



# Chapter One



# In Which



# He Leaves Smallville



# As A Boy



F'INALLY.  
I'M HERE.

2012 HONK

...YEAH. IT'S GREAT. I'VE SEEN IT TWICE. TWOFER'S GOT TICKETS...

...DON'T WAIT UP, HON. I'M GOING TO BE HOME LATE TONIGHT...

...GERRY CALLED. Uh-huh, ANNIE'S GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL... DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...

...IT'S ME. LISTEN, I CAN BE THERE BY EIGHT, BUT I'VE GOT TO LEAVE NO LATER THAN ELEVEN...

...IT'S ALL GOOD. THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED THIS MORNING...

...YEAH. LOVE YOU, TOO...

...I MEAN, WHAT WAS I THINKING? YEAH, I KNOW, YOU WARNED...

...YOU ARE SO WRONG. GOD, IT SUCKED...

...GIDOUTTAMYWAY...

...HONEY, WHAT WAS THAT THING AGAIN LAST WEEK YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME TO PICK UP?

...YOU SHOULD HAVE AN E-MAIL WAITING...

...NO, HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. HE JUST GOT UP AND LEFT...

...KEPT NAGGING AND NAGGING ME. I HADDA GET OUTTA THERE...

**HONK HONK HONK**  
**BEEP**

**WEEE OOO**  
**WEEE OOO**  
**WEEE OOO**

**HONK**  
ALAC E  
THE MAN WHO COMES FROM SPACE  
IN THEATRES NOW

**BEEP**





FIFTY?  
OH, MAAAAN.  
BECKY'S  
GONNA KILL  
ME.

EVERYBODY  
PLAYS,  
EVERYBODY  
WINS. KEEP YOUR  
EYES ON THE  
CARDS, FOLLOW  
THE QUEEN.

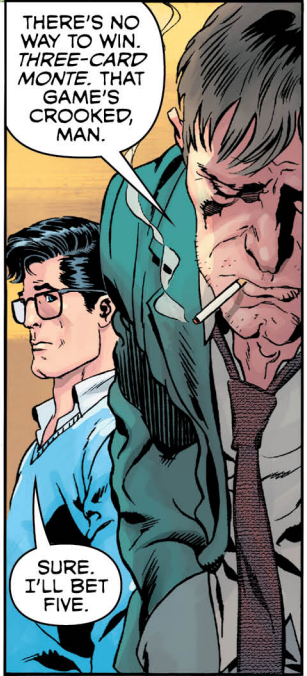
ONE BUCK  
GETS YOU  
FIVE. FIVE'LL  
GET YOU  
TWENTY.



WHATTA  
YEA THINK?  
DOESN'T LOOK  
HARD.  
THE QUEEN'S  
RIGHT  
THERE.

I  
KNEW IT!  
SHOULD'A  
BET.

YOU  
SHOULD DO  
IT. THERE'S NO  
WAY TO LOSE.



THERE'S NO  
WAY TO WIN.  
THREE-CARD  
MONTE. THAT  
GAME'S  
CROOKED,  
MAN.

SURE.  
I'LL BET  
FIVE.



WE GOT OURSELVES A  
BET. EVERYONE  
PLAYS,  
EVERYBODY  
WINS. KEEP  
YOUR EYE ON  
THE  
QUEEN.

OKAY,  
PAL. YOU  
SEE IT?



THERE.



HUH? UHH,  
HOW EASY.  
SEE TRY AGAIN.  
TWENTY'LL  
GET YOU A  
HUNDRED.



RIGHT  
THERE.  
CAN I  
HAVE MY  
HUNDRED  
NOW?



WOW. YOU'RE  
RIGHT. THIS IS  
EASY.

THAT'S IT.  
THAT'S ALL.  
WE'RE  
CLOSIN'.

AN' YOU.  
DON'T  
COME  
BACK, YOU  
FREAK.



I BELIEVE  
THIS IS YOURS.  
YOU KNOW  
THEY WERE  
CHEATING.

YOU'RE  
KIDDING?  
TH-THANKS.  
WOW.  
THANKS.



837 Avenue C...

WEEE-000  
WEEE-000  
WEEE-000



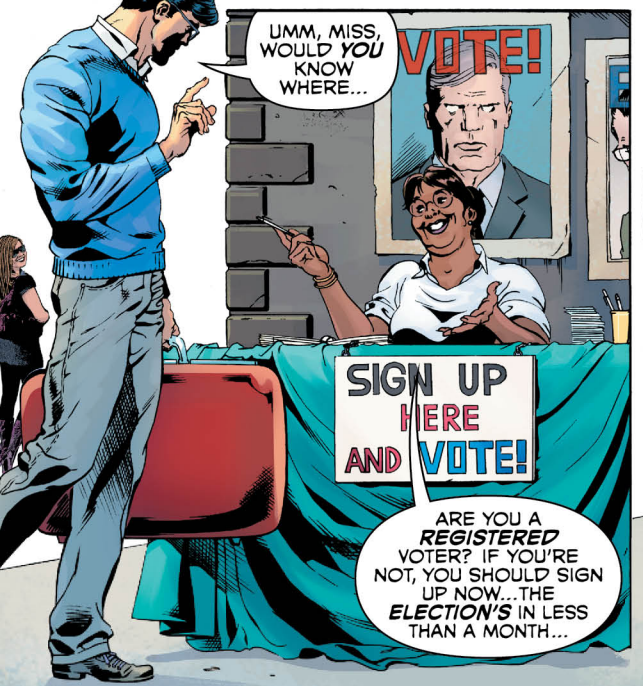
'SCUSE ME, SIR. YOU KNOW WHERE THIS ADDRESS IS?

WOTTA I LOOK LIKE? THE FREAKIN' LIBRARY?



'SCUSE ME? THIS ADDRESS...?

SORRY. DON'T LIVE HERE.



UMM, MISS, WOULD YOU KNOW WHERE...

**SIGN UP  
HERE  
AND VOTE!**

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER? IF YOU'RE NOT, YOU SHOULD SIGN UP NOW...THE ELECTION'S IN LESS THAN A MONTH...



WELL, I DON'T HAVE AN APARTMENT. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE...

MISS? ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER? THE ELECTION'S IN LESS THAN A MONTH. YOU CAN SIGN UP HERE.

GUESS NOT.

**SIGN UP  
HERE  
AND VOTE!**



837?  
THAT'S  
WAY PAST  
TWELFTH.

ABOUT A  
MILE THAT  
WAY.

BETTER  
BE CAREFUL,  
SON. AND  
WATCH YOUR  
WALLET--

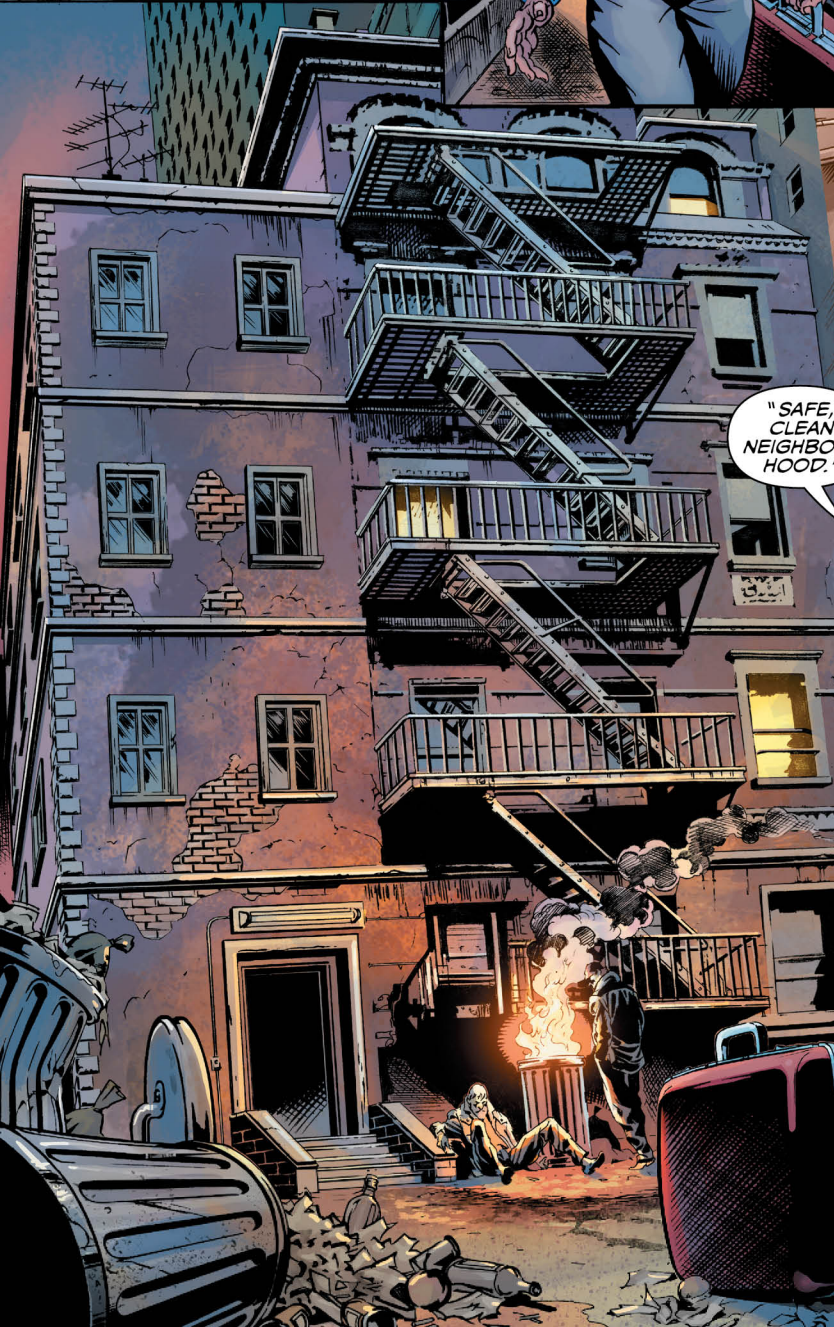


--IT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I'D CALL  
TOURIST  
FRIENDLY,  
IF Y'KNOW  
WHAT I  
MEAN."



"ONE  
BEDROOM,  
KITCHEN, LIVING  
ROOM, SAFE,  
CLEAN  
NEIGHBORHOOD.  
BEAUTIFUL  
VIEWS."

IT  
SOUNDS  
PERFECT.



"SAFE,  
CLEAN  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD."



...YEAH, DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU'RE SAFE LONG AS YOU GET BACK BEFORE DARK...

SO LIKE I SAYS, THE ELEVATOR'S OUT. DUNNO WHEN IT'LL BE FIXED, BUT WE'RE WORKIN' ON IT.

YOU'RE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KID.



EDUARDO, THE WATER'S STILL RUNNING BROWN. YOU PROMISED...

WE'RE WORKIN' ON IT. WE'RE WORKIN'...

BUT YOU PROMISED...



WHERE WUZ I? OH, YEAH. BUY YOURSELF SOME PLASTIC CONTAINERS. THAT WAY THE BUGS WON'T GET TO YOUR FOOD.

ANYWAYS, HERE'S YOURS. NEEDS SOME REPAIR, BUT WE'RE WORKIN' ON IT.



IT'S ONLY ONE ROOM. THE AD SAID THERE'S A BEDROOM, KITCHEN AND LIVING ROOM...

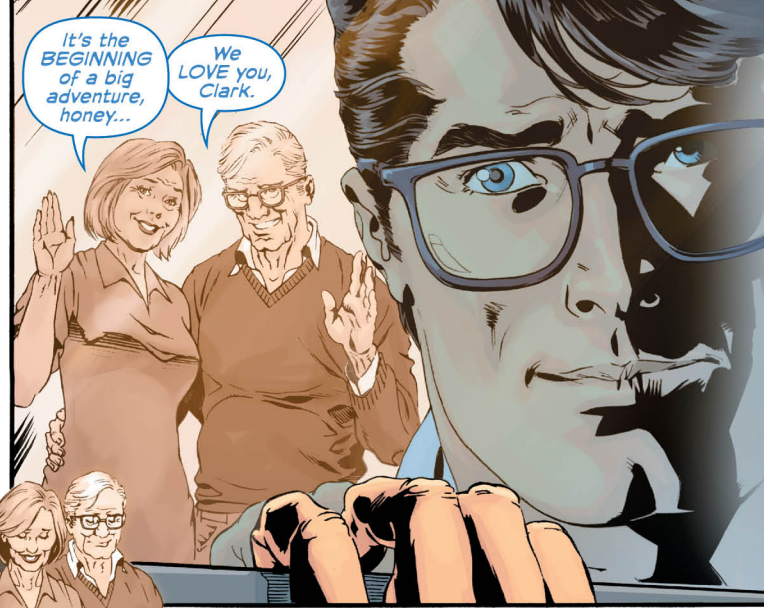
AN' THIS IS ALLA THEM. WHATTAYA THINKS A STUDIO APARTMENT IS?

OH, THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR, THEY MAKE LOTSA NOISE, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY ARGUMENTS, YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

SEEYA, KID.



"BEAUTIFUL VIEWS."



It's the **BEGINNING** of a big adventure, honey...

We **LOVE** you, Clark.



It'll be great, C. You're going to **FORGET** all about this place.

Just don't forget to **CALL**.

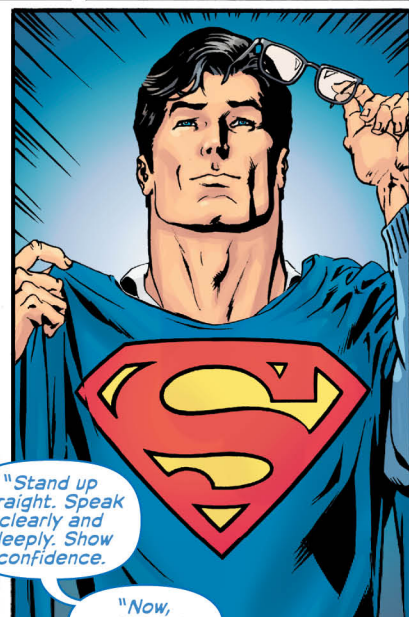


Policemen, firemen, soldiers, they all wear **UNIFORMS**. You'll need one, too.

And just like them, when people see it, they'll know you're there to **HELP** them. And don't forget...



RIGHT. "**KEEP YOUR CLARK KENT SELF SEPARATE FROM YOUR HERO SELF.**"



"Stand up straight. Speak clearly and deeply. Show confidence.

"Now, on the **OTHER** hand..."



"Slump some as Clark. Speak faster and pitch your voice higher."

IS ANYBODY **REALLY** GOING TO BUY THIS?