

CRUCIBLE PART 4

writers: k. perkins & mike johnson
penciller: emanuela lupacchino
inker: ray mcCarthy
colorist: hifi
letterer: rob leigh
cover: emanuela lupacchino & rico renzi
harley quinn variant cover: joe benitez & peter steigerwald
assistant editor: jeremy bent
group editor: eddie berganza

superhero based on the characters created by jerry siegel and joe schuster, by special arrangement with the jerry siegel family, superhero created by jerry siegel.

ROME, ITALY.



S I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK I'D FOUND MY PLACE AT CRUCIBLE. I WAS LEARNING NEW THINGS. MAKING NEW FRIENDS.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME CIRCUMSTANCES BEGIN TO WORK OUT FOR ME...

REALITY CATCHES UP.

I LIKE YOU, KARA ZOR-EL. I HAVE PROUDLY FOUGHT BESIDE YOU.

BUT MY MISSION IS TO BRING THE CLONE BACK TO CRUCIBLE ON THE ORDERS OF PRECEPTOR AMATA HERSELF.

ATTEMPT TO STOP ME, AND I WILL NOT HESITATE TO STOP YOU.



WHY, MAXIMA?

ROHO AND HIS FRIENDS WERE AFTER KON, TOO. WHAT DOES AMATA WANT WITH HIM?



I DO NOT KNOW. AMATA'S WORD IS ALL I NEED.

WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY DEFENDING THE CLONE?

STOP CALLING HIM THAT. HE HAS A NAME.

AH, YES. "KON"-- OR SHOULD I SAY "ABOMINATION."

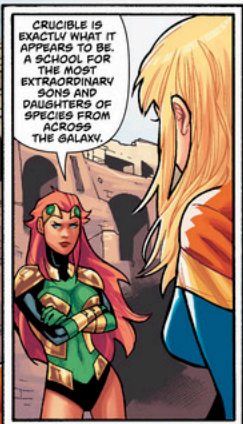
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOUR PEOPLE CALLED CLONES? I'VE READ THE KRYPTONIAN HISTORIES. AND YET HERE YOU ARE REFUSING TO HAND THIS ONE OVER TO ME.


IT'S TRUE, KARA. YOU HAVE CALLED ME THAT.

THAT WAS... BEFORE. I KNOW YOU BETTER NOW. KON HAS A NEW MEANING FOR ME.

AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT CRUCIBLE IS ABOUT.


CRUCIBLE IS EXACTLY WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE. A SCHOOL FOR THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SPECIES FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY.





I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT, BUT WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL SENDS ITS STUDENTS INTO LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLES TO EDUCATE THEM? AND WHAT DID ROHO MEAN WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT "A GREATER WAR"?

ARE WE STUDENTS OF CRUCIBLE, OR ITS SOLDIERS?



YOU PRESUME THE TWO ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR DEBATE.

STEP ASIDE, KARA.



I ALREADY TOLD YOU--

KARA, WAIT. I APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING OUT FOR ME, BUT IT'S MY CHOICE.

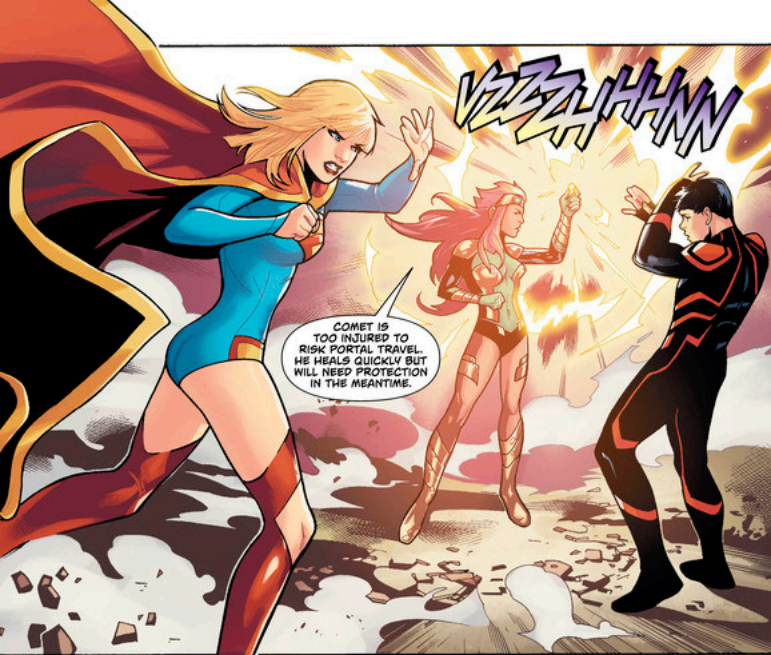
I'M GOING WITH HER.



KON, NO! YOU BELONG HERE, ON--

DO I, KARA? DO I REALLY BELONG ON EARTH? I'VE BEEN ASKING MYSELF THAT SAME QUESTION.

MAYBE VISITING THIS "CRUCIBLE" WON'T PROVIDE THE ANSWERS I'M LOOKING FOR, BUT I'M WILLING TO FIND OUT.



COMET IS TOO INJURED TO RISK PORTAL TRAVEL. HE HEALS QUICKLY BUT WILL NEED PROTECTION IN THE MEANTIME.

VZZZHHNN



THEN I'LL TEND TO HIM.

BUT *PROMISE* ME KON WON'T BE HARMED, MAXIMA.



I CAN ONLY ASSURE YOU THAT I TRUST PRECEPTOR AMATA. I BELIEVE IN HER COMMITMENT TO PEACE, KARA.

YOU SHOULD TOO.



TAKE THE PORTAL KEY. WHEN COMET IS READY, USE IT TO RETURN TO CRUCIBLE.

