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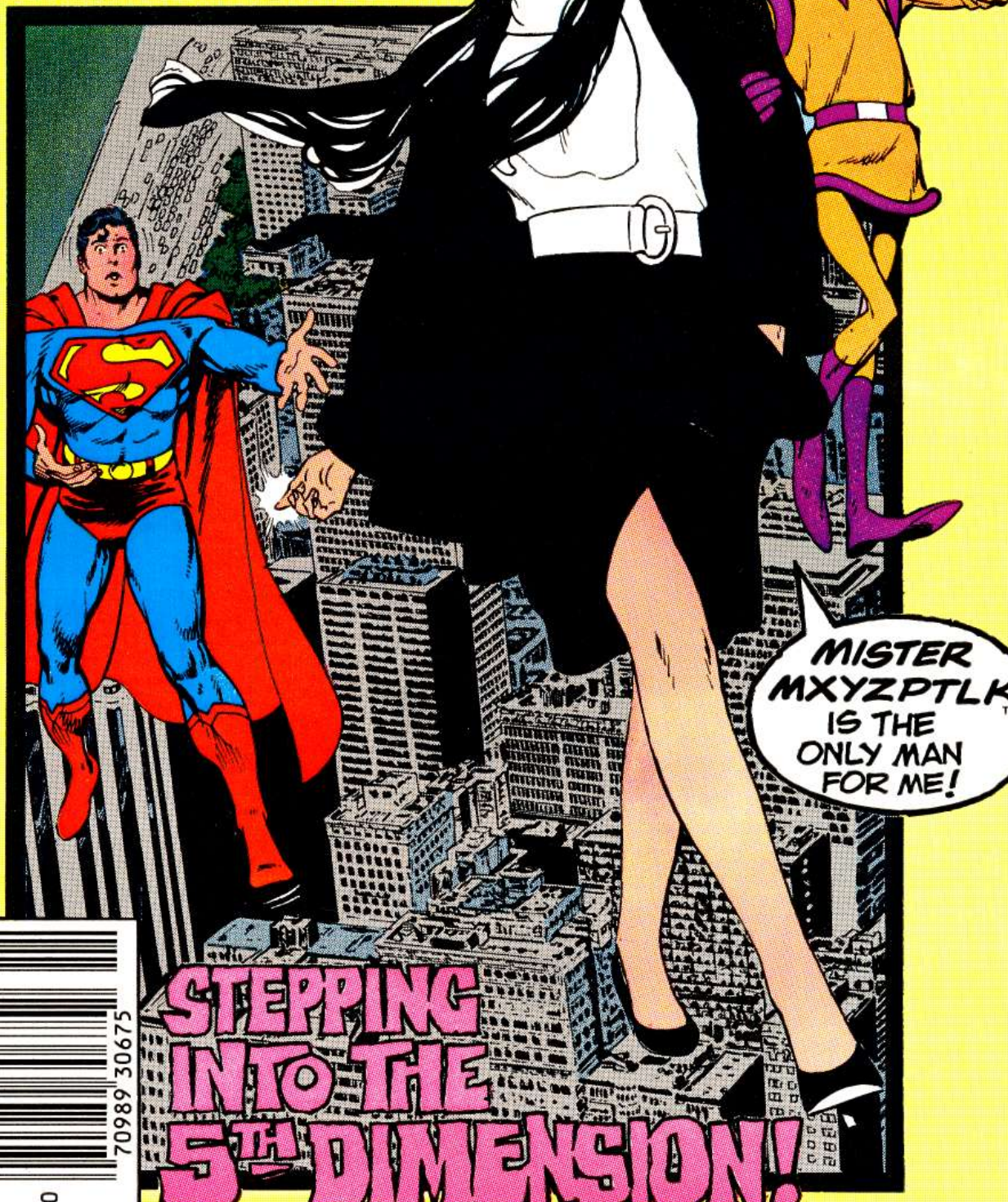
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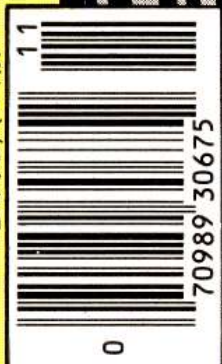
# DROP DEAD, SUPERMAN<sup>®</sup>

BY JOHN BYRNE & KARL KESSEL



MISTER  
MXYZPTLK<sup>™</sup>  
IS THE  
ONLY MAN  
FOR ME!

STEPPING  
INTO THE  
5<sup>TH</sup> DIMENSION!



# SUPERMAN

Created by  
JERRY SIEGEL &  
JOE SHUSTER

## THE NAME GAME

story & pencils  
John Byrne

inks  
Karl Kesel

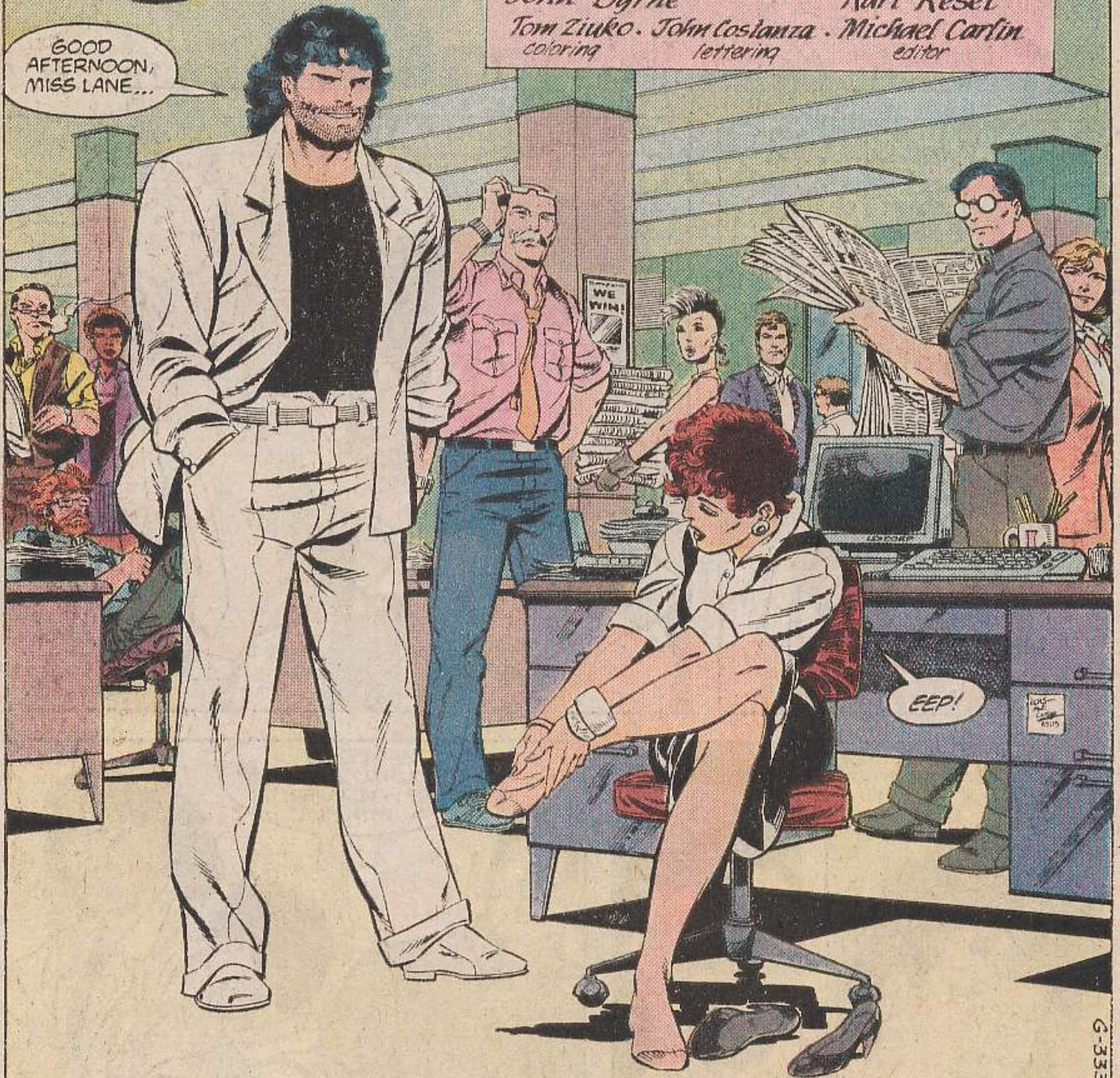
Tom Ziuko · John Costanza · Michael Carlin

coloring

lettering

editor

GOOD  
AFTERNOON,  
MISS LANE...



G-33336





WHAT IN THE...??

DON'T LET HER GET YOU DOWN, CLARKIE.



C'MON.

NO POINT WASTING A LOVELY AFTERNOON.

I'LL BUY YOU LUNCH!

OH--ER--CAT!

ER--YES. THANKS. THANKS VERY MUCH.

THAT... DIDN'T SEEM AT ALL LIKE THE LOS I KNOW.



"WHAT COULD'VE GOTTEN INTO HER?"

DID YOU ENJOY THAT, MISS LANE?

IT WAS FRANKLY FABULOUS, MR. DEROY.

EXCEPT...



EXCUSE ME. THIS HAPPENS TO BE THE NO SMOKING SECTION, FELLA.

SO?

THIS ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A FREE COUNTRY, MISS BUTT-IN-SKI!



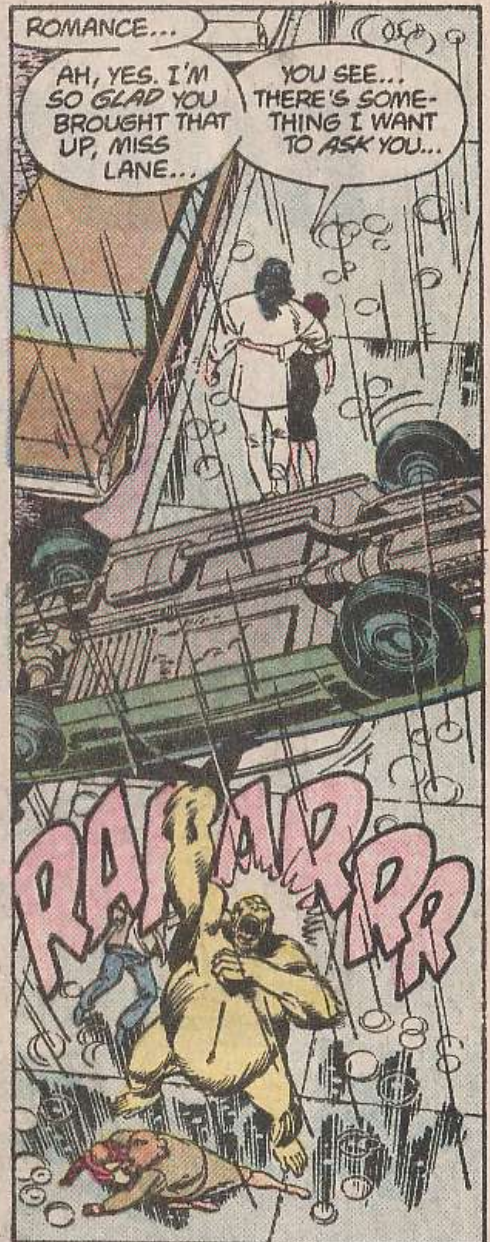
I'LL SMOKE ANYWHERE I DAMN WELL PLEASE!

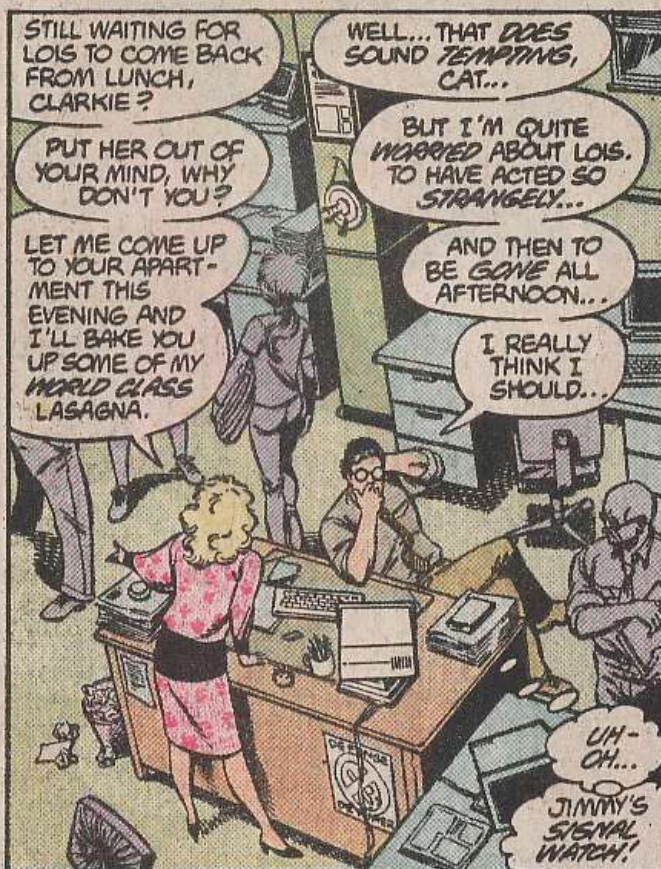
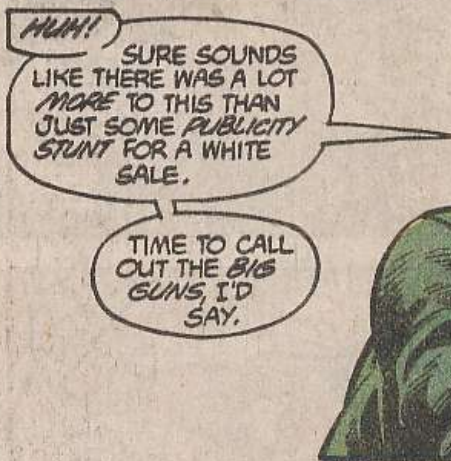
AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN...

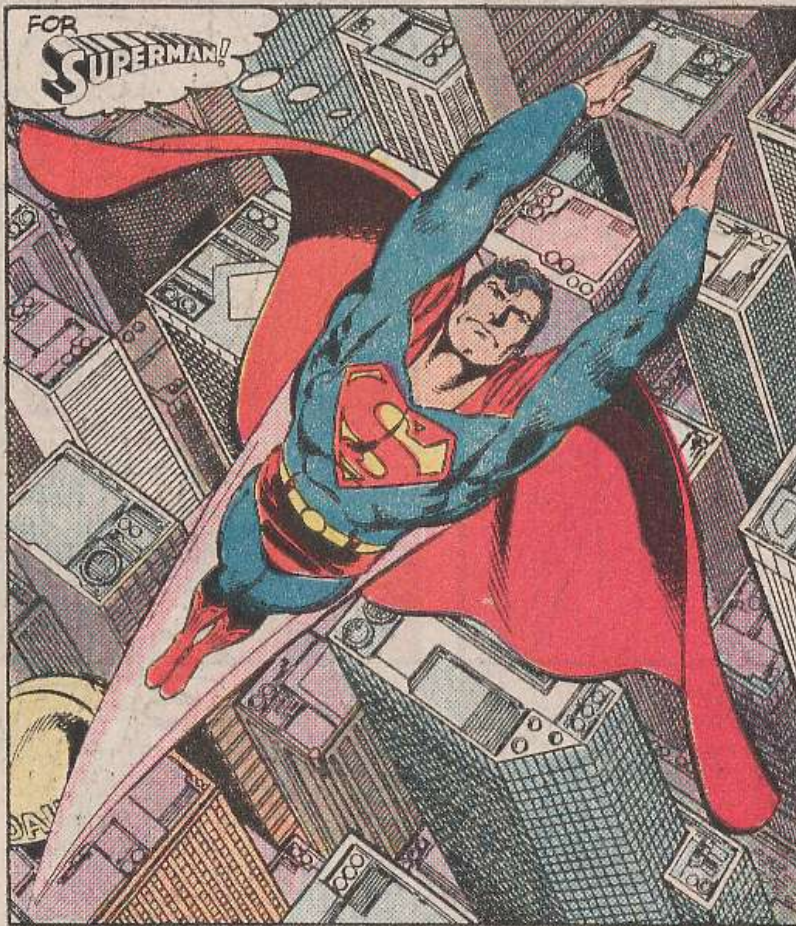


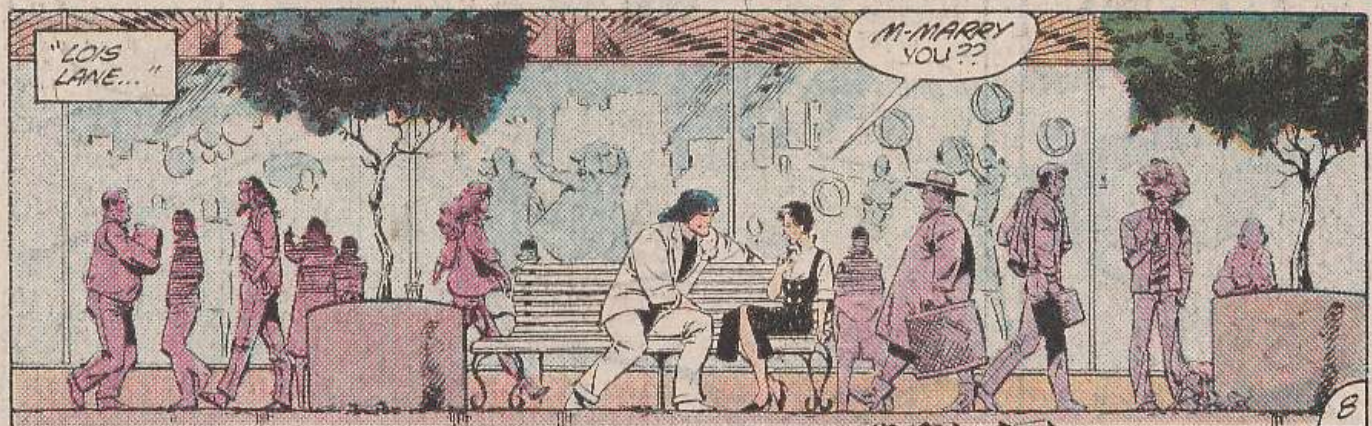
...MOVE...!!!

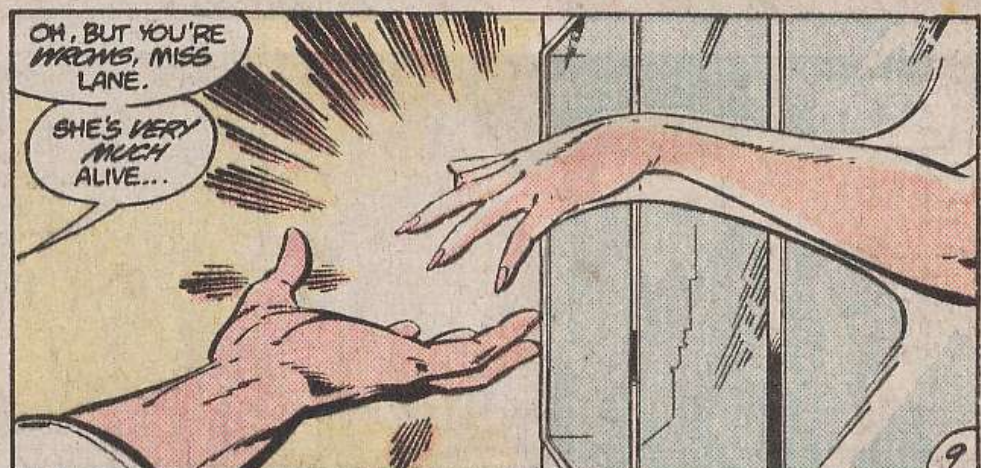




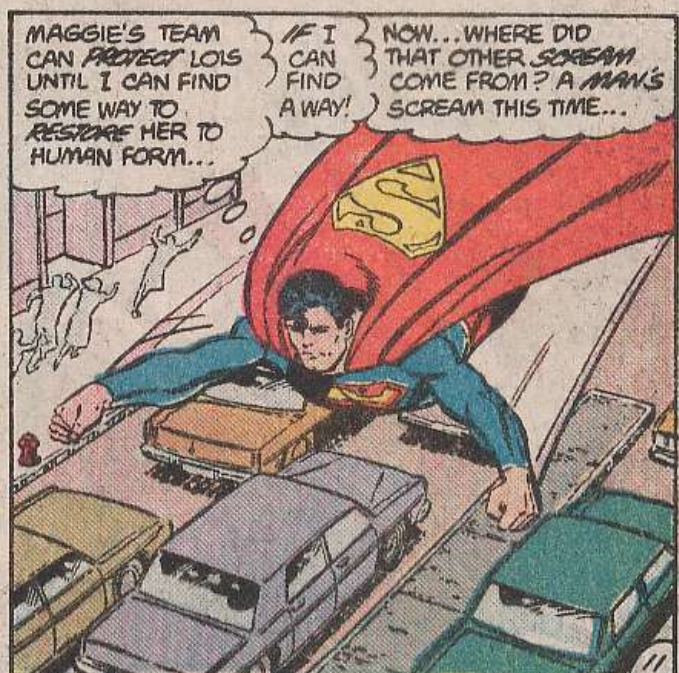


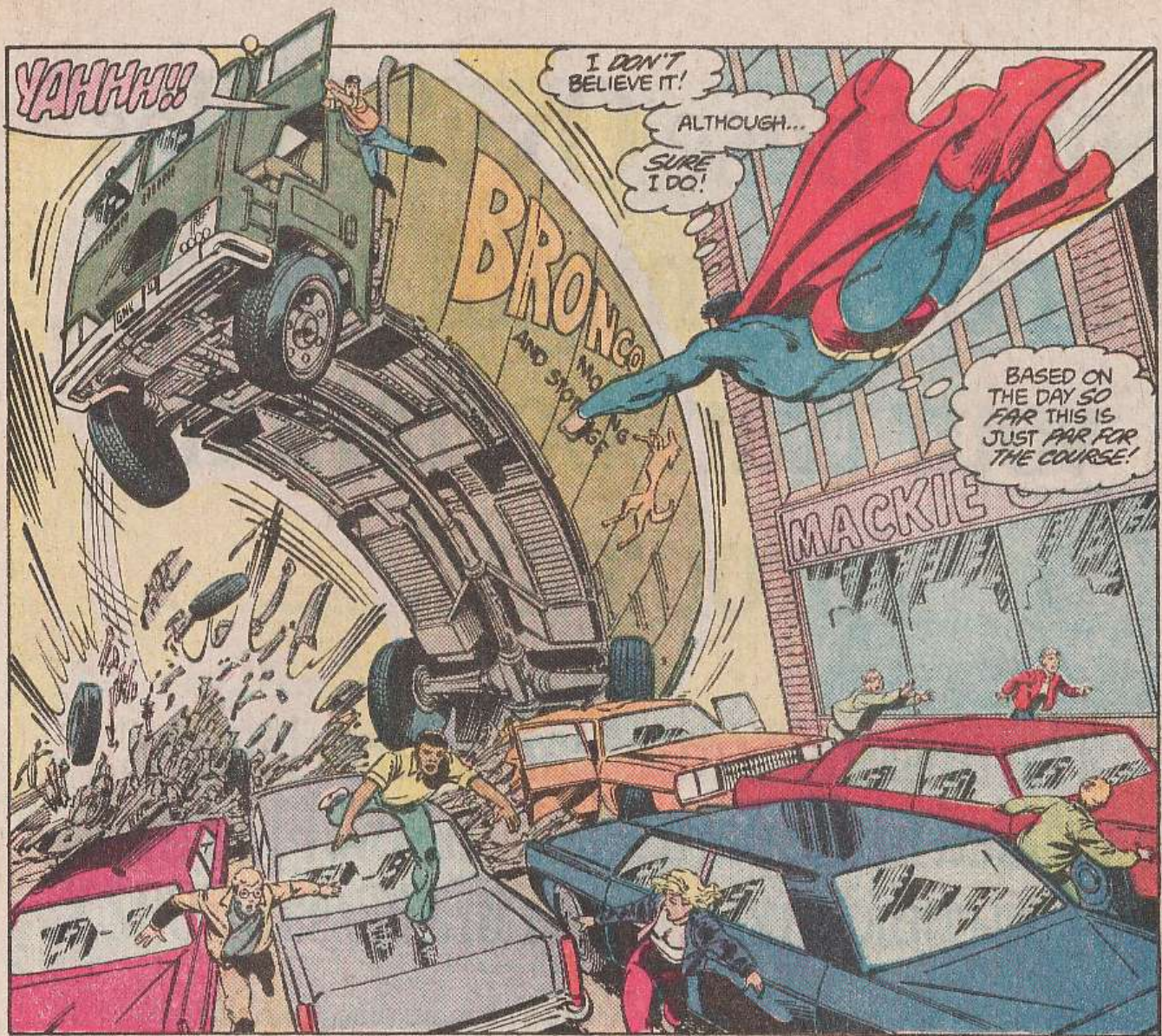












SILENCE!

YOUR USEFULNESS  
TO ME IS AT AN  
END!

RETURN TO  
THE FORM IN  
WHICH I FOUND  
YOU!

BE ✱



MY *REAL* NAME WOULD NEVER TRANSLATE INTO YOUR CLUMSY EARTH LANGUAGES.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT I'M FROM A *PARALLEL DIMENSION*.

YOU'D CALL IT... THE *FIFTH DIMENSION*!

AND I'VE BEEN OBSERVING YOUR PUNY LITTLE *THIRD DIMENSION* FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.

LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW MY SUPERIOR *5-D BRAIN* WILL MAKE ME THE MOST *POWERFUL* BEING ON THIS PLANET.



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, SUPERMAN, IS *STOP ME!*

STOP...? YOU...?

YES.

YOU SEE, I'M A *GAMESTER*, SUPERMAN. A *GAMBLER*.

AND I THINK YOU CAN PROVIDE ME WITH SOME OF THE *CHALLENGE* MY OWN WORLD HAS LOST!

OF COURSE... IT WON'T BE EASY FOR YOU.



WITH MY *POWERS* I CAN ALTER YOU AT WILL!

I CAN MAKE YOU *OLD*...



OR *FAT*...



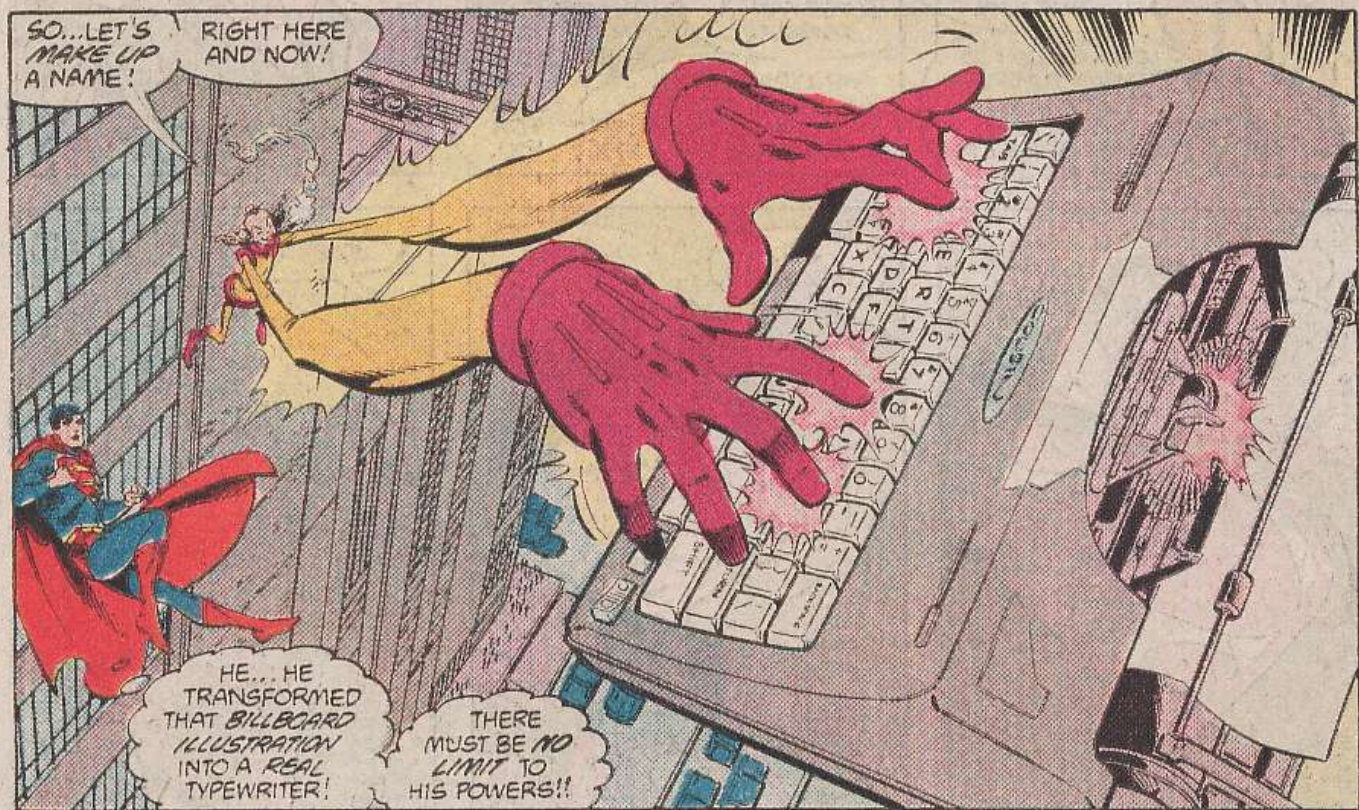
OR *STUPID*...

...*DAHR*...



OR JUST... *STRANGE*...





AND SO FAR  
THOSE EFFECTS  
HAVE BEEN  
PIDDLING!

TIME TO  
GET SERIOUS,  
I THINK!



OH MY  
GOD!

HE'S  
ANIMATED  
THE DAILY  
PLANET  
BUILDING!!



WXYZPTLK...

STOP!! THERE ARE  
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE  
IN THAT BUILDING!

WITH MY X-RAY  
VISION I CAN SEE  
THEM BEING TOSSED  
ABOUT LIKE CONFETTI  
IN A BOX!



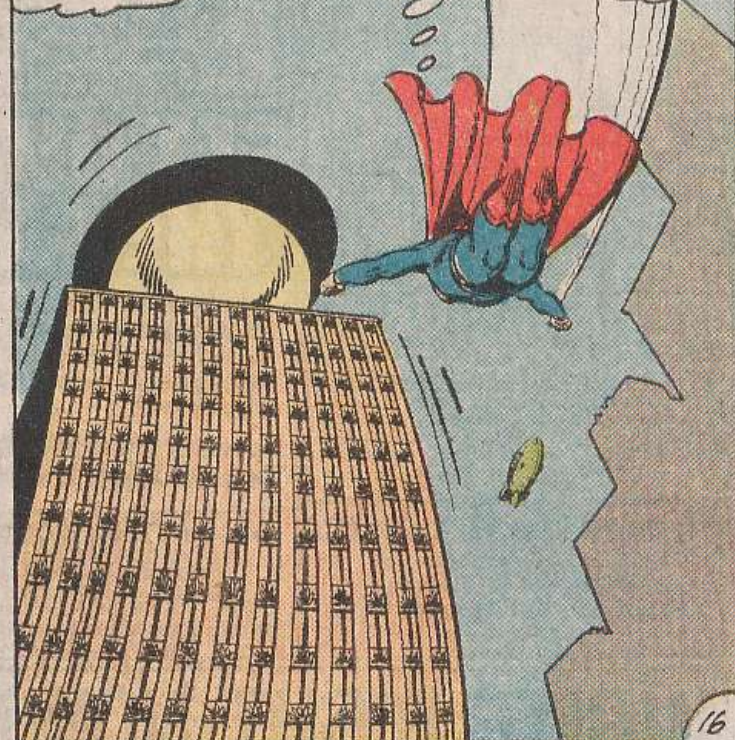
OH, FIDDLE  
FIDDLE! YOU  
3-D LIFEFORMS  
ARE A DIME  
A DOZEN!

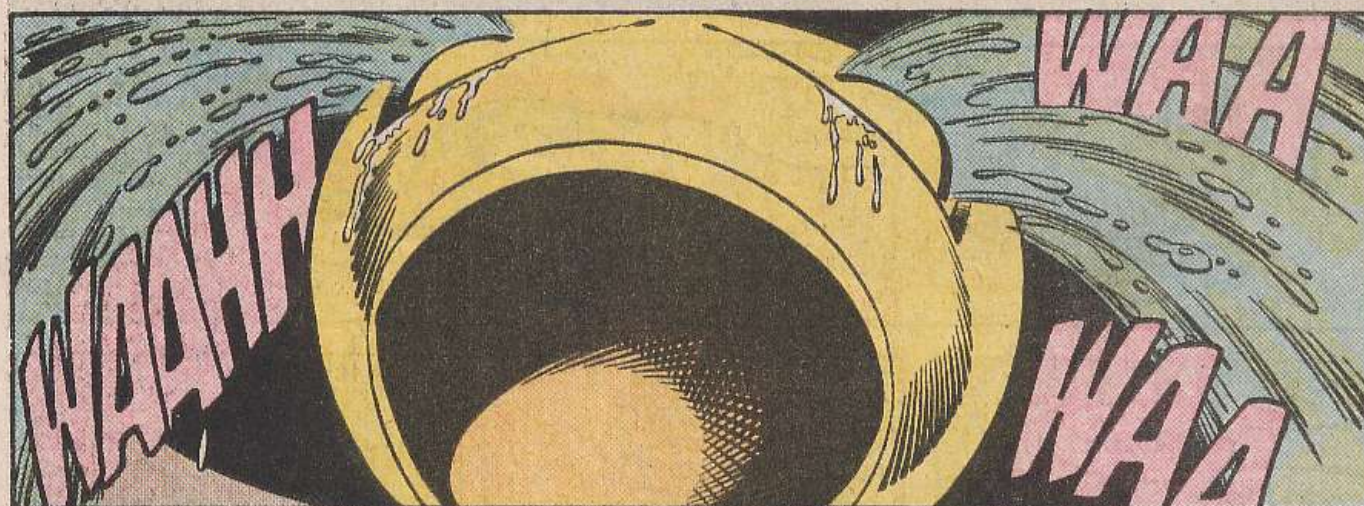
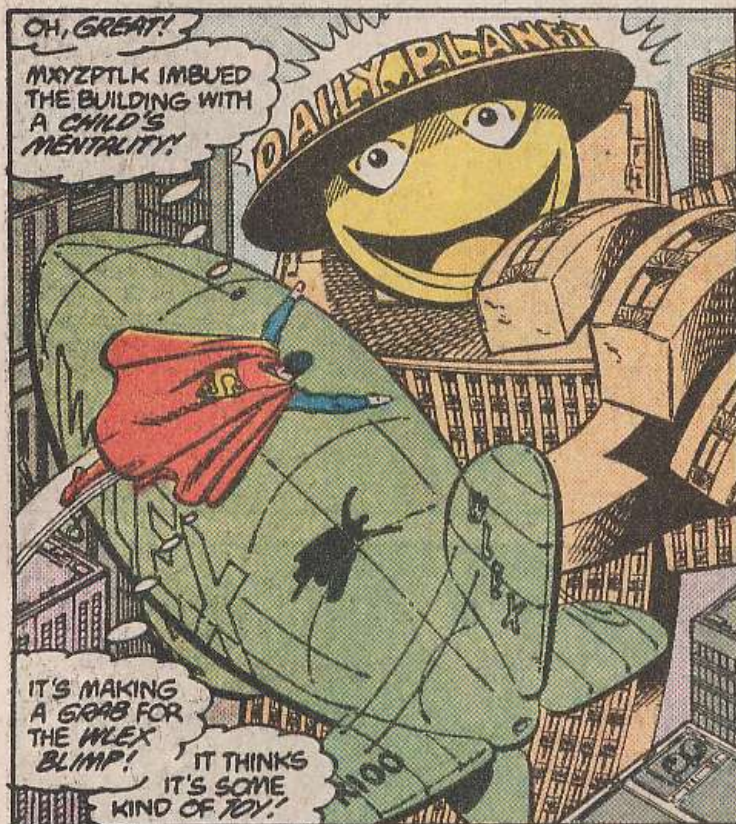
KLTPZ

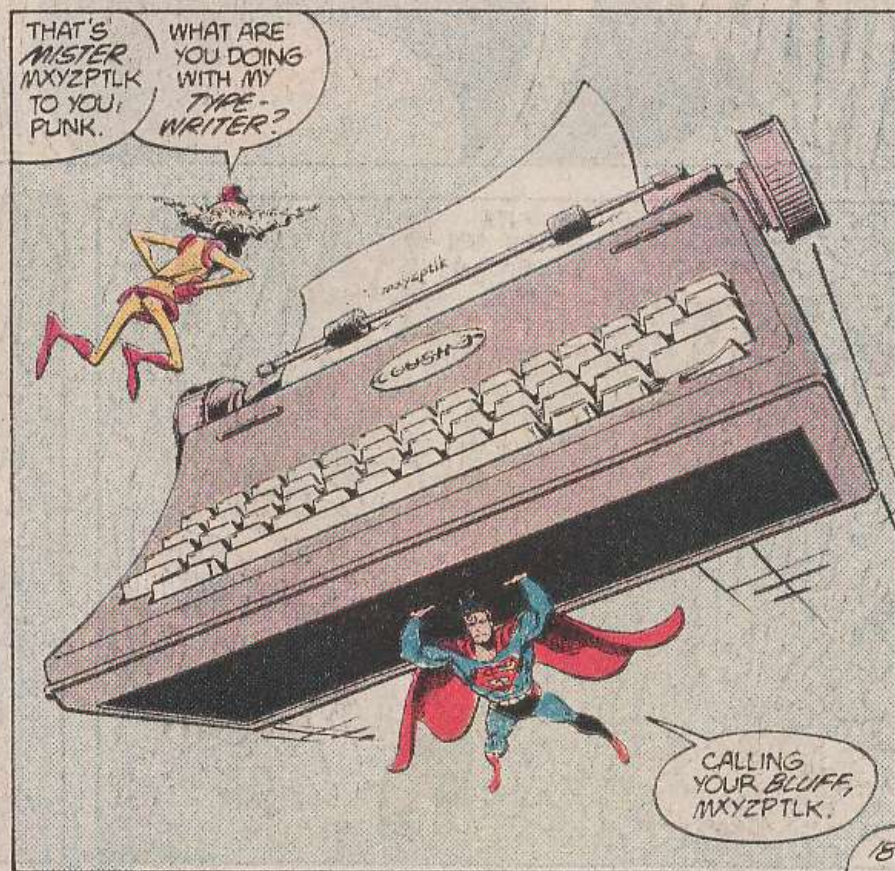
HE'S...TEASING  
ME! SINGING  
PART OF HIS  
"NAME"  
BACKWARDS!

BUT...  
WHAT IN BLAZES  
CAN I DO?! HOW  
DO I STOP THE  
PLANET BUILDING...

WITHOUT  
KILLING  
PEOPLE  
INSIDE  
IT??











"COUNT ON IT!!"

SO... HE'S GONE, SUPERMAN...

BUT NOT FOR GOOD?

NO... BUT FOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS, I'D SAY.

I TALKED TO SOME OF THE THEORETICAL PHYSICS BOYS OVER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF METROPOLIS.



THEY SAY THAT'S THE NEXT TIME THERE WILL BE AN OPTIMUM TRANSFER INTERFACE BETWEEN US AND THE FIFTH DIMENSION.

BUT... HOW ARE YOU, LOIS?

STILL... OFF.

CAN'T QUITE PUT IT INTO WORDS.

COMING TO MY SENSES IN A DEPARTMENT STORE WINDOW DRESSED IN A BIKINI...

WELL... GIVEN THAT THE LAST THING I REMEMBERED BEFORE THAT WAS TURNING TO SPEAK TO CLARK KENT IN THE CITY ROOM...

IT WAS A BIT... UNNERVING, SUPERMAN.



UNNERVING...

YES. I GUESS THAT WOULD BE A WORD FOR IT. THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF MISTER MXYZPTLK'S VISIT ARE ALL GONE...

YOU'RE HUMAN AGAIN, THE PLANET BUILDING IS BACK IN PLACE...

THAT BUCKING BRONCO TRUCK IS JUST A TRUCK AGAIN.

BUT THE PSYCHIATRIC WING OF THIS HOSPITAL MAY HAVE TO OPEN A NEW WARD TO DEAL WITH ALL THE TRAUMA MXYZPTLK UNLEASHED.

THE THINGS HE DID LEFT DEEPER SCARS THAN JUST PHYSICAL INJURY.



I'LL TELL THE WORLD!

BUT... I'M STILL NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND JUST HOW YOU GOT RID OF HIM.

THAT WAS THE EASY PART, ONCE I FIGURED IT OUT.

THE GIANT TYPEWRITER WORKED JUST LIKE A REAL ONE.



I SIMPLY RE-WIRED THE INSIDES AT SUPER-SPEED. WHEN HE HIT THE "M" KEY IT MADE A "K", THE "X" MADE AN "Z", AND SO ON.

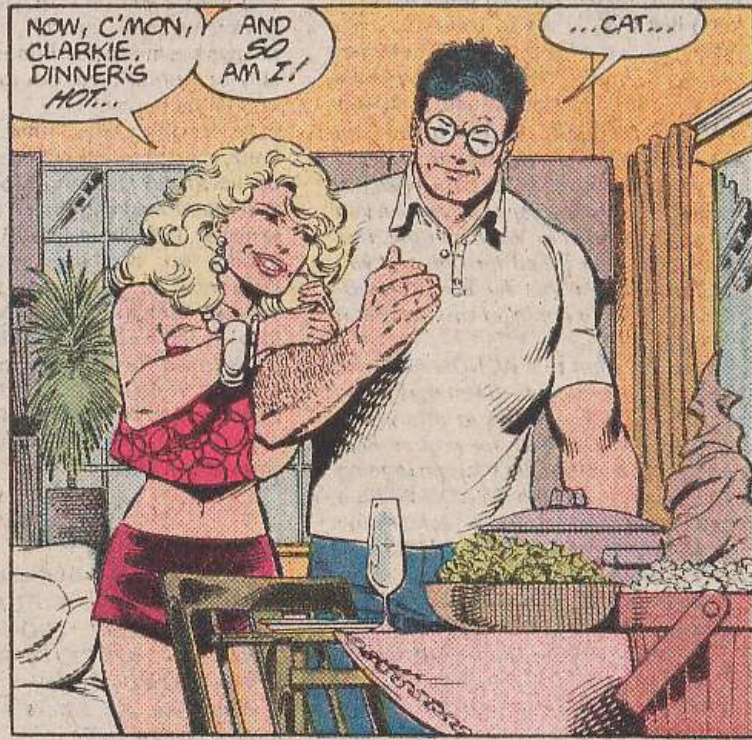
YOU SEE, I WAS DEPENDING ON HIM TO CHEAT, TO USE HIS POWERS TO STRIKE THE CORRECT KEYS "AT RANDOM".

AND WHEN HE DID...

M-X-Y-Z-P-T-L-K CAME OUT K-L-T-P-Z-Y-X-M!

AND HE *LOST!*





**NEXT:**  
**Lost Love...**

# SUPERMAN

L-2886

DC Comics Inc.  
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Editor,

Issue #7 was another great issue of SUPERMAN, as expected. First thing I liked was Clark's desire to meet Wonder Woman. I hear that Superman is supposed to team up with her in the ACTION ANNUAL #1. Will WW get her own annual? Please say, "yes."

I also liked that tall lady that Superman battled. She sure gave Supes a bad time. Besides all that, #7 had a lot of Lois in it, too. She's cool!!

Now I have some suggestions:

1) Do something with Lana. Give her a job in Metropolis. Have her meet Lois and Cat. DO SOMETHING WITH HER!

2) How about a return of Brainiac, Mxyzptlk, and maybe a new Secret Society of Super-Villains including the new Cheetah, Darkseid, Luthor, and other big-time criminals.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I have one last thing to say—Long live DC.

Tim Hayes  
2012 Digby Drive  
New Lenox, IL 60451

*Mister Mxyzptlk, Tim? What're you askin' for him for? He was just in the story you just read! What? You read the letters pages first—especially when you see your name in it? Well, all right, this time! Well, you asked for him and you got him—how's that for some crowd-pleasin'? (We're hopin', of course, that it pleased ya!)*

*Okay, let's get this ACTION ANNUAL deal straightened out—Batman is going to team with Superman in this year's ACTION ANNUAL (#1 for you serious collectors), and Wonder Woman is going to be joining us all in ACTION #600, a super-sized special issue celebrating the 50th year of ACTION COMICS and SUPERMAN!*

*Say, how did this turn into an ACTION letters page so fast?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Super-Team:

Let's talk covers. More specifically, let's talk about the cover of SUPERMAN #7. I am impressed! A graduate of the "less is more" school of thought, I've never liked garish covers with melodramatic blurbs. Recent DC covers have, thankfully, drifted away from the gaudy overkill of yore, but, SUPERMAN #7—hoo, boy, what a piece of work! Bravo!

Now, the art on the inside was nothing to sniff at, either! The art on all three SUPERMAN titles is first-rate, but the Byrne-Kesel combination is my favorite. Byrne's graceful depictions of

Superman in flight never cease to amaze me. Reminds me of some of the beautiful flying sequences in the first Superman movie. (The *only* Superman movie, in my opinion.)

On to other matters: the first 11 pages of #7 were a particular delight, as there were no sound effects added to the action. I was duly impressed by this. But then, on page 12, there it was: "RUNK!!" Runk? What is Runk? "KKRREEEEK" I can live with (page 13), as it depicted a sound from an out-of-frame source, and bears some relation to an actual creaking sound. But Runk? and (page 16) "WHUDI WHUDI" What do these words mean? Where do they come from? Now, I'm not picking on you guys. I was glad to see such restraint used throughout most of the story. There were plenty of opportunities for WHAMSI and KA-BLAMMS!!!s, and maybe even a WHOOOSH! or two. Seriously, the sound effects have always seemed superfluous at best, and silly at worst. Keep 'em to a minimum and I'll be happy.

As for the story, "Rampage!"—well done; a good monthly installment. How on earth did Lois and Movers survive that blast? And with just a few cuts and bruises? Talk about lucky!!

Also on the plus side: another reference to Superman's crush on Wonder Woman! I love it! What a great idea! And the old lightning bolt-to-blast-Superman-back-to-normal gambit recalled a favorite ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN TV episode. Nice touch.

Keep up the good work, everyone! See you next month!

Michael A. Medlock  
259 W. Verdugo Ave.  
Apt. G  
Burbank, CA 91502

*RUNNNNK! A-RUNKA-DOO!  
SQUEEEEEEGIE!!! THOOM THOOM  
THOOM!! KRICKITY-KRACKITY-  
KRUMMI SWOOOOSH!*

*When we get letters like this our  
muses just go wild!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Byrne:

I have just finished reading SUPERMAN #7. I liked the plot a great deal. Naturally the good story was accompanied by your excellent artwork. Although I enjoy the new Superman very much, I do have a few suggestions. First of all, I think that the characters that you make up (namely Bloodsport and Rampage) deserve to be more than one issue villains. Another thing that I

would like to point out is that in some issues (namely #4 with Bloodsport and #7 with Rampage), the way to stop a villain just "pops" into Superman's head, and conveniently enough, it works.

Also, I just read that Ron Frenz is going to draw the SUPERMAN ANNUAL. At the Thanksgiving convention in New York, you said that Art Adams was going to do the annual. No offense to Ron, but I was expecting Art Adams. Anyway, I still look forward to the annual.

Before I conclude this letter, I would like to compliment you on a fine story (and, of course, artwork too) in issues #5 and #6. Keep up the great work on a great book.

Eric Sklar  
2 Skyridge Ct.  
Potomac, MD 20854

*Another one? Okay, we're sorry about your misunderstanding what John must've told you back 'round Thanksgiving time, Eric—but as you no doubt already know, Art Adams is pencilling the ACTION ANNUAL this year, and Ron Frenz was scheduled all along to be doing the SUPERMAN ANNUAL. Again, we're sorry for the mix-up, but when you finally see Art's Annual you'll be ready to give thanks all over again!*

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Dear Editor:

I have been a long time Superman fan—and I like what is happening.

SUPERMAN #7 provokes a lot of thought about the Clark Kent/Superman relationship. Superman wonders about his secret identity when I really believe he is not so sure about his relationship with people in general, or what he should really be doing with his gift of super-powers.

Being Superman does bring out the paternal side of him, as when he discovers the Amazon and tries to stop her from doing more damage or harm to herself. He is pretty understanding about her dilemma, despite her trying to knock the stuffings out of him.

I think that Superman's real weakness is his lack of self confidence. Especially when it comes to his own life threatening situations. After all of the times that he has diverted disaster, he still doesn't seem to realize how well he works.

Since Superman gets his power from the sun, is he affected by solar storms or sunspots?

I like what you have done with Clark

Kent. He seems to handle Lois' jealousy pretty well. What's with her anyway? Can't she speak to him in a civil tongue? Does Clark scoop her on every Superman story or what? Clark has got to be seeing something under that gruff exterior ... some concern for him? When Clark can put up with Lois' sorely bruised ego month after month there is no doubt ... he must be a Superman.

Thanks for writing a great mag.

Richard Rivera  
No address given

No...thank you for writing, Rich, ol' buddy!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear DC:

SUPERMAN #7: First off I really like the chocolate brown/white masthead. Cover color-coordination is important to grab a potential buyer's attention and this issue was well dressed.

The story itself—I thought that I was reading an issue of ACTION in some places, there were so many slugging scenes. Not that I didn't like them. Superman was a real comedian in this issue—I really loved the "so much for that plan!" as he was being pounded into the dirt, poor guy. As for Rampage—well, another character is added to the voluminous list that comprises the DC legend. I think she was a little bestial for my tastes—I prefer a more articulate adversary myself—"Ha ha ha, gotcha Man of Steel!" appeals to me a lot more than "Hrrrrr!" any day.

Superman seems to be thinking of Wonder Woman a lot doesn't he? His excited schoolboy attitude is a nice touch, although how John will fit together the classic Clark/Lois relationship with the brand new Wonder Woman twist I cannot imagine. I'm sure a few clues will be sprinkled around upcoming issues, though.

I've said this before, I'll say it again. In Karl Kesel we have a worthy successor to Terry Austin. The detail in every panel is so meticulous. If you're listening Karl—your work is greatly appreciated!

Mark Armstrong  
84 Garth 24  
Killinsworth  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
England

Any old villain can say "Ha ha, gotcha Man of Steel!" and has—but it takes someone real unique to whip up something as original as "Hrrrrr!" (Andy Helfer's stomach kinda sounds a lot like that around lunch time, now that ya mention it! Must be where HE gets inspiration for HIS sound effects from!)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Nobody today is as good as you at creating exotic muscular amazons! First it was Emma (Ms. Magnificent) in LEGENDS #4! Now in SUPERMAN #7 you've created ... Professor Kitty Faulkner as Rampage!!

I hope that this is not the first and last appearance of the gorgeous golden giantess! She has so much potential!

Professor Faulkner, even now during her convalescence must be considering the rewards and risks of using bio-energy stimulation on a living being!

There are organizations and individuals that could help Kitty's research. S.T.A.R. labs for one. Better yet would be The Project! The organization that Jack Kirby introduced in Jimmy Olsen's book in the 1970's which has broken the genetic code! STARFIRE of the Teen Titans and COLOSSAL BOY of the Legion of Super-Heroes could have their body's DNA and RNA examined to discover solutions to the dangers of using bio-energy stimulation without turning into a berserk savage or exploding! Once the answers are found, Kitty would become the tallest and strongest Amazon in DC's Universe! That is one event I would love to see happen!

Robert John Williams  
2520 San Francisco Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90806

Hrrrrrrr!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear John, Karl:

So what was the best thing about SUPERMAN #7?

Was it the way Byrne faked everybody out on the true identity of Rampage?

Was it the usual swell artwork that always graces the pages of this title?

Was it Superman's continuing obsession with trying to meet Wonder Woman?

Was it the fantastic cover that wasn't spoiled by moronic captions or word balloons?

Or was it the snappy patter of the letter column answers?

Hell, no!

You brought back "Terrible" Turpin at long last! Boy, he sure was in the hospital for a looong time! So, when does Turpin get his own book?

Mark Haden Frazer  
W 39700 Sunnyfield Dr.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

If this guy's so "terrible," why does everyone want him to have his own book?!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I have been a long time fan of Superman and comics in general. The first comic I remember reading was twenty-five years ago and I have been hooked ever since. That first book I read was the silver anniversary edition of the Superman Annual series. That first experience with the fantastic was so enjoyable that it has shaped my reading habits to this day. I find that reading can offer the imagination experiences that no other form of entertainment can match.

Having said that I'm sure you are wondering what an old timer thinks of recent issues of Superman. On the whole I couldn't be more pleased. You have developed a character which can inspire the imagination of the new as well as the more mature fan. This

Superman is what I always hoped he would be.

Superman seems to be enjoying what he does. I know he feels a sense of duty to protect others but it appears that he has fun doing it. You can tell by his expressions that he thinks of himself as the toughest man around, but he doesn't abuse his power as so many other "heroes" want to do. It is a relief to read about a hero who isn't into self-pity or is more concerned with their own motives. His confidence in himself is one of the best parts of the character.

As for the changes made in the Clark Kent side, I have to give another vote of thanks. The old Clark used to drive me nuts. Why would someone like Superman choose to hide in a persona such as Clark's? I always preferred the version shown on the old television series. Clark was liked and respected by his co-workers. Clark was a take charge sort of person who explored uncharted territory on his own. Sure, Superman saved the day but the bravery and intelligence of Clark were also evident to his friends. Anyway, thank you for turning Clark into a real person.

I'm also glad to see that Superman is admitting an interest in Wonder Woman. That proves that he is a normal man who has full use of his vision. (George Perez has done a great job with WW—by the way.) Seriously though, I am glad to see that Supes is more concerned with his love life now. I mean it used to consist of how he could keep Lois from finding out that Clark was Superman. I did like his involvement with Lana that was going on pre-Byrne; that was a normal healthy romance. I hope you can allow him to find that with someone else. Clark Kent getting married, wouldn't that make a great issue?

Well, anyway, keep up the good work. I mean it, I'm looking forward to the next issues of his three comics and you wouldn't want to disappoint me, would you?

Charles Kelly  
PO Box 991  
Old Fort, NC 28762

No way, Charles—and you'll be happy to know that with the 50th Anniversary issue of ACTION coming up in issue 600, we've gone to the legendary archives here at DC and unearthed a copy of the very Annual you mentioned for our inspiration—except this time 'round you might see a gold rendition of the Man of Steel on the cover!

Well, that about wraps up another letters page o' stuff—and we've got just enough room for this classic tid-bit...

**NEXT ISSUE:** The letters this month mentioned several women that Clark's got his eyes set on (or visa versa)—but next month we'll tell you the story about the one that got away! (That has got to be the best Next Issue Box hint ever printed!!!) Be here with John Byrne, Karl Kesel, Tom Ziuko, John Costanza and me, Al Franken—I mean Mike Carlin for "Lost Love" in thirty big ones! Until then, bye.