

SMALLVILLE

"Reckoning"

Episode #2T6412

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CAST

Clark Kent
Lex Luthor
Lana Lang
Martha Kent
Chloe Sullivan
Jonathan Kent
Lois Lane
Lionel Luthor

Young Suit
Bus Driver
Jor-El (voice)
Newscaster
Shelby

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SETS

INT.

Kent Farm - Barn
- Loft
- Kitchen
- Living Room
Daily Planet - Chloe's Office
- Copy Room *
- Hallway
- Bullpen
- Clock Hallway *

Fortress

Cave - Inner Chamber
Luthor Mansion - Library

Kent Truck

Lana's Jeep

Lionel's Towncar

School Bus

Talon

Talon Apartment

Lex's Porsche

Car

EXT.

Kent Farm
Country Road
Kent Family Plot
Route 40
~~Talon Alley~~
~~Train Trestle~~ *

"Reckoning"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. LOFT - KENT FARM - DAY 1

In front of the window, CLARK stands in the hazy light of a winter morning, staring pensively at a chunk of black coal in his hand. He doesn't notice the SONG playing on his radio.

LANA

walks up the steps, behind him, bundled in a parka.

LANA

I brought a hat and scarf like you said.

CLARK

(turning)
I was afraid you might not come.

LANA

To be honest, I'm not sure a mystery date is what this relationship needs right now.

Clark quickly conceals the coal in his hand and shoves it in his pocket. He turns to her, takes a deep breath.

CLARK

I know. That's why I called.

LANA

Are you okay?

Seeing the concerned look on his face, she walks to him, reaches up and puts her hand on Clark's chest.

LANA

Your heart's racing.

CLARK

(grins, nervous)
That's because I'm terrified.

LANA

What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

CLARK

The way you look at me lately... I
can tell I'm losing you.

LANA

Clark...

CLARK

It's not your fault. There's
something I should have showed you
a long time ago.

OFF Clark, steeling himself...

2 INT. INNER CHAMBER - CAVE - DAY

2

CLOSE ON: THE ALTAR. PAN UP to see Clark leading Lana into
the inner chamber. She approaches the altar with a look of
bewilderment. Clark gages her.

LANA

I don't remember this being here.
How did you find it?

CLARK

That's kind of a long story. But
the point is, it was left here...
for me.

LANA

For you. Clark, these symbols were
carved by some ancient tribe.

She looks at him, confused. He starts to say something, then
hesitates a nervous beat.

CLARK

God, I practiced this like a
thousand times.

Seeing him struggle, Lana takes his hand.

LANA

Whatever it is you have to tell me,
it's okay.

CLARK

I'm just afraid it's going to
change the way you look at me.

(deep breath)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

CLARK (CONT'D)

But you've always wondered if I was
lying to you about something... and
you were right.

*
*
*

Lana watches, intrigued, as Clark pulls

*

THE METALLIC KEY

from his pocket. Before he inserts it into the altar, he
looks back at her one more time.

*
*

CLARK

Just remember, no matter what you
see, I'm the same person.

*
*
*

He drops the key in and to her amazement, an EPHEMERAL LIGHT
SWIRLS against the wall, the wind kicks up and the

*

PORTAL SHIMMERS OPEN.

Lana stares at the egress, her mouth agape, her eyes glued.

LANA

Oh my God...

She turns back to him. He holds his hand out to her.

CLARK

Do you trust me?

*
*

Her eyes search his face. With trepidation, she finally
slips her hand in his. As they walk into the portal
together...

*
*
*

3 INT. FORTRESS - DAY

3

As the lights of the portal fade, Lana drops Clark's hand and
steps forward, astonished by what she sees.

*

LANA

Where are we?

*

Lana gazes out at the inconceivable cavern.

CLARK

This is kind of my other home.

*

LANA

What do you mean?

*

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

CLARK:

My mom and dad didn't really adopt
me. They kind of... found me
during the first meteor shower.

(off her confusion)

Remember when you asked if I
believed in life on other planets?
Well... you had no idea how ironic
that question was.

Shocked, Lana tries to digest this.

CLARK

Mine was called Krypton.

Lana just stares in disbelief. Tentative, she reaches out
and touches his face as if it will prove something.

LANA

But you can't be. You're just like
everyone else.

CLARK

The two people you saw come out of
the ship, they looked normal too,
didn't they?

LANA

Clark, those monsters shot fire
from their eyes and could move
faster than anything I've ever
seen.

CLARK

We're not all monsters.

She searches his face. He sweeps her up in his arms and

LEAPS INTO THE AIR.

Stunned, Lana looks down as they sail up over glistening
shards and gently land on a

PLATEAU OF ICE.

In disbelief, Lana takes it in, trying to digest the
magnitude of it all when she sees an alcove of crystals,
light refracting from the prisms. She steps closer to the
gleaming wall of ice, then turns back to Clark as if the
pieces are starting to come together...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

LANA

That's not the first time you've
done that, is it?

CLARK

Done what?

LANA

Clark, how many times have you been
there, when I didn't know, saving me?

CLARK

It doesn't matter. I just couldn't
let anything happen to you.

As strange as all this is, Lana is visibly moved.

LANA

And no one knew...

CLARK

There were so many days I wanted to
tell you.

LANA

What made today any different?

CLARK

Because I need you to know me.

To Lana's shock, Clark reaches into his pocket and pulls out
a chunk of coal. Lana looks at it, curious. Gripping it,
Clark crushes it in his fist and opens his palm to reveal

A DELICATE GLEAMING DIAMOND.

He pulls a simple gold band with an empty setting from his
pocket and shoots a

BURST OF HEAT VISION

at the band, then places the gem into the setting. He lowers
to one knee. Bowled over by emotion, Lana gazes down at him.

CLARK

Lana, will you marry me?

OFF the life changing question...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. KENT FARM - DAY

4

Clark hauls red, white and blue banners out of the barn when he hears Jonathan's truck pull into the driveway. As JONATHAN and MARTHA climb out...

JONATHAN

We thought you were going to meet us at the polls.

Clark turns -- he has an "I VOTED" sticker on his shirt.

CLARK

I kind of took a shortcut. I thought I should start loading this stuff up for the big victory party tonight.

Clark grins.

JONATHAN

I appreciate your confidence, Clark. But we haven't won yet.

Jonathan smiles, pats Clark's shoulder, and heads inside with Martha. Clark stands there, his nerves getting to him.

CLARK

Mom, Dad... I kind of have something important to tell you.

They slowly turn back, curious, but a little on guard.

CLARK

I... Uh...

JONATHAN

What is it, Clark?

CLARK

I told Lana.
(beat)
Everything.

MARTHA

What?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

JONATHAN

Just when did you do that?

CLARK

This morning... Right before I proposed to her... in the Fortress.

Clark braces himself. That stopped them cold. Jonathan and Martha exchange looks, not sure what to say.

JONATHAN

Clark... Don't you think that was an awfully big decision to make without discussing it with us?

CLARK

I knew what you'd say -- I was too young. But I'm only a year younger than you were when you got engaged.

MARTHA

So, what did she say?

CLARK

I told her not to give me an answer right now. It was kind of a lot to put on her all at once.

JONATHAN

Especially since you've had your doubts about being honest with Lana for years.

(beat)

Are you sure about all this?

CLARK

If I was ever going to risk sharing who I am with someone I wanted it to be with her.

Martha tries to ease the tension and rally behind her son.

MARTHA

I'm proud of you, Clark. I know this has been weighing on you a long time.

(eyes Jonathan, pointedly)

And with this election, I'm sure your father understands every big decision has some risks with it.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

Martha gives Jonathan a warning glance. Jonathan takes it in. He looks at Clark and comes around with a deep breath.

JONATHAN

(proud)

I guess it's hard to look over at
your son and realize you're talking
to a man.

(beat)

A man who doesn't need his father's
advice anymore.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

CLARK

I'm always going to need you, Dad.

OFF the father-son moment...

*

5 INT. TALON APARTMENT - DAY

5

CLOSE ON: POP-TARTS lowering into a toaster.

LOIS turns on the sink, letting the water fill a teapot as she listens to NEWS RADIO on the election while she talks on her cell phone. The place is a mess with Kent posters.

LOIS

Any exit poll results for the 39th
yet?... I know it's early but
patience isn't my strong suit.

She pulls over a chair and steps on it, reaching for a hidden box of Ding Dongs. As she strains on her tiptoes and grabs the box, she loses her balance and

LOIS FALLS

toward the counter, knocking the toaster to the ground. Before Lois hits the floor, an arm grabs her -- it's Lana. She steadies Lois.

LOIS

Thanks. I try to keep the junk
food where I can't reach it.

(off Lana's look)

Some days it's more out of reach
than others.

Cramming a Ding Dong in her mouth, Lois turns off the sink.

LANA

Sorry I'm late.

(CONTINUED)

LOIS

I'm just glad you're here. The
decorating committee can't bunt to
save their lives.

Lois picks up a box and nods at another one.

LOIS

Can you grab that?

But Lana doesn't move. She stands there, overwhelmed by the bombs Clark dropped and unable to cover it very well.

LOIS

Okay, spill it.

LANA

It's nothing.

LOIS

Three guesses: Tall, dark and
bumbling.

Lois sets down her box and leans against the counter, waiting. Lana can't get out of it.

LANA

It's just that... what would you do
if you thought you knew someone
really well and then they turned
out to have this whole other...
"side" to them?

LOIS

If it were Clark? First off, I'd
be damn impressed that he could
pull that over on me.

LANA

What about your second thought?

LOIS

That depends. Are we in arms
dealer territory or are we talking
The Crying Game?

LANA

Nothing like that.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

LOIS

Then I guess the question is, does
it change the way you feel about
him?

LANA

... Maybe.

(beat)

I'm just not sure how I'll ever
trust him after he's lied to me for
so long.

LOIS

Does it really matter when he
opened up to you as long as he
finally did?

OFF Lana wrestling with the idea...

6 INT. HALLWAY/BULLPEN - DAILY PLANET - DAY 6

CLOSE ON: CHLOE'S SHOCKED FACE.

CHLOE

You did what?

REVEAL Clark standing by the staircase with her.

CLARK

I don't actually need to repeat it,
do I?

CHLOE

No. I do. In my head. About a
thousand times.

(eyes.him)

Wow.

CLARK

Yeah.

Digesting the new reality, Chloe bucks up. She turns and starts walking into the bullpen, Clark behind her, sidestepping a COURIER carrying flowers to a SECRETARY who is beside herself and grabs the Courier in a big bear hug.

CHLOE

Well, okay. But as much as I've
been yanking on your closet door,
what was the real reason for the
sudden coming out party?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

CLARK

Because it was only a matter of weeks before she broke it off.

CHLOE

But you two are meant for each other, you're like the Kansas version of Ken and Barbie.

(remembers)

Except they broke up apparently, which is really weird.

In front of them, a YOUNG SUIT storms out of an office.

YOUNG SUIT

You can't fire me. I quit!

Chloe grimaces and pulls Clark toward her desk area.

CLARK

I think I was pushing Lana to a point that -- I don't know we could have come back from... I love her too much to let that happen.

*
*
*

CHLOE

So, how'd she take the whole ET phone-home thing?

CLARK

Not sure yet. I was hoping she'd have called by now.

Suddenly Chloe's desk phone RINGS and Clark looks at her, anxious. Chloe answers.

CHLOE

Hello? I'm sorry but this isn't Mr. Fu's Noodle House.

(hangs up)

Look, if Lana cares about you as much as I know she does, I seriously doubt anything's going to change.

CLARK

Well, one thing might.

(off her)

I haven't gotten my answer yet, but... I asked Lana to marry me.

Chloe's world spins on its side.

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE

Whoa. That one wasn't on the Doppler. Not even a blip.

CLARK

I know what you're going to say, I'm too young, I haven't told her for a reason, there's too much at stake...

CHLOE

Funny, because what I was going to say is that there aren't that many people out there who know what they want and are willing to risk everything to get it.

(beat)

If anyone deserves to be happy it's you.

*

*

OFF Chloe's reassuring smile...

7 OMITTED

7

7A EXT. KENT FARM - DAY

7A

Clark walks down the front steps of the house in his sports coat for his dad's election results party. He sees Lana walking up, dressed up as well. It's an awkward moment.

CLARK

I thought I'd see you at the party.

LANA

I know. But then there'd be all those people around...

She trails off. Clark watches her, unsteady.

CLARK

Is it me, or was this the longest day ever?

LANA

Honestly? It was all kind of a blur after "I'm from another planet."

Her eyes fix on him. The intensity makes Clark shift.

(CONTINUED)

7A . . . CONTINUED:

7A

CLARK

So, do I look different to you?

Lana hesitates, taking him in. She smiles.

LANA

You look like the same handsome guy
I've always known.

CLARK

Handsome as in "I want to spend the
rest of my life with you?" Or
handsome as in "I want to let you
down easy?"

LANA

As in "yes, Clark. I will marry
you."

Emotion stirring, Lana pulls the ring from her pocket and
holds it out. Clark takes it and slides it on her finger.
He kisses her, then holds her tight. They cling to each
other, excited about the future... *

FADE OUT. *

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 INT. TALON - NIGHT

8

A vision of patriotic fervor. Red, white and blue banners drape the walls with larger-than-life images of Jonathan Kent. TV monitors broadcast election returns.

IN THE FOYER

Martha and Jonathan enter the front doors and take a private moment. Martha looks at him, excited.

MARTHA

Jonathan, you've swept half the county. One more district and you've got a new commute to Topeka.

Taking her in his arms, Jonathan smiles at her warmly.

JONATHAN

No matter what the outcome, Sweetheart, there's only one victory that has changed my life... and that was winning your heart.

Martha chokes back her emotion. They share a tender kiss. As she pulls off her coat, her necklace gets caught in her hair. Jonathan intuitively reclasps it and they walk into the main room,

MAKING A GRAND ENTRANCE.

The Crowd CLAPS and parts, shaking Jonathan and Martha's hands. Chloe greets them just as *

LOIS

bursts from her apartment in a skirt suit. Her raw excitement betrays the professional facade as she waves.

LOIS

Everyone. Everyone!

But no one hears her. She shoves two fingers in her mouth and belts out a SCREECHING WHISTLE. The crowd turns.

(CONTINUED)

LOIS

I just got the heads-up from the newsroom... ladies and gentlemen, you're looking at our new Senator!

CHEERS ERUPT as everyone turns to Jonathan. Martha looks up at him with beaming pride. Her attention is caught by a TV newscast displaying

JONATHAN'S PICTURE.

As the crowd quiets, the TV now becomes more audible: *

NEWSCASTER

And with the twentieth district now reporting, we can call the tightly contested Lowell County Senate race. Jonathan Kent has just been elected to the Kansas State Senate, in a staggering upset over corporate mogul, Lex Luthor.

Jonathan and Martha share a triumphant embrace. The crowd cheers.

CROWD

Yay! Congratulations! Kent!

Over Jonathan's shoulder, Martha sees Clark and Lana enter, hand in hand, both radiant with happiness.

MARTHA

Looks like Clark got his answer.

Jonathan pulls away and steals himself, as Clark and Lana approach. Martha watches her husband's reaction, anxious, as they spot the ring on Lana's hand.

CLARK

Dad, Mom...

LANA

Mr. and Mrs. Kent, I know this was as much a surprise to you as it was to me.

They wait for Jonathan's reaction.

JONATHAN

Lana... I can't imagine Clark sharing his life with anyone else.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I hope you'll have as many happy
years together as we have.

*

In a surprising gesture, Jonathan hugs Lana. Clark exchanges a relieved hug with Martha, but the jubilant moment is interrupted by a take-charge Lois.

LOIS

Mr. Kent, I need to wrangle you
guys over here for a photo op.

Martha follows Lois but Jonathan suddenly stops, touching his shirt pocket. He pulls out his phone and looks at it.

JONATHAN

Looks like the congratulations are
already coming in. I'll be there
in a second.

He smiles, walks around a corner. Clark turns back to Lana.

CLARK

This might take a little while.

He gives her a kiss, pulls back, takes her in for a second.

CLARK

Is this really happening?

LANA

(grins)
Go do your big photo op.

*

Clark walks away, looking back over his shoulder like a kid
who just got a "yes" for his first date. As he joins Martha,

*

LANA

gazes down at the ring on her finger when her PHONE CHIRPS.
She digs it out and sees the call is from LEX LUTHOR.

9

INT. LIBRARY - LUTHOR MANSION - NIGHT

9

CLOSE ON: A SILKY MAPLE RIBBON OF SCOTCH being poured into a
cut crystal glass.

Lit from a crackling fire, Lex lifts the glass, defeated. He
downs the drink and empties another shot from the decanter.
As he picks up the glass again, he sees Lana in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

LANA

Are you okay? You sounded really upset in your message.

LEX

I probably shouldn't have called.
I shouldn't do a lot of things but
I seem to do them anyway.

Lex tips the drink in her direction and gulps it down.

LEX

I'm sure you want to get back to the party.

Drunk, Lex puts the decanter top on but accidentally knocks the ice bucket over. Lana sees his guard is completely down.

LANA

... Lex. I know how hard you worked but you can't take this too personally.

LEX

Why not? The rest of the state is. Do you know how many people are cheering right now that the spoiled rich kid lost to some salt-of-the-earth farmer?

LANA

Since when do you care what people think?

LEX

Since I was branded at birth with the sins of my father.

(beat)

Just once I wanted to get out from under his shadow -- earn something on my own. Consider yourself lucky you never had a father to endure.

Lex sees the stung look on Lana's face from his reckless comment. Scarred, she turns quickly to go.

LANA

Maybe we should try this when you're not drunk.

(CONTINUED)

LEX

See, now I hurt your feelings.
Perfect. Through this whole
campaign I've managed to alienate
everyone I care about.

(walks to her)
You're the last person I want to
upset. I can't lose you too.

*
*

He looks up, pained. Lana has never seen Lex so vulnerable.

LANA

You won't, Lex.

*

Inhibitions stripped away by each shot of Scotch, Lex takes
her hand and runs his thumb across it but suddenly stops,
feeling something. He turns her hand over to see her

SPARKLING ENGAGEMENT RING.

Taking in a measured breath, Lex's eyes ignite with a wash of
emotions, finally squinting into a smile. He pulls away.

LEX

I guess it's a bigger day than I
thought...

*

LANA

It all happened really fast. We
didn't have time to tell anybody.

*

Fighting his escalating jealousy, Lex distances himself.

*

LEX

So after all the lies he's told
you, you still chose him.

*

*

LANA

Lex, you don't understand...

*

*

LEX

How many times have you come to me,
wondering what Clark's keeping from
you. Why he disappeared to
Metropolis for months? How he rose
from the dead?

*

*

*

*

*

*

LANA

It's not like that now.

*

Lex zeros in on Lana's accidental slip.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

LEX

Really.

(digs in)

I know you better than anyone,
Lana. You'd never say yes with all
the doubts you had.

He walks up to Lana, her face betrays her nerves.

LEX

Whatever it is he's been covering
up all this time, you know don't
you?

LANA

Clark isn't hiding anything, Lex.

LEX

After everything I've done for you,
how could you lie to me?!

In a blur of frustration, Lex hurls his glass across the room
where it EXPLODES in the fireplace, causing a quick

BURST OF ROARING FLAMES.

Before she can react, Lex grabs her arms forcefully, his eyes
wild with betrayal.

LEX

Tell me!

She manages to free a hand, grab the decanter and

FLING THE SCOTCH

in Lex's face. He reels back, his eyes burning. Lana races
for the door.

10 OMITTED

10

11 INT. TALON - NIGHT

11

A FLASH washes over a smiling Clark, Martha and Jonathan.
Clark's cell phone RINGS and he answers it, checking his
watch which reads 11:01 p.m.

CLARK

Lana, where'd you go?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

LANA

Clark, I'm sorry. I went to see
Lex... He was drunk and...

CLARK

What happened?

INTERCUT WITH:

11A INT. LANA'S JEEP - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

11A

Her face uplit by the dashboard, Lana anxiously grips the wheel, talking on her cell phone.

LANA

He knew. I don't know how but he could tell I was hiding your secret.

(breaking down)

I didn't say anything but he was so mad. He grabbed me...

Lana trails off, a tremble in her voice. He begins to panic.

CLARK

It's okay. Where are you?

LANA

Route 40. Just before Loeb Bridge.

Lana's face is hit with the glaring reflection of headlights as Lex's Porsche ROARS up behind her.

LANA

Oh God. He's coming after me.

Terrified, Lana looks back over her shoulder...

11B INT. LEX'S PORSCHE - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

11B

Lex sees what Lana doesn't -- A SCHOOL BUS barreling toward her from an intersecting road.

LEX

Lana!

But his words are in vain. As he slams on his brakes and cranks the wheel, skidding out of control...

11C EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

11C

The bus crashes into Lana's Jeep! Through the phone, Clark hears the accident happen. Lana's door crumples into her body in a shower of glass. Unable to stop, the bus plows forward, scraping the Jeep against the pavement, shooting up

A WAVE OF SPARKS

to the sickening SCREECH of metal. Lex's Porsche fishtails into the shoulder of the road. His head bangs into the steering wheel. Arriving from the same direction as the bus,

JONATHAN'S TRUCK

slows to a stop, as freaked out JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL PLAYERS pour out the door of the bus. While a few cars pull up behind Jonathan, he jumps out of the truck, concerned.

CLARK SUPERSPEEDS PAST

Lex's Porsche. He blurs out of SUPERSPEED in front of Lana's mangled Jeep. Looking in horror through the bloody, broken windshield, Clark sees Lana still inside. Heart racing, he

RIPS THE PORSCHE DOOR OPEN

to pull Lana free. In shock, Clark cradles her limp body.

CLARK

Lana...

Clark feels a STRONG HAND on his shoulder. It's Jonathan.

JONATHAN

Clark... there's nothing you could have done.

OFF Clark, staring in numb horror at Lana's dead face.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

12 INT. FORTRESS - NIGHT

12

Marching into the crystalline cavern, Clark exudes the reckless passion of a warrior betrayed, fury curdled in his veins. He rages into the emptiness.

CLARK

Why Lana? How could you take her away from me?

Booming from the shadows, a familiar voice echoes.

JOR-EL

Human life is fragile, my Son. You knew a life would be exchanged for yours.

CLARK

Don't make her pay for my mistake.
If I hadn't told her about me she'd still be alive.

(beat)

Give me the chance to fix it.

JOR-EL

Your powers on Earth may seem extraordinary, Kal-El, but we are not gods.

CLARK

Please, you know this wasn't her destiny. There has to be a way.

There's an excruciating silence. Until, finally:

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

JOR-EL

... There is one trial you have yet
to experience.

Clark sees one of the crystals in the console begin to GLOW.

JOR-EL

But you must heed my warning. The tide of fate is impossible to stop. Even if you are able to alter one course of events, the universe will find a balance.

(beat)

There is only one crystal. Once you make this choice there is no second chance. Decide carefully.

*
*
*

CLARK

I have to save her.

Clark plucks the crystal from its shimmering resting place. Clutched in his hand, it glows brighter and brighter until it explodes in a BLINDING WHITE LIGHT...

*
*
*

SMASH CUT TO:

*

13 INT. LOFT - KENT FARM - DAY

13

Harsh WHITE LIGHT fades to REVEAL Clark's iris. ZOOM OUT OF HIS EYE to find Clark standing in the hazy light of a winter morning. Confused, he looks around then stares down at the

CHUNK OF COAL

in his hand. He suddenly recognizes the SONG playing on his radio -- it's the same one as before. He turns just as

LANA

walks up the steps, bundled in a parka.

LANA

I brought a hat and scarf like you said.

Clark stares at her -- HE'S GONE BACK IN TIME!

CLARK

You're here...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

LANA

Of course I am. But to be honest,
considering the last couple weeks,
I'm not sure a mystery date is what
this relationship needs right now.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

He rushes to Lana and embraces her, holding on for dear life. A little taken off guard, Lana awkwardly hugs back.

LANA

So, where are you taking me?

Over her shoulder, Clark looks down at the coal in his hand. He closes his fist around it and shoves it in his pocket as he pulls away.

CLARK

I... just thought we could spend
the day together.

She looks him over, suddenly skeptical.

LANA

That much I kind of figured. It
was the quote "day I'd never
forget" I was a little curious
about.

CLARK

Oh, yeah... I wanted to take a
drive... up to the lake.

(really struggling)

But with this cold snap, I'm sure
the bridges are iced over. Maybe
we should just stay here.

She takes him in.

LANA

Don't you think I know by now when
you're lying?

She looks for an answer but he can't utter a sound.

LANA

Just say something. Anything.

CLARK

It wasn't that big a deal.

(off her look)

Trust me.

LANA

It's got to work both ways, Clark.

CLARK

Lana, I...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

LANA

Don't. Unless it's the truth.

(off his long silence)

As much as I love you, I can't do
this anymore.

CLARK

You just don't understand. If
anything happened to you --

LANA

Like what? What could be worse
than losing the person you love?

CLARK

(staring at her)

Nothing.

They eye each other over the painful silence. Frustrated,
Lana takes a step back.

LANA

I need a break.

CLARK

From me?

LANA

From us.

As she turns, Clark realizes there's no point in trying to
stop her. As she marches down the steps, OFF Clark,
devastated by knowing what could have been...

14

INT. CHLOE'S OFFICE - DAILY PLANET - DAY

14

Chloe looks up from her computer, and doesn't even flinch
when she sees Clark standing there.

CHLOE

Judging from Lana's phone call,
there's a big dog house somewhere
and you're supposed to be in it.

CLARK

I think she's really done this
time.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE

Done-done or just on the down slope
of the perpetual Clark/Lana roller
coaster?

(off his look)

Really? What happened?

CLARK

Ready to put your wall-of-weird hat
on? I already lived this day once.
I kind of jumped back in time.

CHLOE

(skeptical, joking)

What'd you do, spin the Earth
backwards on its axis? I don't
suppose you got the lottery numbers
while you were at it?

CLARK

Chloe, I'm serious.

Frustrated, he looks around and finally spots a scowling
SECRETARY at her desk in the corner. Clark nods to her.

CLARK

See that secretary... she's going
to get flowers delivered in a
second.

CHLOE

Margaret's a total workaholic. The
last time she had a date was --

But suddenly a HUGE BOUQUET of flowers is carried in the door
by a COURIER, who walks right up to the Secretary. She hugs
him. Chloe looks on, curious.

CLARK

And your boss is firing some guy
right now.

Suddenly the door to an office opens and an ANGRY YOUNG SUIT
storms out, yelling back over his shoulder.

YOUNG SUIT

You can't fire me. I quit!

As he marches by them, Chloe's PHONE RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

CLARK

Don't bother. It's a wrong number.
Chinese take-out.

Not understanding, Chloe answers the phone anyway.

CHLOE

Hello?

(looks at Clark)

I'm sorry, we're all out of egg
rolls.

Chloe hangs up, her deadpan eyes on Clark. She quickly stands, grabs Clark's arm and drags him into...

15 OMITTED

15 *

15A INT. CLOCK HALLWAY - DAILY PLANET - DAY

15A *

Chloe shoves Clark in and shuts the door behind them.

CHLOE

So, you want to start with the
"how" or the "why?"

*

*

CLARK

Jor-El. I went to him so I could
change everything back.

CHLOE

Back to what?

CLARK

The first time around I told Lana
who I really am.

(off her shock)

And then I asked her to marry me.

*

CHLOE

What?! What did she say?

CLARK

Yes.

CHLOE

Oh my God.

(has to ask)

What was my reaction?

(CONTINUED)

15A CONTINUED:

15A

CLARK

Something like that. But it was a
huge mistake. Lex found out she
knew my secret and was chasing
her... there was this accident out
by Loeb Bridge...

CHLOE

Clark...

CLARK

I didn't get there in time.

Seeing him choked up, Chloe gently approaches him.

CHLOE

Why was Lex chasing her?

CLARK

He figured out she knew my secret.
It's why I've always been afraid to
tell her.

CHLOE

But you can warn her about Lex this
time. It doesn't mean you have to
keep lying to her forever.

CLARK

She'd known for less than a day.
There will always be people trying
to find out about me. And as long
as we're together someone will be
watching her every move.

Chloe's rattled by the emotion radiating from him. She puts
a soft hand on his arm, reassuringly.

CHLOE

Don't worry, we won't let her
anywhere near that road. What time
is it supposed to happen?

CLARK

Eleven-oh-two. Only problem is
she's not talking to me now. I was
hoping you could stick by her
today. Just to make sure...

(CONTINUED)

15A CONTINUED: (2)

15A

CHLOE

... fate doesn't get a second
chance. Don't worry, Clark. I
won't leave her side.

*
*
*

Chloe picks up her phone and speed-dials Lana as she gives
Clark a reassuring smile. OFF Clark, anxious...

*

16-17 OMITTED

16-17

18 INT. TALON - NIGHT

18

Energy runs high as Clark, now dressed in his blue blazer,
enters to see everything just as it was the first time. He
looks at his watch, nervous, then eyes the door. Just then,

LANA AND CHLOE

enter the party. Lana looks torn up inside as Chloe surveys
the crowd, her eyes landing on Clark. Seeing them there,
Clark lets out a sigh of relief when suddenly a SHHHH quiets
the room as all eyes focus on the TV monitors.

NEWSCASTER

And with the twentieth district now
reporting, we can call the tightly
contested Lowell County Senate
race. Jonathan Kent has just been
elected to the Kansas State Senate,
in a staggering upset over
corporate mogul, Lex Luthor.

CHEERS erupt as Martha hugs Jonathan. Chloe walks up to
Clark, just as a thought hits him.

CLARK

Wait a minute. Something's not the
same, Chloe.

He looks up at the staircase where Lois had announced the
results the first time.

CLARK

Lois...

Clark makes his way up the staircase.

*

19 OMITTED

19

*

20 INT. TALON APARTMENT - NIGHT

20 *

Clark enters to hear the sound of WATER TRICKLING. Curious, he makes his way toward the kitchen to see

WATER RUNNING FROM THE FAUCET

into the sink, then overflowing down the cupboard. Concerned, Clark walks in further to find a pool of water on the floor next to an overturned chair.

LOIS LIES UNCONSCIOUS

in the center of it.

CLARK

Lois!

The puddle of water creeps toward a

METAL TOASTER

on the floor, plugged in, a RED LIGHT indicating it's "ON." As the liquid edges toward the metal, it makes contact with the toaster and ELECTRIC SPARKS CRACKLE across the water.

CLARK GRABS LOIS

out of the pool just as the SNAPPING VOLTS rip across the pool. Sparks zap back up the cord and SIZZLE IN THE OUTLET. A second later, all the lights go out.

21 INT. TALON - NIGHT

21

As the lights and TV monitors zap out, the Crowd murmurs with trepidation. People head for the lighted exits. Jostled in the wave of party-goers, Chloe looks around -- Lana's gone.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Jonathan ducks into a corner and answers his cell phone.

JONATHAN

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

21A INT. LIONEL'S TOWNCAR - UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - NIGHT 21A *

CLOSE ON: LIONEL'S FACE talking into a cell phone in the backseat of a Towncar. *

LIONEL

I wanted to be the first to congratulate you. *

JONATHAN

(over phone)
Lionel? *

LIONEL

Now that we've won, there are a few things I think we need to discuss. *

OFF the threatening words... *

22 INT. LIBRARY - LUTHOR MANSION - NIGHT 22

Lex downs a stiff shot of Scotch to drown his sorrows. Lana enters to catch him in the private moment. *

LANA

Are you okay? You sounded really upset in your message. *

LEX

I probably shouldn't have called.
I shouldn't do a lot of things but
I seem to do them anyway.

Lex tips the drink in her direction and gulps it down.

LEX

I'm sure you want to get back to the party.

Lana hesitates. This time, that's far from the truth.

LANA

To be honest, I was kind of looking for a reason to get some air.

LEX

Then join me. We're toasting the victor.

(raises another glass)
Long live Jonathan Kent!

(CONTINUED)

Lex gulps it down as Lana moves in, absorbing his pain.

LANA

I expected a little better
sportsmanship.

LEX

You're right. I'm sure Clark would
never do anything like that. I
shouldn't have pulled you away from
him tonight.

LANA

I wasn't with Clark. We might have
had our last fight.

LEX

Last?

LANA

I kept waiting for that armor to
crack. I thought if I were just
patient enough, he might finally
let me in. But I guess you wear
armor for a reason.

LEX

I hate to say this Lana, but it's
possible Clark's never going to
trust you.

LANA

It just doesn't make sense. Why
would you lie to someone you love?

LEX

I wouldn't.

Lex's red eyes stare adoringly into hers, the layers of
inhibitions having been stripped away by each shot of Scotch.
He takes her hand and runs his thumb across it. With

NO RING THIS TIME TO STOP HIM

he runs his fingers up her arm. Comforted, Lana gives into
the touch, not realizing his hand is going to move up and

GRAB HER NECK

gently. Before Lana knows what's happening, Lex passionately
moves into her lips and KISSES LANA. Mind racing, emotions
jumbled, Lana pulls away, not angry, but confused.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

LEX
Lana... LANA
It's okay.

LEX
I'm sorry. I didn't --

LANA
I'm just gonna go.

LEX
Lana...

Lana quickly exits, flooded with a rush of mixed feelings. In a fit of self-loathing rage, Lex grabs his glass and hurls it into the fireplace, exploding in a burst of flames.

23-24 OMITTED

23-24

24A INT. TALON - NIGHT

24A

EMTS load Lois onto a stretcher. A CROWD from the party has gathered to rubberneck. Clark stands nearby.

LOIS
Do I really need an audience?
Everybody... back to the party
where there's fabulous double
chocolate cake and nine cases of
Merlot.

CLARK
You were out for a while, Lois.
You should really have someone
check you out.

As the EMTs lift her up:

LOIS
You don't need to haul me off to
HMO-land just for committing a
serious party foul.

CHLOE
(runs up, alarmed)
Clark, I've been looking
everywhere. I can't find Lana.

Clark looks down at his watch. It reads 11:01 p.m.

25 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

25

Lana's Jeep races past a sign reading ROUTE 40.

26 INT. LANA'S JEEP - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

26

Upset, Lana drives down the road. Her cell phone RINGS. She looks down -- it's Lex. She reaches to turn her phone off.

27 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

27

Lex's Porsche blows past the same ROUTE 40 sign.

28 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

28

*

The school bus passes "ROUTE 40 1/4 MILE AHEAD." OFF the twists of fate converging to repeat the same moment...

*

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

29 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

29 *

Lana's car zips down the dark road as Lex's Porsche races up from behind.

30 INT. LANA'S JEEP - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT 30

Headlights from behind suddenly blind Lana in the rearview mirror. She squints and looks back to see Lex. On the intersecting road, the YELLOW SCHOOL BUS barrels down on her.

INTERCUT WITH:

31 INT. SCHOOL BUS - MOVING - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT 31

The Driver turns all the way around to yell at the WILD JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL PLAYERS and CHEERLEADERS.

BUS DRIVER
I'm not going to tell you again...

32 OMITTED 32

32A INT. LEX'S PORSCHE - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT 32A

Lex's eyes go wide, seeing the bus about to plow into Lana.

LEX
Lana!

He slams on his brakes, fishtailing into a skid.

INTERCUT WITH:

33 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT 33

Out of the blackness, Clark SUPERSPEEDS up behind the bus and GRABS THE BUS'S BUMPER.

He grits his teeth as he digs his heels into the asphalt that buckles against the resistance of the ten ton bus.

34 INT. SCHOOL BUS - MOVING - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT 34

The Driver and Kids lurch forward. The Driver looks down, curious, at the SLOWING SPEEDOMETER.

35 INT. LANA'S JEEP - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT 35

As the bus's headlights hit her face, Lana flies through the intersection, just inches from the bus's front bumper.

36 EXT. ROUTE 40 - NIGHT 36

When Lana's Jeep has safely cleared the intersection, Clark releases the bus and it barrels on down the road. Seeing the accident has been averted,

CLARK SUPERSPEEDS OUT OF FRAME.

Lex shuts off his car and races up to Lana's Jeep which has pulled over onto the shoulder.

LEX

Lana?

LANA

I'm okay. Just a little dazed.

LEX

I'm so sorry. I didn't mean what happened back there. I was coming to apologize and--

LANA

Lex, let's just forget it ever happened.

Lex realizes this is the best forgiveness he's going to get. He leans away from the car and Lana drives off, leaving him in a wash of regrets.

REVEAL CLARK IN THE SHADOWS

standing a ways away, watching Lex as Lana drives off. As Lex gets back in his car, Clark SUPERSPEEDS away.

A beat later on the intersecting road, just a minute behind the bus, Jonathan's truck drives past.

37 INT. KENT TRUCK - MOVING - ROUTE 40 - NIGHT

37

Without Lex's headlights on, Jonathan doesn't notice Lex's car in the darkness.

38 OMITTED

38

38A INT. BARN - KENT FARM - NIGHT

38A

Jonathan enters to find Lionel waiting for him.

LIONEL

I didn't expect such a prompt reply to my message, but I'm alone, as you asked.

JONATHAN

You can't threaten my family, you son of a bitch.

*

Lionel feigns surprise at Jonathan's abruptness.

LIONEL

Might I suggest a few lessons in tact, Senator Kent, now that you're in the public eye.

JONATHAN

Cut the act. I know my campaign accepted your money, but don't think for a second I owe you anything in return.

LIONEL

We'll see how far that virtuous stance will get you once you're in office.

JONATHAN

I'll pay back every cent, but I'm not about to be your puppet.

LIONEL

I should hope not. I didn't decide to throw my political and financial clout behind a candidate who would be anyone's... puppet.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38A CONTINUED:

38A

LIONEL (CONT'D)

I rather see this as more of a partnership.

JONATHAN

The day that you and I partner up --

LIONEL

Careful, Mr. Kent. After all, I believe we share a common interest. One we would both protect with our lives.

Lionel pulls out an ENVELOPE and hands it over to Jonathan. Anxious, Jonathan takes it and opens the flap, looking curiously at a gloating Lionel. Jonathan pulls out an 8 X 10 PHOTO, his face suddenly washing white with dread.

LIONEL

I have to respect a man who would deliberately throw himself into the spotlight with such a... dangerous secret to hide.

Emotions full throttle, Jonathan's eyes flash with sudden fury. He lunges at Lionel, grabs him and swings him around into a barn post.

JONATHAN

I will never let you destroy my family.

Lionel uses his strength to shove Jonathan off just long enough to free himself, but Jonathan comes again and

POUNDS HIS FIST INTO LIONEL.

Blood seeping from a split lip, Lionel returns a surprisingly quick punch, bloodying his knuckles, but Jonathan's

HANDS CLAMP AROUND LIONEL'S THROAT.

Strangling him, Jonathan is a vision of blind rage. As the life begins to flicker from Lionel's eyes, Jonathan's expression tempers. He takes a deep breath, mind racing, and finally decides to release Lionel, who gasps for breath.

JONATHAN

We can withstand anything you bring down on us... because we have each other.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38A CONTINUED: (2)

38A

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

That's what will always separate
the Kents from the Luthors. Get
the hell off my property.

As Lionel exits, Jonathan tries to catch his breath...

39-40 OMITTED

39-40

40A INT./EXT. CAR - KENT FARM - NIGHT

40A

Clark and Martha drive up into the driveway and stop. Martha sees that Clark is oddly quiet.

MARTHA

I didn't see Lana at the party.

CLARK

We had a pretty bad fight.

MARTHA

Clark, loving someone is not always easy, especially when you can't be open with them. Do you think it would make a difference if you just took a chance and told Lana who you are?

CLARK

It would make all the difference in the world.

(beat)

But I can never do that.

As Martha takes in her son's pain, suddenly they see Jonathan step out of the darkness into the HEADLIGHTS of the stopped car. Martha smiles until she sees

JONATHAN GRIP HIS CHEST

as a stab of pain cripples him. His eyes widen in horror at the realization that he's having a heart attack. He looks skywards, pleading:

JONATHAN

Not yet.

But he's overcome by the staggering agony. Alarmed, Clark and Martha throw open their doors and rush toward him. With his last ounce of strength, Jonathan grabs a hold of Clark.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

40A CONTINUED:

40A

JONATHAN

It's not your fault, Clark...

*

*

*

He wants to say more but his words get choked in his throat.
His heart giving out, Jonathan keels to the ground.

CLARK

Dad!

*

*

*

Clark drops to his knees and rolls Jonathan over in his arms.
Martha leans down, panicked.

MARTHA

Jonathan!

*

*

*

In disbelief, Clark is desperate to do something, but it's
too late. He watches as Jonathan heaves his last breath.

CLARK

Dad! Dad... NOOOOOO!

CAMERA CRANES UP over the tragic tableau as Shelby runs up,
BARKING...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

41 INT. FORTRESS - DAY

41

An otherworldly glow reflects off the ice as Clark carries Jonathan in his arms, gently laying him on an icy platform.

CLARK

Please...

As he tries to get a grip on himself, Clark looks up at the Fortress' magnitude as if he'll find Jor-El standing there -- like Christ in Gethsemane.

CLARK

I'll do anything. Just bring him back.

(not getting a response)

I need him. I can't do this, I can't do anything without him.

Something crunches beneath his feet. He looks down to see the shattered crystal on the floor under him.

CLARK

I know you warned me but I didn't ask for any of this. You're the one who sent me here.

(anger rising)

He'd still be alive if it weren't for you. Whatever you want from me -- take it! Just don't take him.

The ethereal light in the Fortress shuts down, leaving Clark standing in morbid shadow. His fury rages.

CLARK

How can you betray me!

(off the silence)

He's the only father I'll ever have!

But it's no use -- his pleas will not be heard. Clark walks back to where Jonathan lays. Looking down at his father's calm face, Clark falls to his knees beside him.

CLARK

I'm not ready to say goodbye.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

Clark takes his hand, his world crashing down around him. A solitary shaft of light shines on them.

CLARK

I'm sorry...

As Clark weeps over Jonathan's body, OFF the wrenching moment that will alter Clark's life forever...

42 OMITTED

42 *

43 INT. LIVING ROOM - KENT FARM - DAY

43 *

Martha straightens her collar in the mantle mirror and clasps a bracelet on her wrist. Catching sight of her

WEDDING RING

seems to make the world stop. With a stiff upper lip, she pulls a necklace off the mantle but can't clasp it behind her neck. Frustrated, she tries and tries, but finally

CLUTCHES THE NECKLACE

in her fist as tears stream down her reddened cheeks. When she hears Clark enter behind her, she takes a deep breath, brushes the tears aside and turns to face him, strong.

MARTHA

I guess it's time then.

But Clark just stands in the doorway, unable to move.

CLARK

Mom --

But his VOICE CRACKS -- he can't get any more out. Seeing Clark struggle with emotion, Martha drops the necklace on the coffee table and crosses the room. She reaches out and

WRAPS CLARK IN HER ARMS.

Tears form in their eyes as they try to contain themselves. Over her shoulder, Clark finally says what he came to say:

CLARK

I'm so sorry...

She pulls back and looks into Clark's pained eyes.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

MARTHA

Clark, I know you're blaming
yourself but this wasn't your
fault.

CLARK

How can you say that? I went back
to save Lana and now Dad's gone.

MARTHA

You think you could have chosen
between them if you'd had the
chance?

Clark weighs the idea.

MARTHA

Lana's life is still ahead of her.

CLARK

And Dad's wasn't?

Choked up, she tries to push through the raw emotion, she
takes his hand to console him. *

MARTHA

Clark, a heart only beats so many
times in a life. Your father...
(smiles tenderly)
...used his more than anyone I know.
And that's something... we both have
that to be thankful for.

CLARK

I just don't see what my life is
without knowing he's there. Or
getting his advice...

MARTHA

(bittersweet)
Even if you never asked for it.

Clark hollowly smiles at his mom's attempt to ease him.

CLARK

Without him, how am I going to turn
into the person he wanted me to be?

MARTHA

Because you're his son.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Every parent has one wish, that
their children will have a greater
life than they did. That's one
thing we never had to worry about
with you.

She touches his shoulder.

MARTHA

Whether your father is here with us
or not, you will be a man he's
proud of. A man he can look up to.
And something tells me he won't be
the only one.

Thankful, Clark looks over her shoulder, seeing her necklace.

CLARK

Want me to help with that?

Martha nods. As she turns and lifts her hair, Clark fastens
the necklace. Martha touches it, beginning to fall apart. *

CLARK

We're going to be okay.

Martha folds into him and they hold each other tight, both
overwhelmed by the greatest loss of their lives... *

44 EXT. KENT FAMILY PLOT - DAY

44

CLOSE ON: POLISHED OAK. As the casket is lowered, REVEAL

Clark and Martha stand strong behind it at the grave's edge.
Their dark coats flecked with falling white snowflakes. The
ground is dusted with a

BLANKET OF SNOW.

Martha clasps Jonathan's WEDDING RING in her hand -- the band
matches the same one she wears. Martha places Jonathan's
ring on the oak coffin as it descends into the earth. As
mourners make their way from the gravesite,

CHLOE AND LOIS

look back at Clark, deep with empathy for their friend.

LIONEL

*

(CONTINUED)

steps toward Martha. His surreptitious involvement in Jonathan's death still under the radar, bloody knuckles masked by black gloves. He nods his regrets.

LANA

takes Clark's hand. He looks down at her, a shell of the man he is. Her sympathetic eyes watch as he gazes into the grave. She squeezes his hand tight then lets go. She gives Clark and his mother stand in silence until Martha leans down, grabbing a hand of dirt and tossing it into the damp grave onto

JONATHAN'S COFFIN,

covering the ring. Clark grabs a hand of dirt but, when he stands, he can't throw it in.

UNDER A DISTANT TREE,

a shadowy figure pays his last respects. It's Lex, cloaked in a dark, henchman's coat and scarf. As Martha joins the mourners filing away from the gravesite, Clark has one last moment alone with his father. Hesitating, he finally holds out his hand and tosses a

FISTFUL OF DIRT

onto his Jonathan's coffin.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE