

"Hereafter, Part One" 10/01/02
#385-819

CAST LIST

SUPERMAN
WONDER WOMAN
BATMAN
GREEN LANTERN
FLASH
HAWKGIRL
J'ONN

GUEST CAST

METALLO: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
LOBO: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
LIVEWIRE: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
KALIBAK: Seen before in TWILIGHT
TOYMAN: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
WEATHER WIZARD: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
SNAPPER CARR: News reporter. Seen before on JUSTICE LEAGUE.
ALFRED: Batman's butler. Seen before on various Batman series.
LOIS LANE: Seen before on SUPERMAN series.
LEX LUTHOR: Seen before on "Injustice For All."
MAGGIE SAWYER: Seen before on SUPERMAN series. One line.
COP #1: One line.
COP #2: One line.
DEADSHOT: One line. Seen before in "The Enemy Below."

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. STRONGHOLD OF VENGEANCE - NIGHT

We're in the conference room of a supervillain lair of the first order. The decor is brushed steel walls and heavy, dark-colored drapery. FIVE MEN are dressed in flowing, purple robes, hoods pulled up to shroud their faces in shadow.

The men somberly enter the room and take their places equidistantly around a circular steel conference table (it's very important that we can't see the table top until otherwise indicated). The feel of this should be ritualistic, as if it were a religious rite, or an initiation into a secret society.

The leader (METALLO but we don't know that yet) speaks to the others.

METALLO

We have all been wronged by the same man.

ALL BUT METALLO

We have.

METALLO

We all seek the same redress.

ALL BUT METALLO

We do.

METALLO

We agree to work together to achieve our ultimate goal.

ALL BUT METALLO

We will.

METALLO

Speak your names!

The first man pulls back his hood. It's TOYMAN.

TOYMAN

Toyman.

The second is LIVEWIRE.

LIVEWIRE

Livewire.

The third reveals his face. It's WEATHER WIZARD.

WEATHER WIZARD

Weather Wizard.

Number four is KALIBAK.

KALIBAK

Kalibak.

Metallo finally shows his face.

METALLO

Metallo.

All of the villains raise large BUTCHER KNIVES.

METALLO

Speak the word and seal the pact.

All of the villains slam their knives down into the conference table.

NEW ANGLE reveals the table top for the first time. The knives are embedded in a large SUPERMAN SHIELD painted on the steel blue table top.

ALL

Revenge!

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. DAILY PLANET - DAY

The Revenge Squad is in the Plaza at the front of the building. They're fighting off an attack from the METROPOLIS POLICE and SCU (led by MAGGIE SAWYER), who have set up a perimeter around the criminals. The Revenge Squad has set up a barricade of their own, made of piles of concrete ripped from nearby buildings and cars stacked up like cordwood.

KALIBAK

You said he'd come.

METALLO

A matter of time. He's unaccountably fond of this dump.

Weather Wizard indicates the Police, who are FIRING shots at the Revenge Squad's barricade.

WEATHER WIZARD

The cops seem fond of it too.

LIVEWIRE

Toyman! Isn't that thing ready yet?

TOYMAN (O.S.)

Just finishing up! You can't rush art and my newest toy is just that...

All (except Toyman) react to the sound of something large and mechanical heading their way. They gawk up at it, with expressions revealing varying degrees of awe, amusement and dismay.

ON TOYMAN riding on the shoulders of a ridiculous but gigantic TOY ROBOT.

TOYMAN

...a work of art!

Toyman's Toy Robot fires rubber-tipped DARTS From a GATTLING gun on its chest.

The DARTS hit all around the POLICE, mostly sticking to

police cars, vans and barricades, although some of them fall off.

MAGGIE SAWYER
Everybody down!

The cops are well-trained, they dive for cover just in time. The darts EXPLODE like strings of firecrackers, only bigger.

LIVEWIRE enjoys the carnage and gives Toyman a "thumbs up."

LIVEWIRE
Nice!

A disturbed Weather Wizard looks up at the sky.

WEATHER WIZARD
I'm sensing something's moving through the local air mass. Heading this way fast.

LIVEWIRE
The rat's taking the cheese.

METALLO
You ready, Toyman?

TOYMAN
You bet. This'll be fun.

TOYMAN'S POV. We're looking through the crosshairs of his targeting sight. He's trying to target a man-shaped flying BLUR.

TOYMAN
Almost... almost...

RACK FOCUS as Toyman CENTERS the BLUR in his gun sights. It's GREEN LANTERN.

TOYMAN
Uh oh. Wrong rat.

Toyman FIRES. The Darts head up towards Green Lantern, who instantly STOPS his forward motion and throws up a SHIELD.

The Darts strike the shield. Green Lantern reacts to the Rubber Darts sticking to his shield just before they EXPLODE, driving him backwards.

GREEN LANTERN
(Impact GRUNT)

GREEN LANTERN
Watch out for Iron Giant. Those darts
are no joke.

BATMAN is flying towards the scene in his BATWING.

BATMAN
Copy that. I'm only a few minutes
away. Be careful, this is obviously
an ambush.

Back on the ground, LIVEWIRE is disturbed.

LIVEWIRE
Those guys travel in bunches. Maybe
we should call this off.

J'ONN rises up through the floor in front of Livewire.

J'ONN
Excellent advice.

LIVEWIRE
Ahh! Ghost!

J'onn SOLIDIFIES, punching her out with one PUNCH.

LIVEWIRE
(GRUNT of pain)

Metallo reacts, turning and SWINGING at J'onn. Too late, J'onn's INTANGIBLE again. The blow passes harmlessly through him. John turns solid and punches Metallo into one of the barricades.

WEATHER WIZARD sees FLASH zooming up the street towards them.

WEATHER WIZARD
Incoming. I got him!

Weather Wizard waves his WAND and a BLIZZARD begins, filling the air with thick snow. A second wave of his Wand and a powerful gust of wind BLOWS, lifting Flash off the ground and sending him sailing through the air..

FLASH
(falling WAIL)

Despite his best efforts to right himself, Flash CRASHES into a building.

FLASH
(impact GRUNT)

Sheepish and woozy Flash is climbing back to his feet. WONDER WOMAN is there to help him up.

FLASH
(explaining)
Windy.

WONDER WOMAN
I gathered.

Weather Wizard dissipates the Blizzard.

WEATHER WIZARD
Check it out, Flash. I got this idea from Livewire!

A DARK CLOUD quickly forms in the sky and a BOLT OF LIGHTNING strikes down from above.

WONDER WOMAN
Look out!

WONDER WOMAN reaches out over Flash's head and BLOCKS the Crackling Bolt of Lightning with her bracelet for the two or three seconds it takes to dissipate.

WONDER WOMAN
(sustained GRUNT of effort)

Flash looks at Wonder Woman and her still-smoldering Bracelet in disbelief. Wonder Woman has one finger on her ear and her head cocked as if she's listening to something on her Com-link.

FLASH

There are so very many reasons why
that shouldn't have worked...

WONDER WOMAN

J'onn took out Livewire. Our next
priority is to get rid of Metallo.

Flash smiles, takes Wonder Woman's lasso from her hip and
hands one end to her. She takes it, somewhat puzzled.

FLASH

I got an idea. Hang on.

Flash zooms towards Toyman's Robot, Wonder Woman's lasso
trailing behind him. He sees METALLO and J'ONN GRAPPLING,
fingers interlocked.

FLASH

J'onn! Make yourself scarce!

J'onn turns INTANGIBLE just as Flash reaches him and
makes a 90 DEGREE TURN. Metallo pitches forward. Wonder
Woman's lasso likewise PASSES THROUGH J'onn but it
catches Metallo around the waist.

FLASH ACCELERATES, zooming away from Metallo. The lasso
PULLS TAUT.

WONDER WOMAN is bracing the other end of the rope. She
strains under the sudden TUG.

WONDER WOMAN

(GRUNT of effort)

THE LASSO snaps into a straight line, THROWING Metallo
into the air like a stone from a slingshot.

METALLO

(receding, falling CRY)

A pleased Flash shades his eyes as he watches Metallo fly
towards the horizon.

FLASH

Heh. Tell Big Blue he's cleared for
landing.

J'ONN, still intangible, flies up towards Toyman. Toyman looks at him, grins inexplicably, then makes a cat's cradle out of a WIRE FILAMENT. The cat's cradle GLOWS with energy just as J'onn reaches through it for Toyman. J'onn reacts in pain,

J'ONN
(CRY of pain)

J'onn falls to the ground, unconscious.

TOYMAN
You think that hurt? Lucky for you I didn't bring my hula-hoop today.

KALIBAK heads for the approaching Wonder Woman.

KALIBAK
The Amazon's mine. Give us some more cover.

Weather Wizard responds, conjuring up a TORNADO. It moves up the street like a freight train. BYSTANDERS react in terror, running for their lives.

BYSTANDERS
(terrified WALLA)

GREEN LANTERN is still in the air, blocking a SERIES of LIGHTNING BOLTS with a ring-produced shield. He sees the approaching Tornado.

GREEN LANTERN
(disbelieving)
You gotta be kidding.

HAWKGIRL flies up behind Green Lantern.

HAWKGIRL
I got the lightning, stop the tornado!

Hawkgirl begins BATTING lightning bolts with her Mace. Green Lantern flies away from her, towards the Tornado. He fires a powerful beam at the ground in its path. It becomes evident that he's DIGGING A TRENCH.

The foot of the Tornado slots into the trench and begins to follow it, turning away from the center of the

populated area.

GREEN LANTERN continues to dig, leading the Tornado away from town.

Back on the ground KALIBAK PUNCHES WONDER WOMAN.

WONDER WOMAN
(CRY of pain)

WONDER WOMAN flies through the air and into the side of a building. She's out for the count.

FLASH is trying to approach WEATHER WIZARD but isn't making much headway against the golfball-sized HAIL that Weather Wizard is shooting out of his wand like machine gun fire. Flash ZIGZAGS just ahead of the strafing Hail, running up and down the sides of walls, *et cetera*. We see the deadly Hail chip concrete and break windows where it strikes as Flash narrowly and continuously avoids it.

ON A BATARANG as it flies through the air, finally smashing painfully into Weather Wizard's wrist.

WEATHER WIZARD
(CRY of pain)

CLOSE as Weather Wizard DROPS his wand. The wand falls into Batman's upturned palm.

WIDE to reveal that BATMAN has arrived. He holds up the wand, showing it to Weather Wizard.

BATMAN
Maybe you should get a strap for this.

As Weather Wizard looks at his wand in Batman's right hand, Batman clocks him with a left.

WEATHER WIZARD
(CRY of pain, keep alive MOAN)

Batman heads for the Tachyon Cannon. KALIBAK steps in the way. Batman throws three BATARANGS with one sweep of his arm.

The Batarangs BOUNCE off of Kalibak, who stands there

unmoved. He didn't even feel them.

KALIBAK
That all you got?

BATMAN
Not quite.

Kalibak swings at his head, a roundhouse.

KALIBAK
(GRUNT of effort)

Batman DODGES, catching Kalibak's wrist as the punch goes by, and tosses Kalibak over his hip. Kalibak SMASHES into a parked car. DEMOLISHING it. He gets slowly to his feet, more embarrassed than hurt.

KALIBAK
Impressive, little man. If you stand down right now, I'll let you live to tell the story.

Batman says nothing, he just waves his fingers towards his body in a "come here" motion. Kalibak roars and RUSHES him.

KALIBAK
(angry ROAR)

Batman TRIPS Kalibak face first into the concrete with a DROP TOE-HOLD.

KALIBAK
(impact GRUNT)

Kalibak STANDS as Batman dances to the side.

KALIBAK
I just flattened Wonder Woman! You really think you can beat me?

BATMAN
I'm not trying to beat you. I'm trying to stall you.

KALIBAK
Stall me? For what?

Batman points at something behind Kalibak. Kalibak warily glances over.

SUPERMAN is standing behind Kalibak.

KALIBAK

Aw--

Superman throws a thunderous right handed PUNCH at Kalibak.

KALIBAK

(impact GRUNT)

Kalibak flies down the street, his body CRASHING into -and through- four PARKED CARS, before finally coming to rest in the hood of the fifth car.

SUPERMAN

For what it's worth, I don't think you could've taken Batman, either.

Superman and Batman turn as one towards Toyman, who puts his hands up in a "T," signaling he wants a "time out."

TOYMAN

I'm not ready yet! Time out!

Toyman hits a control on his console and the GIANT ROBOT TRANSFORMS into a high-tech TACHYON CANNON. Toyman still sits on top of it, this time in the crow's nest.

TOYMAN

Okay! Time back in.

The Cannon FIRES a thick, high-powered beam (with a signature appearance that will denote time travel later in the story. Perhaps the beam resembles the time travel effect from "The Savage Time"). Superman and Batman both DODGE the blast. Toyman is clearly tracking Superman firing at him three times and missing three times.

TOYMAN

(gleeful LAUGHTER)

Toyman continues firing at Superman, who evades the blasts. The Tachyon Blasts VAPORIZE everything they hit, including:

A BIG CHUNK OF THE STREET.

SEVERAL PARKED CARS.

The CORNER OF AN OFFICE BUILDING.

HALF OF A NEWSSTAND but FLASH is there in time to zip in and pull the NEWSDEALER out.

FLASH zips around just ahead of the volley of Tachyon Blasts, carrying BYSTANDERS clear. He passes a MAN sitting in the front seat of a red '57 CHEVY CONVERTIBLE, desperately trying to get it to start. Flash hesitates, his arms are full.

HAWKGIRL

Got him!

HAWKGIRL swoops in from above and grabs him by the collar, YANKING him into the air.

MAN

(startled CRY)

A Tachyon Blast VAPORIZES the Chevy an instant after Hawkgirl snatches him clear.

Further away, FLASH, HAWKGIRL and a just returning GREEN LANTERN are helping civilians on the shot-up, crumbling street.

SUPERMAN

Give it up Toyman, you'll never hit me with that thing.

TOYMAN

Maybe not. But what about your friends?

Toyman aims the Cannon at Wonder Woman, who is still across the street, unconscious and pinned under rubble.

BATMAN sees the danger Wonder Woman is in and calls out to her as he swings over.

BATMAN

Diana!

A groggy Wonder Woman looks up just in time to see the

Cannon pointed at her and the just-arriving Batman. He tugs at her arm, trying to pull her clear.

BATMAN
(GRUNT of effort)

TOYMAN FIRES the cannon at Batman and Wonder Woman. They don't have a chance.

SUPERMAN
No!

Superman FLIES at superspeed into the path of the beam. It STRIKES him in the chest.

SUPERMAN
(sustained CRY of pain)

Superman's body becomes suffused with the energy of the Tachyon Beam. He seems to be withstanding it for a moment and then, his skin grows transparent, as if he were being X-Rayed. We see his outline, his skeleton underneath and finally, nothing but the horrified faces of Wonder Woman and Batman, who were standing behind him.

Superman is gone. Nothing remains but a scrap of his cape, fluttering to the ground.

ON TOYMAN reacting in surprised glee at his success.

TOYMAN
Superman go bye-bye!

ON FLASH, standing stock-still and looking in disbelief at where Superman once stood, holding a little girl he was obviously evacuating. He turns the child's face away, so she can't see what happened.

ON J'ONN, the still-crackling Cat's Cradle dangling from his limp fingers.

ON GREEN LANTERN, flying back to the scene. He's stunned.

ON HAWKGIRL, whose blank expression quickly turns to anger. She raises her Mace and DIVE BOMBS Toyman.

HAWKGIRL
(battle CRY, cut off by impact GRUNT)

Wonder Woman, her face distorted with rage, has FLOWN in and SHOVED Hawkgirl aside. She's heading for Toyman, who swivels up the turret of his Cannon and FIRES.

Wonder Woman flies beneath the blast and back up through the barrel of the Cannon, SEVERING it.

WONDER WOMAN
(impact GRUNT)

The cannon's barrel FALLS to the ground, crackling with energy and EXPLODES.

Wonder Woman SWOOPS around then down to the machine's base She digs her fingers underneath it, then PRESSES the device over her head. Toyman's Rig is UPENDED.

TOYMAN
(falling CRY)

The machine topples backwards and CRASHES INTO THE GROUND. Wonder Woman walks forward, TEARING through the metal base of the machine until she's standing over a fallen and terrified Toyman. He produces a CHILD'S WATERGUN and trains it unsteadily on Wonder Woman.

TOYMAN
Stay back, it's full of acid!

Wonder Woman SLAPS it out of his hand and grabs him by the collar in one fist she pulls Toyman up until they are face to face, then cocks the fist of her free hand.

WONDER WOMAN
Do I look like I'm playing games?

TOYMAN
(terrified)
What are you going to do to me?

WONDER WOMAN
I'm going to punch a hole in your head.

FLASH BLURS into frame and grabs Wonder Woman's wrist.

FLASH
We don't do that to our enemies.

WONDER WOMAN
Speak for yourself.

Flash looks her guilelessly in the eye.

FLASH
I'm trying to speak for Superman.

Wonder Woman lets Toyman's collar go and he falls to the ground. She turns away from Flash, trying to hide her welling tears.

WIDE on the scene. Rubble is everywhere, shocked Justice Leaguers stand frozen with grief. Batman finally moves, walking the few steps back to where Superman was killed. He crouches, pulling free the pitiful scrap of cloth from Superman's cape, all that remains of the man of steel.

CLOSE ON BATMAN'S HAND. The scrap of cape in his open, upturned palm. After a long beat, he closes his fist.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. CATHEDRAL OF NO PARTICULAR DENOMINATION - DAY

SNAPPER CARR is doing a stand-up from the front steps of a grand place of worship, outfitted for a state funeral.

SNAPPER CARR
This is Snapper Carr returning to our continuing coverage of "The Death of Superman."

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN LANTERN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Green Lantern is brooding in a chair. Snapper Carr's news story plays unheeded on a TV SET in the background. Green Lantern stands and puts on the jacket to his "dress" Green Lantern uniform (perhaps a US Marine-style long jacket with pips). He checks himself out in the mirror, adjusting his collar before he flies away.

SNAPPER CARR (CONT'D)

I'm here at First Metropolis Cathedral, where just hours from now, services will be held for the world's greatest hero.

CUT TO:

INT. WONDER WOMAN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Wonder Woman is keeping a stiff upper lip as she dresses in Themyscian formal wear (golden Battle Armor) We see Wonder Woman's normal costume draped carelessly over one of the amoire's doors.

SNAPPER CARR (V.O.)

In addition to friends, colleagues and loved ones, heads of state from over 400 countries are expected to attend today.

Wonder Woman finishes dressing, then puts on a black armband. Her mother HYPOLYTA enters the shot from behind her and places a comforting hand on her shoulder. Diana takes it and squeezes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANYON - DAY

A brooding HAWKGIRL is perched on an impossibly precarious ledge at the edge of a breathtakingly deep canyon.

SNAPPER CARR (V.O.)

Our all-day live coverage will conclude following Superman's ceremonial internment later this evening.

Hawkgirl watches as a bird soars past, then sighs and takes to the air herself.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - DAY

FLASH and J'ONN are in the monitor room. Footage of Snapper Carr's news plays on the main screen.

SNAPPER CARR

Afterwards, our panel of commentators and pundits will debate the question on everyone's lips; without Superman, can there be a Justice League?

ON THE MONITOR

A shot of Superman's Shield on a blue background, with the words "In Memoriam" superimposed (and the "bug" for whatever network Snapper Carr works for tucked into the lower right corner).

SNAPPER CARR (CONT'D)

Our coverage of "The Death of Superman" will continue.

An irritated Flash flicks a control and the Monitor goes dark. J'onnn is melancholy as he and Flash walk to the Shuttle Bay.

J'ONNN

I must admit, I'm also concerned about the League's future.

FLASH

Never expected to hear that kind of talk from you, J'onnn.

J'ONNN

How many battles did we win simply because he was there?

FLASH

Yeah. I used to be able to goof around so much because I knew Superman had my back. Now all I've got is his example.

Flash puts his arm around J'onnn's shoulder as they walk into the SHUTTLE BAY.

FLASH

And that's going to have to be enough.

The Bay Doors CLOSE with Flash and J'onnn on the other side.

CUT TO:

INT. BATCAVE - DAY

BATMAN, his cowl pulled back to reveal his face, obsessively views and reviews NEWS FOOTAGE of the moment of Superman's "death." Along the side of Batman's monitor are the results of the dozens of optical filters he's applied to the video, "Negative. Negative. Negative." Batman has the scrap of Superman's cape twisted around his fist. He absently worries the cloth with his thumb, as if it were rosary beads.

Batman tries again, blowing up portions of the video and freeze framing.

Batman's butler, ALFRED enters from behind him, watching silently for a moment. Without ever looking away from his work, Batman somehow knows Alfred is there.

BATMAN

What is it, Alfred?

Although he should be used to it by now, Alfred is slightly startled. Composing himself, he answers.

ALFRED

(gently)

I'm afraid it's time, Master Bruce.

BATMAN

I'm not going to the funeral.

ALFRED

Why?

Batman's still looking at his monitor.

BATMAN

Because he's not dead.

ALFRED watches, obviously concerned for Batman's sanity as Batman rises to show him piles of DEBRIS from the street where the fight took place (the debris should include the remains of Toyman's cannon, although Wonder Woman pretty much reduced it to scrap metal). To the untrained eye, it looks like Batman has laboriously dragged piles of garbage into the Batcave, then carefully

logged and tagged it.

BATMAN

What tipped me off was the lack of evidence.

ALFRED

Sir?

BATMAN

I brought all this from the crime scene and I've examined it every way I know how.

Alfred begins to get excited.

ALFRED

And you found...?

BATMAN

Absolutely nothing. No scorching. No residue. No radiation. Objects were here, then they were gone.

ALFRED

I'm afraid I don't understand.

BATMAN

Matter can't be created or destroyed, just changed from one form into another.

ALFRED

As you say, sir. I believe I heard something about that when I attended grade school.

BATMAN

So, unless the law of conservation of mass has been repealed, there's still hope.

Alfred's sympathetic but not buying it.

ALFRED

That's ... wonderful news, Master Bruce. Nevertheless, don't you think you should make an appearance?

Batman pulls his cowl over his face.

BATMAN

What for? I've got work to do.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHEDRAL OF UNCERTAIN DENOMINATION - DAY

Establishing the funeral service, as crowds mill about and take their seats. The audience is filled with DIGNITARIES, as well as guest stars from several of Superman's adventures, including but not limited to; PERRY WHITE, MA AND PA KENT, SUPERGIRL (in her civies), LANA LANE, BIBBO, MAGGIE SAWYER and members of METROPOLIS SCU, AQUAMAN, MERA, DR. FATE, STEEL, several members of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS (including KYLE RAYNER), METAMORPHO, and HYPOLYTA. Feel free to add any who make sense that I missed. In the front row, all of the JUSTICE LEAGUE are evident (except for Batman) and they all wear black armbands. Also up front are JIMMY OLSEN and LOIS LANE.

CROWD

(low, respectful WALLA)

He was so young/I still can't believe
it/He saved my life once/He saved
everybody's life more than once.

ON THE FRONT ROW. J'onnn is looking back behind him, but doesn't see whoever he's looking for. He turns back to Wonder Woman (seated next to him). Hawkgirl is on the other side of Wonder Woman, listening.

J'ONNN

(sotto)

Batman still hasn't arrived. Have you
spoken with him?

WONDER WOMAN

(sotto)

He's still not answering calls.

(explaining)

He doesn't handle loss very well.

All turn towards the back of the church, reacting to the sudden hubbub of the crowd.

CROWD
(surprised WALLA)

HAWKGIRL
Is that him now? I can't see.

Lois Lane is suddenly angry. She jumps to her feet.

LOIS LANE
I can.

THE BACK OF THE CATHEDRAL

All react as LEX LUTHOR, dressed in a black suit and looking like several million dollars, makes his way up the center aisle.

The crowd parts and Lois confronts a startled Luthor.

LOIS LANE
Luthor! How dare you show your face here!

LUTHOR
Lois, I--

Lois SLAPS an impassive Luthor.

LOIS LANE
You've come to gloat! You tried to get rid of him for years. Are you happy now? Isn't this what you've always wanted?

Teary-eyed Lois begins to awkwardly pound on Luthor with both fists. He raises his arm to protect himself, then lowers it, allowing Lois to beat her fists on his chest.

LOIS LANE
(sobbing)
I hate you! I hate you!

Luthor takes Lois tenderly into his arms as she punches herself out. He hugs her gently and she allows it, burying her face in his chest. He pats the back of her head and speaks softly into her ear. He's sincere.

LUTHOR

Believe it or not, I'm going to miss
him too.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CATHEDRAL OF UNCERTAIN DENOMINATION - LATER

At the lectern in the front of the Cathedral, J'ONN is speaking to the congregation. As he speaks, we see Superman's FRIENDS in the pews, each mourning in their own ways. Perhaps this speech could continue into the next scene as voice over?

J'ONN

Though we gather here today bound together in sorrow and loss, we also share a precious gift. We are all of us privileged to live a life that has been touched by Superman. The Man of Steel possessed many extraordinary gifts and he shared them with us freely. None of these gifts were more remarkable than his ability to discern what needed to be done and his unflinching courage in doing it, whatever the personal cost. Let us all strive to accept his gift and pass it along, as an ongoing tribute to Kal-El of Krypton, the immigrant from the stars who taught us all how to be heroes.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUPERMAN MEMORIAL PARK - SUNSET

This is in the DAILY PLANET PLAZA but a small public park has been carved out of the space. The park is green, and dominated by a large (ten or 12 feet high) STONE MARKER memorializing Superman (perhaps a statue, or a giant Superman shield?).

GREEN LANTERN, WONDER WOMAN, FLASH, SUPERGIRL, HAWKGIRL and J'ONN bear Superman's COFFIN to its final resting place. On the way, Wonder Woman senses something and GLANCES UP at a nearby rooftop.

ON THE ROOFTOP Batman is looking down at the ceremony. He

quickly steps to the side and out of sight.

WONDER WOMAN smiles tightly to herself as she and the pallbearers continue on their way.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

Establishing the orbiting headquarters of the Justice League.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

It's later, The Justice League, minus Batman, are all dressed in their normal clothes now. They've obviously been talking for a while. Green Lantern is holding the floor.

ALL
(LAUGHTER)

GREEN LANTERN
...and Superman holds the grenade in his hands like this.

Green Lantern demonstrates, cupping his palms to muffle an exploding grenade.

GREEN LANTERN
So it blows, and he doesn't even move! And I say, "are you all right?"
And he says--

FLASH
(interrupting)
--This is the best part!

Green Lantern wipes his palms on his ribs, as if wiping dirt off of them, then mimes Superman fixing his S-curl.

GREEN LANTERN
--he says, "Yeah, why?"

ALL
(LAUGHTER)

Hawkgirl takes a glass from a serving tray and raises it.
The others each take a glass.

HAWKGIRL
To Superman!

ALL
To Superman!

They clink glasses and drink. J'onn breaks the silence.

J'ONN
Perhaps this isn't the best time but
we need to consider replenishing our
forces..

FLASH
A new member, who? Aquaman, maybe?

GREEN LANTERN
Metamorpho.

HAWKGIRL
Is Supergirl old enough?

WONDER WOMAN
Before we look outside, we should
start with family...

Wonder Woman opens her com-link.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Batman? This is Diana.

BATMAN (V.O.)
Go ahead.

WONDER WOMAN
We're discussing the future of the
Justice League. We're hoping you'll
make it official and become a
full-time member.

BATMAN (V.O.)
I'm busy. Batman out.

FLASH

Yeah, Aquaman could definitely pick up Batman's slack in the pompous jerk department.

WONDER WOMAN

He's grieving. Give him tim--

Wonder Woman is interrupted by LOBO, roaring THROUGH an observation port and into the Watchtower on his FLYING MOTORCYCLE (a metal panel immediately slams shut, sealing the breach). Lobo screeches to a sliding stop, then hops off his bike, a big grin on his face. Green Lantern recognizes him.

LOBO

What's with all the long faces,
Justice Dweebs? It's like a wake in
here.

GREEN LANTERN

Oh, no.

Lobo picks up one of the black armbands, flips up his hair and ties it around his forehead like a headband.

LOBO

Lighten up! The answer to alla yer
problems has arrived. Since we're
going ta be working together, you can
call me Lobo!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

The Justice League reacts to a cocky LOBO.

J'ONN

You are not welcome here. This is a private gathering.

LOBO

Yeah, yeah. Superman kicked the bucket. That's why I'm here.

HAWKGIRL

I don't know you but I'm pretty sure I don't like you.

GREEN LANTERN

Good instinct. His name's Lobo. He's a low-life bounty hunter.

LOBO

The Main Man happens to be the best bounty hunter in the known universe! You could ask Superman if he weren't busy pushing up daises.

FLASH

Hey! Don't talk about him like that, Superman was our friend!

LOBO

Mine too, I saved his life once, ya know.

GREEN LANTERN

That's not how he told the story.

LOBO

Whatever. My point is, Superman bit the big one and the Main Man's here to take his place.

Wonder Woman grabs Lobo by the collar and pins him HARD against the wall.

LOBO
(impact GRUNT)

WONDER WOMAN
I've had about enough of you.

Goofy Lobo looks silently at an exasperated Wonder Woman, a small smile on his face. Perhaps he's stunned.

LOBO
Does this mean we're going steady?

Wonder Woman tosses him across the room and into a wall.

LOBO
(falling CRY, then impact GRUNT)

Lobo starts to climb back to his feet. Hawkgirl grips her mace, threateningly.

HAWKGIRL
Stay down.

J'ONN
On the contrary. Get up and leave.
The Justice League does not require
your services at this or any other
time.

LOBO
Now I get it! You clowns don't think
the Main Man is tough enough to join
your little girl scout troop. Easy
mistake to fix.

Lobo RIPS a huge bank of MACHINERY out of the floor and lifts it over his head. He's about to throw it.

LOBO (CONT'D)
You want an audition? C'mon ladies,
let's dance.

Lobo THROWS the machinery at the Justice League.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUPERMAN MEMORIAL PARK - NIGHT

Batman is at the memorial with a small RADIATION DETECTOR that he sweeps carefully over the grounds. It crackles with background noise but isn't showing anything.

Batman puts the Radiation Detector down and pulls out another SENSOR DEVICE, this one has a parabolic reflector that he opens, then begins sweeping around. Batman isn't looking at his surroundings, only at the readout of the device. Batman's sweep takes him to the base of SUPERMAN'S MARKER.

BATMAN looks up at the Marker for a long moment, dwarfed by it's size, as well as what it represents. He's overwhelmed.

BATMAN

Another dead end. I'm beginning to wonder if I might be wrong.

Batman switches off the Sensor and puts it away before looking back at the Marker.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

I've got some things to say. I should have said them when you were here but...

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Despite how I acted, I have nothing but respect for you. I hope you knew ... know that. You taught me that justice doesn't always have to come from the darkness. I'll miss --

Batman reacts to the SOUND of EXPLOSIONS, several blocks away. Batman pulls his grapple gun.

BATMAN

What did you always call it, Clark?
"The never ending battle"?

Batman fires a LINE straight into the sky. The BATWING SWOOPS into position as Batman is reeled up towards it.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF METROPOLIS - NIGHT

It's a supervillain riot. KALIBAK, VOLCANA, LIVEWIRE,

STAR SAPPHIRE, COPPERHEAD and DEADSHOT are running wild in the streets, using their powers to overturn cars, loot businesses and generally celebrate the death of Superman. The POLICE, try as they might, are no match for the Supervillain rampage.

TWO COPS are SHOOTING from behind the cover of their SQUADCAR.

COP #1

This is hopeless, we may as well be throwing candy corn at them.

COP #2

So what do you want to do, give them the city?

Both cops react as the car that they're using for cover rises into the air, revealing KALIBAK, who has pressed the car over his head.

KALIBAK

You think your pitiful human prison could hold me?

Both cops FIRE point blank but the bullets BOUNCE harmlessly off of Kalibak's chest. Kalibak is amused.

KALIBAK

This looks like a job for Superman!
(conspiratorially)
But I don't think he's coming.

The BATWING swoops down the street, FIRING at Kalibak. A small missile cuts the squad car in half. The two halves fall in on Kalibak's head, burying him.

KALIBAK

(CRY of pain)

The Cops run clear, looking up at the Batwing as it curves back into the sky.

IN THE COCKPIT Batman is at the controls. He reacts to STAR SAPPHIRE, suddenly hovering in his flight path. Batman pulls hard on the controls.

THE BATWING banks hard, SWERVING clear of LIVEWIRS, who

swivels and FIRES an arc of ELECTRICITY at the retreating Batwing. The arc steadily advances, slicing the Batwing in two. SMOKE pours from the plane.

CLOSER ON THE COCKPIT as Batman EJECTS. BATMAN is in freefall until his wings SPREAD. Using them like a hang glider, he swoops towards the ground.

THE PIECES OF THE BATWING crash harmlessly into the water at the edge of the city.

Batman LANDS, running as he does. He discards the FRAME OF HOLLOW PIPES that made up the support for his cape's hang-gliding rig and continues running.

VOLCANNA is shooting streams of fire at a building. Batman runs towards her, diving into a front handstand forward vault and plants both feet into her back.

VOLCANNA
(impact GRUNT)

She's out for the count, Batman cuffs her hands behind her back. FIRE TRUCKS move in and begin pouring streams of water at the building.

Batman crosses the street, towards where COPPERHEAD is coming out of a broken Jewelry Store Window with a fistful of jewels. Copperhead sees Batman approaching and immediately SLITHERS around a LAMPPOST. Batman and Copperhead FIGHT hand to hand. Copperhead uses the Lamppost as a shield and for leverage, frustrating Batman's ability to land a good shot. Batman steps back and throws a BOLO. Copperhead is wrapped up, pinned to the lamppost.

Batman rests his palms on his thighs, trying to catch his breath. Suddenly he is ZAPPED by a huge ELECTRICAL BOLT.

BATMAN
(sustained CRY of pain)

New angle reveals LIVEWIRE, pumping electricity into Batman until finally, he pitches forward, unconscious.

BATMAN
(keep alive MOAN)

LIVEWIRE

Too bad. He was kinda cute.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

GREEN LANTERN is blocking a flurry of LOBO'S PUNCHES with a ring-produced SHIELD. The Shield starts to wrap around Lobo, finally enclosing him in a GLOBE.

LOBO

C'mon Green Longjohns, lemme out of here so I can go upside your head!

Lobo gives up pounding, then puts his index and pinky fingers in his mouth and WHISTLES.

Lobo's MOTORCYCLE responds, starting up instantly, then flying in behind Green Lantern and RUNNING him over, flinging him across the room and into a control panel.

GREEN LANTERN

(Impact GRUNT)

The Globe FADES, freeing Lobo.

LOBO

Remember to look both ways before you cross me.

As groggy Green Lantern struggles, the Monitor above him flickers ON. He cranes his head to look at it.

J'onn PHASES through a wall, he's suddenly right next to a surprised Lobo.

J'ONN

You talk too much.

J'onn punches Lobo across the room.

LOBO

(impact GRUNT)

Lobo crashes into a bank of machinery. HAWKGIRL stands over him, holding her Mace ominously.

HAWKGIRL

You want to settle down now? Please
say "no."

Lobo WHISTLES again. Hawkgirl WHIRLS, looking for the
bike, which is headed her way.

FLASH

I got it!

FLASH BLURS towards the bike and LEAPS on. He STEERS it
away from Hawkgirl, he's having a blast.

FLASH

(rebel YELL)

Flash reacts, as suddenly the bike zooms around the
Watchtower, out of control. It's trying to buck him.

FLASH

(dismayed CRIES)

WONDER WOMAN

All right, that's it!

Wonder Woman GRABS Lobo by the scruff of the neck and
PUSHES his face into a wall. He falls to the deck.

LOBO

(impact GRUNT)

Lobo's POV as he looks up to find himself surrounded by
the entire Justice League except for Green Lantern and
Flash (who passes through the shot, still struggling to
control the bike).

FLASH

(passing through)

I'm okaaaaaaay!

LOBO

Alright already! Guess I'll let you
all stay on the team with me. But I'm
the leader.

Lobo starts to stand up. Hawkgirl conks him on the head
with her mace.

LOBO

Ow!

Lobo rubs his head where Hawkgirl struck him. J'onnn leans down into Lobo's face.

J'ONNN

The Justice League is about more than physical power. It's about ideals, caring, helping.

LOBO

Buy me a ticket to pukesville.

Lobo tries to get up again. Hawkgirl raises her Mace as if to conk him again. Lobo flinches away from the phantom blow.

LOBO

Alright already! Say what ya want but the Justice League needs the Main Man.

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

He might be right.

All turn towards Green Lantern and the MONITOR.

ON THE MONITOR SNAPPER CARR is reporting. Downtown Metropolis is in flames.

SNAPPER CARR

Metropolis is under siege. Following a mass jailbreak, Dozens of supervillains are running amok downtown, apparently in celebration of the recent loss of --

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

The JAVELIN-7 heads away from the Watchtower and towards the camera.

CUT TO:

INT. JAVELIN-7 - NIGHT

The Justice League and Lobo are in the cockpit.

LOBO

You ain't gonna be sorry ya brought
the Main Man!

GREEN LANTERN

Right. Like we were going to leave
you alone in the Watchtower.

LOBO

But long as I'm here, I get ta bust
heads.

J'ONN

You will do precisely as we instruct.
No more, no less.

LOBO

Sure thing. Finders keepers on any
bounties, right?

HAWKGIRL

You need to be quiet now.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS - NIGHT

KALIBAK, VOLCANA, LIVEWIRE, COPPERHEAD, STAR SAPPHIRE and
DEADSHOT continue to run wild in the streets. Cars are
overturned, buildings smashed, fires burn everywhere, it
looks like occupied territory.

DEADSHOT is gathering piles of money, next to an ATM,
he's shot out of a wall. Suddenly a shadow falls over
him.

DEADSHOT

Get your own money. There's plenty.

He looks up, It's WONDER WOMAN. Deadshot FIRES at her.

Wonder Woman BLOCKS the bullets with her bracelets as she
moves forward. Wonder Woman follows with a hard right
that sends Deadshot sprawling.

VOLCANA is on her knees, nearby. Her handcuffs GLOW red,

then MELT AWAY. She projects a deadly STREAM OF FIRE at Wonder Woman.

FLASH BLURS in-between the stream and Wonder Woman. The WIND from his trail blocks the fire, which turns to follow it.

Flash runs up the street, a TRAIL OF FIRE in his wake and heading for him. He REVERSES direction and leads the flame back at Volcana.

The flame STRIKES her, but she is completely unharmed.

FLASH

Guess that was a little too much to hope for.

Flash DODGES a series of FLAME BLASTS from Volcana.

STAR SAPPHIRE is flying around, firing energy bursts randomly at buildings. One of her beams is stopped by a GREEN ENERGY SHIELD.

It's GREEN LANTERN. He and Star Sapphire cross beams. Both strain to overpower the others blast as the beams meet head on. Neither is giving an inch.

LIVEWIRE ZAPS an incoming Hawkgirl with a powerful electrical bolt.

HAWKGIRL

(CRY of pain)

Hawkgirl spins out of control and CRASHES.

J'ONN is INTANGIBLE as he closes on Live Wire. Her ELECTRICAL BOLT still makes contact. He's being electrocuted

J'ONN

(sustained CRY of pain)

KALIBAK, carrying a large chunk of concrete, is heading towards FLASH and VOLCANA'S stand-off.

LOBO (O.S.)

Hey, hat hair!-

Kalibak turns just in time to see LOBO running towards him, holding a car over his head.

LOBO
--Wanna piece of me?

Lobo SMASHES the car down on Kalibak's head. Lobo looks down at his victim.

LOBO
Wuss.

Kalibak BURSTS up through the car wreckage.

KALIBAK
(ROAR of anger) I'm going to grind
you into paste!

Lobo is unimpressed, he reaches out and grabs the front fender of two CARS, one on either side of him.

LOBO
Awful brave talk for a dead man.

KALIBAK
I'm not dead yet.

LOBO
You're right, my watch is about 10
seconds fast.

Lobo swings his arms forward and slams Kalibak between the two cars, as if he were crashing cymbals.

Not far away, the tremendous sound from Lobo's stunt awakens BATMAN. He looks up at the scene through bleary eyes.

J'ONN is on his feet again. This time he's super dense, walking ponderously towards Livewire's stream of electricity, slowly but surely closing on her.

WONDER WOMAN is airborne, dodging streams of fire from Volcana. Flash is on the ground, doing the same. Suddenly, Volcana is knocked down by a jet of WATER.

VOLCANA
(impact CRY)

It's BATMAN, who has borrowed a fire truck and is shooting water at Volcana. She struggles back to her feet and beginning to shoot fire at Batman.

BATMAN

Diana! You and Green Lantern switch up. Flash, J'onn could use some help. There's a downed power line on your way.

WONDER WOMAN flies into the air and clocks Star Sapphire from behind.

Green Lantern FLIES down and nails Volcana with an energy BEAM

VOLCANA

(impact GRUNT)

FLASH BLURS up the street, grabbing a downed length of POWER LINE. He runs over to Livewire, wraps it around her at Super Speed and sticks the other end into the tank of Batman's fire truck. Livewire SHORTS OUT painfully.

LIVEWIRE

(CRY of pain)

J'ONN

Does that account for everyone?

All react to the sound of a car crash.

LOBO is throwing yet another car on the ridiculously large pile of autos that KALIBAK is buried under.

LOBO

Say it! Say it!

KALIBAK

(weak)

...Uncle...

LOBO

I can't heear you!

Lobo, with yet another car over his head, notices the rest of the Justice League assembled behind him.

LOBO

Yo! How'd we make out?

HAWKGIRL

He's beaten. Put the car down.

LOBO

I was gonna.

Batman rubs his temple as if he fears he's going to pop a vein. Wide on the destruction as Lobo tosses the car aside.

LOBO

Pretty good huh? When you got Lobo on your team, who needs Superman?

ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, sadly remembering their fallen friend.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALIEN LANDSCAPE - DAY.

A strange ALIEN LANDSCAPE. A swollen RED SUN dominates the sky, painting everything in eerie shades of red. The daytime sky also includes a giant MOON (complete with a ring) on the horizon.

We pan across the landscape, until we begin to see some incongruous Earth objects scattered about (in fact, the very same objects we saw destroyed by the Tachyon Cannon). There are CARS, PIECES OF BUILDINGS and finally, laying on his back and coming to consciousness, SUPERMAN.

SUPERMAN

(awakening GROAN)

FADE TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...