

SUPERGIRL

"PILOT"

STORY

BY

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KREISBERG WRITTEN BY

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**BASED ON CHARACTERS
APPEARING IN THE DC COMICS**

**DC
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BERLANTI
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TEASER

FROM THE BLACK:

KARA (V.O.)
*So here's the deal, my cousin--
he's kind of famous.*

FADE UP ON:

EXT. SPACE -- KRYPTON -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK

A RED SUN THROBS in SPACE as we OPEN TO INCLUDE the planet KRYPTON. The SCREEN READS: "The Planet Krypton. Many Years Ago." Krypton is trembling, molten, threatening to explode.

KARA (V.O.)
*You may think you know my story
because you know his story--*

EXT. KRYPTON -- NIGHT -- FLASHBACK

The CAMERA ZOOMS towards a GIANT FORTRESS -- and the familiar SUPERMAN "S" emblazoned across the top DOME -- The "S" separates revealing a LAUNCH BAY -- a SPACE POD maneuvering into place, ENGINES glowing, readied for lift-off --

KARA (V.O.)
But you don't. Not yet.

INT. LAUNCH BAY -- KRYPTON -- SAME

CLOSE ON: A dark-haired baby, KAL-EL. LARA, the infant's mother, clings to her child wrapped in a special blanket. Her husband, JOR-EL, stands by.

JOR-EL NODS, IT'S TIME. HE PRESSES THE IGNITION to his infant's pod. It ROCKETS AWAY as the planet SHAKES, poised to burst. As Jor-El soothes his sobbing wife, we PAN from this familiar tableau as CAMERA LOCATES SOMETHING NEW:

ANOTHER SPACE POD. Two equally distraught parents, ZOR-EL, and his wife, ALURA, putting on brave faces for their 13 year-old daughter beside her pod. YOUNG KARA ZOR-EL, outwardly braver than she ought to be, given the circumstances.

ZOR-EL
*Your pod's coordinates are
interlocked with Kal-El's. You
will follow him to Earth --*

KARA
I'm not afraid, Father.

Zor-El puts a hand on his daughter's shoulder --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZOR-EL

So like your mother...

ALURA

The trip is long but you'll sleep most of the way. And we will be with you in your dreams.

As Krypton SHAKES threateningly, things FALL and CRASH around them. Alura strokes Kara's cheek:

ALURA (CONT'D)

You'll journey to Earth to watch over your baby cousin, Kal-El. Because of Earth's yellow sun, you'll have great powers on this planet. You'll be able to do extraordinary things.

YOUNG KARA

I won't fail Kal-El, Mother. Or you.

ALURA

I love you, Kara. You have to go. Now.

As their world SHAKES, falling apart around them, Kara heads for the pod -- about to board -- when she hesitates -- the CAMERA comes around and we see a TEAR has escaped her stoic eyes -- she turns back -- rushes to her mother and embraces her for the last time --

YOUNG KARA

I love you.

The she BOARDS HER POD -- hands dancing over the controls -- PRESSING HER IGNITION BUTTON. The rockets FLARE, Alura tearfully watches after her daughter's EXITING POD:

EXT. SPACE -- ANDROMEDA GALAXY -- SECONDS LATER

As Krypton EXPLODES in her wake, we TRAVEL with Kara as her pod SAILS to a new world, as it JOINS baby KAL-EL's pod.

KARA (V.O.)

Things didn't exactly go according to my mother's plan--

EXT. SPACE -- SECONDS LATER

TWO PODS WHIZZING in tandem, UNTIL-- Kara's POD suddenly BREAKS AWAY, LOST in a CLUSTER of STARS --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA (V.O.)
My ship was knocked off course.
Lost in what I now know was "The
Phantom Zone." My cousin's ship,
well... it kept going --

KAL-EL's POD SAFELY SAILS THROUGH THE CLUSTER, DISAPPEARING
OFF INTO THE STARS.

EXT. WILDERNESS -- EARTH -- DAY -- 24 YEARS LATER

KARA'S POD CRASHES to the ground alongside some meteorites,
creating a fiery clearing upon landing.

KARA (V.O.)
Twenty-four years passed while I
slept, suspended in time.

As the smoke clears, we are on the DOOR of the POD as A PAIR
OF POWERFUL HANDS WRENCH THE DOOR open and OFF its HINGES, as
we REVEAL YOUNG KARA inside, still thirteen.

KARA (V.O.)
When I arrived, I was still a
thirteen year-old girl. But in
that same time, my cousin Kal-El
had grown up and revealed himself
to your world... as Superman, the
most powerful man in the Universe.

Kara emerges and looks up at -- SUPERMAN, hidden in the
sunlight. (NOTE: We will never show his face and we'll barely
use the name "Superman" because this show isn't about him.
It's about Kara.) From behind him, we look down at KARA --
as Superman's CAPE WHIPS UP and dominates frame, we WIPE TO:

EXT. DANVERS' HOME -- MIDVALE -- SUNSET -- LATER

On the porch of a SMALL HOUSE in a beach town like Monterey.
We watch OVER THE EDGE of Superman's shoulder as HE FINISHES
HUGGING YOUNG KARA.

KARA (V.O.)
My cousin wanted me to have the
same safe, human type childhood he
did.

Kara walks toward the door. We see DR. JEREMIAH DANVERS and
DR. DANA DANVERS (40's) in their doorway. Kind and loving.

KARA (V.O.)
So he placed me with my adoptive
family, the Danvers, scientists who
once helped him understand his own
super abilities --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Young Kara looks through the window, as we FIND the Danvers' fourteen-year-old daughter, YOUNG ALEX DANVERS. Young Alex stares at young Kara, more jealous than curious. Young Kara looks back at Alex, attempts to push away her fear.

KARA (V.O.)

-- they had a daughter, Alex. And, despite being born on different planets, we both shared one thing: we knew our lives would never be the same again.

Kara looks back just in time to see her COUSIN FLY AWAY. She is wistful-- but a fighter. Again, her face turns from fear to courage as she bravely walks into another new unknown:

KARA (V.O.)

And then I faced something far more terrifying than rocketing into space on my own -- junior high.

EXT. MIDVALE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

Young Kara and Young Alex walk through a SEA OF TEENAGERS. Alex not happy to have gained a sibling, Kara trying to be brave but WINCES as we CUT INTO HER P.O.V:

Her X-RAY VISION and SUPER HEARING assaulting her senses -- people become transparent -- a cacophony of TEEN VOICES --

KARA (V.O.)

I had my cousin's powers, but I couldn't control them. I saw too much, heard too much--

Kara digests the new sights and sounds. Mean things kids say behind someone's back, Kara HEARS ALL in an OVERWHELMING DIN.

FEMALE STUDENT #1

Who's the new girl...?

FEMALE STUDENT #2

Foster kid. Alex Danvers' parents took her in.

FEMALE STUDENT #1

I'd hate my parents if they did that to me--

FEMALE STUDENT #2

Totally. Who wants a stranger living in your room?

Alex puts distance between herself and Kara as RICK MALVERNE (15, angel-faced bad boy) approaches her, he likes Alex--

RICK MALVERNE

Bunch of us are heading to Swan Beach after school. Wanna come?

Of course Alex does, but looks to Kara who is now trying to figure out how to make water come out of the fountain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG ALEX
Supposed to hang out with...
(what to call her?)
...her.

Rick looks over to Kara who has finally figured out how to make the water come out, now: how to drink it?

RICK
(what a weirdo, joking)
What? Was she, like, born on another planet...?

Alex covers, laughs along with Rick. Other KIDS WHISPER about Kara's odd behavior. Kara HEARS all with SUPER-HEARING, masks her hurt. Rick walks off to other girls. Alex is annoyed to rejoin Kara--

YOUNG ALEX
God, can you at least pretend to know how to fit in--

EXT. SWAN BEACH -- MIDVALE -- LATER -- DAY

TEENS hang on the beach -- Alex sits with Rick. She clearly likes him but is distracted by Kara who is by herself and touching the ocean water for the first time. Kara reacts, delighted. This time it's Alex who OVERHEARS:

FEMALE STUDENT #1
What is wrong with that girl...?

FEMALE STUDENT #2
It's like she's never been to the beach before--

RICK MALVERNE
Your new sister is a weirdo.

People are staring at Kara. Alex is used to fitting in, even being the center of attention. She strides over to Kara, mad, made to feel as out-of-it as Kara.

YOUNG ALEX
Stop it! Everyone's staring at you--

YOUNG KARA
I-- I'm sorry-- we didn't have blue oceans on my planet.

YOUNG ALEX
Don't say that stuff out loud.

But suddenly, Kara is not listening -- her attention focused on something else -- SUPERHEARING -- she stands up -- the CAMERA SPINNING AROUND HER -- she hears the sound of TIRES SCREECHING -- and then a CRASH -- she reacts --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG ALEX (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you?

No time to explain -- Kara races off into the woods --

YOUNG ALEX (CONT'D)

KARA!

EXT. BEACH ROAD -- MIDVALE -- CONTINUOUS

Kara bursts from the treeline onto a DIRT ROAD -- sees a BURNING SUV wrapped around a tree -- a MOTHER and her BABY TRAPPED INSIDE -- flames threatening to burn them alive --

Kara practically LEAPS across the road -- walking through the fire -- she RIPS OFF the driver's side door -- Kara looks in the backseat -- sees a BABY in a CAR SEAT -- flames reaching out for him -- a living memory of baby Kal-El -- Kara SNAPS the mother's seat belt loose with one jerk --

YOUNG KARA

RUN!

Kara grabs the baby -- shielding him from the fire -- getting clear -- just before the SUV EXPLODES -- FLAMING SHRAPNEL SHOWERING her -- but she stands completely unharmed --

MOTHER

Thank God! Thank you!

Kara hands the infant to his grateful mother -- too happy her baby is safe to register the miracle -- Kara smiles, feeling like she's finally done something right and fulfilling some semblance of her original mission on Earth -- but then she turns and sees -- Young Alex -- with Rick and the other teens. EVERYONE IS STARING AT HER. They WHISPER to EACH OTHER, but she can HEAR IT ALL:

RICK MALVERNE

(under his breath)

Freak...

KARA (V.O.)

My mother told me I would fit in on Earth because I looked just like them. But I didn't.

Kara's gone from an odd girl who doesn't fit in, to someone they almost fear. As WHISPERS OVERTAKE Kara--

EXT. DANVERS' HOME -- MIDVALE -- NIGHT

Kara sits on the PORCH SWING -- looking up wistfully at the stars -- Dr. Jeremiah Danvers approaches --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. DANVERS

The kids, their parents, the police... they're all wondering how you pulled off rescuing those people today. We told them you got lucky. That excuse will work once.

Dr. Danvers smiles and sits beside her --

YOUNG KARA

You're angry with me?

DR. DANVERS

I know you were only trying to help. But your cousin wants you to be safe. He wants you to have a normal life. The world already has a Superman. All you need to be is Kara Danvers.

Dr. Danvers takes a PAIR OF GLASSES from his shirt pocket -- hands them to Kara --

DR. DANVERS (CONT'D)

The frames are lined with lead. They'll help suppress your vision and hearing. Make life... easier.

YOUNG KARA

Thank you.

Dr. Danvers puts a comforting hand on her shoulder --

DR. DANVERS

I know I'm not your dad, Kara. But I'm here and I'm not going anywhere.

As Kara puts on the glasses, a disguise to fool everyone, including herself -- we see Young Alex watching this moment from inside -- and as the two sisters choose the roles they will play for the next twelve years -- we:

EXT. NATIONAL CITY STREET -- PRESENT DAY

A buzzing CROWD of PEOPLE on their way to work. The SCREEN READS: "National City."

KARA (V.O.)

And so over the next twelve years I learned how to fit in. I got so good at it, I forgot to ever stand out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE 25 year-old BESPECTACLED KARA DANVERS: average pedestrian. Overwhelmed but adroit, balancing her purse, computer bag, coffee and a pastry sack, on BLUETOOTH.

KARA (INTO BLUETOOTH)
--Need two tickets in the orchestra section for "Wicked." No, not for Ms. Grant. Her mother wants to see it... Yes, again -- hang on a sec -- Hey, Charlie, yeah, I called about the Correspondents Dinner. Need to make sure Ms. Grant doesn't wind up next to Bill O'Reilly again.

As she drifts back into the crowd --

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- ELEVATOR AREA -- DAY

ELEVATOR DOORS open and we can barely make KARA out from a SEA of OTHER EMPLOYEES. The OTHERS empty onto the floor, pushing and shoving Kara out of the way as they exit.

KARA (V.O.)
I work at Catco Media, an online and print media empire, built by my boss, Cat Grant -- the most powerful woman in National City... at least, for the next few days.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- A MOMENT LATER

Kara scurries through, the wallflower of the office. HAYASHI, one of her MALE CO-WORKERS passes:

HAYASHI
Kara, about the comp stats Cat requested -- I didn't finish them yet. Was hoping you could tell her you lost them, buy me an extra hour?

He doesn't wait for an answer, knows she'll say yes. Another co-worker, TOBEY, passes from the other direction --

TOBEY
You get me my reservation at Nobu?

KARA
I'm not even your assistant, Tobey.

TOBEY
You get all the connections on Cat's desk. C'mon, I'll set you up with my friend. He loves the smart ones.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kara says nothing, rolls her eyes, arrives at her desk. Sets stuff down by WINN SCHOTT (mid-20's), the Harry Potter-cute IT guy who works next to her. Kara adores Winn, doesn't get that he has a (not so) secret crush.

WINN

(off his screen)

Did you see this? Bank robbery last night. No witnesses except for a homeless guy who swears the perp... had horns. Like, on his head. I'm telling you. They are out there. Aliens. And more and more they're coming here -- to National City.

KARA

Winn, there's no such thing as aliens.

WINN

You might feel differently if you read this website.

KARA

You write that website.

WINN

I *contribute*... Sorry I fell asleep during our FaceTime last night. Maybe, sometime, we could watch a movie together, you know, in the same room.

KARA

I had fun watching you snore--
(pushes down glasses)
Your septum is slightly deviated in your left nostril, I'd get that checked--

WINN

How did... nevermind. Hey, maybe we could go see one tonight in real life?

KARA

Sorry, I would, but I have a date--

WINN

(devastated)

A date? Really? Cool. Awesome. Great. Dating's fun. Who with?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

Match.com guy. We're 82 percent compatible so it should be good--

WINN

You can't quantify emotions based on an algorithm.

KARA

Winn, you're I.T. Isn't your whole life based on algorithms?

WINN

Yes, so if there was an algorithm for love, I'd know about it. Just like you'll know it when it hits you, Kara. It'll be like: WAH-POW!

Kara HEARS something with her SUPER HEARING: a woman's voice.

CAT (O.S.)

This elevator is a human petri-dish. It's like standing in coach.

KARA

She's here...

WINN

How do you do that?

ELEVATOR DOORS open and CAT GRANT BURSTS forth (40's), steely, exacting. She beelines to Kara with all the cool energy of a nuclear missile.

KARA

Morning Ms. Grant --

WINN (CONT'D)

Howdy, Ms. Grant.

Ignoring them, Cat dumps her bag and coat with Kara.

KARA

Here's your latte. Hot.

CAT

That'll be new and different.

Cat sips her latte, clearly not hot. Used to this, she hands it back, heads into the conference room. Kara follows.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- CAT'S OFFICE -- LATER

A Century City-like high-rise view of the city. A WALL OF MONITORS -- CATCO MEDIA LOGO moving on them. Cat's at the head of the table. Kara's in the back, taking it all in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At the big table, a bunch of MEN (including TOBEY and HAYASHI) and a couple of women. Graphs appear digitally.

TOBEY

--CatCo shaved sixteen percent off our bottom line by outsourcing web coding overseas-- with the same kind of fiscal success in mind, we're recommending we downsize our subsidiary, the National City Tribune. The paper can be wholly digital within two quarters--

Kara reacts, first she's heard of this. The room watches Cat, they know the Trib is her crown jewel.

CAT

It's a big move. The Trib was my first acquisition--

TOBEY

You asked for immediate improvements. This is the most obvious one. Halves expenses... printing, distribution, personnel costs--

Tobey is pushing her, which Cat never enjoys.

CAT

I can do math, Tobey. We'll resume after lunch.

The room disbands. Except Kara who sticks around to receive her next series of orders --

CAT (CONT'D)

Cancel my three o'clock, see if those proofs are ready with the new art director-- What? What is with that face? Who kicked your puppy?

KARA

It's just... taking the Trib digital. I can't help thinking about how many people will lose their jobs. What will happen to all of them? To their families?

CAT

Their families are the ones who stopped reading the newspaper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KARA

But they don't have to downsize at the Daily Planet. Their circulation has actually increased--

CAT

Metropolis has a person in a cape who performs heroic acts. The Planet puts this superlative man on their cover 35% of the time. You want to save the Tribune? Go out there and find me a hero. I thought you got how this worked, Ker-ah--

KARA

--Kar-ah.

CAT

--I don't need or want your opinion. Now, with the exception of your inability to procure me a hot latte, you're better than my previous four assistants combined. So observe, learn and shhh.

(doesn't wait)

Now fly down to the art department, see if they have my proofs. Go go.

As Kara leaves, HOLD ON Cat's face -- and a flickering of human emotion at the tough call in front of her.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- ART DIRECTOR'S OFFICE -- JUST LATER

Kara comes in brusquely, notices there's boxes all around. Someone seems to be moving in. She calls out:

KARA

Hello...?

A MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah. I'll just be a minute.

KARA

Sorry. Ms. Grant sent me for proofs. She doesn't like to wait--

She finds A MAN, his back to her (and us) removing a LARGE PHOTO from a crate. He continues unpacking it.

THE MAN

She can wait a minute.

KARA

Um... do you know Ms. Grant?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE MAN

What's she going to do, fire me
right after hiring me? Her loss.
Hey, I'm the new guy--

He (early 30's) looks up, smiles. A rare combo of charming
and genuine, it hits Kara. *Just like Winn said it would.*

Kara's flummoxed, averts her gaze. Looks at the PHOTO he's
unpacked: a *PHOTO OF SUPERMAN*. (*Deep in the sky so we can't
make him out, but a beautiful IMAGE.*)

KARA

It's *him*. I know this photo, seen
it a million times-- it won a
Pulitzer.

THE MAN

Only because it was the first *real*
shot of him. Little secret, he
actually posed for it. He liked me.

KARA

Oh my god, you're Jimmy Olsen. The
photographer from the Daily Planet.

JAMES

James Olsen. Jimmy's just for my
mom and the Big Guy. He's very
stuck in his ways.

She looks at the picture, not sure how to feel about the man.

KARA

I know what I've read... but what's
he like in real life?
(almost hoping against it)
Is he as great as everyone says?

JAMES

No... Better. Which is actually the
only annoying thing about him.
(the truth)
I was scared to leave everything I
knew and move out here. But he told
me-- the biggest risk was never
taking any.

Kara just stares at the photo. James gets an idea --

JAMES (CONT'D)

Take it.

KARA

Oh, god, no, I couldn't--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMES

It's just a print, take it. Only thing, you've gotta tell me who you are first.

(off her look)

I don't know your name.

KARA

Oh gosh, it's Kara. Kara Danvers.

James goes up to her, close. She's affected by his proximity.

JAMES

Kara-- Anyone ever tell you, you look a little like *him*? Here...

He indicates her eyes. If Kara could blush she would.

KARA

No-- Nope. You're the first.

She starts to leave, addled by this new emotion:

JAMES

Oh, hey...? Proofs.

He hands them over, today just got so much better.

KARA

(quietly, to herself)

Wah pow.

EXT. KARA'S LOFT BUILDING -- THAT NIGHT

A loft style building in an artsy, rundown district.

KARA (PRE-LAP)

Guess I assumed because Cat Grant's a woman, she'd be less cutthroat, but she's just as ruthless as any businessman out there--

INT. KARA'S LOFT -- SAME

Kara is frustrated as she goes through her smallish closet.

KARA

--I mean, I went to work for her at Catco cause I thought I'd be making a difference, it's one of the most influential media companies in the world. But she's gonna do it... she's actually going to gut the same paper that started her whole business --

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA (CONT'D)
(toggling, excited)
And *guess* who just started working there? Only *Jimmy Olsen!* Calls himself James now. Ten pounds of muscle and a Pulitzer will do that.

She exits the closet, holds an option up for her adopted sister ALEX DANVERS (20's) standing nearby. Alex has grown up with all the confidence her sister hasn't.

KARA (CONT'D)
What does this say about me for my Match.com date?

ALEX
Says you need to shop more. Out of my way. If I don't help you pick out something quickly, I'll be late for the airport--

As Alex starts picking out clothing options for Kara--

ALEX (CONT'D)
Who's Jimmy Olsen?

KARA
The Daily Planet photographer? Come on. From Metropolis? Only as talented as he is hot... Won a Pulitzer for that picture of him --

Kara indicates the PHOTO on the mantle: Supes in the sky.

KARA (CONT'D)
Most people see that and they're reminded of all the things they want to do but can't. I see it... and I'm reminded of all the things I can do... but don't.
(struggling)
I just... I feel like I'm not living up to my potential.

ALEX
That's every person our age.

KARA
Not every person. Look at you. You're a doctor jetting off to Geneva tonight for an immunology conference. You make a difference in the world--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

Don't believe everything you see.
I'll be counting cellular anomalies
with a bunch of nerds.

(as she picks clothes)

You're being too hard on yourself.
You chose not to use your powers
because you wanted a normal, human
life. This is what normal looks
like--

KARA

But... I'm... not a normal person.
I can lift a bus... stop a bullet.
Alex, I can fly... or I think I
can... haven't done it in years.

Alex looks sorry for her sister -- shifts her tone.

ALEX

Right, I can't miss my plane. Text
me all the details about your date.

She picks a top, hands off her final selection for Kara.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And wear this. When in doubt, go
with blue.

Alex gives her a kiss on the cheek, good-bye. Off Kara, her
eyes drifting from the outfit to that picture, as we:

YALE (PRE-LAP)

--So. Where you from originally?

INT. RESTAURANT BAR -- LATER

Kara is mid-date with a cute-enough and very bored guy, YALE.
She's trying very hard to engage.

KARA

Born? Like, where was I born?
(off his tired nod)
Uhhm. North.

YALE

That's so... specific.

Thus is Kara's plight. Never really being able to reveal her
true story to anyone. A BING from his phone.

YALE (CONT'D)

Gotta hit this back real quick--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He indicates the bathroom. Gets up. Kara watches as Yale approaches a pretty waitress, checking her out. Kara brushes her hair back from her ear, uses her SUPER-HEARING:

YALE (CONT'D)

The check, please? And make sure your number is on it.

The waitress nods at Yale's flirty request. Kara rolls her eyes, another loser. He EXITS to the bathroom. Kara reaches for her purse, about to leave, when she HEARS SOMETHING ELSE... THE BAR TV IN THE NEXT ROOM, as people gasp.

Kara crosses to the bar where PEOPLE ARE GLUED to THE NEWS.

ON THE MONITOR

Where CatCo (CBS) local news anchor RICK GARCIA has the terrible task of reporting this tragic event--

RICK GARCIA (IN STUDIO)

If you are just joining us-- shortly after take-off, National Air flight 237 bound for Geneva, is experiencing some loss of altitude. The pilot seems to be circling the city after apparent engine failure--

KARA

Did he say Geneva?
(realizing)
Alex...

ON KARA. Realizing they're talking about Alex's flight.

EXT. NATIONAL CITY STREET -- A MOMENT LATER

As the ANCHOR'S NARRATION CONTINUES OVER, we find Kara outside. Squad cars, fire-trucks, ambulances race by.

RICK GARCIA (V.O.)

Again, we'll keep you updated as we learn more information... but our hearts go out to the passengers and crew onboard. If you're the praying type, I'm afraid now's the time to do it--

Kara begins to run, TAKES OFF her glasses -- her X-RAY VISION allows her to SEE THROUGH BUILDINGS and find THE PLANE IN THE DISTANCE -- AN ENGINE ON FIRE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHE STOPS, SEEING PAST the FIERY ENGINES and SCORCHED FUSELAGE to the PASSENGERS, can't help but use her SUPER-HEARING: *Many scream, plead.* As Kara confirms her worst fears as she LOCATES--

--ALEX, ON THE FLIGHT. Alex consoles a terrified TEEN SITTING NEXT TO HER, being of service in a no-win situation.

ALEX

Just look at me, look in my eyes.
Don't even worry about out there...

Kara SEES IT ALL: *her sister the hero, the cockpit, the cabin, the AIR-COMM, the passengers -- all a swirl, a collage of desperation. Another ENGINE FLAMES OUT--*

PILOT (INTO COMM)

--We just lost another engine--
Mayday. Mayday. Mayday--

VOICES and SOUNDS MOUNT, creating a CACOPHONOUS DIN, we are BACK ON KARA. THEN, ON THE PLANE as it PLUMMETS. INSIDE THE PLANE as passengers and crew brace themselves.

KARA FREEZES -- uncertain -- as if she knows her life will never be the same -- but it's her MOMENT OF TRUTH -- AND SHE MAKES HER CHOICE -- SHE DASHES behind a building, KICKS off heels, shakes down her hair, rips off her jacket. It's what we've been waiting for: she points her arms to the sky --

--UP, UP AND AWAY, KARA IS FLYING! To be fair, she is flying. But not very well. We get the sense she hasn't flown in a while. She accidentally SMASHES THROUGH A BILLBOARD -- CRASHING ONTO A ROOFTOP --

KARA

Been a while...

KARA TAKES A DEEP BREATH -- LEAPING BACK INTO THE SKY -- SOARING through the air -- *she's got a hold of it now* -- As Kara FLIES towards the doomed plane, her face sets with determination as it sails PAST CAMERA.

As we **SMASH** to OUR TITLE CARD: THAT FAMILIAR BIG RED "S."

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**EXT. NATIONAL CITY -- A SPLIT SECOND LATER**

Kara is flying! Eyes focused, teeth gritted, hair whips. Desperate to catch up to the damaged plane LEAVING A FIRE TRAIL across the National City sky --

Getting her sea legs, Kara throws her arms behind her, picks up speed, WHOOSH! Kara ROCKETS through the air, WEAVING in and out of the SKYSCRAPERS. RACES to catch up with the plane--

INT. COCKPIT -- THAT MOMENT

The PILOTS are at battle stations, ALARMS blaring, the control panels LIT UP RED -- *never a good sign* --

PILOT
MAYDAY! MAYDAY! *We're going down...*
I repeat we are going down.

So consumed, both pilots fail to see -- ON THE DASHBOARD RADAR -- a BLIP rapidly approaching --

EXT. SKIES OVER NATIONAL CITY -- SECONDS LATER

Kara is getting closer -- doing her best to match the plane's speed. SMOKE from the burning engines enveloping her, only fifty yards behind it now -- she can do this!

BOOM!! As NUMBER THREE ENGINE EXPLODES -- detaching from the wing -- hurtling straight at Kara -- no time to avoid -- she braces as it SMASHES into her!

Kara BASHES THROUGH the FLAMING WRECKAGE sending fiery metal in all directions -- spinning her out -- she's losing altitude, hurtling, until she shakes off the impact, pulls herself out of the spin and resumes CHASING the plane --

Pushing herself, she finds herself under the FUSELAGE. Rises up, hands outstretched -- fingertips grasping -- grabs the underside -- *so much heavier than she thought...*

INT. COCKPIT -- THAT MOMENT

The pilots react -- check the altimeter -- *can't be* --

PILOT
I don't understand... *we're leveling off...*

INT. PLANE CABIN -- THAT MOMENT

The passengers begin to calm, they aren't descending. But how?! ON ALEX, still holding the teenager's hands. One of the PASSENGERS realizes--

PASSENGER

We've stopped falling! It must be
him! It's Super--

Before we can hear his name aloud, CUT OUTSIDE--

EXT. PLANE -- SECONDS LATER

Kara breathing hard, can't bear the weight, lets out an involuntary YELL. Then, the plane BURSTS out of the clouds over the HARBOR -- she is doing this! Then Kara sees it --

A SUSPENSION BRIDGE. Dead ahead.

KARA

Oh, come on!

BACK ON KARA -- digging in, teeth gritted, muscles straining, trying to lift the plane higher -- but she can't -- not strong enough -- *not yet* --

Kara thinks fast -- *what can she do?!* She can't go up -- if she touches down in the water now -- at this speed -- the plane will rip to pieces -- But then -- she gets an idea --

Kara begins to MOVE HER HANDS. She SLOWLY SPINS THE PLANE to fit through the center of the bridge's cables --

As it BURNS A TRAIL through the sky, *impossibly, the plane BEGINS TO TURN*, rolling to its side, FLAMING WINGS VERTICAL.

CABIN PORTAL WINDOWS are right above her face -- now she can see inside -- PANICKED PASSENGERS as they hold on for dear life. Primal fear abounds, amongst them is-- ALEX -- WHOSE EYES WIDEN AT THE SIGHT OF HER SISTER HOLDING UP THE PLANE.

INT. PLANE CABIN -- SAME

Alex sits amongst the STUNNED and RELIEVED PASSENGERS.

VARIOUS PASSENGERS

*It's not him! / It looks... like a
girl... How...? / She's saving us!*

EXT. PLANE - THAT MOMENT

-- as Kara finds the strength, braces herself as the upright plane reaches the suspension bridge -- and passes through it, *snap, snap*, mostly missing the SUSPENSION CABLES -- the TAIL FIN shears off -- raining DEBRIS upon the TRAFFIC crossing the bridge, but miraculously:

-- the plane passes through the bridge!! And heads for the RIVER as the WATER rushes up at her and -- SPLASH! The plane HITS the water at hundreds of miles an hour -- sending A FLUME OF WATER high into the air -- dousing the flaming wings -- the metal behemoth SKIDDING across the water's surface, until finally, floating to a smoking stop --

INSIDE THE PLANE

Alex, shocked to be alive, crawls over to the window -- looks into the black water -- now, no sign of her sister.

HELICOPTERS ZIP into view, shining SPOTLIGHTS upon the downed but intact airliner -- A HAND emerges from the water, Kara pulls herself up onto the wing, wet, cold, spent, but alive-- struggles to her feet.

INSIDE THE COCKPIT

Pilot looks out his window: sees the woman, backlit against chopper SEARCH LIGHTS. No way to make out her features.

PILOT

Wait, it can't be...

INSIDE THE PLANE

The passengers celebrate, amazed to be alive -- LOOK OUT the window and see the SHADOWY SILHOUETTE OF A WOMAN -- standing on the wing -- *their savior*. Everyone jubilant, but *one passenger*, Alex, stares a beat too long at Kara, then--

BACK TO KARA

Wet, soot-covered, matted hair blocks her face. Breath visible in the air -- tonight *everyone lives*. A beat of pride, then LEAPS into the air -- WHIZZING PAST the CHOPPERS and their startled PILOTS, disappearing into the night sky --

RICK GARCIA (ON TV)

The passengers of Flight 237 appear to have a guardian angel when--

INT. KARA'S LOFT -- LATER

Kara's in sweats, hair wet from the shower. She watches the news, can't believe they're talking about her. She gobbles down another piece of pizza, content.

RICK GARCIA (ON TV)
 --What many report to be a--
*"female flying form" rescued them
 from certain death--*

ON TV: AMATEUR FOOTAGE OF KARA'S HEROISM.

RICK GARCIA (ON TV) (CONT'D)
Leyna Nguyen is live at the scene--

NEWS SWITCHES TO A REMOTE where LEYNA NGUYEN is at the CRASH SITE -- roped off, charred fuselage, cracked cement and busted suspension cables. Clean-up crews hard at work.

LEYNA NGUYEN (ON TV)
 --Thank you, Rick. Guardian angel?
 Or human-wrecking ball? Just take a
 look at this bridge --

KARA
 (to the TV reporter)
 You save a plane for the first
 time, see if you don't make a mess!

The TV PAUSES SUDDENLY on a HEROIC BUT BLURRY IMAGE of KARA.

ALEX (O.S.)
 Oh my god--

Kara turns, finds Alex holding the remote. Kara jumps to her feet, bounding with happiness, hugs Alex.

KARA
 I know! Incredible, right?

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (re: super hug)
 Ow.

KARA
 Too hard. Sorry. I'm just excited.
 I can't believe I did it!

ALEX
 No. Me either. Are you okay?

KARA
 Me? Am I okay? Are you okay?
 Were you scared? I mean, I was
 scared too, but you must have been
 freaking out because you had no
 clue I was on my way to save you--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

I need a drink.

KARA

Right, of course-- to celebrate--

But as Kara searches, Alex has found a bottle of scotch, knocks back a shot, pours herself another.

KARA (CONT'D)

It's been so long, I almost forgot how to fly. Not *how* to fly so much but how it *feels* to fly. Scared, good-scared. Like that moment right before you kiss someone for the first time.

As Alex drinks another shot, gets it together, quietly:

ALEX

Kara. You exposed yourself outside, to the general public. *What were you thinking?*

Kara pauses -- a little surprised by the response.

KARA

You don't really have time to *think* when you're saving people's lives --

ALEX

But now... you're out there, Kara. The world knows about you. You can't take this back. *Do you understand what could happen? What if people figure out who you are? Don't you see how dangerous that is?*

KARA

Maybe you can't find the words to thank me for saving your life so... let me thank you. Alex, saving your life... may have saved mine. Tonight -- all the voices that ever made me feel weird and different... they stopped. Those people, they looked at me with gratitude, with respect--

(finally)

Why aren't you looking at me like that?

There is no good answer here from Alex, she has larger concerns she can't share.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

It's just... not safe for you to do
anything like that... ever again.

A beat as the two sisters study each other, each hurt--

KARA

I'm kind of tired, I just carried a
plane on my back. I'm going to bed--
you should leave.

Alex heads for the door. Then...

ALEX

Don't say I didn't warn you.

Alex exits, as Kara watches the news reports. Maybe Alex is
right, *what has she started?*

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- NEXT MORNING

ON ELEVATOR DOORS AS THEY OPEN. FIND same old KARA DANVERS
hiding through GLASSES, terrified she'll be recognized as
COWORKERS gather around various MONITORS REPLAYING some of
the footage of Kara's sensational plane rescue.

HAYASHI (O.S.)

Omigod, Kara! You're a life-saver!

Off Kara, frozen --

HAYASHI (CONT'D)

-- Thanks for buying me that extra
time with Cat yesterday. She said
I did great work on the comps.

KARA

Oh, sure, Hayashi. No big deal.

Kara can't believe it, whether it's the glasses or the photo
isn't clear enough or everyone has too-low expectations of
her, *no one notices IT'S HER*. Kara arrives at her desk, WINN
sits next to her.

KARA (CONT'D)

Pretty cool, huh?

WINN

Plane saving lady? Sure, I guess.
Just that, how's the world supposed
to take her seriously when she
can't even come up with a suit...?

A beat, Kara looks a little miffed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

Maybe she didn't have time, had to act fast--

WINN

Metropolis gets *him* and what does National City get? A rookie superhero. Look at her plane maneuvering, doesn't even look like she knows what she's doing. Metropolis gets all the better restaurants and theatre-- now the better superhero. Figures.

Kara considers this, when suddenly CAT (O.S.) --

CAT

Ker-rah!

Kara jumps, caught. This is finally happening. Omigod-- Kara turns, CAT is HOVERING RIGHT OVER.

CAT (CONT'D)

We come to work-- to work.

KARA

Sorry, right, it's just exciting, the woman, you know, she rescued all those people--

CAT

Get the direct reports to my office immediately --

INT. CATCO -- CAT'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Cat paces in front of her WALL of SCREENS (all replaying a grainy IMAGE and/or VIDEO of KARA'S RESCUE). Cat's TOP STAFF (mostly MALE) are gathered. FIND KARA in the back:

CAT

I guess you're all used to being losers, but it's new to me. The most incredible event in the history of National City, and yet, we have no exclusive of any kind? Just low-grade AP footage and the same questions as everybody else: *Where is she from? Why is she here? Why is she revealing herself now?*

TOBEY

Don't have much to go on. Image we're working off of is low-res--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAYASHI

Guess she's around five nine.
Tough to gauge with her height
measured up against an airplane.

All of this conversation is making Kara uneasy.

ANOTHER STAFFER

Hair color brown or black.

JAMES (O.S.)

Or... maybe it's just dirty--

Kara turns, James Olsen is standing right next to her.

JAMES (CONT'D)

-- you know, from soot, the plane
exhaust. Her hair color may be
lighter in real life?

CAT

Excellent point, James. And do you
think there's any connection to--

JAMES

--my friend in blue? Who knows.
Not that he mentioned. But he's more
of the strong, silent type. But
if she's like *him*, she's a
hero, saving people is what they're
born to do. She'll be back.

This lands particularly on Kara.

CAT

She'd better be. She's exactly
what we need to save the Trib.

(off their looks)

People want to read more about a
celebrity balancing a champagne flute
on her naked ass than about balancing
the budget. So, we'll blow this hero
up-- push the hard news down, gloss up
the site and the paper. Then, after
she's increased online traffic,
we'll convert visitors with limited
free access into customers. If they
want her, they pay. Subscribe
digitally or buy a paper, either way--
pay. But in order for this to work,
we need images, video, an interview --
exclusive content. So, go get me that
girl! Oh, and Kara...

(Kara jumps a little)

--Go get me a lettuce wrap.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- CONTINUOUS

Kara keeps a few paces ahead of James. But he's on her tail.

JAMES

I have a theory about the mystery
hero woman. Wanna hear it?

KARA

I have about ten minutes to
get Cat her lettuce --

JAMES

(blowing past)
She saved a plane. Why start
with an act so large, so
dangerous-- unless she had
to. Maybe someone was on it
who has a special
significance to her?

KARA

Maybe she just wanted to make a
splashy entrance?

JAMES

Naah, too risky.

KARA

Maybe she just couldn't take it
anymore. Maybe she was so sick of
watching all the horrible, terrible
things that happen to innocent
people everyday. She must have
felt powerless for too long, doing
nothing when she can actually help
the world.

JAMES

You've got some pretty big feelings
about this. How about we discuss
them over lunch?

Kara is flustered, the possibility of a work-date with an
incredibly cute guy comes at the worst possible time.

KARA

I-- can't, sorry, wish I could, I
get more of a lunch half-hour.
Most of which I spend running
errands for Ms. Grant. Another
time, James--

Before she can get away --

JAMES

Funny, that was the first thing *he*
did. Catch a plane, I mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As James LEAVES, Kara beelines to Winn, WHISPERS:

KARA

Winn, I need to talk to you. On the roof. In twenty.

Kara heads off. Off Winn, nervous--

WINN

The roof...?

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- THE ROOF -- 20 MINUTES LATER

Winn emerges from the door. Kara's already waiting. CatCo is one of the tallest buildings in the city and the rooftop provides a grand view and a sense of privacy.

WINN

Whatever you've got to say, can you make it quick? Not really into being this high up--

KARA

Winn, I need to tell you something only three other people in my life know. Can I trust you?

WINN

I'm the tech guy, I know everyone's search histories. Bet you'd love to know who tries getting past the porn fire-wall--

KARA

Winn...

WINN

Sorry. Listening.

KARA

I just want someone to be excited for me. Not judge me about it. And given your hobbies... well, there's something about me, Winn. For most of my life I've run from it. But last night, I finally embraced who I am and I don't want to stop --

WINN

--You're a lesbian. Aw, Kara, *that's* why you're not into me. This is such great news--

KARA

No, I'm not gay. I'm... *her*. The woman who saved the plane.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WINN

Ha. Yeah. Right.

Kara moves to the building's ledge. Looks around.

WINN (CONT'D)

What are you doing? *Get off the ledge. You'll get hurt--*

KARA

No, I won't.

WINN

Kara, stop messing around.
That ledge could be slippery--

Winn races to her when KARA LEAPS OFF and OUT OF SIGHT. WINN SCREAMS and RACES TO LOOK OVER THE SIDE WHEN KARA SHOOTS DIRECTLY PAST HIM, FLIES OVER HIM AND LANDS BEHIND HIM. WINN CATCHES HIS BREATH. SHOCKED.

WINN (CONT'D)

You're... her. Omigod, you're her--

Kara's thrilled someone appreciates her as Winn PASSES OUT.

INT. TRUCK STOP DINER -- SOMEWHERE USA -- SAME

We are ON an OUT-OF-DATE TV: FOOTAGE of Kara's PLANE RESCUE. PULL OUT to FIND a MUSCLED MAN, a trucker-hat-wearing lumberjack type, as he waves his cup for the waitress:

MUSCLED MAN

More coffee? Hey...?

WAITRESS

(fills cup)

Sorry 'bout that. Can you believe it...? A female hero. Nice for my daughter to have someone like that to look up to.

Muscled man grumbles, focuses in on the TV REPORT, gripped.

EXT. TRUCK STOP PARKING LOT -- A LITTLE LATER

The muscled man WALKS to his truck. It's a semi, hauling lumber. He HOPS up to his CAB and CLOSES the door. Once inside, he CLICKS the power LOCK. PULLS the shades, PRESSES A BUTTON. A *whfftt* of hydraulics as the GUNRACK slips away and a PANEL DOOR PARTS TO REVEAL:

INT. LUMBERTRUCK -- HI-TECH HIDDEN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

ENTERS a TECH CHAMBER as the DOORS close with a *whfftt*. Some next-level tech. As he punches a complex telecomm panel, he removes his baseball cap to REVEAL A REPTILIAN RIDGE atop his head. HE IS AN ALIEN... JUST LIKE KARA!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A FIGURE -- THE COMMANDER -- appears ON THE MONITOR. As they speak, the comm panel TRANSLATES their transmission.

THE COMMANDER

You saw the plane, Vartox?

MUSCLED MAN/VARTOX

Yes. *And* the girl. Where do you think she came from?

THE COMMANDER

Jor-El saved *his* child before Krypton's destruction...

VARTOX

She's Alura's daughter...

THE COMMANDER

Possibly. It seems she's working with the Humans. Why else would she have rescued the plane you sabotaged?

VARTOX

What do you want me to do?

THE COMMANDER

Twelve years we've been forced to hide. In the shadows. But very soon, this planet will be ours. And no one, not the humans, not this... *girl*... will be able to stop us. The General has ordered you to terminate her.

VARTOX

I can't promise her death won't be public *and messy*.

THE COMMANDER

Human casualties are irrelevant.

VARTOX

Good. And *if* she is Alura Zor-El's daughter -- she will pay for her mother's debts *with her life*.

Off Vartox's deadly promise, we CUT OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. STREET OUTSIDE KARA'S LOFT -- LATER**

Kara and Winn, hurry down the sidewalk --

WINN

I can't believe I'm actually going to see your apartment.

KARA

Winn, if we're going to use our lunch for super-heroing, we need to work fast.

WINN

I'm still not sure how all this is happening. Maybe that brownie I ate for breakfast belonged to my roommate.

KARA

My abilities come from your sun. The planet I was born on --

WINN

Oh, whoa, wait, hold up-- you're from another planet?

KARA

Krypton. Yeah, so's my cousin.

WINN

(mind-blown)

You and him, you're related?

KARA

Our dads were brothers.

WINN

How many of you are here on Earth? Is this an invasion? *Do you have a tail?*

KARA

None of that. You need to focus. I told you I don't know a thing about fighting crime, I want your help --

WINN

The Man of Steel's your cousin but you need my help?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

I've decided to, you know, be a...
hero. But I'm not quite sure how
to start.

WINN

You can fly. Seems like you've got
the hard part down. Guess the next
thing you're gonna need is --

Winn makes a circle around his chest --

KARA

A costume!

WINN

(jeez, what a neophyte)
It's called a suit.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

KARA'S APARTMENT. LATER. Kara eats Chinese from the carton as
we FIND Winn working a sewing machine like Colleen Atwood--

KARA

How do you know how to sew?

WINN

I'm a social experiment; my moms
were trying to create a post-modern
man. I can also swing dance and I
do a fantastic Jamaican curry--

TIME CUT: ANOTHER DAY. Winn anxiously waits --

WINN (CONT'D)

How does it fit?

The bathroom door opens and out steps Kara -- dressed in THE
FAMOUS BARE MID-RIFF, BIKINI BOTTOM version of the Supergirl
outfit -- no cape, no "S" -- she is beyond embarrassed --

KARA

I'm not flying around saving people
in this thing. I wouldn't even
wear it on the beach. Where's my
cape?

WINN

Capes are lame. Tell your cousin I
said so. Actually, never do that.

She takes off her glasses -- if Winn loved her before, he is
completely transfixed now --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WINN (CONT'D)

You look really... pretty without your glasses. I mean, you look great with them, too--

KARA

Winn. Lunch hour.

WINN

Right. So the other thing you need to be a superhero. A crime. I hacked into the NCPD frequency. There's a car chase on the 112 freeway in progress --

KARA

I can do a car chase.

TIME CUT: KARA now SUPERGIRL, MID-FLIGHT. TRYING TO USE HER X-RAY VISION TO FIND THE CHASE.

KARA'S POV (BIRDSEYE) as she spots the CHASE. BEELINES for the freeway. But her speed is too much. *She overshoots, CRASHES INTO THE SIDE OF A HILL past the road.*

TIME CUT: BACK TO KARA'S APARTMENT.

Winn is back at the sewing machine, working with RED FABRIC --

WINN

A cape aids with aerodynamics. Of course! I should've guessed that.

Kara emerges from the bathroom, now wearing a ONE-PIECE BLUE BODY SUIT -- Winn jumps up from the desk and affixes a BRIGHT RED CAPE onto the suit -- The POLICE FREQUENCY fires off --

POLICE (OVER COMP.)

National City Bank's reporting a 432. Sixth and Spring. Suspects are armed and dangerous.

WINN

Sure you're bullet proof?

KARA

I hope so... Never been shot.

TIME CUT: SUPERGIRL GETTING SHOT at BY A PAIR OF BANK ROBBERS. HAIL OF BULLETS BOUNCE OFF but shred her CAPE. Unhurt, she walks over, yanks the gun from the THE ROBBER.

TIME CUT: BACK IN THE APARTMENT.

Kara holds the BULLET-RIDDEN CAPE over A KITCHEN TRASH CAN -- she lifts the LID revealing it is full of BURNT and SHREDDED CAPES -- she drops in the latest victim --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KARA (CONT'D)

What cape are we on?

Winn holds up the newly finished suit -- THIS ONE HAS A NEW CAPE AND THE GLYPH.

WINN

This cape's made from a structured polymer composite. Much sturdier. Oh, and the "S" for super, just like your cousin.

She melts a little. Misses home, family.

KARA

It's not an "S." It's my family's coat of arms: the House of El.

The Police scanner interrupts her emotional reverie.

POLICE (OVER COMP.)

Unit 32 reporting a building fire on 156 Main. Citizens still trapped inside. Surrounding units needed to help maintain crowd --

A FINAL CUT TO:

EXT. MID AIR -- KARA IN FLIGHT

Her suit complete, Kara flies free, enjoying herself. She spots the BURNING BUILDING in the distance. She flies toward it when -- THWAP!

She looks down -- she's been hit with some kind of GREEN DART! A few more hit her -- Thwap, thwap, thwap!

Kara feels herself dizzying, SHE FALLS FAST.

Kara CRASHES HARD AGAINST THE CONCRETE, DAZED. SHE BEGINS TO SLIP IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. A GROUP OF BALACLAVA MASKED SOLDIERS approach, surround Kara--

She passes out, FADING TO BLACK. FADE UP TIGHT ON KARA'S FACE as she comes to, looks around a futuristic lab. We're--

INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS (DEO) -- LATER

--Where Kara awakens on a gurney. Standing nearby is some ARMED GUARDS and beside them, an OFFICIOUS MAN (HANK HENSHAW, 40's) and beside him... IS ALEX.

KARA

Alex... what's going on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kara groggily goes to sit up, realizes she's tied down with GREEN TINGED CUFFS. Tries to move. Can't.

HANK

Made of low-grade Kryptonite. Radioactive mineral from your home planet. It weakens you. Same material as the tranqs your sister plugged you with.

KARA

You were one of the people? That shot me?

HANK

Your sister is one of my best marksmen.

ALEX

She doesn't need those.

As Alex unlocks Kara's cuffs, Kara just looks at her sister -- Alex can barely look her in the eye.

HANK

My name is Hank Henshaw, Miss Danvers. You're in the DEO. The Department of Extra-Normal Operations.

KARA

Never heard of it.

HANK

We are not *technically* funded by an international consortium of interested governments, as they will disavow us. We monitor and protect Earth from extra-terrestrial presence and/or invasion.

KARA

This is where you work? I thought you worked at the University?

ALEX

I do. The DEO recruited me last year. I wanted to tell you--

KARA

(betrayed)
What? Why didn't you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HANK

It would've been treason. Your sister's job is protecting the world from-- *Non-humans*, like yourself. *If it's from up there, we lock it down here.*

Kara reels, alien mind blown.

INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS (DEO) -- MOMENTS LATER

They walk through the cavernous place, high cave walls blended in with next generation technology. The tour:

KARA

Who knows about all this...?

ALEX

Only those with TS-SCI clearance. Plus, your cousin. Now you.

HANK

This floor-- medical diagnostics, surveillance intel, tactical gear, weaponry arsenals, snack room--

Kara stops short as she SEES: her ruptured KRYPTONIAN SPACE POD, ALMOST LIKE A MONUMENT, OFF TO THE SIDE.

HANK (CONT'D)

Your ship. We keep it here as a reminder of the day you crashed on Earth-- You're the reason for all of this... Kara Zor-El, you are Alien Zero.

KARA

Me? My cousin was here two dozen years before me--

HANK

And it was *his* arrival that triggered the need for this organization. We realized we weren't alone in the Universe and we might soon be getting more... immigrants. Sure enough, you came along. And you brought Fort Rozz right along with you --

KARA

Fort Rozz?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANK

Krypton's maximum security prison.
It was banished from your homeworld
into space. To the same place your
ship got stuck. The Phantom Zone.
But just like yours, it didn't stay
there--

EXT. SPACE -- THE PHANTOM ZONE -- FLASHBACK -- 12 YEARS AGO

Kara's POD is loosened, pushed out by a hail of asteroids:

HANK (V.O.)

A meteor storm knocked your pod
loose. You led the way for this
floating penal colony to be freed.

*As Kara's pod escapes the Phantom Zone -- a much larger ship,
FORT ROZZ -- is pulled behind it -- propelling it towards
Earth. FIND Kara's POD as it--*

EXT. WILDERNESS -- EARTH -- DAY -- 12 YEARS AGO

*--CRASHES to the ground alongside meteorites. WIDEN FOR
MILES, see the wreckage and finally, a HUGE PRISON SHIP,
CRACKED like some aerospace Titanic--*

HANK (V.O.)

--When it crashed, the alien
convicts, the worst criminals in
the galaxy, they all escaped --

*--Prisoners and species FLEE, in FLIGHT, LEAP, SUPER-RUN...
IN AND AMONGST A FEW, WE NOTICE VARTOX.*

INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS (DEO) -- SAME

HANK (V.O.)

These alien convicts were sentenced
to purgatory. And then you brought
them here.

Hank WIPES through VISUALS on a next-gen MONITOR. Various
ALIEN IMAGES. One scarier than the last.

HANK

For over a decade, they stayed
hidden. We'd catch a few strays
when we could identify them.

ALEX

But in the last year, many have
been making their way here, to
National City. Gathering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

Why?

ALEX

They're planning something. We're just not sure what it is yet.

KARA

(realizing)

Your plane... it wasn't an accident. It was them. They were trying to kill you.

HANK

These *beings*... some of them have abilities and weaponry, powers from your darkest nightmares. Which is why teams, like the one led by your sister, identify them, analyze their weaknesses, and neutralize them.

ALEX

Not too many careers where being both a bioengineer *and* a crack shot are in same the job description.

Kara feels a sense of responsibility in all of this.

KARA

I can help you. I can help you stop them.

HANK

How? You couldn't even stop us from capturing you. What do you think you're gonna do against them?

KARA

I'm still learning --

HANK

You're untested and antagonistic to our enemies. We don't want you using your powers. *And neither does your cousin.*

This reference catches Kara off-guard, his opinion important.

KARA

You talked to him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HANK

We're in contact... He didn't tell you? Doesn't that just say everything?

KARA

Why hasn't he helped you?

HANK

He does. But he is a bit of a... maverick. Uncooperative, uncontrollable, therefore unreliable.

(the dagger)

But I can tell you he's not happy with you. This was a war fought in the shadows. You and your cape dragged it out into the light. You want to help? Go back to being a secretary.

Hank storms off -- Kara approaches the remnants of her pod. Confused. Reeling.

ALEX

I know you're mad, hurt. I wanted to tell you every single day.

KARA

Why would I believe anything you say ever again?

ALEX

Kara... I'm sorry.

Kara's phone RINGS. She picks up:

KARA (INTO PHONE)

Uhm, hello?

It's Winn. As we INTERCUT:

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- SAME

Cat's RANTING in BG at someone. He's panicked:

WINN (INTO PHONE)

Cat's freaking out. I don't think she's made an outgoing call since her early-twenties-- I said you had a doctor's appointment. Where are you?

KARA (INTO PHONE)

I'll be right back. Keep covering --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STAY WITH KARA as she hangs up --

KARA (CONT'D)

I have to get back to work.

(off her sister)

Are you really going to stop me?
You lied to me. What? Now you're
going to lock me up in some a
subterranean cell?

ALEX

No. Of course not. You can go.

I'll deal with my boss.

The two sisters stare each other down, each hurt, each upset.
Kara walks past Alex, both girls devastated --

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- LATER

DING! As Kara exits the elevators, Winn races toward her --

WINN

Just so we're both on the same page
with Cat, in my mind your doctor's
appointment was a gynecologist.

Suddenly distracted as the CATCO HOME PAGE APPEARS ACROSS THE
WALL OF VIDEO SCREENS. ON IT IS THE FOOTAGE OF THE PLANE
RESCUE. BENEATH it is written: #SUPERGIRL.

INT. CATCO -- CAT'S OFFICE -- A MOMENT LATER

--Cat's at her desk as KARA rushes in, too upset to knock.

KARA

Supergirl? We can't name her that!

CAT

We didn't. I'm going to assume
your little doctor emergency was
psychiatric-- you'd have to be out
of your mind to tell me how to do
my job.

KARA

Right. Sorry. I just-- I don't want
to minimize the importance of
this... you know, a female hero.
Shouldn't she be, like: super
woman?

CAT

What? I couldn't hear you over the
noisy pattern of your cheap skirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

If we call her "Supergirl," something less than who she is, aren't we guilty of misogyny? Of antifeminist subjugation? We're women in the media. Don't we have an even greater responsibility to do right by her?

CAT

And what do you think the media *is*, Ker-rah?

KARA

Kar-rah--

CAT

Our job is telling people what to think. How to feel. Do you imagine my naming her "Supergirl" was just some random idea? No. "Girl" is a targeted demographic brand representing youth and a generation of Millennials. I reinvented it when I invented her.

KARA

Well, you didn't actually invent--

CAT

(over her)

And what do you think is so bad about "girl?" *I'm* a girl. And your boss and powerful and rich and hot and smart. If you perceive "*Supergirl*" as anything but excellence, isn't the real problem you?

(then)

I'm trying to get eyes that are used to iPads to buy a newspaper. Supergirl may have saved a plane full of people but naming her and putting her on the front page could save people's jobs. Isn't that what you want?

A long beat. Kara shrinks. This is the reason Cat is who she is, lest Kara has forgotten it.

CAT (CONT'D)

Now if you're so smart, why don't you come up with one reason not to fire you right now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMES enters, excited. He holds a folder, turns to Kara:

JAMES

I printed it. It's an even higher resolution than you hoped for--
(off their looks, huh?)
That thing, Kara, the *thing* you were out doing all afternoon--

Kara's lost.

CAT

Please, James, you're interrupting a very craftily-worded termination--

JAMES

Kara wanted to surprise you but she has a teller friend who works at National City Bank, the branch that got robbed--

Cat looks to Kara... *go on, tell the rest.*

KARA

Well, I went down there, pretty tough to find parking, plus all those one-way streets confuse me--
(to James, lost)
You tell it so much better.

JAMES

Kara convinced her source to give us the exclusive: a screen capture from the bank's surveillance.

And now Cat sees the IMAGE OF THE FEMALE HERO: SUPERGIRL.

CAT

You got a clean image of Supergirl?

Kara dies a little over this name, but nods. Cat punches a familiar button on her phone-- seems she *can* dial out.

CAT (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Tell them to stop the presses.
We're running an exclusive shot of the Girl.
(hangs up, to Kara)
If you can't take credit when you do something well, you'll stay at the bottom of the pile forever.
But mazel tov, you bought yourself another day.

Kara burns, day couldn't get worse.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- OUTSIDE CAT'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

James exits, Kara is on his tail --

KARA

I was handling the situation--

JAMES

Oh, yeah? What was your plan? Get yelled at and fired? 'Cause it was working.

KARA

I didn't ask for your help-- I don't need you or anyone else fighting my battles for me.

As Kara starts to finish, she HEARS an ULTRASONIC NOISE OF SOME KIND -- A HIGH PITCHED SQUEAL. Kara looks distracted. She notices James doesn't seem to hear it.

JAMES

You okay?

KARA

Yeah it's... just a migraine. I'm gonna... go... get some... water.

She walks away from James who watches her go suspiciously. KARA STRUGGLES AS THE NOISE GETS LOUDER and then A VOICE.

VARTOX (V.O.)

I am communicating with you at 50,000 hertz... If you can hear this ultrasonic frequency you are not born of this earth...

As she slips into the stairwell:

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

VARTOX (V.O.)

Hurts, doesn't it? The humans of National City will suffer ten times this pain, if you don't face me.

(finally)

How many innocent people are going to die until you prove you're not a coward... daughter of Alura?

Hearing her mother's name... *that's all Kara needs* -- she RIPS OPEN her blouse, REVEALING that "S" GLYPH, we:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

She is DIVING through CLOUDS -- EMERGING over the CITY --
HURTLING towards AN ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION SITE--

EXT. POWER PLANT -- DAY

Supergirl LANDS with a THUD, the hard ground WEBBING around
her feet -- she looks around --

SUPERGIRL'S POV -- *her X-RAY VISION cannot penetrate the
surroundings -- too much LEAD -- so she switches to HEARING --*

SUPERGIRL

It was pretty clever picking a spot
lined with lead to block my x-ray
vision. But I can still hear your
heart beat. All three of them.

Vartox emerges from the shadows --

VARTOX

My name is Vartox. On my planet,
females bow before males.

SUPERGIRL

This is not your planet.

VARTOX

You look like Alura. Have the same
Kryptonian arrogance.

SUPERGIRL

How do you know my mother's name?

VARTOX

You don't easily forget the name of
the woman who condemned you to
Hell.

SUPERGIRL

You mean, Fort Rozz? You escaped
when it crashed to Earth? What did
my mother have to do with it?

VARTOX

She was our jailer and our judge.
With no hope of mercy or parole.
She had no right to send me there.
Any of us.

Supergirl reacts -- no idea of her mother's role --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUPERGIRL

My mother locked you up forever,
and I'm gonna do the same.

Supergirl FLIES at Vartox, lands -- makes a fist -- and UNLEASHES A VICIOUS RIGHT HOOK at Vartox -- sending HIM SLAMMING against a wall. Supergirl looks down at her hand -- that was her first SUPER PUNCH -- *damn, that felt good* -- She wants more -- She GRABS a DISCARDED METAL GIRDER, RUSHES Vartox, HITS HIM-- she goes for another whack but he catches the girder in his hand like a bat--

Supergirl SMASHES into A STACK OF METAL GIRDERS -- the steel buckling from the impact. She crumples to the ground, winded.

VARTOX

I was wrong. You're nothing like
your mother. At least she would've
put up a fight.

Supergirl FLIES AT HIM delivering a PUNCH, sending HIM TO THE DIRT. They EXCHANGE BLOWS. HITS to the face, to the gut, a SUPER BRAWL. FINALLY Vartox GRABS HER BY THE THROAT. Lifting her off her feet. She claws at his hand but cannot free herself: Vartox SLAMS her to the ground, brings his boot to her throat, produces AN OTHERWORLDLY SILVER AXE. It glistens in the sunlight, promising Supergirl's death --

VARTOX (CONT'D)

I'll bet you miss her. Don't
worry. You're about to see her
again.

Her ANGER IGNITED, Kara lets out a WAR CRY and shoves Vartox off. The alien ROARS, SWINGING THE AXE DOWN at her throat. But instead, Supergirl LAUNCHES HERSELF at Vartox -- COLLIDING with him and STREAKING UP INTO THE SKY, LANDS WITH A CRASH AT --

EXT. AN OBSERVATORY IN THE HILLS -- CONTINUOUS

Supergirl ROCKETS Vartox through the air, PILE-DRIVING him into the ARCED ROOF as he ROLLS DOWN to the grass below.

Supergirl steps forward, but Vartox JAMS the DULL EDGE of the AXE into Supergirl's gut! SLASHES the axe, CUTTING HER ARM. She CRIES OUT, stumbles back. Vartox HURLS his axe, she DUCKS but it PINS her CAPE to a tree. Dazed, she tries to pull herself free, until his hands envelop her skull --

VARTOX

*No woman can stop me. Especially
not the weak offspring of that
Kryptonian witch --*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- and he SQUEEZES, crushing her head. Supergirl struggles, but there is no escape this time -- as the pressure builds:

-- A BRIGHT LIGHT and a BLAST OF WIND hits them both -- Vartox spins to see:

A *HELICOPTER*, armed to the teeth -- hovering before them -- GUNFIRE ERUPTS from the chopper -- Vartox drops Supergirl -- SPRINTING as the ground erupts around him -- he disappears, escaping into the TREELINE -- avoiding the barrage --

FOUR DEO AGENTS REPEL down from the chopper -- one whips off her mask -- IT'S ALEX -- she calls to her team --

ALEX
Pursue the hostile!

Alex crosses over to the battered and beaten Supergirl -- gently cradling her defeated sister in her arms --

ALEX (CONT'D)
I've got you, Kara...

Off the two sisters--

INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS -- MED LAB -- LATER

CLOSE ON: HIGH-TECH FORCEPS pulling a SLIVER of SILVER METAL out of Kara's arm -- once the small shard is free -- *the wound amazingly heals itself* -- WIDEN TO REVEAL: Alex, in doctor mode, checks her sister's vitals --

ALEX
You're going to be okay.

KARA
Never felt pain like that before.
(beat)
I'd never really felt *pain*.

ALEX
You're not indestructible, Kara.

Alex puts the metal sliver into a HIGH-TECH SCANNER --

ALEX (CONT'D)
This should help us ID the weapon he's using. Maybe give us a way to defeat this Vartox.

Kara bites her lip -- almost afraid to ask --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

Did you know about my mother? She was who locked up all these psycho aliens?

Alex takes a beat -- *she wanted to protect Kara from this* --

ALEX

It's why I didn't want you going out there. Showing yourself.

(pointing to "S")

Showing this. The Fort Rozz escapees would give anything to get revenge on your mother. The only way to do that now is to hurt you. I was trying to protect you.

Kara looks so defeated --

KARA

I'm sorry...

ALEX

You're the reason I'm here at the DEO. You being from another world... You taught me the sky was full of more than blue and stars. That our world is very small. And it needs defending.

KARA

The world doesn't need me. It already has a Supergirl. It has you.

No fight left in her, Kara goes. Hank can see it bothers Alex more than a little to see her sister this way.

HANK

It's for the best, Alex. Whatever the Ft. Rozz escapees are planning, it's almost here. We can't fight them if we're fighting each other.

Hank exits. STAY with Alex, lost.

INT. KARA'S LOFT -- LATER

Kara sits, lost in thought and despair -- she looks down at the picture of Superman -- an epic reminder of her own failure -- when there is a KNOCK on the door --

ALEX (O.S.)

Kara! It's Alex. Can we talk?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kara uses her X-RAY VISION -- Alex becomes visible through the door --

ALEX (CONT'D)

I know you can see me. Are you really gonna make me do this through the door?

(no response)

Okay, fine. I know what you're thinking... that this is all your fault. But it's not. It's mine. I did it. Our whole lives, I let you stay hidden... I wanted you to stay small. Before you came to live with us... I was the star. And then... I mean, how was I supposed to compete with you? Someone who could *touch* the stars? I was *happy* when you decided not to use your powers. You... feeling like less... somehow made me feel like... more. But now, the world needs you to fly. So do I.

The door finally opens, Kara is moved by her sister's words.

KARA

I can't, Alex. I can't do it.

ALEX

You can, Kara. Your family believes in you.

KARA

I know you do.

ALEX

I didn't mean me...

Alex pulls out a UNIQUE BOX with STRANGE MARKINGS on it --

KARA

That's Kryptonese writing.

ALEX

Hank and his old team recovered this from the pod that brought you to Earth.

Alex UNLOCKS the box, REVEALS a CRYSTAL.

KARA

A Memory Prism.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

It's keyed to your DNA.
Department's orders were to keep it
from you. But... here.

Alex offers the crystal to Kara. Kara takes a beat and then grasps the crystal. A beat and then it GLOWS, radiant. BEGINS TO BEAT IN TIME with Kara's heart -- the crystal glows BRIGHTER and then: ALURA's HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARS --

KARA

Mom...

Kara is blown away. Alex moves to give Kara her privacy but Kara takes her sister's hand -- *stay* --

ALURA (HOLOGRAM)

*Kara, my brave daughter. By now
you have become the woman I knew
you would grow up to be--*

Kara is awed with emotion. She reaches out to touch her mother-- but, sadly, her hand passes through.

ALURA (HOLOGRAM) (CONT'D)

*And though you were sent to Earth
to protect young Kal-El, your
destiny is not tied to his. There
is no correct path in life. You
will lose your way many times...
what's important is that you find
your way back to the brave girl you
always were. Be wise. Be strong.
And always be true to yourself.*

As Alura's HOLOGRAM DISAPPEARS--

ALEX

I once helped you stay hidden. Now,
I'm going to make sure everyone
sees how amazing you are.

KARA

So... what do we do now?

ALEX

First thing's first... You need to
change.

Kara smiles -- and then rips open her SHIRT revealing the "S", as we:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS (DEO) -- NIGHT**

Hank mans his COMMAND CONSOLE when Alex and Kara (dressed as Supergirl) enter --

HANK

What's she doing here, Agent Danvers? She doesn't have clearance.

ALEX

Her cousin does. Maybe we should call him? See how disappointed he is in her?

Hank sees he's busted --

HANK

I knew you wouldn't be objective. If I sanction her going out there and she fails, it jeopardizes our standing with the organization, not to mention, the lives of innocent civilians. We can't trust her --

Alex looks at Kara --

ALEX

There's no one I trust more.

Kara smiles, buoyed by her sister's confidence in her --

TECH WOMAN (O.S.)

I found Vartox.

They all turn -- a shy TECH WOMAN who is clearly empowered by the sisters speaking up -- jumps in.

TECH WOMAN (CONT'D)

... Sir. Ma'ams.

HANK

Where?

She hits a button on the console -- A 3-D MAP appears on the screen -- A GLOWING BLIP appears moving toward the city --

TECH WOMAN

The sliver of metal you extracted from Supergirl's --

(off Hank's look)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TECH WOMAN (CONT'D)

I meant, Agent Danvers' sister's arm -- Vartox's axe has a unique nuclear thumbprint. DEO satellites spotted him heading for the city.

HANK

Order a strike team to intercept.

KARA

Your men won't be able to stop Vartox.

(then)

This started with my mother. That's why I have to finish it. You have to let me do this.

Hank sees Kara means business --

HANK

Make sure you win.

Off Alex, defiant -- off Kara, ready -- off Hank, debating --

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- NIGHT

Under a starry sky, a familiar LUMBERTRUCK cruises down the deserted road -- past a sign that reads, "NATIONAL CITY -- 15 MILES" --

INSIDE THE CAB

Vartox behind the wheel. *Then the whole cab SHAKES VIOLENTLY-- the SHRIEK of METAL TWISTING and GRINDING fills the cab as it shudders to a stop --* Dazed, Vartox steps from the cab --

ON THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Vartox looks back -- sees the cab detached from the semi -- down the road, balled up in a giant mangled HEAP OF SHREDDED WOOD and METAL -- standing beside the wreck:

SUPERGIRL

Car trouble? I know how much you boys love your trucks. But I think this one's a goner.

Vartox reaches into the cab -- pulling out his ATOMIC AXE --

VARTOX

Your mother wore the same smug expression when she pronounced me guilty.

SUPERGIRL

I'm here to carry out her sentence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vartox makes to throw his axe -- Supergirl moves to take off-- but he PUMP FAKES -- and then LOSES his axe -- HITTING Supergirl as she LIFTS OFF -- KNOCKING HER TO THE DIRT --

Vartox stalks over -- picks up his axe -- when Supergirl KICKS him thirty feet down the highway --

INT. DEPT. OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS (DEO) -- SAME

In the COMMAND CENTER -- Hank and Alex watch the fight via SATELLITE IMAGERY --

ALEX

I analyzed the metal in Vartox's axe. It's powered by a self-generating atomic charge, reaching temperatures up to twenty-five hundred degrees.

HANK

How does that help?

ALEX

Because it can't get any hotter than that or it will explode like an atomic bomb. She just needs to get close enough to do her thing.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- SAME

Vartox rises, shakes off the kick -- faces Supergirl --

Vartox lets out a WAR CRY, lunges at Supergirl, the two alien warriors exchanging BLOWS -- somehow even more violent than before -- A FINAL PUNCH brings Supergirl to the ground -- she looks up, out-matched, beaten down. Supergirl is giving up.

SUPERGIRL

(beaten)

Okay... I give up. Please. No more. *I don't want to die.*

BACK AT THE DEO

Hank's concern rises --

HANK

I should never have let her do this. She's not strong enough.

ALEX

Why, because she's "just a girl?" That's what we're counting on.

Off Hank, realizing this is part of the plan --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BACK AT THE HIGHWAY

Vartox sneers, generously offers--

VARTOX

Give your mother my regards.

He raises his axe above his head -- ready to deliver a
KILLING STROKE but Kara catches the blade between her hands --

Vartox tries to pull the axe free but Supergirl is holding on
too tight -- she draws the axe blade closer to her face...

BACK AT THE DEO

ALEX

Kara... DO IT NOW!

BACK ON THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Supergirl's eyes GLOW RED: *TWIN RED BEAMS BLAST FROM HER EYES*
-- *STRIKING THE AXE* -- *HEATING IT BEYOND TOLERANCE* -- but
Vartox hangs on, tightening his grip -- Supergirl realizes --

KARA

It's not working!

BACK AT THE DEO

Hank hits the COMM BUTTON --

HANK

Kara! The handle is siphoning the
excess heat off the blade. You
need to destroy the handle.

BACK ON THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Vartox forces the axe edge closer to Supergirl's face --
unbowed, she looks down -- redirecting the beam onto the axe
handle -- the WHOLE WEAPON now GLOWING WHITE HOT, shuddering,
as Supergirl pours it on. She SCREAMS with fury, Vartox
SCREAMS in pain, then:

The AXE SHATTERS into a thousand pieces -- Vartox's hands on
fire as he stumbles back -- Supergirl SHUTS HER EYES --
grimacing, fighting, until the glow subsides -- her lids
flutter and she opens her eyes -- *pale blue again* --
Supergirl sees Vartox on the ground --

SUPERGIRL

It's over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VARTOX

A Kryptonian woman will never lock
me up again.

With that, Vartox grabs a JAGGED SHARD OF HIS SHATTERED AXE --
and QUICKLY BURIES IT IN HIS OWN CHEST -- the light goes out
in his eyes -- he's dead --

BACK AT THE DEO

The room EXPLODES. Happy. Alex turns to Hank -- proud of
her sister -- Hank considers --

ALEX

She followed your orders. She won.

HANK

This time.

But we can see that he's closer to trusting her than he was
this morning. Hank exits -- when he's gone, the TECH WOMAN
gives a little FIST PUMP -- Off Alex, the proud sister --

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- BULLPEN -- NEXT DAY

Kara looks happier than she ought to be as she schleps Cat's
latte towards her office. Winn approaches--

WINN

(conspiratorially)

If I were to believe the comments
on the website, it mentioned a
female slash reptilian boxing match
out in the desert--

KARA

Tell you all about it when we do
our next crime fighting lunch hour.

WINN

So the Super Friends are back?

KARA

We are not calling ourselves that.

Kara moves off as Hayashi and Tobey approach. Cat's behind
them but Kara doesn't see her.

HAYASHI

You finish up my report yet?

TOBEY

(right after)

Can you re-do this? Need the KPI's
listed line-by-line--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA

No. I'm done doing everything for everybody without getting credit. Do it yourself.

Hayashi and Tobey are shocked, not used to this from Kara. Cat's overheard it all, intervenes.

CAT

Ker-rah. My office. Now.

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- CAT'S OFFICE -- A MOMENT LATER

Kara hands over Cat's latte, ready for her dressing down--

CAT

You have one of those annoying bleeding hearts, so I thought you'd want to know-- the Trib's digital subscriptions are up 27 percent and circulation volume has almost doubled. The Girl is selling papers. As long as she keeps doing her job, the Trib won't need downsizing.

KARA

Oh, I thought I was in trouble for not doing Tobey's work--

CAT

I should give you a raise, not that I will. Guess Supergirl inspired you to finally stand your ground.

KARA

No. Before there was a Supergirl-- there were her role-models. Powerful, successful women. She stands on the shoulders of those who came before her. You're the reason I came to work here, Ms. Grant... you inspired me.

Seems like Cat is moved, then:

CAT

You're not getting a raise. But nice try.

Cat's about to sip her latte as Kara gets an idea: a literal twinkle in her eye. Kara turns to go--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAT (CONT'D)

Kara--

(Kara smiles, her name
pronounced right)

--This latte is finally the proper
temperature: hot.

SEE Kara's EYES, the AFTERMATH of HEAT VISION from blasting
Cat's latte. Kara walks out, damn pleased with herself--

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- ELEVATOR BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Everything just got even better as Kara spots James, follows
him to the Elevator Bank.

KARA

James! How about that lunch we
never got to have?

JAMES

I'm sure you're hungry. You
probably burn up a lot of calories
fighting an axe-wielding alien.

James winks and walks away. Bomb dropped. Off Kara's shell-
shocked face we CUT TO:

EXT. CATCO MEDIA -- ROOF -- JUST LATER

Kara steps onto the roof to find James by the railing,
looking out over the city. A BOX on the ground nearby.

KARA

You knew. This whole time.
He told you.

JAMES

He knew I was looking to expand my
own horizons. He asked me, as a
favor, to expand them here in
National City. Hang out. Be near
you... you know, in case. He was
hoping you might want to start
living up to your potential.

KARA

You mean-- he wanted me to do all
this? Why didn't he just tell me
that?

JAMES

He wanted you to choose it for
yourself, just like he did. That's
what makes a hero--

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMES (CONT'D)
(then, offering the box)
Here. This is from him.

She opens it... her heart skips at the contents. She holds up A *CAPE* -- *Kara recognizes it instantly* --

KARA
This is the blanket he was wrapped in when he was a baby.

She touches it, a sacred garment -- tests its tensile strength -- looks up at James, impressed --

JAMES
Apparently, this cape won't shred.

KARA
(so grateful)
Thank you.

JAMES
He's proud of you, Kara. Me, too.

A moment here as their eyes lock, super-charged, definitely first kiss energy flowing, but suddenly, they're interrupted--

LUCY (O.S.)
Jimmy!

There she is: LUCY LANE (20's). She's strong, fun, tough not to like. Still, Kara doesn't, as Lucy runs to James, kissing him -- Kara quickly stuffs the cape back in the box --

JAMES
Lucy! How'd you know where to find me?

LUCY
Someone named Winn, downstairs, he said you were up here.

JAMES
I was just on my way to pick you up at the airport--

LUCY
Took an earlier flight. Couldn't wait. Missed you too much--

Lucy kisses James again as Kara's dreams are crushed.

JAMES
Oh, wait -- Kara Danvers, I want to introduce you to Lucy Lane, from Metropolis--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCY

Great to meet you, Kara--

Kara forces her mouth into the shape of a smile.

JAMES

Trying to get Lucy to move out here. But she tells me she's not moving to National City just to be someone's *girlfriend*--

(teasing Lucy)

Got a big decision ahead of me.

Kara recalibrates in a life filled with adjustments. Manages:

KARA

Jimmy, huh? Thought everyone called you James.

JAMES

Forgot about her. Add one more to the list I guess.

LUCY

How about you show me your new place, babe?

JAMES

Absolutely.
(then, to Kara)
See you tomorrow?

KARA

(dying)
Sure.

Lucy heads back downstairs -- James hangs back --

JAMES

Oh... Someone wants to see you.

James points to the sky and smiles --

JAMES (CONT'D)

Up, up, and away...

James leaves, off Kara, the sun shining down on her face --

KARA (V.O.)

So that's my story...

EXT. SKIES OVER NATIONAL CITY -- NOW

As Supergirl SOARS in full costume, sun on her shoulders--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KARA (V.O.)
*I spent twenty-four years trying to
figure out who I am...*

MUSIC STARTS LOW, some kind of power anthem (like Roar or Brave). As Supergirl FLIES OVER CatCo--

INT. CATCO MEDIA -- CAT'S OFFICE -- SAME

-- Alone, working late hours as always. Cat catches a glimpse of Supergirl in person flying by. Despite all that bravado, Cat is awed by the real life sight of her.

EXT. CATCO MEDIA -- THE ROOF -- SAME

--To Winn who is practicing overcoming his fear of heights. As he sees his friend Supergirl, he is in undisputed awe.

KARA (V.O.)
*Whether I was Kara Danvers or Kara
Zor-El...*

EXT. SKIES OVER NATIONAL CITY -- BEACH -- SAME

She tries a few TWIRLS, SWOOPS and DIPS, PLAYING in the air-- LOVING THIS as she SOARS past--

KARA (V.O.)
Human or Kryptonian...

ANTHEM MUSIC COMES UP--

EXT. SKIES OVER NATIONAL CITY -- NOW!

As Kara emerges from the clouds -- bathed in sunlight -- she looks out across the sky and smiles when she sees a familiar figure --

From behind SUPERMAN -- we look back at KARA -- WE PUSH IN ON her finally flying, finally where she belongs -- in the sky.

KARA (V.O.)
*I finally figured it out. I know
who I am now. And pretty soon, the
whole world's going to know it too.
(get ready to cheer)
I'm Supergirl.*

As she SOARS towards her cousin -- her cape WHIPS in the wind. And then, it WIPES FRAME -- **SNAP TO THAT BIG RED "S"... AS THE S FADES WE TRAVEL FOR ONE FINAL MOMENT TO...**

INT. VAST INTERIOR SPACE -- NIGHT

Dark and cavernous -- the walls too far to be seen in every direction -- The Commander strides purposefully through the area -- towards a FLAT CIRCULAR COMMAND STATION -- displaying A HOLOGRAPHIC MAP of National City -- Alien tech --

HER BACK TO US, we see a WOMAN -- long, flowing cape draped from her shoulders -- The Commander reaches her, snaps to attention -- whoever she is, she's in charge --

THE COMMANDER

General... Vartox is dead. He chose death over capture.

WOMAN

Typical of his race.

THE COMMANDER

He did accomplish one thing. The identity of the girl -- It seems, she is Alura's daughter.

WOMAN

My dear little Kara... of course. She escaped with her cousin.

THE COMMANDER

And much less of a threat than he is to our endeavors.

WOMAN

You're wrong. If she's anything like her mother she will be just as formidable... It was my right to lead Krypton. I will lead Earth. We all will.

THE COMMANDER

General, what are my orders then?

WOMAN

Find my niece and bring her to me. Alive. After all...

Now the woman turns around -- HER FACE hauntingly familiar -- This is THE GENERAL -- ASTRA -- Alura's TWIN SISTER -- Kara's AUNT is our BIG BAD --

ASTRA

Kara Zor-El is the only family I have left.

END OF PILOT