

MARVEL

AVENGERS JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

2 OF 4



AVENGERS/JLA 2 OF 4

BUSIEK • PÉREZ WITH SMITH

DC COMICS • MARVEL COMICS

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AVENGERS JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

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THE BARRIERS BETWEEN WORLDS ARE CRUMBLING...

ACROSS REALITIES, A POWERFUL AND MYSTERIOUS DANCER LOOMS.

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, THE GREATEST HEROES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE WORLDS, HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH BIZARRE INTRUDERS -- VILLAINS AND MONSTERS FROM EACH UNIVERSE ARE APPEARING IN THE OTHER, ON EARTH AND THROUGH SPACE.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS CONTACTED BY THE ENIGMATIC GRANDMASTER, A BEING FROM THE OTHER UNIVERSE. HE TELLS THEM BOTH UNIVERSES ARE IN DANGER ... AND UNLESS THE JLA GOES IN SEARCH OF TWELVE ITEMS OF POWER SCATTERED ACROSS THE TWIN REALMS, A UNIVERSE WILL DIE.

THEY TRAVEL TO THE OTHER EARTH, FINDING IT A BIZARRE, UNSETTLING PLACE WHERE MONSTERS AND KILLERS ROAM FREE, TYRANTS RULE THEIR NATIONS WITH AN IRON HAND, AND INNOCENTS DIE FOR BEING GENETIC MUTANTS. THEY HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR ANY HEROES WHO PROTECT THIS WORLD. SUPERMAN, IN PARTICULAR, IS APPALLED AT THE STATE OF IT.

HOWEVER, WHEN THEY REACH THE FIRST ITEM -- THE STAGGERINGLY POWERFUL ULTIMATE NULLIFIER -- THEY ARE CONFRONTED BY THE AVENGERS AND HURLED BACK TO THEIR OWN WORLD. THEY MANAGE TO BRING THE NULLIFIER WITH THEM.

THE AVENGERS ENCOUNTER THE COSMIC SCHOLAR METRON, FROM THE JLA'S WORLD. HE TELLS THEM OF THE ITEMS OF POWER AND CAUTIONS THEM TO SECURE THEM FIRST, TO SAFEGUARD THEIR UNIVERSE.

THE AVENGERS, USING TECHNOLOGY FROM METRON, TRAVEL TO THE JLA'S WORLD. IT IS A SURPRISING, UNUSUAL PLACE TO THEIR EYES, WHERE FUTURISTIC CITIES EXIST AND SUPER HEROES ARE LIONIZED AND PRAISED. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT... CAPTAIN AMERICA THINKS IT MUST BE A TOTALITARIAN STATE WHERE SUPERHUMANS RULE THE POPULACE, RATHER THAN PROTECTING THEM.

THE JLA CONFRONTS THE AVENGERS, AND A MELEE BREAKS OUT.

WHAT NEITHER GROUP KNOWS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THEY ARE PLAYING A GAME. A GAME DEVISED BY THE GRANDMASTER TO DEAL WITH A POWERFUL INTRUDER -- WHO HAS ALREADY DESTROYED AT LEAST TWO UNIVERSES, AND WHO IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY A THIRD. AN INTRUDER NAMED...

PROLOGUE: THE RECENT PAST.

KRONA?

MY KNOWLEDGE IS VAST, BUT I KNOW NOT THE NAME.

EXPLAIN.

I AM A SCIENTIST. A SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE. I SEARCH FOR THE SECRET OF CREATION, AND THE TRUTH OF WHAT EXISTED BEFORE.

IN MY HOME UNIVERSE, I SENT TIME-PROBES BACK-- BACK ALMOST TO THE MOMENT OF THE BIG BANG ITSELF--

YOU SEE? YOU SEE?!

AN IMAGE! A SHADOW... LIKE A GIANT HAND! THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK HERE... FORCES WE MUST UNDERSTAND!

I MUST GO BACK FURTHER... FURTHER...!

"BUT WHEN I PRESSED FORWARD, A FORCE WAS UNLEASHED. DANGEROUS. DESTRUCTIVE..."

"AND MY FELLOWS CONDEMNED ME FOR SEEKING TRUTH, FOR DOING WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE THEMSELVES."

"THEY FEARED A LEGEND OF UTTER DESTRUCTION SHOULD THE TRUTH BE LEARNED."

WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN DEATH, KRONA...

...AND WILL NOT ROB YOU OF YOUR IMMORTALITY.

BUT YOU WILL BE REDUCED TO DISEMBODIED ENERGY...

...TO CIRCLE HARMLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE FOREVER.

"AND I WAS CAST OUT."

"IN TIME, I TRAVELED BEYOND MY UNIVERSE...

"...AND SOUGHT
ANSWERS STILL.

"BUT THE LEGEND, IT SEEMED, WAS TRUE...

"...AND WHATEVER METHODS I TRY,
WHATEVER APPROACH I TAKE, NO UNIVERSE
HAS SURVIVED MY...INVESTIGATIONS."

NOW I AM
HERE, AND I
INTEND TO TRY
ANEW.

YOU
WOULD...WOULD
TRULY DESTROY
A UNIVERSE TO
FURTHER YOUR
QUEST? A
UNIVERSE?

I HAVE
DONE SO
ALREADY.

AND WILL
DO SO A MILLION
TIMES OVER, TO GAIN
WHAT I SEEK.

I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS
BECAUSE YOUR OWN
POWERS HAVE **BLOCKED**
MY NEWEST PROBES.

BUT THE POWER OF **ALL**
I HAVE DESTROYED
IS MINE. SO STAND ASIDE,
OR I SHALL--

A MOMENT.

I DO NOT **WISH** MY
UNIVERSE DESTROYED.

PERHAPS I SHOULD
MENTION, THEN, THAT
THERE IS A BEING IN THIS
REALITY WHO HAS **LIVED**
THROUGH THE BIG
BANG...

...AND WHO
KNOWS WHAT CAME
BEFORE.

WH-WHAT?!

TELL ME THIS
BEING'S NAME, THEN!
ITS NAME, AND WHERE
I MIGHT FIND IT!
SWIFTLY, BEFORE
I--

AH. IT
SEEMS WE **BOTH**
DESIRE SOMETHING
OF THE OTHER.

I AM
EN DWI GAST,
THE **GRANDMASTER**.
I LIVE FOR GAMES OF
SKILL. PERHAPS...

...WE SHOULD
PLAY A **GAME**
TO DECIDE
MATTERS?

PROLOGUE
ENDS.

Once upon
a time...

...there was a
Universe.



THE CLASH OF THE MILLENNIUM
CONTINUES!

MARVEL COMICS & DC COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENT:

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES:

THE **AVENGERS**

VERSUS THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SUPER HEROES:

THE **JLA**

BOOK
TWO:

a **CONTEST** *of*
CHAMPIONS!



METROPOLIS.

A MOMENT AGO, SUPERMAN, SPEAKING FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, ORDERED THE AVENGERS TO STAND DOWN AND BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

A MOMENT AGO, THOR RESPONDED FOR THE AVENGERS, PUTTING SUPERMAN THROUGH A BUILDING WITH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER.

THAT WAS A MOMENT AGO.



VERILY...

...THIS "JUSTICE LEAGUE" MAY BE RAVING, DANGEROUS MADMEN... BUT STILL, THEY ARE DOUGHTY WARRIORS INDEED!

AW, THEY'RE NOT SO TOUGH, THOR--THEY'RE JUST SQUADRON SUPREME LITE, LIKE I SAID!

HERE--

--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE--

--STARTING WITH THE WHIZZER WANNABE IN RED!

AH-AH! NOT THAT EASY, "PURPLE ARROW!"

HEH. BOOMERANG ARROW GETS 'EM EVERY-

SORRY--

HUH?



--BUT I'VE HAD A
LITTLE EXPERIENCE
WITH BOOMERANGS--!

AW,
MAN!

IT WOULD
WORKED ON THE
WHIZZER...



AND, AS THE
BATTLE RAGES...



THEY FACE
EACH OTHER.

CAUTIOUS.
DETERMINED.



EXPERIENCED.



THEIR EYES
LOCK.



THEY EACH
DRAW BREATH.



THEIR BLOWS LAND
WITH ALMOST NO
FORCE. AT FIRST.



A TAP.

A BRUSH.

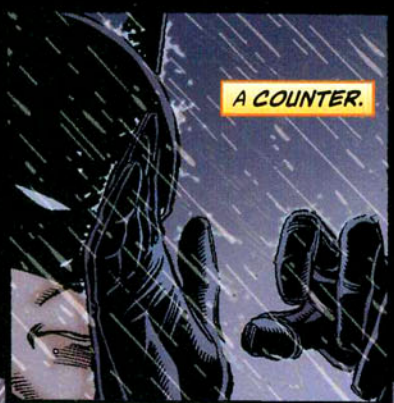
THEY TEST.



ASSESS.



A FEINT.



A COUNTER.



A SHIFT.



A RESPONSE.

ALL RIGHT.

IT'S CONCEIVABLE YOU
COULD **BEAT** ME, AVENGER.
BUT IT WOULD TAKE YOU A
VERY LONG TIME. TELL
ME THIS, THOUGH--

--DO YOU
WANT TO?



NO.
YOU'RE
NOT THE
ENEMY.
WE'RE ALL
JUST **PAWNS**,
IN A LARGER
SCHEME.

THEN WE MIGHT BE BETTER
OFF LETTING THE OTHERS **PLAY
OUT** EVENTS ACCORDING TO
THE DESIRES OF WHOEVER'S
**PULLING THE
STRINGS--**

--WHILE THE
TWO OF US TRY TO
FIND SOME **REAL**
ANSWERS.

YOU'RE
ON.

LET'S
GO.

AS THEY
DEPART...

I--BLAST IT,
I **CAN'T--WHAT'S
BLOCKING--**

WANDA?
WHAT IS **WRONG,**
MY SISTER?

I'M TRYING TO
CAST A **HEX,** BUT I
**CAN'T--CAN'T SUMMON
THE CHAOS
MAGIC!**

IT'S EASY
AT HOME,
BUT HERE
IT'S--

--IT
FEELS
SO--

OH.

WANDA?

Oh!

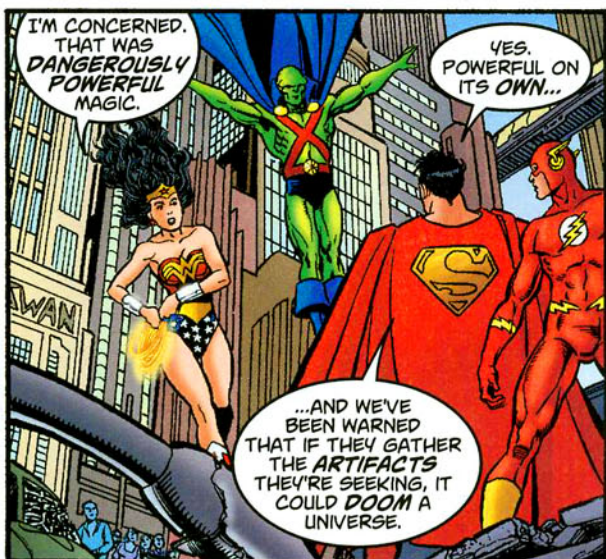
THE POWER POURS
INTO HER--RIPS THROUGH
HER--SMASHING OUTWARD
LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE, A
HURRICANE, A TIDAL WAVE--





THEY'RE GONE!
BUT WHERE...?

NOWHERE WITHIN A THOUSAND
MILE RADIUS, KYLE. THEY'VE
GOTTEN AWAY.



I'M CONCERNED.
THAT WAS
DANGEROUSLY
POWERFUL
MAGIC.

YES.
POWERFUL ON
ITS OWN...

...AND WE'VE
BEEN WARNED
THAT IF THEY GATHER
THE ARTIFACTS
THEY'RE SEEKING, IT
COULD DOOM A
UNIVERSE.



THEN WE'LL GET TO
THEM FIRST, SUPERMAN.
BUT THERE'S MORE WE
NEED TO DO. BATMAN
AND THE ATOM ARE
MISSING.

THEN WE'LL
FIND THEM,
AQUAMAN.

WE'LL SPLIT
UP. HALF OF US CAN--



NO.

WE HAVE LITTLE TIME, AND IT
WAS IN OUR MINDS THAT THE
GRANDMASTER IMPLANTED THE
KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE THE
ITEMS OF POWER
ARE.

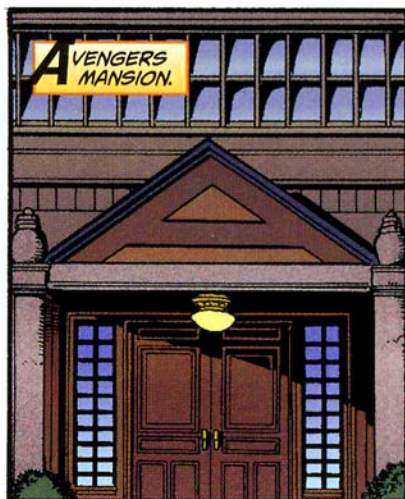
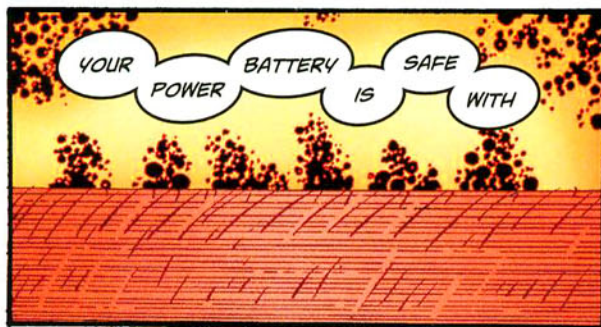
WE MUST GO--SEEK
THEM OUT.

BATMAN AND
THE ATOM ARE
RESOURCEFUL.
THEY CAN WAIT.

IN THE MEANTIME,
I'M SENDING OUT A
TELEPATHIC
MESSAGE,
CONTACTING JLA
RESERVISTS AND
OTHER PAST
MEMBERS...



...WARNING
THEM
TO PROTECT
THE ARTIFACTS
HERE IN OUR
UNIVERSE.



SOMEWHERE
ALONG I-95...

HUH?

THIS IS
METROPOLIS?
THIS IS ALL
METROPOLIS IS
IN THEIR
WORLD?

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
THESE
PEOPLE?

AS NEAR AS I CAN
TELL FROM A QUICK
SCAN...

...THIS EARTH IS SLIGHTLY **SMALLER**
THAN OURS, AND HAS FEWER CITIES,
LESS URBAN GROWTH, AT LEAST
ON THE EAST COAST.

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST
BACKWARD.

SUPERMAN!
THAT'S A TERRIBLY
UNCHARITABLE--

NONE OF THIS IS
IMPORTANT, NOT AT
THE MOMENT. THERE
ARE **FIVE** ITEMS LEFT
IN THIS REALITY-PLANE.
BUT WE SHOULDN'T
SPREAD OURSELVES
TOO THIN.

THREE
TEAMS.

GOOD.
KYLE, YOU'RE
WITH ME.

ARTHUR...

==SIGH==

YOICKS--
AND
AWAAAAA...

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE--

--YOU'VE BEEN
GIVEN YOUR
POSITIONS,
CIRCLING THE
GLOBE.

AS SOON AS THE
TRACKER
TELLS US WHERE
THEY'RE
STRIKING--

--MOVE
IN.

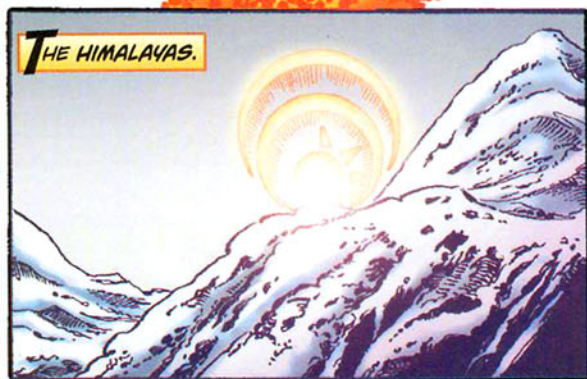
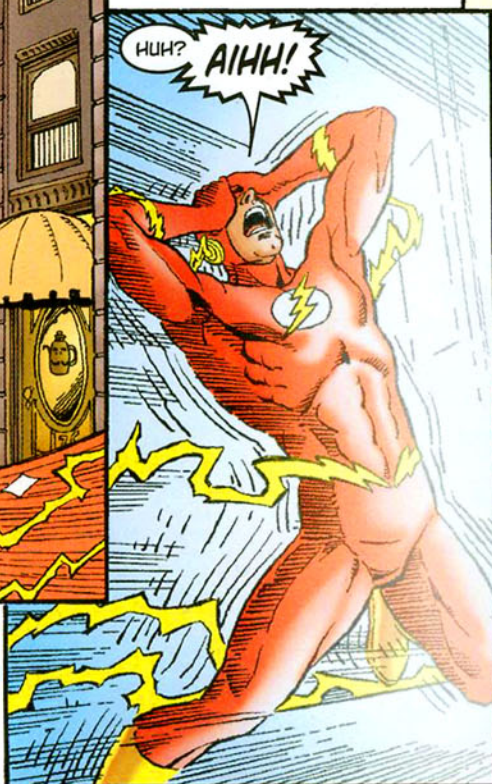
SOMEBODY'LL HAVE
TO STAY BEHIND,
KEEP AN EYE ON
THINGS...

I'LL DO IT, WASP. YOU
AND YELLOWJACKET HAVE
MORE **EXPERIENCE.**
YOU GET INTO THE
FIELD.

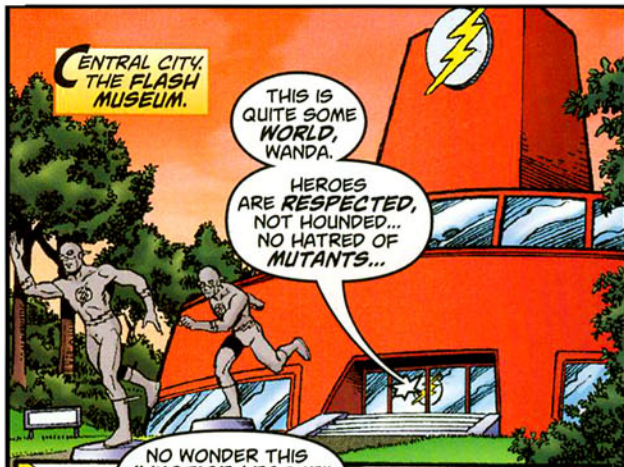
THANKS,
TRIATHLON--

--I
APPRECIATE
IT.

SURE, SURE.
JUST BRING BACK
THE GOLD, HUH?









DEAL WITH THE WOMAN, ARTHUR. GET THE ARTIFACT.

YOU ARE HERCULES, THEN? DESPOILER OF HIPPLYTA?

I WOULD NOT USE THOSE WORDS, MYSELF--

--BUT I DID HAVE THE HONOR OF--

--UHHH!

HI. I'M THE SHE-HULK. HOW DO YOU LIKE ME SO FAR?

I'VE GOT THIS ONE, SUPERMAN! YOU NEED A HAND?

...ISN'T THAT EASILY BEATEN!

DON'T...
NNNNH... BE SO COCKY, KID! WONDER MAN...
NNNH...

H-AHH!

C-CAN'T...
CAN'T BREAK...
HE'S SO...SO FAST...

HANG ON, WARBIRD! JUST HANG ON! I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!

OH, LIKE FUN YOU WILL, PAL!

BLUE BEETLE!

CAN'T YOU AND BLACK CANARY HANDLE ONE OPPONENT?

YES, YES, I AM.

MAYBE NOT AS FAST AS YOUR FLASH--

--BUT FAST ENOUGH!

OH?
ARE YOU FAST ENOUGH--

--TO DODGE THIS?

N-NO!

C-CAN'T LET THEM--
MUSTN'T LET--

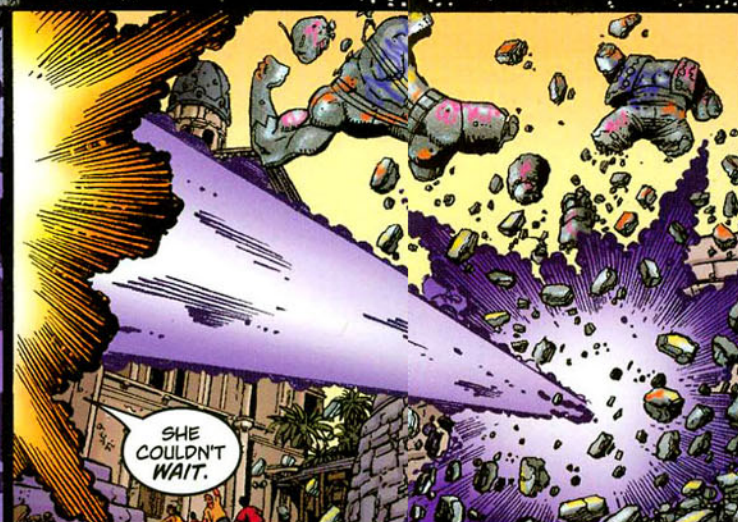
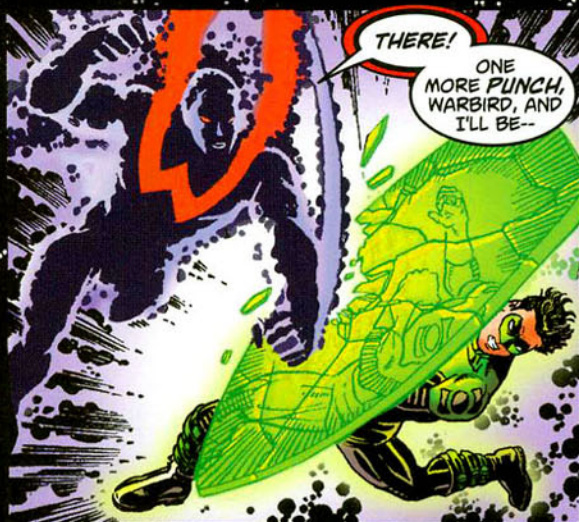
UHH!

LOOK, GUY-- YOU'RE STRONG, AND YOU'RE PLENTY TOUGH, AND YOU'RE NOT BAD-LOOKING, BUT FACE IT--

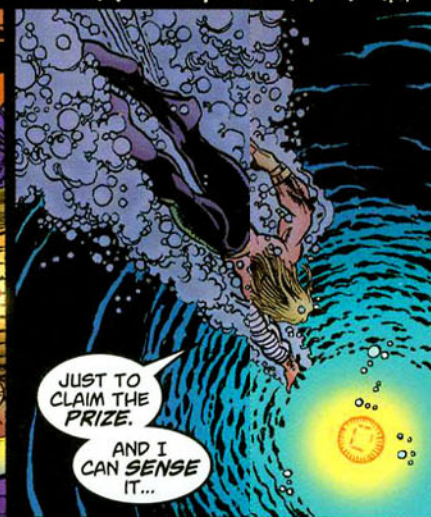
--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME!

O-OF COURSE!
THAT'S IT--!

HGH!



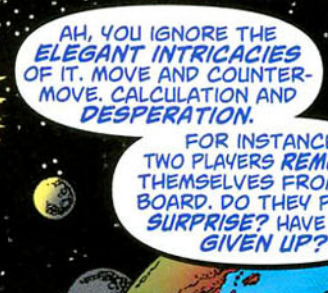
"2-1."

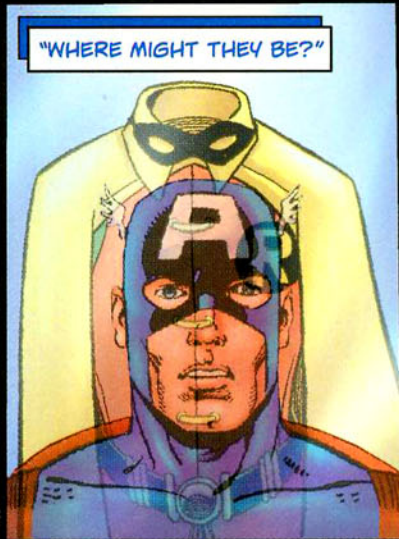


"3-1."



"3-2."





"WHERE MIGHT THEY BE?"



YOU...LOST A PARTNER?



I DID.
NOW COME DOWN
HERE, IF YOU'RE THROUGH
SIGHTSEEING. WE HAVE
WORK TO DO.



HNH.
THAT'S HOW
IT IS WITH
HIM, EH?

THIS IS
UNUSUAL FOR
YOU, B. VISITORS,
IN THE BATCAVE?

UNUSUAL
CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT HAVE
WE GOT?

NOTHING
ON THIS
"GRANDMASTER."
I'VE GOT ZATANNA
AT THE WATCHTOWER,
TRACING THAT
WOMAN'S CHAOS
MAGIC--



--AND
DISPATCHING
FORCES TO COLLECT
THE ARTIFACTS.
FROM WHAT I'VE
SEEN OF THESE
AVENGERS, I CAN'T
PROMISE THAT'LL
GIVE YOU MUCH
TIME, THOUGH.

NICE TO HAVE AN
OVERCONFIDENT
FOE, MA'AM. IT MAKES
IT EASIER.
BUT I'M NOT
SURPRISED THE
GRANDMASTER'S
INVOLVED. THE
AVENGERS HAVE HAD
EXPERIENCE WITH
HIS DEADLY COSMIC
GAMES.



THERE MUST BE
A PLAYER ON
THE OTHER
SIDE,
THOUGH.

YES. AND WHILE YOU
DEALT WITH METRON,
SOMETHING DOESN'T
RING RIGHT ABOUT
THAT.

METRON'S A
SEEKER, AN EXPLORER.
HE'S CRAFTY, BUT NOT
A GAMESMAN.




STILL,
HE'S IN THIS
SOMEHOW. I'D
LIKE TO KNOW...
WHERE HE IS
RIGHT NOW...

...WHAT
THE STAKES
ARE...

THERE.
THERE HE IS.






METRON'S LOG.
ENTRY 51762-ALPHA
HOLO-SCAN IMBEDDED

THIS IS
GALACTUS,
DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

LAST SURVIVOR OF
THE CYCLE OF CREATION
AND DESTRUCTION THAT
COLLAPSED A UNIVERSE
AND BIRTHED A NEW ONE.

A BEING OF COSMIC,
INSATIABLE HUNGER,
WHO FEEDS ON THE
LIFE-ENERGY OF
PLANETS, LEAVING
NOTHING BUT DEAD
HUSKS IN HIS WAKE...



KRONA WILL STOP AT
NOTHING—NOTHING—
TO GAIN HIS SECRETS.

THE GAME,
THE RULES WILL
THEY CHECK HIM IN
THE SLIGHTEST?



WE
SHALL
SEE.



WHATEVER HIS ROLE, THERE'S ONE THING WE CAN'T DO.

WE CAN'T STOP THE GAME. THE GRANDMASTER LEVIES DIRE PENALTIES ON ANYONE WHO QUILTS. BESIDES...

WE NEED TO KEEP HIS ATTENTION--AND HIS OPPONENT'S--DIVERSED, FOCUSED ON THE GAME, WHILE WE INVESTIGATE.

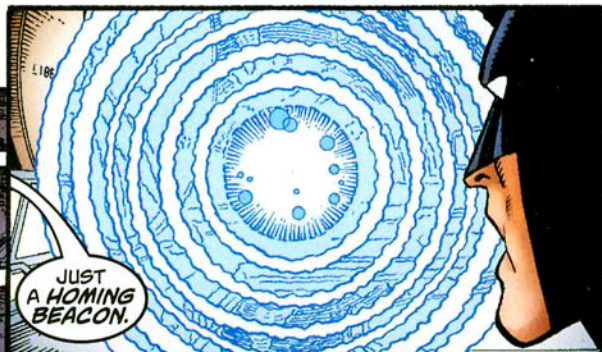
ON THAT FRONT--

TAK



--I THINK I CAN PROVIDE A METHOD, AT LEAST.

WHAT...?

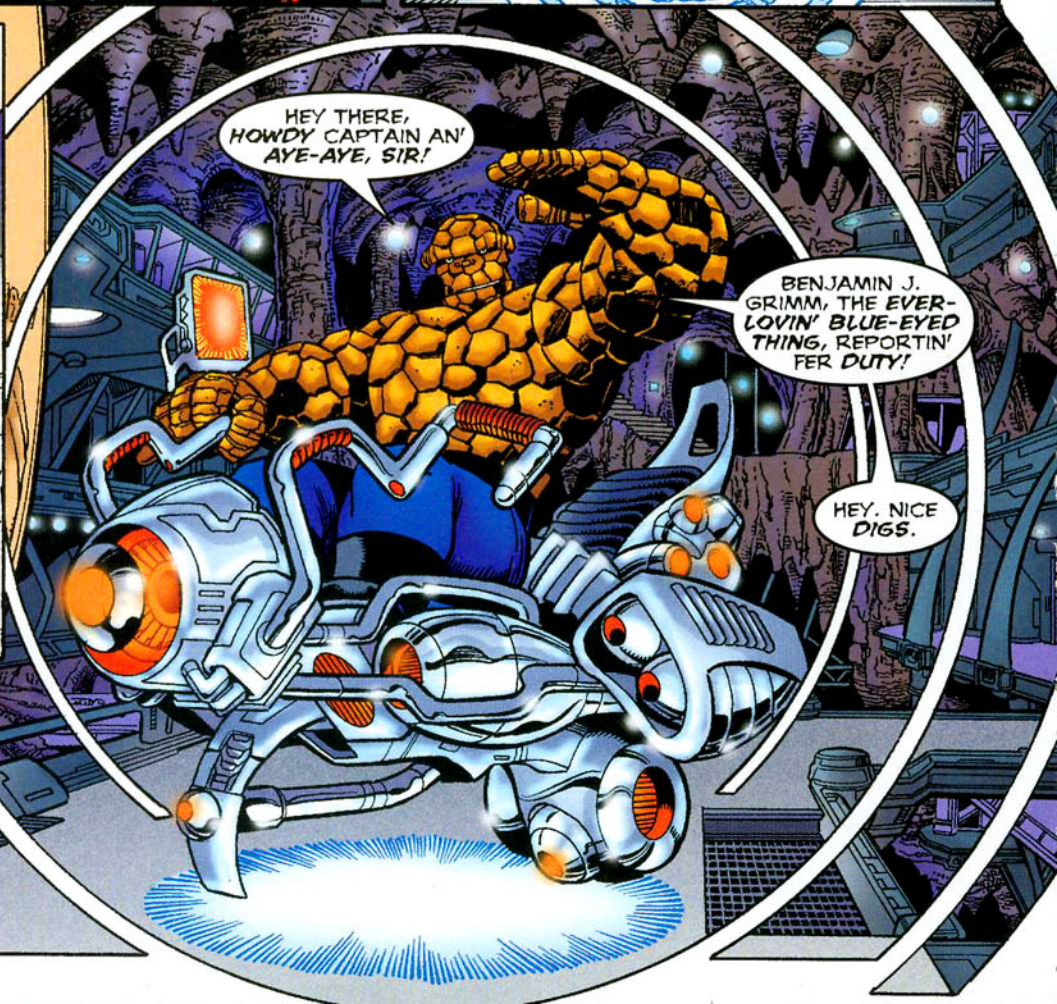


JUST A HOMING BEACON.



I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU ASK BEFORE BROADCASTING THE COORDINATES OF--

RELAX, BATMAN--



HEY THERE, HOWDY CAPTAIN AN' AYE-AYE, SIR!

BENJAMIN J. GRIMM, THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED THING, REPORTIN' FER DUTY!

HEY. NICE DIGS.



--THIS IS A FRIEND.

CHECK THIS OUT, CAP-- JUST WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.

ONE HANDY-DANDY TIME-BIKE, CUSTOMIZED FER KICKIN' AROUND OTHER DIMENSIONS. OH, AN' YOU GOT A CALL.



REED?

I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE DATA JAN PIPED OVER, CAPTAIN--



--AND BASED ON SCANS IRON MAN TOOK OF THE RESIDUE THIS "METRON" LEFT BEHIND AT MONSTER ISLAND--

--I'VE PRE-PROGRAMMED THE TIME-BIKE WITH SOME WAVELENGTHS YOU CAN TRACE.



FROM WHAT THEY TELL ME, YER SUPPOSED TA BE ONE'A THE BLACK HATS, BUT IF YER WITH CAP YER AN OKAY JOE IN MY BOOK.



I'D STAY FER COFFEE, BUT I GOTTA GET BACK, HELP REED AN' SUZIE WITH THE HEAVY LIFTIN'.

YER IDEA A' SMALL CHANGE, HUH?



AH, HERE WE GO.

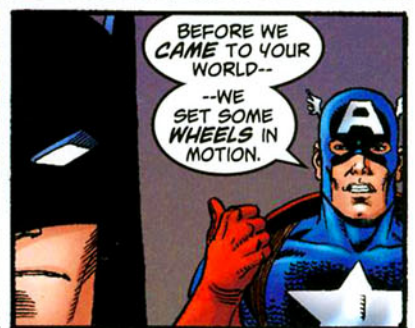


YOU DON'T NEED ME FER GUMSHOEIN'-- EVEN COSMIC GUMSHOEIN'.

BUT YOU EVER NEED SOME CLOBBERIN' DONE, GIMME A RING. I'M YER MAN.



YOU WERE MORE PREPARED THAN YOU SEEMED.



BEFORE WE CAME TO YOUR WORLD--

--WE SET SOME WHEELS IN MOTION.

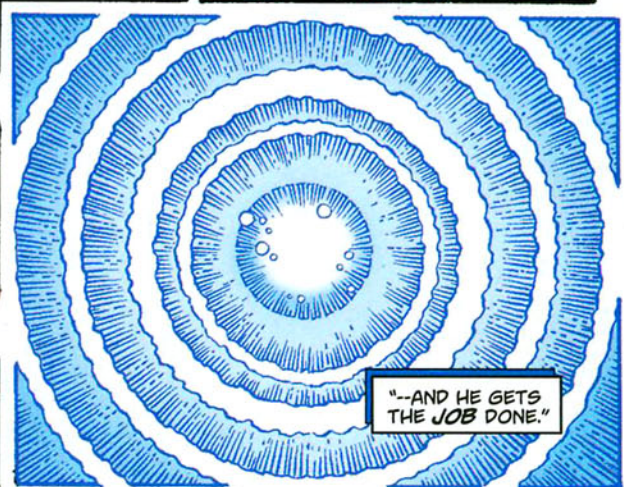


AND THAT WAS ONE OF THEM? HE HAS A... ROUGH-EDGED CHARM.

WAS THAT A KNOCK?

BEN GRIMM MAY NOT BE SLEEK AND ELEGANT, LIKE THE HEROES OVER HERE, MISTER.

BUT HE'S ONE OF THE FINEST MEN I KNOW--



--AND HE GETS THE JOB DONE.

THE HIMALAYAS.

I DON'T WANNA BE RUDE...

NO.

I AM...UNDER ASSAULT. THIS MAGIC...I AM NOT TRAINED, NOT ATTUNED, NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH... I...CONTINUE TO ENDURE, HOWEVER.

WE'RE TOO DEPENDENT ON MAGIC...MAGIC WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, AT THAT. MAYBE I CAN USE THE MOTHER BOX...

...MAKE SOME UNEXPECTED MOVES.

AND I WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO ACCESS THIS "SPEED FORCE"...

FINE, FINE.

ANY CHANCE WE CAN DO IT SOMEPLACE WARM, THOUGH?

I...AM SHIELDING THOR AND THE VISION FROM DETECTION, I THINK, BUT... IF I TRY TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, THEY MAY...

...BUT WITCHIE THERE AIN'T LOOKIN' TOO GOOD. ON ME, THAT'D JUST BE FROSTBITE, BUT...

I AGREE, HAWKEYE.

WANDA? ARE YOU COPING ALL RIGHT?

WHADDYA SAY, CAPTAIN ATOM...

THE JLA WATCHTOWER.

...IS IT JUST ME, OR IS MR. PEEPER'S HERE BOTHERING THE CHEESE OUT OF ANYONE ELSE?

NOT JUST YOU, GREEN ARROW...

I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM.

BUT IF HE SEES THROUGH WALLS...

ANY NEWS?

NOT MUCH, RED TORNADO.

I'M SENSING PATTERNS IN THE CHAOS-MAGIC FIELD-- THE LORDS OF CHAOS ARE REALLY STIRRED UP, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON--

--BUT IF SHE DOES ANYTHING, I'LL KNOW IT.

HAVE THE TELEPORTERS WARMED UP...

IF THIS WORKS RIGHT, IT'LL ACT AS A BATTERY...GATHERING AMBIENT SPEED FORCE AS YOU RUN... COLLECTING IT AND STORING IT...

...AND GIVING YOU A CHARGE YOU CAN TAP INTO IF YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THEIR WORLD.

THANKS, STEEL.

I HOPE IT WORKS. I HOPE ZATANNA FINDS A LEAD ON THEM FAST. AND I REALLY, REALLY HOPE I GET THAT POWER BATTERY BACK BEFORE KYLE FINDS OUT...

WE'RE DOING WELL. BUT I DON'T LIKE THIS. THESE ITEMS--

--THEY'VE BEEN MOVED, PLANTED, EVEN SHIFTED FROM WORLD TO WORLD. WHOEVER'S BEHIND IT, THEY'RE NOT JUST COLLECTING THE ITEMS.

SO IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE READY? WANDA?

LET'S GO.

THEY'RE MOVING! THEY'RE MOVING! GO! GO!

I'LL GUIDE YOU...

**HAPPY HARBOR,
RHODE ISLAND.**

THOR! CAN YOU
DISPERSE THIS
CYCLONE?

IT PASSETH
UNDERSTANDING,
VISION--BUT THE STORM
DOETH RESIST MY
CONTROL.

VERY
WELL.

OUR ASSAILANT
SEEMS TO BE AN
ANDROID, LIKE ME. I
SHALL REACH HIM,
INTANGIBLY, AND
SOLIDIFY WITHIN--

--ENDING THE
THREAT AT THE
SOURCE!

WILL
YOU?

HM?

INSIDE HIM?
CIRCUITRY--

--AND SOMETHING
MOOOOORRRRRRRRRREEEE!

AHA!

THE
MECHANICAL
SHELL DOETH
HIDE AN
ELEMENTAL
TEMPEST
WITHIN!

THEN TRULY,
THOU ART A FIT
FOE FOR THE
MIGHTY TH--
EH?!

WHAT?

JUST A GRADE-A,
ALL-PURPOSE ATOMIC
CONTAINMENT SPHERE--
COURTESY OF FIRESTORM,
THE NUCLEAR MAN!

NICE WORK
DISTRACTING THEM
WHILE I GOT THE GOODS,
REDDY! LET'S GET
OUTTA HERE!

AND LET'S FIND A
BIG BELLY BURGER
RESTROOM BEFORE
I BURST!

"4-2."

WAKANDA.

THE BLACK PANTHER WATCHES AS THEY BATTLE ON THE STEPS OF THE ROYAL PALACE.

HIS PALACE.

HIS CITY.

HIS LAND.

HE HAS BEEN AN AVENGER IN THE PAST, AND MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES TO THEM, BUT HE DOES NOT LIKE OUTSIDE CONFLICT SPILLING INTO HIS NATION.

ENOUGH.

--THEN I WILL.

AND THAT, BOYS AND GIRLS--

--IS WHY THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER STAYS HOME ON DATE NIGHTS.

WHAT NEXT, O MASTER OF THE MENTAL WHAMMY?

I CAN SENSE THE ARTIFA-- OH.

IS THAT NICE?

OW! OO!

WE HAVE LITTLE TIME, PLASTIC MAN. IF YOU CANNOT STOP YOUR ASSAILANT--

IGNHH!

OOH, HARSH!

HE RECOVERS THAT WHICH THEY SEEK FROM THE BRANCHES IN WHICH IT NESTLES.

HIS SECURITY SCREENS HAD FLAGGED IT AS SOON AS IT ARRIVED.

"4-3."



THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF A UNIVERSE? AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE? HOW MANY LIVES...?

AND THIS IS A GAME WE PLAY. A GAME.

SCANNERS INDICATE METRON'S PRESENCE. HE WAS HERE. AFTER THE DESTRUCTION.

THEN WE HAVE A TRAIL.



KANSAS.

Welcome To
SMALLVILLE
America's Heartland Paradise

FTHAMM



I DON'T BELIEVE IT, HAWKEYE. YOU STILL HAVE YOUR LEAD-FOIL CONTAINMENT ARROW?

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GONNA RUN INTO THE RADIOACTIVE MAN, SHELLHEAD.

STILL, I JUST SHUT HIM UP--YOU SHUT HIM DOWN.



YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GET BOTH OF 'EM, THOUGH--I COULDA TAKEN THAT GREEN LOUDMOUTH--HEY!

I AM NOT GETTING USED TO THIS...



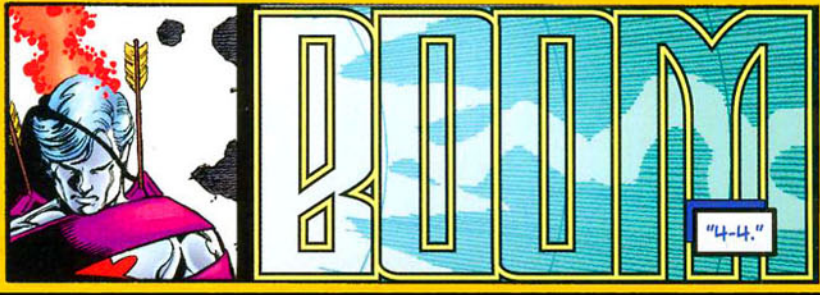
WE RECOVERED THE CASKET OF ANCIENT WINTERS, CLINT. THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROVING WHO'S THE BETTER ARCHER.

YEAH, BUT--

JOIN THE FIGHT WHERE WANDA NEEDS YOU NEXT. ME--

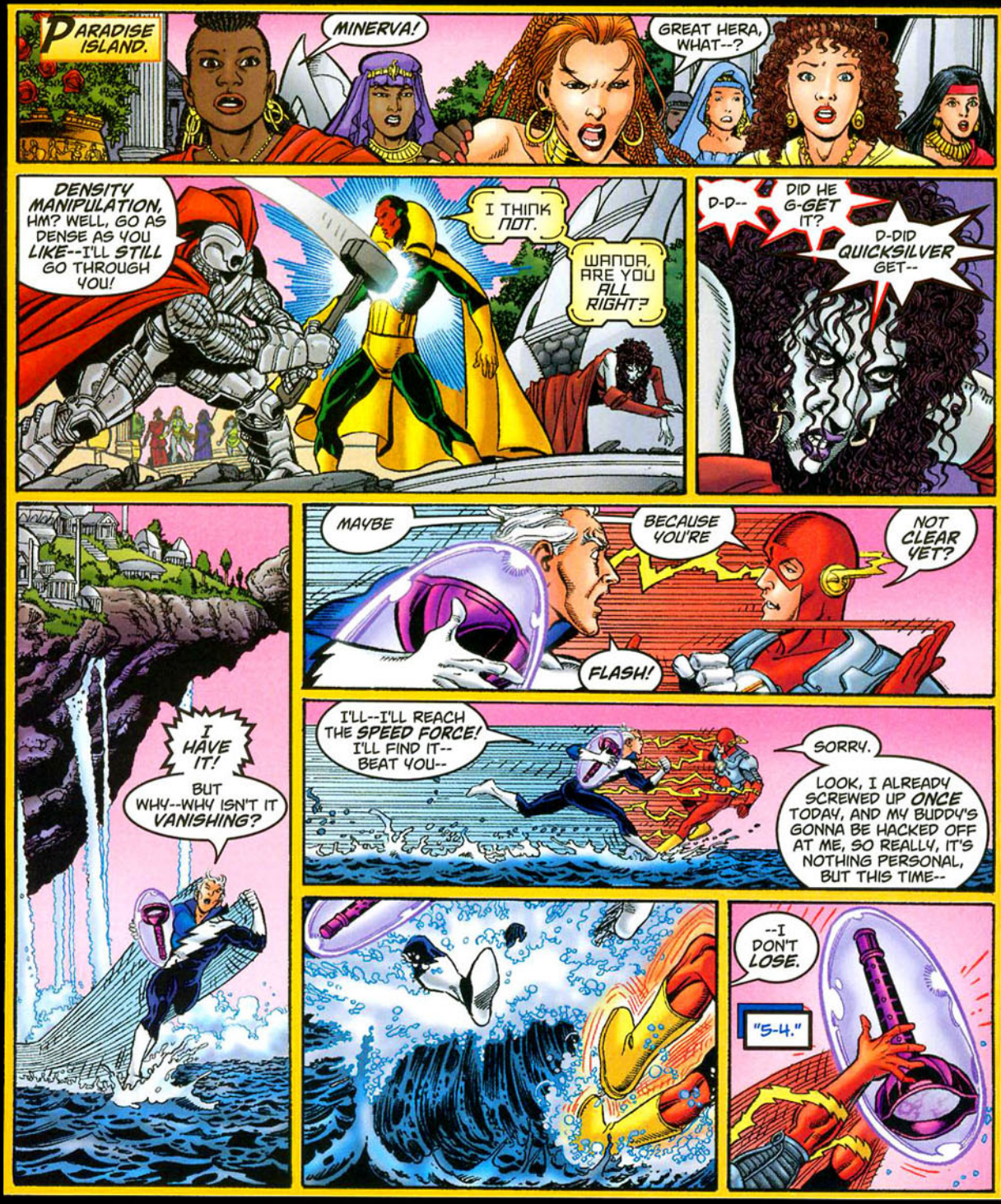


--I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO ELSEWHERE.



BOOM

"4-4."



PARADISE ISLAND.

MINERVA!

GREAT HERA, WHAT--?



DENSITY MANIPULATION. HM? WELL, GO AS DENSE AS YOU LIKE--I'LL STILL GO THROUGH YOU!

I THINK NOT.

WANDA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



D-D--

DID HE G-GET IT?

D-DID QUICKSILVER GET--



I HAVE IT! BUT WHY--WHY ISN'T IT VANISHING?

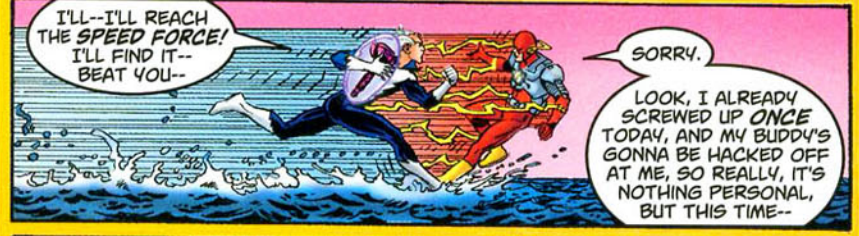


MAYBE

BECAUSE YOU'RE

NOT CLEAR YET?

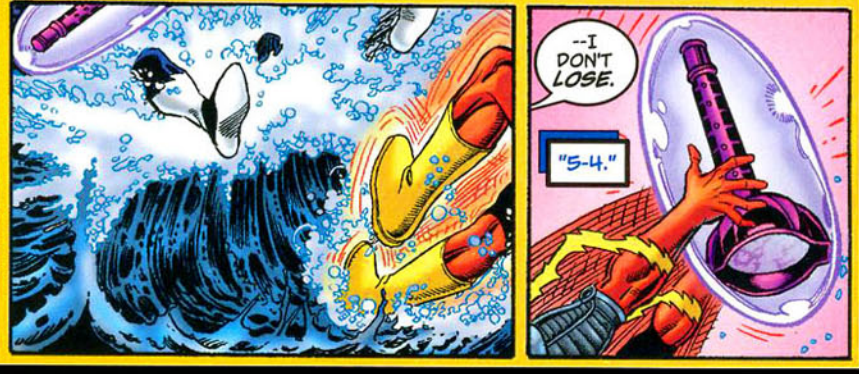
FLASH!



I'LL--I'LL REACH THE SPEED FORCE! I'LL FIND IT-- BEAT YOU--

SORRY.

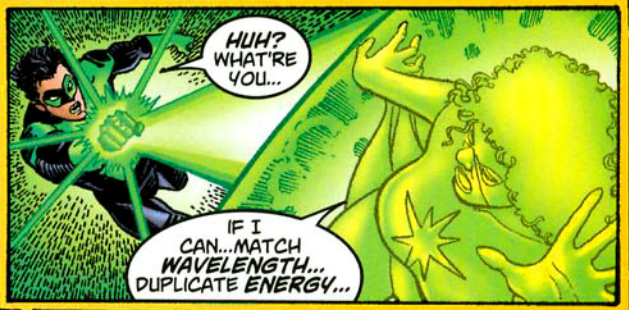
LOOK, I ALREADY SCREWED UP ONCE TODAY, AND MY BUDDY'S GONNA BE HACKED OFF AT ME, SO REALLY, IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT THIS TIME--



--I DON'T LOSE.

"5-4."

THE BLUE
AREA OF
THE MOON.





WHAT IN--?

GOD,
MOTHER AND
COUNTRY!



THIS--
--THIS
MUST BE THE
GRANDMASTER'S
HOME BASE!
ALL THESE
GAMES!

ALL THIS--
THIS--

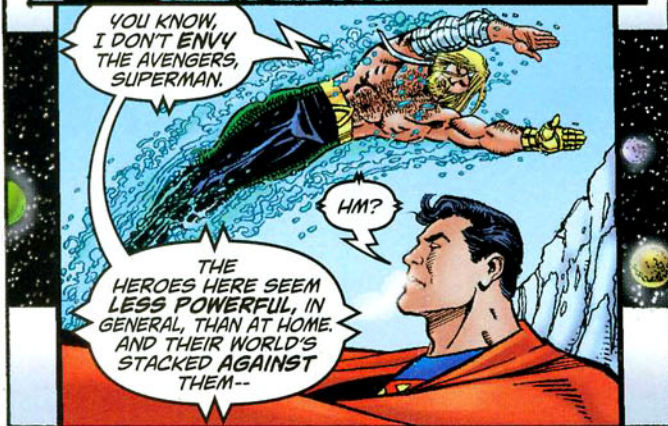


I'VE FOUGHT
MEN WITH THIS KIND
OF COMPULSION BEFORE.
BUT NEVER WITH THIS
SCOPE...



I KNOW
WHAT YOU...
HM?

OH, MAN--
AM I GLAD TO
SEE YOU!





YOU HAVE
INVADED MY DOMAIN,
BESTED MY PARADEMONS,
ABUSED MY PERSONAL
GUARD...AND FOR
WHAT?

UH--

FOR THIS?

DEAR SWEET GOD IN
HEAVEN--THAT'S THE
INFINITY GAUNTLET!
AND THIS GUN--HE LOOKS
WORSE THAN THANOS,
IF THAT'S EVEN
POSSIBLE!

HE COULD
REORDER
TIME, SPACE,
REALITY--!

MAN, OF
ALL THE TIMES
FOR WANDA TO
DECIDE SHE HAD TO
TAKE HALF OUR
STRENGTH BACK
HOME...!

YES, THIS IS
CLEARLY WHAT
THEY SEEK--

--AND I
CAN FEEL THE
MATRICES OF
POWER WITHIN
THE GEMS.

OUR...OUR INVESTIGATIONS
HAVE BEEN COMPREHENSIVE,
LORD DARKSEID...GIVEN THE
TIME CONSTRAINTS.

AND THE GEMS--
THEY DO SEEM DESIGNED
TO AFFECT REALITY,
AND MORE--

--BUT
ANOTHER
REALITY.
THEY
DO NOT
FUNCTION
HERE.

BUT
IT SEEMS
DEAD--IT DOES
NOTHING.

WHY IS
THAT?


THEN
THIS IS A
WASTE
OF MY
TIME.



TAKE IT,
THEN--



I'LL
CATCH--




--TAKE IT, AND THANK
WHATEVER DEITIES YOU
PRAY TO ON THE COLDEST
AND BLEAKEST WINTER NIGHTS
THAT I HAVE **OTHER**
MATTERS TO
OCCUPY ME.
TAKE IT--



UHH!



HIS EYES--THAT'S THE
OMEGA EFFECT!



GOT TO GET IT
BEFORE...



...BEFORE...



--AND
BEGONE.



"6-5."



--UH?



TELEPORTED... BUT...
...WHERE...?



OH.

THE SAVAGE LAND.



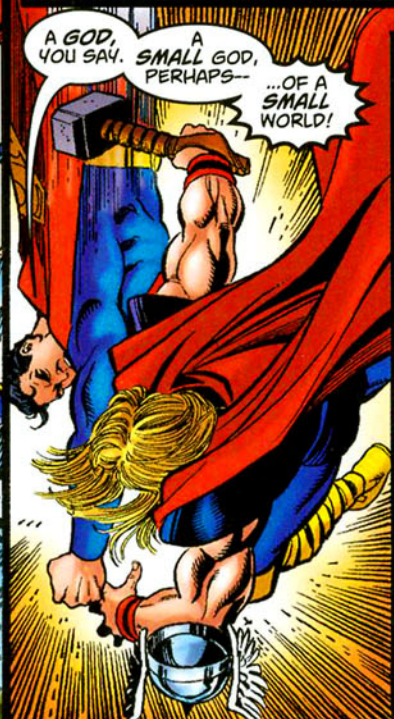
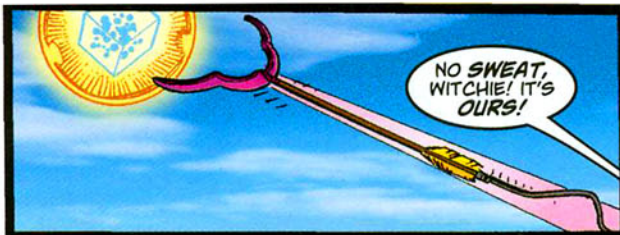
WANDA, ARE YOU...?
I...FEEL MUCH BETTER, NOW THAT I'M BACK HOME. I JUST... I WISH I STILL HAD THAT POWER, AT LEAST FOR NOW.



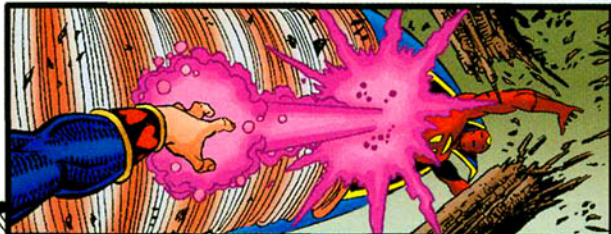
BECAUSE THAT'S IT...
...THAT'S THE FINAL PRIZE.
SO.
SO.



SO WHAT?!
SOMEBODY GO! GET IT!









HE--



THOR--



HE...
...MAY
BE...SINGLE
TOUGHEST
OPPONENT...
I'VE EVER...





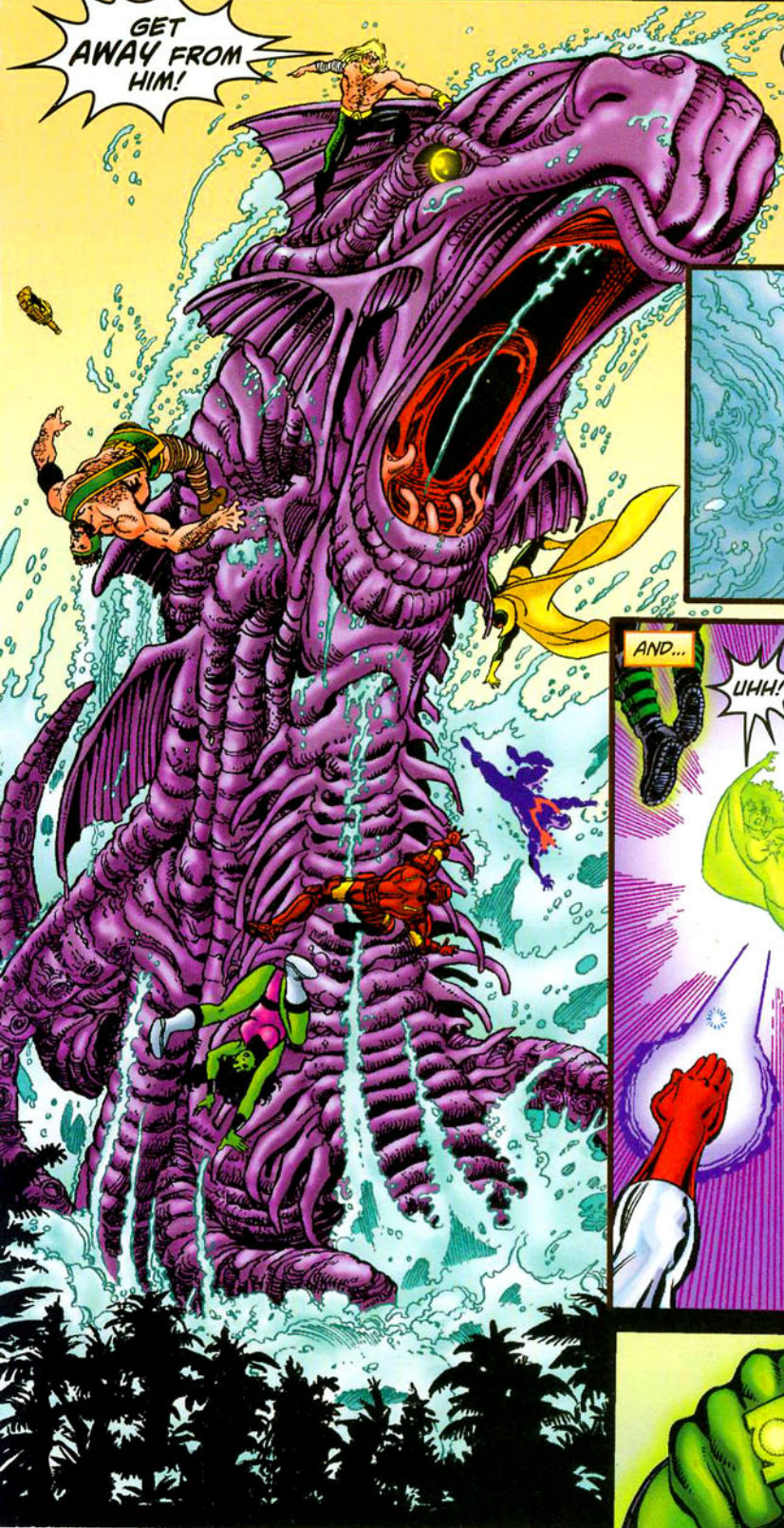
WHAT IN--?

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

SUPERMAN!

SUPERMAN, ARE YOU--

POSEIDON'S THRONE!



AND...

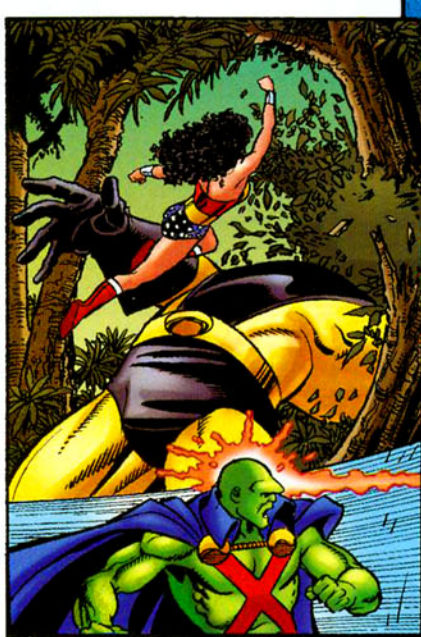
UHH!

TH-THANKS, CAP'N ATOM...
CAN BARELY...
DRAINED...
NEED BATTERY,
BUT...



COULD...
GRAB IT...
BUT CAN'T...
DEFEND IT...

MAYBE...



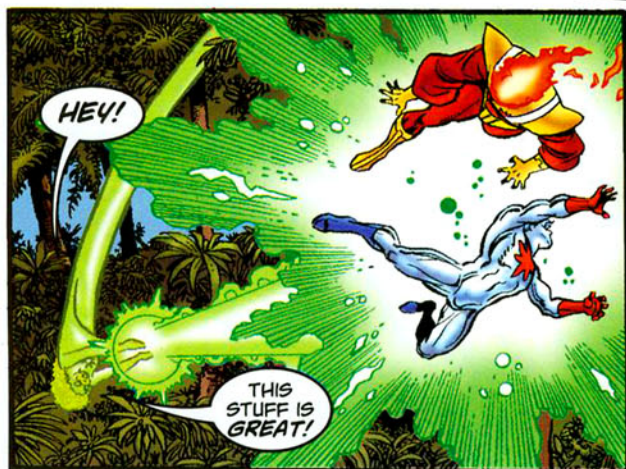
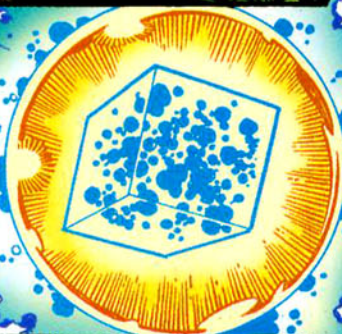
WHOA!

BRIGHTEST
DAYBLACKEST
NIGHTNEVILSHALL
ESCAPE
M'SIGHT...

C'MON, BABY,
HOLD TOGETHER,
YOU CAN DO IT...HAL'S
OATH'LL...



THOSE
WH'WORSHIPEVIL'S
MIGHT...



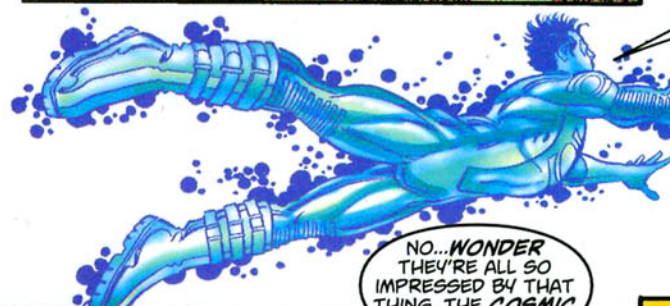
HEY!

THIS
STUFF IS
GREAT!



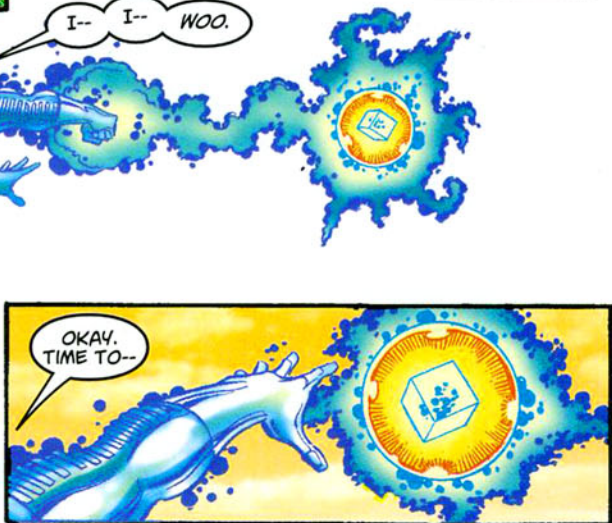
OH, NO!
WARBIRD, I
NEED YOU!

I-- I-- WOO.



NO...WONDER
THEY'RE ALL SO
IMPRESSED BY THAT
THING. THE COSMIC
CUBE, HUH?

I JUST
THOUGHT IT WAS A
POWER SOURCE, BUT
MAN! THAT'S SOME
SERIOUS MOJO!



OKAY.
TIME TO--



HUH?

AH-AH!
CHROME
LOOKS GOOD
ON YOU, KID,
BUT I CAN'T
LET YOU--



--HM?

NOT A
CHANCE,
LEATHER
GAL.

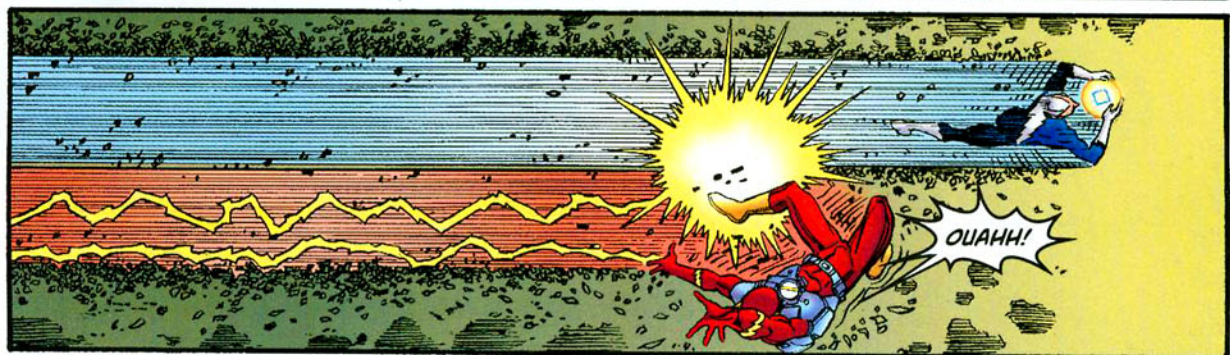
THIS THING
IS IN LEAGUE
HANDS NOW, AND
IN LEAGUE HANDS
IT--



--WH--?

HELLO.

YOU'RE ON
MY EARTH NOW.
AND YOU'RE ALREADY
STARTING TO SLOW
DOWN. SO LET ME
JUST SAY...
...IT'S NOTHING
PERSONAL. OH, NO.
NOT AT ALL.



OUAHH!



HAH!
I'M
FASTER!
FASTER! SPEED
FORCE BE
DAMNED!

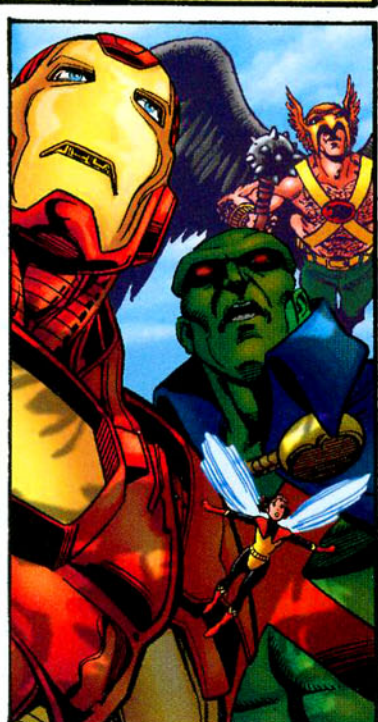
HAH!
I'M--



--EH?



WH--?





THE GAME WOULD APPEAR TO BE OVER.
THE SCORE IS EVEN.

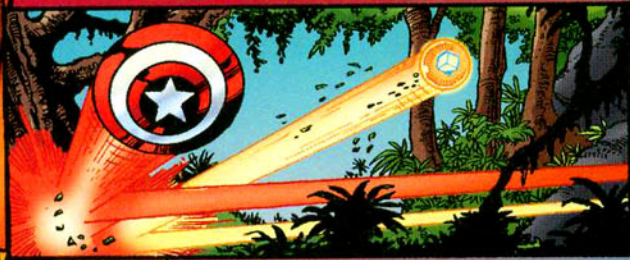
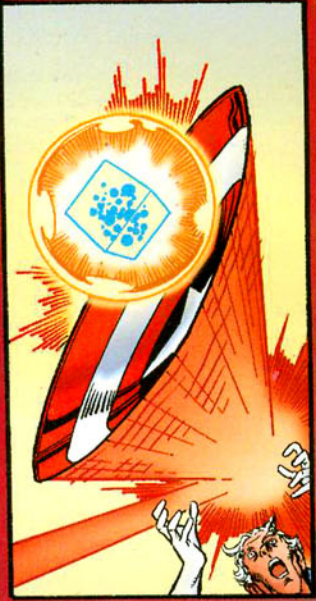


THE LAST ARTIFACT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SECURED--



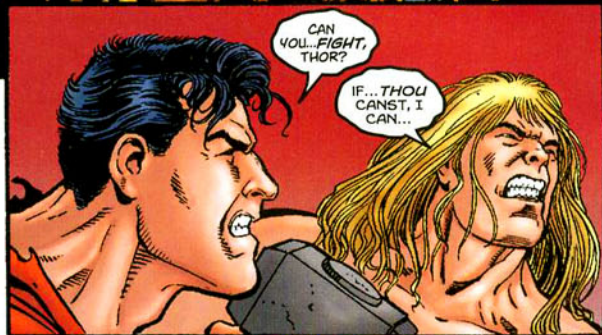
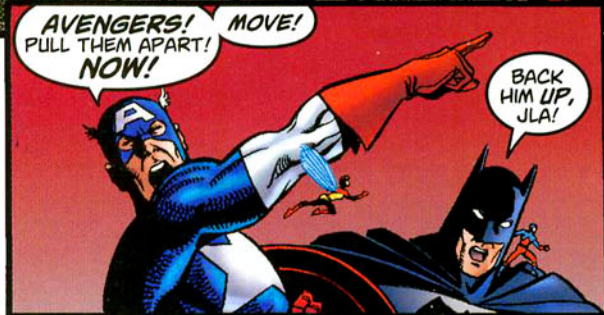
I HAVE IT!

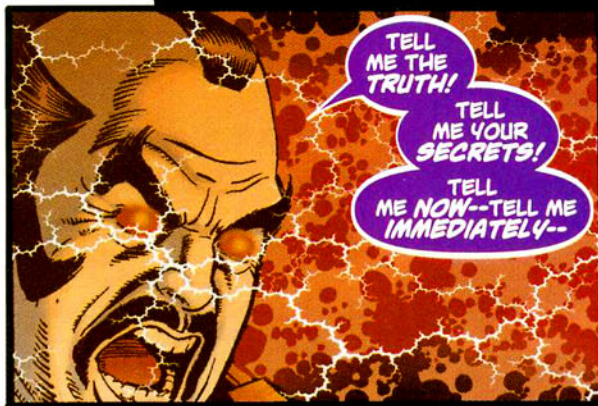
THE AVENGERS HAVE THE COSMIC CU--



I HAVE IT.







TELL
ME THE
TRUTH!

TELL
ME YOUR
SECRETS!

TELL
ME NOW--TELL ME
IMMEDIATELY--

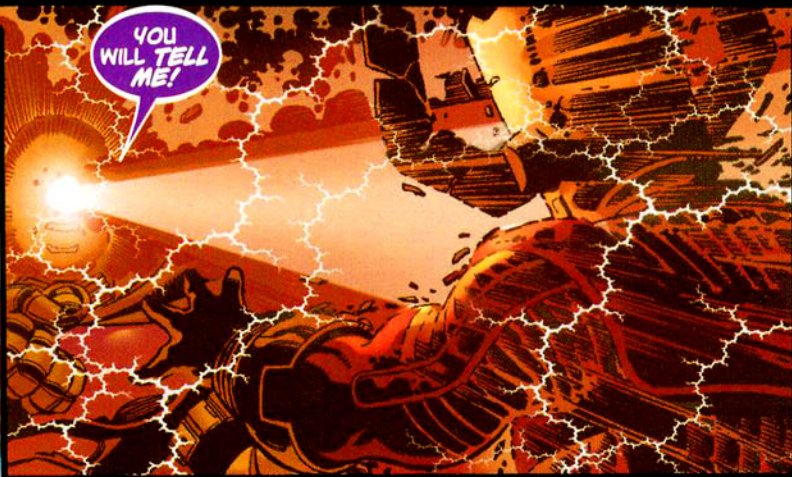


YOU ARE
CLEARLY A
MADMAN.

AND GALACTUS
DOES NOT DEAL
WITH MAD--



>NNH<



YOU
WILL TELL
ME!



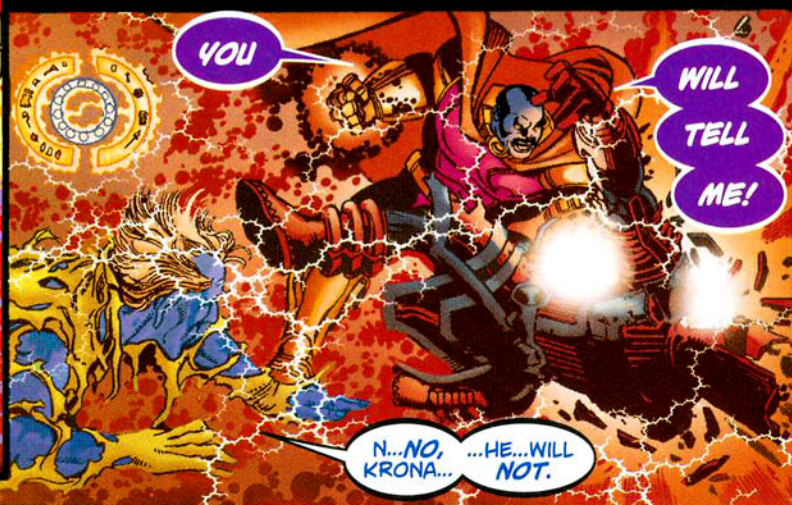
YOU
WILL TELL
ME!

IF I HAVE
TO TEAR YOU
APART AND RIP
THE SECRET FROM
YOUR BROKEN
CORPSE--



HIS ENERGY
BARRIERS--

YES--THEY DEFEY
EVEN INTANGIBLE
FORMS--



YOU

WILL
TELL
ME!

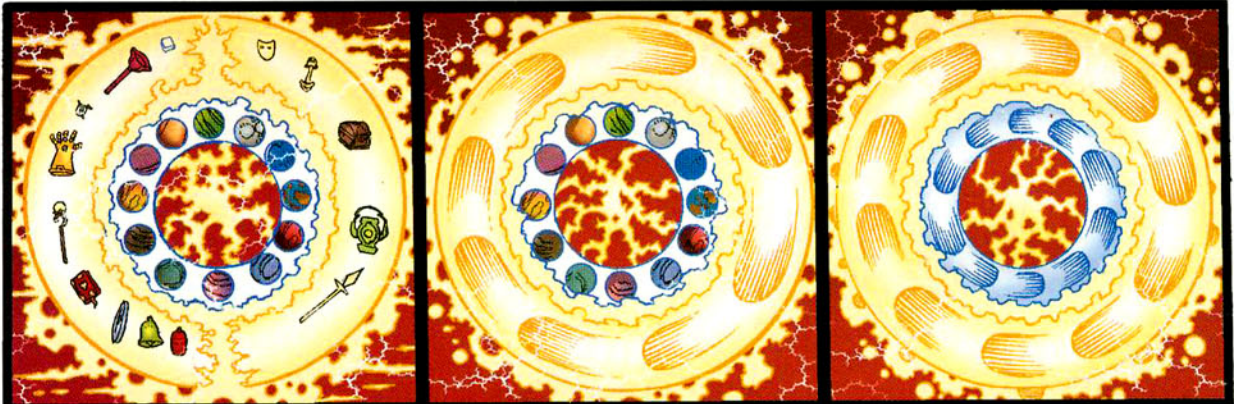
N...NO, KRONA... ..HE...WILL NOT.



ALL TOGETHER!
CONCENTRATE!



>NNH<



END of BOOK TWO

NEXT: STRANGE ADVENTURES!

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