

DC COMICS SAMPLE SCRIPT
Superman Secret Origins Sample
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This sample script is to be used solely in connection with preparing art for the DC Talent Development Artists Workshop submission and may not be copied or distributed.

PAGE ONE

PANEL ONE.

ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE. We're close on Pete Ross's CAST which has been signed by many of his classmates already. Names are all girls and they include: LUCY PERKINS, JENNIFER IESINGER, KIMBERLY DAVIS, MOLLY JANE, CHLOE S.

1. PETE (O/P): DON'T be sorry, Clark.

PANEL TWO.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL that Pete's broken arm is a blessing in disguise. All the girls Pete's always been afraid to talk to are now swarming him as he walks down the hallway of Smallville High. A blonde signs his cast. Clark is at Pete's side, uncomfortably holding his books. Pete whispers over to Clark with a big grin as the girls swarm him. They noticeably pay no attention to Clark.

2. PETE (WHISPER): THIS -- is the GREATEST day -- of my LIFE.

PANEL THREE.

Pete smiles as a blonde and a brunette join the ever-growing crowd of girls, getting between Pete and Clark – causing Clark to drop his books. One of them puts her hand in his hair, sympathizing with him. Pete loves every second.

3. BLONDE: Oh, you POOR thing!

4. PETE: I KNOW.

5. BRUNETTE: Does it hurt?

6. PETE: A LITTLE.

PANEL FOUR.

Clark picks up his books off of the hallway floor. They're simple books – U.S. HISTORY, ALGEBRA and ENGLISH.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL FIVE.

Same as above, but Clark looks up as a pair of feet stand in front of him.

7. LANA (O/P – NEAR CLARK): Need some help?

PAGE TWO

PANEL ONE.

A nice-sized introduction shot of a girl who is an important part of young Clark's life – LANA LANG. Clark looks over at Lana Lang as she enters. For Lana we'll be taking our cues from the original Curt Swan images from the SUPERBOY comics, but more importantly we'll use it as simply a source of inspiration. This is your character to redefine here. She's smart, pretty but not beautiful in the classic sense and very connected to Clark. More connected than anyone else.

Lana bends down to help Clark with his books. She asks him if he needs help, but really she's not talking about picking up books.

1. CLARK: No, thanks.
2. LANA: I called yesterday. I left a message with your Mom.
3. CLARK: Sorry, Lana.
4. CLARK: I didn't feel like TALKING to anyone.
5. LANA: Not even ME?

PANEL TWO.

Pete swims through the sea of girls and holds out the pen to Lana. Lana smirks, happy that Pete's enjoying the moment.

6. PETE: Wanna sign my cast, Lana?
7. LANA: I'll wait until the PEP SQUAD disperses for pom-pom practice.

PANEL THREE.

Pete's hand holds out the pen to Clark. Clark looks down at the cast.

8. PETE: How about you, Clark?
9. PETE: The doc says GOOD VIBES from friends will make it HEAL faster.

PANEL FOUR.

CLOSE ON Clark's eyes. Suddenly, Clark's X-RAY vision kicks in to his surprise! His eyes turn the bluish color we've been using in ACTION COMICS.

10. PETE (O/P): And what better friend do I have than YOU?

PAGE THREE

PANEL ONE.

Clark is horrified as he looks through the cast and sees Pete's arm, which has been reset by the doctor. There's a clear line in the bone where it is BROKEN and that scares Clark.

1. PETE (O/P): Clark?

2. PETE (O/P): Are you going to sign it or WHAT?

PANEL TWO.

Clark looks at his friends and classmates. He can see their skeletons glowing through their bodies. Clark can be in panel, so it's as if he was in a world of skeletons and he was standing out – different from everyone else as he'll always feel he is.

3. PETE: You don't look so good. Are you FEELING okay?

PANEL THREE.

Clark runs down the hallway, leaving his books and his friends behind. Pete calls out to him, not wanting to leave the gaggle of girls.

4. LANA: Clark?!

5. PETE: Where are you GOING?

6. PETE: Hey, you still owe me your Mom's apple pie!

PANEL FOUR.

Distraught and guilty, Clark stops, leaning against the wall and covering his eyes with his hands. He's in an adjacent hallway, out of view from any other students. There's a banner on the wall that reads: SMALLVILE HIGH SPIRIT!

7. LANA (O/P): Clark?

PAGE FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Lana approaches Clark, his books in her hands. She's picked them up for him. Clark looks over at her, frightened.

1. LANA: You're not okay, are you?
2. CLARK: NO.
3. CLARK: I SAW it, Lana.
4. CLARK: I saw right THROUGH Pete's cast.

PANEL TWO.

CLOSE ON Clark, racked with guilt. He can't look Lana in the eyes.

5. CLARK: I BROKE his arm.
6. CLARK: It's MY fault.

PANEL THREE.

Lana talks with Clark like only a best friend could. She's strong and loving and even though Clark is full of doubt, she's full of confidence in him.

7. LANA: It's NOT your fault. You were playing football.
8. CLARK: I shouldn't have. My Dad told me not to.
9. CLARK: And even though he didn't say it, he knows it's my fault TOO.
10. LANA: Well, for what it's worth, I don't think Pete MINDS.
11. CLARK: You weren't there, Lana. You didn't hear his bone SNAP.

PANEL FOUR.

Clark finally gazes up into Lana's eyes as if he's admitting a sin.

12. CLARK: You didn't hear him SCREAM.

PANEL FIVE.

CLOSE ON Lana, attempting to ease Clark's pain and panic.

13. LANA: You remember what you SAID the first time we found out how STRONG you were?

PAGE FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

FLASHBACK. Eight-year-old Lana Lang is mischievously hiding in the cornfields on the Kent Farm between the stalks.

1. CAPTION (LANA): “We were playing HIDE-AND-SEEK and I was in Ben Hubbard’s field.

PANEL TWO.

FLASHBACK. Lana’s startled as the spinning blades of a THRESHER (or combine harvester) rip up the corn stalks next to here.

2. CAPTION (LANA): “I heard the THRESHER, but I didn’t know it was coming right AT me.

PANEL THREE.

FLASHBACK. An eight-year-old Clark Kent races through the corn stalks and puts himself between Lana and the thresher. In his mind he was going to pull Lana away from the spinning blades, but he’s not moving fast enough. He doesn’t know he has super-strength, but even without the awareness of his powers he acts heroically. Clark Kent is a good person thanks to his parents.

3. CAPTION (LANA): “Somehow YOU did.

4. CAPTION (LANA): “You came to get me out of the way.

PANEL FOUR.

FLASHBACK. Clark protects Lana, holding her in his arms and turning his back to the blades. Both of the kids squeeze their eyes tight as they prepare for the worst, but the blades break as they tear through Clark’s clothes and hit his impervious skin.

5. CAPTION (LANA): “But the blades BROKE when they hit you.

PANEL FIVE.

FLASHBACK. In the aftermath, the thresher has stopped. Clark and Lana look at one another, amazed to be alive. Clark’s clothes are torn, but the miracle of it all has put a big smile on his face.

6. CAPTION (LANA): “And we were BOTH okay.”

7. CLARK: I’m stronger than STEEL!

8. CLARK: COOL!