



MARVEL

# AVENGERS JLA

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2 OF 4







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## **THE BARRIERS BETWEEN WORLDS ARE CRUMBLING...**

**ACROSS REALITIES, A POWERFUL AND MYSTERIOUS DANGER LOOMS.**

**THE MIGHTY AVENGERS AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, THE GREATEST HEROES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE WORLDS, HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH BIZARRE INTRUDERS -- VILLAINS AND MONSTERS FROM EACH UNIVERSE ARE APPEARING IN THE OTHER, ON EARTH AND THROUGH SPACE.**

**THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS CONTACTED BY THE ENIGMATIC GRANDMASTER, A BEING FROM THE OTHER UNIVERSE. HE TELLS THEM BOTH UNIVERSES ARE IN DANGER ... AND UNLESS THE JLA GOES IN SEARCH OF TWELVE ITEMS OF POWER SCATTERED ACROSS THE TWIN REALMS, A UNIVERSE WILL DIE.**

**THEY TRAVEL TO THE OTHER EARTH, FINDING IT A BIZARRE, UNSETTLING PLACE WHERE MONSTERS AND KILLERS ROAM FREE, TYRANTS RULE THEIR NATIONS WITH AN IRON HAND, AND INNOCENTS DIE FOR BEING GENETIC MUTANTS. THEY HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR ANY HEROES WHO PROTECT THIS WORLD. SUPERMAN, IN PARTICULAR, IS APPALLED AT THE STATE OF IT.**

**HOWEVER, WHEN THEY REACH THE FIRST ITEM -- THE STAGGERINGLY POWERFUL ULTIMATE NULLIFIER -- THEY ARE CONFRONTED BY THE AVENGERS AND HURLED BACK TO THEIR OWN WORLD. THEY MANAGE TO BRING THE NULLIFIER WITH THEM.**

**THE AVENGERS ENCOUNTER THE COSMIC SCHOLAR METRON, FROM THE JLA'S WORLD. HE TELLS THEM OF THE ITEMS OF POWER AND CAUTIONS THEM TO SECURE THEM FIRST, TO SAFEGUARD THEIR UNIVERSE.**

**THE AVENGERS, USING TECHNOLOGY FROM METRON, TRAVEL TO THE JLA'S WORLD. IT IS A SURPRISING, UNUSUAL PLACE TO THEIR EYES, WHERE FUTURISTIC CITIES EXIST AND SUPER HEROES ARE LIONIZED AND PRAISED. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT... CAPTAIN AMERICA THINKS IT MUST BE A TOTALITARIAN STATE WHERE SUPERHUMANS RULE THE POPULACE, RATHER THAN PROTECTING THEM.**

**THE JLA CONFRONTS THE AVENGERS, AND A MELEE BREAKS OUT.**

**WHAT NEITHER GROUP KNOWS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THEY ARE PLAYING A GAME. A GAME DEVISED BY THE GRANDMASTER TO DEAL WITH A POWERFUL INTRUDER -- WHO HAS ALREADY DESTROYED AT LEAST TWO UNIVERSES, AND WHO IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY A THIRD. AN INTRUDER NAMED...**



**PROLOGUE: THE  
RECENT PAST.**

KRONA?

MY  
KNOWLEDGE IS  
VAST, BUT I KNOW  
NOT THE  
NAME.

EXPLAIN.

I AM A SCIENTIST.  
A SEEKER OF  
KNOWLEDGE.  
I SEARCH FOR THE  
SECRET OF CREATION,  
AND THE TRUTH OF WHAT  
EXISTED BEFORE.

IN MY HOME  
UNIVERSE, I SENT  
TIME-PROBES BACK--  
BACK ALMOST TO THE  
MOMENT OF THE BIG  
BANG ITSELF--

YOU SEE? YOU  
SEE?!

AN IMAGE! A SHADOW...  
LIKE A GIANT HAND! THERE  
ARE FORCES AT WORK  
HERE... FORCES WE MUST  
UNDERSTAND!

I MUST GO  
BACK FURTHER...  
FURTHER...!

"BUT WHEN  
I PRESSED  
FORWARD, A  
FORCE WAS  
UNLEASHED.  
DANGEROUS.  
DESTRUCTIVE..."

"AND MY FELLOWS CONDEMNED ME  
FOR SEEKING TRUTH, FOR DOING WHAT  
THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE THEMSELVES.

"THEY FEARED A LEGEND OF  
UTTER DESTRUCTION SHOULD  
THE TRUTH BE LEARNED."

WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN  
DEATH, KRONA...

...AND WILL NOT  
ROB YOU OF YOUR  
IMMORTALITY.

BUT YOU  
WILL BE REDUCED  
TO DISEMBODIED  
ENERGY...

...TO CIRCLE  
HARMLESSLY  
THROUGHOUT THE  
UNIVERSE  
FOREVER.

"AND I WAS  
CAST OUT."



"IN TIME, I TRAVELED BEYOND MY UNIVERSE...

"...AND SOUGHT  
ANSWERS STILL.

"BUT THE LEGEND, IT SEEMED, WAS TRUE..."

"...AND WHATEVER METHODS I TRY,  
WHATEVER APPROACH I TAKE, NO UNIVERSE  
HAS SURVIVED MY...INVESTIGATIONS."

NOW I AM  
HERE, AND I  
INTEND TO TRY  
ANEW.

YOU  
WOULD...WOULD  
TRULY DESTROY  
A UNIVERSE TO  
FURTHER YOUR  
QUEST? A  
UNIVERSE?

I HAVE  
DONE SO  
ALREADY.

AND WILL  
DO SO A MILLION  
TIMES OVER, TO GAIN  
WHAT I SEEK.

I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS  
BECAUSE YOUR OWN  
POWERS HAVE BLOCKED  
MY NEWEST PROBES.

BUT THE POWER OF ALL  
I HAVE DESTROYED  
IS MINE. SO STAND ASIDE,  
OR I SHALL--

A MOMENT.

I DO NOT WISH MY  
UNIVERSE DESTROYED.

PERHAPS I SHOULD  
MENTION, THEN, THAT  
THERE IS A BEING IN THIS  
REALITY WHO HAS LIVED  
THROUGH THE BIG  
BANG...

...AND WHO  
KNOWS WHAT CAME  
BEFORE.

WH-WHAT?!

TELL ME THIS  
BEING'S NAME, THEN!  
ITS NAME, AND WHERE  
I MIGHT FIND IT!  
SWIFTLY, BEFORE  
I--

AH. IT  
SEEMS WE BOTH  
DESIRE SOMETHING  
OF THE OTHER.

I AM  
EN DWI GAST,  
THE GRANDMASTER.  
I LIVE FOR GAMES OF  
SKILL. PERHAPS...

...WE SHOULD  
PLAY A GAME  
TO DECIDE  
MATTERS?

PROLOGUE  
ENDS.



Once upon  
a time...

...there was a  
Universe.



THE CLASH OF THE MILLENNIUM  
CONTINUES!

MARVEL COMICS & DC COMICS  
PROUDLY PRESENT:

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES:


THE **AVENGERS**  
VERSUS THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST SUPER HEROES:

THE **JLA**

BOOK  
TWO:

*a* **CONTEST** *of*  
**CHAMPIONS!**





**METROPOLIS.**

A MOMENT AGO, SUPERMAN, SPEAKING FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, ORDERED THE AVENGERS TO STAND DOWN AND BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

A MOMENT AGO, THOR RESPONDED FOR THE AVENGERS, PUTTING SUPERMAN THROUGH A BUILDING WITH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER.

THAT WAS A MOMENT AGO.





VERILY...

...THIS "JUSTICE LEAGUE" MAY BE RAVING, DANGEROUS MADMEN... BUT STILL, THEY ARE DOUGHTY WARRIORS INDEED!

AW, THEY'RE NOT SO TOUGH, THOR--THEY'RE JUST SQUADRON SUPREME LITE, LIKE I SAID!

HERE--

--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE--

--STARTING WITH THE WHIZZER WANNABE IN RED!

AH-AH! NOT THAT EASY, "PURPLE ARROW!"

HEH.

BOOMERANGS ARROW GETS 'EM EVERY--

SORRY--

HUH?





--BUT I'VE HAD A  
LITTLE EXPERIENCE  
WITH BOOMERANGS--!

AW,  
MAN!

IT WOULD  
WORKED ON THE  
WHIZZER...



AND, AS THE  
BATTLE RAGES...



THEY FACE  
EACH OTHER.

CAUTIOUS.  
DETERMINED.



EXPERIENCED.



THEIR EYES  
LOCK.



THEY EACH  
DRAW BREATH.





THEIR BLOWS LAND  
WITH ALMOST NO  
FORCE. AT FIRST.



A TAP.

A BRUSH.

THEY TEST.



ASSESS.



A FEINT.



A COUNTER.



A SHIFT.



A RESPONSE.

ALL RIGHT.

IT'S CONCEIVABLE YOU  
COULD BEAT ME, AVENGER.  
BUT IT WOULD TAKE YOU A  
VERY LONG TIME. TELL  
ME THIS, THOUGH--

--DO YOU  
WANT TO?

NO.  
YOU'RE  
NOT THE  
ENEMY.

WE'RE ALL  
JUST PAWNS,  
IN A LARGER  
SCHEME.





THEN WE MIGHT BE BETTER  
OFF LETTING THE OTHERS **PLAY  
OUT** EVENTS ACCORDING TO  
THE DESIRES OF WHOEVER'S  
**PULLING THE  
STRINGS--**

--WHILE THE  
**TWO** OF US TRY TO  
FIND SOME **REAL  
ANSWERS.**

YOU'RE **ON.** LET'S  
**GO.**

**AS THEY  
DEPART...**

I--BLAST IT,  
I **CAN'T**--WHAT'S  
BLOCKING--

**WANDA?**  
WHAT IS **WRONG,**  
MY SISTER?

I'M TRYING TO  
CAST A **HEX,** BUT I  
**CAN'T**--CAN'T SUMMON  
THE **CHAOS  
MAGIC!**

IT'S **EASY**  
AT HOME,  
BUT HERE  
IT'S--

--IT  
FEELS  
SO--

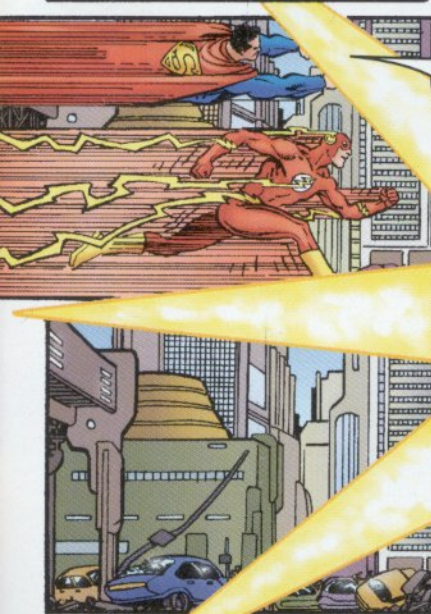
OH.

**WANDA?**

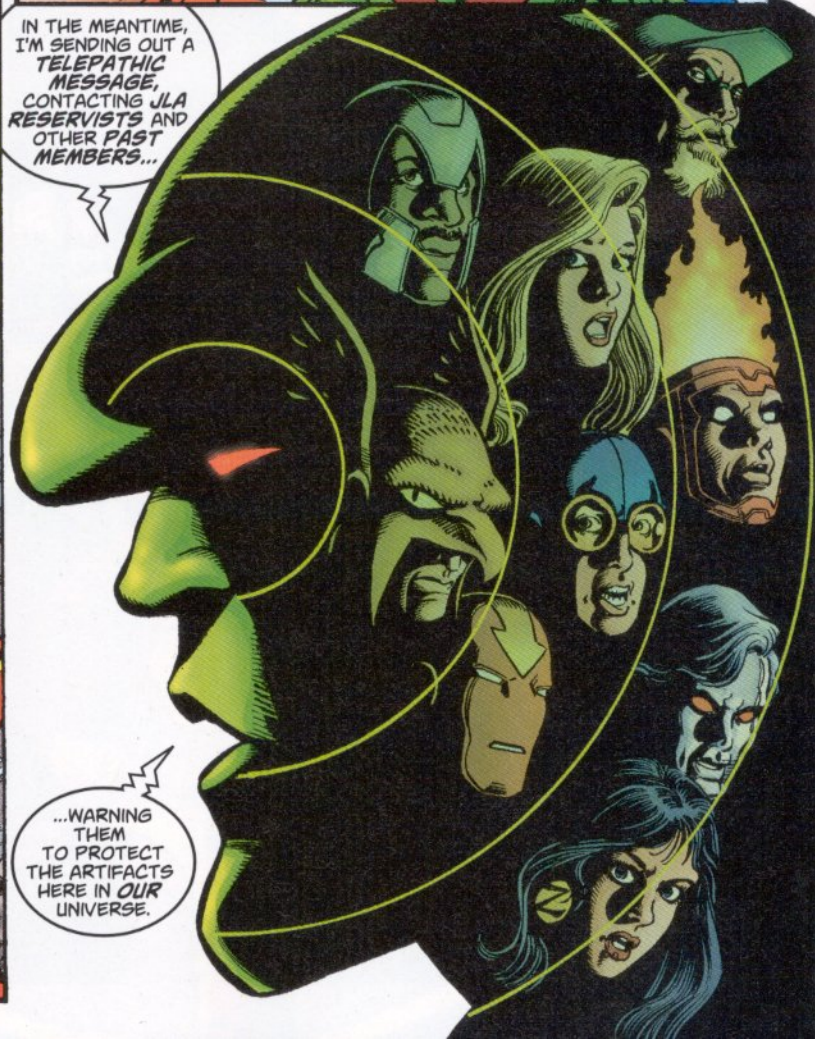
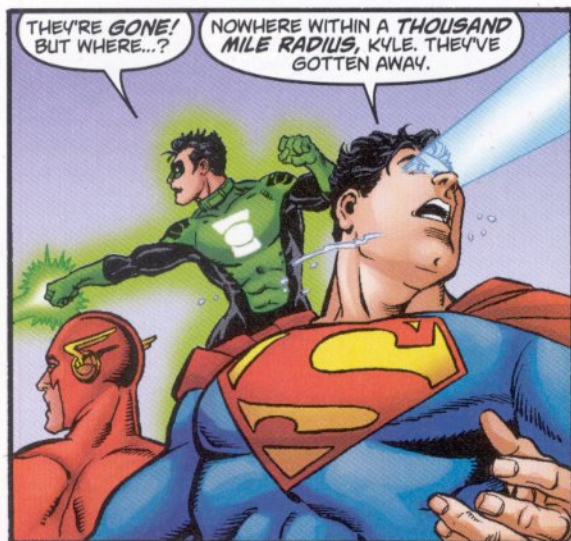
**Oh!**

THE POWER POURS  
INTO HER, RIPS THROUGH  
HER--SMASHING OUTWARD  
LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE, A  
HURRICANE, A TIDAL WAVE--

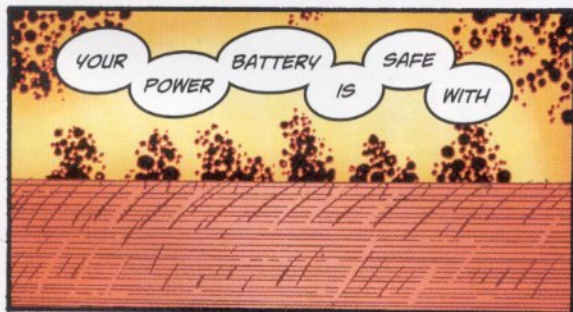














SOMEWHERE  
ALONG I-95...

HUH?

THIS IS  
METROPOLIS?  
THIS IS ALL  
METROPOLIS IS  
IN THEIR  
WORLD?

WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
THESE  
PEOPLE?

AS NEAR AS I CAN  
TELL FROM A QUICK  
SCAN...

...THIS EARTH IS SLIGHTLY **SMALLER**  
THAN OURS, AND HAS FEWER CITIES,  
LESS URBAN GROWTH, AT LEAST  
ON THE EAST COAST.

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST  
**BACKWARD.**

SUPERMAN!  
THAT'S A **TERRIBLY**  
UNCHARITABLE--

NONE OF THIS IS  
IMPORTANT, NOT AT  
THE MOMENT. THERE  
ARE **FIVE** ITEMS LEFT  
IN THIS REALITY-PLANE.  
BUT WE SHOULDN'T  
SPREAD OURSELVES  
TOO THIN.

**THREE**  
TEAMS.

GOOD.  
KYLE, YOU'RE  
WITH ME.

ARTHUR...

==SIGH==

VOICKS--  
AND  
**AWAAAAA!**

ALL RIGHT,  
EVERYONE--

--YOU'VE BEEN  
GIVEN YOUR  
**POSITIONS**,  
CIRCLING THE  
GLOBE.

AS SOON AS  
THE TRACKER  
TELLS US **WHERE**  
THEY'RE  
STRIKING--

--MOVE  
IN.

SOMEBODY'LL HAVE  
TO STAY BEHIND,  
KEEP AN EYE ON  
THINGS...

I'LL DO IT, WASP. YOU  
AND YELLOWJACKET HAVE  
MORE **EXPERIENCE**.  
YOU GET INTO THE  
FIELD.

THANKS,  
TRIATHLON--

--I  
APPRECIATE  
IT.

SURE, SURE.  
JUST BRING BACK  
THE **GOLD**, HUH?





MANHATTAN.  
THE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE'S UNIVERSE.

CRUMMY  
LUCK...CAN RUN  
BETWEEN WORLDS...  
DON'T GET TO GO...  
STUCK HERE BABY-  
SITTING A  
GREEN...



HUH?  
AIIHH!



THIS IS AMAZING.  
I *KNEW* HE WAS  
COMING--FELT IT.  
THIS "MOTHER BOX"--  
SHE'S ENHANCED  
MY SENSORS--  
THEIR SENSITIVITY,  
THEIR RANGE--

YEAH,  
GREAT, SURE.

NOT SO  
COCKY NOW, ARE YOU,  
SMARTMOUTH?

I'M STILL  
GETTIN' OVER HOW  
EASY WANDA CAN JUST  
SEND US TO WHEREVER  
THESE THINGS ARE.



SO, WE  
GOT  
ONE. NOW  
WHAT?

NOW?  
NOW I PUT  
THE TWO OF YOU  
THROUGH THE WALL,  
TRAMPLE YOU INTO  
THE ASPHALT OUTSIDE  
AND TAKE THAT  
BACK FROM Y--



--UHH?!



OH,  
MAN.

KYLE IS  
GONNA KILL  
ME...



THE HIMALAYAS.



HAWKEYE--THE  
LANTERN! WHERE  
DID IT GO?

I...I DON'T  
KNOW!

I HAD IT WHILE  
WANDA WAS PORTIN'  
US IN, BUT AS SOON  
AS WE ARRIVED, IT  
KINDA...JUST  
DISSOLVED!

"CLINT, I *SCANNED*  
THAT THING--IT  
COULD POWER  
MANHATTAN  
FOR A YEAR OR  
MORE, AND STILL  
NOT RUN OUT! IF  
WE'VE LOST IT..."

1-1.

TIE  
SCORE.

THE  
GAME BEGINS  
IN EARNEST...

**SANTO RICO.**  
THE AVENGERS'  
UNIVERSE.

THIS EARTH MAY BE  
SMALLER THAN OURS,  
SUPERMAN...

...BUT IT LOOKS  
LIKE THEY'VE  
GOT ROOM FOR  
SOME COUNTRIES  
WE DON'T  
HAVE!

IF THEY CAN'T INSPIRE  
THE POPULACE, I  
SUPPOSE, THIS IS  
WHAT THEY  
GET.

I'LL USE MY  
X-RAY VISION,  
SEARCH FOR THE  
ARTIFACT...

PERHAPS.  
SOME OF OURS  
AREN'T HERE,  
HOWEVER. SANTA  
PRISCA. HASARAGUA.  
XOCHATAN...ALL  
MISSING.

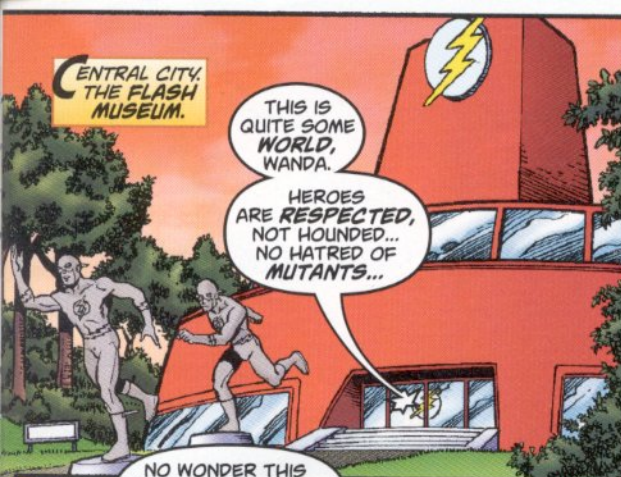
BUT THIS--  
IS THIS A MONUMENT  
TO SOMETHING? IS THIS  
THE RESPECT THEIR  
HEROES EARN?

THIS?

BETTER  
LOOK FAST, BIG  
BLUE--

--CAUSE  
WE'VE GOT  
COMPANY!









DEAL WITH THE WOMAN, ARTHUR. GET THE ARTIFACT.

YOU ARE HERCULES, THEN? DESPOILER OF HIPPOLYTA?



I'VE GOT THIS ONE, SUPERMAN! YOU NEED A HAND?

DON'T...  
>NNNH... BE SO COCKY, KID! WONDER MAN...  
>NNNH...



...ISN'T THAT EASILY BEATEN!

H-AHH!



BLUE BEETLE!

CAN'T YOU AND BLACK CANARY HANDLE ONE OPPONENT?

OW!  
HEY, YOU TRY IT, HAWKMAN! HE'S FAST--!



YES. YES, I AM.

MAYBE NOT AS FAST AS YOUR FLASH--

--BUT FAST ENOUGH!

OH?  
ARE YOU FAST ENOUGH--



UHH!



LOOK, GUY-- YOU'RE STRONG, AND YOU'RE PLENTY TOUGH, AND YOU'RE NOT BAD-LOOKING, BUT FACE IT--

--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME!





I WOULD NOT USE THOSE WORDS, MYSELF--

--BUT I DID HAVE THE HONOR OF--

--UHHH!



HI, I'M THE SHE-HULK. HOW DO YOU LIKE ME SO FAR?



C-CANT... CANT BREAK...

HE'S SO...SO FAST...



HANG ON, WARBIRD! JUST HANG ON! I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!

OH, LIKE FUN YOU WILL, PAL!

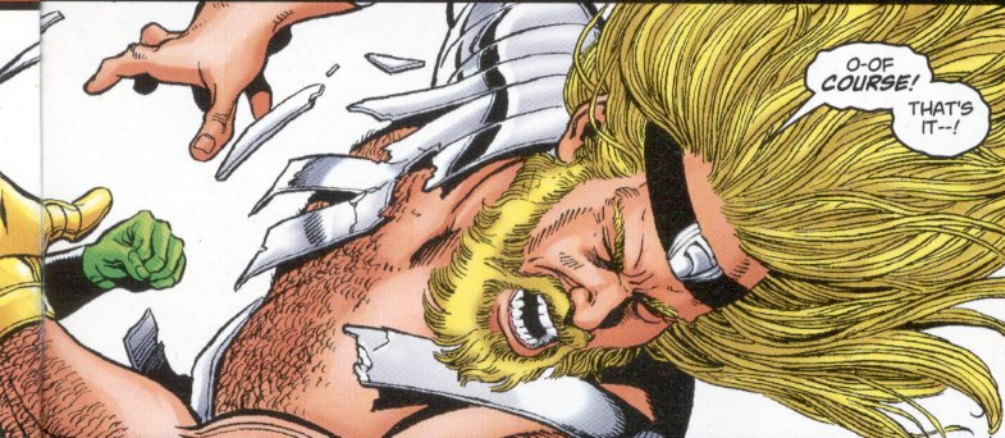


--TO DODGE THIS?



N-NO!

C-CANT LET THEM-- MUSTN'T LET--



O-OF COURSE!

THAT'S IT--!



HGH!









SUPERMAN, LOOK!

UHHH...



THERE IT IS! THE ORB OF RA!

"2-1."



STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU!

HIPPOLYTA WAS MY MOTHER-- AND I SHALL PUNISH THIS VILLAIN AS I SEE--



WONDER WOMAN! I HAVE IT!

I HAVE IT!

"3-1."



WHAT WE SEEK IS THAT WAY.

YOU...DO NOT SOUND YOURSELF, WANDA. IF YOU ARE ILL, WE MUST...



IT IS THE CHAOS MAGIC. IT IS STRONG. CORRUPTING. I FEEL IT...EATING AWAY AT ME. AT MY SOUL, MY MIND.

BUT I WILL... ENDURE, AS LONG AS I MUST.

THE ARTIFACT IS THE WAND OF WATOOMB. TAKE IT...



...AND LET US GO.

"3-2."



AH, YOU IGNORE THE ELEGANT INTRICACIES OF IT. MOVE AND COUNTER-MOVE. CALCULATION AND DESPERATION.

FOR INSTANCE, TWO PLAYERS REMOVED THEMSELVES FROM THE BOARD. DO THEY PLAN A SURPRISE? HAVE THEY GIVEN UP?





"WHERE MIGHT THEY BE?"

YOU...LOST A PARTNER?

...  
I DID.  
NOW COME DOWN  
HERE, IF YOU'RE THROUGH  
SIGHTSEEING. WE HAVE  
WORK TO DO.

HNH.  
THAT'S HOW  
IT IS WITH  
HIM, EH?

NOTHING  
ON THIS  
"GRANDMASTER."  
I'VE GOT ZATANNA  
AT THE WATCHTOWER,  
TRACING THAT  
WOMAN'S CHAOS  
MAGIC--

--AND  
DISPATCHING  
FORCES TO COLLECT  
THE ARTIFACTS.  
FROM WHAT I'VE  
SEEN OF THESE  
AVENGERS, I CAN'T  
PROMISE THAT'LL  
GIVE YOU MUCH  
TIME, THOUGH.

THIS IS  
UNUSUAL FOR  
YOU, B. VISITORS,  
IN THE BATCAVE?

UNUSUAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT HAVE  
WE GOT?

NICE TO HAVE AN  
OVERCONFIDENT  
FOE, MA'AM. IT MAKES  
IT EASIER.

BUT I'M NOT  
SURPRISED THE  
GRANDMASTER'S  
INVOLVED. THE  
AVENGERS HAVE HAD  
EXPERIENCE WITH  
HIS DEADLY COSMIC  
GAMES.

THERE MUST BE  
A PLAYER ON  
THE OTHER  
SIDE,  
THOUGH.

YES. AND WHILE YOU  
DEALT WITH METRON,  
SOMETHING DOESN'T  
RING RIGHT ABOUT  
THAT.


METRON'S A  
SEEKER, AN EXPLORER.  
HE'S CRAFTY, BUT NOT  
A GAMESMAN.

STILL,  
HE'S IN THIS  
SOMEHOW. I'D  
LIKE TO KNOW...  
WHERE HE IS  
RIGHT NOW...

...WHAT  
THE STAKES  
ARE...

THERE.  
THERE HE IS.






METRON'S LOG.  
ENTRY 51762-ALPHA.  
HOLO-SCAN IMBEDDED

THIS IS  
**GALACTUS**,  
DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

LAST SURVIVOR OF  
THE CYCLE OF CREATION  
AND DESTRUCTION THAT  
COLLAPSED A UNIVERSE  
AND BIRTHED A NEW ONE.

A BEING OF COSMIC,  
INSATIABLE HUNGER,  
WHO FEEDS ON THE  
LIFE-ENERGY OF  
PLANETS, LEAVING  
NOTHING BUT DEAD  
HUSKS IN HIS WAKE.



KRONA WILL STOP AT  
NOTHING—NOTHING—  
TO GAIN HIS SECRETS.

THE GAME,  
THE RULES WILL.  
THEY CHECK HIM IN  
THE SLIGHTEST?



WE  
SHALL  
SEE.





WHATEVER  
HIS ROLE, THERE'S  
ONE THING WE  
CAN'T DO.

WE CAN'T  
STOP THE *GAME*. THE  
GRANDMASTER LEVIES  
*DIRE PENALTIES* ON  
ANYONE WHO QUILTS.  
BESIDES...

WE NEED  
TO KEEP HIS  
ATTENTION--*AND* HIS  
OPPONENT'S--*DIVERTED*,  
FOCUSED ON THE  
*GAME*, WHILE WE  
INVESTIGATE.

ON *THAT*  
FRONT--



--I THINK I  
CAN PROVIDE  
A *METHOD*,  
AT LEAST.

WHAT...?



JUST  
A *HOMING*  
BEACON.

I WOULD PREFER THAT  
YOU *ASK* BEFORE  
BROADCASTING THE  
COORDINATES  
OF--

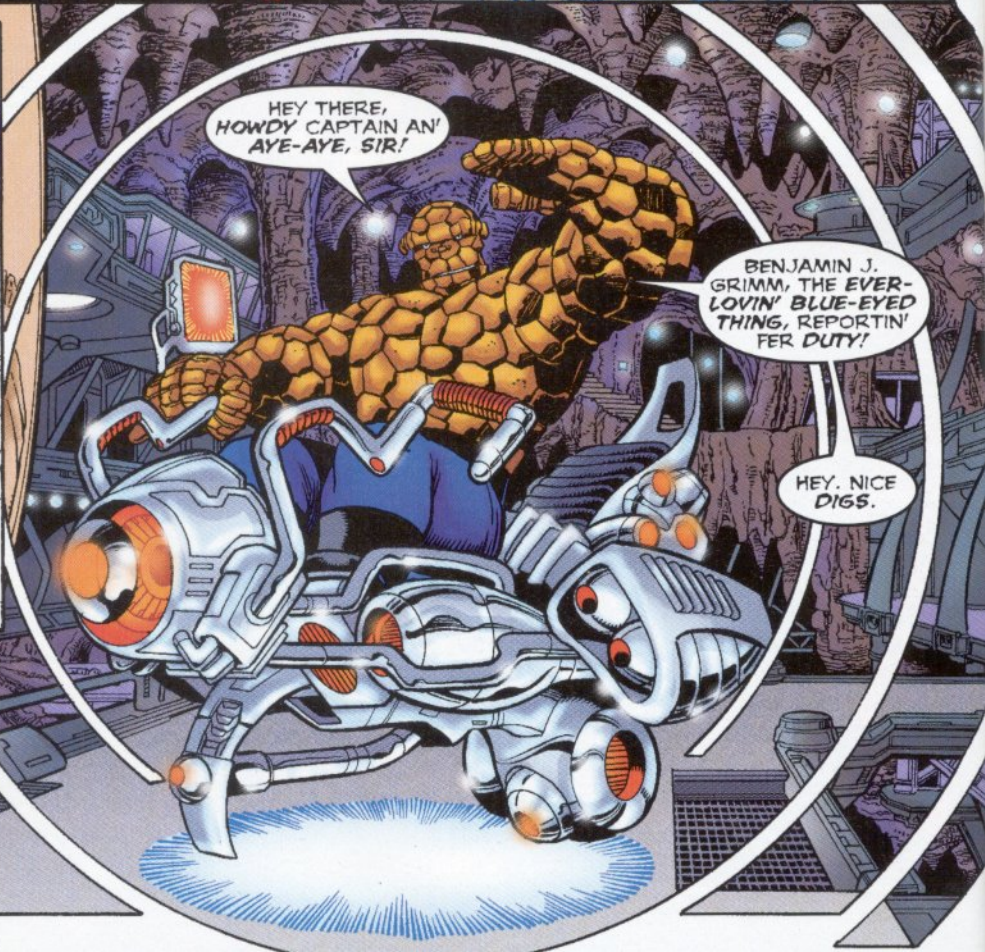
RELAX,  
BATMAN--



HEY THERE,  
HOWDY CAPTAIN AN'  
AYE-AYE, SIR!

BENJAMIN J.  
GRIMM, THE EVER-  
LOVIN' BLUE-EYED  
THING, REPORTIN'  
FER DUTY!

HEY. NICE  
DIGS.







--THIS IS A FRIEND.

CHECK THIS OUT, CAP-- JUST WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.

REED?

I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE DATA JAN PIPED OVER, CAPTAIN--

--AND BASED ON SCANS IRON MAN TOOK OF THE RESIDUE THIS "METRON" LEFT BEHIND AT MONSTER ISLAND--

FROM WHAT THEY TELL ME, YER SUPPOSED TA BE ONE'A THE BLACK HATS, BUT IF YER WITH CAP YER AN OKAY JOE IN MY BOOK.

ONE HANDY-DANDY TIME-BIKE, CUSTOMIZED FER KICKIN' AROUND OTHER DIMENSIONS.

OH, AN' YOU GOT A CALL.

--I'VE PRE-PROGRAMMED THE TIME-BIKE WITH SOME WAVELENGTHS YOU CAN TRACE.

I'D STAY FER COFFEE, BUT I GOTTA GET BACK, HELP REED AN' SUZIE WITH THE HEAVY LIFTIN'.

YER IDEA A' SMALL CHANGE, HUH?

AH, HERE WE GO.

YOU DON'T NEED ME FER GUMSHOEIN'-- EVEN COSMIC GUMSHOEIN'.

YOU WERE MORE PREPARED THAN YOU SEEMED.

BEFORE WE CAME TO YOUR WORLD--

--WE SET SOME WHEELS IN MOTION.

AND THAT WAS ONE OF THEM? HE HAS A... ROUGH-EDGED CHARM.

WAS THAT A KNOCK?

BEN GRIMM MAY NOT BE SLEEK AND ELEGANT, LIKE THE HEROES OVER HERE, MISTER.

BUT HE'S ONE OF THE FINEST MEN I KNOW--

--AND HE GETS THE JOB DONE."



**THE HIMALAYAS.**

I DON'T  
WANNA BE  
RUDE...

NO.

I AM...UNDER ASSAULT.  
THIS MAGIC...I AM NOT  
TRAINED, NOT ATTUNED, NOT  
EXPERIENCED ENOUGH...  
I...CONTINUE TO ENDURE,  
HOWEVER.

WE'RE TOO DEPENDENT  
ON MAGIC...MAGIC WE  
DON'T UNDERSTAND.  
AT THAT, MAYBE  
I CAN USE THE  
MOTHER BOX...

...MAKE SOME  
UNEXPECTED  
MOVES.

...BUT WITCHIE  
THERE AIN'T LOOKIN'  
TOO GOOD. ON ME,  
THAT'D JUST BE  
FROSTBITE,  
BUT...

I AGREE,  
HAWKEYE.

WANDA? ARE  
YOU COPING  
ALL RIGHT?

AND I  
WILL CONTINUE  
TRYING TO  
ACCESS THIS  
"SPEED  
FORCE"...

I..AM  
SHIELDING THOR  
AND THE VISION FROM  
DETECTION, I THINK, BUT...  
IF I TRY TO DO ANYTHING  
ELSE, THEY  
MAY...

FINE,  
FINE.  
ANY  
CHANCE  
WE CAN DO IT  
SOMEPLACE  
WARM,  
THOUGH?

WE'RE DOING  
WELL. BUT I DON'T  
LIKE THIS. THESE  
ITEMS--

--THEY'VE BEEN MOVED,  
PLANTED, EVEN SHIFTED FROM  
WORLD TO WORLD. WHOEVER'S  
BEHIND IT, THEY'RE NOT JUST  
COLLECTING THE  
ITEMS.

SO IT'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE. ONLY ONE  
WAY TO FIND  
OUT...







WHADDYA  
SAY, CAPTAIN  
ATOM...

THE JLA  
WATCHTOWER.



...IS IT JUST ME,  
OR IS MR. PEEPERS  
HERE BOTHERING THE  
CHEESE OUT OF  
ANYONE ELSE?



NOT JUST  
YOU, GREEN  
ARROW...

I GOTTA  
GO TO THE  
BATHROOM.

BUT IF HE  
SEES THROUGH  
WALLS...



ANY NEWS?



NOT  
MUCH, RED  
TORNADO.

I'M SENSING  
PATTERNS IN THE  
CHAOS-MAGIC FIELD--  
THE LORDS OF CHAOS ARE  
REALLY STIRRED UP, THEY  
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S  
GOING ON--

--BUT IF SHE  
DOES ANYTHING,  
I'LL KNOW IT.

HAVE THE  
TELEPORTERS  
WARMED UP...



IF THIS WORKS RIGHT, IT'LL ACT AS  
A BATTERY...GATHERING AMBIENT  
SPEED FORCE AS YOU RUN...  
COLLECTING IT AND  
STORING IT...

...AND GIVING  
YOU A CHARGE YOU  
CAN TAP INTO IF YOU HAVE  
TO GO BACK TO THEIR  
WORLD.

THANKS,  
STEEL.

I HOPE  
IT WORKS. I HOPE  
ZATANNA FINDS A LEAD ON THEM  
FAST. AND I REALLY, REALLY HOPE  
I GET THAT POWER BATTERY BACK  
BEFORE KYLE FINDS OUT...



ALL RIGHT.  
EVERYONE READY?  
WANDA?

LET'S GO.



THEY'RE MOVING!  
THEY'RE MOVING!  
GO! GO!

I'LL  
GUIDE  
YOU...!



**HAPPY HARBOR,**  
RHODE ISLAND.

THOR! CAN YOU  
DISPERSE THIS  
CYCLONE?

IT PASSETH  
UNDERSTANDING,  
VISION--BUT THE STORM  
DOETH RESIST MY  
CONTROL.

VERY  
WELL.

OUR ASSAILANT  
SEEMS TO BE AN  
ANDROID, LIKE ME. I  
SHALL REACH HIM,  
INTANGIBLY, AND  
SOLIDIFY WITHIN--

--ENDING THE  
THREAT AT THE  
SOURCE!

WILL  
YOU?

HM?

INSIDE HIM?  
CIRCUITRY--

--AND SOMETHING  
MOOOOORRRRRRRREEEE!

AHA!

THE  
MECHANICAL SHELL DOETH  
HIDE AN  
ELEMENTAL  
TEMPEST WITHIN!

THEN TRULY,  
THOU ART A FIT  
FOE FOR THE  
MIGHTY TH--  
EH?!

WHAT?

JUST A GRADE-A,  
ALL-PURPOSE ATOMIC  
CONTAINMENT SPHERE--  
COURTESY OF FIRESTORM,  
THE NUCLEAR MAN!

NICE WORK  
DISTRACTING THEM  
WHILE I GOT THE GOODS,  
REDDY! LET'S GET  
OUTTA HERE!

AND LET'S FIND A  
BIG BELLY BURGER  
RESTROOM BEFORE  
I BURST!



WAKANDA.

THE BLACK PANTHER  
WATCHES AS THEY  
BATTLE ON THE STEPS  
OF THE ROYAL PALACE.

HIS PALACE.

HIS CITY.

HIS LAND.

HE HAS BEEN AN  
AVENGER IN THE PAST,  
AND MAINTAINS CLOSE  
TIES TO THEM. BUT HE  
DOES NOT LIKE OUTSIDE  
CONFLICT SPILLING INTO  
HIS NATION.

ENOUGH.

--THEN  
I WILL.

AND THAT,  
BOYS AND  
GIRLS--

--IS WHY  
THE MARTIAN  
MANHUNTER STAYS  
HOME ON DATE  
NIGHTS.

WHAT NEXT,  
O MASTER OF  
THE MENTAL  
WHAMMY?

I CAN  
SENSE THE  
ARTIFA--  
OH.

IS THAT  
NICE?

OW! OO!

WE HAVE LITTLE TIME,  
PLASTIC MAN. IF YOU CANNOT  
STOP YOUR ASSAILANT--

GNHH!

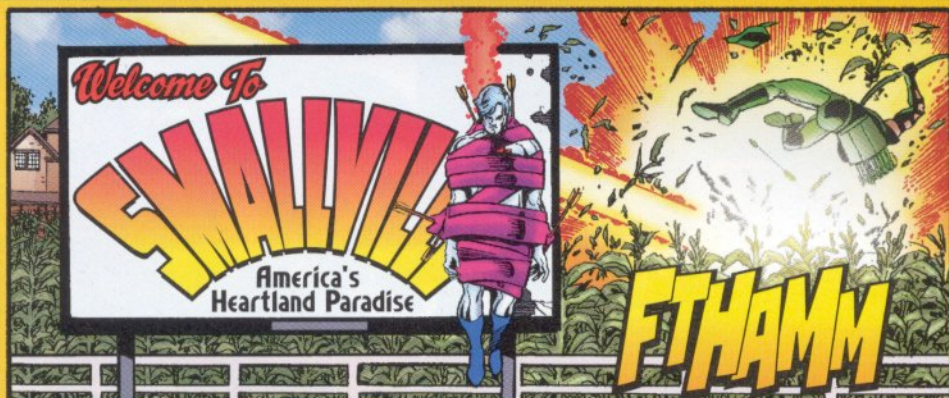
OOH,  
HARSH!

HE RECOVERS THAT WHICH  
THEY SEEK FROM THE BRANCHES  
IN WHICH IT NESTLES.

HIS SECURITY  
SCREENS HAD  
FLAGGED IT  
AS SOON AS  
IT ARRIVED.

"4-3."









SCANNERS  
INDICATE METRON'S  
PRESENCE. HE  
WAS HERE.  
AFTER THE  
DESTRUCTION.

THEN  
WE HAVE A  
TRAIL.



PARADISE  
ISLAND.

MINERVA!

GREAT HERA,  
WHAT--?



DENSITY  
MANIPULATION.  
HM? WELL, GO AS  
DENSE AS YOU  
LIKE--I'LL STILL  
GO THROUGH  
YOU!

I THINK  
NOT.

WANDA,  
ARE YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?



D-D--

DID HE  
G-GET  
IT?

D-DID  
QUICKSILVER  
GET--



I  
HAVE  
IT!

BUT  
WHY--WHY ISN'T IT  
VANISHING?

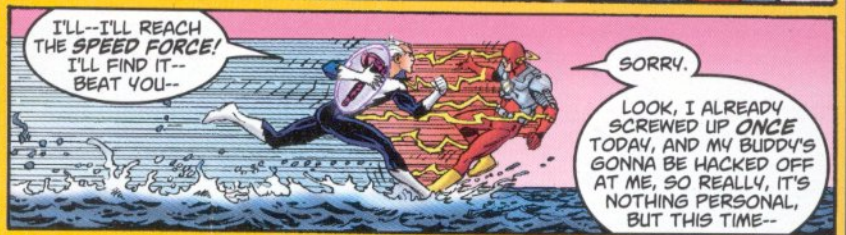


MAYBE

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE

NOT  
CLEAR  
YET?

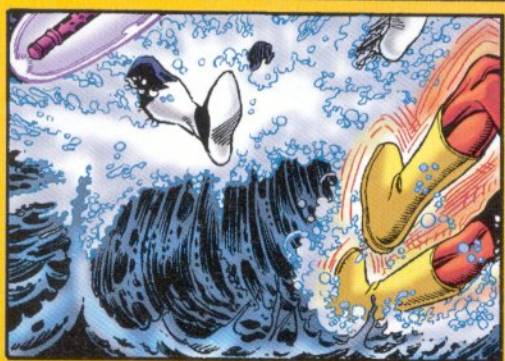
FLASH!



I'LL--I'LL REACH  
THE SPEED FORCE!  
I'LL FIND IT--  
BEAT YOU--

SORRY.

LOOK, I ALREADY  
SCREWED UP *ONCE*  
TODAY, AND MY BUDDY'S  
GONNA BE HACKED OFF  
AT ME, SO REALLY, IT'S  
NOTHING PERSONAL,  
BUT THIS TIME--

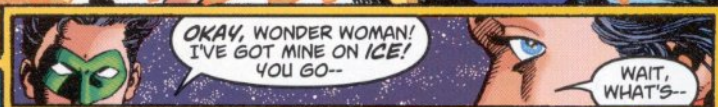


--I  
DON'T  
LOSE.

"5-4."



THE BLUE  
AREA OF  
THE MOON.







WHAT IN--?

GOD,  
MOTHER AND  
COUNTRY!



THIS--

--THIS  
MUST BE THE  
GRANDMASTER'S  
HOME BASE!  
ALL THESE  
GAMES!

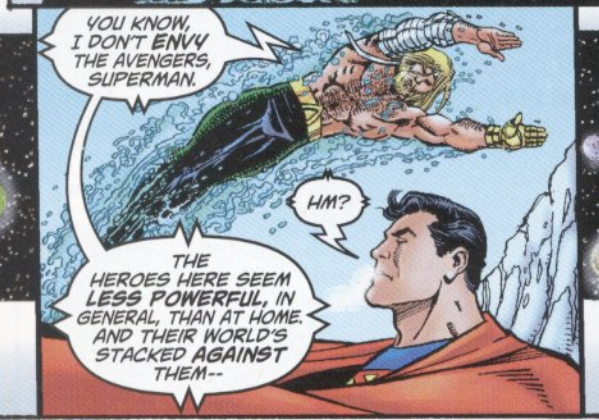
ALL THIS--  
THIS--

I'VE FOUGHT  
MEN WITH THIS KIND  
OF COMPELSION BEFORE.  
BUT NEVER WITH THIS  
SCOPE...

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU...  
HM?

OH, MAN--  
AM I GLAD TO  
SEE YOU!







--SO IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE GOT TO FIGHT AMAZINGLY HARD JUST TO KEEP THINGS ON AN EVEN KEEL.



MAYBE. THEY MAY NEED TO FIGHT HARDER THAN WE DO--

--BUT IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE NOT FIGHTING HARD ENOUGH.

UH... I THINK WHAT SUPERMAN MEANT WAS...

I KNOW WHAT HE MEANT, ATOM.



UH, OKAY. THAT WASN'T THE RIGHT PART ANYWAY. LET ME REWIND.



WWT

--ME VERIFY THE STAKES.

IF I WIN, YOU WILL LEAD ME TO THE BEING I SEEK...



...AND I CAN FORCE HIS SECRETS FROM HIM, EVEN IF IT DESTROYS THIS UNIVERSE IN THE PROCESS.

YES. AND IF I WIN--

--I LEAVE THIS UNIVERSE UNMOLESTED AND SEEK ANSWERS ELSEWHERE?



PRECISELY.

WHY NOT?

I AGREE--WITH ONE CHANGE. SINCE YOU HAVE SUCH FAITH, LET US SWAP CHAMPIONS. YOUR WORLD SHALL BE MY WARRIORS--



--AND MINE SHALL BE YOURS.

ARE WE AGREED? OR MUST I BEGIN FORCING WHAT I SEEK FROM YOU?

BUT--

I...

...VERY WELL, KRONA. WE ARE AGREED.



SEE?



THEN THE GRANDMASTER'S... HE'S TRYING TO STOP THIS MONSTER--AND THE AVENGERS ARE FIGHTING FOR KRONA?!

IF THEY WIN... HE'LL MURDER OUR UNIVERSE. ANOTHER ENTIRE UNIVERSE...





YOU HAVE  
INVADED MY DOMAIN,  
BESTED MY PARADEMONS,  
ABUSED MY PERSONAL  
GUARD...AND FOR  
WHAT?

UH--

FOR THIS?

DEAR SWEET GOD IN  
HEAVEN--THAT'S THE  
INFINITY GAUNTLET!  
AND THIS GUY--HE LOOKS  
WORSE THAN THANOS,  
IF THAT'S EVEN  
POSSIBLE!

HE COULD  
REORDER  
TIME, SPACE,  
REALITY--!

MAN, OF  
ALL THE TIMES  
FOR WANDA TO  
DECIDE SHE HAD TO  
TAKE HALF OUR  
STRENGTH BACK  
HOME...!

YES, THIS IS  
CLEARLY WHAT  
THEY SEEK--

--AND I  
CAN FEEL THE  
MATRICES OF  
POWER WITHIN  
THE GEMS.

OUR...OUR INVESTIGATIONS  
HAVE BEEN **COMPREHENSIVE**,  
LORD DARKSEID...GIVEN THE  
TIME CONSTRAINTS.

AND THE GEMS--  
THEY **DO** SEEM DESIGNED  
TO AFFECT REALITY,  
AND MORE--

--BUT  
ANOTHER  
REALITY.

THEY  
DO NOT  
FUNCTION  
HERE.

BUT  
IT SEEMS  
DEAD--IT DOES  
NOTHING.

WHY IS  
THAT?

THEN  
THIS IS A  
WASTE  
OF MY  
TIME.





TAKE IT, THEN--



I'LL CATCH--



--TAKE IT, AND THANK WHATEVER DEITIES YOU PRAY TO ON THE COLDEST AND BLEAKEST WINTER NIGHTS THAT I HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO OCCUPY ME.  
TAKE IT--



UHH!

HIS EYES--THAT'S THE OMEGA EFFECT!

GOT TO GET IT BEFORE...



...BEFORE...



--AND BEGONE.

"6-5."





--UH?



TELEPORTED...  
BUT... ..WHERE...?



OH.

## THE SAVAGE LAND.



WANDA, ARE  
YOU...?

I...FEEL MUCH  
BETTER, NOW THAT  
I'M BACK HOME. I JUST...  
I WISH I STILL HAD THAT  
POWER, AT LEAST  
FOR NOW.

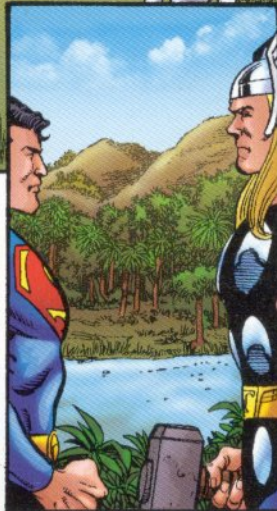


BECAUSE  
THAT'S  
IT...

...THAT'S  
THE FINAL  
PRIZE.

SO.

SO.



SO  
WHAT?!  
SOMEBODY  
GO!  
GET  
IT!









THIS TIME, BABE--



YEAH? THIS TIME--



THOU...ART STRONG!

BUT THE MEASURE OF ANY...BE HE MAN OR GOD... IS NOT WHAT STRENGTH HE HAS...

...BUT WHAT HE DOES WITH IT!



TELL YOURSELF THAT, MISTER...EASE YOURSELF TO SLEEP AT NIGHT WHILE YOU LET YOUR WORLD GO TO HELL! WHERE I COME FROM, THOUGH...



...LIVES MATTER!



AGHKH!



MY POWER!

YOU'RE--DRAINING MY--?



--THIS TIME I'M READY FOR YOU!

















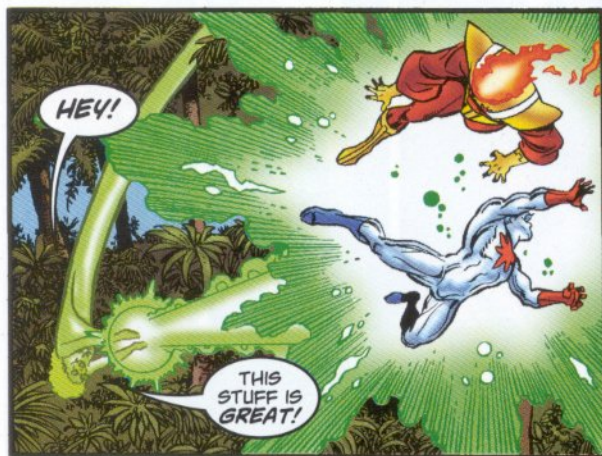
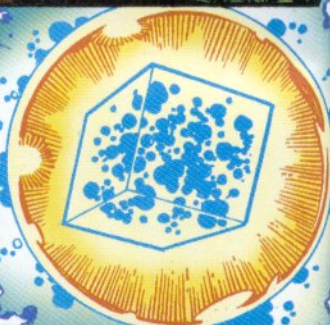
WHOA!

BRIGHTEST  
DAYBLACKEST  
NIGHTN'EVILSHALL  
ESCAPE  
M'SIGHT...

C'MON, BABY,  
HOLD TOGETHER,  
YOU CAN DO IT...HAL'S  
OATH'LL...



THOSE  
WH'WORSHIPEVIL'S  
MIGHT...



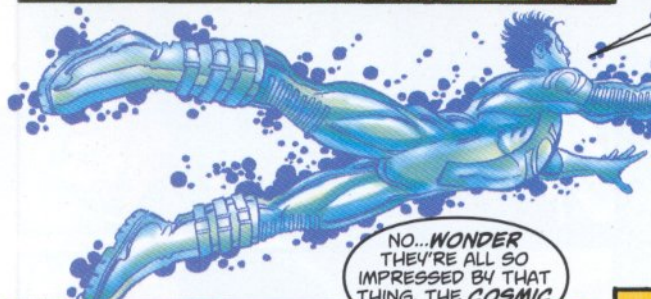
HEY!

THIS  
STUFF IS  
GREAT!



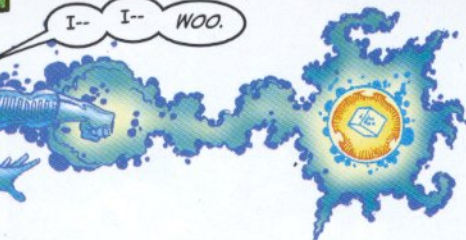
OH, NO!  
WARBIRD, I  
NEED YOU!

I-- I-- WOO.



NO...WONDER  
THEY'RE ALL SO  
IMPRESSED BY THAT  
THING. THE COSMIC  
CUBE, HUH?

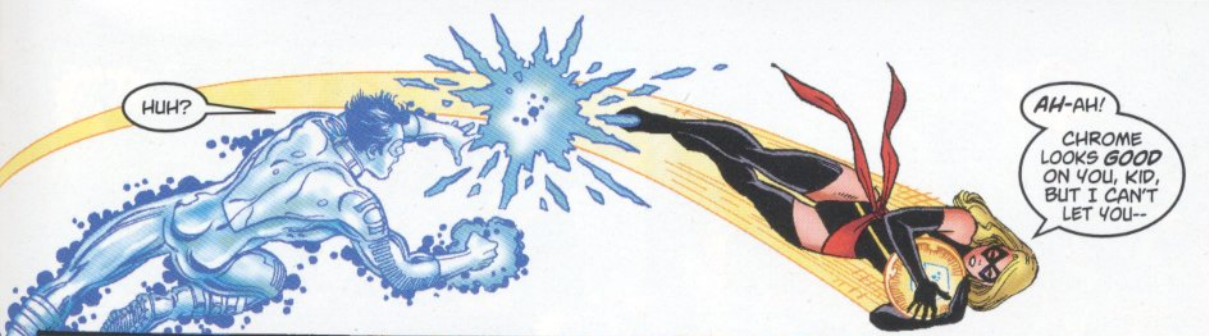
I JUST  
THOUGHT IT WAS A  
POWER SOURCE, BUT  
MAN! THAT'S SOME  
SERIOUS MOJO!



OKAY.  
TIME TO--







HUH?

AH-AH!  
CHROME  
LOOKS GOOD  
ON YOU, KID,  
BUT I CAN'T  
LET YOU--



--HM?

NOT A  
CHANCE,  
LEATHER  
GAL.

THIS THING  
IS IN LEAGUE  
HANDS NOW, AND  
IN LEAGUE HANDS  
IT--

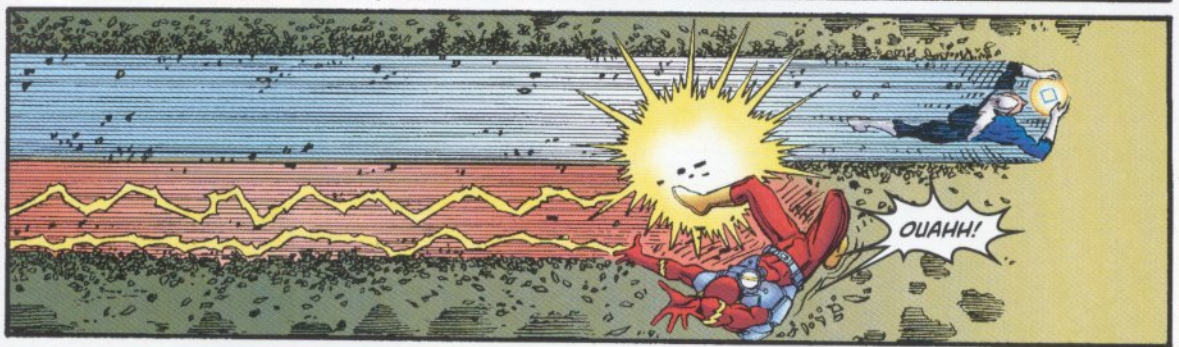


--WH--?

HELLO.

YOU'RE ON  
MY EARTH NOW.  
AND YOU'RE ALREADY  
STARTING TO SLOW  
DOWN. SO LET ME  
JUST SAY...

...IT'S NOTHING  
PERSONAL. OH, NO.  
NOT AT ALL.



OUAHH!



HAH!  
I'M  
FASTER!  
FASTER! SPEED  
FORCE BE  
DAMNED!

HAH!  
I'M--



--EH?



WH--?







THE  
GAME WOULD  
APPEAR TO BE  
OVER.

THE  
SCORE IS  
EVEN.

THE LAST  
ARTIFACT  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE BEEN  
SECURED--

I  
HAVE  
IT!

THE  
AVENGERS  
HAVE THE  
COSMIC  
CU--

I  
HAVE  
IT.





NO!  
I'LL--

YOU  
WON'T--



HAWKEYE!  
STAND DOWN!

BUT--

I SAID  
STAND DOWN!  
IT'S OVER! LET  
IT GO.



I HAVE THE CUBE.  
AND IF I UNDERSTAND  
CORRECTLY, I CAN  
USE ITS POWER TO  
BANISH--



NO,  
LEAGUER.



THESE  
ITEMS WERE NOT  
CHOSEN SO  
THAT THE  
PLAYERS COULD  
USE THEIR  
POWER.



THE GAME IS OVER. THE SCORE IS 7-5,  
IN FAVOR OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

YOUR CHOSEN CHAMPIONS WERE  
DEFEATED, KRONA. THUS, YOU MUST  
GO, AND MENACE THIS CONTINUUM  
NO MORE.

I WILL--  
--WILL--



HH

NO!

NO, I  
WILL HAVE THE  
ANSWERS I SEEK!  
I WILL KNOW THE  
TRUTH!  
I  
WILL KNOW  
IT!





SUPERMAN...?

I'LL  
I'LL LIVE. I THINK.



WHO  
IS IT?  
WHO  
IS IT THAT  
KNOWS?  
TELL ME!  
TELL ME, OR  
I'LL--



AVENGERS!  
PULL THEM APART!  
NOW!

MOVE!

BACK  
HIM UP,  
JLA!



CAN  
YOU... FIGHT,  
THOR?

IF... THOU  
CANST, I  
CAN...



I SEE IT--  
SEE IT IN YOUR  
MIND!



GALACTUS!



THAT'S...  
POWER...

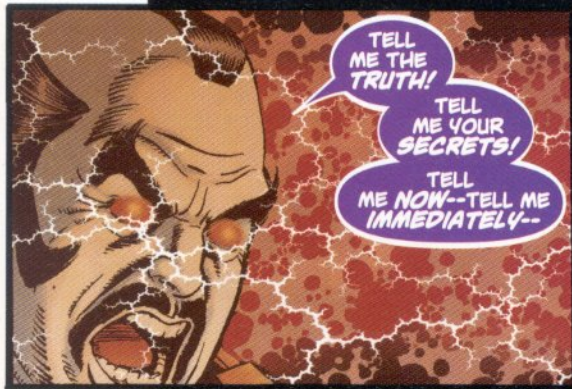
THAT'S...  
FASHION?



WHAT IS THE  
MEANING OF THIS  
OUTRAGE?

GALACTUS!





TELL  
ME THE  
TRUTH!

TELL  
ME YOUR  
SECRETS!

TELL  
ME NOW--TELL ME  
IMMEDIATELY--



YOU ARE  
CLEARLY A  
MADMAN.

AND GALACTUS  
DOES NOT DEAL  
WITH MAD--



NNH!



YOU  
WILL TELL  
ME!



YOU  
WILL TELL  
ME!

IF I HAVE  
TO TEAR YOU  
APART AND RIP  
THE SECRET FROM  
YOUR BROKEN  
CORPSE--



HIS ENERGY  
BARRIERS--

YES--THEY DEFY  
EVEN INTANGIBLE  
FORMS--



YOU

WILL  
TELL  
ME!

N...NO, ...HE...WILL  
KRONA... NOT.

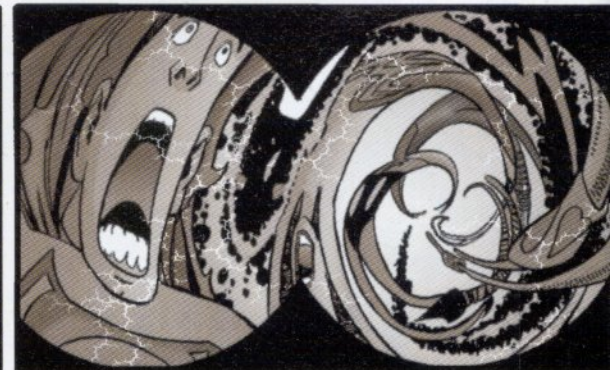
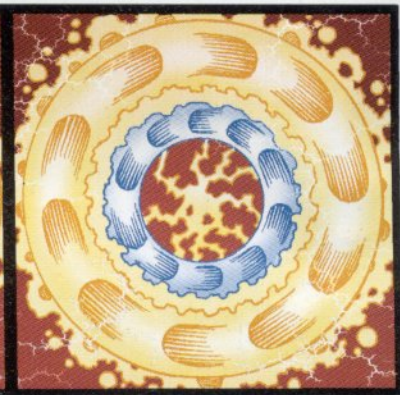
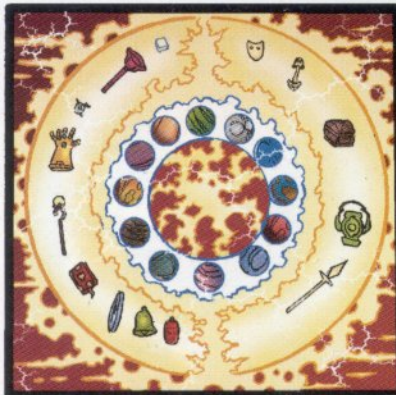


ALL TOGETHER!  
CONCENTRATE!



NNH!





END of BOOK TWO



# NEXT: STRANGE ADVENTURES!

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METROPOLIS.

A MOMENT AGO, SUPERMAN, SPEAKING FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, ORDERED THE AVENGERS TO STAND DOWN AND BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

A MOMENT AGO, THOR RESPONDED FOR THE AVENGERS, PUTTING SUPERMAN THROUGH A BUILDING WITH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER.

THAT WAS A MOMENT AGO.

VERILY...

...THIS "JUSTICE LEAGUE" MAY BE RAVING, DANGEROUS MADMEN...BUT STILL, THEY ARE DOUGHTY WARRIORS INDEED!

AW, THEY'RE NOT SO TOUGH, THOR--THEY'RE JUST SQUADRON SUPREME LITE, LIKE I SAID!

HERE--

--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE--

--STARTING WITH THE WHIZZER WANNABE IN RED!

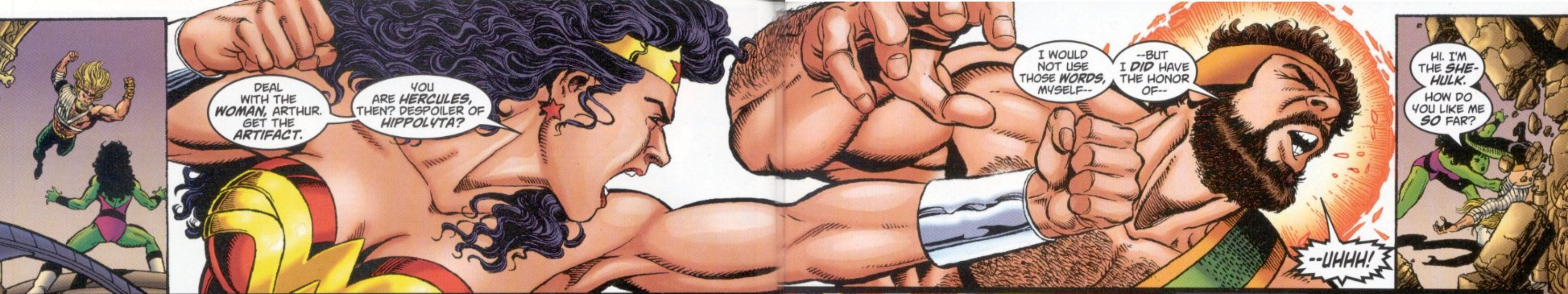
AH-AH! NOT THAT EASY, "PURPLE ARROW!"

HEH. BOOMERANGS GETS 'EM EVERY--

SORRY--

HUH?





DEAL WITH THE WOMAN, ARTHUR. GET THE ARTIFACT.

YOU ARE HERCULES, THEN? DESPOILER OF HIPPOLYTA?

I WOULD NOT USE THOSE WORDS, MYSELF--

--BUT I DID HAVE THE HONOR OF--

--UHHH!

HI, I'M THE SHE-HULK. HOW DO YOU LIKE ME SO FAR?



I'VE GOT THIS ONE, SUPERMAN! YOU NEED A HAND?

...ISN'T THAT EASILY BEATEN!

H-AHH!

C-CAN'T... CAN'T BREAK...

HE'S SO...SO FAST...

HANG ON, WARBIRD! JUST HANG ON! I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!

OH, LIKE FUN YOU WILL, PAL!



BLUE BEETLE!

CAN'T YOU AND BLACK CANARY HANDLE ONE OPPONENT?

YES, YES, I AM.

MAYBE NOT AS FAST AS YOUR FLASH--

--BUT FAST ENOUGH!

OH? ARE YOU FAST ENOUGH--

--TO DODGE THIS?

N-NO!

C-CAN'T LET THEM-- MUSTN'T LET--



UHH!

LOOK, GUY-- YOU'RE STRONG, AND YOU'RE PLENTY TOUGH, AND YOU'RE NOT BAD-LOOKING, BUT FACE IT--

--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME!

O-OF COURSE!

THAT'S IT--!

HGH!





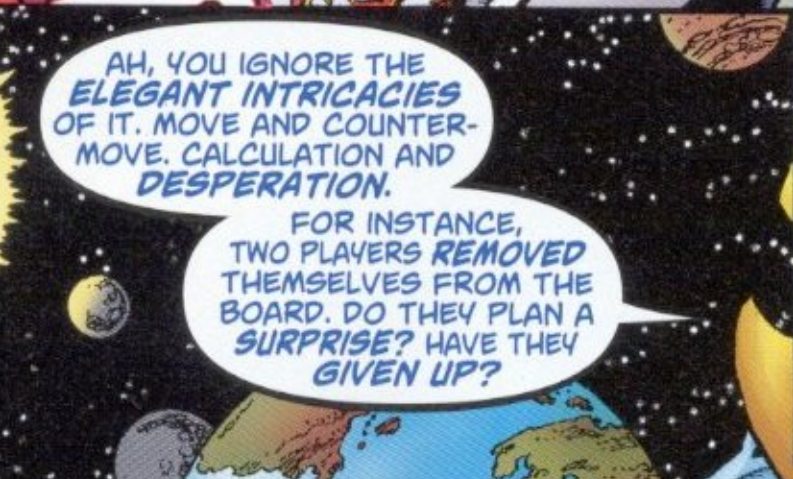
"2-1."



"3-1."



"3-2."





THE HIMALAYAS.

I DON'T WANNA BE RUDE...

NO.

I AM...UNDER ASSAULT. THIS MAGIC...I AM NOT TRAINED, NOT ATTUNED, NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH... I...CONTINUE TO ENDURE, HOWEVER.

WE'RE TOO DEPENDENT ON MAGIC...MAGIC WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, AT THAT. MAYBE I CAN USE THE MOTHER BOX...

...MAKE SOME UNEXPECTED MOVES.

AND I WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO ACCESS THIS "SPEED FORCE"...

FINE, FINE. ANY CHANCE WE CAN DO IT SOMEPLACE WARM, THOUGH?

I...AM SHIELDING THOR AND THE VISION FROM DETECTION, I THINK, BUT... IF I TRY TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, THEY MAY...

...BUT WITCHIE THERE AIN'T LOOKIN' TOO GOOD. ON ME, THAT'D JUST BE FROSTBITE, BUT...

I AGREE, HAWKEYE.

WANDA? ARE YOU COPING ALL RIGHT?

WE'RE DOING WELL. BUT I DON'T LIKE THIS. THESE ITEMS--

--THEY'VE BEEN MOVED, PLANTED, EVEN SHIFTED FROM WORLD TO WORLD. WHOEVER'S BEHIND IT, THEY'RE NOT JUST COLLECTING THE ITEMS.

SO IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE READY? WANDA?

LET'S GO.

THEY'RE MOVING! THEY'RE MOVING! GO! GO!

I'LL GUIDE YOU...!

WHADDYA SAY, CAPTAIN ATOM...

THE JLA WATCHTOWER.

...IS IT JUST ME, OR IS MR. PEEPERS HERE BOTHERING THE CHEESE OUT OF ANYONE ELSE?

NOT JUST YOU, GREEN ARROW...

I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM.

BUT IF HE SEES THROUGH WALLS...

ANY NEWS?

NOT MUCH, RED TORNADO.

I'M SENSING PATTERNS IN THE CHAOS-MAGIC FIELD-- THE LORDS OF CHAOS ARE REALLY STIRRED UP, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON--

--BUT IF SHE DOES ANYTHING, I'LL KNOW IT.

HAVE THE TELEPORTERS WARMED UP...

IF THIS WORKS RIGHT, IT'LL ACT AS A BATTERY...GATHERING AMBIENT SPEED FORCE AS YOU RUN... COLLECTING IT AND STORING IT...

...AND GIVING YOU A CHARGE YOU CAN TAP INTO IF YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THEIR WORLD.

THANKS, STEEL.

I HOPE IT WORKS. I HOPE ZATANNA FINDS A LEAD ON THEM FAST. AND I REALLY, REALLY HOPE I GET THAT POWER BATTERY BACK BEFORE KYLE FINDS OUT...



Scan #154

Whew. Had to basically kill the squarebound binding to get this looking good, and even then some of the page joins suck. Ah well. Enjoy. :)

-Hob