



Action Comics #9

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Published: 2006

Categorie(s): Fiction, Fan Fiction

Tag(s): "Lois Lane" "Lana Lang" Comics DC2 Superman Smallville

Action Comics

Issue #9: "Return to Smallville" Part One

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A gentle breeze stirred Clark's hair. It was a glorious day in Smallville, the sun shone brightly through the trees, and he inhaled deeply the smell of fresh-cut grass. The view from the hilltop was spectacular. All of Smallville lay stretched out below. There was nowhere else he would rather be at that moment. He had always felt a soothing peace at this place, a calm unlike any other.

"I can't believe it's been a year, Pa." He remarked, his mind drifting back to those desperate days of the crisis. "So much has changed... We're doing good work with the Justice League. Construction on the headquarters is almost finished; the Hall of Justice, they're calling it." He smiled ruefully. "Sounds kinda cheesy, but I like it. Luthor hates that it's in Happy Harbor, right across from Hob's Bay. Too close to home for him, I guess. Maybe if he win's his mayoral bid, he'll try to get us evicted. But for right now, we'll just sit across the Bay and keep an eye on him. Not that I've seen much of Lex, lately. Since I moved back to Smallville, I don't get back to the Big Apricot very often... mainly for weekly League meetings. Oh, I miss my job at the *Planet*... and Lois... but returning to Smallville has been good for me. I see a lot of the world as Superman, but coming home to this place... It gives one perspective."

He glanced from the hilltop down into town, his enhanced vision picking up the goings-on on Main Street. Chief Parker and his deputies were marching down the street now, behind the brass band of Smallville High School. The parade commemorated the end of the alien invasion one year ago, but Clark had felt like celebrating in a different way. With his father.

"Pa, I got an email today from Lana!" Clark remembered, with some excitement. "Her contract with the Star City Philharmonic is up, and she's

moving back home. We've kept in touch, but I haven't seen her since we graduated from college. She's had a terrific career, huh? A long way from banging on the key's of her aunt's baby grand... Pete is pretty excited to see her, too. I think he already has a job lined up for her, teaching music at the high school. Good old Pete!"

Clark smiled warmly at the thought of his oldest friend. "He's become quite the public figure in Smallville. President of the bank, city councilman, chamber of commerce... and still the nicest guy you'd ever want to meet! I'm having lunch with him later on. He's helping me on the refinancing of the farm." The thought made Clark sigh. "We should be back on our feet in no time. Ma's a little worried because I'm doing most of the work myself— but it's not like I'm wearing myself out! Besides, working the fields is actually restful compared to what I could be doing."

He put his hand on the sun-warmed headstone, the inscription of which read: *Jonathan Kent, Beloved Husband and Father, 1944-2006.*

"I miss you, Pa." Sighed Clark, rubbing his eyes. He had taken to not wearing his glasses much; there was little need in Smallville, where Superman was rarely seen. "Ma's being strong. You'd be proud of her. But it's hard. You were everything to her. She keeps busy, but... Well, you understand."

A familiar scent wafted to his highly sensitive nose. "Very busy. She makes a pie a day— gives most of them away to families of nearby farms who are having a harder time getting back on their feet. But I smell blueberry, and I want to get a piece of this before she sends it off to the Swans'. Blueberry was your favorite, wasn't it, Pa? I'll have a piece for you, then."

Feeling better, Clark strolled from the shady avenues of the Smallville Cemetery, hopped in his father's beloved and dilapidated pick-up truck, and made for the Kent family farm...

Her heels clacking loudly on the polished marble floor of the *Daily Planet* newsroom, interns and veteran staffers alike took one look at the determination on Lois Lane's face and moved out of her path.

Except one.

"Hey, Lois, what's put the wiggle in that pretty little tail of yours?"

"Not now, Lombard." Lois didn't even glance at the *Planet's* newest, sleaziest staffer, the sports writer Steve Lombard. He made an effort at least twice a day to come on to her, but succeeded only in making her want to vomit. He winked at her, all big teeth, slicked back hair and bushy moustache, as she went passed him, pausing only long enough to knock perfunctorily on the door of her Editor-in-Chief before she let herself in.

"Where is he?" She demanded, Perry White looking up from his computer, coffee cup halfway to his mouth, and sloshing over his rim.

"Great Caesar's Ghost, Lois! Where is *who*?" Perry dabbed at the spilt coffee on his tie, managing to glare at her at the same time.

"Superman." She pronounced, stalking up to his desk, putting both hands on the slick surface and leaning towards him intently. "Where the hell has he gone?"

Setting his cup down, Perry White leaned back from his star reporter and frowned.

"What are you talking about? He and the Justice League were just in Canada last week, fighting that monster, the Shaggy Man... "

"Exactly!" Lois interjected. "And before that, he was in Samoa, rescuing people from a tsunami. And before that, he foiled a terrorist attack in New York. And before that he was in Hub City, busting up a branch of Intergang—."

"Lois, I'm a busy man, get to the point." Perry growled, searching for his matches as he bit on a cigar.

"When was the last time he was seen in *Metropolis*?" Lois raised an eyebrow.

Finding the match, Perry struck it, and puffed as he lit his cigar, considering the question. "I don't know... That Toyman thing?"

"That was six months ago." Lois snatched the cigar from Perry's mouth and ground it out in the cluttered desktop ashtray.

"Hey—!"

"Sure, he's been seen at the Hall of Justice across the Bay in Happy Harbor, but that's business. When was the last time he broke up a gang fight in Suicide Slum? Or pulled a cat from a tree in Centennial Park? Or helped the Metropolis SCU catch a fleeing suspect?"

"So he's been elsewhere." Perry fumed, digging in the ashtray to salvage his cigar. "He's Superman. You just said it yourself a second ago: he's been all over the world, helping people and fighting crime."

"But he always did that!" Lois shot back with some frustration. "There hasn't been any increase in his involvement elsewhere— just a decrease in his presence here." She threw up her hands and came around his desk, pushing aside his ashtray to get his attention. "Look, Perry. Something's up. It used to be that Superman was spotted in Metropolis several times a day, but in the last year, practically nothing! I used to wake up, glance out the window of my apartment, and see him flying around on his morning patrol. Now, I can't remember the last time I've seen him in the skies over Metropolis. In fact, I've barely seen him at all since the end of the crisis."

And there were still things unresolved between them, Lois thought, remembering the moment they shared before he went into battle against his deformed brother, Doomsday. She could hardly *forget* it... She thought it had meant something...

"Just exactly what are you saying?" Perry sighed.

"That Superman's moved out of Metropolis!" Lois rallied, swallowing her personal feelings. "But why did he leave? And where has he gone? If the rumor is true that he has a secret identity, did he just relocate for a change of scenery, or did he get a new job? Maybe he moved back in with his parents? Maybe he got married and settled down in Happy

Harbor?"

Perry nodded in a mollifying manner, conceding Lois' instinct that 'something was up.'

"Okay, so what if you're right? Superman's left town. But it's not like he retired. He's still out there, Lois, fighting for truth, justice and the American way... Where's the story in this?"

He had her there. Lois shut her mouth with an audible fume. She knew this was significant. Her instincts were never wrong about these things. If Superman was no longer in Metropolis, there must be a reason for it, a good reason... But what was it? Why did he leave?

"I... I don't know." She admitted, losing a little steam. "But I know there's a story here, Chief. I feel it in my gut."

Perry White fixed her with a measuring stare, and she met his eyes without blinking. At last he said, "Lois, you're a great reporter. In fact, you're probably my best reporter. Trust your instincts. Go find the story."

Lois nodded, her mind already racing to find all the angles as she left the office. She barely heard Perry yell: "Shut the door!"

"Clark," Pete Ross shook his head as he notarized the last batch of papers on his desk. "I don't understand why you're doing this... I mean, why don't you just go grab a piece of coal and, you know... " He mimed a squeezing motion with his hands. "A couple of those, and you wouldn't *need* to refinance the farm."

Sitting across the desk from Pete in the lush office of the Managing Director of the First Bank of Smallville, Clark Kent smiled at his oldest friend and said: "Why don't the Swans do that? Or the Langs? Or the Shusters?"

Pete Ross snorted. "Because none of them is a super-powered demigod from another planet."

"Exactly." Clark shrugged. "You know I would never use my powers for personal gain, Pete. Besides," He leaned in conspiratorially. "Ma would never hear of it."

Pete shook his head and smiled in admiration. "You must be very proud of her Clark. She's determined to make the Kent Farm a model of modern efficiency and production. You'll be up and running at 100% in no time."

"She's using the proceeds of the loan to buy the newest equipment, investing in new technologies. She's already spending hours on the internet reading up on 'new harvesting strategies', and chatting with farmers in the U.K. about experimental irrigation techniques!" He was beaming proudly. "And she has plans to hire some of the folk who lost their jobs after the crisis to work the fields."

"And she still finds the time to bake the best pies in Kansas." Pete marveled, sniffing again at the tin on his desk that Clark had brought with him.

"I make sure she keeps her priorities straight."

The two friends shared an easy laugh.

"Thanks again for getting us such a great deal on this loan, Pete." Clark stood to leave, holding out his hand.

"What are friends for?" Pete pumped his hand vigorously. Before Clark could leave, Pete asked, "So, are you going to see Lana tonight?"

A rueful smile spread across Clark's face. "I was going to ask you the same thing."

In high school, the two had had a friendly rivalry for the hand of Lana Lang, the most popular and prettiest girl in school, and they both had dated her at one time... But Lana Lang was not to be tied down, and after high school had left Kansas for New York, and the exclusive Julliard School on a music scholarship.

"Have you seen her since college?" Pete was asking.

"Once." While they kept in touch sporadically, Clark had not seen her since that one idyllic day back in Smallville, where they both had returned briefly after graduating. He still couldn't look at the hayloft of his father's barn without that familiar bittersweet sting of what *might have been*... "We mostly just send birthday cards, that sort of thing. We haven't remained... close. You?"

"She's been back a few times." He shrugged. "You always seem to miss her on your visits." Pete watched his friend carefully, as if searching for something in his face. "We had dinner once or twice, but you know she only ever had eyes for you... "

Before Clark could respond, a sudden tumult in the lobby of the bank caught their attention. Through the glass wall, they saw three armed men with Batman masks herding employees and patrons alike away from the doors, holding out canvas bags.

"It looks like you're being robbed, Pete." Clark turned back to his friend with a bemused expression. "Is there somewhere I can change... ?"

The gunman were busy stuffing their bags with money from the teller drawers when Pete Ross emerged from his office, holding his hands in the air, not making any sudden moves.

"Fellas, I think you got off the interstate at the wrong exit." He said good-naturedly. Pete Ross did *everything* good-naturedly. "This isn't Gotham City, this is Smallville. We don't have bank robberies in Smallville."

"You do today, wiseguy." A gunman swung his weapon on Pete. "Now get down on the ground!"

But Pete merely shook his head sadly. "When this is over, would you please tell all the other guys in the joint at Topeka to avoid Smallville in the future... "

The gunman was in the middle of a "Why, you little—!" when he was

tapped on the shoulder. He spun around— and bumped his nose into a big red 'S'.

"Superman!" A customer gasped in surprise.

The Man of Steel, his arms on his hips, winked at the innocent bystanders, then turned back to the suddenly panicked bank robber. "You know, Batman is a friend of mine. When I tell him what happened here today, he just might be annoyed enough to pay you gentleman a visit in whatever prison you end up in."

The gunman raised his weapon and fired. The bullet hit Superman point-blank on the chest, rebounding harmlessly. But the Man of Steel's hand was faster than it was. Anticipating its trajectory, he reached out and snatched the smashed shell out of midair as it ricocheted away, extending his arm to present it to the gunman.

"I believe this belongs to you... ?" With a quick motion, he flicked it at the gunman's head, the glancing blow causing the would-be bank robber to drop like a stone.

"Next... ?" Superman turned on the other two, who had watched the brief exchange in stunned disbelief.

The remaining gunman hesitated only a moment before dropping their weapons and throwing up their hands in surrender.

Somewhere else, somewhere very close by, Superman was being observed by unfriendly eyes.

The monitor screen stretched from the floor to the ceiling, and the cold, dispassionate observer worked at the control panel, taking readings and making calculations.

Yes, the Kryptonian was completely unsuspecting, going about his life with all the ignorance and naïve innocence of a dumb animal. An animal that would soon find its way into a trap set by an intellect as superior to his as a god's was to a single-celled organism.

Long had he lain in wait, his stratagems set in place many years before. But he could afford to be patient. His people measured time in millennia. The Kryptonian was the key. Dispose of him first, and all the world would follow. Nothing would stand in the way of his conquest.

And Earth would be only the first planet to fall to him. He would return to his homeworld a conqueror. He would make the Tyrants *pay* for what they had done to him...

On the monitor screen, the Kryptonian was grinning and shaking hands with the local people. He had no idea what was in store for him... !

Washing up after dinner, Martha Kent looked over her shoulder at her son. Clark was pushing around the last forkful of pie on his plate, his attention obviously elsewhere. He had seemed distracted all through dinner, and was now making no attempt to conceal it.

She cleared her throat, and when he blinked and glanced up at her, she said: "You should go say 'Hi'. Welcome her back to town."

"What... ?"

Martha dried her hands on a towel, and took a seat next to her son. "Clark Joseph Kent, one of your oldest friends just moved back into town, don't you think you should go over there and welcome her?"

"I don't know, Ma... We haven't exactly stayed in touch, and we left things kind of awkward between us... Maybe she doesn't want to see me."

"Now why on Earth would she feel that way?" Martha chided, swatting at his thick shoulder. "I've known Lana Lang all her life, and she'll always be that sweet girl-next-door! You've lived in Metropolis too long."

Clark wasn't so sure. Lana seemed to belong to another time, for him. Once, they had meant quite a bit to one another. The last thing he wanted to do was reopen old wounds.

Yet, he couldn't stop thinking about her. He suddenly realized that he'd been wanting to see her all day...

"Besides," Martha was saying. "Smallville isn't like Metropolis. You're bound to run into each other eventually! If it's going to be awkward, get it out of the way now, so you can get on with your lives!"

Clark couldn't help but think that his mother had a point. He resigned himself to it with a sigh, got to his feet, and kissed her cheek.

"You're a wise lady, you know that?" He smiled at her, then grabbed his old Smallville High Varsity jacket off the coat rack and went out the porch door...

It was a short walk to the Lang Farm, and Clark enjoyed the crisp night air. Winter was always his favorite time of year, though he didn't feel the cold like most people did. Hands in his pockets, and feeling like he was 17 again, he trudged down the path towards the lighted farmhouse.

Her aunt answered the knock on the door, and was overjoyed to see him. Then Lana appeared on the stairs, her red hair tied up after a shower, her big, expressive green eyes growing larger at the sight of him. They shared an uncertain moment, a hesitation born of years of separation—then a lifetime of history came rushing in on them, a lifetime of first kisses, prom dances, football games, tears and laughs, promises made and broken, and of one idyllic night in a hayloft, almost ten years ago... Before either of them realized it, they were in each others' arms, reveling in their reunion.

They sat on the porch swing, staring up at the stars like they used to do. And while they didn't exactly touch, there was no space between them now.

"I can't believe we've both ended up back in Smallville." Lana cupped her hot chocolate with both hands, glancing at him sidelong. "Especially as

we were both in such a hurry to get away... Didn't you like living in Metropolis?"

"Oh, I loved it," He admitted. He always found it easy to be himself around Lana. No clumsy, mild-mannered pretense necessary with her. "I really felt I was making a difference working at the *Daily Planet*... I miss it. But... after Pa died, I couldn't let Ma go it alone... "

Her hand fell on his, squeezing softly as she leaned against him.

"I was so sorry to hear about your dad, Clark. How did he die?"

"It was during the crisis. Town Hall was hit by a plasma shell from an Apokoliptian battleship in space. Pa went into the bombed-out and burning building to pull out survivors. He was the only casualty. He saved them all." His throat caught at the last words. *And yet with all my powers, I couldn't even save him...*

"He was a hero." Lana told him, comfortingly.

Clark nodded. "I always thought so."

They sat in companionable silence for some moments before Lana spoke again.

"I heard that Chloe is working for the government now. Do you hear much from her?"

"About as much as I heard from you." Clark chided gently. "I think her wacky conspiracy theories finally paid off. I think she's an analyst or something for the F.B.I., but I haven't seen her in years. Have you seen Pete, yet?" Clark asked, his eyes following a shooting star across the clear night sky.

Lana chuckled. "Seen him? I can't get rid of him! He picked me up at the airport this afternoon, and has already proposed marriage three times."

Clark joined her laughter, but remembered the strange look his friend had given him earlier in the day at the bank. A probing, testing stare, as if he were considering whether or not to reveal a secret.

"You know, Pete's done very well for himself." Clark told her. "Vice President of the bank, city councilman, chairman of the chamber of commerce... He's Smallville's favorite son— you could do a lot worse!"

He felt Lana stiffen a little, and she twisted in the porch swing to face him, holding her hot chocolate in front of her like a shield.

"I've only ever wanted to marry one man in my life." She said matter-of-factly, much to his chagrin.

He opened his mouth, but closed it just as quickly. He had no idea what to say to that. The mood changed very quickly.

"Lana, you know I—."

"Don't say it Clark." She cut him off, but not unkindly. "That night in the hayloft... I know we were headed in two very different directions. You were in the process of discovering who you were, your place in the world. I always knew who I was, and where I was going. But it was very special to me, and I will always treasure the memory of what we shared that night."

He could not take his eyes off her. He could see the tears welling in her eyes, and he wanted nothing more in that moment to pull her to him, comfort her, save her...

They reached for each other at the same time, on that cold winter night, on her aunt's porch swing in Smallville, and it was like they were both 17 again...

"Mom!"

The voice of the little boy was like a bucket of cold water over them, and they jumped apart, startled, as a dark-haired child bounded out the front door in his pajamas and leaped into Lana's lap.

"Mom, Aunt Nell says I have to ask you if I can have dessert... "

Clark could only stare, amazed, at the little boy with his thick black hair

and bright blue eyes... He looked about nine years old...

Great Krypton...

"Clark, I want you to meet my son," Lana clutched the little boy to her, and gave Clark a steadying look. "His name is Connor... "

Epilogue

Lois sat, her chin cupped in her palm, thrumming her fingers on her desk. She was lost in thought, barely aware of Jimmy hovering over her and going on about the pictures he had gotten at the latest Luthor-for-Mayor campaign rally.

The Superman story had consumed her all day. She was onto something, without a doubt. All the pieces were laid out before her, sending her reporter's instincts to tingling. But there was something missing, she was sure of it. There was something she just wasn't seeing, a key to this puzzle that would make everything fit, and blow the story wide open...

"Ms. Lane... ?" Jimmy was saying her name persistently, finally piercing her concentration. "Did you even hear what I just said?"

Lois blinked, and glanced absently up at the staff photographer. "What? Oh, yes, Jimmy, those are great shots. The Chief'll love 'em... "

"Not the pictures!" Jimmy fumed, his feelings hurt. "I was telling you how Mr. Luthor offered me a job in his mayoral campaign! He wants me to join his public relations staff... "

Just then, the odious Steve Lombard sauntered over, clutching a report from the wire services. He playfully slugged Jimmy on the arm, a bit too hard, then took his seat at the desk across from Lois, leering at her as he put his feet up.

"Best view in Metropolis." He glanced pointedly at her. "It was my lucky day when this desk opened up... "

Smarting, Jimmy wandered away. Lois merely glared at Lombard, and found herself missing the comfortable, easy company of the desk's former occupant. She may not have shown it, but Lois had always liked Clark Kent, even though he had managed to scoop her on a few big stories. The two had enjoyed a rivalry that kept them both on their toes, but they could also work together quite naturally. At least he had never tried to look down her shirt.

She realized she missed Clark more than she had expected to this last year, since his move back to Smallville. Ever the dutiful son, moving back to the farm to help his mother rebuild after the crisis. Quite the boy scout...

Boy scout...

"Do you know what I have here?" Steve Lombard waved the wire report at her, one eyebrow raised.

"Your termination notice?" She asked sweetly, her train of thought interrupted.

"No," Steve said, unfazed. "But I bet it's something you'd be equally excited to read. Let me take you for drinks tonight, and I'll share this with you." He continued to wave the thin sheet of paper at her.

"Hmmm?" She feigned consideration. "No." She snapped at him, and got up, deciding to call it a day after all. She grabbed her sweater from the back of her chair and was about to walk away when what he said stopped her in her tracks.

"Not even for the latest news on your boyfriend Superman?"

She rolled her eyes, and turned back to him. He was grinning smugly.

Lois walked slowly to his desk, her eyes smoldering. With one hand on his desktop, she leaned in close to him, allowing her shirt to fall open just enough to distract the sleezy sportswriter for a moment, and snatched the wire report from him.

"It was worth it." Steve shrugged as Lois read the teletype printing of the

report.

She wasn't sure what she had expected to find. At first glance, there was nothing there. A routine bank robbery in the midwest, foiled by the Man of Steel, with so far, very little details... For a moment, she was suffused with disappointment. This wasn't what she was looking for; she saw this sort of thing a couple of times a day. Then her eyes fell again on the dateline. Kansas. Smallville, Kansas...

Suddenly, her mind raced. Gears shifted in her head, and she was forced to reevaluate her own perceptions. The pieces of a puzzle were coming together right before her eyes. She whirled back on Steve, but stared not at him, but at the desk he was sitting at, the desk that had always sat across from hers, the desk that had once belonged to someone else...

Smallville.

The missing link had been in front of her eyes the whole time...

She never even noticed the wire report fall from her stunned fingers, fluttering to the ground.

"What? You change your mind about those drinks?" Steve asked, a little unnerved at the intense expression on Lois' face.

But the star reporter of the *Daily Planet* was already on the move, reaching in her purse for her cell phone as she made for the elevators.

"Tell Perry I'm going to be away for a few days following a lead," She called back to Steve, as she dialed the airline for a red-eye flight. "And when I get back, I'll have the story of the century for him!"

"Where are you *going*?" Steve called after her.

Before the elevator doors closed, she said one word: "*Kansas.*"

To be continued!

If you enjoyed this story, you can find more tales of your favorite DC heroes at DC2 Universe.

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The Adventures of Superman #0 (2005)

The Adventures of Superman: Lost Sons of Krypton, Prelude:
Strange Visitors!

A strange visitor from another planet comes to Metropolis--- and Superman is all that stands in his way! It's a battle royale in the skies and streets of the City of Tomorrow as a mistake from Jor-El's past comes back to haunt his son. And intrepid reporter Lois Lane is onto the story of her career, but can the Man of Steel save her when she goes too far?

The Adventures of Superman #1 (2005)

The Adventures of Superman: Lost Sons of Krypton, Pt. 1: A War of Brothers!

Zod, the Destroyer of Krypton, has come to Earth, and with his Tigris and Hound, the bastard son of Jor-El, at his side, can even Superman stand against him? Meanwhile, Lois plays a deadly game to get to the bottom of the sinister machinations of Lex Luthor!

The Adventures of Superman #2 (2005)

The Adventures of Superman: Kingdom of Zod.

Superman leads a desperate assault on the Antarctic Kingdom of Zod. But even with the aid of an unexpected ally, can the Man of Steel overthrow the might of the Destroyer and his Doomsday Bomb?

Wonder Woman #0 (2005)

Wonder Woman: A Game of Gods and Men, Prelude.

Meet the Amazing Amazon as she hosts a summit of world leaders at Themyscira House--- but danger stalks the hallowed halls as a familiar foe lurks, thirsty for the blood of her enemy Wonder Woman! Meanwhile, on Paradise Island, former USAAF Colonel Steve Trevor becomes embroiled in the deadly affairs of gods and men--- and learns that sometimes they are one and the same!

Detective Comics #0 (2005)

Detective Comics: Lustmord, Prelude.

A wicked new serial killer with a bloody history stalks the night-time streets of Gotham, and no one is safe! Reeling from personal crises, the Dark Knight must confront hidden dangers from his own past and new enemies laying in wait for him... From Crime Alley to Arkham Asylum, Batman is tested by a diabolical mastermind!

Detective Comics #1 (2005)

Detective Comics: Lustmord: Shadows and Fog.

The mystery of the Gotham Ripper deepens as his murderous rampage continues. Batman haunts the streets and shadows, determined to bring the lunatic to justice, but in Arkham Asylum, plots are laid for the Dark Knight's demise!

Detective Comics #2 (2005)

Detective Comics: Lustmord: An Uncommon Fondness for Blood.

With Vicki Vale in the clutches of the Gotham Ripper, Batman must contend with a foe who has studied him for years--- and discovered his secret identity! This is the gruesome conclusion to the Lustmord storyline!

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman #0 (2005)

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman: Under Ancient Stars.

In the days of the pharaohs, in the land of the pyramids, is born a hero for all time! Defying the will of men and gods, Prince Khufu and his beloved Chay-Ara embark upon a destiny filled with triumph and tragedy, sacrifice and murder. With the wizard Nabu and the champion of Shazam who will one day be known as Black Adam at their side, they must use the power of the otherworldly Thanagarian Nth Metal and the gifts of the hawk-god Horus to defeat the villainous immortal tyrant known as Vandal Savage! Born in the fires of war, undying passion and treacherous betrayal, this is a definitive retelling of the ancient origin of the hero who will be known as--- Hawkman!

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman #2 (2005)

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman: Wings of Destiny, Part 2.

The two part origin arc of the Golden Age Hawkman concludes as Carter Hall takes up the mantle of the immortal hero and races against time to save Shiera Saunders from the clutches of the

villainous Dr. Anton Hastor! But first he must survive the attack of the undead Sons of Anubis, and defeat the man who is destined to slay him!

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman #1 (2005)

The Immortal Legend of Hawkman: Wings of Destiny, Part 1.
"Wings of Destiny, Pt. 1" First in a two part origin arc! It is 1938, and the world hovers on the brink of war... Troubled by dreams of past lives, museum curator and archaeologist Carter Hall receives a mysterious package from a lost colleague that sends him across the globe to Egypt, where he will be reunited with an immortal love and encounter an enemy that stalks him through the ages! A hero discovers his destiny as the Golden Age Hawkman is born!

Wonder Woman #1 (2005)

Wonder Woman: The Swords of the Amazons!
As Wonder Woman hunts the Cheetah, Doom's Doorway opens and Themyscira is besieged by the horrors of the underworld! Diana must contend with a deadly and secret mastermind determined to destroy her and all she holds dear!

Teen Titans #0 (2005)

Teen Titans: Friends and Heroes.
Reeling from recent harrowing events in Gotham, Dick Grayson struggles with the decision to hang up his cape and mask forever as he goes off to college in New York City. Joined by Roy Harper and Wally West, the trio have a fateful meeting with the girls who will forever change their lives! Guest starring Wonder Woman!

Wonder Woman #2 (2005)

Wonder Woman: The Rage of Angels.
As the Minotaur leads the Sons of Uranus against the walls of Themyscira and Wonder Woman does battle with Typhon, the Father of Monsters, a more devastating threat comes to Olympus... Nothing will be the same after this issue!

Teen Titans #1 (2005)

Teen Titans: Serpent's Tooth, Part 1 (of 2).
As the team comes together, Wally West is seduced by a mysterious girl with a dangerous secret. The Titans must infiltrate the

church of a fanatical ancient cult to rescue one of their own, but a fierce enemy awaits them: Enter Brother Blood!

Teen Titans #2 (2005)

Teen Titans: Serpent's Tooth, Part 2 (of 2).

The Titans have fallen to Mother Mayhem and a dark messiah is on the brink of awakening! Only Dick Grayson and his new ally, the mysterious and dangerous girl known as Raven, stand in the way of the resurrection of the dreaded... Brother Blood!

New Outsiders #0 (2005)

New Outsiders: What Happens in Vegas...

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

A gritty and realistic look at vice, corruption and superheroing in Sin City! Meet the New Outsiders---Green Arrow, Black Canary, Huntress, Batgirl, Zatanna, and a driven District Attorney named Adrian Chase, the Vigilante!--- an unorthodox team of heroes banded together to stand against a sinister conspiracy and depraved foes!

New Outsiders #1 (2005)

New Outsiders: House Rules: Luck be a Lady.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

Things heat up in Vegas as the Vigilante and Huntress face off against each other, and Green Arrow and Black Canary enlist the aid of young college prodigy Barbara Gordon to break into L'Inferno and rescue an old friend from the clutches of the criminal organization, the House, and its cruel mistress, Roulette--- and only Zatanna stands in their way!

New Outsiders #2 (2005)

New Outsiders: House Rules: The Most Dangerous Game.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MATURE READERS TITLE.

With Black Lightning's life at stake and Green Arrow and Black Canary in the clutches of the House, Batgirl looks for some unlikely allies as she plays a dangerous game with Roulette in the conclusion of the New Outsiders origin arc!

JSA: Legends of the Golden Age #0 (2005)

Justice Society of America: Legends of the Golden Age: The Society, Prelude.

In the dark days before WWII, A Secret Society of Super Villains unleash a masterplan to seize the world in its iron grip of tyranny! But, in the gathering shadows of war, there is a glimmer of hope! The emerging mystery men of America--- Hawkman! the Flash! Hourman! the Atom! Starman! Dr. Fate! the Sandman! and the Amazing Amazon, Wonder Woman!--- rise up in a Justice Society to oppose the evil oppressors! But can even they withstand--- the Spear of Destiny!?!

All-Star Comics #1 (2006)

All-Star Comics: Captain Marvel, Part 1 (of 2).

At last! The history of the World's Mightiest Mortal in the DC2 is finally revealed! The ancient wizard Shazam recalls the career of his champion, even as foes from the past regroup to threaten the world once more. But will there be a Captain Marvel to stand against them?

Action Comics #7 (2006)

Action Comics: Hostile Takeover.

What is Genesis Corporation? Clark and Lois want to know--- and so does Lex Luthor! The Countdown to the Crisis heats up as some major players are revealed and a three-way brawl erupts in the skies over Metropolis!

Action Comics #8 (2006)

Action Comics: For All Mankind...

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 9!

Darkseid has assembled nearly all of the components to complete the Anti-Life Equation. Now, Wonder Woman leads a daring mission to the very gates of Darkseid's palace to rescue the Man of Steel and bring hope to the war-torn planet Earth! Don't dare miss this pivotal chapter, as one man shows just what it means to be a hero! You won't believe the shocking ending!

Action Comics #11 (2006)

Action Comics: Return to Smallville, Part 3 (of 4).

The mystery villain stands revealed and the truth about Connor finally comes out! Superman stands alone against friend and foe

alike and the surprises keeps coming in this penultimate chapter of the new adventures of the Man of Steel!

Action Comics #10 (2006)

Action Comics: Return to Smallville, Part 2 (of 4).

Reeling from Lana Lang's recent revelation, Clark is forced to re-evaluate his future--- unaware that a secret enemy is lurking and waiting to destroy him! Meanwhile, Lois Lane shows up in Smallville on the trail of the biggest story of her career: the secret identity of Superman!

All-Star Comics #2 (2006)

All-Star Comics: Captain Marvel, Part 2 (of 2).

Billy Batson has no time to adjust to his new role as Captain Marvel as the Monster Society of Evil unleashes their attack upon Fawcett City! And not even the wizard Shazam is safe when the villains storm the Rock of Eternity and a new, deadly fiend is born!

Wonder Woman #8 (2006)

Wonder Woman: Hell Hath No Fury...

All-Star Comics #5 (2006)

All-Star Comics: Martian Manhunter.

Snatched across time and space by the machine of Dr. Erdel, J'onnn J'onzz is the Last Son of Mars, a dead planet wasted by a telepathic plague created by his own brother. On Earth, he is the Martian Manhunter, a crusader for justice in the years after the JSA retired and before the advent of Superman. Now, hoping to at last find his place on his adopted homeworld, he is John Jones, Private Investigator--- but his quiet retirement is at an end when a beautiful dame walks into his office with legs to kill for and a fiery disposition...

Rogues Gallery #1 (2006)

Rogues Gallery: Catwoman: Hot Tin Roof.

A wave of cat burglaries sweeps through Gotham's elite society! But as the Crown Jewels of Bahdnesia come to the city, can the beautiful socialite Selina Kyle resist the lure? Sparks fly when

Batman comes face to face for the first time with the deadly feline fatale, Catwoman!

DC2 Special #1: An Arkham Christmas Carol (2006)

DC2 Special: An Arkham Christmas Carol.

Wonder Woman #4 (2006)

Wonder Woman: The Eye of the Storm.

The true enemy is at last revealed, and the gods of Olympus discover there is a traitor among them! Meanwhile, the war on Paradise Island comes to a turning point as mysterious new arrivals appear--- but are they friends or foes? And in the end, Diana must set out upon a new quest to save everything she holds dear...

Wonder Woman #5 (2006)

Wonder Woman: The Quest for the Syrinx.

Nemesis is awake, and destined to bring about the end of the cosmos! Only the Syrinx, the Pipes of Pan, can stave off the inevitable fate of the universe, and now Diana, Hippolytus and Steve Trevor set off on a quest to the isle of the witch to find the legendary artifact. But will Circle prove Wonder Woman's most implacable foe yet?

As the traitor to Olympus makes his next move, the gods brace themselves for the final assault of the Furies!

Wonder Woman #3 (2006)

Wonder Woman: Horns of Doom.

Both Olympus and Paradise Island are reeling from the cataclysmic events of last issue, and the true enemy is at last revealed! Be here when Wonder Woman and the Minotaur face off at last under the walls of Themyscira!

Wonder Woman #6 (2006)

Wonder Woman: The Isle of the Witch.

The Quest for the Syrinx continues! As Wonder Woman confronts her old enemy, the witch Circe, the plots and machinations of all the players start to become known: friends are not who they seem and the true plans of the Olympian traitor are revealed as the

Game of Gods and Mortals hurtles towards it's epic conclusion next issue!

Wonder Woman #7 (2006)

Wonder Woman: Down the Widening Gyre.

Wonder Woman must journey into the Underworld to retrieve the Mask of Hecate for Circe, as time is running out! Even the Gods of Olympus prepare to meet their end as Nemesis, She Whom None Can Escape finally rises to work her terrible will, and the final moves of the Game of Gods and Mortals are played out! The Olympian traitor is revealed--- and his masterplan at last is clear!--- in this penultimate chapter of the epic storyline that began in Issue 0!

Wonder Woman #9 (2006)

Wonder Woman: Armageddon Aria.

The war is over and Wonder Woman is faced with a host of new problems: what to do about the war-like Lost Amazons, who will rule Paradise Island--- and who wants her to get... married?!? And Godfrey's Glorious Crusades reaches fever pitch as a deadly new foe is unleashed upon Diana--- and leads directly into next month's crisis!

Wonder Woman #10 (2006)

Wonder Woman: Darkseid Is.

Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 13!

At long last, the Anti-Life Equation is within the grasp of the Lord of Apokolips! The world's greatest heroes come together for the first time--- to destroy each other! Don't miss the epic battle as Wonder Woman stands alone against a world turned against her!

JSA: Legends of the Golden Age #1 (2006)

JSA: Legends of the Golden Age: Attack of the Giant Nazi Robots!

It's mayhem at the 1939 Worlds Fair in New York, as Baron Blitzkrieg attacks the greatest gathering of scientific minds in the world, and the Secret Society of Super Villains continue their quest for the Three Holy Artifacts!

This is it! The birth of the JSA!

Teen Titans #10 (2006)

Teen Titans: Forever and Never, Amen!
Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, Part 7!
The city of Metropolis teeters on the edge of an uneasy peace as the truce between Lex Luthor and Darkseid begins to break down. Who are the Forever People and what happens when they turn the city of refugees against the Titans? Bedlam ensues!

Justice League #0 (2006)
Justice League: Justice Falls.
Crisis: The Apokolips Imperative, concludes!
This is it! The final battle between Earth and Apokolips as the World's Greatest Heroes take the fight to Darkseid! Don't dare miss this issue--- one year in the making!--- and the senses-shattering conclusion to this epic storyline!

Justice League #1 (2006)
Justice League: A League of His Own, Part 1.
It's finally here! The World's Greatest Heroes have come together as one! But not everyone is happy about that... It's the grand opening of the Hall of Justice, and all of Metropolis has turned out to honor their saviors. But hatred and jealousy lurk in the heart of one man as he schemes to destroy the newly-formed League! And this time, the League has met its match!

Justice League #2 (2006)
Justice League: A League of His Own, Conclusion.
The most powerful members of the Justice League have fallen to Amazo. Now, only Batman stands against the villainous Professor Ivo and his killer android, with all the powers of the World's Greatest Heroes at his disposal...

World's Finest #1: Batman (2007)
Join us on Earth-X for the re-imagined Batman and his new adventures.

World's Finest #1: Superman (2007)
Join us on Earth-X for the re-imagined Superman and his new adventures.

World's Finest #1: Wonder Woman (2007)

Join us on Earth-X for the re-imagined Wonder Woman and her new adventures.

All-Star Comics Annual #1 (2007)

All-Star Comics Annual: Justice Society of America: The Time of Their Lives.

All-Star Comics #10 (2007)

All-Star Comics: Hawkman: Sins of the Father, Part 1 (of 4)

All-Star Comics #11 (2007)

All-Star Comics: Hawkman: Sins of the Father, Part 2 (of 4)

All-Star Comics #12 (2007)

All-Star Comics: Hawkman: Sins of the Father, Part 3 (of 4).

All-Star Comics #13 (2007)

All-Star Comics: Hawkman: Sins of the Father, Part 4 (of 4).

The Flash #23 (2008)

The Flash: Flash of Infinite Worlds!

When Barry Allen agreed to help his good friend Ray Palmer with an experiment, he never thought he'd find himself in another reality! The Cosmic Treadmill takes the Scarlet Speedster to a parallel Earth, and just may give him a glimpse at his own tragic destiny! Can even the Flash fight the future? Find out in this first ever DC2/DC3 crossover issue as we enter the Multiverse!

Adventure Comics #11 (2010)

Adventure Comics: Stranger New Visitor.

The long-awaited return of the DC2's original Superman book, by its original creative team! Springing from the pages of last month's "Action and Adventure" Annuals, the new era for the Man of Steel continues here, as Lois investigates the sinister Evil Factory, a strange figure in a familiar costume arrives and a threat from beyond the stars strikes in the heart of Metropolis... A huge storyline for the Man of Tomorrow begins here!



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