



DC
COMICS™

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES™

IN THEATERS
AND IMAX®
JULY 20

10

THE SUNDER

JAMES
ROBINSON
FRAZER
IRVING

HOW TO
TORTURE
AN IMMORTAL!

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RATED T+ TEEN PLUS

SEP 2012



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"...THAT'S WHAT LED
TO THEIR DOWNFALL."



SHADOW PUPPETS

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THAT'S
HOW **GODS**
CAME TO KNOW
THE FEEL OF
SHACKLES.

I HAD SOUGHT OUT MY GREAT-
GRANDSON **DUDLEY**, LORD
CALDECOTT, WHO THROUGH A
SERIES OF EVENTFUL DRAMAS
I HAD COME TO LEARN WAS
INVOLVED IN **UNSAVORY**
CONDUCT..

Turns out he's part of
some sort of masonic
cabal...who **SOMEHOW**
have fantastic Egyptian
beings at their beck and
call...who in turn some-
how have the ability to
dampen my shadowy
talents.

LONG/SHORT, I'M STUCK HERE
REALIZING WHAT A SPINELESS
MILKSOP MY OFFSPRING DUDLEY
HAS BECOME WHILE BEING
FORCED TO ENDURE THE SMUG
DRONE OF HIS COLLEAGUE
MILES ST. AUBREY.

EGADS, THE MAN
LIKES TO TALK EVEN
MORE THAN I DO.

GODS, YOU
SAY? YOU'RE **SURE?**
THEY LOOK PRETTY
SOLVENT.

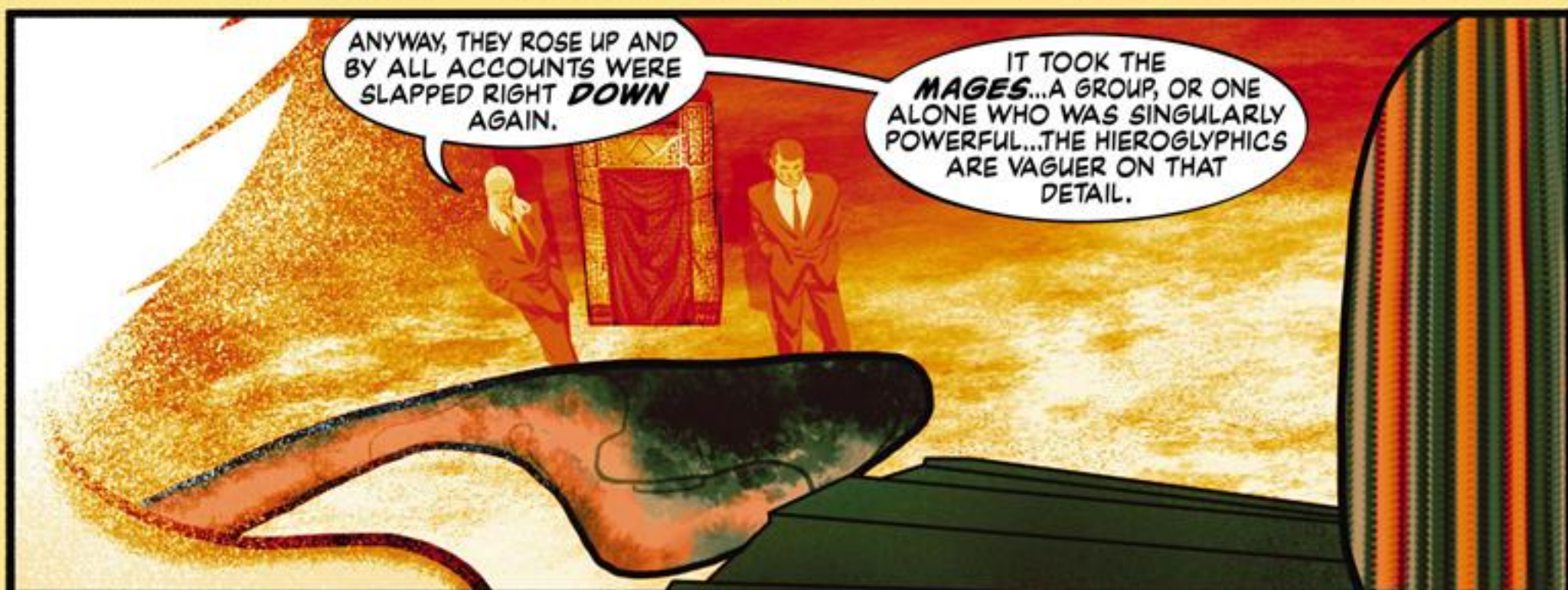
HONESTLY, I
DON'T CARE WHAT THEY ARE.
GODS. STAR TRAVELERS, PERHAPS...
I'M SURE YOU'VE READ VON DÄNIKEN,
OR AT LEAST KNOW HIS
THEORIES.



EITHER WAY, THEY CAME TO EGYPT--**MEMPHIS**, EGYPT, TO BE PEDANTIC--AND THEIR PRESENCE, THEIR APPEARANCE...I MEAN, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF...IT BECAME THE EGYPTIANS' MYTHS, OR AT THE VERY LEAST WAS **INCORPORATED** INTO THE EXISTING LORE.

BUT THEY WERE TYRANTS... ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY AND ALL THAT. THE PEOPLE ROSE UP--CAN YOU **IMAGINE?** LITERALLY SLINGS AND ARROWS AGAINST THOSE TITANS.

GOT TO HAND IT TO THEM, **BRAVER** THAN I...



ANYWAY, THEY ROSE UP AND BY ALL ACCOUNTS WERE SLAPPED RIGHT **DOWN** AGAIN.

IT TOOK THE **MAGES**...A GROUP, OR ONE ALONE WHO WAS SINGULARLY POWERFUL...THE HIEROGLYPHICS ARE VAGUER ON THAT DETAIL.



FASCINATING.

ISN'T IT?

NO.

THE GODS WERE DEFEATED. THEN LATER ON, I ASSUME YOU GOT HOLD OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED...AND HERE WE ARE. THE **ONLY** THING THAT DOES INTEREST ME IS HOW I'M **UNABLE** TO USE MY OWN ABILITIES.



WHY, IT'S **THEM** OF COURSE. I MEAN, **LOOK** AT THEM--ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

AND FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, I'D SAY **ALL** YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT THEY CAN.

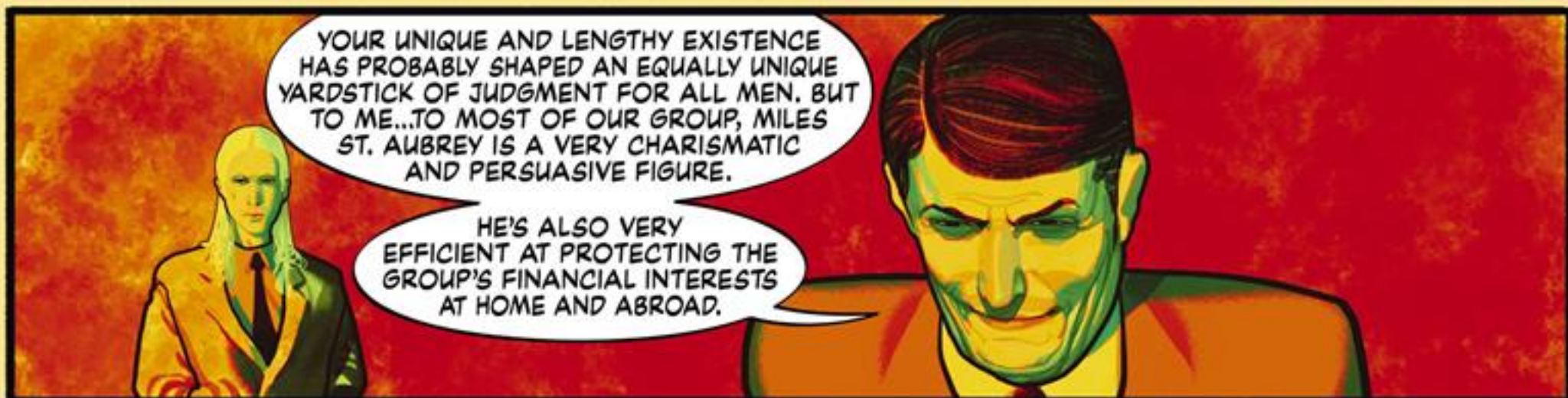


AH, SO YOU'VE FOUND YOUR TONGUE, DUDLEY. I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D SWALLOWED IT.

ME? NO, NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, LET'S EXCHANGE SOME ACCORD... OR LACK THEREOF BEFORE YOU'RE CONSIGED TO WHATEVER FATE MILES DEEMS APPROPRIATE.



"WHATEVER FATE MILES DEEMS"? HOW MUCH THE LEADER--**YOUR** LEADER--IS HE? YOU'RE LORD CALDECOTT, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE. HE'S...WHAT?...JUST SOME JUMPED-UP POMPOUS **ASS**, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL.



YOUR UNIQUE AND LENGTHY EXISTENCE HAS PROBABLY SHAPED AN EQUALLY UNIQUE YARDSTICK OF JUDGMENT FOR ALL MEN. BUT TO ME...TO MOST OF OUR GROUP, MILES ST. AUBREY IS A VERY CHARISMATIC AND PERSUASIVE FIGURE.

HE'S ALSO VERY EFFICIENT AT PROTECTING THE GROUP'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.



GROUP? YOUR GROUP, DOES IT HAVE A NAME, AT LEAST?



NO. IT'S JUST "THE GROUP." WE VALUE **ANONYMITY** OVER THEATRICS.



YES, NOTHING THEATRIC-- APART FROM RITES AND NINJAS AND SECRET ENTRYWAYS AND BIG EGYPTIAN GODS.



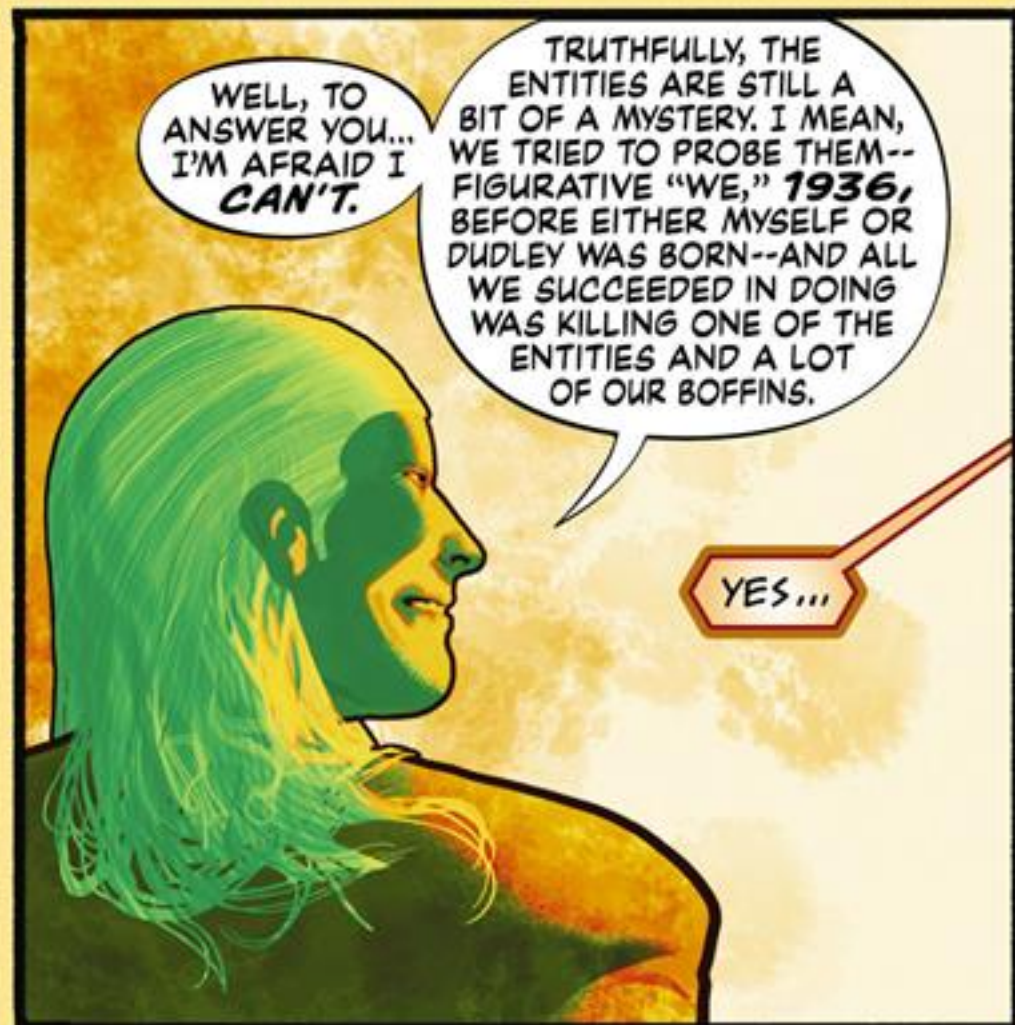
YOU HAVE A POINT.



AND OF COURSE, IT'S **OBVIOUS** THEY'RE WHAT ARE STUNTING MY ABILITIES. NO, I MEANT **HOW** ARE THEY DOING IT? I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M USED TO BEING INVINCIBLE IN THAT REGARD, SO--

YES, THE MIGHTY, MYSTERIOUS SHADE HELPLESS. MUST BE A SHOCK.

A SURPRISE. SHOCK? NO, THAT **RARELY** HAPPENS.



WELL, TO ANSWER YOU... I'M AFRAID I **CAN'T**.

TRUTHFULLY, THE ENTITIES ARE STILL A BIT OF A MYSTERY. I MEAN, WE TRIED TO PROBE THEM-- FIGURATIVE "WE," **1936**, BEFORE EITHER MYSELF OR DUDLEY WAS BORN--AND ALL WE SUCCEEDED IN DOING WAS KILLING ONE OF THE ENTITIES AND A LOT OF OUR BOFFINS.

YES...





THAT'S NOT EVEN THEIR FULL SIZE, BY THE WAY. THE GODS. THE DEVICE THAT CONTROLS THEM KEEPS THEM TO A MANAGEABLE SCALE. IT WAS **FATHER** WHO FOUND THEM, DID YOU KNOW THAT?

ALBERT.

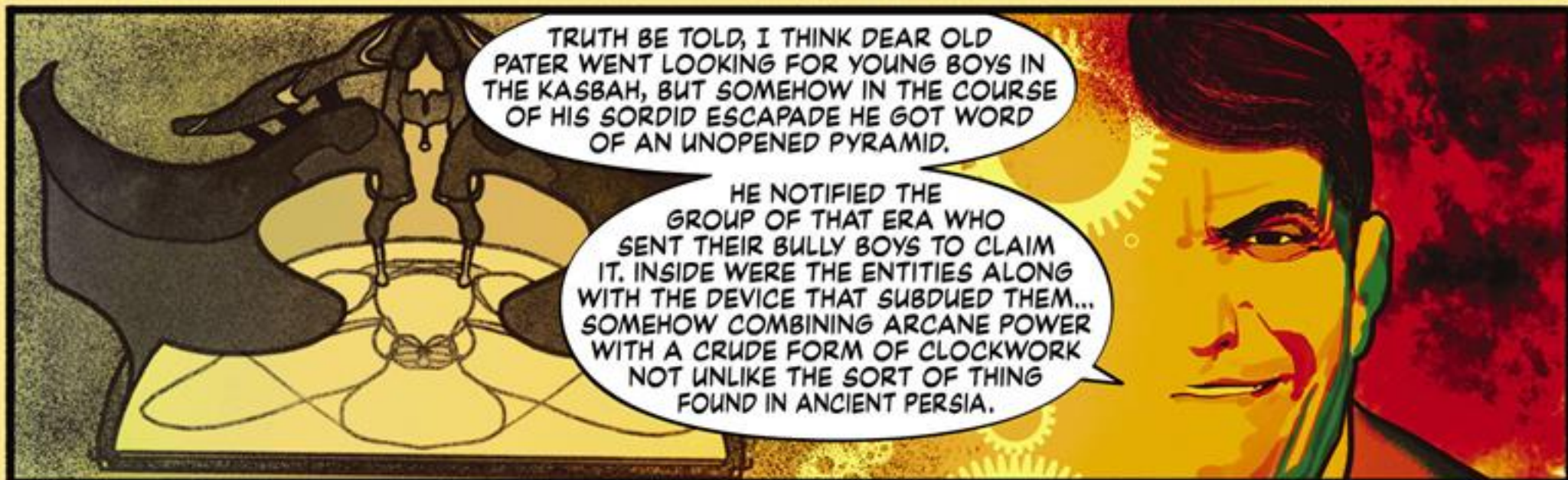
YOU MET HIM, DIDN'T YOU?



YES, ONCE, 1901. I WAS REMINDED OF THAT FACT ONLY THE OTHER DAY.

WELL, HE DISCOVERED THE GODS IN EGYPT. 1920. NO, '21.

EGYPT WAS ALL THE RAGE AT THAT TIME, AS I RECALL, AND A GREAT MANY BRITISH GENTRY AND MONEYED TYPES WENT THERE LOOKING FOR ARTIFACTS.



TRUTH BE TOLD, I THINK DEAR OLD PATER WENT LOOKING FOR YOUNG BOYS IN THE KASBAH, BUT SOMEHOW IN THE COURSE OF HIS SORDID ESCAPE HE GOT WORD OF AN UNOPENED PYRAMID.

HE NOTIFIED THE GROUP OF THAT ERA WHO SENT THEIR BULLY BOYS TO CLAIM IT. INSIDE WERE THE ENTITIES ALONG WITH THE DEVICE THAT SUBDUED THEM... SOMEHOW COMBINING ARCAINE POWER WITH A CRUDE FORM OF CLOCKWORK NOT UNLIKE THE SORT OF THING FOUND IN ANCIENT PERSIA.



AND THESE GODS DO **WHAT** EXACTLY? KILL FOR YOU, RESHAPE THE WORLD, WHAT? I MEAN, THEY HAVE THE POWER TO SUBDUCE ME, SO--



THEY BRING US **LUCK**.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDS DAFT, BUT ALL THEY DO...DON'T ASK ME HOW...IS EMIT AN ENERGY THAT **AIDS** OUR ENDEAVORS.



BUT IF THEY'RE JUST AIDING YOU IN BUSINESS, **WHY** THE ASSASSINS, THE SECRETS? I'M LOST.



AH, WELL, IT'S THE **KIND** OF BUSINESS. WE HAVE LEGITIMATE HOLDINGS, OBVIOUSLY, BUT THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE IN THE ILLEGITIMATE, TOO.



DRUGS.



DRUGS.
ARMS. CHILDREN.
GERMS.



DUDLEY,
IN **GOD'S**
NAME!



OH, SHOCKED AGAIN? TWICE
NOW? LET'S HAVE A GO AT A HAT
TRICK, SHALL WE, DUDLEY? WHAT
DO YOU SAY?

ARMS SALES ARE DOWN
BECAUSE TERRORISM'S BEEN
ON A SLIGHT DECLINE OF LATE.
WE THOUGHT THAT SHOULD
CHANGE. WE HAVE A DEAL
WITH SOME ALGERIANS
IN FRANCE--

THEY'RE DRUG
DEALERS, SO THEY'RE
CERTAINLY IN IT FOR THE
HEROIN WE'RE SUPPLYING
THEM, BUT THEY COULD
BELIEVE IN A CAUSE,
TOO--THESE THINGS
CAN BE GRAY.

NOT THAT I CARE, NOT
THAT ANYONE IN THE GROUP
GIVES A DAMN. SUFFICE IT TO
SAY, THE WORLD WILL BE
REAWAKENED TO THE
THREAT OF TERRORISM
SOON.



SOON?
WHEN
SOON?

TODAY.
THREE O'CLOCK
TODAY. **LES**
INVALIDES.

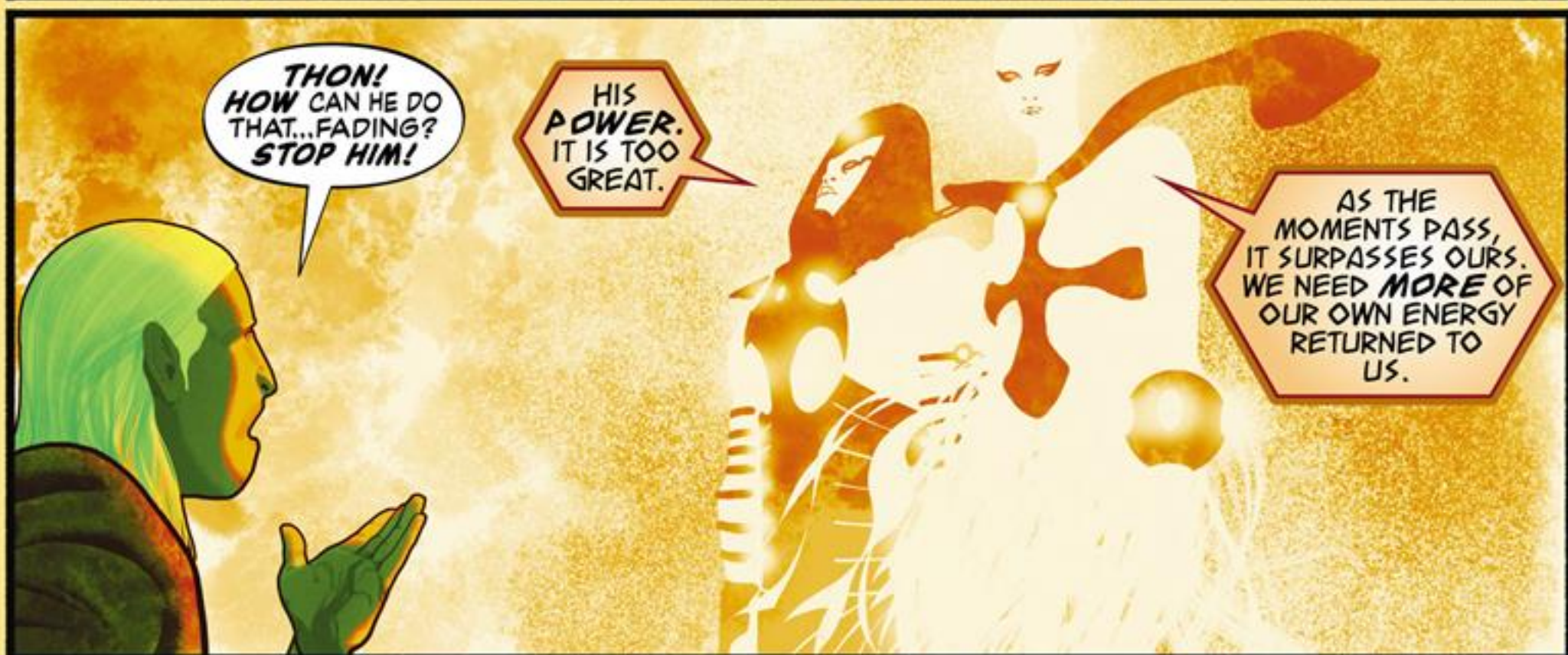
TOO LITTLE
AND A TAD TOO
LATE FOR YOU,
I'D SAY.

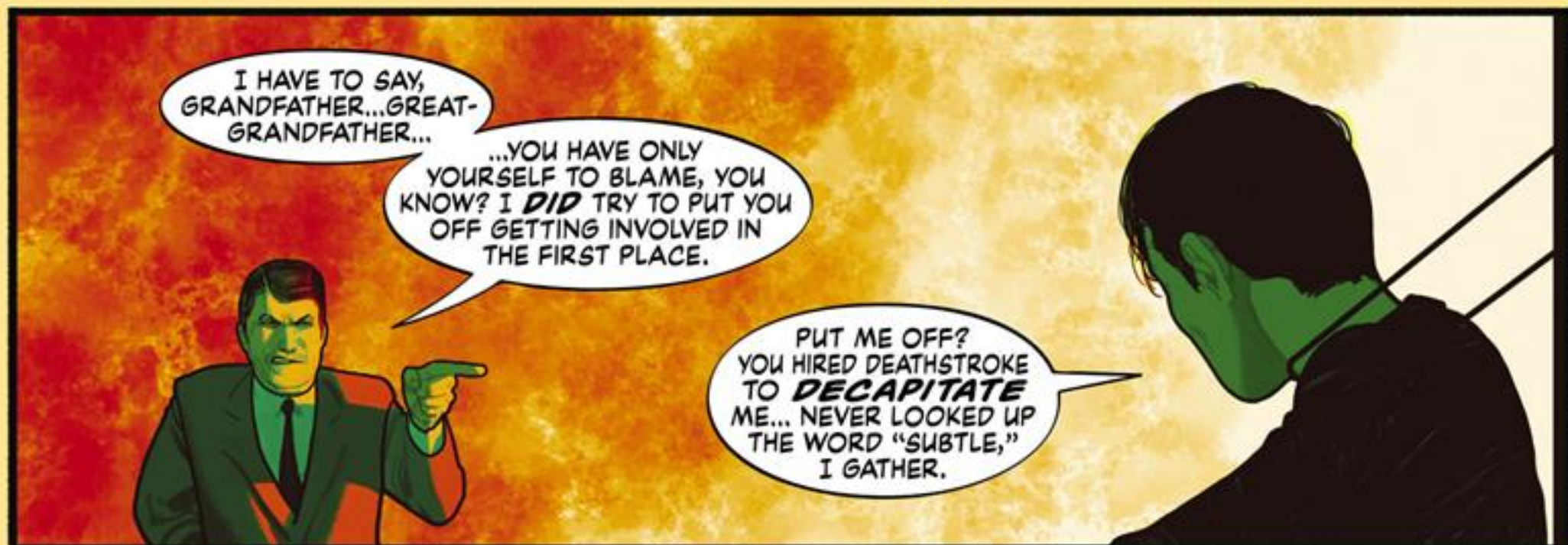


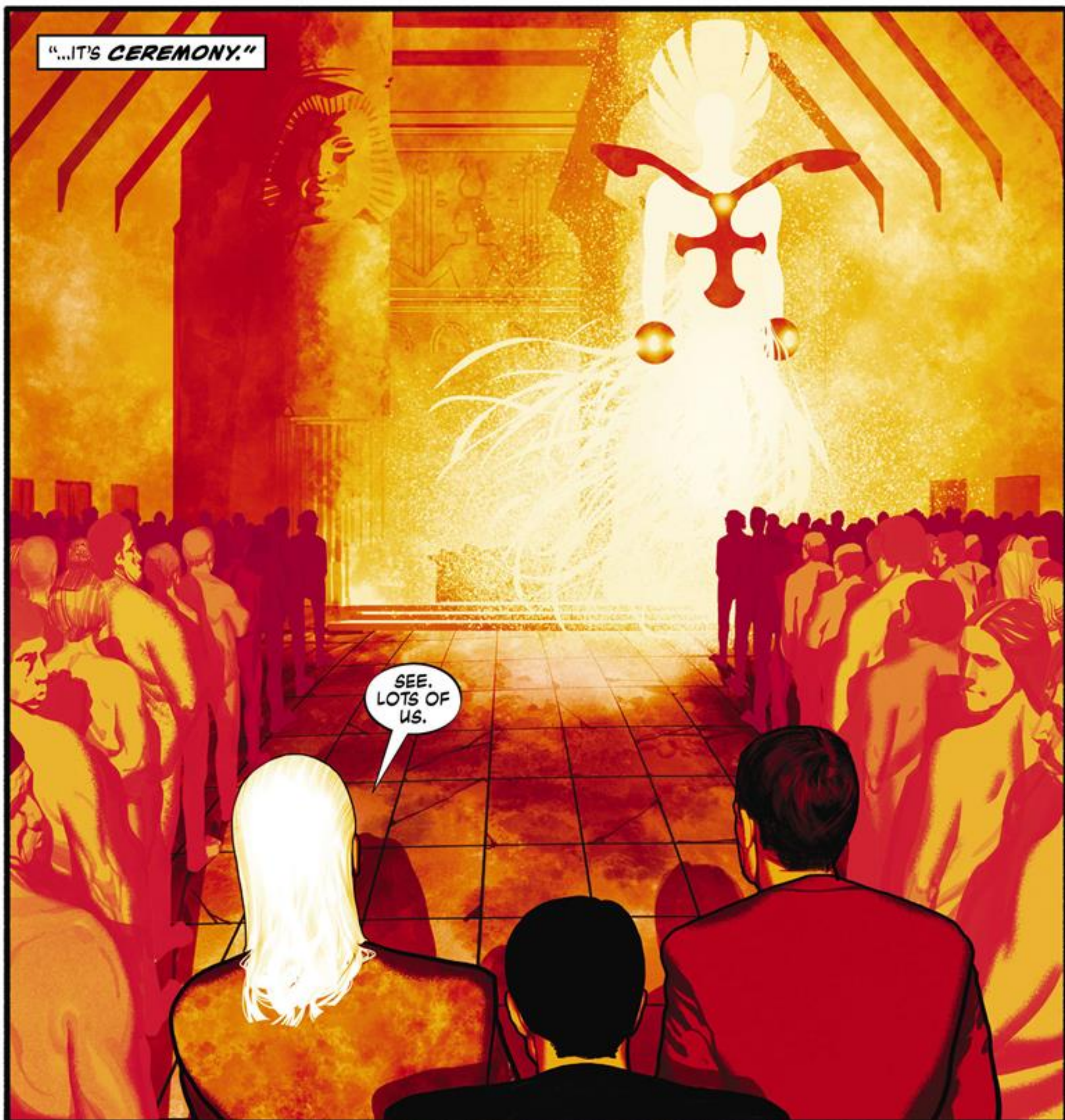
YOU
THINK SO? HMM.
IF THERE'S BUT ONE
REAL **TRUTH** I'VE
LEARNED...



...IT'S
THAT IT'S
NEVER
TOO
LATE.



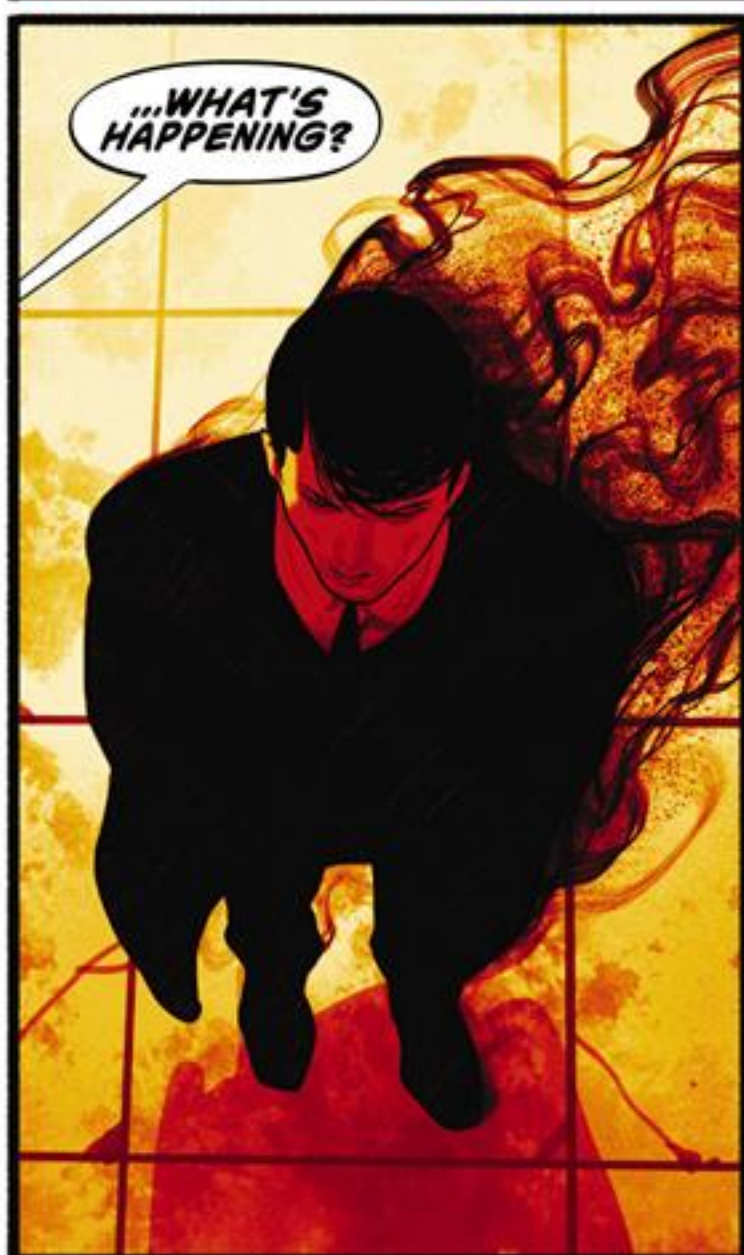






NOT YOU, WE KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE-- AND BESIDES, IT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF GETTING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

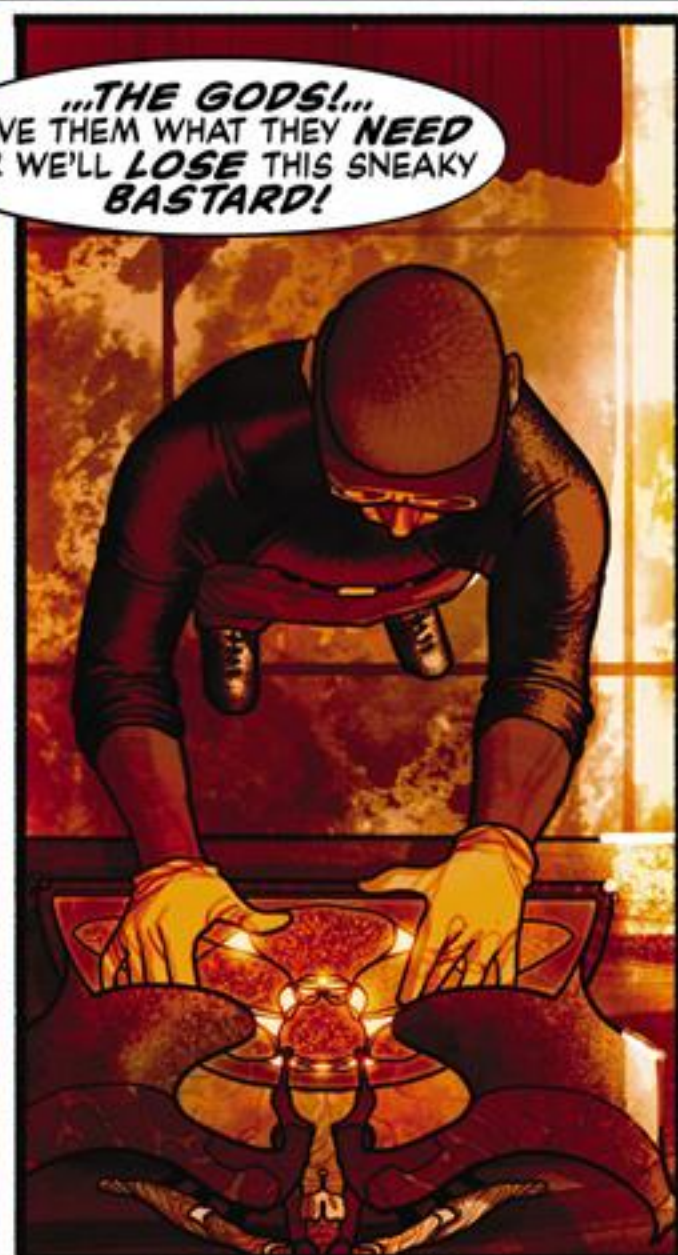
MILES, LOOK AT HIM...



...WHAT'S HAPPENING?



CARMICHAEL, I'LL CUT OUT YOUR EYES MYSELF IF YOU LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN. **MORE POWER!...**



...**THE GODS!...** GIVE THEM WHAT THEY **NEED** OR WE'LL **LOSE** THIS SNEAKY **BASTARD!**



LOSE ME? WITH ALL THE MALE NUDITY IN EVIDENCE, I'M SCARED TO ASK WHAT YOU'LL DO IF YOU **KEEP** ME.



DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. YOU'LL BE **TESTED**, OF COURSE. YOUR **IMMORTALITY...** OBVIOUSLY YOU SEE HOW THAT COULD BE DESIRABLE TO US IF IT CAN BE REPLICATED.



AND THEN THERE'S YOUR SHADOW POWER. WE'LL HAVE SCIENTISTS ON **ALL** OF IT BY TEATIME.

BUT FIRST
WE BAPTIZE THE
NEW ENDEAVOR. OUR
ACQUISITION--YOU--
WITH THE BLOOD OF
AN INNOCENT.

ALTHOUGH
THIS ONE'S BEEN ON
THE STREET FOR A WHILE,
SO "INNOCENT" IS
PROBABLY A RELATIVE
TERM.

IT'S ONLY
SYMBOLIC,
AFTER ALL.



DUDLEY, *PLEASE*
DON'T TAKE HER
LIFE.

I'M NOT
WITHOUT MY
MURDEROUS SIDE, BUT
EVEN I LIKE TO THINK
THAT NO DEATH I'VE
CAUSED HAS BEEN
NEEDLESS.

GREAT-
GRANDFATHER,
I'M SORRY HOW
THINGS ARE.

BUT
THEY ARE.

MILES!...



...HE'S
STARTING TO
FADE!

AGAIN?



**MORE
POWER! GIVE
THE GODS MORE
POWER!**



SIGH

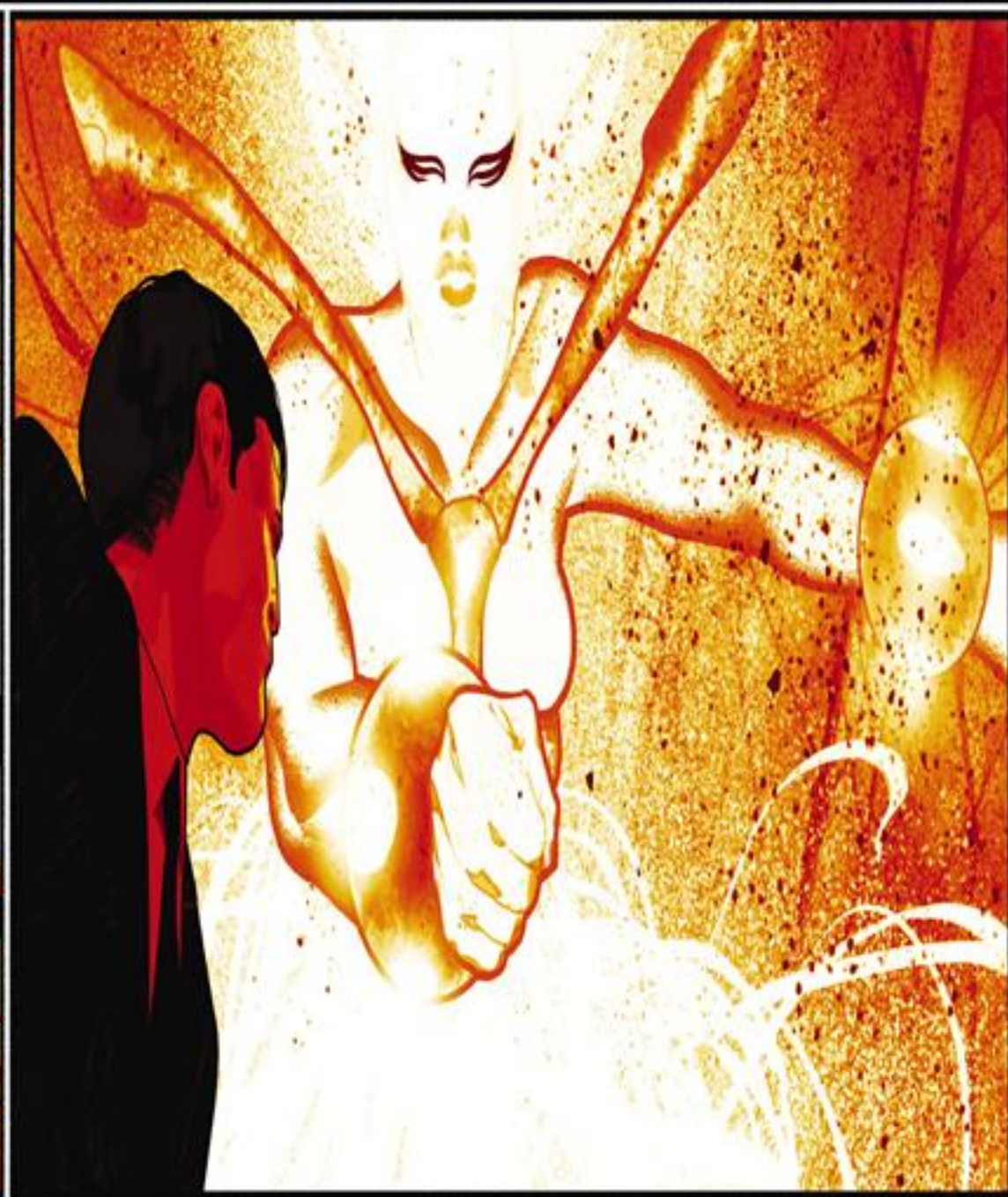
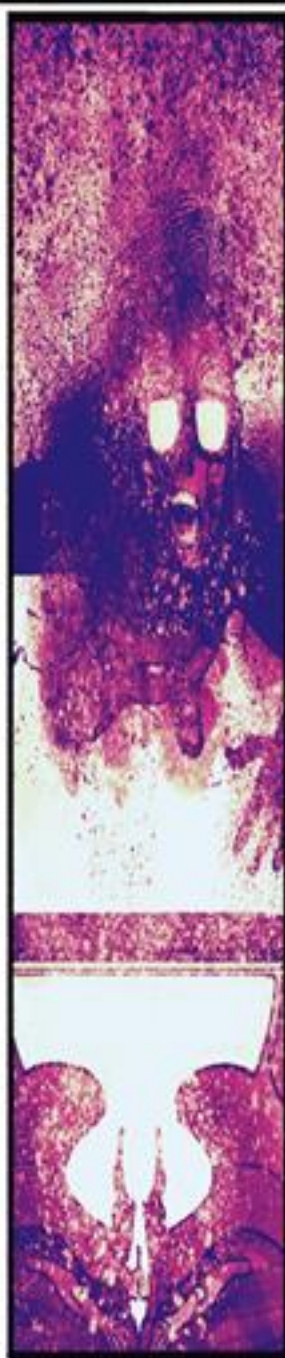


SUDDENLY
I'VE A FEELING
YOU'LL MOMENTARILY
HAVE **MORE** THAN
ME TO CONCERN
YOU.

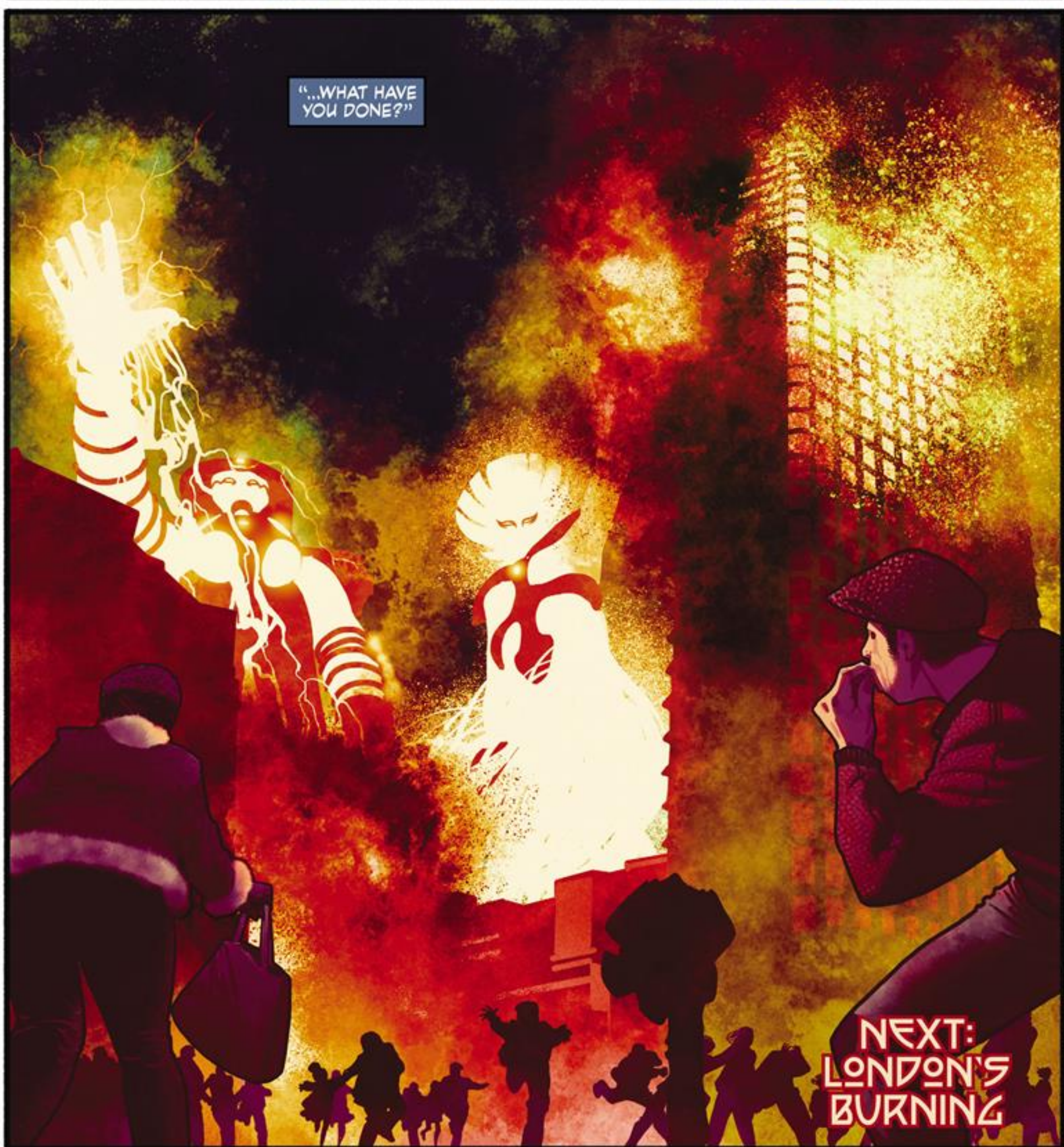
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



WELL, I'M
NOT ONE TO TELL
YOU YOUR BUSINESS,
GENTLEMEN...







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JAMES ROBINSON

with **TONY HARRIS**

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articulated the character of Jack Knight,
a slacker with idiosyncratic tastes and ideals that
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—THE ONION

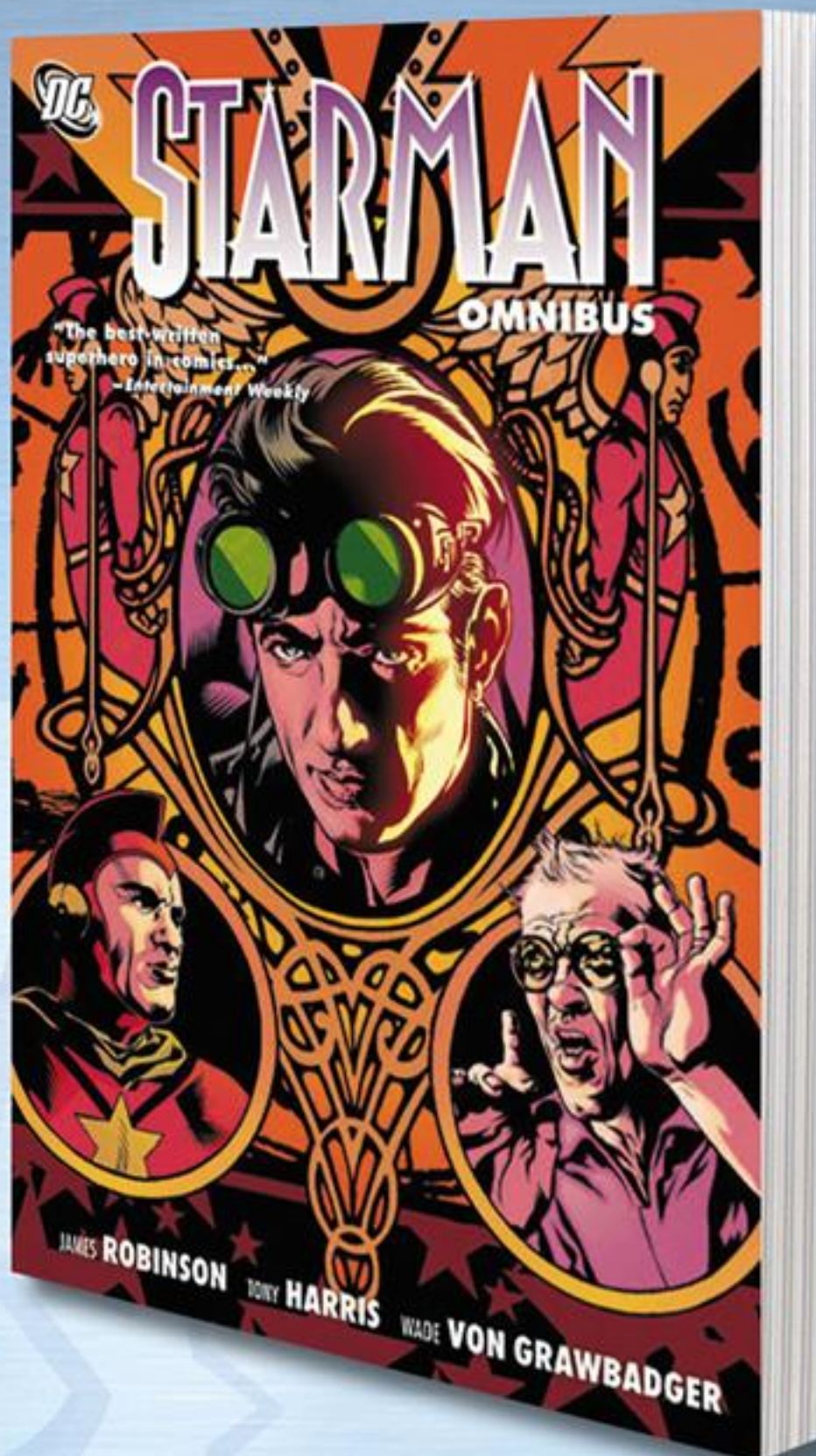
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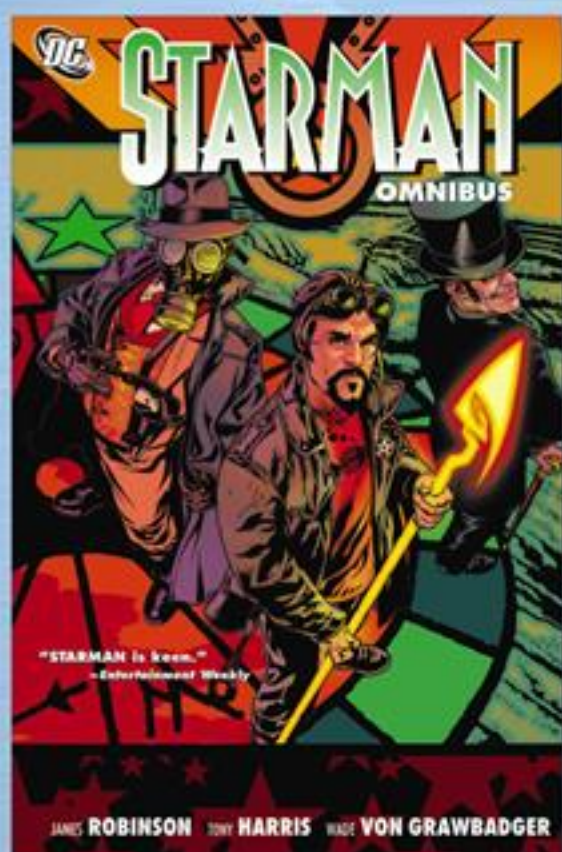
STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 3

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STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 5



STARMAN OMNIBUS
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