

143

EXT. METROPOLIS STREETS - VARIOUS - MOMENTS LATER

143

Sidewalks are crammed with people heading home. A breeze picks up. A strange wind echoes between the buildings. People look up, trying to find the source of the sound.

A FIGURE appears on the horizon, cruising through the air, darting between and over the skyscrapers: SUPERMAN.

All over the city, the people of Metropolis see him soaring overhead: a hot dog vendor, a traffic cop, people at a bus stop. A mother points him out to her young daughter.

IN THE AIR

Superman looks down at the people and smiles, then makes a sharp right and heads out of Metropolis.

144 EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

144

The noise of the city fades as Superman flies along the river. He looks down, gazing at rows of houses on the shore. Spotting one, he slows down.

145 EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

145

It's a large suburban home nestled near the riverbank. A SEAPLANE floats next to a small dock, which leads to a yard and swingset. Lights are on. Superman quietly descends past the trees, and hovers outside.

Inside, he can hear the first few notes of "Heart & Soul" being played over and over again. He stares for a moment, then focuses.

X-RAY VISION POV: A child's bedroom on the second floor. The parents' bedroom across the hall. Both are messy.

Superman goes in for a closer look...

145A INT. LOIS LANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

145A

Lois is setting down boxes of Chinese takeout while Richard fumbles with chop sticks. Jason plays "heart and soul" on a small electronic keyboard.

LOIS

Kung Pao shrimp.

JASON

Mine!

LOIS

Nice try, kiddo. No peanuts, no seafood, and definitely no wontons.

~~(opens boxes for him)~~

~~That's mine and you can't have it.~~

Jason sneers, goes back to playing on the keyboard.

RICHARD

Why do we get Chinese food if he's allergic?

LOIS

Because he loves the peas. And I think we all prefer egg rolls over macrobiotic shakes.

JASON

Macrobiot-ICK.

RICHARD

Good point.

Beat. There's an awkward moment of silence. Richard looks over to see Lois scooping out food for everyone, but giving herself a small portion. Something is on his mind. Beat.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I've noticed you've been acting a little different lately...

LOIS

Have I?

RICHARD

And I promised myself I'd never ask you about this -- but now that he's back...

(beat)

Your article...

LOIS

'Why the world doesn't need Superman?'

RICHARD

No, no -- the other one -- from years ago, before we met.

LOIS

Which article? I wrote dozens about him. I was practically his press agent.

RICHARD

'I Spent the Night With Superman'

LOIS

Richard, come on -- that was just a title for an interview. Plus, it was your uncle Perry's idea.

RICHARD

No, no, no... it's okay, I was...

LOIS

Richard, that was a long time ago.

Clearly you can tell by the trepidation in her voice, it was not long enough. Beat.

RICHARD

Were you in love with him?

LOIS

He was *Superman*. Everyone was in love with him.

RICHARD

But were you?

Lois turns -- stares directly at him.

LOIS

No.

145B EXT. LOIS LANE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

145B

Superman watches Lois and Richard, having listened to the whole conversation. He sighs, then rises into the sky.

146 INT. LOIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

146

Lois picks at some food, then suddenly stops and turns to the window, staring into their backyard. Beat.

RICHARD

Lois? You okay?

Lois snaps out of it, turns back to the table.

LOIS

Yeah. Sorry. Hey, didn't I have four won-tons?

She sees Jason stuffing a won-ton into his mouth. She panics.

LOIS (CONT'D)

JASON!

Lois and Richard dive, trying to snatch it from his mouth.

147 EXT. SKIES OVER LOIS' HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

147

Obviously bothered, Superman flies STRAIGHT UP, rising above the city. Music swells as we hear the familiar voice of:

JOR-EL (V.O.)

Even though you were raised as a human being, you are not one of them.

VWOOSH! He passes through a cloud layer.

JOR-EL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They can be a great people Kal-El. They wish to be...

Superman rockets through another cloud layer. He doesn't cry, but his eyes are welling up -- and it isn't the wind.

JOR-EL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They only lack the light to show them the way. For this reason above all, their capacity for good...

VWOOSH! He passes through another cloud bank...

148 EXT. ABOVE THE EARTH - SUPERMAN'S PERCH - CONTINUOUS 148

JOR-EL (V.O.)

I have sent them you... my only son.

Superman settles at the edge of space, hovering. It is truly majestic. He closes his eyes and bows his head, almost as if meditating. Then we realize he is actually LISTENING. WE HEAR WHAT SUPERMAN HEARS: layers of voices, radio chatter, television signals, thunderstorms, EVERYTHING. The sounds come quickly, overlapping -- building to a chorus.

He focuses to filter out the more chaotic sounds, then hears it: A RINGING ALARM. He opens his eyes, and with a powerful SONIC BOOM, Superman is off...

A149 OMITTED A149

B149 OMITTED B149

149 EXT. BANK - ROOFTOP - NIGHT 149

AN ALARM BLARES. THE ROOFTOP DOOR bursts open, revealing THREE HEAVILY ARMED ROBBERS. They meet A FOURTH ROBBER, THE GUNMAN, who is in the midst of assembling a large piece of machinery. A HELICOPTER sits nearby, its blades already spinning. The men throw the bags of money inside.

ROBBER 1

Sounds like a lot of them down there.

The Gunman just GRINS and reveals what he's been assembling: A HUGE TRIPOD-MOUNTED GATLING GUN. He swings it around, moving it towards the edge of the roof.

CAMERA FOLLOWS THE GUN as it's pointed down towards the street, revealing:

SIX POLICE CARS positioned in front of the bank.

*

150B EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

150B

The cops take their places and aim their weapons upward just as--

*

BOOOM! A HAIL OF GUNFIRE RAINS DOWN from the roof, but not any ordinary gunfire. They're GLOWING TRACER BULLETS. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The cops scatter for cover as their cars explode.

150C EXT. BANK - ROOFTOP - SAME TIME

150C

FROM ABOVE, we see the tracer bullets streaming downward, tearing apart the police cars in a matter of seconds.

151 INT. BANK - STAIRWELL - SAME TIME

151

TWO BANK SECURITY GUARDS creep slowly out of a hiding spot behind the stairwell EXIT DOOR. Hearing the sound of gunfire and explosions outside, the first guard turns to his partner...

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*

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*

BANK GUARD #1

(nervous)

~~What~~ Ready?*What
change
here?*

His partner nods. They both raise their guns.

152 EXT. BANK - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

152

THE GUARDS BURST THROUGH THE DOOR AND FIRE. THE GUNMAN is hit in the back, but the bullets don't penetrate his flak vest.

HE SWIVELS THE GUN AROUND, aiming it right at the guards. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

WE FOLLOW TRACER BULLETS as they blast from the gun and tear across the rooftop.

BULLET POV: closing in on the terrified face of ONE OF THE GUARDS. Suddenly, A BLURRY RED STREAK zips PAST THE BULLETS. The streak stops, and quickly comes into focus -- THE SUPERMAN SHIELD.

PING! PING! PING! THE TRACERS RICOCHET off of the emblem. *

PULL BACK, to reveal SUPERMAN IN HIS CLASSIC HEROIC POSE, hundreds of bullets bouncing off of his body. The other robbers hit the ground, shielding themselves from the ricocheting bullets. *

Superman calmly walks towards the gatling gun, deflecting more bullets. Suddenly-- CLICK - CLICK! It's empty. *

Panicked, the Gunman pulls out a PISTOL and aims it point-blank at SUPERMAN'S EYE. BOOM! He fires. *

CLOSE ON: The bullet. It exits the barrel AND BOUNCES OFF OF HIS EYE, then plops to the ground. *

ANGLE ON: the stunned robbers. *

ANGLE ON: Superman. He shakes his head. *

SMASH CUT TO: *

153 EXT. BANK ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

153 *

THE POLICE OFFICERS burst onto the rooftop, guns raised. THE CAPTAIN drops his jaw and lowers his weapon. The two bank guards are smiling at them. *

BANK GUARD *

What took you guys so long? *

WIDER. The helicopter's propeller lazily spins like a mobile toy, revealing EACH ROBBER wrapped up in a different blade. *