Episode 1

...FASTER...

Cover FRANK QUITELY with JAMIE GRANT
Gravity shields are shattering! We're falling into a sunspot the size of South America!

Temperatures will reach 40 million degrees when we hit the convection zone.

We were grown with zero fear genes, Mister Quintum, but you...

Fear is the source of life, mortal. I promised I'd bring back a spoonful of sun and I refuse to let a little thing like engine failure hold me back!

Perhaps not. But I am.

Leo's not quite ready to die yet!

I'm a genetically modified suicide bomb in human form.

Death.

Courtesy of Lex Luthor!
Superman is through the corona but conditions aboard the Ray Bradbury are deteriorating.

There can't be much time.

I know he arrived on Earth from the planet Krypton.

I know every cell in his body is a living solar battery, evolved to store raw energy from the Sun.

But the temperature at the solar chromosphere is 8000°F Fahrenheit.
SUPERMAN SAVES FIRST MANNED SUN-MISSION

HMMMP?

I'D SAY QUITE LITERALLY ENORMOUS FROM WHERE I'M STANDING.

MISSION PHILANTHROPIST LEO QUINTUM WHO SET OUT TO 'MAP THE SUN'

SUPERMAN RESCUES SUN MISSION?

LOIS, HE'S 93 MILLION MILES AWAY AND I'M RIGHT HERE WITH A HEART THAT'S TRUE.

WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET.

I ALWAYS WRITE THE SUPERMAN HEADLINES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN, STEVE.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BIG THE SUN IS, GO AWAY.

IT'S AS BIG AS 333,000 EARTHS.

IMAGINE ONE HUNDRED BILLION H BOMBS EXPLODING IN YOUR FACE, MISS LANE...

PER SECOND.

I LOOKED IT UP ON MY SUPER-WATCH.

YOU'RE A KILLJOY, JIMMY OLSEN.
LEX LUTHOR TOLD THE WORLD HE HAD REFORMED AND FOR SOME REASON THE WHOLE WORLD BELIEVED HIM AND DOUBTED US.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU I'M PROUD OF EVERY ONE OF YOU WHO STUCK BY THE PLANET'S INTEGRITY IN ITS DARKEST HOUR.

INVESTING HEAVILY IN WATER.

WITH INTENT TO PROFIT FROM A GLOBAL WATER SHORTAGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY TAMPERING WITH THE SUN.

DRAMMING MORE THAN FIFTEEN RIVERS.

LUTHOR LIED

DAILY PLANET

THIS IS TOMORROW'S FRONT PAGE.

WE'RE BREAKING THE STORY OF THE CENTURY.
LEX?
ARE YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF AGAIN?

LEX, I'VE JUST HAD A CALL FROM ONE OF OUR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON.
HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT JOURNALISTS.

FUSION WILL OCCUR IN THIRTY SECONDS.

I'M REMOTE-CONTROLLING A WEAPON WITH A VOICE COMMAND SEQUENCE I DESIGNED.

I HAD TO TIME MY TRANSMISSION EXACTLY.

THE SUN?
LUTHOR... WE REPELLED YOU FROM JAIL TO WORK FOR US, FOR YOUR COUNTRY...

EXCUSE ME, GENERAL.

THE SIGNAL TAKES 9 MINUTES TO REACH THE SUN.

WELL, I'VE TRIED TO BE A MODEL CITIZEN, GENERAL LANE.
I KNOW I PROMISED I WOULDN'T WASTE MY INTELLECT ON KRYPTONITE ROBOTS AND ELABORATE SUPER-DEATH TRAPS.
I KNOW THAT.

FRRUK!
The magnetic seals are imploding!

S.O.S.!

Somebody help us!

But three months ago, I looked in the mirror at those nasty little spiderwebs of lines around my eyes, and I realized something.

Nobody can help you here!

I'm approaching critical mass!

I'm getting older and...

...and he isn't.

Fusion will occur in thirty...
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

SO, IF I WANT TO DIE HAPPY, IT’S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING SUPERMAN.

DON’T YOU THINK?
THE PURPOSE OF MY EXISTENCE IS TO EXPLODE!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIMIT MY AMBITIONS, FASCIST! NO RIGHT AT ALL TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY SELF-REALIZATION!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU WITH THAT:

BLOW THE HATCH, QUINTUM!
THE PURPOSE
OF MY EXISTENCE
IS TO EXPLODE!

UNNH!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIMIT MY AMBITIONS, FASCIST!

NO RIGHT AT ALL TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY SELF-REALIZATION!!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU WITH THAT.

BLOW THE HATCH, QUINN!
SUPERMAN IS SHIELING US BY EXTENDING HIS OWN BIOELECTRIC FIELD...

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE
...Superman is shielding us by extending his own bioelectric field...

It seems impossible.

Only nothing is impossible, Flora.

...We've run exhaustive tests.
YOU'RE NOW PUSHING AGAINST THE EQUIVALENT OF 200 QUINTILLION TONS, SUPERMAN.

I'D SAY YOUR STRENGTH HAS TRIPLED, AT LEAST, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND AN UPPER LIMIT.

YOU'VE MANIFESTED ONE NEW SUPER-POWER AND OTHERS MAY APPEAR.

THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS...

I... SUPERMAN, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO TELL YOU THIS.

WW! TELL ME STRAIGHT.

YOUR TRIP TO THE SUN ExPOSED YOU TO CRITICAL LEVELS OF STELLAR RADIATION, MORE RAW ENERGY THAN YOUR CELLS ARE ABLE TO PROCESS EFFICIENTLY.

APOTOTIC HAS BEGUN. CELL DEATH.

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE OUTCOME, EVEN FOR YOU.
I see it, like tiny fireworks below my skin.

At least this explains the weird bioelectric discharges. What a bizarre irony if the source of my powers winds up killing me, when everything else has failed.

Our own scan of your cells shows them super-saturated with solar radiation. Bursting from within.

Superman, I'm so sorry.

If I hadn't tried to steal fire from the sun, none of this would have happened. You risked everything to save my crew and me.

You risked everything to save my crew and me.

But Luthor has used us to kill you.
I'M TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM A DOOMED WORLD TOO, SUPERMAN...

IT'S CALLED THE PAST. WHEN I RESURRECTED THE DNA P.R.O.J.E.C.T. AND DIRECTED IT TOWARDS THE ENGINEERING OF NEW HUMAN FORMS, I HAD ONE GOAL IN MIND.

DON'T WORRY, MY PARTNER, ASATHA, ONLY WANTS TO READ YOUR DNA.

SHE'S ONE OF OUR SENSITIVES—GENETICALLY ATTUNED TO ALL LIFE.

OH, IT'S LIKE BACH.

IF ONLY WE COULD FIND A WAY TO CRACK THE KRYPTON CODE, WE COULD GROW A SECOND SUPERMAN.

PHOTOSYNTHETIC GIANTS, BIZARRO WORKER DRONES...

I DEDICATED P.R.O.J.E.C.T. RESOURCES TOWARD BUILDING A NEW RACE OF SUPERHUMANS IN CASE...IN CASE ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU.

SMART THINKING.
AT THE OTHER END
OF THE SCALED, GENETICALLY MODIFIED
P.R.O.J.E.C.T. ALLOYS ARE UNLOCKING THE
MYSTERIES OF THE CELL, THE ATOM AND THE
INFINITESIMAL VOLUME SPHERE

WE'RE BUILDING OUTPOSTS
OF TOMORROW
RIGHT HERE, IN THE
NOW.

YOU INSPIRED IT,
SUPERMAN. ALL
OF THIS...

ONE OF
OUR VOYAGER FITTHEMS
MENTALLY PREPARING HIMSELF
FOR CENTURIES OF DEEP
SPACE EXPLORATION.

THE BLUE SKIN IS
TYPICAL OF THESE PARABIOIC
NEMAN'TROPS. HIS BLOOD IS BOY
LIQUID NITROGEN AND, OF COURSE,
NORMAL RESTRICTIONS ON HUMAN
SIZE AND ANATOMY JUST DON'T
APPLY IN WEIGHTLESS
CONDITIONS.

AND I PROMISE,
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO
SAVE YOU.

THANKS. THERE'S
ALWAYS A
WAY.

OR TO
REPLACE YOU IF
WE HAVE TO.

NO ONE MUST
KNOW.

NOT YET.

THERE ARE... THINGS
I HAVE TO DO
FIRST.