METROPOLIS.
THREE IN THE MORNING.
TOO FAR.

Who Needs Superman, Anyway?

By Clark Kent
I punched through the ice and rocks of Saturn's rings, and I should be elated.

After sixty days of tearing non-stop through endless space...  ...I'm nearly home.

But the last time I saw Earth, I was fighting Brainiac while possessed by the Doomsday Virus...

...and the lives of everyone on the planet hung in the balance.

But we saved the Earth.

I dragged Brainiac into a black hole with my own hands.

I shouldn't worry, dammit.

But I promised to keep them safe.

And the terrible knot in my stomach isn't going to go away...
YOU'RE ALIVE!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

KARA...

...got here as fast as I could.

TOOK TOO LONG, IS EVERYTHING.. IS EVERYONE...

ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN, COUSIN.
WE BLITZ OVER THE PLANET...  

AND SHE SHOWS ME SHINING CITIES AND BLUE SKIES.

BUT I'M WEAK.

MY SUPER-VISION AND SUPER-HEARING AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO TELL...

...THE PLANET'S STILL HERE.

JUST... LOOK.

WE DID EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY COULD...

...BUT THERE WERE HEART ATTACKS, HEAT STROKE, CAR WRECKS...

AND NOW I'M JUST...

...JUST TRYING TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN STILL FIX.

...BUT STILL...

AND THIRTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE OF THEM DIED.

NO...

I... I KNOW.

WE SAVED BILLIONS...

KARA, BRAINAC KNOCKED OUT SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE...

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.
OH, NO.

YEAH, THE PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR IMPOLED DURING THE BATTLE WITH BRAINIAC.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE THINK IT SWALLOWED UP MONGUL, NOX, AND THE PHANTOM KING.

WE haven'T FOUND ANY TRACE OF ANY OF THEM ON THE PLANET.

THE BAD NEWS IS THAT IT ALSO TOOK YOUR MENAGERIE...

...AND SHAY VERITAS.

SHAY...

I TRIED TO GO AFTER HER, BUT THE PROJECTOR'S BROKEN.

HARROW and GHOST SOLDIER ARE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER ENTRANCE TO THE ZONE, BUT SO FAR...

...I'M SORRY, KAL.

IT... IT GETS WORSE.

I'll... I'll be all right, Kara.

There's no time in the zone. No way to hurt someone and with Shay's quantum brain...

I'm not talking about Shay...

I'm talking about Kandor.

OH, GOD. KANDOR'S GONE?

Brainiac shrunk the city down before. I thought he must have had a plan...

...Did he take them? In his mother-ship, did you see...

No, nothing like that.

Have you found any traces...any molecular trail at all...

No. I scanned the area a thousand times.

The Kandorians. They're the last Kryptonians. Kal and Tall... my best friend... she's in that city...

I know, Kara.

I'm not talking about Shay...
**THE FORTRESS AND ALL OF HER TECH ARE MADE UP OF LIVING CRYSTAL.**

She needs to heal—it’s the only way to get everything back online.

**AND THEN WE’LL OPEN THE PHANTOM ZONE AND SAVE EVERYONE.**

Kal...

**YOU JUST SAID THERE’S NO TIME IN THE ZONE, RIGHT?**

The Kandorians... They’ll... they’ll be fine, right?

**MEET ME BACK HERE IN FORTY DAYS.**

Wait a minute. You can’t just run off...

...I have find out if there’s still any danger...

And how the hell do you do that?

I... don’t know...

That’s how long the respawning takes, Kara. And you just told me thirteen thousand people died.

I have to find out...

**SMALL...**

**...I GUESS...**
“...I’LL START AT HOME.”

“...AND IN Spite OF THAT Terrible Dread Lying AT My Stomach...”

“I SHOULD STOP TO TALK.”

“...AND I JUST Head DOWN Oldfield Drive LIKE We Did WHEN We Were Kids...”

“I’M A REPORTER. THAT’S HOW You GET THE STORY.”

“...IN SPITE OF THAT Terrible Dread Lying AT My Stomach...”

“...I SUDDENLY FEEL ALMOST... NORMAL... MySELF...”

“...AND I JUST Head DOWN Oldfield Drive LIKE We Did WHEN We Were Kids...”

“...WAITING FOR THAT SLOPE JUST Past The Takahara Farm...”

“FEELS LIKE FLYING.”

“AH.”

“Hm.”

“NOustJAgIA...”

“EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN SPENT THREE MONTHS IN A COMA, STUDIED BY A HUNDRED SCIENTISTS AND QuarANTINEd BY FIVE PLATOONS.”

“BUT NOW THERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF NATIONAL GUARDSMEN DRINKING COFFEE WHERE THE CHECKPOINTS USED TO BE.”

“AND FOLKS SEEM...”
"IT'S A KILLER, ISN'T IT?"

AAAAAAGH!

"I WAS NINE."

"LIFE WAS AWESOME."

"AND THEN MY EYES CAUGHT FIRE AND I BURNED DOWN MY FATHER'S CORNFIELD."

"HE HELD ME CLOSE."

"EVEN THOUGH MY HEAT VISION COULD MELT HIM IN HALF."

"AND HE SWORE TO ME IN THAT HORRSE, BROKEN VOICE..."

"...THAT I WAS A GIFT..."

"...NOT A CURSE."

"CLARK?"

"IF YOU AND MOM WERE STILL HERE..."

...I WONDER...

...I WONDER IF YOU'D THINK--"
CLARK!

LANA!

LANA!

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LANA!

LANA!
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE.

YOU HAD SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE TO SAVE.
YOU WERE BOUND TO MISS A FEW.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THESE.

NO.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.

SHE'S STILL SMILING.

BUT SHE LETS THE WORDS JUST HANG THERE.

AND THEN SHE LETS OUT A BREATH.
SHE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING MORE... TO SOFTEN IT.

SHE WANTS TO LET IT GO.
BUT SHE CAN'T.
AND HOW THE HELL CAN I BLAME HER?

COME ON...
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY BOYFRIEND.

WHAA...
Clark Kent, meet John Henry Irons.

Finally! Heard a lot about you, Mister!

Oh, come on, just John, please.

Likewise! It's good to meet you, Dr. Irons.

Well, after I helped Superman during the Doomsday thing, the government took over my lab and then Brainiac blew it up and then Lana needed some help saving the world...

Unless we're on the record, in which case, no comment.

Nice beard, by the way.

Thanks.

So...off the record, then...how did you guys meet?

I can feel Lana's eyes boring into me. She's still angry...

...but she's still keeping my secret.

Ah, Lana...

Wow, you gonna give me that scoop, Lana?

You snooze, you lose, Clark. Don't you read the papers?

Lois Lane already wrote it up.

Of course she did.
Hey, Clark! What brings you back?

Oh, just visiting, Mr. Santiago.

PSH! You're a grown man, now! Call me MORRIS, BOY!

YESSIR.

John Henry, I got a little bit of that muscle spasm in my calf again.

All right, Morris...let's get you into the lab at two. That good for you?

You bet.

Clark, you be sure to write up a good story about Lana and John Henry, here!

Saving the day, every day!

Yeah, honestly, everyone here's pretty much fine, as far as we can tell. But we want to make sure there are no lingering effects from the comas—for these folks or for anyone on the planet. And the Wayne Foundation came through with some funding for a long term study, so...

So I guess you guys are sticking around for a while?

What are you doing, Clark?

Yes, sir!

I was actually thinking about helping out here for a while. But you seem to have it all under control.
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO COME VISIT.

Yeah, well, I wasn’t particularly eager to say hi to the guy who hit me with that Kryptonite Scan.

Yeah, sorry about that...

...but it’s part of the testing, and the good news is you’re Doomsday-free.

I don’t know how...

I guess flying through a few black holes’ll kind of clean out the system.

It’s nice to see Bruce actually surprised every once in a while.

Black holes, huh?

Long story, remind me to tell you about it some day.

I guess that explains why you’re not at full strength.

But then he’s back to business, calculating, planning...

You should take advantage of it, lay low for a while.

What are you talking about?

...thinking about the problem... and how to deal with it.

The world went through a lot, and a lot of it seemed to come...

...from Superman.

Of course, today...

...the problem...

...is me.

But I covered for your... other half. Put out a press release saying the Wayne Foundation had hired Clark Kent for a long-term overseas reporting job...
Who Needs Superman, Anyway?

By Clark Kent
CLARK KENT: YOU OPEN THIS DAMN DOOR RIGHT NOW!

...YOU RUN OFF ON A WAYNE JUNKET FOR TWO MONTHS WHILE THIS CITY GOES THROUGH HELL...

...AND THEN YOU COME BACK AND WRITE THIS WEIRD ANTI-SUPERMAN THING?

AND I SUDDENLY REALIZE LOIS LANE IS BACK ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

FREE OF BRAINAC'S INFLUENCE...

...AND FREE OF ANY MEMORY OF MY SECRET IDENTITY.

DANG. LOIS. HI. WHAT--

FIRST, THAT BEARD IS RIDICULOUS.

THANKS.

SECOND...

CAT, GOT YOUR TONGUE?

I...YOU...YOU READ THAT?

YES, I READ IT!

AND SINCE I REBLOGGED IT, TEN THOUSAND MORE PEOPLE HAVE SHARED IT!

THIS... KENT.

YES, MR. LUTHOR?

I'M STARTING TO...LIKE HIM.
IF YOU HATE IT SO MUCH, WHY'D YOU REBLOG IT?

LOOK, CLARK. I KNOW YOUR LITTLE WEBSITE WITH CAT'S GOING UNDER, SO YOU MUST BE DESPERATE.

BUT I DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR THE SOCIOPATHIC LINK-BAIT TYPE.

LOIS, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG--

OH, YEAH?

THEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SUPERMAN AT ALL.

AND I FEEL LIKE I'VE LOST AND FOUND MY BEST FRIEND IN THE SAME INSTANT.

I CAN RUN WITH THIS. YOU WANT A WAR?

HA.

OH, YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY?

FINE.

YOU GOT IT.

BANG
We’ve all heard the argument before. Hell, I made it myself when Superman became Superdoom.

Of course, Superman has this lovely tendency to fly in and save the day.

But so does the new kid, Baka, the monster child from Subterranea who prevented the Supremecats from taking over downtown Metropolis in the immediate aftermath of the Brainiac invasion.

And what about John Corben, a.k.a. Metal Zero, the war hero turned machine who’s stood guard atop the Daily Planet building for the past sixty days? And Baka, the monster child from Subterranea who prevented the Supremecats from taking over downtown Metropolis in the immediate aftermath of the Brainiac invasion.

And Supergirl... and Ghost Soldier and Martian Manhunter... and who knows how many other superheroes who have stepped up to save the day, every day, since he’s been gone.

In other words, the argument goes...

We don’t need Superman. That’s right, Joe. You’re doing just fine.

But did you ever stop to think, Clark Kent...
I see him every day in every person out there on the street, trying to make things better. But that's not just about him inspiring us. That's about us showing him the way.

Every one of us has the capacity to do the worst things imaginable. And sometimes we do. But the astounding thing is how often we humans do the very opposite.

You like to call him an alien. But this is where he belongs.

I don’t know where Superman is. But he better get his butt back home. Because he needs to see this.
I don't know if you can hear me...

But I read your article.

And I don't care what Lois says.

You were right.

You...you might just be a little too much for this world.

We can't...I can't...

I can't just keep stumbling along, expecting to be saved.

Lore things we're all amazing.

But this world is insane, terrible things are going to come for us again and again.

And if you keep saving us, we're going to get weak.

And then we're gonna get dead.

Because not even Superman...can live up to being Superman.

Maybe it really is time for you to just...

Clark?
Okay, so as November rolls around and Americans are looking to gather around the table to feast upon turkey, stuffing and sweet potatoes, I look at the offering we have cooked up for the Superman books, and I gotta say, we have quite a spread.

But first a treat in late October with SUPERMAN #35 where we have an alternate version of pages 8-9 by John Romita Jr., Klaus Janson and Laura Martin. Here, Geoff Johns has written a scene in which our heroes Kal-El and his new partner Ulysses go out to stop the guy currently making their lives hell: the Machinist. A simple scene in words that J.R. brought to life in two ways and could not decide which one was best, and honestly, neither could I. Sure we picked one for the book, but I felt the power he showed in this one had to be seen. So here it is! (And you’re not gonna wanna miss any part of the “Men of Tomorrow” storyline as it continues...TRUST ME.)

Now in November there’s ACTION COMICS #36, we have Greg Pak, Aaron Kuder and Wil Quintana showing us the post-“Doomed” life for Clark in the haunted place that his hometown of Smallville has become.

Meanwhile, SUPERMAN/WONDER WOMAN #13, which has the new team of Peter Tomasi and Doug Mahnke taking over the power couple’s lives and throwing some real big bads into the mix! Very spicy!

SUPERGIRL#36 also gets a new voice with K. Perkins as co-writer along with Mike Johnson, who wrote the series when Kara debuted in the New 52. They look to school the former Red Lantern as she becomes part of the Crucible Academy, where the students’ survival is not guaranteed. Also attending is the super-woman Maxima, who is beautifully re-designed by series penciller Emanuela Lupacchino! This is all topped off with Ray McCarthy’s inks and Hi-Fi colors.

And our final treat is BATMAN/SUPERMAN with new art team Ardian Syaf, Sandra Hope and Ulises Arreola joining writer Greg Pak to ask the very simple question: Who is Superman’s Joker?

So are you ready for some Kryptonian cuisine? It’s all ready to serve now, and you’ll be thankful that you tried it.

—EDDIE BERGANZA
Super-Chef

SUPERMAN #35 Unused art by John Romita Jr., Klaus Janson and Laura Martin

IN STORES NOVEMBER 2014
**The Flash**

When Central City CSI investigator Barry Allen is struck by lightning in a freak particle accelerator accident, he awakens after nine months in a coma to discover something extraordinary: he has gained the power to travel at speeds far beyond that of a normal person, transforming him into the Fastest Man Alive. Taking a cue from his friend and ally — the Starling City hero known as Arrow — Barry now uses his superhuman abilities to help protect the people of Central City from a rogues gallery of villains — many from across the DC Universe. And this fall, he’s racing onto television screens across the nation in the all-new television series *The Flash*!

We got a chance to check out the pilot episode of the upcoming series and it got us so pumped up, we were running around in circles just to try and burn off all the excitement. It didn’t work though ‘cause there was just way too much of it. Our favorite thing about the show is the Flash himself: actor Grant Gustin. Arrow fans got a sampling of Gustin’s portrayal of the character during a two-episode story arc featuring a pre-Flash Barry Allen before to his infamous accident — giving viewers a nerdy, excitable, and instantly likeable everyday guy with the heart of a hero.

In *The Flash*, Gustin kicks it up a notch as Barry’s exuberance and energy brings a level of fun to the character that immediately makes you want to root for him. In fact, all the actors give stellar performances — from Tom Cavanagh as tech genius Harrison Wells to Jesse L. Martin as Barry’s father figure Detective Joe West, and more. Along with the acting (and very awesome effects), the series really blew us away with the multitude of comic book references and Easter Eggs that should get comic fans incredibly excited and newcomers pleasantly intrigued. It definitely got us ready for what’s sure to be a stellar run.

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**DC All Access**

**THE FLASH**

*The Flash* premiers Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 8/7c, on the **CW**

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