

= Clark Kent (Smallville) =

Clark Kent is a fictional character on the television series Smallville . The character of Clark Kent , first created for comic books by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in 1938 as the alternate identity of Superman , was adapted to television in 2001 by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar . This is the fourth time the character has been adapted to a live @-@ action television series . Clark Kent has been played continually by Tom Welling , with various other actors portraying Clark as a child . The character has also appeared in various literature based on the Smallville series , all of which are completely independent of the television episodes . As of 2011 , Smallville 's Clark Kent has appeared in eighteen young adult novels .

In the series , Clark Kent attempts to live the life of a normal human being , and struggles with keeping the secret of his alien heritage from his friends . He has an on @-@ again , off @-@ again relationship with Lana Lang through the first seven seasons , the trials of which are based on his lack of honesty about his secret . In contrast to previous incarnations of the character , this Clark Kent starts out best friends with Lex Luthor , whom he meets after saving the latter 's life . The pair 's friendship eventually deteriorates into hatred for one another . In Smallville , Clark 's powers appear over time , as he is not aware of all of them at the start of the show ; for instance , his heat vision and super breath do not develop until season two and six , respectively .

When developing Smallville 's version of Clark Kent , the producers decided to strip him down to the " bare essence " of Superman ; he is also fallible , which allows the audience to see his humanity , but that he is also " ... good to the core " . In the series , he has been seen by critics , and intentionally portrayed by the filmmakers , as a symbolic representation of Jesus Christ . Tom Welling has been nominated for multiple Teen Choice and Saturn Awards for his portrayal of Clark Kent since the show 's first season .

= = Role in Smallville = =

Clark Kent first appears in the pilot episode of Smallville as a teen with superhuman abilities that he uses to help others . Clark is adopted by Jonathan and Martha Kent (John Schneider and Annette O 'Toole) as an infant , when he crash lands on Earth on the day of the Smallville meteor shower in 1989 . Twelve years later , trying to find his place in life after being told he is an alien by his adoptive father , Clark saves the life of Lex Luthor (Michael Rosenbaum) , the son of billionaire Lionel Luthor (John Glover) , and the pair become quick friends . During season one , Clark struggles with the burden of keeping his powers a secret from those close to him . In particular , he is afraid to open up to Lana Lang (Kristin Kreuk) for fear that she would not accept him if she learned of his supernatural abilities .

In the season two episode " Rosetta " , Clark learns of his Kryptonian heritage , including his native language , his birth name (Kal @-@ El) , and his birth father 's Jor @-@ El (Terence Stamp) plan for him to rule the world . Fearful that he will not be able to control his own destiny , Clark runs away to Metropolis in the season two finale , leaving behind Lana , with whom he had started to develop a romantic relationship . In the season three premiere , three months later , Clark is brought home by Jonathan , who has agreed to allow Jor @-@ El to take Clark at an undetermined time in the future . In the season three finale , a girl calling herself Kara arrives at the Kent farm and claims to be from Krypton . After Kara predicts that Clark 's friends are destined to leave or betray him , Clark decides to leave Smallville for good . When Jonathan attempts to intervene , Jor @-@ El threatens to kill him . To save his adoptive father 's life , Clark agrees to go through with his decision to leave .

In the season four premiere , Clark returns to Smallville . He has been " reprogrammed " by Jor @-@ El to seek out the three stones of knowledge so he may fulfill his destiny . He meets Lois Lane (Erica Durance) , who is investigating the supposed death of her cousin , and Clark 's best friend , Chloe Sullivan (Allison Mack) . Clark , with help from his mother , regains control over his mind and consciously refuses to look for the stones . In the season four finale , a " great evil " is awakened in space after Clark defies Jor @-@ El 's instructions and fails to obtain the three stones of knowledge . With a new meteor shower hitting Smallville , Clark finds the remaining stones and is transported to

the Arctic , where the three stones create the Fortress of Solitude .

In the season five premiere , Clark interrupts his training to return to Smallville , but when he fails to return to the Fortress before the Sun sets , he is stripped of his powers . In the episode " Hidden " , Clark begins an honest relationship with Lana , but is killed trying to save the town from a resident who hopes to kill all of the " ... meteor freaks " . Jor @-@ El resurrects Clark , but warns him that someone he loves will eventually have to take his place . Clark worries about who will be sacrificed in return for him being saved . In the episode " Reckoning " , Lana is killed . Unwilling to accept this , Clark turns back time to save her . As a result , it is Clark 's adoptive father that becomes the sacrifice when he suffers a fatal heart attack . In the season five finale , Clark battles Brainiac (James Marsters) , a Kryptonian artificial intelligence in the form of a man . Clark fights to stop Brainiac from releasing the Kryptonian criminal Zod from the Phantom Zone . Clark fails , and becomes himself imprisoned in the Phantom Zone , while Zod escapes and sets out to conquer Earth .

In the season six premiere , Clark escapes the Phantom Zone ? inadvertently releasing several of the prisoners in the process ? and returns to Smallville , where he fights and defeats Zod . The other Phantom Zone escapees become Clark 's primary focus in season six . He must also deal with Lana 's romantic relationship with Lex , which culminates in their engagement in the season six episode " Promise " . The season six finale reveals that the last of the Phantom Zone criminals is really a genetic experiment created by Kryptonian scientists . The escapee attacks Clark , cloning his DNA , and becomes Clark 's doppelgänger . In the season seven premiere , Clark , together with John Jones (Phil Morris) , defeats his doppelgänger . As the season continues , Clark discovers that a secret society known as Veritas was aware of his landing in Smallville during the first meteor shower and , moreover , possess a device that supposedly allows them to control him . In the season seven finale , Clark is confronted by Lex at the Fortress of Solitude . Lex has discovered Clark 's secret and possesses the Veritas device , which he uses , resulting in the Fortress collapsing on him and Clark .

In the season eight premiere , it is revealed that the Veritas device does not allow others to control Clark , but rather strips him of his powers . Wandering the globe with Russian gangsters , Clark is eventually found and rescued by Oliver Queen (Justin Hartley) and John Jones , with the latter restoring Clark's powers . During season eight , Clark uses his new job at the Daily Planet to access advance information , which he uses to stop crime around the city . In subsequent episodes , Clark adopts the name " Red @-@ Blue Blur " as his superhero moniker . Toward the end of the season , Clark wrestles with the idea of having to kill Davis Bloome (Sam Witwer) , a new friend , after discovering that Davis is actually Doomsday , a genetically engineered creature created by General Zod to kill Clark and destroy Earth . In the season eight finale , Clark finds a way to separate Davis ' personality from that of Doomsday , and buries Doomsday a mile underground . When Davis subsequently kills Jimmy Olsen (Aaron Ashmore) , Clark decides that his human @-@ learned emotions have caused him the most trouble , as it was his compassion for Davis that led to Jimmy 's death . He vows that " Clark Kent is dead " .

The start of season nine reveals that Clark has begun training with Jor @-@ El , which is shown by his wearing his family crest on his chest when in his superhero persona . After realizing there are other Kryptonians on Earth , lacking special powers and led by Zod (Callum Blue) , Clark decides to help them adjust to living as humans . When Zod is shot and killed , Clark uses his own blood to bring him back to life , resulting in Zod regaining his Kryptonian powers . Zod enables the other Kryptonians to regain their powers as well , and unites them to destroy the world in order to turn it into a new Krypton . This season , Lois and Clark begin a romantic relationship , while Lois also assists " The Blur " in his heroic endeavors . Clark kisses Lois while he is " the Blur " in the season nine finale and unknowingly reveals to her the truth . Afterward , he convinces the Kryptonians to leave Earth for a new , uninhabited planet . Clark then sacrifices his own life to send Zod through a portal , far away from Earth .

Season ten begins with Clark stuck in the afterlife , where Jor @-@ El informs him that a great darkness is coming to Earth . Clark is unknowingly resurrected by Lois , who is now aware that he is " the Blur " . Jor @-@ El also informs Clark that he is not ready to be Earth 's true savior , as there

are inner demons that Clark must overcome first . In the episode " Homecoming " , Clark is visited by Brainiac 5 , who shows Clark how his past has shaped his present , and will one day shape his future ; including a vision of Clark 's future self when he has fully embraced his destiny . In the episode " Isis " , Clark reveals his secret to Lois only to find out that she already knew he was " the Blur " , which is followed in a later episode by Clark proposing to Lois . Clark realizes that in order to be the hero the world needs , he will have to step out of the shadows and into the light . As a result , Clark makes the decision to turn " Clark Kent " into a real disguise ? opting to wear eyeglasses and alter his mannerisms to be more shy and reserved ? so that the Blur does not have to hide his face to the world . By the series finale , the darkness , which is revealed to be Darkseid , arrives on Earth to enslave all of humanity . Clark realizes that his entire life has been one big trial by Jor @-@ El ; accepting his true destiny , the Blur saves Earth from Darkseid 's coming Apokolips . The series ends by moving seven years into the future , where Clark and Lois are finally getting married , and Clark has embraced his new identity as " Superman " .

Throughout the series , Clark gains and adjusts to new abilities , including X @-@ ray vision in season one , heat vision in season two , and super hearing in season three . Clark unofficially flew in the season four premiere , when he was reprogrammed as " Kal @-@ El " by his biological father , but upon regaining his memory he forgot how to use the ability . In season six , Clark gained his super breath . By the series finale , Clark learns to fly . Clark also discovers new vulnerabilities as the series progresses , including " green meteor rocks " or (kryptonite) , which he learns can weaken and potentially kill him . Various other forms of kryptonite appeared as the show continued , each with a different effect . Red kryptonite removed Clark 's inhibitions . Black kryptonite separated Clark 's Kryptonian personality from his human self , creating two distinct physical forms , and blue kryptonite stripped him of all supernatural abilities as long as it was in contact with him . Subsequent seasons also revealed that Clark could be vulnerable to alien weapons and magic .

= = Portrayal = =

In October 2000 , producers Al Gough and Miles Millar began their search for the three lead roles , and had casting directors in ten different cities looking at actors . After months of scouting , Tom Welling was cast as Clark Kent . Jensen Ackles , the runner up for the role of Clark Kent , would go on to play Jason Teague as a season four regular . Besides Welling , four other actors have portrayed Clark as young boy / teenager : Malkolm Alburquenque portrayed a three @-@ year @-@ old Clark in the pilot , and season two episode " Lineage " ; Brandon Fonseca played young Clark in the season five episode " Vengeance " ; and in the season eight episode " Abyss " , Jackson Warris would fill the role . In addition , in an alternate reality in the seventh season episode " Apocalypse " , a teenaged Clark Kent was portrayed by Brett Dier .

The pilot director , David Nutter , was looking through pictures of actors and stumbled on Tom Welling 's image . When he asked about Welling , the casting director said Welling 's manager did not want him to do the role because it could hurt his feature film career . After a conversation with Welling 's manager , Nutter got Welling to read the script for the pilot , which convinced him to do the part . Welling 's initial fears were quelled after reading the script , when he realized that the show was not about Clark " ... being a super hero ... , " but more about the character attempting to live a normal life as a teenager .

When Tom Welling auditioned for the role he was not sure how to prepare . While waiting for his turn , he realized that the character is one thing above all else : " ... a high school kid " To Welling , simply acting like he was a normal teenager , instead of like a super hero , was the perfect way to embody the character . Welling realized that by doing that , the special effects and other production elements would fill in the holes and perfect the character on screen . For one of his auditions , he read the graveyard scene with Kristin Kreuk (the first actor to be cast for the show) , and the network thought they had " ... great chemistry " .

Welling was generally unfamiliar with the Superman mythology , so much so that when an episode of Lois & Clark : The New Adventures of Superman aired on television , which featured Clark learning about his Kryptonian heritage , Welling immediately turned the show off . According to

Welling , he wanted to learn about Clark 's heritage simultaneously to Clark learning about it on Smallville . Welling believed that it was important for him to learn with the character , to help him be the Clark Kent envisioned by Al Gough and Miles Millar . The actor believed his lack of knowledge of the Superman mythology helped his performance , because Gough and Millar set up the series so that the previous mythology was not as important . Welling also enjoyed that he was in the same predicament as Clark with neither knowing the future of the character , beyond the fact that he will be Superman . When Welling landed the role of Clark Kent he was sent various Superman @-@ related gifts , including books and toys , which Welling planned to leave unopened until the show was over . Welling was adamant from the beginning that he did not sign on to play Superman , and had no intention of wearing the costume . While filming , Welling was allowed input into how his character responded in certain situations , including moving the scene between rooms , or requesting the director film particular mannerisms to emphasize a specific emotion .

= = Character development = =

= = = Storyline progression = = =

Early in the series , Clark was still learning how to handle his life , by learning to control his powers and find the best solution for everyone . His main priority was to fit in with his friends at school and be an average guy . Initially , Clark 's biggest problem was the fact that he could not share his secret with anyone he cared about . According to Welling , " He is burdened with a lot of responsibility . He hasn 't been able to choose whether or not he has these abilities . All this responsibility has just been thrust on him , and he has to deal with it . There have got to be times when he goes home and thinks to himself , ? Why me ? ' He wishes it could all go away and he could just be normal . That 's part of the character dilemma which makes him interesting to play . " Welling noted that the show was not about Clark always saving the day , but more about how using his powers " ... alienate [s] him from others " . Welling reasoned that by the end of season three , Clark had decided that leaving Smallville and going with Jor @-@ El was something that would save everyone a lot of pain in the long run . Welling described why Clark finally gave in to Jor @-@ El at the end of season three :

" If you can 't fight them , you might as well join them [...] he was choosing the lesser of two evils to go with Jor @-@ El . I think a combination of those two things would probably sum it up . A lot of times in your life , you get to a point where you go , ' I just can 't fight this anymore . There 's nothing I can do about it , so I better get up out of bed and go to work ! ' And in a sense , that 's what Clark had to do . Somehow he had to try to face what it was that was causing him so much pain ? and everyone else so much pain ? and maybe he reasoned that by causing everyone else a little bit of pain , he could save them a lot of pain in the long run . "

A significant moment in the character 's story came when Clark decided to play football in season four , providing conflict between him and his father . Writer Darren Swimmer refers to this moment as a " ... callback to [Hothead] ... " in season one . To him , when Clark defies Jonathan and joins the team anyway , it signified the moment where Jonathan finally decided that he can trust Clark to not hurt anyone . Writer Todd Slavkin viewed it as Clark finally emerging from his father 's shadow . Two more significant moments came during the following season . First , Clark lost his powers when he failed to return to Jor @-@ El to finish his training ; leaving him human and vulnerable . According to Welling , " ... [Clark] learned a little bit more about what it 's like to be human , physically . Emotionally , he 's pretty close to trying to understand that . It added more weight to his abilities once he got them back , and it made him realize his responsibilities for what he has . " The second moment came in the show 's 100th episode , with the death of Clark 's adoptive father . The decision to kill Jonathan was made so that Clark could finally step into his destiny , allowing Clark the boy to become Clark the man , as explained by Gough . In order to do that he needed his mentor to die , so that no one would buffer him from the world any longer . Welling saw the series ' 100th episode as the chance for his character to evolve and grow . John Schneider saw the same

catalyst for Clark 's evolution . According to Schneider , Jonathan 's death inspired Clark to make the move toward his eventual destiny . Jonathan provided such an example of sacrifice that it leaves a void in Clark . To fill that void Clark would have to become Superman . It was Schneider 's contention that had Jonathan not been the man he was , when the time came that the world needed Superman , Clark would have been unable to take on that persona , because he would not realize that the world needed him .

Writer Holly Harold noted that the introduction of Green Arrow (Justin Hartley) allowed Clark to mature more in the sixth season . Clark was able to see how others achieved the same goals , but used alternative routes that perhaps crossed moral lines . This taught Clark to start thinking about things from his opponents ' perspectives . Ultimately , in season six Clark learned it would be his human side that allowed him to become the hero he needed to be , summed up by writer Turi Meyer as " ... soon @-@ to @-@ be Man of Steel " . Each season , Clark gained insight into how not to misuse his abilities from the kryptonite @-@ mutated villains that used them for crime . In later seasons , Clark saw how even those that used their abilities for good might still have questionable actions , specifically Arthur Curry (Alan Ritchson) and Andrea Rojas (Denise Quiñones) , though Clark did help them take the high road . Those episodes reiterated the effect Clark 's parents had on how he used his abilities . Clark also learned that he cannot do everything alone , even though he chose not to join Oliver 's team of superheroes at the end of the episode " Justice " . For Meyer , season six showed that Clark was still struggling to accept his destiny , but did take steps toward the day that he would put on the cape and become Superman .

= = = Characterization = = =

The idea Gough and Millar came up with for their show 's version of Clark Kent was to strip him down to his " ... bare essence ... " , discovering the reasons why Clark became Superman . In Smallville , Clark is fallible , as Gough explains :

The thing that we 've tried to portray ... is that Clark doesn 't always make the right decisions , and by not making the right decisions , he brings further consequences on himself . Whether it 's running away from Jor @-@ El at the end of season two , or choosing humanity over some sort of Kryptonian mission , those decisions get him in more trouble , and cause more people to suffer , or in Jonathan Kent 's case , to die .

Welling agreed with Gough 's opinion of Clark 's fallibility , stating that the mistakes Clark made showed his humanity .

Even though Clark could make the wrong choices , season five 's " Aqua " helped illustrate the concept that Clark was " ... good to the core " . The episode showed how protective he could be over someone , even when that person annoyed him . In this case , he was trying to warn Lois that Arthur Curry may not have been the man she believed him to be . This concept was echoed by the Seattle Times ' Julia Waterhous , who noted that Clark , despite all his flaws , always put others before himself . Welling 's fellow actors also had their own insights into the character . Kristin Kreuk saw Clark as a kindred spirit who was sad , lonely , but also endearing ; whereas John Schneider classified Clark as a special needs child .

Just like his comic book counterpart , Smallville 's Clark Kent was a symbolic representation of Jesus Christ . Established early on , the pilot episode contained a moment when Clark was crucified on a scarecrow post during a high school hazing . The Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette 's Rob Owen noted the Christ @-@ like imagery of the scene , stating , " Is it any wonder Clark gets tied up there since Superman , too , was ' sent to save us ' ? " Echoing Owen , Judge Byun identified the same symbolism : " Superman is , in a way , the secular pop culture stand @-@ in for Jesus Christ , a messiah figure for our generation . The series makes this theme explicit in its pilot episode , in which Clark is symbolically ' crucified ' in a cornfield . That striking bit of symbolism becomes the central preoccupation of the series ; Clark is the savior who sacrifices all for the greater good of humanity , and Smallville shows us how he comes to accept and embrace that role . "

This was extended to the end of season nine , where Clark sacrificed his own life in the finale , in order to send General Zod and the rest of the Kandorians to their own world . In doing so , Clark fell

off a building " ... in full crucifixion pose , driving home the point that he is sacrificing himself for the good of the planet " . To this point , Cinefantastique 's Tom Powers suggested that these images and metaphorical emphasis through dialogue exchanges came across so heavy @-@ handed that a very devout individual might have found them offensive .

In addition to religious allusions , the crew used color schemes and camera movements to create their own themes for the characters . Since the show was told from Clark 's point of view , particular visual elements were utilized to illustrate a particular characteristic . When he was safe at home the colors used to illustrate the environment were warm and gentle , with an earth tone , while the camera movement was gentle as well . When Clark was keeping his secret , but there was no danger around , the lighting was more neutral , with greater camera movement . When there was danger , the lighting became colder with more grays and blues , and the camera shifted to a handheld , allowing more extreme angles .

= = = Relationships = = =

Clark 's relationships with the other characters evolved over the course of the show . Clark 's relationship with Lex Luthor was symbolic , as the two shared a yin and yang type of relationship . In the pilot , Clark first saved Lex from drowning after a car accident ; at the end of the episode , Lex saved Clark when he was strung up in the cornfield and immobilized by kryptonite . His relationship with Lex was tested by his lack of honesty , just like it was with Lana for the first six seasons ; the same could be said for Lex 's dishonesty with Clark . Both characters wanted to be completely honest with each other , but knew they could not , which inhibited their friendship .

His relationship with Lana Lang was one of Smallville 's central relationships . When Clark and Lana met in the cemetery , Clark realized that he had found someone who understood him , who he could talk to , even though it was not in as strong a way as he would have liked . Although Clark felt close to Lana , his fear that she would " ... kick him out of her life ... " if she learned his secret ? that he came in the meteor shower that killed her parents ? was strong enough to keep him from becoming as close to her as he wished . The lack of honesty caused issues between them . Judge Byun wondered how this Clark Kent would have room in his heart for Lois Lane later in life , as the he bounced back and forth between Lana and Chloe in the first season .

With Lana 's boyfriend gone by season two , the door opened for Clark , but Welling stated he understood why the producers continued to keep Clark and Lana apart , even after Whitney 's departure : " There 's the cliché that television shows with a main lover interest fail once they get it together . " After briefly being together at the beginning of the fifth season , Clark 's upbringing was not enough to help him cope with the loss of Lana to Lex toward the end of season five . Welling admits that Clark had learned to let Lana make her own choices and not stand in her way , but his problem with her relationship with Lex was that Lex is a dangerous individual and it put Lana 's safety in jeopardy . Apart from that , Clark had learned to walk the lonely road of a hero . His inability to cope with Lana moving on with Lex was carried over to season six . This season was the time the writers put Clark through an emotional wringer when they had Lana accept Lex 's marriage proposal . For writer Kelly Souders , this presented Clark 's worst fear : the woman he loved was marrying his worst enemy .

Apart from Lana , Clark had a growing relationship with Lois . Season five saw the melting of the ice between the two characters , who continued to butt heads . Executive producer Darren Swimmer believed that the audience could finally start to see a growing attraction between the two , and the fact that both would be there for the other in a time of need . Erica Durance believed that Lois in season five , because of her self @-@ imposed walls , laughed off any notion that she had a romantic interest in Clark , even if that notion was true . In season six , Durance described the relationship between Lois and Clark as something neither character wanted to put an official label on . Instead , Durance believed that , by that point in the series , Clark and Lois were satisfied with identifying with a " brother and sister friendship " label , rather than trying to discover how each truly feels . By season eight , Durance noted that Lois was starting to accept the idea that she may be in love with Clark more than she had been with anyone else in her life . His relationship with Lois was

included in TV Guide 's list of the best TV couples of all time .

== Costume ==

For most of the series , Clark did not wear any sort of costume when in his superhero persona . From seasons one through eight , Clark was typically dressed in either red , yellow and blue (the traditional colors of the Superman costume) , or in the All @-@ American colors of red , white , and blue . This included the primary usage of either a blue t @-@ shirt underneath a red jacket , or a red t @-@ shirt worn under a blue jacket . In season nine , the producers decided to design an actual costume for Clark to wear while patrolling the streets of Metropolis . Abandoning the theme of red , blue , and yellow , the producers chose to keep the costume completely black , save for a silver Superman " S " shield painted on the front . Instead of the traditional cape , Clark 's red jacket is traded for a black trenchcoat . This drew comparison to the character of Neo from The Matrix film series . It was also compared to the black suit Superman wore after being resurrected , following his death at the hands of Doomsday in the comic books .

In the season ten premiere , the audience got its first glimpse of the traditional Superman costume , which was left for Clark by Martha in the season nine finale . Although the suit was briefly seen through a reflection in Clark 's eyes in the season nine finale , the suit that appeared in the season ten premiere was a different design . The producers , working alongside Warner Bros. and DC Comics , procured the costume worn by Brandon Routh in Superman Returns , which the team chose over the Christopher Reeve suit of the 1980s . DC Comics offered the suit worn by Reeve , but Peterson explained that it " ... just didn 't quite fit with our world . " According to producer Kelly Souders , " Well , the process was really a group effort . We worked with DC , and we have Alicia Louis , who does a lot of stuff for us at the studio , and who was really instrumental . It took quite a bit to get that costume . There 's a lot of sign @-@ offs , it really was Warner Bros. and DC and us working to make it happen . " Peterson stated that the costume plays a more prominent role in the final season , with the last scene of Smallville ending with Clark wearing it . Before then , Clark began wearing a new costume in the season ten episode " Shield " . Here , Clark replaced the black trenchcoat with a red leather jacket , and the " S " shield now embossed onto the chest of that jacket .

== Reception ==

In 2002 , Welling was nominated for his first Saturn Award for Best Actor in a Television series , for his portrayal of Clark Kent in Smallville . Following that , Welling was nominated another four consecutive years , 2003 to 2006 , for the Saturn Award for Best Actor in a Television series . The same year he was nominated for his first Saturn Award , Welling won a Teen Choice Award for Choice Breakout TV Star , Male . Although he has not won a Teen Choice Award since , just like with the Saturn Awards , he has been nominated for Choice Actor in television for the four consecutive years after his win , 2003 to 2006 , Although not nominated in 2007 , he did receive a nomination in 2008 and 2009 for Choice Male in an Action / Adventure series . Welling was also nominated for the 2006 Teen Choice Awards for Most Beautiful Couple (TV ? Choice Chemistry) , with his co @-@ star Kristin Kreuk . In the 2009 Teen Choice Awards , Tom Welling received the award for Choice TV Actor ? Action Adventure . Welling was included in TV Guide 's list of " TV 's Sexiest Crime Fighters " .

Bryan Byun , of DVD Verdict , believes that Welling was the perfect choice for Clark Kent : " I can 't imagine a more ideal actor to play this superpowered farm boy than Tom Welling , with his wholesome , honest face and heroic good looks ? Welling not only resembles Christopher Reeve physically , but has all of the earnest charm that made Reeve the quintessential Superman . " The Free Lance ? Star 's Ron Hedelt likened Welling 's performances as Clark Kent to that of Christopher Reeve 's performances in the Superman films , stating that Welling manages to portray a " ... sweet , unassuming teenager ... " while showing Clark struggle with the truth about himself . Comics2Film 's Rob Worley also wrote of the physical resemblance Welling has to Christopher

Reeve , noting that the actor gave the character depth with his convincing portrayal of Clark 's longing to fit in . When comparing Smallville 's Clark Kent to Bryan Singer 's Superman (Brandon Routh) in Superman Returns , Seattle Times ' Julia Waterhous found Smallville 's Clark Kent to be the more intriguing character . Waterhous explained that this was due to the inner turmoil of Clark ? not being able to tell those he loved his secret ? and the fact that no matter what his faults were he continued to put others before himself , remaining " ... pure and good ... " . She explained that this allowed the audience to become intimate with the character , something lacking in the film version . According to the Associated Press , Welling 's popularity as Clark Kent on Smallville had fans of the show wishing he would take the role Routh received in Superman Returns .

= = Other media appearances = =

= = = Young Adult novels = = =

Smallville 's Clark Kent has also appeared in two series of young adult novels . The first was published by Aspect publishing ; consisting of eight novels , which began in October 2002 and ended in March 2004 . The second series was published by Little , Brown Young Readers , also beginning in October 2002 , with a total of ten young adult novels published through April 2004 .

In Aspect 's first novel , Smallville : Strange Visitors , written by Roger Stern , Clark attempted to stop two religious con @-@ men from robbing the town with their kryptonite @-@ enhanced spiritual seminars . Little 's first novel , Arrival , chronicled the events of the show 's pilot as written by author Michael Teitelbaum , and their second book , See No Evil , also published in October 2002 and was written by Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld ? who have also written episodes of the show ? featured Clark trying to stop Dawn Mills , a young actress , from hurting people who speak badly about her , by using her power to turn invisible .

On November 1 , 2002 , Aspect published Alan Grant 's book , Smallville : Dragon , which had Clark being hypnotized into believing that he was a normal , human teenager , with no abilities . Little 's Flight featured Clark trying to lend emotional support to a young girl who has full @-@ sized wings . The next Aspect novel , Hauntings , followed Clark and his friends as they investigate a ghostly presence in one of Smallville 's haunted houses . Animal Rage followed Clark as he tries to stop an animal rights activist when she tries to hurt the people harming animals in Smallville . Aspect brought in Dean Wesley Smith for their next novel , Whodunit , which involved Clark , Chloe , Lana and Pete investigating the murder of a boy and his sister .

Little published their next two books in April and June 2003 . The first , Speed , had Clark fighting hate crimes in Smallville . The second , Buried Secrets , followed Clark and Lex as they both fell in love with a mind @-@ reading , substitute Spanish teacher . In the novel , Clark and Lex 's friendship was put in jeopardy as the two competed for the teacher 's love . On September 9 , 2004 , Aspect published Shadows , where Clark must stop a girl 's scientist father , who has created a monster that is killing people . Runaway featured Clark leaving Smallville and living on the streets of Metropolis with other homeless teenagers . Clark fell in love with one of the girls before eventually returning home . Smallville : Silence has Clark and his friends investigating the appearance of zombies . Little 's Greed followed Clark and his friends as they took jobs as summer counselors to disadvantaged youths . Pete tried to abuse Clark 's abilities by tricking him into playing in a basketball game , and then betting on the outcome .

Alan Grant returned for a second outing to write Curse , about a grave digger who unleashed a 150 @-@ year @-@ old curse onto Smallville , and Clark 's attempt to put everything back the way it was . In Temptation , Clark used red kryptonite to try and impress Lana and Chloe after they become infatuated with a new , French foreign exchange student . Aspect released their final novel on March 1 , 2004 ; written by Devin K. Grayson , City chronicled Clark and Lex 's trip to Metropolis . While in the city , the pair got caught between the Japanese mafia and a secret agent who believed he has found an alien . In Little , Brown Young Readers ' final novel , written by Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld , Sparks featured Clark trying to save Chloe after she was exposed to a kryptonite

fireworks display that makes her the desire of every man . For one of the men , when the desire wears off he decides that he really does want Chloe and kidnaps her .

= = = Comic books = = =

In 2012 , the series was continued in Smallville : Season 11 , a comic book available both in digital and print formats . Every Friday for three weeks in a row , the stories which follow the primary story arcs , were released online and were referred to as episodes . The following week , the preceding three episodes were released as a print comic . Parallel to the main story arc , other story arcs featuring other characters (many of which were part of the future " Justice League America ") were released online every fourth Friday , and collected and printed in special editions by themselves , separate from the main story . Written by Bryan Q. Miller , who wrote for the television series , the comic took up the story of the Smallville characters six months after The Blur saved Earth from the Apokolips . Clark no longer fights crime by the alias The Blur , but has been dubbed Superman by the masses .

During the season Clark continued his battles with Lex Luthor , who had lost his memory . New characters were introduced , such as Commander Hank Henshaw , a participant in LexCorp 's project , Guardian Defense Platforms . In the third issue , Clark confronted Lex , during which Clark inadvertently implied that he knew Lex before his amnesia . Superman and Batman met and battled , but declared a truce , and began working together , eventually becoming friends . Clark also reunited with Bart Allen , who was seeking Clark 's aid in battling the Black Flash , who , ended up killing Bart during an ensuing battle .

At one point , Clark and Michael Jon Carter (Booster Gold) inadvertently traveled to the 31st century , where they found themselves caught in a war between New Krypton , led by Kara , and an army of xenophobes , during which Doomsday is reawakened , then defeated when all the belligerents form an alliance . While in the future , Clark met a child named Bartholomew Allen , causing Clark to suspect he was a descendant of Bart and giving him hope that he was still alive . After meeting Diana Prince , with whom he teamed to defeat Hades and Felix Faust , Clark , as Superman , chose to reveal to the President that he was not a meteor @-@ infected individual as the public believed but was from another planet . Later , Clark attempted to rally the heroes and the world to make a stand against the Monitors .

= = Merchandise = =

DC Direct has released action figures for Clark Kent , along with other Smallville characters . The first set of action figures was released on October 2 , 2002 , and was modeled after Clark 's appearance in the first season . The second series was released on May 7 , 2008 and was designed after Clark 's appearance in the season six episode " Justice " .