

THE WORLD
ARMY WAS BROKEN.
EARTH'S GREATEST
HEROES WERE
DEFEATED, AND WE
WERE MAKING OUR
FINAL STAND.

TOMMY WAS
SCARED.

WHAT KID
WOULDN'T
BE?

IT'S GONNA
BE ALL RIGHT,
TOMMY. NO MATTER
WHAT, WE'RE GOING
TO GET THROUGH
THIS.

TOGETHER,
RIGHT, DAD?

FACED WITH A
TERRIBLE CHOICE, I
MADE ONE PARENTS
MAKE ALL THE TIME.

I LIED TO
MY SON.

I LIED TO MY SON
TO PROTECT HIM.
OR TO CONVINC
MYSELF I COULD.

WHAT ELSE
COULD I DO?

TELL HIM THE BEST OF
MY GENERATION WERE
CRUSHED, AND THE BEST
WE COULD HOPE FOR--



--WAS A QUICK AND PAINLESS DEATH?

YEP, TOGETHER.

JUST AS SOON AS WE USE MOM'S NUMBER TO GET US A PRIORITY SEAT ON THE NEXT ESCAPE SHIP.

STAY BACK!

APOKOLIPS IS COMING! PLEASE!

YOU HAVE TO HELP US!

HELP US, PLEASE!

THIS GUY SAYS HE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT.

MY WIFE, BARBARA GORDON, IS. I'M HER HUSBAND. THIS IS HER SON.

SORRY, IF SHE'S NOT HERE, YOU CAN'T BOARD.

HEY, COME ON, SHE WAS *KILLED* IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

IF SHE'S NOT PRESENT, NEITHER IS HER PRIORITY. MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE LINE!

THAT'S A DEATH SENTENCE AND YOU KNOW IT!

I'VE SEEN THOSE THINGS CLOSE UP.



THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. STEP BACK.

WHAT'S WRONG, DAD?

LOOK UP THERE--



THE SHIPS!

THEY'RE LEAVING!!!

YOU NEED TO LET US THROUGH!!!

STAY BACK-- STAY BACK OR WE SHOOT--I'M WARNING YOU!!!



KEEP THOSE PEOPLE BACK OR WE'LL BE OVERRUN!



YOU GOTTA TAKE MY SON, PLEASE--!

SIR, STEP BACK OR I WILL PUT YOU BACK NOW!

HALT OR WE WILL FIRE!



**K-POW
KPOWW**

YAHHH!!



MY GOD, THEY'RE SHOOTING PEOPLE!

HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?



GIVE ME THE BOY. HURRY!

MA'AM, THESE GATES ARE CLOSED.

NOT TO ME.

HURRY! HE WILL BE SAFE WITH ME.

GO WITH HER, TOMMY. I'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE. GO!



I HATED MYSELF IN THAT MOMENT.

I LOVE YOU, TOMMY.

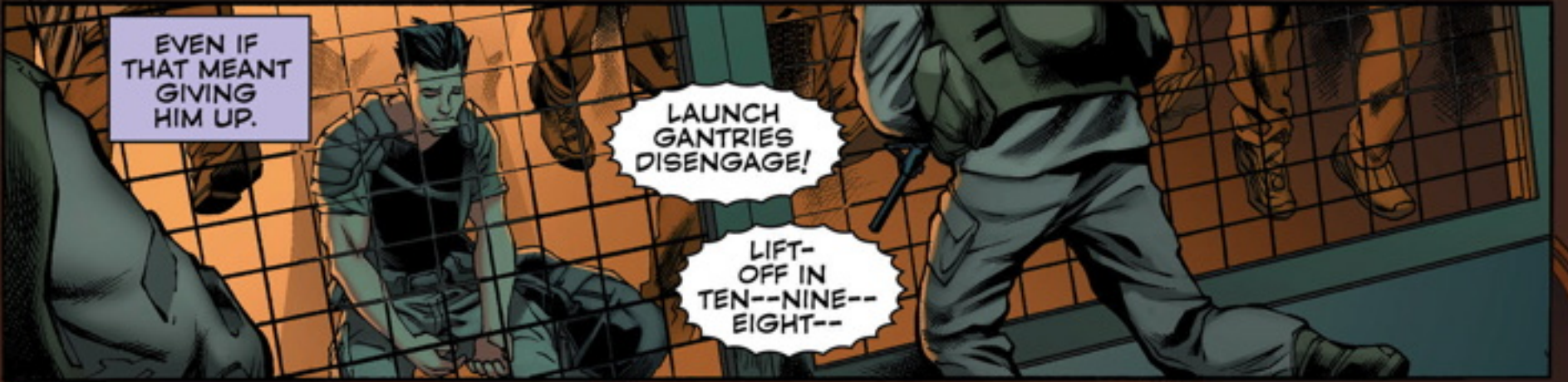
DAD, DON'T LET HER TAKE ME. I WANT TO STAY!

BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?



I GAVE BARBARA MY WORD.

DON'T LOOK BACK, BOY. HURRY, THERE ISN'T TIME!



EVEN IF THAT MEANT GIVING HIM UP.

LAUNCH GANTRIES DISENGAGE!

LIFT-OFF IN TEN--NINE--EIGHT--



IS MY DAD GOING TO BE OKAY?

YES, NOW HURRY!



WE TELL OURSELVES LIES SO WE CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT.

THE LAST THING I SAW WAS TOMMY'S SHIP LIFTING OFF--


BOOM!




BUT THEY NEVER MADE ORBIT.



THE SKIES OPENED UP AS APOKOLIPS SWALLOWED EARTH AND BEGAN TO FEED.




DARKSEID'S PARADEMON ARMY Poured OUT UNTIL THEIR BODIES BLOCKED THE SUN.




BATMAN AND FLASH WERE MAKING A LAST STAND AGAINST KALIBAK, TRYING TO BUY US TIME--

--WHILE SUPERMAN AND GREEN LANTERN WENT TOE TO TOE WITH DARKSEID HIMSELF.

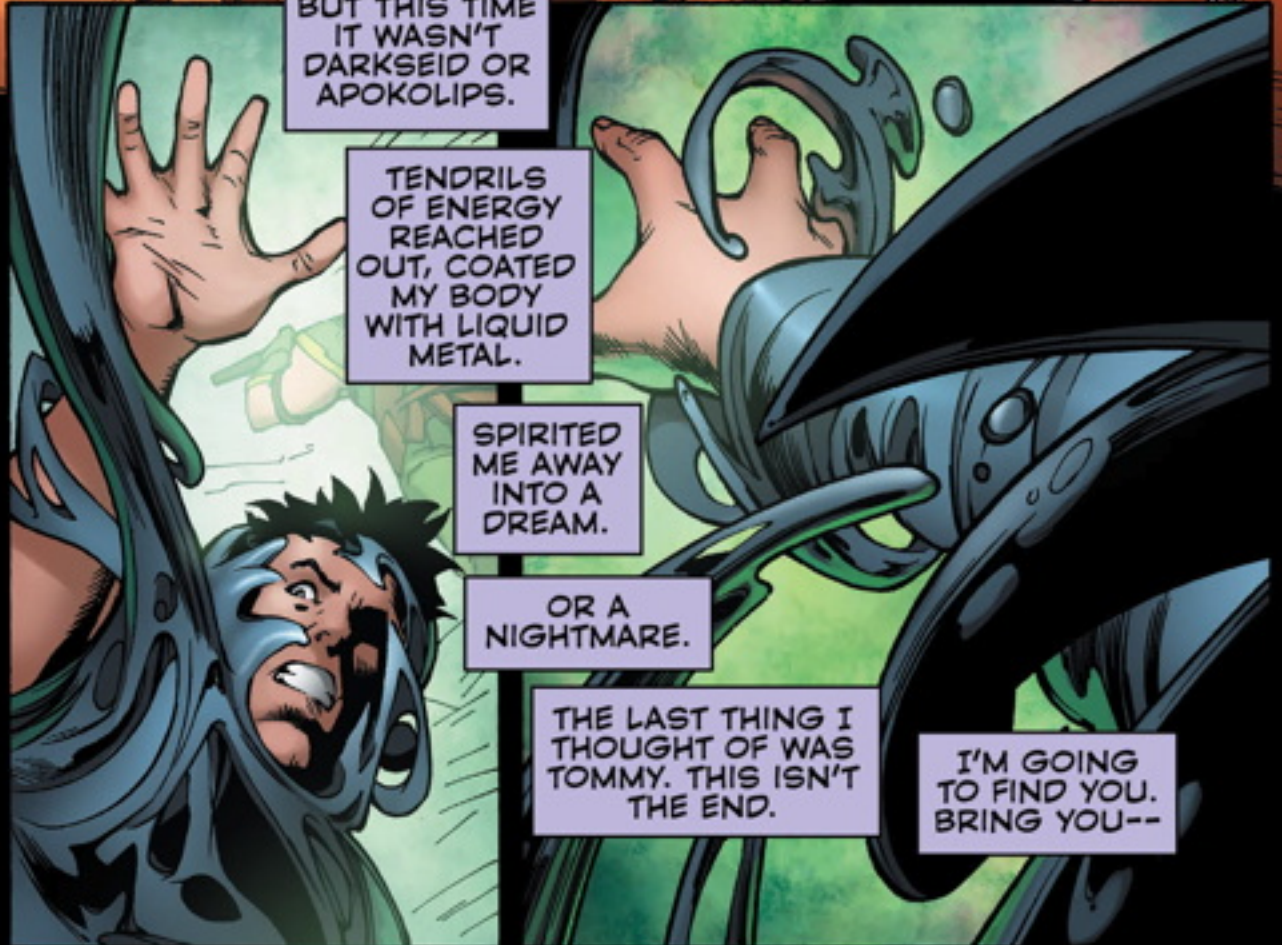


I WAS HELPING SURVIVORS--

AND TRYING TO HOOK UP WITH BATMAN AT THE FORWARD GUN BATTERY--



WHEN THE SKY OPENED AGAIN.



BUT THIS TIME IT WASN'T DARKSEID OR APOKOLIPS.

TENDRILS OF ENERGY REACHED OUT, COATED MY BODY WITH LIQUID METAL.

SPIRITED ME AWAY INTO A DREAM.

OR A NIGHTMARE.

THE LAST THING I THOUGHT OF WAS TOMMY. THIS ISN'T THE END.

I'M GOING TO FIND YOU. BRING YOU--