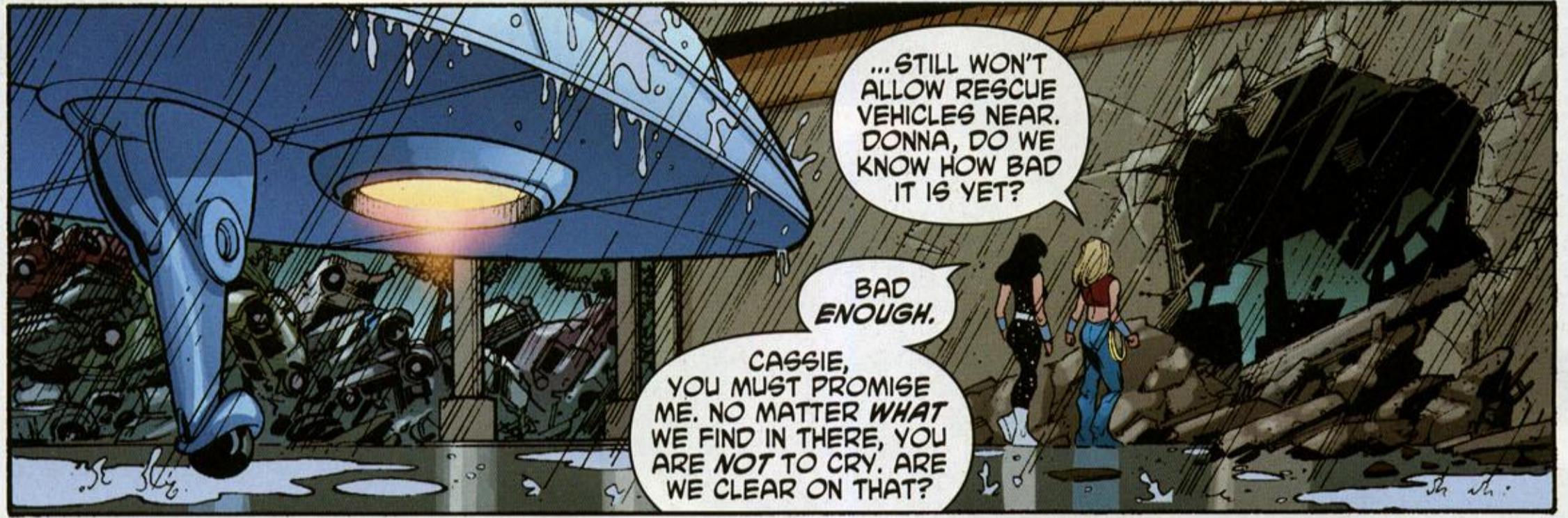
...
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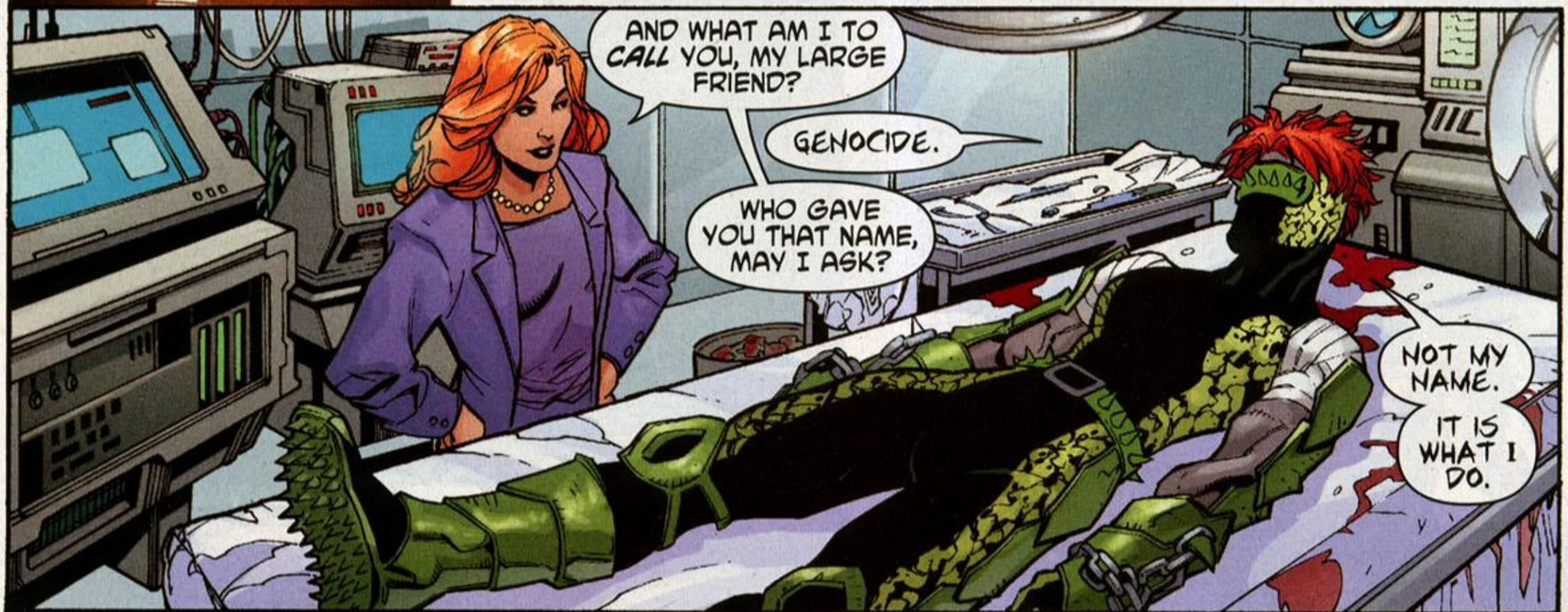


BEGIN
YOUR LONG WALK
HOME, GOOD
SOLDIERS.









"NOTHING SPECIAL REALLY.
IT'S CALLED THE DEPARTMENT
OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS.
THERE'S SOMETHING WE
NEED RETRIEVED, THERE."

"AND WE WANT TO
LEAVE A MESSAGE
IN BLOOD."



"...UNDER FULL-ON ATTACK,
DIRECTOR. IT LOOKS LIKE
A WAR ZONE."

I'VE CALLED
FOR JUSTICE LEAGUE
ASSISTANCE UNDER OUR
CHARTER DIRECTIVE, AND
THEY'VE AGREED TO SEND A
TASK FORCE IMMEDIATELY,
BUT WE HAVE TO RETREAT
AND EVACUATE.

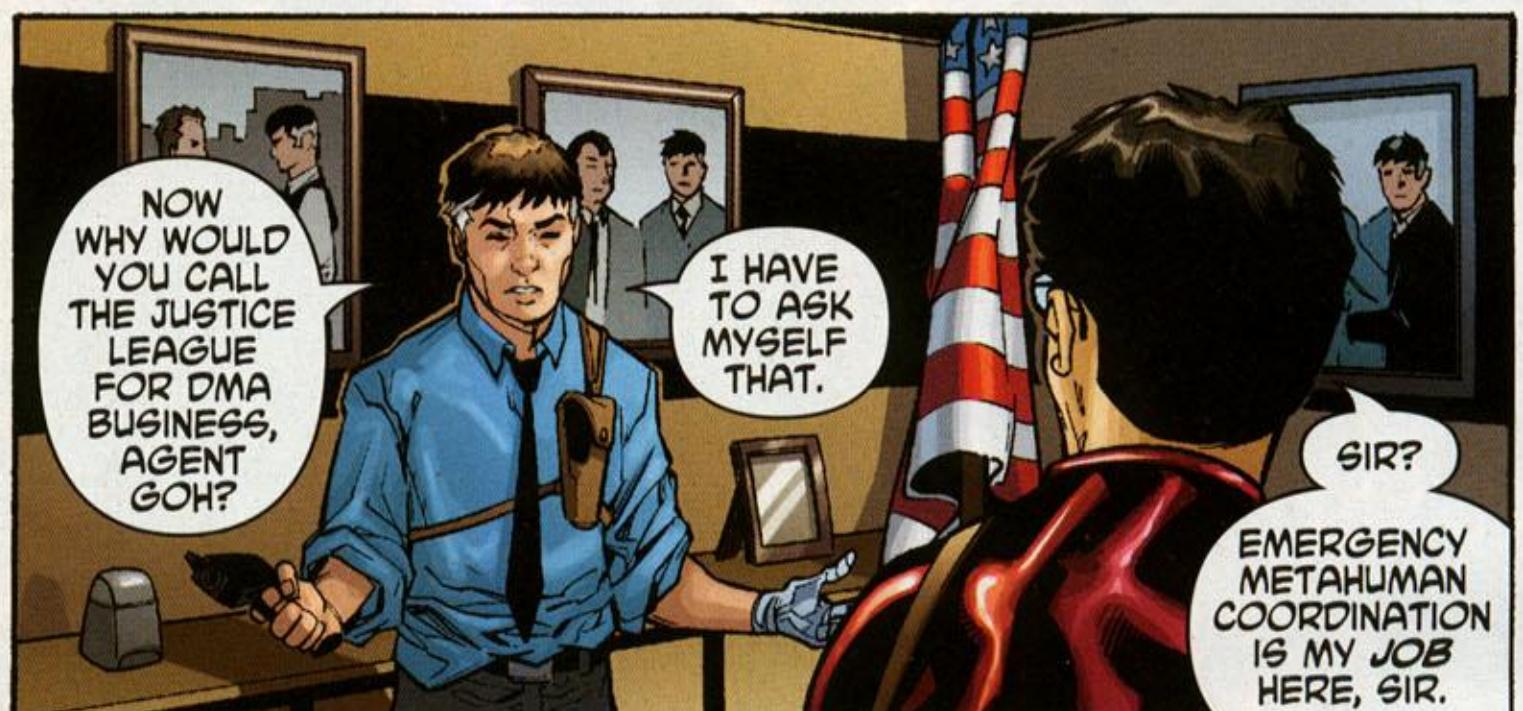
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

NOW
WHY WOULD
YOU CALL
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE
FOR DMA
BUSINESS,
AGENT
GOH?

I HAVE
TO ASK
MYSELF
THAT.

SIR?

EMERGENCY
METAHUMAN
COORDINATION
IS MY JOB
HERE, SIR.



WAIT... HANG ON.
DON'T DO THIS!

YOU'RE
ONE OF THEM,
AREN'T YOU,
LITTLE MAN?

YOU'RE
WITH THE
AMAZONS.

I'M
A MAN,
SIR! I'M A
MAN!



THAT'S HOW THEY FOOL YOU, AGENT GOH.



THIS IS DIRECTOR STEEL, ISSUING AN EXECUTIVE CLASS COMMAND TO ALL PERSONNEL.

NO RETREAT. NO EVAC.

THIS IS THE END. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE WITH YOU ALL.

ANYONE TRYING TO LEAVE WILL BE EXECUTED.

OHMYGOD OHMYGOD, JAMMED, IT'S JAMMED OR SOMETHING.

I'M A FILE CLERK. I'M JUST A FILE CLERK!



PLEASE. I DIDN'T EVEN WANT THIS JOB. PLEASE.

WHERE?

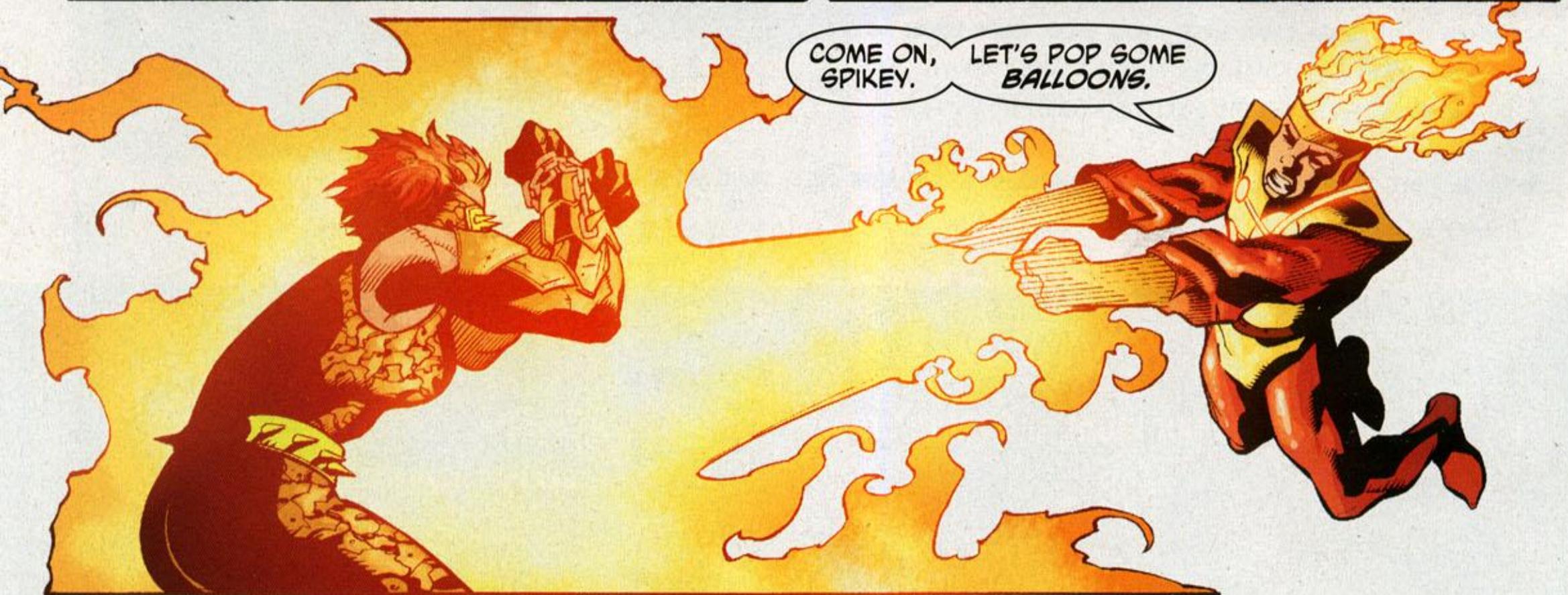
WHAT? WHERE IS WHAT?



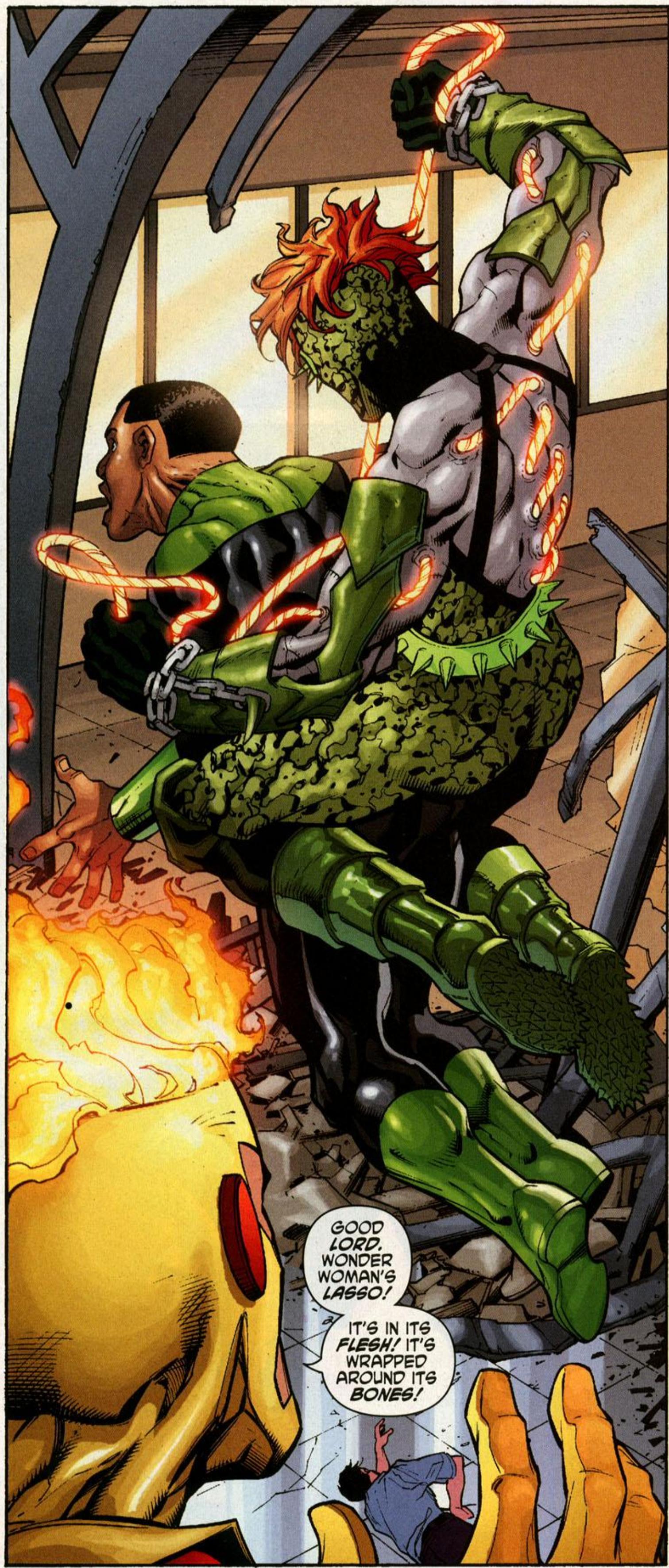
PSYCHO.
WHERE.
IS.
PSYCHO?

WELL, I HAVE TO ASK--













YOUR DAUGHTER WILL BE HERE SHORTLY, HIPPOLYTA. YOUR SISTERS SHORTLY AFTER.

"3,000 YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN FAITHFUL, EVEN WHEN YOUR GODLY BENEFACTORS HAVE NOT. THAT IS LONG ENOUGH."

"I HAVE CREATED AN ISLAND. THE PEOPLE WHO WILL DWELL THERE WILL ASSUME YOUR DUTIES, THAT YOU MAY REST YOUR BURDENS. THIS IS A REWARD, QUEEN. NOT A PUNISHMENT, I VOW THIS."

"AND ONE MORE GIFT I GIVE YOU, SO THAT YOU ALL MAY HAVE THE WARRIOR'S REST YOU DESERVE."

I OFFER YOU ALL THE PEACE OF THE GRAVE, QUEEN.

IT IS MY FINAL GIFT TO YOU.

**NEXT:
THE BLOOD OF
THE STAGG**





Okay, time to set the story straight.

From the time I started working at DC, I had a plan — no, scratch that, a desire to bring back Hal Jordan and Barry Allen. To me, they were the definitive Green Lantern and Flash, and they helped bring forth a generation of heroes. More important, they were the base from which all other ring-bearers and speedsters would come. Nothing against Kyle or Wally, but you can't know who they are without knowing who Hal and Barry are first.

In bringing Hal back, I found a "partner in crime" in Geoff Johns (remember that name; it is important later). Geoff was an even bigger Hal fan than I was and had the same desire to bring him back. Following that desire, we formulated a plan, and following the plan came GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH. The success of Rebirth exceeded even our wildest expectations, so with Hal back and better than ever, we turned our attention to Barry.

Okay. Now, with Barry, things were a little more... complicated. His death was one of the more important events of CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, not something to be changed on a whim or easily undone. But slowly, over the years, the walls of Crisis came tumbling down, first with the return of the true Supergirl and then with the return of the Multiverse. Yet Barry's death still held firm.

Confession time. I originally hoped to bring Barry back at the end of INFINITE CRISIS, but things didn't work out as planned. Still, we did plan on a change in Flashes, as to echo the original Crisis, so... enter Bart. Now, Bart was there to show the generational aspect of The Flash, but he was never going to be The Flash for long. Plans for his arrival and departure were worked out in conjunction with COUNTDOWN and the JLA / JSA crossover. And again, it looked like we'd paved a way for Barry, but again the timing wasn't quite right. It wasn't until we hit FINAL CRISIS that the stars would align themselves properly. Enter Geoff Johns (there, I told you he would be important later).

Just as he did with Hal, he wanted to do with Barry. A plan was made and a story set — a story that would encompass everything and everyone in Flash's history. Not just Barry, but Jay, Wally, Bart, Iris, Max... well, you get the idea. BARRY ALLEN, THE FLASH: REBIRTH is a celebration of everything that was, is and will be great about the character. We are building on the brilliant foundation and history of the Flashes while adding to the future.

Don't you love it when a plan (sort of) comes together?

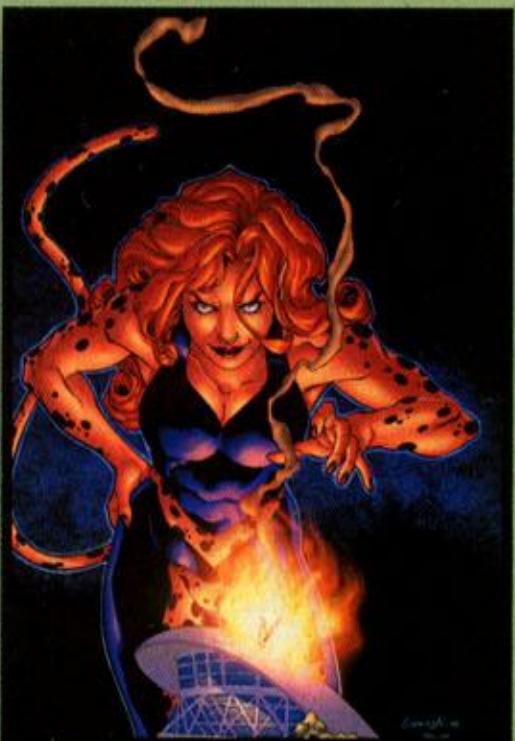
To be continued.

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NEXT IN... WONDER WOMAN

#28

The Olympians make their presence felt! And the power behind The Society is finally revealed!



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