DC
SUPERGIRL
47
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16
STERLING GATES
MATT CAMP
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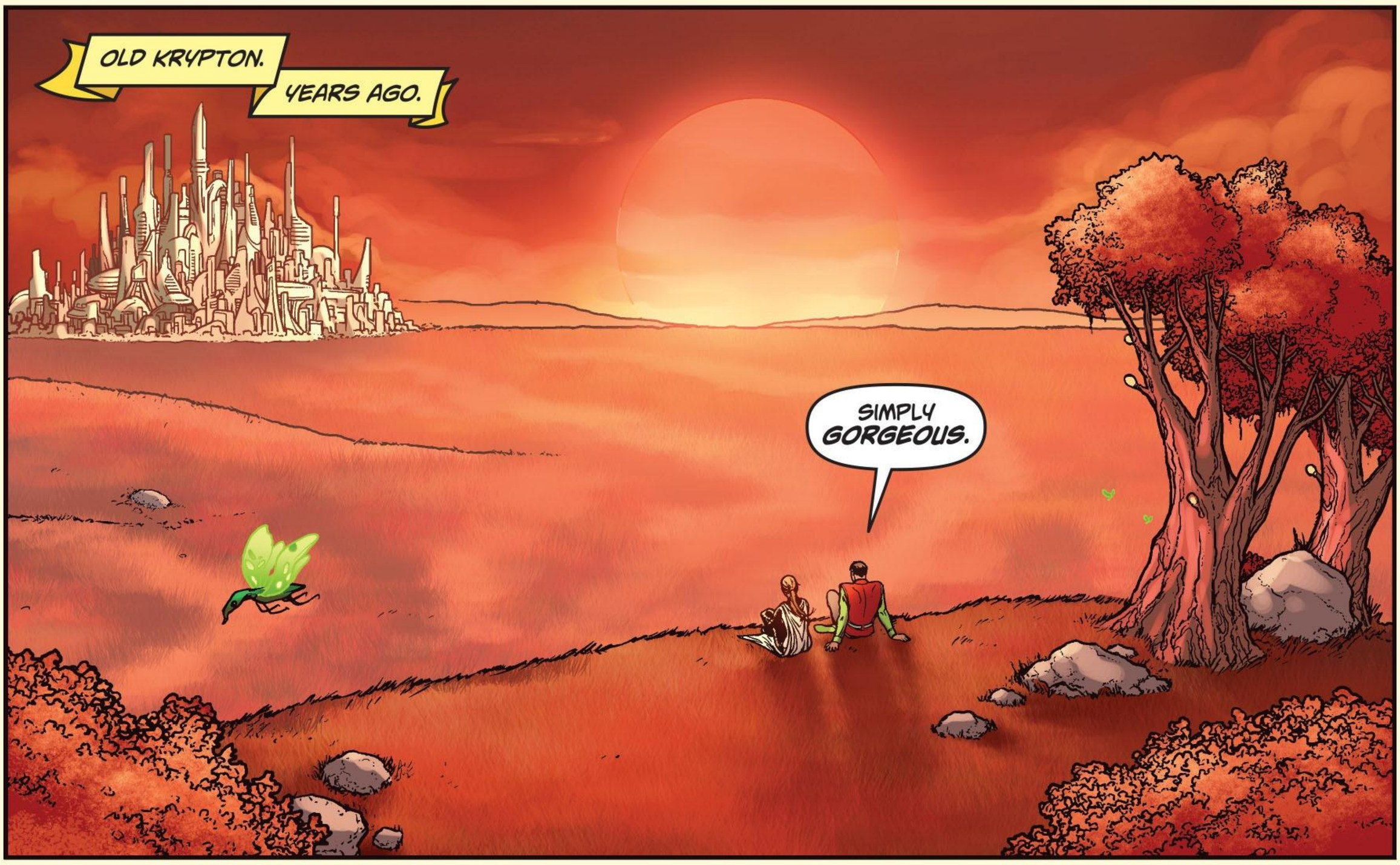

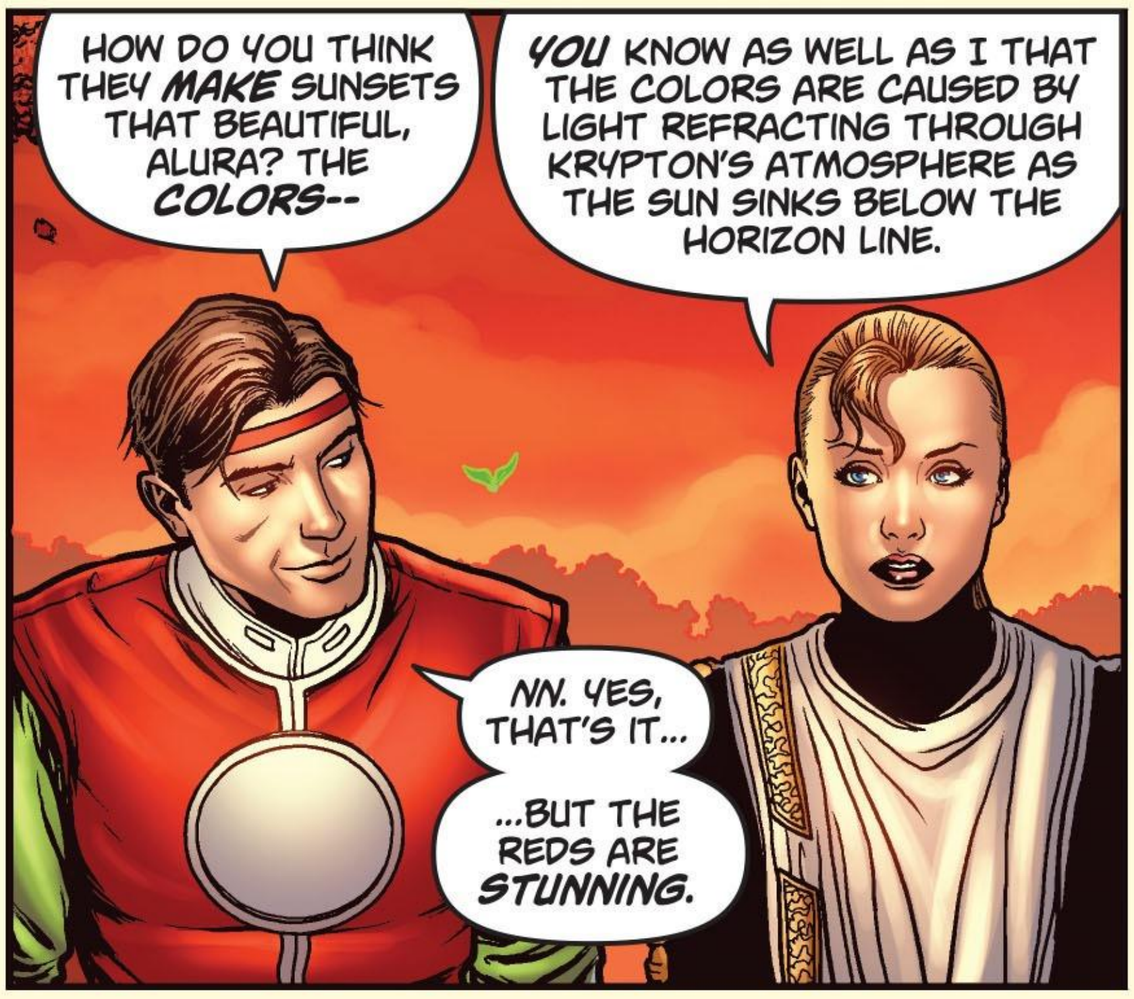

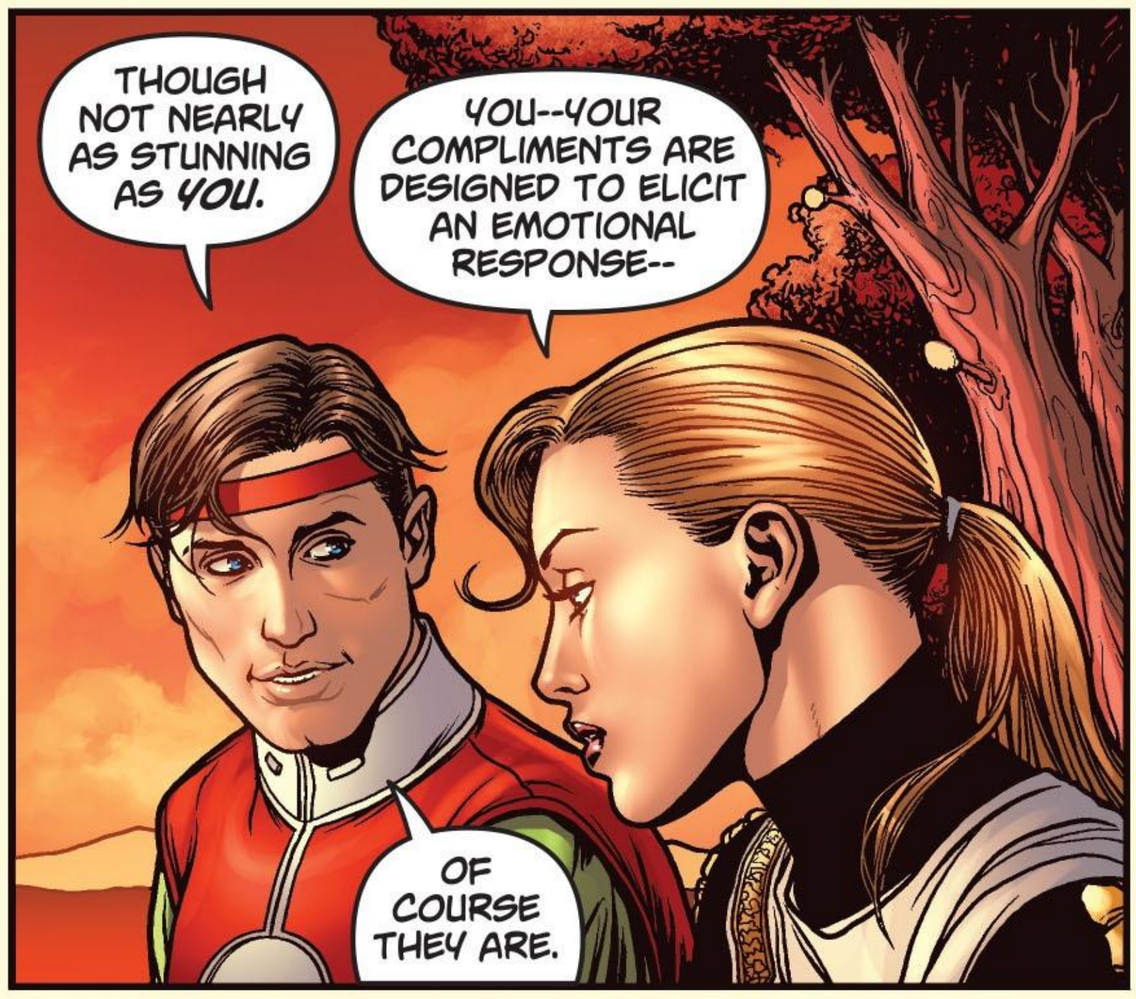

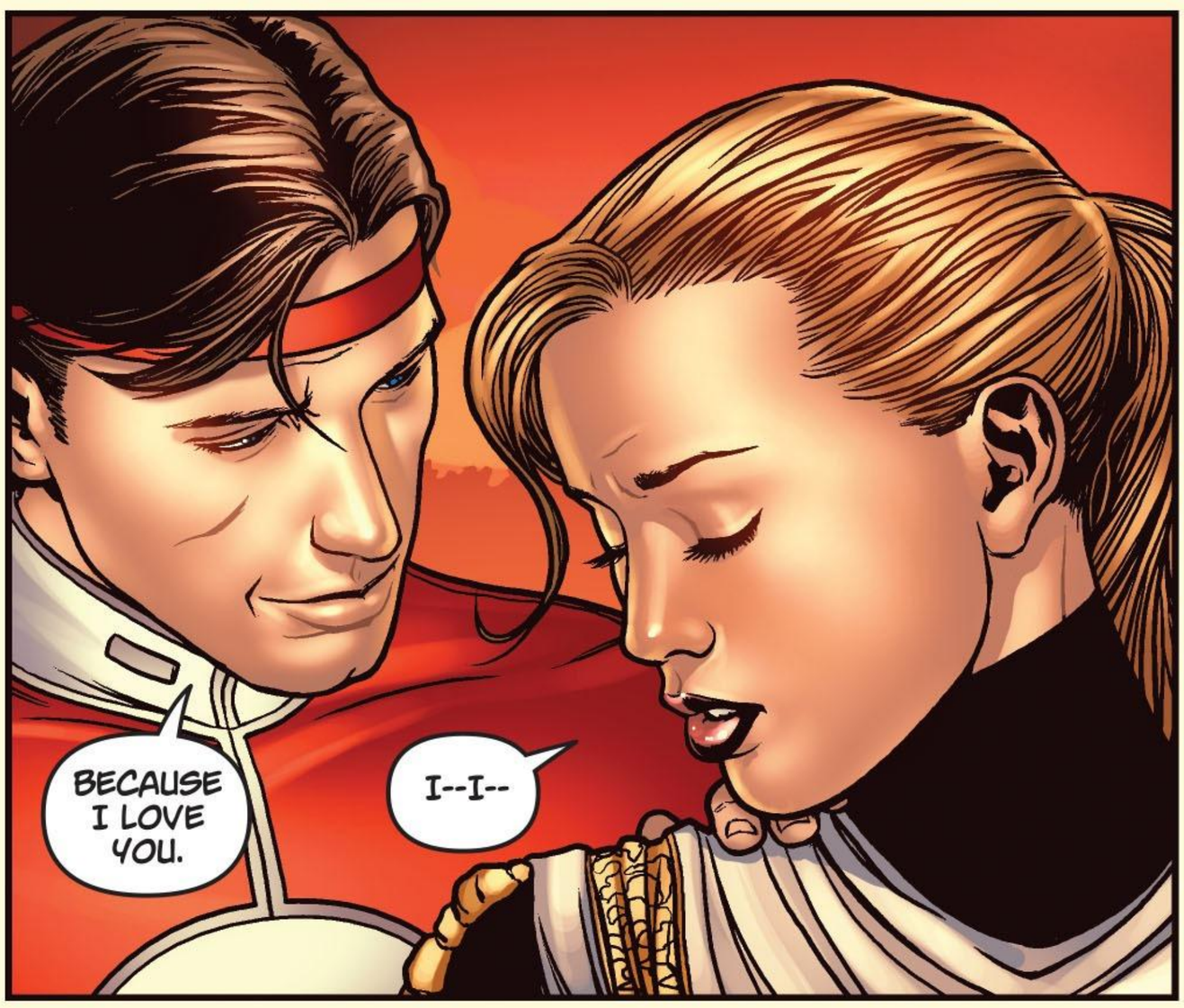

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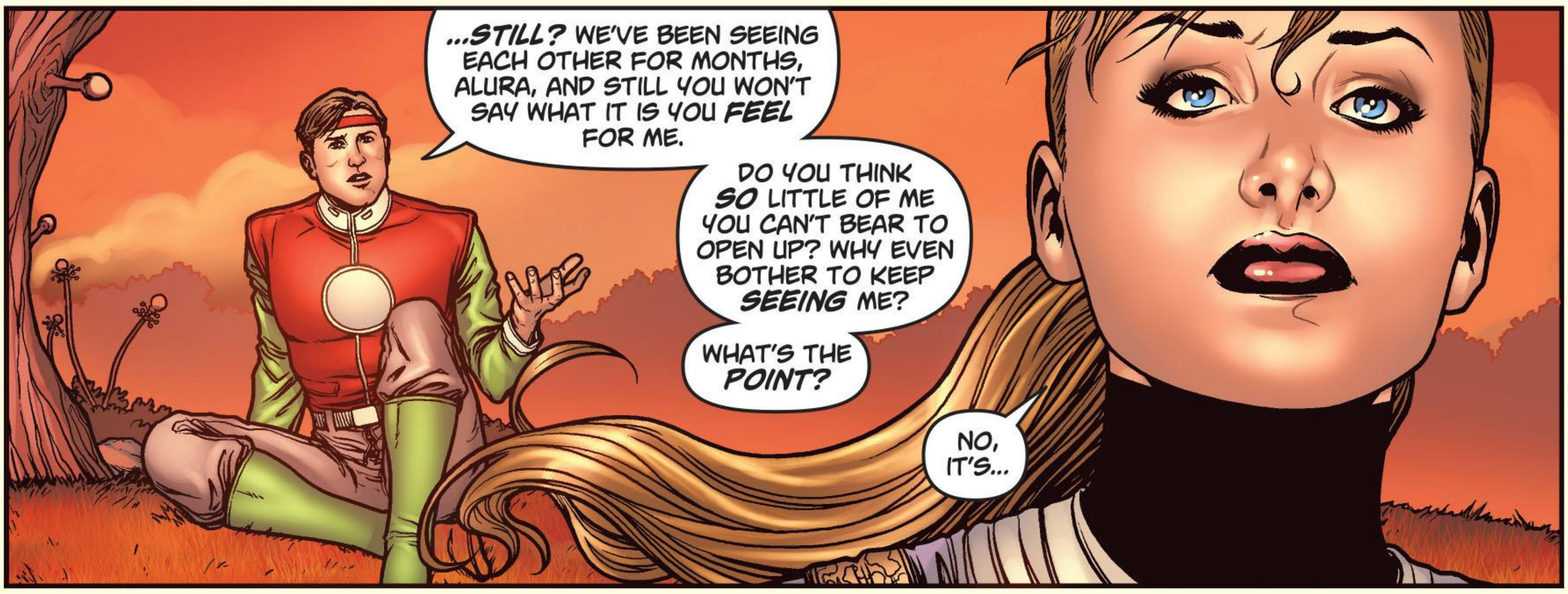
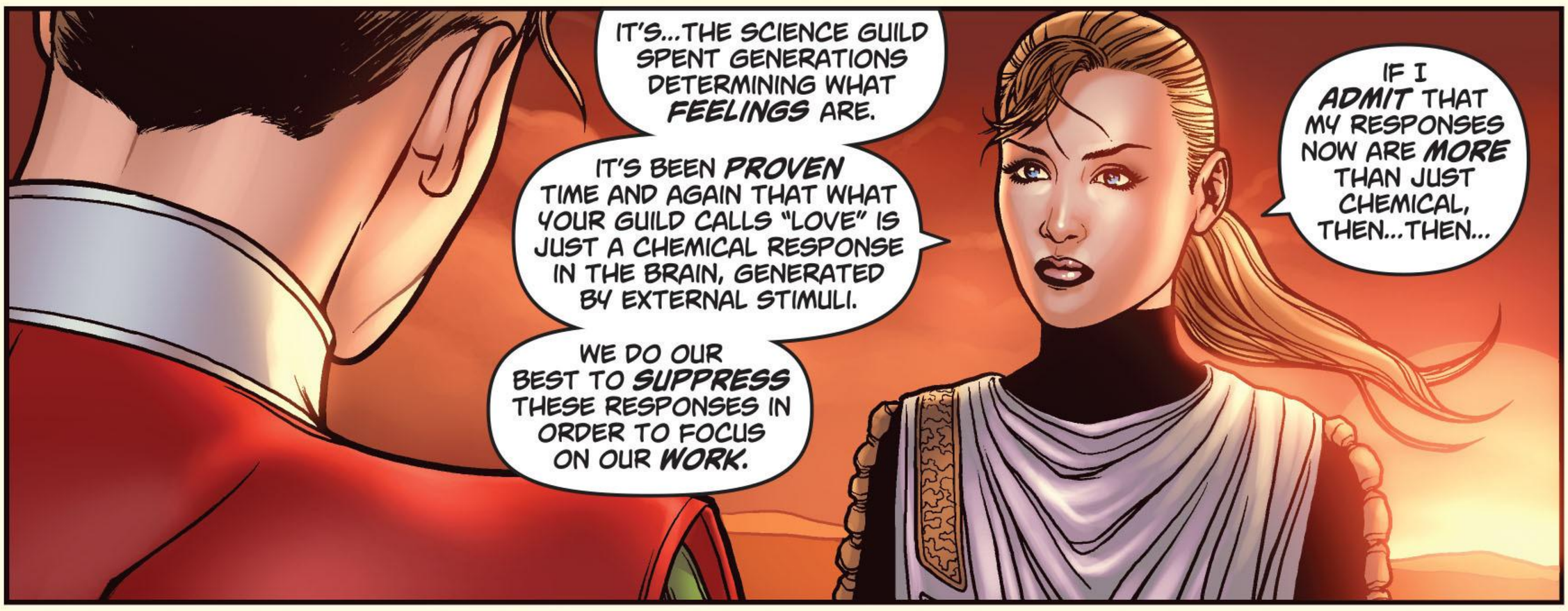
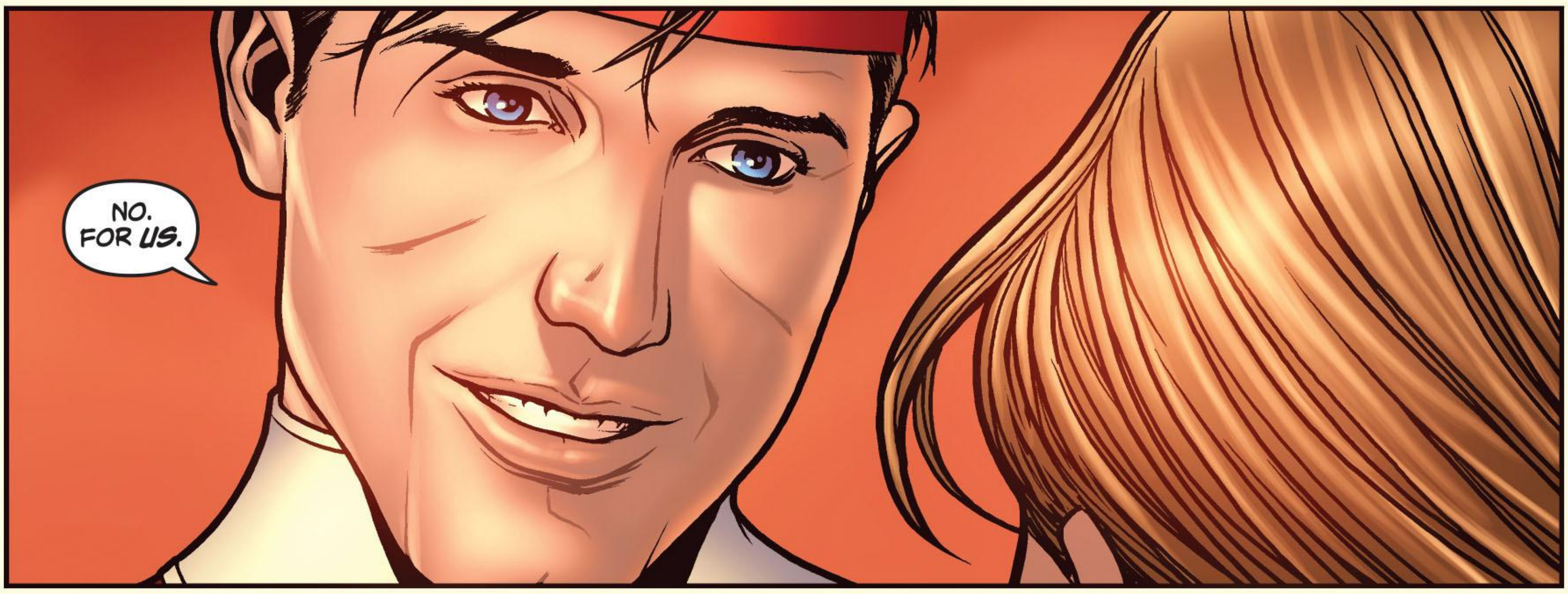
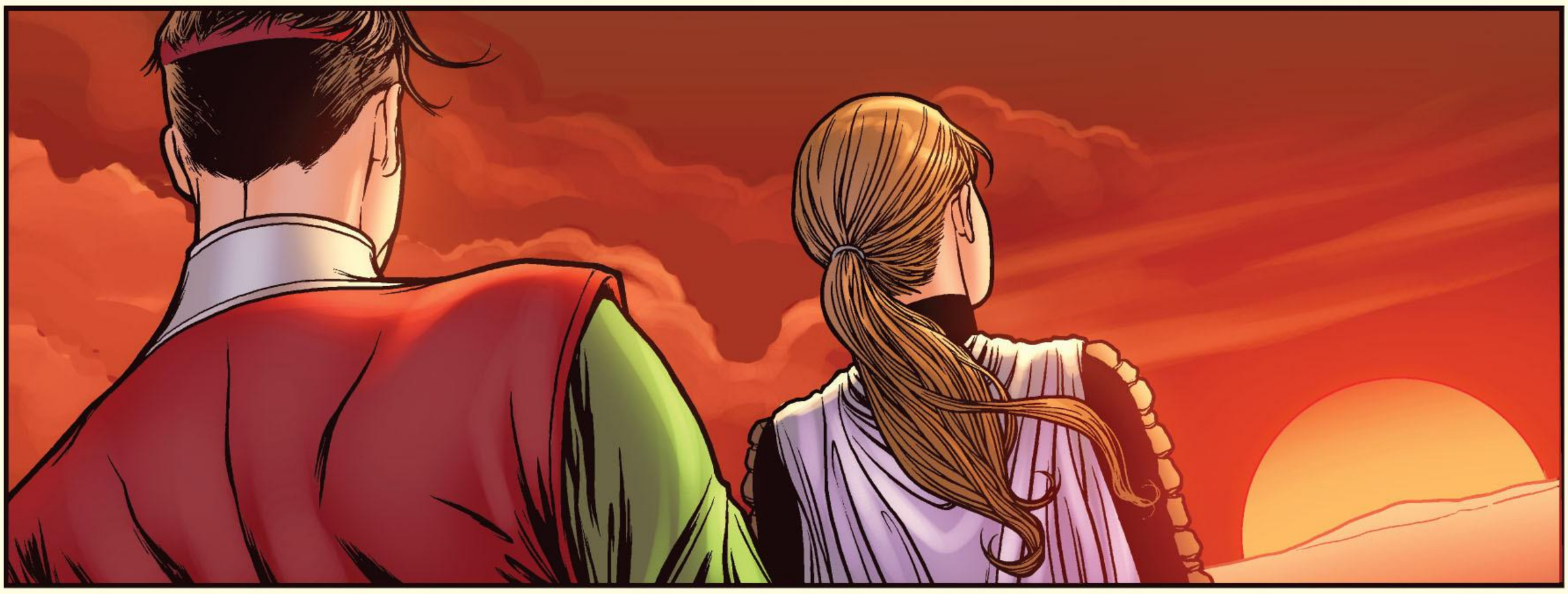
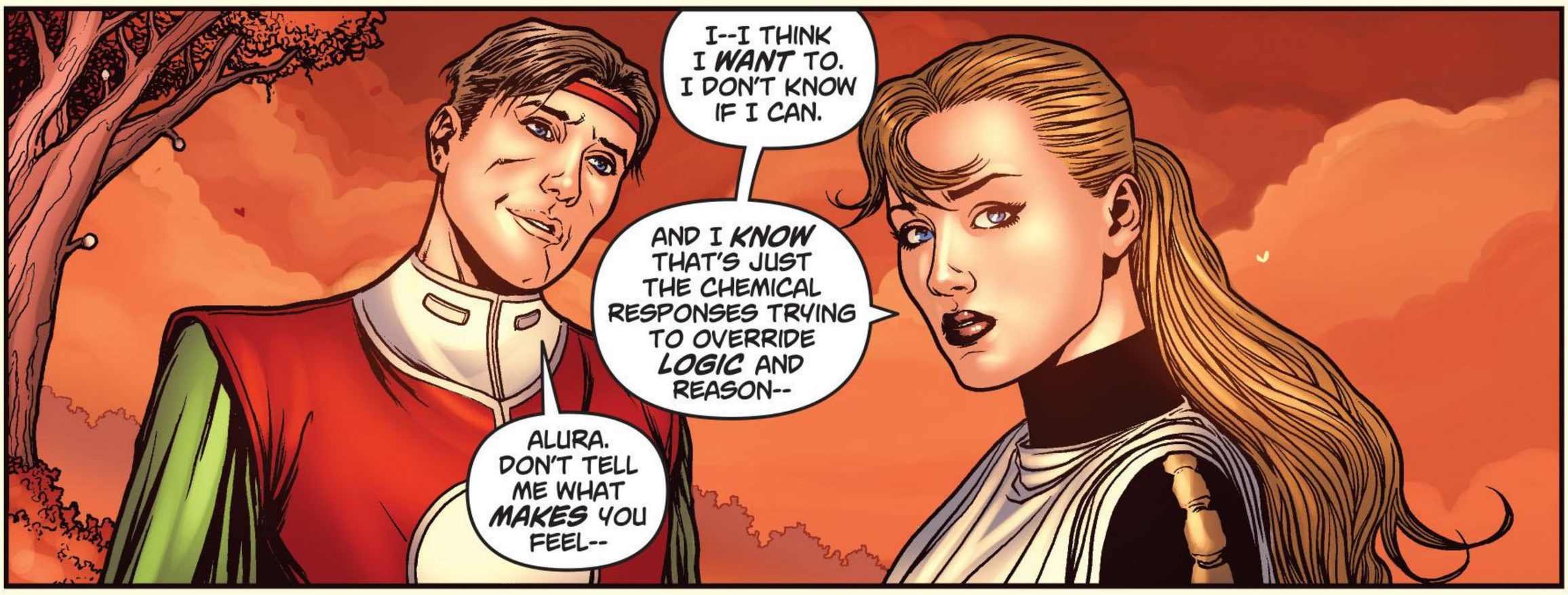

...STILL? WE'VE BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER FOR MONTHS, ALURA, AND STILL YOU WON'T SAY WHAT IT IS YOU FEEL FOR ME.
DO YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF ME YOU CAN'T BEAR TO OPEN UP? WHY EVEN BOTHER TO KEEP SEEING ME?
WHAT'S THE POINT?
NO, IT'S...

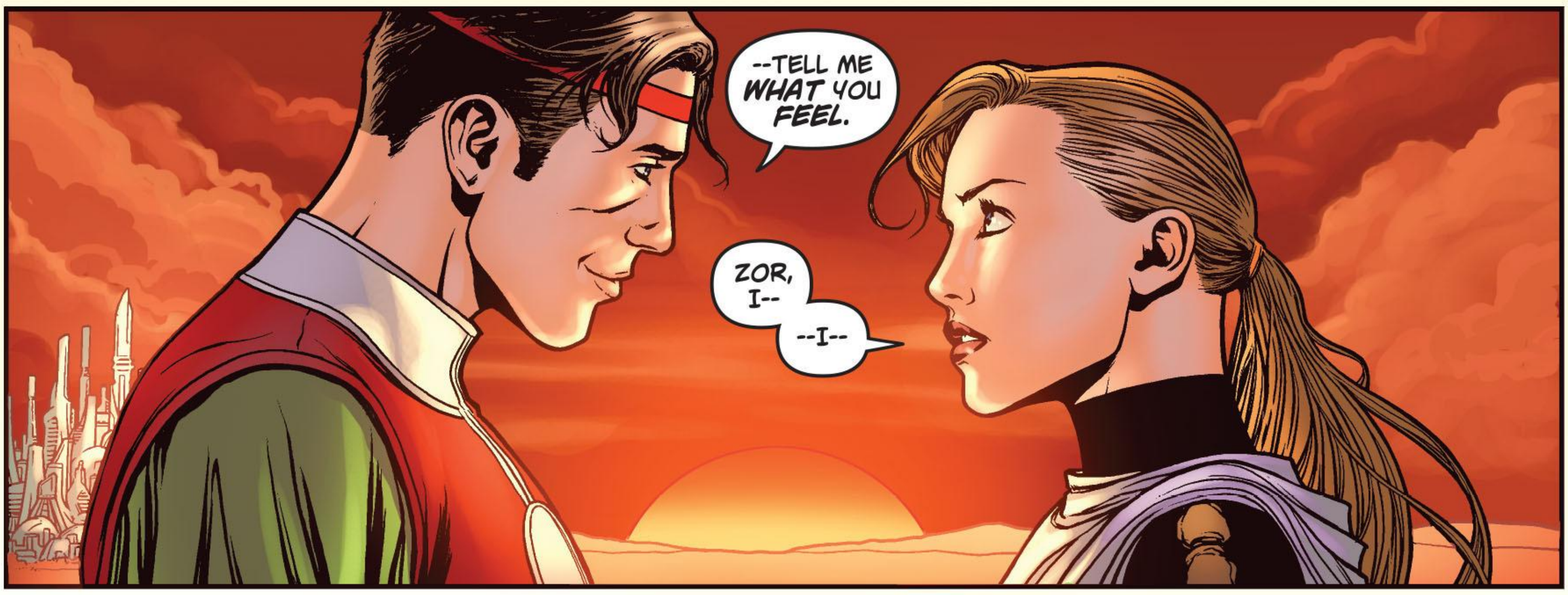

IT'S...THE SCIENCE GUILD SPENT GENERATIONS DETERMINING WHAT FEELINGS ARE.
IT'S BEEN PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN THAT WHAT YOUR GUILD CALLS "LOVE" IS JUST A CHEMICAL RESPONSE IN THE BRAIN, GENERATED BY EXTERNAL STIMULI.
WE DO OUR BEST TO SUPPRESS THESE RESPONSES IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON OUR WORK.
IF I ADMIT THAT MY RESPONSES NOW ARE MORE THAN JUST CHEMICAL, THEN...THEN...

THEN WHAT?
THEN I WILL HAVE BECOME SOMEONE DIFFERENT. CHANGED MY LIFE, MY THOUGHTS, MY WHOLE EXISTENCE COMPLETELY. FOR YOU.


NO. FOR US.




I--I THINK I *WANT* TO. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN.
AND I *KNOW* THAT'S JUST THE CHEMICAL RESPONSES TRYING TO OVERRIDE *LOGIC* AND REASON--
ALURA. DON'T TELL ME WHAT *MAKES* YOU FEEL--

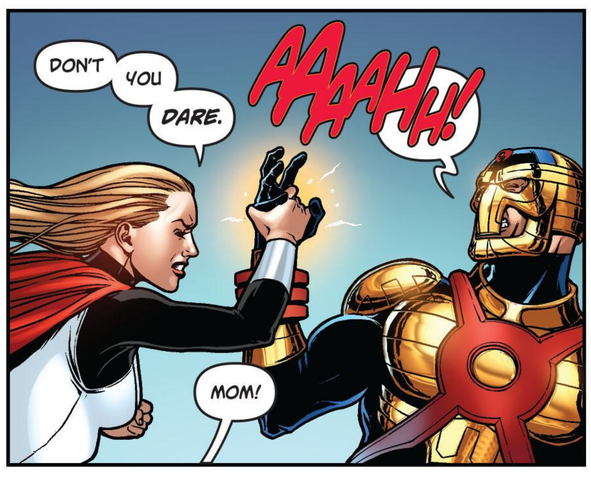

--TELL ME *WHAT* YOU *FEEL*.
ZOR, I--
--I--

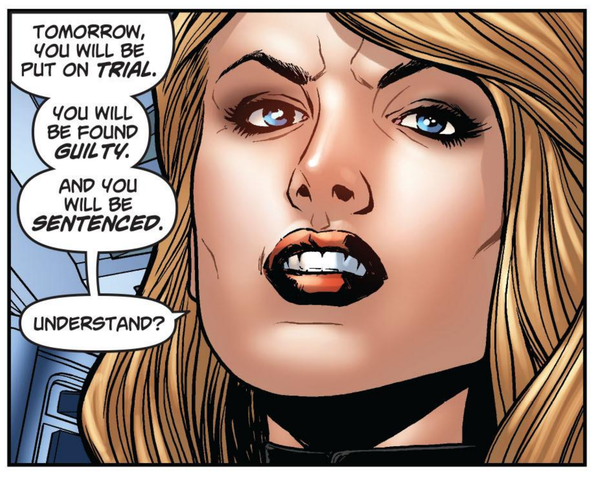
I *HATE* YOU.

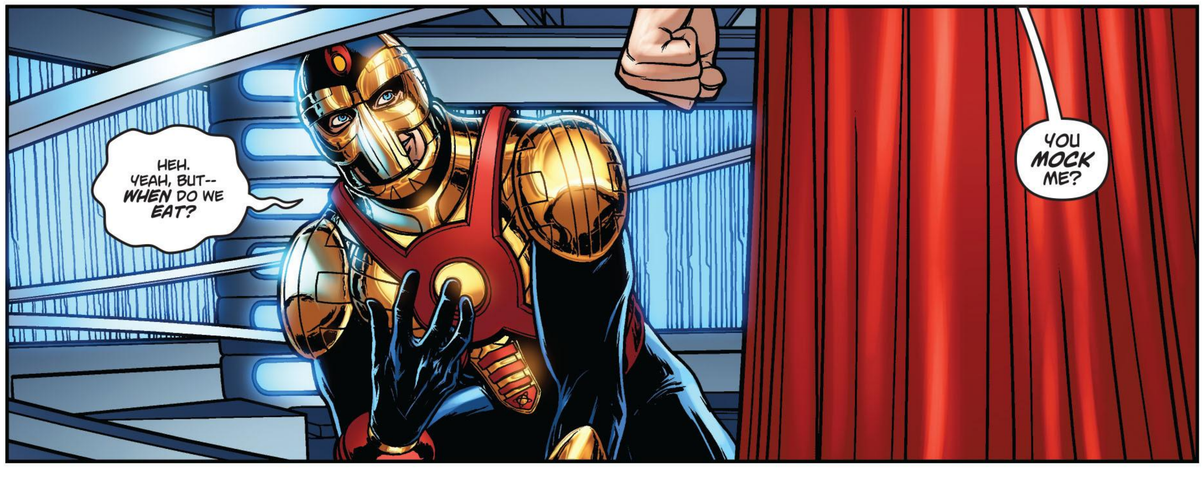
NEW KRYPTON. NOW.

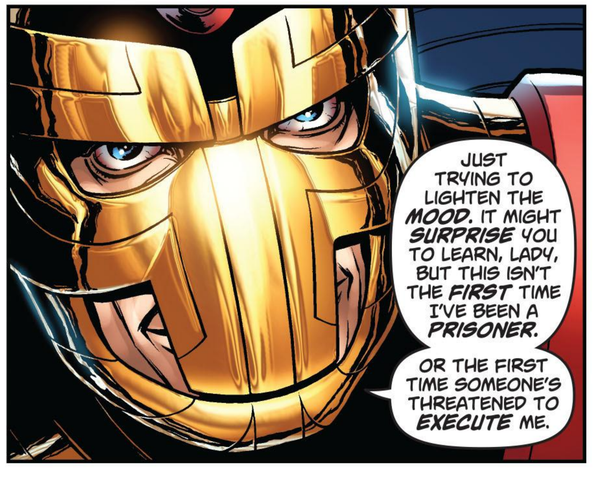
I HATE EVERY ATOM IN YOUR BODY.

MOM...

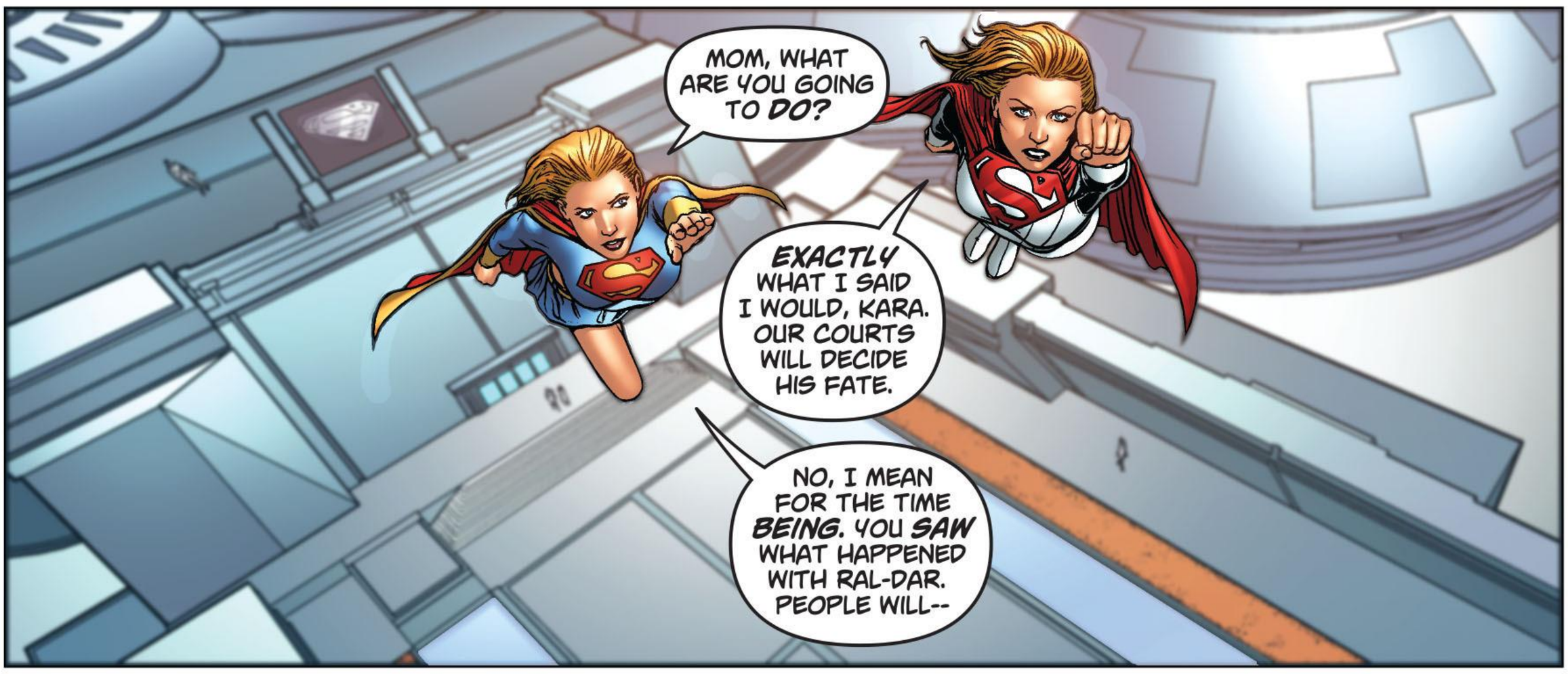


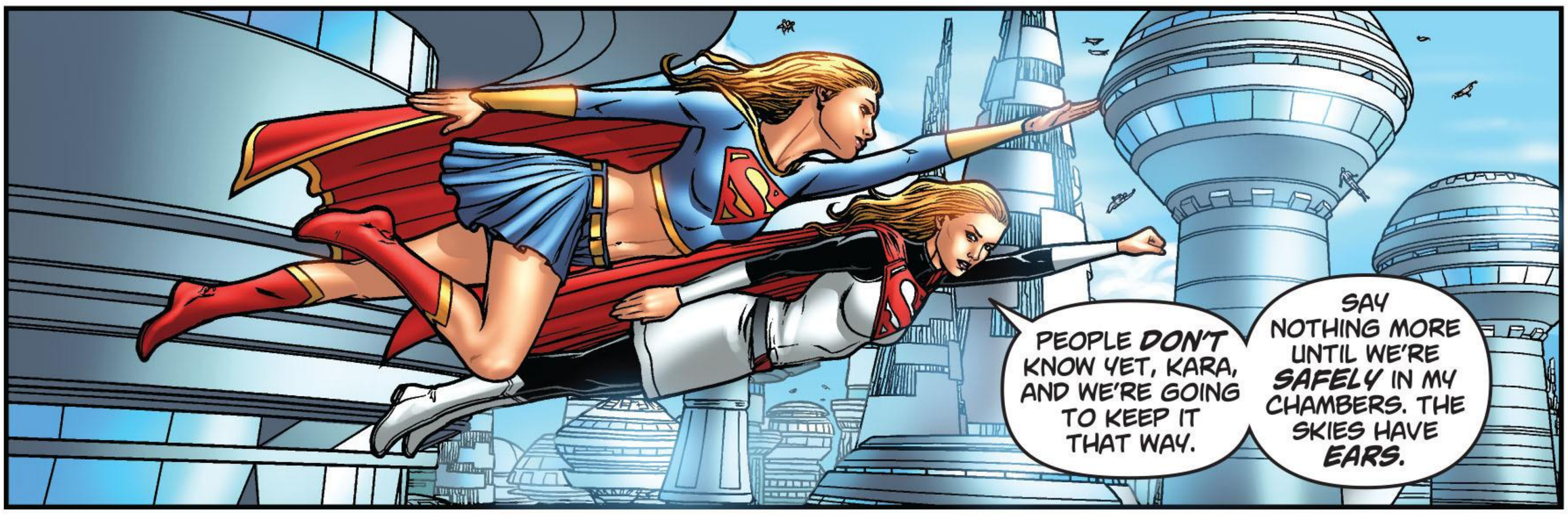


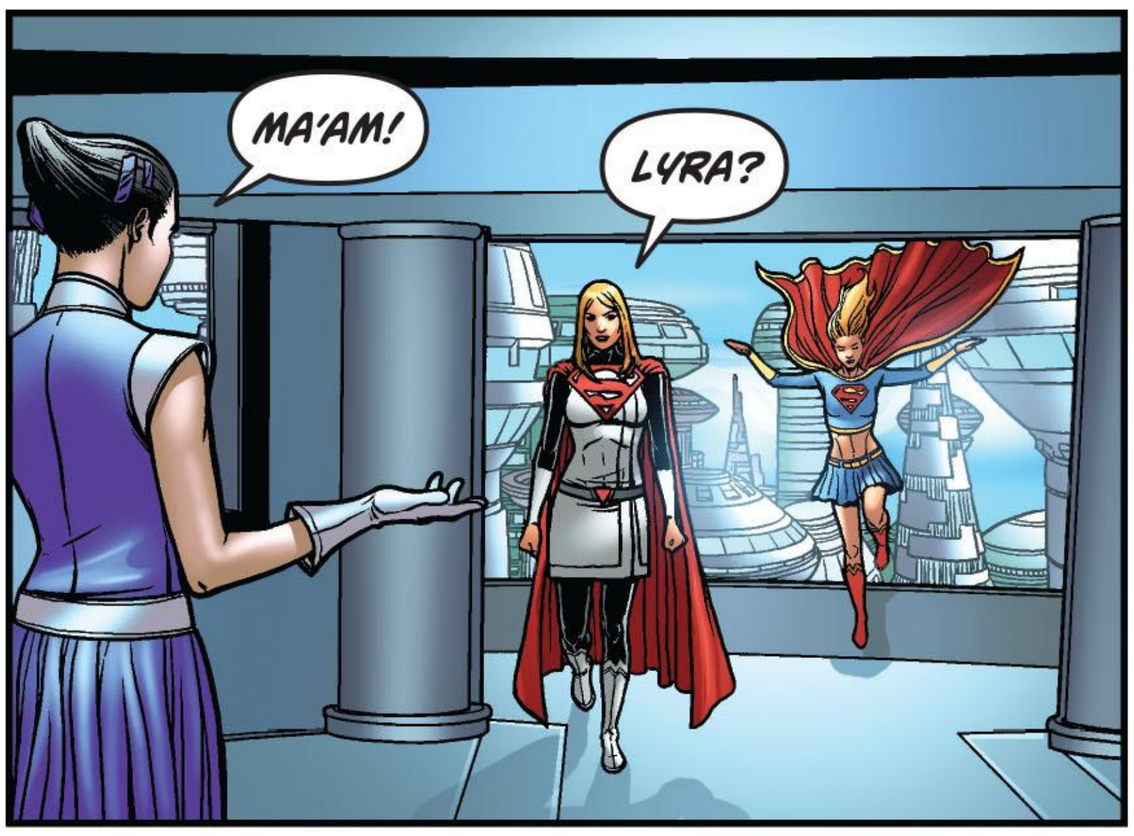


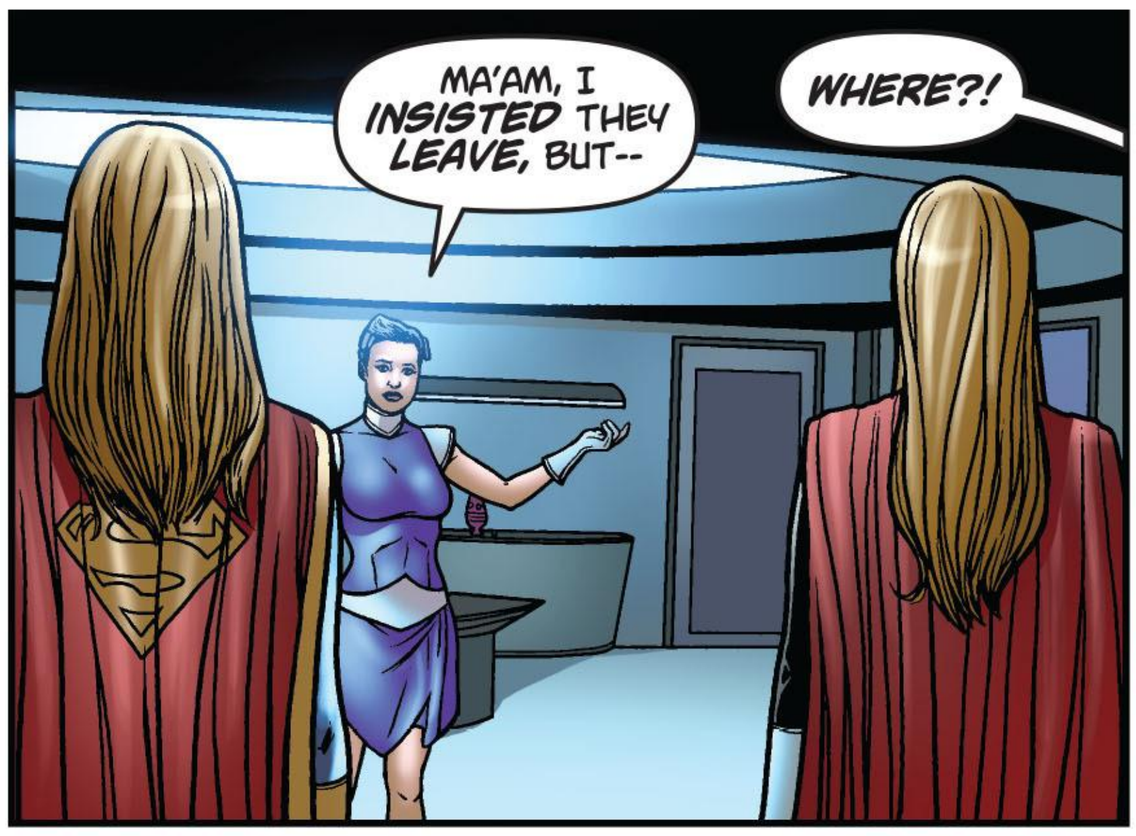


PAIN AND RESPONSIBILITY
STERLING GATES writer
MATT CAMP artist
NEI RUFFINO colorist
JARED K. FLETCHER letterer
JOSHUA MIDDLETON cover
WIL MOSS asst. editor
MATT IDELSON editor
...BUT I ASSURE YOU, IT WILL BE THE LAST.
FOLLOWING SUPERMAN'S LIBERATION OF 100,000 KRYPTONIANS FROM THE ALIEN DESPOT BRAINIAC, ZOR-EL AND ALURA WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, SUPERGIRL. ZOR-EL ASSUMED LEADERSHIP OF THE KRYPTONIAN PEOPLE, BUT A HUMAN STRIKE FORCE ASSASSINATED HIM. NOW, HIS WIDOW
ALURA
IS THE ACTING LEADER OF NEW KRYPTON

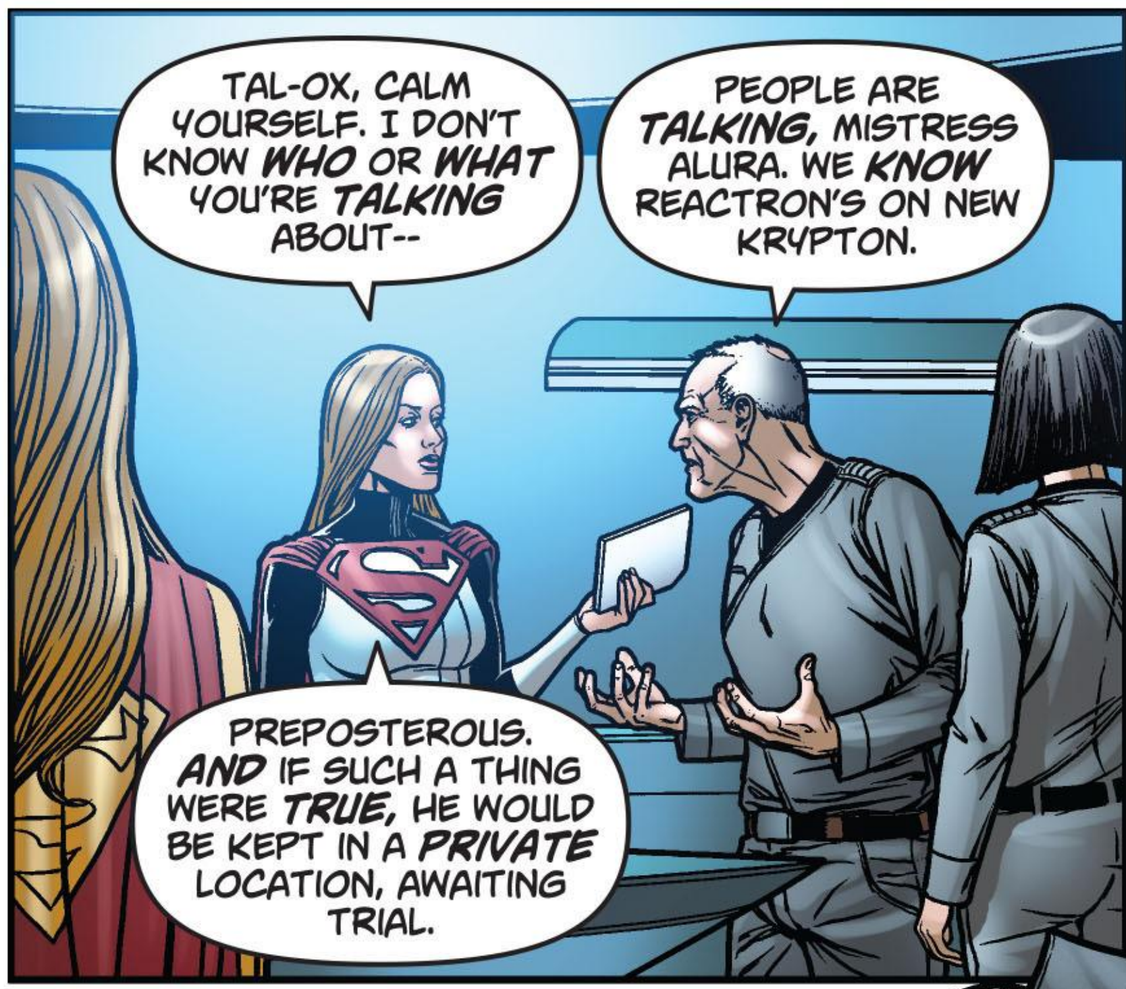

MOM, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
EXACTLY WHAT I SAID I WOULD, KARA. OUR COURTS WILL DECIDE HIS FATE.
NO, I MEAN FOR THE TIME BEING. YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED WITH RAL-DAR. PEOPLE WILL--

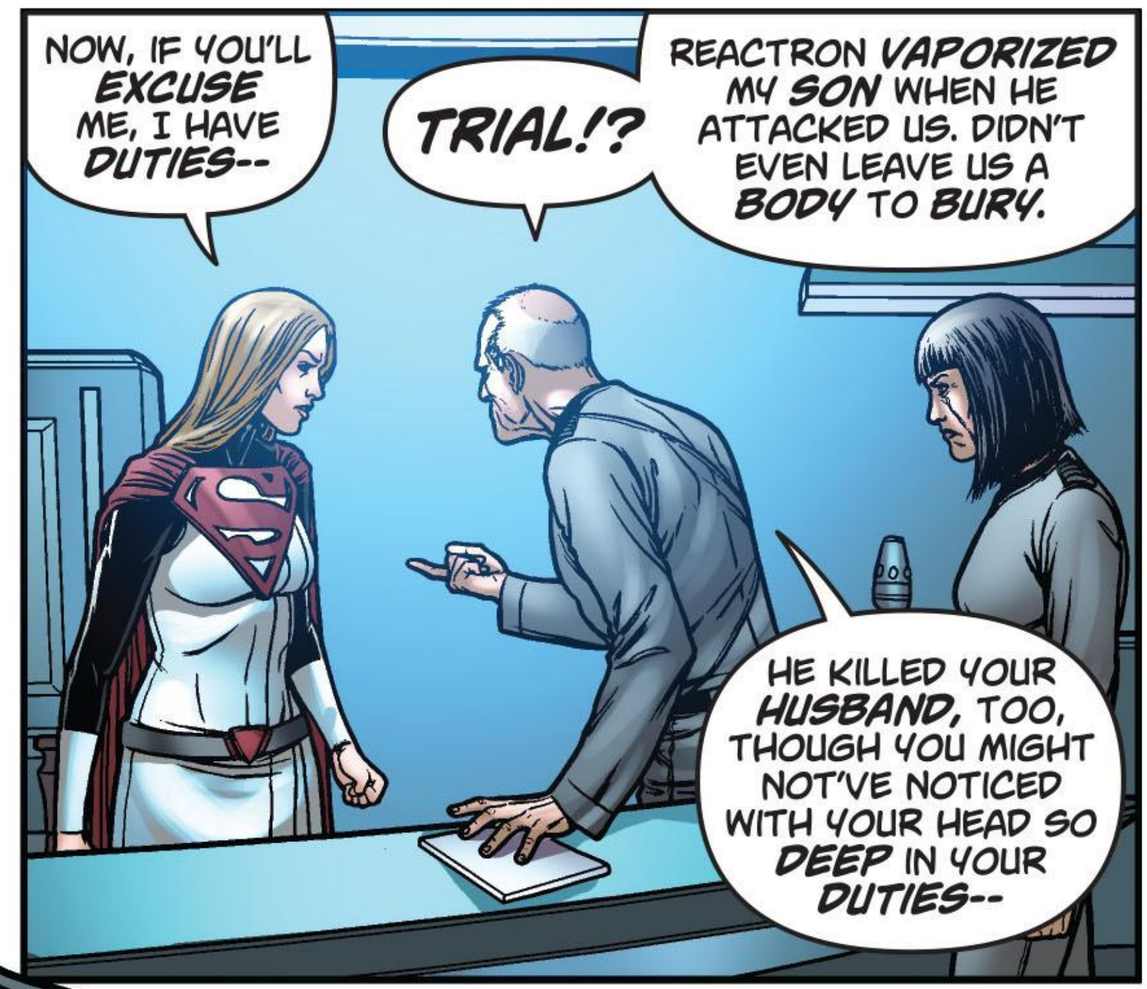

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW YET, KARA, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
SAY NOTHING MORE UNTIL WE'RE SAFELY IN MY CHAMBERS. THE SKIES HAVE EARS.


MA'AM!
LYRA?

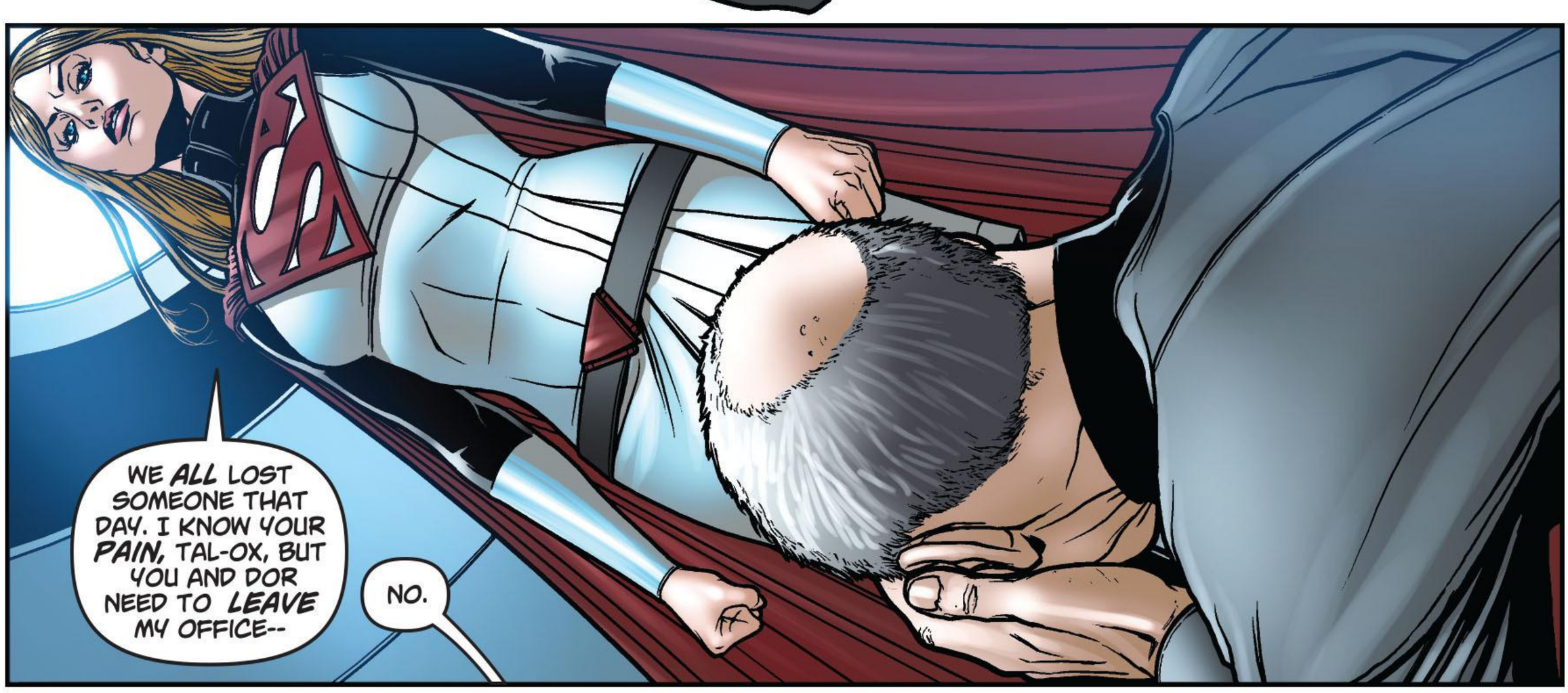

MA'AM, I INSISTED THEY LEAVE, BUT--
WHERE?!

WHERE IS THE HUMAN?

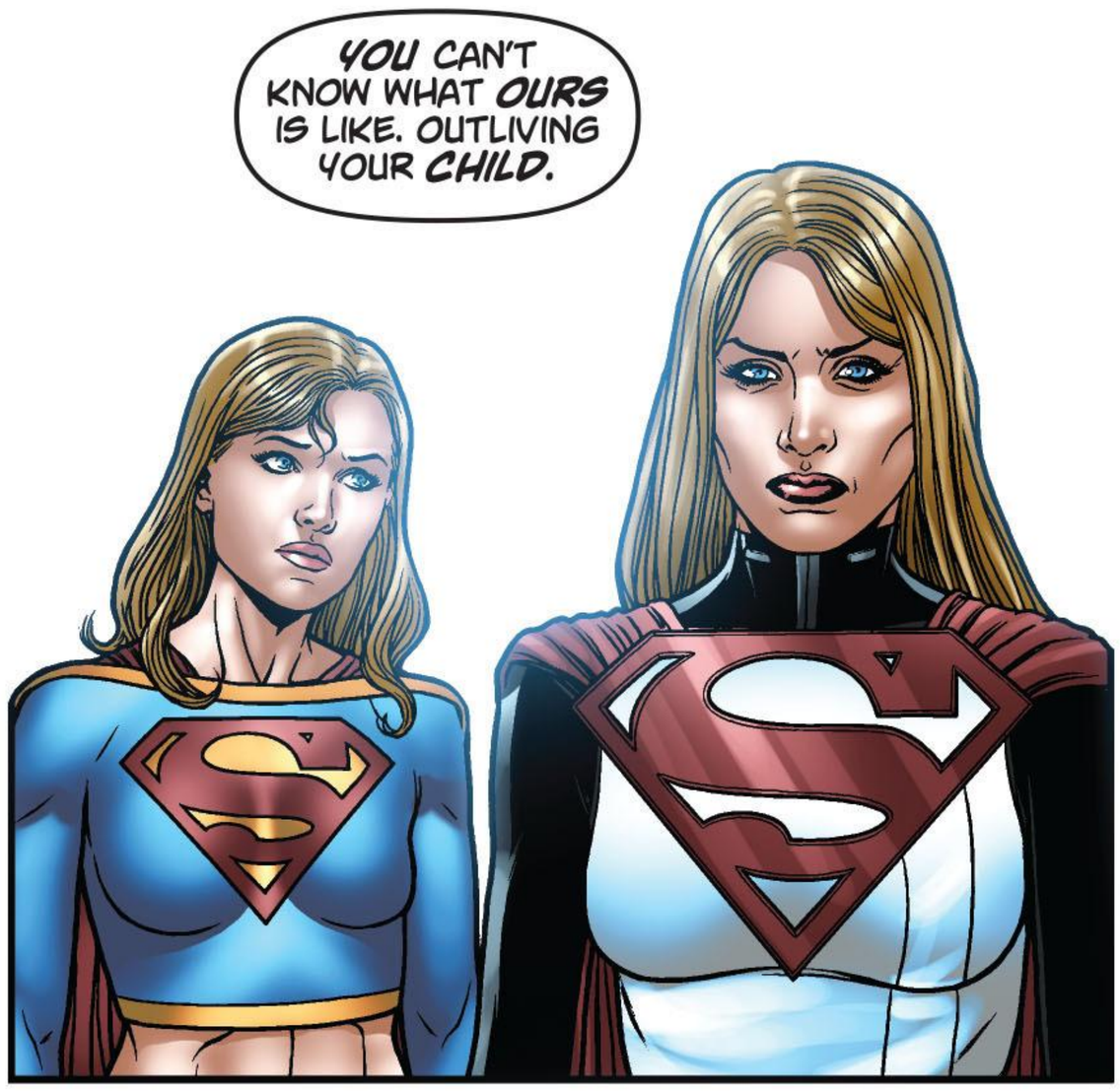

TAL-OX, CALM YOURSELF. I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--
PEOPLE ARE TALKING, MISTRESS ALURA. WE KNOW REACTRON'S ON NEW KRYPTON.
PREPOSTEROUS. AND IF SUCH A THING WERE TRUE, HE WOULD BE KEPT IN A PRIVATE LOCATION, AWAITING TRIAL.


NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE DUTIES--
TRIAL!?
REACTRON VAPORIZED MY SON WHEN HE ATTACKED US. DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE US A BODY TO BURY.
HE KILLED YOUR HUSBAND, TOO, THOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT'VE NOTICED WITH YOUR HEAD SO DEEP IN YOUR DUTIES--

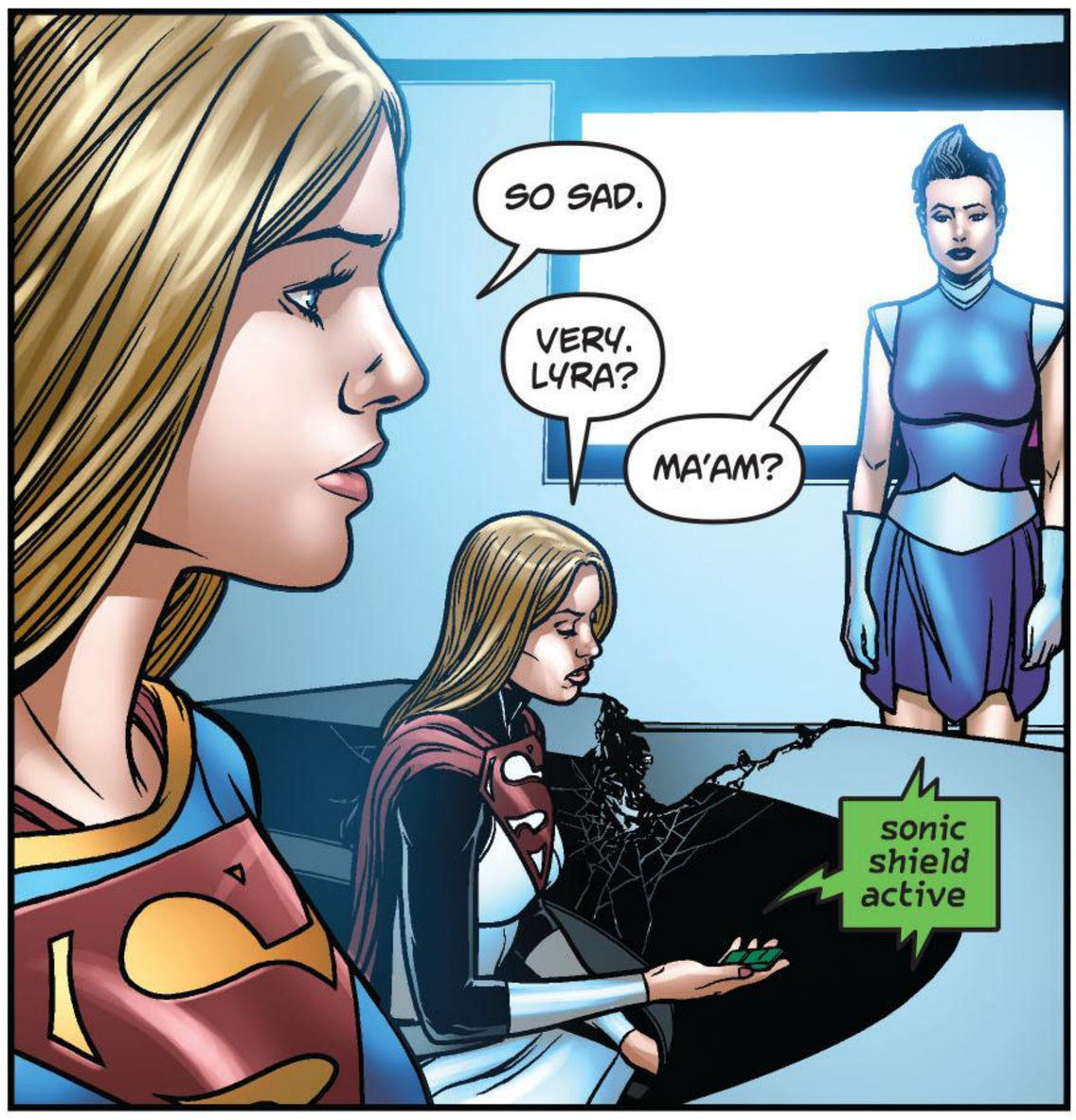
KRAK

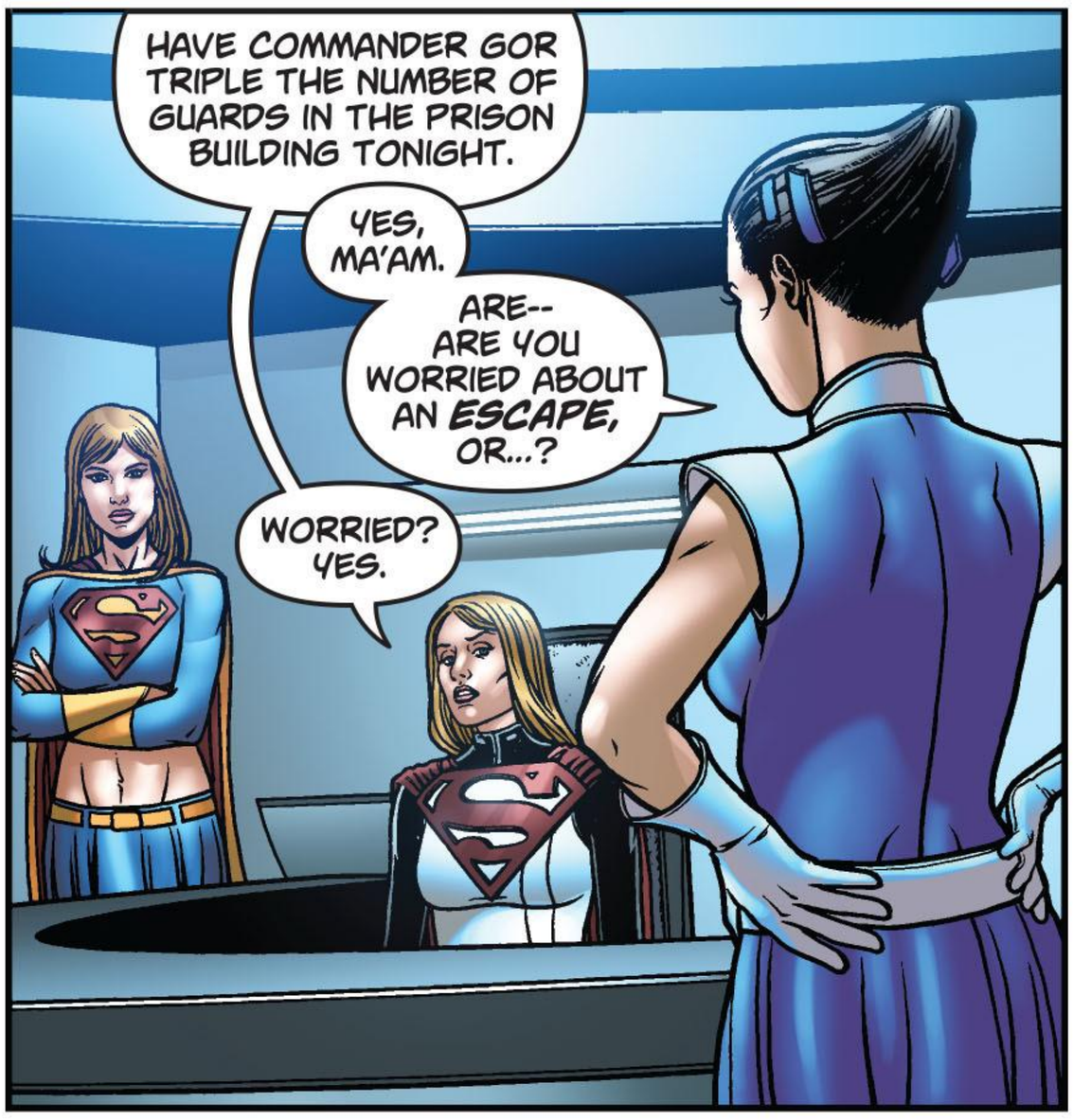

WE ALL LOST SOMEONE THAT DAY. I KNOW YOUR PAIN, TAL-OX, BUT YOU AND DOR NEED TO LEAVE MY OFFICE--
NO.

YOU HAVE MERELY A WIDOW'S PAIN.

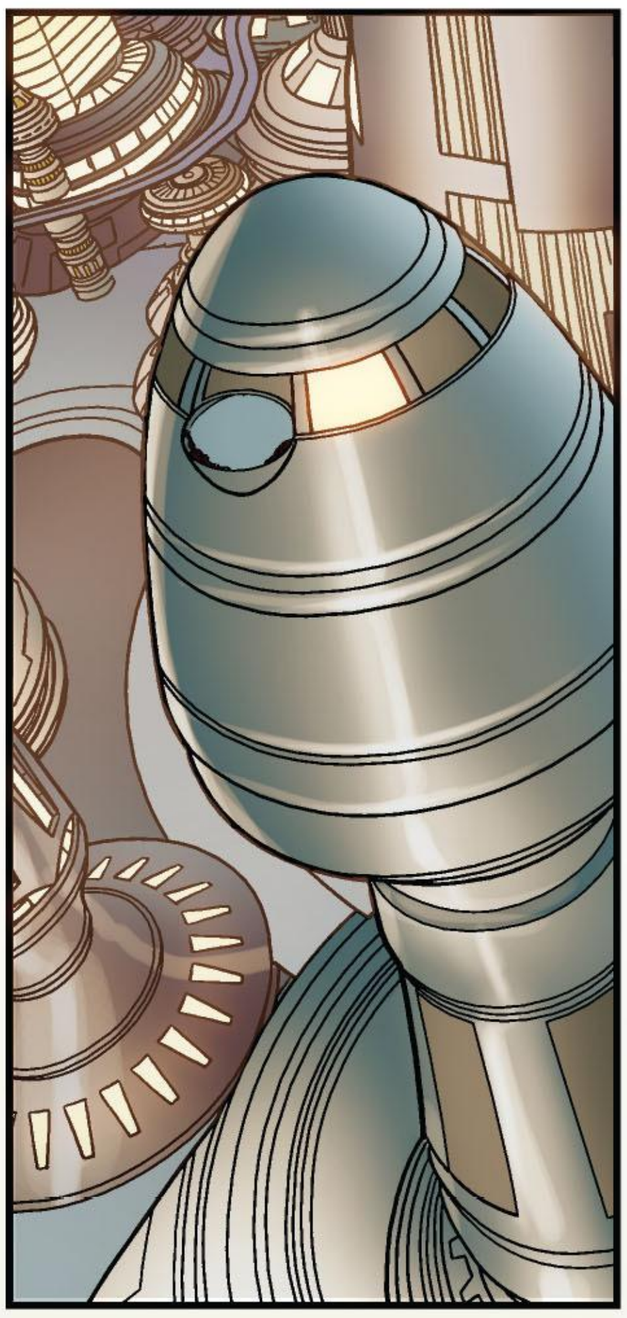

YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT OURS IS LIKE. OUTLIVING YOUR CHILD.

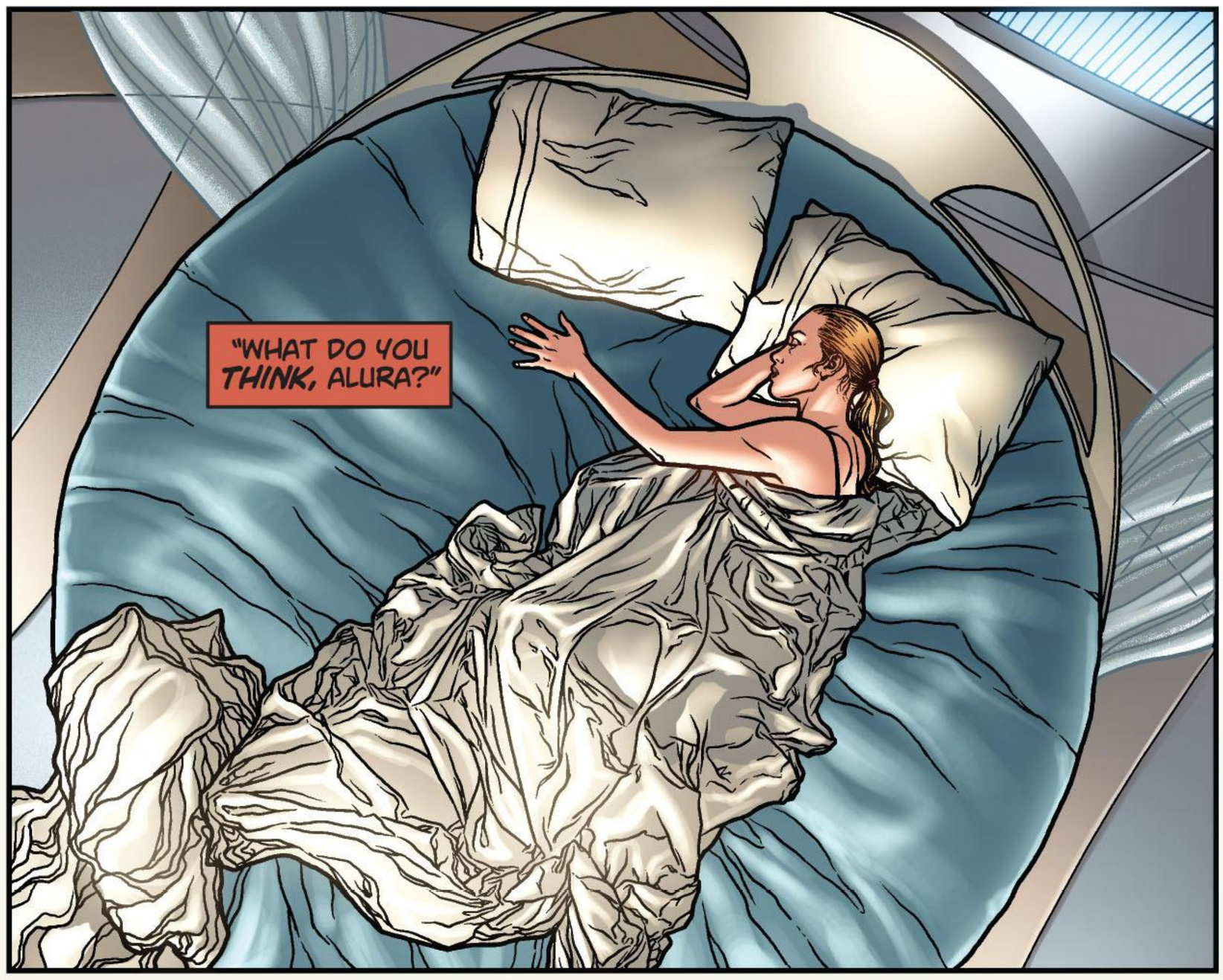
COME, TAL. IT'S CLEAR WE WERE MISTAKEN. THE HUMAN ISN'T ON NEW KRYPTON.
OR AT LEAST ALURA WOULD ASK WE THINK THAT.

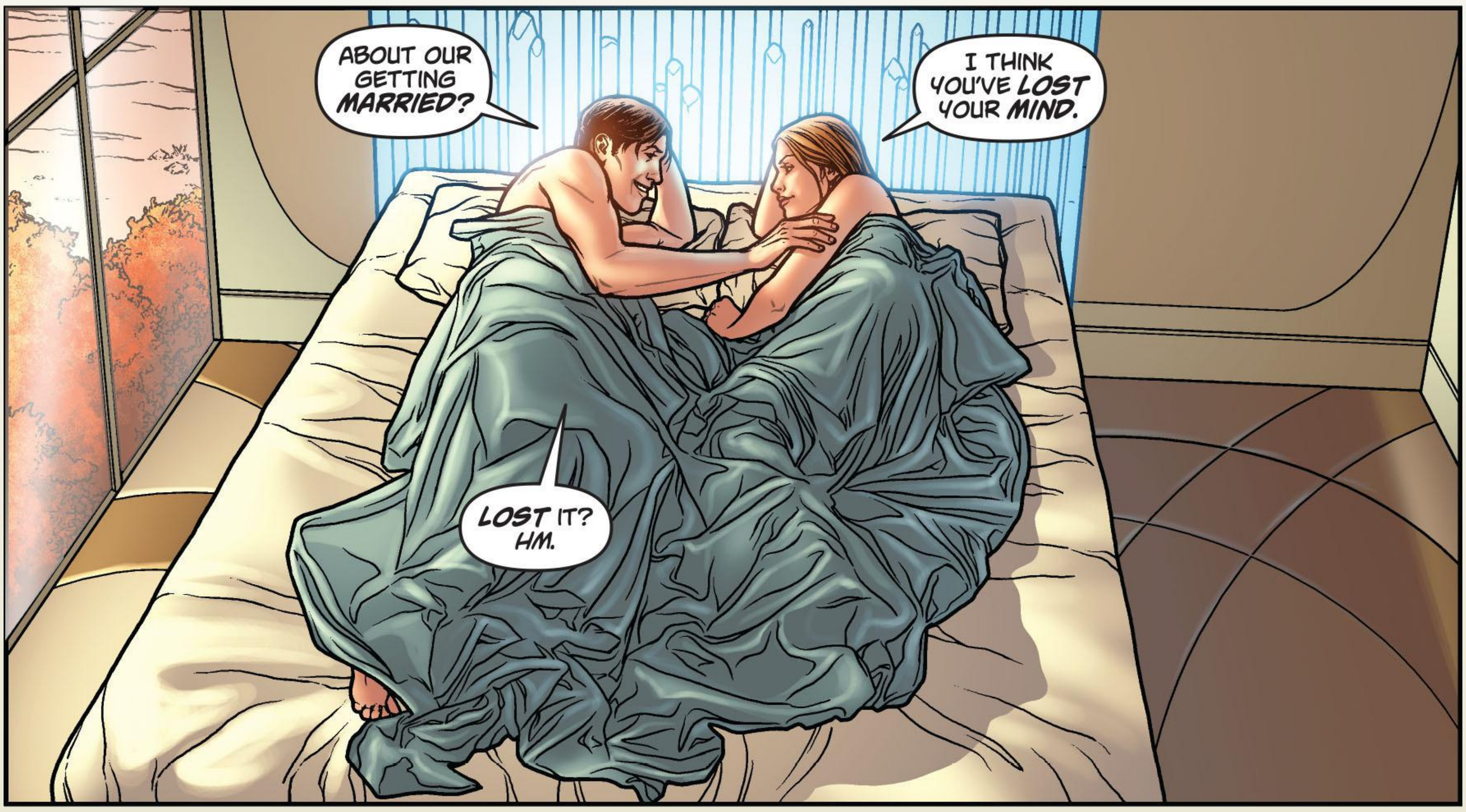

SO SAD.
VERY. LYRA?
MA'AM?
sonic shield active

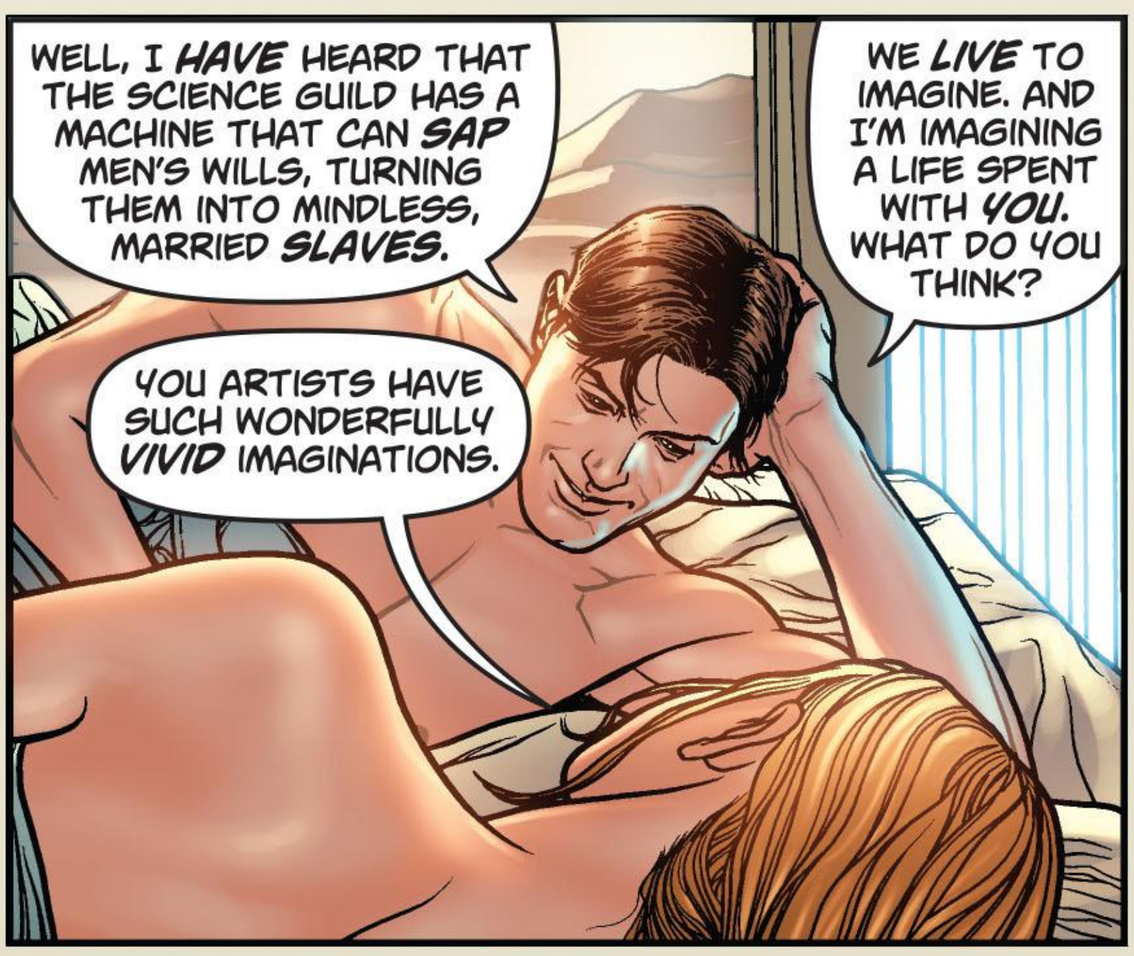

HAVE COMMANDER GOR TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS IN THE PRISON BUILDING TONIGHT.
YES, MA'AM.
ARE-- ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT AN ESCAPE, OR...?
WORRIED? YES.

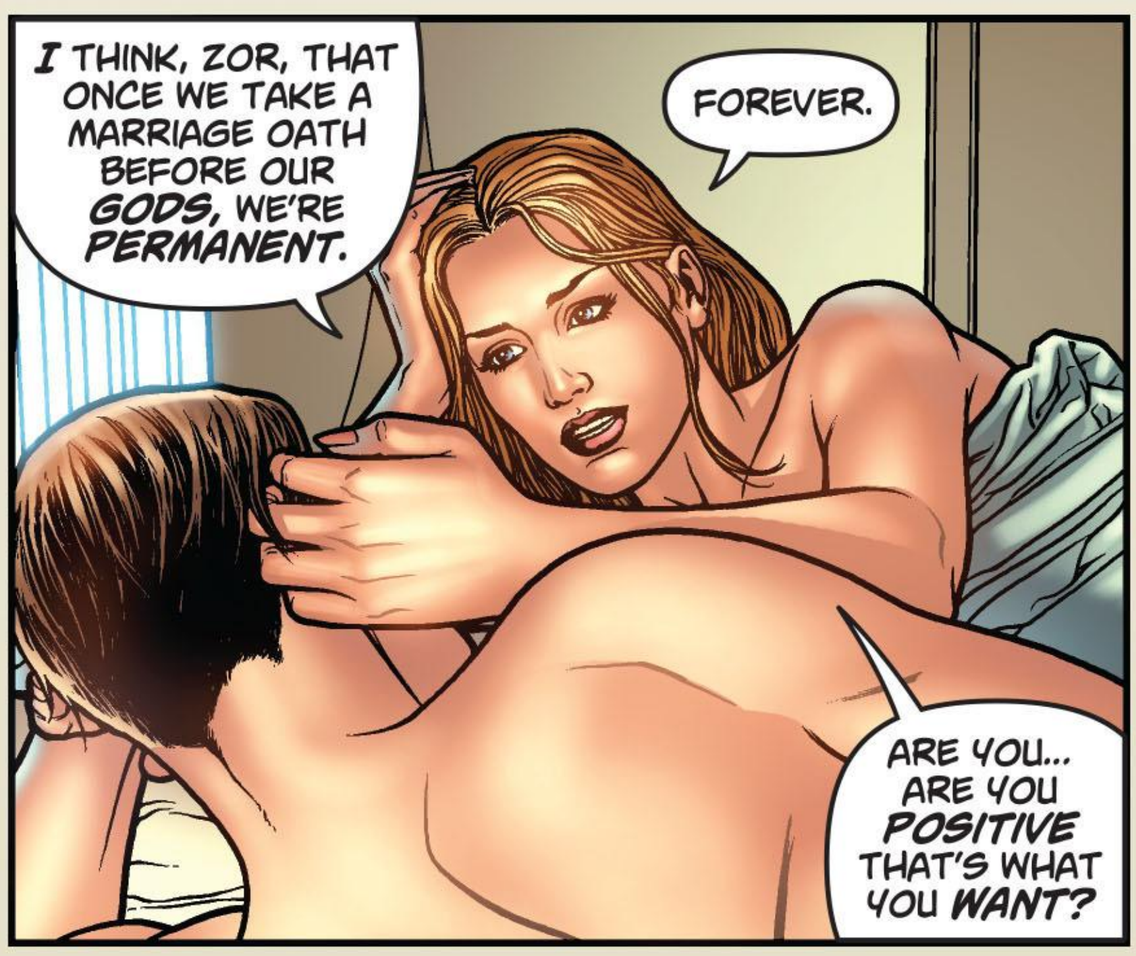
"BUT NOT ABOUT HIS ESCAPING."

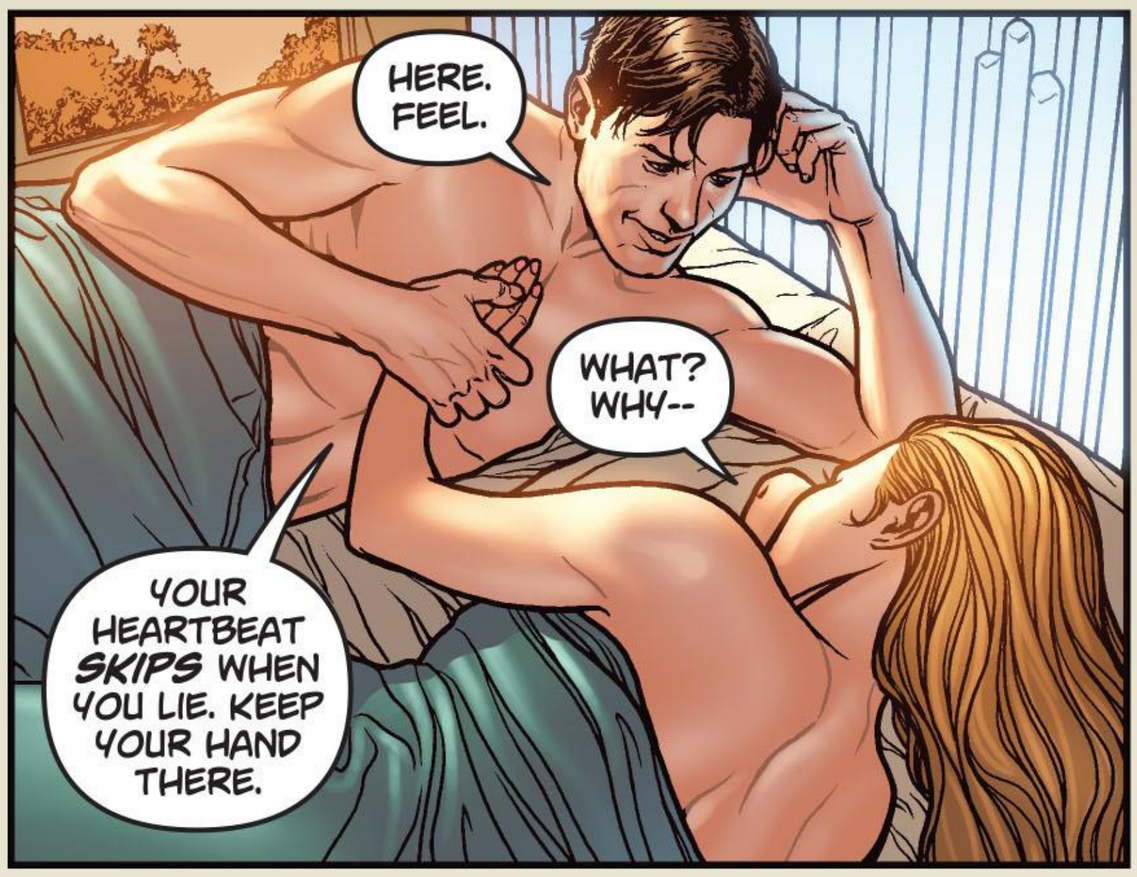


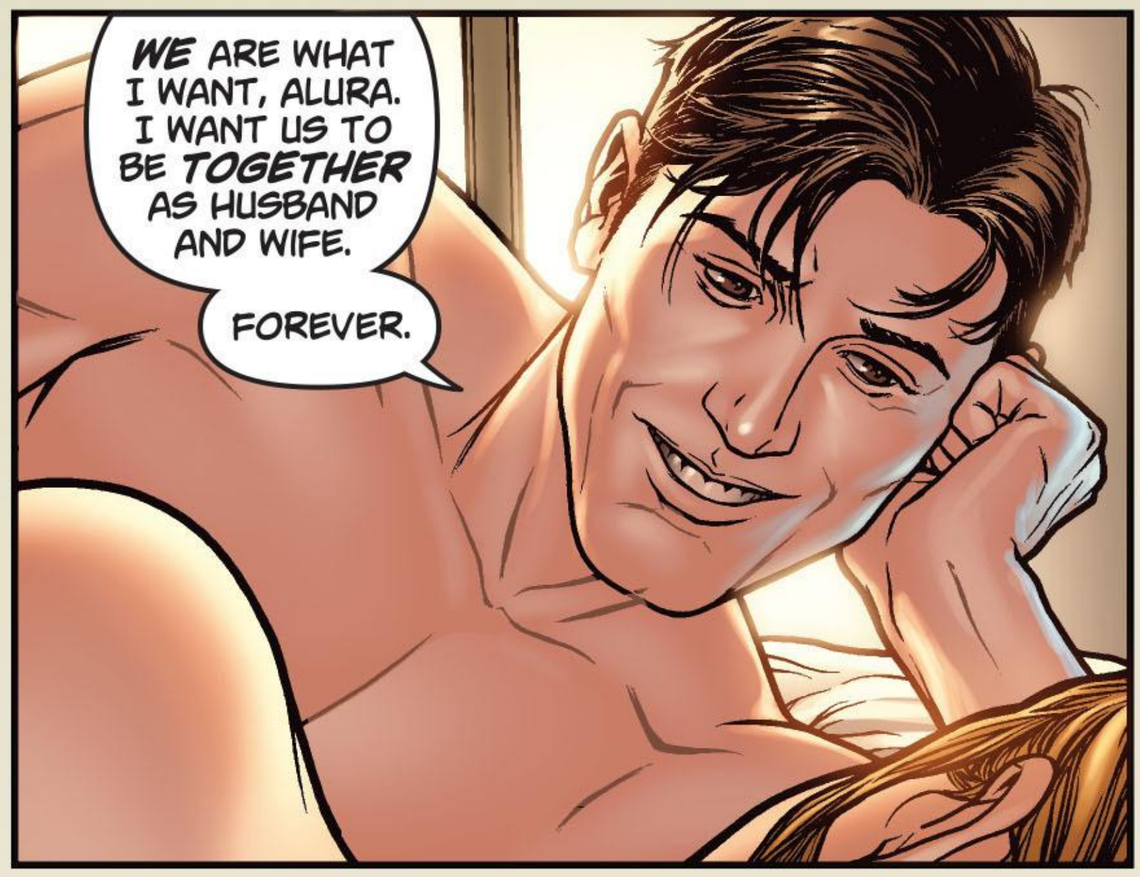

"WHAT DO YOU THINK, ALURA?"

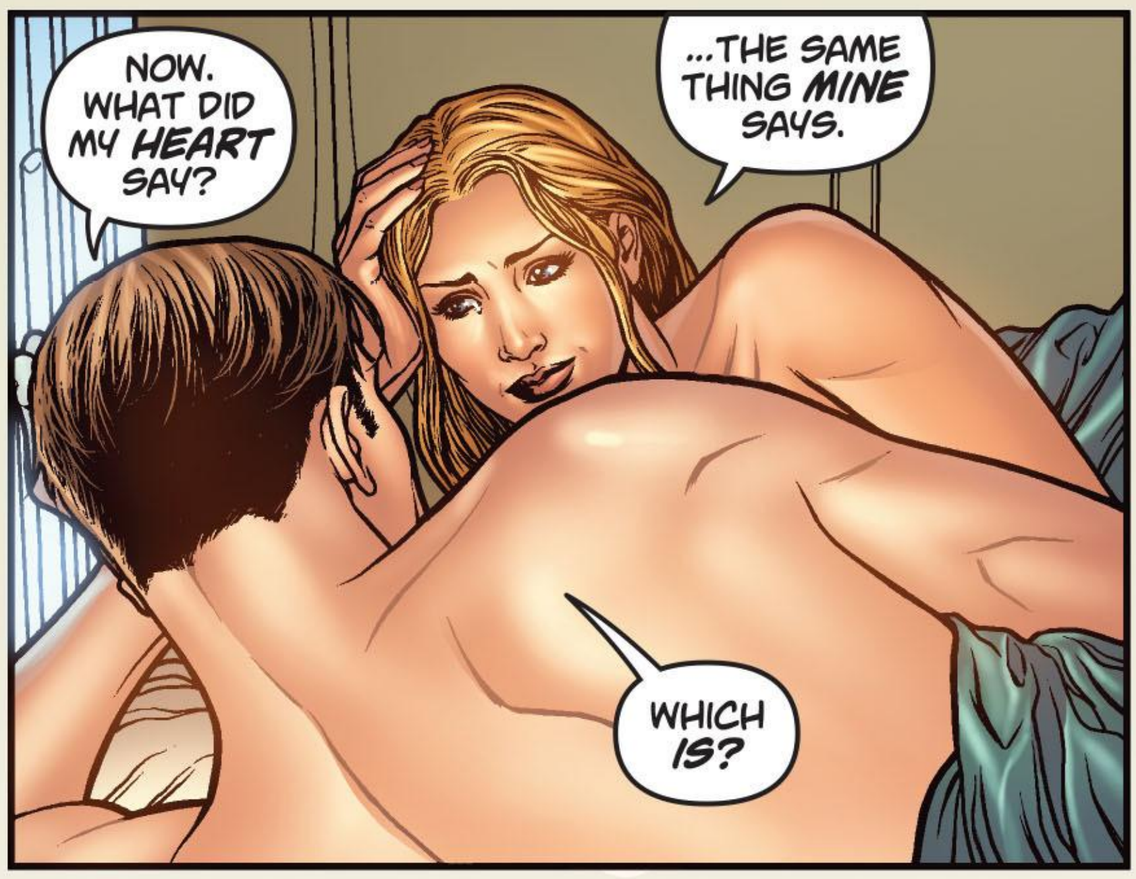

ABOUT OUR GETTING MARRIED?
I THINK YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND.
LOST IT? HM.

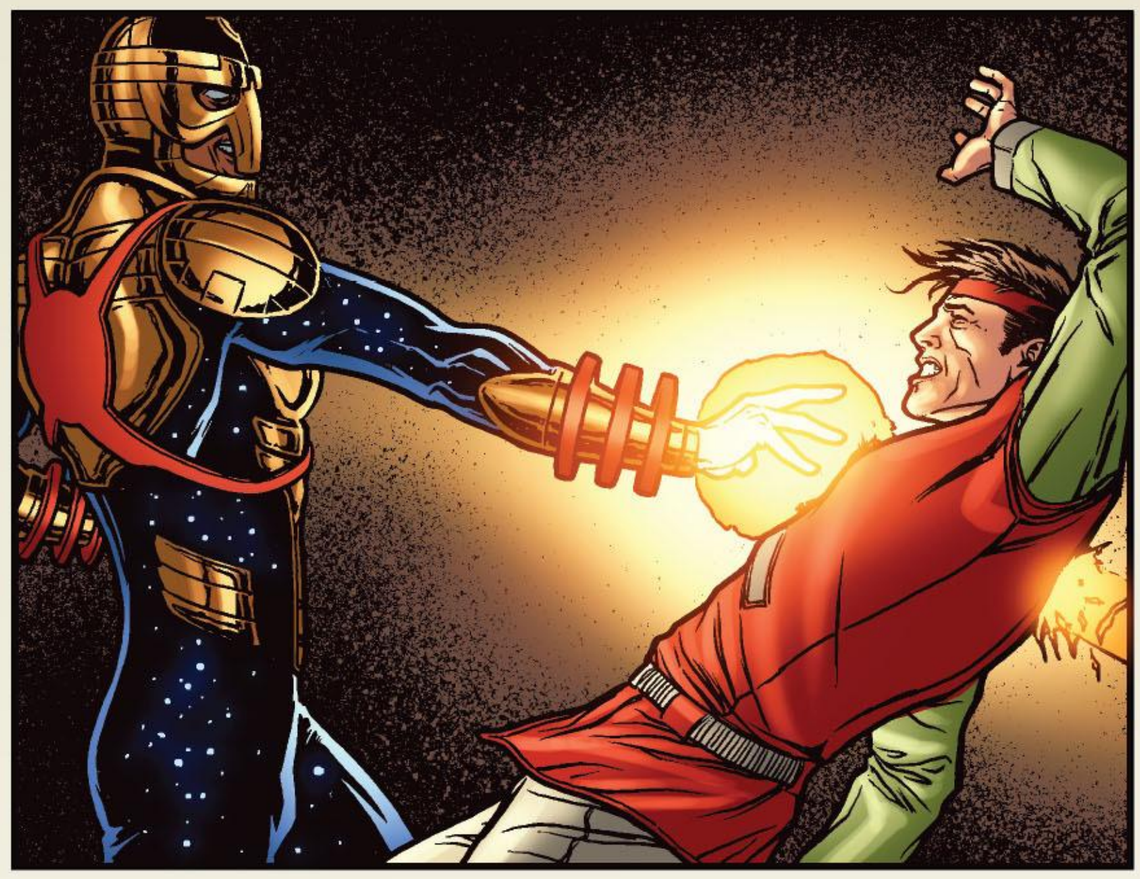

WELL, I HAVE HEARD THAT THE SCIENCE GUILD HAS A MACHINE THAT CAN SAP MEN'S WILLS, TURNING THEM INTO MINDLESS, MARRIED SLAVES.
WE LIVE TO IMAGINE. AND I'M IMAGINING A LIFE SPENT WITH YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU ARTISTS HAVE SUCH WONDERFULLY VIVID IMAGINATIONS.

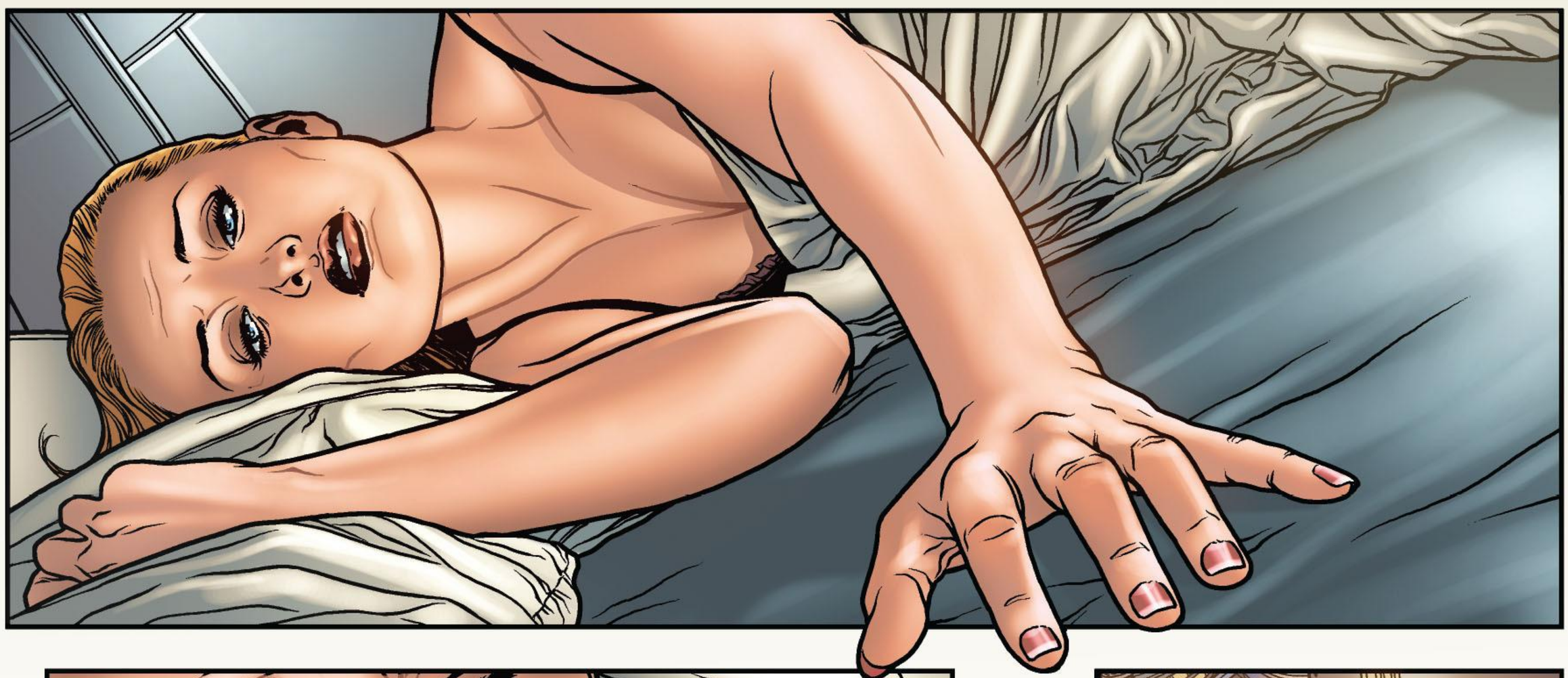

I THINK, ZOR, THAT ONCE WE TAKE A MARRIAGE OATH BEFORE OUR GODS, WE'RE PERMANENT.
FOREVER.
ARE YOU... ARE YOU POSITIVE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

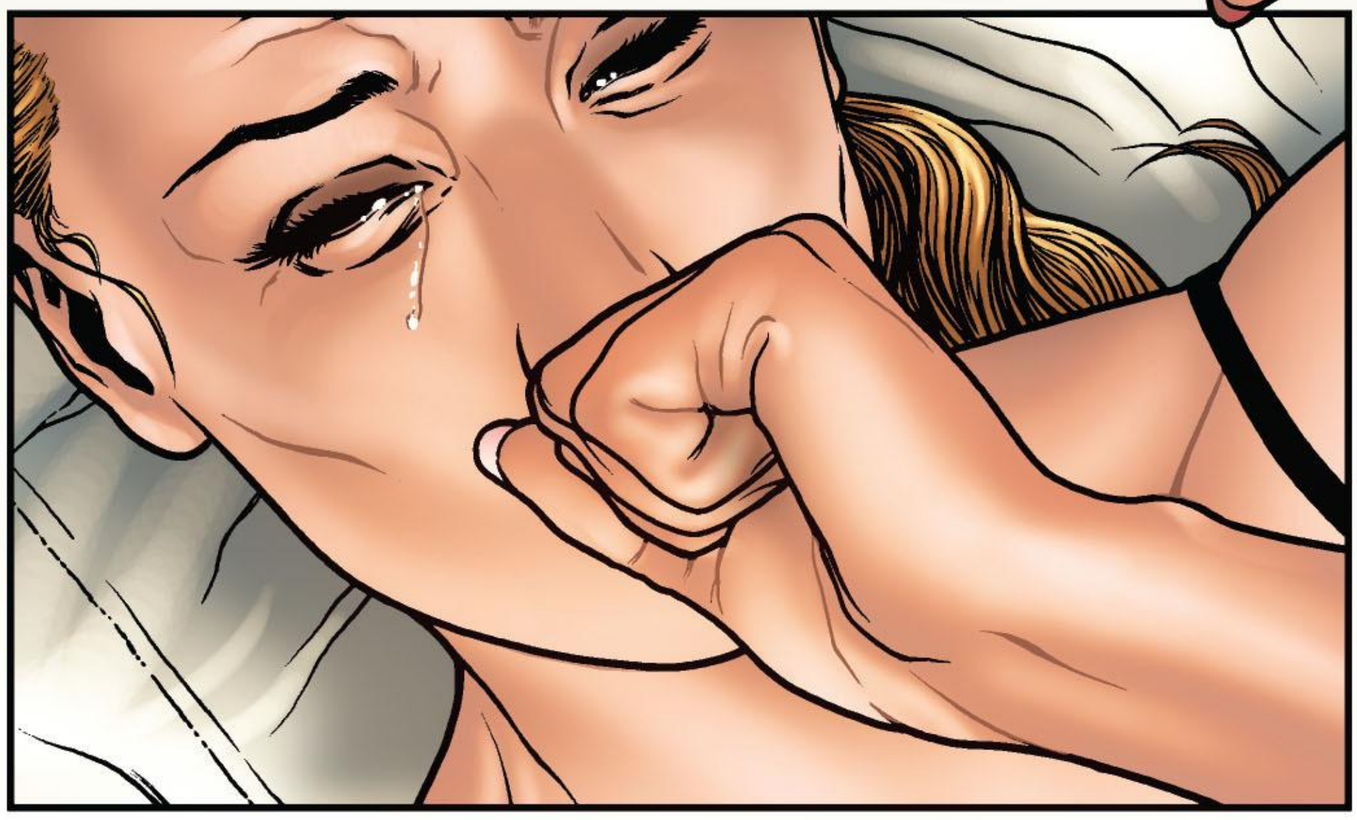

HERE. FEEL.
WHAT? WHY--
YOUR HEARTBEAT SKIPS WHEN YOU LIE. KEEP YOUR HAND THERE.

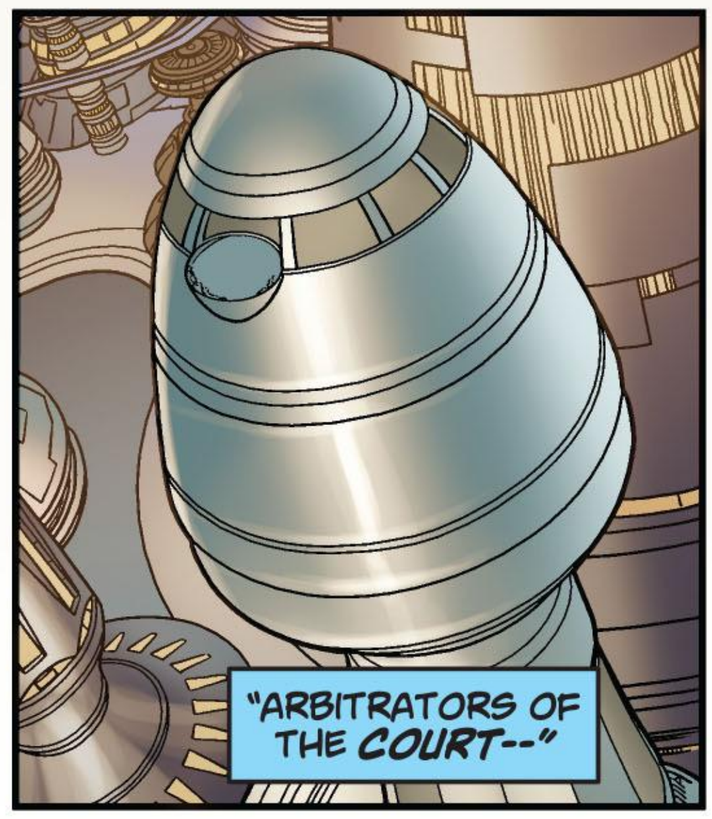

WE ARE WHAT I WANT, ALURA. I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.
FOREVER.

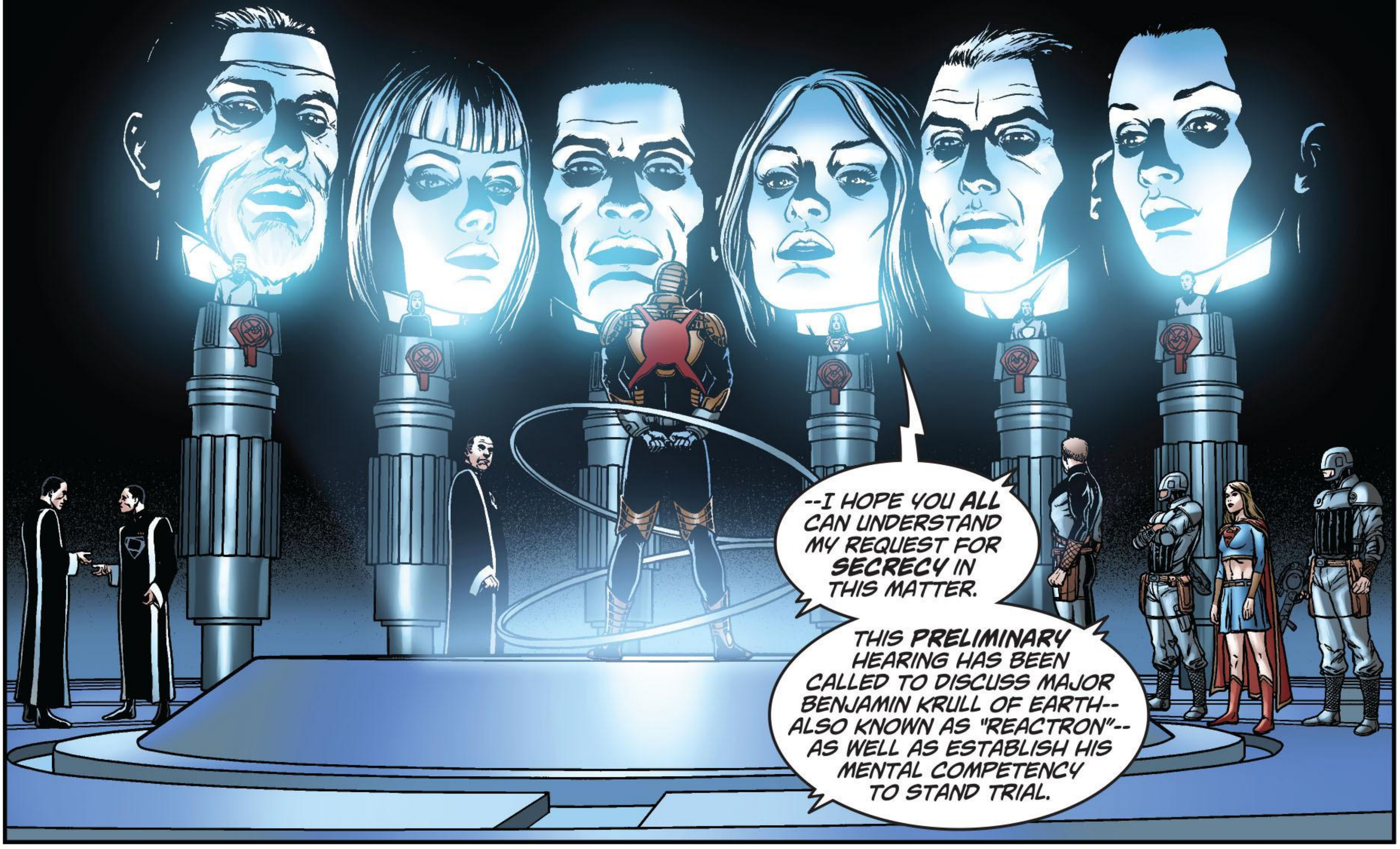

NOW. WHAT DID MY HEART SAY?
...THE SAME THING MINE SAYS.
WHICH IS?

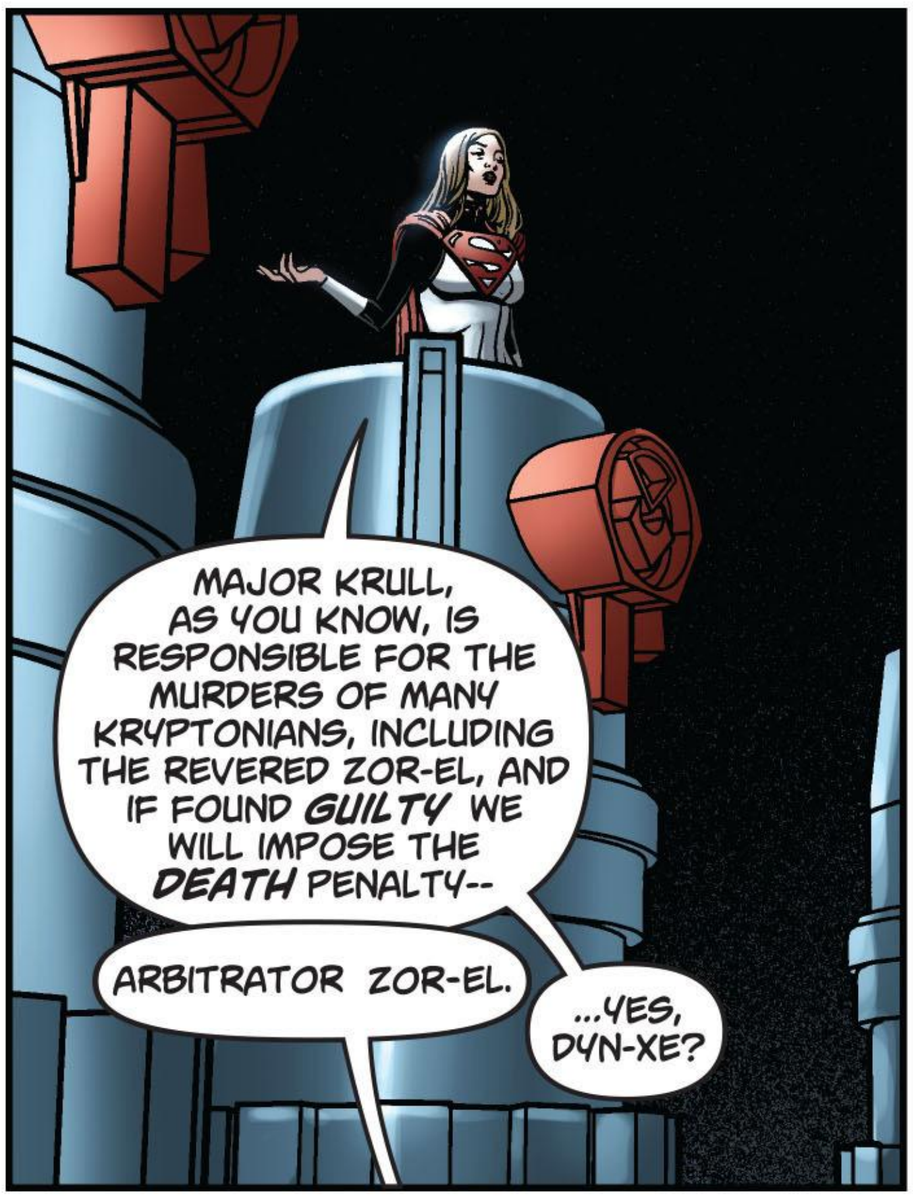






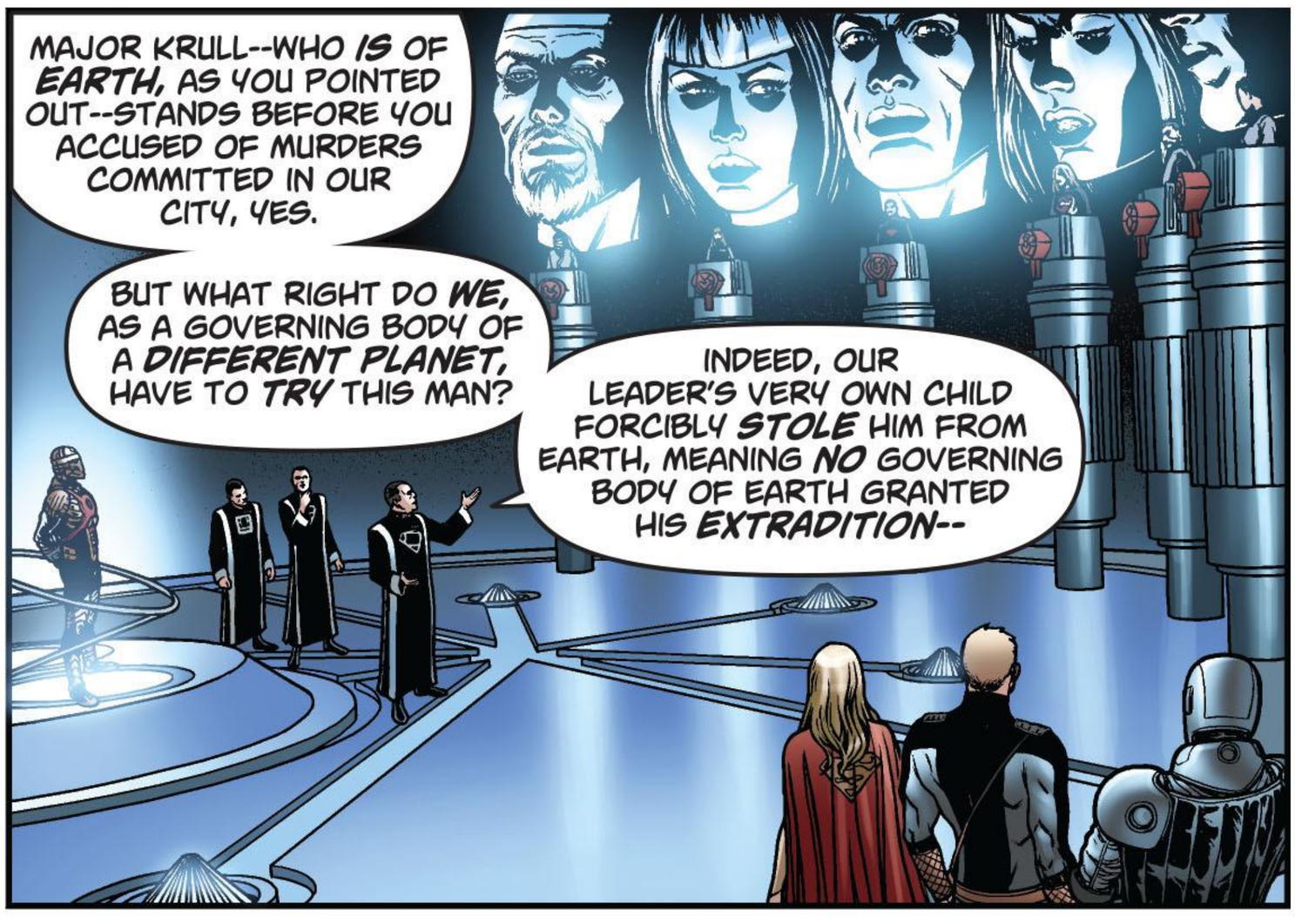

"ARBITRATORS OF THE COURT--"

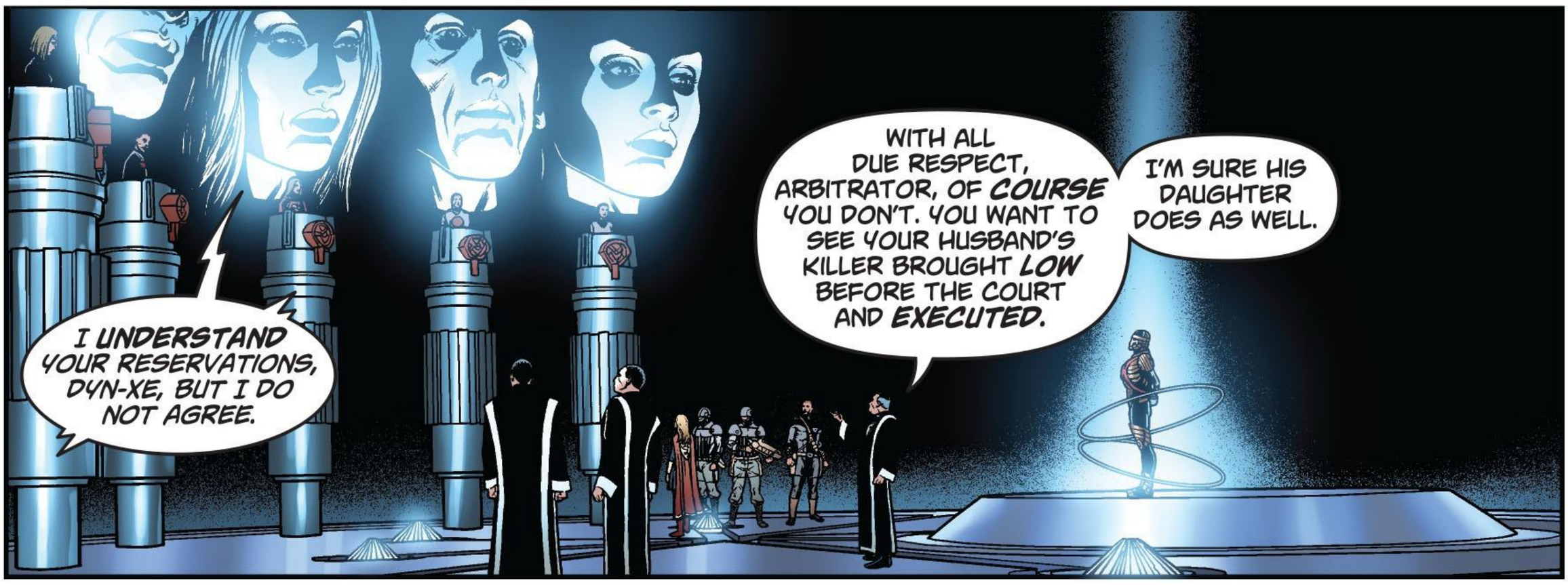

--I HOPE YOU ALL CAN UNDERSTAND MY REQUEST FOR SECRECY IN THIS MATTER.
THIS PRELIMINARY HEARING HAS BEEN CALLED TO DISCUSS MAJOR BENJAMIN KRULL OF EARTH--ALSO KNOWN AS "REACTRON"--AS WELL AS ESTABLISH HIS MENTAL COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL.

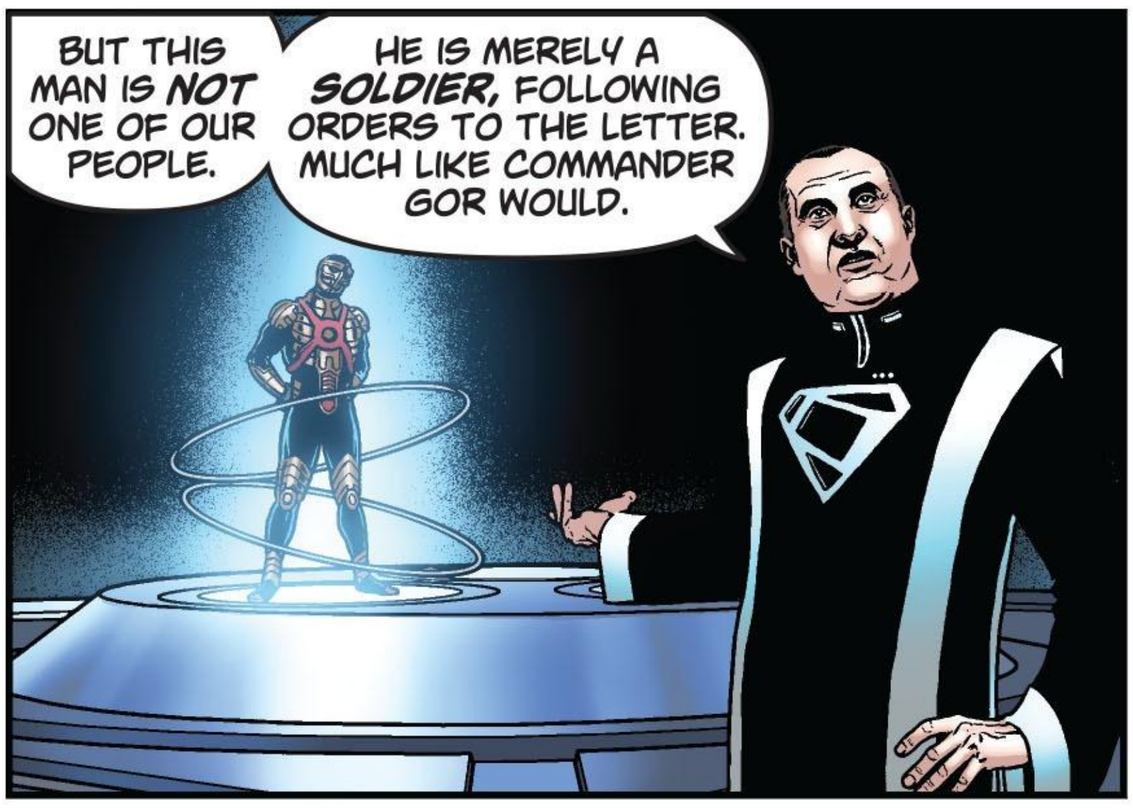

MAJOR KRULL, AS YOU KNOW, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS OF MANY KRYPTONIANS, INCLUDING THE REVERED ZOR-EL, AND IF FOUND GUILTY WE WILL IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY--
ARBITRATOR ZOR-EL.
...YES, DYN-XE?

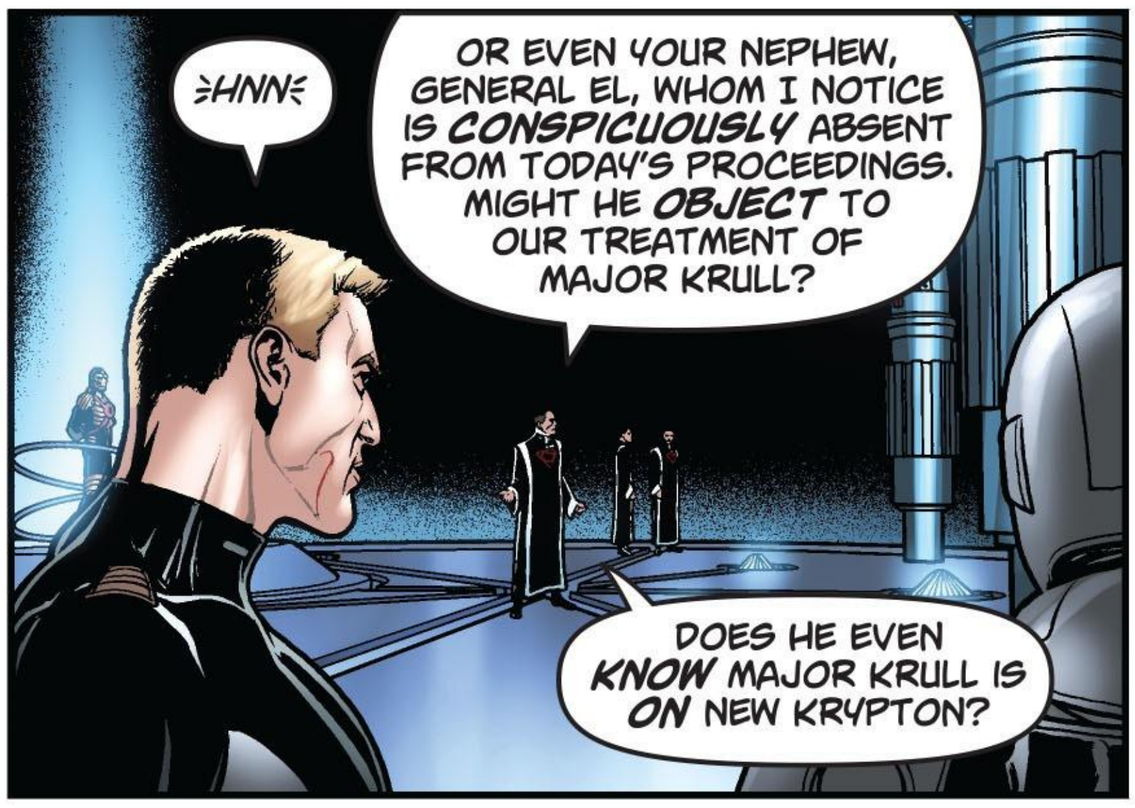
BEFORE YOU GET TOO FAR INTO YOUR SPEECH, ARBITRATOR, I MUST RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT ALL CHARGES AGAINST MAJOR KRULL BE DROPPED.
HH. BALLSY MOOOVE.

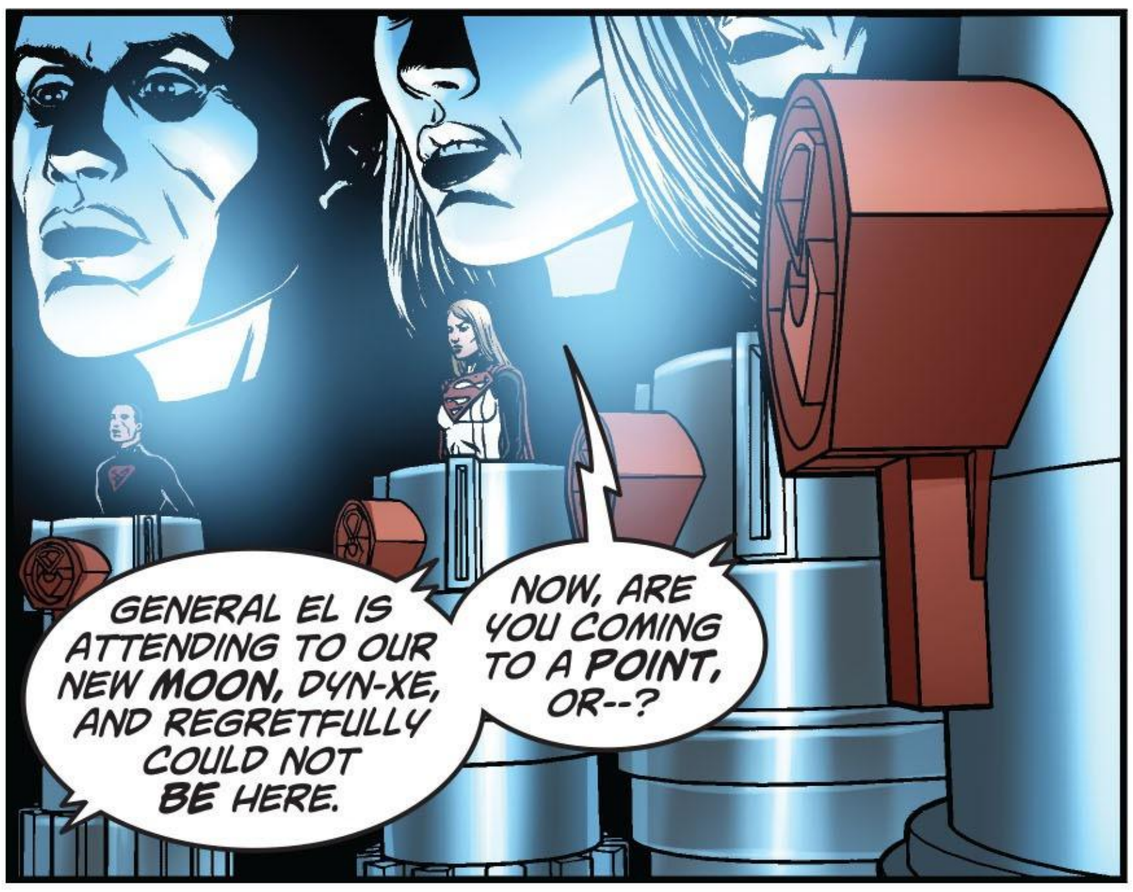
EXPLAIN, COUNSELOR.

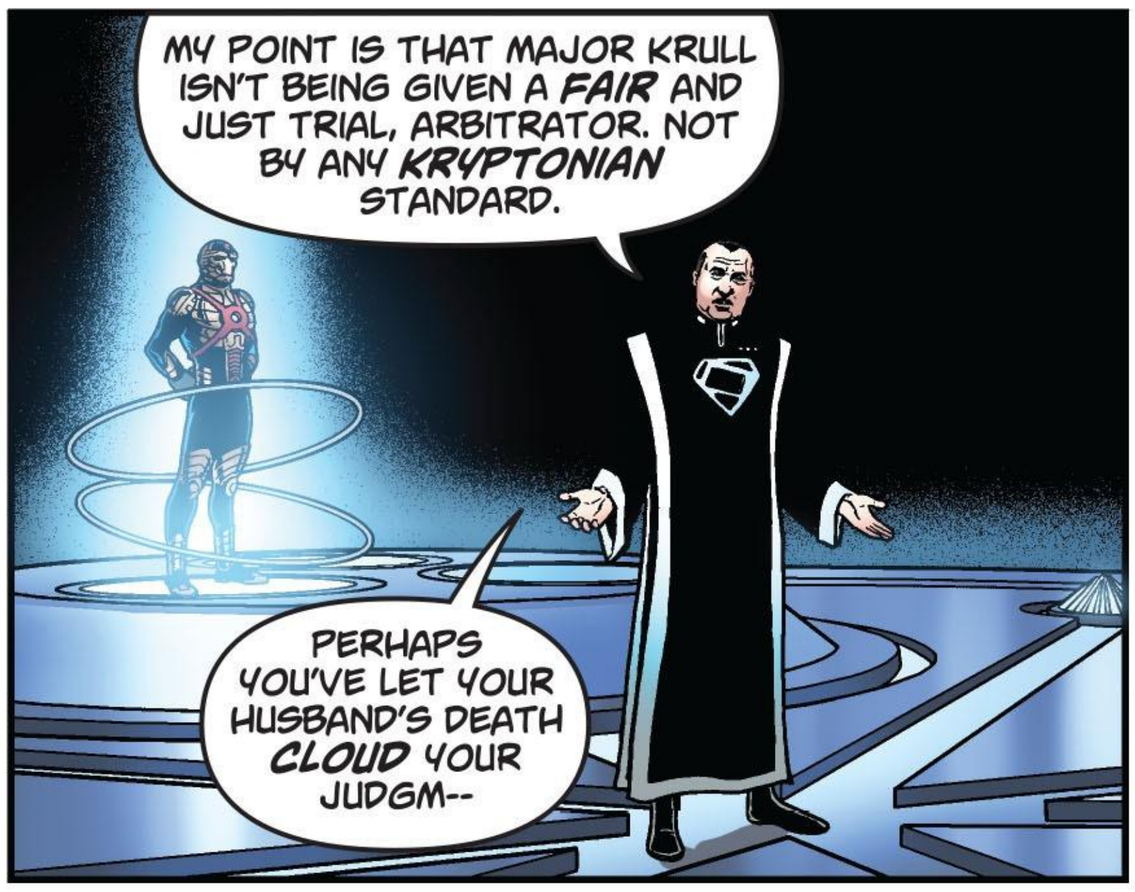

MAJOR KRULL--WHO IS OF EARTH, AS YOU POINTED OUT--STANDS BEFORE YOU ACCUSED OF MURDERS COMMITTED IN OUR CITY, YES.
BUT WHAT RIGHT DO WE, AS A GOVERNING BODY OF A DIFFERENT PLANET, HAVE TO TRY THIS MAN?
INDEED, OUR LEADER'S VERY OWN CHILD FORCIBLY STOLE HIM FROM EARTH, MEANING NO GOVERNING BODY OF EARTH GRANTED HIS EXTRADITION--

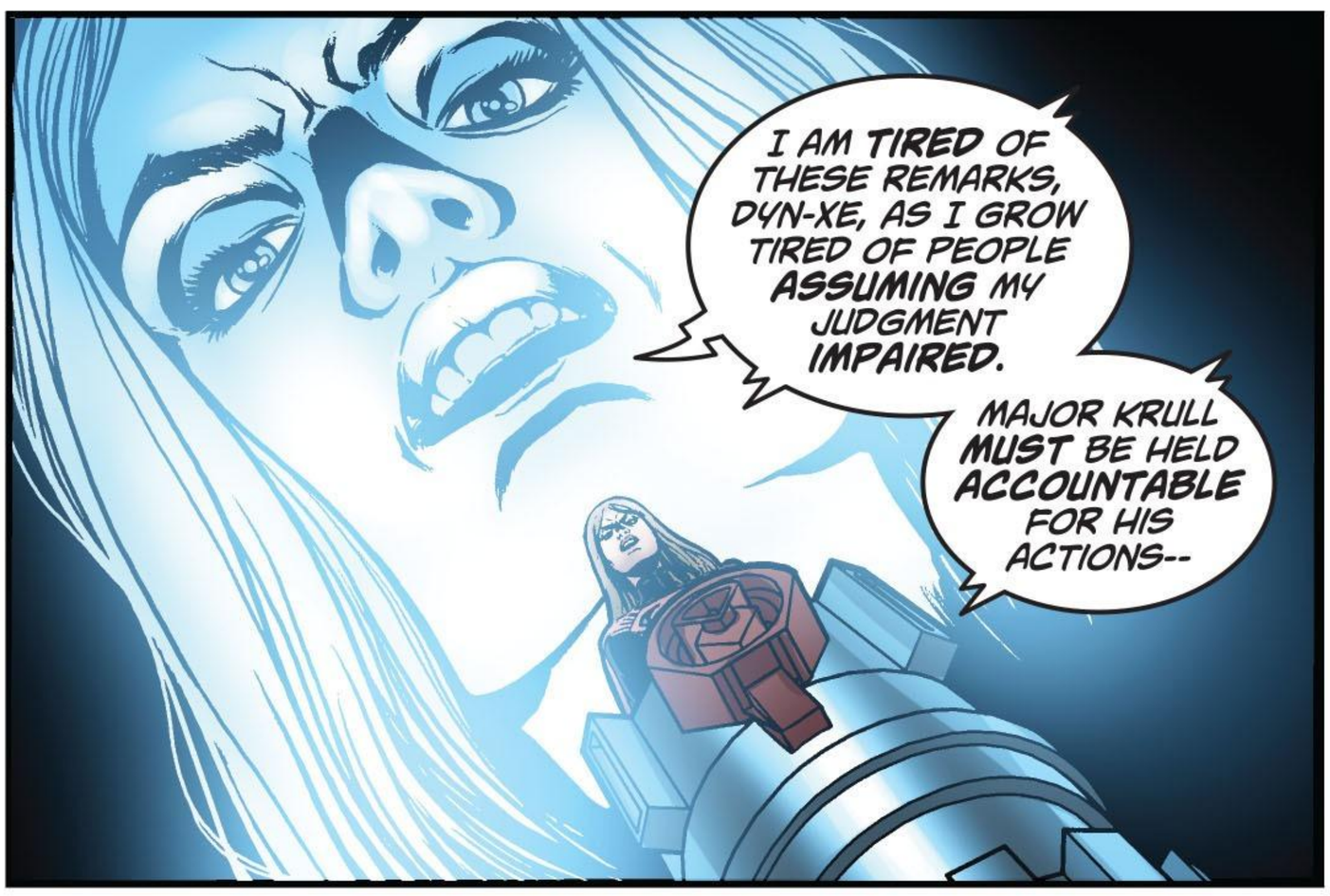












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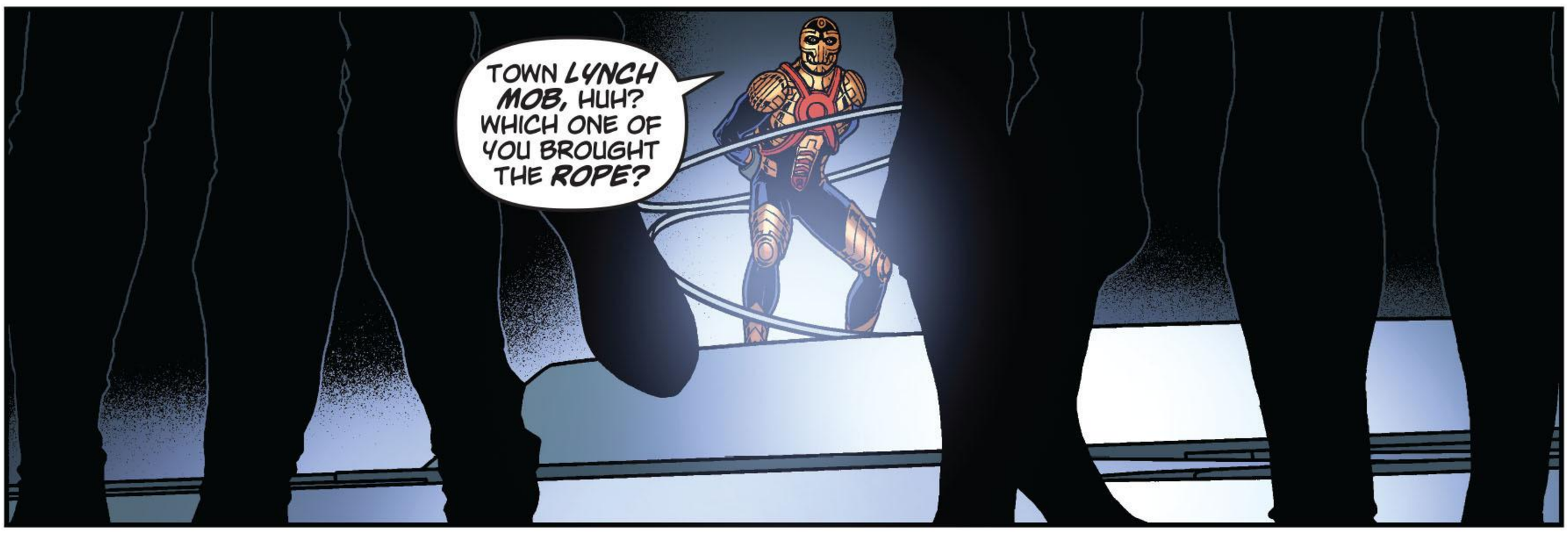
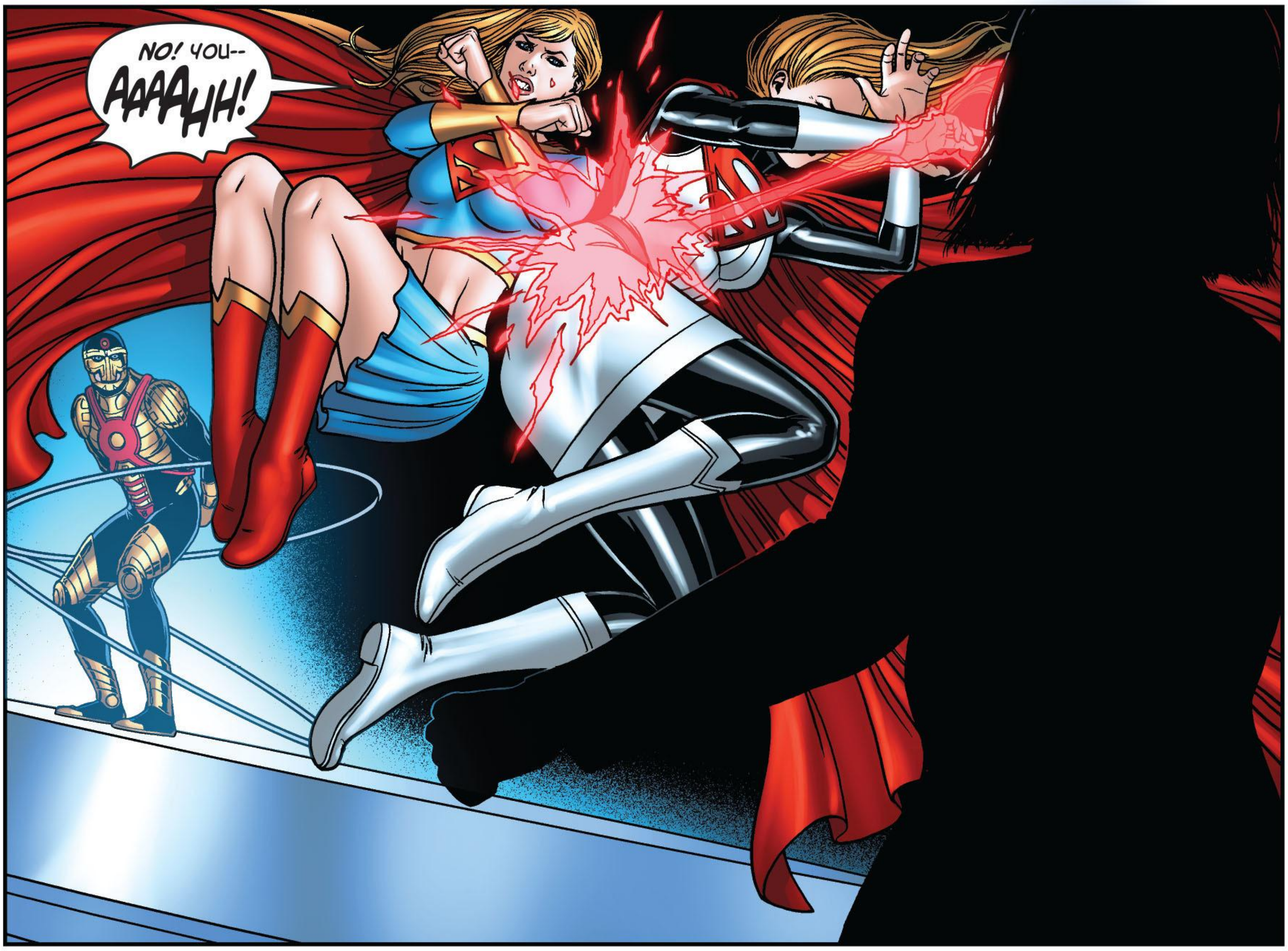
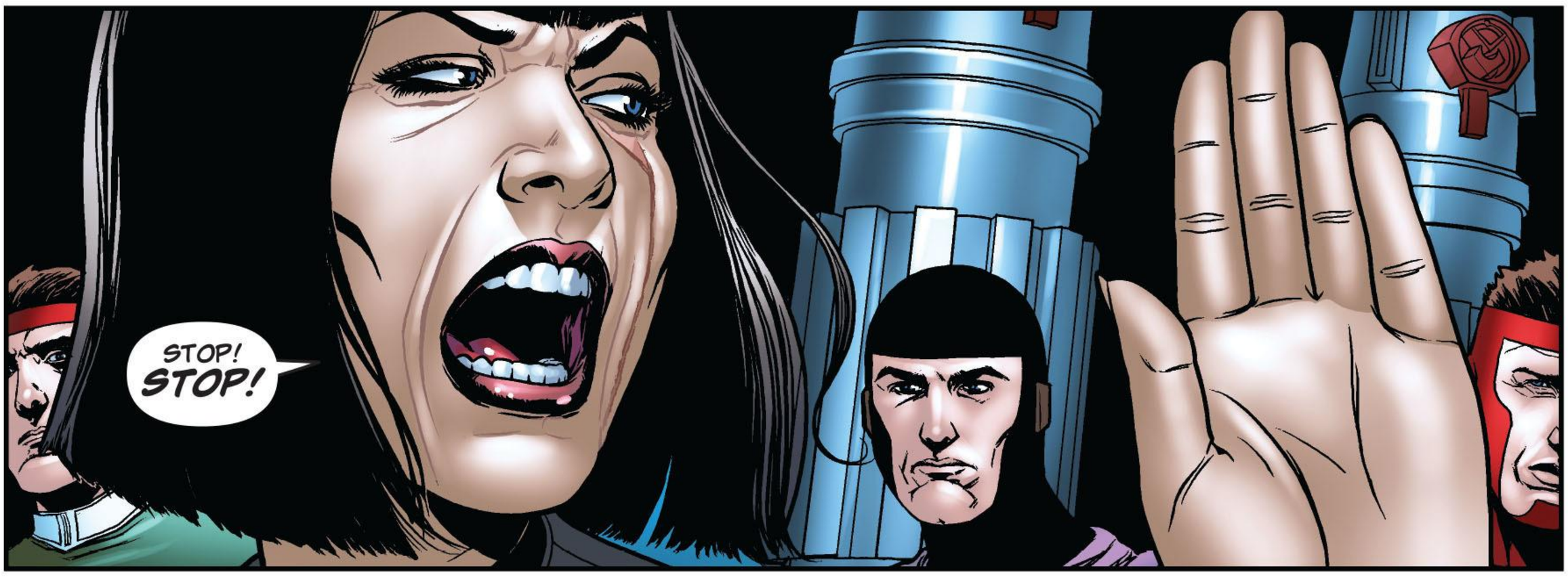
AT LAST WE AGREE ON *SOMETHING*, ALURA.

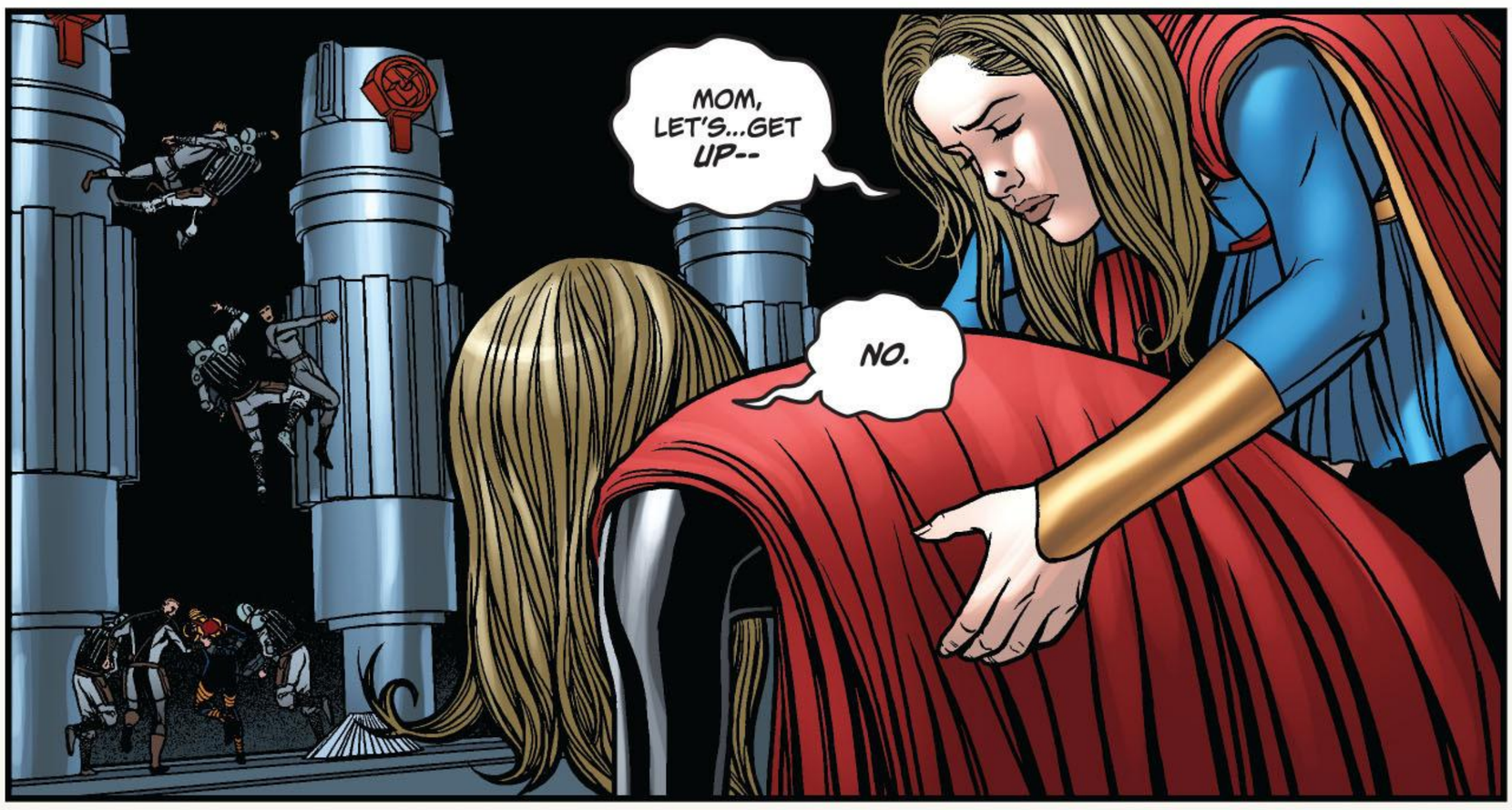
CRRROOOM



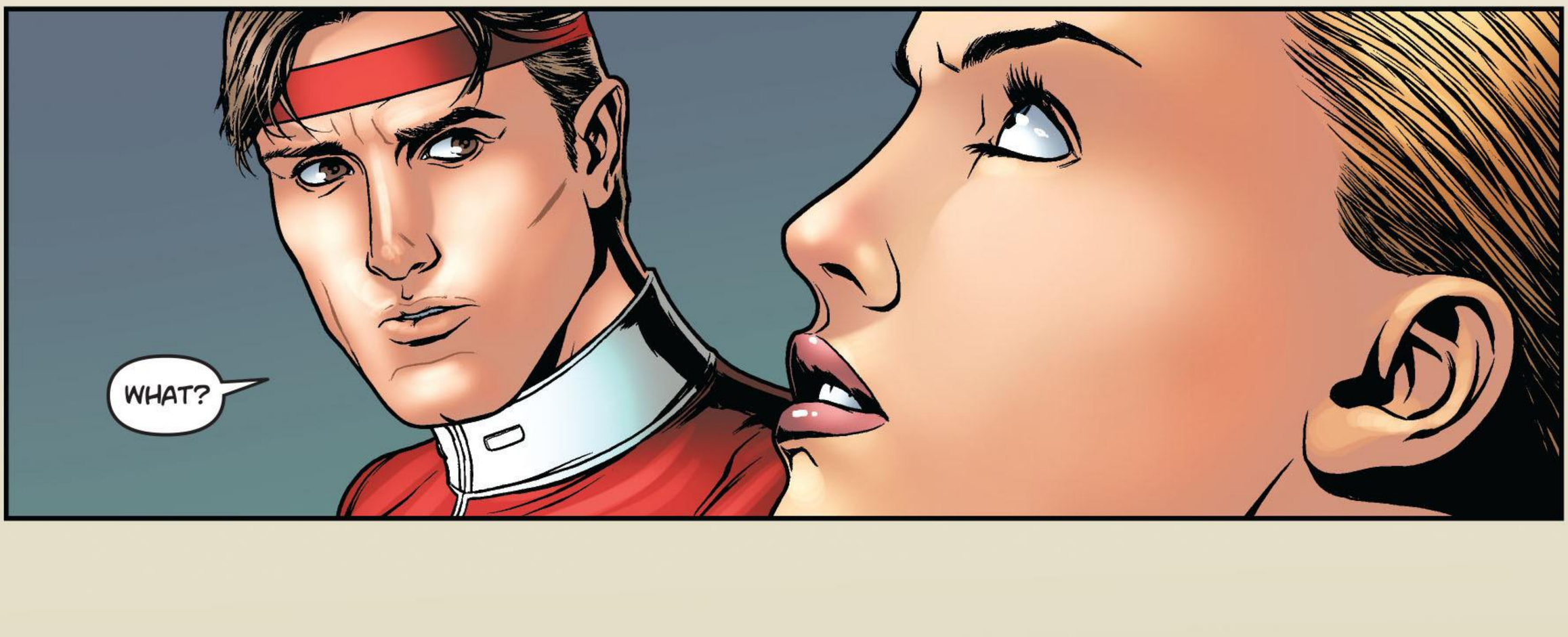

NO! YOU--
AAAAHH!

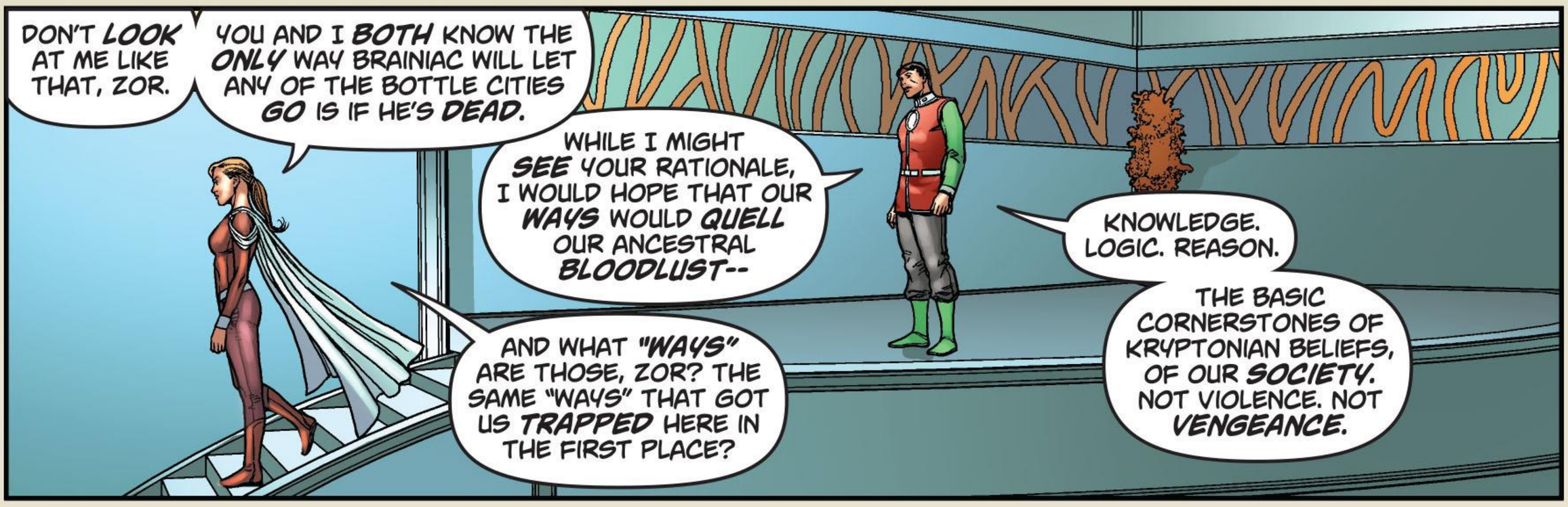

STOP! STOP!

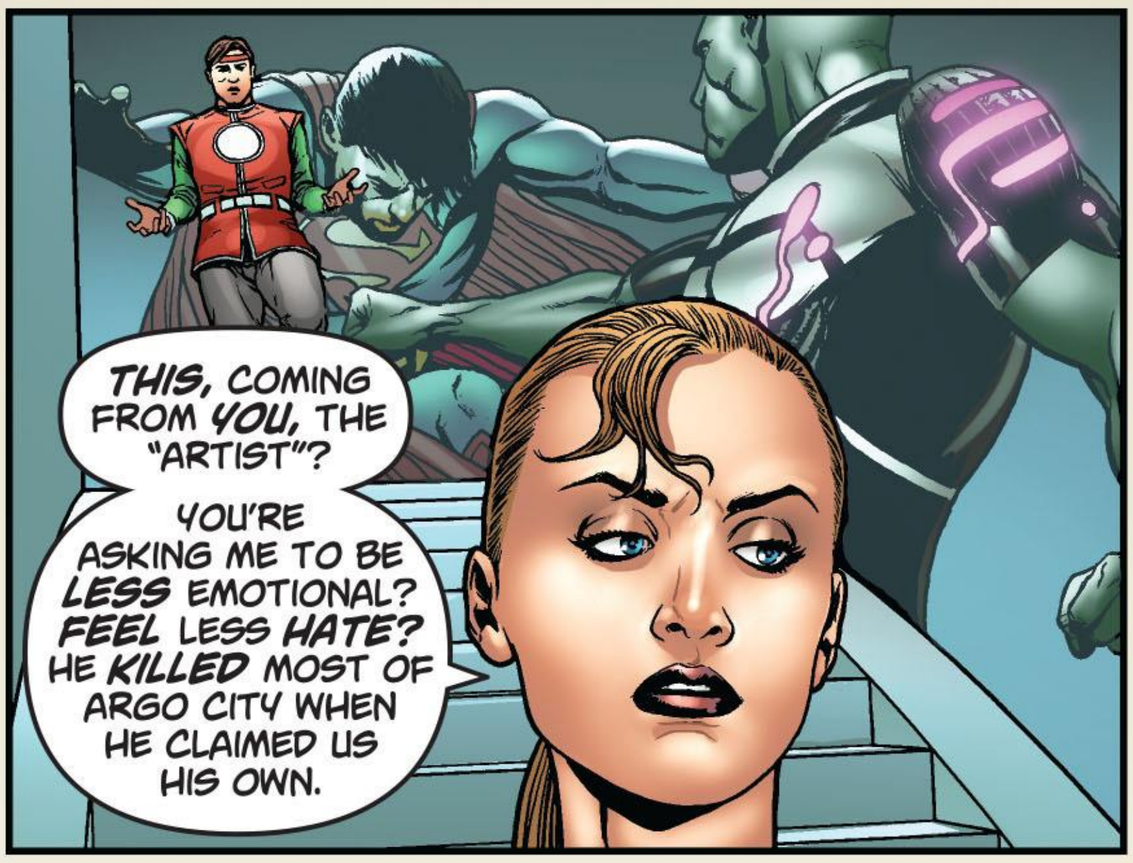
TROOPS, FORM UP ON THE PRISONER AND GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
FIRE AT WILL!
AAAAHH!

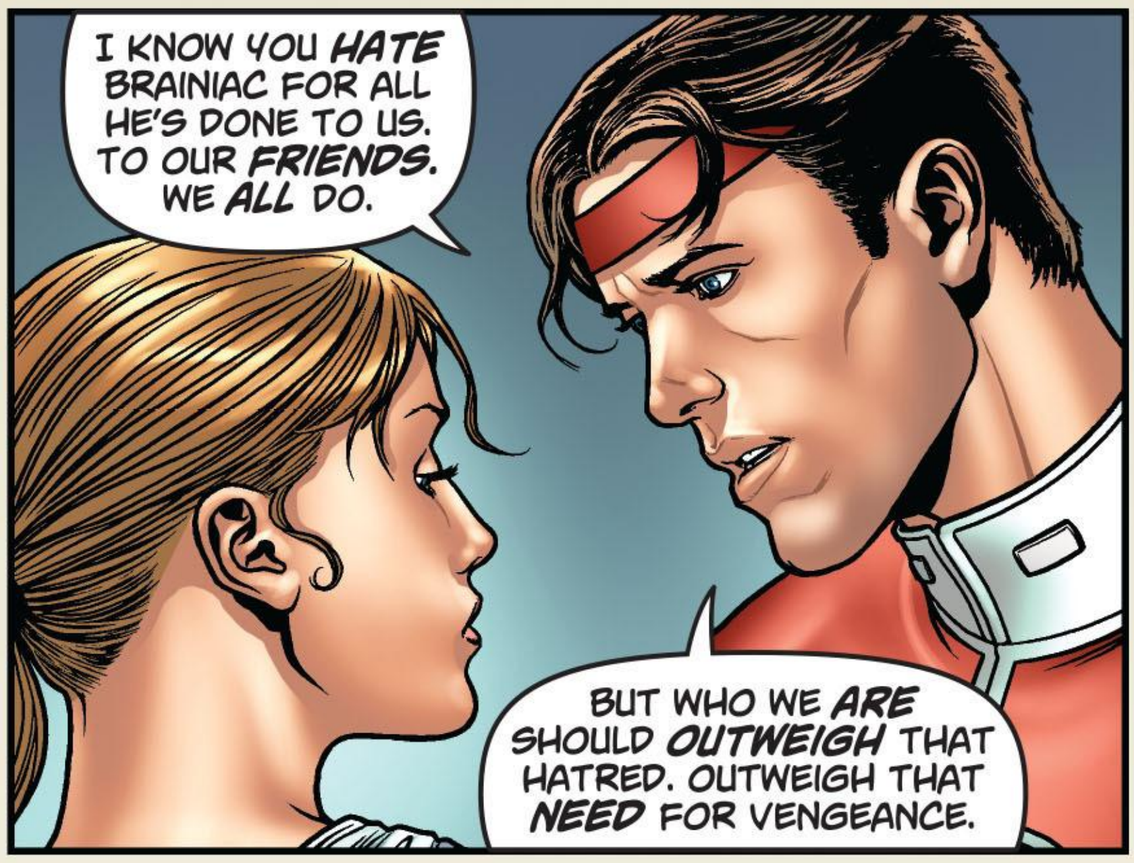


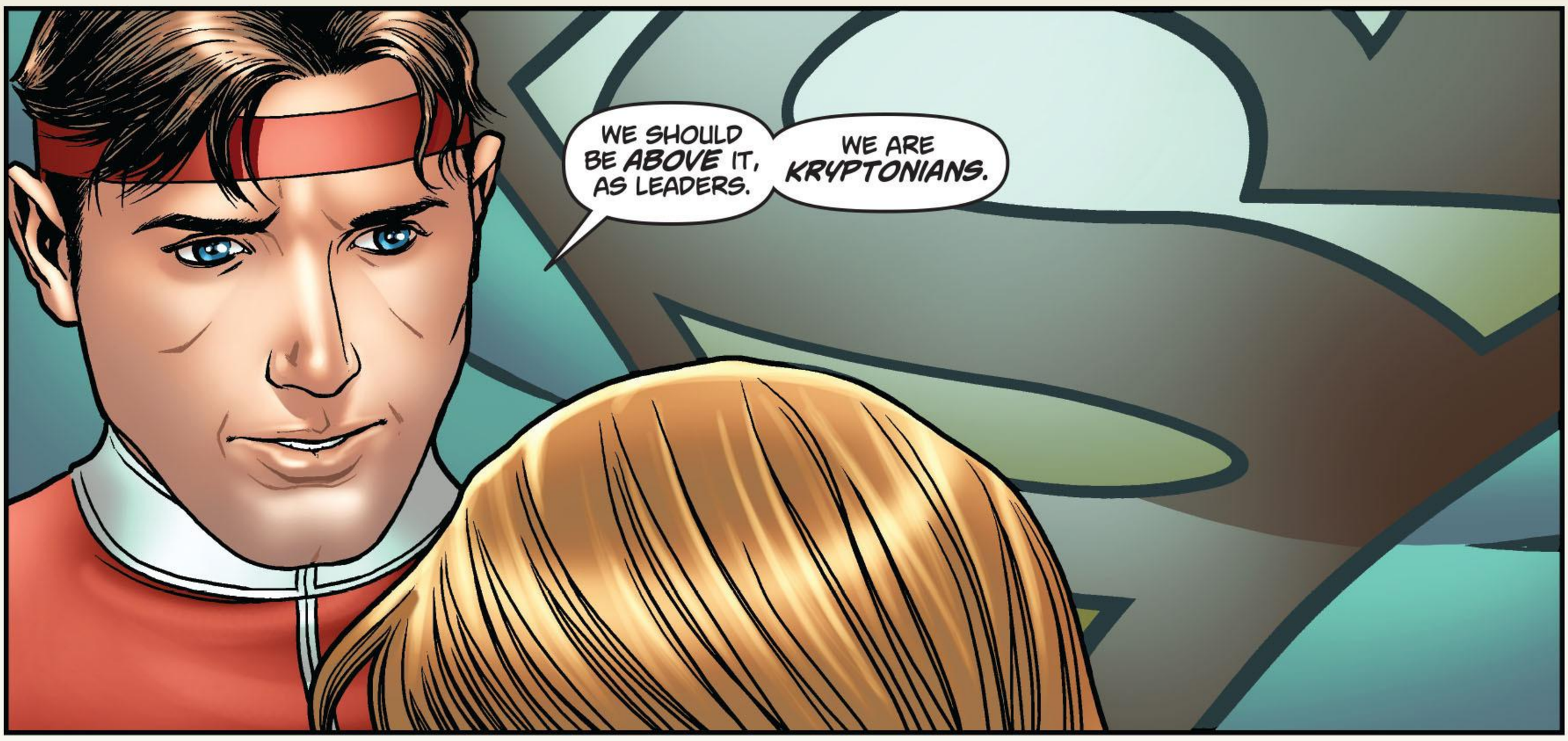
I HOPE HE KILLS HIM.



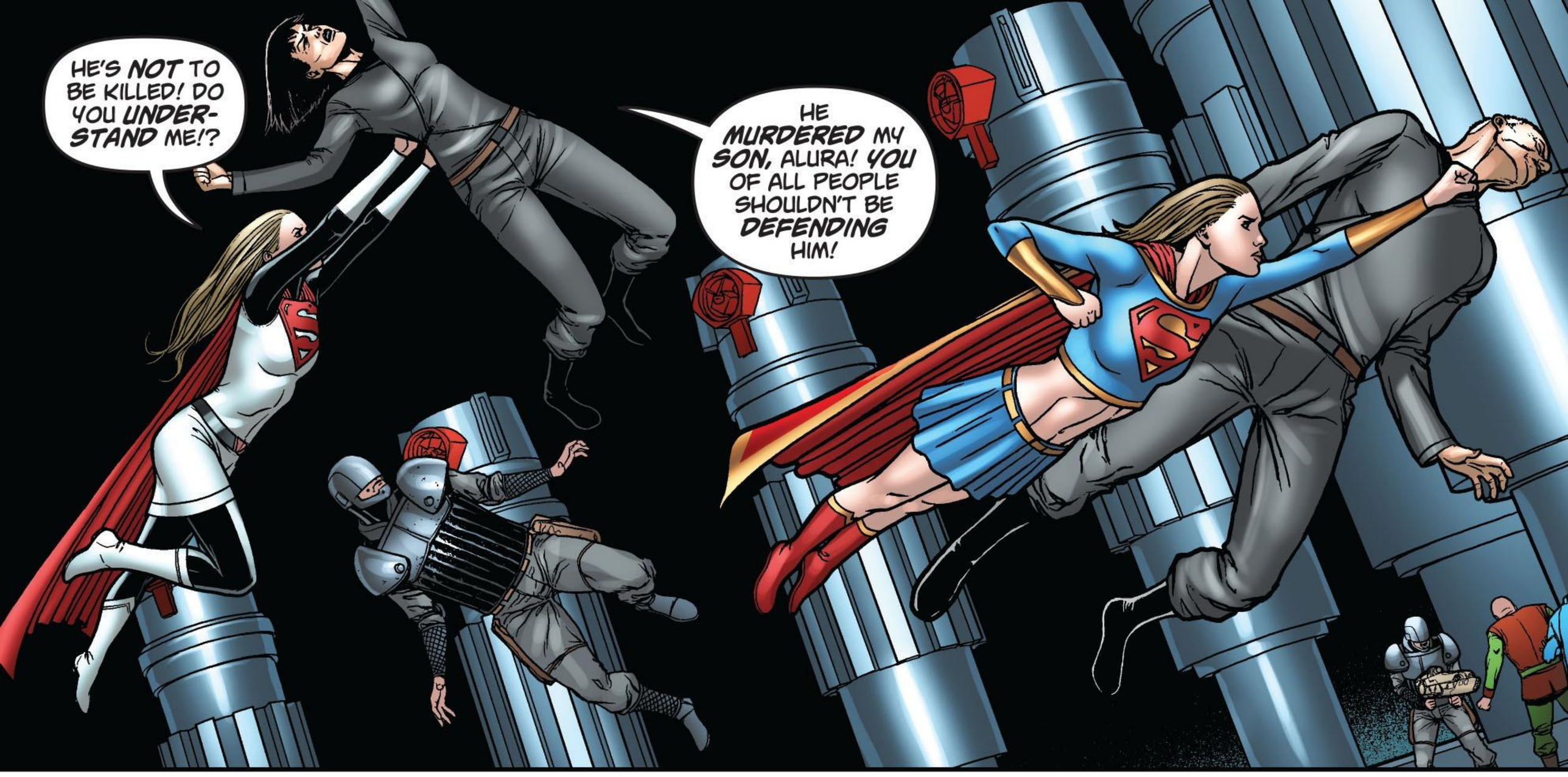

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, ZOR.
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THE ONLY WAY BRAINIAC WILL LET ANY OF THE BOTTLE CITIES GO IS IF HE'S DEAD.
WHILE I MIGHT SEE YOUR RATIONALE, I WOULD HOPE THAT OUR WAYS WOULD QUELL OUR ANCESTRAL BLOODLUST--
AND WHAT "WAYS" ARE THOSE, ZOR? THE SAME "WAYS" THAT GOT US TRAPPED HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
KNOWLEDGE. LOGIC. REASON.
THE BASIC CORNERSTONES OF KRYPTONIAN BELIEFS, OF OUR SOCIETY. NOT VIOLENCE. NOT VENGEANCE.

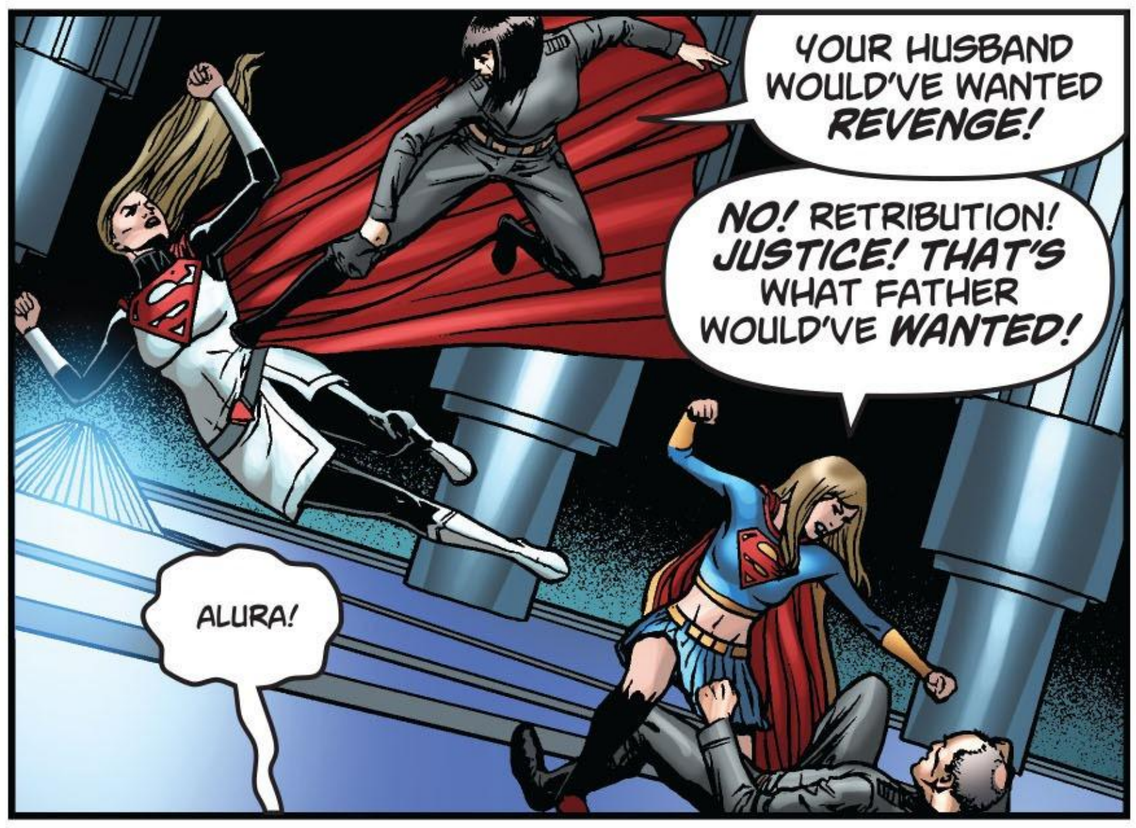

THIS, COMING FROM YOU, THE "ARTIST"?
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO BE LESS EMOTIONAL? FEEL LESS HATE? HE KILLED MOST OF ARGO CITY WHEN HE CLAIMED US HIS OWN.

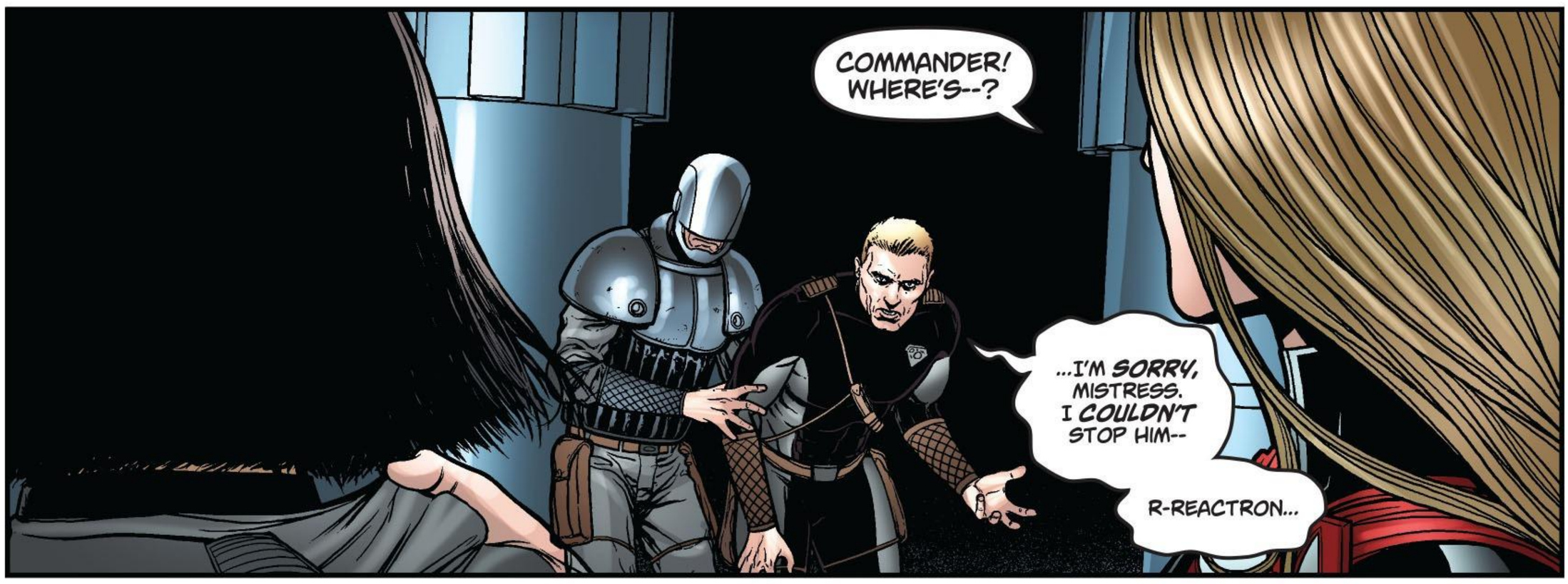

I KNOW YOU HATE BRAINIAC FOR ALL HE'S DONE TO US. TO OUR FRIENDS. WE ALL DO.
BUT WHO WE ARE SHOULD OUTWEIGH THAT HATRED. OUTWEIGH THAT NEED FOR VENGEANCE.


WE SHOULD BE ABOVE IT, AS LEADERS.
WE ARE KRYPTONIANS.

"REMEMBER THAT, ALURA."
DOR TAL-OX!







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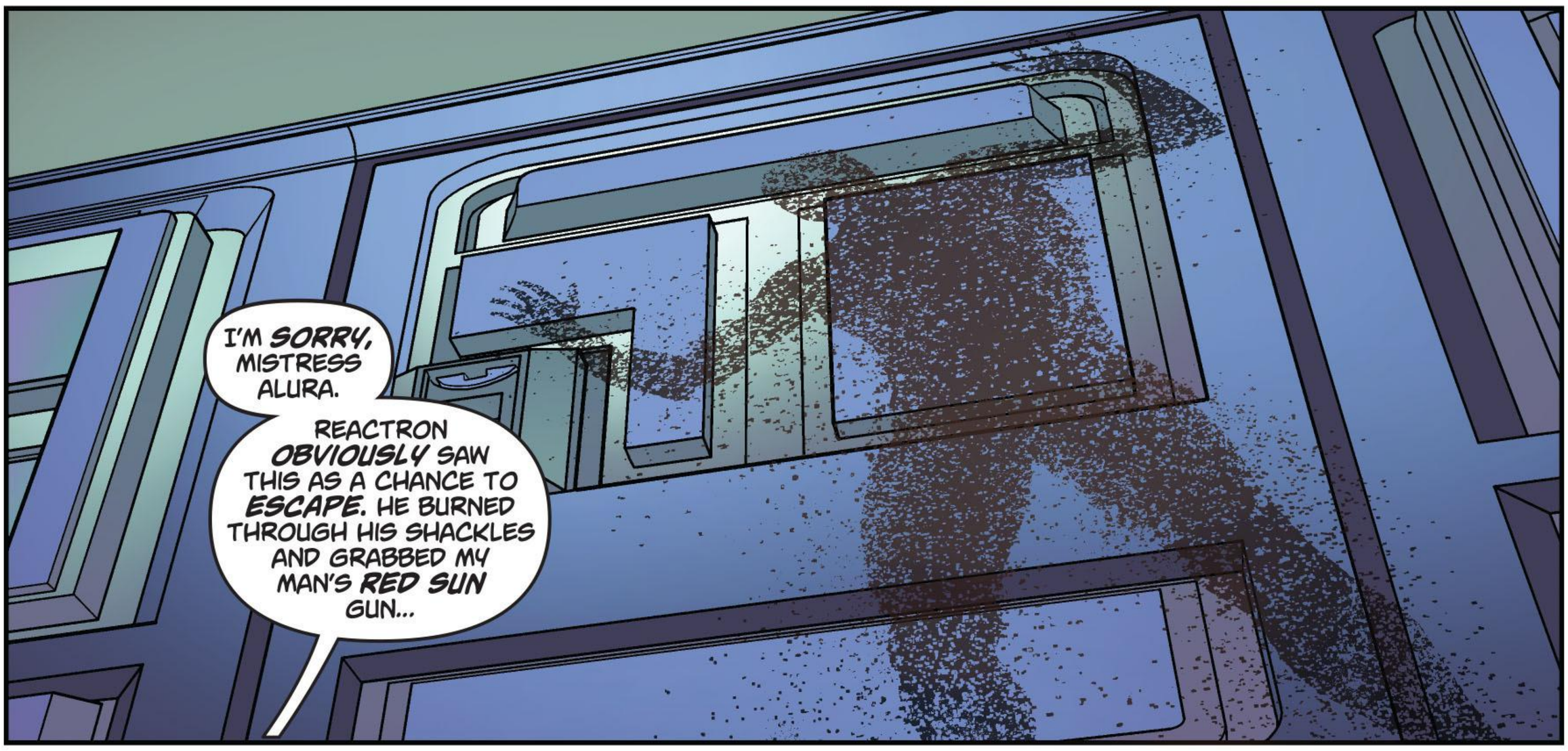
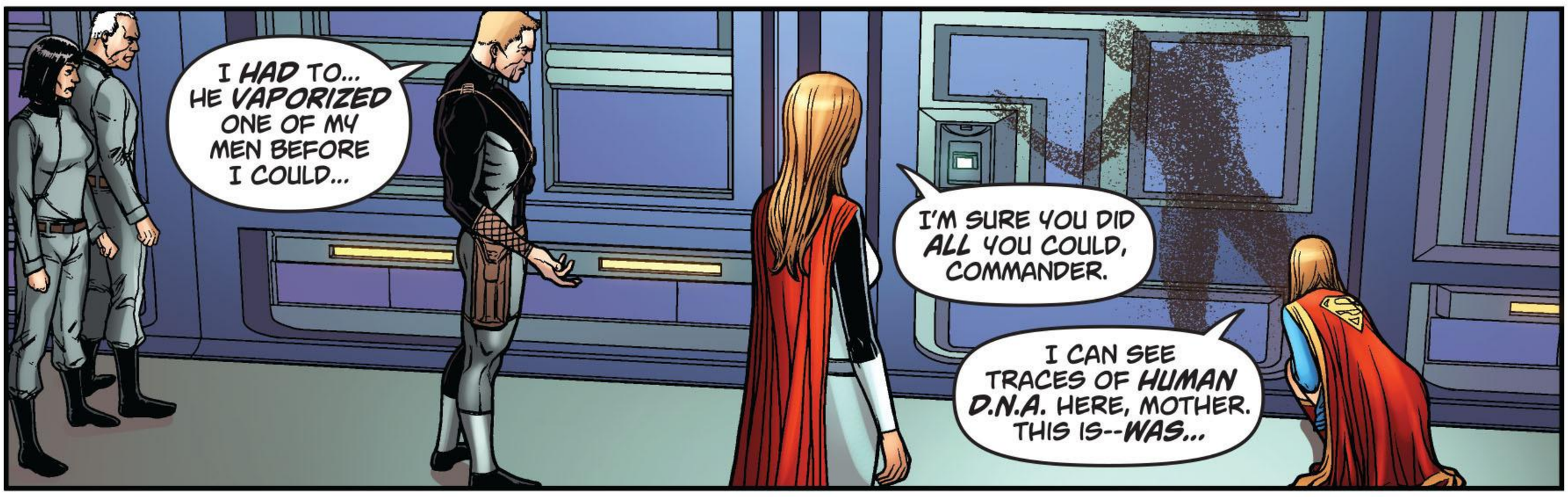
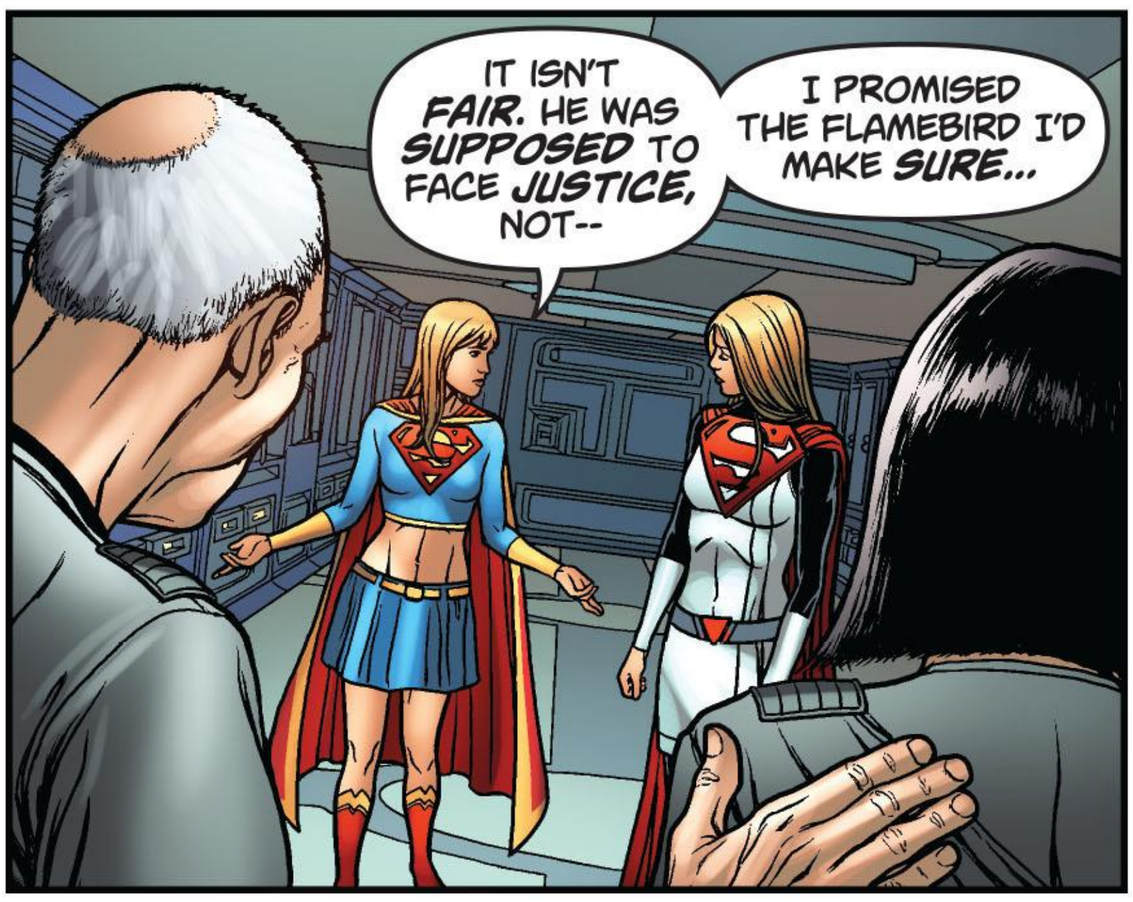
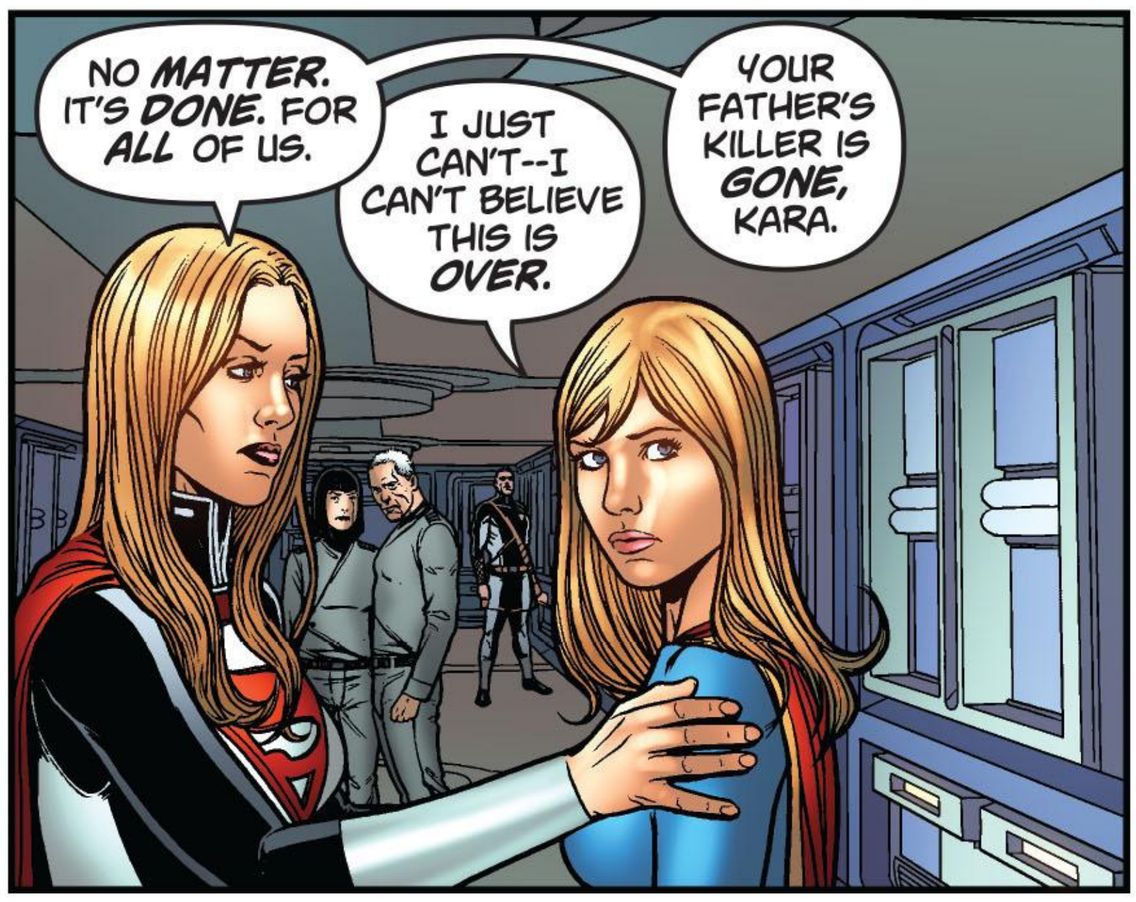
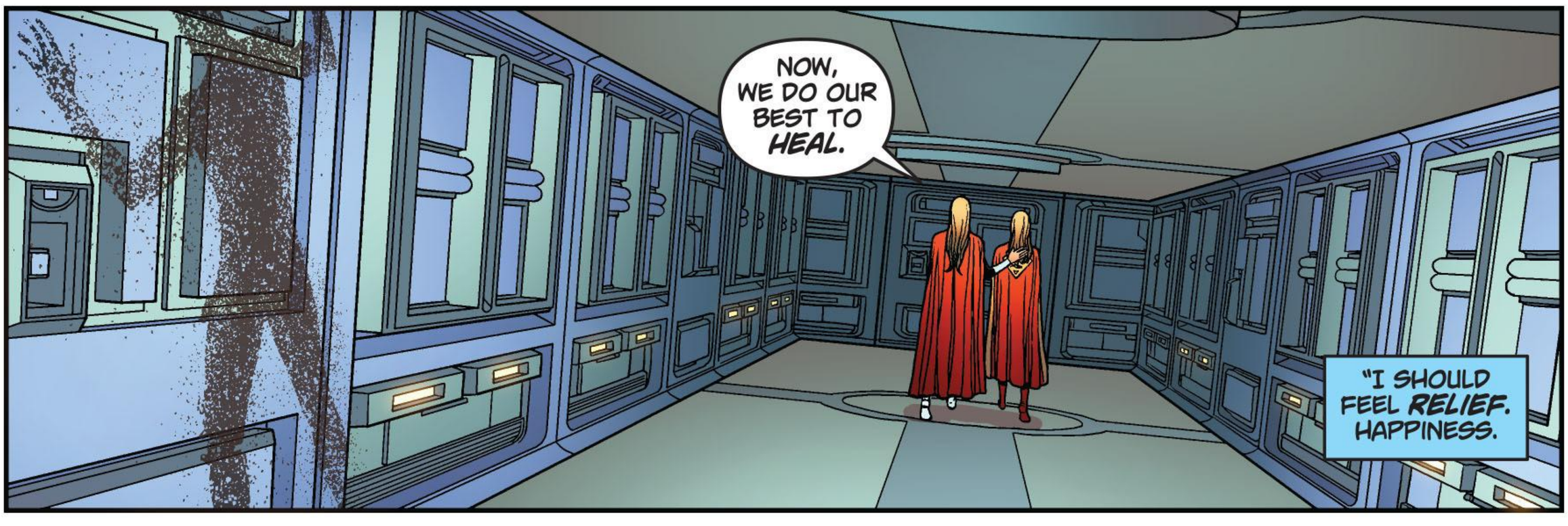
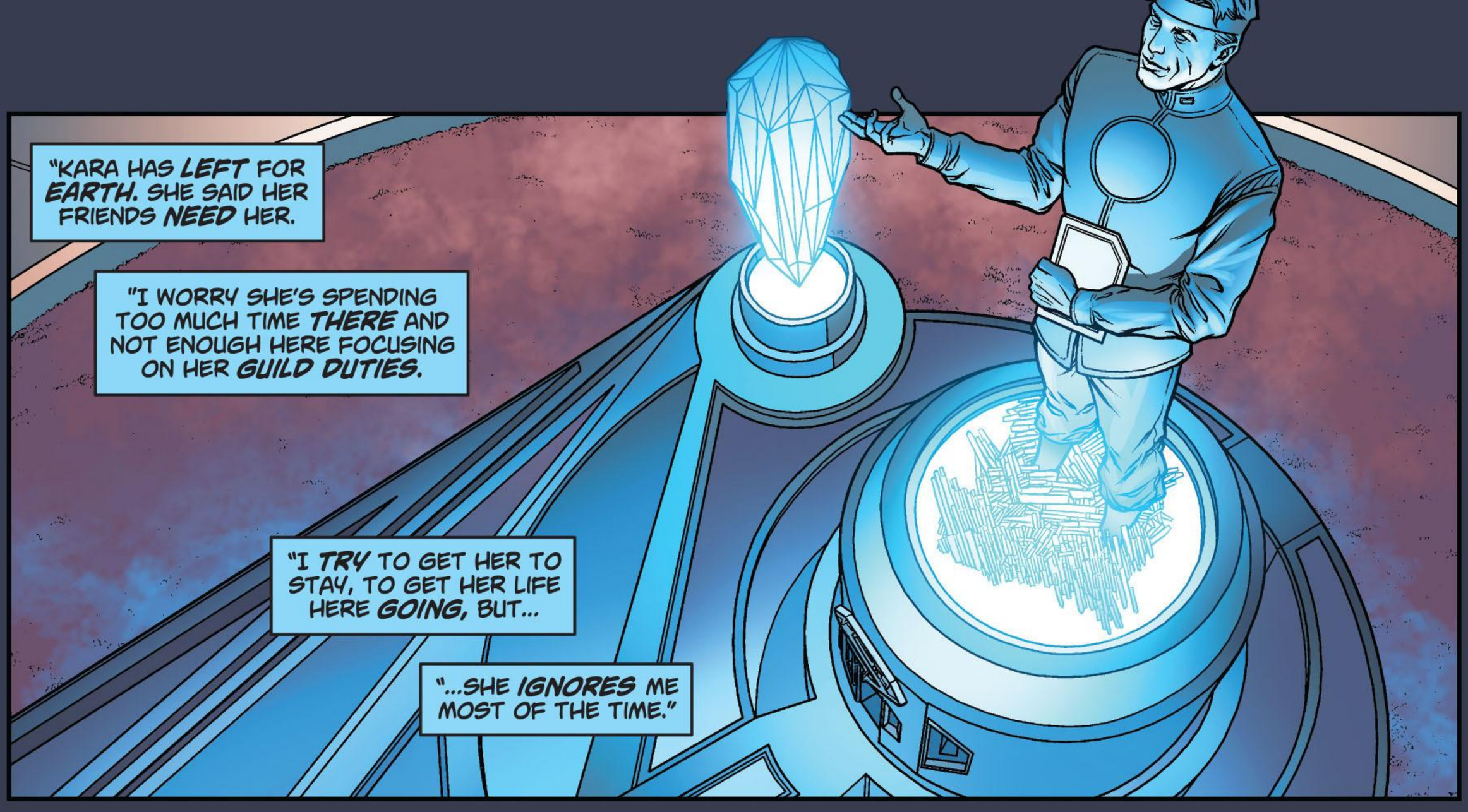

I'M SORRY, MISTRESS ALURA.
REACTRON OBVIOUSLY SAW THIS AS A CHANCE TO ESCAPE. HE BURNED THROUGH HIS SHACKLES AND GRABBED MY MAN'S RED SUN GUN...

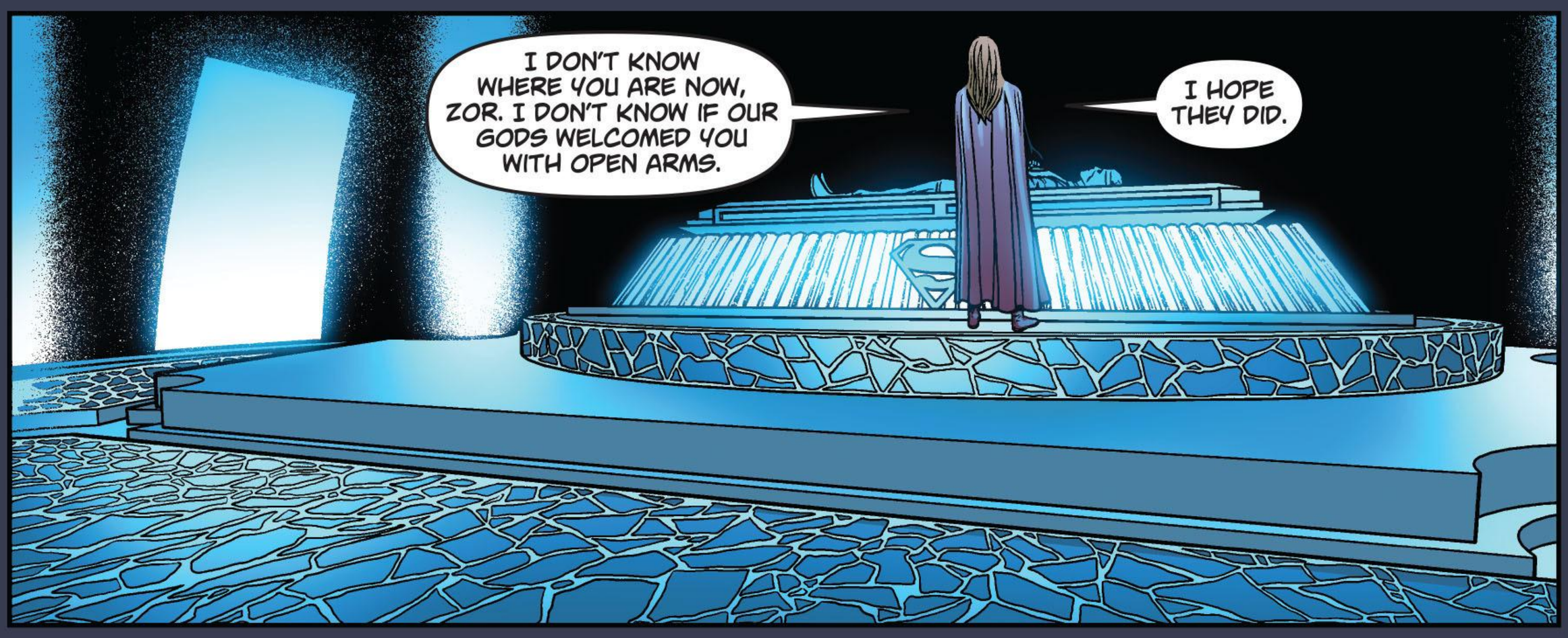

I HAD TO... HE VAPORIZED ONE OF MY MEN BEFORE I COULD...
I'M SURE YOU DID ALL YOU COULD, COMMANDER.
I CAN SEE TRACES OF HUMAN D.N.A. HERE, MOTHER. THIS IS--WAS...

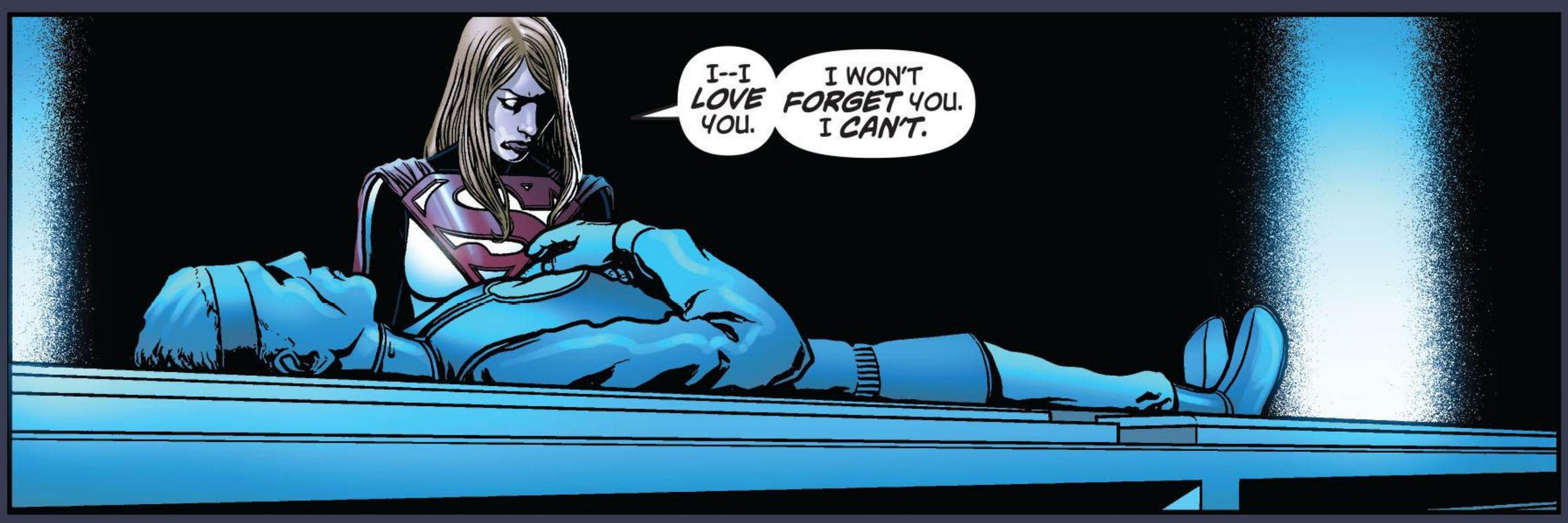

IT ISN'T FAIR. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO FACE JUSTICE, NOT--
I PROMISED THE FLAMEBIRD I'D MAKE SURE...

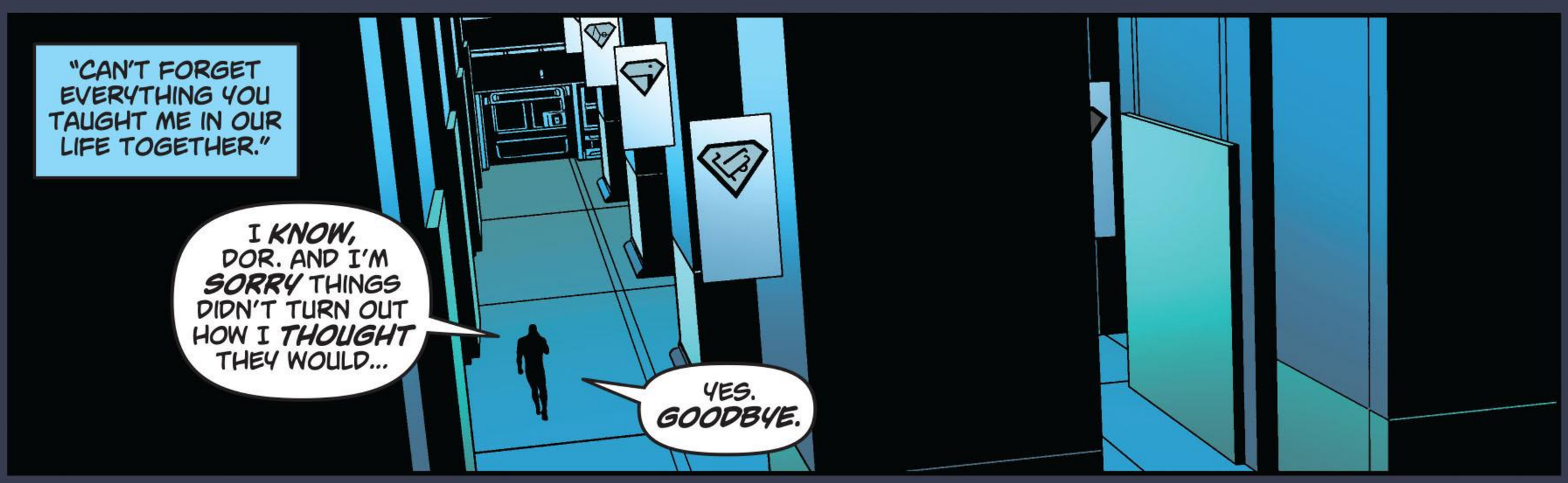

NO MATTER. IT'S DONE. FOR ALL OF US.
I JUST CAN'T--I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS OVER.
YOUR FATHER'S KILLER IS GONE, KARA.

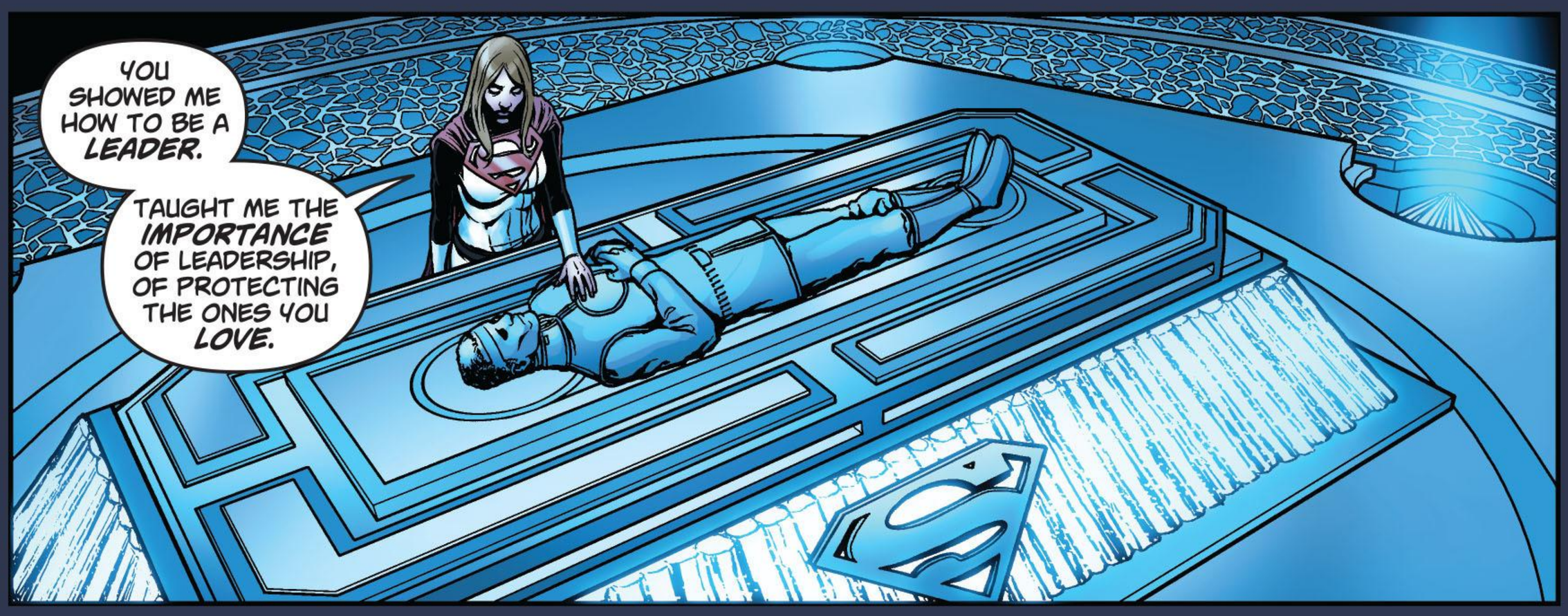

NOW, WE DO OUR BEST TO HEAL.
"I SHOULD FEEL RELIEF. HAPPINESS.


"KARA HAS LEFT FOR EARTH. SHE SAID HER FRIENDS NEED HER.
"I WORRY SHE'S SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME THERE AND NOT ENOUGH HERE FOCUSING ON HER GUILD DUTIES.
"I TRY TO GET HER TO STAY, TO GET HER LIFE HERE GOING, BUT...
"...SHE IGNORES ME MOST OF THE TIME."

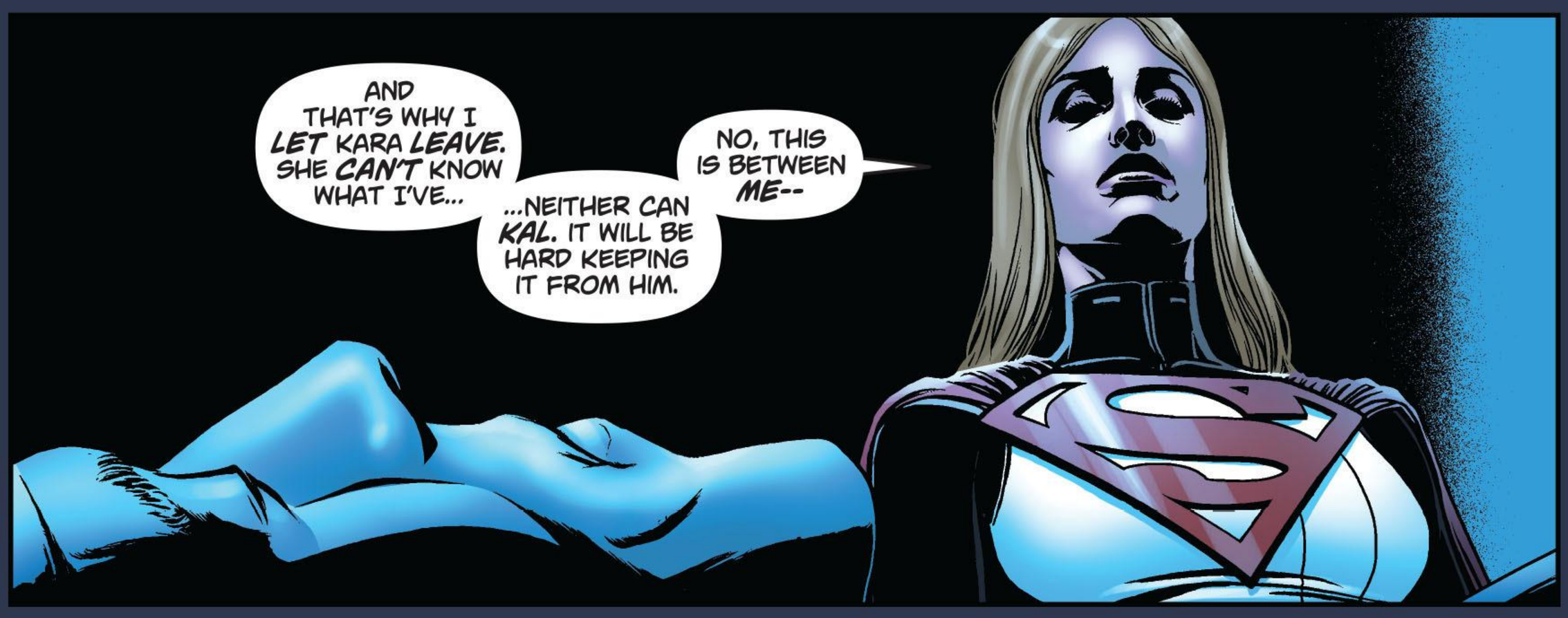

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE NOW, ZOR. I DON'T KNOW IF OUR GODS WELCOMED YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.
I HOPE THEY DID.


I--I LOVE YOU.
I WON'T FORGET YOU. I CAN'T.


"CAN'T FORGET EVERYTHING YOU TAUGHT ME IN OUR LIFE TOGETHER."
I KNOW, DOR. AND I'M SORRY THINGS DIDN'T TURN OUT HOW I THOUGHT THEY WOULD...
YES. GOODBYE.


YOU SHOWED ME HOW TO BE A LEADER.
TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP, OF PROTECTING THE ONES YOU LOVE.

"TAUGHT ME THAT WE SHOULD BE ABOVE VENGEANCE."
sonic shield active
FOOLS. SO EASILY MISLED.

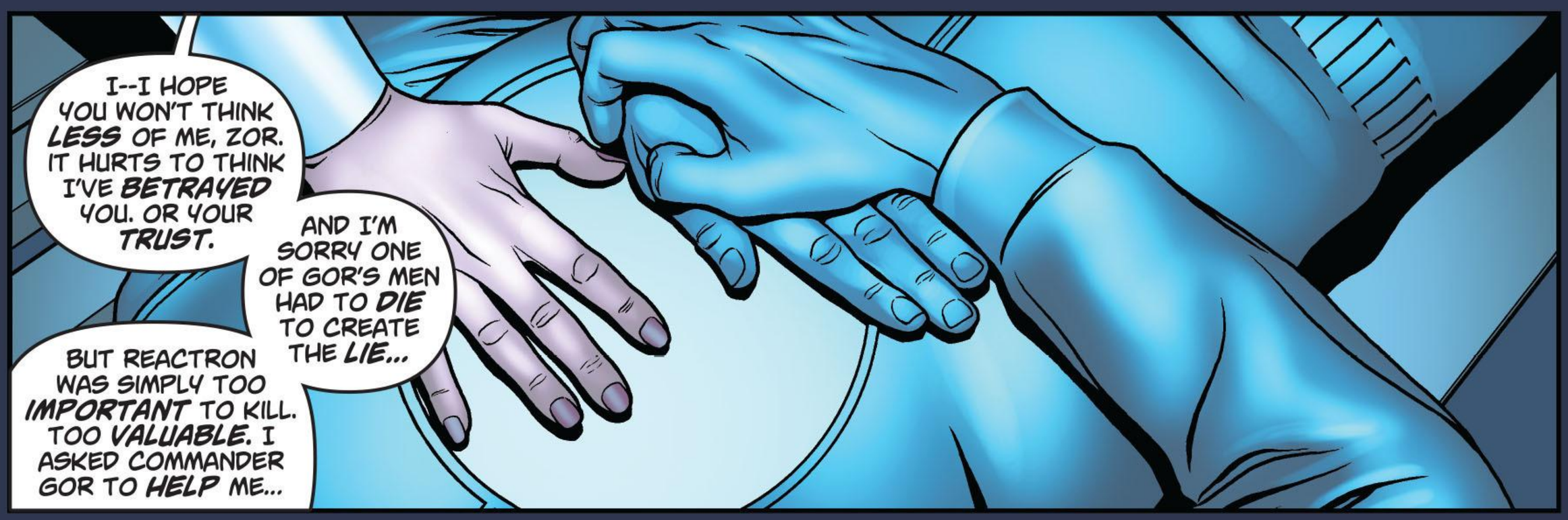

AND THAT'S WHY I LET KARA LEAVE. SHE CAN'T KNOW WHAT I'VE...
...NEITHER CAN KAL. IT WILL BE HARD KEEPING IT FROM HIM.
NO, THIS IS BETWEEN ME--

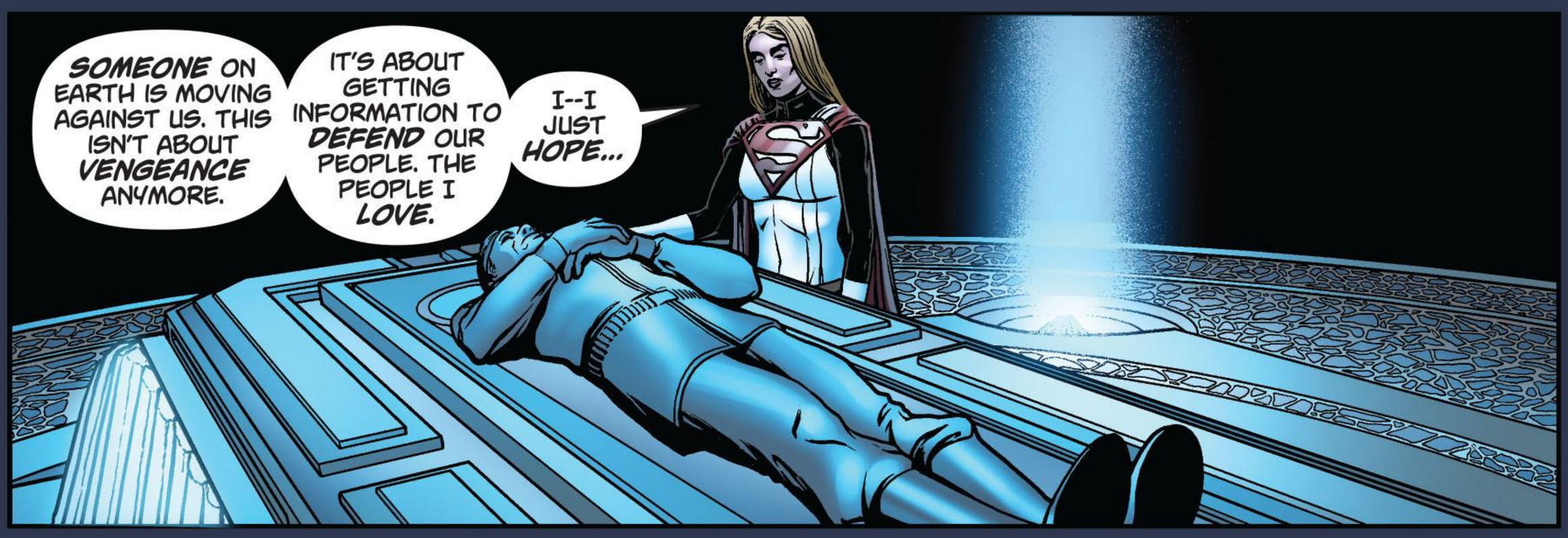
"--AND COMMANDER GOR."
TELL ME, WORM--

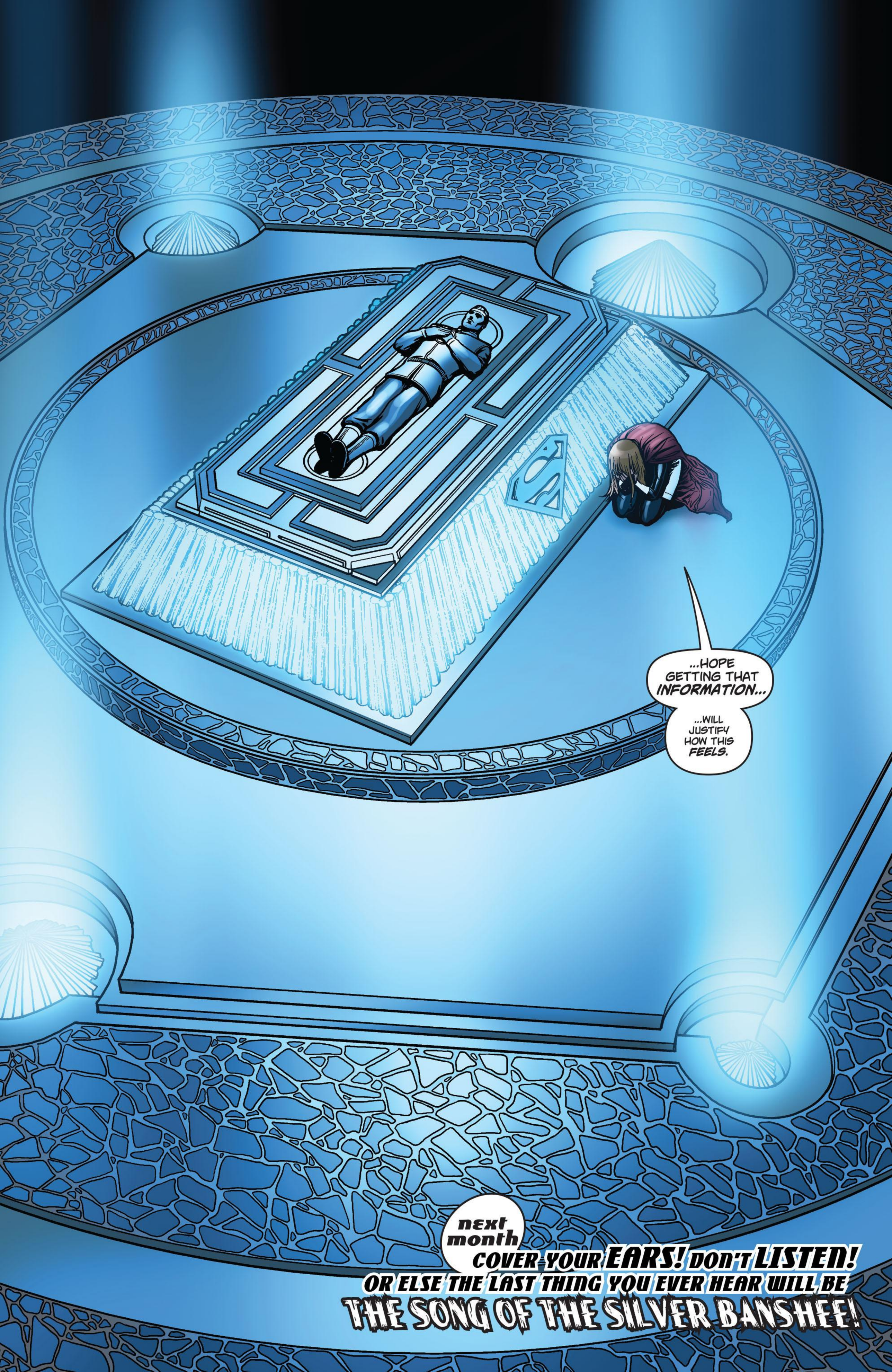
--HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A DEAD MAN?
...C-COME CLOSER...AND FIND OUT...

OH, WE'LL BE GETTING CLOSER, MAJOR KRULL.
WE'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, ACTUALLY.
BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST--

--I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU HANDLE PAIN.
"I'M SORRY."


I--I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK LESS OF ME, ZOR. IT HURTS TO THINK I'VE BETRAYED YOU. OR YOUR TRUST.
AND I'M SORRY ONE OF GOR'S MEN HAD TO DIE TO CREATE THE LIE...
BUT REACTRON WAS SIMPLY TOO IMPORTANT TO KILL. TOO VALUABLE. I ASKED COMMANDER GOR TO HELP ME...


SOMEONE ON EARTH IS MOVING AGAINST US. THIS ISN'T ABOUT VENGEANCE ANYMORE.
IT'S ABOUT GETTING INFORMATION TO DEFEND OUR PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE I LOVE.
I--I JUST HOPE...


...HOPE GETTING THAT INFORMATION...
...WILL JUSTIFY HOW THIS FEELS.
next month
COVER YOUR EARS! DON'T LISTEN!
OR ELSE THE LAST THING YOU EVER HEAR WILL BE
THE SONG OF THE SILVER BANSHEE!

OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
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