

January 2025

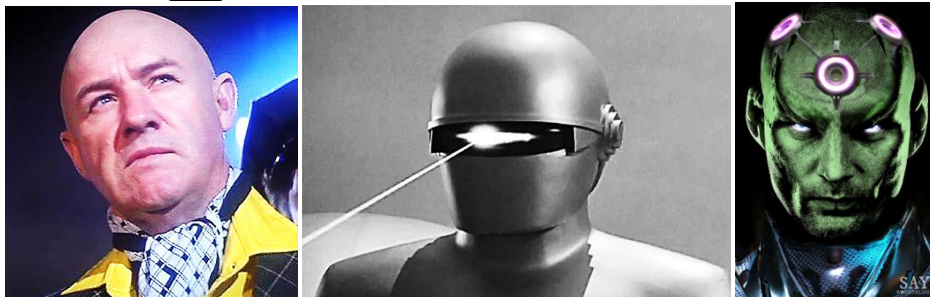


"It's your New York!"

# *The Rondout Reader*



## ***"Bring on the Future!"***



by Kevin Ahearn

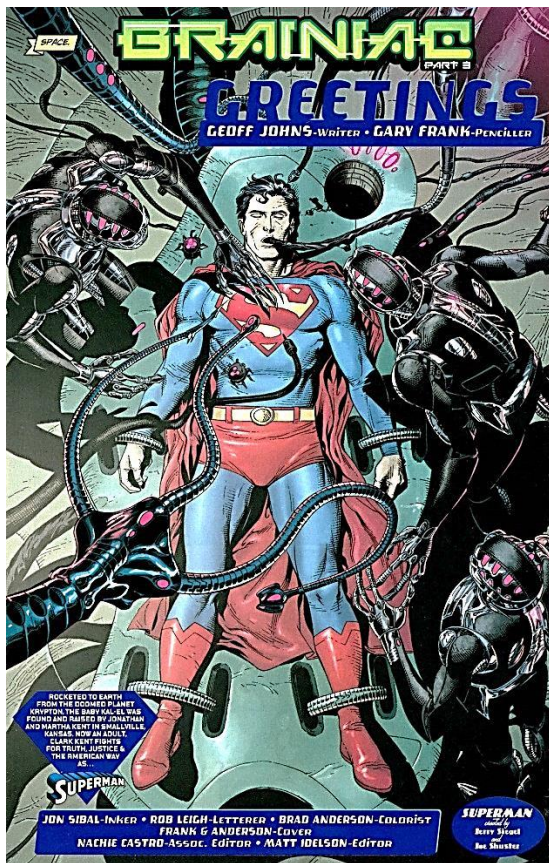
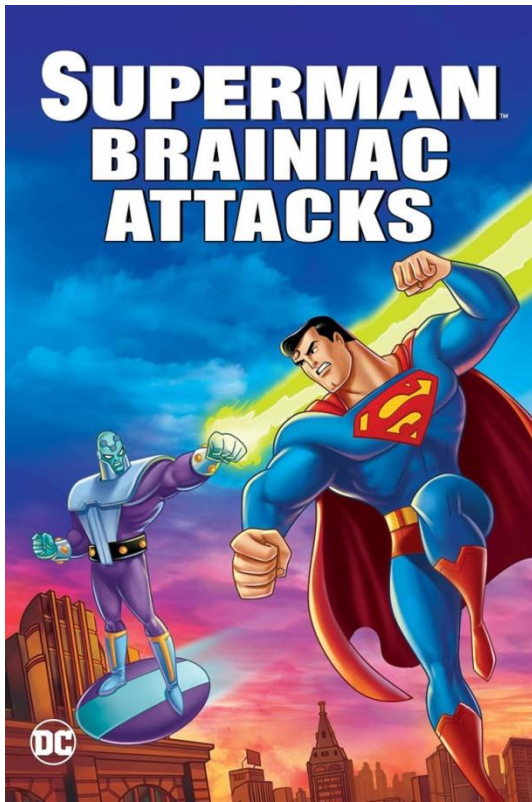
# Visit Kandor

Fortress of Solitude  
North Pole



See your  Travel Agent!









*"I don't think I ever thought of myself as **Superman**.  
But there were people who thought of me that way,  
and maybe I believed them a little."*

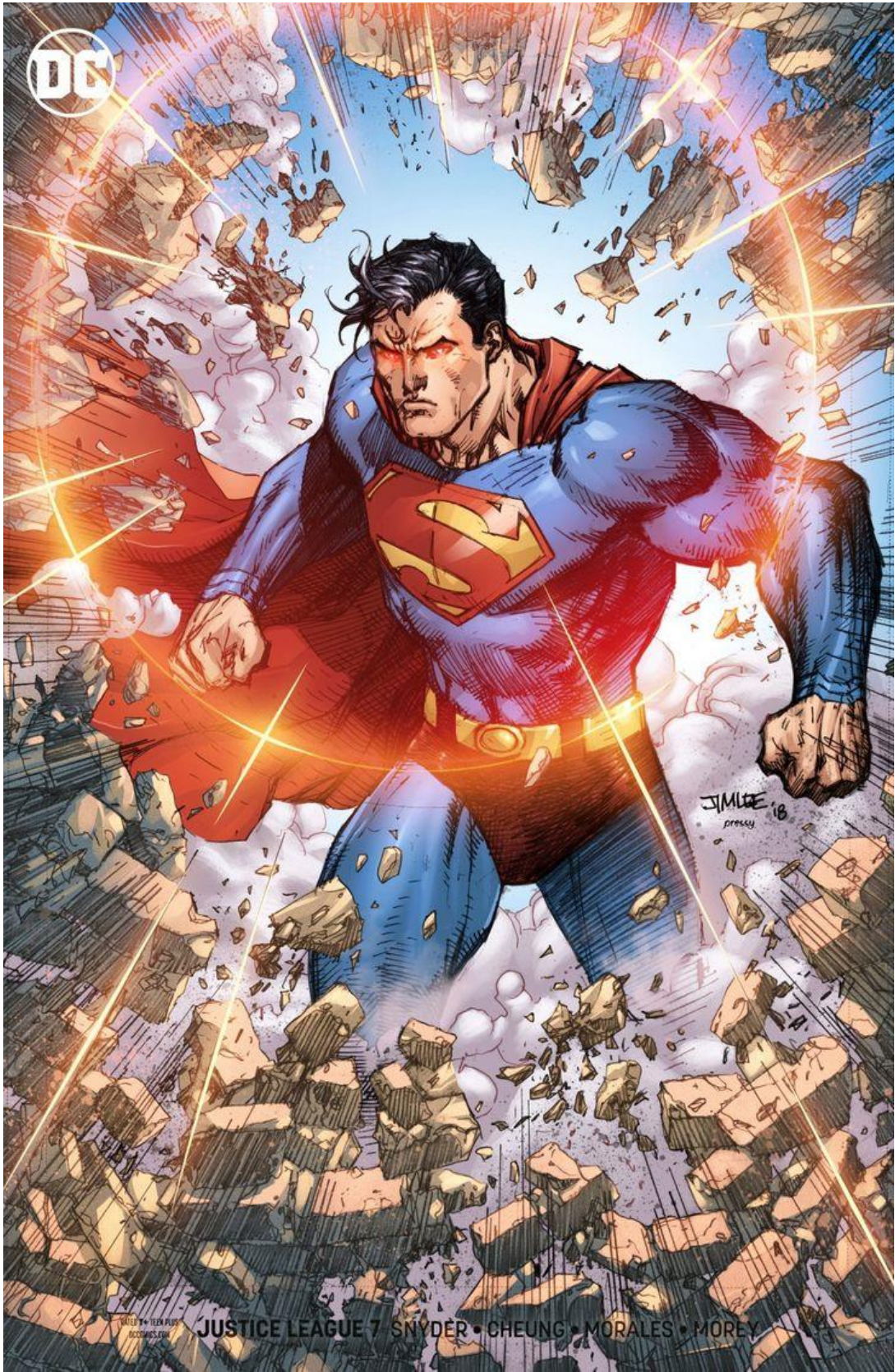


*"I thought I was bulletproof or **Superman** there for a while.  
I thought I'd never run out of nerve. Never."*



*"I always say that 'Star Wars' had a huge effect on me, too,  
but what 'Star Wars' did for some people, '**Superman**' did for me."*







# SUPERMAN LIVES!



**And I've Got Him!**

*By Lex Luthor*

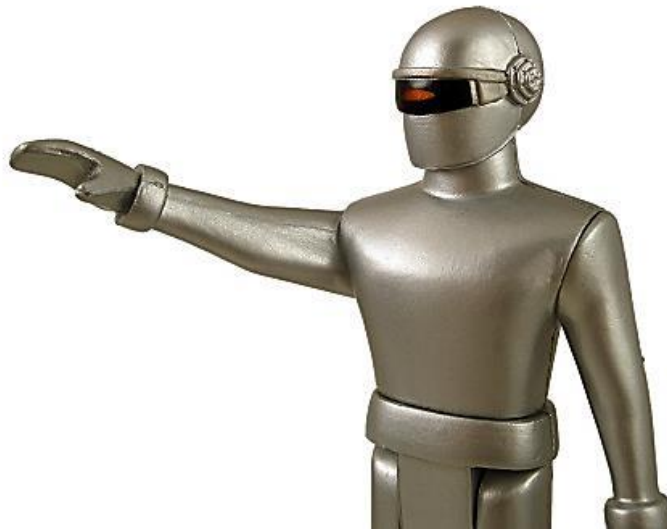


**This is what happens when you trust a space alien! That's what Superman and Brainiac are. And they've teamed up to loot the Galaxy!**

**Our only defense is The Male of Polymer. Superman left him for dead. But he underestimated the tenacity and perseverance of humanity.**



**Brainiac's ship is bigger than an aircraft carrier. Polymer is equipped with a Superman-tracker. I will force my way in and defeat this 'Alien conspiracy'!**



**All hail the Male of Polymer!  
Created by the People, for the People  
He is our man!**

*(Continued on page 10)*



*'By all that's holy in heaven! A collection of cities!'*

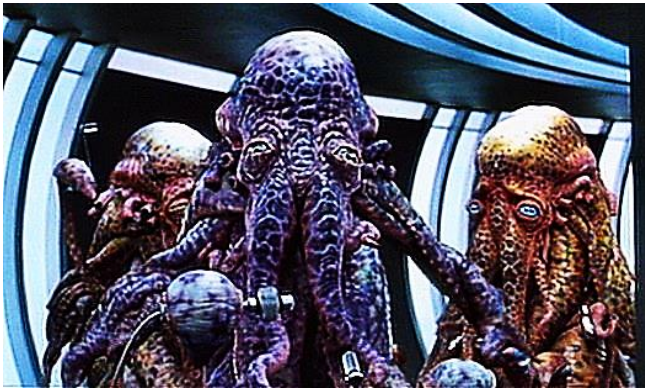


**Brainiac** is beaten, Luthor. You and Polymer want more of the same?'



*'Wait, **Superman!** We find ourselves together, discoverers of a scientific treasure trove!'*





*'These defenseless creatures abducted by a monster!  
Somehow they must be returned home!'*



*'Never! These beings belong to me.  
To be subjects of my world!'*



*'You two are not partners?'*  
*'Oh, but we will be!'*

*'Neither are we, Luthor!'*





*'What used to be. Oh, for those good ol' days!'*

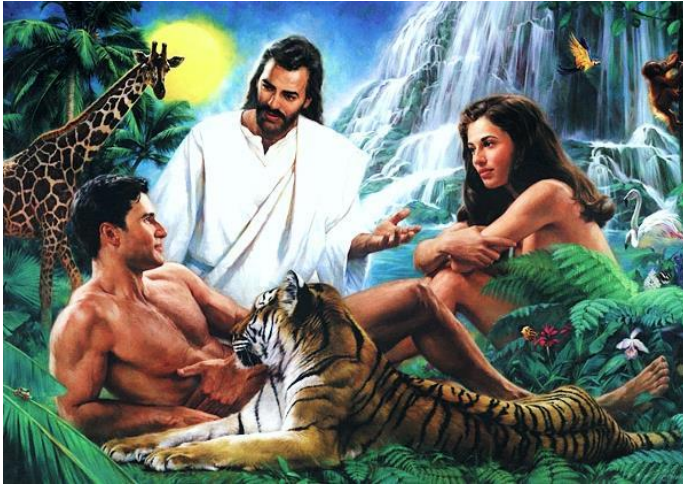


*'You mean nights of non-stop debauchery!  
A disaster of Biblical proportions!  
Thank God somebody understands!'*



*'Think Genesis! **Superman** is the 21st Century "Adam".  
Metropolis, his "Garden of Eden".'*





*'But unlike the original 'Adam', **Superman** did not bite the apple or hook up with Eve or to the serpent. So instead of turning into a weak, common sinner, he became...*



*'Same thing happened to me!'*

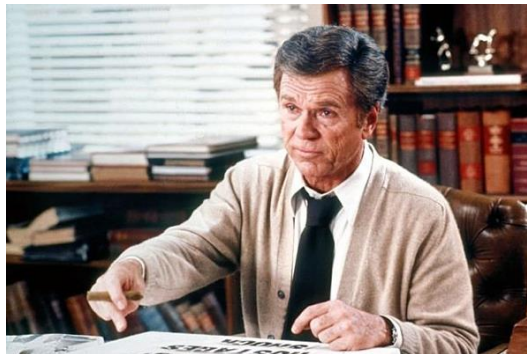




***Beyond the bottle, a showdown!***



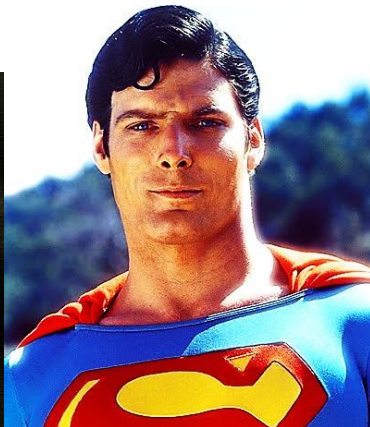
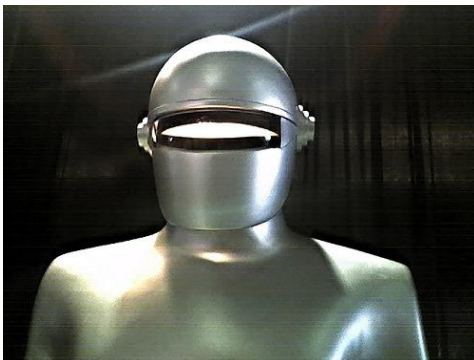
*"C'mon **Superman!** Finish this. Punch one of them!"*



*'Calm down, Lois! They're in a room full of living cities! Not ideal for a brawl with a robot!"*



*'Whatever, Chief, I'm gonna get a slew of action shots!"*







*'What would Clark Kent do?'*



*'Remember when you believed in **Superman**?  
Sure, you did! It was easy! And made you feel so safe!*

*'No war, no terror. How much did he save you  
on Flood Insurance? Like an Xmas gift that never stopped giving.*



*'Until it did.*



*'He just upped upped and left. **'Superman's World without Superman!***

*'Whacha gonna do now, Bunky?*

*'Is there any **Superman** in you?*

*'Your life just might depend on it!'*



*'Who says **Superman's** dead? He's more alive now than he ever was and always will be!*

*'All those poor and needy people **Superman** helped...*



*'Where did he get the money to buy all that food, and other stuff?*

*'Memorabilia, publishing, TV, Hollywood rights, and video games!'*





*'Chicken feed!'*



*'Superboy found out where the BIG money was. When he discovered that he possessed the most precious, most exclusive substance on earth---*

## **Super-DNA!**



*'How much is a Super-Baby worth?'*



*'How many growing up "super"??'*



*'A robot...from where?'*

*'Whose side is it on?'*



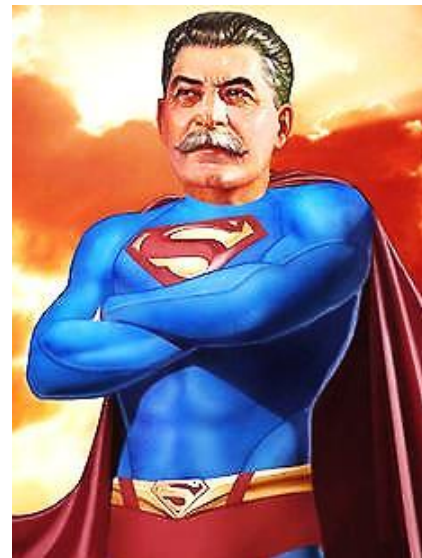
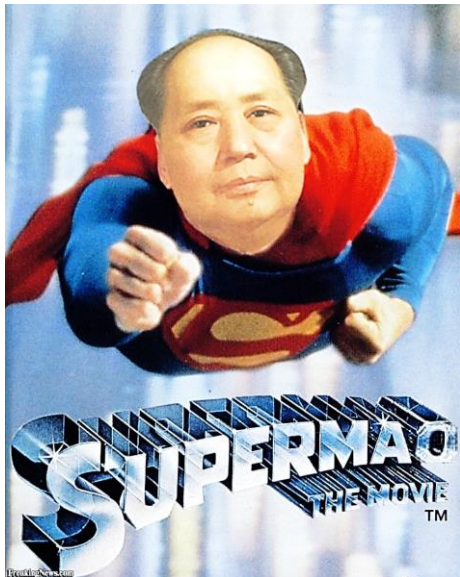
*'Power! All the power to my lab!  
Shut down Kandor if we must!'*





The president took a deep breath before he spoke.

*"People of China, a decade ago, a teenage boy made America the world's lone superpower."*



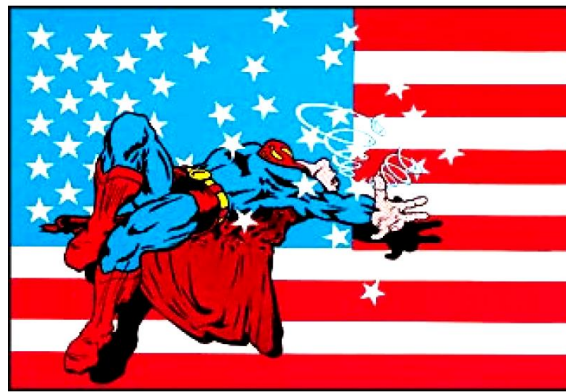
*'Communism is not love. Communism is a hammer which we use to crush the enemy.'*

*'Death solves all problems. - no man, no problem.'*

*"While our beloved nation was considered dull and dingy compared to the bright and beautiful United States!"*



*"Brainiac has rearranged the world order.*



*'How will China fill a gaping leadership role?  
Shall we declare ourselves the 'new superpower'?*



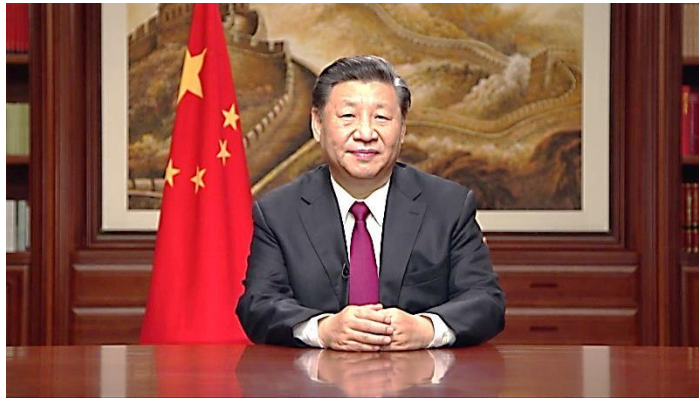
乘 霸



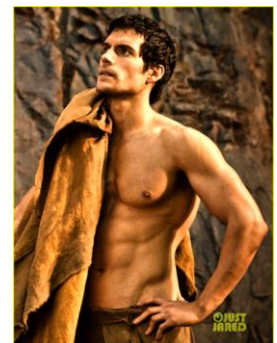
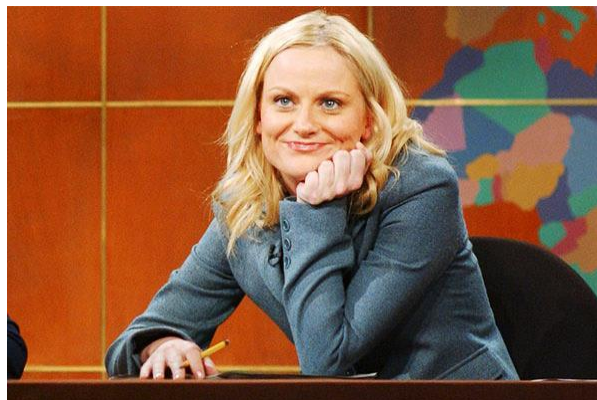
*"Our former military leaders urge me to rearm, to rebuild our army, navy and air force! The cost and sacrifice will be huge, but the reward priceless!*

*"I say NO! China must always be thought of as a 'defender' rather than as an 'aggressor' nation. We will patiently bide our time for the first shred of evidence that the United States or Russia or Germany or Japan is re-establishing their military, China will make another 'Great Leap Forward'...*





*"The future belongs to the strong. China will create the most powerful war machine the world has ever seen!"*



*'I've always been in love with **Superman!**  
He makes me imagine!  
Without those street clothes and costume...  
Who else is even close?*



*'The eyes that melted a thousand ships!  
Only I could see his vulnerability, his need!  
Where would we go, what would we see?*



*'Oh, how could we make each other feel?  
Super-strong, Super-fast, could he also be  
Super-gentle and Super-understanding?*

*'And Super-Duper virile with a tireless id  
who'd never stop loving only me!'*



*'What an undemanding male  
this **Superman** must me!'*



*'We've always hoped so!'*

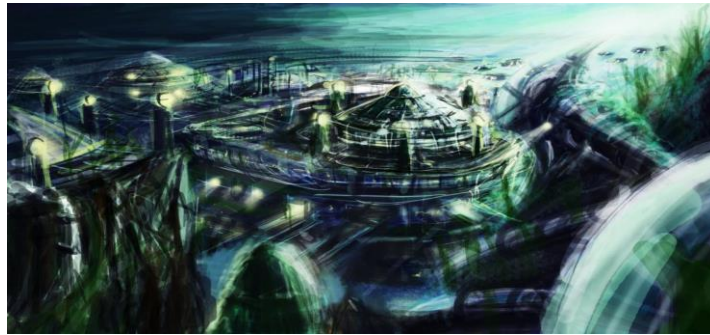
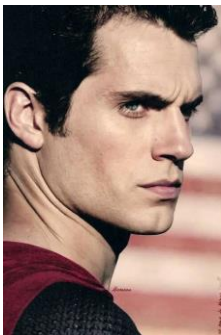




*Millions of eyes from dozens of species stared out of their bottles...*



*'Imagine, **Superman!** Every city stripped to its bones, the technology a boon for humanity!'*



*'Making us no different from **Brainiac!**'*



*'Half a hundred civilizations, each destined to occupy my world!'*

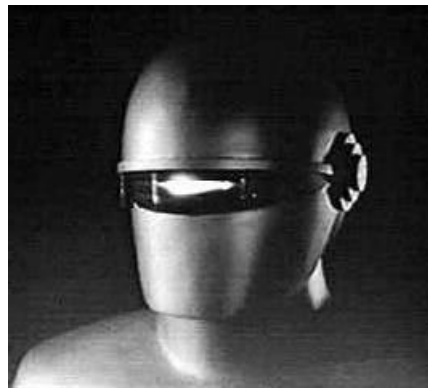
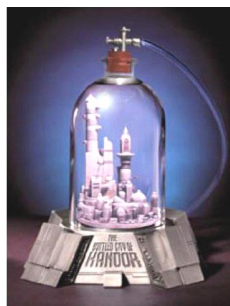


*'I grew up on an alien planet. These victims need to go home.'*

*'Idealistically impractical! So would razing the ship!'*

*'The solution: two must ally against the one.'*

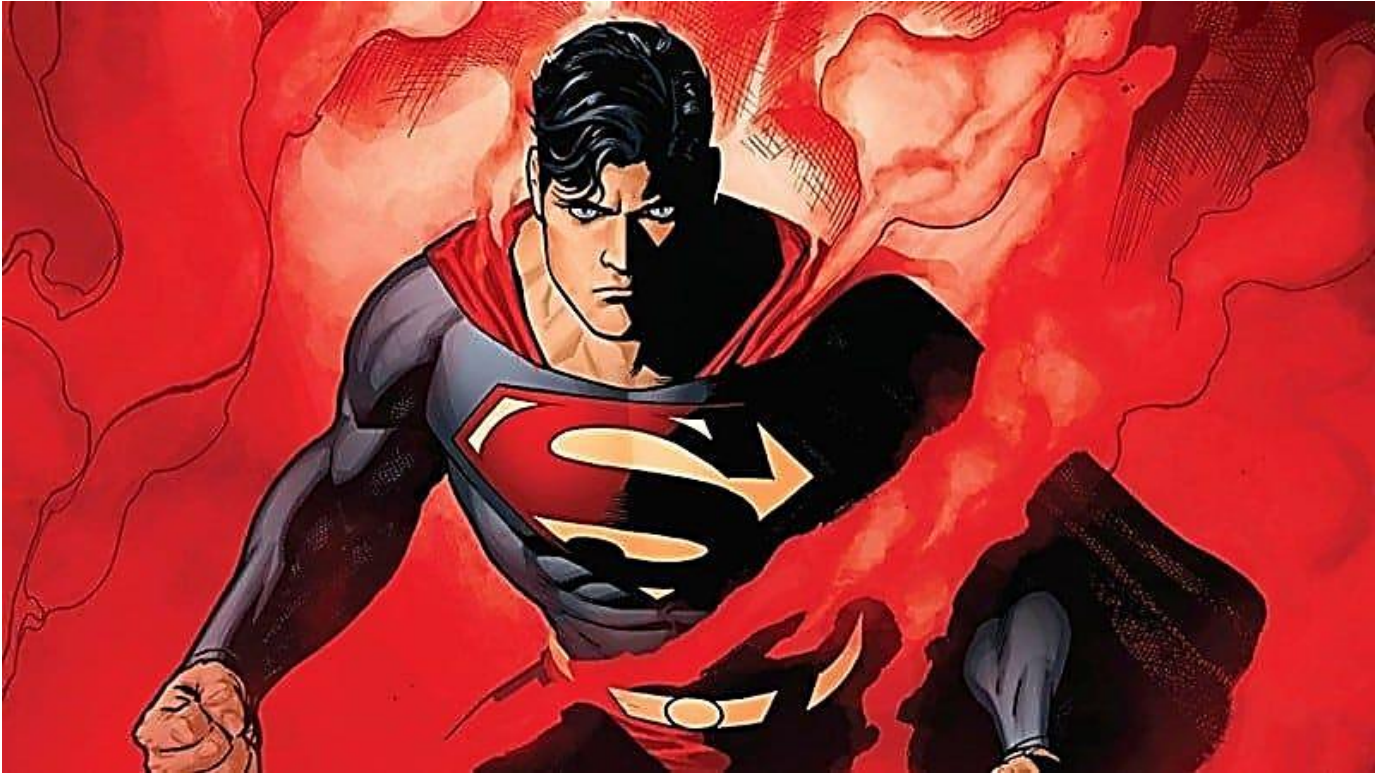
**A long moment...**



*'Unite with me against this mandroid, or with one finger I'll destroy Kandor!'*

*'With me versus this city-stealing thug, or...a single burst, Metropolis!'*

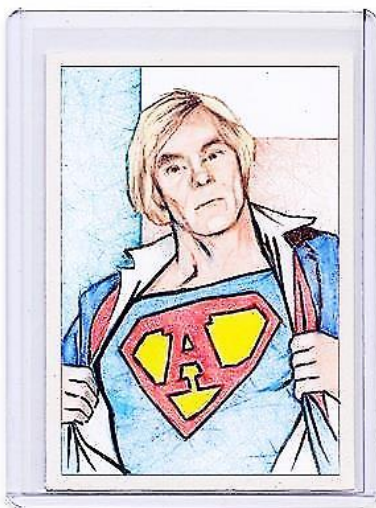




II







*'Everybody must have a fantasy.'*



*'We have the right to dream heroic dreams.'*

# Who I Am



By SUPERMAN



**I found out where I came from, an alien planet ...Krypton!**

**Imagine discovering that you're from a place, a culture you never heard of. And you visit and ask yourself...How much of this world is me?**



**How much of *Superman* is Krypton?**

**Its red sun gave me my incredible powers. My birth parents saved my life and I never knew them.**



**My *true* parents made me believe who I had to become!**



**They gave me my values of hard work, honesty and compassion.**

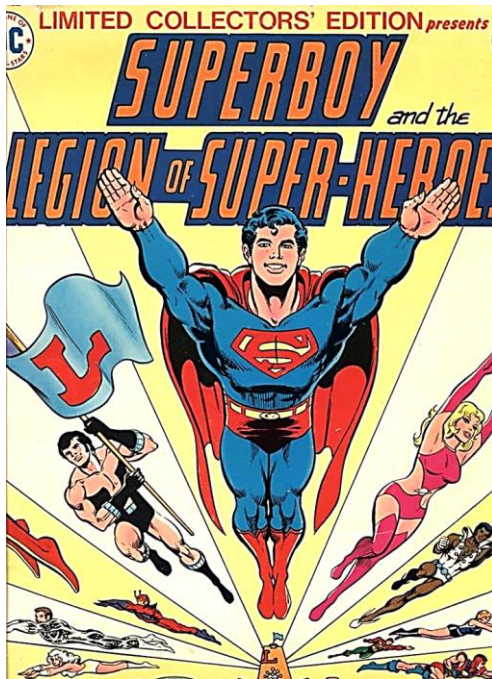
**I am an American of *Kryptonian* ancestry!**

**Super-strength, super-speed, super-vision, and I could fly! To go on as an 'ordinary' teenager would have been a lie!**



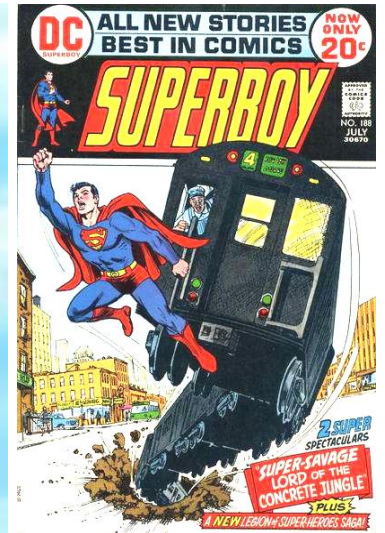
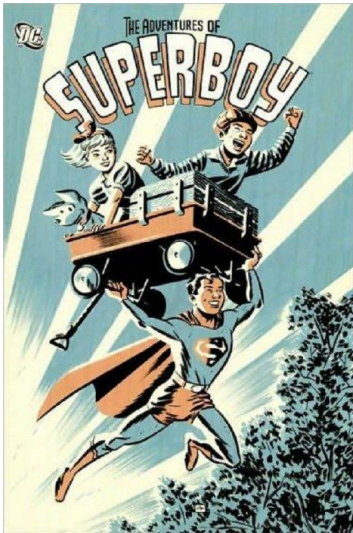
**Mom gave me my Kryptonian swaddling and In about ten minutes, I designed and tailored my costume. (The boots took a little longer.)**

**I became who I had to be!**



**The very first time...I heard my cape rippling in the air and the felt the sky and the clouds blowing by me as I ripped through faster and faster, around the earth again and again!**





**With my telescopic vision I looked to the children...**



**Then the adults who were running their lives.**



**Should I wait until I'm 'fully mature' to do something about it?**





**Not another minute, the 'Super-Era' begins right now!**

*(Continued on page 12)*



The President cleared the Oval Office before making the call.



*'Good morning, Your majesty.'*

*'I'm afraid our troubles are beginning all over again.'*



*'Good afternoon, Mr. President. I'm sorry for your troubles.'*

*'When **Superboy** appeared, millions of good people lost their jobs.'*





*'The "Super-Era" is over.  
My advisors urge rearming!'*

*'Are we again going to be training  
men and women to kill people?'*

*'Then China, Russia, and everybody else!'*

*'I'm not so pessimistic. **Superman**  
was in earth for only ten years, a  
symbol of power, courage, honesty  
and compassion!'*

*'And he left nothing behind?'*



*'I want to believe that every great  
American bequeaths a legacy, an  
impact.'*

*'**Superman's** been gone a week,  
and for too many, it's as if he were  
never here.'*

*'Keep your faith in humanity, Mister  
President. **Superman** will always be here!'*

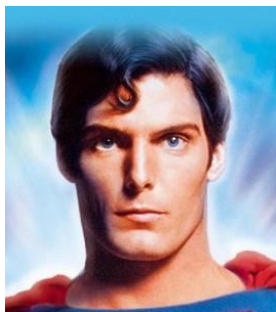
*'Because if all he has done has left no  
mark, then neither will either of us!'*



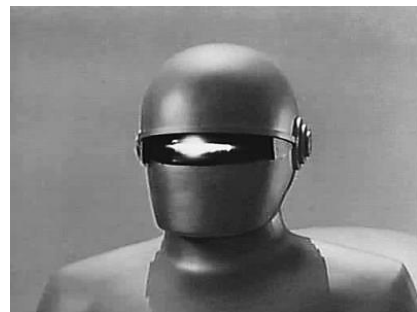
*In a menagerie of cities, not a single eye blinked...*



*'Begone, both of you!  
Or I'll self-destruct my  
ship!'*



*'Is that the ruler you  
will become...of the  
dead?'*



*'More than fifty separate cultures!  
To conquer the future, we may have  
to break a few eggs!'*





*"It's over, Superman!"*



© J. LOMBO'S ART



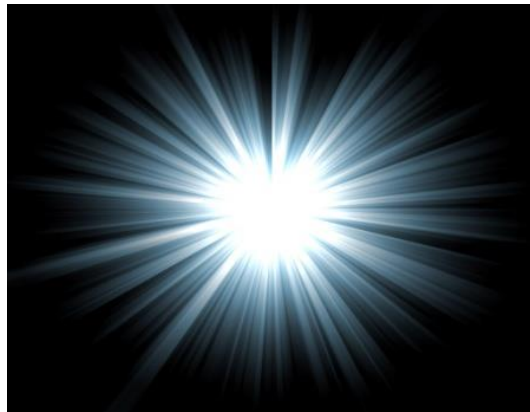
*"A Man of Steel sandwich!"*



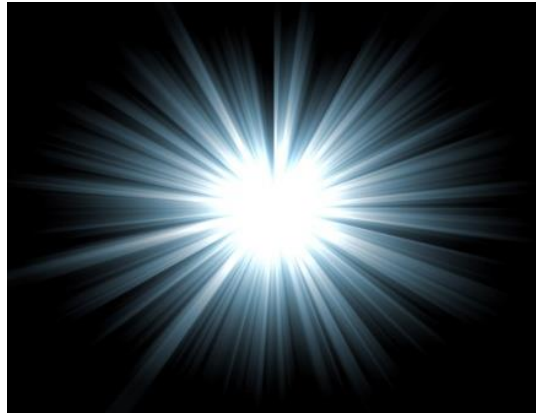
*At that moment...*



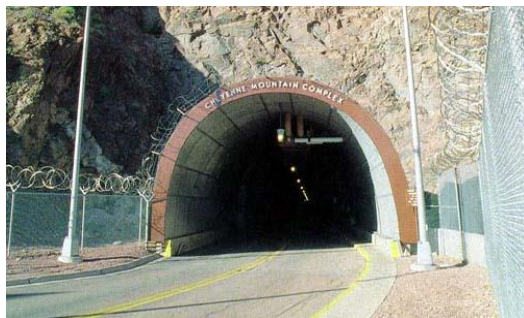
*'What in the Universe?'*



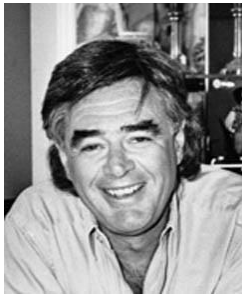
*And the next...*



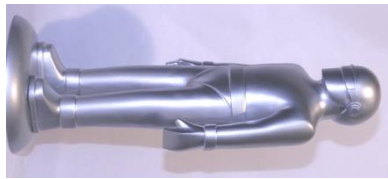
*'Great Scott! Where did they go?'*







*'What just happened?'*



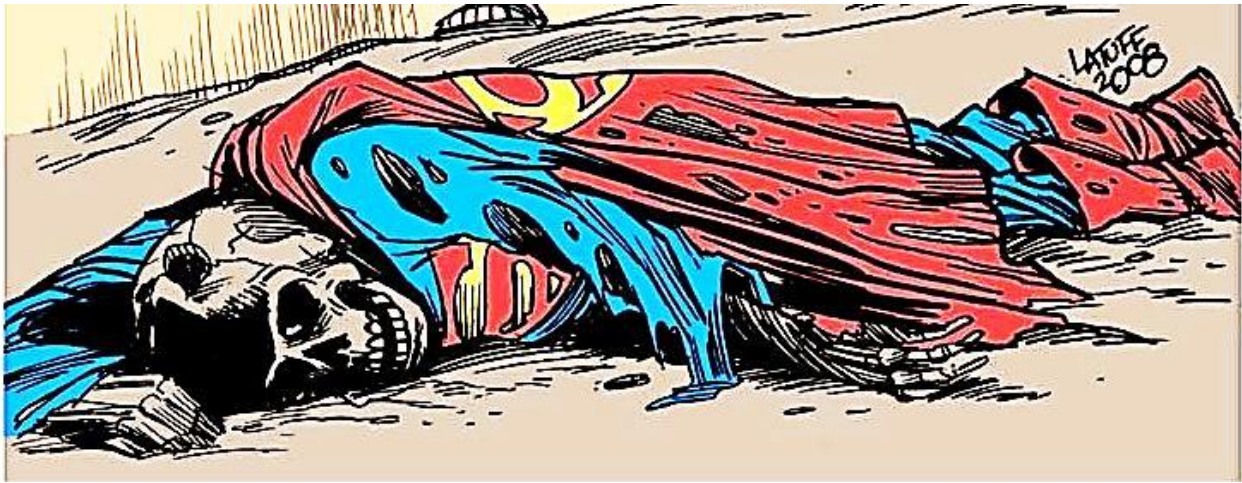
*'The Male of Polymer has been reduced to a grain of dust!'*



*'But how? **Brainiac**? Did the two unite against me?'*



*'Rest in Peace, **Superman**. Oh, if only I could see the body!'*



*'The little "nobodies" suddenly promoted!'*

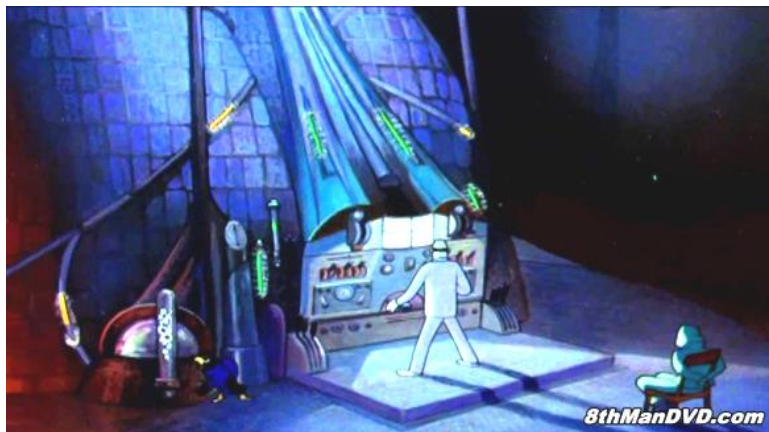






*'While the foolish democracies took **Superman** for granted, I knew his fall had to come. For ten full years, we've secretly been building invincible weapons!'*

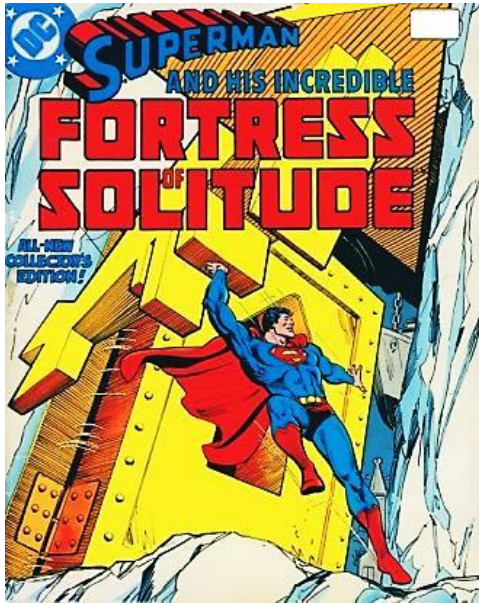
*'The future belongs to the Super-bear!'*



*'Both were easy targets. Thankfully, shrinking takes less energy than enlarging.'*

*'Find the pair with your telescopic vision.  
'I've got just the habitat for them!'*

*'I look forward to restoring Metropolis and then...!'*



*'I have a place where Kandor will be safe!'*



*'We've been 'safe' for too long, **Superman**.  
The Kryptonian council voted as one to shut down  
Brainiac's "Eternal Light". We will live out our lives.'*

*'And make the Honorable  
Kimba what he always  
wanted to be...A  
**grandfather!***

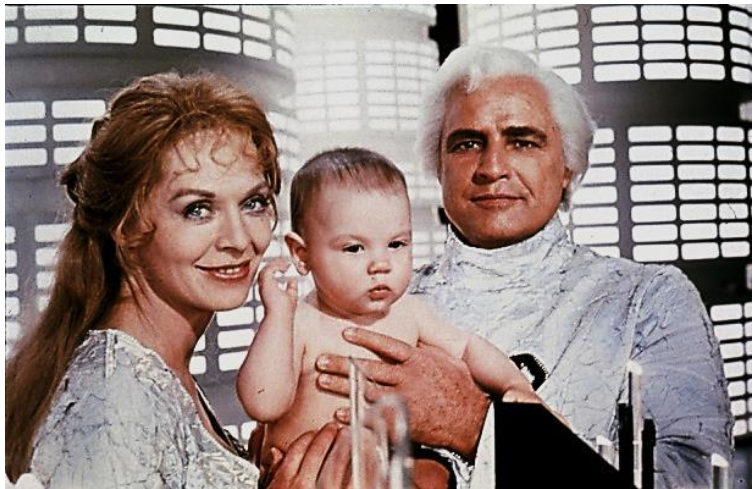
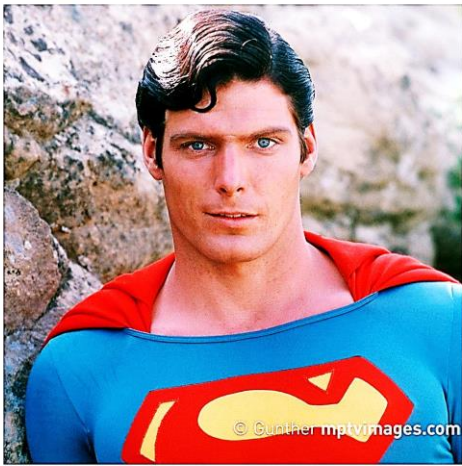


*'I failed to take action that might  
have helped the People of Krypton!  
Not this time.'*



*'We have control over Brainiac's ship. We will return and restore these cities to their rightful homes!*

*'A quest I would have never imagined!'*



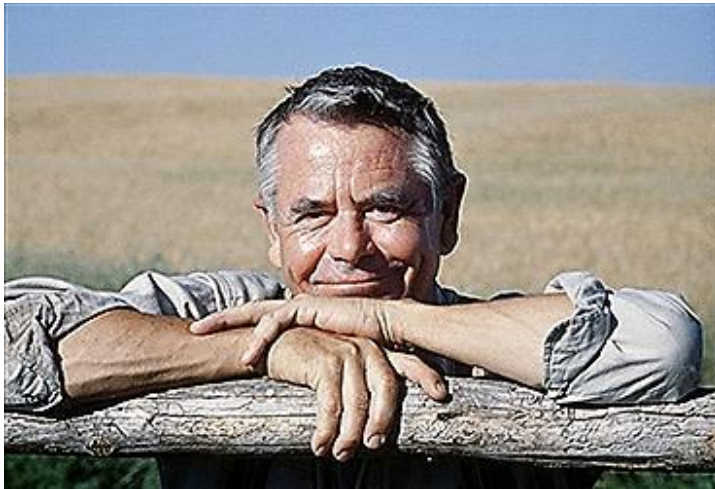
*"Honorable" Kimba. My parents are smiling at us!*



**Arriving at the farmhouse...**



*'Mr. and Mrs. Kent, there's been some commotion in the area and we just wanted to make sure you folks are okay.'*



*'Everything's just fine, Captain. Thanks for coming by.'*



*'You boys make us feel so proud.'*



*'So does yours, M'am. So does yours!'*





*When Brainiac awakened...*

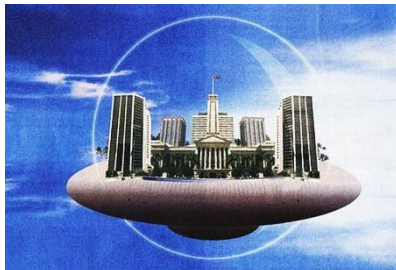
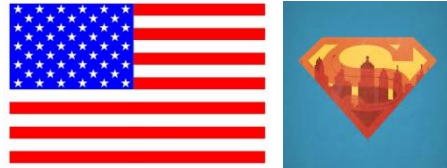


*'Noooooo! Diminished and dumped  
in the city of the dead!'*

*He was not alone...*



*'A mechanized man! Inert? Helpless?  
I am the master of the super-sciences!  
'This is not the end, **Superman!** Only the  
beginning!'*







*'We are back in the news and in front of it!  
'Fire up the presses! We've got a "Brave New  
World" to astound!'*



*'Super-"Urban Renewal"! A few power outages, some gas leaks, and broken water mains, otherwise, "Like it never even happened!"'*



*'And I was worried about all those kids who'd never get the chance to grow up.'*



*'I bet a bunch of them just did!'*



*'Again Metropolis, America and the world have a hopeful future!'*



*'Thanks to **Superman!**'*



