

FOUR-ISSUE
MINISERIES



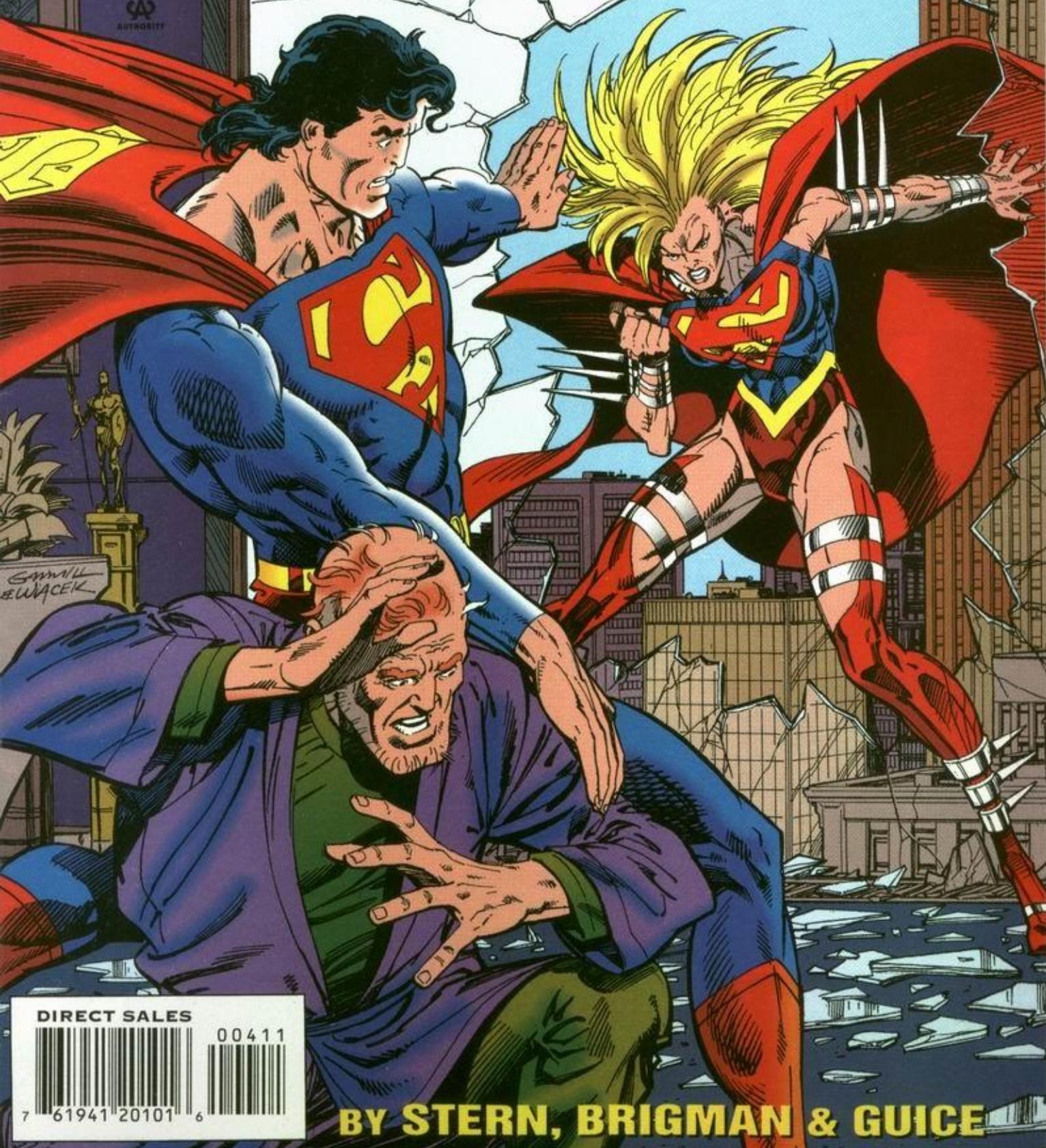
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COP
AUTHORITY

SUPERGIRL GETS EVEN!



DIRECT SALES



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BY STERN, BRIGMAN & GUICE

KAUAI IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS...

...HOME TO A PRIVATE, SECLUDED RETREAT OWNED BY BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST LEX LUTHOR.

Y-E-A-H... ANOTHER GORGEOUS EVENING IN PARADISE. THIS HAS TO BE THE SWEETEST SECURITY JOB IN THE WORLD... SUNNY DAYS, WARM OCEAN BREEZES...

...NO HEAVY LIFTING. IF IT WASN'T SO BEAUTIFUL, IT WOULD ALMOST BE BORING.

CLICK

ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL! EVACUATE THE COMPOUND IMMEDIATELY!

REPEAT, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!

H-HEY!! WHAT IN THE H-?!

'WHU:

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

I SAID, GET OUT!!

"THE GUARD DESCRIBED IT AS THE FACE OF A GHOST. HE COULDN'T OTHERWISE IDENTIFY HER. I'M AFRAID THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IT COULD BE..."

SUPergirl

BASED ON
CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL
& JOE SHUSTER

"AT ANY RATE,
THE FACE
DISAPPEARED
AND THE
GUARD WAS...
WELL...TOSSED
OUT OF THE
ROOM."

"HE DIDN'T WASTE ANY
TIME CARRYING OUT HER
ORDERS, NOR DID ANYONE
ELSE."

"ONCE THE LAST OF THE
STAFF HAD CLEARED
THE COMPOUND, THE
MAIN BUILDING SIMPLY
BLEW APART. WALLS
WERE SHATTERED,
WIRING SHREDDED..."

"...THAT IN TURN SPARKED
THE ELECTRICAL FIRE WHICH
TOUCHED OFF THE AMMUNITION
IN OUR WEAPONS CACHE--
AND DESTROYED THE REST OF
THE COMPOUND."

"FRANKLY, I'M A
BIT SURPRISED..."

THE BIG HURT

ROGER STERN - WRITER * JUNE BRIGMAN - PENCILLER
JACKSON GLUCE - INKER * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST * CHRIS DUFFY - ASSISTANT
FRANK PITTAIRESE - ASSOCIATE * MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

"...AFTER
SUPergirl
TRASHED OUR
FACILITIES AT
ADIRONDACK-ONE,
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT SHE'D
RETURN TO
SINGAPORE..."

"INEXPLICABLE, HAPPERSEN?
ONLY IF YOU ASSUME THAT SHE
STILL BELIEVES YOU ARE THE
PRIME MOVER BEHIND
OPERATION: PROTOMATTER."

"MR. LUTHOR! YOU THINK SHE SUSPECTS
YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN, UH..."

"...REPLICATING
HER? I'M SURE
OF IT."

"THINK, HAPPERSEN:
ASIDE FROM THE
EXPERIENCE OF THAT
GUARD, SHE HASN'T
REALLY BEEN SEEN
ANYWHERE SINCE SHE
LEFT ADIRONDACK-
ONE."

"BUT THREE OF MY PRIVATE
HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED
BY PERSONS UNKNOWN--
THREE OF THEM! THE
HAWAIIAN COMPOUND, MY
CALIFORNIA HACIENDA..."

"...AND NOW,
THE CHALET IN
ASPEN. I DON'T
BELIEVE THAT THIS
IS CONNECTED TO
OUR PROBLEMS
WITH THE
CADMUS
PROJECT..."

"--THOUGH
CADMUS
WOULD MAKE
A GOOD
SCAPEGOAT.
NO, THIS IS
PERSONAL!"

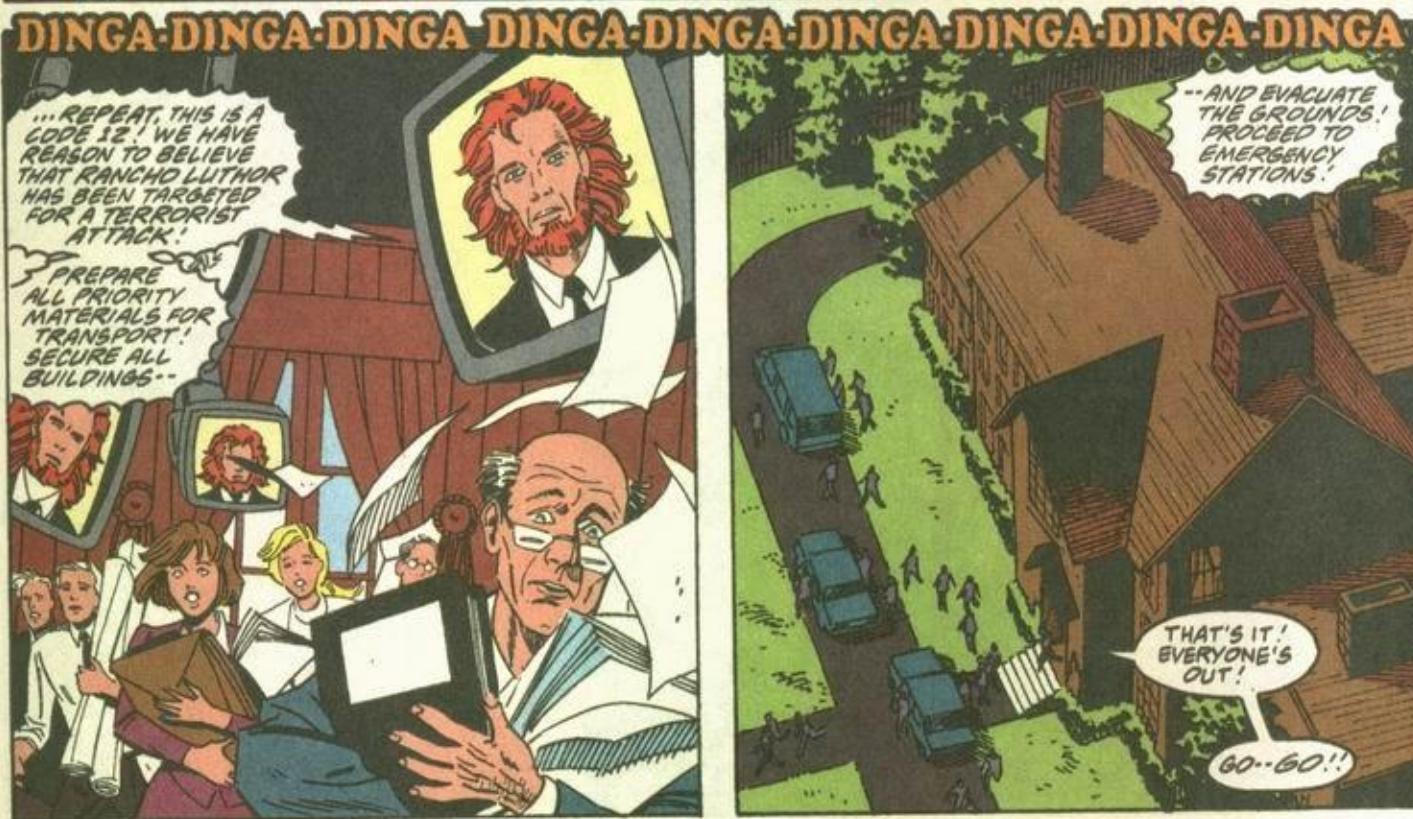
"NO ONE
THUS FAR
HAS BEEN
HARMED,
SIR."

"OF COURSE NOT,
SYDNEY. IT'S ME
SHE WANTS."

"IF ONLY MY BODY
HADN'T BETRAYED
ME--WE WOULDN'T
HAVE HAD TO RUSH
OPERATION:
PROTMATTER..."

--AND
DESTROY THE
RESEARCH
LABS THERE!
THAT SHE
DIDN'T IS
INEXPICABLE!"

"...I COULD
HAVE KEPT A
TIGHTER REIN ON
SUPergirl."



"EVERYONE'S OUT. ARE THEY?"

SOUNDS...

--AS THOUGH

--I WAS--

--EXPECTED.

ARE YOU ON TO ME, LEX?

GOOD!

I WANT YOU TO SWEAT, KNOWING WHO'S DESTROYING YOUR PRECIOUS HIDEAWAYS... KNOWING THAT I'M COMING AFTER YOU...

...KNOWING THAT THERE'S NO WAY TO EVEN SEE ME, UNLESS I ALLOW IT...

...KNOWING THAT YOU CAN'T STOP ME!



SUPergirl,
NO!

FOR THE LOVE
OF GOD, GIRL--

--PLEASE!
LET ME
EXPLAIN!

SUPergirl?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

"NO... NO, I
GUESS YOU
CAN'T."

"...AND NOW
IT'S NOT EVEN
TRANSMITTING.

"...IF ONLY I
COULD HAVE
TALKED TO
HER--!"

DAMN...

"THE FEEDER
LINE MUST HAVE
BEEN SNAPPED
WHEN SHE BROKE
THROUGH INTO THE
COMMUNICATIONS
ROOM. TEXAS ISN'T
RECEIVING..."

WE HAVE MORE PROBLEMS TO
FACE NOW, SIR. YOUR OTHER
PROPERTIES WERE RELATIVELY
ISOLATED...

"...THAT'S NOT THE CASE
WITH THE TEXAS RANCH.
WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO
KEEP THIS QUIET NOW--"

--WE'LL HAVE TO
COME UP WITH A
STORY FOR THE
MEDIA..."

"...FABULOUS RANCHO LUTHOR,
CONSTRUCTED DURING THE GREAT
OIL BOOM BY THE FIRST LEX
LUTHOR, LEVELED THIS MORNING
BY A MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION."

"WHILE THERE HAS AS YET BEEN
NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM
EITHER LEXCORP OR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES, SOURCES NEAR
THE SCENE REPORTED RUMORS
OF TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT..."

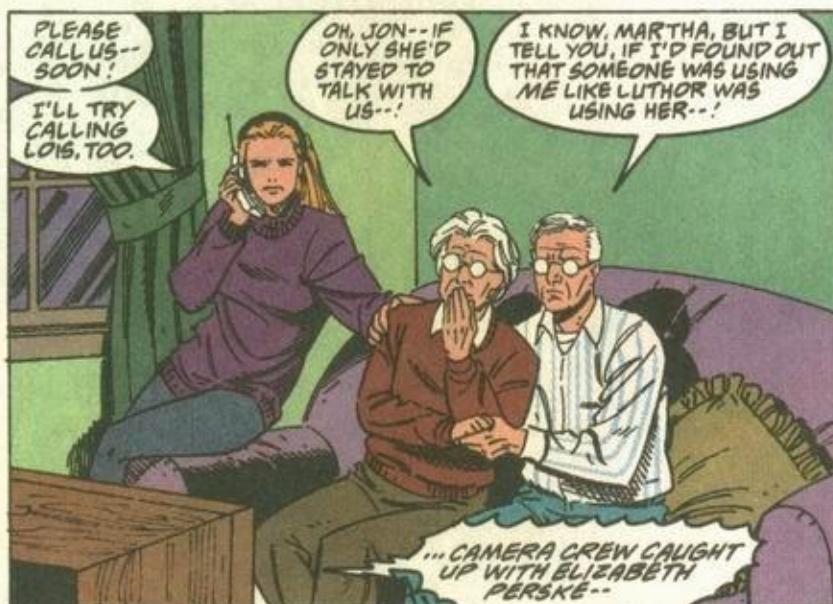
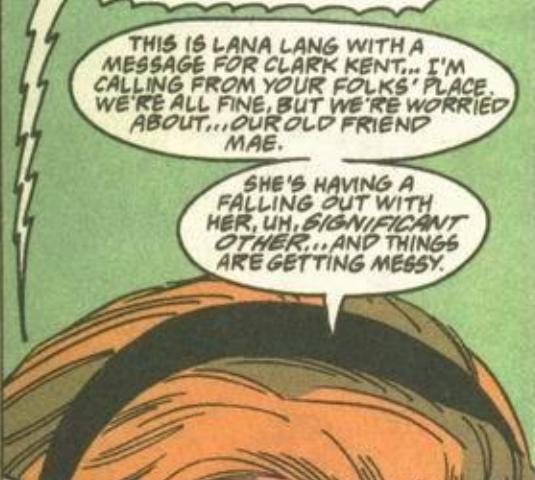
--AND ONE HIGH-RANKING LEXCORP SOURCE SUGGESTED A CONNECTION WITH RECENT ATTACKS ON THE CONGLOMERATE'S METROPOLIS OFFICES.



*SHORT FOR MATRIX,
SUPergirl's FORMER NAME.



HI, YOU'VE REACHED THE RESIDENCE OF CLARK KENT AND JIM OLSEN. NEITHER OF US CAN TAKE YOUR CALL RIGHT NOW, SO BE A SPORT AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEP! -BEEP-



...I BELIEVE GRETCHEN KELLEY, HIS FATHER'S PRIVATE PHYSICIAN, CLAIMED THAT... HONOR. I MYSELF HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH MY LATE HUSBAND'S HEIR...

...THOUGH I DID RECENTLY HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING HIS CHARMING YOUNG LADY--SUPERGIRL? --IN SINGAPORE.*

I JUST HOPE "JUNIOR" IS MORE FAITHFUL IN HIS RELATIONSHIPS THAN HIS FATHER WAS.

YOU HEARD MS. PERSKE--NO MORE QUESTIONS!

THAT'S ALL I CARE TO SAY, BRUNO?

*IN ISSUE #2

MY THIRD WIFE IS THE VERY SORT OF PERSON I MOST WANTED TO SHIELD SUPERGIRL FROM! LORD KNOWS WHAT LIZ TOLD HER.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I NEEDED THE PERSKE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, BUT THAT WOMAN IS TOO SMOOTH AND CLEVER BY HALF...

...PERHAPS EVEN CLEVER ENOUGH TO SUSPECT THE TRUTH... THAT LEX LUTHOR I LIVES ON AS HIS SON.

REALLY, SIR,
THAT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE WOMAN LIKE I DO, HAPPERSEN. I COULD NEVER HAVE CONCEALED THIS CURRENT ILLNESS FROM LIZ AS I HAVE WITH SUPERGIRL.

LIFE IS DEPRESSINGLY CYCLICAL, SYDNEY. I WONDER... DID I CHEAT DEATH ONCE ONLY TO DIE OF AN EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS AILMENT?!

DON'T SAY THAT, SIR! OPERATION PROTOMATTER MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE SUCCESS THAT WE HOPED...

--BUT ITS ANCILLARY RESEARCH DID HELP US IMPROVE YOUR MEDICATION.

YES... TO HELP KEEP THIS DECREPIT FRAME ALIVE AND WHEEZING. AND TO THINK... MERE WEEKS AGO, I HAD THE BODY OF A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD.

MR. L, THAT RESEARCH MIGHT STILL YIELD A CURE.

WELL, YES... THAT IS POSSIBLE. PERHAPS I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN WHAT I NEEDED FROM SUPERGIRL.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO CUT MY LOSSES.

I CONCUR. CLEARLY, YOUR ORIGINAL GOAL OF CREATING AN ARMY OF SUPERGIRLS HAS BEEN LOST. AND IF YOU'LL FORGIVE MY SAYING SO, SIR, IT IS TIME TO DO SOMETHING!

ONCE SUPERGIRL HAS DESTROYED THE LAST OF YOUR PRIVATE HOMES, SHE WILL MOST CERTAINLY TURN HER ATTENTION TO LEXCORP TOWER.

I HAVE...
KOFF... ALREADY
CONSIDERED
THAT,
SYDNEY.

WE HAVE FORTIFIED YOUR QUARTERS THERE, BUT IT WOULD BE BEST TO STOP HER BEFORE--!
SIR?!

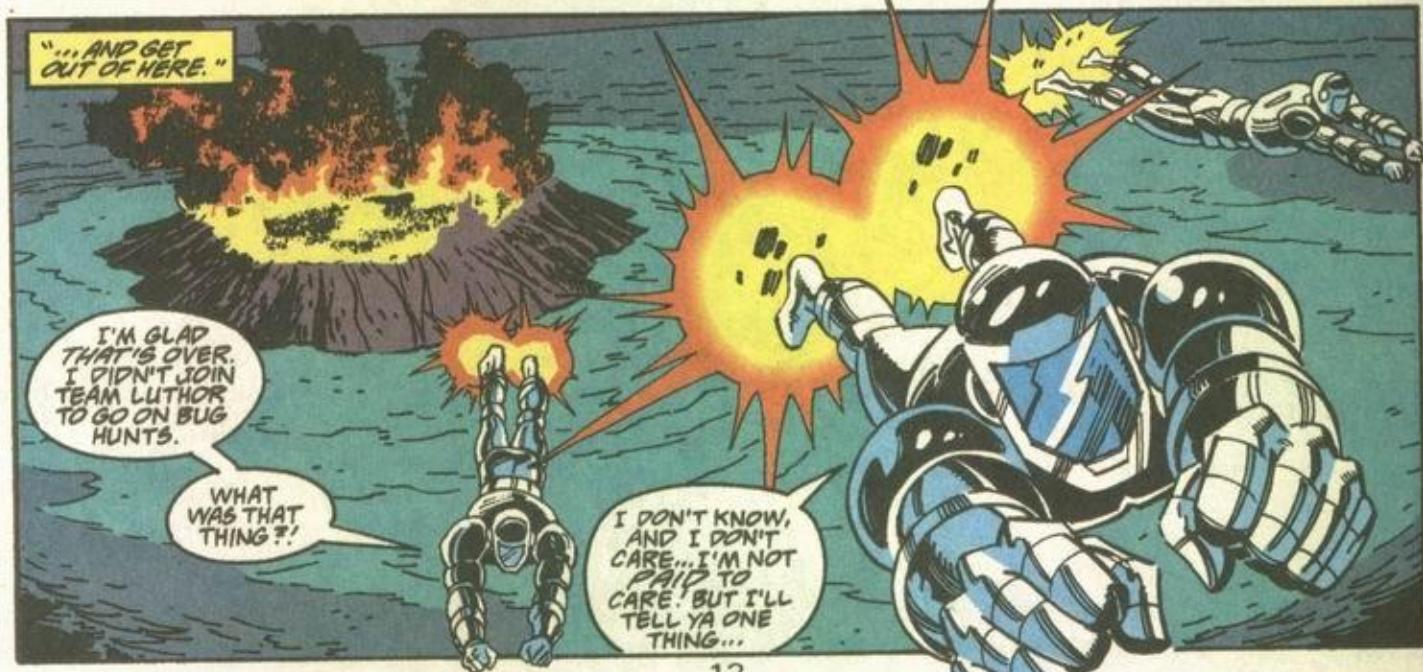
KOFF-KOFF-KOFF:
DON'T... WORRY
KOFF: I'VE... GOT
THIS...

...UNDER CONTROL.
KAFF: YES, THERE IS A BETTER PLACE TO STOP MY SUPERGIRL. I MUST TRY ONCE MORE TO GET THROUGH TO HER, BUT IF THAT FAILS...





"--OUR JOB IS TO FIREBOMB IT BACK TO THE GLOP IT WAS MADE FROM!"





"...IT'LL BE THE LAST SENSE OF SAFETY WE EVER HAS."

GETTING BACK TO PERRY'S EARLIER QUESTION, MR. LUTHOR...WHAT PROOF--IF ANY--DO YOU HAVE THAT THE CADMUS PROJECT IS BEHIND THESE ATTACKS?

AFTER ALL, HE WOULD HARDLY ADMIT TO HIS CULPABILITY. NOW, WOULD HE?

NO, THE FACT REMAINS THAT LEXCORP TOWER WAS DELIBERATELY ATTACKED BY A SMALL ARMY OF CLONED CREATURES--AND CLONING IS THE CHIEF BYPRODUCT OF CADMUS RESEARCH.

CADMUS DIRECTOR PAUL WESTFIELD HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED POLICE COMMISSIONER HENDERSON THAT CADMUS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE...

I GIVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO ANYTHING WESTFIELD HAS TO SAY, MR. FREDERICKS...

THAT IS WHY I HAVE CALLED UPON SENATOR RASMUSSEN TO BEGIN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF CADMUS AND ITS ADMINISTRATORS.

AS CITIZENS, IT IS OUR RIGHT TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY.

IT IS INDEED, MR. LUTHOR. WE THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY ON PUBLIC FORUM.

MY PLEASURE, MS. PERKINS...

...THANK GOD THAT'S OVER! EVEN WITH THE EXTRA OXYGEN IN THIS BUBBLE, I'M EXHAUSTED!

DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I COULD HAVE...

CRASH

OH, NO.

WHERE'S LEX LUTHOR?!

S-SUPERGIRL?

P-PLEASE...LET ME EXPLAIN...

...I NEVER MEANT
YOU HARM. YOU MUST
BELIEVE ME!

BELIEVE
YOU & WHO
ARE YOU?

WHO--? F
AM I THAT
UNRECOGNIZABLE,
LOVE?

YOUR VOICE--!
OH MY GOD, YOU
ARE LEX! THEN...
YOU REALLY
ARE ILL--?

BUT... JUST LAST
WEEK... ON THAT
TELECONFERENCE,
YOU SAID IT WAS
ALL RUMOR!
YOU LOOKED--!

AS HEALTHY AND VIRILE AS MY HOLOGRAM?
THAT WAS ALL COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT, LOVE.
I'M AFRAID PRIDE GOT THE BETTER OF ME.

PRIDE? OH, LEX...
YOU SHOULD HAVE
TOLD ME!

I DIDN'T WANT
YOU TO WORRY...
AS I SAID BEFORE,
I DIDN'T WANT YOU
TO SEE ME... THIS
WAY.

AND I CERTAINLY NEVER
WANTED TO REPLACE YOU.
THE CLONES OF OPERATION:
PROTOMATTER WERE
MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT
TEAM LUTHOR.

I REGRET
THAT THINGS
GOT OUT OF
HAND.

OUT OF HAND? LEX,
HAPPENSEN HAD HIS
SUPER-CLONES ATTACK
ME! YOU YOURSELF TRIED
TO HAVE ME KILLED
AT YOUR ISLAND
ESTATE!

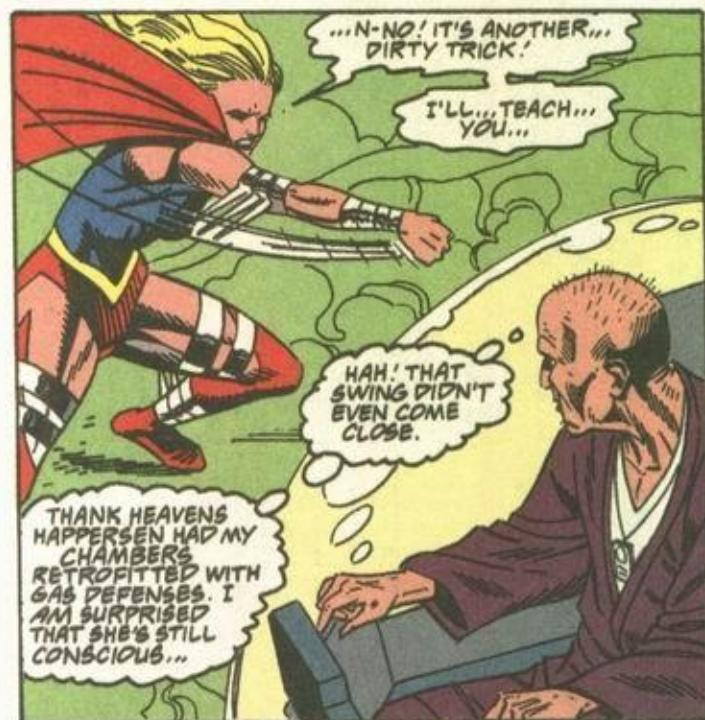
NO, LOVE... I
TRIED TO WARN YOU.
REMEMBER? I SAID
IT WASN'T SAFE THERE.
THE ESTATE'S
SECURITY SYSTEMS
WERE FAULTY... I'M
GLAD YOU WEREN'T
HARMED.

N-NO...
WAIT...

...THAT...
DOESN'T MAKE...
ANY SENSE. A
TEAM LUTHOR
SQUAD...
ATTACKED
ME.

SURELY NOT, LOVE.
YOU MUST BE CONFUSED...
OVERWROUGHT. YOU
SHOULD RELAX...

RELAX?
I DON'T...



"...TO... FIGHT...
THE WEAKNESS."

:KAFF-KAFF-KAFF:
INFERNAL COUGH.

I'M TOO VULNERABLE
IN THE CHAIR. I NEED MY
ARMOR FOR PROTECTION...
AND FOR ITS LIFE-
SUPPORTS.

:OOF!:

FINE THING...
CAN'T EVEN
STAY UPRIGHT
ANYMORE.
NEVER FELT
SO WEAK... SO
HELPLESS.

HORRIBLE
FEELING. MUST
NEVER--NEVER!
--BE HELPLESS!

THE ARMOR
WILL SAVE
ME...

...MAKE ME
STRONG.

EH?!

YOU LIED
TO ME, LEX--
AGAIN!

YOU...
OVERCAME
THE GAS?!
DOESN'T
ANYTHING
STOP YOU?

NOT IF I
CAN HELP
IT!

JUST LIKE
YOUR LIES,
LEX--









PARIS, JUST MONTHS LATER.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. IT ALL GETS TO BE A BIT MUCH AT TIMES.

WELL, HELLO! COME IN!

THIS IS THE BBC OVERSEAS SERVICE... HERE NOW, A SUMMARY OF CURRENT NEWS.

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TODAY PASSED A MEASURE APPROVING AID FOR STRIFE-TORN METROPOLIS!!

THANK YOU. MMM! EVERYTHING SMELLS SO DELICIOUS. OHH, THIS IS ALL SO... CIVILIZED!

WELL, PARTLY, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE YOU GAVE ME IN SINGAPORE. I ONLY WISH I HAD ACTED ON IT SOONER.

WHAT A LOVELY THING TO SAY--THANK YOU. NOW, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO PARIS?

DON'T WE ALWAYS STILL, FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN READING, YOU'VE BEEN QUITE BUSY LATELY... CLONE WARS, REFUGEE AID, URBAN RENEWAL?

ACCORDING TO ONE ARTICLE, YOU EVEN SPENT A FEW WEEKS WORKING TO REBUILD MY EX-HUSBAND'S RESIDENCES!

YES, WELL...



SUPERGIRL

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Dear Superteam:

Based on "Trial Run" alone, I would gladly subscribe to a SUPERGIRL series by this creative team.

June Brigman is a great artistic find. Her rendition of Supergirl is innocent without being dumb; beautiful but strong. You believe that while Supergirl may presently be one of Lex's pawns, she has the intelligence and the willpower to become her own person once she sees the truth. That's pretty hard to convey in pencils, but there it is. Some of the shots of Lex looked like photographs; they were that realistic. My only complaint involves the printing; it seems the colors over-bled into the paper, making for garish effects that I know aren't Glenn's fault.

As for the story, Roger Stern is, in my opinion, the best Super-writer there is. He knows his characters' personalities better than anyone and knows damn well what motivates them. Lex is more Machiavellian here than I've ever seen him; his domination of Supergirl (not to mention of all those around him) is sadistic. This guy has the makings of a dictator. But for me the most interesting character is Supergirl herself. A "matrix" with human emotions is an intriguing concept. The best part about Supergirl's personality is her relationship with the Kents. All this is a revelation to me, as I first started reading the Super-titles only after Matrix's origin. The idea of a modern-day super-hero with a midwestern upbringing is one of Superman's unique strengths—the same can be true for Supergirl, who I hope will live with the Kents and learn to be human once she leaves Lex for good.

Well, here's hoping Lex gets his!

Aldo R. Perdomo
Los Angeles, CA

Dear DC:

First off, I am glad SUPERGIRL is a miniseries. Titles starring female characters have a difficult and shaky life span. This leave-'em-wanting-more mini will provide the character with a greater boost than a lingering series that has its life support pulled.

It is no surprise that Roger Stern was able to tie the events in #1 with the regular S-books, and this style makes the book feel natural and needed. Plus, it is about time Mae (I

like the name) got someone else in her corner like Dr. Kelley, and visited her other supporters, the Kents!

I once called Mae "silly putty" due to the way she allowed Lex to shape and reshape her. Three issues from now I hope to say "silly putty" no more.

Melissa Page
Nortonville, KY

Memo to Team-Supergirl:

Re: SUPERGIRL #1... I'm only buying this series to see Supergirl kick Lex's butt and destroy a lot of property. Don't try to trick me with really good art or a great story. I really can't afford to add another ongoing title, which is where this book is heading if you continue at this pace. So don't keep making me crave the next issue and whatever you do, don't print this letter. I'd have to keep reading SUPERGIRL to see if it was printed, then I'd get absorbed in the story and art, then I wouldn't care about my stupid letter, and finally, I'd end up writing to tell you how great SUPERGIRL is. I hate eating my words, so I'll save the cost of an extra stamp by telling you now that Supergirl is great. So there.

On second thought, don't read this.

Enzi Queeg
Roselle Park, NJ

Dear Frank:

Most second issues don't hold up to the quality of the first. Not so with SUPERGIRL. Behind the best-colored cover of 1994 lay a solid story that gave us the opportunity to really get to know Supergirl. I've felt that her limited appearances haven't given us the chance to figure out what's in her head. She reacts all the time. In #2, however, we saw her needs, wants, desires. Though she's still too hung up on Lex Luthor, one can see the beginnings of an individual forming. I'd enjoy seeing Matrix on her own, living a life without Luthor or Superman. I'm hoping the sales on this title will warrant another miniseries (or an unlimited one). Imagine the possibilities.

And, if you keep coloring covers like this one, I'll keep buying 'em.

Mark Lucas
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Mike and Frank:

Hooray for Supergirl! She has finally learned what a jerk Lex Luthor II is. And from the look on her face on the final page of issue #2, I think Lex might be in some serious trouble—Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Why, I'm getting giddy with thoughts of Supergirl ripping out at the roots what's left of Lex's hair, or maybe ripping off something a whole lot more painful (get your mind out of the gutter, I was talking about his fingernails).

Don Cromie
Cleveland, OH

Dear Frank, Roger, June, Jackson, and crew:

Great job on SUPERGIRL #2! I loved the scenes in Singapore. It makes sense that Supergirl would get a thrill out of the crowds. She is still a very young creature and that would still be fun to her.

Boy, is she ever mad at the end of this issue and rightly so! I hope this is the beginning of her finding out what a ratfink Lex Luthor is.

The art in here is dynamic and exciting. I am truly enjoying this, and I hope this will lead eventually to a regular series for this character. I hate to say this, but this Supergirl already has more personality than Kara, the pre-Crisis one, ever had.

Carl Pietrantonio
Laredo, TX

Dear SUPERGIRL crew:

Please, I'm begging you! Give Supergirl her own ongoing series or I'm going to burst!

Erik Hicks
Milton, FL

Erik, your message summed up a lot of people's letters—but only time will tell if SUPERGIRL will, in fact, get her own ongoing series (or if you and others will, in fact, burst). In the meantime, take deep breaths and hope (along with us) to see Matrix in a starring role again soon! And watch the four monthly SUPERMAN comics where she's still a major player!