

"I'M AFRAID..."

↑ THAT'S SOMETHING I HEAR TOO OFTEN THESE DAYS.

I'M AFRAID OF THE DROUGHT.



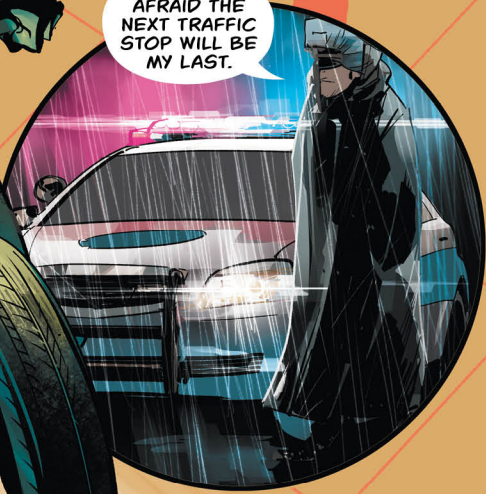
I'M AFRAID OF BUDGET CUTS AND OVERCROWDING.



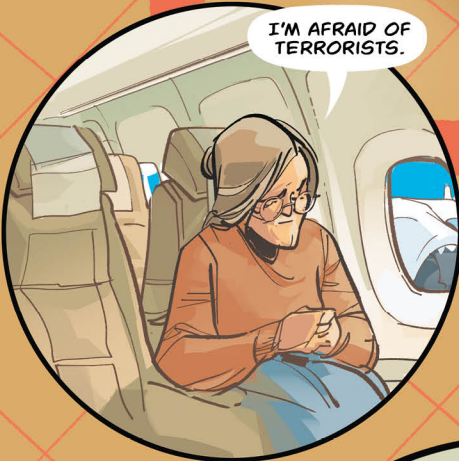
I'M AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFRAID OF ME.



I'M AFRAID THE NEXT TRAFFIC STOP WILL BE MY LAST.



I'M AFRAID OF TERRORISTS.



I'M AFRAID THE FACTORY'S GONNA CLOSE.



I'M AFRAID OF THE PRESIDENT.



SOMEWHERE IN NEVADA.

FOOSH

I'M AFRAID, TOO.

NOT OF PRISON, NOT OF DEATH.

MY ENEMIES CAN SHAME ME AND HURT ME ALL THEY WANT.

I'LL KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE.

BUT I AM AFRAID FOR MY HOME, SEATTLE...

TWANG

THAK

SQUAZZ

BOOSH

...WHICH HAS BEEN STRATEGICALLY BANKRUPTED, BAILED OUT AND REBRANDED AS STAR CITY.

KRLNCH

THE NINTH CIRCLE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

SKREEEE

A BLACK BANK. A NIGHT VAULT RUN BY THOSE WHO MEAN TO UNDERMINE AND DISRUPT AND CONTROL.

AND THEIR PLANS ARE NATIONAL.

CHOOM

THERE ARE FIFTY STARS ON THE FLAG, AND THEY WANT TO STITCH THEIR INFLUENCE INTO EVERY STATE IN THE UNION.

AREA 51
RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING

SO WHEN I SAY I'M AFRAID FOR MY HOME...

...IT REALLY MEANS I'M AFRAID FOR THIS COUNTRY.

I'M AFRAID.

WE'RE ALL AFRAID.

AND THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T RECOGNIZE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY.

IT FEELS... ALIEN.

Hard-Traveling **HERO** PART 5

CONSTELLATION OF FEAR

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HEARD YOU NEEDED A LIFT?



YOU LOOK DIFFERENT...

BEEN A LONG TIME.

DYE YOUR HAIR OR SOMETHING?

YOU TRY EATING A PORCUPINE AND GIVE UP?

NICE JOB BACK THERE, BY THE WAY. FIRING ARROWS OFF THE BACK OF A BIKE IS PROBABLY AS TECHNICAL AS FIRING A MISSILE AT MACH 2.

YOU SAW THAT? I'M GLAD ME ALMOST DYING WAS ENTERTAINING FOR YOU! THANKS FOR THE HELP.

FAR AS I RECALL, YOU'VE NEVER NEEDED ANYONE'S HELP.

FROM ONE COCKY BASTARD TO ANOTHER, THAT'S CHANGED.

YOU SAY SO.

I'M HERE, AREN'T I?

THAT'S SOMETHING. NO DOUBT. WE ALL KNOW YOU PREFER TO STICK TO YOUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE. THE BIG FISH IN THE SMALL POND OF SEATTLE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU GUYS THINK OF ME, HUH? WELL, SEATTLE'S DEAD.

GUESS I'M THE LITTLE FISH IN THE BIG POND. BUT I'VE GOT ONE HELL OF A BITE.

SO YOU'RE-- WHAT? ON SOME SOUL-SEARCHING QUEST ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

AGAIN?



NEED YOUR *HELP*, HAL. NOT YOUR *JUDGMENT*. SO I JUST WANT TO BURY ANY BAD FEELINGS RIGHT HERE. I'VE CHANGED.

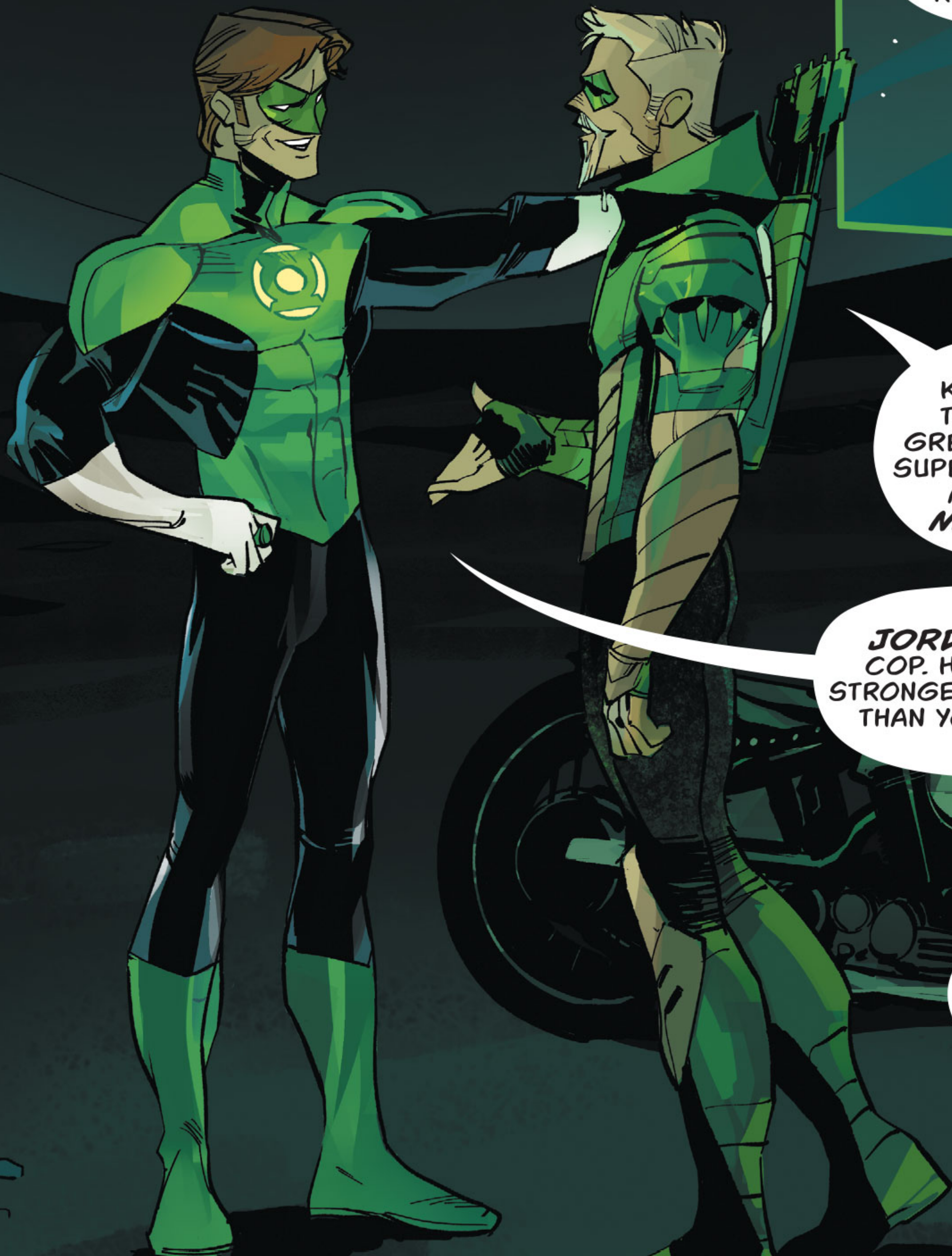
NO MORE HOT-HEADED OLLIE?

STILL GOT A HOT HEAD, JUST LESS OF A DUMB ASS.



ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED...I FEEL LIKE WE NEED TO GET PROPERLY REINTRODUCED.

I'M *OLIVER QUEEN*...

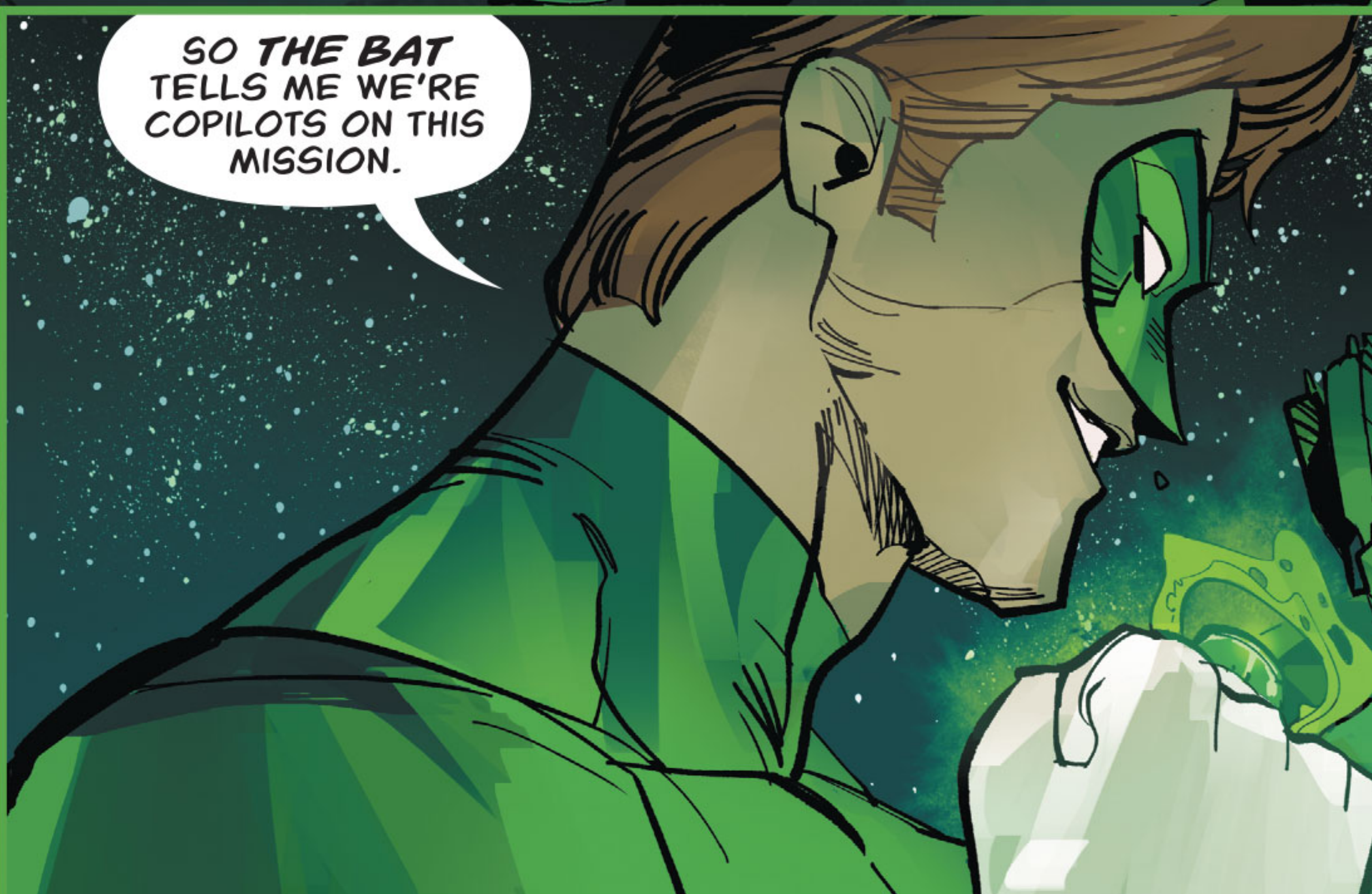


...ALSO KNOWN AS THE *ONLY* GREEN-THEMED SUPERHERO WHO ACTUALLY *MATTERS*.

HAL JORDAN. SPACE COP. HANDSOMER, STRONGER AND COOLER THAN YOU'LL *EVER* BE.

YOU SOUND LIKE MY KIND OF JERK. GOOD TO MEET YOU.

ALL OVER AGAIN.



SO *THE BAT* TELLS ME WE'RE COPILOTS ON THIS MISSION.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WOULD HAVE INSISTED ON MY OWN TRICKED-OUT SPACE SUIT--RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE, DESIGNED BY QUEEN INDUSTRIES-- BUT...

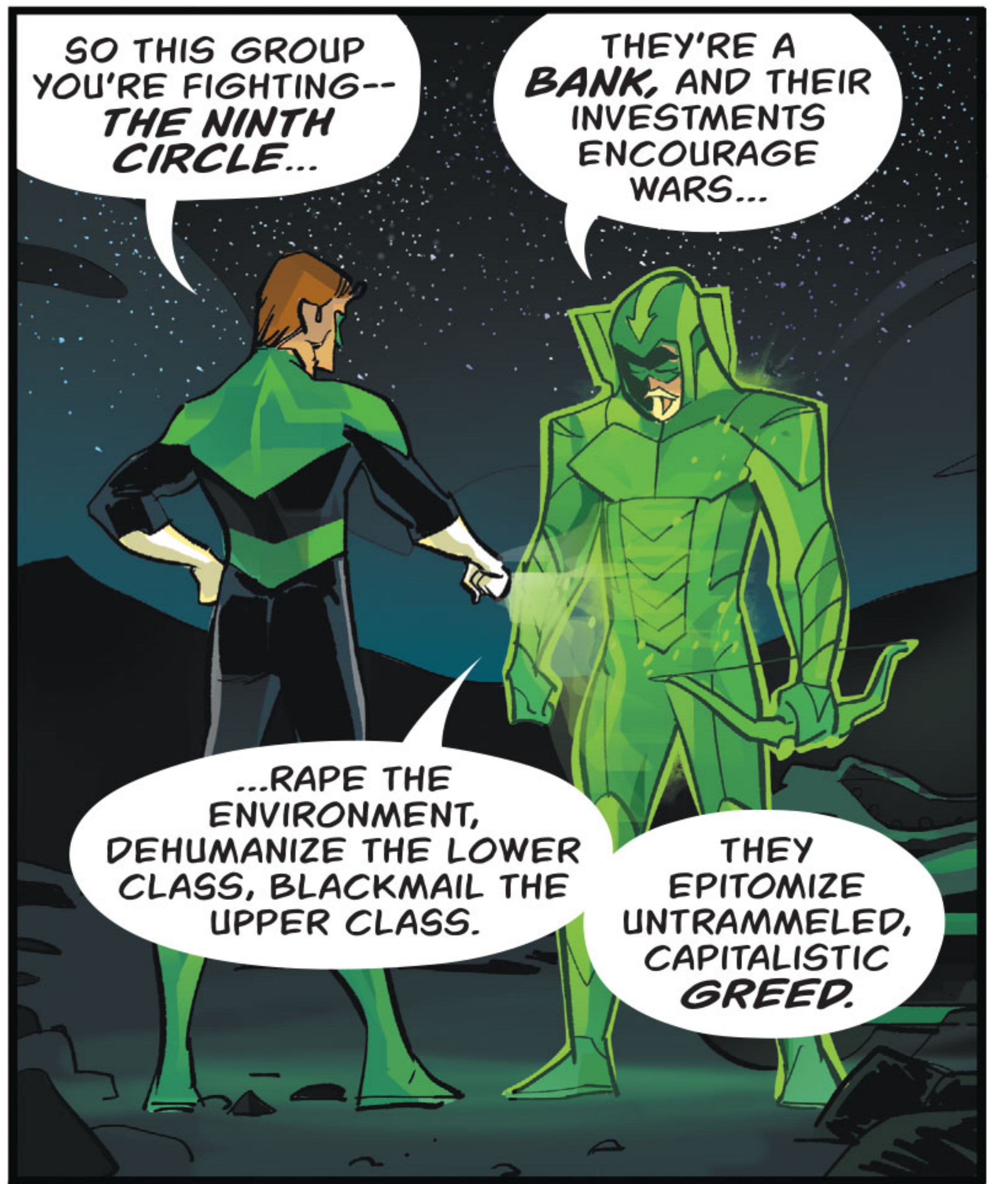
...I'M *BROKE*.



I GOT THIS.

JUST DON'T SNEEZE OR GET DISTRACTED AND ACCIDENTALLY SEND ME SPIRALING INTO DEEP SPACE.

OH, IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WON'T BE AN ACCIDENT.



SO THIS GROUP YOU'RE FIGHTING-- THE NINTH CIRCLE...

THEY'RE A BANK, AND THEIR INVESTMENTS ENCOURAGE WARS...

...RAPE THE ENVIRONMENT, DEHUMANIZE THE LOWER CLASS, BLACKMAIL THE UPPER CLASS.

THEY EPITOMIZE UNTRAMMELED, CAPITALISTIC GREED.



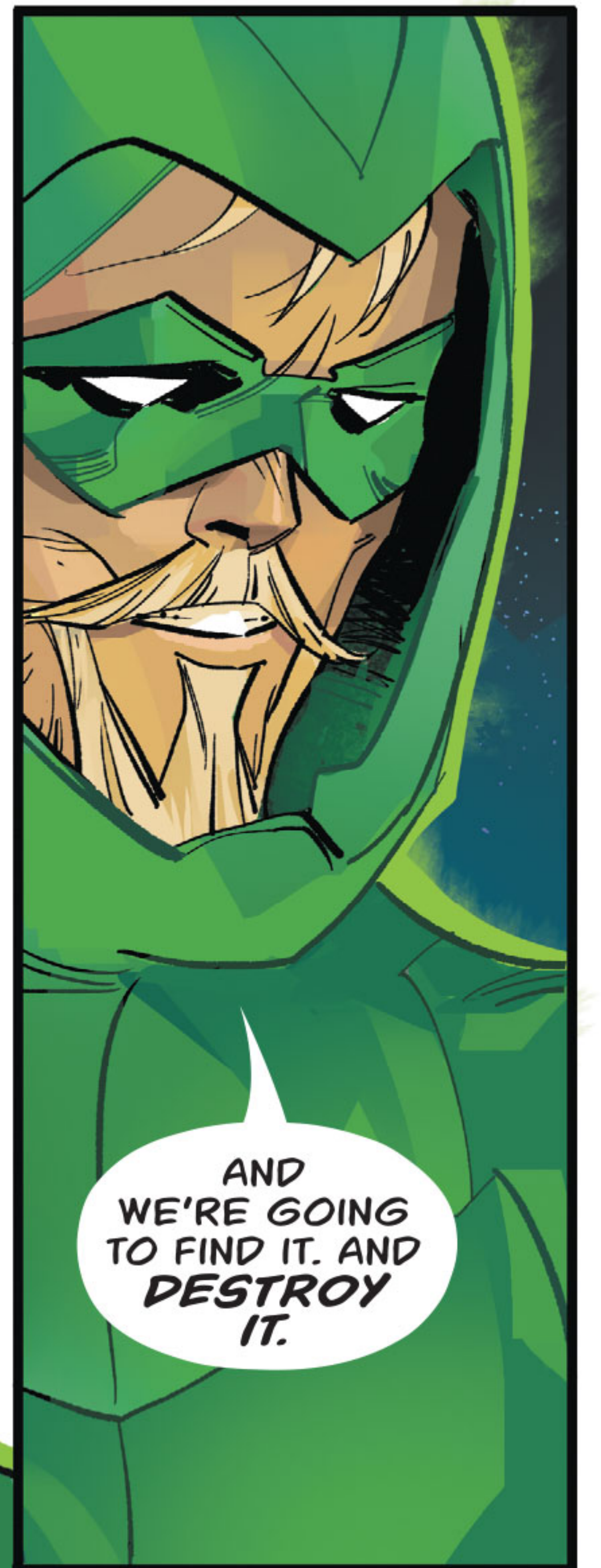
SO I HEAR, BUT HOW DO THEY DO IT? HOW ARE THEY EVERYWHERE, WITH THEIR HOOKS IN EVERYONE?



AN EYE IN THE SKY. AN ORBITAL SPACE STATION FROM WHICH THEY SPY, CHEAT AND STEAL FROM TARGETS AROUND THE WORLD.

I REALLY DON'T LIKE THESE GUYS ALREADY.

IT'S THE ULTIMATE PRIVACY INVADER AND CORRUPTION MACHINE.



AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT. AND DESTROY IT.

SO... HOW ARE WE GOING TO BLAST OFF?

I'D RATHER NOT GO FOR A PIGGYBACK RIDE, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU. CAN YOU DREAM US UP A SHIP?

I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT...

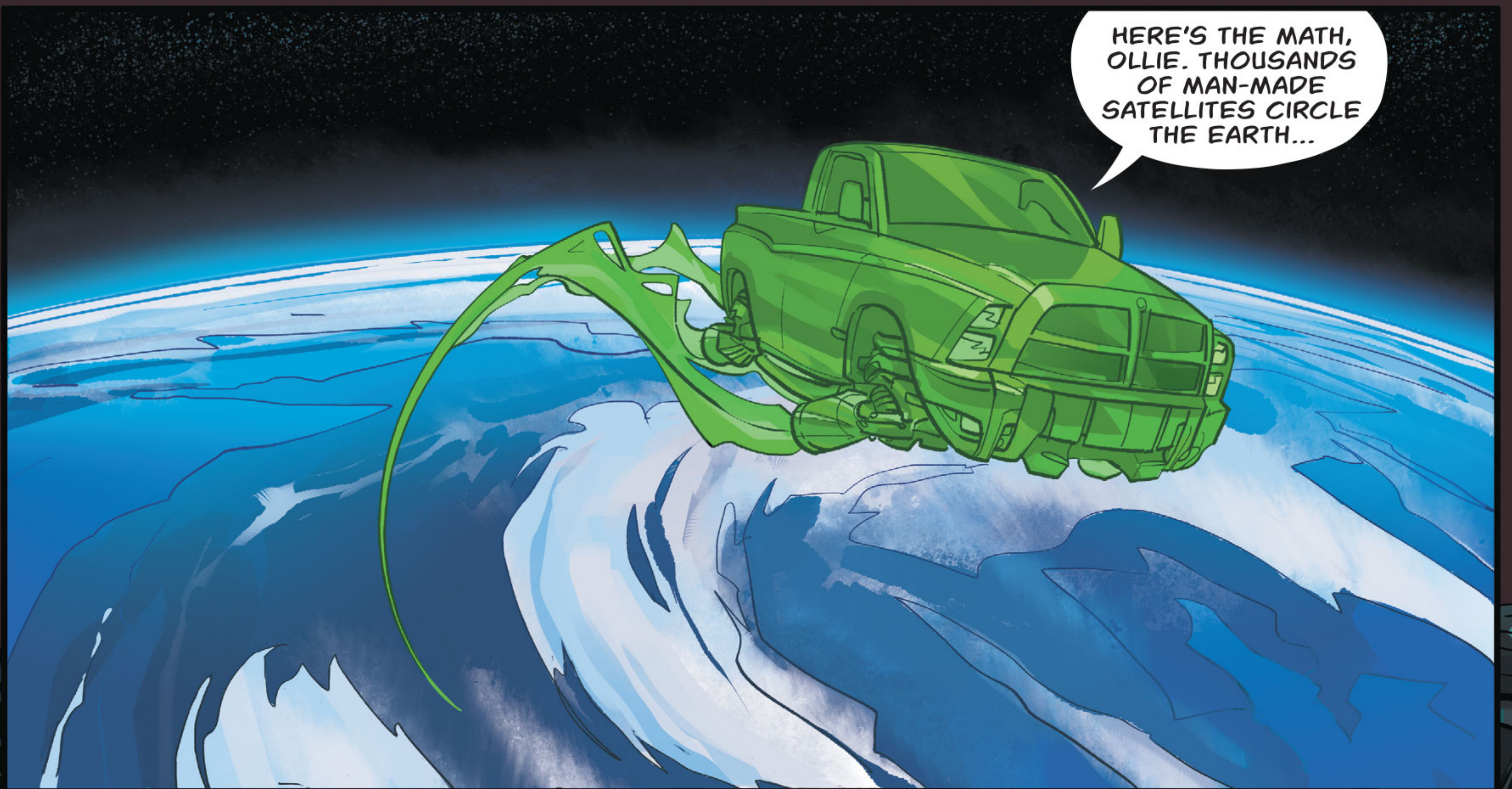


NICE.

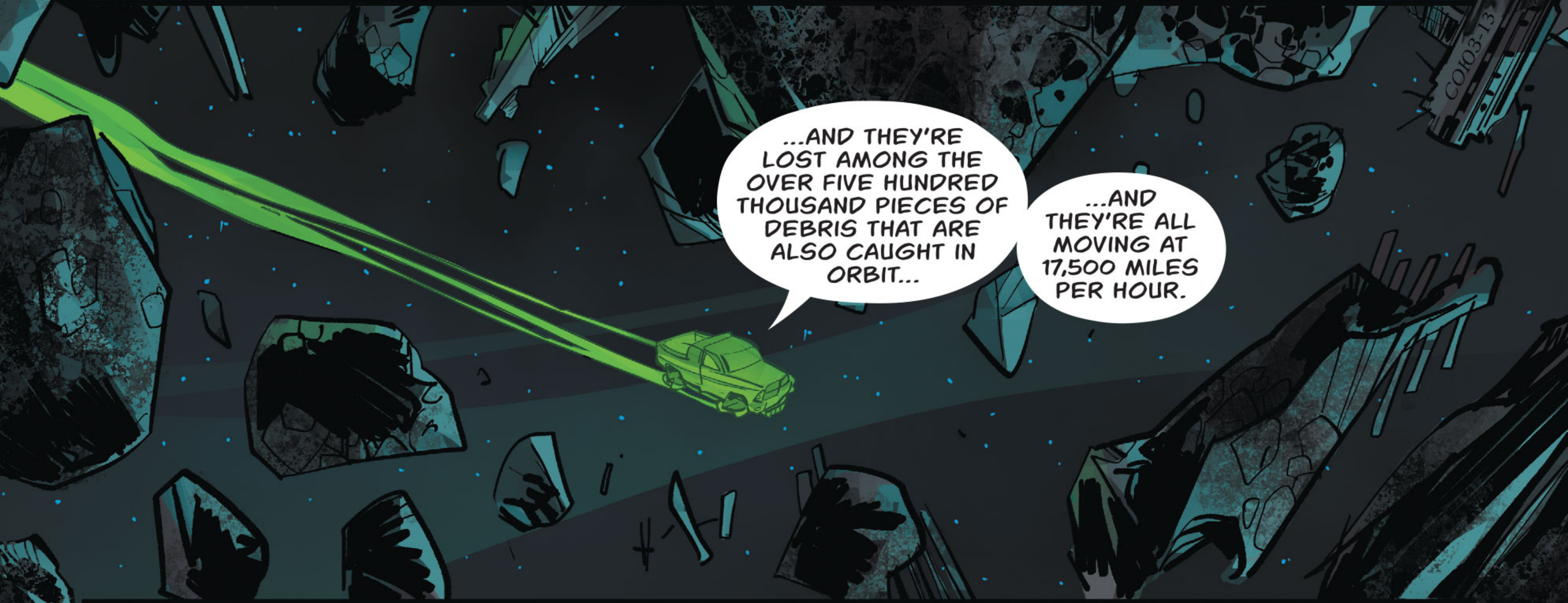


YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE WE'RE GOING, DO YOU?

JUST TAKE ME TO THE ONE THAT SAYS "QUEEN INDUSTRIES" ON IT.



HERE'S THE MATH,
OLLIE. THOUSANDS
OF MAN-MADE
SATELLITES CIRCLE
THE EARTH...



...AND THEY'RE
LOST AMONG THE
OVER FIVE HUNDRED
THOUSAND PIECES OF
DEBRIS THAT ARE
ALSO CAUGHT IN
ORBIT...

...AND
THEY'RE ALL
MOVING AT
17,500 MILES
PER HOUR.



THIS
IS GOING TO
BE HARDER
THAN I THOUGHT,
ISN'T IT?