

DC COMICS PRESENTS

65
75¢
CAN 95¢
U.K. 25p
JAN. 84
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN and MADAME XANADU



THE NEW



THERE'S NO
STOPPING
US NOW.

GRAD
MORROW

4524-6

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

Created by JERRY SEIBEL & JOE SHUSTER

AND

MADAME XANADU

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

LOIS ... LANA ...
JIMMY ... PERRY ...
NOOOOOOOOO!

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

SLAYER FROM THE DARK DIMENSION

S-4143

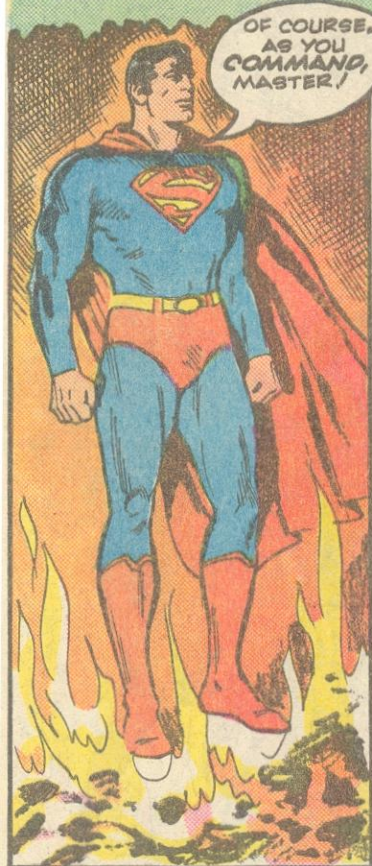
PAUL KUPPERBERG
WRITER

GRAY MORROW
ARTIST/COLORIST

ROB ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
EDITOR

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



OF COURSE, AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER!

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



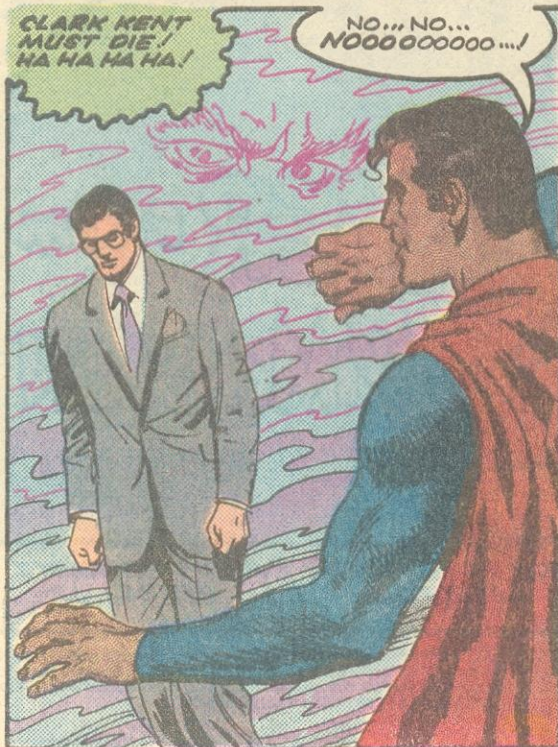
I KNOW, MASTER. LIKE THE REST OF MY LIFE, THE GALAXY BUILDING--

--MUST BE DESTROYED!



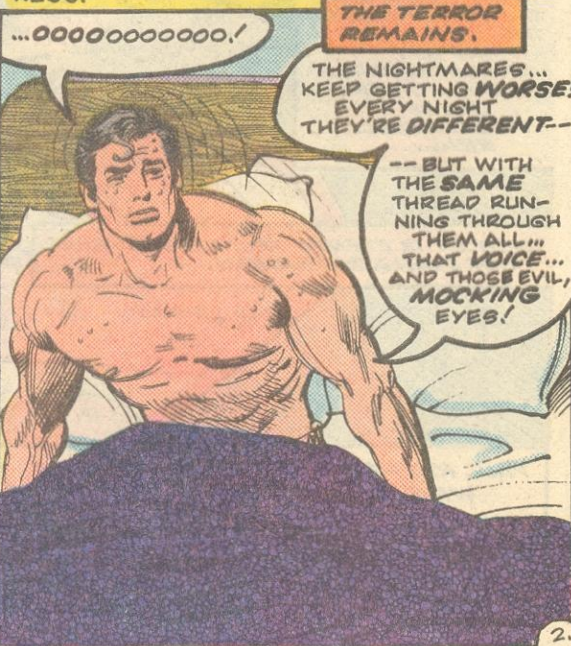
EXCELLENT, MY SLAVE! YOU MAKE YOUR MASTER PROUD. THAT WHICH YOU ONCE WERE IS ALL BUT OBLITERATED. YET ONE LAST PIECE REMAINS TO BE DONE AWAY WITH HERE YOU ARE TRULY MINE.

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.



...OOOOOOOOOOOOO!

THE TERROR REMAINS.

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!

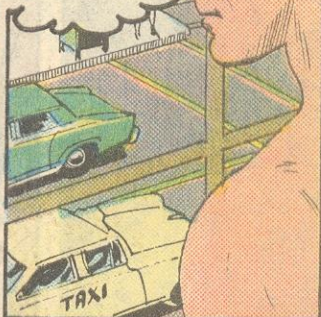
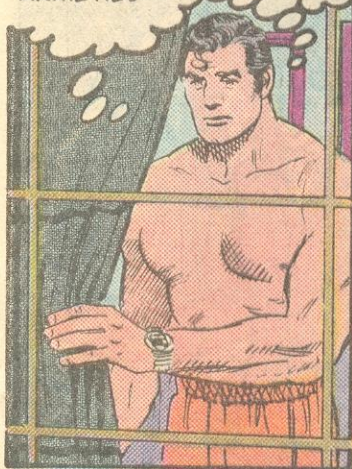
I DON'T HAVE A PHYSIOLOGICAL NEED FOR SLEEP, JUST A PSYCHOLOGICAL ONE. EVEN SUPERMAN NEEDS TO DREAM TO RELIEVE HIS ANXIETIES--

--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.

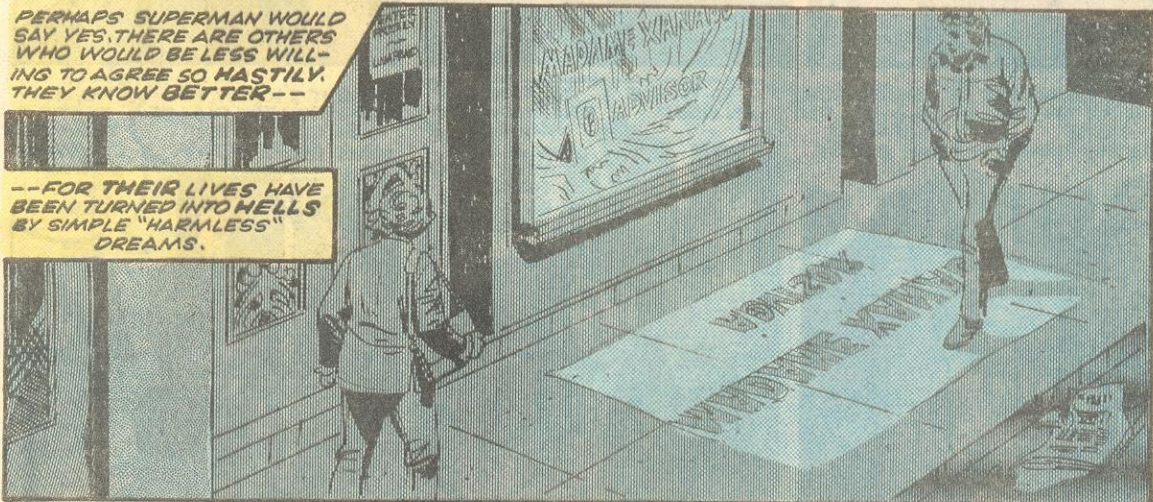


ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS THEY COME, THE NIGHTMARES ARE FORGOTTEN. THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, ONLY DREAMS.

AREN'T THEY?

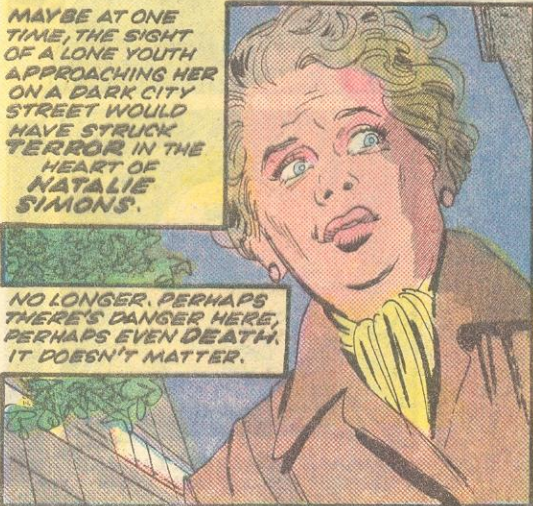
PERHAPS SUPERMAN WOULD SAY YES. THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WOULD BE LESS WILLING TO AGREE SO HASTILY. THEY KNOW BETTER--

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

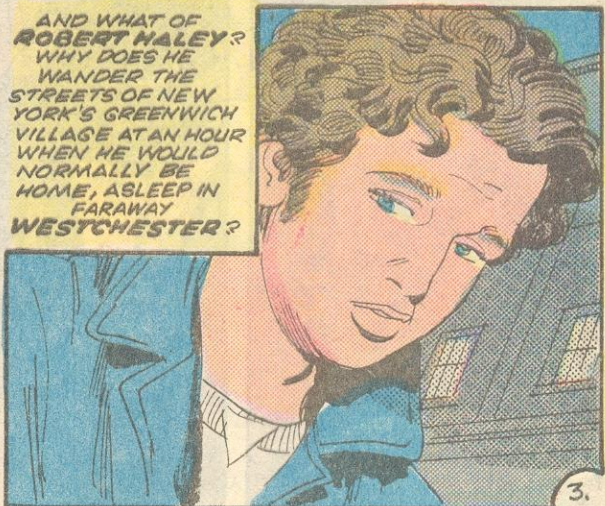


MAYBE AT ONE TIME, THE SIGHT OF A LONE YOUTH APPROACHING HER ON A DARK CITY STREET WOULD HAVE STRUCK TERROR IN THE HEART OF NATALIE SIMONS.

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



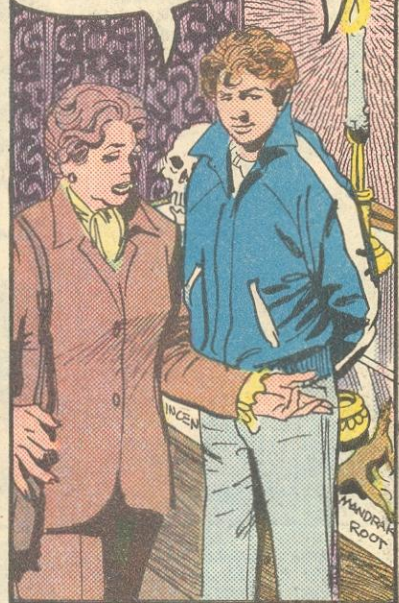
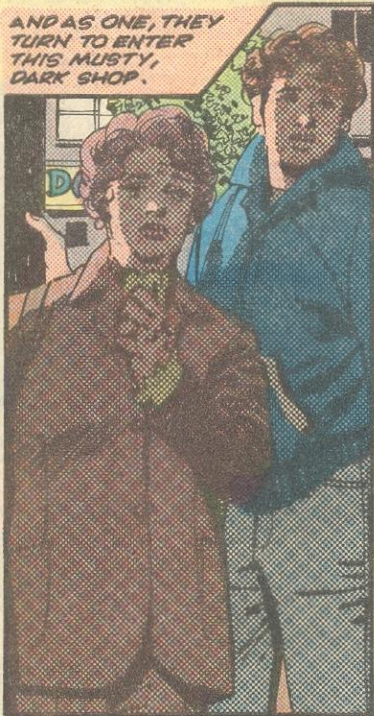
AND WHAT OF ROBERT HALEY? WHY DOES HE WANDER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE AT AN HOUR WHEN HE WOULD NORMALLY BE HOME, ASLEEP IN FARAWAY WESTCHESTER?



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...?



...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, WHEN-
EVER I'D TRY
TO SLEEP,
THEY'D COME
TO ME--

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



...MY HUSBAND...
MY CHILDREN...
MY HOME... AND
BARE 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!

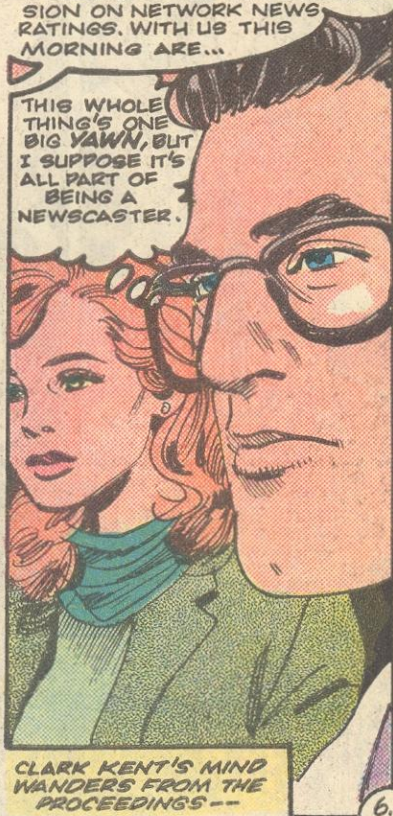
BLAST IT, DREYFUSS... I HOPE YOU COME TO WORK FOR GBS ONE OF THESE DAYS-- JUST SO I CAN HAVE THE PLEASURE OF FIRING YOU!

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!

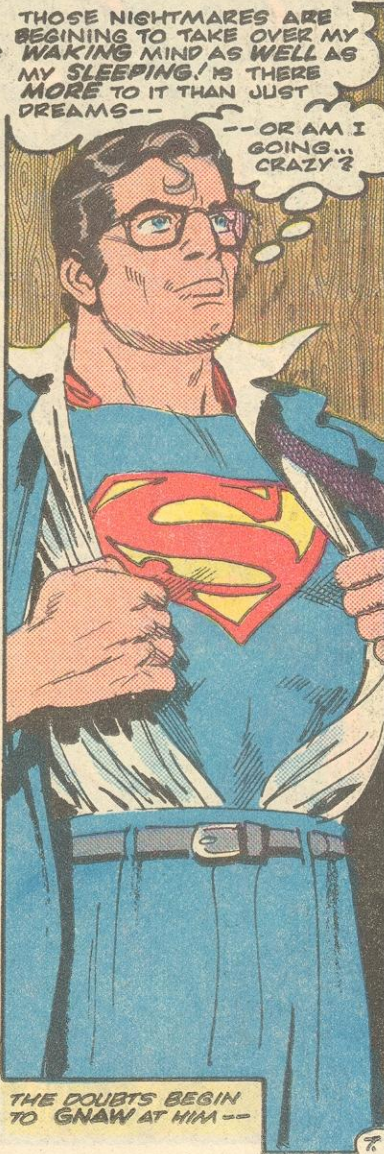
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M ACTUALLY SHAKING... ME!

THOSE 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?



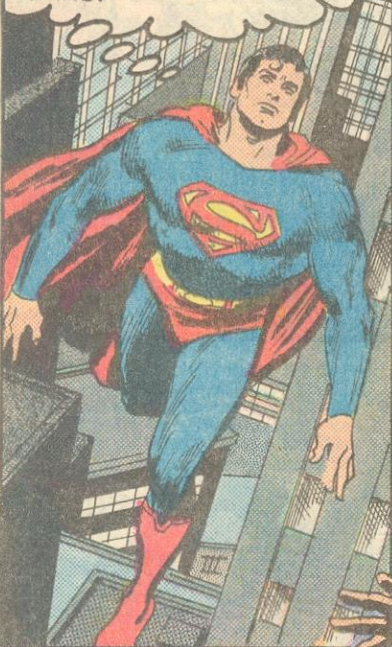
JUST LIKE MY NIGHTMARES... ONLY THIS TIME IT REALLY HAPPENED!



THE DOUBTS BEGIN TO GNAW AT HIM--

--DOUBTS MORTAL MEN MIGHT FIND AT BEST DISQUIETING, BUT IN THE MAN OF STEEL, THEY CAN BE DANGEROUS... OR WORSE.

HAVE TO GET A HOLD ON MYSELF! SOMETHING'S WRONG-- AND AT THE SAME TIME, SOMETHING'S CHILLINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE WHOLE THING!



WHY DO I FEEL I KNOW THAT VOICE... THOSE EYES? COULD IT BE SOMEONE I'VE MET STRIKING BACK AT ME--

--OR IS IT JUST MY SUBCONSCIOUS REACTING TO SOME STIMULI I HAVEN'T YET MANAGED TO ISOLATE?



THESE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN FOR NO REASON. THERE MUST BE A CAUSE, WHETHER NATURAL OR OTHERWISE. I JUST HAVE TO FIND IT--



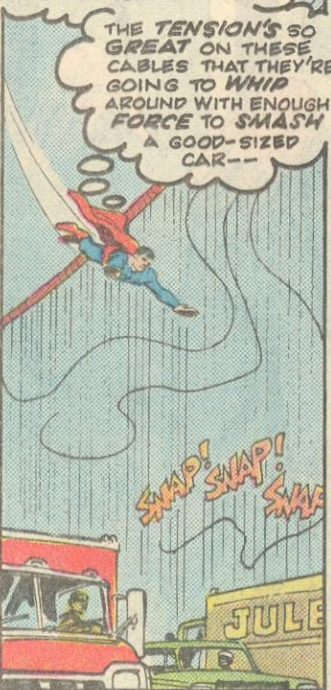
--BEFORE I DO SOMETHING DRASTIC... OR DEADLY! I... HUH?! GREAT KRYPTON!

MY SUPER-HEARING'S PICKING UP HIGH-FREQUENCY VIBRATIONS FROM THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE--

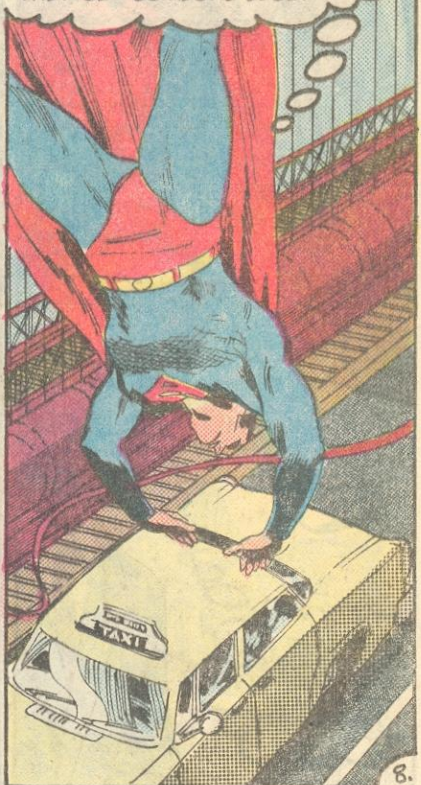


--FROM THE SUPPORTING CABLES! THAT SUBWAY TRAIN CROSSING IT IS SETTING UP VIBRATIONS THAT THE 100-YEAR-OLD CABLE CAN NO LONGER HANDLE. THEY'RE SNAPPING!

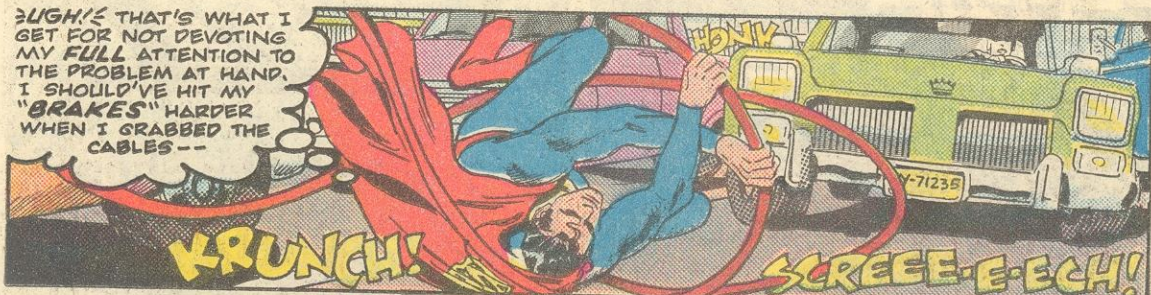
THE TENSION'S SO GREAT ON THESE CABLES THAT THEY'RE GOING TO WHIP AROUND WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO SMASH A GOOD-SIZED CAR--



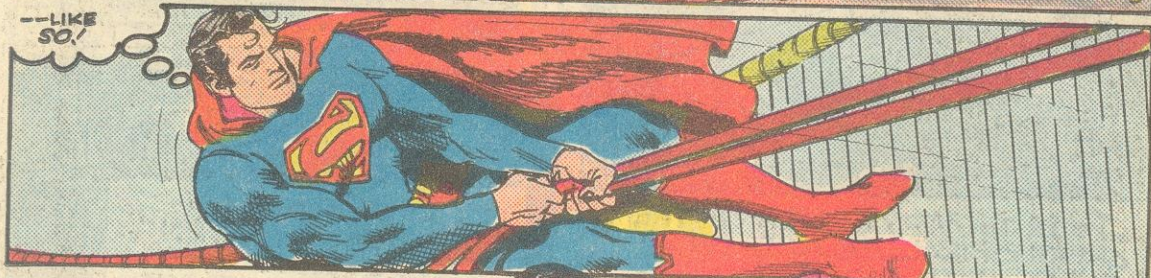
--UNLESS I GET THEM BEFORE THEY GET SOMEONE ELSE!



BLUGH! THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR NOT DEVOTING MY FULL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM AT HAND. I SHOULD'VE HIT MY "BRAKES" HARDER WHEN I GRABBED THE CABLES--



--LIKE SO!



THERE! HEAT VISION WILL FUSE THEM BACK INTO PLACE UNTIL THE CITY'S MAINTENANCE CREWS CAN GET HERE AND DO THE JOB RIGHT!



FOR BUT A SECOND, THE KRYPTONIAN'S MIND WANDERS FROM THE DEEP CONCENTRATION HE HAS FOCUSED ON HIS OWN TROUBLES.

A SECOND IS ALL IT TAKES. THE NIGHTMARES ARE BACK--IN FULL FORCE!

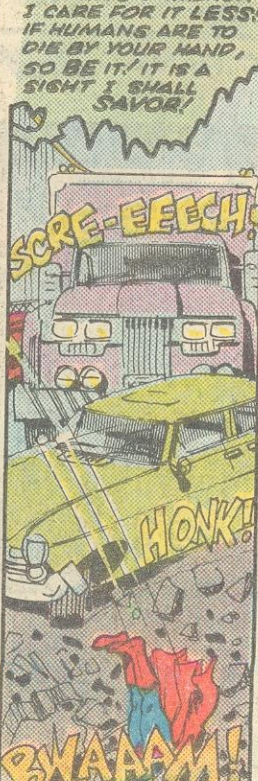
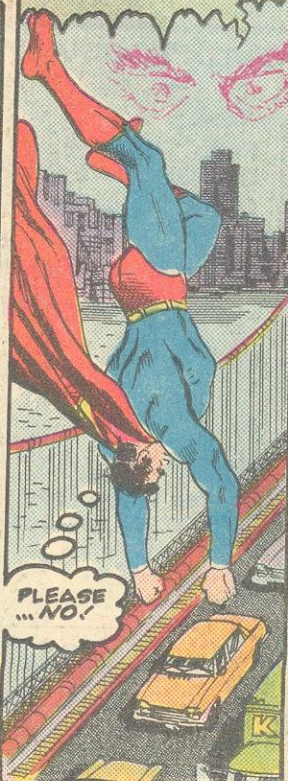
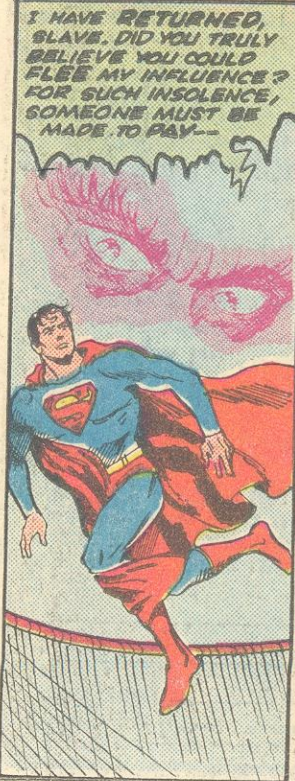
--EVEN IF IT IS THE INNOCENT DENIZENS OF THIS CITY!

THINK NOT TO PLEAD, SUPERMAN! I KNOW NOTHING OF MERCY. I CARE FOR IT LESS! IF HUMANS ARE TO DIE BY YOUR HAND, SO BE IT! IT IS A SIGHT I SHALL SAVOR!

BLAST YOU! I...I WON'T BE A PARTY TO YOUR INSANITY! I... WON'T!

AHH, BUT YOU ARE, SUPERMAN! AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ALTER THAT!

I HAVE RETURNED, SLAVE. DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU COULD FLEE MY INFLUENCE? FOR SUCH INSOLENCE, SOMEONE MUST BE MADE TO PAY--



AT THAT VERY INSTANT, MERE MILES AWAY...

3 SOB/E N-NO ... PLEASE ... DON'T MAKE ME ... I W-WON'T...

SHE'S FREAKIN' OUT, MADAME! CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING...?

AT BEST I CAN SOOTHE HER TERROR, ROBERT. HER DEMONS CAN'T BE EXORCIZED UNTIL THE TRIANGLE'S COMPLETE!

DO YOU HEAR ME, NATALIE? YOU ARE SAFE! YOUR FEARS, FOR NOW, ARE ALL IN YOUR MIND!

IT... IT WANTS ME TO... DESTROY, MADAME! IT IS EVIL... EVIL!

YOU WILL RESIST, NATALIE. YOU ARE STRONG!

YEAH, NATALIE. LET US HELP YOU THROUGH IT, OKAY?

HE'S 3 SOB/E SO POWERFUL...

WHO IS POWERFUL, NATALIE? HAS HE A NAME?

H-HE'S TERROR... AND HE... HE'S EVIL... THOSE ARE HIS NAMES.

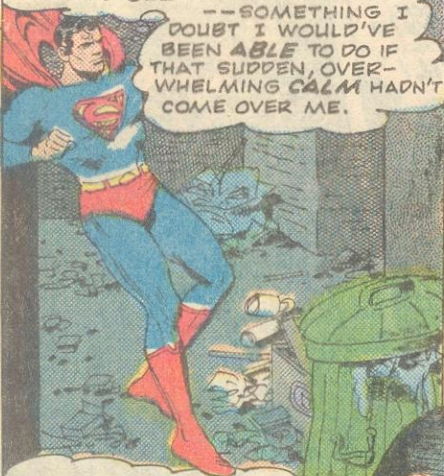
THEN I AM PEACE, NATALIE. I AM LOVE! DO YOU HEAR ME, NATALIE?

Y-YES.

AND NOT FAR AWAY...

THAT ONE WAS **BAD**...THE **WORST** YET! BREAKING AWAY FROM THE VOICE'S INFLUENCE WAS NEXT TO **IMPOSSIBLE**---

--SOMETHING I DOUBT I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IF THAT SUDDEN, OVERWHELMING **CALM** HADN'T COME OVER ME.



I CAN'T STAY IN THIS COSTUME NOW. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT AS **SUPERMAN** I'M MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THESE ATTACKS. SOMEHOW, **CLARK KENT'S** PERSONA ISN'T AS **STRONG** AS SUPERMAN'S---



--SCHIZOPHRENIC AS THAT MAY SOUND, THEN AGAIN, TODAY SEEMS AS GOOD AS **ANY** TO BE DOUBTING MY **SANITY**, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

SURE WISH I KNEW WHAT WAS COMING OVER ME. I'M NOT USED TO FEELING **SCARED**---



--BUT THAT'S WHAT I AM, ALL RIGHT. FOR SOMEONE WITH **MY** POWERS TO LOSE CONTROL COULD SPELL **DISASTER** FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD..

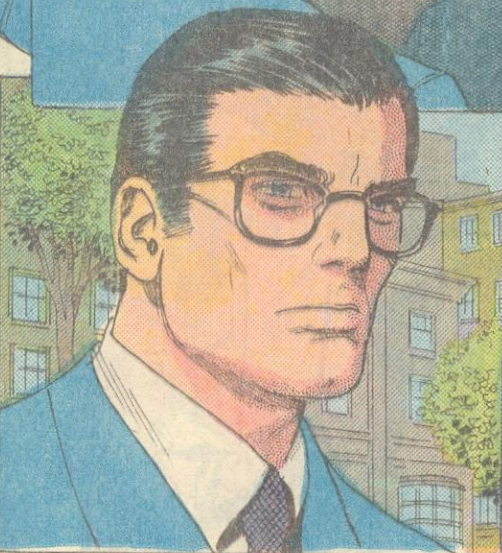
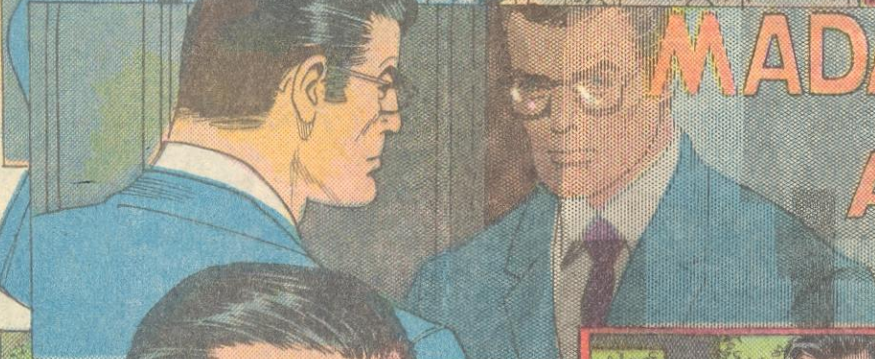
I... EH Z?



MADAME KANADU
ADVISOR



MADAME X
ADVIS





HELLO ...
IS
ANYONE
HERE ?

I AM, SIR.
THIS IS MY
SHOP. I AM
MADAME
XANADU.

I ... DON'T REALLY KNOW
WHY I CAME IN,
ACTUALLY. I WAS JUST
PASSING BY AND FELT ...
WELL, A **COMPULSION**.

YOU ARE
TROUBLED.
YOU CAME
SEEKING
MY **AID**,
CLARK.

OH, OF COURSE!
YOU'VE PROBABLY
SEEN ME ON TELE-
VISION. NO TRICK TO
THAT, IS THERE ?

WHY NOT ? I HAVEN'T COME
UP WITH ANY ANSWERS
ON MY OWN, AND I **KNOW**
FROM EXPERIENCE THERE
CAN BE **SOME** VALIDITY TO
MYSTICISM.

HUH ? / YOU KNOW
MY NAME ... ?

I DON'T **OFFER** TRICKS,
CLARK--NOR DO I OWN A
TELEVISION DEVICE. BUT
COME--BE SEATED, AND
PERHAPS I MAY ANSWER
SOME OF THE QUESTIONS
YOU HAVE.

LET US SEE WHAT THE
CARDS HAVE TO SAY
ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES,
SHALL WE ?

THE **SIGNIFICATOR** ...
THE **MAGICIAN** ! THAT
IS YOU, CLARK. **WILL** ...
MASTERY ... **WISDOM**
... THE ABILITY TO DRAW
POWER FROM ABOVE AND
DIRECT IT.

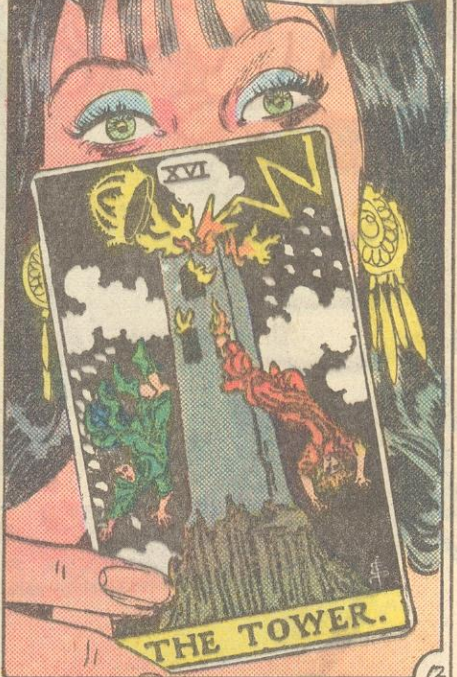


THE **DEVIL** -- YOUR CURRENT
SITUATION. HE CONNOTES
VIOLENCE ... **FORCE** ...
BLACK MAGIC !

YOUR **QUESTION** -- THE
FIVE OF SWORDS ! AHHH,
YOU FEAR SOMETHING ...
CONQUEST, PERHAPS.

THE
TOWER --

-- UNFORESEEN
CATASTROPHE !
OLD NOTIONS UPSET !



THE KING OF SWORDS, REVERSED, A CRUEL AND BARBAROUS BEING FROM YOUR PAST!

YOUR FEARS OF WHAT YOU MIGHT LEARN FROM THIS, IN THE MOON--EVIL DREAMS... SECRET FOES!

YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS...THE ACE OF SWORDS, REVERSED. POWER THAT MAY LEAD TO RUIN!

YOUR NEAR FUTURE, THE NINE OF WANDS... SIGNIFYING ADVERSITY!



WHY DOES IT SOUND GRIM, DOESN'T IT?

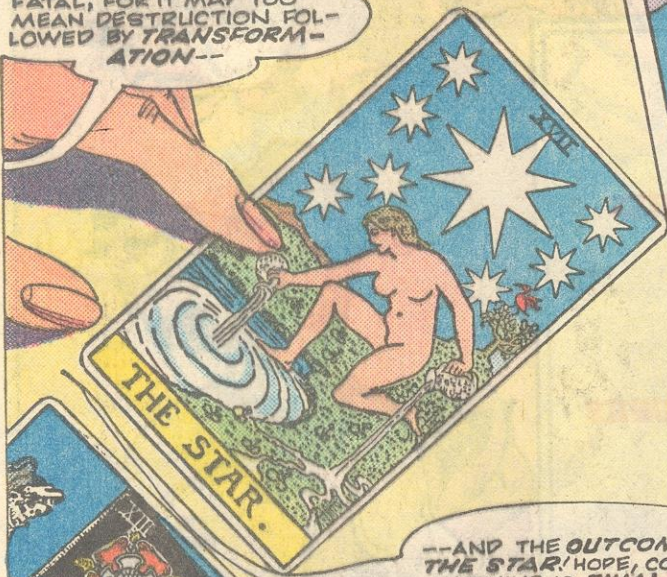
ON THE CONTRARY, THERE ARE GOOD THINGS TO COME!

THE INVERTED FOOL, THAT WHICH WILL MOST LIKELY OCCUR...A WRONGFUL DECISION--

--YET FROM THAT COME YOUR HOPES... IN THE FORM OF DEATH. IT IS NOT ALL FATAL, FOR IT MAY TOO MEAN DESTRUCTION FOLLOWED BY TRANSFORMATION--



IT'S A POWERFUL READING, TOO. THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE, CLARK KENT... THIS I KNOW. WHAT DO YOU HIDE BEHIND YOUR DOCILE FACADE?



--AND THE OUTCOME... THE STAR! HOPE, COURAGE... NOTHING IS FINAL, AND AID MAY BE GIVEN WITH NO THOUGHT OF REWARD!

I ... DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU MEAN,
MADAME
XANADU. WHAT DO
I OWE YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICES?

MERELY YOUR
PATIENCE.
I'D LIKE YOU
TO MEET
SOME
PEOPLE
BEFORE YOU
GO.

HE THE
OTHER ONE,
MADAME?
THE GUY WE
BEEN
WAITIN'
FOR?

UNQUESTION-
ABLY, ROBERT.
CLARK TOO HAS
BEEN VICTIMIZED
BY THE SAME
FORCE THAT'S
INVADDED YOUR
MINDS.

IN FACT, HE IS
THE CAUSE OF
YOUR
SUFFERING!

WHAT
...?!

FORGIVE ME, CLARK. I DIDN'T
MEAN TO INFER YOU WERE THE
DIRECT CAUSE, MERELY THAT IT
IS YOU THE FORCE OF EVIL
DIRECTS HIS WRATH AT--

--AND THAT NATALIE AND
ROBERT ARE, ALAS, THE
VICTIMS OF HIS RESIDUAL
ENERGIES.

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE DISPAR-
ATE IN KIND, YOU THREE
SHARE MANY A SIMILAR-
ITY ON THE PSYCHIC LEVEL.
SO DOES THE EVIL GEEK
OUT CLARK--

-- ONLY TO FIND
AS WELL THE
MINDS OF
THESE
PEOPLE.

WAIT--!
WE ARE NO
LONGER...
ALONE!

MADAME!
WHAT'RE
YOU ...?

GREAT SCOTT! I... I
SENSE IT TOO! WE'RE
BEING WATCHED!

THEY
ARE--

--IS ABOUT TO PUT
IN AN APPEARANCE!

**--AND
THEY
FEAR!**

BUT CAN'T LET
THAT FAZE ME...
HAVE TO GET THESE
WOMEN CLEAR!
SOMETHING TELLS
ME *WHOEVER*
WE'RE UP
AGAINST--

**IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT,
THE REALM OF REALITY SEEMS TO
SHATTER INTO A MILLION FRAGILE
SHARDS--FLYING OFF INTO A
MILLION DIRECTIONS--**

--ALL LEADING TO
MADNESS!

THIS IS ... INSANITY! WHERE ARE WE?!

I... BELIEVE WE'RE STILL ON EARTH,
CLARK-- YET TRAPPED IN AN AREA
OF OTHER-DIMENSIONAL SPACE!

IF THAT'S TRUE--
AND FROM THE
LOOKS OF THINGS,
I'M IN NO POSITION
TO ARGUE--HOW
DID WE GET HERE?

HA! I AM DISAPPOINTED YOU WOULD SO SOON
FORGET ME, SUPERMAN. BUT THEN--PERHAPS
'TIS BECAUSE I HAVE SO CHANGED SINCE LAST
WE MET. HA HA!

THAT VOICE--! I
RECOGNIZE IT--

--MAALDOR
THE
DARKLORD!

AAHH, THEN YOU DO RECALL
MAN FROM KRYPTON. YOU
REMEMBER HOW I BROUGHT
YOU TO MY DIMENSIONAL
PLANE-- ONLY TO HAVE YOU
AND POWER GIRL REDUCE
MY ONCE GLORIOUS
PHYSICAL BEING TO THIS--

--A STATE OF PURE
CONSCIOUSNESS... A TRUE
UNIVERSE UNTO MYSELF!*

M--MADAME --
WHY'S THAT
THING
CALLING HIM
SUPERMAN...?

* DC PRESENTS
#56 --JULIE

FOR THAT IS
HIS NAME,
WHELP... AS
YOU SHALL
SEE WHEN
THIS
RIDICULOUS
FACADE IS
STRIPPED
FROM HIM!

HA HA! BETTER,
KRYPTONIAN...
MUCH BETTER!
I SO PREFER
FACING YOU IN
THIS
FAMILIAR GARB!

THEN YOU'VE GOT ME,
MAALDOR--JUST DON'T
PLAN ON KEEPING ME,
BLAST YOUR MALEVOLENT
SOUL!

WHAT? IS THERE TO BE NO PLEADING FOR THE SAFETY OF THE INNOCENTS BROUGHT HERE BY MY POWER, SUPER-MAN? I AM DISAPPOINTED I SHAN'T HEAR YOU BEG FOR THEM!

I LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT YOU LAST TIME, MADMAN-- YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO SPARE THEM NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BEG. WHY BOTHER--

--WHEN I KNOW THEIR ONLY CHANCE LIES IN MY DEFEATING YOU, AS I DID LAST TIME!

AHHH, BUT THEN I WAS A MERE BEING OF FLESH-AND-BLOOD! NO LONGER, THANKS TO YOU--

--AND FOR THAT, SUPERMAN, I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE!

UHHNNNN--!

--LEAVING HIM INSTANTLY DRAINED, IMMOBILIZED WITH FEAR.

S--SUCH UN-RELENTING HATRED... SO MUCH... EVIL!

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP, SUPERMAN! NOT YOU! C'MON, LEMME HELP YOU!

COSMIC ENERGY TEARS THROUGH THE MAN OF STEEL, SEARING BOTH BODY AND SOUL WITH THE BURNING COLD OF THE EVIL--

OUR FRIEND BURNS WITH THE FULL FORCE OF MAALDOR'S EVIL.

YOU WOULD NOT SURVIVE CONTACT WITH HIM NOW--

-- BUT HE MUST BE SOOTHED--

--HE MUST RETURN!

NO, ROBERT! YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH HIM!

THE MADNESS CRACKLES ABOUT THEM, SWEEPING ACROSS THE DARK, BARREN LANDSCAPE, CHILLING THEM TO THEIR VERY CORES.

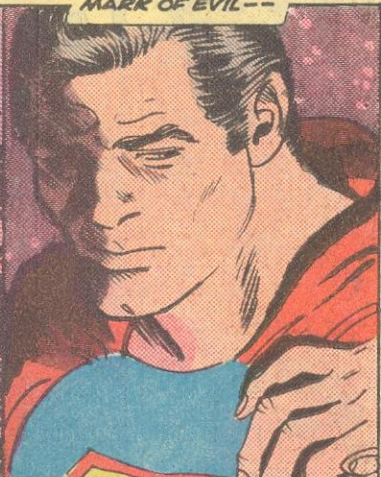


THE WOMAN CALLED MADAME XANADU REARS BACK IN PAIN.

SHE HAS EXPERIENCED MUCH OF EVIL IN HER LIFE-TIME.

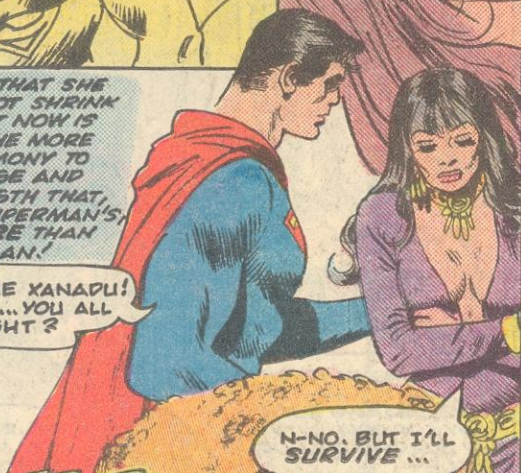
SHE HAS FACED IT UNFLINCHINGLY, WITH NO THOUGHT OF ESCAPING ITS DARK INFLUENCE.

SHE HAS FELT ITS ICY TOUCH ON OCCASIONS TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT. MADAME XANADU KNOWS WELL THE MARK OF EVIL--



--AND THAT SHE DOES NOT SHRINK FROM IT NOW IS ALL THE MORE TESTIMONY TO COURAGE AND STRENGTH THAT, LIKE SUPERMAN'S, IS MORE THAN HUMAN!

MADAME XANADU! ARE... YOU ALL RIGHT?



N-NO. BUT I'LL SURVIVE...

THE WHELP SPEAKS TRUE, SUPERMAN! BUT SEE I DO THAT DEED, FIRST WILL I REPAY YOU FOR THE MADNESS TO WHICH I'VE BEEN CONSIDERED--

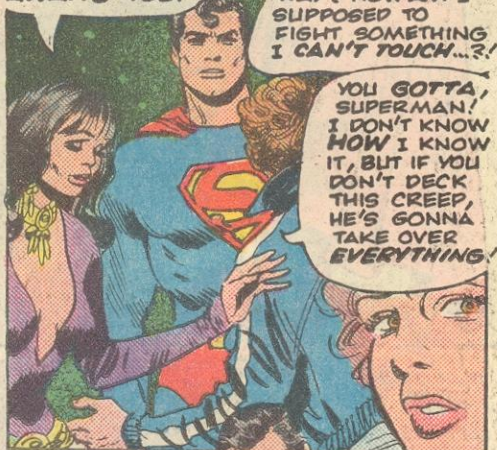
--DRAWING YOU INTO THE INSANITY THAT IS YOUR MIND, AS YOU SHOWED ME MINE OWN!

YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING -- YOU WERE MAD TO BEGIN WITH! I'M NOT... AND THAT'S GOING TO MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

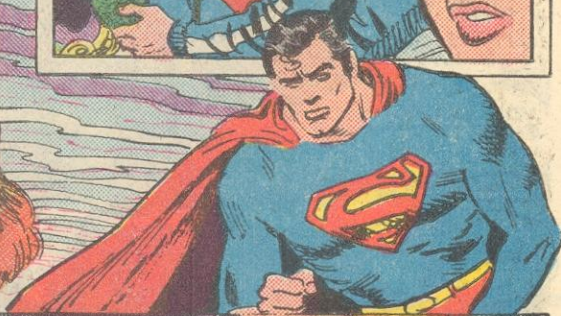
AHH, BUT WE ARE NOT IN YOUR WORLD ANY LONGER... WE ARE IN MINE! AND THIS IS A UNIVERSE OF MADNESS PERSONIFIED--

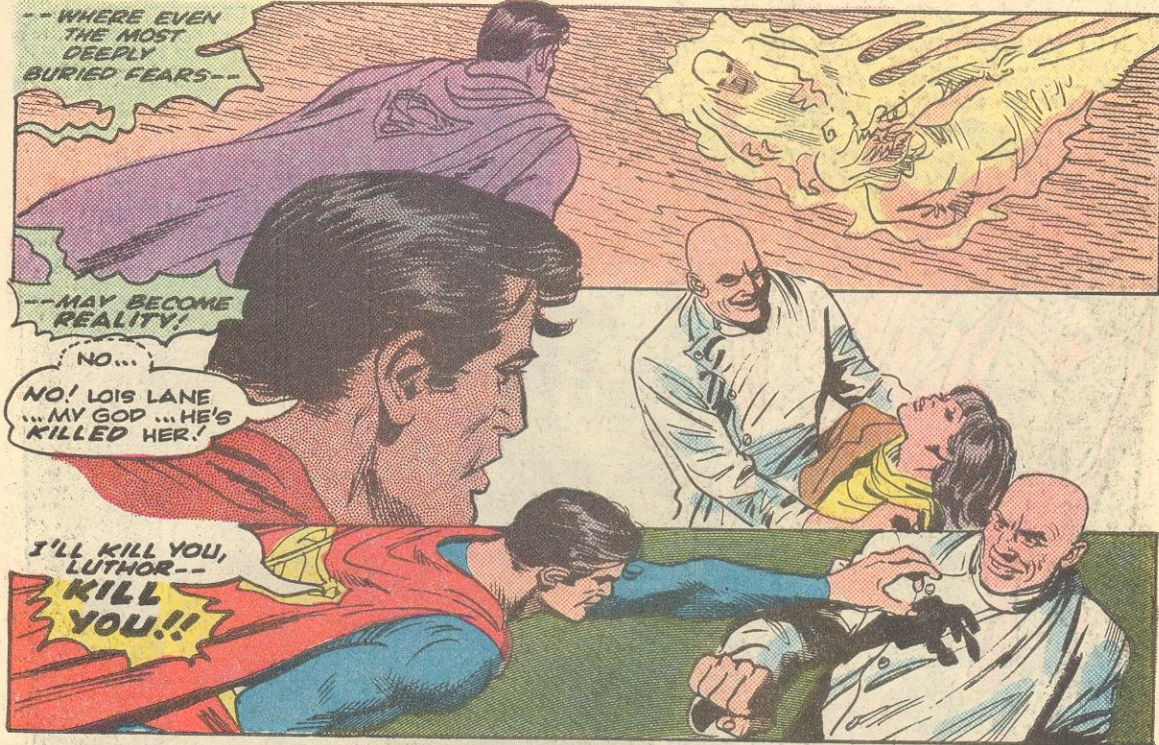
GO, SUPERMAN! MAALDOR AWAITS YOU!

ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER WAY? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT SOMETHING I CAN'T TOUCH...?!



YOU GOTTA, SUPERMAN! I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW IT, BUT IF YOU DON'T DECK THIS CREEP, HE'S GONNA TAKE OVER EVERYTHING!





-- WHERE EVEN
THE MOST
DEEPLY
BURIED FEARS--

-- MAY BECOME
REALITY!

NO...
NO! LOIS LANE
... MY GOD ... HE'S
KILLED HER!

I'LL KILL YOU,
LUTHOR--
**KILL
YOU!!**

NEVER AGAIN, LUTHOR!
YOU'LL NEVER HARM
ANOTHER INNOCENT WITH
YOUR EVIL AGAIN!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE,
SUPERMAN. NIGHT AFTER
NIGHT I HAVE COME FOR
YOU--

-- OPENING YOUR MIND... DELVING
INTO THE DEEPEST, DARKEST RECES-
SES OF CONSCIOUSNESS... PREPAR-
ING YOU FOR THIS MOMENT--

-- WHEN OUR MINDS
WOULD BECOME
ONE IN THIS PLACE!

NOT REAL...
NOTHING
HERE IS
REAL...!

BUT IT IS, MAN
OF STEEL. THESE
ARE YOUR TRUE
FEARS... YOUR
REAL GUILTS!
I KNOW, FOR I
AM WITHIN YOU!

SON... HELP US,
SON... DON'T LET
US DIE...!

YOU HAVE THE
POWER TO MOVE
WORLDS,
CLARK... WHY
CAN'T YOU
SAVE US...?

MA... PA...! SOB! E

I... I'M SORRY! EVEN WITH MY POWERS, I... COULDN'T STOP YOU FROM... FROM DYING... SOB, I'M SO SORRY...

YES, MA. I WANT TO BE WITH YOU TOO...

I'VE MISSED YOU FOLKS SO. I... HUH? JOR-EL AND LARA...!?

WE UNDERSTAND, SON! BUT WE MISS YOU... WE WANT YOU WITH US.

GEE, MADAME, WE GOTTA STOP HIM!

HAH! HOW COULD THEY WANT YOU, KAL-EL? YOU'RE WORTHLESS -- A FAILURE!

WE CAN'T, ROBERT. MAALDOR IS SHOWING SUPERMAN HIS OWN PERSONAL HELL! ONLY HE MAY BREAK THE SPELL!

YOU'VE ALLOWED EVERYBODY WHO'S EVER LOVED YOU TO DIE! YOU ABANDONED US TO PERISH WITH KRYPTON!

NO! YOU'RE NOT REAL! YOU'RE NOT MY PARENTS!

JOR-EL AND LARA WERE GOOD PEOPLE... THEY SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE MINE!

I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS TO ME, MAALDOR! GET OUT OF MY MIND, BLAST YOU --

GET OUT!!

YOUR WILL IS STRONGER THAN I HAD IMAGINED, SUPERMAN.

LET US SEE, THEN, HOW YOUR HUMAN COMPANIONS FAIRE UNDER MY POWER!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, MAALDOR -- DON'T! SUCH POWER COULD TEAR THEM APART!

AARH!

UNHH

BUT MINE IS UNLIMITED -- AND I'VE ALL ETERNITY TO SEE YOURS DESTROYED!

...OR, PERHAPS, TO MAKE THEM INTO FOES EVEN YOU WILL NOT--CANNOT BEAR TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST?

STOP! THIS MUSTN'T BE--!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, MADAME XANADU. I CAN SENSE WHAT MAALDOR'S DONE TO THEM--

--INFECTING THEM WITH HIS OVERPOWERING EVIL...MAKING THEM ONE WITH THIS INSANE UNIVERSE!

MAALDOR'S LEFT ME NO CHOICE--

--BUT TO FIGHT THEM!

HE TRIES, THIS SUPERMAN DOES. BUT HE IS A BEING OUT OF HIS ELEMENT, TRAPPED BY POWERS AND FORCES HIS MIND, SHAPED BY GOOD, CAN NEVER WHOLLY COMPREHEND--

--WITH THE TOTAL FORCE OF A UNIVERSE GONE MAD MARSHALED AGAINST HIM!

HE WOULD SUCCUMB, BUT THEN, A VOICE MAKES ITSELF HEARD...A VOICE AS CLEAR AS LIGHT--AS CALM AS SELLS ON A WINTER NIGHT.

NATALIE...ROBERT...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU DO!

NATALIE--WHAT OF YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR HUSBAND, YOUR HOME? IF MAALDOR BADE YOU DESTROY, WOULD THEY DIE AT YOUR HANDS?

ROBERT--TELL ME OF THE PARENTS YOU SO CHERISH! IS IT MAALDOR'S CHOICE WHETHER THEY TOO SHALL PERISH?

YOUR MINDS ARE NOT TRULY YOURS. THEY ARE INVADIED BY EVIL THAT WOULD HAVE YOU DESTROY ALL YOU HOLD DEAR...ALL YOU LOVE!

PRATTLE ON, WOMAN! YOUR WORDS FALL UPON EARS MADE DEAF BY MY MIGHT. THESE HUMANS ARE MINE.

ARE YOU, NATALIE?
DOES EVIL SPEAK
TRUTH, ROBERT?

YOU BOTH FLED THOSE
YOU LOVED LEST YOU BE
DRIVEN TO DESTROY
THEM. CAN YOU NOW BE
MADE TO DESTROY ONE
WHO IS GOOD...JUST AS
YOU YOURSELVES MAY
BE AGAIN?

'TIS A USELESS
EXERCISE, MORTAL!
GO---I HAVE NO
QUARREL WITH
YOU!

SEE! EVIL SEEKS TO
RID ITSELF OF MY
PRESENCE, BECAUSE
I WILL NOT BEND...
I CANNOT BE
BROKEN!

WHO THEN IS STRONGER,
MY DEAR, DEAR FRIENDS...
YOU--OR ALL-CONSUMING
EVIL?

THE UNIVERSE
SHUDDERS.

IT FEELS ITSELF
ATTACKED...BATTERED
BY FORCES CONTRARY
TO ITS VERY PURPOSE
FOR EXISTENCE.

MAALDOR KNOWS
FEAR THEN---

---AND HE IS
HELPLESS
BEFORE IT!

YOU... FILTH! YOU
CAN'T HAVE ME!
I WON'T BE MADE
PART OF YOUR
STINKING, SLIMY
UNIVERSE...
NEVER!

NATALIE... NO!

YOU PARALYZED ME
WITH FEAR... MADE
ME THINK SUCH
THOUGHTS AS TO
MAKE ME ILL...
BUT NO MORE!

EVEN IF IT KILLS ME,
I'LL SEE YOUR FOUL
PRESENCE
DESTROYED!

NATALIE
... STOP!

---AND NOW
IT'S UP TO
ME!

IT NEEDS TO
BE DONE,
NATALIE...
BUT NOT BY
YOU! YOU'VE
GIVEN ME THE
TIME
I NEEDED TO
COLLECT
MYSELF---

THOUGH THEY ARE PRESENT, NONE OF
THESE PEOPLE ACTUALLY SEES THE
DEED---

--FOR IT IS
OVER IN
BUT THE
BLINK OF
AN EYE--



--AND WHEN
NEXT THEY
LOOK--



--NONE CAN BE CERTAIN
THEY'VE EVEN LEFT THIS
SPOT.



HEY...!?
WHAT'S
GOIN'
ON
HERE?

I...DON'T
KNOW EITHER,
BOBBY. BUT...
I FEEL SO
MUCH...
BETTER. HOW
ODD!

I'LL SAY! I
...VIKES!
WILL YA
LOOKIT THE
TIME! I
GOTTA GET
HOME OR MY
FOLKS'LL
HAVE MY
BUTT!
SEE YA,
MADAME!

UHH...I'M NOT
SURE I
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S
HAPPENING,
MADAME
XANADU, BUT
THERE'S THE
MATTER OF
MY, ER...

I HAVE TO
GET HOME
MYSELF,
MADAME
KANADU!

LOOK...I'M NOT SURE
I KNOW WHAT
JUST WENT ON--
I'M NOT SURE I
EVEN WANT TO
KNOW, BUT
WHATEVER IT
WAS... THANK
YOU... AND
BLESS YOU!



FEAR NOT,
CLARK!
WHATEVER
SECRETS YOU
HAVE ARE
SAFE!



FAREWELL, NATALIE.
BE HAPPY!

THEY DON'T
REMEMBER,
HUH?

THEY KNOW THEY WERE
TROUBLED. NOW THEY ARE
NOT. THAT IS ALL THEY
NEED.



BUT YOU DO,
DON'T YOU? WEIRD,
BUT SOMEHOW, I'M
NOT WORRIED
ABOUT YOU
KNOWING HOW IS
THAT--?

GOOD-BYE,
CLARK.

RIIIGHT!

I KNOW WORDS AREN'T ENOUGH...
BUT THANKS FOR EVERYTHING,
MADAME XANADU.



CLARK KENT WALKS
OUT INTO THE SUN
AND FRESH AIR
AND BREATHE
DEEP SOMEHOW,
LIFE HAS SELDOM
SEEMED
SWEETER ...
AND FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN
DAYS, HIS STEP
IS LIGHT.

IT IS GOOD
TO BE ALIVE.

NEXT ISSUE:
SUPERMAN and **DEMON**
by LEN WEIN & JOE KUBERT!
ON SALE NOV. 3RD! IT'S A DATE! (23)