I PROMISED AN OPPORTUNITY UNIQUE IN ALL TIME AND SPACE, AND I ALWAYS DELIVER.

THIS BOX CONTAINS THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER SUBSTANCE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.

BECAUSE THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS THE ONLY MATERIAL GUARANTEED TO KILL SUPERMAN.

OR CHANGE HIM FOREVER.

UNSHELD, UNSHIELD, THE UNLIMITED POWER SOURCE OF THE LOST PLANET KRYPTON IN THE FORM OF A ROCKET ENGINE CORE.

FROM THIS ORIGINAL DERIVE ALL THE UNSTABLE, EXOTIC ISOTOPES SUCH AS RED-K AND SILVER-K AND BLACK.

THESE DEADLY VARIANTS, INCLUDING BLUE, THE MOST TERRIBLE OF ALL, CAN AND WILL BE GROWN FROM THIS ONE PRIMARY CRYSTAL.

IF MY LOVELY ASSISTANT FROM THE PLANET FROM WILL CHANGE THE LEAD SHIELDING TO GLASS FOR A FEW MOMENTS ONLY...

I GIVE YOU KRYPTONITE.

SOLDIERS IN THE ANTI-SUPERMAN ARMY!

WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME?
I'M WITH THE K-MEN!

YOU SET THESE WITH ALL THIS POWER AT YOUR COMMAND?

IT'S OUR BY RIGHTS.

WHAT?

WE'RE THE ONES WHO TIPPED THE K-ENGINE FROM THE SIES OF SUPERMAN'S ESCAPE POD.

WHEN SUPERMAN LEARNED TO FLY

DON'T FORGET WHO DID YOUR DIRTY WORK, LITTLE MAN.

WE ALL HAD REASONS TO HATE SUPERMAN.

ME AND THE K-MEN

WE ALREADY HAVE K-POWERS, WHAT WE NEED IS VENGEANCE!

YOU'LL HAVE IT, DOCTOR. ALL OF YOU. HIS GREATEST ENEMIES.

I'M OFFERING EACH OF YOU A SPLINTER OF KRYPTONITE, TO DO WITH AS YOU CHOOSE. AND IN RETURN--

IN RETURN, EACH OF YOU MUST PERFORM ONE TASK IN MY NAME.

BRAND MORRISON WRITER RANDY KUBERT PENCILER JOHN DELL INKER

DARK AHDEN COLUTANT PATRICK DRAYBEN ETTERER RANDY KUBERT & MARK AHDEN COVER BREG MANNED & MARK AHDEN DUMANT COVER

WILL AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR MATT MENDON EDITOR SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

PART 3 OF 6
WEIRD.

At this point in my career, I’d just faced theTerminant
invasion—before everything changed so dramatically.

This was my
original fortress
of solitude, where I
came to be alone
in those early
days.

Down there,
right now, the
word “superhero”
has just come into
existence...

...and
yet here
you are.

The Legion of
Super-Heroes.

From a future with
intergalactic
travel and time
machines.

I’ll never understand how
the time bubble can have
more room inside
than out.

We use something
called tesseract
space for storage in
the 31st century.

We can
pack immense
volumes in tiny
containers.

We were all
born into a
telepathic
social
network on
Saturn’s
rebel
moon.

All languages
are the same
language to
Imra Ardeen.

Am lak
am ld hal
van lor ya
lor-am

It’s
Dying.

And when it does,
The collector AI
will re-infect
this station and
Earth’s computer
network.

The Sunstone
lattice is still alive and
communicating. But
without its K’-mineral
power source?

Can you
translate the
language of
Krypton...
Saturn woman?

If we can’t
restart our
time bubble
rotor, none
of this will
matter.

We’re
relying on the
battery you
brought from
Earth.

Superman.
THAT'S REALLY ALL YOU NEEDED, LIGHTNING MAN?

TO REPAIR A TIME MACHINE?

ZINC CHLORIDE, CARBON, MANGANESE DIOXIDE.

WE CAN EXTRACT ENOUGH ENERGY FROM THIS LITTLE CELL TO RESTART THE BIG BANG.

NOT THAT WELL HAVE TO.

HNNNG... DOES ANYONE ELSE SMELL AMMONIA?

WE'RE NOT ALONE.

YOU SAVED HIS LIFE WHEN HE FIRST DEVELOPED HIS POWER AND MUTATED INTO A MONSTER APE, BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING... HE CAN EVOLVE AND DEVOLVE HIS GENETIC MATERIAL...

YOU SERIOUSLY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT SUPERMAN'S HISTORY!

I CAN'T HELP IT; I'M TELEPATHIC.

GROUP'S?

DREKKEN? ERIK, IS THAT YOU?
UMMA OY 2moment RACE KNOW! GENES ENCEPHALO SAPIENS Tyranus!

NU E/motions
NU IMAGINE!

NU ZENSES
NU APPETITES

BLRR

NU KROOLties!
“GIZAHHH!” I HAD THAT UNDER CONTROL!

WHAT DID I SAY? THE MAN’S FASTER THAN LIGHTNING, GARTH.

IMRA? WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

YOU KNOW WHY WE RETURNED TO THE PAST... THIS PAST...

ACCORDING TO MY FRIENDS HERE, THE FUTURE OF ALL CREATION HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

YOU THINK I’LL HOLD BACK?

ERIK, IF YOU'RE IN THERE... I NEED YOUR HELP!

IT'S OKAY. I'M TRYING TO TUNE HIM BACK TO HUMAN FORM.

ERIK! WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

...ME IAM WHAT HUMAN UMM MAN WHEN MONTH MONTH FILL UP BUT NO SPACE INN NO FOOD

NO CONSCIENCE, NO SCRUPLE, NO MORAL... HAWNWNHWAH

HOW ABOUT NO TEETH? WHERE DID THEY TAKE THE KRYPTONITE ENGINE, ERIK!

I SWALLOWED IT! SUPERMAN!

I GOT IT!

YOU MADE HIM THINK ABOUT IT, I GOT IT!

THE ANTI-SUPERMAN ARMY IS HUNGRY IN THE ONE PLACE NO ONE WOULD EVER LOOK.
I CAN'T CONTROL HIM, OKAY.

NOW I FEEL NORMAL.
APologies.

I'm there at the end with the rest - the anti-Superman army.

A bloody red sunset at the end of days -

A planet of skeletons.

Give me your psychic kev, Mr. Drekken.

Umm... what was he talking about?

I... I found the location of the kryptonite in his memory.

What was he talking about?

A planet of skeletons?

Evil in me?

Nimrod the hunter used a teleport rifle to fire a microscopic lead pellet into your brain.

The pellet's hollow, and inside, there's a teleport space big enough to fit 30 people.

I need to access your memory immediately.

In my brain?

What did you say?
FOLLOW!

I GOT HIM!

---

MURPHY'S MISSING BULL HAD TO BE ROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION WASN'T HARD TO--

FOLLOW!

---

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MURPHY'S MISSING BULL HAD TO BE ROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION WASN'T HARD TO--
I don't think they will come back. They'd have been here by now, right?

I don't think I'll ever know what this weird "S" is I came with.

Well, then it's up to you to make it stand for something.

You go use that strength of yours to help and inspire folks. Maybe that "S" can be something that reminds us of the best we can be.

Now how about we load Old Titan on the truck?

I say we leave him with a pile of beer cans and tell Murphy we found the Beast dead drunk by the crossroads.

Maybe that'll teach him...

Now how about we load Old Titan on the truck?

I say we leave him with a pile of beer cans and tell Murphy we found the Beast dead drunk by the crossroads.

Maybe that'll teach him....

Is it really him?

Where's the costume?

He looks tiny.

Uhh...

I don't know who you are or why you're staring at me, but--your lips don't move when you talk.

And what are you wearing?

Lips moved in the 21st century?
"YOURS FROM THE FUTURE?"

"DO I COME FROM THE FUTURE, TOO?"

"WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?"

THAT WAS THE DAY WE ALL MET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE MEMORY IS LOCATED IN YOUR BRAIN'S AMYGDALA REGION.

THE PELLET'S CAUSING PRESSURE THERE.

THE 21ST CENTURY TECH AND WE CAN ONLY LEND IT TO YOU.

IN CASE WE CHANGE THE WHOLE FUTURE AND GET INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

A FLIGHT RING?

BUT THIS IS 21ST CENTURY TECH AND WE CAN ONLY LEND IT TO YOU.

AS WE CHANGE THE WHOLE FUTURE AND GET INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE.

WE ALL HAVE THEM.

"YOU'RE FROM THE FUTURE?"

PIP JUST PIPE?

...WHAT?

BO-RING!

IN CASE WE CHANGE THE WHOLE FUTURE AND GET INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE.

We ALL HAVE THEM.

BO-RING!

DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?

THE BARN CHANGED COLOR SEVERAL TIMES—RED, THEN BLUE.

USUALLY MY RECALL IS PERFECT...

LIGHTNING MAN IS THE TIME BUBBLE READY?

LEAD'S UNAFFECTED BY MY MAGNETIC ABILITIES, BUT I CAN DETECT FOREIGN BLOOD IRON IF I KNOW WHERE TO FOCUS.

OH, SO FAINT.

LIGHTNING MAN IS THE TIME BUBBLE READY?
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE ALL OF US WERE CHILDREN, SUPERMAN.

WE CAME TO EARTH TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

THEY WANTED TO USE US AS A TEST SUBJECT.

THEIR SCIENCE IS MORE ADVANCED THAN OURS.

THEY EXPECTED US TO DIE.

BUT WITHOUT IT, THE ROCKET THAT BROUGHT ME TO EARTH WILL DIE. THE COLLECTOR WILL REBOOT--

WE HAVE A TIME BUBBLE AND DREXEN'S TESSERACT KEH.

WE'RE ALREADY IN THERE, IN DISGUISE--

I CAN SENSE MY OWN FUTURE SELF RIGHT NOW, INSIDE YOUR HEAD.

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WE'RE ALREADY IN THERE, IN DISGUISE--

I CAN SENSE MY OWN FUTURE SELF RIGHT NOW, INSIDE YOUR HEAD.
...WHO FIRST? OUR ALLIES FROM THE SUNDERWORLD OF UNDA. PERHAPS?

THE SISTERHOOD OF ABIDING HATE IN THEIR SHROUDSHIP?

AND YET. I HAPPEN TO KNOW GLASS IS TOXIC TO THE SISTERHOOD...

IMPOSTORS!

TURN THE AIR TO KNIVES.

WHAT? THESE ARE THE KRYPTONITE-MEN! OUR ALLIES.

YOU CAN DROP THE TELEPATHIC DISGUISES, IMRA.

NOBODY MOVE. I HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OVER EVERY MOLECULE OF IRON IN YOUR BLOOD.

THIS IS COSMIC MAN FOR THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

THE LEGION? IMPOSSIBLE.
**THE ARE**

**not**

**siving**

**in.**

**a**

**TEMPER.**

**I HAVE**

**ITS FIELD IN MY GRIP.**

**I AM SERIOUSLY LOSING MY TEMPER.**

**THIS IS GOOD.**

**R RAW RADIATION! FLOOD HIS BRAIN!**

**TURN LEAD TO GLASS ONCE MORE, AGAIN!**

**THE KRYPTONITE'S**

**MINE.**

**WHERE DID HE GO? WHAT DID HE SAY?**

**IT SOUNDED LIKE "GIVE IN! KENT NEXT!"**

**THE KRYPTONITE TORE APART! I COULDN'T STOP IT. THE OTHER FRAGMENTS HAVE GONE!**

**THAT CRYSTAL WILL GROW! AND IT BELONGS TO ME!**

**COME AND DIE INSIDE YOUR HERO'S BRAIN, YOU FOOLS!”**
AUGHH!

AUGH

AUHHRR

ULLCH

HURR

CRITICAL

DY-ING!

MISSION

MISSION FAIL

ROCKET SYSTEM FAIL-
FAREWELL-COMMENCING.

NOT... NOT THIS TIME...

SEE... I JUST...

... FIGURED IT OUT...
...rocket's powered by... K-radiation...

the same K-radiation that's killing me... can save...

NEVER MAKE IT!

CRITICAL

KNEEL!

HURRRHURRHURRHURR

SAVE... THE ROCKET...

SAVE EVERYONE...

DIE!

SYSTEM FAIL!

WELL FAIL WELL

NO MAN ON EARTH HAS THE ANGRY POWERS YOU HAVE.

promise me you'll use them to become a force for good... a champion of the downtrodden... the oppressed...

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

GIVE UP!

GIVE IN!
RRAAAAAA

THERE!

HA-LA-KAL-EL!

HA-LA-LA!

MY LIFE RESTORED—MY MISSION CONTINUES—

TO PROTECT THE SON OF KRYPTON.

SUPERMAN?
I HAD THAT.

SUPERMAN, WE BEAT THEM.

WE HAVE THE ENGINE. THE POWER SOURCE IS SAFE. YOU CAN LET GO NOW.

URRRRR

YOU DID IT. YOU LEFT THE ROCKET ALIVE AND SAID THE PART, WHICH WE KNEW YOU'D DO, INCIDENTALLY.

AND NOW WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

HELP APPRECIATED

THE YOUNG SUPERMAN GETS BACK ANY SECOND.

HE'LL SOON HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE ON HIS HANDS WITH SUSIE AND EARTH'S FIRST SUPERMAN WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH US.

NOW WHO'S THE GROUPIE, RONN?

THIS SUPERMAN NEEDS SUNLIGHT AND REST AND TIME TO HEAL.

HE'S GREATEST BATTLE'S STILL TO COME—AND OURS, TOO.

WHEN I LOOKED IN HIS MEMORIES, I FELT SOASHAMED.

REMEMBER WE WERE SO DISAPPOINTED IN HIM THAT FIRST TIME?

WE'D BUILT HIM UP AS THIS IDOL IN OUR Minds. THIS MYTH, AND HE WAS JUST A GAWKY CAVEMAN KID.

BUT FOR HIM...

MEETING US, THAT WAS WHEN HE KNEW THE UNIVERSE WAS BIGGER THAN HE EVER HOPED.

WE WERE THE PROOF THAT PLANET EARTH HAD A FUTURE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

MEETING US WAS THE GREATEST DAY IN HIS LIFE.
THUS THE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

NEXT: SUPERMAN’S DOOMSDAY DECISION
WELL, IT'S A SORRY SIGHT FOR US, CLARK. AFTER THE FORECLOSURE ON OUR FARM AND ALL, WE'VE SOT NOWHERE TO GO. NOT ANYMORE. YOU'VE GOT A HOME NOW.

BESIDES, YOU'RE DOING ME A FAVOR, WITH ME HEADING OFF TO COLLEGE AND MO AND PA GONE, THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO TAKE OVER THE FARM.

I JUST NEED TO GATHER A FEW LAST THINGS, AND THEN IT'S ALL YOURS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN EVER THANK YOU.

BUT HEY, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO YOURSELF. I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF MEMORIES HERE.

Yeah. A LOT OF MEMORIES.

NO MORE STEW FOR CLARK, MARTHA!
LAST DAY

SHOLLY FISCH
W R I T E R

CARLOS M. MANSUAL
L E T T E R E R

CHRISCROSS
A R T I S T

WIL MOSS
A S S O C I A T E E D I T O R

JOSE VILLARRUBIA
C O L O R I S T

MATT IDELSON
E D I T O R

SUPERMAN
C R E A T E D B Y
JERRY SIEGEL
A N D
JOE SHUSTER
OH, HUSH. NOW, WHO WANTS MORE POTATOES?

HUSH, NOW, YOU'RE NOT A FREAK. YOU HAVE A GIFT.

I-DIDN'T MEAN TO!

W-WHY AM I SUCH A FREAK?

...BUT BEING STRONGER THAN OTHER CHILDREN MEANS YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL, TOO.

HAHAHAHAA!

THOUGHT I'D BUST A GUT WHEN THEY FOUND EVER'S TRACTOR ON THE ROOF OF THE BANK! I'LL PROBABLY COST THEM MORE THAN IT'S WORTH TO GET IT DOWN FROM THERE!

IT WASN'T EASY KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE.

Serves 'em right for repossessing a man's tractor right at the beginning of planting season, absolutely heartless.

JUST, UH...

DON'T TELL MA?

You got it.

LET THIS BE A LESSON, CLARK.

THERE'S LOTS OF BULLIES IN THIS WORLD—PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE STRONGER OR RICHER THAN OTHER FOLKS.

AND THERE'S PLENTY OF FOLKS WHO AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO 'EM.

THAT'S WHY PEOPLE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND UP FOR THEM. THEY NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
A reporter? Really?

What’s wrong with being a reporter, Pete?

Nothing. I just figured you’d want to be an astronomer or something, the way you stare up at the stars all the time.

I like writing. It’s like, it doesn’t matter how strong or smart you are. Finding the right words is always a challenge—

Hey!

What do you want to do?

I dunno. I thought maybe I’d use my superhuman powers to secretly fight injustice and defend the little guy, like in the comics.

But then I remembered I don’t have superhuman powers, so I guess I’ll have to be a millionaire—

—or maybe work in my dad’s store.

I haven’t decided.
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST STAY HERE IN SMALLVILLE FOREVER. WITH ALL THE THINGS YOU CAN DO, YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO OFFER THE WORLD.

YOU SOUND LIKE MY MA AND PA.

I GUESS, BUT HERE'S THE IMPORTANT THING: PROMISE ME THAT NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, YOU'LL REMEMBER...

IF YOU EVER WANT TO COME BACK FOR A VISIT--

--OR IF YOU JUST NEED TO TALK--

YOU SOUND LIKE MY MA AND PA.

SURE IS, LANA. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO LEAVE ALL OF THIS BEHIND.

I KNOW.

--YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE FAMILY HERE.
...THANKS. THAT MEANS A LOT.

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU DOWN NOW?

MM, NOT YET.

HOW ABOUT IF WE SIT FOR A WHILE FIRST?
There's only a couple of hours 'til the train. It's not gonna wait forever.

I told you guys you don't have to take me to the train.

Yeah, but we didn't listen. It's bad enough you're breaking up the Three Musketeers.

You weren't going to stop us from seeing you off, too!

Whoo! This thing's heavier than it looks! You gonna be okay carrying all this stuff when you get to—

Pete.

C'mon, Lana. Mixed my idea about a giant "Goodbye Clark" cake to feed everyone in town. But we can still grab one last burger before you go.

Listen, Clark. We'll get this stuff out to the car. You come on out when you're ready.

What? Oh.
By the way, LANA'S picking up the tab for the burgers!

WHAT? I NEVER said...

Okay, okay, I'm coming!

And, PETE, I am not about to get 'all weepy'!

Wow. You heard that all the way in there? Good ears, Kent.

Uhm? Oh, it, uh, compensated for my eyesight...

That's blind people, Clark...

Oh.