



APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



# SECRET FILES & ORIGINS 2003



## REVELATIONS

» **UP AND (CAPTAIN) ATOM**  
A MAJOR upset for Batman and Superman?



## HISTORY

» **LEFT BACK TO WHERE HE ONCE BELONGED**  
Young Lex Luthor, CUSTODIAN?



## PROFILES

» **SUPER-TEAM FAMILIES**  
Whom do the DARK KNIGHT and the MAN OF STEEL count on most?



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# SECRET



## FILES & ORIGINS

### Pg. 2 RECRUITS

Geoff Johns and  
Jeremy Johns: Script  
Ivan Reis: Pencils  
Marc Campos: Inks  
Nick J. Napolitano:  
Letters  
Tom McCraw: Colors  
WildStorm FX: Separations

### Pg. 35 YOUNG LUTHOR IN SMALLVILLE

Mark Waid: Script  
Renato Guedes: Pencils  
Oclair Albert: Inks  
Nick J. Napolitano:  
Letters  
Tom McCraw: Colors  
WildStorm FX: Separations

### Pg. 47 WHEN CLARK MET BRUCE

Jeph Loeb: Script  
Tim Sale: Art  
Comicraft: Letters  
Mark Chiarello: Color  
and Separations

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### PROFILE PAGES

Except where noted, all color on profiles by Dave Stewart.

### Pg. 29 SUPERMAN

Ed McGuinness: Art  
Mike McAvennie: Text

### Pg. 33 LEX LUTHOR

Ed McGuinness: Art  
Mike McAvennie: Text

### Pg. 43 TALIA

Ed McGuinness: Art  
Scott Beatty: Text

### Pg. 31 BATMAN

Ed McGuinness: Art  
Scott Beatty: Text

### Pg. 40 SUPERMAN AND BATMAN "FAMILIES"

Scott McDaniel: Pencils  
Norm Rapmund: Inks  
Mike McAvennie &  
Scott Beatty: Text  
Tom McCraw: Color  
WildStorm FX: Separations

### Pg. 45 METALLO

Ed McGuinness: Art  
Mike McAvennie: Text

Cover art by Ed McGuinness, color by Dave Stewart.  
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.  
Batman created by Bob Kane.

# CONTENTS

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Printed in Canada.

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Yo Ho Ho And A Bottle Of Rum !!!



MEXICO CITY.

--EXPLOSION AT A NIGHTCLUB IN CANCUN TWO DAYS AGO HAS LEFT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN DEAD.



EIGHTY-FIVE AMERICANS WERE AMONG THOSE KILLED BY THE BLAST, WHICH ACCORDING TO ANALYSTS, WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE U.N. SANCTIONS AGAINST THE AFRICAN COUNTRY OF KAHNDAQ.

IN A BIZARRE TURN OF EVENTS, TWO OF THE FOUR MEN CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HORRIFIC ACT WERE FOUND DEAD LAST NIGHT IN GUADALAJARA. THEIR BODIES BURNED ALMOST BEYOND RECOGNITION.

THE HUNT CONTINUES FOR THE REMAINING TWO SUSPECTS.





# RECRUITS



WRITTEN BY: **GEOFF & JEREMY JOHNS**  
ART BY: **IVAN REIS & MARC CAMPOS**  
COLORS BY: **TOM MCCRAW** • SEPARATIONS BY: **WILDSTORM FX**  
LETTERS BY: **NICK J. NAPOLITANO**

SUPERMAN CREATED BY  
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

BATMAN CREATED BY  
BOB KANE



AAAH!





WASHINGTON, D.C.

--THIRD CONFIRMED DEATH IN MEXICO CITY HOURS AGO, MR. PRESIDENT. THE LAST ONE, HARISH, HAS JUST BEEN FOUND IN PHOENIX.

AND YOUR SOLDIERS-- THEY'RE BOTH ON THEIR WAY?

YES, SIR. INDEPENDENTLY OPERATING, OF COURSE.



OF COURSE.

THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUR PUBLIC HERO BACK INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. WHICH WILL HELP WITH HIS RECRUITING.



CALL THE PRESS. LEAK THE INFORMATION.

TELL THEM AMERICA'S GREATEST HERO IS BRINGING IN THE LAST TERRORIST--





"--TELL THEM THE PEOPLE CAN PUT THEIR TRUST IN CAPTAIN ATOM!"



YOU'RE EARLY, CAPTAIN.



I'M ALWAYS EARLY.  
WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITCH, SERGEANT?



NAME IS ABDULLAH HARISH. LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE PENTHOUSE SUITE TEN MINUTES AGO. MAKING OUTRAGEOUS DEMANDS. SCARING THE HELL OUT OF EVERYONE.

WITH THE OTHER THREE SUSPECTS CONFIRMED DEAD WE NEED TO TAKE HIM IN ALIVE.

WE'RE EVACUATING THE HOTEL.

THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.





AT EASE, GENTLEMEN. I'M NOT A COMMANDING OFFICER.

CAPTAIN--



I'LL HANDLE THIS, SERGEANT.

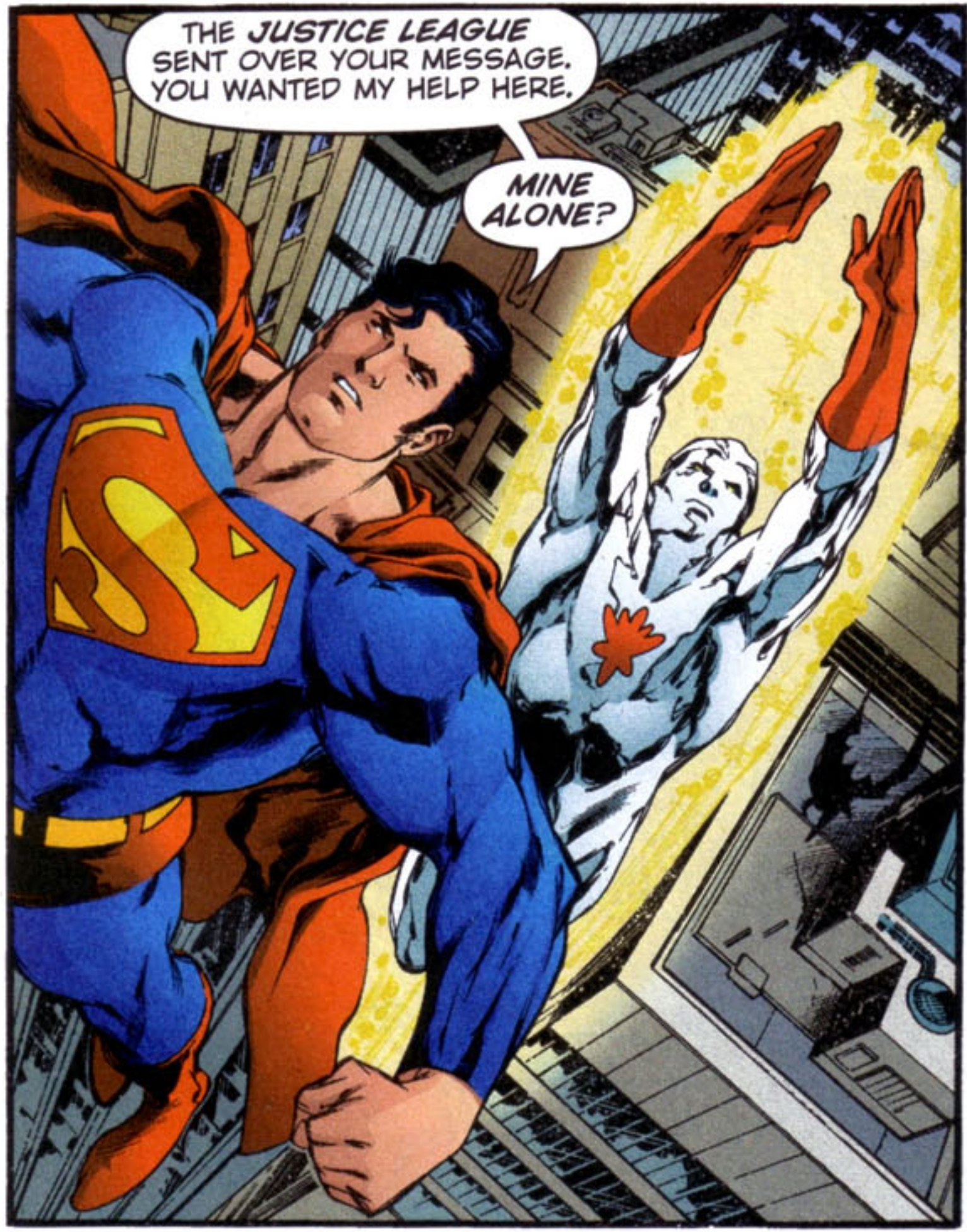


IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, SUPERMAN--THOUGH I WISH IT WAS UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

ME TOO, CAPTAIN.

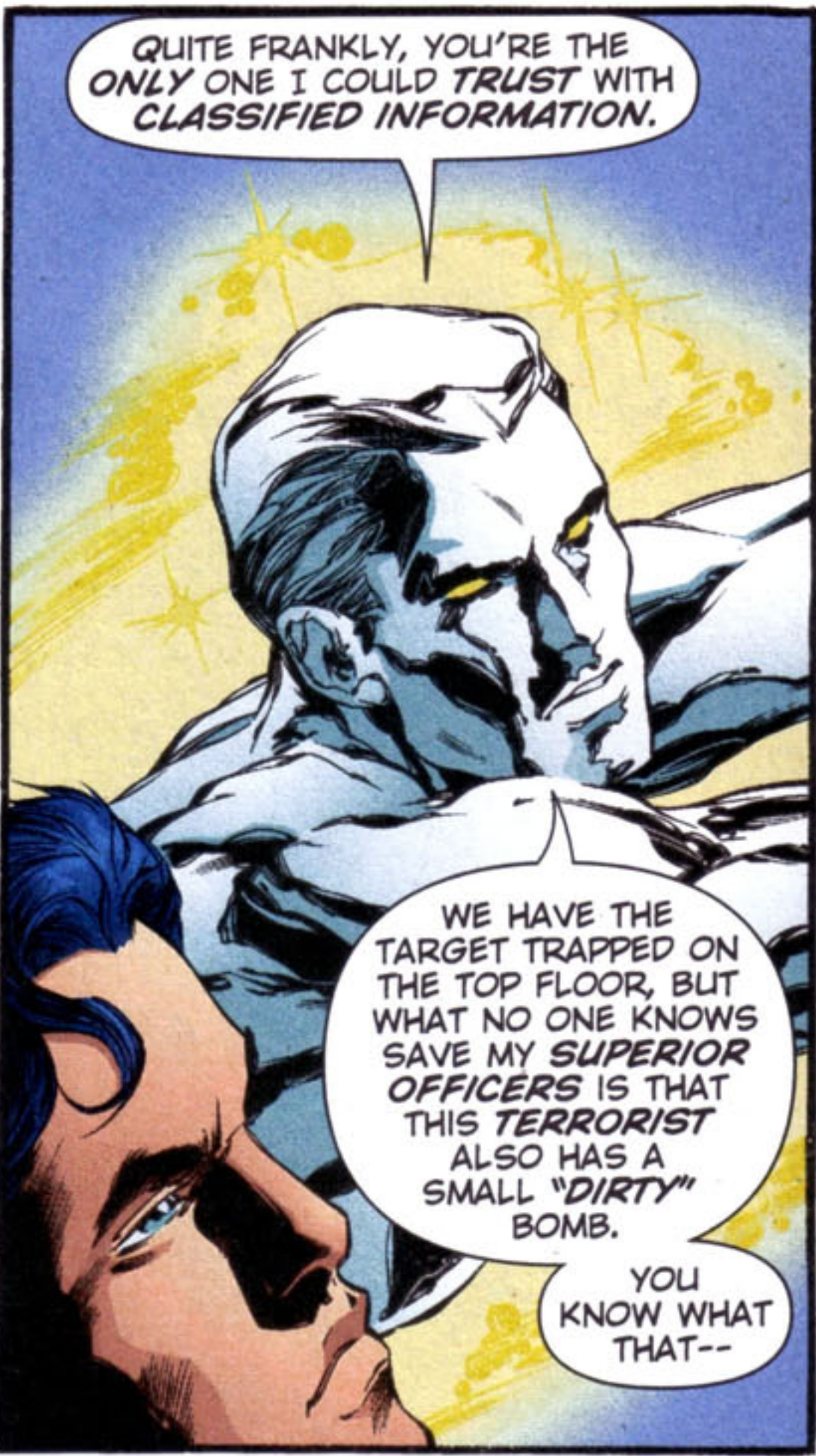
LET'S TAKE A "WALK."





THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SENT OVER YOUR MESSAGE. YOU WANTED MY HELP HERE.

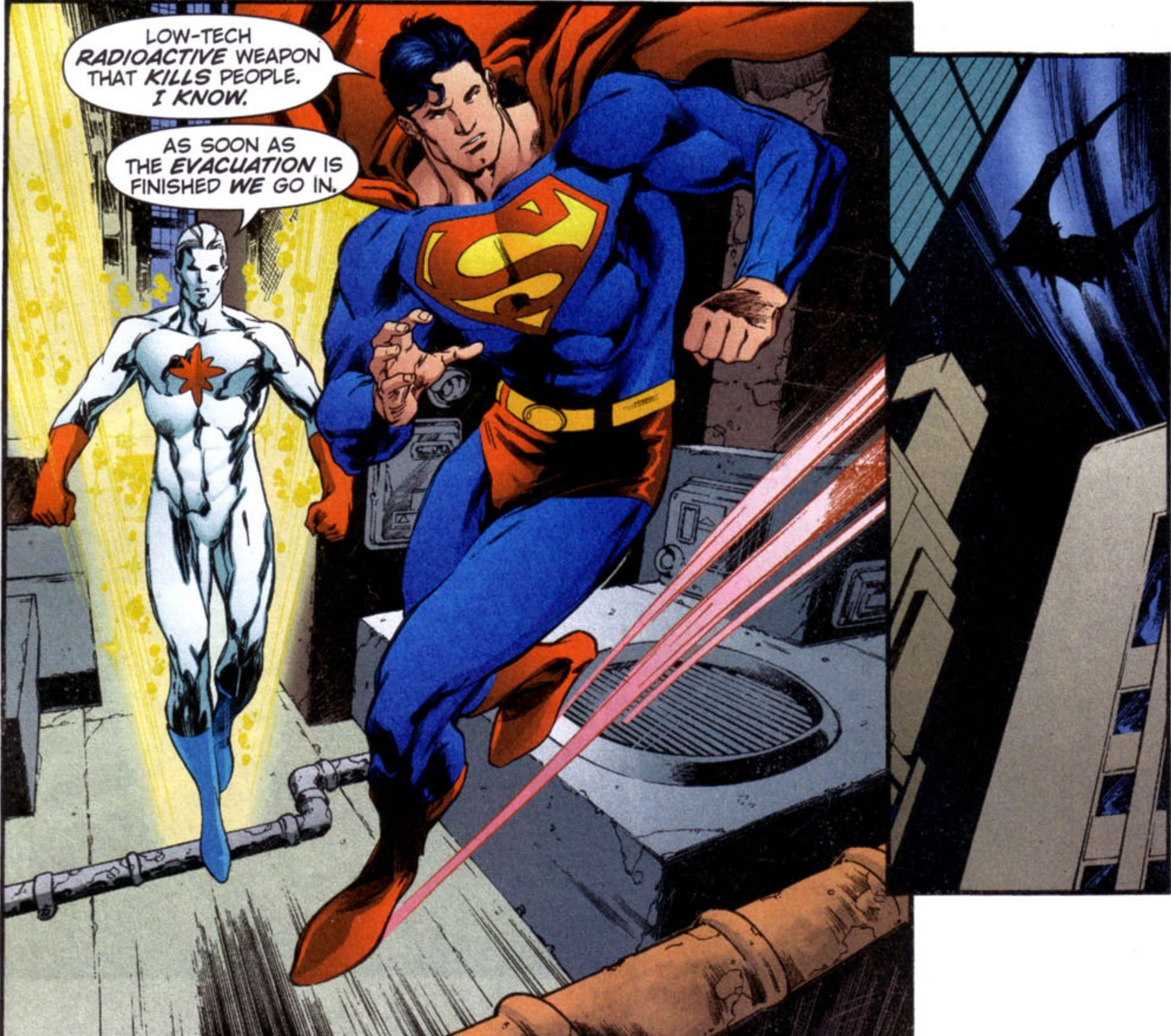
MINE ALONE?



QUITE FRANKLY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD TRUST WITH CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

WE HAVE THE TARGET TRAPPED ON THE TOP FLOOR, BUT WHAT NO ONE KNOWS SAVE MY SUPERIOR OFFICERS IS THAT THIS TERRORIST ALSO HAS A SMALL "DIRTY" BOMB.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT--



LOW-TECH RADIOACTIVE WEAPON THAT KILLS PEOPLE. I KNOW.

AS SOON AS THE EVACUATION IS FINISHED WE GO IN.





YOUR SUPERIORS ARE RESOURCEFUL.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND REASON I REQUESTED YOUR HELP.



I WANT TO OFFER YOU A JOB.



A JOB?

YOU FIGHT FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND, MOST IMPORTANT, THE AMERICAN WAY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF INFORMATION AND DATA THAT CAN MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER, MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE FOCUSED.

I'VE HAD A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE WITH THEM.



"YEARS AGO, I WAS JUST NATHANIEL ADAM. A CAPTAIN IN THE AIR FORCE.

"I WAS COURT-MARTIALED FOR AN ACT OF TREASON I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH--AND I WAS GIVEN A CHOICE--

"--OR ALLOW MYSELF TO GET "DRAFTED" INTO THE CAPTAIN ATOM PROJECT.

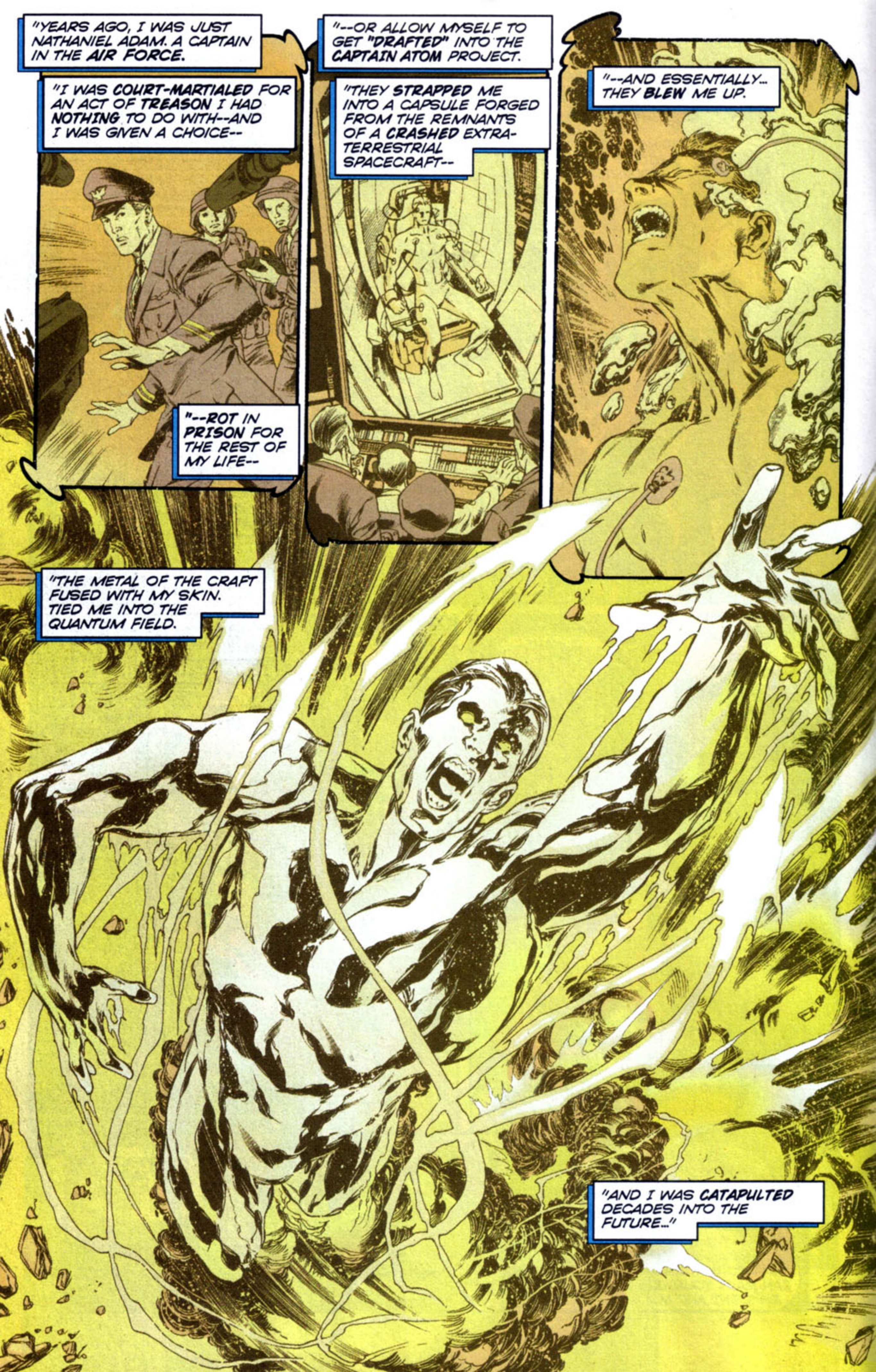
"THEY STRAPPED ME INTO A CAPSULE FORGED FROM THE REMNANTS OF A CRASHED EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL SPACECRAFT--

"--AND ESSENTIALLY... THEY BLEW ME UP.

"--ROT IN PRISON FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE--

"THE METAL OF THE CRAFT FUSED WITH MY SKIN. TIED ME INTO THE QUANTUM FIELD.

"AND I WAS CATAPULTED DECADES INTO THE FUTURE..!"





THEY TOOK MY ENTIRE *LIFE* AWAY FROM ME, SUPERMAN. MY FRIENDS, FAMILY... *EVERYTHING*.

I'VE LEARNED THE *HARD WAY--EVERY* INSTITUTION HAS ITS PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDED. A FEW BAD PEOPLE CAN *RUIN* AN OTHERWISE *GREAT* COUNTRY.

BUT WORKING FOR THE *UNITED STATES* COULD--

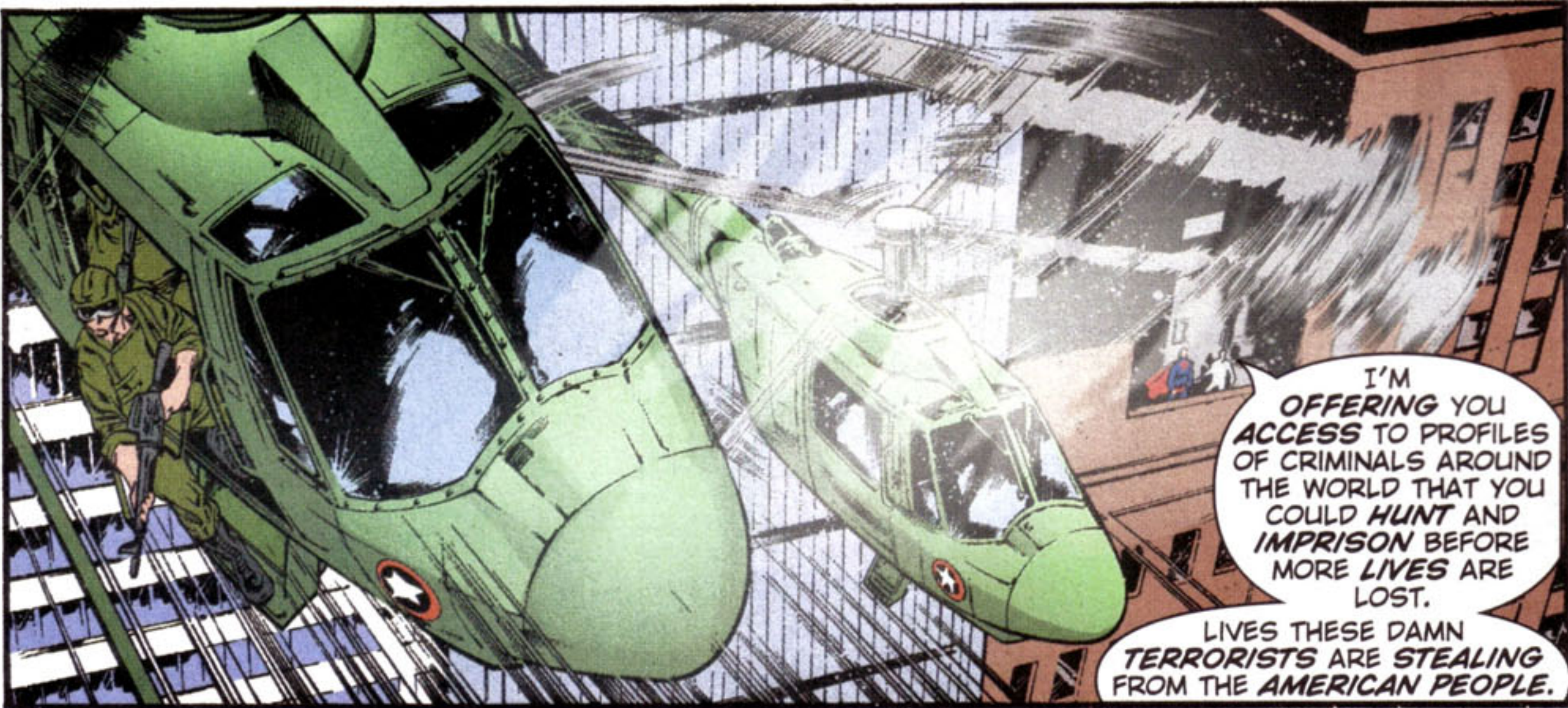
I WON'T WORK FOR PRESIDENT LUTHOR, CAPTAIN.

IT'S *THAT* SIMPLE.

YOU WOULDN'T *DIRECTLY*. GENERAL WYNN IS MY COMMANDING OFFICER. SUPERMAN...

THE AMERICAN WAY COULD USE YOUR *FULL* ATTENTION.

IT ALREADY *HAS* IT.



I'M OFFERING YOU ACCESS TO PROFILES OF CRIMINALS AROUND THE WORLD THAT YOU COULD *HUNT* AND *IMPRISON* BEFORE MORE *LIVES* ARE LOST.

LIVES THESE DAMN *TERRORISTS* ARE *STEALING* FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

HOW CAN YOU TURN YOUR *BACK* ON YOUR *COUNTRY*?



I NEVER *HAVE* AND NEVER *WILL* TURN MY *BACK* ON *ANYBODY*.







DON'T MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS, SUPERMAN.

THE WORLD IS NO LONGER AS SIMPLE AS YOU BELIEVE IT TO BE.



SIMPLE WORLD?  
I AM THE LAST SON OF A PLANET LONG DEAD--

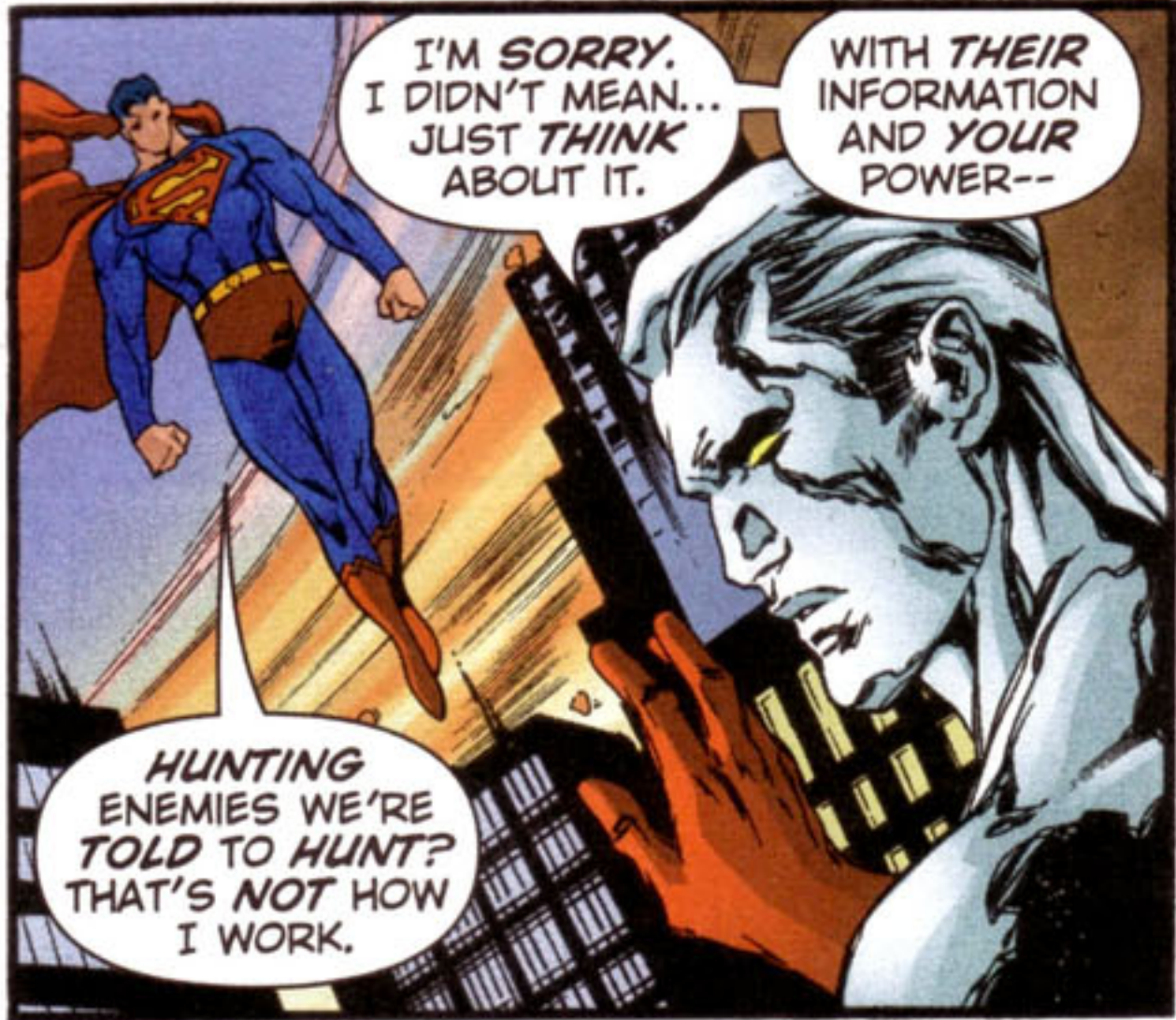


--MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO NOT LOSING MY ADOPTED HOME AS WELL.

THE FACT IS, CAPTAIN--



--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE.



I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN... JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

WITH THEIR INFORMATION AND YOUR POWER--

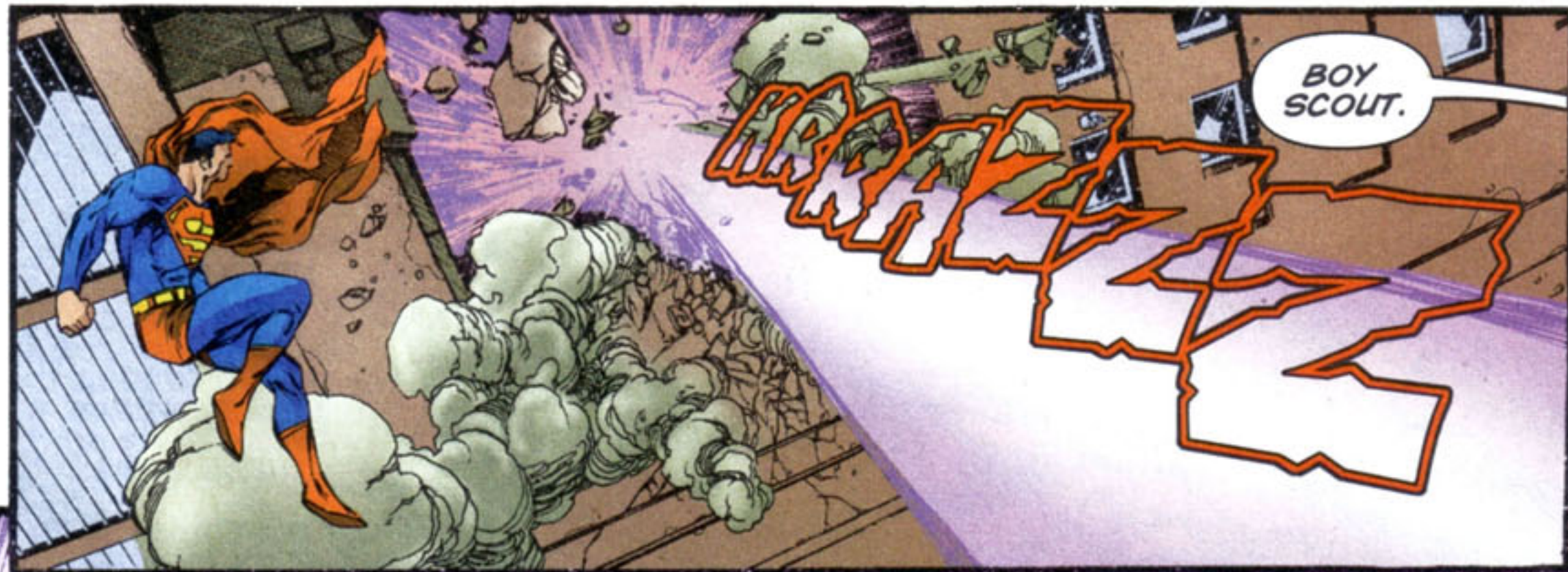
HUNTING ENEMIES WE'RE TOLD TO HUNT? THAT'S NOT HOW I WORK.



YOU TELL YOUR PRESIDENT I'M THE PEOPLE'S HERO--

--NOT HIS--





YOU'RE  
LOOKING AT THE  
TRUE PEOPLE'S  
HERO!

BOY  
SCOUT.





MAYBE... BUT MY SUPERIORS THINK I'M *SANE* ENOUGH TO WIPE THIS WORLD CLEAN OF THE TERRORIST *GARBAGE* THAT'S BEEN *STINKIN'* UP THE JOINT.

I SURE AS *HELL* KNOW YOU'RE NOT UP TO THE TASK.

I WAS OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT FOR A BIT. THANKS TO YOU. TOOK THE BRASS *WEEKS* TO RECONFIGURE MY METAL SHELL.

NOT QUITE AS *DURABLE* AS CAPTAIN ATOM'S-- BUT MY *WILL* IS *STRONGER*. MY *MOTIVES* PURER--



M-MAJOR FORCE... YOU'RE INSANE.



SHUT UP.

THWANN



N-NO. THEY HAVE FOUND ME.





I HAVE FORCE, SUPERMAN. GET HARISH.



CLAK

HARISH.



HHEH?

PTAANG





TAKE ME AWAY THEN, AMERICAN. ANOTHER WILL COME. AND ANOTHER.

AS BAD AS YOU SAY THIS PLACE IS. IF WE WERE IN YOUR COUNTRY--

--YOU'D BE SKINNED ALIVE.

WHERE'S THE BOMB?



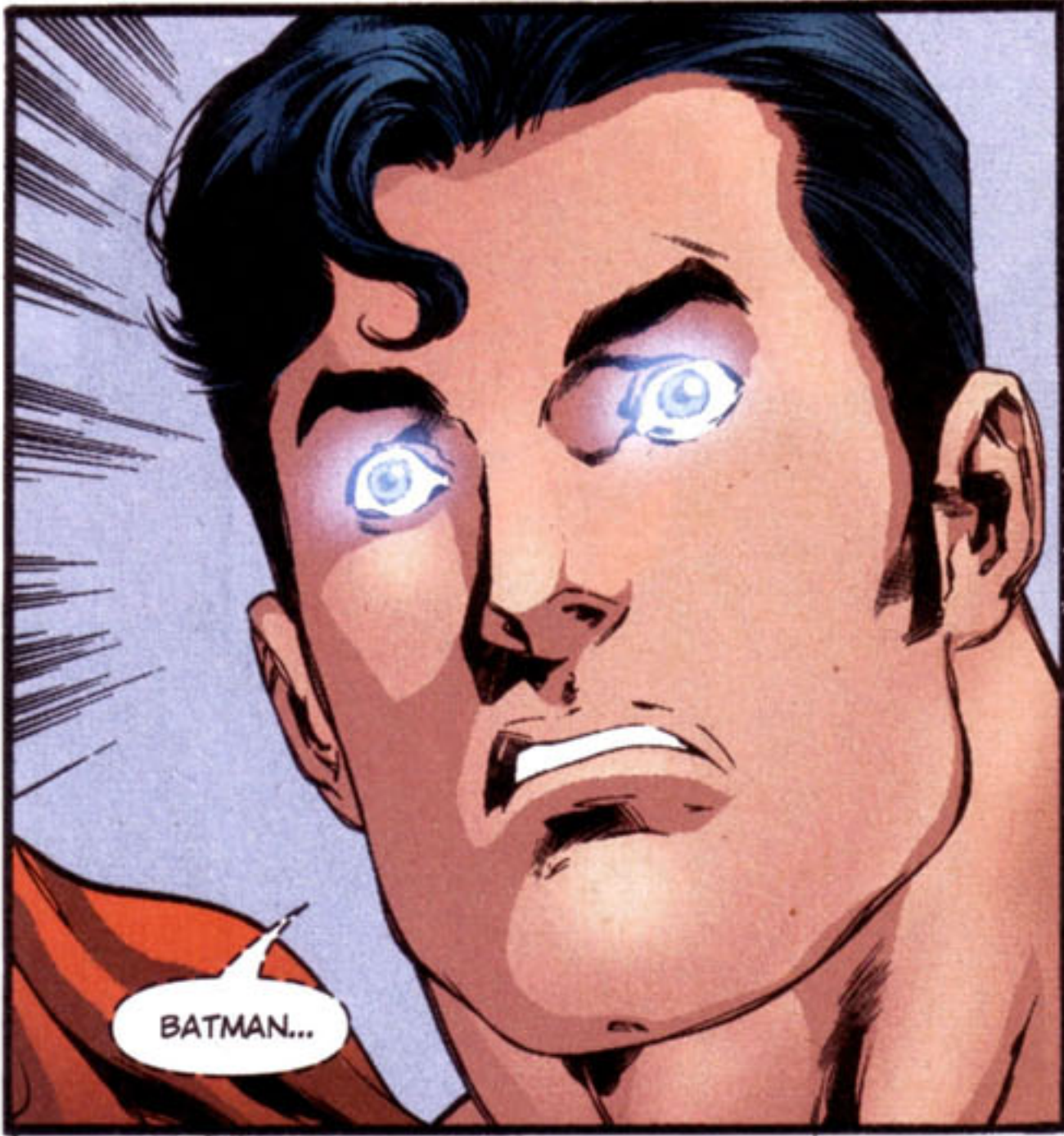




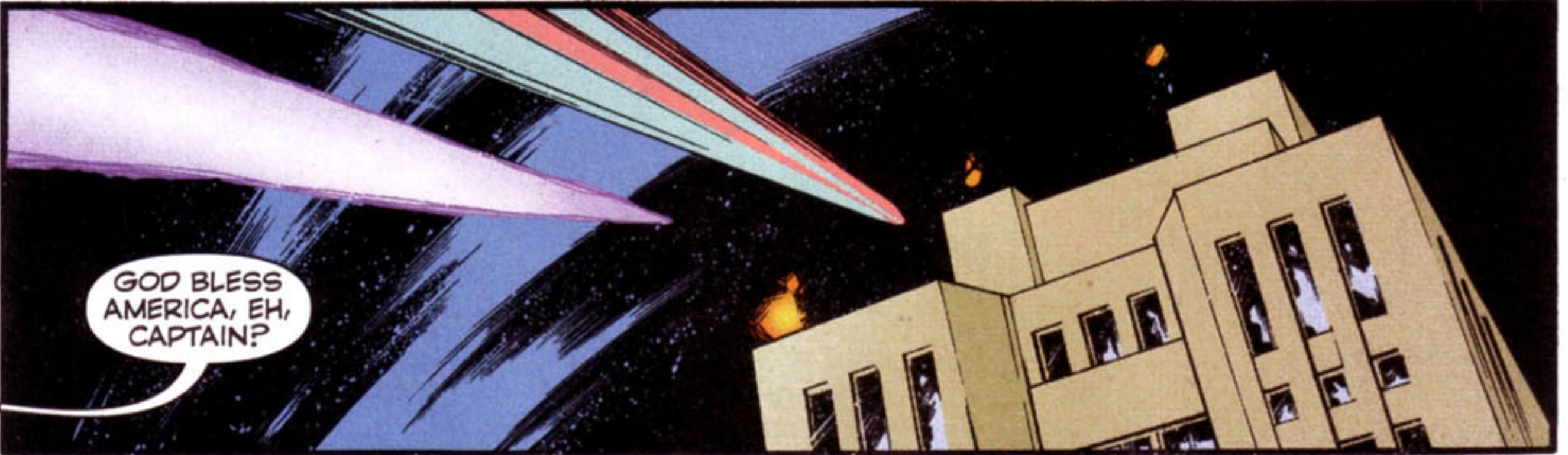
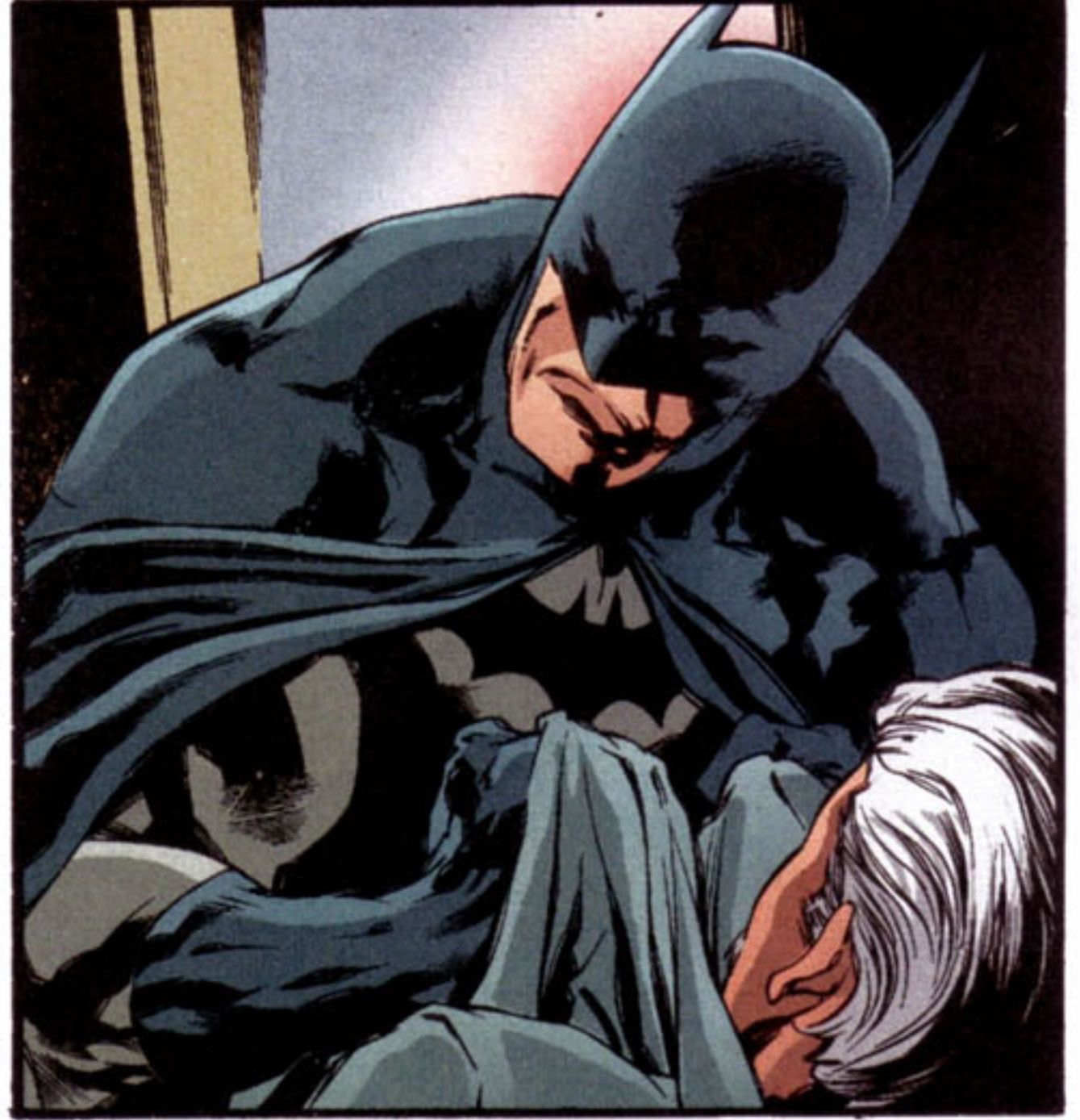
YOU'RE TOO SOFT, ATOM--

--SO LET ME SHOW YOU HOW A REAL SOLDIER TAKES A TERRORIST DOWN!

THAT WHOLE BUILDING'S GOTTA GO. EVACUATED OR NOT.

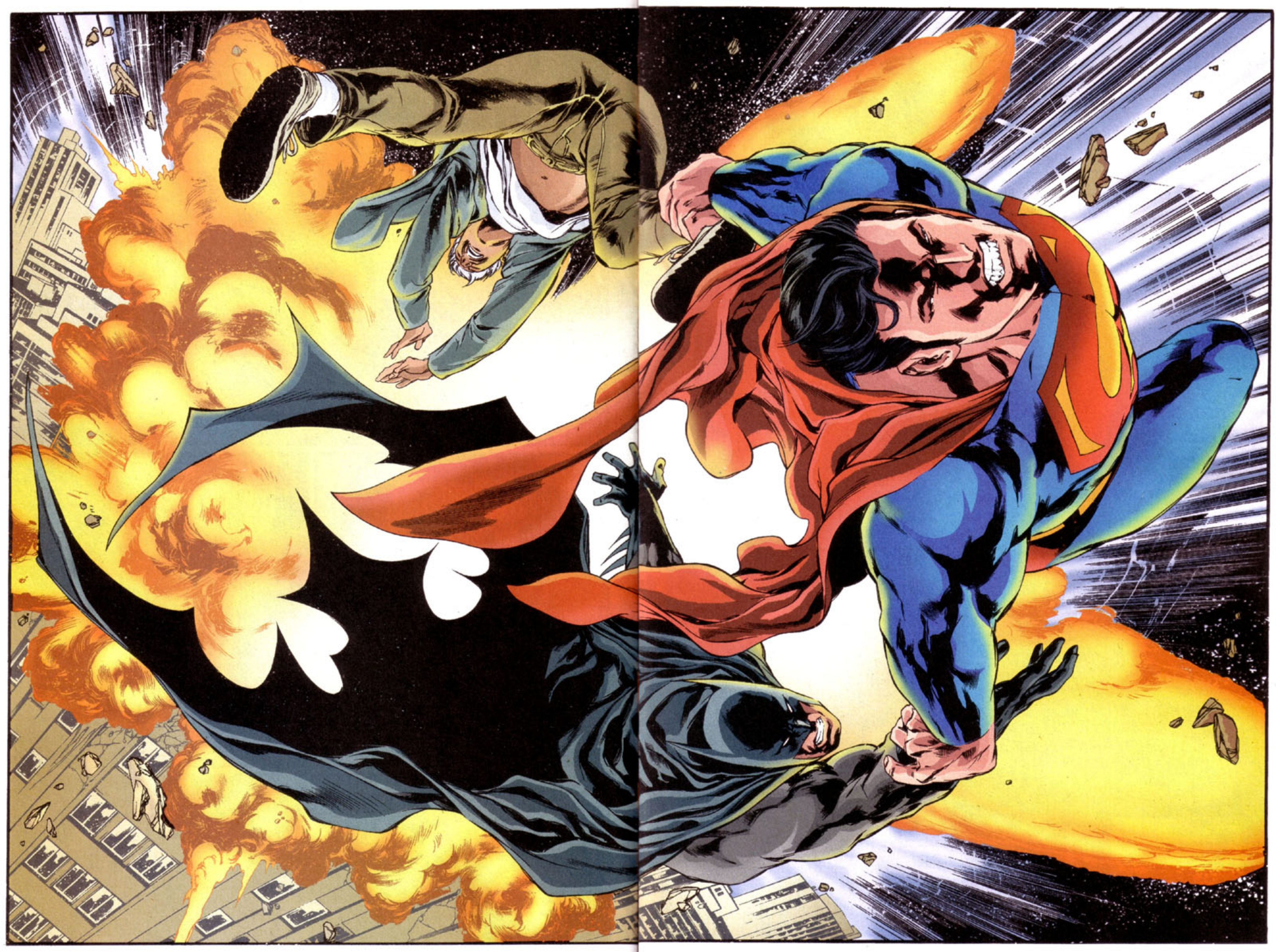


BATMAN...



GOD BLESS AMERICA, EH, CAPTAIN?









DEEP  
DOWN, WE  
BOTH WANT  
THE SAME  
THING.

I HUNTED  
DOWN THOSE OTHER  
KILLERS FOR GENERAL  
WYNN. I ERASED  
THEM FROM THE FACE  
OF THE EARTH.

AND WHAT  
DID I GET? NOT  
EVEN A "THANK  
YOU."

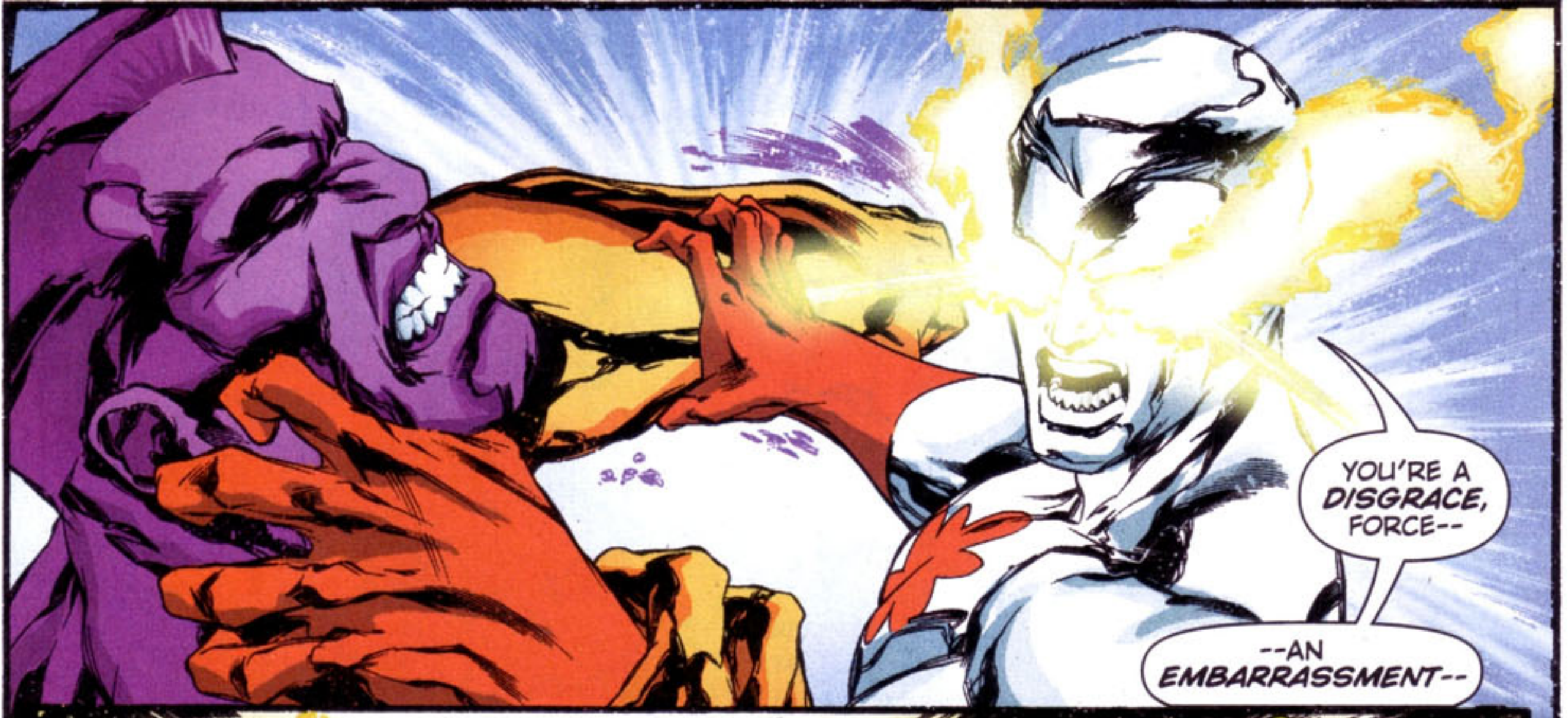


GENERAL  
WYNN?

I JUST WANT  
TO BE RECOGNIZED,  
ATOM. THE GOVERNMENT  
MADE ME LIKE THEY MADE YOU.  
THEY GAVE ME A PURPOSE  
BUT THEY REFUSE TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

HOW MANY  
MEDALS DID  
THEY PIN ON YOUR  
CHEST?





YOU'RE A DISGRACE, FORCE--

--AN EMBARRASSMENT--



FWWWASSHHHTTT

AAARRR!

--AND NOTHING BUT A BATTERY OF POWER WAITING TO BE DRAINED.







MAJOR FORCE IS UNCONSCIOUS AND **SECURE**, CAPTAIN. AND HARISH IS BEING TRANSFERRED FOR INTERROGATION.

I'LL ACCOMPANY. GIVE ME ONE MINUTE.



THERE'S A **WEALTH** OF INFORMATION INSIDE **HARISH'S** HEAD. POSSIBLE PLANS FOR FUTURE ATTACKS. OTHER SLEEPER CELLS.



I HAVE NO **DOUBT** THEY'LL GO TO **GREAT LENGTHS** TO **EXTRACT** IT.



THEY'LL DO **WHATEVER** THEY **NEED** TO DO--

--JUST LIKE YOU, **BATMAN**.





I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT **DISAPPOINTED** YOU AND I WON'T BE WORKING TOGETHER **FULL-TIME**, SUPERMAN.

YOU'D MAKE ONE **HELLUVA** SOLDIER... UNLIKE OUR **DARK KNIGHT** HERE...



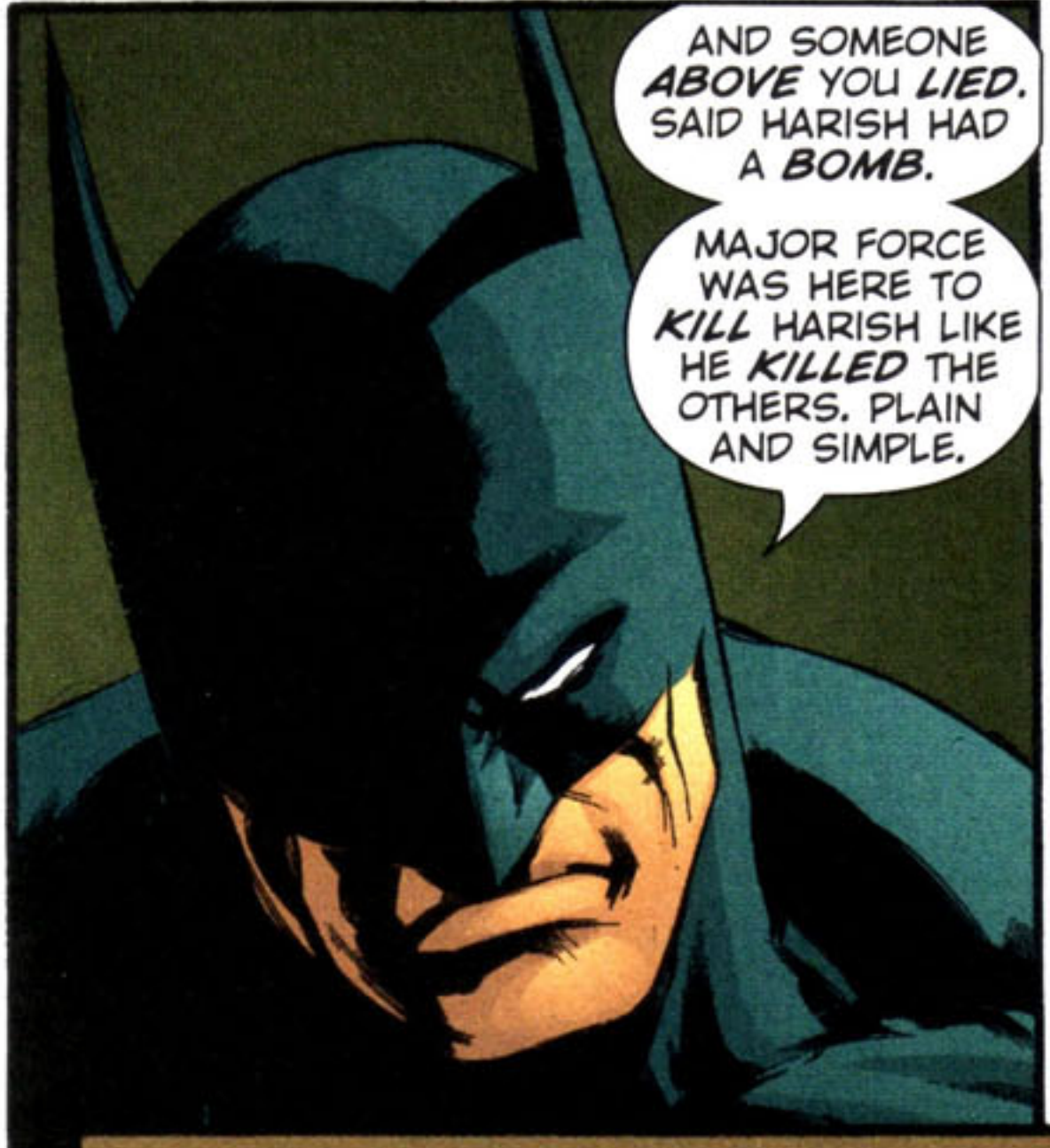
...BUT I UNDERSTAND AND **RESPECT** YOUR DECISION.

THE PEOPLE **NEED** YOU.



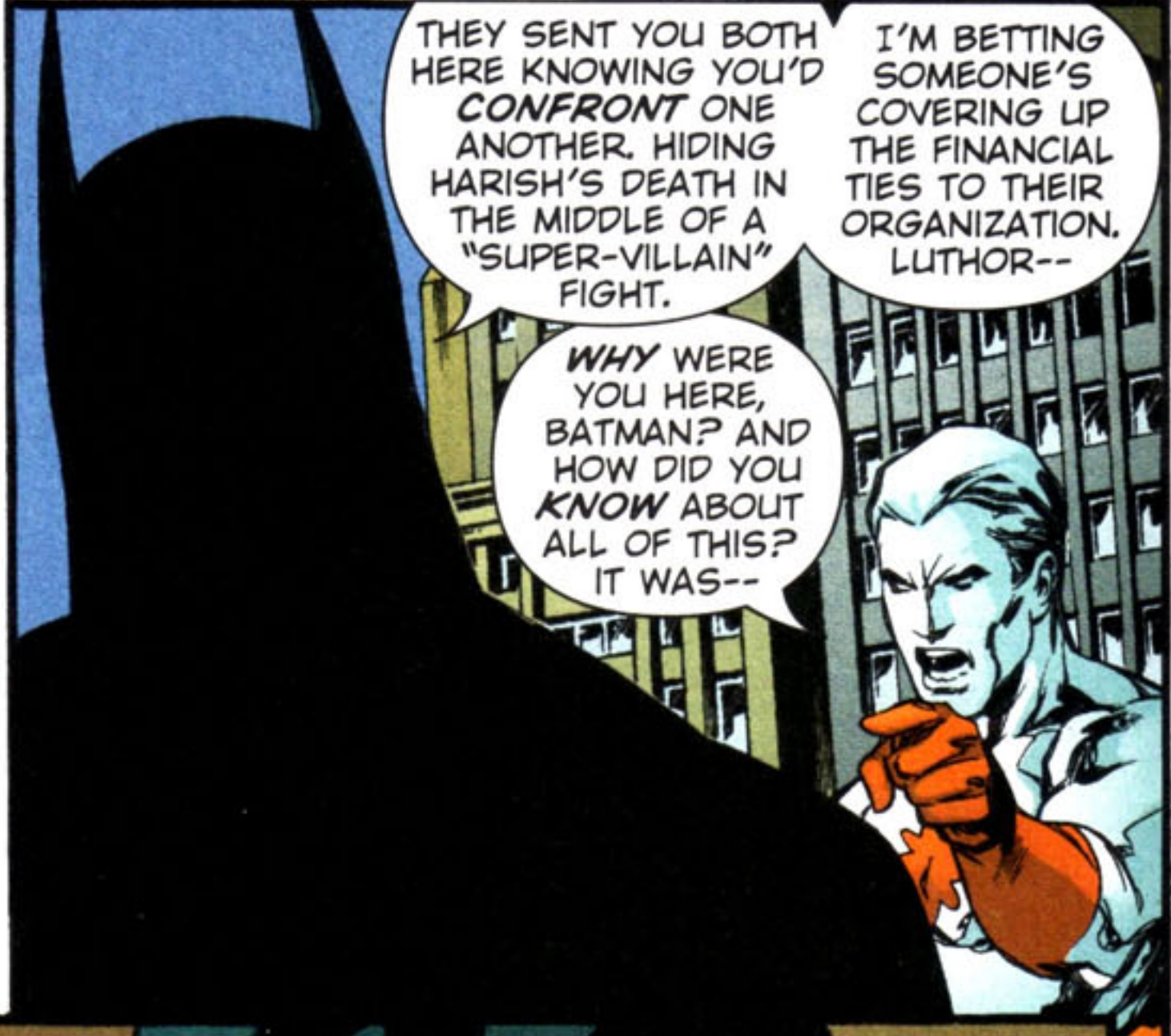
AND THE GOVERNMENT **NEEDS** YOU, CAPTAIN.

IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT SOME **SERIOUS** MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH MY **SUPERIORS**. MAJOR FORCE AND--



AND SOMEONE **ABOVE** YOU **LIED**. SAID HARISH HAD A **BOMB**.

MAJOR FORCE WAS HERE TO **KILL** HARISH LIKE HE **KILLED** THE OTHERS. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.



THEY SENT YOU BOTH HERE KNOWING YOU'D **CONFRONT** ONE ANOTHER. HIDING HARISH'S DEATH IN THE MIDDLE OF A "SUPER-VILLAIN" FIGHT.

I'M BETTING SOMEONE'S COVERING UP THE FINANCIAL TIES TO THEIR ORGANIZATION. LUTHOR--

**WHY** WERE YOU HERE, BATMAN? AND HOW DID YOU **KNOW** ABOUT ALL OF THIS? IT WAS--

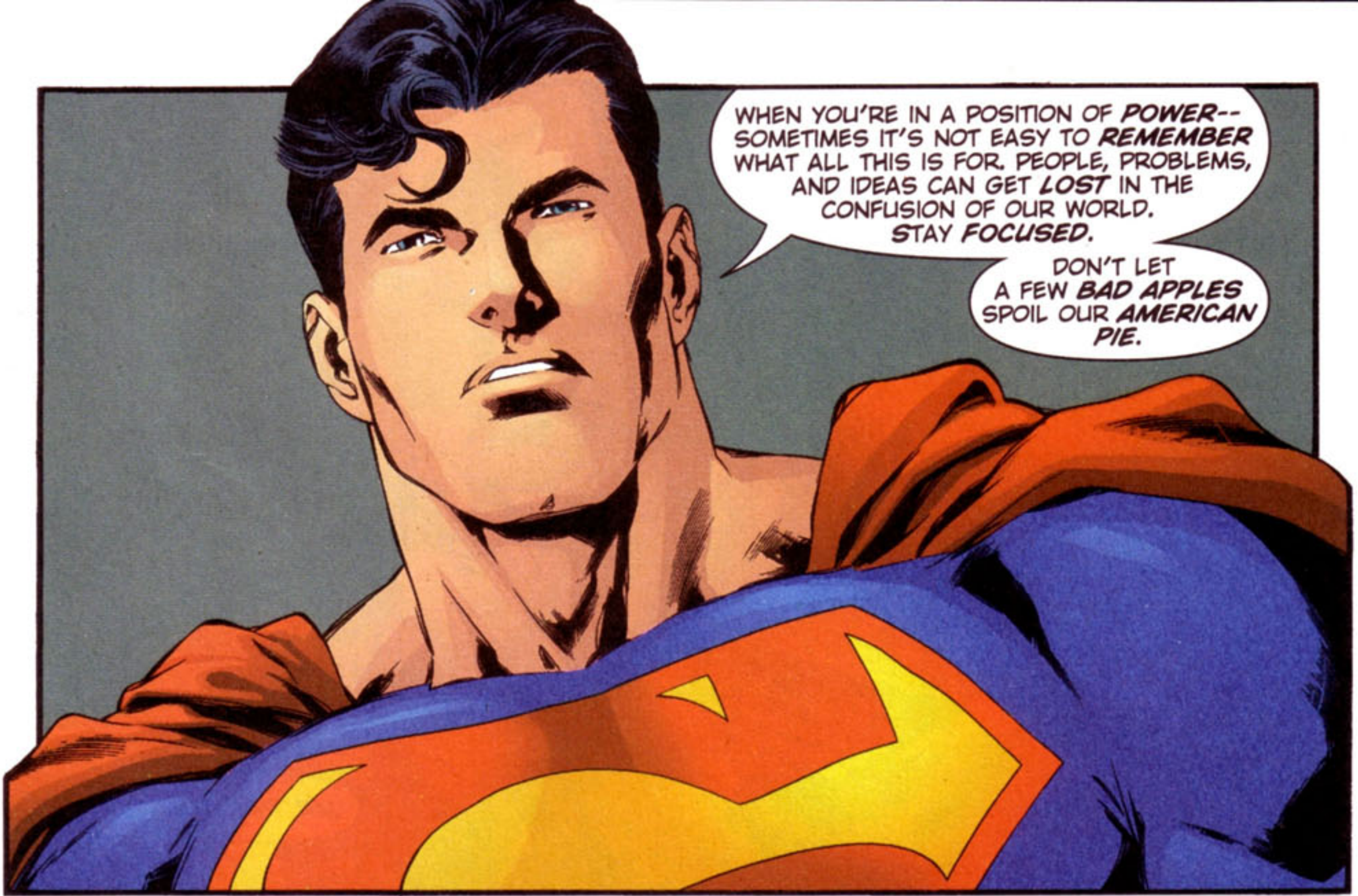


CLASSIFIED?

PLEASE.







WHEN YOU'RE IN A POSITION OF *POWER*--  
SOMETIMES IT'S NOT EASY TO *REMEMBER*  
WHAT ALL THIS IS FOR. PEOPLE, PROBLEMS,  
AND IDEAS CAN GET *LOST* IN THE  
CONFUSION OF OUR WORLD.  
*STAY FOCUSED.*

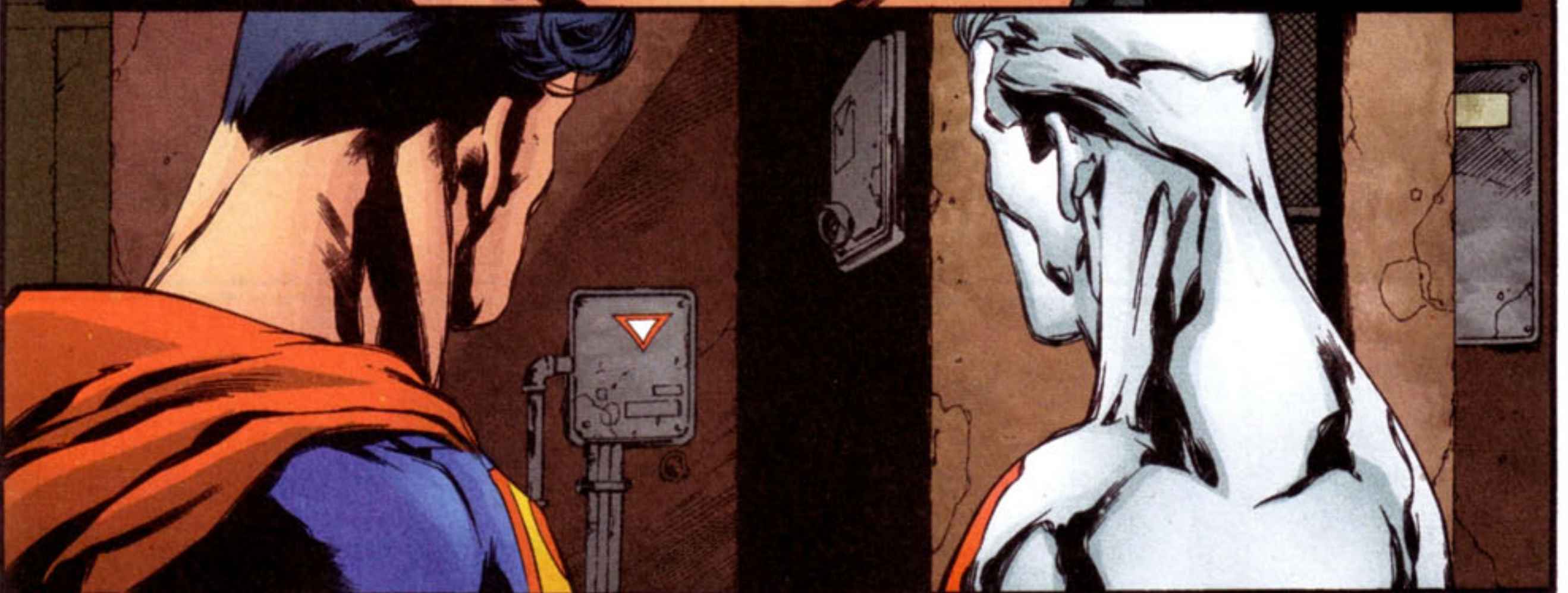
DON'T LET  
A FEW *BAD APPLES*  
SPOIL OUR *AMERICAN*  
*PIE.*



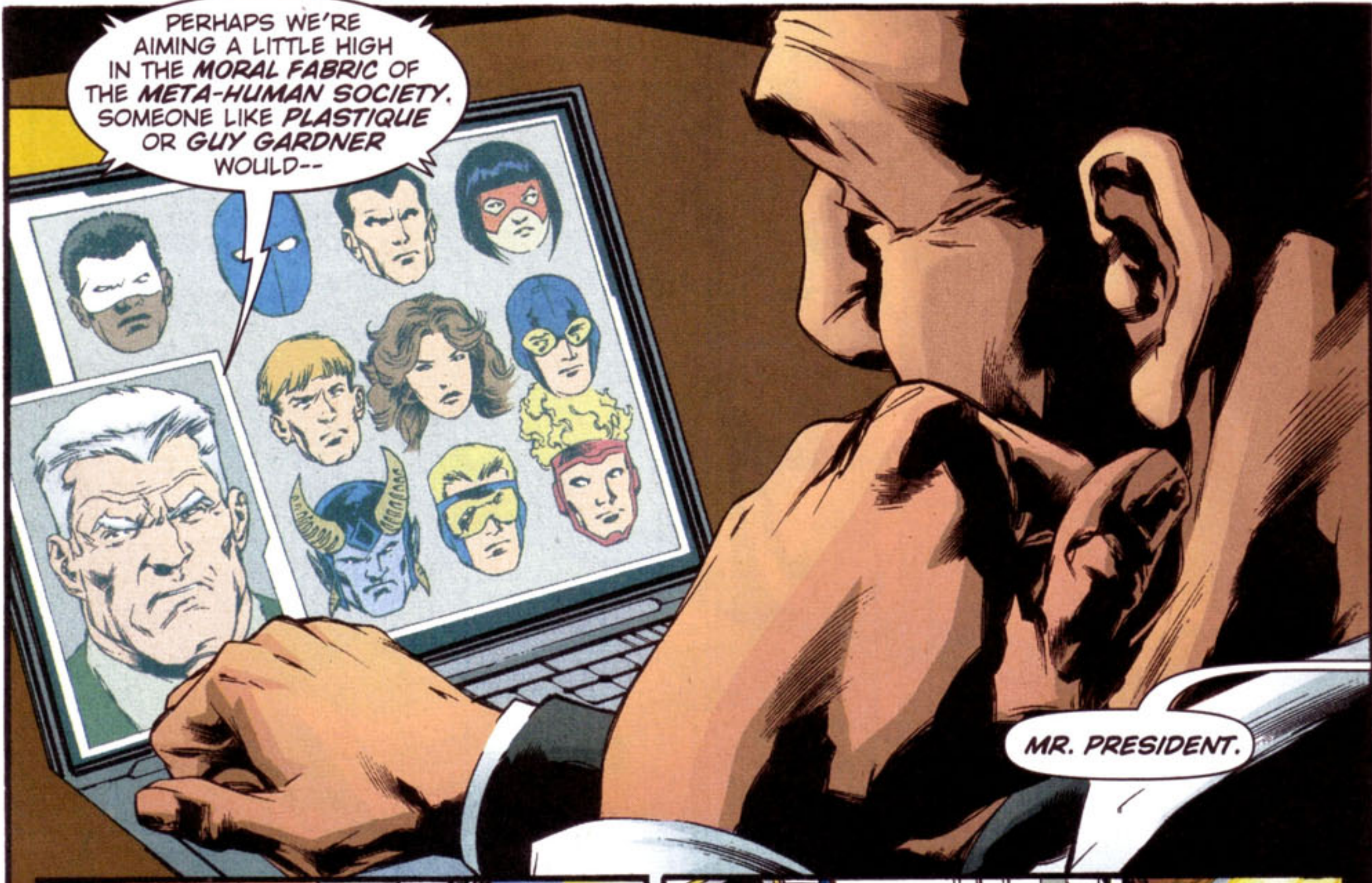
WE'RE LEAVING IT  
TO YOU, CAPTAIN.



FOR  
NOW.







MR. PRESIDENT.



--I'LL GIVE YOU THE TRUTH.

To Be Continued in:  
SUPERMAN/BATMAN!





# SUPERMAN



Real name: Kal-El  
(Kryptonian name)/  
Clark Joseph Kent (Earth name)  
Occupation: Reporter for the  
Daily Planet  
Base of Operations: Metropolis  
Marital Status: Married  
(to Lois Lane)  
Height: 6' 3"  
Weight: 225 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Black  
First Appearance: (historical)  
ACTION COMICS #1 (June, 1938);  
(current) THE MAN OF STEEL #1  
(June, 1986)

Among Superman's extraordinary powers and abilities, the greatest may be his compassion for the world that has adopted him. An orphan of the doomed planet Krypton, Kal-El was rocketed to Earth, and discovered in Smallville, Kansas, by farmers Jonathan and Martha Kent. Naming him Clark and raising him as their own, the Kents instilled within the maturing boy a sense of moral responsibility, while Earth's yellow sun imbued his cells with unparalleled strength and energy. By adulthood, the combination would transform Clark into the greatest hero who has ever lived — the Man of Steel, Superman.

Though he lives in Metropolis and is often considered the city's protector, Superman is truly champion of Earth. There are those, however, conspiring to expose him as a menace whose alien origins will destroy the world he has saved countless times.

For all his might, Clark's one constant source of strength is his wife, Lois Lane, with whom he also works as a reporter for the *Daily Planet*. But if U.S. President Lex Luthor has any say in the matter, Superman's never-ending battle will be fortressed in solitude in the days ahead.



# BATMAN



Real Name: Bruce Wayne  
Occupation: Industrialist / Philanthropist  
Base of Operations: Gotham City  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 210 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Black  
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (May, 1939)

The defining moment in the life of Bruce Wayne was the instant he witnessed his beloved parents Thomas and Martha Wayne gunned down by a murderous thief in Gotham City's "Park Row" (later nicknamed "Crime Alley"). As the Waynes' bodies lay still on the cold pavement, young Bruce — then just ten years old — vowed to seek justice and apprehend his parents' vicious killer.

Funded by the Wayne fortune and enabled by the family's loyal valet Alfred Pennyworth, Bruce circumvented the restraints of foster care and embarked on a decade-long worldwide trek to learn all he needed to fulfill his promise. Teachers and mentors on both sides of the law taught Bruce the skills — from little-known martial arts to the latest detective processes — that he would use to hone his body and mind into a living weapon in what would eventually become an unrelenting war on crime.

After returning to Gotham, a disastrous first outing as a plainclothes urban vigilante left Bruce broken and bleeding. He realized then that criminals were a superstitious and cowardly lot, and only a fearsome creature of the night could strike fear in their hearts. As if by fate, a wayward bat crashed through a window and provided Bruce the inspiration he so desperately needed: He would become as a bat himself, clad in a daunting costume that would make him a fearsome urban legend amid the crime-ridden streets of Gotham City.

To date, Bruce has never caught the mugger who murdered his parents. Batman's vigil continues, an ongoing onslaught against crime and corruption.



# PRESIDENT LEX LUTHOR



Real Name: Lex Luthor  
Occupation: President of the United States; owner of LexCorp  
Base of Operations: The White House, Washington, D.C.  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 210 lbs.  
Eyes: Green  
Hair: N/A  
First Appearance: (historical) ACTION COMICS #23 (April, 1940); (current) THE MAN OF STEEL #4 (August, 1986)

There's only one thing the most powerful man on Earth could want: *more power*. That's all Lex Luthor has ever wanted, and achieved, as an impoverished youth in Metropolis's Suicide Slum, as the founding genius and owner of LexCorp, and as President of the United States. How he has done so is irrelevant; the means have always justified his ends.

Still, being the nation's chief executive isn't enough for this self-professed "man of the people." Luthor wants more, and he'll get it by any means necessary. Not even the one who has always risen above him, literally and figuratively, can stop him this time. Superman can change the course of mighty rivers, but as President, Luthor has altered the course of history. The most powerful armed forces and capability on Earth are at his disposal. He's saved the world from the galactic threat of the planet destroyer Imperiox.

As he carries his political credo of "Truth, Justice and the American Way" into re-election, Luthor will finally convince the people to see Superman through *his eyes*: not as a champion, but as a self-serving alien whose continued existence threatens every human being's way of life.



BUT LEX IS EIGHTEEN! HE DOESN'T BELONG IN NINTH GRADE...!

AGREED, MR. LUTHOR.

BUT SMALLVILLE HIGH DOESN'T GO ANY LOWER THAN NINTH.

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL GOODWIN

METROPOLIS TRANSCRIPTS ASIDE, STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE GO BY PLACEMENT TESTS WITH ALL TRANSFER STUDENTS...

...AND YOUR SON'S SCORES WERE... TO PUT IT BLUNTLY... ABYSMAL.

MR. LUTHOR, THE BOY IS SO WITHDRAWN... HAVE YOU CONSIDERED... SPECIAL SCHOOLING?

SIR, YOU INSULT US BOTH. MY SON IS A GENIUS. DID HE OR DID HE NOT PUT EFFORT INTO YOUR PLEBEIAN TEST?

THAT'S NOT A "DOODLE." IT'S A DESIGN FOR A HYDROGEN FUEL CELL.

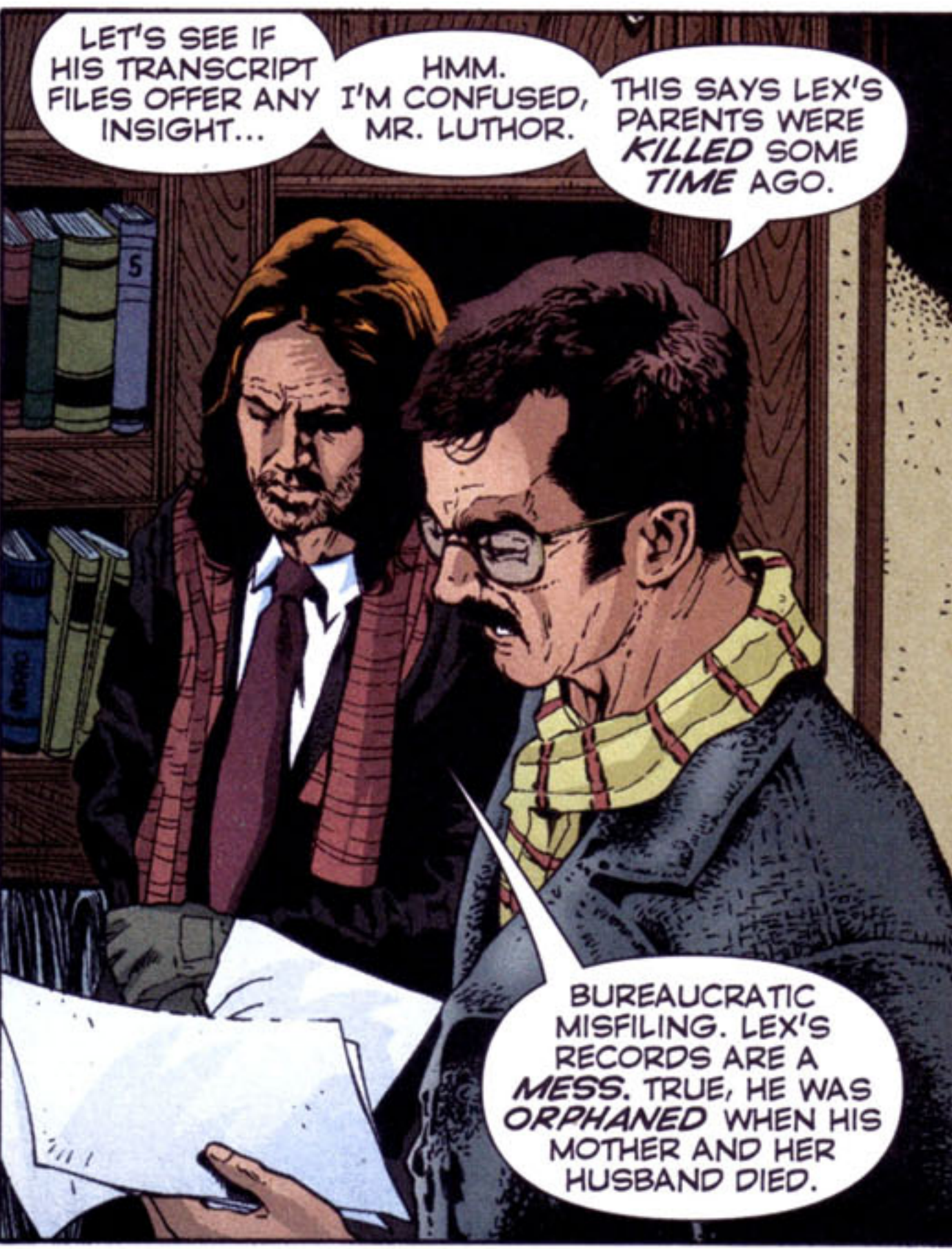
OF COURSE IT IS. MR. LUTHOR, THE REALITY IS, YOUR BOY IS JUST... NOT THAT BRIGHT.

HE SPENT ALL HIS TIME WRITING IN THE MARGINS, CORRECTING THE GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX OF THE QUESTIONS. WE GRADE ON ANSWERS.

PLUS, HE WASTED PRECIOUS MINUTES DOODLING ON THE BACK OF THE TEST BOOKLET.





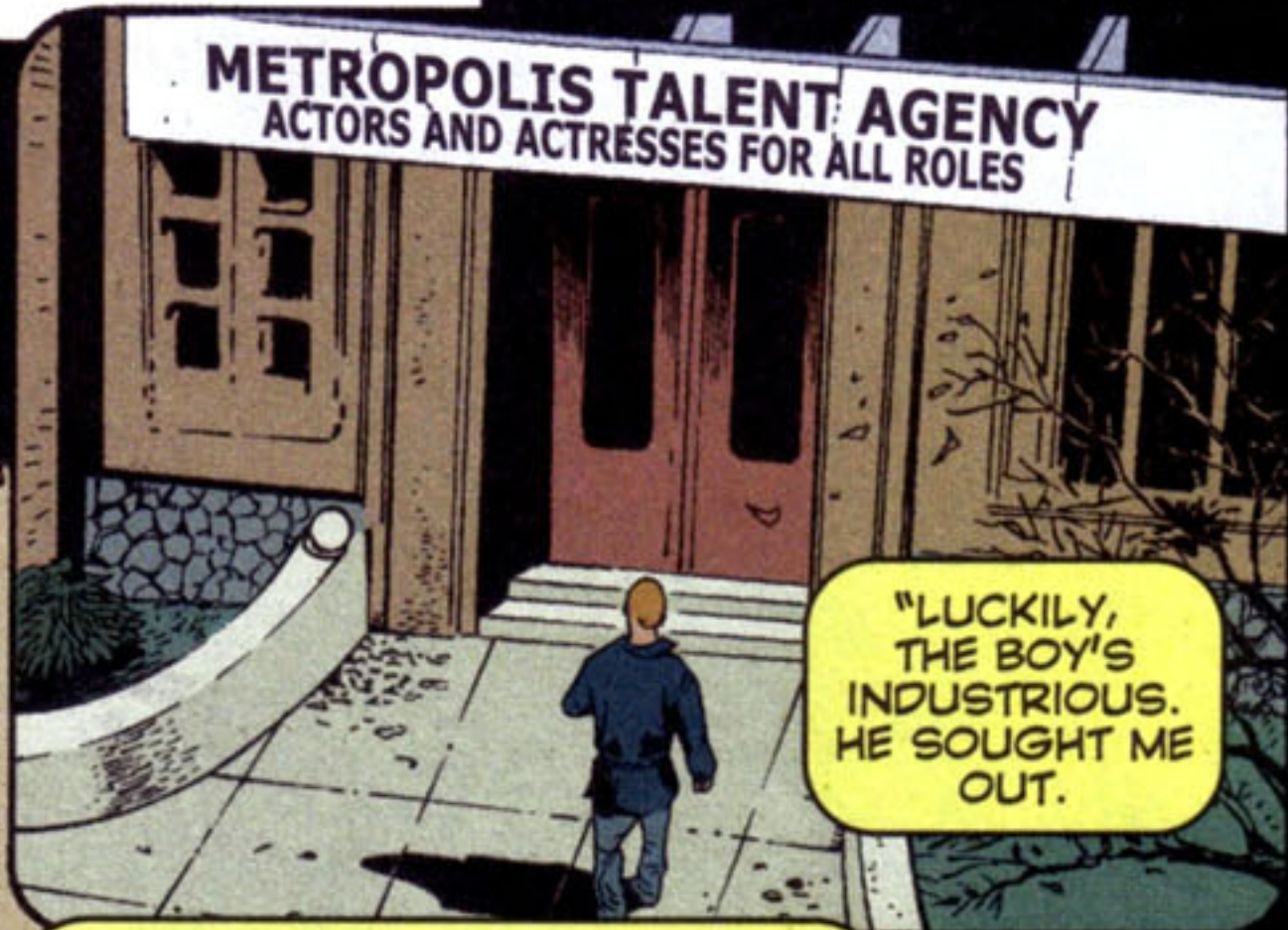


LET'S SEE IF HIS TRANSCRIPT FILES OFFER ANY INSIGHT...

HMM. I'M CONFUSED, MR. LUTHOR.

THIS SAYS LEX'S PARENTS WERE **KILLED** SOME TIME AGO.

BUREAUCRATIC MISFILING. LEX'S RECORDS ARE A MESS. TRUE, HE WAS ORPHANED WHEN HIS MOTHER AND HER HUSBAND DIED.



**METROPOLIS TALENT AGENCY**  
ACTORS AND ACTRESSES FOR ALL ROLES

"LUCKILY, THE BOY'S INDUSTRIOUS. HE SOUGHT ME OUT."



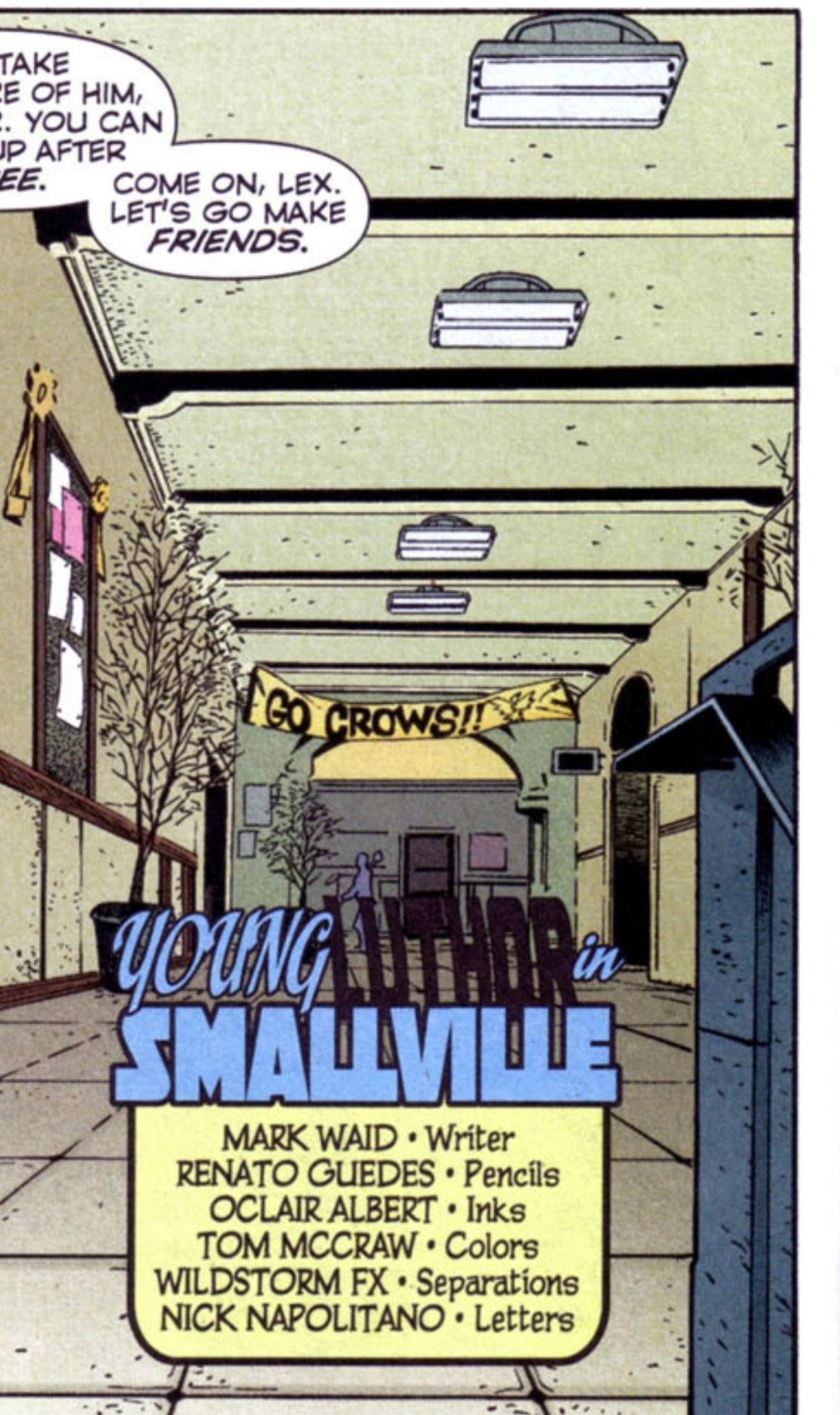
"HE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT WITHOUT A **BIRTH RELATIVE** AS HIS GUARDIAN, HE'D BE FORCED BY SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENDURE YET ANOTHER **FOSTER PARENT NIGHTMARE**."

HE'LL DO.



WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, MR. LUTHOR. YOU CAN PICK HIM UP AFTER **THREE**.

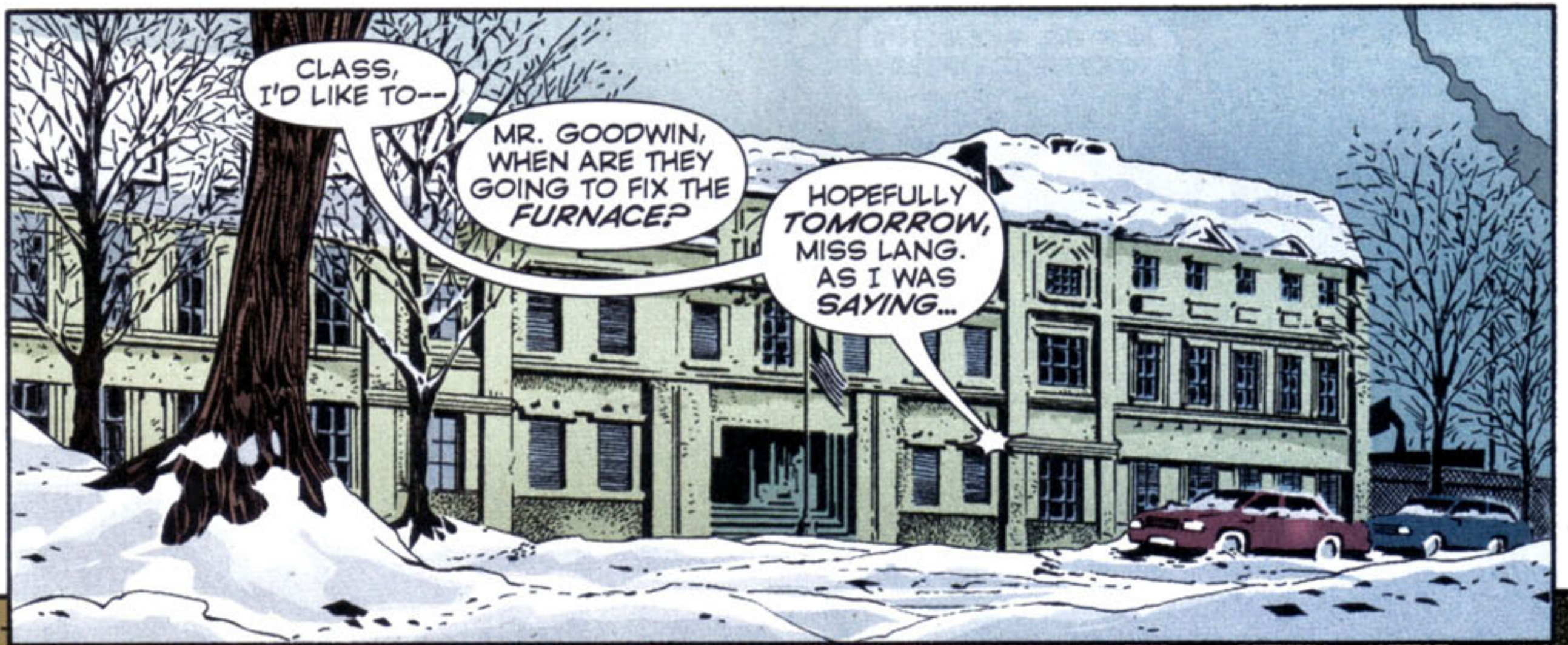
COME ON, LEX. LET'S GO MAKE FRIENDS.



# YOUNG LEX LUTHER in SMALLVILLE

MARK WAID • Writer  
RENATO GUEDES • Pencils  
OCLAIR ALBERT • Inks  
TOM MCCRAW • Colors  
WILDSTORM FX • Separations  
NICK NAPOLITANO • Letters





CLASS, I'D LIKE TO--

MR. GOODWIN, WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO FIX THE FURNACE?

HOPEFULLY TOMORROW, MISS LANG. AS I WAS SAYING...



...I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SMALLVILLE HIGH'S NEWEST STUDENT, MR. LEX LUTHOR.

THERE'S... NOT MUCH TO HIM, MR. GOODWIN.

WHAT KIND OF A GREETING IS THAT, MR. KENT? SAY HELLO, LEX.

LEX?



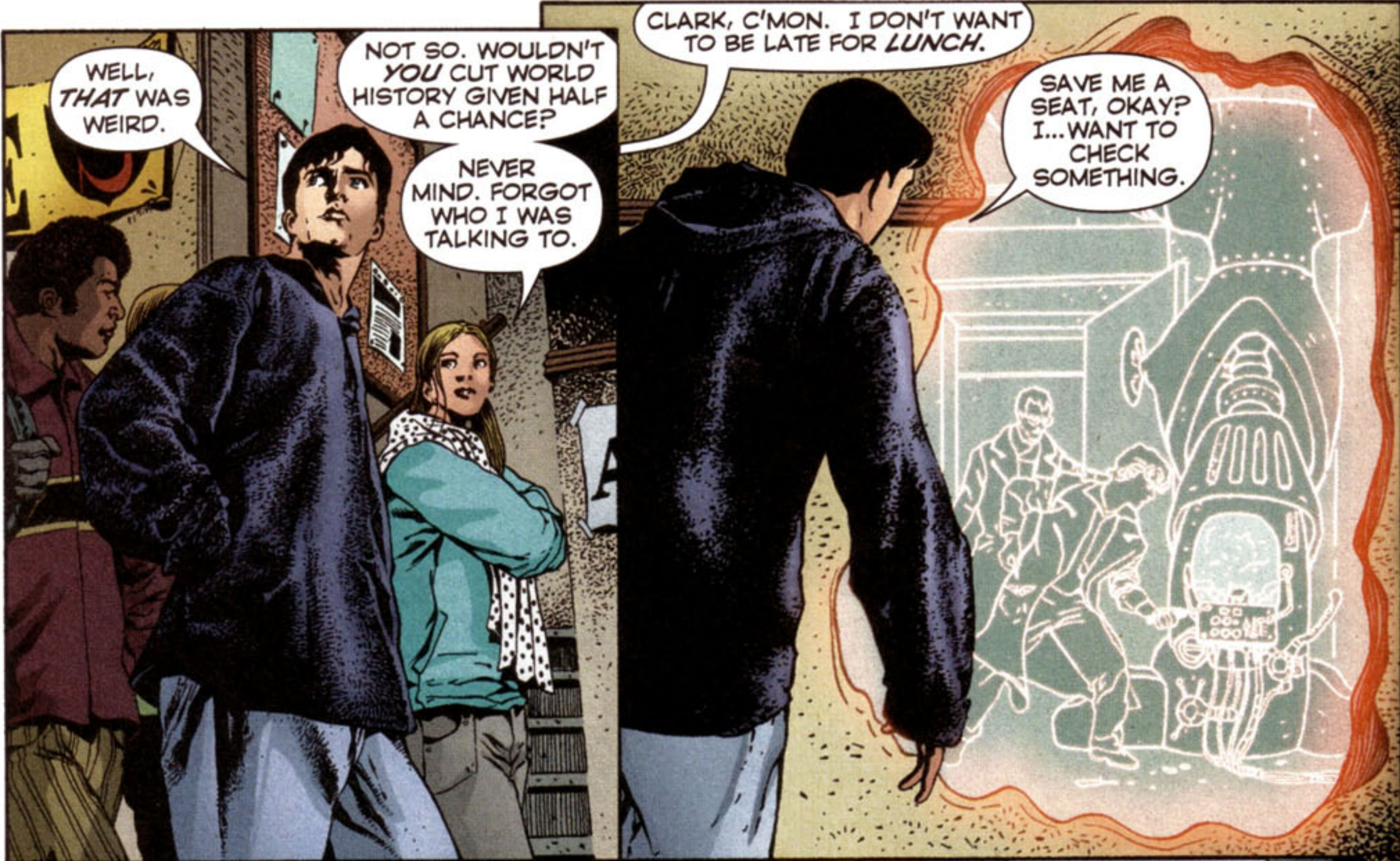
WH--? WHERE DID HE GO? HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME!



CLANG  
CLANG  
CLANG

!





WELL, THAT WAS WEIRD.

NOT SO. WOULDN'T YOU CUT WORLD HISTORY GIVEN HALF A CHANCE?

NEVER MIND. FORGOT WHO I WAS TALKING TO.

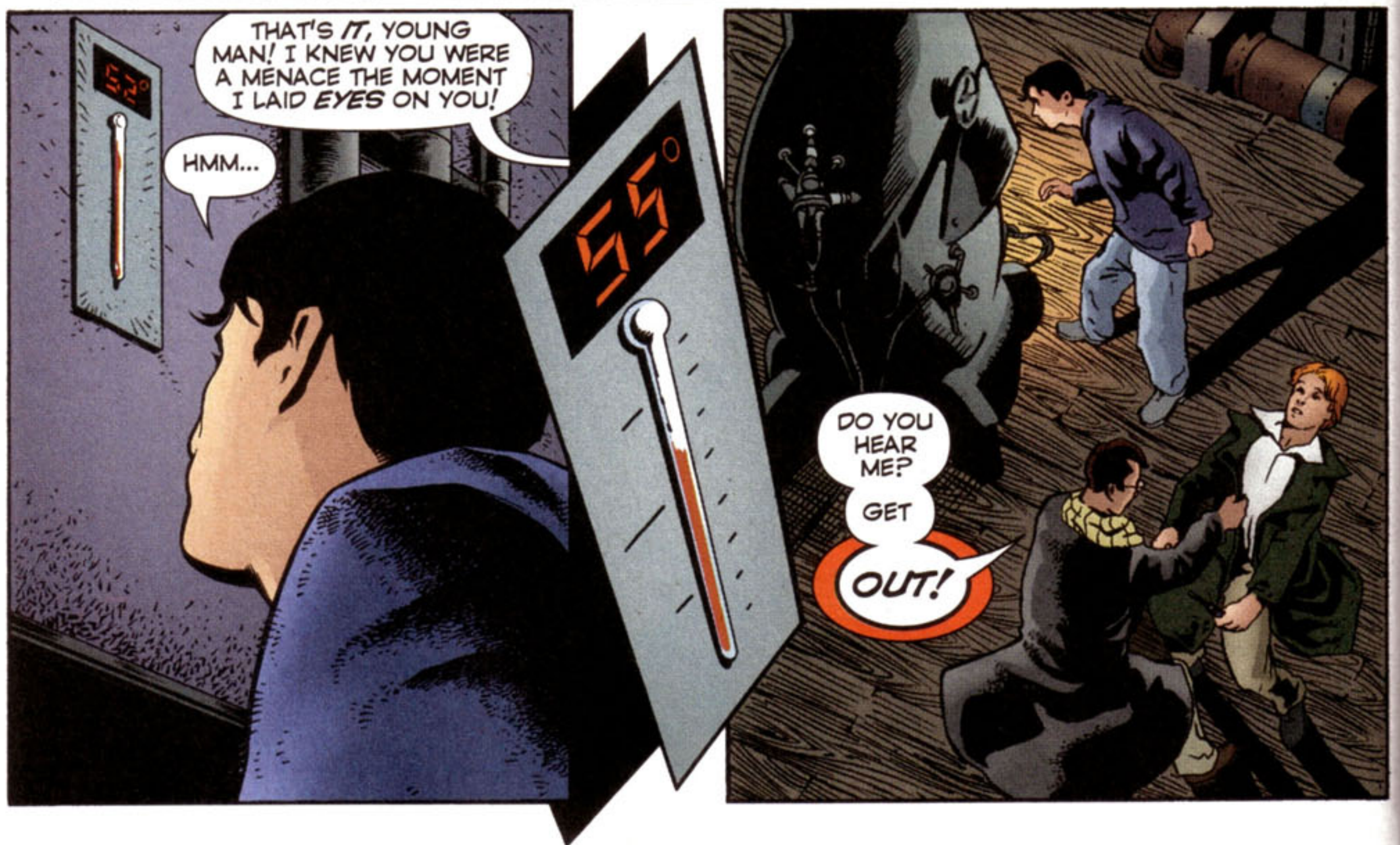
CLARK, C'MON. I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR LUNCH.

SAVE ME A SEAT, OKAY? I... WANT TO CHECK SOMETHING.



--COME AWAY FROM THAT FURNACE RIGHT NOW, YOU LITTLE VANDAL!

THAT'S SCHOOL PROPERTY! YOU LEAVE IT ALONE, OR YOU'RE THE FASTEST EXPULSION WE HAVE EVER HAD IN THIS COUNTY!



THAT'S IT, YOUNG MAN! I KNEW YOU WERE A MENACE THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON YOU!

HMM...

DO YOU HEAR ME?  
GET  
**OUT!**



skofft

MR. GOODWIN, SIR...

WHAT, KENT? WHAT IS IT?



IT'S JUST... WELL, IT'S GETTING *WARMER*, SIR. I THINK THE NEW KID MIGHT HAVE... CONVERTED THE COAL BURNER HERE INTO AN ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP.

YOU KNOW, LIKE PETE ROSS BUILT FOR THE ECOLOGY FAIR LAST YEAR?

I'M JUST GUESSING.



IN FIVE MINUTES?!

FOUR.



I TOOK A MINUTE TO WRITE DOWN THE TEST ANSWERS YOU THINK ARE CORRECT.

PROBABLY STOLE THEM. LITTLE HOOLIGAN...

KENT, KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. KEEP THIS LEX LUTHOR OUT OF TROUBLE IF YOU CAN.

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR...



Spud



# THE SUPERMAN

Superman has had many allies, though only a select few can be considered part of an extended "family." For some, it's their powers or association with the Man of Steel; for others, it's a link that goes far deeper.

**Superboy** is a touchy Kid; this Teen Titan's sole power, *tactile-telekinesis*, helps him fly, be near-invulnerable, and allows him to lift or obliterate mass objects through simple contact. But Kon-El (a Kryptonian name Superman gave him) has been especially quick-tempered of late; he recently discovered that he was cloned not only from the Man of Steel's D.N.A., but Lex Luthor's as well.

Not much is known about the new **Supergirl**, other than what the mysterious *Futuresmiths* have told her: that she is Cir-El, the daughter of Superman and Lois Lane who was removed from the future. But another, more human personality (called Mia) has emerged, suggesting that there may be more to this strange visitor than her ability to fire red sunbursts.

**Natasha Irons**, the hip, attitudinal niece of John Henry Irons, possesses a quick wit that is surpassed only by her innate ability with computers. Though as fashion-conscious as the next teenager, Natasha has taken up the hammer and armor her uncle previously wielded as the hero called Steel, and she's more than ready to throw down against the bad guys in Metropolis's Suicide Slum.

**Krypto**, the family pet of the House of El, became the Last Canine of Krypton after being retrieved by Superman during a reality-bending adventure inside the Phantom Zone. With Earth's yellow sun giving him powers and senses far beyond those of mortal mutts, Krypto loyally serves his master by standing guard over his Fortress of Solitude.



# BATMAN "FAMILIES"

Bruce Wayne never intended for his war on crime to be a family affair. Quite the contrary, actually.

From the start, Batman's mission was conceived as a solo flight, albeit one aided by two people — Alfred Pennyworth and longtime friend Dr. Leslie Thompkins — who were privy to the secret origins of Gotham City's Dark Knight.

Orphaned circus aerialist Dick Grayson would be the first to join Batman's heroic campaign. As Robin, Dick was offered the opportunity to avenge his own parents' murders. Grayson was an able partner, and, even after his adulthood decision to adopt a new identity, **Nightwing**, remained Batman's first choice to succeed him as Gotham's defender.

Tim Drake now carries on the **Robin** legacy, having earned the right to succeed both Dick and the late Jason Todd in the role after deducing the Dark Knight's true identity.

Helena Bertinelli might best be considered the "black sheep" of the Batman "family," a daughter of Gotham's Cosa Nostra. When her Mafioso-linked family was slaughtered before her eyes, Helena made a vow of vengeance. Helena's masked **Huntress** initially preyed upon organized crime with unrestrained violence, until Batman took it upon himself to try to temper Helena's methods.

The most recent addition to the Batman Family is Cassandra Cain. A child assassin trained by the mercenary Cain to become a killing machine, she escaped, finding sanctuary in Gotham during its time as a lawless "No Man's Land." With her remarkable martial arts prowess, Cass helped Batman and his allies take back Gotham. As reward for her loyalty, the Dark Knight offered her the mantle of **Batgirl** once worn by Barbara Gordon, the Bat-ally Oracle who now serves as Cassie's mentor.

Together, Batman and his young warriors form an unorthodox, but utterly loyal, family dedicated to upholding justice and rooting out evil wherever it hides.



# TALIA

REAL NAME: Talia Head  
OCCUPATION: Chief Executive Officer of LexCorp  
BASE OF OPERATIONS: Metropolis  
Height: 5' 8" Weight: 120 lbs.  
Eyes: Almond Hair: Black  
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #411 (May, 1971)

She is the daughter and sole heir of immortal international eco-terrorist Ra's al Ghul, the so-called "Demon's Head." Talia is also one of the few women Bruce Wayne ever admitted loving.

Batman first met the beautiful-but-deadly Talia when he saved her from one of her father's many enemies. Later, the Dark Knight and the Daughter of the Demon were reunited when Ra's al Ghul abducted Robin in a ruse to coerce Batman into wedding Talia and taking over Ra's al Ghul's agenda of restoring Earth's natural balance through global genocide. Fortunately, Batman balked at saving the Earth via mass-murder.

Though attracted to one another, Batman and Talia were divided by her father's extremist ideologies, which would continue to drive a wedge between the star-crossed paramours in the years that followed. Talia has learned to her eternal dismay that loving the Dark Knight and remaining loyal to Ra's al Ghul are — and will forever be — mutually exclusive endeavors.

Acceptance of this great irony fueled Talia's decision to leave her father and strike out on her own. When Lex Luthor was elected President of the United States, the charismatic mogul personally recruited Talia to oversee his vast business empire as acting CEO.

Running the multinational LexCorp's many diverse holdings from its Metropolis-based headquarters seemed like the perfect way to bury her feelings for Batman. But one of LexCorp's closest industrial rivals is WayneCorp, while Bruce Wayne and Lex Luthor are very much less than friends.

Whether Talia's "executive decision" comes from a desire to be closer to Bruce, albeit in the business forum, or is rivalry sparked from her position as spurned lover remains to be seen, as does Ra's al Ghul's reaction to the defection of his beloved daughter.





# METALLO

Real Name: John Corben  
Occupation: Thief  
Base of Operations: Mobile  
Height: Variable  
Weight: Variable  
Eyes: Variable (as Corben: green)  
Hair: N/A (as Corben: light brown)  
First Appearance: (historical) ACTION COMICS #252 (May, 1959); (current) SUPERMAN #1 (second series) (January, 1987)

To call Metallo a "heartless" monster would be inaccurate. True, only the brain of thief John Corben had survived a horrific car crash. But Professor Emmett Vale, convinced Superman was an alien with hostile intentions for Earth, implanted Corben's brain into a powerful robot body fueled by a "heart" made of Kryptonite: an irradiated fragment of Superman's home world Krypton, and the one substance lethal to the Man of Steel.

Metallo's body has undergone many "upgrades" over the years, the most dramatic coming from the B-13 virus that transformed all technology in Metropolis. While still possessing incredible strength and his Kryptonite heart, he can now "morph" his form as he sees fit, essentially giving himself the right tools for the job every time. Recent mechanical alterations, however, have painfully reminded Metallo that the man he once was no longer exists, making his desire to destroy Superman — the reason he was created — all the greater.

Recent evidence, meanwhile, has given Batman reason to hunt Metallo. His modus operandi and whereabouts in Gotham City years ago suggest that Corben may have murdered Thomas and Martha Wayne, the Dark Knight's parents.



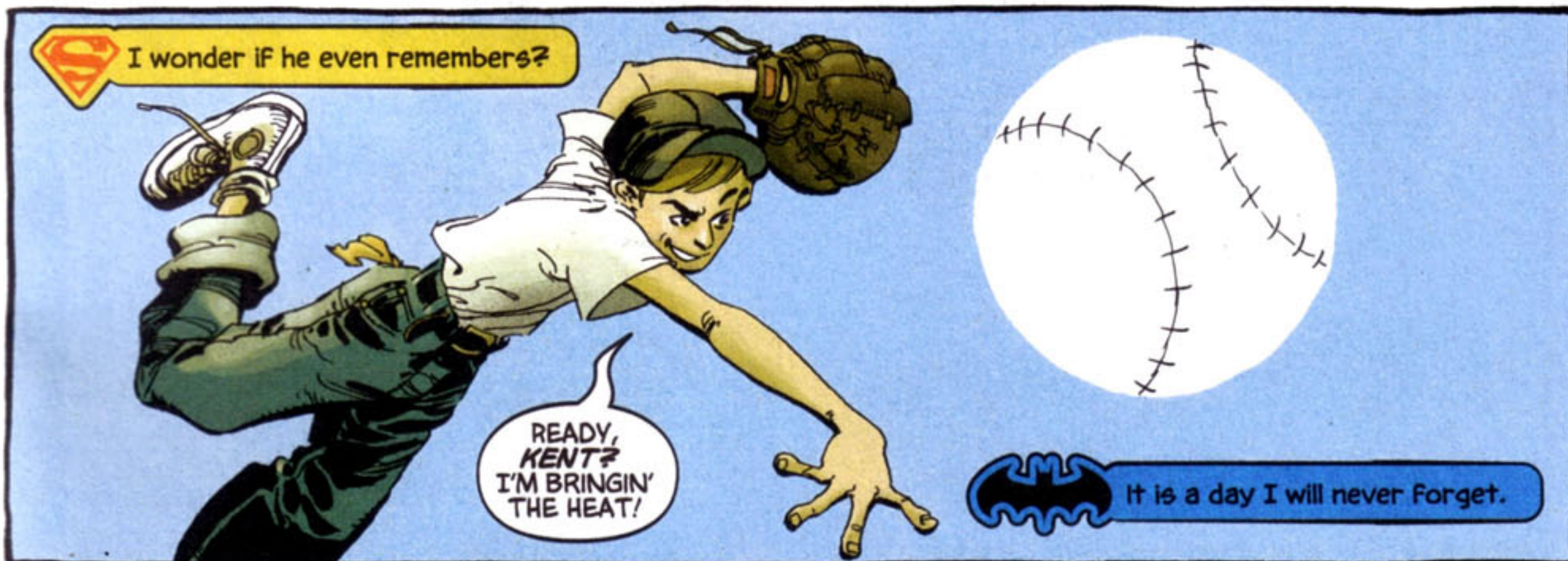
# When Clark met Bruce

JEPH & TIM  
LOEB & SALE

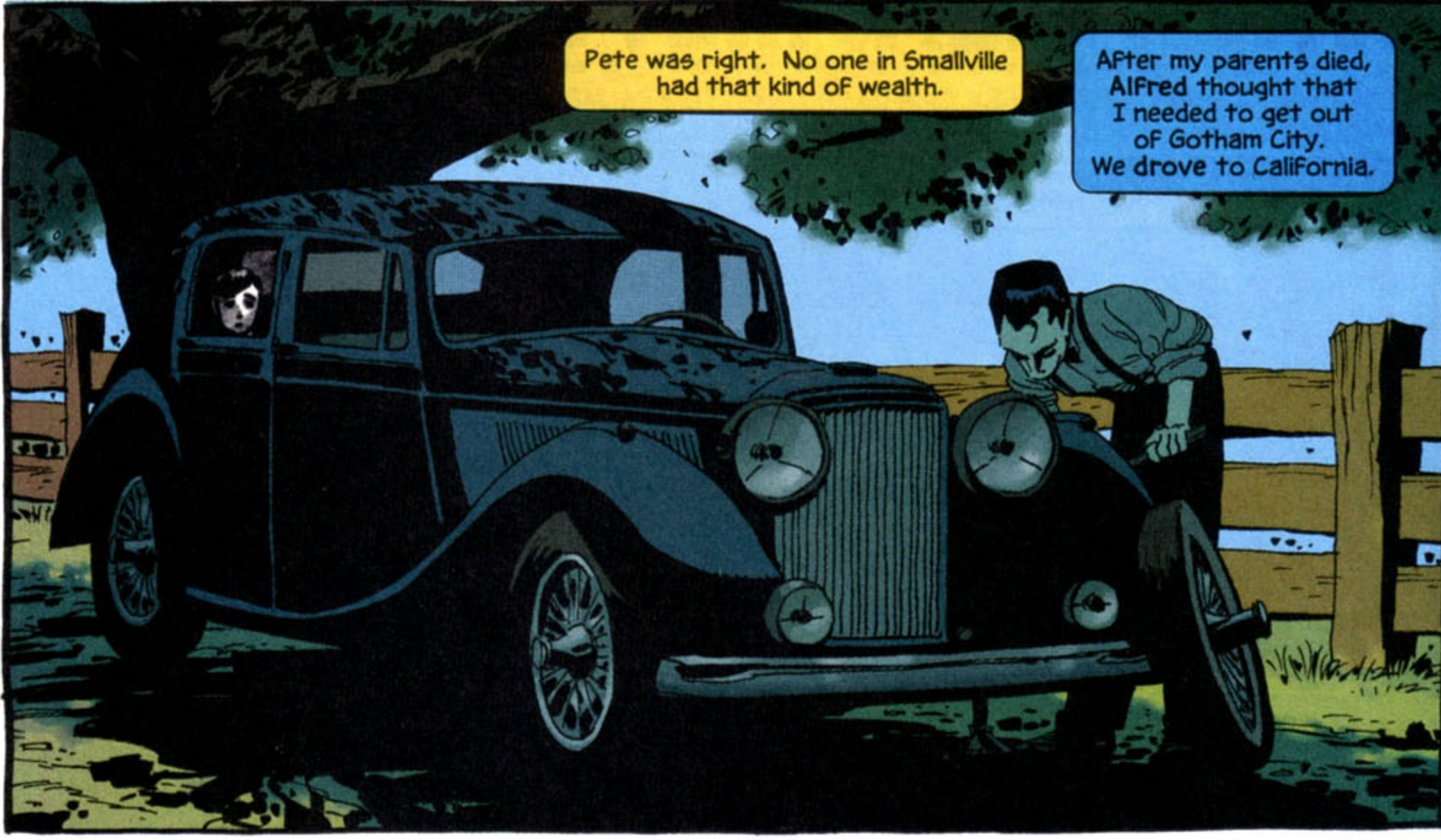
A TALE FROM THE DAYS OF SMALLVILLE

STORYTELLERS

RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERS • MARK CHIARELLO COLORS • TOM PALMER, JR. ASSOCIATE EDITOR • EDDIE BERGANZA EDITOR  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE • SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER







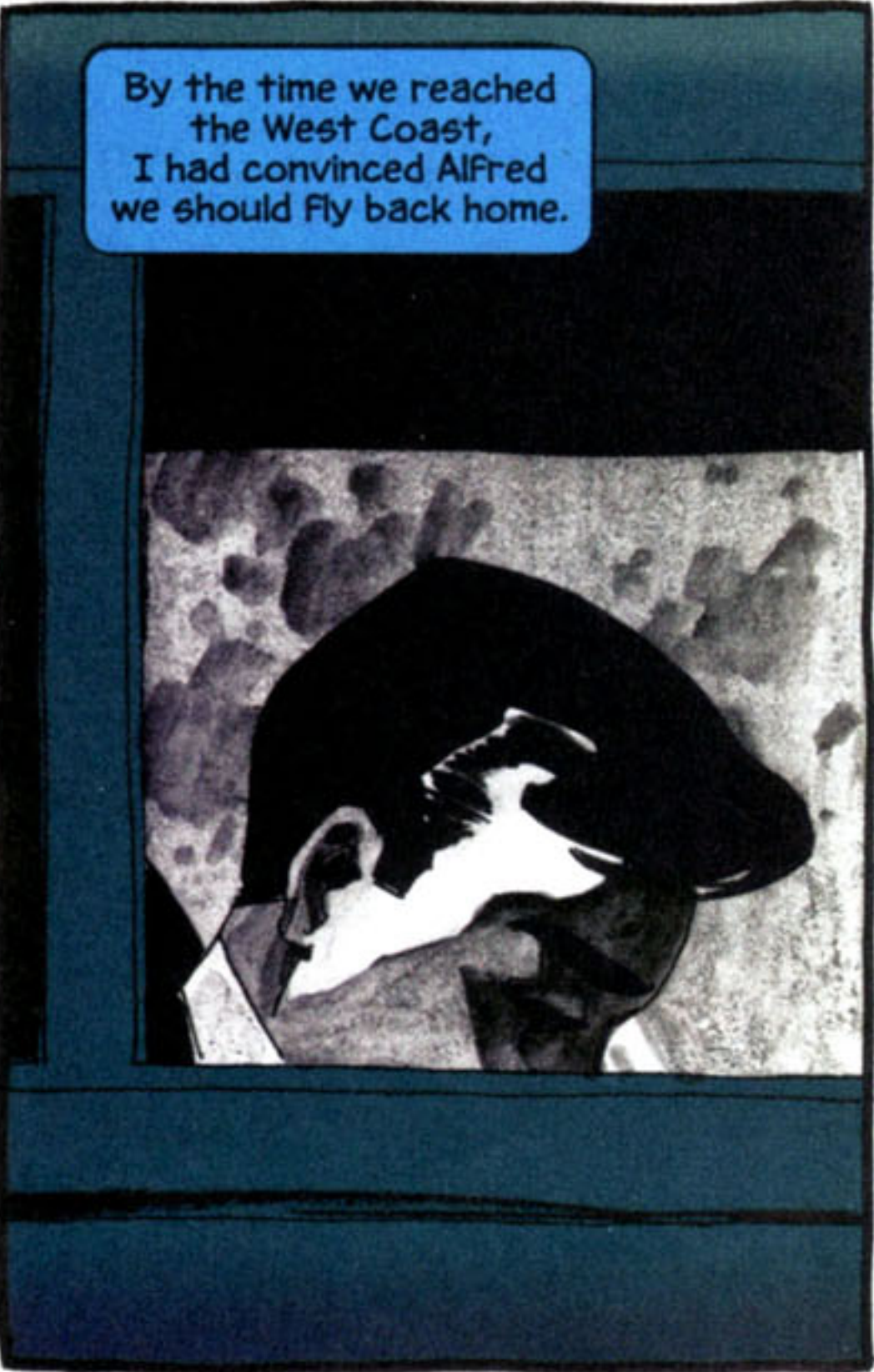
Pete was right. No one in Smallville had that kind of wealth.

After my parents died, Alfred thought that I needed to get out of Gotham City. We drove to California.



THINK WE SHOULD ASK THAT KID TO PLAY BALL?

CLARK. LOOK AT HIM. THAT KID HAS NEVER PLAYED ANYTHING.



By the time we reached the West Coast, I had convinced Alfred we should fly back home.



WHO CARES? RACE YA. LAST ONE IN HAS TO KISS LANA!

WONDER WHO THAT WAS...?

I still wonder if we should've asked him to play. If it would've made a difference.

Sometimes, I wish they had asked me to play. But, by then, my life had changed. I had no time for games.

LOEB SALE 2009

END