

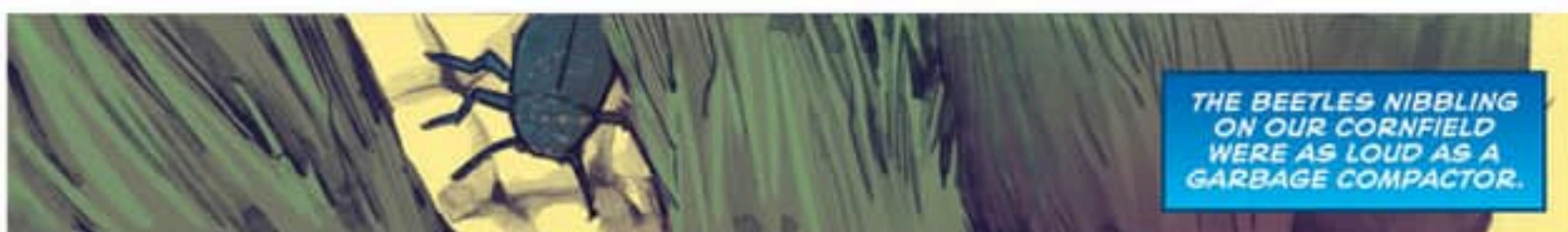
IT WAS A QUIET MORNING, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.



Smallville.
Somewhen.

THEN IT BECAME FRIGHTENINGLY LOUD.

AN ARMY OF ANTS SOUNDED LIKE GALLOPING HORSES AT THE KENTUCKY DERBY.



THE BEETLES NIBBLING ON OUR CORNFIELD WERE AS LOUD AS A GARBAGE COMPACTOR.



BUT WHAT SCARED ME MOST WAS MY FATHER'S REACTION TO WHAT I TOLD HIM.

"DAD, I CAN... HEAR THINGS. STUFF THAT WE SHOULDN'T AT ALL."



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D LOCKED ON TO THE DISTINCT RHYTHM OF HIS HEARTBEAT.

IT RAN FAST.



Hrrk...

THEN ONE DAY, IT STOPPED.

THE NIGHT STARTED OUT WITH A BANGLE THUNDER WITH MY FAMILY AND MY COLLEAGUES.

I'VE TAKEN EVERY PRECAUTION TO KEEP OUR HOME A SECRET, SO I HAD MY ALARMS SET WHEN I HEARD A FAMILIAR VOICE COMING FROM THE BARN.

AND A FAMILIAR PAIN-RIPPING HEARTBEAT.

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, HOW WE GOT INTO OUR COSTUMES, OR HOW WE GOT HERE.

ALL I KNOW IS, I CALLED MY FATHER'S NAME TO STOP BEATING.

DAD!

Better Together
Part Two
Smallville

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By Special Arrangement With The Terry Siegel Family
Batman Created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger
Wonder Woman Created by William Moulton Marston



NO--

WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY DAD?!

WHY CAN'T I HEAR HIS HEART-BEAT?!

POW



CLARK, STOP--

...HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



GET OFF ME!

DAD! I CAN'T HEAR YOUR HEART-BEAT?!



I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN, CLARK. WE CAN HELP.

I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING... HE'S--

I NEED TO... HE TOLD ME TO...



...I NEED TO RUN!

SMASH