

HOME OF DEREK JAMES, A.K.A. SIDWAYS...



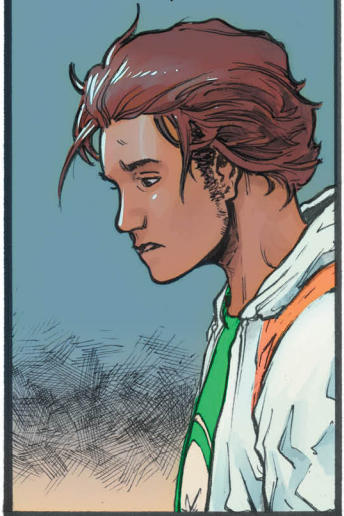
GREETINGS.

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! THIS IS MY BEDROOM, NOT SOME MULTILATERAL DIMENSIONAL PLANE!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME.

I'VE BEEN BUSY.

COMPLETELY FORGOT.



FEAR NOT, YOUNG DEREK. THAT IS NOT THE REASON FOR MY VISIT.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS... I GUESS I'VE HAD A PRETTY MESSED UP WEEK.

IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS AND PAIN FOR MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.



I HAVE TO GIVE THIS HERO-BUSINESS UP BEFORE I HURT ANYONE ELSE.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR DOUBT OR PITY.

EVENTS IN THE MULTIVERSE HAVE GROWN DIRE, AND IT IS IN NEED OF YOUR...POWER.



MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I SHOW YOU.

BEHOLD
THE BRANEFOLD
INTERIOR.

I...YOU...
WHERE...?

THE SPACE
BETWEEN SPACES.
THE TIME BETWEEN TIMES.
FROM HERE YOU COULD
ACCESS ANY PLACE THAT HAS
EVER BEEN OR EVER COULD BE.
A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION
OF THE HYPERTIME
ABSTRACTION.

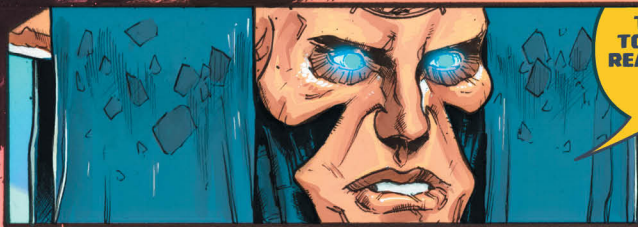
HOME OF THE
FUGINAUTS.

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

SIDEWAYS

"It's showtime"

ROBERT GILL + JUSTIN JORDAN STORYTELLERS
JUSTIN JORDAN DIALOGUE
JOHN RAUCH COLORIST CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERER
KENNETH ROCAFORT COVER ARTIST
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR KATIE KUBERT EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR
SIDEWAYS CREATED BY KENNETH ROCAFORT + DAN DIZIO



THE FUGINAUTS EXIST
TO MAKE SURE THAT THE
REALITIES AND POTENTIAL
REALITIES DO NOT
INTERFERE WITH
EACH OTHER.

THE
REALITIES AND
POTENTIALS MUST
BE KEPT SEPARATE
TO MAINTAIN THE
INTEGRITY OF
REALITY ITSELF.



I DON'T
WANT TO
KEEP SAYING
WHAT, BUT...
WHAT?

YOU
YOURSELF HAVE
EXPERIENCED WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
REALITIES
INTERTWINE...



...WHEN
THE MONGREL
DARK KNIGHTS
INVADED.*

*SEE DARK
KNIGHTS:
METAL
SERIES. --K.K.



YOU SAID MY POWERS
WERE CAUSING
BREACHES IN THIS...
STUFF. LETTING EVIL
INTO MY WORLD.

AND
YOU TOLD ME
TO STOP.

AND THEN
YOU TRIED TO
THROW ME OFF
THE SIDE OF A
SKYSCRAPER.

IT IS WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT I ACTED...UNWISELY IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER.

"ACTED UNWISELY," YEAH, THAT'S BASICALLY MY PROBLEM IN A NUTSHELL.

I BELIEVED YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISRUPTIONS IN THE FABRIC OF THE HYPERTIME BRANE.

ARE ANY OF THOSE REAL WORDS?

AND WHILE SOME OF THE DISRUPTIONS ARE INDEED THE RESULT OF YOUR ACTIVITY, MANY ARE NOT.

AND THEY NEED TO BE SEALED.

IS THIS YOUR WAY OF ASKING ME TO HELP?

I AM NOT ASKING. I AM INFORMING YOU THERE IS A TASK WHOSE NEEDS YOU ARE UNIQUELY SUITED TO ADDRESS.

BUT...

THE FUGINAUTS HAVE THEIR TASKS, AND YOU WILL HAVE YOURS.

I...



...HEY!

YOUR REALITY IS FRAGILE. YOU MUST PROTECT IT.



"BEFORE IT ALL COMES CRASHING DOWN ON YOU."

TERRIFIC.

PLOP



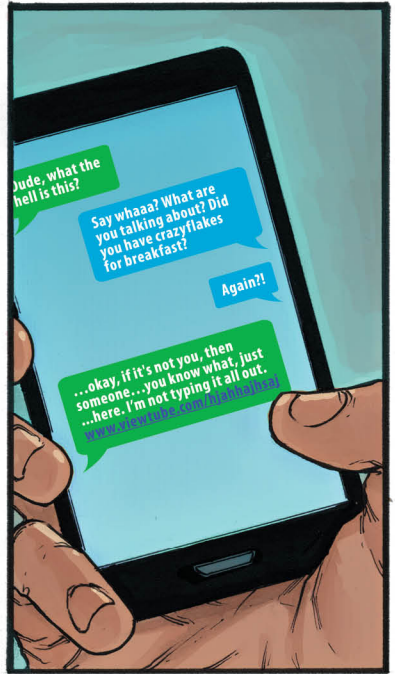


THE NEXT DAY...

TEMPUS FLUGINAUT MIGHT WANT ME TO BECOME SOME KIND OF REALITY COP, BUT I STILL HAVE SCHOOL.

AT LEAST ALL THIS SIDWAYS STUFF HASN'T BLEND INTO THAT. I CAN STILL JUST BE ME.

WHICH IS OKAY, I GUESS.



Jude, what the hell is this?

Say whaaa? What are you talking about? Did you have crazyflakes for breakfast?

Again?!

...okay, if it's not you, then someone...you know what, just ...here. I'm not typing it all out.



WELCOME TO STEPPING OUT WITH SIDWAYS--

NO.



OH HEY, SIDWAYS, LOOK WHAT THE SHOWMAN FOUND. ANOTHER FAKE HERO.

NO, NO, NO, NO.

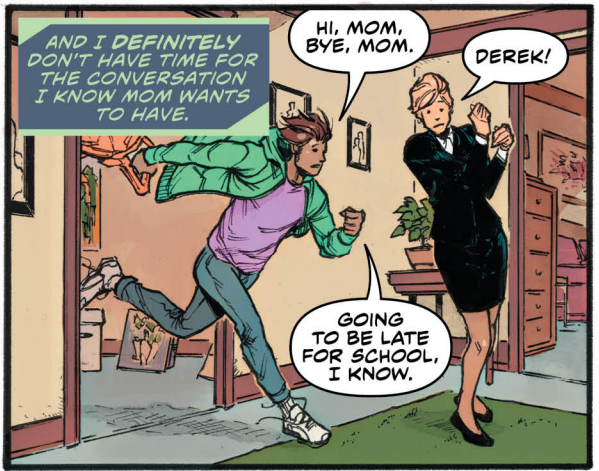


This is bad.

It's worse than bad, Derek. Everyone at school has seen it. What are you going to do?

I don't know, Ernie...

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW.

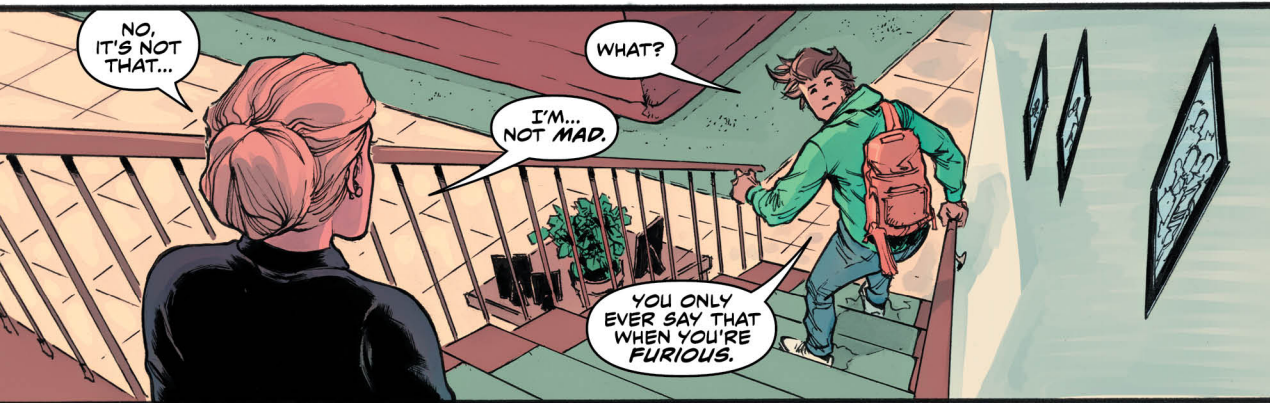


AND I DEFINITELY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE CONVERSATION I KNOW MOM WANTS TO HAVE.

HI, MOM, BYE, MOM.

DEREK!

GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL, I KNOW.



NO, IT'S NOT THAT...

WHAT?

I'M... NOT MAD.

YOU ONLY EVER SAY THAT WHEN YOU'RE FURIOUS.

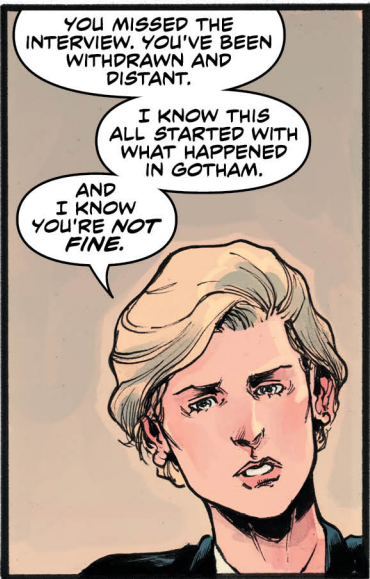


I'M NOT FURIOUS. NOT YET. I'M... I'M WORRIED.

I'M FINE.

YOU ARE NOT FINE.

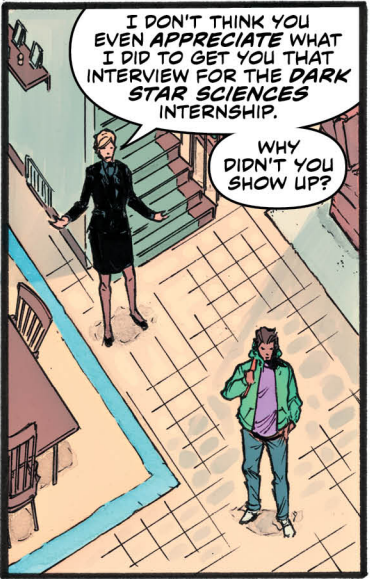
YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE YOU WERE DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT, AND THEN THE HOSPITAL GOT ATTACKED.



YOU MISSED THE INTERVIEW. YOU'VE BEEN WITHDRAWN AND DISTANT.

I KNOW THIS ALL STARTED WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN GOTHAM.

AND I KNOW YOU'RE NOT FINE.



I DON'T THINK YOU EVEN APPRECIATE WHAT I DID TO GET YOU THAT INTERVIEW FOR THE DARK STAR SCIENCES INTERNSHIP.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW UP?



I...



...YOU DIDN'T TELL ME IT WAS AN INTERVIEW.

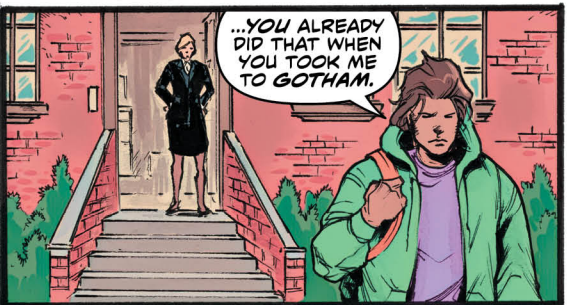
SO YOU THOUGHT IT WAS FINE TO BLOW OFF YOUR MOTHER? IS THAT HOW LITTLE I MATTER TO YOU? DO YOU EVEN CARE?

WHATEVER.



DO YOU EVEN CARE THAT YOU'RE RUINING YOUR LIFE?

I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT RUINING MY LIFE...



...YOU ALREADY DID THAT WHEN YOU TOOK ME TO GOTHAM.