

THE SCARAB IS GONE?

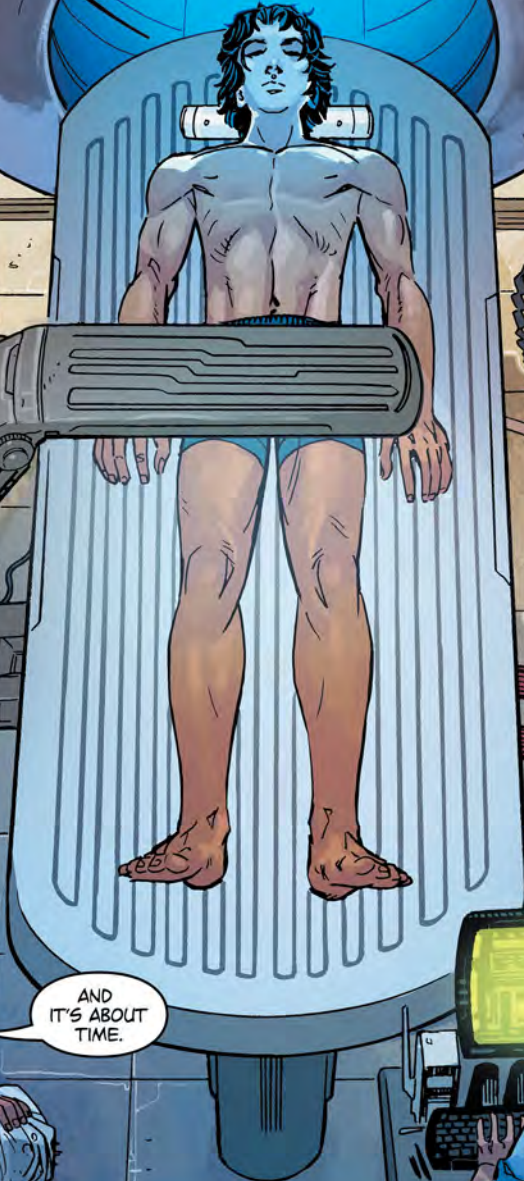
IS IT GONE GONE--OR IS IT GONNA COME BACK?

LOOKS THAT WAY.

BEST I CAN TELL ARION TORE IT RIGHT OUT OF YOU--AND TORE APART YOUR BOND ALONG WITH IT.*

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER FELT PAIN LIKE THAT.

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS-- YOU'RE FINALLY FREE.

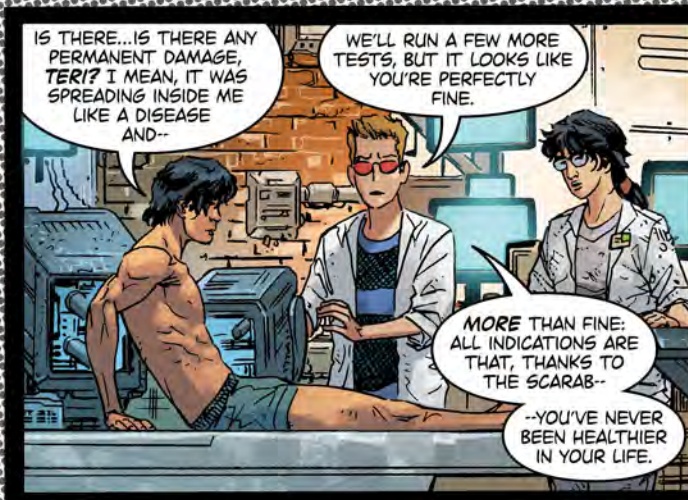


Bluebeetle
IS DEAD--

--LONG LIVE JAIME REYES!

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME.



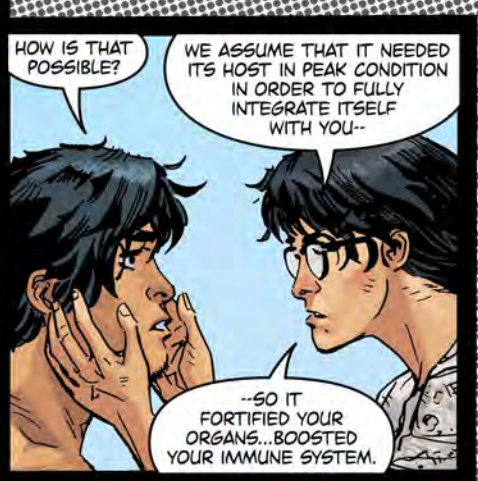


IS THERE...IS THERE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE, TERI? I MEAN, IT WAS SPREADING INSIDE ME LIKE A DISEASE AND--

WE'LL RUN A FEW MORE TESTS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE.

MORE THAN FINE: ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT, THANKS TO THE SCARAB--

--YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HEALTHIER IN YOUR LIFE.



HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WE ASSUME THAT IT NEEDED ITS HOST IN PEAK CONDITION IN ORDER TO FULLY INTEGRATE ITSELF WITH YOU--

--SO IT FORTIFIED YOUR ORGANS...BOOSTED YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM.



THAT'S A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

A GOOD THING? JAIME--THAT DAMN SCARAB WAS OVERWRITING YOU LIKE SOME KIND OF COMPUTER VIRUS!

IT WAS GOING TO ERASE YOU FROM EXISTENCE!

WE DON'T KNOW THAT, MOM.

YOU'RE DEFENDING THAT THING?

WHAT? NO, I'M JUST--I DUNNO.

MAYBE I'M IN SHOCK OR SOMETHING. I MEAN, ONE SECOND I WAS IN THOSE TUNNELS AND THE NEXT I WAS HERE AND--



YOU AND KORD WERE LUCKY TO GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE.

COME ON, BLANCA--IT WASN'T THAT BAD.

WELL, TO BE HONEST, IT WAS HORRIBLE.

AND IT COULD GET EVEN WORSE, TED, FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, DOCTOR FATE AND THAT ARION--THING--



--EACH HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO WIPE THIS ENTIRE CITY OFF THE MAP.

IT'S NOT GONNA COME TO THAT.

OH, REALLY? AND WHEN DID YOU DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE?

MOM--



DOCTOR FATE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SORCERERS ON THE PLANET. IF ANYONE CAN DEFEAT ARION--

--WHOEVER THE HELL HE IS--

--FATE'S THE ONE.

MY RESEARCH INDICATES THAT ARION WAS ONCE A LORD OF ATLANTIS.

ATLANTIS--AS IN AQUAMAN?



YES. EXCEPT THAT THIS WAS APPROXIMATELY 45,000 BC AND IT WAS ON LAND THEN.

I'M VERY THOROUGH.

AND YOU FOUND THIS OUT WHERE? GOOGLE?

SOMETIMES, TERI, I WONDER ABOUT YOU.

WORRY ABOUT HER LATER. IT'S MY SON THAT NEEDS US RIGHT NOW.



HE SEEMS TO BE DOING FINE, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

YOU OKAY, KID?

I THINK SO--

--BUT, TED-- THIS ARION...FROM WHAT I OVERHEARD, HE'S THE ONE BEHIND ALL THE WEIRDNESS THAT'S BEEN GOING DOWN AROUND THE CITY!



THE ABDUCTIONS! ORDINARY PEOPLE TRANSFORMED INTO METAHUMANS! TURNING INTO MONSTERS!

WE'VE GOTTA GET BACK DOWN THERE AND--

TAKE A DEEP BREATH, KID. YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART. THE REST IS UP TO FATE.

BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN TRUST FATE! HE'S--



FATE'S AN ARROGANT, SOULLESS S.O.B.--

--BUT HE'S RISKED HIS LIFE A THOUSAND TIMES OVER PROTECTING HUMANITY FROM THREATS LIKE THIS.

OR SO THE LEGEND GOES.

YOU DON'T TRUST HIM EITHER?



I'VE LEARNED, FIRSTHAND, THAT LEGENDS AREN'T ALWAYS ACCURATE.

WHICH MEANS WE NEED TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON DOCTOR FATE.

AND HOW DO WE DO THAT? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MAGIC HERE, TERI. SOMETHING NONE OF US IS EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH.

WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET EQUIPPED, MR. SUPERHERO!



FORMER SUPERHERO.

I DIDN'T JUST GET MY SON BACK...

"...ONLY TO SEE EVERYONE I LOVE ANNIHILATED IN SOME KIND OF COSMIC WAR!"

THE MORTALS ABOVE SUSTAINED ME! THE SCARAB STRENGTHENED ME! BUT YOU, FATE--MADE ME WHOLE!

AT LONG LAST--ARION IS RISEN!

WOE UNTO THE WORLD!

TRANS FORMATIONS

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT:*
THE REUNION OF ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS IN COMIC BOOK HISTORY**...

KEITH GIFFEN
PLOT
J.M. DEMATTEIS
SCRIPT
SCOTT KOLINS
ART
ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
COLORS
JOSH REED
LETTERS
ROB LEVIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR
JIM CHADWICK
BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST
PLAYBOY

*ACTUALLY GIFFEN DEMANDED IT--AND EVERYONE'S SO TERRIFIED OF HIM THEY COULDN'T SAY NO!

**FAKE NEWS! SAD!

BOOM



YOU MANIPULATED ME!
SIPHONED OFF MY OWN
SORCEROUS ENERGIES TO
COMPLETE YOUR UNHOLY
RESURRECTION
PROCESS!

AND
YOU NEVER EVEN
REALIZED IT!

NOW YOU STAND
BEFORE THE LORD OF
ATLANTIS--WEAKENED,
HUMILIATED--
--AND
READY TO
DIE!

NOT AS
READY AS
YOU MAY
BELIEVE!

I DEFEATED
YOU AGES AGO--
AND I SHALL DO
SO AGAIN!

THE ARION
YOU FACED
IN BATTLE THEN
WAS A CONFUSED
FOOL--WHO STILL
HAD EMBERS OF
COMPASSION
BURNING IN
HIS HEART!

BUT THAT
MAN IS LONG
DEAD! I STAND
BEFORE YOU
REAWAKENED!
REBORN!



I SEE MYSELF...
I SEE THE WORLD...
WITH NEW EYES!

AH, BUT
WHAT ABOUT YOUR
EYES, DOCTOR? THEY
ARE, AFTER ALL, THE
WINDOWS TO THE
SOUL!

ZAKKWT



"BUT YOU HAVE NO
SOUL, DO YOU? WHAT
YOU HAVE--IS HIM!
KENT NELSON--



--WHO HAS BEEN AS
MUCH YOUR PUPPET AS
THE REYES BOY HAS
BEEN THE SCARAB'S!

AAAAHH--!!

"BUT NOW I
REACH THROUGH
YOU TO HIM--

--AND CUT THE
PUPPET'S STRINGS!
HE FALLS--AND THE
PUPPETEER--"