
The IMITATION of LIFE
PART FOUR: MIND MAZE
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By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.
WHETHER YOU DIE BACK ON EARTH OR HERE ON MARS, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, CYBORG. WE ARE GOING TO DEMOLISH YOU!
NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. WE'RE ALL TEAMMATES. WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WANTED TO KILL ME?
GREEN LANTERN.
SUPERMAN'S NOT KIDDING. THAT GRIP OF HIS IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SQUEEZE JUICE OUT OF A DIAMOND.
I DUNNO. MAYBE IT WAS WHEN I CAUGHT YOU TAKING THE LAST DOUGHNUT UP AT THE WATCHTOWER A FEW MONTHS AGO.
OR PERHAPS IT WAS WHEN YOUR FATHER CONVINCED US THAT YOU WERE A MENACE TO HUMANITY-- A SOULLESS MACHINE OF DESTRUCTION.
THE FLASH.
AQUAMAN.
SUPERMAN.
WONDER WOMAN.
BATMAN.
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE TO BREAK SUPERMAN'S GRIP. IF I SUMMON ALL MY ENERGY TO ONE SPOT ON MY BODY...


...I FIGURED A BIG ENERGY RELEASE MIGHT SURPRISE HIM INTO LOOSENING HIS GRIP. BUT NOW IT'LL TAKE ME A FULL MINUTE BEFORE SOLAR RAYS CAN REPLENISH MY POWER SOURCE.
FWHOOSH
OOF!


THAT LEAVES ME WEAKENED AND VULNERABLE--NOT THE WAY I WANT TO SQUARE OFF AGAINST THE ENTIRE JUSTICE LEAGUE.


YOU WON'T GET AWAY. THERE'S NO PLACE YOU CAN RUN WHERE WE CAN'T FIND YOU.
UNNNGGHH!


NOTHING ABOUT THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. WE'RE HERE ON MARS...


...AND YET NOBODY WHO NEEDS TO IS WEARING ANY KIND OF SPACE SUIT OR BREATHING APPARATUS.
CYBORG, YOU'RE A DANGER TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU. TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, YOU HAVE TO DIE!


AS I SAID BEFORE, YOU'RE NOT KNOWN TO BE A KILLER.
KATHOOM
NO, NOT WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING CREATURES...
...BUT I HAVE NO TROUBLE DISMANTLING DANGEROUS MACHINERY LIKE YOU.


SINCE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING IS ALL SO ILLOGICAL, I CAN ONLY COME TO ONE LOGICAL CONCLUSION.
I'M HAVING ANOTHER NIGHTMARE!

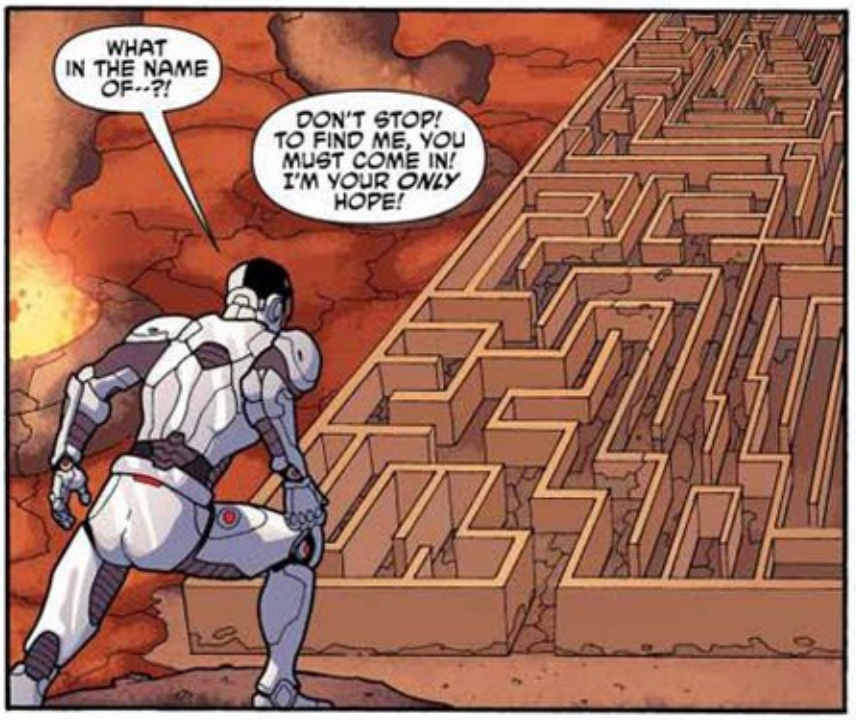

BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN IT'S WORSE THAN THE ONE I HAD BEFORE BECAUSE, APPARENTLY, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, I'M TRAPPED IN THIS ONE, AND I CAN'T WAKE UP.

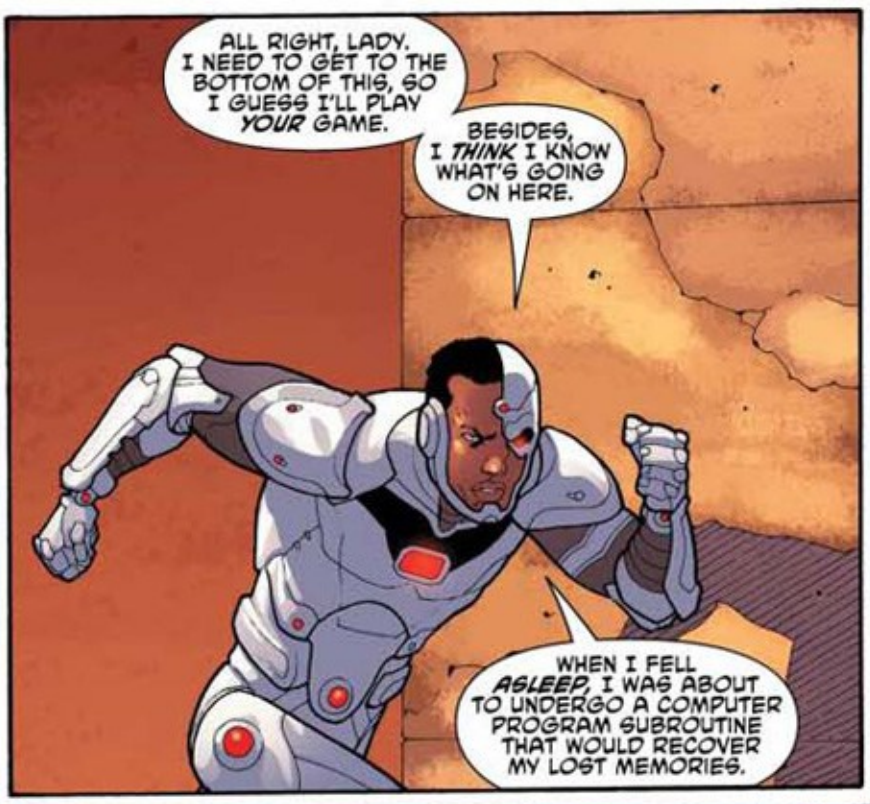

SO LET'S PUT MY THEORY TO THE ULTIMATE TEST.

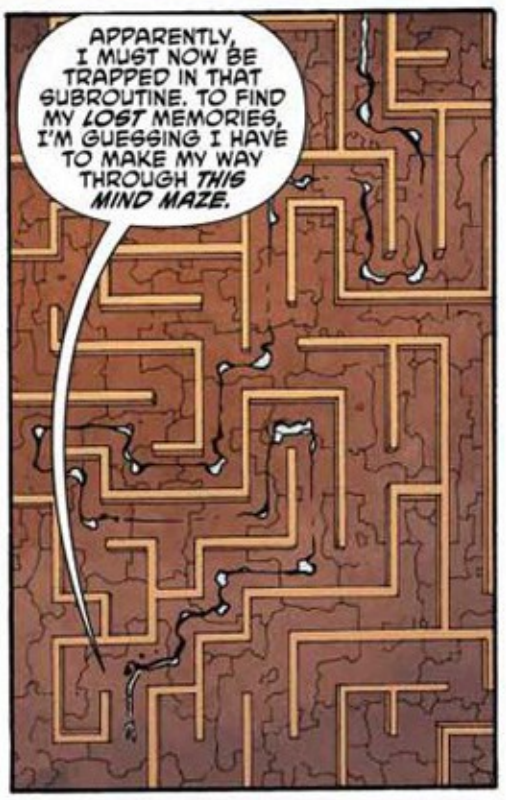

LET'S BOOM TO A LITTLE VACATION RESORT WE LIKE TO CALL...

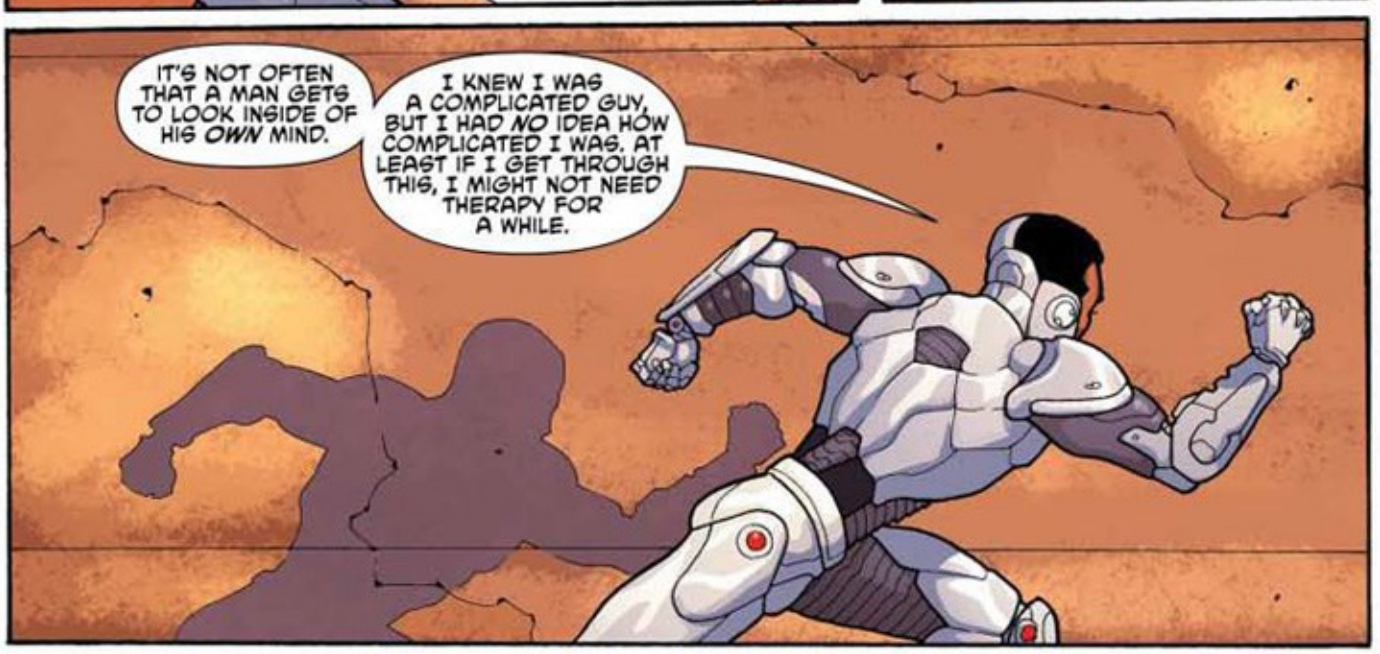

...APOKOLIPS!
LOOK OUT! IT'S DARKSEID!
WHAT GOOD FORTUNE IS THIS THAT BRINGS MY MOST HATED ENEMIES RIGHT TO MY DOORSTEP?
A PART ME FEELS GUILTY ABOUT FEEDING MY TEAMMATES DIRECTLY TO ONE OF OUR WORST ENEMIES-- EVEN IF THEY'RE ALL ONLY IMAGINARY.
BUT I HAD TO BUY MYSELF SOME TIME AND HEADSPACE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON AND WHY I CAN'T WAKE UP.
I HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT SINCE MY MIND HAS GET MOST OF THE GROUND RULES HERE, IT PROBABLY WON'T LET ANY OF THESE IMAGINARY CHARACTERS HURT ME. AT LEAST NOT YET.
BUT I BET IF I STAY IN THIS NIGHTMARE TOO LONG, I COULD GO INSANE AND BECOME SUBCONSCIOUSLY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.
THEN MY MIND MIGHT LET ONE OF THESE FAKE FOOLS CRUSH ME LIKE A BUG!
JUST HOW DO I GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS MADNESS?
CYBORG. COME TO ME! I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT!
Huh--?
A WOMAN'S VOICE!


IT'S SO FAMILIAR. I-- I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, BUT I KNOW I HAVE TO FOLLOW IT.


WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?!
DON'T STOP! TO FIND ME, YOU MUST COME IN! I'M YOUR ONLY HOPE!


ALL RIGHT, LADY. I NEED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, SO I GUESS I'LL PLAY YOUR GAME.
BESIDES, I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
WHEN I FELL ASLEEP, I WAS ABOUT TO UNDERGO A COMPUTER PROGRAM SUBROUTINE THAT WOULD RECOVER MY LOST MEMORIES.


APPARENTLY, I MUST NOW BE TRAPPED IN THAT SUBROUTINE. TO FIND MY LOST MEMORIES, I'M GUESSING I HAVE TO MAKE MY WAY THROUGH THIS MIND MAZE.


IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT A MAN GETS TO LOOK INSIDE OF HIS OWN MIND.
I KNEW I WAS A COMPLICATED GUY, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HOW COMPLICATED I WAS. AT LEAST IF I GET THROUGH THIS, I MIGHT NOT NEED THERAPY FOR A WHILE.