



SUPERMAN

WILSON
OLIVEIRA
WONG

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U.S.



The Road Not Taken



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RUSHMARK,
INDIANA.

HOME OF THE OL'
COLLEGE TRY.

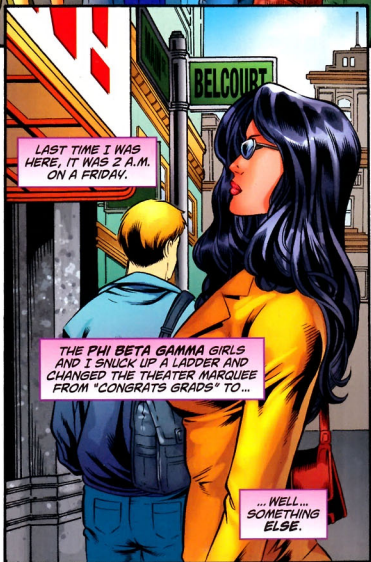
HOME OF THE
FIGHTING BULLFROGS!

RUSHMARK

WELCOME SUPERMAN!

WELCOME SUPERMAN!

COMING TO
RUSHMARK:



LAST TIME I WAS
HERE, IT WAS 2 A.M.
ON A FRIDAY.

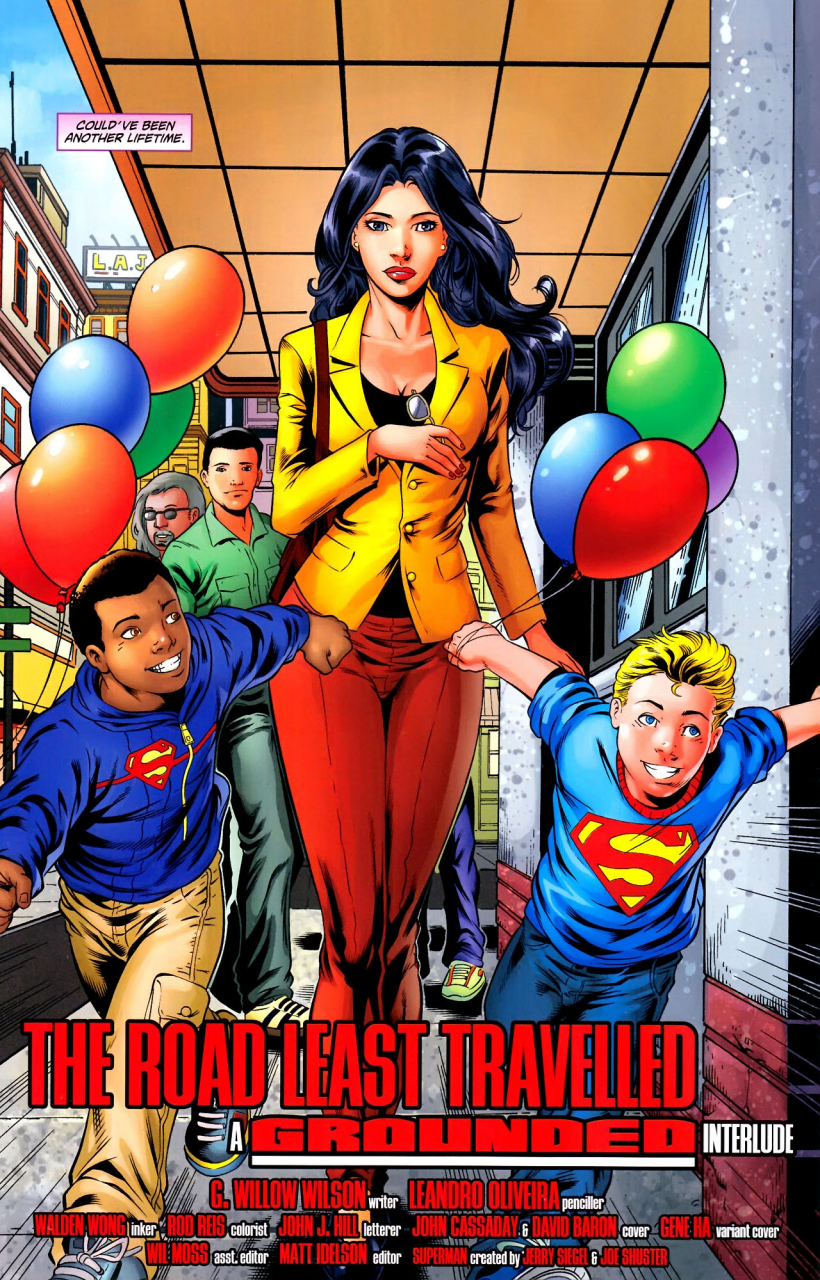
THE PHI BETA GAMMA GIRLS
AND I SNUCK UP A LADDER AND
CHANGED THE THEATER MARQUEE
FROM "CONGRATS GRADS" TO...

... WELL...
SOMETHING
ELSE.



COULD'VE BEEN
YESTERDAY.

COULD'VE BEEN ANOTHER LIFETIME.



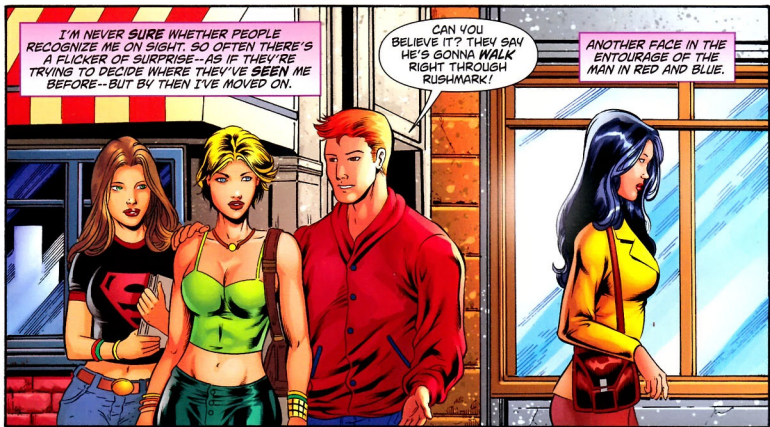
THE ROAD LEAST TRAVELLED

A **GROUND**ED INTERLUDE

C. WILLOW WILSON writer **LEANDRO OLIVEIRA** penciller

WALDEN WONG inker **ROD REIS** colorist **JOHN J. HILL** letterer **JOHN CASSADAY** & **DAVID BARON** cover **GENE HA** variant cover

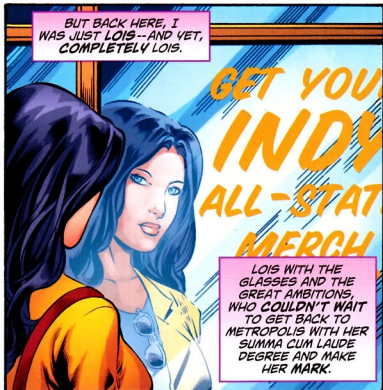
WIL MOSS asst. editor **MATT IDELSON** editor **SUPERMAN** created by **JERRY SIEGEL** & **JOE SHUSTER**



I'M NEVER SURE WHETHER PEOPLE RECOGNIZE ME ON SIGHT. SO OFTEN THERE'S A FLICKER OF SURPRISE--AS IF THEY'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHERE THEY'VE SEEN ME BEFORE--BUT BY THEN I'VE MOVED ON.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THEY SAY HE'S GONNA WALK RIGHT THROUGH RUSHMARK!

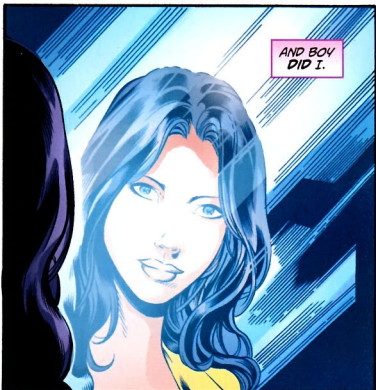
ANOTHER FACE IN THE ENTOURAGE OF THE MAN IN RED AND BLUE.



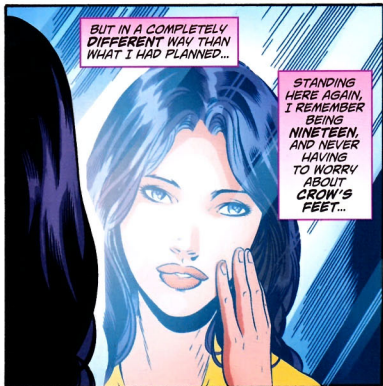
BUT BACK HERE, I WAS JUST LOIS--AND YET, COMPLETELY LOIS.

GET YOUR
INDY
ALL-STAR
MERCH

LOIS WITH THE GLASSES AND THE GREAT AMBITIONS. WHO COULDN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO METROPOLIS WITH HER SUMMA CUM LAUDE DEGREE AND MAKE HER MARK.



AND BOY DID I.

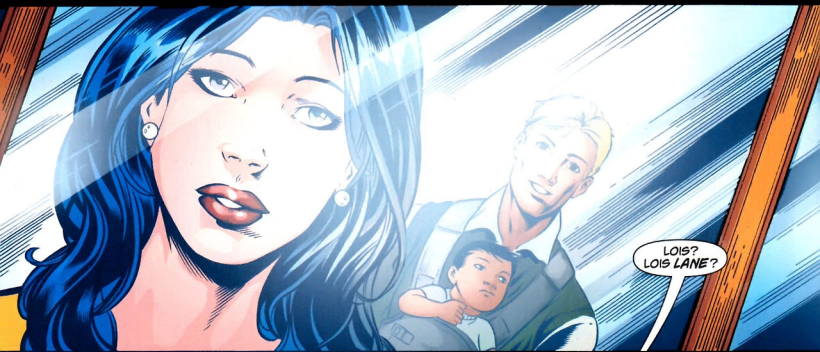


BUT IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY THAN WHAT I HAD PLANNED...

STANDING HERE AGAIN. I REMEMBER BEING NINETEEN, AND NEVER HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT CROW'S FEET...



HE NEVER GETS WRINKLES. HE NEVER GETS PIMPLES. HE NEVER GETS ANYTHING.

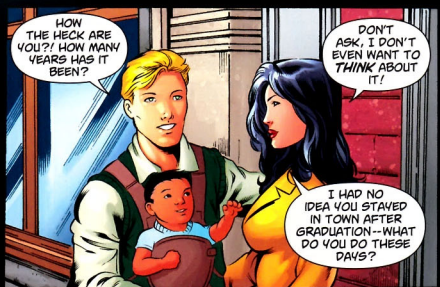


LOIS?
LOIS LANE?



OH
MY GOD--
BRIAN!

I
KNEW
IT
WAS
YOU!



HOW
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU?!
HOW
MANY
YEARS
HAS
IT
BEEN?

DON'T
ASK, I DON'T
EVEN
WANT
TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT!

I HAD NO
IDEA YOU
STAYED
IN TOWN
AFTER
GRADUATION--WHAT
DO YOU DO THESE
DAYS?



NOTHING
NEARLY
AS
EXCITING
AS
WHAT
YOU
DO,
I
CAN
TELL
YOU
THAT!

I'M A
GRANT OFFICER
FOR THE UNIVERSITY.
IT'S MOSTLY PAPERWORK,
BUT WHEN WE CAN HELP
KIDS GET A LEG UP ON
THEIR TUITION, IT'S
GREAT.



LEAVE THE
NICE LADY'S
HAIR
ALONE, BUDDY...
SORRY ABOUT
THAT, LOIS.

I CALL HIM
THE WRECKING
BALL. HE'LL
DESTROY ANYTHING
IN A THREE-FOOT
RADIUS.



IT'S ALL RIGHT--WHAT'S HIS NAME?

JUSTIN BAO. THAT'S J.B. TO HIS FANS.

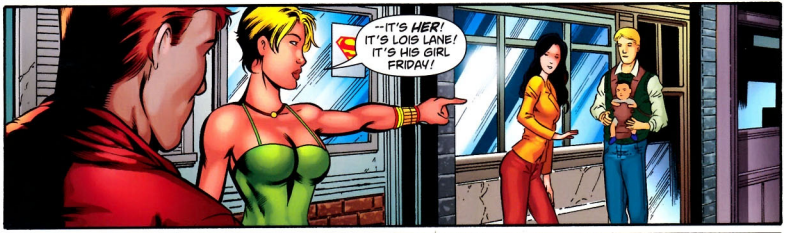


HE'S GORGEOUS... WHICH MEANS HE MUST TAKE AFTER HIS MOTHER.

GEE, THANKS A LOT!



OH MY GOD, YOU GUYS--



--IT'S HER! IT'S LOIS LANE! IT'S HIS GIRL FRIDAY!



SPEAKING OF FANS...

O-M-G, KATIE, YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT!



WE ARE SO EXCITED THAT SUPERMAN IS COMING TO TOWN!

WE'VE BEEN PREPARING EVER SINCE THE NEWS BROKE THAT HE WAS HEADING THROUGH RUSHMARK!

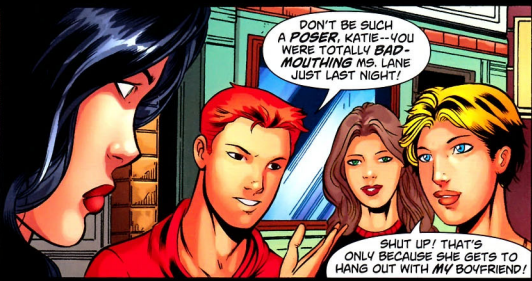
MAKING BANNERS, BUYING STREAMERS--

OH--



WOULD YOU SIGN MY SHIRT? I WILL TOTALLY TREASURE IT FOREVER.

SURE--



DON'T BE SUCH A POSER, KATIE--YOU WERE TOTALLY BAD-MOUTHING MS. LANE JUST LAST NIGHT!

SHUT UP! THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE GETS TO HANG OUT WITH MY BOYFRIEND!



YOUR BOYFRIEND? HE'S MY BOYFRIEND!

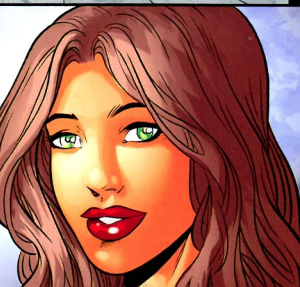
PUH-LEASE, HE'S MY BOYFRIEND!



MS. LANE, DO YOU THINK SUPERMAN COULD COME TO THE PHI BETA GAMMA HOUSE?



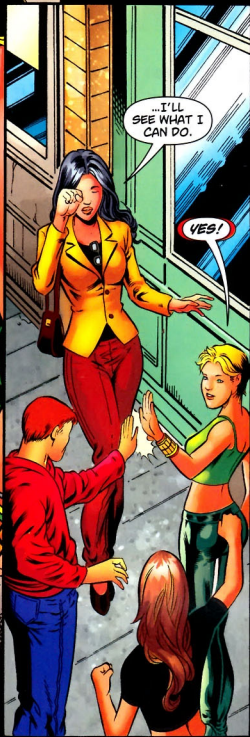
WE WOULD TOTALLY THROW HIM THE BEST PARTY EVER...





YOU'RE PHI BETA GAMMA GIRLS?

TOTALLY!



...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

YES!



THANK YOU, MS. LANE! GOD, YOU ARE SO FABULOUS!



WOW. IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

NO, THANK GOD. I THINK PEOPLE ARE JUST EXCITED--FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY FEEL LIKE SUPERMAN IS ONE OF THEM.



BRIAN... PLEASE TELL ME I WASN'T LIKE THAT WHEN I WAS A PHI BETA GAMMA.

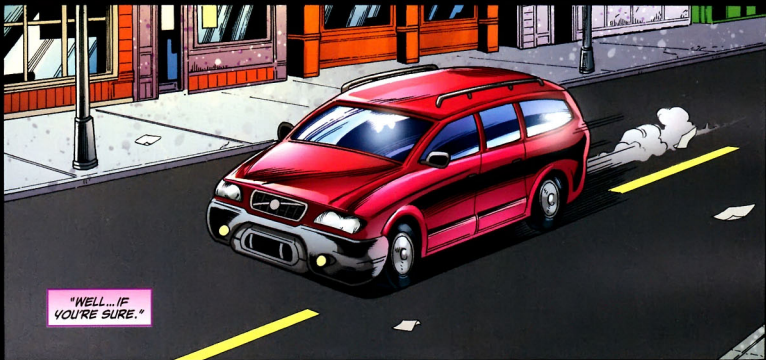
NOT EVEN CLOSE. YOU WERE FANTASY-DATING BOB WOODWARD.

LISTEN, WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER FOR DINNER? IF YOU KEEP WANDERING AROUND OUT HERE, WHO KNOWS WHAT CRAZED MOB MIGHT ATTACK YOU.

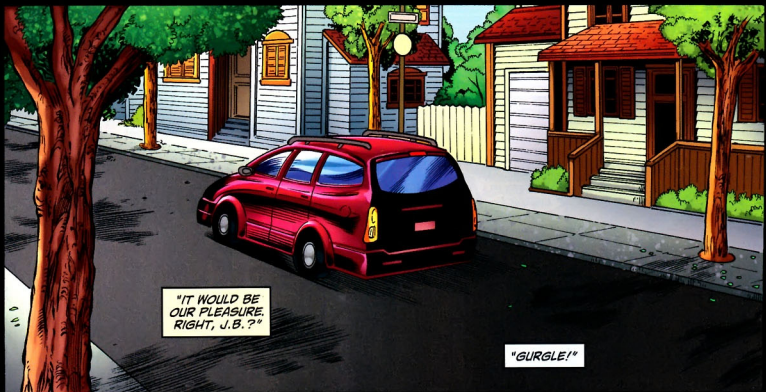
I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE...



NONSENSE. MY WIFE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU. AND SHE'S A GREAT COOK.

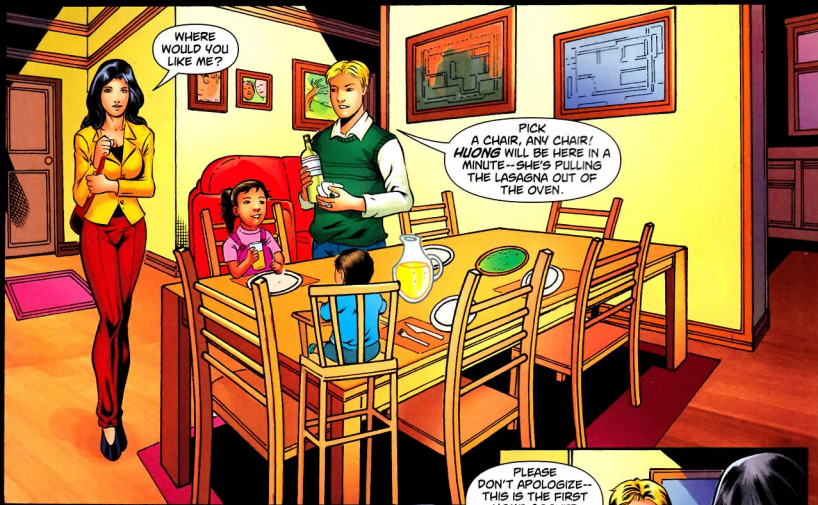


"WELL... IF YOU'RE SURE."



"IT WOULD BE OUR PLEASURE. RIGHT, J.B.?"

"GURGLE!"



WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE ME?

PICK A CHAIR, ANY CHAIR! HUONG WILL BE HERE IN A MINUTE-- SHE'S PULLING THE LASAGNA OUT OF THE OVEN.



HI! I'M AHN.

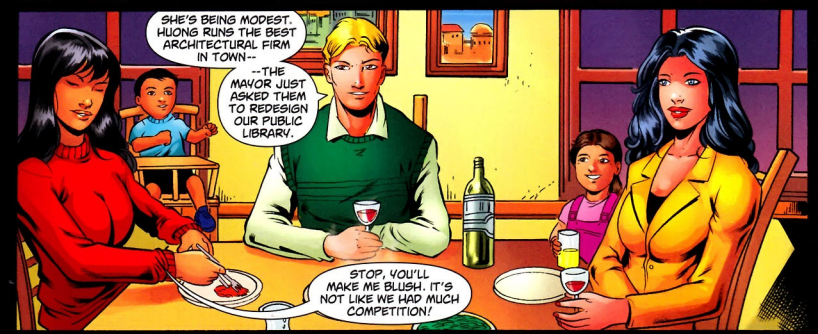
HEY THERE, AHN.

PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE-- THIS IS THE FIRST HOME-COOKED MEAL I'VE HAD IN WEEKS.

SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS LOIS LANE! SORRY WE'RE RUNNING A BIT BEHIND.



WELL, DINNER IS ONE OF THE ONLY THINGS WE DO DECENTLY WELL AROUND HERE, SO I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.



SHE'S BEING MODEST. HUONG RUNS THE BEST ARCHITECTURAL FIRM IN TOWN--

--THE MAYOR JUST ASKED THEM TO REDESIGN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

STOP, YOU'LL MAKE ME BLUSH. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD MUCH COMPETITION!





WHAT'S DATING, DADDY?

OH, I-- UHH--



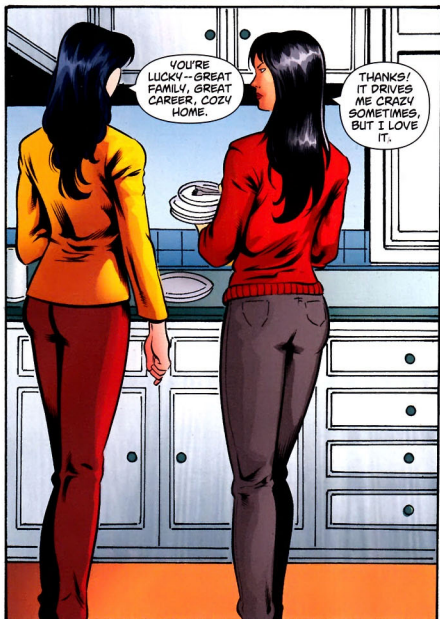
--IT'S SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER DO, SINCE YOU'LL SPEND YOUR TEENAGE YEARS AT A NICE SPANISH CONVENT, SWEET PEA.

HUH?



AND WITH THAT, I'LL GET DESSERT.

I'LL HELP YOU.



YOU'RE LUCKY-- GREAT FAMILY, GREAT CAREER, COZY HOME.

THANKS! IT DRIVES ME CRAZY SOMETIMES, BUT I LOVE IT.




IT MAKES ME THINK-- BEING BACK HERE IN RUSHMARK, RUNNING INTO BRIAN, MEETING YOU--

WHERE HAS BUSTING MY BUTT RUNNING FROM STORY TO STORY REALLY GOTTEN ME? WHAT DO I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT?




WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE FAMOUS!

NO--
SUPERMAN IS FAMOUS. I'M FAMOUS FOR BEING THE CUTE GIRL STANDING NEXT TO HIM WITH A MICROPHONE.



NOBODY KNOWS ME FOR WHAT I THINK OR WHAT I SAY-- I'M JUST HIS MOUTHPIECE.

I'M SURE THAT'S NOT TRUE.



DID YOU KNOW MY SERIES ON URBAN RENEWAL IN INNER-CITY GOTHAM WAS NOMINATED FOR A PULITZER LAST YEAR?

...NO.



I TRIED TO BE THE STRONG, INDEPENDENT WOMAN WITH SOMETHING TO SAY...

...AND I ENDED UP MAKING MY CAREER BY STANDING BEHIND A MAN.

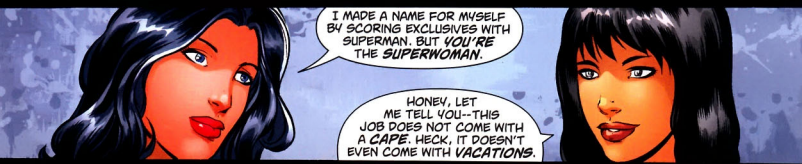
I'M A BAD FEMINIST.





WHAT EXACTLY IS IT THAT YOU WANT?

I WANT WHAT YOU HAVE--I WANT TO BE WELL KNOWN ON MY OWN MERITS, AND I WANT TO GO HOME AT THE END OF THE DAY TO PEOPLE WHO NEED ME.



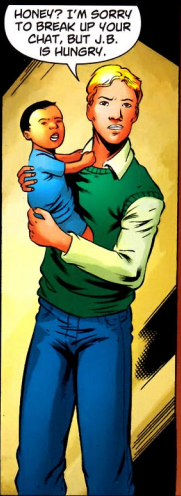
I MADE A NAME FOR MYSELF BY SCORING EXCLUSIVES WITH SUPERMAN, BUT YOU'RE THE SUPERWOMAN.

HONEY, LET ME TELL YOU--THIS JOB DOES NOT COME WITH A CAPE. HECK, IT DOESN'T EVEN COME WITH VACATIONS.

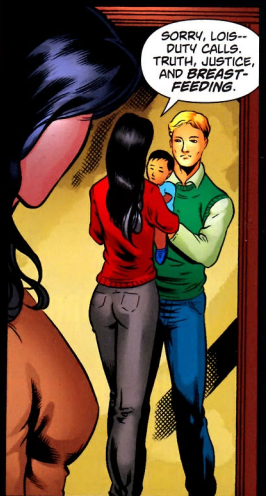


IF YOU OBSESS OVER THE LIFE YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD, ALL YOU'LL DO IS MAKE YOURSELF MISERABLE.

TRUST ME.



HONEY? I'M SORRY TO BREAK UP YOUR CHAT, BUT J.B. IS HUNGRY.



SORRY, LOIS--DUTY CALLS. TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND BREAST-FEEDING.



HOW DID I GET HERE? LAST TIME I WAS IN THIS TOWN, I DREAMED ABOUT HAVING IT ALL-- CAREER, KIDS, A HOUSE THAT ISN'T EMPTY.

YET I ENDED UP IN THE SHADOW OF A HUSBAND WHO SPENDS HALF HIS TIME SAVING THE WORLD AND THE OTHER HALF WRITING ABOUT IT.



IT'S LIKE I'M A SIDEKICK FROM ANOTHER CENTURY.

A PRINCESS IN A TOWER, WAITING FOR HER PRINCE TO COME HOME...



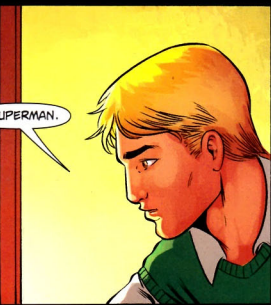
MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS MOVED ON TO--



--HALF AN HOUR LATE PICKING UP AHN FROM PRESCHOOL!

I HAD A PROJECT DEADLINE!

AND I HAD THE BABY ALL DAY! I CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE! I'M NOT--



--SUPERMAN.



...HI,
LOIS.



SORRY
ABOUT THAT. WE
WERE JUST HAVING A
DISCUSSION.



NO, I'M SORRY TO
INTRUDE--I WAS JUST
COMING TO GET
MY PURSE.

I SHOULD
GET BACK
TO THE
HOTEL.



CAN'T WE
GIVE YOU A
RIDE?



NAH. IT'S A
BEAUTIFUL
NIGHT. I'LL
WALK.

THANKS
FOR THE
DELICIOUS
DINNER. IT
WAS JUST
WHAT I
NEEDED.



WELL--IT
WAS GREAT
SEEING YOU,
LOIS.
BROUGHT
THE PAST
RIGHT
BACK.

GOOD
SEEING
YOU TOO,
BRIAN.



TAKE CARE...

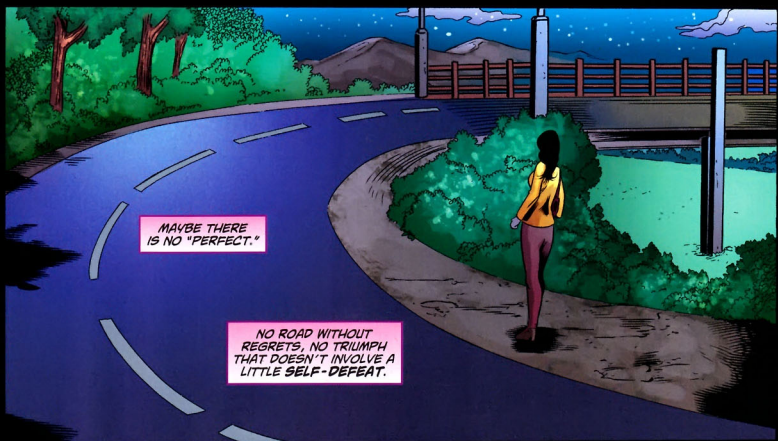


NEEEEEER WHOOSH!

SOOOOOPERMMAAAAAN!


ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH-- IT'S SUPER BEDTIME.

MAYBE IT'S OKAY.



MAYBE THERE IS NO "PERFECT."

NO ROAD WITHOUT REGRETS, NO TRIUMPH THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE A LITTLE SELF-DEFEAT.



LOVE IS NOT
NOTHING, AFTER
ALL--AND THAT'S
WHAT I CHOSE.

I CHOSE
LOVE.

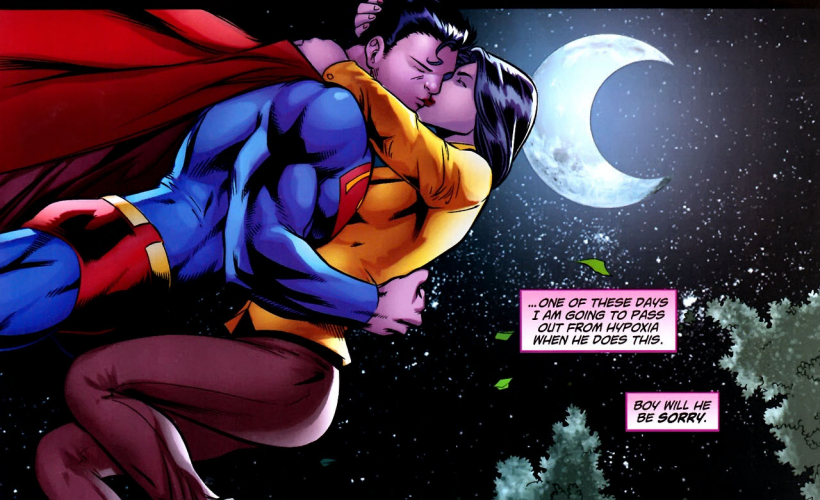


... HOLY CRAP
THAT'S CHEESY.

THANK GOD
THREE QUARTERS
OF WHAT GOES ON
IN MY HEAD NEVER
MAKES IT TO PRINT.

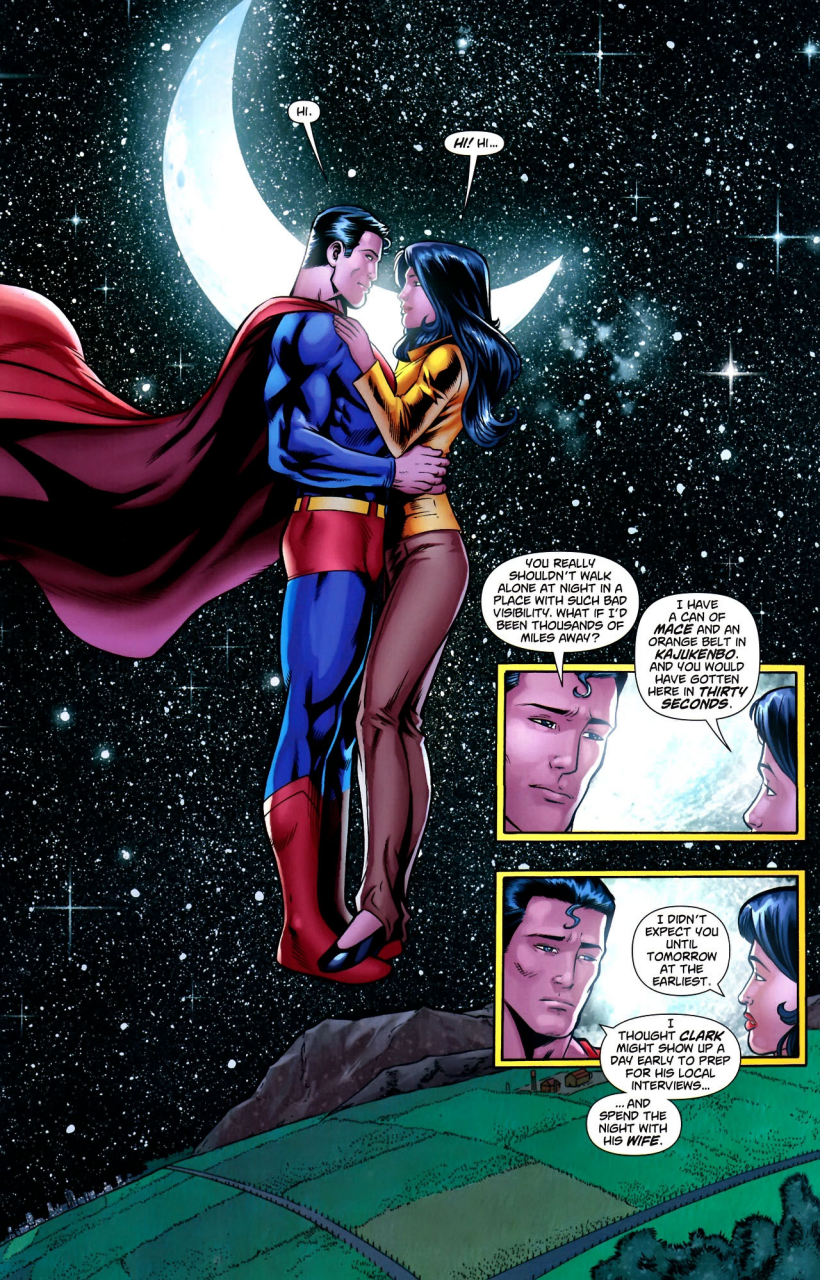


3NNGH€



... ONE OF THESE DAYS
I AM GOING TO PASS
OUT FROM HYPOXIA
WHEN HE DOES THIS.

BOY WILL HE
BE SORRY.

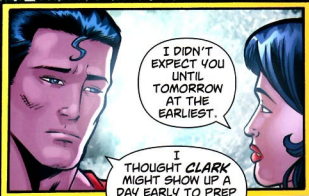


Hi.

Hi! Hi...

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T WALK ALONE AT NIGHT IN A PLACE WITH SUCH BAD VISIBILITY. WHAT IF I'D BEEN THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY?

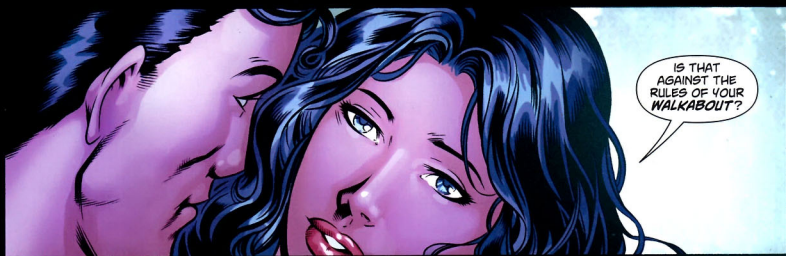
I HAVE A CAN OF MACE AND AN ORANGE BELT IN KAUUKENBO. AND YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HERE IN THIRTY SECONDS.



I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU UNTIL TOMORROW AT THE EARLIEST.

I THOUGHT CLARK MIGHT SHOW UP A DAY EARLY TO PREP FOR HIS LOCAL INTERVIEWS...

...AND SPEND THE NIGHT WITH HIS WIFE.

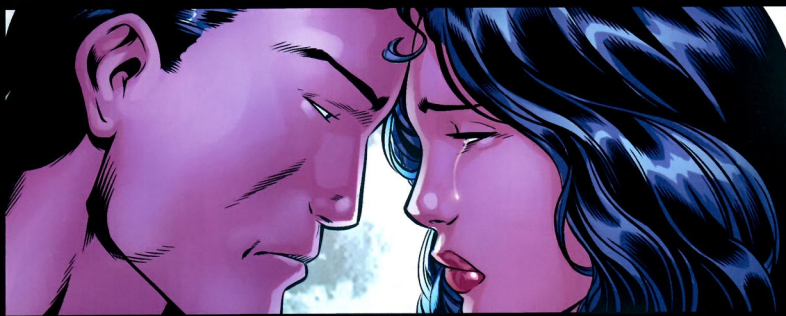


IS THAT
AGAINST THE
RULES OF YOUR
WALKABOUT?



IT
MIGHT
BE.

BUT
I MISS
YOU.



IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

NO--



I'M JUST REALLY GLAD YOU'RE HERE.



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

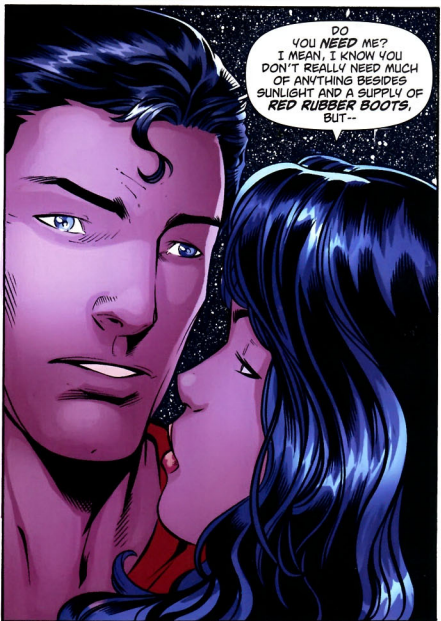
NOTHING-- IT'S JUST STRANGE TO BE BACK HERE. I GOT MOBBED BY A COUPLE OF YOUR DEVOTED FANS-- ALSO MY ERSTWHILE SORORITY SISTERS.



SORRY ABOUT THAT.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS BOTHERING YOU. WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?

I SORT OF HAD A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH NORMAL LIFE. IT GOT ME THINKING.



DO YOU NEED ME? I MEAN, I KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY NEED MUCH OF ANYTHING BESIDES SUNLIGHT AND A SUPPLY OF RED RUBBER BOOTS, BUT--

A close-up panel showing Superman and Lois Lane in space. Superman is on the right, looking at Lois on the left. He has his hand on her chest. The background is a starry space.

I KNOW THE WORLD NEEDS YOU. I GUESS I WOULD FEEL LIKE LESS OF A THIRD WHEEL IF I KNEW THAT YOU NEED ME.

LOIS...

A panel showing Superman and Lois Lane flying through space. Superman is carrying Lois in his arms. They are both looking towards the viewer.

I REALIZED SOMETHING DURING A REALLY FLAT PART OF OHIO.

A panel showing Superman and Lois Lane flying through space. Superman is carrying Lois in his arms. They are both looking towards the viewer.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT KEEPS ME MOST CONNECTED TO THIS PLANET--MOST CONNECTED TO THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING HUMAN--

A close-up panel showing Superman and Lois Lane in space. Superman is on the right, looking at Lois on the left. He has his hand on her chest. The background is a starry space.

--IS WAKING UP NEXT TO YOU.

I LOVE YOU, LOIS LANE. AND I NEED YOU.



THANKS, SMALLVILLE.

I LOVE YOU TOO.



DO YOU NEED ME?

NAH. I THINK I COULD PROBABLY MAKE DO WITH SOME AVERAGE JOE, A GILIE GUN, AND THE HOME SHOPPING NETWORK.



"WONDERFUL. THANKS, HONEY."

"NO PROBLEM, DEAR HUSBAND."

NEXT: GROUNDED HITS CHICAGO!



This



is happening



right now!



That's right, DC Nation, Death is making her appearance in ACTION COMICS #894 right now! What is she saying to Lex Luthor? Go grab the issue and find out. This is just part of an epic storyline Paul Cornell and Pete Woods have been weaving in ACTION so now is the time to see what everybody has been buzzing about. As a bonus you'll get to read the next chapter in the new Jimmy Olsen co-feature by Nick Spencer, RB Silva & Denis Frietos! So stop reading this and go pick up a copy of ACTION COMICS #894, unless you're reading this in the back of ACTION COMICS #894 in which case we hope you enjoyed the issue!

Be seeing you,
— Ian Sattler, Senior Story Editor DCU

DC NATION

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