

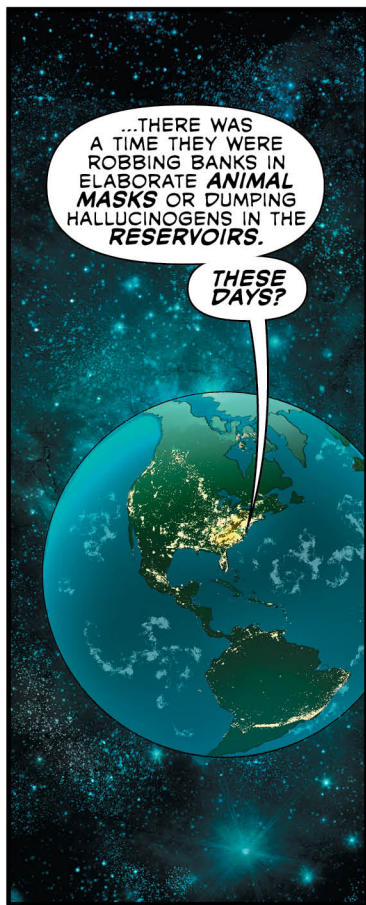
OVERMASTER ONE--BLACKSTAR FLAGSHIP



...HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO THE **PLANET EARTH**, **BLACKSTAR PARALLAX**?

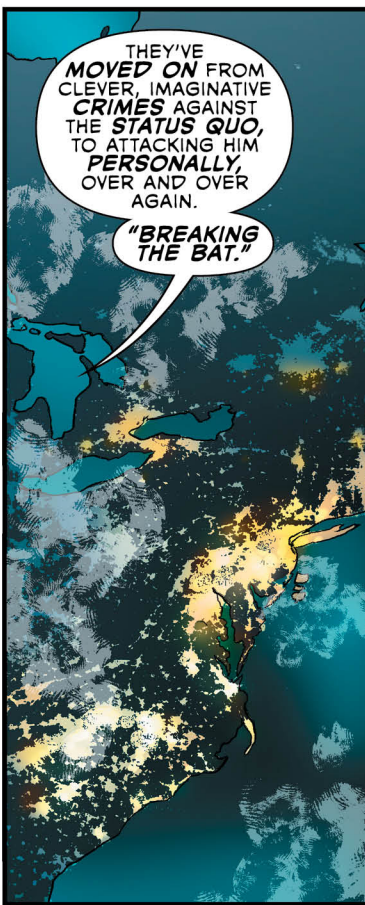
YOU MET WITH THEIR **SPOKESPERSON**, THE **KRYPTONIAN IMMIGRANT**, **KAL-EL**, I HEAR.

THE SO-CALLED **SNICKER** **SUPERMAN**.



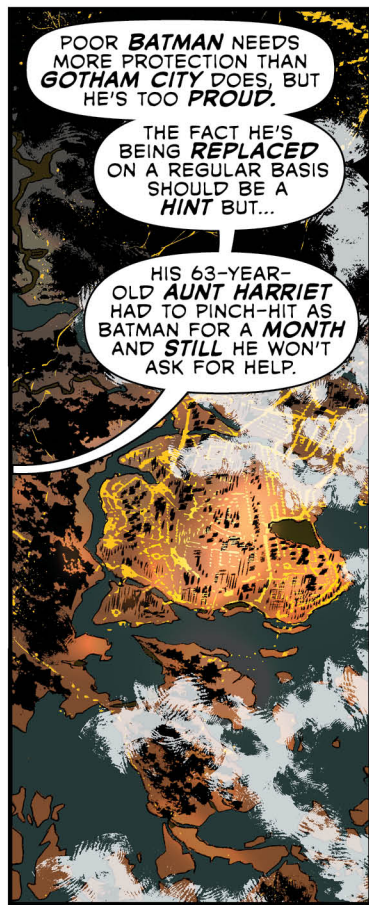
...THERE WAS A TIME THEY WERE ROBBING BANKS IN ELABORATE **ANIMAL MASKS** OR DUMPING HALLUCINOGENS IN THE **RESERVOIRS**.

THESE DAYS?



THEY'VE **MOVED ON** FROM CLEVER, IMAGINATIVE **CRIMES** AGAINST THE **STATUS QUO**, TO ATTACKING HIM **PERSONALLY**, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

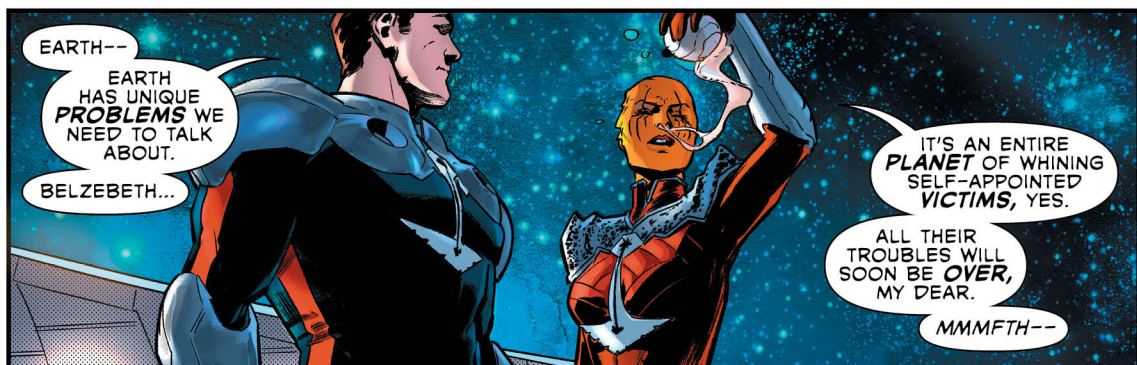
"BREAKING THE BAT."



POOR **BATMAN** NEEDS MORE PROTECTION THAN **GOTHAM CITY** DOES, BUT HE'S TOO **PROUD**.

THE FACT HE'S BEING **REPLACED** ON A REGULAR BASIS SHOULD BE A **HINT** BUT...

HIS 63-YEAR-OLD **AUNT HARRIET** HAD TO PINCH-HIT AS **BATMAN** FOR A **MONTH** AND **STILL** HE WON'T ASK FOR HELP.



EARTH--

EARTH HAS UNIQUE **PROBLEMS** WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.

BELZEBETH...

IT'S AN ENTIRE **PLANET** OF WHINING SELF-APPOINTED **VICTIMS**, YES.

ALL THEIR TROUBLES WILL SOON BE **OVER**, MY DEAR.

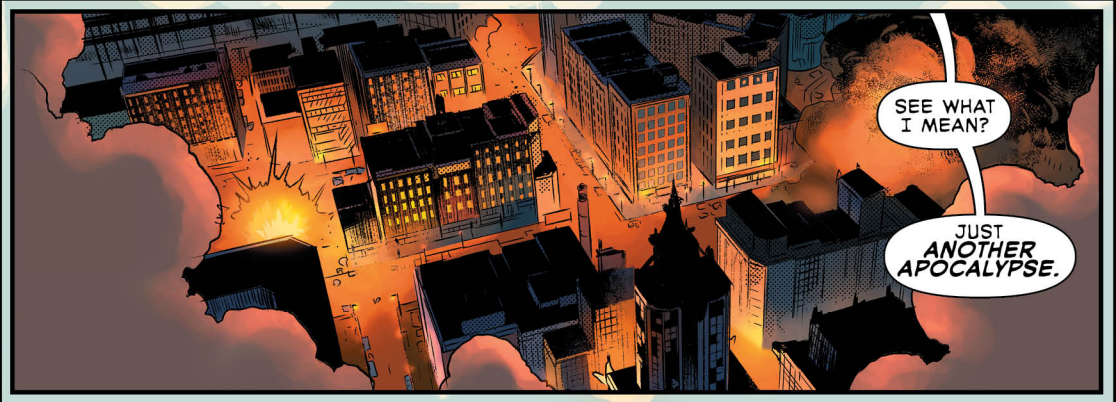
MMMFTH--



...NOT
AGAIN.

A HOLE IN THE SKY

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SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster. SUPERBOY based on characters created by Jerry Siegel.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.



SEE WHAT
I MEAN?


JUST
ANOTHER
APOCALYPSE.



MAYBE
YOU WERE **RIGHT**
TO JUMP SHIP
WHEN YOU DID,
JORDAN.

YEAH.
I'D
SAY SO,
SUPERMAN.

HOW
ABOUT
YOU?



MY TAKE: IF IT ISN'T **MCBANE**, OR **CHARLEY QUINN**, IT'S THESE **NEW** PEOPLE, THE **PARLIAMENT OF PAIN**, AND HONESTLY--

THINGS ARE A **MESS**, I ADMIT-- WE'RE STRUGGLING TO CHANGE WITH THE **TIMES**, AND THERE ARE IMPORTANT 21ST CENTURY SUPERHERO **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES** THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH BEFORE WE CAN ACTUALLY **HELP** PEOPLE.

EVEN **WONDER WOMAN**...



SPREAD YOUR **LEGS**, TYRANT BULL!

HERE'S HOW I BRING PEACE TO THE NATION OF **HUMANOTAURS**!

RRRAAAA!!!



I'M ALL **FOR** DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES.

I'M **THERE**, IN PRINCIPLE.

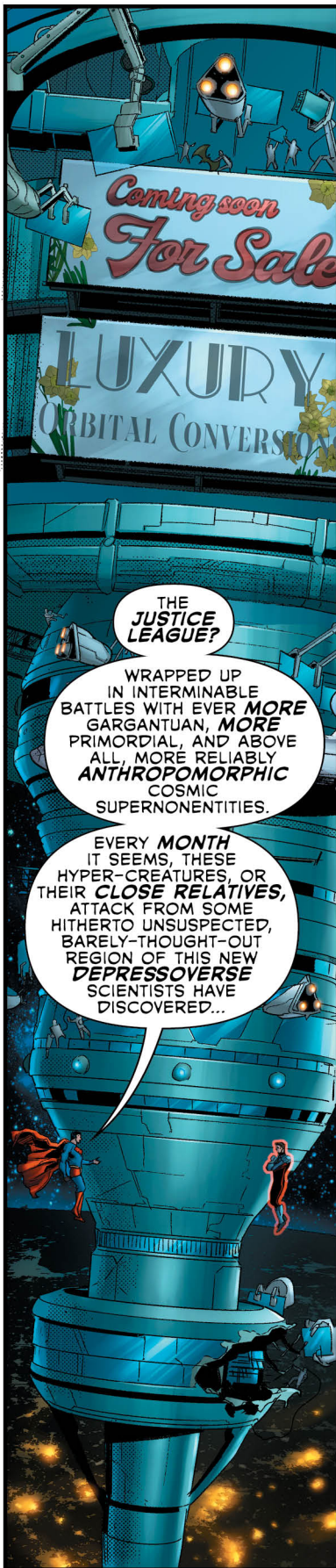
DIANA SWAPPED **LAZZO AND BRACELETS** FOR A **SWORD AND SHIELD** IN HER OWN SEARCH FOR A MEANINGFUL **DIRECTION** IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD--



DID SHE **FIND** IT?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR **JUSTICE LEAGUE**?

SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT'S **HAPPENING** DOWN THERE.



THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

WRAPPED UP IN INTERMINABLE BATTLES WITH EVER MORE GARGANTUAN, **MORE** PRIMORDIAL, AND ABOVE ALL, MORE RELIABLY **ANTHROPOMORPHIC** COSMIC SUPERNONENTITIES.

EVERY MONTH IT SEEMS, THESE HYPER-CREATURES, OR THEIR **CLOSE RELATIVES**, ATTACK FROM SOME HITHERTO UNSUSPECTED, BARELY-THOUGHT-OUT REGION OF THIS NEW **DEPRESSOVERSE** SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED...



AND THEN THERE'S THIS--

THIS WHAT?

THIS ODD EFFECT--

YOU'VE LOST ME-- EFFECT?

LIKE THE **VISUAL** TRACK IS FROZEN AND THE **AUDIO'S** STILL ROLLING--

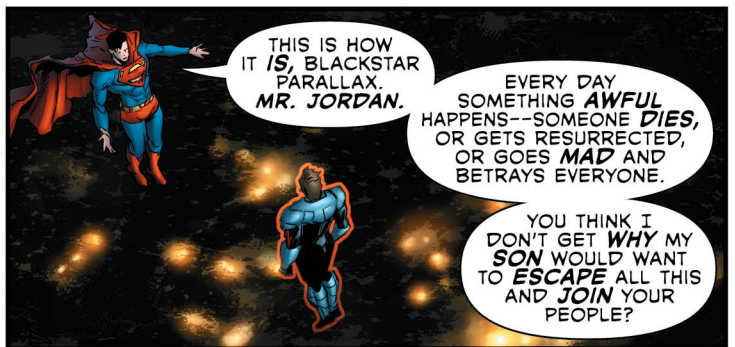
AUDIO?

AUDIO, YES.

SUPERMAN, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO **BE** THIS WAY.

WHAT WAY?

ERR...



THIS IS HOW IT **IS**, BLACKSTAR PARALLAX. **MR. JORDAN.**

EVERY DAY SOMETHING **AWFUL** HAPPENS--SOMEONE **DIES**, OR GETS RESURRECTED, OR GOES **MAD** AND BETRAYS EVERYONE.

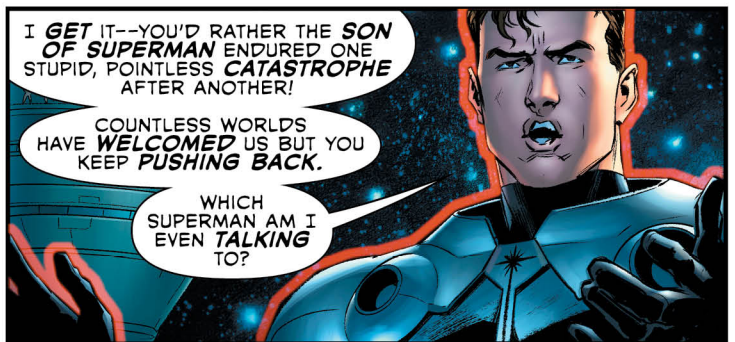
YOU THINK I DON'T GET **WHY** MY **SON** WOULD WANT TO **ESCAPE** ALL THIS AND **JOIN** YOUR PEOPLE?



DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I **CAN'T** LET THAT HAPPEN?

WE FOUGHT THE **MANHUNTER ARMY** AND THE **SUN-EATER** AT **FINAL NIGHT**--WE BATTLED THE **CONTROLLERS** TO **PRESERVE** OUR WAY OF LIFE.

I **WON'T** LOSE MY BOY TO **MU'S** DOCTRINES.



I **GET** IT--YOU'D RATHER THE **SON OF SUPERMAN** ENDURED ONE STUPID, POINTLESS **CATASTROPHE** AFTER ANOTHER!

COUNTLESS WORLDS HAVE **WELCOMED** US BUT YOU KEEP **PUSHING BACK**.

WHICH SUPERMAN AM I EVEN **TALKING** TO?