

May 2025



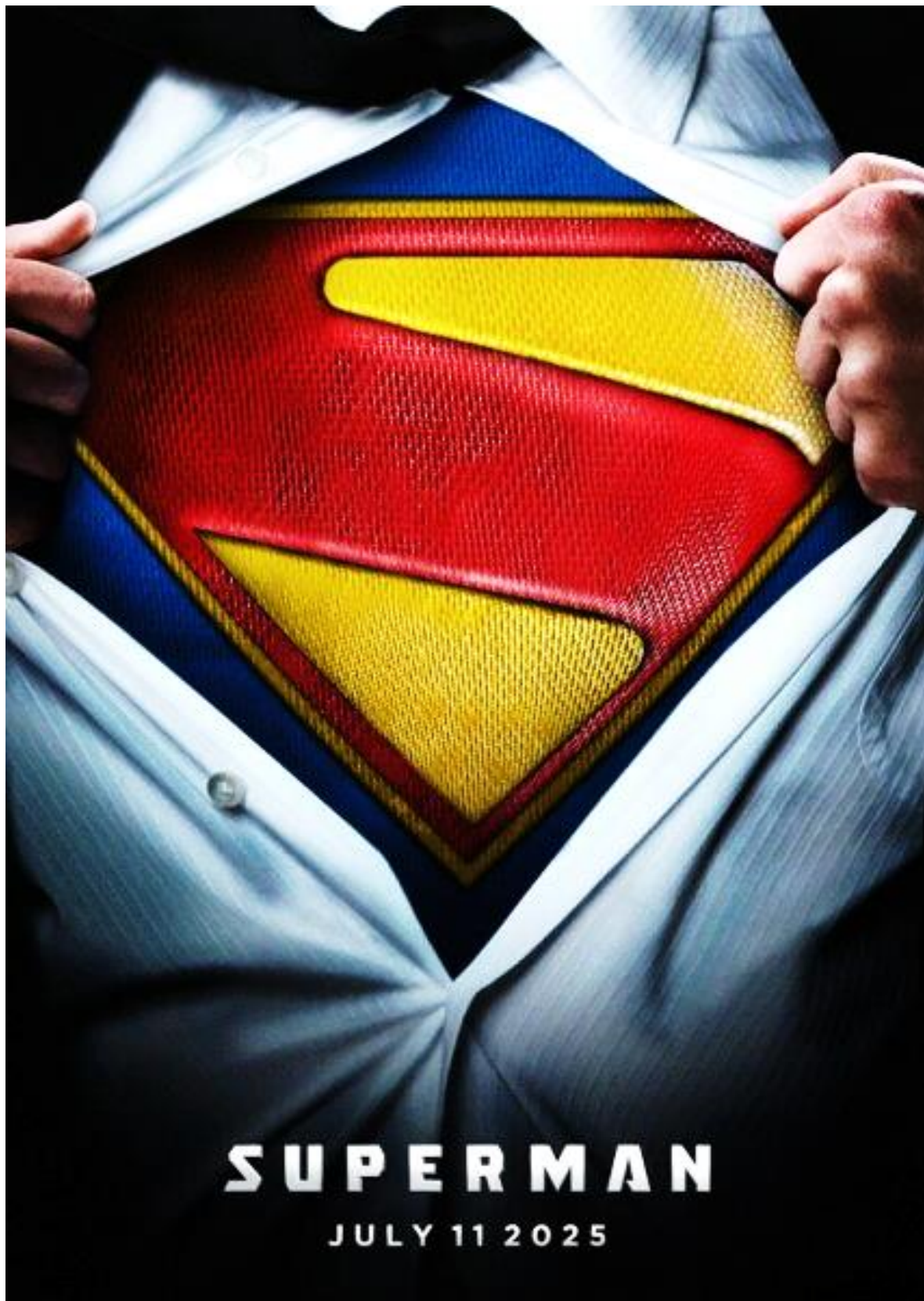
"It's your New York!"

The Rondout Reader



"Bring on the Future!"

by Kevin Ahearn



Visit Kandor

Fortress of Solitude
North Pole



See your  Travel Agent!



*"I don't think I ever thought of myself as **Superman**.
But there were people who thought of me that way,
and maybe I believed them a little."*



*"I thought I was bulletproof or **Superman** there for a while.
I thought I'd never run out of nerve. Never."*



*"I always say that 'Star Wars' had a huge effect on me, too,
but what 'Star Wars' did for some people, '**Superman**' did for me."*

SUPERMAN LIVES!



And I've Got Him!

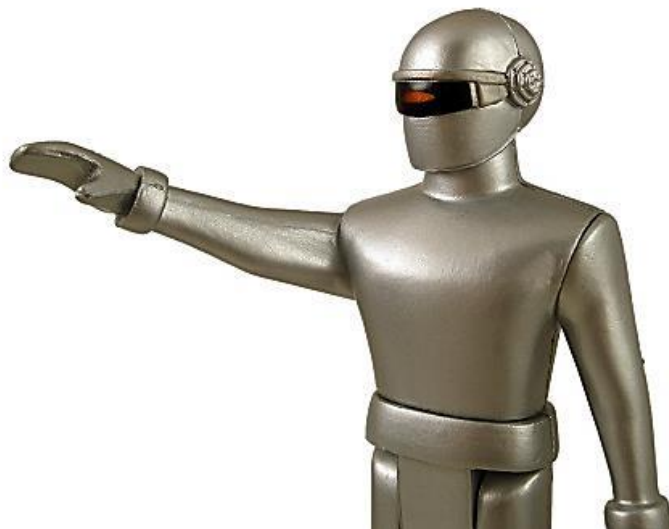
By Lex Luthor

This is what happens when you trust a space alien! That's what Superman and Brainiac are. And they've teamed up to loot the Galaxy!

Our only defense is The Male of Polymer. Superman left him for dead. But he underestimated the tenacity and perseverance of humanity.

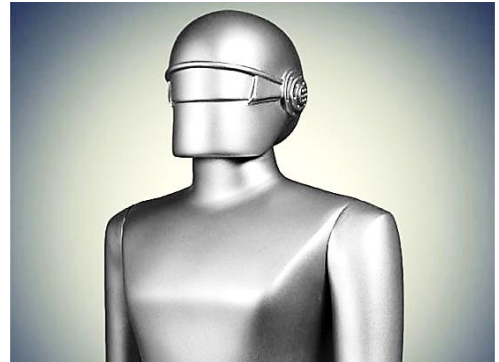


Brainiac's ship is bigger than an aircraft carrier. Polymer is equipped with a Superman-tracker. I will force my way in and defeat this 'Alien conspiracy'!



**All hail the Male of Polymer!
Created by the People, for the People
He is our man!**

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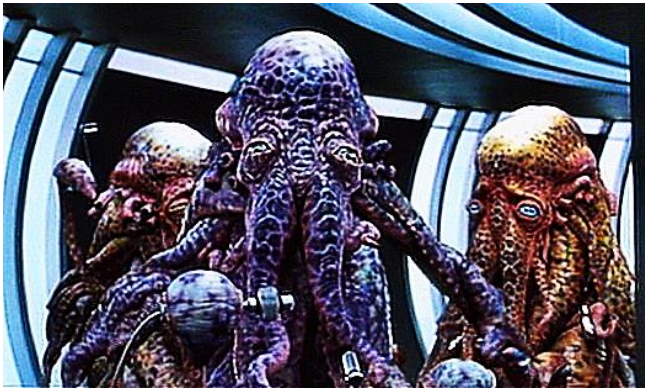
'By all that's holy in heaven! A collection of cities!'



Brainiac is beaten, Luthor. You and Polymer want more of the same?'



*'Wait, **Superman!** We find ourselves together, discoverers of a scientific treasure trove!'*



*'These defenseless creatures abducted by a monster!
Somehow they must be returned home!'*



*'Never! These beings belong to me.
To be subjects of my world!'*

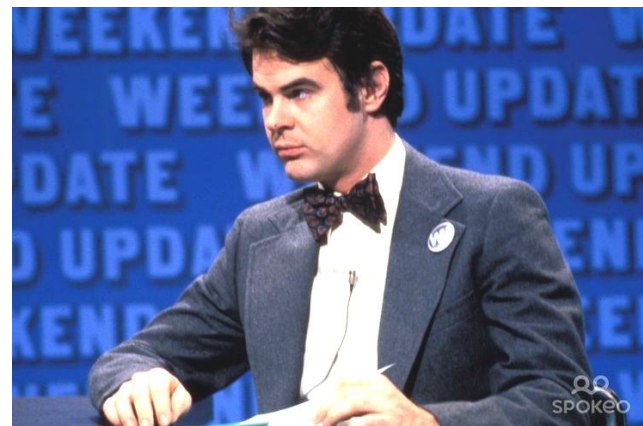


*'You two are not partners?'
'Oh, but we will be!'*

'Neither are we, Luthor!'



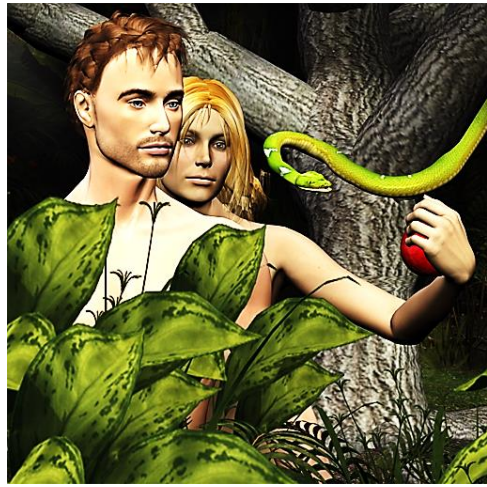
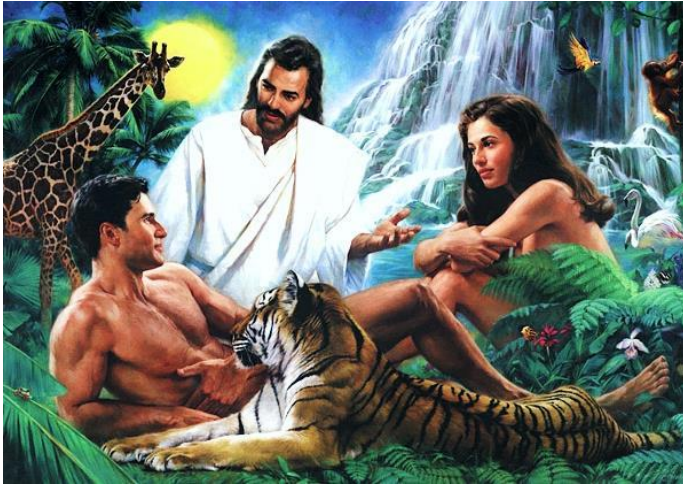
'What used to be. Oh, for those good ol' days!'



*'You mean nights of non-stop debauchery!
A disaster of Biblical proportions!
Thank God somebody understands!'*



*'Think Genesis! **Superman** is the 21st Century "Adam".
Metropolis, his "Garden of Eden".'*



*'But unlike the original 'Adam', **Superman** did not bite the apple or hook up with Eve or to the serpent. So instead of turning into a weak, common sinner, he became...*



'Same thing happened to me!'

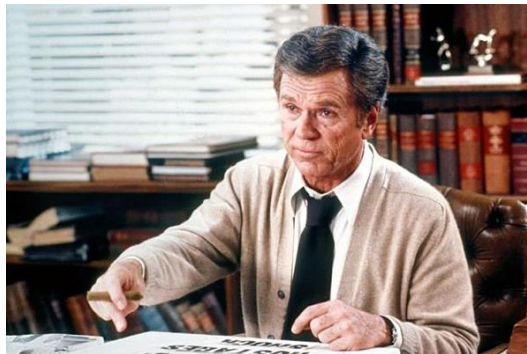




Beyond the bottle, a showdown!



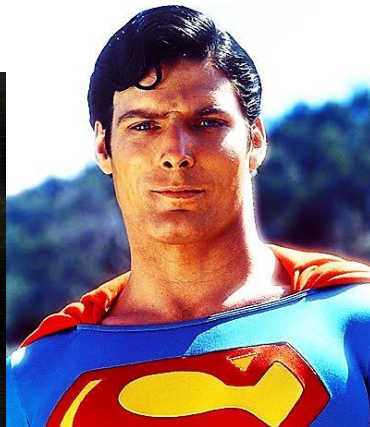
*"C'mon **Superman!** Finish this. Punch one of them!"*



'Calm down, Lois! They're in a room full of living cities! Not ideal for a brawl with a robot!'



'Whatever, Chief, I'm gonna get a slew of action shots!'





'What would Clark Kent do?'



*'Remember when you believed in **Superman**?
Sure, you did! It was easy! And made you feel so safe!*

*'No war, no terror. How much did he save you
on Flood Insurance? Like an Xmas gift that never stopped giving.*



'Until it did.



*'He just upped upped and left. 'Superman's World without **Superman!***

'Whacha gonna do now, Bunky?

*'Is there any **Superman** in you?*

'Your life just might depend on it!'



*'Who says **Superman's** dead? He's more alive now than he ever was and always will be!*

*'All those poor and needy people **Superman** helped...*



'Where did he get the money to buy all that food, and other stuff?

'Memorabilia, publishing, TV, Hollywood rights, and video games!'



'Chicken feed!'



'Superboy found out where the BIG money was. When he discovered that he possessed the most precious, most exclusive substance on earth---

Super-DNA!



'How much is a Super-Baby worth?'



'How many growing up "super"??'



'A robot...from where?'

'Whose side is it on?'

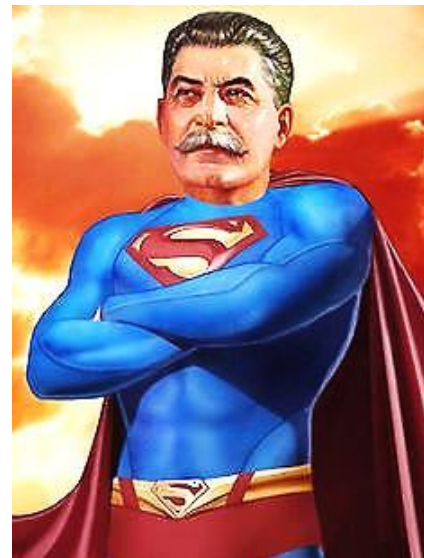
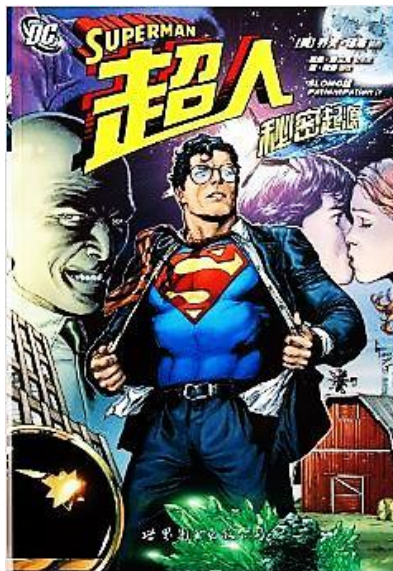
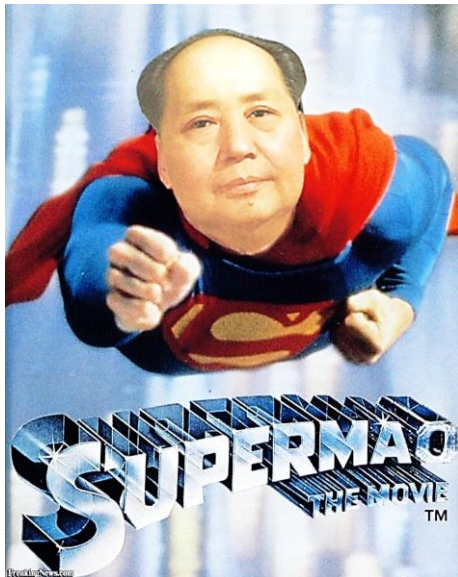


*'Power! All the power to my lab!
Shut down Kandor if we must!'*



The president took a deep breath before he spoke.

"People of China, a decade ago, a teenage boy made America the world's lone superpower."



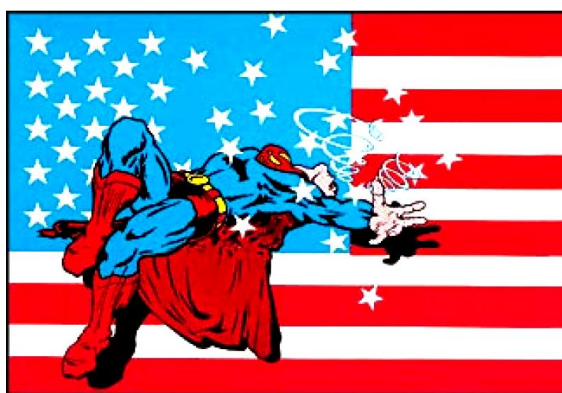
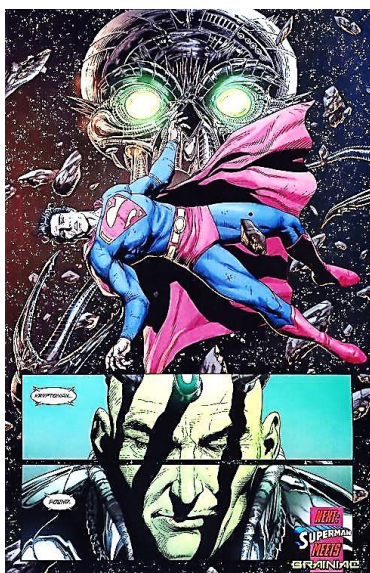
*'Communism is not love.
Communism is a hammer
which we use to crush the enemy.'*

*'Death solves all problems.
- no man, no problem.'*

*"While our beloved nation was considered dull and dingy
compared to the bright and beautiful United States!"*



"Brainiac has rearranged the world order."



*'How will China fill a gaping leadership role?
Shall we declare ourselves the 'new superpower'?*

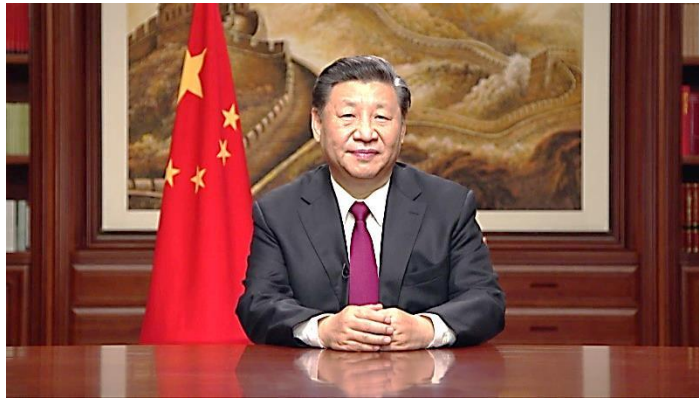


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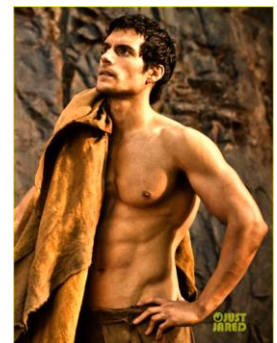
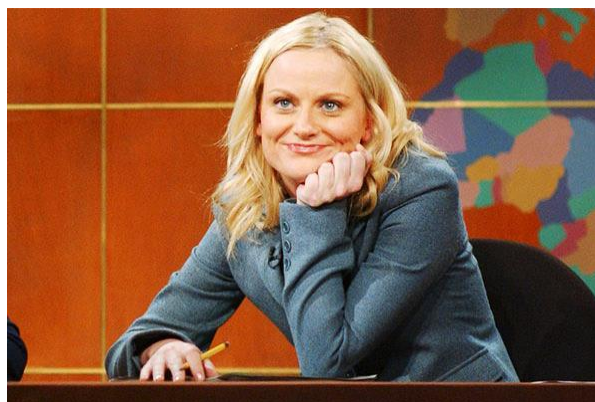


"Our former military leaders urge me to rearm, to rebuild our army, navy and air force! The cost and sacrifice will be huge, but the reward priceless!"

"I say NO! China must always be thought of as a 'defender' rather than as an 'aggressor' nation. We will patiently bide our time for the first shred of evidence that the United States or Russia or Germany or Japan is re-establishing their military, China will make another 'Great Leap Forward'..."



"The future belongs to the strong. China will create the most powerful war machine the world has ever seen!"



*'I've always been in love with **Superman!**
He makes me imagine!
Without those street clothes and costume...
Who else is even close?*



*'The eyes that melted a thousand ships!
Only I could see his vulnerability, his need!
Where would we go, what would we see?*



*'Oh, how could we make each other feel?
Super-strong, Super-fast, could he also be
Super-gentle and Super-understanding?*

*'And Super-Duper virile with a tireless id
who'd never stop loving only me!'*



*'What an undemanding male
this **Superman** must me!'*



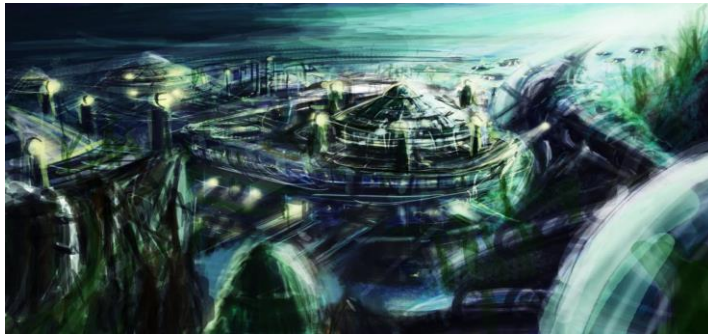
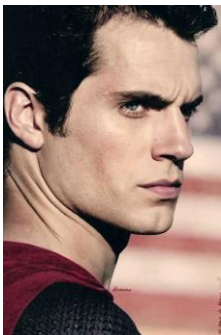
'We've always hoped so!'



Millions of eyes from dozens of species stared out of their bottles...



*'Imagine, **Superman!** Every city stripped to its bones, the technology a boon for humanity!'*



*'Making us no different from **Brainiac!**'*



'Half a hundred civilizations, each destined to occupy my world!'

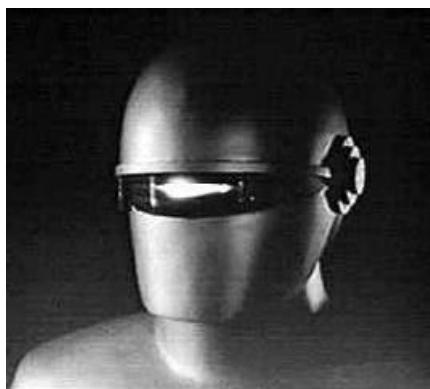
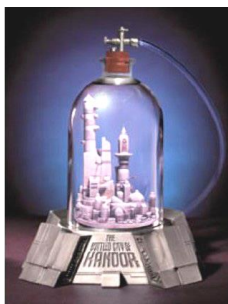


'I grew up on an alien planet. These victims need to go home.'

*'Idealistically impractical!!
So would razing the ship!'*

'The solution: two must ally against the one.'

A long moment...



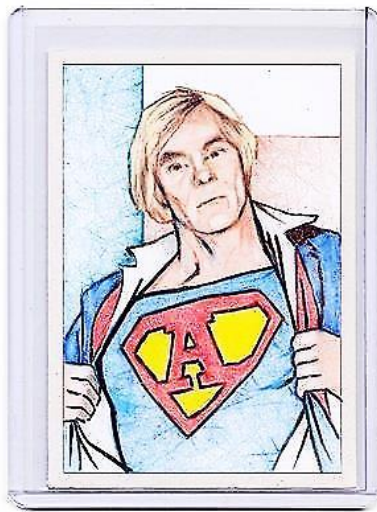
*'Unite with me against this mandroid,
or with one finger I'll destroy Kandor!'*

*'With me versus this city-stealing thug,
or...a single burst, Metropolis!'*



II





'Everybody must have a fantasy.'



'We have the right to dream heroic dreams.'

Who I Am



By SUPERMAN

I found out where I came from, an alien planet ...Krypton!

Imagine discovering that you're from a place, a culture you never heard of. And you visit and ask yourself...How much of this world is me?



How much of *Superman* is Krypton?

Its red sun gave me my incredible powers. My birth parents saved my life and I never knew them.



My *true* parents made me believe who I had to become!



They gave me my values of hard work, honesty and compassion.

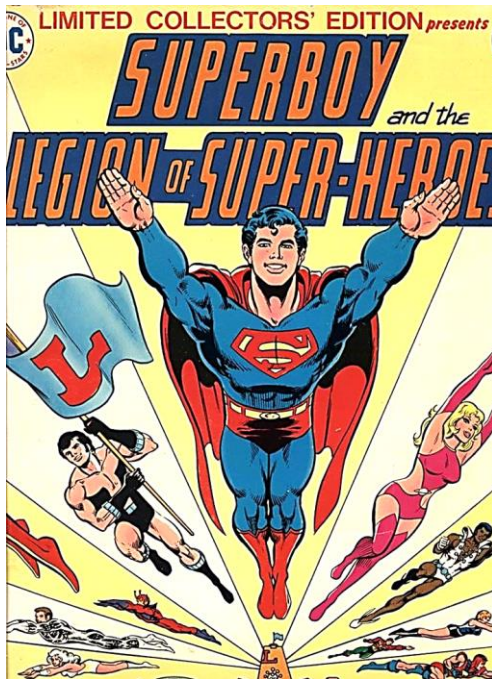
I am an American of *Kryptonian* ancestry!

Super-strength, super-speed, super-vision, and I could fly! To go on as an 'ordinary' teenager would have been a lie!

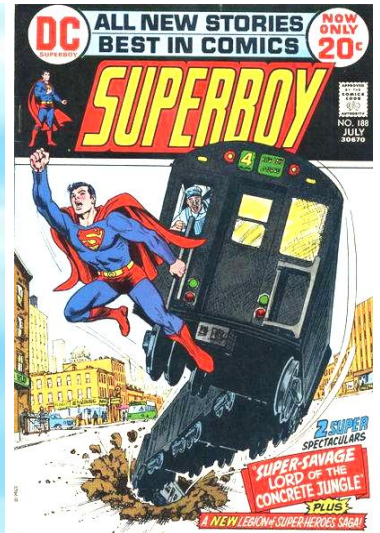
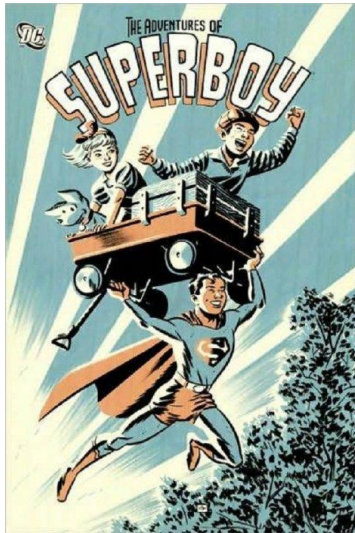


Mom gave me my Kryptonian swaddling and In about ten minutes, I designed and tailored my costume. (The boots took a little longer.)

I became who I had to be!



The very first time...I heard my cape rippling in the air and the felt the sky and the clouds blowing by me as I ripped through faster and faster, around the earth again and again!



With my telescopic vision I looked to the children...



Then the adults who were running their lives.



Should I wait until I'm 'fully mature' to do something about it?



Not another minute, the 'Super-Era' begins right now!

(Continued on page 12)



The President cleared the Oval Office before making the call.



'Good morning, Your majesty.'

'I'm afraid our troubles are beginning all over again.'



'Good afternoon, Mr. President. I'm sorry for your troubles.'

*'When **Superboy** appeared, millions of good people lost their jobs.'*



*'The "Super-Era" is over.
My advisors urge rearming!'*

*'Are we again going to be training
men and women to kill people?'*

'Then China, Russia, and everybody else!'

*'I'm not so pessimistic. **Superman**
was in earth for only ten years, a
symbol of power, courage, honesty
and compassion!'*

'And he left nothing behind?'



*'I want to believe that every great
American bequeaths a legacy, an
impact.'*

*'**Superman's** been gone a week.
and for too many, it's as if he were
never here.'*

*'Keep your faith in humanity, Mister
President. **Superman** will always be here!'*

*'
Because if all he has done has left no
mark, then neither will either of us!'*



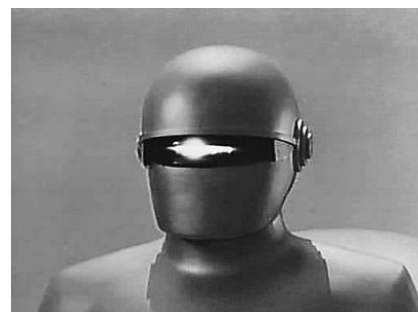
In a menagerie of cities, not a single eye blinked...



*'Begone, both of you!
Or I'll self-destruct my
ship!'*



*'Is that the ruler you
will become...of the
dead?'*



*'More than fifty separate cultures!
To conquer the future, we may have
to break a few eggs!'*



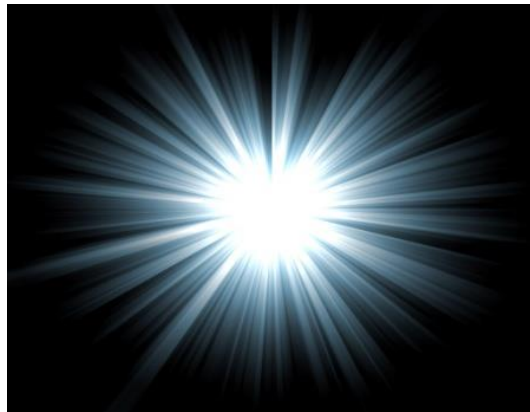
"It's over, Superman!"



"A Man of Steel sandwich!"



At that moment...

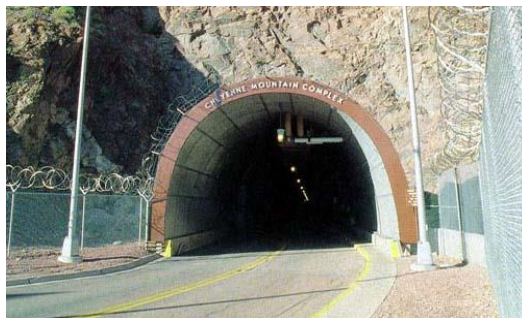


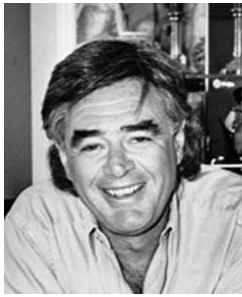
'What in the Universe?'

And the next...

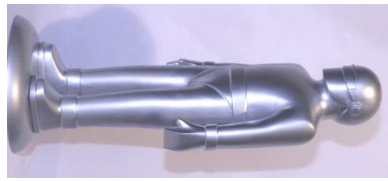


'Great Scott! Where did they go?'





'What just happened?'



'The Male of Polymer has been reduced to a grain of dust!'



*'But how? **Brainiac?** Did the two unite against me?'*



*'Rest in Peace, **Superman.** Oh, if only I could see the body!'*



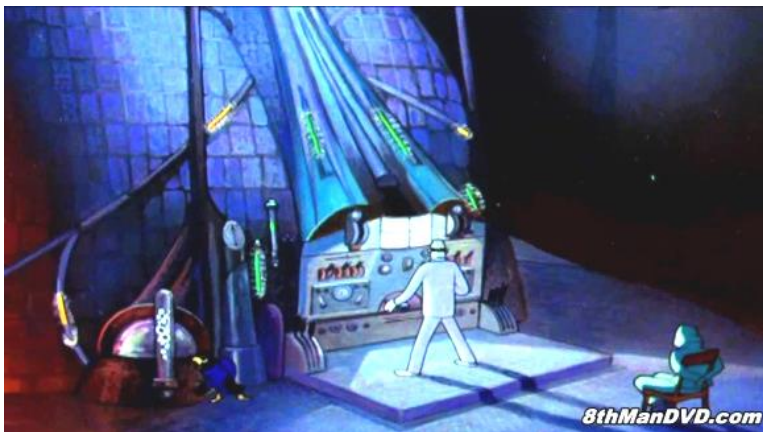
'The little "nobodies" suddenly promoted!'





*'While the foolish democracies took **Superman** for granted, I knew his fall had to come. For ten full years, we've secretly been building invincible weapons!'*

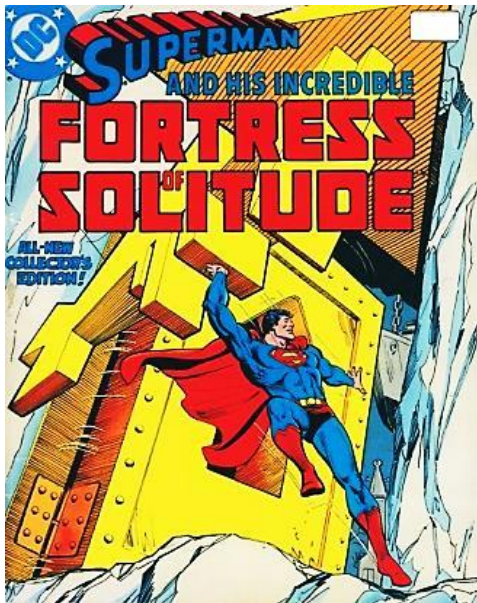
'The future belongs to the Super-bear!'



'Both were easy targets. Thankfully, shrinking takes less energy than enlarging.'

*'Find the pair with your telescopic vision.
'I've got just the habitat for them!'*

'I look forward to restoring Metropolis and then...'



'I have a place where Kandor will be safe!'



*'We've been 'safe' for too long, **Superman.**
The Kryptonian council voted as one to shut down
Brainiac's "Eternal Light". We will live out our lives.'*

*'And make the Honorable
Kimba what he always
wanted to be...A
grandfather!'*



*'I failed to take action that might
have helped the People of Krypton!
Not this time.'*

'We have control over Brainiac's ship. We will return and restore these cities to their rightful homes!'

'A quest I would have never imagined!'



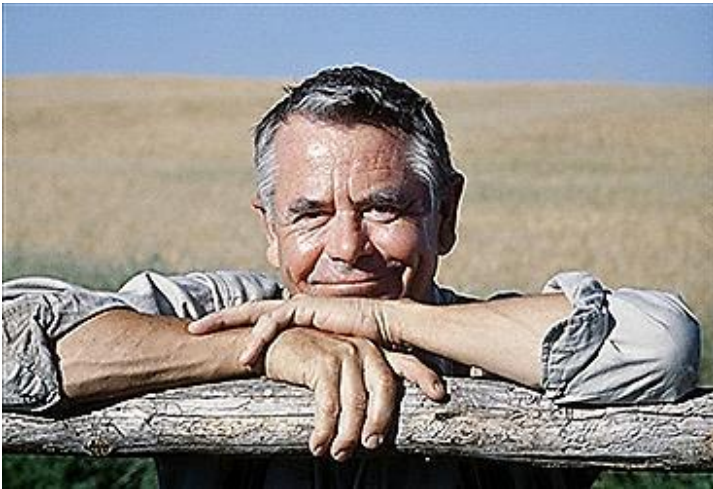
"Honorable" Kimba. My parents are smiling at us!



Arriving at the farmhouse...



*'Mr. and Mrs. Kent, there's been some commotion
in the area and we just wanted to make sure you folks are okay.'*



*'Everything's just fine, Captain.
Thanks for coming by.'*



'You boys make us feel so proud.'



'So does yours, M'am. So does yours!'



When Brainiac awakened...

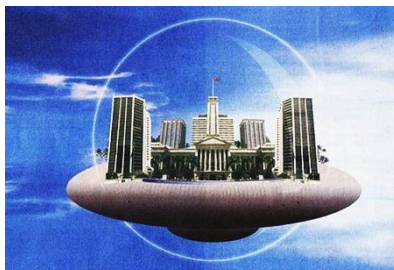


***'Noooooo! Diminished and dumped
in the city of the dead!'***

He was not alone...



*'A mechanized man! Inert? Helpless?
I am the master of the super-sciences!
'This is not the end, **Superman!** Only the
beginning!'*





*'We are back in the news and in front of it!
'Fire up the presses! We've got a "Brave New
World" to astound!'*



'Super-"Urban Renewal"! A few power outages, some gas leaks, and broken water mains, otherwise, "Like it never even happened!"'



'And I was worried about all those kids who'd never get the chance to grow up.'



'I bet a bunch of them just did!'



'Again Metropolis, America and the world have a hopeful future!'



*'Thanks to **Superman!**'*

