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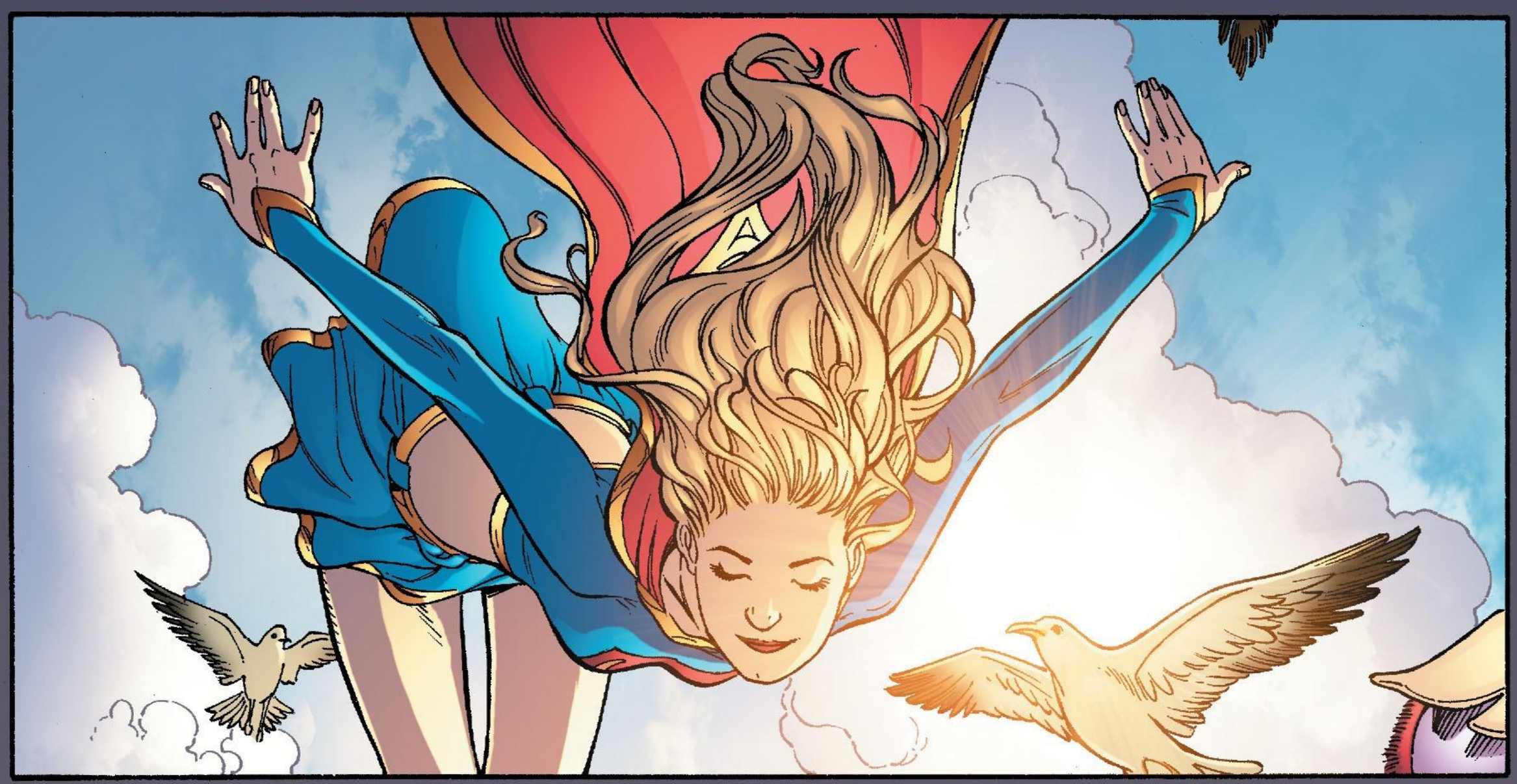

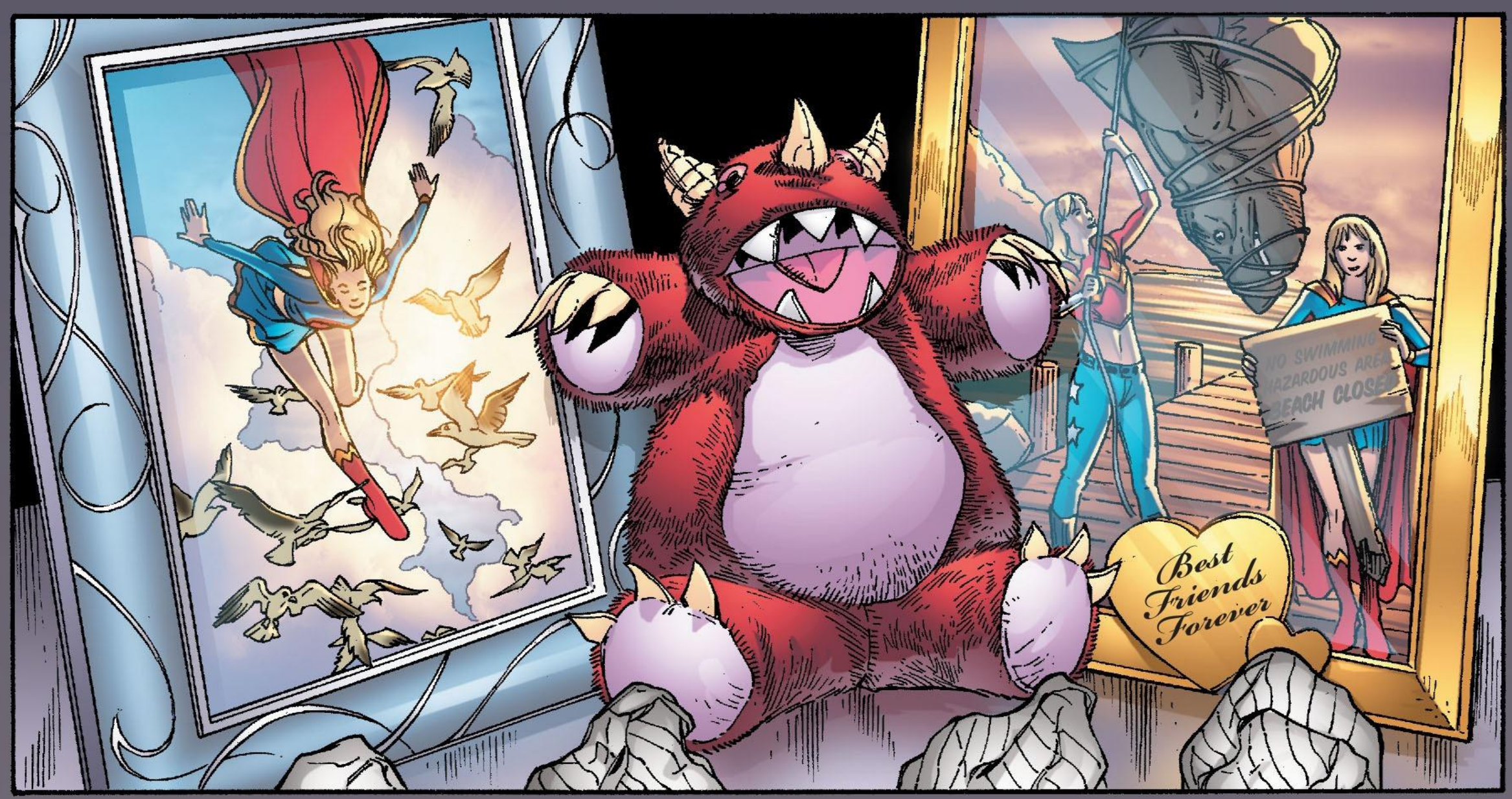

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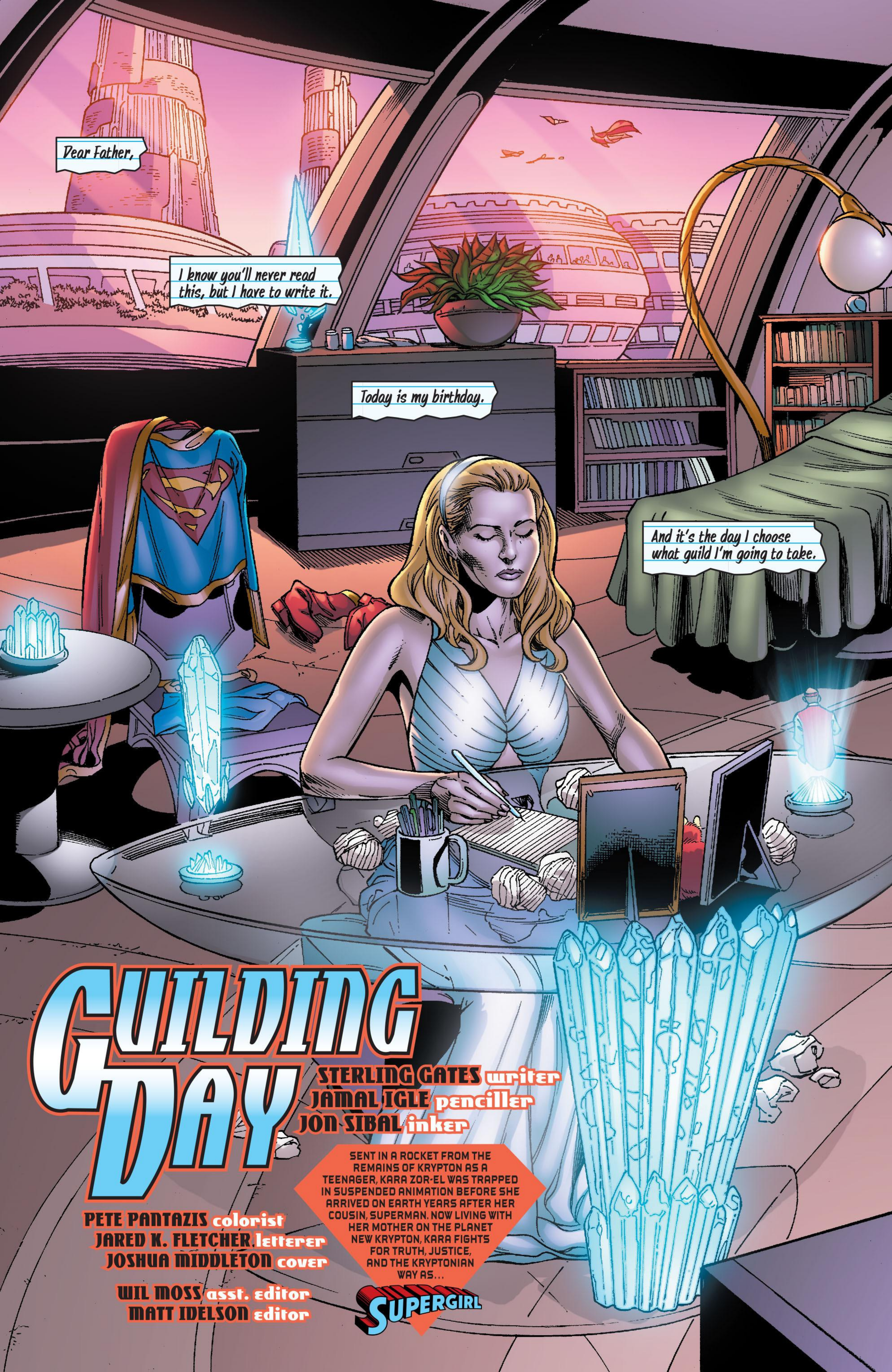
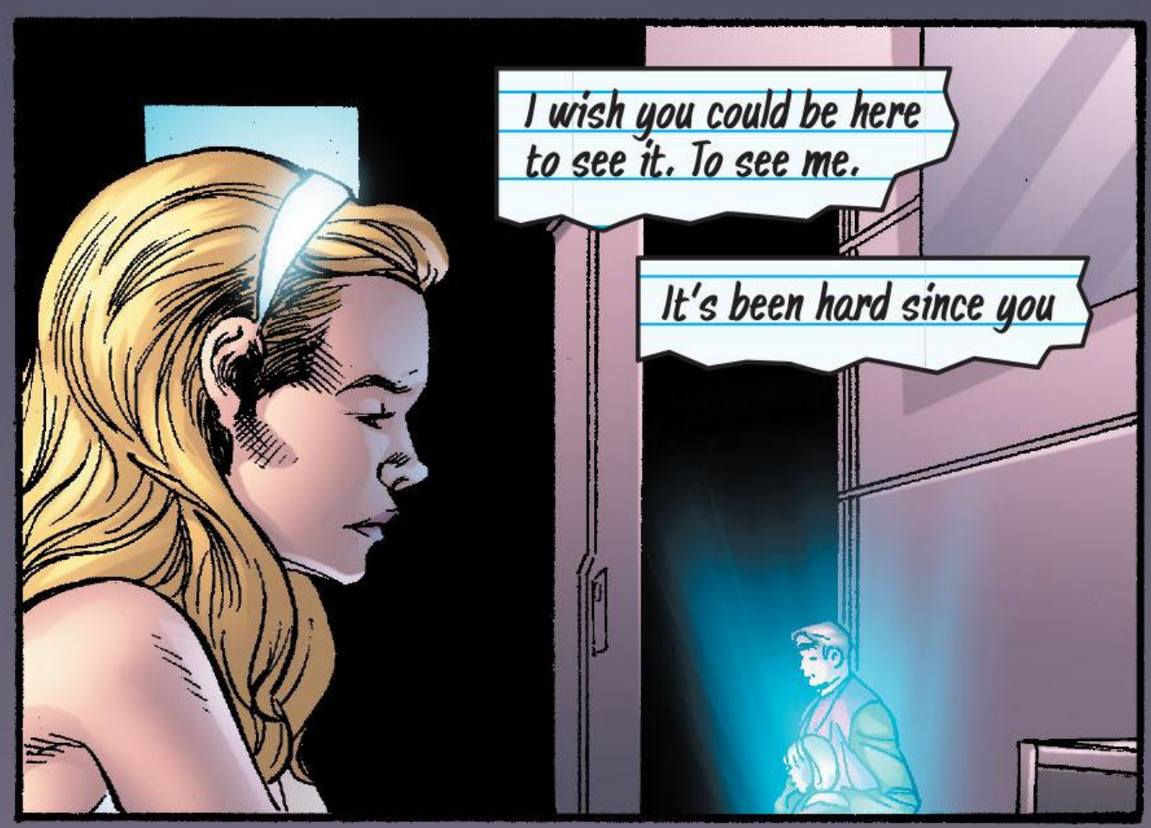
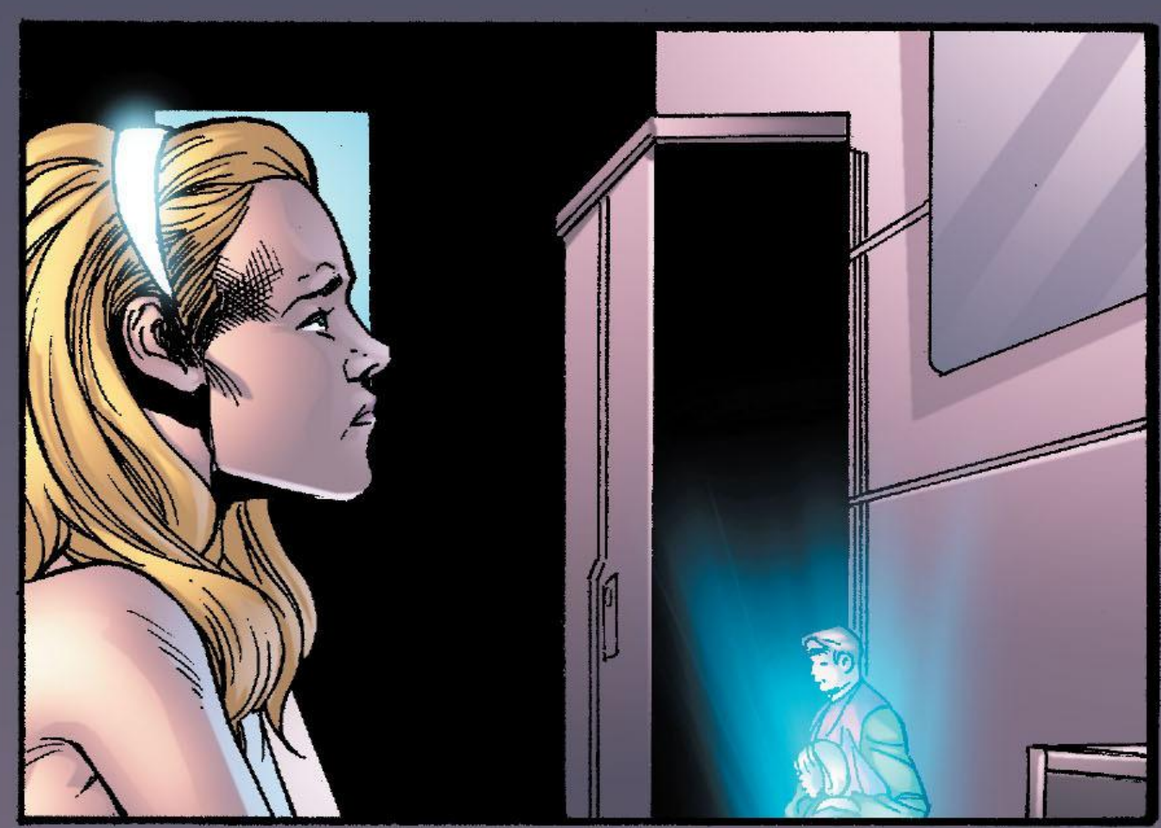
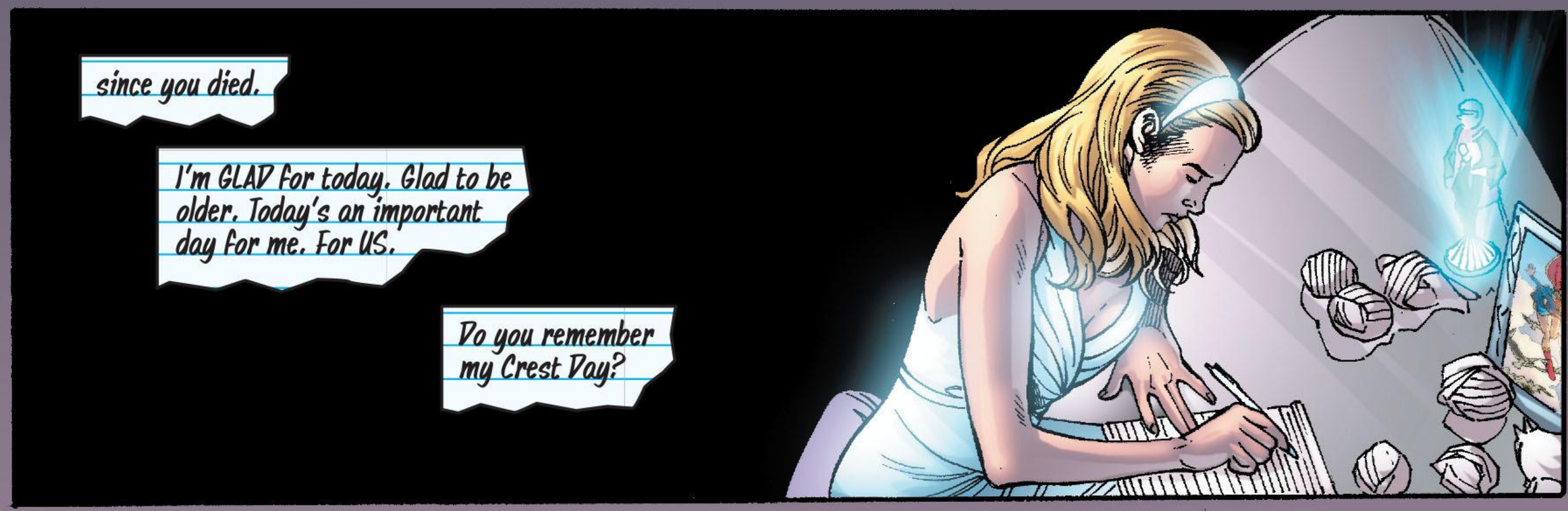
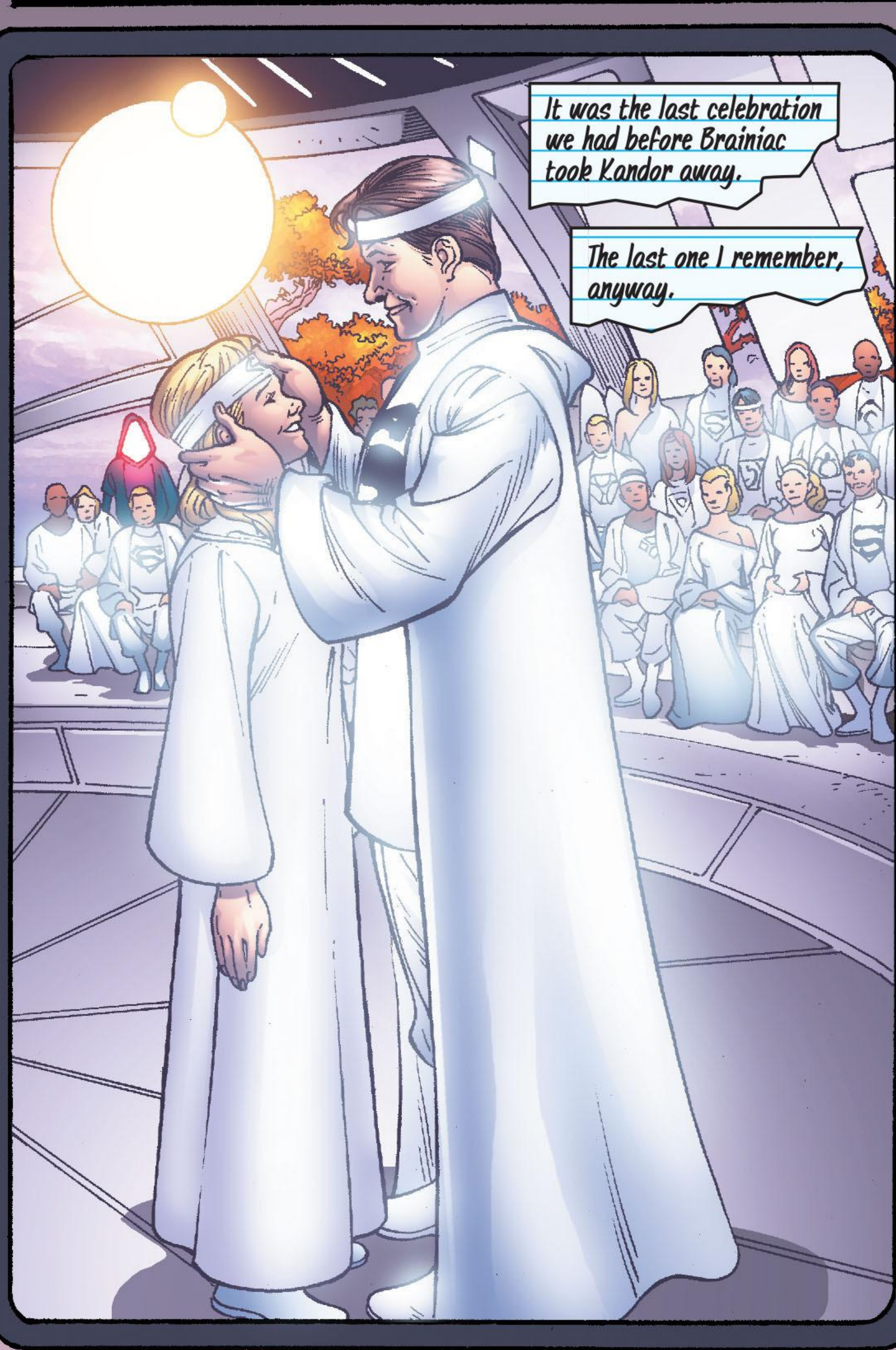
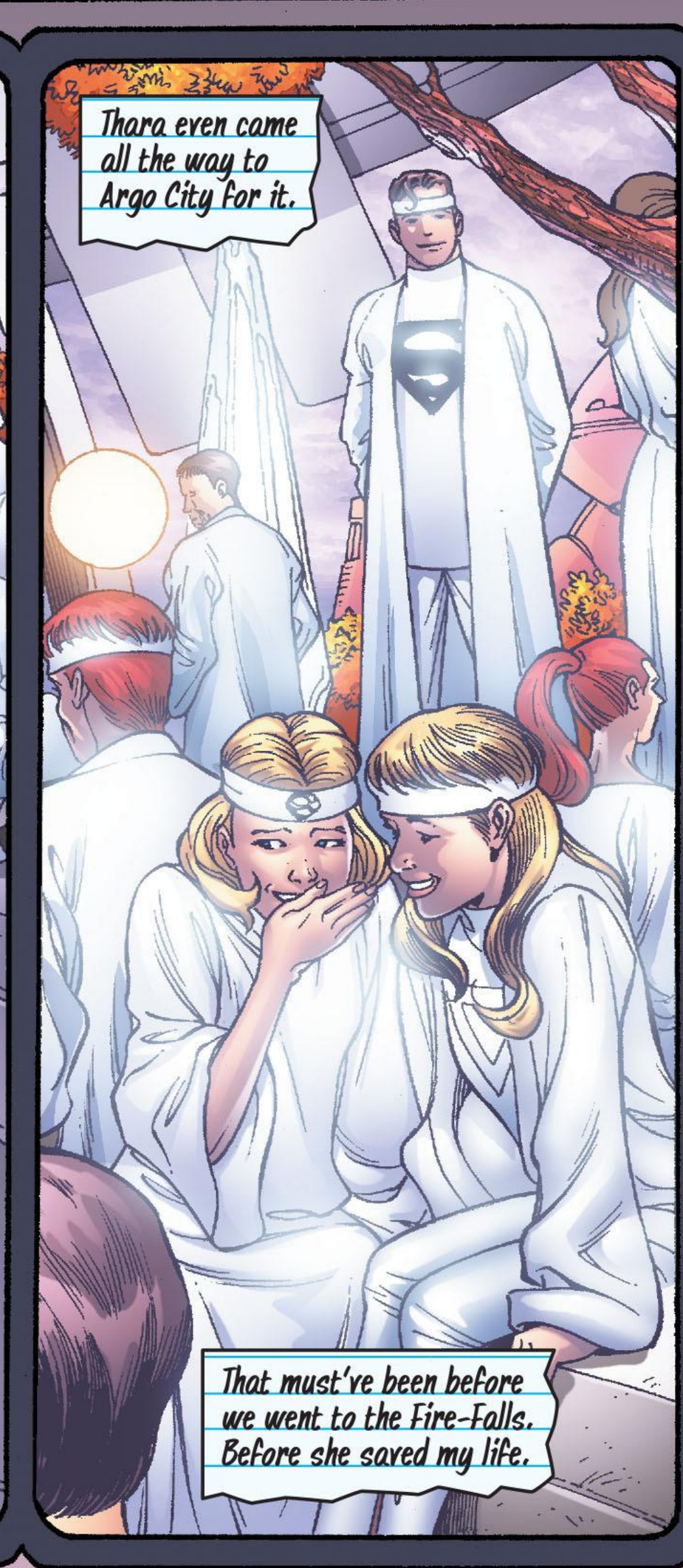

Dear Father,
I know you'll never read this, but I have to write it.
Today is my birthday.
And it's the day I choose what guild I'm going to take.
GUILDING DAY
STERLING GATES writer
JAMAL IGLE penciller
JON SIBAL inker
PETE PANTAZIS colorist
JARED K. FLETCHER letterer
JOSHUA MIDDLETON cover
WIL MOSS asst. editor
MATT IDELSON editor
SENT IN A ROCKET FROM THE REMAINS OF KRYPTON AS A TEENAGER, KARA ZOR-EL WAS TRAPPED IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION BEFORE SHE ARRIVED ON EARTH YEARS AFTER HER COUSIN, SUPERMAN. NOW LIVING WITH HER MOTHER ON THE PLANET NEW KRYPTON, KARA FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE KRYPTONIAN WAY AS...
SUPERGIRL


I wish you could be here to see it. To see me.
It's been hard since you




since you died.
I'm GLAD for today. Glad to be older. Today's an important day for me. For US.
Do you remember my Crest Day?


It was the last celebration we had before Brainiac took Kandor away.
The last one I remember, anyway.


Thara even came all the way to Argo City for it.
That must've been before we went to the Fire-Falls. Before she saved my life.

Mom's been a wreck without you.

She's been trying so hard to keep it all together...

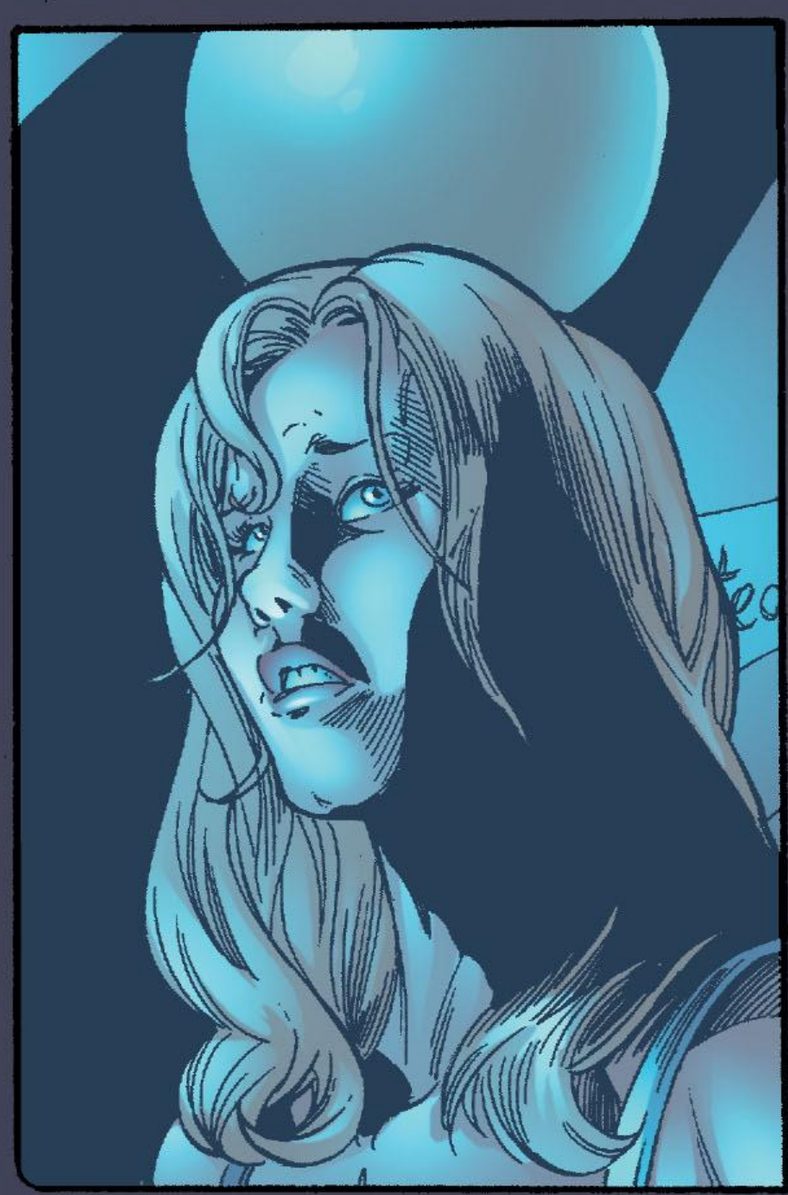
...but every night as I lie in bed, I listen to her crying. She does her best to muffle it, but I can still hear it.

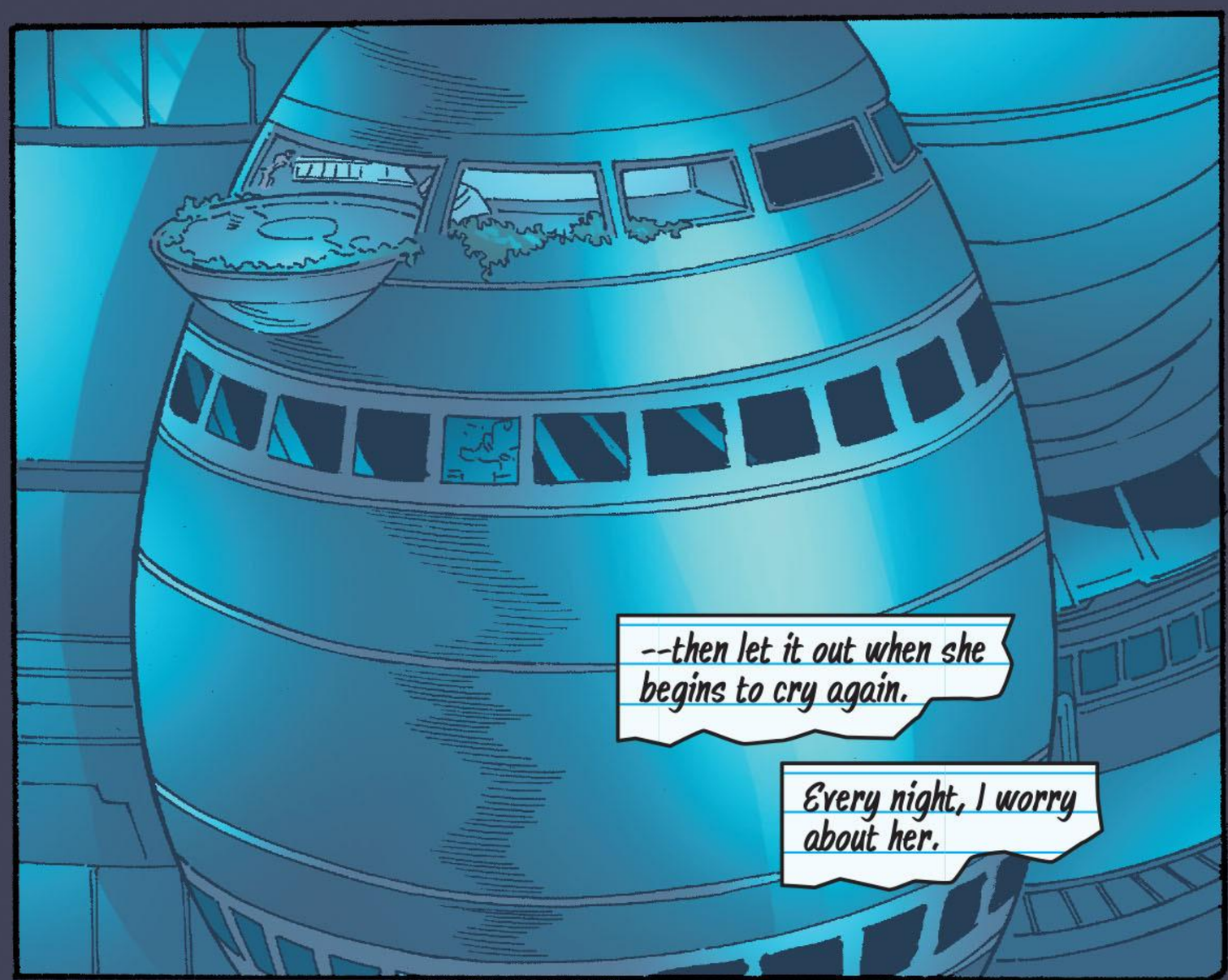
She always starts at the same time. Every night.

My heart stops whenever SHE stops.

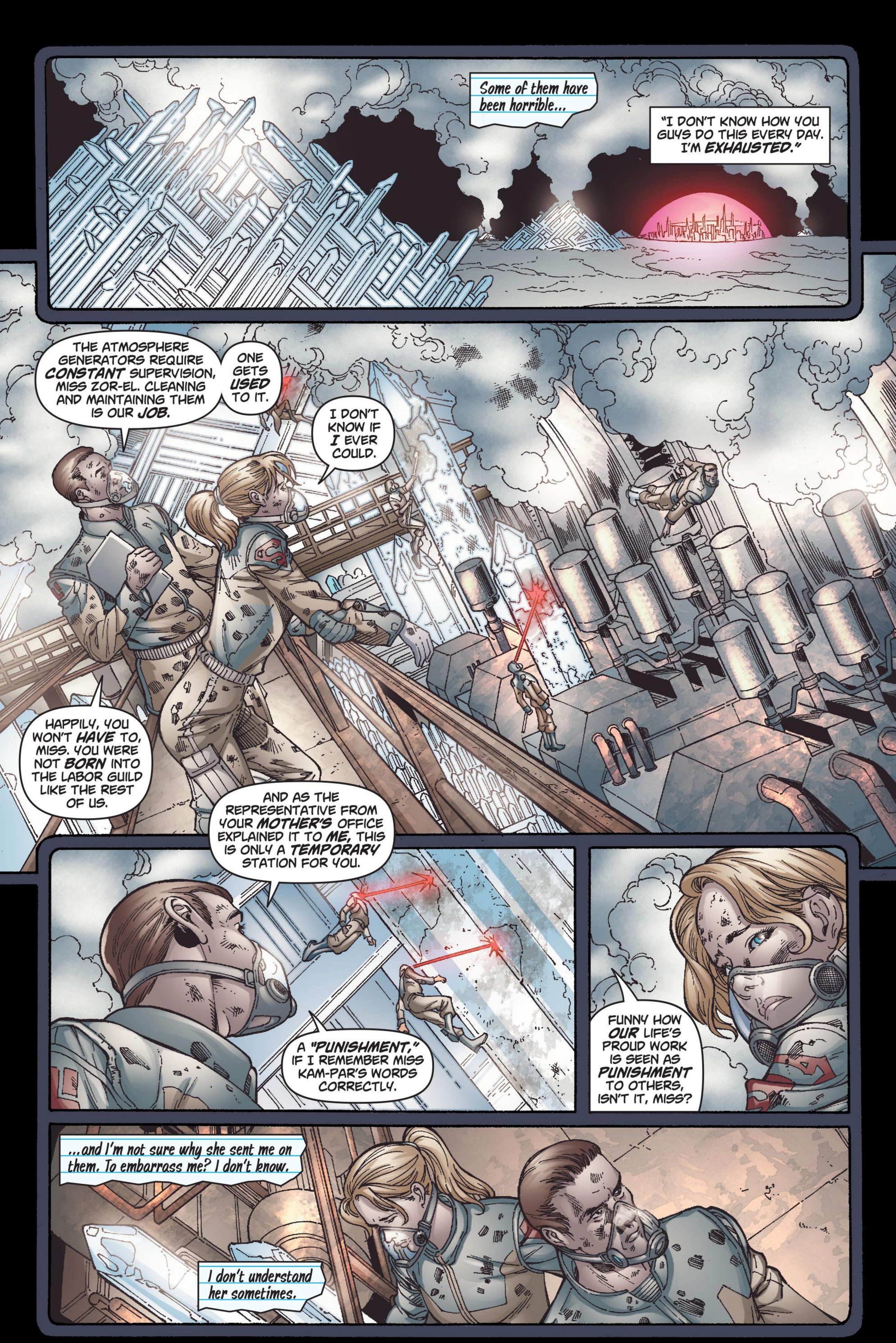
In the dark, I worry. I worry she's done something drastic. Something to end her pain.

I hold my breath, listening--





She never shows a HINT of grief in public, though. You always said her Guild taught her that--
MOTHER? YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR ROBES--
--taught her to bury her feelings in the pursuit of SCIENCE.
Last week, Mother ~~sent me after the man who killed~~ sent me after Reactron.
Due to ~~Lucy Lane's~~ SUPERWOMAN'S intervention, I failed that mission.
INDEED.
IF WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THIS "SUPERWOMAN" IS TRUE, THEN HER PEOPLE STAND AGAINST OUR HOUSE.
THANK YOU, LYRA.
WHAT I WEAR NOW SERVES AS A WARNING. I WANT ALL THAT STAND AGAINST US TO KNOW THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE OF EL IS THE LEADER OF NEW KRYPTON.
THEY STRIKE OUT AT OUR FAMILY, AND THEY'LL FIND A WHOLE PLANET COMING FOR THEM.
AND KARA...
...AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE RIGHT NOW?
Mother punished me for my failure, assigning me daily tasks to perform.


Some of them have been horrible...
"I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUYS DO THIS EVERY DAY. I'M EXHAUSTED."
THE ATMOSPHERE GENERATORS REQUIRE CONSTANT SUPERVISION, MISS ZOR-EL. CLEANING AND MAINTAINING THEM IS OUR JOB.
ONE GETS USED TO IT.
I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER COULD.
HAPPILY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO, MISS. YOU WERE NOT BORN INTO THE LABOR GUILD LIKE THE REST OF US.
AND AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YOUR MOTHER'S OFFICE EXPLAINED IT TO ME, THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY STATION FOR YOU.
A "PUNISHMENT," IF I REMEMBER MISS KAM-PAR'S WORDS CORRECTLY.
FUNNY HOW OUR LIFE'S PROUD WORK IS SEEN AS PUNISHMENT TO OTHERS, ISN'T IT, MISS?
...and I'm not sure why she sent me on them. To embarrass me? I don't know.
I don't understand her sometimes.

Others I ASKED to do.
Like finding out where Superwoman was living on Kandor. It took some time, but...
SSSSS
HRR.
HRRRHH!
CRUNCH

YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT'S WAY FASTER.
HNH.
...I found it. Mother insisted I get Kal to help search the place.
JEQ-VAY, TAKE NON OUTSIDE AND SECURE THE PERIMETER. KIR-TA, NAR, MOVE IN.
FLIGHT ONLY. NO ONE TOUCHES ANYTHING.
WE DON'T KNOW IF SUPERWOMAN LEFT TRAPS.

CLEAR!

BEDROOM'S CLEAR!

APARTMENT'S **CLEAR,** SIR. X-RAY SWEEPS FOUND **NOTHING** OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

KARA, YOU'RE **SURE** THIS IS--?

I CHECKED AND **DOUBLE CHECKED** THE RECORDS, KAL.

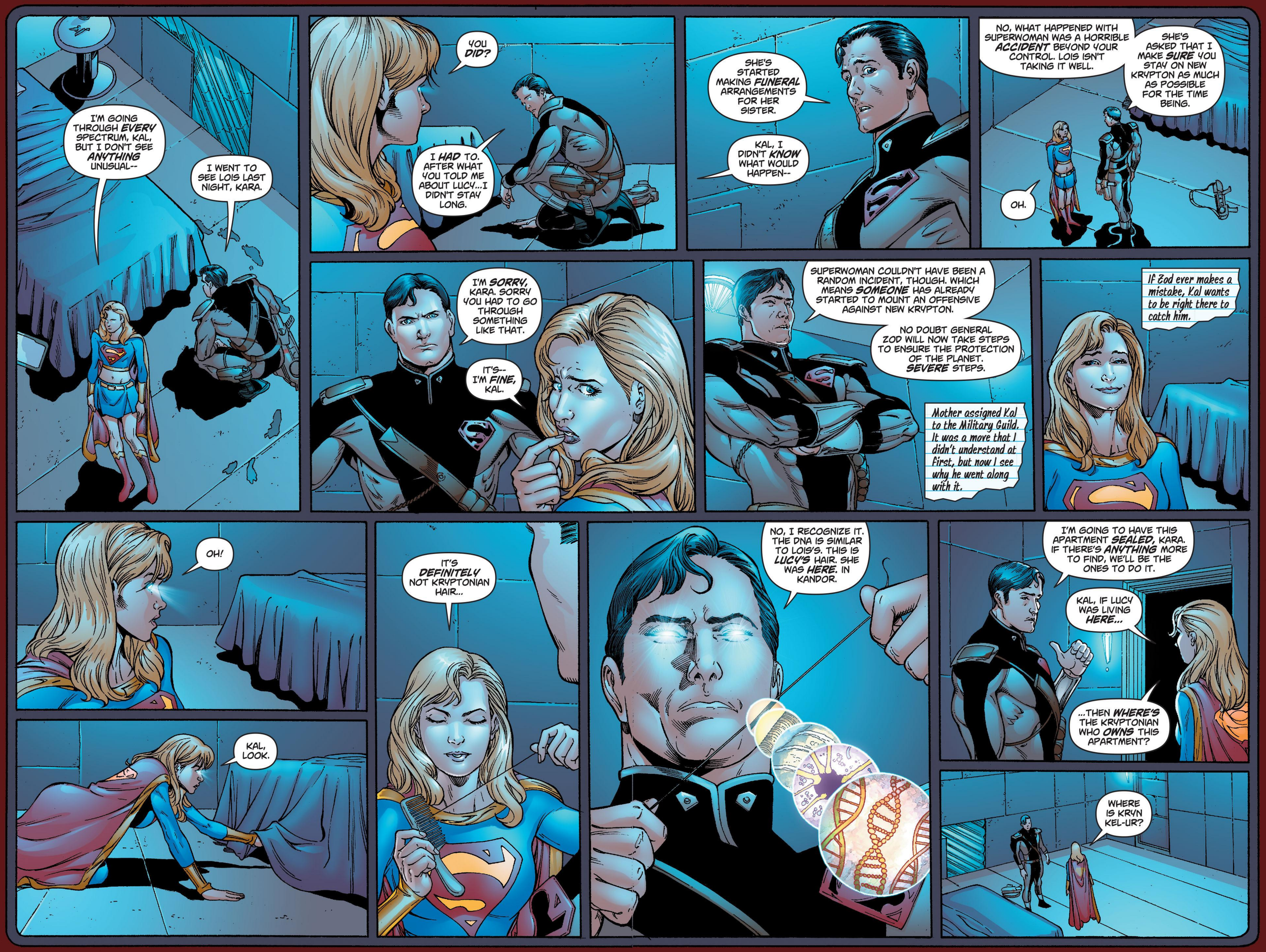
KRYN KEL-UR HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN **WEEKS.** NOT SINCE KANDOR WAS UNBOTTLED.

LIEUTENANT, TAKE THE UNIT BACK TO **BASE.** THERE'S NO PERCEIVABLE THREAT HERE.

YES, SIR!

...YOU'RE NOT RETURNING WITH US?

NO. MY COUSIN AND I NEED TO **TALK.**


I'M GOING THROUGH EVERY SPECTRUM, KAL, BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL--
I WENT TO SEE LOIS LAST NIGHT, KARA.
YOU DID?
I HAD TO. AFTER WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT LUCY...I DIDN'T STAY LONG.
SHE'S STARTED MAKING FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER SISTER.
KAL, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN--
NO, WHAT HAPPENED WITH SUPERWOMAN WAS A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT BEYOND YOUR CONTROL. LOIS ISN'T TAKING IT WELL.
SHE'S ASKED THAT I MAKE SURE YOU STAY ON NEW KRYPTON AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FOR THE TIME BEING.
OH.
I'M SORRY, KARA. SORRY YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT'S-- I'M FINE, KAL.
SUPERWOMAN COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A RANDOM INCIDENT, THOUGH. WHICH MEANS SOMEONE HAS ALREADY STARTED TO MOUNT AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST NEW KRYPTON.
NO DOUBT GENERAL ZOD WILL NOW TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE PLANET. SEVERE STEPS.
Mother assigned Kal to the Military Guild. It was a move that I didn't understand at first, but now I see why he went along with it.
If Zod ever makes a mistake, Kal wants to be right there to catch him.
OH!
KAL, LOOK.
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT KRYPTONIAN HAIR...
NO, I RECOGNIZE IT. THE DNA IS SIMILAR TO LOIS'S. THIS IS LUCY'S HAIR. SHE WAS HERE. IN KANDOR.
I'M GOING TO HAVE THIS APARTMENT SEALED, KARA. IF THERE'S ANYTHING MORE TO FIND, WE'LL BE THE ONES TO DO IT.
KAL, IF LUCY WAS LIVING HERE...
...THEN WHERE'S THE KRYPTONIAN WHO OWNS THIS APARTMENT?
WHERE IS KRYN KEL-UR?

I've been back to that apartment a few times since, but still haven't found a sign as to where Kryn Kel-Ur might've gone.

Another mystery in a long list of them, I suppose.

Just as Mom's cries are. Why the same time every night?

Some nights, they keep me up later than others...

WAKE UP. NOW.

F'R WHU--?

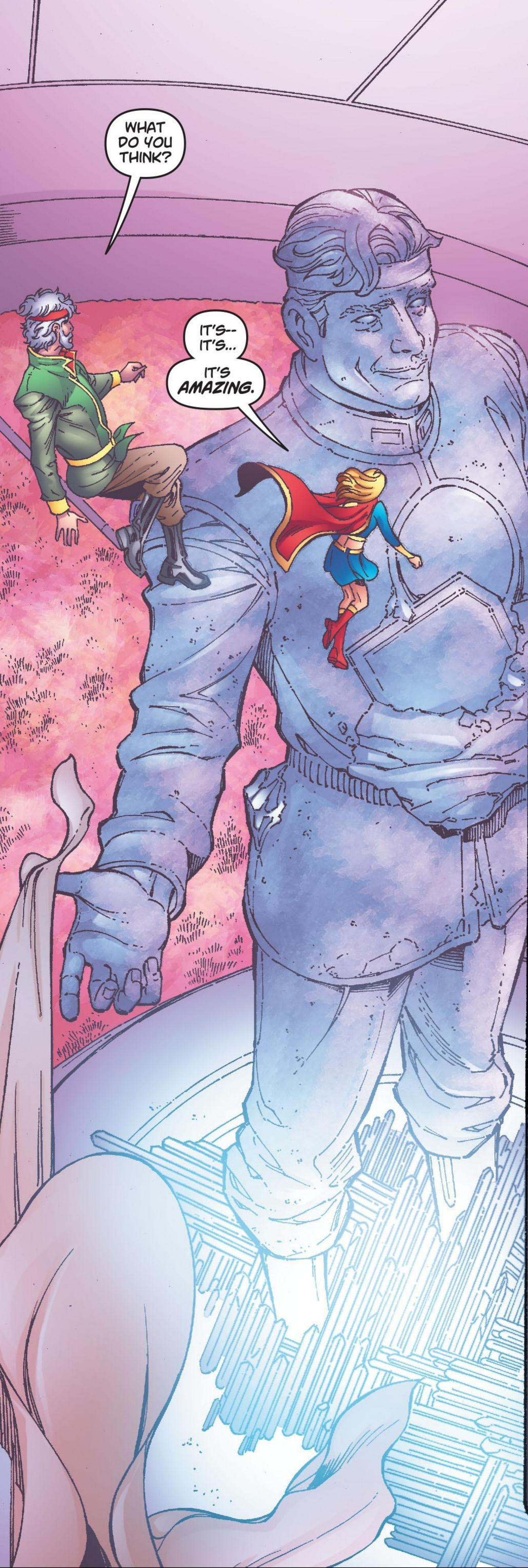
ARE YOU PLANNING TO SLEEP THE **ENTIRE** DAY, DAUGHTER?

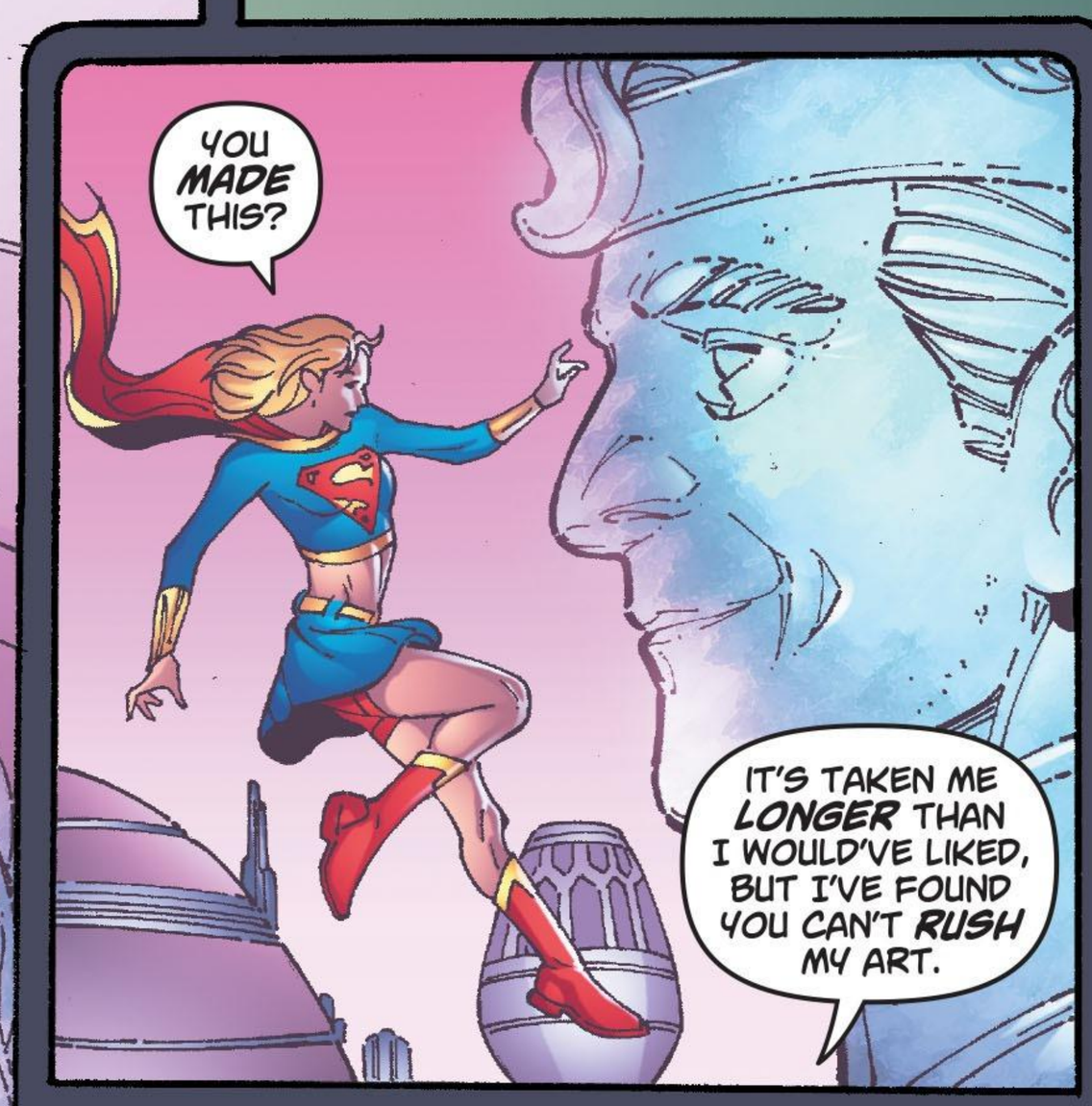
I HAVE AN **ASSIGNMENT** FOR YOU.

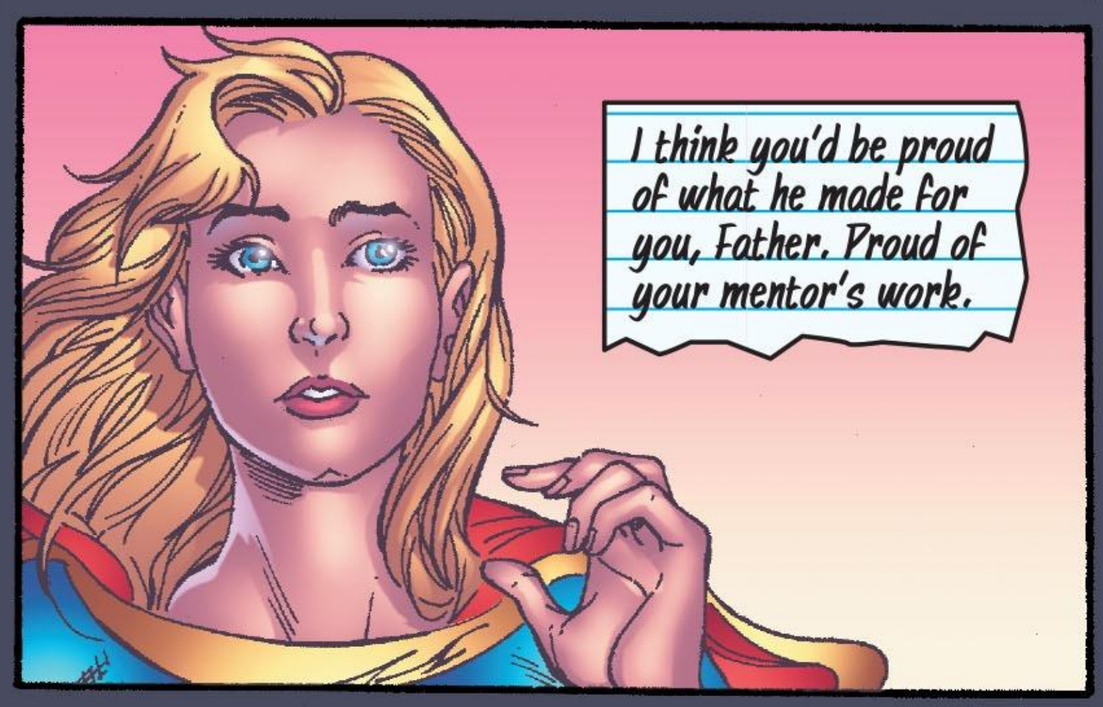
THE SCULPTOR ZAL-TEL IS DOING SOME WORK FOR ME OUTSIDE OUR **FAMILY TOMB.**

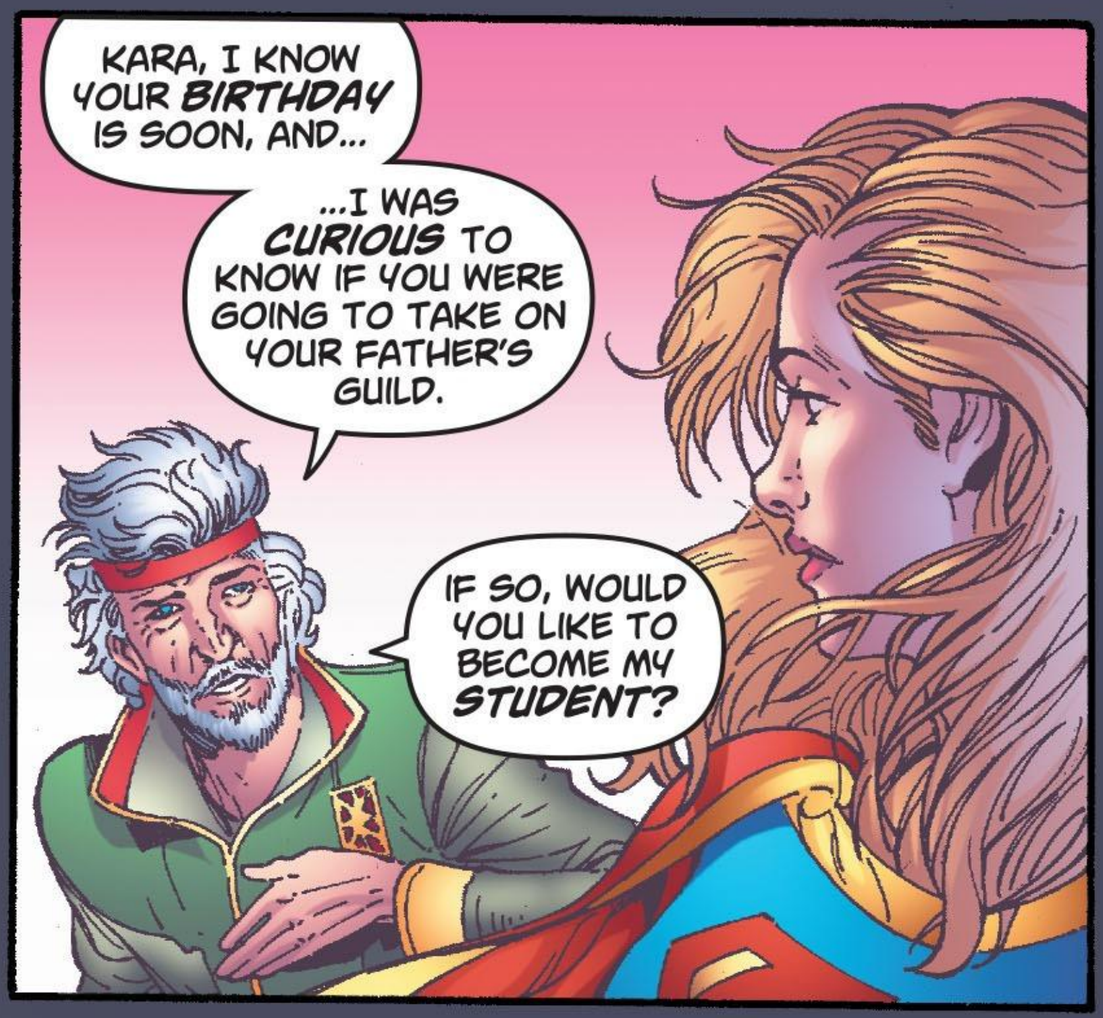
HE'S HAD **DAYS** TO FINISH IT, BUT IT **REMAINS** UNCOMPLETED.

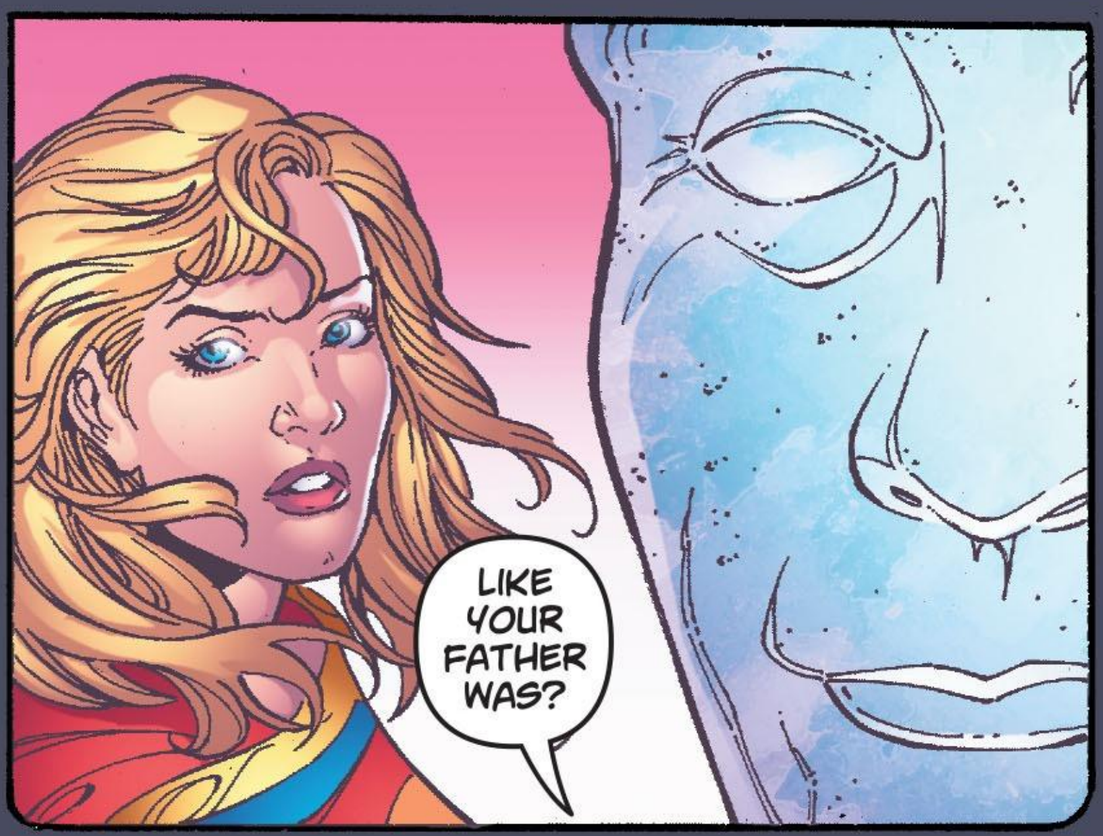
"FIND OUT WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG."
Mother sent me out to the outskirts of the city to meet someone.
EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR ZAL-TEL.
KARA ZOR-EL!
YOU'VE GROWN TO LOOK SO MUCH LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
I'M SORRY, HAVE WE MET?
NOT SINCE YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL, I'M AFRAID.
I'M ZAL-TEL.
Someone you once knew.
...YOUR FATHER HAD SUCH A PASSION, KARA. PASSION I SEE TAKING SHAPE IN YOU. I HEAR YOU'RE QUITE THE PAINTER.
NN. I ONLY DABBLE. HOW LONG DID MY FATHER STUDY UNDER YOU?
ALMOST TEN YEARS. FROM THE DAY HE WAS CONFIRMED ARTISTS GUILD UNTIL HE MOVED WITH YOUR MOTHER TO ARGO CITY.
I SUSPECT IT WAS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THAT LED YOUR MOTHER TO COMMISSION ME.
I WASN'T KEEN ON DOING SUCH A PERSONAL PROJECT--
DO WHAT?
--BUT WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO ELSE ALURA WAS CONSIDERING, I KNEW THAT ONLY I COULD DO IT.
CREATE A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A FINE MAN.
WOW.











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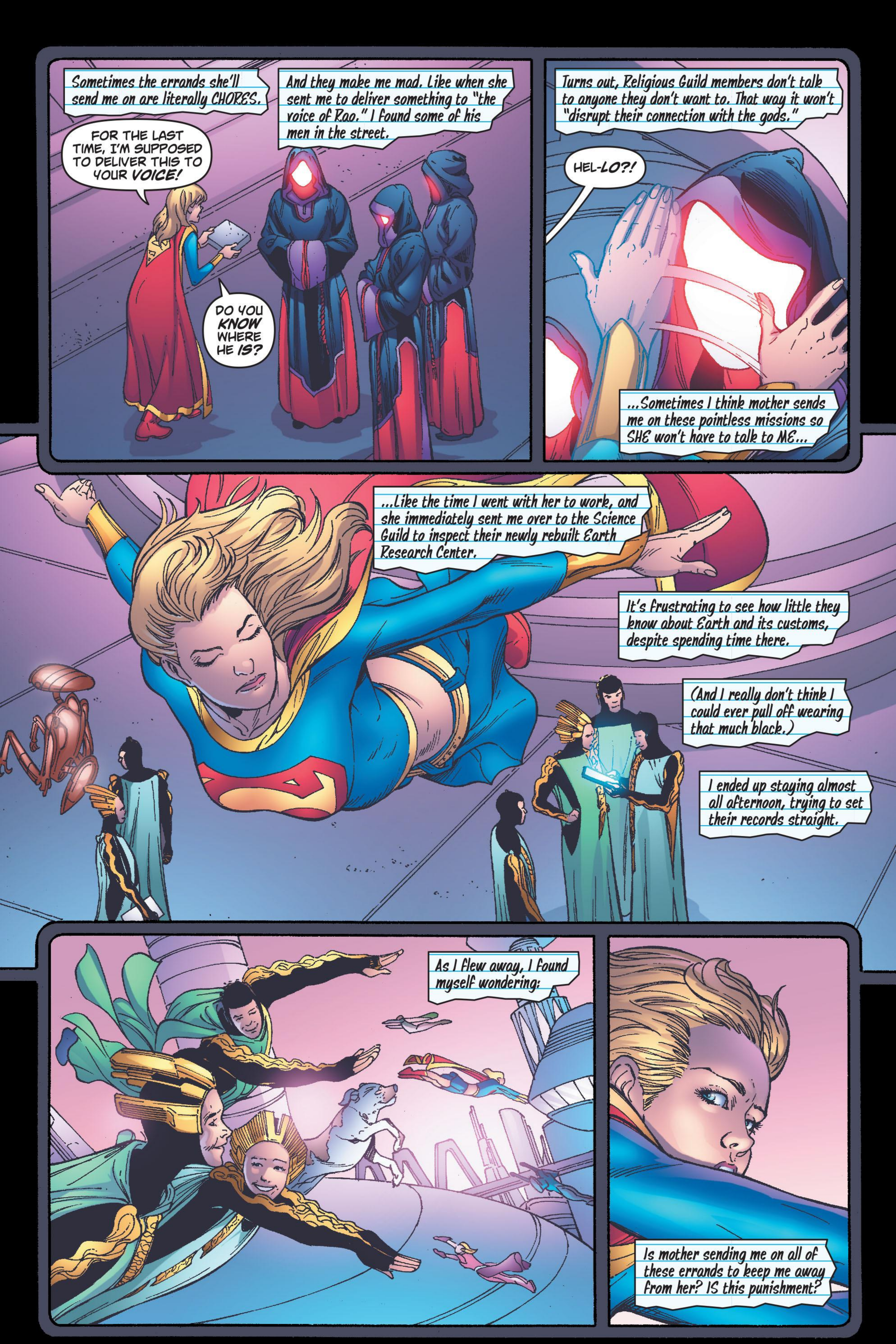
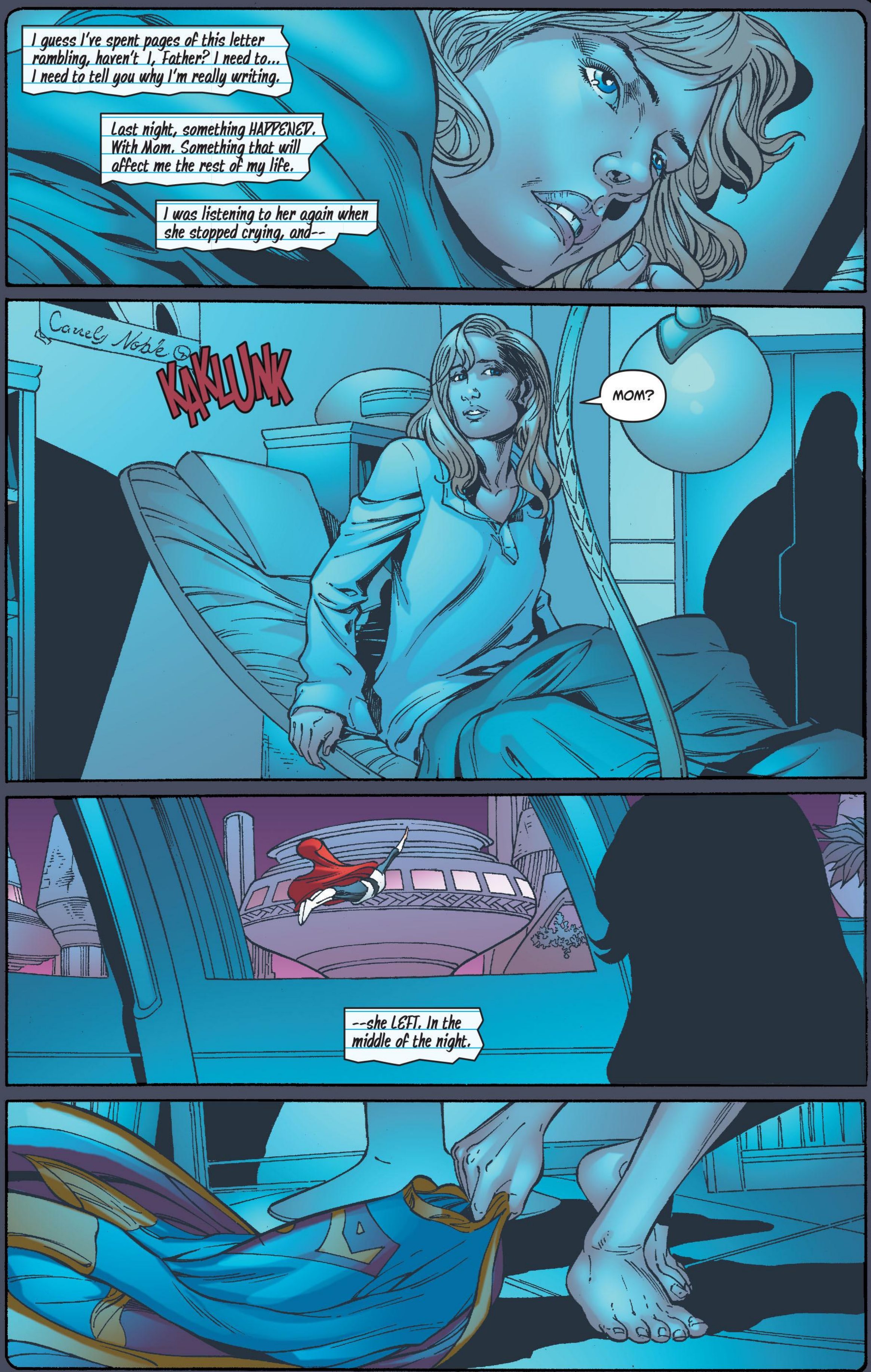
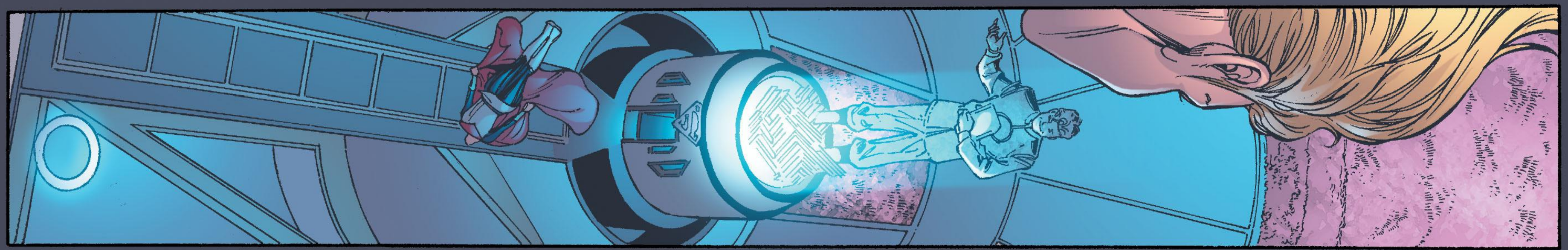
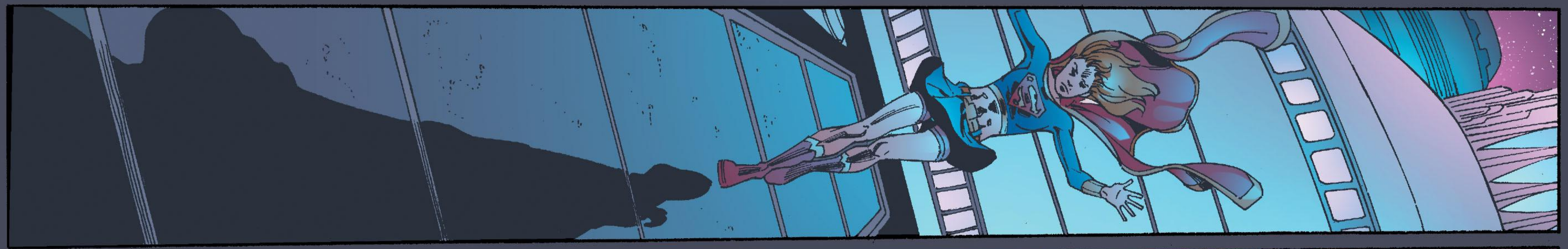

Sometimes the errands she'll send me on are literally CHORES.
FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M SUPPOSED TO DELIVER THIS TO YOUR VOICE!
And they make me mad. Like when she sent me to deliver something to "the voice of Rao." I found some of his men in the street.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
Turns out, Religious Guild members don't talk to anyone they don't want to. That way it won't "disrupt their connection with the gods."
HEL-LO?!
...Sometimes I think mother sends me on these pointless missions so SHE won't have to talk to ME...
...Like the time I went with her to work, and she immediately sent me over to the Science Guild to inspect their newly rebuilt Earth Research Center.
It's frustrating to see how little they know about Earth and its customs, despite spending time there.
(And I really don't think I could ever pull off wearing that much black.)
I ended up staying almost all afternoon, trying to set their records straight.
As I flew away, I found myself wondering:
Is mother sending me on all of these errands to keep me away from her? IS this punishment?


I guess I've spent pages of this letter rambling, haven't I, Father? I need to... I need to tell you why I'm really writing.
Last night, something HAPPENED. With Mom. Something that will affect me the rest of my life.
I was listening to her again when she stopped crying, and--
Barnes & Noble
KAKLUNK
MOM?
--she LEFT. In the middle of the night.





To visit you.

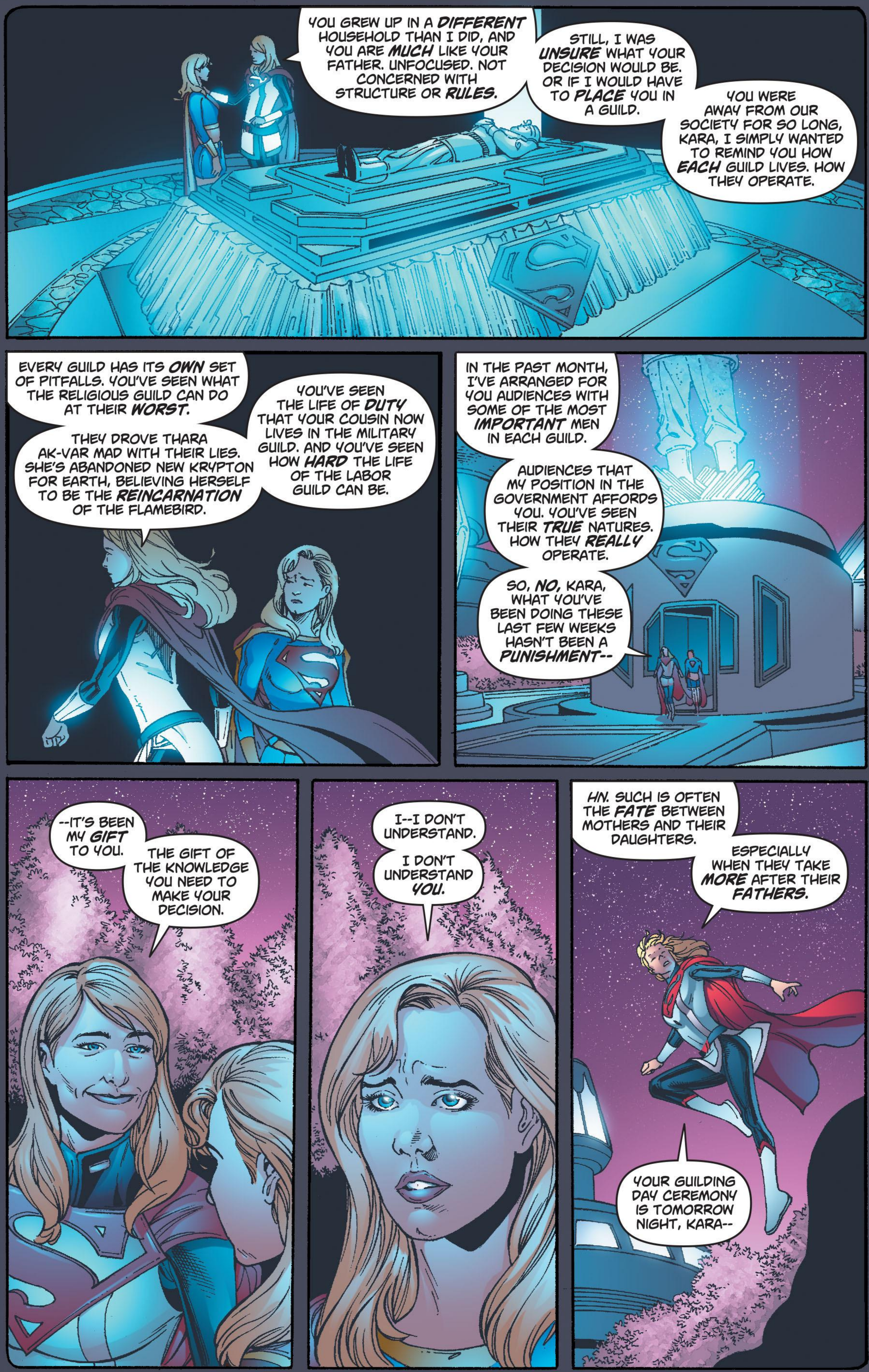
After a few minutes of standing silent and still, I asked:

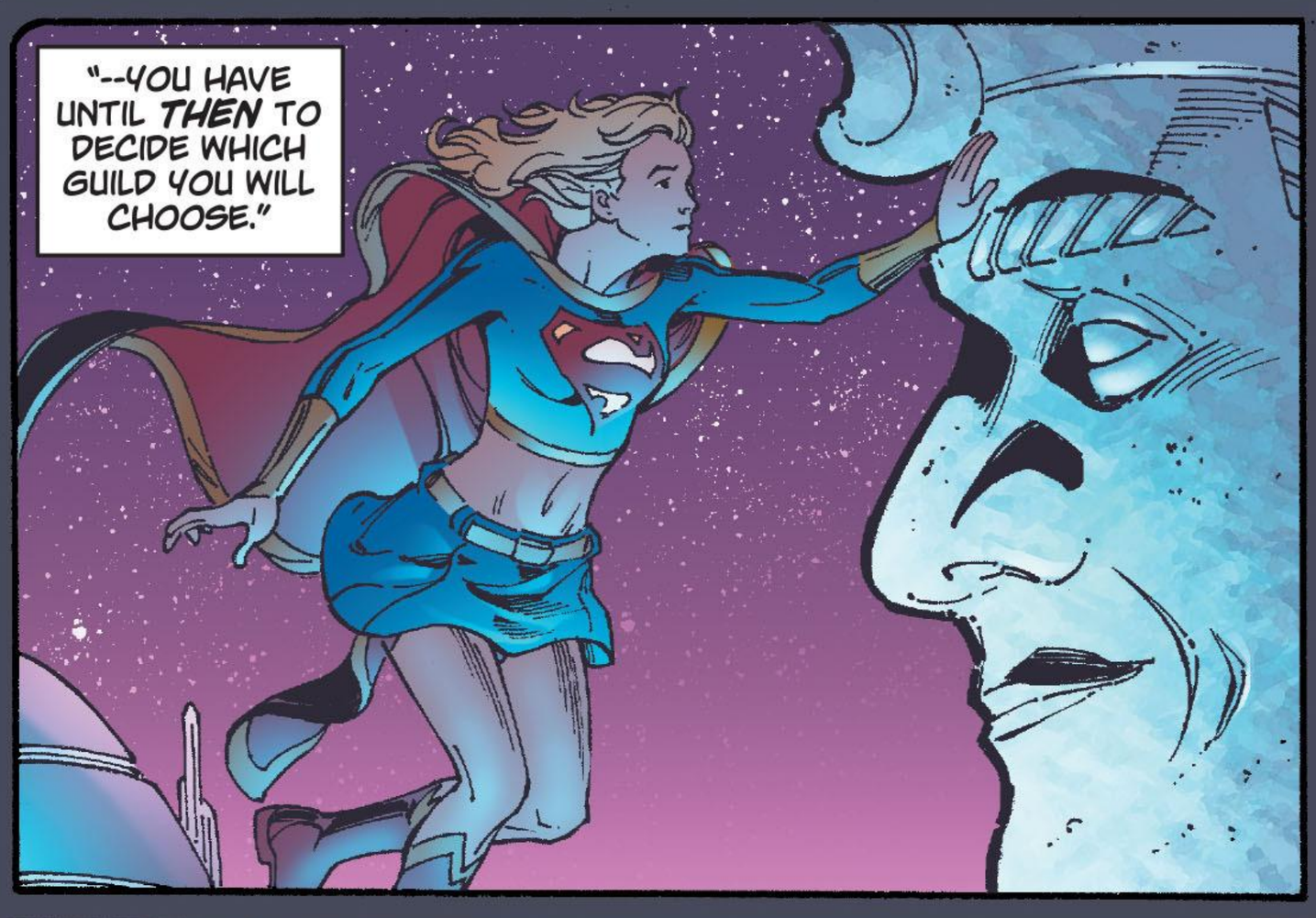
WHY DO YOU CRY AT THE SAME TIME EVERY NIGHT?

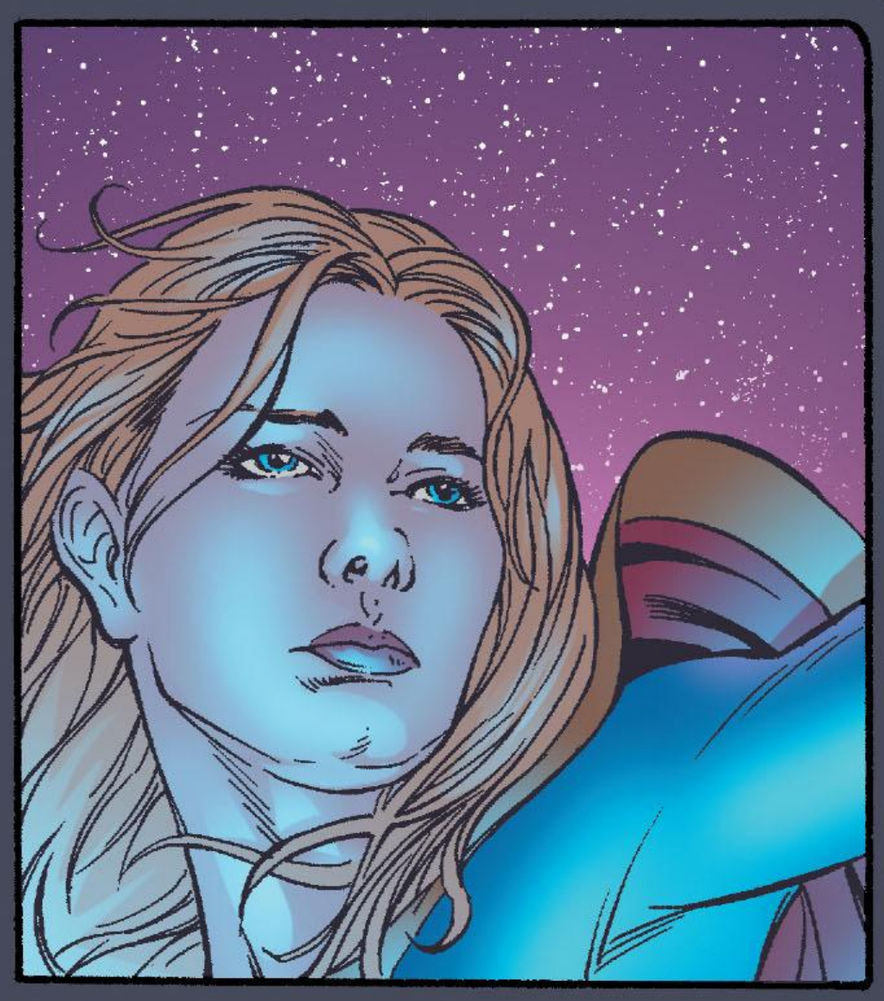
...

THAT'S BETWEEN YOUR FATHER AND I.

YES.
NO.
NO?!
ARE YOU KIDDING? HOW AM I NOT BEING PUNISHED?
YOU SEND ME ALL OVER THE PLANET LOOKING FOR RANDOM PEOPLE!
YOU DON'T TALK TO ME WHEN WE'RE AT HOME, AND WHEN I COME TO YOUR OFFICE, YOU ONLY TALK TO ME LONG ENOUGH TO SEND ME ON ANOTHER FRIVOLOUS ERRAND!
MY BIRTHDAY IS TOMORROW, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MENTIONED IT!
OR HAD YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOUR ONLY DAUGHTER IS GOING TO TURN--
ENOUGH.
I'VE FORGOTTEN NOTHING. AND YOU WILL NOT TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME IN YOUR FATHER'S PRESENCE.
FATHER'S--?
YOU ARE IN A UNIQUE SITUATION, KARA.
SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM KRYPTONIAN SOCIETY, YOU WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM YOUR GUILD. JUST LIKE YOUR COUSIN.
I ALLOWED YOUR COUSIN TO CHOOSE HIS GUILD AND HE REFUSED. SO I CHOSE ONE FOR HIM. ONE THAT COULD USE HIS SKILLS.
BUT YOU, MY DAUGHTER, ARE DIFFERENT FROM KAL.


YOU GREW UP IN A DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD THAN I DID, AND YOU ARE MUCH LIKE YOUR FATHER. UNFOCUSED. NOT CONCERNED WITH STRUCTURE OR RULES.
STILL, I WAS UNSURE WHAT YOUR DECISION WOULD BE. OR IF I WOULD HAVE TO PLACE YOU IN A GUILD.
YOU WERE AWAY FROM OUR SOCIETY FOR SO LONG, KARA, I SIMPLY WANTED TO REMIND YOU HOW EACH GUILD LIVES. HOW THEY OPERATE.
EVERY GUILD HAS ITS OWN SET OF PITFALLS. YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THE RELIGIOUS GUILD CAN DO AT THEIR WORST.
THEY DROVE THARA AK-VAR MAD WITH THEIR LIES. SHE'S ABANDONED NEW KRYPTON FOR EARTH, BELIEVING HERSELF TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF THE FLAMEBIRD.
YOU'VE SEEN THE LIFE OF DUTY THAT YOUR COUSIN NOW LIVES IN THE MILITARY GUILD. AND YOU'VE SEEN HOW HARD THE LIFE OF THE LABOR GUILD CAN BE.
IN THE PAST MONTH, I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU AUDIENCES WITH SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN EACH GUILD.
AUDIENCES THAT MY POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT AFFORDS YOU. YOU'VE SEEN THEIR TRUE NATURES. HOW THEY REALLY OPERATE.
SO, NO, KARA, WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING THESE LAST FEW WEEKS HASN'T BEEN A PUNISHMENT--
--IT'S BEEN MY GIFT TO YOU.
THE GIFT OF THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR DECISION.
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU.
HN. SUCH IS OFTEN THE FATE BETWEEN MOTHERS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY TAKE MORE AFTER THEIR FATHERS.
YOUR GUILDING DAY CEREMONY IS TOMORROW NIGHT, KARA--





This ceremony will be hard to get through without you. I hope you'll help me through it. I hope you'll help Mother get through it, too.

And--the reason I'm writing, the reason I started this letter, is that I have to apologize to you.

I'm sorry.

Mother was right. I haven't done what I thought I ALWAYS would.

"I PRONOUNCE YOU, KARA ZOR-EL--"

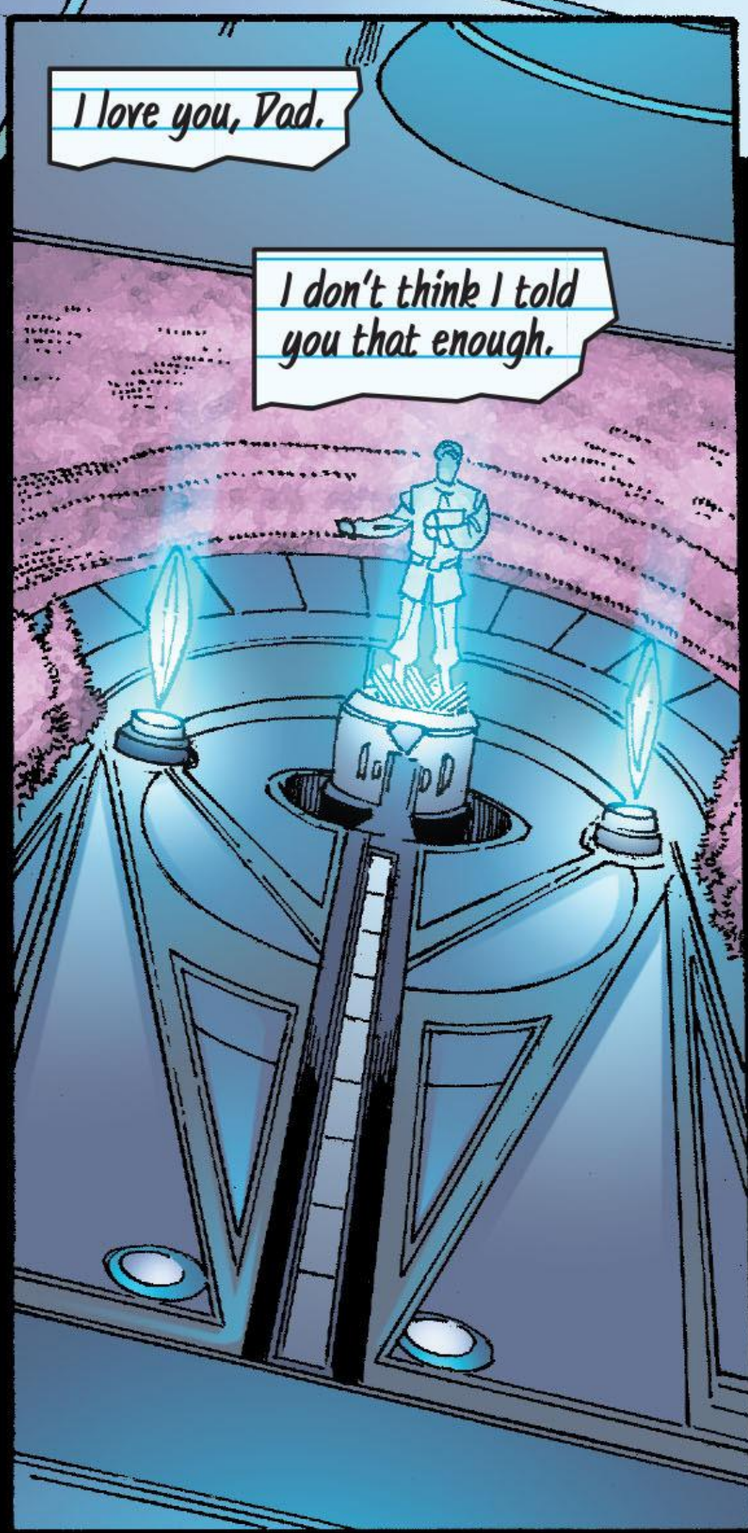
I didn't choose YOUR Guild.

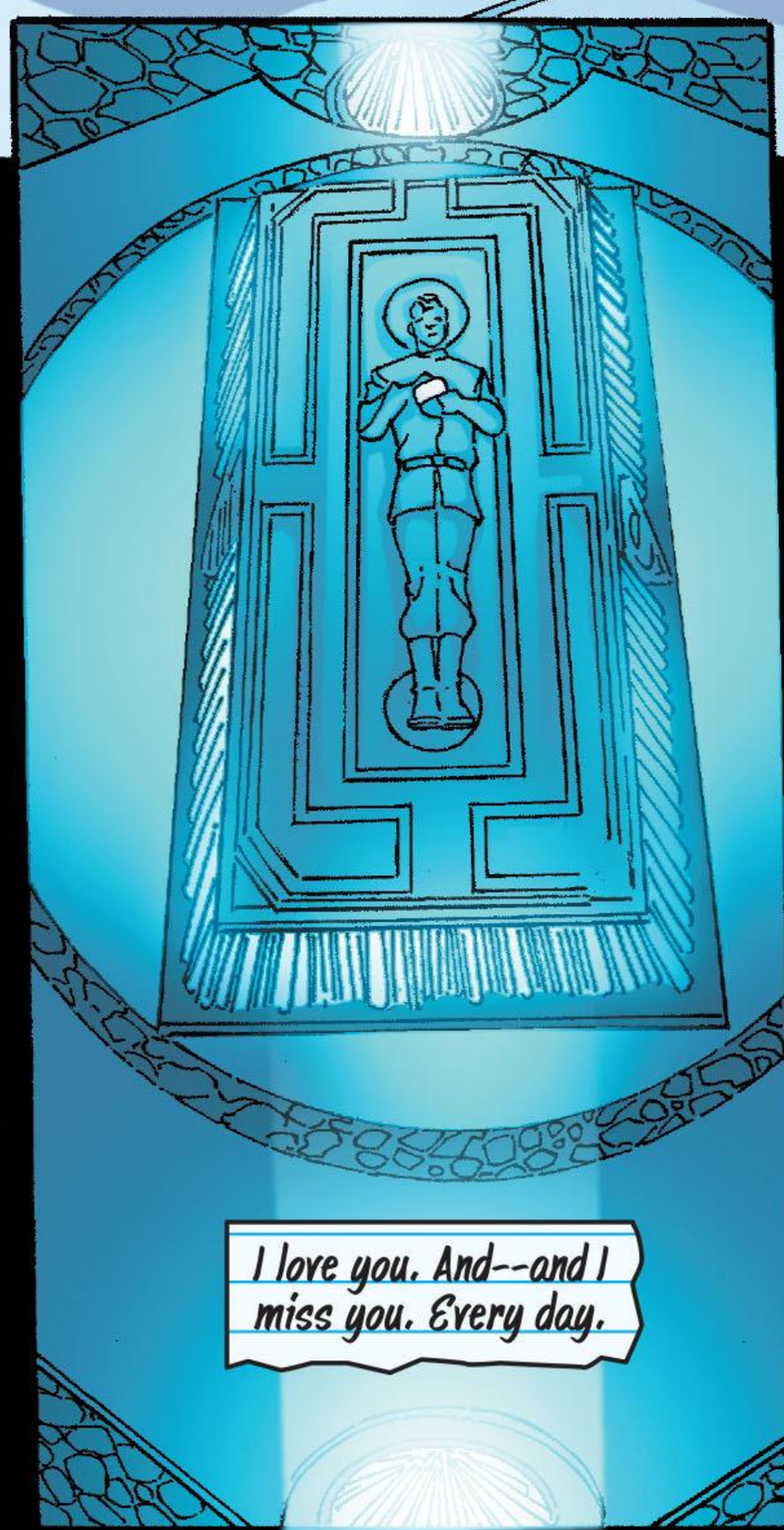
--OUR SISTER IN SCIENCE.

Even though this might not have been what you WANTED, it's something I have to do.

If it will help me understand Mother, help me to see what it was for her when she was my age, then it might be worth it.

I need to know, Dad. I need to know why she is the way she is.





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