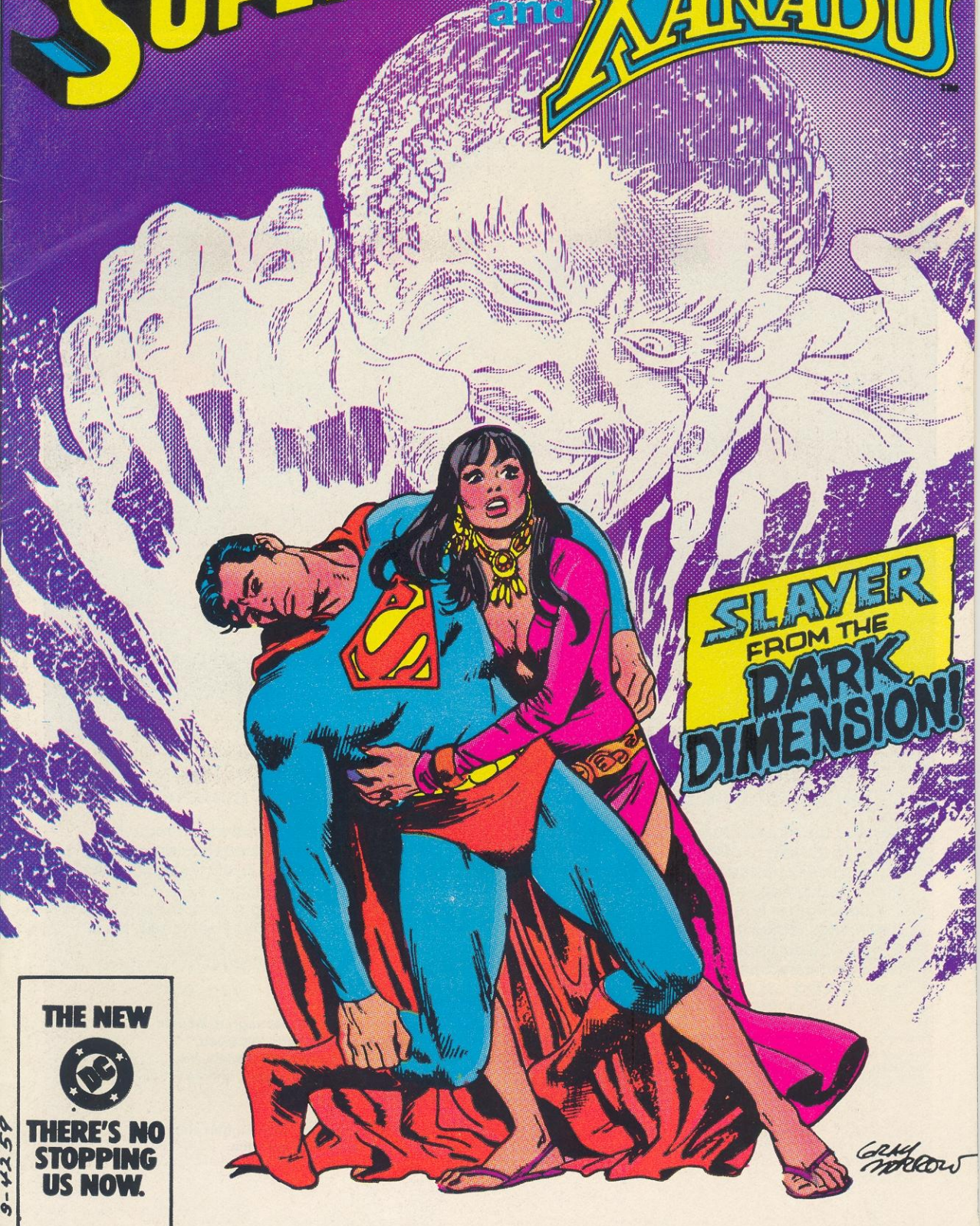


**DC COMICS PRESENTS**

65  
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AUTHORITY

# SUPERMAN and MADAME XANADU



**SLAYER  
FROM THE  
DARK  
DIMENSION!**

THE NEW  
  
THERE'S NO  
STOPPING  
US NOW.

GRAD  
MORROW

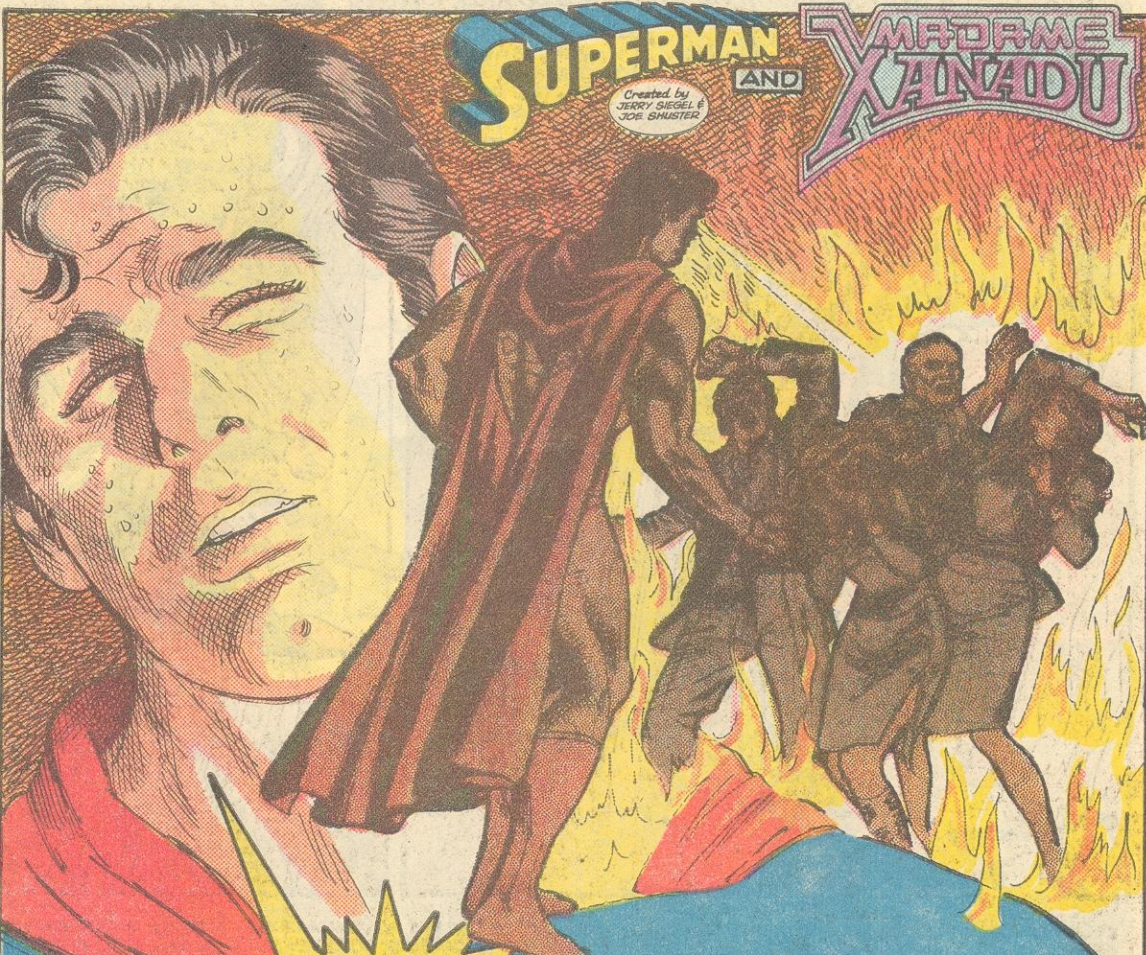
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ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM THE DOOMED PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HERO! HER ORIGINS ARE UNKNOWN, SHROUDED IN A CLOAK OF SUPERNATURAL HAZE! NOW DC COMICS PRESENTS

# SUPERMAN

# AND THE DARK DIMENSION

Created by JERRY SEIBEL & JOE SHUSTER



LOIS...LANA...  
JIMMY...PERRY...  
NOOOOOOOOOO!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO FEAR IN THE NIGHT. SOME ARE BUT IMAGINED, WHILE OTHERS... OTHERS CAN BE FRIGHTENINGLY REAL.

NOBODY IS EXEMPT FROM THESE FEARS. NOT EVEN A SUPERMAN.

# SLAYER FROM THE DARK DIMENSION

S-4143

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YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY FRIEND... BUT THE TEST IS NOT YET COMPLETE! COME... FOLLOW ME!

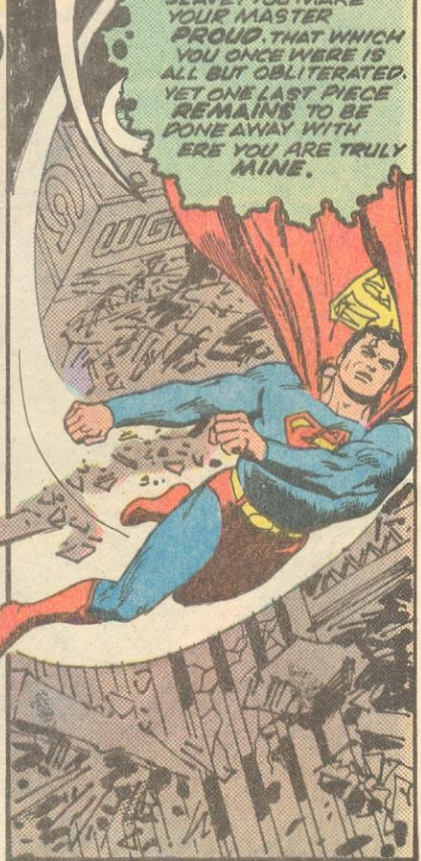
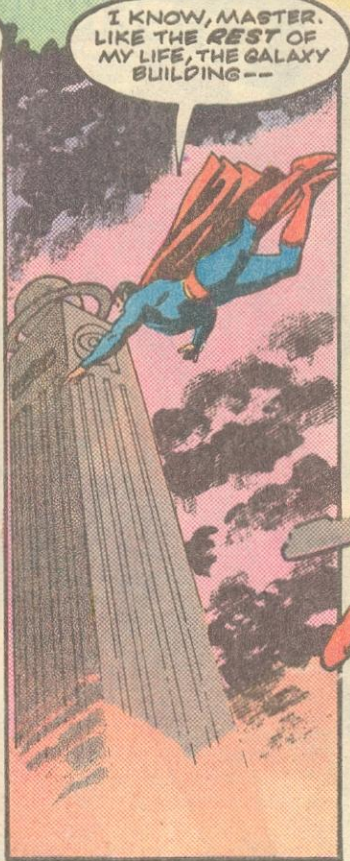
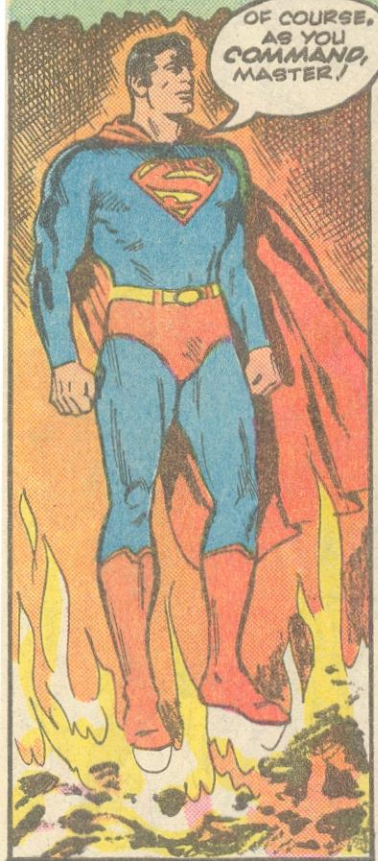
SEE NOW BEFORE YOU, ON MAN OF KRYPTON, ANOTHER ICON OF YOUR EXISTENCE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WISH DONE WITH IT?

--- MUST BE DESTROYED! ---

OF COURSE, AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER!

I KNOW, MASTER. LIKE THE REST OF MY LIFE, THE GALAXY BUILDING--

EXCELLENT! MY SLAVE! YOU MAKE YOUR MASTER PROUD. THAT WHICH YOU ONCE WERE IS ALL BUT OBLITERATED. YET ONE LAST PIECE REMAINS TO BE DONE AWAY WITH HERE YOU ARE TRULY MINE.



CLARK KENT MUST DIE! HA HA HA HA!

NO... NO... NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

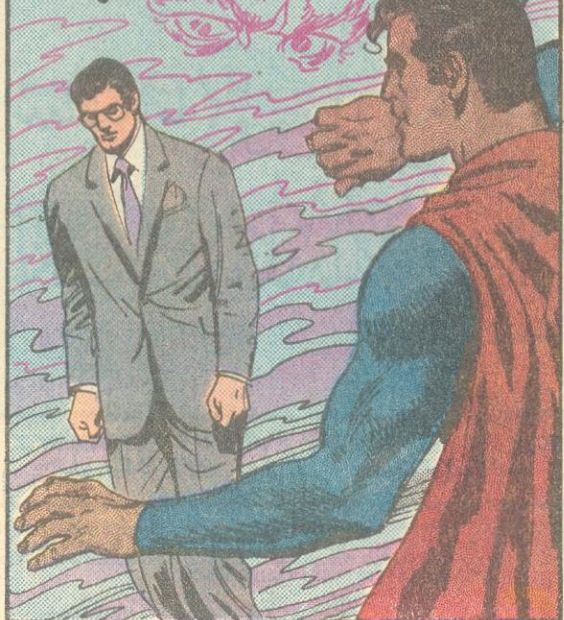
IT IS ONLY A NIGHTMARE, A DARK FIGMENT OF THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF CONSCIOUSNESS. WITH HIS AWAKENING, THE NIGHTMARES FLEE BACK TO THEIR SHELTERED PITS OF BLACKNESS.

THE TERROR REMAINS.

...OOOOOOOOOOOOO!

THE NIGHTMARES... KEEP GETTING WORSE! EVERY NIGHT THEY'RE DIFFERENT--

-- BUT WITH THE SAME THREAD RUNNING THROUGH THEM ALL... THAT VOICE... AND THOSE EVIL, MOCKING EYES!



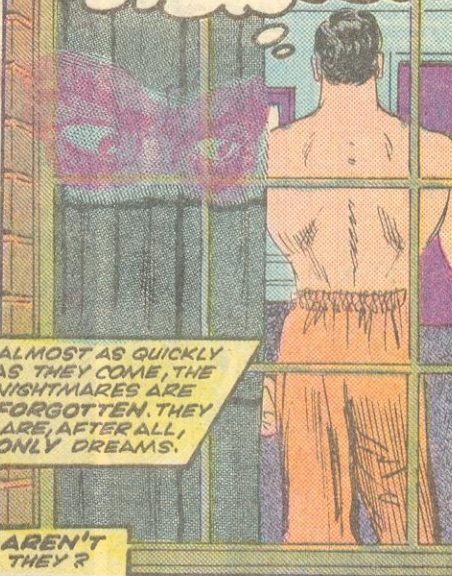
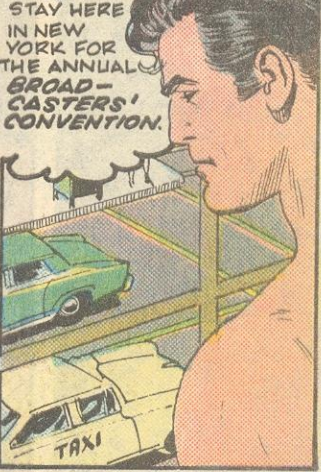
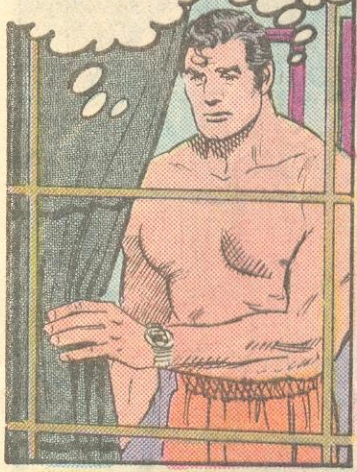
I DON'T HAVE A PHYSIOLOGICAL NEED FOR SLEEP, JUST A PSYCHOLOGICAL ONE. EVEN SUPERMAN NEEDS TO DREAM TO RELIEVE HIS ANXIETIES--

-- BUT THIS ... THIS IS TOO MUCH! WHAT GOOD DOES THE SLEEP DO IF IT CREATES MORE FEARS THAN IT SOLVES?

STILL, MAYBE I'M MAKING TOO MUCH OF A FEW SILLY DREAMS. SOMEHOW, THEY DON'T SEEM NEARLY AS BAD IN THE LIGHT.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST FORGET ABOUT THEM, ENJOY MY STAY HERE IN NEW YORK FOR THE ANNUAL BROADCASTERS' CONVENTION.

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO MEET MR. EDGE AND LANA DOWNSTAIRS FOR BREAKFAST ANYWAY, I OUGHT TO GET READY TO GREET THE DAY AS CLARK KENT.

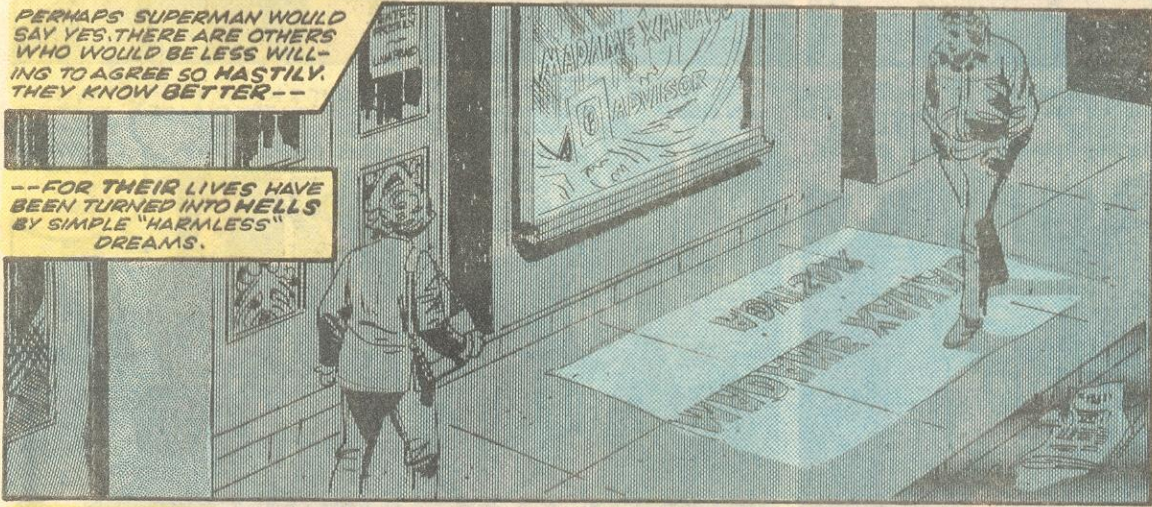


ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS THEY COME, THE NIGHTMARES ARE FORGOTTEN. THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, ONLY DREAMS.

AREN'T THEY?

PERHAPS SUPERMAN WOULD SAY YES. THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WOULD BE LESS WILLING TO AGREE SO HASTILY. THEY KNOW BETTER--

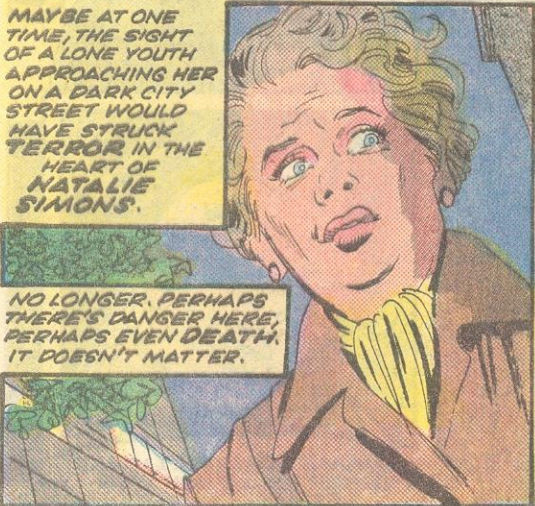
--FOR THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO HELLS BY SIMPLE "HARMLESS" DREAMS.



MAYBE AT ONE TIME, THE SIGHT OF A LONE YOUTH APPROACHING HER ON A DARK CITY STREET WOULD HAVE STRUCK TERROR IN THE HEART OF NATALIE SIMONS.

NO LONGER. PERHAPS THERE'S DANGER HERE, PERHAPS EVEN DEATH. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

AND WHAT OF ROBERT HALEY? WHY DOES HE WANDER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE AT AN HOUR WHEN HE WOULD NORMALLY BE HOME, ASLEEP IN FARAWAY WESTCHESTER?

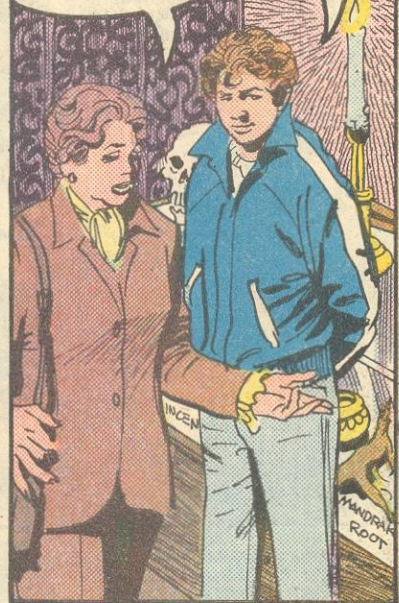
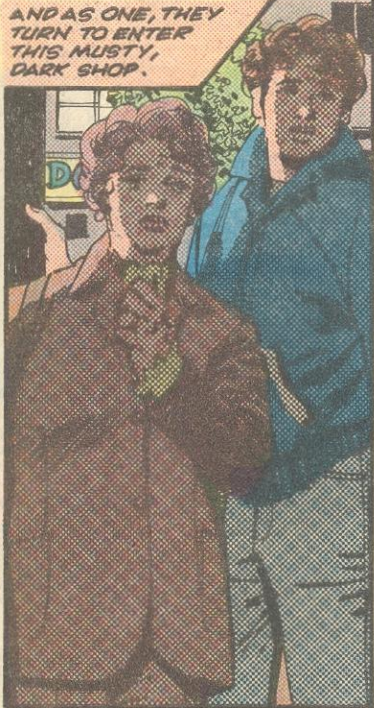


TWO TROUBLED SOULS MEET HERE. THEY DO NOT KNOW EACH OTHER'S NAMES, THEY CARE EVEN LESS. THERE'S SOMETHING THEY RECOGNIZE IN EACH OTHER'S EYES --

-- SOMETHING THAT BONDS. AND AS ONE, THEY TURN TO ENTER THIS MUSTY, DARK SHOP.

TH--THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN. I--I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY I CAME IN HERE. BUT ...I FEEL... SAFER FOR DOING SO.

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, LADY. WEIRD KINDA PLACE, AIN'T IT?



GOOD MORNING. MAY I BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE?

OH! EXCUSE US, MISS. BUT YOUR DOOR WAS OPEN AND...

...TO THOSE IN NEED.

HEY! HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

MINE TOO?! HAVE WE EVER MET BEFORE--?

NO. BUT I KNOW YOU NONETHELESS. PLEASE -- BE SEATED. YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

NO, I JUST... YES... YES, I SUPPOSE I DO AT THAT, MISS...?



MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN, NATALIE--ROBERT...



...MADAME XANADU. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU... IF YOU WILL LET ME.

WHY NOT? NO-BODY ELSE HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP. THEY... THEY JUST THINK I'M CRAZY. BUT I'M NOT, MADAME XANADU. SOMEHOW, I FEEL YOU BELIEVE THAT!



IT BEGAN ABOUT A WEEK AGO, THE NIGHTMARES THAT IS. WHENEVER I'D TRY TO SLEEP, THEY'D COME TO ME---

--HORRIBLE... EVIL NIGHTMARES, A VOICE WOULD SPEAK, SAY IT WAS TESTING ME AS IT SHOWED ME MY LIFE...



...MY HUSBAND... MY CHILDREN... MY HOME... AND BADE ME DESTROY THEM ALL!

YEAH... YEAH, ME TOO! I MEAN, THE VOICE WAS SHOWIN' ME DIFFERENT THINGS-- MY HOME, MY FRIENDS, AND ALL THAT--



--BUT IT WAS TELLIN' ME TO WRECK ALL THAT! JUST LIKE YOU!

BUT YOU DIDN'T, DID YOU? YOU RESISTED THE VOICE.

IT TOLD ME TO KILL MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. I... I COULDN'T!



IT TOLD ME TO MURDER MY PARENTS. I WOULDN'T!

I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS. I RAN FROM THE HOUSE... BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID THE VOICE WOULD COME FOR ME AGAIN.



DON'T BE AFRAID, MY FRIENDS. THERE IS YET HOPE FOR YOU BOTH.

BUT WE MUST WAIT.



THERE IS ONE OTHER WHO HAS YET TO JOIN US. HE WILL COME SHORTLY.



THE DAWN IS SLOW TO COME FOR SOME, BUT ONCE IT ARRIVES, IT BRINGS WITH IT A DAY OF RARE BEAUTY TO THE DARK, GRAY CANYONS OF NEW YORK.

... SO I SAID TO HIM, "LOOK, WALTER, I'M SORRY THIS RATHER KID'S TAKEN YOUR PLACE... BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS!"  
CHUCKLE'S

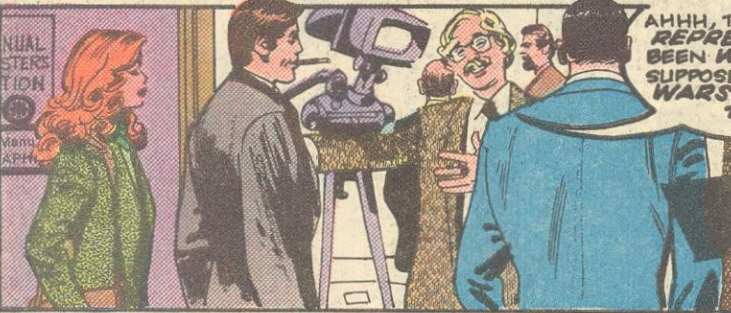


REALLY, MORGAN! HOW COME WE NEVER GET TO SEE THIS SIDE OF YOU AT THE OFFICE?



BECAUSE I'M THE BOSS, LANA, AND THAT CALLS FOR A CERTAIN DIGNITY AROUND THE OFFICE. BUT ON THESE CONVENTION JUNKETS, WELL... EVEN I CAN BE HUMAN, YOU KNOW.

AHHH, THE GALAXY BROADCASTING REPRESENTATIVES... AT LAST! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU PEOPLE. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE PANEL, "RATINGS WARS: HOW TO AVOID CASUALTIES" IN TEN MINUTES!



SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MR. DREYFUSS.

PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT, MR. KENT. NOW IF YOU AND MS. LANG AND MR. EDGE WILL PLEASE HURRY ALONG...?

FIVE'LL GET YOU TEN EDGE BITES THIS GUY'S HEAD OFF IN THE NEXT SIX SECONDS, LUV!

AND SO...  
... AND THERE'S NO SMOKING ON THE Dais, MR. EDGE!

BLAST IT, DREYFUSS... I HOPE YOU COME TO WORK FOR GBS ONE OF THESE DAYS-- JUST SO I CAN HAVE THE PLEASURE OF FIRING YOU!

WELCOME TO THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON NETWORK NEWS RATINGS. WITH US THIS MORNING ARE...

THIS WHOLE THING'S ONE BIG YAWN, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL PART OF BEING A NEWSCASTER.

YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL LAST THAT LONG, LANA?



CLARK KENT'S MIND WANDERS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS---

THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS TO OCCUPY HIS ATTENTION. BESIDES, THE MIND OF A SUPERMAN IS EASILY CAPABLE OF FOCUSING ON SEVERAL MATTERS AT ONCE.



THE EXERCISING OF THAT ABILITY IS CLARK KENT'S FIRST MISTAKE.

THE SECOND IS ALLOWING THE DREAMS TO ENTER HIS CONSCIOUSNESS...



UNTHINKINGLY, HE OBEYS... AND EVEN IN THE HARSH, UNCOMPROMISING LIGHT OF DAY, NIGHTMARE AND LIFE MERGE!

GREAT KRYPTON! WH-WHAT AM I DOING...? HAVE TO DIVERT MY HEAT VISION OR LANA'S A DEAD WOMAN!

MORGAN! YOUR CIGARETTE!



YOU HEAR ME, SLAVE? THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE YOUR FANTASY... REALITY! STRIKE NOW!

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY SMOKING'S NOT PERMITTED, MR. EDGE? I TOLD YOU SO, BUT WOULD YOU LISTEN? OH NO, YOU HAD TO...

DO THE WORDS "SHUT YOUR FACE" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU, DREYFUSS --?

MOMENTS LATER...

HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE! RAO ONLY KNOWS WHAT ELSE I MIGHT'VE ACCIDENTLY DONE!

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M ACTUALLY SHAKING... ME!

THESE NIGHTMARES ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE OVER MY WAKING MIND AS WELL AS MY SLEEPING! IS THERE MORE TO IT THAN JUST DREAMS--

-- OR AM I GOING... CRAZY?



JUST LIKE MY NIGHTMARES... ONLY THIS TIME IT REALLY HAPPENED!



THE DOUBTS BEGIN TO GNAW AT HIM --