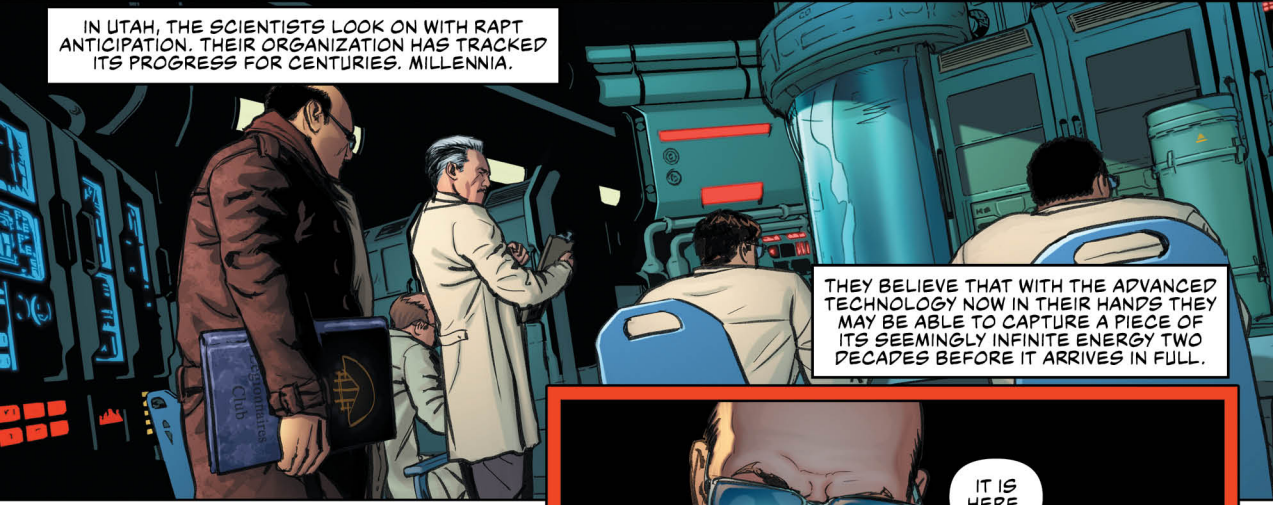


THE YEAR IS 1988.

HIGH ABOVE THE UNITED STATES, THE **STELLARON-5** HANGS IN GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT. DRINKING IN RADIATION FROM DEEP SPACE.

WAITING.

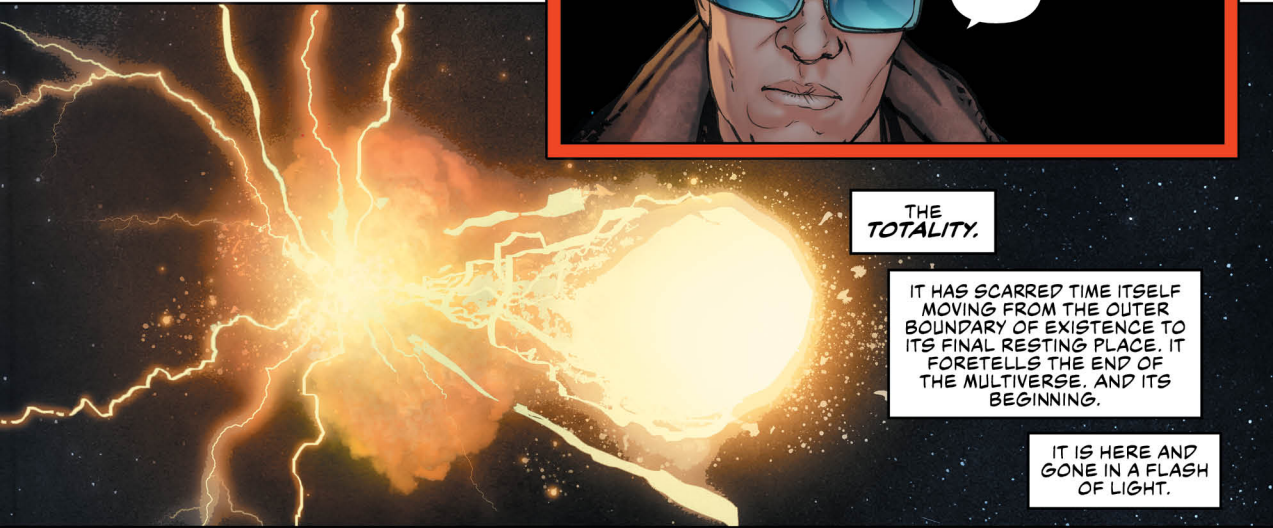
IN UTAH, THE SCIENTISTS LOOK ON WITH RAPT ANTICIPATION. THEIR ORGANIZATION HAS TRACKED ITS PROGRESS FOR CENTURIES. MILLENNIA.



THEY BELIEVE THAT WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY NOW IN THEIR HANDS THEY MAY BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A PIECE OF ITS SEEMINGLY INFINITE ENERGY TWO DECADES BEFORE IT ARRIVES IN FULL.



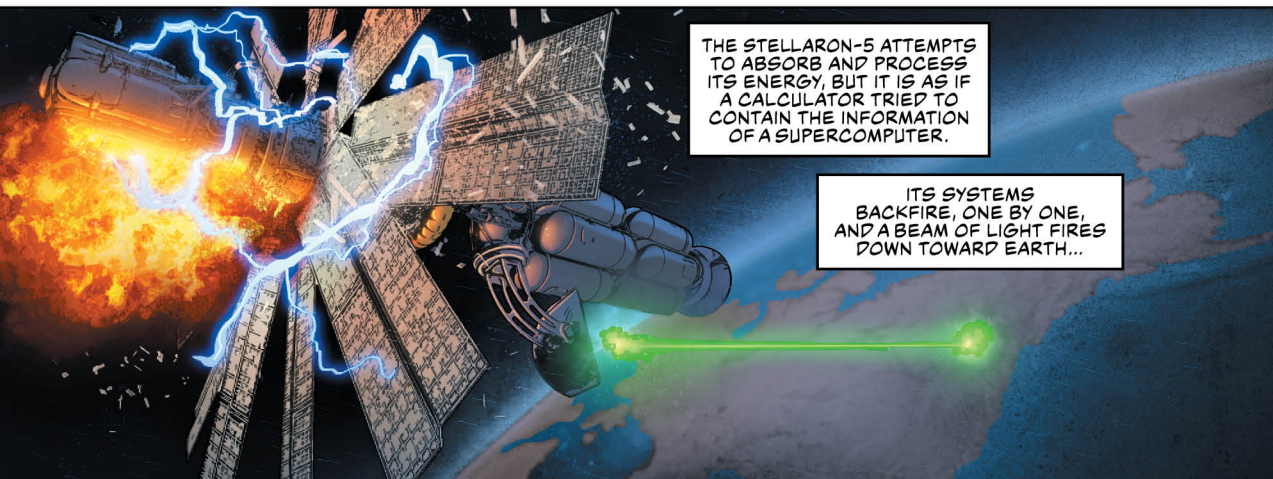
IT IS HERE.



THE **TOTALITY.**

IT HAS SCARRED TIME ITSELF MOVING FROM THE OUTER BOUNDARY OF EXISTENCE TO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE. IT FORETELLS THE END OF THE MULTIVERSE. AND ITS BEGINNING.

IT IS HERE AND GONE IN A FLASH OF LIGHT.



THE **STELLARON-5** ATTEMPTS TO ABSORB AND PROCESS ITS ENERGY, BUT IT IS AS IF A CALCULATOR TRIED TO CONTAIN THE INFORMATION OF A SUPERCOMPUTER.

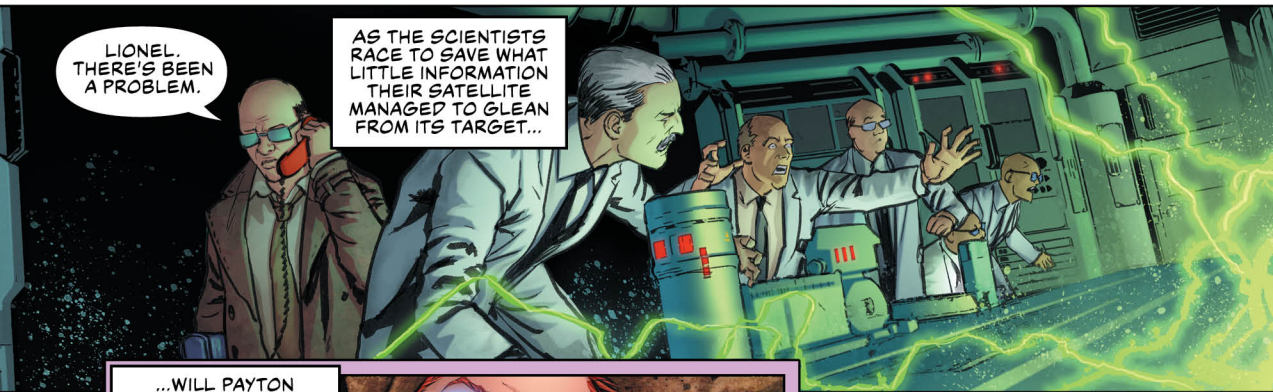
ITS SYSTEMS BACKFIRE, ONE BY ONE, AND A BEAM OF LIGHT FIRES DOWN TOWARD EARTH...

...AND FINDS A STRANGE AND UNINTENDED TARGET.

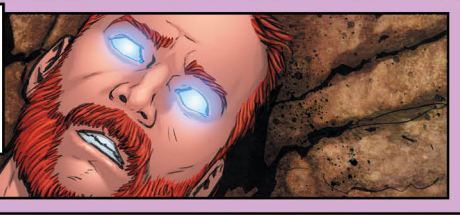


LIONEL. THERE'S BEEN A PROBLEM.

AS THE SCIENTISTS RACE TO SAVE WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION THEIR SATELLITE MANAGED TO GLEAN FROM ITS TARGET...

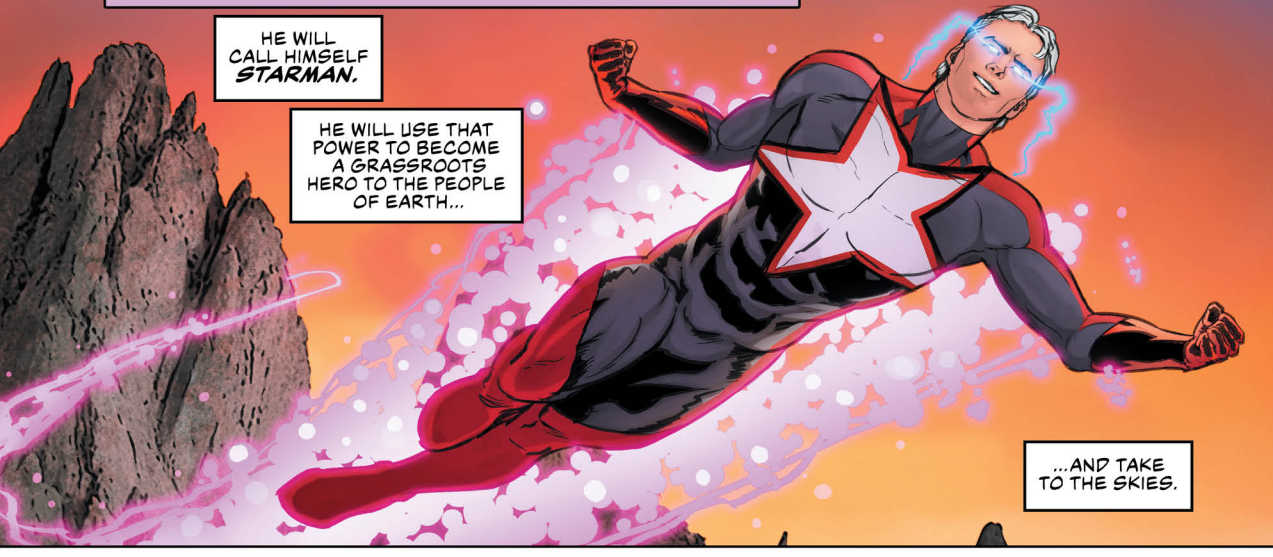


...WILL PAYTON WAKES IN THE HIGH ALTITUDES OF THE ROCKIES, COURSED WITH A STRANGE ENERGY HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.



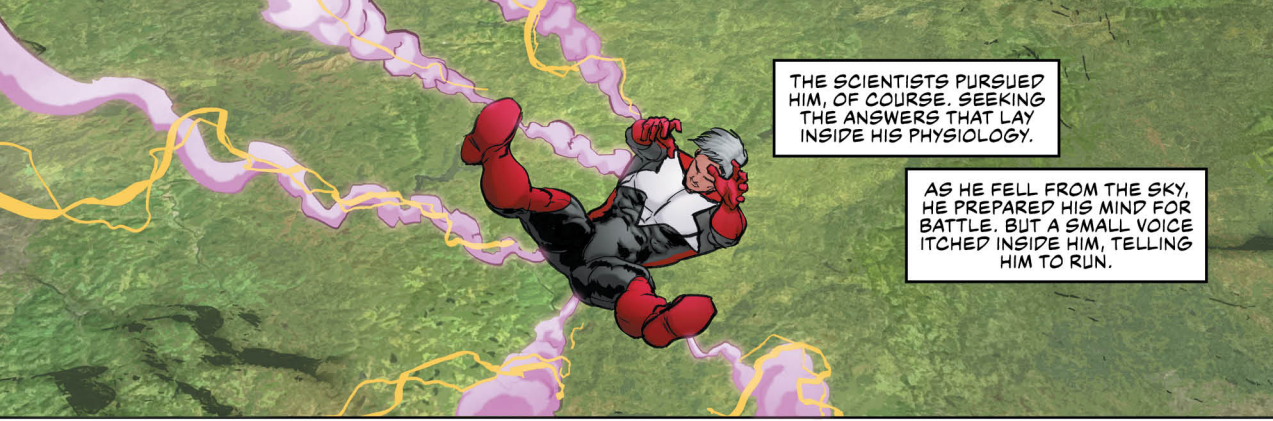
HE WILL CALL HIMSELF **STARMAN**.

HE WILL USE THAT POWER TO BECOME A GRASSROOTS HERO TO THE PEOPLE OF EARTH...



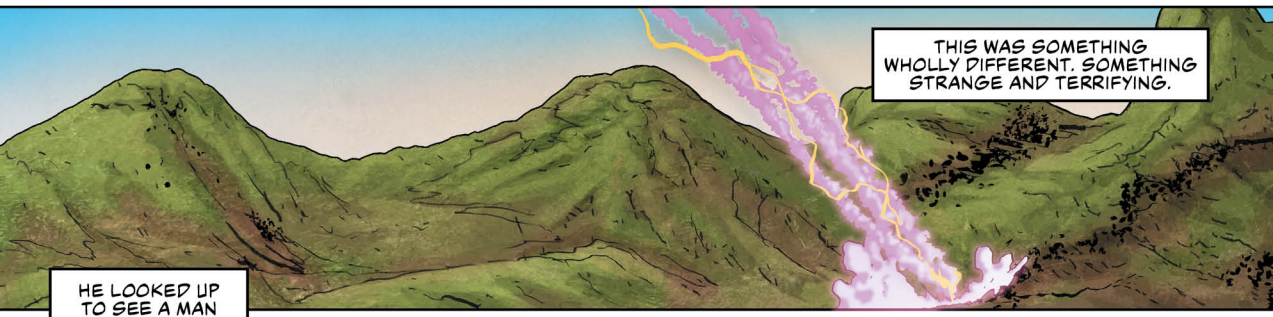
...AND TAKE TO THE SKIES.





THE SCIENTISTS PURSUED HIM, OF COURSE. SEEKING THE ANSWERS THAT LAY INSIDE HIS PHYSIOLOGY.

AS HE FELL FROM THE SKY, HE PREPARED HIS MIND FOR BATTLE. BUT A SMALL VOICE ITCHED INSIDE HIM, TELLING HIM TO RUN.



THIS WAS SOMETHING WHOLLY DIFFERENT. SOMETHING STRANGE AND TERRIFYING.

HE LOOKED UP TO SEE A MAN STEP OUT OF A HOLE FROM THE FUTURE, WIELDING AN IMPOSSIBLE WEAPON. WALKING ON THE AIR.



BUT IT WASN'T THE ENERGY OR THE GUN THAT FRIGHTENED HIM. IT WAS THE LOOK IN THE MAN'S EYES.

THE *HUNGER* FOR KNOWLEDGE.

MR. PAYTON, I PRESUME.

MY NAME IS LEX LUTHOR.

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU ABOUT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE.





FROM THAT POINT, STARMAN'S MEMORIES END.

AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL THAT FOLLOWS ARE NIGHTMARISH FLASHES, EACH DISCONNECTED FROM THE OTHER. HE WAS TORTURED AND EXPERIMENTED ON...

IT IS STILL UNCLEAR HOW HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER, THE ENERGY FUELING PAYTON'S BODY IS CONNECTED TO THAT OF THE TOTALITY.



WE KNOW HE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE LUTHOR WITH CRUCIAL INFORMATION, INFORMATION HE THEN ERASED FROM PAYTON'S MIND.

THAT BASE... I KNOW THAT BASE. VANDAL SAVAGE CREATED IT...

IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SAVAGE IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL. HE MAY, IN FACT, BE DEAD. HE, TOO, MUST HAVE SEEN THE TOTALITY COMING AS IT FLITTED THROUGH SPACE-TIME.

WHATEVER HE UNCOVERED, LUTHOR HAS THAT, TOO.

THERE IS MUCH WE STILL NEED TO LEARN. LUTHOR HAS BEEN WILLING TO BREAK TIME AND SPACE TO PIECE THIS MYSTERY TOGETHER. HE KNOWS FAR MORE OF WHAT IT IS.

WE HAVE THE TOTALITY. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE. LUTHOR IS WINNING.

THERE IS NO TELLING HOW FAR HE IS WILLING TO GO TO LEARN WHAT HE NEEDS, OR **WHAT** HE MAY TURN TO NEXT.

# LEGION OF DOOM

PART TWO

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