



Written by
David S. Goyer
&
Chris Terrio
from a story by
Zack Snyder & David S. Goyer

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FADE IN:

EXT. ARCTIC OCEAN -- MORNING

TWO RUSSIAN WARSHIPS, the ANATOLE and the CASSIOPEIA, approach a RUSSIAN OIL RIG in ARCTIC WATERS.

INT. BRIDGE, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

Karpov 60, an INTIMIDATING RUSSIAN GENERAL, CAPTAINS the WARSHIP. His SECOND IN COMMAND UMINSKI, 30's, stands at his side.

KARPOV
(to Uminski, in Russian)
Hold this position.

UMINSKI
Yes General.

INT. CARGO HOLD, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

300 RUSSIAN OIL RIG WORKERS are held PRISONER in the CARGO HOLD of the RUSSIAN OIL RIG.

They are surrounded by a ATLANTEAN HIJACKERS. The Atlanteans wear a combination of BLACK WET SUITS and ARMOR PLATING designed like FISH SCALES. Their faces are CONCEALED behind MASKS. Their HANDS and FEET are BARE. They wield STRANGE WEAPONRY which HUM with ENERGY.

OKSANA, 40's, A HARDENED FEMALE OIL RIG WORKER cradles a frightened YOUNGER FEMALE OIL RIG WORKER, LUCYA, early 20's, who SOBS in her arms.

OKSANA
(in Russian)
It's Ok. It's Ok.

MERA, a TALL, BEAUTIFUL REDHEAD ATLANTEAN walks past them and speaks with one of her Warriors. He BOWS to her and leaves.

She walks towards a TALL MAN with LONG FLOWING hair who sits on top of a stack of CRATES like a King on a THRONE. He is dressed in ARMOR. In his right hand he holds a LONG GOLDEN TRIDENT. His left hand is SHIMMERING and BLUE as if MADE OF WATER.

This is ORIN, KING OF THE ATLANTEANS.

MERA
(in Atlantean)
Orin. The surface dwellers approach.

Orin steps off the crates which are marked 'MERREVALE'.

ORIN
 (in Atlantean)
 Order the Warriors to set the charges.

MERA
 And the prisoners?

ORIN
 They are pawns. When the charges are set put them in their life boats and release them.
 (he smiles)
 In the meantime let us welcome our guests.

He leaves the Cargo Hold. Mera stays to watch over the Hostages.

EXT. PLATFORM, RUSSIAN OIL RIG, ARCTIC -- CONTINUOUS

TWO RUSSIAN HELICOPTERS hover above the MAIN PLATFORM. A SQUAD of TWELVE RUSSIAN COMMANDOES rappel down onto the Platform their MACHINE GUNS raised and ready.

Orin emerges onto the Platform followed by a squad of his WARRIORS who carry with them LARGE CANNON-LIKE WEAPONS.

ORIN
 Get in formation. I'll attend to these.

The King walks towards the Commandoes who AIM their GUNS at him.

COMMANDO LEADER
 (firmly, in Russian)
 Drop your weapons and get down on your knees!

ORIN
 (in Russian)
 I kneel before no one.

He SLAMS the HILT of his Trident DOWN.

A COMMANDO notices an Atlantean Warrior placing a CANNON the RAIL at the EDGE of the PLATFORM and pointing it towards the Warships.

COMMANDO
 STOP!

The Commando FIRES his weapon. The Bullets BOUNCE off the Atlantean armor but one PENETRATES the Warrior's leg. He BUCKLES and FALLS to his knees.

With SUPERHUMAN speed Orin ATTACKS before the Commandos can even REACT.

He JUMPS high into the air and LANDS in the MIDDLE of the Commandos.

With LETHAL EFFICIENCY he DISPATCHES the Commandos. SLICING their ARMS and STABBING them THROUGH the LEGS with his TRIDENT.

He KICKS the Commando Leader CLEAR ACROSS the platform as the rest fall to the floor DISABLED and in PAIN but ALIVE.

The King turns to his Warriors and nods.

ATLANTEAN WARRIOR
OPEN FIRE!

The Warriors place the CANNONS on the RAIL and FIRE on the Anatole.

BLUE BOLTS of DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY fire towards the Warship.

The Energy IMPACTS the HULLS of the Ship sending WAVES of ENERGY through the vessel which INCAPACITATES the CREW who CRUMBLE to the floor, UNCONSCIOUS.

INT. BRIDGE, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

Karpov sees the other Warship being DISABLED.

KARPOV
(to Uinski)
Call in the Fighters.

Uinski activates his radio.

EXT. SKY, ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

THREE RUSSIAN T-50 FIGHTER JETS fly high above the Arctic waters.

INT. T-50 JET (FLYING), ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

The PILOT listens to his orders.

PILOT
What are my orders?

UMINSKI (O.S)
Request immediate attack. Terminate
the hostiles.

PILOT
Affirmit...

The Pilot pauses as he sees SOMETHING outside of the COCKPIT.

EXT. T-50 JET (FLYING), SKY, ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

Two FAMILIAR RED BOOTS walk up the NOSE of the Jet towards the cockpit.

The Pilot looks up as a RED CAPE BILLOWS outside the Jet.

EXT. BRIDGE, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

Umski and Karpov watch as the T-50 fly past without completing the Airstrike.

UMINSKI
(into radio)
Request immediate attack. Repeat
Immediate attack.

There is no response

UMINSKI (CON'T)
No response sir.

Karpov SUCKS his teeth and PONDERs his options.

Umski looks to the sky and his eyes WIDEN.

UMINSKI
(shocked)
Sir!

Karpov looks up.

INT. PLATFORM, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

Orin and his Warriors look to the sky as they hear the CRACK of a SONIC BOOM.

A RED and BLUE BLUR CRASHES down through the COMPLEX.

ORIN
(smiles)
Sky Dweller.

INT. CARGO HOLD, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

The Red and Blue blur SMASHES down through the CEILING and down onto the FLOOR.

The Hostages SCREAM and COWER as the Atlanteans raise their ENERGY WEAPONS.

Mera CALMLY steps backwards and takes COVER behind a BULKHEAD DOOR and WATCHES.

The DEBRIS and DUST settle and standing on the DENTED floor in the middle of the Cargo Hold between the Hostages and Atlanteans is the MAN OF STEEL, KAL EL... SUPERMAN.

An Atlantean Warrior RUSHES Superman with his Weapon RAISED.

SUPERMAN

(calmly)

I'd put those toys away.

Superman GRABS the BARREL of the Weapon and CRUSHES it with EASE.

The other Atlanteans OPEN FIRE. BOLTS of CRACKLING BLUE ENERGY strike Superman REPEATEDLY. He STAGGERS back as the energy PASSES THROUGH his BODY. He SHAKES it off.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

(bemused)

That's new.

Superman tries to pull the Weapon away from the Atlantean. But to the Kryptonian's SURPRISE the Warrior RESISTS.

The Warrior seems to be SMILING beneath his Mask.

Superman PULLS harder and the Atlantean is YANKED OFF his feet entirely and TOSSED aside.

Superman then with SUPERHUMAN SPEED attacks the remaining Warriors as they OPEN FIRE on his again.

He DEFLECTS their ENERGY BOLTS and DISARMS them DESTROYING their Weapons and SCATTERING their parts across the Cargo Hold.

He CRISS-CROSSES the interior of the complex SUBDUING the Warriors before coming to a HALT in front of the Hostages.

They RECOIL from him and COWER

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

Don't be afraid.

(reaches out his hand)

I'm here to help.

Lucya stands up and walks up to the Man of Steel and looks into his KIND EYES and places her hand in his.

LUCYA

(in English)

There are others.

SUPERMAN

I know. I'll take care of them. Can you lead these people to the life boats?

She nods. Superman smiles.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

(to Mera)

I'm giving you once chance to surrender. That's more than those Warships will.

ORIN(O.S)
 (in English)
 How many chances will they give
 you?

Superman looks up through the HOLE in the Rig's Roof.
 Standing above him LOOKING DOWN upon him is Orin.

ORIN(CON'T)
 Before they kill you?

Superman LIFTS of the floor and FLOATS up through the hole
 and HOVERS over Orin before LANDING to face him.

SUPERMAN
 They only killers here are you and
 your terrorists. Disarm the bombs
 you've planted.

ORIN
 I don't kill without justification.
 (gestures to the
 Warships)
 Unlike them.

SUPERMAN
 The people here are innocent.

ORIN
 And I will release them and
 (gestures to the rig)
 destroy this abomination.

SUPERMAN
 I can't allow you to do that.

ORIN
 Their machines poison my oceans.
 Ruin the Earth. There is nothing of
 this world but rot, decay and
 death.

(points Trident at
 Superman)
 And you would be it's champion?

SUPERMAN
 I would be it's protector.

ORIN
 Why? Humans hate what they don't
 understand and they can never
 understand someone like you.
 (softly)
 I know this.

SUPERMAN

You've been destroying oil
installations all over the planet.
This has to stop.

ORIN

I will never stop. I do this to
protect my people like you protect
theirs.

Superman sees Atlanteans on the Platform CHARGING up their
ENERGY CANNONS.

Before they can fire Superman uses his HEAT VISION to
DESTROY the Cannons.

The Warriors are sent HURTLING backwards from the BLAST.

Orin STRIKES Superman across the JAW with the HILT of his
TRIDENT and then STABS it toward his CHEST.

Superman CATCHES the Trident as Orin LUNGES forward DRIVING
Superman backwards.

Superman STEADIES himself. He looks at Orin's SHIMMERING
LEFT HAND.

SUPERMAN

(confused)

What are you?

ORIN

More like you than they can ever
be.

Superman GRIPS the Trident and SWING Orin over his head and
SMASHES him down INTO the Platform floor.

Orin FLIPS to his feet and SLICES the Trident ACROSS
Superman's CHEST cutting THREE SLASHES In his SYMBOL OF
HOPE.

Superman and Orin CHARGE at each other.

INT. BRIDGE, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

Uminski watches as Superman and Orin BATTLE on top of the
PLATFORM.

Karpov is on the radio awaiting orders.

UMINSKI

(to himself, in awe)

They are Gods!

Karpov receives his orders.

KARPOV
(to Uminski)
Open fire on the installation.

UMINSKI
(reluctant)
That would sink it. There are 300
civilians on board.

KARPOV
You have your orders.

Uminski takes a DEEP BREATH.

UMINSKI
(firmly)
No.

Karpov turns gestures TWO SAILORS to REMOVE Uminski from the
Bridge.

KARPOV
(disgusted)
Get this coward out of here!

Uminski is ESCORTED out.

KARPOV
(firmly)
Open fire!

INT. PLATFORM, OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

Orin is sent SKIDDING backwards across the Platform. He
STABS his Trident into the FLOOR to stop his MOMENTUM.

He smiles.

ORIN
You're holding back.

SUPERMAN
Because I don't want to kill you.

The ROAR of ARTILLERY FIRE fills the AIR.

A SHELLS impact the Installation. The EXPLOSIONS SHAKE the
Oil Rig.

Another Shell DETONATES between Superman and Orin SEPARATING
them.

Superman JUMPS into the air and FLIES toward the Warship.

INT. BRIDGE, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

Karpov sees the Man of Steel approaching.

KARPOV
(frantic)
Fire! Fire! Fire!

EXT. ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

The Warship OPEN FIRE on Superman who PUNCHES the SHELLS from the sky and FLIES over the Warship and uses his HEAT VISION to DESTROY the ARTILLERY CANNONS and then DIVES down through the BRIDGE.

Karpov THROWS himself to the floor on impact.

Superman stands over the TERRIFIED General. Before he can do anything he HEARS the SCREAMING of the Oil Rig Workers.

He leaves and flies back towards the CRIPPLED Rig.

INT. HALLWAY, OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

He lands inside and lands in a SMOKING HALLWAY.

He HEARS someone STRUGGLING. He SWIFTLY follows the sound.

Mera is PINNED beneath a fallen BULKHEAD DOOR. Her STOMACH has been WOUNDED. She's BLEEDING HEAVILY.

Superman LIFTS the DOOR off of her and TAKES her in his arms and FLIES her out of the Hallway and out onto the Platform.

He lays her down gently.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
I can help you. Please trust me.

He uses his HEAT VISION to CAUTERIZE the wound. She GRITS her teeth trying not to scream. Superman finishes and she goes LIMP.

Superman looks up from Mera and sees Orin WATCHING him. Behind him his Warriors stand WEAPONS READY and AIMED at the Man of Steel.

Superman stands.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
She needs help. Take her and leave.

Orin STRAPS his Trident ACROSS HIS BACK and lifts Mera GENTLY in his arms.

As he leaves he looks back on Superman for a moment.

Orin DIVES OFF the Platform and into the Ocean and SWIMS at AMAZING SPEED into the DEPTHS. His Warriors follow.

Suddenly the Oil Rig is ROCKED by a huge EXPLOSION at it's BASE and begins to TILT and SINK into the Ocean.

INT. CARGO HOLD, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

Water RUSHES into the Cargo Hold and ENGULFS the Workers.

Oksana grabs Lucya and stops her from being DRAGGED away by the CURRENT.

INT. PLATFORM, RUSSIAN OIL RIG, ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman FLIES up into the sky then DOWN INTO the OCEAN.

INT. CARGO HOLD, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

The Workers are totally SUBMERGED and and SECONDS away from DEATH.

The Oil Rig SHAKES and the Water levels begin to DROP. The Workers GASP for air.

EXT. RUSSIAN OIL RIG, ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

The Oil Rig RISES from the OCEAN carried by Superman who slowly carries it to the nearby ICEBERG and places it down as SOFTLY as possible.

INT. CARGO HOLD, RUSSIAN OIL RIG -- CONTINUOUS

The Workers SCREAM as the Oil Rig LANDS.

EXT. RUSSIAN OIL RIG, ICEBERG -- CONTINUOUS

Superman BREATHS HEAVILY.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

Why are you here?

Orin stands behind him.

ORIN

Leave them. They will destroy you if you don't.

Superman faces the King.

ORIN (CON'T)

It's their nature.

The Workers start to flow out of the Oil Rig.

Superman looks towards the Warships and walks past Orin.

SUPERMAN

You'd better hope we don't meet again.

Superman LEAPS into the air and flies toward the Warship.

Orin watches him as he departs.

ORIN
 (respectful)
 We will brother. We will.

INT. DECK, CASSIOPEIA -- CONTINUOUS

The CREW of the Warship, including Karpov and Uminski, are on the deck.

Superman lands on the Deck and MARCHES toward Karpov.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
 (angry)
 There were 300 innocent people on that Rig!

KARPOV
 (in Russian, terrified)
 Sorry! Sorry! Sorry

Superman pauses.

SUPERMAN
 (to Crew)
 Does anyone speak English?

Uminski RAISES his hand.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
 Those people need help and medical attention. See that they get it.

Uminski nods and relays Superman's orders to the Crew.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
 (to Uminski)
 Who ordered the attack?

Uminski doesn't say anything but LOOKS towards Karpov.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
 Is that so?

CUT TO:

Karpov yells OBSCENITIES in Russian. He has been WRAPPED up in the METAL REMAINS of the Warship's BRIDGE. His feet HANG comically above the DECK.

EXT. RUSSIAN OIL RIG, ICEBERG -- CONTINUOUS

Oksana and Lucya watch as Superman disappears into the heavens.

LUCYA
 (in Russian)
 Superman.

EXT. SKY, ARCTIC WATERS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman flies HIGH above the Arctic PICKING UP SPEED as he comes towards the PACIFIC OCEAN and skims at SUPER SONIC SPEED across the water.

He SPINS as he gains ALTITUDE and enters the STRATOSPHERE, BREAKING the SOUND BARRIER.

EXT. SPACE -- MOMENTS LATER

Superman SLOWS DOWN as he looks upon THE EARTH. He takes in the sight for a moment before descending back towards the UNITED STATES.

Floating in the distance is a LEXCORP SATELLITE.

INT. DARK ROOM

A MAN sits cross legged on a desk in a DARK ROOM with his back to us.

He is a BLACK SILHOUETTE against an array of COMPUTER SCREENS which are MONITORING the scene in the Arctic and showing BLURRED IMAGES of Superman flying through space.

The screens go BLANK and the room goes BLACK.

EXT. BARN, KENT FARM -- EVENING

Martha Kent walks toward the BARN. Her dog jumps is by her side.

She opens the BARN DOORS and enters. She tries to PULL OPEN the TRAP DOOR when the Dog starts barking and she hears a familiar SWOOSHING sound.

MARTHA

(smiles)

How come you always show up at dinner?

Standing in the doorway is her son Superman... CLARK KENT.

CLARK

Good timing.

MARTHA

(sarcastic)

Sure

(tugs on the trap door)

Well don't just stand there. Help me with this.

Her Son smiles and PULLS the trap door open and they both walk down the steps into the DARK ROOM below.

Martha switches on the LIGHT and REVEALS the room which is VERY DIFFERENT from when it used to conceal Clark's

SPACECRAFT.

PASTED to the WALLS are HUNDREDS of NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS of her son's EXPLOITS all around the world.

CLARK

You've been busy.

MARTHA

I come down her a lot these days.

I'm turning into your father.

(smiles)

When he wanted to be alone he'd come down here. It was his fortress of solitude.

Clark sees an OLD FRAMED PHOTO of himself and his FATHER on the workbench. He picks it up and stares at it LONGINGLY. It's clear he STILL misses him.

Martha leans her head against his shoulder and looks at the photo.

MARTHA (CON'T)

He'd have been so proud of you Clark. He was proud of you.

CLARK

I know.

(puts the photo back down
and looks around at all
the clippings)

If only the rest of the world shared his opinion.

MARTHA

They will. They just don't understand you right now. Or what happened with Zod.

Clark's face HARDENS at the mention of Zod.

MARTHA (CON'T)

Look around you. Look at all the great things you've done and the people you've helped.

CLARK

But you've only put up the good things they say about me.

MARTHA

Clark, honey. If I were to use the bad things they say I could cover the barn, the house and the outhouse.

CLARK

We still have an outhouse?

They laugh.

Martha HUGS Clark and lays her head against his TORN SYMBOL of HOPE.

MARTHA

Things will change. Someday the whole world will see you for what you are. Just like I do. And your Father did.

CLARK

When you say it I believe it.

MARTHA

That's right.
 (loosens her grip and
 looks him in the eyes)
 Now let me fix you some dinner.

CLARK

That's Ok Mom.

MARTHA

Oh can it. We do this every time. I already have a plate out.

CLARK

(laughs)
 Ok. Ok.

She lets him go and starts to MARCH up the steps.

MARTHA

And take off that damn beat up suit. No capes at the table.

CLARK

Elvis wore a cape. You love Elvis.

MARTHA

Elvis was Elvis. He could wear anything.

Clark smiles and follows his Mother.

INT. KITCHEN, HOUSE, KENT FARM -- LATER

Clark, dressed in a SHIRT and JEANS, is in the KITCHEN washing the dishes while Martha sits on the couch in the living room watching a TALK SHOW.

MARTHA

Hurry up Clark. Lois is on.

Clark puts the final dish down and walks to the LIVING ROOM and leans against the door frame.

On the television TV talk show host CAT GRANT. A BUXOM BLONDE with an ICE WHITE smile hosts a DEBATE between LOIS LANE and MORGAN EDGE, a SLICK YOUNG PR EXECUTIVE.

INT. WGBS-TV STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

Cat SMILES at the CAMERA.

CAT

Good Evening. I'm Cat Grant and joining me tonight on our panel is Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the Daily Planet Lois Lane.

LOIS

Glad to be here Cat.

INT. LIVING ROOM, HOUSE, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

MARTHA

(impressed)

She looks good on TV.

INT. WGBS-TV STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

CAT

And to her left is Morgan Edge, PR executive to Metropolis' own LexCorp. The world's leading conglomerate and a virtual economy all by itself. Lovely to have you here.

EDGE

Always a pleasure.

CAT

So Lois I'll start with you. It's been almost a year since the attack on Metropolis and in that time you have been a very vocal proponent in the media for the being known as Kal El as an ally to Earth.

LOIS

I believe Kal El is being portrayed unfairly in the global media and as a witness to what transpired before and after the events in Metropolis I have no doubt in my mind that Kal El can and will aid humanity in ways that I understand the population are finding difficult to accept right now.

CAT

Morgan, you and LexCorp have a different view point.

EDGE

We share the same view as the majority of the world in that there is no evidence that this 'Superman' isn't a very real threat to the safety of every single human life on this planet.

LOIS

I disagree. Just look at the good works he's done not just in the U.S but around the world in the last year.

EDGE

By good works do you mean breaking international law and causing incident after incident. Cat, just tonight we are getting reports that he attacked Russian Military personnel in Russian waters.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

Martha looks at Clark.

MARTHA

You were in Russia? How was it?

CLARK

Angry.

INT. WGBS-TV STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

EDGE

(to Cat)

The Russian President is furious. As long as we harbor Kal El it looks like we are condoning his actions. While he's flying around dishing out his own brand truth and justice the Russian government is accusing us of aiding terrorists. But Ms Lane would have you believe that he's a hero.

LOIS

(to Cat)

The United States government conceded that Kal El not only saved millions of lives here in Metropolis but also the entire planet.

EDGE

Yet Ms Lane he couldn't save the 5,000 people that lost their lives right here in our city. A death

(MORE)

EDGE (cont'd)

toll that would have been much larger had it not been for the efforts of the city's police and emergency workers. And what part is Kal El playing in the reconstruction of the city? None. It is LexCorp that is fixing that damage that he ultimately caused.

LOUIS

(dismissive)

This isn't a PR piece for LexCorp Morgan.

EDGE

Just pointing out that your super friend isn't the only one doing good works.

LOIS

(to Cat)

Kal El possesses so much potential as an ally of humanity rather than being labeled an enemy. I believe he's here to help despite what people like Morgan would have you believe.

MORGAN

(scoffs)

You say he's here to help but what has he done? Lex Luthor has poured over 5 billion dollars into the city's infrastructure. Giving many impoverished areas a new lease on life including rebuilding notorious slums like Hob's bay.

LOIS

And which is still an enclave of violent criminal organizations which fall under the protection of LexCorp and their lawyers.

EDGE

There is no evidence of that and you shouldn't concern yourself with slanderous rumors.

LOIS

It isn't a rumor that you and Lex were members of the most notorious gangs ever to come out of Hob's Bay.

EDGE

It's no secret that life didn't afford Lex and I quite the opportunities that it did you Ms Lane.

CAT

(interjects)

But look at Lex now.

EDGE

Exactly Cat. Lex Luthor and LexCorp are the real heroes Metropolis needs. Not some reckless Alien who hides his true intentions from the world.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

MARTHA

He does not like you.

CLARK

(smiles)

Seems like that.

INT. WGBS-TV STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

Cat smiles at the camera.

CAT

Well that's all we have time for. After the break we will show you exclusive report from our Russian Affairs correspondent Angela Chen. Lois thank you for joining us.

LOIS

Thank you.

CAT

And Morgan. Give my regards to Lex.

EDGE

Sure thing.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

MARTHA

I think she held her own.

CLARK

She always does.

MARTHA

Why haven't you brought her around lately?

CLARK
Because you both get way too drunk.

MARTHA
(indignant)
Whatever. You gonna stay the night?

CLARK
Sure. I got a doctors appointment
in the morning anyway.

MARTHA
Ok well take out the garbage before
you leave.

Clark KISSES his Mother on the cheek.

CLARK
Sure Mom.

INT. WGBS-TV STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

Lois steps off the stage where Edge is having his MICROPHONE
REMOVED.

EDGE
Don't feel too bad Lane. TV is a
lot different than sitting behind a
laptop. This is where I shine.

LOIS
If you ever get tired of being
Luthor's mouthpiece then maybe you
can pursue a career.

EDGE
You know if you keep going after
him like this Lex might start to
take it personal.

Lois looks Edge right in the eyes.

LOIS
I couldn't prove the details of
Luthor's
(emphasises)
'aggressive acquisitions' of rival
companies. That doesn't mean I
stopped looking.

EDGE
That's usually when you should.

LOIS
Usually my sources don't end up
dead.

EDGE

Life can be a fragile thing Ms
Lane.

(smiles)

Take care.

Edge leaves.

LOIS

(agitated)

Self important asshole.

She removes her CELL PHONE from her pocket and turns it on.
She has a TEXT FROM CLARK.

TEXT: In Kansas. Sleeping over.

LOIS

Of course.

YOUNG MAN (O.S)

Ms Lane.

Louis looks up from her phone and sees JIMMY OLSEN, a 21
year old PHOTOGRAPHER from the DAILY PLANET. He's BRIGHT
EYED, ENTHUSIASTIC and AWKWARD.

JIMMY

(nervous)

Mr White sent me down here to meet
you.

She looks at him, CONFUSED.

JIMMY (CON'T)

I'm Jimmy. Jimmy Olsen the new
photographer.

A flash of RECOGNITION crosses Lois' eyes.

LOIS

Right Jenny's brother.

(starts to walk)

I remember now.

Jimmy follows her periodically SKIPPING to keep up with her
STRIDE.

LOIS (CON'T)

Why are you even here?

JIMMY

(awkwardly)

Mr White sent me because you turned
your phone off and I was to tell
you not to say anything bad about
Lex Luthor. Which I didn't because
I left my damn I.D at home and they
wouldn't let me past the lobby.

Lois smiles at him.

JIMMY (CON'T)

They had to call the Planet and by the time I got here you'd already said some stuff.

LOIS

Next time then.

AWKWARD silence.

JIMMY

So what now?

LOIS

I'm going home.

JIMMY

I could drive you. My car's outside.

LOIS

I can get home by myself.

JIMMY

I was just asking because it's late and all. For safety you know.

LOIS

I don't need a bodyguard Jimmy. It's Metropolis, not Gotham.

EXT. GOTHAM CITY -- NIGHT

GOTHAM CITY is a vast URBAN SPRAWL. SKYSCRAPERS cast SHADOWS over the DECREPIT SLUMS that SURROUND it's WEALTHY INNER HUB.

EXT. STREET, GOTHAM CITY -- NIGHT

CARRIE, a 21 year old RED HEAD in THICK FRAMED GLASSES, walks ALONE down the DARK Gotham street. She's frustrated, her PHONE is DEAD and it's beginning to RAIN.

A CAB passes by. She raises her hand to hail it.

CARRIE

HEY! HEY!

It DOESN'T stop.

CARRIE (CON'T)

Asshole!

(she checks her phone again)

Goddammit.

She HEARS something. A NOISE from up ahead. She pauses, SCANNING the area for any sign of DANGER. There's nothing. Just SILENCE.

After a moment she looks to her phone again. On it's screen she sees a FLASH of MOVEMENT.

She looks up but before she can react she is SNATCHED by an UNSEEN ASSAILANT.

INT. ABANDONED THEATER -- CONTINUOUS

TWO MEN in DIRTY ORANGE JUMPSUITS drag Carrie, who is KICKING and STRUGGLING, into the trash strewn ABANDONED THEATER which is lit by a SOLITARY LIGHT. In the Theater FIVE other MEN in identical jumpsuit huddle by that STAGE beneath a SIXTH MAN, with ROWS of NOTCHED CARVED into his EXPOSED TORSO, who sits atop a CHAIR on the STAGE like a KING on his THRONE. This is SERIAL MURDERER VICTOR ZSASZ and these are his ACOLYTES.

The five men part as Carrie is thrown roughly to the ground in front of the stage. Zsasz looks down on her with MADNESS FILLED EYES.

His Acolytes GRIN, GIGGLE and DROOL as their MASTER steps off the stage and approaches the young Gothamite.

CARRIE (CON'T)
(frightened/whispering)
Please don't do this!

Zsasz smiles. SALIVA drips down his chin as he kneels down and leans in close. Close enough for her to RECOIL from his FOUL breath.

ZSASZ
(with relish)
You are whispering. My students
didn't bring you here to whisper.

Carrie's eyes BUG OUT when she sees the RAZOR SHARP DAGGER Zsasz produces and brings it up to her CHEEK.

ZSASZ (CON'T)
No matter. You'll scream.
(nicks her cheek)
Soon enough.

Carrie KICKS her LEGS at the AMUSED Serial Killer. She is RESTRAINED by the Acolytes.

CARRIE
(SCREAMS)
SOMEBODY! HELP ME PLEASE!

ZSASZ

(smiles)

Good. Good.

(he licks the blood of
the blade)

That's a start.

Acolyte#1 notices SOMETHING above him. He looks up but before he can make out what it is he is PULLED from the floor and DISAPPEARS into the DARKNESS above.

Zsasz and his Acolytes FREEZE.

WHAM! CRACK! -- Acolyte#1 wails in PAIN before being SLAMMED down into the ground HARD. He lays there UNCONSCIOUS and BLOODIED.

A SHAPE descends from the DARKNESS above them.

Acolytes #2 and #3 have no time to react. Acolyte#2's knee is BLOWN OUT as Acolyte#3's jaw is SHATTERED by a devastating blow. Both me CRUMBLE to the ground.

Acolyte#4 SWINGS and IRON BAR at the SHADOWY FIGURE. He is DISARMED and the bar is SLAMMED into his STERNUM. He falls to the floor CLUTCHING his CHEST.

Acolyte#5 tries to RUN but the bar IMPACTS him across his back SAVAGELY and he FALLS to the floor.

The DARK FIGURE steps into the LIGHT.

Carrie SCURRIES backward against the wall and sees the SYMBOL. BLACK against GREY... A BAT.

Standing above the BEATEN and CRIPPLED bodies is GOTHAM'S GUARDIAN, THE DARK KNIGHT... THE BATMAN.

His eyes NARROW as he focuses on his PREY, Zsasz. He steps forward.

Acolytes #6 and #7 pull their BLADES and ATTACK.

#6's arm is SNAPPED like a TWIG. He tries to SCREAM but can't as his face is SMASHED into the CONCRETE FLOOR.

#7 SWINGS WIDELY and the Batman effortlessly DODGES every attack with GRACE and SPEED.

His reply is CRUSHING. Two BRUTAL STRIKES to the JAW and finished by a STOMACH CHURNING KICK to the GUT which sends #7 down. HARD.

ZSASZ (O.S)

(shouts)

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

Zsasz holds Carrie CLOSE. His BLADE against her THROAT.

ZSASZ (CON'T)
 (menacing)
 You move and I open her up!

Batman stands motionless, SILENT.

Zsasz smiles as he PRESSES the KNIFE against her SKIN. Light GLITTERS across the BLADE.

CARRIE
 (whispers/to Batman)
 Please...

A RAZOR SHARP BATARANG appears in Batman's hand.

CARRIE (CON'T)
 ... help!

Batman throws his weapon. His aim is accurate and it SLICES across the MEAT of Zsasz SHOULDER, CUTTING him DEEPLY.

He SCREAMS. Taking the BLADE away from Carrie's neck.

She ELBOWS him in the CHEST and STUMBLES FORWARD holding her THROAT.

Batman CATCHES her.

Zsasz clutches his MUTILATED shoulder and flees the Theater.

Carrie looks into Batman's COLD, EMOTIONLESS eyes. Her hand slowly comes away from her throat. She's CUT. But superficially.

He lets her go and FOLLOWS Zsasz out of the Theater.

She stands SILENT. Watching him in AWE.

EXT. STREET, GOTHAM CITY -- CONTINUOUS

Zsasz runs toward a PARKED VAN.

He opens the driver side door and gets inside. Sitting SLUMPED in the passenger SEAT is a DEAD MAN. His THROAT has been CUT.

In the back of the Van are TWO MORE ACOLYTES. Each have MACHINE GUNS.

ACOLYTE#8
 What happened?

ZSASZ
 (seething)
 The Bat.

They exchange WORRIED glances.

Zsasz starts the engine and SLAMS his FOOT on the GAS. The Van TEARS off down the street.

Batman APPEARS and produces a GRAPPLING GUN from his UTILITY BELT. He AIMS at the Van and FIRES.

The Hook EMBEDS in the Van's REAR DOORS and Batman RETRACTS the LINE and he is PULLED off his feet toward the Van. He lands on the back of the Van and FLIPS onto the roof.

INT. VAN (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Zsasz realizes that Batman is on the roof.

ZSASZ
(shouts to Acolytes)
He's on the roof!

The Acolytes OPEN FIRE through the roof of the Van.

EXT. VAN (MOVING), STREET -- CONTINUOUS

Bullets RIP through the Van's roof.

Batman NARROWLY avoids the GUNFIRE.

He PRESSES a BUTTON on his Utility Belt.

INT. DARKENED ALLEYWAY -- CONTINUOUS

The ALLEYWAY is PITCH BLACK until the GROWL of A POWERFUL ENGINE is accompanied by the ILLUMINATION of TWO HEADLIGHTS.

INT. VAN (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

The Acolytes are RELOADING.

ZSASZ
(angry)
Why won't he die!

Batman SLAMS DOWN onto the HOOD and PLANTS a SMALL EXPLOSIVE on the WINDSCREEN.

It DETONATES and the screen SHATTERS.

Batman GRABS Zsasz by the THROAT.

The Acolytes FIRE on The Dark Knight. The Bullets TEAR through his CAPE.

Batman releases Zsasz and RUNS up onto the roof as the Acolytes fire at him through the roof.

Zsasz GRIPS his neck and looks in the SIDE MIRROR and sees HEADLIGHTS in the distance behind him. Coming up FAST.

EXT. STREET, GOTHAM CITY -- CONTINUOUS

Closing in the Van, ENGINE GROWLING, is an ARMORED BLACK CAR. The BATMOBILE.

Batman JUMPS from the Van and LANDS on top of his Car as it's door SWINGS OPEN and he JUMPS inside.

Zsasz Van picks up SPEED.

The rear doors SWING OPEN and both Acolytes OPEN FIRE on the Batmobile.

Their bullets RICOCHET off the vehicles ARMORED EXTERIOR.

Zsasz takes a SHARP corner.

Acolyte#8 LOSES his BALANCE and FALLS from the Van. He SLAMS into the asphalt and ROLLS limply down the street.

The Batmobile SWERVES HARD to avoid running over the downed Acolyte.

Acolyte#9, unperturbed, continues to fire on the Batmobile.

Suddenly the Batmobile TURBO BOOSTS and OVERTAKES Zsasz's VAN.

INT. VAN (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Zsasz watches as the Batmobile passes him and VANISHES into the night.

He eyes BULGE as ahead of him the Batmobile has come to a an ABRUPT HALT.

He SLAMS on the BREAKS.

EXT. STREET, GOTHAM CITY -- CONTINUOUS

Zsasz's Van HITS the armored Batmobile HARD and JACKKNIFES over it and CRASHES.

The Van SKIDS along the TARMAC sending SPARKS flying before coming to a halt.

After a moment the Van door CREAKS open and Zsasz CRAWLS out BLOODY and GROGGY.

He stands, leans against the Van and steadies himself.

WHAM! The sound of FIST against FLESH reverberates behind him.

Zsasz turns.

The Batman stands by the RUINED Van holding the UNCONSCIOUS Acolyte #9 by the THROAT. He releases his GRIP and the Acolyte FALLS to the ground.

The Dark Knight marches forward. His fists CLENCHED.

Zsasz pulls his BLADE and ATTACKS.

With LIGHTNING SPEED the Killer SLASHES and STABS at Batman. The Dark Knight DODGES and PARRIES before GRABBING the Killer's FOREARM.

BATMAN

(calm)

2 Men.

He BREAKS Zsasz's arm. The Killer SCREAMS.

BATMAN (CON'T)

(angry)

4 women.

He PUNCHES Zsasz in the STOMACH sending him to his knees, COUGHING.

BATMAN (CON'T)

(angrier)

5 children.

He CRACKS him across the JAW.

Zsasz LAUGHS and SMILES through CRACKED, BLOODSTAINED TEETH.

ZSASZ

6...

(coughs)

6 children.

Batman's eyes fill with HATE.

He SNATCHES Zsasz's WINDPIPE and begins to SQUEEZE.

In a FRENZY he starts to RAIN DOWN BLOWS.

ONE -- TWO -- THREE--

His arm is GRABBED and YANKED back.

MAN (O.S)

(firmly)

That's enough!

Batman SPINS around and finds himself FACE to FACE with a MAN, mid 20's, MASKED and DRESSED in BLACK with A DARK BLUE BIRD SYMBOL on his CHEST. This is DICK GRAYSON, FORMER ROBIN, now NIGHTWING.

NIGHTWING (CON'T)

(serious)

He goes back in cuffs. Not a coffin.

Batman UNCLENCHES his FIST and looks down on Zsasz's BLOODY and SWOLLEN face.

Batman DROPS him.

The Serial Killer still emits SOFT LAUGHTER through his BUSTED mouth.

SIRENS can be heard.

Batman PULLS his arm free of Nightwing's GRIP and marches toward the Batmobile.

Nightwing watches him leave and DEPARTS before the G.C.P.D arrive on the scene.

EXT. ROOFTOP, TALL BUILDING, GOTHAM -- LATER

Batman stands on the rooftop looking out into Gotham.

WAYNE TOWER can be seen in the distance.

NIGHTWING (O.S)

This has to stop.

Nightwing DROPS down onto the roof behind him and REMOVES his MASK.

The FORMER ALLIES face each other.

BATMAN

(unrepentant)

It was less than he deserved.

NIGHTWING

(points his finger
accusingly)

You don't get to decide that. This is not what we do.

BATMAN

It's always what I've done.

NIGHTWING

(angered)

Bullshit! What happened to the man who would think things through before beating someone to a pulp?

BATMAN

(emotionless)

He was weak. Lacked conviction.

NIGHTWING

So you're just going to keep this up until what? You kill someone? Or yourself?

Batman doesn't answer.

NIGHTWING (CON'T)
We're not with you anymore. Not
Gordon. Not Barbara. Sooner or
later the law is going to come
after you.

BATMAN
(turns to leave)
I'll be ready for that.

NIGHTWING (CON'T)
(coldly)
Or I will.

BATMAN
(cold)
You do what you have to.

NIGHTWING
Maybe if you did what you had to
Jason would still be here.

Batman STOPS and SPINS around, ANGRY.

BATMAN
(shouts)
You have no right!

NIGHTWING
(shouts back)
I have every right.

BATMAN
(angry)
I TRIED!

NIGHTWING
(shouts)
YOU FAILED!

Batman has NO answer. Nightwing regains his COMPOSURE.

NIGHTWING (CON'T)
What you're doing won't change
that.
(turns to leave)
Stop. Before it's too late. You
don't belong out here anymore...
Bruce.

Nightwing leaves.

Batman is left alone to ponder his FORMER friend's
ACCUSATIONS.

He walks to the edge of the rooftop and removes his COWL
revealing the face of BRUCE WAYNE.

He's in his early 40's but doesn't look a day beyond 35.
 Except for his EYES which are OLD beyond his years. The eyes
 of of WAR VETERAN who has seen TOO MANY HORRORS.

He looks at his BLOOD STAINED FISTS solemnly.

EXT. HOUSE, KENT FARM -- DAWN

It's the EARLY HOURS of the morning.

Clark, wearing his SUIT, steps out onto the PORCH carrying
 TWO TRASH BAGS.

He walks towards the TRASH CANS.

Martha, in a BATHROBE steps out onto the porch. She SHIVERS
 in the cold.

She pulls her robe tighter.

MARTHA

It's chilly.

Clark smiles.

CLARK

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to wake
 you.

MARTHA

Then don't stomp down the stairs in
 the A.M. I'd hoped you stay for
 breakfast.

CLARK

I have to be back in Metropolis.

MARTHA

To see those quacks? I don't like
 them poking and prodding you.

CLARK

(smiles as he puts the
 bags in the trash cans)
 They're friends Mom. No poking or
 prodding.

MARTHA

If you say so.

(walks over and kisses
 him on the cheek)

Take care. I'll see you soon.

CLARK

Can't go to the party without you.
 I love you Mom.

MARTHA

I love you too.

She steps back as Superman TAKES off and disappears beyond the HORIZON.

EXT. MARINA, METROPOLIS HARBOR -- MORNING

THE THEMYSCIRIAN ROYAL SHIP slowly DOCKS in the METROPOLIS MARINA.

IO, a TALL, ATHLETIC WOMAN in her 20's, stands on the DOCK.

A RAMP descends from the Boat to the Dock.

At the top of the ramps stands a DEVASTATINGLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, 20's, whose LONG LOCKS of DARK HAIR BLOW in the FALL BREEZE. This is DIANA of THEMYSCIRA, PRINCESS of the AMAZONS.

Io KNEELS as Diana descends the ramp.

IO
(in Amazonian)
Princess Diana.

DIANA
(in Amazonian)
Stand Io. You do not have to bow to me. I am not my Mother.

Io stands and Diana embraces her.

DIANA
It has been too long.

IO
I wish we could meet under better circumstances your Highness.

DIANA
I know. Tell me Io. Tell me what has happened to Mala. Where is our sister?

INT. MEDICAL CENTER, THEMYSCIRIAN EMBASSY -- LATER

An ELDERLY PRIESTESS stands over the SEMI CONSCIOUS body of ORANA, an AMAZONIAN WARRIOR.

Orana has been SEVERELY wounded and is CLINGING to life.

Diana is led into the room by Io.

The Priestess BOWS as Diana approaches Orana.

The Princess CARESSES Orana's face.

DIANA
(to Io)
Who did this?

IO

Men came and stole our sisters
away. Only Orana returned to us.
Tortured and next to death.

Diana kneels beside Orana.

DIANA

Orana.

Orana's eyes struggle to focus.

ORANA

Diana?

DIANA

I am here sister. You must tell me
who did this?

ORANA

(weak)

They kept us in a tomb filled with
horrors.

(takes a labored breath)

Their King kept us prisoner.

Orana passes out.

DIANA

Rest sister.

(stands and turns to Io)

Who is this King?

IO

The one who rules this place. The
city bears his mark. We should
never have come here. Its a world
ruled by animals.

Diana looks at her fallen fellow Amazonian.

DIANA

We are here because your Queen
commands it. We need to find where
our sisters are being held.

IO

There is one who will give us the
location.

Io gestures to the Doorway where Morgan Edge stands,
GRINNING.

EDGE

(cocky)

I may not understand the lingo but
I figure you might be wondering
where the other lady is being kept.

DIANA
 (in English)
 And you would tell us?

EDGE
 Sure. For the right price.

DIANA
 I won't barter for life of one of
 my sisters.

EDGE
 Then your sister won't have life
 much longer.

Suddenly A GOLDEN LASSO is WHIPPED around Edge's neck and he
 is PULLED to his knees.

The Lasso begins to GLOW with GOLDEN ELECTRICITY.

Edge's EYES begin to GLOW

DIANA
 Is my sister alive?

EDGE
 (hypnotic)
 Yes.

DIANA
 Where do they keep her?

EDGE
 Lexcorp Research and development.
 Three miles south outside the city
 limits.

Diana REMOVES the Lasso.

Edge holds his neck.

EDGE (CON'T)
 (confused)
 What did you do to me?

DIANA
 I let you live.
 (to Io)
 Get this beast out of my sight.

Io picks Edge from the floor and escorts him, ROUGHLY, out.

Diana GRIPS the Lasso TIGHT with BOTH HANDS.

EXT. S.T.A.R LABS, METROPOLIS -- DAY

S.T.A.R LABS is a HUGE CIRCULAR BUILDING located near the
 METROPOLIS HARBOR.

INT. HAMILTON ROOM, S.T.A.R LABS -- CONTINUOUS

The MAIN LABORATORY is a VAST room littered with COMPUTER MONITORS and SCIENCE EQUIPMENT beneath a GIANT SKYLIGHT. SUNLIGHT fills the room.

HEAD SCIENTIST PROFESSOR SILAS STONE, 50's, is compiling DATA on his TABLET.

T.O MORROW, a SCIENTIST in his 50's sits at his computer screen monitoring SATELLITE FEEDS. He notices something on his screen.

MORROW

(to Silas)

He's here.

SILAS

Good. Open the skylight.

Morrow presses a few keys on his computer and the GLASS ROOF opens up.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S)

He's late.

Silas turns and smiles at COLONEL JOHN STEWART. A TALL, BROAD SHOULDERED FORMER MARINE. His UNIFORM is EMBLAZONED with a S.T.A.R Labs logo on his SHOULDER.

STEWART

You need to tell him to keep to the schedule if we don't want the higher ups to find out about our arrangement.

SILAS

I'm sure he has his reasons.

STEWART

I'm sure we'll hear about it on the news.

HOVERING just above the Skylight is Superman. He floats down into the middle of the room.

SUPERMAN

(to Silas)

Professor Stone.

(to Stewart)

John.

STEWART

Kal.

Silas notices the DAMAGED suit.

SILAS

Long night?

SUPERMAN

Long year.

STEWART

(annoyed)

You were scheduled over an hour ago.

SUPERMAN

(apologetic)

Sorry. I had dinner with my Mom.

Silas smiles. Stewart RAISES an EYEBROW.

SILAS

Follow me.

Superman follows Silas through the Laboratory and towards a RESEARCH CENTER.

Morrow walks over to Stewart and hands him a Tablet.

MORROW

Take a look at this.

Stewart looks it over. It's a NEWS ARTICLE.

IT READS: SUPERMAN ATTACKS RUSSIAN TROOPS.

STEWART

(weary)

Swell.

INT. RESEARCH CENTER, S.T.A.R LABS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman is SHIRTLESS and laying on a TABLE.

Attached to his CHEST are ELECTRODES which send INFORMATION to Silas' MONITOR.

SILAS

(in awe))

It's amazing.

SUPERMAN

What is?

SILAS

Kryptonian physiology. So different yet so similar to our own. I can never get used to it.

SUPERMAN

(smiles)

Took me 30 years.

SILAS

Your vitals are perfect. Heart rate, blood pressure, brain activity. All perfect. Yet still you haven't tapped your full potential.

(turns off the monitor)

There is so much we can learn from you. So much that could benefit us.

SUPERMAN

Not everybody shares that enthusiasm.

SILAS

Not everybody has vision Kal or can see past their fears. Which is understandable. Once the gods were above us and now they walk among us. It's a frightening concept for most.

SUPERMAN

The ones who are attacking the oil rigs. They're not like me but they're not like you either. Something else entirely. I know it's hard to believe.

SILAS

I believe you.

Silas sits down beside the Man of Steel.

SILAS (CON'T)

Not everything remarkable on this Earth comes from elsewhere.

SUPERMAN

What do you mean?

SILAS

That we are at a dawning of a new age. An age of Gods and Monsters.

SUPERMAN

You're not frightened.

SILAS

Not when you stand for us.

Silas stands and puts his hand on Superman shoulder. Superman puts his hand on his.

SILAS (CON'T)

Come on. I have something to show you.

INT. RED ROOM, S.T.A.R LABS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman follows Silas to through the RED ROOM. A TOP SECRET section of S.T.A.R Labs that houses varying kinds of EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGY.

SUPERMAN

What is this place?

SILAS

This is the Red Room. It's where we keep our advancements that for whatever reason the greater public isn't quit ready for yet.

They come to a LARGE CONTAINMENT CAPSULE.

SILAS (CON'T)

Here it is.

Silas inputs a code into the KEYPAD on it's side. It opens with a HISS.

Inside is a BLUE BODY SUIT.

SILAS (CON'T)

It's a prototype for a new space suit. Highly durable yet very flexible. We'll have to make a few changes but I'd like you to have it.

SUPERMAN

I can't accept this. You've already taken too many risks.

SILAS

You have to.

(gestures to the tears in Superman's suit)

We can't have the savior of the world in rags.

SUPERMAN

(concedes)

Thank you Silas.

SILAS

We'll have it finished before I leave for Washington. I do wish you'd come with me. Speaking to the President would help your cause.

SUPERMAN

I want to address the Leaders of the World as a whole before I speak to them individually.

SILAS

I understand.

(He closes the Capsule)

The Conference. Do you think you're ready?

SUPERMAN

I think so. It's been a year. At this point they will have to accept me.

SILAS

Still hopeful I see. And if they don't?

SUPERMAN

Well that's up to them. I'll continue trying to help regardless. Will you be there?

SILAS

Of course. I was hoping to bring my son but he has other things on his mind.

SUPERMAN

The big game?

SILAS

Every game is a big game to Victor. I suppose it has to be when your a quarterback.

They walk towards the exit.

SILAS (CON'T)

I'd imagine you'd have made quite the player yourself.

SUPERMAN

My Mother wouldn't let me.

SILAS

Afraid you'd hurt someone?

SUPERMAN

She was afraid they'd hurt me.

SILAS

(laughs)

I don't think there's anything out there that can hurt you.

INT. CLONING FACILITY, PROJECT CADMUS -- DAY

PROJECT CADMUS is a large UNDERGROUND LABORATORY.

PROFESSOR SASHA FEDEROV, a CHECHNYAN SCIENTIST, stands in front of a giant INCUBATION CHAMBER which is a REVERSE

ENGINEERED KRYPTONIAN GENESIS CHAMBER.

He looks on the CONTENTS of the Chamber with a mix of PRIDE and AWE.

FLOATING in the Chamber is a HUMANOID FORM which is COVERED in GREY MUSCLE TISSUE and SINEWS.

EXT. LEXCORP PLAZA -- DAY

LEXCORP PLAZA is a TALL OFFICE BUILDING in DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS.

The MARBLE SIGN in it's COURTYARD READS: 'LEXCORP PLAZA. HOME OF THE DAILY PLANET.'

PERRY (O.S)

(angry)

Are you out of your damn mind?

INT. PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE, DAILY PLANETS OFFICES, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

PERRY WHITE, the EDITOR IN CHIEF, SLAMS a STACK of PAPERS down on his desk. He's PISSED.

Lois stands in front of him, DEFIANT.

PERRY (CON'T)

You go after Lex Luthor on national television? What the hell were you thinking?

LOIS

(unrepentant)

It was a debate. I was defending my position.

PERRY

By slandering Metropolis' favorite son? How do expect to rally support from the public when you're trying to crucify Metropolis' favorite son?

LOIS

Morgan Edge has been taking every opportunity to turn what happened into a PR stunt for Lexcorp. All on the basis that Kal is a threat to the world.

PERRY

And he isn't?

LOIS

You know he isn't.

PERRY

I know what he did for us. I also know what happened despite that. People are still scared and if you want to change that pursuing old grudges isn't the way to do it.

LOIS

It's not about that.

PERRY

It's been about that for the last 5 years Louis. Let it go.

LOIS

My investigation got a man killed. Would you let it go?

PERRY

(sighs)

You can't touch him Lois. Nobody can.

(he turns and stares out the window in deep thought)

I grew up in Hob's Bay Louis. I know the type of person that survives a place like that. What that person is capable of.

(turns back to Lois)

Luthor runs the show. It's not by chance were in a building he owns. At anytime he could buy the Planet right out from under us. You keep this up and he will bury us. You can't fight this battle on two fronts.

Lois weighs Perry's comments.

LOIS

(reluctant)

I'll back off. For now.

PERRY

(firmly)

For good.

(takes his seat)

I want you to cover the Conference.

LOIS

I told you I won't.

PERRY

It's non negotiable Lois. It's the largest gathering of world leaders this city has ever seen. And they are here to see Superman. You have to be there.

LOIS
This isn't fair Perry.

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY PLANET OFFICES, LUTHOR PLAZA --
CONTINUOUS

Clark, wearing his GLASSES, sits at his desk eaves dropping on Perry and Lois' conversation with his SUPER HEARING.

Jimmy sits on the desk beside him eating a bowl of nachos.

Jimmy is talking but Clark isn't paying attention.

JIMMY
Clark?

Clark realizes that Jimmy has asked him a question.

CLARK
Sorry Jimmy I zoned out there for a second. What was that?

JIMMY
I asked have you seen him up close?

CLARK
Who?

JIMMY
Who do you think? Superman. I been talking about him for the last 5 minutes. Honestly buddy you need to get your hearing checked.

CLARK
No. I didn't start working until after the whole thing.

JIMMY
Damn. I want to see him in action. You know last month he stopped a cruise liner from sinking.

Clark turns his attention back to Perry's office where he can see Lois and Perry's ARGUMENT getting very HEATED.

CLARK
(disinterested)
Sounds neat.

Lois STORMS out of Perry's office, SLAMMING the door behind her. EVERYONE in the bullpen STOPS and STARES.

CLARK (CON'T)
Lois?

LOIS
(angry)
Not now Smallville!

Clark stands, grabs his coat and CHASES after Lois. He clumsily BUMPS into people as he does.

CLARK
(awkward)
Sorry! Sorry!

EXT. STREET, LUTHOR PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

Clark catches up with Lois as she exits the Plaza doors.

CLARK
(concerned)
Hold on. Whats wrong?

Lois stops.

LOIS
Don't pretend that you didn't hear everything.

CLARK
I thought it would be more polite to ask.

LOIS
This is such a bad idea. Someone else needs to cover that Conference.

CLARK
It's not like you to be afraid of a few world leaders.

LOIS
I don't need to watch you get crucified by a bunch of scared bureaucrats. Are you sure about this?

CLARK
No.
(smiles)
But I have to try.

She HUGS him tight laying her head on his chest. He WRAPS his arms around her.

CLARK (CON'T)
We'll figure this out.

LOIS
I know.
(smiles))
Fly me to Cancun?

CLARK
(laughs)
Sure.

They link arms and stroll down the BUSY street past BILLBOARDS that ADVERTISE LexCorp's latest COMPUTER SOFTWARE 'LEXICON 5'

CLARK (CON'T)
My Mother's coming into town.

LOIS
(genuine)
Really?.

CLARK
That's not an excuse to get liquored up.

LOIS
Your Mother's a bad influence.

CLARK
You influence each other.

They laugh.

CLARK (CON'T)
I want to take her to the Spire opening.

LOIS
I don't know why you even want to go to Luthor's Ball.

CLARK
Mom's a country girl she's never been to a high society event. She'd love it. Plus it's an excuse to wear a suit.

LOIS
Clark Kent in a suit? I can't imagine it.

He smiles before his ATTENTION is drawn to a CROWD of PEOPLE that are GATHERED near a WALL. He stops.

Lois looks CONCERNED.

LOIS
(solemn)
Clark don't.

Clark gives her a PAINED look and walks toward the crowd.

He makes his way through and sees the wall is COVERED by HUNDREDS of PHOTOS and KEEPSAKES.

It's a MEMORIAL to the LIVES LOST a year before.

Clark SCANS the wall. He sees MEN... WOMEN... CHILDREN... FATHERS... MOTHERS... SONS... DAUGHTERS.

The TURMOIL is evident on Clark's face.

Lois TOUCHES his arm gently.

LOIS

Clark?

CLARK

(overwhelmed)

There's so many.

LOIS

(softly)

I know. Come on.

Clark takes one last LOOK over his shoulder as Lois LEADS him away.

INT. OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE -- DAY

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DIANE NELSON, a tall, slender woman in her 50's, sits behind desk. Her SERIOUS eyes drifting back and forth between the three people sitting in front of her.

GENERAL SWANWICK, Head of the UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND, sits to her right along with Silas Stone and to her left is...

AMANDA WALLER, a STERN and FOCUSED SENATOR with an INTIMIDATING PRESENCE.

PRESIDENT NELSON

So what are our options?

WALLER

Honestly very few. The world is watching our every move on the Superman. We have to take a definitive action.

PRESIDENT NELSON

Which is?

WALLER

(forthright)

Engagement.

SWANWICK

I must advice against this course of action. Superman has in my opinion more than proved himself as an ally.

WALLER

(to Swanwick)

He's proved himself as a liability.

(MORE)

WALLER (cont'd)

(to President)

Russia is pushing for some sort of action and if we don't act now we risk looking weak.

PRESIDENT NELSON

What do you suggest?

She hands her a THICK FILE stamped: CADMUS

The President FLIPS through it.

PRESIDENT NELSON (CON'T)

What am I looking at here?

WALLER

Last year we recovered several items from Metropolis after the attack. Two items in particular. An advanced incubation system and a body. Which Cadmus Cadmus has managed to successfully duplicate the Alien D.N.A

The President looks INTRIGUED. Swanwick looks SURPRISED.

PRESIDENT NELSON

Which means?

WALLER

Which means Ma'am why worry about a Superman when we can have our own.

SILAS

(to Waller)

You and I both know the results of Cadmus are inconclusive at best.

WALLER

(dismissive)

I have assurances from the head of the project Professor Sasha Federov the worlds foremost authority on genetic engineering that a subject is ready for field testing.

PRESIDENT NELSON

Does S.T.A.R Labs have any alternatives?

SILAS

We are researching several courses of action. None of which involve weaponizing alien technology.

WALLER

(to Swanwick)

Courses of action that are leading to nothing.

(to President)

Mrs President the world is changing. I and I'm sure S.T.A.R Labs have been monitoring several occurrences all over the world. The attacks on oil platforms by terrorists whose technology is something we have never encountered before. Reports of an entity in Central City that moves faster than sound. Cadmus can counter these very real threats. All we need is your signature.

The President PONDERs her decision as she reads the file.

PRESIDENT NELSON

Why am I only hearing about this now?

WALLER

Up until a few months ago there was nothing to tell. Just research, experimentation, no concrete results.

PRESIDENT NELSON

Who's funding this project?

WALLER

Several different institutions.

SWANWICK

I must advice against this Mrs President.

PRESIDENT NELSON

(to Swanwick)

I had the Russian President on the phone for over three hours this morning General Swanwick. We need solution and I believe Ms Waller has provided us with one

Waller smiles SELF SATISFIED.

PRESIDENT NELSON

I can't give you a definitive answer until after the conference. but as of now...

(places the file on her desk)

You have my support.

WALLER

Thank you Mrs President.

INT. HALLWAY, WHITE HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Stewart stands outside the Oval Office doors.

The doors open.

Waller leaves the Office followed by Swanwick and Stone.

SWANWICK

(angry)

This is unacceptable Amanda.

WALLER

I'm just doing what you would in my position.

(turns to Silas and smiles)

Don't presume to think that I'm unaware of the Alien's relationship with S.T.A.R Labs Professor Stone.

SWANWICK

Cadmus is a mistake.

WALLER

Cadmus will make sure that Superman will think long and hard before acting against our interests. The game has changed. There's a living weapon patrolling our skies and it's about time we had our own.

(turns away and walks down the hallway)

This is an arms race and I intend to win.

Swanwick is FRUSTRATED.

STEWART

(to Swanwick)

Who's your new girlfriend?

SWANWICK

Amanda Waller.

STEWART

So that's the 'Wall'?

SILAS

Who's funding Cadmus?

SWANWICK

I have no idea Silas.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - LATER

Stone and Stewart leave the White House grounds and walk towards a waiting CAR and DRIVER.

Standing by the Car is a Silas' Son VICTOR STONE. A STAR QUARTERBACK. He wears a METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY JACKET.

STEWART
(concerned)
We need a strategy Silas.

SILAS
I know John. I didn't see this coming. Cadmus is off the books.

STEWART
Black Ops?

SILAS
No. It's privately funded. And that's what's worrying me.

STEWART
The only person with that the resources is...

SILAS
A big problem John.

Victor opens the back passenger seat for his Father.

STEWART
(to Victor)
How's the arm Vic?

VICTOR
Like a cannon.

STEWART
Better be I got money on you.

VICTOR
Then you'll be buying the drinks after man.

SILAS
Come on Victor.

Victor gets in beside his Father and closes the door.

SILAS (CON'T)
(to Stewart)
I'll see you in Metropolis.

The Car pulls off.

EXT. LEXCORP ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- NIGHT

A LEXCORP HELICOPTER LANDS on the HELIPAD atop the SPRAWLING
LEXCORP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX located just
outside the CITY LIMITS.

The Complex is HEAVILY GUARDED by ARMED LEXCORP SECURITY
GUARDS who stand at each CORNER of the Helipad.

MERCY GRAVES, late 20's, a STRIKING WOMAN in a BUSINESS
SUIT. steps out onto the Building where she is greeted by
BRUNO, the HEAD of SECURITY, who is FLANKED by TWO SUITED
SECURITY GUARDS.

BRUNO
(faux politeness)
It's always good to see you Mercy.

MERCY
(smiles)
A pleasant lie Bruno, but a lie
nonetheless.

BRUNO
Well I tried.

MERCY
And like everything in your life
you'll have to try a little harder.

BRUNO
So why are you slumming it with the
grunts?

MERCY
I'm overseeing the disposal of the
material.

BRUNO
I see. Well better you than me.
Don't wait on around on my account.

He gestures toward the HELIPAD ENTRANCE.

Mercy enters the the Complex. Bruno and the Suited Guards
follow.

A HOODED and CLOAKED FIGURE DASHES at AMAZING SPEED through
the GROUNDS and JUMPS HIGH through the air and lands ON TOP
of the COMPLEX in the MIDDLE of the Helipad.

Before the Guards have time to REACT the Figure STRIKES,
DISARMS and INCAPACITATES them.

The Figure REMOVES her hood to REVEAL Diana in a SLEEK BODY
SUIT as the WONDER WOMAN.

INT. HALLWAY, LEXCORP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER --
CONTINUOUS

Mercy, Bruno and the Guards walk down the STERILE WHITE HALLWAY followed by the Security Detail.

SUDDENLY the LASSO is WRAPPED around Bruno's NECK and he is DRAGGED backwards OFF HIS FEET.

Mercy turns to see Bruno SMASH VIOLENTLY into the WALL at the end of the Hallway.

Wonder Woman TAKES OUT the Security with TWO SWIFT KICKS. They SLAM into the walls and to the FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS.

MERCY

(angry)

You just made the last mistake of
your life.

Mercy PULLS a GUN which Wonder Woman WHIPS out of her hand.

Like LIGHTNING Mercy ATTACKS the Amazon with a series of PUNCHES and KICKS which are all BLOCKED.

Wonder Woman COUNTERS with a KICK to Mercy's GUT which sends her backwards.

Mercy, DEFEATED, tries to RUN but CLUTCHES at her THROAT as the Lasso WHIPS around her neck. It GLOWS.

WONDER WOMAN

(menacing)

You hold one of my people prisoner.

MERCY

(hypnotic)

Yes.

WONDER WOMAN

Take me to her.

INT. SUB BASEMENT, LEXCORP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER --
CONTINUOUS

Mercy, still under the Lasso's THRALL, stands with Wonder Woman outside the GLASS DOORS of a LABORATORY deep beneath the Research Center.

WONDER WOMAN

Open it.

Mercy places her hand on a SCANNER beside the door. It RECOGNIZES her PALM PRINT and the doors SLIDE OPEN.

Wonder Woman PUSHES Mercy inside.

Inside the room is a LIQUID FILLED TANK where MALA, late 20's, FLOATS UNCONSCIOUS.

A SCIENTIST, 40's, STANDS SHOCKED as he watches Wonder Woman DRAG Mercy towards the Tank.

WONDER WOMAN
(to Scientist)
Release her!

SCIENTIST
(frightened)
I can't!

The Amazon WHIPS the Lasso from Mercy who falls to her knees and around the Scientist's NECK.

SCIENTIST (CON'T)
(hypnotic)
I can!

The Scientist operates the Tank and the liquid is DRAINED from it.

The Tank OPENS and Wonder Woman RUSHES to CATCH Mala before she FALLS to the floor.

WONDER WOMAN
Mala!

Mala's eyes SLOWLY OPEN.

MALA
(in Amazonian, groggy,
confused)
Diana?

WONDER WOMAN
(in Amazonian)
I've come to take you home.

She LIFTS Mala of her feet CARRYING her out of the Laboratory.

After she leaves Mercy, holding her throat, turns to the cowering Scientist.

MERCY
(horse)
Why are you standing there. Sound the alarm!

EXT. LEXCORP RESEARCH CENTER, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS --
CONTINUOUS

The ALARMS are RINGING throughout the Complex.

CRASH!!! -- the ENTRANCE DOORS SHATTER as TWO SECURITY GUARDS are TOSSED through them.

Wonder Woman EMERGES from the Entrance CARRYING Mala in her ARMS.

She RUNS at INCREDIBLE SPEED away from the Complex as GUARDS on the Roof OPEN FIRE on her.

When she comes to the PERIMETER FENCE she JUMPS over it, CLEARING it by 40 FEET.

She LANDS and VANISHES into the NIGHT.

Mercy appears on the Roof, SEETHING as she RUBS her neck.

EXT. RIVER, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman lays Mala down a RIVER.

WONDER WOMAN

Rest Sister. You're safe now.

MALA

(frail)

He wants to kill him. He hates him so much.

WONDER WOMAN

Who? Who are you talking about?

MALA

He wants to kill their New God. He wants to kill the Superman!

EXT. WAYNE MANOR -- NIGHT

Wayne Manor is a HUGE 19th CENTURY ERA MANSION.

INT. HALLWAY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

ALFRED, 70's, is an ELDERLY but still very SPRY BRITISH BUTLER walks down the hallway towards Bruce Wayne's STUDY carrying a tray of food. Inside he approaches an ANCIENT GRANDFATHER CLOCK and TURNS the hands to 10:48 then -- CLACK -- the clock UNLOCKS and PULLS AWAY from the wall revealing a HIDDEN DOORWAY. He enters. The Clock RETURNS to it's original position behind him.

INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS

Alfred walks down a STONE STAIRCASE illuminated by a series of LIGHTS on the ROCK CEILING above. BATS SCREECH past over head as he descends further down into the VAST CAVERN.

THE BATCAVE is huge. Housed inside the vast EXPANSE is an array of HI-TECH GADGETS and WEAPONRY. Old now, showing signs of WEAR and TEAR after YEARS of use.

Alfred passes the parked Batmobile.

In the back of the Cave sitting atop a LANDING PAD is the BATWING. A JET which is covered in DIRT and DUST from years of IDLENESS.

Alfred makes his way up a set of steps to an ELEVATED PLATFORM where Bruce Wayne sits in front of THREE LARGE COMPUTER MONITORS. Each screen tells a different news story.

RIGHT SCREEN: SERIAL KILLER VICTOR ZSASZ APPREHENDED.

MIDDLE SCREEN: SUPERMAN ATTACKS RUSSIAN TROOPS.

LEFT SCREEN: U.N CONFERENCE TO MEET ON ANNIVERSARY OF K-DAY.

Bruce is FOCUSED on the MIDDLE SCREEN.

Alfred puts the tray on the desk beside the computer screens.

ALFRED

I brought you some dinner Master Bruce. One must never obsess on an empty stomach.

Bruce glances at the food but doesn't reply.

Alfred looks at the images on screen and sees Superman HOVERING above Metropolis in SHAKY AMATEUR FOOTAGE.

ALFRED (CON'T)

If the criminals of Gotham are lacking your interest might I suggest turning your attention to Central City's rogues before tackling an alien.

Wayne still doesn't reply.

ALFRED (CON'T)

(weary)

Try and eat something.

He turns to leave.

WAYNE

I saw Grayson.

Alfred STOPS when he hears the NAME.

WAYNE (CON'T)

He's turned his back on me. They all have.

ALFRED

(honestly)

He's turned his back on the part of you that reminds him of what we've lost.

WAYNE

He hates me.

ALFRED

It's not hate Master Bruce it's hurt. He mourns the brother and blames the father.

WAYNE

And who do you blame?

ALFRED

I blame the one who took him. Not the one who loved him.

(Alfred puts his hand on
Bruce's shoulder)

But I do regret the loss of a man who sought diplomacy over violence.

I miss that man.

(beat)

Everything's ready for your visit to Metropolis

He SQUEEZES Bruce's shoulder before leaving.

Bruce is still for a moment before standing and walking over to a LARGE GLASS DISPLAY CASE.

Inside the case is a DARK RED and BLACK TACTICAL ARMOR (CHEST PIECE, GLOVES, BOOTS) which stands beneath a DARK GREEN HOODED CLOAK and a BLACK FACE MASK.

Bruce places his hand on the glass and stands for a moment. His WEARY eyes filled with the HURT of a FATHER who has lost a SON.

INT. CORRIDOR, PROJECT CADMUS INSTALLATION -- DAY

The HALLWAY is DARK. ELEVATOR DOORS open ILLUMINATING the Hallway.

Amanda Waller steps out and walks down the Hallway towards two HUGE REINFORCED DOORS. Her footsteps ECHO as she does.

When she arrives at the door she faces A CONTROL PANEL. She SPEAKS into it.

WALLER

(into control panel)

Waller, Amanda. Clearance MOS 17

The Reinforced Doors OPEN UP slowly revealing the CLONING FACILITY.

Waller steps inside and the doors close behind her.

Federov, SURPRISED, rushes toward her.

FEDEROV

Mrs. Waller. I wasn't aware you'd scheduled a visit.

WALLER

I didn't. I'm here in an unofficial capacity. I wanted to get a closer look at what we're making here.

Federov nods, SHEEPISHLY.

Waller walks toward the Incubation Chamber.

WALLER (CON'T)

When will it be ready?

FEDEROV

On schedule.

WALLER

This project is a big risk Federov. I can't afford any mistakes.

FEDEROV

I promise you our subject will be perfect. It's my finest work.

WALLER

Show me.

Federov presses a few BUTTONS on the Chamber's CONTROL PANEL and the screen RAISES revealing its CONTENTS.

Waller is visibly UNIMPRESSED by the Creature.

WALLER

It doesn't look like much to me Federov.

FEDEROV

Relatively speaking neither does Superman but then again you're not here for aesthetic.

WALLER

I'm here for results which this...

FEDEROV

(with pride)

Ultimate.

WALLER

Ultimate can provide.

FEDEROV

Trust me. You won't be disappointed. The Ultimate is superior to the Superman in every way.

WALLER

It had better be if and when the
Alien goes rogue.

(leans in close to look
at the Creature)

I've seen enough.

Federov closes the Chamber.

FEDEROV

General Swanwick has been demanding
access to the Project.

WALLER

Swanwick is a fool. A decrepit
relic that can't see beyond the
barrel of his gun. He thinks he has
his weapon and doesn't want anyone
else to have theirs.

FEDEROV

He does have authority.

WALLER

The only authority here is me
Federov. I'll deal with Swanwick
you focus on getting your Ultimate
operational.

She starts to walk towards the doors.

FEDEROV

So what to I tell him?

WALLER

Only what you're allowed to.

FEDEROV

Which is?

WALLER

Nothing.

EXT. STREET, LEXCORP TOWER -- DAY

A M.C.P.D PATROL CAR is parked outside of LEXCORP TOWER, a
HUGE SKYSCRAPER.

Sitting in the Car is OFFICER JAMES HARPER, a BROAD
SHOULDERED COP in his 40's. The passenger door opens and his
partner GUY GARDNER, an ATHLETIC MAN in his late 20's. He
has COFFEE CUPS and DONUTS.

GARDNER

That's a strong black coffee for me
and...

(hands Harper his cup)

And a decaf green tea for Grandma.

Harper takes the cup.

HARPER

Witty.

GARDNER

Donut?

HARPER

No thanks. I brought a salad.

Harper opens up a CONTAINER full of LEAFY GREENS and GRILLED CHICKEN.

GARDNER

Suit yourself.

A LEXCORP VAN passes them. Harper looks at it with DISDAIN.

HARPER

Would you look at that. He's everywhere.

GARDNER

(eating his donut)

Who?

HARPER

Who do you think? Luthor. He's got his damn trucks and billboards everywhere.

GARDNER

It's always been like that Jim. Far as I remember.

HARPER

Not always Guy. It just sticks in my throat how a little punk like that can end up with everything. I must have busted him and his cronies a dozen times. Never could get anything to stick. Bastard was always too smart for us.

GARDNER

He's put a lot of money into Metropolis.

HARPER

Considering how much he's taken out of it it's only right. You want to know how he came by all that cash?

GARDNER

Sure I could use a few pointers.

HARPER

When he was just some brat on the street him and his punks ran a protection racket down in the Bay. Bed good folks dry. He takes that cash and uses it to make a computer program then sells it to big firm out west for a billion.

Gardner WHISTLES at the number.

HARPER (CON'T)

It gets better. He then uses that cash and makes a better program makes the one he made first look like a calculator. Turns that billion into billions.

GARDNER

Sounds like good business.

HARPER

That's not the point. Point is he got his start by taking out of the pockets of decent people. Guys a crook and the whole damn world loves him.

GARDNER

He's rebuilding th city after those aliens blasted it.

HARPER

He's still a crook. Just a rich crook.

GARDNER

I'll take him over Superman any day. Better the devil you know Jim.

HARPER

You been watching the box? He's been doing a lot of good out there in the world.

GARDNER

That'd be fine by me if he stayed away from Metropolis. I don't like that space man flying around here. Aliens weirds me out.

A BLACK LIMO pulls up outside the LexCorp buildings MAIN ENTRANCE.

GARDNER (CON'T)

Who's this now?

Alfred steps out of the Limo and opens the Limo passenger door and Bruce Wayne emerges dressed in a EXPENSIVE SUIT.

HARPER
 (surprised)
 That's Bruce Wayne.

GARDER
 (unimpressed)
 Who?

Alfred gets back into the Limo while Wayne walks enters LexCorp tower.

INT. LOBBY, LEXCORP TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

Wayne walks through the Lobby and stops when he notices there is a BASKETBALL COURT located to his right. HIP YOUNG TECHNICIANS and COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS WALK back and forth.

Mercy awaits the Billionaire Gothamite. She has a SCARF around her neck to CONCEAL her BRUISES.

She reaches out her hand to Wayne.

MERCY
 (perky)
 Mercy Graves. Assistant to Mr. Luthor. It's a pleasure.

Wayne takes her hand and cracks a smile.

WAYNE
 The pleasure is all mine.
 (points to the court)
 Nice decor.

MERCY
 (smiles)
 A perk for the minions. Lex believes a entertained workforce is a productive workforce.

WAYNE
 Nice policy.

MERCY
 Effective policy.

She leads Wayne towards the GLASS ELEVATOR BANKS. They step inside and Mercy presses the TOP FLOOR.

The Elevator lifts off.

As the lift climbs Wayne observes each floor.

Many of the Floors are filled with ROWS and ROWS of COMPUTER MONITORS each manned by a YOUTHFUL TECH GENIUS.

WAYNE
 I remember when LexCorp was a warehouse by the Bay.

MERCY

Lex's goal has always been meeting ones potential. He believes LexCorp is an example to which everyone can strive to.

The Elevator comes to a halt and the doors slide open and Wayne steps into the SPACIOUS 125th floor PENTHOUSE.

The ROOM is HUGE and ROUND bordered BY WINDOWS which offer a PANORAMIC view of Metropolis. A BALCONY jutts out of the side of the Penthouse.

Wayne steps inside and the doors close behind him.

Sitting CROSS LEGGED on his desk in front of an ARRAY of COMPUTER SCREENS is the RICHEST man on the PLANET, ALEXANDER 'LEX' LUTHOR, 30, the C.E.O of LexCorp. He is one part TECH GENIUS, one part RUTHLESS business man and two parts METROPOLIS STREET TOUGH. His SHAGGY MANE of HAIR hangs below his eyes and a detailed SLEEVE TATTOO of the METROPOLIS SKYLINE creeps up his right arm.

His EYES say it all. Behind them BURN the FIRES of UNPARALLELLED GENIUS. A POWERFUL INTELLECT enabling him to accomplish anything he bends his will toward. Within the boundaries of his mind he is GODLIKE.

Wayne observes the IMAGES that captivate the youthful billionaire... THE MAN OF STEEL.

LUTHOR

Look at it. So sleek. So powerful.

WAYNE

He's an impressive specimen.

LUTHOR

'It' Wayne

(shifts around to face
him)

It's an alien. And a trespasser and it doesn't belong on this planet. Perhaps you share my view?

WAYNE

Superman isn't the reason for my being in Metropolis.

LUTHOR

Your reason being Metropolis itself.

WAYNE

I can't help but take an interest in the city's tragic circumstances.

LUTHOR
(half smiles)
And profitable circumstances.

WAYNE
Neither of us would have gotten to
where we are if we didn't look at
the bottom line.

LUTHOR
I got to where I am through hard
work and innovation. You by
accident of birth. I assure you we
view our bottom lines very
differently.

He HOPS of his desk and walks past Wayne to a BAR near the
ELEVATOR. In comparison Luthor is much SMALLER than the
POWERFULLY BUILT Gothamite. Yet his CONFIDENCE more than
matches Wayne's stature.

Luthor reaches into the FRIDGE and removes and ENERGY DRINK.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
(cracks open the can)
I'd offer you a drink but I don't
have any gingerale.

WAYNE
We both want the same thing Lex. To
help Metropolis. Our past
differences shouldn't get in the
way of that.

LUTHOR
(takes a gulp)
Past differences? As I recall you
called me an amoral, arrogant brat.

WAYNE
Yes on the very same day you
launched your first satellite.

Luthor smiles.

WAYNE (CON'T)
And a cyber attack crippled mine.

LUTHOR
(smirks and leans back
against the Bar)
Coincidence Wayne. The world is
full of it.

WAYNE
Apparently so. Took us quite a
while to get it operational again.

LUTHOR

I liked that satellite. It was quaint. Whatever happened to it?

WAYNE

An alien in a black onesie kicked it out of the sky.

LUTHOR

(amused)

Ouch.

WAYNE

I'm here to help. The rebuilding of Metropolis is my main priority. Pooling our resources would better serve it's citizens. I'm willing to let bygones be bygones. If you are?

LUTHOR

An alien spacecraft blasted a hole in the city where I was born. I'm not about to let a few limp insults from a trust fund baby overshadow that.

(finishes his drink and
crushes the can)

Do you really think you would have gotten past the lobby if I was holding a grudge.

WAYNE

I'm glad we can put it aside. I don't think either of us relishes continuing this war for contracts.

LUTHOR

(dismissive)

Wayne enterprises is a powerful company but not enough to challenge me in my own backyard. I am LexCorp. LexCorp is Metropolis. Those contracts are mine. But despite your company's limitations there are things I can use it for. It'll allow me to focus on more important matters.

Wayne looks back at the monitors.

WAYNE

Superman?

LUTHOR

(irritated)

It's not a man. It's an alien. And by the time the world finally absorbs that this...

(MORE)

LUTHOR (cont'd)
(gestures out of the
window towards the
ruined sections of
Metropolis)
... could happen again.

Wayne look out on the RUINED and IN REPAIR structures. His face reflects his CONCERN for the City.

WAYNE
What would you suggest?

LUTHOR
When a dog bites a man we put it down. Because we understand what it's capable of. That thing isn't one of us and doesn't deserve the understanding that the government is affording it.

WAYNE
You sound like you want to kill him?

LUTHOR
There comes a time when even a god must die.

WAYNE
You've seen what he... 'It' can do. All that power. All that strength.

LUTHOR
It might be hard for someone like you born with the silveriest of spoons to understand. I spent my childhood on the streets. I joined a gang. It's survival. I didn't have much of a choice. I learned there that there was always someone bigger, stronger but never smarter. By the time I was 15 that gang answered to me. Strength is nothing Wayne. Resolve is everything.

WAYNE
Then why not use that resolve to find a peaceful solution.

LUTHOR
There is no peaceful solution with an trespasser.

WAYNE
How about one that doesn't involve you going toe to toe with a god.

LUTHOR

(amused)

Toe to toe? I don't go toe to toe with anybody. You don't become the general by charging the frontlines with the rest of the troops.

WAYNE

Too smart for that?

Luthor raises and eyebrow and smiles.

WAYNE

I'm glad you reconsidered and alliance.

LUTHOR

I'm not usually one to second guess myself but you don't become a billionaire at 18 by ignoring the bigger picture.

(walks past Wayne and returns to his position on the desk)

I'll have Mercy send some contracts over. I'm sure we can find something for you to do. However minimal.

WAYNE

I look forward to it. I'll be at my Metropolis offices.

Luthor doesn't reply. He just stares at the Computer screens and the BLUE and RED clad source of his VENDETTA.

Wayne turns and walks toward the Elevator.

LUTHOR

6'2". 225lbs

Wayne steps into the Elevator.

WAYNE

You got me exactly.

LUTHOR

(smiles)

I was talking about the Batman.

Wayne pauses as the Elevator doors slide shut.

Luthor smiles. Assured in his SUPERIORITY.

EXT. SKY ABOVE METROPOLIS -- DAY

Superman, in his NEW SUIT now with FLOWING RED CAPE and HOPE SYMBOL on it's chest, HOVERS SERENELY among the CLOUDS with his eyes CLOSED as he LISTENS to the SOUNDS of the City.

VOICES (O.S)
 (uncertain)
 I can't be certain...
 (polite)
 Two sugars please...
 (affectionate)
 You're beautiful...

INT. METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Frightened PATRONS lie FACE DOWN on the floor of the Bank while TWO MASKED and ARMED BANK ROBBERS stand guard while THIRD proceeds to INTIMIDATE the BANK MANAGER by JAMMING a GUN in his FACE.

BANK ROBBER#3
 (hands two large
 rucksacks to Bank
 Manager)
 Money in the bags. 50's and 100's
 (shouts)
 Now!

BANK MANAGER
 (calmly)
 Ok. Just stay calm. We'll do
 anything you want.

The Bank Manager hands the rucksacks to a YOUNG FEMALE BANK TELLER who proceeds to comply with the Bank Robber's demands.

BANK ROBBER#2
 (to Bank Robber#3)
 Hurry it up!

BANK ROBBER#3
 (turns his head away from
 the Manager)
 I'm on it!

With the Bank Robber momentarily DISTRACTED the Bank Teller presses the SILENT ALARM.

INT. M.C.P.D PATROL CAR (PARKED) -- CONTINUOUS

Harper is at the wheel PEELING an ORANGE. Gardner is SIPPING a Coffee when a CALL comes over the Radio.

RADIO
 All cars. All Cars. We have a 2113
 at the First national Bank on Smith
 and Byrne.

Gardner SNATCHES the SPEAKER.

GARDNER
 (into speaker)
 This is Car 59. We are en route.

Harper puts the orange down STARTS the engine.

GARDNER (CON'T)
(excited)
Finally!

INT. METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

The Bank Teller STUFFS the MONEY into the rucksacks while being held at GUNPOINT by Bank Robber#3

BANK ROBBER#3
(impatient)
Hurry it up!

She moves FASTER.

INT. M.C.P.D PATROL CAR (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Harper and Gardner Patrol car has arrived at the scene.

GARDNER
(smiling)
We got them!

EXT. STREET, METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

The GETAWAY CAR is parked across the STREET from the Bank.

The GETAWAY DRIVER sees the Patrol Car arriving and watches as Harper and Gardner jump out. A S.W.A.T Van pulls up behind them and the S.W.A.T TEAM pours out of the Van and TAKES POSITION.

He FRANTICALLY picks up his WALKIE TALKIE.

GETAWAY DRIVER
Shit!
(frantic, into Walkie
Talkie)
Somebody hit the goddamn alarm!

INT. METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Bank Robber#1 listens to the Getaway Driver on his Walkie Talkie.

BANK ROBBER#1
(angry)
Dammit! They hit the alarm!

Bank Robber#3 out of FRUSTRAION turns and STRIKES the Bank Manager ACROSS the back of his head with his GUN.

He then turns his attention to the TERRIFIED Bank Teller.

BANK ROBBER#3
Get up bitch!

She stands and he PUSHES her ROUGHLY towards the Patrons.

BANK ROBBER#2
(freaking out)
What the hell are we going to do?

BANK ROBBER#3
Shut up! We're going out the front
as planned.
(gestures to the Patrons)
Grab some cover.

Bank Robber#1 GRABS a TEENAGE GIRL from the floor. Her
BOYFRIEND gets up and RUSHES the Bank Robber.

BOYFRIEND
(yells)
Get your hands off of her!

The three Bank Robber's proceed to BEAT him DOWN.

The Patrons SCREAM.

Bank Robber#2 FIRES into the ceiling.

BANK ROBBER#2
(shouts)
Shut up!

EXT. SKY ABOVE METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman's eyes SNAP OPEN and he ROCKETS toward the City.

INT. METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Bank Robber#3 GRABS Bank Robber#2's arm.

BANK ROBBER#3
Quit it you idiot!

EXT. STREET, METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Gardner looks around IMPATIENTLY.

GARDNER
(impatient)
Why are we just standing here?

HARPER
It's called protocol Guy.

GARDNER
It's called sitting on our as...

Gardner is CUT OFF as a RED and BLUE blur SPEEDS past and
THROUGH the Bank Entrance.

INT. METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Bank Robber#3 is SWEPT OFF his FEET and SLAMMED into the wall and to the floor.

Bank Robber#2 DROPS to the floor and SCURRIES toward the exit.

Bank Robber#1 finds himself FACE to FACE with the Man of Steel and OPENS FIRE but the PULVERIZED BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY off Superman's CHEST and he CRUSHES the GUN in ONE HAND.

EXT. STREET, METROPOLIS BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Bank Robber#2 CRAWLS out of the Bank and towards the Cops.

Superman HOVERS out of the Entrance holding the other Bank Robber's by the BACK of their JACKETS.

HARPER

(impressed)

Would you look at that.

Gardner SCOWLS.

Superman LANDS and PLACES the Robber's on the ground.

SUPERMAN

They're all yours.

Harper nods to Superman as he CUFFS and ARRESTS the Bank Robbers.

The Patron's SLOWLY exit the Bank and look in AWE at their SAVIOR.

Harper's ORANGE hits Superman on the back of the head.

He turns to see Gardner, looking PISSED.

SUPERMAN

(polite)

Is there a problem officer?

GARDNER

(angry)

Yeah. I don't see a badge. You can't just turn up and do our jobs when you feel like it.

SUPERMAN

Just trying to help.

(Superman points across the street at the Getaway Car)

You might want to question that man over there. I think he might have something to do with the robbery.

Gardner looks around see the Getaway Driver who's EYES BUG OUT when he is discovered.

The Getaway car FLEES the SCENE.

GARDNER

Goddammit!

Gardner and Harper JUMP into their Patrol Car and GIVE CHASE.

Superman watches and smiles then takes off.

The Cops, Bank Robbers and Patrons watch as he flies away.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- DAY

Luthor sits on his desk and DOWNS an energy drink.

He has been watching the Bank Robbery on his computer monitors.

Mercy steps out of the Elevator.

MERCY

The contracts have been sent to Wayne Enterprises.

LUTHOR

That should make the trust fund baby happy.

MERCY

What about the break in at the research center?

LUTHOR

(uninterested)

What about it?

MERCY

I think it deserves some attention.

Luthor shifts around on his desk to face his assistant.

LUTHOR

It's of no concern. We have what we need and we're on schedule.

MERCY

There are security concerns at the complex. Very serious concerns. Somebody sold us out to the Themyscirians.

LUTHOR

(matter of fact)

It was Morgan.

MERCY
 (shocked)
 You knew.

LUTHOR
 Morgan has a mercenary nature. He
 saw an opportunity and exploited
 it.

MERCY
 And what's to be done.

He HOPS off his desk and walks over to the window and looks
 out over his CITY.

LUTHOR
 We exploit an opportunity. Contact
 Cain.

She nods.

MERCY
 There is the matter of the
 conference. Have you reconsidered
 attending?

LUTHOR
 Why waste my time. I already know
 how all of this will play out.

MERCY
 I'll take care of the other matter.

She leaves.

Luthor returns to his seat and activates the Monitors which
 display SEVERAL DIFFERENT ANGLES of a LARGE GATHERING of
 people.

EXT. CENTENNIAL PARK, METROPOLIS -- DAY

SEVERAL MILITARY HELICOPTERS fly over Metropolis's largest
 park, CENTENNIAL PARK.

The Park has been CORDONED off to the PUBLIC. Over a
 THOUSAND Military personnel, ARMY and MARINES, guard the
 Park.

In the Middle of the Park a STAGE and a PODIUM has been
 ERECTED. HUNDREDS of SEATS surround the PODIUM in ROWS.

Around the seats is yet another PERIMETER guarded by
 MARINES. TANKS CIRCLE the Perimeter.

FIGHTER JETS make SWEEPS over head.

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE, CENTENNIAL PARK -- CONTINUOUS

The MAIN ENTRANCE is guarded by DOZENS of ARMED MARINES.

SEVERAL WORLD LEADERS and UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS enter the PARK.

Behind railings HUNDREDS of REPORTERS and PAPARAZZI take PICTURES as the DIGNITARIES arrive.

Bruce Wayne's Limo pulls up. He exits and enters the Park to a CHORUS of: Mr Wayne! Mr Wayne! As the MEDIA spots him.

EXT. STREET, CENTENNIAL PARK -- CONTINUOUS

Lois, followed by Jimmy, walks towards an ENTRANCE to the Park which is GUARDED by TWO MARINES.

Jimmy is FIDDLING with his CAMERA.

LOIS
(irritated)
Get your ass in gear Olsen!

JIMMY
Sorry I was just getting so many good shots.

LOIS
I thought you wanted to see Superman?

JIMMY
He's here already?

LOIS
He's about to be.

Lois walks toward the Entrance but is stopped by a MARINE.

Lois FLASHES her CREDENTIALS

MARINE#1
Centennial Park is off limits to press.

LOIS
I'm Lois Lane. As a liaison with Superman I have expressed permission to be here by the U.S government.

The Marine turns to his FELLOW SOLDIER who gets on the radio to get confirmation on Lois' claims.

MARINE#2
She checks out let her through.

She moves past the Marines. Jimmy follows.

JIMMY
(awkwardly)
I'm with Superman too.

LOIS (O.S)
 (irritated)
 Come on Olsen!

He rushes past.

INT. SECTIONED OFF AREA, CENTENNIAL PARK -- CONTINUOUS

Wayne walks through a SECURITY CHECK into a SECTIONED OFF AREA of the Park. He cordially smiles as the ASSORTED WORLD LEADERS present.

MAN (O.S)
 (booming)
 Bruce Wayne!

Bruce turns to see GENERAL CANDY, the HIGHEST RANKING U.S ARMY FIGURE present. He stands with Swanwick, Silas and Stewart.

WAYNE
 General.

CANDY
 You've met General Swanwick and Professor Stone before right?.

SWANWICK
 Mr. Wayne.

He and Wayne shake hands.

SILAS
 Mr. Wayne Good to see you again.

WAYNE
 Professor.

They shake hands.

Candy SLAPS Stewart on the shoulder.

CANDY
 And this is John Stewart. The toughest S.O.B to ever come out of the Corps. Used to be my right hand man before he went to work for the eggheads.

STEWART
 (to Wayne)
 Sir.

CANDY
 So what's your interest in Big Blue Wayne?

WAYNE

The same as everyone else. I want to hear what he has to say.

CANDY

(dismissive)

Unless it's the oath of allegiance I'm not interested.

WAYNE

I think there's more at stake here than patriotism General. This is to determine if the Superman is an ally to the world not just American interests.

CANDY

Look around you Wayne. Everybody here wants to know who the Alien calls boss. Let's just hope its Uncle Sam.

STEWART

Well it's certainly not Mother Russia.

CANDY

(laughs)

I have to give it to him, he knows how to piss the commies off.

STEWART

Looking at the faces here it seems he knows how to piss the whole planet off.

WAYNE

(to Stewart)

And whats your take?

STEWART

Same as you. I'm going to wait and see.

CANDY

(laughs)

John here has mellowed out some but trust me if Big Blue starts any more trouble this here's the last guy he'd want to mess with.

WAYNE

Good to know.

CANDY

Mr. Wayne here isn't a fan of us Military types. His company won't build us any fancy gadgets.

WAYNE

My company doesn't build weapons. I don't see war as good business.

CANDY

Well lucky for us and our boys on the front LexCorp does.

Amanda Waller walks past flanked by TWO ARMED BODYGUARDS.

WAYNE

Who's that?

SWANWICK

Amanda Waller.

CANDY

She used to be the Warden of Belle Reve before she became Senator. She's a mean piece of work. They don't call her the 'Wall' for nothing.

The GATHERING STARTS to CONVERGE towards the ASSEMBLY AREA.

STEWART

Looks like this party's about to start.

Wayne and the others follow the crowd as they flow towards the Assembly Area.

INT. ASSEMBLY AREA, CENTENNIAL PARK -- CONTINUOUS

The WORLD LEADERS and the assorted MILITARY OFFICIALS have taken their seats.

The SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS take the Podium.

SECRETARY GENERAL

This is a solemn occasion. A year ago today this city and our entire civilization experienced an event unprecedented in our collective histories. Our world changed. We are now at a precipice. A turning point that will determine the future of our planet. And we'd these words I give you
(gestures towards the sky)

Kal El.

A HUSH goes over the CROWD. Superman FLOATS above them and lands on the stage.

MARINES raise their WEAPONS and the TANKS train their CANNONS on the Kryptonian.

Superman takes the Podium and looks out over the Assembly.
Lois watches him with CONCERN. Jimmy SNAPS pictures.

SUPERMAN

(takes a breath)

My name is Kal El. I stand in front of you today as a gesture of peace. I know that my presence here has changed how the human race perceives itself. As a child I was sent here from my world Krypton but Earth has always been my home. It is where I was raised. Everything I know, everything I am comes from here. I am one of you.

A DIPLOMAT yells from the audience.

DIPLOMAT (O.S)

(shouts)

You are not one of us!

SUPERMAN

I understand your fears. But I am not your enemy.

President Nelson stands up.

PRESIDENT NELSON

And what are our assurances?

SUPERMAN

All I can give you is my word.

PRESIDENT NELSON

That just isn't enough. If we are to trust you then we must know you.

SUPERMAN

I believe all the world needs to know is that I am here to help. To protect. I offer myself to humanity freely and without condition.

A RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT stands.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT

(angry)

You attacked Russian Military.

SUPERMAN

They were firing on innocent civilians. Russian civilians.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT

(shouts)

Lies! That was an act of war.

The conference ERUPTS.

The President holds up a FILE.

PRESIDENT NELSON

This file contains a list. In the past year you have been involved in several international incidents. Russia, Great Britain, China. The list goes on and on. You consistently interfere with world affairs with no regard to the consequences or legal ramifications of your actions.

SUPERMAN

I help where I can. I'm here to save lives. I can't afford to stop and consider what politicians will be inconvenienced by my actions.

PRESIDENT NELSON

And as noble as your motives may or may not be. You cannot expect us as a species to simply sit back and allow you to dictate the course of our history without our consent. Where is your authority?

SUPERMAN

Honestly I have none. I am not here to be a dictator. I'm here to serve the people of this planet in any way I can.

PRESIDENT NELSON

And therein lies the problem. Who do you really serve? At the end of the day Kal El you answer to no one but yourself and that is a frightening concept.

Stewart, who sits between Silas and Swanwick, leans toward the Professor.

STEWART

I gotta give it to the lady. She ain't scared of no one. Man or alien.

Silas nods.

The President holds up a SECOND DOCUMENT.

PRESIDENT NELSON

I hold in my hand a United Nations Bill. Signed and ratified by every member state that demands you
(MORE)

PRESIDENT NELSON (cont'd)
 surrender yourself to it's
 authority. If you are truly here to
 serve then serve the people of
 Earth by abiding by it's laws and
 institutions.

SUPERMAN
 That is something I cannot do.

PRESIDENT NELSON
 Can't or won't.

SUPERMAN
 I am here to serve all humanity
 regardless of their allegiance.
 What you are asking my to do is
 take orders and eventually take
 sides.

PRESIDENT NELSON
 Then I do not see how we can allow
 you to enforce your will on our way
 of life, regardless of your
 intentions. You're not leaving us
 much in the way of options.

The BRITISH PRIME MINISTER stands.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
 You must agree to the U.N Bill.

The Conference ERUPTS with CHEERS of SUPPORT for the BILL.

SUPERMAN
 But I will not be a prisoner or a
 pawn for government interests and
 that at the end of the day is what
 the Bill means. It's submission to
 an authority that I cannot
 recognize because it prevents me
 from serving all the people of the
 world. I will pledge myself to
 humanity but not to it's leaders.
 I'm sorry Mrs President.

The Conference YELLS and MURMERS.

Wayne sits in silence pondering this turn of events.

Waller smiles to herself.

SWANWICK
 This is all Waller needs.

STEWART
 What do you mean?

SWANWICK

Superman has just thumbed his nose at every bureaucrat and politician on the planet. The President will sign off on Cadmus. This is exactly what she wanted.

The Conference has gone CRITICAL.

Lois shakes her head in DISGUST at the REACTION of the ASSEMBLY.

SUPERMAN

Please understand. I do this for the good of the world. Not despite it. I'm sorry.

He LIFTS off and takes to the sky. The sound of a SONIC BOOM echos through the Park as he leaves.

WALLER

You will be.

INT. ACE O' CLUBS BAR, HOB'S BAY, METROPOLIS -- NIGHT

BIBBO BIBBOWSKI, an UNSHAVED BEAR OF A MAN, tends BAR in the DINGY Hob's Bay BAR.

There are a FEW CUSTOMERS, MOSTLY DRUNKS.

Through the entrance walks Mercy, carrying with her a BRIEFCASE. She walks past the bar towards a BOOTH in a darkened CORNER of the room.

Sitting in the Booth is DAVID CANE, 50's, one of the World's DEADLIEST ASSASSINS.

MERCY

I would have preferred if you had picked a more discreet location.

CAIN

Plain sight has always been my favorite form of discretion.
(gestures for her to sit down)
Have a seat.

Mercy sits in the Booth opposite the Assassin. She puts the Briefcase on the table.

MERCY

So I'm assuming you have agreed to our proposal or why else would I be here Mr. Cain.

CAIN

Once you've agreed to my price.

MERCY

It's reasonable. It'll be half now
and half on completion.

She SLIDES the Briefcase over to him.

CAIN

And this is?

MERCY

One of the provisions of the
agreement.

Cain OPENS the Briefcase. He SMILES at the CONTENTS.

MERCY (CON'T)

Consider it a gift. Good faith
gesture but the Client insists you
use it. If you don't we'll know and
the agreement will be void.

CAIN

Fair enough.

Mercy nods and stands.

CAIN (CON'T)

It's very public. You sending a
message?

MERCY

In a manner of speaking.

She leaves.

INT. CLONING FACILITY, PROJECT CADMUS -- NIGHT

Federov sits at a Computer Terminal reading over endless
DATA and COMPUTER CODE.

LUTHOR (O.S)

Burning the midnight oil?

Federov jumps out his seat, STARTLED.

Luthor steps out from behind the Ultimate's Incubation
Chamber and SMILES.

FEDEROV

(worried)

Luthor! What are you doing here?

Luthor presses the control to open the Chamber and looks at
the sleeping Ultimate.

LUTHOR

Just checking up on my investment.

FEDEROV

If anyone finds you in here...

LUTHOR

They'll forget they saw me or end up being forgotten. There's something I need from you.

FEDEROV

I can't. Not again.

Luthor gets close to the COWERING Scientist.

LUTHOR

You can and you will.

(gestures to the
Ultimate)

You've already done what I needed you to do. What else can't you do?

FEDEROV

(pleading)

Please.

Luthor walks past Federov to the Computer Terminal and casually attaches a FLASHDRIVE to the HARDDRIVE.

LUTHOR

There was an incident at the research center. An attack. Some of the material was taken.

FEDEROV

The subjects?

LUTHOR

It's insignificant. But I want to make sure there are no setbacks on this end.

Federov watches the code FLASHING across the Computer screen.

FEDEROV

That's the Ultimate program data. If Waller finds out.

LUTHOR

I don't see how she will.

(removes the flashdrive
and puts it in his
pocket)

And if she does I'll make sure you'll be back in the shack in Chechnya where I found you.

Federov lowers his head as Luthor passes and PATS him on the back.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
 Keep up the good work. It's what
 you live for.

As he walks he receives a CALL on his CELLPHONE.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
 (into phone)
 Success?

INT. LIMO (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Mercy sits in the back of the Limo on her Cell.

MERCY
 Was there ever any doubt?

LUTHOR (O.S)
 Not at all. I'll see you at the
 party.

She hangs up.

INT. DIANA'S LOFT, THEMYSIRIAN EMBASSY -- NIGHT

Diana stands POISED. She HOLDS her SHIELD tight against her chest and her SWORD pointed in front of her. Her eyes are CLOSED.

Suddenly she EXPLODES into a SPECTACULAR COMBAT ROUTINE. She SWINGS her Sword with expert GRACE and FLUIDITY.

She is FRIGHTENING and BEAUTIFUL to BEHOLD. Her speed is SUPERNATURAL. SHE is a BLUR of FLESH and STEEL moving in PERFECT SYNC.

She finishes and DROPS to one knee her Sword and Shield by her side.

She OPENS her eyes.

In front of her arranged like an ALTER is her ARMOR (CHESTPIECE which is MOLDED into an EAGLE, SILVER GAUNTLETS, and a HELMET shaped like the SPARTAN WARRIORS VISOR with a RED STAR emblazoned upon its BROW)

She RESTS her forehead on the HILT of her Sword and PRAYS to her GODDESS.

Io enters.

IO
 Your highness. The arrangements
 have been made.

Diana stands and places her Shield with her Armor.

DIANA
 Good. Let me meet this little King.

EXT. STREET, THE SPIRE -- NIGHT

It is the GRAND OPENING of Lex Luthor's SKYSCRAPER, THE SPIRE. At 150 STORIES it is the TALLEST STRUCTURE in Metropolis.

LIMO'S and SPORTS CARS pull up outside. CELEBRITIES and DIGNITARIES walk the RED CARPET into the Skyscraper.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

The Spire's BALL ROOM is host to the WORLD'S ELITE.

The REVELLERS party and mingle amid the TABLES which are stocked with DELICACIES and DISHES from all over the world.

Clark and Lois walk through the PLUSH PARTY.

LOIS

You look uncomfortable.

CLARK

It's the suit. It's a little tight around the neck.

LOIS

Give it here.

Lois adjusts his collar.

LOIS (CON'T)

Better?

CLARK

I like my other one better.

LOIS

Well you can't wear that here. Half the people here are from countries that want you arrested.

Clark smiles.

Martha appears behind them in a BEAUTIFUL DRESS and with a GLASS of CHAMPAGNE.

MARTHA

(excited)

I just saw Bruce Springsteen. He's got more grey hair than me.

(she pinches Clark's cheeks)

Look at you in a suit.

CLARK

Are you drunk?

MARTHA
(shakes the glass)
On this stuff. Not hardly. They got
any of the good stuff?

Louis points to the other side of the room.

LOIS
I saw a bar over that way. What do
you say we prop it up?

CLARK
(exasperated)
Lois!

LOIS
Babe. I'm at a party thrown by a
man I loath. If you think I'm not
going to have a few shots you're
mistaken.

CLARK
(relents)
Fine. Just don't let Mom get
wasted.

MARTHA
(indignant)
Aw don't yourself.

Martha grabs Lois' arm and leads her towards the Bar.

MARTHA
(to Lois)
He brought his suit didn't he.

LOIS
It's in the car. He wanted to wear
it under his clothes.

Martha laughs OUT LOUD startling some guests.

PERRY (O.S)
(calls)
Lois.

Lois sees Perry and Jimmy among the Attendees.

LOIS
(to Martha)
I'll catch up.

Martha heads to the bar while Lois joins Perry and Jimmy.

PERRY
I didn't expect you to turn up.

LOIS
 Far be it from me to let old
 grudges color my professionalism.

PERRY
 (sarcasm)
 I'll bet.
 (firmly)
 Don't make a scene.

LOIS
 Honestly I'm here for the drinks.
 If you'll excuse me.

Lois leaves to join Martha at the bar.

JIMMY
 (to Perry)
 You think she's telling the truth.

PERRY
 Of course not.

Bruce Wayne walks through the room followed by Alfred. A
 WAITER offers him some champagne. He declines.

ALFRED
 Should I see if they have gingerale
 Master Bruce.

WAYNE
 Please.

Alfred leaves to get the gingerale.

Wayne continues to walk through the party until he spies a
 Woman in a STUNNING RED DRESS standing looking out of the
 window at the CITY LIGHTS.

He approaches her.

WAYNE
 I can tell you didn't grow up in a
 city.

Diana turns to face Wayne.

DIANA
 Not like this. How could you tell?

WAYNE
 City people are rarely so taken
 with the lights.
 (reaches out his hand)
 Bruce Wayne.

Diana shakes his hand.

DIANA

Diana.

WAYNE

A pleasure to meet you.

DIANA

Likewise Mr Wayne.

WAYNE

Please Bruce. I can't place your accent.

DIANA

I come from Themyscira.

WAYNE

I've heard it's beautiful. I've never been.

DIANA

My country doesn't interest men like you. We are not Monaco. We have no casinos.

WAYNE

(jokingly)

I could have some built for you.

DIANA

I'm sure.

WAYNE

What brings you to Metropolis?

DIANA

I am looking for someone.

WAYNE

Lucky someone. Perhaps I can help you find them.

The Attendees of the party turn their attention to the Ball Room's entrance.

Luthor has arrived dressed in a SLEEK BLACK SUIT with Mercy on his arm.

He walks to the center of the room and the crowd GATHERS around him.

DIANA

(polite)

I won't be needing your help, thank you. Excuse me Mr. Wayne.

WAYNE

Bruce.

She walks past Wayne towards the crowd. As she does Jimmy SMILES at her.

JIMMY
(confident)
Hey there.

She IGNORES him and walks past him.

JIMMY (CON'T)
(rejected)
Bye there.

Martha, visibly TIPSy, appears and links arms with him.

MARTHA
I think you're punching a little
above your weight.

Jimmy nods as she leads him toward the crowd.

Luthor TAKES THE FLOOR.

He TAPS a SPOON against a WINE GLASS to get everyone's attention.

LUTHOR
Ladies and gentlemen let me thank
you for coming.

The crowd ERUPTS in APPLAUSE.

Clark pushes his way AWKWARDLY past people.

He STOPS when he sees Diana. She sees him too and both LOCK EYES. Recognizing each others HIDDEN POWER.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
And I like to welcome you to the
Spire. She was started less than a
year ago today. I built it to honor
the city and the strength of its
people. She will stand as a beacon.
Shining even brighter than the star
that is my home, Metropolis. To
light the way for mankind. As a
tribute to our potential. An
example of the greatness we are
capable of achieving. A symbol we
can touch. That represents the
dream within us all. Of the heights
humanity can aspire to and the
depths of human sacrifice to be.
The people of this city raised the
Spire and it is they who I honor
here tonight. I believe in
humanity. I believe in us.

He raises his glass to THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.

Luthor, with Mercy, moves through the crowd.

LOIS (O.S)
Very inspiring.

Luthor turns to see Lois and Martha by the bar.

Mercy steps in front of her Boss, DEFENSIVELY.

LUTHOR
(to Mercy)
It's fine.
(to Lois)
It's a nice surprise to see you
here.

LOIS
Wouldn't miss it. It was quite a
speech.

LUTHOR
Thank you Ms. Lane. You're not the
only one who's good with words.

LOIS
Except I don't write fiction.

LUTHOR
You write slander.

LOIS
Perry White maybe bound by some
misplaced Hob's Bay code of honor.
But I'm not. You may live far above
the law but all that means is you
have further to fall.

Luthor smiles at Lois' VEILED threat.

LUTHOR
The only thing I'm above Ms. Lane
is indulging in fantasy. Enjoy the
party.

Luthor leaves. Mercy GLOWERS at Lois before following him.

MARTHA
Slimy little punk.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Cain, dressed in an OIL BLACK SUIT, opens up the Briefcase.

Inside the case is the PARTS of a POWERFUL HIGH-TECH SNIPER
RIFLE.

He ASSEMBLES the WEAPON.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Diana approaches Clark.

DIANA
You're not like these people.

CLARK
(intrigued)
Neither are you. Who are you?

DIANA
A warrior. Like you.

CLARK
I'm not a warrior.

Diana begins to circle him.

DIANA
You have the power of a one. Yet
you conceal it. But I see you for
what you are. You're the one he
wants to kill.

CLARK
Who?

DIANA
Their little King. He hates you.

She glances at Luthor.

CLARK
(confused)
Lex Luthor?

Lois and Martha walk up behind Clark.

LOIS
Who's your friend?

CLARK
(to Diana)
I didn't get your name.

DIANA
Diana.

LOIS
Hi. Mind if I steal Clark away?

Lois GRIPS Clark's forearm and LEADS him away.

MARTHA
(to Diana)
You're sniffing around the wrong
rooster stretch. You're a big one
(MORE)

MARTHA (cont'd)
but that girl there is pretty
scrappy.
(genuine)
Nice dress.

Diana smiles at Martha.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Cain takes aim at the Ball Room.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Lois has pulled Clark to a corner of the Hall.

LOIS
(playful)
So who was that?

CLARK
She's different. There's something
about her.

LOIS
And what's that supposed to mean?

CLARK
It's not like that she's different
from everybody.

LOIS
(surprised)
Like you?

CLARK
No. She's something else.

Luthor leans against a table and SWIPES his finger across
the screen of his Cellphone.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Cain's rifle begins to EMIT a HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND that is
INAUDIBLE to HUMAN HEARING.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Clark WINCES in PAIN. His head BEGINS to POUND as he hears a
RINGING in his EARS.

LOIS
(concerned)
Clark! What's wrong?

CLARK
(in pain)
I don't know! Something!

He Looks out of the window and uses his SUPER VISION to see out of the window and across to the HIGHRISE. He sees Cain with his RIFE AIMED.

CLARK

Take cover!

LOIS

What's happening?

Clark doesn't answer. He RUSHES out of the party BUMPING into guests as he does.

Diana is STALKING Luthor through the party.

Luthor walks up to Edge who is FLIRTING with TWO MODELS and places his hand on his shoulder.

EDGE

(grins widely)

Lex. Some party man.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Cain takes aim.

SCOPE VIEW: The CROSS HAIRS are AIMED at the back of Luthor's head.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor looks Edge right in the eyes. Edge is visibly UNCOMFORTABLE.

LUTHOR

It is easier to forgive an enemy
than to forgive a friend.

(smiles)

William Blake.

Edge realizes he has been found out and nods his head sheepishly.

Luthor gives him a friendly PAT on the CHEEK and turns his head slightly.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

SCOPE VIEW: Luthor has moved out of the way and now the cross hairs are on Edge.

Cain PULLS THE TRIGGER.

INT. BALL ROOM, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Diana steps toward Luthor.

Suddenly the window SHATTERS and Cain's BULLET FINDS its MARK.

Morgan Edge falls to the floor with a SINGLE BULLET HOLE in his FOREHEAD.

The Guests SCREAM and the party turns to CHAOS.

Luthor's BODY GUARDS snatch him up and RUSH him out of the hall.

Martha is KNOCKED to the floor by a FLEEING GUEST.

 LOUIS
 (shouts)
 Martha.

Wayne RUSHES to her aid and helps her up from the floor.

 MARTHA
 (to Wayne)
 Thanks handsome.

 WAYNE
 (to Lois)
 Get her out of here.

Lois and Jimmy escort Martha out.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Cain is ready to make his escape when BOOM! Superman CRASHES through the wall.

He SNATCHES the Rifle which is still EMITTING the high pitched noise. He CRUSHES it.

Superman SHAKES off the effects of the sound and sets his sights on Cain.

Cain takes a step back and pulls TWO HIGH POWERED HANDGUNS.

He FIRES at the Kryptonian but the bullets BOUNCE off his chest.

Superman LUNGES forward with his SUPER SPEED and GRABS Cain by the THROAT.

A HIDDEN CAMERA is PLACED in the corner of the room. It RECORDS the scene.

INT. LUTHOR'S OFFICE, THE SPIRE -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor watches the scene on his Cellphone. He SWIPES his finger across the screen and a SCREEN APPEARS with the word 'DETONATE' on it. He PRESSES it.

INT. EMPTY ROOM, HIGHRISE -- CONTINUOUS

Superman uses his X-RAY VISION to see that EXPLOSIVES are CONCEALED in the WALLS of the room. They BEGINS to GLOW RED and BURN.

Cain sees this.

CAIN
(to himself)
Son of a bitch.

The EXPLOSIVES DETONATE.

EXT. STREET, THE SPIRE -- NIGHT

Everybody is EVACUATING the Spire through the main entrance including Wayne and Alfred when the TOP FLOORS of the Highrise EXPLODE in a BALL OF RED FLAME.

Huge chunks of DEBRIS fall from the sky down onto the street and BYSTANDERS.

One such CHUNK falls DIRECTLY in the path of an oncoming BUS. The DRIVER swerves as it SMASHES the windscreen and CAREENS toward the evacuating guests.

WAYNE
(shouts)
Everybody move!

People RUN and JUMP out of the way of the Bus which CRASHES through the entrance to the Spire DESTROYING the GLASS EXTERIOR of the BUILDING before coming to a VIOLENT HALT.

Diana stands in front of the Bus HOLDING it in place with her BARE HANDS.

The Driver looks at her in SHOCK.

Wayne looks around to see if anyone is injured and to his SHOCK and HORROR he sees Alfred laying on the ground. The Butler has a DEEP GASH in his FOREHEAD and his RIGHT ARM is TWISTED and BROKEN.

Wayne RUSHES to his side.

Lois, Martha and Jimmy look up at the SMOKING REMAINS of the Highrise and see Superman floating there holding in his hands the CHARRED remains of Cain's black suit.

Wayne sees the Kryptonian and his eyes are filled with ANGER.

INT. CLARK KENT'S STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

The STUDIO is SMALL but COSY and filled with KEEPSAKES from Superman's TRAVELS.

Clark sits in the DARK with his head hanging, GUILTY.

In his HANDS he holds the CHARRED PIECE of Cain's SUIT.

The FRONT DOOR opens and Lois enters, closing the door behind her QUIETLY.

She walks around and KNEELS in front of him.

LOIS
(comforting)
Tell me what happened.

CLARK
(guilty)
I failed.

LOIS
It's not your fault.

CLARK
(emotional)
People were hurt because of me.
They're right. I am a threat.

Lois CARESSES his face and KISSES him on the forehead.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, METROPOLIS HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

Alfred lies SEDATED on a HOSPITAL BED. His HEAD WRAPPED in BANDAGES and his ARM in a CAST.

Wayne stands by his Butler's side, looking GRIM.

He puts his hand on Alfred's forehead for a moment before leaving.

INT. HALLWAY, METROPOLIS HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

Wayne steps out into the Hallway where LESLIE THOMPSON, 60's, HUGS him TIGHT.

WAYNE
Thanks for coming.

LESLIE
Will he be okay?

WAYNE
He will be. They'll keep him in for observation. I'd like for you to take him back to Gotham when he's ready.

GRAYSON
Of course.

WAYNE
Thank you.

GRAYSON
What about you?

Wayne WALKS AWAY down the Hallway.

WAYNE

There's something I have to do.

INT. BASEMENT ARMORY, WAYNE ENTERPRISES METROPOLIS -- DAY

Bruce Wayne thinkers with a DEVICE on a workbench in the SECRET ARMORY beneath the Wayne Enterprises Metropolis Offices.

The Armory is a smaller Batcave. Large MONITORS hang on the walls along with various HIGH TECH GADGETS. Different VEHICLES are covered in TARPS.

He raises the Device and it is revealed he is wearing a REINFORCED METAL GAUNTLET. He FLEXES the FINGERS and they WHINE electronically.

LUTHOR(O.S)

Impressive tech but it won't get the job done by itself.

Bruce WHIPS around to see Luthor step out of the shadows, SMILING.

WAYNE

(surprised)

How did you get past my security?

Luthor WAVES his Cellphone.

LUTHOR

(smiles)

I used my phone. I'd offer to upgrade your system but I doubt you'd get it. Old dogs, new tricks.

Wayne turns his back on Luthor and returns to fine tuning his Gauntlet.

WAYNE

You can take your new tricks and leave Luthor.

LUTHOR

You'll need some of my new tricks if you plan to go up against it. That is what your planning to do?

Luthor sees a METAL COWL on the workbench.

LUTHOR(CON'T)

Or is Batman going to do the honors?

WAYNE

(unperturbed)

So you know who I am. You aren't the first.

LUTHOR

I don't care what you do with your nights.

WAYNE

Then why are you here?

LUTHOR

I'm sorry about your Butler.

WAYNE

He's recovering.

LUTHOR

I'm glad to hear.

(beat)

You can't take it down by yourself.

WAYNE

We'll see.

LUTHOR

You spoke of an alliance Bruce. I'm here to help.

WAYNE

There's nothing you have that I need.

Luthor reaches into his jacket and removes a SMALL METAL CYLINDER. Housed in the middle of the CYLINDER is a GLASS VIAL containing a LUMINESCENT GREEN SUBSTANCE.

LUTHOR

I have this.

Wayne removes the Gauntlet and lays it down on the Workbench and turns towards Luthor. He eyes the Cylinder SUSPICIOUSLY.

WAYNE

And that is?

LUTHOR

A new trick.

(he hands the Cylinder to Wayne)

It's synthesized from a substance we uncovered from the Indian Ocean after they tried to terraform our planet. We believe its radioactive to them.

Wayne eyes the GREEN LIQUID.

WAYNE

I'm not an assassin.

LUTHOR

It won't kill it. But it'll know
what it's like to bleed.

Wayne looks Luthor in the eyes.

WAYNE

(suspicious)

What's your stake in this Luthor?

Luthor SWIPES his finger ACROSS the SCREEN of his Cellphone.

THE MONITOR SCREENS on the Armory's walls FLICKERS to life.

Displayed on the Screens is a series of PHOTOS of A PRETTY
YOUNG REDHEAD at VARIOUS STAGES of her life... COLLEGE
GRADUATION... PARTYING WITH FRIENDS... KISSING HER
BOYFRIEND.

LUTHOR

Her name was Lena. She was a PR
executive for one of LexCorp's
smaller divisions. The building she
worked in was vaporized when the
Alien's attacked.

(beat)

They never found her body.

(swipes his fingers
across the phone and the
monitors goes black)

My sister was just one of thousands
Wayne. How many more?

Luthor turns to leave.

Wayne contemplates the Cylinder in his hand.

WAYNE

You know where to find him?

Luthor keeps walking.

LUTHOR

It, Wayne. It's never to far from
Lane.

Luthor leaves.

Wayne places the Cylinder on the workbench and picks up the
metal Cowl and carries it toward TWO HUGE DOORS which SLIDE
OPEN revealing a DARK ROOM.

He enters.

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY PLANET OFFICES LEXCORP PLAZA -- DAY

The STAFF, including Lois and Jimmy, are all gathered around
a TV SCREEN watching a NEWS REPORT.

NEWSCASTER

Metropolis was shocked last night by the assassination of Morgan Edge.

A PHOTO of EDGE appears on the SCREEN.

NEWSCASTER (CON'T)

Edge who was head of Public Relations at LexCorp and an original member of Luthor's team was executed at last night's grand opening of Luthor's Spire.

A Picture of David Cain appears.

NEWSCASTER (CON'T)

The assassin has been identified as David Cain.

The report cuts to Video of a JAPANESE WOMAN who is being escorted by ARMED F.B.I AGENTS.

NEWSCASTER (CON'T)

This morning F.B.I Agents arrested Kord Industries C.E.O Kimiyo Hoshi after seizing bank accounts that allegedly show transactions between her and the assassin. Kord Industries has been a rival to LexCorp for several years.

Superman's SYMBOL appears.

NEWSCASTER (CON'T)

Cain was himself killed by the being known as Superman. Neither LexCorp nor Kord Industries could be reached for comment.

Lois turns away from the Broadcast.

LOIS

(irritated)

Superman didn't kill anybody. He was set up.

JIMMY

The whole world is saying he did. And with injuries and property damage they're going after him big time.

LOIS

This has Luthor's stink all over it. I'm going home. Take care Olsen.

JIMMY
G'night Lois.

She leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM, LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Lois enters her apartment and closes the door. She CLICKS the light switch. Nothing happens.

LOIS
(irritated)
Dammit.

She uses the LIGHT of her Cellphone screen and walks toward the Kitchen and opens a drawer to find a light bulb.

BATMAN (O.S)
Where is he?

Lois almost JUMPS OUT OF HER SKIN and turns to see Batman's SILHOUETTE against the living room window.

LOIS
Oh my god.

She runs for the door.

A Batarang STICKS into the wall in front of her and she STOPS in her tracks.

When she turns around Batman is standing right in front of her.

BATMAN
I'm not going to hurt you.

LOIS
What do you want from me?

BATMAN
I want you to give him a message.
85th and Shuster. Tonight.

He PULLS the Batarang from the wall and leaves.

INT. CLARK KENT'S STUDIO -- CONTINUOUS

Clark's Cellphone VIBRATES on his Coffee table.

He snatches it up.

CLARK
Lois?

EXT. 85TH AND SHUSTER -- NIGHT

Superman lands on the street between the ROWS and ROWS of UNDER CONSTRUCTION BUILDINGS.

BATMAN (O.S)

KAL!

Superman turns to see Batman down the street behind him.

Batman wears a SUIT of PROTECTIVE ARMOR. His GLOVES are HYDRAULIC GAUNTLETS. His COWL is now a REINFORCED METAL HELMET and his eyes are hidden behind SNOW WHITE LENSES. His CAPE flows in the wind.

He steps forward, his HEAVY BOOTS THUDDING against the street.

Superman LEVITATES off the ground and slowly DRIFTS toward Batman.

He comes to a halt and the Man of Steel and The Dark Knight STARE EACH OTHER DOWN.

SUPERMAN

(angry)

If you have something to say, say it now...

(scans Batman with his X-Ray vision)

Bruce Wayne.

BATMAN

(undaunted)

You're dangerous Kal.

SUPERMAN

They say the same about you.

BATMAN

All you are is power and no control.

SUPERMAN

And all you are is a scared man in a mask who threatens women.

SUPERMAN

(smiles slightly)

I don't threaten Kal. You have two choices. Agree to the U.N proposal.

SUPERMAN

And be a prisoner?

BATMAN

It's better than the alternative.

SUPERMAN

Which is?

BATMAN

Your threat ends permanently

Superman stares into the Batman's COLD WHITE EYES.

SUPERMAN

(firmly)

Go near Lois Lane again and I
promise you you'll regret it. We're
done here.

Superman turns to leave. Batman GRABS his shoulder.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

(angry)

Let go.

BATMAN

Can't you see? The lives that
you're putting in danger? The lives
you've already cost?

SUPERMAN

I said...

(eyes glow)

Let... GO!

He PUSHES Batman's CHEST PLATE and sends the Vigilante
reeling backwards and SLAMMING ROUGHLY into a PARKED CEMENT
TRUCK.

Superman looks back at Batman, REGRETFUL of what he's just
done.

BATMAN

(whispers)

You brought this on yourself.

He reaches behind his CAPE and produces a SILVER GRENADE.

He PULLS the PIN and THROWS it.

Superman CATCHES the grenade.

BOOM! -- It EXPLODES engulfing him in a THICK GREEN SMOKE.

Superman COUGHS and SPLUTTERS as the SMOKE FILLS HIS LUNGS.

The SMOKE CLEARS and Superman hears the sound of HYDRAULIC
JOINTS MOVING and then -- BAM!

Batman LANDS a CRUSHING RIGHT CROSS directly across
Superman's JAW. STAGGERING him.

Superman STUMBLES back trying to STEADY himself.

Batman follows up with a CRUSHING ONE TWO COMBO sending
Superman further back and then down to ONE KNEE. BLOOD
TRICKLES down his CHIN.

Batman stands above him.

Through Superman's eyes: his vision is BLURRED.

SUPERMAN
(confused)
What have you done to me?

BATMAN
(smiles)
Evened the odds.

Superman GRITS his TEETH and LIFTS OFF. He SPEAR TACKLES Batman.

He flies forward SMASHING his opponent BACKWARDS through the WALL of an UNDER CONSTRUCTION building and SLAMS him to the ground.

Batman GRIPS Superman by the THROAT and SQUEEZES trying to CUT OFF the Man of Steel's AIR SUPPLY.

He DIGS his BOOTS into the CONCRETE floor and HEADBUTTS Superman.

Superman PUNCHES Batman in the CHEST and sends him through a WINDOW and out into the street.

Batman ROLLS OVER and as he does he PULLS another GRENADE and THROWS it back through the window.

It EXPLODES bringing the ENTIRE BUILDING down onto Superman.

The Man of Steel throws the debris off.

Batman ATTACKS again.

He throws a PUNCH which Superman CATCHES in his fist and retaliates with a COUNTER PUNCH which Batman CATCHES.

Both Men engage in a TEST of STRENGTH.

BATMAN (CON'T)
You're feeling it now. What it's like to be human.

SUPERMAN
(struggling)
Why are you doing this?

BATMAN (CON'T)
Because no one else can.

Superman, even in his DIMINISHED state gains the UPPER HAND.

SUPERMAN
And if you beat me...

SPARKS fly from Batman's ARM JOINT as his Armor begins to FALTER.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

... who do they send after you?

Superman's EYES GLOW RED and he EMITS a BLAST of HEAT VISION which IMPACTS Batman's Chest Plate causing it to melt.

Batman releases his GRIP and is sent HURTLING backwards into another CONSTRUCTION SITE and DISAPPEARS from view.

Superman tries to SHAKE the FOG from his VISION. He wipes the BLOOD from his CHIN.

With some EFFORT he TAKES OFF.

A HIGH TENSILE CORD wraps around Superman's ANKLE and he STALLS in MID AIR.

Beneath him Batman, BLOOD DRIPPING from his own mouth, SMOKE rising from his Armor has CONNECTED the other end of the WIRE to a BULLDOZER which is being DRAGGED SLOWLY ACROSS the ground.

The Dark Knight pulls a POWERFUL TASER from his BELT and ELECTROCUTES the WIRE.

Superman YELLS out in PAIN as the WAVES of ELECTRICITY COURSE through his body.

Batman TOSSES the Taser aside, and COILS the WIRE around his FOREARM and pulls the WEAKENED Man of Steel back to Earth.

He SLAMS VIOLENTLY into the ground.

Before he can stand Batman is already upon him and WRAPS the Wire around Superman's NECK and PULLS the Cord TIGHT.

BATMAN

(smiles)

There is no one.

Superman GASPS for AIR then JUDO THROWS Batman over his shoulder SLAMMING him into the GROUND and STOMPING on his CHEST and PINNING him.

He flies off taking Batman, whose arm is still WRAPPED in the wire, with him.

EXT. SKY OVER RUINED METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman flies high above the RUINED sections of Metropolis CARRYING Batman with him.

Batman SKIMS across the roof of what's left of a SKYSCRAPER.

He DIGS his FEET into the roof TEARING up CONCRETE as he's DRAGGED towards the EDGE. He stops at the edge and WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH pulls the Cord stopping Superman.

His suits joints WHINE as he SWINGS Superman down onto the roof.

Superman STANDS and moves out of the way just in time to AVOID a KICK from Batman.

Superman PUNCHES Batman in the CHEST sending him SKIDDING BACKWARDS toward the EDGE of the roof.

SUPERMAN

(weak)

That was two ribs.

(coughs)

Don't make me do this.

Batman SPITS blood and then WIPES his mouth before THROWING a Batarang at Superman.

The Man of Steel catches the device which STARTS to BEEP then EXPLODES.

Batman CHARGES and TACKLES Superman CLEAR OFF the roof.

Both Men SMASH through and the wall of an adjacent DEMOLISHED BUILDING and CRASHES down through FLOOR after FLOOR.

Batman FIRES a GRAPPLING HOOK which CATCHES as Superman FALLS until he IMPACTS on the ground floor.

He lies there, his breathing LABOURED and looks up through the HOLES in the FLOORS above him.

He STRUGGLES to his feet and STAGGERS out through the CRUMBING LOBBY of what USED to be an OFFICE BUILDING.

He STUMBLES and FALLS to his knees and finds himself face to face with a HUMAN SKULL.

He RECOILS in HORROR.

BATMAN (O.S)

(solemnly)

This is what happens when power goes unchecked Kal.

Batman is standing behind him.

BATMAN (CON'T)

You're a nuclear bomb and this is the fallout.

Superman takes a LABOURED BREATH and raises his FISTS.

Batman attacks with a LIGHTNING FAST COMBINATION of PUNCHES before terminating with a SIDE KICK which sends Superman backwards through a CRUMBLING WALL.

Superman CRASHES out into the STREET.

He gets to his feet. He's coughing HARDER now.

Batman walks slowly out of the Ruined Office Building. His Armor's damaged joints SPARKING.

He throws a POWERFUL HAYMAKER but Superman is FASTER and BLOCKS the ATTACK and FIGHTS BACK.

He lands a POWERFUL BLOW to Batman's GUT denting his Armor.

The Dark Knight SPITS out a GOB of BLOOD.

Superman attacks again but Batman BLOCKS, PARRIES and COUNTERS.

Superman is still STRONGER and FASTER but Batman's EXPERT FIGHTING ABILITIES nullifies Superman's attack.

He STRIKES the Man of Steel in the THROAT. Superman falls to one knee.

BATMAN (CON'T)

I won't kill you...

(He strikes Superman in the chest)

But I want you to remember Kal in all the years to come...

(catches Superman across the jaw)

In all your most private moments
(Kicks his knee and elbows him under the jaw)

That you're not a god...

Superman is BREATHING HEAVILY, TOTALLY SPENT.

BATMAN (CON'T)

That for all your power, for all your strength...

He GRABS Superman by the THROAT and leans in CLOSE.

He RELEASES his grip on Superman's throat and DROPS him to the ground.

BATMAN (CON'T)

I'm the one who beat you.

Superman lies, BEATEN.

BATMAN (CON'T)

All this...

(gestures to the ruins around them)

Is because someone like you didn't know control.

Batman turns his back on the FALLEN KRYPTONIAN and walks away.

BATMAN (CON'T)
I won't let it happen again.

He STOPS when he hears MOVEMENT and turns around.

Superman has GOTTEN BACK TO HIS FEET and is STANDING DEFIANTLY.

With his FINAL OUNCES of STRENGTH he LAUNCHES at Batman SPEAR TACKLING him back through a CHUNK OF WALL that is JUTTING from the ground and into a BUILDING.

Superman holds Batman pressed AGAINST the wall and THROWS WEAK PUNCHES into Batman's RIBS.

SUPERMAN
(yelling)
I tried to save them! I TRIED!

Batman HEADBUTTS Superman and sends him to the ground.

The Dark Knight is SEEING RED now and GRABS Superman by his SYMBOL of HOPE. He begins to RAIN DOWN PUNCHES much the same as he did with ZSASZ.

BATMAN
(in a frenzy)
YOU FAILED!

Superman is TOTALLY DONE now and can no longer even DEFEND himself. He starts to go limp.

SUPERMAN
(whispers)
I'm... Sorry...

BATMAN
You f...
(whispers)
... failed.

Batman STOPS, his breath is in SHORT GASPS, and looks down on the BEATEN and BLOODIED Superman.

CUT TO:

INT. DESTROYED WAREHOUSE -- FLASHBACK

Batman is cradling the dead body of JASON TODD dressed in the 'ROBIN' Armor.

CUT TO:

INT. RUINED BUILDING, RUINED METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Batman let's go of Superman, HORRIFIED by his ACTIONS, and SLUMPS against the wall. He sits down across from Superman.

Batman REMOVES his DENTED METAL COWL revealing his face which is BRUISED and SWOLLEN.

Both Men are SILENT for a moment.

WAYNE

You held back. You could have
killed me couldn't you?

Superman doesn't answer just sits up against the wall across from Wayne.

WAYNE (CON'T)

Why didn't you?

SUPERMAN

I figured I could reason with you
Bruce.

WAYNE

You weren't talking to Bruce Wayne.
(picks up his Cowl and
ponders it)
You can't reason with anger and
regret.

He TOSSES the Cowl ASIDE.

Superman looks around at the DESOLATE surroundings,
MOURNFULLY.

SUPERMAN

I didn't want this. I wanted to
save them. All of them. I thought I
could. I never knew I could fail so
badly.

Wayne is silent for a moment contemplating the BEATEN
Kryptonian in front of him.

WAYNE

You never do until it happens and
when it does it breaks you.
(beat)
His name was Jason Todd.

Superman looks into Wayne's PAIN FILLED EYES.

WAYNE (CON'T)

He was like you,
(beat)
...Dangerous. I thought I could
help him, train him, make him
(MORE)

WAYNE (CON'T) (cont'd)
 better. Instead I got him killed.
 (voice cracks)
 He was like my son. He was my son
 and I failed him.

SUPERMAN
 What do you do with it? With the
 guilt.

WAYNE
 I lost myself to it. I forgot who I
 was. I didn't want to stop my
 enemies anymore all I wanted to do
 was hurt them.

SUPERMAN
 All I want to do is save them.

Both Men sit in silence finally UNDERSTANDING one another..
 Superman, still in PAIN, gets to his feet.

SUPERMAN
 I'm not your enemy Bruce.

He reaches out his hand to Wayne.

Wayne TAKES Superman's hand and gets to his feet.

Superman and Batman stand HANDS TOGETHER.

Superman suddenly DOUBLES over in PAIN. Batman CATCHES him
 before he falls.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)
 Silas Stone. Get me to Silas Stone.

INT. BEDROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SILAS STONE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Silas Stone WAKES and sees Batman standing above him. Before
 he can SCREAM Batman COVERS his mouth with his hand.

BATMAN
 (whispers)
 Don't scream.

INT. LIVING ROOM, SILAS STONE'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Batman leads Silas down the stairs and through his LIVING
 ROOM towards the kitchen.

Inside he clicks on the light.

He GASPS when he sees a SICK and SEMI-CONSCIOUS Superman.

SILAS
 (shocked)
 Oh my God!

BATMAN
He needs your help.

SILAS
What happened?

BATMAN
He's been poisoned.

Silas RUSHES to Superman's side and looks into his EYES which have taken on an EERIE GREEN COLOR.

SILAS
Poisoned? Who did this?

BATMAN
(matter of fact)
I did.

SILAS
We need to get him to S.T.A.R Labs.
There's nothing I can do for him here.

Suddenly Victor STORMS into the kitchen WIELDING a BASEBALL BAT.

VICTOR
(shouts)
Dad! Get back!

He SWINGS WILDLY at Batman who GRACEFULLY DODGES the ATTACK. Superman STIRS and Victor SWINGS at him. Superman simply CATCHES the bat..

SILAS
(shouts)
Victor stop!

Batman GRIPS Victor's forearm TIGHT.

BATMAN
Listen to the man son.

Victor's eyes meet Batman's GAZE and he CALMS. Batman takes the shattered bat from him.

SILAS
They're friends.

VICTOR
(shocked)
Batman?

Batman nods.

VICTOR
You're real?

Silas tries to lift Superman. He STRUGGLES.

SILAS

Victor help get him to the car.

Victor helps Batman get Superman to his feet and help him walk out of the house.

INT. HAMILTON ROOM. S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

Superman is UNCONSCIOUS and lies on a TABLE while his body is SCANNED by Silas who watches intently at the DATA on his COMPUTER SCREEN.

Batman stands at his side, watching.

Victor leans against the wall. He feels totally OUT OF PLACE.

BATMAN

How is he?

SILAS

He's lucky. I've managed to isolate the compound in his blood stream. He's severely weakened and he'll need time to recover but he'll live.

BATMAN

Good.

Silas turns around in his seat.

SILAS

You did this to him?

BATMAN

Yes. I thought he was a threat. I was wrong.

SILAS

This compound is unlike anything I've seen. The effect it has on Kryptonian physiology. How did you get come by it? You don't strike me as a scientist.

BATMAN

It was given to me.

SILAS

By who?

BATMAN

A manipulative narcissist.

SILAS

Lex Luthor.

BATMAN
 (impressed)
 You'd make a good detective.

SILAS
 I've just seen the evidence and
 although I can't prove anything Lex
 Luthor has been the money behind
 several projects that from what
 I've seen all have one purpose.

BATMAN
 To kill the Superman.

SILAS
 What are you going to do?

BATMAN
 Expose him.

SILAS
 Easier said than done. Lex Luthor
 buries all evidence. There's never
 been anything to connect him to the
 things he's done.

BATMAN
 I'll dig. I'll find something. I
 used to be a detective. Once upon a
 time.

He turns to leave and walks past Victor.

BATMAN (CON'T)
 (to Victor)
 That's some swing. I think you
 picked the wrong sport.

Victor smiles.

SILAS
 What do you want me to tell him
 when he wakes up?

Batman STOPS.

BATMAN
 Tell him I'm sorry.

He leaves.

EXT. DIRT ROAD, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- MORNING

It's EARLY morning and the Sun is RISING above the
 Metropolis skyline in the distance.

Bruce Wayne's Limo is parked on the side of a lonely DIRT
 ROAD.

A WHITE LIMO pulls up on the ADJACENT side. Mercy steps out of the driver's side and walks around to the rear door and opens it. Luthor steps out.

Wayne, still sporting BRUISES, steps out of his Limo and both Men STARE EACH OTHER DOWN for a moment from across their respective sides.

LUTHOR

You look better than I expected.

WAYNE

I don't appreciate being manipulated.

LUTHOR

Then you shouldn't have made it so easy. Who would have thought tragedy would motivate you so. I needed to test a weapon and the opportunity presented itself. You don't use a sword without knowing its sharp.

WAYNE

I know you were behind Edge's murder.

LUTHOR

(scratches his chin
dismissively)

So you know my dirty little secret and I know yours. You know what that is?

WAYNE

Stalemate.

LUTHOR

More accurately I win.

WAYNE

I'm not about to let you walk away from this.

LUTHOR

There's nothing you can use against me. You can't connect me to anything. So don't waste your breath on empty threats. But I know everything about you Wayne. Grayson, Gordon, what really happened to Jason Todd.

At the mention of Jason Wayne CLENCHES his fists.

WAYNE

You can't threaten me Luthor.

LUTHOR

I'm not threatening you Wayne. I'm threatening every single person you care about. And there's nothing you can do about it.

Luthor nods to Mercy. Who opens the door for him.

LUTHOR (CON'T)

Go back to roughing up psychos in Gotham.

(smiles)

And hope no more kids die in the process.

Wayne's is ANGRY but keeps his COMPOSURE.

WAYNE

You tried to stab a god in the back Luthor.

Luthor leans into the Limo.

WAYNE (CON'T)

(smiles)

And now he knows who's hand held the knife.

Luthor pauses and looks over his shoulder slightly.

LUTHOR

We are done here.

Luthor sits into the Limo and Mercy closes the door.

Wayne watches as the Limo as it drives away.

INT. HAMILTON ROOM, S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

Superman opens his eyes to see Victor sitting beside him.

SUPERMAN

(confused)

Where am I?

VICTOR

S.T.A.R Labs. My father and Batman brought you here. You were sick.

SUPERMAN

How long was I out?

VICTOR

About 15 hours.

Superman sits up slowly.

SUPERMAN

And Silas?

VICTOR
He'll be back.

Superman touches his SWOLLEN jaw.

SUPERMAN
I must look as bad as I feel.

VICTOR
Then you must feel pretty damn bad.
Did Batman do that to you?

Superman nods.

VICTOR (CON'T)
How? He's just a man?

Silas enters the room.

SUPERMAN
He cheated.

SILAS
How do you feel?

SUPERMAN
What did he do do me?

SILAS
You were poisoned by a radioactive
substance. Kryptonian in origin.

SUPERMAN
(surprised)
Kryptonian? How?

SILAS
Lex Luthor. He must have
synthesized from a by product from
the World Engine's terraforming.

Superman stands.

SUPERMAN
I have to go. People will be
worried.

He walks towards the exit past Silas.

SILAS
Matters are much worse.

Superman stops.

SILAS (CON'T)
(regretful)
I should have told you.

SUPERMAN

Told me what?

SILAS

There is a Project called Cadmus. They've found a way to replicate Kryptonian DNA using your people's technology.

SUPERMAN

(realization)

The Genesis Chamber.

SILAS

They've created a weapon with one purpose. To kill you. And Lex Luthor is behind it all. What happened last night was only a test of your weaknesses.

Superman CONTEMPLATES the information for a moment.

SUPERMAN

Thank you Silas. For everything.

Superman continues toward the exit.

VICTOR

He said he was sorry.

Superman stops by the exit and LEANS against it with one hand to stay STEADY.

VICTOR (CON'T)

The Batman, he said he was sorry.

Superman responds to Victor's words with a nod and leaves.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- NIGHT

Luthor exits the Elevator and walks over to his Bar where he removes and Energy drink for the fridge and cracks it open. He SMILES.

LUTHOR

I was wondering when you'd pay me a visit.

He turns.

FLOATING outside the Window is Superman. ARMS FOLDED. He STARES a HOLE THROUGH Luthor.

Luthor SWIPES his thumb across his Cellphone's screen and the Window's SLIDE OPEN.

He walks out on the balcony to NEMESIS.

SUPERMAN
Your assassin failed.

Luthor TILTS his head and observes Superman's WOUNDS.

LUTHOR
(smiles)
I wouldn't say failed.

SUPERMAN
This has to end now Luthor.

LUTHOR
It ends when you do. You brought a war to my city and it's only right I bring it right back to you.

SUPERMAN
You're a criminal and a murderer.

LUTHOR
So are you.

SUPERMAN
I'll expose you. I'll show the world what you really are.

LUTHOR
All the while hiding what you really are. You and Wayne are so alike. So righteous and so hypocritical. Both threatening to reveal the truth about me but when it comes down to it he hides behind a mask and you behind a symbol. It's pathetic. And you think you can come here and intimidate me? You arrogant alien bastard.

Superman doesn't respond.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
And it's that arrogance that makes you weak. You float there with all your power but do you even know how you do it? You were given these gifts, you didn't do anything to earn them and you use them like a child would use a gun.

SUPERMAN
Bold words for a man who prefers someone else's finger on the trigger.

LUTHOR
Well we all can't shoot fire from our eyes.

(MORE)

LUTHOR (cont'd)
 (takes a gulp from his
 drink)

I think you should float away now.

Luthor turns his back on Superman.

SUPERMAN
 You won't win.

LUTHOR
 I already have. The problem with
 you is that you are so assured that
 nothing I can do can hurt you. Yet
 you surround yourself with people I
 can hurt.
 (he turns to face
 Superman)
 Like Lois Lane.

Superman's face betrays his EMOTION. The THREAT has made him
 ANGRY.

LUTHOR (CON'T)
 Maybe I'll treat myself and buy the
 Planet. Change things around a
 little. By the time I'm done Lois
 Lane will be licking my boot heels
 just to cover a little league game.

Superman LUNGES and GRABS Luthor by the THROAT.

SUPERMAN
 (angry)
 If you go near Lois Lane I'll...

LUTHOR
 (strained)
 You'll what kill me? Go ahead. Show
 the world what you really are. Even
 then I'll still win.

Superman eases his GRIP on Luthor's throat. He TOSSES him
 back into the Penthouse

Superman regains his COMPOSURE.

SUPERMAN
 (composed)
 You say I hide behind a symbol.
 What really makes you angry is that
 you can't see what lies behind the
 symbol. But I can see you for what
 you really are.

Luthor HOLDS his throat and COUGHS.

SUPERMAN (CON'T)

Behind the money and the suits,
behind LexCorp there is nothing but
a terrified little street thug.
Frightened of what he can't
understand.

LUTHOR

(angry)

I understand you perfectly.

SUPERMAN

I'm not talking about me. I'm
talking about a soul. In the end
I'm more human than you'll ever be.

Superman turns and FLIES away.

Lex is LIVID. He stands and RUNS out onto the balcony.

LUTHOR

(shouting, angry)

You've made your last mistake! This
City is mine! It's people are mine!
I'm going to show them all you're
nothing! I'm going to take
everything from you!

(whispers)

Even your soul.

INT. BEDROOM, LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Lois is asleep on her bed. She awakes to see Superman at her
window.

She JUMPS out of bed and HUGS him.

LOIS

Where have you been?
(sees his wounds,
shocked)
Oh my god what happened?

SUPERMAN

It's okay. I'm fine.

LOIS

Your face?

SUPERMAN

Will heal. I just need to rest.

LOIS

And the Batman?

SUPERMAN

He'll be just as sore as I am in
the morning.

(MORE)

SUPERMAN (cont'd)
 (falls on her bed)
 I just need to rest.

Lois sits beside him and places her hand on his forehead as he falls ASLEEP.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- NIGHT

Luthor SITS on his DESK in the DARK.

IMAGES of Superman FLICKER ACROSS the Monitors.

ANGRY, he JUMPS up and SHATTERS ONE of the MONITORS.

INT. BATHROOM, PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor SPLASHES water on his face and STARES at his REFLECTION in the MIRROR with a MANIACAL look in his eyes.

He GRABS and ELECTRIC RAZOR and begins to SHAVE his HEAD.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- NIGHT

Mercy steps out of the ELEVATOR and is SHOCKED to see Luthor SHAVEN HEADED and SHIRTLESS, revealing his TATTOOED BODY, sitting on his Desk.

MERCY
 (concerned)
 What's wrong?

LUTHOR
 (calm)
 Nothing. I just don't feel like
 hiding who I am anymore.

MERCY
 (unsure)
 Are you ok?

LUTHOR
 I'm better than Ok Mercy.
 (beat)
 At dawn I kill a god.

EXT. BARN, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- MORNING

Several BLACK CARS pull up outside the INCONSPICUOUS BARN.

Out of the Cars emerge SEVERAL GOVERNMENT and MILITARY OFFICIALS including Swanwick, Stone, Stewart and General Candy.

CANDY
 (to Swanwick)
 Good to see you.

SWANWICK

You too Sir.

CANDY

(gestures to Silas and
Stewart)

You must have pulled a few strings
to get those two here?

SWANWICK

Their my advisors.

CANDY

Works for me.

(Candy looks around)

Where's Waller?

WALLER (O.S)

Here General.

Waller stands by the BARN DOORS.

WALLER (CON'T)

Glad you could make it General
Candy. If you would be so good as
to follow me.

CANDY

(to others)

You heard the lady.

They all follow Waller into the Barn. Where they find that
the floor is SOLID CONCRETE.

WALLER

Welcome to Cadmus.

The FLOOR begins to DESCEND and they find themselves going
down into the Cadmus facility.

INT. AUDITORIUM, PROJECT CADMUS -- LATER

The OFFICIALS follow Waller into a AUDITORIUM where FEDEROV
waits.

They stand behind a LARGE THICK GLASS WINDOW which separates
them from a LARGE ROOM with CONCRETE WALLS and two LARGE
REINFORCED STEEL DOORS.

Silas reaches out his hand to Federov.

SILAS

Dr. Federov. I've read your work.
It's quite an honor to finally meet
you.

Federov AWKWARDLY shakes Silas' hand.

FEDEROV

Thank you.

WALLER

You'll have to excuse Dr. Federov what he lacks in social skills he makes up for in genius.

SILAS

(to Waller)

I'm sure. I'm very interested in seeing the results of your project Waller.

CANDY

As am I.

WALLER

I promise you General. What you see here today will make Superman look like a one of your grunts.

(to Stewart)

No offense.

STEWART

None taken.

Federov nods to Waller.

WALLER

If you'll take your seats we shall begin.

The Officials take their seats as Federov OPERATES his Tablet.

The Steel Doors OPEN and a LARGE STEEL CAPSULE is WHEELED into the room by TWO TECHNICIANS.

FEDEROV

Allow me to present the Ultimate.

Federov ACTIVATES the Capsule. It OPENS to reveal THE ULTIMATE.

The Creature's BODY is CONCEALED in a GREEN CONTAINMENT SUIT with TWO RED EYES.

CANDY

What is it?

FEDEROV

It's a being of my design. Cloned from cells derived from an alien specimen.

SILAS
Kryptonian DNA is complex. How did
you bridge the gaps between
sequences.

FEDEROV
We used DNA from compatible
specimens.

SILAS
Human?

FEDEROV
In a manner of speaking.

Silas is intrigued by Federov's answer.

CANDY
What's with the suit?

FEDEROV
Kryptonian abilities is dependent
upon absorption of solar energy.
We've enhanced that.

CANDY
Which means?

FEDEROV
We've made it stronger. The suit
regulates how much the Ultimate
absorbs.

CANDY
Stronger's good.

WALLER
(to Federov)
I'm sure General Candy would
appreciate a demonstration.

Federov nods.

He operates the Controls and the Ultimate STEPS out of the
Capsule.

It STOMPS over to the Concrete wall.

STEWART
You're controlling it?

FEDEROV
The Ultimate has been pre
programmed to follow our commands.

WALLER
Totally obedient. Completely under
our control.

CANDY
 (amused)
 Already better than the Superman.

WALLER
 You haven't seen anything yet.
 (to Federov)
 Sasha.

Federov commands the Ultimate.

The Creature PUNCHES through the CONCRETE WALL.

WALLER
 That's ten feet of solid concrete
 General.

Candy is IMPRESSED.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor watches the Ultimate's demonstration on his Computer
 Monitors.

Mercy stands behind him.

INT. AUDITORIUM, PROJECT CADMUS -- CONTINUOUS

The Ultimate REMOVES its FIST from the wall and stands in
 front of the WINDOW.

CANDY
 (to Waller)
 Well Amanda. I'm impressed.

WALLER
 Thank you general.

CANDY
 When can we expect to have this guy
 out on the front lines?

WALLER
 There are still a few more tests
 but I'm confident once President
 Nelson gives the go ahead we can
 have the Ultimate in the field
 within the year.

CANDY
 You have my vote. I'll support the
 Project.

Several of the other Officials CONCUR with General Candy.

CANDY (CON'T)
 Big Blue won't be a problem
 anymore.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor fingers GLIDE over the KEYBOARD as he uploads NEW PROGRAMMING into the Ultimate's BRAIN.

His hand hovers over the Keyboard.

He EXECUTES the PROGRAM.

INT. AUDITORIUM, PROJECT CADMUS -- CONTINUOUS

The Ultimate STANDS straight.

FLASH:

IMAGES FLASH through the Ultimate's mind -- SUPERMAN'S SYMBOL -- METROPOLIS -- FEDEROV.

FLASH:

The Ultimate walks toward the WINDOW.

ULTIMATE
(growls)
FDDDDD... RRRRRR... VVVV!!!

STEWART
(concerned)
What's it doing?

Waller and Federov turn.

Federov tries to control the Creature but to NO AVAIL.

WALLER
(to Federov)
What's wrong?

FEDEROV
(frantic)
It's not responding to commands.

The Ultimate PUNCHES through the GLASS and GRABS Federov by the HEAD and PULLS him back through the WINDOW.

Waller and the others back away from the Window and towards the EXIT.

The Ultimate TOSSES the LIMP DEAD BODY of Federov ASIDE and proceeds to SMASH his way through the Window.

INT. CORRIDOR, PROJECT CADMUS -- CONTINUOUS

The Officials FLEE the AUDITORIUM.

The Ultimate SMASHES through the WALL and ROARS.

Stewart DRAGS Silas down the CORRIDOR as the Ultimate SMASHES through another wall.

Waller watches as the Creature SMASHES it's way through the Complex.

EXT. BARN ENTRANCE, PROJECT CADMUS, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

The Rural outskirts are QUIET and SERENE. A FAINT SOUND of POUNDING can be heard.

The sound gets LOUDER and LOUDER until the ground begins to SHAKE and CRACK.

BOOM! The Ultimate has PUNCHED it's way to the surface. It's Containment Suit is TORN and SHREDDED. It's GREY skin and BONE LIKE PROTRUSIONS are visible.

It looks to the SUN which is BLAZING overhead.

It CELLS start to ABSORB the SOLAR ENERGY and it ROARS.

It covers its EARS in an attempt to BLOCK the SOUNDS which are AMPLIFIED by its ENHANCED KRYPTONIAN SENSES.

It FOCUSES on the SOURCE of it's PAIN... METROPOLIS

ULTIMATE
MMRRR... TRRRP... LSSSS!!!

A BIRD flies past and the Ultimate GRABS it from the AIR and CRUSHES it.

It ROARS again and JUMPS HIGH through the air in the direction of the City.

INT. BEDROOM, LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

Clark's eyes SNAP OPEN. He can HEAR the Monster COMING.

He gets out of bed and walks to the window.

Lois walks into the room and sees him standing.

LOIS
(concerned)
You should be resting.

CLARK
(worried)
Call the Planet. We need to get everybody to safety.

LOUIS
Clark?

CLARK
(grave)
Somethings coming.

EXT. METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

The Ultimate LANDS and SMASHES through a HOUSE before JUMPING again.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

PEDESTRIANS stop and listen as they hear the sound of HEAVY IMPACT getting LOUDER and LOUDER.

Boom... Boom... Boom... BOOM!

INT. BEDROOM, LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

Lois looks out of the window. She can hear IMPACT.

Superman, FULLY SUITED, stands behind her.

A ROAR echos throughout the City.

LOIS
(shocked)
What is that!

Clark steps toward the window.

LOIS (CON'T)
You can't go out there Clark you're still sick.

SUPERMAN
I have to.

LOIS
No. You're too weak.

He puts his hands on her shoulders.

SUPERMAN
Somethings out there and I have to stop it.

Lois caresses the still NOT FULLY HEALED wounds on his face.

LOIS
(softly)
You were bleeding... I... I can't...

He kisses her.

A gust of wind BLOWS Lois' hair back as he FLIES out of the window.

INT.PITCH, METROPOLIS STADIUM -- CONTINUOUS

METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY is FACING OFF against GOTHAM UNIVERSITY.

Victor stands with his TEAM waiting for the PLAY.

The BALL is TOSSES to Victor who THROWS it ACROSS the PITCH where it is CAUGHT by his TEAMMATE who RUNS for the TOUCH DOWN.

The Stadium ERUPTS.

EXT. METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

The Ultimate LANDS on the GROUND forming a CRATER right outside the CITY.

He JUMPS AGAIN directly INTO to the City.

INT. PITCH, METROPOLIS STADIUM -- CONTINUOUS

Both Teams have STOPPED playing.

Like the Spectators they are more concerned with the sound of IMPACT getting ever CLOSER.

People start to PANIC.

Then BOOM! Parts of the PITCH are THROWN through the air as the Ultimate SLAMS DOWN into the MIDDLE of the Stadium.

The Spectators SCREAM and PANIC and RUSH toward the EXITS.

The Beast ROARS as it CHARGES the BLEACHERS and BEGINS to TEAR the Stadium APART.

The Ultimate PUNCHES people aside ATTACKS indiscriminately.

Victor watches as the Creature PURSUES a FAMILY (MOTHER, FATHER and INFANT SON). The Son TRIPS and FALLS as the Ultimate closes in on her.

Victor sees this and RUSHES to his aid and with AMAZING SPEED snatches him up from the ground just as the Creature SMASHES his FISTS into the ground.

He gives the Child to his Parents.

VICTOR
(to Parents)

Run!

Just as he utters the words the Ultimate PUNCHES him ASIDE.

His body is THROWN through the air and SMASHES AGAINST the stands then onto the ground.

He GASPS for air. He has suffered TERRIBLE INJURIES, his BODY is BROKEN.

The Ultimate stands over him and is about to strike a KILLING BLOW when Superman TACKLES the Monster and PUSHES it away from Victor.

Victor watches as both Superman and the Ultimate SMASH through the STADIUM WALLS and out into the street.

He SCREAMS in pain as his TEAMMATES come to his aid.

EXT. METROPOLIS STADIUM, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

The DUST settles and the Ultimate stands and sees a TRUCK which has come to a HALT in the middle of the street.

The SOUND of the ENGINE is like a JACKHAMMER to the Creature.

The Creature with speed equal to Superman RUSHES the Truck.

Before the Creature hits it Superman PULLS the DRIVER free just in time.

The Ultimate SMASHES it REPEATEDLY, completely PULVERIZING it.

Superman puts the Driver down and he runs to safety.

The Ultimate sees the Man of Steel and focuses on the HOPE symbol on his chest.

FLASH:

The IMAGES Luthor uploaded FLASH through the Ultimate's MIND.

FLASH:

ULTIMATE
(growls)
SSSSSSPPPPP... RRRRRR... MMMNNN!!!

The Ultimate ROARS as it RECOGNIZES it's ENEMY.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor watches the SATELLITE FEED of the Monster's RAMPAGE on his Monitors, GRINNING.

The Ultimate ROARS in ANGER as it recognizes it's ENEMY.

EXT. METROPOLIS STADIUM, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman and the Ultimate CHARGE each other. They COLLIDE and the SHOCKWAVE shatters windows for an ENTIRE CITY BLOCK.

Superman is PROPELLED BACKWARDS through the air and into the street TEARING up the concrete before he comes to a halt.

Before he can even come to his senses the Ultimate POUNCES on him and starts BEATING him down into the ground. Each BLOW shaking the ground like an EARTHQUAKE.

Superman catches the Ultimate's arms by the WRISTS and flies upward STRUGGLING with the Creature which CLAWS and KICKS him as they HURTLE through the air.

INT. DIANA'S LOFT, THEMYSIRIAN EMBASSY -- CONTINUOUS

Diana watches Superman and the Ultimate CAREEN through the air from her WINDOW

She looks toward her ARMOR ALTER.

INT. CENTENNIAL PARK -- CONTINUOUS

Superman aims toward Centennial Park and they both CRASH down into the PARK'S LAKE.

There is a momentary calm before Superman ERUPTS from the water and CAREENS through the air and SMASHES into a SKYSCRAPER before falling to the streets below.

He SLAMS into the ground and the street CRUMBLES beneath him.

The Ultimate EMERGES from the Lake and STOMPS his way toward the POPULATED CITY BLOCKS.

EXT. LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT BUILDING, METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Lois EXITS her APARTMENT building and out into the street where PEOPLE are running in PANIC.

She pulls out her Cellphone and makes a call.

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY PLANET OFFICES, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

The Office is in CHAOS. Everybody is RUNNING back and forth.

Jimmy makes his way through the INSANITY.

JIMMY

What the hell is going on?

An OFFICE WORKER dashes past.

OFFICE WORKER

(frantic)

It's another attack!

INT. PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE, DAILY PLANET OFFICES, LEXCORP PLAZA -- CONTINUOUS

Perry's phone RINGS and he SNATCHES it up.

It's Lois.

PERRY

Lane? Are you seeing this?

EXT. LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT BUILDING, METROPOLIS --
CONTINUOUS

LOIS
Perry. You need to evacuate now!

PERRY (O.S)
(over phone)
What's happening?

LOIS
I don't know. But it's bad.

PERRY (O.S)
(over phone)
Where are you?

LOIS
Outside my building.

PERRY (O.S)
(over phone)
Stay there. I'll send someone for
you.

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY PLANET OFFICES, LEXCORP PLAZA --
CONTINUOUS

Perry SWINGS his Office door open.

PERRY (O.S)
(shouts)
Olsen!

JIMMY
Here Chief.

PERRY
I have a job for you.

EXT. CARPARK, DAILY PLANET OFFICES, LEXCORP PLAZA --
CONTINUOUS

Jimmy drives his Car at BREAKNECK SPEED out of the Carpark
and SPEEDS towards Downtown Metropolis.

EXT. STREET, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman CRAWLS from the CRATER.

He's BLEEDING from his mouth. He wipes the BLOOD away.

With his SUPER HEARING he HEARS the FRIGHTENED voices of
Metropolis Citizens.

VOICES (O.S)
(frightened, screaming)
Oh my God!... What is that thing!
Run!... Not again!

The Ultimate's ROARS echo through the City.

Superman stands and takes to the air.

EXT. METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

FOUR MILITARY HELICOPTERS fly toward the City.

INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Stewart is SUITED up and WIELDS a MACHINE GUN. He speaks to a SQUAD of MARINES.

STEWART

This thing is big and bad and was made to go toe to toe with Superman. We have armor units en route. We stay behind the big guns and help civilians if can.

A YOUNG MARINE raises his hand.

YOUNG MARINE

(scared)

If this thing can take on the Superman. What can we do?

STEWART

You keep shooting until the thing drops son.

PILOT

(shouts)

3 minutes!

The Marines LOCK and LOAD.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

The Ultimate is DESTROYING everything it can see.

People SCREAM as they flee the Creature's RAMPAGE.

A FAMILY CAR (MOTHER, FATHER, DAUGHTER) comes to a SCREECHING HALT.

The Monster PICKS UP the Car and THROWS it toward a building. The Family SCREAM.

Superman appears and CATCHES the vehicle before it can COLLIDE with the building.

He puts it down safely.

SUPERMAN

Get your family out of here!

The Father SLAMS his foot on the ACCELERATOR and the car TEARS off.

The Ultimate sees Superman and CHARGES him. They renew their BATTLE.

EXT. STREET, LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Jimmy's Car pulls up beside Lois and he opens the passenger door.

JIMMY

Get in.

Lois jumps in and shuts the door.

LOIS

I need you to take me...

Jimmy cuts her off.

JIMMY

Downtown. I figured.

Lois is taken aback.

LOIS

Good boy. Now lets go.

Jimmy hits the gas and they drive towards Downtown which has PLUMES of SMOKE rising from it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman and the Ultimate are LOCKED in COMBAT.

Superman is giving his all. Hitting the Creature as HARD as he can. But the Ultimate simply SHRUGS off the STRIKES and RETALIATES. It's blows HURTING Superman MORE and MORE.

BYSTANDERS hide in STORES and APARTMENT BUILDINGS. Some hide behind CARS and Peek out of ALLEYS.

A M.C.P.D Patrol Car pulls up nearby and Harper and Gardner hop out with their GUNS in hand.

GARDNER

(shocked)

Holy shit!

HARPER

Ok Kid. The Blue guy's got this.
Lets get these people to safety.

The Ultimate KICKS Superman in the GUT sending him FLYING towards the Patrol Car.

Harper PUSHES Gardner out of the way.

The Kryptonian SMASHES into it destroying it.

Harper and Gardner watch as the Ultimate RUNS past and SPEAR TACKLES the Man of Steel.

GARDNER
(matter of fact)
I don't think there's anywhere
that's safe Jim.

Harper stands and PULLS Gardner to his feet.

They both begin to USHER the Bystanders away from the BATTLE.

INT. JIMMY OLSEN'S CAR (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Jimmy HITS the BRAKES as they arrive at the scene of DESTRUCTION.

Jimmy sees Superman and the Ultimate TRADING BLOWS.

JIMMY
(shocked)
What the hell is that thing?

Louis jumps out of the car. Jimmy grabs his Camera from the back seat and follows her.

Overhead NEWS STATION HELICOPTERS hover and FILM the scene.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman is SLAMMED to the ground. He SWINGS around and lands a devastating RIGHT CROSS on the Ultimate's JAW.

The Monster STAGGERS backwards then STEADIES itself and HITS Superman back REPEATEDLY.

With each BLOW Superman is FORCED further back.

INT. BRUCE WAYNE'S STUDY, WAYNE MANOR -- CONTINUOUS

Bruce Watches the news footage of Superman's battle with the Ultimate.

It is clear Superman is LOSING.

The sound of a CANE hitting the floor DRAWS his attention away from the images on screen.

Behind him stands Alfred, leaning on a CANE. He's WEAK but RECOVERING.

He is looking at the footage, CONCERNED.

Bruce turns back to the report. His expression one of DETERMINATION.

INT. LIVING ROOM, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

Martha is watching the scene on TV, TERRIFIED for her Son.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Stewart and his Troops march through the destruction and close in on the SUPER POWERED COMBATANTS.

Stewart gestures his Squad to HOLD their position.

He uses his RADIO to contact S.T.A.R Labs.

INT. HAMILTON ROOM. S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

The Hamilton Room has been turned into a makeshift WAR ROOM.

Silas, looking GRAVE, is standing among the other SCIENTISTS watching the scene on a HUGE SCREEN.

Swanwick enters the room answers Stewart.

SILAS

(to Swanwick)

We have a direct line to the Pentagon. Stewart is leading an assault.

SWANWICK

Patch me through

STEWART (O.S)

General.

SWANWICK

Talk to me soldier.

STEWART (O.S)

We have feet on the ground. Superman and Waller's pet are throwing down.

SWANWICK

And?

STEWART (O.S)

(grave)

Waller made good on her promise.

SWANWICK

Hold your position. Artillery is en route.

Silas gets a CALL on his Cell. He answers. His face TWISTS into a look of pure HORROR and he hangs up and RUSHES from the room.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman has the Ultimate in a FULL NELSON. He tries to WRESTLE the Creature to the ground.

The Monster GRABS Superman's arms and with his SUPERIOR STRENGTH he pulls himself free of the Man of Steel's GRIP then he grabs the Kryptonian and PILE DRIVES him into the CONCRETE.

The Creature ROARS in TRIUMPH.

BOOM! An ARTILLERY SHELL EXPLODES against the Monster's back.

Several TANKS have arrived and are FIRING on the Ultimate.

Stewart and his Troops OPEN FIRE.

The BARRAGE of FIRE POWER is RELENTLESS. SMOKE and FIRE obscure the Creature's shape.

The Tank's and the Soldiers DEplete their AMMO and CEASE FIRE.

There is an EERIE CALM as the DUST settles.

Stewart LOWERS his Weapon and SQUINTS as a SHAPE emerges from the SMOKE.

The Ultimate is COMPLETELY UNHARMED. Only the UPPER SECTION of it's Containment Suit has been TORN AWAY revealing it's MUSCULAR GREY FRAME which is COVERED in SHARP SHARDS of BONE.

STEWART

(worried)

We're going to need a bigger gun.

The Ultimate ROARS and ATTACKS the Tanks RIPPING them to SHREDS.

The Marines DIVE to COVER as the Monster SWINGS a TANK by it's CANNON through a building sending GLASS and CONCRETE flying.

Superman RAISES up from the ground. He's WEAK and BLEEDING.

He charges the Ultimate and THROWS PUNCH after PUNCH. His STRIKES appear FUTILE against the Monster who FIGHTS back.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

Mercy watches the CHAOS play out.

MERCY

(concerned)

Are you sure this is going to work?

LUTHOR

Of course. It kills Superman. We
kill it. The world knows who it's
true hero is.

(smiles)

It's only a matter of time.

INT. DEMOLISHED STORE FRONT -- CONTINUOUS

Stewart DUCKS into a DEMOLISHED STORE FRONT where he finds
Gardner and Harper are also taking cover.

The Cop's and Soldier STARE at each other for a moment.

STEWART

You need to radio ahead and have
your guys evacuate as many people
as possible and set up a perimeter
for at least five city blocks.

HARPER

I think pretty much everybody for
ten blocks has hightailed it out of
here.

(looks at Gardner)

Well the smart ones anyway.

STEWART

I should hope so. It's going to get
pretty hot down here.

Stewart peeks out to see the battle RAGING outside. A RING
hangs from a CHAIN around his neck. The Ring is GREEN and is
ADORNED with a LANTERN SYMBOL.

Gardner sees the Ring.

GARDNER

Nice ring.

EXT. SKY, METROPOLIS OUTSKIRTS -- CONTINUOUS

TWO F-16 FIGHTER JETS are CLOSING in on Metropolis.

INT. F-16 (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

F-16 PILOT

We are coming in hot. Repeat we are
coming in hot.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

The Fighter Jets pass over the scene of DESTRUCTION and FIRE
their MISSILES on the Ultimate and Superman.

The Missiles EXPLODE. Superman is THROWN through the air but
the Ultimate ROARS in ANGER.

It watches as the Jets come in for another pass.

As they near the Creature JUMPS into the air and GRABS one of the Jets by the NOSE and SWINGS it at the other. Both Jets explode in a BALL OF FLAME as the Ultimate SLAMS DOWN to the STREET below.

Superman is DISTRESSED as he watches the JET WRECKAGE falls from the sky.

He GRITS his TEETH and WITH SUPER SPEED attacks the Ultimate which GRABS him by the THROAT and SMASHES him into the SIDE of a building.

Superman PUSHES the monster back as he STRUGGLES to free himself from it's GRIP.

Nearby a DISTRAUGHT Lois watches as Jimmy FILMS.

JIMMY
(in awe)
It's like Doomsday is here.

Superman is being BEATEN down in front of Lois' eyes.

LOIS
(pleading)
Please Clark! Don't do this!

INT. HAMILTON ROOM. S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

Swanwick is HORRIFIED as he watches the Satellite feed of the Jets DESTRUCTION.

Morrow receives a COMMUNICATION from the Pentagon..

MORROW
(to Swanwick)
It's the Pentagon.

SWANWICK
(to Morrow)
On speaker.
(to pentagon)
This is Swanwick.

INT. WAR ROOM, PENTAGON -- CONTINUOUS

A RADAR OPERATOR sits at his MONITOR in the PENTAGONS WAR ROOM.

RADAR OPERATOR
Sir. We have an Jet closing in fast on Metropolis air space.

INT. HAMILTON ROOM, S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

SWANWICK
One of ours?

RADAR OPERATOR(O.S)
 (over speaker)
 I don't think so Sir.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Superman DROPS to his knees. The newly christened DOOMSDAY KICKS him to the ground.

Superman LIES on his back as the Monster BEATS down on him with BOTH ARMS.

Superman SPITS up BLOOD with each BLOW.

The Creature RAISES his FISTS to deliver another BLOW.

BOOM! -- A MISSILE EXPLODES against it's CHEST.

Lois and Jimmy look up to the SKY.

FLYING HIGH above the Avenue is a GIANT JET shaped like a BAT... THE BATWING.

INT. BATWING COCKPIT (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Batman, in his DENTED Battle Armor, operates the Aircraft.

He OPENS FIRE on the Ultimate.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Bullets IMPACT on on DOOMSDAY'S hide but do not PENETRATE.

The Monster ROARS as it's attention is turned away from Superman and towards the Batwing.

He passes above the Creature and SKIMS over the rooftops and between buildings.

INT. BATWING COCKPIT (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Batman speaks into the Batwing's RADIO.

BATMAN
 I need an overview of the city.

INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS

Alfred sits at the computer in the Batcave and watches the Computer Screen which is a SATELLITE VIEW of Metropolis.

ALFRED
 The police and Military have erected a perimeter for ten square around.

BATMAN(O.S)
 (over radio)
 Civilians?

ALFRED

They are evacuating them as we speak.

INT. BATWING COCKPIT (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

BATMAN

(smiles)

Good. No need to play nice.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

The Batwing FLIES between the buildings and makes another pass. He FIRES on all CYLINDERS.

MISSILES and BULLETS STRIKE Doomsday REPEATEDLY.

Superman CRAWLS from beneath the Monster's feet.

The Batwing passes above and Doomsday JUMPS toward it.

The Batwing DODGES the ATTACK and FLIES past and the Monster PURSUES the Aircraft.

Lois runs toward Superman.

JIMMY

Wait! Lois!

Lois THROWS her arms around Superman.

LOIS

(concerned)

Look what it's done to you!

Jimmy follows Lois and gets his VERY FIRST look at Superman. And he is SHOCKED.

JIMMY

(in shock)

Clark?

Superman nods at Jimmy.

LOIS

You can barely stand.

JIMMY

You have to hang back that thing is unstoppable.

LOIS

He's right. You can't do this on your own.

Superman looks out over the DESTRUCTION Doomsday has wrought.

SUPERMAN

I have to Lois. Innocent people
could die. I can't let that happen.
(beat)
Not again.

LOIS

(crying)
Clark...

He puts his hand on her cheek and looks into her TEARFUL eyes.

SUPERMAN

No matter what happens. I love you.

He lets her go and takes to the sky.

INT. BATWING COCKPIT (MOVING) -- CONTINUOUS

Batman maneuvers the Aircraft through the City.

BATMAN

(to ALfred)
What's our status?

INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS

Alfred presses keys on the Computer and the Screen ZOOMS in on Batman's location.

ALFRED

You're staying within the safe zone
but that thing is gaining fast.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Doomsday is RUNNING across ROOFTOPS jumping at the Batwing attempting to SNATCH it from the air.

The Plane is only NARROWLY escaping his CLUTCHES.

The Monster ATTACKS again but this time is successful and PUNCHES through the Batwing's RIGHT WING.

The Aircraft SPIRALS out of control.

Batman EJECTS the Plane and FIRES a GRAPPLING HOOK from his GAUNTLET which EMBEDS itself in the side of a building. He SWINGS toward the streets BELOW. AS he lands his Heavy Boots SHATTER the concrete beneath his feet.

A SHADOW falls over him and he looks up.

Doomsday is DESCENDING towards him ready to CRUSH him BENEATH It's feet.

Superman SMASHES into the Monster and both SMASH into the side of a nearby building.

After a moment Superman is THROWN back out of the building and down into the street.

The Man of Steel looks up to see the Dark Knight standing above him.

Batman reaches out his hand. Superman takes it and gets to his feet.

Behind them the building CRUMBLES as Doomsday SMASHES his way out.

The Creature ROARS and CHARGES when suddenly a GOLDEN LASSO is WRAPPED around it's neck and it's PULLED BACKWARDS.

Holding the other end of the rope is Wonder Woman.

She is dressed in her ARMOR. Her SWORD is strapped to her side and her SHIELD across her back. Light reflects off her SILVER GAUNTLETS. Her dark hair FLOWS from beneath her HELMET and down onto her CHEST PLATE.

She GRITS her teeth and DIGS her heels into the ground as she PULLS the Monster backwards.

The Lasso GLOWS but has NO EFFECT on the Monster.

Doomsday WRAPS the Rope around it's FOREARM and TURNS on it's hips SWINGING Diana through the air.

She LOOSENS the Rope from the Creature's throat and SOMERSAULTS through the air landing CROUCHED beside Superman and Batman.

She WHIPS the Rope around her body until it's LOOPED and attached to her belt.

Superman and Batman stare is SHOCK and AWE at Wonder Woman.

Superman STAGGERS.

BATMAN
(concerned)

Kal?

SUPERMAN
Don't worry about me.

Doomsday STARES at it's ENEMIES and FLEXES its MUSCLES and ROARS.

Superman steps forward. Batman activates his HYDRAULIC JOINTS. Wonder Woman UNSHEATHES her Sword and RAISES her shield in front of her.

Side by side they stand together... THE TRINITY.

The Ultimate ATTACKS.

Batman PULLS a GRENADE from his belt and tosses it at the Creature. It EXPLODES in it's face. Superman lands a BRUTAL ONE TWO COMBINATION on it's JAW as Wonder Woman SLASHES it's hide with her Sword.

The Monster GRABS Wonder Woman and SMASHES her into the ground. It raises its foot to CRUSH her. Before it can STOMP DOWN Superman TACKLES it.

Doomsday puts Superman in a HEADLOCK and STRIKES his face before TOSSING him aside.

Batman POUNCES on the Creature's back and JAMS two TASERS into it's EYE SOCKETS.

The Creature SWATS him aside like a BUG.

Batman SKIDS over the asphalt and into a PARKED CAR.

The Monster shakes it's head and regains is VISION.

Superman and Wonder Woman SIMULTANEOUSLY land PUNCHES on the Creature's face, TOPPLING it.

The Amazon brings her Sword down towards Doomsday's neck. It catches the Blade. She PULLS it free and he BACKHANDS her CLEAR through a building.

Superman ATTACKS again. Landing repeated PUNCHES on Doomsday's SKULL.

The Man of Steel's KNUCKLES are TORN and BLOODY.

Batman gets to his feet. He's hurt but not bad.

Stewart and his Squad, along with Gardner and Harper, approach Batman. WEAPONS RAISED.

STEWART
(firmly)
Stand down!

Batman looks at the Soldiers. He DISMISSIVELY shakes his head and marches in the direction of Doomsday and Superman.

STEWART (CON'T)
Hey Halloween! I'm talking to you!

Wonder Woman LANDS beside them.

Gardner OPENS FIRE.

She DEFLECTS the BULLETS effortlessly with her GAUNTLETS.

WONDER WOMAN
(firmly)
Begone or die here!

STEWART

Hell lady I just got here.

She SWINGS her Sword and DASHES after Batman.

HARPER

(to Gardner)

Will you put that thing away!

Gardner SHRUGS a 'SORRY'.

Doomsday is LAYING INTO Superman now and the Man of Steel is reaching the end. His Suit is RIPPED to SHREDS and SPLATTERED with BLOOD. Yet he still FIGHTS on.

Wonder Woman CHARGES it and lays a HAYMAKER across it's jaw which has MINIMAL effect.

Superman BEAR HUGS the Creature. He PINS it ARMS allowing Wonder Woman to UNLEASH a SERIES of PUNISHING STRIKES.

Doomsday shrugs them off and JUMPS HIGH INTO THE SKY taking Superman with him. They FLY above the rooftops before CRASHING DOWN.

Doomsday is on top of Superman and LIFTS him up by the NECK.

He RUNS Superman through BUILDING after BUILDING before SMASHING him into A TRUCK, FLIPPING IT.

Superman STRUGGLES to BREAK FREE of it's GRIP.

The Monster GRABS hold of Superman's LEFT FOREARM and SQUEEZES. There is a HORRIFIC SOUND of SNAPPING BONE.

Superman SCREAMS.

He FIRES his HEAT VISION into the Monster's FACE.

In retaliation Doomsday PUNCHES him sending through the air and OUT OF SIGHT.

A SILVER GRENADE drops at Doomsday's feet.

The Monster turns to see Batman standing behind him holding a DETONATOR in his fist. He PRESSES it.

The Grenade EMITS a SONIC BLAST.

The Ultimate ROARS in PAIN as the it's ears RING with the SOUND of a HIGH PITCHED SQUEAL.

Stewart and his Squad arrive backed up by a TANK.

BATMAN

(shouts)

Concentrate fire! Drive it back!

Stewart's Soldiers look to their leader.

STEWART
(to Marines)
You heard the man.

The Soldiers OPEN FIRE on the DISORIENTED Monster.

The Tank SHELLS the Creature REPEATEDLY.

Doomsday is in EXTREME PAIN. He sees the SOURCE of his AGONY.

He STOMPS on the Grenade DESTROYING it.

Its SHAKES off the effects and FOCUSES on the Humans.

STEWART
Aw Hell!

BATMAN
(shouting)
Move! Move! Move!

With SUPER SPEED Doomsday PULVERIZES the Tank then FLIPS it and ATTACKS the Soldiers.

Wonder Woman lands amid the CARNAGE and ENGAGES the Creature.

She STRIKES and PARRIES and BLOCKS the Monster's attacks with her SHIELD.

He SLAPS her aside and she SLAMS against the DESTROYED Tank. She falls to her knees using her Sword to PROP HERSELF UP.

She SPITS BLOOD.

She watches as the Ultimate DECIMATES the Marines and the surrounding area.

Batman is DRAGGING a WOUNDED MARINE to safety.

Stewart has TAKEN COVER behind the OVER TURNED TRUCK and is on the radio FRANTICALLY calling for AID.

Gardner and Harper are SHOOTING at the Creature while RETREATING.

The Amazon GRITS her teeth, WIPES her chin and DASHES back into the fray.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- NIGHT

Luthor SMILES as he watches his plan unfold.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Behind the Over Turned Truck Stewart is COMFORTING the Young Marine who lies WOUNDED.

Doomsday has BEATEN Wonder Woman to the GROUND. The Amazon's Shield is DENTED and BENT.

Lois and Jimmy are PEERING out from behind the CORNER of a BUILDING.

Doomsday BACK HANDS Wonder Woman CLEAR ACROSS the STREET and into a wall, KNOCKING HER OUT COLD.

Doomsday, The Ultimate, stands TRIUMPHANT and ROARS.

MEDIA HELICOPTERS hover above the SCENE of DESTRUCTION.

JIMMY
(to Lois)
Where's Clark?

Lois doesn't answer.

INT. LOBBY, RUINED BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Superman lies BEATEN and UNCONSCIOUS in the RUINED LOBBY.

MAN (O.S)
Superman?

The Man of Steel's eyes FLICKER open.

Standing above him is an ELDERLY MAN, 70's, who reaches out his hand to him.

ELDERLY MAN
Let me help you.

SUPERMAN
(softly)
It's ok.

With GREAT EFFORT Superman gets to his feet but STUMBLES and FALLS to one KNEE.

The Elderly Man HELPS him stand.

Superman looks at the FRAIL Man that is HOLDING him up and finds UNDERSTANDING.

SUPERMAN
(weak)
Thank you.

The Man of Steel steps out into the STREET and FEELS the SUNS RAYS on his SKIN.

He CLENCHES his FISTS and FLIES.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Doomsday ROARS as the Helicopters and is about to ATTACK when a SMALL BLINKING DEVICE attaches to it's SPINE.

It EXPLODES.

The Ultimate turns to see Batman standing out in the open.

INT. BATCAVE -- CONTINUOUS

Alfred looks AGHAST at the MAGNIFIED SATELLITE IMAGE of Batman standing ALONE in full VIEW of the Creature.

ALFRED
(concerned)
Master Bruce?

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Doomsday FIXES its GAZE on the Batman.

Jimmy looks up in the sky.

JIMMY
(joyful)
Lois look!

Superman LANDS in front of Batman. HURT, his LEFT ARM held close to his side.

The Monster GROWLS.

Superman steps forward.

Batman GRABS the Kryptonian's shoulder.

BATMAN
You can't beat it.

SUPERMAN
I have to.

BATMAN
You'll die Kal.

SUPERMAN
Clark.
(he turns and smiles at
Batman)
My name is Clark.

He pulls away from Batman and CHARGES the Monster.

They FIGHT.

Each Combatant is giving it their all. NO QUARTER is given. NO MERCY is shown.

Superman FALLS to ONE KNEE.

Doomsday brings both FISTS down.

Superman GRABS the Monster's WRISTS and with all his strength PUSHES the Ultimate back.

Superman JUMPS into the AIR and FLIES at SUPER SONIC SPEED into the SKY and then KICKS Doomsday back to Earth.

He HOVERS as the Creature FREE FALLS towards the City below.

Lois and Jimmy watch as the Monster COLLIDES with the CONCRETE creating and HUGE CRATER.

Superman HOVERS above the City for a moment.

He closes his eyes and LISTENS.

VOICES (O.S)

Please... What's happening?... What
is that?... I love you... Dad!...
Help!

His eyes OPEN and DESCENDS towards the City, BREAKING the SOUND BARRIER.

Doomsday RAISES out of the crater and looks up at the Superman who is BARING down on him.

Superman YELLS as he THROWS a FINAL BLOW.

The Ultimate THROWS it's own KILLING STRIKE.

They COLLIDE with such POWER the IMPACT sends SHOCKWAVES throughout the city SHATTERING windows for BLOCKS. The ground SHAKES and the air FILLS with DUST and DEBRIS.

Then SILENCE.

The DUST settles and Louis and Jimmy watch as the Ultimate STAGGERS out of the crater.

Lois and Jimmy watch in FEAR as the Creature takes a few STEPS before FALLING to it's KNEES and then to the ground.

Doomsday is DEAD.

Superman's TORN CAPE HANGS on a BROKEN STREET LIGHT.

Lois RUNS toward the Crater where she BREAKS DOWN when she sees Superman CLINGING to LIFE.

She RUSHES to his side and WRAPS her arms around him.

LOIS

(emotional)

Clark!

SUPERMAN

(strained)

Is it?... Did I...?

Lois CARESSES his BLOODIED and SWOLLEN face.

LOIS
 (starts to cry)
 You did it. You saved us. You saved
 us all.

He SMILES as he DRIFTS AWAY.

LOIS
 (crying)
 I love you.

Superman DIES in Lois Lane's arms.

INT. HOUSE, KENT FARM -- CONTINUOUS

Martha is on her knees, CRYING uncontrollably.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS -- CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman STAGGERS toward Batman who stands at the EDGE
 of the crater.

Stewart flanked by Gardner and Harper HANG their heads.

High above the Helicopters RECORD the TRAGIC SCENE.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- NIGHT

Luthor smiles TURNS OFF his Computer Monitors.

BLACK SCREEN:

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD, KENT FARM -- DAY

LOIS (V.O)
 I knew Superman. I knew him not as
 a god but as a man.

Martha, crying, stands beside a HOLE that has been DUG in
 the GARDEN.

In her hands she HOLDS a SMALL WOODEN BOX.

Lois walks up beside her and puts a STUFFED BEAR in the Box
 and EMBRACES Martha.

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
 A man who strove to protect all of
 our lives.

Martha PLACES the Box in the hole. It is FILLED with Clark's
 CHILDHOOD POSSESSIONS (A Trophy, Family photographs, etc
 etc).

In GRIEF she falls to her knees, SOBBING. Lois SITS beside her and hugs her TIGHT. They Both CRY.

EXT. JASON TODD'S GRAVE, WAYNE MANOR -- DAY

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
And mourned those he was too late
to save.

Wayne stands with Alfred beside the GRAVE of JASON TODD.

Alfred notices someone APPROACHING. He PATS Wayne on the shoulder, smiles and walks away.

Wayne turns to see Grayson who JOINS him beside the Grave.

INT. SENATE HEARING ROOM -- DAY

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
There are those who saw him as an
enemy...

Waller sits at a desk as she is INTERVIEWED by a COMMITTEE in front of the PRESS.

She looks GRAVE.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, METROPOLIS HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
... there where others who knew him
as a friend.

Victor Stone lies on a hospital bed. He is in a COMA and on LIFE SUPPORT.

Silas sits by his side holding his Son's hand, DEVASTATED.

EXT. CITY HALL, METROPOLIS -- DAY

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
But in the end...

The MAYOR OF METROPOLIS stands on a podium in front of a THOUSAND CITIZENS.

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
... he stood for us. He fought for
us...

Behind him covered in WHITE SHEET is a STATUE.

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
... he died for us.

The Mayor gestures the SHEET be REMOVED.

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
Because he was one of us.

The sheet is PULLED AWAY to REVEAL a GIANT STATUE of Superman. Standing TALL and PROUD in the SUN.

LOIS (V.O) (CON'T)
He was the World's Finest.

The Crowd ERUPTS in CHEERS.

INT. RED ROOM, S.T.A.R LABS -- NIGHT

Superman's Body is housed in a PROTECTIVE GLASS CASE. It is ILLUMINATED by a SINGLE WHITE LIGHT.

Stewart stands beside the case looking down on the fallen Kryptonian, MOURNFULLY.

The EMERALD RING around his neck begins to GLOW

He REMOVES the Ring from his neck and PLACES it on his finger.

He CLENCHES his fist and a GREEN ENERGY is EMITTED from the Ring. He AIMS it in front of him.

The Energy FORMS into the SHAPE of a MAN, YOUNG but BATTLE WEARY. This is KYLE RAYNER, member of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

RAYNER
John.

STEWART
Kyle.

RAYNER
What do you have to report?

STEWART
Kal El is dead.

The Emerald Man's face HARDENS.

RAYNER
That's unfortunate. We needed the Kryptonian.

STEWART
Am I being called back?

RAYNER
No. Jordan wants you on Earth. To organize a defense when the time comes.

Stewart nods, SOLEMNLY.

RAYNER (CON'T)

Thanagar has fallen. We can't hold
him back any longer.

(turns and walks away)

Uxas is coming.

Rayner FLICKERS and FADES leaving Stewart alone.

STEWART

(whispers)

Darkseid.

EXT. ROOFTOP, WAYNE ENTERPRISES METROPOLIS -- NIGHT

Bruce Wayne and Alfred stand beside a HUGE INACTIVE
SEARCHLIGHT.

In the distance LexCorp Tower can be seen.

Wayne hears the SOUND of soft FOOTFALLS behind him.

He and ALfred turn to see Diana approach.

WAYNE

I wasn't sure you'd come.

She joins them beside the Searchlight.

DIANA

I came to honor him. He was a great
warrior.

WAYNE

He wasn't a warrior Diana. He was a
hero. In the end he realized what
that meant.

DIANA

And what does it mean?

WAYNE

Being a hero isn't about the lives
you save but what you are willing
to sacrifice to save them. Clark
knew that in the end.

He places his hand on the Searchlight's SWITCH.

DIANA

What are you doing?

WAYNE

I won't let his sacrifice be in
vain. I'm going to let someone know
that he didn't win.

He HITS the switch and the Searchlight ACTIVATES.

INT. PENTHOUSE, LEXCORP TOWER -- CONTINUOUS

Luthor sits at his desk in the DARK, alone.

Suddenly the room is FILLED with a BRIGHT LIGHT.

He stands and walks to the window and out onto the balcony.

Outside the Searchlight is SHINING on his building.

The IMAGE is of SUPERMAN's SYMBOL: HOPE.

END CREDITS.

