I’VE ENJOYED MY TIME AWAY.

FOR A MAN LIKE ME, PEACE AND QUIET IS THE RAREST COMMODITY IN THE WORLD.

I’VE KEPT THINGS RUNNING WELL ENOUGH FROM IN HERE—GIVE ME MY LEGALLY MANDATED TEN-MINUTE PHONE CALL AND I CAN DESTROY A DAM IN HYDERABAD, SCORE THE CONTRACTS TO REBUILD IT, SEDUCE YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER AND, AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, INVENT A PHONE YOU COULD USE TO CALL MARS.

BUT SOMETIMES THERE’S JUST NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HANDS-ON APPROACH.

IT’S TIME TO STOP BEING SELFISH.

THE WORLD NEEDS LEX LUTHOR.
YOU WANT THIS, GEORGE. DON'T YOU? LEX LUTHOR'S PRISON JUMPSUIT. YOU COULD SELL THIS. PEOPLE WOULD PAY IMMENSE SUMS FOR SUCH A THING.

YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, RIGHT HERE IN MY HAND.

NO, MR. LUTHOR. OF COURSE I MEAN. UNLESS YOU'RE OFFERING... I REALLY COULD DO A LOT WITH...

CERTAINLY, GEORGE. AFTER ALL, IT'S PRISON PROPERTY, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL NEVER EVER WEAR IT AGAIN. ALL YOU NEED TO DO...

...IS WALK OVER HERE AND TAKE IT.
I don't know how you did it, Lex. You weren't supposed to be out for twenty years.

Lawyers, General Garrison. Lawyers, I've never really understood why they get such a bad rap.

Sir, welcome back. As requested, I have a list of all of the updates you asked for, and I can run through them for you—

Where is he, Casev?

Who, Sir?

Strange.

I know he knew I'd be out today. He's obsessed with me.

Superman.
HMM. THAT'S ODD.

IN WHAT WAY IS THAT INFORMATION USEFUL? EFFICIENCY, CASEY. IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, WHAT IS ODD?

SUPERMAN HASN'T BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE TODAY. DATABASES, NEWS WIRES, SOCIAL MEDIA—ALL SILENT. HE'S JUST...

WHAT IS OPP?

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SUPERMAN HASN'T BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE TODAY. DATABASES, NEWS WIRES, SOCIAL MEDIA—ALL SILENT. HE'S JUST...

GONE.

PROJECT GHOST TOWN. YOU KNOW IT?

OF COURSE. IT'S ON THE READY LIST. BUT ISN'T IT JUST AN EXERCISE? I NEVER THOUGHT—

RUN IT.

AND WHEN WE GET BACK TO LEXCORP, BURN THIS JUMPSUIT. THERE'S VERY LITTLE I WOULDN'T DO TO NEVER HAVE TO THINK ABOUT PRISON AGAIN.

I AM ALL HE CARES ABOUT, HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME WORRYING ABOUT ME, WORKING AGAINST ME, AND THEN THE DAY I'M RELEASED BACK INTO THE WORLD, HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT?

INCONCEIVABLE.
...YOU HAVE FORTY-TWO INVITATIONS FOR DINNER THIS EVENING, INCLUDING FROM BAR, OLIVIA AND EMMA.

IGNORE THE FIRST THIRTY-NINE. TELL THE LAST THREE TO GET THEIR CELL PHONES OUT AND PROVE HOW MUCH THEY'D LIKE TO SPEND AN EVENING WITH ME.

NOEL SPHEERIS IS ATTEMPTING A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF ONE OF THE LEXCORP SUBSIDIARIES. IT'S... AH, LET ME SEE...

...AN AGRICULTURAL CONCERN BASED NOT FAR FROM OPAL CITY. THEY'RE RESEARCHING--

ALTERNATIVE FERTILIZERS. GREENWELL, LLC. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN PROFITABLE SINCE I BOUGHT THEM, AND THEY PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE.

THESE SURGEONS ARE TERRIFIED. ONE SLIP, AND THEY DON'T JUST RUIN LEX LUTHOR'S FACE, THEY RUIN THEIR CAREERS. THEIR LIVES.

GET SPHEERIS ON THE PHONE. TELL HIM EXACTLY THIS, WORD FOR WORD.

I DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD. THEY JUST KNOW. YOU WORK FOR LEX LUTHOR, YOU KNOW.

TELL HIM THAT IF HE DOESN'T BACK OFF, THEN BY THE END OF THE DAY, HE'LL BEG ME TO BUY HIS ENTIRE COMPANY FOR A FRACTION OF WHAT HE THINKS IT'S WORTH.

I'LL MAKE HIS LIFE'S WORK SO TOXIC THAT HE'LL BE ABSOLUTELY THRILLED TO SELL IT TO ME FOR PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR.

HE SAYS YOU CAN GO SCREW YOURSELF.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL DAY.
This is excellent work. Excellence is rare, and deserves to be rewarded. Casey will adjust your invoice upwards accordingly.

There's a file on the system for spheros. It includes a coded document—password is ThelastGnome. All one word. Follow the instructions, each in turn.

Of course, sir.

Any word on the alien?

None, sir. Not a single Superman sighting anywhere on Earth for more than eight hours.

Fine. I'm going to look in on active projects in the labs. I want updates on Project Ghost Town every thirty minutes.

Of course, sir. And Mr. Luthor...

...I'm so glad you're back. It's an honor to be working with you again.
YOU EVER HEARD OF A MISSION COMING TOGETHER THIS FAST?

NO, BUT THIS ISN'T NASA. LEXSPACE PLAYS IT PRETTY FAST AND LOOSE.

‘GHOST TOWN’. NOT THE MOST AUSSCIOUS NAME FOR AN OP.

THEY DON'T PAW US TO LIKE THE MISSIONS. THEY PAW US TO FLY THEM. DAMN WELL, I MIGHT ADD.

YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO ONCE WE HIT LEO?

GROUND CONTROL'S GOING TO TRANSMIT ORDERS ONCE OUR ORBIT IS STABLE. I GET THE IMPRESSION IT'S SOME SORT OF MARKETING THING. SOMETHING TO DO WITH SUPERMAN.

PRETTY EXPENSIVE MARKETING STUNT. DOESN'T EACH LAUNCH COST LIKE EIGHTY MILLION BUCKS?

YEAH, WELL. YOU KNOW LEX LUTHOR.

“HE'S GOT MONEY TO BURN.”
OF ALL MY PROJECTS, I MISSED THIS ONE THE MOST. MY VERY OWN ALIEN.

HE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO MAKE IT, BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE, AND YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH.

A LITTLE UNDERCOOKED YET, BUT GOOD CLONES TAKE TIME. YOU'LL GET THERE.

LET IT NEVER BE SAID THAT LEX LUTHOR CAN'T PLAY THE LONG GAME.

MR. LUTHOR, I HAVE YOUR THIRTY-MINUTE UPDATE. GHOST TOWN REPORTS IT HAS ACHIEVED STABLE LOW-EARTH ORBIT.

GOOD TIMES TO COME.

GOOD TIMES.

NOEL SPEEERIS HAS CALLED A NUMBER OF TIMES. HE IS MAKING THREATS AGAINST YOUR PERSON. I HAVE RECORDED ALL OF THEM. SHALL I NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES?

NO NEED. HE HAVEN'T EVEN BEGIN TO REALIZE HOW BAD HIS DAY'S GOING TO GET. JUST KEEP UPDATING ME.

AND NOW, TIME TO SHOOT SOMETHING. THEY DON'T LET YOU SHOOT THINGS IN PRISON, AT LEAST NOT PERSONALLY.
LEXCORP BUILDING, 27TH FLOOR
LAB 65 - PERSONAL DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES

PROXIMITY ALERT! INCOMING AT 6 O'CLOCK!
scrapp it again, sir. we just overhauled the armor. this is based on the most up-to-date specifications you provided before you left.

as you can see, mr. luthor, we've kept her in shipshape for you, and i think you'll see that...

i can see fourteen ways to improve the design.

if you haven't implemented at least five of them by tomorrow morning, you're all fired.

but sir, we just overhauled the armor. this is based on the most up-to-date specifications you provided before you left.

if you haven't implemented at least five of them by tomorrow morning, you're all fired.
EARTH ORBIT. 250 MILES ABOVE STREET LEVEL.

“You set that course change entered?”

“I did. 14.66 degrees as ordered. What was that about?”

“No idea. I’m more concerned that we’re about to shut down the main engines.”

“IT’S A STUNT. OVER AND DONE IN TWENTY MINUTES. SERIOUSLY, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

DO YOU THINK HE’LL REALLY COME?

“I think so. I’ve got a pretty good idea what’s going on.”

“COULDN’T TELL YOU. IT’D BE PRETTY COOL, THOUGH.”

“THAT’S IT. MAIN ENGINES OFFLINE.”
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE GOING TO CUT TO A LIVE BROADCAST FROM THE CLARION, A LEXSPACE ORBITAL DELIVERY VESSEL CURRENTLY ABOUT 250 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH.

NOEL SPHERIS HAS CALLED ANOTHER SEVEN TIMES IN THE LAST HOUR. MORE THREATS?

NO. HIS TONE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DESPERATE.

HEH. GET THE NEWS UP ON THE SMALL SCREEN.

WE'RE OUTSIDE THE HOME OF NOEL SPHERIS, FLAMBOYANT BILLIONAIRE ENTREPRENEUR. -- WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING QUESTIONED BY POLICE IN RELATION TO--

-- HOLD ON. I'M GETTING SOMETHING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE GOING TO CUT TO A LIVE BROADCAST FROM THE CLARION, A LEXSPACE ORBITAL DELIVERY VESSEL CURRENTLY ABOUT 250 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH.

IF YOU HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN, YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE ROOM.
This is a distress call from LS Shuttle Clarion. We have experienced—total engine failure—repeat—total engine failure.

We are in a decaying orbit, and will imminently experience catastrophic re-entry.

We are broadcasting worldwide, on all frequencies, to request immediate assistance.

“Superman—save us.”

Sir, now I understand. This is brilliant. With Superman gone, you’ll be able to save them instead. Do you want me to tell the lab to get your armor?

Not—just—yet.

Of course, sir. But I think that you’ll need to move pretty fast if you want to get up there in time—hold on, I’m getting a call. It’s Sphere’s again. I’ll put him off.

No, put him through.
PLEASE, LUTHOR. THIS IS MY LIFE. YOU'RE RUINING MY LIFE. FOR WHAT, SOME $*%$ C*%$ FERTILIZER BUSINESS?

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BUSINESS, SPHEERIS.

FINE. YOU WANT ME TO BEG? I'LL BEG. PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.

YOU WANT MY COMPANY, YOU CAN HAVE IT, PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR, JUST LIKE YOU SAID. IT'S YOURS.

AND THERE WE ARE.

I SAID YOU'D BEG ME TO BUY YOUR LIFE'S WORK, SPHEERIS, AND YOU HAVE. WHAT I DID NOT SAY IS THAT I WOULD ACTUALLY BUY IT. NO, YOU CAN RIDE THAT SINKING SHIP ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM. ENJOY YOUR DAY. I KNOW I HAVE.

LUTHOR, YOU SON OF A--

SIR, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET UP TO THE SHUTTLE IN TIME, YOU REALLY NEED TO GET GOING. EVERYONE'S GOING TO REALIZE YOU'RE A HERO. THEY'LL finally SEE.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
SORRY, SIR. LOOKS LIKE NO LAST-MINUTE SUPERMAN RESCUE TODAY.

WHATEVER! JUST TURN THE ENGINES BACK ON. THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.

WE’LL BE FINE. DON’T WORRY. I’M NOT SURE WHAT THE POINT OF ALL OF THIS WAS, BUT ONCE WE GET UP AND RUNNING AGAIN...

“OH NO.”

WHAT? WHAT??

THE ENGINES. THEY’RE DEAD. IF WE CAN’T FIND A WAY TO ADJUST OUR ORBIT, WE’LL FALL RIGHT OUT OF THE-
YOU DIDN’T SAVE THEM! YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT. YOU'RE LEX LUTHOR!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE THEM?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T NEED TO SAVE THEM TO GET WHAT I WANTED. THE WORLD SEES THIS AS SUPERMAN'S FAILURE. THEY BEGGED HIM TO COME, AND HE DID NOT. THAT WAS MY GOAL.

IF I HAD TRIED TO SAVE THEM, THERE WAS A CHANCE, HOWEVER SMALL, THAT I WOULD HAVE FAILED, AND THE WORLD WOULD BLAME ME FOR FAILING TO SUCCEED. I LEARNED THAT LESSON YEARS AGO.

BUT NO ONE WILL BLAME ME FOR FAILING TO TRY.

I'M ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.

NOW, DON'T I HAVE A SIX O'CLOCK? CASEY?

DIAL 911. COME ON!

OH, THIS IS A SHAME.

YOU CUT COMMUNICATIONS.

I DID, IT WAS A SORT OF TEST. I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE LIKE ME...

...OR LIKE THEM.
AND NOW WE KNOW.

TSK TSK.
—STUNNING, TRAGIC TURN OF EVENTS, THE WRECKAGE OF THE DOOMED LEXSPACE SHUTTLE CLARION PLUMMeted TO EARTH DIRECTLY UPON THE HOME OF BELEAGUERED ENTREPRENEUR NOEL SPHEREIS, WHOM YOU WILL RECALL WAS ALREADY IN THE NEWS EARLIER TODAY DUE TO—

FOUr THINGS: FIRST, CALL THE LAWYERS AGAIN. SECOND, CALL THE POLICE AND INFORM THEM THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT. THIRD, I'LL NEED A NEW ASSISTANT. FOURTH, TELL THE PILOT I'LL NEED TO LEAVE IN A FEW MINUTES.

I HAVE A SIX O' CLOCK WITH THOMAS KORD.

OF COURSE, MR. LUTHOR.

GOOD DAY.
In fact, I can't recall the last time I had a day like this. There was nothing standing in my way.

No one standing in my way.

Everything came easily. I felt light, like a helium balloon.

And here I am. Flying over my city, just as large, just as light; and...

“Mr. Luthor?”

“Your name again?”

Miranda, sir. And may I just tell you what an honor it is to be working so closely with you? I can't tell you how excited I am.

Well of course you are.

I'm Lex Luthor. For God's sake.
AS AN AWARD-WINNING REPORTER...
YOU NEED TO DIG FOR THE TRUTH!

TO UNDERSTAND THE FACTS...
FORWARDS AND BACKWARDS!

BE READY TO FACE DEATH...
ON ITS OWN TURF!
TO GIVE THE AUDIENCE WHAT IT WANTS!

INSPIRE PEOPLE TO FLY HIGH!

AND DRAW ON YOUR MANY TALENTS!

THAT’S WHAT I BRING TO CHANNEL 52 EVERY WEEK!

SOMETIMES THESE OTHER GUYS ARE HERE TOO.