

THE BEGINNING OF TOMORROW!



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MICHELINIE
GUICE
RODIER

SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

APPROVED
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1994
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MY PSYCHIC POWERS ARE TELLING ME THAT SATURDAY MORNINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER!

...NOW A FULL-HOUR OF FUN!

SAVED BY THE BELL

THE NEW CLASS

"SCREECH" RETURNS TO TEACH A NEW CLASS SOME OLD TRICKS!

NAME YOUR ADVENTURE

MORE DEATH-DEFYING (OR, AT LEAST REALLY COOL) ADVENTURES THAN EVER BEFORE!

CALIFORNIA DREAMS

A BEACH. A BAND. AND BABES. ALL-NEW SEASON OF FUN IN THE SUN!

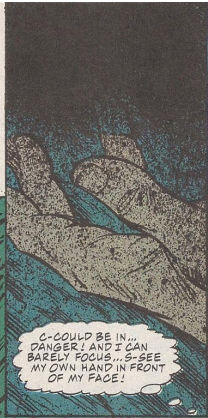
NBA Inside STUFF

NON-STOP SLAMMING, JAMMING, BASKETBALL ACTION!



DON'T MISS THE ACTION. SATURDAYS THIS FALL

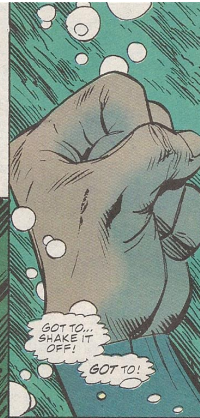
LOIS...!



IT COULD BE IN DANGER! AND I CAN BARELY FOCUS... I SEE MY OWN HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE!



CONDUIT HIT ME... WITH A BLAST OF KRYPTONITE RADIATION! KN-KNOCKED ME... INTO THE BAY!



GOT TO... SHAKE IT OFF! GOT TO!



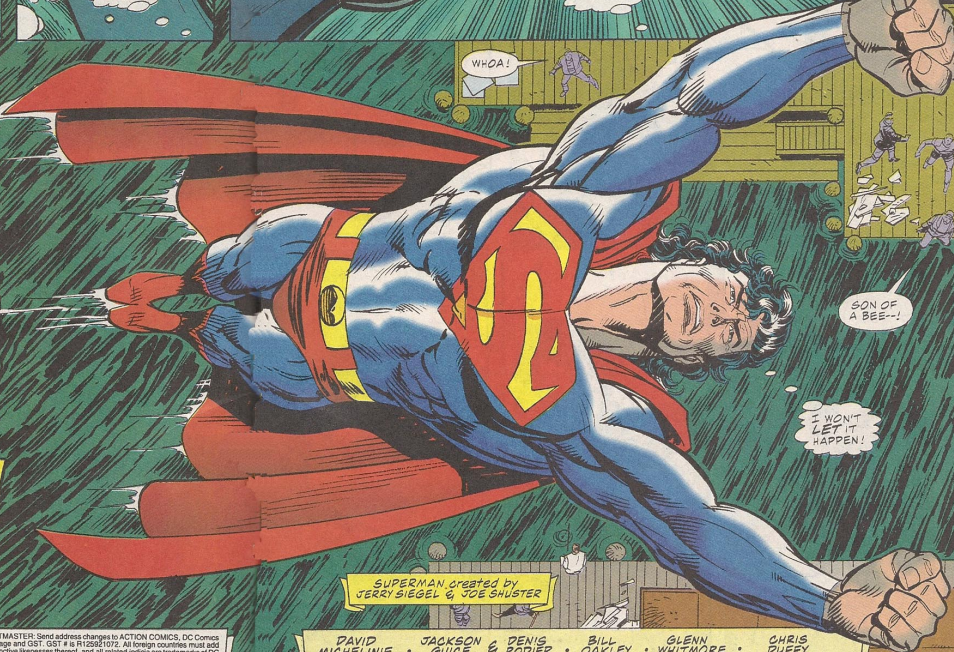
IF CONDUIT... HURTS HER...! NO! THAT CAN'T HAPPEN!

WHOA!

SON OF A BEE--

I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

THE YESTERDAY MAN



SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| DAVID MICHELINIE | JACKSON & GUIDE | DENIS & RODIER | BILL OAKLEY | GLENN WHITMORE | CHRIS DUFFY |
| WRITER | ARTISTS | LETTERER | COLORIST | ASSISTANT EDITOR | EDITOR |
| FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOCIATE EDITOR | | MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR | | | |

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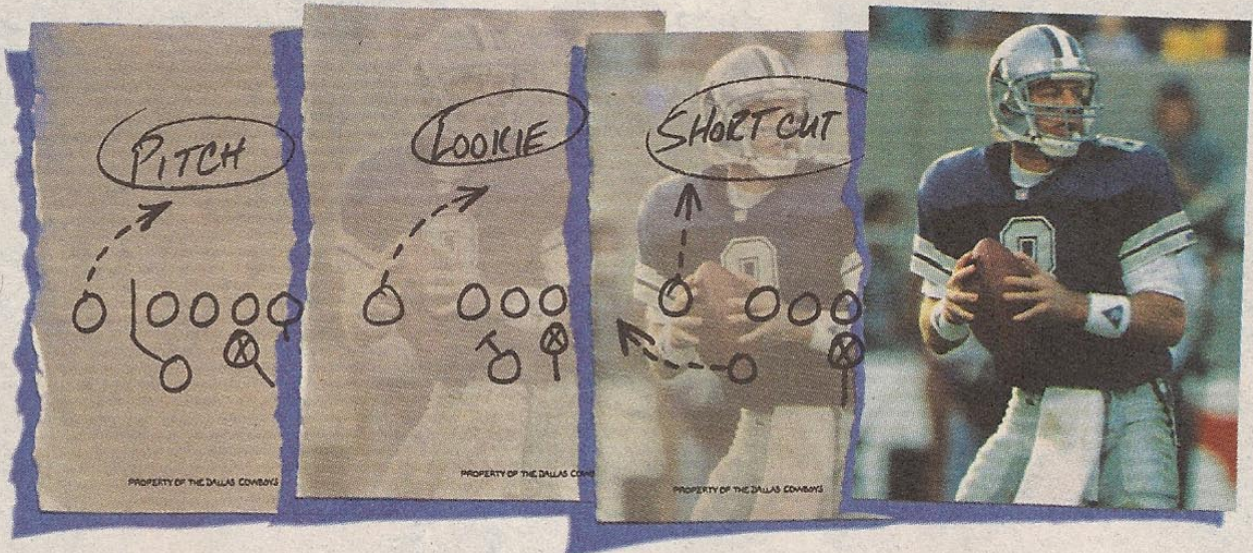
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You can't get your hands on Troy's playbook, but you can get your hands on a few key pages.



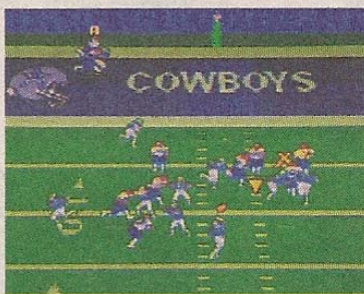
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Like Page 7, Troy's "Pitch", the play that turned the Bills into four-time losers. And Page 21, Troy's favorite—"Lookie", the one that's made a lot of NFL cornerbacks consider a career change.

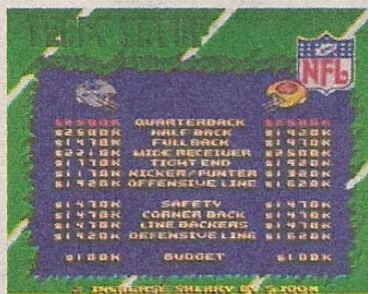
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Available on Genesis, SNES, (Coming soon on Jaguar, PC-CD Rom, Mac CD ROM)



THAT'S ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS: POPPING CLARK KENT LIKE THE BLOATED, SELF-IMPORTANT TICK HE IS!

CONDUIT HAS HAD BETTER DAYS.

SO HAS THE VENERABLE "METRO PALACE" THEATER, ABANDONED NOW FOR OVER A DECADE.

METRO PALACE
THE MAN WHO
WOULD BE KING

WHY DID SUPERMAN HAVE TO STICK HIS MEDDLING NOSE IN?



SOME-THING'S ALWAYS GIVING KENT AN EDGE!

BUT LIKE THE DIS-GRUNTLED MAN IN HI-TECH ARMOR--



--THIS TATTERED AND TIRED BUILDING--

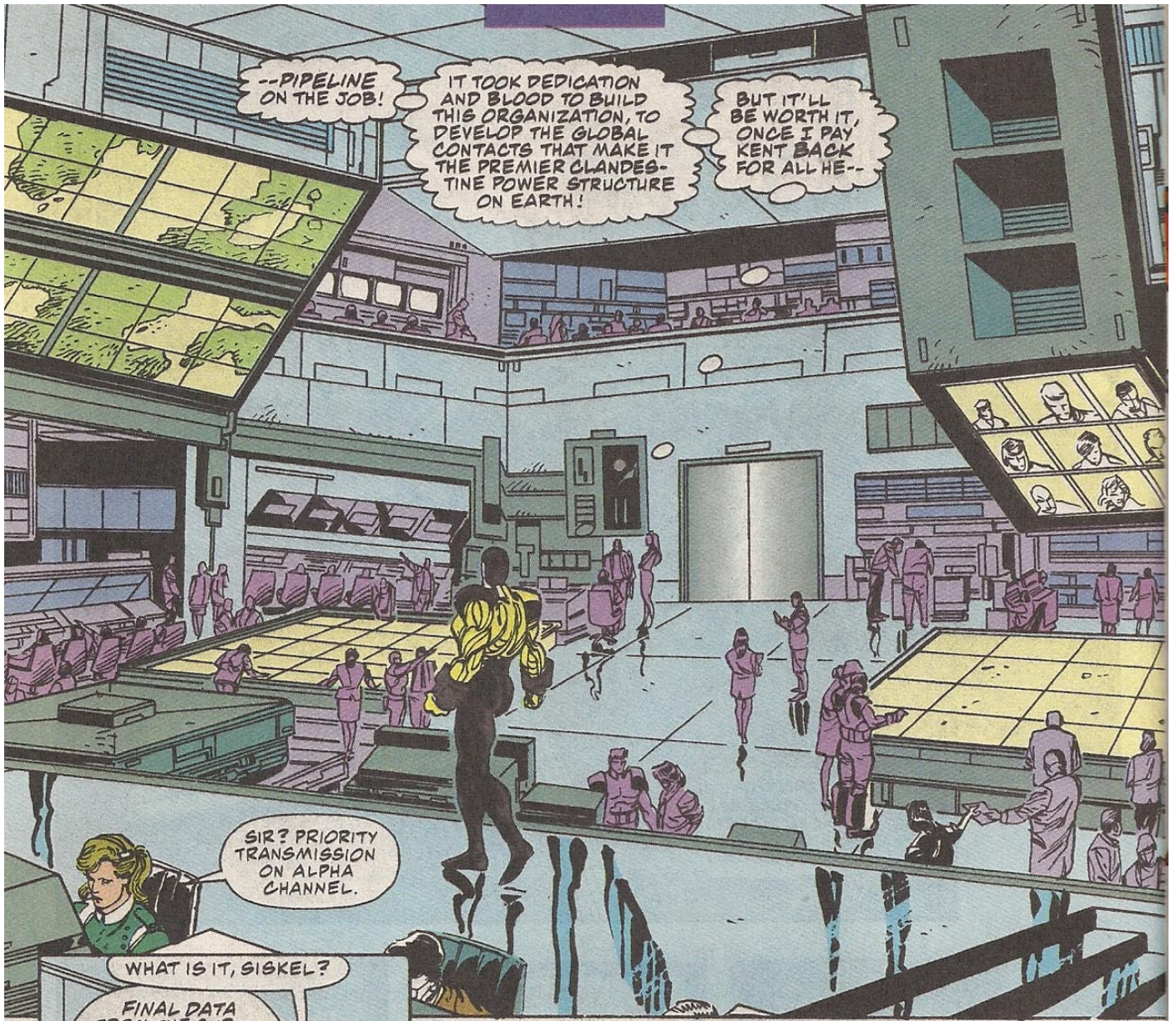
PROTECTION

BUT THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE!



--IS QUITE A BIT MORE THAN IT SEEMS!

NOW THAT I HAVE--



--PIPELINE ON THE JOB!

IT TOOK DEDICATION AND BLOOD TO BUILD THIS ORGANIZATION, TO DEVELOP THE GLOBAL CONTACTS THAT MAKE IT THE PREMIER CLANDESTINE POWER STRUCTURE ON EARTH!

BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT, ONCE I PAY KENT BACK FOR ALL HE--

SIR? PRIORITY TRANSMISSION ON ALPHA CHANNEL.

WHAT IS IT, SISKEL?

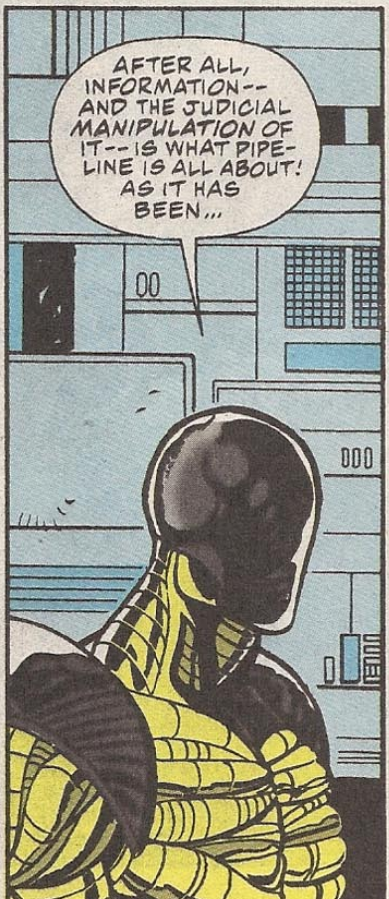
FINAL DATA FROM THE SUB-PAVEMENT SURVEY CREW IS IN, SIR. HARD COPY SHOULD BE ON YOUR DESK IN MINUTES.

EXCELLENT.

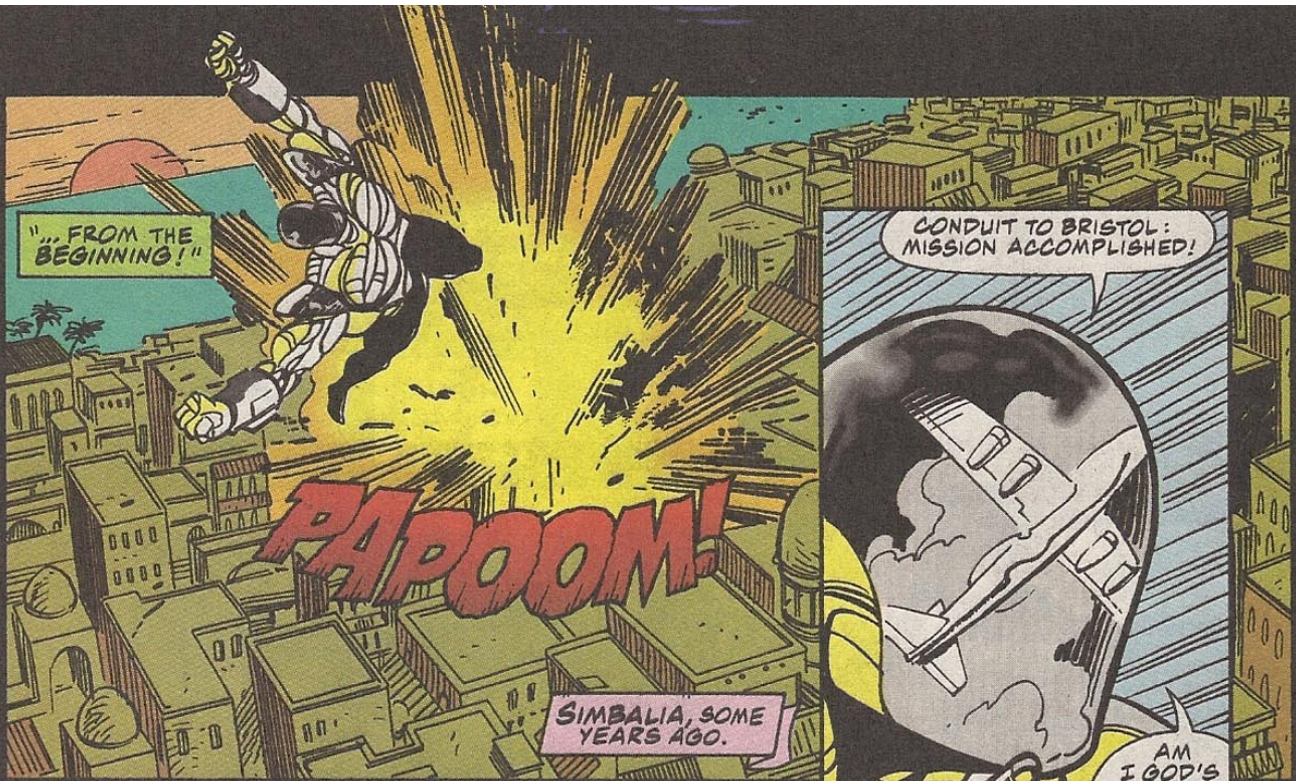


SEWER AND SUBWAY TUNNELS WERE LAID OUT MORE HAPHAZARDLY BEFORE METROPOLIS WAS REBUILT--

--BUT UPDATED INFORMATION IS VITAL!



AFTER ALL, INFORMATION-- AND THE JUDICIAL MANIPULATION OF IT-- IS WHAT PIPELINE IS ALL ABOUT! AS IT HAS BEEN...



"...FROM THE BEGINNING!"

POOOM!

SIMBALIA, SOME YEARS AGO.



CONDUIT TO BRISTOL: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

AM I GOD'S GIFT TO THE C.I.A. OR WHAT?



WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, CONDUIT! THIS MAY BE A SHIELDED FREQUENCY, BUT--

--OH, JUST GET BACK IN THE PLANE! A.S.A.P.!

WHOA! OLD MAN SOUNDS PEEVED! WHAT'D I DO THIS TIME?



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TERMINATE THE AMBASSADOR, BRAVERMAN! NOT BLOW UP THE WHOLE BLOODY EMBASSY!

I DON'T LIKE HALF MEASURES, MR. BRISTOL! I MEAN, WHY SWAT A BEE WHEN YOU CAN BURN THE WHOLE HIVE?



YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

WHY, UH, NO. NOT AT ALL, KENNY. I... SEE YOUR POINT.

THAT EVENING; A HIGHLY SECURED COMPOUND IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

"MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED"?

DANGER
HIGH VOLTAGE
DO NOT TOUCH

THAT WAS THEN, CLARK-- THIS IS NOW!

ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, YOU TOOK THE RIBBONS, THE TROPHIES, LEAVING ME TO COME IN SECOND!

AND NOW YOU WANT TO BE A REPORTER-- OH, YEAH, I'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU, "OLD BUDDY"!

CLARK KENT
"MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED"

LANA LANG
"BEST-LOOKING"

BUT WHILE YOU'RE REPORTING HEADLINES, I'M GOING TO BE MAKING THEM--

--HUH? PNEUMATIC HISS! LOCKED DOOR OPENING?!

TAKATAKATAKATAK

VP VP CHK SWEE

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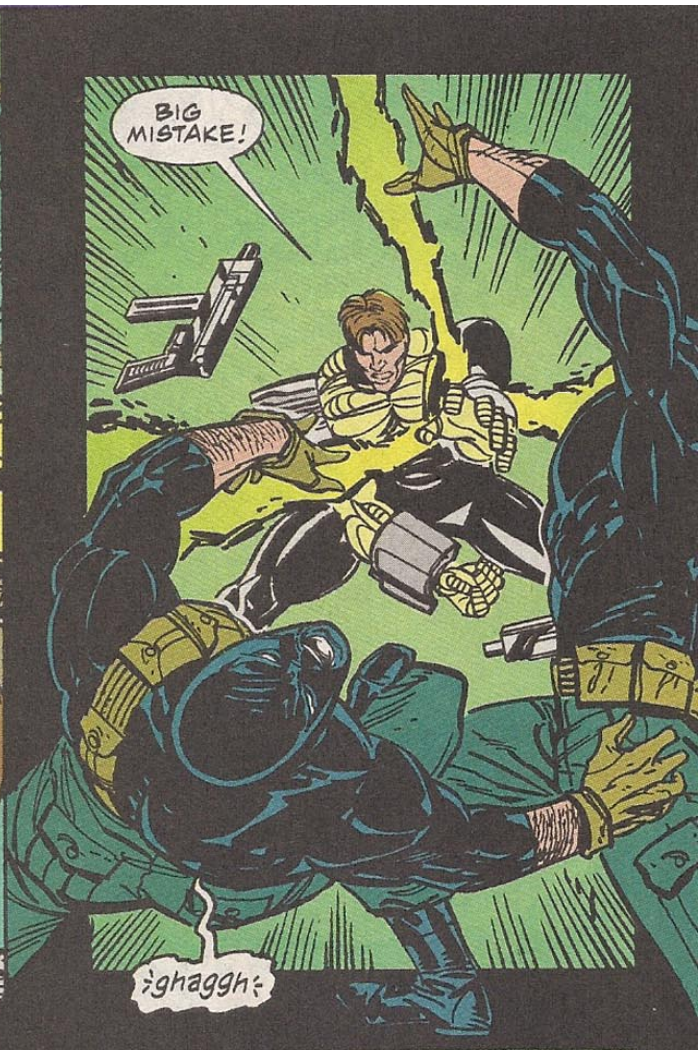
MISSED!

HE'S TOO FAST!

FLANK 'IM!

SKRAG TEAM?

AFTER ME?!



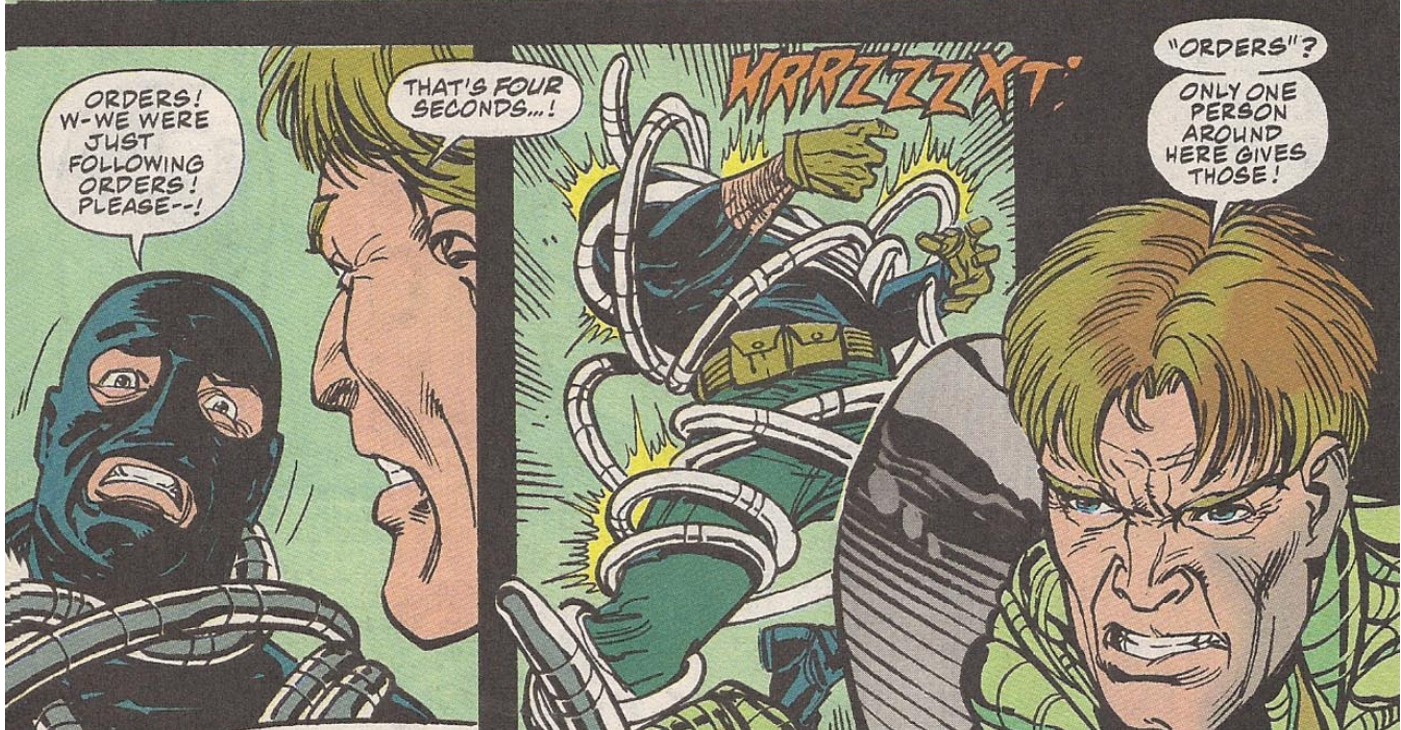
BIG MISTAKE!

ghaggh



I TOLD 'EM THIS WOULDN'T WO--
UTTK!

TALK! YA GOT THREE SECONDS!

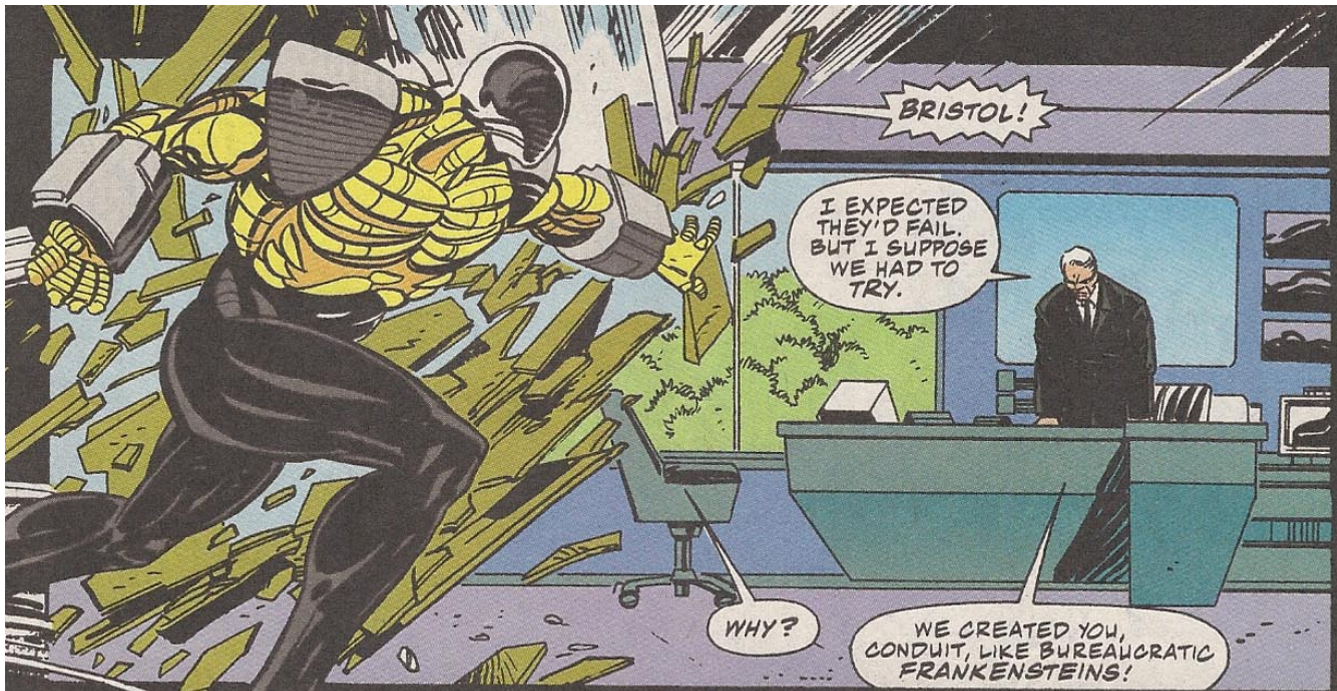


ORDERS! W--WE WERE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS! PLEASE--!

THAT'S FOUR SECONDS...!

WRRZZZXT!

"ORDERS"? ONLY ONE PERSON AROUND HERE GIVES THOSE!



BRISTOL!

I EXPECTED THEY'D FAIL, BUT I SUPPOSE WE HAD TO TRY.

WHY?

WE CREATED YOU, CONDUIT, LIKE BUREAUCRATIC FRANKENSTEINS!



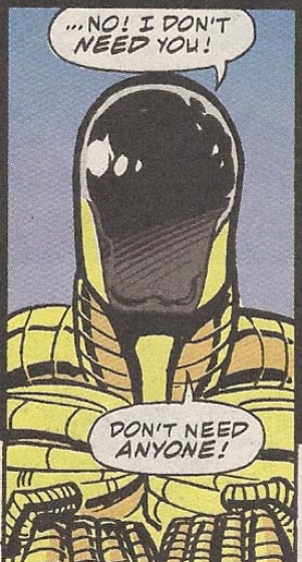
BUT YOU GREW HEADSTRONG, AND TOO POWERFUL!

IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT, SOME DAY, YOU'D TURN ON US!



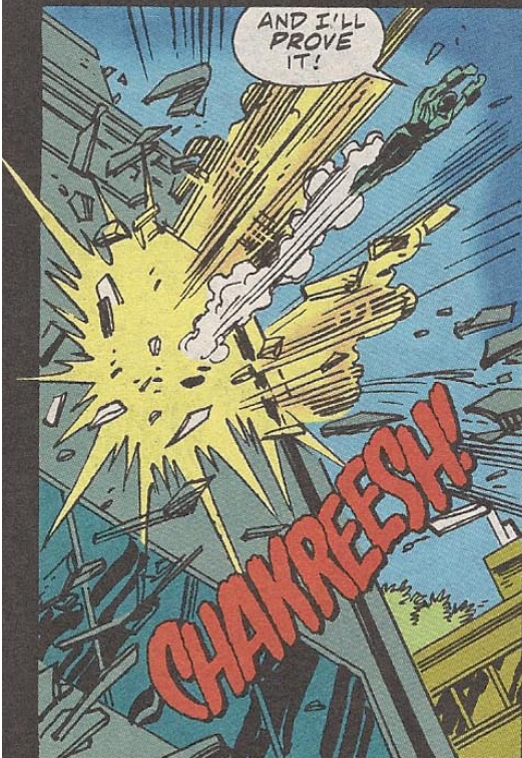
BUT YOU... YOU WERE ALMOST A... FATHER TO ME!

J-JUST LIKE...



...NO! I DON'T NEED YOU!

DON'T NEED ANYONE!



AND I'LL PROVE IT!

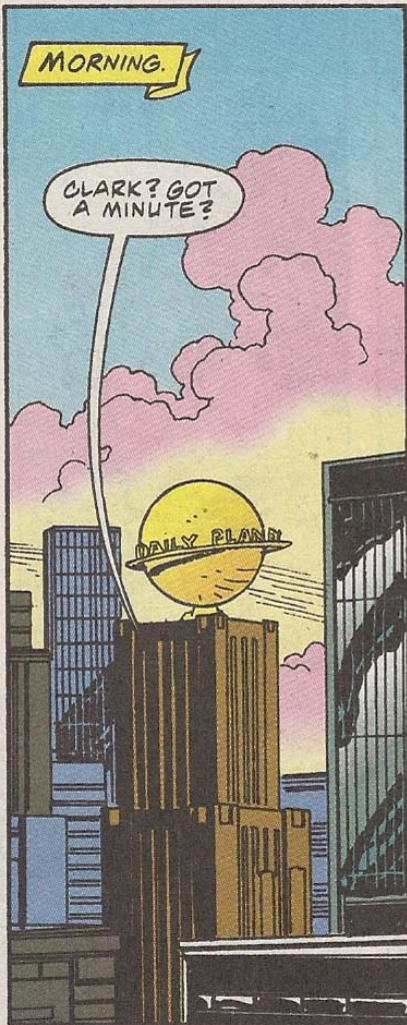
CHANKREESH!



TODAY.

PIPELINE ALREADY RIVALS THE C.I.A.-- SOON, WE'LL ECLIPSE IT! A CONQUEST TO SAVOR!

THOUGH TOMORROW'S VICTORY WILL TASTE SWEETER STILL...!

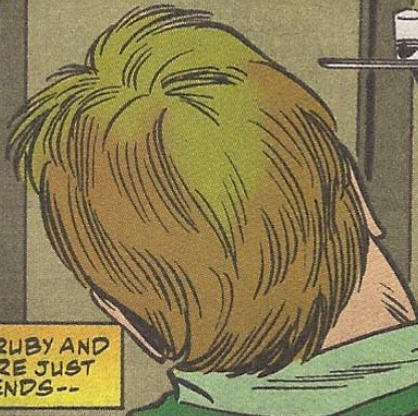




"--REAL STRONG! ALMOST LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO TAKE RUBY AWAY FROM ME!"



"BUT RUBY AND I WERE JUST FRIENDS--"



"--SO I STEPPED ASIDE. AND A FEW WEEKS LATER--"



"--THEY INVITED ME OVER TO CELEBRATE THEIR ENGAGEMENT! BUT SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE I GOT THERE."



TO US!



OH! THAT'LL STAIN, KENNY!

HERE, LET ME PUT YOUR SHIRT IN THE WASH--!



NO!

:gasp!:



DAMMIT, RUBY, I TOLD YOU--!

KENNY? Y-YOUR SKIN! WHAT--?



C'MON, LOVEBIRDS! STOP SMOOCHIN' AND LET ME IN! IT'S CLARK!

TOK TOK



ONE WORD TO CLARK, ONE WORD EVER--

--AND I'LL KILL EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER LOVED! UNDERSTAND?

Y...Y-YES...!



RUBY?!? W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?

KENNY...?



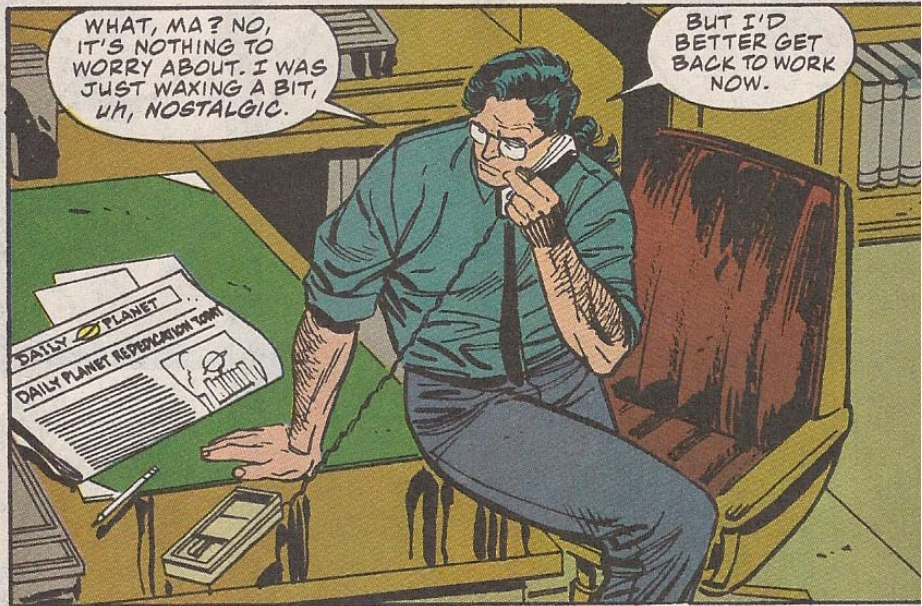
DROP IT, CLARK!

IT JUST DIDN'T WORK OUT.

"RUBY NEVER TALKED ABOUT THAT NIGHT, BUT THINGS HAD CHANGED."

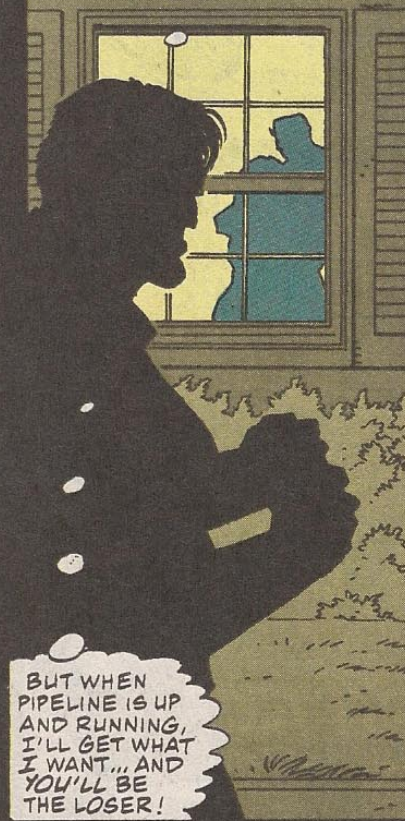
"A LOT OF THINGS..."

GOT THE PRIZE AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU, CLARK? YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME SECOND BEST!



WHAT, MA? NO, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I WAS JUST WAXING A BIT, UH, NOSTALGIC.

BUT I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK NOW.



BUT WHEN PIPELINE IS UP AND RUNNING, I'LL GET WHAT I WANT... AND YOU'LL BE THE LOSER!

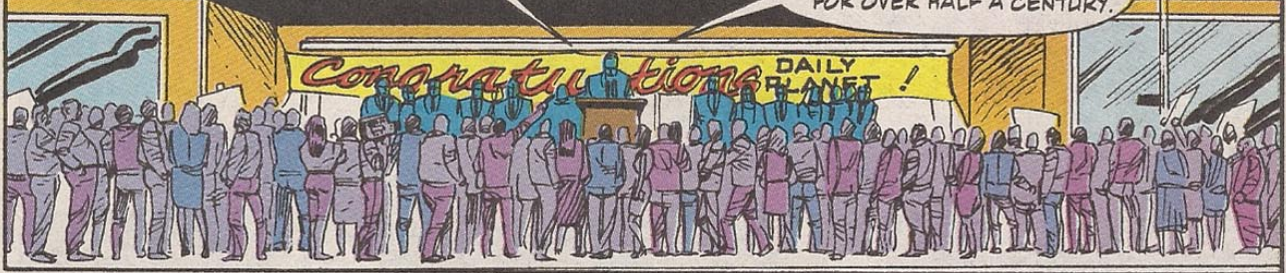


I'VE GOT A BUSY DAY AHEAD OF ME...!

AFTERNOON.

AS MAYOR OF METROPOLIS, I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF DETRACTORS AND SUPPORTERS--

--BUT METROPOLIS ITSELF HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A STAUNCH AND UN-WAVERINGLY LOYAL ALLY FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY.



THE DAILY PLANET, THAT JOURNALISTIC STALWART HAS WEATHERED THE HARDEST, MOST IMPOSSIBLE OF TIMES, FOR AS LONG AS MOST OF US HAVE KNOWN HOW TO READ --

--PROVIDING CITIZENS WITH HOPE, TRUTH, AND THE LIFE-BLOOD OF INFORMATION.



I FOR ONE AM PROUD--NO, HONORED--TO BE PART OF THIS RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY...

...TO JOIN THE DAILY PLANET ON ITS EXCITING JOURNEY INTO A BRIGHT AND HOPEFUL FUTURE!



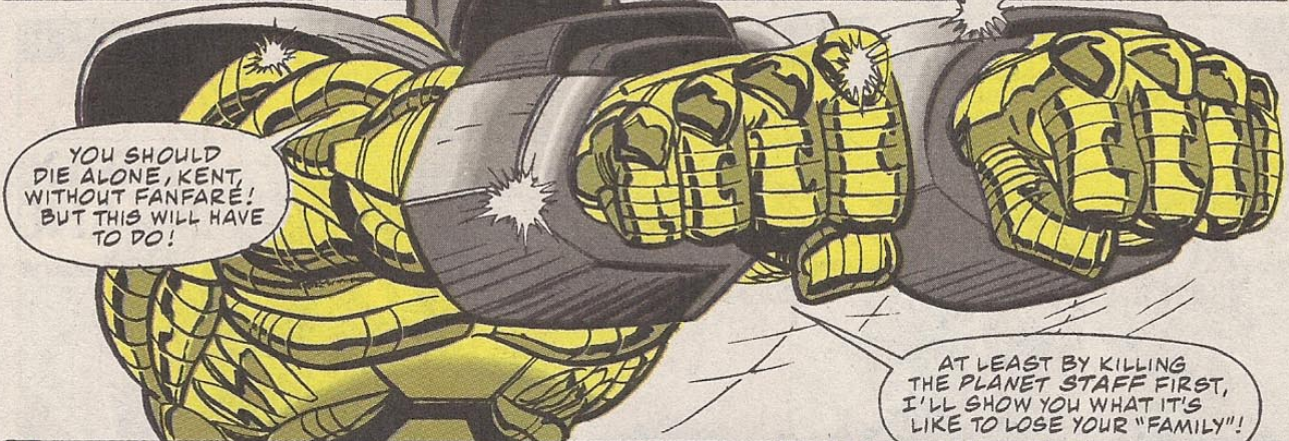
WHA--?!





UPDATED TUNNEL MAPS DID THE TRICK!

BROUGHT US RIGHT TO THE PODIUM!



YOU SHOULD DIE ALONE, KENT, WITHOUT FANFARE! BUT THIS WILL HAVE TO DO!

AT LEAST BY KILLING THE PLANET STAFF FIRST, I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE YOUR "FAMILY"!



I'VE GUARDED MY DUAL IDENTITY FOR YEARS!

BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP CONDUIT, NO MATTER WHAT--



'COURSE, MAYBE I'LL ONLY KILL A FEW... IF YOU BEG!

THAT'S MY OUT!

PRETEND I'M FALLING TO MY--



--KNEES!

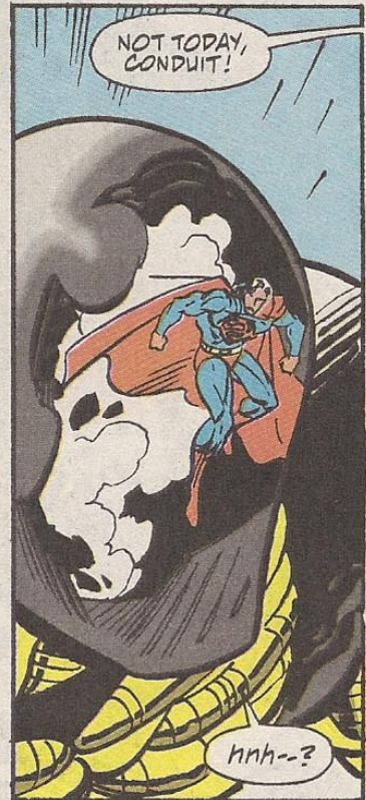
KRRRMMBLE



CLARK BROKE THROUGH TO THE TUNNELS! BETTER COVER FOR HIM!

IDIOT! YOUR EXPLOSIONS WEAKENED THE PAVEMENT!

NO! HE HAS TO DIE BY MY HAND!

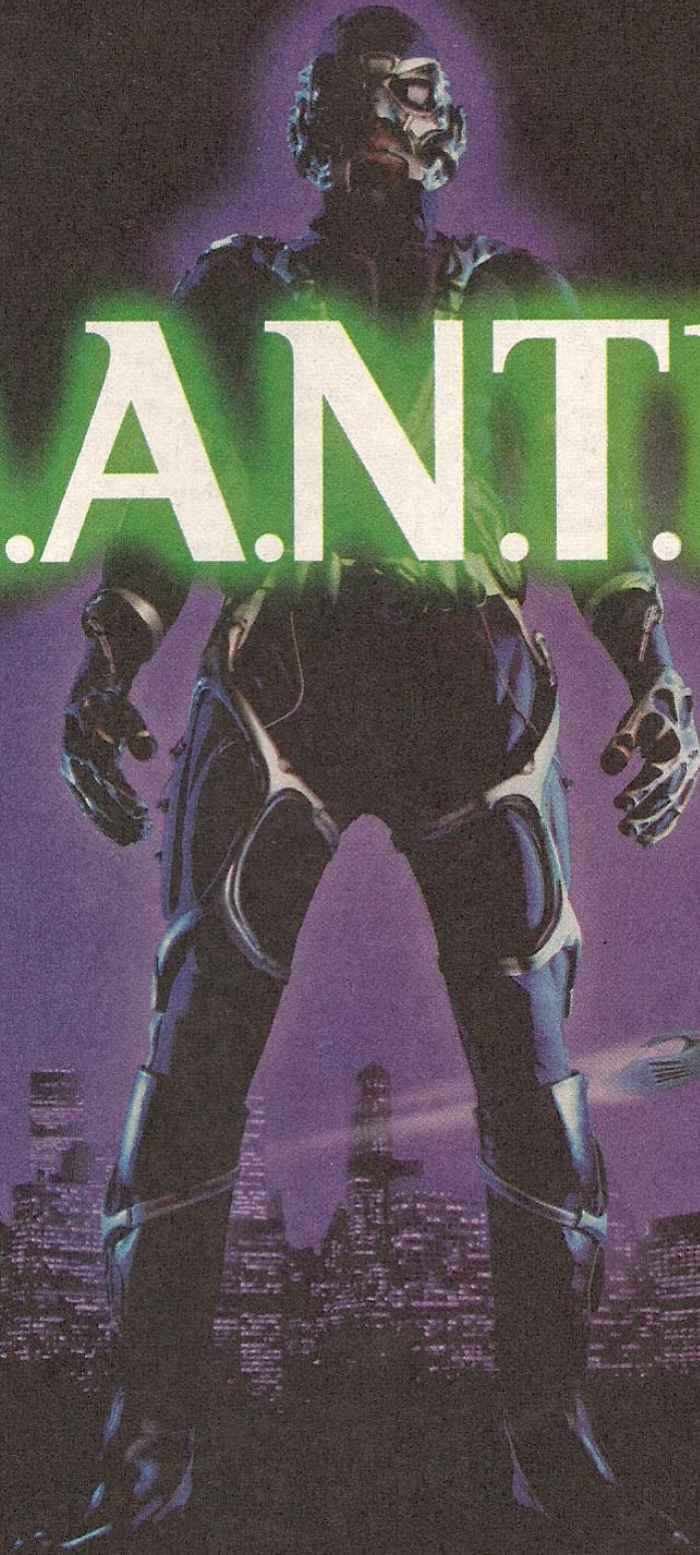


NOT TODAY, CONDUIT!

hnh--?

FROM THE WRITER OF BATMAN AND THE DIRECTOR OF DARKMAN
COMES A NEW BREED OF SUPERHERO...

M.A.N.T.I.S.



FRIDAY NIGHTS ON FOX 8PM/7 CENTRAL & MOUNTAIN





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|----------------------|-------|
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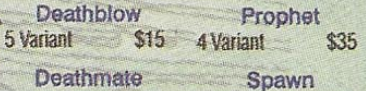
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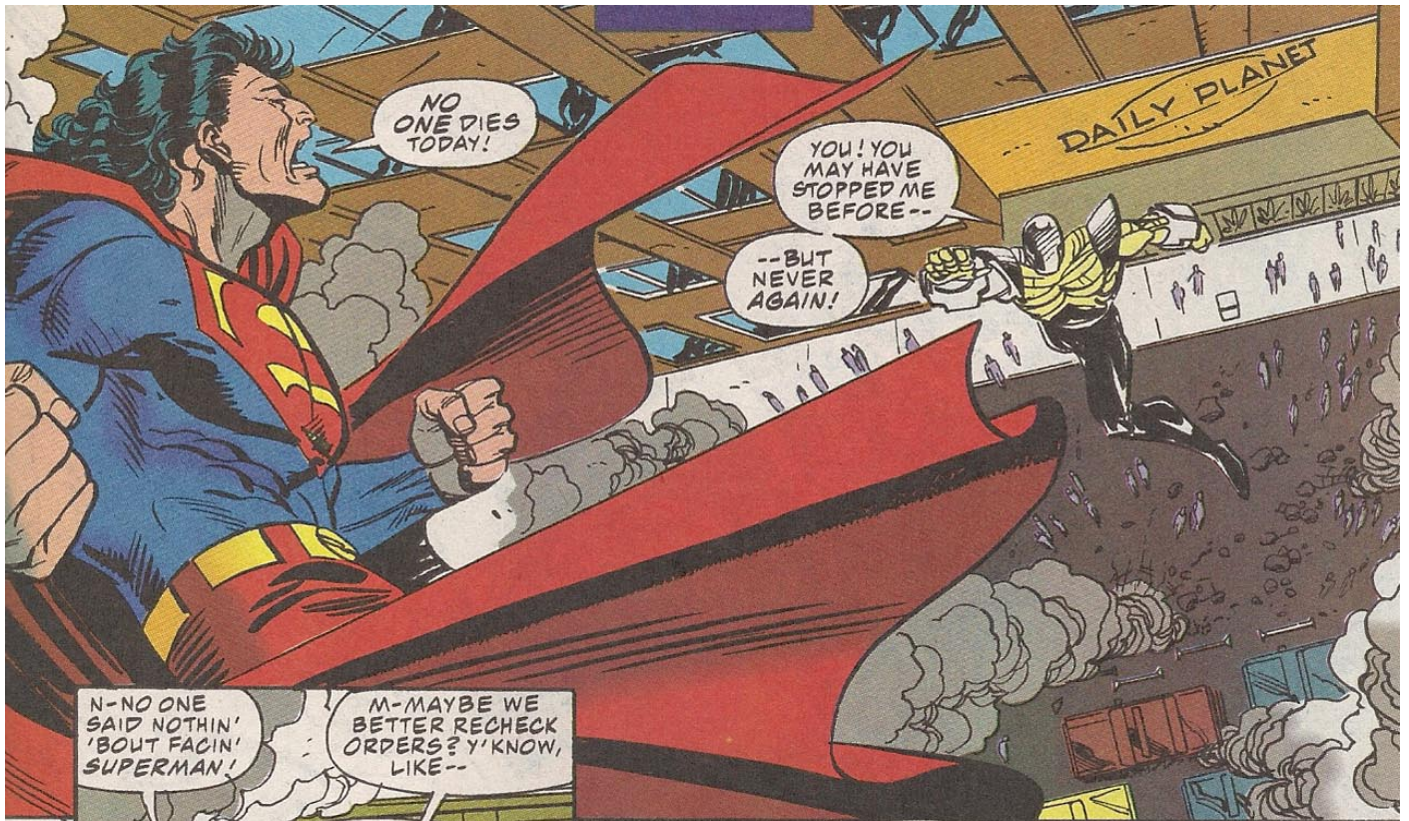
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NO ONE DIES TODAY!

YOU! YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED ME BEFORE--

--BUT NEVER AGAIN!

DAILY PLANET

N-NO ONE SAID NOTHIN' 'BOUT FACIN' SUPERMAN!

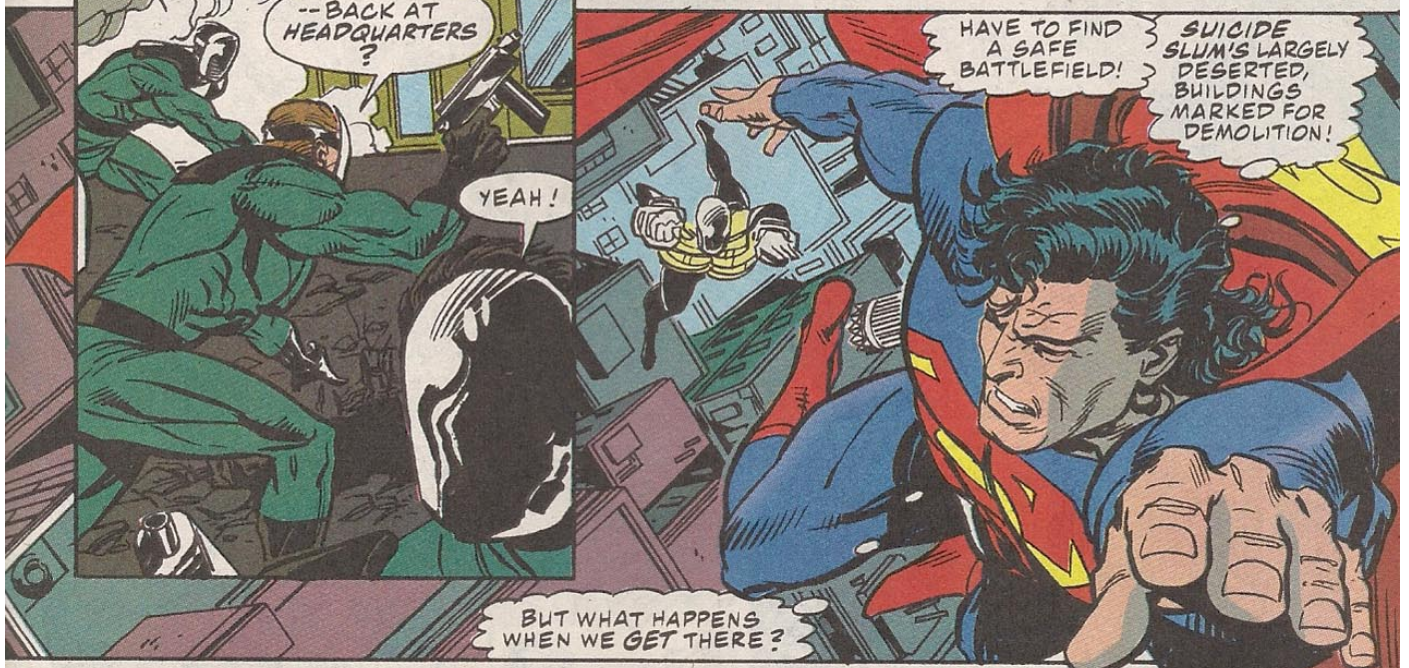
M-MAYBE WE BETTER RECHECK ORDERS? Y'KNOW, LIKE--

--BACK AT HEADQUARTERS?

YEAH!

HAVE TO FIND A SAFE BATTLEFIELD!

SUICIDE SLUM'S LARGELY DESERTED, BUILDINGS MARKED FOR DEMOLITION!

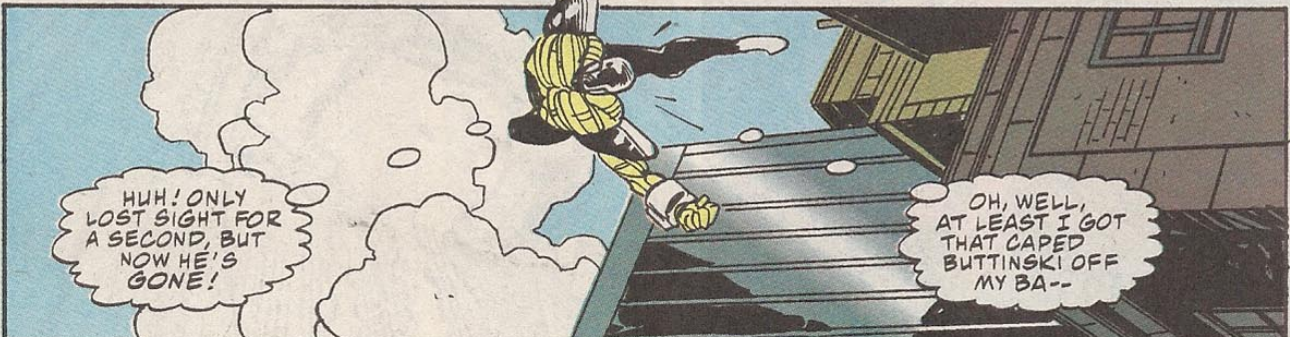


BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GET THERE?



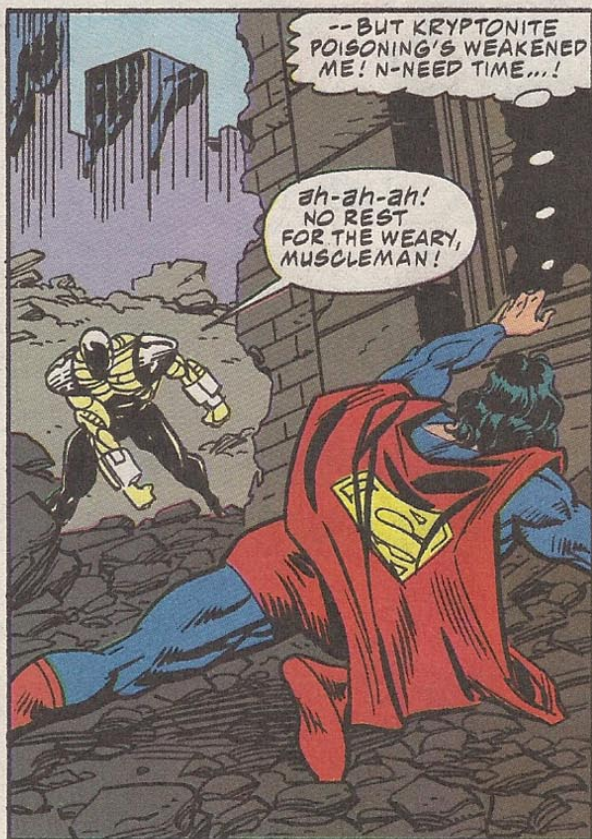
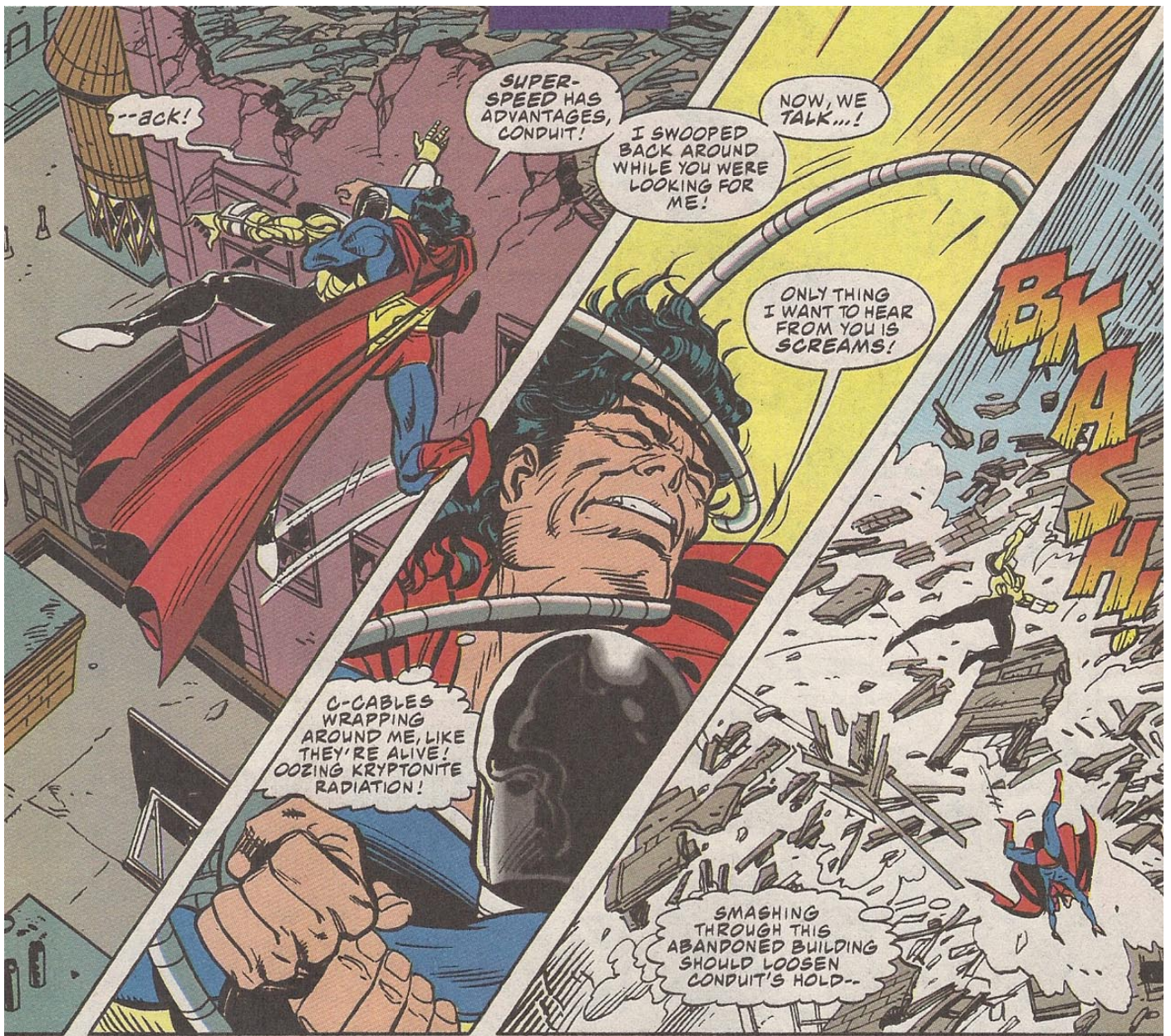
KENNY MUST'VE HATED ME FOR YEARS, BUT TO ME HE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND! I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM!

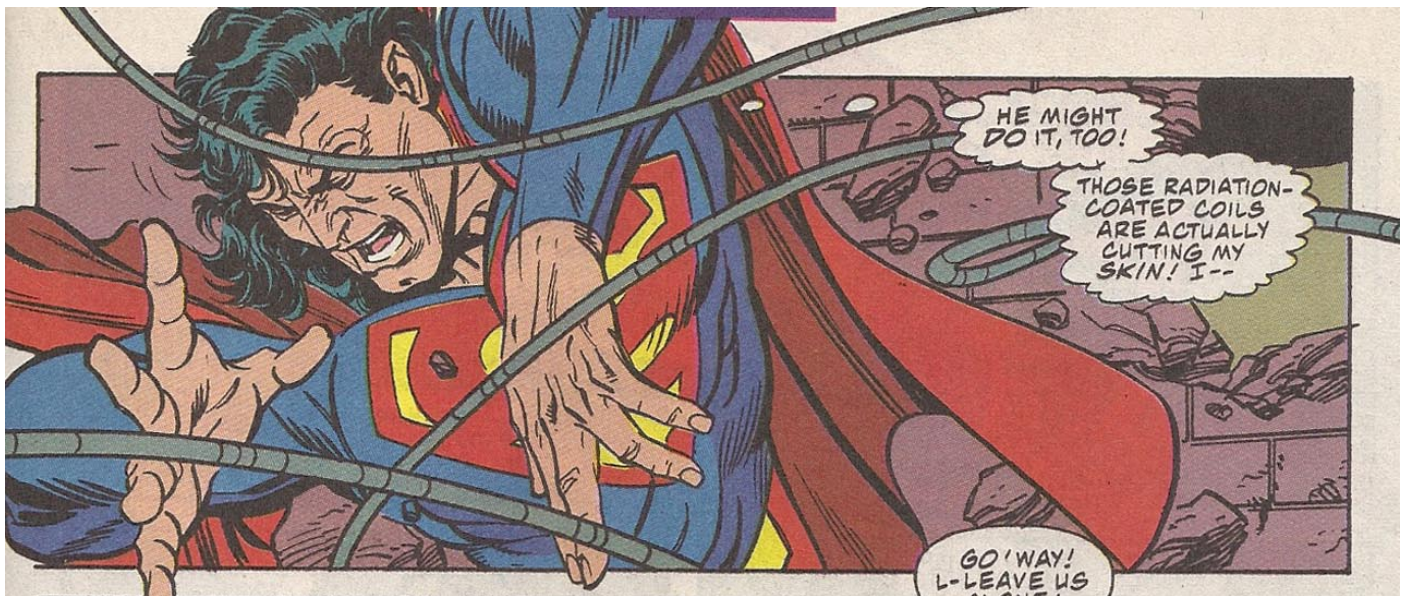
BUT HIS KRYPTONITE BLASTS CAN HURT ME BAD! THINK, CLARK--!



HUH! ONLY LOST SIGHT FOR A SECOND, BUT NOW HE'S GONE!

OH, WELL, AT LEAST I GOT THAT CAPED BUTTINSKI OFF MY BA--





HE MIGHT DO IT, TOO!

THOSE RADIATION-COATED COILS ARE ACTUALLY CUTTING MY SKIN! I--

GO 'WAY! L-LEAVE US ALONE!

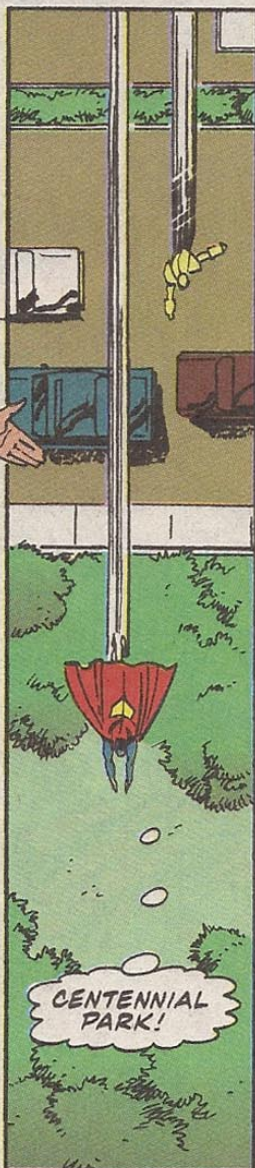
OH, NO! THIS "ABANDONED" BUILDING--!

BEING USED AS SHELTER BY THE HOMELESS?!



GOTTA REACH OPEN SPACE!

BUT WHERE--?



CENTENNIAL PARK!

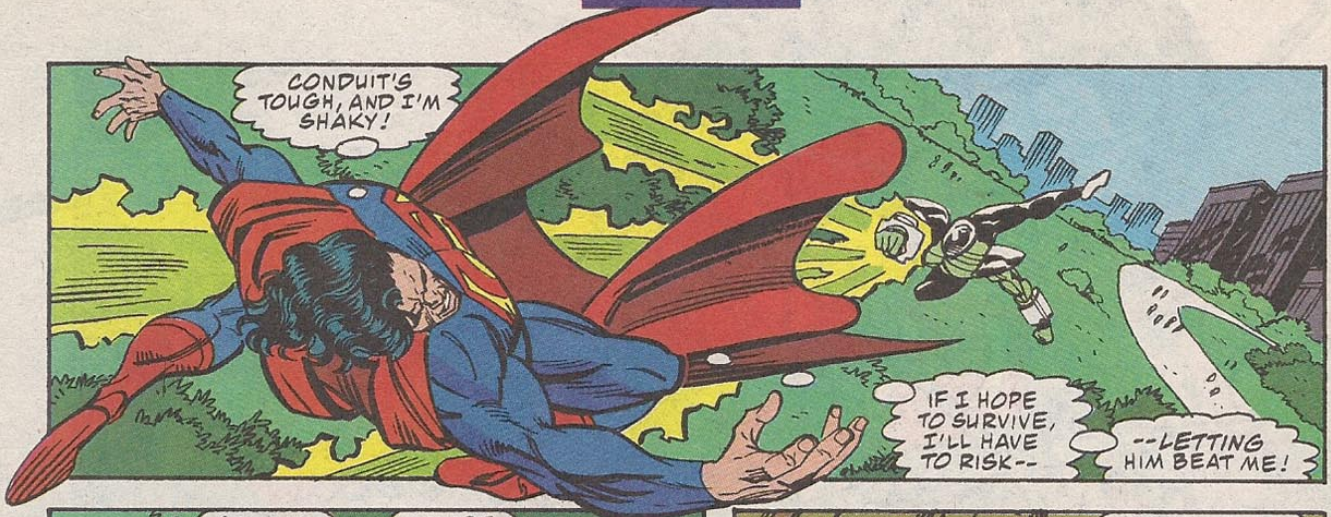


MAN, PARK'S EMPTY TODAY!

BUT IF I DON'T SNAP SOMETHIN' COOL FOR PROFESSOR PARKER'S PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS TOMORROW, I'M--



--DEAD?



CONDUIT'S TOUGH, AND I'M SHAKY!

IF I HOPE TO SURVIVE, I'LL HAVE TO RISK--

--LETTING HIM BEAT ME!



GOTCHA, HERO!

YOU'RE MINE!

JUST KEEP THINKING THAT, KENNY...!



RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR TOMB, TOO! ONLY THIS TIME--

--YOU'LL DIE FOR GOOD!

THAT'S IT... JUST A LITTLE BIT--



--CLOSER!

WHA--PLAYING POSSUM?

CRUMPLED MY WRIST BLASTERS--!



IT'S OVER.

HE TRIED TO KILL ME, ENDANGERED INNOCENTS, THE WOMAN I LOVE.

SO WHY DO I ALMOST FEEL LIKE SAYING... "I'M SORRY"?



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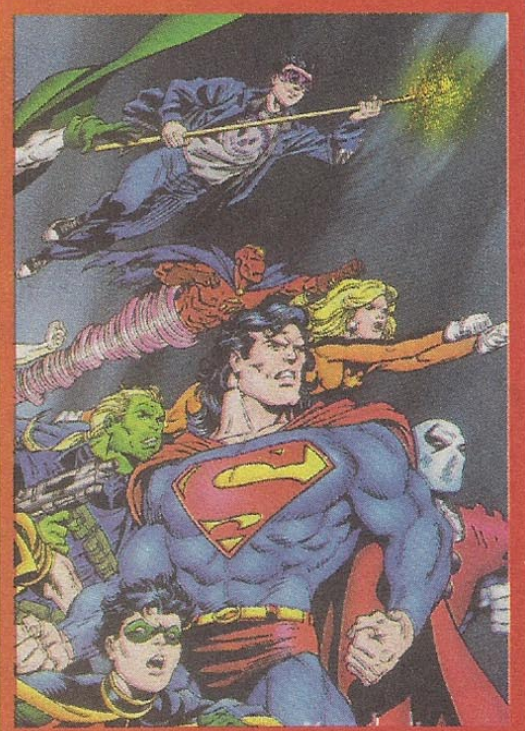
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A SHORT TIME LATER,
AS THE METROPOLIS
SPECIAL CRIMES
UNIT TAKES OVER...

SUPERMAN!
IT WAS HIS
FAULT!

CLASS,
SHMASS...



... I'M SELLIN'
THESE
PICS TO THE
TABLOIDS!

HE'LL
PAY FOR
THIS!



KENT TOOK MY FAMILY,
MY CHANCE FOR GLORY!
BUT SUPERMAN'S
TAKEN THE ONLY THING
I HAD LEFT-- MY
DIGNITY!

WHEREVER
YOU ARE,
SUPERMAN, I
SWEAR I'LL
KILL YOU FOR
THIS!

NOW HE
WANTS TO
KILL YOU...
AND
SUPERMAN
?

SOME DAYS,
LOIS, I GUESS
YOU JUST CAN'T
WIN!



CROWDS DISPERSE,
AND AS CLEANUP
CREWS ARRIVE...

YEEESH!
CAN'T THESE
JERKS EVER
TAKE THEIR
GRIPES TO
JERSEY?



STOP
WHININ',
JULIO. WE'RE
GETTIN'
DOUBLE-
TIME!

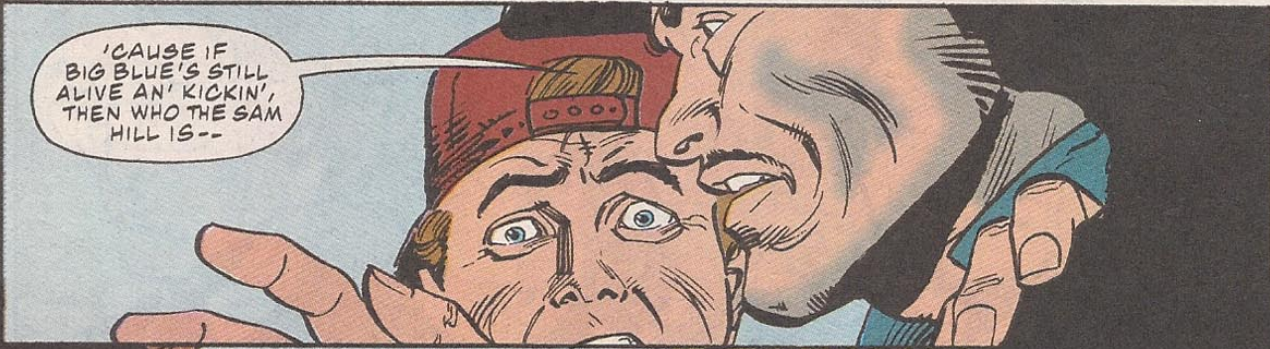
YEAH, YEAH.
MIGHT AS
WELL GET IT
OVER WITH.

UH, JULIO?
'MEMBER WHEN
SUPERMAN
DIED? HE,
LIKE, CAME
BACK TO LIFE,
DI'NT HE?



Duhhh!
EVER'ONE
KNOWS THAT,
EINSTEIN!
WHY?

'CAUSE IF
BIG BLUE'S STILL
ALIVE AN' KICKIN',
THEN WHO THE SAM
HILL IS--



~THAT?!?



HERE WE
GO AGAIN...
Continued in
MAN OF STEEL #38
in ONE WEEK!

REACTION

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 BOB ROZAKIS, Executive Director-Production

Dear DC:

Reading ACTION #700 gave me an unbelievable feeling. It was an ending to the majority of stories published in the SUPERMAN comics since 1986. To an avid reader of SUPERMAN, which I am, this was an historic event. And to have Swan and Anderson involved in this double-sized anniversary milestone blow-out was the crowning effect.

The finding out of Lex Luthor was something I've wanted to see since day one. After eight years of waiting, it sure went out like a bang.

Kevin Guzman
 Riverside, CA

You were expecting maybe a whimper?

Dear Superteam:

In the promotional ads for ACTION COMICS #700, Bibbo appears among the cast of characters but not in the actual comic. Is he in ACTION COMICS #700 and I just can't find him or was he only featured in the promotional ads?

Kenan Cooper
 Reading, MA

Four months ago, ACTION COMICS became the first comic book to reach its 700th issue—an event realized by departing ACTION writer Roger Stern. In that single issue, we married Pete Ross to Lana Lang, destroyed most of Metropolis, and publicly exposed Lex Luthor's villainy. And you want to know what, Kenan? (Sorry there was no Bibbo in ACTION #700. He was, however, a key part of the Fall of Metropolis story arc. Now don't go complaining no one takes you seriously.)

Mike:

ACTION #700 was a spectacular issue! It had something for everyone: guest stars and the Superman supporting cast, secrets revealed and secrets hinted at, devastation and the promise of renewal, romance, a wedding, a death and, quite appropriately, plenty of action. All involved in this anniversary issue get my highest compliments.

I do want to single out the contributions of Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson, though. It's great to see their classic and beautiful work anytime, but I'm pleased to see them on this anniversary issue. It's arguable,

though I'm already sold on the idea, that the longevity of ACTION and SUPERMAN books is partially due to these men's tenure. It's wonderful to see their past work acknowledged through new work from time to time. As with Curt's art on this year's LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES annual, it's appreciated by this fan that DC continues to use "classic" talent on current and special issues.

Jim Kelly
 Valley Stream, NY



ACTION COMICS #700

Dear Mike, Frank, and Chris:

Perhaps the reason this summer's megastory is called ZERO HOUR is that's all that'll be left standing in Metropolis by the time it begins...ZERO!

As the destruction seen in ACTION #700 is almost too much for any single letter of comment to cover, I'll concentrate on the issue's most striking image, the fall of the Daily Planet globe.

The globe has been firmly in place since its restoration in ACTION COMICS #526, December 1981. That would mean it has survived the Crisis on Infinite Earths, the total Superman continuity revamp of the mid '80s, the invasion by the Alien Alliance, the Brainiac attack of "Panic in the Sky," the "Blaze-Satanus War," and Doomsday's attack. To think that Sydney Happersen would be the one to bring it down.

On the subject of Lord Satanus, I suppose it makes sense that he would

remain silent and aloof during the destructive crises of "Doomsday/Reign," but now that his "home base" (the Newstime Building) has been threatened, have we witnessed the awakening of the sleeping giant? With Luthor apparently down for the count, perhaps Satanus will soon begin to flex his muscles.

I can't end this letter without thanking you for recognizing the contributions of Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson and their importance to this magazine's past. Their work looks great by today's standards—or any standards! Please consider tapping them for an occasional "one-shot" or whenever a regular artistic team needs some breathing room.

Joe Torcivia
 Westbury, NY

Agreed, Joe.

Dear The-Powers-That-Be at DC Comics:

Wow! ACTION COMICS #700! What an issue! Chock-full of surprises and terrors around every corner!

Why is it that every bad guy wants to either take over or destroy Metropolis? What's so important about one city?

I believe we're going to see a lot more of Collin Thornton/Satanus in the future. I'll bet it was he that Bloodthirst was referring to when he said that Luthor was "not the linchpin holding the city together." I sure hope we see some more of Bloodthirst, too; he was a real cool guy.

I really enjoyed the little references to members of the Super-team throughout the issue, from the Jordway piano to the note from "Mike C." on the Planet bulletin board. It is little things like that, story and artwork aside, that make the SUPERMAN comics my favorite.

You know, I have been reading SUPERMAN for about 15 months now, ever since the "Reign of the Supermen," and my brain is bursting with unanswered questions. Who is Satanus? What was the invasion that the missiles came from? Stuff like that.

Hmm...I wish someone would form a SUPERMAN fan club, where people could get their questions answered, where people could discuss recent issues, where people could present their ideas for the future of SUPERMAN and the DC Universe.

Ah...I'm dreaming. A Superman fan club would be way too popular. I mean, everybody I know would want

to join! Still...man...wouldn't that be keen...(Please print my address. Thanks.)

David Prager
16531 E. Crestline Pl.
Aurora, CO 90015

Lord Satanus is an extradimensional demon, of sorts, who lives disguised as publisher Collin Thornton in Metropolis. The alien invasion from which Luthor pilfered missiles was an alliance of hostile aliens bent on subduing Earth—a tale told in the INVASION miniseries a few years back. We've done our share. Now will someone please write to David before his head explodes!

Dear Super Guys:

About a week ago, I picked up my very first SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS, #700. I was hooked. I used to like those X-whatever-their-names-are comics, but now I'm only reading Superman comics. I'm throwing all my other comics away.

I have a suggestion. Why don't you do a DC/Marvel comics war? Whoever wins is better (and of course DC would win). I've got to sign off...till Flash turns into Turtle Boy!

Isaac Gonzalez
Gulfport, MS

You threw away all your other comics? A drastic move, Isaac. But we can't help admiring your devotion. A Baldy Award for excellence in letter-writing is yours!

Dear People of ACTION:

Yes, it's an issue #700. It's a reunion of those bearing the "S" shield. Pete and Lana marry. Luthor is finally exposed. But Metropolis is in a shambles. And worst, one of the oldest, most established Superman landmarks ever, the Daily Planet building, is no more. And with other Luthor fail-safes yet to devastate the city, the heinous schemes yet to be hatched by Satanus and the impending arrival of Massacre, what then will be left, if anything, of the city? Will it leave us a Superman in a non-traditional Superman setting? That is, no Daily Planet building, no 344 Clinton St., no Metropolis, etc? This is just asking too much faith from your readers, particularly those who have closely followed the Superman mythos. But what can I say? The stories are great, and their impact is awesome due to drastic changes and monumental sacrifices. They're simply Superman stories we've never seen before or would expect to see. So I set aside my doubts and protests and keep on following where the stories to come will lead my sometimes-skipping-a-beat heart. In other words, faith...and lots of it!

By the way, since there's a DC-Milestone crossover, how about a Superman-Batman crossover: Superman and Batman, Superboy and Robin, Steel and Azrael, and Supergirl with either Batgirl (since she'll be back come

ZERO HOUR) or Huntress or even Catwoman. Come on! What about it?

Romualdo Santa Ana Jr.
San Fernando, Philippines

Crossovers, crossovers. You like crossovers, Romualdo? Are we having any in the SUPERMAN books? On the OUTSIDE chance that we're planning a crossover, we'd never ERADICATE your hopes for future crossovers by answering in the negative.

DC:

I don't know why it took so long to figure out, but it finally hit me. There, on page 21 of ACTION #700. Lex Luthor is R. Montgomery Burns, and Happersen is Smithers. Right? Right?

William Sommerwerck
Bellevue, WA

Other way around, William. We had 'em first!

Dear Chris:

After reading ACTION #700, I'll say one thing: I'm sure going to miss Roger Stern's scripts. He handled the final (at least it seems for the near future) confrontation between Supes and Lex perfectly! Instead of some huge fight we get a brilliant bit of persuasion by Superman to convince Luthor to give up that played off Luthor's need to be respected and revered by the citizens of Metropolis. Plus it speaks wonders for Superman that he was able to actually convince Luthor to give up rather than just use one of his super abilities to win. I enjoy seeing Superman think and win one simply on intelligence. I don't honestly think a better resolution to the Superman/Luthor conflict could have been written. And the end with Perry looking off at the rebuilt Daily Planet was touching, especially, added with the speech by Abraham Lincoln. Great final issue!

Of course, we are left with HUGE changes in the Superman books. Although I don't believe for a minute that everybody at Cadmus is dead (after all, Superman didn't say they were—only that they were beyond needing help at the moment or something equally vague). But you've killed or sent to jail most everybody surrounding Luthor. Plus Cadmus has been destroyed, so those characters will be relocating. I'm interested to see where the Superman line goes next, although I would appreciate a return of focus to Jimmy, Roland, Perry and the Daily Planet in general, plus Professor Hamilton and Bibbo. We haven't seen enough of these guys in recent months with all the clone business.

Finally, I have to compliment the artwork in this book. Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier did an excellent job. And I really enjoyed Curt Swan's work here with the wedding. I'm too young to have been collecting back in the 1970s, when Swan was in his heyday, but for this anniversary issue it was really nice to see some of his work.

James Evans
Ithaca, NY

We miss Roger Stern, too, James. But don't worry, he won't get far (add sound of maniacal laughter). And besides, David Michelinie now gives us our monthly ACTION injection. Thanks for a thoughtful letter.

—Chris Duffy
Master of all he surveys
in a very small room

NEXT WEEK: DEAD AGAIN??!! In MAN OF STEEL #38, all of Metropolis (and Clark) is wondering: if that's Superman in the memorial tomb, then who's the one with the long hair walking around and stuff? All this and Conduit escapes—his target: his new rival, Superman! Louise Simonson and guest art team Steve Erwin and Jackson Guice do the honors in seven!

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #94, Superman and Conduit fight it out in a down-and-dirty showdown! And Professor Hamilton's got some bad news about the body found in Superman's tomb! The good news is, it's by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding and you can get it in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES #517, the man called Deathtrap rises to the challenge of his career—can he make a trap that even the Man of Steel can't escape? It's the ultimate test for a psychologically shaken Superman! Karl Kesel, Barry Kitson, and Ray McCarthy piece things together for you in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: In ACTION COMICS #704, the Man of Steel, more determined than ever to discover who's responsible for putting the body in his tomb, seeks out a guy who's had more than a little experience impersonating Superman. It's off to the southwest to tussle with the OUTSIDERS and their tough new teammate! It's a David Michelinie, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier production, screening in twenty-eight!

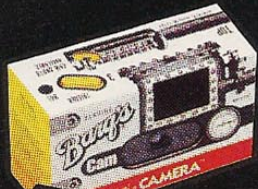


Superman and the rival who's plagued him all of Zero Month appear on this month's cover courtesy of penciller and inker Jackson Guice, colorist Suzanne Bourdages, and color separator Brett Breeding. No, that's not cover editor Curtis King in the background...

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