

SUPERMAN

Written by

James Gunn

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

A still, frozen landscape. A low sun fights the clouds over the icy white mountains; snow sweeps softly over the tundra. We HEAR the chilled winds. And TEXT PLAYS, one line at a time:

3 CENTURIES AGO, the first superpowered beings, known as METAHUMANS, appeared on Earth, ushering in a new era of GODS AND MONSTERS.

3 DECADES AGO, an extraterrestrial baby was sent in a spacecraft to Earth, and adopted by Kansas farmers.

3 YEARS AGO, the baby, now grown, announced himself as SUPERMAN, the most powerful metahuman of all.

3 WEEKS AGO, Superman stopped the country of BORAVIA from invading JARHANPUR, sparking controversy around the world.

3 HOURS AGO, a metahuman called the HAMMER OF BORAVIA attacked Superman in the city of METROPOLIS.

3 MINUTES AGO, Superman lost a battle for the first time.

A speck plummets haphazardly through the sky.

It lands in the snow with a burst.

PUSH DOWN AND IN ON SUPERMAN, a trickle of blood running from his mouth, redness stark against white ice, the redness spreading. He is severely injured.

Slowly, uncertainly, he purses his lips and... whistles.

He lies there a moment, motionless, and then sees a fountain of snow in the distance. The fountain gets closer and closer and it becomes obvious something is moving so fast it's leaving a wake like a giant snow blower blowing.

Coming into view is a medium-to-large-sized white dog with a red cape, barreling towards him at super-speed.

KRYPTO arrives quickly and uncarefully, pouncing on Superman.

SUPERMAN

Oof. No.

Krypto is joyous his friend is home, but I'll say here from the beginning, he is a terrible dog, untrained and with no awareness or respect for boundaries. Although Superman is clearly in pain, perhaps even dying, Krypto darts around him in the snow, play-attacking him, tongue dangling like a goof.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Krypto... home.

Krypto lies down, curls up, perhaps tuckered from all the unrequited playing. He stares at his Kryptonian friend, tail flapping a drumbeat against the snow.

Superman is annoyed. He grabs his own cape and holds it in front of Krypto's mouth.

Krypto licks it.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
No... Grab... Krypto... HOME.

Krypto bites the end of the cape, and darts off, pulling Superman behind him like a sled.

As Superman is dragged, he sees, just ahead, a giant structure composed of monolithic crystals rising from below the glaciers, the magical and enchanting and impressive -

EXT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - DAY

The Fortress stops rising as they arrive. As they close in on the giant door, it glows with a massive *S* symbol and opens into -

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - FOYER - DAY

Six SUPERMAN ROBOTS - simple metal automatons - come running towards them.

ROBOT 4
Superman!

The Robots hoist up Superman, waddling sidewise.

SUPERMAN
Thank you.

ROBOT 4
No need to thank us, as we will not appreciate it, sir. We have no consciousness whatsoever. Merely automatons here to serve.

(re: Robot 12)
Meet Twelve. She's new.

Superman half-nods, starting to pass out. They enter into -

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - CENTRAL AREA - DAY

The Robots carry Superman into this crystal cathedral. Holograms of the immaculate JOR-EL and LARA, holding baby Kal-El, loom around them, delivering a message in the florid KRYPTONIAN LANGUAGE.

The message is partial, futzing out and then repeating every thirty seconds or so.

ROBOT 4
I put on your parents' message to
soothe you.
(to Robot 12)
He finds it soothing.

SUPERMAN
Thank you.

The Robots set him in a giant seat, like a toddler in a dentist's chair, surrounded by bizarre Kryptonian technology. They prep him for his procedure.

ROBOT 4
(to Robot 12)
The message was damaged in transit
from Krypton to earth, but what is
there -
(translates)
'We love you more than heaven, our
son, we love you more than land.
Our beloved home is soon to be gone
forever. But hope vitalizes our
hearts, and our hope is you, Kal-
El.'

Superman woozily murmurs along as his body is scanned --

SUPERMAN	ROBOT 4 (CONT'D)
We have searched the	We have searched the
universe for a home where	universe for a home where
you can do the most good...	you can do the most good -

ROBOT 4 (CONT'D)
And live out Krypton's truth. That
place is earth.' And the rest of
the message is lost.

Superman is touched by his parents' presence

ROBOT 1
Fourteen fractured bones.

ROBOT 12
Damage to bladder-kidney-large-intestine-lungs.

ROBOT 5
Our poor Superman.

The dentist-chair-like giant chair twists up and around and locks into place, facing a fissure in the Fortress wall.

ROBOT 4
With a healthy dose of yellow sun, we'll have him up and at 'em in no time.

The fissure opens -- it is lined up perfectly with where the sun presently is in the sky -- and what looks like (and probably is) a giant telescopic magnifying glass rolls in front of the sun, beaming onto Superman.

The beam grows stronger and stronger until it's searing. Superman's eyes pop open. He shouts. The Robots hold him in place with their strong metal arms as his body surges with the power of the yellow sun. His bones crack and heal. His wounds and bruises wash away.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

ANGELA SPICA, THE ENGINEER, wearing thermal wear, is treading through the deep snow.

LEX (ON COMM)
Engineer, come in.

ENGINEER
He landed somewhere near here, I can't see where.

LEX (ON COMM)
Well, keep looking.

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - DAY

The magnifying glass shuts down, and Superman rolls off the chair and to his hands and knees.

SUPERMAN
Golly.

Superman stands and starts to walk away. Robot 4 follows.

ROBOT 4

Sir, you are only eighty-three percent restored to health. You must rest.

SUPERMAN

Sorry, Four, I've got to get back to the fray.

ROBOT 4

But this Hammer fellow just beat you at full power.

Superman stops walking, noticing some of his furniture has been torn apart, and there are huge holes in the crystals as if a giant groundhog had been burrowing through them.

SUPERMAN

Krypto?

Krypto appears in front of him, tail wagging.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

What the hey, dude?! You've destroyed all my stuff. Superman Robots, I thought I told you to look after him.

ROBOT 4

We feed the canine, but he is unruly, and he realizes we are not flesh and blood and couldn't in our heart of hearts care less whether he lives or dies.

Superman shakes his head and moves on. As he does, Krypto tries to bite his feet and ankles, playing with them.

SUPERMAN

Ow! Oh. Stop! Krypto, stop.

Krypto stops. But whimpers, watching Superman go.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

The Engineer sees a red and blue streak passing above her, speaks into a comm.

ENGINEER

The alien is on its way back.

EXT. SKIES - DAY

Superman flies towards us, hair whipping, cape flapping, through clouds, up and down and we CUT TO -

OPENING CREDITS**EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY**

A musclebound man in bulky gold and onyx battle armor floats surrounded by skyscrapers. The flag of Boravia is emblazoned across his chest. Five futuristic camera drones float around him. We'll call him, for now, THE HAMMER OF BORAVIA. His voice is hyperbolic and distorted:

HAMMER OF BORAVIA
YOUR SUPERMAN HAS ABANDONED YOU!

OFFICE WORKERS gape from the twenty-first floor of the Chocos Building.

HAMMER OF BORAVIA (CONT'D)
The people of Boravia will not
ignore him inserting himself into
our affairs!

He shoots a red beam out of his face, blasting through the windows, slicing it across the space --

INT. CHOCOS BUILDING OFFICE FLOOR - DAY

Workers run and dive in fear.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

A gorgeous Instagram-model-type, EVE TESCHMACHER, poses by the window at the top floor of this skyscraper, taking sexy selfies of herself with the Hammer of Boravia in the distant background causing destruction.

KIMBLE (O.S.)
T-Minus ten and counting.

PAN AWAY FROM EVE and OVER ROWS OF TECHNICIANS working briskly at CONSOLES, like NASA control at a rocket launch. Tech CHERYL KIMBLE watches the blips on a radar scanner as The Hammer's voice booms on speakers:

KIMBLE (CONT'D) HAMMER OF BORAVIA (SPEAKER)
T-minus ten and counting... * He had no place on the
five... four... battlefields of Boravia and
Jarhanpur.

*

PAN OVER DRONE TECHS, including head tech LARRY CHIN and pilots DEAN and DESMOND FARR (Bravo and Alpha).

LARRY
Bravo - what do you have on
the employees?

HAMMER OF BORAVIA (SPEAKER) (CONT'D)
The Kryptonian's choices are
the cause of my actions
today!

DEAN
No fatalities.

DESMOND
Can't win 'em all.

PAN TO THE BACK OF LEX LUTHOR, a tall, thin, bald man impeccably dressed, pacing back and forth in front of the window like a caged tiger.

KIMBLE (O.S.)
Target in sight.

Lex sees, THROUGH THE WINDOW, Superman flying in over the horizon as Lex turns towards us, speaking into his mic.

LEX
He's back. Your five-o-clock.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

The Hammer of Boravia swirls and sees Superman flying toward him at ten times the speed of a supersonic jet.

HAMMER OF BORAVIA
Copy.

The Hammer ducks back as Superman swings at him. Superman misses and is off balance.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex watches the drone feeds, again speaking into his mic.

12C.

A FIGHT TECH plugs in the numbers Luthor reads off, and a GRAPHIC of jabbing into a neck with fingers pops on.

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

The Hammer zooms forward, and jabs his fingers hard into Superman's neck, matching the graphic.

LEX (O.S.)

18A.

INSERT GRAPHIC ON MONITOR: RIGHT SWING.

The Hammer swings with his right and hits him as hard as he can; Superman goes spinning backwards.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex watches the drones' feeds on his monitor.

LEX

34B.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

As the Hammer continues to thrash Superman, Lex's voice ring out.

LEX (O.S.)

98Z... 8H... 44T.

The Hammer of Boravia grabs Superman by the ankles, tossing him spinning towards the ground.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Eve takes a sexy selfie in front of the window, Superman spiraling down in the background - CLICK!

EXT. METROPOLIS STREET - DAY

Pedestrians scatter as Superman plummets towards them.

He smashes down into the street --

MALI, a concerned falafel vendor, sees the dust where Superman landed across the street...

He shouts at a HOT DOG VENDOR:

MALI
Reggie, can you watch?

The Hot Dog Vendor nods as Mali runs across the street.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

A BORAVIAN TECH, eyeing Lex, whispers to a portal tech, SYDNEY HAPPERSEN.

BORAVIAN TECH
It's like he knows Superman's every move before he makes it.

HAPPERSEN
He does. He's been studying him for years.

The head tech, OTIS, overhears as he fills out some forms.

OTIS
He's developed over twenty-five hundred fight moves for any situation.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREET - DAY

Mali arrives, seeing Superman unconscious in a hole, water pipes broken around him.

MALI
Superman!

Mali climbs into the hole. Drones fly down around him.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Dean's facial recognition software locks in on Mali's face; his driver's license comes up.

LARRY
Alpha, you got him?

DEAN
Malik Ali, a local.

MS. JESSOP
Lex, we have the Engineer!

Lex moves towards the Engineer's monitors as her voice emerges from the speakers.

ENGINEER (O.S.)
Lex, the target has led us to the
ice castle.

Lex moves to the Engineer's POV of the Fortress of Solitude on a MONITOR.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

The Engineer stares at it, dumbfounded.

ENGINEER
The rumors are true. I don't know
how in the hell this thing hasn't
been spotted -

The Fortress starts descending back into the glacier.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)
Mierda.

She sprints as metal nanites cover part of her body and thrusters form on her back. She leaps, rocketing towards it --

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex watches her flying POV on the monitor. He signals to Cheryl Kimble to switch his comm-link from the Hammer to the Engineer.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

The Engineer doesn't make it in time as the entire structure gets sucked below the arctic crust.

ENGINEER
Hijo de...

The Engineer lands beside it as it disappears completely.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)
The entire structure has descended
into the ice.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex speaks into his mic.

LEX

We have what we need. Return to base.

ENGINEER (ON SPEAKER)
I can drill into it, Lex.

LEX

Your pride won't be making our choices today, Angela, thank you. We'll need more than you when we enter.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAY

The Engineer groans, reluctantly moves away.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex switches back from Comm 1 to Comm 2. He looks out the window at the Hammer of Boravia.

LEX

We've done what we need to do. Wrap it up.

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

The Hammer shouts his amplified speech, so it can be heard throughout the streets.

HAMMER OF BORAVIA

The United States will continue to feel the wrath of the Hammer of Boravia -- !

EXT. METROPOLIS STREET - DAY

Superman blinks to consciousness as Mali tries to help him up. Pieces of rubble rain around them.

MALI

Superman! It is me, Mali - once I give you free falafel when you saved a woman from being hit by a taxi.

HAMMER OF BORAVIA

As long as the alien continues to sow chaos in our homeland!

*

SUPERMAN

Mali, you need to get out of here. It's not safe.

MALI

You help us so often, Superman, now we can help you!

HAMMER OF BORAVIA

This is your last warning!

Superman looks up and sees the Hammer flying away between the smoking buildings.

He steps forward, clutching his broken ribs, but stumbles. Mali helps him. Ambulance sirens ring out around them.

An ONLOOKER stares at Superman, doubtfully.

ONLOOKER

Maybe you shouldnta done that thing in Jarhanpur, Superman.

Superman is a little embarrassed.

OMITTED**OMITTED****INT. COMMS HUB - DAY**

Lex nods, half-smiles. The employees applaud.

OTIS

Flawless. Way to bring it home, people.

EXT. FORT KRAMER - DAY

The Hammer lands in this ex-military encampment.

He stomps toward a tent in the middle of the camp. Two LUTHORCOP SCIENTISTS in khaki shorts and aloha shirts open the tent flaps for him.

Inside is what looks like a gigantic metal Tylenol capsule with a hole on one end -- a DIMENSIONAL PORTAL --

The Hammer steps into it, walking forward -- an electrical field crackles and snaps around the machine.

As we PUSH IN on the portal; it now dead ends.

EXT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

The Hammer of Boravia emerges from a dimensional portal like the one he just entered in outer space.

He strides across a narrow plank towards another dimensional portal, an eerie cosmos all around him.

OMITTED

INT. COMMS HUB - DUSK

And yet another dimensional portal here crackles and snaps with electricity, and the Hammer of Boravia emerges from the formerly empty tube.

He passes the technicians at their stations, he removes his helmet, revealing a black mask and goggles beneath.

He approaches Lex, who is popping open a beer with Eve by his side, the rest of the Employees gathering around in relaxing celebration.

EVE
Ultraman, you did so good!

EXT. LUTHORCOP BUILDING - DUSK

THROUGH A WINDOW on the top floor, Lex nods at him. Ultraman nods back.

PULL BACK to reveal the skyscraper in mid-Metropolis.

The Engineer, her body half-rocket, lands on the roof beside the massive, illuminated "LUTHORCOP" logo and their slogan: "CREATING A BETTER WORLD."

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. DAILY PLANET - MORNING

CLARK KENT maneuvers through a sea of Metropolitans on their way to work. He is twice as large and three times as polite as those around him and does his abject best not to knock over others or get plowed over himself.

CLARK

Sorry... I'm sorry... Excuse me.

Throughout this tale, Clark will be referred to as whichever of his two personas he's presenting himself as. Clark is a clumsy galoot lacking Superman's barrel-chest-forward confidence. It's commonly said Clark is the mask, and Superman is the real personality, but I believe the truth is more complex, and the real Clark/Superman is somewhere in between, only revealed to those who know both.

As Clark enters the DAILY PLANET building, PAN to a SECURITY GUARD reading the front page: "'Hammer of Boravia' Creates Havoc Downtown," featuring a blurry photo of the villain and a Clark Kent byline.

ON TV - NT. THE SPHERE NEWS TV STUDIO - DAY

Pundit CLEAVIS THORNWAITE addresses the camera with passion.

THORNWAITE

Do these Metahumans think they can dictate international policy!? It's outrageou -

INT. DAILY PLANET NEWSROOM - DAY

AN ELEVATOR DINGS --

Clark enters the newsroom of the largest print and online news source in the United States. Reporters bustle. Interns dart with trays of coffee. Monitors display stocks, newsfeeds, weather. Clark passes PERRY WHITE, the irascible and effective editor of the Daily Planet. He's yelling at an employee.

PERRY

You're never gonna get above the fold, Bratten, you don't get your head in the game!
 (sees Clark)
 You're late again, Kent.

CLARK

Sorry, Perry.

Clark nears STEVE LOMBARD, a mustachioed, aging man-boy sports writer. He's reading the paper.

LOMBARD

Hey, loser.

CLARK

Hey, Steve.

Lombard walks with Clark. He flicks the front page.

LOMBARD

What do you got against adverbs, Kent? How are we supposed to know how we feel when we read this malarkey?

Clark sees his phone ringing, looks at it.

LOMBARD (CONT'D)

In sports writing you learn, the sentence is the modifiers.

CLARK

(answering)

Hey, Ma.

LOMBARD

(laughing)

'Ma!'

EXT. KENT FARMHOUSE - BACK PORCH - DAY

MA and PA KENT, in their sixties, lean in to talk on the cell phone on the table. They're not the aging-but-dashing stars we're used to seeing them as in filmed media, but weather-worn folks who have spent their lives toiling in the fields.

MA

Hey, Clark, me and Pa just wanted to call and congratulate you on that front page. Boy, is that something.

INT. DAILY PLANET NEWSROOM - DAY

Lombard continues walking with Clark, mocking him.

LOMBARD
Ask 'Ma' if she barbecued up any
good roadkill lately.

CLARK
Shut up, Steve.

MA (ON PHONE)
What's that, Clark?

CAT GRANT, the gossip columnist, is passing by.

CAT
Chitlins are intestines.

LOMBARD
Thanks, Cat. Did you read this
crud?

CAT
I thought it was great, Clark.

CLARK
Thanks!

EXT. KENT FARMHOUSE - BACK PORCH - DAY

Ma leans in too close to the phone as she talks.

MA
Well, don't wanna keep you, just
wanted to say congrats and tell ya'
we're thinking 'bout you, Clark.
It's been a minute.

PA
Tell him don't be a stranger.

MA
Pa says 'Don't be -"

CLARK (ON PHONE)
I heard him, Ma - I gotta go.

INT. DAILY PLANET NEWSROOM - DAY

LOIS LANE reads the Planet at her desk. Lois is perpetually disheveled and skeptical, always concerned about whatever's going to go wrong next, yet impossible to knock off balance.

With her is JIMMY OLSEN. He looks nineteen but is probably twenty-six. He isn't conventionally attractive but has a bottomless supply of smirky confidence bordering on and at times crossing over into arrogance. Still, it's hard not to like him as he's pretty hyped on at least one facet of almost everything.

Lois sees Clark arriving, trying to get off the phone.

CLARK

Okay... Okay... Okay, bye.

(to Lois)

Parents.

LOIS

(re: the paper)

So this guy just flew into midtown
and started attacking people,
demanding for Superman to show up?

CLARK

It's all in my article.

LOIS

That would mean I'd actually have
to make it through your writing,
Clark. Knowledge is worth many
sacrifices, but that isn't one of
them.

CLARK

Ha ha, very funny.

Jimmy notices two PRETTY EMPLOYEES at the water cooler beneath the monitor, giggling and waving flirtatiously. Jimmy smiles back, somewhat patronizingly. Then to Lois and Clark:

JIMMY

Twenty-two people in the hospital,
over twenty million in property
damage. It makes you wonder.

LOIS

Wonder what?

JIMMY

Maybe Superman - I mean he's great, of course - but maybe he didn't completely think through the ramifications of the Boravia thing.

LOIS

If this guy is even from Boravia.

JIMMY

His name is 'the Hammer of Boravia'.

LOIS

I doubt his parents named him that, Jimmy. We have no clue what his actual goal was here -

JIMMY

I think it's pretty obvious it was kicking Superman's ass, retaliation for the Boravia thing.

CLARK

He didn't completely kick Superman's ass.

JIMMY

Pretty thoroughly, Clark.

Lois uses a remote to turn up the volume on a nearby monitor where VASIL GHURKOS, the overly emotive, despotic leader of Boravia, addresses press.

GHURKOS (ON TV)

Show me! You show me what ties there are between Boravia and this 'Hammer'! Someone is framing Boravia to diminish our nation in the eyes of the world!

CLARK

Superman did say the Hammer seemed to be faking a Boravian accent.

LOIS

Superman said that?

CLARK

Yes.

LOIS

When you interviewed him?

Clark points at the article.

CLARK

Right, I interviewed him right afterwards. Great guy.

LOIS

Funny how you're always getting these interviews with Superman, Clark.

CLARK

(chuckling)

I don't see why good journalism is funny.

LOIS

Uh huh.

Lois stares at him, skeptical. Ghurkos continues.

GHURKOS (ON TV)

The relationship between Boravia and the United States has been like iron for thirty years until Superman came along -

EXT. THE PENTAGON - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The Pentagon building.

LEX (O.S.)

What you're looking at, my friends, is the most powerful being on planet earth.

INT. PENTAGON CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ON SCREEN: TEST FOOTAGE of Ultraman, tossing an eighteen-wheeler truck bed at a container wall, destroying both.

LEX

Ultraman.

Luthor addresses a shadowy audience around a conference table in this dark room: the Secretary of Defense, GENERAL STEPHEN MORI, Director of National Intelligence FLO CRAWLEY, Director of Homeland Security SAFFRON BELL, Attorney General ALBERT TYLER, and the acting director of ARGUS, GENERAL RICK FLAG, SR. They watch the footage with concern -- a world changing beyond their understanding.

ON SCREEN: Ultraman smashes through one giant stone slab after the next. Tyler looks over at the hulking form of the actual Ultraman, watching from a corner behind Luthor.

SECRETARY MORI
You created this man?

LEX
Ooh, check this out!

ON SCREEN: TEST FOOTAGE OF THE ENGINEER blasting down drones with bazookas on each arm.

LEX (CONT'D)
The Engineer. A former special operative whose blood I infused with microscopic machines called 'nanites' which she can form into anything she can imagine.

ON SCREEN: RAPTORS, soldiers in high-tech battle-suits, fly and blast their way across an open field.

LEX (CONT'D)
And of course you're familiar with my flying armored forces, the Raptors.

The Raptors, Ultraman, and the Engineer pose together.

LEX (CONT'D)
All together they're an unstoppable force we call PlanetWatch, more than capable of containing any otherworldly threat.

Luthor nods at Ultraman, who flicks the light switch on.

SECRETARY MORI
So you want the Defense Department to hire your metahumans to take down the Kryptonian?

LEX
After Superman acted with violence against our Boravian allies last week, I think it'd be worth considering.

FLAG
Big Blue stopped a war. Naive, maybe. But it was well-intentioned.

LEX

I don't know the intentions of an unattended firehose, General Flag, I just do what I can not to be splashed.

CRAWLEY

Mr. Luthor -

LEX

The disarming Director Crawley -

CRAWLEY

The country of Boravia has purchased over eighty-billion dollars worth of arms from LuthorCorp in the past two years.

LEX

And?

CRAWLEY

No one would profit off a war between Boravia and Jarhanpur more than you. A cynic might say getting Superman out of the way might not be bad for business.

LEX

What's particularly bad for business is dying. And I have a feeling that's where we're all headed, with the Kryptonian running wild.

FLAG

We're gonna lock up all the metahumans now?

LEX

Other metahumans aren't going off half-cocked, interfering in foreign affairs. They don't have - and I have proof of this - a hidden headquarters in Antarctica that violates twelve international treaties. And they aren't aliens. Shouldn't all that be more than enough reason for PlanetWatch to at least bring the Kryptonian in for questioning?

SECRETARY MORI

Admittedly, I'm not comfortable -
nor are most of us - with a being
from another planet as dangerous as
him - it? I don't know - on the
loose. But the optics - Superman is
popular -

LEX

Less so every day, according to
chatter online -

SECRETARY MORI

- not to mention the potential risk
in failing to contain him -

LEX

I'm serious, Secretary. We can
contain him.

TYLER

Yeah, they got this stuff - what's
this stuff called - this Kryptonite
stuff?

LEX

It's called Kryptonite.

TYLER

Well it kills him, right?

FLAG

As far as we've been able to
ascertain, there's none left on the
planet.

LEX

I have a workaround for that as
well -

SECRETARY MORI

It doesn't matter, Lex. Without
proof of malicious intent, it's not
worth taking the risk.

Luthor is unhappy with this pronouncement, but not surprised.
The Council starts to gather their things to go.

He locks his briefcase.

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. LOIS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Various heavy-duty locks unlock on the front door, and Lois enters, fatigued from a day of journalistic sleuthing.

Lois she hears a clang and sizzle coming from the kitchen. She stops, concerned.

She picks up a baseball bat by the doorway as quietly as she can, clutching it in both hands.

She moves stealthily towards the kitchen, when --

CLARK (O.S.)
It's just me.

INT. LOIS'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clark is fixing eggs and bacon. White shirt rolled up at the sleeves, suit pants, no tie, no glasses. He sees Lois holding the bat.

LOIS
What are you doing?

CLARK
Three months ago we had our first date. To celebrate, I'm making your favorite. Breakfast for dinner.

LOIS
That's your favorite.

CLARK
You love breakfast.

LOIS
Yeah, for breakfast. You love it for dinner.

She comes in close to him. He turns to her and... they kiss, passionately.

CLARK
That was hilarious today.

LOIS
What?

CLARK

That back-and-forth we had going,
giving each other guff. I felt like
an actor! Jimmy ate it up!

LOIS

I wasn't acting, Clark. If you keep
interviewing yourself, eventually
people are going to figure it out.

CLARK

But the glasses.

LOIS

They won't fool everyone forever.
Plus, ethically, these interviews
are more than questionable. By
their very nature, you know the
questions in advance.

CLARK

Fine, I'll let you interview me.

LOIS

I'm pretty sure you wouldn't like
that.

CLARK

Lois, please. I'm media savvy. I
know how to handle any questions
that come my way.

Lois looks at him.

LOIS

Are you being serious right now?

CLARK

Yes.

LOIS

You'd let me interview you as
Superman?

CLARK

Yes.

LOIS

Okay, then. Now?

CLARK

Um, well -

INT. LOIS'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

A digital recorder sits on the coffee table. Lois presses the ON button.

LOIS

Ready?

They're in the primary living space, an untidy home to thousands of books on history and current events. Lois and Clark both have their breakfast food on plates.

CLARK

Let's do it, Cronkite.

LOIS

Superman.

CLARK

Yes.

LOIS

Recently you've come under a lot of fire -

CLARK

I don't know about 'a lot' -

LOIS

It's a lot. Today the Secretary of Defense said he was going to look into your actions in Boravia -

Clark chuckles.

LOIS (CONT'D)

That's funny?

CLARK

It's not funny funny. It's just... I mean, 'my actions'? I stopped a war.

LOIS

Maybe.

CLARK

Not maybe. I did.

LOIS

Okay. How?

CLARK

Well, Boravia invaded Jarhanpur and I showed up and told them that wasn't right.

LOIS

And -

CLARK

And smashed some tanks and things and a couple planes and some other stuff. There were no casualties and no significant injuries.

LOIS

Did you interact at all with the President of Boravia, Vasil Ghurkos?

CLARK

A very small amount.

LOIS

What did you do?

CLARK

That was between us, Lois.

Lois stops the tape.

LOIS

This is all on the record.

CLARK

Yes, but what I told you was between the two of us.

LOIS

And I would ask this question, whether or not I knew the answer to that.

CLARK

(doubtful)

Really?

LOIS

Really.

She presses the button again. Waits.

CLARK

After I stopped the war, I went to see Ghurkos.

LOIS

Where?

CLARK

In the capital, Luchebic. At the
royal palace.

LOIS

And?

CLARK

And I took a private audience with
Ghurkos.

LOIS

How?

CLARK

I flew him into the desert and...

LOIS

And?

CLARK

I placed him against a cactus -

LOIS

A cactus? So, torture?

CLARK

I didn't torture anyone. The spikes
weren't even that big.

LOIS

And what did you say?

CLARK

I told him if he messes with
Jarhanpur again he'd have to
personally answer to me.

LOIS

What did that mean?

CLARK

Hm?

LOIS

What did you mean by 'personally
answer to me'?

CLARK

If such events occurred, we'd have a more serious discussion, that's all -

LOIS

More serious than tearing up his back on a cactus?

CLARK

Ghurkos was going to kill people. You seem to keep forgetting -

LOIS

So, in effect, you illegally entered a country, inserting yourself into an incredibly heated geopolitical situation -

CLARK

Wait -

LOIS

- siding with a nation, Jarhanpur, which historically has not been a friend to the U.S. -

CLARK

Jarhanpur has changed a lot, first of all -

LOIS

Against a country that is technically our ally -

CLARK

And, hold on a minute -

LOIS

And then threatened to murder their head of state?

CLARK

Wait, wait, hold on a second, no. First of all, whether Jarhanpur as a country is imperfect doesn't mean another nation has the right to invade them -

LOIS

The government of Boravia maintains they're freeing the Jarhanpurians from a tyrannical regime.

CLARK

Well, you know, that's very silly.

LOIS

I do?

CLARK

The Boravian government, of all people is saying this?! See now, Lois, well, now, you, you're being dishonest!

LOIS

Superman, this is on the record!
And how am I being dishonest?

Clark turns off the recorder.

CLARK

You know as well as I do that Boravia is not well-intentioned!

LOIS

I think that's almost certainly the case. But do I know that? No. Can we go on now?

CLARK

Fine.

LOIS

You think this is going well?

CLARK

I think I'm doing a good job.

Lois turns the recorder back on.

LOIS

Superman, did you consult with the President before entering Boravian airspace?

Clark SIGHS.

CLARK

No.

LOIS

The Secretary of Defense?

CLARK

No.

LOIS

Or any U.S. official before you took matters into your own hands and decided unilaterally how to handle this delicate situation?

CLARK

Ghurkos and his goons were going to kill people.

LOIS

But what if - and I'm just saying - the results of you seemingly acting as a representative of the United States -

CLARK

I wasn't representing anyone but me and - good, being good, that's all -

LOIS

- will actually cause more problems around the world, more than a war that in all likelihood would have lasted between twelve and twenty-four hours and was, practically speaking, just replacing one tyrannical regime with another?

CLARK

You really feel like that?

LOIS

I'm not the one being interviewed, but I question it, yes. I would question myself in the same situation and hold off a beat from acting rashly.

CLARK

People were going to die!

LOIS

Okay, I'd like to change the subject if I could.

CLARK

Gladly.

LOIS

You've gotten a lot of heat on social media -

CLARK

I don't read that stuff.

(been waiting to use this)

Superman doesn't have time for
selfies.

LOIS

Third person?

CLARK

Hm?

LOIS

You're referring to yourself in the
third person now?

CLARK

It's just something I came up with
the other day I thought I'd try to
work into the next interview.

LOIS

This is on the record, Superman.

CLARK

Well, not the part where I said
that.

LOIS

Yes, that part.

CLARK

That was an aside. It was off-the-
record.

LOIS

You have to say off-the-record
beforehand, not afterwards.

CLARK

Why are you being like this?

LOIS

Fine, I won't write that you spend
your spare time trying to think up
soundbites, that are terrible, by
the way.

Clark fumes.

LOIS (CONT'D)

Anyway. Social media.

CLARK

Sure.

LOIS

As you may know, or maybe you don't since you claim not to read them -

CLARK

Very seldom.

LOIS

(sotto)

Maybe sometimes people catch you reading them and looking very upset.

CLARK

You can't use that.

LOIS

People on social networking sites are suspicious because you are, everyone understands, an alien.

CLARK

Yes, I've been honest about that. I come from a planet called Krypton.

LOIS

Ok.

CLARK

It's gone now. My history. My parents. They sent me here as a baby to save my life.

LOIS

Here where?

CLARK

That I won't say. You know I won't say that.

LOIS

Ok. And what do you know about these biological parents of yours?

CLARK

They sent me here to serve humanity, and help the world be a better place.

LOIS

They said that?

CLARK

Yes, they sent a message with me,
that message is why I do what I do,
I cherish it more than anything.

LOIS

Because you understand, now, a lot
of people are maintaining you're
here for more nefarious purposes.
Hashtag Superspy. Hashtag
Supershit.

CLARK

Supershit!? Come on, Lois, you know
that one specifically irritates me!

LOIS

This is on the record, Clark!

She turns off the recorder.

LOIS (CONT'D)

It's a popular hashtag! This is
what people on the internet are
saying!

CLARK

Fine, I - You know what? I'm gonna
go.

Clark gathers his things.

LOIS

Clark, come on, don't do this.

CLARK

I'm not doing anything, Lois.

LOIS

Walking out in the middle of an
interview?!

CLARK

I'm not walking out! It's just
late!

LOIS

This is what you do when you're
faced with conflict, you get mad,
you pout, and you pretend like
nothing's wrong!

CLARK

Nothing is wrong! I gave you a long interview. Longer than I ever gave myself, by the way.

LOIS

You're able to time your imaginary interviews with yourself?! That's something you're able to do?!

CLARK

You got a lot of stuff. Some stuff you can't use.

LOIS

I'm well aware. I knew this would never work.

Lois picks up her dish and moves -- well, stomps, to be honest -- into the kitchen.

CLARK

What does that mean?

INT. LOIS'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lois shakes her head as she starts washing her plate.

CLARK (O.S.)

Lois, what does that mean?

LOIS

Nothing, I just told you I wasn't good at relationships.

She hears Clark exit and shut the door behind him.

EXT. ANTARCTICA - DAWN

A LuthorCorp RaptorCopter lands on the icy white plains (like the currently icy state of Lois and Clark's relationship).

Luthor, Eve, the Engineer, and Ultraman emerge from the VTOL. Luthor and Eve are in snow gear.

EVE

The real Antarctica! So cool!

MOMENTS LATER

Luthor and the others tread toward the open stretch where the Fortress had been.

Eve flounces around, taking selfies of herself against glaciers and such. The Engineer glares at her with revulsion.

ENGINEER

It was right ahead. But how are we going to gain access?

Luthor glances back at her.

LEX

Oh, ye of little faith.

The Engineer sees the Fortress begin to rise beyond Luthor.

EVE

Oh wow!

They step up to the front door.

The giant Superman insignia lights up... and the door opens. The Engineer looks at Lex, confused as to how they got inside.

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - FOYER - DAWN

The foursome enter in stealth mode, gazing up at the intricate ceiling.

In the distance, they hear the RECORDING OF SUPERMAN'S KRYPTONIAN PARENTS starting.

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - CENTRAL AREA - DAWN

Robot 4 is at the computer, his back to them. The fuzzy hologram of Jor-El and Lara plays above him.

ROBOT 4

Superman, I've preemptively put up the soothing message from your -

He turns, seeing Luthor, Engineer, Ultraman, and Eve enter.

ROBOT 4 (CONT'D)

Oh my. I do apologize, but this is a restricted area -

Ultraman zooms forward, crushing Robot 4 against the wall, tearing the robot in two. Robot 4 sparks, appears confused.

The other Robots, suddenly dangerous-looking, rush them.

Engineer transforms her arms into two huge buzzsaws -- she slices one apart, and then swings, cutting down another.

As Robots move in from a hall behind her, she backflips, and her body reverses -- her head and buzzsaw arms pouring upward so they're now where her legs and crotch were --

She shoots her buzzsaws at the robots -- they fly forward, slicing them in half

And then, defying physics, the buzzsaws change course, curling around the room, slicing through the other Robots --

And she catches them on her wrists.

She hears a dog GROWLING.

She sees Krypto flying towards her.

ENGINEER

Que - ?

Engineer falls back, dodging the attack.

Krypto lands, skidding and curling back toward her, leaping and flying back --

But the Engineer covers Krypto's head in nanites, so it looks like he's wearing a mercury jellybean helmet. Krypto dive-bombs into the floor.

Like a fussy dog wearing a hat, Krypto scrapes the nanites off with his paws, but they instantly grow back.

Luthor looks up at the computer, approaching it.

LEX

This is what we came for. Hopefully there's something in this computer we can use to convince the generals Superman requires immediate action.

ENGINEER

There must be.

Lex runs his fingers over the computer, truly thinking, authentic.

LEX

I can't stand the metahumans, but he's so much worse... SuperMAN.
He's not a man. He's an it.

(MORE)

LEX (CONT'D)

A thing with a cocky grin and a stupid outfit that's somehow become the focal point of the entire world's conversation. Nothing's felt right since he showed up.

ENGINEER

I know, Lex. I've sacrificed my own humanity to help get rid of it.

Lex nods, a distracted acknowledgment.

LEX

Can you get in?

The Engineer sprouts tendrils, slithering them into gaps and sockets on the machinery.

ENGINEER

It might take a while. What if the Kryptonian shows up?

LEX

Don't worry. I'm creating a distraction.

EXT. METROPOLIS WHARFS - DAWN

A van pulls into the parking lot of an abandoned fishery.

Otis and HAPPERSEN emerge, putting on protective gloves as they walk toward the back of the van.

They open the back doors. A metal box is there. It trembles and bounces and they can hear SNARLING.

Otis and Hap each grab a rope attached to the box. They step carefully to the sides, giving a lot of space for whatever is going to emerge.

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - CENTRAL AREA - DAWN

Information transfers into the Engineer -- luminescence traveling through the tendrils and into her body.

ENGINEER

Uh...

LEX

What?

ENGINEER

This message. From his parents.
It's damaged, but there's more... I
can recover the rest... It's...

As the hologram plays, the place where it normally fuzes and stops merely skips, continuing into a new piece of message.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)

Whoa.

The entire console lights up, the brighter lights speeding into the Engineer's body, and she lights up too. She throws her head back, almost orgasmically.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)

Got it!

OTIS (PRE-LAP)

Let it out!

INT. METROPOLIS WHARFS - DAWN

Otis and Hap pull their ropes. The box wall slides up --

And an enraged little CTHULHU-LOOKING ABOMINATION about a foot tall, stumbles out, gurgling and spitting and choking.

The creature leaps off the back of the truck and totters off shrieking into the shadows.

It belches a burst of flame from its mouth, lighting a trashcan on fire.

HAPPERSEN

It's an awful small distraction.

OTIS

It'll get bigger.

OMITTED

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

A JACK RUSSELL TERRIER barks at the sky. A shadow falls over it.

CUT TO A WIDE SHOT as Superman zooms in beside the little dog and catches a kaiju's foot slamming down, saving the animal. Superman strains as the foot exerts thousands of tons of pressure down on him, teetering and tottering.

REVEAL the enormous creature, the same from the wharf only thousands of times larger. TOURISTS watch, scared yet enthralled -- they probably hoped they'd see something like this when they booked their trip to Metropolis!

The Jack Russell's focus has shifted from the beast to Superman, and he now yips up at him, still in the shadow.

SUPERMAN

Go.

The dog keeps barking, inexplicably furious.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Urr. Get out of here.

The kaiju exerts more pressure -- Superman's feet sink calf-deep into the concrete, but the dog still won't leave.

Superman blows a thin stream of super-breath down at the yippy Jack Russell; the dog rolls to the curb --

Just as the giant foot smashes Superman into the ground.

The crowd is stunned. Has the creature pulverized the Man of Tomorrow?

But a YOUNG GIRL notices the street bulging in a path away from the foot, as if a giant mole is burrowing beneath the asphalt --

And Superman erupts from the pavement, iconic fist forward as he streaks up and --

Punches the abomination in the face.

The creature stumbles back, toppling towards LordTech Tower.

INT. LORDTECH TOWER - EIGHTY-THIRD FLOOR - DAY

OFFICE WORKERS scream and flee as the kaiju keels towards them --

But Superman flies in front of the window, catching the beast. He's shoved back at first, his back tapping the glass

-- but then he pushes the creature back into --

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

The monster wobbles and swirls, furious, roaring.

GBS REPORTER (O.S.)

The giant animal was first spotted early this A.M. in a Jitters Coffee Shop at Conway and Twelfth.

INT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - TV STORE - DAY

A hipster RETAIL CLERK stares out the window at the creature's leg. On a stack of TVs behind him, the GBS NEWS REPORTER reports from a news desk.

GBS REPORTER (ON TV)

At that point it was reported to be about seven feet tall, but it has apparently been growing.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

The monster belches irradiated fire from its bowels, aiming the stream at Superman --

Superman is engulfed in the flame, which spills back onto LordTech Tower behind him --

INT. LORDTECH TOWER - EIGHTY-THIRD FLOOR - DAY

The windows burst and melt. Tongues of fire lap into the office. Workers dive out of the way.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

As the fire recedes, Superman looks over his shoulder into the office.

SUPERMAN

Everyone okay?!

The Workers stare at him. There are small fires but it seems all are safe. One of them gives Superman a thumbs-up. Superman gazes at the creature.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Hey, buddy! Eyes up here.

Superman arcs up over the monster as it expels more irradiated flames at him.

And then Superman flings himself feet first into the creature's forehead, knocking him back --

A WOMAN sees the heel of his foot about to step back on her --
But Superman swoops underneath the heel, scooping her up.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOF - DAY

Superman skids down behind an old water tower, sets the panicking woman on the roof.

SUPERMAN
Deep, slow breaths, ma'am. You're gonna be fine.

She smiles, nods, tears in her eyes, can't believe her luck.

Superman sees the top of the creature's head, screeching and looking for him.

And above the beast, Superman spots three silhouetted figures floating majestically in the sky against the sun.

GUY GARDNER, a loudmouth Green Lantern with a bowl cut and a gold tooth. He uses his power ring to fly and to form any object he can imagine out of solid green light.

HAWKGIRL, a pixieish twenty-something with giant wings and a deadly mace. She seems bored, as odd as that may be considering the unconventional circumstances.

MR. TERRIFIC, whose seriousness contradicts the whimsy of his name and gadgets. He is surrounded by T-spheres -- small, multi-functional metal orbs the size of tennis balls he controls with complex hand signals. Currently, he's in a flying rig; his multi-computer wraps around him.

Guy Gardner speaks into a giant bullhorn growing out of his Green Lantern ring.

GUY
Everybody, clear the area!

The monster turns to them, screeching a hellish screech. Guy, Terrific, and Hawkgirl brace themselves for battle.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

Cat Grant is sitting on Lois's desk.

CAT
You know what I mean?

Lois nods, but is distracted by the story on the TV overhead. Cat's voice fades into the background.

GROUND REPORTER (ON TV)
The metahuman group known as the Justice Gang - Green Lantern, Hawkgirl, and Mr. Terrific - has just arrived on the scene. *

CAT (CONT'D) *
You can afford thousand-dollar concert tickets for your new girlfriend, but you can't make your child support payments? Jerk.

LOIS
Right.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

The screeching monster stomps toward the Justice Gang.

GROUND REPORTER (O.S.)
Funded by the LordTech corporation, the Justice Gang has occasionally partnered with Superman, although he is not officially a member.

GUY
Get him!

The kaiju doesn't see Superman behind it, holding the water tower in two hands like a baseball bat.

SUPERMAN
Hey!

The creature swirls and Superman swings the water tower into him; the tank bursts, water splashing all over.

Hawkgirl screeches -- she's actually kind of scary when she does this -- and she bashes the monster with a mace.

Terrific floats in close to the beast; his T-spheres shine beams onto the monster, feeding data into Terrific's multi-computer. Terrific is distracted as he pores over the data, when he turns to see --

The creature coming at him, snapping at him! Terrific zooms away, barely avoiding being bitten in half -- Guy Gardner forms a giant muzzle around its mouth.

GUY
Heel, boy.

The creature thrashes -- because Guy is attached to the muzzle by his ring, he's tossed around --

EXT. MASON OIL BUILDING - ROOFTOP - DAY

Guy smashes into a spire atop a building.

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. MASON OIL BUILDING - BALCONY PATIO - DAY

Terrific lands here beside Superman. His T-spheres shine beams onto the kaiju, feeding data into Terrific's computer.

TERRIFIC
What's the skinny?

SUPERMAN
Its hide is tough but it's off balance. I've been trying to figure out a way to get it out of here alive, someplace to study -

TERRIFIC
(disdainful)
Oh come on, man.

Terrific zooms away, yelling into his comm.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)
GO FOR ITS EYES!

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

Hawkgirl screeches as she soars towards the beast.

The beast swirls. And she slams her spiked mace into its giant eyeball.

The monster freaks out, trying to grab at her, but a recovering Guy forms giant oven mittens on its claws.

Hawkgirl pulls at her mace, stuck in the cornea. The creature blinks, trying to dislodge her. She's slammed by its eyelid.

HAWKGIRL
My knee! Guy! Help!

GUY
I made giant oven mitts!

HAWKGIRL
Good for you, asshole! I'm getting
blinded to death!

Hawkgirl removes the mace and swings and hits again.

The monster screeches. It falls back, stepping on a propane truck, which bursts -- propelling stuff everywhere --

Superman covers a GIRL's body with his own as he's barraged by flying objects --

INT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - TV STORE - DAY

A tank shatters the window, almost hitting the Clerk.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

Superman scowls up at the Justice Gang.

SUPERMAN
Come on, be careful!

Hawkgirl swings again! The creature MOANS.

Guy constructs what looks like a giant metal claw, which he flings at the monster's eye, plopping around it, keeping its eyelid wide open.

And then a jackhammer drill forms in the middle of the claw, jackhammering the creature's eye.

The creature WAILS. Superman watches from below, taken aback:

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Good gosh. There's gotta be a
better way to do this.

The creature's tail destroys parked cars in its path, swinging towards a SQUIRREL in a tree.

Superman swoops down, grabbing the squirrel, and flying out of the way.

He drops the squirrel onto the ground. It darts away.

Mr. Terrific uses his hand signals to send three T-spheres spinning into the creature's throat.

Superman squints, using his --

X-RAY VISION: the T-spheres fly down the creature's esophagus into its stomach as the creature stumbles.

Terrific flings his fingers open like an explosion --

And Superman can see the T-spheres explode.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Come on.

The creature dies immediately, standing stock-still for a moment in the middle of the square.

And then topples backwards --

Towards onlookers watching from the street. Superman catches it -- which isn't easy --

Arduously, he swivels the massive corpse over to the square, and lowers it gently to the ground.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

Lois watches helicopter footage of the dead kaiju on the TV, with a CHYRON: *Metahumans Kill Thing*, while Cat absently plays with something on her desk.

CAT

How's it going with that guy you were seeing? You were saying you weren't sure about it?

LOIS

Yeah. He's a little... strange.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

Superman GRUNTS as he crawls out from underneath the Kaiju. Guy lands beside him, smiling.

GUY

Kaiju steaks all around, huh?

SUPERMAN

I was hoping we could capture it
and, you know, bring it to an
intergalactic zoo or... at least
euthanize it more painlessly.

GUY

Come on, bro. Don't be such a wuss.

Superman shakes his head in disdain. Hawkgirl and Mr. Terrific land beside Guy. Guy addresses the onlookers.

GUY (CONT'D)

Just another day in the life of the
Justice Gang!

HAWKGIRL

That's not our name! That's just a
working name!

GUY

Although it could very well prove
to be permanent!

HAWKGIRL

Probably not!

GUY

Good chance, though. Either way,
we're grateful to LordTech
Industries for the opportunity to -

Guy notices no one is looking at them. Mutters to Terrific:

GUY (CONT'D)

Why is no one clapping?

Instead of focusing on the Justice Gang, much of the crowd is gawking at something above them.

Superman looks up at a giant video billboard behind them, like the one in Times Square. There's no sound but the hologram of Superman's parents plays and a chyron reads: "BREAKING NEWS: SUPERMAN SENT ON MISSION TO DESTROY US"

A heartbroken CONSTRUCTION WORKER is watching his phone.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

This has got to be B.S. Right?

The worker shows Superman his PHONE: Lex Luthor is being interviewed by the bow-tied pundit, CLEAVIS THORNWAITE.

LEX (ON VIDEO)
LuthorCorp state-of-the art
translating software has
successfully translated the
Kryptonian language in the message -

INT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - TV STORE - DAY

The same news story plays on the TV here. A couple PASSERSBY
watch it with the Retail Clerk.

LEX (ON TV)
- twenty-eight of the world's top
linguists have confirmed the
translation and thirty of the top
forensic computer techs have
confirmed the validity of the
footage itself.

INT. THE SPHERE NEWS TV STUDIO - DAY

Thornwaite interviews Luthor.

THORNEWAITE
Any chance they're mistaken?

LEX
Unfortunately, no.

THORNEWAITE
And you have the footage?

LEX
Yes.

THORNEWAITE
Let's take a look.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

Superman looks down at the phone, while simultaneously the
hologram plays on the screen behind him. A male and female
translator voice-over the footage.

JOR-EL (TRANSLATING)
We love you more than heaven, our
son, we love you more than land.
Our beloved planet is soon to be
gone.

LARA (TRANSLATING)

But hope vitalizes our hearts, and
our hope is you, Kal-El. We have
searched the universe for a home
where you can do the most good and
live out Krypton's truth.

SUPERMAN

What's bad about that?

JOR-EL (TRANSLATING)

That place is earth.

That is where the message usually ends due to the glitch. But
now it continues...

JOR-EL (TRANSLATING) (CONT'D)

The people there are simple and
profoundly confused, weak of mind
and spirit and body. Lord over the
planet as the last son of Krypton.

Superman is confused.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NEWSROOM - DAY

Lois turns the volume up on the TV as Cat, Jimmy, Lombard,
and RON TROUPE gather, staring up at the TV.

LARA (TRANSLATING)

Dispatch of anyone unable or
unwilling to serve you, Kal-El, and
take as many wives as you can so
your genes and Krypton's might and
legacy will live on in this new
frontier.

Lombard subtly removes a Superman pin he's wearing on his
lapel.

EXT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - DAY

Superman looks nauseated.

JOR-EL (TRANSLATING)

Do us proud, our beloved son. Rule,
without mercy.

Onlookers run away in fear. Others aim their cameras at him.
He turns, stumbling away through the crowd, trying to process
it all.

THORNWAITE (O.S.)

What about the numerous kind acts
Superman has performed over the
years, saving people's lives?

Something hits Superman in the back of the head -- he turns
to see an ANGRY MAN has thrown a can of soup at him.

LEX (O.S.)

He's grooming us. Lulling us into
complacency so he can dominate
without resistance, forging a path
for his superpowered descendants to
rule the earth. I will not accept
that, will you?

INT. THE SPHERE NEWS TV STUDIO - DAY

Luthor looks concerned.

THORNWAITE

You seem upset.

LEX

I'm scared. Because who knows how
large his secret harem is already?

INT. GLENMORGAN SQUARE - EMPTY STORE - DAY

Superman stumbles into this store, abandoned during the kaiju
attack. He braces himself against a counter as he tries to
process what's happening.

Much of the crowd are afraid of him now -- others YELLING,
angry -- but they all gather around the windows and at the
doorway, watching him and filming him with their phones.

Guy, Mr. Terrific, and Hawkgirl push their way through.

GUY

What the hell, dude?! You got a
secret harem?

SUPERMAN

No, it's not. I -

A green, soundproof shield snaps up around the entire store
so no one else can enter, see, or hear them.

GUY

If any of this is even remotely true, you're exactly the kind of alien threat I was commandeered by the Green Lantern Corps to protect earth against!

SUPERMAN

Back off, Guy.

GUY

Make a move, big blue.

HAWKGIRL

Guy, relax.

(to Superman)

Was the message real or not?

SUPERMAN

The first part. The first part is real, all right? The rest was damaged in the trip from Krypton to earth. But someone - I don't know, maybe they doctored the rest?

TERRIFIC

No way. I know these computer forensic guys. They're not gonna say it's legit unless they're sure. I'm so sorry, man, but there's no way that message is fake.

Superman is crushed, grasping the truth: it's real. Terrific looks at him with some compassion.

HAWKGIRL

Where did they even get that footage though?

Superman considers a moment and then, concerned, he quickly leaves.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NEWSROOM - DAY

A worried Lois Lane is on the phone.

LOIS

Are you considering bringing Superman in for questioning?

SECRETARY MORI (ON PHONE)
We're talking it over with the
President and we're reviewing our
options now.

INT. PENTAGON HALL - DAY

Mori is rushing towards a meeting with Flag, surrounded by
REPORTERS asking questions and flashing photos.

SECRETARY MORI
I'm sorry, Ms. Lane, I have to go.

OMITTED

INT. PENTAGON CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Mori and Flag enter.

FLAG
You buy this?

SECRETARY MORI
I don't put anything past Luthor,
Rick, but the message is authentic.
If the Kryptonian's a danger, we
have to act.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Superman flies as fast as he possibly can.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NEWSROOM - DAY

On a monitor hanging from the ceiling:

GEN Z GUY (ON MONITOR)
I was a big Superman fan - I
supported him all the time online
and stuff but now, I mean, I hope
he rots in hell.

TILT DOWN to Lois looking at the reporters running around,
adrenalized and desperate not to be scooped, then to a
COMPUTER MONITOR: a live feed of Vasil Ghurkos.

GHURKOS (ON MONITOR)
It is no wonder the Kryptonian
interfered with Boravia's interests
- Boravia wants to save the people
of Jarhanpur -

INT. BORAVIAN PALACE HALLWAY - DAY

Ghurkos faces the hall full of PRESS.

GHURKOS
- and Superman wants to keep them
enslaved! Also, from what I hear,
he finds Boravian women the most
physically attractive and wants to
add them to his secret harem!

The press keep shouting questions, but his GENERAL and BODYGUARDS usher Ghurkos away.

GENERAL
(in Boravian)
<That couldn't have gone better,
Mr. President!>

A MAKEUP ARTIST mops sweat from Ghurkos's head. Others sidle him, moving with him and awkwardly pouring him a cup of tea.

MAKEUP ARTIST
<You were so handsome and dynamic!>

GENERAL
<Very handsome!>

Ghurkos waves them away as he reaches a doorway.

GHURKOS
<Go! Leave me be!>

The followers bow their heads as he pushes through the door, into a resplendent --

INT. PALACE OFFICE - DAY

Ghurkos sips his tea as the door closes behind him.

He pulls what looks like a little keychain from his pocket and presses a button on it.

The wall in front of him slides open, revealing a dimensional portal like the ones we saw at the beginning of the film.

He enters the portal; it sparks with cosmic-electric energy.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

Ghurkos emerges from a portal here. He looks around the exotic space and sees --

Lex Luthor, standing with Ultraman. Ultraman is daintily holding a donut in a napkin.

Ghurkos beams, throwing his arms up in triumph.

Lex walks away from him. Vasil runs to catch up. It is clear who the alpha is in the relationship.

GHURKOS
We did it, Lex!

LEX
I wouldn't celebrate until the alien is off the board.

Ultraman offers Ghurkos the donut.

LEX (CONT'D)
Oh, here. I brought you a donut.
From Dough's Holes - new shop, in Park Ridge, of all places.

Ghurkos takes the donut but doesn't yet eat it.

GHURKOS
The fake message, Lex - a stroke of genius!

LEX
It's not fake.

GHURKOS
He is here to kill us! I knew it!

LEX
At Superman's fortress, I hoped to get the knowledge to help destroy him - little did I know his own parents would be providing it.

Ghurkos takes a bite of the donut and is overcome with culinary pleasure.

GHURKOS
O moz Bože!

LEX

Right? I've been thinking of
opening one in my half of
Jarhanpur.

OMITTED

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - CENTRAL AREA - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Robot 4 is on the ground, just the upper half of his body,
repeatedly jabbing a screwdriver into the side of his head.
Superman enters, looking around: the Fortress is in shambles.

SUPERMAN

Four!

Superman picks him up.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Four? What happened?

ROBOT 4

I tried to protect Superman.

SUPERMAN

How did Luthor get in here? It's
keyed into my DNA.

ROBOT 4

Must protect Superman.

SUPERMAN

Four!

ROBOT 4

I... I'm sorry, friend.

Superman looks sadly at the demolished computer console.

And then he stops, realizing. He looks around.

SUPERMAN

Krypto?

Superman stands, all alone, small in the enormous crystal
palace, WHISTLING.

Nothing.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Krypto!?

EXT. LUTHORCORP BUILDING - MAGIC HOUR

SWOOP IN OVER THE CITY toward the two-tiered building.

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. LEX'S OFFICE - MAGIC HOUR

Lex is having a mellow conversation with the TV pundit Cleavis Thornwaite and Eve.

When, suddenly, THE DOOR SHATTERS, flying everywhere.

Thornwaite shouts, diving away, but Luthor sits calmly as Superman enters. Lex's RECEPTIONIST is behind him.

RECEPTIONIST

Lex, I tried to stop him!

LEX

It's fine, Heather. Superman. We finally meet. Would you like a coffee, tea?

SUPERMAN

Where's the dog?!

LEX

Dog?

SUPERMAN

You took the dog!

Luthor glances up at Eve, who is filming this with her phone.

LEX

That's right, Eve, get all of this -

Superman grabs the desk between him and Lex, tossing it against the window, cracking it. Lex flinches but composes himself in a micro-second. Superman is on the brink of tears.

SUPERMAN

Where's the dog?!

LEX

I have no clue what you're talking about -

SUPERMAN
He's just a dog.

LEX
I don't know what dog you're
talking about.
(sotto)
Ugly dog in a cape?

SUPERMAN
What did you say!?

LEX
I didn't say anything.

SUPERMAN
You heard what he said!

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

ON A TV, the shaky footage from Eve's phone plays.

CUT TO Thornwaite at his desk.

THORNWAITE
I mean, it seems to me that the
only rabid animal around here is
Superman. Ever since the discovery
of the Kryptonian's master plan,
he's gone off the deep end.
Thoughts, Chris?

CUT TO PEACEMAKER, in full costume, in the studio with him.

PEACEMAKER
Can't say as I'm surprised,
Cleavis.

PAN FROM THE TV TO AN OPEN WINDOW, where Superman is crawling through.

His phone is on a desk: 22 missed calls from Ma and Pa.

He ignores it, sits in a chair, slumps, bleary-eyed and emotionally ravaged. Outside the window, in the distant starlit sky, the Justice Gang are battling a colossal, translucent jellyfish IMP. The imp fires colorful sparks, so it's almost like fireworks. The battle plays out through the entirety of the scene.

Superman hears the TV click off, looks up --

Lois is in the doorway, disheveled, pretty, holding a steaming mug.

LOIS
You have a dog?

He shakes his head.

SUPERMAN
No, not - not really. It's sort of
a... foster situation.

Lois hands him the mug.

LOIS
Cocoa.

He takes it, smiles dimly. She nods at the Justice Gang fighting outside the window as she gets in close.

LOIS (CONT'D)
You were out there helping them?

Superman stares cluelessly at her, then turns and sees.

SUPERMAN
Oh. No, that's just some
dimensional imp. They've got that
handled I was looking for the dog.

Lois nods.

LOIS
You okay?

SUPERMAN
The footage isn't what it seems
like.

LOIS
Okay.

SUPERMAN
The ship my parents sent me in was
damaged in transit so I only ever
heard the first part of the
message. I always believed I knew
how it ended -- my parents wanted
me to serve the people of earth, to
be a good man. But...
(emotional)
I'm not here to rule over people,
Lois.

LOIS

I never thought you were for even a moment, Clark.

Superman nods. She sits, takes his hand, comforts him.

SUPERMAN

I'm sorry we fought.

LOIS

Me too. We're bound to, though. We're so different. I was just some punk rock kid from Bakerline and you're... Superman.

SUPERMAN

I'm punk rock.

LOIS

(amused)

You are not punk rock.

SUPERMAN

I like the Strangle-Fellows and the P.O.D.s and the Mighty Crabjoys.

LOIS

Those are pop radio bands. They're not punk rock. Oh my God, the Mighty Crabjoys suck.

SUPERMAN

I mean, a lot of people love them.

LOIS

What I mean is, I question everything and everyone. You trust everyone and think everyone you've ever met is, like, beautiful.

SUPERMAN

But maybe that's the real punk rock.

Lois stares at him, letting this sink in.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Lois, what did you mean when you said you knew this would never work?

Lois doesn't know what to say.

LOIS
I don't know

Superman nods. He starts to stand.

SUPERMAN
I'm gonna go. The DOJ put a warrant out for my arrest. So I'm going to turn myself in.

LOIS
What? Why?

SUPERMAN
Maybe they'll take me wherever they took the dog. I don't know how else to find him.

LOIS
It's a dog.

SUPERMAN
And not even a good one. But he's out there alone and he's probably scared.

He goes to leave.

Lois looks sad, as if she has a gut feeling she's never going to see him again. She grabs his hand as he moves toward the window.

The two of them are silhouetted in the light of the Justice Gang conquering the imp. They hold hands, fingers entwined. He hesitates, but...

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I love you, Lois. I probably should have told you that a long time ago.

Lois is taken aback, doesn't know what to say.

But before she can say anything, he's gone, out the window, the drapes flapping behind him.

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAWN

Superman is smashed face-first into the pavement. Ultraman holds the back of his head, kneeling on his spine, as he zip-ties his wrists behind his back. Military troops surround them. Nearby citizens yell at him.

SUPERMAN

Is that necessary? I'm coming in on my own accord.

Ultraman yanks him up. General Rick Flag is there with the Engineer. Superman sees Flag, as they lead him through the crowd.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

No one read me my rights.

FLAG

Yes, well, the courts have decided those rights don't apply to extraterrestrial organisms. Therefore, at this point, Superman, you don't have any rights to read.

Superman glares at him.

FLAG (CONT'D)

The government is well aware of our potential limitations in detaining you. So, we've outsourced confinement and interrogation to PlanetWatch.

SUPERMAN

PlanetWatch?

Flag nods. The RaptorCopter starts to land in front of them.

FLAG

I'm sorry about this.

OMITTED

EXT. FORT KRAMER - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

LUTHORCORP EMPLOYEES -- overseen by the Comms Tech -- work in small tents on laptops. Dress is informal: khaki shorts and Hawaiian shirts. Small speakers play breezy ukulele pop. Raptors are plentiful. They hear the RaptorCopter and come out of their tents to see it landing.

Ultraman and the Engineer lead Superman out of the helicopter and toward a military tent.

A Raptor pulls open the tent, revealing the dimensional portal.

Ultraman shoves Superman into the portal. Superman looks back at him, surprised, irritated as the portal crackles with energy --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

Superman looks up at Ultraman and Engineer in Fort Kramer, when that crackles and disappears --

He only sees the barren end of the portal.

A thick Plexiglas sheath falls down in front of him.

Superman is inside of a translucent container. He turns to see an eerie, haunted, bald man, sitting on a stool and staring at the floor. His face is ashen white and each quarter of his body is composed of a different substance: one leg made of clay, one of metal, and so on. He wears a threadbare pair of wrestling trunks. This is REX MASON, AKA METAMORPHO, THE ELEMENT MAN.

LEX (O.S.)
Twice in two days, what a pleasure.

Superman gazes up at Luthor outside the container. They're all on a floating platform. Luthor nods to a globulous platform driver, MR. HANDSOME, who steers the platform forward using levers.

SUPERMAN
Your obsession with me is getting a little creepy, Luthor.

Superman stands.

LEX
Don't worry. Tall, dark, and Martian isn't my type.

SUPERMAN
Kryptonian.

LEX
Same diff.

Superman sees the endless cosmic skies and the dark caverns comprised of organic, inorganic, and computational materials.

They float over the River Pi, an infinite roar of dangerous numbers threatening to bring the whole thing down.

SUPERMAN
Where are we?

LEX
A pocket universe. I replicated the big bang with a LuthorCorp mega-collider, tearing a tiny hole between the two universal fabrics. I'm able to access it from multiple dimensional portals I've set up around the globe.

Superman is looking around, probably for Krypto. He WHISTLES.

Lex ignores this, nods at Metamorpho.

LEX (CONT'D)
Rex, known as the Element Man, has been called into service for a specific purpose. He can metamorphose into any known substance.

Metamorpho shamefully clutches his hand into a fist and the fist mutates into a rocky, effervescent green rock.

Superman's breath grows raspy and labored.

LEX (CONT'D)
Even substances foreign to this planet. Like... Kryptonite.

Superman slumps to his knees, the radiation causing his skin and flesh to burn and bubble.

INT. DAILY PLANET NEWSROOM - DAY

ON A MONITOR: Boravian troops with hi-tech tanks pass through town. A CHYRON reads: *Boravian Troops Head for Jarhanpur Border.*

Jimmy watches. Lois is typing intently.

JIMMY
Superman is out of commission for less than a day, and already Boravia is pulling this crap?
(notices Lois, not paying attention)
Right?

LOIS

What? Sorry. Trying to figure out
how Lex Luthor is connected to all
this.

JIMMY

How is that a mystery? LuthorCorp
sells arms to Boravia. Boravia gets
into a war, Luthor sells more arms
and gets richer than ever.

LOIS

No.

JIMMY

No?

She snaps a bank statement from her printer, hands it to
Jimmy as she heads for the coffee station; Jimmy follows.

LOIS

I have a connection at BodaBank.
Boda handles the transactions
between LuthorCorp and Boravia.
Yes, LuthorCorp has sold them
approximately eighty-billion
dollars' worth of arms. But
Boravia, for those arms, has only
paid one point six two five billion
dollars.

Lois pours herself a cup of viscous black coffee.

JIMMY

So Luthor gave them arms for free?
For what?

LOIS

That's the seventy-eight billion
three-hundred-and-seventy-five-
million dollar question.

Lois starts nonstop pouring sugar packets in her coffee.

JIMMY

Have you found where they're
holding Superman?

LOIS

No one in the government will say.
Luthor seems to be working to
disable Superman just so he can't
stop the invasion of Jarhanpur.
Why?

JIMMY

That's way too much sugar, Lois.

LOIS

I party like a rockstar, choirboy.

Lois sips her coffee. It's gross.

LOIS (CONT'D)

Still can't hide the taste of
petroleum.

As Lois walks back to her cubicle, Jimmy stays at the coffee station, thinking.

He takes out his phone. Scrolls through his contacts. Finds "MUTANT TOES."

He hesitates a beat, takes a breath, and he texts the number as he heads back to his cubicle.

As he goes to sit down -- barely a second later -- he hears a "ding."

He reads the text, looks at Lois.

JIMMY

Luthor is holding Superman in a
pocket universe.

LOIS

A what?

JIMMY

I don't know what a pocket universe
is, neither does my source, they
don't know anything about anything,
but for sure he's in a pocket
universe.

LOIS

Who's your source?

Jimmy looks repulsed.

JIMMY

Can't say. But you owe me big time.
Like, I can't even tell you how
big.

Lois squeaks out a smile, nods, begins to write.

Jimmy hears another "ding." He looks down at a message from Mutant Toes:

"meetup?" with a goofy-face tongue-out emoji beside it.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - MONKEY-BOT FARM - NIGHT

The platform passes between thousands of computer workstations with thousands of CAPUCHIN MONKEYS with metal tech jutting from their skulls.

Superman looks at them, confused.

LEX

Oh, just my Monkey-Bots, here
farming outrage twenty-four-seven,
trashing you online.

SUPERMAN

(rasping)

Hashtag... Supershit.

Luthor chuckles.

Up close, the Monkey-Bots post on Tweety:

- *That POS Superman is here to kill us all!*
- *#SecretHarem #SecretHarem #SecretHarem #SecretHarem*

The platform floats forward, into --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - LABORATORY - NIGHT

Krypto is suspended in an anti-gravity field, his eyes white, tongue dangling. He is in an agitated state; his legs run, but he doesn't move, chasing nothing.

SCIENTISTS examine him, probe him with X-rays and CAT-scans.

Superman, upset, touches the glass.

SUPERMAN

Krypto.

LEX

How do you contain a superdog? You
beam supersquirrels into its brain.

ON A SCREEN Krypto's POV: A dozen mischievous CGI flying squirrels in capes he thinks he's chasing.

LEX (CONT'D)

We'll learn what we can. And then
we'll put the varmint down. It will
undoubtedly be painful.

Mr. Handsome turns left.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

They float between hundreds of Plexiglass containers stacked
atop each other. Each container holds a prisoner.

LEX

This is our private correctional
institution.

Superman looks in at a SAD DISSIDENT.

LEX (CONT'D)

Most cells are rented out to
governments who want to keep their
incarcerations of political
agitators private. Others are for
more personal transgressions.

FLEURETTE, a beautiful, gaunt woman sits in the next cell.

LEX (CONT'D)

Fleurette wrote a blog about me.
There are few things I hate more
than petty ex-girlfriends.

SUPERMAN

You wouldn't be telling me any of
this...

LEX

If we ever planned on letting you
out? No.

The platform forklifts Superman's container into an empty
slot in the prison.

LEX (CONT'D)

You'd be terminated already if it
was up to me. But first the
government has some questions they
want answered.

Luthor notices a cell across the gap.

LEX (CONT'D)

Oh, Rex, look who it is.

Metamorpho sees in the cell, a crying toddler with reptilian skin, JOSEPH. A THUG is with him. He holds the child's wrist, making him wave.

Tears form in Metamorpho's eyes, as RAPTORS, holding electric batons, fly in around Luthor.

LEX (CONT'D)

Be sure to keep our guest in check.
Little Joseph certainly wouldn't
want it any other way. I'll be back
tomorrow to get the answers we
need.

EXT. SUICIDE SLUM - NIGHT

Jimmy Olsen steps in a puddle. He ambles down this seedy street past LADIES-OF-THE-NIGHT and SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS. He wears a baseball cap and is looking around for something.

He stops, peering down a dark alley, and he moves into it.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Jimmy moves cautiously through the darkness when a thin arm snaps out of a crevice, yanking Jimmy into it.

Jimmy sees Eve Teschmacher.

EVE

Hi.

I'll remind you Eve is one of the most beautiful women in the world and Jimmy is, like, a guy. But apparently his animal attraction is Pete-Davidsonian off-the-charts. Still, he's put-upon having to be so close to Eve.

JIMMY

Hey, Eve.

EVE

Lex is always accessing the traffic cameras so he knows where I am so we had to meet here.

JIMMY

I really don't understand why you stay in that relationship.

EVE

Because he made a point to tell me
about all his ex-girlfriends he had
imprisoned in his pocket universe.

JIMMY

What?

EVE

Right?! How's your Mom?

JIMMY

My Mom?

EVE

I love her so much. I think of her
as my Mom even more than my own
mother.

JIMMY

She feels that way too, from that
one time you guys met. Eve, there
seems to be some connection between
your boyfriend and Boravia -

EVE

(hurt)

Oh.

JIMMY

What?

EVE

I thought you wanted to see me,
Jimmy.

JIMMY

I did, Eve! But, I mean, how can I
really see you with Lex in the
picture?

EVE

You're just trying to get
information out of me!

JIMMY

No! I'm just - if I had some real
dirt on Lex maybe we could -

EVE

Be together again?

JIMMY

Sure.

EVE

But you said my toes looked like
someone spilled shrimp cocktail on
the floor.

JIMMY

I mean, they're unconventional
toes, who cares? There's other
parts of you people would find very
attractive.

EVE

Lex tortured a dog the other day.

JIMMY

Jesus Christ.

EVE

I have to go.

JIMMY

Okay, but, please see what you can
find out.

EVE

Okay.

Eve stares at him. She reluctantly nods then moves quickly away, blowing him kisses. He grabs them.

JIMMY

I'm putting them in my pocket.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - NIGHT

Superman, bloody and beaten. Metamorpho, shaken, stares at Superman's prone body. Superman coughs his words.

SUPERMAN

Joseph... he's your son?

METAMORPHO

Don't talk to me, please.

Superman sees the stacked prison cubes across the gap.

SUPERMAN

If you stop with the...
kryptonite... I can fly over... get
him.

METAMORPHO

There's no way out of here.

SUPERMAN
There's always a...

Metamorpho's frustration is increasing.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Always a way.

METAMORPHO
Don't talk to me!

Metamorpho jolts up, shoving his Kryptonite fist at Superman.

The flesh sears the side of Superman's face, almost like it's melting. Superman gasps, dying.

Metamorpho sits back in his seat.

METAMORPHO (CONT'D)
Don't talk to me.

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

The almost-majestic Hall of Justice is under construction.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

Hawkgirl is reading the Daily Planet with the headline: *US Defies Geneva Conventions by Holding Superman in Pocket Universe*, byline by Lois Lane.

Guy Gardner is crossing the office with a cup of coffee, looking for something.

GUY
What am I gonna do? Where's
creamer?

HAWKGIRL
On the counter where it always is.

Lois is standing nearby, harried. Mr. Terrific is working on a multi-computer on his desk.

LOIS
He's in your group, right?! What's
it called again?

GUY The Justice Gang.

HAWKGIRL TERRIFIC
No. We're not called that.

GUY
Your name is Mr. Terrific, bro, you
don't get a vote with a name like
that.

HAWKGIRL
I also voted against it.

GUY
Yeah, and as leader, I get
tiebreaker.
(to Lois)
No, Superman isn't officially a
member.

TERRIFIC
Because you don't want him to vote.
You know which way that would go.

GUY
Shut up.
(to Lois)
He's kidding. How do you even know
Superman?

LOIS
I just do.

GUY
(sotto)
You know about the hypno-glasses?

HAWKGIRL

GUY
What? I'm not saying who he is,
just that he wears hypno-glasses.
(to Lois)
They change his - what do they do,
Terrific? - they make his face look
different when they're on, in your
brain, so you don't know who he is.

LOIS

Yes, I know this, first of all, and, secondly, you shouldn't be telling me this in case I don't know who he is.

GUY

(sotto)

So, you know he's Clark Kent?

LOIS

Oh my God! Why does he trust everyone?!

GUY

No, just us, because we're also of the cloth.

LOIS

Of the cloth?

Guy gestures at his uniform.

LOIS (CONT'D)

So, what are we going to do?

GUY

About what?

LOIS

Superman! He's your friend!

GUY

Some friend. He came here to rule over me -

TERRIFIC

It would be difficult to find him.

Terrific nods at his computer. Lois peers over his shoulder.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

I put nanobot GPS trackers into Superman's bloodstream. You can see where his trail ends abruptly right here, at Fort Kramer, a dormant military post across the river about ten miles down.

She sees the dotted trail of Superman, which suddenly stops.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

Even if he was dead, the trackers would still be there.

(MORE)

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

So all this leads me to believe, as
your article surmised, he really is
in a pocket universe.

LOIS

You put nanobot GPS trackers in
your friend's bloodstream?

TERRIFIC

Oh, I do that to everybody.

Hawkgirl looks down at her body, disturbed.

LOIS

So, let's go to Fort Kramer, then.
The four of us, find out what's
going on.

HAWKGIRL

And then do what?

LOIS

Save him.

GUY

You want us to break a federally
incarcerated prisoner out of jail?

LOIS

I think this is all being done just
to keep him from interfering with
the Boravian invasion.

GUY

I'm a Green Lantern, lady. That
means I took a vow not to become
involved in politics.

TERRIFIC

That's a part of the vows?!

GUY

It's implied, yes!

TERRIFIC

An implied vow?!

HAWKGIRL

(smirking)

Every time there's something he
doesn't want to do, he says it's
part of some vows.

GUY

Always with the freaking smirk! I swear to God, I am about two seconds away from forming a giant hammer and beating you both to death.

GUY (CONT'D)

(to Lois)

Is Supes here to take over the world? I don't know, probably not. But the risk is not worth a beef between the US government and the Justice Gang.

HAWKGIRL

Not our name, makes us sound like cowboys, but I agree with the rest.

LOIS

So you're just going to let your friend rot in a pocket universe?!

Guy turns his back to her, throwing up his hand - what can he do? Hawkgirl shrugs. Terrific stares at the floor. Lois, fuming, glares at Guy.

LOIS (CONT'D)

That haircut should be against your vows.

She storms off.

GUY

That what?! That what should be what?!

As she walks out the door, he yells after her.

GUY (CONT'D)

I'll have you know, three-hundred-and-forty-eight chicks say otherwise!

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Lois is on the verge of tears as she stomps towards her car.

TERRIFIC (O.S.)

Hey.

She turns to Mr. Terrific approaching, pulling on his jacket with FAIR PLAY written on the arms.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

I'm not saying we're gonna save him, but I think we can at least check out what's going on with your boyfriend at this Fort Kramer.

Lois, grateful, nods.

LOIS

He's not my... we're just seeing each other. But thank you. You want me to drive?

TERRIFIC

We'll take my ride.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Terrific presses a garage door opener.

It takes a long long time to open.

Eventually, it reveals the T-MOBILE (whoops -- um, maybe let's call it the T-CRAFT instead), a large, floating, futuristic vehicle (with a big T on it).

LOIS

You have a flying saucer but you couldn't get a faster garage door?

TERRIFIC

I haven't worked on that yet.

INT. T-CRAFT - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Lois buckles herself in, uncertain as Terrific preps the engine.

LOIS

I'm not even sure how I feel.

TERRIFIC

What?

LOIS

About Clark. He's not my boyfriend, and...

TERRIFIC

Yeah, lady, just to be clear, I'm not into people's emotions.

LOIS

Oh, okay. Just talking out loud...
We, just, we had this huge fight
and he told me he loved me.

Terrific glares at her.

EXT. T-CRAFT - MOMENTS LATER - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

The T-craft starts hovering, and then whooshes away.

Lois SHRIEKS.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - NIGHT

Lex and Vasil Ghurkos peer in on the skeletal and beaten Superman, unconscious in the translucent container.

LEX

Q and A time, alien!

Luthor kicks the glass; Superman wakes, out-of-it.

LEX (CONT'D)

Today we have a special guest.

Superman squints up at Ghurkos.

SUPERMAN

I'm familiar with him... and the
smell of his piss as we flew over
the desert.

GHURKOS

That is a lie!

LEX

Oh, no, not Vasil. He's just here
as an observer.

Luthor moves aside to reveal a man on a stool, with a sack over his head. Ghurkos yanks the sack off, revealing --

Mali, the falafel vendor, with a black eye and swollen lip. But he holds up his chin defiantly.

SUPERMAN

Mali.

Lex loads a single bullet into an old-fashioned revolver.

LEX

Now, the U.S. government has a few questions for you.

Luthor spins the cylinder.

SUPERMAN

I barely know him, Luthor! He gave me food one time!

Metamorpho looks up from his downward gaze.

LEX

Who are you working with here on earth?

Luthor points the revolver at Mali's head.

MALI

Don't tell him nothing, Superman. I don't have any family or nothing.

SUPERMAN

I'm not working with anyone!
Luthor, stop!

MALI

You eating my food was a great honor -

Luthor pulls the trigger -- everyone shirks -- but -- CLICK!
Empty chamber.

LEX

Ooh, got lucky on that one.

Superman has tears in his eyes; he claws at the glass as Luthor loads another single bullet.

SUPERMAN

Stop!

LEX

Let's try another question.
Superman, who raised you as a child?

SUPERMAN

NO! DON'T!

MALI

I believe in you, Superman. Don't tell him nothi -

ULTRA-WIDE SHOT: A loud BANG! And Mali's body falls over. Superman and Metamorpho stare, aghast.

LEX

Oh.

(to Ghurkos)

I didn't imagine that would go so quickly.

He turns to Superman, forces a smile.

LEX (CONT'D)

I'll be back later, with someone else you've chatted with, and I'll kill them too. Maybe that reporter you always do interviews with. Maybe I'll kill Clark Kent next.

Superman stares at him with hate as the platform moves away -- and we see, in his eyes, maybe he already has.

Superman hears soft weeping.

He looks back to see Metamorpho crying, and the cries grow into sobs.

EXT. FORT KRAMER - DAY

The T-craft lands on the sandy beach. The LuthorCorp employees are still present, on their laptops.

Mr. Terrific and Lois Lane exit the vehicle. T-spheres trail behind them. Raptor guards approach.

RAPTOR SERGEANT

Restricted area, pal, get back in your vehicle and get out of here.

Terrific doesn't even glance at them. He does his complex hand motions and the T-spheres shine red light, revealing Superman's path to the tent at the end of the path. To Lois:

TERRIFIC

That's his path. DNA trail leads to that tent.

RAPTOR 1

Isn't that one of those justice guys?

RAPTOR 2

It's just the smart one.

Terrific walks toward the tent. Lois, uncertainly, walks with him, but looks at the Raptors Terrific is ignoring.

LOIS

Um...

The Raptors move alongside them, aim their weapons at them.

RAPTOR SERGEANT

I'm giving you one last chance to stop!

TERRIFIC

I was just about to say the same to you.

RAPTOR SERGEANT

Fire!

Terrific twists his thumb and fingers: one of the T-spheres forms an egg-shaped shield around Lois and Terrific. As the Raptors fire, the blasts bounce off.

Terrific tumbles forward, leaving Lois protected, and in an effortless fighting style which could only be described as Groove-Fu -- a combination of graceful pugilism and subtle hand movements guiding his T-spheres -- he takes out the Raptors in just a few moves. The khaki-shorts-wearing LuthorCorp employees are all knocked out by T-spheres bouncing off their heads as they try to flee.

Terrific heads toward the tent.

Lois, in the egg-shaped shield, looks around at the defeated forces.

LOIS

Holy... shit.

Terrific twists his fingers over his shoulders; the shield disappears. Lois rushes to catch up to Terrific.

INT. FORT KRAMER - TENT - DAY

Terrific pulls open the flap, discovering the portal.

TERRIFIC

Unbelievable. That jackass did create a pocket universe.

LOIS

That's bad?

Terrific examines the portal. The T-spheres shine thick beams of red light on it.

TERRIFIC

When creating a pocket universe if you're just one picometer off you'll have a black hole where earth used to be. And every time you enter or exit you risk tearing a hole in the fabric of reality.

LOIS

You're kidding.

TERRIFIC

It's the type of reckless science Lex Luthor specializes in.

The T-spheres project a series of numbers and letters into the dimensional portal.

LOIS

What are they doing?

TERRIFIC

Trying to hack it.

LOIS

So I guess you've decided to help?

TERRIFIC

Only because it'll piss off Green Lantern.

Lois smiles, nods, grateful.

LOIS

Thanks.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - DAY

Metamorpho weeps.

METAMORPHO

He just killed that guy. Just...

SUPERMAN

Mali. His name was Mali.

This upsets Metamorpho even more.

METAMORPHO

You said you can get to my son?

Superman, seemingly almost dead, nods.

Metamorpho, almost panicked, makes a big decision...

Little by little, he transforms his kryptonite fist back into his regular hand.

Superman gasps like a man coming up from drowning. He coughs, falls onto his hands. He's still emaciated and weak, but at least now he can breathe.

Metamorpho looks around for guards, whispers:

METAMORPHO (CONT'D)
Why are you still gross-looking?

SUPERMAN
I don't know... I thought... it must be the sun -

METAMORPHO
There's no sun here.

SUPERMAN
That's the problem. I need to heal.
I get my powers from the yellow sun... but just give me a...

Superman tries to push himself up; he collapses. Metamorpho is freaking out.

METAMORPHO
Come on!

Luthor's ex-girlfriend, Fleurette, in the container beside them, sees what's happening. She's alarmed.

INT. FORT KRAMER - TENT - DAY

The T-spheres lock into the portal; the portal turns on, revving up.

TERRIFIC
Hell, yeah. We're in.

Lois and Terrific peer into the hole. Electricity crackles and the other universe snaps into place.

They step into the corridor between universes...

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - DAY

Lois moves to the edge: one universe behind, another ahead.

The River Pi streams perilously below. There's no way in.

TERRIFIC

Whoa. An anti-proton river.

LOIS

Do we rappel?

TERRIFIC

Rappel? Where am I gonna get gear
to rappel into a pocket universe?

LOIS

I don't know. Maybe it comes out of
your circles, or something -

TERRIFIC

(offended)

'Circles'?

LOIS

What?

TERRIFIC

T-spheres.

LOIS

Okay?

TERRIFIC

They're three-dimensional! Circles
are flat!

LOIS

Sorry!

TERRIFIC

Unbelievable.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

Place is filthy with black hole
vortexes and that anti-proton river
will tear us apart in seconds. We
can't go in ourselves.

LOIS

Copy.

Terrific raises his hand; two spinning T-spheres rise in
front of him.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - NIGHT

Metamorpho is looking around for guards, nervous.

METAMORPHO
I can't make a sun!

SUPERMAN
I know -

METAMORPHO
I can only make something kind of
like a sun.

Superman is confused.

Metamorpho brings his hands close. They divide into strands of various elements as he mutters to himself:

METAMORPHO (CONT'D)
Hydrogen... compression...
deuterium... tritium...

He continues MUTTERING UNINTELLIGIBLY because, well, I don't know exactly how to make a sun. Fleurette is growing more alarmed.

FLEURETTE
Hey, what are you doing?!

METAMORPHO
Shut up.

FLEURETTE
What are you doing?! You're going to get us all in trouble!

METAMORPHO
Shut up!

Metamorpho keeps fusing elements as the other prisoners turn to see the sketchy situation -- including a Tech Bro on the other side of Superman's cell.

TECH BRO
Yo! Hey, bro! Stop that!

Fleurette starts slapping the glass, yelling for help.

FLEURETTE
This guy is trying to do
something!

TECH BRO (CONT'D)
Guards! Hey, guards!

Fleurette yells at the Tech Bro.

FLEURETTE (CONT'D)

Stop trying to take credit! I'm the
one who saw it!

TECH BRO

Take a hike! - Hey, guys, down he -

Metamorpho's hands burst into a bright miniature sun.

Fleurette shouts and covers her eyes, the rays blinding her.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - BREAK AREA - NIGHT

Raptors turn towards the now brightly lit prison area.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - DAY

Cameras pop out on the T-spheres.

On Terrific's white contact lenses the reverse images of what the T-spheres' cameras see is projected.

Terrific sends the T-spheres into the pocket universe.

T-SPHERES' POV: Two screens in Terrific's contacts display their cameras.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - NIGHT

Outside the cube, Superman's body is silhouetted and distorted in the thick plexiglass.

We PULL BACK from the cube as his muscles grow back.

We PULL BACK further as he raises his arm.

And FURTHER STILL as he brings it into the Plexiglas, shattering it.

Across the gap, the Thug with Metamorpho's son peeks through his fingers as he's on his walkie.

That's when he sees something streaking towards him through the blinding light. He doesn't have time to act before it smashes into his container.

Of course it's Superman. He's no longer skeletal, but still parched with green Kryptonite poisoning. Behind him is Metamorpho, in mostly gaseous form.

Superman snatches up the baby.

METAMORPHO

Joey!

(to Superman)

You have to take him. I can't carry
him when I change forms.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - LABORATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Superman smashes through the equipment keeping Krypto in stasis.

Scientists dive away. Krypto plummets to the floor. He stands, confused, shaking himself off. He sees --

Superman landing in front of him, wobbly, clutching Joseph. Krypto, overjoyed, leaps at him.

SUPERMAN

No, Krypto!

Krypto knocks him to the floor, play-fighting.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

You're going to squash the baby!

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

Terrific and Lois stand on the abyss of the pocket universe, the portal crackling energy.

LOIS

What do you see? Did you find him?

Cubic debris is growing on the inside ring of the portal. Lois shirks.

LOIS (CONT'D)

What is that?

TERRIFIC

The portal has been open too long.
We can't stand here much longer.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - SKY OVER RIVER PI - NIGHT

Superman and Krypto meet Metamorpho in the air.

METAMORPHO

You look like shit.

SUPERMAN

I'm fine. I think we need to get to
those portals up here.

Superman nods up at the faraway cluster. They fly towards it.

METAMORPHO

But how do we work them?

SUPERMAN

I don't know but we'll figure it o -

Suddenly, Raptors speed in, bashing and tackling Superman.

METAMORPHO

Joey!

Krypto chases off after them as Metamorpho sees others arriving.

Superman and three Raptors fall back into --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - RIVER PI - NIGHT

Superman falls into the flow of the most dangerous integers this side of the Triangulum Galaxy.

Superman and another Raptor bounce off the River like skipping stones. Another Raptor falls in face-first, instantly shredded. And the third tries to maintain balance above them, fighting the draw of the flow.

RAPTOR

Kill him, he's still weak!

Krypto, growling, attacks one of them; he swings him back and around, knocking him against the pier, and chases after him, around away from Superman.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - SKY OVER RIVER PI - NIGHT

Raptors surround Metamorpho, who is transforming himself into a swirling, floating liquid. A Raptor laughs.

RAPTOR 4

Alright, freak. Nice and slow. Back in the cage.

RAPTOR 3

What are you gonna do? Splash us?!

METAMORPHO

Yes. With fluoroantimonic acid.

He sprays himself outward onto all of them.

Their armor immediately starts dissolving and their flying apparatus gives out as they fall one by one, screaming.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - RIVER PI - NIGHT

Superman is half-lodged in the river of dangerous numbers. His body is being battered. He struggles to fly upward --

When he gets a gun blast to his face and splashes back into the river -- he spots the Raptor above him gaining control of his flight, firing down at him.

Superman twists the baby away from the blasts.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

Lois holds on as cubic debris accumulates and the portal shudders. Terrific sees something on his screen.

LOIS

Do you have him?

TERRIFIC

Hot damn.

LOIS

What?

TERRIFIC

It's a flying dog.

T-SPHERE'S POV: Krypto flipping around the beaten Raptor like a rabbit. He tosses him past the T-Sphere. He starts to chase him when --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - NIGHT

Krypto sees the T-sphere and stops.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

T-SPHERE POV: Krypto tilts his head and wags his tail.

TERRIFIC

Uh oh.

Terrific tries to run away but, too late, Krypto leaps at it, his mouth reaching around it --

One of Terrific's two screens goes to static.

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - RIVER PI - NIGHT

As the Raptor fires at Superman, Superman is able to blast him with laser vision --

The Raptor spins away, bouncing onto a pathway nearby.

But the effort makes Superman lose even more control. He's sucked further into the river, whipping around --

He sees the River Pi streaming directly towards a black hole vortex, swirling and deadly.

He tries to get out. Can't. His head is engulfed under the flow; he holds the baby up out of the river.

His head pops back up. He purses his lips --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - LODESTONE PIER - NIGHT

Krypto, playing with the mangled T-sphere, hears a whistle.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - RIVER PI - NIGHT

Superman twists...

And sees Krypto zooming towards him.

Krypto joyously flies above him, following, as the river roars towards the black hole vortex --

SUPERMAN
No! Krypto! Pull us out!

Krypto starts licking the baby.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
No!

Superman looks up and sees Metamorpho streaking towards him -- his body is now a little rocket with tendrils protruding.

METAMORPHO

Joey!

Metamorpho wraps his tendrils around Superman's shoulders pulling him back -- this slows him, but doesn't stop him.

Superman, along with Metamorpho, the baby, and Krypto -- are sucked away from the river and towards the vortex --

But as they fly back, Superman blows his super-breath at the black hole, so that he's stuck there for a moment IN SLOW MOTION -- powerful vacuum versus powerful expulsion, the fragments of the River Pi swirling around them.

Krypto goes twirling past him, helplessly into the void --

Superman's hand snaps out, grabbing Krypto's leg.

And Superman spins back away from the black hole like a deflating balloon, haphazardly through the air, holding Krypto and baby as a terrified Metamorpho hangs on for dear life, and they land hard on --

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - LODESTONE PIER - NIGHT

They bounce along this walkway, Superman holding Joseph over him so he isn't hurt.

They stop. Superman widens his mouth and caresses the top of his jaw, obviously having blown so hard it hurts his inner ear.

METAMORPHO

Man, you are so weird.

A beam shines down on them.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PORTAL CLUSTER - NIGHT

T-VISION POV: the fantastical four -- Metamorpho is just a head and a bunch of snaky tendrils.

LOIS

You have him?

TERRIFIC

Them. Superman, the mean dog in a cape, a weird baby, and a squiggle man.

LOIS

What?

EXT. POCKET UNIVERSE - LODESTONE PIER - NIGHT

Superman sees the T-sphere.

SUPERMAN

Terrific?

TERRIFIC (ON T-SPHERE)

Follow me.

EXT. POCKET UNIVERSE - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

The T-Sphere enters frame, zooming wildly back and forth, followed by Krypto, trying to munch on it and getting perilously close.

Superman and Metamorpho enter frame, chasing them.

SUPERMAN

Krypto, stop! Bad dog!**INT. FORT KRAMER - TENT - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT**

Lois sees them coming as the portal crunches up around them. She and Terrific turn and run out of the portal --

Krypto and Superman and Metamorpho spill after them, barely making it as the portal crunches up like a crushed aluminum can behind them.

Terrific notices Krypto chewing up a T-sphere.

TERRIFIC

Are you kidding me?! Those things
aren't cheap!

Lois touches Superman's face, concerned. He can barely focus. His veins are green. He looks emotional.

SUPERMAN

You... came to get me?

LOIS

Yeah

Krypto tries to get it off his tongue like a dog who ate too much peanut butter. Superman coughs.

SUPERMAN

There are a lot of... other
people... being held as prisoners
in there... we need to get them
out.

Terrific nods at the demolished portal.

TERRIFIC

Not through here you can't. And not
with you like this.

Terrific examines Superman's hand. Metamorpho, hugging
Joseph, says, ashamed:

METAMORPHO

It's Kryptonite poisoning.

Terrific looks at Lois.

TERRIFIC

He'll heal, but it will take a day
or two. Get him someplace safe.

EXT. FORT KRAMER - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

As Lois helps Superman walk, she watches Metamorpho, holding
Joseph, disappear like a wraith into the dark woods.

TERRIFIC (POST LAP)

Take the T-craft. The controls are
easy and intuitive. I need to stay
back and make sure the portal is
secured.

Lois and Superman head towards --

INT. T-CRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

Superman falls into a seat, passing out. Lois sits at the
simplistic flying controls, trying to figure them out.

LOIS

Okay...

Krypto hops onto Lois's lap, even though he's way too big.

LOIS (CONT'D)

Dog, I gotta get to the...

She pushes him but Krypto stays put, wagging his tail.

LOIS (CONT'D)

Ugh. Okay...

She peers around Krypto as she pulls on the controls --
And the ship jolts up into the sky.

INT. COMMS HUB - NIGHT

Luthor kicks a trashcan, slaps a jar of pencils off his desk.
He stares at the Techs, pointing at the mess.

LEX

Pick that up!!!

The techs scramble to pick it up. Beyond them, Lex sees Eve taking a selfie of a provocative pose on the controls.

LEX (CONT'D)

Get out of here, Eve, you idiot!

She looks at him, startled.

LEX (CONT'D)

Go!

As she moves away, he snatches a pencil one of the Techs is picking up and beans it at her. He looks at the Engineer.

LEX (CONT'D)

How the hell could he have gotten free? We need to find him!

INT. DAILY PLANET - NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy Olsen is one of the few staffers here this late. His phone rings.

Looks at it, answers it.

JIMMY

Eve?

INTERCUT - INT. COMMS HUB UTILITY CLOSET - NIGHT

Eve is upset.

EVE

Now I'm really done! I'm so angry,
Jimmy!

JIMMY

Oh, I'm -

EVE

I have everything you need to ruin
Lex forever!

JIMMY

Where?

INT. COMMS HUB BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Ultraman opens the door here, looks around. He looks back at the utility closet, from where he can hear bits of Eve's voice.

EVE (O.S.)

It's all right here!

INT. COMMS HUB UTILITY CLOSET - NIGHT

Eve starts queuing files on her phone.

EVE

But if I send you this, Jimmy, you
have to promise we can hang out
this weekend, just the two of us.

Even though the world is at stake, Jimmy is hesitant.

JIMMY

Yeah, um, okay...
(pause)
Like how long?

EVE

All weekend!

JIMMY

All weekend?!?

EVE

Oh my God! I'm sorry that's such a
major imposition on your life,
Jimmy!

Jimmy bites his tongue.

JIMMY

No, it's fine.

EVE
I can tell you don't really think
so -!

The door opens on Eve. It's Lex with Ultraman.

JIMMY (ON PHONE)
Eve?

As Lex yanks her out, Eve surreptitiously presses 'send'.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy sees files feeding through on his phone...

Waits...

And Eve's sexy selfies start to pop up on his screen, one and then another, and another.

JIMMY
Oh, what, come on.

OMITTED

EXT. KENT FARM - NIGHT

The T-craft lands in the flowing Kansas wheat fields. Ma and Pa Kent approach the vehicle.

Lois helps the sick Clark down the stairs. Krypto bounds down after them. Ma and Pa help Lois.

MA
I'm Martha, this is Jon.

LOIS
Lois.

INT. KENT FARMHOUSE - CLARK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ma and Pa lower Clark into the single bed.

Ma touches his forehead. He squints up at her.

CLARK
Ma?

MA
Shhh.

Clark's eyes fill with tears. He's been physically ravaged by Lex. But that isn't what's destroying him.

CLARK

They sent me here to rule over
everyone... to kill people...

MA

Clark, that ain't...

But Clark passes out.

Lois looks around his room, echoes of a normal boyhood: trophies, Smallville Giants banner, a Mighty Crabjoys Poster. Pa, weepy, looks at her.

PA

Is our boy gonna be okay?

LOIS

Yes. Mr. Terrific says yes.

Pa nods, tears of relief welling up.

MA

Don't mind him, Lois. He's a big
ol' mush, 'specially when it comes
to Clark.

Lois is touched by Clark's parents doting over him with love.

Her phone buzzes. She looks down to see a call coming in from Jimmy Olsen.

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. KENT KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Lois is mid-conversation on speaker phone. She's scrolling through Eve's selfies in their text chain.

LOIS

This girl is obsessed with you?

INTERCUT - INT. DAILY PLANET NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy, on the other end.

JIMMY

Yeah.

LOIS

How do you do it, Jimmy?

JIMMY

Listen, I didn't even want to bother you, but you told me to send you anything I got -

LOIS

You said she disappeared off the line.

JIMMY

Probably dropped her phone in the toilet. She does that a lot.

LOIS

Well, I'm not really sure that sexy selfies...

Lois notices something. She pinch-zooms in on a photo. In the background, a map of Jarhanpur on the wall, with Jarhanpur divided into two, half of it renamed New Boravia, and the other half... Luthoria.

LOIS (CONT'D)

Your hot ex is a genius.

JIMMY

Hot?

LOIS

We need to talk to Perry. I'll be there as soon as I can.

INT. POCKET UNIVERSE - PRISON - NIGHT

Eve is shivering and alone in a translucent container. A cluster of Raptors is nearby.

RAPTOR SERGEANT

Sending sexy selfies behind the back of Lex Luthor? She has to be the biggest idiot in the world.

INT. COMMS HUB - NIGHT

An upset Engineer and HAPPERSEN are focused on Lex.

ENGINEER
He just told you, Lex - the portal
was destroyed!

LEX
But the dimensional aperture is
still there, which we can open
remotely.
(to HAPPERSEN)
So, open it.

HAPPERSEN
It's not safe -

LEX
We can close the aperture later by
inputting the coordinates, correct?

HAPPERSEN
Theoretically.

LEX
Great! If we can't find him, we'll
need to draw him out.

INT. FORT KRAMER - TENT - NIGHT

Mr. Terrific is working on his multicomputer, trying to seal the portal. A LUTHORCORP SCIENTIST stumbles into the open tent, looking in, rubbing her head. Terrific ignores her.

INT. COMMS HUB - NIGHT

Luthor pushes HAPPERSEN aside, inputs information himself.

ENGINEER

ENGINEER (CONT'D)

The Engineer and HAPPERSEN are uncertain as Luthor dials in data.

INT. FORT KRAMER - TENT - NIGHT

Terrific and the LuthorCorp Scientist hear a whirring sound. They see the crushed portal revving back up and a fissure splitting where the dimensional corridor used to be, peeking into the other universe. Bismuth-type detritus grows along the edge of the tear between our two universes. Terrific is confused.

SCIENTIST
That shouldn't happen.

TERRIFIC
You don't say.

SCIENTIST
Can you stop it?!

TERRIFIC
Can I stop it?

Suddenly, the fissure cracks and spreads.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)
This is why you don't create a damn
pocket universe!

INT. COMMS HUB - NIGHT

Luthor watches the monitor as the rift spreads - perhaps even he is surprised by how swift it's growing. But he looks at the doubtful Engineer unrepentantly, and says, casually:

LEX
There. Superman won't be able to
ignore that. Now we know where
he'll be next.

INT. KENT FARMHOUSE - CLARK'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Clark, woozy, wakes. He sees --

Krypto's chin on his chest, staring at him, waiting for him to wake.

A dust-speckled beam of healing morning sun shines through the window onto Clark. He looks better than he did the night before. The green in his veins is gone.

EXT. KENT FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAWN

Clark, a bowl of oatmeal on his lap, sits on the porch step watching the sunrise. Krypto is sniffing a cow, nose to nose.

The screen door squeaks. Clark turns to see Pa.

PA
Thought you was out here.

CLARK
Hey, Pa.

Pa sits down beside him.

PA
Never seen you sleep that long.

Clark nods.

PA (CONT'D)
Last week me and Ma and Hector and them took a drive to Beerki's Burritos down in Luttus - like the one used to be next to the old blue barn on the I-9. Remember that?

Clark nods.

PA (CONT'D)
Burritos still just as good.

Clark nods.

PA (CONT'D)
That Louanne seems nice.

CLARK
Lois. Her name's Lois. Yeah, she's nice.

PA
But you don't seem quite yourself.

CLARK
That message from my parents sent with me, I never heard the second half before.

Pa nods. He thinks a moment. He's a thoughtful man, never speaks just to be heard.

PA

Well, I'd say what you wanted that message to mean says a lot more 'bout you than what anyone meant for it to mean.

CLARK

You don't understand. I'm not who I thought I was. They sent me here to hurt people.

PA

Parents aren't for telling their children who they're supposed to be. We're here to give ya'll tools, help you make fools of yourselves all on your own.

Clark listens, hearing him, grateful.

PA (CONT'D)

Your choices, Clark, your actions. That's what makes you who you are.

Pa starts to weep.

PA (CONT'D)

And I'll tell you somethin', son. I couldn't be more... proud... of you...

He can't get through it.

MA (O.S.)

Ol' mush.

They turn to see Ma standing there.

MA (CONT'D)

Clark, something on the box you might want to see.

INT. KENT FARMHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - MORNING

Clark, Ma, and Pa enter, seeing -

ON TV - EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER /- DAY

Boravian tanks and hi-tech science-fiction weaponry inch towards the border fence.

GBS REPORTER (V.O.)

Over in Eastern Europe, Boravian
troops gather at the border,
seemingly mere minutes away from
invading Jarhanpur once again.

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

In the Jarhanpurian desert, a fearful crowd awaits, armed
with Kalashnikov rifles, baseball bats, and not much else.

And, in the middle of the Jarhanpurians, a bunch of kids in
shorts with no shoes have fashioned a flag on the ground and
are tying it to a flagpole.

They start to hoist the flag upright, working together like
the soldiers at Iwo Jima.

INT. METAMORPHO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Metamorpho sits with Joseph on his lap with his WIFE,
watching the same footage.

INT. HAWKGIRL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Hawkgirl is just out of the shower, wet hair and robe, as she
lowers herself onto the edge of her bed, watching the TV.

She is moved as she sees --

ON TV - EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

The Jarhanpurian kids raising the flag with a Superman symbol
on it.

The crowd starts chanting, in their thick accents --

CROWD

Superman! Superman! Superman!

INT. KENT FARMHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - MORNING

Clark watches, tears in his eyes.

GBS REPORTER (ON TV)

Without Superman here to stop it
this time, the Jarhanpurians don't
have much hope.

MA

I cleaned your boots. I'll go get
'em for ya'.

Suddenly, Terrific's voice booms from a speaker.

TERRIFIC (O.S.)

Superman.

They turn to see a T-sphere floating at the window,
Terrific's voice emerging.

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. SKY - DAY

Mr. Terrific is in his flying rig.

TERRIFIC

We need you here in Metropolis,
now.

INT. KENT FARMHOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - MORNING

Clark stares at the T-sphere. As does an excited Pa Kent, who
is fanboying.

CLARK

I have to get to Boravia.

TERRIFIC (ON T-SPHERE)

There won't be a Boravia, or a
Metropolis, or a planet earth, if
you don't get here soon. This rift
is about to tear into the city. I
can't stop it. I need your help!

EXT. SKY - DAY

TILT DOWN from Mr. Terrific to the rift, a mile wide and
growing, close to the populated island of New Troy. The
ground opens to another dimension, the bismuth-like detritus
growing along the edges.

EXT. BAKERLINE TUNNEL - DAY

POLICE have opened all lanes of traffic going into the tunnel and out of Metropolis. They guide citizens through, cars packed with pets and cherished memories.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

People lug property into city buses. Loudspeakers squawk:

OFFICIAL (ON LOUDSPEAKER)
 This is a mandatory evacuation.
 Repeat: this evacuation is not
 optional.

The Hot Dog Vendor ushers three HOMELESS PEOPLE into his beaten-up car. FIRE OFFICIALS evacuate buildings.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

Outside the windows, helicopters escort the wealthy from skyscraper rooftops. And we PAN from that to chaos inside the Planet offices. Warning lights flash. Steve Lombard makes a sobbing phone call to his family.

LOMBARD
 Please, Juanita, can you put
 Persephone on the phone?... Yes,
 she will care! Cats know the sound
 of your voice!

The others gather necessities from their desks, fleeing -
 PANNING TO --

A bulletin board with Eve Teschmacher's photographs and photographs of the involved parties thumbtacked to it.

LOIS (O.S.)
 Luthor has been selling arms to
 Ghurkos for pennies on the dollar
 for years.

Lois and Jimmy are explaining the board to Perry. Whereas everyone around them is losing their shit, Perry, Lois, and Jimmy -- intrepid journalists to the core -- seem unfazed.

LOIS (CONT'D)
 Why, you ask.

PERRY
 I do ask why.

LOIS

He did it in exchange for half of
Jarhanpur.

PERRY

You're kidding.

Jimmy shows the sexy shot of Eve and the contract behind her. They have another photograph, zoomed in on the contract and the text partially made out.

JIMMY

At first I thought Eve was just sending me selfies. But in the background of the shots are maps, contracts, all kinds of documents chronicling Boravia's agreement to cede half of the country to Lex Luthor once the invasion is complete.

LOIS

He wants to make himself king.

PERRY

King?

Jimmy glances out the window at the chaos.

JIMMY

Should we really be standing here?

PERRY

Lois, you've got that flying saucer deal up on the roof?

LOIS

Yep.

Perry stands.

PERRY

Grant, Troupe, Lombard, come on!

Grant, Troupe, and Lombard gather up their stuff; all of them cross the room. Lombard continues to stifle tears.

PERRY (CONT'D)

Why the hell would Luthor want half a desert?

LOIS

His cultish acolytes believe he's going to create a technologically-advanced utopia. But there's a profit factor as well - the petroleum deposits alone are worth multiples of his investment.

They move out the exit and ---

INT. DAILY PLANET - STAIRWELL - DAY

They move up the stairs.

JIMMY

Whatever his motives are, we know Luthor did everything he could to ruin Superman's reputation -

LOIS

Eve's photos show he's behind the Hammer of Boravia scam -

JIMMY

And all the bots stirring up anti-Superman sentiment online.

They exit onto --

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOFTOP - DAY

The T-craft is waiting on the helicopter pad beside the revolving Daily Planet statue.

LOIS

Mr. Terrific believes Luthor is also behind the spreading rift between universes out there.

JIMMY

All of it seems to be geared toward stopping Superman from standing in the way of the Boravian invasion, Chief.

PERRY

Call me Perry, kid. Post the story. Fast.

They walk up the stairwell to the --

INT. T-CRAFT - DAY

As they enter, Lois gets behind the wheel, revs the engine. There aren't enough seats for Steve.

LOMBARD
Why don't I have a seat?!

LOIS
Everyone put on their seatbelts.
Jimmy, can you transcribe?

Jimmy flips open his computer.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOFTOP - DAY

The T-craft skips a bit along the roof, before dropping off the edge, then flying back up and zipping away.

LOIS (O.S.)
'The Daily Planet has exclusively obtained information proving billionaire Lex Luthor has been in league with Boravian dictator Vasil Ghurkos -'

EXT. SUICIDE SLUM - DAY

Terrific types frantically into his multicomputer as the rift crosses the river and hits the populated island of New Troy.

TERRIFIC
Clark, are you close? It's about to hit Metropolis and my codes are not shutting it down! Shit!

The poorly-structured buildings on both sides tilt, collapse.

One evacuated building tilts, slamming into the side of a smaller building, which slides down the slope --

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)
Uh oh.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

HAPPERSEN looks out the comms hub; the growing fissure is getting close to the LuthorCorp building.

HAPPERSEN
Lex! The rift is almost here!

LEX
So slow it down!

HAPPERSEN
I can't unless I put in the code to
stop it- !

LEX
Just hold on a minute then!

HAPPERSEN is panicking now.

HAPPERSEN
We gotta go, man!

LEX
Calm down, you child!
(over his shoulder)
Otis.

Otis hops to the empty control panel. He opens a case there, revealing a large latch and some piloting controls.

EXT. LUTHORCORP BUILDING - DAY

The rift hits the street in front of the building.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Otis pulls the latch --

EXT. LUTHORCORP BUILDING - DAY

The comms hub pops off the skyscraper; rockets beneath it flare as it flies upward --

Just as the many floors below it are split in two by the rift, both sides bending like wilting flowers.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Otis flies the ship forward. A sweaty HAPPERSEN mutters:

HAPPERSEN
Not sure where we're gonna land
when the world is gone.

EXT. HOBSNECK BRIDGE - DAY

Passengers in cars -- some of the last to be escaping the island -- see the building toppling over towards them --

Cars swerve around others as the building is about to hit --

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN shirks, expecting to be crushed, when the building suddenly stops behind her.

She turns to see Superman holding up the entire skyscraper. It's a lot even for him -- he grunts with the weight of it as the windows shatter and pieces of the building spill onto the bridge and the cars.

The cars speed out from under it, barely making it, as the whole building crumbles around Superman and onto the bridge, the back half of the bridge collapsing under its weight.

Smoke and dust overtake the whole area. The Middle-Aged Woman stops her car on the other side, turning around, worried, looking for Superman.

And then she sees him rising upward in the dust and sunlight, dirty and wet.

Mr. Terrific flies up in the dust beside him. He yells.

TERRIFIC

There's a code to close the rift,
but it's too complicated to hack!

SUPERMAN

Luthor has got to have the code at
LuthorCorp. Just give me a minute,
we'll get Krypto and we'll go -

TERRIFIC

You brought that dog?

SUPERMAN

I didn't want him killing my
parents' cows -

Terrific sees something.

Ultraman and the Engineer are zooming towards them,
surrounded by Luthor's camera-drones --

Ultraman tackles Superman, and Engineer tackles Terrific --

EXT. LORDTECH FIELDS - DAY

Ultraman and Superman and Engineer and Terrific smash through the lights of this baseball stadium, home of the Metropolis Meteors, landing violently in the field.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor watches them on the drones.

EXT. LORDTECH FIELDS - DAY

Engineer stands, glancing down at Terrific, unconscious, his flying rig in shreds.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Ultraman moves toward Superman, but Superman knocks him down.

LARRY
Bravo, focus on the engineer.

DEAN
I'm on the alien, Larry!

LEX
7R.

178 She struts towards them.

178

The Engineer comes at him, getting in a blow, but he slams her down as well. He looks down at her.

SUPERMAN
It's not too late for either of
you. You don't need to do what
Luthor wan -

Ultraman sucker punches Superman from behind, smashing him into the infield.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor watches on the monitors here. He smiles.

LEX
Now, Angela, as planned, fill his
lungs and kill the son-of-a-bitch.

EXT. LORDTECH FIELDS - DAY

As Superman tries to stand, the Engineer sends her nanite mercurial goo into his nose and mouth.

Superman tries to cover his face with his hands, but he can't completely seal the area, and the nanites make it through.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor watches, almost teary with joy.

BORAVIAN TECH
Can't he hold his breath over an
hour?

HAPPERSEN
Not without air in his lungs. He'll
be dead in minutes.

KIMBLE
The nanites are suppressing his
optic nerve. Sight and X-ray vision
should be completely muted. Lungs
breached.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor eyes the Boravian Tech.

LEX
Tell Ghurkos it's zero hour.

The Tech picks up a hardline.

INT. PALACE OFFICE - DAY

A specialized phone rings here. A GENERAL answers.

GENERAL
<Yes?>

Ghurkos, at his desk in front of a microphone, sees the General on the phone. The General nods at him. And Ghurkos starts screaming into the microphone --

GHURKOS
<The time is now, my brothers!>

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

The futuristic tanks roll over the fence dividing the two countries as Ghurkos' voice rings out from speakers on the vehicles.

GHURKOS (ON LOUDSPEAKER)
<We will not sleep until the street
is flooded with the blood of every
Jarhanpurian!>

The Jarhanpurians at the bottom of the hills stand strong but fearful and nearly defenseless.

EXT. LORDTECH FIELDS - DAY

Superman's face is totally covered, but he stands, wobbling, doing his best to regain his composure.

Across the field, Terrific regains consciousness, holding the remnants of his flying rig. He looks over at Superman --

Who zips straight up into the sky as fast as he can.

Engineer and Ultraman exchange a surprised glance, then fly up after him.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor looks at the monitor, perplexed. The drones are trying to catch up to Superman.

LEX
What's his game?

DESMOND
Using the friction to get the
nanites off?

OTIS
Doesn't matter if he gets them off
his face. The nanites are still in
his lungs.

LEX
Engineer, Ultraman, keep up.

INT. SKY - DAY

Superman, covered in the goo, continues upward. Engineer flies behind him, straining, Ultraman a bit behind her.

ENGINEER
We're trying!

Engineer reaches for Superman with her nanite tendrils.

LEX (ON COMM)
Hurry.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Engineer's tendrils wind around Superman, but he keeps flying upward.

MS. JESSOP
He'll suffocate any minute.

EXT. EXOSPHERE - KARMAN LINE - DAY

Superman continues flying upwards.

LEX (ON COMM)
Engineer, envelop him completely.

The Engineer engulfs him -- her arms, legs, and body becoming a thick mass around him. Ultraman grips Superman's arm behind his back; even his limbs are getting caught up in the goo.

And that's when Superman hits a peak, right over the Kármán line where the atmosphere hits space --

And makes a sharp U-turn --

Diving back down towards the earth, as fast as he can.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor is confused. The Drone Techs are frantic.

Dean sees Superman on his monitor, speeding down in a seeming kamikaze mission towards earth.

DESMOND
Wait! Wait, wait! What is he doing?

EXT. SKY - DAY

Superman rushes down... closer... closer... gaining speed.

Ultraman pounds him with his one free arm, but Superman doesn't slow. Engineer is concerned.

ENGINEER

I won't be able to sustain the impact at this speed!

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

As the drones bring Superman's form into focus, Luthor realizes too late what's happening.

LEX

Angela, unsheathe! He's the only one protected!

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

Engineer tries to pry herself free, but she can't detach that quickly. Ultraman gets free of the goo at the last second, but they still all slam into the --

EXT. PARK - DAY

They burst through the street and into --

OMITTED

INT. SEWER - DAY

The three of them crash, burrowing deep into the ground. But, like Lex said, Superman is the only one protected in the cocoon of mercurial goo.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor gapes.

DESMOND

Entering the hole.

DEAN

Infrared, please. Switch to night vision.

MS. JESSOP

Her heart's still beating but she's unconscious.

LEX
Call in the raptors.

The monitors display the drone feeds as they head into the sewer. It's dark there, but night vision snaps on so they can see the hole, water spilling into it.

And a hand emerges from the hole.

DEAN
Whoa.

INT. SEWER - DAY

Superman pulls himself up, the nanites dripping off him like melted wax.

He yanks a long cord of the substance from his lungs, which coils onto the ground. And then he coughs, heaving.

Behind him, the Engineer is comatose, the sewage flowing over her.

As Superman stands, he sees Ultraman, damaged, trying to get upright. He's bloody and his clothes are in shreds. His mask and goggles are no longer on. And Superman sees Ultraman's face for the first time.

It is his own, but slightly off, misshapen, a clone gone wrong.

SUPERMAN
What the hell?

INT. T-CRAFT - DAY

Jimmy finishes typing up the article.

PERRY
Here. Here. Let me proof it.

Lois peers down at the rift spreading wider.

INT. SEWER - DAY

Superman stares at his funhouse doppelgänger. A squawk emits from a tiny speaker on Ultraman's chest, followed by Luthor's voice.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor walks around and grabs a notepad and pencil.

LEX

That's right. Cloning you was relatively simple - All it took was combing the aftermath of your battles until I located a strand of your hair.

INT. SEWER - DAY

Superman realizes...

SUPERMAN

That's how you got into the Fortress - with my own DNA.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor writes something on a notepad.

LEX

Yes, but, as is often the case with cloning, the match was imperfect. He might be even stupider than you, if that's possible. But easier to control -

Luthor holds up the note towards Cheryl. It reads 3L. Cheryl speaks into the mic.

LEX (CONT'D)

And stronger.

KIMBLE

* 3L.

*

INT. SEWERS - DAY

Ultraman shoots beams out of his eyes, knocking an off-balance Superman back.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

On the monitors, Ultraman tackles Superman.

Luthor's commands are especially furious and sadistic.

LEX

22K. 31D. 2A. 5B. 5B. 6K. 9A! My brain will always win!

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

The Boravian troops roll down the hills in their tanks.

LEX (POST LAP)
Brain beats brawn!

Jarhanpurians flee.

INT. SEWERS - DAY

Ultraman pins Superman against a wall.

Beyond the two of them, the walls start to split open, revealing the pocket dimension, pouring in and collapsing around them.

Superman head-butts Ultraman as they both spill upward --

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Ultraman and Superman fly towards a convention center with tall windows.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

They smash through a window into the convention center, landing on a display.

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

The Boravian tanks and troops fire. The Jarhanpurians run, fall, try to dodge the gunfire and blasts.

222 But the children holding the Superman flag aloft remain trembling but firm. They close their eyes and turn their heads as sand from the blasts sprays over them.

222

The one young boy remains, screaming, almost crying as he tries to hold the flag aloft.

Bullets hit the ground around the young boy. He sees one of the Soldiers aim his machine gun at him. His eyes are filled with tears as he whispers to himself...

YOUNG BOY
Superman. Superman. Superman.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Superman and Ultraman stand, facing each other, out-of-breath.

SUPERMAN

Whatever you do to me, Luthor...
your plans in Boravia... won't
work.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex snickers.

LEX

Oh, really? Why is that?

SUPERMAN (ON SPEAKER)

Because I called in some friends.

The Boravian Tech sees something concerning on the feed.

BORAVIAN TECH

Mr. Luthor, there's an anomaly at
the border.

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - DAY

The Soldier fires on the young boy.

But the bullets bounce off a green shield snapping down in front of him.

The boy is in a cube of green light, protecting him. He looks up to see Guy Gardner floating above him, the cube emanating from his ring.

Guy Gardner lands beside the young boy.

GUY

Superman couldn't make it, kid. So
you got an upgrade.

A sudden sandstorm sweeps between them, blowing sand only in the direction of the Boravian troops.

Soldiers shield their eyes and yelp as they're peppered.

The sandstorm swirls, larger, a tornado now, spraying the sands of the Jarhanpurian desert over the front line.

And, little by little, the elements whirl together into one creepy, godlike figure floating above them - Metamorpho.

Hawkgirl flies up beside him, and screeches as she flies off.

The front line staggers back.

Guy flicks his wrist and all of the tanks and soldiers around them flip up like toys.

Metamorpho brings a giant metal hammer down into a tank, demolishing it.

INT. BORAVIAN PALACE HALLWAY - DAY

Ghurkos is ushered by the General and other military personnel out of his office down this hall.

GENERAL

<Mr. President, our forces aren't prepared to deal with metahuman anomalies - I've sent the word to retreat.>

GHURKOS

<Retreat?! NO! NO!>

GENERAL (CONT'D)

* <We must get to the bunker!>

*

Ghurkos and the General hear a LOUD SCREECH in front of them. They turn and see --

Hawkgirl, curling around the hallway, her giant wings thrusting her forward, as she screeches like a monstrous bird, swinging her mace into one guard after the other, flinging them aside.

Ghurkos and the General run. But it's too late. She swoops in, grabs Ghurkos --

She shatters a window, flying out into --

EXT. SKY ABOVE BORAVIA - DAY

Hawkgirl soars over the capitol, dangling Ghurkos. Ghurkos looks at her, frightened but defiant.

GHURKOS

I know you won't kill me! You're too delicate and weak - like Superman.

HAWKGIRL

Lol. I'm not like Superman.

Hawkgirl drops Ghurkos. He screams in terror as he plummets towards earth like a despotic water balloon.

INT. T-CRAFT - DAY

MATCH-CUT: An Alka-Seltzer tablet drops into a glass of water as they fly over the city. Steve Lombard shakily drinks it.

Perry hands the laptop back to Jimmy.

PERRY

It's perfect. Post it, kid.

JIMMY

On it.

Jimmy presses post.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Luthor smirks.

LEX

I think you overestimate the importance of Jarhanpur to me, Superman.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Ultraman and Superman continue looking at each other, pacing around each other, still catching their collective breath.

LEX (O.S.)

That was just a bonus.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

LEX

I'm not killing you so the Boravian military conflict can proceed. I created the Boravian military conflict so I'd have an excuse to kill you.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Superman looks confused.

LEX (ON SPEAKER)

Once you involved yourself, I knew
I could easily get our government's
support in nullifying you.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Superman yells toward the speaker.

SUPERMAN

Why?

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex writes something down on another note, and shows it to Cheryl.

LEX

Because you're destroying us.

CHERYL

(into mic)

10Y. 13B.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Ultraman tackles Superman with a cool dodge in there and they fly out the window --

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER

Smashing out the other side here as they fly down towards -

EXT. RIFT - DAY

-- violently hitting a protrusion, Ultraman pinning him.

SUPERMAN

You're driven by envy, Luthor, you
couldn't be more obvious!

INTERCUT - INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

LEX

No shit. I'm not dim. I'm aware
envy consumes my every waking
moment. 13L.

INTERCUT - EXT. RIFT - DAY

Ultraman laser visions Superman directly in the face. Superman screams.

INTERCUT - INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

LEX (ON SPEAKER)

I know when they mention Galileo or Einstein or one of these other twits in the same breath as me I feel the tide of vomit burn the back of my throat. But at least Galileo did something. He wasn't some dopey Venusian catapulted onto this planet just to have the world fawn over him because his strength illuminates how weak we all really are. 12C!

INTERCUT - INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

LEX

So my envy is a calling! It is the sole hope for humanity, because it is what has driven me to annihilating you! 1A.

INTERCUT - EXT. RIFT - DAY

Another, deadly, punch.

LEX

1A. 1A. 1A.

EXT. METROPOLIS - DAY

The rift grows wider!

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT. RIFTSIDE - DAY

Ultraman brings his fist back for the death blow, Superman thinks of something, almost laughs.

LEX (O.S.)
What are you smirking at, you idiot?

He looks at Ultraman -

SUPERMAN
Brain beats brawn. Sorry, chum.

Superman WHISTLES. Ultraman is confused.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex is also confused.

EXT. RIFTSIDE - DAY

Ultraman looks over and sees...

Krypto zooming through the sky towards him, teeth bared, growling.

Krypto tackles Ultraman, slamming him back into the rift with the force of a train.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex sees this on a drone feed.

LEX
No! No, no, no, no!

OMITTED**INT. RIFTSIDE - DAY**

Krypto, Ultraman, and Superman painfully rise as the rift widens around them. As Superman starts to push himself up, he notices the drones, smiles a little.

SUPERMAN
You watch through those, tell him what to do?

He stands.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Krypto, get the toy.

Krypto looks around excitedly, and spots one of the drones. He wags his tail.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex watches the drone feed.

LEX
36B -

But he's cut short as Krypto destroys the drone.

EXT. RIFTSIDE - DAY

Krypto crunches up the drone then tosses it away as Superman and Ultraman fly towards each other, clashing, and Krypto leaps to another drone, chewing that up.

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

Lex sees a blurry image of Ultraman and Superman fighting.

LEX
12 -

The SCREEN GOES BLANK.

LEX (CONT'D)
Uh...

OMITTED

EXT. RIFTSIDE - DAY

Without Lex's strategy, Superman beats the hell out of Ultraman -- bash! Boom! Bash! --

And Krypto gleefully vanquishes the remaining drones around them.

With a victorious scream, Superman brings Ultraman down, seemingly knocking him unconscious.

PUSH IN ON SUPERMAN, tough as nails, his hair blowing in the wind.

230

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

230

Lex moves along the drone feeds, watching the last one go to static.

MS. JESSOP (O.S)

Lex.

He looks over at her.

MS. JESSOP (CONT'D)

The raptors have arrived.

Lex looks slightly hopeful.

OMITTED

OMITTED

EXT RIFTSIDE - DAY

Superman hears roaring above him. He looks up to see dozens of Raptors arriving from all sides.

RAPTOR LEADER

Kill him!

SUPERMAN

Good luck with that.

Superman soars quickly upward, punching one raptor, and then up into the entire mass as they crowd all around him, seemingly overpowering him -- but he SUPER-ROLLS and tosses them off in different directions.

As they fly back in, he swirls eye-lasering all of them as he revolves.

Raptors rain to the ground like frogs in *Magnolia*.

Superman barely has time to catch his breath, when he's tackled once more by Ultraman.

For one last moment, Ultraman has the upper hand. But not for long.

As Superman notices a black hole in the pocket universe and sees a bus falling beside him --

He swings Ultraman into the bus, which smashes him up into the black hole as he screams and disappears into the darkness.

Superman lies there for a moment, recovering his breath.

TERRIFIC (O.S.)

Hey!

Superman looks up to see Terrific peering down from the edge of the rift.

TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

Quit messing around! We have to get to Luthor to stop the rift!

Superman grumbles to himself.

SUPERMAN

I'm not messing around. I'm doing important stuff.

INT. T-CRAFT - DAY

Lois looks down. The rift is widening below them. It's slicing through the island of New Troy and to the mainland.

LOIS

It's gonna reach Bakerline any minute. There are people there.

OMITTED

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

HAPPERSEN looks down at the rift, worried. He starts to use the controls.

HAPPERSEN

Lex, I'm closing the frickin' rift.

Lex grabs him, stopping them.

LEX

They chose him. Let them die. We'll close it from the bunker, before it gets to a city I care about. Open the portal!

He looks back at the portal.

LEX (CONT'D)
Wrap it up. Let's go.

He moves toward the portal. His acolytes follow.

Lex sees, from the corner of his eye, through the window beside him --

Superman, followed by a frightened Terrific holding onto Krypto for dear life, zooming towards the window.

Lex runs faster.

But not fast enough. Superman smashes through the window so hard the whole Comms Hub shudders --

He knocks Lex, slamming him against the glass on the other side.

Terrific tumbles off Krypto, looking around. He sees HAPPERSEN. He moves quickly towards him.

HAPPERSEN
The code is in here - I can help -!

TERRIFIC
I don't need your help. I'm Goddamn Mr. Terrific.

He works dials and buttons, inputting the code on the console.

Lex stands, injured. He laughs loudly, bitterly.

LEX
You piece-of-shit ALIEN!

SUPERMAN
That's where you've always been wrong about me, Lex. I'm as human as anyone.

Superman steps toward him.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I love. I get scared. And each day I wake up and despite not knowing what to do I try and put one foot in front of the other and make the best choices I can. I screw up all the time. But that's being human, and that's my real strength.

Superman steps even closer.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I hope someday, for the sake of the world, you realize it's also yours.

Lex screams, coming towards Superman, pointing at him --

LEX
Don't patronize me, you clown! None of this matters! The government gave me the authority to kill you, if not today, then tomorrow - !

As Lex presses his finger on Superman, Krypto tackles him.

He slams him violently against the wall like he's a rag doll -- Bam! Wham! Bam!

SUPERMAN
No! Stop, Krypto! Too much!

Terrific finishes inputting the information into the console.

TERRIFIC
Got it.

INT. T-CRAFT - DAY

Lois looks down and sees the rift mending. She smiles.

OMITTED

INT. COMMS HUB - DAY

As Lex tries to stand, mangled, Kimble sees something on a TV newsfeed. She looks concerned.

KIMBLE
Lex.

She turns up the volume.

GBS REPORTER (ON TV)
- an absolute bombshell from the Daily Planet! Billionaire Lex Luthor aligning himself with a foreign entity -

Lex looks around him, looking and seeing other newscasts being turned on on the screens all around him.

THORNWAITE (ON TV)
- had Luthor on the show many times
- little did we know he was a
traitor buffoonishly thirsting for
power!

Lex is devastated.

MAXWELL LORD (ON TV)
(laughing)
- seems like the one thing that
conservatives and liberals can now
agree on is that Lex Luthor sucks.

ANCHORPERSON
The whole world turned against
Superman, and we all owe him an
enormous apology. He is, of course,
the hero we always thought he was.

Tears stream down Lex's face.

Superman stares at him, feeling compassion for him.

EXT. BORAVIA-JARHANPUR BORDER - LATER - DAY

Guy, Hawkgirl, and Metamorpho walk through the crowd of celebrating Jarhanpurians as they're feted. Hawkgirl smiles at the self-conscious Metamorpho.

HAWKGIRL
That was sick. Guy, maybe he should join the group.

GUY
Kid, please. I mean, no offense, but that creepy mug is what you want representing the Justice Gang?

METAMORPHO
Justice Gang? That's a cool name.

GUY
You're in.

Hawkgirl groans.

INT. PENTAGON CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Secretary Mori and Rick Flag are watching footage of the Justice Gang on TV.

SECRETARY MORI

Glad you're not concerned about the metahumans, Rick. Because now it seems they're making the rules.

Rick does, in fact, look concerned.

EXT. CITY OPEN AREA - DAY

The top of the LuthorCorp building has landed in the square. MILITARY PERSONNEL are leading Lex's prisoners out of the dimensional portal -- Eve, Fleurette, Fitzgibbon, and more. Waiting FAMILY MEMBERS embrace them and cry.

Armed forces push Luthor out on a gurney. He's dead-eyed, wearing a neck brace and handcuffs.

ARMED SERGEANT

- get his bald ass to Belle Reve -

Superman spots the T-craft landing.

INT. T-CRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

Jimmy, Lois, Perry, and the others disembark the ship.

EXT. CITY OPEN AREA - DAY

Jimmy hears a high-pierced shriek. He looks up to see Eve sprinting toward him.

She jumps into his arms, hugging him.

EVE

Now we can be together forever.

Jimmy pauses a moment, uncertain... and then smiles.

Lois is scanning the area, looking for someone, when we CURL AROUND HER to Superman standing behind her.

SUPERMAN

Ms. Lane.

Lois turns, can't quite hide her joy.

LOIS

Oh, hi.

Honestly, Superman's acting isn't great:

SUPERMAN

I thought perhaps we could do an interview - I can fill you in on all the behind-the-scenes.

LOIS

Sure, that would be great. How about over here for an interview --

She points to an empty arcade. Perry watches this.

INT. ARCADE - MOMENTS LATER

As the door closes behind Lois and Superman, they rush towards each other and kiss --

They float upward together. They look into each other's eyes, touch each other's faces, so happy to be together and alive.

LOIS

Hey. I love you too.

They kiss again.

EXT. CITY OPEN AREA - DAY

Perry looks from the mall to Jimmy.

PERRY

How long have they been hooking up?

JIMMY

About three months, I think.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE - DAY

One of the Robots is reading the Daily Planet with a headline -- "METROPOLIS' TRUE HERO", featuring a photo of Mali and a byline by Clark Kent.

PAN to the other Robots -- with parts of their bodies brand-new -- prepping Superman in the large chair so he can be doused with another dose of yellow sun.

SUPERMAN

Got this place cleaned up pretty good. Cleaned yourself up pretty good, too.

ROBOT 4
You think so?

SUPERMAN
Yeah. Think it gives you character.

When they hear a clanging and a shout --

WOMAN (O.S.)
Ah shoot!

They all look up.

ROBOT 4
Sounds like your cousin has
returned, sir.

SUPERMAN
Yeah.

A waifish girl of twenty-one stumbles in from the hall.
Surly. Drunk. This is SUPERGIRL.

SUPERGIRL
What the hell, dude?! Why'd you
move that door?!

SUPERMAN
I didn't move the door -

SUPERGIRL
Where's my dog?

Krypto bounds into the room. He leaps at her, knocking her over. He licks her face, whining.

Krypto slams Supergirl around like a rag doll as she laughs. Superman looks at Robot 4.

SUPERMAN
Okay well. This is why he has the
behavior issues.

ROBOT 4
No boundaries. It's not healthy, is
it?

Supergirl kisses and smushes Krypto, and they scramble off together. She yells over her shoulder.

SUPERGIRL
Thanks for watching him, bitch!

The Robots continue prepping Superman for his sunbathe.

SUPERMAN

She likes to go to other planets
and party. Planets with red suns.

ROBOT 4

Oh.

SUPERMAN

Because of our metabolism, you
can't get drunk on a planet with a
yellow sun.

ROBOT 4

If I had any emotional capacity
whatsoever, I'd be concerned about
her partying.

Superman nods, makes a sort of sound of affirmation.

ROBOT 4 (CONT'D)

Superman, would you like to see the
footage of your parents?
(to new Robot)
He finds it soothing.

ROBOT 22

Oh.

SUPERMAN

Yes, that'd be nice.

Robot 4 works some buttons, and VIDEO FOOTAGE of Ma and Pa Kent starts playing all around them.

"PUNKROCKER" by IGGY POP and TEDDYBEARS plays.

The cameras circle Superman as he watches the memories of his human family. He is their legacy.

On the videos, Pa lies on his back, holding a baby Clark Kent over his head, making him joyously fly over imaginary skies.

Superman smiles.

THE END

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