

DC COMICS
SUPERMANTM
THE MAN OF TOMORROW



BACKSTORIES

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DC COMICS
SUPERMAN™
THE MAN OF TOMORROW



By Daniel Wallace
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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family

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Foreword

by Superman

If you knew me when I was a kid, you would never have called me “super.” I grew up in a little farming town that most people have never heard of. I definitely wasn’t stronger or better at sports than most kids my age. But for as long as I can remember, I always wanted to help people.

Some people I saw, like firefighters or police officers, took a hands-on approach—they stopped crimes and rescued families. Others helped in different ways, reporting on important events or inventing new devices. While I tried to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, my parents always

encouraged me. They never told me that something couldn't be done, and if I failed they urged me to try again. I had no doubt that I would help people—but I was shocked when I learned *how*!

I started to develop superpowers as I grew up. Powers like incredible strength, unbreakable skin, heat beams that shot from my eyes, and even flight! It scared me at first, but then I discovered that I had been born on another planet. My abilities were normal (well, normal for a Kryptonian living on the planet Earth), and they didn't make my adoptive parents love me any less.

I knew then that I couldn't waste these gifts. I started using my powers to help others, and became the world's most famous Super Hero.

But that didn't stop me from improving my other skills as Clark Kent. I studied hard, and I got a job at a newspaper in Metropolis. As a reporter for the *Daily Planet*, I could reveal the truth about what corrupt and powerful people were *really* doing.

I became good friends with my coworkers. People like Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane showed me that everyone can make a difference for the better.

I am happy that I've been an inspiration to other Super Heroes, and I am proud to join them in the fight against injustice. If danger threatens the innocent, I will be there.

Friends, Foes, and Family



Superman

He was born on Krypton, but sent to Earth as a baby, where he was adopted and named Clark Kent. Upon discovering his history and superpowers he decided to use his gifts to help others. In doing so became known as Superman.



Jonathan and Martha Kent

Superman's adoptive parents. They raised him in the farming town of Smallville as their son, Clark Kent. Jonathan and Martha gave Superman the values of hard work and honesty.



Jor-El and Lara

Superman's Kryptonian parents. When they realized their home planet would explode, they sent their son, Kal-El, to Earth, knowing he would gain powers under a yellow sun.



Lana Lang

Clark Kent's best friend during his childhood in Smallville. Lana was one of the only people in town who knew that Clark could do amazing things.



Lex Luthor

A genius, and one of the wealthiest people in Metropolis. Clark and Lex knew each other back in Smallville but Lex later became Superman's greatest enemy.



Perry White

The editor in chief of the *Daily Planet* newspaper. Perry, who has worked in the news industry all his life, made the decision to hire Clark Kent.



Jimmy Olsen

The *Daily Planet's* junior photographer. Jimmy is Superman's friend, and he wears a watch to alert Superman if he is ever in danger.



Lois Lane

The *Daily Planet's* top investigative reporter. Lois and Clark are coworkers.



Metallo

A Kryptonite-powered super-villain. Lex Luthor created Metallo by equipping soldier John Corben with mechanical parts.



General Zod

A Kryptonian criminal who escaped from the Phantom Zone. General Zod is a ruthless fighter who has all the same powers as Superman.



Supergirl

The second Kryptonian hero to appear on Earth, also known as Kara Zor-El. Superman and Supergirl are cousins.