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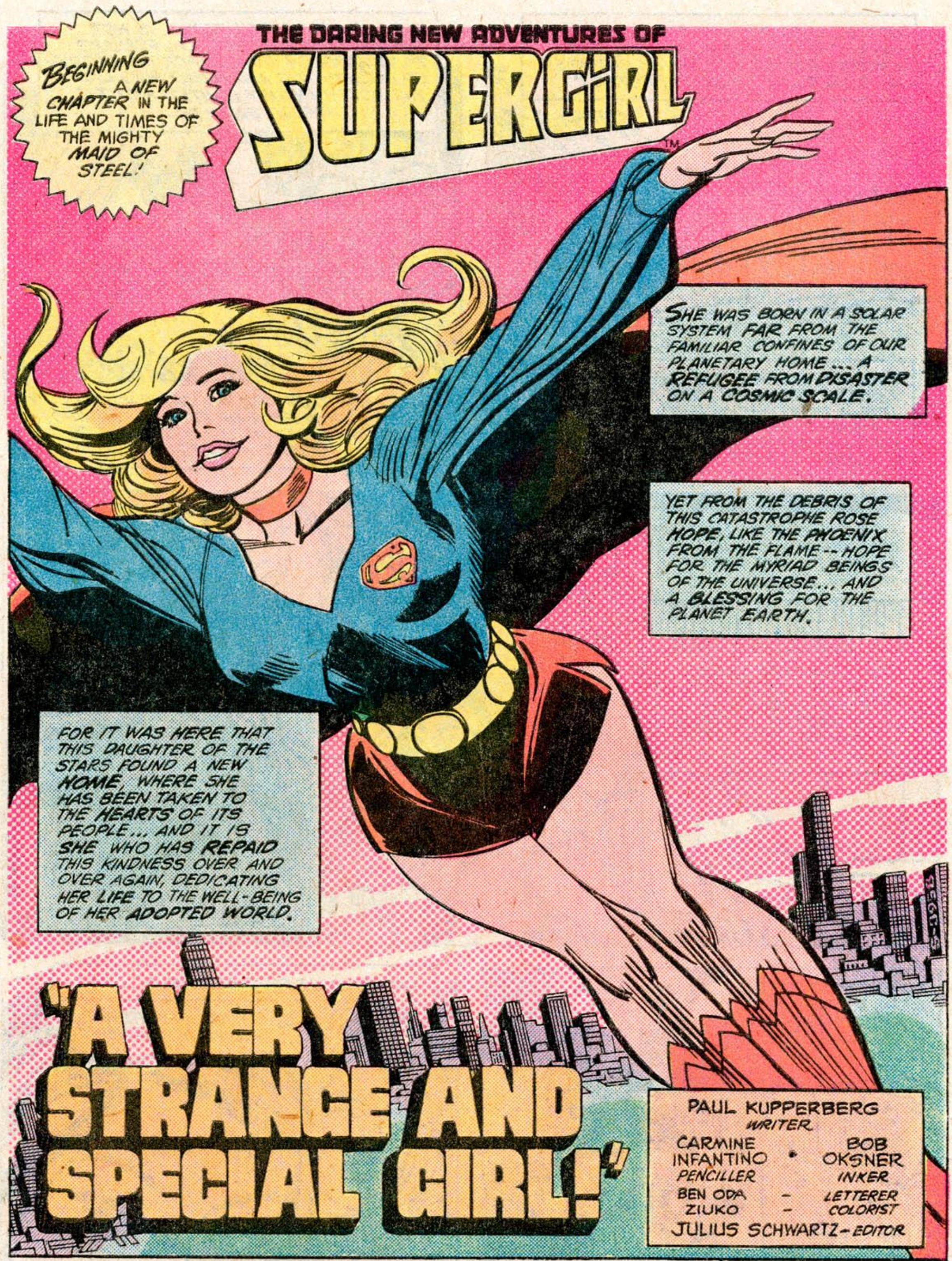

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NOT MANY PEOPLE TAKE THE TRAIN THESE DAYS. IT'S TOO SLOW, THEY SAY. TOO UNCOMFORTABLE. WHY GO BY RAIL WHEN AIRPLANES ARE SO MUCH FASTER?

TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAKE SHORE LIMITED FROM NEW YORK TO CHICAGO. IT'S A TWENTY-HOUR TRIP SNAKING COMPARATIVELY LAZILY THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA AND INDIANA, WHILE THE SAME JOURNEY BY PLANE IS A MERE 90 MINUTES.

BUT THE AGE OF RAIL TRAVEL IS NOT, THANKFULLY, QUITE OVER. OH, PERHAPS THESE MODERN TRAINS LACK THE GLORY OF EARLIER DAYS AND FAMED RUNS LIKE THE 20TH-CENTURY LIMITED AND THE ORIENT EXPRESS--

--YET RUN THEY STILL DO, CATERING TO THOSE WITH A FEAR OF FLYING... OR WHO STILL PREFER TO ACTUALLY SEE WHERE THEY'RE HEADED--

--OR THOSE FORTUNATE FEW WHO ARE IN ABSOLUTELY NO HURRY TO GET WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

AND NUMBERED AMONG THAT PARTICULAR GROUP ARE EVEN SOME WITH MUCH FASTER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

YES... IT'S AMAZING THE THINGS YOU MISS SEEING BY FLYING OVER THIS COUNTRY.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MS. DANVERS. I NEVER TAKE A PLANE IF I CAN AVOID IT. HAVE YOU FLOWN VERY MUCH?

MMMM... A BIT, YES.

LINDA DANVERS IS ONE OF THAT NUMBER--

--AND A MOST SPECIAL ONE AT THAT.

OH, MR. WAINWRIGHT... IF ONLY YOU KNEW!

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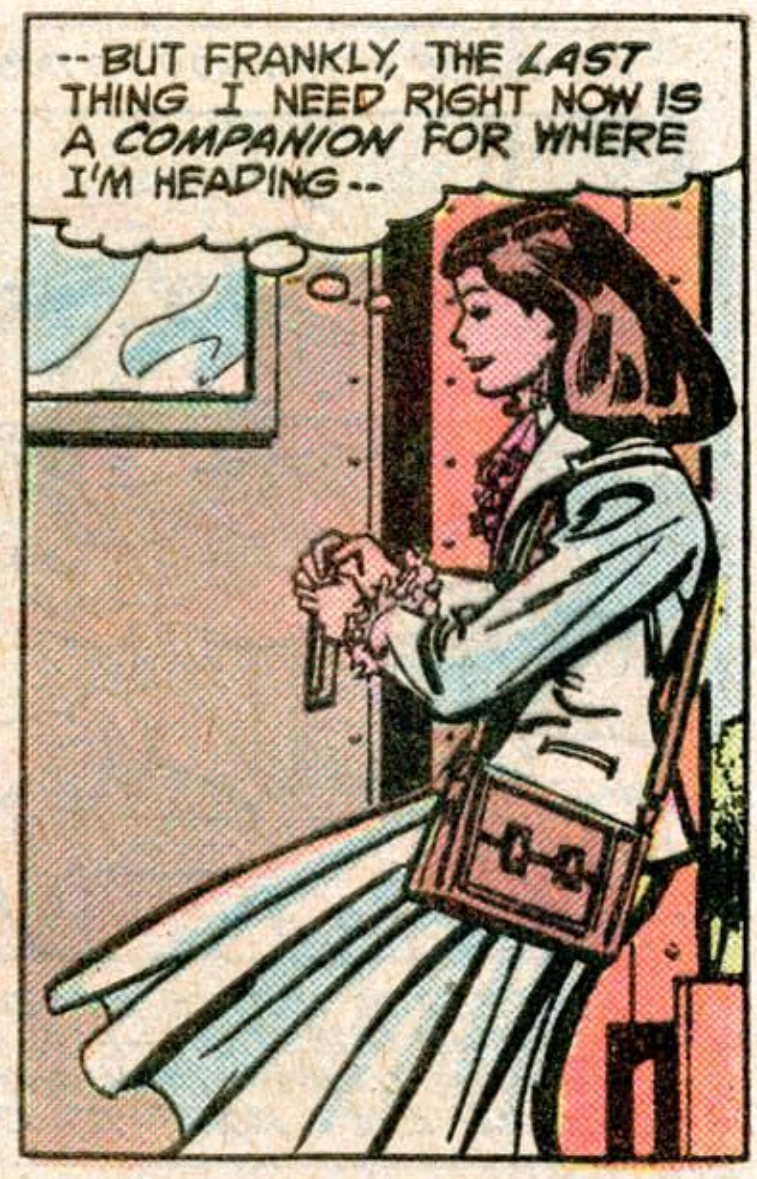
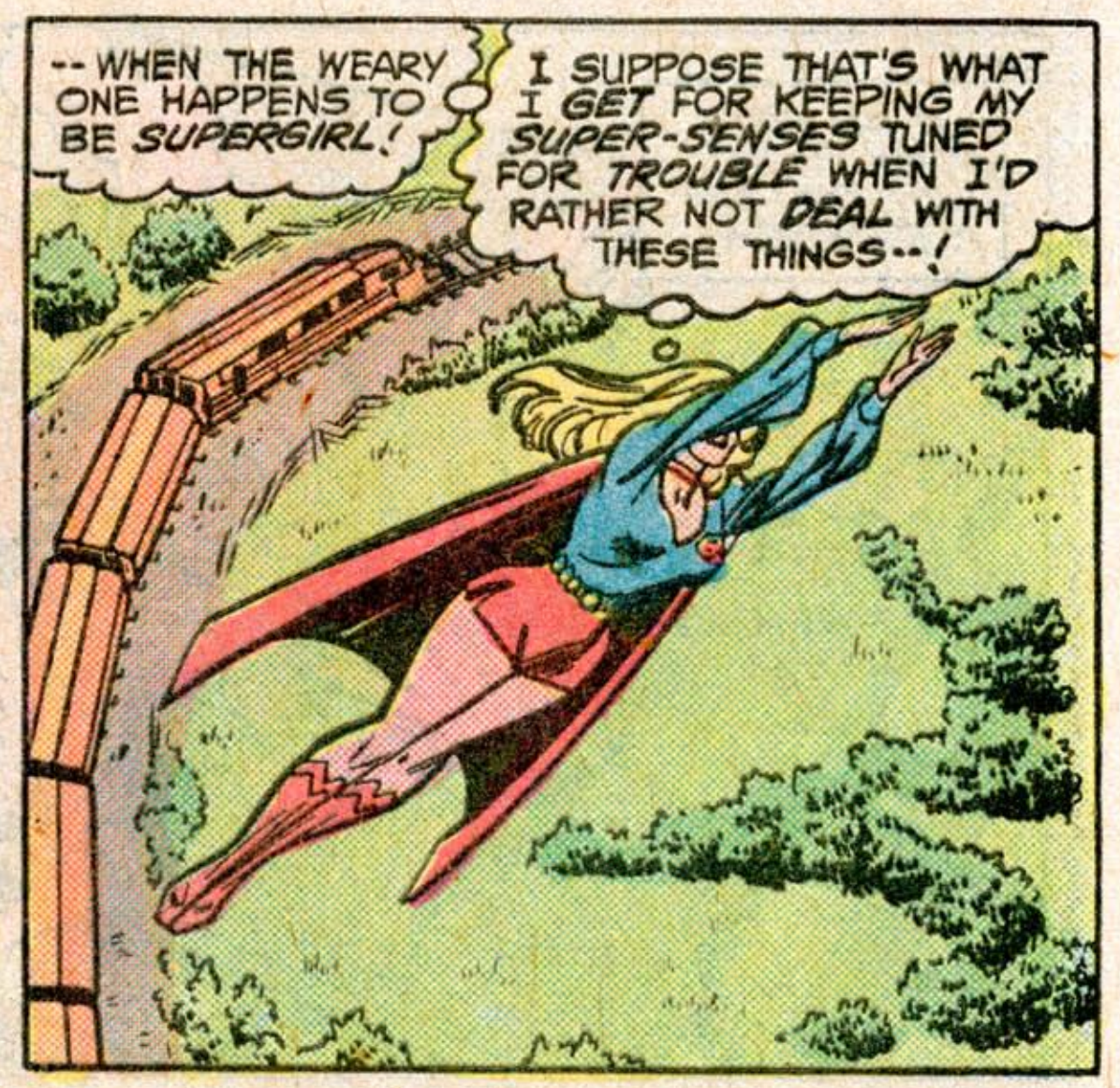
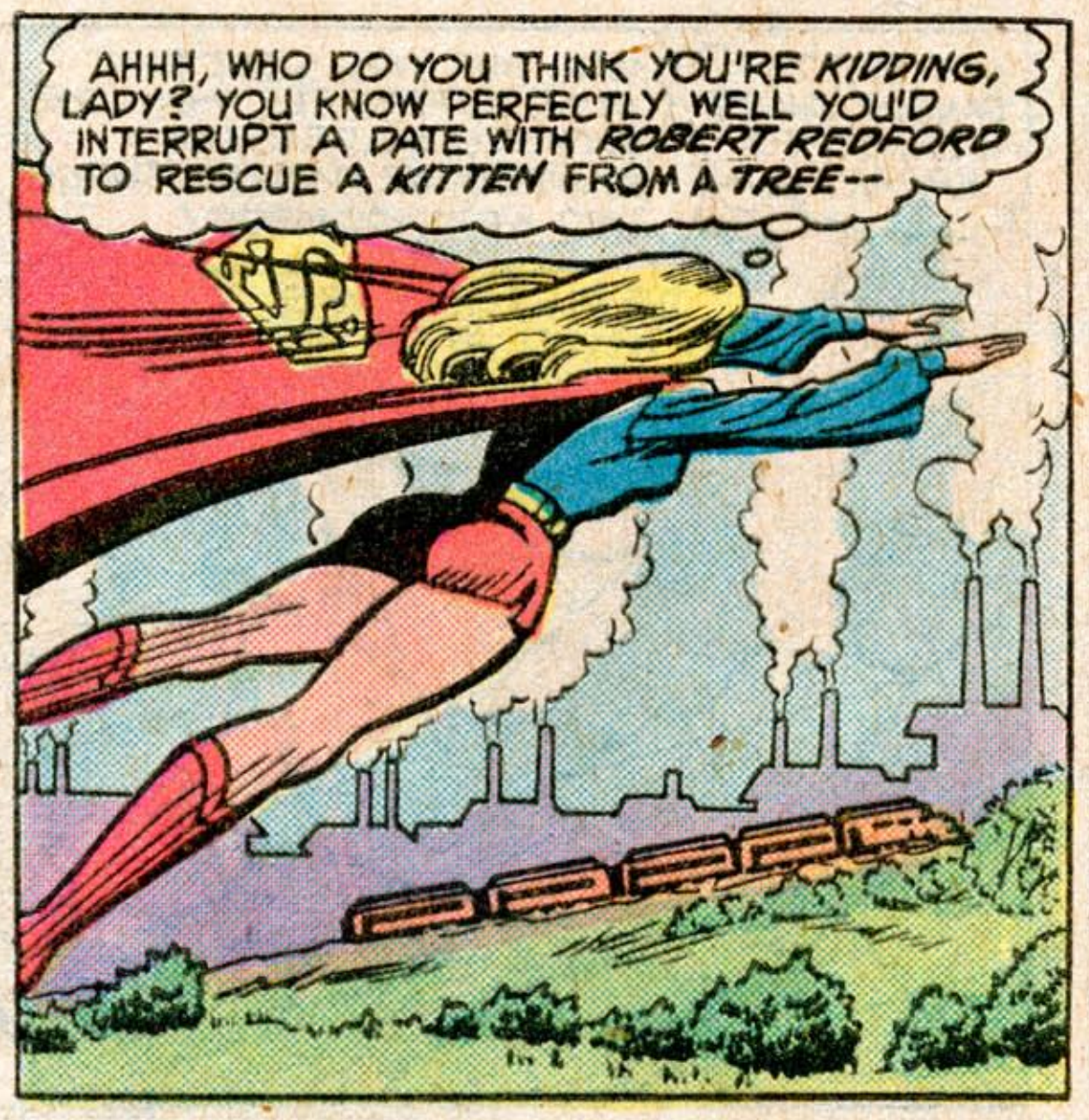
WELL, I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE DINING CAR. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN BRING YOU, MR. WAINWRIGHT?
NOTHING FOR ME, THANKS. I'M SAVING MY APPETITE FOR WHEN WE HIT CHICAGO!

I'M GLAD HE DIDN'T DECIDE TO JOIN ME FOR LUNCH. NOT THAT HE ISN'T A NICE MAN--

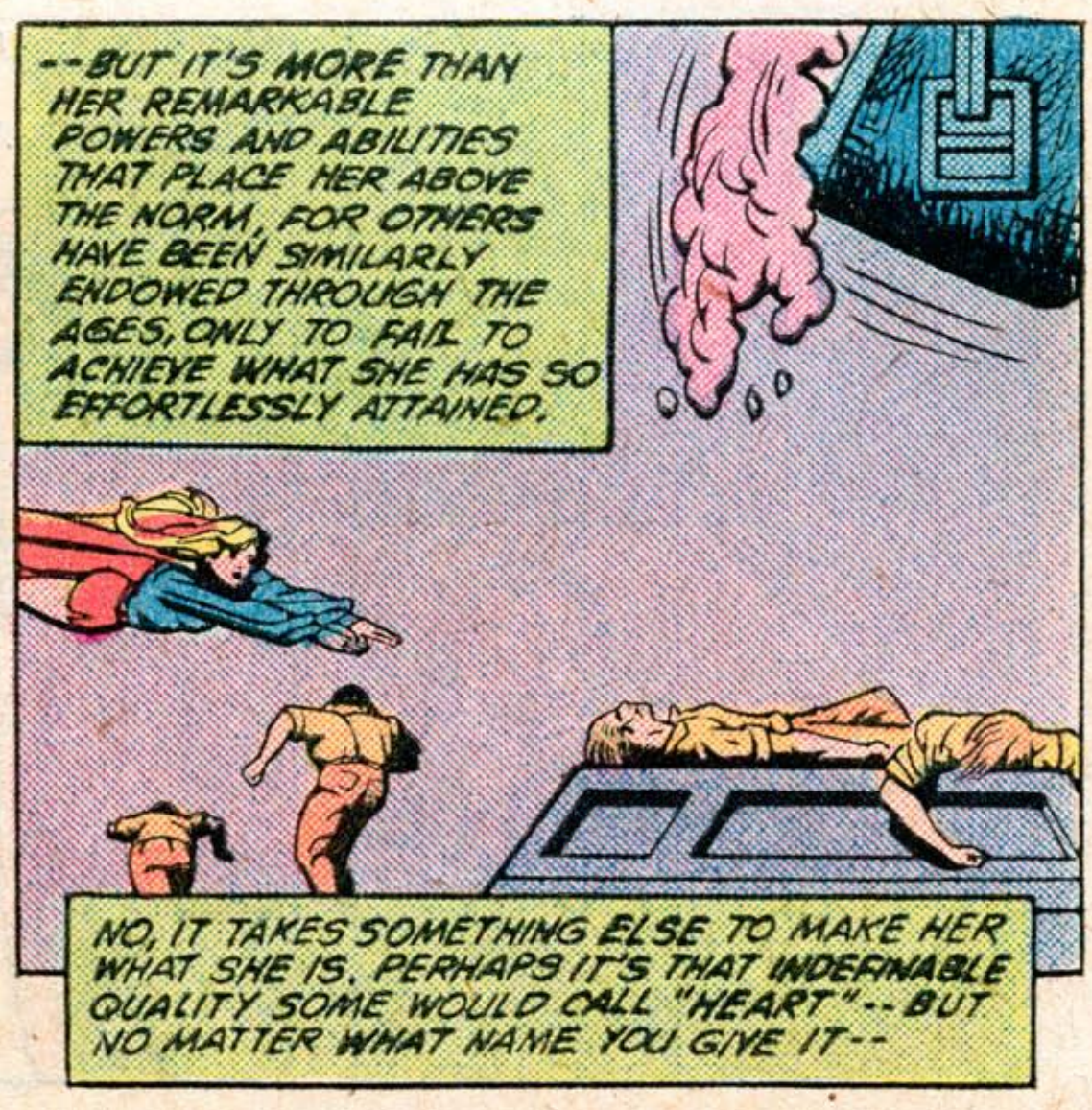

--BUT FRANKLY, THE LAST THING I NEED RIGHT NOW IS A COMPANION FOR WHERE I'M HEADING--

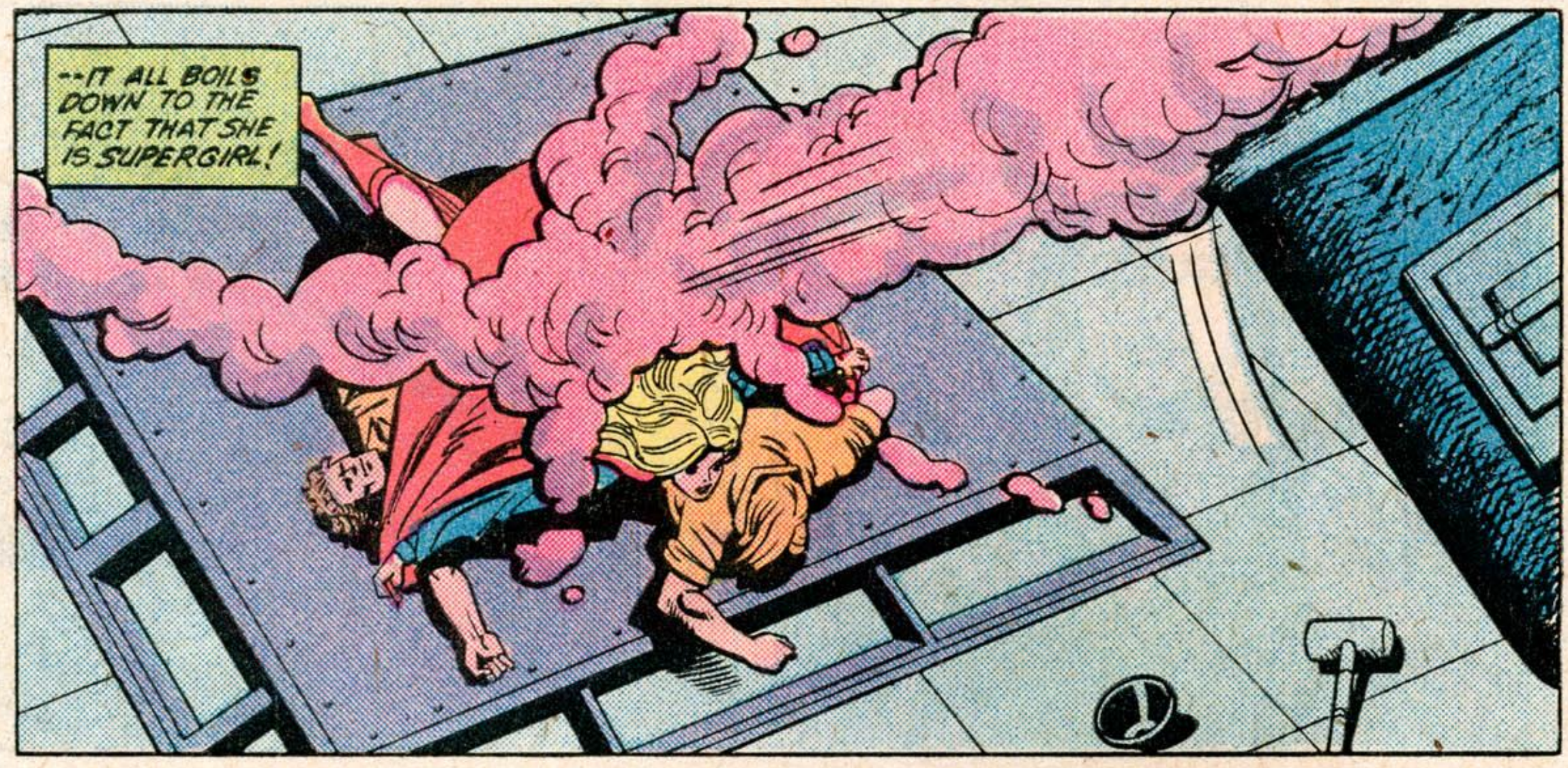
--ESPECIALLY A COMPANION WHO DOESN'T CARE FOR FLYING!
SIGH! AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO TAKE IT EASY ON MY WAY TO MY NEW HOME. I GUESS IT JUST PROVES ONCE AGAIN THERE'S NO REST FOR THE WEARY--

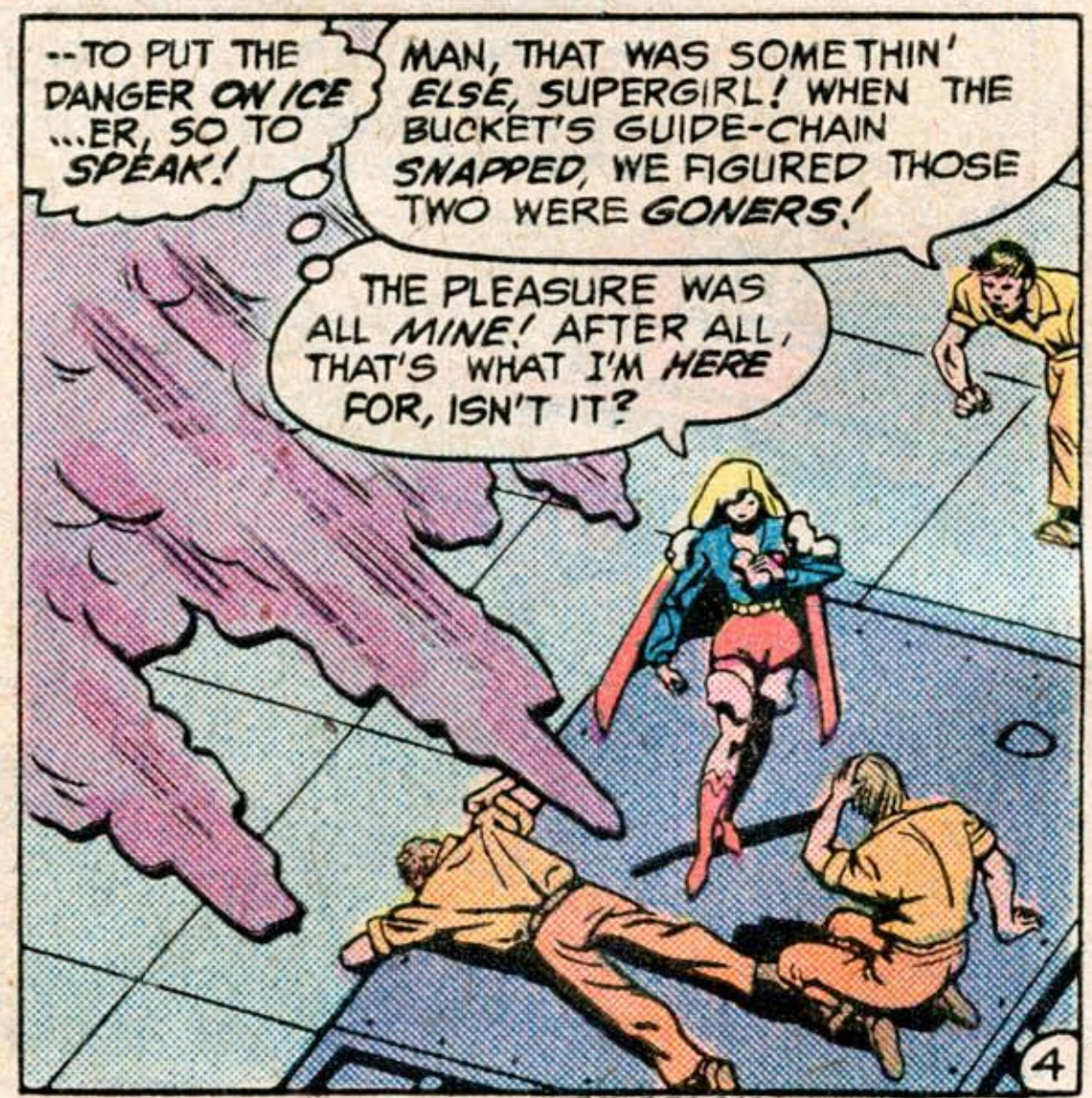

--WHEN THE WEARY ONE HAPPENS TO BE SUPERGIRL!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR KEEPING MY SUPER-SENSES TUNED FOR TROUBLE WHEN I'D RATHER NOT DEAL WITH THESE THINGS--!


AHHH, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING, LADY? YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL YOU'D INTERRUPT A DATE WITH ROBERT REDFORD TO RESCUE A KITTEN FROM A TREE--

--AND THIS BEATS A KITTY ANY DAY OF THE WEEK!







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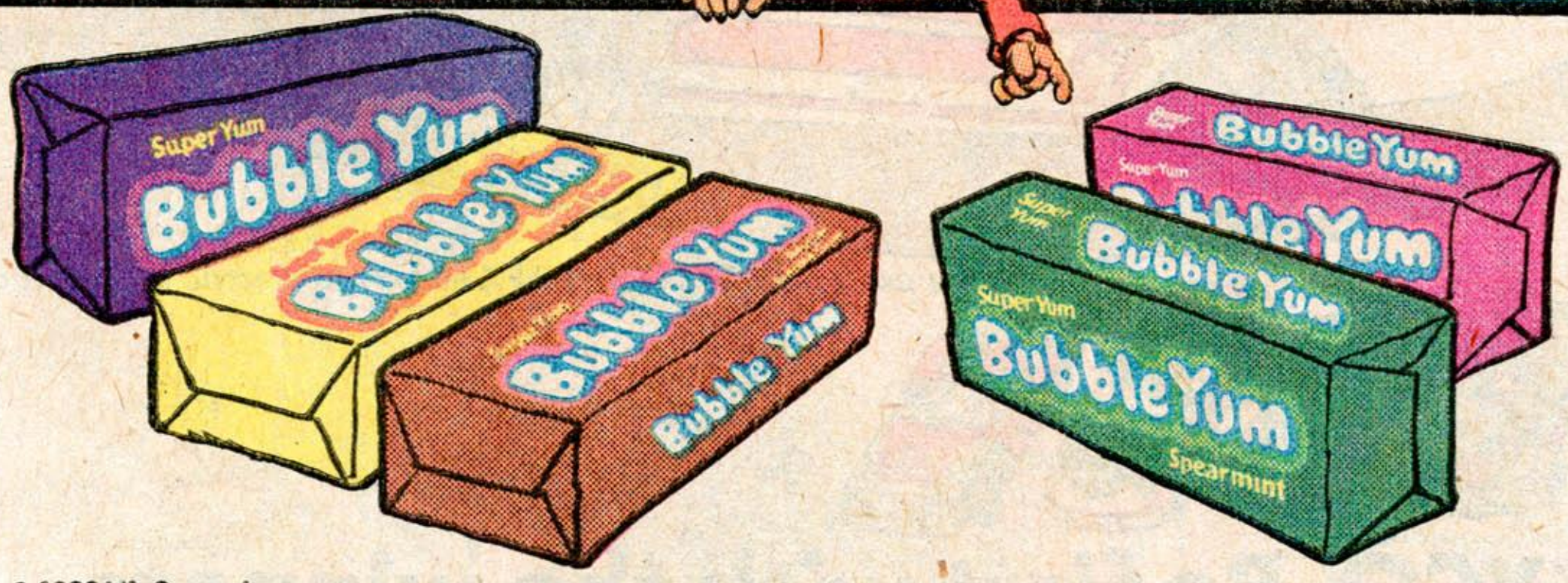

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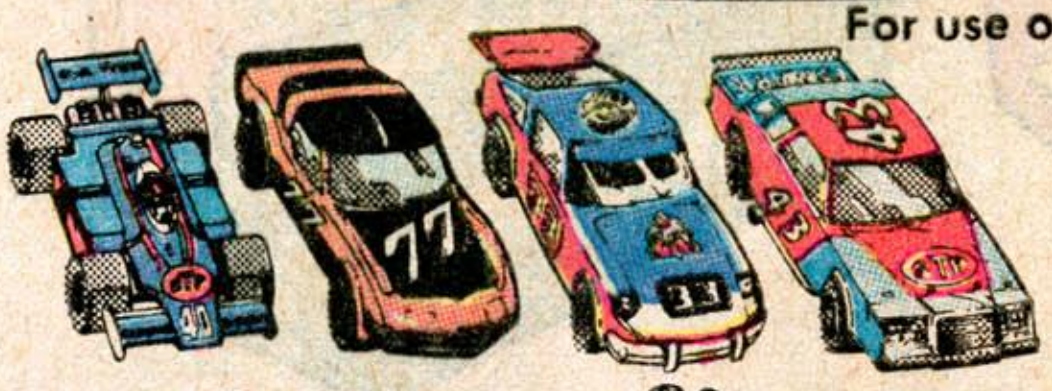


TYCO. Be first with the winners.

Y-YEAH, SUPERGIRL... BUT IF YOU HADN'T BEEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, MY LUCK WOULD'VE RUN OUT! THANK YOU!

IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IN MY LINE OF BUSINESS -- IT'S THAT LUCK SELDOM HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!

NOW, IF YOU GENTLEMEN WILL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT TO FLY! I HAVE A TRAIN TO CATCH--

--LITERALLY!

THEY BLINK AND SHE IS GONE--

--ONLY TO REAPPEAR MOMENTS LATER... ALBEIT IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT GUISE... MANY MILES TO THE WEST...

LOOKS LIKE MY SEAT-MATE DIDN'T WAIT UP FOR ME TO GET BACK. JUST AS WELL, I SUPPOSE. I COULD DO WITHOUT HIS ASKING WHY I'M BACK SO FAST FROM LUNCH--

--AND I DOUBT HE'D BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD HIM!

BESIDES, I COULD DO WITH THE TIME TO MYSELF... TO SIT BACK AND THINK. IT'S SELFISH, I KNOW, BUT I DESERVE ... WHOA!

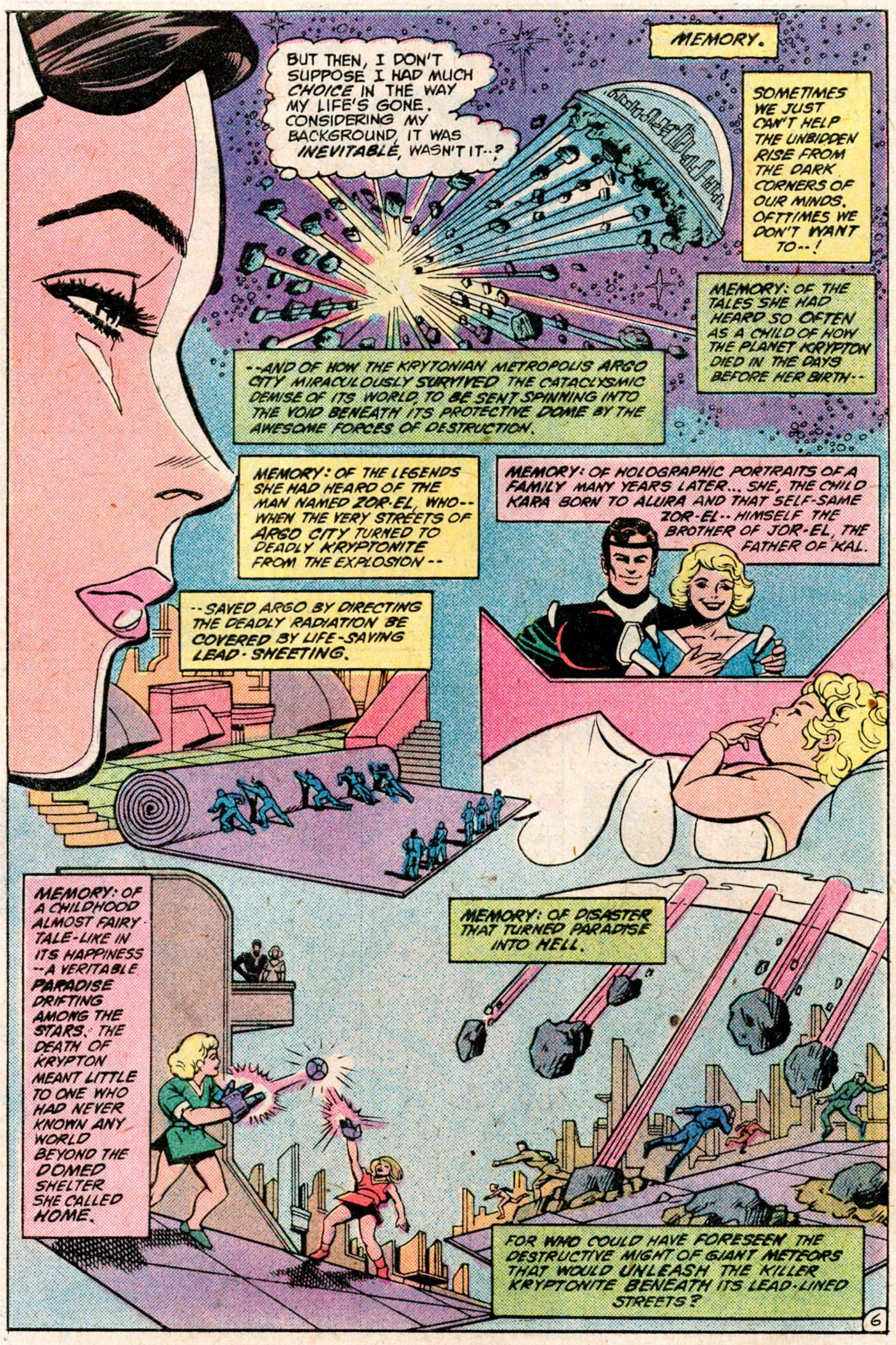
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, LINDA!

THERE'S NOTHING SELFISH ABOUT WANTING TO GET INTO YOURSELF FOR A WHILE INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT THE WHOLE BLASTED WORLD! I DO ENOUGH OF THAT AS SUPERGIRL--

--AND WASN'T THE WHOLE REASON FOR THIS MOVE... TO GIVE MYSELF SPACE TO BE JUST PLAIN LINDA DANVERS?

I'VE BEEN SUPERGIRL FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, IT SEEMS. NOT THAT I'D GIVE THAT UP FOR ANYTHING... BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE TOTALLY LOST HOLD OF THE PART OF ME THAT DOESN'T SCOOT AROUND THE UNIVERSE IN SHORTS AND A CAPE!

I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE JUST A PERSON... INSTEAD OF A SYMBOL!


MEMORY.
BUT THEN, I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAD MUCH CHOICE IN THE WAY MY LIFE'S GONE. CONSIDERING MY BACKGROUND, IT WAS INEVITABLE, WASN'T IT--?
SOMETIMES WE JUST CAN'T HELP THE UNBIDDEN RISE FROM THE DARK CORNERS OF OUR MINDS. OFTTIMES WE DON'T WANT TO--!
MEMORY: OF THE TALES SHE HAD HEARD SO OFTEN AS A CHILD OF HOW THE PLANET KRYPTON DIED IN THE DAYS BEFORE HER BIRTH--
--AND OF HOW THE KRYTONIAN METROPOLIS ARGO CITY MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED THE CATACLYSMIC DEMISE OF ITS WORLD, TO BE SENT SPINNING INTO THE VOID BENEATH ITS PROTECTIVE DOME BY THE AWESOME FORCES OF DESTRUCTION.
MEMORY: OF THE LEGENDS SHE HAD HEARD OF THE MAN NAMED ZOR-EL, WHO-- WHEN THE VERY STREETS OF ARGO CITY TURNED TO DEADLY KRYPTONITE FROM THE EXPLOSION--
MEMORY: OF HOLOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS OF A FAMILY MANY YEARS LATER... SHE, THE CHILD KARA BORN TO ALURA AND THAT SELF-SAME ZOR-EL-- HIMSELF THE BROTHER OF JOR-EL, THE FATHER OF KAL.
--SAVED ARGO BY DIRECTING THE DEADLY RADIATION BE COVERED BY LIFE-SAVING LEAD-SHEETING.
MEMORY: OF A CHILDHOOD ALMOST FAIRY-TALE-LIKE IN ITS HAPPINESS --A VERITABLE PARADISE DRIFTING AMONG THE STARS. THE DEATH OF KRYPTON MEANT LITTLE TO ONE WHO HAD NEVER KNOWN ANY WORLD BEYOND THE DOMED SHELTER SHE CALLED HOME.
MEMORY: OF DISASTER THAT TURNED PARADISE INTO HELL.
FOR WHO COULD HAVE FORESEEN THE DESTRUCTIVE MIGHT OF GIANT METEORS THAT WOULD UNLEASH THE KILLER KRYPTONITE BENEATH ITS LEAD-LINED STREETS?

MEMORY: OF DESPERATION AS SOLUTIONS WERE TRIED... AND DISCARDED AS USELESS.

IT SEEMED ALL THE PEOPLE OF ARGO CITY WERE SOON TO JOIN THEIR KRYPTONIAN BRETHREN IN DEATH -- SAVE FOR ONE OF THE FAMILY OF ZOR-EL.

MEMORY: OF HER FATHER'S WORDS -- OF THE SON OF HIS LATE BROTHER JOR, GROWN NOW TO MANHOOD ON A DISTANT WORLD WHOSE EXISTENCE WAS GLIMPSED THROUGH A SUB-SPACE TELESCOPE.

IT WAS THERE YOUNG KARA WOULD GO... ALONE.

MEMORY: OF A SORROW THAT WOULD NEVER DIE.

MEMORY: OF THE GIRL'S LAST VIEW OF ARGO CITY AS IT SPUN AWAY TO BE LOST FOR ALL TIME TO THE STARS.

MEMORY: OF ARRIVAL ON HER NEW HOME AND THE MEETING OF A FRIEND.

HER WORLD WAS GONE -- AND A WHOLE NEW ONE WAS TO OPEN BEFORE HER... ONE SHE WOULD NOT NEED TO FACE ALONE.

MEMORY: IT'S FUNNY HOW THE SAME EXPERIENCES ELICIT SUCH VERY DIFFERENT EMOTIONS WHEN SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF TIME.

WHEW! YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY! BUT THEN, YOU'RE NOT THE SAME LITTLE GIRL OF FIFTEEN THESE DAYS --

... EXCEPT, MAYBE, FOR THE PAIN OF LOSS...!

LINDA DANVERS SIGHS DEEPLY TO HERSELF AND THEN LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW. PERHAPS THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO LOSE HERSELF IN THE PAST, SHE THINKS WITH A SMILE.

BECAUSE SHE'S ARRIVED!

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL MILES TO THE NORTH OF LINDA'S POINT OF ARRIVAL, IN ONE OF THE MANY LUXURY CO-OPS THAT LINE THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE MICHIGAN...

--AND IN LOCAL NEWS AT NOON, A THREE-ALARM BLAZE SWEPT THROUGH A SOUTH-SIDE TENEMENT THIS MORNING, KILLING THREE--

--AND GANG-WAR ACTIVITIES ESCALATE AT THE CABRINI-GREEN HOUSING PROJECT. ALSO, POLICE ARREST EIGHT MEN CHARGED WITH RUNNING THE CITY'S BIGGEST DOPE RING. DETAILS AFTER THESE COMMERCIAL MESSAGES...

SPLENDID. POSITIVELY SPLENDID!

I-I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, MR. PENDERGAST! IT SEEMS SO... SO...

GHOULISH, MY DEAR?

IN A WAY, I SUPPOSE IT IS AT THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S MERELY MORE SIGNS OF THE DECAY--

--AND ISN'T THAT, AFTER ALL, WHAT WE'VE WORKED SO LONG AND SO DILIGENTLY ALL THESE YEARS TO BRING ABOUT, DEAR GAYLE?

I SUPPOSE. BUT THOSE PEOPLE... DYING-- KILLING EACH OTHER-- ROTTING THEIR BODIES WITH DRUGS--!

SOMETIMES I'M NOT SURE I CAN HANDLE IT, MR. PENDERGAST! I MEAN I CAN ALMOST FEEL IT-- LIKE IT WAS A REAL, PHYSICAL THING!

EVERY TIME SOMEONE DIES OR HATES OR DESTROYS... I KNOW IT-- LIKE IT WAS ME DOING THOSE THINGS!

I DUNNO... MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN WRONG ALL ALONG. MAYBE I AM CRAZY!

NO, GAYLE-- MERELY DIFFERENT! I'VE TOLD YOU-- YOU ARE SPECIAL... UNIQUE TO THIS DYING WORLD. YOU ARE A "SENSITIVE," YES--

--BUT ALSO ARE YOU SO MUCH MORE!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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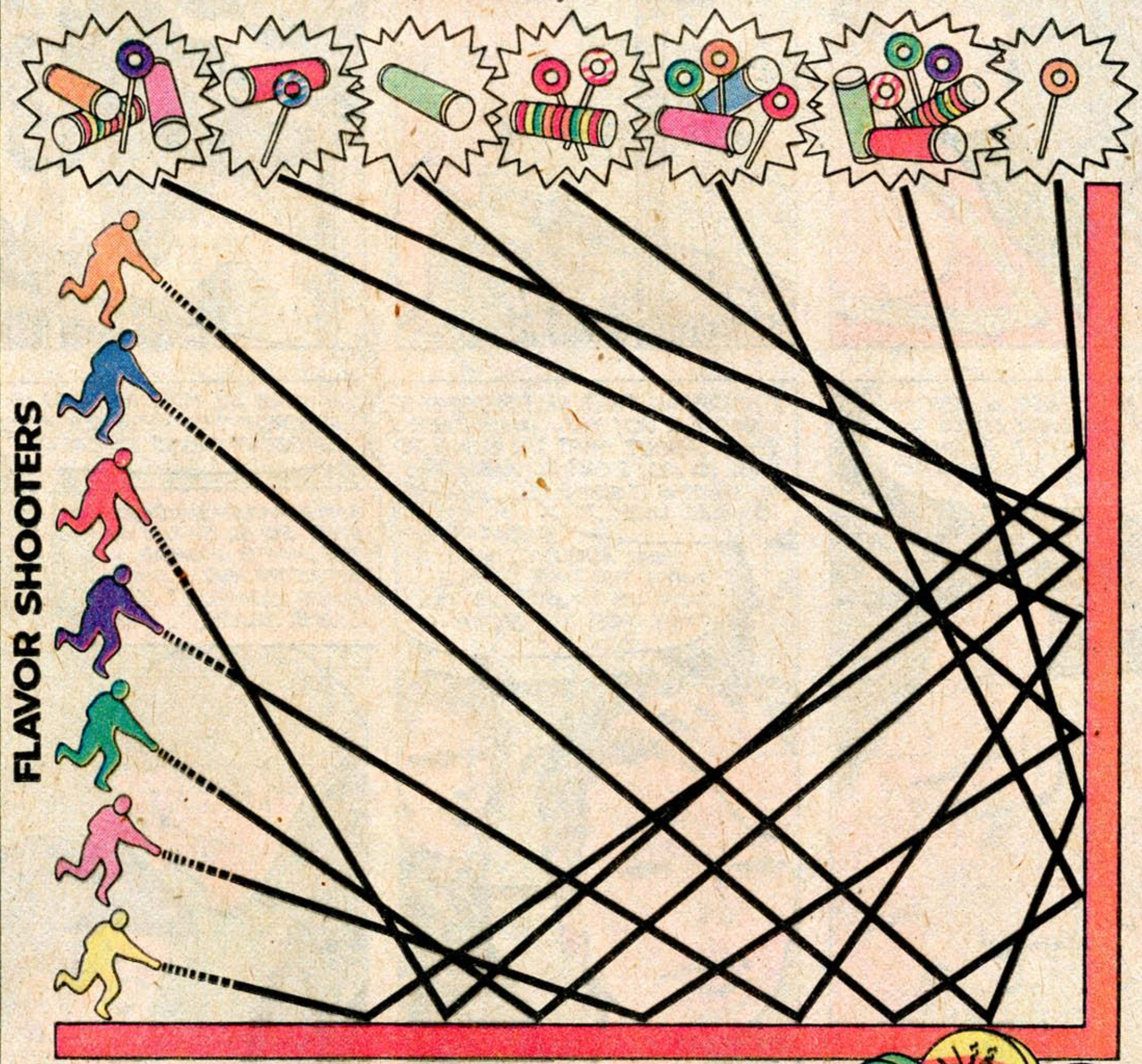

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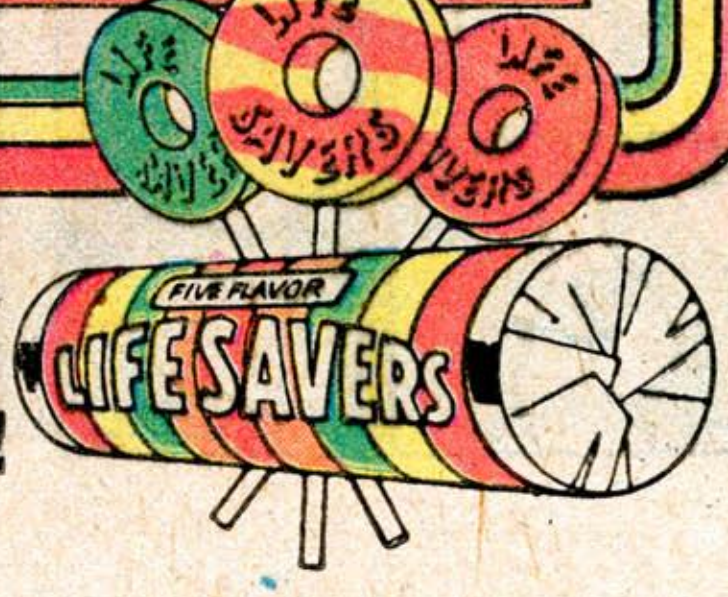
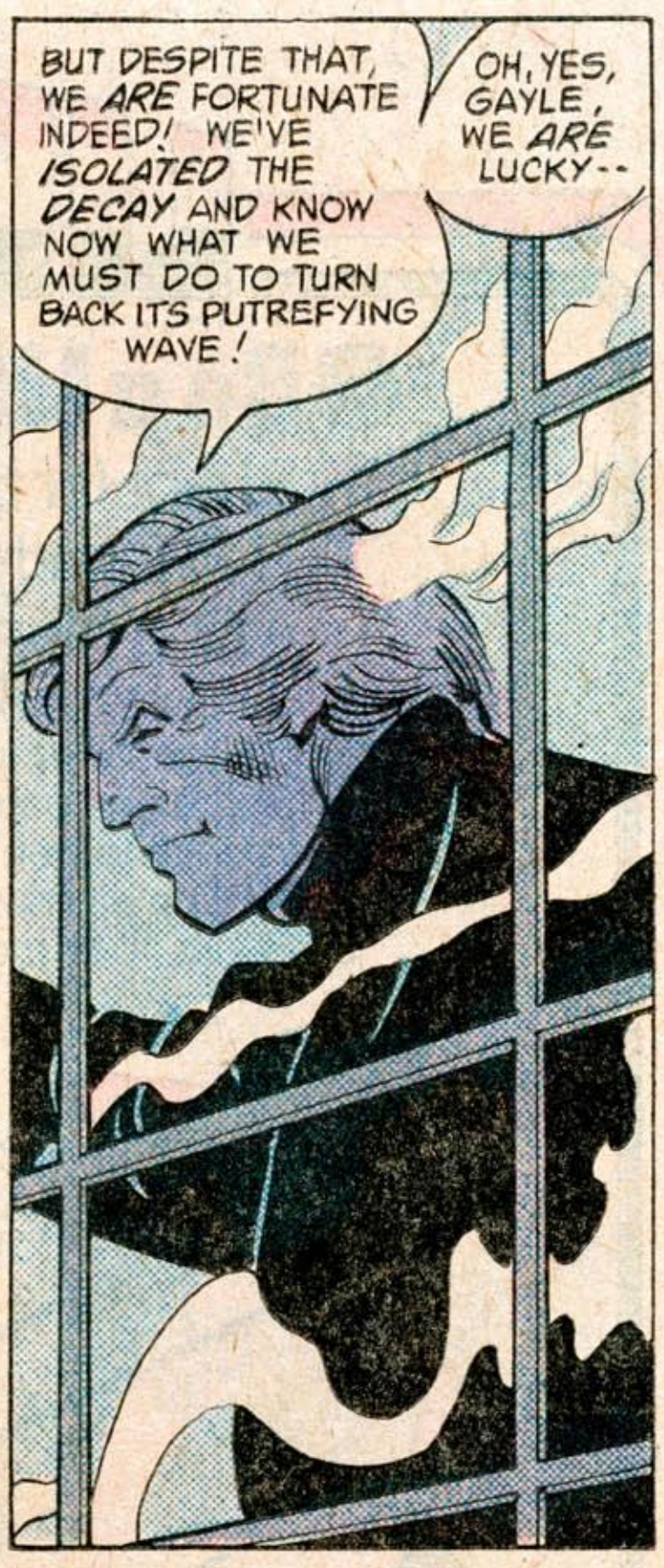
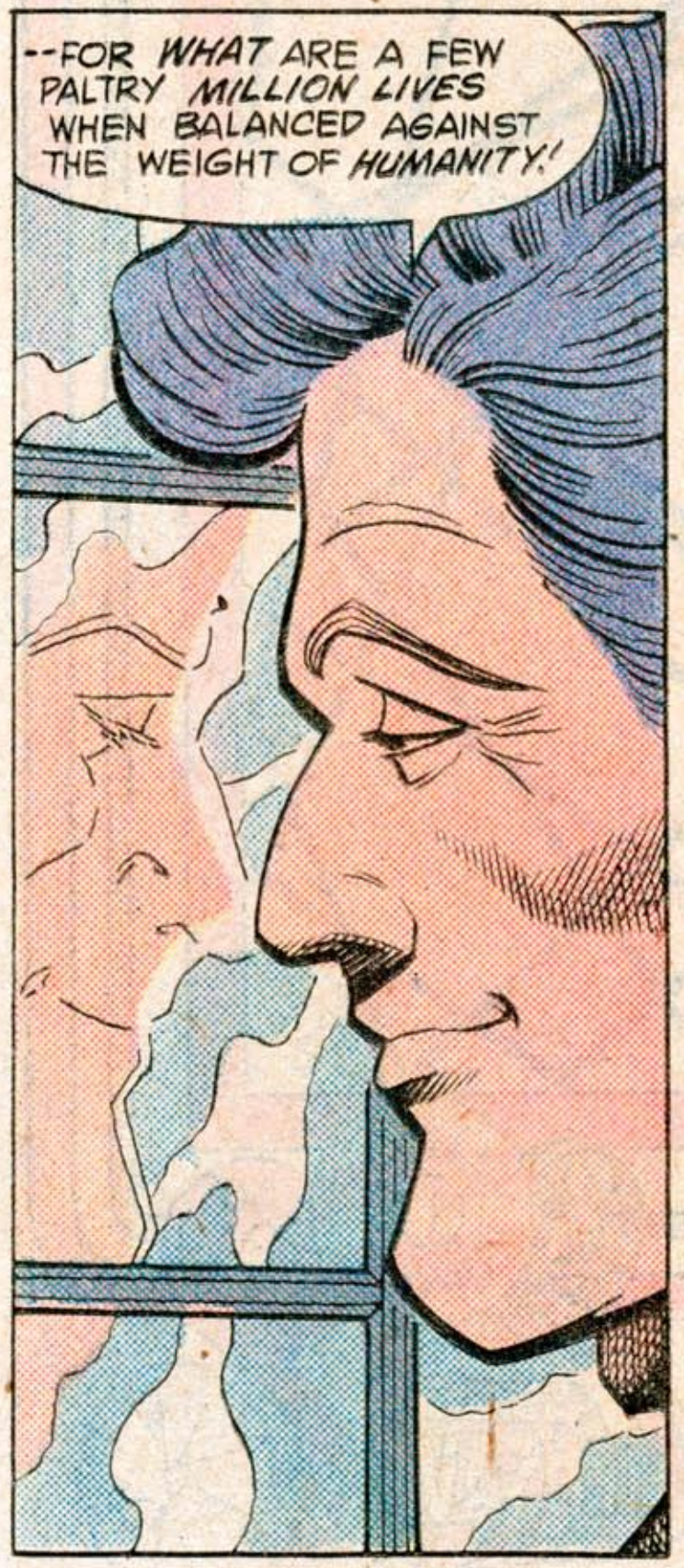


YOU ARE THE FORERUNNER OF A NEW WORLD! IMAGINE, SIMPLE LITTLE GAYLE MARSH FROM SKOKIE, ILLINOIS -- AND FROM YOU SHALL COME THE NEW WAY!
WE'VE WATCHED THE DECAY OVERCOME US FROM AGES. YOU'VE SEEN HOW IT'S TAKEN OVER HUMANITY, MARCHING IT SLOWLY TOWARD THE INEVITABLE BRINK--

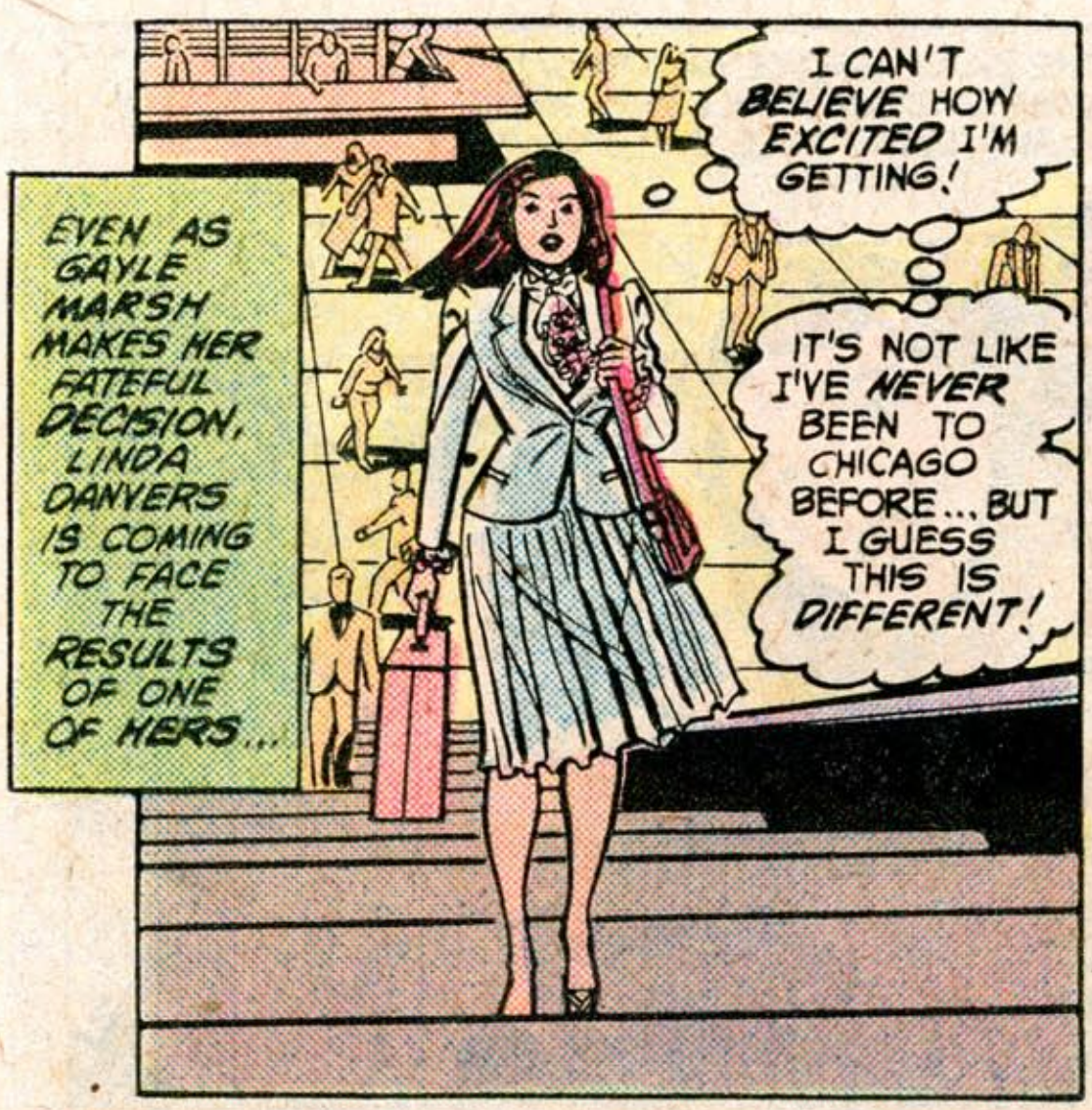
--TAKING WITH IT ANY CHANCE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND AS WE KNOW IT! BUT THAT CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF WE ALLOW IT TO FOLLOW ITS NATURAL PROGRESSION!
THINK OF IT, DEAR GAYLE -- THROUGH YOU, MANKIND HAS A CHANCE! YET, AS IN ALL GREAT THINGS, THERE WILL BE A PRICE TO PAY!


BUT DESPITE THAT, WE ARE FORTUNATE INDEED! WE'VE ISOLATED THE DECAY AND KNOW NOW WHAT WE MUST DO TO TURN BACK ITS PUTREFYING WAVE!
OH, YES, GAYLE, WE ARE LUCKY--


--FOR WHAT ARE A FEW PALTRY MILLION LIVES WHEN BALANCED AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF HUMANITY!

I KNOW ALL THAT, MR. PENDERGAST. REALLY I DO! YET... WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO, I GET SO AFRAID--! WH-WHAT'S IT GOING TO FEEL LIKE...?
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT IT, GIRL! WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR US TO ACT, I SHALL THINK FOR US BOTH--

--WHILE ALL YOU NEED DO IS DESTROY THIS FETID CESSPOOL OF DECAY CALLED CHICAGO!
GAYLE MARSH SHUDDERS EVER SO SLIGHTLY AT THE MAN'S WORDS, YET STRANGELY SHE FINDS COMFORT IN HIS TOUCH.
BUT SHE IS A SENSITIVE, THUS DOES SHE ACCEPT THE SENSUAL OVER HER FEARS... AND RELIEF FLOODS THROUGH HER BEING.



-- I'M COMING HOME!

CHICAGO! IT IS KNOWN BY OTHER NAMES AS WELL -- THE WINDY CITY... A DERISIVE TERM COINED BY A VISITING NEW YORK JOURNALIST, HAVING TO DO MORE WITH THE TOWN'S POLITICS THAN THE WEATHER.

"HOG BUTCHER TO THE WORLD"... THE POET'S JAB AT THE STINK AND SQUALOR OF THE LONG-GONE CHICAGO STOCK-YARDS.

THE SECOND CITY... A NOT-SO-FRIENDLY REFERENCE TO THE ILLINOIS CITY'S PERPETUAL RUNNER-UP STATUS TO NEW YORK.

YET CHICAGOANS SEEM TO EMBRACE THESE EPITHETS, MAKING THEM INSTEAD NAMES TO BE PROUD OF AS IF TO SHOW THE WORLD IT CAN DO NOTHING TO DAUNT THE FIERCE PRIDE OF THE CITY ON THE LAKE.

LINDA FEELS IT ALREADY, AND ANY DOUBTS SHE MAY HAVE HAD OVER BEGINNING HER LIFE ANEW IN THIS PLACE ARE SUDDENLY GONE.

IT'D BE SO MUCH FASTER TO HEAD FOR THE COLLEGE SUPERGIRL-STYLE, BUT CONSIDERING I'VE GONE THROUGH THE HASSLE OF TRAINING IT THIS FAR...

TAXI!

THE LAKE SHORE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS BUILDING, CABBIE ...AND LET'S TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE.

ONE GUIDED TOUR, COMIN' RIGHT UP, MISS!

RRRN RN

MUST BE EXCITIN' FOR YOU, MISS. I MEAN, LEAVIN' HOME AND COMIN' ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO CHICAGAH FOR SCHOOL AND ALL!

YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS.

LAKE SHORE DRIVE SOUTH

NO NEED TO TELL THE MAN THIS IS HARDLY THE FIRST TIME I'VE LEFT ONE HOME TO TAKE UP IN ANOTHER-- AND AFTER MY TRIP FROM ARGO CITY TO EARTH--

--MOST OF THOSE'VE BEEN MORE LIKE CROSSING THE STREET IN COMPARISON! THAT'S NOT TO SAY THEY HAVEN'T ALL LEFT THEIR MARK--

"--BUT SOMEHOW IT'S TOUGH TO TAKE ANY MOVE TOO HARD ONCE YOU'VE BEEN HALF-WAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE!

"I WAS A REAL STRANGER IN A VERY STRANGE LAND! WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, SUPERMAN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PLACE ME IN MIDVALE ORPHANAGE UNDER THE NAME LINDA LEE.

MIDVA ORPH

"EARTH WAS KIND OF DISAPPOINTING AT FIRST. ALL I COULD SEE WAS THAT IT WASN'T ARGO CITY... DIDN'T HAVE THE SCIENTIFIC MAJESTY OF MY HOME WORLD.

MI ORP

"AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT DIDN'T HAVE MY PARENTS!

"I HATED IT!

"I LEARNED A LOT ABOUTH EARTH DURING MY TIME IN MIDVALE... AND EVEN MORE ABOUT MYSELF. SURE, I WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER KIDS, BUT IN MY CASE, DIFFERENT WASN'T BAD-- IT WAS SPECIAL.

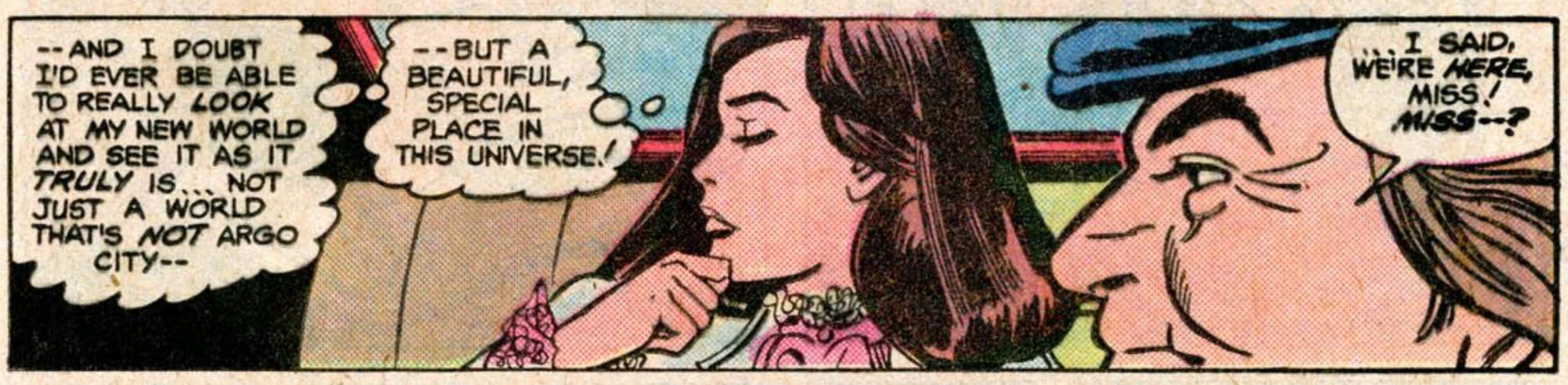
"--AND GAVE HER A HOME... AND A NAME.

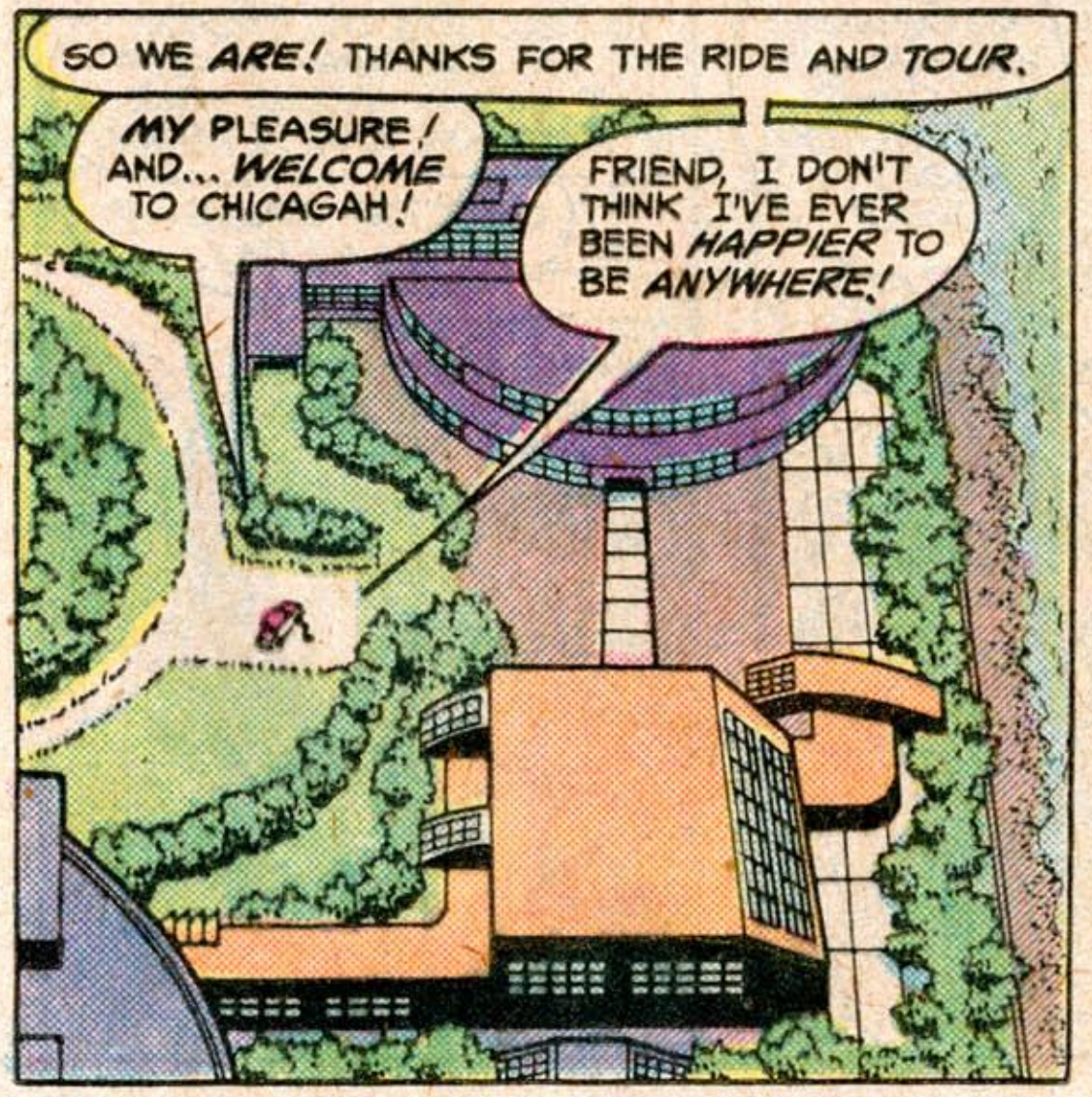
"AND EARTH WAS SPECIAL TOO-- ESPECIALLY SINCE IT HAD PEOPLE LIKE FRED AND EDNA DANVERS LIVING ON IT. WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WANTED INFANTS TO ADOPT, THEY SAW THE LONELINESS AND NEED OF A TEEN-AGE GIRL--

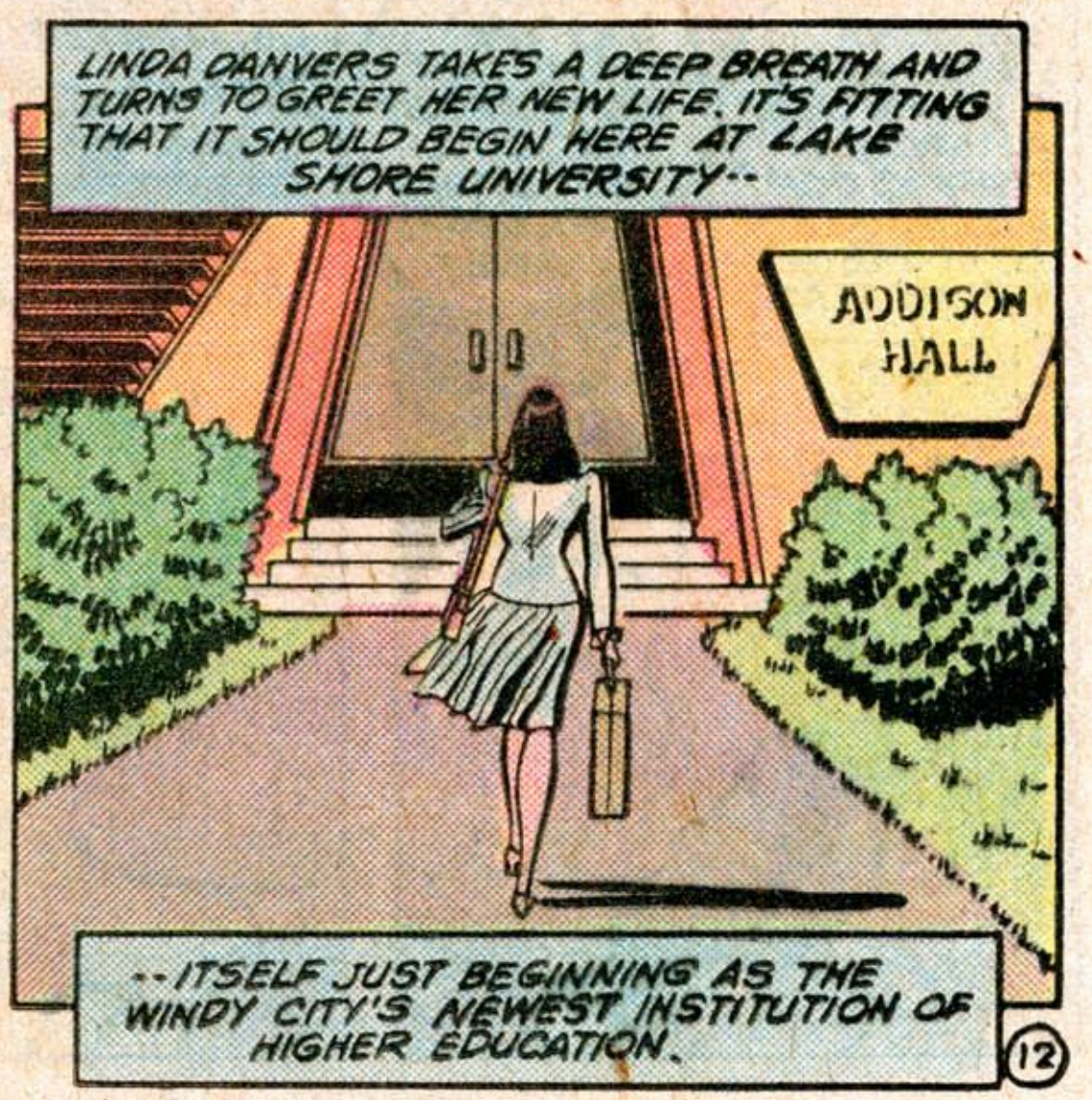
"I CAN NEVER FORGET ZOR-EL AND ALURA, BUT THE DANVERS WERE MY PARENTS FROM THAT MOMENT ON. THEY THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY SPECIAL--

"MAN, WERE THEY SURPRISED TO FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH!

"IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEM, I'D HAVE NEVER GOTTEN OVER THE BITTERNESS I FELT WHEN I THOUGHT MY NATURAL PARENTS HAD DIED--"







AND AS WITH ANYTHING BEGINNING, IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT THINGS ARE, AT BEST, CONFUSING...

ER... EXCUSE ME--?

HI THERE... HELLO! CAN I GET SOME HELP HERE, PLEASE?

ADMISSION OFFICE

I, ER... SAID, I COULD USE SOME... YOO-HOO! DO YOU HEAR ME--?!

LOOK, I'M NEW HERE AND I COULD USE SOME ASSISTANCE...!

LINDA TO ANYBODY... LINDA TO ANYBODY...! IS EVERYBODY DEAF!?

EXCUSE ME, BUT I SAID I NEED--

--HELP!

EEEEK!

SHEESH! LISSEN, HONEY, IF YOU'RE HERE TO ENROLL IN TRAFFIC COP SCHOOL--FORGET IT! YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE!

TRY THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AND YOU'LL BE GETTING WARMER, MISS!

HUH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?

OH, BROTHER!

I SAID, I'M REGISTERING IN THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPART...

WAITAMINNIT, WAITAMINNIT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT-- SEE?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP YOUR SANITY AROUND HERE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

C-COTTON BALLS--?! HA HA HA!

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY? YOU OUGHTA TRY WORKING HERE SOMETIME, KIDDO!

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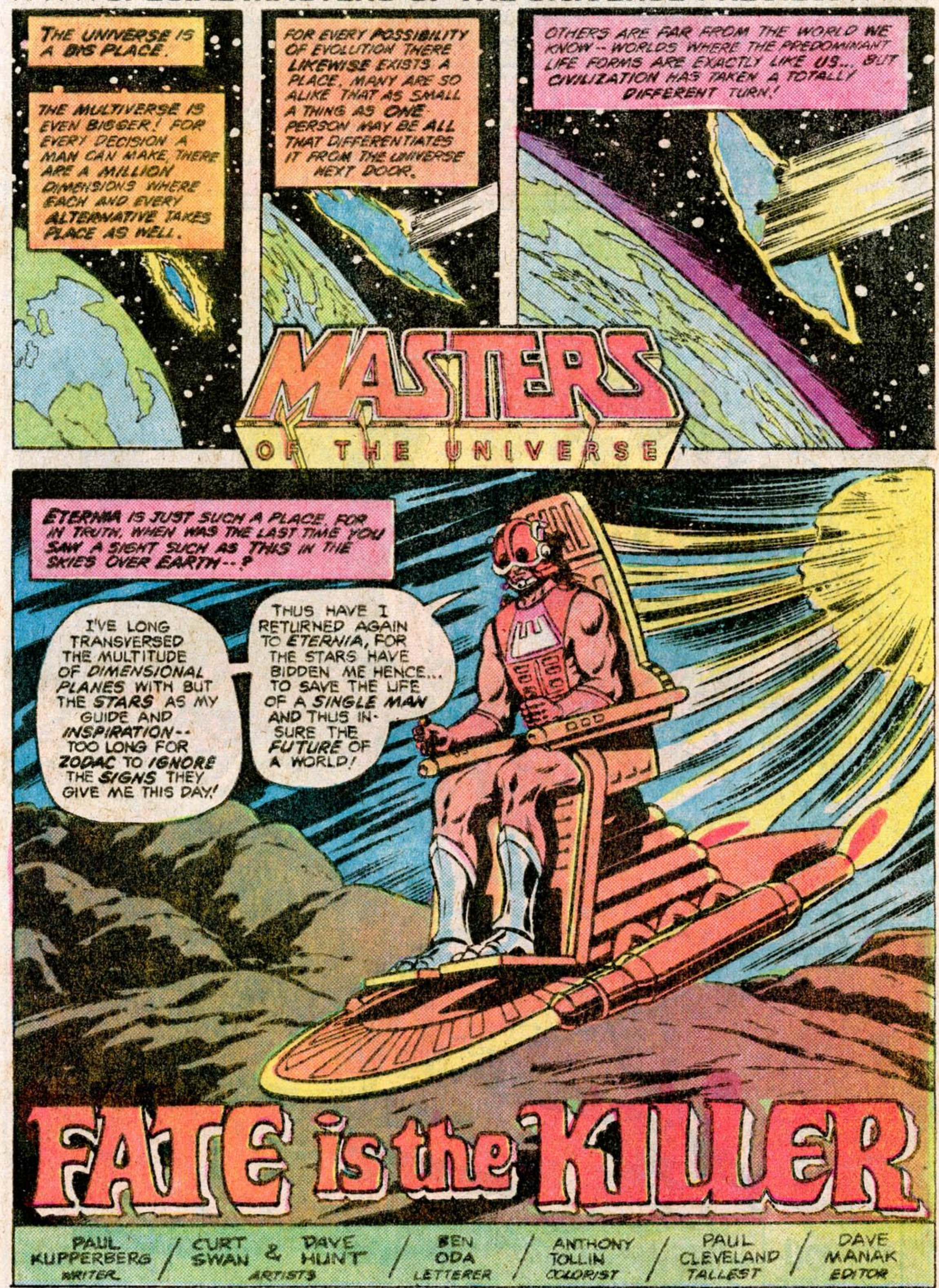

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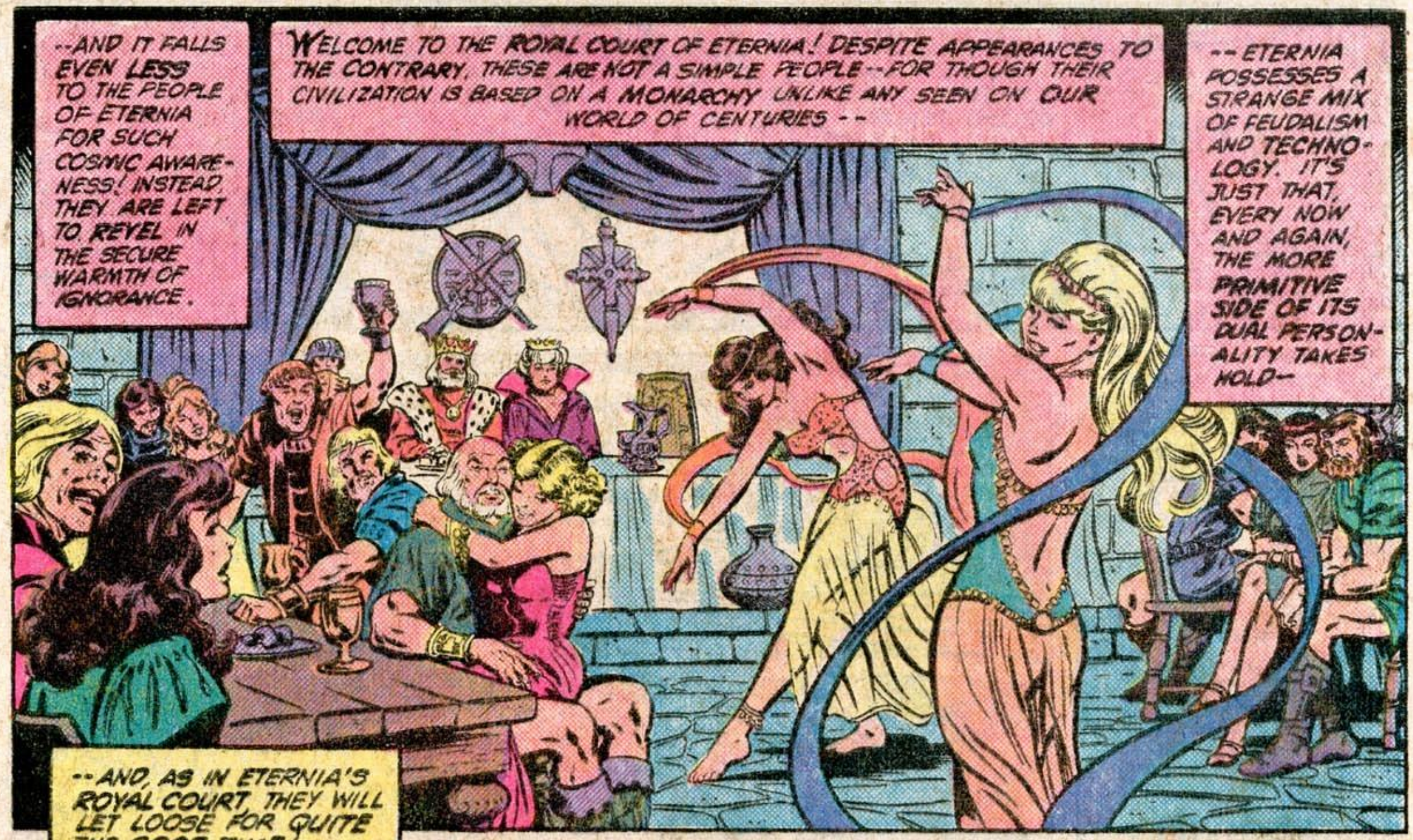

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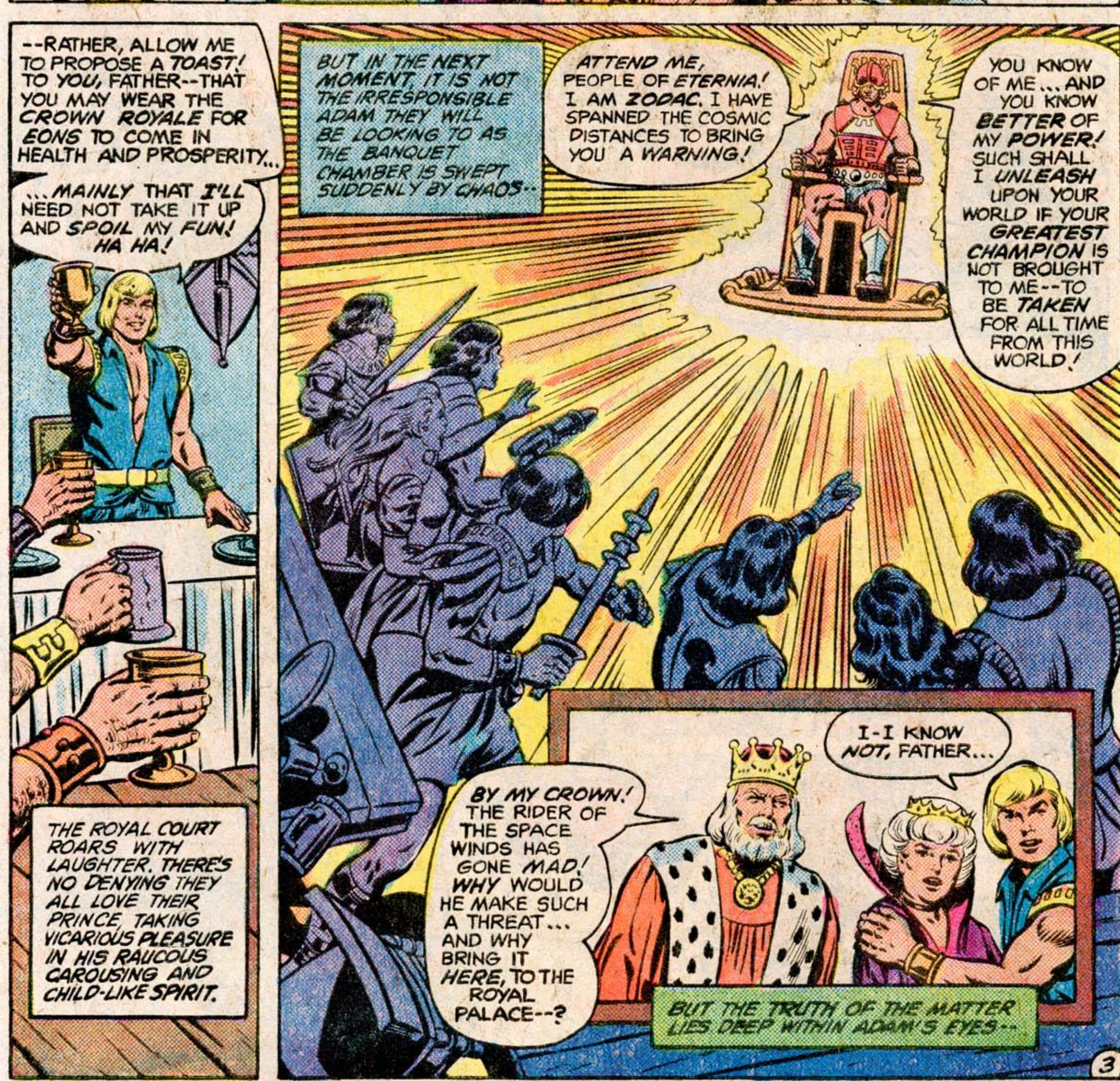
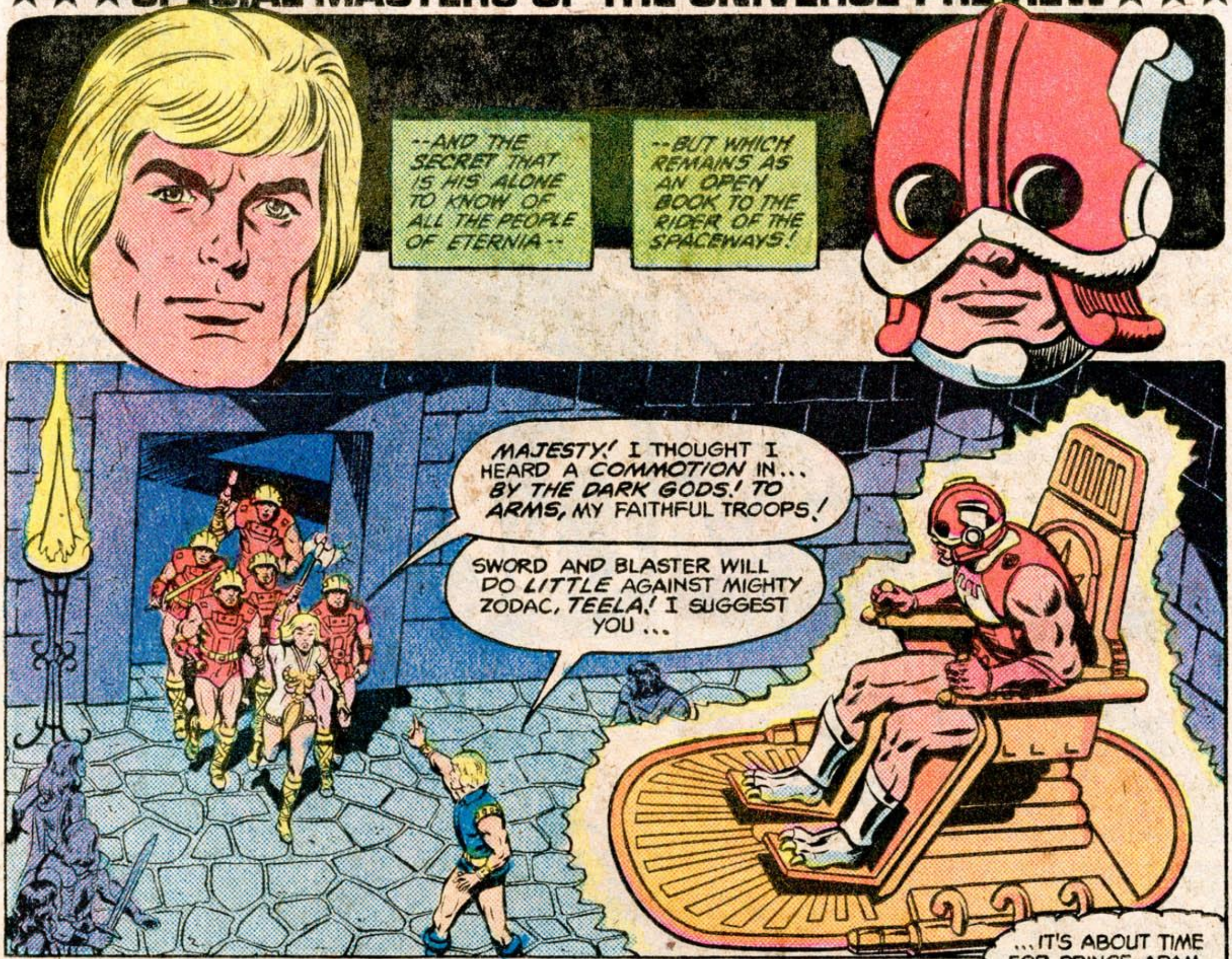
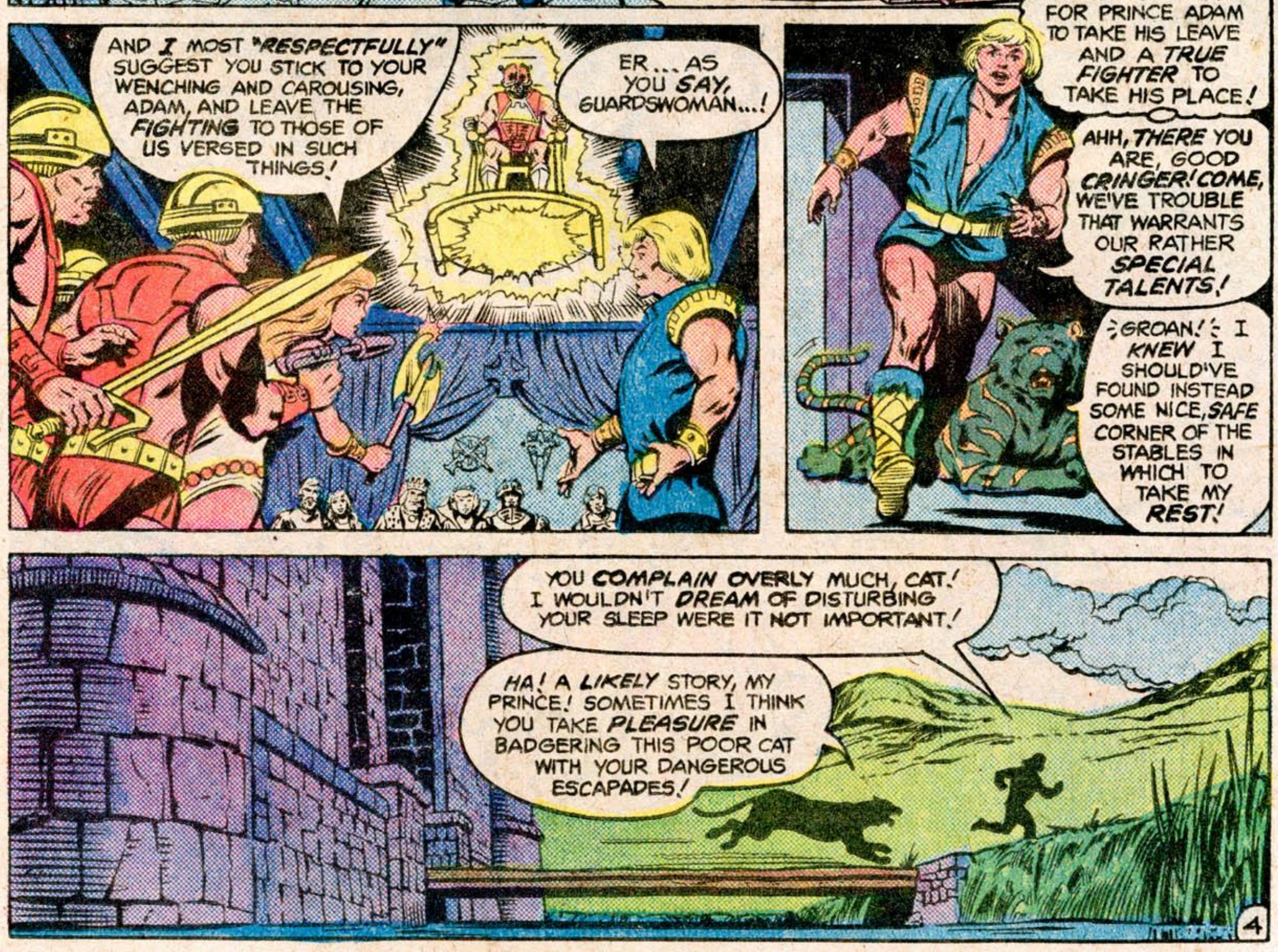
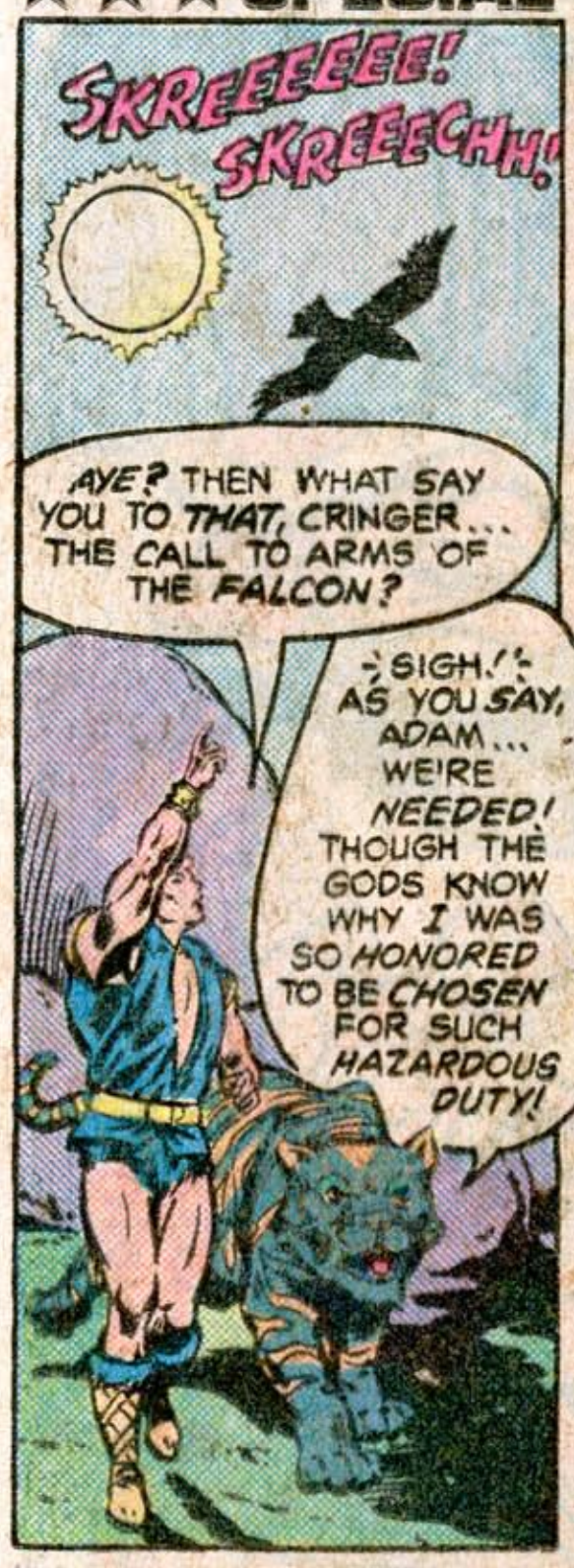
FORGIVE MY TARDINESS, MOTHER AND FATHER. AS YOU CAN SEE, I WAS, ER... UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED.
OUT WENCHING AGAIN, YOU MEAN, BOY!
I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS TRAINING IN THE DELICATE ART OF NEGOTIATION, GOOD MAN-AT-ARMS!

REALLY--YOU TREAT ADAM AS IF HE WERE ALREADY KING... NOT JUST PRINCE OF THE REALM!
IF YOU PLEASE, MAJESTY--YOU INDULGE HIS TOMFOOLERY ENOUGH AS IS. I THINK THE LEAST HE COULD DO IS TO SOMETIMES FULFILL HIS PRINCELY DUTIES!
MAN-AT-ARMS--MOTHER! LET US NOT BICKER ON SUCH A MOMENTOUS OCCASION AS THIS--


--RATHER, ALLOW ME TO PROPOSE A TOAST! TO YOU, FATHER--THAT YOU MAY WEAR THE CROWN ROYALE FOR EONS TO COME IN HEALTH AND PROSPERITY...
...MAINLY THAT I'LL NEED NOT TAKE IT UP AND SPOIL MY FUN! HA HA!
THE ROYAL COURT ROARS WITH LAUGHTER. THERE'S NO DENYING THEY ALL LOVE THEIR PRINCE, TAKING VICARIOUS PLEASURE IN HIS RAUCOUS CAROUSING AND CHILD-LIKE SPIRIT.
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT, IT IS NOT THE IRRESPONSIBLE ADAM THEY WILL BE LOOKING TO AS THE BANQUET CHAMBER IS SWEPT SUDDENLY BY CHAOS--
ATTEND ME, PEOPLE OF ETERNIA! I AM ZODAC. I HAVE SPANNED THE COSMIC DISTANCES TO BRING YOU A WARNING!
YOU KNOW OF ME... AND YOU KNOW BETTER OF MY POWER! SUCH SHALL I UNLEASH UPON YOUR WORLD IF YOUR GREATEST CHAMPION IS NOT BROUGHT TO ME--TO BE TAKEN FOR ALL TIME FROM THIS WORLD!
BY MY CROWN! THE RIDER OF THE SPACE WINDS HAS GONE MAD! WHY WOULD HE MAKE SUCH A THREAT... AND WHY BRING IT HERE, TO THE ROYAL PALACE--?
I-I KNOW NOT, FATHER...
BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER LIES DEEP WITHIN ADAM'S EYES--


--AND THE SECRET THAT IS HIS ALONE TO KNOW OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ETERNIA--
--BUT WHICH REMAINS AS AN OPEN BOOK TO THE RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
MAJESTY! I THOUGHT I HEARD A COMMOTION IN... BY THE DARK GODS! TO ARMS, MY FAITHFUL TROOPS!
SWORD AND BLASTER WILL DO LITTLE AGAINST MIGHTY ZODAC, TEELA! I SUGGEST YOU...


AND I MOST "RESPECTFULLY" SUGGEST YOU STICK TO YOUR WENCHING AND CAROUSING, ADAM, AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO THOSE OF US VERSED IN SUCH THINGS!
ER... AS YOU SAY, GUARDSWOMAN...!
...IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR PRINCE ADAM TO TAKE HIS LEAVE AND A TRUE FIGHTER TO TAKE HIS PLACE!
AHH, THERE YOU ARE, GOOD CRINGER! COME, WE'VE TROUBLE THAT WARRANTS OUR RATHER SPECIAL TALENTS!
GROAN! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE FOUND INSTEAD SOME NICE, SAFE CORNER OF THE STABLES IN WHICH TO TAKE MY REST!
YOU COMPLAIN OVERLY MUCH, CAT! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF DISTURBING YOUR SLEEP WERE IT NOT IMPORTANT!
HA! A LIKELY STORY, MY PRINCE! SOMETIMES I THINK YOU TAKE PLEASURE IN BADGERING THIS POOR CAT WITH YOUR DANGEROUS ESCAPADES!


SKREEEEEE! SKREEECHH!
AYE? THEN WHAT SAY YOU TO THAT, CRINGER... THE CALL TO ARMS OF THE FALCON?
-SIGH!- AS YOU SAY, ADAM... WE'RE NEEDED! THOUGH THE GODS KNOW WHY I WAS SO HONORED TO BE CHOSEN FOR SUCH HAZARDOUS DUTY!

THE AIR IS STILL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BEYOND THE ROYAL CASTLE, SAVE FOR THE PLAINTIVE CRY OF A DARK BIRD OF PREY -- AND THE POUNDING FOOT-FALL OF THE PRINCE AND HIS CAT--

--AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
YE HAVE ANSWERED MY SUMMONS WITH HASTE, SWEET PRINCE--

--AS IT SHOULD BE, FOR THOU WOULD NOT BE SO CALLED DID NOT THE SORCERESS HAVE NEED OF THY POWERS!
I AM EVER AT YOUR COMMAND, GODDESS! SPEAK THEN AND SAY HOW MIGHTY HE-MAN AND FAITHFUL BATTLE CAT MAY BE OF SERVICE--
--THOUGH THIS ONCE I DO THINK I KNOW ALREADY OF THE MENACE THAT FACES ETERNIA!

YE SPEAK OF ZODAC, DO YE NOT, MY CHAMPION?
'TIS NOT HE OF WHICH I SPEAK! NAY, THE SAILOR OF THE SOLAR WINDS IS NO THREAT TO THIS WORLD'S WELL-BEING--

--NOT WHILST THE BEING OF EVIL INCARNATE IS YET LOOSE ON ETERNIA... NOT WHILST HE CALLED SKELETOR CONTINUES HIS SEARCH FOR THE POWER SWORD HE HOPES WILL MAKE HIM RULER SUPREME O'ER THY PEOPLE!
SKELETOR! MAY THE DARK GODS BURN HIS EVIL SOUL!

YE MAY RELY NOT UPON AID FROM BEYOND IN THY MISSION, HE-MAN... NOR MUST YE LET ANY STAND IN THE WAY OF COMPLETING THE TASK I HAVE SET TO THEE!
GO NOW, MY WARRIOR... AND MAY THE GODS BE WITH THEE!
MY THANKS, GODDESS! HE-MAN WILL NOT FAIL YOU... SKELETOR SHALL BE STOPPED!

AND SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL...

AS YOU COMMAND, SO HAS MER-MAN COME, MIGHTY SKELETOR! WHAT IS IT YOU WISH OF ME?

BESIDES YOUR UNDYING OBEDIENCE, FISH MAN?

SELDOM DOES THE DARK LORD HAVE NEED OF AID FROM SUCH AS YOU, BUT ON THIS DAY I FIND I MUST, FOR YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE UNPARALLELED OF THE ETERNIAN SEAS, MER-MAN--

--AND 'TIS THERE I MAY FIND THE POWER I NEED TO AT LAST MAKE THIS WORLD MINE OWN! LONG HAVE I MEDITATED UPON THE LOCATION OF THAT POWER--

--WHICH RESTS IN THE TWIN HALVES OF THE AWESOME POWER SWORD JOINED TOGETHER AS ONE! I POSSESS BUT ONE HALF OF THE SWORD... AND MY MEDITATIONS HAVE SHOWN ME THE OTHER--

--LIES YONDER... BURIED IN THE DEEPEST TRENCH OF THE DARK SEA! 'TIS THERE YOU SHALL LEAD ME, MER-MAN!

BY THE WATER SPIRITS, SKELETOR... S-SURELY YOU KNOW THAT NONE HAVE CHALLENGED THE DEPTHS OF THE BLACK PIT AND EVER RETURNED TO TELL THE TALE!

GRRRR! LET YOUR HUMBLE BEAST-MAN HAVE AT THE IMPUDENT COWARD, MASTER!

NAY, BEAST-MAN, I DOUBT YOUR BRUTAL ANIMALISTIC MIGHT WILL BE NECESSARY HERE--

--WILL IT, FISH-MAN?

GAAK!

N-NO, MIGHTY DARK LORD! NO!

I THOUGHT NOT!

NOW, IF THERE ARE NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, SHALL WE BEGIN...?

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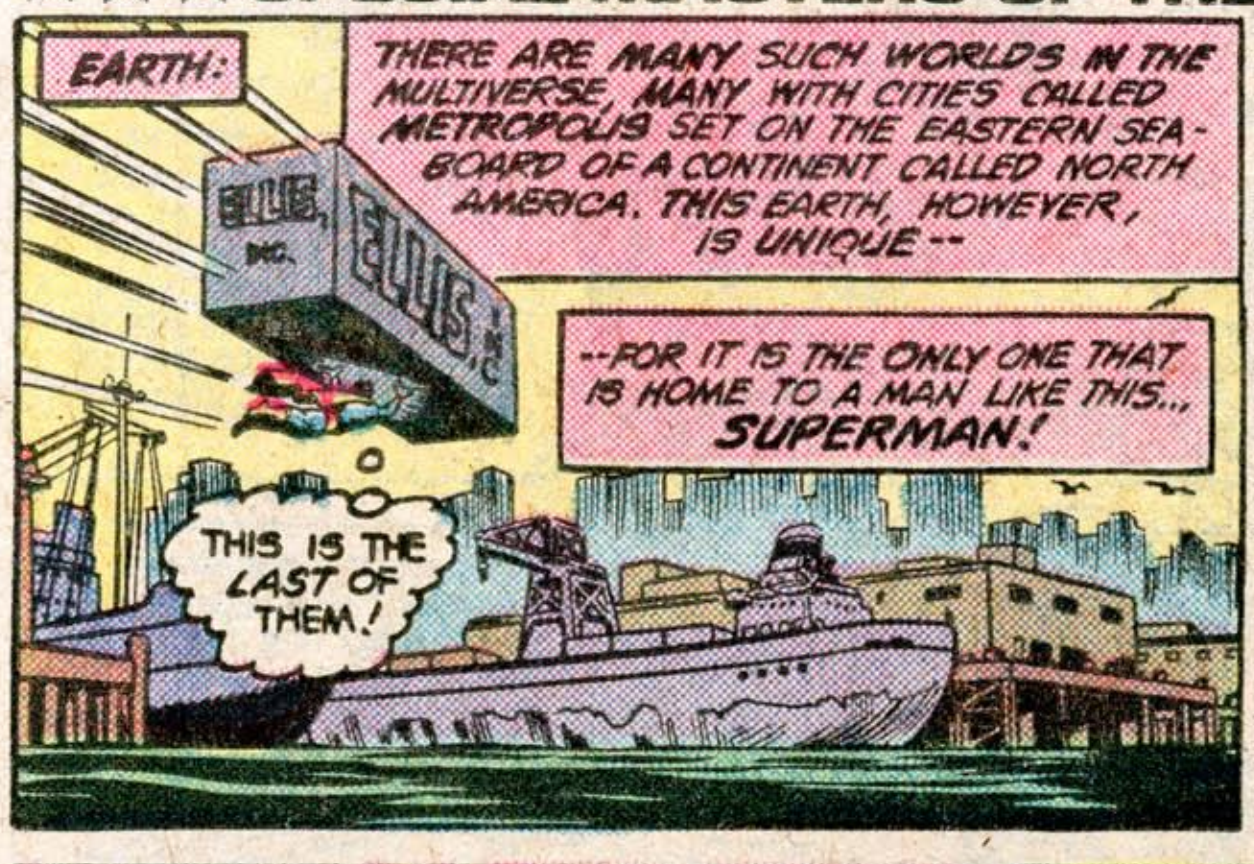
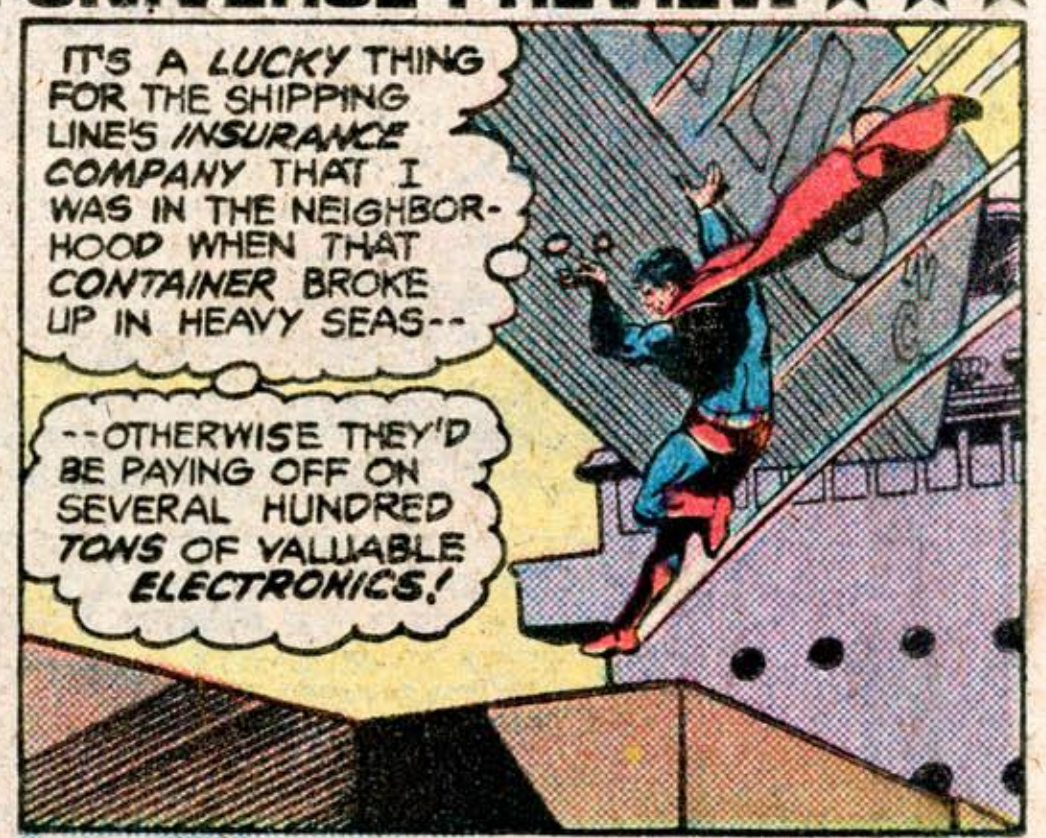
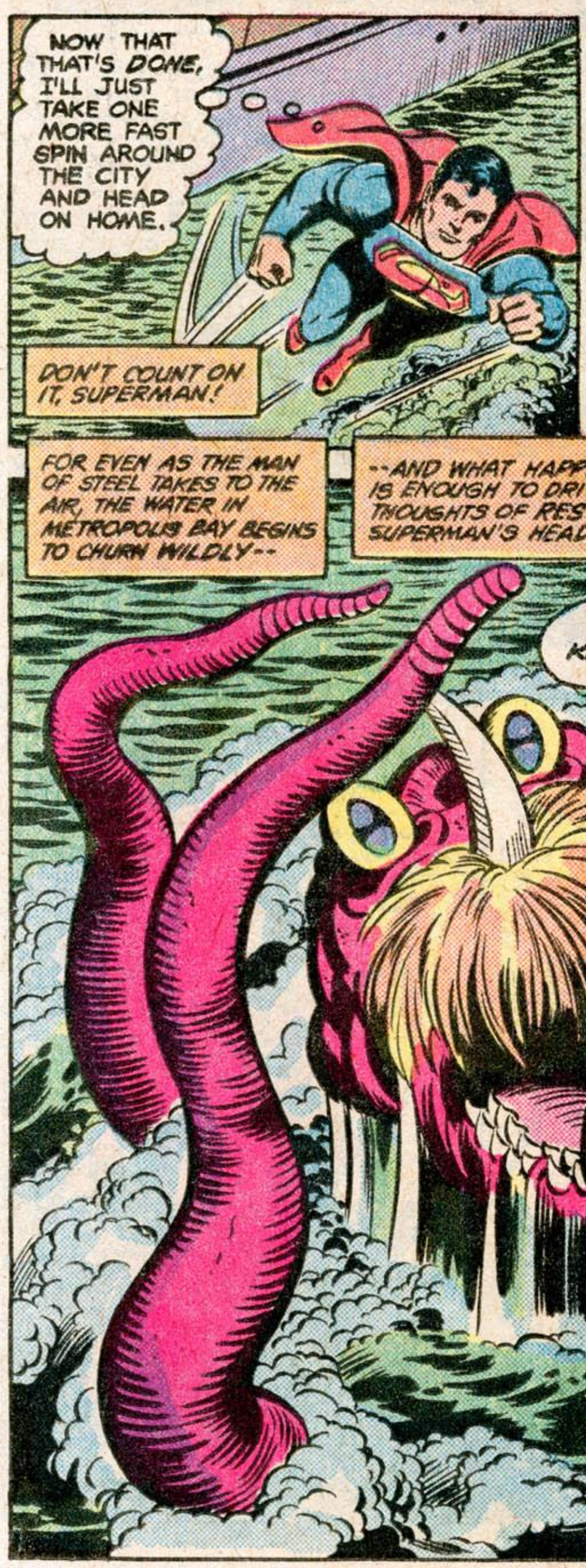
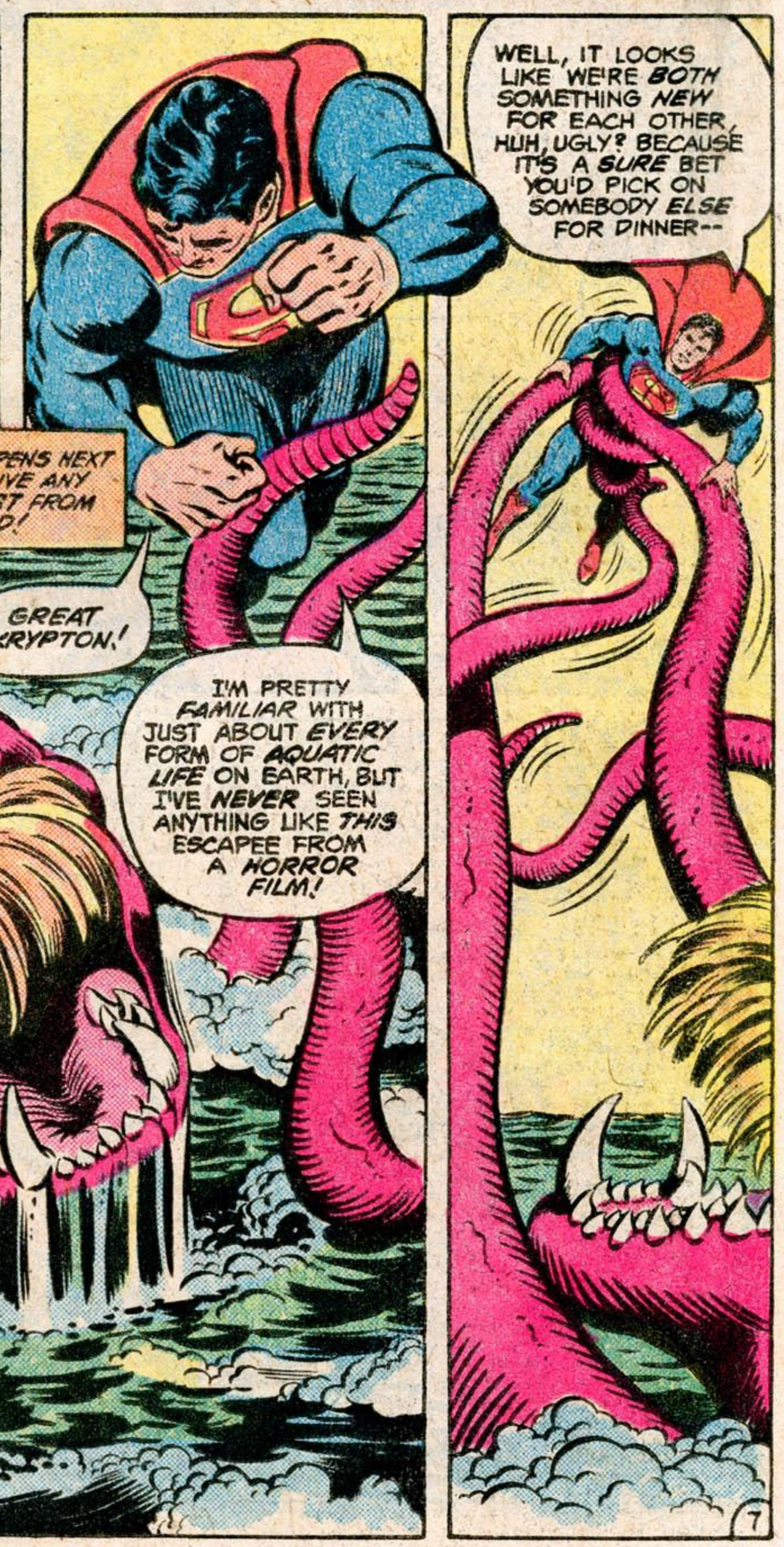




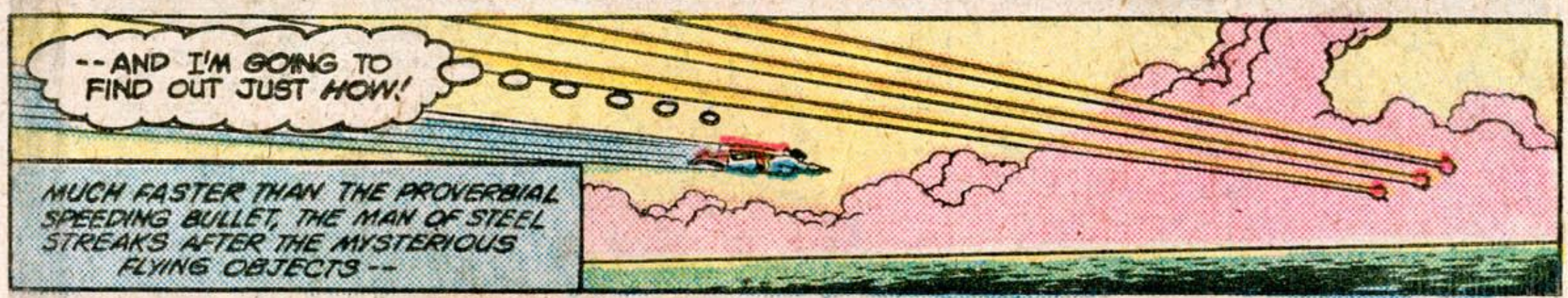




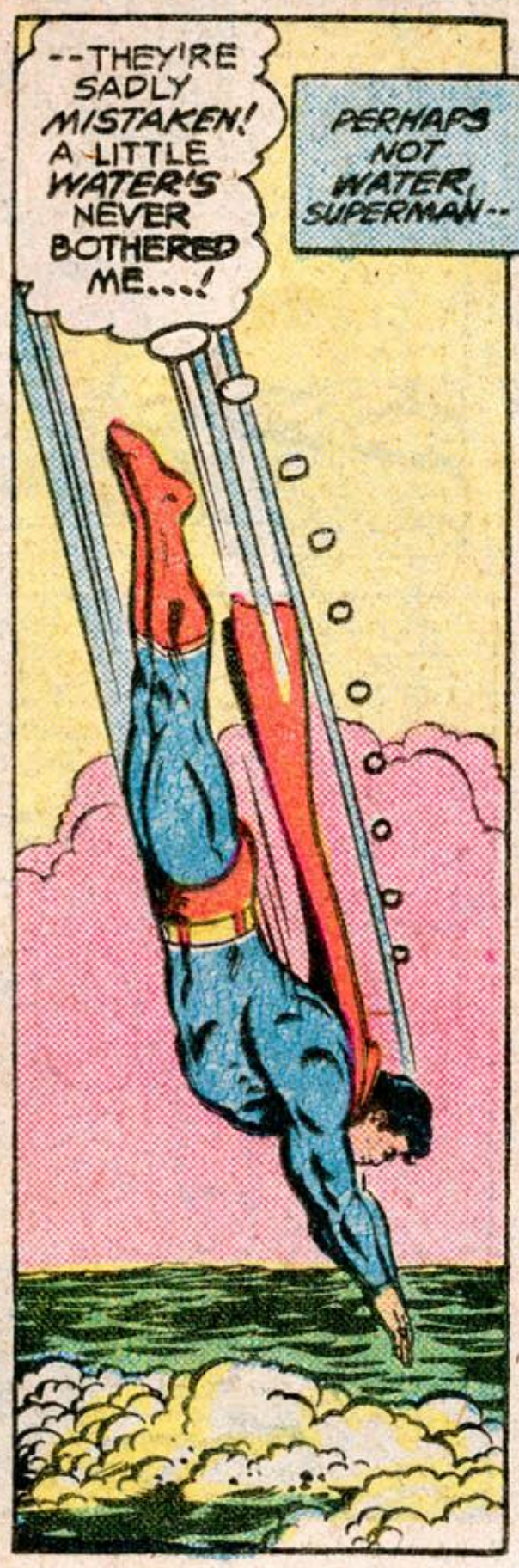
--IF YOU KNEW JUST HOW UNPALATABLE I COULD BE!
BWAAMF

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM OR WHAT YOU WANT AROUND HERE, BUT I THINK IT'D BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE WENT FOR A LITTLE TRIP--
--FAR AWAY FROM ANY INHABITED LANDMASS!

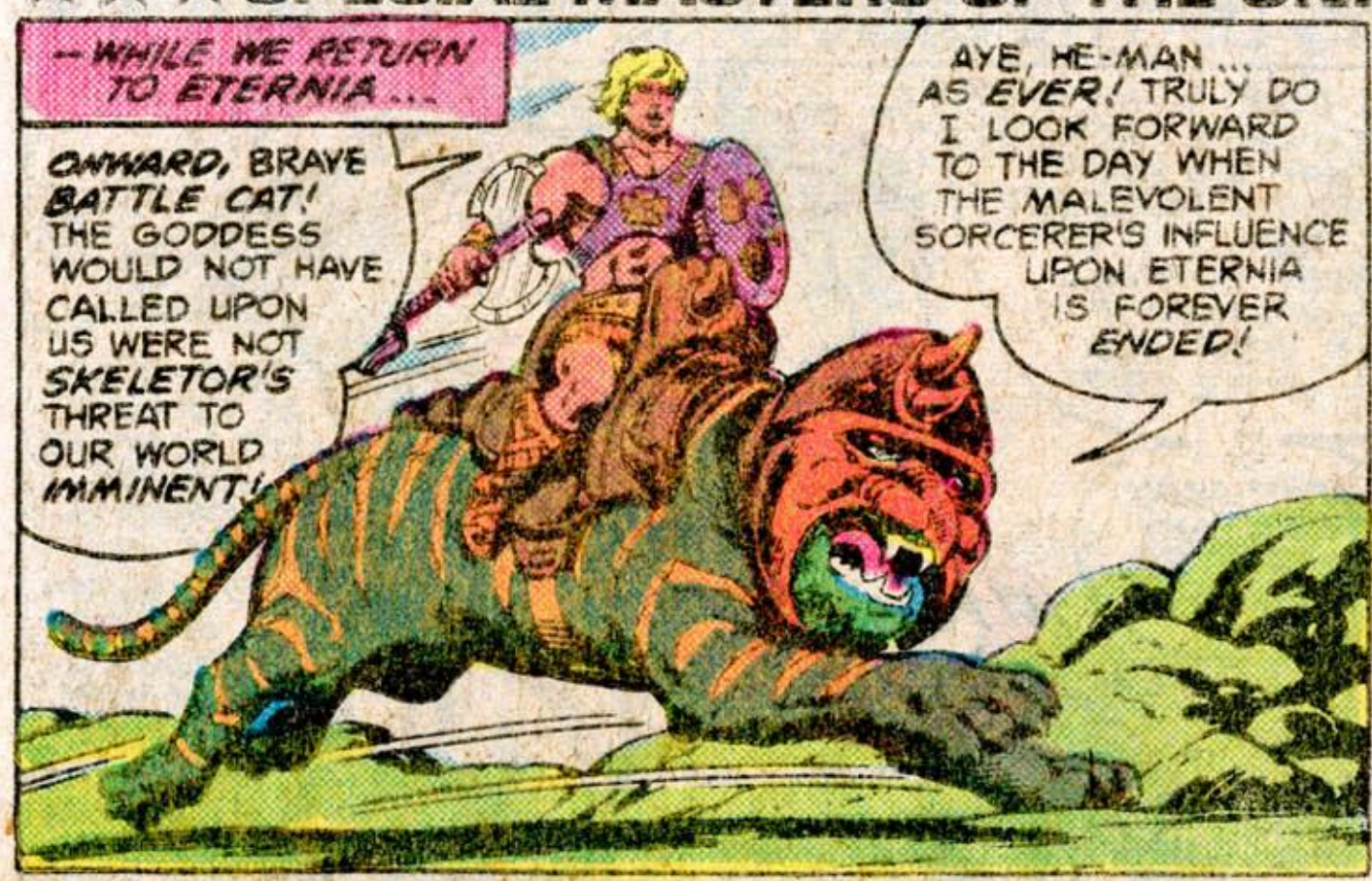
SUDDENLY...
HUH--? THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE ONE WEIRD AFTERNOON--! FIRST UGLY HERE SHOWS UP FOR DINNER... AND NOW THIS...?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE RELATED--


--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT JUST HOW!
MUCH FASTER THAN THE PROVERBIAL SPEEDING BULLET, THE MAN OF STEEL STREAKS AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS FLYING OBJECTS --

--OBJECTS, IT SEEMS, DETERMINED NOT TO BE CAUGHT!
UH-OH... THEY'VE SPOTTED ME ON THEIR TAILS... TAKING EVASIVE ACTION! WELL, IF THEY THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE UP THE CHASE SO EASILY--

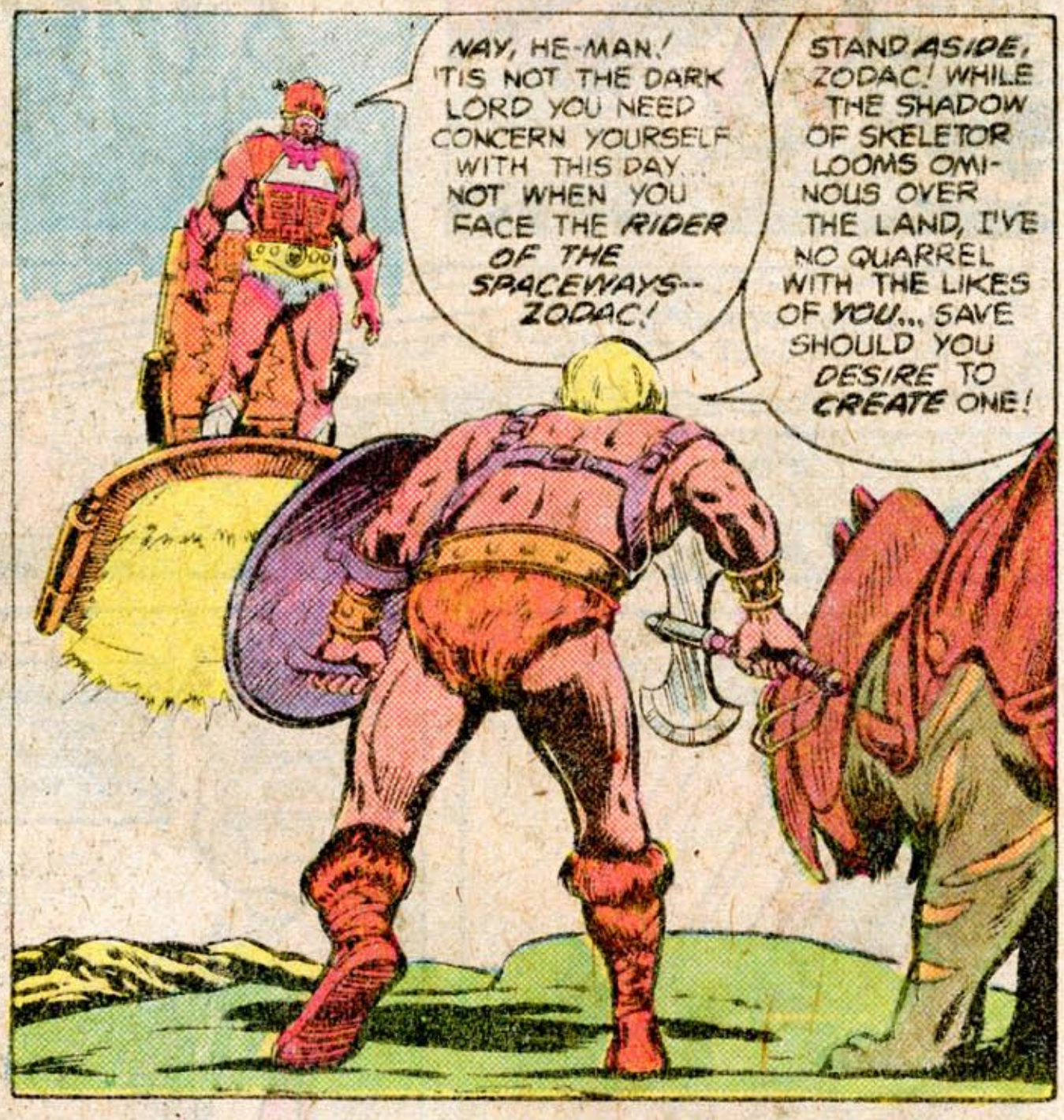

--THEY'RE SADLY MISTAKEN! A LITTLE WATER'S NEVER BOTHERED ME...!
PERHAPS NOT WATER, SUPERMAN--

--BUT HOW ABOUT THIS...?
GREAT KRYPTON... SOME SORT OF UNDERWATER VORTEX... TRAPPING ME...!
THE WORLD SPINS MADLY ABOUT HIM AS SUPERMAN FIGHTS AGAINST THE POWERFUL FORCES WHICH HOLD HIM HELPLESS--

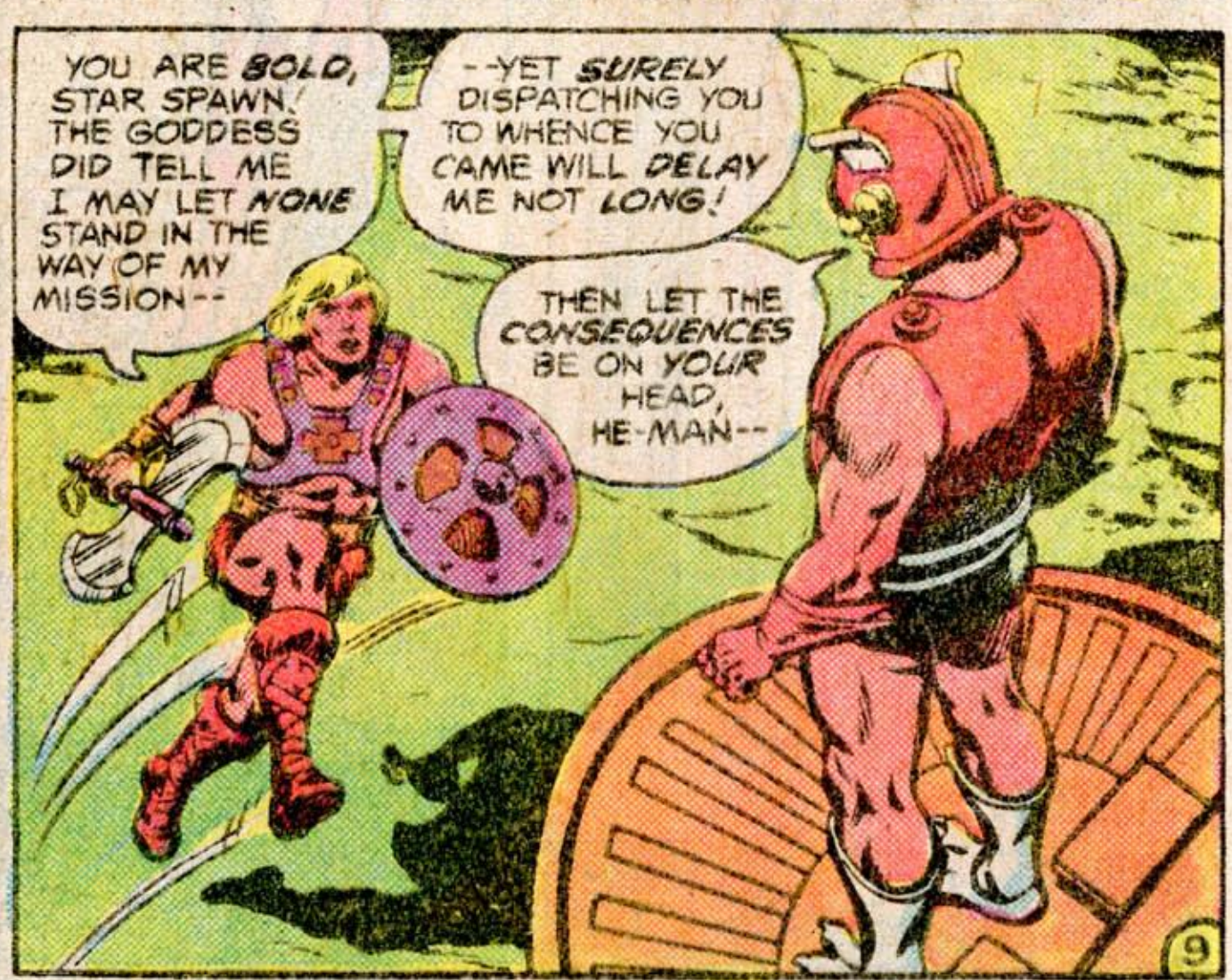

—WHILE WE RETURN TO ETERNIA...
ONWARD, BRAVE BATTLE CAT! THE GODDESS WOULD NOT HAVE CALLED UPON US WERE NOT SKELETOR'S THREAT TO OUR WORLD IMMINENT!
AYE, HE-MAN... AS EVER! TRULY DO I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE MALEVOLENT SORCERER'S INFLUENCE UPON ETERNIA IS FOREVER ENDED!

AS DO I, CAT! ALL ETERNIA DOES RUE THE DAY THE EVIL FROM ANOTHER WORLD SET FOOT UPON OUR LAND!
GRRRR! THEN LET US FIND HIM, MAN ...SO I MAY AT LAST FASTEN MY JAWS ABOUT HIS FOUL FLESH!

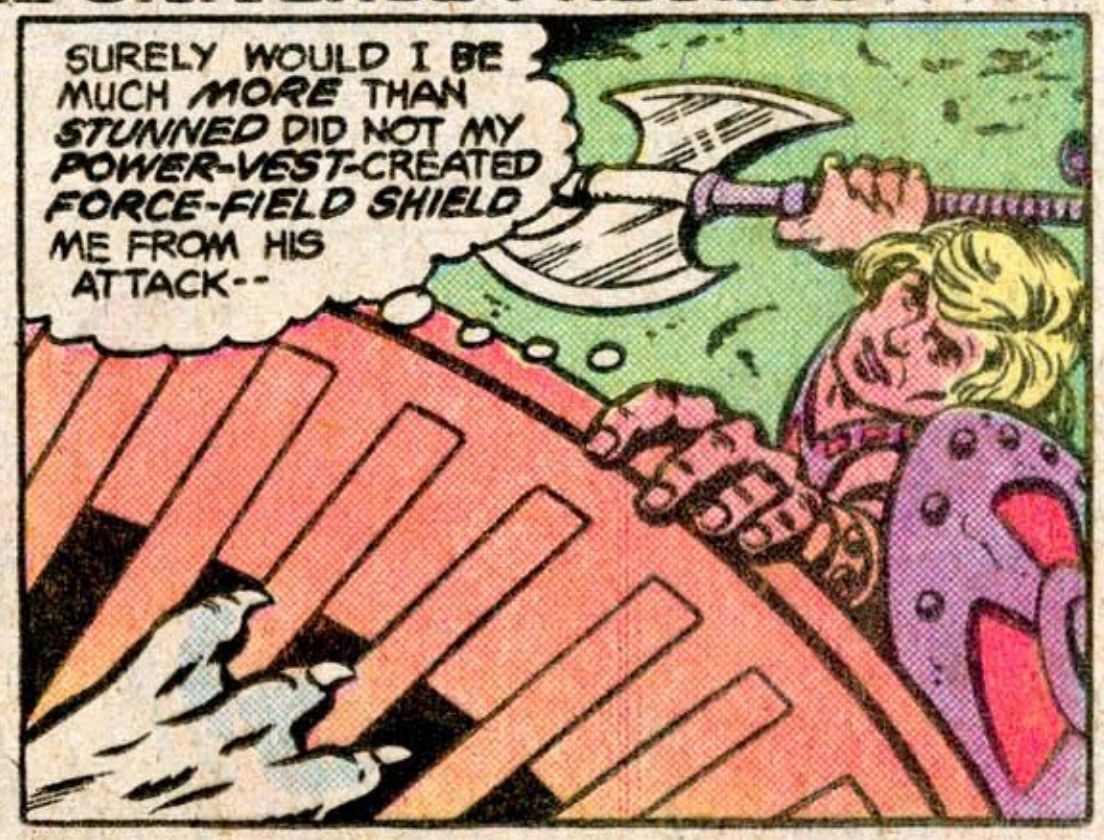
YOU SHALL DO NO SUCH THING, CAT--ELSE IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT YOUR MASTER'S AID!
BY THE STARS! WE ARE ATTACKED! THEN EVIL SKELETOR HAS COME TO US--?
ROAARRR!
FAHTHHOOOM!

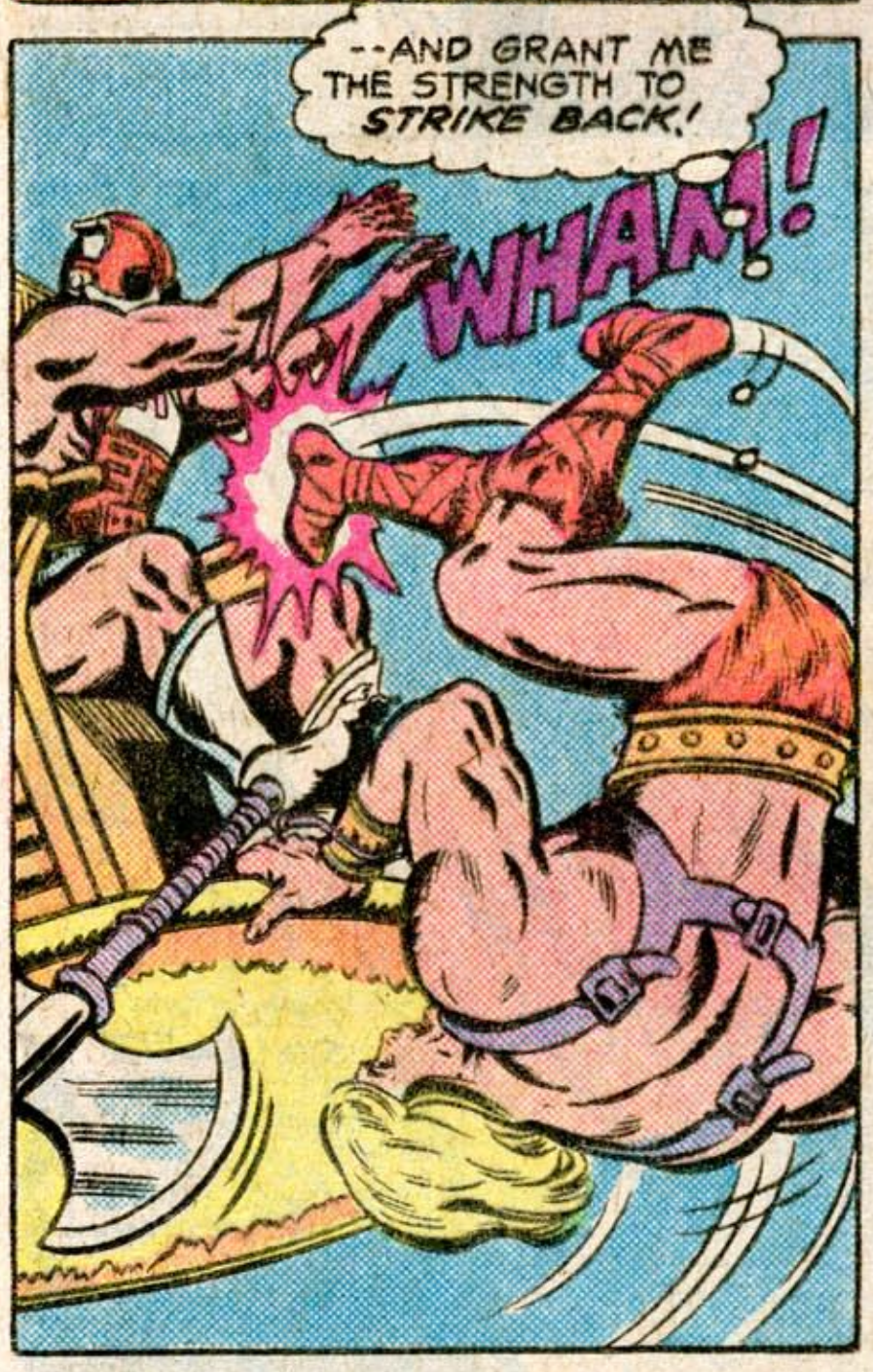

NAY, HE-MAN! 'TIS NOT THE DARK LORD YOU NEED CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THIS DAY... NOT WHEN YOU FACE THE RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS--ZODAC!
STAND ASIDE, ZODAC! WHILE THE SHADOW OF SKELETOR LOOMS OMINOUS OVER THE LAND, I'VE NO QUARREL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU... SAVE SHOULD YOU DESIRE TO CREATE ONE!

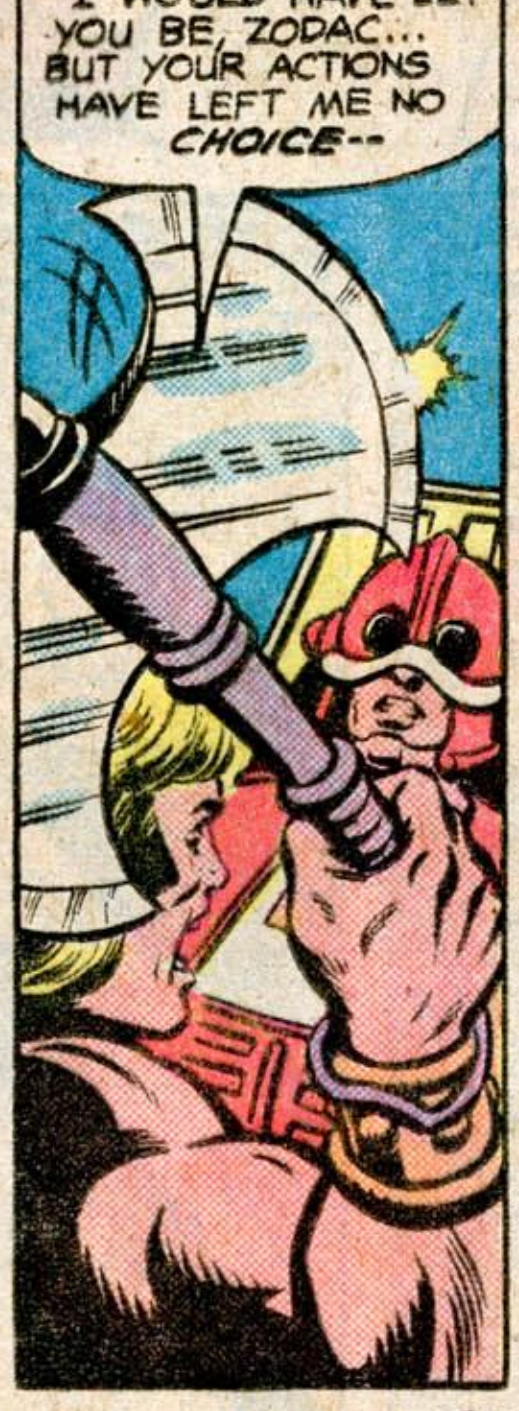
I CARE NOT FOR YOUR PETTY WORLDLY CONCERNS, HE-MAN! YOU KNOW THAT ZODAC IS A BEING COSMIC... NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL. THAT WHICH I COME TO TAKE YOU FOR IS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN THE FATE OF THIS WORLD!
ABANDON YOUR QUEST, MAN! COME WITH ME AND THE COSMOS SHALL BE YOUR HOME. STAY-- AND YOU SHALL DIE!

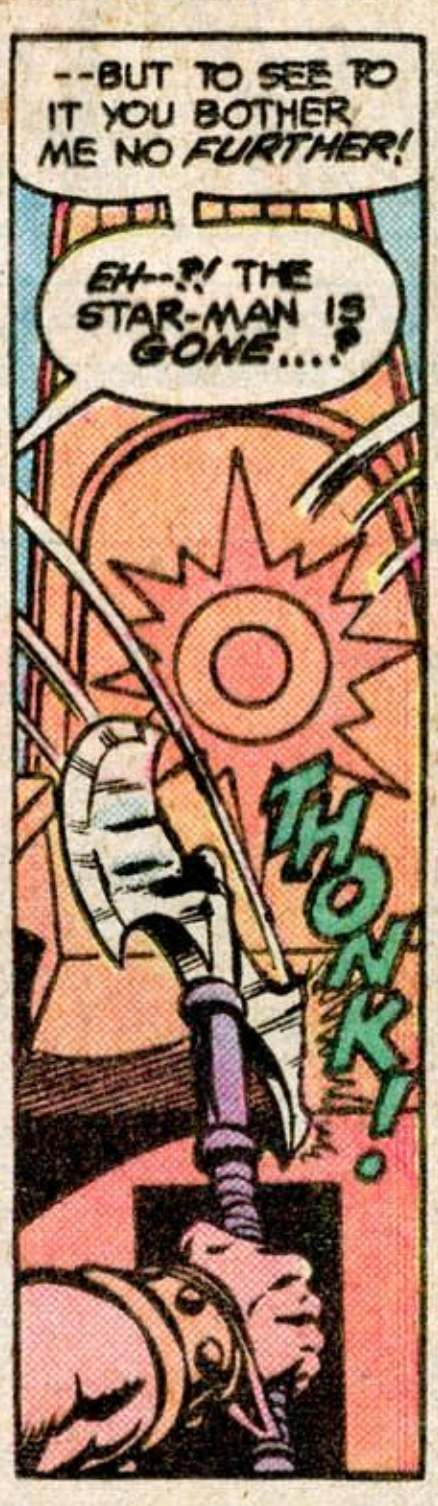

YOU ARE BOLD, STAR SPAWN! THE GODDESS DID TELL ME I MAY LET NONE STAND IN THE WAY OF MY MISSION--
--YET SURELY DISPATCHING YOU TO WHENCE YOU CAME WILL DELAY ME NOT LONG!
THEN LET THE CONSEQUENCES BE ON YOUR HEAD, HE-MAN--

--SHOULD YOU BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RETAIN IT ERE I AM DONE!
UHHHH!
GODDESS-- BUT ZODAC'S COSMIC MIGHT IS POTENT INDEED!
BWREEET!

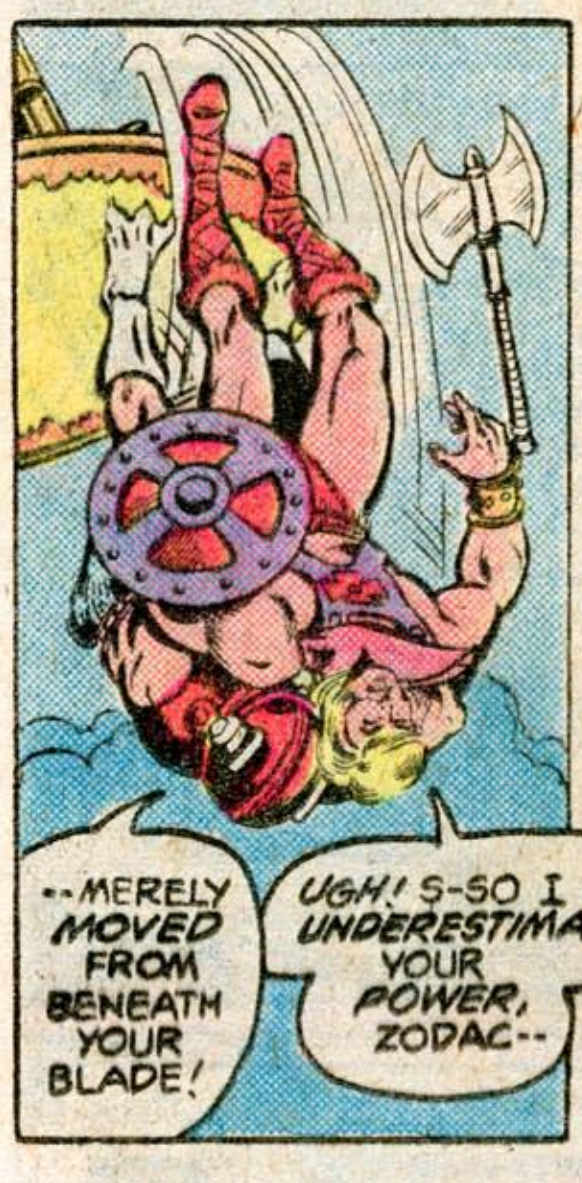

SURELY WOULD I BE MUCH MORE THAN STUNNED DID NOT MY POWER-VEST-CREATED FORCE-FIELD SHIELD ME FROM HIS ATTACK--


--AND GRANT ME THE STRENGTH TO STRIKE BACK!
WHAM!


I WOULD HAVE LET YOU BE, ZODAC... BUT YOUR ACTIONS HAVE LEFT ME NO CHOICE--


--BUT TO SEE TO IT YOU BOTHER ME NO FURTHER!
EH--?! THE STAR-MAN IS GONE...?
THONK!

NOT GONE, MORTAL--


--MERELY MOVED FROM BENEATH YOUR BLADE!
UGH! S-SO I DID UNDERESTIMATE YOUR POWER, ZODAC--

--YET TRUST I SHALL NOT DO SO AGAIN!
BOMMF!

HOLD, GOOD CAT! THIS BATTLE IS HE-MAN'S ALONE!
RRRRR! AS YOU WISH... YET KNOW YOU THAT BATTLE CAT MUST SOON TASTE COMBAT ERE HE GO MAD!

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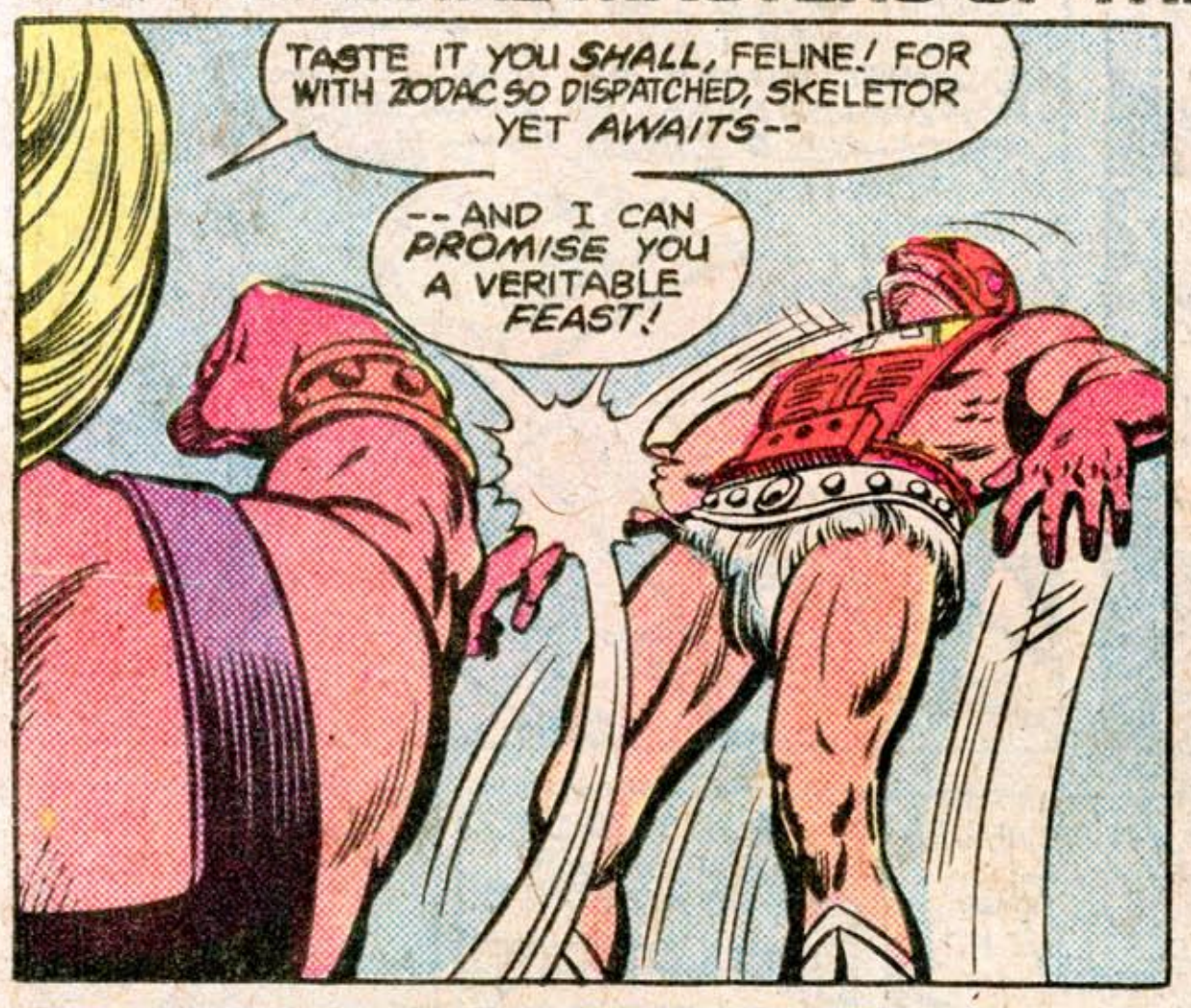
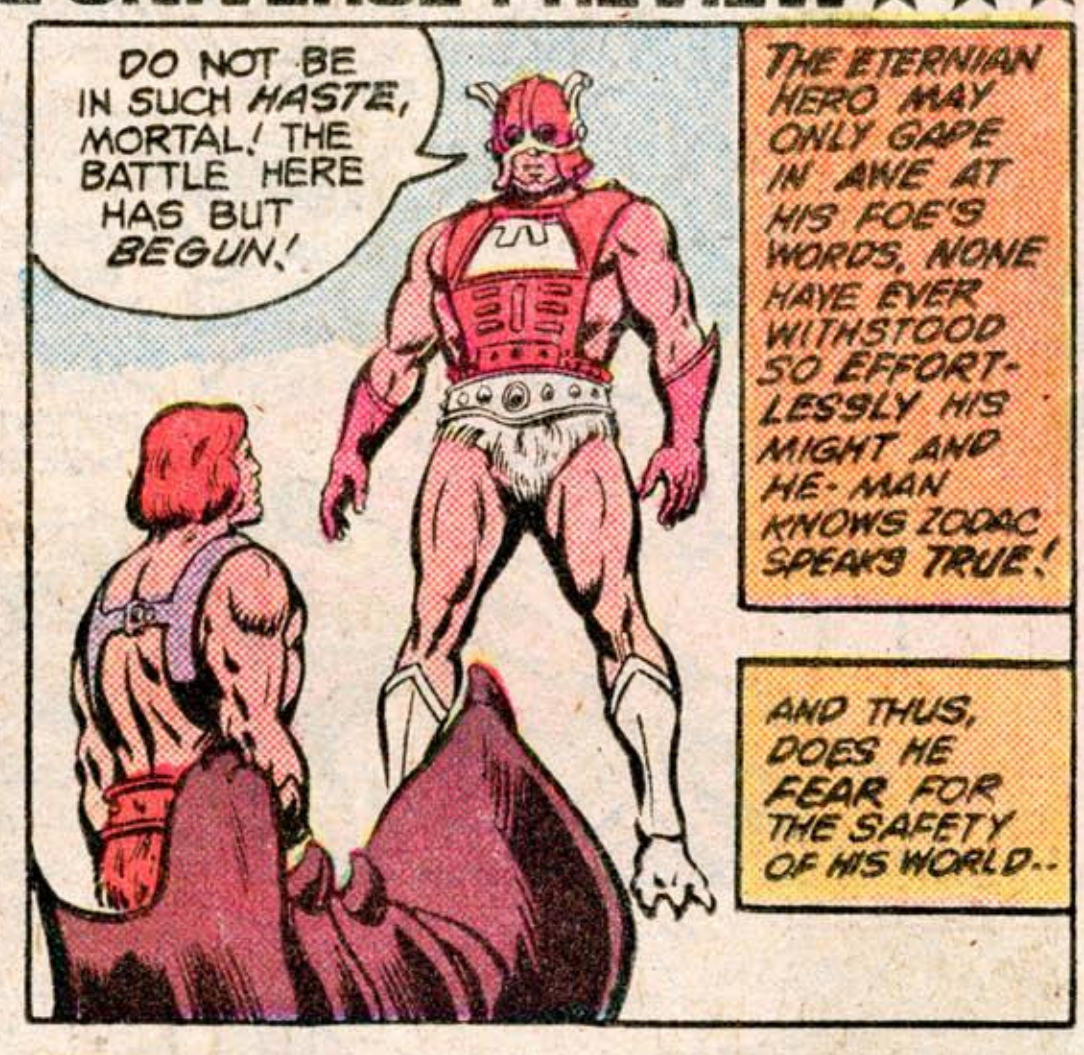
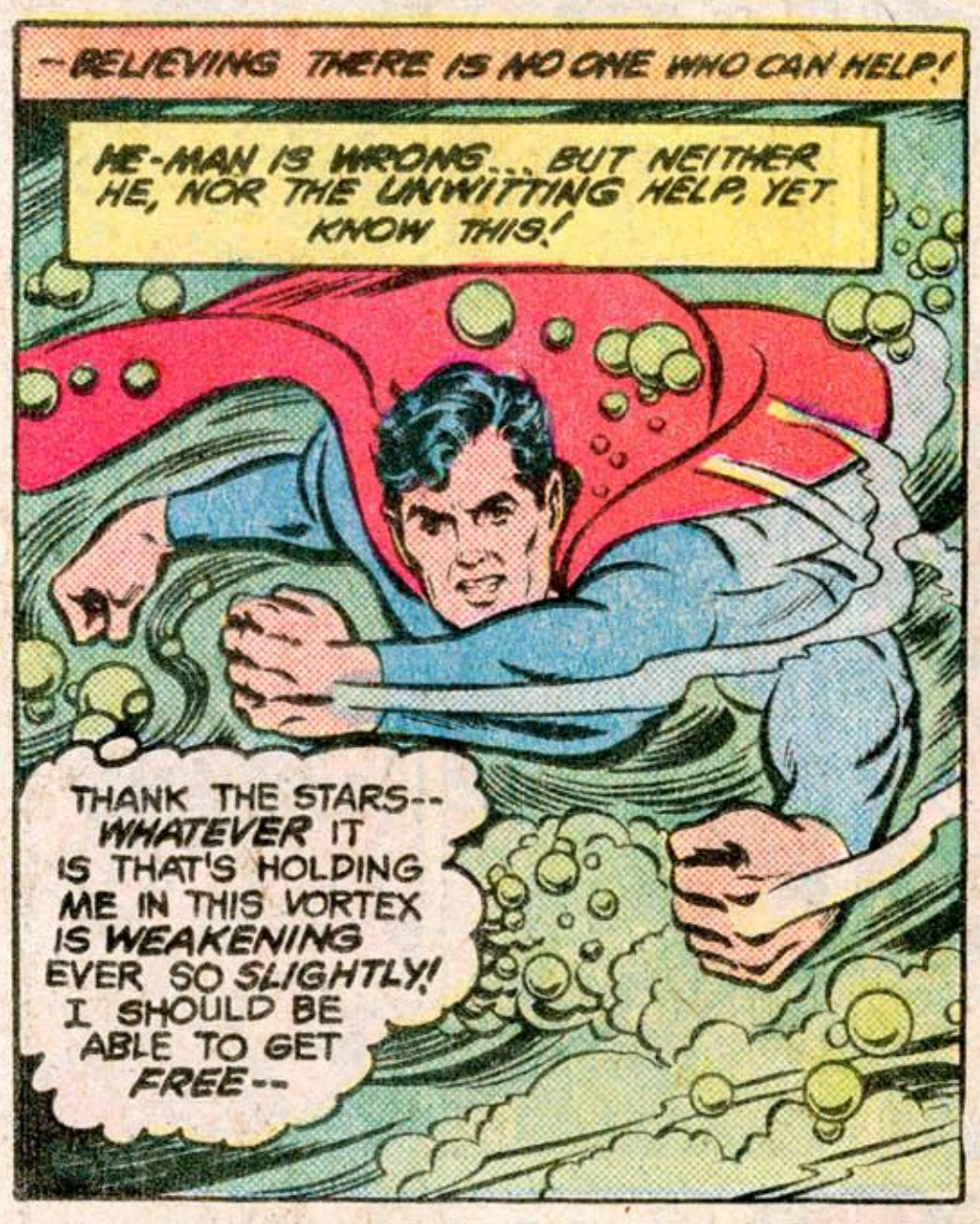
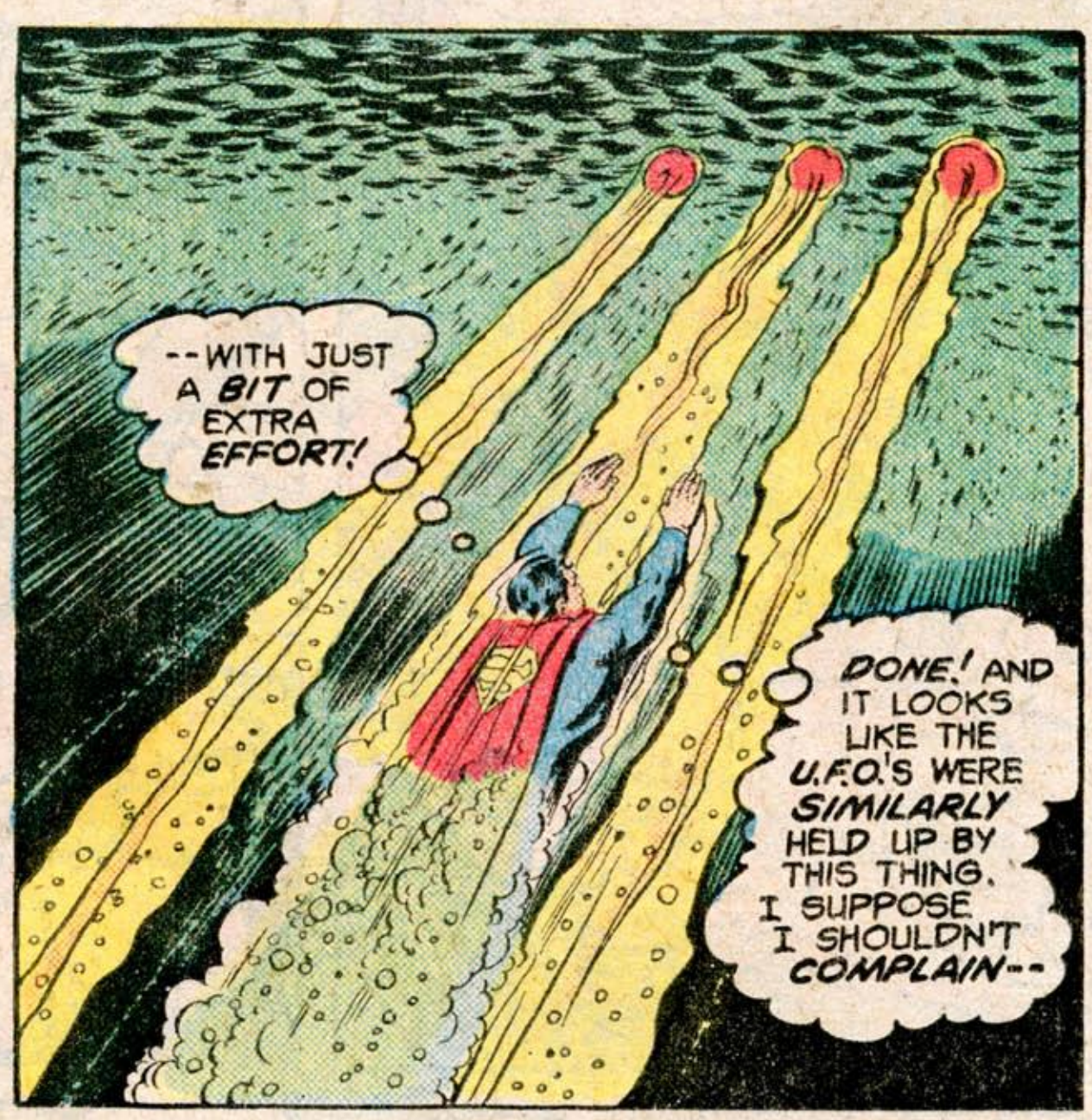
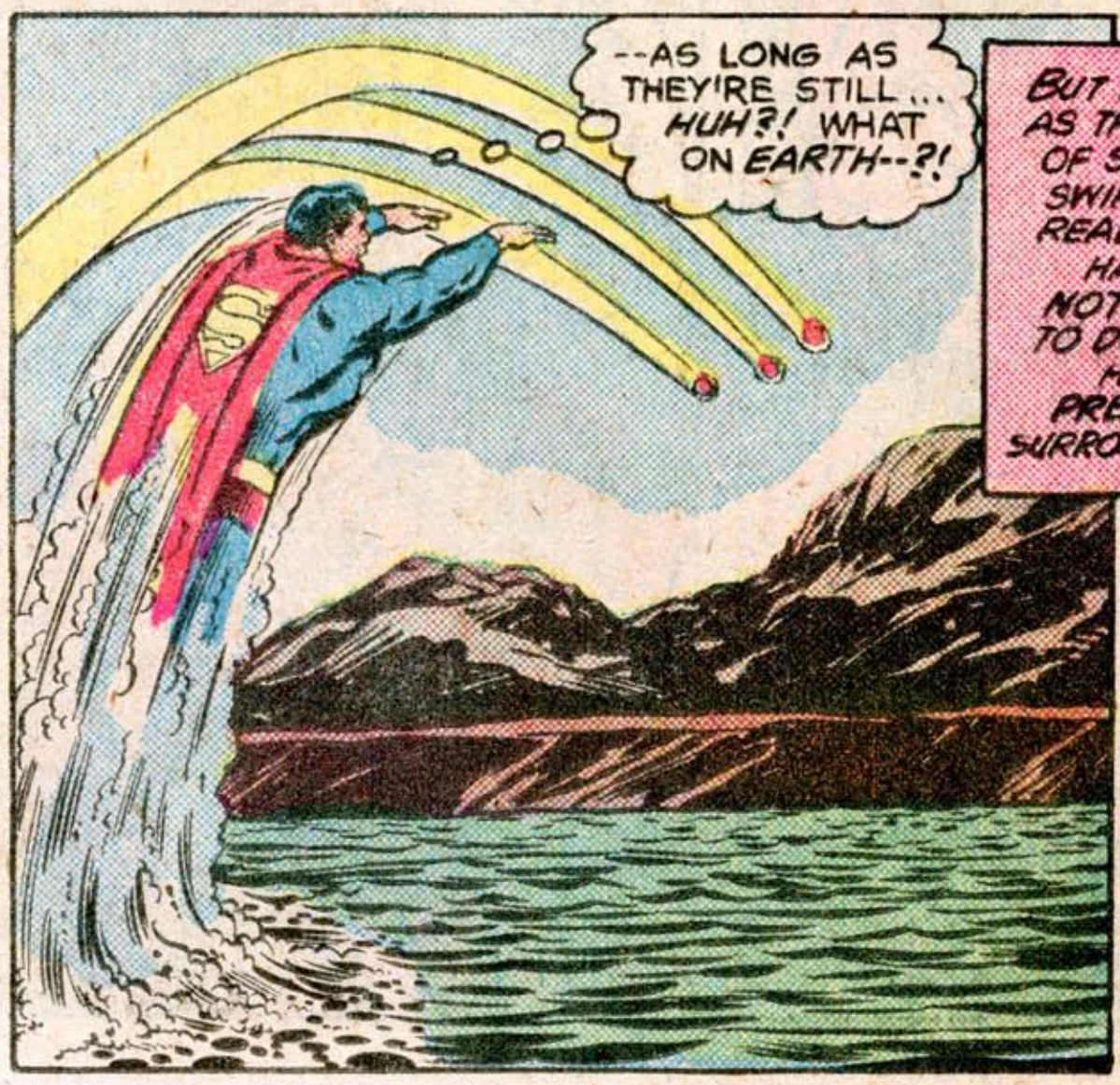
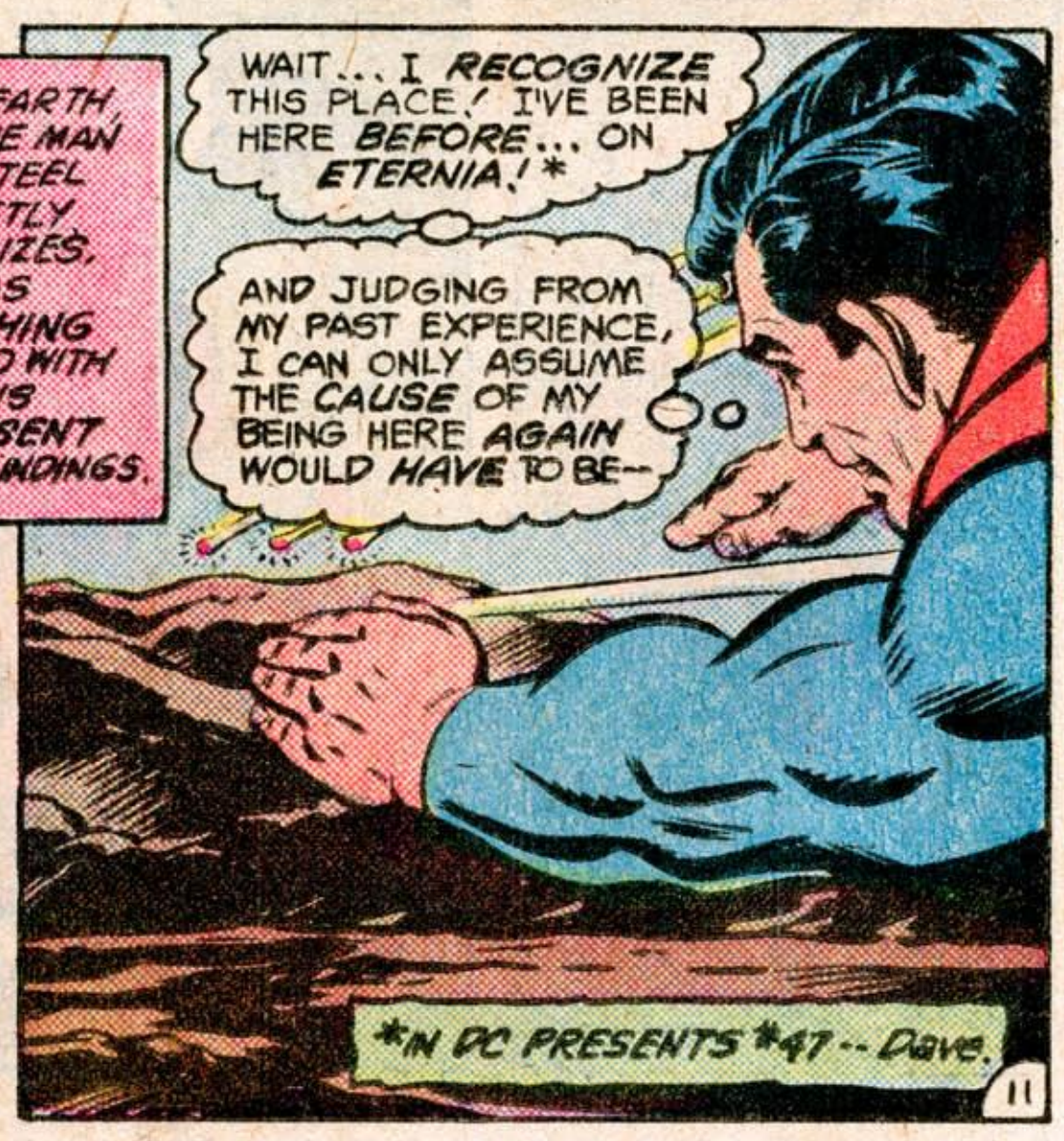












"--SKELETOR!"

AT LAST--THE POWER SWORD IS MINE!

LONG HAVE I AWAITED THIS DAY WHEN THE *ELUSIVE* TWIN OF THE SWORD I DID HOLD WOULD BE *MINE!* LITTLE DID I SUSPECT THAT WHICH I *SENSED* AT THE OCEAN'S FLOOR WOULD BE BUT A *DIMENSIONAL PORTAL* TO WHERE THE SWORD TRULY LAY... UPON DISTANT *EARTH!*

'TWAS AS *CHILD'S PLAY* TO RELIEVE THE SWORD FROM WHENCE IT RESTED--

--WHILST DELAYING THAT WORLD'S MIGHTY *SUPERMAN* FROM INTERFERING IN MY THEFT BY *CONJURING* A *SERPENT* TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED!

BUT NOW 'TIS *DONE,* AND ALL THAT *REMAINS* IS THE *JOINING* OF THE HALVES FOR THE *SECRETS* OF YON *CASTLE GRAYSKULL* TO BE REVEALED-- AND BY REVEALING THEM, MAKE ETERNIA *MINE* AS WELL! *HA HA HA!*

THEN *DO IT,* MASTER! YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT WOULD SEE IT DONE!

YIPE!

NOT *YET,* FOOLISH CUR! SUCH A GRANDIOSE EVENT MUST *WAIT*... FOR THE *STARS* ARE NOT YET IN *PROPER ALIGNMENT* FOR THE *MAGICS* TO WORK!

SWAK!

BUT *SOON,* LACKEY... VERY SOON THE TIME SHALL BE *RIPE!* AND WHEN THE *DARK STAR* DOES STAND POISED 'TWIXT THE ETERNIAN *MOONS*--

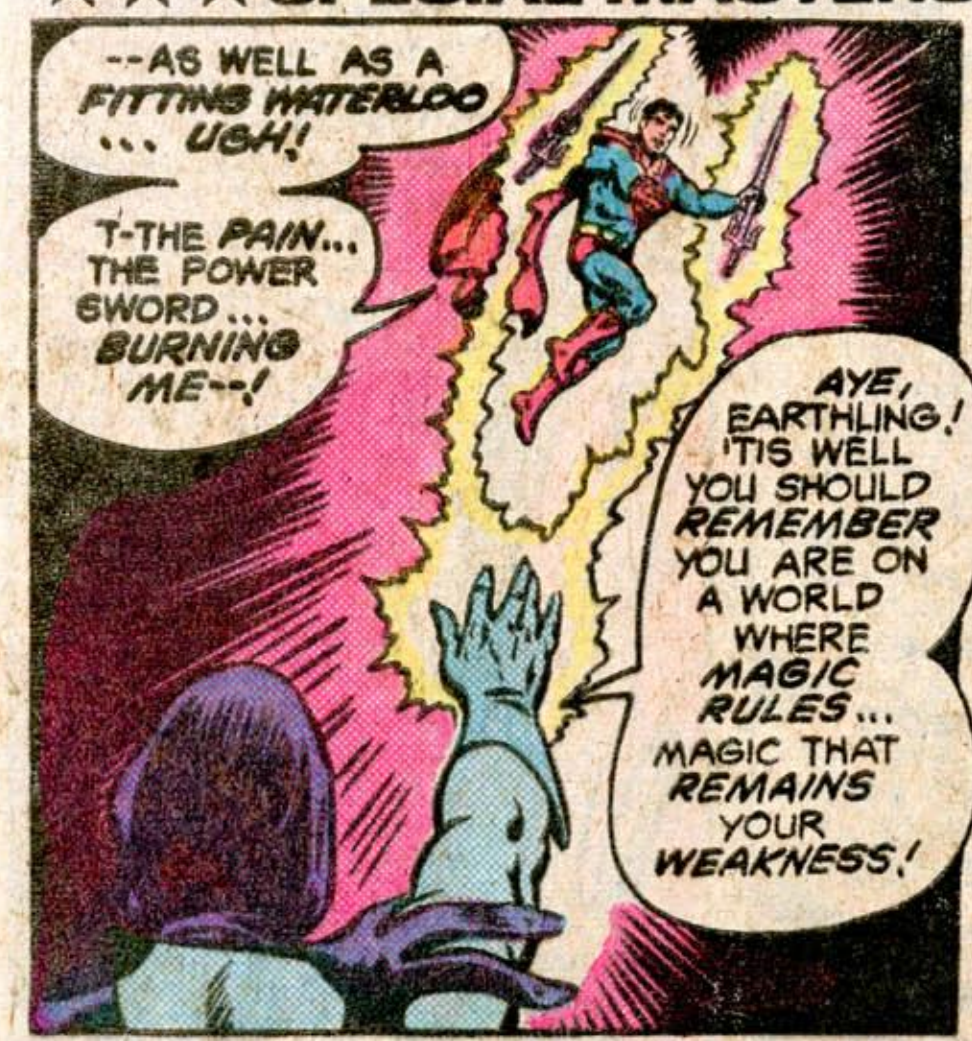
--THIS WORLD WILL FEEL MY *MIGHT! HA HA HA HA!*

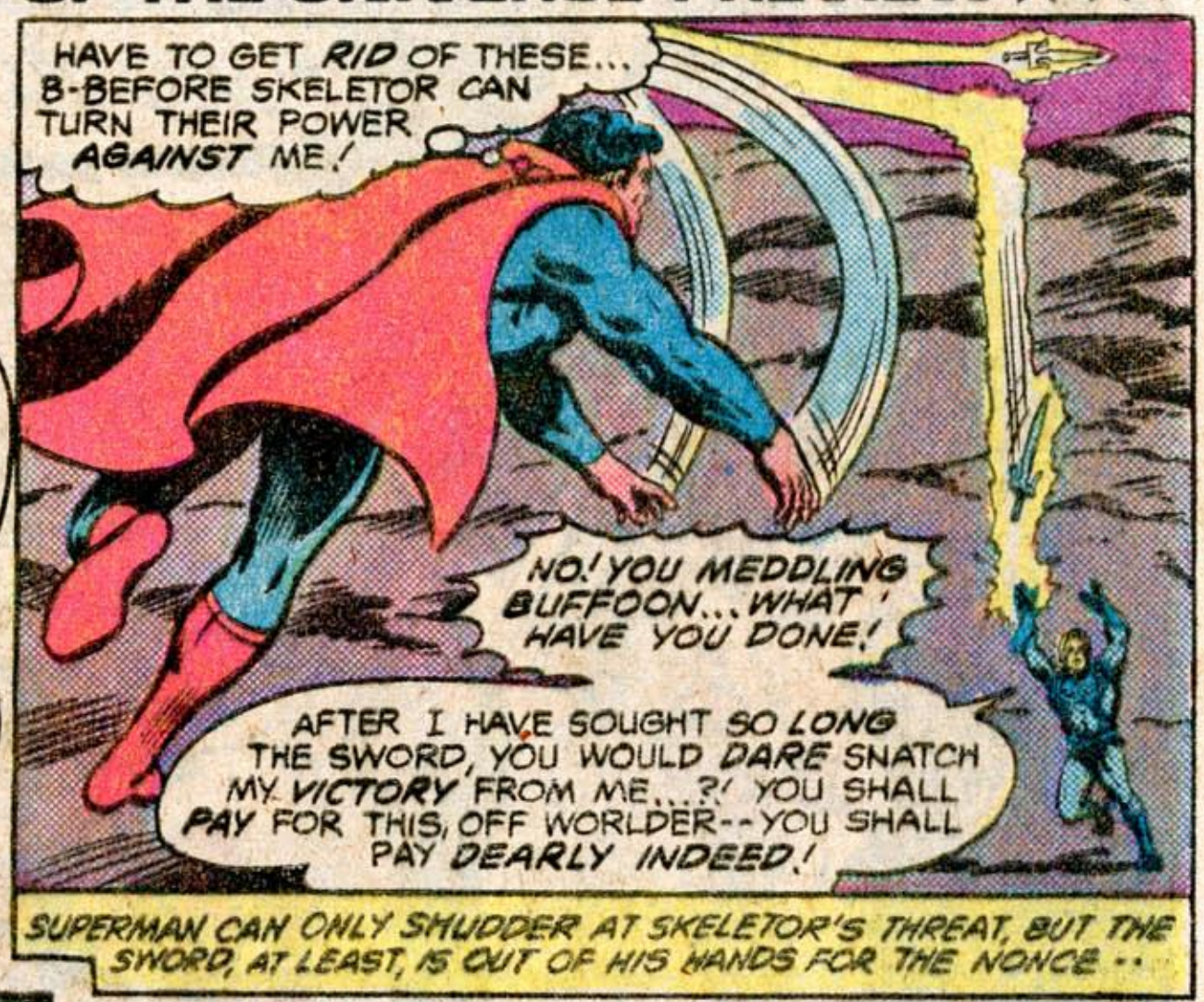
I WOULDN'T *COUNT* ON THAT, SKELETOR--

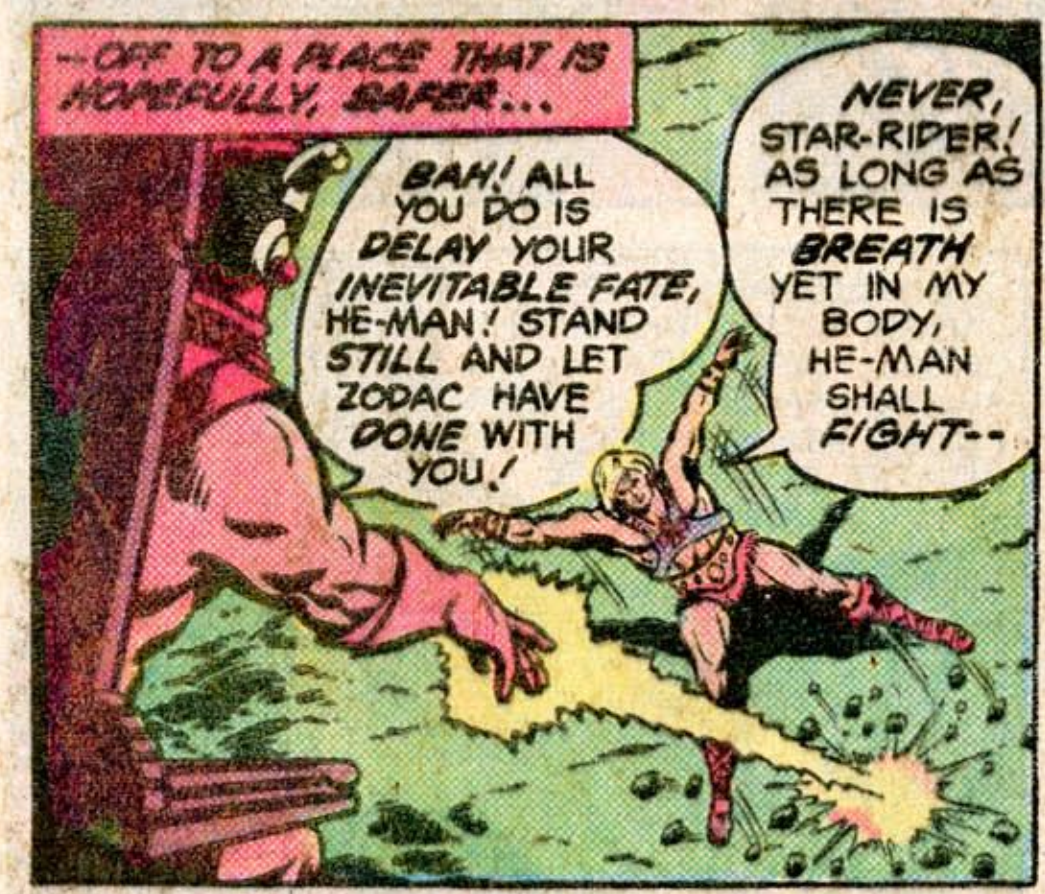
--I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT AT *ALL!*

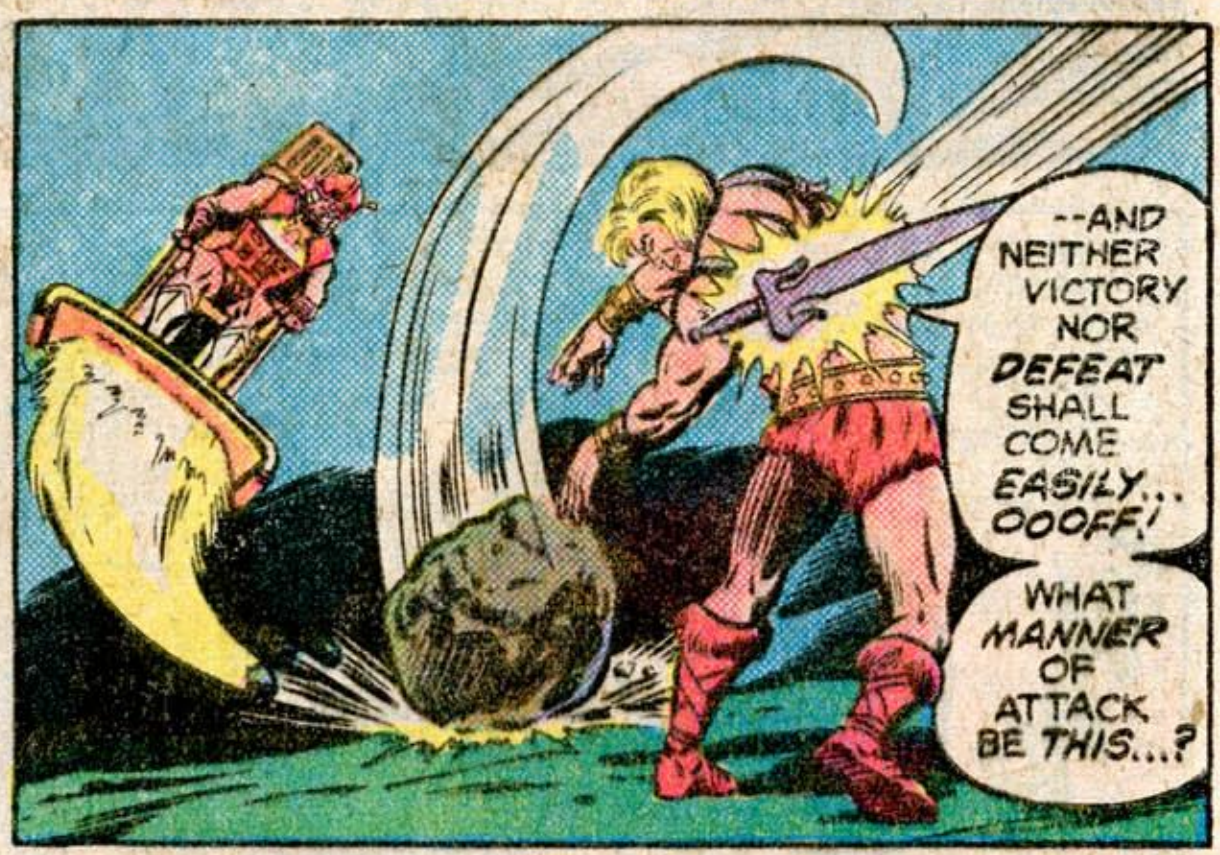
SUPERMAN! CURSE YOU, ALIEN... I KNOW *NOT* HOW YOU FOUND ME, BUT YOU *SHAN'T* HALT MY SCHEME-- NOT *AGAIN!*

IT DOESN'T TAKE A *GENIUS* TO FIGURE YOU'RE *STILL* AFTER THE SAME THING AS WHEN WE *LAST* MET, SKULL-FACE, MAKING CASTLE GRAYSKULL THE *FIRST* PLACE I'D LOOK FOR YOU--


--AS WELL AS A FITTING WATERLOO ... UGH!
T-THE PAIN... THE POWER SWORD... BURNING ME--!
AYE, EARTHLING! 'TIS WELL YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOU ARE ON A WORLD WHERE MAGIC RULES... MAGIC THAT REMAINS YOUR WEAKNESS!


HAVE TO GET RID OF THESE... B-BEFORE SKELETOR CAN TURN THEIR POWER AGAINST ME!
NO! YOU MEDDLING BUFFOON... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!
AFTER I HAVE SOUGHT SO LONG THE SWORD, YOU WOULD DARE SNATCH MY VICTORY FROM ME...?! YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS, OFF WORLDER--YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY INDEED!
SUPERMAN CAN ONLY SHUDDER AT SKELETOR'S THREAT, BUT THE SWORD, AT LEAST, IS OUT OF HIS HANDS FOR THE NONCE..


--OFF TO A PLACE THAT IS HOPEFULLY, SAFER...
BAH! ALL YOU DO IS DELAY YOUR INEVITABLE FATE, HE-MAN! STAND STILL AND LET ZODAC HAVE DONE WITH YOU!
NEVER, STAR-RIDER! AS LONG AS THERE IS BREATH YET IN MY BODY, HE-MAN SHALL FIGHT--


--AND NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT SHALL COME EASILY... OOOFF!
WHAT MANNER OF ATTACK BE THIS...?

NAY... 'TIS ONE HALF OF THE POWER SWORD! YET... HOW--? UNLESS... AYE--THIS MUST THEN BE THE WORK OF EVIL SKELETOR! WHO ELSE WOULD BE SO BOLD!
TO ME, BATTLE CAT! THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN THROWN DOWN AND I DO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!
BUT WHAT OF ZODAC, HE-MAN--?

HE MUST WAIT! SKELETOR MENACES ALL OF ETERNIA ... AND MY LIFE IS ALL THAT IS THREATENED HERE! TRULY, DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
HE-MAN... NAY!
THIS MUST NOT BE! FOR DID NOT THE STARS TELL OF HE-MAN'S DEATH SHOULD HE THIS DAY MEET SKELETOR...?
MAYHAPS THEY DID, BUT THE ETERNIAN CHAMPION KNOWS NOT OF THE STARS--

--AND IN TRUTH, HE WOULD NOT CARE!
BY THE GODS! MADNESS SURELY REIGNS HERE! YONDER LIES AN ALLY FROM ANOTHER WORLD ... NEAR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF MY FOE! HALT, SKELETOR!
HE-MAN! BAH, BUT I DID EXPECT YOUR COMING--

★★★SPECIAL MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE PREVIEW★★★

--THUS DID I PREPARE FOR YOU!

IT SEEMS THAT ALL THE FORCES OF THE COSMOS MOVE TO ACT AS ONE! A SPELL IS CAST--

--THE SWORD IS HURLED--

--AND WITHIN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, TWO BEINGS ARE STRUCK DOWN!

BY THE FATES!.. NAY! I-I AM TOO LATE--

--AND THE STARS HAVE CLAIMED THEIR VICTIM!

AAAK!-- I--CURSE YOU, MEDDLERS! I-I AM WOUNDED... THE POWER OF THE SWORD--

--CONSUMES MEEEEE....

BUT BE IT MAGICAL OR PHYSICAL ENERGY, A SIMPLE LAW OF THE VERY NATURE OF THINGS HOLDS YET TRUE--

--AND THE ENERGY MUST BE MADE TO SEEK STILL ANOTHER FORM! SEEK IT IT GOES... INTO THE LIFE-FORCE OF THE MIGHTY HE-MAN... AND AGAINST ALL REASON-- AGAINST EVEN THE VERY DICTATES OF FATE...

HE LIVES! HE-MAN RISES... ALIVE!

UHHHH... AYE... I-I LIVE, ZODAC--THOUGH MY EYES... DID THEY NOT JUST GLIMPSE A WORLD OF... DEATH--?

THAT THEY DID, MY FRIEND... BUT YOU NEED NOT FEAR IT AGAIN AT MY HANDS! WE SHALL FIGHT NO MORE, FOR ZODAC WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU A MYSTERY OF THE FATES--

--BUT FOR THE NONCE, BE SATISFIED THAT YOU HAVE MET THOSE FATES... AND CHEATED THEM OF THEIR VICTORY!

ER...THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD-- BUT WILL SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT I'M DOING HERE..?

END

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I THINK I'LL *PASS*, THANKS!

NOW *AS* I WAS *TRYING* TO SAY, I'M HERE TO *REGISTER*. MY NAME'S LINDA DANVERS AND...

PLEASED TO MEET'CHA, LINDA. I'M *JOAN RAYMOND*. *NEW* IN THESE PARTS, ARE YOU?

YEAH... BUT GETTING *LESS* SO BY THE SECOND. WHAT'S A GIRL GOTTA DO TO REGISTER AROUND HERE?

TRY ASKING *ME*, LIN! I KNOW ALL ABOUT *THAT* STUFF.

-GROAN!- I'VE GOT TO BE AT THE *HOUSING OFFICE* IN TEN MINUTES AND *YOU'RE* TAKING A *GIGGLE-BREAK* AT MY EXPENSE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, LIN. SORRY. LOOK, LEMME MAKE IT UP TO YOU, OKAY? YOU LOOK LIKE A *DECENT* SORT-- AND I'D KINDA *HATE* TO SEE YOU GET *STUCK* WITH ONE OF THEM *DUMPS* THE HOUSING OFFICE USUALLY PASSES OFF ON UNSUSPECTING FRESHMEN! C'MON...!

HOLD IT, JOAN--! WHAT ABOUT REGISTRATION...?

NO *SWEAT*, KIDDO--YOU CAN DO THAT *ANY TIME*! YOU JUST GOT YOURSELF A *FRIEND* IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE!

BUT... BUT...

BUT ME *NO BUTS*, LINDA! IT JUST SO HAPPENS A *GREAT* APARTMENT'S OPENED UP IN *MY* BUILDING! DO YOU *WANT* IT OR DON'TCHA?

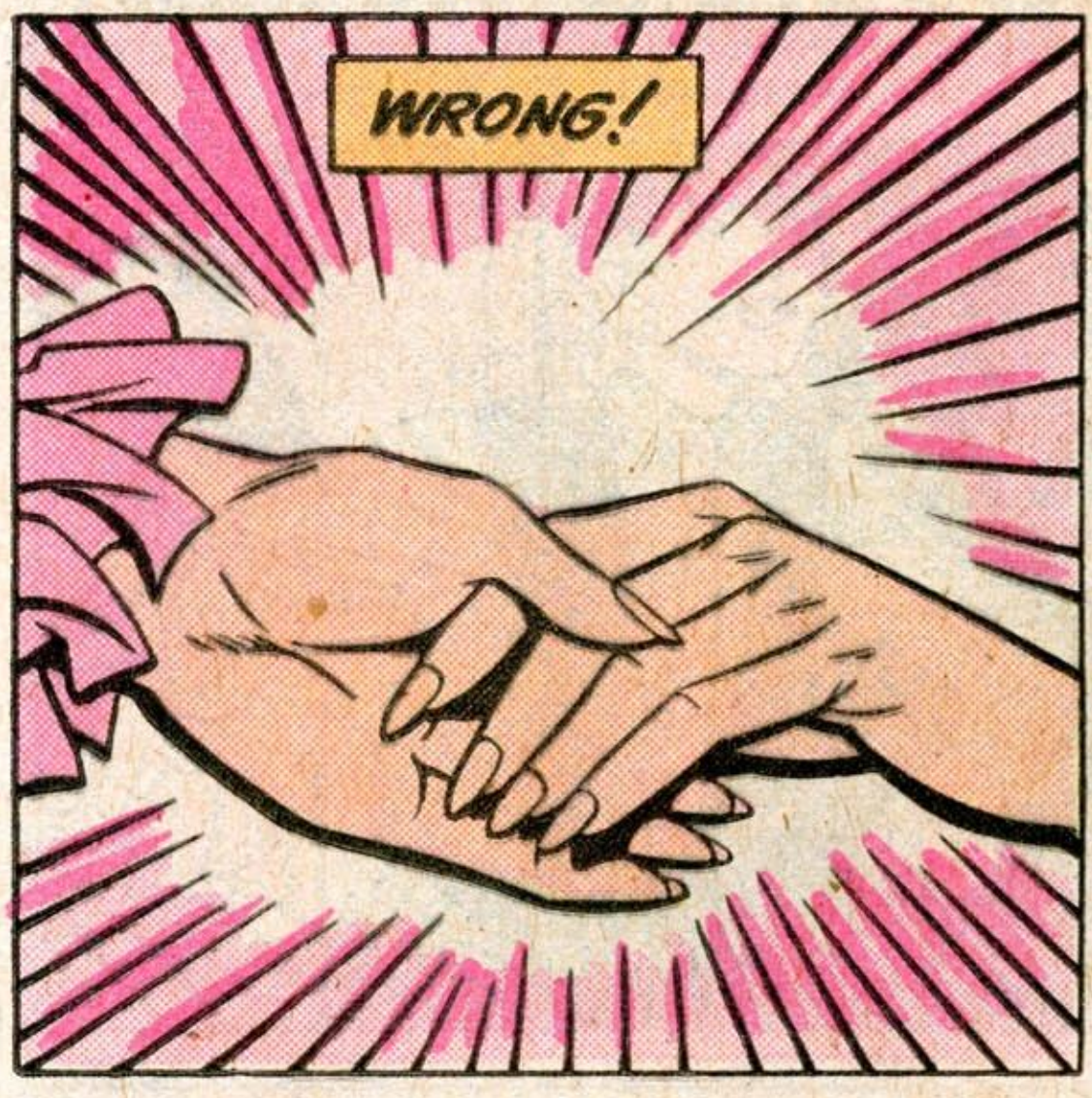
LEAD ON, MACDUFF!

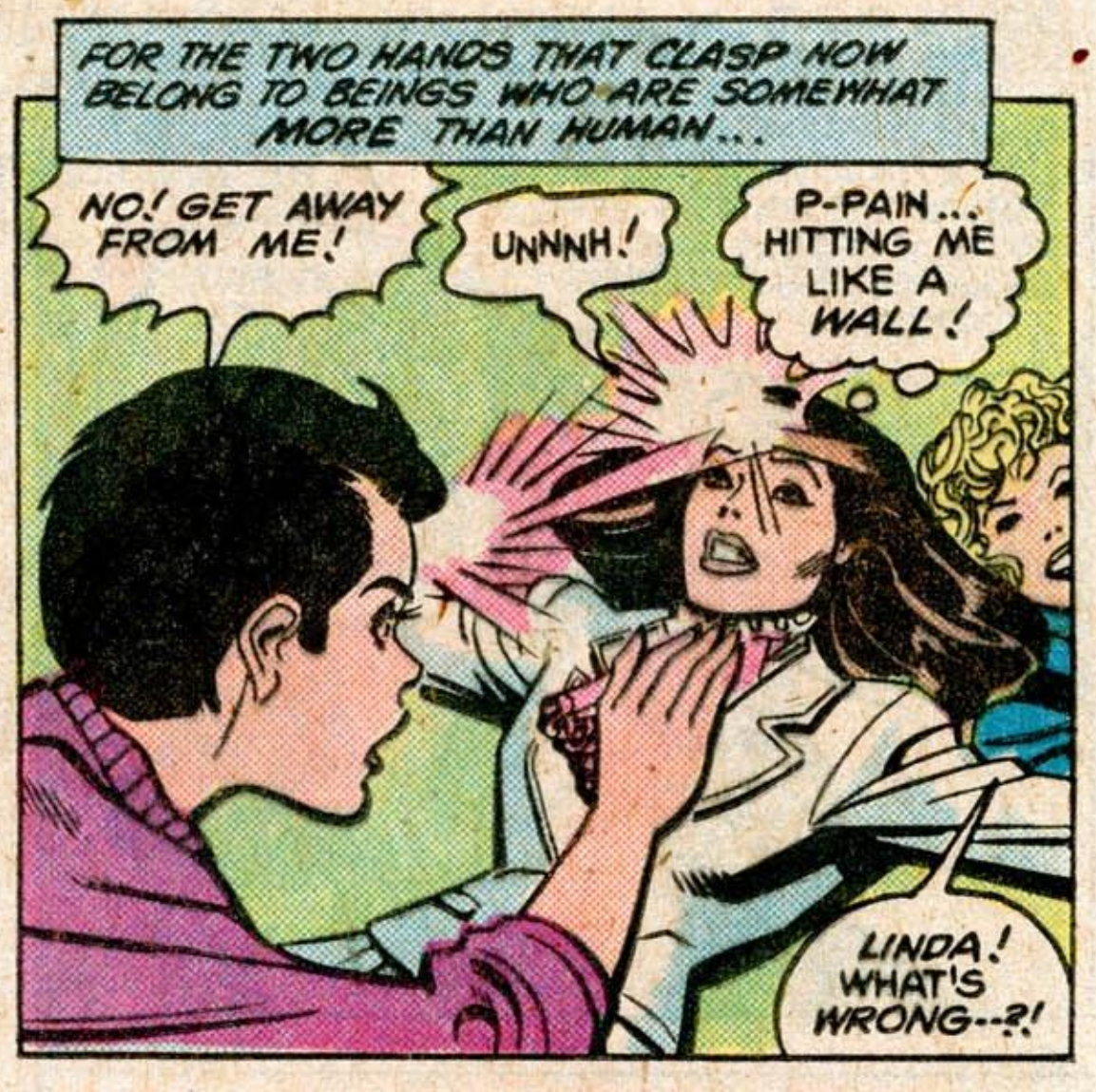
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE *FINALLY* MET AN *IRRESISTIBLE FORCE* THAT'S TOO MUCH EVEN FOR A *SUPERGIRL*!

LEMME TELL YOU, LIN... YOU'RE GONNA JUST *LOVE* THIS PLACE! GOT A *GREAT* BUNCH OF NEIGHBORS TOO--ER, BESIDES *ME*, THAT IS!

HMMM, *NICE* CLOTHES YOU GOT THERE. YOU WOULDN'T BY ANY CHANCE BE A *SIZE EIGHT*, WOULD YOU? YEAH, I'LL BET YOU *ARE*!

EH, HOW *LONG'VE* YOU HAD THIS *SHYNESS* PROBLEM, JOAN?





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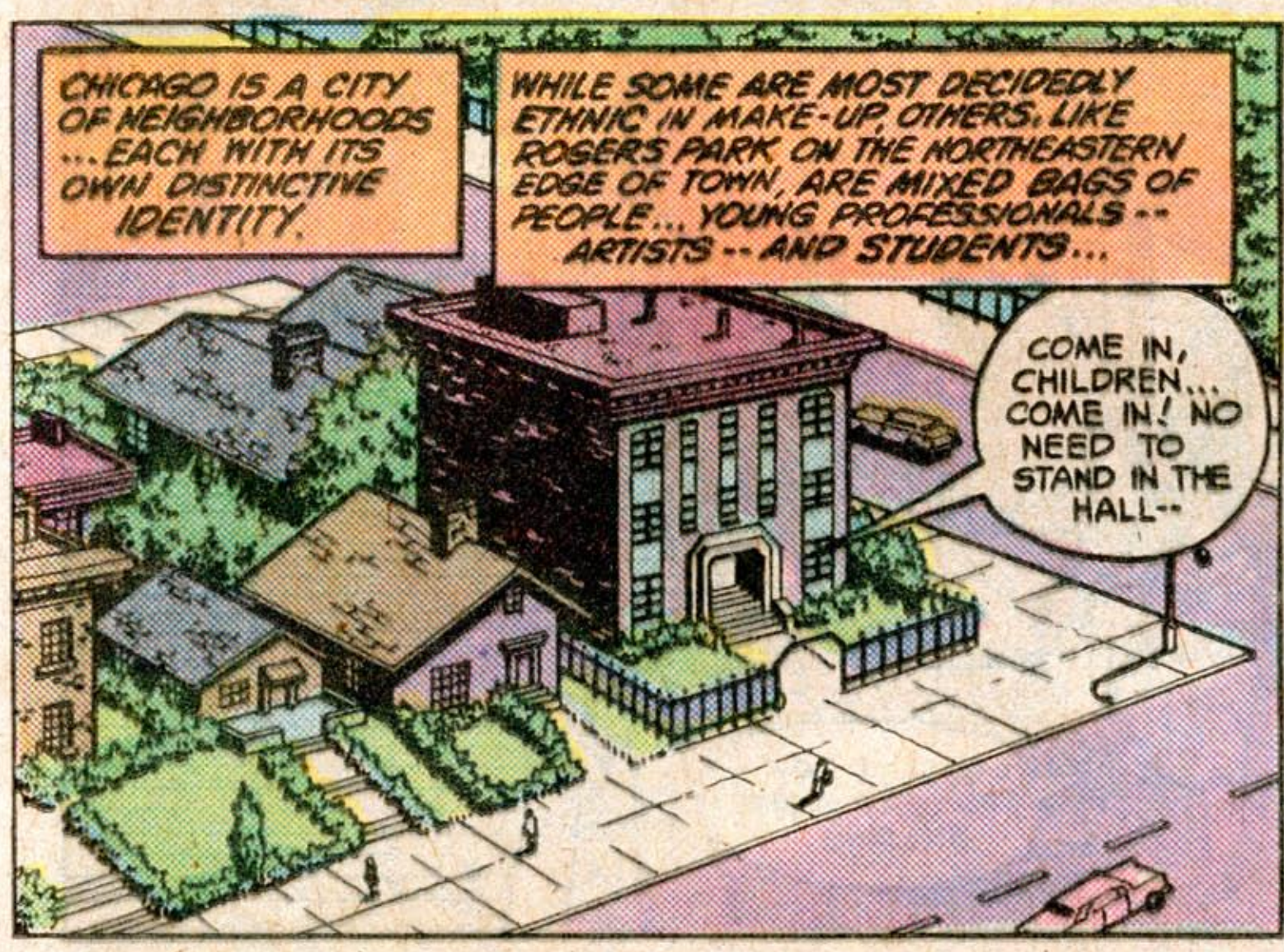
-- LITTLE RECOGNIZING WHAT SHE HAS JUST ENCOUNTERED--AND COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT THAT CHANCE MEETING HERALDS--!
LORD... IT WAS TERRIBLE!
I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH... SUCH RAW POWER IN MY LIFE! WHY DIDN'T MR. PENDERGAST WARN ME--

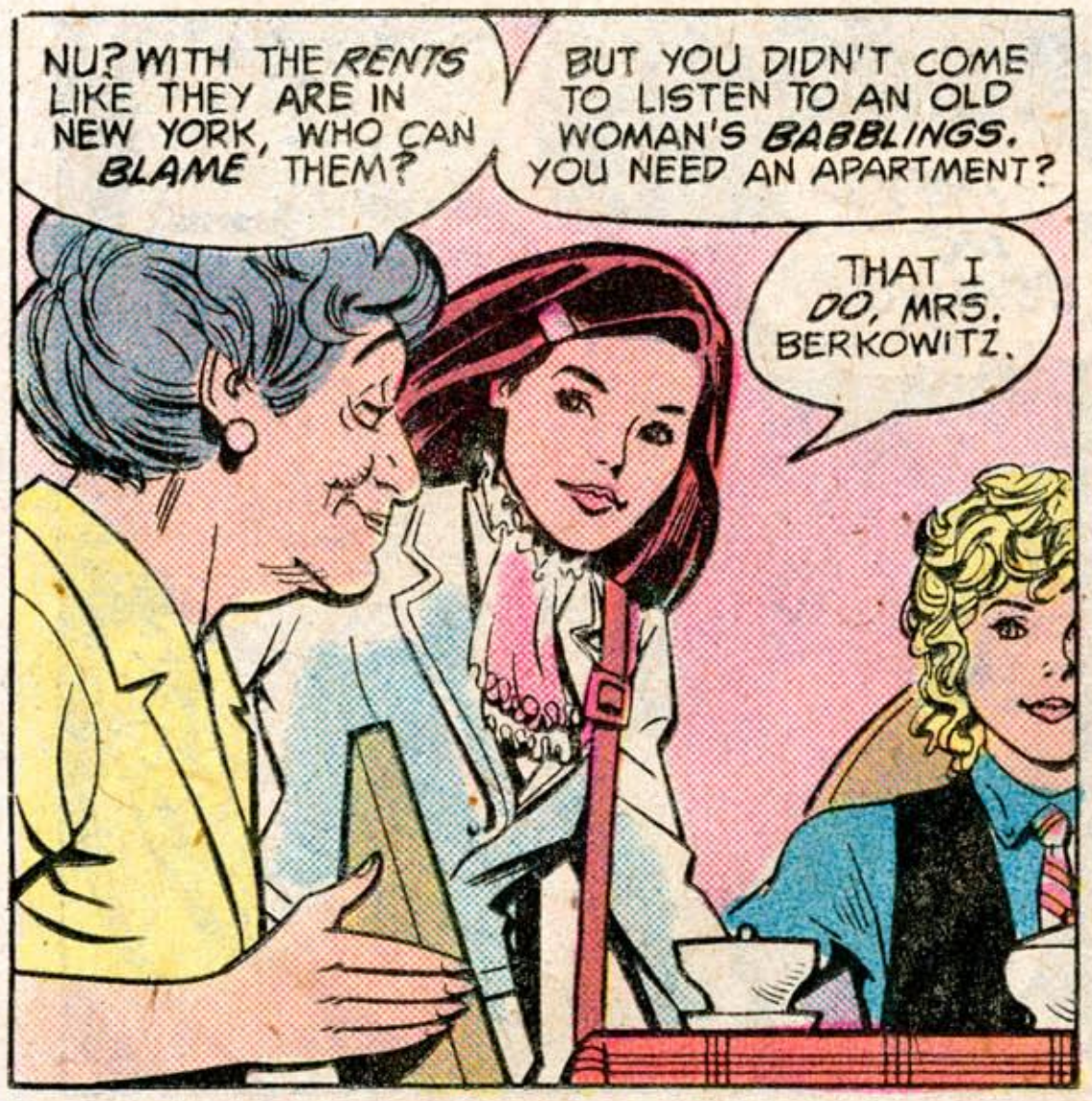
--THEY'D BE COMING?!

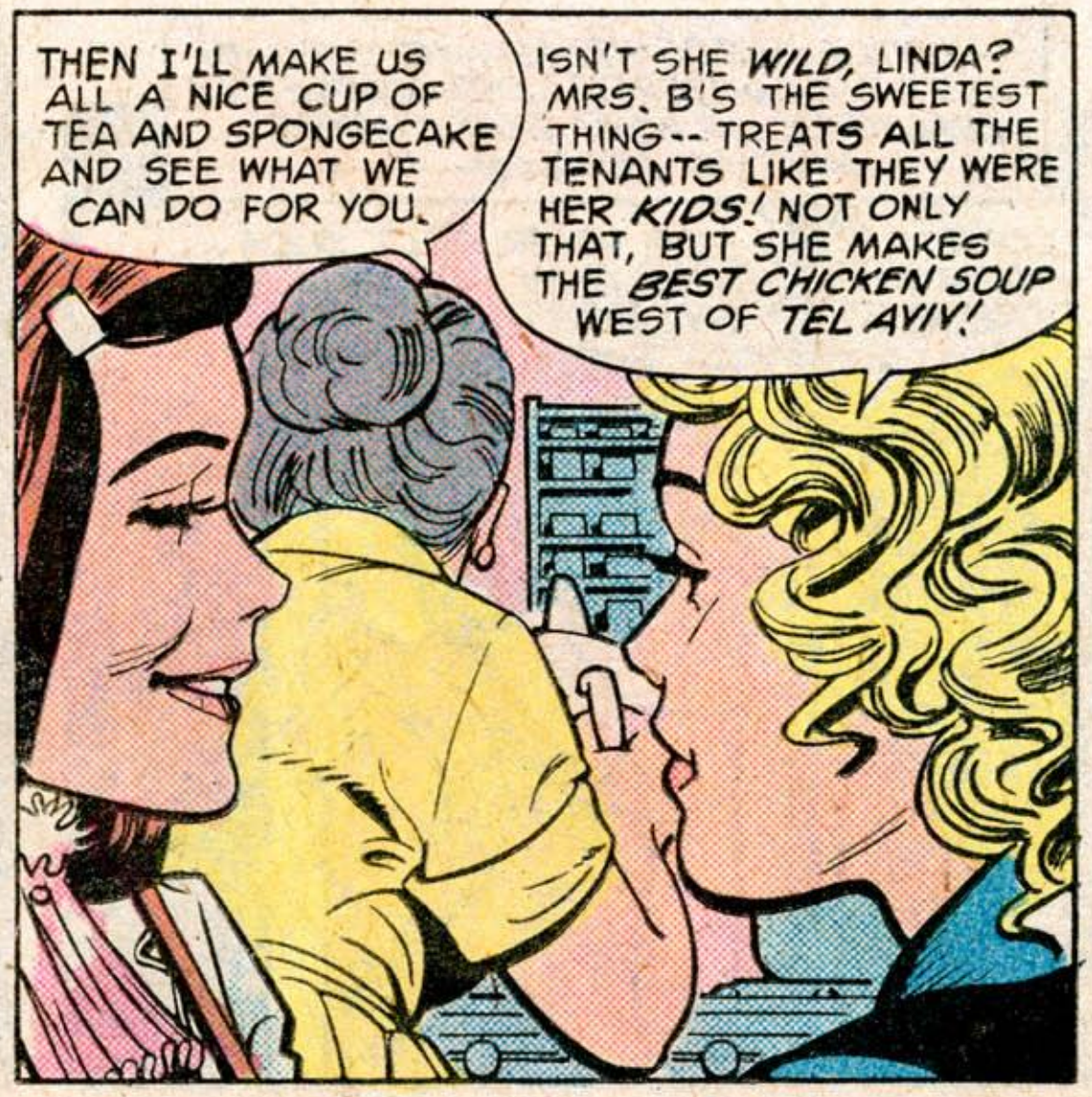

CHICAGO IS A CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS ...EACH WITH ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE IDENTITY.
WHILE SOME ARE MOST DECIDEDLY ETHNIC IN MAKE-UP, OTHERS, LIKE ROGERS PARK ON THE NORTHEASTERN EDGE OF TOWN, ARE MIXED BAGS OF PEOPLE... YOUNG PROFESSIONALS -- ARTISTS -- AND STUDENTS...
COME IN, CHILDREN... COME IN! NO NEED TO STAND IN THE HALL--

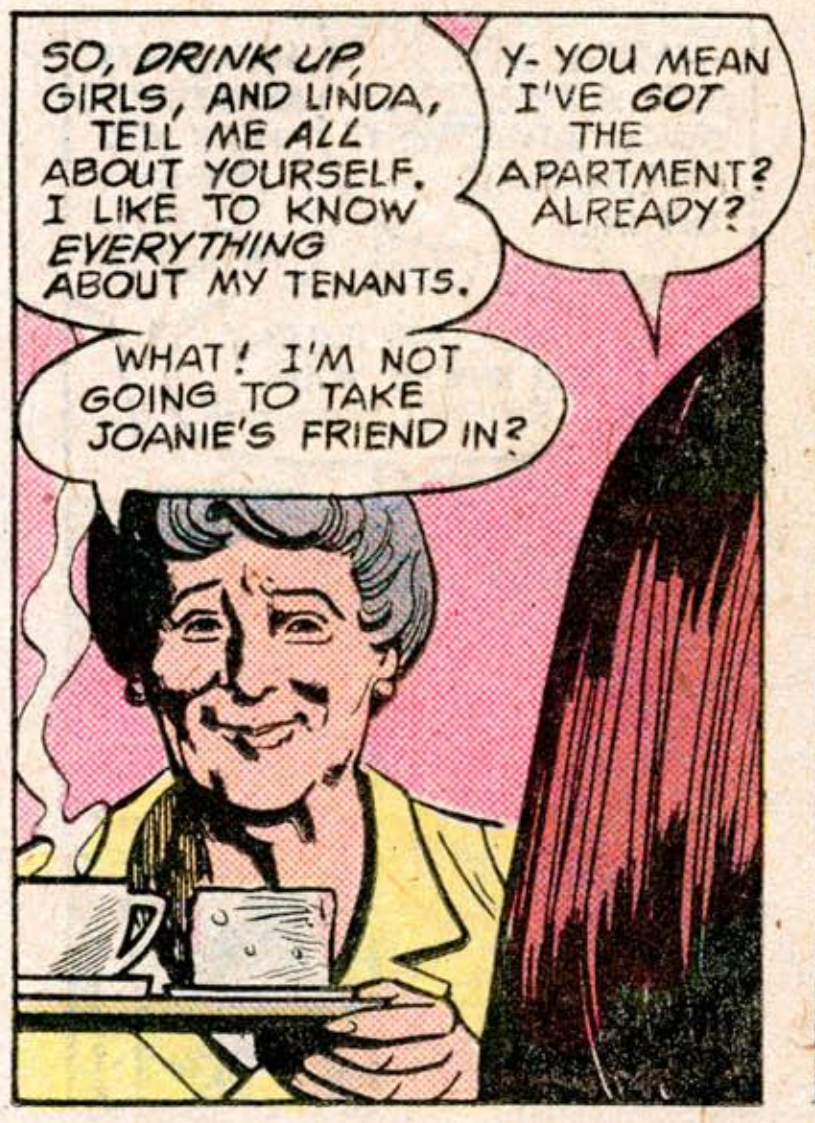
--WHEN I'VE GOT A PERFECTLY GOOD APARTMENT FOR YOU TO SIT IN!
HIYA, MRS. BERKOWITZ. HOW YOU DOING TODAY, HONEY?
ACH, DON'T ASK! SO, WHO'S YOUR FRIEND, JOANIE--?

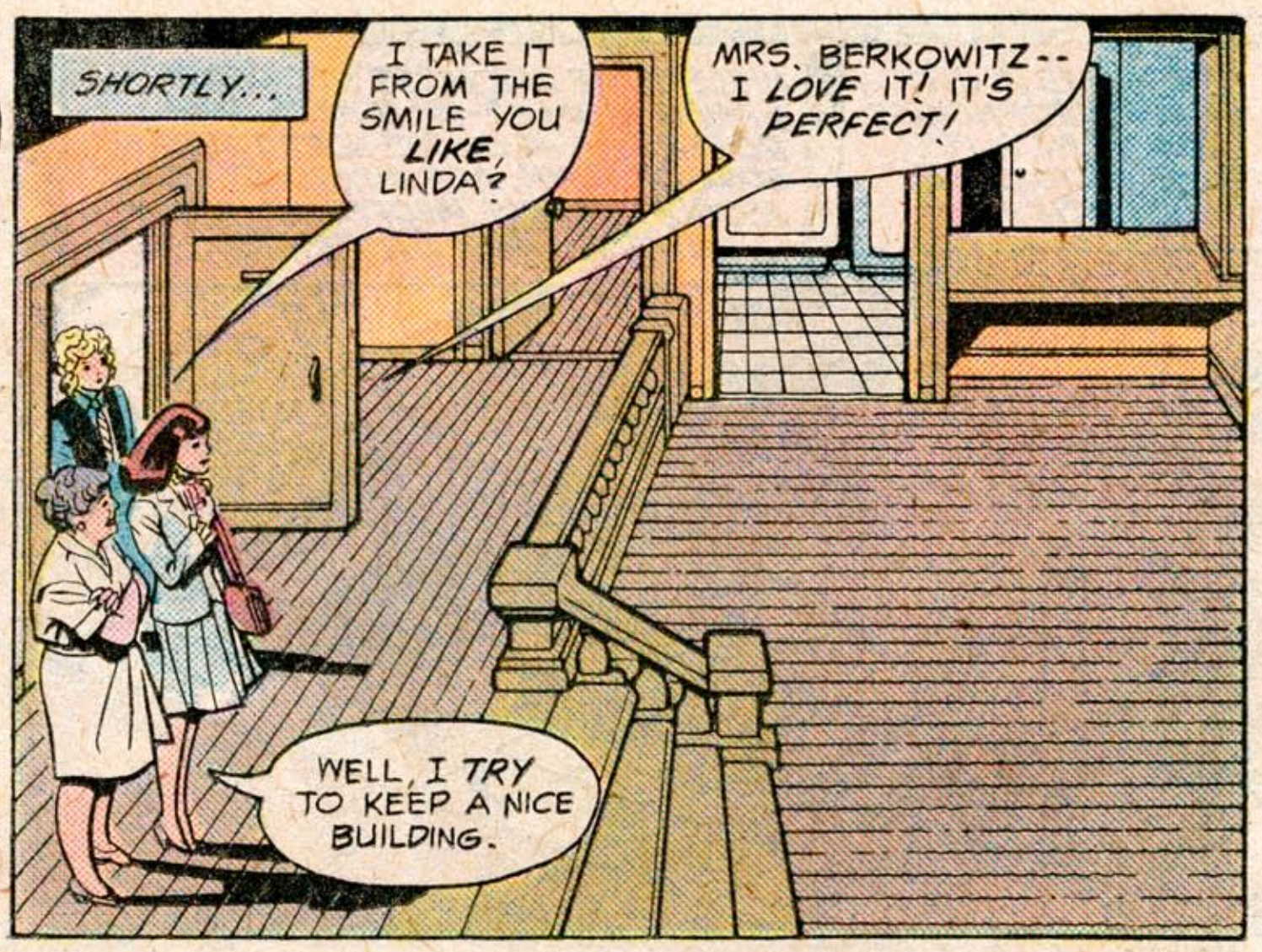
SOMEONE TO FILL THAT VACANT APARTMENT ON THE THIRD FLOOR. IDA BERKOWITZ, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY GOOD FRIEND LINDA DANVERS FROM... ER, WHERE YOU FROM, GOOD FRIEND?
WELL, MY LAST PORT OF CALL WAS NEW YORK. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MA'AM.
OOH, NEW YORK! SUCH A PLACE THAT IS. MY HYMIE AND ME WERE THERE ONCE...IN 1933.

WE WERE VISITING MY BROTHER THEN FROM POLAND. RADIO CITY, WE SAW -- AND THEY WAS STILL BUILDING THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. SO, TELL ME--THE DODGERS ARE STILL DOING GOOD IN BROOKLYN?
WELL, ACTUALLY, MA'AM, THE DODGERS LEFT NEW YORK MANY YEARS AGO.









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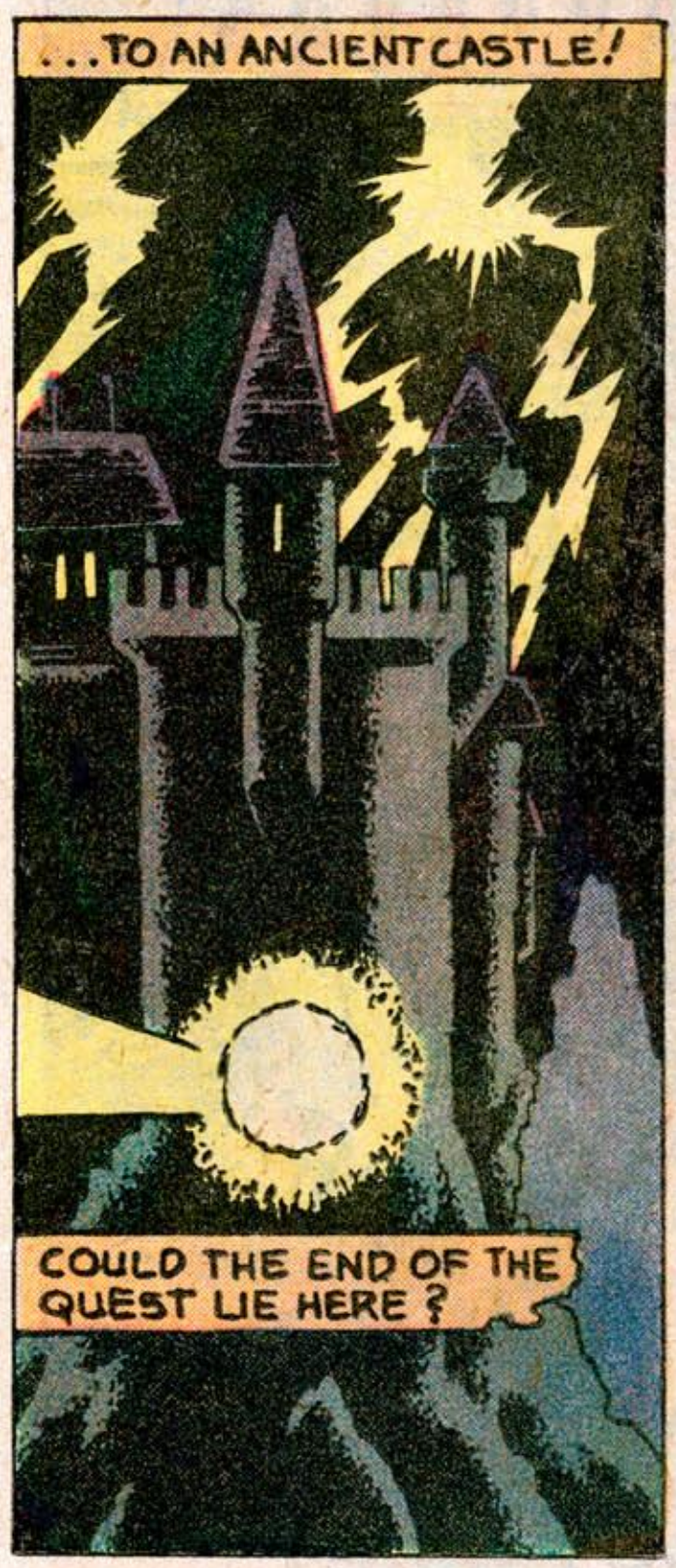

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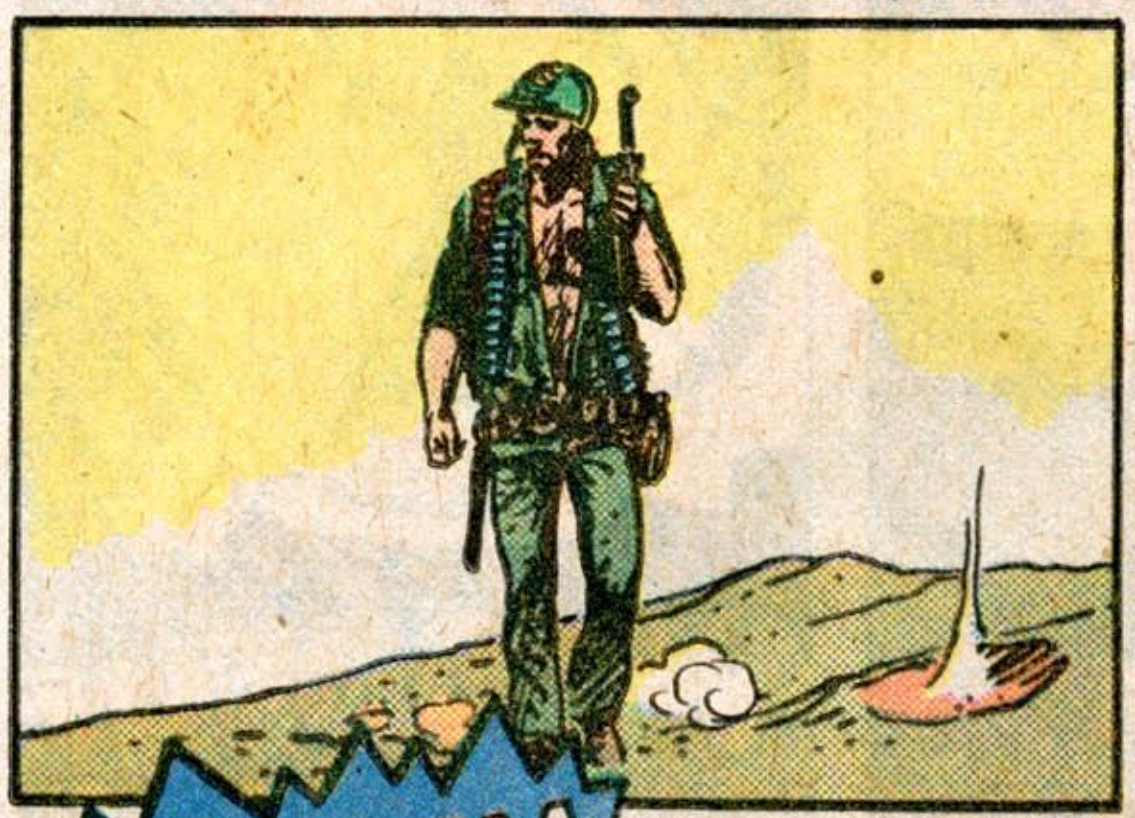

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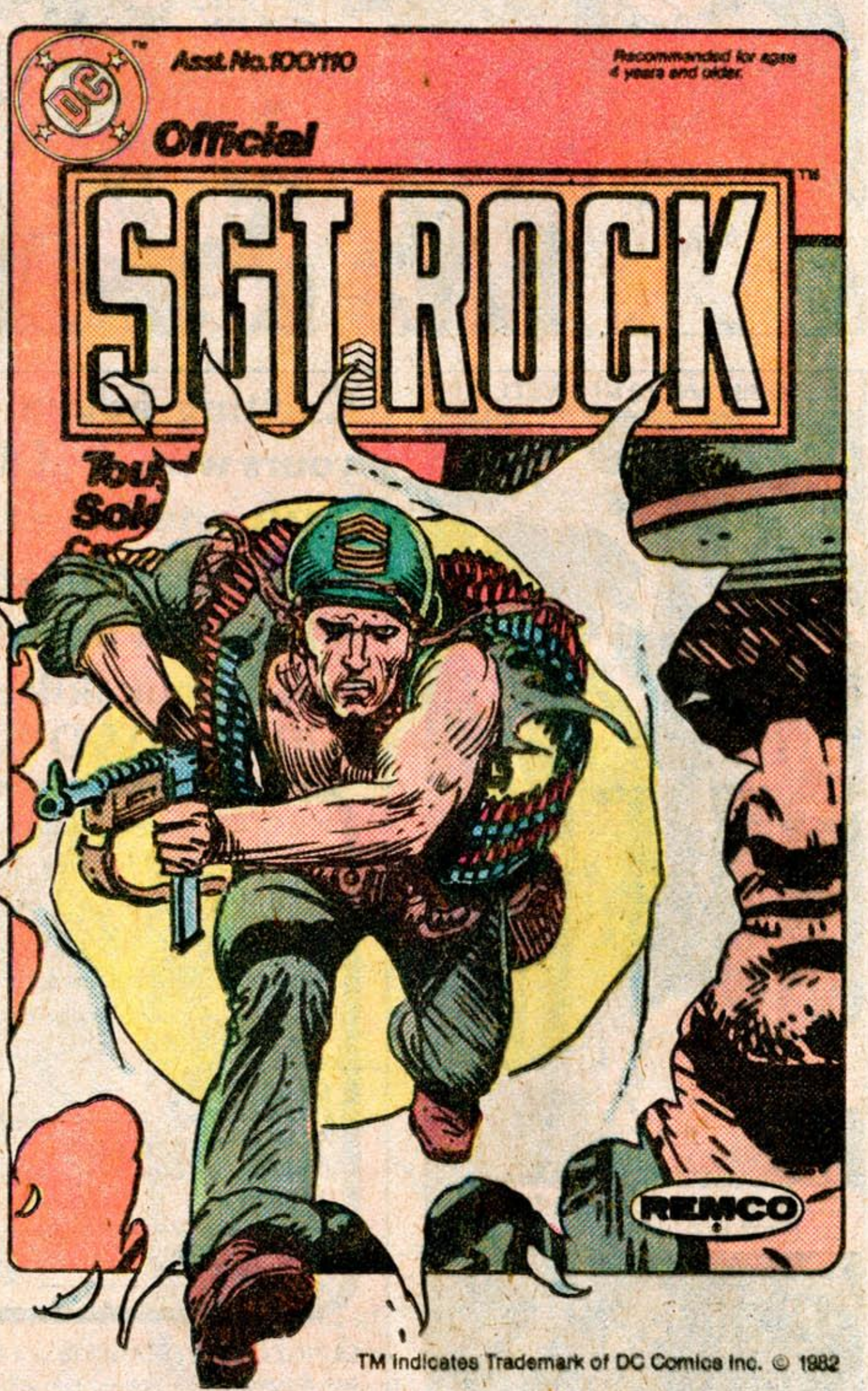

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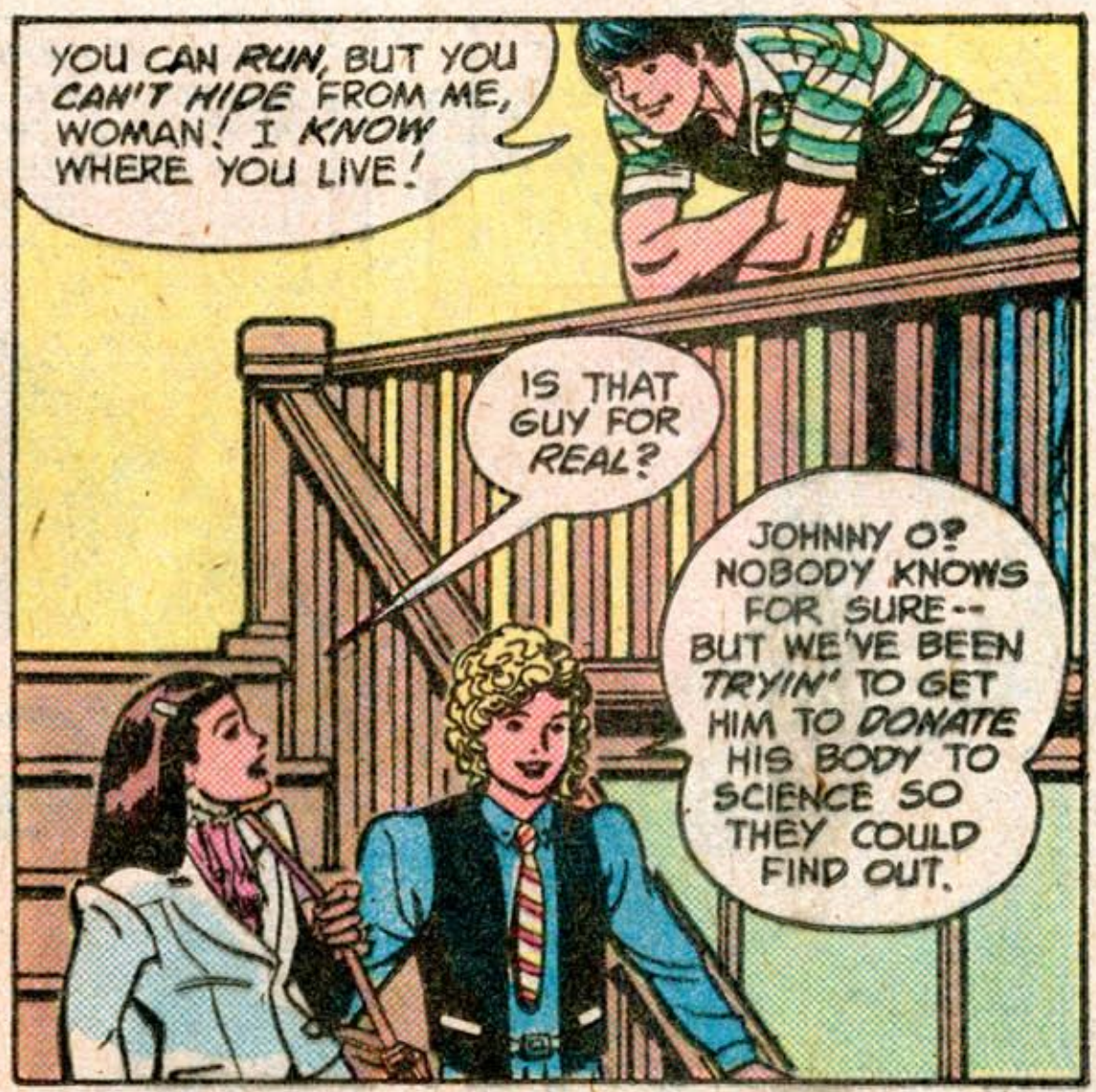
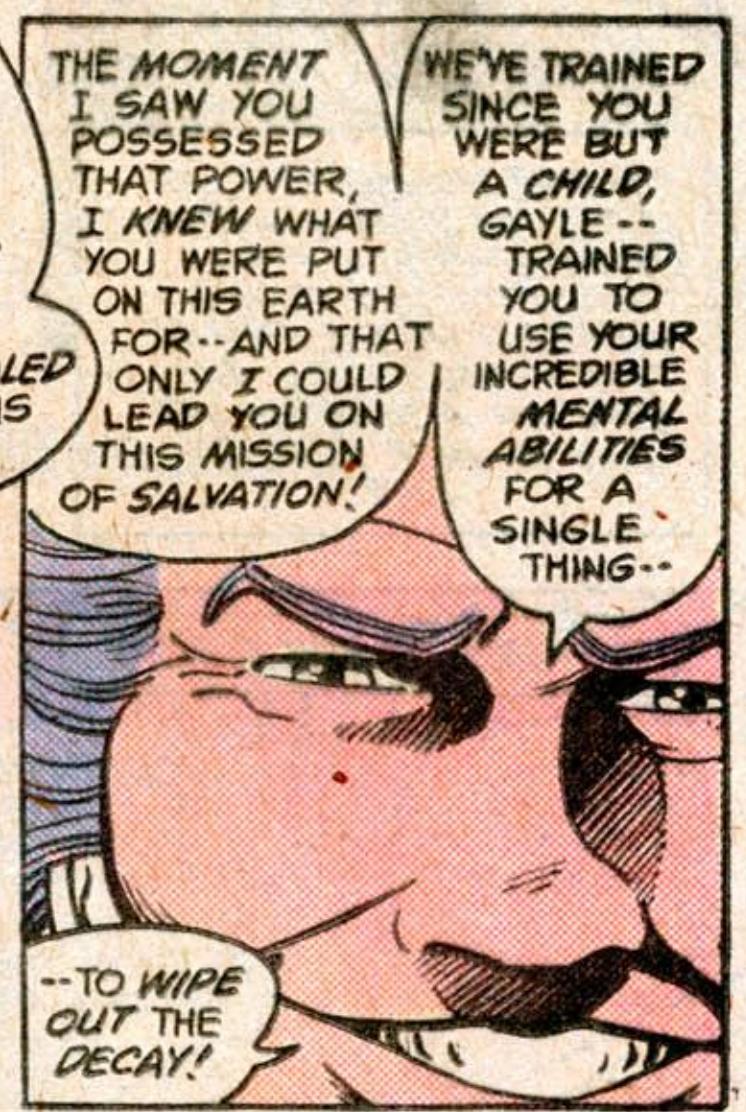
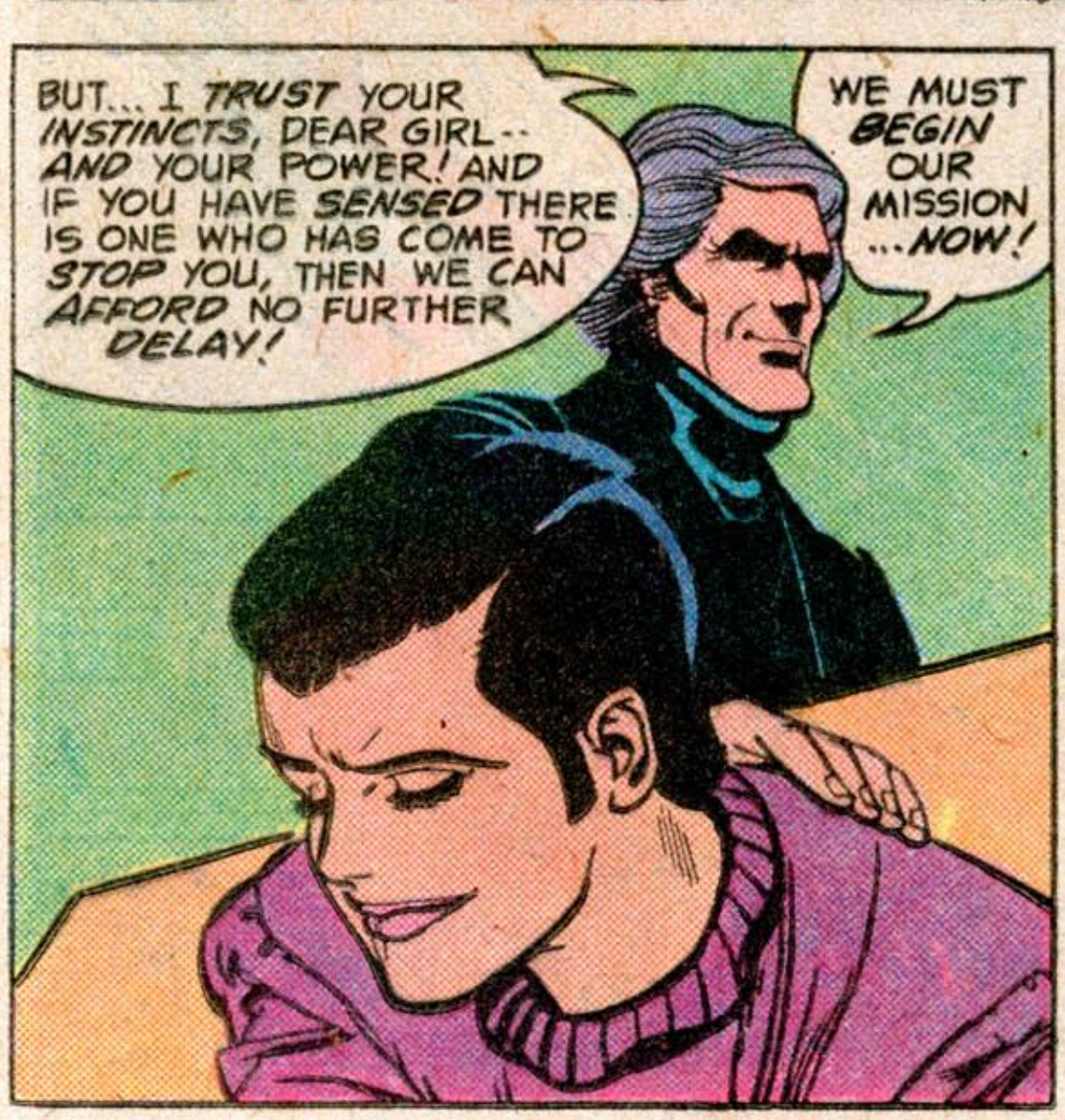
JOHN OSTRANDER, ESQUIRE... AT YOUR SERVICE, MILADY! THRILLING, AIN'T IT?
SHEESH! IS THIS GUY BUGGIN' YOU, LINDA?
I DUNNO. I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

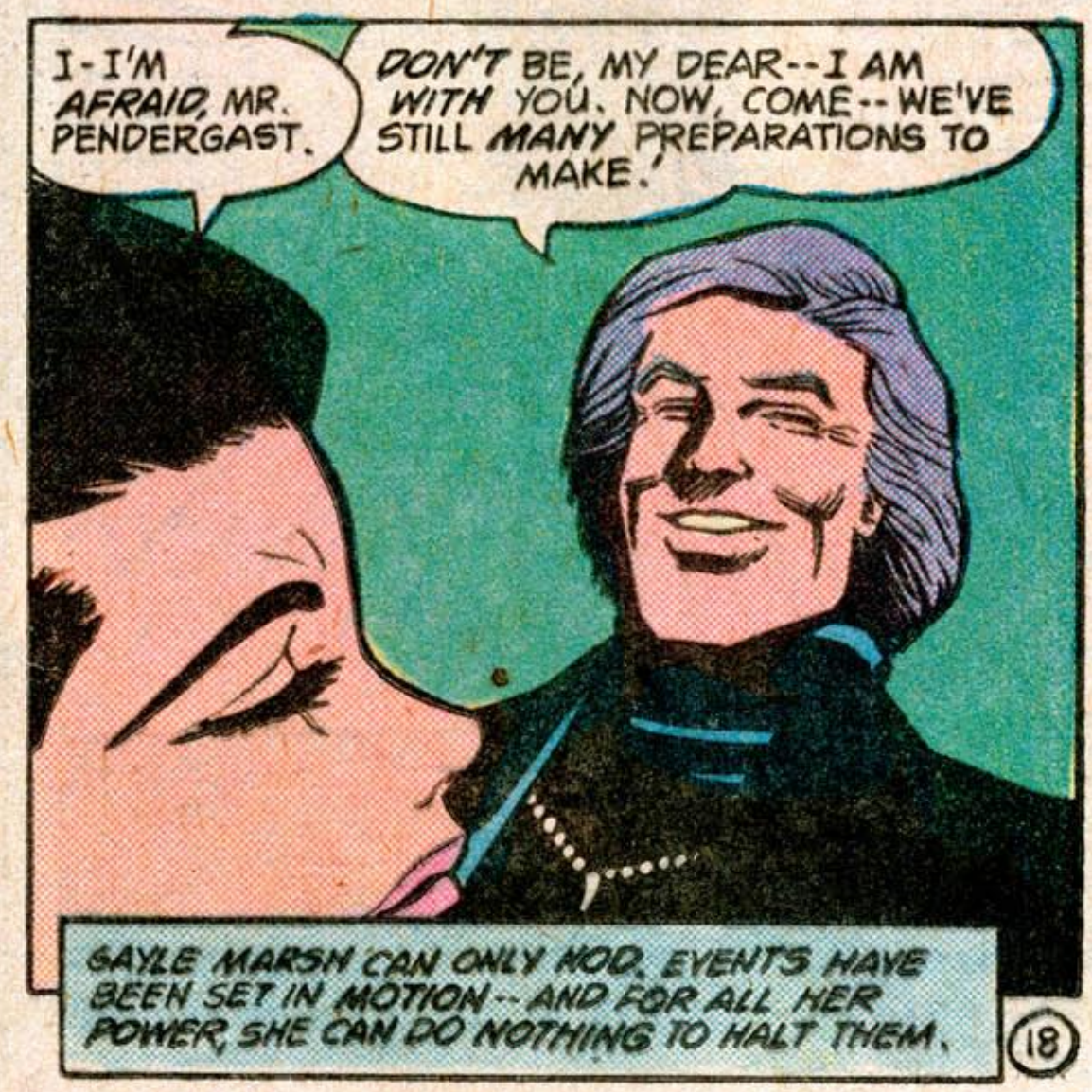

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, WOMAN! I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE!
IS THAT GUY FOR REAL?
JOHNNY O? NOBODY KNOWS FOR SURE-- BUT WE'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO GET HIM TO DONATE HIS BODY TO SCIENCE SO THEY COULD FIND OUT.

MEANWHILE...
BLAST IT, GIRL-- I ASKED IF YOU WERE CERTAIN!
I ONLY KNOW WHAT I FELT, MR. PENDERGAST, AND THAT GIRL I TOUCHED... SHE WAS ONE OF THEM... I KNOW IT! SHE'S GOT THE POWER TO STOP ME IF SHE WANTS.

IT CAN'T BE! HOW COULD ANYONE KNOW--?
AND WHAT AWESOME POWERS COULD SHE HAVE TO POSSIBLY MATCH THE MUTANT ABILITIES YOU WERE BORN WITH, GAYLE? YOU WERE GIVEN A MAGNIFICENT GIFT, GIRL... ONE UNEQUALED BY ANYONE ON THIS PLANET!


THE MOMENT I SAW YOU POSSESSED THAT POWER, I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE PUT ON THIS EARTH FOR--AND THAT ONLY I COULD LEAD YOU ON THIS MISSION OF SALVATION!
WE'VE TRAINED SINCE YOU WERE BUT A CHILD, GAYLE-- TRAINED YOU TO USE YOUR INCREDIBLE MENTAL ABILITIES FOR A SINGLE THING--
--TO WIPE OUT THE DECAY!


BUT... I TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS, DEAR GIRL-- AND YOUR POWER! AND IF YOU HAVE SENSED THERE IS ONE WHO HAS COME TO STOP YOU, THEN WE CAN AFFORD NO FURTHER DELAY!
WE MUST BEGIN OUR MISSION ...NOW!


I-I'M AFRAID, MR. PENDERGAST.
DON'T BE, MY DEAR--I AM WITH YOU. NOW, COME--WE'VE STILL MANY PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.
GAYLE MARSH CAN ONLY NOD. EVENTS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION--AND FOR ALL HER POWER, SHE CAN DO NOTHING TO HALT THEM.

AND THERE ARE MANY OTHERS IN THE CITY WHO WILL LIKEWISE FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT UP IN THESE EVENTS... AMONG THEM, LINDA DANVERS.

BUT FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, SHE STANDS IGNORANT OF WHAT IS SOON TO TRANSPIRE, REVELING INSTEAD IN THE PEACE THAT COMES WITH THE END OF A SIGNIFICANT DAY IN HER YOUNG LIFE.

LINDA IS HAPPY. SHE HAS FOUND A NEW PLACE FOR HERSELF IN THIS WORLD-- NEW FRIENDS TO SHARE IT WITH.

SHE HAS SEEN MANY PLACES AND DONE MANY THINGS WITH HER LIFE, YET NONE HAVE BROUGHT THIS AMOUNT OF CONTENTMENT TO HER SOUL.

MORE'S THE PITY THIS PEACE CANNOT LAST!

BRRR! STRANGE-- IT'S SUDDENLY GOTTEN SO CHILLY... AND CLOUDY! I WONDER WHAT--?

GREAT KRYPTON! WHERE'S MY MIND BEEN--? I SHOULDN'T FEEL THE COLD THIS WAY! WHAT...?

THE ANSWER--

--LIES TO THE WEST!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF RAO IS THAT--?!

INCREDIBLE! WHAT-- OR WHOEVER--IS ABLE TO BLOCK MY SUPER-VISION FROM SEEING IT WITH SOME SORT OF AURA! AND FROM THE CHILL I'M GETTING, THIS CAN'T BE GOOD NEWS!

IF MY SUPER-SENSES WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD FOR LONG-DISTANCE OBSERVATION--

--THEN IT'S TIME FOR LINDA TO BOW OUT OF THE PICTURE--

--AND SUPERGIRL TO TAKE A LOOK... CLOSE UP!

WELL, KID, I SUPPOSE *HOPING* FOR A NICE, *QUIET* FIRST EVENING IN TOWN *WAS* EXPECTING A BIT *MUCH* OUT OF LIFE!

IT'S *WEIRD* THOUGH. I HAVE *NOTICED* BEFORE HOW *TROUBLE* SEEMS TO *FOLLOW* US SUPER-HERO TYPES AROUND LIKE A STREAK OF *BAD LUCK*.

OF COURSE, I MIGHT JUST BE DOING A BIT OF *CONCLUSION-JUMPING*. I *STILL* DON'T KNOW THIS *IS* TROUBLE. THERE MIGHT BE A PERFECTLY *REASONABLE EXPLANATION* FOR THIS...

UH-HUH... *RIGHT!* AND MAYBE *CHICKENS* HAVE *LIPS!*

THEY DON'T. AND AS FOR THE APPEARANCE IN THE SKIES OVER CHICAGO OF A DARK, CLOAKED FIGURE BEING AN INNOCENT OCCURRENCE--

--DON'T BET ON IT, SUPERGIRL!

SOMEONE'S COMING!

THE *AURA* I *SENSE*... IT'S FAMILIAR TO ME--AN *EVIL PRESENCE* SEEKING TO *STOP* ME FROM COMPLETING MY *MISSION!* MR. PENDERGAST *WARNED* ME TO BE *ALERT* FOR SUCH A BEING--

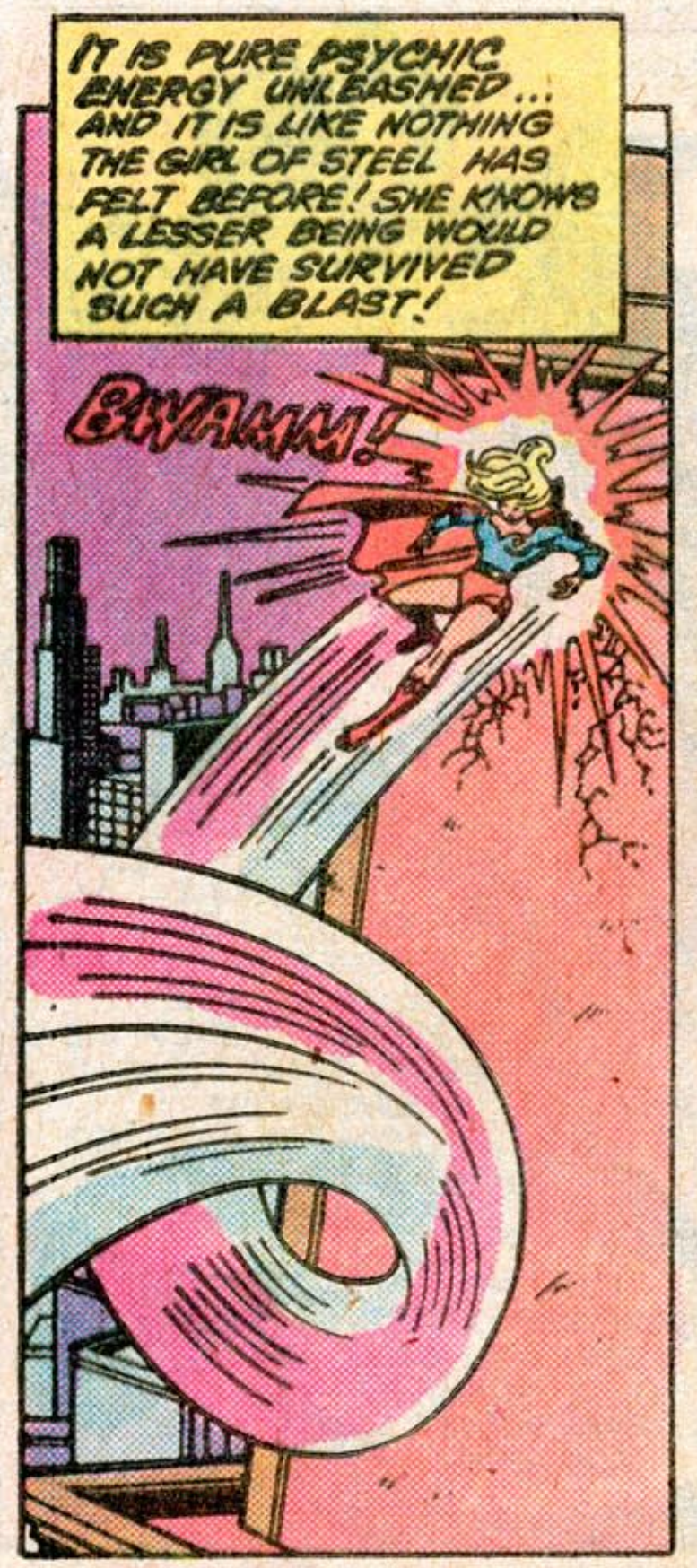
--FOR THE *FORCES* OF THE *DECAY* WILL STOP AT *NOTHING* TO PREVENT MY *SUCCESS!*

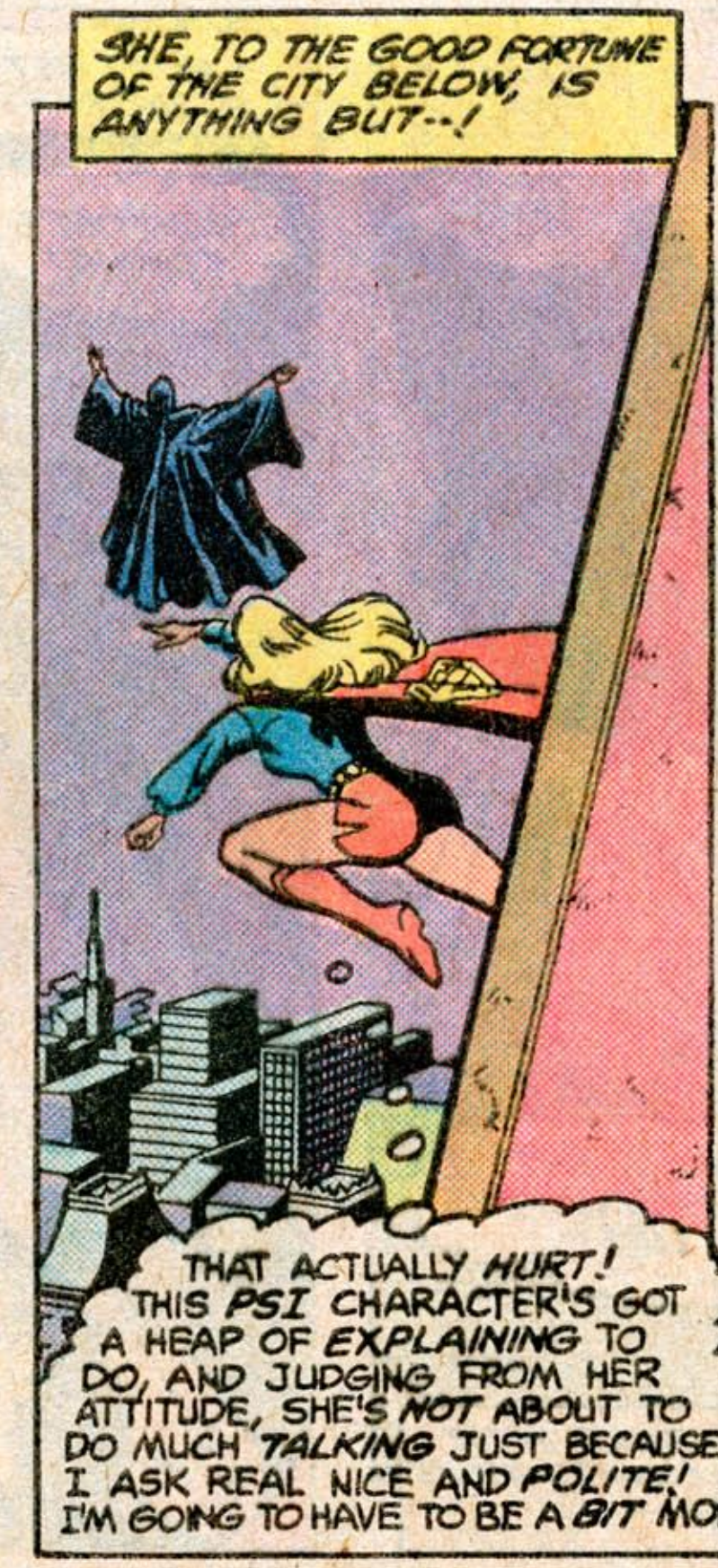
IT WILL NOT BE!

COME IF YOU *MUST*, *SUPERGIRL!* I'D LONG THOUGHT YOU FOUGHT *WITH* US AS AN INSTRUMENT AGAINST THE *DECAY*, YET *NOW* I SENSE YOUR PURPOSE IS TO *HALT* THAT FIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ARE *TRULY* EVIL OR MERELY AN *UNWITTING TOOL* OF THEIR POWERS... NOR DOES IT *MATTER!* FOR YOU HAVE CHOSEN AS YOUR GOAL THE *DECAY*--

--THAT WHICH MUST BE DESTROYED BY THE POWER OF PSI!





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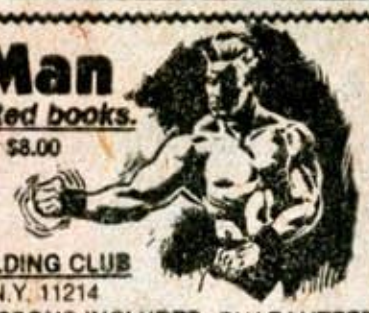

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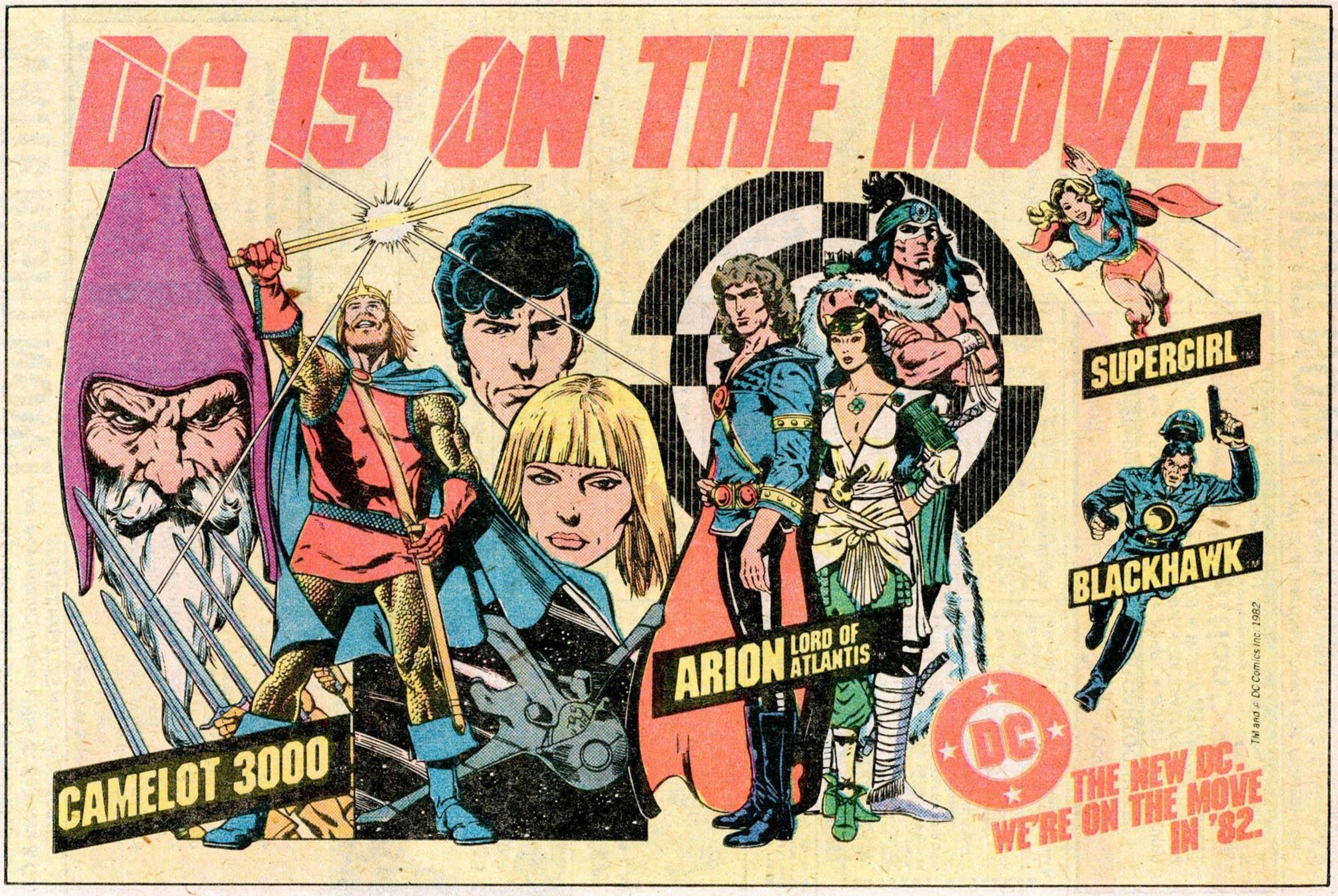

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YOU PITIFUL *FOOL*--! I COULD ALMOST FEEL *SORRY* FOR YOU WERE NOT YOUR *MASTER* THE FOUL BEING WHICH *HUNGERS* FOR THE *DEATH* OF OUR WORLD!

IN *ANOTHER* TIME, I MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO *SPARE* YOU... BUT I'LL *NOT* GIVE IN TO THE *DECAY'S* FETID *TEMPTATIONS*... *NOT* WITH SO MUCH AT *STAKE*!

WOOF! ONE THING'S FOR *SURE*--I'M EITHER UP AGAINST ONE MIGHTY *POWERFUL LOONEY* OR *PSI* KNOWS SOMETHING *I DON'T*!

BUT SHE'S NOT GIVING ME MUCH SPACE TO FIND OUT! I'VE ALSO GROWN *ACCUSTOMED* OVER THE YEARS TO *NOT FEELING PAIN* LIKE THAT--

BUY MARTIN

--AND THAT'S A *HABIT* I'M NOT ABOUT TO *BREAK*!

THWAK!

CAN'T GIVE HER TIME TO *RECOVER*! I'VE GOTTA KEEP POUNDING AWAY AT HER BEFORE SHE GETS A *CHANCE* TO STRIKE *AGAIN*!

WHY...*WHY* DO YOU BATTLE AGAINST THE *INEVITABLE*? MUST I SEND YOU *BACK* TO YOUR MASTER AS THE *DECAY* HE SO FERVENTLY DESIRES BEFORE YOU RECOGNIZE THE *FUTILITY*?

SURRENDER, SUPERGIRL! MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH WHATEVER DEITY YOU CALL YOUR OWN... FOR YOU ARE TO *MEET* HIM *SOON*!

YOU'RE...UHHH... *WELCOME* TO *TRY*... BUT I WASN'T *PLANNING* ON TAKING ANY *TRIPS* JUST NOW!

THEN YOU ARE *MISTAKEN*--

--IF YOU BELIEVE YOU'VE ANY *CHOICE*!

NO, MR. PENDERGAST! P-PLEASE *DON'T*!

SILENCE, GAYLE! DID I NOT *TELL* YOU BEFORE... *YOU* NEEDN'T *CONCERN* YOURSELF WITH *THOUGHT*-- MERELY ALLOW *MY* BEING TO ENTER YOURS... MAKE YOUR POWER *MINE*!

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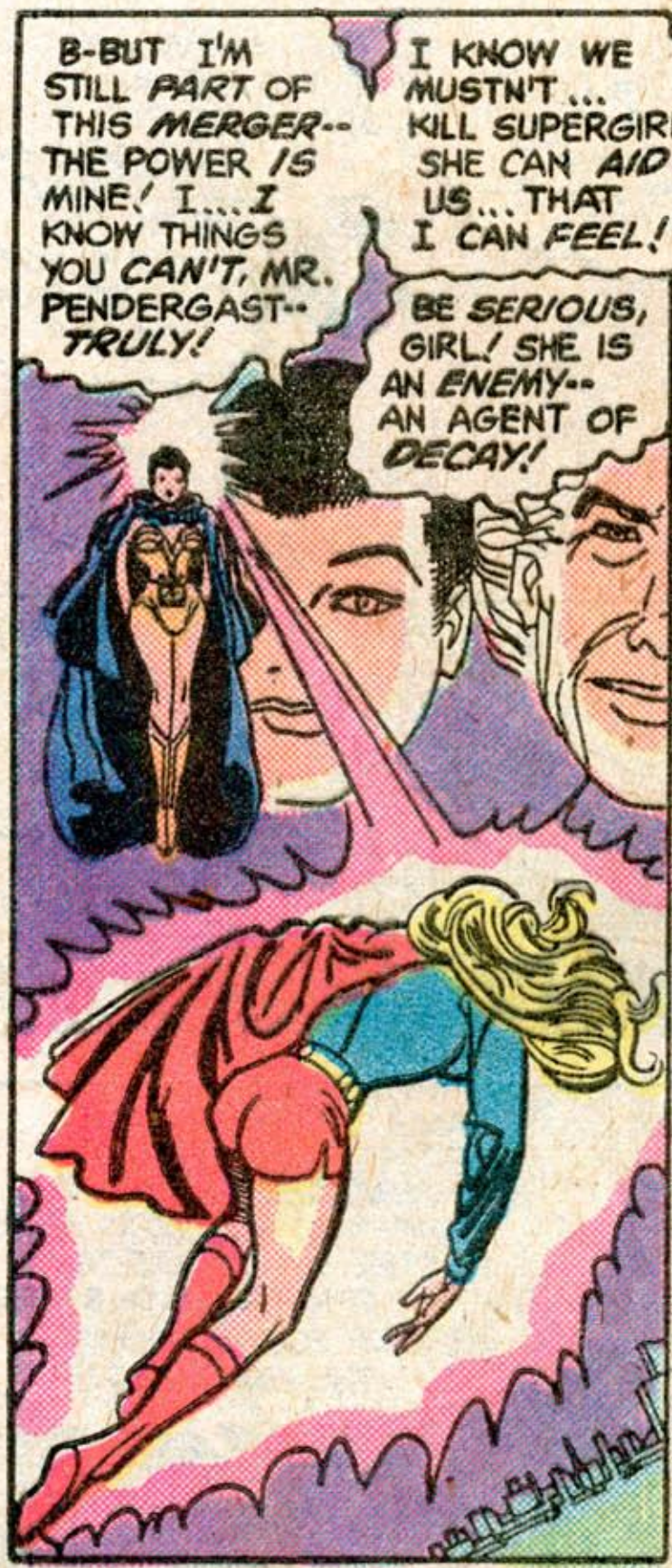

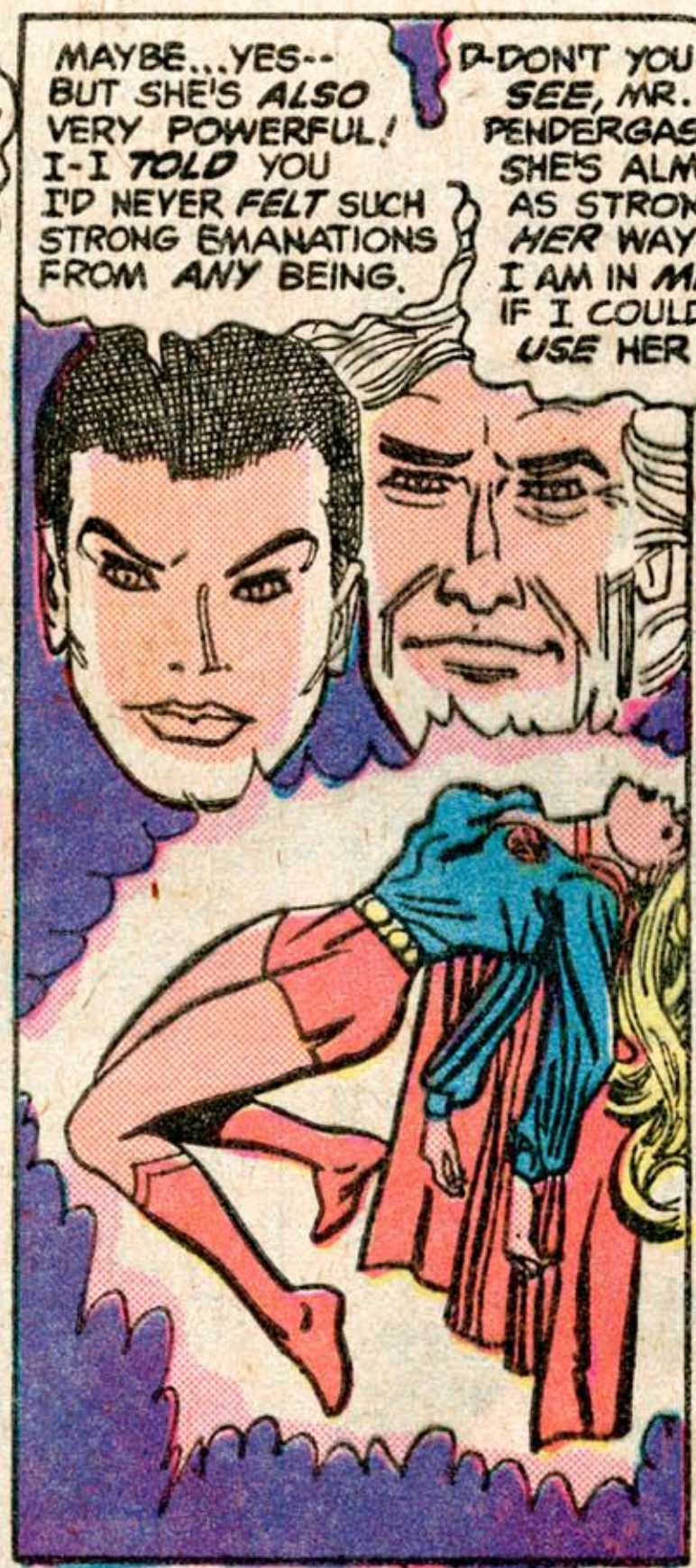

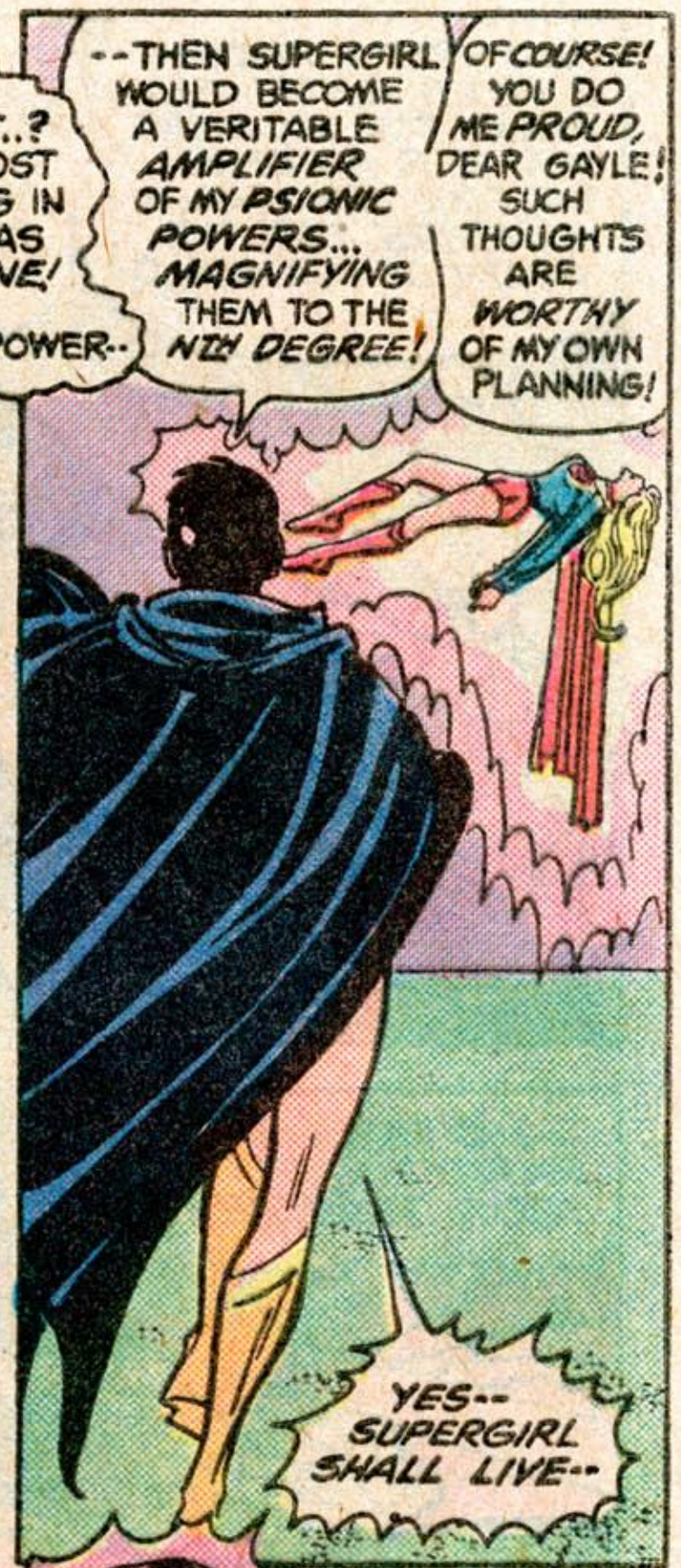

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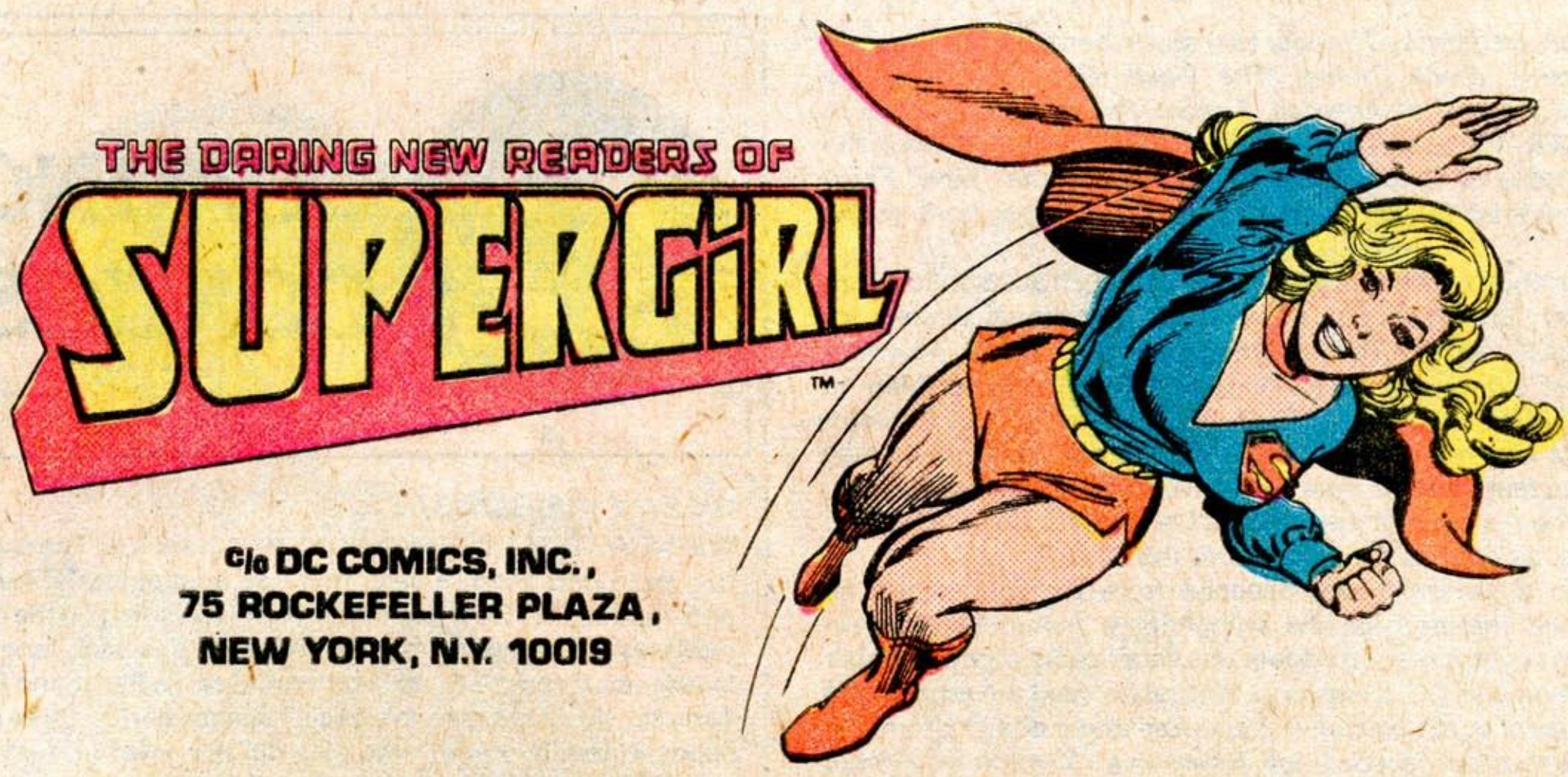

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Welcome one and all to the first issue of THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERGIRL.

Unlike the majority of first issues, TDNAOS (initials are mandatory with long titles) doesn't introduce you to someone you've never before seen, or, as has been the case of late, revive a character who has spent several years in comic book limbo, aside from guest-appearances elsewhere. Far from it. In fact, the young lady from Krypton may very well hold some sort of record as the "oldest" character ever to receive her own title.

Why the "oldest" in quotation marks, you ask? Well, old, in the realm of comic book characters is a purely subjective and ofttimes confusing term: In one sense, *Supergirl* is hardly old, seeing as how she is, for our purposes, a 19-year-old college student. On the other hand, the young lady *has* been around for better than a couple of decades as a part of the huge and ever-expanding *Superman* universe. But the same way *Superman* has remained 29-years-old for 44 years and *Superboy* has managed to be 16 through four decades, so has *Supergirl* retained her youth. It sounds a bit confusing, but accepted as one of comic books's "givens," it solves many a problem. Imagine a 39-year-old character called *SuperGIRL* and you'll see what we mean.

* * * * *

Supergirl began her super-career in the pages of ACTION COMICS #252 in May, 1959 in a story most aptly titled "The Supergirl From Krypton." In it, we learned her origin (recounted briefly in the body of the story for those of you who may have missed it or its numerous retellings over the years) and were introduced to her alter ego, Linda Lee (in keeping with *Superman*'s penchant throughout his life of being involved with women with double-"L" initials). From then on, *Supergirl* has been a constant force in the DC Universe, with her series running 124 issues in ACTION, then switching over to the lead-feature slot in ADVENTURE COMICS from #381 through #424, followed by a ten-issue run in her own title before finally settling down in the pages of SUPERMAN FAMILY in #164 and going straight through until the end of that title's run a mere two months back, in #222. Along the way, we've also seen *Supergirl* in random issues of SUPER-TEAM FAMILY, SUPERMAN, JIMMY OLSEN, BRAVE & BOLD, LOIS LANE (etc.) and as a regular member of the 30th Century based LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES with her cousin, *Superboy*.

Needless to say, she's been around.

And we intend to keep that trend going. In fact, when it was decided that SUPERMAN FAMILY was to be replaced on the schedule with a batch of new titles, there was never any doubt that the Maid of Might would star in one of them. Her 23 years of faithful and consistent service to the *Superman* mythos has been rewarded with the comic you hold now in your hands.

* * * * *

Since this series introduces a whole new incarnation, locale and cast for *Supergirl*—and since it will be several months from when these words are being typed until we receive your comments via the mails on this issue of THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERGIRL—we thought it would be only proper to use this space to introduce you to the creative team behind the Girl of Steel's new look. Of course, this can't go on forever, so be warned that we expect to hear from you... often. In the future, this will be *your* page, devoted exclusively to the praise and pans penned by you readers. We've said it before in other letter columns at other times, but it still remains true: we read each and every letter we receive, reveling in the good words and giving serious consideration to the bad. The way things work in the deadline-laden world of comic publishing, your words on this first issue won't be available for print until the third or fourth issue down the road. But don't let that dissuade you. Indeed, as the man who edited the original appearances of *Supergirl* was wont to say in *his* letters pages more than twenty years back, "we must be doing something—write!"

And now, on with the creators:

CARMINE INFANTINO

To say that we're pleased to welcome Carmine Infantino on board as the regular penciller of *Supergirl* would be, at best, an understatement. To anyone who has been reading comics since the Golden Age of the 1940's, Carmine has been a regular and consistently inspired artist of the first degree.

The Brooklyn-born Infantino began his career at DC Comics under the editorial tutelege of then-editorial director Sheldon Mayer and still-senior editor Julius Schwartz. Carmine was attending the High School of Industrial Arts when he appeared at Mayer's door one day in 1947 seeking a job as penciller with his friend and inker, Frank Giacoia. Mayer suggested they finish out their schooling before seeking a place in the professional world. Carmine did just that... and upon graduation the following year returned and was almost immediately handed a script to draw.

From the day Carmine handed in his first story (a tale of the "Ghost Patrol" that appeared in FLASH COMICS #29), he's been hard at the drawing board, developing over the years a unique style.

It's probably easier to list those features and characters that Carmine *hasn't* had a hand in since then. The Golden Age saw

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his work on *Johnny Thunder* (the super-hero, not the Western character), *Black Canary, The Flash, Green Lantern,* the *Justice Society of America, Trigger Twins, King Faraday* in DANGER TRAIL, and others. And it was Carmine's work in the 1956 issue of SHOWCASE that introduced the "new" *Flash* that ushered in the revitalization of the super-hero comic genre.

From there, Carmine went on to the much acclaimed *Adam Strange* in MYSTERY IN SPACE, numerous stories for STRANGE ADVENTURES (including the *Space Museum* feature, which he inked himself), the *Elongated Man* in DETECTIVE, BATMAN, STRANGE SPORTS STORIES, and a host of others... including the artist's own self-proclaimed favorite feature of all time, *Detective Chimp!* Carmine has also been the recipient of the National Cartoonists' Society Reuben Award, as well as the fan-award, the Alley.

After a several years absence from the fold, when he pencilled features for the competition, including the continuing adventures of a certain unnamed Jedi Knight, Carmine came home to DC. It was only natural he used the occasion to begin work again on a pair of features that made him famous: *The Flash* and *Adam Strange.* Nowadays, Carmine is still hard at work chronicling the adventures of the super-speedster, as well as random "Tales of the Green Lantern Corps," and, of course, *Supergirl.*

Need we add we're thrilled to have him?

BOB OKSNER

Inker Bob Oksner is himself no stranger to the readers of comic books either.

He also began his career during the 1940's while a student working towards a Masters' degree in history at Columbia University. At the time, however, his comics work was a way to support himself through school. While still attending classes, Bob began working on a feature called "Terry Vance, Boy Detective" with a writer whose name may ring some bells... Mickey Spillane.

Bob made it all the way to teaching assignments in the New Jersey public school system before abandoning his career in education to go fulltime in comics. In 1945 he signed on as artist *and* writer with the Bell Syndicate to do *Miss Cairo Jones.* Soon after, Bob made his way over to DC, drawing mystery stories until Sheldon Mayer (notice how some names just keep popping up?) offered him a new humor strip called LEAVE IT TO BINKY. It was a change of pace for the young artist, but it started him off on a whole new direction that persisted for a good many years; following BINKY, Bob became an expert on humor, drawing such characters as Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis, Bob Hope, Sgt. Bilko, Dobie Gillis and Pat Boone for DC and, into the 1960's, the acclaimed ANGEL AND THE APE.

Bob is also the recipient of two Reuben Awards from the National Cartoonists' Society for his syndicated strip work, and is the current syndicate-scripter on DONDI.

It's rather fitting that Bob's mark be on THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERGIRL seeing as how he not only drew the character in a former run in ADVENTURE COMICS, but was also the man who designed the costume she currently wears. In addition to *Supergirl,* you can also find Bob's *pencil* art regularly on LOIS LANE, who will be appearing in the secondary slot of this very comic beginning next issue.

*****

NEXT ISSUE: The saga of PSI continues! LOIS LANE premieres! More on the people behind the adventures of SUPERGIRL! And another plea to send your cards and letters to:

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THE NIGHT FORCE #4—Donovan and Jack follow Vanessa into deep dark Russia, where the Kremlin wants to perform its own psychic research on her. The suspense continues. By Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Bob Smith. The cover is by Colan and Giordano.

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #293—In the fourth of five chapters of the Great Darkness Saga, the Legion's mysterious foe gathers an invincible army to his side—by moving Daxam from its own orbit into one around a yellow sun! He commands his new super-powered army to carve his visage into Daxam's crust—and you'll realize the LEGION is *really* in for it when you see the last panel! This story sets the stage for the universe-shattering conclusion in #294, which will be 48 pages for $1. Story by Paul Levitz, art by Keith Giffen and Larry Mahlstedt. This one is called "Within the Darkness..." Cover by Giffen.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #192—When Mr. IQ displaces Superboy through time, it's up to the Batman to aid the Boy of Steel. "You Can Take the Boy Out of Smallville..." is by Mike W. Barr and Jim Aparo. The NEMESIS second feature is called "Operation Overkill" and sets the stage for a full-length BATMAN/NEMESIS team-up in THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #193. By Cary Burkett and Dan Spiegle. The cover is by Jim Aparo.

GREEN LANTERN #158—Green Lantern's space adventures continue! "A Loop In Time," highlighted by Keith Pollard's pencils, is written by Mike W. Barr and inked by Mike De Carlo. Paul Kupperberg and Irv Novick get the credit for TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS. Cover is by Pollard.

SGT. ROCK #370—Blazing battle action with Easy Co.! Also: "Ace in the Side Pocket," by Jack C. Harris and Kim DeMulder. Rounding out the issue is "The Infiltrator" by Randall, and "Big Fish Little Fish." Cover by Kubert.

THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY #310—Andrew Bennett is "Back From the Dead" in the I...VAMPIRE lead story by Bruce Jones and Tom Sutton. Also in this issue—a very peculiar kind of fast food place is highlighted in a story by Len Rosenberg, Jimmy Janes and Maurice Whitman, and Robert Kanigher and Geroche say "Death Likes a Lullaby." Cover by Mike Kaluta.

WARLORD #63—Welcome to "The Kaash Ban"! That's where Rostov and Morgan go to look for a cure for Rostov's lycanthropy. Story and cover by Mike Grell. The new second feature is THE BARREN EARTH. It's set in the distant future, when the Earth's sun has, in its old age, become a red giant. Mankind will long since have migrated to the stars. In the first story, when beset by the Qlov, who have warred against mankind, only a few survivors actually land on Earth, where they must perform some vital—and mysterious—mission! This story is called "Stranded," and it's by Gary Cohn and Ron Randall.

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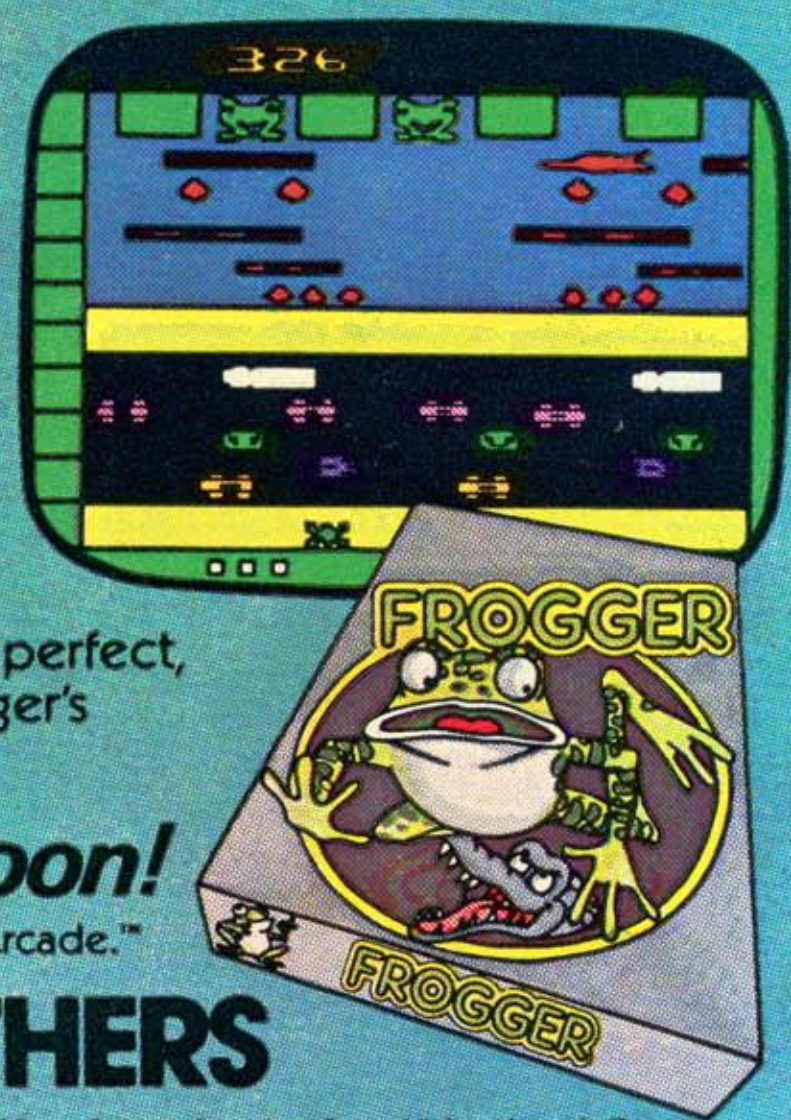

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