



BLACKEST NIGHT

570 APR 10

Adventure COMICS

CONNOR

CASSIE

FEATURING:
BLACK LANTERN
SUPERBOY

LOPES :10



BLACKEST NIGHT

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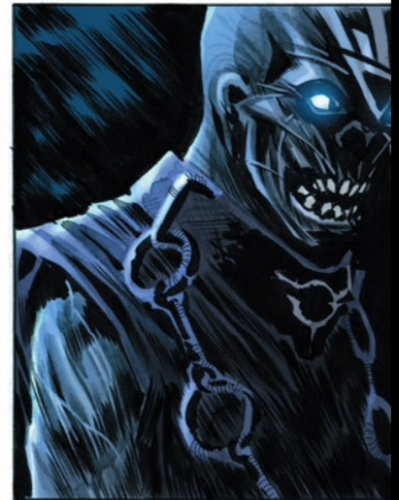
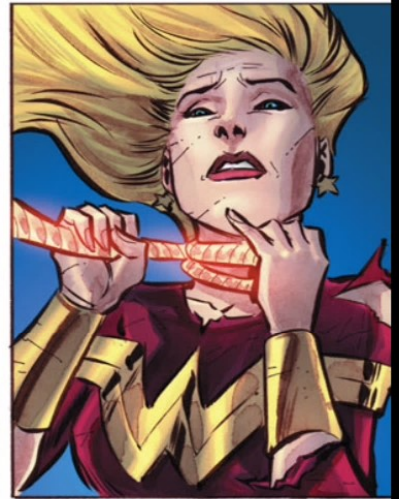
BEDARD • MOORE • GREEN • CHAMPAGNE • WIACEK



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FEATURING:
BLACK LANTERN
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INTRODUCTION



Hal Jordan was chosen to represent an intergalactic police force created by the oldest beings in existence—the Guardians of the Universe. Protecting Earth and all of space sector 2814 from every extraterrestrial threat imaginable, Hal shines his light proudly as Green Lantern! Follow his adventures from his "Rebirth" and triumphant return to the DC Universe, through his darkest hour in the Blackest Night!

Hal Jordan's best friend, Oliver Queen, was once a self-centered billionaire and head of Queen Industries. His fall from grace (and life) was epic...but the Emerald Archer found a way to survive. Now considered a super hero, he strikes out against crime and corruption in his home of Star City as the world's greatest archer and ultimate hero for the people—Green Arrow!

And as a special treat, available for the first time ever digitally:

The complete Dennis O'Neil/Neal Adams GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW saga! Considered some of the greatest work ever produced, these legendary masters tell complex inner-city tales with the Emerald Archer, while Hal Jordan battles all forms of universe-threatening menace...and when they team up, it's the stuff of legends! Read history as it was being created and enjoy some of the most exciting, innovative stories of the genre!

GREEN ARROW: THE LONGBOW HUNTERS is the groundbreaking story of an older, more introspective Green Arrow who's begun to question the decisions he's made throughout his career. But danger follows the Emerald Archer and he soon finds himself bow-deep in intrigue and violence, as he's joined by the mysterious Yakuza archer Shado, in a desperate bid to save Black Canary's life!





COAST CITY.

THE BLACKEST NIGHT.

I'VE SEEN
THIS MOVIE
BEFORE.

THE
MANCHURIAN
SUPERBOY.

IT'S NOT THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE BEEN
SOMEONE'S
PUPPET, BUT
ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER IT
WILL BE THE
LAST.

WHAT DID BLACK LANTERN SUPERBOY DO?

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SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN DANCING TO SOMEONE ELSE'S TUNE SINCE I FIRST SHOWED UP IN METROPOLIS.

IT WAS JUST AFTER SUPERMAN DIED. NOBODY KNEW WHERE I CAME FROM. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE MY OWN NAME BACK THEN.

I TOLD THEM CALL ME SUPERMAN, BUT "SUPERBOY" IS WHAT STUCK.

I'M ACTUALLY A CLONE OF SUPERMAN-- HALF KRYPTONIAN, HALF HUMAN--COOKED UP BY PROJECT CADMUS TO SERVE THEIR SHADY AGENDA.

I WAS GIVEN SPECIAL GOGGLES TO FAKE ABILITIES I DIDN'T HAVE YET, LIKE HEAT VISION.

IN FACT, MY ONLY SUPER-POWER BACK THEN WAS SOMETHING CALLED TACTILE TELEKINESIS. IT MADE ME STRONG, INVULNERABLE, LET ME FLY AND EVEN BLOW STUFF UP.

ONCE I GOT AWAY FROM PROJECT CADMUS, I DEVELOPED REAL KRYPTONIAN POWERS LIKE SUPER-HEARING, HEAT VISION, SUPER-SPEED...

...THE ONLY PIECE OF THE PUZZLE STILL MISSING IS FREEZE-BREATH.

I ALSO JOINED THE TEEN TITANS, AND I GOT A REAL NAME-- CONNER KENT.

BUT EVEN AS WONDER GIRL AND I BECAME AN ITEM, SOMEONE ELSE CAME ALONG WITH AN AGENDA:

LEX LUTHOR.

TURNS OUT I GOT MY HUMAN D.N.A. FROM HIM, ALONG WITH A MIND-CONTROL PROGRAM.



WHEN LUTHOR SAID HIS TRIGGER WORDS, I WENT BERSERK AND BEAT THE HELL OUT OF MY TEAMMATES--ESPECIALLY CASSIE.

IT WAS A LIVING NIGHTMARE. I STILL CAN'T FACE WHAT I DID TO HER...

...NOT TO MENTION MY CONSTANT DREAD THAT SOMEDAY SOMEBODY MIGHT FLIP MY "EVIL SWITCH" BACK ON.



I DIED FIGHTING A SUPERBOY GONE BAD...

...AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN CURTAINS FOR ME, IF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES DIDN'T ALSO HAVE AN AGENDA.



THEY STUCK MY CORPSE IN A KRYPTONIAN HEALING CHAMBER AT THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE--

--THE SAME ONE THAT BROUGHT SUPERMAN BACK TO LIFE.



IT'S GONNA TAKE A THOUSAND YEARS TO REVIVE ME...



...AND THEN THE LEGION WILL LET ME OUT JUST IN TIME TO FINALLY BEAT SUPERBOY PRIME IN THE FUTURE.

AND ONCE THEY DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE, THEY'LL SEND ME HOME TO THE PRESENT DAY.



LUCKY ME.

I THOUGHT I'D CHEATED DEATH, BUT IT TURNS OUT DEATH CHEATED ME--ALONG WITH EVERY OTHER HERO WHO EVER CAME BACK FROM THE GRAVE.

DEATH'S OTHER NAME, APPARENTLY, IS NEKRON--THE DUDE IN CHARGE OF THIS WHOLE "BLACKEST NIGHT" THING.

HE SAYS THAT OVER THE YEARS HE KEPT SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN, FLASH AND OTHER HEROES FROM DYING A PERMANENT DEATH.

WE THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN A SECOND CHANCE, BUT REALLY WE WERE JUST SLEEPER AGENTS, WAITING FOR NEKRON TO PULL OUR CHAINS.



SO NOW I'M TRAPPED IN MY OWN BODY, HURTING MY FRIENDS, UNABLE TO STOP-- 'CAUSE YET ANOTHER JERK WANTS ME TO CARRY OUT HIS FREAKIN' AGENDA.



BUT I CAN'T JUST LET THIS HAPPEN! I CAN'T JUST CURL UP HERE IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD WHILE MY BODY RUNS AMOK.

I SHOOK OFF LUTHOR'S PROGRAMMING-- MAYBE I CAN BREAK FREE OF THIS, TOO.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

...IF I DON'T ACT NOW, I'LL WASTE AWAY TO NOTHING.

OKAY...CONCENTRATE... GOTTA DEAL WITH WHAT MY BODY'S DOING...

...NO MATTER HOW AWFUL IT MAY BE.

CONNOR...



CONNER, PLEASE!

I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE--I CAN'T LOSE YOU AGAIN!

I HEAR HER, BUT I CAN'T ANSWER.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE, REMEMBER?

AND WE'VE TRAINED EVER SINCE, BUILDING UP MENTAL DEFENSES.



FOCUS ON MY VOICE, CONNER! LET IT GUIDE YOU BACK!



GOTTA LET HER KNOW I AM IN HERE BEFORE SHE LOSES HOPE.

COME ON, CONNER, SAY SOMETHING!



DO YOU EVER SHUT UP, YOU DUMB SKANK?!

YADD-YADD-BLAH-BLAH, TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN!

NO WONDER I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF THINK!

WAIT, I WOULD NEVER SAY THAT!

GOD, IMAGINE IF I MARRIED YOU--I'D HAVE TO PRETEND TO GO DEAF JUST TO GET SOME PEACE!

...NO, CONNER... THAT'S THE RING TALKING...

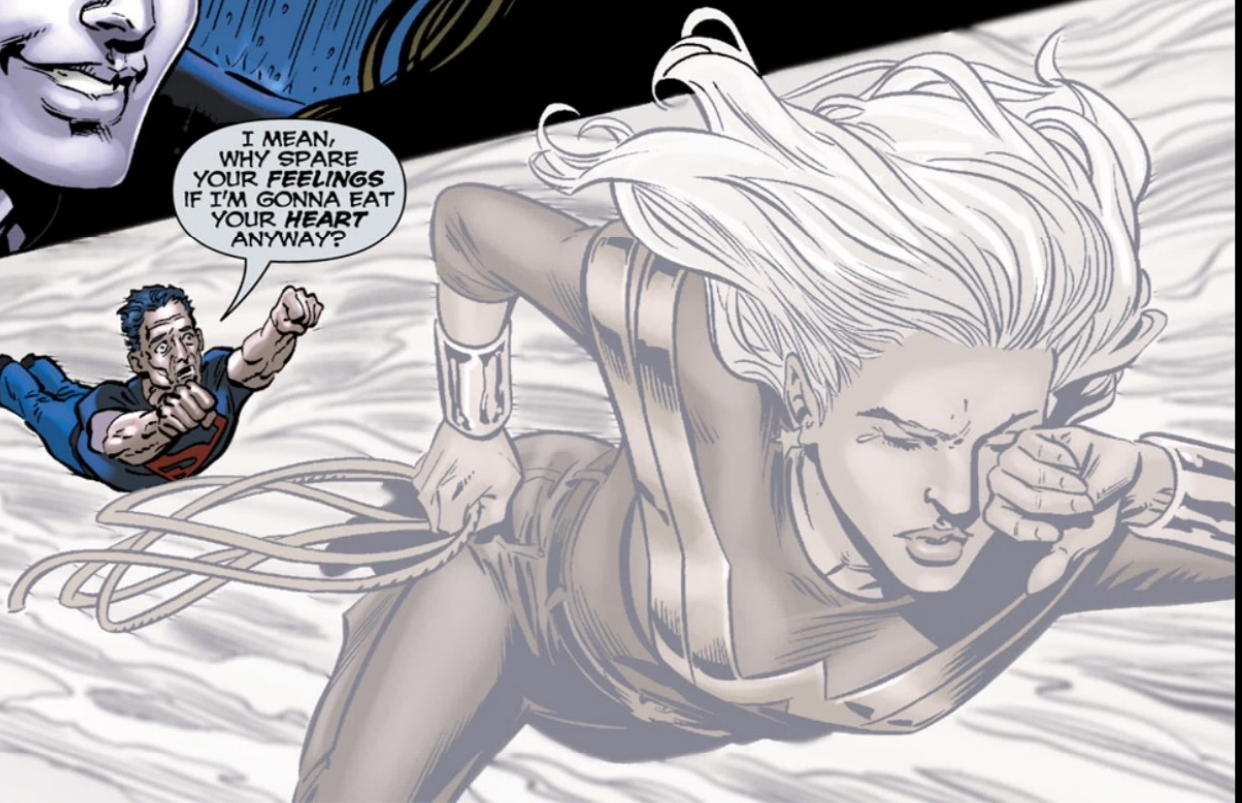
TRUE, BUT IT'S PULLING EVERYTHING I SAY FROM MY OWN MEMORIES, DRAGGING UP HURTFUL, ANGRY STUFF I KNOW BETTER THAN TO SAY OUT LOUD.



THERE'S ENOUGH OF ME IN MY WORDS TO GIVE THEM A RING OF TRUTH.

HEY, I'M JUST GETTING STUFF OFF MY CHEST THAT'S BEEN THERE FOR YEARS.

I MEAN, WHY SPARE YOUR FEELINGS IF I'M GONNA EAT YOUR HEART ANYWAY?





YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES WHEN I'M ALONE, IT'S NOT EVEN YOU I THINK ABOUT.

NO, NO, DON'T GO THERE--!



IT'S KARA.
SURE, SHE'S TECHNICALLY MY COUSIN, BUT DOES THAT EVEN COUNT IF YOU'RE A CLONE...?



SHUT UP!!

KZZAKT

FOR A MILLISECOND, THE BLACK RING'S GRIP RELAXES.



...NNH...



THEY CAN'T HEAR THE NOTE I'M WHISTLING.

TOO HIGH FOR HUMAN EARS, TOO HIGH EVEN FOR CASSIE.

IT'S ALL I CAN MANAGE BEFORE THE RING TAKES BACK CONTROL.

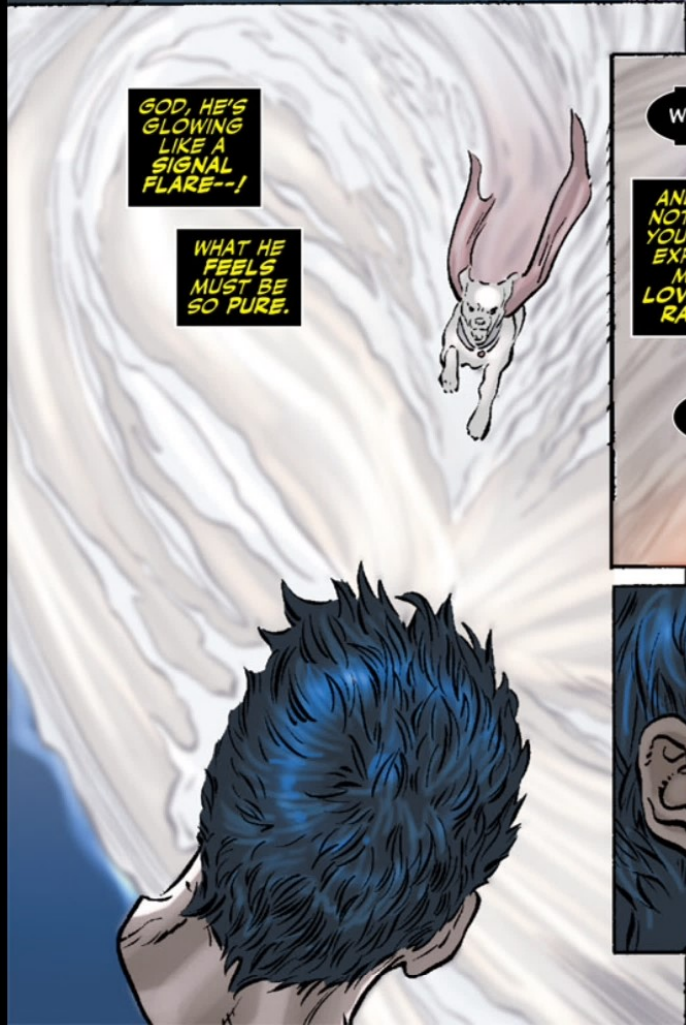


DON'T BE JEALOUS, CASS.



KRYPTO!

RRRRRRRRRRRR



**GOD, HE'S
GLOWING
LIKE A
SIGNAL
FLARE--!**

**WHAT HE
FEELS
MUST BE
SO PURE.**



WILL.

**AND IT'S
NOT WHAT
YOU MIGHT
EXPECT--
MORE
LOVE THAN
RAGE...**

LOVE.

RAGE.



**...AND
NO FEAR
AT ALL.**



GOTTA GET THIS RING
OFF MY FINGER.

IF WE HAD DIFFERENT
POWER RINGS--GREEN,
YELLOW, WHATEVER--
WE COULD SHUT DOWN
MY BLACK ONE.

NNGG.

THIS ISN'T
GOING WELL.

POOM

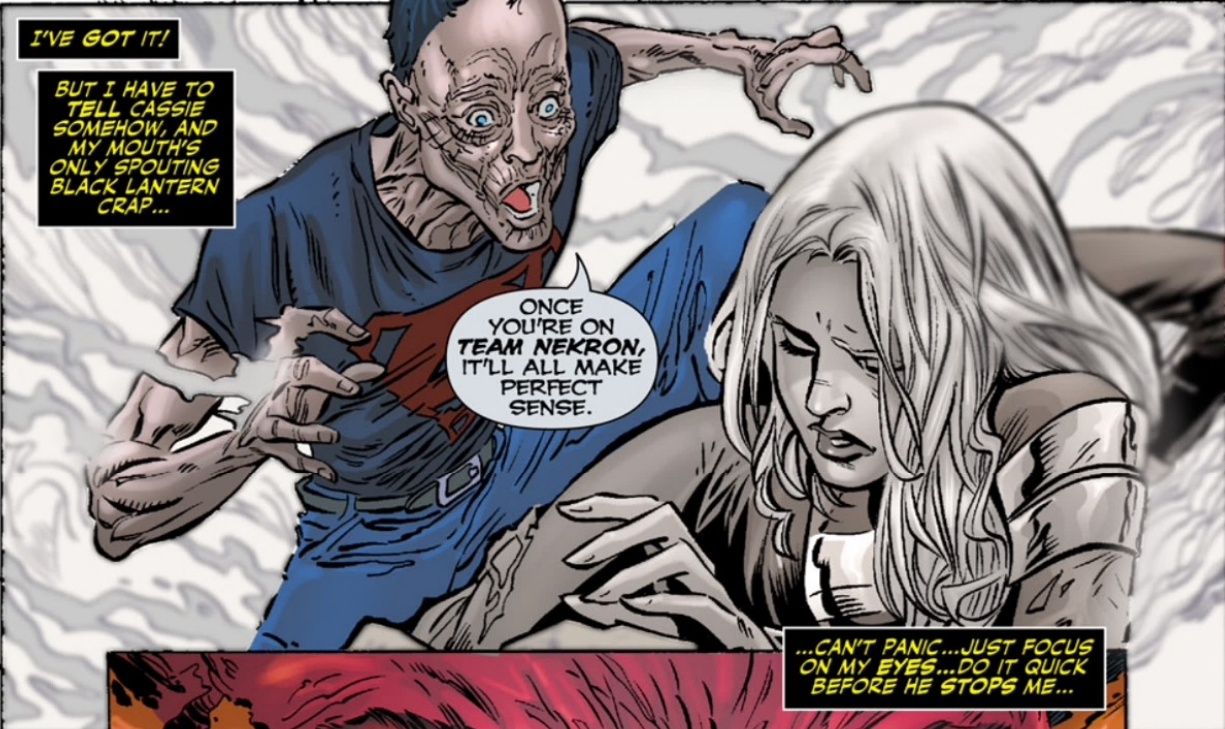
KRIISHH

THERE MUST BE
OTHER TOOLS OR
WEAPONS THAT
CAN AFFECT IT.

OR MAYBE A WAY TO
TRICK IT OFF MY FINGER,
OR TRAP IT...BUT WHAT
WOULD BE THE BAIT?

OKAY, GIRLFRIEND,
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR
BLACK LANTERN
MAKEOVER.





I'VE GOT IT!

BUT I HAVE TO TELL CASSIE SOMEHOW, AND MY MOUTH'S ONLY SPOUTING BLACK LANTERN CRAP...

ONCE YOU'RE ON TEAM NEKRON, IT'LL ALL MAKE PERFECT SENSE.

...CAN'T PANIC...JUST FOCUS ON MY EYES...DO IT QUICK BEFORE HE STOPS ME...



ZARK

ZARK
ZIK
ZARK
ZARK
ZIK
ZIK



WHAT AM I DOING?!



CONNER...?

FORTRESS



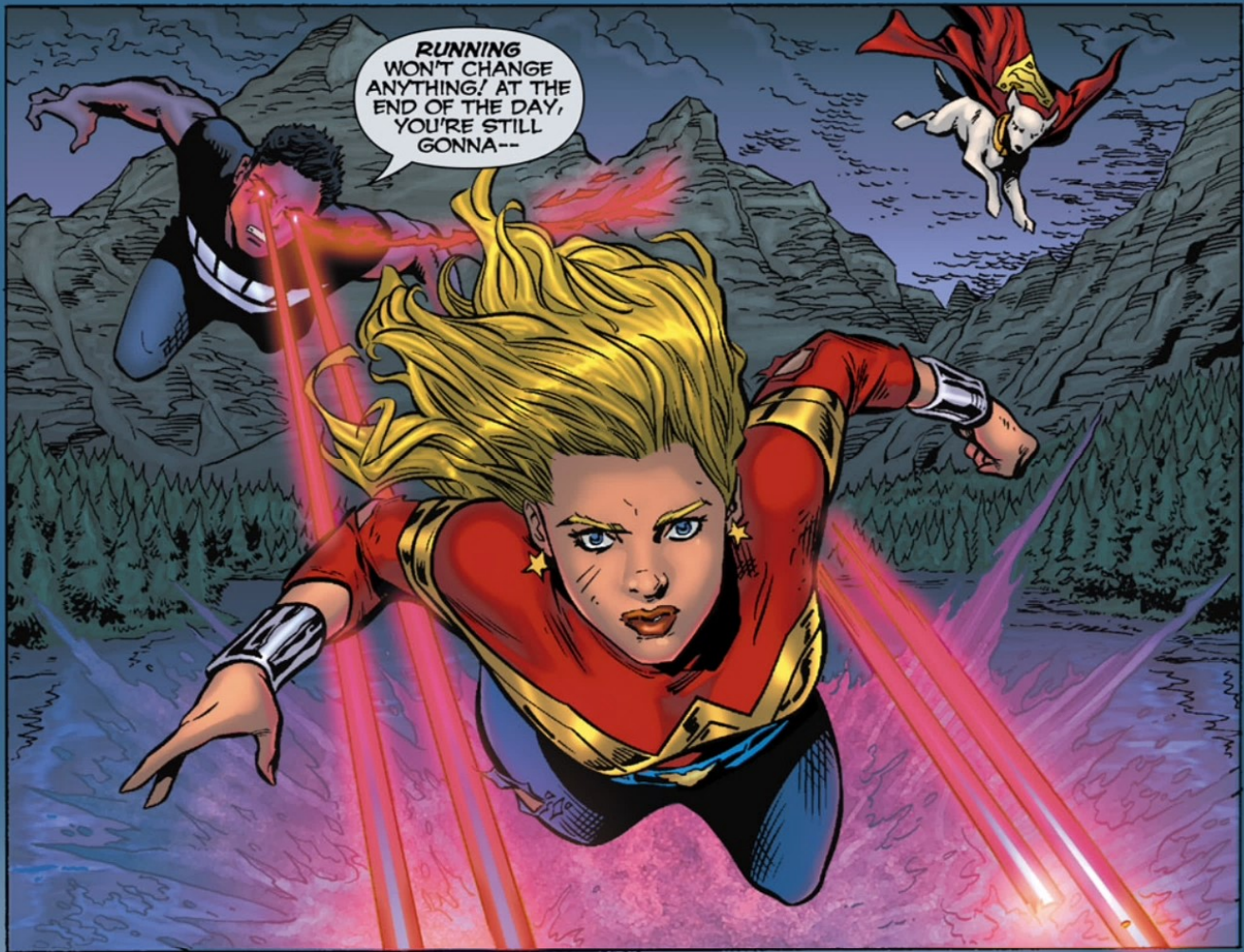
OKAY, CONNER...



...I JUST HOPE THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT...



YES, CASSIE!
FAST AS YOU CAN!
ALL THE WAY UP
THE COAST...



RUNNING
WON'T CHANGE
ANYTHING! AT THE
END OF THE DAY,
YOU'RE STILL
GONNA--



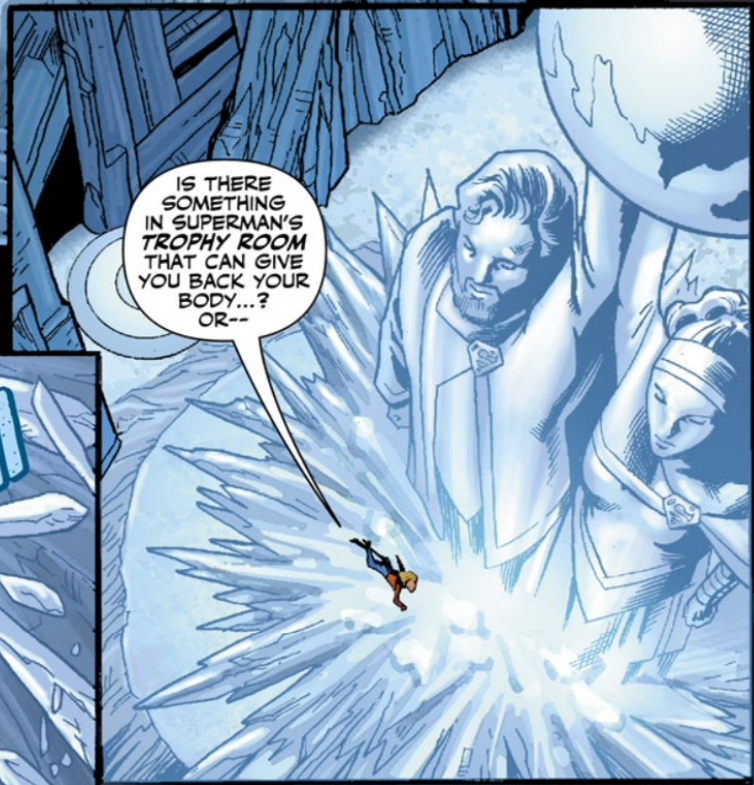
ARRH!

KRYPTO,
NO! DON'T
HURT HIM!



RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR

JUST
SLOW
HIM
DOWN FOR
A MINUTE!



ONE WORD. "FORTRESS."
SHE DIDN'T QUESTION IT.



SNIFF?
SNIFF?

SHE TOOK A
LEAP OF FAITH.



SKRITCH-SKRITCH-SKRITCH

AND NOW
THAT WE'RE
HERE,
KRYPTO'S
FIGURED IT
OUT.



SKRIK
SKRIK
SKRIK

HURRY, BOY,
I'M ALMOST
GONE.





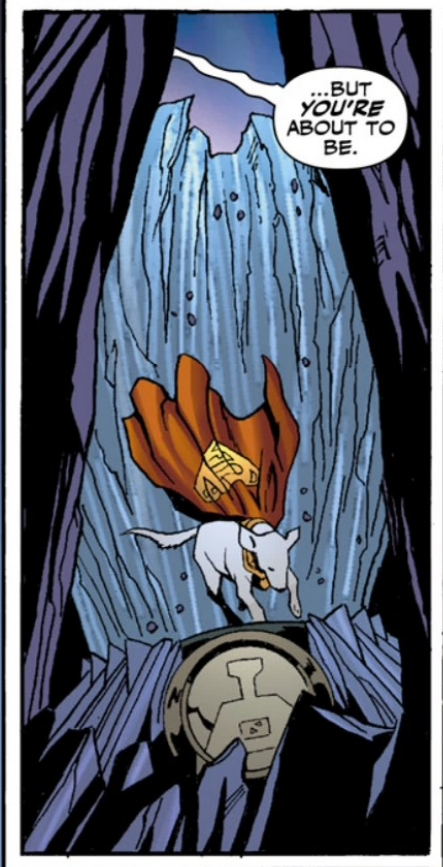
OOH,
YOU'RE ALL
WORKED
UP...

SHFF
SHFF
SHFF



NO...

IS
THAT
SO?

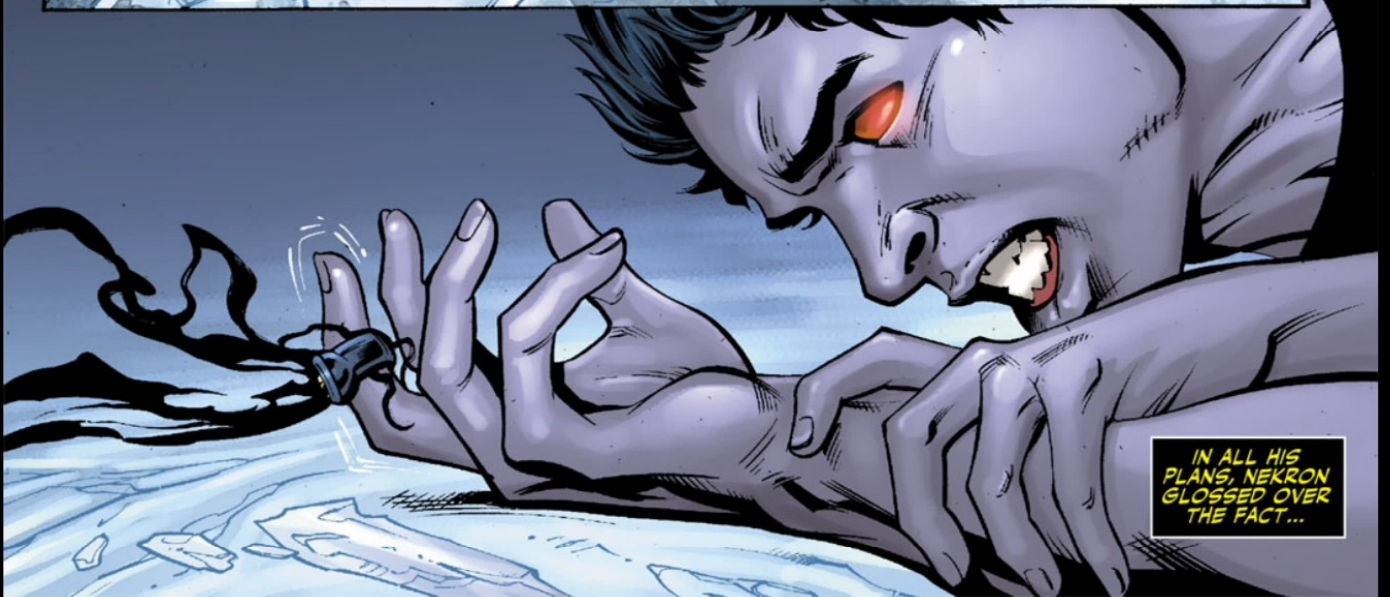


...BUT
YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
BE.



...RNNN...

SSSSSS





...THAT THERE'S
TECHNICALLY TWO CONNER
KENTS ON EARTH...



...AND SUDDENLY THE
RING DOESN'T KNOW IF
IT'S COMING OR GOING.

REMEMBER YOUR
TRAINING!



WE MUST'VE VISITED
HALF THE TELEPATHS ON
EARTH, STRENGTHENING
MY MIND AGAINST
INTRUSION OR CONTROL.

I LEARNED DOZENS OF
TECHNIQUES, MENTAL
SHIELDS, MANTRAS...AND
ALWAYS CASSIE WAS THERE
TO SEE ME THROUGH.

AND I PUT MY FEARS ABOUT
EVER BEING LIKE LEX LUTHOR
TO BED WHEN I SAW THE EVIL
HE WAS TRULY CAPABLE OF.

I KNOW
WHO I AM. I'M
SUPERBOY. ME.

USE
EVERY TRICK
RAVEN
TAUGHT
YOU!



MAKE YOUR MIND
SLIPPERY!

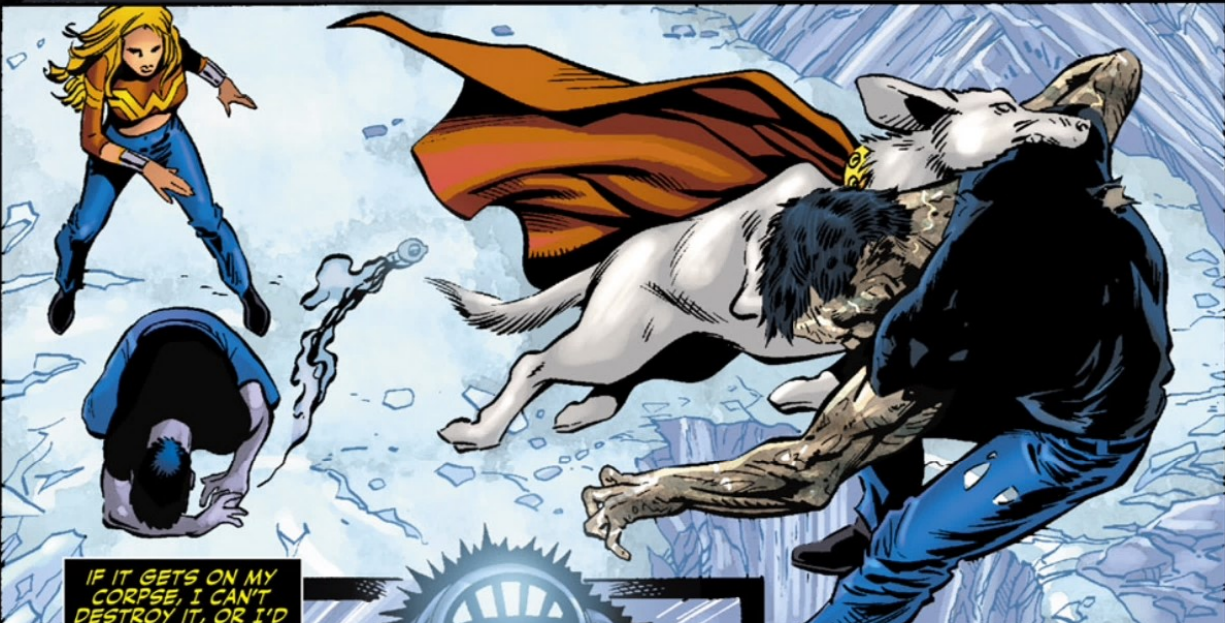
BE MORE
TROUBLE
THAN YOU'RE
WORTH!

YES. I FEEL THE
RING REACHING
OUT TO THE
EASIER HOST...

and [signature]



BUT THIS IS WHERE MY HALF-BAKED PLAN COULD BLOW UP IN MY FACE.



IF IT GETS ON MY CORPSE, I CAN'T DESTROY IT, OR I'D BE DESTROYING MY OWN PAST SELF.



INSTEAD, I'VE GOTTA HOPE AND PRAY THAT WHAT THE RING MADE ME DO, I CAN FINALLY DO FOR MYSELF.



GOTCHA,
YOU HATEFUL
LITTLE
THING.

...UNNH...

CONNER--!







YOU OKAY?

DEAD TIRED.

BUT CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE...



YEAH.



WAS IT TOM SAWYER WHO WENT TO HIS OWN FUNERAL...?

I THINK SO, BUT I DOUBT HE GOT TO BE HIS OWN PALLBEARER.



S'FUNNY, BUT IF LUTHOR HADN'T REMOTE-CONTROLLED ME BEFORE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD THE TRAINING TO RESIST THE BLACK RING.

YOU CAN SEND HIM A THANK-YOU NOTE LATER...



...BUT RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOTTA HURRY.

I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE, BUT THAT RING WILL COME LOOKING FOR YOU AGAIN.

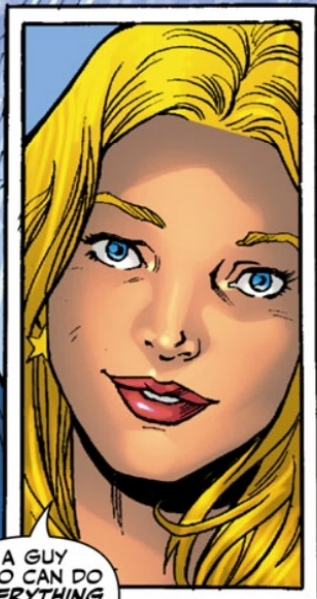
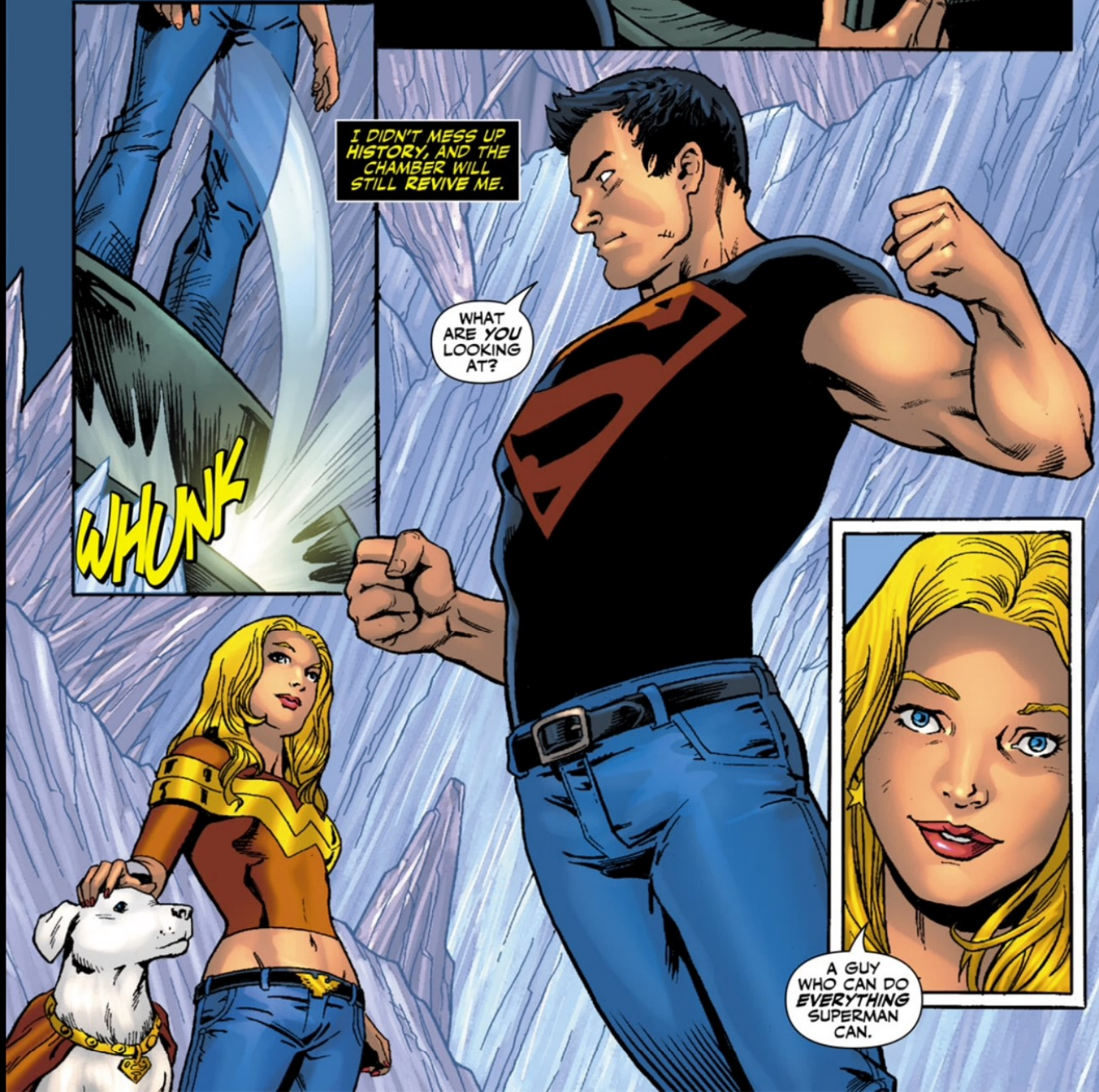
WE'LL BE FAR FROM HERE WHEN IT DOES.

OKAY, I'M STILL HERE--BOTH OF ME--SO I GUESS MY PLAN WORKED.



I DIDN'T MESS UP HISTORY, AND THE CHAMBER WILL STILL REVIVE ME.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?



A GUY WHO CAN DO EVERYTHING SUPERMAN CAN.



LET'S GET BACK TO COAST CITY!

AND ONCE WE GET THERE?

WE DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO...



ARRF!



...WE MAKE DEATH WAIT ANOTHER DAY!