



ILL-TEMPERED STEEL!

SUPERGIRL

52
JAN 01

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FURTHER ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT SUBJECT IS DISPLAYING PRONOUNCED ANTI-SOCIAL TENDENCIES, AND MAY BE A DANGER TO OTHERS.

I CANNOT RECOMMEND HIGHLY ENOUGH THAT ALL PRECAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE SUBJECT, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

NUMBER ONE: SUBJECT IS LIKELY CLINICALLY INSANE.

NUMBER TWO:

SUBJECT IS A WOMAN, AND WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THEM, DON'T WE? NUMBER THREE: THERE IS NO NUMBER THREE. NUMBER FOUR...

EX.COM CE-112
AUTO REVERSE



YOU OKAY, DOC PERKINS? HOPING FOR A RESCUE, MAYBE?

SORRY, DOC. FROM WHAT I HEAR... ALL THE HEROES ARE WAAAAY TOO BUSY TO HELP YOU, EVEN IF YOU ARE IN A WORLD OF--



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SUPergirl, INTERRUPTED

Pain!

Like
something's trying
to... to tear me
apart!

ARRRHH!



HEY, YOU...
YOU **OKAY**
UP THERE,
SUPERKID?

PETER DAVID
writer
BILL OAKLEY, letterer
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
separations

LEONARD KIRK &
ROBIN RIGGS, artists
GENE D'ANGELO, colors
MIKE McAVENNIE
editor



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SUPergirl?

YEAH. YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT. I KNOW IT'S A
LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE...
BUT IT'S ME.

AND I'M GLAD IT'S
YOU, TOO! I KNOW THAT THE
PRANKSTER SWIPE YOUR
ARMOR,* SO IT'S A RELIEF
TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT
AN IMPOST--

* ADVENTURES OF
SUPERMAN #580.



This is insane! I come to Metropolis, not looking for problems. I wanted to let Clark know that I'm still alive, whatever he may "think" happened during my fight with the Carnivore...

KRAASH!

...and instead...

INNNINTERESTING.
I TRIED TO SPLIT HER,
AND FOUND, AS LORD
SATANUS SAID, A HINT OF
SOMETHING. HOWEVER, IT
WAS MORE LIKE AN ECHO
OF SOMETHING THAT HAD
BEEN THERE, BUT WAS
NOW GONE.

A
GUEST
WHO
CHECKED
OUT.

I COULD
TAKE HER ON
HEAD-TO-HEAD,
OF COURSE. SEE
IF I CAN BRING
WHAT'S THERE--
IF ANYTHING--
UP TO THE
SURFACE.

BUT WHAT'S THE
POINT OF HAVING A
MINION IF YOU DON'T
LET HIM... WELL,
MIN?

ARE...
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

I'M FINE...
I'M FINE...

WHO
ARE
YOU?

I'M...

I'M
SUPERGIRL





WHO ARE YOU?!

I AM THE
WALRUS! I AM KIROK! I
AM WHAT I AM AND THAT'S
ALL THAT I AM!

BUT ONE
THING I'M NOT
IS A QUIET RIOT!
I LIKE IT LOUD
AND PROUD!

SO HANG
ON, SUPERGIRLIE...
'CAUSE ONCE YOU
BEEN KILLED BY
RIOT, AIN'T NO
GOIN' BACK!

Huh! The wig's
not coming off!

Whatever telekinetic aura I
generate that helps me resist
bullets and prevents my
clothes from getting torn by
them... it must be keeping the
blonde wig on my head!

That's a bit of
good luck.
Now let's see...

...if I can
make some
more!

HEY,
WATCH THE HAIR!
LEGOO OF MY--!

OOOOOFF!

WATCH OUT!
LOW BRIDGE!

Ohhh,
crud.

Now there's even more
of them. And they're
gonna trash this place
if this keeps up.

FLOOR
117



Well, that was simple. Now let's see if I can stay one step ahead of 'em.

I already know that I can't fly; just leap about an eighth of a mile. Which means I also fall an eighth of a mile... and I'm not too thrilled about that.

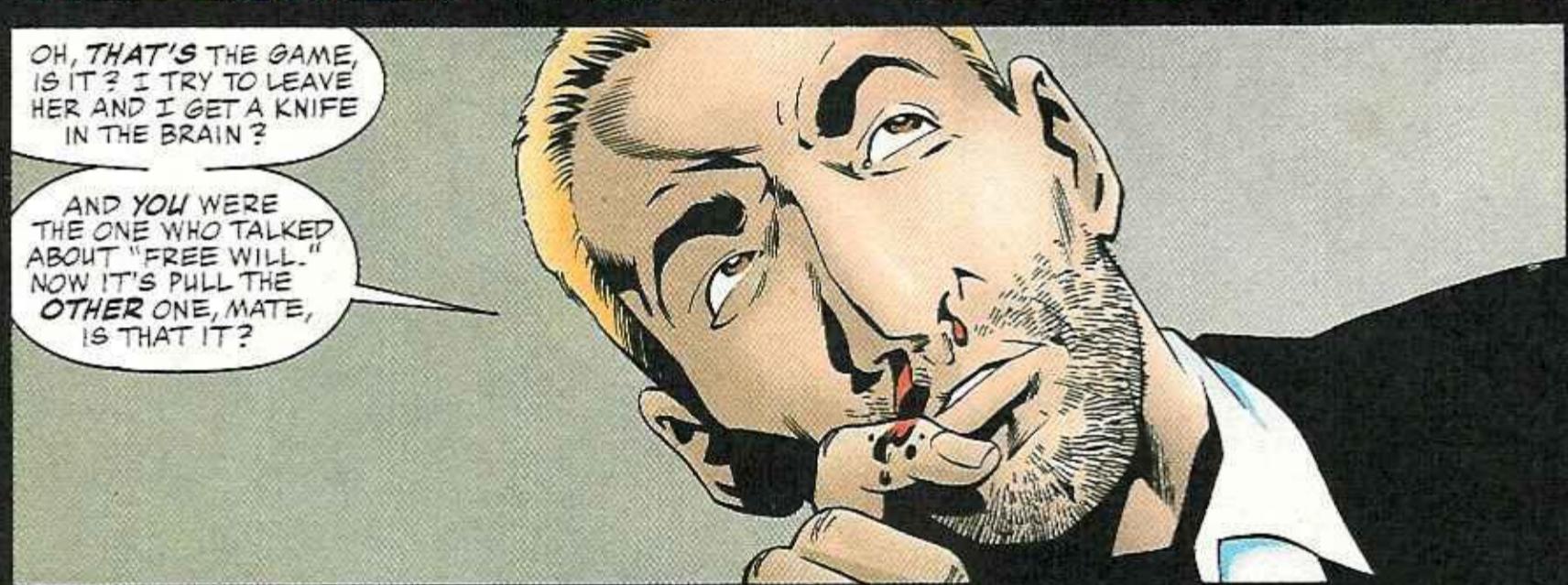
Still, I'm reasonably invulnerable. A fall shouldn't hurt too much... and there's no time like the present...



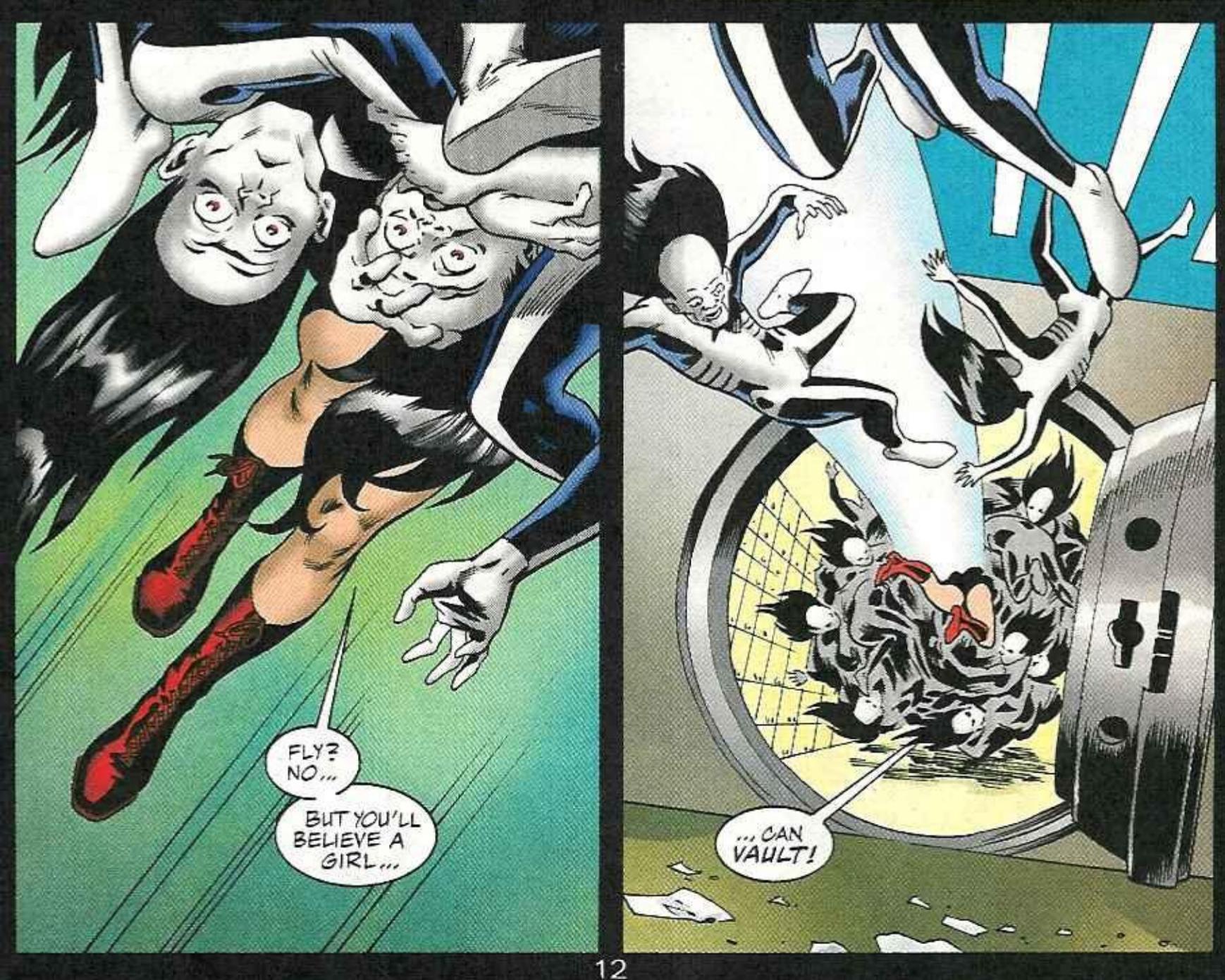
C'MON, BOYS! ARE WE GONNA LET HER GET AWAY WITH THAT?!

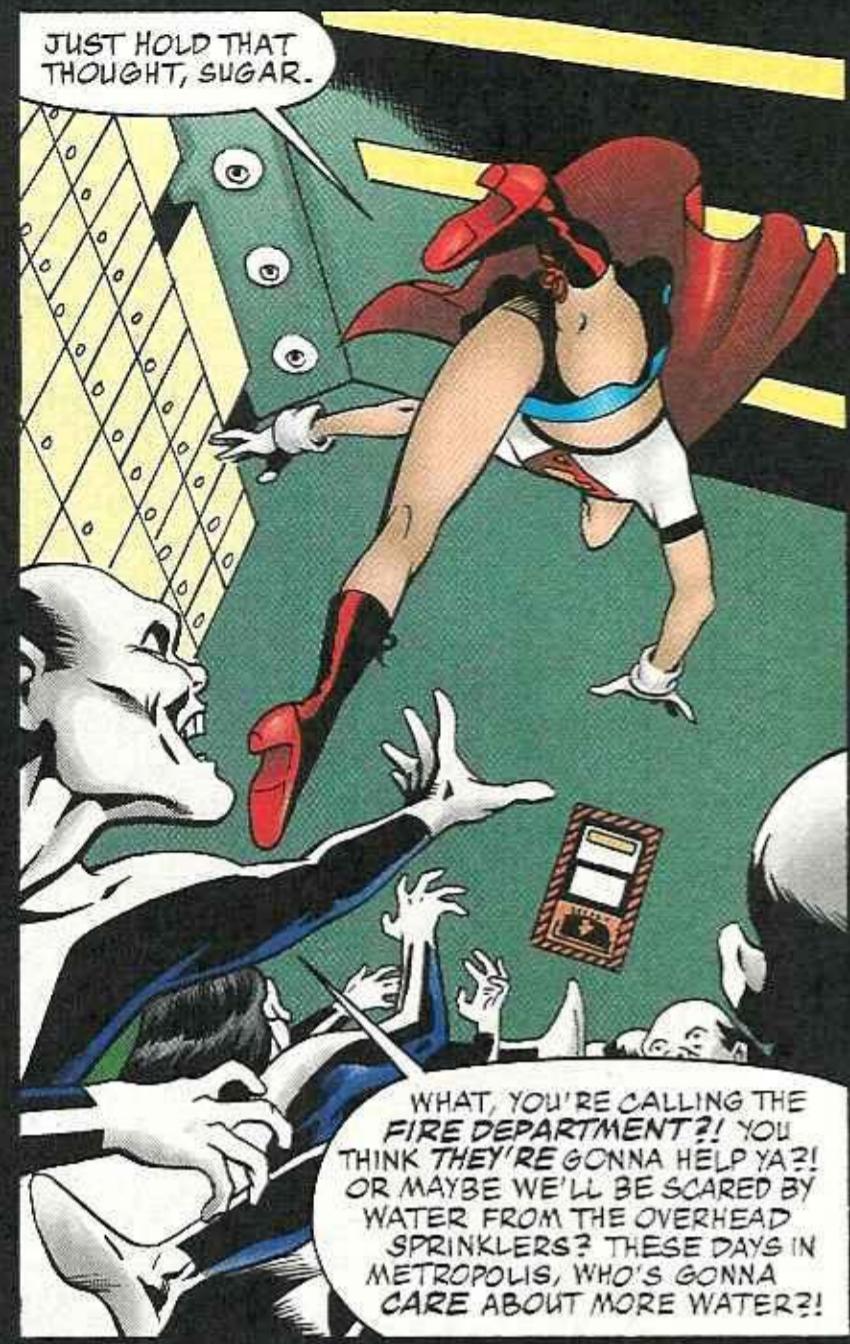
HELL, NO! SHE WON'T GO!















Please let this work... I don't know how much of a jolt that armor can take. Hopefully it'll short out some systems, at least, and since it's not really his, he won't know how to adapt.



Either that or come up with something else, Linda, 'cause I'm really not sure that you can go toe-to-toe with--

Ohhh, crud.

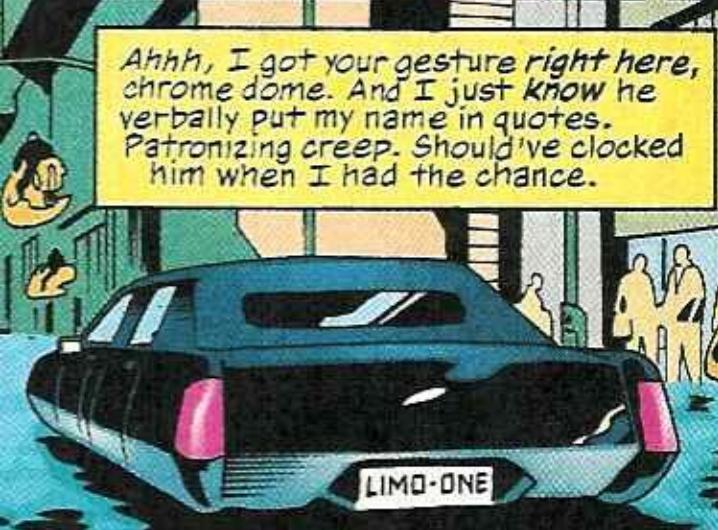
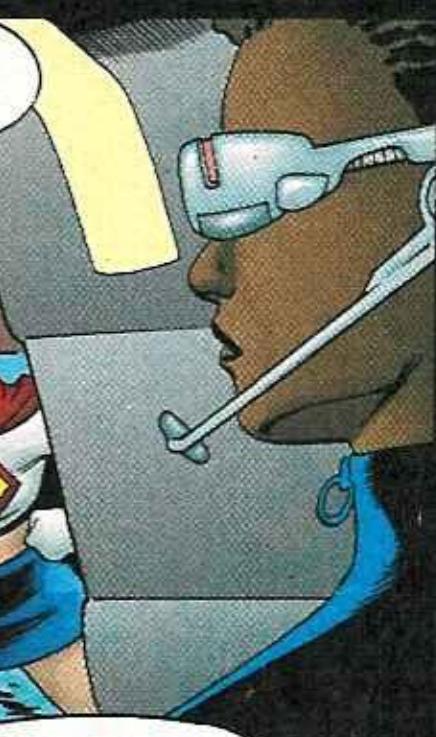
I... FELT THAT, YOU LITTLE BIMBO.

YOU'LL FEEL THESE, THEN, EVEN MORE.

WHAT IN THE--?!



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NANCY, I HAVE TO SAY,
YOU'RE BEING LESS THAN
COOPERATIVE. I'M LOOKING
FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, DREAMS,
ASPIRATIONS. INSTEAD, I'M
GETTING SNIFFLING,
SOBBING, CURSING...

WHERE'S YOUR
INTEREST IN SCIENCE?
IN DISCOVERING THE
INNER WORKINGS OF THE
HUMAN MIND? OR IS
THAT INTEREST ONLY
PRESENT...

AWWW,
C'MON, DOCTOR
PERKINS! NANCY...
CAN I CALL YOU
NANCY?

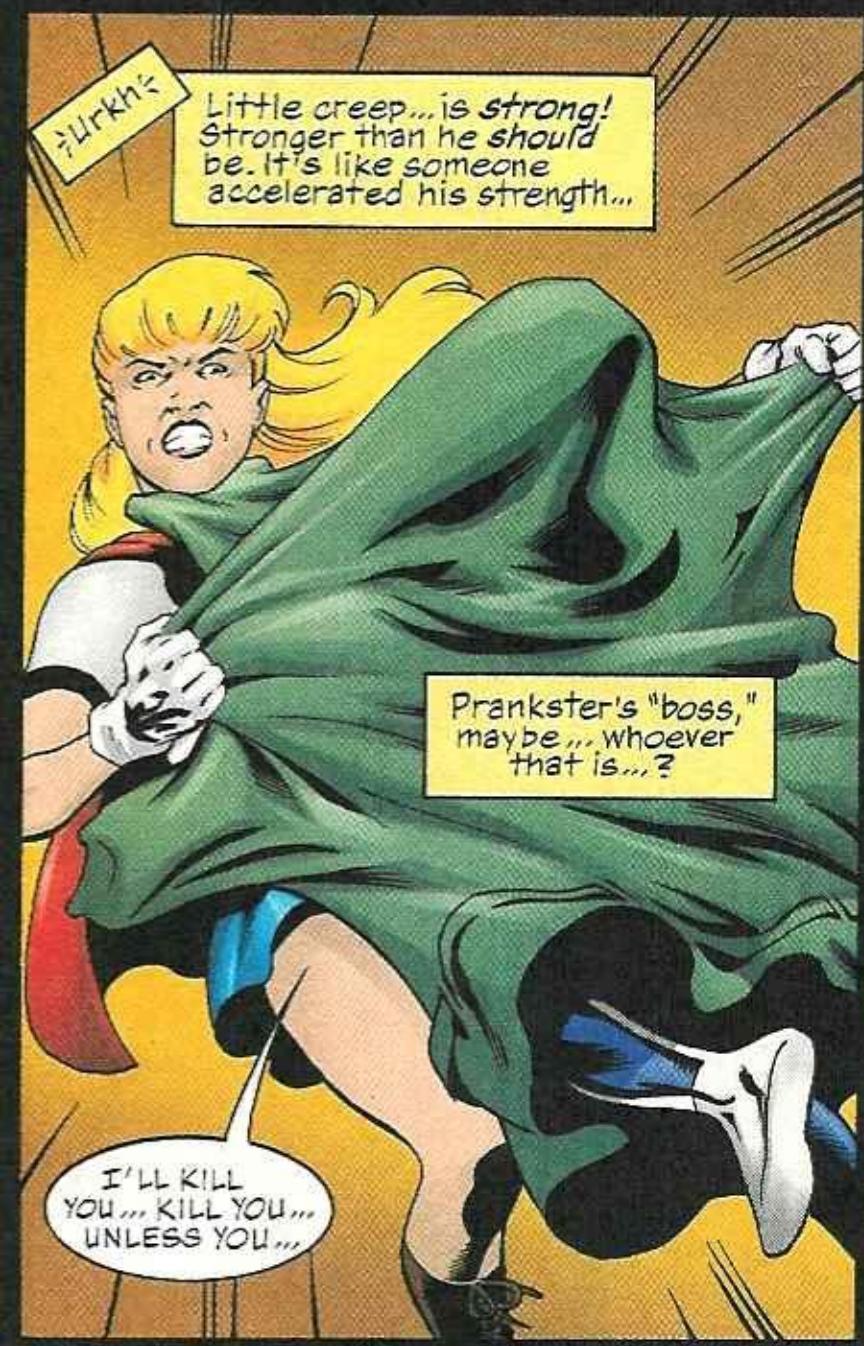
...WHEN IT'S SOME
OTHER HUMAN'S MIND
BEING STUDIED? MINE,
FOR INSTANCE?

YEH... YOU'RE NOT...
NOT HUMAN. YOU'RE A
MONSTER... IN HUMAN
FORM...

NOW, NOW...
IS THAT ANY
WAY FOR A
HEALER TO
TALK? WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO WITH
YOU?

YOU KNOW, FOR YEARS
MEN HAVE TRIED TO FIGURE
OUT HOW A WOMAN THINKS,
OR EVEN IF SHE THINKS. WE'VE
TRIED TO GET INSIDE A WOMAN'S
HEAD, ONCE AND FOR ALL, SO
WE CAN FINALLY KNOW WHAT
THE HELL IT IS YOU WANT. SO,
Y'KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA
DO, DOC...?

I'M GONNA
CUT TO THE
CHASE.



SPLOOSH

Fallen angels who
want to displace
God... psychos with
mother issues...
reincarnated witches...

From now on, I'm
just chasing down
jaywalkers.

WHO'S THAT?! DON'T...
DON'T HURT ME!
DON'T--

YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

R-RIOT! I
HEARD SOMEONE
SMASH IN HERE,
AND THEY WERE
FIGHTING,
AND--

ALL RIGHT,
RIOT. IT'S--

DON'T
WORRY...

I KNOW.
I HEAR
SPLASHING
NEXT DOOR.
I'LL BE
RIGHT BACK.

--OVER?

LEMME GUESS: YOU HAPPENED TO
STOP BY THE DAILY PLANET... THEY INFORMED
YOU RIOT HAD BEEN SPOTTED... BUT HE
WASN'T REPORTED MISSING... SO YOU
FIGURED YOU'D CHECK...

YOU...?



Hi, everyone. Mike McAvannie here, pinch-hitting for Maureen McGuire this month. Let's check out your comments on SUPERGIRL #48, which easily made for one of our most powerful issues...

Dear Editor
(re SUPERGIRL #48):

Got to give Buzz credit. The Carnivore tracks him down, threatens him, tells Buzz to stay out of the way, and what does Buzz do next? He goes to warn Fred Danvers. It had always seemed ambiguous, whether Buzz was on the side of...well, the demons or the angels, and now we see his position more clearly.

It's difficult to determine Supergirl's culpability this issue. Smith died, sure, but Supergirl didn't physically kill him, only contributed to his death. But if she'd been paying more attention, she could have saved him.

However, the entire thing was an elaborate setup by the Carnivore, to this very end. Is the Carnivore to blame for putting Supergirl in this position, or is Supergirl to blame for the way she reacted?

Fun to see Lex Luthor this issue, and good detail that he calls Supergirl "Matrix." But if this were the first time Supergirl's seen Lex in a long time, wouldn't the reaction have been stronger? And doesn't Lex suspect, after meeting the Carnivore and watching Supergirl, that she's Linda? It would be interesting to see Lex start threatening the Danverses to get at Supergirl. Looking forward to next issue and SUPERGIRL #50.

BRIAN SEIDMAN
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Supergirl's fall wasn't determined by her actions in the Reverend's death, Brian; her perception of culpability and Carnivore's manipulation caused her to give herself up and fall. As for Lex, this issue shows how a blonde wig can utterly change one's features to make

them unrecognizable. Hey, look what glasses do for Clark Kent!



Dear Maureen (re SUPERGIRL #48):

I am really enjoying the direction that Peter David has taken with this book. He's given Supergirl a little more substance than she had over in the Superman books. She has a life of her own and all the problems of a normal super-hero, with a secret identity and being an angel. I love to look into her life and see how she deals with being different but the same.

It is never easy to lose someone you care about, and I think her reaction was genuine, but her actions during her rage were not in character. This is probably leading up to the end, and seems logical with what Mr. David has set up before. But this leads me to wonder what will happen after the big battle. Will she still be an angel? Will she be stripped of her link with Linda? Lots of questions. I'll just have to read on and wait for the answers. I don't think I'll be disappointed.

CRAIG DROBA
CHICAGO, ILL.

We've covered a lot of your questions over the past two issues, Craig. Tell us what you think of our answers!



Dear DC:

The whole SUPERGIRL run has been consistently great, but issue #48 completely blew my mind—hugely emotional without ever even coming close to being twee or sentimental (something that a lot of comics fall foul of). The minimal use of dialogue in most of it just heightened all that in the end... well, we saw the fall coming, but in this kind of way? Eek.

Carnivore is suddenly really threatening. The way he was written in SUPERGIRL #48 was chilling; he's not just a threat to Linda anymore, but to everyone. And the art? The page at the church is one of the best, most evocative pictures I've seen in a long, long time. It just showed the rage and sadness that Linda was feeling. And then, a couple of pages later, with the wings and horns silhouetting Supergirl...stunning.

By far and away, this issue was the very best read of this week. Hell, of this month. Maybe this year. Ye gods, I so cannot wait for next month.

LUCIEN
POSTED TO DCCOMICS.COM

Hope you feel the wait's been worth it, Lucien, and if you do, allow us to point out that you won't have to wait an entire month to see our new Supergirl in action again—just check out SUPERMAN #164, on sale next week!



Dear SUPERGIRL Team:

I just want to make two quick comments about SUPERGIRL #48. First, the art and coloring on pages 10-11 was superb. The sense of impending doom started on the bottom of page 9, and this double-page spread kicked the intensity up several dozen notches.

Second, regarding Rev. Smith's demise, I hope Supergirl won't be feeling guilty about this for too long. After all, as Leonard Kirk and Robin Riggs clearly showed us in the art on page 16, Smith was a hypocrite. He professed to all who would listen that the power of Supergirl was all that was required to heal their injuries or diseases, yet he had obviously seen a physician himself. After all, I highly doubt that the power of Supergirl includes the ability to write prescriptions for nitroglycerin pills.

Overall, this was another in a long string of excellent issues. I look forward to seeing where Peter, Leonard, Robin and the rest of the team take Supergirl in the future. And no matter where they and the character are headed, I'm planning on being along for the flight.

IVAN A. MARTIN
URBANDALE, IOWA

Thanks, Ivan, but watch your step—Supergirl can only leap about an eighth of a mile these days, and it can be a long way down!

—Mike McAvannie
Looking before I leap.

NEXT ISSUE: Art imitates life in SUPERGIRL #53...or is it the other way around for a young boy whom Linda befriends? All this plus cameos from Superman and Kyle Rayner, in thirty days!

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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Leonard Kirk, Robin Riggs and Patrick Martin brought us our new Maid of Might and Men of Steel on this month's cover!

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