

AMNESTY BAY, MAINE.

THIS IS MY HOME...

...WHERE I GREW UP.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE FORCES OF THULE... THEY KNEW... THEY KNEW HOW TO HIT ME WHERE IT WOULD HURT THE MOST.

\*THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE EVENTS OF BATMAN #40.

IT WILL ONLY HURT, ARTHUR...

...IF YOU LET THEM WIN.

THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM.

THEY JUST KEEP COMING!

THEN LET'S GIVE THANKS...



...THAT WE ARE NOT ON OUR OWN."

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, SEEING THEM ALL TOGETHER LIKE THIS FILLS ME WITH AWE.

MORE THAN BEING A COLLECTION OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN AND WOMEN ON EARTH...

...THEY'RE A SYMBOL...

...THAT--EVEN IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES--THERE'S STILL HOPE.

THAT WHILE THE FORCES OF THULE HOPE TO OVERRUN THIS WORLD...

# LEAGUES BELOW, A LEAGUE ABOVE

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER  
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.





...THEY REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

WE SHOULDN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME HERE.

THIS ISN'T OVER...NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

THIS ISN'T A WASTE OF TIME, BATMAN.

THESE PEOPLE STILL NEED OUR HELP.



UNDER ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D AGREE WITH YOU.

BUT THESE... ATTACKS ARE OCCURRING ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

IF WE HAD BEEN INFORMED SOONER--

I KNOW, I KNOW.

I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ALL WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

I JUST THOUGHT...

...I COULD DEAL WITH IT ON MY OWN.



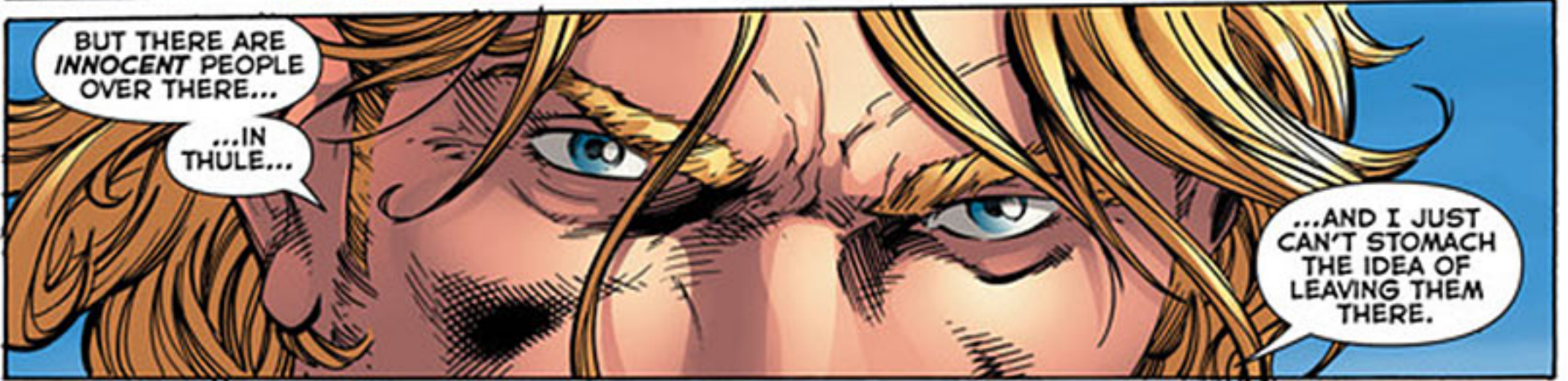


WE ALL SEE HOW WELL THAT'S WORKED OUT FOR YOU.

CUT HIM SOME SLACK, BATMAN.

NO...HE'S RIGHT. I MADE A BAD CALL... AND I'M PAYING FOR IT.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO SEVER THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THULE STRAIGHT AWAY.



BUT THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE OVER THERE...

...IN THULE...

...AND I JUST CAN'T STOMACH THE IDEA OF LEAVING THEM THERE.



ALL RIGHT.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?



FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK. JUSTICE LEAGUE...