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GRANT MORRISON
MATTHEW CLARK
NORM RAPMUND



DEC '08 DCCOMICS.COM

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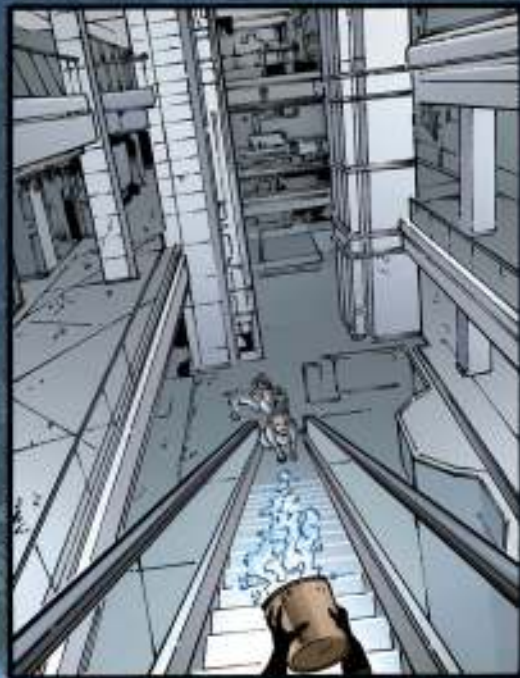


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ALPHA
TARGET
ACQUIRED.


SUPERHUMAN
CODE DESIGNATE:
"BLACK LIGHTNING":
ELECTRICAL FIELD
MANIPULATOR
LEVEL 12.




WEAR THE
HELMET!

BE LIKE
US!

BE
JUSTIFIED!



ANTI-LIFE
TAKES AWAY
THE FEAR.



LIFE IS A
QUESTION!

ANTI-LIFE
IS THE
ANSWER.



WARNING!
SUPERHUMAN
DESIGNATE
UNKNOWN!

DESIGNATE THIS,
969964969!

I GOT
YOUR
BACK,
DAD!

GRRNNAA!
...CAN'T...
MOVE...
...CAN'T
BREATHE...

...IT'S THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE ON THE STREETS.

INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS, SPACE NAZI ANTI-LIFE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE! AND MISTER JUSTICE LEAGUE RIGHT HERE MAKES US A TARGET.

YOU ALL KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, RIGHT?

HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN WRONGFULLY ARRESTED? HOW MANY TIMES WE TALKED ABOUT THIS?

I HAD MY WAY, WE'D KILL AND EAT THE BASTARD.

MARK!

I'M ONLY SAYING, HE'S TROUBLE.

COSTUMES EQUALS TROUBLE.

SPECIAL POWERS CLUB BROUGHT NOBODY NOTHING BUT GRIEF.

DAD...

I THINK HE'S MOVING.

DON'T DO THAT.

DON'T JUST BURN THE NEWSPAPERS.

PEOPLE STRUGGLED HARD TO MAKE THEM.

DAILY PLANET
BLUDHAVEN
HERE WE COME!

DAILY PLANET
BLUDHAVEN
HERE WE COME!



AND BOOKS?
BURNING
BOOKS IS WHAT
DARKSEID'S
JUSTIFIERS
DO.



THESE ARE THE TREASURES
OF OUR CIVILIZATION.

WHAT'S
THAT? YOU THINK
WE DON'T
READ?

I'M JUST SOME
DUMB "SUPERVILLAIN"
AND HIS FAMILY WIPING THEIR
ASS ON THE TREASURES OF
CIVILIZATION IS THE FIRST
THING YOU THINK?



I JUST SAVED
YOUR LIFE, I GET
JUDGED?

WHAT
DID I
SAY?

MARK.

NEVER
TRUST A
SUPERHERO!



I'M
SORRY.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE
HALL OF JUSTICE WHEN I HEARD
THE S.O.S. AND THAT JUSTIFIER
BRIGADE APPEARED OUT OF
NOWHERE.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
HAVE DONE PRETTY WELL
TO SURVIVE THIS LONG IN
A WORLD THAT DOESN'T
EVEN BELONG TO US
ANYMORE.



THE
WORLD NEVER
BELONGED TO
PEOPLE LIKE ME,
SUPERSTAR.

WHAT
ELSE IS
NEW?



WHY
THE HERO
POSE?
YOU
LEAVING?



WE'RE ALL
LEAVING.

PACK ONLY
ESSENTIALS.

IF YOU STAY HERE,
JUSTIFIER PATROLS WILL
ALMOST CERTAINLY ARRIVE
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW
HOURS.



DAD...
...MY
BAG'S BEEN
READY FOR
DAYS.



WHAT?
WHERE
DID ALL OF
THIS COME
FROM?
YOU ALL
DECIDED
SOMETHING
WITHOUT
ANYBODY
TALKING
TO ME?



...MY DAD REALLY HATES
SUPERHEROES.

YOU CAN
PROBABLY
LEAVE MOST
OF THAT
STUFF.

THIS IS
A SCHOOL,
RIGHT?
IS THERE A
BUS?



WE SURVIVED THESE TWO WEEKS ON OUR OWN, WITHOUT YOU OR ANY OF YOUR KIND!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

THE BATTERY'S DEAD.



STAND BACK.

I CAN SPARK HER UP.

NO, WE'RE SAFE HERE!

WE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED TO SURVIVE RIGHT HERE UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER.



THIS WON'T BE OVER UNTIL EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US CHOOSES TO RESIST.

DARKSEID IS REMAKING THE WORLD IN HIS IMAGE, USING OUR TECHNOLOGY, OUR PEOPLE AS BUILDING BLOCKS.

AND THEY'LL HAVE HEARD YOUR SIGNAL JUST AS EASILY AS I DID...



SIGNAL?

MARK! THEY FOUND US!

NO, HE LED 'EM RIGHT TO US!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU!

I'M GONNA KILL THIS %&*&!

IT WASN'T HIM!

MARK, IT WAS ME! IT WAS ME!

I USED THE COMPUTER!







COME OUT.

COME
OUT.

WHEREVER
YOU ARE.

JUSTIFY YOUR
LIVES TO
DARKSEID.

DO YOU
HAVE A
FAMILY?

TWO
GIRLS.

ARE THEY
SUPERHEROES
TOO?

I HOPE YOU'LL GET
TO MEET THEM WHEN
WE'RE DONE.

YEAH.

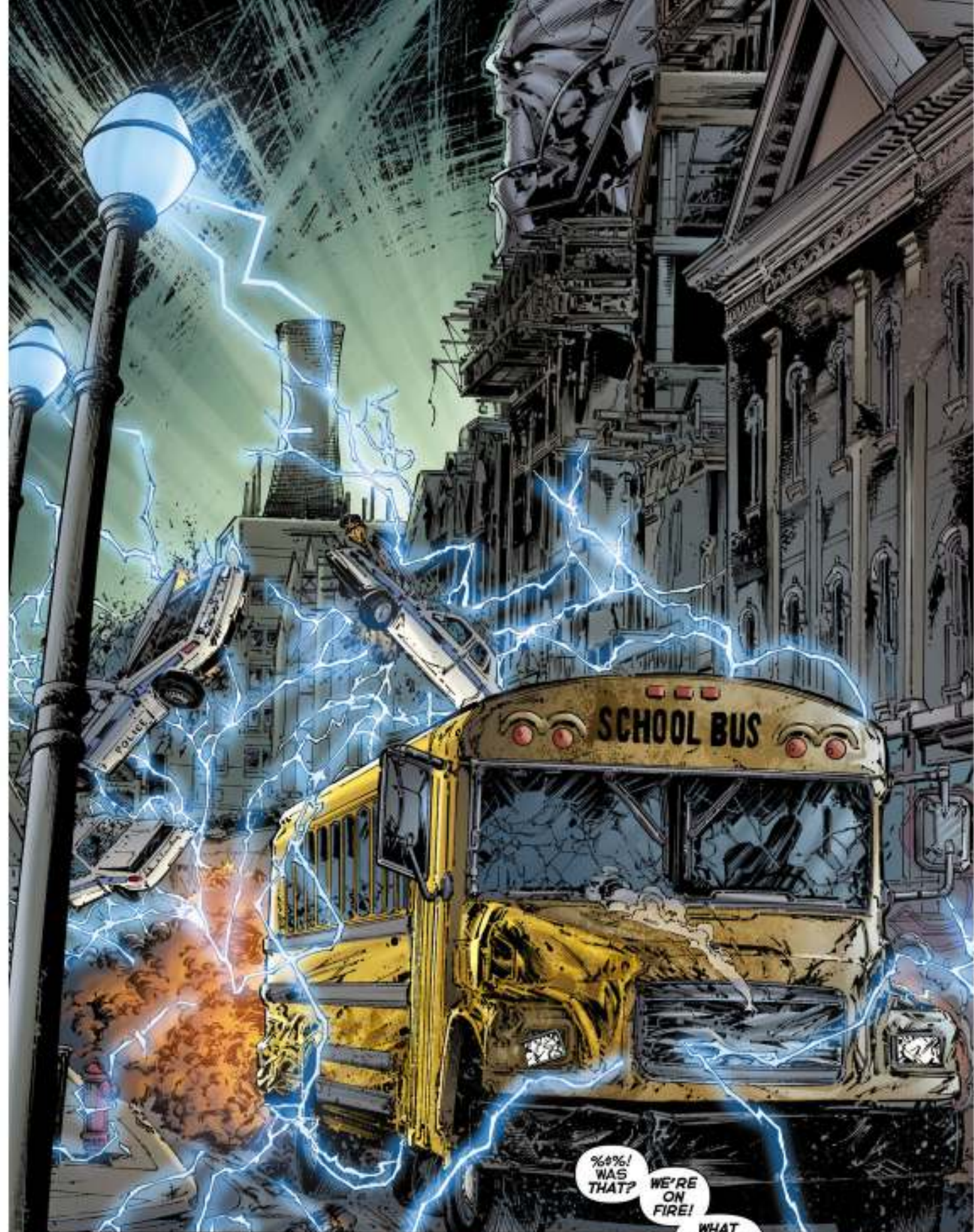
ARE WE
READY?











%%#!
WAS
THAT?

WE'RE
ON
FIRE!

WHAT
ELSE YOU
DO?!

I MAKE
ELECTRICITY
DANCE LIKE
BEYONCÉ...

...YOU
WANT
MORE?









...YOU'RE A
TEACHER BUT
YOU DON'T LOOK
MUCH LIKE ANY
TEACHER I
EVER HAD.

MY DAD
SAYS THE
BEST SCHOOL
IS THE
STREET.

WELL, THERE'S A
LOT TO BE SAID FOR
FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE,
AND THE MEANING OF LIFE
IS CERTAINLY IN THE
LESSONS WE LEARN...

BUT FORMAL
EDUCATION ENRICHES
AND PROVIDES A
TRIED-AND-TESTED
FRAMEWORK TO HELP
US GET THE MOST
OUT OF THOSE
EXPERIENCES.



WHAT?

SEE, MY KIDS
DON'T NEED YOU
OR ANYBODY LIKE
YOU TELLING US
HOW TO THINK.

YOU GOT A
PLAN HERE,
JUSTICE
LEAGUE?



WHAT'S UP, MISTER
RICHARDS?

SCARED THEY
MIGHT TURN INTO
SUPERHEROES?



MY PLAN IS
TO RENDEZVOUS
WITH A **RELIEF**
CHOPPER AND
GET YOU ON
YOUR WAY TO
WATCHTOWER 6.

THEN I TURN
RIGHT AROUND
AND GO BACK FOR THE
COLLEAGUE I WAS AIMING
TO RESCUE BEFORE YOUR
FAMILY'S SECURITY
TOOK PRIORITY.

I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T
SEE PAST MY COSTUME.



RIGHT NOW, WE
NEED A **BARRIER**
TO BUY OURSELVES
SOME TIME.

HOW ABOUT
YOU SET YOUR
SHOULDER TO
THE WHEEL,
RICHARDS?



SO WHAT
MAKES YOU A
SUPERHERO
AND ME A
LOSER?

I DIDN'T
CALL YOU A
LOSER.

WE'RE NOT ABOUT
THE NAMES PEOPLE
CALL US, WE'RE ABOUT
WHAT WE DO, DON'T
YOU THINK?

YOU HAVE
POWERS, USE
THEM FOR WHAT
YOU KNOW IS
RIGHT AND LEAVE
THE LABELS TO
HISTORY AND
THE MEDIA.



DAD!

HE SAID
DON'T
STOP!

LEON!

DON'T
STOP!



WITHOUT THIS,
WE WON'T MAKE
THE HUNDRED
YARDS.

TAKE A
LOOK.



THOSE ARE
S.H.A.D.E.
TROOPERS!

GO JOIN
THEM!

SEE, THIS
IS WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT!

YOU GIVING OUT THE
ORDERS LIKE YOU
THINK IT'S ALL
NATURAL!

WHY WE
WASTING TIME
ON THIS WHEN WE
GOT A HUNDRED
YARDS TO GO!



96496!



HERE'S
WHERE WE ALL
SAY "NO" TO
THAT.



MARK!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

THERE'S
TOO MUCH
SMOKE.

DAD?
I THINK
THEY'RE
FIGHTING.



S.H.A.D.E.
RESCUE!

THIS WAY,
PEOPLE!

WE HAVE
TO TAKE
OFF!



YOU HAVE TO *PROMISE*
ME SOMETHING, MISTER
RICHARDS.

THERE'S
SOMETHING I
NEED YOU TO
MEMORIZE.
A CIRCUIT.

I DON'T
CARE *WHAT*
YOU THINK
ABOUT
ME.



THIS ISN'T
JUST SOME
SUPERHERO
WAR, SOME
CRISIS.

OUR ENTIRE WORLD,
OUR *REALITY*, IS
TRANSFORMING
INTO THE BROKEN,
DERANGED *PHYSICAL*
EXPRESSION OF A
MONSTROUS, ALIEN
WILL AND WE ALL
HAVE TO FIGHT IT.

THIS CIRCUIT,
THIS SIGN BEGAN TO
APPEAR ALL OVER THE
WORLD BEFORE ALL
THIS STARTED.



WHAT?

WHY WOULD
THEY BE
FIGHTING?

IT'S
OKAY,
MOM.

I WON'T
LET DAD
DOWN.





...THAT WAS
THE LAST
THING WE
SAW.

I'M SORRY
ABOUT YOUR
FATHER.

I'M SO
SORRY: HE
WAS A GOOD
MAN.

I'M SO
SORRY.

WE HAVE
TO GO BACK
FOR MY
DAD!

I'M GOING
BACK!

NEGATIVE,
THUNDER.

WE NEED
ALL OUR
METAS FOR
THE OMEGA
INITIATIVE!

THERE WAS SOMEBODY TRAPPED
IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

MARK SAID
HE HAD A
CHOICE TO
MAKE.

IF YOU WANT
TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED TO MY
HUSBAND, HE FINALLY
REALIZED WHAT WE
ALWAYS KNEW...

MARK RICHARDS,
THE TATTOOED-MAN
WAS NEVER A
SUPER-CRIMINAL.

OR A
SUPER-VILLAIN.

HE WAS
MORE THAN
THAT.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH,
TELL US WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR HUSBAND,
MRS.
RICHARDS?

HE WAS A
SUPERHERO ALL
THIS TIME.



HRR.
GARBAGE.



WHAT
DISAGREES
WITH DARKSEID
IS HERESY.



WHAT
AGREES WITH
DARKSEID IS
SUPERFLUOUS.



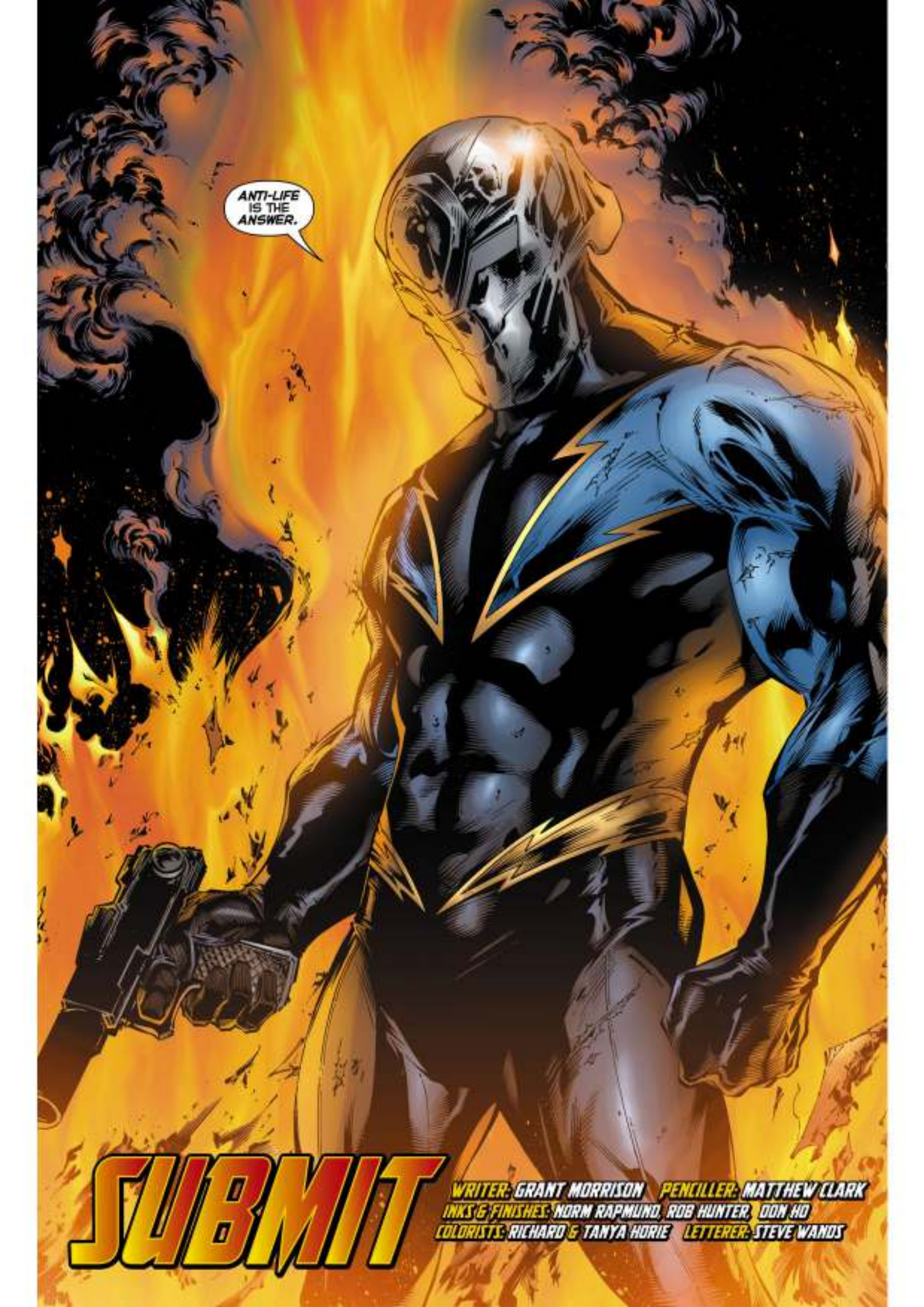
FIRE
NEEDS NO
TEACHER!

FLAME
NEEDS NO
INSTRUCTION!

ANTI-LIFE
JUSTIFIES MY
IGNORANCE!



LIFE IS A
QUESTION.



ANTI-LIFE
IS THE
ANSWER.

SUBMIT

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