

Supergirl: Home - Ep. 11 - The Soul of the Samurai

by

Ronn A. Mann  
runawayman@supergirlmovieproject.com

[www.SupergirlMovieProject.com](http://www.SupergirlMovieProject.com)

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

SUPER: twenty-three years ago.

MISUKO LIGHTFOOT walks down the street, talking to two of her friends. She's 15, half Japanese, half Native American, which gives her a really odd look. She's the girl who'll become Katanna.

The three girls are chit-chatting lively as they walk.

MISUKO

...but you would not believe what he said to me.

GIRL

Oh, I'll believe it. I'll believe anything about Jack.

Three boys, JUSTIN, BERNIE and JEFF, all around seventeen, watch the girls as they walk past them. They focus on Misuko.

We stay with the boys.

JUSTIN

Look at her. What a freak.

BERNIE

Yeah. What the hell is she supposed to be? Half Pekinese, half prairie dog?

The three chuckle.

JEFF

And have you seen her dad? A freaking Indian who thinks he's a Samurai.

BERNIE

I don't know how the hell they let them get out of the reservation.

JUSTIN

No, guys. I think we're being too hard. I mean, think about how she feels? She doesn't fit in. She doesn't know who she is. Is she Japanese? Is she Indian? Is she American? She's nothing and she's everything. She must have one hell of a confusion in her head.

Bernie and Jeff stare at Justin.

BERNIE

What the hell are you talking about?

Then Justin gets a really psychotic grin.

JUSTIN

I think we should help her clear  
the confusion.

Jeff chuckles.

JEFF

Oh, you got me worried for a moment.

INT. PUBLIC BATHROOM - DAY

Justin, Bernie and Jeff drag Misuko, kicking and screaming,  
into the bathroom.

MISUKO

Let me go, you idiots. Let me go!

Bernie and Jeff drag her to the sink. Justin stands behind.  
He carries a duffle bag. He opens the bag.

When he speaks, he sounds like a loving father.

JUSTIN

You know, Misuko, today is the  
luckiest day of your life. I say  
that because I know you; I  
understand you. I know the  
confusion you must be feeling  
inside that pretty little head of  
yours.

Justin puts on the kind of gloves used to handle dangerous  
chemicals.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Am I Japanese? Am I Indian? Am I  
something in between? I know how  
difficult it must be for you to  
find out what the hell you are.  
So I'm going to help you.

Justin pulls a large bottle of battery acid from the bag.

Misuko sees the bottle and screams.

MISUKO

No! Leave me alone!

Bernie and Jeff chuckle. Justin opens the bottle.

JUSTIN

I'm going to help you, Misuko.  
From this day on, no one will  
ever have any doubt that you're  
nothing more than a damn Indian  
freak.

We PAN away from them. You really don't want to see this.

MISUKO

No! NOOO! AAARGHH!

INT. JAPANESE WORLD STORE - DAY

The store is filled with all sorts of Japanese memorabilia.  
Posters of Japanese movies line the walls.

There are four Samurai swords on a display next to the entrance.

JOHN LIGHTFOOT, the owner, sits behind the counter, reading  
the newspaper.

Then Misuko bursts in through the door. Her head is bleeding  
badly. She has a two-inch-wide patch of hair going through  
her head, like a mohawk, but the rest of her head is a  
bloody mass of hair and peeling skin. Her clothes are  
covered with blood too.

She has a murderous expression on her face.

John looks at her and nearly falls off his chair in horror.

JOHN

Misuko, what happened!?

John stands up and goes to her, but his right foot is in a  
cast, slowing him down.

Misuko ignores him. She goes to the display of the Samurai  
swords. She opens the case, picks up the first sword and  
turns back to the door.

MISUKO

Nothing I can't handle.

INT. BUS - MOVING - DAY

SUPER: Present time.

FOCUS ON KATANNA's face. We see little else of the bus. Her  
eyes are closed as in deep concentration.

A beat.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)

Next stop: Leesburg.

Katanna's eyes open.

PAN back. Revealing that she stands on the bus isle, arms folded. Everyone in the bus stares at her, scared of the four Samurai swords on her back and her mohawk.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - DAY

SYLVIA reads the newspaper on the kitchen counter. A moment later LINDA walks down the stairs.

LINDA  
Mom, got a minute.

SYLVIA  
Of course.

LINDA  
Eh... I invited a friend to come over and help me with something. Do you mind if she stays here with us?

SYLVIA  
(chuckles)  
Linda, you're not a kid anymore. You don't need to ask me if you can invite your friends for a sleepover.

LINDA  
Yeah, I know. It's that... she's a superhero friend of mine. Her name's Katanna. I don't know if you've heard of her.

SYLVIA  
Maybe, but the truth is that there's only one superhero name that rings a bell with me.

LINDA  
The thing about Katanna is that... she's odd. She's a great friend, don't get me wrong, but she's one of the most unfriendly-looking people you'll ever meet.

SYLVIA  
Any friend of yours is welcome here. You know that.

LINDA

I just wanted to prepare you. She's very spiritual. Very introspective. Very quiet. I don't... you know...

SYLVIA

You don't want me to talk her head off.

Linda grimaces.

LINDA

She's a very quiet person. I respect her a lot. And she comes as a favor to me. She hates traveling but she's coming all the way here because I asked her. I don't want her to feel uncomfortable in any way.

SYLVIA

I'll be a good host.

LINDA

Thanks, mom.

INT. BUS - MOVING - DAY

The bus pulls to a stop.

BUS DRIVER

Welcome to Leesburg.

Katanna walks down the isle.

EXT. BUS STOP

Katanna walks down the bus. Three police cruisers are parked next to it. Six policemen stand by, alert, but trying to look non-threatening. They turn to Katanna, eyeing her. OFFICER GETZ talks politely to her.

OFFICER GETZ

Excuse me, would you mind if we have a talk with you?

Katanna turns to Officer Getz. He looks apologetic.

OFFICER GETZ (CONT'D)

I mean, just a talk.

Supergirl lands next to Katanna.

SUPERGIRL

(to Getz)

Leave her alone. She's my guest  
in this town and you should treat  
her accordingly.

OFFICER GETZ

That's all I needed to hear.

(to Katanna)

Welcome to Leesburg.

(to policemen)

Come on, guys.

The policemen climb into their cruisers and drive away.

Supergirl turns to Katanna.

SUPERGIRL

Welcome to Leesburg. Thanks for  
coming. I appreciate it.

Katanna nods.

A beat.

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)

Can I help you with your luggage?

KATANNA

A Samurai carries all she needs  
on her back.

SUPERGIRL

Oh.

(beat)

Do you want me to give you a ride  
to my home or would you rather walk?

KATANNA

I prefer walking. Lead the way.

They begin to walk.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - TWO HOURS LATER

It's mid-morning. Sylvia reads a book, sitting on the couch.

The door opens. Supergirl and Katanna walk in. Sylvia stands  
up and walks to them.

SUPERGIRL

Mom, this is my friend Katanna.  
Katanna -- my mother, Sylvia.

SYLVIA

It's a pleasure to meet you.

Katanna nods.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I hope you had a pleasant trip.  
Do you need to rest?

KATANNA

No.

SYLVIA

Did you eat breakfast already? Do  
you want anything?

KATANNA

Yes. Breakfast will be fine.

SYLVIA

Any preferences?

KATANNA

Anything that was alive.

SYLVIA

Do eggs count?

KATANNA

Yes.

SYLVIA

How many do you want? I mean,  
Linda here eats a ton of food  
every day.

SUPERGIRL

(embarrassed)

Mom.

KATANNA

Two eggs will be enough.

EXT. HILL - AFTERNOON

The three other superheroes from Leesburg, ZEN, SAMURAI and  
FLAMETHROWER, practice their powers here. The three are in  
full costume.

ZEN

And then Jill told mom about it.  
The little freak.

SAMURAI

She's just trying to be a smartass.

ZEN

She's not smart. She's twelve.

FLAMETHROWER

Actually, she's very smart for a twelve-year-old.

ZEN

Whose side are you on?

FLAMETHROWER

I'm being objective.

ZEN

Well, stop it. You're my partner. You should always agree with me on everything.

FLAMETHROWER

Says who?

ZEN

It's an unwritten superhero rule.

FLAMETHROWER

You're making it up.

ZEN

No, I'm not. If Supergirl was here, I'm sure she'll back me up.

SUPERGIRL (O.S.)

I am here.

The three turn around. Supergirl and Katanna stand there.

Zen flashes a nervous grin.

ZEN

Hi. Supergirl.

Samurai eyes Katanna like he was looking at his favorite movie star.

SAMURAI

You're Katanna.

SUPERGIRL

She knows that. And by the way, Samurai, this is your lucky day. I asked Katanna if she could come and give you a lesson or two and she agreed.

SAMURAI

Really? I can't believe it.

SUPERGIRL

I figure that at some point I'm going to have to leave Leesburg in your hands so I better make sure you're at least semi-competent by then.

ZEN

That almost sounded like a complement. But I'm sure it wasn't.

SAMURAI

So I get to train with Katanna? Wow. Thanks Supergirl.

SUPERGIRL

Don't thank me, thank Katanna. She's the one who's going to have to put up with you.

SAMURAI

Yeah, sure.

Samurai bows to Katanna.

SAMURAI (CONT'D)

Arigato, Katanna.

KATANNA

Draw your swords.

Katanna draws one of her swords. The one on her lower left. Each sword has a special meaning.

Flamethrower and Zen take five steps away from Samurai, who looks scared to death. Then he composes and draws one of his six swords.

Samurai drops into a fighting stance, looking extremely clumsy. Katanna stands in a normal stance, her sword pointed at Samurai's head.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

Attack me.

Samurai swallows hard, then charges. He swings the sword at Katanna, aiming a foot in front of her (he doesn't want to harm her). Katanna easily blocks the attack, moving only her wrist. Her sword slices Samurai's sword in half.

Samurai gives her an apologetic look.

SAMURAI

Sorry.

Katanna gives Supergirl a blank look.

Samurai picks up the piece of the sword that broke off. He welds the piece back into the sword with his bare hand.

KATANNA

Attack ME. Not the space in front of me.

Samurai charges again. He swings the sword from the left, when Katanna moves hers to block, he spins and attacks from the right. Katanna blocks the attack easily again and again slices his sword in half, and then puts her sword on Samurai's neck, as if about to cut his head off.

Samurai grins nervously.

Katanna gives Supergirl another blank look.

Then Samurai picks up the piece of the sword and welds it again.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

What is that sword made of?

SAMURAI

Aluminum.

(beat)

That's my meta-human power. I can weld simple metals. So no matter how many times you break my sword, I can always fix it.

KATANNA

What good is that toothpick? Use a real sword.

Katanna draws the sword on her upper left and throws it to Samurai. He catches it and regards it like it was made of glass. He sheaths his own sword.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

Attack me.

Samurai charges. He attacks a couple of times. Katanna blocks him easily. Then she knocks the sword from his hand. It lands ten yards away from him.

Samurai looks apologetic and goes to pick up the sword.

Katanna gives yet another look to Supergirl.

SUPERGIRL

Look, Samurai, let me explain one thing to you. Katanna hates traveling. Yet she came all the way to Leesburg as a personal favor to me because I asked her to train you.

(MORE)

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)

The only reason she hasn't cut your head off yet is that I made her promise she'd have patience with you. But if you don't start taking this training seriously, I'm going to cut your head off myself. Do you understand?

SAMURAI

What do you mean? I'm taking it serious. Geez, what more do you want from me?

KATANNA

You have two minutes to draw my blood. If you fail, I will cut your hands off.

Samurai's jaw drops.

SAMURAI

What? Are you crazy? You'll cut my hands off?

KATANNA

You call yourself Samurai but you know nothing of what it means to be a Samurai. You dishonor the name.

SUPERGIRL

You think being a superhero is all about wearing fancy clothes and saving the world every other week. It's not that easy. You have to be prepared for everything.

SAMURAI

She's going to cut my hands off!

SUPERGIRL

Not if you draw her blood.

SAMURAI

How am I supposed to do that? She's like the best swordsman in the whole planet.

SUPERGIRL

You have an option -- drop the sword and go back to your home and be a normal person. Never wear your costume again.

SAMURAI

So it's all or nothing? Either I give up everything I want to be in my life or I get my hands cut off?!

SUPERGIRL

Do you have any idea how many times I've been this close to dying myself? Do you have any idea what will happen to you if you ever face a real villain with this attitude? You'll be lucky if you only lose your hands.

SAMURAI

But it's not fair. There's no way I can beat her.

SUPERGIRL

Life isn't fair.

Samurai seems about to cry for a moment, then he glares at Supergirl.

SAMURAI

I'll do it. But if I end up a freak with hooks instead of hands, it'll be on your head.

KATANNA

Attack me.

Samurai attacks. He uses every move he's seen on martial arts movies but can't even make Katanna move more than her wrist to counter him.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

Thirty seconds.

He charges again. He seems to be getting better, but still can't touch Katanna. Then she swats the sword off his hand.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

One minute.

Samurai rushes for the sword. Then draws one of his own swords. He attacks again, using both swords. This time Katanna actually has to move to avoid the double attack. He's still nowhere near close to touching her though.

Then Katanna kicks him, sending him flying back several feet.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

Minute-thirty.

Samurai gets back to his feet. He's getting desperate. Then he gets an idea.

He slices his sword using Katanna's and then bats the broken piece of his sword toward Katanna and throws her sword to her.

The piece of aluminum sword and the real sword both head for Katanna. In a single motion, Katanna slices the aluminum sword and swats the real sword back to Samurai. But one of the two slices of the aluminum sword nicks her shoulder, drawing a tiny drop of blood.

Samurai grabs the real sword as it comes back to him, then charges Katanna again.

They fight for one minute before Katanna speaks.

KATANNA

You drew my blood. Are you not going to claim victory?

SAMURAI

That scratch would never stop you in a real fight.

They continue fighting.

KATANNA

You need balance.

(beat)

Always be aware of your body.

Supergirl smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Katanna and Sylvia sit on the table.

SYLVIA

She was so happy that whole week. I mean, Superman himself had come down to Leesburg to tell her he was impressed by how she handled the Twins. She was walking on clouds.

Katanna regards Sylvia with a stern look. Sort of a mild glare. She drinks from her coffee.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

She's changed so much from that time. It's hard to believe she's the same person.

Supergirl enters the house. She sees her mother talking to Katanna, and grimaces.

SUPERGIRL

Mom, would you mind letting  
Katanna and me have a private  
chat for a moment. It's superhero  
stuff, you know.

SYLVIA

Sure, Linda.  
(to Katanna)  
It's been a pleasure.

Sylvia stands up and heads for the backyard.

Supergirl sits next to Katanna.

SUPERGIRL

I'm so sorry. My mother... she  
likes to talk. A lot. We're sort  
of a weird family.

KATANNA

You presume that because I do not  
seek the company of others, it  
means I do not enjoy it. You are  
mistaken. I enjoy your mother's  
company. She reminds me of my own.

SUPERGIRL

Really? This is the first time  
anyone's ever told me my mother  
resembles someone else's mother.

KATANNA

My mother loved to speak too. She  
always had something interesting  
to say. I would listen to her for  
hours. She is the reason I am so  
quiet. I grew up presuming that  
other people's stories were  
always better than my own.

SUPERGIRL

So you don't mind talking?

KATANNA

Not at all. When I am in battle,  
talk is unnecessary and bothersome.  
But in moments like this, it is  
appreciated.

SUPERGIRL

And I thought you didn't like  
talking. The truth is that I  
consider you a good friend, but I  
know almost nothing about you.

(MORE)

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)

And most of what I know comes from Blaze and Nightwing. I don't think we've ever really talked before.

KATANNA

We have not talked. But sometimes it is unnecessary. I know I can trust you. And I respect you. That is enough for me.

SUPERGIRL

I trust and respect you too.

KATANNA

I know. You respect my privacy. Too much perhaps. I have known about you longer than you think. I knew you before we met at the spacecraft.

SUPERGIRL

Really?

KATANNA

I read about you after the incident at the football field, when you were fifteen.

SUPERGIRL

You read about that? That was embarrassing.

KATANNA

It was not. You taught those kids that strength does not make you better. A good lesson. You showed intelligence and heart beyond your age. I was impressed.

SUPERGIRL

To be honest, that was my dad. Those bullies had come to Leesburg the previous week bragging about how boys were better than girls because they were stronger and I wanted to prove them wrong by showing them that I was stronger. My dad was the one who pointed out to me the tiny error in my reasoning.

KATANNA

Yes, your father held the wisdom,  
but even at that early age you  
had the heart to understand it. I  
did not.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

We're back twenty-three years ago.

Misuko walks down the street and heads for the alley. She has bandages on her head and carries the Japanese sword she took from her father's store last time we saw her. Her expression is the same one she'll have as an adult: a steely, menacing glare.

The three boys that attacked her, Justin, Bernie and Jeff, laugh and drink beer, sitting on the sidewalk. The alley is very secluded and leads to a dead end. A good place for young kids to do things they don't want others to see them do. A bad place if someone is chasing after you.

Misuko sees them and heads straight to them.

Justin sees her. He sneers.

JUSTIN

Hi, Misuko.

Misuko draws the sword.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Damn, she's got a sword!

The three boys scatter back. Bernie picks up a lead pipe and charges Misuko. She cuts the lead pipe with her sword like it was made of butter.

The boys back away further, scared of her. They throw everything they find at her but can't even slow her down. She walks slowly, like a tiger stalking a prey.

Finally, the boys reach the dead end, there's nowhere else to go to. The boys begin to whimper, certain that she's going to kill them.

JUSTIN

(pleading)

Please, Misuko, it was just a prank.

MISUKO

You die tonight.

Misuko lets out an angry yell, then thrusts her sword, aiming for Justin's heart.

The sword stops a millimeter before penetrating his skin.

VOICE (O.S.)

No.

Misuko is startled. She had intended to kill him. The sword had stopped on its own. She turns around, trying to find the source of the voice but can't find anyone there. She's angrier now.

She spins and goes for Justin's head. The sword stops again before it hurts him.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No.

Misuko lets out another angry yell. And charges three times. Every time the sword stops before it hurts the boys.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No, Misuko.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - RESUMING

Katanna's expression has softened a bit. She drinks from her coffee.

KATANNA

When an artist, a real artist, completes his work, he leaves a piece of his soul in it. That is my meta-human power. I can speak with those souls. This sword --

Katanna draws the sword on her upper right and places it on the table. It's the same sword Misuko had in the last scene.

KATANNA (CONT'D)

-- Was created by an artist by the name of Hiromatsu Takamoto. It was the first sword I ever held in my hands. His soul was the first one that ever spoke to me.

SUPERGIRL

What did he say to you?

KATANNA

He told me what it meant to be a Samurai.

EXT. FORREST - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Misuko, angry and crying at the same time, stands next to a fire. The sword lies on the ground next to her.

MISUKO

Why did you stop me!?

HIROMATSU (O.S.)

There is no honor in killing an unarmed opponent.

MISUKO

Honor. HONOR! What honor was there in this!

Misuko pulls her bandages off, revealing her head. The skin on the sides of her head has fallen off completely. The mohawk is the only semblance of normality there.

HIROMATSU (O.S.)

The hardest part of being a Samurai is to fight the evils of the world without becoming one.

MISUKO

Samurai?! I just want revenge!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - RESUMING

KATANNA

I did not listen to him. Not at first. I wanted revenge. I wanted to kill those who had done this to me. But he would not let me kill them. It took him two months to make me understand. How long did it take your father to make you understand?

SUPERGIRL

About two minutes. But dad's really good at it. I swear he could talk the legs off a donkey.

Katanna seems to smile for a moment. It's hard to tell if she really did.

KATANNA

The Hiromatsu sword is my most prized possession. It is the work of a true artist. It is unbreakable. And it could even cut your skin. It became my sword when I was fifteen, and only one person has held it since. You.

Supergirl gets a better look at the sword.

SUPERGIRL

It's the sword you lent me at the spacecraft, isn't it?

INT. CORRIDOR - ALIEN SPACECRAFT - FLASHBACK

This is a scene we will see in more detail in a couple of episodes.

A narrow, alien, menacing corridor inside a spacecraft.

Supergirl leans against a wall, breathing hard. She has a nasty wound on her left shoulder, with blood still trickling from it. Another wound just below her ribcage. One on her left thigh, and a small one on her left shin. It looks like she's been stabbed with something about an inch in diameter in all those places.

Katanna approaches her. She takes the sword on her lower right.

HIROMATSU (O.S.)

No. Use me.

Then she draws the upper right sword and gives it to Supergirl.

KATANNA

Use this. He'll help you walk.

Supergirl accepts the sword as uses it as a cane.

SUPERGIRL

Thanks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DANVERS' HOME - RESUMING

KATANNA

Hiromatsu asked me.

SUPERGIRL

Well... I'm honored.

Supergirl turns to the sword, she puts her hands together, as in prayer, and bows her head, mimicking a reverence she once saw in a Samurai movie. Then she turns to Katanna and repeats the reverence.

Then she grimaces.

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)

I can't believe I just did that. I'm sorry. I just turned you into a stereotype from a Japanese cartoon. I don't know what I was thinking.

KATANNA

It is all right. Your heart, as always, was in the right place. Though sometimes your head might not be.

Supergirl chuckles. Katanna smiles. This time it is unmistakably a smile.

SUPERGIRL

I'm glad we had this chat.

KATANNA

Me too. I appreciate your invitation to your home. I am glad to finally meet your mother in person.

SUPERGIRL

(beat)

What do you mean "in person"?

KATANNA

Your mother created your outfit. She is an artists.

A beat, while Supergirl blinks several times.

SUPERGIRL

Are you kidding me? Mom's in this outfit?

(to the outfit)

Hi, mom.

(chuckles)

I got to remember to hide this thing when I'm with someone. What does she say about me?

KATANNA

She is proud of you.

Supergirl smiles.

SUPERGIRL

What is she saying right now?

KATANNA

The souls speak only when they need to.

SUPERGIRL

Can I ask her something?

KATANNA

Why not ask the real person?

SUPERGIRL  
I don't know. I think her soul  
would give me a more honest answer.

KATANNA  
Then try.

Supergirl's expression turns serious.

SUPERGIRL  
(to the outfit)  
Mom, how did you really feel when  
I moved to Alacant?

A beat.

KATANNA  
Hurt. She did not want you to go.

SUPERGIRL  
(to the outfit)  
Oh, sorry, mom. I didn't mean to --

She sighs and turns to Katanna.

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)  
I should better say that to the  
real person, right?

Katanna nods.

Supergirl smiles.

SUPERGIRL (CONT'D)  
Have you met dad too?

KATANNA  
Not before today. His soul is  
everywhere in this house. Your  
mother's soul is here too.

SUPERGIRL  
Yeah. Even I can feel that.  
(beat)  
And what about my soul. Is it  
here too?

KATANNA  
No. You are not human. I cannot  
talk to your soul.

Supergirl is surprised by this.

INT. LINDA'S APARTMENT - ALACANT - DAY

SUPER: Supergirl, age 19 and six months. Ten days before "Graduation."

A crappy, two-bit apartment in the middle of the lowest neighborhood in Alacant. Old, broken-down furniture. Wallpaper peeling off the walls. Moisture stains on the ceiling.

ANGLE ON Linda. She's wearing an old tank top and shorts, but she doesn't wear her brunette wig. Physically, she looks almost exactly as she looks as 22, but her facial expression is closer to 15 than 22. She looks somewhat naive and insecure.

Linda talks to someone outside of shot.

LINDA

Let's get one thing straight, okay. I'm Supergirl. I'm not afraid of you. I could crush you. I could burn you. I could freeze you. The only reason you're still alive is because I'm a very nice person.

REVERSE ANGLE

We see the space under the sink. It's crawling with roaches.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I've defeated monsters thousands of times bigger than all of you combined. Without working up a sweat. So you better don't mess with me. Now go away. Shoo!

The roaches ignore her. She deflates. She looks around her crappy apartment. She's clearly not happy.

The phone RINGS.

Linda grimaces. Then she answers it.

LINDA

Hello.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

Supergirl?

Linda's eyes pop open like dinner plates, as she realizes who this is. She instinctively covers herself with her free hand (her outfit is worn and rather skimpy).

LINDA

Yes. Superman?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
Remember the first time we met?  
When you were fifteen?

LINDA  
Sure. Why?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
I told you that there would come  
a time when I'd call you asking  
for your help. The time has come.  
I need your help.

She's speechless for several seconds.

LINDA  
Eh... sure. What's going on?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
That's the thing. I don't really  
know. For the last week I've been  
getting the feeling that  
something's wrong in Metropolis.  
Very wrong. I can't put my finger  
on it. It's like some kind of  
strange psychic vibe. Like  
something very wrong is about to  
happen. And I'm not the only one  
who can feel it.

LINDA  
What do you want me to do?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
Come here. We got a safe house  
just outside Metropolis. We'll  
get together there.

LINDA  
Do you think I'm ready to help you?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
You've been ready for a year.  
It's just that the opportunity  
never came up.

LINDA  
You sure?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)  
How about we find out the hard way?

LINDA  
(beat)  
I'll be there. I won't let you down.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

I know.

He hangs up.

Linda swallows hard. Nervous. She stands there, frozen for several seconds, then hangs up her phone.

She turns around to the roaches under her sink.

LINDA

How can I help Superman when I  
can't even deal with roaches?

EXT. SKY ABOVE METROPOLIS - DAY

SUPER: Two days later.

Supergirl flies through the city. She looks nervous but determined.

She flies past downtown Metropolis and heads for the mountains north of the city.

A moment later we see a house squatting on the side of the mountain. She heads for it, getting more nervous by the second.

She stops in mid-air about a mile away. She can see it very well from there.

REVERSE ANGLE

Two dozen costumed superheroes stand in the backyard of the safe house, chatting with each other. Faces you might recognize: Superman, Green Lantern (John Stewart), Flash, Nightwing, and Katanna. Supergirl recognizes all the costumes, but there's only one of those superheroes she's ever met in person: Superman.

BACK TO SCENE

Supergirl looks even more nervous than before. She takes several breaths, trying to calm herself then heads for the house.

EXT. BACKYARD - SAFE HOUSE

Superman stands next to a tree, with his back to the camera, talking to some superhero we cannot see yet (because Superman blocks the view).

Supergirl lands and immediately heads for Superman. She smiles and tries to look cool and confident, but it's obvious that it's just an act.

SUPERGIRL

Hi, Superman.

Superman turns around and smiles.

SUPERMAN

Hi, Supergirl. I'm glad you came.

The superhero he was talking to takes a step to the side, becoming visible. She's Power Girl.

Supergirl sees Power Girl and her smile fades. Power Girl folds her arms across her chest, and glares at her, looking as serious and menacing as she can.

POWER GIRL

You have a lot of nerve coming here after what you did to --

Then Power Girl bursts into laughter. Her expression softens into a wide smile.

POWER GIRL (CONT'D)

Look at me, sis. I can't even joke about it. I'm so happy to see you I could cry.

Supergirl smiles too. Then they hug each other.

Superman doesn't understand what just happened.

SUPERGIRL

I'm so sorry, I should've called you.

POWER GIRL

Yeah, I know. I should've called you too. But, you know, I thought you'd still be angry with me.

SUPERMAN

I don't need superpowers to know there's a history between you two.

They pull back and turn to Superman.

SUPERGIRL

We had a fight a couple of years ago. This is the first time we've spoken to each other since.

POWER GIRL

But it's water under the bridge. Right, sis?

SUPERGIRL

Right.

SUPERMAN

Are you two going to be okay working together?

SUPERGIRL

Yes.

POWER GIRL

Definitively.

SUPERGIRL

I feel much better knowing she's here.

POWER GIRL

Same here.

SUPERMAN

Good.

(beat)

If you don't mind my asking, are you two sister?

POWER GIRL

Not that we know of.

SUPERGIRL

We call each other "sis" but that's mostly wishful thinking.

SUPERMAN

Are you sure? Because you do look a lot like each other. I don't think I could tell you apart if you weren't using different costumes.

Supergirl and Power Girl glare at Superman.

SUPERGIRL

Excuse me -- "costumes"?

POWER GIRL

Yeah, I was wondering about that myself.

SUPERMAN

(smiles)

I'm kidding you, ladies. I know you hate it when I call it a costume.

(to Supergirl)

But I like your reaction better this time. I remember the first time I called it a costume you almost cried. I suppose the next time you're going to punch me.

POWER GIRL

I will.

Supergirl pretends to be shocked by his statement.

SUPERGIRL

Oh, no no. I didn't almost cry,  
you big liar.

SUPERMAN

Liar? Me? I'm Superman. Superman  
does not lie. Because if Superman  
lies, Superman's mom will come  
and wash Superman's mouth with  
soap. And Superman doesn't want  
that to happen... again.

Both women stare at him as if they were waiting for the  
punchline.

SUPERGIRL

You're just trying too hard.

POWER GIRL

You should leave the comedy to  
the pros.

SUPERGIRL

Definitively. It's a timing thing.

POWER GIRL

And the costume ruined it too.

SUPERGIRL

Yes. The costume. If you wore a  
turban or something, that  
would've been really funny.

Then they both laugh. Superman smiles.

SUPERMAN

I can't believe it. When Flash  
said it, I swear even Batman  
cracked a smile. Yeah, I know I'm  
trying too hard, but you two  
looked a bit nervous and I wanted  
to, you know, help you relax,  
even if it meant making a fool of  
myself.

SUPERGIRL

Well, thanks. It worked.

POWER GIRL

Yeah. It's kinda creepy around here. Can you feel it too, sis? It's like some kind of really weird vibe.

Supergirl focuses for a moment, trying to feel it.

SUPERGIRL

(beat)

Not a vibe. A vibration. Something's moving. Something big.

BATMAN (O.S.)

She's right.

Everyone turns to Batman.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Fifty miles away from here, something is digging itself out of the ground. It looks like a spacecraft.

SUPERMAN

How big is it?

BATMAN

A mile in diameter.

(beat)

Time for a speech.

Batman gives Superman a sonar image of the spacecraft.

Superman walks to the middle of the backyard. He addresses all the superheroes.

SUPERMAN

Can I have your attention for a moment? Batman just informed me the reason why we're all here. There's some kind of a spacecraft -- a mile wide -- about to break through the ground fifty miles away from here. We don't know what it is yet, or what it wants or how dangerous it might be, but I'm glad we're all here. Now, Batman and I are going to go get a better look at this thing. I want all of you to wait for us here. Also I want you to give a warm welcome to our two rookies, Power Girl and Supergirl.

(MORE)

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Two talented young ladies that I'm sure you've heard of. By the way, contrary to what some of you might think, Supergirl isn't my little sister, but I care for her and respect her as if she were, and I expect you to do as well.

(beat)

That means you, Flash.

Flash stands behind Supergirl and Power Girl. He was checking them out big time.

He smiles and puts his hands on their shoulders, like they were old friends. Both women glare at him.

FLASH

Hey, don't listen to him. I'm a great guy. I just have a reputation that --

POWER GIRL

Flash, can you fly?

FLASH

(frowns)

No.

SUPERGIRL

Do you want to?

Flash gets the hint. He takes his hands off them and walks away, trying to look cool.

EXT. HILL - DAY

SUPER: "Graduation" day.

The superheroes are gathered around in three groups at the top of a hill leading to a large mesa. On the mesa we see a very large, mean-looking, disc-shaped spacecraft.

PAN back to reveal Superman talking to Supergirl and Power Girl away from everyone else.

SUPERMAN

This is it, ladies. I hope you got a good sleep last night.

SUPERGIRL

I'm nervous as hell.

POWER GIRL

Me too.

SUPERMAN

Don't worry. We got your backs.  
And I hope you got ours. Now,  
have you two ever worked with a team?

SUPERGIRL

Not really.

POWER GIRL

Only with each other.

SUPERMAN

Not good. Anyway we're going to  
be grouping in three teams. I'll  
head the first, Green Lantern and  
Batman will head the other two.

(to Power Girl)

I putting you with Green  
Lantern's team --

(to Supergirl)

You go with Batman.

Supergirl and Power Girl look at each other, puzzled.

SUPERGIRL

I thought we could work together.

SUPERMAN

We need to spread our abilities.  
You two are too similar.

POWER GIRL

Okay.

SUPERMAN

Let me give you a few pointers.

(to Power Girl)

Green Lantern is a military man.  
He's smart, methodic, organized.  
He's got more combat experience  
than most men you'll ever meet.  
Do exactly as he tells you and --  
how do I put it nicely? --

SUPERGIRL

Don't be you.

POWER GIRL

What? I can be serious.

SUPERGIRL

When have you ever been serious  
for more than two consecutive  
minutes?

POWER GIRL

I could do it.

SUPERMAN

This is your chance to prove it.

(to Supergirl)

About Batman.... He doesn't talk very much so when he does, listen to what he says. He knows what he's talking about. He's our best chance of finding out what that thing is and how to defuse it. So make sure he's okay. He's very smart and very capable, but he's not a meta-human. I need you to be his bodyguard.

SUPERGIRL

Okay.

SUPERMAN

But no matter what you do, don't let him know about it. He won't like it.

SUPERGIRL

Okay.

SUPERMAN

(beat)

Are you ready?

Supergirl and Power Girl glance at each other, looking for some reassurance.

SUPERGIRL

Yes.

POWER GIRL

As ready as I'll ever be.

SUPERMAN

Remember, ladies, you're playing on the big leagues now. So be careful.

EXT. GREEN LANTERN'S TEAM - HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Green Lantern stands facing the group of superheroes sitting on the ground. Power Girl and Flash are among the group.

GREEN LANTERN

Our first order of business is the chain of command, which goes as follows -- I'm the leader of this mission. Flash is second.

(MORE)

## GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

Battlecry comes third. If anything happens to me Flash will be the leader. Contrary to popular belief, he's a rather capable man.

EXT. BATMAN'S TEAM - HILL

Batman looks at the giant spacecraft through binoculars.

The rest of the team stands a dozen feet away. The group includes Katanna and a tall, thin, redhead man and a red outfit named BLAZE.

Supergirl stands away from everyone else, feeling awkward and out of place. Blaze notices it and approaches her.

BLAZE

Hi, I'm Blaze.

SUPERGIRL

Hi. Supergirl.

BLAZE

Yes. I noticed. I hope that "S" on your chest isn't just decoration.

SUPERGIRL

Right now it stands for "scared."

BLAZE

(smiles)

Let me introduce you to the guys. That tall guy with the fixation on black is Batman. But I'm sure you guessed that. The lady with the mohawk and the knives on her back is Katanna. The lady in the blue outfit is Misha. The short guy with the banana-peel haircut is Bricks. The other two are Moonshot and Balker.

Katanna approaches Blaze and gives him a deep, menacing look, then she turns to Supergirl. Katanna regards her for a second or two, making Supergirl nervous.

KATANNA

You are too young.

SUPERGIRL

I know.

EXT. GREEN LANTERN'S TEAM

GREEN LANTERN

The primary purpose of our mission is to infiltrate the spacecraft and disable it if we can. We know very little about it, only that its intentions seem hostile and that --

POWER GIRL

Do you know where it came from?

Green Lantern turns to Power Girl, he hates the fact that she interrupted him. He waits several seconds before he speaks.

GREEN LANTERN

As I was saying, we know very little of it.

POWER GIRL

Then how do you know it's hostile?

GREEN LANTERN

Because it has already demonstrated hostility.

Green Lantern stares at Power Girl for a moment, just in case she has anything else to ask.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

We know the spacecraft to be very powerful and very dangerous. We don't expect all of us to make it through and back in one piece. That's why you'll be given this --

Green Lantern shows the team a small device shaped like a hockey puck.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

This is a homing device -- we call it the Lifesaver. If one of us should fall injured, a Lifesaver will be activated next to him so he can be retrieved once the spacecraft's been deactivated. I know --

POWER GIRL

So we're just going to leave the injured lying around in some alien spacecraft?

Green Lantern is clearly losing his patience with Power Girl.

GREEN LANTERN

Young girl, I know it sounds improper to leave the injured behind, but think about it this way: the voyage to the control center of that spacecraft will be dangerous for everyone, even those in top shape. Dragging along an injured person will not only make it more likely that he will die, but also make it more difficult on those helping him.

POWER GIRL

Still, it sounds awful to leave someone behind.

Green Lantern takes three steps toward Power Girl, so he's only a foot away from her. Then he gives her the nastiest stare possible. The kind of stare that drill sergeants use to make soldiers wet their pants.

Power Girl simply holds his gaze with a perfectly calm expression. She's not trying to be obnoxious or cocky, she's just saying: If you want to scare me, you're gonna have to do a whole lot better than just stare at me.

Five seconds go by in silence. Then Green Lantern smiles.

GREEN LANTERN

Congratulations, you've just been promoted. The new chain of command is -- me, Flash, Power Girl.

Power Girl smiles.

EXT. BATMAN'S TEAM

Batman is still staring at the spacecraft through the binoculars as he was before.

BATMAN

Rookie, come here.

Supergirl looks around. Did he mean her? She walks to him. Batman puts down the binoculars and turns to her.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

I don't know you. What can you do?

SUPERGIRL

Pretty much everything Superman can do.

BATMAN

Give me details.

SUPERGIRL

I can lift about twenty tons with my arms alone, and about sixty total. I have heat vision. I can melt most raw metals, though I have problems with some alloys. I have X-ray vision. Good enough for most stuff except lead. I can run at six hundred miles an hour. I can do match three flying. I can reach full speed in less than a second either way. And I have really good hearing. I can hear a mosquito a mile away.

BATMAN

Have you ever been injured in battle?

SUPERGIRL

I've been knocked out a couple of times but I've never bled.

BATMAN

Not good.

EXT. GREEN LANTERN'S TEAM

GREEN LANTERN

We'll be using these communicators --

Green Lantern shows a small earpiece.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

-- On the mission. But use of the communicators is restricted to the mission leader and should only be used to communicate possible dangers to the other leaders.

Green Lantern constantly eyes Power Girl, half-expecting her to interrupt him again. But she doesn't.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

Each of the three teams will enter the spacecraft through one of the three entrances detected. We'll be separated from the beginning and will more likely not see each other again until the mission is successfully completed. Now if you have any questions, this would be the appropriate time to formulate them.

Power Girl raises her hand, looking like a ten-year-old girl in school.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

No need to raise your hand, Power Girl. Although it's good to see that your communication skills have improved since your promotion.

POWER GIRL

I know this is a stupid question, but hasn't anyone tried to just talk to that thing?

GREEN LANTERN

A reasonable question. A team of UN scientists tried to communicate with the spacecraft two days ago. I'm sure we'll see their remains on our way in.

EXT. BATMAN'S TEAM

Batman uses the binoculars again. There's a small suitcase lying on the ground next to him.

BATMAN

Open the case. Take one of each.  
We leave in two minutes.

Everyone moves to the case. Supergirl is last. Katanna opens it. It contains a dozen Lifesavers and earpieces. Everyone gets one of each.

Supergirl puts the earpiece on. She stares at the Lifesaver.

SUPERGIRL

(to Blaze)

What is this thing?

BLAZE

They call it "Lifesaver." It means your life is the least of anyone's concerns around here. When you get injured and your guts are sticking out and you're bleeding from every pore of your body, we're just gonna throw one of this next to you and walk away, that way we'll know where you're dying so after we've saved the day, we can come back and pick up your remains.

Supergirl grimaces.

BLAZE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, you'll learn to  
loathe these things.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

(on radio)

We're ready.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

(on radio)

We're ready.

BATMAN

We're ready. Let's go.

Batman heads for the spacecraft. The others follow.  
Supergirl swallows hard. Then walks after the others.

PAN UP to reveal all three teams slowly heading for the  
spacecraft.

FADE OUT.

THE END