‘I’m seven years old.

And nothing on the planet can hurt me.

So yeah...

...I’m totally going to fly today.

I don’t know what put the idea in my head.

Autumn’s coming. Maybe it’s that snap in the air, the wind in my hair.

...or maybe it was just slipping and falling out of the tree.

Fell fifty feet, bounced my head off the big rock twice.

Ears are ringing a little.

But this time...

I know it... I’m totally gonna...

And then a funny thing happens.

A bird pecks the ground three hundred feet away...

And it sounds like a gunshot.

Whoa.
He’s not human, Jonathan. When we should stop pretending...

People don’t know that yet, Martha. And if they find out...

Now all I can hear is my own heart pounding.

“Not human?” I should have known it already. I probably did. But I never heard it out loud.

And I have no idea what to do...

...but they might as well be screaming.

...Yep, at least three times.

My God, and you didn’t tell him to stop?

Why should I?

He jumped?

Old Calvin’s snore rolling like thunder down the road.

A bug’s shell popping like fireworks.

And Mom and Dad, down in the house, whispering...

Why should I?

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“Not human?” I should have known it already. I probably did. But I never heard it out loud.

And I have no idea what to do...
...except stop trying to fly.

Maybe I avoid their eyes, too.

Maybe I just smile a little less.

And they notice.

So they gather their courage...

...and a few weeks later...

Baby in a rocketship?

Crashing in a cornfield?

Wrapped in a blanket?

I...I don't want it.

But my hands are already reaching for it.

And when I touch it, everything suddenly makes a little more sense.

As far as we can tell, it can't be torn.

Whoever wrapped you in it really loved you.

Love?

Yeah.

From the parents who wrapped me in the blanket...

It feels... different.

It feels... right.

...and the parents who saved it for me.
...AND I GUESS THIS STILL SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD USE FOR THE CAPE.

THE CREATURE’S A SHAPE-SHIFTER, AN HOUR AGO, HE LOOKED LIKE A HUMAN BOY, WITH A TAIL.

HE CLAWED HIS WAY OUT OF THE GROUND IN VENEZUELA.

DESTROYED A DRILLING RIG, NEARLY KILLED A FEW DOZEN WORKERS.

I HAD TO PRETEND TO THROW HIM INTO THE SUN TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE ALIVE.

AND NOW MY HEART’S IN MY THROAT AS HE STARES AT ME.

HERE’S WHERE I’M SUPPOSED TO SAY SOMETHING... WHERE I’M SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT ALL MAKE SENSE...

HEV.

WELL, HE PROBABLY DOESN’T SPEAK ENGLISH, ANYWAY.
I know. Don't worry, I promise...

...I'll get you out of there as soon as I can.

BAKAAA!

But you took some pretty good bites out of me when you were big.

I just need to figure out what triggers your transformations—

I'll set you out of there as soon as I can.

--and find out where you come from in the first place.

"Baka," huh? Is that your name?

Yeah, sorry. That's probably not going to work. This thing was built to hold--

KRRRRRAAMKKK

Click

Aw, man.
BAKA!

I'M SUPERMAN. I SHOULD JUST GRAB HIM.

BUT THE LITTLE GUY CUTS LOOSE...

...AND I KIND OF WANT TO SEE HIM FLY.

I'M LETTING SENTIMENT GET IN THE WAY OF REASON. ANTHEROPOMORPHIZING.

WHOA.

TAKING RIDICULOUS RISKS.

IF BRUCE COULD SEE ME NOW, I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.

LETTING SENTIMENT SET IN THE WAY OF REASON.

BUT HEY...
...WHERE WOULD I BE IF NO ONE HAD EVER ANTHROPOMORPHIZED ME?

MVI FRIEND.

SHE WAS WORKING ON THE DRILLING RIG YOU DESTROYED.

YOU NEARLY ATE HER, REMEMBER?

THAT'S MY FRIEND LANA.

BAKA'S LITTLE HEART SLOWS DOWN.

AND THEN SPEEDS UP AGAIN.

THE FRAMES ARE JUST A DIGITAL SLIDE SHOW.

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT? THE MOVEMENT?

THIS IS HOW IT STARTS.

HNN?

THIS IS HOW WE MAKE OURSELVES HUMAN.

BKK.

RAARK.

RAARK.

HE GIVES ME A HANGDOG EXPRESSION AND I ALMOST THINK HE UNDERSTANDS—
OKAY, LOOK. I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE HEADS UP.

I WENT DOWN INTO THE HOLE THAT MONSTER MADE, AND I FOUND SOMETHING I THINK YOU'LL WANT TO SEE.

LANA, HANG ON, DON'T DO ANYTHING--

CALM DOWN...

WHAT?

WHAT? NOTHING, SORRY.

I TOOK SOME READINGS OFF THE MONSTER'S ENERGY, AND I'VE RIGGED UP A LITTLE POPGUN THAT RUNS ON A SIMILAR FREQUENCY.

THAT SOUNDS... DANGEROUS, WHAT ARE YOU--

CHECK YOUR E-MAIL.

THIS IS BIG, CLARK.

RRRRR...

BAKA'S MUSCLES STRETCH, I HEAR HIS BONES GRINDING, HE'S GROWING, JUST A BIT.

HE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE SEES.

LANA, YOU'RE AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, NOT AN ARCHAEOLOGIST. PLEASE JUST WAIT--

I TOOK SOME PICTURES WHEN I WAS DOWN THERE.

NO TIME, CLARK. BUNCH OF SUITS SHOWED UP, THEY'RE TRYING TO CLAIM THE WHOLE SITE.

WHAT? WHO--

SORRY...

...GOTTA GO.
I wanted to find something down here for you, Clark.

And boy, did I.

But if my readings are correct, there's something else up ahead, and if I can reach it before those suits do...

...it'll belong to all of us.

I...really should go back.

But then I see the light...
THE ADRENALINE KICKS IN. MY HEART’S BOOMING. MY SKIN’S GONE COLO.

I CAN BARELY WORK THE KNOBS ON MY EQUIPMENT.

I CAN ONLY REMEMBER ONE OTHER TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I FELT LIKE THIS...

...THE WHOLE WORLD TILTING ON ITS AXIS.

I CAME HERE TO HELP A NONPROFIT DRILL FOR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY...

...AND HELP A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPERITY.

BUT NOW THE WHOLE WORLD—

THAT ORB...

...JUST FLOATING IN THE AIR...

...BREAKING ALL THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AS IT CHURNS OUT THAT INCREDIBLE POWER...

KANK KANK KANK...

--IS PROBABLY GONNA HAVE TO WAIT A FEW MINUTES...
GIANT MONSTERS?

DANNY...

THIS IS WHAT I PREPARED FOR, RIGHT?
But all the same, I'm not exactly sorry I called Clark.

Even though he doesn't say a word, I hear his voice in my head...

"Just an electrical engineer."

And even as the rational part of my brain quietly notes I might be about to die...

...the regular old Lana part of me just hopes Clark's watching.

"Come on then!"

BAAAAAAKAAA!

BAAAAAAKAAA!

"Yaaa!"

GRRRAAA!

GRRRAAA!

RAARRG?
JUST DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THE MONSTER TO THINK SO, TOO...

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

CAREFUL, LANA! HE'S A FRIEND!

BAKA!

BAKA!

BAKA?

BAKA BAKA BAKA!

WAIT A MINUTE--THE MONSTER YOU KILLED SAID BAKA!

Yeah, actually...

I didn't exactly kill him...

What?

There's a tone in her voice.

I've heard it before, from almost everyone I know, to be honest.

I understand it.

But I don't like it.

BAKA JUMPS RIGHT INTO THE FIGHT.

Fighting for her.

But she just gives him that sidelong glance...
IT'S--IT'S TRANSFORMING!

DAMMIT, THIS IS THE MONSTER FROM YESTERDAY, ISN'T IT?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO THROW IT INTO THE SUN!

YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO ACTUALLY THROW SOMETHING INTO THE SUN?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, CLARK!

LANA, I'M IN THE SUIT, PLEASE DON'T CALL ME--

WHATEVER!

HE'S HELPING US! AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND HIS PEOPLE, WHEREVER THEY ARE!

OH, GREAT! AND WHAT IF THEY'RE LIKE HIM?

OH, NO, THEY WORSE.

DID HE JUST--?

YEEEEAH...

DO NOT LISTEN TO THE LITTLE BEAST, PEOPLE OF THE SUN...
...We're not so bad.

AAARRRGGGHH!
...if that’s all you want to see.

"Boy"?

Put the boy down.

Ha.

YAAAAAA!

I take an X-ray peek at the new guy’s muscles and bones.

Superhumanly dense. I probably can’t take him down with just a punch.

Fine with me.

Kind of feel like a workout.

Because if there’s anything I hate...

Rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr...
Which suddenly becomes a moot point.

Lana!

Gah! He's starting a cave-in!

Don't worry! I've got you!

Thanks.

But one favor, Clark...
...let's try not to make friends with any more monsters.
SHHHH. I'M NOT A MONSTER, YOU KNOW.

MOM, I'M PROTECTING THE CHAIN.

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, MAN OF THE SUN. I KNOW YOU'VE CREATED SOME KIND OF ARMY OF MONSTERS TO ATTACK OUR WORLD.

ALL THAT LIGHT UP THERE MUST MAKE YOU BLIND.

YOU THINK I'M YOUR ENEMY?

AND I KNOW THAT BAKA DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

MY MONSTERS PROTECT YOUR STUPID WORLD...

- A GIGANTIC GIANT ON A GIANTOUS HOLE!

GRRRRR.

- A GIGANTIC GIANT PUMPS YOU IRON!

HEY, DROP THE CHAIN.
FROM THE HIDDEN CURSES, GLORIES, AND TENTATIONS OF
IMPERIAL SUBTERRANEA!

SUPERMAN IN
UNDERWORLD

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JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.
(IS IT TRUE?)

(YES, MY LIEGE, THEY'VE VANQUISHED UKUR'S BEASTS AND BROKEN THE SEAL.)

* TRANSLATED FROM ANCIENT LANGUAGE.

(WELL, THEN...)

(WELL, WE ARE FREE.)

(LET THESE GLORIOUS PEOPLE OF THE SUN PAY HOMAGE TO THEIR GRATEFUL QUEEN.)

NEXT IN ACTION--
RISE OF THE SUBTERRANEANS!
HERO FIGHT!

BREAKING NEWS FROM CHANNEL 5Z - WE ARE SHATTERING DREAMS THAT BATMAN AND SUPERMAN ARE SQUARING OFF IN A BATTLE OF EPIC PROPORTIONS!

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THESE BILLOW MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO TURN ON EACH OTHER? WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT AN ALIEN TYRANT NAMED MONGUL MAY BE INVOLVED!

CHECK BACK FOR AN UPDATE ON “WHEN HEROES ATTACK... EACH OTHER” ONLY ON CHANNEL 5Z!