

# SUPERMAN



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SESSREY

APOKOLIPS NOW!

SCHULTZ • MCKONE • C. SMITH • ALQUIZA

# DARKSEID

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THIS IS THE STORY OF THE GREATEST RESCUE MISSION THE UNIVERSE HAS EVER SEEN.

OF COURSE, SUPERMAN IS AT ITS HEART.




HE SAVED A MAN'S LIFE ONCE, AND THAT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

I THINK IT'S THE CHINESE WHO SAY, IF YOU SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE, YOU ARE FOREVER RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT LIFE. THAT'S HARSH, BUT MAYBE TRUE.




THE MAN WAS JOHN HENRY IRONS, AND HE HAD A HAMMER. HE EVEN SUBSTITUTED FOR BIG BLUE AFTER THAT MESS WITH DOOMSDAY.



THEY DID A LOT OF GOOD TOGETHER.

BUT EVERYTHING HAS TO END, AND DURING THE WAR WITH IMPERIEX WE LOST STEEL.



STEEL BECAME BLUE'S STRONG ARM, AND MAYBE EVEN HIS BEST FRIEND.



WE GOT SOMETHING BACK WE WANTED TO BELIEVE WAS JOHN HENRY IRONS...




I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY HOLD US ALL TOGETHER...

OF COURSE YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE. ALL OF YOU.

...SOMETHING THAT WORE THE ENTROPY AEGIS, WITH A SOUL THAT BELONGED TO ANOTHER. SOMETHING THAT WAS A DESTROYER.





...I KNOW SUPERMAN BELIEVES THAT, TOO.

I KNOW HE BELIEVES THAT, IF YOU SAVE ONE LIFE, YOU SAVE THE WORLD.

I KNOW HE WOULD GO TO THE ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE FOR A FRIEND.

YOUR INSOLENCE IS BEYOND BELIEF. YOU WOULD CALL ME OUT?

YOU'RE CHALLENGING A GOD, WORM.

EVEN SUPERMAN CAN BE CRUSHED BY A GOD.

I'M BETTING OTHERWISE, MONSTER. TODAY, YOU'VE NO ACCESS TO YOUR BAG OF DIRTY TRICKS.

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, MY LIFE...

...BET AGAINST JOHN HENRY IRON'S.

# ΑΡΦΚΦΛΙΡΣ, ΠΦΨ!

NOBODY  
DIES TODAY,  
DARKSEID.  
NOBODY.

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JOE SHUSTER**  
**DARKSEID**  
created by  
**JACK KIRBY**

HA! YOU  
TALK NONSENSE TO  
COVER A NAKED GRAB  
FOR POWER! WHO IS  
THIS IRONS?

I AM  
AMUSED AND  
INTRIGUED.

I WILL  
DECIPHER AND  
UNDERSTAND  
THE MACHINATIONS  
BEHIND YOUR  
PRIMITIVE POWER  
PLAY.

CALL  
IT WHAT YOU  
WILL, BUT WE  
BOTH KNOW THE  
TRUTH.

YOU HAVE  
JOHN HENRY  
IRONS'S SOUL HELD  
IN THE ENTROPY  
AEGIS...

...AND  
I WANT IT  
BACK...





"...I MADE A PROMISE."

I'VE BEEN GIVING IT A LOT OF THOUGHT, NAT, BECAUSE -- IF WE'RE WRONG -- THERE'S GOING TO BE HELL TO PAY...

...BUT I THINK I'VE GOT A PLAN...



YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT UNCLE JOHN, AREN'T YOU?

YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO?

WHAT?  
WHAT?!



I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT, NAT -- MY CONTACTS INDICATE THAT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE APOKOLIPTIAN SCIENCE HAS TURNED JOHN HENRY INTO SOME SORT OF ENTROPIC DESTROYER.

BUT APOKOLIPS IS A SOVEREIGN STATE, LIKE IT OR NOT.

IF MY PLAN FAILS, I NEED TO KEEP EARTH OUT OF DARKSEID'S PATH OF VENGEANCE.

SO THE LESS YOU KNOW, THE BETTER.



YOU CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS, I'M SORRY.

BUT THAT'S NOT FAIR!

HE'S MY UNCLE!

I AM A PART OF THIS -- I CAN HELP...

DAMN IT, LISTEN TO ME, BLUE...!



YOUR CHILDISH IDEALS MEAN *NOTHING* TO ME.

WHAT INTERESTS *ME* IS HOW YOU ACCOMPLISHED THIS -- *ACTION*.

I WOULD HAVE KNOWN IF YOU ACTIVATED YOUR JUSTICE LEAGUE'S BOOM TUBE...



"...NO -- SOMEHOW YOU OBTAINED A MOTHER BOX..."

TREAT HER AS YOU WOULD YOUR MOTHER.

YOU KNOW HER VALUE.



I DO.

HERE'S THE MESSAGE. HAVE YOUR NETWORK GET IT INTO HIS HANDS AT THE BOOMTIME MINUS ONE HOUR.

DO NOT RISK YOURSELF -- YOU ARE NOT A PART OF THIS.

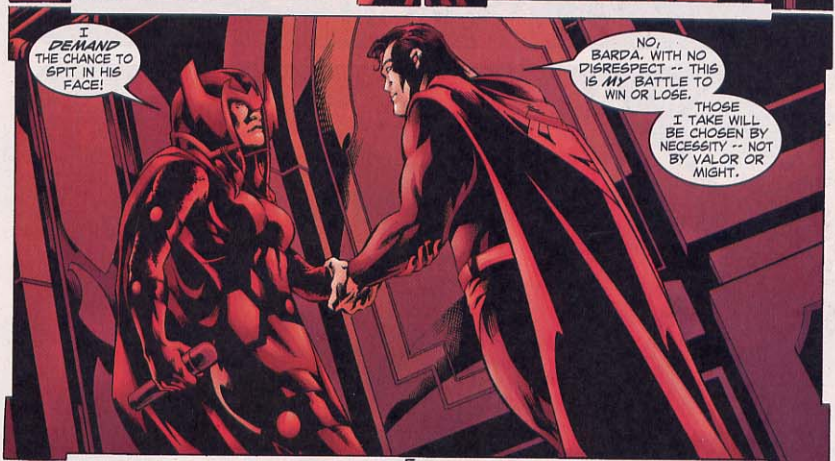
ALL RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE *MINE*.



DARKSEID WILL RECEIVE YOUR COMMUNIQUE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

BUT, PLEASE...

...LET ME STAND WITH YOU!



I *DEMAND* THE CHANCE TO SPIT IN HIS FACE!

NO, BARDA. WITH NO DISRESPECT -- THIS IS *MY* BATTLE TO WIN OR LOSE.

THOSE I TAKE WILL BE CHOSEN BY NECESSITY -- NOT BY VALOR OR MIGHT.





MY RESOURCES ARE BOTTLED UP -- PINNED DOWN.

YOU CHOOSE YOUR ACCOMPLICES CAREFULLY.



VERY CAREFULLY.



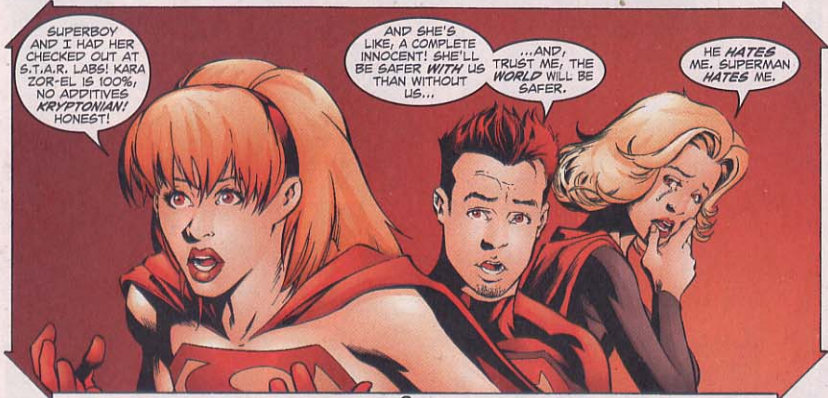
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TRYING TO PULL?

SUPERBOY -- SUPERGIRL -- THIS IS NOT THE TIME...

BUT...

I'M YOUR COUSIN!

IT'S TRUE, KAL-EL.

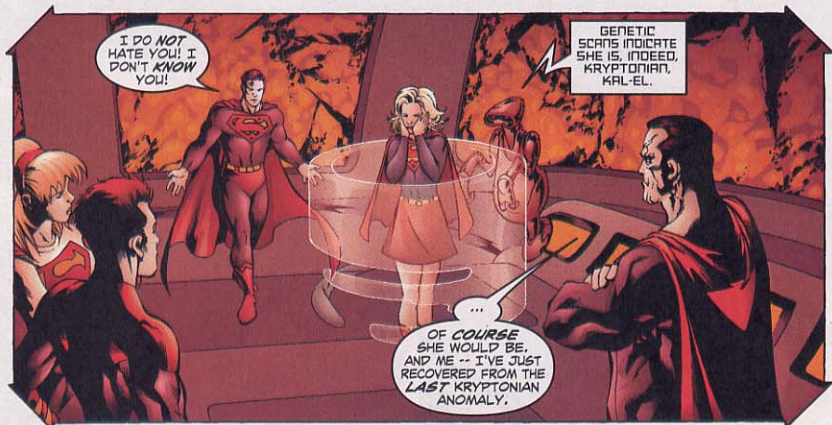


SUPERBOY AND I HAD HER CHECKED OUT AT S.T.A.R. LABS! KARA ZOR-EL IS 100%; NO ADDITIVES KRYPTONIAN! HONEST!

AND SHE'S LIKE, A COMPLETE INNOCENT! SHE'LL BE SAFER WITH US THAN WITHOUT US...

...AND, TRUST ME, THE WORLD WILL BE SAFER.

HE HATES ME. SUPERMAN HATES ME.



I DO NOT HATE YOU! I DON'T KNOW YOU!

GENETIC SCANS INDICATE SHE IS, INDEED, KRYPTONIAN, KAL-EL.

...  
OF COURSE SHE WOULD BE, AND ME -- I'VE JUST RECOVERED FROM THE LAST KRYPTONIAN ANOMALY.



ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! SHE'S KRYPTONIAN!

BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH THIS NOW -- SHE STAYS HERE, IN THE FORTRESS.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR UNTESTED...

BUT I'M NOT UNTESTED! I CAN DO WHATEVER YOU CAN DO...

I REALLY THINK SHE CAN, KAL -- SHE'S POWERFUL...

OH, YEAH, SHE CAN --



ENOUGH, QUIET. LISTEN.

SUPERBOY; SUPERGIRL -- WHAT I AM ASKING YOU TO DO...

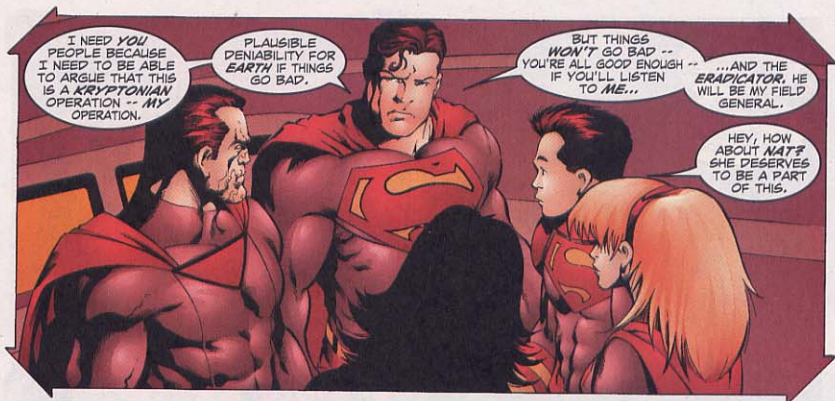
...IS -- VERY -- DANGEROUS.

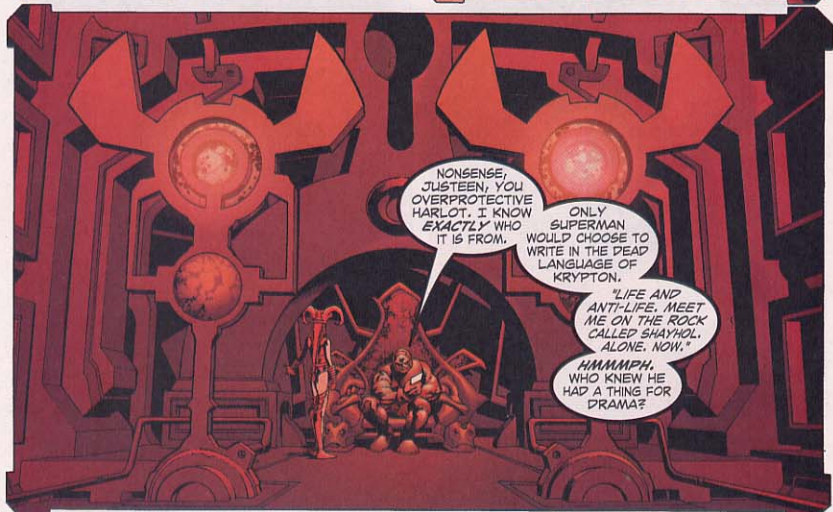
THERE IS NO DISHONOR SHOULD ANY OF YOU CHOOSE TO BACK OUT.

THIS IS FOR STEEL. HE'S FAMILY.

NO WAY, KAL.











THEN YOU BOOMED THROUGH WITH YOUR TEAM.

I MUST ADMIT I DID NOT GUESS YOU HAD AGENTS WHO COULD NEUTRALIZE APOKOLIPS.

WE'RE HERE!

APOKOLIPS!

DEPRESSING AS EVER.

ALL RIGHT -- I'M FOR THE ASTEROID...

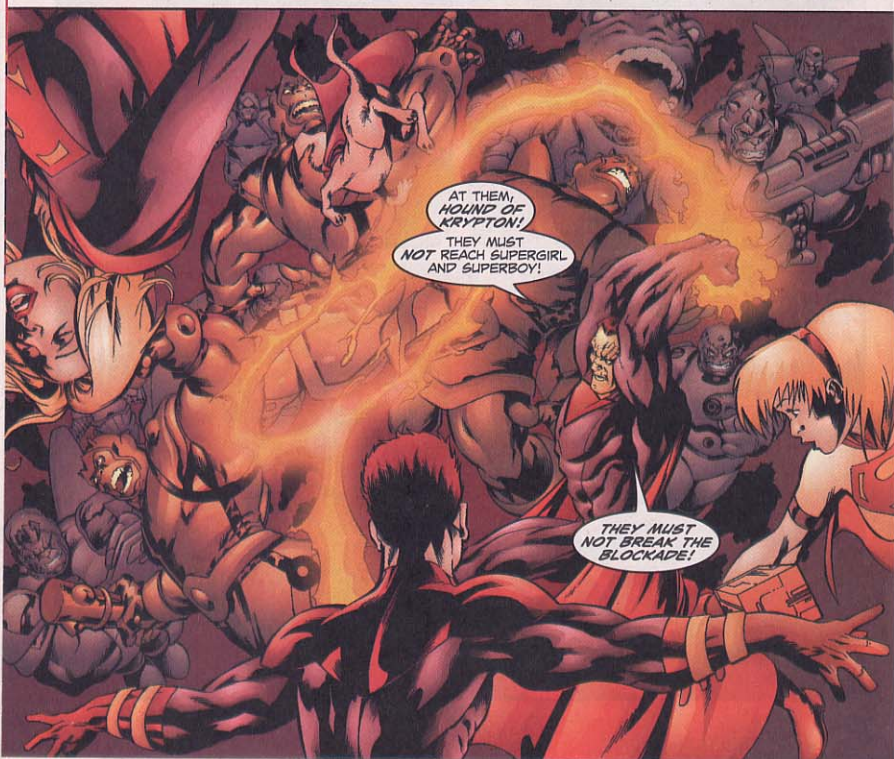
...FOLLOW THE ERADICATOR'S ORDERS AND WE'LL ALL DO OKAY.

WE'LL GIVE YOU THE TIME YOU NEED. GO!

WHOOOOPS...













...IT'S  
ANNIHILATION  
YOU'LL GET!

DARKSEID  
HAS NEVER BEEN  
BEATEN...

...NOT  
EVEN BY HIS  
OWN ERRANT  
SON!







**BRAAMM**



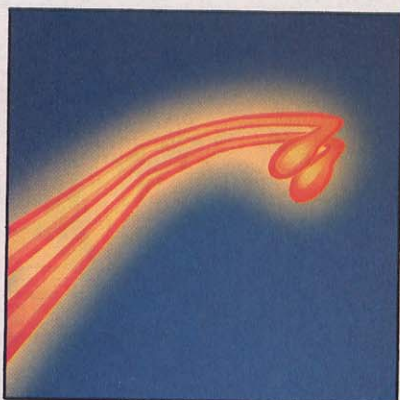
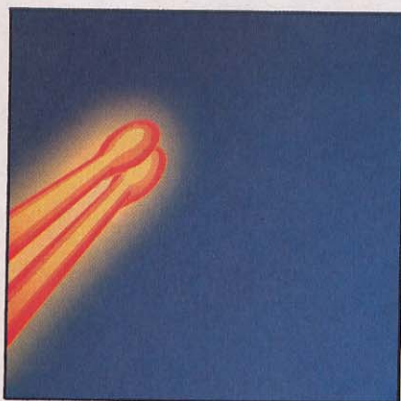
DAMN YOU. YOU HAVE GROWN STRONG...

... BUT I'LL STOP THIS NONSENSE NOW WITH THE *OMEGA EFFECT*, WHICH IS TERMINATION ITSELF!

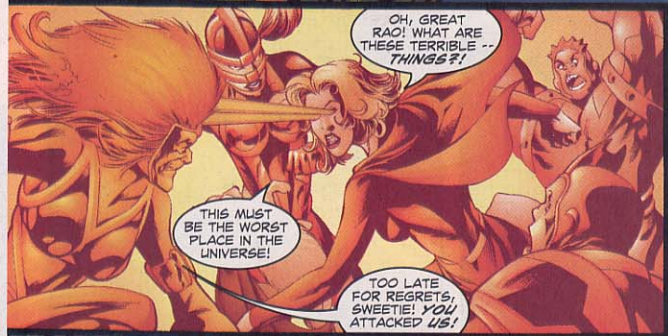


NOT TODAY, DARKS...  
LUNGGG...

**ZZZZHHHHIIIEEE**







OH, GREAT  
RAO! WHAT ARE  
THESE TERRIBLE --  
THINGS?!

THIS MUST  
BE THE WORST  
PLACE IN THE  
UNIVERSE!

TOO LATE  
FOR REGRETS,  
SWEETIE! YOU  
ATTACKED US!





FOOLISH CHILD! YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO SUPERMAN AND STAYED IN THE FORTRESS.

PROTECT HER, KRYPTO...

...WHILE I KICK THINGS UP A NOTCH!



IT'S THE FULL POWER OF ANCIENT KRYPTON AGAINST APOKOLIPS, NOW!

FALL BACK, BOSS!  
FALL B...

GOOD LORD.

I'M GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE AGAIN.





DISASTER,  
GREAT  
JUSTEEN!

APOKOLIPS  
IS UNDER  
SIEGE!

SOME UNKNOWN  
FORCE HAS CUT OFF  
ALL POWER OF  
COMMUNICATION AND  
TRANSPORT OFF  
THE PLANET!

SIMPERING  
WEAKLINGS...



DON'T SEEK TO  
SPREAD THE BLAME,  
JUSTEEN, YOU  
PRETENDER!

DARKSEID, MY  
HUSBAND, IS OUT  
THERE --  
ABANDONED!

HOW DID YOU  
ADVISE HIM,  
WITCH?



LEAVE, MORTALLA, YOU  
HARRIDAN! THIS ISN'T  
YOUR PLACE...

OUR MASTER  
IS CUT OFF,  
FOOL! WE CAN NOT  
ASSUME HIS SAFETY  
OR APOKOLIPS'S  
INTEGRITY!  
DO WHAT  
MUST BE DONE --

"-- RELEASE THE  
DOOMSPAY WEAPON!"



RUN!

THE  
LOCKS HAVE BEEN  
OPENED!



...CAN'T  
BE PART OF  
THIS?  
LIKE HELL.



THE NEW  
GENERATION  
EXO-TECH  
UNCLE  
JOHN WAS  
DEVELOPING SAYS  
OTHERWISE.

AND YOU, YOU  
BIG BLUE BULLY,  
PROVIDED ME WITH THE  
FINAL INGREDIENT WHEN  
YOU TORE OFF *THIS*  
BIT OF THE AEGIS.



IF I'VE GOT  
IT INTEGRATED RIGHT,  
MY ARMOR SHOULD BE  
FUELED TO GIVE ME  
A *LITTLE* OF THAT  
POWER.

SO IF THIS  
THING WORKS LIKE  
THE *AEGIS* WORKED,  
AND I JUST THINK  
REAL HARD THAT I  
WANT TO BE WITH  
MY UNCLE JOHN,  
I...









WHAT  
IN THE  
NAME  
OF --



WAY UP  
THERE, ON THE  
EDGE OF SPACE --  
THE ERADICATOR --  
SUPERBOY --  
SUPERGIRL --  
THERE'S A BATTLE  
IN PROGRESS.

IT'S LIKE  
ALL MY SENSES  
HAVE BEEN --  
EXTENDED...

...BUT  
WHY AM I  
HERE...

...WITH  
A STATUE OF  
THE AEGIS?

WHERE'S  
UNCLE J...





FREEEE!  
FREE AGAIN!

**BASH**

DOOMSDAY?!



FREE TO DESTROY... ...EVERYTHING!

OH, GOD --  
MAYBE I WAS  
BROUGHT HERE FOR  
A REASON...

...B-BUT  
WHAT CAN I  
DO AGAINST  
THAT?!

**SPROOOM**



you...  
...YOU...  
...I'LL  
CRUSH  
YOU...



NO.  
GIVE ME  
STEEL.  
FREE  
HIM.



**BAH!**  
STILL  
YOU CRY  
FOR THIS  
STEEL!  
YOU FEAR THAT  
HE HAS BECOME THE  
ULTIMATE FORCE OF  
DESTRUCTION...  
...BUT  
YOU HAVE NO  
CLUE TO THE  
TRUTH!





STEEL  
WAS NEVER  
MEANT TO BE THE  
ENTROPIC FORCE  
REBORN!

HE  
IS TOO --  
MORTAL.

NO --  
THE ENTROPIC  
FORCE WAS MERELY  
*INCUBATED* IN HIM --  
WAS NURTURED AND  
DEVELOPED TO  
PROVIDE A POTENT  
*FUEL*...

...A  
FUEL THAT  
WILL STOKE AND  
*AMPLIFY* A FAR MORE  
POWERFUL ENTITY --  
ONE *WORTHY* OF  
THE MANTLE OF  
IMPERIEX!







DIE,  
CHILD,  
DIE!

I'VE  
F-FAILED!  
UNCLE  
JOHN...

I-I'VE  
F-F-F...

**NNNOOOO!**











QUARTER.  
I AM  
*BLIND* -- I  
CAN NO LONGER  
RESORT TO  
MY OMEGA  
EFFECT...  
...YOU  
HAVE *BLINDED*  
ME.





YOU'RE NO MORE BLIND THAN I, DARKSEID.

I BEAT YOUR UGLY MUG TILL YOUR EYES SWELLED SHUT.

YOU'LL RECOVER.



I AM DEFEATED.

DEFENSELESS AND HUMILIATED BY A KRYPTONIAN INSECT, THIS IS ALL WRONG.

ONCE YOU'RE DONE GLOATING, NAME YOUR TERMS...



I TOLD YOU MY TERMS.

GIVE ME BACK JOHN HENRY IRONS.

AS HE WAS BEFORE YOU BOUND HIM TO THE ENTROPY AEGIS.



WHAT? IRONS? NOTHING MORE?

YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH?!

I DON'T-- YOU COULD BE LORD OF APOKOLIPS!

YOU HAVE DEFEATED DARKSEID -- AND YOU ASK FOR A SINGLE HUMAN BEING?



READ 'EM AND WEEP, DARKSEID.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D UNDERSTAND -- BUT HERE'S SOMETHING YOU MIGHT APPRECIATE...

...THE RESULTS OF THIS BOUT WILL REMAIN MY SECRET -- SO LONG AS YOU KEEP AWAY FROM EARTH.



IF YOU EVER THREATEN MY ADOPTED PLANET AGAIN -- I WILL HUMILIATE YOU FROM ONE END OF THIS COSMOS TO THE OTHER.

NOW -- GIVE ME STEEL.

VERY WELL, FOOL -- BUT YOU MAY NOT BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU GET...

"...LIFT YOUR BLOCKADE AND I WILL RETURN HIM AS HE WAS WHEN BROUGHT TO ME!"



**BACK!**



**BACK TO YOUR TOMB!**

**LET MY ENTROPIC POWERS REDUCE YOU AND THE TERRIBLE DEVICES FEEDING YOU TO BASE ELEMENTS!**

**MAY YOU NEVER THREATEN ANOTHER LIFE EV...**

**...EVER...**



**UNCLE JOHN!**

**THIS IS TOO WEIRD...**

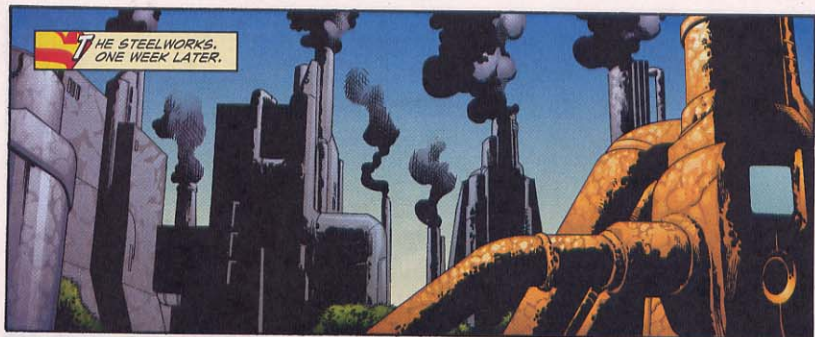








**7** HE STEELWORKS.  
ONE WEEK LATER.



SUPERMAN SAVED A MAN'S  
LIFE ONCE, AND THAT MADE  
ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

BECAUSE THAT MAN  
WAS MY UNCLE JOHN.

KNOCK,  
KNOCK...

KAL-EL.



BECAUSE HE MADE ME SEE THAT  
WE'RE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH  
OTHER -- AND IF YOU SAVE ONE  
LIFE, YOU SAVE THE WORLD.

YOU LOOK  
TERRIBLE.

I'VE  
BEEN DEAD.  
WHAT DID YOU  
EXPECT?

HEY --  
NAT TOLD  
ME WHAT YOU  
DID -- OUT  
THERE...

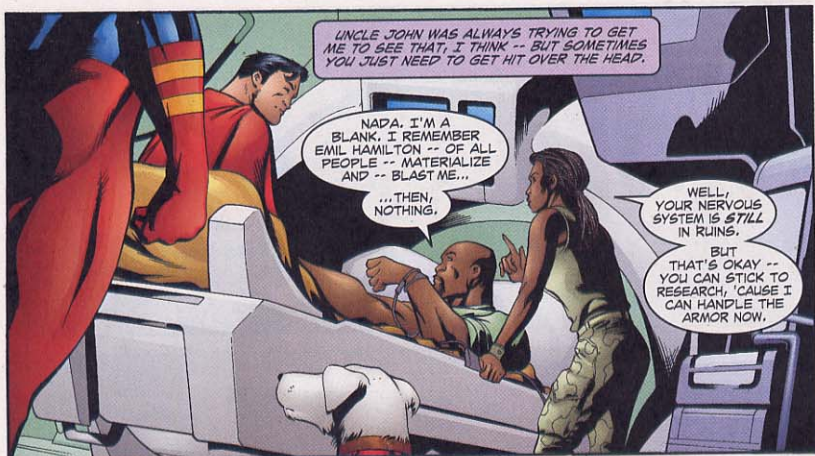


BECAUSE HE SHOWED ME THAT  
THERE IS SOME SENSE TO THIS  
SUPERHERO'S THING.

HEY -- IT WAS  
NAT WHO BROUGHT  
YOU BACK, I WOULDN'T  
HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO  
DO, BUT SHE'S UP TO  
THE MINUTE WITH HER  
MEDICAL SCIENCE.

SO YOU  
DON'T REMEMBER  
ANYTHING?





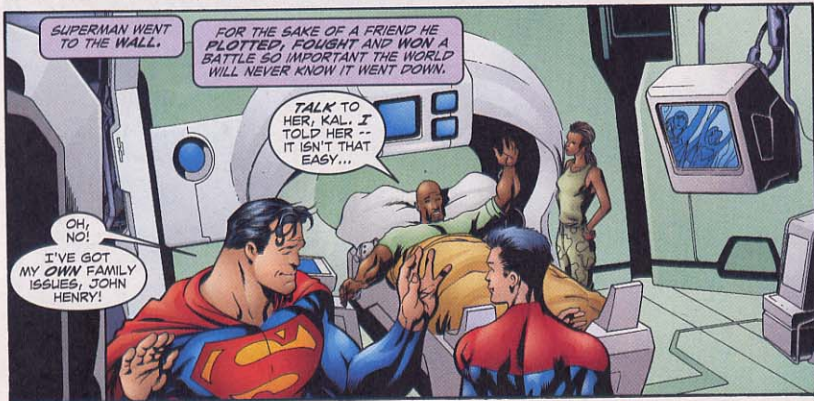
UNCLE JOHN WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET ME TO SEE THAT, I THINK -- BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO GET HIT OVER THE HEAD.

NADA. I'M A BLANK. I REMEMBER EMIL HAMILTON -- OF ALL PEOPLE -- MATERIALIZE AND -- BLAST ME...

... THEN, NOTHING.

WELL, YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM IS STILL IN RUINS.

BUT THAT'S OKAY -- YOU CAN STICK TO RESEARCH, 'CAUSE I CAN HANDLE THE ARMOR NOW.



SUPERMAN WENT TO THE WALL.

FOR THE SAKE OF A FRIEND HE PLOTTED, FOUGHT AND WON A BATTLE SO IMPORTANT THE WORLD WILL NEVER KNOW IT WENT DOWN.

TALK TO HER, KAL. I TOLD HER -- IT ISN'T THAT EASY...

OH, NO!  
I'VE GOT MY OWN FAMILY ISSUES, JOHN HENRY!

I'LL EVEN FORGIVE HIM FOR TRYING TO KEEP ME OUT OF THAT FIGHT -- BECAUSE, BOTTOM LINE, HE CHANGED MY LIFE.

MY LIFE WILL COUNT FOR SOMETHING.



