

SUPERGIRL

THE MAID OF MIGHT

FIRST APPEARANCE ACTION COMICS #252 (May 1959)

STATUS Hero REAL NAME Kara Zor-El

OCCUPATION Adventurer BASE Metropolis

HEIGHT 5ft 5in WEIGHT 135 lbs EYES Blue HAIR Blonde

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Under the Sun's solar radiation, Supergirl's kryptonian physique absorbs energy and can fly, has superstrength, superspeed, invulnerability, acute hearing, and a range of vision including emitting X-rays and heat.

THERE EXIST COUNTLESS parallel universes, some with super heroes, some without. In one such pocket universe, Superman was not the sole survivor of Krypton. That world's Superboy, however, died in the 30th century while saving that universe's LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. Three Kryptonian criminals managed to survive as well, and found their way to Earth. No one powerful enough was left to stop them. That world's Lex Luthor (see LUTHOR, LEX), a noble scientist, created a lifeform from protomatter, using genetic material supplied by Lana Lang (see LANG, LANA), hoping it could help defeat the deadly trio.

THE MATRIX

This shape-changing being was dispatched to a parallel world, hoping SUPERMAN could help. The Man of Steel answered the call to arms and was forced to kill the three Kryptonians to save the world, but not before the lifeform, known as Matrix, was reduced to an amorphous mass. Superman brought Matrix to his world and there it recuperated on the Kent family farm. Out of respect for its savior,

Matrix took on a feminine form and used her more limited superpowers to become Supergirl. When Superman exiled himself to space to atone for having killed for the first time, Supergirl took on his peace-keeping role.

She naïvely fell under Lex Luthor's thrall for a while, until she saw him for the manipulative despot that he was. She then saved the life of Linda Danvers in the town of Leesburg, V.A., by merging her life essence with Linda's. This created an entirely new being with different abilities, such as more limited shape-changing, psychokinetic skills, and increased strength and endurance.

In time, Linda/Supergirl/Matrix discovered the violent and haunted life Linda had led and sought to redeem her existence. During her encounters with the demon Buzz and other supernatural entities, she discovered she was a reborn being known as an Earth-Angel, one of three on Earth. After several weird adventures, Linda met up with a Supergirl from yet another parallel timeline. This Supergirl was Superman's cousin from Krypton, a more innocent heroine who needed to die in order to keep the fabric of time from fraying. Linda also gave up her angelic abilities and left Leesburg hoping to lead a "normal" life.

Some time thereafter, the enigmatic Futuresmiths altered time. As a result, a young teen named Cir-El arrived in Metropolis, claiming to be the daughter of Clark Kent and Lois Lane (see LANE, LOIS). She was gradually accepted by Superman until the Futuresmith's plans were undone to preserve the timeline and Cir-El vanished. The repercussions of the constant changes to the timestream had unexpected results. One was the imminent arrival of an asteroid that scientists traced back to Krypton. The asteroid broke apart as it entered Earth's atmosphere but a spacecraft managed to splash down in the ocean. Within the damaged craft was a young teenager, from Superman's homeland. News of the arrival of a *second* survivor from Krypton spread and a scramble began to gain influence over the girl, Kara Zor-El. Finally, it was agreed that Kara would stay in America, under Superman's watchful gaze. When she is deemed ready, Superman has a costume, complete with S-shield, waiting for his cousin. RG

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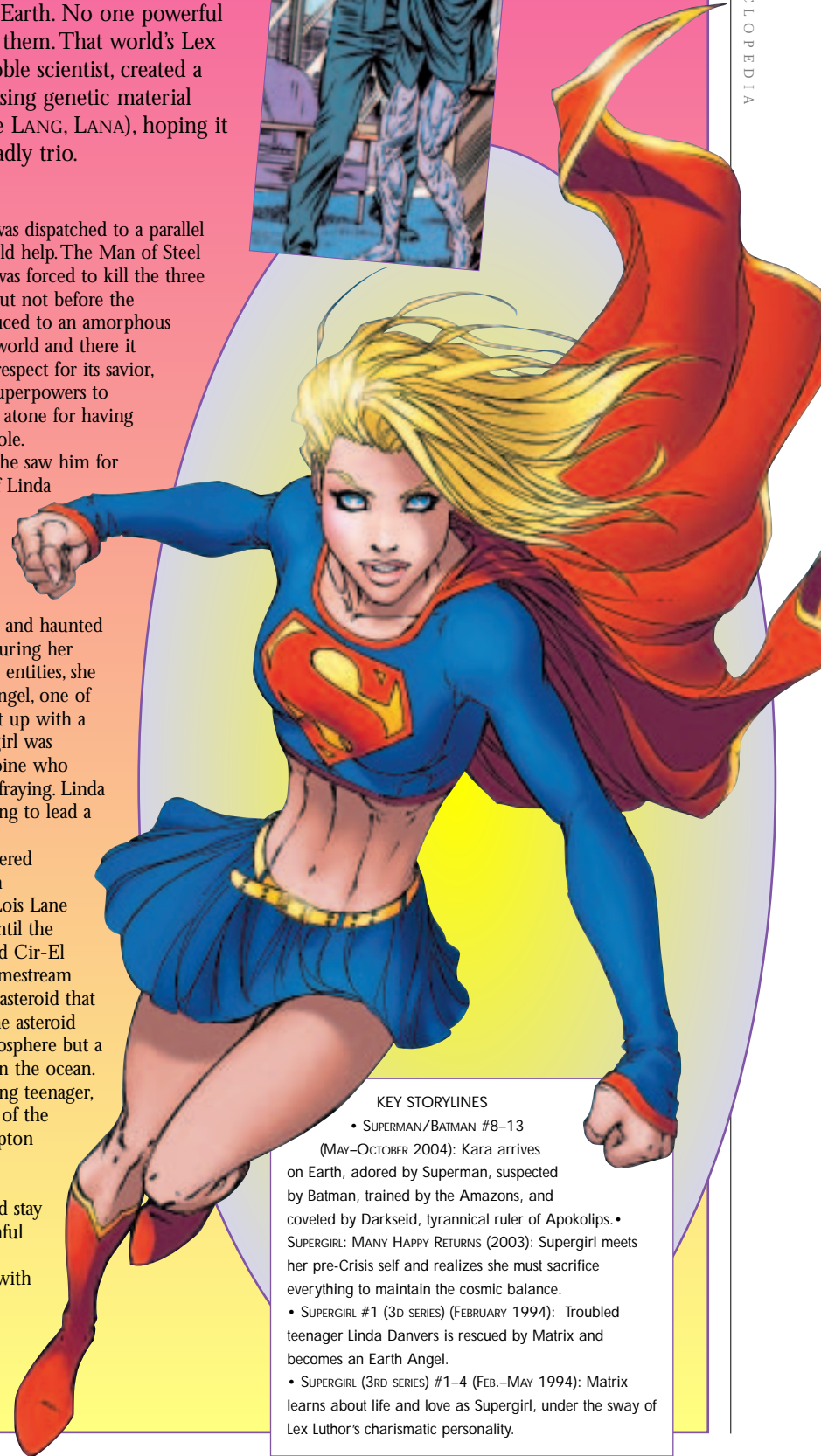
LUTHOR'S TOY Matrix is comforted by Lex Luthor, unwittingly becoming a tool in his megalomaniac schemes.



WITHOUT SUPERMAN Supergirl selflessly used her powers to protect one and all.



TWO BECOME ONE Supergirl and Linda Danvers confront cosmic forces to restore balance to reality.



KEY STORYLINES

- SUPERMAN/BATMAN #8-13 (MAY-OCTOBER 2004): Kara arrives on Earth, adored by Superman, suspected by Batman, trained by the Amazons, and coveted by Darkseid, tyrannical ruler of Apokolips.
- SUPERGIRL: MANY HAPPY RETURNS (2003): Supergirl meets her pre-Crisis self and realizes she must sacrifice everything to maintain the cosmic balance.
- SUPERGIRL #1 (3D SERIES) (FEBRUARY 1994): Troubled teenager Linda Danvers is rescued by Matrix and becomes an Earth Angel.
- SUPERGIRL (3RD SERIES) #1-4 (FEB.-MAY 1994): Matrix learns about life and love as Supergirl, under the sway of Lex Luthor's charismatic personality.