

JUSTICE LEAGUE: ORIGINS

Written by

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EXT. PARK - DAY

An idyllic American park from our Rockwellian past. A pick-up truck pulls up onto a nearby gravel lot.

INT. PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY

MARTHA KENT (30s) stalls the engine. Her young son, CLARK, (7) apprehensively peeks out at the park from just under the window.

MARTHA KENT
Go on, Clark. Scoot.

CLARK
Can't I go with you?

MARTHA KENT
No, you may not. A woman is entitled to shop on her own once in a blue moon. And it's high time you made friends your own age.

Clark watches a group of bigger, rowdier boys play baseball on a diamond in the park.

CLARK
They won't like me.

MARTHA KENT
How will you know unless you try?
Go on. I'll be back before you know it.

EXT. PARK - BASEBALL DIAMOND - MOMENTS LATER

Clark watches the other kids play from afar - too scared to approach.

He is about to give up when a fly ball plops on the ground at his feet. He stares at it, unsure of what to do.

BIG KID 1
(yelling)
Yo, kid. Little help?

Clark picks up the ball. Unsure he can throw the distance, he hesitates. Rolls the ball over instead.

It stops halfway to Big Kid 1, who rolls his eyes, runs over and picks it up.

BIG KID 1 (CONT'D)

Nice throw.

The other kids laugh at him. Humiliated, Clark puts his hands in his pockets and walks away.

Big Kid 2 advances on Big Kid 1; takes the ball away from him.

BIG KID 2

Watch this.

(to Clark)

Hey, kid! Catch!

Big Kid 2 hurls the ball with all his might and sends it WHIZZING right at Clark.

SLO-MO as the ball hurtles towards Clark's unsuspecting back.

The sound of the air currents wafting off the spinning ball WHIP-ZOOM over to Clark's ear. Clark's eyes register PANIC.

CRACK! In the blink of an eye, Clark PIVOTS on his feet. He catches the ball in one hand, CRUSHING it in his grasp.

Stunned, Big Kid 2 runs over.

BIG KID 2 (CONT'D)

My ball!

Clark opens his hand; stares at the misshapen mass of leather and string in his palm. He's as shocked as the other kids.

CLARK

I'm sorry...

Big Kid 1 rushes over, looks over the baseball's remains.

BIG KID 1

How'd he do that?

CLARK

It was an accident!

Big Kid 2 menacingly advances on Clark.

BIG KID 2

You owe me for a ball. Pay up!

Clark cowers; backpedals.

CLARK

Wait! My mom's coming back! She'll get us a new one! Wait!

Big Kid 2 grabs Clark by the collar.

BIG KID 2
Your mom's not getting you out of
this, kid.

Clark grabs Big Kid 2's hand in a panic; squeezes.

CLARK
Leave me alone!!

Big Kid 2 lets out a GOD-AWFUL SHRIEK. Clark releases him from his grip, to reveal kid's hand was CRUSHED to a bloody pulp in his grasp.

Big Kid 2 sees the state of his hand and screams even louder. He runs away, crying hysterically.

Clark apologetically approaches the remaining kids, who are stunned and horrified.

CLARK (CONT'D)
It was an accident...

The other kids back away.

BIG KID 1
Get away from us, you freak!

The other kids run off, shouting:

KIDS
Freak! Freak! Freak!

Clark stands alone in the park. On the verge of tears. The word reverberates in his ears, as its echo fills the park.

EXT. PARK - DUSK

His eyes red and bloodshot from crying, Clark sits alone on a curb. He doesn't seem to notice Martha park next to him in her truck.

Seeing the look on his face, her heart breaks. She wordlessly sits next to him on the curb, wraps him in a hug.

MARTHA KENT
Oh, honey. I'm sorry.

CLARK
What's wrong with me?

MARTHA KENT

Nothing. Kids are just mean
sometimes.

CLARK

No, I'm different. I'm a freak.

Martha's eyes darken, as if she knows something about Clark.
Something she's afraid to tell.

MARTHA KENT

You're not a freak, Clark. You're
special. And one day, the whole
world will know it.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

SUPER: TWENTY YEARS LATER

An adult CLARK KENT (27) makes his way through the bustling,
crowded streets of Metropolis.

He's filled out to a broad-shouldered, 6'2 mountain of a man.
But he still moves with the shy hesitancy of that little boy
in the park.

Self-conscious, hyper-vigilant against accidental physical
contact; he apologizes and excuse-me's his way to his
destination:

EXT. THE DAILY PLANET - DAY

Clark pauses outside the steps of the grand lady herself. He
takes a moment to take it in, backs away to look up at the
iconic globe spinning on top of the building.

INT. THE DAILY PLANET - MOMENTS LATER

Clark stands outside the editor's office; his back to the
wall. He watches the blistering foot traffic with
apprehension. Tries his best to disappear into the wall.

Out of the office steps PERRY WHITE (60s), a gruff, old
school newsman.

PERRY WHITE

You my new reporter?

Clark stands; smiles. He's always a bit nervous, but very
friendly and jovial.

CLARK KENT
Yes, sir. Clark Kent.

Perry extends a handshake.

PERRY WHITE
Perry White.

Clark stares at Perry's extended hand meaningfully. He becomes nervous.

An awkward pause, as Perry waits for the shake.

CLARK KENT
Actually, Mr. White, I don't shake hands.

Clark produces a small bottle of hand sanitizer to explain.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)
Bit of a germaphobe.

Perry shrugs; waves Clark into his office.

INT. DAILY PLANET - PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Perry motions towards a ratty seat in front of his desk.

PERRY WHITE
Might want to drape a tarp over that chair, then.

Clark observes the chair with disgust.

CLARK KENT
I'll stand.

Perry sits; looks over Clark's personnel file.

PERRY WHITE
Insurance red-flagged you. Say you've never been sick or injured, not so much as a single doctor's or hospital visit in your life. And you're a germaphobe?

CLARK KENT
(smiling)
I like to think those two facts are correlated.

PERRY WHITE

They also say you've never been vaccinated.

CLARK KENT

Needles and me... don't work. Injecting myself with disease voluntarily? Thank you, no.

PERRY WHITE

Other things you've never done:
(reading from file)
Never played sports, never belonged to a single club in high school or college. Never been married; never made a real friend in the biz despite being a reporter for 7 years. You live alone and only socialize with your parents.

CLARK KENT

Wow, your researchers are very thorough.

PERRY WHITE

So, let me ask you, Kent. What do I need with a reporter who's afraid of the world?

Clark Kent sits to consider the question.

CLARK KENT

Well, Mr. White. I think that's what makes me a good reporter. I'm an outsider. Always have been. But that makes me objective. Lets me see what people too close to the action might miss.

Perry White looks Kent over. Impressed.

He calls out to a leggy brunette racing past his office.

PERRY WHITE

Lane!

LOIS LANE (25) backtracks to Perry's office door.

Short temper; shorter skirt - she's what used to be known in the newspaper business as a "pistol": sharp-tongued, sharp-witted, and drop-dead gorgeous.

Perpetually on her blu-tooth phone, she holds off Perry with a finger - "one minute".

Clark is immediately enthralled - he can't take his eyes off her.

LOIS LANE

(to phone)

Don't try to handle me, Tom! I cannot be handled!

(to Perry)

Yeah, Chief?

PERRY WHITE

You're going to that press thingie with that rich, handsome whatshisface?

LOIS LANE

On my way, now.

PERRY WHITE

Take Kent here with you.

Lois notices Kent for the first time, leans rudely right into his face.

LOIS LANE

Who?

Perry motions to them as he gives the introductions.

PERRY WHITE

Sorry. Clark Kent, impartial observer of the human condition. Lois Lane, eager participant.

Lois offers Clark a handshake.

LOIS LANE

Oh. Hey.

(to phone)

Fine, put me on hold, but I'm not hanging up! I'll stay here all day!

Clark stares at Lois' hand nervously. Lois notices her hand isn't being shaken. Looks to Perry for an explanation.

PERRY WHITE

Germaphobe.

Lois grabs Clark's hand and shakes it anyway.

LOIS LANE

I'm clean.

She walks away, and takes Clark's heart with her. Perry notices Clark is smitten.

PERRY WHITE
Get after her, kid.

Clark recovers; cleans his hands with sanitizer.

CLARK KENT
Oh, right. What am I... where are we...?

PERRY WHITE
She'll fill you in. And Kent?

He nods towards Clark's hands as Clark scrubs them.

PERRY WHITE (CONT'D)
You'll never achieve anything in life until you're willing to get your hands dirty.

Clark pockets his hand sanitizer.

CLARK KENT
Yes, sir.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

Clark struggles to keep pace with Lois, who won't even break stride for traffic. Clark on the other hand says excuse me to every person he passes.

CLARK KENT
Ms. Lane! Ms. Lane.

Clark finally closes the distance, falls in step with her.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)
Sorry, we haven't been properly introduced.

LOIS LANE
I know all I need to know.

CLARK KENT
Oh, well. That makes one of us. For example, I'd like to know where we're headed?

LOIS LANE
That's not going to happen!!

CLARK KENT
 (shocked)
 Fine, fine! No need to shout!

LOIS LANE
 (to phone)
 Hold on a second.
 (to Clark)
 What?

Clark motions towards Lois' blu-tooth.

CLARK KENT
 Oh, you were... Never mind.

LOIS LANE
 Where are you from?

CLARK KENT
 Me?

LOIS LANE
 Who else am I talking to?

CLARK KENT
 Kansas.

LOIS LANE
 Of course you are.
 (to phone)
 No, not you. Did you get that thing
 I sent you?

Lois speeds off again. Clark struggles to catch up.

He notices a headline on a newspaper Lois carries on her hip. His vision somehow ZOOMS IN on the fine print, which reads: "NASA REPORTS MYSTERIOUS SIGNALS FROM DEEP SPACE."

Clark keeps looking down to read the article as he follows Lois. An outside observer might think he was staring at her ass...

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
 So, you like what you see?

CLARK KENT
 What? Oh, no! No! I mean.. I was
 just... the article...

Lois Lane turns back to him.

LOIS LANE
 (to phone)
 Hold on.
 (to Clark)
 Do you mind, Kansas? I'm on the
 phone?

Relieved, Clark pantomimes zipping and locking his mouth.
 Lois leads him up to an outdoor press conference.

A high-rise platform and podium set up just outside of a
 construction site.

Lois waves Clark forward as she walks off on her phone call.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
 We're here. Observe.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

Clark takes out a pad and pen. Walks up to the back of a pack
 of reporters.

CLARK KENT
 What's going on?

A SEASONED REPORTER turns to Clark, takes in his pad and
 pencil and earnest look.

SEASONED REPORTER
 First day?

CLARK KENT
 In Metropolis.

SEASONED REPORTER
 Relax, new fish. You won't miss
 this headline. This one likes to
 make an entrance.

On cue, a stretch Humvee limousine, complete with scantily-
 clad supermodels frolicking in a rooftop jacuzzi, pulls up on
 the scene.

More supermodels emerge from inside, wearing the uniforms of
 limo drivers, and open the limo doors.

Out steps billionaire playboy BRUCE WAYNE (28). Rich.
 Handsome. Carefree.

He is trailed out of the limo by half a dozen other
 supermodels, all of whom pout in heartbreak as he motions for
 them to stay in the car.

Reporters flood him with questions the moment he appears.

REPORTERS

Mr. Wayne! Mr. Wayne! Bruce! Over here!

Bruce holds them off with practiced ease as he ascends to the podium on the platform and speaks into a microphone.

BRUCE WAYNE

Good morning, everybody!

The Seasoned Reporter shouts from the crowd.

SEASONED REPORTER

Good afternoon!

The other reporters laugh, as does Bruce Wayne.

BRUCE WAYNE

Sorry I'm late. I was detained by several very insistent...

He motions towards the supermodels.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

... shareholders.

More laughter from the crowd.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

Okay, short and sweet. On behalf of Wayne Enterprises, I am very pleased to open this Metropolis Branch of Wayne Chemicals. This plant will lead the world in breakthroughs in cures for cancer, Aids, and Alzheimer's, as well as bring thousands of high-paying jobs to downtown Metropolis. Questions?

SEASONED REPORTER

Are the rumors about you and Brooklyn Decker true?

BRUCE WAYNE

Mrs. Decker is happily married - despite my best efforts.

REPORTER 1

Do I recognize most of the 2015 Playboy calender in your hot tub?

BRUCE WAYNE

Come on, guys. Serious questions.

Clark Kent looks around. Bashfully raises his hand. This amuses Bruce, who calls on him.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

Yes, the shy, earnest young schoolboy in the rear?

CLARK KENT

What do you say to reports that pollutants from a Wayne Chemical plant caused a series of school closings in New Jersey? Can you assure the citizens of Metropolis that won't happen here?

BRUCE WAYNE

Check your sources, new guy. If that happened I think I would have heard about it.

Bruce tries to call on someone else, but Clark interrupts.

CLARK KENT

Actually, I'm not so sure that's true, Mr. Wayne. The Gotham Gazette reports you're an absentee CEO. Sleeping in days, disappearing at night, perhaps to consult with your lovely shareholders. If Wayne Chemicals was a major polluter, isn't it true you'd be the last to know?

The crowd of reporters turns to Clark in impressed silence. Even Lois is now paying attention.

LOIS LANE

(to phone)

I'll call you back.

She hangs up. Joins Clark in the crowd.

Bruce glares at Clark from the podium.

BRUCE WAYNE

What's your name, schoolboy?

CLARK KENT

Clark Kent, Daily Planet.

BRUCE WAYNE
I'm guessing Iowa? Nebraska?

CLARK KENT
Kansas.

BRUCE WAYNE
Oh, excuse me. My mistake.
(pauses for laughter)
Being a CEO isn't like milking
cows, Clark. I can't be aware of
everything that goes on. But I can
assure you that the Metropolis
branch of Wayne Chemicals will be
the safest plant in the city.
That's all, no more questions.

Bruce descends the platform, ignores the reporters' shouted questions.

Dismisses the models who rush to his side with a wave of his hand.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)
That's all for today, ladies.
You'll find taxis waiting one block
down. They'll take you anywhere in
the state, on me.

Lane finds Clark in the crowd.

LOIS LANE
Nice work, Kansas. How'd you do
know all that?

CLARK KENT
It's nothing. I read most of the
major metro newspapers.

LOIS LANE
What, every day?

CLARK KENT
I read fast.

Lois notices one of Bruce Wayne's DISCARDED SUPERMODELS walking for her taxi.

Lois craftily pockets her blu tooth and press credentials and saddles up beside her.

LOIS LANE
So... Bruce Wayne, huh? Between us
gals, what's he like... you know?

DISCARDED SUPERMODEL
Wish I knew.

LOIS LANE
Seriously?

DISCARDED SUPERMODEL
Every day, guy hires us to ride
around to events in his limo. Every
night, he disappears. And if
anybody asks, we're supposed to say
he was with us.

As she speaks, Clark catches a glimpse of Bruce Wayne being
shuttled away. Away from the cameras, Bruce is oddly grim.
Brooding.

When he catches Clark staring, the mask comes back on. He
smiles affably at the reporters, waves. Clark eyes him
suspiciously.

DISCARDED SUPERMODEL (CONT'D)
Between me and you? I think he's
gay.

The Discarded SuperModel walks off. Lois Lane starts typing
furiously on her blackberry.

CLARK KENT
Lois, you can't print that.

Lois walks away, typing and laughing maniacally.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)
Lois...

EXT. METROPOLIS BAY - DAY

A large, crowded steamship in the distance slowly makes its
way past the Statue of Liberty (which, in the DC Universe, is
usually located in Metropolis, not NYC).

EXT. STEAMSHIP DECK - DAY

Exuberant new IMMIGRANTS wave in tearful, joyful excitement
at Lady Liberty.

But one lone hooded figure, standing apart from the others,
and measuring at half a foot taller than most of the men,
doesn't share in the joy.

As the figure scans the horizon, the hood partially falls away, revealing, to our surprise, a beautiful but troubled WOMAN underneath.

Her long hooded overcoat covers her body, but we can see her face:

Jet black hair. Piercing blue eyes. She watches the approaching Metropolis skyline with a mixture of apprehension and regret.

INT. ELLIS ISLAND (METROPOLIS EQUIVALENT) - DAY

Towering over the crowd, the Woman enters the chaotic main immigrant processing area of Ellis Island.

Though obviously a strong person, judging by her bearing (and the fact that she's carrying a massive trunk suitcase effortlessly with one hand), there's a vulnerability in her eyes. She seems intimidated by the crowd and the noise.

PROCESSOR (O.S.)

Next.

The Woman looks around, surprised to find herself at the front of a line. An Immigration PROCESSOR waves her over to his podium.

PROCESSOR (CONT'D)

Next.

The Woman approaches.

PROCESSOR (CONT'D)

Name?

WOMAN (DIANA)

Diana.

PROCESSOR

Diana what?

Off Diana's confused look:

PROCESSOR (CONT'D)

What's your last name? Your surname?

DIANA

I have only one name. Diana.

PROCESSOR

Country of origin?

DIANA
Themyscira.

PROCESSOR
Thermo-what?

DIANA
A small island. Near your Crete.

PROCESSOR
Reason for emigration? That means,
why did you leave your home?

This question troubles her. An awkward silence, as she searches for words.

DIANA
I was banished.

PROCESSOR
(laughs)
Banished? They still do that in the
old country? What, you steal
somebody's goat?

Offended, Diana stands to her full height. Glares at the processor with a palpably violent energy.

The Processor wisely backs down. Promptly stamps "approved" on Diana's Visa.

PROCESSOR (CONT'D)
Uh, I'll just put "political
asylum." Welcome to Metropolis.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

Still seething from her recent encounter, Diana stalks the city streets. She takes in the sites: streets full of cars, neon bright advertisements on every wall.

It's all too bright, too crowded, too foreign.

Then, through a storefront window, Diana spots something more familiar.

A pub. Inside, she sees people are drinking, and carousing... and most interestingly to Diana, a pair of men fighting.

She smiles.

INT. PUB - DAY

Diana enters. Her stature and demeanor immediately draw attention.

She surveys the room, makes particular note of several large men playing pool in the back.

She approaches the BARTENDER. Sits at the bar.

DIANA

Ale.

BARTENDER

Yes, ma'am.

As he turns to pour, Diana's attention turns to a TV over the bar.

It's inaudible over the noise, but it's a local news broadcast showing shaky, cell-phone footage of a blue blur flying over Metropolis.

The scrawl reads: "Flying Man or Flagrant Hoax?"

As Diana watches, a waitress momentarily rests a large pitcher of beer next to her. Diana absently grabs it, and drinks straight from it.

The bartender returns with Diana's glass; watches in amazement as Diana swallows an entire pitcher of Guinness in one gulp.

She slams the empty pitcher on the bar.

DIANA

Another.

He sets aside his puny glass, goes to get this woman another pitcher of beer.

BARTENDER

Yes, ma'am!

Diana has caught the attention of a group of frat boy INVESTMENT BANKERS (early 20s) at the end of the bar.

As she downs another pitcher of Guinness, her overcoat falls slightly away, reveals she's wearing little more than a bathing suit underneath.

Knowing a sure thing when he sees it, one of the frat boy bankers, DARREN (24) approaches her.

DARREN
Hey, gorgeous. I'm Darren.

Diana briefly looks him over.

DIANA
You are a man?

DARREN
I like to think so.

DIANA
I thought you'd be bigger.

Darren is undeterred by the ridicule of his frat brothers over that crack.

DARREN
Trust me, honey. I'm big enough.

DIANA
Not for me. Leave me, little man. I drink alone.

Darren's friends are in hysterics. Humiliated, Darren's tone turns hostile.

DARREN
Alone? Come on, lady. You didn't come dressed like this -

He throws open Diana's coat, exposing her outfit underneath - a sort of star-spangled yellow, red, and blue one-piece bathing suit.

DARREN (CONT'D)
- to drink alone.

Diana leaps to her feet, stares down at Darren with fire in her eyes.

DIANA
Little or no, your next insult will not be answered with words.

Physically intimidated, but wanting to save face, Darren walks away.

DARREN
Not my type anyway.

Diana is about to retake her seat, but Darren can't help adding to his friends:

DARREN (CONT'D)

Fat bitch...

Diana is out of her overcoat, and on Darren, in a flash.

She lifts him by the throat with one hand; his feet dangle helplessly as he struggles to dislodge her grip.

Diana grabs Darren's crotch with her other hand, and seems genuinely puzzled that this makes him cry out in pain.

EXT. PUB - DAY

Darren breaks through the bar window and goes HURTLING into the side of a car.

INT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

Darren's friends rush to confront Diana. She turns to them, smiling slightly, as if this is what she wanted.

Diana absolutely manhandles them, tossing them all over the bar, slamming them with brutal Greco-Roman moves and holds.

This clearly isn't about Darren. Diana is angry and wants to hit something. And these guys will do.

It's over way too soon for her. Darren's friends lay broken and beaten on the ground. Diana scans the bar for more worthy challengers.

DIANA

Is that it? I was told there were men here! Where are they?!

KA-BLAM!

The bartender fires a warning shotgun blast in the air, then points the gun at Diana.

BARTENDER

Out.

DIANA

Apologies, brewmaster. But I did not come here to be insulted.

BARTENDER

No, you came looking for a fight. And excuse me for saying this to a lady, but - pick on someone your own size.

Diana has a moment of clarity; sees the damage she's caused, the frightened children outside staring.

Suddenly ashamed, she approaches the bartender. Produces a leather pouch from which she places several gold coins on the bar.

DIANA

Please. I can pay for what I've done.

The bartender takes in the gold pieces.

BARTENDER

What am I, Glenn Beck? Take it and don't come back. You're banished.

The word cuts her like a knife. Diana solemnly collects her things and leaves.

EXT/INT. METROPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

A small smattering of applause, as PROFESSOR FESER walks to a podium. A digital banner on a screen behind him reads: METROPOLIS FORENSICS EXAMINER SEMINAR.

Feser addresses a sparse crowd which is equal parts plainclothes BEAT COPS in MPD sweats and jumpsuits and more bookish MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

FESER

Thank you. And greetings from Keystone, your sister city 300 miles to the west. Uh... this is rather embarrassing but I'm afraid my research assistant is running late with my lecture notes. So, why don't we start with some questions?

BEAT COP 1

Keystone, ain't that where The Flash is from?

FESER

The Flash is a hoax, gentlemen. As is your flying blue man and Gotham's giant bat. It's bored film students with too many special effects programs on their laptops.

MEDICAL EXAMINER 1

What about the Keystone Embassy incident?

(MORE)

MEDICAL EXAMINER 1 (CONT'D)

A dozen terrorists disarmed and
knocked unconscious by a mysterious
gust of wind?

FESER

What would Occam's Razor suggest?
That the terrorists were foiled by
a fortuitous gust of wind, or by a
fortuitous gust of wind produced by
a supernatural being?

Gloating, Beat Cop 1 stands to his feet, shows Feser live
video from his cell phone.

BEAT COP 1

Yeah? Well either that gust of wind
just learned how to tie a double
knot, or your boy Mr. Racer is full
of shit.

Feser squints to see the cell phone from the stage. From the
live footage we:

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. KEYSTONE CITY BANK - DAY

A female NEWSCASTER reports live just outside a bank. Police
officers behind her are struggling to untie a group of masked
BANK-ROBBERS, who have been tied together by what looks like
telephone wire.

NEWSCASTER

... our first solid proof of the
existence of the man or woman known
only as the Flash. Witnesses claim
these men behind me were tied up by
what they called, quote, a red and
yellow blur, close quo -

VRRAAAAAAAM! With a low SONIC BOOM that sounds like an
INCEPTION HORN, the Newscaster is nearly BLOWN OVER by just
such a red and yellow blur!

It blasts through frame and leaves a HURRICANE FORCE WIND in
its wake.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

- Sh(BLEEP!) What was that?!

INT. METROPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

A smaller gust of wind blows a tiny hurricane papers and small objects onto the convention center stage.

The tiny windstorm is followed momentarily on stage by the appearance of BARRY ALLEN, a devilishly handsome young man in a nice suit.

Gym bag in hand, he hustles across stage, hands Feser a stack of index cards.

FESER

Ladies and gentlemen, my late assistant, Mr. Allen. And unfortunately I don't mean late in the forensic pathology sense.

A smattering of sarcastic applause. Barry waves to the crowd, smiles confidently.

BARRY ALLEN

Hello, Metropolis.

JANICE, (20s, attractive) one of the few medical examiners present paying attention, raises her hand.

JANICE

What about you, Mr. Allen? Do you think the Flash is real?

Barry flirtatiously approaches Janice.

BARRY ALLEN

Please, call me Barry, Ms...?

JANICE

I'm Janice.

Barry sits on the edge of the stage, crosses his legs as he comically pontificates.

BARRY ALLEN

Well, Janice, no, I don't. And I'll tell you why. According to the ladies of the greater metropolitan area, the fastest mover in Keystone City has got two thumbs...

(points at himself with his thumbs)

... and his name is this guy.

More groans than laughs from the crowd. Janice rolls her eyes. Feser pulls Barry up by one ear, drags him off.

FESER

Excuse us, Janice.

(violent whisper)

Where is my PowerPoint? I left it
on the usb by my notes! I told you
to bring the whole pile!

(off his look)

Allen, you did not leave that drive
in Keystone...

BEAT COP 1 (O.S.)

They got him! The Flash! On film!

On Beat Cop 1's cell phone, we see the same footage of the
Newscaster from before, but this time slowed down to a 10th
of a frame per second.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Once again, I apologize for my
earlier language. Hope the censor
caught that. But here again, the
first actual footage of The Flash,
captured here live moments ago...

As the footage is progressively slowed down, the outline of a
man inside the blur becomes just barely visible.

He appears to be wearing a red jumpsuit, with a yellow symbol
on his chest.

Watching from his own phone on-stage, Barry becomes panicked.

BARRY ALLEN

Uh, your usb? No, I got it here
somewhere, hold on.

On his way off the stage, Barry winks and points at Janice.

BARRY ALLEN (CONT'D)

Don't you go anywhere.

The instant he's off-stage, another gust of wind blows paper
and debris across the platform.

EXT. KEYSTONE CITY BANK - CONTINUOUS

The Newscaster is narrating the ultra slow-motion footage.

NEWSCASTER

... a Channel Five exclu -

VRAAAAAAAAAAM! A red and yellow blur BLASTS past her again. In its wake, the footage the Newscaster was watching goes to static, and she jumps a foot off the ground.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)
 SON OF A (BLEEP!)
 (recovering)
 Sorry! Sorry, folks! But I think we
 got him again! Jimmy, can you...?

INT. KEYSTONE CITY FORENSICS LAB - OFFICE - DAY

Empty. A usb drive sitting next to a laptop DISAPPEARS as a gust of wind blows a swirl of paper through the room.

EXT. KEYSTONE CITY BANK - CONTINUOUS

The Newscaster composes herself.

NEWSCASTER
 Okay, bare with us. Jimmy seems to
 have misplaced his hard drive. But
 we have footage from the truck, so
 let's go to -

VRAAAAAAAAAAMMM! Another red and yellow blur tears back through frame in the opposite direction from before, scaring the Newscaster out of her mind.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)
 (BLEEP!) (BLEEP!) MOTHER
 (BLEEEEEEEEEEP!)

INT. METROPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Another swirl of debris precedes Barry's return to the stage. He hustles over, hands Feser the usb we saw disappear from the Keystone office.

BARRY ALLEN
 Sorry, professor. Left it in my
 car.

Beat Cop 1 has a crowd looking over his shoulder at his cell phone.

Intercut with our Newscaster on the scene in Keystone. Her hair and make-up a mess, she deadpans into camera:

NEWSCASTER

... so it seems the Beta tape with the image of the Flash has also disappeared from our Channel Five news van. So, there goes that footage, my career...

(squirms uncomfortably)

... and this particular pair of underwear...

Beat Cop 1's crowd moans, disperses. Feser has an "I told you so" look as he approaches the podium.

FESER

It appears our beloved "Mr. Racer" has been vindicated. Could we have cell phones off, please?

Barry smiles as he takes a seat next to Janice.

BARRY ALLEN

You dropped something.

As Janice looks around, Barry quickly hides a small HARD DRIVE from a camera and a CHANNEL FIVE BETA TAPE in his gym bag. Janice looks up.

JANICE

I don't see anything.

BARRY ALLEN

Well, pick up on this. My name's Barry.

Janice groans, looks away.

INT. LOCKHEED-MARTIN - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A very nervous CAROL FERRIS (20s) sits at the head of a table, surrounded by older, annoyed BUSINESSMEN.

A hostile, pregnant silence. The only sound is the clock ticking in the background.

One of the annoyed businessmen, LLOYD, (50s) abruptly stands to his feet and grabs his suitcase.

LLOYD

That's it.

He heads out. The other businessmen stand and follow. Carol chases after them.

CAROL

Mr. Lloyd! Gentlemen, please! My partner will be here momentarily. Just give us a few more -

LLOYD

- That's what you said the last time, Ms. Ferris. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, the deal is off.

Lloyd presses for an elevator.

CAROL

Sir, please. Ferris-Jordan is producing warship prototypes that are decades ahead of their time. My partner's recent designs have been... other-worldly. Lockheed-Martin can't afford to miss out -

The elevator arrives; Lloyd and his associates step on.

LLOYD

- No, what we can't afford is to associate with aerospace engineers who blow off meetings. And neither can you, Ms. Ferris. Take my advice: find a new partner.

The elevator doors close in Carol's dejected face.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - NIGHT

Furious, Carol stomps through the emptying Metropolis streets. Her mind elsewhere, she's too angry to notice as she takes a turn into a BAD NEIGHBORHOOD...

A suspicious teenage BOY and GIRL take a break from kissing to notice Carol's designer coat and bag as she storms past. They share a knowing look; follow her.

As they get closer to Ferris, they produce GUNS from their pockets.

Unseen by our two muggers, a giant pair of GLOWING GREEN SCISSORS appears behind them.

SNIP! SNIP!

They bring up their guns for the attack, only to discover they've been cut in half. Before they can react, giant GLOWING GREEN HANDS muzzle them; DRAG them away!

A glowing green light passes over Carol's path. She looks up, but the sky over her head is empty.

EXT. - METROPOLIS SKYLINE - NIGHT

POV of something flying over the Metropolis skies. It stops in front of a large clock facing out of one of the city's municipal buildings.

In the distorted reflection on the clock, we can make out that the flying figure isn't a plane or helicopter, but a man, in a glowing green and black suit.

Seeing the time on the clock, the REFLECTED MAN audibly sighs.

REFLECTED MAN (GREEN LANTERN) (O.S.)
I am so fired.

INT. METROPOLIS HOTEL - NIGHT

HAL JORDAN (30s), ruggedly handsome in that Disney, cartoon pilot sort of way, waits in the lobby with a bouquet of green flowers and a green box of candy.

Carol enters the lobby, glares at him.

HAL JORDAN
I can explain.

CAROL
You always can.

Carol ignores Hal's offer of flowers and candy as she walks past him to the elevator.

HAL JORDAN
You're walking away from jade roses
and Godiva mint chocolate?

CAROL
Take them back and buy yourself a
watch.

HAL JORDAN
Carol...

CAROL
No, Hal. Two years ago you begged
for this partnership. And now you
blow off meetings, disappear for
weeks on end.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)
 Half the time, I don't even know if
 you're alive or dead.

HAL JORDAN
 Alive, mostly. Up to now.

Carol stares daggers into Hal. He wisely drops the comedy routine.

HAL JORDAN (CONT'D)
 Look, there's some things going on
 with me... I have responsibilities
 that -

CAROL
 - responsibilities? Are you about
 to attempt to lecture me on
 responsibility?

HAL JORDAN
 You don't understand.

CAROL
 Damn right! I don't understand how
 a man can claim to care so much but
 never show up.
 (catches herself)
 About work, I mean. Care about
 work.

Embarrassed, Carol bowls past him onto the elevator. Hal watches her. Makes a decision.

HAL JORDAN
 Carol. We need to talk.

CAROL
 (closing the elevator
 doors)
 I've heard it all before, Hal.

Hal sticks his hand in the closing elevator, revealing an ornate, vaguely glowing GREEN RING on his right hand.

HAL JORDAN
 Trust me. You haven't.

Carol notices the ring. Hal puts his hand in his pocket to hide it.

CAROL
 Fine. So, let's go talk.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Hal's ring glows in his pocket. It lets out one of those annoying alarm ring tones.

Carol rolls her eyes at the interruption.

HAL JORDAN
Can you give me an hour?

CAROL
Oh, you clueless, selfish -

Hal runs off as he tries to muffle the beeping.

HAL JORDAN
One hour! I promise!

Carol yells after him.

CAROL
Jordan! If you're not here in an hour, don't bother showing up.

INT. BASEMENT (BATCAVE) - NIGHT

Butler ALFRED PENNYWORTH (60s) cautiously carries a tray of tea down a poorly-lit, treacherously steep spiral staircase.

The staircase terminates less in a basement than a barely excavated UNDERGROUND CAVE. It is cavernous, rocky, and infested with bats.

A lone figure sits in the shadows, his attention focused on two images on a high-tech computer.

One is video footage of Clark Kent from the earlier press conference. The other is an aerial pollution graphic of New Jersey.

The lone figure leans slightly into the light. It's Bruce Wayne.

Here, in his element, he is totally different than the spoiled playboy from the press conference.

He's brooding. Intense. Scary.

ALFRED
Tea, sir?

BRUCE WAYNE
No.
(staring at his computer)
Schoolboy was right.
(MORE)

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)
Have Henry take the Jersey plant
off-line. And set up a fund to pay
for damages.

ALFRED
Very good, sir.

Alfred takes in Bruce's clothes, which he can see but are
obscured by the dark to us.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
You'll be going out again, tonight?

Bruce doesn't respond.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
I rather hoped our sojourn here
would afford you some time off from
your... nocturnal preoccupations.
But it seems wherever you go, you
dig yourself a dark cave to hide
in.

BRUCE WAYNE
I'll be taking the car.

ALFRED
Gassed and ready, sir. But surely,
Metropolis has its own protectors?
Perhaps you can leave matters to
their flying blue man?

BRUCE WAYNE
He's not real. I am.
(turns)
If not me, who?

ALFRED
Permission to answer frankly, sir?

Alfred's known Bruce long enough to read his silence as
permission.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
You pretend that the world was
thrust upon your shoulders. But the
truth is, you put it there yourself
because you don't trust anyone else
to carry it. But it's too heavy,
even for you. You can't carry it
alone.

Bruce takes this in. His thoughtful reverie is interrupted by
a loud BEEPING.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

And that is?

BRUCE WAYNE

Air raid warning. Something's violated US Airspace over Metropolis.

ALFRED

Of course.

Bruce pulls his outfit's hood on over his face, steps from the shadows into a shaft of light, giving us our first look at him as BATMAN.

BATMAN

Better make it the plane.

ALFRED

Right away, sir.

INT./EXT. DAILY PLANET - NIGHT

Quitting time. Clark Kent holds up an annoyed crowd as he very cautiously negotiates his way through a revolving door without touching the handle.

CLARK KENT

Sorry. Sorry, everybody.

Lois is waiting for a walk sign just out front, double-tasking on her blackberry and blu-tooth. Clark spots her; works up his nerve to approach.

The walk sign turns green, and Lois crosses, heedless of the SPEEDING TAXI CAB which runs a red light, headed straight for her!

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

Lois!

Clark desperately reaches out for her, and in slo-motion, just barely nudges her shoulder with his pointer finger.

In normal motion, Lois goes SPINNING safely across the street, as the taxi smashes into Clark with a tremendous CRASH!

Clark looks down to see the taxi cab wrapped around his torso like it had hit a telephone pole. A shocked crowd approaches.

Clark quickly turns to block their view of the damage, spreading his jacket and overcoat over the dent.

Seeing Lois rushing to his aid, Clark feigns an injury.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

Oh. Ow...

LOIS LANE

Whoa! You okay, Kansas?

CLARK KENT

Fine, I'm fine. I think the curb took most of the hit.

LOIS LANE

Don't try to move. Wait for the ambulance.

Lois looks behind him to assess the damage to the car, but Clark keeps moving to block her view.

CLARK KENT

I don't think that's necessary. I'm fine.

The CABBIE finally emerges, disoriented. He pulls away Clark's jacket and coat, revealing the massive dent Clark made in his car.

Lois and the assembled crowd look at it in shock. Then at Clark, who, from the size of the dent, should be dead.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

I can explain...

CABBIE

What are you, some kind of freak?

There's that word. Clark looks around. The crowd is staring at him. Pointing. Horrified. He's seven years old all over again.

But seven-year-old Clark didn't have Lois Lane. She advances on the Cabbie with fire in her eyes.

LOIS LANE

Are you trying to blame him!? You ran the red light! I got your name; I got your ID number!

Lois returns to Clark, drapes his arm over her shoulder and helps him walk away.

Clark stares at her, moved that she would rescue him, more taken with her than ever.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)

You better bite down on something,
because after I get this guy to the
hospital I'm shoving the world's
longest, thickest lawsuit right up
your -

EEEEEEEEEEEE! A piercing, high-pitched noise covers up Lois' colorful language, as her shouting match with the Cabbie fades into the background.

Clark clenches at his ears; scans the sky for the source of this piercing sound only he can hear.

He doesn't even notice that Lois is saying something to his face.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)

(distorted)

Hey, Kansas! Come on! Stay with me!

(to Cabbie)

See? He has a concussion!

Clark gently removes Lois's hands by her sleeve, squirms out of her grasp.

CLARK KENT

Thank you, Ms. Lane, but I'm fine.

He starts running down the street.

LOIS LANE

What are you doing?! Where are you
going?! You might be hurt!

Clark yells behind him as he disappears down a side alley.

CLARK KENT

I'm fine, really. Thank you, Ms.
Lane. See you at work!

In the alley, Clark rips off his shirt, revealing the crest of SUPERMAN underneath...

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

A murmur of commotion moves through the city crowd as scores of police cars and ambulances, sirens blazing, take over the city streets.

EXT. CURB-SIDE COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Janice, the girl Wally was hitting on at the Forensics Conference, waits alone at a table. She checks her watch; annoyed.

Wally, flowers in hand, spots her from across the street. As he starts to jaywalk over to her, he notices an unusual energy in the crowd crushing around him.

Panicked, worried faces. All running towards him, and away from the rush of police cars and ambulances racing in the opposite direction.

Just then, a looming dark shadow moves over the crowd. Wally looks up, sees a MASSIVE, OMINOUS, UNNATURALLY BLACK CLOUD moving over the city.

Taking one last wistful look at Janice, he hands the flowers off to a pleasantly shocked ELDERLY WOMAN in the crush.

WALLY WEST

Just for being you, gorgeous.

The elderly woman is so stunned, she stops running for a moment. Yells off to Wally as he disappears down a side alley:

ELDERLY WOMAN

I'm allergic!

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

Diana looks up as the black cloud moves directly over her head, bathing her area in darkness.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

The cloud settles over the whole of Metropolis, and once it's centered over the city square, it unnervingly STOPS. Just sits and churns malevolently over the skyline.

After a few agonizing moments, its center suddenly OPENS UP, like an eye emerging in a hurricane. With a deafening CRACK, louder than any thunder, a single shaft of light PUNCHES through from the heavens above.

Down that humming, radiant shaft of light, the winged silhouette of an ANGEL descends.

Looking up from the street, it looks like a scene out of the Book of Revelations - an Alex Ross painting of the Second Coming...

But as the angel emerges from the shaft of light, we can see that this is no angel of mercy. He is an angel of Death.

Shirtless. Unnaturally large. Wearing a BATTLE-MASK that resembles the face of an angry WAR-HAWK.

His terrifying wings spread as he hovers about a hundred feet above the earth. They are huge, easily 20 feet across, and made of some unnatural, unholy ORGANIC METAL.

He effortlessly brandishes a massive, nasty-looking METAL MACE in his right hand.

On his home world, he is known as Katar Hol. But in Metropolis, he will be known simply as the HAWKMAN.

EXT. METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Hawkman's terrifying visage suddenly appears on every television, cell phone, laptop, and iPad in the city.

The ominous flapping of his massive wings sounds out from every speaker, every radio, every iPod.

Literally all eyes and ears in Metropolis are on him.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

Hawkman seems weary, almost regretful, as he begins his address.

Though he speaks normally, his voice is somehow artificially modulated; his words BOOM like thunder.

HAWKMAN

People of Earth. I am Katar Hol.
Chief Legionary of the Thanagarian
army, and Emissary of the Imperial
Alliance. In the name of the Lords
I serve, I place this planet under
the protection of the Two Empires.

As he speaks, a giant SPIRE, easily the diameter of a CITY BLOCK, descends from the black cloud behind him.

It's the leading edge of an IMPOSSIBLY large space craft, the exact size of which is still hidden within the Black Cloud.

A squadron of about a hundred WARSHIPS disengages from the spire.

The ships are obviously high technology, but with GHOULISH, almost APOCALYPTIC ornamentation - half fighter jet, half DEMON FROM HELL.

With horrifying speed and military precision, these warships fly into a tight formation behind Hawkman.

HAWKMAN (CONT'D)

Your world leader or leaders will lay down their arms, and swear fealty to the Imperial Alliance. In exchange for peaceful cooperation, you will know the protection of our army, our technology, and our...
(with difficulty)
... our god.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

Just off the coast of Metropolis, there is a vague, air-plane-shaped shimmer of light hanging in the air. An aircraft in a highly advanced STEALTH MODE.

INT. BATPLANE - DAY

Inside his cloaked BATPLANE, Batman watches Hawkman address the city from a video monitor in his dashboard.

HAWKMAN (O.S.)

In exchange for defiance or resistance, you will know their wrath. Choose.

Batman flips switches on his dash. On Batman's screen, a sophisticated targeting reticule moves over Hawkman's face.

Alfred's voice sounds in Batman's earpiece.

ALFRED (O.S.)

Surely, you're not going to engage all of them alone, sir?

BATMAN

Thinking about it.

ALFRED (O.S.)

Shall we attempt diplomacy? Open a hailing frequency with the invaders?

BATMAN

No. It's a military negotiation.
Don't need a costumed hero trying
to -

WHOOOSH! The Batplane is rocked in the wake of a BRIGHT GREEN STREAK flying just underneath. Batman looks outside, in time to see a FLYING MAN in a bright green suit flying right at Hawkman.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

GREEN LANTERN (Hal Jordan) streaks over and hovers defiantly between Hawkman and Metropolis.

He is wearing a jade mask and a gleaming, luminescent green and black suit. It glows with the same energy as the POWER RING on his right hand.

GREEN LANTERN

You have no idea how little time I
have for this right now.

As imposing as Green Lantern might be to a normal man, Hawkman is not impressed. He barely seems interested as he looks Green Lantern over.

HAWKMAN

What are you?

GREEN LANTERN

What I am is the Green Lantern in
charge of this particular region of
space.

HAWKMAN

You are Earth's ruler?

GREEN LANTERN

More like Earth's space-cop. And
let me say, as a cop...
(points at Black Cloud)
... you can't park that thing here.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Batman watches the conversation on his monitor, as his computer systems analyze Green Lantern's physiology, focusing on his ring.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)
 Plenty of spacious parking
 available on the planets fore and
 aft...

BATMAN
 Idiot.

EXT. OVER METROPOLIS BAY - DAY

Superman (Clark Kent) hovers hidden inside a cloud just over the Metropolis Bay. His eyes glow a soft blue.

We see his TELESCOPING, X-RAY POV of Hawkman and Green Lantern's conversation.

Though they must be miles away, we hear them as Superman hears them, as if they were right in front of him.

Green Lantern motions for Hawkman to leave like a traffic cop moving cars along.

GREEN LANTERN
 Let's go. Keep it moving.

Superman shakes his head at Green Lantern's antics.

SUPERMAN
 Moron.

Suddenly, Superman looks back over his shoulder, as if hearing something approaching. He flies off in a red and blue STREAK.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS

A loud beeping emits from another screen on Batman's radar screen. Scores of glowing red bogies moving in on the confrontation.

EXT. SKIES JUST OUTSIDE OF METROPOLIS - DAY

A squadron of dozens of F-15 US AIR FORCE FIGHTER JETS has been scrambled to the scene. They are barrelling down on Metropolis like a bat out of hell.

AIRFORCE PILOT
 Approaching target area, General
 Waller. Permission to engage?

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)
Negative...

INT. WHITE HOUSE WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chairwoman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff AMANDA WALLER (black, heavy-set, 50s) walks away from a group of MILITARY OFFICIALS consulting with THE PRESIDENT (white, 60s).

AMANDA WALLER
The President, in his infinite wisdom, wants to try to negotiate.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

Meanwhile, Green Lantern and Hawkman continue negotiations of their own. Unimpressed with Green Lantern's posturing, Hawkman looks past him as if he weren't there.

HAWKMAN
Unless you bring official word of surrender from your leaders, you do not interest me.

GREEN LANTERN
If you don't leave Earth's airspace, you will find me quite interesting.

HAWKMAN
Your misplaced bravado will cost your people many lives. You are outnumbered.

Green Lantern's ring FLICKERS, and suddenly, a giant squadron of translucent, green, glowing FIGHTER JETS appears behind him, matching the number of ships behind Hawkman.

These are Green Lantern's CONSTRUCTS, projections of HARD LIGHT created by his power ring.

GREEN LANTERN
Count again.

SUPERMAN
Emissary Hol!

Superman comes flying in, hovers between Hawkman and Green Lantern.

Hawkman is nonplussed by Superman's arrival, but Green Lantern is STUNNED.

GREEN LANTERN
You're real?!

SUPERMAN
Emissary Hol, my country has
scrambled warships to this
location. They'll be here in
seconds.

Hawkman raises his mace for battle.

HAWKMAN
Then it is war!

Green Lantern produces a matching green construct of a mace
in his own hands. Rushes Hawkman.

GREEN LANTERN
Bring it on!

Superman holds the two of them apart.

SUPERMAN
(to Hawkman)
If you return to your ship now,
there's still hope for a peaceful
resolution.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS

On Batman's digital radar display of the battle, we see
Hawkman's invading forces on one side, and US fighter planes
streaking in on the other.

Blue and green blips representing Superman and Green Lantern
are stuck in the middle - right in the crossfire.

BATMAN
Computer: open a channel across all
US military frequencies.
Attention, USAF unit en route to
Metropolis -

INT. F-15 FIGHTER JET - CONTINUOUS

The Airforce Pilot looks around at the creepy, scary sound of
Batman's voice coming in over his headset.

BATMAN (O.S.)
Hold your fire, there are
friendlies in the firezone.
(MORE)

BATMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Repeat, there are friendlies in the
firezone.

AIRFORCE PILOT
Attention command, I have lost
partial control of communications!
Repeat, onboard communications have
been compromised!

INT. WHITE HOUSE WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chairwoman Waller puts a hand on her phone, turns to the
President.

AMANDA WALLER
If they can take over the coms,
they can take over the guns. We
can't wait.

The President grimly gives her the nod.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)
(to phone)
Squadron Oh-Two-Niner, you are
green to go. Let those sons of
bitches know you're there.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

The F-15 squadron lets loose a volley of missile fire.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - UNDER THE SPIRE - CONTINUOUS

Superman, Hawkman, and Green Lantern look up as HUNDREDS of
missiles come barrelling in.

Green Lantern flies between Superman and the missiles,
creates a construct of a GIANT GREEN HAND and SWATS the
missiles away.

But a few get past him, headed straight for Hawkman. Hawkman
readies his mace as if to bat them away, when...

WHOOOSH! Superman flies between the missiles and Hawkman, and
takes half a dozen TOMAHAWKS right in the face.

More stunned than hurt, Superman plummets towards the Earth.
Green Lantern flies down after him.

Hawkman looks down at Superman curiously as he falls, unable to fathom why this man would step in front of fire meant for his enemy.

His reverie is interrupted by a DEEP, SHATTERING voice seemingly broadcast right into his brain.

The voice is supremely deep, intimidating, and raspy - the voice of Satan, if Satan had laryngitis.

VOICE (O.S.)

Why do you not attack?

HAWKMAN

My lord. Thanagar agreed to help with a peaceful occupation.

VOICE (O.S.)

And peaceful it will be, once you've broken their spirit. Raze this city to the ground, and slaughter every Earthling in it, that their example might spare the others.

HAWKMAN

Yes, my lord.
(with a heavy heart)
All units! Attack!

The invading warships break off formation and DIVE. They bombard Metropolis with heavy MISSILE FIRE.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Diana stands unmoving as others run screaming all around her; looks up at the battle overhead.

She looks frustrated that all of the action is happening in the sky and out of her reach...

As if in answer to her prayer, one of the larger alien TRANSPORT SHIPS hovers over the city street just in front of her.

Dozens of laser-rifle-wielding ALIEN INFANTRY disembark from the craft, including half a dozen BEHEMOTHS - large, walking, heavily armored tanks.

Seeing these Behemoths, Diana cracks a smile. Those look big enough.

She throws off her overcoat. Dons a tiara. No longer just Diana from Themyscira, the world will now know her as WONDER WOMAN.

She barrels through the puny, gun-wielding infantry, headed right towards the biggest Behemoth she can find.

It opens up on her with shoulder-mounted turrets; Wonder Woman effortlessly bats away its fire with her mystical metal BRACELETS.

She SLAMS into the Behemoth like a LINEBACKER hitting a tackling dummy. Wraps it in a bear hug so MERCILESS the Behemoth's metal housing CRACKS and BUCKLES in her grip.

She SUPLEXES the Behemoth to the ground, utterly CRUSHING it.

The other Behemoths move in on her. But Wonder Woman moves through them in a blur of body slams, choke holds, and general Greco-Roman bad-assery.

Each Behemoth must weigh ten tons, easily, but Wonder Woman tosses them around like rag dolls.

She's having so much fun, she doesn't notice as the alien Infantry takes over the street all around her.

As she finishes the Behemoths, she looks up to find herself surrounded by hundreds of guns.

She holds up her bracelets, but it's doubtful even she can block this much incoming fire.

VRAAAAAAAM! VRAAAAAAAM! VRAAAAAAAM!

Suddenly, a red and gold BLUR moves through the alien ranks; the aliens' rifles DISAPPEAR from their hands.

The blur expands to a small TORNADO. It sucks HUNDREDS of alien infantry into its vortex and sends them flying through the air into Metropolis Bay!

The red and gold blur coalesces to human form, giving us our first clear look at Wally West as THE FLASH.

He wears a full-body red suit, with a yellow lightning bolt on his chest, and little yellow wings, like that of the god Mercury, on his ears.

Wonder Woman is stunned by his arrival. Flash drinks in the sight of her as he approaches - the long legs, the heaving, lightly perspiring bosoms, that gorgeous face...

FLASH

Mmmm. Girl, you are a tall drink of water. And I'm telling you straight up -

VRAAAM! VRAAAAM!

Flash disappears in a blur behind Wonder Woman, knocking out a few infantry stragglers. He reappears with his arms draped around her, giving her the bedroom eyes.

FLASH (CONT'D)

- I'm thirsty.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern is streaking to catch a still falling Superman, but to his surprise, Superman suddenly rights himself.

He shakes off the cobwebs casually, as if catching a face-full of missiles hurt no worse than getting sucker-punched.

GREEN LANTERN

You're alive?

SUPERMAN

I'm fine.

Superman files past him back into the battle. They fight as they talk.

GREEN LANTERN

You took about six tomahawk missiles to the face. You're not fine. Stay down - I got this.

Green Lantern creates a construct of a giant GATLING GUN, which mows down dozens of warships.

SUPERMAN

You "got this?" You caused this!

Superman lights up the sky with his HEAT VISION. He keeps his head on a swivel - rapidly taking down an equal number of warships.

GREEN LANTERN

Hey, I know what I'm doing. Invaders from outer space is kind of what I do.

Green Lantern watches as Superman freezes an incoming warship with a blast of his SUPER-BREATH, and then PUNCHES the ship into TINY ICICLES.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
(suspicious)
Speaking of which, where are you from?

SUPERMAN
Kansas.

Superman files off.

GREEN LANTERN
Right.

Green Lantern flies after him.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

With a rebel yell, Hawkman throws himself into a mass of oncoming F-15s.

Moving impossibly fast, he bats away incoming missile fire with his mace.

His bio-metallic wings extend to their full width, and he STREAKS into their ranks. The RAZOR-SHARP wings slice the F-15s to shreds.

Twisting, diving, and turning, Hawkman EVISCERATES an entire group of about a dozen fighter jets in moments.

He swoops into the sky to survey battle. From his vantage, he sees dozens of his warships being taken down from fire from an invisible source.

His POV as he scans the sky. His vision is nearly as good as Superman's, and he spots the faint, glimmering image of the cloaked Batplane through the battle.

Hawkman twirls his mace at SUPERHUMAN speed and LAUNCHES it directly at the Batplane.

Batman banks to avoid it, but his wing is CLIPPED. A wave of electricity from circuitry exposed in the wing cascades across the Batplane, destroying its cloak and rendering it visible for the first time.

This Batplane isn't the flying tank from the recent movies. It's a sleek, agile craft, complete with articulated wings that can flap like a real bat.

Exposed, Batman launches a volley of fire at Hawkman, but Hawkman covers himself in his bio-metallic wings, which repel the gunfire. Hawkman charges!

The Batplane is suddenly enveloped in a puff of black smoke that BURSTS from its vents, like an octopus inking the water. Hawkman SHOOTS through the other side of smoke, missing his target.

He spots the Batplane retreating, points it out to his warships.

HAWKMAN

There!

Batman is now tailed by a half-dozen alien aircraft. He dives down nearly to street level, whipping into a narrow corridor of tightly-packed skyscrapers.

With the flick of a switch, a large metallic disc launches from the back of the plane.

It explodes into a giant LASER NET, which attaches itself between the skyscrapers and hangs above the street like a giant red-hot SPIDER-WEB.

The pursuing warships fly right through the laser net and are CUT TO RIBBONS.

Furious at this, Hawkman streaks after the Batplane.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

Flash and Wonder Woman continue to fight at each other's side. Wonder Woman punching Behemoths into, through, and over buildings.

Flash races around, mostly dealing with infantry. He slows down enough so that Wonder Woman can see him.

FLASH

So, what's your name, beautiful?

WONDER WOMAN

Diana.

FLASH

That's it? Not enough for such a wonderful woman.

WONDER WOMAN

One name seems not to be enough for your country.

(MORE)

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

You may call me Wonder Woman if you wish. And from your wings, I presume you are Mercury?

FLASH

Well, while I have been compared to various greek gods, I actually go by The Flash.

Wonder Woman motions towards alien infantry scaling the buildings all around the block.

WONDER WOMAN

I have things in hand here, friend The Flash. Can you break their siege-craft?

FLASH

Only if you promise to still be here when I get back.

Wonder Woman punches her way into a crowd of alien Behemoths and infantry.

WONDER WOMAN

You will find me in the fight!

Flash watches her ass as she disappears into a swarm of enemies.

FLASH

That is one thick, hot, sexy accent.

Flash takes off at top speed. Doesn't slow down as he approaches a building at the end of the block.

But instead of running INTO the building, Flash runs UP it, out-racing the pull of gravity!

He races through the ranks of aliens scaling the building, causing a vicious RUSH of wind that blows them off into the eager, waiting fists of Wonder Woman below.

Without breaking stride, Flash LEAPS from the building towards another building across the street.

We collapse to EXTREME SLOW MOTION, as the arc of Flash's jump takes him flying right over the Batplane!

For the splitiest of split seconds, Batman and Flash look at each other in shock as they pass.

FLASH (CONT'D)
(super-deep, super-slow)
NNNNNOOOOOOOOO WWWWWWAAAAAYYYYYY!

Back to normal motion. We stick to the skies as Hawkman continues his furious pursuit of Batman.

Batman hits him with every trick in the book. Gas trail? Hawkman flies through it. Liquid Nitrogen? It freezes his wings for a second, but then they flex off the ice and he keeps on coming.

Hawkman finally catches the Batplane in his hand. He crushes its rudder in his powerful grip, and then he SMASHES the rear of the plane with his mace!

Internal systems failing, Batman points the Batplane at a big group of enemies and hits eject, just as Hawkman rips off the top of his cockpit.

But Batman's ship ejects DOWN, not up, so Hawkman watches in annoyance as Batman falls out of sight below him.

Batman is dropping like a stone. He hits a button on his utility belt, and his cape stops flapping in the wind, and SNAPS OUT into a wide, light, rigid shape, like a hang-glider.

He gracefully glides towards the ground below. He would probably be home-free were it not for the very relentless, very pissed-off Hawkman barreling in on his heels.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - DAY

Green Lantern and Superman continue repelling the bulk of the enemy warships. But Superman is distracted by a large explosion behind him.

He looks down to see missiles bizarrely and randomly zigzagging into the air; aimed at no discernible target. Some explode into populated buildings and set them on fire.

His SUPER POV locates the source of this incompetent missile attack - on the street, Wonder Woman is batting away missiles shot at her by Behemoths, heedless of where those missiles land.

Superman descends, streaks around the block using his super-breath to blow out the building-fires Wonder Woman is accidentally causing.

Meanwhile, Wonder Woman leaps up to grab one of the warships that flew down into her range. She breaks into a SUPER-SPIN and tosses it into the air.

Superman STREAKS over and snatches the Warship out of the air, seconds before it would have slammed into a populated apartment building.

Now supremely annoyed, he carries the Warship down to have a word with this reckless woman.

SUPERMAN

What do you think you're doing?!

Wonder Woman turns to him, and Superman is visibly taken aback by how gorgeous she is. He didn't expect someone that strong, that brutal, to look like that.

Wonder Woman is also stunned at the sight of Superman. The slightly obscured sun just behind his head, Superman glows like a god as he hovers overhead.

Wonder Woman notices the ease with which he tosses the Warship aside.

WONDER WOMAN

What?

SUPERMAN

(recovering, pissed again)

Uh.. I asked, what are you doing?

WONDER WOMAN

Winning.

SUPERMAN

By hurting innocent people?

WONDER WOMAN

By killing my enemies.

Flash suddenly appears next to Superman. He looks him over; shocked.

FLASH

Wow! You're real, too?

Superman takes in Flash's costume.

SUPERMAN

What are you supposed to be?

Flash takes out a group of infantry men in a split-second.

FLASH

Fast. You?

Superman smashes an approaching Behemoth DOWN THROUGH THE STREET like he was swatting a fly.

SUPERMAN

(glares at Wonder Woman)

Annoyed. We need to draw their fire away from the city.

WONDER WOMAN

No, we need to take the fight to their front!

Ignoring them, Flash scans the skyline.

FLASH

Did you guys see the Batman? I think I saw the Batman.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

Batman continues his slow gliding descent, but Hawkman is gaining ground fast. At this speed, Hawkman's going to catch him before he hits the ground.

Batman has no choice: he hits a button on his utility belt, and his cape goes LIMP. He drops in a free-fall, opening up room between himself and Hawkman.

For good measure, Batman turns and empties out his entire supply of FLASH-BANGS into Hawkman's face. A fireworks display goes off inches from Hawkman's eyes. Disoriented, he breaks off his pursuit.

Batman tries to redeploy his glide-wings, but he's falling too fast now: the glide wings get WHIPPED and WARPED out of shape, like an umbrella in a strong wind.

The street below is racing up towards his face at a million miles an hour. Desperate, Batman takes out a gun with a small grappling hook on the end. Fires a rope off at a nearby roof.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Superman and Wonder Woman continue their argument, as the Flash watches.

SUPERMAN

Look, lady, I don't -

WHOOOOOOOSH!

Batman BLASTS through between them, swinging on his line. The momentum of his swing takes him sailing off with DANGEROUS speed.

Superman and Flash watch him go.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Huh.

FLASH

Told ya.

They watch him go swinging across the city. Superman's eyes go blue; he scans Batman as he goes swinging away.

FLASH (CONT'D)

What can he do?

SUPERMAN

Nothing.

FLASH

How do you know?

SUPERMAN

Trust me. He's just an ordinary man.

But as they watch, Batman kicks a few alien infantry out on the down-arc of his swing.

His swing ends on top of a nearby building. Seeing approaching warships, he fires the other end of his grappling hook at his feet.

Now pulled taut between two buildings, his rope forms a CLOTHESLINE across the street. The warships CLIP the line and crash into the street.

Batman drops to ground level. In a series of STUNNINGLY acrobatic martial arts moves, he drops another half dozen infantry.

A Behemoth approaches, and in the blink of an eye Batman produces two small handgun-like devices from his belt.

A dozen RAZOR-SHARP BATARANGS go CHUNKING into the Behemoth's torso. The Behemoth looks down as the Batarangs start to GLOW...

KA-PIE-YOW! The Behemoth goes up in an explosion of smoke and fire. Batman calmly emerges from said smoke and fire, looking all bad-ass and unscathed.

Flash, Wonder Woman, and Superman watch him in awe.

FLASH

I wouldn't say ordinary...

Green Lantern swoops down on the scene. He and Batman look over the others. Before they can say anything, Flash steps forward.

FLASH (CONT'D)

Yep. Apparently we're all real. Can you believe it?

GREEN LANTERN

Look, I don't know who you people are, but you need to clear out. This is Green Lantern business.

SUPERMAN

No, it's a rescue mission.

BATMAN

It's a strategic engagement. We need a plan.

Wonder Woman walks away from them.

WONDER WOMAN

It's a war, you fools. There is only one plan in war.

Wonder Woman stares at the Black Cloud behind the spire.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Destroy your enemy.

Wonder Woman goes leaping from warship to warship, stomping them to earth in her wake, ascending higher and higher towards the Black Cloud.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The others look up as she jumps away.

SUPERMAN

Lunatic!

BATMAN
(correcting)
Warrior.

FLASH
I kind of like her.

GREEN LANTERN
(re: dat ass)
What's not to like?

KA-BOOM! The earth shakes as Hawkman lands behind them. Hawkman pays no attention to any of the others. He advances on Batman with murder in his eyes.

Batman glances at Superman.

BATMAN
Little help?

Superman steps in front of Hawkman. But Hawkman doesn't stop his approach.

SUPERMAN
Stand down, Hol. That little billy club isn't going to get you past m-

KA-CRACK! Hawkman BACKHANDS Superman with his mace, which is crackling with an eerie, mystical energy.

Superman goes flying into a nearby building. As he gets his bearings, he notices his chest still crackles with a weird glow where the mace hit.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Um? Ow?

Hawkman continues advancing toward Batman, who now turns to Green Lantern.

BATMAN
(more insistent)
Little help...

Green Lantern creates a literal 50,000-pound shit-hammer. SMASHES Hawkman into the ground with it.

GREEN LANTERN
That's how it's done.

But when he takes away the hammer, they see Hawkman covered himself in a protective cocoon with his wings.

He emerges unscathed and swats Green Lantern through a building with his mace. Batman looks to Flash.

BATMAN
(near panic)
Little help!

Flash picks up Batman and races him out of the area at super-speed.

FLASH
Sometimes, discretion is the better
part of running away.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKYLINE - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, Wonder Woman continues her ascent, leaping from warship to warship.

On her way up, she spots a larger, more massive transport vehicle. She looks it up and down. It will do.

She produces a glowing yellow lasso from her hip as she leaps for the transport ship. She twirls it and unleashes it.

The rope expands to an impossibly large dimension and encircles the transport. Her quarry wrangled, Wonder Woman sails over it and lands on a nearby roof.

The ship continues on its track, YANKING Wonder Woman forward. Her feet dig into the roof, kicking up concrete and gravel as she tries to wrangle the transport like it was a wild colt.

The transport threatens to drag her right off the roof. But Wonder Woman BRACES her foot against the roof's edge. Finally stops the transport in its tracks.

A tug of war ensues, the Transport's engines vs Wonder Woman's might.

Inch by inch, Wonder Woman pulls the ship towards her. It struggles against her, but eventually its engines stutter, sputter, and then BURN OUT with the effort.

In a STUNNING display of strength, she YANKS the ship towards her. It goes whizzing past her, and she breaks into a wide, slow spin.

She twirls this 747-sized ship by her lasso like an Olympian doing a hammer throw.

Her spin picks up more speed, and more speed, until she's just a blur of motion.

At the top speed of her spin, she RELEASES, sends the craft HURTLING towards the heart of the Black Cloud over Metropolis.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - DAY

Superman and Green Lantern have recovered. They move in on Hawkman, who prepares to greet them properly with his mace.

KRAAAAK-KAAAAAAAK- BOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMM!

They all look up, in time to see Wonder Woman's projectile BLAST THROUGH the Black cloud, and go out the other side.

Whatever was inside that cloud EXPLODES into flame. The leading spire begins a slow, perilous fall towards the earth.

Wonder Woman lets out a primal cry of victory. But her elation turns quickly to horror.

The rest of the MOTHERSHIP the spire was connected to falls from the black cloud into view.

And falls. And falls. And keeps falling.

Wonder Woman keeps waiting for the other side of the ship to emerge from the cloud, but it's never-ending. It just keeps coming and coming...

Finally, the whole thing falls into view. It is positively BROBDINGNAGIAN. It's nearly bigger than the ENTIRE CITY of Metropolis.

Huge sections of it are on fire - it cannot stop its descent - and it's going to fall right on the city...

Our heroes watch it fall in helpless awe. It's obvious - when this thing hits, the sheer impact will kill everything within a THOUSAND MILES.

But in a breath, Superman's hopelessness turns to defiance.

SUPERMAN

No.

Superman BLASTS up towards the Mothership, moving so fast he creates a SONIC BOOM that SHATTERS every window in the city!

He reaches the spire, desperately tries to catch the falling Mothership in a futile, doomed gesture. But it just SMACKS him down, sends him PLUMMETING to earth with it.

Superman desperately rights himself. Scrambles to get a grip on the falling spire. He heaves with all his might, but the ship doesn't even slow it in its inevitable fall.

Flash, Green Lantern, Batman, and even Hawkman ignore everything as they watch Superman struggle. We see the hopeless fear in their faces - if even Superman can't do it, then no force on Earth can stop the fall of that ship.

But Superman will not, he CANNOT GIVE UP. He digs down further than he's ever dared dig, uses strength he never knew he had. His muscles bulge and swell to the point of bursting.

He struggles for a grip as the spire COLLAPSES in his grasp, crushed like an accordion between Superman's strength and the weight of the rest of the ship.

BUT, to everyone's shock, the ship seems to actually be SLOWING DOWN. However, Superman is still fighting a losing battle; the ship is still falling too fast for him to stop.

Finally, he catches a desperate hand-hold. He HEAVES with all his might, and improbably, MIRACULOUSLY, the descent of the ship STOPS!

Our heroes stare up in absolute disbelief. They are stunned (almost) speechless.

FLASH

No way....

Digging down for even more strength, SCREAMING with the effort, Superman startingly, LUDICROUSLY, doesn't just stop the Mothership's fall, he REVERSES IT.

Slowly at first, but gradually picking up speed. PUSHING. STRAINING. HEAVING. He actually starts pushing this entire SKY CITY back into the stratosphere!

Pouring it on now, Superman is actually ACCELERATING, pushing the ship faster and faster and FASTER, until he has pushed it to the edge of space.

He stalls here, on the edge of the ionosphere. He seems to be running out of gas. The weight of the ship starts to push him down to earth again, threatening to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

But with a deep breath, with one last effort, he SCREAMS, and LAUNCHES the Mothership into SPACE. Immediately and entirely spent, Superman PASSES OUT, and floats wearily down to Earth.

During his descent, he rouses. His super-hearing detects a murmur of commotion, of panic on the ground.

He swoops down, sees Hawkman and the other ships are headed straight for him. Superman wearily braces himself, but they fly right past him, giving him a wide, wide berth. They aren't attacking; they're retreating.

But Superman can still hear the sounds of panic below. He drops down and hovers over Metropolis, but there's no sign of any threat.

Confused, he scans the area with his X-ray vision, but still.... nothing.

He looks at the citizens on the ground running away in horror. He doesn't understand, until he looks at the other heroes, Green Lantern, the Flash, even Batman, staring up at him in absolute bewilderment.

Then he gets it. The people pointing and fleeing aren't scared of any other alien invader: they're scared of HIM.

Only now does he think about what he's just done. He looks down at his own hands as if they belonged to a stranger. Just what the hell is he?

He looks down to the citizens. They point at him, backpedal, run. He's the freak, all over again.

Unable to bear their fear of him, Superman flies away in a shot, leaving our heroes staring at him dumbfounded.

All except Wonder Woman, who, watching him fly away, feels a strange emotion welling in herself... is it... attraction?

CUT TO:

NEWS MONTAGE

Twenty-four hour network video footage of the aftermath of the attack.

The ticker on the bottom of the screen reads: Metropolis: A City in Crisis.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Rescue efforts continue at this hour in Metropolis, in the wake of what appears to have been an attack by an alien civilization. Literally millions are without water or power. Hundreds of thousands are missing. The death toll is in the hundreds continuing to rise.

INT. NEWS STUDIO ANCHOR-DESK - DAY

A grimly serious news anchor speaks directly to camera.

NEWS ANCHOR

But believe it or not, Earth's first contact with alien life is not tonight's lead story. That honor belongs to these... let's just call them people.

A graphic box appears over her right shoulder. A montage of cell phone footage of Wonder Woman, Batman, etc. The footage has been cut to make them seem not heroic, but terrifying.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

These masked, and spectacularly powerful, men and women, once thought to be urban legends, proved themselves very real during the alien attack.

The graphic switches to footage of Superman screaming as he flies the Mothership into space. It shows him looking over the city with cold, alien-looking blue eyes.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

But what exactly are they and what are their intentions? At this hour, only one thing is clear: the US government considers them a threat. Earlier today, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Amanda Waller made the following statement.

INT. WHITE HOUSE BREIFING ROOM - DAY

Amanda Waller addresses an eager, panicked press corps.

AMANDA WALLER

The aliens have retreated, but the costumed suspects are still at large. If they're human, or at least allies, the burden is on them to come forward, take off the masks, and state their intentions. Otherwise, we have no choice but to prepare for the worst.

Lois Lane asks a question from the front row.

LOIS LANE

But the so-called Superman threw a landmass the size of a city into space. Short of a nuclear attack, how do you prepare for something like that?

AMANDA WALLER

I can't comment on specific national security policy. But regarding the latter part of your conjecture, as far as I'm concerned, all options are on the table.

LOIS LANE

I'm sorry... are you saying you'd be willing to launch a nuclear attack against Metropolis to kill The Superman?

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Shirtless, but still in his Superman tights, Superman sits alone in complete darkness.

He has his hands over his ears, trying to shut it all out. But his super-hearing still picks up Waller's answer, reverberating through every TV in Metropolis:

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)

I'm saying: all options are on the table.

Superman look up. Makes a decision.

EXT. METROPOLIS HOTEL - NEXT DAY

Post-invasion, the area is chaos. Hal pushes his way through a crowd of stunned refugees towards Carol's hotel.

He stops short, seeing that the top 30 floors of the building have been BLOWN OFF, and some of the other floors still on FIRE.

Panicked, he runs forward desperately, scanning the crowd.

HAL JORDAN
Carol? Carol?!

CAROL (O.S.)
(from behind him)
Hal...?

Hal turns to see a tearful, disheveled Carol. He runs over, hugs her for dear life.

CAROL (CONT'D)
(through tears)
I came downstairs for our talk. If I didn't... if I hadn't -

HAL JORDAN
I got cut off on my way back... The police were... I'm sorry. I shouldn't have -

Carol hugs him tighter. Won't let him go.

CAROL
- Shut up! I don't care. Just don't leave me again.

HAL JORDAN
Carol...

CAROL
No, if this is it... if this is the end... I want you with me. Please, don't leave again.

HAL JORDAN
... Okay. I won't.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Batman sits at his computer panel. Across his panoramic screen, dozens of pieces of footage from the fight are playing simultaneously.

He's separated them out by hero: one quadrant is just footage of Green Lantern, one is just footage of the Flash, etc. But he's concentrating on the footage of Superman.

He rewinds and rewinds Superman's footage, observing with frightening intensity. Going over every move, every image, over and over. From the look of him, he's been at it non-stop for hours.

Alfred enters carrying a tray of refreshments.

ALFRED

Might I interest you in a cup of coffee, sir?

BATMAN

No.

ALFRED

Or in something as bourgeois as sleep?

BATMAN

A single man throws a landmass the size of a suburb into space, and you want me to sleep?
(genuinely baffled)
How can you sleep?

ALFRED

An old army trick, sir. I try to view new comrades in arms as potential allies, perhaps even friends, rather than as problems to be solved.

Batman continues to pore over every frame of Superman footage.

BATMAN

Must be nice.

ALFRED

It is, sir. And ever so restful.

BATMAN

(get out)
Leave the coffee, Alfred.

ALFRED

Very good, sir.

As Alfred exits, Batman drags an video frame of Superman away, revealing the video frame of Clark Kent he was looking at earlier.

Seeing something, he moves the frames of Clark Kent and Superman side by side. Eyes them curiously.

EXT. PARADISE ISLAND SANCTUARY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A RAGING FIRE obscures the view of this COLLAPSING BUILDING. Screams. Blood. Chaos.

We can hazily make out the shapes of GRAVELY WOUNDED AMAZONS, bleeding out, pleading for their lives.

Wonder Woman enters the hellish scene. She's shocked and stunned by the carnage, the suffering...

VOICE (O.S.)

Diana...

Wonder Woman looks to see a bloody, severely injured AMAZON WARRIOR reaching out to her.

AMAZON WARRIOR

You abandoned us....

INT. DIANA'S HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Diana STARTS awake in her bed. She catches her bearings. Looks up at a curious sound. The laptop on a table in her room is ringing.

She approaches the strange technology tentatively. Touches a button.

The face of LYDIE, a fellow Amazon, appears on a Skype-like application.

DIANA

Lydie!

LYDIE

Diana. Your accommodations are adequate?

Diana cranes her neck, trying to see behind Lydie.

DIANA

Yes. Where is my mother?

INT. PARADISE ISLAND - SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

We're inside the same building from Diana's dream. It's in the process of being rebuilt, suggesting Diana's dream was not just a nightmare.

HERA, Diana's eternally youthful and beautiful Goddess Mother, sadly keeps her back to Lydie's conversation, which Lydie is conducting via a MYSTICAL MIRROR, not a laptop.

LYDIE

She doesn't wish to speak to you.

Diana wilts at this.

LYDIE (CONT'D)

Do not think ill of her. After all, she left you in charge of her city, and you abandoned it.

DIANA

I had the Enemy in my sights. If I succeeded, I could have ended the war...

LYDIE

But you failed. And left hundreds of your sisters - my sister - to die horribly.

DIANA

I know what I have done.

LYDIE

Many of us thought exile was too merciful.

DIANA

(glaring)

What do you want, Lydie?

LYDIE

The terms of your exile were clear. You were not to reveal your abilities to the world of men. Hera wishes me to tell you, if you continue to openly use your powers, your sentence will be upgraded to death.

DIANA

(with difficulty)

Tell Hera that I am my mother's daughter still...

As Diana speaks, Hera looks away. A pained expression on her face.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Tell her that I could no more stand by while innocents suffer than could she. Tell her it was she who taught me this, and I have not forgotten.

LYDIE

(all-attitude)

A lovely speech. Anything else?

Diana glares at Lydie with a scary rage in her eyes.

DIANA

Yes. When she sends someone to try to kill me? Tell her to send you.

LYDIE

Goodbye, Diana.

Lydie switches off.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Converted into an evacuee shelter. Hundreds of cots and hundreds of refugees mill around.

Barry Allen and Professor Feser are among the evacuees. They are escorted to small cots by volunteers.

FESER

(bitterly sarcastic)

Five star accommodations...

BARRY

No commercial flights in or out of Metropolis for a week. Get used to it.

Across the crowd, Barry sees someone glaring at him. It's Janice, the girl from the forensics seminar. He approaches.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Janice!

JANICE

Barry.

SLAP! Janice swats him across the face.

JANICE (CONT'D)

You stood me up.

Barry chases her through the maze of cots.

BARRY
There was literally an alien
invasion!

JANICE
Which didn't start until a half
hour after you were supposed to
show up.

BARRY
I could have been abducted! I could
have been killed!

JANICE
Were you abducted?

BARRY
...no...

JANICE
Were you killed?

BARRY
... technically...

Janice turns and SLAPS him again. Walks away.

BARRY (CONT'D)
Twice?

JANICE
(shrugs)
Had another one in me.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Amanda Waller stands at attention. The President paces in
front of her; incensed.

THE PRESIDENT
"All options are on the table?!"

AMANDA WALLER
We only have one weapon against
people that powerful. We had to let
them know we're willing to use it,
sir.

THE PRESIDENT
Against a major American city?

AMANDA WALLER

If it's that or surrender the city
to a super-powered terrorist -

THE PRESIDENT

- I believe that's my decision to
make, General! And my decision on
when and whether to make that
decision public! And my current
decision is to prioritize the alien
warship that just invaded our
borders!

AMANDA WALLER

The alien threat is over, Mr.
President. According to every
telescope, spectrometer, and
satellite on the planet. There's
nothing approaching Earth orbit
bigger than a shoebox for 40 light-
years.

THE PRESIDENT

Then why didn't we spot them the
first time?

AMANDA WALLER

Because we weren't looking for
cloaked space craft then. We are
now. Sir, the real threat is
walking among us. These people
could be working with the aliens,
they could be foreign agents -

THE PRESIDENT

- And they could be our most
valuable national security asset.
You asked them to come in, let's
give them the chance to come in. If
they could be on our side, I don't
want to make the first move against
them.

AMANDA WALLER

If we don't move first, we may not
move at all.

THE PRESIDENT

(sitting down)

That's all, Madam Secretary.

Amanda Waller reluctantly salutes and leaves.

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sullen. Grim. Clark moves through his apartment, seemingly tidying up.

He hears something that stops him in his tracks. He lowers his head. Sighs in annoyance.

CLARK KENT

Perfect.

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Clark curiously stands with his hands on the doorknob, waiting. Seconds later, there's a knock.

Clark takes a deep breath; opens the door, revealing his mother, Martha Kent (now 60s).

CLARK KENT

Mom?

Martha hugs him.

MARTHA KENT

Hello, Clark.

CLARK KENT

I'm glad to see you, but... it's not safe here.

MARTHA KENT

Oh, I'm always safe when you're around. And thank you for pretending to be surprised.

She walks past him into his living room. Is surprised to see the place all boxed up. Suitcases all packed.

MARTHA KENT (CONT'D)

What's all this?

CLARK KENT

I'm... taking a little vacation.

MARTHA KENT

But you just started your job?

CLARK KENT

Just for a little while...

MARTHA KENT

Clark Kent, don't lie to your mother...

Clark collapses on a couch.

CLARK KENT

Mom... they said they'd drop a nuclear bomb on the city if I didn't leave.

Martha sits next to him; takes his hand.

MARTHA KENT

That is not what they said. They said they might do that if you went bad. But that's never going to happen because you won't go bad. You don't have bad in you.

CLARK KENT

You always say that. How do you know? I don't even know what I am.

She takes his head in her hands.

MARTHA KENT

You're a Kent. And Kents don't run from their problems.

Clark rises; paces.

CLARK KENT

I appreciate what you and Pa tried to do. Helping me to have a normal life. But maybe that was a mistake. I'm not like them, Ma. They'll never accept me.

MARTHA KENT

What about your friends? The ones that helped you fight? The green fellow and that nice red young man?

CLARK KENT

I think they're scared of me, too.

MARTHA KENT

That's just because they don't know you.

CLARK KENT

Ma, you've been saying that for 20 years...

MARTHA KENT

Enough, Clark. Yes, you are different. But different doesn't mean bad. Different doesn't mean evil. I know you're a good person, Clark. But me knowing it won't help you. You have to know it. And running won't fix how you feel about you, Clark. You can't run away from yourself.

Clark takes in his mother's words. Thinks.

EXT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

A hand pauses at the door to the entrance. Hesitates.

Then pushes through.

INT. DAILY PLANET - CONTINUOUS

Clark Kent enters the lobby. Reporting for duty.

But there's no security guard at the desk. No attendant at the elevator.

INT. DAILY PLANET - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Clark wanders through the mostly abandoned cubicles at the Daily Planet. Calls out into the emptiness.

CLARK KENT

Hello? Anybody here?

Lois Lane pokes her head out of her office. Approaches.

LOIS LANE

Kansas!? You made it out alive!
Perry owes me twenty bucks.
(off his look)
Kidding.

CLARK KENT

Where is everybody?

LOIS LANE

The ones that aren't missing or dead? Home with their families.

CLARK KENT

Why aren't you?

LOIS LANE
Why aren't you?

Clark has no answer.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
It's the end of the world, Kansas.
Who'd come to work except freaks
like us with nowhere else to go?

Clark looks up; surprised to hear Lois call herself a freak.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
What? You thought you were the only
one?

They smile at each other. Lois drags Clark into Perry White's office.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
Hey, look who it is, Chief!

PERRY WHITE
Kent? You made it?

CLARK KENT
You sound surprised.

Perry discretely hands Lois a twenty-dollar-bill.

PERRY WHITE
Me? Nah. Never doubted you for a
second.

CLARK KENT
What are you working on?

Perry motions towards the smorgasbord of Superman photos on his desk.

PERRY WHITE
What else? Got anything on him?

CLARK KENT
What are people saying?

LOIS LANE
I've got tons of eye-witness
reports that he was helping people.
One lady swears he saved her cat.
But trying tell that to this one.

PERRY WHITE
Big blue schoolboys don't sell
papers. Alien super-menaces do.

At this mention of a big blue schoolboy, Lois' attention turns to Clark.

LOIS LANE
What's your take, Kansas?

CLARK KENT
Someone that powerful... what if he
goes bad? How can you trust him?

Perry looks to Lois Lane as if Clark just settled an argument between them.

PERRY WHITE
Thank you.

LOIS LANE
But who can't go bad? Anyone of us
can go bad at anytime? What makes
this guy so different?

CLARK KENT
What makes you think he's one of
us?

LOIS LANE
Am I the only one who remembers the
giant alien death city he saved us
from? Look, if he wanted to kill us
all, why hasn't he done it yet?

PERRY WHITE
Is this a newspaper or a debate
club? Go find out why!

Clark and Lois fall in step as they walk out of Perry's office.

Suddenly, Clark's ears are assaulted by a loud high-pitched whine. It's the same sound that he heard just before the first alien assault.

Lois obviously can't hear it:

LOIS LANE
Share a cab?

CLARK KENT
Uh.. I don't do public
transportation... because of the...

HAL JORDAN
I have...

 CAROL
 (sick of the word)
Responsibilities.

 HAL JORDAN
Listen...

 CAROL
Go.

 HAL JORDAN
Carol...

 CAROL
Go. I understand.

 HAL JORDAN
 (walks to the door)
I'll be back as soon as I can.

 CAROL
Hal?

Hal looks back from the door.

 CAROL (CONT'D)
 (with finality)
Take care of yourself.

Hal looks puzzled over her tone, but his ring beeps again. Insistent. He frowns, leaves.

EXT. WAYNE CONSTRUCTION SITE - DUSK

A small island off the coast of Metropolis, populated only by the skeletal scaffolding of the future Wayne Chemicals site.

Flash APPEARS in a gust of wind; seems surprised to find nothing there.

Wonder Woman comes leaping into the island, landing with a BOOM. Flash approaches her.

 FLASH
Hey, you...

 WONDER WOMAN
The Flash. Where is the enemy?

BATMAN (O.S.)

Not here.

Cape extended into its glider shape, Batman silently sails down into their midst.

Green Lantern arrives; looks surprised to find the others.

GREEN LANTERN

What are you people doing here?

BATMAN

Same thing you are.

FLASH

I intercepted an air raid warning
like before -

Batman holds up a finger to cut Flash off. He looks up into the air, speaks towards the sky as if praying.

BATMAN

Would you care to stop looking down
from on high and join us?

The others stare at Batman like he was crazy, but a few seconds later, Superman descends from the clouds.

An awkward silence. After what they've seen Superman do, his presence is off-putting. Flash and Green Lantern are visibly wary of him.

Superman is himself apprehensive, not sure of how he'll be received.

Wonder Woman tentatively approaches. They make meaningful eye-contact.

WONDER WOMAN

May I ask your name, warrior?

SUPERMAN

I'm not a warrior. And I'd rather
not say.

WONDER WOMAN

I am Diana, of Themyscira.

SUPERMAN

Hello, Diana.

Awkward silence. Superman catches the Flash staring at him.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

What?

FLASH

Nothing! I mean.... Hey! How's it going?

GREEN LANTERN

Nice job with the spaceship.

SUPERMAN

Thanks.

Awkward silence.

FLASH

Hey, uh... we were never really introduced. How about we go around and say a little something about ourselves? You know, such as our likes and dislikes...

(looks at Superman)

...and whether we intend to destroy the planet with our godlike strength?

The others glare at him.

FLASH (CONT'D)

Shy? Okay, I'll start. I'm the Flash....

(pauses expectantly)

You guys are supposed to say "Hi, Flash..."

SUPERMAN

(ignoring Flash)

There's nothing here.

BATMAN

We gathered.

GREEN LANTERN

Not possible. My ring picked up an alien contact.

WONDER WOMAN

I heard the same on your televisions.

FLASH

They ran?

BATMAN

They were never here. This is a set-up. We're being watched.

FLASH

By the aliens?

BATMAN

By the government. You heard Amanda Waller...

Superman's eyes light up blue as he scans around them with his X-ray vision.

SUPERMAN

You're paranoid. No one's watching us.

BATMAN

That you can see.

SUPERMAN

If anybody could see us, I could see them.

Flash, Batman, and Green Lantern all stare at him in shock. More scared of him from this revelation than ever.

WONDER WOMAN

So, you have the eyes of a god, as well as the strength?

SUPERMAN

No, that's not what I...

Superman sees their fear of him in their eyes. Even among other freaks, he's still the freak.

Saddened, he begins to float away.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Look, there's nothing here. I'm leaving.

WHOOSH! In an instant, Superman disappears over the horizon.

But Batman mysteriously addresses him in a normal voice, as if he was still standing right in front of him.

BATMAN

While we're all here, I think we should talk.... Clark.

SWOOSH! Superman flies back in from over the skyline. Lands in front of Batman in the blink of an eye.

SUPERMAN
What did you call me?

BATMAN
Your name.

Superman angrily advances on Batman.

SUPERMAN
That's not my name.

Batman stands his ground. Completely unafraid as Superman advances.

BATMAN
I hope you don't think I'm going to call you The Superman.

SUPERMAN
That's not! My name!

BATMAN
You're a bad liar.

Flash APPEARS at Batman's side; whispers nervously in his ear.

FLASH
Hey, uh... you might wanna ixnay on antagonizing-ay the uperman-Say...

Batman pushes the Flash aside.

BATMAN
I'll get to you in a second, Barry.

FLASH
Hey! I mean, uh... who's Barry?

SUPERMAN
You're crossing the line...

BATMAN
By outing a man whose disguise is a pair of glasses?

SUPERMAN
You don't need a disguise at 10,000 feet moving at the speed of sound.

BATMAN

Is that supposed to scare me?

SUPERMAN

I'm not the one dressed up like Dracula and speaking in that ridiculous fake voice. Unlike you, I'm not interested in scaring anybody.

Superman starts to walk away, but Batman's not done with him.

BATMAN

And how's not scaring anybody working out for you... Clark?

Superman turns and glares at him. Green Lantern tries to pull Batman away.

GREEN LANTERN

Hey, man? You got a death wish?

Batman brushes Lantern off.

BATMAN

Funny question from a test pilot.

Green Lantern stumbles back, horrified by Batman's statement.

Now actually pissed, Superman gets in Batman's face. Batman doesn't back down an inch.

SUPERMAN

(eyes turning blue)

You know, I've been respecting your privacy. But I can look under that mask of yours anytime I -

(beat, annoyed)

When did you line your mask with lead?

BATMAN

Since I learned you see x-rays.

SUPERMAN

Won't stop me from pulling it off your face.

Batman's hand eases towards a special compartment on his utility belt.

BATMAN

No. I've got something else for that.

A GREEN WALL suddenly appears between Superman and Batman, separating them. Green Lantern expands the wall to put space between the two.

GREEN LANTERN

Okay, guys. Come on. Can we go to our separate corners?

Wonder Woman paces boldly through their ranks. Disapproves as she looks them over.

WONDER WOMAN

Forgive me, friends, but I am not from your country and do not know your customs. You are great warriors. Why do you hide behind masks and disguises?

FLASH

It's to protect our loved ones, gorgeous. To keep them out of danger.

BATMAN

She wouldn't know anything about that.

Wonder Woman turns her attention to Batman.

WONDER WOMAN

You know nothing of me, sir.

Batman advances on Wonder Woman, as foolishly unafraid of her as he was of Superman.

BATMAN

I know you were banished from your native Themyscira. Probably for the same kind of stupid, clumsy aggression that nearly destroyed the city yesterday.

WONDER WOMAN

I warn you...

BATMAN

So, I'm guessing, wherever you're from, nobody there wants you -

Wonder Woman lifts Batman over her head by his throat.

WONDER WOMAN

You fought by my side. So, I will spare your life. Once.

(MORE)

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

But speak of my home again and I
will relieve you of that sharp
tongue -

Superman wrenches Wonder Woman's arm, forcing her to drop
Batman.

SUPERMAN

Put him down. Are you crazy? That
stunt you pulled yesterday didn't
teach you anything?

WONDER WOMAN

No, I have not learned to be
ashamed of who I am quite so well
as you.

That hit a nerve.

SUPERMAN

You should be ashamed that your
idiotic desire to punch everything
that moves nearly killed everyone
in the city yesterday.

That hit a nerve.

WONDER WOMAN

It was war, you fool! Innocents
will die in war no matter what we
do. But we owe it to them to fight
with all our strength! To win the
war! To end it!

SUPERMAN

We owe it to them to save as many
lives as we can. Not to be reckless
and careless like you -

WONDER WOMAN

- You are right. You are not a
warrior. You are a foolish child
who thinks he can win without
sacrifice. You think you can save
everyone? Well you can't!

SUPERMAN

Not everyone. Just the people you
left to die.

Wonder Woman is enraged. She advances on Superman with that
dangerous, violent look in her eyes.

WONDER WOMAN

The people I left to die? Every death here is on your head!

SUPERMAN

What are you talking about?

WONDER WOMAN

I saw you throw that ship.

Wonder Woman walks him down. JABS him in the chest with her finger.

SUPERMAN

Hey! Easy!

WONDER WOMAN

You had the strength to end that fight whenever you wanted.

She shoves him now, throwing him off step a bit.

SUPERMAN

Miss! I'm warning you!

WONDER WOMAN

Those who died, died because you were too much of a coward to truly fight for them!

Now she outright PUSHES him. Even Superman has his limits. He PUSHES BACK!

SUPERMAN

BACK OFF!

It looked like a light shove, but Wonder Woman goes FLYING back like she was shot out of a cannon!

She BLASTS through several half finished walls in one of the Wayne Chemical buildings.

Shocked at what he's done, the blood drains from Superman's face.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

No...

He STREAKS through the walls.

INT. WAYNE CHEMICAL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Superman zooms in; finds Wonder Woman picking herself up from the rubble. Struggling to her feet.

Green Lantern and Flash arrive as Superman rushes to her side.

FLASH
Diana, you all right?

GREEN LANTERN
She okay?

Superman gently helps Wonder Woman to her feet.

SUPERMAN
Miss, I'm so sorry -

Diana glares up at him. More upset at that word than at being pushed through a couple of walls.

WONDER WOMAN
You're sorry?!

KRA-KOW!!! Wonder Woman SLUGS Superman and he goes streaking into another building CLEAR ACROSS THE ISLAND. Wonder Woman tears off after him.

Green Lantern follows.

GREEN LANTERN
I believe she's alright.

Flash is right behind him.

FLASH
I tend to agree.

INT. OPPOSITE WAYNE CHEMICAL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Superman is standing to his feet. From the look on his face, he's never been hit that hard. And he's not happy about it. He stomps through the rubble back towards Wonder Woman.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Batman watches from afar as Wonder Woman and Superman approach each other from opposite sides of the island with BAD INTENTIONS...

Flash steps in front of Wonder Woman, backtracks in step with her, trying to calm her down.

FLASH

Come on, Diana. Go to your happy place.

Annoyed with the Flash, Wonder Woman throws a couple of haymakers his way, but Flash evades each blow in a blur.

Fed up, Wonder Woman STOMPS her foot on the ground, creates a SHOCKWAVE that lifts Flash off his feet!

She grabs him by the ankle and tosses him behind her like a used tissue.

Flash goes HURTLING towards a large pile of bricks. But suddenly, his body goes all BLURRY, as if it were VIBRATING...

Instead of crashing into the bricks, he VIBRATES THROUGH THEM like a GHOST. Skids to a stop on the other side of them, UNSCATHED.

Batman, ever-observant on the side lines, raises an eyebrow at this.

Green Lantern meanwhile is trying to slow down a pissed-off Superman. He floats in front of him, backtracking with him.

GREEN LANTERN

Come on, Mr. Superman, sir. You don't want to hit a lady.

But Superman's not listening. Green Lantern puts a wall up in front of him, but Superman just walks right through his construct like it wasn't there.

Green Lantern then constructs a translucent green BULLDOZER. Drives it right at Superman's advancing figure, but Superman just SWATS it aside.

Desperate, Green Lantern now constructs a giant LOCOMOTIVE, but Superman is more powerful. Green Lantern puts a full head of steam into the engine and powers it right into Superman's chest, but Superman doesn't even break stride.

Lantern looks over his shoulder, sees Wonder Woman picking up speed as she barrels towards Superman. He has the good sense to get out of the way as -

KA-BOOM!!! Wonder Woman's fist connects with Superman's STUPID FACE with enough force to shake the island!

But Superman is braced for her now, and her blows barely move him back an inch.

WONDER WOMAN

You're sorry?! Why do you keep apologizing for who you are?

SUPERMAN

Why are you trying to make me into something I'm not!

Wonder Woman unloads on him, hitting him with every trick in her bag, punches, drop-kicks, but nothing moves him.

Superman waits for Wonder Woman to tucker herself out, then he lightly **SHOVES** her, and she again goes **FLYING** back through one of the Wayne buildings.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Got that out of your system?
Because I can do this all -

CRASH!! Superman is **FLATTENED** into the ground, hit over the head with a **GIANT METAL GIRDER**.

He struggles to his feet in time to see Wonder Woman **SWINGING** the girder like a giant baseball bat right at his head!

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! Wonder Woman slaps Superman half a dozen times with the girder before he realizes what's happening.

Fed-up, Superman **GRABS** the girder on Wonder Woman's next swing. He **SNATCHES** it away from her. In the blink of an eye, he **BENDS** the girder around her torso like a snake.

Her arms trapped, Wonder Woman **HEAD-BUTTS** Superman, but only gets a migraine for her trouble.

Furious beyond words, she screams in frustration. Writhes like a trapped animal as she tries to free herself from her metal bonds.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Look at you. Who do you think you're kidding? You're not a warrior. Warriors fight for something. A cause greater than themselves. You? You go looking for fights because you're angry. And you don't care who gets hurt -

Enraged at his words, Wonder Woman drops to the ground. Sweeps out Superman's unsuspecting legs as she falls.

She then sits up and hits him with a DOUBLE LEG STOMP that sends him SKIPPING and TUMBLING across the island.

With the two separated, Green Lantern and Flash try again to make peace. Green Lantern hovers just over Wonder Woman's head.

GREEN LANTERN
Okay! You two have had your say!
Let's stop this before -

As he speaks, Wonder Woman loosens the girder enough to slip from under it.

She spots Superman getting to his feet across the island. She whirls the now circular shaped girder like a discus. LAUNCHES it at Superman.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
Goddamnit! Enough!

Green Lantern constructs a giant green ACME RUBBER BAND in front of Superman. It catches the bent girder and FLINGS it right back at Wonder Woman!

She ducks out of the way in time, but it nearly takes her head off. She glares up at Lantern in a fury.

Lantern backpedals.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
That was an accident...

Wonder Woman throws a few punches at him. Lantern dodges, then soars up into the air out of her range.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
That was an accident!

Wonder Woman takes out her lasso and hurls it at him.

Lantern puts up a shield to block it, but as it approaches, he notices it SHIMMERING YELLOW...

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
Oh, crap...

In slow-motion, we notices Green Lantern's shield PIXELATES and DISSOLVES when Wonder Woman's yellow lasso hits it.

ACROSS THE ISLAND, Batman notices this. Raises an eyebrow.

Wonder Woman's lasso encircles Green Lantern. She whips him around and SLINGS him towards a nearby building.

Green Lantern manages to construct a giant green AIRBAG that catches him before he would have gone SPLAT up against a wall.

Meanwhile, Flash gets in front of Superman as he again advances on Wonder Woman.

FLASH

I can't let you hurt her, big guy.
I kind of have dibs.

Superman ignores him. Flash circles Superman in an red and yellow BLUR. Surrounds him in a TORNADO.

Superman tries to reach into the tornado to grab him, but Flash is too fast even for Superman to catch.

Instead, Superman breaks into a SUPER-SPIN in the OPPOSITE direction. He creates his own REVERSE tornado that CANCELS OUT Flash's tornado!

This knocks Flash off his equilibrium and sends him skidding to the ground in a heap.

Huffing and puffing, Wonder Woman and Superman again approach each other. They clasp hands over their heads like pro wrestlers in a classic test of strength.

WONDER WOMAN

You think I don't care? I begged my gods to give me my strength, so that I could fight for my people!

SUPERMAN

You can redirect rivers to irrigate crops. Turn back tsunamis. You think your gods gave you that strength just to hit things with?

WONDER WOMAN

And do you think your gods gave you such power so that you could talk to your enemies like a common lawyer?

Superman pins Wonder Woman's hands behind her back in a bear hug. This move inadvertently moves them face to face, almost touching.

A moment of forced intimacy that makes them both a bit uncomfortable.

They can feel the warmth of each other's skin. Feel each other's hearts beating through their chests.

For a moment, they both stop struggling. It looks they're embracing now rather than fighting.

SUPERMAN

I'm just trying to help. The only way I know how.

WONDER WOMAN

I am no different.

The embrace lingers. Wonder Woman becomes flustered. Confused.

Is she flushed from the fight or is she... blushing?

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

(softly)

Please. Let me go.

Superman releases her. There's an uncomfortable energy between them as Flash and Green Lantern approach.

FLASH

Glad you two made up -

GREEN LANTERN

- Yeah, don't worry about almost killing us in the process -

BATMAN (O.S.)

Enough!

They all look up as Batman finally approaches.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

It's a given. We don't like each other. But when those aliens come back -

GREEN LANTERN

- Read a newspaper. They're not coming back. We've been scanning for weeks and haven't seen a trace -

BATMAN

- Conventional scanners can't detect my aircraft, much less alien technology. They will be back And when they come, we can't beat them alone.

FLASH

(points at Superman)

He kind of might.

BATMAN

He's impervious to conventional damage, even from someone as strong as Diana. But that Hawkman's mace? It had an energy signature I can't place. From the standpoint of Earth science, it might as well be magic. It hurt him, and there could be more where that came from.

GREEN LANTERN

I already told you people. If stuff gets really hairy, the Green Lantern Corps will -

BATMAN

And what if the invaders come in yellow ships this time?

GREEN LANTERN

What?

BATMAN

The fields your ring projects. They're disrupted by anything in the yellow range of the electromagnetic spectrum.

GREEN LANTERN

(horrible bluff)

Maybe they are, maybe they aren't...

Batman turns back to Superman.

BATMAN

And you. You're not quite as fast as The Flash, but he can go through walls without causing the -

FLASH

Oh. My. GOD!

They all turn to him.

GREEN LANTERN

What?

FLASH

He set this up!

SUPERMAN

What are you talking about?

Flash looks over Batman disapprovingly.

FLASH

He faked this whole "alien sighting" so he could trick us here! Then he tried to pick a fight, and when that didn't work, he got us to fight each other! All so he could watch from the sidelines and try to figure out our weaknesses!

GREEN LANTERN

No way...

FLASH

Sure! I mean he even got us out to Wayne's construction site on a Sunday where we wouldn't hurt anybody!

Batman is just silent at these accusations. Superman approaches him.

SUPERMAN

Is this true?

After a beat, Batman shrugs an admission.

BATMAN

Wayne can afford the clean-up.

Superman backpedals away from him, aghast at how casually Batman can manipulate people.

SUPERMAN

You are unbelievable.

BATMAN

If we are to function as a team, it's imperative to know each other's strengths, weaknesses, secrets...

Wonder Woman approaches Batman.

WONDER WOMAN

But we don't know your secrets. You know who we are. Let's see who is behind your mask.

Batman stares Wonder Woman down; moves a threatening hand over his utility belt.

BATMAN

Not going to happen.

GREEN LANTERN

So you get to know our secrets, and we're just supposed to trust you?

BATMAN

You'd be a fool to trust me. But you're going to listen to me because you know I'm right.

SUPERMAN

What you are is arrogant. And deceitful. And manipulative.

BATMAN

And you're a choirboy. Diana's right. You're our best chance against those aliens, but if you don't learn to get mad, we're going to lose.

(to Wonder Woman)

And you, you better learn to channel that anger or there won't be a planet left to save.

FLASH

(raises his hand)

Um, quick question: who died? And follow-up: how did their death make you god?

BATMAN

Your brains died.

GREEN LANTERN

Excuse me?

BATMAN

Your dependence on your powers has made you stupid. Sloppy. Careless. You think normal people can't touch you, but I figured out your lives in less than a day -

Fed up, Green Lantern starts to float away.

GREEN LANTERN

You know what? I've had enough of being manipulated and insulted for one day.

(MORE)

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

I need to go back so my very pretty girlfriend of one day can break up with me for coming here participate in your little psychology experiment. If those aliens come back, all of you just stay out of my way.

He flies away.

Superman and Wonder Woman stare at each other for a lingering moment. Then they fly (or leap) off in opposite directions.

Batman turns to Flash, who just shakes his head at Batman in disgust.

FLASH

Mm. Mm. Mm. Ought to be ashamed of yourself.

And Flash DISAPPEARS in a gust of wind, leaving Batman alone.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Hal Jordan enters his hotel room. It's empty. Carol's clothes and bags are gone. And so is she.

Hal collapses onto the bed. Buries his head in his hands.

INT. BATCAVE - NIGHT

Cowl off, Batman puts himself through a grueling workout. He's simultaneously attacked by a half dozen high tech KUNG FU WOODEN DUMMIES.

Simulated punches and kicks fly at him from all angles. He dodges, blocks, and counter-attacks effortlessly.

An AUTOMATED VOICE chimes out every time he makes contact with his robotic opponents.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Hit! Shattered larynx! Hit! Broken femur.

Above his head, over the fighting, the walls are lined with a dozen flatscreens, each tuned to a different news station or police band.

Batman is impressively able to follow Meet The Press on one of the screens as he fights.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. MEET THE PRESS SET - CONTINUOUS

Secretary of Defense Amanda Waller is taking questions from DAVID GREGORY.

AMANDA WALLER

... every scanner and deep space sensor on the planet says there's no incoming craft within several hundred light years. The alien threat is over. We're focusing our efforts on The Superman.

DAVID GREGORY

You seem convinced The Superman is a threat, but there are reports of him blowing out fires, flying children to safety. What do you say to the growing belief that Superman may be an ally?

AMANDA WALLER

That attitude is dangerously naive at best. Even now I'm hearing reports that these costumed warriors may be in league with each other. We can't afford to be unprepared for -

As he lands a final disabling blow on one of his sparring dummies, Bruce has had enough.

BRUCE WAYNE

TVs, mute.

The flatscreens go silent. Alfred stands at the ready with a towel and some water.

ALFRED

I trust these vulgar rumors of you engaging in the altogether human pastime of cooperation are exaggerated?

BATMAN

They are.

ALFRED

Thank heavens. You voluntarily sharing your burdens with people willing and able to help you?

(MORE)

ALFRED (CONT'D)

I may have expired from the sheer
disillusionment.

BATMAN

I tried.

ALFRED

Did you? By try, do you mean you
asked for their help, or that you
tried to extort it from them by
fear and manipulation?

BATMAN

Did that Annoying Butler School you
went to have a class on
Constructive Criticism?

ALFRED

It was not my strongest subject,
sir, but I shall endeavor to recall
it. You are a strong tactician, but
that alone doesn't make you a
leader. You chose the mantle of a
bat to strike fear into your
enemies. And for that fight, it is
appropriate.

As Alfred speaks, Batman's attention turns to one of the
flatscreens, on which is a slow zoom on Superman's crest.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

But perhaps what is needed now is
not a symbol of fear, but a symbol
of hope.

EXT. SPACE

Looking down on a planet. Well, less a planet. More a sphere
of pure MOLTEN HELL.

The entirety of it is covered in one tortured, Gothic city-
scape.

Instead of oceans, the surface is dotted with continent-sized
FIRE PITS, which BELCH UP twisted spires of blood-red MAGMA
into the atmosphere.

This is APOKOLIPS.

INT. DARKSEID'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

The walls are "decorated" by writhing, tortured dissidents, whose muffled screams provide the perfect accompaniment for the decor.

The floor is covered in in a living, worm-like lattice of black steel. Between those structures flow rivers of LIVING LAVA.

On the surface of the lava, we swear we can see the faces of more tortured souls, which bubble up in images straight out of the painting The Scream.

Standing above this mini-landscape of terrors, and seemingly soothed by it, stands a broad-shouldered figure of staggering size and power.

His back to us, he is easily NINE FEET TALL. Skin the texture of GRANITE, and the color of ASH.

This is DARKSEID.

At present, he is preoccupied by a mystical/technological floating video display of Superman. Footage from when Superman lifted the Mothership into the air.

In the midst of his vigil, a withered, cruel old crone of a man, DESAAD escorts in Hawkman, and Thanagarian COUNCILOR PARAN.

Like Hawkman, Councilor Paran's headdress resembles the face of a hawk, but the rest of his outfit befits the aristocratic air of an ambassador.

DESAAD

Lord Darkseid. Centurion Katar Hol
and Councilor Paran of Thanagar.

Hawkman kneels through the conversation. Paran bows initially, but remains standing.

Darkseid ignores them as he continues watching footage of Superman.

When he speaks, we recognize his voice as the chillingly deep one we heard in Hawkman's ear earlier.

DARKSEID

You fought this... "Super Man?"

HAWKMAN

Yes.

DARKSEID

And?

HAWKMAN

He did not seem formidable. But I believe he may have been... holding back.

DARKSEID

(never heard the term)
"Holding back?"

HAWKMAN

Not using his full power.

DARKSEID

Ridiculous.

Councilor Paran takes a hesitant step forward.

COUNCILOR PARAN

Lord Darksied. The Thanagarian Empire upheld our end of the treaty. As promised, we helped occupy -

DARKSEID

You failed.

Darkseid turns to them, revealing deep-set GLOWING RED EYES embedded in a face of LIVING ROCK.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

And because of our alliance, the stink of your failure now covers my Empire.

Darkseid walks past them. They rise and follow.

INT. DARKSEID'S PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Darksied leads them down a long corridor. Scores of Darkseid's ELITE GUARDS stand aside to let him pass.

At the end of the corridor are large double doors, behind which we hear the unmistakable sound of a pitched BATTLE.

The doors TREMBLE. The gates of hell are about to be STORMED.

DARKSEID

Word of this "Super Man" has reached even Apokolips.

(MORE)

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

These fools outside herald him as a savior. A messiah.

COUNCILOR PARAN

Lord Darkseid. We formed our alliance because a war between Thanagar and Apokolips would be needlessly costly for both sides. Let us not squander our treaty over a backwater planet like Earth...

Though they are seemingly about to be overrun by whatever army there is outside, Darkseid mysteriously orders the doors to the corridor opened.

He calmly steps into the rear lines of a MASSIVE BATTLE. His troops stand aside to let him pass.

DARKSEID

Earth is no longer just a planet. It is a symbol. A symbol of defiance.

Darkseid finally leads Hawkman and Councilor Paran to his frontlines. They stand face to face now with the forces of this REBELLION.

They are easily TEN THOUSAND strong. Among them are dozens of species of all shapes and sizes.

They fought fearlessly against Darkseid's army, but seeing Darkseid himself, they cower back in fear.

VOICES IN THE REBELLION

Darkseid is here?! He was supposed to be off-world! It's a trap!

Darkseid calmly strolls into the center of the battlefield, as ten thousand rebel soldiers fall back from the advance of one man...

Darkseid motions towards the symbol on the rebel flags: it is a crude drawing of the symbol of SUPERMAN'S CREST...

DARKSEID

Do you see? This "Super Man" is now a symbol of rebellion.

Darkseid holds up a hand to stop Hawkman and Councilor Paran from following him.

He then spreads out his arms wide, in a gesture that almost seems magnanimous. As if he were about to address the rebels.

Then, smiling cruelly, in SUPER SLOW MOTION, he brings his hands together with a DEAFENING BOOM!

Looking down from the sky as the HUGE SHOCK-WAVE from just this small gesture CRASHES into the rebel forces like the shock-wave of a nuclear explosion.

The rebels are TORN TO PIECES and those pieces are thrown back HUNDREDS OF FEET.

After a moment, the smoke clears; reveals MOUNTAINS of shredded corpses.

A few dozen STRAGGLERS drag themselves away from the dead and attempt to flee.

Darkseid's eyes glow blood red, and his OMEGA BEAMS come SCREAMING out.

Wider and more powerful than Superman's HEAT VISION, these beams ZIGZAG at precise angles, tracking down each of a dozen targets in turn, and turning them to SCREAMING ASH.

It's over in seconds. A ten-thousand man army DISINTERGRATED by one man.

Councilor Paran has seen enough. He comes forward, drops to one knee behind Darkseid.

COUNCILOR PARAN

Lord Darkseid. What can Thanagar do to repair our alliance with your great kingdom?

DARKSEID

The question is: what are you willing to do?

COUNCILOR PARAN

Anything!

Darkseid smiles Satanically. His orchestrated show of force has had its intended effect.

DARKSEID

I will return with you to Earth, and personally kill the "Super Man." Your scientists will improve my TERRORFORMERS. Your warriors will deploy with them. Earth will be remade in my image, the image of despair. None shall survive.

Hawkman bristles at this. Darkseid approaches Councilor Paran.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
Do you object?

COUNCILOR PARAN
No, Lord Darkseid.

DARKSEID
Excellent.

Darkseid walks away, leaving Hawkman and Councilor Paran alone. Councilor Paran stands up. Hawkman kneels in front of him.

COUNCILOR PARAN
You would have words?

HAWKMAN
With permission.

COUNCILOR PARAN
Please.

HAWKMAN
Our treaty terms were clear.
Peaceful occupation. No genocide.

COUNCILOR PARAN
The terms have changed.

HAWKMAN
I was a Centurion of the Hawkmen. A
hero of Thanagar.

COUNCILOR PARAN
And so you remain.

HAWKMAN
Father.. I am not a butcher. I do
not slaughter innocents.

Councilor Paran puts a hand on Hawkman's shoulder.

COUNCILOR PARAN
What we were is lost to us. We must
be what we must be to save our
people. I am sorry, son.

INT. DAILY PLANET - CLARK KENT'S CUBICLE - DAY

Clark Kent is checking his email. His attention is piqued by a single mysterious message.

The subject line reads "Exclusive" but it's the sender that's caught his eye: "Deceitful Manipulator."

He opens the message. The text reads:

"Midnight. Daily Planet roof. Alone. No electronics."

The signature is a typographical symbol for a BAT.

Clark grimaces.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - NIGHT

Clark Kent waits, alone. Checks his watch. 12:15 AM. He sighs, grabs his coat to leave. But stops at the sound of a man clearing his throat.

CLARK KENT

Is anybody there?

Batman steps out of the shadows. Clark backpedals, as if startled.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

How long have you been watching?

BATMAN

You tell me.

CLARK KENT

How would I know that, Mr.... What am I supposed to call you?

Batman wands Clark with an electronic scanner. It BEEPS over Superman's right breast pocket.

BATMAN

I said no electronics.

Clark Kent pulls out a beeper.

CLARK KENT

It's just my beeper. No camera or audio recorder.

(explaining)

Cell phones give you brain cancer.

BATMAN

Are we going to keep this up all night?

CLARK KENT

Keep what up all night?

BATMAN

Pretending I don't know who you really are.

CLARK KENT

I believe you're confusing me with someone else Mr... Uh... Batman. Besides, if I was this person you're mistaking me for, how would I know you weren't hiding a recorder yourself? Say, in a specially-lined compartment in your belt?

BATMAN

(almost smiling)

Good. You're learning.

CLARK KENT

Why don't we just talk about why you're here?

BATMAN

I'd like you to... deliver a message. To Superman.

CLARK KENT

How would I do that? I doubt he reads my column.

BATMAN

Tell him the world needs him to stop hiding. Tell him the world needs him to step into the light.

CLARK KENT

Why would the world need that?

BATMAN

They're scared of us. Too scared to pay attention to the real threat. We need someone to reassure them.

CLARK KENT

And you think that person should be The Superman?

BATMAN

However afraid he thinks people are
of him, hiding only makes it worse.

Batman turns to leave.

CLARK KENT

Wait! There are rumors that you
have no enhanced abilities. That
you're just a man under that suit.

Batman doesn't respond.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

The Superman... you're not afraid
of him?

BATMAN

No.

CLARK KENT

Why?

BATMAN

Because he's afraid of himself.

Clark's not sure how to take this.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Not an insult. All good men are
afraid of their potential for evil.
But the great ones don't let that
hold them back from their potential
for good.

(beat)

I think Superman could be one of
the great ones.

Clark thinks this through. Batman turns to leave. Pauses.
Turns back to Clark.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

(embarrassed)

If you tell anyone other than
Superman I said that, I'll deny it.

He then leaps off the roof. Clark Kent cracks a smile as he
watches him swing away.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Flowers in hand, Barry makes his way over to Janice's cot. Janice is reading a book. Doesn't look up from it to acknowledge Barry's presence.

JANICE
Still here?

BARRY
Just can't let you go, girl.

Barry offers her the flowers. Janice stares over them up at him.

JANICE
Barry, what do you know about me?

BARRY
Uh... you're smart... you're funny...?

JANICE
Am I? What do you know about me?

BARRY
I want to get to know you...

JANICE
You know I rejected you. You're not here for me, you're here for your ego.

BARRY
(complete bullshit)
Not true. I'm serious about you.

JANICE
Hand to God: have you tried to sleep with another woman in the past 24 hours?

BARRY
(thinking)
Keystone time or Metropolis time?

JANICE
You don't have a serious bone in your body.

BARRY
(grinning)
I'd like to put a serious bone in your -

SLAP! Janice swats him across the face.

JANICE

One day, you're going to meet
someone you are serious about. And
I hope you get serious before then.

She walks off. Leaving Barry to think.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President is surrounded by his STAFF. Amanda Waller enters, clutching a manila folder to her chest.

AMANDA WALLER

Give us the room.

Off the President's okay, his staff exits.

THE PRESIDENT

How can I help you, General Waller?

AMANDA WALLER

Coast Guard got wind of a
disturbance near a construction
site in Metropolis Bay.

She drops the folder on the President's desk.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)

Local crews were unavailable, but
satellite surveillance picked up
this.

The President looks through blurry aerial photos of Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, and Flash talking to each other.

THE PRESIDENT

They look like they're just
talking...

AMANDA WALLER

Each of those people is more
powerful than an army battalion,
and they just happen to have a
secret meeting in the one spot in
Metropolis we can't effectively
monitor? They're planning
something.

The President paces. Thinks.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)
We asked them to come in; they
didn't. Now we have to bring them
in.

THE PRESIDENT
You saw what The Superman can do.
I'm not sending our boys up against
that without serious proof of -

Amanda hands him another piece of paper.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
What's this?

AMANDA WALLER
My resignation. If I can't deal
with a massive threat to national
security inside our own borders,
then I can't do my job.

THE PRESIDENT
Fine, Amanda. What do you suggest?

Amanda Waller smiles cryptically.

EXT. METROPOLIS WATERFRONT - NIGHT

Chaos on Metropolis Bay. Red and blue sirens, the waters
choked with law enforcement boats from a half dozen separate
agencies.

In the distance, the Statue of Liberty is lit up with the
searchlights of dozens of swarming police helicopters.

A local news CORRESPONDENT standing on the waterfront
reports:

CORRESPONDENT
Crisis on Liberty Island...

As she speaks, a line of water leaps off the bay behind her,
as if something was RACING across the surface.

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)
An unknown terrorist group has
taken control of the statue and
surrounding area...

EXT. LIBERTY ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Dozens of armed, HIGH TECH TERRORISTS stalk the grounds, in a tense stand-off with the police forces swarming the bay.

CORRESPONDENT (O.S.)
... as many as 500 hostages believe
to be held inside...

Unseen by them, a familiar red and gold BLUR moves blows past and into the lower statue entrance.

CORRESPONDENT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Along with a bomb at the statue's
base...

INT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - GIFT SHOP - CONTINUOUS

A few patrolling terrorists walk through frame. After they pass, the Flash comes SILENTLY VIBRATING through a nearby wall.

He takes a knee, surveys the situation.

Behind him, emerging almost supernaturally from the shadows, Batman approaches. Taps him on the shoulder.

Flash nearly JUMPS out of his costume, then glares at Batman for scaring him.

Batman uses military hand signals to communicate to him: two bogies to the left, three bogies to the right.

Flash responds with some nonsensical baseball hand signals, ending with a Three Stooges flourish.

Batman just stares at him with the scariest, least-amused stare of all time. Flash wisely swallows his smile.

Batman motions for him to just be quiet. Flash pantomimes zipping and locking his lips shut.

As they crouch forward to silently make their move...

KA-BOOM! Wonder Woman comes very, very loudly crashing through the roof!

The startled terrorists try to radio for help, but BRIGHT GREEN GAGS materialize over their mouths, muffling them to silence!

Strands of GREEN ENERGY rip their guns from their hands and BREAK them over their heads, knocking them out.

Green Lantern descends from the lofted ceiling, shaking his head at Wonder Woman, Batman, and The Flash.

GREEN LANTERN
Amateurs.

INT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - VISITOR'S CENTER - OVERHANG - NIGHT

A large open air area. Our heroes look down on the lobby below from an overhang on the second floor.

Scores of terrorists guard about a hundred bound and gagged HOSTAGES arranged human-shield style around a large BOMB.

BATMAN
(whispers)
We should -

GREEN LANTERN
(whispers)
- you should shut up and be glad we're not ripping your head off.

WONDER WOMAN
(not whispering)
Agreed.

GREEN LANTERN
(whispers)
And you should look up "subtlety" in your big clumsy Amazon to English dictionary!

Wonder Woman rises, stares Lantern down.

WONDER WOMAN
(whispering through clenched teeth)
And you will have trouble using your rings without any hands...

FLASH
(whispers)
And I would like to know why you're all talking like this...

Batman ignores their banter. Something below has caught his attention.

BATMAN
(whispers)
Wait. Why aren't there any kids?

The others look down. There are no children among the hostages.

FLASH
(shrugs)
School night?

Batman realizes something. Immediately fires a grappling hook up at the ceiling.

The others watch as he goes LOUDLY repelling out of the room.

GREEN LANTERN
What are you doing?!

The terrorists turn their guns up towards them at the commotion.

The hostages SHRUG OFF THEIR BONDS and stand up brandishing guns. They all wear NSA BULLETPROOF VESTS!

NSA AGENTS (HOSTAGES AND TERRORISTS)
FREEZE! HANDS OVER YOUR HEADS!

FLASH
Oh, crap...

Flash DISAPPEARS in a gust of wind. Wonder Woman looks confused.

WONDER WOMAN
(still whispering)
What's going on?

Green Lantern flies for the roof.

GREEN LANTERN
Trap! Run!

WONDER WOMAN
(shout-whispering)
May I stop being subtle now?

GREEN LANTERN
I would!

Wonder Woman PUNCHES her way through a nearby wall...

EXT. LIBERTY ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Flash comes running out of the statue and runs into a SOLID WALL of NSA agents dozens of men thick, who have now surrounded the entire island.

NSA AGENTS
 DROP YOUR WEAPONS! HANDS ON YOUR
 HEADS!

Green Lantern flies out of the Statue's roof, and is immediately surrounded by dozens of military helicopters shining search lights in his face.

NSA AGENTS (CONT'D)
 (over helicopter
 loudspeakers)
 DOWN ON THE GROUND! NOW!

Lantern looks around - sees no way out of the trap without engaging US officials.

He floats to the ground and joins Flash, Batman, and Wonder Woman.

The NSA agents crowd in, but stay a careful step back. Chairman Amanda Waller herself emerges from their ranks. Gets face to face with Batman and the others.

AMANDA WALLER
 I am General Amanda Waller,
 Chairwoman of the Joint Chiefs of
 Staff. By order of the President of
 the United States, you are ordered
 to stand down and come in for
 questioning.

BATMAN
 Are we under arrest?

AMANDA WALLER
 Something like that. Where is the
 Superman?

GREEN LANTERN
 We don't know.

AMANDA WALLER
 You're lying.

ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Superman floats above the chaos, scanning the area with his telescopic vision.

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 We know you're working with him.
 Tell us where he is.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)
 What part of "we don't know" don't
 you understand?

AMANDA WALLER
 So tell us what you do know. What's
 his name? What can he do?

Superman hesitates over this debate; conflicted. He starts to
 fly away, then stops. Makes a decision.

BACK ON LIBERTY ISLAND

Tensions are mounting as Amanda advances on Batman.

WONDER WOMAN
 Those questions are not for us to
 answer.

AMANDA WALLER
 You'll answer whatever I ask, WNBA,
 or I'll have you prosecuted for
 aiding and abetting a fugitive.

BATMAN
 What exactly will you do with him
 once you've caught him?

AMANDA WALLER
 Is that supposed to be a threat?

BATMAN
 Are you supposed to be a threat, to
 him?

Amanda grabs one of the assault rifles from her NSA agents.

AMANDA WALLER
 I'm going to ask you one more time.
 Where is he?

SUPERMAN (O.S.)
 Here.

They all look up as Superman gracefully descends from the sky
 to join them.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
 I'm here.

The NSA all instinctively fall back a step at the sight of
 him. Visibly afraid.

Superman is also visibly nervous. He puts his hands over his head.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

I'm... I'm not going to hurt anyone. I'll answer... I'll answer what I can...

AMANDA WALLER

What's your name?

SUPERMAN

Just... you can just call me Superman.

AMANDA WALLER

- Your real name.

SUPERMAN

I can't tell you. I have family... I don't want them hurt. That's also why my friends here can't take off their masks.

AMANDA WALLER

Your friends? So you are in league with each other?

SUPERMAN

No. I mean, not really. We barely know each other. But I believe.. In my heart I think... we're all just trying to help...

AMANDA WALLER

And why should we trust that?

Superman thinks for a second.

SUPERMAN

I guess you shouldn't. I guess you can't.

Superman's nervousness combined with his power is off-putting. Like a nervous man with a gun.

It makes him even more suspicious. Which makes the soldiers more scared of him.

He sees the fear in their eyes - this is backfiring.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Look... can we start over?

AMANDA WALLER

Sure. Drop your weapons, take off your masks, and come in for questioning.

Not thinking about how it looks, Superman drops his hands; approaches.

SUPERMAN

Maybe some compromise could be -

Amanda Waller levels her gun at Superman.

AMANDA WALLER

- Stay where you are! This isn't a negotiation.

GREEN LANTERN

Easy!

AMANDA WALLER

All of you, get on your knees! Now!

Wonder Woman steps forward; indignant.

WONDER WOMAN

You impudent cow - !

Amanda Waller cocks her weapon.

AMANDA WALLER

Bitch, I will -

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

A series of deafening THUNDERCLAPS from the sky. The Statue of Liberty itself ROCKS from an EARTHQUAKE.

The NSA agents are thrown to the ground from the VIOLENT TREMORS.

Superman and the others look around for the source of the cacophony, but Waller, as she gets to her feet, makes the natural assumption.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)

They're attacking! Open fire!

FLASH

Wait! That wasn't us!

The NSA units OPEN FIRE. Lantern surrounds everyone in a giant, bullet-proof BUBBLE of green light.

The NSA agents weapons DISAPPEAR in a blur, and Flash appears holding two arm-fulls of their rifles.

FLASH (CONT'D)
You'll get these back after class.

Amanda approaches Lantern's bubble.

AMANDA WALLER
Now, you're under arrest. Attacking
a federal official, resisting
arrest -

GREEN LANTERN
Hey. Lunatic. It wasn't us.

AMANDA WALLER
Don't try to con me, Lone Ranger. I
was going on Black Ops missions
when you were still a little green
crayon in your momma's box...

FLASH
Eww...

Hearing something, Batman puts a hand over his ear-piece. He walks away from them to listen to an incoming communication.

Suddenly concerned, he turns back to Amanda Waller.

BATMAN
General Waller, answer your phone.

AMANDA WALLER
And don't think I forgot about you -

BATMAN
- Answer. Your phone.

AMANDA WALLER
What are you talking ab-

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Waller's phone rings. Embarrassed, infuriated, she glares at Batman as she answers.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)
Chairman Waller. What?! Where?!
How many?

FLASH
What's going on?

AMANDA WALLER
Classified.

GREEN LANTERN
We can't help you if you don't -

AMANDA WALLER
We don't need your help - !

Annoyed, Batman pushes a button on his utility belt, and we can hear Amanda's phone call broadcast OUT LOUD from speakers in his suit.

VOICE ON WALLER'S PHONE
... at least four massive alien contacts! One over southeastern China, one on the coast of Australia, one over the Pacific Ocean, and one over... Yellowstone Park.

AMANDA WALLER
(dropping her phone in anger)
You are eavesdropping on a top level secure channel -

BATMAN
- Sue me.

AMANDA WALLER
Count on it.

VOICE ON WALLER'S PHONE
Reports of giant webs of light, then a loud BOOM and the ships just... appeared.

FLASH
See? Not us.

Green Lantern turns to leave.

GREEN LANTERN
I'm on it. You guys okay here?

BATMAN
Wait.

He turns to Amanda Waller.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
This seem right to you?

AMANDA WALLER
No.

FLASH

What?

BATMAN

Those areas are strategically insignificant. No military targets, no command and control...

AMANDA WALLER

No population centers, no infrastructure. Why attack there?

GREEN LANTERN

(floating away)

You two have fun figuring it out after I've stopped them.

BATMAN

Listen to me!

GREEN LANTERN

Listen to you? Are you serious?

SUPERMAN

Wait. I think he's right.

GREEN LANTERN

Do you, now? And I should care because...?

FLASH

Because there's four ships, man. How do you plan on stopping them by yourself?

GREEN LANTERN

One at a time.

WONDER WOMAN

No. Lantern, I loathe the bat as much as you. But he is right. We are no good to this world alone.

Lantern reluctantly floats back to Earth.

GREEN LANTERN

Not sure we're so great for it together.

(to Batman)

I assume you have a plan?

Batman reaches into his utility belt.

BATMAN
Not really.

FLASH
Wait, is he serious...?

BATMAN
Take these.

He offers them several small earbuds. Not trusting him, they just stare at them in his hand.

Batman partially peels back one of the "bat ears" on his cowl, revealing a similar device.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Shortwave audio/video transmitters,
networked together. To relay
intelligence.

The others take the earbuds, insert them.

FLASH
And are we sure these won't worm
their way into our brains and eat
our thoughts?

BATMAN
Given their deployment pattern,
it's likely occupation isn't their
primary objective. Approach with
caution; observe. Figure out what
they're after.

SUPERMAN
(to Green Lantern)
Can you get to the Pacific?

GREEN LANTERN
Done.

FLASH
I'll take Australia.

They look at him; confused.

SUPERMAN
You fly?

FLASH
Nope.

Flash walks to the edge of the island. Exaggeratedly stretches.

FLASH (CONT'D)

I float.

VRAAAAMMMMM! He speeds off, RUNNING ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.

GREEN LANTERN

That is one talented idiot.

Green Lantern flies away in the opposite direction. Wonder Woman steps forward.

WONDER WOMAN

Where do you need me?

BATMAN

Here. Protecting the city.

WONDER WOMAN

(overlapping)

Me?

SUPERMAN

(overlapping)

Her?

BATMAN

They attacked here first. This could be a rouse to lure us away, leave the city unguarded.

SUPERMAN

Then I'll stay.

BATMAN

You can get to China in 10 minutes. She can't.

WONDER WOMAN

No... I am a warrior. I should be in the fight.

BATMAN

This is the fight.

SUPERMAN

(re: Wonder Woman)

You remember what happened last time, right? Are you sure this is a great idea?

BATMAN

Not really.

WONDER WOMAN

Wait... this task should not fall to me. I was protector of a city once... I failed, and...

BATMAN

So don't fail.

Batman walks away. Superman reluctantly approaches Wonder Woman.

SUPERMAN

Not exactly Knute Rockney.
(off her confused look)
He's sort of an inspirational... never mind. Look, we've had our differences, but the one thing I know about you is when people are in trouble you show up. You can do this.

(floating away)

Get to the Daily Planet roof. You can see the whole city.

Wonder Woman nods. Superman flies off. Wonder Woman leaps away, leaving Batman alone.

Waller was waiting for this. She snatches up the guns Flash dropped on the ground. The other NSA follow suit.

AMANDA WALLER

And then there was one.

Batman turns a switch inside his ear-piece.

BATMAN

Not now.

AMANDA WALLER

Yes. Now-OW! OWWWW!

EEEEEEEEEEEE! A high pitched, sonic WAIL, like a MILLION BATS SHRIEKING AT ONCE, rains down from the heavens. The NSA agents drop to their knees, clutch their ears.

The Batplane from which SHRIEKING emanates appears overhead. It drops a line which Batman steps onto.

BATMAN

Not. Now.

The line retracts, pulling Batman into the cockpit. The plane BLASTS off over the skyline.

Amanda Waller gets to her feet. Gets on her phone.

AMANDA WALLER
Scramble all F-15s. Follow him!

Batman's raspy VOICE interrupts on the line.

BATMAN (O.S.)
They won't catch me.

Amanda Waller stares at her phone; enraged.

AMANDA WALLER
(through clenched teeth)
Get off this line you miserable son
of a -

BATMAN (O.S.)
- Look at your phones. I'm putting
all my cards on the table. Live
broadcasting all our video, all my
sensors, all my telemetry to all
military and police channels.

Waller looks at her smart phone. It displays a live video
image of Batman.

The image breaks down into four quadrants, showing infra-red,
radar images, etc.

BATMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
If we don't survive, we'll try to
get you some kind of intelligence
advantage.

AMANDA WALLER
You think this makes us even?

BATMAN (O.S.)
No. You owe me.

EXT. ABOVE CHINA - DAY

Superman is already speeding over the Chinese countryside.
His eyes turn blue as he scans ahead.

SUPERMAN
Are you seeing this?

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

Batman is looking at the POV from Superman's communicator on his dashboard. It's just a blur of super-speed motion.

BATMAN

Not yet. Describe it for me.

Superman's telescoping POV of a TERRORFORMER, a massive, gleaming tower of doom - a GOTHIC SKYSCRAPER ominously descending from space.

SUPERMAN

It's not like before. It's some kind of tower.

KA-BOOM! The Terrorformer lands in a dense Chinese forest; the shock wave of the impact sends a tsunami of earth and broken trees miles in every direction.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

And it just landed...

BATMAN

What else do you see?

Air docks open up on the sides of the terrorformer, and scores of THANAGARIAN WARBIRDS emerge from within.

Larger and more menacing than the earlier warships, the face of these Warbirds bears a striking resemblance to Hawkman's mask...

SUPERMAN

It's got friends. These look like the angry, big brothers of the guys we fought before. One second...

The Warbirds come SCREAMING in at Superman; unleash a BLISTERING barrage of laser fire.

Superman dips and banks to evade; then returns fire, alternately SLICING them in half with his heat vision or PUNCHING through them like a human missile.

The Warbirds break off their approach; assemble in a tight formation around the Terrorformer.

Panels extend from their hulls, from which large, rotary guns emerge. But instead of launching missiles, they launch SPEARS.

Superman smirks at their approach; slows his flight and stands upright in the air, so his opponents can see their puny spears ricochet off his chest.

But instead, the first spear in SLICES PAINFULLY across Superman's shoulder, leaving a trail of BLOOD.

Shocked, Superman looks at the wound. It CRACKLES with the same mystical energy from Hawkman's mace... He looks up...

Superman's POV of HUNDREDS of spears crackling with the same energy headed right for him...

Superman EXPLODES out of range, running for his life. But the spears HOME IN on him... banking and turning with him!

Superman flips over on his back in mid-air. Flies backwards as he shoots down the incoming spears with his heat vision.

Head on a SUPER-SPEED SWIVEL, he miraculously gets all of them, except one...

.. which he SNATCHES from the air a split second before it impaled his EYE! His eyes turn blue as he examines it.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Nth metal.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

Batman looks at the POV from Superman's camera on his dashboard.

BATMAN

That's what I'm calling it until I can figure out its atomic number.

SUPERMAN

1354. Give or take.

Batman double takes at this. Then looks at Superman's POV of all the Warbirds surrounding the Terrorformer.

BATMAN

Even you won't survive a direct assault...

Superman looks at the ground below.

SUPERMAN

Got it. The indirect approach.

Superman DIVES. In an EXPLOSION of sediment, he PUNCHES through the Earth's crust like a human BUNKER BUSTER.

UNDERGROUND with Superman as he churns through earth and rock like a hot knife through butter. His eyes turn blue...

His Telescoping, X-Ray POV. He sees a MASSIVE DRILL extending down from the tower's base. It seems to be digging for the Earth's core.

As Superman approaches, his tunnel starts to glow a familiar, faint blue. Weakened, Superman stops, looks:

The drill has the same energy signature as the spears - it's made of Nth metal.

Superman turns upward, EXPLODES into the sky in a shower of sediment.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

It's a drill!

We INTERCUT with Batman, Green Lantern, Flash, Wonder Woman, and Amanda Waller at their various places around the globe.

Batman examines Superman's footage on his dashboard.

BATMAN

A what?

SUPERMAN

A drill! And it's gigantic!

Green Lantern is flying over the Atlantic Ocean.

GREEN LANTERN

What are they drilling for? Oil?

BATMAN

They have trans-galactic spacecraft. I doubt they're still using fossil fuels.

GREEN LANTERN

Then what?

Wonder Woman stands under the globe on the Daily Planet roof; she's frustrated and itching for action.

WONDER WOMAN

What does it matter what they want?!

Amanda Waller is speeding over New York City in a helicopter.

AMANDA WALLER

I'm with WNBA. Take it down now,
we'll figure it out later.

Flash speeds across the surface of the Indian Ocean,
approaching Australia.

FLASH

Wait! Magma!

BATMAN

What?

FLASH

Magma! The largest geological
hotspot in North America is in
Yellowstone. And isn't the biggest
one on the planet in the Pacific...

Batman is looking on geological readouts on his dashboard.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

No offense, Flash, but let's leave
the science to the -

BATMAN

- He's right.

In a graphic on Batman's dashboard, images representing the
Terrorformers sit on large, glowing red circles representing
huge magma deposits.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Those towers are on the world's
four largest hotspots.

The computer simulates an underground explosion at those
locations. Red circles representing lava cover the globe.

The resulting attack would create CONTINENT-SIZED FIRE PITS,
turning Earth into an exact replica of APOKOLIPS.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

An underground explosion in those
locations would trigger an
extinction level geological event.

AMANDA WALLER

This isn't an invasion. It's an
extermination. We have to take
those towers down! Now!

Superman is scanning around the Terrorformer with his X-Ray
vision.

SUPERMAN

The drill is made of that Nth metal. I can't get near it.

EXT. OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern approaches another identical terrorformer, towering over the Pacific Ocean.

GREEN LANTERN

Hang back, big guy. After I take this one down, I'll be over to help.

Warbirds come streaking from the docks in the Terrorformer and come screaming in towards Lantern, lasers BLARING.

Lantern surrounds himself in a protective bubble that DEFLECTS their laser fire back at them.

He THROWS himself into their ranks; his protective bubble grows rows of oscillating SPIKES, like a giant metal mace!

The spikes CHURN as he collides into a half dozen unfortunate Warbirds, GRINDING into scrap metal.

As they did with Superman, the Warbirds break off their assault and assemble in formation around the Terrorformer.

Lantern flies right for them, extends a construct of a shield/battering ram slightly ahead of him.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Careful, Lantern.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

Batman watches Lantern's POV of the Warbirds preparing to fire.

BATMAN

That metal could have properties that effect your ring.

As Batman speaks, a SHOWER of Nth metal spheres go CHUNKING into Lantern's shield!

The shield holds, BARELY, but one of the spears penetrates clear through the shield, nearly hitting Lantern in the head!

GREEN LANTERN
(scared shitless)
Uh... nothing I can't handle.

Lantern wisely extends the shield further out away from his face, as SCORES of spears EMBED themselves in it.

His shield now resembling a giant green PINCUSHION, Lantern SINKS from the sheer accumulated weight.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
Okay. Maybe a little more than I
can handle.

BATMAN (O.S.)
You need back-up?

GREEN LANTERN
No! I got it.

Straining with the effort, Lantern REFORMS his shield with the spears still in it!

He reshapes it into a giant GATLING GUN, pulling the Nth metal spears into the chambers.

Lantern opens her up, BLASTING the spears right back at the Warbirds.

The Warbirds drop like flies. They break off formation around the Terrorformer to evade the incoming fire.

Lantern spots his opportunity.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
I'm going in.

He streaks into the gap in their formation. Covers himself in a green field and DIVES into the water below.

UNDERWATER, as Lantern spots the giant Nth metal drill burrowing into the earth.

Lantern constructs a giant, shoulder-mounted LASER CANNON. Fires a wide, powerful beam of pure energy at the drill!

But the Nth Metal just REFRACTS the beam like a giant PRISM, sending the energy back at Lantern in dozens of directions!

Lantern evades the blasts. But has no time to rest. He looks up curiously as dozens of large shadows move overhead.

The Warbirds have reformed above him, and are dumping dozens of DEPTH CHARGES (underwater explosives) on his head!

Lantern constructs giant AQUA PROPELLERS on his back, speeds away as giant, bubbling, watery EXPLOSIONS go off behind him!

Lantern comes bursting out of the water, flies off in a frustrated retreat.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
That Nth metal stuff... it's like
some kind of energy prism. It
just... REFRACTS whatever I hit it
with...

EXT. INDIAN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT W/ BATMAN

Flash is approaching another Terrorformer just off the Australian coast.

BATMAN (O.S.)
Flash, can you vibrate through
their defenses?

FLASH
(sure I can!)
Can I vibrate through their
defenses?!
(maybe I can't?)
No, seriously, I'm asking. Can I
vibrate through their defenses?

Batman FACEPALMS.

BATMAN
Just... try.

The Warbirds emerge from the Terrorformer to greet Flash.. The dive to Flash's level, skimming the surface of the water as they approach.

Flash effortlessly dodges their volley of laser fire, seemingly TELEPORTING around on the water's surface.

In a BLINK he DISAPPEARS in a HUGE rush of water, picking up enormous speed.

He then REAPPEARS as he SKIDS to a QUARTER-MILE-LONG-STOP on the water's surface.

This kicks up a COLOSSAL TIDAL WAVE in his path. It SMASHES some of the intercepting Warbirds before they can break away.

The other Warbirds manage to rise out of the range of the wave. They open up the Nth spear cannons and fire!

Flash dodges and weaves, changes trajectory to avoid them. But they move to cut him off with volleys of spear fire, eventually surrounding him.

With him trapped, they drop DEPTH CHARGES down on his position. Flash takes a deep breath and DIVES underwater.

His feet churn at superhuman speed, making Flash nearly as fast underwater as he is on top of it!

In the blink of an eye, he's a quarter of a mile deep, well out of the range of the depth charges exploding overhead.

Then, he turns upwards towards, picks up INSANE speed as he swims up for the water's surface.

He EXPLODES out of the ocean, his speed sends him ROCKETING hundreds of feet into the air like a SUPER-SONIC DOLPHIN!

In SLO-MOTION Flash is flying right at one of the Warbirds. His body VIBRATES at SUPER-SPEED!

VERRRAAAAAM! Flash goes THROUGH the Warbird, causing the Warbird to VIBRATE at the same frequency!

But the Warbird can't take the vibrational energy - it SHAKES ITSELF APART in a violent explosion!

Flash leaps from Warbird to Warbird, phasing through them shaking them to pieces.

The remaining Warbirds pull back; go into an "armored" mode; Nth metal shielding slides down over exposed sections.

Flash comes SCREAMING in towards the armored Warbirds, and CLANK! FACEPLANTS against the Nth metal armor.

He comically slides down the side of the ship Looney-Tunes-style and plummets to the water below.

INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

The screen with Flash's video on it suddenly goes to static.

BATMAN
Flash? What happened?
(no response)
Flash, come in...

Long pause, then, Flash emerges from the water, still groggy.

FLASH

Flash can't come to the phone right now. Due to all the pretty birdies flying around his head.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Flash...

FLASH

That Ninth metal stuff? It matched my vibrational frequency. I can't phase through it.

CUT TO:

The Batplane's high-speed-POV, as rolling green hills give way to the sight of a well-defended Terrorformer ahead.

EXT/INT. BATPLANE - CONTINUOUS

The Batplane CLOAKS; goes invisible as it slows to a HALT.

Inside, Batman flips dozens of switches and dials. His live video feeds are replaced by sciency-looking readouts.

BATMAN

Everyone, pull back. I'm bathing this thing in every scanner known to man. If it has a weakness, I'll -

Something on his dashboard catches his eye. One of the screens is just a zoomed in image on the Terrorformer, which is about a mile away.

And who should the camera be zooming in on than HAWKMAN himself, supremely pissed off, hovering ahead of his troops.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

One in four shot. Of course, I win the jackpot.

On screen, Hawkman ominously makes EYE-CONTACT with the camera. He squints as if looking in our direction.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, come on...

Hawkman's face on the screen flashes with recognition and fury. He sees us! He tears off straight towards camera.

The Batplane drops its cloak, BANKS HARD and blasts the hell out of there. Hawkman is hot on his heels.

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)
Batperson? We lost the telemetry
feeds.

BATMAN
Concentrate on containing the
damage. I'm going to be busy for a
while.

Rear-facing cameras in the cockpit give Batman a view of Hawkman gaining on him. No use trying to outrun him.

The Batplane swivels in mid-air, turns to face its attacker. It fires off a volley of CLUSTER BOMBS in Hawkman's path.

Scores of tiny explosives surround Hawkman and EXPLODE, kicking him around the sky like a pinball.

Hawkman plummets to Earth, seemingly felled. But no, he was merely diving down out of range of Batman's attacks.

He comes back with a vengeance. From a new, full quiver on his back, he pulls out a single, shimmering NTH METAL SPEAR.

With superhuman strength and supernatural aim, he LAUNCHES it. The Batplane BANKS HARD to avoid it, but...

KA-CHUNK! The spear IMPALES the Batplane's opaque cockpit DEAD CENTER, right where Batman's head would be!

We can't see if Batman was directly hit, but the Batplane STALLS OUT in midair; drops into an UNCONTROLLED DIVE.

Falling with the Batplane, the cockpit windshield BUCKLES from another impact - but this impact came from the INSIDE.

Another impact. Then ANOTHER. Finally, Batman's foot KICKS OUT the shattered cockpit windshield.

The spear is embedded in Batman's headrest. Wearing an oxygen mask, Batman is ducked down underneath it. Missed by inches!

He desperately punches out the remaining bits of shattered glass, clearing his field of vision enough so he can see the ground racing up at him!

He pulls back on the controls with all his might, manages to bring the Batplane level INCHES before it would have crashed into the tree-tops below.

Hawkman is still relentlessly in pursuit. Batman changes his tactics. Spotting a clearing, he dives down to ground level.

Batman aims the Batplane right at an approaching tree line. The trees are so tightly-packed, he can't possibly maneuver around them.

But avoiding them isn't his plan. With a flick of a button, panels on the leading edge of the Batplane's wings FOLD BACK revealing RAZOR SHARP LEADING EDGES.

The Batplane hits the tree line like a BUZZ SAW; the Batplane's wings SHEAR off the tops of the trees like a scythe through wheat.

The tree tops come tumbling down in the Batplane's wake right into the flight path of Hawkman.

Hawkman tries to avoid them, but gets BATTERED to the ground as they collapse on top of them.

He lies motionless under the landslide of trees. Then FLEXING his RAZOR SHARP WINGS, he EXPLODES out of the pile.

Enraged, he renews his relentless pursuit; twisting and turning, using his wings to cut the falling trees to pieces.

EXT. YELLOWSTONE CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

A gathering of BOY SCOUTS and their DEN MOTHERS look up from their campfire at the incoming sound of an AVALANCHE.

A path of trees in the forest ahead SHATTERS and COLLAPSES, as if an oncoming GIANT were headed straight for them!

VROOOOM! The Batplane goes SCREAMING over their heads, followed momentarily by the pursuing Hawkman.

The campers DIVE for cover! Rise a second later to find themselves unharmed. But as they rise, their eyes turn upward... towards ominous FALLING SHADOWS.

The entire surrounding tree canopy, a few odd tons of lumber sliced neatly in half by the Batplane, is collapsing inward on their HEADS!

They don't even have time to scream. One YOUNG DEN MOTHER closes her eyes, pulls her child into a futile protective embrace as the shadow of a falling tree approaches...

Then... A LOUD ENGINE ROARS, and the falling shadow stops. Surprised to still be alive, the Young Den Mother opens her eyes; looks up...

The Batplane hovers above the campsite. It's CAUGHT the falling tree on its wings, barely keeping it aloft.

BATMAN
(from Batplane's loud
speaker)
Go! Run!

The campers run screaming away. Batman struggles to keep the Batplane aloft as it is battered by the weight of more falling trees.

Then, his eyes go WIDE, as he spots the massive frame of Hawkman barreling in on him like a bat out of hell!

Hawkman flies to a stop just in front of Batman's exposed cockpit. They both look down at the escaping children.

Batman can't move without dropping the trees and killing everyone below. He's a sitting duck, and Hawkman knows it.

Batman braces himself for the killing strike. But shockingly, while not taking his eyes off Batman, Hawkman sheathes his weapons.

He rises up, spreading his wings wide to share the load of the falling trees. Hawkman and Batman maintain hostile eye contact as the campsite below empties of bystanders.

When the last camper is clear, Hawkman and Batman knowingly nod to each other, as if to say: game back on.

Batman immediately puts the Batplane into a HARD SPIN, dropping all that tonnage of lumber on Hawkman.

But Hawkman was anticipating this, he matches the Batplane's spin, sends the lumber plummeting harmlessly to the ground.

The Batplane speeds off towards another tree line. But Hawkman is tired of this cat and mouse game.

He reaches back into his quiver of spears and UNLOADS a BARRAGE at the Batplane, throwing spears fiercely and accurately with both hands.

The Batplane CLOAKS, attempting to give Hawkman nothing to aim at. But Hawkman sees too well.

Dozens of spears go CHUNKING into an invisible mass in the air. The still-cloaked Batplane bursts into FLAMES, drops...

Batman EJECTS from his still cloaked plane. He tries to deploy his glider wings, but his cape is on FIRE.

He takes out his grapple gun, but there's nothing to attach it to. He desperately searches his utility belt for something, anything to -

WHOOSH! Hawkman SNATCHES Batman out of the air by the scruff of his neck!

He SLAMS Batman against a giant REDWOOD a hundred feet in the air. His supernaturally large and strong hand chokes the life out of Batman.

As Batman nears unconsciousness, he gets a look in Hawkman's eyes. Hawkman's face is flush with fury, but there's something else there...

Regret. Conflict. He doesn't want to kill Batman.

Hawkman loosens his grip on Batman's throat. Presses a spear to his chest.

HAWKMAN

Yield.

THUNK! Hawkman looks down. Batman has attached some kind of high-tech, cylindrical device to Hawkman's chest. It BEEPS.

WRRRAAM! The cylinder EXPLODES with exhaust, like a tiny ROCKET. It PROPELS Hawkman CAREENING away, sends him colliding off a few trees.

Loosed of Hawkman's grip, Batman falls down the tree, feverishly reaching for branches to break his fall.

He painfully bounces off enough tree limbs to survive the fall... but he's in bad shape - covered in burns and cuts.

He lies motionless on the ground for a second. Then, to his surprise, finds himself pulled up by a tiny pair of hands.

It's two of the Boy Scouts from earlier, pulling him to his feet.

BOY SCOUT 1

We got ya.

BOY SCOUT 2

You aight, sir?

Batman's still too groggy to answer. He looks up at an approaching ROAR. His brow furrows, as he stares up at a curious sight...

A fiery, invisible PORCUPINE is falling from the sky, coming right for him. Batman's eyes FLASH with recognition as he realizes what he's seeing.

He scoops the scouts up in his arms, DIVES AWAY just as the INVISIBLE, FLAMING object CRASHES to into the forest.

It was the Batplane! Its malfunctioning cloaking system flickers off and on a few times, before it completely DISAPPEARS.

Batman pulls the scouts to their feet.

BATMAN
Everybody okay?

BOY SCOUT 2
I think so.

But then, the scouts' faces go white with fear. Batman turns, sees Hawkman's terrifying wings towering over him.

He shoos the kids away, and they go running from to the just arriving terrified Young Den Mother.

The innocents cleared, Batman and Hawkman again nod to each other - game on.

Batman fights dirty. In an eye-blink, he shoves a razor-sharp Batarang into Hawkman's THROAT. But it just shatters against Hawkman's stone-hard skin like GLASS.

Hawkman BACKHANDS Batman, and he goes PINWHEELING off a nearby tree. Hawkman stands over him; holds his Nth metal mace over his head.

HAWKMAN
Yield.

Batman feigns being more hurt than he is, tries to bait Hawkman closer. When Hawkman is in range, Batman SWINGS...

But Hawkman effortlessly catches Batman's hand, in which he was hiding a high tech TASER.

Hawkman wrenches Batman's arm to force him to drop it, BREAKING Batman's arm in the process.

Batman yelps in pain. Drops to his knees. Hawkman looms over him, again lowers the mace to his head.

HAWKMAN (CONT'D)
Yield!

For a second, Batman seems spent. Beaten. It's obvious - to keep fighting is suicide. But still, Batman rises.

Infuriated, Hawkman kicks Batman back down to the ground. Stands over him.

HAWKMAN (CONT'D)

What is wrong with you? What is wrong with this planet? You are outnumbered! Out-matched! If you lay down your arms, Darkseid may spare you. Why do you throw your lives away? Why do you force my hand?! Why won't you yield?!

Batman doesn't answer. Saddened, Hawkman has no choice. He takes out one of his Nth metal spears. Readies for the final blow.

But before Hawkman can strike, one of the still on-looking Boy Scouts tears himself from the Young Den Mother's grip.

He picks up a stick, runs over. Trembling with fear, he stands between Hawkman and Batman.

For a moment, he stands alone. Terrified, but unwavering. But then another scout joins him. Then another. And another...

To protect them, even the Young Den Mother runs over, tears flowing, and stands between the children and Hawkman.

Hawkman is stunned. Batman explains as he stumbles to his feet.

BATMAN

You have the numbers. You have the technology. You have all the advantages. You'll probably win. And some people on Earth will give in and accept your tyranny. Sometimes, evil wins.

Batman slowly makes his way through the crowd of Boy Scouts and the Young Den Mother.

He puts himself between them and Hawkman, stares into Hawkman's face defiantly.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

But there will always be a few of us who won't compromise with evil. Who won't make alliances with it. We'll always fight it. And if we die, we die on our feet. Not on our knees.

Hawkman is stunned and moved by this futile display of self-sacrificial bravery. He is visibly confused, conflicted...

Suddenly, a Warbird roars in overhead. It blares out from a loud-speaker.

WARBIRD PILOT

Sir, your transmitter went dead.
Darkseid demands a report.

Hawkman is unmoving. Lost in thought. The Warbird bears its SPEAR LAUNCHERS, aims them at Batman and the children...

WARBIRD PILOT (CONT'D)

Stand clear, sir. We'll clear this
rabble.

Hawkman is still for a moment. Then raises his head. Decided.

WHOOSH! He launches his mace right at the Warbird, and it goes up in a huge explosion.

He shelters Batman and the children under his wings; protecting them from the falling debris.

He stands to his height, offers Batman a hand of friendship.

HAWKMAN

I will die with you, if you will
have me.

Batman stares at Hawkman's outstretched hand.

BATMAN

I have a better idea.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - WAR ROOM - DAY

Amanda Waller enters, and the President silences his squabbling advisors at her approach.

THE PRESIDENT

About goddamn time.

AMANDA WALLER

Apologies, Mr. President. I'm up to
speed.

THE PRESIDENT

That makes one of us! You assured
me this threat was over, Madam
Chairwoman! You assured me they
couldn't come close without us
spotting them! So how and why am I
looking at a global invasion on my
watch?

BATMAN (O.S.)
Teleportation.

THE PRESIDENT
Who is that? Did you bring an
insecure phone into the -

Embarrassed, Waller pulls out her communicator.

AMANDA WALLER
No, sir. This is an... off the
books asset. I've granted him
clearance. Better you don't know
the details.

BATMAN (O.S.)
Waller, listen. It's not a cloak.
They have teleportation technology,
via an object called a Mother Box.

INTERCUT w/ our heroes fighting Darkseid's terrorformers
around the globe.

Green Lantern is underwater. He is constructing giant CLAMPS
to try to FUSE together two separating tectonic plates.

GREEN LANTERN
That's why no one saw them coming
in?

Superman is using his SUPER-BREATH to cool large rivers of
lava the Terrorformer kicked up to the surface of China.

SUPERMAN
So, these things can be anywhere?
At any time?

BATMAN (O.S.)
Theoretically. But if we can access
their technology...

Flash runs in a furious circle on the surface of the sea,
creating a WATER SPOUT that he channels to lava on the
Australian coastline.

FLASH
We can send them back where they
came from!

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)
Or into the sun. So they can't, you
know, turn right back around and
kill us.

FLASH

Right, that sounds better than my thing. Let's do that.

Wonder Woman paces in frustration on the Daily Planet building.

WONDER WOMAN

But these Mother Boxes are inside the towers, which none of you can break into. I told you, you should have let me -

BATMAN (O.S.)

I'll breach the tower's defenses in about two minutes.

WONDER WOMAN

You? How will you do what Superman could not do?

AMANDA WALLER

And while we're asking questions, how do you know all this in the first place?

Batman responds while curiously UPSIDE-DOWN.

BATMAN

Long story. Two minutes.

EXT. YELLOWSTONE TERRORFORMER - CONTINUOUS

Pull back to reveal that Batman is HOG-TIED and slung across Hawkman's shoulder as they fly towards the Terrorformer.

The Warbirds clear Hawkman a path; open their cockpits to applaud the return of their leader with his apparent captive.

Hawkman carries Batman to the top of the tower, where he is saluted by THANAGARIAN OFFICERS guarding the entrance.

THANAGARIAN OFFICER 1

A glorious victory, Centurion Hol. This one felled many of our ranks.

THANAGARIAN OFFICER 2

Shall we take him to the Depths?

HAWKMAN

No. Maintain the ranks. I'll see to his Inquisition personally.

Hawkman walks past them into the tower, and onto an elevator.

INT. YELLOWSTONE TERRORFORMER - NAVIGATION - DAY

The Terrorformer's hub and center of operations. Dozens of alien ENGINEERS toil at various work stations.

At the heart of the room is enshrined a MOTHER BOX, an ipod sized device coordinating all other computers in the room.

Hawkman enters; Batman still effortlessly slung over his shoulders.

HAWKMAN

Clear the room. I need the Mother
Box to interrogate the Earthling.

The Engineers stare at him; don't move. Hawkman tosses Batman to the ground. Pulls out his mace.

HAWKMAN (CONT'D)

You question my orders? Come.
Challenge me. Take my place.

The Engineers sheepishly drop their eyes. File out of the room in a hurry.

Hawkman closes the door behind them. Approaches Batman.

HAWKMAN (CONT'D)

Apologies. Allow me to loose your
bonds.

But Batman bounds up; drops the hi-tech shackles he just picked his way out of at his feet.

BATMAN

Not necessary.
(approaching Mother Box)
How does it work?

HAWKMAN

I don't know. It's not of my world.

Batman activates the communicator in his cowl.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

Waller, The President, and the Joint Chiefs watch as Batman's POV of the Mother Box plays on a big screen.

The symbols on the Mother Box controls are written in an indecipherable alien language.

BATMAN

Waller, can your people give me anything on this?

AMANDA WALLER

Sorry, my xeno-linguists and xeno-technicians are busy being born at the moment.

Batman tentatively reaches for the Mother Box.

BATMAN

Okay. Might take me a few hours to -

As soon as Batman's fingers touch the device, his body goes rigid. He stares off blankly into space.

AMANDA WALLER

What? What happened?

BATMAN

Never mind. It's... sentient. And... I think telepathic... Remarkable. It's teaching me its language....

AMANDA WALLER

Focus, Batman. Can you operate it?

BATMAN

Yes, but according to this one, it's locked down. It can only open boomtubes -

AMANDA WALLER

Boom-what?

BATMAN

- It can only open teleportation portals to the four locations of the other towers.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

So, we're screwed?

BATMAN

No...

AMANDA WALLER

(overlapping)

No...

BATMAN

If we can't send them into the sun...

AMANDA WALLER

... we can send them into each other.

FLASH (O.S.)

If you two lovebirds finish each other's sentences one more time, I'm gonna get suspicious.

BATMAN

When the towers collide, the explosion is going to be catastrophic. Lantern, clear out. You have the fewest bystanders, so I'm sending them to y-

Batman again goes rigid, as if the Mother Box is flooding him with another influx of information.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

Batman?

BATMAN

I'm getting a fifth coordinate coming in... over Metropolis.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

Another tower?

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Mouth agape, Wonder Woman watches something in absolute awe.

WONDER WOMAN

No. Not a tower.

Over the sky of Metropolis, a KALEIDOSCOPIIC SPIDER WEB of pure WHITE LIGHT opens over Metropolis.

Through this ornate gateway, DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP emerges.

It's designed in the shape of Darkseid's HEAD, a grim, black, red-eyed SKULL. Not as big as the Mothership, but even more terrifying.

Wonder Woman watches as it descends over Washington Park (Metropolis' version of Central Park).

A shaft of light (like the one Hawkman descended in the first battle) rains down from its underbelly.

Down that shaft of light, Darkseid makes his slow, ominous descent to Earth.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman looks on.

BATMAN (O.S.)
Diana, what do you see?

WONDER WOMAN
A giant, descending from the sky. I
will meet it in battle.

AMANDA WALLER
No. Wait. He may be attempting to
negotiate.

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Chaos as the streets empty. People run and scream. Sirens blare.

INT. DAILY PLANET - CONTINUOUS

In silent awe, Perry, Lois, and other STAFFERS watch Darkseid descend through Perry's office window.

An alarm blares, shocking them to their senses.

PERRY CLARK
Okay, people. Clear the building!
Get to your assigned shelters.

While others run for the exists, Lois grabs a camera from Perry's desk. Runs against the flow of traffic.

PERRY CLARK (CONT'D)
(spotting Lois)
Lane! Where are you going?! Get to
the shelters!

LOIS LANE
If I'm going down, I'm going down
swinging for the Pulitzer.

Lois races into the stairwell.

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

Wonder Woman prowls the roof impatiently as she watches Darkseid land. He just stands in the park, unmoving.

As people run from him screaming, Darkseid closes his eyes; enraptured. As if their fear PHYSICALLY INVIGORATES him.

BATMAN (O.S.)
What's he doing?

WONDER WOMAN
Nothing. He's just standing there.
Batman, I can end this!

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)
Batman's not in charge here, honey!
Stand down! Wait for him to make
contact.

WONDER WOMAN
This is madness - !

KRAAA-KOOOOOMMMMM!

With the sound of THUNDER, the sky above Darkseid's throne ship IONIZES, and a projected image of Darkseid's visage is cast over the sky, visible across THE ENTIRE HORIZON.

Our respective heroes look on as the Terrorformers across the globe open up with similar projections, giving almost everyone on the planet a front row seat to Darkseid's ominous address.

EXT. METROPOLIS - WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Darkseid speaks.

DARKSEID
On first contact, superior
civilizations typically offer
inferior ones access to advanced
technology, medicine, or knowledge.
You shall receive no such proffer
from me.

Darkseid begins to pace.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
Instead, I offer you something much
more valuable.
(MORE)

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

I offer you the answer to the most pressing questions that every sentient being eventually asks: Why do I exist? What is my purpose? The answer to those questions should now be obvious. You were made, you exist, only to serve me.

Darkseid motions to nearby churches, mosques, and synagogues.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

You have prayed for millennia to your imagined gods. And their only response was distant silence. No more. From today, your god walks among you.

The projected image changes from Darkseid's face to footage of Apokolips. The suffering. The fire-pits. The despair.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

I am Darkseid. At this very moment, your planet is being remade in my image. For the rest of your lives, you will know terror and despair unprecedented in your benighted existence. But all is not lost...

Now the image above Darkseid switches to an image of Superman.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

As a prelude to my coronation, I offer you a night's entertainment. Bring the Superman to me, and I will kill him with these hands.

EXT. CHINA - CONTINUOUS

Superman continues battling a lava flow threatening to engulf a nearby Chinese village.

He flies through the earth, using his body to dig out a trench to divert the lava.

FLASH (O.S.)

(re Darkseid's rant)
Somebody's got a man-crush.

SUPERMAN

No kidding.

BATMAN (O.S.)
You need to fight him.

SUPERMAN
I'm kind of busy, Batman...

INT. YELLOWSTONE TERRORFORMER - NAVIGATION - CONTINUOUS -
INTERCUT

Batman is struggling to decipher symbols running across the Mother Box's interface.

BATMAN
This unit's been... demoted, for lack of a better word. I need time to get access to the teleportation controls.

SUPERMAN
There's a village in the line of fire! I can't leave without -

BATMAN
- Listen to me. Darkseid's from a strongman culture. He rules because he is the strongest. When you threw that mothership into space, you showed you might be stronger, and thus made yourself into a rival for his throne. He can't leave until his people have seen him beat you. It's the only reason he hasn't destroyed the planet yet. You need to -

SUPERMAN
Goddamnit! I'm not some gladiator! I'm not going to let these people die for some glorified boxing match!

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman marches determinedly towards the edge of the roof.

WONDER WOMAN
Enough squabbling. If Superman fears this man, I will fight him.

BATMAN (O.S.)
Diana, no! You can't -

Wonder Woman shuts off her earpiece, cutting off Batman as she LEAPS from the Daily Planet roof.

Lois Lane bursts onto the roof just in time to see Wonder Woman soaring away. She snaps a few dozen pictures with her high-speed camera.

EXT. METROPOLIS ROOFTOPS - CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman leaps from rooftop to rooftop, making her way towards Washington Park and Darkseid.

Patrolling Warbirds catch sight of her. They break off formation and arc behind Wonder Woman in pursuit.

Wonder Woman is no Flash, but she's FAST. She's a blur of acrobatic speed and power as she SOMERSAULTS off skyscrapers and SKIPS along the sides of buildings.

The Warbirds open fire, Nth Metal Spears rain down on her head, embed themselves at the rooftop at her feet, but Wonder Woman stays a step ahead.

BOUNDING off , LEAPING through SCAFFOLDING, Wonder Woman gracefully ascends the highest structures in Metropolis, until she's high enough to -

LEAP onto the roof of one of the Warbirds. It BANKS and SWERVES like a wild colt, trying to shake her off. But Wonder Woman maintains her grip.

She PUNCHES through the cockpit, tosses out its bewildered Thanagarian pilot bodily with an idle flick of one hand.

She stands inside the cockpit, confused by the controls. She takes the direct approach - grabs the stick and points it towards Darkseid.

She squeals uncharacteristically as the ship DIPS and SPINS uncontrollably, refusing to obey.

Finally the Warbird stabilizes as Wonder Woman gets her bearings. She lets out a small whoop, exhilarated at having tamed this wild flying beast.

But in an EXPLOSION of exhaust, the pursuing Warbirds SPEED OUT ahead of Wonder Woman's ship; swerve around and assemble in protective formation around Darkseid's throne ship.

They open fire, and a TSUNAMI of spears FILL THE SKY, coming straight at Wonder Woman.

She instinctively pulls back on the stick so hard she BREAKS IT. The Warbird points its BELLY FORWARD but does not ascend.

The spears IMPALE the belly of the ship as Wonder Woman dangles by her fingers behind the out of control Warbird.

In one last, desperate move, she pulls her feet in against the plane and KICKS it away from herself with all her might!

The ship tumbles END OVER END into the Warbird formation; hits with the impact of a FREIGHT TRAIN.

The crash causes a chain reaction as the Warbirds crash into each other trying to escape.

Wonder Woman gracefully SOMERSAULTS do Earth, hits the ground with so much momentum it takes her 1,000 feet to SKID to a stop - directly across an open field from Darkseid!

He has his back to her as she approaches him with bad intentions.

WONDER WOMAN

You will answer for your crimes,
monster.

Darkseid doesn't turn to face her - if he's even noticed she's there, we can't tell.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Turn and face me, coward.

DARKSEID

I will not soil my hands by
striking so lowly an opponent.

Wonder Woman comes running at Darkseid, fist cocked back for the mother of all haymakers.

WONDER WOMAN

Works for me.

Darkseid turns slightly towards Wonder Woman, and merely SNAPS his fingers in her direction.

The snap creates a SHOCK WAVE that SLAMS into Wonder Woman's gut like a CANNONBALL!

It sends her tumbling THROUGH rows of trees, THROUGH several cars parked clear on the other side of the park.

Bloodied but unbowed, Wonder Woman rises. Picks up one of the shattered trees at her feet and HURLS it at Darkseid.

The tree SHATTERS into tiny SPLINTERS against Darkseid's broad back. He glances back at this, as if someone tapped him gently on his shoulder.

Wonder Woman is shocked, but won't give up. She stalks foolishly, suicidally forward, fist cocked for another hit.

Darkseid sighs, as his eyes glow RED. BOOM! His OMEGA BEAMS EXPLODE from his eyes, zig-zag towards Wonder Woman.

She dives for cover, but it seems she wasn't his target. She gets to her feet and watches as the beams go STREAKING through Metropolis.

The beams TEAR through buildings and SLAM into cars stalled on the West Side Highway, setting them on FIRE and tossing scores of them in a TIDAL WAVE of destruction.

Wonder Woman watches the carnage and destruction as Metropolis burns. Its citizens are trapped, bleeding, crying out for help.

But she steels herself. Ignores their suffering and focuses on her target. Again stalks towards Darkseid.

Darkseid cocks an impressed eyebrow; surprised that she would ignore so much suffering for a chance to take him down.

But as Wonder Woman advances, she can't block out their cries for help. Despite what she's said, she can't turn her back on this kind of suffering.

She stops in her tracks. Points at Darkseid with fiery rage in her eyes.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
We're not finished.

And she runs off to help.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amanda Waller watches a wall full of screens depicting the invasion.

AMANDA WALLER
Batman, any progress?

INTERCUT with Batman, Superman, Flash, and Green Lantern at their respective locations.

BATMAN

No. This unit's lost control over the large scale portals. I need the Mother Box on Darkseid's ship.

FLASH

On my way. I can be there in -

BATMAN

- No! Stay where you are. I can create small portals back to Metropolis for all of you. Give me five minutes.

Amanda Waller watches 24 hour news footage of Wonder Woman ripping the doors off cars and freeing people trapped inside.

AMANDA WALLER

Superman, Darkseid's attacking Metropolis.

Superman battles the lava flow over China.

SUPERMAN

I know. I'll be there in ten minutes. Tell Diana to hold tight.

BATMAN

She's cut off communication. And she won't last ten minutes against Darkseid if he decides to murder her to get your attention.

SUPERMAN

I'm almost -

BATMAN

Superman!
(beat, meaningfully)
You can't save everybody.

SUPERMAN

(pissed)
Ten minutes, Batman!

He angrily thumbs off his communicator.

EXT. METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Wonder Woman has leaped onto a high building. She watches helplessly as the city below her burns - half the downtown area is on fire.

She spots a water tower on a nearby building overlooking the fires below. She leaps for it.

She lands on top of the tower; latches her lasso onto a fixture on the top. She then repels about halfway down the dome and...

PUNCHES straight through the metal housing. Water BLASTS out of the hole she made.

She continues repelling around the circumference of the structure, punching holes as she goes, until water gushes from a half-dozen holes.

She somersaults to the ground; positions herself under the tower. Bracing herself, she KICKS and punches out the scaffolding supporting the tower.

The entire 50 TON WATER TOWER BASIN falls towards her head. Using all her strength, she CATCHES it in a dead lift.

She spins around on the roof, directing the water spray towards the burning buildings below.

She empties out the water basin and the fires abate. But her feat has caught the attention of the remaining Warbirds, who converge on her position.

Wonder Woman SHOT-PUTS the water tower at them, SCATTERS them like a bowling ball blasting through pins.

But one of the Warbirds goes crashing into a nearby OVERPASS, CRACKING it in half!

Cars break and swerve to avoid falling through the MASSIVE gap created in the overpass.

A bus CRASHES into the shoulder, nearly tumbling off the edge. A car swerves to avoid hitting it, and goes SAILING off the over the overpass towards the street - 100 feet below!

The horrified PASSENGER and her CHILDREN scream as they descend towards their deaths in slo-motion.

But a GOLDEN LASSO encircles their vehicle, as Wonder Woman goes slowly, gracefully, tumbling overhead.

She flips over the overpass, dragging her rope across it.

BOOM! We SLAM back into normal motion as Wonder Woman lands. She uses the rope slung across the overpass like a PULLEY, to CATCH the car just before it crashed!

She slowly lets the rope slide through her fingers; carefully lowers the car on the other side of the overpass... BUT - !

HOOOOONK!!!! Wonder Woman looks up as an ONCOMING EIGHTEEN WHEELER blares its horn as it barrels down on her!

Still holding the repelling car by her lasso with one hand, she raises the other to stop the oncoming truck.

KRRRAAAASH! It SMASHES into her, shoving her back a hundred feet, and threatening to shake loose her grip on her lasso.

She manages to hold it off and keep her grip. But the Eighteen Wheeler DOESN'T STOP; keeps accelerating into her.

Wonder Woman looks inside the truck. The driver is UNCONSCIOUS, head on the wheel, FOOT ON THE GAS!

Wonder Woman looks behind her. If she lets up, the truck will go off the road onto a crowded sidewalk to her rear.

KRRRUUUNCH! Her hands very much full, Wonder Woman looks up as the BUS that crashed through the shoulder LURCHES forward, about to tumble off the overpass onto her head!

If she drops her lasso, she'll kill everyone in the car. If she lets go of the truck, it'll kill everyone on the street behind her. And if she does neither, everyone on the bus...

Thinking quickly, in the blink of an eye, Wonder Woman TIES her lasso to the front of the 18 wheeler.

The car on the other side of the overpass DROPS a few feet, but stays suspended over the road.

But its weight LIFTS the front end of the 18 wheeler, lifting its spinning wheels safely off the road.

Her hands free, Wonder Woman runs over just as the BUS falls off the overpass. KA-BOOM! She catches it. Straining, she carefully turns and drops the bus as gently as she can.

She RIPS open the bus door, revealing the stunned and awed faces of ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

WONDER WOMAN
Quickly, children! Run to safety!

The awed children file past her. One little BLACK GIRL (9) doubles back. Wraps Wonder Woman's lap in a grateful hug.

BLACK GIRL
Thank you, Miss lady!

Taken aback, Wonder Woman gently and awkwardly pats the child on her back.

WONDER WOMAN

Oh...! You... you are most welcome,
child.

Wonder Woman is shocked by applause from onlookers on the street who witnessed the entire ordeal.

Wonder Woman is surprised to find herself moved by their gratitude. She nervously waves to them.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank -

KRA-KA-KA-KAM! Omega Beams BLAST over their assembled heads!

They follow the blast with their eyes and watch in horror as...

Darkseid's Omega Beams CUT THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING NEATLY IN HALF.

The top half of the building LURCHES forward with the ungodly sound of A MILLION POUNDS OF STEEL grinding against A MILLION POUNDS OF STEEL!

The top 50 STORIES of the Daily Planet is about to slide off the bottom 50 stories and fall RIGHT ONTO THE STREET.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hera....!

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Lois Lane tumbles to the ground as the building shifts under her feet. As the Daily Planet falls, the rooftop TIPS DOWNWARD about 30 degrees!

Lois Lane slides down the length of the rooftop towards the edge, about to fall over the top!

She grabs onto an air conditioning fixture to stop her fall. But her grip is already slipping.

LOIS LANE

HELP!

A series of shots track the scream TRAVELS at the speed of sound over the planet

Over the oceans, over mountains, until it finally reaches
SUPERMAN'S EAR.

EXT. CHINA - CONTINUOUS

Superman looks up in a panic as Lois' scream echoes in his
ear.

SUPERMAN

No...

Superman drops what he's doing and DISAPPEARS in a BLISTERING
SERIES of SONIC BOOMS!

BATMAN (O.S.)

Superman, no! Wait for the portal!
Wait for the...

Tracking with Superman as he traverses the globe at an
INCONCEIVABLE speed. The air friction from his momentum
PARTIALLY MELTS the communicator in his ear.

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

(distorted, dying)
Wait for the... *

EXT. AUSTRALIAN COAST - CONTINUOUS

Flash looks up as a BRIGHT BLUE BLUR BLASTS past him on the
horizon, followed by a series of SONIC BOOMS.

FLASH

I don't think he waited for the
portal.

BATMAN (O.S.)

Goddamnit! Two more seconds would
have saved him 10 minutes of
travel.

BOOM! A boomtube, a miniature version of the spiderweb of
light that preceded the appearance of Darkseid's throne
ship, appears in front of Flash.

Flash stares into it cautiously.

FLASH

Batman...?

BATMAN (O.S.)

The portals are online. Everybody
get to Metropolis, now!

Flash, Green Lantern, and Batman and Hawkman all rush through the boomtubes, and emerge from the other end in...

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Flash and Hawkman emerge from adjacent Boomtubes and end up face to face. Flash starts, about to make a move when...

Batman emerges from the boomtube behind Hawkman, stands between Hawkman and the Flash.

BATMAN
(re: Hawkman)
He's with us.

Shocked, Flash vacillates between giving Hawkman a handshake or a back-pat. Settles for the awkward thumbs up.

FLASH
Glad to have you on board...

Wonder Woman's voice blasts through their ear-pieces.

WONDER WOMAN (O.S.)
Batman!

BATMAN
Diana? What's your position?

WONDER WOMAN (O.S.)
Look up!

They do, and see Wonder Woman standing in dangerous overhang created by a hole Darkseid blasted through the building.

She has lowered her lasso to the street, and dozens of people climb down the rope to safety below.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
I need help!!

BATMAN
Flash! Go!

Flash DISAPPEARS. Hawkman grabs Batman, flies him away.

INT. DAILY PLANET - DANEGEROUS OVERHANG - CONTINUOUS

Flash reappears next to Wonder Woman. Moments later, Hawkman flies Batman into the hole.

WONDER WOMAN
Superman? Where's Superman?

BATMAN
(grimly)
Ten minutes away.

WONDER WOMAN
Then all is -

Lurch. LURCH. LUUURRRRCCCH!!!! The top half of the building goes BARRELLING off the bottom half! About to crash and take our heroes and HUNDREDS of innocents with them.

WHOOOOSH! But SUDDENLY, from every window in the building, a BLINDING EMERALD LIGHT BURSTS THROUGH.

The building's fall STOPS. Flash, who had closed his eyes, slowly opens them. Looks around.

FLASH
Are we dead?

Green Lantern's voice comes through on their earpieces, strained and desperate.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)
You... will be if you... don't...
move your... ASSES..!

Flash cranes his neck out of the window. His eyes go wide.

FLASH
Dude. You. Are. AWESOME!

EXT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

Miraculously, Green Lantern has created a GIANT, GREEN, ONE HUNDRED-STORY-TALL CONSTRUCT of HIMSELF in front of the Daily Planet!

Stunned observers all over the city watch as a GIANT, GLOWING, GREEN MAN strains to UPHOLD the top 50 STORIES of the Daily Planet, which is now perilously hanging HALFWAY OFF the bottom 50 stories!

INT. DAILY PLANET - DANEGEROUS OVERHANG - CONTINUOUS

Even Batman is stunned immobile by the awesome sight.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)
Guys... over here...

They look through a nearby window, through which they can see Lantern inside his Giant construct, which is mocking his movements, moving as he moves...

Lantern is straining with all his might to maintain the construct, nose bleeding from the extreme effort.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)
Less ogling.... More evacuating...

The others snap to attention - set to work.

Batman uses his grapple gun to set up half a dozen ZIP LINES down which evacuees repel to rooftops across the street.

Flash RACES people out one-by-one. A man APPEARS on a nearby street corner. Then TEN more. Then TWENTY. They look around as if they have no idea how they got there.

Hawkman files out arm loads of civilians.

Wonder Woman strains as she braces the weight of HUNDREDS of people escaping down her lasso.

EXT. METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Police are evacuating an apartment complex. Carol Ferris is one of the evacuees being rushed onto a bus.

On her way out, she stops and gawks at the giant Green Lantern holding up the Daily Planet on the horizon.

She focuses on the giant Green Lantern's face. At this size, it's clear to see its face looks an awful lot like Hal's....

CAROL
(stunned)
That son of a bitch...

EXT. DAILY PLANET ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, unseen by all of them, Lois Lane is still on the roof, which is now tilted down at a 60 degree angle!

The air conditioning housing she is hanging onto by her fingernails COMES UNHINGED from it's housing, sending her sliding down the roof towards the edge!

She manages to grab onto the roof overhang, but her feet are now dangling off the building 100 stories up!

Green Lantern's giant green form is just below her, but Green Lantern himself cannot see her or hear her screams.

LOIS LANE
Somebody! Please, help!!

EXT. OVER THE ATLANTIC - CONTINUOUS

But while the others can't hear her, it's all Superman can hear.

Her cries for help ring in his ear as he desperately flies for Metropolis, leaving a trail of deafening sonic booms across the Atlantic.

EXT. DAILY PLANET - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern's Giant Construct struggles to hold the building together, but the walls are buckling and cracking in his giant hands. The whole thing will come apart any second.

GREEN LANTERN
Last call, folks.... You ain't got to go home... but you've got to get the hell out of there...!

Our heroes usher out the last remaining evacuees, then get clear of the building.

All except Lois Lane, still unseen and unheard by the others, still dangling for her life over the roof.

SERIES OF SLOW MOTION SHOTS

As the Daily Planet CRUMBLES in Green Lantern's giant hands!

The chunk of roof Lois hangs from CRACKS and FALLS OFF. Lois drops in free fall, surrounded by dangerously huge chunks of falling rock.

Green Lantern drops his giant construct. Covers himself in a protective bubble as giant chunks of rubble rain down around him.

He doesn't notice as Lois plummets in free fall behind him. We can't hear her as she mouths, almost like a prayer:

LOIS LANE
(inaudible)
Superman...

OVER THE ATLANTIC

Superman can see her falling. But he's still about a minute away from Metropolis at his speed - even he won't get there in time.

Her prayer unanswered, Lois closes her eyes as she falls. Awaits the end as two falling chunks of rubble close in...

But a shimmering GOLDEN LASSO encircles her...

Superman streaks in on the Metropolis skyline in time to see:

WONDER WOMAN leaping towards Lois, yanking her into her arms by her lasso, and pulling her into a protective embrace.

NORMAL MOTION

As Wonder Woman's leap takes her and Lois tumbling in each others' arms over onto a nearby roof.

WHOOSH! In a sonic boom and a rush of hurricane force wind, Superman arrives a split-second later. If not for Wonder Woman, he would have been a split-second too late.

He approaches in stunned, grateful silence as Wonder Woman helps Lois to her feet.

Lois is disoriented as she rises. But as Wonder Woman stands, she notices the love-struck look in Superman's eyes as he ignores her and approaches Lois.

SUPERMAN

Ma'am? Are you all right?

Lois dusts herself off; clears the cobwebs from her head.

LOIS LANE

Sure... assuming... woo boy...
assuming I don't die of a heart
attack in, uh...

She looks up at Superman, whose face is silhouetted by the sun.

He emerges from the silhouette into the light, give Lois her first close-up look.

Her eyes flash with shock and recognition. Superman should be nervous about his identity, but as he looks in Lois' eyes, it's clear he doesn't care. He's so grateful she's alive.

They both stare in each other's eyes for a while, before becoming gradually aware of Wonder Woman's presence.

Superman shares an awkward look at Wonder Woman. Lois notices an unresolved, unspoken tension between them. An all-around awkward moment.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
I'm uh... I'm fine, thanks.
(to Wonder Woman)
And thank you.

WONDER WOMAN
(awkward)
You are welcome.

SUPERMAN
Ma'am. I need you to get to safety.

Lois snaps out of her reverie and is suddenly back in reporter mode. She takes out her Blackberry.

LOIS LANE
Would either of you care to comment
on -

SUPERMAN
- Later, ma'am. Right now, you need
to get to safety.

Lois steps over to Superman. Looks him boldly in the eyes.

LOIS LANE
Only if you promise me an
exclusive.

Wonder Woman squirms over this word, "exclusive." It's not lost on her what Lois is really inquiring about.

Superman is speechless, looks awkwardly between Wonder Woman and Lois. Lois lets him off the hook. Pockets her Blackberry.

LOIS LANE (CONT'D)
Think about it.

Superman turns from Lois to Wonder Woman. Stares into her eyes.

SUPERMAN
(deeply and sincerely)
I can never repay you for... Thank
you. For protecting my city.

He turns from her, glares toward's Darkseid's throne ship. For the first time in ever, he looks RIGHTEOUSLY PISSED...

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
But I'll take it from here...

WHOOSH! Superman flies away, leaving Lois and Wonder Woman awkwardly alone with each other.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - DAY

The moment of truth.

Superman lands across an open field from Darkseid.

They face off with each other. Stare each other down silently.

Over their heads, Darkseid's Throne ship projects their stand-off to the horizon and around the world.

As their imminent battle draws closer, Darkseid closes his eyes. Drinks in the screams and terror of the fleeing civilians.

He opens his eyes on Superman, who is seething with anger.

DARKSEID
Interesting.

EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Flash, Hawkman, Batman, and an exhausted Green Lantern join Wonder Woman on a roof overlooking Washington Park.

They watch as Superman approaches Darkseid, seconds away from the commencement of the fist fight to end all fist fights.

FLASH
Anybody bring popcorn?

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Superman is breathing heavy with anger as he approaches Darkseid. Darkseid calmly looks him over.

DARKSEID
I wonder.. Do you know what you are?

The question, which Superman has been asking himself all his life, stops him in his tracks.

SUPERMAN

What?

DARKSEID

A simple question. Do you know.
What you are?

SUPERMAN

(confused, angry)
Shut up!

Darkseid smiles. Motions for Superman to "bring it."

DARKSEID

I will show you. Come to me, boy.
And I will show you what you are.

Enraged, Superman rushes Darkseid, picking up super-speed and momentum, and hits hi with a punch literally HEARD AROUND THE WORLD.

The punch is so powerful it creates a BLINDING WHITE FLASH, like from the impact of a nuke.

The flash from the blow dissipates, reveals the impact from the blow has DESTROYED the nearby park, and Darkseid and Superman stand in a CRATER.

The dissipating flash also reveals that Darkseid has effortlessly CAUGHT Superman's punch in his hand!

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

(smiling maniacally)
You will not beat me by "holding
back," boy.

BLAM! Darkseid punches Superman in his chest, and the impact sends him flying uncontrollably, tearing a hole through a MILE of Metropolis buildings.

When he finally comes to a stop, Superman is slow to get to his feet. In a blaze of rage and fury, he streaks back at Darkseid through the holes FIST-FIRST.

A red and blue BLUR of pure Kryptonian RAGE COLLIDES with Darkseid's chin.

But the unimaginably powerful blow only backs Darkseid up a few feet. Darkseid touches his struck chin as if pleased.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Better.

EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Stunned at seeing Superman actually losing the fight, Wonder Woman walks forward to join the battle.

WONDER WOMAN
He needs help...

Batman puts a hand on her shoulder to hold her back. Points towards Darkseid's ship floating overhead.

BATMAN
He's on his own. We need to breach
that throne ship.

Wonder Woman ignores him; keeps walking.

WONDER WOMAN
He'll die...

Batman stands in front of her, blocking her path.

BATMAN
You said yourself, we can't save
everybody. We have to win the war.
(beat)
I can't do that without you.

Wonder Woman reluctantly relents.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Superman and Darkseid continue their epic battle.

Superman unleashes a blast of his heat vision. Darkseid meets it with his own Omega Beams.

The two blasts meet an equal distance between them, but Darkseid's wider and more powerful beams slowly overpower and overtake Superman's - steadily pushing them back until they SLAM into Superman's face.

Superman drops to his knees. Darkseid calmly approaches.

DARKSEID
You are Kryptonian. Did you know
that?

Superman BLASTS Darkseid with a blast of SUPER-BREATH, freezing him in his tracks.

But Darkseid FLEXES off the ice like a G! Keeps approaching.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
I recognized the crest on your
chest.

Superman tries to kick Darkseid, but Darkseid CATCHES his
foot. SLAMS him into the ground like a RAG-DOLL.

He then SLINGS Superman the length of the park. The impact of
Superman's landing creates a crater 100 ft. wide and 10 ft.
deep.

Hands behind his back, Darkseid calmly stalks after Superman.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
But that is merely your species.
That is not what you are.

EXT. HALF A MILE OVER WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Green Lantern projects a shield in front of him as he streaks
towards Darkseid's throne ship.

Hawkman follows close on his heels, carrying Batman in one
hand and Flash in the other.

Warbirds fly into intercept; Lantern's shield FLICKERS as it
barely deflects their fire.

GREEN LANTERN
I'm almost out of juice after that
giant trick. I got just enough to
get you close.

FLASH
That's all I need.

Lantern rushes into the Warbird ranks with his shield,
BATTERING them aside. A break opens up in their ranks.

Hawkman TOSSES Flash through the gap and onto Darkseid's
throne ship.

Standing on the leading edge of the craft, Flash looks around
at the city below him. Raises his arms over his head.

FLASH (CONT'D)
(Titanic)
I'm king of the - !

BATMAN (O.S.)
(over communicator)
Flash!

FLASH
 (softly, to himself)
 ... world....

In a BLUR Flash runs LAPS around the circumference of the ship. He VIBRATES THROUGH the cannons and defenses, causing them to EXPLODE.

The Warbirds down and its defenses down, Wonder Woman looks up from the roof at a clear path to the ship.

BATMAN (O.S.)
 Diana - now!

Diana LEAPS for the ship, and with an Amazonian battle-cry, SMASHES through the thick hull of the ship with one punch!

She makes short work of the alien infantry who rush to meet her, clearing the room of enemies in seconds.

WONDER WOMAN
 Clear.

Hawkman flies Batman inside; Green Lantern flies in Flash. More infantry rush their position.

Arm in a sling, Batman pulls out his Batarang gun with his free hand.

BATMAN
 Keep them off my back. I'm going
 for the ship's Mother Box.

Before anyone can argue, Batman goes shooting his way deep into the inner-recesses of the ship.

The others form a wall behind him, blocking the alien infantry from pursuing him.

HAWKMAN
 (while fighting)
 Your league commander is truly
 impressive.

GREEN LANTERN
 We're not a "league."

FLASH
 And he's not our commander.

HAWKMAN
 Then, what are you? And who is he?

GREEN LANTERN

We're... I guess... we're kind of a league, actually...

FLASH

But he's not our commander, he's just.. The guy who tells us what to do...

Flash and Green Lantern share a look.

GREEN LANTERN

So, yeah I guess our league commander is...

FLASH

... pretty baddass, actually...

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Superman and Darkseid continue to trade blows. Darkseid clearly has the upper hand. Is almost toying with him.

DARKSEID

(blocking a punch)

I saw you lift my mother ship. This is not your full power.

Darkseid easily parries another blow.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Your full power still scares you. You pretend to be weak. Because you do not know what you are.

POW! Darkseid lands a serious right to Superman's face.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Like you, I am the last of my kind. I am a Psychotroph.

BLAM! Darkseid lands a serious left.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

What yellow sunlight is to a Kryptonian, fear and despair are to me. They feed me, give me my strength.

KA-POW! Darkseid hits Superman with a blow that sends him SAILING. He calmly walks him down.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

When you arrived, I felt a sudden surge of power. I was wrong about you. I thought you were Earth's champion. But they fear you more than they fear me.

Darkseid looms over Superman as he struggles to his feet.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Their fear of you... it grieves you. Do you know why? Because you do not know what you are.

Another exchange of blows between the two. Superman actually lands a couple of good shots, but Darkseid gets the better of it.

He slams Superman down to the ground, again stands over him.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

You think you are human. You long to be human. A mortal, weak and useless. You are a pathetic orphan, pleading for the love of your adopted family.

Groggy, Superman throws a weak punch which Darkseid easily evades. He slaps Superman back to the ground.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

But you.. we... are not like them. They hunger. We do not. They feel pain. We do not. They grow old and die. We do not.

(beat)

They are mortals. We are gods.

Superman looks up at Darkseid like he's crazy - but he's listening...

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

That, boy, is what you are. A god. That is why they fear you. Because you are a god. Mortals should fear you - they are meant to fear their gods. Once you accept this, accept who you are, their fear will no longer be able to hurt you. You will cease this pathetic quest to be loved, and you will relish your right to be feared.

Darkseid's words confuse and anger Superman. He more lashes out at him then attacks him.

SUPERMAN

Shut up!

But Darkseid, losing his patience, MERCILESSLY BATTERS him to the ground. More to quiet him than to hurt him.

INT. DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Batman fights his way through a handful of infantry aliens to the throne ship's engineering room.

BATMAN

I'm in. I'll only need a few minutes.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

Don't rush on our account...

Batman enters the room. Its layout is similar to the engineering room in the Terrorformer. But it's abandoned.

BATMAN

I see it.

He approaches the shrine where the Mother Box should be, but it's empty - The Mother Box isn't there!

FLASH (O.S.)

We happy?

Batman looks around as a strange alarm sounds.

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

Batman? We happy?

Suddenly, a BOOM TUBE opens at Batman's feet!

BATMAN

Everyone, get to - !

VROOM! Batman falls through the boom tube!

ACROSS THE SHIP, Flash, Lantern, Hawkman, and Wonder Woman are all sucked through similar boomtubes.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Boomtubes open all around Darkseid, dropping our heroes at his feet, next to a downed Superman.

Darkseid produces an ornate, large version of a Mother Box - brandishes it in Batman's face.

DARKSEID

Looking for this?

Seeing Superman beaten and broken at Darkseid's feet, Wonder Woman loses it.

She charges Darkseid in a fury. Darkseid grabs her, his massive fist swallowing her head, and slams her to the ground, where she lies motionless.

Hawkman attacks, and Darkseid snatches away his mace and smacks him across the park with it.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Traitor.

Lantern hits Darkseid with a blast of pure green energy. Darkseid is unmoved. Returns fire with his omega beams, taking Lantern out.

Seeing his comrades down, and maybe dead, Flash becomes uncharacteristically enraged.

He surrounds Darkseid in a FACE-PUNCH TORNADO, hits him a THOUSAND times in a second.

But all he gets for his trouble is bloody, broken knuckles. Darkseid swats him away.

Darkseid is about to turn his attention back to Superman, when Batman peppers him with half a dozen explosive batarangs.

Darkseid walks towards Batman. Who drops his weapon and stares Darkseid down defiantly.

Darkseid raises his fist, about to punch Batman into a fine pink mist, when BOOM! Superman TACKLES Darkseid out of the way.

Superan starts WAILING on Darkseid, actually HURTING him for the first time. Desperate, Darkseid reaches out, grabs Hawkman's mace!

CA-CRACK! Darkseid BACKHANDS Superman across the face with the Mace, leaving a burning, sizzling, bloody BRUISE.

As bad as he's been beating Superman, Darkseid has yet to leave a mark. But his strength behind Nth Metal weapons?

He continues to batter and beat Superman with the mace. Creates deep cuts, dark bruises, draws blood. Superman is now in real danger of being BEATEN TO DEATH.

With Superman down, bleeding out, Darkseid lets up. Looms over him again.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Listen to me, boy. My terrorformers are not about conquest. They are my sustenance. A source of fear and dread that feeds me across the galaxy. I will fill all the worlds with them, until every waking moment of every mortal in the universe is feeding me with their terror. But your world need not die.

Darkseid walks away from Superman, towards Hawkman's unconscious (or dead) body.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

These mortals' fear of you is sweeter meat to me than all my Terrorformers can provide. Accept your divinity. Rule this planet with an iron fist. And I will spare your life, and billions of others.

Darkseid removes an NTH METAL SPEAR from Hawkman's quiver. Walks back over to Superman, points the sharp end at his NECK.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Refuse me, cling to your pathetic dreams of mortality, and I will make them a reality by ending your pathetic life. Choose.

Lest we forget, Darkseid's offer was BROADCAST across the globe by the projection over his throne ship.

Across Metropolis, people stare up at the projections, fearful of Superman's response to Darkseid's offer.

Amanda Waller watches with the President, whose hand lingers near the nuclear RED PHONE...

In Russia, China, India, Africa... all observe the projections; they heard Darkseid's offer translated into their language.

The whole world awaits Superman's response with baited breath.

Bloody and beaten, Superman groggily stands to his feet.

SUPERMAN

If making someone afraid of you makes you a god, then every schoolyard bully is a god. Every sicko who abuses animals or terrifies his children is a god.

Superman limps weakly towards Darkseid.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

If that's being a god, then being a god is easy. Just find something weaker than you, something that can't fight back, and hurt it.

Our heroes around Superman start to slowly wake up in time to hear his speech.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

But that doesn't sound like a god to me. That sounds like a coward. And that's what you are. A coward.

Superman, obviously defenseless, gets in Darkseid's face.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

I'm not Earth's champion. I won't be Earth's ruler. You're right, compared to us, they're fragile. But still, they stand up and fight against people like you. I don't fight for them - I fight with them. Side-by-side. And if necessary, I'll die with them.

Superman stares Darkseid down meaningfully.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

I may not know what I am. But I know what I'm not. I'm not you.

Superman weakly puts his hands up.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Let's finish this.

Superman foolishly rushes Darkseid.

WONDER WOMAN
 Superman, no - !

KA-CHUNK! Superman stops in his tracks. Looks down in horror to see Darkseid's Nth metal spear EMBEDDED in his GUT!

LOIS, watching the projection from a rooftop, screams in horror.

Darkseid lifts Superman up over his head, shows the world his limp, lifeless body.

DARKSEID
 Behold. Your "savior."

And with that, Darkseid THROWS Superman into the air.

Superman's seemingly lifeless body goes HURTLING over the horizon, through the clouds and OUT INTO SPACE!

BACK IN WASHINGTON PARK

After seeing Superman murdered, Wonder Woman is now absolutely insane with rage. She charges Darkseid.

But Darkseid is simply too powerful. He batters her down swiftly. Lantern, Hawkman, and Flash all attack, but are all swiftly, brutally, and near fatally taken down.

Only Batman remains. He doesn't move an inch as Darkseid moves in to destroy him. Darkseid throws a LETHAL punch...

But Batman DISAPPEARS from the blow, in a flash of light!

Darkseid turns to see Batman has reappeared a few feet behind him, holding his own Mother Box.

Darkseid tries to hit him again, but Batman again teleports out of his range, this time disappearing entirely.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
 Clever.

Darkseid takes out his Mother Box.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)
 But let's see you teleport once
 I've disabled -

CLANG! A batarang knocks Darkseid's Mother Box from his hand! The second it hits the ground, a grappling line attaches to it, starts reeling it towards a tree line.

With unexpected speed, Darkseid steps on the line. He grabs it and YANKS Batman from his hiding spot and into his grasp.

He stares at Batman admiringly as he squeezes the life out of him.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

You, at least, have a brain.

Perhaps I should have offered rule of this planet to you.

(examining him)

But you are frail. Like the others.

He tosses Batman aside like a used tissue. Batman goes HURLING towards a concrete wall.

Batman hurls a few GRENADES ahead of him. But they don't explode, they EXPAND into a thick, buoyant FOAM on contact.

Batman bounces off the foam coating instead of splattering against the wall. But the impact still knocks him out cold.

The League broken and bloodied at his feet, Darkseid turns to address his new subjects - the citizens of planet Earth.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Your heroes are defeated. Your armies are impotent. Attack me with your primitive nuclear weapons, and you will create a world of chaos, fear, and dread that will only make me stronger. Accept your fate. Embrace your terror and despair. For that is what your god, Darkseid, commands of you.

EXT. SPACE

Superman bleeds out in the cold and dark of space, in low orbit over Earth.

But as he floats, his face is struck by a shaft of light. The sun is dawning the East, flooding his body with pure yellow sunlight, undiluted by Earth's atmosphere.

The light warms Superman, rouses him from death's door. He stares towards the distant sun. Weakly flies towards it.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - DAY

Darkseid continues his address.

DARKSEID

Your world leaders will surrender personally to me. The citizens of those states that do not will suffer first, and most.

EXT. SPACE - THE SUN

A huge ball of fire. We're so close to it now, it fills the entire frame.

Slowly, we're able to make out the silhouette of Superman's form. Floating so near the sun, it dwarfs him.

As he draws closer, his bruises miraculously HEAL. The cuts in his skin CLOSE.

With great effort, screaming, he PULLS out the spear in his gut. And even that gaping wound suddenly closes...

Superman stares in bewilderment at the Sun.

It seems to almost be Sentient. As if it were calling out to him. Benevolent. Holy. Pure. The Sun RESURRECTS him.

Arms and legs akimbo, Superman soaks in the Sun's gift of solar energy. GLOWS with POWER.

Superman looks back over his shoulder towards Earth. Smiles.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK

As Darkseid continues his address, Batman slowly struggles to his feet.

DARKSEID

... mercy will not be shown to any who resist my...

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

(staticy, over communicator)

.... Batman?

Disbelieving, Batman puts a hand over his earpiece to hear.

BATMAN

Superman?!

SUPERMAN (O.S.)

Get clear.

Dazed and confused, Batman scans the sky for Superman. Sees a massive FALLING STAR just over Darkseid's shoulder.

He rouses his teammates.

BATMAN
Everybody, MOVE!

He picks up Wonder Woman in his arms, runs off with her. Confused, the others follow his lead.

Darkseid glances at them as they scurry away. Then looks up at an approaching WHINE, like the sound of an incoming bomb.

He sees the FALLING STAR, watches as it grows bigger and bigger, until he can just make out the pissed off face of SUPERMAN at its FIERY CORE.

KA-BOOM! In slow motion, Superman PUNCHES THE SHIT out of Darkseid's STUPID FACE with the momentum of a falling ASTEROID!

The smoke clears, revealing Green Lantern has covered our heroes in a weak FORCE BUBBLE to shield them from the impact.

It also reveals Darkseid FLAT ON HIS FACE from the force of the blow. He slowly tries to rise, STUNNED at Superman's strength.

Superman hovers over him, glowing with solar energy.

Seeing an opportunity, Batman signals the other Leaguers forward for an attack.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
Now! While he's down.

But Superman holds them off with a wave of his hand.

SUPERMAN
NO!

Superman confidently looks to his friends.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I got this.

WHOOSH! WHAM!

Superman CLOBBERS Darkseid with a punch that sends Darkseid tumbling ASSHOLE-OVER-ELBOW over the HORIZON and across the PLANET!

Travelling with Darkseid as he hurtles across the sky. His eyes go WIDE as he sees...

SUPERMAN, who has beaten him across the PLANET, and is waiting for Darkseid with his arms folded, as if he's been there for hours.

KA-PIE-YOW! Superman punches Darkseid back the way he came, then DISAPPEARS in a rush of wind and a blur of blue.

WHOOSH! Superman REAPPEARS over Washington Park. Looks down at Batman and the others and winks, as...

DARKSEID comes screaming back over the horizon, right towards Superman who SMASHES him down to Earth.

Darkseid looks up from the CRATER he's been punched into. Superman hovers above him, cracking his knuckles like he's just getting started.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Not holding back now, tough guy.

Desperate, Darkseid scans the battlefield, stumbles towards Hawkman's mace which is lying on the ground.

Superman waits, allows him to grab it, then WHOOSH! The mace DISAPPEARS from Darkseid's hand, and REAPPEARS in Hawkman's!

All the while, Superman didn't appear to even MOVE. Hawkman stares at Flash in bewilderment.

FLASH

(shrugs)

Wasn't me...

Combining his speed and his strength, Superman surrounds Darkseid in a FACE-PUNCH TORNADO.

Moving even FASTER than the Flash, Superman hits Darkseid THOUSANDS of times in a second.

When he's done, Darkseid's granite-like face is cracked and crumbling. He falls to his kneed before Superman.

Batman briefly rouses from the shock of Superman's display of power, to notice that Superman's ass-whipping of Darkseid has dislodged Darkseid's Mother Box.

Batman pounces on it. Starts typing away on it furiously.

Mocking Darkseid's earlier move, Superman lifts him over his head. But he doesn't show this to the world, but to the occupants of Darkseid's throne ship.

He flies towards the opening Wonder Woman punched in the aircraft.

INT. DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Superman flies inside. Seeing him holding Darkseid's unconscious body, the infantry drop their weapons. Fall back.

Superman tosses Darkseid's body unceremoniously into the pilot's seat. Then flies outside...

EXT. DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Superman grabs the ship by it's underbelly, and starts pushing it up, higher and higher, until he HURLS it into LOW ORBIT...

INT. DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Darkseid finally rouses, looks in the faces of his panicked crew.

ALIEN INANTRYMAN
Lord Darkseid? Lord Darkseid?

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Batman finishes typing on Darkseid's Mother Box. Hits a button.

EXT. CHINA - DAY

The Terrorformer Superman was fighting VANISHES into a GIANT boom tube!

ACROSS THE GLOBE

The Atlantic Ocean Terrorformer, the Australian Terrorformer, and the Yellowstone Terrorformer all DISAPPEAR into similar boom tubes!

INT. DARKSEID'S THRONE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Darkseid stands to his feet, just in time to see massive, overlapping BOOM TUBES forming just over his head.

The towers are being teleported INTO HIS SHIP...!

ALIEN INANTRYMAN

Lord Darkseid, what are your orders?

The Terrorformers start APPEARING, fusing INTO each other, giving off tremendous ENERGY FEEDBACK...

Darkseid looks to his infantry with a chilling, evil smile.

DARKSEID

I order you to die...

KA-BOOM! The throne ship goes up in a tremendous EXPLOSION!

The glare from the blast is so bright, even Superman has to shield his eyes.

Superman hovers in space and watches for a second. The battle over, he allows himself a deep breath.

But slowly, the familiar sounds of commotion intrude upon his super-hearing.

He's sure he's heard this sound before - the same sound of panic after he first pushed the Mother Ship into space.

He drops his head. It's happening again. Even though he let himself go to protect them, people are still scared of him.

But instead of running, he again descends. A determined look on his face, as if he's made up his mind to face their rejection.

But as he descends, the sound changes. It sounds less like panic and chaos than... applause?

EXT. METROPOLIS - DUSK

As he floats down through the cloud bank and descends over Metropolis, he's stunned and humbled to see...

People leaning from their windows, flooding the streets, waving from their roofs.

They're not panicking, their applauding. Waving. CHEERING.

Taken aback, Superman smiles as he descends, absently waving back at the grateful citizens of Metropolis.

He scans the crowd below, spots Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman, and Wonder Woman also applauding. Everyone except...

BATMAN. He doesn't applaud. But when he meets Superman's eyes, he actually slightly SMILES.

Superman smiles back, realizing that he's become the symbol of hope Batman predicted he could be.

EXT. METROPOLIS CITY HALL STEPS - DAY

The MAYOR of Metropolis leads a CELEBRATION RALLY in front of City Hall. TENS OF THOUSANDS of CITIZENS celebrate. Superman's CREST is visible on flags, T-shirts, tatoos...

On the dais behind the Mayor, Superman, Wonder Woman, Flash, and Green Lantern stand and wave.

MAYOR

.. the thanks of a grateful city,
grateful nation, and grateful
world. We are honored that Superman
has called Metropolis his home.

The crowd ROARS. The Mayor waits for them to settle. Turns to Superman.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

During the fighting, Superman, you
mentioned something about not
knowing what you are. Well, the
citizens of Metropolis know exactly
what you are...

As he speaks, he signals a group of workers, who remove a tarp revealing...

A STATUE OF SUPERMAN on the City Hall steps...

MAYOR (CONT'D)

... you're a hero.

SUPERMAN is stunned. The other heroes pat him on the back, congratulate him, etc.

EXT. METROPOLIS CITY HALL - LATER

Our heroes wave and smile as they exit the stage. As Flash leaves, a familiar-looking WOMAN ducks under a barricade and stands right in his face.

WOMAN

Remember me?

FLASH
 (lies)
 ... Sure!

WOMAN
 No, you don't.

Flash looks at her, tries to remember.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Run past me a few times, screw up
 my hair, steal my tapes. Then I'll
 start to look familiar.

Suddenly Flash recognizes her - it's the NEWSCASTER woman he
 scared the crap out of earlier in the film.

FLASH
 Oh!
 (realizing)
 Ohhhh... This conversation is going
 to be unpleasant for me, isn't it?

NEWSCASTER
 Very.

Flash motions like he's going to walk past her.

FLASH
 Then I'm just gonna...

She grabs him by his shirt.

NEWSCASTER
 Try to run off and you're taking me
 with you.

She pulls him in close to her by his shirt.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)
 You owe me a hard drive, a Beta
 tape, and a pair of underwear.

Flash looks in her eyes, and he's smitten. Serious. For the
 first time, he has no flirty comeback. He's only got one
 question:

FLASH
 What's your name?

NEWSCASTER(IRIS WEST)
 Iris. Iris West.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Lantern flies in through an open window, returning from the celebration to his empty hotel room.

He's noticeably sad as he powers down from his Green Lantern outfit into Hal Jordan's civilian clothes.

Hal Jordan STARTS when he sees Carol standing in a corner waiting for him. She saw him changing!

HAL JORDAN
I can explain.

Carol produces Hal's POWER LANTERN from behind her back. Dangles it in front of him.

CAROL
You always can.

Hal is speechless as Carol approaches him. She's only wearing one of his shirts - and she's unbuttoning it.

CAROL (CONT'D)
I trust your new friends can handle your "responsibilities" for a while?

Carol's shirt drops at Hal's feet. He smiles; takes her in his arms.

HAL JORDAN
(kissing her)
Goddamn right...

EXT. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A huge, abandoned government building on the outskirts of Metropolis.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)
They heard me?

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)
Heard? We saw. Everyone on the planet did.

INT. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Once a hub of activity, now mostly empty and cavernous.

AMANDA WALLER (O.S.)

We saw Darkseid offer you the world, and we saw you refuse. That's why they all love you, and that's why you're getting this one chance.

Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, and Superman stand in front of a giant, hi-tech computer, the screen of which takes up a whole wall.

Amanda Waller and a pair of NSA AGENTS are present, as is Hawkman, who skulks off to himself in a corner.

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)

The President's pardon clears you of all past activities, but you're all still technically vigilantes.

SUPERMAN

So, how's this going to work?

Amanda Waller walks them around them building, showing them state of the art monitoring systems, security, etc.

AMANDA WALLER

One, this building will be your de facto base of operations. If we need you, or you need us, you come here. No questions asked. Two, you don't violate the airspace of a sovereign ally of the United States without their permission. Three, and this is the deal breaker: you will stay out of national security matters.

FLASH

And national security means?

AMANDA WALLER

Whatever I tell you it means.

WONDER WOMAN

We don't work for you.

AMANDA WALLER

Not yet. But fail to follow my guidelines, and the President has authorized me to draft you into military service. That means a chain of command, orders, the works. And if you refuse that?

(MORE)

AMANDA WALLER (CONT'D)
Prison. This is as good a deal as
you're going to get.

SUPERMAN
What about Darkseid's technology?
Do you need our help rounding it
up?

AMANDA WALLER
No. We're handling it.

GREEN LANTERN
Meaning you're weaponizing it to
use against us.

Amanda stares him down.

AMANDA WALLER
That's national security.

Amanda and her men walk away. Towards a bank of elevators.

HAWKMAN
And where is the Batman?

AMANDA WALLER
Declined our offer. Doesn't like
rules. Prefers to work alone. Which
means he's a fugitive from the law.
Help him, and you will be too.

Amanda Waller boards the elevator.

FLASH
Anyways. Thank the President for
the sweet digs.

Amanda Waller answers as the elevator doors close.

AMANDA WALLER
Wasn't us. Private donation.

GREEN LANTERN
From who?

The doors close before Amanda can answer. But as it closes,
the elevator next to hers arrives with a DING.

Our heroes watch as a partially obscured BUSINESSMAN in a
nice suit disembarks the elevator and walks towards them.

Superman moves to investigate.

SUPERMAN
Sir? Can we help you?

The Businessman ignores Superman as he looks around.

FLASH
Uh... this is kind of private
property.

GREEN LANTERN
Want to tell us what you're doing
here?

The Businessman, aka Bruce Wayne, steps into the light.

BRUCE WAYNE
I'm the landlord.

Superman comes forward to shake Bruce's hand.

SUPERMAN
Oh, of course. Thank you, Mr.
Wayne. This is all very...

Bruce Wayne makes a point of smiling cryptically right into
Superman's face as they shake.

Superman sees something familiar in the smile. Notices Bruce
Wayne's right arm is in a sling.

Superman's eyes flash with recognition. He bursts into
laughter. Shakes Bruce's hand again.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Batman.

BRUCE WAYNE
Clark.

The others come over in shock. Shake Bruce's hand.

FLASH
No way! Bruce Wayne is...!

GREEN LANTERN
Should have known...

Wonder Woman walks over. She and Batman look into each
other's eyes.

BRUCE WAYNE
Now, you know my secrets, too.

Wonder Woman looks him up and down.

WONDER WOMAN

You are not nearly as ugly as I
would have thought.

The others laugh. Hawkman stays in the shadows, aloof. Apart
from the camaraderie.

FLASH

You paid for all this? You must be
loaded.

BRUCE WAYNE

It's an abandoned Justice
Department building. Multiple exits
and entrances. Well-fortified. And
centrally located between our
homes.

HAWKMAN

Home? I have been disowned by my
father and my people. Your people
fear and despise me. I have no
home.

Bruce Wayne walks over to him.

BRUCE WAYNE

You do, now. For as long as you
want it.

WONDER WOMAN

Thank you for your generosity,
Batman.

BRUCE WAYNE

Bruce.

WONDER WOMAN

Thank you, Bruce. But... I must
leave Metropolis. I have unfinished
work elsewhere.

BRUCE WAYNE

I know. I have something for you.

INT. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING - HANGAR - DAY

Bruce walks Wonder Woman into a seemingly empty hangar. She
looks at him, confused.

Batman hits a switch, turning off the lights. He lights up an
INFRARED FLASHLIGHT on a key-chain.

The infrared light reveals the outline of a translucent, INVISIBLE PLANE that fills the hangar.

BRUCE WAYNE

It was badly damaged in my fight with Hawkman. The stealth field won't turn off, but otherwise...

He extends the key chain in Wonder Woman's direction.

WONDER WOMAN

I don't understand. You are just - giving this to me?

BRUCE WAYNE

Well, you're the only one who can't fly or run at the speed of sound.
(beat, with difficulty)
Also, I may... regret some of the things I said at -

Wonder Woman nearly crushes Batman in an eager, grateful hug.

WONDER WOMAN

Thank you, Bruce! Thank you so much!

BRUCE WAYNE

Easy.

The others come in. Superman is a little uncomfortable seeing Wonder Woman hug and kiss Bruce on the cheek.

But he plays it off with a smile when Wonder Woman notices. (There's still definitely something going on with those two.)

FLASH

Okay, now that we're all here, I think we should talk about our group name.

WONDER WOMAN

Barry...

FLASH

- hear me out! I've been giving this some serious thought. Now, the whole world has Superman fever, right? So, why not capitalize on that?

GREEN LANTERN

Here we go...

FLASH
We'll call ourselves - THE SUPER
FRIENDS!

The others stare at him in disbelief. Then BURST OUT
LAUGHING.

FREEZE FRAME:

FADE TO BLACK.