

PAGE 1 (four panels)

Panel 1. Overview shot of Metropolis, there is a domed sports coliseum in the middle of the scene.

TITLE: TO LEAVE THIS LIFE BEHIND...

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Panel 2. Close in on the dome with its parking lot completely full of vehicles.

CAP/SUPERMAN(inside dome): LADIES AND GENTLEMAN OF METROPOLIS.

Panel 3. Inside the dome now, families and kids fill the stands. The floor is set up like the Barnum & Bailey circus and the clowns, animals, and performers prepare for their final bow. In the center ring stands Superman speaking to the crowd.

SUPERMAN: THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS CHARITY SHOW WILL HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE,
AND I WANTED TO PERSONALLY THANK-

Panel 4. Close in on Superman doubling over in pain. His body glows and shoots out sparks of energy that arc down to the nearby ground.

SUPERMAN: UUGH!

PAGE 2 (six panels)

Panel 1. Exterior of the dome. Light spills forth from large cracks running along the coliseum walls and upper part of the dome.

Panel 2. The dome explodes. Dust, fire, and smoke spread through the air and one or two neighboring buildings crumble from the radius of the blast.

Panel 3. Back to what used to be the center ring. Superman's silhouette rises from the midst of the dust and smoke.

Panel 4. Superman holds himself in a fetal position while shaking violently. Smaller streaks of energy still arc from his body.

SUPERMAN(weakly): OH GOD.

Panel 5. Looking down his arm towards his face as he reaches out towards the rubble. Tears streak down his face.

SUPERMAN(screaming): NOOOO--

Panel 6. Clark bolts upright in his bed...startled awake. Sweat pours down his body and it looks like he's about to break down in tears.

SUPERMAN(screaming): --OOOOOO!

PAGE 3 (six panels)

Panel 1. Clark's hands cupped under a sink with water running into them.

Panel 2. His elbows rest on the sink with his fingers through his hair while his palms rest against forehead. He stares blankly into the sink as if suffering from shock.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "IT'S BEEN THE SAME EVERY NIGHT SINCE..."

Panel 3. Looking from across the bedroom, Clark walks out of the bathroom. His stance and posture make him look worn and defeated.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "IT JUST REPLAYS OVER AND OVER.

Panel 4. From Clark's POV. He walks across the room towards a chair by the window that has his costume draped over it.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "SO MANY PEOPLE DIED THAT NIGHT.

Panel 5. Still Clark's POV. He holds the costume in his hands. The panel centers on the "S".

CAP/SUPERMAN: "SO MANY CHILDREN..."

Panel 6. Close in on the costume as a tear splashes against the logo.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "SOME JUST--

CAP/SUPERMAN: "--BABIES."

PAGE 4 (seven panels)

Panel 1. Before us is Metropolis and the Daily Planet building. Superman floats in the air and looks through one of the windows in the building. He sees Lois inside lying asleep with her head rested on the keyboard of her computer.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "SO MANY LOVED ONES TORN APART AND DESTROYED."

Panel 2. Looking through a torn up guardrail. Supergirl crouches next to the torn open door of a smashed up car while checking to see if the family inside is okay. Behind her the wooded landscape of a mountain strikes skyward from the winding road the car swerved off of and Superman stays suspended in the air behind them all looking downwards.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "FAMILIES SEPARATED."

Panel 3. Superman flies over a street in Gotham city as we see the classic caped silhouette of Batman below in the streetlights. Batman leaps down toward a group of people breaking into a car.

CAP/SUPERMAN: "FRIENDS LOST FOREVER."

Panel 4. Extreme close up of Superman's face (mostly just his nose and eyes). The reflection in the eyes reveals a large castle in the Scottish highlands

Panel 5. Same as panel 4 except the reflection is the Eiffel Tower and Paris.

Panel 6. Same as panel 4 except the reflection is the Great Wall of China. Tears run down Superman's face again.

Panel 7. Small panel. In the distance over the ocean, a small remote island shows as a silhouette before the moon.

PAGE 5 (seven panels)

Panel 1. Angled upshot from just inside a large crevasse. Superman stands there with the tips of his toes over the edge. A tropical forest landscape stretches out behind him.

SUPERMAN: NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED.

SUPERMAN: I JUST CAN'T-

Panel 2. His weight shifts and little bits of rock/dirt fall into the crevasse. He gathers up his courage with a deep breath as one of his hand wipes the moisture away from one of his eyes defiantly.

SUPERMAN: WHAT IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN?

SUPERMAN: HOW MANY MORE COULD D-

BATMAN(OP): NO ONE.

Panel 3. Superman drops back to a sitting position--slumped over and head buried in his hands. Batman stands behind him.

SUPERMAN: I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY MORE.

SUPERMAN: ALL OF THEM. SO HAPPY...FULL OF LIFE, AND--

SUPERMAN: THEY FELT SAFE BECAUSE OF ME.

Panel 4. From behind. Batman places his hand on Superman's shoulder while staring down at him.

SUPERMAN(shouting): ME!

SUPERMAN: I'M THEIR PROTECTOR...AND I...THEY-

BATMAN: YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THIS.

Panel 5. Small panel. Batman holds his hand palm up in front of Superman...like a gesture to help him up.

BATMAN: EVERYONE WANTS TO HELP YOU.

BATMAN: I WANT TO HELP YOU.

SUPERMAN: WHAT IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN?

Panel 6. Superman and Batman walk towards Batman's jet. Batman has a consoling hand on Superman's back/shoulder.

SUPERMAN: I COULDN'T-

BATMAN: I'VE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS.

BATMAN: BE STRONG.

BATMAN: IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH FOR QUITE A WHILE, BUT--

Panel 7. Upshot from the bottom of the crevasse. The silhouette of Batman's jet tears across the night sky. Large jagged pieces of obsidian jut up out of the ground in the crevasse, and we see now that the walls leading upward are lined with kryptonite.

BATMAN (from jet): --IT'S BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.