



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER?



THAT SEEMS TO BE THE SITUATION.

A **CONTRIVED** COMBAT, ARRANGED BY THE UNIDENTIFIED ENTITY WHO HAS IMPRISONED OUR CITIES.



AND THE PRIZE IS... THE WINNER'S CITY GETS TO SURVIVE?

THOSE APPEAR TO BE THE **BASIC** RULES.

ISN'T IT **COOLY** **PRIMITIVE** THE ENTITY THAT HAS IMPRISONED US IS EVIDENTLY **HIGHLY** **ADVANCED**.

# RACE TO THE FINISH

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*BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.*

IT HAS **STOLEN** CITIES FROM DIFFERENT TIME-STREAMS AND PARALLELS OF THE HYPERTIME MULTIVERSE, AND CONTAINED THEM IN DOMED CONTAINERS LIKE SPECIMENS.

IT **OPENS** AND **CLOSES** THOSE CONTAINERS AS EASILY AS ONE MIGHT OPEN AND CLOSE A **RABBIT HUTCH** OR A **BIRD CAGE**, YET WE ARE LITERALLY UNABLE TO AFFECT ANY MEASURE OF ESCAPE OR RELEASE.

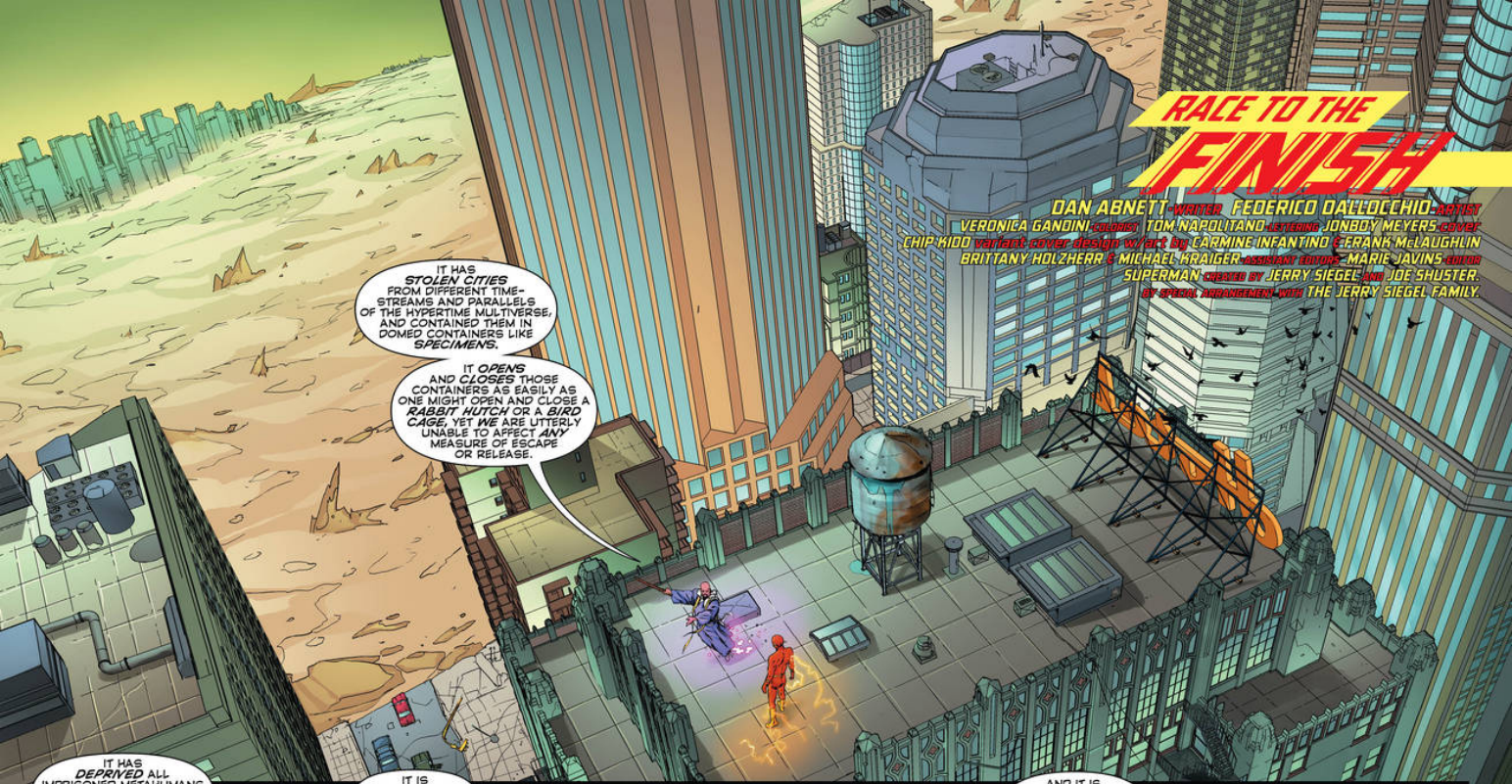
IT HAS **DEPRIVED** ALL IMPRISONED METAHUMANS OF THEIR ABILITIES, YET CAN **RESTORE** THOSE GIFTS AGAIN AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

IT IS AN ENTITY OF **EXCEPTIONALLY** HIGH FUNCTION.

IT DEMONSTRATES **FUNCTIONAL OMNIPOTENCE**, SUPERIOR INTELLECT, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, PERHAPS EVEN WHAT MIGHT BE DEEMED **MAGIC**.

AND IT IS **UNKNOWNABLE**. EVEN ONE SUCH AS I AM UNABLE TO PERCEIVE IT OR IDENTIFY IT, OR DISCERN ITS **REALITY**.

BUT IT JUST WANTS US TO **FIGHT**?







IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A **BOAST**. JUST A **STATEMENT**.

I WANTED TO BE **FAIR** TO YOU. TO LET YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I **REPRESENT**.

YOU'RE SUPERMAN?



THE SUPERMAN OF **EARTH-9**. OUR REALITIES ARE **TANGENTIAL ALTERNATES**, CO-EXISTING IN **HYPERTIME**.



AND YOU, YOU ARE **BARRY ALLEN**. THE FLASH OF **EARTH-PRIME**.

WHOA. WHAT'S THAT? **TELEPATHY?**



YES. THOUGH YOU ARE HARD TO READ, BARRY. YOUR THOUGHT PROCESS IS **EXCEPTIONALLY RAPID**. IT IS A **PLEASANT CHALLENGE** TO KEEP UP WITH IT.