MA! PA!

They only wanted to make sure I got home safe.
BUT I SAW ANGELS, CLARK--AND THEY GATHERED HER UP.

I'M GOING TO DIE. I KNOW THAT.

I WANT TO DIE AT HOME.

MR. KENT, YOU CAN'T...!

YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT, PA. I'LL MAKE SURE OF THAT.

PA?

MARTHA'S DEAD--
I CAN JUMP HALF A MILE.
I CAN LIFT A TRUCK.
I CAN START A FIRE WITH MY STARE.

PA.
I WASN'T THERE FOR YOU—I'M SO SORRY.

SHH! CLARK!
NO MAN ON EARTH HAS THE AMAZING POWERS YOU HAVE.

NEVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE, SON...

PROMISE ME YOU'LL USE THEM TO BECOME A FORCE FOR GOOD—A CHAMPION OF THE DOWNTROdden.

R.I.P.
MARThA CLARK KENT
BELOVED MOTHER

R.I.P.
JONATHAN KENT
BELOVED FATHER
WHY NOT JUST DIE!
Die again and again.

Again!

And

You're at your best when you're dying.

...told you...

...I told you...

...I have other plans.
PLANS?

I DON'T CARE!
OUR FUTURE HAPPENED BECAUSE SUPERMAN DIED.

WE HAVE TO SAVE HIS LIFE, EVEN IF IT COSTS EACH OF US OUR OWN.

THE PLAN IS A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE AGE OF UNIVERSE BY REWRITING THE PAST.

THERE’S A REASON WHY I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SUPER-HERO. MOMENTS LIKE THIS TAKE ME RIGHT BACK.

...CLARK KENT? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WE’RE OLD FRIENDS, MRS. KNIGHT. WE WERE ONLY TRYING TO FIND OUT WHEN HIS PARENTS DIED.

EXACTLY WHEN.

...ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO TO HELP, DON’T HESITATE TO ASK.

I’LL LET YOU KNOW, MR. KENT.

I’LL LET YOU KNOW.
WE'RE TOO LATE!

JONATHAN.
THere's NO PAIN.
Tell him I love him.

LOVE YOU, JONNY.
ALWAYS.
LOVE.

Tell him yourself.
Through me.
AND IT'S A DONE DEAL.

GLENMORGAN'S FALL CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE RISE AND RISE OF LEX LUTHOR.

A NEW MONSTER, FAR WORSE THAN THE OLD ONE.

SUPERMAN WAS PREOCCUPIED IN A CAT AND MOUSE GAME WITH "ICARUS" FOR YEARS WHILE I STRUCK IN A DOZEN PLACES.

HOW ABOUT A DRINK TO CELEBRATE THIS TURNING POINT?

NO THANKS. I'M TEETOTAL.

THE THING IS, IT'S HARD TO MANEUVER HERE WITH SO FEW DIMENSIONS.

STILL, IT WORKED WITH OLD MAN WENT'S HANDKERCHIEF, GLENMORGAN'S TIE.

THE RULES OF ISOMORPHIC MAGIC SAY I CAN USE SUPERMAN'S CAPE TO HELP BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL.

SO I'VE ARRANGED EVENTS TO BRING HIM DOWN TO EARTH; LET'S WATCH.
Care to waste some more bullets, boys?

Let the lady go... and start running.

Oh yeah?

What?

No...

See here? The oaf's at my mercy.
AWESOME.

WHY DIDN'T I FORESEE THIS?

I NEED EXTRA ARMS AND LEGS, AND EYES IN THIS LITTLE WORLD.

I NEED AN ARMY. AN ARMY OF SUPERMAN-HATERS.

LET'S YOU AND I MAKE A DEAL.
NO RECOIL.

1934, in the 31st century, Numrod. There's more where that came from if you and the others fetch me Superman's Kryptonite engine.

GOT HIM. NO RECOIL. YOU SAY IT'S A TELEPORT RIFLE?

ANTIQUES IN THE 31ST CENTURY, NUMROD.

THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM IF YOU AND THE OTHERS FETCH ME SUPERMAN'S KRYPTONITE ENGINE.

WE HAVE TO GO BACK IN TIME--TO THE DAY KRYPTONITE WAS STOLEN.

THE LEGION!

THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.

THAT SOUND...
DDDIZZ-droYY!!

Erik—
You can still... still help me.
You were... a scientist...

That's it.
You failed your master.
Let your spirit die. Space dog.

I am... I am a scientist...

Feel... so... hollow...

I know.
I know... there's a decent man in there.

HELP ME SET THESE CHAINS OFF THE GUY.

I know there's good in you. Superman?

SUPERMAN'S IN TROUBLE!

HELP ME GET THESE CHAINS OFF THE GUY!

GIMME A HAND HERE!

HE'S DYING FOR GOD'S SAKE!

NO, GET BACK!

HE'LL KILL YOU!

I owe you... non, get away...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?
AN UNSTOPPABLE KILLER FRANCHISE FROM A PARALLEL REALITY!
A THOUGHT THAT GETS BIGGER AND BIGGER THE MORE YOU THINK IT.

THE THOUGHT OF A SUPERMAN BETTER THAN YOU!
RUN!

NGNFFF!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YOU'RE HURT.
IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

XA-DU GOT LOOSE.
THIS IS IT, ISN'T IT?
VANDXKVX IS ABOUT TO ATTACK FROM THE 5TH DIMENSION.

HE'S ALWAYS ATTACKING--
THIS IS JUST WHERE YOU REALLY START TO FEEL IT.

YOU HAVE TO GO TO MARS NEXT.
AFTER THAT... IT'S ALL UP TO YOU, SUPERMAN.

YOU ALL KNOW THE FUTURE, SATURN WOMAN. DO I WIN?
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, DON'T FORGET THAT.

PREVENT SUPERMAN'S DEATH, WE STOP THE RISE OF UNIVERSO AND SAVE THE LIVES OF ALL OUR FRIENDS.

AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WIPE OUT OUR ENTIRE HISTORY, LONG LIVE THE LEGION.

LET'S FINISH THIS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO GIZZY?

MAYBE WE CAN HELP.
I‘M THE THOUGHT OF A BIGGER SUPERMAN.

A STRONGER, MORE RUTHLESS SUPERMAN!

LOOK AT YOU!

WEAK, POISONED.

RELIANT ON YELLOW SUNLIGHT TO RE--

I‘M POWERED BY A SIMPLE CORPORATE DIRECTIVE: ANNihilATE THE COMPETITION!

LOOK AT ME!

YOUR REPLACEMENT.

THE LAST KNIGHT OF TOMORROW!

STEP ASIDE!
Nobody kills Superman but Lex Luthor!
Tsk! Seventeen years old, you can lift a tractor over your head—
—and you still can’t tie a bow tie.

Thanks, Ma.

Don’t paw your ma any mind, Clark. She still ties mine too.

Now don’t you run off anywhere before I take a picture.

Where did I put that camera?
Senior Prom, guess that means graduation’s right around the corner. Won’t be long now before you’re off making your own way in the world. Pretty exciting.

Yeah.

I guess.
A little scary too, eh?

Well... it's just that you and Ma and all my friends will be here...

And you'll be someplace new, far away?

None of us can know what the future will bring, Clark. But the important thing is—

Huh?
CLARK?

IS THAT YOU?

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER THE EVENTS OF ACTION COMICS #18.
OH, I SET IT. FULLER'S PRANK ON THE OLP MAN, EH? LIKE THE TIME WE —

SMALLVILLE...

TIME MUST STILL BE UNFOLDING... RIGHTING ITSELF...

OH, I GET IT! PULLING A PRANK ON THE OLD MAN, EH? LIKE THE TIME WE —

IT... IT'S NOT A TRICK...

IT'S REALL Y YOU!

LAST NOOFF TIME I CHECKED.

LITTLE TOO TIGHT THERE, SON.
Sorry, I was just so excited to see you after so long—

“Go long”? This isn’t a prank, is it?

It’s… well, it’s a long story. Let’s just say that something’s going to happen years from now, something that will mix the past and present together for a while.

So you’re saying I’m the past and you’re from…?

My present, your future.

Are you happy?

Yes.

Are you helping people?

As much as I can.

Then that’s all I need to know.

But don’t worry about that! I’ve got so much to tell you and ma about my life, my friends, my job—well, my regular job and all of this too.

Hold on, slow down. Just tell me two things.

Are you happy?

Yes.

Are you helping people?

As much as I can.

Then that’s all I need to know.

My… except maybe one other thing. If you’re in such a rush to tell your ma and me about everything—

—then I’d guess we’re probably not around to see it all for ourselves, are we?

...
Well, all right then. That's it?

NEVER REALLY THOUGHT I'D LIVE FOREVER, CLARK. HAPPENS TO ALL OF US, SOoner OR LATER.

BESIDES, WHAT DO I ALWAYS TEACH YOU?

''BECUSE KENTS Arent QUITTERS''

THAT'S GOTTEN ME THROUGH A LOT OVER THE YEARS. THANKS, PA.

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO FACE IT WITH COURAGE AND YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH--

NO, I MEAN THANKS--

--TO YOU AND MA--

--FOR EVERYTHING.

I LOVE YOU, PA.

LOVE YOU TOO, SON.
YOU STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING, THEN THE NEXT THING I KNOW, YOU'RE HUGGING ME.

MM? OH, SORRY, CLARK. GUESS I'M GETTING SENTIMENTAL IN MY OLD AGE.

MUST BE FROM SEEING YOU GROWING UP SO FAST.

WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY IS THAT, SURE, CHANGE CAN BE SCARY, BUT IF YOU NEVER TRY ANYTHING NEW, YOU'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO.

WHATEVER LIFE BRINGS YOU, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MEET IT WITH YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH—

HOLD STILL NOW SO I CAN GET A SHOT OF MY TWO BOYS. THIS IS ONE DAY WE'RE GOING TO WANT TO REMEMBER—

--FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

--BECAUSE KENTS AREN'T QUITTERS!—

OH, THERE YOU TWO ARE!
ALL THE NEWS: COMING UP: NIGHTWING SIGHTINGS IN CHICAGO, WHICH UNLIKE GOTHAM HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR MASKED HEROES, HAVE LED THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO RELEASE THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

"THE CITY OF CHICAGO DOES NOT ENDORSE VIOLENCE IN ANY WAY... BUT OUR POLICE ARE CLEARED TO APPREHEND ANY TARGET THEY DEEM A THREAT... ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE COSTUMED VARIETY."

ALL THE NEWS: NOW: UMP—YOU'RE OUT? STRONG WORDS OUT OF THE WINDY CITY—LET'S HOPE THAT EVERYTHING BLOWS OVER.

AND NOW WE TURN TO FIELD CORRESPONDENT A. BUG WITH HIS FIRST REPORT IN THE CHANNEL 52 INVESTIGATIVE SERIES ON THE DEADLY NEW EPIDEMIC KNOWN AS UMP.

CHANNEL 52

IM BETHANY SNOW AND THIS IS CHANNEL 52 NEWS. THOSE STORIES COMING UP, BUT FIRST WE HAVE AN UPDATE ON A SITUATION WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING—THE VIGILANTE NIGHTWING SEEMS TO HAVE RELOCATED HIS OPERATIONS FROM GOTHAM CITY TO CHICAGO.

ALL THE NEWS: NOW: NOT MUCH TO REPORT ON THE FAMILY TRAGEDY!... BUT OUR POLICE ARE CLEARED TO APPREHEND ANY TARGET THEY DEEM A THREAT... ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE COSTUMED VARIETY.

BETHANY SNOW...CS2 ANCHOR

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THE RECENT INACTIVITY OF PUBLIC HEROES BUDDY BAKER, AKA ANIMAL MAN, AND THE MYSTERIOUS SUPER HERO MR. TERRIFIC HAVE BEEN LINKED TO UMP, AND MANY TERRORIZED CITIZENS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES, "IF THESE HEROES CAN BE STRICKEN WITH UMP, WHAT ABOUT ME?"

A. BUG...CS2 REPORTER

EVERY YEAR DOZENS OF HEROES GO MISSING, GONE IN A FLASH OF LIGHT, WANDERING INTO STRANGE ENERGY PORTALS, BEING KILLED IN ACTION—ONLY TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SERVICE SEVERAL MONTHS LATER NONE WORSE FOR WEAR.

SCIENTISTS CALL THIS PHENOMENON "UNCONFIRMED MISSING PERSONS" OR UMP. THERE IS NO EXPLANATION FOR UMP, AND THERE IS NO CURE.

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Are average viewers like you at risk of being taken away by forces beyond your control? Possibly not, but the threat of UMP turning up in regular towns like yours could be real.

Take for example the case of 17-year-old Amy Winston. She and her mother have been missing from their small town for weeks with no leads. The pair were said to be loners... and very strange.

Their neighbors often witnessed the mother and daughter wearing makeshift suits of armor and fighting with wooden swords. Then one day they were just gone. Victims of UMP or something far more sinister? I don't know.

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All the News: Coming up: Helmet or Cape? Laughter not funny! Wolf on the loose family tragedy! Nightwind not well—UMP—You’re out.

Thank you, Bug. Let’s check in with our favorite lifestyle reporter, Calendar Man, to see if he can answer the question on everybody’s mind... Are Wonder Woman and Superman an item?

Say it ain’t so, Mr. Cloney?

Thank you, Bethany.

A fork in the road to true love has taken a twist and ended with a knife in Superman’s back!

Several sources are claiming to have video footage of Wonder Woman “teaming up” with a man other than her possible super-beau.

I warned you all this would end tragically... ...and Channel 52 will be here when the inevitable fistfights break out.

All the News: Coming up: Laughter not funny! Wolf on the loose family tragedy! Nightwind not well—UMP—You’re out? Helmet or Cape?

I’m not writing off our favorite super couple quite yet! Something tells me we haven’t heard the last about these two!

More after the break... This is Channel 52!