

TITLE

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN

to a BLINDING SUN behind the silhouettes of two gravestones.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAWN

The first gravestone reads the name: JONATHAN SAMUEL KENT.

The second, older and weathered stone: CLARK JOSEPH KENT.

SUPER-IMPOSE:

Smallville, Kansas

Thursday, November 10th, 2016

(All Super-imposes are typed across the screen live to the sound of the keys of a typewriter -- the accompanying "KA-CHING" at each line break.)

MARTHA KENT(81) stands before the graves in this unkempt old cemetery. She herself fitting right in with the decrepit, dying and depressed greenery under these gray skies.

The sound of a whistling bird enters the scene.

Martha looks up to see a BLUE-JAY land on the branch of a leafless little tree.

Its whistles soothe the deafening silence and add just a spot of color to this drab setting.

Her face almost lights up, but fails to brighten completely in this slight moment before she watches the rogue little foreigner take off.

EXT. KANSAS - LATER

A dirty white 1990 Ford F150 pickup streams down the barren veiny roads of the hilly farmland plains of Kansas.

It's a depressingly sublime sight of the true American countryside and the dying industry occupying it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The pickup speeds past collapsing old barns and fences, abandoned tractor-trailers rusting on the side of the road.

Further along this stretch, the pickup passes a wide open field before a wood.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Deep in the middle of the field is A CRATER in the ground. The grass has long since reclaimed the soil, but the indentation remains.

EXT. KANSAS - DAY

The pickup continues down the veins of Smallville's farming zones. It trails off down a long but dead-end road where, at the end, the Kent farm is settled.

EXT. KENT FARM - DAY

ESTABLISHING: Rather well kept considering the economic climate. It's a dusty old ranch with a barn and chickens.

With her cane she steps out of the pickup and works her way toward the house.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Her frail, old hands feed the flames in the fireplace with paper and twigs.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The same pair of hands pull a big heavy, hard covered SCRAPBOOK off of a dusty old shelf.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

BACK AT THE FIREPLACE

the fire is burning healthily, illuminating the hand-bound cover of the scrapbook.

Embroidered on the cover are the letters spelling, "CLARK."

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The hands flip open the book to a big white page with a single BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH in the center--

It's of a married couple and their toddler son in happy times. The hand caresses the photograph.

The page is turned--

Both pages are filled with pictures of the late 1960's, early '70s era.

Martha holds back her tears as she stares in amazement at the photographs, as if she had not seen them in years.

She continues flipping through this bound time machine, progressing along the timeline of Clark's life.

School photos are pasted across the pages, showing his age progression. What a normal child he looks like. However... there is something of a loss in his eyes. Something dead. The older he gets, the more it appears in his expressions.

She continues flipping through before coming upon a full page spread. It's a newspaper clipping--

#### NYC ATTACKED

#### 'SUPER' MAN SAVES DAY

Saturday, February 27th, 1993

A photo shows Superman holding a woman in his arms as he descends toward the ground in front of the World Trade Center lobby.

CLOSE ON THE ARTICLE--

HIGH-FLYING MAN RESCUES TRAPPED EMPLOYEES INSIDE THE WORLD  
TRADE CENTER AFTER TERRORIST BOMBING. WORLD IN AWE.

Martha stares proudly at the spread for a BEAT.

Then she tears the entire page out.

She crumbles it and into the fire it lands.

On the next page, another newspaper article--

#### I SPENT THE NIGHT WITH THE SUPERMAN

by Lois Lane

Monday, March 8th, 1993

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bordering the article are photographs of young Lois and Clark throughout the years -- a short archive of their relationship -- Vacationing in Hawaii, at a friend's wedding, enjoying the farm, together.

Martha rips this page out too. Upon doing so, she notices the photograph of Lois and Clark on their wedding day on the back. She looks at it for only a moment before flinging it into the fireplace, too.

The side of the page with the wedding photograph lands facing up. The flames quickly overtake it.

TEAR-TEAR-TEAR--

CRUMBLE-CRUMBLE-CRUMBLE--

BURN-BURN-BURN--

One page after the next--

Another clipped headline--

SUPERMAN INTERVENES,

PREVENTS MASS GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

Friday, April 8th, 1994

The attached photo shows Superman bottle feeding an emaciated four year old Tutsi boy -- Michel Nzambimana. He cradles the child like he were his own baby.

She tears it out.

And another--

SUPERMAN AWARDED NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Sunday, December 11th, 1994

The photograph underneath the front page headline shows Superman standing proudly with the golden medallion of Alfred Nobel.

His smile in the photograph... it's full of life. So genuine. So proud.

Martha can no longer hold back the tears while staring at the clipping. She smiles.

She then tears it out of the scrapbook.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

SUPERMAN MIA AS PLANES HIJACKED, CRASHED INTO WTC, PENTAGON.  
DEATH TOLL IN THE THOUSANDS.

Wednesday, September 12th, 2001

The accompanying photo shows Superman kneeling before the ruins of the World Trade Center, covered in dust. Weeping.

Martha is pained by the sight before it too is quickly torn out and burned.

The next page shows a photograph of Clark -- his glasses and tucked in shirt -- holding up a copy of his book. Next to this photo is a cutout of the book cover pasted right next to it. The title reads, "Man of Glass."

She flips the page--

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

With dozens of pages missing, she places the scrapbook back on the shelf.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Her stocking covered leg comes through from under the dress, touching the floor next to her other leg.

Her arm slides through the short sleeve of her dress.

She zips up the back.

She brushes her hair back.

She covers her lips in lipstick.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

On the mantle of the fireplace is a shrine to her husband's time in the armed forces. A flag lies folded and encased next to a black and white photograph of a young Jonathan Kent in the army. His medal of honor is draped over the picture frame.

The fire burns brightly.

From a shelf of dusty old VHS tapes, Martha pulls one out. It's a recorded tape with a blank white cover.

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On the side bar of the tape is written, "Super Bowl XXV - 1991." Underneath it says, "Dallas Episodes."

An old VCR sits under a newer flat screen TV mounted on the wall.

The video plays, the tracking skipping through the shots on the screen.

ANNOUNCER

(V/O)

Ladies and gentlemen--

Martha sits back in her chair, lighting a cigarette. She looks beautiful.

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

(V/O)

...Our National Anthem--

(beat)

...from the 56th tactical training wing... and will be perfor--

(beat)

--Award winner, Whitney Houston.

The tracking lightens up just in time--

She places the burning cigarette butt in the ashtray as she stands for the National Anthem which Whitney Houston sings.

Martha holds her hand on her chest as the anthem plays. She looks over at the mantle over the fireplace. The smoke streams up past her face.

At about "the bombs bursting in air," she collapses--

The rest of the anthem can be heard all throughout the house--

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Pictures align the wall across from the staircase. More pictures of young Clark on the farm.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The bed lies made.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

An empty pill bottle sits on the sink.

The label reads, "Alprazolam." Commonly known as Xanax.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Martha lies on the floor in front of the TV. There is an astounding applause for Whitney Houston.

The cigarette goes out.

The fire burns brightly.

END COLD OPEN