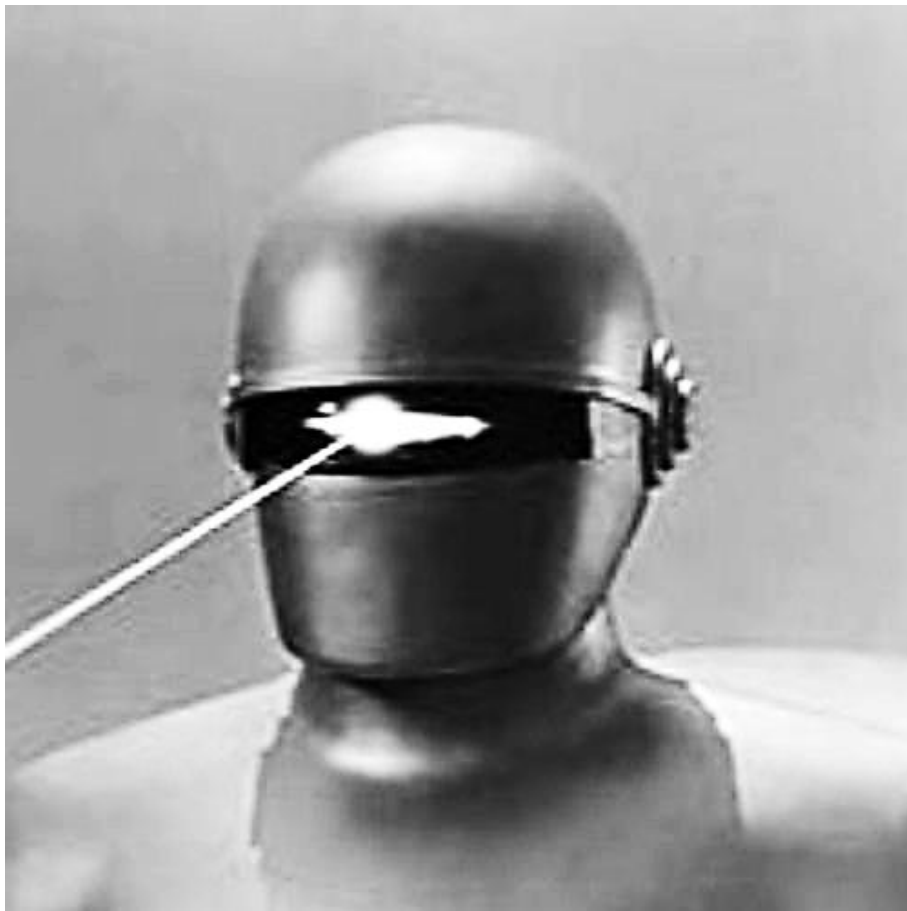


January 2025



"It's your New York!"

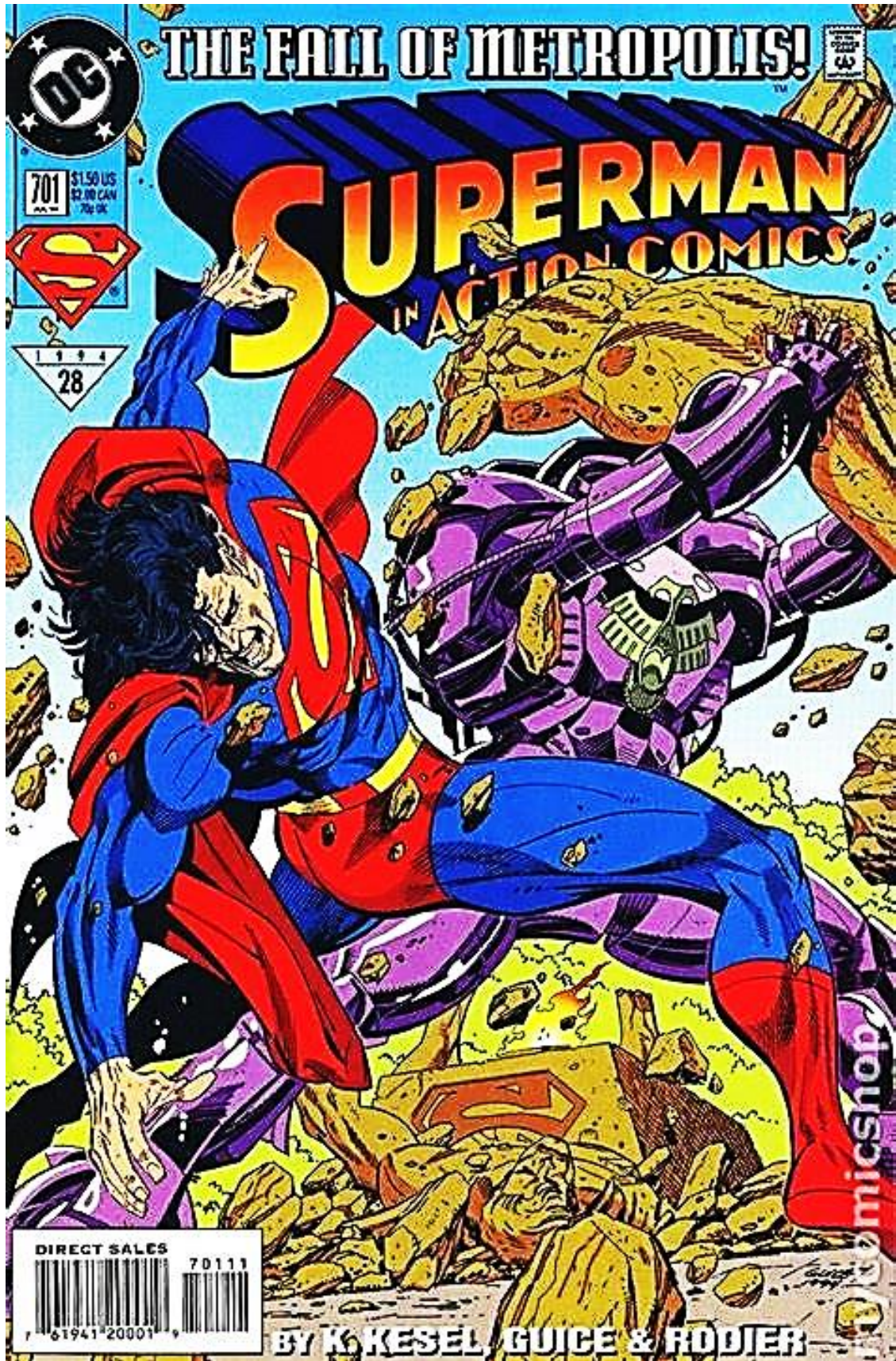
The Rondout Reader

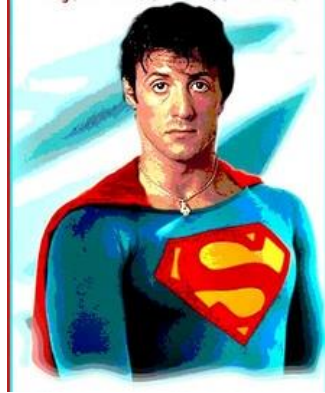


MALE OF POLYMER

A LEX LUTHOR CREATION

For Lock Martin

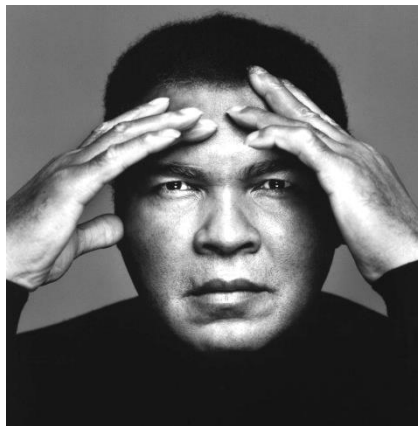




'Eatin' lightnin' and crappin' thunder!'



'People see me on the court only as a superhero, grunting and winning. They think you're a robot, and I'm not.'



'The will must be stronger than the skill.'

Daily Planet



EXTRA!

A Great Metropolitan Newspaper

Real Time

SUPER-CLASH OF THE CENTURY!

By Lois Lane

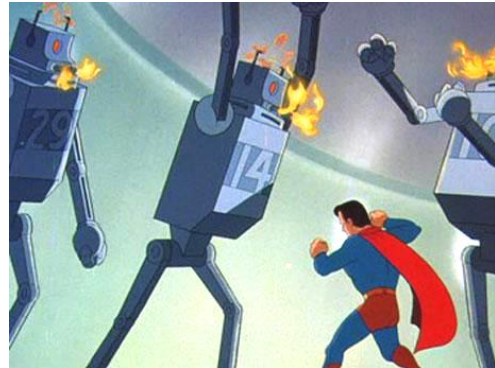


"Are You Ready to Rumble?"

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED 
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

®

If you and your children were expecting a cutesy episode or a kiddie cartoon, stop reading **now!**



This 'Championship Bout' is not for a medal or a belt, but the very future of our home!



"Lighter, faster, stronger, I am the **Male of Polymer**," said the robot, slamming **Superman**. "You're last century, 'Man of Steel.'"

Superman crashed against a building, sending the crowd running in all directions.

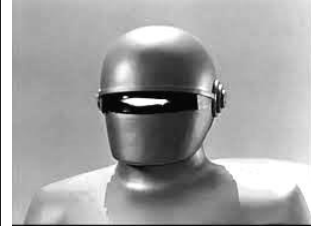
But he recovered in a flash and struck back.

"How's this for a 'blast from the past'?" said **Superman**, sending the **Male of Polymer** reeling.

The battle for Metropolis was on!

(Continued on Page Six)

SMALLVILLE



Live from Metropolis, the telecast took an ominous turn.



*'My God, Jonathan! He's so much bigger than **Superman!**'*



'It's not the size. Has that machine got the guts?'

The two met at the heart of *Superman Square*...



The combatants eyed each other for only a moment. Then...

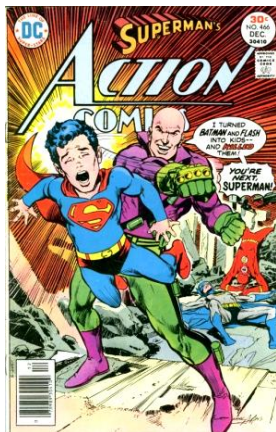


*'You're tired and spent, as dated as Disco. The more things change, the more **Superman** remains the same.'*

'What are you? Who made You?'

'Unearthly Uberman, who are you? Your birthright has to be beyond our world. I speak for my Creator. Do you believe in...?'

'Lex Luthor!'





'Who else? You over-privileged, over-hyped demigod!'



'Superman's invulnerable, unbeatable, but I'm a little bit afraid!'



'Some robot whippin' our boy? Never happen. It won't be Superman who wins the fight, but the Smallville spirit of Clark Kent!'

In high orbit...





'Kryptonians in a bottle, search this world for the final city to share your fate!'



'Hmmm...Might make a fashionable neighbor.'



'That one's got a beautiful planetarium!'



'My kind of town!'

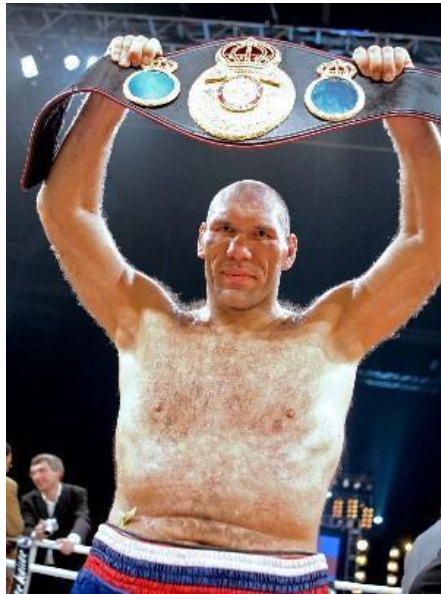


The President addressed his people...



*'My beloved citizens, do not be misled by your own eyes. Do not be fooled by America's **Superman** propaganda. This is not, nor will it ever be, the Greatest Championship Fight of All Time!'*

*'What you cannot help but watch is not a sport dominated by Russians, but humanity's quest to defeat **Superman**! **The Male of Polymer** is no soulless machine, he's our gleaming shining knight!'*



*'**The Male of Polymer** was created in an underground laboratory by the best scientists from all over the world united to design and build a better **Superman**, a **Superman** we can control!'*



*'Lex Luthor's been working on this for years, and right from the start, **Superman's** known all about it!*

'America still has yet to fully appreciate its own Greatest Myth because its people had never been ruled by an Ideal Dictator.



*'**Superman** expected discontent, tolerated it!
He knows us, understands us, we wouldn't be human
if we just gave up and buckled under.
There had to be a '**Superman** Rebellion!'*



*'In his super-arrogance, **Superman** welcomes **The Male of Polymer!**
How refreshing that humanity is working on a weapon to kill him
rather than millions of innocent people.*

*'**Superman** has become convinced he's absolutely invincible, and that human
ingenuity burns hottest when fighting an enemy. He will be that enemy if the numerous
technological spinoffs from **The Male Of Polymer** benefit mankind.*

'This isn't a fight. It's an exhibition...

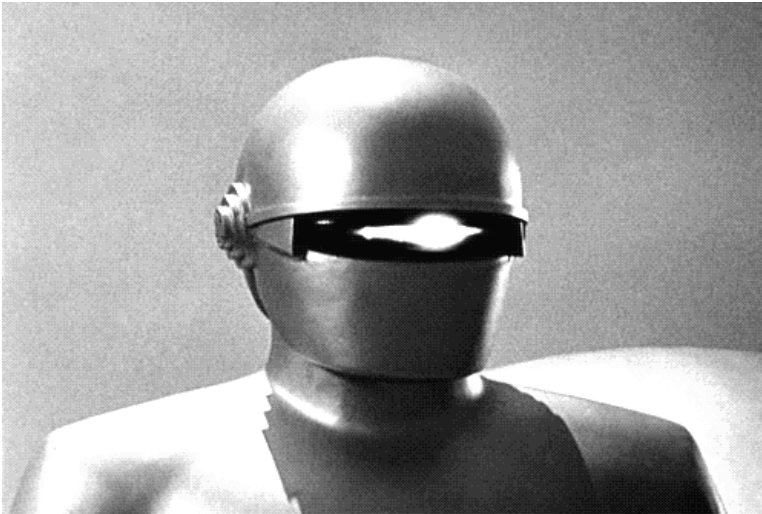


'Whatever the outcome, I want the winner!'



Punch for punch, blow for blow, the fight raged on, its sound and fury shattering windows up and down *Siegel Avenue*.

Suddenly the machine turned from **Superman** to...



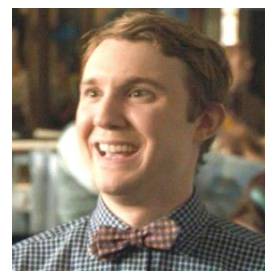
'Saved by the belle! Lois Lane, whose blog vilified LexCorps!'



'Poor, innocent girl!'



'Help!'



*'Here comes **Superman!**'*

With a mighty punch, **Superman** stunned **The Male of Polymer...**



'We can't go on meeting like this, Miss Lane.'

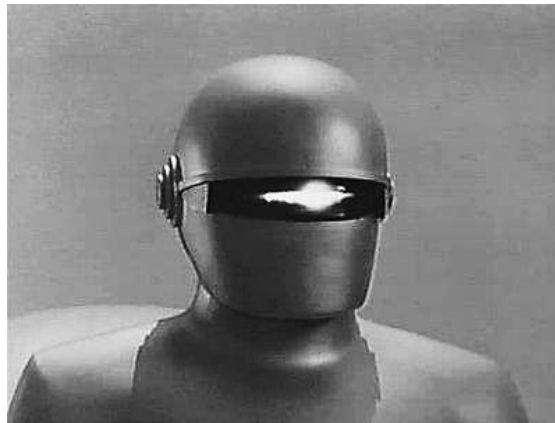
'Wanna bet!'



'Can we do that interview now?'

*'Sorry, Lois. Will you take a **Polymer** check?'*

In moments...



'Feel my tireless, unrelenting power!'

'Luthor, I'm impressed!'

Again and again, the merciless mandroid struck hard, until...



*'Down goes **Superman!**
Down goes **Superman!**'*



*'What makes a city immortal? A
conglomeration of structures and lifefoms,
or something I've yet to feel?'*



*'Kandor hasn't aged a moment since
you took us. Krypton's flag still waves proudly.'*



*'The chosen city will be saved,
not condemned!'*



'Hope we get lucky!'

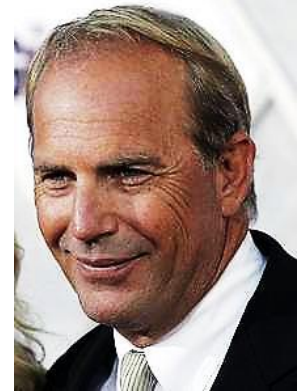
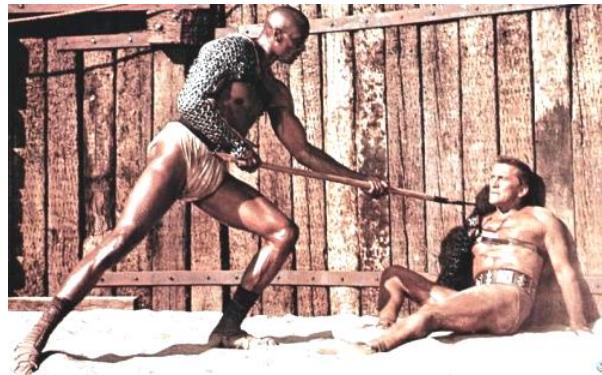


'Kryptonians, eternal elitists! All power is mine!'

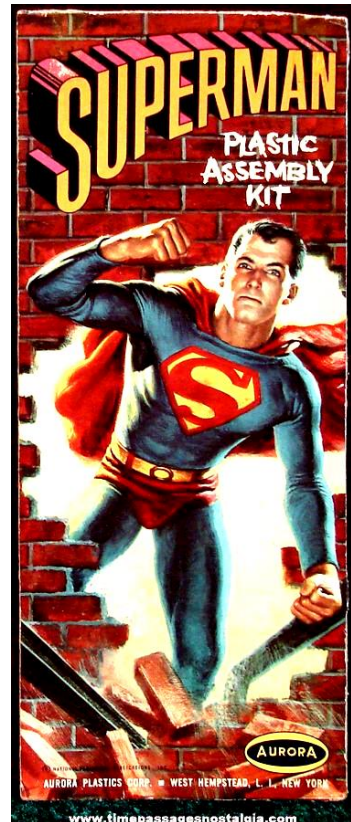
SMALLVILLE



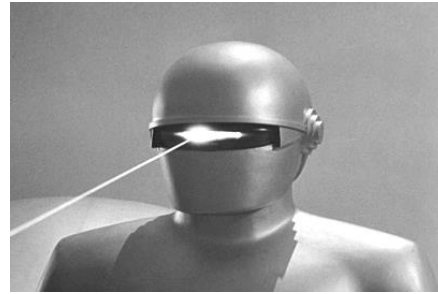
'Oh, noooo!'



'Easy, Martha! Clark's got that machine just where he wants him!'



'Hear my voice! Mark my words! I am victorious.'



'Not quite. Eye to eye?'

'I equal your every power!'

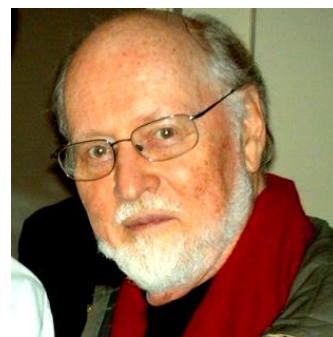
'Including my super-breath?'

One quick puff sent **The Male of Polymer** spiraling!



'How's your air game Luthor! Up, up, and away!'

And right behind him...!



WTF? Polymer *flies like...'*

'To music?'

Higher and higher they climbed, to the fringes of space and beyond!



*'Remarkable craftsmanship, Luthor!
Speed and strength, excellent, upward
mobility, near perfection!'*

*'Only the best for a freak immigrant
in a played-out masquerade!'*

'I've thought of everything!'

*'Except how to adapt to a weightless
environment. Takes a bit getting used to!'*

*'What? Reprogramming...
Re-calibrating...'*





*'Plus, your comm link is vulnerable. I'll be attaching **Polymer** to the back of a hardened satellite. As you will no longer be able to order him around...'*



*'No, **Superman**, no! You have to fight **Polymer**!'*



The Male of Polymer *may have a future in space. He'll text when he finds work!*



*'A classic **Superman** fiasco!'*



'I cudda been somebody!'



*'...All this accumulated knowledge,
when will these dummies learn to use a doorknob?'*





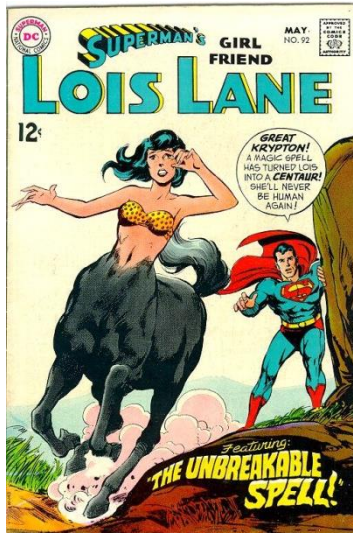
'We could study and examine this world for as long as it will take my ship to re-energize for our journey to my home. I do not delay decisions!'

'A multitude of candidates, but only one gleaming metropolis can be my chosen city!'



'Good enough for you Kryptonians?'





Daily Planet

EXTRA!

A Great Metropolitan Newspaper

Real Time



TRIUMPHANT!

MALE OF POLYMER SET ADRIFT IN ORBIT

By Clark Kent

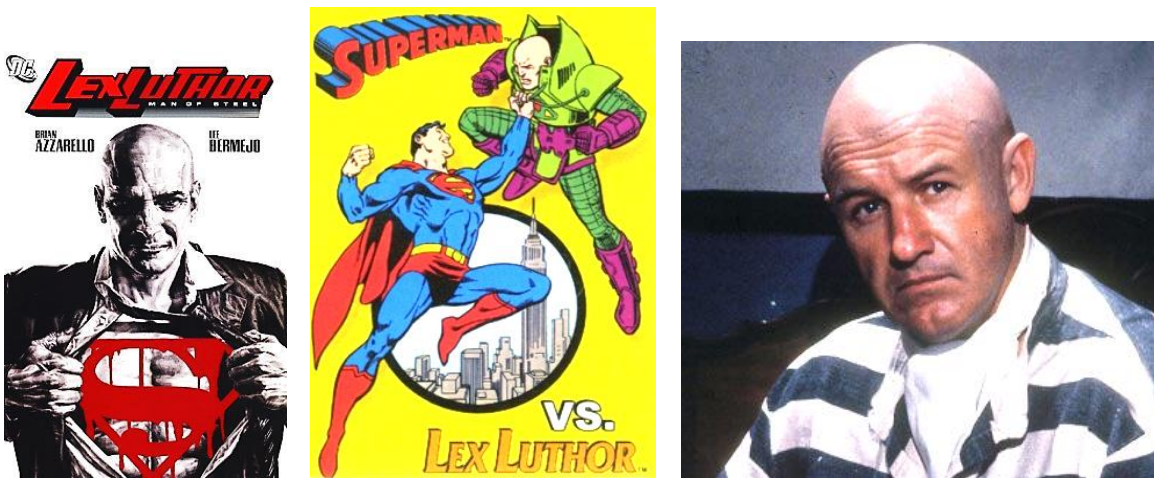
'The Rebel Robot vs. **Superman**' - Let the games begin! Lex Luthor, the genius leader of the '**Superman** Rebellion' unleashed their indomitable **Male of Polymer** to knock out the Man of Steel!

The eight-foot gleaming 'mandroid' never stood a chance! As threatening, as intimidating as he appeared, the **Male of Polymer** wasn't even in the same class as **Superman!**

After such a humiliating defeat, why won't the '**Superman** Rebellion' even contemplate surrendering?

Because they *are* human! Humanity, Man, Woman, and Child is instinctively competitive. We must have something to strive for!

Thanks to **Superman**, we live in peace and prosperity, yet select people around the world have the temerity to stand up to the *superiority* of **Superman!**



Those who defy and challenge **Superman**, shouldn't these 'rebels' be rounded up and jailed?

Not at all. Lex Luthor and his LexCorps are the embodiment of human resistance and in their tireless quest have made significant scientific and technological breakthroughs.

But their idealistic resistance is a fool's errand.

Superman is no god. He can only be what he was created to be. He seeks no followers, refuses to be worshipped.



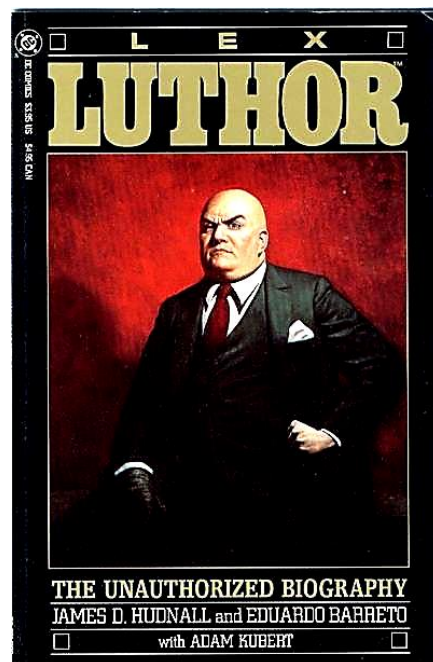
Superman is an inspiration--to see how great humanity can become without war, without terror, without fear.

And when times get tough, regardless of age, gender, color or tax bracket, we want to believe that there's a **Superman** in all of us.



As for Lex Luthor and LexCorps...

Read the book!



(Review on Page 23)



Superman in a blow-out beatdown!
All again is right with the world!

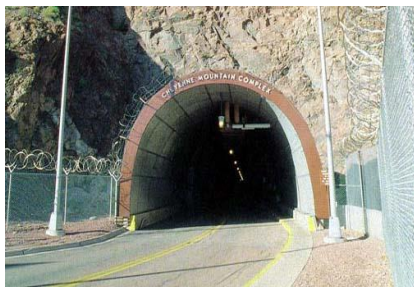


'As invincible as ever. America's superhero is still Number One!'



*'National Security guaranteed. Department of Defense unneeded. **Superman** was supposed to make our jobs easier, but instead we have to work harder!'*

'Superman is our Protector. With trillions saved on weapons of war, can we help our people live better lives!'





'Mr. Luthor, our SETI sensors have discovered...'

*'A spaceship!
An alien spaceship!'*



*'Opportunity! Think distant 'doorknob!
We've got to figure out how to twist it!'*





*'Lois, if you're lucky enough to land an interview with **Superman**, you've got to play your cards right!*

'Don't play the 'reporter game'. Ask him whatever straight up. Give him honesty and you'll get it back!

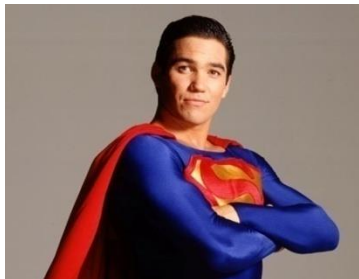


*'How thoughtful of you gentlemen, instructing a Woman on how to behave while "just talking" to a man. You two might want to co-write your own **Superman** story!'*

Later, on Weisinger Avenue...



'Where to?'
'Top of the "Planet"!'



*'I can see the whole world
from here, A sort of
super-perspective!'*

*'Looking for my own. What I have
to know: how does it feel, and only
you know: How does it feel to be
Superman?'*



*'Being **Superman** is wonderful, Lois. I was born with incredible powers, but never knew my natural parents or how I came to be here!
'I love...this planet! Would you want me to feel any less for humanity? Would you expect me to do any less?*

'The power I treasure most is freedom! To do anything I want, anywhere I want to!

'And I am!

*'That's being **Superman**!'*



'You're alone, aren't you?'



'Yes, I am.'

'Lois, let's not get too personal.'

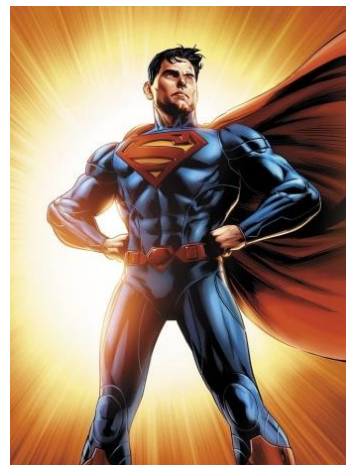
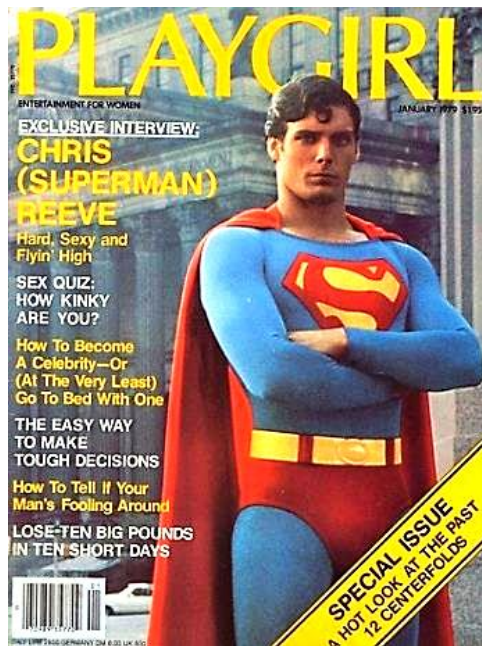
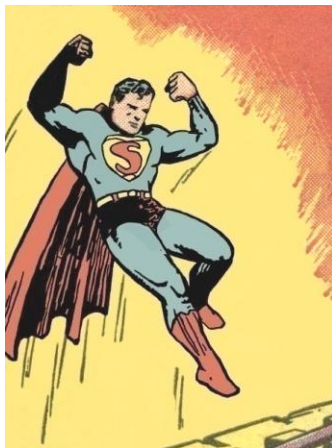
'Does each fantasize a different me?'



'Why?'

'You're **Superman** and millions of women everywhere see you as a hero, conquering their fears and loneliness.'

'You're the man every woman wants to wake up with!'

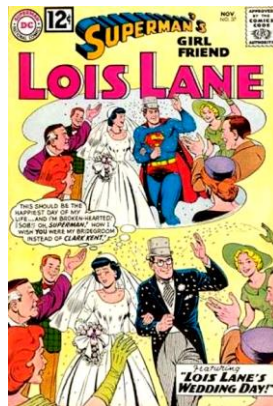
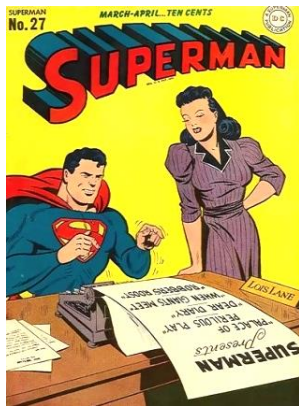


There came a *strange tingling* in the air and neither noticed.



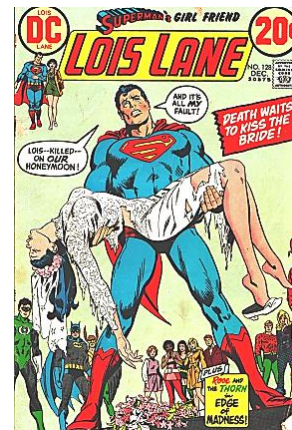
'Who do you see, Lois?'
 'I'd love a companion, but how
 could I make a woman I cared
 about "Superman's girlfriend"?'

'That's personal, **Superman.**'



'A little awkward, but so romantic!'

'And dangerous! Always the
 damsel in distress.
 Should I keep her in a tower
 like poor Repunzel?'



'Imagine my enemies saying, "Do as we order,
Superman, or we'll kill your girlfriend!"'



*'I like you Lois, and want to see you again.
To talk about the very different lives we're living!'*



'Superman, I give great conversation!'

From out of the blue...

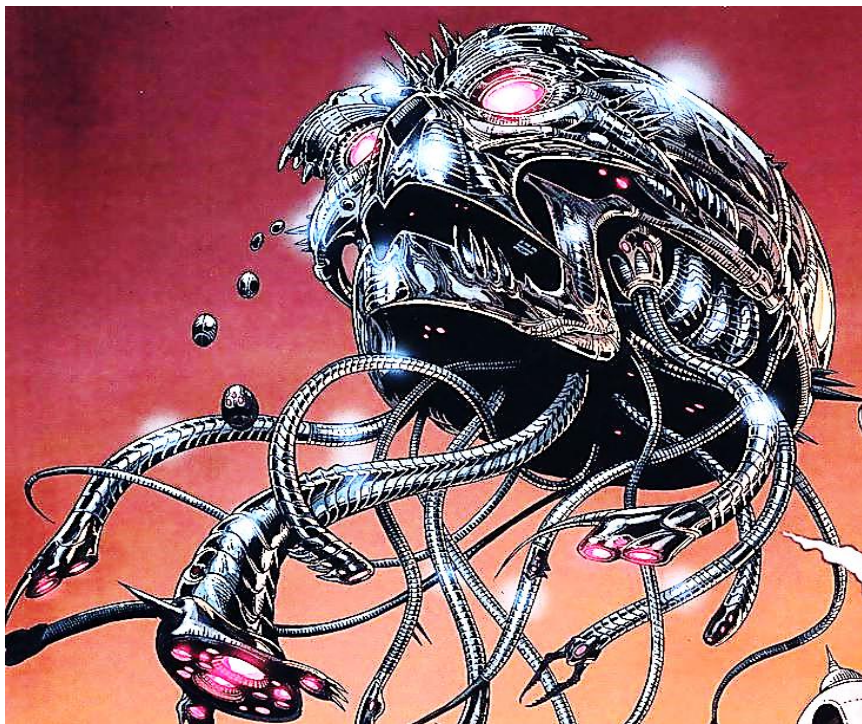




*'What's happening to us?
To Metropolis?'*



Up, up, up, smaller, smaller, smaller until...



The sky darkened, then...



*'Citizens of Metropolis, Time no longer exists. No more nights and days. Now and forever, you will bathe in the Eternal Light...of **Brainiac!**'*



'This looks like a job for...'





'I'll return, Lois. That's a promise!'

(To be continued...)