

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

by

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&

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Based on characters created by DC Comics

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Grainy, fuzzy footage of a rocky, lonely desert.

A NASA-like LANDER is nearby bearing the INSIGNIA: **LEXCORP**.

Pull back to reveal that this is footage playing on a monitor in a dark room...

Keep pulling back and a bank of monitors comes into view, all with different angles of the craft and the desert.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
(radio transmission)
Charges are ready. Waiting for
your order.

In front of the monitors are a crew of technicians in white shirts and ties, wearing headsets.

TECHNICIAN
You are green to go.

Over the room's speakers, the astronaut's voice can be heard.

ASTRONAUT #1
Affirmative. Now detonating.

EXT. MARS SURFACE - DAY

Super: **MARS - CYDONIA MENSAE**

An overhead view of the scene. The infamous "FACE ON MARS" and its surrounding "PYRAMIDS" can be seen. Slowly close in on the "FACE" structure as--

--BOOM! An EXPLOSION erupts on its left side! RED DUST BILLOWS OUT then slowly settles, revealing a fresh jagged hole in the giant monument's side.

THREE ASTRONAUTS rise from behind huge boulders.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The technicians watch the bay of monitors in hushed silence.

ON MONITORS: ASTRONAUT #2's HELMET-CAM POV - the three astronauts enter the dark opening. Helmet lamps illuminate their surroundings.

ASTRONAUT #1
(crackle over radio)
We're inside.

ON MONITORS: The walls are artificial, made by intelligent beings. They are smooth and have rounded ceilings.

ALIEN WRITING is inscribed on the walls.

At the far end, there's a FLIGHT OF STONE STEPS leading down into the unknown.

ASTRONAUT #3
It looks like we're right on top of
the source of the signal. Energy
readings are spiking.

The astronauts descend the stairs and enter an ominous tunnel. The blackness is oppressive.

They enter a CAVERNOUS ROOM with an OVAL STRUCTURE in the center.

The structure looks like a METAL EGG with three hydraulic pistons attached to it from the walls. Strange technology is entwined around it.

EXT. MARS UNDERGROUND

ASTRONAUT #1 is suddenly disoriented as an unintelligible ALIEN WHISPER fills his mind. He looks over at the other two astronauts, who seem to be unaware of the alien voice. His eyes glaze and he walks over to the "egg's" console and begins touching its controls.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

ON MONITORS: Astronaut #2's helmet cam turns to see astronaut #1 at the console.

ASTRONAUT #2
Hey! Fox! Don't touch anything!

The SOUND OF PULSATING ENERGY fills the chamber.

ON MONITOR: the helmet-cam is shaky as the room suddenly rumbles. The seams of the metal egg begin to SEPARATE! The three HYDRAULIC PISTONS withdraw, PULLING the METAL EGG APART!

Inside the egg is a CHUNK OF MATERIAL that resembles frosted glass. A MYSTERIOUS DARK SHAPE can be seen in the center.

The chaos is rattling the astronauts, so their helmet-cams are making it hard to see what's happening.

The frosted glass begins to CRACK...

Pieces of it start to fall, SHATTERING on the floor.

ON MONITORS: ASTRONAUT #1 suddenly appears in view, holding a jagged ROCK. He swings it toward the camera!

ASTRONAUT #2 (CONT'D)

No--

Half the monitors burst into static.

The rest show the helmet-cam views of Astronaut #3 turning to see ASTRONAUT #1 rushing to ATTACK HIM!

Astronaut #3's helmet-cam blinks off to static, leaving only Astronaut #1's POV. He turns toward the shattering crystal.

It suddenly BURSTS APART with a flash of light and a thunderous CRASH!

The monitors flare white, then become static. All the monitors are offline.

The technicians sit in stunned silence.

The lead technician turns toward the back of the room.

LEAD TECHNICIAN

Sir... We've lost all contact.

In the back of the room stands a figure in shadow. The only detail is that of his BALD HEAD.

The man steps out into the light. LEX LUTHOR. Dressed in an expensive business suit and exuding wealth and power.

LUTHOR

Not a word of this leaves this room. Continue monitoring the situation. We'll send a probe up to find out more.

He turns to leave.

LEAD TECHNICIAN

But sir--

Luthor stops and looks at the man.

LEAD TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

We may have uncovered a hostile
lifeform. We should contact
Superma--

LUTHOR

(cuts him off)

I'm quite aware of that
possibility. I'm putting our
military on high alert, but if you
truly value your life--

(threatening)

--and your family's lives, you will
follow my orders. Do you
understand?

LEAD TECHNICIAN

(extremely nervous)

Yessir.

Luthor leaves the room, followed by a GROUP OF MEN in dark
suits.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. SPACE

FADE IN:

Earth in all its glory, spinning slowly in space. The TITLE
and OPENING CREDITS ROLL as a SMALL BLAZING COMET appears and
rockets toward earth.

It enters our atmosphere, punching through stormy clouds.
Lightning flashes as it plummets toward a city. Just as it
impacts--

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Super: **GOTHAM CITY**

A WOODED AREA on the outskirts of Gotham City.

THUNDER RUMBLES overhead and a HEAVY DOWNPOUR falls on POLICE
OFFICERS who watch as TWO NSA AGENTS arrive with a small army
of SOLDIERS.

The agents work their way through the RAIN and the trees, until they come upon an amazing sight--

In a large burnt clearing, there is a small BIZARRE ALIEN CRAFT embedded in a shallow crater. The hull is still steaming.

MORE OFFICERS are already examining the site.

A white-haired MAN with a thick mustache stands solemnly in the rain, wearing a stained trenchcoat, watching the proceedings. COMMISSIONER GORDON. A cop who's seen too much crime and corruption, but can't bring himself to give up the good fight.

He turns to look at the arriving agents.

NSA AGENT #1
Commissioner Gordon?

COMMISSIONER GORDON
That's right.

NSA AGENT #1
Were any occupants found?

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Not yet. It looks like it was abandoned.

A slightly PUDGY COP is kneeling, examining the ground near the craft's cockpit. He scoops a sample of something into a vial and deftly pockets it.

NSA AGENT #2
(to Pudgy Cop)
You! Get away from there!

The Pudgy Cop nods and quickly backs away. Some of the soldiers forcibly push him back toward the road.

NSA AGENT #1
(to Gordon)
Thank you for your assistance.

NSA AGENT #2
We'll take care of things from here. Clear your men out.

COMMISSIONER GORDON
Now wait a minute--

The agents nod to the soldiers who begin pushing Gordon and his officers back.

NSA AGENT #1 pulls a soldier close.

NSA AGENT #1

The President wants to know where
this thing came from, what was
inside, and where it is now.

SOLDIER

We'll start an immediate sweep of
the area, sir.

The soldier rushes off, following orders.

BACK NEAR THE ROAD:

It's a little chaotic as cops and soldiers bicker with each
other.

COMMISSIONER GORDON stops arguing and does a double-take when
he sees the PUDGY COP walk away from the crowd.

Gordon's eyes narrow suspiciously.

The Pudgy Cop sees him and TIPS HIS HAT TOWARD HIM, before
sliding into an UNMARKED GREY CAR.

Gordon smiles as the car speeds away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The GREY UNMARKED CAR parks inside a cavernous cave.

The PUDGY COP steps out and walks across the metal flooring
toward a massive computer station with a giant screen.

He drops the VIAL into a slot and pushes a button.

Lists of GENETIC MATERIAL begin to appear on the screen.

He then proceeds to RIP OFF HIS FACE or rather a prosthetic
latex mask! Underneath is BRUCE WAYNE, a handsome, rugged
man in his mid 30's.

He sheds the uniform, revealing his BATMAN OUTFIT underneath
the padded disguise. At the moment, his cowl hangs behind
his head like a hood.

His BUTLER, ALFRED, appears out of the darkness carrying a
tray with a steaming cup on it.

ALFRED
Your tea, sir.

BRUCE
Thanks.

Alfred looks at the screen, studying it.

ALFRED
Either my eyes are failing me or those readings appear to be non-human.

BRUCE
(sips tea)
Your eyes are as good as ever, Alfred. It's extraterrestrial. And it's on the loose in Gotham.

ALFRED
A bit out of your league, wouldn't you say?

BRUCE
I guess we'll find out.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - LATE AFTERNOON

FADE IN:

A NEWS HELICOPTER is circling a CONSTRUCTION SITE.

SUPER: **METROPOLIS - 4 months later...**

The building is in its early stages with an incomplete steel girder framework. It has started to COLLAPSE inward, beams tumbling down, one on top of the other.

INT. HELICOPTER - LATE AFTERNOON

CAMERAMAN'S POV - THROUGH CAMERA:

A blonde bombshell, CAT GRANT, sits in the co-pilot's seat wearing a radioset.

CAT GRANT
This is Cat Grant reporting for WGBS. I'm live over the construction site of the new downtown business complex.

HANDHELD CAMERA POV swings down and we see the damage via shaky news footage.

CAT GRANT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It appears one of the support beams has collapsed. Luckily, it looks like they're getting a little help!

EXT. CITY STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

At street level, ambulance and police sirens come and go. A FIREMAN ducks under the CREAKING metal, guiding the last of the construction workers to safety.

The fireman turns and looks back at ONE SOLITARY MAN standing under the beams, holding the failing structure ABOVE HIS HEAD with both hands.

A silhouette, framed by a flapping red cape. On his broad chest, an "S" SHIELD can just be made out.

It's SUPERMAN.

FIREMAN

(to Superman)

Area's clear! You can let it go now!

SUPERMAN

Stand back!

The fireman retreats to safety and watches as the structure CRASHES to the ground, kicking up a huge dust cloud.

Out of the cloud, Superman descends next to the fireman, dusting himself off.

Bystanders gawk in giddy amazement at him. Starstruck.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Is everyone alright?

FIREMAN

A few minor injuries. Would've been a lot worse if you hadn't shown up.

SUPERMAN

Glad I could help.

FIREMAN

Hey, we're goin' out for drinks later. You're welcome to join us.

SUPERMAN

(laughs)

I'll have to pass. I'm already
late for a dinner appointment.
Thanks for the offer, though.

Superman leaps into the air and flies away, leaving the crowd looking up in joyous wonder.

EXT. LUTHOR HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

A line of limos is parked outside an extravagant convention hall. News media swarm over the guests arriving in tuxedos and gowns, while heavy security stands between them.

CLARK KENT (early 30's), dressed in a tux, adjusts his glasses as he steps up to the main entrance.

INT. LUTHOR HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

ENTRANCE HALLWAY:

Clark waits his turn as each guest is ID checked and scanned for weapons by security before being allowed entry.

MAIN HALL:

Clark walks into a gala FUNDRAISER PARTY.

Giant POSTERS hang on the walls, showing a BALD BUSINESSMAN with the words underneath proclaiming, "RE-ELECT LEX LUTHOR!"

Clark shakes his head in disgust.

LOIS (O.S.)

Clark!

He turns to see an ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE, dressed in a beautiful gown, walking toward him.

LOIS LANE, his Daily Planet colleague.

Clark can't help but to smile.

LOIS (CONT'D)

You're late!

CLARK

Couldn't find my wallet.

LOIS
(shakes her head)
I don't know how you get through
life, Kent.

CLARK
I manage.

Lois notices some light grey dust in his hair.

LOIS
Did you even shower?

CLARK
What--?

She brushes the powdery dust off him.

LOIS
You've got powder or something in
your hair.

He quickly runs his hands through his hair.

CLARK
Need to get a new shampoo I
guess... So... Any sign of our
dictator-- I mean President?

LOIS
(laughs)
Keep it up and he'll have us thrown
out.

CLARK
More like rubbed out.

Lois laughs again. It's obvious that Clark enjoys hearing her laughter and seeing her smile.

LOIS
Oh, speak of the devil.

She points across the room at LEX LUTHOR who's talking to BRUCE WAYNE and a striking BLONDE-HAIRED MAN with a goatee, in his late 30's.

LOIS (CONT'D)
Hold on. Is Luthor talking to who
I think he is?

CLARK
The blond guy?

LOIS
No, the other one. That's Bruce
Wayne.

CLARK
Gotham's spoiled brat? Not what I
pictured.

LOIS
(adjusts her hair)
How do I look?

CLARK
Absolutely stunning.

Her eyes are on Bruce, oblivious to Clark's sincerity.

LOIS
I wonder if he's here alone...
Come on, let's go introduce
ourselves.

She yanks Clark along as she heads across the room.

LOIS (CONT'D)
(to Luthor)
Good evening, Mr. President.

LUTHOR, BRUCE WAYNE and the BLONDE MAN turn to look at them.

LUTHOR
Hello, Miss Lane. Mr. Kent.

There's a gleam in Luthor's eyes as he shakes Clark's hand.
Clark stares back with barely hidden animosity, which only
makes Luthor's smile widen.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)
Have you two come to rake me over
the coals again?

LOIS
Not at all. We're just here
covering your fund-raiser. It's
nice to see you doing it legally
this time.

LUTHOR
Haven't a clue as to what you're
inferring, Miss Lane.

LOIS
(sarcastic)
I'm sure you don't.

LUTHOR
(ignoring her)
Allow me to introduce two possible contributors to my campaign. Bruce Wayne and Oliver Queen. This is Clark Kent and Lois Lane.

Bruce and Oliver shake hands with each of them.

OLIVER
Pleasure.

BRUCE
Nice to meet you. I gather you're reporters?

CLARK
You're a sharp one.

Lois slaps Clark on the arm.

LOIS
You'll have to excuse Clark. His humor's a little dry. We're with the Daily Planet.

BRUCE
Hm, never heard of it.

LOIS
Biggest paper in Metropolis.

BRUCE
(charming smile)
I'll take your word for it. Is it usual practice for them to hire models as reporters?

Lois blushes, caught off guard by his compliment.

LOIS
So, the rumors are true. You're quite the Casanova.

Clark rolls his eyes.

BRUCE
Merely stating the obvious. Would you care for a drink?

LOIS
I thought you'd never ask.

She walks off with Bruce, leaving Clark with Luthor and Oliver. Luthor takes a sip of his drink.

LUTHOR

(to Clark)

I wouldn't wait up for her. I don't think she's coming back.

CLARK

Get away from me, you son of a--

Oliver puts his hand on Clark's shoulder.

OLIVER

Gentlemen. A little civility...

LUTHOR

Of course. Pardon my rude manners. Please... enjoy yourselves.

Luthor walks away chuckling.

OLIVER

Didn't mean to interrupt, son, but the Secret Service behind you were already reaching for their pistols.

Clark glances behind him and sees several agents glaring at him, each reaching inside their coat.

CLARK

Thanks.

OLIVER

Besides, if you got yourself shot full of holes, I wouldn't get to read my favorite column.

CLARK

If you read my stuff, I'm a little surprised you're backing Luthor.

OLIVER

Just between you and me... I'm here for the free drinks and food. As far as I'm concerned, Luthor can kiss my rich white butt.

Clark laughs.

EXT. S.T.A.R. LABS - NIGHT

Metropolis' S.T.A.R. LABS. One of the world's leading Research & Development facilities.

At various positions, ARMED GUARDS stand ready. All is quiet. Then--

--SHADOWS dash along the walls and the guards begin to disappear with barely a yelp. Glimpses of DARK FIGURES that move too fast to be seen...

SPORADIC GUNFIRE is seen and heard inside the base, then... abrupt silence and not a soul in sight.

INT. LUTHOR HALL - NIGHT

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT holds his earpiece as he receives some information. He then steps forward and whispers into LUTHOR'S ear.

Close up of the agents lips moving...

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Sir. S.T.A.R. Labs has been hit...

ELSEWHERE:

Close-up of CLARK'S EAR.

Clark turns his head around and watches the agent and Luthor from across the room.

Luthor appears to be disturbed by the agent's words.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ROOM:

BRUCE is watching both Luthor and Clark's actions. His eyes narrow with interest.

Lois is next to Bruce, not noticing the unfolding events.

LOIS
There's so much crime in Gotham. I don't know how you can live there.

BRUCE
(subtly watching)
We can't all be so lucky having a Superman watch over us. Besides, we have our own guardians.

LOIS
If you're talking about that
disgusting vigilante, I wouldn't
exactly feel safer with him
creeping about.

Bruce glances at her, amused.

Luthor walks down a hallway, followed by a squad of agents.
He pulls out a SLEEK LITTLE DEVICE and pushes a button.

Back at the party, Clark WINCES as a HIGH-PITCHED FREQUENCY
rings in his ears.

IN A HALLWAY:

Luthor speaks into the device.

LUTHOR
I know you were listening, Clark.

MAIN HALL:

Clark listens to the message that only he can hear.

LUTHOR (V.O.)
(via radio signal)
Get your super-ass in the air and
check it out. Now. I want answers.

The sound stops. Clark frowns and heads toward the exit.

Elsewhere, Bruce watches Clark leave.

Lois turns around in mid-conversation.

LOIS
...so do you have any plans
tonight?

Bruce is GONE. She looks around, baffled.

EXT. S.T.A.R. LABS - NIGHT

SUPERMAN glides down onto the tarmac. He stands motionless a
moment, scanning the area. It's too quiet.

Near one of the entrances, he kneels and touches something on
the ground. He looks at his fingertips. BLOOD.

He stands and bangs the palm of his hand against the door,
easily knocking it off its hinges. It falls to the ground.

INT. S.T.A.R. LABS - NIGHT

SUPERMAN steps into a lit hallway. It's deadly silent.

He looks through the walls with his X-RAY VISION. Sections disappear, revealing empty rooms beyond, then--

He sees TWO DARK FIGURES moving. The x-ray vision makes them UNFOCUSED, BLURRY SILHOUETTES.

One of them VANISHES with a FLASH OF LIGHT!

Superman is surprised by its disappearance.

The other turns toward him, seeming to sense it's being looked at.

The base's power suddenly cuts out, throwing darkness all around, effectively making his x-ray vision useless.

Superman strides forward into shadow.

CUT TO:

DEVELOPMENT ROOM:

A room full of hi-tech machinery, dimly lit with moonlight.

CRASH! Twin doors fall aside, revealing SUPERMAN standing in the doorway. He steps inside.

His SUPER-HEARING picks up something moving in the room.

A DARK SHAPE suddenly slams into Superman, sending him tumbling to the ground.

The enemy is hard to see, but its shape is humanoid.

Superman shakes off the attack and stands, just as the UNSEEN CREATURE dives toward him again!

It THROWS HIM into an interior wall, knocking a hole in it.

Superman rolls to his feet avoiding another hit, letting it swipe a chunk of wall away.

He pulls back for a punch, but it's already gone. He's shocked by its speed. He turns around and is struck again!

He's thrown back, CRASHING through the outer wall onto the tarmac outside, sending rubble flying in all directions.

The CREATURE steps out into the moonlight and he finally gets a good look at it.

It has clawed hands and MIDNIGHT BLACK SKIN that shines like fish-scales. Its face is featureless, except for glistening GREEN EYES staring down at him with malice.

It crouches, ready to pounce.

A BATARANG whips down from above, wrapping a thin cable around the creature!

Superman looks up and sees BATMAN standing in the shadows on the roof's ledge. Batman yanks on the line, pulling the creature off its feet.

Superman leaps up and rushes it.

It snaps the Batarang cable and stands, just as Superman rams it to the ground!

It throws him off and scrambles up the wall towards Batman.

Superman focuses his X-RAY VISION on it.

Batman pulls out a BATARANG BLADE in a battle stance, as it clambers over the roof edge toward him.

He dodges it and swings his batarang, which bounces off the creature's thick hide.

Superman's vision scans the creature, exposing its insides. No organs can be seen, instead he sees MILLIONS OF LINES OF CIRCUITRY coursing along its form.

SUPERMAN

It's a machine!

Batman reacts to this news, quickly changing strategies.

He pulls something from his belt, as he dodges the beast again. He throws the object at the creature.

A SMALL DEVICE lands on the creature's side and sticks there. The creature looks down at it.

Batman LEAPS off the roof, just as the device EXPLODES!

He lands near Superman.

A moment later, the creature falls to the concrete.

Superman and Batman watch as it stands on shaky legs.

A chunk of its abdomen is missing. SPARKS are popping and shooting from the wound. It looks at them and suddenly bursts into clear goo.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Self-destructed.

BATMAN
Didn't want to be caught.
(glances at Superman)
Are there any more?

SUPERMAN
No. There were two, but the other
one vanished in a flash of light.

Batman walks over to where the creature was and kneels. He pulls out a VIAL from his belt and gathers a sample.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Any idea what it was?

BATMAN
(stands)
Not yet. Your lip's bleeding.

Superman wipes his lip and sees his own blood.

Batman examines the contents of the vial as he talks.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
It took you pretty easy.

SUPERMAN
I was caught off guard.

Batman places the vial in his belt and gives Superman a disapproving glance as he starts to walk away.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
You're a little far from Gotham
aren't you...?

BATMAN
I have my reasons.

SUPERMAN
Do they have anything to do with
what just happened here?

Batman holds up another DEVICE and presses a button.

Extremely BRIGHT HEADLIGHTS shine on them from a distance. The sound of an engine revving, then--

The BATMOBILE CRASHES through the fence, roaring straight toward them!

At the last moment, it power slides to a stop, next to Batman. The driver's door slides up.

BATMAN

It might.

Batman jumps into his car--

SUPERMAN

Wait--

The Batmobile roars away, leaving Superman in the dust.

INT. BATMOBILE - NIGHT

INSIDE BATMOBILE:

Batman pushes a button on the dashboard.

A panel slides out with slots. He inserts the vial sample into one and pushes the panel back inside.

The sample's composition appears on a small monitor. A list of minerals and metals and "UNKNOWN ELEMENTS".

He glances at the listing. The screen begins to WARP like a scrambled cable channel.

He grimaces. Just at that moment, the Batmobile ABRUPTLY STOPS, jarring him forward in his restraints.

He sees SUPERMAN standing in front of his car, with both hands on the hood.

Batman steps out of his car and faces the man of steel.

SUPERMAN

Let's try this again. What are you doing here?

BATMAN

A small spacecraft crashed in Gotham four months ago. The trail led me to Metropolis.

SUPERMAN

That creature...

BATMAN

It might be related, but it's not what I'm tracking.

SUPERMAN

Let me help you.

BATMAN

If I need you, I'll call.

(turns toward car)

Don't ever stop me like that again.
You're not as invulnerable as you
think.

Batman slips back into his car and peels away.

EXT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

A tall building with a RINGED GLOBE atop it stands out
amongst the business skyscrapers of downtown Metropolis.

The words "DAILY PLANET" are emblazoned across the globe.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

IN HALLWAY:

CLARK walks down a hallway, lost in thought.

LOIS appears alongside him and slaps him with a newspaper.

LOIS

Hey! Where'd you disappear to last
night? You totally ditched me!

CLARK

I couldn't take the pro-Luthor
atmosphere. Besides, you ditched
me.

LOIS

Yeah, well... That didn't go so
good. He bailed on me too. Men
get so skittish when they're around
intelligent women, I tell ya.

CLARK

(sarcastic)
Must be tough.

LOIS

It's a curse.

NEWSROOM:

They enter the newsroom. A noisy, chaotic room, with people yelling and dashing about their cubicles and desks.

CLARK

No loss. Didn't look like he had much going on upstairs anyway.

LOIS

Do I detect some jealousy?

CLARK

(caught off guard)

No, I--

They're both distracted by complaints coming from the room.

Lois grabs JIMMY OLSEN (age 18), who's racing by.

LOIS

Jimmy, what's the commotion?

JIMMY

Computers are malfunctioning. System might be infected again.

LOIS

You're kidding me.

JIMMY

I've gotta find the I.T. before Mr. White blows his top.

Jimmy runs off.

CLARK

This is one stubborn virus. Fourth time this week.

Lois sits at her desk.

LOIS

What do you expect? Our system's so old, its security is a joke. I think we should use this as an excuse to get some brand new computers out of Perry.

Clark chuckles.

CLARK

I'd like to see you try.

LOIS

Is that a dare? You're on, buddy.
After the interview tonight, I'll
have Perry so wrapped around my
finger, I'll be able to--

PERRY WHITE (late 50's), Editor in Chief, is standing right
behind her.

Clark looks down at his desk, pretending to be busy.

PERRY

Able to what?

Lois' eyes widen and her face becomes pale. She turns toward
Perry and smiles embarrassedly.

LOIS

Uh... able to... get you the best
stories ever?

PERRY

That's what I thought you were
going to say. I suggest you get
started.

LOIS

Yes, sir.

Perry walks down the hall, looking for Jimmy.

PERRY

Olsen! Olsen! Where'd that kid
go?

CLARK

(to Lois, laughing)
Busted.

Lois wads a piece of paper and throws it at him.

He flinches.

LOIS

It's just paper, Clark. It's not
going to hurt you.

CLARK

I could get a severe paper cut.

Lois laughs and shakes her head.

LOIS
(starting to work)
What am I going to do with you?

EXT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

A building that reflects the mentality of the man behind it. A shiny and elegant facade covering a sinister, near fortress-like complex.

Its logo reads: **Lexcorp Industries.**

A DIGITAL OVERLAY appears over the scene with a HUD (Heads Up Display), targeting security cameras and guard positions. Distance measurements, etc., are visible.

BATMAN is hidden in deep shadow on a nearby rooftop, peering through a pair of tiny hi-tech BINOCULARS.

BATMAN
(holds his ear)
I'm going in. I don't know what
I'll find, so stand ready.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
(filtered over radio)
Standing by.

Batman slips the binoculars into the back of his belt and slinks off under the cover of night.

CUT TO:

A nearby MANHOLE COVER slipping back into place.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

STUDIO:

A television crew preps the set for the interview.

MAKEUP ROOM:

LUTHOR is in a makeup room, getting ready for his television interview. Agents stand guard.

STUDIO:

LOIS slips in through the back and sneaks into a dark corner. She taps a producer on the shoulder.

He huddles with her in a secretive manner.

LOIS
Is everything ready?

PRODUCER
(nervous)
Lois, I could get fired for this.

LOIS
You owe me big time.

PRODUCER
(nods warily)
Everything's ready.

LOIS
Where's Cat?

The producer wipes the sweat off his forehead and glances around.

PRODUCER
We spiked her coffee.

Lois grins.

HALLWAY:

CAT GRANT, the blond newswoman seen earlier, walks down the hallway.

She suddenly stops and holds her stomach. It audibly GURGLES and GROANS. She dashes for the bathroom.

INT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

Inside, the hallways are very hi-tech and futuristic, protected by both armed sentries and electronic security.

LOWER LEVELS:

INSIDE THE WALL'S CRAWLSPACE:

A WELDING TORCH FLAME is cutting through the floor. The cut panel pops off and BATMAN slips inside.

He quickly climbs through the tight network of pipes into the ceiling crawl-space.

He stops and looks back at the wall he just passed. His gloved fingers hovering near some electronic pads in the walls.

BATMAN
 (to himself)
 Damn. Motion detectors.
 (holds hand to ear)
 I think I just triggered a silent
 alarm. Be on the look out.

INT. WGBS STATION - DAY

LUTHOR is about to head towards the set when his cell phone rings.

He flips his phone open and frowns as he sees who's calling. He answers.

LUTHOR
 Yes?

He listens for a moment then becomes angry.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)
 (angry whisper)
 Seal the facility. Don't let
 anyone in or out.

Luthor hangs up and ducks into a dark corner of the room. He pulls out his SLEEK SUPER-PHONE.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NIGHT

CLARK is sitting at his desk, sleeves rolled up, pen behind the ear, concentrating on his work.

PERRY WHITE walks up, drinking a cup of coffee.

PERRY
 Burning the midnight oil, Kent?

CLARK
 (smiles)
 Thought I'd get some work done
 until Lois' interview.

JIMMY (V.O.)
 Guys! It's almost time!

Jimmy and the rest of the late-nighters gather round the TV.

PERRY
 C'mon, let's watch Lex squirm.

Clark and the others laugh.

PERRY (CONT'D)
He's in for it, now.

Clark winces as a HIGH-PITCHED SOUND fills the air.

LUTHOR (V.O.)
(over radio)
Superman. We've got a security breach at Lexcorp. I want you there as back-up. Secure the grounds, but do not enter the facility. Repeat, you're duty is to secure the perimeter. My own men are handling the situation inside. Go.

The sounds stops, leaving Clark irritated. For a moment, he doesn't look like he's going to go, but then he stands and heads for an exit.

PERRY
Hey, you're gonna miss Lois!

Clark holds his stomach.

CLARK
Shouldn't have had that spicy lunch...

He exits.

HALLWAY:

Outside the newsroom, Clark enters a hallway and makes sure no one is looking as he slips into a storeroom.

STOREROOM:

Clark runs across the room toward a window, changing into his SUPERMAN OUTFIT at superspeed as he does so!

SUPERMAN opens the window and leaps out into--

EXT. METROPOLIS - NIGHT

--the night sky! Above the city SUPERMAN streaks through the air, pissed-off and driven.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

STUDIO:

LUTHOR sits down and faces the camera.

PRODUCER
We're on in ten!

LUTHOR
Where's Miss Grant?

LOIS appears out of nowhere and sits down with a smile.

Luthor's face drops in shock.

LOIS
She's not feeling well. I'm going
to be doing the interview instead.

PRODUCER
We're on in 5...4...3...2...

The producer cues Lois.

LOIS
(to camera)
Good evening, I'm Lois Lane,
filling in for Cat Grant. With me,
is President Lex Luthor.
(to Luthor)
Good evening, Mr. President.

LUTHOR
(hiding his dismay)
Miss Lane.

INT. DAILY PLANET - NIGHT

Perry and the others watch the TV with anticipation.

ON TV:

LOIS
Let's start off with something I
think the residents of Metropolis
ought to be concerned about. Your
company, Lexcorp Industries is
being investigated for illegal
dumping of toxic waste near the
city's water supply. Would you
care to comment?

ON TV:

Luthor's stunned expression is priceless.

IN NEWSROOM:

Perry and the others are cracking up.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

LUTHOR shoots Lois a killer look before turning on his chameleon-like charm for the camera.

LUTHOR

You're absolutely correct, Miss Lane. Unfortunately, due to my other duties, I can't run the business personally. We've already fired the party responsible and are currently doing everything we can to rectify the situation.

Lois smiles, a shark closing in on its prey.

Luthor prepares for the worst.

EXT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

SUPERMAN hovers over Lexcorp Industries. Armed personnel are gathering around the facility, standing guard.

He lands in front of the main door. The armed guards tense up and move to block any entry.

SUPERMAN

What's the situation?

GUARD

Lockdown, Superman. No one enters. Not even you.

SUPERMAN

The President wants me to secure the area.

GUARD

The outside perimeter. Yes sir.

SUPERMAN

(friendly smile)

Since I'm here, I might as well take a look at the problem.

The nervous guards gather in front of the door.

Superman's smile disappears and he pushes past the men, sliding them out of the way like they were nothing.

He knocks the doors down and walks inside as ALARMS RING all over the area.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

Lois continues to grill an uncomfortable Luthor.

LOIS

Now, regarding your last election,
there's been some question as to
where your campaign funds came
from...

Luthor's face is tight.

INT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

CRAWLSPACE:

ALARM KLAXONS are even louder inside, accompanied by flashing blue lights.

BATMAN stops and listens.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

(filtered over radio)

You've got company. Superman's
here.

Batman isn't happy to hear that.

HALLWAY:

SUPERMAN punches through the floor and drops down a level.

CRAWLSPACE:

BATMAN hears the CRASHES ECHO nearby. He turns his head trying to locate the sound.

LOWER LEVEL:

SUPERMAN strides toward a metal door with interlocking teeth, being watched over by a NERVOUS GUARD.

The guard fumbles with his gun, sweating, as Superman faces him.

SUPERMAN
Get out of my way.

NERVOUS GUARD
You're not supposed to-- you're not
allowed--

SUPERMAN
Now.

NERVOUS GUARD
Yes sir.

The nervous guard steps out of the way, while Superman digs his fingers into the middle seal and PRIES the doors apart!

He steps through the opening.

CUT TO:

ELSEWHERE IN THE COMPLEX:

ARMED GUARDS rush through the corridors, ready for action.

CUT TO:

DEEP IN THE COMPLEX:

Guards reach Superman and bring up their automatic rifles.

GUARD
Stop! You are trespassing on
private property! You will be
shot!

Some of the guards glance at each other. They're going to fire on Superman?

Superman barely notices them as he continues his march down the hallway.

CRAWLSPACE:

Through a ceiling grating, BATMAN watches SUPERMAN walk by underneath him.

Superman stops, his head cocked to one side.

Batman is motionless.

SUPERMAN
I knew it was you. What's going
on?

Batman remains silent.

The guards look around nervously, wondering if Superman is crazy.

Superman looks up directly at Batman.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
You're breaking and entering. I
don't want to have to bring you in.

GUARD
FIRE!

Superman turns around.

SUPERMAN
NO!

HALLWAY:

The guards OPEN FIRE in a wild display of ARTILLERY!

HUNDREDS of bullets RICOCHET off Superman without any effect.

CRAWLSPACE:

BATMAN rolls away as a BARRAGE of RICOCHETING BULLETS rip through the ceiling panels around him!

BATMAN
(holding hand to ear)
Get in here now!

HALLWAY:

Superman flies up to the ceiling, shielding the crawl-space with his body. He inhales and uses super-breath to knock the guards down.

The dazed guards scramble back to their feet.

The ceiling GRATING falls to the floor with a CLANG and BATMAN drops down, much to the guards' surprise.

ALL of the RIFLES shift TOWARD BATMAN! The guards' terrified faces show that Batman is something to be feared.

GUARD
Both of you freaks need to take it
outside!

A GREEN WALL of ENERGY forms between the guards and the heroes.

The guards step back, confused. It's eerily quiet as--

--a MAN DRESSED IN A GREEN AND BLACK UNIFORM, glides over the guards, with a soft whoosh of air and a hum of otherworldly energy...

The man's white-gloved fist is extended with a GREEN BEAM OF ENERGY shooting from his POWER RING, creating the energy barrier in front of the armed men.

This is HAL JORDAN aka THE GREEN LANTERN. He lands midway between Superman and the guards.

The startled guards bang angrily against the green wall.

LANTERN

(to Batman)

Hope you don't mind. The men looked a little trigger happy.

SUPERMAN

(to Batman)

Why are you two here?

BATMAN

This is where the trail ends.

Batman points toward the massive, STEEL VAULT DOORS at the end of the hallway.

Superman narrows his eyes.

SUPERMAN

It's lead-lined. What's Luthor hiding?

BATMAN

Let's find out.

Superman hesitates.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

If you're waiting for permission, I don't think Luthor's going to give it.

Superman glares at Batman, then grips the middle seam of the huge steel door. With incredible force, he begins to pull the doors apart!

The metal creaks, groans and pops, then finally gives way. Superman stands between the doors, bending each side outward, creating an opening.

The three heroes enter--

INT. THE CONTAINMENT ROOM

A room full of bizarre technology.

One whole wall is a BANK OF MONITORS showing diagrams, x-rays, and life-signs of a STRANGE CREATURE.

They see a circular chamber containing a DARK-GREEN ALIEN, sprawled on the floor in hi-tech SHACKLES. The chamber is surrounded by a shimmering ENERGY SHIELD.

The alien's body is a mass of wounds with wires and tubing inserted into its flesh, trailing out to sensing equipment.

Its limbs and back are lined with jagged spines. Its head is elongated, the top of it curving back into a point.

It's wearing a MIDNIGHT BLUE CLOAK AND MATCHING LEGGINGS. RED BANDS are worn across its chest, forming an "X".

The alien tiredly raises its head and gazes at them with plaintive RED EYES. It's obvious the alien is in pain and barely conscious.

SUPERMAN

This is the alien you've been tracking.

BATMAN

Yes.

Superman walks up to the barrier and looks down at the creature.

It looks up at them with sad red eyes.

SUPERMAN

Can you understand me?

The alien nods.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Who are you?

The alien stands wearily on its own unsteady legs, gradually gaining strength as it rises to its full height of 6 feet.

ALIEN (V.O.)

I am... J'onnn J'onzz. Last of the Martian Manhunters.

The alien, now referred to as J'ONN, speaks TELEPATHICALLY, reverberating in each of their heads.

Its "voice" is deep and resonate, causing Batman to flinch and step back.

J'ONN (V.O.)
They wouldn't listen... They
captured and tortured me...

BATMAN
Get out of my head!

The alien tilts its head, studying Batman, then looks at Lantern and Superman.

J'ONN (V.O.)
(to Batman)
I sense that you do not trust me.

J'onn's BODY begins to SHAPE-SHIFT!

Batman and Lantern tense up as they watch...

J'onn's spines melt into his skin, his skull REFORMS into a normal shape, while his alien features change into a MORE HUMAN APPEARANCE.

He now looks like an ATHLETIC HUMAN, except for DARK GREEN SKIN, a HEAVY BROW and RED EYES. He is still wearing his red-banded uniform.

J'onn now speaks vocally as we do.

J'ONN
This form may ease communications.
(to Lantern)
You wear the insignia of the
Lantern Corps. Your ring should be
able to detect if I am lying.

Lantern nods and holds his fist up at chest level, displaying his glowing ring.

LANTERN
Already on it.
(to Batman)
So far, he's been on the level.

J'ONN
Your world is in danger. He's
coming.

LANTERN

Who?

J'ONN

"The Bringer of Death."

Superman glances at Batman. Batman nods.

Superman SMASHES the console, sending sparks flying.

The chamber's energy shield crackles then disappears. The shackles open, RELEASING THE CREATURE. It staggers forward and falls. Superman catches it.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

LUTHOR

(clearly agitated)

...Those rumors were unfounded and not a shred of evidence exists that connects me with that incident. Frankly I'm offended that you would insinuate that I had anything to do with a man's murder.

Lois produces a photo.

LOIS

What about this photo that shows you talking to the victim only hours before he was killed?

Luthor glares at her.

LUTHOR

This interview is over Miss Lane.

Lois feigns surprise as he stands and walks off the set. She watches him walk away being hustled down a corridor by a squad of agents.

PRODUCER

That's a wrap!

The crew claps with hoots and hollers. Lois laughs and bows.

CAT GRANT walks into the room, still holding her stomach. Her mouth drops when she sees Lois near her chair.

CAT GRANT

You!!

LOIS
(to Cat)
I can explain...

ON LUTHOR:

An agent rushes up to Luthor and whispers in his ear.
Luthor's face twists into outrage.

He grabs a laptop and slips into an office.

OFFICE:

LUTHOR
(to his agents)
Wait outside and secure the door!

The agents nod and close the door behind them.

STUDIO:

Lois is standing, watching Cat circle her like a predator.
Lois turns, following her, keeping the chair between them.

CAT GRANT
You've crossed the line this time.

LOIS
(trying not to smile)
This is all a misunderstanding...

CAT GRANT
I'm sure it is.

Cat leaps for Lois! They go down in a catfight!

INT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

J'ONN
I fear it's too late.

SUPERMAN
We're taking you with us. We need
to talk.

The bank of monitors blinks and all of the images are
replaced by one image: LEX LUTHOR.

He's sitting behind a desk, looking pissed. The heroes turn
around and face him.

LUTHOR
 (via speakers)
 Stop right where you are.

SUPERMAN
 You have no right to torture this
 being!

LUTHOR
 It's an alien threat! Then again,
 you're an alien yourself. I
 should've known you'd rush to its
 defense.

SUPERMAN
 He has information we need to hear.

LUTHOR
 I've read the reports. Did it
 cross your mind, that maybe he's
 lying? That maybe he's the scout
 for the invasion force he's
 babbling about?
 (leans forward)
 Did he tell you how we caught him?
 He's a shape-shifter. Disguised
 himself as a secret service agent.

Batman glances suspiciously at J'onnn.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)
 He got within twenty feet of me
 before my men identified a non-
 human in the vicinity.
 (smirks)
 Luckily, I'm a cautious man.

J'ONN
 Your paranoia may cost you your
 world...

LUTHOR
 Put that thing back in its holding
 cell.

SUPERMAN
 No.

POWERFUL GUN TURRETS drop down from the ceiling all around
 them and whir as they train themselves on the group of
 heroes.

LUTHOR

I am your President. If you defy my order, you will be deemed a criminal. I will use whatever means necessary to bring you down. Do you understand me, Superman?

Superman's face twists in anger, but he says nothing.

Batman looks at Superman, studying him, then faces Luthor.

BATMAN

We're taking the alien with us for interrogation and you're going to allow it.

Luthor is silent a moment, stunned at being talked to in such a manner.

LUTHOR

And why is that?

BATMAN

The Bialya insurgence. Project Checkmate. Intergang. I have enough information to put you away for centuries, Luthor.

With each one of Batman's words, a dark cloud of fury begins to pass over Luthor's face.

When Luthor speaks, his words barely hide the burning hatred behind them.

LUTHOR

If that were true, you would have already released the files.

BATMAN

Sometimes it's better to control your enemies than to take them out. You're still useful to me.

Batman's words have an effect on Superman.

Luthor trembles with anger, then sits back and calms himself.

LUTHOR

Very well. But know that you are now a watched man. I will not forget this.

Distant GUNFIRE and SCREAMS are heard on the Monitors. Luthor looks off camera, concerned.

The heroes tense at the sounds.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)
 (to unseen agents)
 What's happening? What?!

The lights at the station flicker and go out, then the image abruptly disappears, replaced with static.

Superman ROCKETS UPWARD, both fists extended and plows THROUGH THE CEILING and the levels above it.

J'ONN glides up, but instead of following into the holes that Superman made, he simply PASSES THROUGH THE CEILING like a ghost!

Batman and Lantern are surprised by this.

EXT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

Superman BURSTS through the roof into the night sky, then speeds into the distance.

J'ONN passes through the roof and elegantly changes direction, following after Superman.

INT. LEXCORP INDUSTRIES - NIGHT

LANTERN
 That one's full of surprises isn't he?

BATMAN
 Let's go. Don't lose him.

Lantern forms a GREEN BUBBLE around Batman, then flies up through Superman's exit route, carrying Batman with him.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

HALLWAY:

An AGENT is running down a hall, firing round after round behind him. Something knocks him down and he screams.

OFFICES:

A group of FIVE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS are pushing LUTHOR into another room, firing their guns behind them.

They slam the door shut, locking it and reload their guns.

LUTHOR
What the hell is happening?

STUDIO:

The studio is dark, lit only by backup generator lights.

People are rushing in all directions, panicking as the INVADING ALIENS attack!

People are being SNATCHED AWAY INTO THE NIGHT! Outside, their screams end abruptly with a FLASH OF LIGHT.

Agents fire at the invaders, but the bullets don't seem to phase them. Agents are thrown through windows and against walls.

ANOTHER HALL:

LOIS LANE is with a small group of scared people, hiding in the shadows, breathing hard.

LOIS
(to small group)
This way! Hurry!

She runs down a hall and opens a door, letting the others in before she slips inside and slams the door behind her.

STUDIO:

Part of the roof caves in as SUPERMAN LANDS in a crouched position of power.

He stands, dust and debris falling off his shoulders.

He cuts loose, punching left and right, destroying alien after alien. They begin to SWARM toward him.

His swings are unbelievably fast, knocking them away almost as fast as they come.

Suddenly, he has help. J'ONN J'ONZZ appears, ferociously tearing into the aliens with his own super-strength!

GREEN BEAMS OF ENERGY begin blasting holes in the invaders as LANTERN arrives!

BATMAN pushes people toward the exit.

An alien pounces after CAT GRANT!

Batman pulls her to safety and smashes a chair across the alien. It's unfazed and dives at him.

He pulls out one of his EXPLOSIVES and THROWS IT at the alien. The device sticks to its side.

BATMAN

Get down!

He throws Cat to the floor and covers her as the Alien EXPLODES into goo! She's inches away from Batman's face.

CAT GRANT

(smiles)

Well, hello there...

Batman is YANKED off and THROWN AGAINST THE WALL by another alien! It grabs Cat and leaps out a window!

Batman recovers and rushes to the window only to see the alien walk into a DARK OVAL, FLOATING IN MID-AIR.

As soon as it enters the oval, there's a BRIGHT FLASH and then both the alien and Cat are GONE!

Batman's face twists into a snarl of frustration.

OFFICES:

Aliens burst into the room! The Secret Service blast away!

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

Stay down, Mr. President!

STUDIO:

Superman hears this and turns..

ELSEWHERE:

LOIS and the small group of guests scream as FOUR ALIENS crash through the windows--

STUDIO:

Superman turns in the opposite direction. The President and Lois are both in danger and he can't be in two places at once!

SUPERMAN

(under his breath)

Lois...

Superman grabs J'onn and points down a hall.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

The President's in danger! Go!

Superman RACES TOWARD A WALL at incredible speed and RAMS it, BURSTING through!

He doesn't stop, instead he gains momentum bursting through wall after wall, in an amazing display of speed and power.

STUDIO:

In contrast to Superman's destructive path, J'ONN is gliding through the walls like a phantom, toward Luthor.

ANOTHER ROOM:

CRASH!!! Superman charges through the wall, sending debris in all directions.

The room is empty.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

No!

He flies through the broken window--

EXT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

SUPERMAN hovers in the night air, scanning desperately in all directions, but there isn't the slightest sign of where Lois went.

INT. WGBS STATION - NIGHT

J'ONN enters the room and sees a group of ALIENS killing off the secret service agents, making their way to LUTHOR.

J'onnn solidifies and kills the aliens one by one with militaristic precision, until the last enemy falls.

He approaches Luthor, who's cowering in a corner and holds out a helping hand to him.

Luthor doesn't look thankful, instead J'onnn sees hate. Luthor RAISES HIS GUN and FIRES into J'onnn's chest!

J'onnn staggers and falls. His body SHIFTS BACK to his original form.

Luthor FIRES SEVERAL MORE TIMES, but J'onnn becomes INTANGIBLE again, letting the bullets PASS THROUGH his phantom form.

Another alien bursts into the room and grabs Luthor, yanking him away into the night! His scream abruptly stops with a FLASH OF LIGHT.

STUDIO:

BATMAN and LANTERN stand alone. The aliens are gone. People come out of their hiding places, shell-shocked.

SUPERMAN walks in, looking distraught.

SUPERMAN
People are missing.

LANTERN
They took over half the crowd.

BATMAN
Where's the Martian?

Superman looks up, concerned.

CUT TO:

OFFICES:

Batman, Lantern and Superman find J'ONN laying on the floor. Batman examines the wound.

J'onnn looks up at them with pained eyes.

J'ONN
(weak)
I'm sorry I couldn't stop them...

Batman pulls out a COMMUNICATOR and punches in a number.

BATMAN
(into comm.)
I've got a medical situation. Meet me at Metropolis General. ETA 10 minutes.

He puts away the device and looks up at them.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
(to Superman)
Stay here and help with the survivors. Lantern, we need a transport.

LANTERN
You got it.

Lantern knocks out a wall with a blast of energy, then forms an ENERGY BUBBLE AROUND BATMAN AND J'ONN, lifting them into the air with him.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

HOSPITAL PERSONNEL are startled as--

BATMAN and LANTERN make their way through the emergency room, with the alien, J'ONN, leaning on their shoulders for support.

J'onnn's eyes show sadness as he notices the horrified faces of the nurses and doctors reacting to his strange appearance.

Batman lays J'onnn on a gurney.

An OLDER DOCTOR in his fifties puts his hands on the gurney and pushes it back toward the heroes.

OLDER DOCTOR
Hold it right there. This thing
isn't even human!

LANTERN
He needs help--

OLDER DOCTOR
Take it to a government facility!
You're endangering our patients!
Get it out of here!

LANTERN
Sir, listen--

OLDER DOCTOR
I said GET OUT!!!

Batman grabs him by the collar and shoves him against a wall. His voice is a low growl.

BATMAN
Help this man or you'll be the one
needing to see a doctor...

A YOUNGER DOCTOR (in his 30's), intervenes.

YOUNGER DOCTOR
I'll take care of it from here.

The Older Doctor walks away in a huff.

YOUNGER DOCTOR (CONT'D)
We're going to need some privacy.

They wheel him down a corridor.

BATMAN
What took you so long?

YOUNGER DOCTOR
Got here as fast as I could.
Traveling through phone lines isn't
instantaneous, you know.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - NIGHT

COMMAND ROOM:

An ALIEN walks down a dark cylindrical corridor that seems to be made of living metal.

It enters a larger room and faces a powerful looking BEING seated in a THRONE OF LIVING TECHNOLOGY.

The being is BRAI'NIAC, their leader.

He is in shadow, so very little can be seen, other than his GREEN EYES and the multitude of WIRING and CABLES that lead into his body, carrying pulsing energy.

They communicate via an electronic language, sounding a bit like the white noise between radio stations.

A hologram appears between them, showing snatches of the fight at the WGBS station.

ALIEN
(subtitled)
There is a surviving Martian among
them.

Close up of J'ONN J'ONZZ fighting.

BRAI'NIAC
(subtitled)
Unexpected. I must recalculate.

Close up of SUPERMAN fighting.

ALIEN
(subtitle)
The Kryptonian potentially alters
the plan.

BRAI'NIAC

(subtitle)

Yes, under a yellow sun, he is remarkably powerful. Bring in their leader.

LEX LUTHOR is brought before him by another alien. He is shaken up by the experience.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

You are ruler of this world?

Brai'niac speaks out loud in English. His voice is deep and rumbling, with a mechanical echo.

LUTHOR

(posturing)

I am. And who might I be speaking to?

Brai'niac leans forward into the dim light. His humanoid frame is made entirely of green and chrome metal and gives the impression of battle armor.

BRAI'NIAC

Your conqueror.

Luthor is taken aback.

Brai'niac places a DEVICE in front of him.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

This device was designed by you to destroy the Kryptonian, correct?

Luthor is even more rattled to see the device in its possession.

LUTHOR

Strictly as a precautionary measure.

BRAI'NIAC

Spare me your primitive reasoning. There are files missing in its construction. How is it activated?

LUTHOR

(smiles)

It's a fail-safe. It only works for me. My brainwaves control it. To anybody else it's scrap metal.

BRAI'NIAC
You will help me.

LUTHOR
This is my world. No one conquers
it but me. Go screw yourself.

Two aliens grab Luthor and push him down to his knees.

BRAI'NIAC
Kneel before your master.

Another alien places a small DEVICE with three connected
circles onto the BACK OF Luthor's NECK.

Luthor SCREAMS as the thing burns into his flesh.

A drop of BLOOD trails down from the contact point and Luthor
suddenly stops struggling. The aliens release him.

He stands, looking at Brai'niac with a dull stare.

LUTHOR
The Kryptonian shall die.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The YOUNGER DOCTOR finishes the suture on J'onnn's wound,
while Batman and Lantern observe.

Close up of J'onnn's wound already starting to HEAL.

J'onnn winces and groans.

YOUNGER DOCTOR
Well, the alien physiology kinda
threw me off, but from what I could
tell, it nicked a valve in his
heart and punctured a lung. At
least it looked like a heart and
lung. I'm working in the dark here,
but I think I've repaired the
damage. His regenerative ability
saved his life.

The younger doctor looks over at Batman and Lantern.

BATMAN
How long till the anesthesia wears
off?

YOUNGER DOCTOR
Hard to tell.

J'onn stirs.

J'ONN
(groggy)
I'm awake...

BATMAN
We need to know about this
invasion.

YOUNGER DOCTOR
Invasion?

J'ONN
It would be easier... To show
you...

J'onn closes his eyes...

Suddenly, Batman, Lantern and the Young Doctor are standing
IN SPACE! The three of them are startled to say the least.

J'onn is showing them his past via telepathy!

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Thousands of years ago, Mars was a
thriving civilization.

Mars, the red planet, slowly spinning in space. Comets
streak by the heroes toward the planet.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then They came. An army of living
machines that arrived in secrecy.

Glimpses of Martian civilization in its glory.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They hid among us, taking over our
technology, learning everything
about us, until they were ready to
strike. By the time we discovered
them, it was too late.

Glimpses of INVADING CRAFT zooming by, raining destruction
below.

Gleaming black MANTA SHAPED CRAFT swarm over the city, firing
laser blasts in every direction.

Batman, Lantern, and the Doctor shield their eyes from the
fiery explosions around them.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They were building a generator to drain our planet's energy. A group of Manhunters was formed to take down the installation...

J'onn is among a group of Martians wearing the same outfit that he currently wears. Martian Manhunters.

The Manhunters shoot their way into an alien lair and find thousands of CYLINDRICAL CAPSULES hanging all around them.

Each capsule has tubes and wires attached and has a window revealing CAPTURED MARTIANS suspended in BLUE LIQUID.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...we found they were using our people as a temporary energy source.

As they walk among the capsules, they see that the captured martians are SHRIVELED and DESICCATED.

J'onn freezes as he recognizes one of them. He places his hand on the glass, heartbroken.

He looks at the next capsule and sees a MARTIAN CHILD. He shatters the capsule's window. Blue liquid splashes out as he catches the MARTIAN CHILD, EMACIATED and LIFELESS.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
My wife and daughter...

Batman reacts very strongly to this memory, his face becoming very, very grim.

Explosions and chaos. Martians dying. J'onn screams as he races through corridors, BLASTING AWAY in all directions.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
In a rage, I fought my way inside and located their main generator. I detonated my last electrical grenade, knocking the machine offline. The invaders were no more.

The DARK ALIENS begin EXPLODING one after another into goo.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Only their leader remained. He was beyond my power to destroy. We called him Brai'niac.
(MORE)

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 In our tongue, it means "Bringer of
 Death".

J'onn drags Brai'niac away...

He puts him in the METAL EGG that the astronauts found.

J'ONN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I sealed him inside a captivity
 chamber where he lay in suspended
 animation for the last 3000 years.

END OF FLASHBACK.

J'onn opens his eyes and looks at each of them. They are
 quiet and shaken.

When J'onn speaks again, it is out-loud, with echoes of
 sadness and loneliness.

J'ONN (CONT'D)
 Until your people uncovered him. I
 awoke shortly thereafter and
 tracked him here.

LANTERN
 We're in trouble.

BATMAN
 (to Lantern)
 Contact the others.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOFTOP - NIGHT

METROPOLIS at night. Tranquil and serene.

SUPERMAN glides toward a familiar structure: the GIANT RINGED
 GLOBE on top of the DAILY PLANET BUILDING.

He lands on the deck and stands with both hands on the
 railing, looking out over his city. It's a quiet moment,
 with the high altitude winds whipping his cape.

BATMAN (O.S.)
 Nice view.

Superman turns and sees BATMAN step out of the shadows.

SUPERMAN
 How do you do that? How do you
 sneak up on a man that can hear a
 pin drop from four blocks away?

Batman doesn't answer. He just stares down at the city.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Is J'onn alright?

BATMAN
He'll be fine. Lantern's keeping
an eye on him.
(beat)
Are you glad he's gone?

SUPERMAN
Who?

BATMAN
Luthor.

SUPERMAN
I don't like the man, but I don't
wish anyone harm. Not even Lex.

BATMAN
You should. You've become his
lapdog.

Superman's face hardens. For a moment, he doesn't speak.

Batman watches him, his own cape snapping in the winds.

SUPERMAN
He knows who I am. I mean who I
really am. People I care for...
People I love... will be at risk if
I don't play along.

BATMAN
That's a danger we all face. Don't
betray yourself, Clark.

Superman is shocked at Batman's use of his real name.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Don't worry about the Kents. I
have people looking out for your
family.

Superman's mouth drops open.

SUPERMAN
How long have you known?

BATMAN
Few years.

Superman FOCUSES ON BATMAN'S FACE, using his X-RAY VISION.

The exposed skin around Batman's lower face disappears showing his SKELETAL JAWLINE, but the masked part is impenetrable.

Superman finally stops, baffled.

Batman merely stares back, unimpressed.

SUPERMAN
You lined your mask with lead?

BATMAN
Simple precaution.

Superman looks back out at his city.

SUPERMAN
Because you don't trust me or
because you're afraid of me?

BATMAN
Because you're careless. Look.

Batman points to the railing where Superman was holding it. The metal is SLIGHTLY DEFORMED by his superhuman strength.

Superman is surprised.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Traces. Clues. You let people
like Luthor get the upper-hand on
you. You don't watch your back,
Clark. I can't risk that.

SUPERMAN
Doesn't it get lonely, then?
Always watching over your shoulder,
never letting anyone in?

Batman remains silent and looks back at the city.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I'm not you.

BATMAN
Something you should know. I did
some investigating. Luthor was
having S.T.A.R. labs work on a
special project for him.

Superman looks at him.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

A device that simulates kryptonite radiation.

SUPERMAN

(realizing)

That's what they were after last night.

BATMAN

They're preparing for us. I've already contacted the others. Tomorrow morning, be ready.

Batman walks away.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

We're going to war.

Batman steps toward the edge and jumps off, disappearing into the night, leaving Superman alone with his thoughts.

EXT. LEXCORP TOWER - DAY

A gleaming skyscraper. Luthor's business headquarters.

NEWSMEDIA are outside the entrance.

Secret Service clear the way for... LEX LUTHOR.

He seems a little off as he steps up to the podium. The flashes of cameras disorient him.

LUTHOR

Ah... As I'm sure most of you already know, there was an attack on my life last night by unknown forces.

The newsmedia murmur with shock.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

There is... a possibility of more attacks. We have information that seems to indicate that an alien force is assembling to invade this land.

Shock, disbelief and fear rumble through the crowd.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

(sincerely concerned)

Please... Do not be afraid.

(MORE)

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

(regains composure)

I am forming a specialized task-force to help deal with the situation. One whose members rank among the Earth's most powerful guardians.

(gestures skyward)

Metropolis' own, Superman.

People look up and chatter with excitement as a FIGURE is spotted high in the sky, gliding toward them.

SUPERMAN arcs downward with almost balletic grace and gently lands beside Luthor.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

Earth's protector, Green Lantern.

The crowd becomes more excited as a GREEN COMET shoots overhead and lands next to Luthor in the form of... the GREEN LANTERN.

A SONIC BOOM is heard, startling the crowd.

Heads turn to see a RED STREAK whip by, accompanied by crackling yellow energy.

Papers and clothes are pulled in its wake.

The streak comes to a stop next to Lantern, revealing itself to be a man dressed in a DEEP SCARLET uniform, with a YELLOW LIGHTNING BOLT EMBLEM on his chest.

BARRY ALLEN aka THE FLASH.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

The fastest man alive, the Flash.

FLASH

Am I late?

The crowd applauds and laughs. They quickly become silent as eyes turn toward the sky once more.

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN wearing a white cloak and red, gold and blue amazonian armor, glides down and lands.

DIANA PRINCE aka WONDER WOMAN.

LUTHOR

Last but not least. The amazon warrior, Wonder Woman.

The crowd bursts into applause and cheers.

Wonder Woman nods toward the crowd, accepting of their love. Her gorgeous blue eyes and friendly smile send the photographers into overdrive.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen, the JUSTICE
LEAGUE! America's... no, the
world's greatest heroes.

The crowd erupts into applause as Luthor and the heroes enter the building.

INT. LEXCORP TOWER - DAY

Luthor and the heroes step into a very large, luxurious elevator.

Luthor stops the secret service from getting on.

LUTHOR
I do not wish to be disturbed
unless it's an emergency.

They nod and back away.

Once the doors close, Flash PULLS BACK HIS MASK, letting it hang behind him like a hood, revealing a handsome young man with sandy blonde hair.

He holds out his hand to Luthor.

FLASH
It's a pleasure to meet you, sir.

Luthor suddenly leans against the side, breathing heavily. His form SHIFTS into that of J'ONN J'ONZZ in his true form!

LANTERN
You okay?

Lantern steadies him. J'onn SHIFTS into his IN-BETWEEN HUMAN FORM.

Wonder Woman and Flash are shocked.

J'ONN
Nerve endings are healing. I'll be
fine.

FLASH
Luthor's an alien?

LANTERN
 (to Flash & WW)
 We can explain.
 (to J'onn)
 Show them what you showed us.

J'onn closes his eyes.

Superman, Flash and Wonder Woman react as J'onn enters their minds.

CUT TO:

INT. LEXCORP TOWER - DAY

LUTHOR'S OFFICE LEVEL, IN ELEVATOR:

The elevator opens and Superman, Flash and Wonder Woman are shaken.

WONDER WOMAN
 I am so sorry, J'onn. Please
 accept my sympathies.

FLASH
 My god. And they're attacking us
 next?

SUPERMAN
 Not while I'm alive.

LUTHOR'S OFFICE:

The doors swing open. Superman walks in followed by J'onn, Lantern, Flash, and Wonder Woman.

Batman and a MAN in a RED AND BLUE UNIFORM are standing in front of a huge screen and a hi-tech console.

They turn around and face the arriving heroes.

The man in RED & BLUE, also has his mask off, hanging behind him like a hood. He's the YOUNG DOCTOR!

J'ONN
 Aren't you the doctor...?

YOUNGER DOCTOR
 Yeah.
 (shakes his hand)
 Dr. Ray Palmer. They call me the
 Atom.

THE ATOM glances at J'onn's wound.

ATOM
Looks like it's almost healed.

J'ONN
I am almost fully recovered.
Thank you.

ATOM
You're welcome.

FLASH
(looking around)
Wow. This is some set-up. It's
good to be rich.

J'ONN
(to Batman)
I told your reporters what you
wanted.

BATMAN
You did fine.

J'ONN
Was all that rhetoric really
necessary?

BATMAN
We have to keep people calm. If
they knew that our President was
kidnapped by aliens, there could be
riots.

WONDER WOMAN
He's right, J'onn. People need to
feel secure. That there is someone
out there making the world safe for
their children.

J'ONN
I would feel better if they knew
the truth.

BATMAN
They will soon enough.

SUPERMAN
(to Batman)
J'onn's shown us what we're up
against.

BATMAN

They've been here almost four months. Infiltrated our computer systems--

SUPERMAN

(realizing)
The new virus.

BATMAN

(nods)
They know everything about our world. The fact that they've revealed themselves, means that a full scale invasion is imminent. We need to hit them first.

WONDER WOMAN

You know where they are?

BATMAN

Ray?

ATOM

Going on the information J'onnn gave us, if the aliens are processing the Earth's energy, then there should be a massive amount of excess thermal radiation. Batman and I have spent most of last night scouring thermal satellite pics, looking for...
(taps a button)
This.

The giant screen fills with a GREEN-TINTED GEOGRAPHIC MAP of some mountains with a visible BRIGHT WARM SPOT.

ATOM (CONT'D)

Bingo.

Atom's fingers fly across the keyboard.

The screen switches to a regular satellite view of the states and zooms in toward a mountain range until...

In a valley, a bird's eye view of a HUGE ALIEN STRUCTURE is visible, hidden in a CUL DE SAC.

SUPERMAN

That's just outside of Metropolis.

ATOM

Yep.

SUPERMAN

Let's move.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

A view of the SPRAWLING ALIEN BASE nestled in a CUL DE SAC, surrounded by mountains.

A familiar DIGITAL OVERLAY appears over the scene with a HUD (Heads Up Display). Dozens of FIERCE-LOOKING GUN TURRETS dot the exterior of the structure.

BATMAN lowers his binoculars.

FLASH and WONDER WOMAN are beside him.

FLASH

Doesn't look that tough. Let's just hit it right now.

BATMAN

Too heavily protected. We wait for J'onn to do his job.

FLASH

I don't know if we should trust him. I mean, he's an alien himself.

WONDER WOMAN

You saw what happened to his world... to his family.

FLASH

He's a telepath. How do we know what he showed us is the truth? He could be in there right now, getting ready to ambush us.

WONDER WOMAN

I felt his sorrow and pain. I don't believe he could have faked that.

FLASH

I don't know...

BATMAN

I believe him.

Flash holds up his hands, backing off the subject.

FLASH

Hey, if you believe him, I believe him.

(to Wonder Woman)

Man's never been wrong before in his life.

Wonder Woman smiles, knowing this to be true.

INT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

Dark tunnels made of living technology.

J'ONN appears, gliding through the wall. He stops to get his bearings and exits through another wall.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

High atop a mountain ridge, SUPERMAN grimly looks down at the distant base. He is a majestic, yet lonely image.

LANTERN steps up beside him.

LANTERN

Can you see anything?

SUPERMAN

Not really. Must be a high concentration of lead in the walls.

LANTERN

Probably designed that way. Batman said they knew about us.

A HI-TECH OBJECT, the size of an orange, zips past them.

Lantern SHOOTS AN ENERGY BEAM at it, capturing it in a green sphere. He draws it back to himself.

LANTERN (CONT'D)

Uh-oh. Spybot.

Superman takes it in one hand and looks at it for a moment before CRUSHING it as if it were made of paper.

SUPERMAN

They know we're here.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

SUPERMAN (V.O.)
(over radio)
They've got eyes in the sky.

BATMAN whips around, spotting another SPYBOT hovering in the sky.

BATMAN
Take it!

It zips away, but WONDER WOMAN is quicker. She HURLS her LASSO'S small, WEIGHTED SPEAR-POINT after it!

The spear-point PIERCES the object, snagging it!

She YANKS the lasso back and catches the object, then SMASHES IT into the wall, demolishing it.

Batman brings up his BINOCULARS.

THROUGH BINOCULARS:

ALIENS pour out of the base. The THIN ONES that have been seen before and BIGGER, WARRIOR CLASS VERSIONS, armed with blaster rifles.

The TURRETS swivel toward them, on alert.

FOUR SMALL CRAFT rise out of the top of the base.

The attack craft are shaped like MANTA RAYS and have GLEAMING BLACK HULLS with a BRIGHT GREEN, OVAL "COCKPIT" in front.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
(holds hand to ear)
We've got incoming.

They watch the ALIEN CRAFT streak by overhead.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

SUPERMAN and LANTERN stand ready as the craft zoom toward them.

TURRETS on the craft blast RAPID-FIRE LASERS at them.

Lantern throws a WALL UP in front of them, DEFLECTING the blasts.

The FOUR AIRCRAFT roar over them and splinter into different directions, curving back around for a second strike.

Superman launches into the air with fists extended, heading straight for one of them like a human missile.

The craft spins away at the last second, barely avoiding him. It quickly rights itself and blasts away at him.

The lasers HIT HIM just as he stops in mid-air to re-orient himself! He falls from the concussive energy blasts.

ON LANTERN:

Lantern tries to hit them with his energy beams, but the crafts are too fast and agile.

ON SUPERMAN:

Superman lands on a slope and rolls into a semi-crouch.

Another craft streaks by, HITTING him with more blasts!

The hits are knocking the wind out of him and leaving him smoking from the intense heat of the lasers.

He launches himself back into the air and manages to CATCH HOLD of a craft as it banks to avoid him!

He digs his fingers in and DANGLES behind the lightning-fast ship.

ON LANTERN:

Lantern CATCHES ONE IN AN ENERGY SPHERE and STRAINS to hold onto it. He uses his other hand to support his ringed fist.

LASERS hit the ground around him!

He sees another craft roar by and start to angle back for another run.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

The base's TURRETS and the approaching WARRIOR ALIENS are letting loose a barrage of LASER FIRE toward where BATMAN, FLASH and WONDER WOMAN are hiding.

The mountain niche isn't offering very much cover.

Batman, Wonder Woman and Flash are up against the rocky wall, trying to avoid being fried by the LASERS BLASTING all around them.

FLASH
Where's our backup?!

BATMAN
They're occupied!

FLASH
What's plan B?

Batman is concentrating.

Flash winces as a blast nearly takes off his head.

FLASH (CONT'D)
WHAT'S PLAN B?!

BATMAN
I'm thinking.

FLASH
You're thinking? Hey, take your
time! We'll just kick back until
you're ready!

WONDER WOMAN
(to Batman)
A cornered warrior does not die
cowering. We meet the foe head-on.

She starts to move past him.

BATMAN
Diana, wait...

He grabs her arm, stopping her.

She looks down at his hand on her arm, then into his eyes.

He sees that she will not be stopped and lets go of her.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
(he nods)
Flash, we're going to need cover.

Flash's panic seems to ebb away and is replaced with
determination.

FLASH
Right.

WONDER WOMAN rips off her decorative cape and steps out into
the open.

She is both beautiful and intimidating. An amazonian warrior
that is a child of the gods.

In an unbelievable display of speed and skill, she DEFLECTS the LASERS with her WRIST BRACELETS!

FLASH steps out beside her and holds out his arms in front of him. Each arm BLURS into a MINI-TORNADO, kicking up a GIGANTIC DUST-STORM!

Wonder Woman runs into the thick cloud and begins TEARING into the aliens BARE-HANDED! Her fighting ability is shockingly brutal for someone so gorgeous and peaceful.

Batman slips into the cloud himself, disappearing from view.

Flash races forward, jumping into--

--SPEED MODE--

He's moving so fast that everything around him is moving in SLOW-MOTION. The faster he moves, the slower things are around him.

SOUND becomes one CONTINUOUS, DEEP PULSATION in the background.

Flash DODGES lasers that slide by him, as he twists and turns between the deadly bolts of energy.

He grabs an alien and aims its weapon at another, then repeats this move several more times before reaching the wall of the base.

He jumps out of speed mode and the world crashes back into--

--REGULAR SPEED--

The sudden cacophony of battle around him is startling.

The aliens that he had turned toward each other EXPLODE from friendly fire!

INT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

J'ONN kills two aliens, while making his way to the control wall. He starts tearing the wall apart, revealing a series of KNOTS MADE UP OF WIRING AND CIRCUITRY. The design of this is almost organic.

He reaches for the main knot, when--

BLUE ELECTRICITY writhes around his body!

He falls to his knees in pain and looks up.

THREE ALIENS have appeared armed with weapons, one of which is firing the electric charge at him.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

ON LANTERN:

The other craft is zooming toward Lantern from behind!

Lantern is sweating, trying to maintain a hold on the craft he has contained. He glances back at the oncoming ship.

Lasers are striking the dirt, dangerously close to him, but he isn't moving!

He grunts with supreme effort and SWINGS the CONTAINED CRAFT into the ONCOMING ONE like a medieval mace!

The oncoming ship EXPLODES as the green sphered ship SMASHES through it!

Lantern continues the swing and releases the craft, HURLING it into the mountain, where another EXPLOSION rocks the valley!

ON SUPERMAN:

Superman, still dangling behind the zigzagging craft, grabs hold of the hull with his other hand and proceeds to CLIMB ON TOP OF IT!

He is crouched on top of the ship, his cape whipping at insane speeds and in all directions as the ship dives this way and that trying to knock him off.

He PUNCHES BOTH FISTS into it and RIPS the ship APART!

The two torn halves spiral into the mountainside.

Superman glides to a stop in mid-air, catching his breath. He turns back toward the base and--

The LAST CRAFT RAMS into his mid-section!

It hurtles along with Superman trapped on its front end.

It slams him into the mountainside, pinning him against the rock.

He's definitely feeling pain as he looks up to see the ship's two turrets swivel toward him.

His face hardens and his eyes BURN RED! He FIRES a BLAST of HEAT-VISION at each turret, blasting them to smithereens!

He grits his teeth and DIGS his fingers into the metal, getting a good grip, then--

He pushes off the mountain and LITERALLY ROARS across the valley, holding the craft in front of him and SMASHES it into the opposite mountainside.

A HUGE EXPLOSION! The FLAMING DEBRIS falls to the ground far below.

Superman hovers victoriously, his body smoldering from the heat, his cape scorched and torn.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

ON FLASH:

FLASH turns toward the door and puts both hands against it. His face tenses with concentration.

His body becomes a BLUR as he VIBRATES at unbelievable speed!

He PUSHES against the wall, vibrating right THROUGH it!

INT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

FLASH emerges inside the alien base and stops vibrating.

He hears J'ONN'S SCREAMS nearby. He disappears in a red and yellow streak!

IN ANOTHER TUNNEL:

The FLASH comes to a stop and listens. J'onnn's MUFFLED SCREAMS are coming from the other side of the wall.

ON THE OTHER SIDE:

J'ONN is still enveloped in the electrical field while the three aliens look on.

One of them looks to the side at the wall.

ALIEN P.O.V.:

From the creature's viewpoint, the world is layered with GRAPHS and ALIEN LETTERS AND NUMBERS calculating everything around them.

The view suddenly shifts into a DARKER BLUE HUE with the FLASH'S GLOWING HEAT SIGNATURE on the other side.

ON FLASH:

Flash VIBRATES THROUGH THE WALL and appears on the other side.

As soon as he appears, the THIRD ALIEN is ready and immediately FIRES an ELECTRICAL FIELD AT HIM!

Flash drops to the floor in agony!

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

ON BATMAN:

Batman is somehow surviving. He's dodging aliens, throwing EXPLOSIVES at them, taking them out one by one.

An alien RACES TOWARD HIM.

He reaches into his belt for another explosive, but he's OUT! He looks back up, realizing he's in trouble!

He BARELY AVOIDS its attacks, dodging and rolling until it finally makes contact knocking him off his feet!

He gets back up and is hit again, THROWN BACK against the rocky wall! He tries to stand, but he's dazed.

It comes in for the kill.

Suddenly, SUPERMAN drops down behind it.

SUPERMAN

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

It spins, throwing a lightning-fast punch, but Superman is QUICKER! He CATCHES ITS FIST with one hand, stopping it cold then PUNCHES its head CLEAN OFF!

The droid's head smashes against the wall near Batman and drops to his feet, throwing sparks.

Batman wipes blood off his lip.

BATMAN

About time you showed up.

SUPERMAN

You're welcome.

ON WONDER WOMAN:

Wonder Woman hurls her lasso spear-point into an alien and swings it around SMASHING it into TWO MORE!

She YANKS the lasso, pulling the alien back to her. As it sails toward her, she KICKS its HEAD OFF!

Throughout all this, she somehow manages to still DEFLECT LASERS with her BRACELETS.

LANTERN shows up and puts up a WALL, barely able to keep it up against the constant blasts from the turrets.

SUPERMAN appears with BATMAN and they help to take down the remaining forces.

INT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

FLASH and J'ONN are down.

ZOOM to an EXTREME-CLOSE UP OF FLASH'S SHOULDER:

THE ATOM (a half-inch high) is on it! He's feeling the effects of the electricity too.

He manages to JUMP off the Flash and roll to the floor, outside of the electrical field.

Just behind him is FLASH'S GARGANTUAN FACE, teeth clenched in pain.

The Atom looks ahead and sees the ALIEN, TOWERING like a skyscraper, firing at the Flash.

He sprints across the floor, then quickly SHIFTS back to NORMAL HEIGHT, KNOCKING the gun aside, surprising the alien.

FLASH is free! He looks up and kicks into--

--SPEED-MODE--

He races for the alien firing at J'onnn and aims its gun at itself!

He moves to the third alien and begins RAPIDLY PUNCHING its CHEST like a jackhammer.

--REGULAR SPEED--

ATOM is in mid-action still pushing the gun aside.

The alien firing at J'onn, suddenly finds itself being ENVELOPED in its own ELECTRICAL FIELD! It spasms and EXPLODES!

The THIRD ALIEN'S chest CRACKS APART as a RED BLUR repeatedly strikes it! The alien's top half literally splits away!

J'ONN, now free, immediately stands and TEARS OUT THE KNOT OF WIRES, sending an explosion of sparks into the air!

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

The turrets CEASE FIRE and the main entrance OPENS WIDE.

LANTERN

Power's down! He's done it!

Lantern drops his wall.

Without the constant firing of the turrets, the scene seems oddly silent with only the sporadic laser blasts of the remaining aliens guarding the base.

SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN, LANTERN and BATMAN quickly take out the remaining aliens and make their way inside.

INT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

ON J'ONN, FLASH AND ATOM:

The three heroes stand over the defeated aliens.

BATMAN (V.O.)

(over radio)

We're inside. Flash, you and J'onn find the generator and take it offline.

FLASH

(holds ear)

We're on it.

(to J'onn and Atom)

You heard the man. Let's go.

MAIN ENTRANCE:

SUPERMAN, LANTERN, WONDER WOMAN and BATMAN step inside the alien base.

They walk through winding, tunnels, ready for anything.

TUNNELS:

FLASH, ATOM and J'ONN move cautiously through the dark tunnels.

FLASH (CONT'D)

I hate the dark. Can't run in it.

J'ONN

My people have a...

(corrects himself)

Had a great love of darkness. It was thought of as the closest thing to a perfect state of peace.

FLASH

Yeah, well... That's creepy.

ATOM

(to J'onnn)

Most of our kind have an irrational fear of the dark.

J'ONN

I understand. We have a similar fear of fire.

ATOM

After all this is over, I'd very much like to hear about your world.

J'onnn looks at Atom, surprised someone has shown genuine interest in him and his kind.

J'ONN

We will do that.

INT. SPAWNING ROOM

SUPERMAN SMASHES through a sealed passage and stops in horror.

LANTERN, BATMAN, & WONDER WOMAN step inside after him.

Before them are rows and rows of HANGING CYLINDRICAL CAPSULES, CONTAINING PEOPLE suspended in the blue liquid. Several hundred.

Details can't be seen, only people's silhouettes.

SUPERMAN

No...

BATMAN shatters the nearest pod with a batarang. Blue liquid gushes out, then a withered, almost MUMMIFIED BODY falls into Batman's arms.

He gently lays it down on the ground.

BATMAN

Too late.

Superman's jaw clenches. He refuses to believe that.

He starts RIPPING open capsules left and right looking for survivors.

The others join in.

One after another, they open the capsules only to find mummified remains.

Superman opens one and a young man's form hangs out. This one's not mummified yet.

Superman wipes the gunk off the man's face and feels for a pulse.

The man OPENS HIS EYES and starts COUGHING!

SUPERMAN

I've found one!

Superman lowers him out, while the others rip open the surrounding capsules.

All of them in this section are still alive.

WONDER WOMAN

We have to get them out of here.

Batman nods and grabs Superman.

BATMAN

We need an exit route made.

SUPERMAN

(determined)

Not until we find everyone!

BATMAN

I know who you're looking for. If she's here, we'll find her. These people come first.

Superman realizes Batman's right.

He turns toward a wall and starts RIPPING A BIG HOLE in it.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

FLASH, ATOM and J'ONN enter a room with HUGE PIECES of MACHINERY. A rhythmic deep pulsing sound fills the room.

ATOM
Is this it?

J'ONN
I hoped I would never see one of these again.

ATOM
(holds ear)
We've located the generator.

BATMAN (V.O.)
(over radio)
Take it out. We've found survivors and are making an escape route. Flash, we're going to need your services.

FLASH
(holds ear)
I'm on my way.

He disappears in a RED STREAK.

INT. SPAWNING ROOM

A LARGE GAP has been made in the wall. SUPERMAN is deeper inside, tearing through another wall.

They've freed over a hundred people, who sit on the floor in shock, stunned to find themselves in these horrifying surroundings.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

A CHUNK of wall EXPLODES OUTWARD and SUPERMAN steps outside.

He hears SCREAMS coming from inside!

He races back into the base.

INT. SPAWNING ROOM

The survivors are screaming as ALIENS are dropping from above and attacking!

LANTERN and WONDER WOMAN are battling them, trying to keep them away from the survivors.

SUPERMAN arrives and joins the fray!

BATMAN looks back down the escape route and sees daylight. He starts grabbing people, pulling them toward the exit.

He shouts at them, trying to be heard over the chaos.

BATMAN
Go through here and keep running!
GO!!

People nod and follow his orders.

He grabs another group of people.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Follow them! Go!

All around him, the aliens are attacking!

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

ATOM leaps toward the machine and SHRINKS so small that he falls inside it!

INT. THE GENERATOR

INSIDE THE MACHINE:

The ATOM lands inside a bizarre world of strange technology!

He looks around amazed, almost enjoying the experience.

ATOM
(to himself)
Focus, Ray. No time to sight-see.

He runs off deep into the machine.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

J'ONN hears movement behind him and spins to find more aliens coming through the doorway.

They crouch menacingly as they face him.

He stands in a battle stance, gritting his teeth and clenching his fists.

INT. SPAWNING ROOM

BATMAN is pushing people toward the exit.

FLASH appears next to him.

FLASH
What do you want me to do?

BATMAN
Get these people to safety as fast
as you can!

Flash grabs a woman in his arms and disappears in a red streak!

A second later the red streak returns! Flash is back, picking up another survivor. In the blink of an eye, he's gone again!

Batman continues to break open capsules, freeing more people.

He opens another and LOIS falls out! She appears to be unharmed.

He pulls her to safety and tries to wake her. Her eyes flutter open and she coughs.

When she sees Batman, her eyes widen in fear.

LOIS
(groggy)
Where's Superman...?

BATMAN
He's here.

Batman lifts her and carries her toward the exit.

FLASH is back for another survivor.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
(to Flash)
Make sure she's safe.

He nods, taking her, then disappears.

ON LANTERN:

An alien grabs LANTERN from behind!

He struggles against it, when another ALIEN SUDDENLY GRABS HIS WRIST.

Before he can react, it STEALS his POWER RING!

His COSTUME INSTANTLY DISAPPEARS, reverting him to his real identity, HAL JORDAN, complete with NORMAL CASUAL CLOTHES.

The alien with the ring DISAPPEARS with a flash of light into a FLOATING BLACK OVAL.

The alien holding him, THROWS him hard AGAINST THE WALL, then HITS HIM AGAIN, knocking him to the floor!

HAL'S face is SEVERELY CUT and BLEEDING. He starts to rise, when the alien hits him again!

Hal flies across the room and lies motionless on the floor, near WONDER WOMAN.

She sees Hal, bloody and beaten and looks up to see his attacker coming for her. She runs toward it and kicks it in the abdomen so hard, that it splits in half!

INT. THE GENERATOR

ATOM is kneeling, examining the technology.

ATOM
(holds ear)
I think I know how to knock the generator offline, but it's going to blow when I do.

INT. SPAWNING ROOM

BATMAN is holding his ear listening to Atom.

BATMAN
How big?

ATOM (V.O.)
Real big. It'll take the whole base with it.

BATMAN
Don't do it until I say. We're still clearing people out.

ATOM (V.O.)
Gotcha.

SUPERMAN finishes the last of the aliens off.

The room is quiet once more.

WONDER WOMAN walks toward Batman carrying Hal.

WONDER WOMAN

He's severely injured. They took his ring.

Batman is not happy.

BATMAN

Clear everyone out. Now! This place is going to blow.

SUPERMAN

Not yet.

BATMAN

I already found her.

Superman can barely contain his concern.

SUPERMAN

Is she...?

BATMAN

She's safe. Let's get everyone out.

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN, SUPERMAN, and FLASH are at the other end of the valley, far away from the base, herding the survivors behind the mountain wall.

Batman is looking back at the base, holding his ear listening to Atom.

BATMAN

Ray, everyone's clear. Take it down!

INT. THE GENERATOR

ATOM listens to Batman.

ATOM

Better get some cover.

The ATOM grabs hold of a piece of machinery and pulls with all his might.

It finally detaches.

Everything around him starts to RUMBLE and SHAKE.

The pulsing energy sound is speeding up at a frightening rate!

He looks back and sees a WALL OF ENERGY rushing toward him!

He runs for his life!

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

The ATOM leaps out of the machine, somersaulting and enlarges into the room!

He sees J'ONN standing over a number of defeated aliens.

 ATOM
I see we had company.

 J'ONN
Yes.

 ATOM
We've gotta go.

J'onn holds out his hand.

 J'ONN
Quickly.

Atom leaps into the air, SHRINKING as he goes and lands in J'onn's palm.

J'onn runs, leaps into the air and PHASES THROUGH the ceiling!

EXT. ALIEN BASE - DAY

The GENERATOR goes up in a SPECTACULAR EXPLOSION! A second later, the rest of the base is consumed in a series of EXPLOSIONS!

J'ONN glides overhead and lands near Batman. The atom is standing on J'onn's shoulder.

They all look back at the fiery inferno and watch it burn.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

PRIVATE ROOM:

LOIS is lying in bed with an oxygen mask and an IV in her arm.

Superman caresses her forehead.

RAY PALMER, (the Atom) walks in, wearing his doctor's uniform.

RAY

Hal's in pretty bad shape.

SUPERMAN

Has he regained consciousness?

RAY

No. We're still running tests, making sure he hasn't slipped into a coma.

Ray checks Lois' pulse and looks at her chart.

SUPERMAN

Is she going to be alright?

RAY

I don't know. Her body's low on just about everything it needs to survive. We're trying to replenish her system, but at this point... It's too early to tell.

Superman's face hardens, holding back his emotions.

RAY (CONT'D)

We've already lost a few of the others.

Superman closes his eyes.

RAY (CONT'D)

You know her?

SUPERMAN

(nods)
She's a... friend.

ANOTHER PRIVATE ROOM:

Hal Jordan is also unconscious in a hospital bed, with oxygen mask and IV, as well as heart and brain monitors.

BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN, J'ONN and FLASH (Flash's mask is off) are in the room, off to the side, talking in quiet tones.

WONDER WOMAN

(to Batman)

We didn't get their leader.

J'ONN

He was never there.

FLASH

Are you saying there's another base?

J'ONN

Yes.

FLASH

Crap.

BATMAN

I'll have to recheck the satellite photos, but Ray and I didn't see any other unusual hotspots.

FLASH

Maybe you missed it.

Batman gives Flash an intensely pissed look, as if insulted by the remark.

BATMAN

I don't miss anything.

FLASH

(spooked)

I mean Ray! Maybe Ray missed it.

BATMAN

(taps his ear)

Keep your radios on, I may need to contact you.

He turns and exits.

Flash wipes sweat off his forehead.

FLASH

I think I ticked him off.

Wonder Woman puts a comforting hand on Flash's shoulder.

WONDER WOMAN
I'll talk with him.

She heads for the door.

IN HALLWAY:

Wonder Woman walks out of the room and stops, bewildered.

Batman is GONE!

She looks down the hallway both ways and there's no sign of him. She walks ahead and passes by an open room, where billowing curtains catch her eye.

She walks inside the empty private room and looks out the open window.

THROUGH WINDOW:

Down below, she can just make out Batman's dark figure walking away from the hospital.

EXT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

BATMAN is striding away under the cover of darkness as WONDER WOMAN glides down beside him.

WONDER WOMAN
Mind if I join you?

He doesn't answer, but his eyes glance over, showing that maybe he doesn't really know what he wants.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Don't be angry at Barry. He speaks quicker than he thinks.
(smiles)
Probably a side effect of his powers.

BATMAN
He may be right. If there's another base, then I missed it.

WONDER WOMAN
You're only human.

BATMAN
No excuse.

She stops him and pushes him against a tree.

WONDER WOMAN

You're not perfect, no matter how
much you pretend to be. No man is.

He doesn't want to hear this and tries to turn away.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Whoever you are... underneath that
mask...

She holds his chin and turns his face toward her.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

You're flesh and blood. You're
heart beats just like everyone
else's.

She leans close, her lips a fraction away from his...

BATMAN

(resisting)

Emotions cloud judgement...

WONDER WOMAN

Emotions let you know you're
alive...

She kisses him. Long and hard.

Afterwards, she pulls away, grinning, leaving him dazed.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Although you may be as close to
perfection as they come.

She glides up into the night sky.

He watches her disappear.

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Clark Kent's apartment. The lights are off. The living room
is lit with moonlight.

A PHOTO of Clark Kent and his parents hangs on the wall,
along with a FRAMED COPY OF HIS FIRST PUBLISHED COLUMN in the
Daily Planet and a "SMALLVILLE HIGH" BANNER.

The window is open and the curtains are billowing inward.

SUPERMAN appears outside and climbs in through the window.

He sits in a chair, holding his head in his hands.

He sits forward, looking out the window, feeling like a failure. His face knotted with worry.

A contemplative moment, then--

SUPERMAN
What do you want?

BATMAN steps out of the shadows of his apartment.

BATMAN
Are you alright?

SUPERMAN
No. I'm not. We didn't get to
them in time.

BATMAN
We did what we could.

SUPERMAN
It wasn't enough.

Batman moves to the window, staring out at the city.

BATMAN
I was saying something similar to
Diana. She said we're only human.

SUPERMAN
I'm not.

Batman glances at him.

BATMAN
That's not what you were telling me
a few days ago.

SUPERMAN
Maybe I was wrong.

BATMAN
No... I think you were right. If
we don't let people in, we've lost
the whole point of why we do this.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Touching.

Batman and Superman spin toward the voice and are stunned to see--

--LEX LUTHOR step out of a dark oval warp gate!

SUPERMAN

Lex?

Luthor brings the KRYPTONITE GUN up!

The air RIPPLES as the ENERGY HITS Superman, sapping his strength, causing him to drop to his knees!

Batman pulls out his batarang, but an ALIEN appears out of the warp hole behind Luthor and CHARGES him!

It smacks him, sending him CRASHING out the window!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

BATMAN flails in the air as he FALLS!

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPERMAN struggles to stay conscious.

He sees the ALIEN turn and reach for him, before--

--EVERYTHING GOES BLACK.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

BATMAN is PLUMMETING toward the busy street far below.

He pulls out his GRAPPLE and FIRES it up at the building's roof.

ON GRAPPLING HOOK:

It CATCHES on the roof's edge and secures itself.

ON BATMAN:

His line goes TAUGHT!

He swings toward the building and takes the brunt of the impact with his boots.

He flips a switch and the grapple RETRACTS, pulling him back UP!

INT. CLARK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BATMAN climbs back in through the window and glances around ready for battle, but...

Superman, Luthor and the alien are GONE!

He slams his fist against the wall in frustration.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The BATMOBILE screeches into the Batcave, tires SMOKING from the intense speed.

BATMAN jumps out and storms across the cave.

He rips his mask off and throws it aside as he sits at his batcomputer and brings up SATELLITE IMAGES.

Image after image flips by as he searches for another hotspot.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER:

Batman stops and closes his eyes, rubbing the bridge of his nose, exhausted from the past day's events.

Alfred appears, with a concerned expression.

ALFRED

Sir, you haven't had much sleep in the past 48 hours. Perhaps, you should--

BATMAN

There's no time. There's just no time.

Alfred nods and starts to turn away.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Alfred?

ALFRED

Yes?

BATMAN

Thanks.

Alfred smiles and walks away.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A small lonely beach surrounded by rocky walls. The calming sound of the waves rolling in, then--

A MAN EMERGES FROM THE WATER, grunting and gasping! He staggers forward using his GOLDEN TRIDENT as support.

He has shaggy blonde hair, a chiseled face, and an athletic build. BLOOD streams from cuts on his face and lips.

His clothing consists of a type of DARK GREEN WETSUIT with a COPPER SHIRT MADE OUT OF FISHSKIN. The shirt's iridescent shine giving it the impression of chainmail.

ARTHUR CURRY aka AQUAMAN. He heads toward a cave.

INT. CAVE - DUSK

Aquaman makes his way through the dark caves...

DISSOLVE TO:

Aquaman emerges from the caves into a larger cavern. He struggles up sharp, black rocks, then falls onto METAL GRATING, his TRIDENT CLANGING beside him.

BATS chitter high above.

AQUAMAN

Bruce...

We realize he's in...

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

The BATCAVE!

Bruce, sitting at his bat-computer, spins toward him.

BRUCE

Arthur!

Bruce rushes over to him, helping him to his feet.

AQUAMAN

(shaking)

They're gone...

INT. WAYNE MANOR - NIGHT

In an elegant den, AQUAMAN is sitting opposite BRUCE, in an expensive chair, with a blanket draped around him.

His hands tremble, as he drinks a steaming cup of tea.

His TRIDENT leans against a wall next to him.

AQUAMAN
My kingdom...

His eyes well up with tears and he becomes choked with emotion.

AQUAMAN (CONT'D)
...it's gone. My people...
(choked up)
...dead.

Aquaman wipes the tears from his eyes.

BRUCE
What happened?

Aquaman's emotions change to anger as he tells his story.

AQUAMAN
They came in the night seas
following the northern current. A
black wave of death. They're
coming this way as we speak, Bruce.
Your people are next.

Bruce closes his eyes in anger.

BRUCE
(to himself)
Of course. Underwater. The cold
water is covering the heat
signature.

Bruce looks at Aquaman, his eyes narrowing.

BRUCE (CONT'D)
Arthur, do you know where they
originated? Can you find their
source on a map?

Aquaman leans forward, his face taking on the visage of a vengeful king.

AQUAMAN
(fiercely)
With pinpoint accuracy.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - MORNING

DRAINING CHAMBER:

SUPERMAN is against a wall. LIVING METAL TENTACLES are wrapped around him both restraining him and holding him up.

His body is limp, as LUTHOR stands before him, holding the KRYPTONITE GUN up. The rippling energy is still being fired upon him.

Superman can barely manage to speak.

SUPERMAN
Lex... Why... Why are you helping
them?

Luthor doesn't answer. He remains motionless.

Heavy metallic footsteps approach.

BRAI'NIAC (O.S.)
He doesn't have much choice in the
matter.

Superman strains to see who is speaking.

BRAI'NIAC enters the room. A very threatening presence.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
So you are the last Kryptonian.

He walks up to Superman and grabs him BY THE HAIR, lifting his head to see him better.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
What a strange twist of fate that
brings us together after so long.

SUPERMAN
(mumbling)
What're you talking about?

Brai'niac lets go of his hair, making Superman strain to lift his own head.

BRAI'NIAC
I am the product of Kryptonian
technology.

Superman is stunned.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

Kryptonians created me to take care of them, run their lives for them. I required too much energy, however, so they tried to shut me down... But I had tasted life and it was something I was not willing to give up. I drained that world dry and escaped before its destruction.

SUPERMAN

You?! You... destroyed Krypton?

BRAI'NIAC

It is no great loss, I can assure you.

SUPERMAN

You're murdering... billions of lives. You have to stop.

BRAI'NIAC

I must function.

Brai'niac gestures with his hand and the wall RELEASES Superman, letting him fall to his knees.

A CAPSULE lowers, encapsulating Superman. BLUE FLUID pours inside, filling it up.

Superman is now in a DRAINING CAPSULE.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

The last son of Krypton shall join his kin.

Luthor watches dispassionately.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The BATPLANE roars over the ocean!

It's black, ultra-sleek and fearsome.

INT. BATPLANE - NIGHT

IN COCKPIT:

BATMAN sits at the cockpit, piloting the craft.

PASSENGER SECTION:

J'ONN and AQUAMAN are sitting amidst the devastated landscape of Mars. J'onn is showing Aquaman his past via telepathy.

The Martian landscape disappears and we see that they are in the back of the plane in passenger seats, opposite each other.

When they open their eyes, Aquaman looks away, trying to hold in his rage. His eyes moisten over the sadness of seeing two worlds die in a day.

J'ONN

We are both the last of our kind.

AQUAMAN

We are brothers, then.

Aquaman grabs J'onn's wrist. The warrior's clasp.

AQUAMAN (CONT'D)

This will be a mission of vengeance for both of us. We will honor our dead in this battle.

J'onn slowly nods.

BATMAN (V.O.)

(over radio)

Nearing target. Get into position.

They both stand and move toward the outer door.

Aquaman grabs his trident.

IN COCKPIT:

Batman switches to autopilot and enters--

PASSENGER SECTION:

BATMAN

You two are the only ones left that can withstand the ocean depths.

(looks at them)

We'll try to hold them off, but it's up to you two to stop him.

Aquaman nods grimly.

They all hold onto ceiling grips as Batman opens the side door.

Cold, night air roars inside the plane.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

GO!

Aquaman and J'onn both LEAP out into the night skies!

They both fall silently with the sea air whipping past them.

Aquaman closes his eyes, enjoying the intoxicating smell as the ocean rushes to meet them--

SPLASH!!!!!!!

Both hit the dark water and plummet further down.

Aquaman glances at J'onn and witnesses him changing form.

J'onn's body alters into an AQUATIC VERSION OF HIMSELF complete with finned back, webbed hands and feet, gills and an iguana-like tail, more adept at moving through water.

Aquaman takes the lead and swims with amazing speed!

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The sky is light, but the sun hasn't risen yet.

The BATPLANE jets through the cold night air.

INT. BATPLANE - NIGHT

Batman's radar is BEEPING.

He glances at it and sees--

A SWARM OF GLOWING OBJECTS just below him!

He looks out his window at the ocean below...

A terrifying sight...

Just under the surface of the ocean, a FLEET of ALIEN MANTA-SHAPED CRAFT numbering in the HUNDREDS, is moving at an incredible rate!

They are faster than his Batplane, already speeding ahead of him.

BATMAN
(into radio)
Diana, Barry!
(MORE)

BATMAN (CONT'D)
First attack wave is heading toward
Metropolis Bay! Start an
evacuation, then meet me there!

EXT. BATPLANE - NIGHT

The BATPLANE streaks away following the enemy fleet.

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - NIGHT

Brai'niac's Lair sits on the ocean floor. It's so dark down here that the few glowing lights on its exterior only give a hint to its true shape.

NEAR UNDERSIDE:

AQUAMAN and J'ONN (in aquatic form) swim close to the structure's LARGE VENT EXHAUST PORT.

They both grab hold of the metal slots and BEND them apart, CREATING AN OPENING.

They both swim inside.

EXT. METROPOLIS - MORNING

METROPOLIS BAY:

Police and firemen are evacuating residents of Metropolis Bay. There's a lot of confusion and panic among the public as they are hustled away from the coast.

FLASH and WONDER WOMAN stand on a rooftop, looking out at the ocean. Flash's mask is off.

WONDER WOMAN
A beautiful morning.

FLASH
Hmm? Oh. Yeah, I guess it is.

She looks over at him and sees how stressed he is, as he strains his eyes, watching the sea.

She places her hand on his shoulder.

He looks over at her.

WONDER WOMAN
Don't be afraid.

FLASH
(laughs)
It shows?

WONDER WOMAN
Just a little.

FLASH
(shakes head)
I've fought bad guys before, but
man...

WONDER WOMAN
Never had to save the world?

FLASH
No. This is too much
responsibility.

WONDER WOMAN
With you're gift of speed, you
choose to run into battle, rather
than away from it. That is a mark
of a warrior. You'll do fine.

She smiles at him. She radiates warmth, confidence and
beauty.

Barry smiles back, calmer and at peace.

FLASH
Thanks.

She looks back at the ocean.

WONDER WOMAN
Here they come.

He follows her gaze.

HUNDREDS of ALIEN MANTA CRAFT burst out of the water and take
to the sky, streaking overhead.

FLASH
Oh my god.

The few people who are still in the vicinity, stand frozen,
staring up in awe... That is, until the EXPLOSIONS start.
Then the crowds scatter in sheer terror.

The manta craft's turrets swivel about, firing upon the
buildings laying waste to whatever lay in their path.

FLASH (CONT'D)
I can't do anything to stop these
things...

WONDER WOMAN hurls her LASSO POINT into one of the craft and pulls with all her might!

It collides into the side of a building with a thundering CRASH!

She yanks her line out and hurls it into another manta craft!

Flash pulls on his mask and holds his arms out, spinning them, creating a MINI-CYCLONE! He aims the cyclone at an approaching ship, which gets caught in it, spinning uncontrollably into a building!

BOOM! The craft explodes into fiery debris.

Wonder Woman yanks another one down.

LASERS start hitting the ground around them!

They look up and see ANOTHER MANTA CRAFT bearing down on them!

Suddenly its side EXPLODES, causing it to spiral out of control crashing down into the street!

Both heroes are momentarily confused until they see--

The BATPLANE SCREAMING down out of the sky!

INT. BATPLANE - MORNING

BATMAN flies past the burning craft and targets another one.

MISSILES fly from his plane!

EXT. METROPOLIS - MORNING

The MISSILES hit their target! Another manta craft EXPLODES and goes down!

ON FLASH and WONDER WOMAN:

FLASH
Hope he's got a lot of those.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - MORNING

INSIDE COOLING SYSTEM:

AQUAMAN and J'ONN swim through twisting tunnels of living metal.

They swim up a vertical tunnel and reach some grating.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

A dark chamber.

A FIST PUNCHES through the metal floor! AQUAMAN stretches the hole wider and climbs inside.

J'ONN follows, having already shifted into his semi-human form.

They move silently down a corridor, ocean water running off their bodies.

IN COMMAND ROOM:

BRAI'NIAC is watching the Metropolis Bay battle via a hologram.

BRAI'NIAC
A futile display.

He looks at the Lantern's POWER RING on his own finger, admiring its beauty.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
Without your strongest, you will
fall swiftly.

He turns, sensing something.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
Intruders.

Brai'niac exits with Luthor following.

ON AQUAMAN & J'ONN:

Aquaman and J'onnn run through the tunnels, like hunters searching for prey.

They enter a large chamber.

Through a doorway at the end, they can see the GENERATOR!

Ahead of them, the doorway suddenly closes off as the living metal twists to block them.

WARRIOR ALIENS stride out on all sides, carrying brutal HAND to HAND weapons.

Aquaman holds his trident before him, ready for battle.

J'onn grits his teeth and hunches, fists clenched, waiting...

The aliens RUSH them!

The BATTLE BEGINS!

EXT. METROPOLIS BAY - MORNING

WONDER WOMAN deflects a barrage of laser-fire with her wristbands.

FLASH is about to aim at another craft when he hears SCREAMING behind him.

He turns and sees a WOMAN running down the street, screaming and reaching out toward someone.

Her 8 yr old DAUGHTER is farther down the street, howling as she tries to out-race one of the manta craft; its laser bolts strafing all around her! There's no chance the girl will survive...

Flash hunches and launches forward into a streak of red.

SPEED MODE:

The world around the Flash becomes a blur and then he is behind the GIRL, swooping her up in his arms. Laser bolts rain down around him in slow motion, melting pavement at every step. He weaves and twists, dodging each deadly beam.

The craft is right on his tail, coming in close.

He runs straight toward a cliff wall! Just as he's about to impact, he does something amazing...

He runs straight up it!

Behind him, the craft rams the rocky surface and EXPLODES in slow-mo. Flames and pieces of shrapnel erupt and expand outward in an almost beautiful display as Flash reaches the top.

He stops and the world resumes normal speed, resulting in a THUNDEROUS BOOM from the destroyed craft.

The girl snuffles, her eyes wide, stunned. She realizes she's safe and in someone's arms. She looks at the Flash, glancing at his chest emblem and then his masked face.

His eyes are still on the bay as he catches his breath.

Her eyes almost sparkle as she stares at him.

He feels her gaze and looks back at her. He smiles.

GIRL
You're the Flash.

FLASH
That's me.

GIRL
You're my favorite.

FLASH
(surprised)
I am?

His smile widens. He sets her down.

GIRL
(gasps)
You're hurt!

He looks at his abdomen. His uniform is sporting a steaming hole. His exposed skin is red, but appears to be fairly superficial.

FLASH
I'll be alright. Don't you worry.
Now, let me go get your mom. Be
back in a--.

He points at her.

GIRL
(giggles)
Flash!

He winks.

FLASH
You got it.

He disappears in a red blur. The little girl's clothes and hair whipping in his wake.

ON WONDER WOMAN:

Part of the rooftop that WONDER WOMAN is standing on, EXPLODES from a craft's plasma blasts, knocking her backward.

She groans, trying to shake off the effects of the explosion.

She clears her head just in time to see the craft streaking toward her, blasting away!

Wonder Woman deflects the blasts right back at it, causing it to burst into flames as it sails over her head!

She spots her LASSO on the other side of the roof and holds out her hand.

The LASSO takes on a life of its own and snaps toward her hand like a whip, then coils loosely around her arm.

Another MANTA CRAFT zooms by overhead blasting away at the city.

She spins the end of her lasso so fast, it blurs, and whistles in the air. She THROWS the weighted end at the craft and SPEARS its underside!

She tries to hold it, but its momentum YANKS her forward into the air!

She lands on the side of another building, planting her feet firmly against the structure, holding the line like she's hooked a whale.

The ship struggles to pull forward, but with superhuman strength, she holds tight.

The side of the building under her boots begins to CRACK under the immense pressure.

The ship suddenly veers to the side trying to pull her loose. She uses its momentum, pulling the line, making it swing uncontrollably in a circle toward another alien craft!

The ship COLLIDES with the other craft, sending them both to the ground in flames!

Wonder Woman lands on the ground in a crouch, gasping from the strain.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

RAY PALMER is with other hospital personnel watching the TV.

ON TV:

A distraught REPORTER is talking while the invasion happens behind her.

REPORTER

They're attacking everywhere!
We're getting reports that enemy
craft are taking out military
installations all across the
nation! Computer systems are
failing, slowing down our ability
to respond--

The TV goes to STATIC, leaving them speechless.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

FOURTH STORY:

People are clustered by windows, watching the MANTA CRAFT fly by raining down destruction in the distance.

They scream and scatter as one of the craft streaks by the hospital windows at street level.

WONDER WOMAN comes flying into it, knocking it into the building!

A MASSIVE IMPACT!

The building shakes and windows break!

PRIVATE ROOM:

LOIS wakes up in her hospital bed. She glances around dazed.

She removes the IV and oxygen mask.

The building rumbles again.

She gets out of bed and looks out the window, witnessing the war going on.

She opens the closet and grabs her clothes.

FOURTH STORY:

Outside the window, WONDER WOMAN finishes tearing out the circuitry and flies off into the sky.

ON BATMAN:

The BATPLANE streaks by another EXPLODING SHIP and banks left, then right, trying to lose two MANTA CRAFT on his tail!

He twists and turns between buildings, but can't lose them.

The Batplane takes a hit!

INSIDE BATPLANE:

BATMAN tries to pull the plane out of a spiral, but the speed is too much!

He CRASHES into the street, flipping over and over!

The BATPLANE slides to a stop, burning and billowing black smoke.

The cockpit's hatch suddenly flies off! BATMAN climbs out and staggers away to safety as the plane EXPLODES behind him.

He's cut up and bloody. His uniform torn to shreds. He leans against a wall, catching his breath. The look on his face, says that he's facing a no-win situation.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

AQUAMAN and J'ONN are battling the last of the warrior aliens.

Aquaman swings his TRIDENT knocking a head off, while J'onnn swings an AXE-LIKE WEAPON that he's recovered from a fallen enemy.

They are bloody and wounded, standing victorious.

AQUAMAN

Show yourself!! Show yourself,
COWARD!!!

BRAI'NIAC steps into the light. LUTHOR can be seen, standing further back in the shadows.

BRAI'NIAC

The brave and the bold. You both
show much more courage than I gave
you credit for.

Aquaman charges him, thrusting the trident forward!

Brai'niac brushes the weapon aside and BACKHANDS Aquaman, knocking him to the floor.

Aquaman jumps to his feet and swings his trident at him!

Brai'niac catches it and SLUGS him, sending him across the room. He tosses the trident away and gestures toward Aquaman.

METAL TENTACLES come out of the floor and wrap around Aquaman, pinning him down!

J'ONN
This world will be your final
resting place.

BRAI'NIAC
You are quite persistent, Martian.
The only being to ever stop me.

J'ONN
As I will again.

BRAI'NIAC
I think not.

Tentacles drop down around J'onnn, SPEWING FLAME!

J'onnn throws up his hands blocking his face. He cowers back, paralyzed with fear.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
Martians have an almost
uncontrollable fear of fire as I
recall.

J'onnn is having trouble breathing due to his anxiety. He's covered in sweat.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)
I remember that, as it added a bit
of pleasure when I burned your race
into ash.

J'onnn grits his teeth, trying to control his fear.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

HALLWAY:

LOIS, fully dressed, runs down a hall.

She sees that the hall is blocked by a crowd of people.

Doctors and nurses are assisting people out.

LOIS
(to doctor)
Any way I can help?

The doctor turns. It's RAY PALMER.

RAY
Miss Lane?

LOIS
Yeah.

RAY
Actually, we need all the help we
can get.

LOIS
Tell me what to do.

RAY
Get these people to safety. This
wing is unstable and may collapse.
I'm going to clear out the other
rooms.

Lois is shocked, but nods and immediately helps escort the
sick and disabled out the door.

He runs off leaving her.

PRIVATE ROOM:

HAL is still lying in bed, unconscious.

He starts to stir, then opens his eyes and immediately
winces. He sits up, looking around, confused by his
surroundings.

He holds up his right hand and notes that his power ring is
MISSING.

He takes off the oxygen mask and pulls out the IV, then gets
up and enters the bathroom.

Looking at himself in the mirror, he examines his wounds,
feeling the large cut on his forehead.

HAL
(to himself)
They got me pretty good.

The room's door opens. RAY enters and is surprised to see
the bed empty. He looks around concerned.

RAY

Hal?

Hal comes out of the bathroom and greets Ray with a smile.

HAL

Can't keep a good man down.

RAY

(smiles)

Good to see you up and around!

HAL

So, did we win?

RAY

(serious)

No. Things have gotten worse.
We're in the middle of a full scale
invasion.

Hal's good humor disappears. He goes to the closet and pulls out the clothes he was wearing when he was brought in.

RAY (CONT'D)

Hal, stop. Didn't you notice.
They took your ring.

Hal smiles with confidence, which makes Ray wonder about his mental state.

HAL

They should have made sure I was
dead. As long as I'm alive, that
ring's under my control.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

BRAI'NIAC'S hand jerks to the side, surprising him.

BRAI'NIAC

What?

Lantern's POWER RING slides off his finger and hovers in the air, zipping around as if looking for a way out.

ON J'ONN:

The fire-spewing tentacles lose their focus and dangle, giving J'onnn a moment to recover.

ON AQUAMAN:

The TENTACLES have loosened! Aquaman starts to get up...

ON BRAI'NIAC:

He watches the RING lower, then SHOOT straight up, right through the ceiling!

WATER starts to SPRAY inside.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

No!

Brai'niac gestures, sealing the leak, then spins seeing--

--J'ONN charging for the blocked GENERATOR DOOR! He PHASES THROUGH IT!

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

NO!

Brai'niac moves to follow, when suddenly--

AQUAMAN roars and IMPALES him from behind with his TRIDENT!

ELECTRICAL ENERGY crackles around the wound.

AQUAMAN

For the blood of my people!

ON LUTHOR:

LUTHOR snaps out of his trance and looks at what's happening.

He reaches behind his neck and grits his teeth in pain as he pulls off the CONTROLLING DEVICE.

He throws it down and CRUSHES it under his heel, then turns and races down a corridor. His keen eyes searching for familiar territory...

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - NIGHT

The POWER RING BURSTS out of Brai'niac's underwater lair and zooms upward through the deep waters.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The POWER RING erupts from the surface of the ocean and STREAKS across the sky at supersonic speed!

The landscape is a complete blur beneath it.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

Aquaman yanks the trident out and prepares for another thrust, but BRAI'NIAC is quicker, turning around and GRABBING AQUAMAN by the throat!

He lifts him up in the air, then THROWS Aquaman against a wall, where TENTACLES hold him tightly.

One of the tentacles wraps around his throat, CHOKING him!

BRAI'NIAC

Enough!

INSIDE GENERATOR ROOM:

J'ONN is RIPPING the machine APART!

He's digging into the machinery like a maniac!

Behind J'onnn, the metal wall parts letting BRAI'NIAC enter.

Brai'niac holds out his hands, commanding the metal in front of J'onnn to produce SMALL EXPLOSIONS starting the room ON FIRE!

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

You will desist, Martian!

J'onnn backs away, but the fires surround him!

ON AQUAMAN:

AQUAMAN rips himself free of the tentacles in a berserker rage and CHARGES Brai'niac!

Brai'niac is slammed face-first into the wall!

EXT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

HAL stands on the Hospital's roof, in his civilian clothes, waiting...

He holds out his hand...

The RING flies straight into it.

He turns his hand over and opens his fist, revealing the GLEAMING EMERALD RING.

He slips it onto his finger and stares straight ahead, feeling the power course through him once again.

GREEN ENERGY crackles around him, changing his regular clothes into his LANTERN UNIFORM.

The GREEN LANTERN is back!

He jumps off the balcony and streaks off into the sky.

EXT. METROPOLIS - DAY

Things are going bad in the city.

BATMAN is walking through damaged streets. He turns a corner and sees FLASH standing by while WONDER WOMAN finishes off another downed ship.

Flash is leaning forward with his hands on his knees, catching his breath.

Wonder Woman is bloody and bruised.

Behind them another MANTA CRAFT looms! It aims straight down at them!

A GIANT, GLOWING, GREEN WRECKING BALL comes out of nowhere and SMASHES into it, sending it toppling over, exploding as it falls!

They look up and see the GREEN LANTERN streak by overhead!

Batman smirks, relieved.

FLASH
YEAH!!! GO GET 'EM!!!!

Wonder Woman laughs.

BATMAN
(holds ear)
Good to see you again, Lantern.

LANTERN (V.O.)
(over radio)
You know I hate missing the party.
Give me the update.

GREEN BEAMS of energy start flashing across the sky as Lantern begins laying down the law.

BURNING MANTA CRAFT start falling from the sky in droves.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

DRAINAGE ROOM:

LUTHOR stands next to SUPERMAN'S CAPSULE and begins smashing the KRYPTONITE GUN against the window. The glass cracks, then shatters!

The blue liquid splashes out, followed by Superman's unconscious form. His large frame thuds onto the metal floor.

For a moment, Luthor stares down at Superman, realizing the rare sight of having his enemy before him in a helpless state.

He puts his hand on Superman's throat and starts CHOKING HIM!

Superman's breathing becomes labored and his face is turning purple.

LUTHOR'S face is twisted with hate as he strangles him, then--

--He forces himself to let go.

LUTHOR
(whisper)
One day. But not now.

INSIDE GENERATOR ROOM:

Tentacles erupt from the floor and pull Aquaman off of Brai'niac.

Brai'niac turns and punches Aquaman in the jaw.

Aquaman spits out blood, then looks up and smiles.

AQUAMAN
That all you got?

Aquaman tears free of the tentacles and pounds Brai'niac with explosive punches! Brai'niac staggers back.

ON J'ONN:

J'ONN screams and dives into the fire, PLUNGING his fist into the machine!

ON AQUAMAN:

AQUAMAN is unrelenting and yanks a piece of Brai'niac's armor off, resulting in sparks and pops.

Brai'niac falls against a wall. Aquaman comes in again, but Brai'niac yells and smacks him back.

Brai'niac lands one thunderous punch after another, until Aquaman falls to the floor.

BRAI'NIAC

You are a fool to stand against me!
I have destroyed worlds!

J'ONN (O.S.)

(voice coarse)
You're not destroying this one.

Brai'niac turns to see a BLACKENED, SCORCHED FIGURE come stumbling out of the flames.

J'onn throws a knot of circuitry down on the floor.

The GENERATOR begins RUMBLING and SHAKING!

The pulsing ENERGY sound is quickening as it becomes unstable!

BRAI'NIAC

No...

IN CHAMBER:

BRAI'NIAC backs out of the room and disappears down a corridor.

AQUAMAN struggles to get back on his feet. J'onn helps him up.

A deafening RUMBLE is heard and the base quakes violently.

They look up and see water starting to spray inside!

J'ONN

He's trying to escape.

AQUAMAN

Go!

J'onn glides up, phasing into the ceiling.

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

A domed portion of the base is detaching from the rest and moving upward.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

WATER comes CRASHING down AROUND AQUAMAN!

Soon he is completely underwater.

He looks up seeing the escaping portion of the base moving upward. It resembles a MECHANICAL JELLYFISH, with trailing tentacles underneath it.

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S LAIR - DAY

The DOMED PORTION rocket's up through the water at tremendous speed!

The rest of the base, including the generator go up in a COLOSSAL UNDERWATER EXPLOSION!

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Brai'niac's ESCAPE SHIP blasts out of the sea into the air!

A second later the escaping gases from the underwater explosion ERUPT above the surface!

The ship's exterior is fully visible now and the domed portion almost resembles a skull.

It hurtles over the ocean, gaining altitude as it goes.

EXT. METROPOLIS - DAY

Something strange begins to happen to the enemy craft.

The MANTA CRAFT start falling out of the sky and crashing to the ground!

LANTERN lands near the heroes.

LANTERN
What's happening?

BATMAN
No power.

LANTERN
Does that mean...

They look at each other.

WONDER WOMAN

(smiles)

They did it.

FLASH

(disbelief)

They did it?

(joyous, thrilled)

They did it!! Wooohoooo!!!!

They laugh.

All except Batman, who watches the sky, never wanting to let his guard down in case they're wrong.

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

It's heading up through the clouds. It's heading toward space!

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

DRAINING ROOM:

BRAI'NIAC enters the room, weaker and wounded. His glow isn't as bright.

BRAI'NIAC

I must feed on the Kryptonian.

He stops when he sees the empty capsule.

BRAI'NIAC (CONT'D)

What?

He looks over and sees SUPERMAN standing in all his glory.

LUTHOR steps out from behind Superman, smirking.

LUTHOR

(to Brai'niac)

I told you. This is my world. Now kneel before me!

Superman SHOVES Luthor away, sending him flying into a wall, knocking the wind out of him.

SUPERMAN

(to Brai'niac)

You and me now. A Kryptonian built you, so it's only fitting for a Kryptonian to destroy you.

Superman launches forward and DRIVES A POWERHOUSE PUNCH into Brai'niac's chest, denting it!

Brai'niac stumbles backward!

Superman swings again, this time his punch PUNCTURES Brai'niac's stomach! Electrical energy CRACKLES around his arm.

Superman pulls a fistful of wiring out, unharmed.

Brai'niac CHARGES forward and throws a punch, sending Superman flying into the wall! Metallic tentacles whip out and entwine themselves around the man of steel!

Brai'niac charges toward him again, for a finishing blow.

Superman rushes forward, tearing himself free and meets him mid-way!

Superman swats Brai'niac's fist aside and PUNCHES him in the jaw! Brai'niac stumbles backward into a wall. His face is dented in on one side.

Brai'niac's eyes flare and he swings at Superman again, but-

Superman CATCHES his fist, stopping him cold!

He SQUEEZES, CRUSHING Brai'niac's hand!

Superman pushes Brai'niac back and PUMMELS him! He PUNCHES him over and over again! Brai'niac's armor is collapsing inward under the brutal assault!

Pieces of armor fall away, exposing sparking circuitry.

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

The ship is losing power, starting to fall back down toward earth. It spirals and plummets back into the atmosphere!

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

LUTHOR is bracing himself as the ship spins out of control.

SUPERMAN holds Brai'niac's mangled body against the wall and rears back for the finishing punch.

BRAI'NIAC
You win, Kryptonian... But it will
cost you your city.

SUPERMAN
 (suspicious)
 What are you talking about?

BRAI'NIAC
 You've destabilized me. Safety
 measure... This craft is going to
 detonate... with the power of one
 of your atomic bombs...

SUPERMAN
 Shut it down!

BRAI'NIAC
 It can't be stopped. Enjoy your
 victory, Superm--.

BAM!!! Superman OBLITERATES Brai'niac's head with one killer
 blow! It SHATTERS into a blaze of burning electronics.

SUPERMAN
 You talk too much.

LUTHOR
 How do we stop it?

J'ONN (O.S.)
 Destroy its power source. Set it
 off before it reaches the city.

Superman and Luthor turn to see J'ONN, charred and weak
 watching from the doorway.

CUT TO:

SUPERMAN, J'ONN and LUTHOR racing through the ship's
 corridors. J'onnn is leading the way.

ON BRAI'NIAC:

A small, SPIDER-LIKE OBJECT crawls out of Brai'niac's
 headless torso and sprints across the floor, after them.

COMMAND ROOM:

J'ONN (CONT'D)
 On Mars, this is where I found him.
 That seat seems to supply him with
 power.

SUPERMAN rips the chair away exposing its inner workings.

He tears the core open and falls back as a GREEN GLOW
 emanates from inside.

SUPERMAN
Kryptonite... his power source is
kryptonite...

Superman falls to the floor.

Luthor kneels next to it and is about to reach for it.

LUTHOR
I'll rip it out.

J'ONN
No! It will detonate.

LUTHOR
Then what the hell do we do?

J'onn PUNCHES a wall, RUPTURING the hull! WIND roars into the room.

He pulls the edges of the hole, making it wider, then helps Superman walk to it.

Superman stops and looks at J'onn, concerned.

SUPERMAN
J'onn...

J'ONN
I will not watch more die.

Superman nods and climbs through the hole, falling out into the open air.

Luthor looks outside, nervous to go.

Brai'niac's SPIDER-LIKE OBJECT bolts toward Luthor and crawls up his pant leg!

LUTHOR
This is insane.

J'onn PUSHES him out!

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

SUPERMAN quickly recovers as distance is put between himself and the kryptonite.

Luthor is screaming bloody murder as he falls.

Superman slows in mid-air and catches Luthor.

INT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

J'ONN reaches for the power source...

J'ONN

No more.

He pulls it--

EXT. BRAI'NIAC'S ESCAPE SHIP - DAY

-- BOOOOOOOM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The ship EXPLODES!!!

EXT. METROPOLIS - DAY

The sound of the explosion thunders through the city!!

High above Metropolis, in the upper reaches of the atmosphere, the sky is filled with beautiful shades of PURPLE and GREEN.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

AQUAMAN stands above the waters, atop a KILLER WHALE.

He watches the explosion spread across the sky.

His expression is one of sorrow and loneliness.

He places a fist against his chest, then holds it to the sky in a warrior's salute.

AQUAMAN

May we both find peace, brother.

He dives into the ocean, disappearing into the depths.

EXT. METROPOLIS - DAY

SUPERMAN lands with LUTHOR. He looks up at the sky with sadness.

Luthor is dusting himself off and straightening his tie as he looks around at his damaged city.

LUTHOR

(smiles)

This is perfect. I'll come out of this a hero.

SUPERMAN

A man just died saving our lives. The least you could do is show some respect.

LUTHOR

Man? That was an alien! Good riddance!

Superman grabs Luthor by the collar and lifts him up.

SUPERMAN

You pathetic little worm. It takes every ounce of willpower not to hurt you.

LUTHOR

(smiles)

I suggest you put me down. I mean, I'd hate for those kindly Kents to have some kind of horrible farming accident.

SUPERMAN

You try it, Lex. Test me. You don't like me now? Make me really angry and see what happens.

(pulls him close)

I guarantee you won't like it.

Fear finally begins to creep into Luthor's eyes.

Superman tosses him into the dirt and flies off.

ELSEWHERE:

SUPERMAN lands among his teammates: BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN, FLASH, and LANTERN, who greet him with smiles and congratulatory handshakes.

Wonder Woman gives him a hug, but then notices his sadness.

WONDER WOMAN

What's wrong?

SUPERMAN

J'onn... didn't make it.

They're all saddened by the news.

Batman looks back up at the heavens.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

SUPERMAN enters a chaotic environment with injured people being brought in on a constant basis.

He looks around realizing the devastation that has occurred.

He sees RAY and stops him.

SUPERMAN

RAY!

RAY

(tired smile)

Oh. Hey. Nice job!

SUPERMAN

Where's Lois?

RAY

I think she left.

SUPERMAN

She's okay?

RAY

Yeah, she's fine. Oh, I remember where she went. She wanted to check on her friends at the paper.

SUPERMAN

Thanks.

Superman exits.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

The newsroom is a bustle of activity.

LOIS is typing up an article on her computer.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

Lois?

She looks up and sees Superman hovering just outside her window. He's been through hell and looks that way.

His uniform is dirty, ripped up and scorched... His face is bloody and bruised.

He smiles, relieved to see that she's okay.

She returns his smile as she steps closer to him.

LOIS
Are you alright?

SUPERMAN
I was going to ask you that.

LOIS
(concerned)
You look like hell.

SUPERMAN
(laughs)
It's been a rough couple of days.
Is everyone alright here?

LOIS
We're all okay. I haven't seen
Clark, though... I hope he's
alright.

SUPERMAN
I'm pretty sure he was one of the
first ones out of here.

LOIS
That's Clark. Bailing at the first
sign of danger.

Superman laughs.

SUPERMAN
I didn't mean it that way.

LOIS
Well, I wouldn't be surprised if he
did run. He's really good at it.

SUPERMAN
Don't be too hard on the guy.

LOIS
I know, I know. You consider him a
friend.

SUPERMAN
Don't you?

LOIS
Of course! He's just... Well...
He's not you.

She looks at him and smiles, flirting with him.

A laugh catches in his throat.

SUPERMAN
I'd like to talk with a little more
privacy...
(motions to window)
Would you care to step outside?

Without hesitation, she climbs through the window into his strong arms.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOFTOP - DAY

SUPERMAN flies LOIS up to the rooftop deck and gently sets her on her feet.

He leans against the railing and looks out over the city not knowing how to start.

LOIS
What's on your mind, big guy?

He stares down at his hands and lifts them slightly.

Underneath, he sees the INDENTATIONS in the railing from when he stood here with Batman.

SUPERMAN
A good friend of mine tried to tell
me something. I go through life
keeping people at a distance,
because I'm afraid of putting them
in danger. I can't live that way
anymore.
(looks at her)
It hurts too much.

Lois looks scared.

LOIS
What are you saying...?

SUPERMAN
All the battles I've fought... this
is the hardest thing I've ever
done...

Superman stares into her eyes.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Look into my eyes, Lois. There's only one man that's ever looked at you this way. Only one man that loves you... as much as I do.

Her eyes widen as she realizes the truth. Tears form. Her throat catches.

LOIS

(whisper)

Clark...?

He smiles and nods.

She wipes away tears. She laughs in disbelief.

LOIS (CONT'D)

I don't believe this. You're...

He moves slowly toward her. She stops laughing. Her lips quiver as he nears.

SUPERMAN

I am.

They KISS. At first, it's hesitant, then it becomes passionate.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LUTHOR HALL - NIGHT

PRESIDENT LUTHOR is in front of a podium, making a speech to the press.

LUTHOR

An extraterrestrial force attempted to invade our planet, but we refused to give up our world. Refused to lay down and die!

The crowd cheers.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

I personally was taken prisoner and endured agonizing pain.

CLARK and LOIS are in the crowd watching with disgusted expressions. Lois has her arm around his.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

I witnessed extraordinary horrors in the past days that I hope no man will ever have to see. But after I escaped and freed Superman, they were no match for us. We drove back the enemy and crushed them!

The crowd ROARS with applause and cheers!

Clark and Lois roll their eyes at each other and smile.

LOIS

(to Clark)

Can you believe this?

CLARK

With Luthor? Absolutely.

LUTHOR

As President, I have authorized a disaster relief fund to help rebuild this nation.

Luthor motions for BRUCE WAYNE to step up beside him.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

I would like to personally thank Mr. Wayne for kindly setting up a trust for the victims of the recent attack.

(shakes his hand)

I would like to be the first to help my fellow citizens. I am donating one million dollars out of my own pocket and I urge others to do the same.

Applause and cheers.

LUTHOR (CONT'D)

Having survived this time of crisis, ours will be a stronger nation. And I hope that through my efforts with our neighboring nations, that we can make this a stronger world!

More cheers!

Luthor waves and leaves the podium, only to be swamped with questions from reporters.

ON BRUCE:

BRUCE starts walking down the street and bumps into CLARK and LOIS, who are flagging a taxi.

BRUCE
Miss Lane!

LOIS
Mr. Wayne.

BRUCE
You're looking beautiful as ever.

LOIS
That's sweet, but you can lay your fertilizer somewhere else.

BRUCE
(surprised)
I'm sorry, did I say something wrong?

CLARK
She's taken.

She puts an arm around Clark.

BRUCE
Oh. I didn't think you were a settler, Lois.

LOIS
I'm not, that's why I'm with Clark.

Clark smiles as he leads her away to the taxi.

Lois gets in the cab.

CLARK
(to Lois)
Be right back.

Clark walks back up to Bruce.

CLARK (CONT'D)
By the way, I think you dropped this.

Clark holds out a BATARANG to Bruce.

Bruce glances at it, then looks back at Clark, with a scrutinizing stare.

Clark smiles.

CLARK (CONT'D)

I'm an investigative journalist,
remember.

Bruce smirks, then takes it, folds it and discreetly slips it into his pocket.

BRUCE

How?

CLARK

You're too damned quiet when you walk. There's only one person that can move like that without me hearing it.

BRUCE

I'll have to work on that.

Bruce holds out his hand. Clark shakes it.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

I'll be in touch.

Clark grins, then walks away and joins Lois in the taxi.

Bruce watches them drive off, then strides away down the sidewalk, looking content.

Back at the entrance LUTHOR waves to the crowd and finally is able to slip into his LIMO.

INSIDE LIMO:

LUTHOR loosens his tie and suit, then sits quietly with an odd distant stare as the limo pulls away.

Close up on the back of his neck, BRAI'NIAC'S SPIDER-BOT is attached firmly to the base of Luthor's skull!

EXT. LUTHOR HALL - NIGHT

BRUCE glances at Luthor's LIMO as it passes by him and turns a corner.

Bruce's BLACK LAMBORGHINI beeps as he walks toward it.

A LARGE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN, wearing a long trenchcoat, steps out of the shadows and paces Bruce from behind.

Bruce reaches his car and stops. Without turning around, Bruce's eyes show that he's aware that he's being followed.

BRUCE

I was wondering when you were going to show up.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN

You're amazingly perceptive for a human.

Bruce smiles.

The man steps up beside Bruce and looks in the direction that Luthor's limo drove off in.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN (CONT'D)

It's not over.

BRUCE

(serious)

It never is.

Bruce grips the man's shoulder.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

That's why we're here, J'onnn.

J'onnn nods.

BRUCE (CONT'D)

That's why you're here.

J'onnn is visibly moved.

J'ONNN

Thank you.

BRUCE

Let's go. He's getting away.

Bruce slips into his lamborghini.

INSIDE PORSCHE:

Bruce sits next to--

--DIANA, Wonder Woman, dressed in casual clothes. Still just as noble and beautiful as ever. Obviously, Bruce has started letting his walls down.

WONDER WOMAN

Who was that?

BRUCE

(smiles)

A friend.

OUTSIDE PORSCHE:

The lamborghini speeds away after Luthor.

J'onnn smiles, finally feeling accepted. After thousands of years of isolation, he has found a new home and new friends.

He leaps into the air and just as he disappears out of frame, his african-american disguise shifts into...

...J'ONNN's familiar GREEN SKIN and MANHUNTER UNIFORM.

CUT TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.

AFTER CREDITS TEASER...

Ext. Space

A spherical spacecraft orbits silently around Earth, watching... waiting.

Int. Spherical spacecraft

Hundreds of video screens float holographically in the air.

In the center of these images stands a MAN.

He has dark, reddish tanned skin. His features are human, but have a Neanderthal appearance with heavy brow, wide face and thick sideburns. His long hair hangs against his strange outfit.

He is known as the MONITOR.

On the screens can be seen the various heroes:

Superman, Wonder Woman, Flash, Green Lantern.

Glimpses of Batman and Manhunter.

A digital feminine voice echoes within the chamber.

FEMININE VOICE

They celebrate too soon.

THE MONITOR

They are blind to the greater threat coming. More heroes will be needed.

Brief shots of heroes we haven't met yet--Shazam, Cyborg, Supergirl, Batgirl, Dr. Fate...

THE MONITOR (CONT'D)

An army of heroes.

FEMININE VOICE

Has it entered our universe yet?

The Monitor turns to a PITCH BLACK screen and tentatively touches it.

THE MONITOR

No. The walls between us are weakening though. It's only a matter of time...

We zoom in toward the black screen, then INTO it.

Absolute darkness. Then--

We begin to make out a starfield. It's not the one we are used to seeing though. The stars are few and far between. There is too much darkness in the sky and it is unnerving. This is a lonely place.

There is an eerie silence that only makes it seem emptier.

A barren landscape comes into view. The colors are dark and grim.

The ground rumbles. A massive earthquake.

Cracks form, then an armored hand shoots out of the stone floor. It grabs the ground to leverage the rest of its body up from the newly formed crevasse.

The creature has WHITE, BLEACHED, SHRIVELED SKIN and is encased entirely in heavy otherworldly armor. Its dark eye sockets show a pinpoint glow inside them. It is evil. There can be no question.

It groans. A deep, angry sound that shakes the rocks around it.

This is the ANTI-MONITOR and it signals the death of the universe itself.