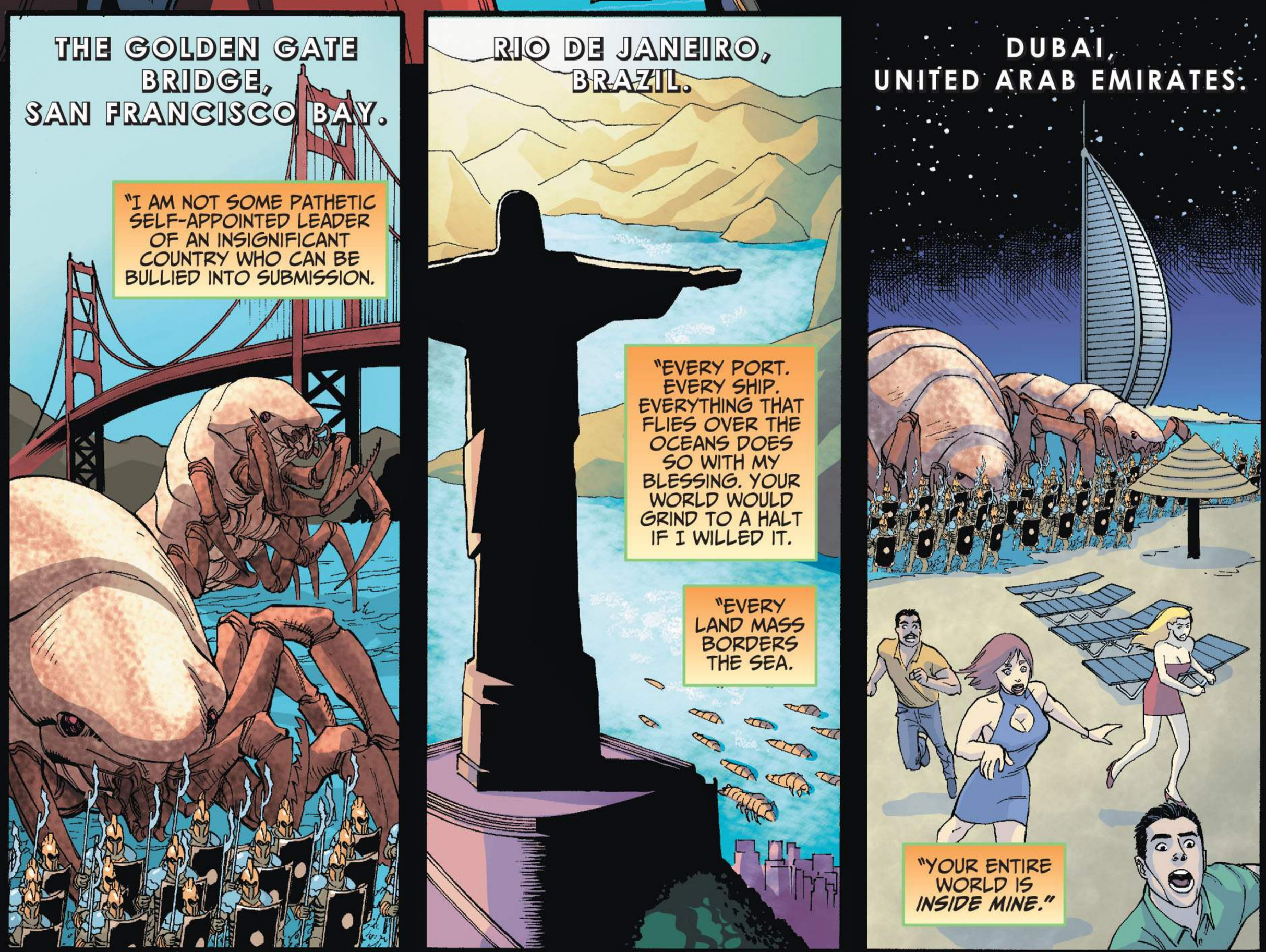
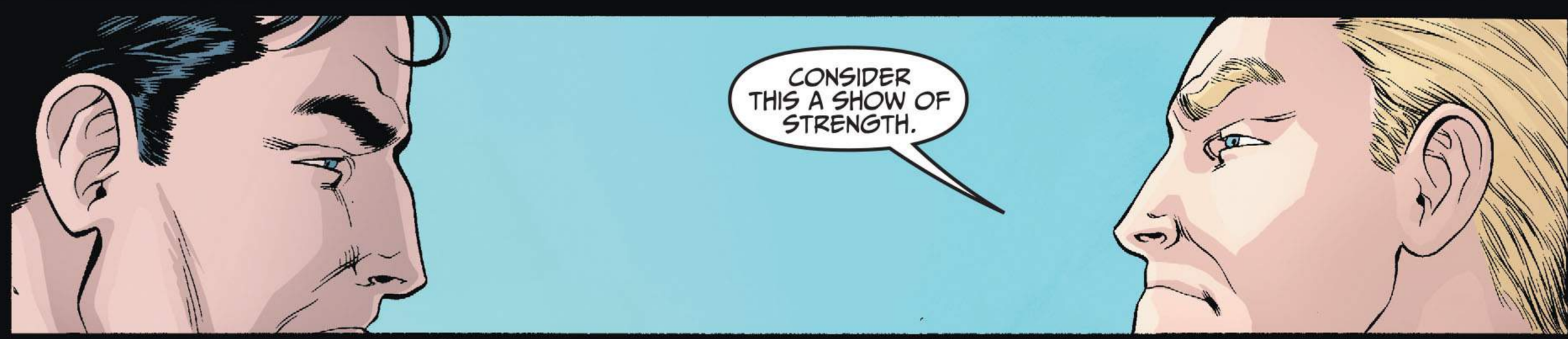
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ATLANTEAN ARMIES ARE RISING IN COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD.

ARTHUR. WHAT IS THIS?

A REMINDER.





HAWKGIRL. STAY AND HELP THE SAILORS.

GREEN LANTERN. SHAZAM. WITH US.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.
ATLANTIS.
"AQUAMAN IS SHOWING US HIS STRENGTH.
AGHHH!
TOOOOOOM
"IT'S TIME WE SHOWED HIM *OUR* STRENGTH."

"IT'S TIME WE SHOWED EVERYONE WHO WOULD THREATEN THE WORLD JUST HOW MUCH POWER THEY'RE DEALING WITH.
"NO MORE HOLDING BACK."

THE SAHARA DESERT.

--AS A CITY FROM THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN, A CITY THAT HAS NEVER BEEN TOUCHED BY SUNLIGHT...

...HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOTTEST DESERT IN THE WORLD.

SUPERMAN.

NEWS

LEAGUE CAPTURES CITY OF ATLAN

OVIE STAR FOR VIOLENCE IN AMER

YOU CAN'T THREATEN AN ENTIRE CITY AND EXPECT THE WORLD TO JUST--

NO. YOU DON'T GET TO SPEAK.

YOU THINK I DIDN'T HEAR YOU WHISPERING YOUR POISON IN ARTHUR'S EAR?

CYBORG. REMOVE BATMAN'S COMMUNICATOR ACCESS. HE'S NOT WITH US.

THAT'S ENOUGH WORDS FROM YOU, BRUCE.

CLARK! DON--

ARTHUR IS READY TO SPEAK TO YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM AND I'VE ACHIEVED NOTHING BY TALKING TODAY. YOU'RE THE DIPLOMAT. YOU SPEAK TO HIM.

THE SHORE OF ALGERIA.

YOU WILL PULL YOUR FORCES BACK, AND ANY GRIEVANCE YOU HAVE WITH THE SURFACE WORLD YOU WILL BRING TO US BEFORE ACTING.

WOULD YOU LET SUPERMAN TELL THEMYSCIRA THAT IT COULD NOT DEFEND ITS BORDERS?

THERE IS A CEASEFIRE. HE WOULD NEVER NEED TO.

I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

YOU HAVE HIS EAR, DIANA. STEER HIM AWAY FROM THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

I WILL NOT. I BELIEVE THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS WHAT'S BEST FOR THE WORLD.

YOU WILL HAVE SCARED A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY. ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT WANT GODS AND ALIENS TELLING THEM WHAT THEY CAN AND CAN'T DO.

PERHAPS.

CAN YOU PASS A MESSAGE ON TO SUPERMAN?

OF COURSE.

I HAVE RULED PEACEFULLY FOR MANY YEARS. IF HE HAS DECIDED TO COMMAND, WHEN HE IS READY, I WOULD ASK THAT HE SEEK MY COUNSEL.

AND PLEASE, TELL CLARK... TELL HIM I'M SORRY ABOUT LOIS.

WELL?
HE WILL PULL HIS ARMIES BACK INTO THE OCEAN.
GOOD. I'LL LET SHAZAM AND HAL KNOW THAT WE CAN RETURN ATLANTIS TO THE SEA.
THIS ACTION DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH EITHER OF THEM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING. YOU DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.
SO YOU'VE SAID.
I WON'T LET YOU DOUBT YOURSELF.
WHAT ELSE?
WHAT?
SURELY ARTHUR HAD MORE TO SAY?
NO. NOTHING.

PART FIVE
Tom Derenick Jheremy Raapack Artists
Drew Johnson, Ray Snyder and Kathryn Layno Cover

THE NULLARBOR.
THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE LIKE IT IN THE WORLD. ONE ROAD IN THE SOUTHERNMOST PART OF AUSTRALIA THAT STRETCHES OVER A THOUSAND MILES OF VIRTUALLY NOTHING.
THE ROAD ITSELF IS ALMOST DESERTED. THERE'S THE OCCASIONAL MAD TOURIST, AND THE MASSIVE ROAD TRAINS THAT HAVE TO CROSS THE COUNTRY THIS WAY, BUT THAT'S IT.
IT'S PERFECT, AND IT GETS BETTER...
ROAD TRAIN

THE 90 MILE STRAIGHT, THE WORLD'S LONGEST, STRAIGHTEST SECTION OF ROAD.
90 MILE STRAIGHT
AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST STRAIGHT ROAD
146.6 km
YOU CAN RUN THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF IT AND ONLY HAVE TO DODGE THE OCCASIONAL KANGAROO OR FLOCK OF EMUS.
A ROAD THIS LONG, THIS STRAIGHT, WITH BARELY ANY TRAFFIC ON IT...FOR A SPEEDSTER, THIS IS NIRVANA.
I OFTEN COME HERE TO RUN AND TO THINK.
BUT, TODAY, I DON'T WANT TO THINK--
--I JUST WANT TO RUN.

TWO HOURS AGO WE WERE TRYING TO DISPERSE A PROTEST IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

I REPEAT, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR HOMES AND PLACES OF BUSINESS OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO RETURN YOU.

YEAH, THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HERE AND HOVER ABOVE US ALL, WITH A SCOWL AND SOME SPECIAL POWERS, AND TELL US WHAT TO DO?

NOT OUR HEROES!

I'M SORRY BUT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTEST IN OUR OWN COUNTRY.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK *YOU* TO RETURN TO *YOUR* HOMES.

FZZZT

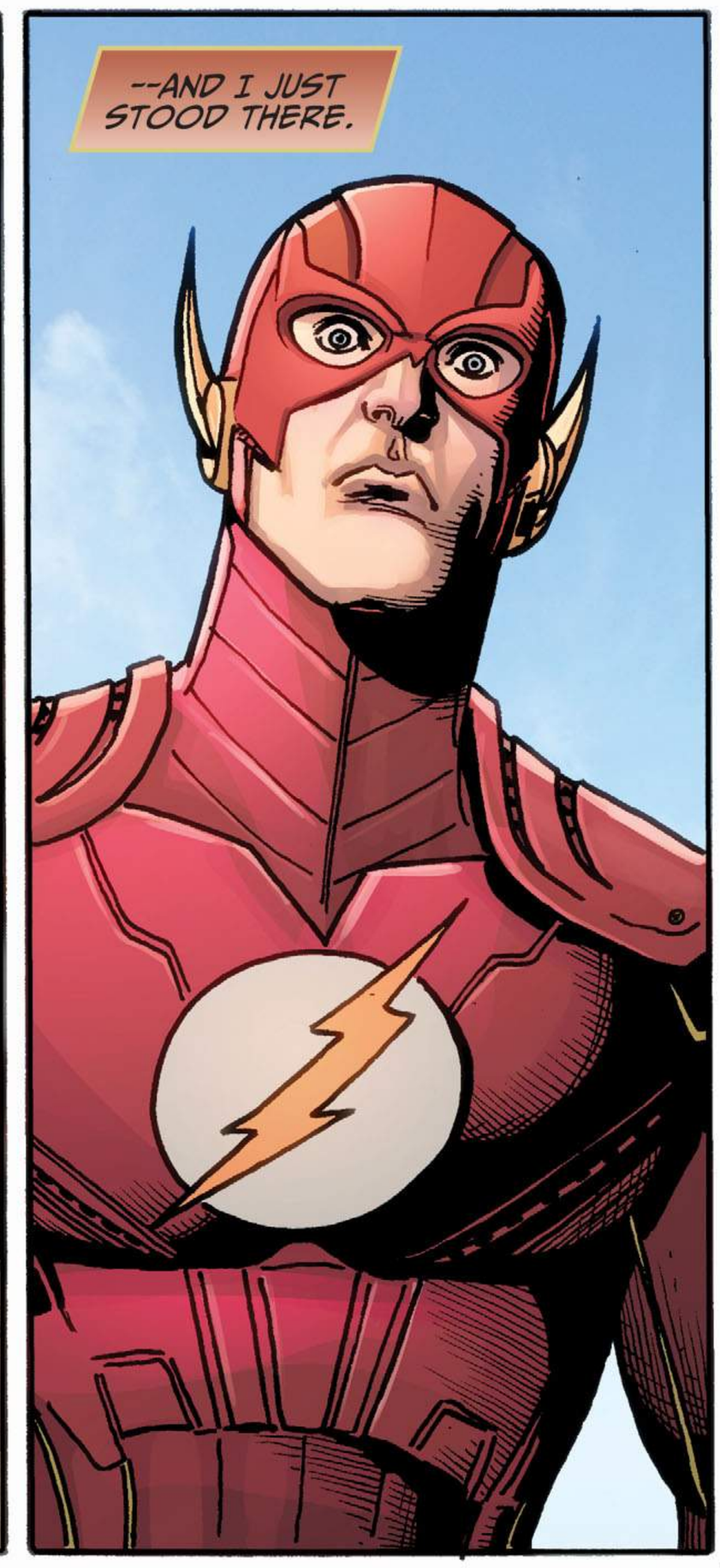
CRCK

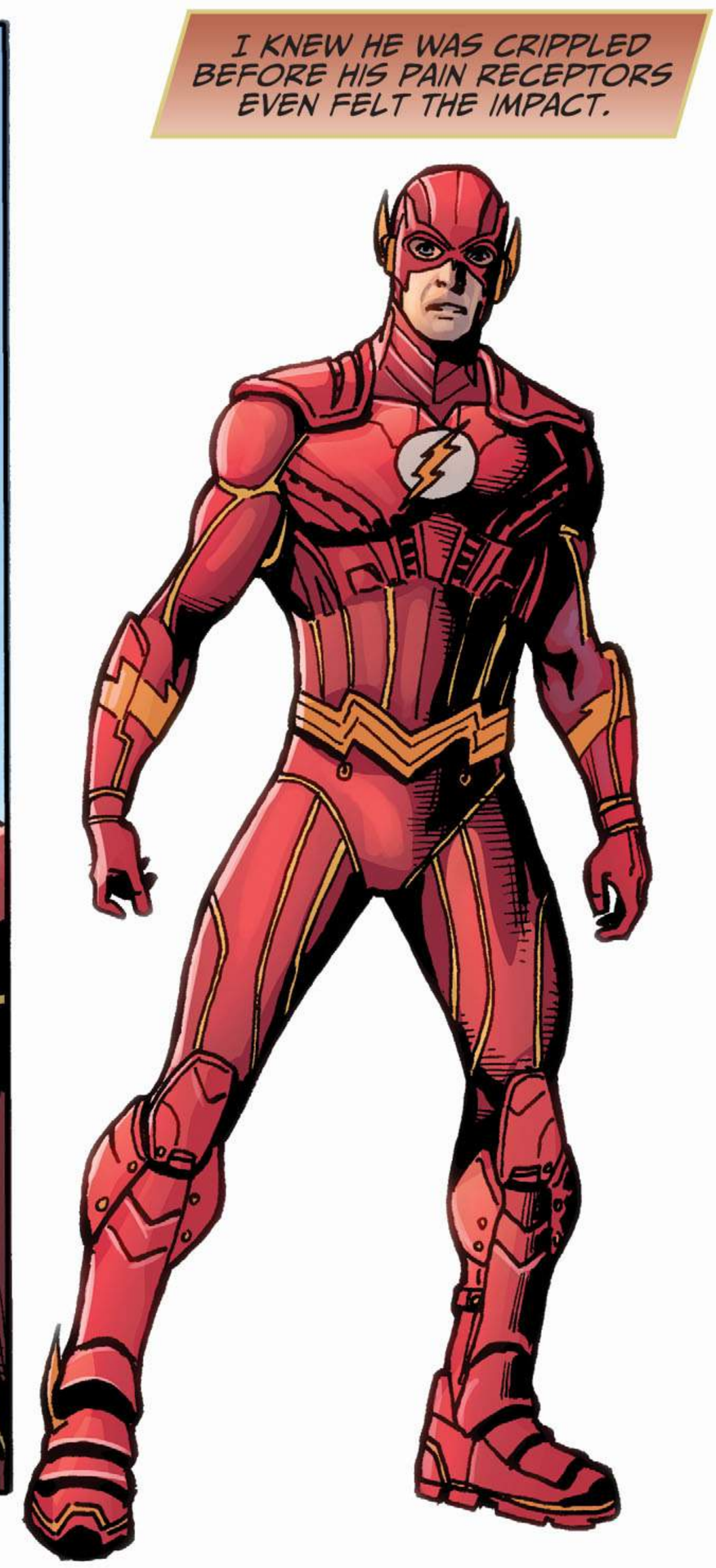
HE LOOKED SO STRONG.

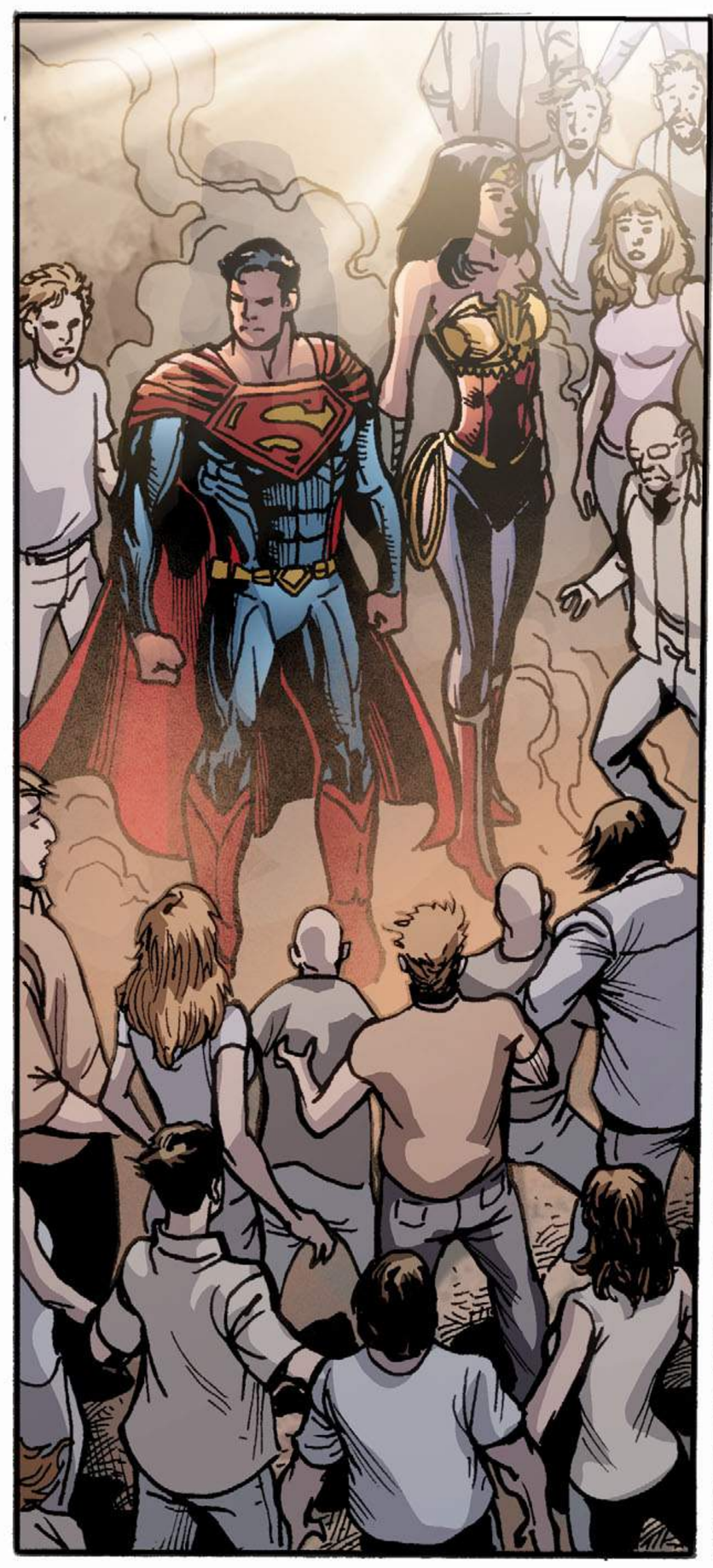
FZZZZT

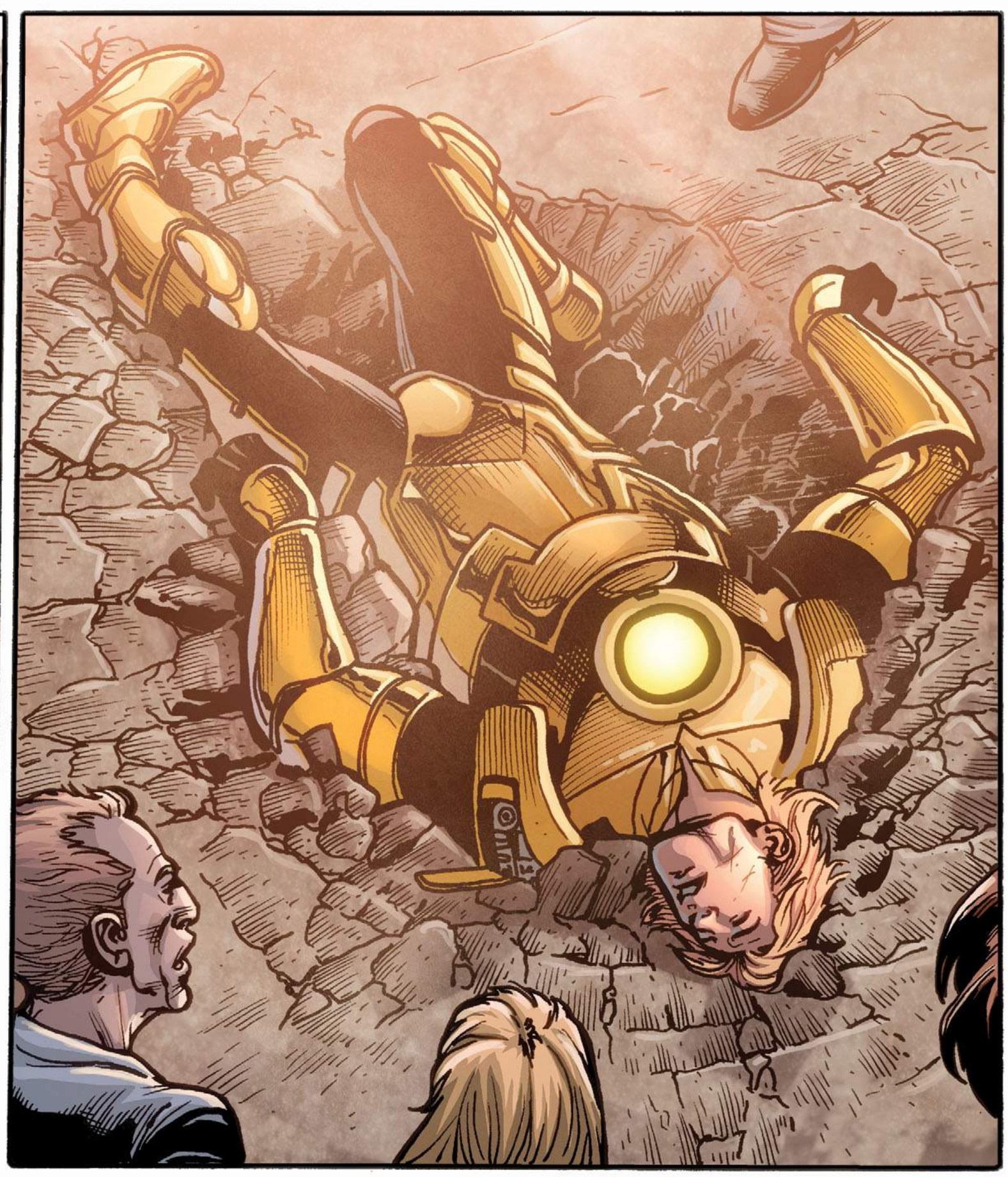
BUT HE WASN'T THAT STRONG.
GO
UNF!
THEY'D DONE A BIT OF GENETIC TWEAKING, SLAPPED SOME TECH ON HIM, PUMPED HIM FULL OF STEROIDS AND TOLD HIM HE WAS STRONG.
AND I COULD SEE IT.
IN THAT INSTANT.
I COULD SEE THIS SCARED KID WHO'D JUST REALIZED THAT HE WASN'T SUPERMAN.
BUT I DIDN'T MOVE.

IN THE TIME BETWEEN EACH VERTEBRAE POPPING, I COULD HAVE ACTED TEN TIMES.
CRCK CRCK
CRCK CRCK
I'M THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--


--AND I JUST STOOD THERE.


I KNEW HE WAS CRIPPLED BEFORE HIS PAIN RECEPTORS EVEN FELT THE IMPACT.





I SAID, DISPERSE!

FLASH, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO GET AN AMBULANCE. DON'T MOVE HIM.

BREAKING UP CIVILIAN PROTESTS NOW? HOW HEROIC.

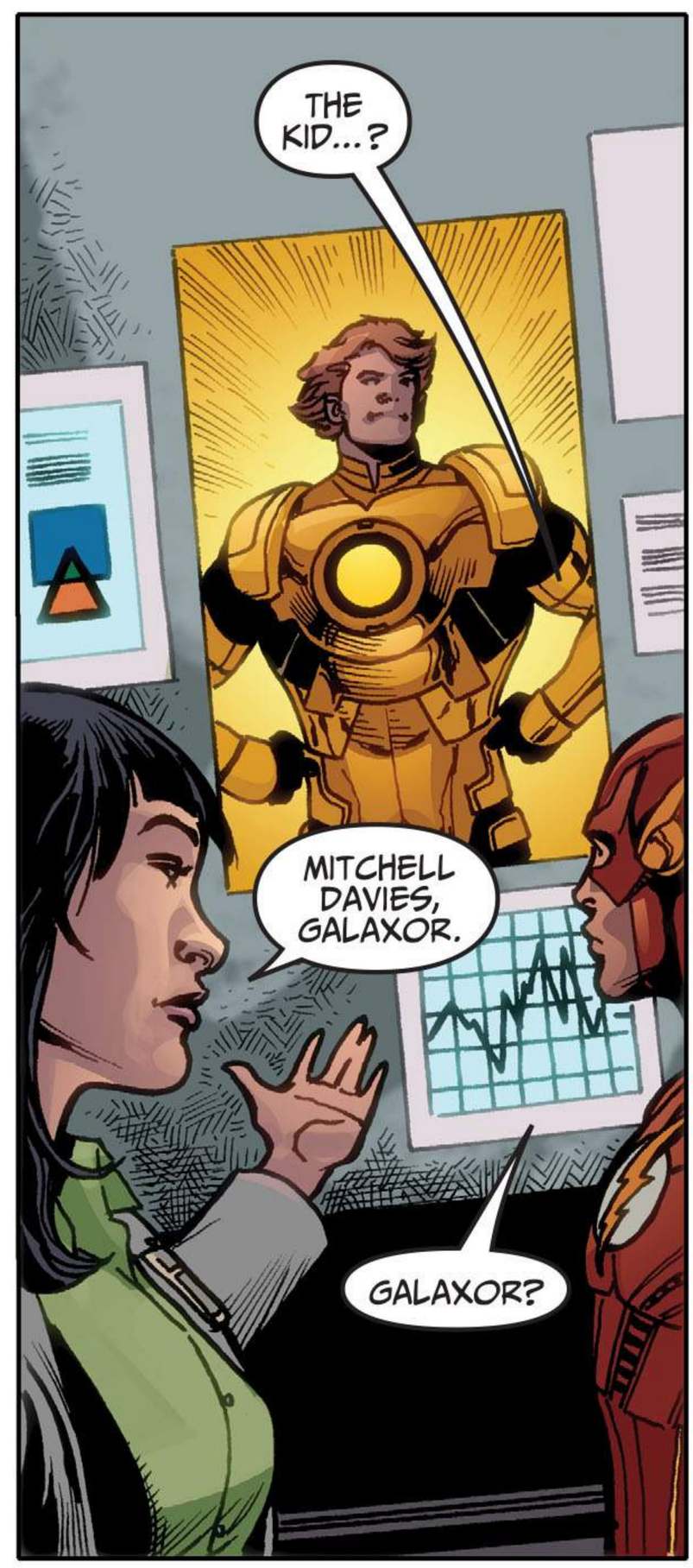
BATMAN? I THOUGHT YOUR COMMUNICATOR ACCESS WAS REVOKED.
IT WAS. I DESIGNED THE COMMUNICATORS. I UNREVOKED IT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE AMBULANCE. ONE'S ALMOST ON THE SCENE ALREADY. I WANT YOU TO HEAD TO THE ADVANCED SCIENCES AND GENETIC TESTING LABORATORY IN CANBERRA.

WHY?
I COULD TELL YOU, BUT BY THE TIME I GET DONE CONVINCING YOU--AND I WILL CONVINCE YOU--YOU COULD ALREADY BE THERE.

OKAY. I'M HERE. WHY AM I HERE?
BECAUSE YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS AND I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOU.

I HEARD YOU WERE COMING. I DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE IT. IT'S AWESOME TO MEET YOU. I'M DOCTOR NORRIS.
HE SAID YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE KID?


THE KID...?
MITCHELL DAVIES, GALAXOR.
GALAXOR?

WHAT DOES 'GALAXOR' MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW. HE MADE IT UP. HE PROBABLY JUST THOUGHT IT SOUNDED COOL. WE DIDN'T EXACTLY CHOOSE HIM FOR HIS CREATIVE SPARK.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HIM?
WHY?
HE WAS FIT, HE WAS ABLE, HE DIDN'T ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, HE WAS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO BE A SUPERHERO.

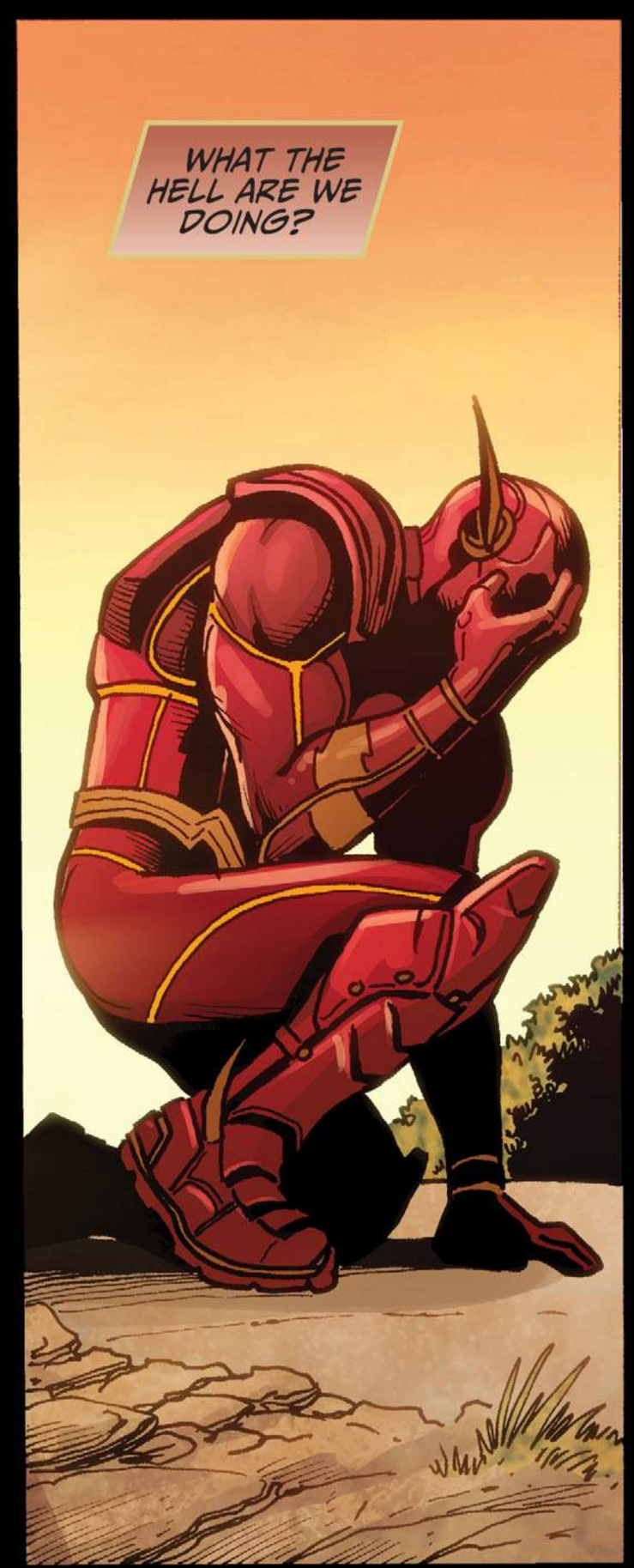
SORRY, HE'S NOT HERE AT THE MOMENT BUT HERE'S THE ROOM HE STAYS IN.
BRACE YOURSELF--

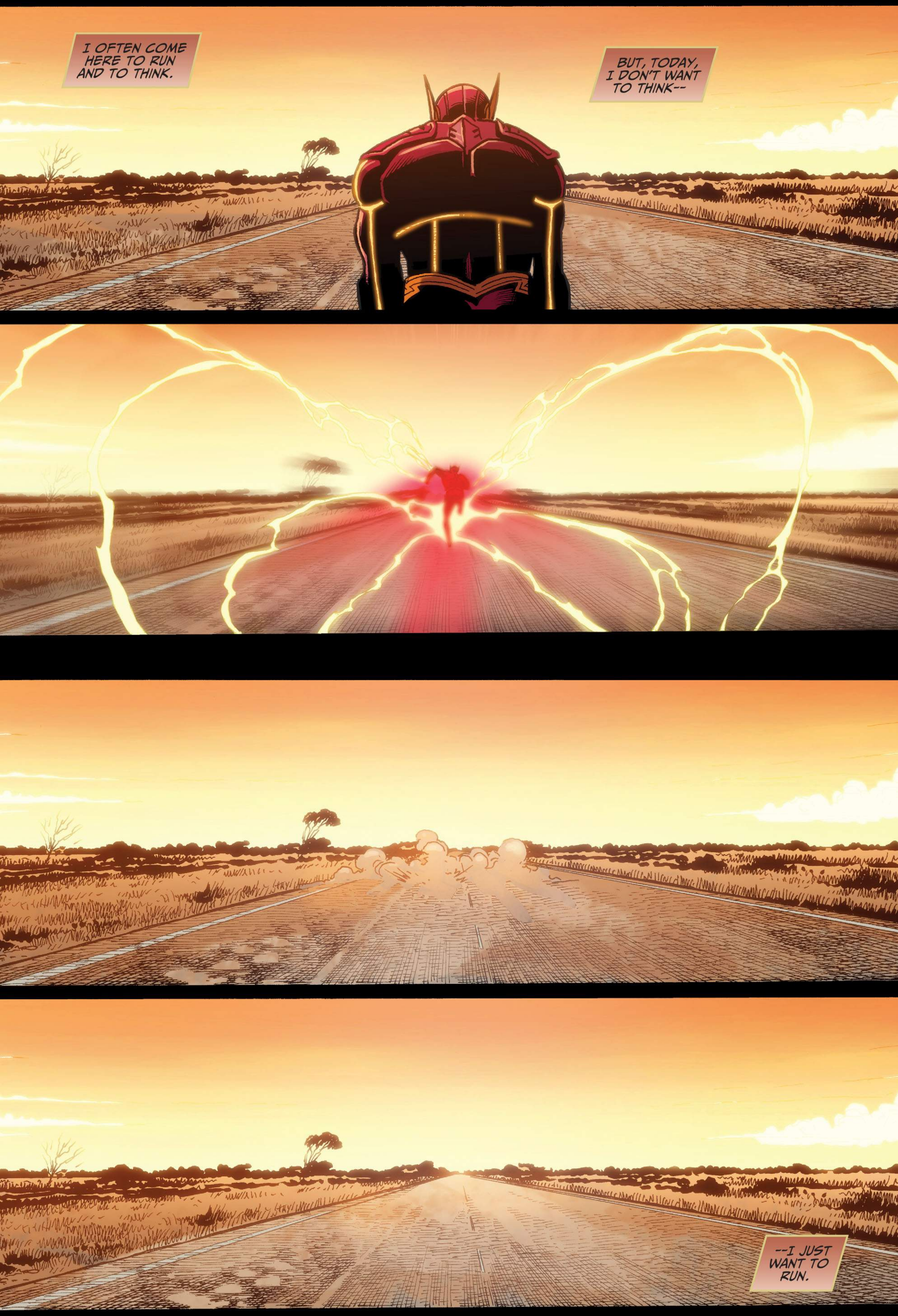
--HE'S A BIT OF A FANBOY.
MITCHELL, ANYONE CAN BE A HERO FLASH
I DON'T REMEMBER THIS PICTURE.
WHY WOULD YOU? YOU'RE THE FLASH. I BET YOU MEET HEAPS OF PEOPLE.
HOW DO YOU THINK HE FELT IN THAT MOMENT, BARRY?
MITCHELL, ANYONE CAN BE A HERO FLASH
I'M THE FLASH--
WHEN HIS IDOLS BROKE HIM?
--NO ONE CAN RUN AWAY AS FAST AS I CAN.

THE RED KANGAROO IS SIX FOOT TALL, AND TWO HUNDRED POUNDS OF MUSCLE.

WHICH MEANS NOTHING TO A TWO-HUNDRED-TON ROAD TRAIN TRUCK TRAVELLING AT SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR.
THE DRIVER COULDN'T HAVE SLOWED DOWN. AND HE PROBABLY BARELY NOTICED.

BUT I SLOWED DOWN.
I NOTICED.


WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING?

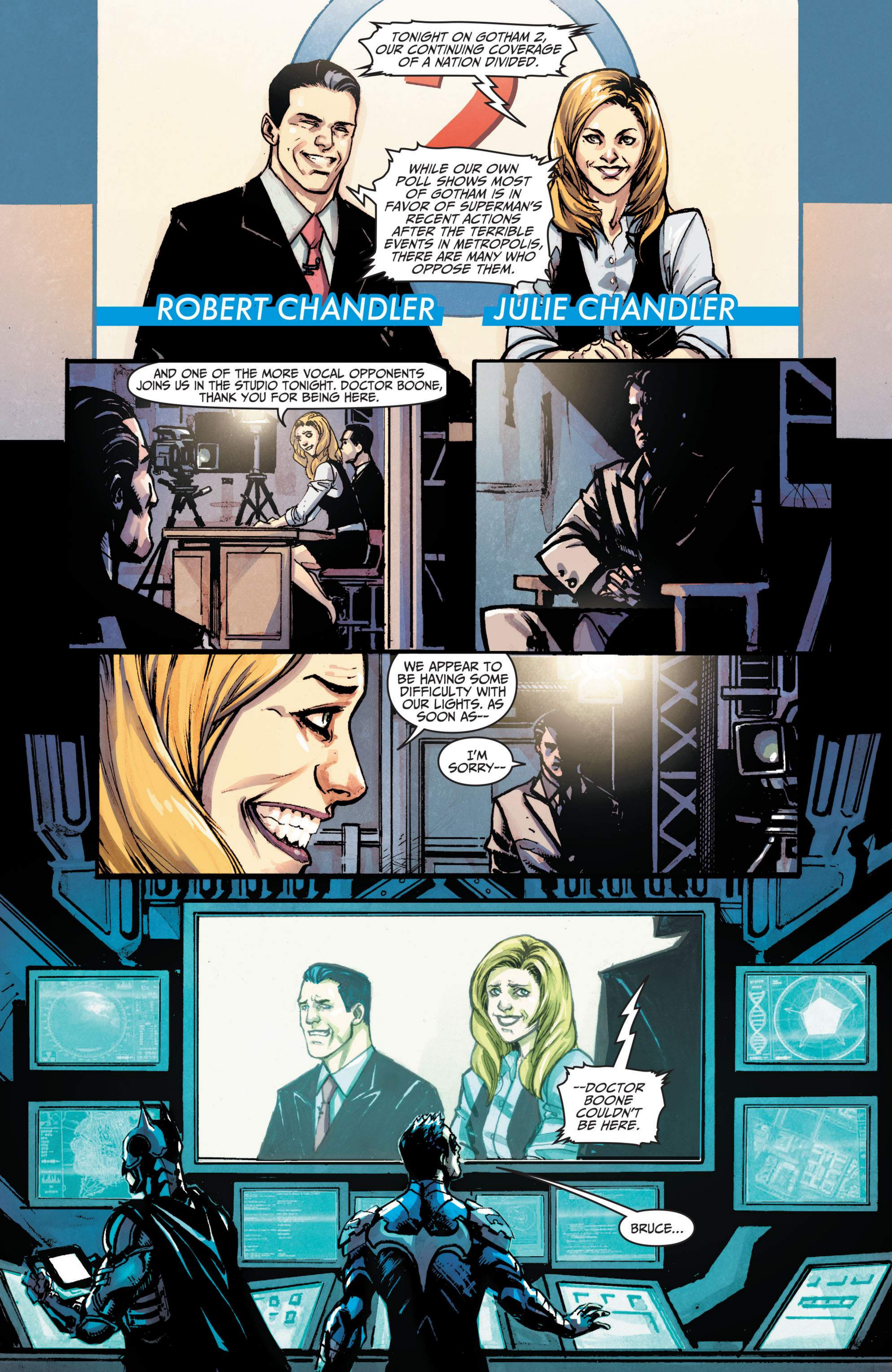

I OFTEN COME HERE TO RUN AND TO THINK.
BUT, TODAY, I DON'T WANT TO THINK--
--I JUST WANT TO RUN.

THERE'S A SCREAM THAT CAN'T BE SILENCED.
IT'S RISING. GROWING LOUDER. AND LOUDER.
IT'S THE SCREAM OF A CHILD ABANDONED, SUDDENLY, LONG AGO.

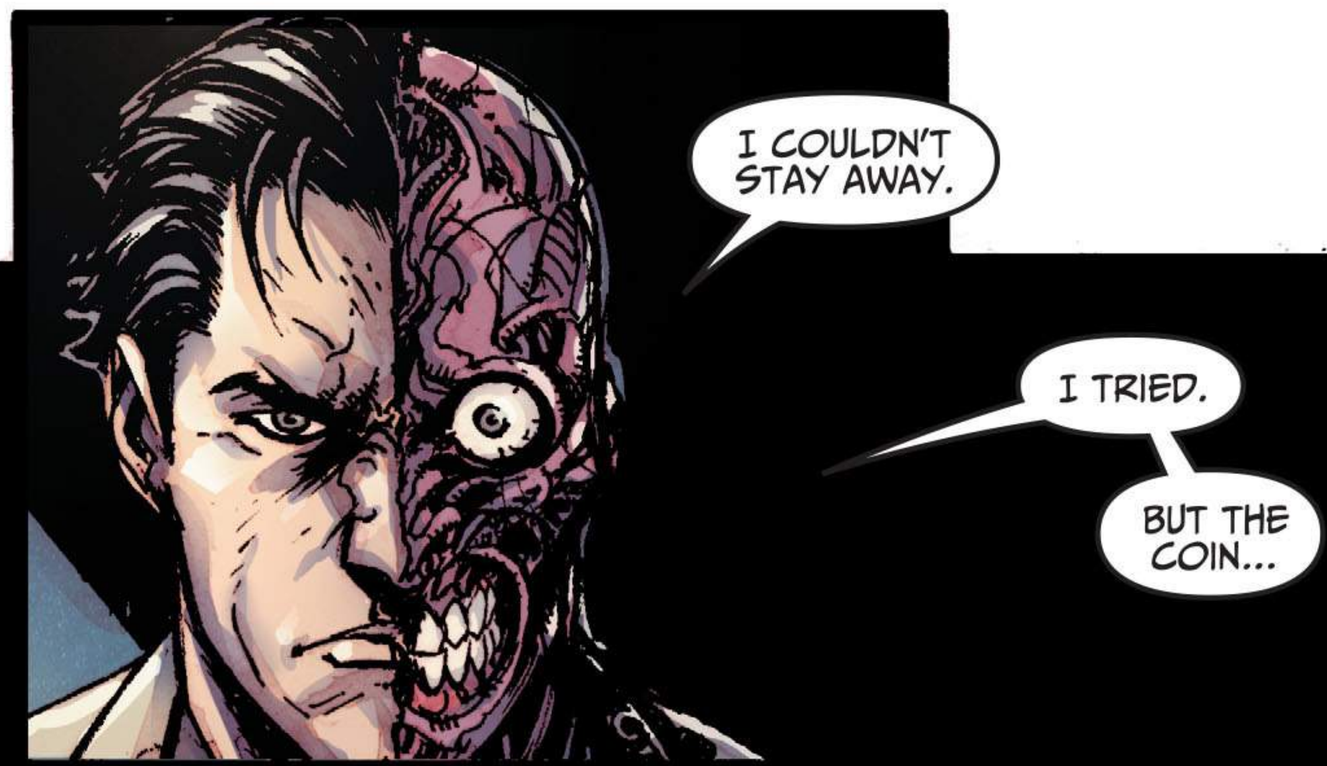
AS THE SCREAM ECHOED THEN IN THAT ALLEY, IT ECHOES NOW IN MY MIND.
IT PENETRATES ALL THE DARK PLACES.
IT SLAMS INTO THE LOSS. IT BOUNCES AGAINST THE REGRET...AND THE PAIN.

HE'S GONE.
I'M ABANDONED AGAIN.

MY SON IS DEAD.


TONIGHT ON GOTHAM 2, OUR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF A NATION DIVIDED.
WHILE OUR OWN POLL SHOWS MOST OF GOTHAM IS IN FAVOR OF SUPERMAN'S RECENT ACTIONS AFTER THE TERRIBLE EVENTS IN METROPOLIS, THERE ARE MANY WHO OPPOSE THEM.
ROBERT CHANDLER
JULIE CHANDLER
AND ONE OF THE MORE VOCAL OPPONENTS JOINS US IN THE STUDIO TONIGHT. DOCTOR BOONE, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.
WE APPEAR TO BE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY WITH OUR LIGHTS. AS SOON AS--
I'M SORRY--
--DOCTOR BOONE COULDN'T BE HERE.
BRUCE...

CHANNEL TWO. TWIN ANCHORS.
A NATION DIVIDED.


I COULDN'T STAY AWAY.
I TRIED.
BUT THE COIN...

AND NOW WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHICH ONE OF YOU I'M REPLACING TONIGHT.
NO. PLEASE.

FZZZT

SOMEONE TELL ME!!!

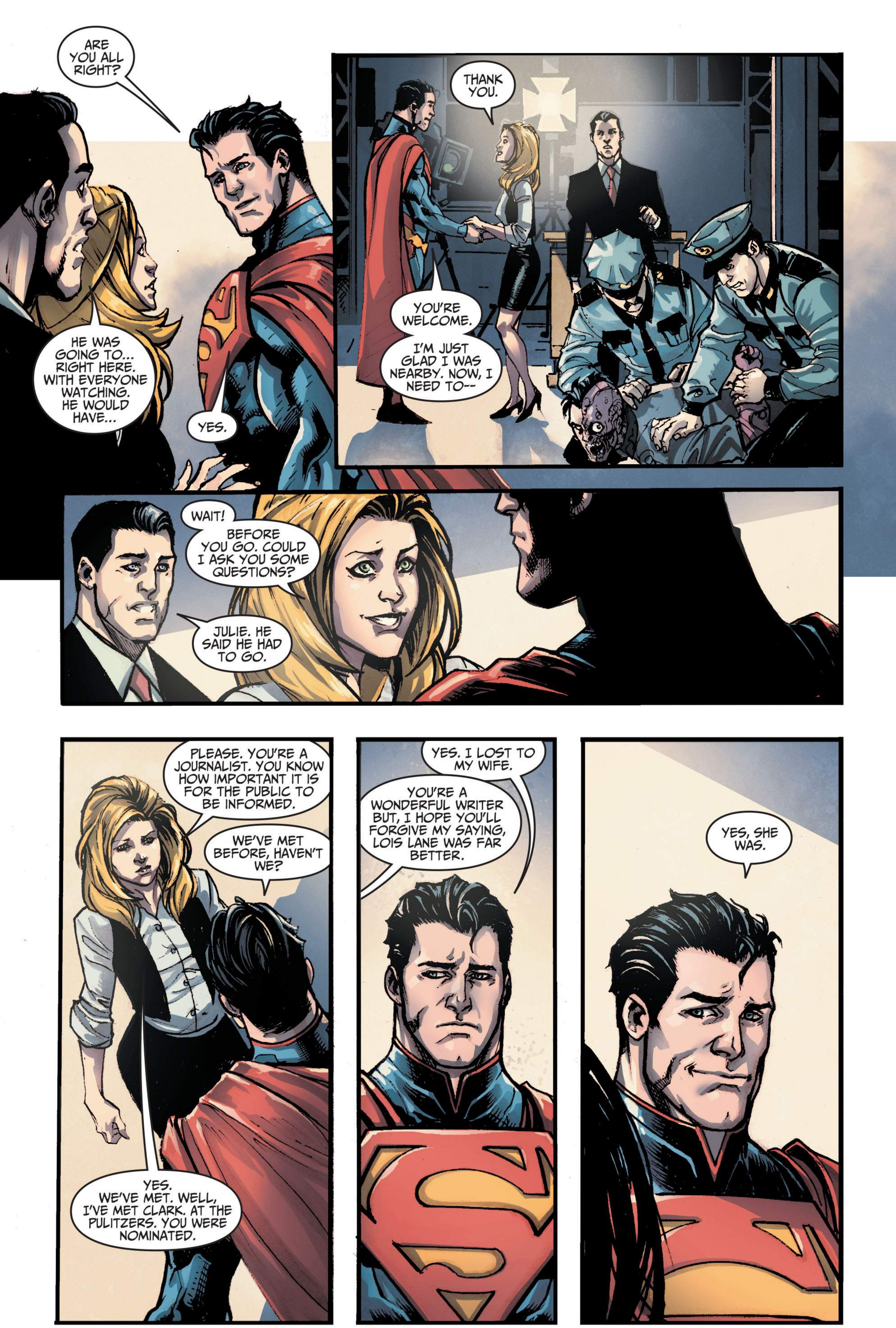
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN.

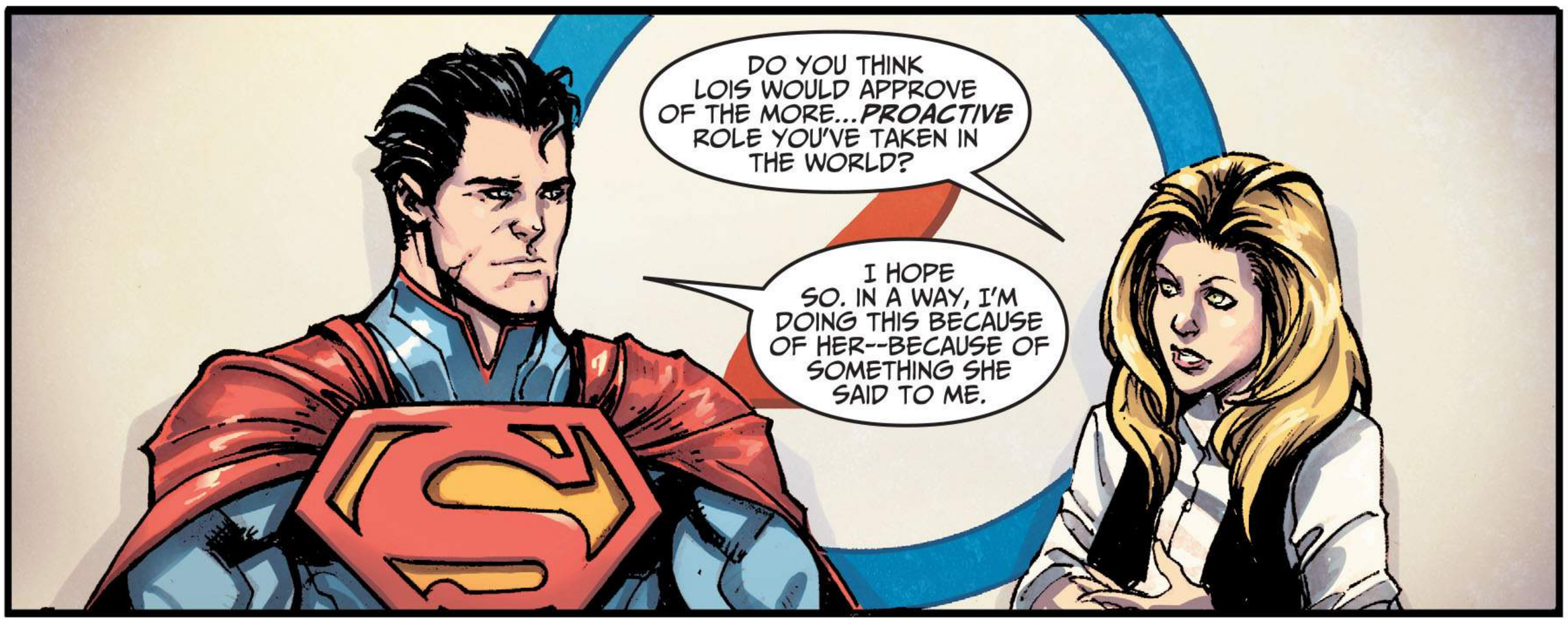
TELL ME.

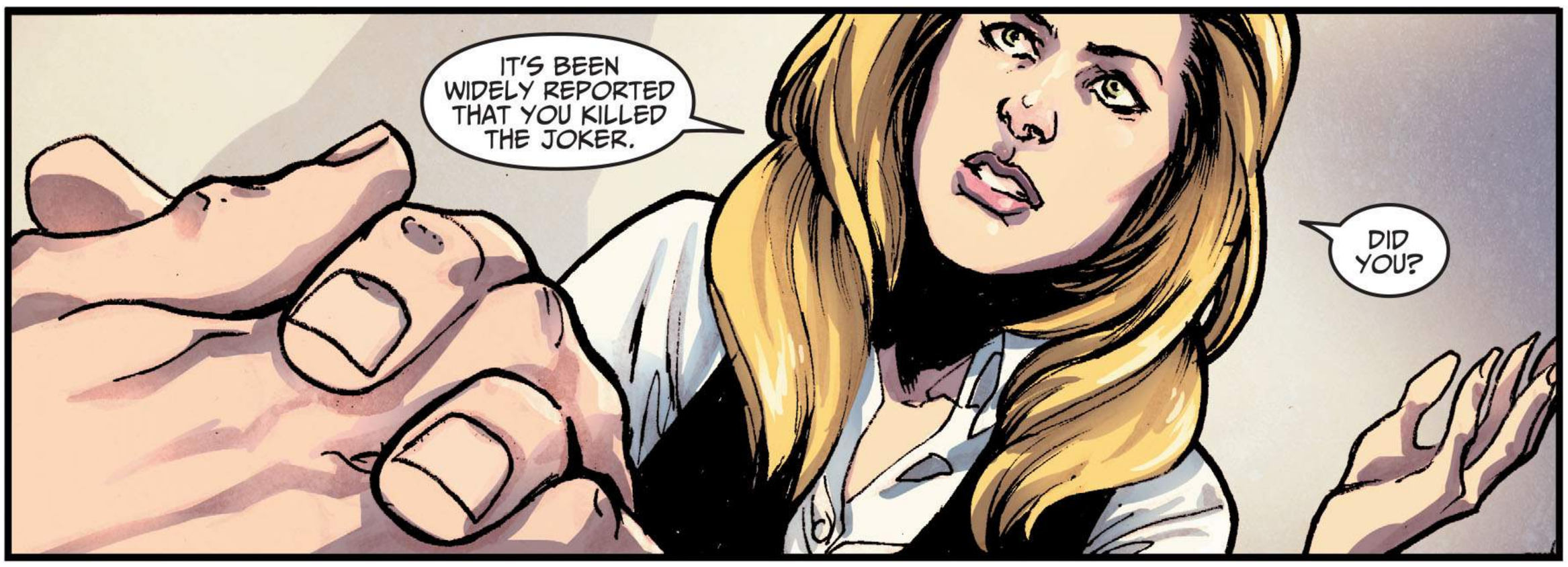
PLEASE.

NO.

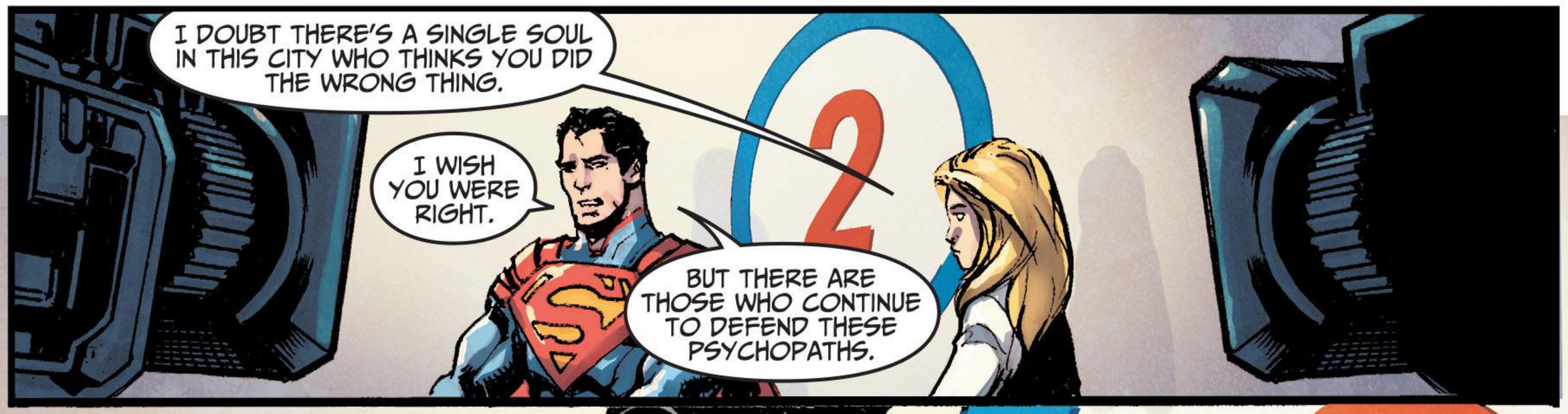
CRRCK


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE WAS GOING TO... RIGHT HERE. WITH EVERYONE WATCHING. HE WOULD HAVE...
YES.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
I'M JUST GLAD I WAS NEARBY. NOW, I NEED TO--
WAIT!
BEFORE YOU GO. COULD I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?
JULIE. HE SAID HE HAD TO GO.
PLEASE. YOU'RE A JOURNALIST. YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE INFORMED.
WE'VE MET BEFORE, HAVEN'T WE?
YES. WE'VE MET. WELL, I'VE MET CLARK. AT THE PULITZERS. YOU WERE NOMINATED.
YES. I LOST TO MY WIFE.
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL WRITER BUT, I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE MY SAYING, LOIS LANE WAS FAR BETTER.
YES, SHE WAS.


DO YOU THINK LOIS WOULD APPROVE OF THE MORE...*PROACTIVE* ROLE YOU'VE TAKEN IN THE WORLD?
I HOPE SO. IN A WAY, I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE OF HER--BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SHE SAID TO ME.


IT'S BEEN WIDELY REPORTED THAT YOU KILLED THE JOKER.
DID YOU?

YES.


I DOUBT THERE'S A SINGLE SOUL IN THIS CITY WHO THINKS YOU DID THE WRONG THING.
I WISH YOU WERE RIGHT.
BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO DEFEND THESE PSYCHOPATHS.

IT'S WHY I'M IN GOTHAM TODAY.
THERE'S SOMETHING... *SICK* IN YOUR CITY.

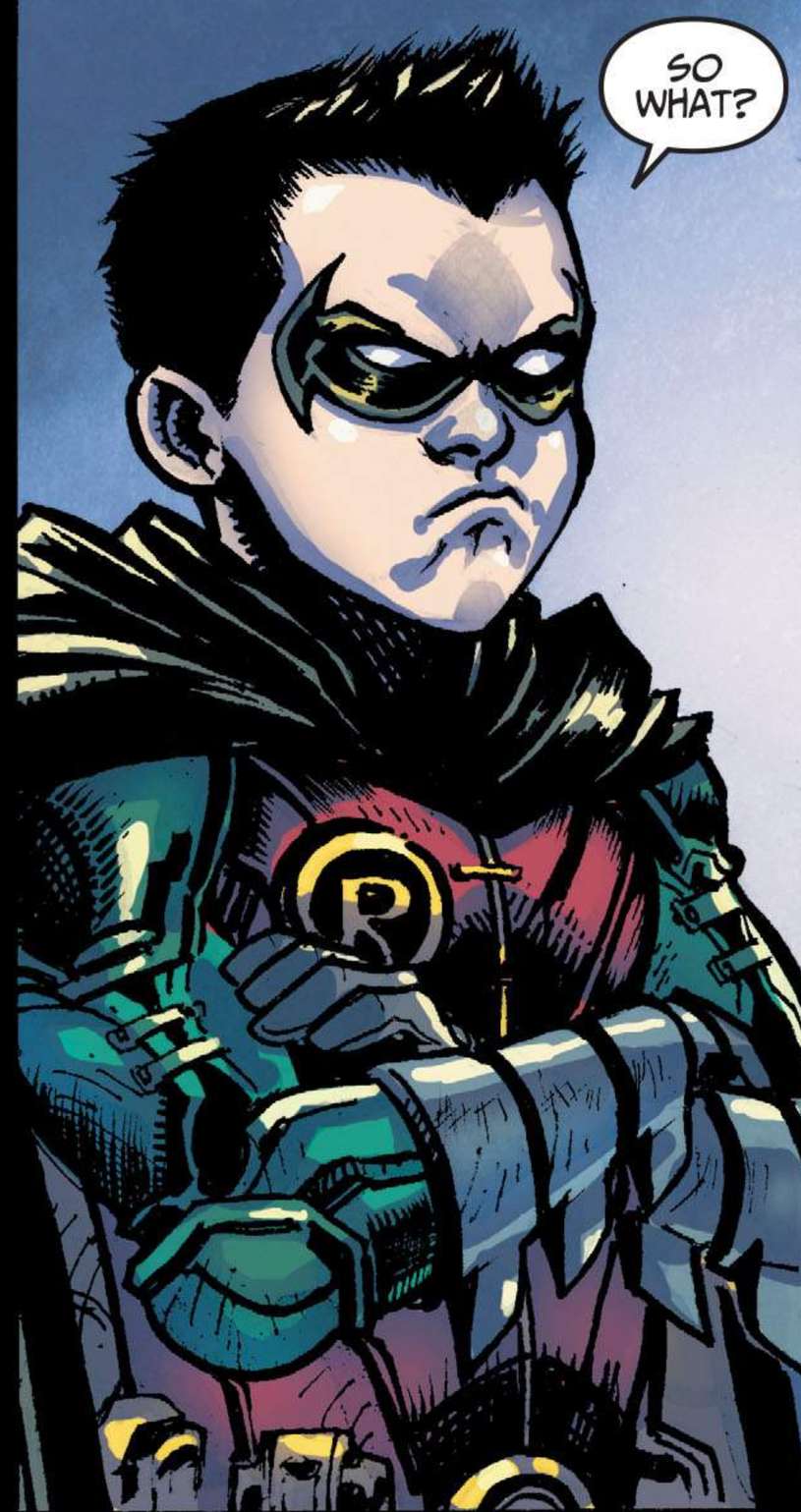
GET THE PLANE READY.
THESE TWISTED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HURT YOUR CITY TIME AND TIME AGAIN CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DO SO ANYMORE.

WHY? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I WILL NO LONGER ALLOW THEM TO KILL AND MAIM AND TERRORIZE AND THEN BE 'TREATED.'
THE ONUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON GETTING THESE PEOPLE THE HELP THEY DESERVE.

THEY DESERVE NOTHING. THEIR ILLNESS CAN NO LONGER BE AN EXCUSE FOR YOUR THREATENED SAFETY.
YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN NEVER THREATEN YOU AGAIN.
I KNOW WHY HE'S IN GOTHAM.

ONE OF THESE MADMEN PERMANENTLY SCARRED THIS WORLD.
MYSELF AND MY FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUE MEMBERS HAVE DECIDED THAT THESE CRIMINALS MUST BE TAKEN AWAY, FAR FROM GOTHAM.
OH MY GOD.

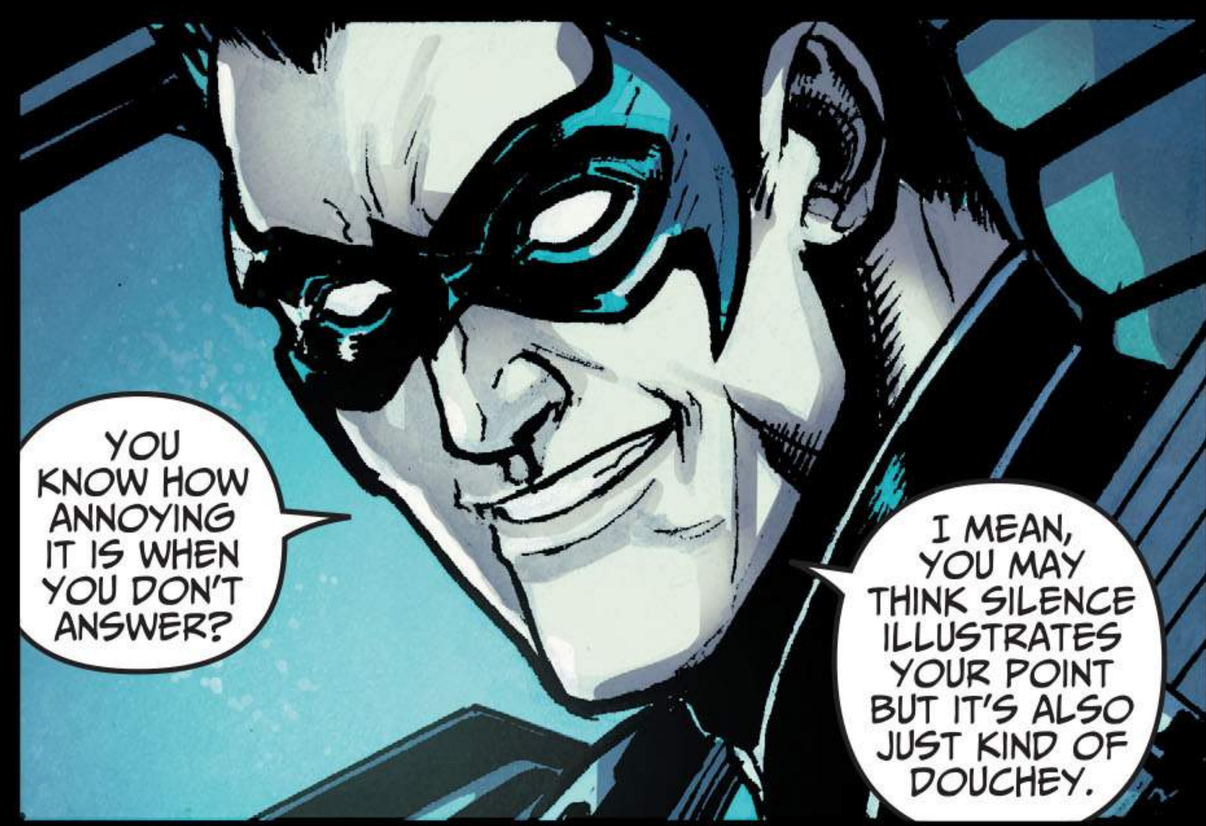
WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I PROMISE YOU, THEY WILL NEVER THREATEN YOU AGAIN.
THEY'RE GOING TO ARKHAM!


SO WHAT?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, DAMIAN. GET IN THE PLANE.
SURE. I'LL GET IN. SO LONG AS WE'RE FLYING TO ARKHAM TO HELP SUPERMAN BURN IT TO THE GROUND.

DAMIAN, YOU'RE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD. HOW ARE YOU THE DARKEST THING IN THIS CAVE?
WE NEED TO LEAVE. NOW.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED FOR A SINGLE SECOND THAT YOU MIGHT BE *WRONG?*
YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS, ARROGANT--




YOU WERE NEVER AS STUBBORN AS DAMIAN.

NO. FOR SOMEONE TO BE *THAT* STUBBORN, THEY REALLY HAVE TO BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO YOU.

"BUT BOTH OF US REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AN ANGRY TEENAGER."

"YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU? YOU KNOW WHY WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS?"

"OF COURSE. BUT YOU'VE HAD WAY LONGER TO INDOCTRINATE ME."

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RETURNING HARVEY--

ARKHAM ASYLUM

--HE'S AT A VERY IMPORTANT STAGE IN HIS TREATMENT.

WE'RE NOT RETURNING HIM, DOCTOR. I'M AFRAID WE'VE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THIS FACILITY. IT'S TIME FOR THE INMATES TO BE MOVED TO SOMEWHERE MORE SECURE.

*YOU* DON'T GET TO DECIDE--

NO--

--*THEY* DON'T GET TO DECIDE.

WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT. THEY'RE *EXACTLY* WHERE YOU SAID THEY'D BE.

YEP. STANDING WITH THE MONSTERS.

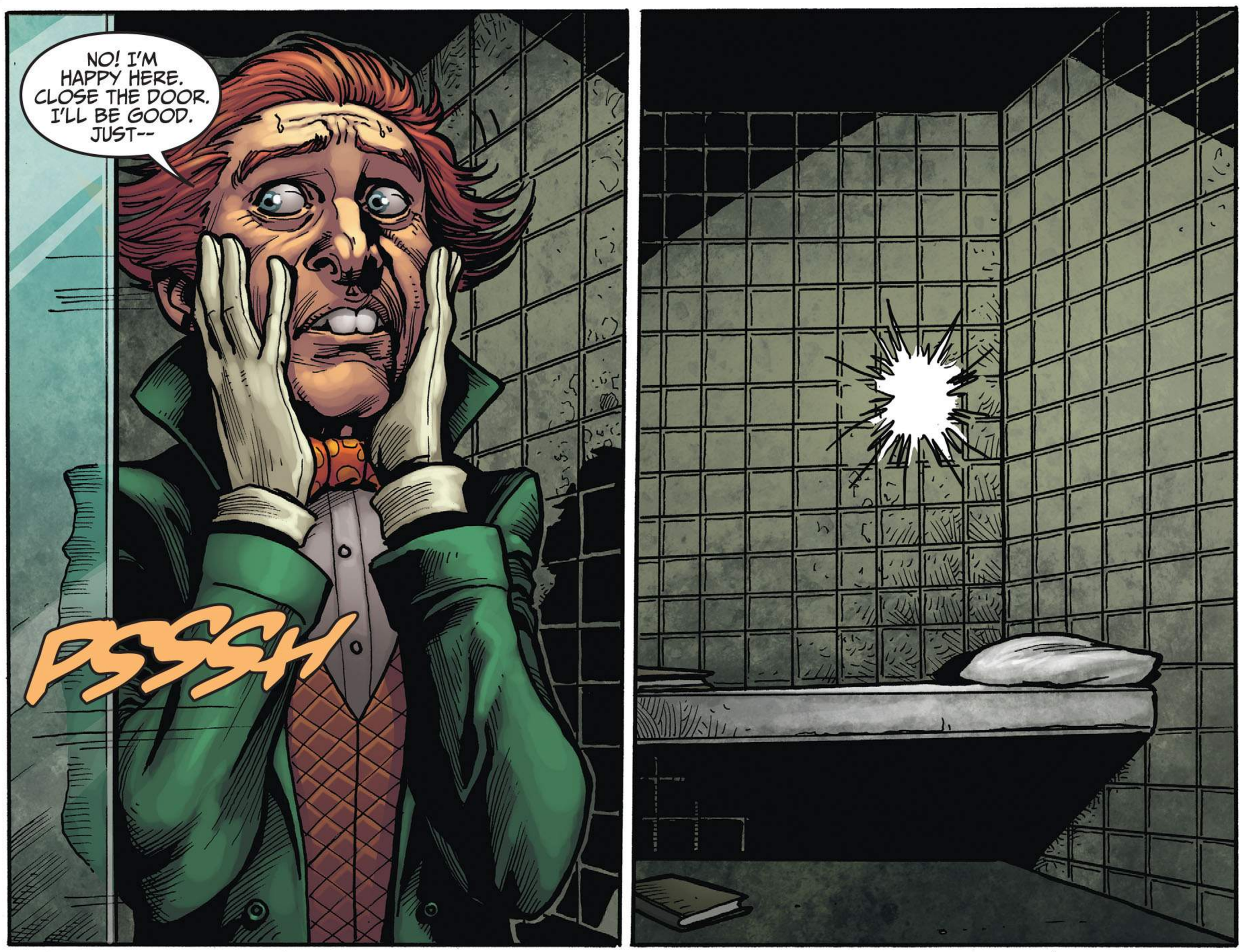
BUT IT'S JUST THE TWO OF THEM. THEY SHOULDN'T GIVE US ANY TROUBLE.

*THERE'S A SCREAM THAT CAN'T BE SILENCED...*

ROBIN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT AM I DOING?
I'M BRINGING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE. I'M STANDING WITH SUPERMAN AND CYBORG AND WONDER WOMAN.
LOOK WHO YOU'RE STANDING WITH. KILLER CROC!
AND... UM...
CALENDAR MAN!
HEY, HEY, WONDER WOMAN! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
LAST EASTER, I WAS TRYING TO STEAL FABERGE EGGS AND YOU BROKE MY COLLARBONE AND PUNCTURED MY LUNG WITH ONE OF MY RIBS.
BEST DATE EVER!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER.

I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU TO STEP ASIDE. I KNOW YOU WON'T. BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP US FROM DOING THIS.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE. YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN HERE WITH THEM.
SURE HE SHOULD.
YOU SEE THESE? EACH SCAR IS A LIFE. YOU HAVE A SCAR NOW, TOO. DON'T YOU, SUPERMAN?
DID YOU LIKE IT? DID YOU FEEL THE RELEASE?
CYBORG. ARE YOU PATCHED IN?
YES. I HAVE FULL CONTROL OF ARKHAM'S SECURITY SYSTEM.
OPEN DOOR NUMBER EIGHTY-THREE. ZSASZ.
83
NO!
YES--
PSSSH

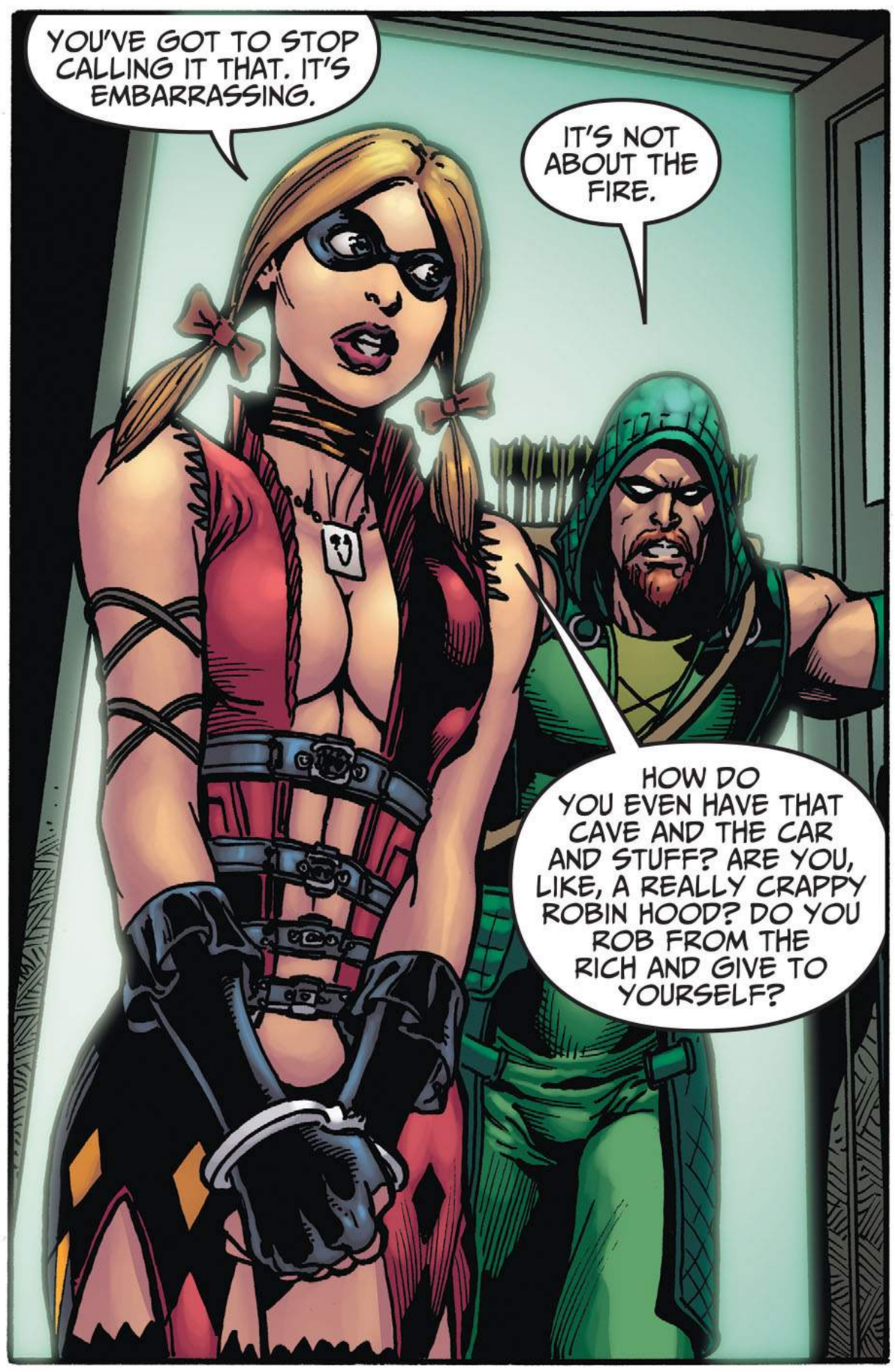
WAIT. WHERE DID HE GO?
FLASH.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
DOOR EIGHTY-SIX. MAD HATTER.


NO! I'M HAPPY HERE. CLOSE THE DOOR. I'LL BE GOOD. JUST--
PSSSH

HMM. RIDDLE ME THIS--
NO.
YOU DON'T GET TO PLAY YOUR SICK GAMES ANYMORE.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THEM?
A SECURE FACILITY, FAR AWAY, WHERE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT ANYONE EVER AGAIN. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.
NO MORE DOORS, CYBORG. ONLY WARNING.
TIME TO GO, RIDDLER.
DOOR--
HUH...?
ZZZT
DEET

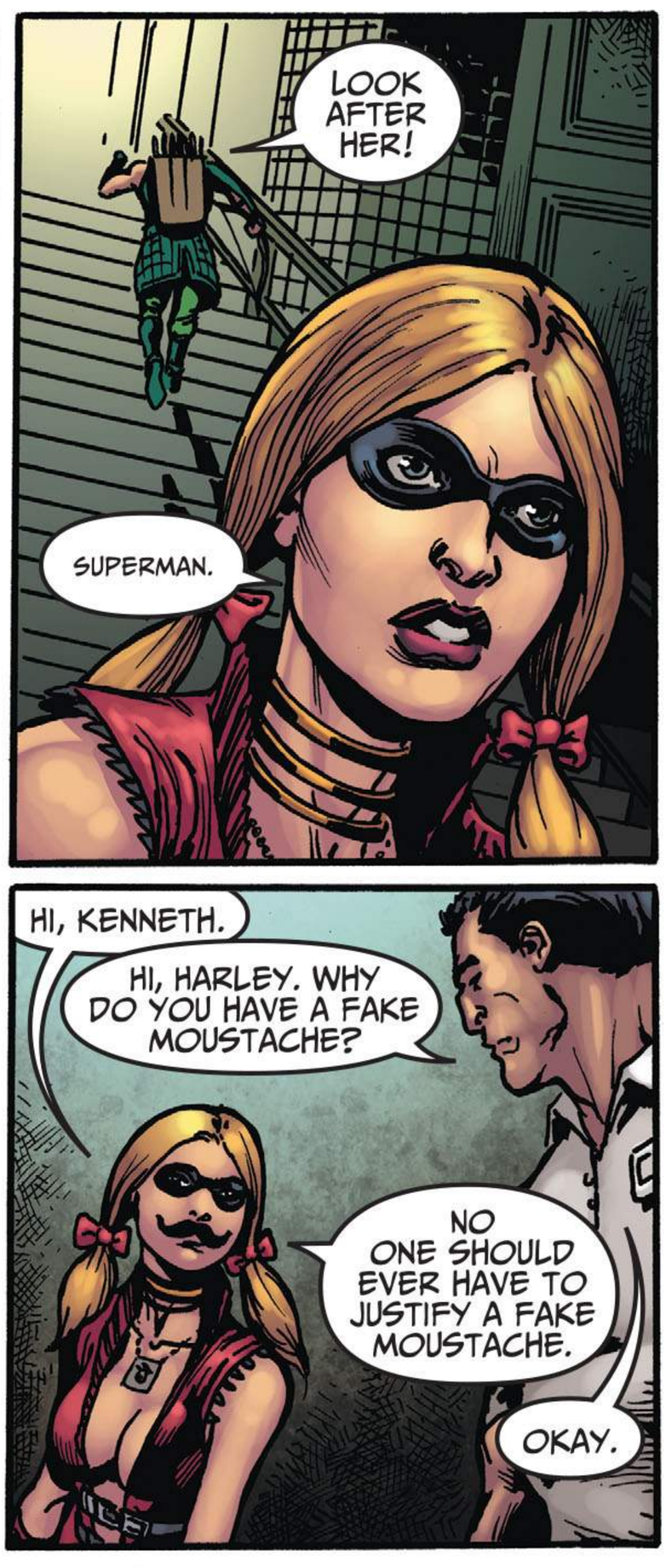
HNNNNG!
CYBORG!
ZZZZT
WHUNK

ARKHAM ASYLUM
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I'M SURE.
IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE FIRE.
IT WASN'T A *LITTLE* FIRE. IT WAS AN UNCONTROLLABLE BLAZE. I LOST MOST OF THE ARROW CAVE.


YOU'VE GOT TO STOP CALLING IT THAT. IT'S EMBARRASSING.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE FIRE.
HOW DO YOU EVEN HAVE THAT CAVE AND THE CAR AND STUFF? ARE YOU, LIKE, A REALLY CRAPPY ROBIN HOOD? DO YOU ROB FROM THE RICH AND GIVE TO YOURSELF?

YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE NOW. SUPERMAN LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON THE WAY TO BEING A BENEVOLENT DICTATOR, NOT A MURDERER.
SERIOUSLY. *ANOTHER ONE?* ARE YOU GUYS HAVING A MEETING HERE TODAY OR SOMETHING?
ANOTHER WHAT?

THE PLACE IS FULL OF SUPERHEROES TODAY. LOOK.


LOOK AFTER HER!
SUPERMAN.
HI, KENNETH.
HI, HARLEY. WHY DO YOU HAVE A FAKE MOUSTACHE?
NO ONE SHOULD EVER HAVE TO JUSTIFY A FAKE MOUSTACHE.
OKAY.

BUT, IF YOU MUST KNOW, IT'S A LOCKPICK.
HUH?

KENNETH, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I BROKEN YOUR NOSE?
CLICK
THREE TIMES. THE SAME NOSE. THREE TIMES.
I'M SORRY.

UNG...
THUD

WHERE ARE YOU?
COME ON. WHERE ARE THEY KEEPING YOU?
THERE!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THEY LOCKED YOU UP. IT WAS TOTALLY UNFAIR.
I'M GOING TO FREE YOU. I'M GOING TO TURN THE DAMPENERS OFF.
I JUST NEED YOU TO DO ONE THING--

--DESTROY THE JOINT.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT'S... IMPOSSIBLE. I'VE JUST UPGRADED MY FIREWALLS. THEY'RE COMPLETELY IMPENETRABLE. I--
THE DATE SIGNATURE.
YOU FREAK!
YOU UPLOADED THIS VIRUS THE FIRST WEEK YOU MET ME!
THAT'S PRETTY EVIL.
SHNK

OKAY. THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
YOU'RE HERE WITH THEM, TOO?
NO.
I'M ADMITTING SOMEONE.
WHO?
RESIDENTS OF ARKHAM! THIS IS YOUR BELOVED HARLEY.
QUINN.
YOU DIDN'T PUT HER IN A CELL?
I LEFT HER HANDCUFFED WITH A GUARD.
OH GOD. WHO? KENNETH?
SUPERMAN TOOK AWAY MISTAH J. AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO TAKE US ALL AWAY.
I'M LETTING YOU OUT. I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO DEFEND YOURSELVES.
AND I'M SENDING YOU SOME HELP.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
SHE'S TURNED OFF THE DAMPENERS IN THE BASEMENT!
TOOOOM

GRUNDY!
BORN... ON A... MONDAY.
TOOOOM
NO!
NNNG!
ROBIN!
DIED... ON A... SATURDAY...
BURIED... ON A... SUNDAY.

PART SIX
Mike S. Miller David Yardin Jheremy Raapack Pencillers
Mike S. Miller Jheremy Raapack Le Beau Underwood Jonas Trindade David Yardin Inkers
Mico Suayan & David Lopez and Santi Casas of Ikari Studio Cover

YES. THAT'S IT!
TEAR THE SUPER****S APART!
BUT DON'T TOUCH THE GREEN GUY WITH THE CUTE BEARD. I HAVE A LITTLE CRUSH ON HIM. IT'S PROBABLY JUST STOCKHOLM SYNDROME BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
HOLD HIM!
DO IT!
I...
SMASH HIS HEAD IN, RIDDLER!
I CAN'T JUST KILL HIM. I HAVE TO THINK OF AN APPROPRIATE RIDDLE.
THD
NAARGH!
ROBIN!

MMMF.

RELEASE HIM, CREATURE!

CRNNCH

DIANA!

I'VE GOT HER!

GRUNDY'S DEAD ALREADY, YOU KNOW? NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO HIM, HE'LL REGENERATE.

YOU *DON'T* HAVE TO *HOLD BACK.*

I'LL GET ROBIN.

YOU RELEASE SOME OF THAT TENSION.

ZZZZZT
THD
?
HRRR?

SKLORP

HNNNG!

YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE!
I HAD IT UNDER CONTROL.
OF COURSE YOU DID. YOU WERE JUST LULLING THE GIANT, UNDEAD, SUPER-STRONG CREATURE INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY BY PUTTING YOUR HEAD IN HIS FIST.

ROBIN!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WE'RE FINE. ROBIN WAS IN CONTROL THE WHOLE TIME.

GET UP THERE AND HELP PUT THE INMATES BACK IN THEIR CELLS.

THEY'RE NOT *GOING BACK* IN THEIR CELLS. WE'RE TAKING THEM--

DON'T ARGUE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF GRUNDY BEFORE HE BRINGS THE WHOLE PLACE DOWN.

*UM...* I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING REALLY LEFT OF GRUNDY.

THAT'S NEVER STOPPED HIM BEFORE.

RRRR...

GO.

RRRNNN!

DEET
DEET

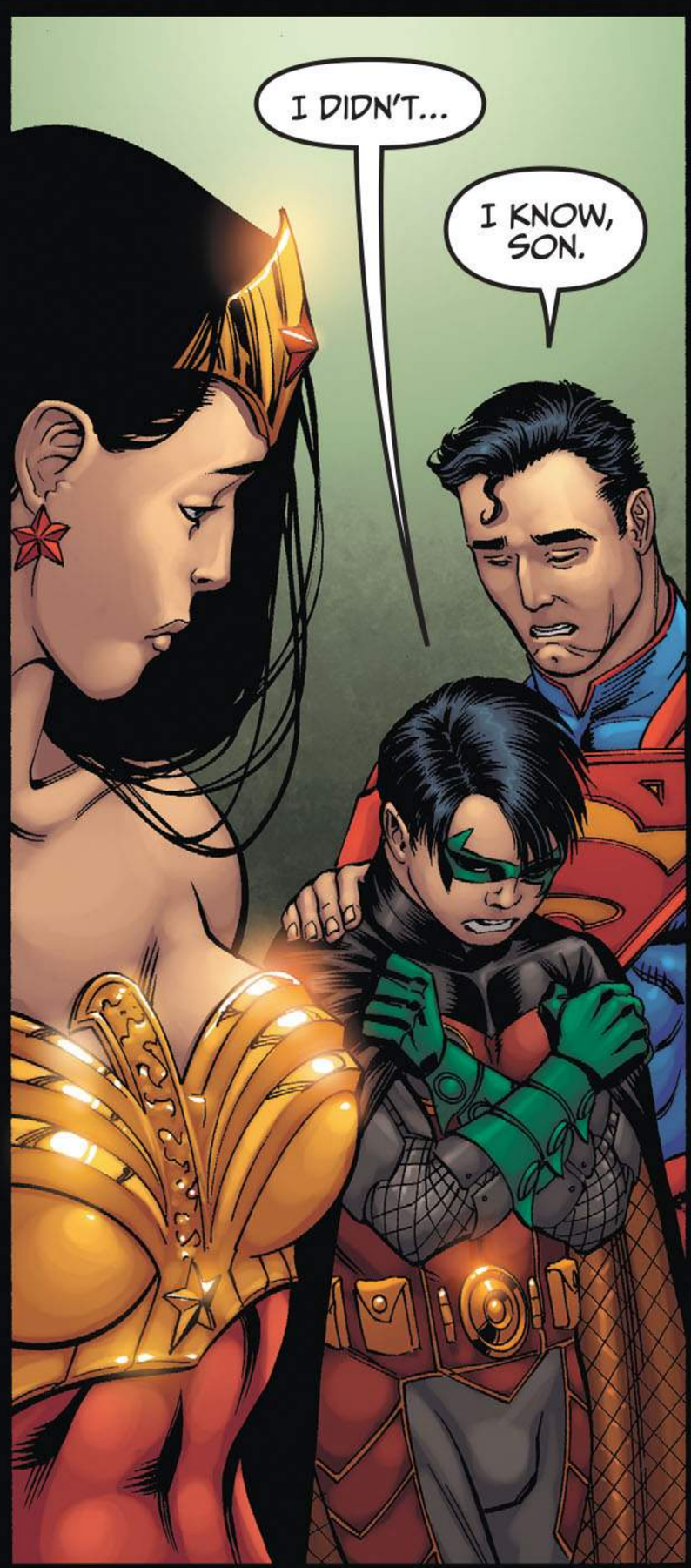
KOOM
KOOM

NICE WORK.
WE NEED TO GET HIM BACK IN HIS CELL AND GET THE DAMPENERS BACK ON.
ZOOM

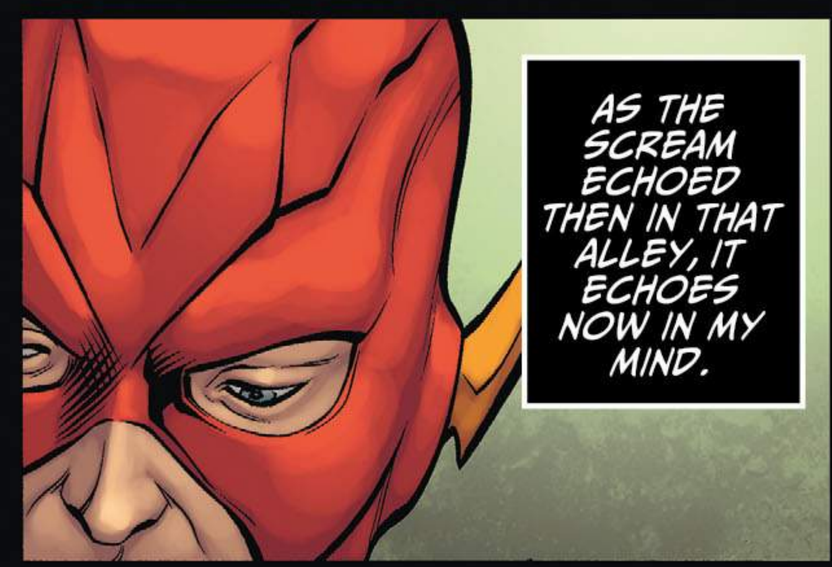
I AM SO SICK OF ALL OF YOU.
YOU THINK YOU DESERVE *HELP?*
CRCK!

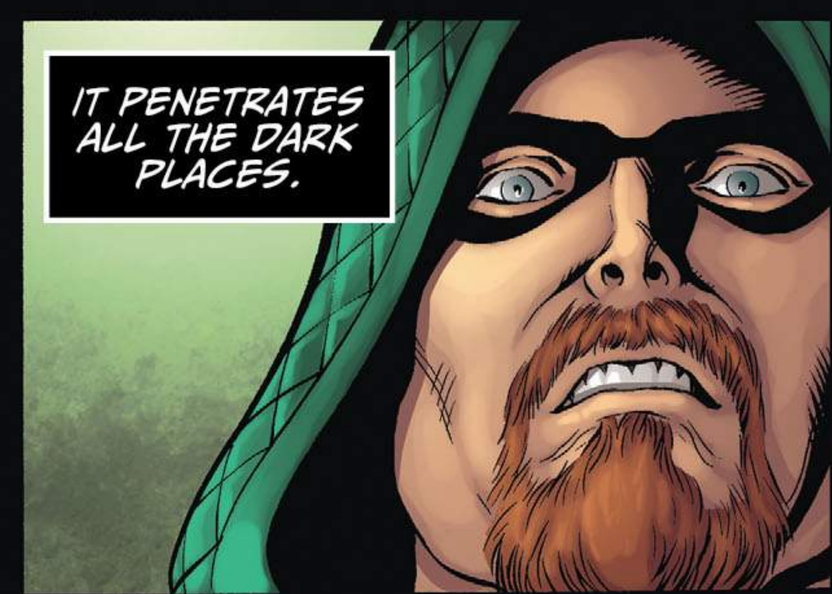
THD
CRCK
NIGHTWING?
DICK...?

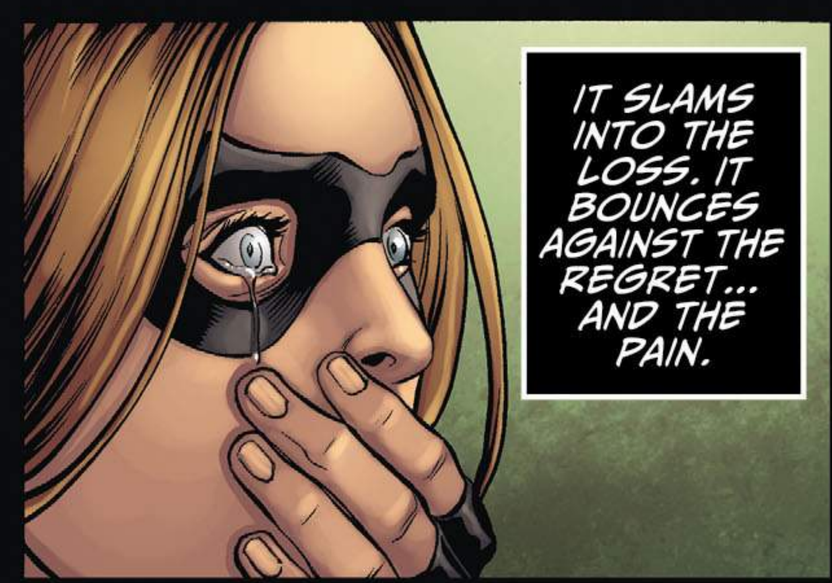
ENOUGH!
GRUNDY IS DOWN. EVERYONE BACK IN YOUR CELLS!
ARKHAM
I...
I'M SORRY.
YOU... WHAT DID YOU DO?
HE ALWAYS...
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
GET OFF OF HIM!!


I DIDN'T...
I KNOW, SON.

THERE'S A SCREAM THAT CAN'T BE SILENCED.
IT'S RISING. GROWING LOUDER. AND LOUDER.
IT'S THE SCREAM OF A CHILD ABANDONED, SUDDENLY, LONG AGO.

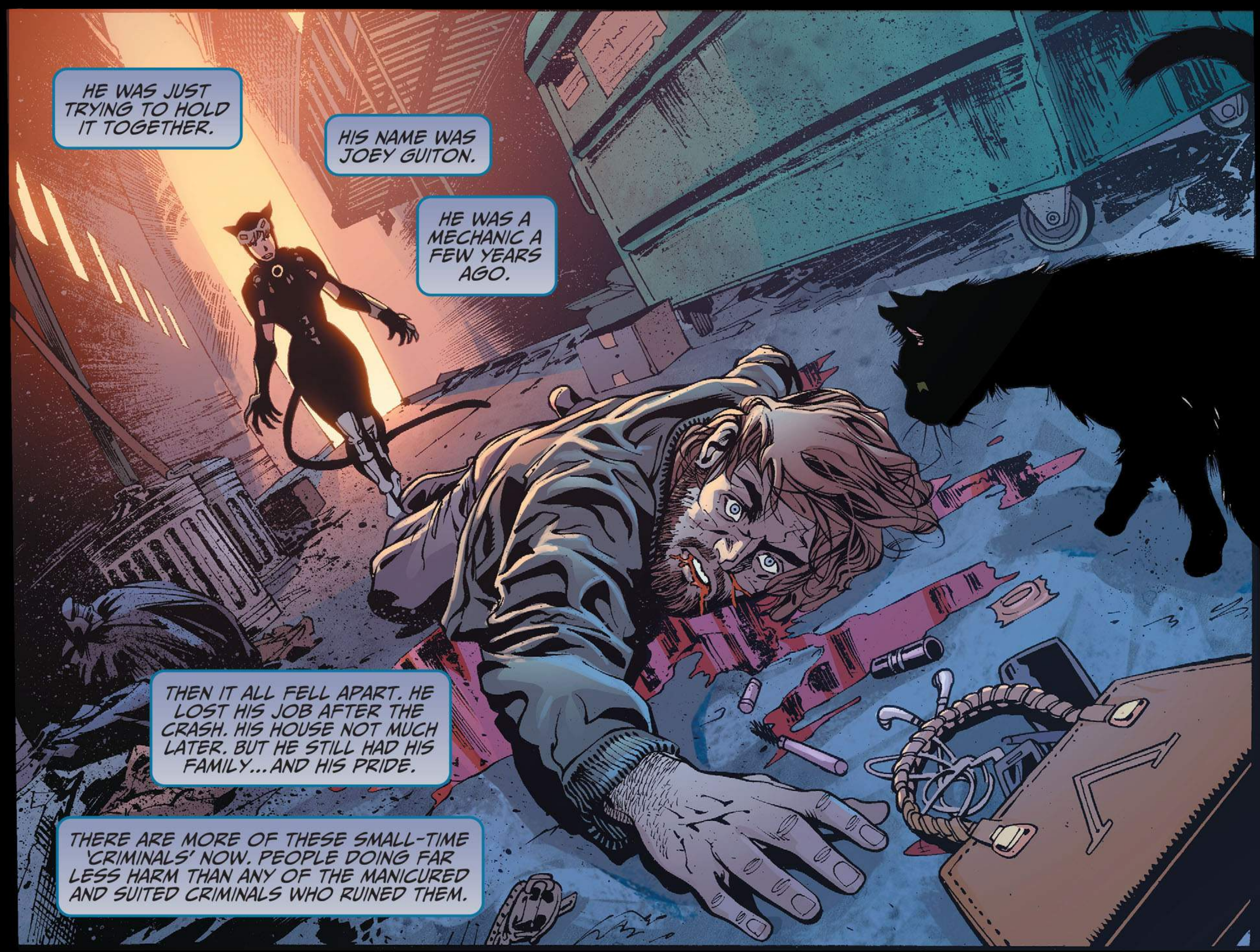

AS THE SCREAM ECHOED THEN IN THAT ALLEY, IT ECHOES NOW IN MY MIND.

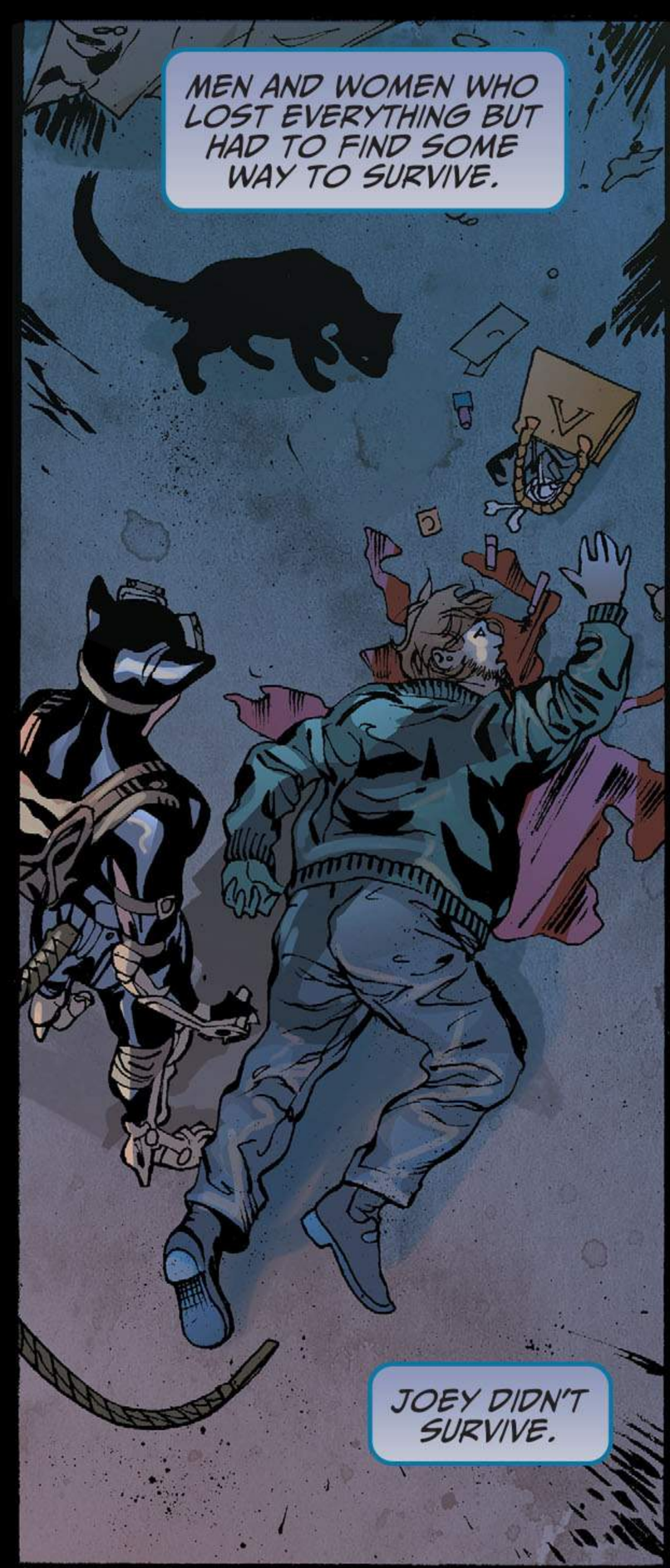

IT PENETRATES ALL THE DARK PLACES.

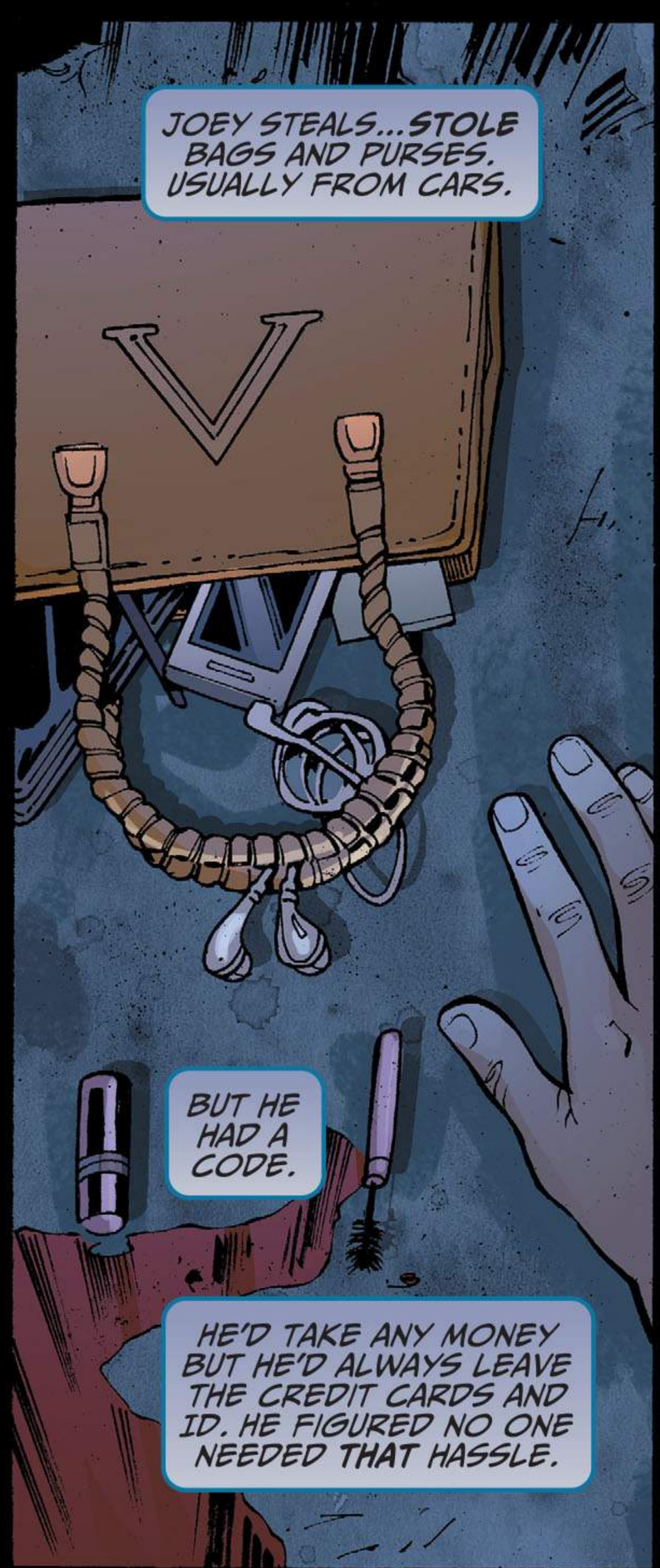

IT SLAMS INTO THE LOSS. IT BOUNCES AGAINST THE REGRET... AND THE PAIN.

HE'S GONE.
I'M ABANDONED AGAIN.

MY SON IS DEAD.


HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HOLD IT TOGETHER.
HIS NAME WAS JOEY GUITON.
HE WAS A MECHANIC A FEW YEARS AGO.
THEN IT ALL FELL APART. HE LOST HIS JOB AFTER THE CRASH. HIS HOUSE NOT MUCH LATER. BUT HE STILL HAD HIS FAMILY...AND HIS PRIDE.
THERE ARE MORE OF THESE SMALL-TIME 'CRIMINALS' NOW. PEOPLE DOING FAR LESS HARM THAN ANY OF THE MANICURED AND SUITED CRIMINALS WHO RUINED THEM.


MEN AND WOMEN WHO LOST EVERYTHING BUT HAD TO FIND SOME WAY TO SURVIVE.
JOEY DIDN'T SURVIVE.


JOEY STEALS...STOLE BAGS AND PURSES. USUALLY FROM CARS.
BUT HE HAD A CODE.
HE'D TAKE ANY MONEY BUT HE'D ALWAYS LEAVE THE CREDIT CARDS AND ID. HE FIGURED NO ONE NEEDED THAT HASSLE.

JOEY WAS ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
AND SOME SELF-RIGHTEOUS SCUM JUST SHOT HIM AND LEFT HIM BLEEDING TO DEATH IN AN ALLEY.

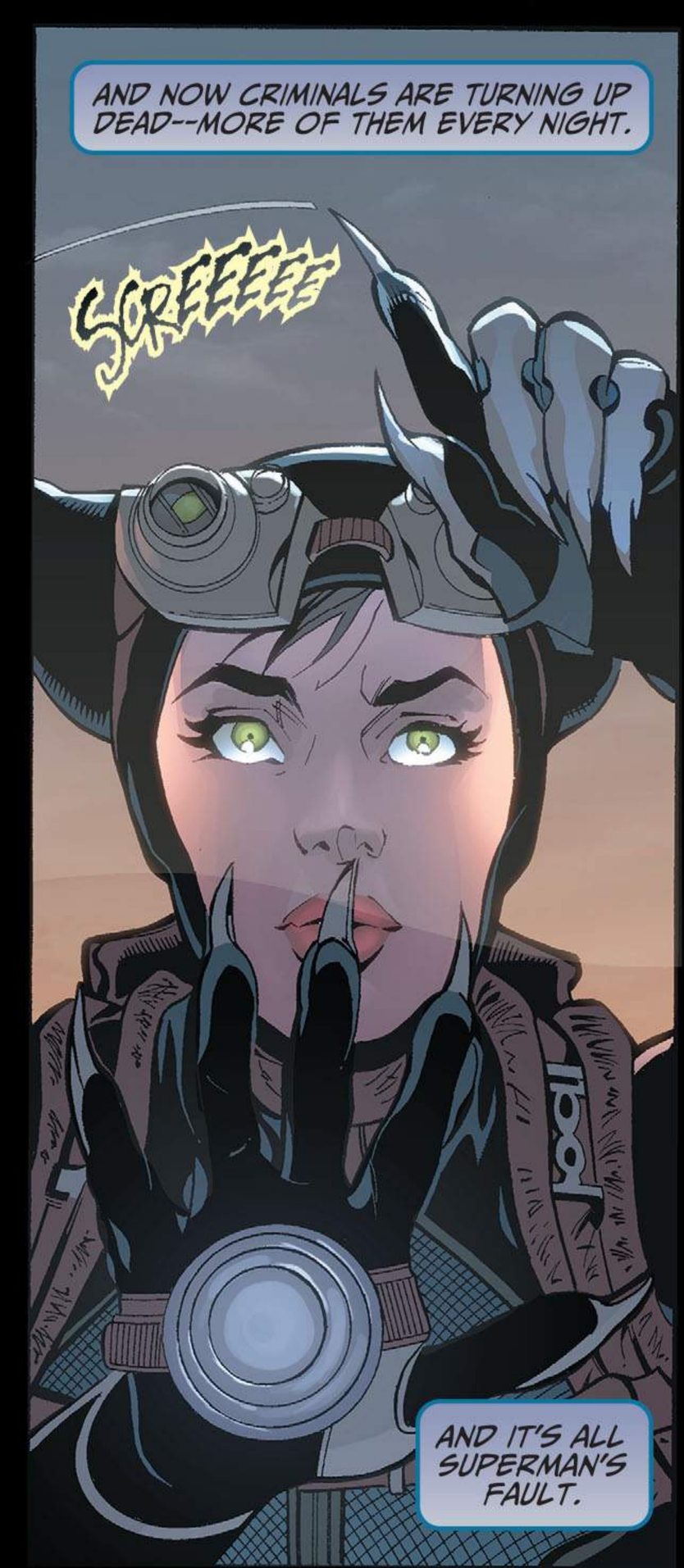
SMALL-TIME CRIMINALS ALREADY LIVE IN FEAR. A FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT.

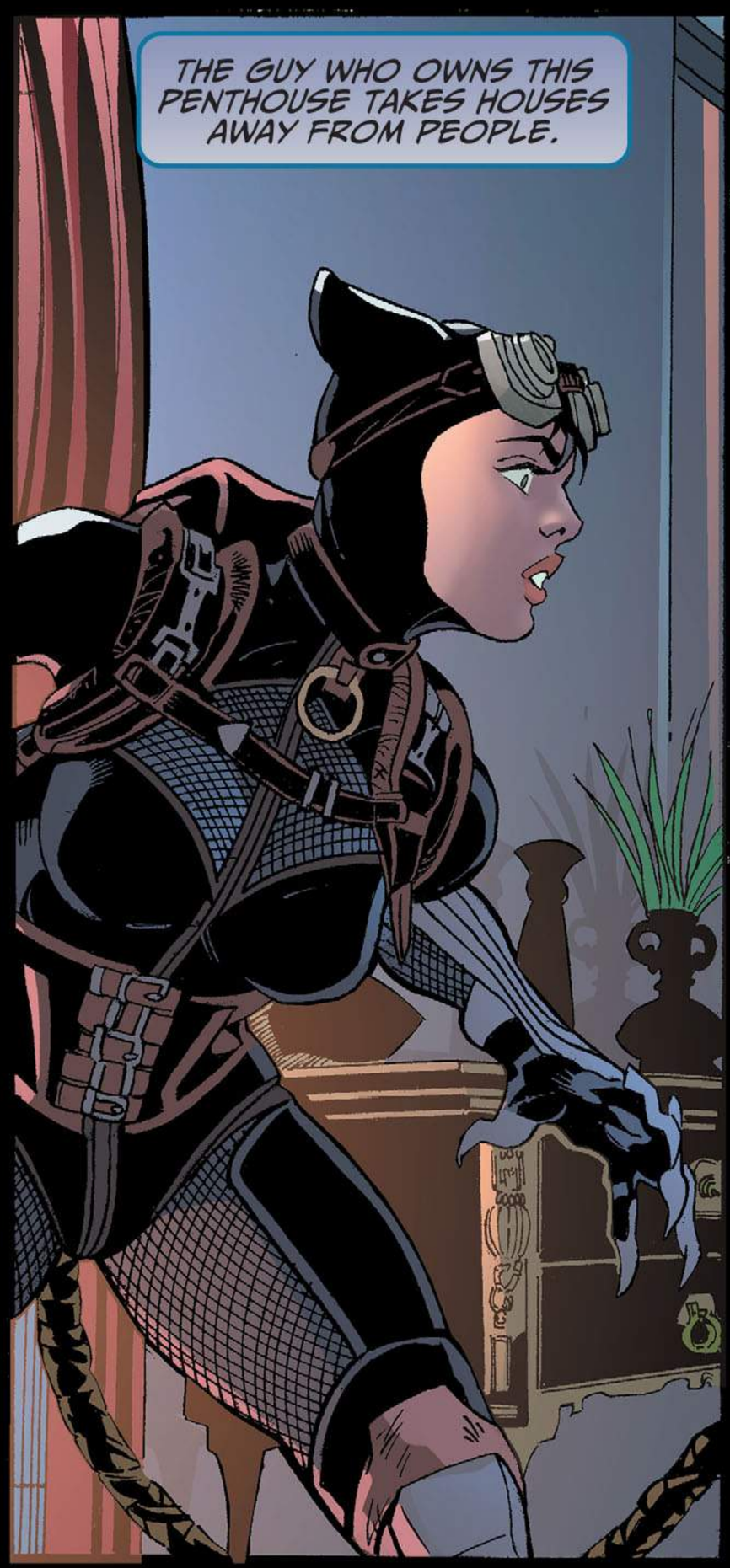
A FEAR OF DISAPPOINTING THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, OR BEING LOCKED AWAY AND NOT GETTING TO SEE THEIR CHILDREN GROW UP.

A FEAR OF LETTING DOWN THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THEM.

BUT NOW IT'S WORSE.

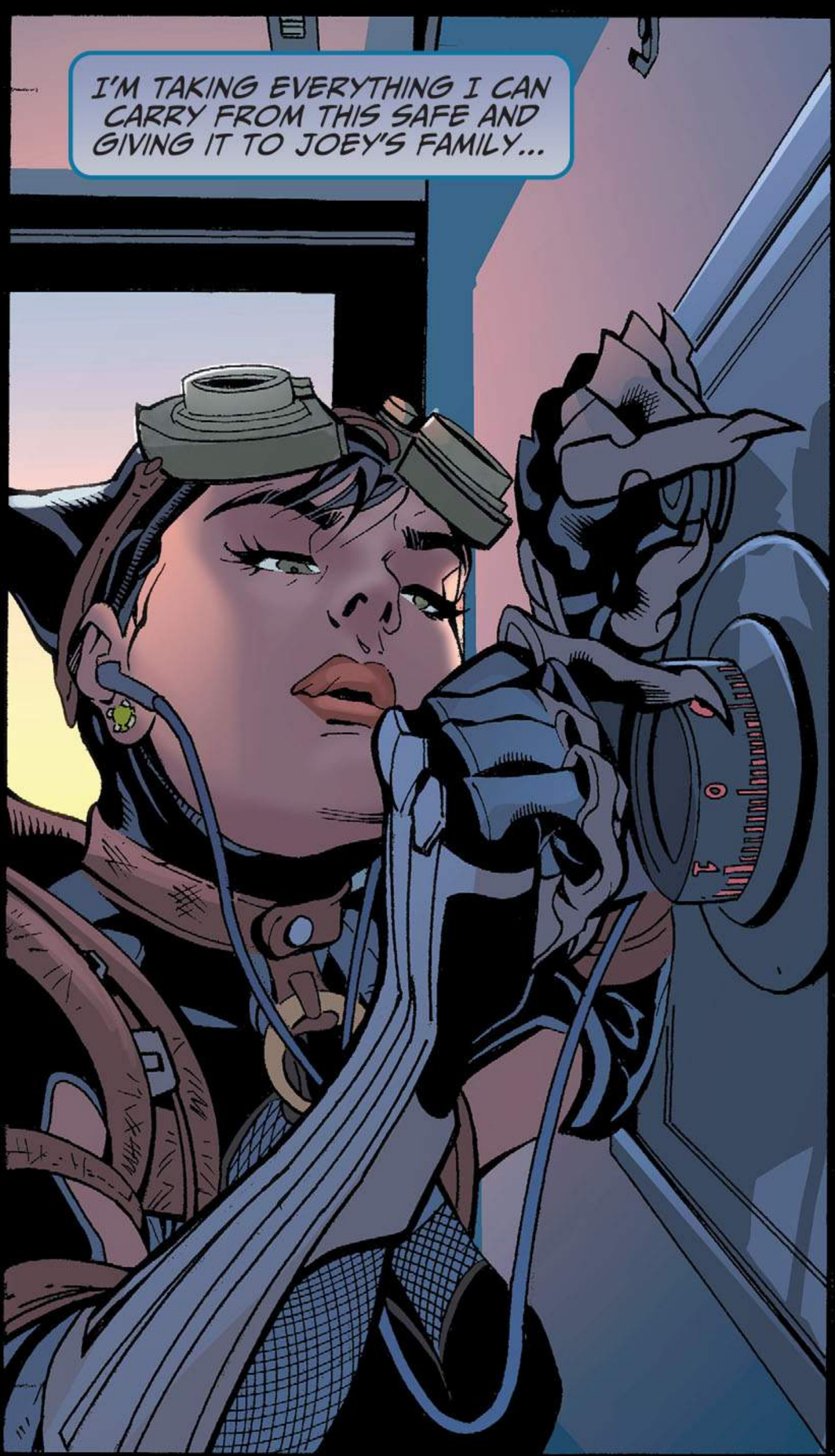
WHEN A GOD-LIKE, SUPERFAST GUY, WHO CAN SEE AND HEAR WHAT YOU'RE DOING WHENEVER HE WANTS, SUDDENLY DECIDES TO SWOOP OUT OF THE SKY AND PUT HIS FIST THROUGH ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST HIGH-PROFILE CRIMINALS... WELL, THAT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT CAN CAUSE YOUR AVERAGE CRIMINAL TO PAUSE.




THE GUY WHO OWNS THIS PENTHOUSE TAKES HOUSES AWAY FROM PEOPLE.

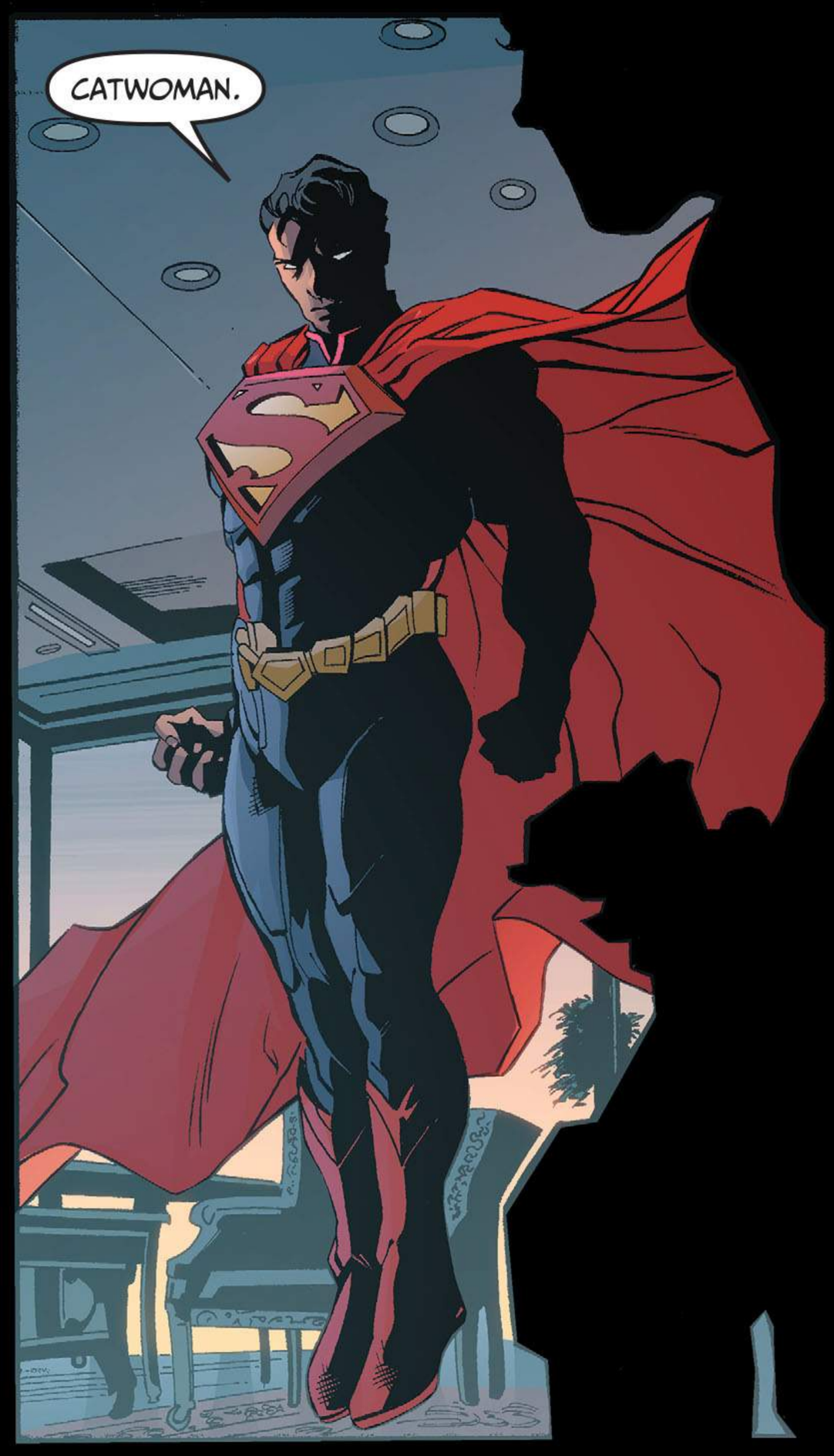
AND WHEN THIS BASTARD'S OWN HOUSE FELL--WHEN HIS GREED AND HIS MISMANAGEMENT RUINED HIS COMPANY AND ALL THOSE LIVES--HE TOOK A PILE OF TAXPAYER BAILOUT MONEY AND GAVE HIMSELF A RAISE.

THIS IS THE TRUE FACE OF EVIL.


I'M TAKING EVERYTHING I CAN CARRY FROM THIS SAFE AND GIVING IT TO JOEY'S FAMILY...

...I MAY KEEP SOME OF THE SHINIER THINGS FOR MYSELF.

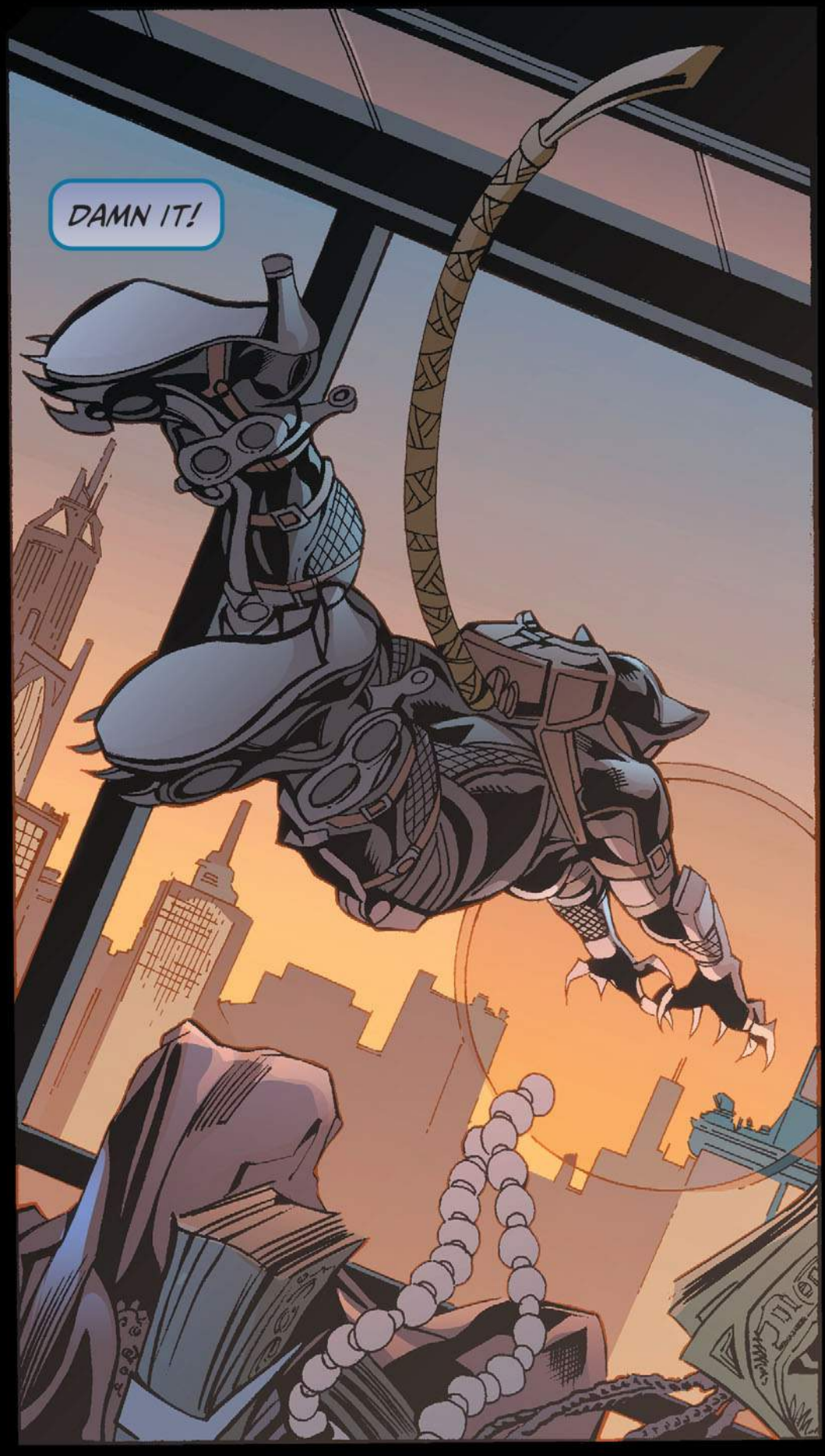
I'M NOT ALONE.


CATWOMAN.

SUPERMAN. YOU'VE COME TO HELP?
THANK YOU. THIS BAG IS PRETTY HEAVY.

WHAT...?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?


DAMN IT!

I'M USED TO PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE WITH BATMAN. BUT WE BOTH PLAY OUR PARTS. WE BOTH KNOW THE RULES.

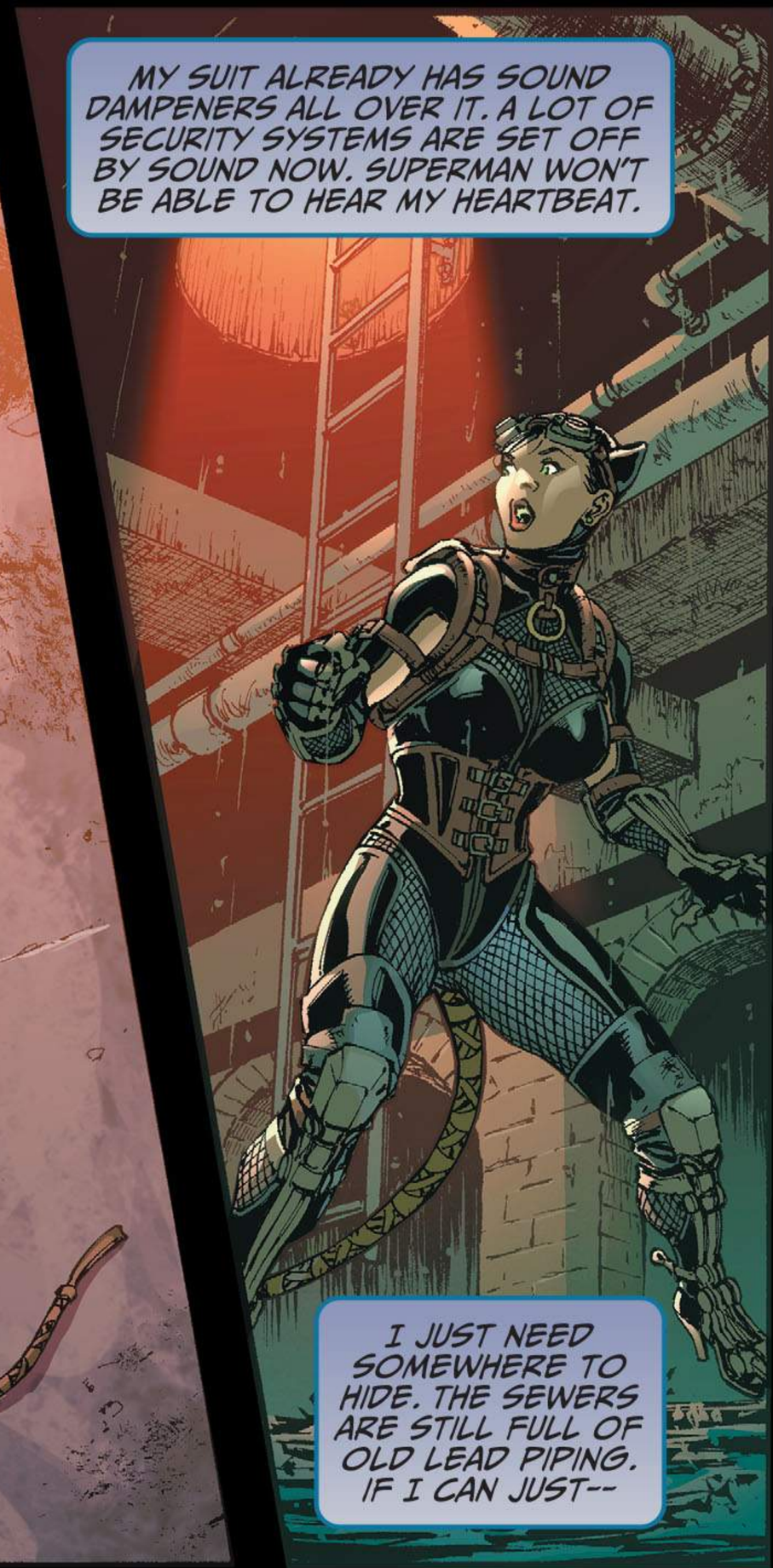
THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT.

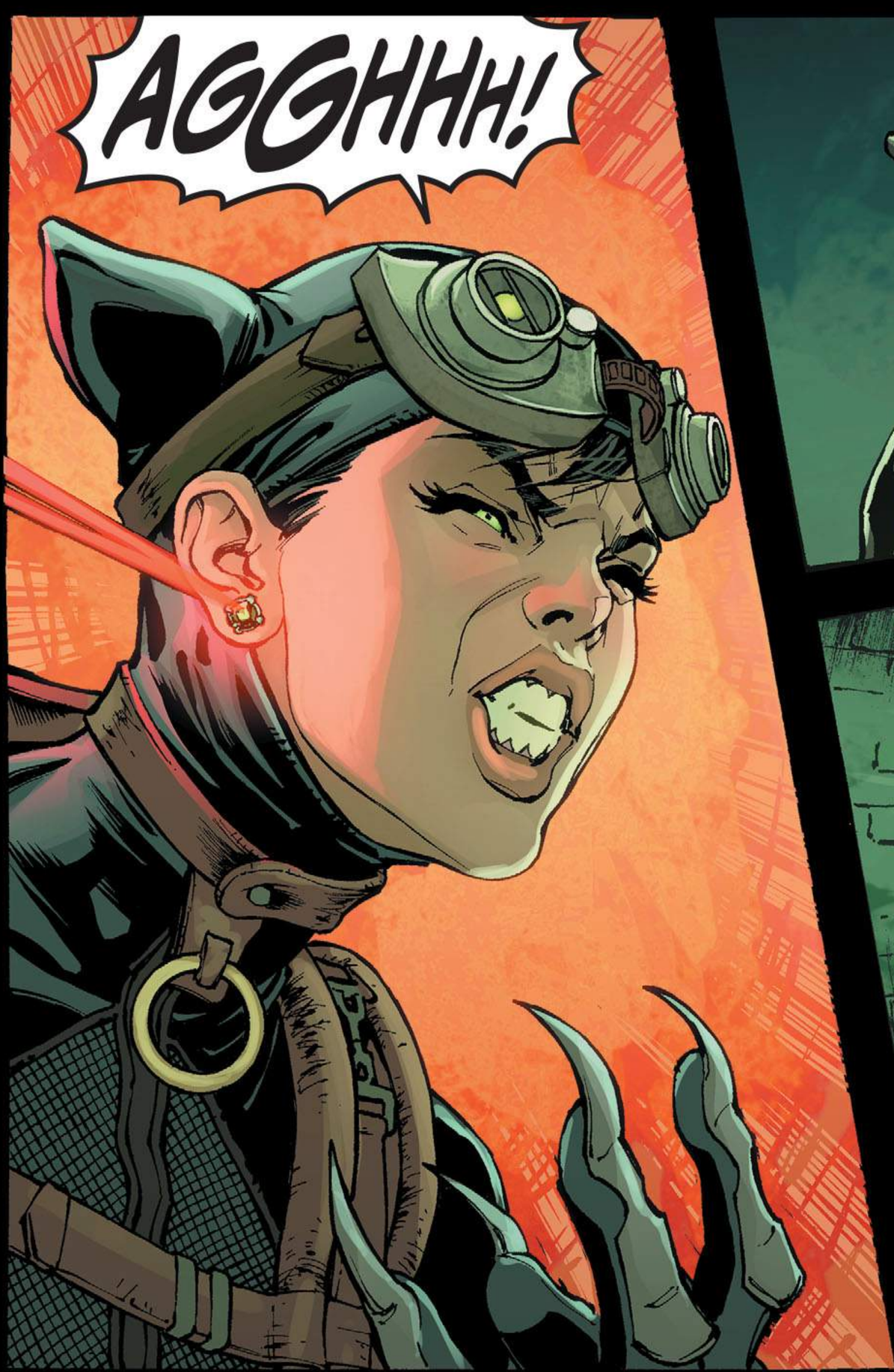
YOU--

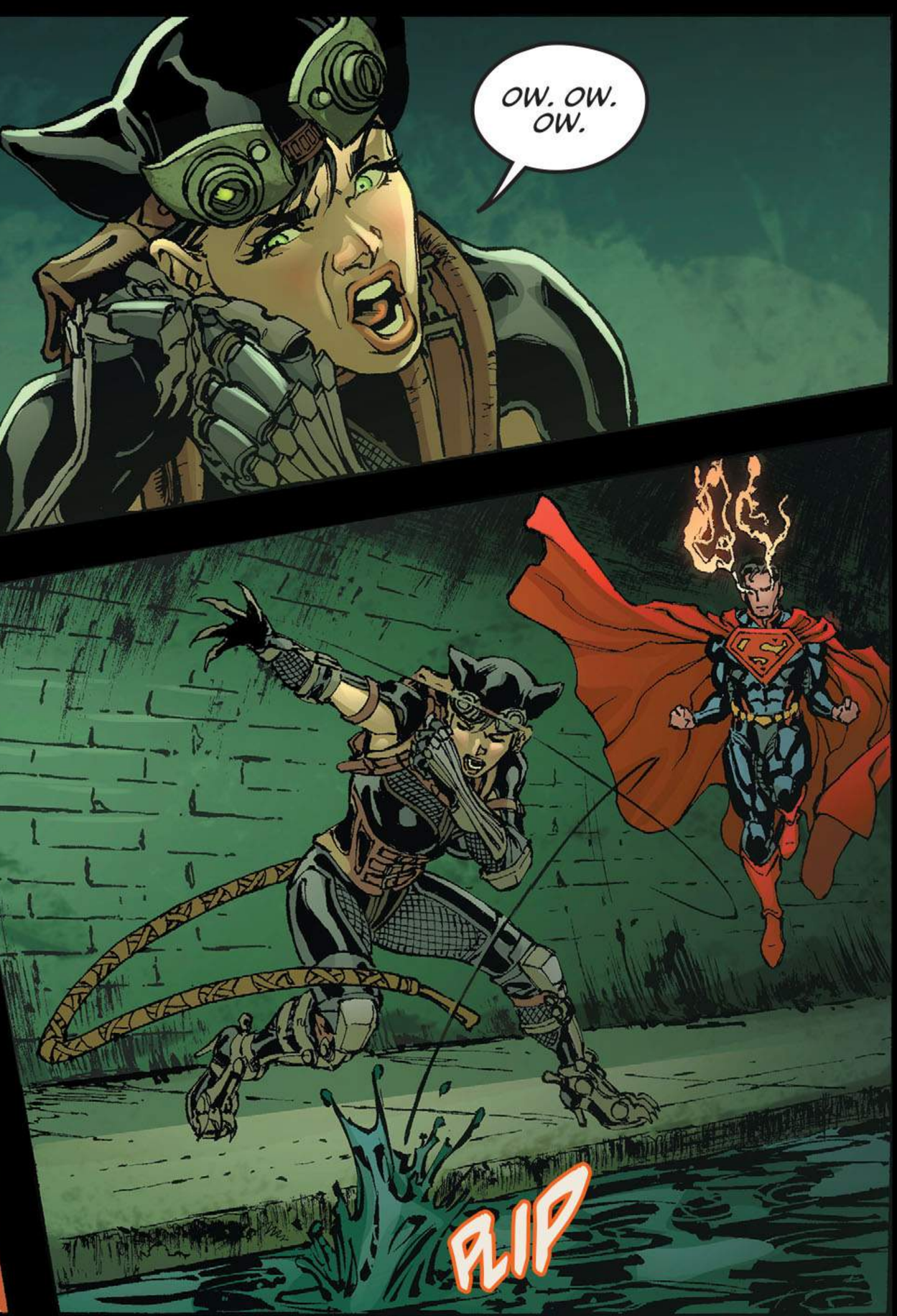
BUT IT'S SOMETHING I'VE PREPARED FOR.
WHAT...?

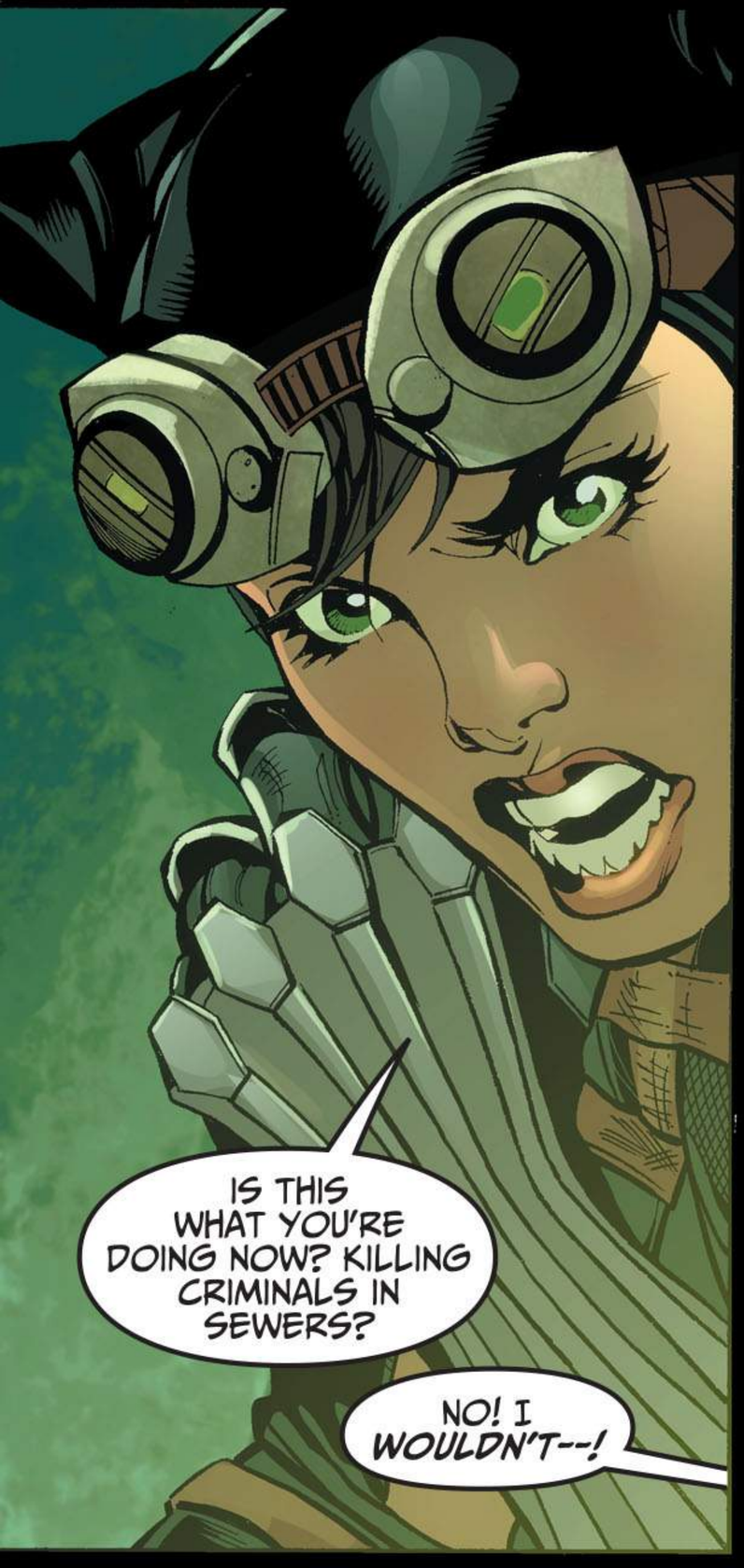
EARRINGS. ONE EMERALD. ONE KRYPTONITE.
BATMAN KEEPS A CHUNK IN THE CAVE. I MANAGED TO STEAL A SMALL SLIVER. IT WASN'T EASY. HE KEEPS IT IN A PRACTICALLY UNBREAKABLE SAFE. I COULD NEVER HAVE BROKEN INTO IT IN A SINGLE NIGHT.

LUCKILY, I'VE SPENT A LOT OF NIGHTS THERE.


MY SUIT ALREADY HAS SOUND DAMPENERS ALL OVER IT. A LOT OF SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE SET OFF BY SOUND NOW. SUPERMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR MY HEARTBEAT.
I JUST NEED SOMEWHERE TO HIDE. THE SEWERS ARE STILL FULL OF OLD LEAD PIPING. IF I CAN JUST--


AGGHHH!


OW. OW. OW.
PLIP


IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW? KILLING CRIMINALS IN SEWERS?
NO! I *WOULDN'T--!*

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. I JUST WANT TO TALK.
SO, TALK.
IT'S BATMAN.

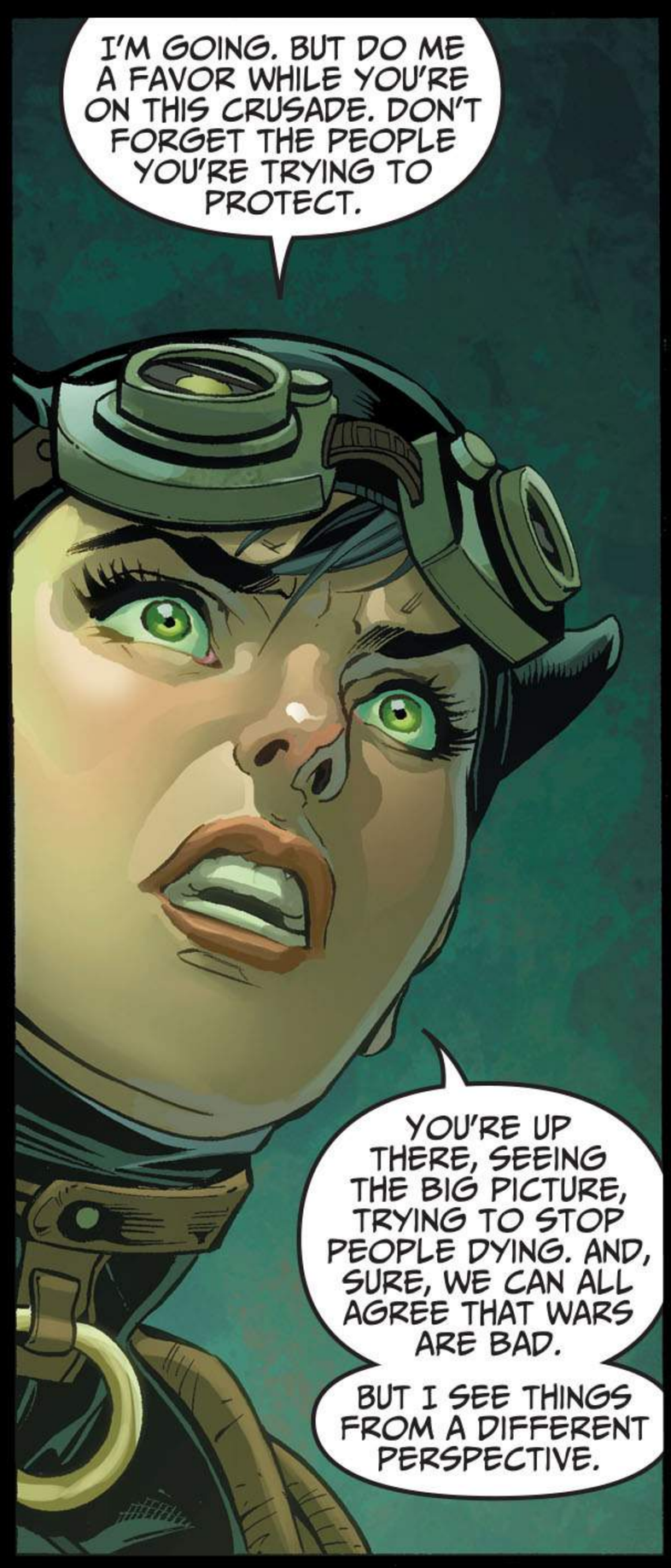
WHAT HAPPENED?
NIGHTWING... NIGHTWING DIED.

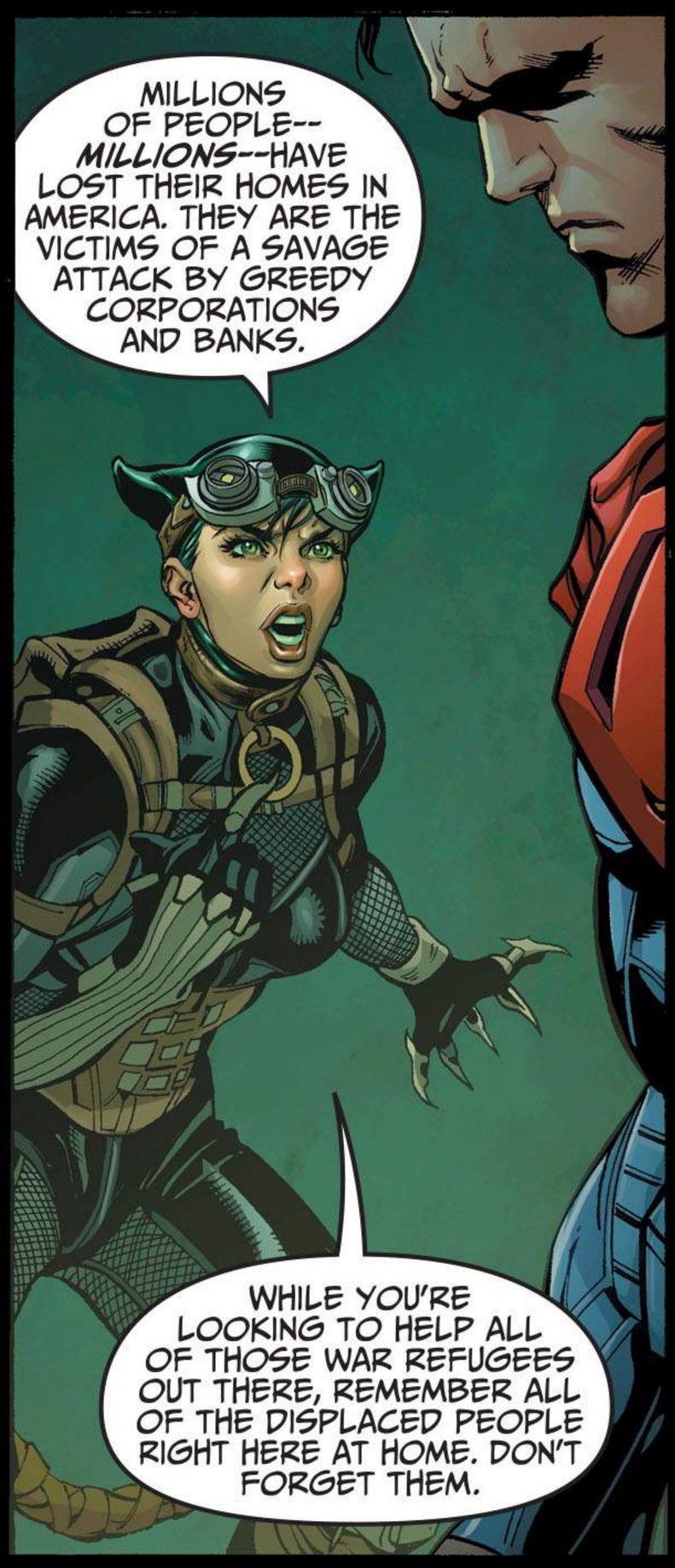
HE'LL NEED SOMEONE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HIS BEST FRIEND. GO TALK TO HIM.

I CAN'T. HE WOULDN'T--
OH, YOU IDIOTIC, STUBBORN, SCARED LITTLE BOYS.

TOO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.
THAT'S CRAP! BATMAN WOULD THROW HIMSELF IN FRONT OF A BULLET AND YOU WOULD FIGHT DOOMSDAY TO THE DEATH--
--AND YOU'D BOTH FIND THAT EASIER AND LESS TERRIFYING THAN TRYING TO *TALK* TO YOUR FRIEND. IT'S MADDENING.

PLEASE.

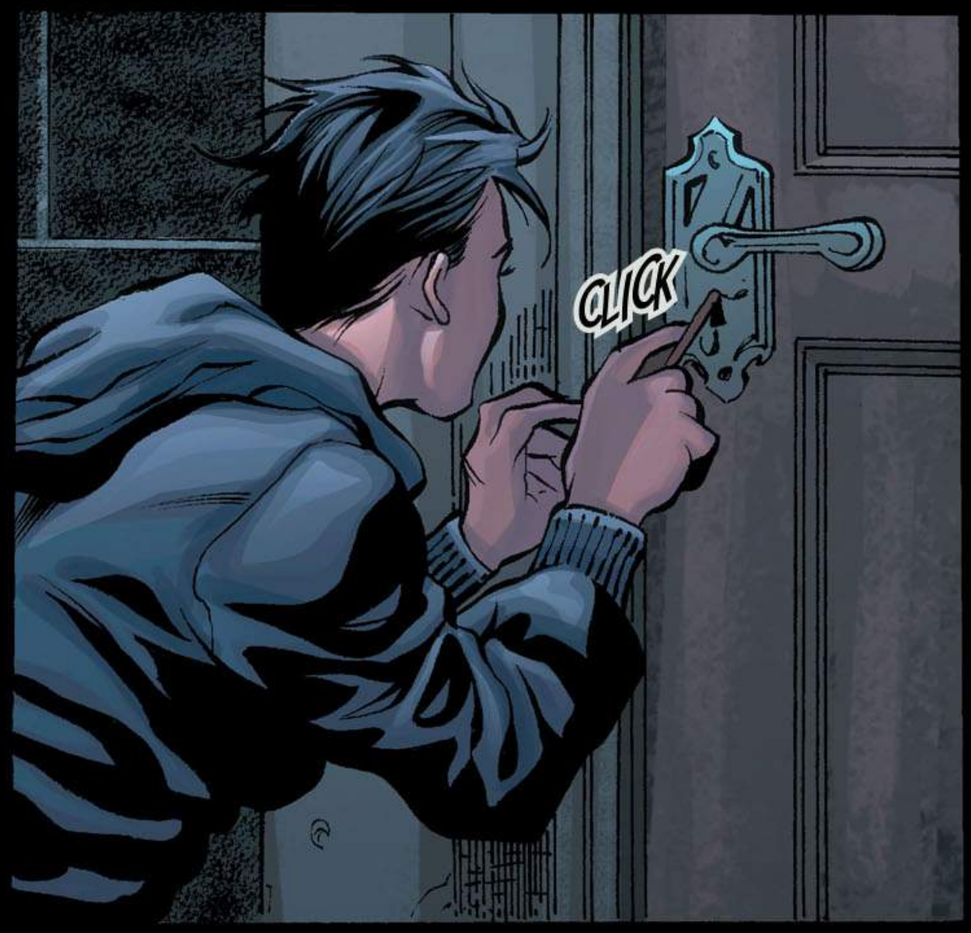

I'M GOING. BUT DO ME A FAVOR WHILE YOU'RE ON THIS CRUSADE. DON'T FORGET THE PEOPLE YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT.
YOU'RE UP THERE, SEEING THE BIG PICTURE, TRYING TO STOP PEOPLE DYING. AND, SURE, WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT WARS ARE BAD.
BUT I SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.


MILLIONS OF PEOPLE--*MILLIONS*--HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES IN AMERICA. THEY ARE THE VICTIMS OF A SAVAGE ATTACK BY GREEDY CORPORATIONS AND BANKS.
WHILE YOU'RE LOOKING TO HELP ALL OF THOSE WAR REFUGEES OUT THERE, REMEMBER ALL OF THE DISPLACED PEOPLE RIGHT HERE AT HOME. DON'T FORGET THEM.

AND, IF YOU'RE PUNISHING THE WICKED, DON'T FORGET WHO DID THIS TO THEM.

PUNISH ALL THE SUPERVILLAINS AND GOVERNMENTS YOU WANT BUT SAVE SOME WRATH FOR THE EVIL PEOPLE WHO *TRULY* RULE THE WORLD.

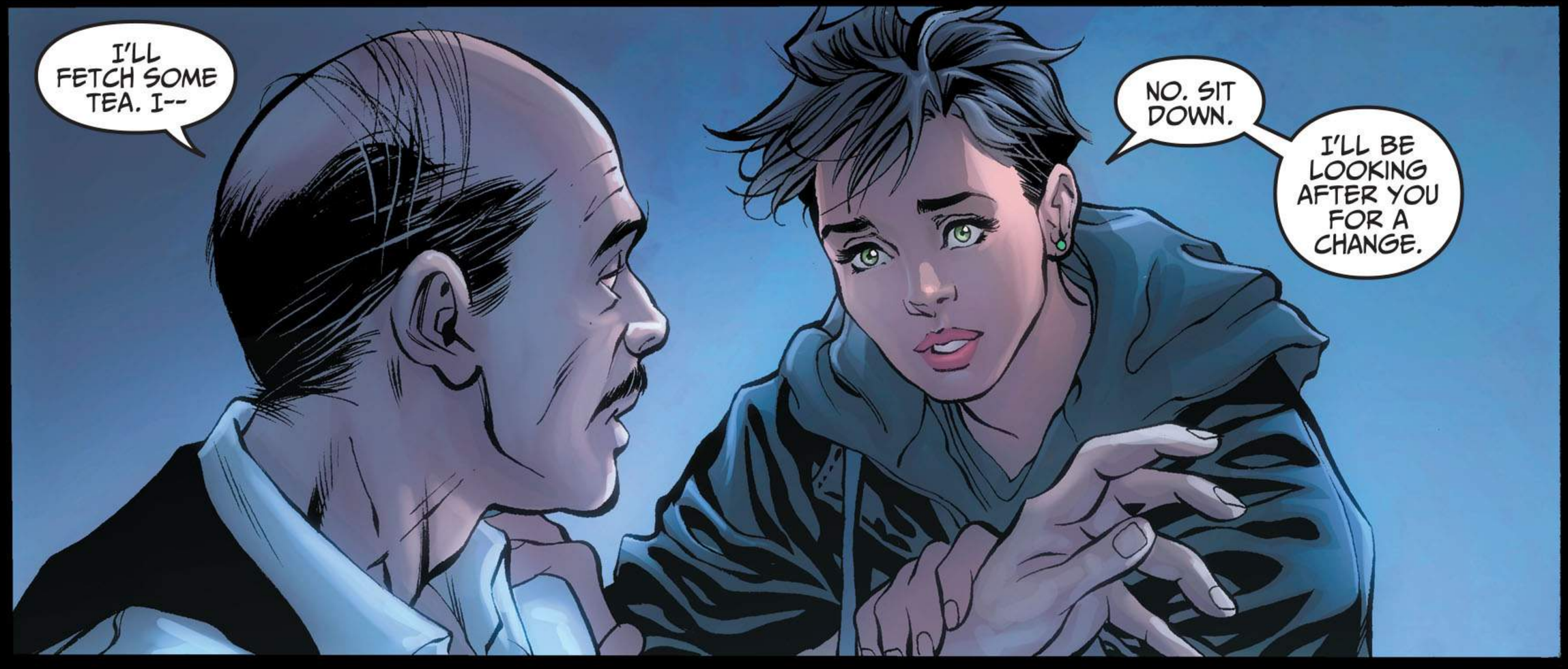
DING
ALFRED?
BRUCE?


CLICK

HELLO?

ALFRED...?

MISS KYLE!
I'M SORRY, I MUSTN'T HAVE--
OH, ALFRED.


I'LL FETCH SOME TEA. I--
NO. SIT DOWN.
I'LL BE LOOKING AFTER YOU FOR A CHANGE.

BRUCE.
THD

BRUCE. STOP.
THD

STOP.

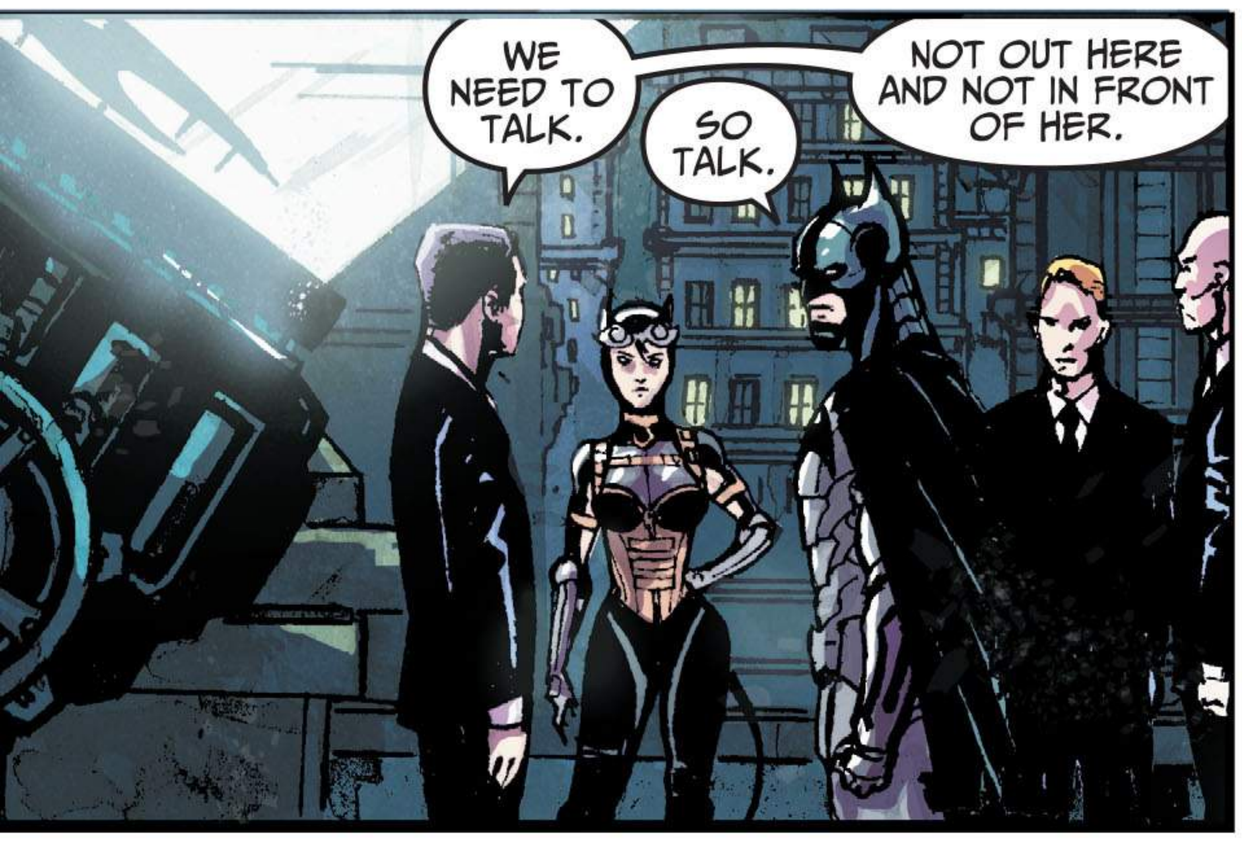
JUST FOR TODAY. DON'T BE BATMAN.
DON'T BE THE MASK.

IT'S OKAY. LET IT GO. JUST FOR TODAY.
YOU CAN FALL APART.

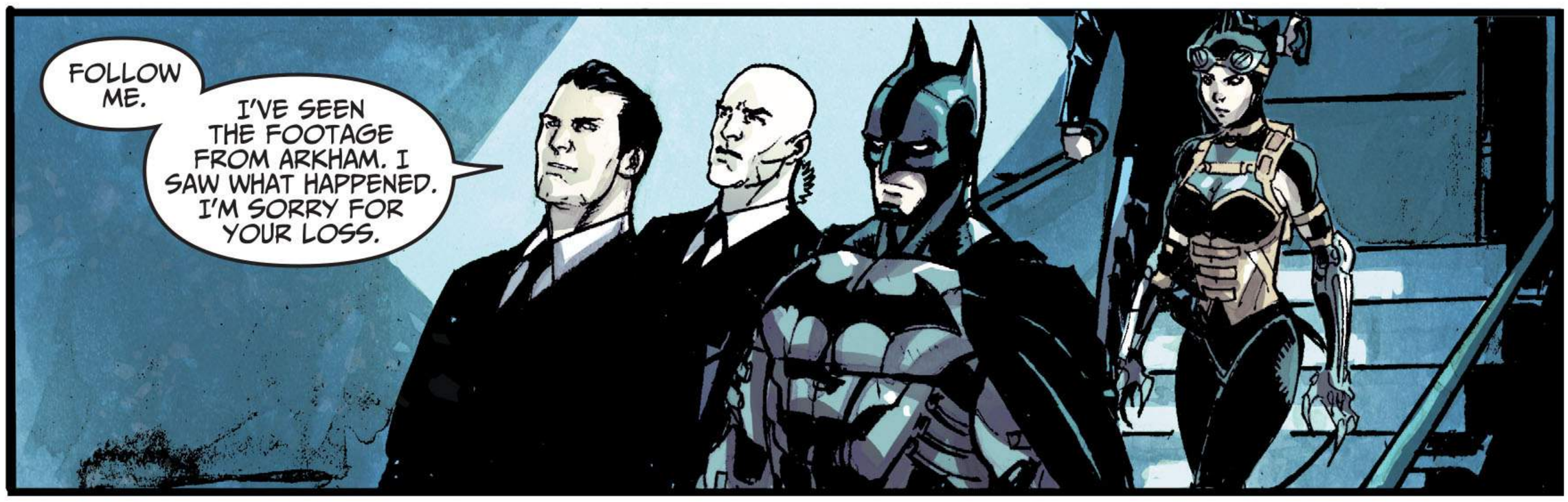
I'LL HOLD YOU TOGETHER.

ARE YOU SURE?
YES. I'M SURE.
IF HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH YOU, IT'S HIS PROBLEM.
I WANT TO SUPPORT YOU--
--IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T USUALLY HEAD *TOWARDS* POLICE STATIONS.
COMMISSIONER GORDON.
NO.

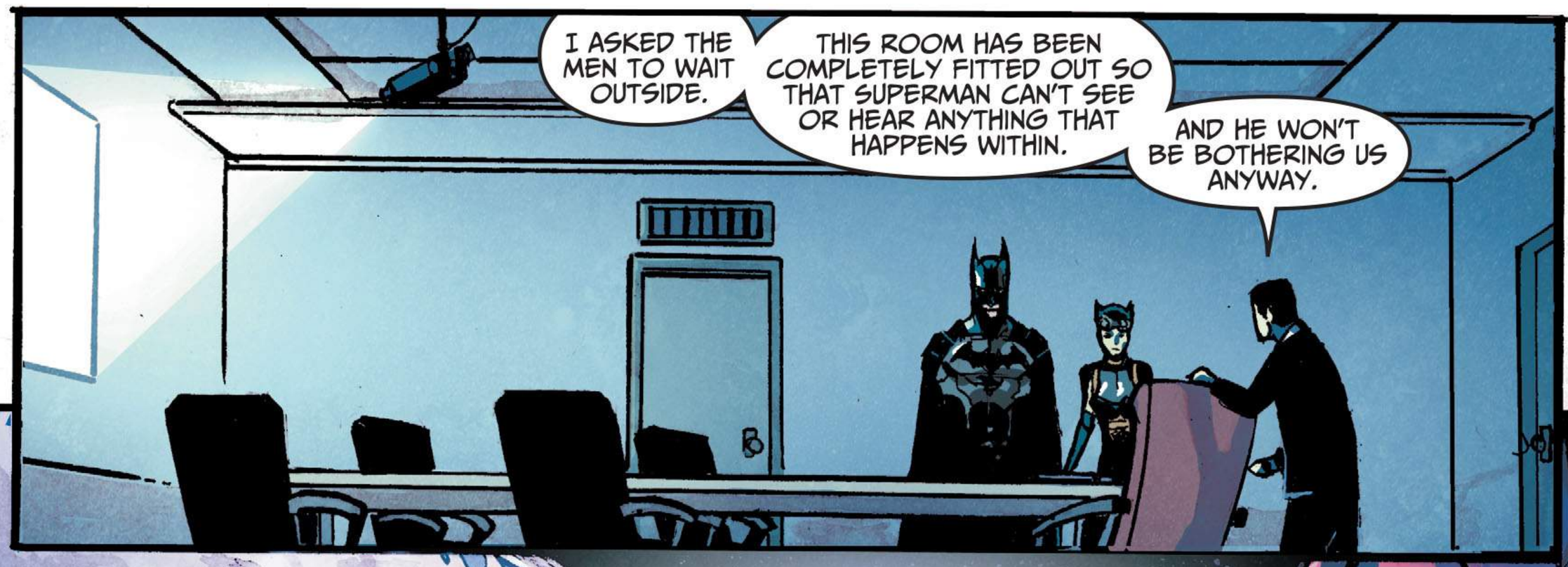
I DON'T LIKE SURPRISES, MISTER PRESIDENT.
I'M SORRY. NO ONE HAS SEEN YOU FOR A WEEK. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO REACH YOU.


WE NEED TO TALK.
SO TALK.
NOT OUT HERE AND NOT IN FRONT OF HER.

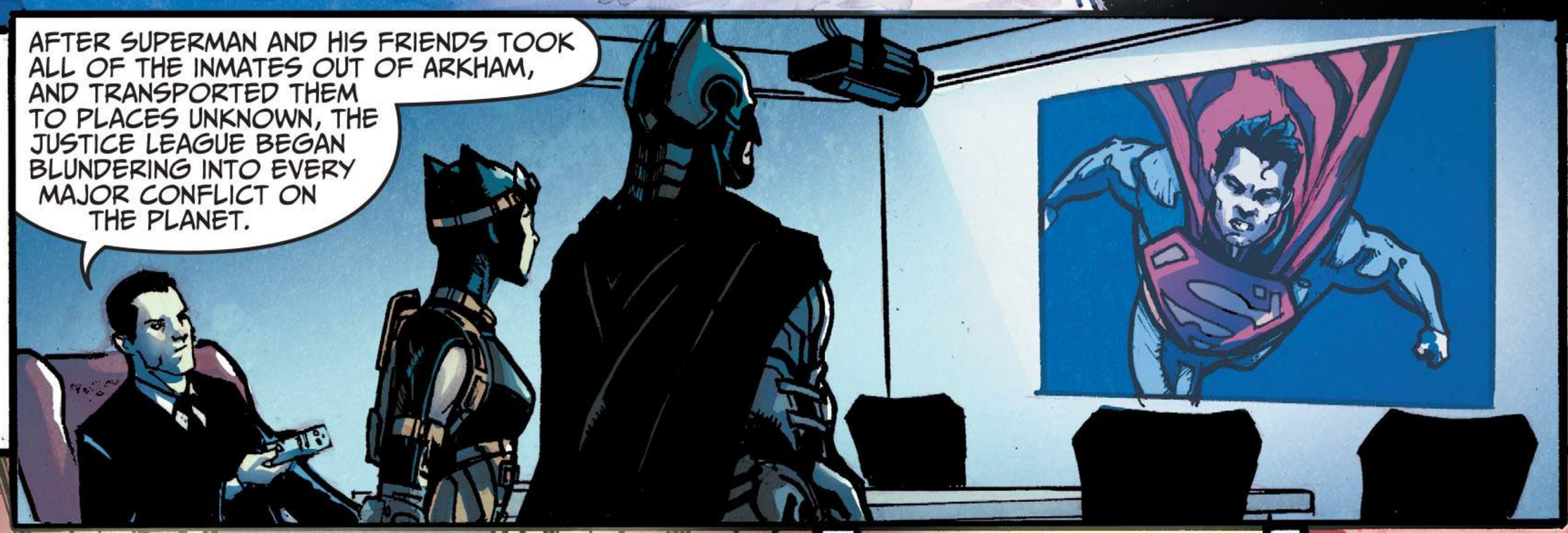
WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO SAY, YOU CAN SAY IN FRONT OF CATWOMAN. OR WE HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS.
SHE'S A CRIMINAL.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT EVERY ACTION YOU'VE TAKEN WHILE IN OFFICE HAS BEEN LEGAL?


FOLLOW ME.
I'VE SEEN THE FOOTAGE FROM ARKHAM. I SAW WHAT HAPPENED. I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

I'D CHOOSE ANOTHER TOPIC.


I ASKED THE MEN TO WAIT OUTSIDE.
THIS ROOM HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FITTED OUT SO THAT SUPERMAN CAN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS WITHIN.
AND HE WON'T BE BOTHERING US ANYWAY.

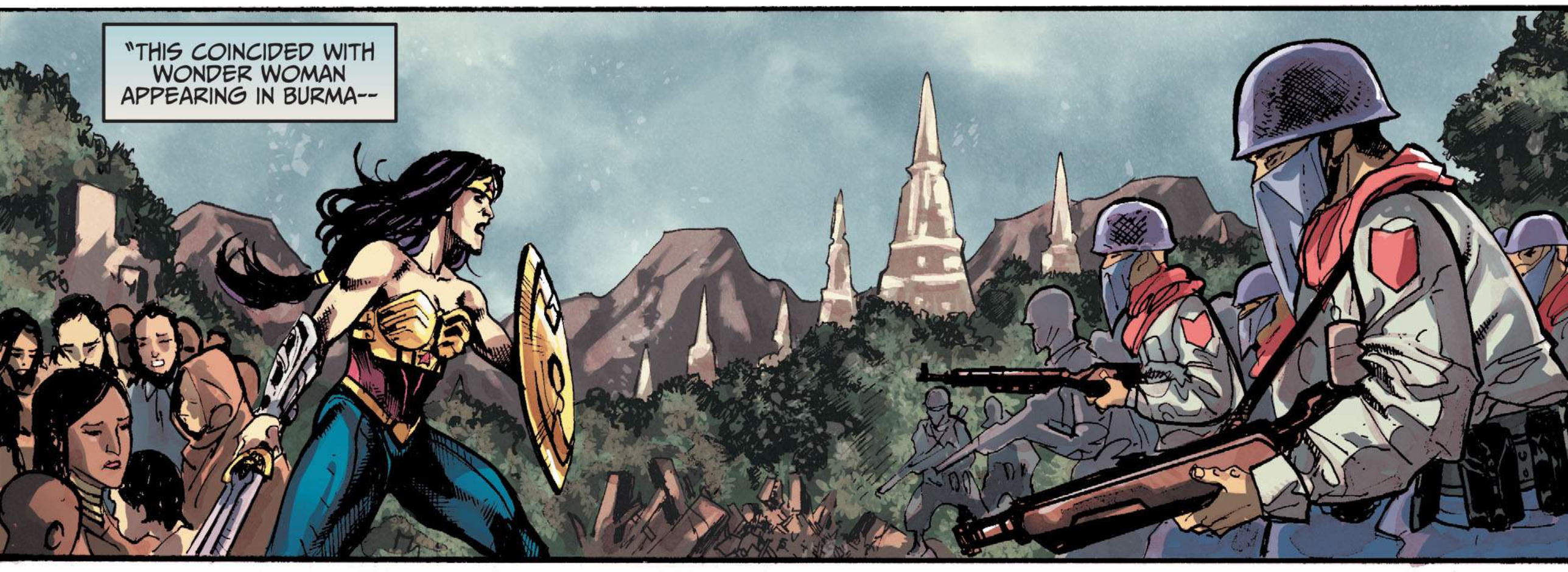
"TWO COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES JUST 'MYSTERIOUSLY' COLLIDED AND ARE FALLING OUT OF ORBIT TOWARDS RUSSIA.
"HE HAS HIS HANDS FULL.

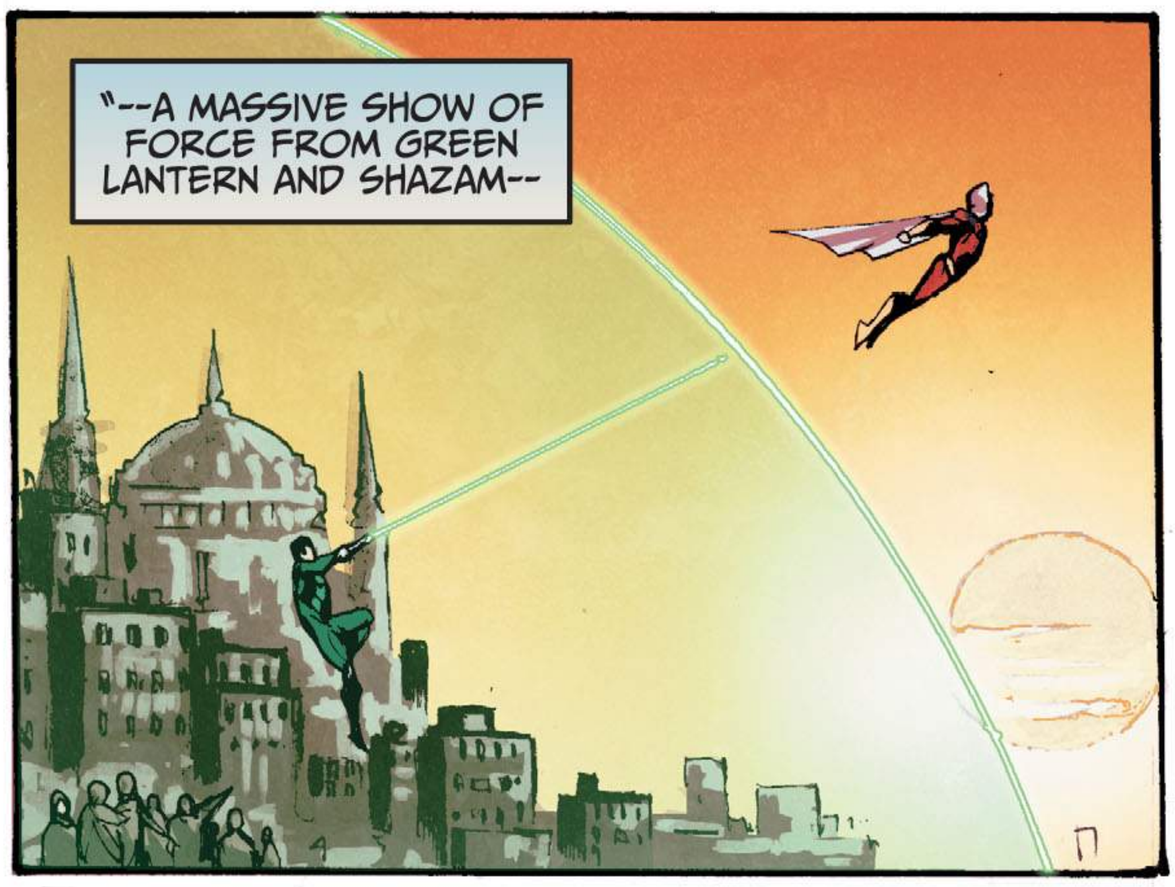

AFTER SUPERMAN AND HIS FRIENDS TOOK ALL OF THE INMATES OUT OF ARKHAM, AND TRANSPORTED THEM TO PLACES UNKNOWN, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE BEGAN BLUNDERING INTO EVERY MAJOR CONFLICT ON THE PLANET.

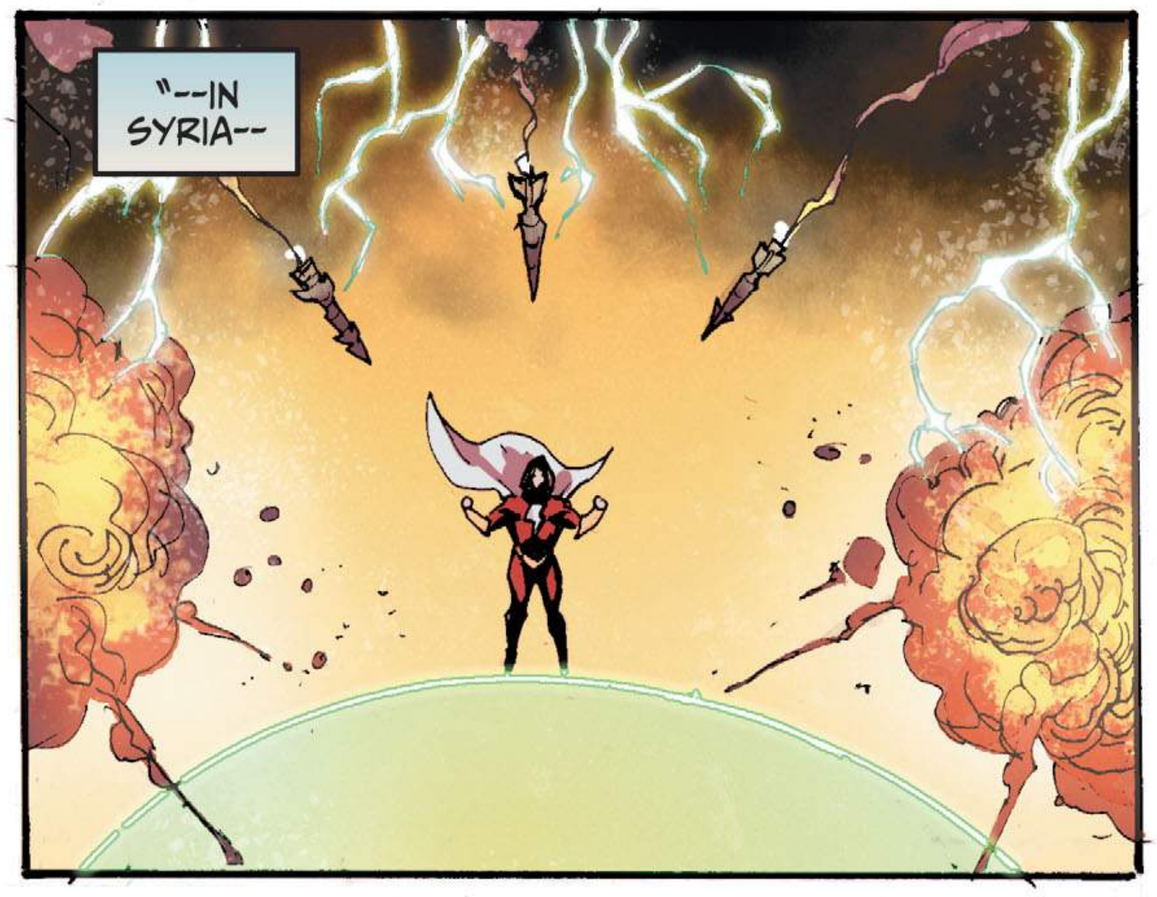
"ON TUESDAY, SUPERMAN FORCIBLY SAT THE LEADERS OF PALESTINE AND ISRAEL DOWN IN A ROOM."
GENTLEMEN. IN THREE HOURS, WE WILL ANNOUNCE AN ISRAEL/PALESTINE PEACE PLAN.
YOU HAVE THREE HOURS TO AGREE TO TERMS.

OR?

OR THEY WILL BE AGREED FOR YOU.




"--AND RAVEN SHOWING UP AMONGST THE WARRING NOMADIC TRIBES OF SUDAN...

"...WHERE SHE LITERALLY TERRIFIED THEM INTO SUBMISSION."

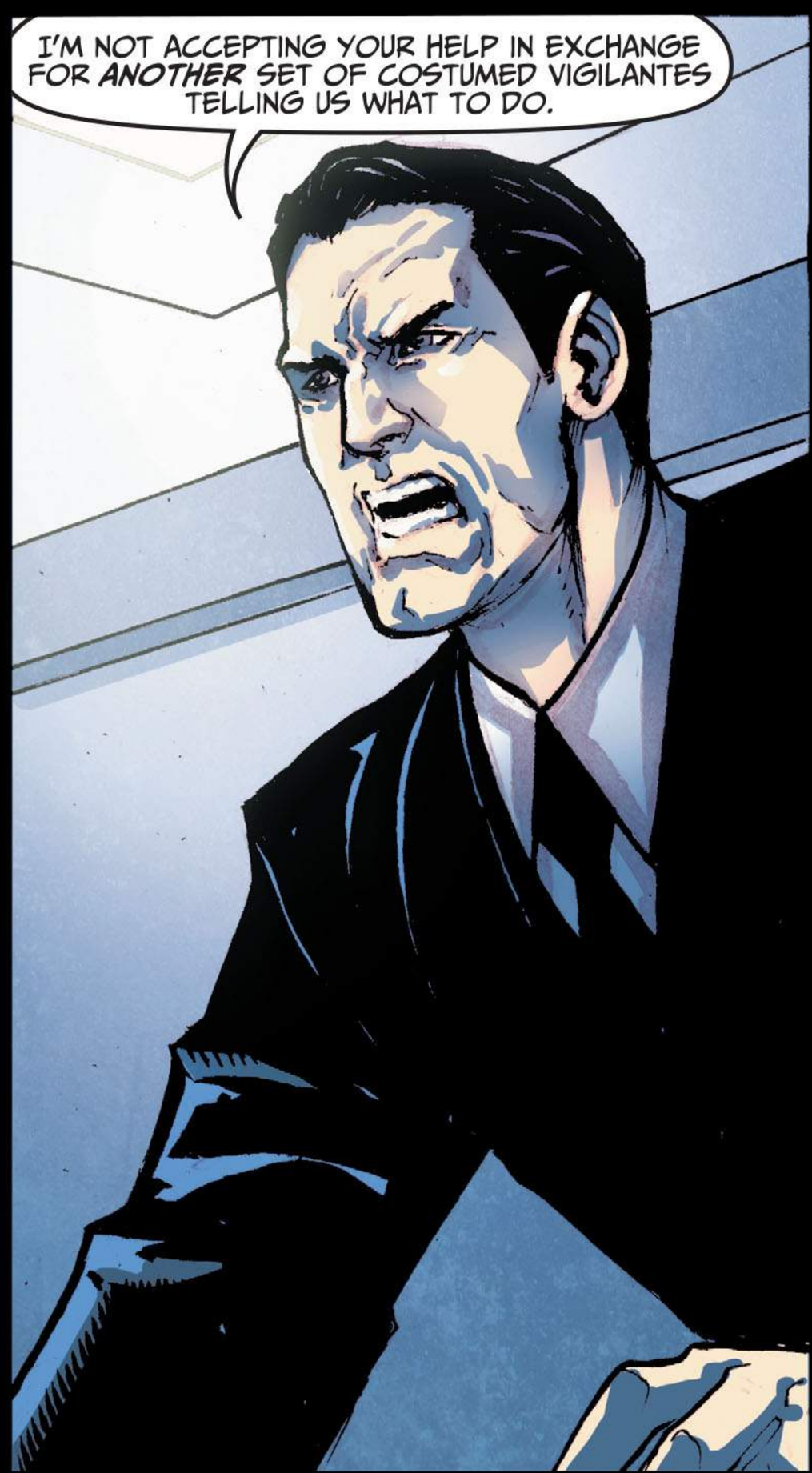
YOU THINK STOPPING BLOODSHED IS A BAD THING?
OF COURSE NOT.
NO. YOU CAN'T JUST *STOP* A WAR.
THE REASON FOR THE FIGHTING IS STILL THERE. THE RELIGION, THE LAND DISPUTES, THE ANCIENT FEUDS. THE PEACE NEEDS TO BE *ENFORCED.*
AND *SOMEONE* NEEDS TO *ENFORCE* IT.
YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE. WHY I CAME TO YOU.
YOU THINK SUPERMAN WILL TAKE OVER THE WORLD AND YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU STOP HIM.
BUT THESE THINGS AREN'T THAT SIMPLE. ARE THEY, BATMAN?
CAN YOU DO IT?
IF IT NEEDS TO BE DONE, IF IT COMES TO THAT, I THINK I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN.
BUT WE CAME HERE TO TELL YOU, YOU NEED TO DO BETTER.
YOU CAME HERE TO...WHAT? YOU *PLANNED* THIS? BUT YOU WERE SURPRISED TO SEE ME ON THE ROOF!
NO. WE *ACTED* SURPRISED TO SEE YOU ON THE ROOF. YOU'D GONE TO SO MUCH TROUBLE, WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL BAD.

I VOTED FOR YOU.
HOW DOES THAT WORK? YOU GO INTO A POLLING STATION AND SAY, 'I'M BATMAN'?

I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH TIME FOR MEN WHO GRIN AND JOKE TO AVOID THE TRUTH.

YOU NEED TO BE A BETTER LEADER.
WE WILL FIGHT AGAINST THIS REGIME BUT YOU NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB.
HOW?

HEALTH. EDUCATION. GUN CONTROL. POVERTY. THE ENVIRONMENT. NOT TELLING PEOPLE WHO THEY CAN AND CAN'T LOVE.
THE REASON SO MANY SUPPORT SUPERMAN'S ACTIONS IS BECAUSE THEY'RE DISENFRANCHISED AND DISHEARTENED AND THEY WANT THE WORLD TO BE A BETTER PLACE.
THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO HAVE *COMPASSION* AGAIN. *YOU* NEED TO DO *BETTER.*


I'M NOT ACCEPTING YOUR HELP IN EXCHANGE FOR *ANOTHER* SET OF COSTUMED VIGILANTES TELLING US WHAT TO DO.

WE'RE NOT TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO. WE'RE *ASKING* YOU TO DO BETTER.
I...

...I'LL TRY.

YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
I KNOW. YOU'LL NEED A TEAM.
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?

INTEL ON SUPERHEROES AND OTHER PEOPLE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FOR YOUR RESISTANCE. STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES.
NONE OF THEM HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH SUPERMAN YET.
WE THINK THERE'S PROBABLY A REASON.

WHO PUT THIS INTEL TOGETHER? LOOK HERE. UNDER PROFILE, SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN 'PROBABLE DADDY ISSUES.'
DOES SHE HAVE ISSUES WITH HER FATHER?
YES. BUT NOWHERE DOES IT MENTION THAT SHE'S ALSO AN ALIEN SPY. THAT'S PRETTY CRUCIAL MISSING INFORMATION, I'D THINK.

I HAVE MY OWN FILES ON THESE PEOPLE.
OF COURSE YOU DO.

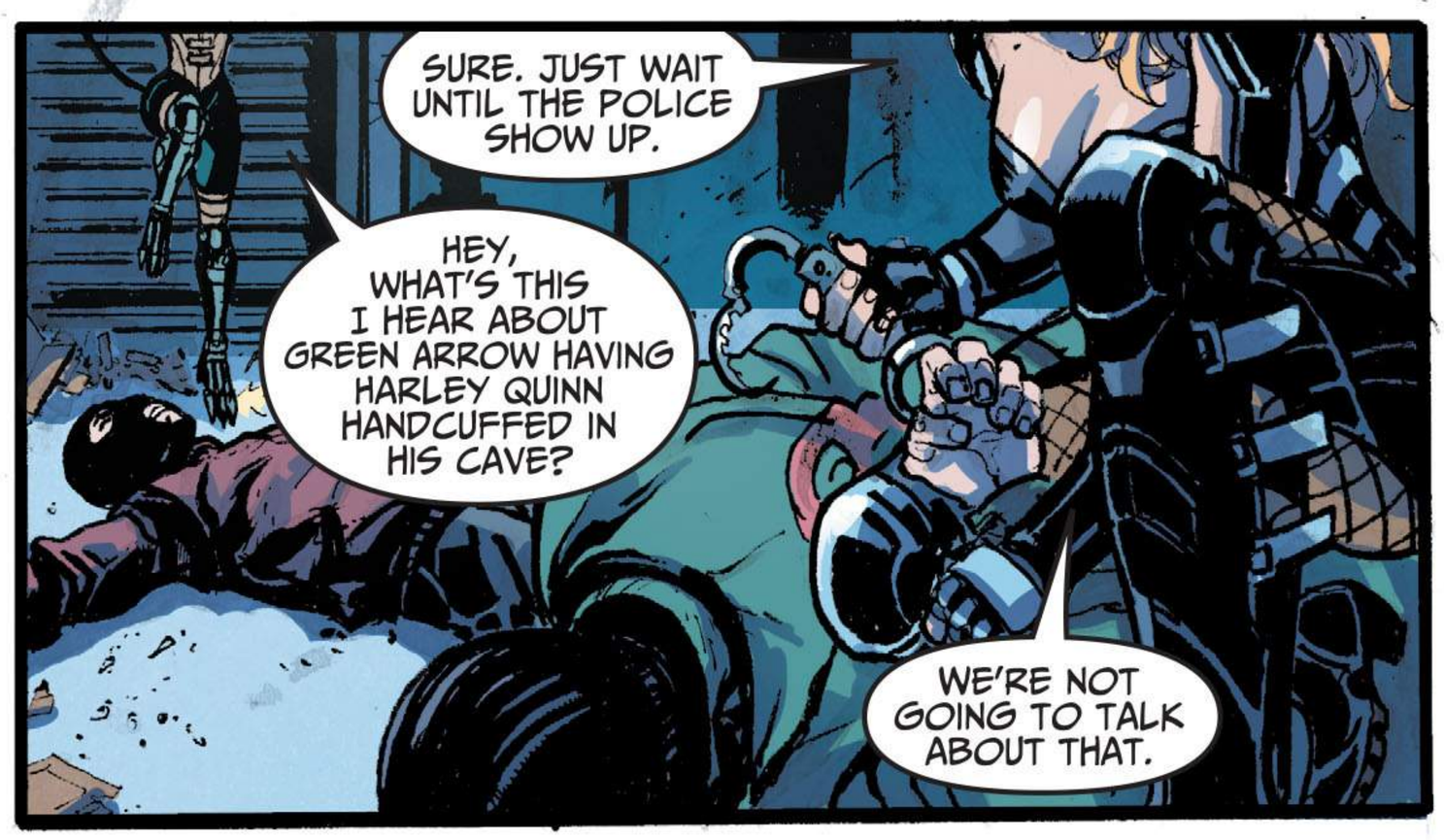
YOU TAKE THE WEST COAST. I'LL TAKE THE EAST.
SURE. I CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE THIS WITH HER.

STARLING CITY

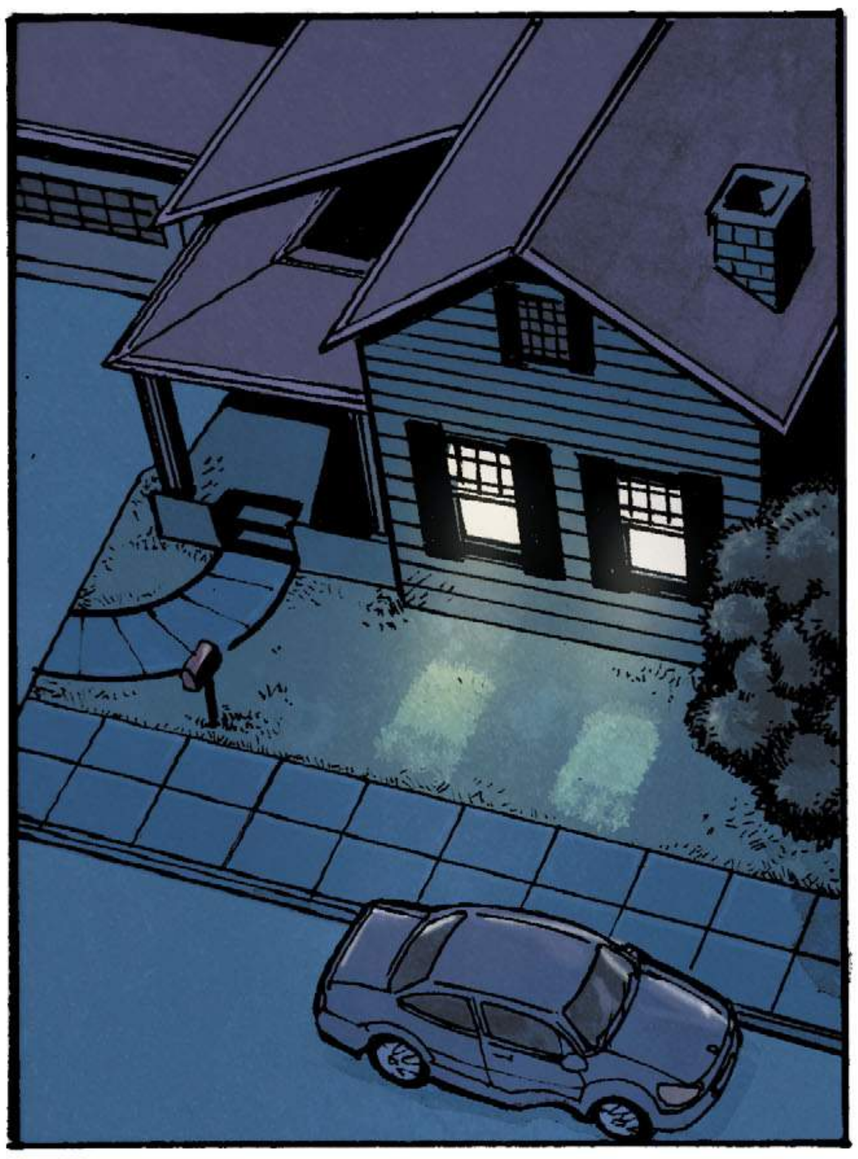
THD

YOU KNOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS A WHOLE ELABORATE THEORY FOR WHY YOU WEAR FISHNETS?

UNF!



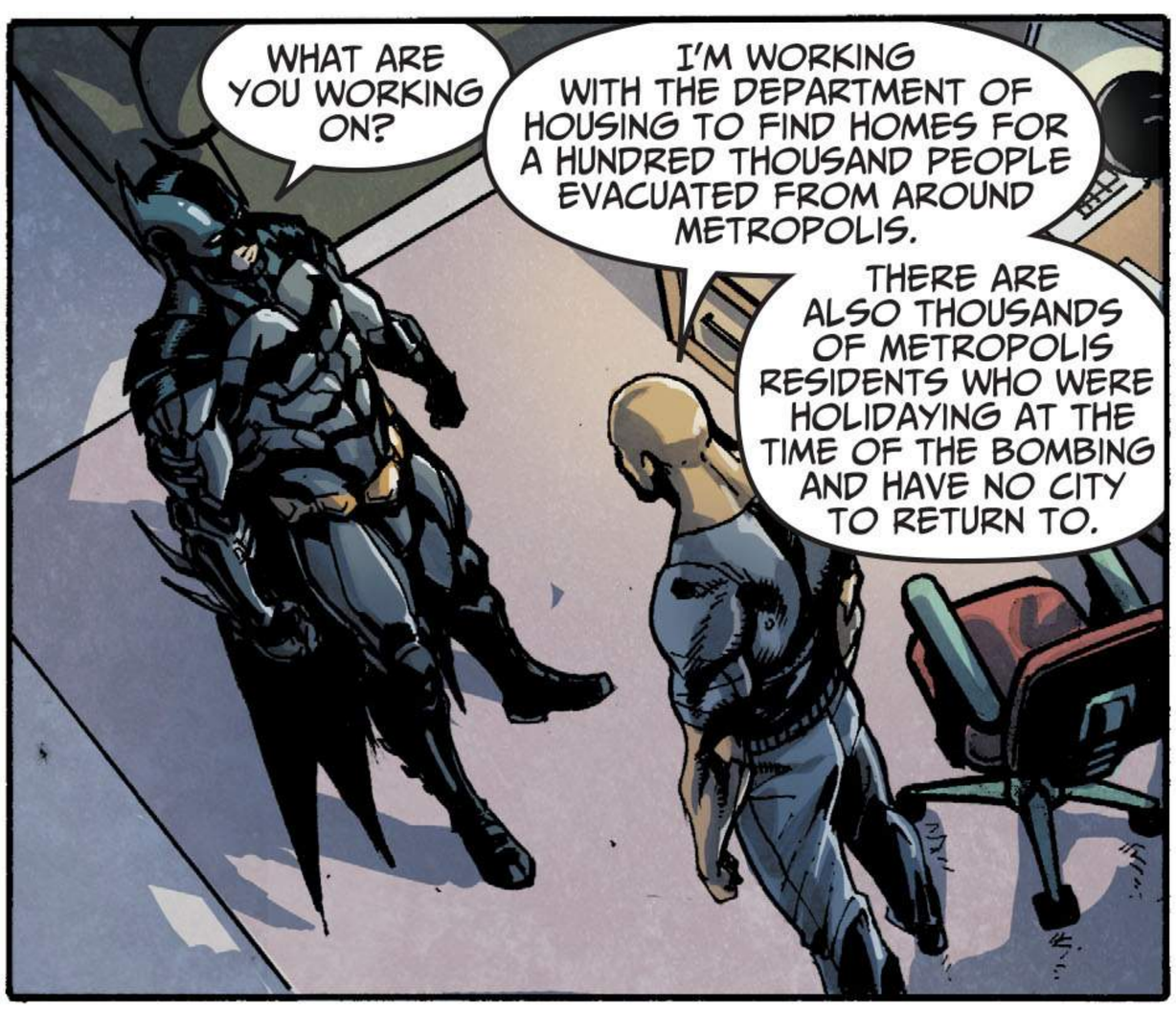
WASHINGTON



JEFFERSON?

WHAT--?
ZZZT

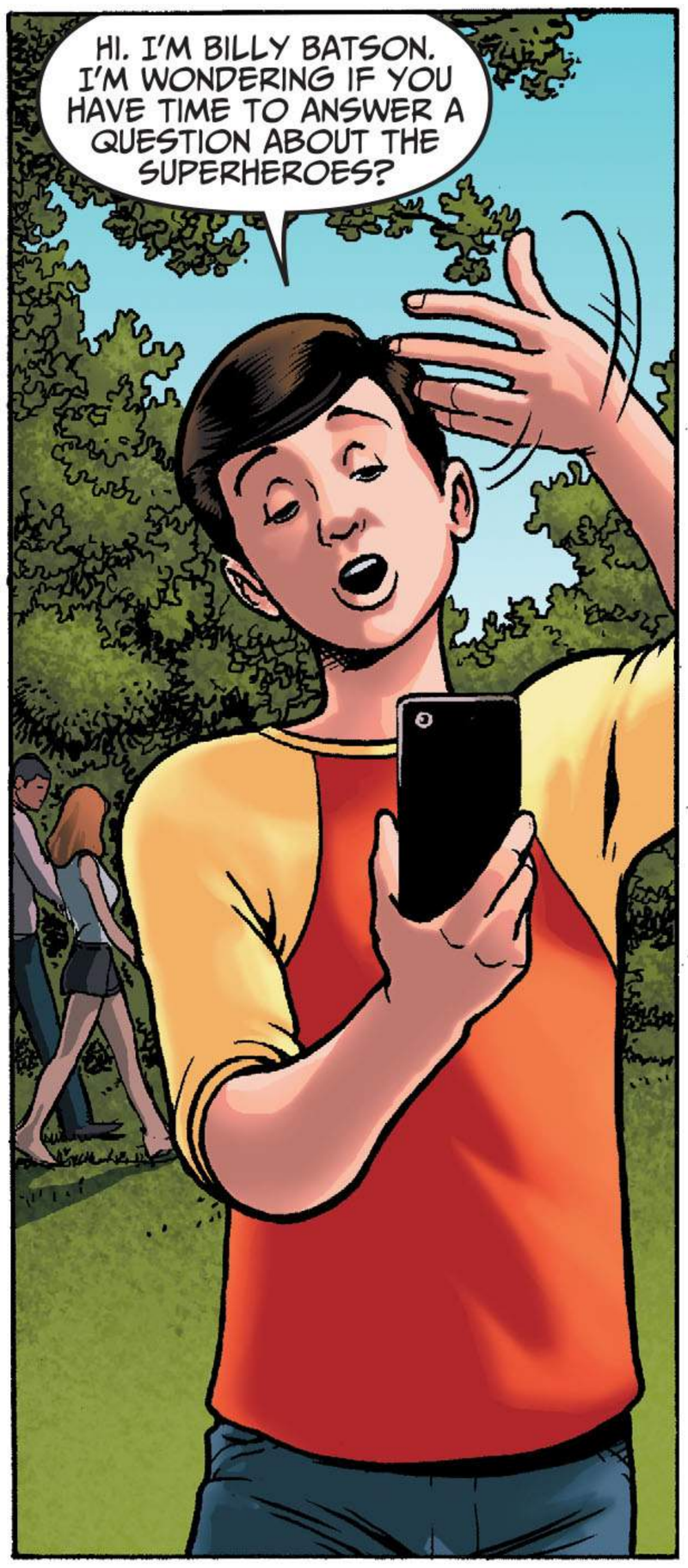
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
SERIOUSLY? THE 'WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE' CAN'T FIND MY DOORBELL?


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
I'M WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TO FIND HOMES FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM AROUND METROPOLIS.
THERE ARE ALSO THOUSANDS OF METROPOLIS RESIDENTS WHO WERE HOLIDAYING AT THE TIME OF THE BOMBING AND HAVE NO CITY TO RETURN TO.

YOU'RE DOING GOOD WORK, JEFFERSON.
I'LL HELP YOU FIND HOMES FOR THESE PEOPLE. BUT I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE THAT NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION.
I NEED BLACK LIGHTNING.

GOTHAM--
DEEP UNDERGROUND--
THE NEXT DAY
THEY'RE COMING. I WILL REMAIN HIDDEN.
THANK YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHO WE CAN TRUST YET. I'D LIKE TO KEEP YOUR INVOLVEMENT A SECRET FOR NOW.
I UNDERSTAND.
THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US.
I SAID I'D LISTEN. I DIDN'T AGREE TO JOIN ANYTHING YET.
YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL HERE.
OF COURSE.
WHAT'S OUR PLAN OF ATTACK?

PART SEVEN
Kevin Maguire Tom Derenick Neil Googe Artists
Rosemary Cheetham Alejandro Sanchez Colorists
Mico Suayan & David Lopez and Santi Casas of Ikari Studio Cover
Mico Suayan 2013
+ SANTI CASAS


HI. I'M BILLY BATSON. I'M WONDERING IF YOU HAVE TIME TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT THE SUPERHEROES?

IS THIS FOR SCHOOL OR SOMETHING?
SURE.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SUPERHEROES' RECENT ACTIONS. PUT SIMPLY, DO YOU THINK WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS RIGHT OR WRONG?

TOTALLY RIGHT! I THINK WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS AWESOME. I HEARD SUPERMAN PULLED THE JOKER'S STILL-BEATING HEART OUT OF HIS CHEST.
FATALITY!

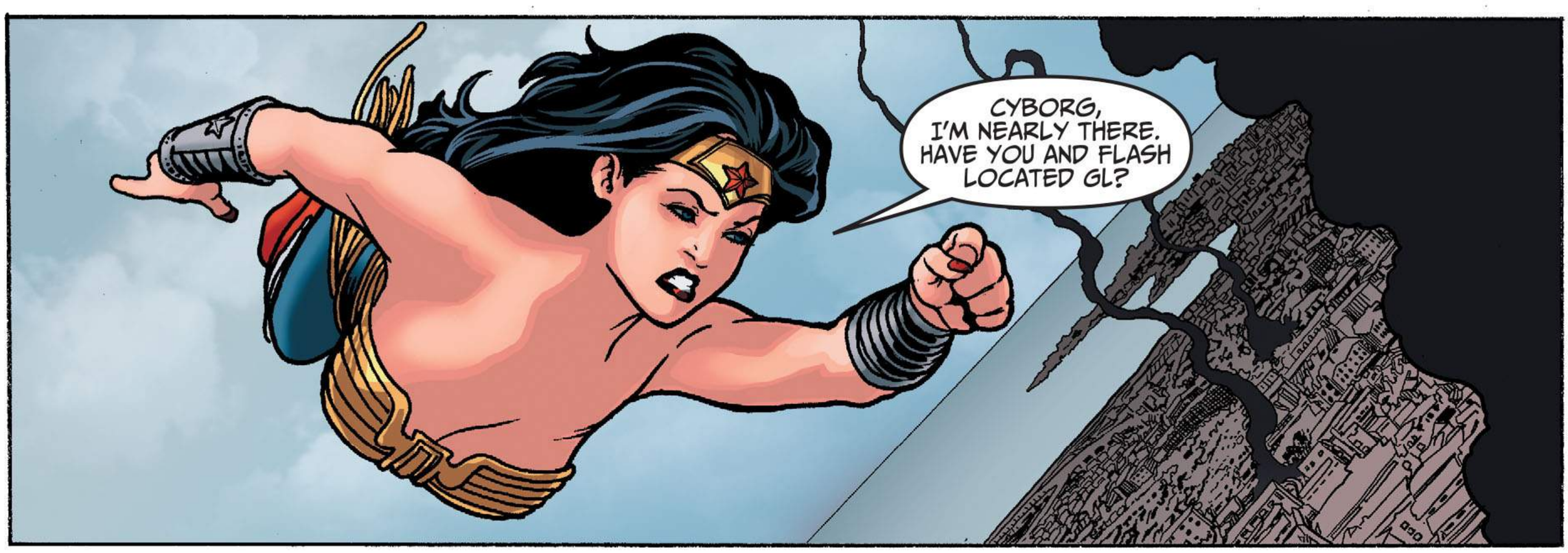
I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT.
WHY?
WHAT IF THEY'RE LISTENING? THEY COULD BE LISTENING TO ME RIGHT NOW. THEY COULD BE WATCHING ME IN THE SHOWER.
SO, YOU'RE AFRAID OF THEM?
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT.

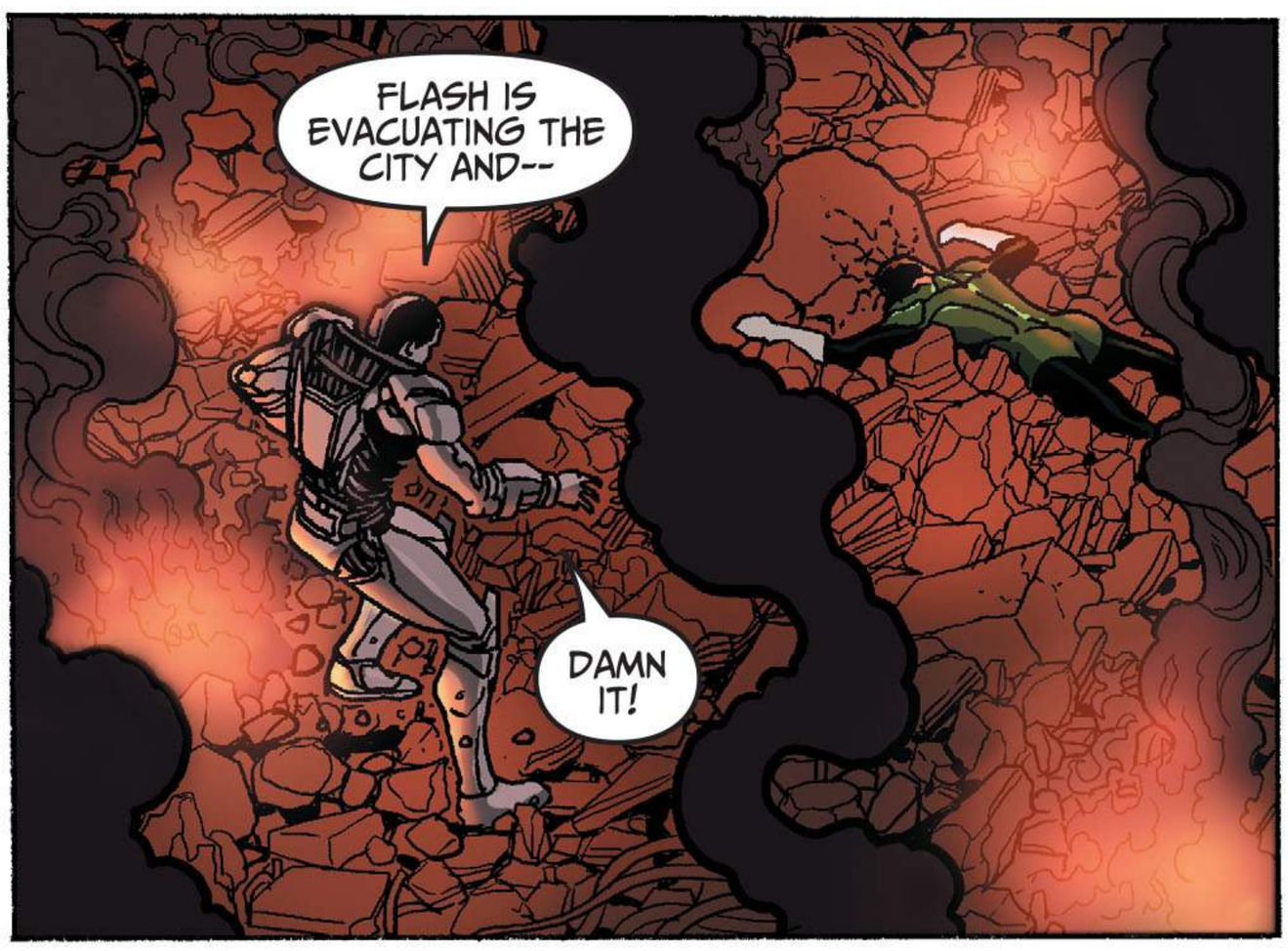
I'M ALL FOR IT. I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S TAKEN THEM THIS LONG. IT'S ABOUT TIME SOME OF THESE GUYS WERE PUT IN THEIR PLACE.
HEY, YOU OUT THERE. THE DAY WHEN YOU COULD MURDER PEOPLE OR OPPRESS THEM OR STARVE THEM WHILE YOU EAT BIG ARE OVER.

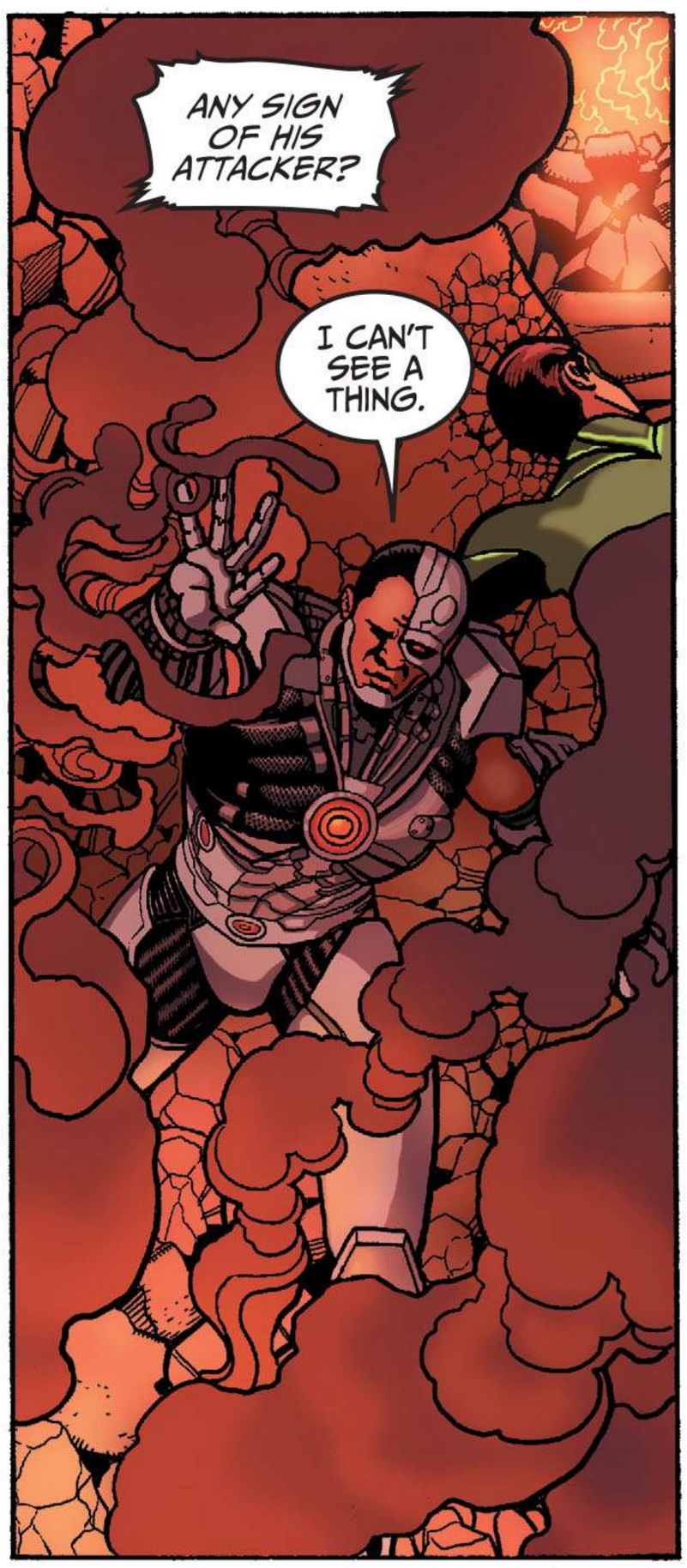
WHY?
WHY WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

"WHY ARE YOU ASKING THIS QUESTION?"

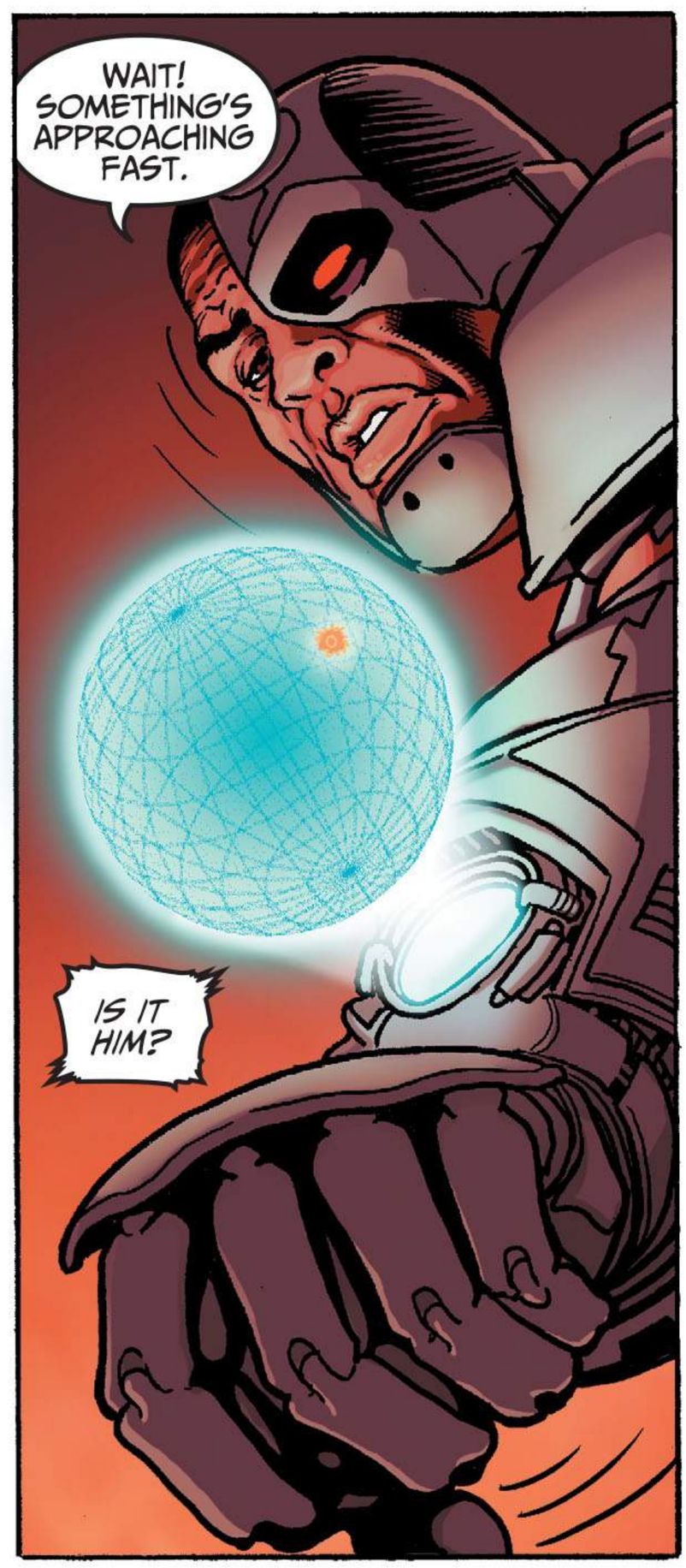
YESTERDAY

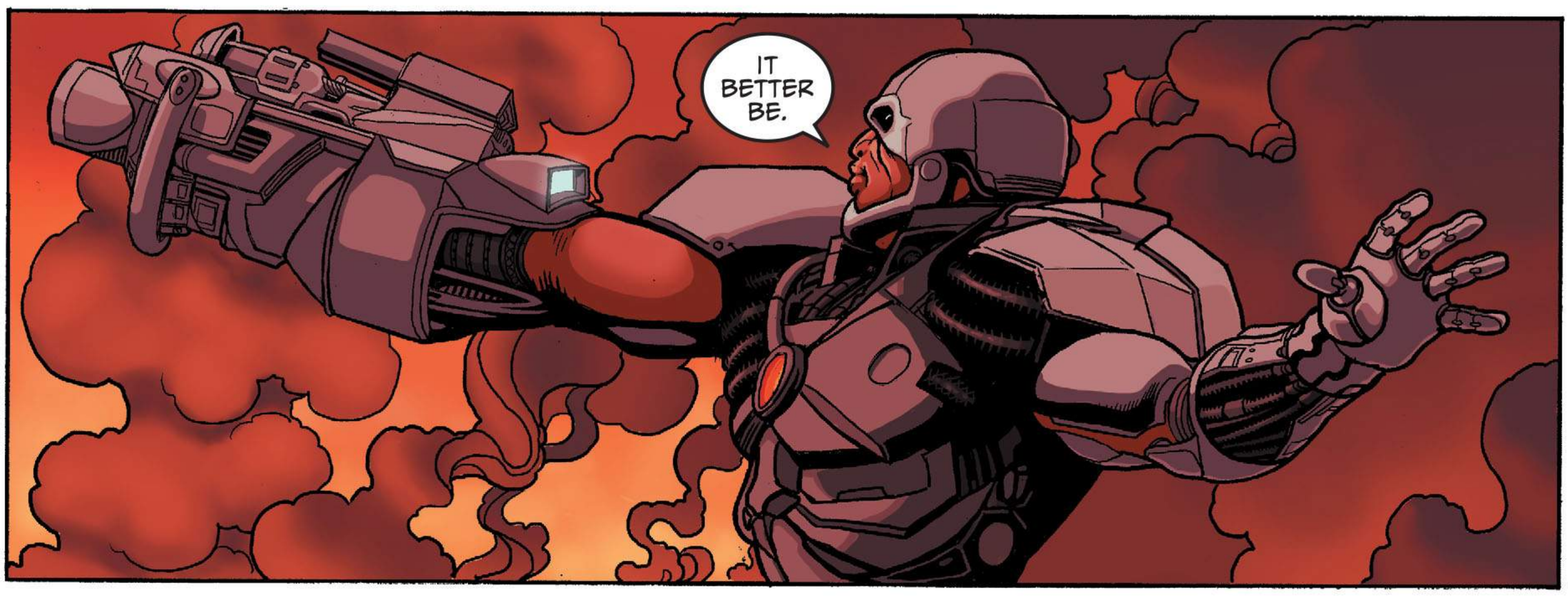


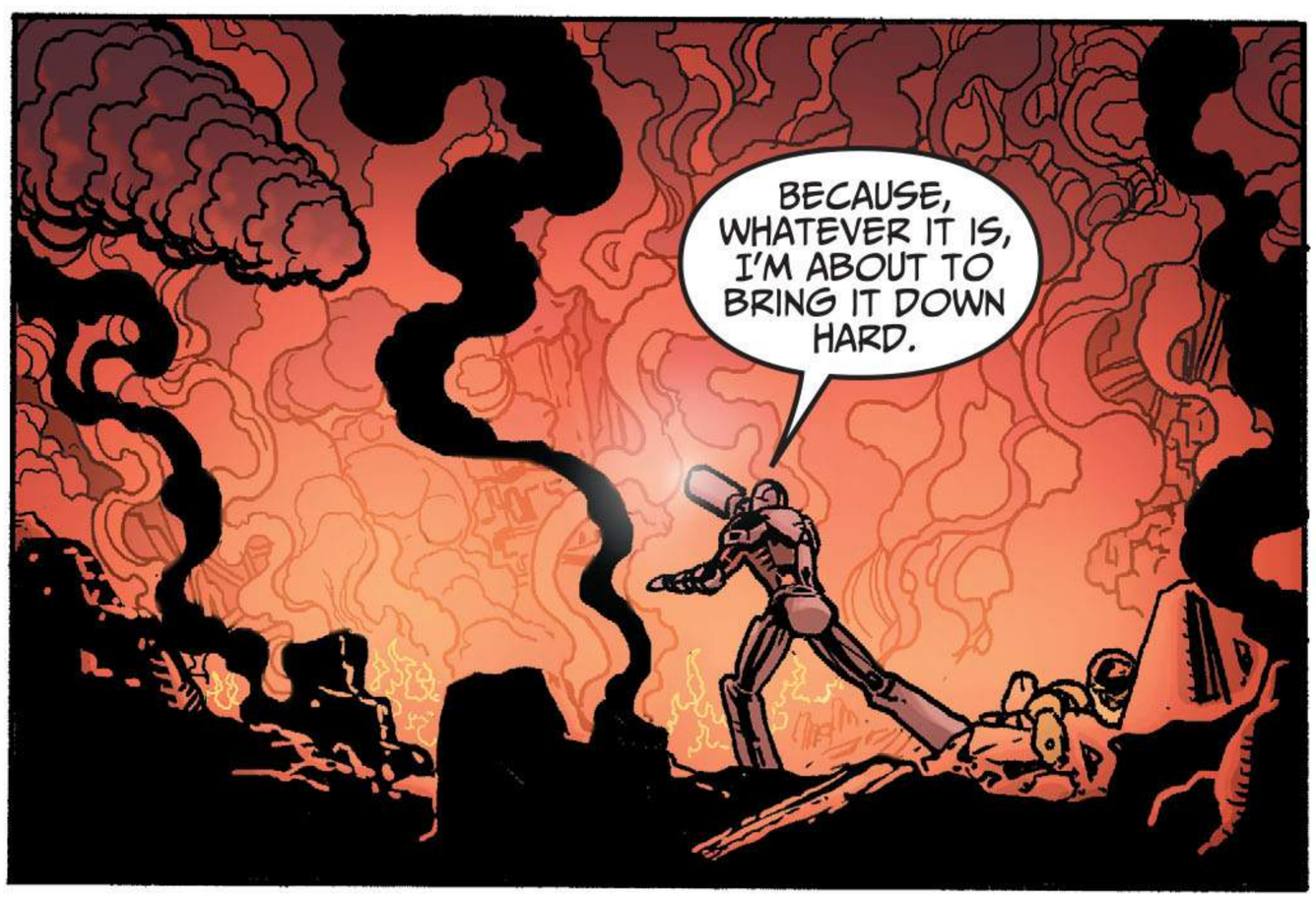




ANY SIGN OF HIS ATTACKER?
I CAN'T SEE A THING.

SUPERMAN?
NGG... NO.
HE GOT AWAY.

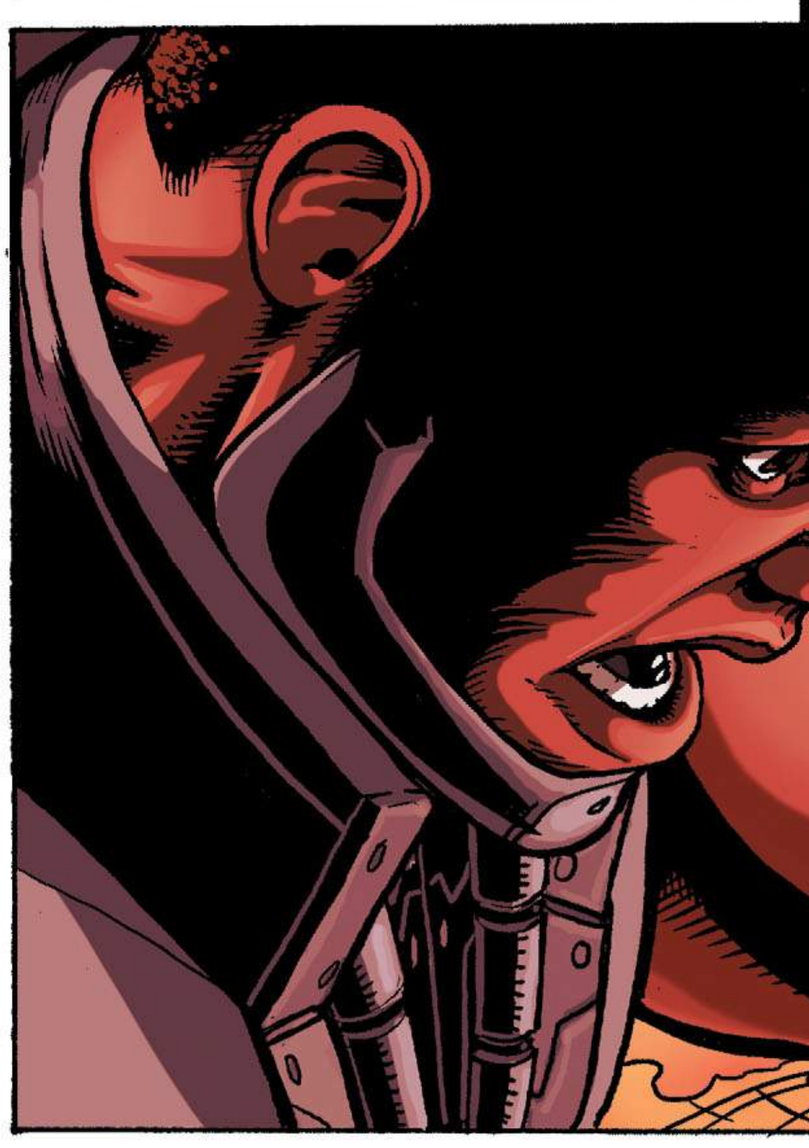

WAIT! SOMETHING'S APPROACHING FAST.
IS IT HIM?


IT BETTER BE.

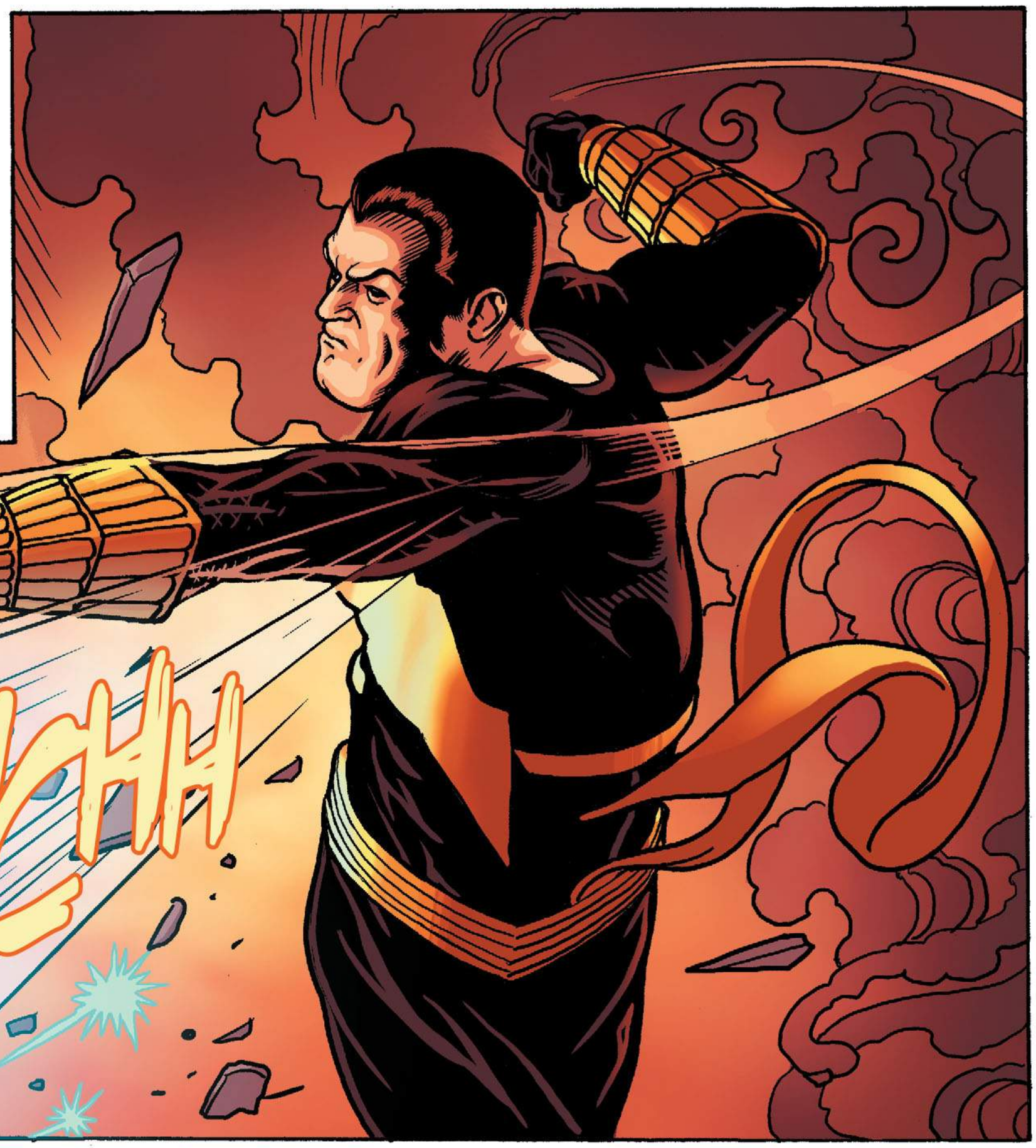

BECAUSE, WHATEVER IT IS, I'M ABOUT TO BRING IT DOWN HARD.

THAT'S IT. FLY TOWARDS THE GIANT CANNON YOU STUPID MASS-MURDERING--

ZZZT



LOOKING FOR THIS?
ZZZT


CRNCHH

YOU'RE NOT WORRIED AT *ALL?* YOU DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TOO FAR?

ARE YOU KIDDING? I HOPE THEY HURRY UP WITH THE DESPOTIC RULERS AND GET BACK *HERE.*

START DEALING WITH ALL OF THOSE CORRUPT POLITICIANS WHO ARE JUST FRONTS FOR EVIL CORPORATIONS. LOCK UP SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE REPRESENTING US, WHO ARE ACTUALLY DESTROYING OUR COUNTRY FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL GAIN.

I'VE LIVED THROUGH THIS BEFORE. PEOPLE WHO HAVE RISEN UP AND SEIZED POWER FOR NOBLE REASONS.
IT ALWAYS STARTS WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AND SUCH HOPE.

I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY TO ESCAPE PEOPLE LIKE THIS, TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE.
I FOUND ONE.

BUT THESE BEINGS WOULD RULE THE WHOLE WORLD. THERE WOULD BE NO ESCAPE. THERE WOULD BE NO BETTER LIFE TO BE FOUND.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE STOOD IN THE WAY OF MY RETRIBUTION, HALF-MAN.

BLACK ADAM!
THOOM

TOOOM

CRCK

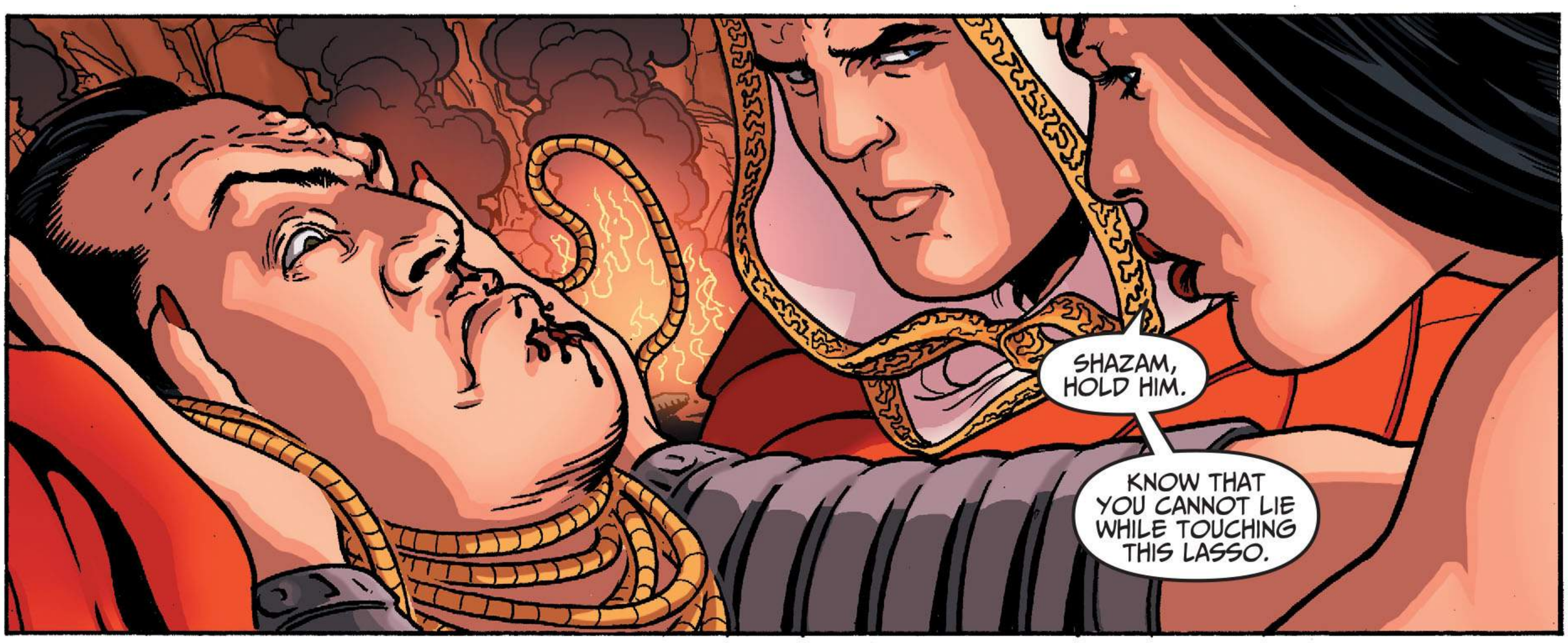
NAAARGH!!!

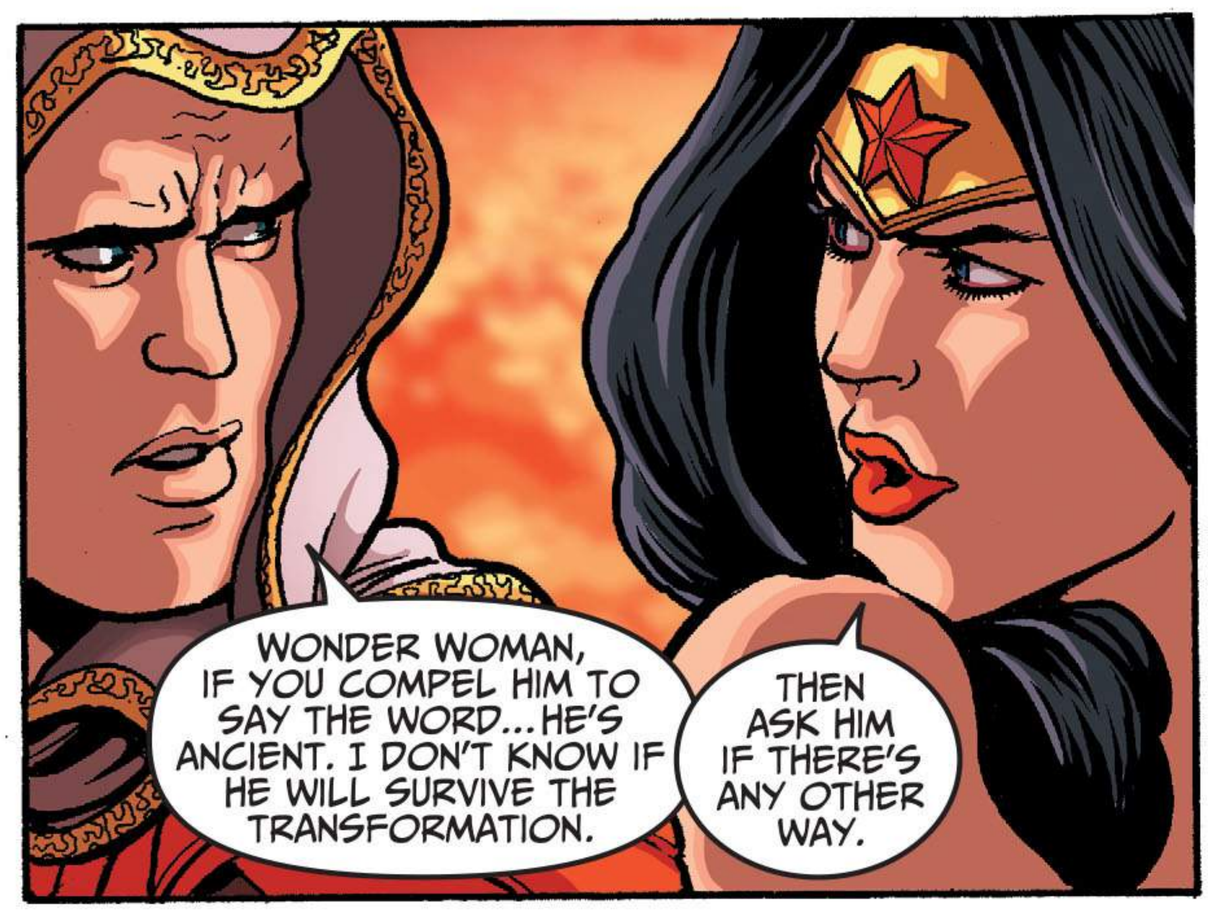
YOU'RE DONE, ADAM.

I AM *NOT* DONE. SOMEONE IN THIS CITY FIRED A SHELL INTO MY COUNTRY. THEY KILLED CHILDREN OF KAHNDAQ.
I AM KAHNDAQ'S LEADER, ITS PROTECTOR AND ITS WRATH. MY COUNTRY WILL SUFFER NO SUCH ATTACK WITHOUT VENGEANCE, SO LONG AS I HAVE POWER.

THEN WE WILL *TAKE* YOUR POWER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ASKING HIM A QUESTION.

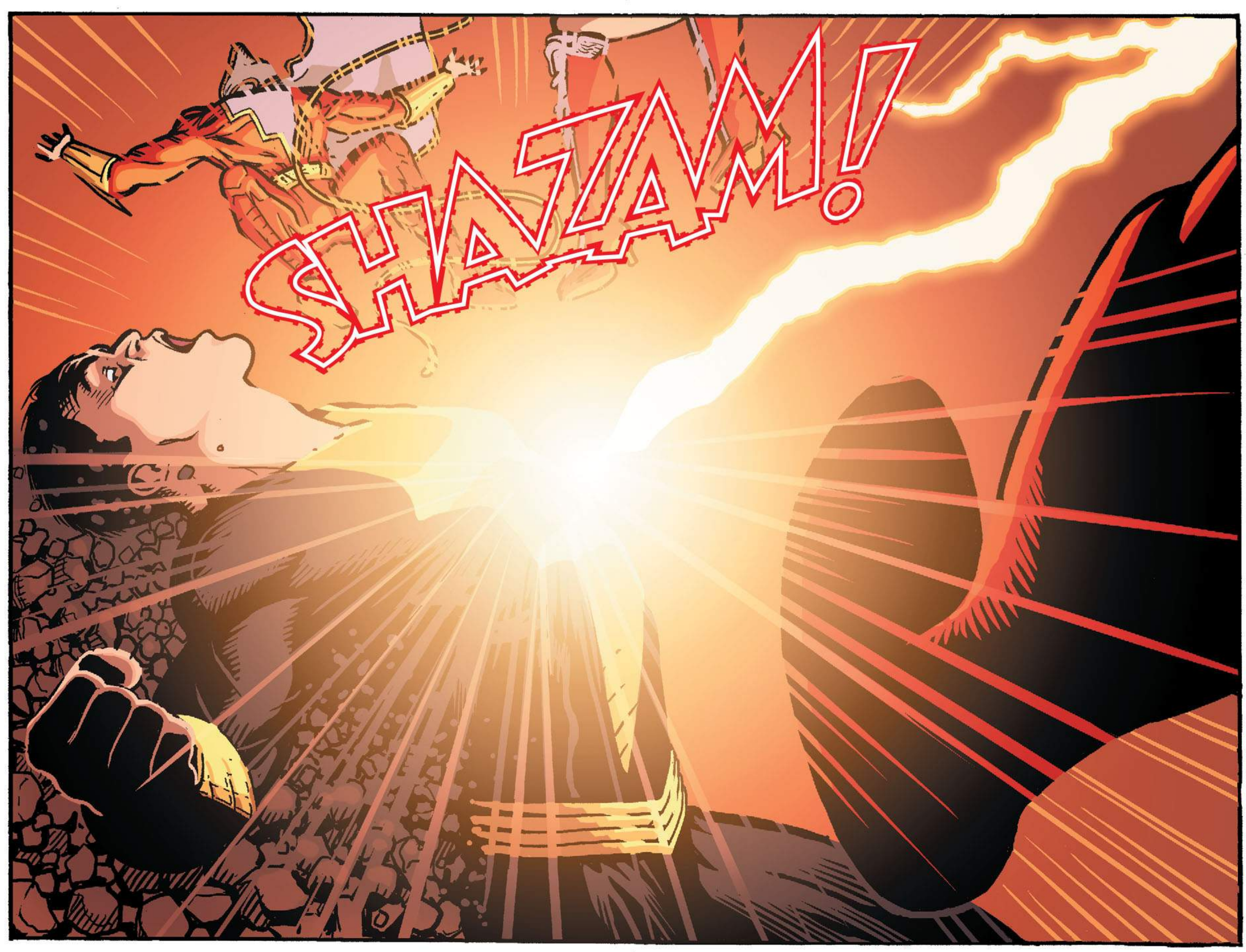

SHAZAM, HOLD HIM.
KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT LIE WHILE TOUCHING THIS LASSO.

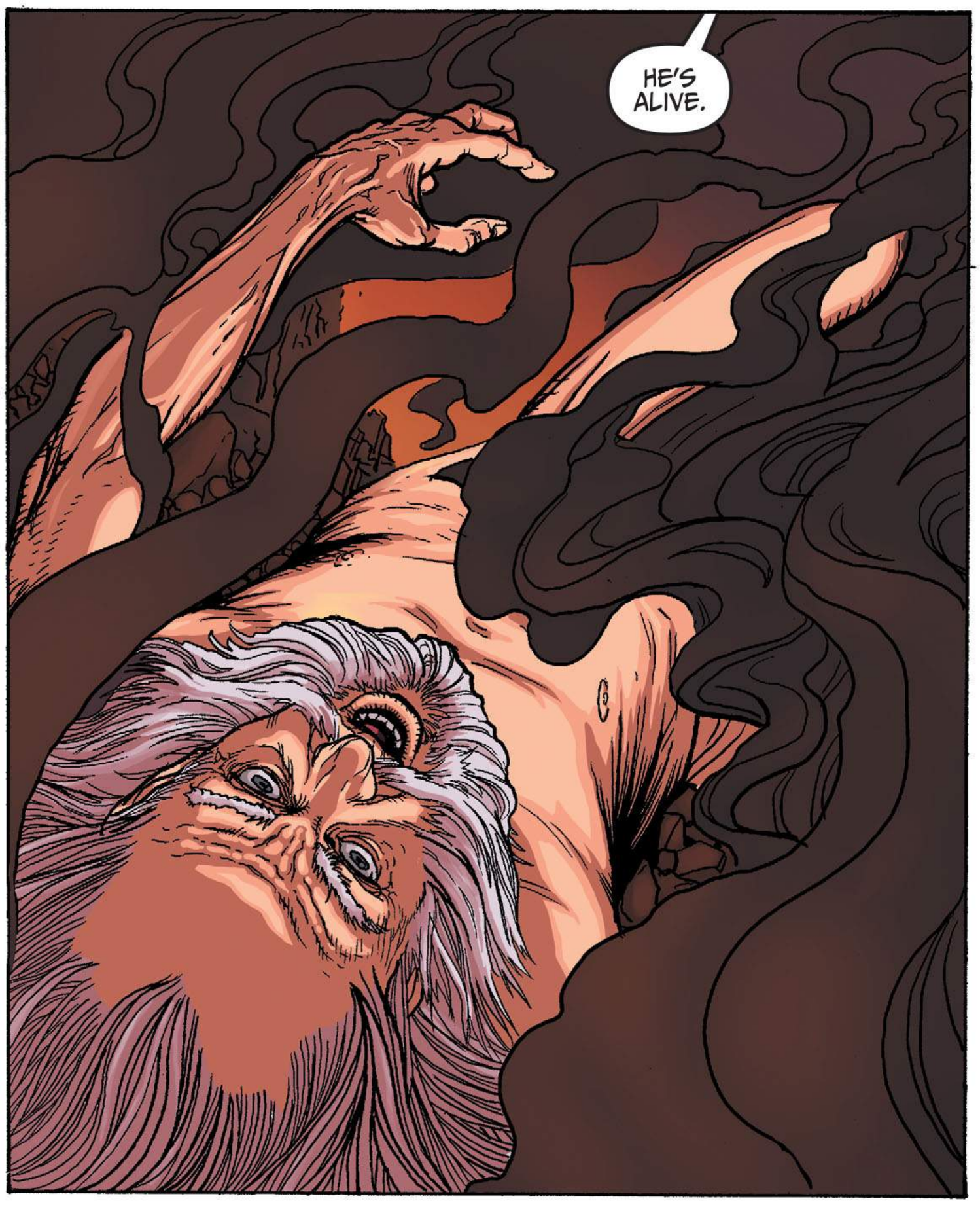

WONDER WOMAN, IF YOU COMPEL HIM TO SAY THE WORD... HE'S ANCIENT. I DON'T KNOW IF HE WILL SURVIVE THE TRANSFORMATION.
THEN ASK HIM IF THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY.

ADAM, TELL ME HOW CAN WE STOP YOU FROM KILLING AGAIN?
YOU CANNOT. I WILL KILL WITHOUT MERCY. I WILL SLAUGHTER ANYONE WHO WOULD THREATEN KAHNDAQ. I WILL TEAR WHOLE COUNTRIES APART!

AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT TO ME. YOU ARE CHOOSING THE SAME PATH. YOUR END WILL BE THE SAME.
YOU WILL RULE. YOU WILL BRING ABOUT PEACE. BUT THEY WILL FEAR YOU.
BLACK ADAM--

BILLY! PROMISE ME.
--TELL US.
PROMISE ME THAT KAHNDAQ WILL BE SAFE!
WHAT IS YOUR MAGIC WORD?


SHAZAM!


HE'S ALIVE.

SH... SH...

NO.

〈IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE DANGER HAS PASSED.〉

〈PASSED? HOW? WE ARE SURROUNDED BY ANGRY, POWERFUL GODS WHO WOULD DECIDE OUR FUTURE.〉
〈I UNDERSTAND.〉

〈YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW COULD YOU? YOU ARE ONE OF THEM. GO BACK TO YOUR SKIES, ANGRY GOD. DO NOT PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND US.〉
"BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND. AND MAYBE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BECAUSE I AM ONE OF THEM MOST OF THE TIME--"

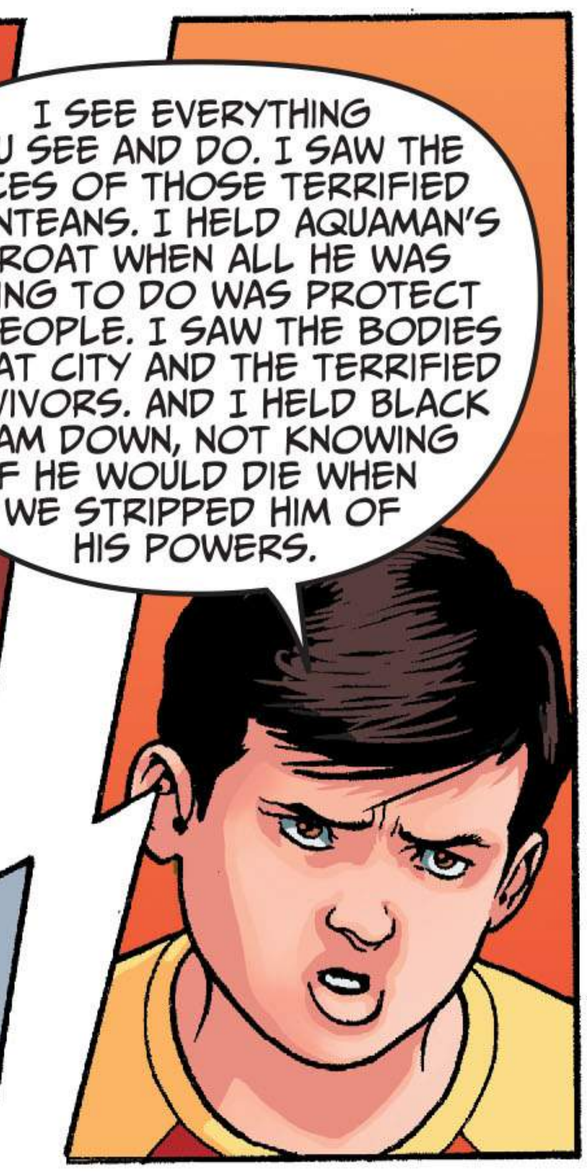
--SO I'VE BEEN ASKING AROUND. TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW OTHER PEOPLE ARE FEELING.
AND YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO ASK THIS QUESTION.
DO YOU THINK WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS RIGHT OR WRONG?

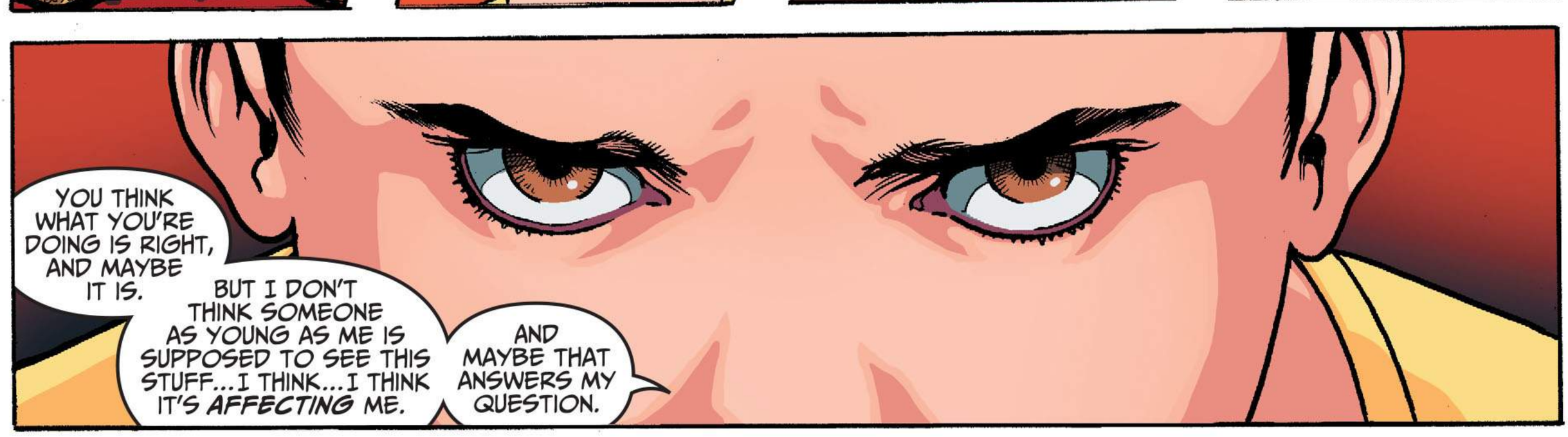
SHAZAM!

I CAN SEE THAT SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN ARE DOING THIS FOR THE GREATER GOOD. THEY COULD BRING ABOUT REAL PEACE ON EARTH.

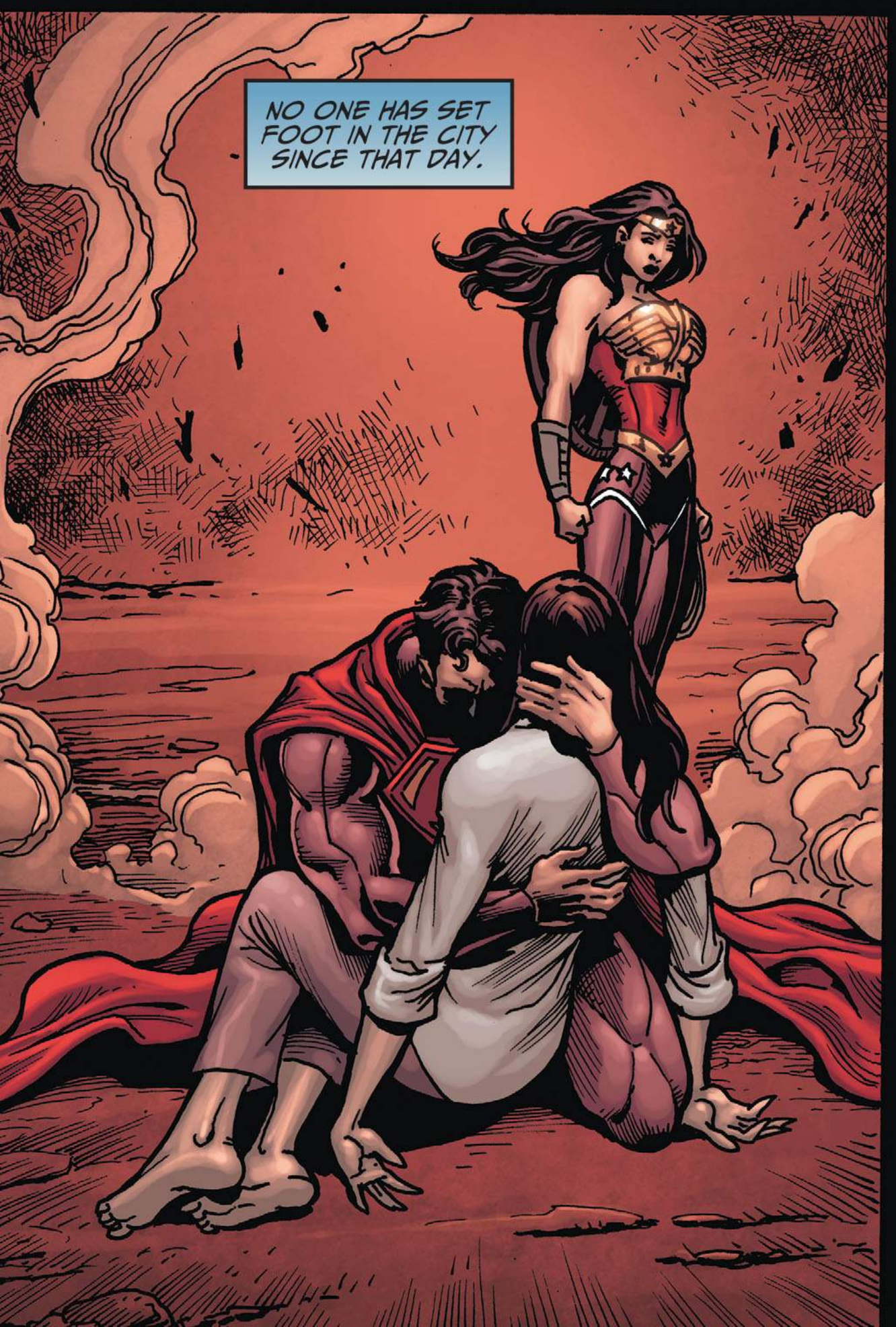
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON.
I DON'T HAVE THAT. I'M TWELVE.

SO, WHAT DO YOU SEE WITHOUT THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON?


I SEE EVERYTHING YOU SEE AND DO. I SAW THE FACES OF THOSE TERRIFIED ATLANTEANS. I HELD AQUAMAN'S THROAT WHEN ALL HE WAS TRYING TO DO WAS PROTECT HIS PEOPLE. I SAW THE BODIES IN THAT CITY AND THE TERRIFIED SURVIVORS. AND I HELD BLACK ADAM DOWN, NOT KNOWING IF HE WOULD DIE WHEN WE STRIPPED HIM OF HIS POWERS.


YOU THINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS RIGHT, AND MAYBE IT IS.
BUT I DON'T THINK SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS ME IS SUPPOSED TO SEE THIS STUFF...I THINK...I THINK IT'S *AFFECTING* ME.
AND MAYBE THAT ANSWERS MY QUESTION.

IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH.
ONE MONTH TO THE DAY SINCE A CALCULATED ACT OF MADNESS TOOK SO MANY LIVES.


NO ONE HAS SET FOOT IN THE CITY SINCE THAT DAY.

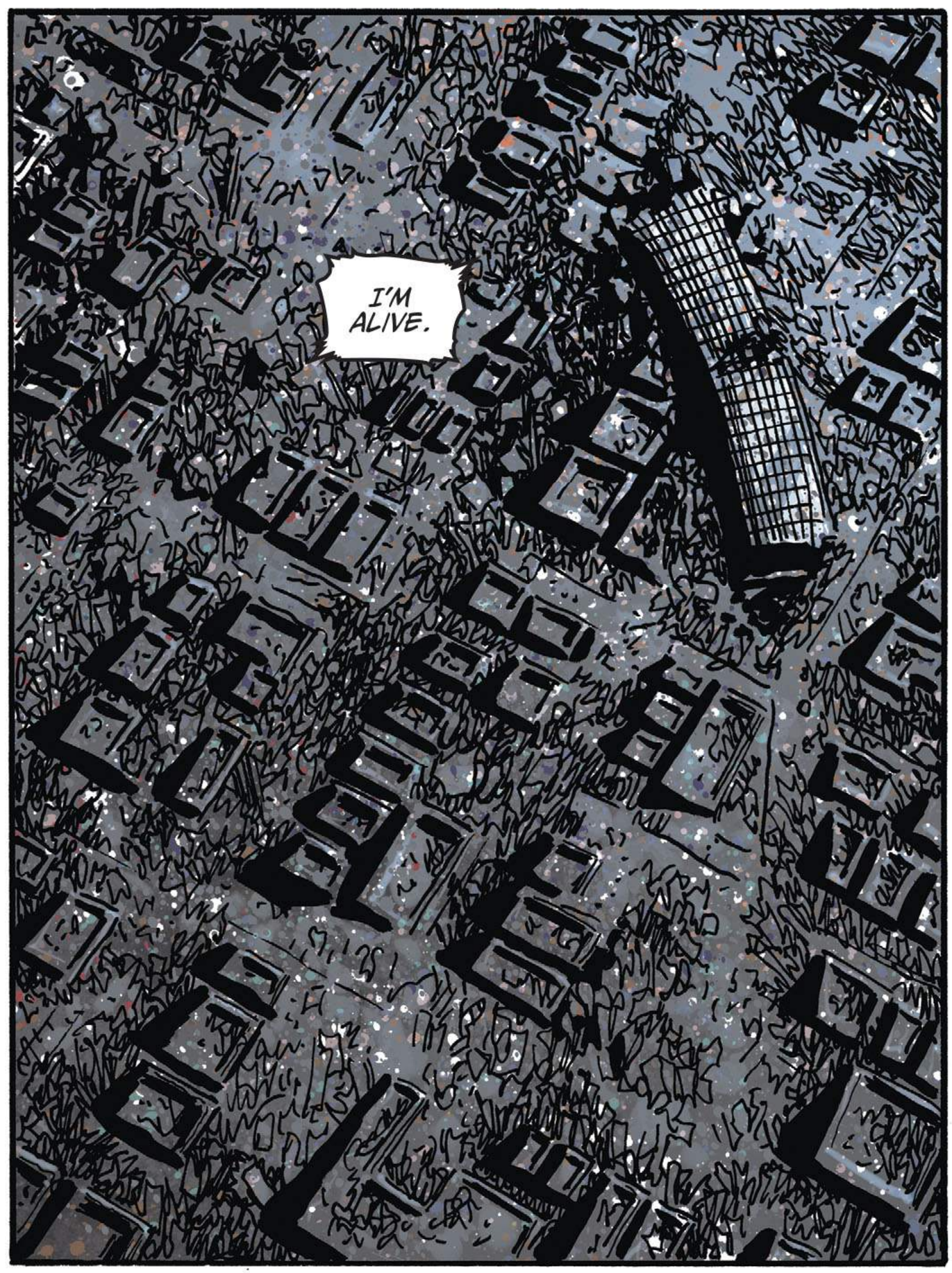
NO SOUND HAS BEEN HEARD IN THESE ONCE BUSTLING STREETS.
UNTIL NOW...

NOW, TWO WORDS--TWO IMPOSSIBLE WORDS--HAVE COME OUT OF THE RUINS.
ZZZzzz

ZZZ... I'M ALIVE... ZZ
14.95

ZZZ... I'M ALIVE... ZZZZZZ

...I'M ALIVE... ZZZZZZ


I'M ALIVE.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER.

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S DEFINITELY BEING BROADCAST OUT OF METROPOLIS.

IT'S JUST THE SAME TWO WORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN. I'D SAY IT'S A RECORDING.

I'LL GO AND TAKE A LOOK.

A LOOK? YOU CAN SEE RADIO WAVES?

OF COURSE YOU CAN...

YOU SHOULDN'T GO.

WONDER WOMAN IS RIGHT. WE'VE BEEN UPSETTING A LOT OF POWERFUL PEOPLE.

NOW WE GET A LONE MESSAGE OF IMPOSSIBLE HOPE BEING BROADCAST FROM YOUR DESTROYED HOME...?

IT'S THE PERFECT LURE.
AND METROPOLIS IS UNINHABITED FOR MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION. THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO ATTACK YOU. THEY COULD HIT YOU WITH WHATEVER THEY WANTED WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
IF A CITIZEN OF METROPOLIS HAS SURVIVED, I'M NOT IGNORING THEM.
YOU SHOULDN'T GO ALONE.
I'D JOIN YOU, BUT HIGH RADIATION LEVELS AND MY ORGANIC BITS DON'T GO SO WELL TOGETHER.
WONDER WOMAN IS PRETTY MUCH INVULNERABLE, AND THE RING CAN PROTECT ME FROM THE RADIATION.
IF THIS IS A TRAP--
THEN YOU COULD USE THE BACKUP. I'M NOT STAYING BEHIND WHILE SOMEONE PUTS A KRYPTONITE BULLET IN YOUR HEAD.
I'LL MONITOR THE GROUND FROM UP HERE. I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING IS COMING. GOOD LUCK.

CAN YOU SEE ANY THREAT?

NO. THERE'S NO THREAT HERE. THERE'S ONLY DEATH.

GREEN LANTERN?

MY RING ISN'T PICKING UP ANYTHING EXCEPT FOR THAT RADIO SIGNAL.

...I'M ALIVE... ZZZ

LET'S GO. SLOWLY.

THE SIGNAL'S COMING FROM THERE.

FROM THE BUILDING?

NO. UNDER IT.

GREAT. A NARROW, CONFINED SPACE THAT LEADS DEEP UNDERGROUND.
THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A TRAP AT ALL.
YOU STAND GUARD OUT HERE.

WHAT'S INSIDE?
I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T SEE IN.

THIS IS WHERE THE SIGNAL'S COMING FROM. THAT TRANSMITTER ATTACHED TO THE DOOR.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY THE BLAST. IT'S A MIRACLE IT'S WORKING AT ALL.
OR SOMEONE WANTS US TO THINK THAT.

WHAT IS IT?
I'M NOT SURE...
...I FEEL LIKE WE'RE BEING WATCHED.

ARE YOU SURE WE'RE ALONE?
I'M NOT SEEING ANYTHING ELSE ALIVE DOWN HERE.

SUPERMAN. CAN I SUGGEST WE LEAVE THIS ONE ALONE?
WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY. MAYBE VIA A REMOTE OR SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW THAT BIT IN THE HORROR MOVIE WHERE YOU'RE SCREAMING AT THE CHEERLEADER NOT TO INVESTIGATE THE STRANGE SOUND IN THE WOODS? THIS IS THAT MOMENT.
YOU'RE THE CHEERLEADER.

CHK

MY GOD--

--LEX!

LEX? I THOUGHT...

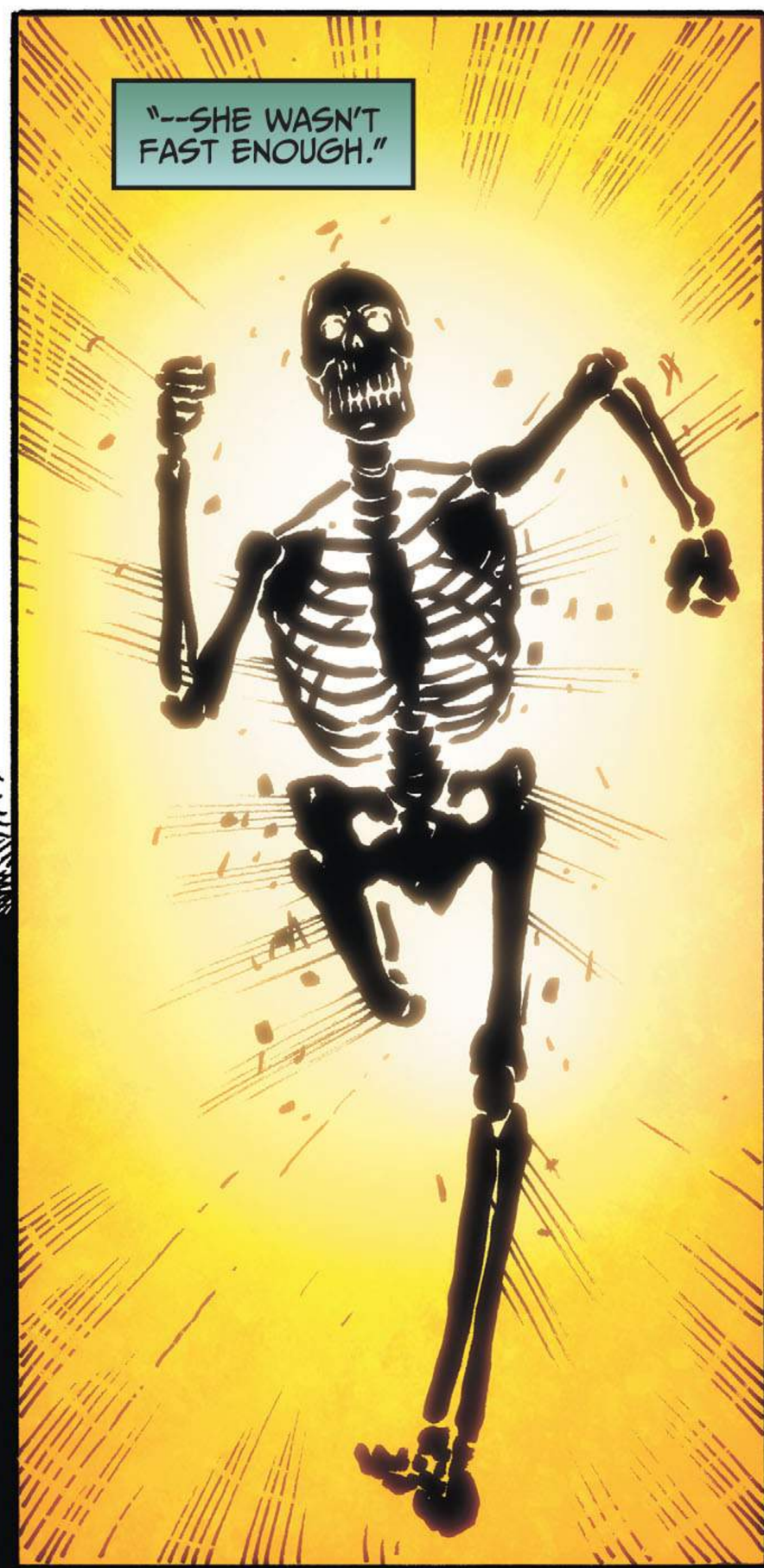
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE. IT'S A MIRACLE.
NOT A MIRACLE, JUST A WELL-EXECUTED CONTINGENCY PLAN.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, BUT I'D HATE TO SURVIVE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION ONLY TO BE CRUSHED BY AN OVEREXUBERANT HUG.

TELL ME, WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
LATER. THERE'S STILL A LOT OF RADIATION PRESENT. WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

YOU WERE RIGHT. IT'S LUTHOR. HE'S ALIVE.
IF ANYONE COULD SURVIVE THAT, IT WOULD BE HIM. HOW?
HE HAD A SPEEDSTER ON THE PAYROLL. NOT SOMEONE ON FLASH'S LEVEL BUT STILL VERY FAST. THIS SPEEDSTER HAD ONE JOB. GET LUTHOR TO HIS BUNKER IN AN EVENT LIKE THIS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS SPEEDSTER?

"AFTER SHE GOT LEX TO SAFETY, SHE WENT BACK OUT. LEX BELIEVES SHE TRIED TO SAVE PEOPLE--"


"--SHE WASN'T FAST ENOUGH."

I DIDN'T GET MUCH ELSE. WONDER WOMAN SENSED ME SOMEHOW.
BE CAREFUL OF DIANA. SHE DOESN'T SEEM HERSELF.
WHERE'S LEX LUTHOR NOW?

"HE ASKED TO MEET WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE."

I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'RE ATTEMPTING. I CAN SEE WHY.

YOU'RE DOING IT ALL FOR THE RIGHT REASONS BUT IT'S TOO HEAVY-HANDED. YOU WANT TO SAVE LIVES. I UNDERSTAND.

HOWEVER, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF YOU. EVEN WITH YOUR INCREDIBLE ABILITIES, YOU CAN'T KEEP THE PEACE. YOU CAN'T COVER THE WHOLE PLANET.

IF YOU TRULY WANT TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER WORLD, YOU NEED TO STOP REACTING AND START PLANNING. I'D LIKE TO HELP.

I KNOW YOU AND SUPERMAN ARE FRIENDS. BUT HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST YOU?

DIANA PRINCE.

HAL JORDAN.

BILLY BATSON.

BARRY ALLEN.

CLARK KENT.

I'M A VERY INTELLIGENT MAN. YOUR SECRET IDENTITIES ARE NO SECRET TO ME.

HOWEVER, I HAVE PROTECTED YOUR IDENTITIES, AND I'VE PROTECTED YOUR LOVED ONES WITHOUT YOUR KNOWING. YOU'VE HAD TO TRUST ME FOR A LONG TIME. YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT.

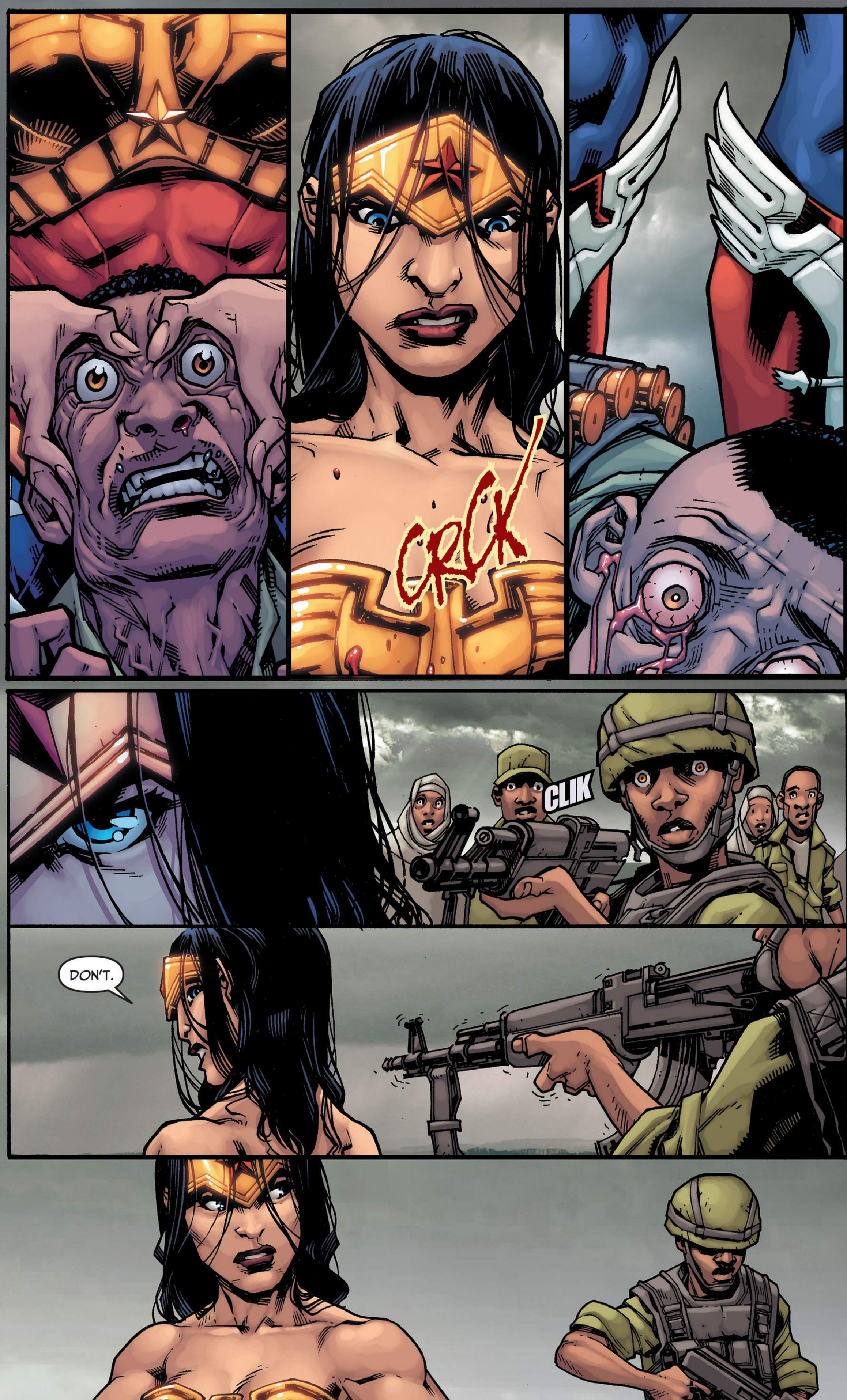
NOW. I'D LIKE TO JOIN YOU.

THE PREDATOR HOVERS SILENTLY ON THE CURRENTS, SCOUTING THE GROUND FOR HER PREY.
HER KEEN EYES MISS NOTHING.
SHE WAITS.
AND THEN, SHE SWOOPS.
THE PERFECT HUNTER.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
YES.
THIS IS IT. ARE YOU READY?
GO.
WHAT--?

AGHHHH!
PHOOOOM
UNNH.
GOODNIGHT.
TWANG
THD
WELL, WE'RE IN IT NOW.

FIGHTING AND FAMINE HAVE LEFT OVER A MILLION PEOPLE DISPLACED IN MOGADISHU.
AND NOW, THE RAINY SEASON HAS COME.
A TENT MADE OF STICKS AND OLD CARDBOARD CAN'T STAND UP TO WIND AND POURING RAIN. AND, WITHOUT CLEAN WATER, MOSQUITO NETS AND SHELTER, THE PEOPLE CAN'T STAND UP TO THE DISEASES THAT THE FLOODS BRING.
IT'S TIME WE DID MORE.
MOST OF THE DISPLACED PEOPLE HERE ARE WOMEN. BUT IT'S THE MEN WHO CARRY GUNS.
TWO GENERATIONS OF MEN WHO HAVE GROWN UP WITH GUNS IN THEIR HANDS, WITHOUT COMMAND OR CONTROL.
IT'S THE SECURITY FORCES AND SOLDIERS, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THESE CAMPS, THAT ARE CAUSING SO MUCH PAIN.
I CAN HEAR THE CRIES IN THE DARK.
THE FEAR.
THE VIOLENCE.
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT IT'S THE SAME IN OVER FIVE HUNDRED CAMPS ACROSS MOGADISHU. NO ONE EVER COMES TO THEIR AID.
THAT CHANGES TONIGHT.

COME OUT!
ALL OF YOU!
GENERAL!
GENERAL?
YOU ARE CHARGED WITH *PROTECTING* THESE PEOPLE AND YOU...
THIS MAN WILL *NEVER* HARM YOU AGAIN. I AM TAKING HIM AWAY.
AND THEN...?
WILL YOU STAY? WILL YOU PROTECT US?
I...
THIS WILL NOT STOP. SOMEONE WILL REPLACE HIM. HIS MEN WILL STILL COME AT NIGHT.
YOU THINK LOCKING ONE AWAY WILL DETER THEM? DO NOT GIVE US FALSE HOPE. IT IS CRUEL.
YOU'RE RIGHT, SISTER.


CRCK
CLIK
DON'T.

DROP YOUR GUNS.
PSH
PSH
NOW, SISTERS. PICK THEM UP.

I WILL RETURN. WE WILL NOT ABANDON YOU TO THIS LIFE.
AND WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
WHAT HAPPENS NOW IS UP TO YOU.
TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TA
NAAAARG!!

THE WATCHTOWER.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOUR COMMUNICATOR WAS DEACTIVATED.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

HAWKGIRL WAS TAKEN.

WHAT? WHO?

IT WAS A TEAM. CAPTAIN ATOM. BLACK LIGHTNING AND HUNTRESS. WORKING TOGETHER.

CAPTAIN ATOM SUGGESTS A U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT... BUT HUNTRESS?

IT'S BATMAN.

BATMAN WASN'T SEEN AT THE LOCATION.

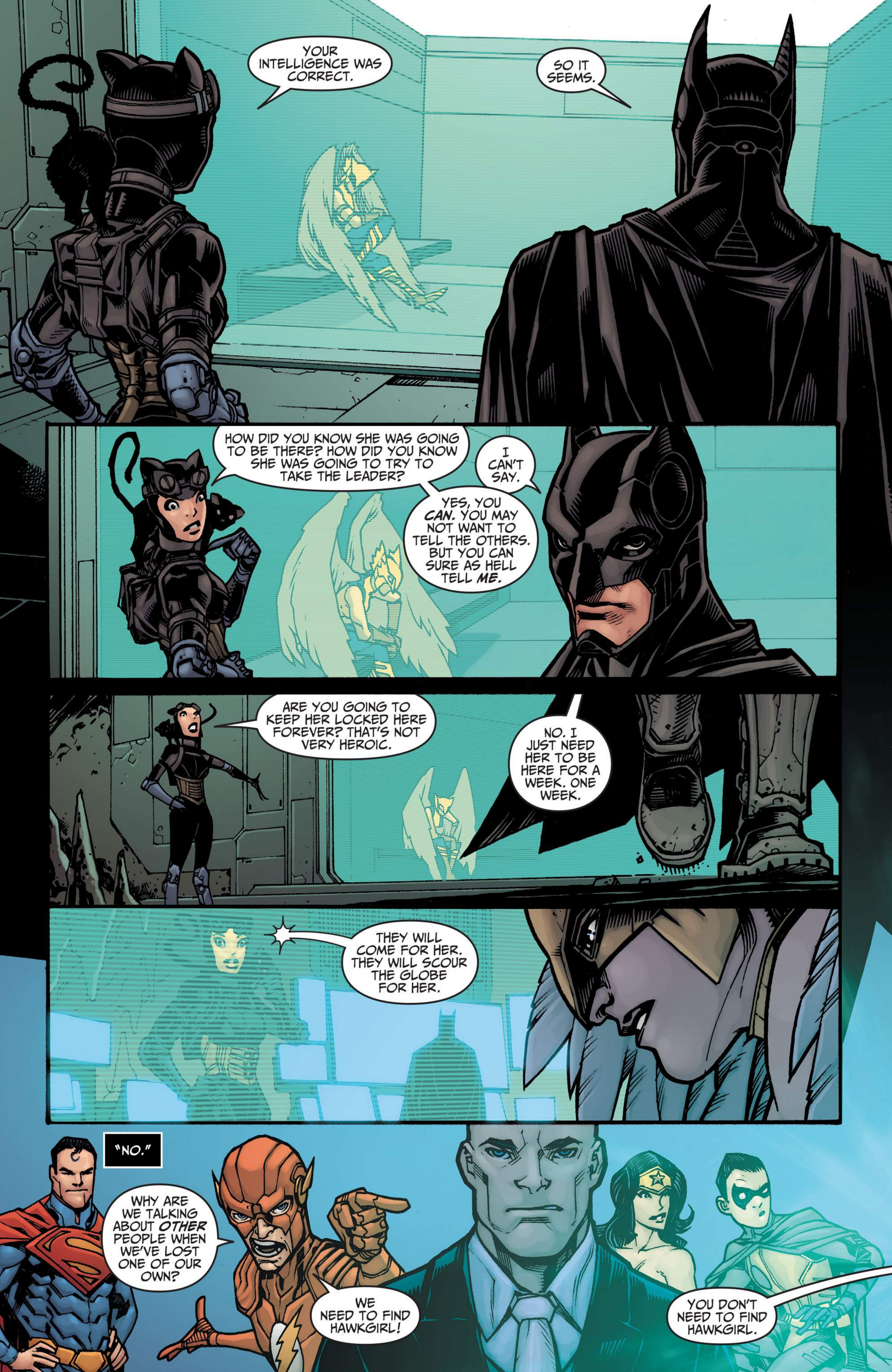
YES. THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW HE WAS THERE.

THIS IS JUST THE START. YOU'RE SPREAD TOO THIN.

YOU CAN'T POLICE THE WHOLE WORLD ALONE. YOU'LL BE PICKED OFF ONE AT A TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

YOU NEED MORE PEOPLE. I THINK I KNOW HOW TO GET THEM FOR YOU.


YOUR INTELLIGENCE WAS CORRECT.
SO IT SEEMS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS GOING TO BE THERE? HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS GOING TO TRY TO TAKE THE LEADER?
I CAN'T SAY.
YES, YOU CAN. YOU MAY NOT WANT TO TELL THE OTHERS. BUT YOU CAN SURE AS HELL TELL ME.
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP HER LOCKED HERE FOREVER? THAT'S NOT VERY HEROIC.
NO. I JUST NEED HER TO BE HERE FOR A WEEK. ONE WEEK.
THEY WILL COME FOR HER. THEY WILL SCOUR THE GLOBE FOR HER.
"NO."
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE WHEN WE'VE LOST ONE OF OUR OWN?
WE NEED TO FIND HAWKGIRL!
YOU DON'T NEED TO FIND HAWKGIRL.

I'M RIGHT HERE.
"THEY WON'T BE LOOKING FOR HER."
THEY DON'T KNOW SHE'S MISSING.

PART EIGHT
Mike S. Miller Tom Derenick Artists
Alejandro Sanchez Colorist
Mico Suayan & David Lopez and Santi Casas of Ikari Studio Cover

THE WATCHTOWER.

"BATMAN SIMPLY LET YOU GO?"

"NO, LEX. HE GAVE ME A MESSAGE. HE SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT US BUT WE HAVE TO STOP WHAT WE'RE DOING.

HE WANTS US TO STOP WORKING *FOR* THE WORLD AND START WORKING *WITH* IT.

MAYBE WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT BATMAN IS SAYING?

I AGREE. IT FEELS LIKE, EVER SINCE METROPOLIS, WE'VE BEEN REACTING. I'D LIKE TO SLOW DOWN AND TALK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

WHAT WE'RE *DOING* IS FINALLY BRINGING REAL PEACE TO OUR WORLD.

REALLY? WHAT ABOUT THE ATLANTEANS? DO YOU THINK THEY FEEL SAFER AFTER YOU ALL TOOK THEIR CITY AND DUMPED IT IN A DESERT?

WHAT ABOUT THAT KID YOU CRIPPLED IN AUSTRALIA? IS HE AT PEACE? NO. THE POOR KID TRIED TO STAND UP FOR SOMETHING AND NOW HE'S EATING THROUGH A STRAW.

AT WHAT PRICE?

UNPLEASANT THINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BUT MORE LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED IN THESE LAST WEEKS THAN EVER BEFORE.

IF YOU HAVE THAT MUCH DOUBT ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING, YOU CAN LEAVE AT ANY TIME, FLASH.
WHAT HE'S ASKING IS FAR FROM UNREASONABLE. WE COULD HAVE KILLED BLACK ADAM LAST WEEK.

YES. AFTER HE'D BUTCHERED A VILLAGE!
I WANT TO FIGHT FOR THE WORLD AS MUCH AS YOU DO, WONDER WOMAN, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO BULLY IT INTO SUBMISSION!
THIS IS NOT ABOUT--

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR LEAD WITHOUT QUESTION.
ASK YOURSELF, WHAT SORT OF LEADER DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR QUESTIONS?

I CAN PRACTICALLY SEE THE STRINGS.

SERIOUSLY, JUST LIKE THAT, YOU ALL BECOME BATMAN'S PUPPETS.
DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS WHAT HE DOES.

TACTICALLY, IT MADE MORE SENSE FOR BATMAN TO LOCK HAWKGIRL AWAY SOMEWHERE. TAKE HIS OPPONENTS OFF THE BOARD ONE AT A TIME.
INSTEAD HE SENT HER BACK. YOU THINK HE DID THIS AS AN ACT OF KINDNESS OR MERCY?
TRUST ME. I KNOW HOW MY FATHER WORKS.

HE SENT HAWKGIRL BACK AS A WEAPON. SHE'S HIS LITTLE DOUBT BOMB.

I AM NOBODY'S WEAPON. I--
YES, YOU ARE. ROBIN'S RIGHT. WE'RE BEING PLAYED.

ALSO, WHEN YOU PEOPLE GET ANGRY, IT TENDS TO LEAD TO PROPERTY DAMAGE.
BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR TEMPERS ANY FURTHER, CAN I REMIND YOU ALL THAT WE'RE ON A SATELLITE? SOME OF US AREN'T AS COMFORTABLE WITH A SUDDEN LACK OF OXYGEN AND THE COLD VACUUM OF SPACE.

SUPERMAN, ALL OF THIS COMES DOWN TO COMMUNICATION. IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE FEELING THIS UNEASY, CONSIDER HOW THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD MAY BE FEELING.
LET ME HELP YOU TO START SHAPING YOUR MESSAGE. THEN, IF YOU'RE AGREEABLE, I'LL ASK MY PEOPLE TO SET UP A PUBLIC ADDRESS.

SO, THE MESSAGE COMES SOLELY FROM SUPERMAN?
NO. LEX IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE BETTER. ALL OF YOU SHOULD BE PART OF THIS.
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN--

"--I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE US TURNED INTO SOMETHING WE DESPISE."

THE PLANET, APOKOLIPS. A GIANT BALL OF HELL SPINNING IN THE DARKNESS.

DARKSEID.

NAAAAGHH!

WHAT IS IT, KALIBAK?

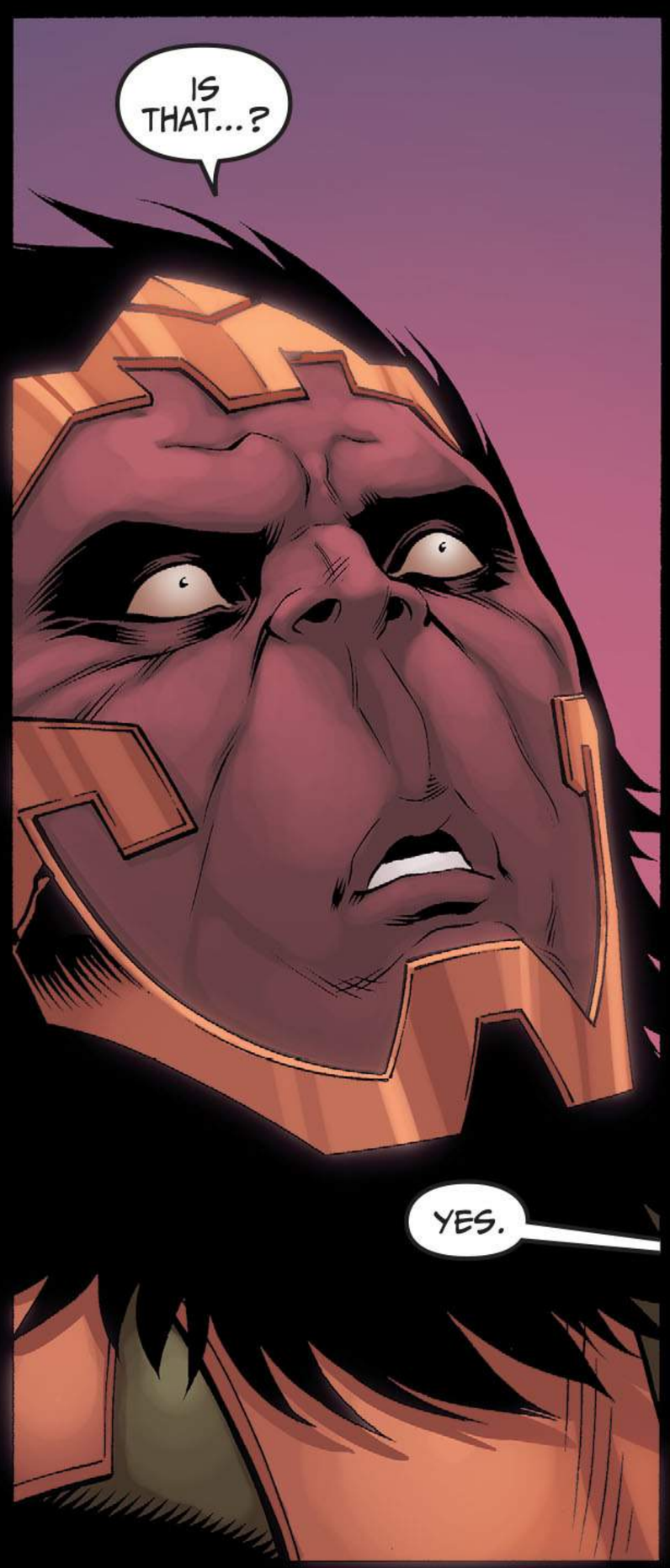
AARGHHHH!

NEWS FROM EARTH. THE KRYPTONIAN HAS CALLED FOR AN END TO FIGHTING. HE IS DISMANTLING ARMIES IN FAVOR OF PEACE.

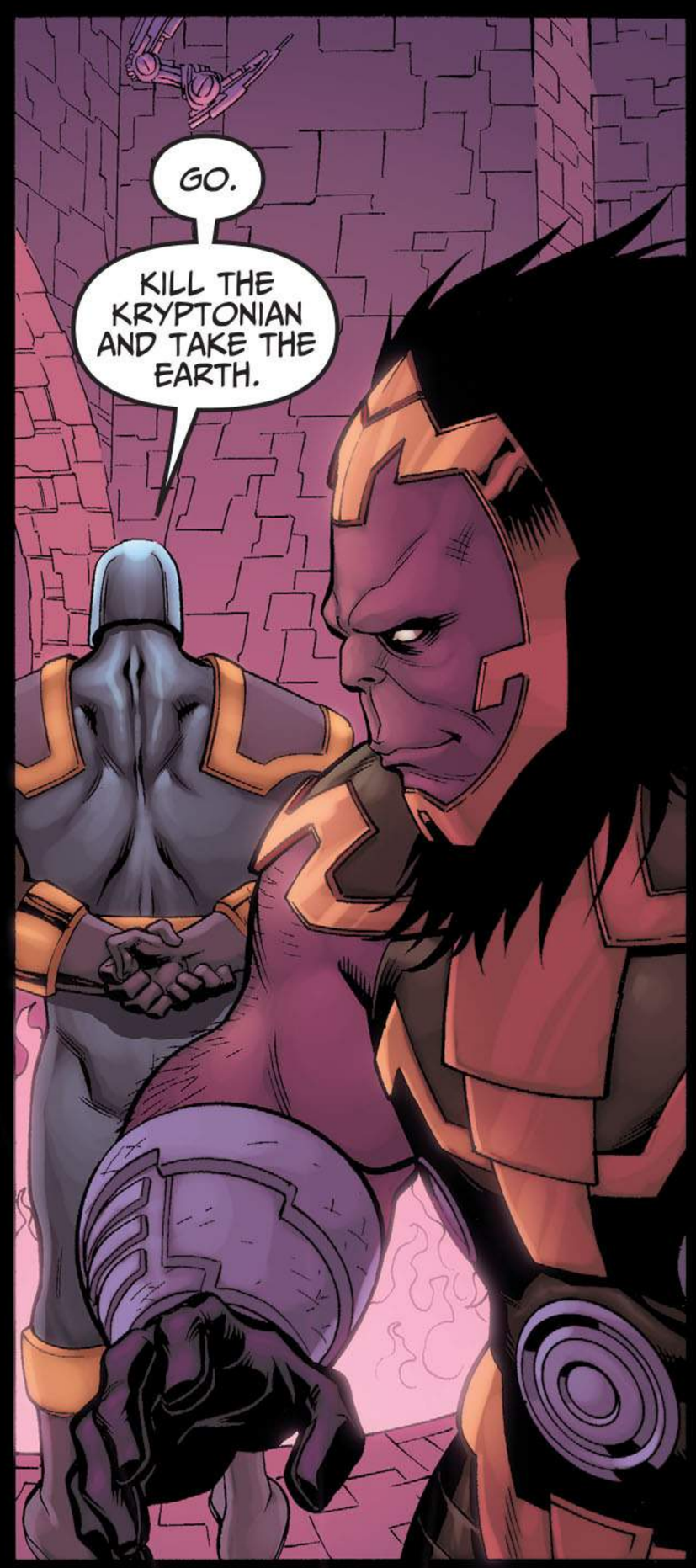
YOU THINK SUPERMAN HAS SOFTENED?

NO. NOOOOAARGHH!

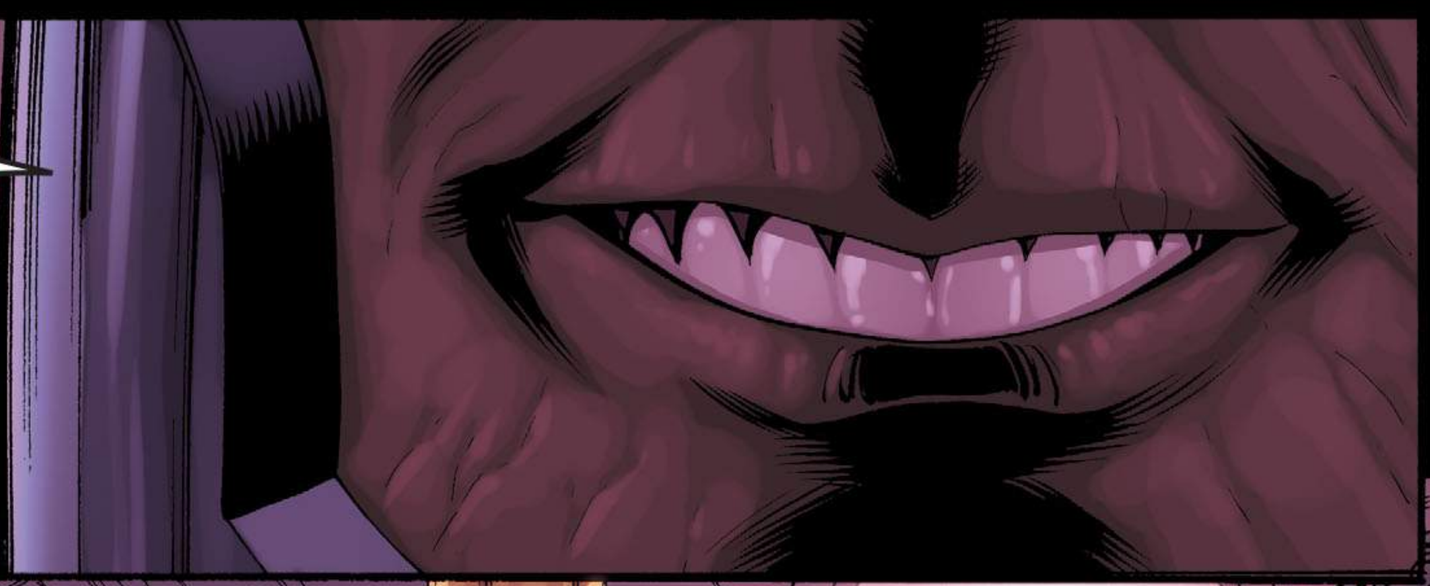
I WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A WAR PARTY TO EARTH. I WOULD LIKE TO TEST THIS "PEACE."


IS THAT...?
YES.

HE MADE A MISTAKE.
CAN HE BE KILLED?
OF COURSE NOT. WHO WOULD COME FOR HIM?


GO.
KILL THE KRYPTONIAN AND TAKE THE EARTH.

LEAVE ME AND THE BLACK RACER.



LEAVE ME TO TORTURE DEATH.

ARE YOU READY?
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?
YES.
I THINK THIS IS ONE OF THOSE JOBS FOR CLARK.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. JUST OVER A MONTH AGO, THE WORLD WAS ROCKED BY A TERRIBLE EVENT. A CITY, MY CITY, WAS TORN APART IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
SINCE THIS DAY, THE HEROES OF EARTH HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ENSURE THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
THIS MAN BEGAN A CRUSADE TO FIGHT FOR YOU ALL, TO FIGHT FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND PEACE.
PEOPLE OF EARTH, I GIVE YOU--
--SUPERMAN!

I'M SORRY IF WE FRIGHTENED YOU.

WE SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN SOONER.

WE HAVE BEEN ACTING AGAINST SOME OF THE GREATEST EVILS ON EARTH--MEN AND WOMEN, GOVERNMENTS AND REGIMES THAT HAVE KILLED AND TORTURED AND OPPRESSED WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE FOR TOO LONG.

WE HAVE BEEN ACTING AGAINST SOME OF THE GREATEST EVILS ON EARTH

SOME OF YOU MAY SEE ME AS AN ALIEN. BUT I CAME TO THIS WORLD AS A CHILD. AND I WAS RAISED BY TWO OF THE GREATEST, MOST COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE ON EARTH.

I BELIEVE IN THIS WORLD. I AM ONE OF YOU.

I KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO DISAGREE WITH OUR ACTIONS. BUT I COULD NO LONGER STAND BY AND ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF EARTH TO SUFFER.

NOT WHEN I HAD THE POWER TO PREVENT IT.

I KNOW SOME OF OUR ACTIONS MAY HAVE SEEMED... EXTREME. BUT THE RESULT IS LESS PEOPLE ARE DYING FROM NEEDLESS WAR. LESS PEOPLE ARE GRIEVING FOR LOVED ONES.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS AND MOTHERS AND FATHERS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN LOST ARE RETURNING HOME.

MY FRIEND, LEX LUTHOR, REMINDED ME THAT WE HADN'T TOLD YOU ALL WHY WE'RE DOING THIS. HE WANTED US TO SHAPE A MESSAGE.

OUR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE. *YOUR* LIVES ARE IMPORTANT.

WE JUST WANT YOU TO BE SAFE.

BOOM
PROTECT THE PEOPLE!
HNNGH!

I'VE HEARD YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN FIGHTING ANYMORE, KRYPTONIAN.
WHAT'S WRONG, SUPERMAN? DEFEATED SO EASILY?
OH... ****.

YOU LOOK...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
SAY SOMETHING!
CRNCH

CRCH
KOOM
WONDER WOMAN!

I'VE GOT IT.
KOOM

THE WATCHTOWER.

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S A BOOM TUBE!

"APOKOLIPS IS ATTACKING PARIS!"

HNGH!

TELEPORT US DOWN!

WAIT!

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE.

WHERE?

SHANGHAI.
BOOOM
MOSCOW.
BOOOM
MUMBAI.
BOOOM
ISTANBUL.
BOOOM

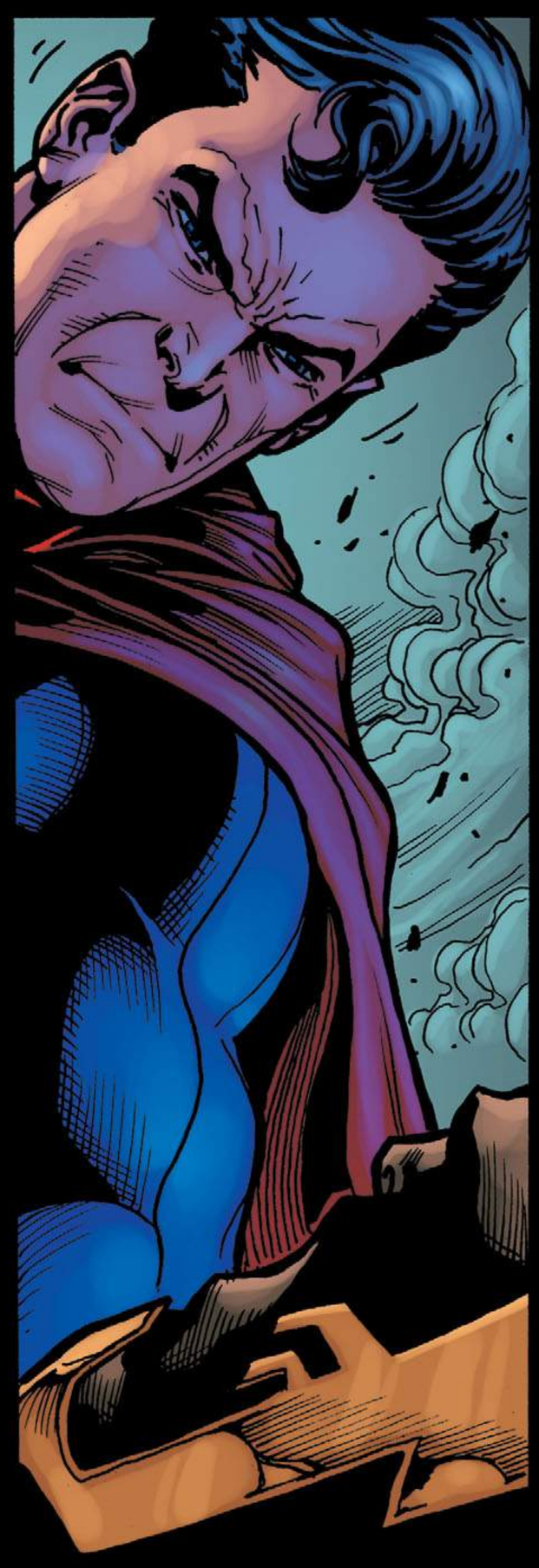
IT'S A FULL PLANETARY INVASION!
WHY THOSE CITIES?
YEAH. DON'T THEY KNOW ALIEN INVASIONS ALWAYS START NEAR FAMOUS MONUMENTS?
THEY'RE THE MOST POPULATED CITIES ON EARTH.
THIS IS ABOUT INFLICTING AS MUCH DEATH AS POSSIBLE.
GOTHAM WILL BE NEXT.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT THERE.
AND THEN WHAT? I STEAL THINGS. REPELLING ALIEN INVASIONS, NOT SO MUCH.
BATMAN. EVERY TIME WE'VE FACED SOMETHING LIKE THIS, WE'VE DONE IT BESIDE THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
WE CAN DO OUR PART. I'M SURE CAPTAIN ATOM CAN TAKE ONE OF THESE CITIES. BUT, BE REALISTIC, WE CAN'T STOP THIS WITHOUT THE OTHER HEROES--

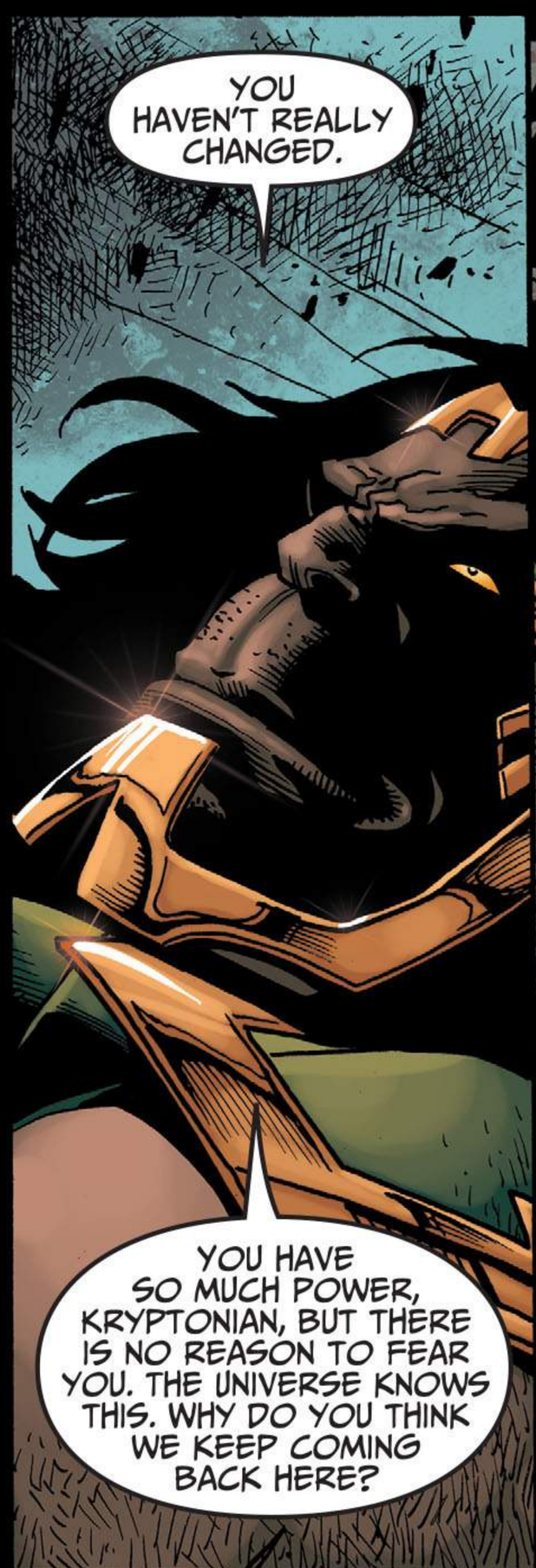
"--WE NEED SUPERMAN ON OUR SIDE."

KA-M

CALL OFF YOUR ATTACK.

OR WHAT?





BOOOM
IF YOU'RE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE A LIFE--
--THEN YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY FIGHT A WAR!
CAN YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE? CAN YOU SEE THEM?

YOU CAN, CAN'T YOU? YOU CAN SEE ALL OVER THE WORLD.
"YOU CAN SEE THEM DYING.
"YOU CAN HEAR THEIR CRIES."
ПОМОГИТЕ НАМ!
NO. PLEASE DON'T...
AIDE MOI!
帮助!
YOU'RE WEAK, KRYPTONIAN. TOO WEAK TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
YOU'D RATHER SPARE THE LIVES OF YOUR ENEMIES THAN SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR PEOPLE.
JE VOUS EN PRIE.
NO...
THEY'RE DYING. YOU'RE FAILING THEM.
NOT AGAIN.