



Last Sun of Krypton #1
Samantha Chapman

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#1 of 3

Written by Samantha Chapman

Cover by Trevor Yarmovich

Since the beginning of time itself, a battle had raged, contained within the whirling ball of rock known as Krypton. As the planet matured, as the first life formed, the first civilizations, the ancient war had been fought within the planet's molten core. Rock and lava pounded away at each other, never noticing the flourishing of life on the surface. Cities had been built, had formed empires and had fallen, and the battle continued. Wars had been fought between the planet's people, of so much smaller scale than the war inside.

The people above learned the sciences, and eventually discovered the massive stores of energy contained in their core. They harnessed this power, drawing out the source of their civilization from the inner workings of the planet, putting that energy into their communications, their transportation, their creature comforts, their entertainment.

And decades later, they would pay their price.

The eons of battle were coming to an end. The fuel that had fanned the flames for so long was finally being depleted, and very soon, one warring side would defeat the other. Finally, the churning fight would end—and Krypton would as well.

“What do you think of Kon?”

“Kon?”

“For a boy. Kon-El.” Kal-El smiled dreamily, imagining the baby in his

arms.

Lyla Lerrol tried to give her fiancé a stern look, but couldn't help smiling back at him. "Kal, don't you think it's a little early to be picking out names?"

"Oh, come on." Kal grinned and wrapped a strong arm around Lyla's waist as they walked down the streets of Kryptonopolis. "What have you been thinking? I know you have a name for your little girl."

"Well... I do like Lori... But you know it's not going to be for a while. Having a baby now would destroy my career!"

"I know, I know, don't worry, Lyla my love." Kal gave her a squeeze and a heart-melting smile. "Whatever you want."

The bright red sun was falling lower in the sky as the couple walked down the clean, airy street. A light wind whipped through Lyla's blonde hair after tousling the gold leaves on a neatly-pruned row of trees. Several small vehicles zoomed over the pavement, in a much greater hurry than the people they passed. The crimson sunlight bounced off of the surface of the city's tall buildings, staining the glass and steel with fiery color and catching the eyes of the many people walking below. The residents of Kryptonopolis walked slowly, savoring the sights on their ways home from wherever they had been; the tourists raced down the paths toward their next destination.

Kal and Lyla held hands and meandered, pausing every so often to watch a bird circling above, or to kneel and play with a fellow walker's pet. Kal ran his fingers through Lyla's hair and smiled at her. He loved the color of her hair in the sunlight.

It was then that a man raced by the pair, snatching Lyla's purse out of her hand and skidding around the corner with it.

"Hey!" yelled Lyla, almost taking off after him herself, but Kal's muscled arm blocked her way. She looked up at him to see an expression in the baby-blue eyes that the entire city had come to respect; good citizens in awe, criminals in fear.

Like a bullet out of a gun, Kal-El shot off down the street, kicking up a few fallen leaves in his wake. He raced around the corner, and everyone on the sidewalk hurried to get out of his way. The son of Jor-El had been a famous, prize-winning athlete for years, and no one wanted to be knocked over by his speeding, muscled frame.

Kal-El flew like the wind, weaving between people, his eyes locked on the thief he pursued.

The desperate man turned another corner, only to find himself face-to-face with Kal. He was taller than the thief, stronger than him, faster, and he knew his city inside and out. Kal stood straight, fists resting on his hips, an almost grim smile playing around his lips. The wind stirred up by his run flung out the silver-colored cape that fell across one powerful shoulder, and the family crest blazoned on his chest shone proudly in the ruby sunlight.

“You must be new here.”

The purse fell from the thief’s hand, and the man’s jaw dropped.

Kal bent casually to pick up the bag and peeked inside. Satisfied that nothing was missing, he continued, “You’ve got to be new, because no one who’s lived here very long would do something so foolish right under my nose.”

“Oh no, oh, you’re him, aren’t you?”

Kal went on. “Now, since you’re so obviously new to Kryptonopolis, I’m going to let you off with a warning.” He put up a hand to quell the man’s sputtering thanks. “No harm done, no foul. But I suggest you learn how we do things in this city, and quickly, before I have to teach you personally.”

The small crowd that had gathered let out a cheer, and the man hung his head, stammering more apologies and thanks. Kal smiled warmly, clapping a hand on the man’s shoulder and nearly knocking him over. “You get home,” he said, fully aware of the people around him, “and start making something out of your life.”

"Yes, sir." The crowd parted to let the thief pass, and Kal found the top of Lyla's blonde head among the gathered citizens. Excusing himself and inching around the people who tried to get a closer look at him, he made his way toward her with the purse held out.

Lyla stood with a smile twitching on her lips despite her rolling eyes, arms folded across her chest. "My hero," she said, slinging her bag around one shoulder and opening her arms toward him.

Kal swept her up, a boyish smile shining on his face, and one young voice made a cat-call as he kissed her.

"Alright, show's over, no pictures, please," said Lyla to the crowd, grabbing Kal's hand and pulling him away. "You are way too much."

"It's your fault for encouraging me," Kal teased, wrapping his arms around her and pulling her into another hug.

"Oh, stop it." Lyla shook her head as she shrugged his arms away, but she couldn't help chuckling. Her eyes flitted to the small, circular watch embedded in the cloth of her purse. "Come on, we were supposed to meet your father for dinner half an hour ago."

Kal winced. "Oh no, you're right. Let's go then. Maybe if you take some of the blame, I can skip the lecture."

"Are you kidding? I wouldn't miss it for the world!" Lyla laughed. "Who else gets the chance to see brave, strong, noble Kal-El scolded like a little child?"

"You already know what he's going to say," sighed Kal, taking her hand and heading off again down the street. He cleared his throat and put on a deep voice in imitation of his father. "And this is why you couldn't have been a scientist, Kal-El. You must keep your appointments."

Lyla cut in, "Even with your speed, it's a miracle your mother and I were able to get you to all your activities on time."

The couple laughed, but exchanged wary looks and picked up their pace.

Jor-El sat patiently in a bright, sunlight café, sipping a cup of tea serenely despite the two empty seats at his table. The room was buzzing with the quiet conversations that echoed around the glass walls, and glimpses of rosy sky shone through the domed skylights to lend the scene a peaceful air. The old scientist was rather fond of the place, often arranging meetings here, or simply dropping by on his own. The restaurant perched on the top of a building that overlooked a stretch of garden, so that its patrons could make out the intricate designs painted in flowers below them. Kryptonopolis was a city of great culture and beauty, and never allowed its parks and gardens to go uncared for. The man let his eyes follow a stream of water from an automated fountain to a flowerbed, as he waited for his guests.

Jor-El allowed himself a knowing smile as the conversation in the room grew a little louder, the buzz more excited. Kal-El hurried past table after table, trying desperately to return all of the greetings he received. Lyla only tried to fend off her own fans—less polite, but more efficient, as she reached Jor-El’s table before her fiancé.

“Sorry we’re late,” she offered, tucking her handbag under her chair and grabbing Kal’s hand to get him to sit.

“It’s quite alright,” said Jor-El quietly, smiling at Lyla. “Far be it from me to expect my son to be on time.”

“I’m sorry, I know.” Lyla had to stifle a giggle at her fiancé’s tone—he sounded like a child caught with his hand in a jar of sweets. “We got held up, dad, someone stole Lyla’s purse!”

“It’s true,” she added, gently stroking Kal’s wrist. “He had to rescue it for me, of course.”

“It’s not a problem.” But a wry smile crossed Jor-El’s lips. “I’m sure it took you a full hour to track down this thief, Kal-El. I understand, of course.”

“Dad...” Kal could feel his head sinking lower onto his shoulders, and a

blush creeping into his cheeks. Lyla choked on the water she'd been sipping, clapping a hand to her mouth to hold back the giggles.

Jor-El chuckled low in his throat, and turned his attention to Lyla. "Are you alright?"

"Yes, yes, I'm fine." Lyla cleared her throat, and folded her hands on the table in front of her in a very dignified fashion.

"Tell Dad about the new movie you're doing, Lyla," urged Kal, anxious to take the attention away from himself.

"Right, right. It should be very good," she started, swirling the water around in her glass. "It's an adaptation of *So Say the Wise Men*, which I always loved. They wanted me for Dani, but I told them if I couldn't play Rola, I wasn't going to have anything to do with it. So they caved."

"A fine choice. You should be wonderfully suited to the part, Lyla."

The blonde grinned at Jor-El's praise, tossing her hair back to the delight of the fanboys who still watched her from their tables at the café. The entertainment industry was thriving in the city, now that the economic recessions were so far into the past. Lyla had come along at just the right time to take advantage of the good mood. At the age of seventeen, she had won her first part in a major film, and she hadn't stopped working since. At twenty-five, Lyla Lerrol was the brightest star on Krypton.

Kal glanced around the room and draped his arm around Lyla's shoulder, darting his eyes around to make sure that all the teenage boys knew what his gesture meant.

The meal was pleasant when it came, and the light conversation continued. But as the time passed, Kal began to notice the way that his father was looking off at the sky more than at his and Lyla's faces, and the way he didn't seem to be able to swallow without a lump coming into his throat.

"Dad?" He asked carefully, reaching a hand across the table to touch Jor-El's. "Is everything okay?"

The old scientist sighed, taking his son's hand and squeezing it gently. "No," he answered very quietly, looking right into Kal's eyes. "But we won't talk about it just yet. How are the wedding plans coming?"

Lyla launched into a discussion of flowers and dresses, eager to move the subject away from whatever was bothering Jor-El. But Kal said little, his bright eyes searching his father's face for a clue.

Lyla was in the middle of a long list of guests that she planned to invite, and Jor-El's eyes were wandering even more than usual, when a young girl approached the table with a napkin and a pen clutched tightly in her hand. The flow of Lyla's chatter slowed to a stop, replaced with an annoyed silence. "Can we help you?" She asked the girl, who was tense enough to jump a foot and squeal at being addressed.

"Ah! I—I...you...sign!?" She shoved the napkin at Kal, turning her face away with her arms shaking. He blinked and then smiled indulgently, gently prying the pen out of her hand and signing his name for her. He passed the napkin along to Lyla, begging her with his eyes not to say any of the things she was thinking. Lyla rolled her eyes, but also put down an autograph, and Kal handed the napkin back to the girl with a sweet celebrity's smile.

The squeal that came out of the girl's mouth as she ran back to her table made several of the café's glasses tremble. "EEEE! I did it! I got Kalyla's autograph!"

The look on Kal's face at this shout nearly sent Lyla into a spit-take. Even Jor-El had to cover his mouth to hide the smile.

"Kalyla?" he asked in an almost terrified whisper.

"You don't read the magazines."

"I try not to."

"That stupid name is everywhere," Lyla went on, the corners of her mouth twitching with a barely-restrained smile. "I'm amazed you hadn't heard it before. They came up with it when they finally found out we were dating."

“Yes, but *Kalyla*?”

It was Jor-El’s turn to laugh at his son’s expense, but the strange sadness returned to his eyes in a very short time. “Come, Son, I have something that I must discuss with you. In privacy,” he added, seeming to notice for the first time the number of eyes turned toward their table.

Jor-El’s laboratory was the pinnacle of Kryptonian technology. Chrome finishing sparkled from the walls and the many large machines, reflecting the ruby sunset into Kal-El’s eyes as he, Jor-El and Lyla walked into the room. It was spacious and airy, with high windows to let in natural light and clusters of crystal that lit the room after dark. The crystals glowed softly, gradually getting brighter as the sun set until their soft white light was all that bounced over the metal. Lyla had to chuckle; her soon-to-be father-in-law had such a fondness for the old laboratory style, keeping his chrome and silver despite the softer colors that were more fashionable now. But then, Lyla knew, Jor-El was not the type to keep his head down on Krypton to think about fashions. His mind belonged up in the clouds, with all of those brilliant ideas.

Off to one side of the lab, a large monitor was emitting a faint beeping sound. The screen was splashed with a cross-section of Krypton, showing all of the layers of the inside of the planet. One small area was discolored and highlighted by a pulsing red circle.

It was this machine that Jor-El led the young couple to. His lips tightened into a thin line as he studied the readout under the screen.

“It’s gotten worse...” he muttered, taking a low breath.

“What is it?” asked Kal. He saw the look of muted worry in his father’s eyes, and felt a chill run through his body. He had known Jor-El to be many things—a scientist, a reformer, a rebel, a teacher, a mentor, a friend—but never a coward. If he were afraid, there had to be something serious to be afraid of.

Jor-El sighed, closing his eyes and turning back to Kal and Lyla. The light from the crystals was too soft to fill every shadow on his face, giving the old man a weathered and heavy look. "This is going to be difficult to hear."

"What is it, Dad?" Kal asked, more urgently. His hand tightened where it held Lyla's, and she almost winced at the sudden squeeze.

"Look for yourself." Jor-El stepped to the side of the machine. Kal moved forward to look, after exchanging a glance with Lyla. "You know the different layers of a planet, of course. Your mother and I must have managed to teach you something all those years ago."

Kal shook the slight blush away from his face, and recited, "The core is the hottest at the center, different layers of the mantle after that, the crust is—wait a second." Kal leaned closer to the monitor, now noticing the color key near the bottom of the screen. It was showing a temperature readout of all the different layers of Krypton. But the mantle seemed somehow smaller than he remembered it in his old schoolbooks, the core larger.

With a sad pride, Jor-El pointed at the red circle. "I think you see," he said quietly.

Kal's brow furrowed in confusion and concentration. "But that's not right..." he placed a finger on the screen. "This part is cooler than the layers under it; it's right up by the surface. But this says it's hotter...a lot hotter...and just there..."

A louder, higher-pitched beep from the computer stole Jor-El's attention, and he almost elbowed his son out of the way to study the screen again. Some of the color went out of his face.

"Another one..." He shook himself out of it and turned back to Kal, both men having seemingly forgotten the woman standing a few feet away. "I've checked all the instruments. I've run more tests than you know. This is no malfunction."

"High-temperature pockets under the crust...but how will it even hold? That magma is over four thousand degrees Raonene."

"I don't know that it will. Although this is what worries me the most," added Jor-El, refocusing the red highlight on the smaller pocket that had only just appeared. "I'm afraid they might be spreading."

Kal gasped audibly, the same worry starting to come into his eyes. "But that couldn't happen. The crust would break apart..." A look of horrible understanding came to Kal's face, and his father nodded.

Hanging back, Lyla could only see Kal's fear, and hear the ever-present, unnerving blip of the monitor. "What's going on?" she asked quickly, unable to make head or tail of the pictures on the screen. "What does it mean?"

Both men turned toward her. Kal grabbed her hand again, as much for his own comfort as for hers. But it was Jor-El who answered.

"It means that unless something can be done very soon, Krypton is going to destroy itself."

TO BE CONTINUED!

If you enjoyed this story, you can find more alternate universe tales of your favorite DC heroes at [DC3 Multiverse](#).

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Ultimate Gotham Girls #11 (2008)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Clown College, Part 2 (of 3).

With the Joker's 'school' well underway and the clock ticking closer to 3pm, will Batgirl and Zatanna be able to prevent even more carnage? What about with some unexpected help? And how will Harley hold up when forced to choose between her man, and her only friend?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #10 (2008)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Clown College, Part 1 (of 3).

The Joker's been lurking in the background, and it's never good when he rears his head again! Harley's ideas and Joker's plans are coming together at long last, but is Harley really on-board with the joke? Ivy sure hopes not! And either way, the Clown Prince of Crime is going to have his hands full when Batgirl and Zatanna catch up to him!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #2 (2008)

Don't Say a Word, Part 1 (of 2)

Ultimate Gotham Girls #1 (2008)

Girls' (K)night Out.

Meet Harley Quinn. She is bound and determined to meet her number one hero, the object of her affection, Gotham City's premiere costumed champion...The Joker! To do it, she's teaming up with the seductive and deadly Poison Ivy...whether or not Pamela Isley likes the idea! Just what a neophyte Batgirl needs for on-the-job training!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #3 (2008)

Don't Say a Word, Part 2 (of 2).

The all-new, all-daring Batgirl is put to the test, tracking down a ruthless killer of children! But there's more to the mind of Mockingbird than meets eye, and Renee must walk the abyss of madness to figure it out!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #4 (2008)

The Joker Rules April Fools!

It's April Fools Day in Gotham and that can only mean one thing! The Clown Prince of Crime is giving the city a hearty greeting, and Batgirl must struggle, not only with a diabolical mastermind that gives even Batman pause, but whether or not to accept help from a shocking source!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #5 (2008)

Harvey and Ivy.

Harvey Dent has a curse: he's the acid-scarred mobster Two-Face! And he has a past: having pursued prison for Poison Ivy! Is there a connection between the two events? How does one lead to the other, and how do the lives of these two villains intersect? It's all in this issue of Gotham Girls, as signs point to dangerous storms brewing for our heroes...and other protagonists!

Last Sun of Krypton #2 (2008)

last Sun of Krypton, Part 2 (of 3).

Even with the heavy news hanging over their heads, life must go on for Kal-El and his loved ones. But how can they go on with life as usual when the world is about to collapse? Isn't there anything that Kal can do to help save Krypton and its people?

Last Sun of Krypton #3 (2008)

Last Sun of Krypton, Part 3 (of 3).

"If Lyla had still been there to talk him out of it, Kal knew that he would never have even suggested this solution, let alone volunteered for it. He stood alone in the middle of a large, barren field, staring up at the monolith that was an energy plant, and he could feel the heat of the world gathering beneath his feet.

Two days had already gone by, two more days of heartache and fear, of disbelief and thick, destructive denial. Despite the official pleas from the Board, and despite the few ready rockets off-world that had already left for the colonies, most of the population refused to budge from their homes on only the word of Jor-El.

Kal's breathing was quick and nervous in the heated air. All of those people were depending on his bravery, his intellect...

...and on the nuclear bomb strapped to the hood of his small electric car. "

Ultimate Gotham Girls #6 (2008)

Reality Check.

Harley Quinn can't believe her good fortune! She's made friends with Ivy, won the love of her sweetheart, The Joker, and discovered her old mentor, Jonathan Crane is now in town. Could any woman's life be any better? She's on cloud nine, facing a future bright and exciting, despite The Joker's dislike of Crane's potential influence on the young woman. And then it happens...

Ultimate Gotham Girls #7 (2008)

Reunion.

Where does poor little Harley run with nowhere else to go? To Ivy's house, of course! How long can she hold up away from the Joker, and could he possibly be trying to get her back? Plus, the Ultimate secret origin of Poison Ivy!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #12 (2008)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Clown College, Part 3 (of 3).

With time racing out, can our three heroines band together and stop the Joker's deadly finale? What's going to happen to Harley Quinn? You won't want to miss the stunning conclusion of Gotham Girls Year One-- with special appearance by the Batman himself!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #8 (2008)

Your Worst Nightmare, Part 1 (of 2).

Jonathan Crane is tired of waiting. He has stores of his prized possession, his finished 'fear gas', all over Gotham. With a push of a single button, he will trap everything that breathes in their own worst nightmare, and for once in his life, Crane will be the one unafraid.

What terrors lurk in the darkest parts of the minds of all our stars? And how will any of them break free? If they even can...

Ultimate Gotham Girls #9 (2008)

Your Worst Nightmare, Part 2 (of 2).

Jonathan Crane --now the full-fledged Scarecrow-- has all of Gotham City under his power, including Batgirl! Can anyone fight their own most feared demons in time to stop Crane from completely taking over?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #13 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Overrun.

The One Man Army Corps have taken the Gotham streets, and they're doing their jobs on the villains-- but are they safe for our heroes? When Batgirl ticks one off on patrol, can she stop a super-strong robot all by herself, before it hurts anyone else in its attack on her?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #14 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Facades Part 1 (of 3).

After years of hiding, Harvey Dent has finally returned to Gotham City. But for his old friend Renee, is this a good thing, or bad? And when Poison Ivy is framed for murder, who's going to search out the truth, no matter how shocking it may be?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #15 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Facades, Part 2 (of 3)

The investigation is underway-- Renee Montoya, AKA Batgirl, hot on the tail of Harvey Dent, AKA Two-Face! But can Renee truly believe that her old friend is a killer? And what would she do if she discovered the proof? Meanwhile, how long can Harvey hold his two selves together, under the stress and the guilt of what he's done?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #16 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Facades, Part Three.

Batgirl's continued investigation of a double-murder frame job finally brings her to Harvey Dent, and forces her to confront what's happened to her old friend. How deep does Harvey's madness extend? How has it affected him, through his entire life? And what will Two-Face do when he finds Batgirl prying into his secrets?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #17 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Facades, Part 4 (of 4)

The disturbing origin of Two-Face revealed to her, Batgirl now has to finally face off against her friend-turned-enemy. How badly can Renee stand to hurt Harvey? How badly will she have to, if Two-Face gets the upper hand? And what shocking revelation will finally end the battle? Find out in our stunning conclusion!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #18 (2009)

Gotham Girls: Jack of Hearts.

Jack Napier has had a crush on Harley Quinzel since they took Psychology together, and she has always ignored him. But when Harley robs Jack's magic shop, could fate be bringing them together? How can a man with such an eerily familiar face win the heart of the girl of his dreams, and is Harley's heart really free for her to give?

Ultimate Gotham Girls #19 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Now and Then.

Ultimate Gotham Girls #22 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Save Our Circus.

Haley's Circus is back in town, and ready to put on a killer show for Gotham City...at least, it was until a half-rate supervillain made a big-name mess by setting the animals loose! Join all our Gotham Girls, even including guest-stars, as they try to clean up in time for the show. And check back in with Harley Quinn, as she makes a couple new friends...

Ultimate Gotham Girls #24 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Face to Face, Part 2.

Two-Face is on the loose, with only Poison Ivy to keep an eye on him. Will Ivy slide back into her villainous ways, or will Two-Face force her to show her new colors? How will Harvey Dent be able to face up to his deepest fears, when he's just become free of them? And what on earth are Ivy and Batgirl doing working together? All this and more in the thrilling conclusion to Gotham Girls year two!

Ultimate Gotham Girls #23 (2009)

Ultimate Gotham Girls: Face to Face, Part One.

Harvey Dent has had enough. After months of treatment and no progress, he is desperate to get rid of the voice in his head, the other half of his mind that has always been there. And with the help of a touch of magic, Harvey can get his wish...but at what price? With Two-Face on the loose and no coin to contain him, how will Batgirl be able to keep Gotham City safe?

Ultimate Gotham Girls Annual #1 (2010)
Ultimate Gotham Girls Annual: Resolution & Spoiler's Nutcracker Suite.

Ultimate Gotham Girls #25 (2010)
Ultimate Gotham Girls: Beginning Again.

Ultimate Gotham Girls #26 (2010)
Ultimate Gotham Girls: Scout's Honor.

Ultimate Gotham Girls #27 (2010)
Ultimate Gotham Girls: A Light in a Dark Wood.

Ultimate Gotham Girls #28 (2010)
Ultimate Gotham Girls: Rocket's Red Glare, Part 1.
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