

The Man Of Steel

by

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FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY, PLANET KRYPTON - DAY

Looking through the eyes of an infant, in a place alien to our own, the world around shakes violently. A red piece of cloth, a cape, flaps in the air directly in front of his eyes.

He's being carried down a long hallway, held tight by a man named JOR-EL, his father. Pieces of the ceiling break off and fall to the ground, just feet behind him. The infant looks to the side and sees his mother LARA. She glances over and forces a smile, but there is much fear in her eyes. She looks back ahead and continues to run quickly, as they enter -  
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INT. LARGE ROOM , PLANET KRYPTON

The two of them wear brightly colored cloths; yellows, reds, blues. The designs however, as is the architecture around them, are nothing familiar to our world. The large cape that was flapping in the air is worn on the back of Jor-El. On his chest is a symbol. A diamond shape with an S in the middle.

JOR-EL

Here we are.

The running stops and the infant is slowly lowered into a bed that sits inside of a small round cockpit. The infant looks up and sees his parents looking down upon him.

Lara holds Jor-El tightly as he pushes a sequence of buttons on a control panel that is out of the infant's line of sight. Blocked by the rim of the cockpit. The sounds of each button press can still be heard.

LARA

Are you sure we are making the right decision Jor-El?

JOR-EL

Lara, this planet and it's people may be doomed but I'll be damned if our son loses a chance to live his life because of the incompetence of the people of this planet.

LARA

But he'll be all alone.

JOR-EL

No, I've found a planet with beings of similar genetic structure. Far across the galaxy. He'll be able to blend in. He'll look like one of them, but he'll be able to do amazing things in their atmosphere.

Lara looks back to her son.

LARA

Do you think he'll even remember us?

JOR-EL

I've made sure of it. The entire history of krypton is stored in the ships memory. In time he'll find it and he'll know. Perhaps he'll use his abilities to help this new planet not share a similar fate to our own.

For just a moment it seems that Jor-El and Lara forget about the chaos that surrounds them. They hold each other and look down to their son.

LARA

It will be cold in space.

Lara quickly reaches over and takes the red cape from Jor-El's back. She lays it over her son, then leans forward and kisses him on the forehead. She stands back up and looks to Jor-El.

JOR-EL

Goodbye my son. Goodbye my little Kal-El.

He reaches over and pushes a button and a clear green glass closes over the top of the infant. The ship starts to take off. As it ascends it shifts so that Jor-El and Lara can be seen below.

They hold each other as they watch the ship raise into the sky. The world still in chaos. Pieces of the room continue to fall to the ground.

EXT. PLANET KRYPTON

The ship ascends and exits the building. It continues to climb higher and higher. The infant can see that the very surface of the planet is breaking up.

The ship picks up speed and exits the planet's atmosphere.

EXT. SPACE

As the ship increases it's speed, the planet reaches it's breaking point and it collapses in upon itself.

Then suddenly, it explodes.

EXT. KENT'S FARM - NIGHT

The shrill scream of an eight year old boy cuts through the calm and silence of the night sky.

CLARK KENT(V.O.)  
DAAAAD!!!

INT. CLARK'S ROOM

Young CLARK KENT sits up in his bed, breathing heavily, in the darkness of his room.

The door bursts open spilling in light from the hallway. Through the doorway comes JONATHAN KENT.

JONATHAN KENT  
What's wrong Clark?

CLARK KENT  
There's a monster in my closet!

Jonathan let's out a sigh. He shakes his head and smiles.

JONATHAN KENT  
A monster huh?

Jonathan walks over to the closet door.

JONATHAN KENT  
In here?

Clark sits on his bed, his knees curled up to his chest and his arms wrapped around them.

He nods quickly with his brilliant blue eyes wide open. A blue like no other set of eyes on the planet.

Jonathan reaches over, slowly grabs the doorknob and starts to turn it.

Clark reaches forward and grabs his covers, pulling them over his knees and up half his face. Only his eyes peek out over them.

CLARK KENT

Careful.

Jonathan quickly opens the door then jumps in the closet and closes the door behind him. From inside the closet Clark hears him speak.

JONATHAN KENT (O.C.)

Now you see here monster, this is my boy Clark's room. You can't keep coming in here and scaring him like this. Now I'm only going to ask you this once, leave and never come back.

(Beat)

Hey what are doing? Get your hands off me!

Clark's eyes go wide, he jumps as he hears what seems like a fight between Jonathan and the monster.

JONATHAN KENT (O.C.)

Oh yeah! Take this! And this.

The closet opens and Jonathan sticks his head out. He smiles at Clark then using his other arm grabs his own head and pulls it back in the closet, as if the monster was pulling him back in.

Clark throws the blanket over his head, then quickly brings it back down under his eyes.

JONATHAN KENT (O.C.)

Oh no you don't! Taaaaake that! HA!  
And don't ever come back here again!

The door to the closet slowly opens and Jonathan walks out. Clark slowly lowers the blanket. He stares at his father in awe as Jonathan comes out dusting his hands off.

CLARK KENT

What happened?

JONATHAN KENT  
I scared him off. He won't be  
coming back.

CLARK KENT  
Really?

JONATHAN KENT  
Yeah, and I'm sure he'll tell all  
his friends to stay away from the  
Kent farm in the future.

CLARK KENT  
Wow daddy, I can't believe you beat  
up a monster.

Jonathan Kent rests his hand gently on Clark's shoulder, he  
smiles down at him.

JONATHAN KENT  
All in a days work son. Now go to  
sleep.

Clark lays back down as Jonathan walks back to the door.  
Jonathan stops in the doorway and turns back to Clark.

JONATHAN KENT  
And remember, there are no more  
monsters.

Jonathan smiles and closes the door.

INT. KENT'S HOUSE, HALLWAY

Jonathan looks over after closing the door. MA KENT stands in  
the hallway smiling. He smiles back at her.

INT. CLARK'S ROOM

Clark settles back under his covers. He stares up at the  
ceiling, and whispers to himself.

CLARK KENT  
No more monsters.

INT. ABANDONED TOY FACTORY - NIGHT

Years Later.

Old tattered conveyor belts with rusty machines and various parts of old toys that are scattered about collect layers of dust in this old warehouse. Only a few lights here and there still work and shine down dim spot lights. Most of the light in the factory comes from the moon that shines light through the glass section of the roof.

Deep, rapid, short breaths are heard in the darkness of an abandoned toy factory. It's the nervous breathing of an eight year old girl named CYNTHIA EDWARDS, scared stiff by the maniac that stands before her. A maniac, which at the moment, she can not see because of the dirty blindfold covering her eyes. The maniac calls himself TOYMAN.

SSHHHK. SSHHK. With every swipe, the slow steady sound of a large knife being sharpened on a piece of leather causes the young girl to shift uncomfortably in her chair.

Toyman smiles. A slow laugh slips through his teeth. His perfect, pearly white teeth that show up bright in the darkness.

TOYMAN

You and I are about to have lots of fun, Cynthia.

Toyman stops sharpening. All is quiet for a moment. He stands in the darkness, completely nude.

TOYMAN

Well, me more than you.

Toyman slowly starts walking toward Cynthia, whom is sitting in a chair with her hands and legs bound with jump rope.

He reaches out and slowly pulls the blindfold down so it hangs around her neck. Her face dirty and eyes wet with tears, she shakes heavily as she stares up at him.

TOYMAN

Ahh, there's those big beautiful green eyes. Please, whatever you do Cynthia, try to keep them open the whole time. And focus on me.

Toyman raises the knife and points the tip at her. He slowly inches the point in toward her throat. Closer and closer.

Suddenly a red beam of light comes out of the darkness burning Toyman's hand, he drops the knife. He let's out a loud scream as he grabs his hand in pain. Then quickly turns his attention to the darkness.

In the darkness there are two red burning eyes staring back at Toyman. The red eyes seems to burn the very air around them as a steam rises from the sides.

The light coming from the eyes, combined with the pale moonlight coming from the roof, slightly reveals a FIGURE floating above the ground. However, no other details about what or who this figure is are easily discernible at the moment.

Toyman's eyes widen in fear. He seems to know.

TOYMAN

You!

Out of desperation he reaches over and grabs Cynthia from the chair. He holds her in front of him then looks back to the darkness. There is nothing there.

His eyes shift back and forth, his head turns side to side, as he searches the darkness.

Suddenly a wisp of wind behind him. His eyes and head freeze staring forward as a red drape, or something similar, falls from a light to his side back into the darkness directly behind him.

Everything is silent for a moment. The only sounds are the deep, rapid, short breaths, now coming from Toyman. His arm drops from the front of Cynthia.

WHOOSH! Toyman is suddenly pulled into the darkness behind him.

Cynthia's eyes clench shut as sounds of Toyman screaming, objects breaking, and flesh hitting flesh is heard behind her. Then once again there is silence.

A large strong hand softly sets down on her shoulder. She slowly opens her eyes and turns her head. At first all she see's is blue, then she looks up and notices a familiar red and yellow shield with an S inside. She smiles.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, CELL BLOCK 8 - DAY

A GUARD walks down a cell block. He passes by a few cells and eventually stops in front of cell block 8. Inside a MAN is laying down on the bed. The guard bangs on the steel bars with his nightstick.

GUARD

Wake up Luthor.

INT. LEX LUTHOR'S PRISON CELL

LEX LUTHOR (30s) lays on his back while reading a book. The book obscures the view of his head for the moment.

LEX LUTHOR  
What do you want?

GUARD (O.C.)  
Your lawyer is here to see you.

Luthor lowers the book to reveal the face of a completely bald man.

LEX LUTHOR  
Give me a minute, will you? I'm almost done with this chapter.

Luthor raises the book back up and continues reading.

The guard's eyes narrow as he stares at Luthor through the bars.

GUARD  
You've got thirty seconds before I tell the prick you don't want to see him.

Luthor drops the book to his chest and lets out a deep sigh. He sits up then turns to sit on the edge of the bed. After a moment he stands and walks over to the sink, setting the book on the edge.

The guard starts tapping the bars with his nightstick as Luthor turns the faucet on, washes his hands, and splashes some water on his face and head.

Slowly he dries his hands and dabs the towel on head. He picks up the book and turns toward the guard.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, CELL BLOCK 8

Luthor walks up to the guard, who is still tapping the bars.

LEX LUTHOR  
You know that's very annoying.

GUARD  
Good. Step back and turn around.

Luthor takes a step back and the guard opens the cell door. He walks in to cuff him.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, MEETING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The door opens to a small room. No windows, not even a two way mirror. Luthor walks in, book still in hand. The door shuts hard behind him.

Inside the room is a single desk where Lex Luthor's LAWYER is sitting.

He stands up and extends his hand.

LAWYER

Lex. How you doing?

Lex glares at his Lawyer, ignoring the hand, as he sits down.

LEX LUTHOR

Tell me you have some good news.

The Lawyer redraws his hand and uncomfortably returns to his seat.

LAWYER

Unfortunately I can't do that.

LEX LUTHOR

Then why have you even bothered to come?

The Lawyer takes a deep breath.

LAWYER

To inform you personally that your request for a re-trial has been denied.

Luthor's brow narrows.

LEX LUTHOR

What!?

LAWYER

Frankly, no judge wants to review your case. Which is pretty open and shut, if I might add.

Lex sits back in his chair. His teeth clench, his lip snarls, and he lets out long grunt.

LAWYER

Look I'm on your side in all this, you know that, but we gotta face the facts here. You were caught on video breaking into a museum and stealing meteor rocks. But worse than that you high-jacked government weapons programs, putting thousands of people's lives in danger all because you wanted to kill---

LEX LUTHOR

DON'T, say his name!

For a moment there is an awkward silence between the two of them as Lex, half standing, stares down his lawyer.

LAWYER

Sorry Lex, but after they got the warrant to search LexCorp and discovered its presence in the international black market. Not to mention your company manufactured the weapons in question; you are lucky your weren't charged with treason.

Lex sits back down.

LEX LUTHOR

Lucky huh? You're lucky I don't come across this table and strangle you. Think for a second, will ya? Why don't you just locate a respectable judge and buy him off. It's that simple.

Luthor's Lawyer stands up. He buttons his jacket, then looks back to Lex.

LAWYER

I wish it were that simple Lex. The fact is there is nothing left to buy anyone off with. The government has taken control of LexCorp and all your assets. The President has made it clear that he never wants you to see the light of day.

LEX LUTHOR

Pfft, President.

Luthor slouches in his chair.

LAWYER

Just give it time. You'll figure something out. Is there anything you need while I'm here?

Luthor quickly leans forward and opens his book to the back cover, and starts scratching at the backing.

LEX LUTHOR

No, I believe that will be all. Thank you.

The Lawyer stands there for a moment watching Luthor, a curious look on his face.

Luthor stops what he's doing and looks to the Lawyer.

LEX LUTHOR

I said that will be all.

The Lawyer nods and walks to the door and knocks. The door opens and he exits. Afterwards a DIFFERENT GUARD enters the room.

Luthor returns to scratching at the book backing.

GUARD 2

I'll take you back to your cell when you're ready Mr. Luthor.

Luthor finally gets part of the backing off and peels the paper back, revealing an envelope hidden underneath. He stands up and turns to the guard.

GUARD 2

And sorry about the other guy earlier. He's new.

LEX LUTHOR

Well rookies will be rookies. I'm sure he'll learn fast enough who runs this place. Listen, I've been thinking about these guys you're involved with on the outside. This Intergang, as you called it. This little project they're working on is of great interest to me. I'd like to help out.

The guard smiles. Luthor extends the envelope to him.

LUTHOR

Give this to your boss on the outside. I think he'll appreciate it.

INT. LUTHOR'S CELL - MOMENTS LATER

The guard shuts the door to Luthor's cell. Luthor turns back to him and moves in close.

LEX LUTHOR

It's very important that letter makes it to your boss.

GUARD 2

I'll deliver it personally.

LEX LUTHOR

Excellent my boy. Excellent.

The guard nods and then walks away. Luthor takes a few steps back and looks around his cell. He walks over to the sink and washes his hands again, then looks into the mirror.

He gazes at his reflection, his eyes narrow as he continues to stare back at himself. His breathing becomes a bit more heavy. His eyes begin to narrow.

Moving slightly sideways a back wall is revealed. It's now apparent that he's not staring at himself but the wall that he sees in the mirror. On the wall are several newspaper clipping, all dealing with Superman.

Luthor punches the mirror, shattering it to pieces.

INT. METROPOLIS, BAR - DAY

Heavy smoke and music fills the air of a rough bar in a bad part of Metropolis. It's a hangout for bikers and gangsters. Someone in the back hollers out in a drunken celebration. One of those outbursts catch the attention of everyone in the room. Several pool tables line the wall were games are going on each, just for the moment all the games pause.

At the bar two men sit, RUDY JONES and JOHN CORBEN. They both have turned around to look at whoever yelled out. With the excitement fading they turn back toward their beers.

RUDY JONES

So as I was saying man, I really think that the times are coming to an end for me.

Corben shakes his head as he takes a swig of his beer.

JOHN CORBEN

I still think you're making a mistake Rudy.

RUDY JONES

Hey, you said to wait til after we moved up in the ranks a bit. And we've moved up quite a bit.

JOHN CORBEN

Yeah and Genolti just promoted both of us again last month. You know he never would have done anything like that if he didn't think we both brought something special to Intergang.

RUDY JONES

Yeah well, I think that has a lot to do with me being friends with you. I never really thought Genolti cared for me all that much. You know his feelings about my past.

Rudy looks down to his arms where old scars of needle punctures remain.

JOHN CORBEN

You're not like that now.

RUDY JONES

Yeah not anymore. Thanks to you.

JOHN CORBEN

Thanks to Intergang. Thanks to Genolti. Man our lives would have been shit otherwise. Look at everything we got going for us now. We're living the dream man. Anything we want, anytime we want it.

RUDY JONES

Yeah well, It's not my dream. Not anymore.

Rudy takes a swig of his beer. He drops it from his lips and stares at the ceiling for a moment.

RUDY JONES

You know I haven't even held my daughter for five years? Anne won't let me come near her unless I'm straight.

JOHN CORBEN

That's not right. You haven't shot up for at least, what, two years? I'd say you're pretty clean by now.

RUDY JONES

No she means with everything. If I'm ever going to have any kind of relationship with my daughter, I gotta leave all this stuff behind.

Corben just looks back into the eyes of his friend Rudy. He reaches over and slaps his hand on his back.

JOHN CORBEN

Well, if that's what you really want I'm not going to stop you. But I suggest that we do this job coming up before you let Genolti know.

Rudy nods.

In the background a DRUNK MAN stumbles around from side to side.

RUDY JONES

Any idea exactly what it is?

Corben finishes off the last of his beer. Then stands up.

JOHN CORBEN

I have no idea. Something related to this Project Cadmus thing. They're supposed to tell us tonight, so we better get going.

Rudy nods and quickly finishes up the last of his beer. The drunk man stumbles forward and falls onto Corben. Corben pushes him away.

DRUNK

(Slurred)

Hey-- man don't be pushin me--  
around.

JOHN CORBEN

Then watch were you're walking pal.

DRUNK

Hey I ain't your pal, pal. And  
don't be talkin to me like that.  
I'll kick your ass!

John laughs.

DRUNK

You think it's funny?

The drunk takes a swing at John. John quickly reacts and ducks the punch, then tackles the drunk.

They fall backwards on the pool table, interrupting the game of a couple of BIKERS.

BIKER

Hey!

The biker raises his pool cue above his head and brings it down swiftly. Corben quickly moves out of the way and the pool cue breaks over the ribcage of the drunk.

Corben stands up next to the other biker who grabs him and throws him up against the wall.

Rudy sees this and quickly comes to the rescue. He runs over and turns the biker around then punches him square in the nose. The biker screams as blood begins pouring out.

His friend grabs what is left of the pool cue and tries to stab Rudy with the splintered edge, but before he can get close Corben grabs another pool cue off the wall and swings it into the throat of the biker.

The biker falls to his knees gasping for air. Corben relentlessly starts beating the biker with the stick while Rudy starts kicking the other one who's on the ground.

A shotgun cocks. Everyone stops. The BARTENDER is pointing the shotgun at Rudy and Corben.

BARTENDER

That's enough. You two get the  
hell out of here.

JOHN CORBEN

Whatever man.

The two step over the fallen bikers. Corben gives one a final swift kick before they exit. They both laugh as they walk to door.

Before they exit Corben turns back to Rudy.

JOHN CORBEN

You sure you want to leave all this fun behind?

Rudy just smiles and chuckles as Corben opens the door and the bright daylight outside floods into the bar.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, NEWSROOM - DAY

As it is every other day, people scramble around in the news room of The Daily Planet. All the different voices fill the air, mixing with the sounds of constant keyboard strokes, it all molds into one big inaudible mess.

At one of the desks a name plate reads Clark Kent. Now in his late 20s, he's typing up a news piece on a Professor Emil Hamilton.

Clark wears a pair of thick black framed glasses, that have slipped down to the tip of his nose. His eyes are still just as blue as they were when he was young. He slouches over as he types away for a bit, until he stops and put his hand to his chin.

He rubs his smooth chin until suddenly he's interrupted by a voice that puts a smile on his face.

LOIS LANE

Hey Smallville.

Clark quickly turns and looks to LOIS LANE. A pretty brunette reporter that is about the same age as him. She's not looking at him however, she's looking at a folder in her hand.

CLARK KENT

Uh, yes Lois?

Clark realizes his glasses are a bit far down and he quickly pushes them up just as Lois looks to him. The thick glass distorts his eyes a bit and makes the blue of his eyes more dull.

For just a brief second, though, it's as if Lois caught a glimpse of the real color. She briefly loses her train of thought.

LOIS LANE

Umm...

She shakes herself out of it.

LOIS LANE

Uh, oh yeah. Is Toyman one word or two?

Clark thinks for a moment.

CLARK KENT

Well gee Lois, I would think that it would be two words, but of course I would think Superman would be two words also but you've always wrote that as one word so I figure...

Lois just stares back at Clark as he rambles on. She puts her hand up.

LOIS LANE

Nevermind. Hey Eddy.

EDDY, a fellow reporter stops as he's walking by.

LOIS LANE

Toyman, one word or two?

EDDY

Uh, one.

Lois writes it down on the papers.

LOIS LANE

Thanks.

She turns back to Clark.

LOIS LANE

See how easy that was.

Clark, a bit embarrassed, looks away sheepishly. As Lois starts to walk off he quickly perks up again, sticking his index finger in the air.

CLARK KENT

Oh Lois.

Lois stops, she grimaces for a moment, then turns around. A forced smile now on her face. She walks back to Clark's desk.

LOIS LANE

Yes?

CLARK KENT

I was wondering if maybe, if it wasn't too much to ask, my father is coming in to Metropolis for a visit and I was wondering if maybe you'd like to have dinner with us tonight?

A real smile forms on Lois' face.

LOIS LANE

That's sweet Clark.

Clark smiles.

LOIS LANE

Unfortunately I have a date tonight, so I can't make it.

The smile fades from Clark's face. He slouches back in his chair.

CLARK KENT

Oh, a date?

LOIS LANE

Yeah.

CLARK KENT

Oh, ok. Well maybe some other time then.

LOIS LANE

Sure thing Smallville.

Lois winks at him then starts to turn away, but Clark quickly starts talking again.

CLARK KENT

So who's the lucky guy?

Lois turns back. She lets out a quick sigh.

LOIS LANE

Just this guy I met a few days ago. He's suave and sophisticated, but the best thing about him is that I can talk about Superman all day and he never grows tired, or jealous.

Clark raises his eyebrows and fakes a smile.

CLARK KENT

Sounds, like a winner. Seeing as the only thing you ever talk about is Superman.

Lois, chuckles a bit from brief astonishment.

LOIS LANE

Ha, so Smallville does have jokes after all.

JIMMY OLSEN (19), a photographer at The Daily Planet, walks up to the two of them, interrupting their conversation.

JIMMY OLSEN

Hey Ms. Lane, Mr. Clark, I mean, Mr. Kent. The Chief is about to call everyone in for a meeting. Might wanna start heading that way.

Clark quickly stands up.

LOIS LANE

What for?

JIMMY OLSEN

I'm not sure. Something about big blue.

CLARK KENT

Superman?

LOIS LANE

Superman?

Clark and Lois look at each other. Jimmy's eyes shift back and forth between them.

JIMMY OLSEN

Uh, yeah him.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, STAFF MEETING ROOM

A newspaper slams down on the table. The headline reads AMAZING FLYING MAN RESCUES HELICOPTER, with a black and white picture of Superman holding a helicopter. The picture was taken from a distance so it's not very clear.

PERRY WHITE, the white haired editor-in-chief of The Daily Planet, looks around the room as about a dozen reporters stare back at him.

PERRY WHITE  
 Amazing flying man rescues  
 helicopter. That was the first  
 article we ever published on  
 Superman.

Perry slams down another newspaper. The article reads, I SPENT THE NIGHT WITH SUPERMAN. A picture of Superman with his arms crossed smiling and Lois next to him with her arm outstretched taking the picture, is on the front page.

PERRY WHITE  
 I spent the night with Superman, by  
 Lois Lane. The first and only  
 interview that anyone has ever had  
 with Superman. Still your best work  
 if you ask me.

Lois smiles and blushes a bit.

Perry slams another paper down. This one says. LEX LUTHOR CLAIMS SUPERMAN IS ALIEN INVADER, HAS PROOF. A picture of Lex accompanies it.

PERRY WHITE  
 Lex Luthor claims Superman is an  
 alien invader, has proof. The  
 start of what would be a great run  
 of news.

Perry White slams several other papers down. He reads the titles as he goes through each.

PERRY WHITE  
 Superman tears down bridge. Is he  
 really our friend?  
 (Slams another)  
 Explosive device found on bridge.  
 Superman trying to help. Cleared of  
 charges.  
 (Slams another)  
 (MORE)

PERRY WHITE (cont'd)  
 Unmanned military planes attacks  
 city and Superman. 2 dead. 17  
 injured.

(Slams another)

Military planes were sabotaged.  
 Who's responsible?

(Slams another)

Lex Luthor named mastermind of  
 hijacking. Where is he now?

(Slams another)

Superman captures Lex Luthor.

(Slams another)

Lex Luthor sentenced to life in  
 prison without parole.

With no more papers in hand Perry looks out to everyone else  
 in the room.

PERRY WHITE

That was four months ago. Since  
 then the best thing we've had on  
 Superman is bank robberies and  
 saving kittens.

Lois abruptly interjects.

LOIS LANE

No fair Chief! I'm working on a  
 story as we speak. Superman saved a  
 little girl from that child serial  
 killer that's been calling himself  
 Toyman.

PERRY WHITE

First, please don't call me chief,  
 and second, I am glad he was able  
 to get that scum off the street.  
 But it's just...

Perry pauses for a moment.

LOIS LANE

Just what?

PERRY WHITE

Superman can fly. He can shoot  
 lasers out of his eyes.

Clark quickly raises his index finger.

CLARK KENT

Umm

As if he had a sudden change of heart he quickly puts it down.

PERRY WHITE  
What is it Kent?

Clark looks around the room for a moment as everyone turns to look at him.

CLARK KENT  
It's actually, uh, heat vision,  
sir.

A reporter in the back of the room leans to the guy next to him and silently mocks Clark.

Clark clears his throat and then quickly looks to the ground.

PERRY WHITE  
Whatever. He can do all this  
amazing stuff but since he put  
Luthor away we haven't seen any of  
it put to use. No pictures of  
anything that's front page  
material.

LOIS LANE  
Geez, what do you want some kind of  
mega disaster?

PERRY WHITE  
No. Hell no! I don't want that.  
It's just that two days ago was the  
one year anniversary of Superman's  
first appearance. I wanted to have  
something big to present to our  
readers, but instead it was just a  
recap of the very articles I sat  
down here today.

Perry taps his finger on the stack of newspapers.

PERRY WHITE  
I'm just saying, is a little action  
too much to wish for?

LOIS LANE  
You know what they say Chief, be  
careful what you wish for.

Clark stands at the back of the room. He seems a bit uneasy as he listens to the conversation.

PERRY WHITE

I just want everyone to keep an eye out for anything dealing with Superman.

Everyone in the room nods.

PERRY WHITE

Alright. For tomorrow's paper, Lois your article is front page. Have it on my desk by five.

Several groans and moans ring out through the room. Lois smiles big and pumps her fist.

LOIS LANE

Yes! Thanks Cheif.

Perry glares at Lois.

LOIS LANE

I mean Mr. White.

PERRY WHITE

Kent, what did you find out about Professor Hamilton's exhibition of that chemical thing?

Clark perks up. He start's moving through the people toward the front.

CLARK KENT

Oh yeah, M135 X7! It was very interesting. Professor Emil Hamilton has engineered this new compound that can literally absorb the energies of things like toxic waste or anything of that nature. It works at a cellular level to bond with the---

PERRY WHITE

Whoa whoa whoa! English, Kent, English

Clark thinks for a moment then grabs a glass of water sitting on the table.

CLARK KENT

Well, imagine that this water is toxic waste. And my hands are the compound.

Clark begins pouring the water from the glass onto his hand. The water starts spilling over the sides and onto the desk.

Perry's mouth drops open at the site. He's speechless.

CLARK KENT

The compound would basically start absorbing the waste as my skin is currently absorbing this water.

Everyone in the room looks on confused as the water still splashes about.

CLARK KENT

Although it would soak it up faster than my skin is. But basically it would continue breaking it down, until eventually--

Clark puts the cup down, then suddenly slaps his hands together. He slaps it a little too hard though and the water that was in his hand splashes out all over those near him. They all jump back.

CLARK KENT

Oops, sorry. But uh, eventually there'd be-- nothing left.

Clark shows his hand to the room.

PERRY WHITE

So wait. If this stuff is so powerful then how come they can keep it in some kind of glass containers?

CLARK KENT

Well, because they keep it electrically charged. And it doesn't bond to everything the same way. See that's what's interesting about the compound. If electrically charged it's more apt to work WITH whatever it's in contact with. Making it's cellular structure a little more durable, rather than breaking it down. Almost harmoniously. It's only toxic waste that it really has the direly negative impacts on.

Perry nods, but the expression on his face makes it apparent he has no idea what Clark was talking about. Everyone else in the room shares the same expression.

PERRY WHITE

Ah, yes...

(Beat)

Well as I said everyone keep your eyes out for news on Superman. Now get back to work!

Everyone hustles to get out of the room. Clark looks back and forth as everyone passes by, looking for, perhaps, a pat on the back. He does not get one. He then looks over to Lois who is organizing some papers in her folder.

JIMMY OLSEN

Hey Mr. Kent.

Clark turns to see Jimmy Olsen standing next to him.

JIMMY OLSEN

I thought your report was very interesting.

Clark smiles.

CLARK KENT

Thanks Jimmy.

PERRY WHITE

Olsen!

Jimmy turns back to Perry.

JIMMY OLSEN

Yeah Chief?

Perry rolls his eyes.

PERRY WHITE

Go get me some coffee.

JIMMY OLSEN

Sure thing Chief.

PERRY WHITE

And stop calling me Chief!

(beat)

Kent, Lois I wanna talk to you two about something.

Lois looks over to Clark, Clark shrugs his shoulders. Perry walks over to the two of them.

PERRY WHITE

I'm sure you've heard a lot of things lately on this new group of criminals out there that are calling themselves Intergang.

Clark nods his head.

LOIS LANE

Yeah a little. Why?

PERRY WHITE

Well Metropolis PD is bringing in a guy from the outside. Named---

Perry checks some notes he has at hand.

PERRY WHITE

Dan Turpin. He's supposed to be in tomorrow. I'd like the two of you to go down and speak with him a bit. Find out what he plans to do differently and all that jazz.

Clark continues to nod, now with a smile on his face. He looks over to Lois. She's not smiling.

LOIS LANE

You really think that's a job that needs both of us?

Clark's smile fades, he looks to the ground.

PERRY WHITE

Yeah, I do. Clark here is an excellent reporter, but his people skills need some work. I'd like to move him away from all these science geek stories and into some real news. And I think you're the right person to teach him how to handle people Lois.

Clark, still looking toward the ground, raises his eyebrows so his eyes peek up toward Perry. He then glances over to Lois. Lois looks back to him and lets out a large sigh.

LOIS LANE

Very well. You're the boss.

PERRY WHITE  
Alright you two, go finish up your  
work.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, NEWSROOM - DAY

Lois and Clark exit the room. Clark smiles as Lois looks at him.

CLARK KENT  
Looks like we're partners.

Clark extends his hand to shake. Lois just looks at it, then shakes her head.

LOIS LANE  
Just don't slow me down Smallville.

She walks off leaving Clark standing with his hand extended. He slowly pulls it back in.

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

The door opens to Clark's apartment and he enters carrying a large suitcase. Behind him enters Jonathan Kent.

JONATHAN KENT  
Now you're sure you don't mind me  
staying here, because I could get a  
hotel.

CLARK KENT  
It's fine Dad, really.

Jonathan walks around the apartment, looking things over.

JONATHAN KENT  
Nice place you got here son. Can't  
believe I didn't see it sooner. Ma  
would have come up but you know how  
she's afraid of flying.

Jonathan chuckles a bit as he takes a seat on the couch.

JONATHAN KENT  
Kind of ironic, huh?

Clark chuckles as well as he walks into the kitchen.

CLARK KENT

Yeah, well I'll make sure to stop in and check up on her while you're here. But yeah, kitchens over here, bathrooms over there. You can take the bed I'll sleep on the couch.

JONATHAN KENT

Non-sense I won't throw you out of your own bed.

CLARK KENT

It's ok. It really doesn't feel any different to me.

Jonathan thinks about it for a moment.

JONATHAN KENT

Oh, right.

Clark brings his father a bottle of water from the kitchen and then sits next to him.

CLARK KENT

So how are things on the farm?

JONATHAN KENT

Good. Old man Rains' grandson has been a real help around the house. With you gone... I mean lets face it I'm not getting any younger.

CLARK KENT

Aww pop, you know that all you have to do is call, and I'll be there.

JONATHAN KENT

Son, you're mother and I have come to accept the fact that you've got your own life here. Besides no matter how bad you want to, you can't be everywhere at once. So we've decided holidays are enough for us.

Jonathan chuckles a bit.

CLARK

Seriously pa, if there's anything that you ever need...

Jonathan interrupts Clark, with a smile.

JONATHAN KENT  
Clark, we're fine.

Clark smiles. Jonathan takes a sip of the water.

JONATHAN KENT  
So will your friend be joining us  
for dinner tonight?

Clark's smile fades.

CLARK  
No, unfortunately she had other  
plans.

Jonathan sits his water bottle down on the coffee table, then  
leans in toward Clark.

JONATHAN KENT  
Am I ever going to meet this woman  
that your mother and I have heard  
so much about? I mean you haven't  
talked about a girl this much since  
Lana. Oh! Which reminds me.

Jonathan quickly reaches over and starts searching through  
his bag. After a moment he pulls out a photograph.

JONATHAN KENT  
Lana caught up with me at the  
terminal and insisted that I give  
you this.

Jonathan hands Clark the photo. It's a picture of him in high  
school with an old sweetheart, Lana Lang.

Clark turns the photo on the back to find a message left by  
Lana: CALL ME SOMETIME. LANA.

A big smile forms on his face.

CLARK KENT  
I guess Lana is doing good then?

JONATHAN KENT  
Yeah, she comes by the house now  
and again. Sits and talks with me  
and your ma. She's dating some guy,  
I've seen him around town. He seems  
nice.

Clark turns the photo back over and looks at her picture.

JONATHAN KENT

Although your mother thinks Lana's still waiting for you to come back and whisk her away to the big city life.

Clark's smile fades.

CLARK KENT

She's not missing much. Crime, violence, bad things that aren't in Smallville. She's better off.

Jonathan squints his eyes, staring at Clark as if trying to figure him out.

JONATHAN KENT

Something on your mind, son?

For a moment Clark doesn't respond. He just stares at the photograph.

JONATHAN KENT

Clark?

CLARK KENT

Do you remember when I was a kid and whenever I was afraid that there was a monster in the closet you'd come rushing in to my room to put my mind at ease?

Jonathan smiles and nods.

CLARK KENT

I'd be curled up like a ball and you'd come rushing in to save the day. Going right into the closet to face the monsters. You'd come out and look at me and smile and assure me that they were gone. Eventually convincing me that there was no such thing as monsters.

Jonathan nods his head.

JONATHAN KENT

I remember.

CLARK KENT

A few months ago I stopped a man named Lex Luthor from possibly killing hundreds of people.

(MORE)

CLARK KENT (cont'd)  
A few nights ago I saved a little girl from a sick, demented-- monster.

(Beat)  
They didn't have horns or were covered in fur, but they were monsters just the same.

JONATHAN KENT  
We read about the good stuff you do in the papers. You're doing great things, Clark. Your mother and I are very proud of you. And I'm sure the parents of that little girl thank you to no ends for what you did.

CLARK KENT  
As much as I try to assure myself that she's safe, I keep wondering about all the other monsters in the world. Terrorizing society and preying on the innocent. I just can't help but wonder if I alone will be enough to stop them all.

Jonathan exhales and tightens his lips as if searching for the right answer. Nothing comes out.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT - NIGHT

The Intergang's base of operations is not your typical gang hideout. It's full of computer systems and components that make it look more like a command center or robotics lab.

Off to the side BRUNO MANNHEIM, second in command of Intergang, spots Corben and Rudy entering the warehouse.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Corben, Jones. Come over here.

The two quickly make their way toward Bruno.

JOHN CORBEN  
Yeah Bruno, what's up?

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Boss wants to see both of you. I'll take you to him.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE

Rudy, Corben, and Bruno Mannheim enter the office of BOSS GENOLTI, leader of Intergang.

Genolti turns toward the three of them.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Please have a seat.

Corben and Rudy sit. Bruno walks over and stands beside Genolti as he sits behind his desk.

BOSS GENOLTI  
John Corben. Rudy Jones. The two of you have done a lot of good for me these past few years.

Corben and Rudy smile.

BOSS GENOLTI  
John, I still feel I owe you a debt for saving my life. I would have been hamburger meat if you wouldn't have pushed me out of the way of that drive by.

JOHN CORBEN  
I've told you before Boss, you don't owe me a thing.

Genolti smiles then looks to Rudy, the smile nearly fades but quickly comes back. Almost as if forced back.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Rudy Jones. You've been a good friend to John for quite awhile. He brought you in, vouched for you. I have to be honest I didn't trust you very much at first but you've shown me that you can get the job done.

RUDY JONES  
Thanks boss.

BOSS GENOLTI  
That's why I'm putting both of you in charge of two very important assignments.

Corben and Rudy both perk up a bit.

BOSS GENOLTI

Mr. Mannheim, will you do the honors?

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Certainly. Corben, you're going to be leading a couple of guys into STAR labs. Your objective is to bring back a Professor Emil Hamilton.

Genolti slides a picture of PROFESSOR EMIL HAMILTON across the desk. It's the same Professor that Clark wrote up the article on.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

It's vital that he comes back unharmed. He is the key component in the final steps of our project. After you get Hamilton out of the building set some explosive charges, bring it down.

JOHN CORBEN

Got it.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Rudy, your mission is actually going to take place relatively close to STAR Labs. It's going to be at the Metropolis National Bank.

BOSS GENOLTI

We received a letter recently from one of our men that works on Strykers Island. It was from Lex Luthor.

Corben and Rudy look to each other, then back to Genolti.

JOHN CORBEN

Luthor?

BOSS GENOLTI

Yes. Seems he somehow got wind of our project and wants to help. He said he has a safety deposit box with a sizable contribution, plus something else that he says will help. I don't know what it is, but I do know that a bank job is a good distraction.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Rudy you'll lead a couple of guys into the bank. You'll want to be quiet about it, so you don't attract you know who. As you leave, set the alarm off and get out of there. That'll distract Superman long enough, then after STAR Labs goes up in flames he'll be so distracted we won't even have to worry about him catching on trail.

Rudy nods, he has a disturbed look on his face. Genolti notices this.

BOSS GENOLTI

Something wrong?

Rudy quickly masks his emotions.

RUDY JONES

No sir. Nothing's wrong.

BOSS GENOLTI

Good. We make our move tomorrow. Now get to it.

Corben and Rudy nod, then exit the room. Bruno follows them to the door and shuts it behind them.

BOSS GENOLTI

Was it just me or did Rudy seem less than enthusiastic about his assignment.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

There has definitely been a change in behavior as of late. I've heard some rumors that he's wanting to get out. Go straight.

BOSS GENOLTI

I've never liked him. Always seemed a bit soft to me. I let him stick around because he's a friend of Corben's, and I always feel like I owe it to him. But I think that Rudy has outlived his usefulness.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

You want him taken out?

BOSS GENOLTI

No nothing like that. He's still Corben's friend and I don't want to do that to Corben. But the whole reason I chose him for the bank job is that I don't really care if we get Luthor's help or not. We definitely don't need it. But it is the perfect place to set Rudy up for a big fall. Get him out of our hair for a long time.

(Beat)

Make sure someone we trust sets the alarm off in that bank. Then all we have to do is sit back and let Superman do the rest for us.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Lois and Clark step out of a taxi in front of Metropolis PD. They both start walking toward the door when Lois suddenly stops and turns back to Clark.

LOIS LANE

Look Kent, before we go inside let's get one thing straight. I ask the questions and you take the notes. Got it?

CLARK KENT

I think I got it Lois, but what if I have a question you don't think of?

LOIS LANE

As I said, I ask the questions and you take the notes.

Lois pats Clark on the shoulder.

LOIS LANE

It's easy Smallville.

Lois turns and walks into the building. Clark stands on the sidewalk for a moment watching her walk away, then quickly shakes off whatever trance he's in and follows her.

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Lois walks up to the front desk where an OFFICER sits.

LOIS LANE  
Hi there, Lois Lane - Daily Planet,  
I'm here to meet with Lieutenant-  
Inspector Dan Turpin.

Before the Officer at the desk can say anything, DAN TURPIN  
himself interrupts from the side.

DAN TURPIN  
Ms. Lane, I'm Dan Turpin. Nice to  
meet you.

The two shake hands.

LOIS LANE  
Lieutenant. This is my... partner,  
Clark Kent.

Turpin nods.

DAN TURPIN  
Mr. Kent.

Clark nods back.

DAN TURPIN  
Follow me, you can set up in my new  
unit's area.

EXT. STAR LABS, LOADING DOCK - DAY

A white van pulls up to the loading docks of STAR Labs. The  
driver's door opens and Corben steps out. TWO OTHER MEN  
climb out of the back. All of them wearing STAR Labs jump  
suits. Corben carries a duffel bag and a clip board.

They walk up to the back entrance and ring the door bell.  
After a few seconds the door opens and a SECURITY GUARD steps  
out.

SECURITY GUARD  
Can I help you gentlemen?

Corben holds up the clipboard to the security guard.

CORBEN  
Yes we have a delivery that comes  
from...

One of the other men suddenly tases the security guard from  
behind. Corben quickly catches his body before it falls, he  
drags it inside.

INT. STAR LABS, LOADING AREA - CONTINUOUS

One of the other men quickly walks forward. He rounds a corner where a 2ND SECURITY GUARD sits.

SECURITY GUARD 2  
So who was it?

The Security Guard turns around. His eyes widen as the last image he sees is one of the Intergang members pointing a silenced hand gun at him.

Corben pulls out a phone and speed dials a number.

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, PARKING LOT - DAY

Rudy stands outside of a car smoking a cigarette. Inside the car THREE OTHER MEN sit in the parking lot. Rudy's phone rings.

RUDY JONES  
Yeah?

Corben speaks to Rudy on the other end of the phone.

JOHN CORBEN (V.O.)  
I'm in. Are you ready to move?

RUDY JONES  
We're in position.

JOHN CORBEN (V.O.)  
Great, I'll call you when we have Hamilton.

RUDY JONES  
Hey John.

Rudy glances back to the other three in the car.

RUDY JONES  
Are you feeling ok about all this?

INT. STAR LABS, LOADING AREA

Corben seems a bit confused.

CORBEN  
Yeah I'm fine. Why do you ask?

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, PARKING LOT

RUDY JONES

No reason. Just forget it. Probably  
just nerves.

INT. STAR LABS, LOADING AREA

CORBEN

Well just make sure you have it  
together by the time I call,  
alright?

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, PARKING LOT

RUDY JONES

Yeah man, don't worry.

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, SCU - later

Inside of the meeting room for the Special Crimes Unit, Lois continues the interview with Dan Turpin. Clark walks around taking notes and pictures of various paper work in the office.

LOIS LANE

So what you're saying is that this  
new division, this Special Crimes  
Unit that you're creating is a task  
force to replace Superman?

DAN TURPIN

No you misunderstand Ms. Lane. Our  
goal is not to replace Superman,  
but for Superman to become an aid  
rather than the primary source of  
crime stopping. To make him less of  
a crutch for the Metropolis PD to  
stand on.

Clark looks over his shoulder and listens in.

DAN TURPIN

Look everyone in the world  
appreciates what Superman has done.  
But it shouldn't be Superman alone  
who is protecting the citizens of  
Metropolis. After all that is the  
job of the Metropolis PD, which has  
been greatly lacking as of late.  
That's why they brought me in, to  
take back control.

(MORE)

DAN TURPIN (cont'd)  
To make it so we're not twiddling  
our thumbs while waiting for  
Superman to bring in the bad guys.  
That's why I'm creating the SCU, to  
go after a certain type of criminal  
that until now Metropolis PD has  
seemed to ignore.

LOIS LANE  
Can you give me an example?

DAN TURPIN  
Certainly. Take this group that  
calls themselves Intergang. They  
haven't been around for too long  
but in the last few months their  
activity has greatly increased.  
Not only that, but suddenly  
Intergang members go from common  
thugs to perhaps the most  
technologically capable gang  
there's ever been. We have  
discovered this through some raids  
we've carried out.

INT. STAR LABS, HAMILTON'S OFFICE.

Corben and the two other men, who are now dressed in the  
security guard's uniforms enter Hamilton's office. Hamilton  
quickly turns around in his chair.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Can I help you gentlemen?

JOHN CORBEN  
Professor Emil Hamilton?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Yes.

JOHN CORBEN  
Please come with us. There is an  
emergency and you have to leave the  
building?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Emergency? I didn't here any kind  
of alarm.

Hamilton turns around and types on his computer, bringing up  
a map of the building.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

This shows that there aren't any alarms going off in the building. So what's the emergency?

JOHN CORBEN

We just need you to come with us.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Look, there's nobody else here today except for us and I'm running some important tests on M135 X7. It's not in the most stable condition at the moment so, I'm going to have to say no.

JOHN CORBEN

I'm only going to ask you one more time.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Well then you'll be wasting your breath. Now if you'll excuse me.

Corben looks over to one of the other men and nods.

The other man walks up to Hamilton and pulls out his taser gun.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Wait, what is that?!

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, SCU

Lois continues her interview with Turpin.

LOIS LANE

Do you know who's in charge of Intergang?

DAN TURPIN

A mob boss that's been around for awhile. Named Genolti. Not originally from Metropolis he came in and took over Intergang. His second in command is guy named Bruno Mannheim. Not much is known on him.

EXT. STAR LABS, LOADING AREA

The two other men with Corben carry Hamilton and put him in the back of the Van. One of the men gets in the back with him, the other in the driver's side. He waves to Corben and then drives off.

Corben picks up his bag and walks back into STAR Labs. He dials Rudy on the phone.

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, PARKING LOT

Rudy answers his phone.

RUDY JONES

Yeah.

JOHN CORBEN (V.O.)

It's time.

Rudy hangs his phone up. He takes a deep breath then flicks his cigarette away. He bangs on the top of the hood and the other three men get out of the car.

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, SCU

Lois continues the interview.

LOIS LANE

So Genolti came in from out of town, brought in lots of money and toys for his new gang.

DAN TURPIN

No. Genolti's been around, but it's not his style to bring in technology. Someone else is funding Intergang and providing them with this stuff. And word on the street is that they're planning something big. It's because of things like this, that the SCU is needed.

Clark speaks up from the background.

CLARK KENT

Any idea of what their plan is?

Lois turns back to look at Clark. She gives him a bit of a dirty look.

DAN TURPIN  
Off the record?

Lois turns back, nods, and puts her pen down.

DAN TURPIN  
We don't know exactly what it is.  
All we have is a name. Project  
Cadmus.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

Rudy and the three other men run into the bank and quickly draw their concealed SMGs from their duffel bags.

RUDY JONES  
Everyone get your hands up! Tellers  
take three steps back from the  
counter or I start blasting. If I  
here the alarm go off everyone in  
here will die!

The people in the bank begin to panic but they comply.

RUDY JONES  
Who's the manager?

No one answers. Rudy grabs a young girl and point the gun at her head.

RUDY JONES  
WHO IS THE GOD DAMN MANAGER!!

A short chubby guy raises his hand. The BANK MANAGER.

BANK MANAGER  
I'm the manager.

Rudy quickly makes his way over to him. He signals to his three partners.

RUDY JONES  
Start getting the money from the  
teller stations.

He reaches the bank manger and grabs his suit jacket.

RUDY JONES  
Open the vault, I need to get into  
a lock box. And don't give me any  
shit about not being able to open  
it.

BANK MANAGER

Ok, ok, just please don't hurt anyone.

RUDY JONES

As long as you cooperate.

The Bank Manager walks Rudy over to a keypad and starts typing in a combination.

One of the men that came in with Rudy looks around. He slowly lowers his weapon and sneaks out the front door.

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

The man hides his weapon and then walks around the corner of the bank.

He comes upon the electrical box on the side of the bank and pulls out a large knife and begins to pry it open.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lois and Clark exit the building, they walk out to the street curb.

CLARK KENT

Project Cadmus. What do you think it means?

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

The Intergang member pops open the electrical box. He reaches in and pulls out a couple of wires, which spark as he does.

LOIS LANE (V.O.)

Who knows? Probably just a cover name for a series of crimes or something.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lois tries to wave down a taxi but none stop.

CLARK KENT

I suppose it's good that Superman will have some help tracking some of these people down.

Lois turns back to Clark.

LOIS LANE\$

Ha! You think Superman is going to partner up with Turpin and his special crimes unit? I doubt that.

CLARK KENT

I don't know. I think Superman would be happy to see other people who are inspired to do greater things. Maybe that's why he does what he does.

Lois doesn't immediately say anything back to Clark. She just looks at him, then scans him up and down.

LOIS LANE

Why all this sudden interest into Superman's psyche, Smallville?

Clark suddenly seems very nervous, he starts looking away from Lois.

CLARK KENT

Oh, uh, I don't know. Just talking I guess. So hey how was your date last night.

For just a moment longer Lois continues looking Clark over, then it seems whatever was on her mind goes away. She turns her attention back to hailing a cab.

LOIS LANE

It was pretty good. The guy was nice. I'm seeing him again tonight. Geez will no cab stop in this city?

CLARK KENT

Oh really? So what's the lucky guy's name?

Lois glances back and looks Clark up and down, then back to the street.

LOIS LANE

Lucky guy?

(Beat)

His name is Charles Welles.

EXT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

The Intergang member takes the ends of the wires he pulled out and rubs them together. Almost as if trying to hot-wire a car.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

Just as the Bank Manager opens the vault the alarm goes off. Everyone in the building looks in all direction around them. The two remaining Intergang members look at each other.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Clark hears the sound of the alarm going off at the bank. He looks off into that direction.

A cab finally pulls up.

                    LOIS LANE  
                    Finally! You splitting?

Lois gets into the cab and looks back to Clark.

Looking into the distance and paying attention to the bank alarm he nearly doesn't hear Lois.

                    LOIS LANE  
                    Hello? Clark?

                    CLARK KENT  
                    Uh, no. I'm ok. I think I'll take  
                    the subway. See you tomorrow Lois.

                    LOIS LANE  
                    Alright, have fun. See you  
                    tomorrow...

Clark quickly walks away

                    LOIS LANE  
                    Smallville.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Clark is walking down the sidewalk at a fast pace. His head shifts back and forth, looking for a place to change. He quickly ducks down an alley way.

EXT. METROPOLIS, ALLEY WAY

As he rounds the corner he picks up speed. He takes his glasses off and then in one swift motion rips open the front of his shirt, revealing THE SYMBOL.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

Rudy looks at the Bank Manager in a panic.

RUDY JONES  
What did you do!?

BANK MANAGER  
It wasn't me! I swear! The alarm  
isn't attached to this panel.

RUDY JONES  
AHHHH!! Get out of here!

Rudy pushes the bank manager out of the way and walks into the vault.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, VAULT

Rudy scans over the box numbers for the right one. It's one of the larger boxes with a drawer in the middle.

He reaches into his bag and pulls out a crowbar then pries at it until it pops open. As he pulls the draw out a strange green glow lights up his face. He looks down into the drawer, a confused look on his face.

RUDY JONES  
What the hell?

He reaches into the box and pulls out a green rock, about the size of a heart. He holds it up and examines it for a moment. His attention then focuses back into the drawer were stacks of one hundred dollar bills line the bottom.

Rudy quickly sticks the rock into his pocket, then starts loading the cash into his duffel bag.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

One of the Intergang members finishes loading a duffel bag full of money, he zips it up then turns and hands it off to the other guy.

INTERGANG MEMBER

Here take this.

The other member grabs it then turns around and hands the bag to someone else.

INTERGANG MEMBER 2

Here take this.

When he turns back his face goes white and his eyes widen. Slowly he turns around to face who is behind him. His mouth drops open when he realizes that it's Superman.

SUPERMAN

I believe this belongs to the bank.

The first Intergang member still has not realized that Superman has arrived, but he gets the hint when his friend flies past him and puts a hole in the sheet rock of the wall.

He quickly turns and spots Superman standing with his arms on his sides, staring him down from across the bank.

The Intergang member then seems to notice something else. He looks around and realizes that the hostages are all gone.

SUPERMAN

I already removed your hostages, if that's what you were looking for?

The Intergang member grits his teeth together.

INTERGANG MEMBER

Take this, ASS HOLE!

He quickly reaches for his gun then opens fire on Superman.

Superman doesn't move, he remains standing still, the bullets simply hitting him and falling to the ground.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, VAULT

Rudy hears the gun fire and panics. He runs over and closes the vault door locking himself inside.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

The gun runs out of ammo and the Intergang member yells and throws it at Superman. It doesn't even make it to his feet.

Superman looks down at the gun then back to the man and simply smiles.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK, VAULT

From inside the vault Rudy can hear his fellow Intergang member scream. Whether it's in fear, pain, or just from defeat he does not know.

Then for a moment all is silent. Rudy breaths heavily as he waits to see what his fate will be.

The silence is soon interrupted however by the sounds of twisting and breaking steel bolts on the door of the vault. The door is then completely ripped off its hinges and thrown to the side by Superman.

Superman stands about five feet away from the opening of the vault. Rudy pressed against the very back.

SUPERMAN

Hiding inside a lead lined vault  
isn't going to help you. I just  
can't see through it. Doesn't mean  
I can't rip through it like paper.  
Now if you surrender peacefully  
you'll be much happier tonight.  
Unlike your friends who will be  
dealing with a bit of pain.

Rudy lets out a big sigh and swallows hard. His head falls forward in shame and he starts walking toward Superman.

INT. METROPOLIS NATIONAL BANK

As Rudy nears the opening to the vault and in closer proximity to Superman, Superman's eyes start to get a bit glazed over. His breathing becomes increasingly heavy and beads of sweat start to form on his forehead.

Rudy continues forward however, but the confusion grows on his face.

Rudy takes the final step out of the vault and almost in sync Superman falls to one knee.

Rudy's eyes widen. With Superman seemingly down his eyes quickly shift to the door. He looks back and forth between the door and Superman a couple of times, then decides to go for it. He darts toward the door.

Superman listens in to the sounds of Rudy's footsteps as they grow louder and louder. Followed by the sound of a car door opening and closing. He then hears the engine starting, and then the sound of cell phone dialing.

INT. RUDY'S CAR

Rudy races down the road toward STAR Labs. Corben picks up on the other line.

JOHN CORBEN (V.O.)  
Yeah Rudy how's it going?

RUDY JONES  
We gotta a huge problem! Superman showed up, but he got sick or something.  
(Beat)  
Hello? John?

There is no response on the other end of the line. Rudy's cell phone begins to beep. He looks at, no reception, then throws it to the floor board.

INT. STAR LABS, RESEARCH AREA

Corben is attaching a device onto a large metal tank that looks something like a big water heater. Above him is a flammable sign.

RUDY JONES (O.C.)  
John!

Corben looks up at the sound of Rudy's voice.

JOHN CORBEN  
Yeah, over here.

Rudy comes running from around the corner. He passes by a large glass window with CAUTION: M135 X7 written on it. Through the glass several containers of a dark liquid can be seen.

JOHN CORBEN  
Hey I couldn't understand you on the phone. What the hell are you doing here? What happened at the bank?

Rudy, nearly out of breath, quickly tries to get his words out.

RUDY JONES

I, I don't know. Damn it, I knew this whole thing was a bad idea!

JOHN CORBEN

Calm down and tell me what happened.

RUDY JONES

The alarm went off. Someone must have tripped it, I don't know. Then Superman showed up.

Corben suddenly stands and whips his entire body around toward Rudy.

JOHN CORBEN

What? Damn it!! How the hell did you get away then?

RUDY JONES

I don't know. That's the thing man he got sick or something.

JOHN CORBEN

What do you mean sick?

RUDY JONES

I don't know. He just started acting funny then fell to his knees. It was like he was exhausted or something.

Corben looks around the area, his breathing pattern steadily increasing.

JOHN CORBEN

Alright, well whatever happened you may have just lucked out, but no telling if Superman's on his way. I'm done setting this charge. Did you get the stuff from the box?

Rudy shakes his head.

RUDY JONES

When he showed up I dropped everything. I didn't think to pick it back up when he went down, I just wanted to get the hell out of there.

JOHN CORBEN

Shit. Genolti isn't going to like that.

Rudy takes in a quick deep breath, and perks up. He reaches down and feels his pocket.

RUDY JONES

Wait, I did get something that was there.

Rudy pulls the green rock out of his pocket.

RUDY JONES

Here.

Rudy hands the rock to Corben and he examines it. Corben, however, looks at it just as confused as Rudy did.

JOHN CORBEN

What the hell is it?

RUDY JONES

I don't know, but it was definitely in Luthor's box.

Their conversation is quickly brought to an end by the sound of shattering glass above. They both scan the area.

JOHN CORBEN

He's here.

Corben quickly puts the rock in his pocket.

WOOOOSH! The two look straight ahead at a blur of red and blue manifests itself into Superman. He stands with his arms crossed, dead ahead.

A bead of sweat runs down Superman's forehead. He looks to Rudy first.

SUPERMAN

I hope you're not thinking that you can get away from me twice.

(To both)

Now, I'm only going to ask this once. Both of you empty your pockets and toss whatever contents you have to the side, then walk toward me. If you cooperate we can all walk away from this unharmed. If not, we'll have to do things the hard way.

Upon hearing this request Corben looks down to his pocket. He looks to Rudy, then as if coming to some great realization a smirk grows on his face. He slowly looks back toward Superman.

JOHN CORBEN

And what if I wanna do things the hard way?-- Superman.

SUPERMAN

It wouldn't be a very wise decision. I can promise you, you won't like the hard way.

JOHN CORBEN

I'll take my chances.

Corben reaches into his pocket and pulls out the rock. He takes a step forward.

Superman's eyes widen a bit as he focuses on the rock. His breathing begins to increase.

Rudy looks on, almost in amazement.

Corben holds the rock straight out in front of him and takes a step forward. Superman bends forward in pain, almost as if it sent an invisible shock wave that hit him straight in the gut.

JOHN CORBEN

So you do have a weakness after all. I'll have to remember to thank Lex Luthor personally for this wonderful gift.

Superman clenches his teeth together at the sound of that name.

SUPERMAN

(to self)  
Luthor.

Rudy starts to get a bit nervous. He looks around as if expecting someone else to pop out.

Superman falls to a knee. His breathing very rapid now.

RUDY

Look, he's down! We can get away!  
Blow the charges and bring the building down on top of him.

(MORE)

RUDY (cont'd)  
Come one let's go! Before he  
regains his strength back like  
before.

Corben's smile seems to grow even larger. He tosses the rock up and down in the air, laughing to himself.

JOHN CORBEN  
No. I don't think so. I want to  
stay here and watch him suffer.

Everything begins to go in and out of focus for Superman. He searches the area for anything that may help him. Then he spots it, the bomb attached to the tank.

Superman's eyebrows narrow, his teeth clench tight. He lets out a low grunt. His eyes begin to glow a pale red that slowly is increasing in intensity.

JOHN CORBEN  
I want to see his very-- last--  
breath.

Suddenly the red of Superman's eyes intensifies drastically and a beam heat vision shoots out.

SUPERMAN  
RRAHHHHHHH!!!!

Corben and Rudy's eyes go wide in the split second as the beam passes between them and hits right on it's target.

The bomb explodes causing the tank to explode with it. The force of the blast sends Corben and Rudy flying off in opposite directions.

Corben hits the ground hard. The rock is knocked out of his hand and slides across the floor.

Rudy flies backwards and smashes through the large glass window and into the many containers holding the dark liquid. The electrically charged containers begin to shock him as the liquid pours out and begins to cover his body. He screams in pain as the electrical current seems to increase.

With the rock now far enough away from Superman he slowly is able to regain his strength, but just as he starts to get back to his feet the raging fire causes another nearby tank to read critical. He shields himself just before the blast.

The explosion causes a large beam and much debris to fall from the ceiling. Corben narrowly rolls out of the way as it all smashes into the ground. He spots the rock ahead and quickly crawls toward it.

The wall Rudy is stuck on begins to malfunction, sparks shoot out and suddenly it catches on fire, Rudy with it. It explodes and he's shot forward back out the window and onto the floor. His body convulses as the fire consumes it.

Superman, now back to his feet, hears the screams and dashes toward Rudy.

A look of horror comes over Superman's face at the scene before him. He quickly uses his cold breath to put the fire out.

When the smoke settles, whatever parts of Rudy's body that aren't covered in frost is blackened from the chemicals and fire. Laying in a fetal position, he shivers.

Superman quickly pulls his cape off and puts it around Rudy. He picks him up and turns back to find Corben.

Multiple explosions begin occurring all throughout the lab. The entire building has become unstable and is ready to crumble. Using his X-ray vision Superman is able to cut through all the fallen debris and flames.

Superman spots Corben just as he grabs hold of the rock. But at that very moment there is a massive explosion that causes the ceiling above Corben to collapse.

Superman starts to move but quickly looks to Rudy in his arms and then back to Corben.

Corben's screams for a moment but as the debris fall it's quickly silenced.

Superman's eyes stare wide across the lab to where Corben's body lay; somewhere under the twisted steel and fire. Superman doesn't use his x-ray vision to see the aftermath.

Not giving him any more time to rest, the ceiling above him also starts to collapse. Debris fall down on Superman, he bends forward, shielding Rudy as the debris fall on his back.

Once they're clear Superman quickly takes to flight, and escapes the building.

EXT. STAR LABS, SKY ABOVE

He flies through the large opening in the roof and out of the building. Just as he leaves, a large portion of it collapses in upon itself.

He hovers in the air for a moment looking down at the scene, a somber look on his face. Rudy still in his arms, Superman looks down to him. He's unconscious.

In a burst of speed Superman flies off.

EXT. HOSPITAL, EMERGENCY - MOMENTS LATER

It's business as usual at a hospital emergency entrance when suddenly a faint sonic boom causes everyone to look up and see Superman descending toward the ground.

Over near an ambulance Dan Turpin is speaking to one of the Intergang members from the bank, who is being wheeled into the hospital on a gurney. Turpin spots Superman and quickly makes his way over.

EMTs rush over to Superman with a stretcher. Superman lays Rudy down on it. He takes his cape back and swings it around, reattaching it to his suit.

As much of the frost has started to melt, more of Rudy's blackened skin is visible. The EMT's expression when looking at Rudy tells it all.

EMT

Jesus, what happened?

SUPERMAN

He's got pretty bad burns. You think you take care of him?

EMT

We'll do what we can. Lets go!

The EMT signals for a couple others and they wheel Rudy inside.

Superman gets ready to take off, but is interrupted.

DAN TURPIN

Superman!

Superman stops and looks to Turpin whom he immediately recognizes.

DAN TURPIN

What the hell was that? You fry that guy with your heat rays?

SUPERMAN

I would never do anything like that.

DAN TURPIN

Yeah yeah. So who was it?

SUPERMAN

One of the guys from the bank robbery. I tracked him back to STAR Labs. Him and another were planting an explosive device.

DAN TURPIN

I'm guessing, by the way he looks, that large pillar of smoke in the distance, and the fact that you say there were two men but I only see one; that things didn't quite go according to plan.

Superman turns to look at the large cloud of black smoke that looms in the distance. He then quickly turns away, looking down.

Turpin seems to pick up on Superman's feelings and his attitude quickly shifts to a more pleasant one.

DAN TURPIN

Look, I'm sure you did what you could.

(Beat)

Anyway, we got the other two guys, they'll live. One's over there, gets off with just a broken arm.

Superman, as if realizing something, quickly turns back to Turpin.

SUPERMAN

Who are these guys? I know you wouldn't be here for just a couple of bank robbers.

A bit of smile comes forms on Turpin's face. He looks around noticing many people staring at the two of them.

DAN TURPIN

Let's talk over here.

Turpin motions for Superman to follow.

EXT. HOSPITAL, EMERGENCY, BEHIND AMBULANCE

Turpin and Superman walk over behind a few parked ambulances. It gives them a bit of cover from the surrounding public eye.

DAN TURPIN

So you do know who I am.

Superman nods.

DAN TURPIN

I'll answer your questions but first you answer mine. How did Jones get away from you at the bank?

SUPERMAN

Jones?

DAN TURPIN

Yeah, our crispy critter in there is named Rudy Jones. I'll tell you how I know after you answer my question.

SUPERMAN

I don't think they were there to rob the bank. I think the robbery was a distraction. Something to cover up their true intentions. I believe they were at the bank for the Kryptonite.

DAN TURPIN

Kryptonite?

SUPERMAN

Pieces of radioactive rock that landed here from my home world. It's the only thing I can't defend myself against. Whenever I come near it, it's like someone repeatedly sticking needles in every inch of my body. Lex Luthor originally discovered it and tried to kill me with it. If you go back to that bank and find the deposit box that was broken into, chances are it's going to lead back to Luthor.

Dan takes a moment to process the information that he just received.

SUPERMAN

So tell me, who is Rudy Jones?

DAN TURPIN

He's a member of a group called Intergang, so were his buddies. Their activity has been increasing lately as is there technological capabilities. I have reason to believe something big is on the horizon.

(Beat)

Obviously, with this new information, the bank job was to get the kryptonite as a weapon against you, but what is the connection with STAR Labs?

SUPERMAN

Perhaps just sabotage. STAR Labs is a leading research facility. If Intergang is starting to get into technology maybe whoever runs Intergang saw STAR as competition. Whoever is funding Intergang has lots of resources.

DAN TURPIN

Luthor got them the Kryptonite. Do you think Lexcorp is somehow behind this?

SUPERMAN

We can't rule Luthor out, but my gut is telling me it's something else. I'll try to see what else I can find out.

Superman turns to fly off, but Turpin quickly reaches out and grabs his arm, pulling him back down angrily.

DAN TURPIN

Whoa, whoah, whoah! Wait a minute! I've been on the Intergang for months and your not just gonna fly in and take over my case and get all the glory. The two Intergang members we got are just a couple of thugs who don't know anything.

(MORE)

DAN TURPIN (cont'd)  
Rudy Jones is the closest thing  
we've got to possibly getting good  
intel and he's laying there,  
probably in a coma, there's no  
telling if he'll even make it. Who  
knows who the other guy is that you  
let die.

SUPERMAN  
(angered)  
I didn't let him die! There wasn't  
enough time.

There is a silence between the two of them for a moment.

DAN TURPIN  
Whatever you say Superman. You just  
better report to me with anything  
you find. Otherwise I'll put ever  
damn cop in the city on your ass  
for obstruction of justice. I'm  
running the show now, not you. Get  
it?

Superman and Turpin stare each other down.

SUPERMAN  
Yeah, I get it.

Superman slowly ascends to the air, then flies off.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY - EVENING

The two Intergang members that were with Corben at STAR Labs  
drag Hamilton into a dark room and sit him on a chair. One  
of them cracks a smelling salt under his nose which  
immediately wakes him up.

Hamilton frantically starts looking around the room.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Where am I? Who are you people?

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Relax Hamilton.

The florescent lights flicker on overhead. Bruno stands  
across the room with his hand on the switch.

Hamilton begins looking around at all the hi tech computer  
and medical equipment that fills the large room.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
What is all this stuff?

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
You're going to help us with a little project. But all that will be explained in time. For now, let's just sit here and relax. I gotta go talk to the boss about some things, then we'll discuss what you can do for us.

INT. HOSPITAL, OPERATING ROOM - EVENING

Surgeons have Rudy on the operating table. They work hard to repair his damaged skin and treat the burn wounds.

SURGEON  
Jesus, this guy is in bad shape.  
Hand me a cotton swab.

As they're working Rudy suddenly flat lines.

NURSE  
He's flat lining!

The Surgeon quickly pulls out the defibrillator and charges it up.

SURGEON  
Clear!

The Surgeon presses the paddles to Rudy's chest, they shock him but instead of Rudy's body jerking the one usual time, an electrical current begins to run over his entire body.

SURGEON  
What the hell?

Everyone stands back as Rudy's body convulses for a moment. It doesn't last long however as the electricity slowly begins to dissipate and the heart rate monitor begins to registers a pulse.

NURSE  
We gotta pulse. He's stable.

SURGEON  
I don't know what the hell that was all about but let's get this guy finished up.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING

Lois enters an upscale restaurant and quickly walks over to the maître d'. He points across the room and Lois nods to thank him, then walks in that direction.

She sits down at a table and gives a big sigh of relief.

LOIS LANE

Sorry about being late. I got caught up on some breaking news.

Sitting across the table from her is a man named CHARLES WELLES (30s). He's a very handsome man with black hair that is slicked back, and he has a thin Clark Gable like mustache. He wears what appears to be a very expensive looking suit.

CHARLES WELLES

It's quite alright my dear. I hope it was nothing too disastrous.

Lois chuckles a bit as she situates herself in the chair.

LOIS LANE

Actually it kind of was. A bank robbery and an attack on STAR Labs. All in one day!

CHARLES WELLES

Well I hope no one was hurt too badly.

LOIS LANE

I don't have the details, although I did hear that Superman brought someone to the hospital.

Charles perks up a bit at the mention of Superman.

CHARLES WELLES

Ah, so Superman saves the day again!

LOIS LANE

(Sarcastically)  
Yeah, isn't it grand.

Charles looks on at Lois curiously.

CHARLES WELLES

What's wrong? I thought the two of you were friends?

LOIS LANE

We are, well, at least we were. I haven't actually talked to him in a couple of months. I'm sure there's a good explanation though.

(To self)

At least there better be.

There is a brief moment of awkward silence between them.

LOIS LANE

Anyway! Let's talk about you for a change. How's your business deal coming along?

CHARLES WELLES

Well I haven't quite made my next move just yet. I suppose I'm waiting for the right opportunity to present itself. You know how these things work.

LOIS LANE

Oh, yeah, definitely.

Lois quickly takes a sip of champagne. Her eyes shift back and forth.

EXT. STAR LABS - NIGHT

WORKERS are already starting to clean up the mess at STAR Labs. Big cranes move large portions of walls, and twisted steel from what's left of the building.

Several police cars are on scene along with two ambulances. An EMT is loading a gurney in the back of one of them with a body under a sheet. The door snags the top of the sheet slightly pulling it away revealing the security guard that was shot in the head. The EMT quickly covers him back up.

WORKER (O.C.)

Got a live one here!

Everyone looks over to where the voice came from. Workers and a couple EMTs run over.

Underneath some of the rubble is Corben. The worker is kneeled down beside him.

WORKER

He looks like he's in bad shape, but I can see him breathing.

The EMT checks his pulse then examines the situation.

EMT

His legs are pinned under these beams.

(Yelling)

Can I get some help over here!

EXT. STAR LABS - MOMENTS LATER

An EMT wheels Corben to the ambulance met with the other, the AMBULANCE DRIVER. The EMT looks down at Corben's hand where he is clenching onto the piece of Kryptonite. He grabs hold and tries to remove it, but can't.

EMT

Geez, this guy has a grip on this thing.

AMBULANCE DRIVER

Forget it, we'll get out on the way there or at the hospital. We gotta load this guy up now though.

The EMT loads Corben into the back of the ambulance and then gets in behind him.

INT. AMBULANCE, BACK

As the EMT is just about to shut the door a hand reaches in and stops it, then quickly opens it back up.

A masked man jumps in and points a gun at the EMT, then closes the door behind him.

INT. AMBULANCE, FRONT

The ambulance driver shuts the door as he gets into the driver's seat. He knocks on the back panel.

AMBULANCE DRIVER

You ready back there?

Suddenly the passenger door opens and a SECOND MASKED MAN jumps in. He too has a gun.

MAN IN A MASK 2

We're ready. Drive.

The Ambulance driver complies.

EXT. STAR LABS

The lights and sirens fire up on the ambulance and it speeds away from the scene.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE

Bruno Mannheim quickly enters Genolti's office. Genolti turns from his window and looks to Bruno.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Great news boss. We retrieved Corben before the cops could get hold of him. But even better news, he's still alive.

Genolti's eyes widen, a slight smile forms on his face.

BOSS GENOLTI

Alive! That's wonderful, are they bringing him back here?

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Yeah, they're on their way. Only thing is...

BOSS GENOLTI

What? Spit it out!

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Look, he's in bad shape. The boys say they'll be surprised if he'll even make it here.

Genolti lets out a deep sigh. He turns back to the window.

BOSS GENOLTI

I can't let this happen.

Genolti looks down. He closes his eyes. Bruno doesn't say a word he just looks on.

Suddenly Genolti's eyes shoot open and his head pops back up.

BOSS GENOLTI

That's it! Corben saved my life once, and now I shall repay the favor by saving his.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

He could be paralysed. He might be a vegetable for all we know. What kind of life is that?

BOSS GENOLTI

You're obviously not thinking the same thing that I am Bruno.

(Beat)

Oh how fate works in mysterious ways, for today we will not only have the assistance of Professor Hamilton, but we also have our first volunteer for Project Cadmus.

After a moment of thinking a smile forms on Bruno's face.

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jonathan Kent sits on the couch watching television. The door to the apartment opens and Clark walks in.

JONATHAN KENT

Hey there's my boy!

Clark smiles and closes the door behind him.

CLARK KENT

Have you been watching TV all day?

JONATHAN KENT

No, I got out and walked around a bit. I was thinking of hitting up a couple of museums tomorrow while you're at work.

Clark smiles again, then takes his glasses off and sets them on the counter as he walks into the back bedroom.

CLARK KENT

Sounds like fun pop.

Jonathan looks back to the television and turns it off. He gets up and follows Clark back to the room.

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM

Jonathan enters the back bedroom. Clark's dress shirt is now untucked and unbuttoned. You can see his Superman suit underneath.

JONATHAN KENT

I can always tell when something's wrong with you Clark. Are you still bothered by what we talked about yesterday?

Clark sits on the edge of the bed, hunched over.

JONATHAN KENT

Did something else happen with all that stuff today?

CLARK KENT

There were two guys when I went into STAR Labs, one had Kryptonite. It was killing me, I didn't know what else to do so I used my heat vision to cause an explosion.

Jonathan walks over and sits next to his son.

CLARK KENT

I wasn't expecting it to get out of hand like that. Now one guy is seriously disfigured and the other is...

JONATHAN KENT

You were defending yourself Clark. You did what you had to do. Those were bad men, doing bad things. They knew the consequences.

CLARK KENT

They still deserve a chance at life. But right when I turned to get the other guy the roof came down. I can't help but think I still could have went in a pulled him out. Those beams wouldn't have hurt me.

JONATHAN KENT

Well what about the guy you saved? Were was he in all this.

CLARK KENT

In my arms.

Jonathan puts his arm around his son.

JONATHAN KENT

Look son. If you would have went after the other guy, sure those beams wouldn't hurt you, but you wouldn't have been able to shield the man you already saved. Then both men would be dead.

CLARK KENT

I just wonder if---

JONATHAN KENT

No, you listen to me Clark. When you were talking yesterday I didn't have much to say. But I've been thinking about it and now it's my turn to talk.

Clark turns his head and looks to his father.

JONATHAN KENT

I don't care how strong you are, how fast you are, or all the great things that you can do. I told you, you can't be everywhere at once. You can't put everything on your shoulders to solve by yourself. You can try, sure you can try. But it's going to drive you insane. Look at what it's doing to you already. The key is to do the best you can. Just like me, just like your mother.

(Beat)

Just like your real father.

CLARK KENT

What?

JONATHAN KENT

I remember the story you told me. A dying planet. Jor-El tried to save everyone but no one would listen.

CLARK KENT

I remember him saying that their ignorance was nearly driving him mad. But the situation is different here. People on Earth want to be saved.

JONATHAN KENT

Yes but in the end he realized that he couldn't save everyone.

(MORE)

JONATHAN KENT (cont'd)  
But he didn't simply give up. He  
still had one single hope.

CLARK KENT  
Me. He made a choice to save me. He  
put me in a ship and sent me here.  
I was only a baby. He knew in this  
environment I'd be able to do great  
things.

JONATHAN KENT  
And you have done great things  
Clark. But you too will have to  
realize that you can't save  
everyone. Sometimes the universe  
just has other plans for people.

Clark hangs his head. A big smile forms and he begins to nod.  
He looks back to his father, his eyes wet.

CLARK KENT  
You're right dad. You're absolutely  
right. I hadn't realized until now  
that I was letting all this become  
a chore. And I won't let it become  
that. I suppose I felt like I was  
all alone out there, and while I'm  
still going to do the best I can to  
help out I think I may finally have  
some help from the outside.

JONATHAN KENT  
Oh really?

CLARK KENT  
Yeah, a new Lieutenant with the  
Metropolis Police Department named  
Dan Turpin.

JONATHAN KENT  
That's great Clark. Glad to hear  
it.

Jonathan stands up and looks to Clark.

JONATHAN KENT  
Now I have one last piece of advice  
for you. You need to find an outlet  
for all these pent up emotions you  
have. A past time, a friend, a  
girl.

Clark quickly looks up.

JONATHAN KENT  
 Something besides flying around and  
 beating up bad guys. Something that  
 makes you happy.

Clark thinks about it for a moment.

CLARK KENT  
 Hey would you be ok being by  
 yourself for a little while  
 tonight?

Jonathan smiles.

JONATHAN KENT  
 Sure I'll be fine. I'll just watch  
 a little TV and probably go bed  
 soon anyway.

Clark stands up.

CLARK KENT  
 You're the reason I'm the man I am  
 today. For that I want to thank  
 you.

Clark hugs his father. Jonathan smiles.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY

Hamilton sits looking over blueprints and schematics on a  
 computer. His head resting on his hand, looking stressed.

(Professor Hamilton)

I just don't really understand any  
 of this. I mean I've never seen  
 anything like it.

(Beat)

I wouldn't even know where to  
 start; to get half of the materials  
 needed as I've never even heard of  
 this type of metal. Why don't you  
 just get whoever made these plans  
 to build it for you?

BOSS GENOLTI

I'm afraid it's not that simple,  
 and you just so happen to be the  
 most qualified for the job.

Hamilton turns back to Genolti.

(Professor Hamilton)

(MORE)

BOSS GENOLTI (cont'd)  
Look, even if I agreed to do this  
it would take months if not years  
to mold and construct the pieces,  
let alone figure out how to make  
the mechanics of the damn thing  
work.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Well Professor Hamilton,  
fortunately for you, you don't have  
to mold anything. We've been hard  
at work to make your job as easy as  
possible.

Boss Genolti walks over to a wall on the side of the room. He  
pushes a sequence of buttons on a keypad lock and a large  
containment unit suddenly emerges.

From out of the container a white mist of cold air pours out.

BOSS GENOLTI  
All you have to do is make it work.

Hamilton shivers as the cold air from the container reaches  
his spine. He slowly walks forward and looks down into it.

As the mist inside slowly clears Hamilton's eyes widen at the  
site of a metal skull.

Suddenly Bruno bursts into the door. Everyone's attention  
turns toward him.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Corben's here. Dr. Vale is bringing  
him in now.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Excellent!

The doors to the room open and Corben's body is wheeled in by  
DR. VALE (late 50s).

BOSS GENOLTI  
Jesus. Look at him.  
(DR. Vale)  
He's in bad shape. But I think I'll  
be able to keep him alive long  
enough for Hamilton to get the  
chassis working.

Hamilton quickly looks to Vale confused and still in a bit of  
shock.

(Professor Hamilton)  
(MORE)

BOSS GENOLTI (cont'd)  
What the hell are you talking  
about?

(To Genolti)  
What am I really doing here?

BOSS GENOLTI  
Dr. Vale is a one of the greatest  
brain surgeons in the world. He  
previously worked exclusively for  
LexCorp. However, since LexCorp  
went under he now works for us.  
He's going to transfer Corben's  
brain into the body that you will  
make work.

(Professor Hamilton)  
That's insane! I won't have any  
part of it.

Genolti doesn't immediately respond. After a moment he  
simply looks to Bruno. Bruno nods and exits the room.

Moments later he returns with the driver of the hijacked  
ambulance. He's been badly beaten, the blood still wet on his  
face.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Say hello to Chris Smith.

Bruno hits Chris in the back of the legs, forcing him to his  
knees.

Bruno reaches down and pulls out Chris' wallet then starts  
thumbing through it. Bruno picks out a photograph of Chris  
and his family.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Loving husband. Father of two.

He holds it up for Hamilton to see then tosses it at him.

Hamilton doesn't say a word, he just looks back into the eyes  
of Chris.

Bruno tosses the wallet to the side, then pulls out a gun  
from his back belt.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Now are you going to do what we  
ask?

He presses the gun to the side of Chris' head. Chris closes  
his eyes and grits his teeth.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Or am I going to be sending Chris' brains back to his family.

Hamilton doesn't respond he just looks back and forth between Bruno and the Chris. His breathing heavy, his eyes wide.

Bruno cocks the gun.

(Professor Hamilton)

Ok! Ok! Ok! I'll do it. Just let him go.

(To Genolti)

Please.

Genolti smiles and motions for Bruno to lower the gun. He does so.

Bruno picks Chris up off the ground. He opens the door and hands him off to a couple other Intergang members who take him away.

BOSS GENOLTI

(To Hamilton)

He'll be released when you complete your job. Think of it as an insurance policy.

Hamilton, clearly distraught, lets out a sigh and sits back down in his chair.

BOSS GENOLTI

Now that you know how serious we are I'll ask you. Can you make this work?

Hamilton takes a moment to wipe the sweat from his forehead.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Yes. In theory it should work. But I didn't see anything about a power source in the schematics. If I was reading this thing right it's going to take a hell of a lot of power to run the body and the human brain alone isn't going to do it.

BOSS GENOLTI

I'm sure you'll figure something out.

(To Vale)

How long do you think you can keep him alive in his current condition?

DR. VALE  
Maybe a week at the most.

Genolti turns back to Hamilton.

BOSS GENOLTI  
You have one week to figure it out.  
If Corben dies, so do you.

Hamilton's head falls into his hand as Genolti turns and walks over to Corben. He leans in.

BOSS GENOLTI  
(Softly)  
Bear with me friend. For soon you  
will know a power like none other.

Genolti and Bruno exit the room.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, HALLWAY

As the two exit Bruno turns back to Genolti.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Oh yeah, by the way, I found out  
that Rudy was taken to the hospital  
by Superman. It's likely he won't  
make it.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Good. We don't need any loose ends  
or anyone coming back and snooping  
around. He has a family right?

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
I believe so.

BOSS GENOLTI  
Kill them.

Bruno nods.

INT. LOIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lois, just getting home from her date, enters her apartment. She sits her purse down on the coffee table, plops down on the sofa while letting out a long sigh.

After a moment of sitting and staring at nothing, a breeze of wind moves across the room. It pushes a few strands of hair out of place.

She curiously looks in that direction and notices that the door to her balcony is open. She raises and walks over.

EXT. LOIS' APARTMENT, BALCONY

Lois walks out onto her balcony. She lives up several stories in a high rise apartment.

Scanning the area she doesn't see anything and turns to go back inside. As she turns she hears a familiar sound behind her. One that seems to catch every ounce of her attention. It's the sound of cloth beating in the wind.

She quickly turns around. A smile starts to form on her face, but she stifles it.

LOIS LANE

I'm going to have to get an alarm system. You never know who's sneaking around these days.

Across from Lois, standing on the ledge, is Superman. He smiles as he hovers forward toward her, landing just a couple feet away.

SUPERMAN

Hello Lois.

LOIS LANE

What are you doing here? I didn't think I'd ever be seeing you again.

SUPERMAN

I'm sorry I haven't been able to stop by more often.

LOIS LANE

More often? It's been over two months since the last time I even heard word from you.

SUPERMAN

And I'm sorry. But I've just been busy and had a lot of things on my mind. Things I needed to get straightened out.

Lois chuckles a bit to herself.

LOIS LANE

You know it's funny. You're Superman but, you still have the same excuses as every other normal man I've ever dated.

Superman looks away. There is a silence between the two of them. Lois stares at Superman, she tilts her head so that she can look into his eyes.

LOIS LANE

I suppose, if you promise not to leave me hanging again, I could forgive you. Just this once.

Superman looks back to her, one side of lips slowly curling up into a smile.

LOIS LANE

But it's going to cost you.

SUPERMAN

How about a free flight?

Lois steps forward into Superman's arms. She begins to lean in toward his lips and he does the same. Just inches away from his lips...

LOIS LANE

Just let me go change.

She backs away, smiling. She gives him a wink and then walks inside.

Superman clears his throat.

EXT. LOIS' APARTMENT, BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Lois returns to the balcony, she's now wearing a pair of sensual and elegant form fitting pajamas.

Superman perks up a bit as she walks over to him.

SUPERMAN

I've never seen those before.

LOIS LANE

Oh these? Meh, I've had them for a couple of months now. So are you ready to go?

Superman smiles and grabs hold of Lois' waist, then slowly ascends to the sky.

EXT. SKY ABOVE METROPOLIS - NIGHT

Superman holds Lois close as they fly over the tops of the tall sky scrapers in Metropolis.

EXT. PARK

They come to a large park and Superman descends and flies just above the tree tops. Lois is able to reach down and touch the leaves. Superman spots a flower growing out of the top of tree. As he passes by he plucks it out and hands it to Lois.

EXT. METROPOLIS DOWNTOWN

Superman speeds forward. Flying between the large buildings, he weaves in and out of large walk ways and bridges that span across the buildings. The lights of the city shoot past. Lois closes her eyes and hides her face in his shoulder.

He makes a sharp turn and flies right through an arch shaped hole in the middle of a building.

He slows his speed a bit and starts flying upwards toward the clouds. She opens her eyes and looks back toward the city, the ground and then back to Superman. He smiles and laughs a bit.

EXT. SKY

Superman pulls Lois over and holds onto her waist so that she's in front of him as they head straight up.

Bursting through the clouds he lets her go, pushing her up into the air. She spreads her arms and closes her eyes as she continues upward. As soon as gravity begins to pull her back down Superman is there to grab hold of her once again.

As they float in the sky above the clouds, the full moon comes into view behind them. They face each other and slowly spin as if they are slow dancing in the sky.

Looking into each others eyes they slowly move in toward one another and kiss.

A flock of large white birds fly by. After a moment Lois smiles and laughs as a wing lightly brushes her arm. She watches the birds fly by as they pay them no attention, as if the two of them belong up there with the birds.

Superman once again takes Lois to his side and flies forward descending through the clouds.

EXT. LOIS' APARTMENT, BALCONY

Superman and Lois slowly descend to her balcony. He sets her down and for a moment she doesn't let go. He doesn't seem to mind.

LOIS LANE  
You promise I'll see you again  
soon?

SUPERMAN  
I promise. I'm always closer to you  
than you realize.

Lois smiles. The two kiss one last time, then Lois slowly backs into her apartment.

LOIS LANE  
Good bye.

Superman smiles.

SUPERMAN  
See you later.

He turns and flies away.

INT. LOIS' APARTMENT

Lois closes the door to her balcony. She walks over to the couch and plops herself down, letting out a long sigh in the process. This time her eyes closed and a smile on her face.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, PERRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lois and Clark sit in Perry's office. Lois has the flower she got from Superman in hand. She smiles as she smells it and closely examines every inch of it. All her attention seems to be focused on the flower.

PERRY WHITE

So I really liked the write up on Turpin that the two of you turned in, it's really--- good---

(Looks to Lois)

Stuff. \Lois why the hell are you so happy today?

LOIS LANE

What?

PERRY WHITE

Happy. I haven't seen you this happy since... Oh dear god.

Lois looks over to Clark then back to Perry as he quickly comes around the front of the desk and sits on it.

PERRY WHITE

You seen him last night didn't you? Superman?

LOIS LANE

Maybe.

Perry smiles big, now he's just as happy as Lois.

PERRY WHITE

Oh I can't wait. So what did he say? What did you two talk about?

Lois still admiring the flower.

LOIS LANE

(Calmly)

Nothing.

Perry leans back.

PERRY WHITE

What do you mean nothing?

Jimmy Olsen suddenly bursts into the room.

JIMMY OLSEN

Hey chief I need you to sign off on some of these pictures here.

PERRY WHITE

(To Jimmy)

Great Ceasar's ghost! Will you stop calling me Chief!

Jimmy sheepishly looks away. He closes the door behind him softly then stands by Clark. He nods and mouths a "hey" to Clark. Clark smiles and nods back.

PERRY WHITE

(To Lois)

And what do you mean nothing? How do you spend another night with Superman and come back with nothing.

LOIS LANE

He wasn't there for an interview he was there for me. Ok. Got it?

Perry takes a deep breath. He smacks his thighs as he stands up and returns to his chair behind his desk.

Jimmy looks back and forth between everyone in the room.

JIMMY OLSEN

So did you. Uh, you know.

Jimmy winks. Perry and Clark both look to him in near astonishment.

Lois slowly turns her head. Her eyes narrowed. She gives Jimmy a look that only a woman can give.

Like a puppy Jimmy quickly sits down and sheepishly looks away.

JIMMY OLSEN

(softly)

It was just a question.

Lois Lane turns her attention back to the flower. Clark leans forward and starts to take a drink of water.

LOIS LANE

Well for your information it was a very nice romantic evening. And nothing else happened.

(To self)

Not yet anyway.

Clark nearly chokes on the water he's drinking. He has to spit it back into the glass.

Lois glares at Clark.

LOIS LANE

Ha, ha. Very funny Clark. Not even you can ruin my day today.

Clark looks to Lois confused.

CLARK KENT

Hey, what's that supposed to mean?

She doesn't respond. Perry interrupts the conversation.

PERRY WHITE

Alright, alright. Quit your bickering. I need you two to go downtown. Dan Turpin is going to give a press conference and I want the two of you to cover it.

LOIS LANE

Turpin again?

PERRY WHITE

Unless you have something new to report on Superman?

Lois quickly stands up.

LOIS LANE

Well Turpin it is. Come on Smallville, let's go so we can get lunch before they start.

Clark perks up, he follows Lois out the room.

CLARK KENT

Great! How about burritos?

LOIS LANE

How about no.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wrapped from head to toe in bandages Rudy lays, still unconscious, in bed.

A NURSE enters the room, with a cart of supplies. Humming to herself, she walks over to Rudy's IV. She changes the bag with another she had in hand.

After she finishes she gets a pair of scissors out and starts to cut away the bandages around the needle that's in his arm.

She removes all the wrappings on the arm from the elbow down. Exposing the wrinkled dark purple flesh beneath it.

She pulls the needle out then grabs hold of Rudy's arm and cleans the area with a cotton ball.

Rudy's eyes twitch as her skin touches his.

INT. NURSES STATION - FLASHBACK

From the slight touch of the nurse, Rudy absorbs a short memory. It plays back in his mind and he see the Nurse that is tending to him hanging out with other NURSES during a break. One Nurse looks to her watch.

NURSE 2

So what do you have next?

The Nurse checks her chart.

NURSE

Uh oh. Room 313. I hate going in there, that guy gives me the creeps.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Rudy's eyes relax as the nurse lets go of his arm then turns to her cart to prepare another needle. Behind her Rudy's breathing grows heavy.

The nurse turns back to Rudy, almost immediately his heavy breathing subsides. She grabs hold of his arm again.

As she prepares to insert the needle her eyes start to close, as if getting drowsy. She let's go of Rudy and brings her hand to her forehead, then shakes her head trying to snap out of it.

She takes a deep breath and reaches for Rudy's arm once again. As her fingers near she suddenly receives a static shock and jumps back. She looks on curiously at Rudy. Then laughs to herself.

NURSE

(To self)

I'm going on break after this.

She reaches out and grabs his arm.

Rudy's eyes shoot open.

Once again what seems to be static electricity arcs out to her hand. She starts to pull back again but suddenly Rudy's hand twists around and grabs her wrist.

The nurse tries to scream but she's so frightened that no sound comes out. Rudy slowly sits up in bed as the nurse's eyes grow wide.

Tiny bits of electricity surge from the nurses forearm into Rudy's hand and then seem to absorb into his body.

The nurse's mouth drops open as the skin on her face wrinkles then sinks in upon itself. Her forearm too begins to shrink, as does the rest of her body.

She shrinks thinner and thinner, her skin starts to wither. Eventually Rudy lets go.

The Nurse's body drops to the floor like a mummified corpse.

Rudy stands up from his bed and walks over to a mirror in the room. Once there he begins to tear away the bandages from his arms and then his face.

He looks at himself in the mirror. What he sees staring back is nothing that resembles his former self. What he sees is a creature with dark purple skin, no hair, no ears, nearly no features left of his humanity. What he see is a monster.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY

Rudy steps out of his room and into the hall of the hospital. People walk back and forth going about their day. At first they don't take notice of Rudy. Then slowly the creature standing amongst them can not be ignored.

Disgusted looks form on the faces of people as they back off; some simply go out of their way to avoid him. Rudy just stands there looking around.

A DOCTOR notices him. He cautiously walks over.

DOCTOR

Mr. Jones? Is that you?

Rudy looks down at his hands and begins to examine them. The Doctor moves in closer. He reaches out to put a hand on Rudy's shoulder.

DOCTOR

You should really return to your  
roo...

Suddenly Rudy reaches out and grabs the doctor by the throat. The same electricity that surged with the nurse surges from the doctor's neck into Rudy's arm.

The Doctor struggles to get free, but in the end he shares the same withered fate as the nurse.

Rudy drops his body. The people around flee in panic as Rudy once again returns to examining his hands. He then turns and ominously begins to walk down the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM

As Rudy passes by a waiting room, an ANCHORMAN on the television catches his attention.

ANCHORMAN

Clean up at STAR Labs after the recent explosion has nearly commenced. In related news authorities are now searching for Professor Emil Hamilton.

As a picture of Hamilton comes on screen, Rudy's eyes narrow.

RUDY JONES

Hamilton.

INT. NEWS STATION

The Anchorman continues his report.

ANCHORMAN

An acclaimed professor of robotics and chemistry, he was last seen at STAR Labs the day of the explosion. Authorities believe his disappearance and the attack could be related.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY

Dr. Vale looks across the room at Hamilton who is sitting at the computer. He then turns his attention back to Corben's body. A device is placed over Corben's head which Dr. Vale activates. It sends out a laser that moves rapidly back in forth, scanning Corben's face.

Hamilton reads over lines of code on his computer. He goes back and forth from a notepad that he has been writing calculations on.

Frustrated, he sits back in his chair.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
This is all wrong.

Dr. Vale looks over.

DR. VALE  
You know what will happen if you don't do what you're told.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
No, not that. It's this programming, these calculations here. Whoever designed this severely underestimated the power it takes to run it.

Hamilton stands up and walks over to the large drawer and looks down in it.

DR. VALE  
So what are you saying?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
I'm saying that the human brain alone isn't going to be able to make this work. We're going to need something more. A massive power source. The levels they have suggested are short of plutonium.

DR. VALE  
Plutonium? I seriously doubt that even with the resources Genolti has he can get his hands on plutonium fast enough for Corben to still be alive.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Exactly. And without it, the suit won't work.

Nothing is said between the two for a moment. Hamilton sits back in his chair and crosses his arms. He lets out a long sigh.

Dr. Vale's eyes move back and forth as if he's thinking of something, he then turns, walks across the room and retrieves a small box.

DR. VALE

When they first brought Corben in he said one word to me before he fell into the coma. The rock. I didn't know what he meant at first but then I noticed that clenched tightly in his hand was this.

Dr. Vale opens the box. Inside is the piece of Kryptonite, it glows green as the light hits it. Hamilton's full attention is caught.

DR. VALE

When I worked for LexCorp I remembered conversations of a rock that Lex used to weaken Superman during their confrontation. Something that he called Kryptonite. Then recently, Luthor had sent a letter to Genolti stating that he knew about this project and wanted to help, and that he had something for them at the bank. It just donned on me that it's quite possible that this is that very kryptonite rock. Corben must have been holding it when Superman showed up at STAR Labs. Perhaps this is why Superman did not pull him out of the rubble. Because he couldn't go near him. Corben seeing the effects it had on him, knew it was something to keep hold of.

Hamilton reaches out and picks the rock up.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

It's heavy.

Dr. Vale nods.

Hamilton quickly turns back to his work station. He places the kryptonite inside of a glass jar attached to a spectro scanner. He activates the device and the computer scans and analyzer the kryptonite. After a moment the details show up on Hamilton's screen. MINERALS UNKNOWN, it says. He continues clicking through the results.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Whatever this is, it's not from  
Earth. There's nothing like this on  
the periodic tables.

Hamilton continues to analyze the kryptonite, he quickly  
enters his findings into his calculations for powering the  
suit.

His eyes go wide.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
This is impossible.

DR. VALE  
What is it?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
These readings are off the chart.  
The computer says this thing is  
giving off a massive amount of  
energy. I just don't see how that's  
possible without it effecting us.  
We should be burning up right now.  
Plutonium isn't even 1/4 the  
strength of this and we'd be  
halfway to the grave if we had the  
same kind of exposure.

DR. VALE  
So can it work?

Hamilton quickly turns back to Dr. Vale.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Well, wait a minute. You can't be  
proposing that we put this in that--  
thing. I mean, if what you say is  
true then this rock is deadly to  
Superman.

DR. VALE  
Are you that naive? Don't you  
realize that this is everything the  
Intergang has been preparing for?  
Don't you understand the reasoning  
behind Lex Luthor offering his  
help? This entire project's main  
objective is the death of Superman.

Hamilton looks on to Vale, disgusted.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
You can't be serious.

Dr. Vale grabs Hamilton by the collar.

DR. VALE  
What did you think you were  
building, an action figure?  
(Beat)  
Now tell me, will it work?

Hamilton knocks Vale's hand away. He stares him down for a moment then sits back in his chair. He lets out a sigh as he looks to the ground.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
If my calculations are correct. The  
rock can power the body,  
indefinitely.

Dr. Vale smiles and walks over to the container. He pushes a new sequence on the keypad and the body inside begins to rise out of the cool mist.

A platform surfacing were the body on top can now be seen for what it truly is. A completely metal body. An almost skeletal structure. The largest difference being a solid section that makes up the chest. In the center is a small compartment full of wires, which at the moment is hollow.

DR. VALE  
It seems as though our tin man has  
found his heart.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Lois and Clark stand in the middle of a large crowd of reporters.

LOIS LANE  
(Sarcastically)  
Oh this is sure a great spot.  
(Beat)  
I told you we didn't have time for  
seconds. I swear Clark you're like  
a garbage disposal sometimes.

Turpin walks out of the building and nears the podium.

CLARK KENT  
Sorry Loi---



DAN TURPIN (cont'd)  
We've tied them to recent terrorist activities at STAR Labs, the robbery at Metropolis National Bank, and the recent disappearance of Professor Emil Hamilton.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS

Jonathan Kent walks out of a shop carrying some souvenirs he has purchased. He walks passed a television screen and stops to watch the conference.

DAN TURPIN  
That is why here and now I am declaring war on the Intergang and war on the criminals of Metropolis.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Turpin continues.

DAN TURPIN  
Today I am announcing the official formation of the Special Crimes Unit. Headed by myself and police captain Maggie Sawyer.

Dan Turpin takes a moment to point out MAGGIE SAWYER (40s). The female police captain sits to the side. She stands and nods to the crowd.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE

Genolti pushes a button on his intercom.

BOSS GENOLTI  
I've heard enough.

INT. CAR

Bruno listens in.

BOSS GENOLTI (V.O.)  
Give the word.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Clark stands listening to the press conference. He just so happens to overhear the final parts of Genolti's conversation.

BOSS GENOLTI (V.O)  
Take him out.

Clark perks up. His attention now on scanning the area.

Across the street, behind Clark, the window rolls down of the car Bruno is in. Bruno sticks a black scarf out of the window and lets the wind catch it.

DAN TURPIN  
Together we will destroy the  
Intergang and any other group that  
dares to terrorize this city.

The engine starts and the car drives off.

Clark quickly turns and watches as the car drives away. His eyes narrow as he watches it round the corner. Suddenly the sound of a gun being cocked grabs his attention.

He quickly turns and scans the area. To the left of the stage a MAN IN A MASK runs up and points a gun.

MAN IN A MASK  
Eat this Turpin!

Clark quickly reacts. He narrows his lips and quickly lets out a breath. Just as the man fires the weapon his hand is blown to the side. The bullet misses Turpin.

Turpin races across the stage and dives at the masked man, tackling him to the ground. He pulls off his mask revealing his face to the world.

DAN TURPIN  
Come here you little punk!

Turpin grabs the man by his hair and presses him up against the podium. The crowd cheers and applauds.

DAN TURPIN  
I know you're watching Genolti! I  
know you sent this scum. This is  
Intergang scum. I want everyone  
here and everyone watching to take  
a good long look.  
(MORE)

DAN TURPIN (cont'd)  
 Because every single member of  
 Intergang is going to share the  
 same fate as this man.

Turpin walks the man out from behind the podium. Turns him around and in front the crowd cuffs him. He then pushes him away to a couple of police officers who take him into the station.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE

Genolti grabs the remote and throws it at the television set, shattering the screen.

He stands up and paces around his office. The sounds of a struggle in the other room suddenly catches his attention.

UNKNOWN VOICE (O.S.)  
 What the... Ugghhh...

There's a thud as the sound of a body hits the floor. Genolti stares at the door motionless, for what seems like an eternity.

Suddenly the door is kicked open. Rudy stands in the doorway. Genolti's eyes wide, his mouth drops at the sight of the creature standing before him.

BOSS GENOLTI  
 What am I looking at?

RUDY JONES  
 What's the matter Genolti, don't  
 recognize one of your own men?

Genolti eyes tell that he's trying to find an answer.

BOSS GENOLTI  
 The voice.  
 (Beat)  
 Rudy?

RUDY JONES  
 Correct.

Genolti slowly approaches Rudy. He reaches out to put his hand on his shoulder. Just as Genolti's fingers touch Rudy's skin the small charge shocks him.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Rudy sees a flashback of a piece of Genolti's conversation in his office before leaving to the bank job.

BOSS GENOLTI

I've never liked him. Always seemed a bit soft to me. I let him stick around because he's a friend of Corben's, and I always feel like I owe it to him. But I think that Rudy has outlived his usefulness.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, HALLWAY - FLASHBACK

The flashback moves to Bruno and Genolti exiting the lab. Bruno turns back to Genolti.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Oh yeah, by the way, I found out that Rudy was taken to the hospital by Superman. It's likely he won't make it.

BOSS GENOLTI

Good. We don't need any loose ends or anyone coming back and snooping around. He has a family right?

BRUNO MANNHEIM

I believe so.

BOSS GENOLTI

Kill them.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, GENOLTI'S OFFICE - day

Rudy blinks as the flashback ends. For a moment he just stares into nothingness.

Genolti jerks back from the shock. He looks at his fingertips making sure they are ok.

BOSS GENOLTI

Jesus Rudy, what happened to you?

Rudy slowly looks to Genolti.

RUDY JONES

I'm not exactly sure. But one thing I've figure out is whenever someone touches me I absorb part of them. I can see their memories.

Genolti looks back to his fingertips again, then back to Rudy.

BOSS GENOLTI

You don't say.

RUDY JONES

But even more amazing than that, if I hold on much longer I don't just absorb the memories, I absorb everything.

Genolti slowly starts backing away.

RUDY JONES

Their mind, their abilities, their very essence.

BOSS GENOLTI

That's interesting. Maybe we can use it somehow.

Rudy begins walking toward Genolti who nearly trips over a ottoman as he continues to walk backwards toward his desk.

RUDY JONES

Use it? Maybe. But the only thing that I've been wondering is how am I ever going to hold my daughter again? I would never want any harm to come to her. If she were ever hurt I don't know what I would do.

Genolti reaches the side of his desk, his hand shakes as it secretly opens the top drawer.

RUDY JONES

But I don't know, these new abilities I have... You know what?

Inside the drawer is a gun. Genolti grabs hold of it but doesn't pull it out.

BOSS GENOLTI

What's that?

RUDY JONES

I kinda like it. Feeding off of people. It's a feeling like no drug ever gave me. I can't seem to get enough.

BOSS GENOLTI

Well Rudy, I always thought you were a parasite. Now you've actually become one.

Genolti quickly brings the gun out and attempts to point it at Rudy but Rudy is too quick. He grabs the forearm of Genolti just as he pulls the trigger, the bullet rips through Genolti's desk.

Rudy then grabs Genolti by the throat and slams him up against the wall.

RUDY JONES

You killed my family Genolti!

BOSS GENOLTI

What? No! I didn't!

RUDY JONES

Liar! I saw you give the order!

BOSS GENOLTI

Please forgive me! Have mercy!

Rudy lets go. Genolti falls to his knees in pain.

RUDY JONES

Mercy?

Genolti looks up to Rudy.

RUDY JONES

No mercy.

Rudy grabs Genolti's face and begins draining him. Genolti tries to scream but nothing comes out as he withers away.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT - MOMENTS LATER

Rudy exits Genolti's office laying on the ground are three withered bodies. There seems to be no one else around.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY

Hamilton works on the chest cavity of the metal body. He secures the kryptonite within it. The rock sits in a metal ring that holds it tightly in place. The ring is connected to several wires and sensors that draw power from it.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Alright. I think that's it. Here we go.

Dr. Vale looks over as Hamilton connects the last wire. Suddenly the body jerks and powers on. The Kryptonite inside now glows a constant bright green. On the metal skull two green eyes light up.

A smile forms on Dr. Vales face that stretches from ear to ear.

Hamilton pushes a few buttons on the computer and the chest compartment closes, hiding the kryptonite within.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Right now the computer is the brain of this body. It's now in your hands to change that.

Dr. Vale quickly grabs a pair of gloves.

DR. VALE

I don't want to waste anytime, get prepped for surgery.

Dr. Vale walks to the back of the lab where there is a large sink.

Hamilton grabs a sheet and covers Metallo's body. Suddenly an INTERGANG MEMBER bursts into the room, frantically.

INTERGANG MEMBER 4

Professor Hamilton you have to get out of here! There's something coming!

Hamilton jumps up from his seat.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

What?

INTERGANG MEMBER 4

I don't know, some creature. You gotta get out of here!

Hamilton turns back to look for Dr. Vale. He's no where to be seen. He turns back to the door and runs out of the laboratory.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, HALLWAY

The Intergang member ushers Hamilton out the door. Just as Hamilton exits however a hand reaches from behind and grabs the neck of the Intergang member. Hamilton turns as the man withers away in front of him. The body drops to the ground and reveals Rudy standing behind him.

Hamilton looks on in shock as Rudy walks toward him.

RUDY JONES  
Professor Hamilton I presume.

Hamilton doesn't respond he just backs away.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
What? Who are you?

RUDY JONES  
I need your help Professor  
Hamilton. Your chemicals did this  
to me.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
My chemicals? I don't know what  
you're talking about.

Hamilton continues walking backwards away from Rudy. His pace steadily increasing.

RUDY JONES  
(Yelling)  
Don't lie to me! I know you can do  
something! You have to help fix  
this!

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
I'm sorry I can't. I wouldn't know  
where to sta---

RUDY JONES  
(Yelling)  
LIAR! If you won't tell me, then  
I'll find it out myself.

Rudy reaches forward to grab Hamilton as they enter--

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, PARKING STRUCTURE

The sounds of several machine guns cocking stops Rudy dead in his tracks. Hamilton falls over backwards and scrambles to get away.

INTERGANG MEMBER 5  
There it is! Open fire!

The men start unloading rounds. Rudy quickly turns and darts down the hallway. The men cease fire and follow him. Shooting at him as they give chase.

Hamilton remains on the ground for a moment. He takes a deep breath then looks around. There is no one else in the garage.

He quickly gets to his feet and runs to the nearest vehicle. Looking in the window he sees the keys are still in the ignition. He hops in, starts the car, and peels away to his freedom.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY

After the sound of gun fire disappears into the background, a cabinet near the sink slowly opens. Dr. Vale, who was hiding inside, peers out.

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, SCU

Turpin and his team look over paper work in the SCU department, as an officer steps into the room.

OFFICER  
Hey Turpin nice speech.

TURPIN  
Thanks.

OFFICER  
Yeah, hey we got a call a little bit ago from Metropolis General. They said some kind of creature was attacking people there. So far two are dead.

Turpin looks back to the officer.

TURPIN  
A creature? What is it some kind of prank?

(MORE)

TURPIN (cont'd)  
Send it to some rookies to check out, why are you bothering us with it.

OFFICER  
Well they think the creature might be Rudy Jones.

INT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Turpin and several others quickly walk to the front of the police station heading out the front exit.

As they walk toward it Hamilton enters. The vehicle he took from Intergang can be seen through the glass sitting in the street.

Turpin stops dead in his tracks as Hamilton walks past. He continues looking forward for the moment.

Hamilton runs up to the front desk.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
(Frantically)  
My name is Emil Hamilton. I was kidnapped by a group called Intergang. I just escaped I need to--  
--

Turpin quickly turns around.

DAN TURPIN  
Professor Hamilton!

Turpin walks to Hamilton.

DAN TURPIN  
I'm Lieutenant-Detective Dan Turpin of the SCU. It's imperative that you tell me where they were holding you. Could you show a team and I were it is? If we move now we might have time to take them down.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Yeah sure but---

DAN TURPIN  
Great!

Turpin turns to an SCU Agent.

DAN TURPIN

Ok I'll take a team with Hamilton and you take a few to investigate the hospital. Find out if that creature is in fact Rudy Jones.

The SCU Agent nods.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

Wait, creature. What creature?

DAN TURPIN

Something attacked some people at the hospital.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

I think the same creature was at the place I was being held. It has to be. It can't be a coincidence.

DAN TURPIN

It makes sense. If it was Jones then the first thing he might do was return to Intergang.

(To SCU team.)

Ok, scratch the hospital. Send some black and whites there. We're all heading to the hide out.

(To Hamilton)

Lead the way.

EXT. METROPOLIS DOWNTOWN

Lois and Clark sit in the back of a cab in gridlocked traffic.

LOIS LANE

Great. Isn't our luck that the press conference would get over just before rush hour.

The faint sounds of sirens in the background catch Clark's ear. He listens in and the sounds amplifies, drowning out Lois' voice.

LOIS LANE

(Muffled)

I swear the next assignment Perry gives me better be in Hawaii or he's going to get an ear full of how underpaid I think I am.

Clark looks into the sideview mirror and spots several police cars a few blocks back rounding the corner and driving off in the opposite direction.

LOIS LANE  
Are you with me Clark?

CLARK KENT  
Huh?

LOIS LANE  
Do you agree with me or not?

Clark opens the door to the cab.

CLARK KENT  
Yeah sure Lois I agree. Hey I think I'm just going to walk a few blocks up and take the subway. I'll see you back at The Planet.

LOIS LANE  
What? Wait?

Clark quickly exits the cab and closes the door behind him. Lois opens it and starts to exit. The CAB DRIVER quickly turns around.

CAB DRIVER  
Hey if you're getting out then pay up.

LOIS LANE  
Yeah but I-- My friend.

Lois turns to look for Clark. He's no where to be seen. She slams the door closed.

LOIS LANE  
Oh forget it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS, ANOTHER LOCATION

The police cars weave in and out of the civilian vehicles on the road at top speeds.

INT. POLICE CAR

An SCU Agent happens to glance in his rear view mirror and spots Superman flying up from behind.

He disappears from the reflection as he flies over the vehicle, then immediately appears through the windshield.

EXT. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS

Superman catches up to the lead car and stays just behind it. Following at a close distance.

As the police cars fly by, people on the street watch as Superman flies over them.

A LITTLE BOY watches in awe.

LITTLE BOY

WOW!

EXT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT

The police cars arrive at the hide out and Superman lands. Turpin gets out of his car and walks directly toward him. Superman walks toward Turpin as well.

DAN TURPIN

Oh no! Nobody called you here.

Professor Hamilton quickly gets out of the car and runs over to Superman.

SUPERMAN

I saw all the cars. Figured you might be getting into something kind of heavy. I came in case you needed any assistance.

DAN TURPIN

Well your wrong. The SCU can handle this. Intergang is my territory.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

He's right Superman you shouldn't be here. They got something in there that's built to kill you.

Both Superman and Turpin look to Hamilton.

DAN TURPIN

What? You didn't mention that before.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
I know but as far as I know it  
hasn't been turned on completely  
yet. There still might be time.

SUPERMAN  
Take me there.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, HALLWAY

Professor Hamilton leads Superman and Turpin to the doorway  
to the laboratory. As they approach they see the withered  
body of the Intergang Member.

The same disturbed look comes over both Superman and Turpin's  
face.

DAN TURPIN  
What the hell happened here?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
It was that creature.

SUPERMAN  
(Quickly to Turpin)  
Creature?

DAN TURPIN  
Rudy Jones.

SUPERMAN  
Rudy Jones? What about him?

DAN TURPIN  
You haven't heard?

SUPERMAN  
(Demanding)  
Heard what? Tell me?

DAN TURPIN  
Rudy Jones woke up from his coma  
sometime this morning. Killed a  
couple people as he walked out of  
the hospital. Guess he looked like  
some kind of monster.

Superman's entire expression turns serious. He looks back to  
the withered body on the ground.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

I seen first hand what that thing can do. This Rudy Jones, if you even want to still call him that. It sucked the life out of that man right in front of my eyes.

(Looks down)

I'll never forget that image.

DAN TURPIN

Tell me Hamilton. What exactly were they doing to Jones when he got here?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

What do you mean?

DAN TURPIN

I mean he's the weapon they were designing to kill Superman right?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON

No he's not.

(Looks to the door)

It's in there.

Hamilton points to the door.

Superman's eyes narrow at he looks the door and the walls over.

SUPERMAN

These walls are lined with lead.

DAN TURPIN

How do you know that?

SUPERMAN

Because I can't see through them. Obviously Intergang's intention. That also means they've done their homework on me.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LABORATORY

Superman opens the door to the laboratory and cautiously enters. Turpin follows closely behind. The two of them look the room over.

DAN TURPIN

So what exactly are we looking for Hamilton?

Hamilton enters. His eyes widen as a look of shock comes over him.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Wait. It's gone!

Corben's body as well as the metal one have vanished, along with the computer systems that were hooked to them.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
He couldn't have finished. There wasn't enough time.

SUPERMAN  
What were they working on?

Hamilton doesn't immediately respond. He looks away from Superman.

SUPERMAN  
Hamilton. What were they working on?

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
You mean what was I working on.

Superman raises and eyebrow to Hamilton.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
That's why they were holding me hostage. To build this-- machine. I wouldn't have done it but they threatened the life of this man.  
(To Superman)  
He had a family, I couldn't just...

Superman holds up his hand, stopping Hamilton.

SUPERMAN  
It's alright. I understand.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON  
Look, Superman I should tell you...

Suddenly there is a loud crash in another room. Turpin grabs hold of Hamilton's arm.

DAN TURPIN  
Alright Hamilton I'm getting you out of here. You escaped this place once no need for you to get stuck here again.  
(To Superman)  
(MORE)

DAN TURPIN (cont'd)  
Superman, you wanna help? Go check  
out that noise.

Superman nods and follows Turpin and Hamilton out of the  
room.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, HALLWAY

An SCU Agent stands guard in the hallway.

DAN TURPIN  
You, go with Superman for back up.

AGENT  
Backup? For-- Superman?

DAN TURPIN  
(Sarcastically)  
Just pretend, or something. For  
God's sake.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, LARGE ROOM

Superman stops and scans the area. The agent stops behind  
him.

AGENT  
Can you see anything?

SUPERMAN  
No. This whole place is lined with  
lead.

Behind a door something or someone makes a noise. The two  
make their way over.

Superman reaches to open it. It's locked. He pulls the entire  
door off it's hinges.

Inside Chris, the ambulance driver, screams and falls to the  
ground.

CHRIS  
Oh god please don't kill me!

He looks up. Then his entire body relaxes.

CHRIS  
Superman?

Superman reaches his hand out and helps Chris up. He directs  
him to the agent.

SUPERMAN

(To Agent)

Take him back to the others and get him some help.

The Agent nods and takes Chris away. Superman turns to follow but then another sound catches his ear. He turn back to the direction it came.

INT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT, REC ROOM

Superman enters a dark rec room. A look of immediate disgust comes over his face. Laid out on the floor are several withered bodies. The bodies of the Intergang members that chased Rudy down the hall.

There are no windows and nearly all the lights have been smashed out. Only a few remain to spill bits of light here and there. But still enough for Superman to see the bodies.

The look of disgust turns to one of anger.

SUPERMAN

What have you done Rudy?

Slowly out of the shadows that fill the corner of the room, Rudy emerges.

RUDY JONES

I was wondering if you could see me back there.

Superman doesn't respond. He just keeps his eyes trained on Rudy, as he approaches.

RUDY JONES

You know, I knew you would come. As soon as I went back and found that Hamilton had got away. I knew he would lead you back here.

SUPERMAN

If you knew I was coming it wasn't a very wise choice to stay. Why did you kill those people Rudy?

Rudy begins walking around Superman. Superman keeps his eyes on Rudy but he keeps facing forward.

RUDY JONES

It was self defense. They tried to kill me first.

SUPERMAN

What about the people at the hospital. Did they try to kill you too?

Rudy stops behind Superman.

RUDY JONES

I guess you got me on that one.

Superman turns to face Rudy.

RUDY JONES

But tell me Superman. What are you  
(Pokes Superman's chest)  
Going- to- do.

Superman grabs Rudy's hand. Rudy smiles. He quickly puts his other hand over Superman's and begins to drain him of his energy.

Superman's serious expression fades into one of pain. He tries to pull away but is unable to.

RUDY JONES

My, my. I never realized how powerful you really were until now. It's incredible! I can feel your power surging through my body.

Superman falls to his knees.

RUDY JONES

The best part about this is that it's all happening because of you. You did this to me! You are responsible! You are doing this to yourself!

Rudy laughs maniacally. Superman's face starts to turn white.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! Three gunshots ring out in the room. Rudy looks up, then quickly turn around.

Standing in the doorway is Dan Turpin, gun still smoking. The hard look on Turpin's face fades as he sees the truth of the situation.

Rudy glances down at his back. The bullets did nothing but put holes in the bandages.

RUDY JONES

Well, well, well. Looks like I'm  
absorbing more than just your  
energy Superman.

Rudy turns his attention back to Superman.

Turpin stands staring at the two of them. He looks around the immediate area but seems to find nothing. He takes several deep breathes then let's out a battle cry as he charges forward.

DAN TURPIN

ARRRRGGGHHHHH!

Turpin uses everything he's got and spears Rudy from behind. The two fall forward, causing Rudy to let go of Superman.

Superman exhales, as if just coming up from underwater. He slowly raises to his feet. Stumbling a bit in the process.

Turpin mounts Rudy and start punching him in the face repeatedly. He only gets a few shots off before Rudy grabs him and starts to absorb his energy.

Suddenly Superman flies across the room, he snatches up Turpin in the process and flies straight toward a wall.

He turns at the last moment so that his back hits the wall, bursting right through the sheetrock, wood, and thin layer of lead sheeting.

Superman continues to fly backwards through several rooms and walls shielding Turpin in front of him.

EXT. INTERGANG HIDE OUT - EVENING

Superman bursts through the brick wall of the side of the building and out into the daylight. The surrounding area has several other buildings around. All seem abandoned. Superman sits Turpin down on the pavement.

SUPERMAN

Are you ok?

DAN TURPIN

Yeah, yeah. I just feel exhausted.  
I'll just rest for a bit.

Superman nods.

SUPERMAN

You rest. I'll finish it.

Looking through the several holes in the building Rudy can be seen staring out. Suddenly he takes to the air, flying straight out toward Superman.

Standing in the sunlight, Superman reaches back and grabs his cape. He wraps his fists in the material.

Rudy flies straight into the Superman. Superman's feet break up the pavement below as they are pushed backwards. After several feet Superman steps back and stops. He raises his hand into the air smashes his forearm down on Rudy's back. Knocking him to the ground.

With his hands still protected he reaches down to grab Rudy, but Rudy grabs Superman's arm first. Superman simply smiles.

He overpowers Rudy and swings him around in a circle then lets him go. Rudy flies straight into a brick wall, smashing a crater into it. He falls to the ground, landing on his hands and knees.

Superman jumps over and lands next to him.

SUPERMAN

You can't fool me anymore Rudy. You have to be touching my skin to absorb anything. I've figured out your tricks.

Rudy looks to the side and spots an electrical meter on the wall. He smiles.

RUDY JONES

Not quite.

Rudy surprises Superman with a sudden right hook. With the skin to skin contact a few sparks of electricity fly out.

Superman stumbles backwards.

RUDY JONES

You don't know all my tricks Superman.

Rudy reaches over and smashes the meter. The surge of electricity from it is absorbed into Rudy. He grits his teeth together so tightly they begin to break.

Superman regains his footing and returns his attention to Rudy.

Something then suddenly catches his ear. It's the sound of Rudy's heart rate increasing.

The surge of power subsides.

RUDY JONES

Now you will pay Superman. Pay for all the things you've done to me.

Rudy charges forward and shoulder tackles Superman sending him flying backwards. Superman smashes through the fencing around an electrical transformer. He stands up and shakes it off then quickly returns to his feet.

SUPERMAN

I never meant for any of this to happen to you Rudy.

Rudy charges again. He dives and tries to tackle Superman, but Superman is able to jump out of the way at the last moment.

SUPERMAN

Let me help you. We can figure out a way to make you better.

Rudy stands up and looks to the transformer to his side.

RUDY JONES

I don't want to get better. There's nothing for me left in a normal life. Everyone I've ever cared for is dead! All I wanna do now is feed.

Rudy turns and raises both fists into the air. Superman's eyes widen. He listens as Rudy's heart is still racing.

SUPERMAN

NO!

Rudy smashes it and begins to absorb the electricity. The massive amount of energy runs through his body. The power causes his body to pulsate and swell. His neck and head form into one large lump.

Superman watches in horror and can only listen as Rudy's heart pulses twice as fast as before.

The power surge and the damage sustained to the transformer proves to be too much and it suddenly begins to spark then explodes.

Rudy is thrown away and hits the ground hard. He skids along the pavement for several feet until finally he comes to a stop. He lies motionless.

Superman flies over and lands near him. Rudy takes slow deep breaths as smoke rises from his skin.

Superman can hear his heart rate. It's now extremely slow.

Rudy looks up to Superman.

RUDY JONES  
Until we meet again.  
(Beat)  
Smallville.

With the sun setting in the distance, Superman stands over Rudy. As his cape flaps in the wind, the final beats of Rudy Jones's heart play out.

INT. INTERGANG PENTHOUSE - DAY

Several Intergang members sit around talking. All of them seem nervous. Something that is confirmed by the many knees bouncing up and down, and the fingernails being chewed.

Every person in the room jumps as the door suddenly flies open. Bruno Mannheim enters.

All eyes on him as he walks to the center of the room.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Early this morning I was able to  
sneak past the cops into the  
hideout. I was looking for Genolti,  
and I found him.  
(Beat)  
Dead.

Mumbles fill the room as the members talk amongst themselves.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Quiet!

There is silence.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
As second to Genolti, that means  
that I am now the leader of  
Intergang. If there is anyone who  
disagrees with my recent promotion,  
please step forward.

Bruno looks over the room. The members in the room look back and forth to each other, but nobody moves.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Good. Now we have lost Genolti but the Intergang is far from defeated. Dan Turpin wants a war, we will give him a war. But first we will finish what we started. Dr. Vale contacted me and assured me that everything was still on schedule. By weeks end Superman will die.

INT. UNKNOWN WAREHOUSE - DAY

John Corben's eyes open.

He lies on a table inside of a run down warehouse. Several computers, along with the units taken from the laboratory, are rigged together. At this point there are no more wires attached to Corben's body.

He sits up straight on the table. He looks to Dr. Vale just as he walks back into the room.

A smile grows on Vale's face.

DR. VALE

You're awake.

Corben doesn't respond for a moment. He looks around at his surroundings, then back to his own body. He lifts his hands up and examines them.

JOHN CORBEN

What happened? I thought I was dead.

Dr. Vale picks up a mirror on a table and quickly makes his way over to Corben. For the moment he holds the mirror to his side.

DR. VALE

Far from it. You've been given a great opportunity.

JOHN CORBEN

Something's different. What is it?

DR. VALE

Everything, your body was damaged far beyond repair.

(MORE)

DR. VALE (cont'd)

It took a great deal of effort to keep you alive long enough for the procedure.

JOHN CORBEN

Procedure?

Dr. Vale quickly wheels over a computer and monitor that's on a cart. He keys in a password and the schematics with a turnaround of the metal skeleton comes on screen.

DR. VALE

Thankfully your brain was not damaged. I was able to transplant it into this body.

Dr. Vale points to the screen.

A look of utter shock falls over Corben's face. But he doesn't say anything he just listens.

DR. VALE

A structure like no other. Made of a virtually indestructible metal, foreign to this world. They call it, Metallo.

Corben examines his hands.

JOHN CORBEN

(To self)

Metallo?

Dr. Vale holds of the mirror for Corben to see his own reflection.

Corben looks in the mirror curiously.

JOHN CORBEN

I look the same.

DR. VALE

Yes. Synthetic skin. I scanned your face so that your appearance would not change. I figured it would be the most comforting to you.

Corben once again returns to examine his hands.

JOHN CORBEN

Why can't I feel anything?

DR. VALE  
(Confused)  
What do you mean?

JOHN CORBEN  
I can't feel my hands. I can make them move, but I can't feel them move. It's the same with the rest of my body.

Corben quickly stands up. Dr. Vale takes a step back.

JOHN CORBEN  
(Angered)  
I can't feel anything! I can't smell anything! I can't taste anything! What the hell have you done to me?

DR. VALE  
I've given you a power like none other. I've made you immortal.

JOHN CORBEN  
Well I don't want it. Change me back! NOW!

Dr. Vale cowers and takes a moment to respond.

DR. VALE  
I can't. The procedure is irreversible. Besides your body has already be destroyed.

Corben suddenly reaches out and grabs Dr. Vale by the throat.

JOHN CORBEN  
What!?

As Dr. Vale gasps for air, he's able to squeeze one sentence out.

DR. VALE  
There's something else I have to tell you.

Corben releases him. Dr. Vale coughs and takes in few deep breaths.

JOHN CORBEN  
Spit it out.

Dr. Vale reaches out and places his hand on Corben's chest. Corben looks down to Vale's hand.

DR. VALE

In here lies a heart of stone. A  
stone with the power to kill  
Superman.

Corben quickly looks back to Vale.

DR. VALE

In your chest lies a heart of  
kryptonite.

JOHN CORBEN

(To self)

Superman.

(Beat)

It's because of him that I'm like  
this now.

DR. VALE

Exactly. And you alone have the  
power to destroy him.

A sinister smile forms on Corben's face.

JOHN CORBEN

Me alone?

The same smile forms on Dr. Vale's face.

DR. VALE

That's right.

JOHN CORBEN

I guess that means I don't need you  
then.

Dr. Vale's expression goes blank as Corben reaches out and grabs his throat again. He squeezes tight and lifts him off the ground.

The air rushes out from Vale's lungs. His eyes widen from the stress. With a sudden jerk in Corben's arm, Dr. Vale's neck snaps.

Corben drops his lifeless body to the ground.

For a moment he just stands there looking at the corpse, then his eyebrows begin to narrow. His teeth grit together. His fist clenches tight.

JOHN CORBEN  
(Angry)  
AHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

He grabs the computer near him and chucks it across the room.

It flies through the air so quickly that it puts a small crater in the brick wall and nearly disintegrates upon impact.

With his bare hands he begins to smash the rest of the equipment in a violent rage.

When he finishes he clenches his fists and looks to the air.

JOHN CORBEN  
(Angry)  
SUPERMAN!!!

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Clark and Jonathan walk toward the security checkpoint at the airport.

CLARK KENT  
I'm sorry I wasn't able to spend more time with you these past few days.

JONATHAN KENT  
It's quite alright, given the circumstances. Just make sure you drop by and say hello to your mother.

Clark smiles and nods.

CLARK KENT  
I promise.

JONATHAN KENT  
So what now?

Clark turns to look who's around him for a moment, then turns back to his father

CLARK KENT  
I asked Detective Turpin to call another press conference and let the public know what happened with Rudy Jones.

(MORE)

CLARK KENT (cont'd)  
Too many rumors have been  
circulating these past couple of  
days. We need to make sure the  
public knows they're safe.

JONATHAN KENT  
Will you be there?

CLARK KENT  
Well, I just thought that Turpin  
could handle the speeches. It is  
his show.

Jonathan places his hand on Clark's shoulder.

JONATHAN KENT  
Clark. You decided not to wear a  
mask because you thought people  
wouldn't trust you. But how do you  
expect those same people to trust  
you if won't even speak directly to  
them? They want to hear that  
they're safe but, they want to hear  
it from you. I think it's time the  
public heard you speak.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, NEWSROOM - DAY

Lois Lane, just getting in for the day, walks toward her  
desk. She spots Jimmy walking toward her.

LOIS LANE  
Hey Jimmy, is Clark here today?

JIMMY OLSEN  
He's off. taking his dad to the  
airport today.

LOIS LANE  
Damn. Was he here yesterday? I was  
off.

JIMMY OLSEN  
I didn't see him. I think he was  
too. Why what's wrong?

LOIS LANE  
He stiffed me on his half of a cab  
ride a few days ago. I was hoping  
to grill him for it today.

Lois walks away from Jimmy and heads to her desk.

LOIS LANE

(To herself)

He better not forget when he gets  
back.

She gets to her desk and sits down, after a moment she notices a small envelope on her desk. On the front Lois is written.

She opens the envelope and pulls out a letter. It says: HOPE THIS COVERS MY HALF OF THE CAB. SORRY. CLARK.

Lois goes back into the envelope and pulls out a twenty dollar bill. She sits back in her chair and smiles as she shakes her head.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Dan Turpin exits the building and walks to the podium. The crowd silences.

DAN TURPIN

I know we just had one of these a few days ago, so thank you all for coming. I was asked to come out here and speak about some of the recent events that have unfolded.

A REPORTER in the crowd yells out.

REPORTER

I heard Superman stepped in and killed the creature. Seems as though the Metropolis Police Department still needs a little help.

Turpin doesn't immediately respond. He looks down to the note cards he has in his hand.

DAN TURPIN

Well, the truth of the matter is that---

Something catches Turpin's attention. He looks up.

The crowd turns to see what he's looking at. They all look up as well. The same Reported yells out again.

REPORTER

Look! Up in the sky!

As the heads of the crowd follow along with what they're looking at, it leads them back to the podium.

Turpin too watches on as Superman lands next to him.

SUPERMAN  
(To Turpin)  
May I?

Turpin nods and steps away.

SUPERMAN  
The truth of the matter is that without the assistance of lieutenant-Detective Dan Turpin I wouldn't be here today. He saved my life.

Turpin looks to Superman. A smile forms.

SUPERMAN  
I realize that some people are still unsure about me. They've read that I am from another planet. That I am an alien. Some have tried to exploit that and use it to turn the public against me.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, RECREATION AREA

The prisoner's watch the speech by Superman on the television set. Lex Luthor is one of them. In his hand is a paper cup. He clenches his fist, smashing the cup. The water pours out over his hand.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Superman continues his speech.

SUPERMAN  
While it's true I was born of another world, I was raised here on Earth. Raised with the same values that many of you share. I was taught to respect life, to cherish it. To use the gifts that were given to you, to do what you can to make the world a better place.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET, NEWSROOM

Lois sits at her desk. She and the rest of The Daily Planet watch Superman on the television; a smile on her face.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Superman continues.

SUPERMAN

I was given a great gift. And I have decided that I will use that gift to help in any way that I'm needed.

INT. AIRPORT, TERMINAL GATE

All televisions are turned to the Superman speech. All eyes are on the television.

Jonathan Kent sits at his gate awaiting his plane, watching his son speak. A smile on his face.

SUPERMAN (V.O.)

However, a great man once told me that not even I can save everyone.

EXT. METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Superman continues

SUPERMAN

With everything I can do, I can't be everywhere at once. Which is why I am announcing that I will be working with the SCU. Any information that I find I will pass on to Detective Turpin.

Turpin quickly walks to the podium and stands next to Superman. They shake hands. Many flashes go off as dozens of pictures are taken.

Superman steps to the side as Turpin takes the mic.

SUPERMAN

Furthermore Superman is now an official deputized officer of the Metropolis police department.

The crowd claps heavily. Superman and Turpin shakes hands again. As the clapping subsides, one single strong applause remains.

An odd sounding clap. The sound of both flesh and metal smacking together.

Silence falls over the crowd. Superman and Turpin look out to the audience, their attention now captured by the sound. A familiar voice rings out.

JOHN CORBEN (O.C.)  
Amazing speech Superman.

The crowd parts, revealing Corben.

JOHN CORBEN  
.. although the hand shakes were a bit corny. But I guess you have to get in those photo ops.

Superman immediately recognizes Corben. It takes a moment but eventually Turpin does as well.

DAN TURPIN  
John Corben. Did the Intergang send you here to scare us? Who's in charge now that Genolti is dead?

Corben chuckles.

JOHN CORBEN  
I'm no longer affiliated with Intergang. I'm working for myself now.

Superman leans over to Turpin and covers the mic.

SUPERMAN  
(whispers)  
That's the other man from STAR Labs.

DAN TURPIN  
(Confused)  
What? It can't be. They said the body they pulled out was mangled.  
(Looks to Corben)  
He seems fine.

SUPERMAN  
It's him. Trust me.

Corben starts laughing.

JOHN CORBEN  
What's the matter Superman?  
Surprised to see me?

SUPERMAN  
What do you want Corben?

JOHN CORBEN  
Why, I just want to turn myself in.

Superman and Turpin look to each other. Turpin turns and nods to a couple police officers.

The police officers start to move.

JOHN CORBEN  
No!

The officers stop. They look to Turpin.

JOHN CORBEN  
I will only surrender to Superman.

SUPERMAN  
(To Turpin)  
It's your call.

Turpin nods. He turns back to the officers and calls them off.

Superman hovers toward Corben. Corben tightens his fist.

Just before Superman's feet touch down Corben suddenly unleashes a hard right hook straight to the shield on the chest of Superman.

Superman flies backwards toward the podium. The people all around dive out of the way just as Superman crashes through the podium. He continues backwards until he hits the framing of the station doors, bending them inwards.

The crowd gasps and backs away from Corben who now walks toward Superman.

The police officers all draw their weapons on Corben, as does Turpin who stands directly in front of him.

DAN TURPIN  
Don't move! Hands in the air.

Corben, still smiling, doesn't even respond. He back hands Turpin sending him flying a few feet sideways.

One of the officers pulls the trigger, the others follow suit and all begin to fire on Corben.

The bullets simply bounce off. Eventually they realize and cease fire.

Superman gets back to his feet as Corben nears him.

SUPERMAN

I'm not sure how you managed to pull that one off, but it won't happen again.

Superman takes a swing at Corben, but Corben catches his fist.

JOHN CORBEN

Don't be so sure of yourself.

Corben grabs hold of Superman's arm and flings him toward the street.

Superman slams into a parked car, crushing it. He rolls off into the street.

The crowd begins to panic and flees the area.

INT. AIRPORT, TERMINAL GATE

Jonathan Kent comes out of the restroom and walks back toward his gate. He notices everyone still watching the televisions. He walks over to one.

His eyes widen in shock, at what he sees.

On the television they replay the scene of Corben flinging Superman into the street.

ANCHORMAN (V.O)

What you're seeing is true. Some unidentified man is brutally assaulting Superman. Authorities have tried to intervene, but so far have had no luck.

Corben quickly makes his way to Superman. He grabs a sign post and rips it out of the ground, then hits Superman over the back with it.

Jonathan watches on in horror.

JONATHAN KENT

Oh god!

He quickly turns and runs off.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREET

Corben throws the bent sign post to the side and begins to stalk Superman who's crawling along ground.

JOHN CORBEN

You left me to die Superman. You didn't even try to rescue me.

Superman makes his way to his feet, holding his ribs.

SUPERMAN

You're wrong. There wasn't enough time. Besides, you only brought it upon yourself.

Corben's smile fades. He swings at Superman once again, but this time Superman catches his fist. Superman grabs hold of Corben's arm and flings him down the street.

Corben slams into the pavement smashing into it and breaking it up as he slides along.

He gets to his feet and looks up only to see Superman flying directly toward him. Superman hits Corben and starts carrying him backward; but after a few feet Corben puts his feet down into the pavement. The pavement breaks into pieces, but successfully slows Superman.

Corben grasps his hands together then brings them down over Superman's back. With a forceful double axe handle blow, Superman falls to this knees.

Corben grabs hold of Superman's cape and lifts him up into a bear hug. He runs directly into the nearest building, smashing through the large plate glass window.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, LOBBY

The glass dances along the floor as Superman is able to get free of Metallo's grip with a strong head butt.

The two continue to exchange blows inside the building. As one gets a good hit over the other, the other comes back with their own retaliation.

Eventually Corben gets thrown backward into the wall. Superman is quickly on top of him and throws a punch but Corben dodges it. Superman's hand rips through the wall like it was tissue paper.

Corben grabs Superman's head and smashes it repeatedly into the same wall until he's able to put his hand up to block. Superman elbows Corben in the face, catching him off guard and sending him flying backward.

Corben flies straight through one of the large glass windows on the side of the building and into an---

EXT. ALLEYWAY

Corben slams into the side of the building across from the large alley.

Corben falls to his hands and knees as Superman flies through the window and lands across from him.

As Corben looks up, a look of shock comes over Superman's face.

The battle and the glass have taken it's toll on Corben's skin, especially the skin on his face. Large chunks have been torn off revealing the metal body underneath.

JOHN CORBEN

Now you see the truth Superman.  
John Corben is dead. Thanks to you  
all that remains is his brain and  
this---

Corben reaches up and tears half the flesh off of his face, revealing the cold hard metal skull underneath.

JOHN CORBEN

Metallo.

SUPERMAN

So this is what Hamilton was  
talking about. Intergang's big  
secret project to take me out. Well  
I'm afraid you're going to have to  
do better that.

Corben smiles.

JOHN CORBEN

Very well.

Corben rips his shirt away, his flesh torn off in some areas. In the middle of his chest a square trench is carved out of his skin, around the compartment that holds his kryptonite heart.

The compartment opens exposing the kryptonite. It glows brightly casting the green light over Superman.

Superman's eyes widen in shock as he begins to weaken from it's effects.

JOHN CORBEN

Does this look familiar to you  
Superman?

Corben runs forward and shoulder tackles Superman, sending him flying backward through the building and back out the front entrance.

INT. METROPOLIS, STREET

He slams into a street light post causing it to bend and fall over into street. It shatters upon impact sending fragments flying about.

A camera man who had stayed behind jumps out of the way at the last second from a piece of flying shrapnel.

After he lands he searches for his camera, it's just out of reach. He crawls for it, but just before he reaches it a foot comes down, crushing it.

The man looks up in fear at Corben standing above him.

JOHN CORBEN

Get out of here!

The man quickly scrambles to his feet and runs off.

Corben suddenly leaps into the air and lands down hard right next to Superman.

Superman is just getting to his hands and knees. Corben increases the amount of light coming from the Kryptonite.

Superman groans in pain as Corben lifts him up by the throat then tosses him across the street into a car. The whole side of the car caves in from the impact.

Corben jumps over again. He grabs Superman and punches him right in the face. Then lifts him up and tosses him into a light post.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREET, ANOTHER LOCATION

A taxi pulls up behind a large crowd that's gathered on the street. Jonathan gets of the cab and quickly makes his way forward.

At the front of the crowd is a police blockade. The people push to try and see anything. Jonathan taps a POLICE MAN on the shoulder and yells over the crowd.

JONATHAN KENT

Where's Superman? What's going on?

POLICE MAN

He's still in there fighting. We got the area blocked off to keep everyone out.

A couple of people in the crowd start pushing each other. It distracts the police officer long enough for Jonathan to slip under the guard rail and past him. He cuts down an alley way.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREET

Corben walks to Superman who's crawling along the ground.

Down the street Jonathan comes out from the alley way. He looks on in horror as he sees his son on the ground. He looks around the area then spots a trash truck.

He quickly runs to it. The keys are still in the ignition.

Superman crawls along the ground toward Corben, he tries to crawl up his legs as he's being bathed in the kryptonite glow.

JOHN CORBEN

You look sad? Is it because I'm the  
NEW Man of Steel.

Corben lets out a loud laugh just before he knocks Superman away. Superman hits the wall of a building hard and falls to the ground.

Suddenly the sound of a horn distracts Corben. He looks down the street and spots the garbage truck racing toward him. He braces himself as the truck slams into him head on.

INT. TRASH TRUCK

Jonathan unbuckles his seat belt as he floors the gas pedal. He looks up ahead and spots a small self service gas station. He steers toward it.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREET

Corben, stuck to the grill of the truck, starts crawling up it. He looks over the hood and just as he does Jonathan jumps out of the truck.

Jonathan tucks and rolls along the pavement, then quickly looks back to watch the truck.

Corben turns to see where he's headed and spots the gas station. His mouth drops open.

The trash truck slams dead on into one of the pumps. The collision ignites the gasoline and the whole place explodes!

Superman, now clear of the Kryptonite, starts to regain his strength. He stumbles to his feet and looks on at the raging fire. He then notices Jonathan laying in the street.

With a single leap Superman lands next to Jonathan and helps him to his feet.

SUPERMAN

Dad? What are you doing?

JONATHAN KENT

Helping you fight off those monsters again.

Jonathan looks back to the inferno.

JONATHAN KENT

You think that did it?

Superman shakes his head. He looks back to the fire. His eyebrows narrow.

SUPERMAN

No, I don't.

From out of the inferno Corben walks. His cloths and skin now completely burned away. All that remains is the walking metal body, ominously walking toward them. The green glowing emotionless eyes staring on.

SUPERMAN  
(To Jonathan)  
Get of here now!

Jonathan turns and starts to run off.

Corben suddenly leaps into the air. He lands in front of Jonathan. The compartment on his chest is closed.

SUPERMAN  
(Furiously)  
Corben! You're fight is with me!

Corben opens the compartment on his chest exposing the kryptonite.

He grabs Jonathan by the shirt collar and brings him over to Superman.

SUPERMAN  
I swear to you Corben if you hurt  
him.

CORBEN  
You'll what? You can't do anything  
Superman. You're weak. You're  
helpless.

Corben looks to Jonathan and lifts him into the air. Jonathan struggles to get free.

CORBEN  
You can't even save this man.

Corben suddenly throws Jonathan across the street. He slams into the side of a car and falls to the ground.

SUPERMAN  
NOOOOOOOOO!!

Superman watches on as Jonathan's body lies still.

Corben begins to laugh uncontrollably.

Superman's fists tighten. His eyes become red as they start to heat up. The tears forming in them are evaporated and become a red colored steam. Every breath that Superman takes is seen in the air as the cold breath takes over. Superman's body shakes in rage.

Corben continues to laugh.

SUPERMAN  
 (angrily)  
 AAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH!!

Superman turns back to Corben and shoots out a blast of heat vision that knocks Corben backwards. The heat melts some of the metal on his chest.

In a flash Superman is right onto Corben. He wails on him, punching with lefts and rights. Knocking pieces of metal off his body.

Corben stumbles back just as Superman reaches forward into his chest. He grabs hold of the Kryptonite rock and rips it out of Corben's chest. The wires spark as the split from the rock.

JOHN CORBEN  
 Nooo! You can't do that!

Superman turns and chucks the rock of Kryptonite into space.

JOHN CORBEN  
 I need that! I need that!

Superman grabs Corben by the throat.

SUPERMAN  
 You want it? I'll take you to it.

Superman takes to the sky so quickly that it causes a crater to form beneath his feet.

EXT. SKY

Superman rockets upwards, dragging Corben along by the neck.

EXT. SPACE

Superman exits the atmosphere of earth. Using all his strength he tosses Metallo out into the darkness of space.

JOHN CORBEN  
 (Intermittently)  
 NOO--Oooo--OoOOO

As the power begins to fail on Corben's body his speech fades in and out. His green eyes glow for just a few moments longer, but they soon slowly fade away as well.

He disappears into the darkness.

EXT. METROPOLIS, STREET

Superman lands down hard in the street next to Jonathan. He quickly goes to him, holding him in his arms.

Jonathan, who's still alive, looks up to Superman and smiles.

JONATHAN KENT

Clark.

SUPERMAN

Just hold on I'll get you to a hospital.

Jonathan reaches up and grabs Superman's arm.

JONATHAN KENT

Is he gone?

SUPERMAN

Yes he's gone. You saved me Dad. You saved everyone. It's all thanks to you. Now just hold on.

Jonathan smiles.

JONATHAN KENT

All in days work son. Now go to sleep.

Jonathan's eyes close.

SUPERMAN

Dad?

Tears begin to fill Superman's eyes.

SUPERMAN

Father? No!

In the middle of all the destruction Superman pulls Jonathan close to his chest. He holds him tight and weeps.

EXT. SMALLVILLE, KANSAS, CEMETERY - EVENING

Clark Kent stands next to his mother as the last bit of dirt is shoveled onto Jonathan's grave.

As the man with the shovel walks away Martha turns, a slight smile comes over her face.

MARTHA KENT

I'll be back at the house Clark.

Clark nods. He continues looking at the gravestone, when a familiar voice speaks behind him.

LOIS LANE

How you doing, Smallville?

Clark turns around as he spots Lois, he quickly turns away and then puts his glasses on. He turns back, a bit of confusion on his face.

CLARK KENT

Lois? What are you doing here?

Lois walks up to Clark.

LOIS LANE

I heard about your dad. I wanted to come.

Clark smiles.

CLARK KENT

Thank you. That means a lot.

LOIS LANE

I also want to tell you about this new story I was working on.

CLARK KENT

(Confused)

Ok?

LOIS LANE

I heard about this older man that stepped in and helped Superman defeat Corben. I wanted to do a story about him.

Clark turns away from Lois.

LOIS LANE

I went to the hospital that Superman took him too. I used my sources to get the name of the man.

(Beat)

Jonathan Kent.

CLARK KENT

He gave his life doing a very brave thing.

LOIS LANE  
Yes he did. But I started to ask  
the question, why?

Clark quickly turns back to Lois.

CLARK KENT  
(Irritated)  
What?

LOIS LANE  
Everyone loves Superman. But I  
thought honestly, how many people  
in today's world would give their  
lives to save his?  
(Beat)  
I know I would.

Clark's irritation fades as he looks back into Lois' eyes.

LOIS LANE  
Then I thought, if Superman had  
parent's they would too.

CLARK KENT  
What are you trying to say Lois?

Lois reaches up. She grabs hold of Clark's glasses. He quickly grabs her hand and starts to pull back. They look at each other for a moment, then he releases her hand.

She pulls his glasses off, then reaches up and ruffles his hair. She takes a step back. As she stares back into the bright blue eyes, tears begin to fill her's.

LOIS LANE  
It's really you.

Clark nods, he looks to the ground.

CLARK KENT  
So what n...

Lois moves in and kisses Clark softly on the lips.

LOIS LANE  
Life moves on. You keep saving the  
world. Thanks to the sacrifice of a  
great father.

Clark looks to the sky for a moment, then looks back to Jonathan's grave stone.

CLARK KENT  
A great father indeed.

Lois and Clark both walk away from the gravestones.

CLARK KENT  
You're not going to tell anyone I'm  
Superman are you?

LOIS LANE  
As long as you don't break up with  
me.

INT. INTERGANG PENTHOUSE - EVENING

On the television screen Dan Turpin is seen giving an  
interview on the news.

INTERVIEWER  
Superman and SCU formed a  
partnership that was being talked  
about during the press conference,  
before that attack by John Corben.  
How are things progressing on that  
front.

DAN TURPIN  
Things are going great. Superman is  
sharing information with SCU and  
vice versa. With his help we've  
taken down several groups with ties  
to the Intergang. We're sure that  
we will win this war.

The television turns off. Bruno sits for a moment in silence  
then throws the remote across the room. The other members of  
Intergang remain silent as they watch Bruno stand and pace  
back and forth.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
This is ridiculous. I can't believe  
that Corben failed. We're going to  
have to start from scratch. Think  
of a new way to take out Superman.

A knock at the door interrupts Bruno. The door opens and a  
GUARD sticks his head in.

GUARD  
Sorry to interrupt Mr. Mannheim,  
but there's a man here to see you.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
What? Who the hell is it?

GUARD  
I'm not sure, but he has all the  
proper passes to get in.

Bruno thinks for a moment.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Send him in.

The Guard nods and speaks to someone off to the side.

GUARD  
Ok, go in.

The Guard opens the door completely and Charles Welles walks  
into the room.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
So who the hell are you?

CHARLES WELLES  
You may call me, Kanto.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
Kanto? That name sounds familiar.

KANTO (CHARLES WELLES  
Yes, I was previously in contact  
with your former boss Mr. Genolti.

Bruno walks over to a large chair and has a seat.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
That's right. I remember him  
talking about you now. Nice to  
finally meet you.

KANTO  
Indeed.

BRUNO MANNHEIM  
So what brings you here Mr. Kanto?

KANTO  
Just Kanto. I merely am here  
representing my--- employer's  
interests in assisting your  
organizations agenda.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

And how exactly is your employer going to assist my, organization?

KANTO

You will be contacted with information of the benefits to come, upon my employer's approval in the change in leadership that is.

Bruno sits back in his chair.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

I see, and what if I refuse you and your employer's services?

KANTO

Well Mr. Mannheim, that decision alone will be yours to make. However, need I remind you that since our involvement, your organization has come much closer than ever to it's goal? Mr. Genolti was wise enough to accept our services; I can only hope that you are wise enough to do the same.

Bruno draws a gun and points it toward Kanto. Kanto doesn't seem impressed.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

This seems more like an ultimatum than an offering.

KANTO

I can assure you Mr. Mannheim it's nothing of the sort, but I must be perfectly clear, my employer will only extend his services once. It would be wise in the interest of leadership, and given the recent turn of events, to accept ongoing assistance.

Kanto's words seem to have an effect on Genolti. He lowers the gun.

BRUNO MANNHEIM

Alright Kanto, you got a deal.

Kanto smiles and bows. He turns to the door to leave.

## BRUNO MANNHEIM

But one more thing, and listen because I'm only going to say this once. You tell your employer, whoever he is, that I don't like being threatened or controlled. It's a whole new ballgame around here now. I'm in charge regardless of whatever previous arrangement he had with Genolti. You got that?

Kanto remains facing the door, his only response to Bruno's statement is a smile.

The guards let him out.

## INT. INTERGANG'S BUILDING, BOTTOM FLOOR

The elevator doors open and Kanto exits, he walks straight out of the building.

## EXT. METROPOLIS DOWNTOWN

Kanto walks out onto the busy sidewalk in Metropolis. He continues walking for a bit and then turns down an alleyway.

## EXT. DEAD END ALLEYWAY

He walks down the alleyway, passing by several trash bags with a bum napping on top of them.

Kanto heads straight toward the dead end of the alley way. Without breaking stride he removes a small device from his pocket and presses a series of buttons.

Suddenly there is a bright flash of light followed by a large BOOM which startles the napping bum.

The bum quickly looks over to the dead end. No one is there.

## EXT. APOKOLIPS

This is not Earth. This place is closer to hell. This is the war torn planet Apokolips.

The everlasting fire pits rage as shrieks of despair seem to plague the air in a continuous echo. Ash blackened sky spans across the landscape in which enormous erected monuments and structures rise to meet it.

Demon like creatures with devices that allow them to fly patrol the air with large sharp staff weapons in hand.

Ranks upon ranks of slaves can be seen chained together as they slowly make their way into one of the many rusted factories.

A bridge high above the scene below connects to a tall spiraled tower which seems to go upward forever. This is the tallest building in the land.

EXT. SPIRAL TOWER, BRIDGE

On the bridge there is a sudden burst of light that forms a type of tube, much like a worm hole of space and time. This is quickly followed by the same familiar boom.

From this Boom Tube emerges Kanto. He walks off the bridge and onto a---

EXT. SPIRAL TOWER, STAIRWAY

As Kanto ascends the stairway, which is illuminated by torches, he passes by the cells of the condemned. Their hands reach out toward him, crying and begging as he continues his ascent. He does not acknowledge their pleas of mercy.

EXT. SPIRAL TOWER, TOP

Upon reaching the top of the tower Kanto comes to a large archway and proceeds inside.

INT. SPIRAL TOWER, THRONE ROOM

He enters into a a dimly lit cathedral like throne room. There are hooded figures that stand motionlessly through out the room as Kanto continues in.

Kanto walks to the center of the room, then drops to one knee and lowers his head.

KANTO

Sire, I have returned from Earth  
with surprising results.

Looking down upon Kanto there is a large balcony. On this balcony a massive FIGURE stands in the shadows with his back toward Kanto. All that can be seen are his huge arms held behind his back.

The figure remains silent for a moment, the figure then speaks. A deep voice that pierces into the very soul of anyone who hears it.

FIGURE

I trust Mr. Genolti's problems have been solved.

KANTO

On the contrary milord, he is dead and the situation has evolved. His second in command has taken his place. One Bruno Mannheim.

FIGURE

Interesting. Go on.

KANTO

What's more milord is that the machine they build, even with the metals you provide was not enough. And, well-- he's...

FIGURE

Earth's champion is still alive.

Kanto lowers himself even more toward the ground. As if trying to grovel more.

KANTO

Yes sire.

FIGURE

These chain of events were not completely unexpected. Although he seems to be more powerful than I previously anticipated.

KANTO

How shall I proceed milord?

For a moment the figure does not respond. All that is heard is a deep breath.

FIGURE

Tell Mr. Mannheim that Cadmus is still to proceed. We will continue to support Intergang and their activities for the time being.

Kanto nods.

KANTO

And what of Earth's champion?

FIGURE

We will be patient. For it's only a matter of time before this-  
Superman, and all of the inhabitants of earth kneel before---

The massive figure turns back toward the kneeling Kanto. His skin gray with stone like features.

FIGURE

DARKSEID.

Everything around begins to fade. All that remains are his eyes which glow a solid red and small bursts of flames escape from their sides.

FADE TO BLACK: