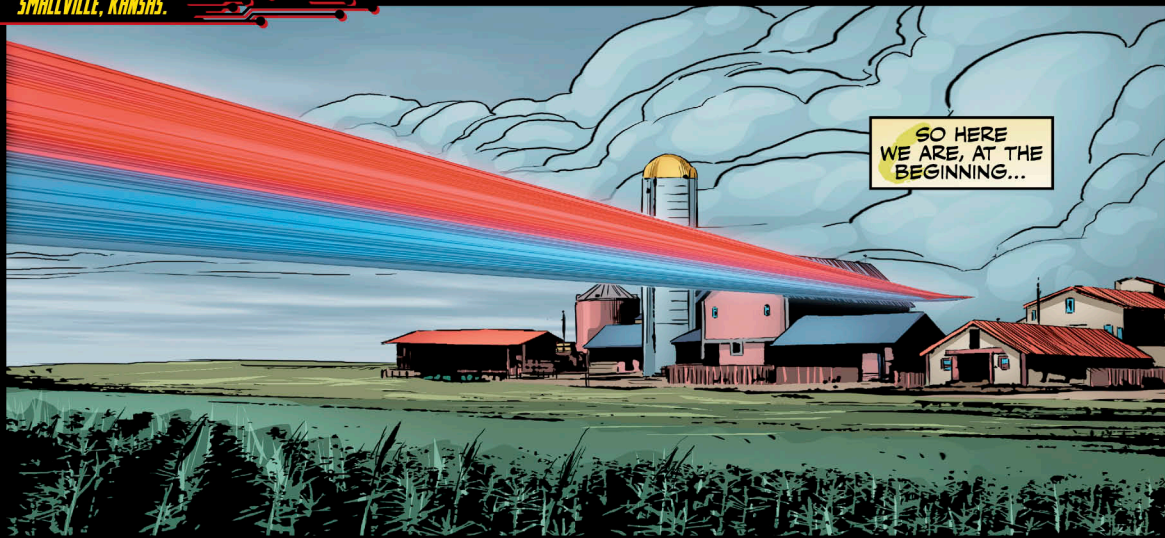
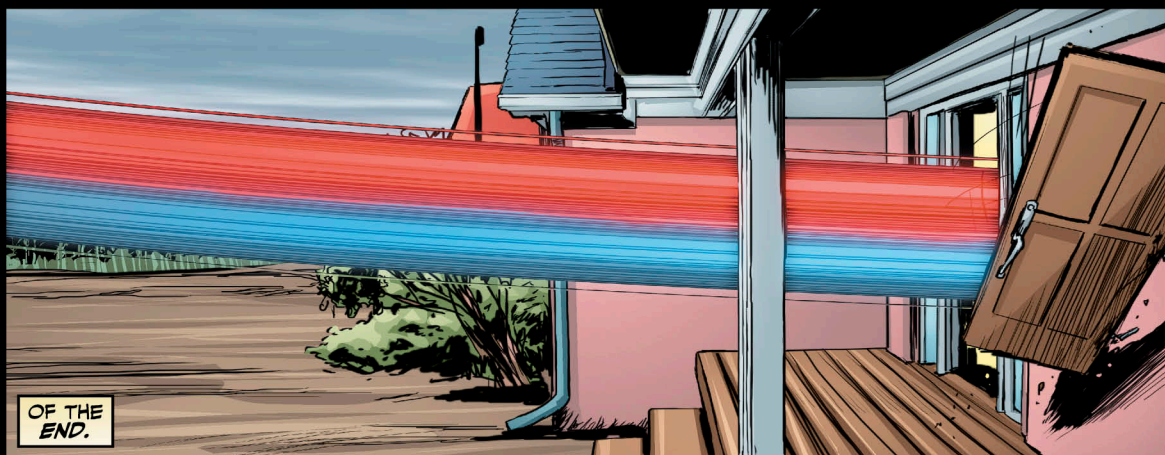


**FIVE YEARS FROM NOW.**

**SMALLVILLE, KANSAS.**



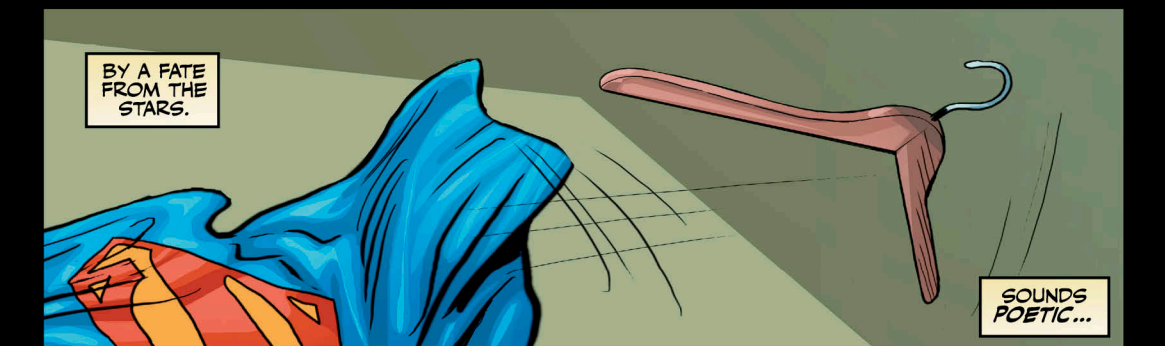
SO HERE  
WE ARE, AT THE  
BEGINNING...



OF THE  
END.



A WORLD  
CAUGHT  
UNAWARES,  
BLINDSIDED...



BY A FATE  
FROM THE  
STARS.

SOUNDS  
POETIC...

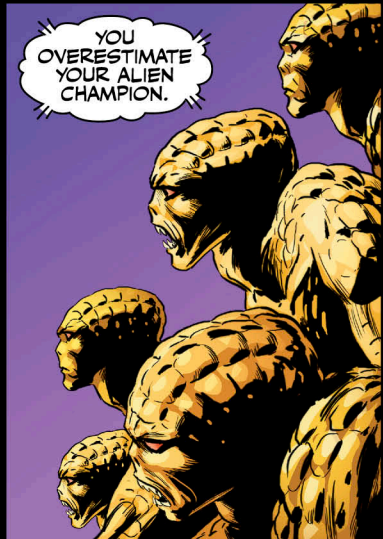




...DON' IT?

YOU ARE A FOOL, HUMAN.

AND?



YOU OVERESTIMATE YOUR ALIEN CHAMPION.



FUNNY... WASN'T THINKIN' BOUT 'IM AT ALL.

THOUGH I DO BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR WHAT 'E INSPIRES IN US WHEN WE KNOW 'E 'AS OUR BACK.



NOT THAT I'D EXPECT YOU LITTLE EARS...



TO SEE WHAT I MEAN.



YOU MOCK THE MASTER!



NAH...

SNORT



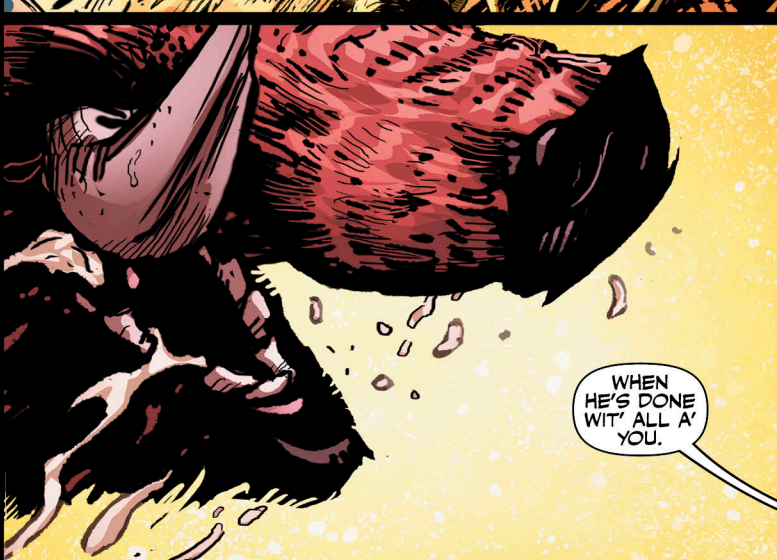


I'VE SUMMONED ME OWN.

NOW, MINE'S WHAT YOU'D CALL RAVENOUS, SO IT'S A RISK I'M TAKING.



HE VERY WELL MAY DEVOUR ME--IF HE 'AS ROOM IN THAT PIT OF A BELLY...

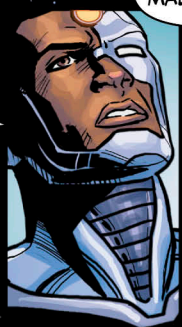


WHEN HE'S DONE WIT' ALL A' YOU.



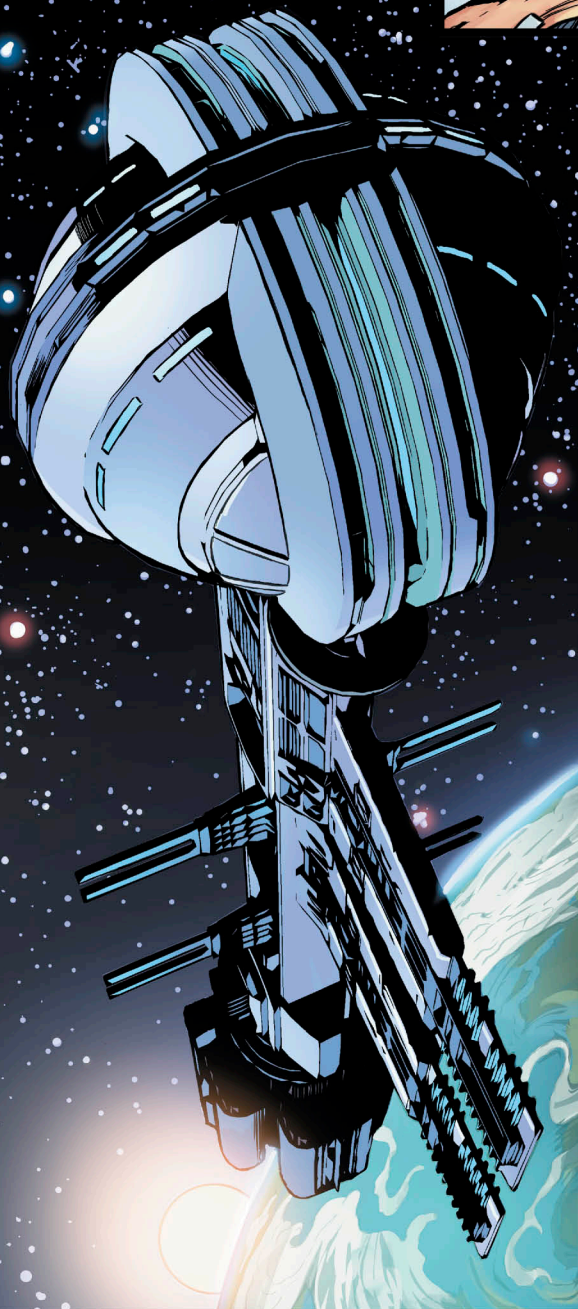
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WONDER WOMAN, OUR DEEP SPACE MONITOR SYSTEM IS GOING NUTS, BUT I STILL CAN'T FIND ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

COULD IT JUST BE A MALFUNCTION?



PLEASE DON'T TELL ME I TELEPORTED ALL THE WAY UP HERE FOR A FALSE ALARM?

IT'S NO MALFUNCTION, FLASH. ALL OUR SYSTEMS ARE WORKING PERFECTLY. I'VE INTERFACED WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE COMPUTER AND TRIPLE-CHECKED EVERYTHING MYSELF.



MAYBE IT WAS THE "NEW" FIRESTORM? HOW DO WE EVEN KNOW WE CAN TRUST HER?

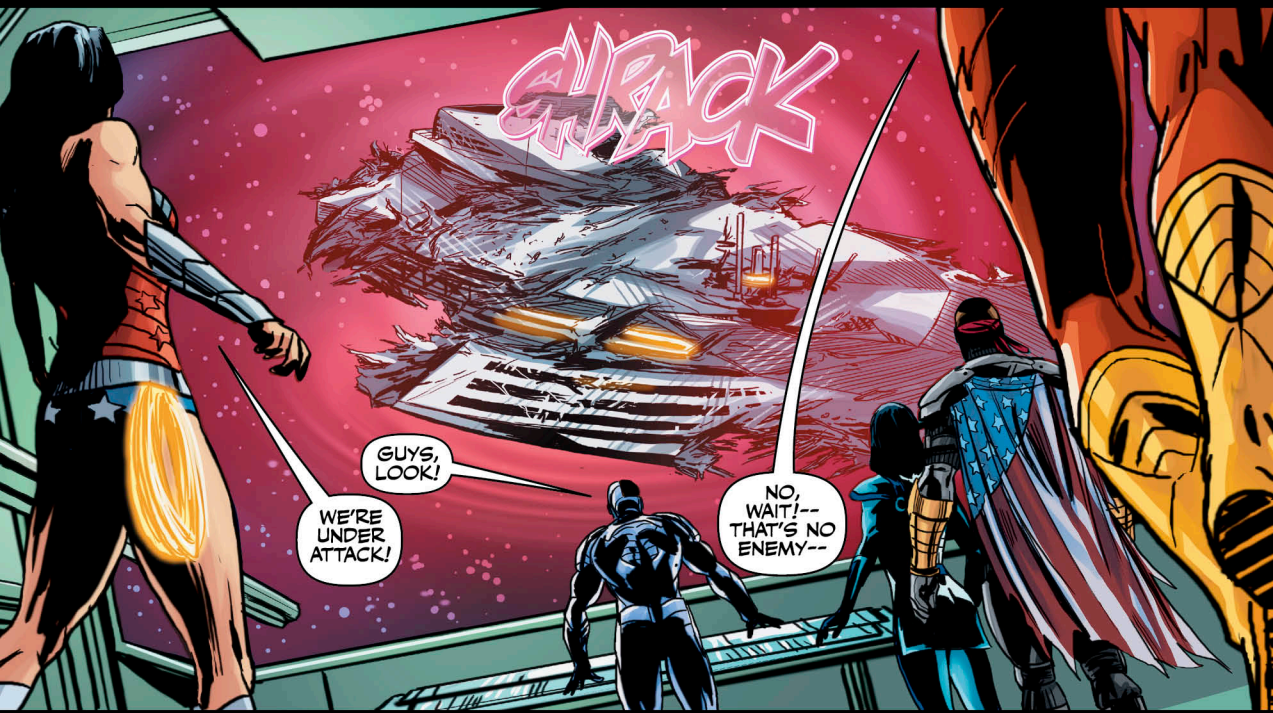
HEY!

ENOUGH, WILDFIRE-- SHE'S ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL AND SHE'S VOLUNTEERING HER HELP...WHICH WE NEED.

HUMPH!







WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

GUYS, LOOK!

NO, WAIT!-- THAT'S NO ENEMY--



STORMWATCH?!

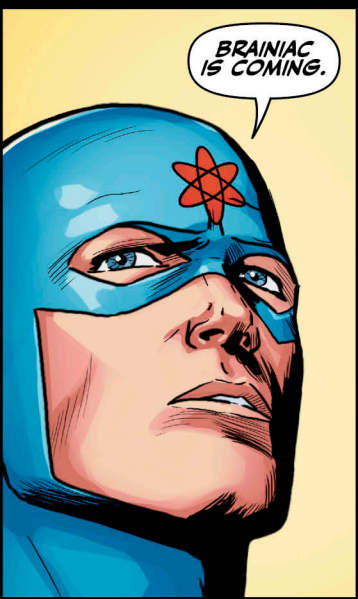
THAT'S RIGHT, CYBORG.

OR WHAT'S LEFT OF US.



RAY PALMER? OKAY, I'M LOST-- DID YOU GUYS TRIP OUR DEEP SPACE ALERT?

NO... BUT WE KNOW WHAT DID...



BRAINIAC IS COMING.



BRAINIAC? WHY WOULD THAT CREATURE TRIP ALL OF OUR ALARMS AT ONCE?