

Justice League Unlimited

"The Doomsday Sanction"
(Script)

#257-466

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Teleplay by Robert Goodman
(5/21/04)

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"The Doomsday Sanction" Cast List

SUPERMAN

BATMAN/BRUCE WAYNE

WONDER WOMAN

FLASH

J'ONN J'ONZZ

GREEN LANTERN - no lines.

HAWKGIRL - no lines.

LEX LUTHOR - no lines.

VIXEN - no lines.

HAWK AND DOVE - no lines.

COMMANDER STEEL - Strong, athletic superhero. No lines.

PROFESSOR HAMILTON - one line.

AMANDA WALLER - as seen in "Ultimatum." Featured.

GENERAL EILING - as seen in "Dark Heart." Half-dozen lines.

DOOMSDAY - as seen in "A Better World." Featured villain.

DOCTOR MILO - seen long, long ago; aging, whiny, defensive scientist. Dozen or so lines; then early, messy exit.

NEWS ANCHOR ON TV - any sex or ethnicity. Two lines, but they're both mouthfuls.

TALA - sexy, mystical villainess from comics. One line.

HUGO STRANGE - seen long, long ago; no lines.

CADMUS GUARDS - handful of voices; couple of grunts and oofs.

A SOLDIER - reports bad news to Waller. Two lines.

PEOPLE OF SAN BOQUERO, including RESCUE WORKERS - Latino citizens of a volcanic island, engaged in grand-scale evacuation. No lines.

PARAMILITARY "OPERATIVES" - the crew of a black-ops submarine. One OPERATIVE and the CAPTAIN have a line each.

THREE TBD HEROES - up in the Watchtower. Two share a grunt; the third gets to say "Hey!"

ELECTRONIC VOICE - the Javelin's on-board computer. One line.

"The Domsday Sanction"
(5/21/04)

TEASER

EXT. AMANDA WALLER'S HOUSE - DAWN

A newspaper is thrown into the front gate of a secluded house surrounded by high shrubbery. A CAMERA, attracted by the movement, swivels and zooms in on the newspaper.

The Front Gate OPENS. A black-suited, sunglass wearing SECRET SERVICE agent retrieves the paper and shuts the gate.

The Agent with the paper walks across the front lawn, we see other agents, obviously guarding the house.

Another Camera swivels, following him.

INT. WALLER HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAWN

A MONITOR

Shows the Agent with the Newspaper heading for the front door.

WIDER

to see that the monitor is one of a bank of eight monitors on the bedroom wall, each displaying a different part of the house.

ON A NIGHT TABLE - and an alarm clock, just as the clock BLINKS TO 4:30AM. <BEEP!...BEEP!...> A woman's hand taps the clock; PAN to its owner, AMANDA WALLER, as she sits up.

HER FEET - slip into no-nonsense (dare I say, men's) slippers, waiting in perfect position beside the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. WALLER HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

ON A ONE-CUP COFFEE MACHINE - as it finishes filling a mug.

Waller, now in a bathrobe, picks up the mug and takes a good swig, as she watches a counter-top TV set.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

In the Caribbean, the San Boquero volcano went active during the night, sending a cloud of ash miles into the air. Geologists predict a devastating eruption sometime within the week. Sources report the Justice League has offered to help the Boqueran authorities with the evacuation.

Waller scowls at the League's name, and scoops up her phone and hits a speed-dial button.

WALLER

(into phone)

Yeah. Have the car ready in twenty minutes. And get all the division heads in for the meeting an hour early.

She hangs up.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

...Closer to home, the political world is still reeling from Lex Luthor's surprise announcement of his candidacy for President of the United States.

CLOSE ON THE TV - On it, we see LEX stepping up to a podium before a press conference, and waving for the crowd to let him speak. There's a big American flag draped behind him.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV, CONT'D)

Overnight polling among likely voters shows Luthor to be within striking distance of both major party candidates.

WALLER - shakes her head, and switches the set off. Taking her coffee, she heads out of the kitchen and back into her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

*

On the way into her bathroom, she passes the BANK OF SECURITY MONITORS, showing every corner of the property. HOLD ON THE MONITORS - as one by one, they FLICKER TO SNOW. Waller doesn't notice.

CUT TO:

INT. WALLER HOUSE - BATHROOM

The shower is running. Waller's robe is on a hook nearby; another hook next to it is empty. The water shuts off. Waller's hand reaches out from behind the curtain -- and gropes around the empty hook. The hand hesitates. Something's wrong. Then a BLACK GLOVED HAND puts a towel in hers.

TIGHT ON THE CURTAIN - as Waller YANKS IT BACK, leaving CAMERA CLOSE ON HER FACE -- ready for anything. She sees:

BATMAN - standing in her bathroom.

BATMAN

Get dressed. It's time we talked.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. AMANDA WALLER'S BATHROOM - DAWN

Never taking her eyes off of Batman, Waller tightens her robe.

BATMAN

Amanda Waller. Born In East St. Louis. Rhodes Scholar. Ph.D. in Political Science, served in intelligence under three administrations. Disappeared from public life four years ago.

WALLER

Am I supposed to be impressed? Maybe I should rattle off your résumé now. You know I could blow the whistle on you anytime I want.

BATMAN

Fine. Why don't we step into the light together? I'm sure the American people will be just as interested in your activities as mine.

He leans in closer, doing what he does best: intimidation.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

Secret weapons. Illegal cloning experiments. Bypassing Congress --

And then Waller does something few people ever have the balls to do: She cuts Batman off. *

WALLER

What do you want? *

BATMAN

I want to know what you think *
you're doing. *

WALLER

Did Superman ever mention that to
*
get Luthor's pardon he had to tell
us all about your parallel
universe adventure? All about it.

Batman is stone-faced.

*

WALLER (CONT'D)

*

We started to wonder what would
happen if you ever took the same
action that the Justice Lords did.
So I had my people run some
computer simulations, to see what
would happen if your Justice *
League ever went rogue.

BATMAN

That's moot.

WALLER

Humor me. In every single
scenario, you beat us. Badly.

WALLER (CONT'D)

But that was before Cadmus. Now we
have the technology to defend
ourselves.

Batman listens -- caught utterly off guard. This is not how he
imagined this visit going. He steels himself and responds the
best he can.

BATMAN

Whatever you think you're doing, *
if you present a threat to the *
world, the Justice League will
take you down.

WALLER

If we present a threat!? You've got a space ship floating over our heads with a laser weapon pointing down. In another dimension, seven of you overthrew the government and assassinated the president! We're the good guys, protecting our country from a very real threat. You.

Batman's expression is blank. He stares her down for a moment, then turns and EXITS. HOLD ON WALLER. The second Batman's gone, she grabs a phone off her bathroom counter and hits a button. <ALARMS BLARE.> ...Then, as she catches her breath, Waller looks at the hand holding the phone.

ON HER HAND - It's trembling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE - THE WATCHTOWER

rotating gently, as we hear...

FLASH (O.S.)

How long is this gonna take?

INT. WATCHTOWER - "BIG SEVEN" CONFERENCE ROOM

We're in the private conference room of the Big Seven heroes. Scene is shot like "The West Wing", where camera circles the table, passing behind each hero's chair. START ON FLASH:

FLASH (CONT'D)

I thought we had an island to evacuate.

WONDER WOMAN sits next to him -- and Batman on her other side.

WONDER WOMAN

First team's already down there. We'll join them as soon as we're done.

(turns to Batman)

I want to hear what you learned.

BATMAN

Project Cadmus is in the business
of developing weapons,
specifically to fight us.

CAMERA REACHES J'ONN J'ONZZ next. He understands.

J'ONN

They're worried we've grown too
powerful, and they want to even
the odds.

CAMERA PASSES GREEN LANTERN and HAWKGIRL, listening...

BATMAN (O.S.)

Exactly. They were behind that
business with the Ultimen and the
Supergirl clone... *

CAMERA PANS BEHIND A CHAIR and slips into shadow. When it
emerges, we're:

INT. CADMUS PROJECT - SITUATION ROOM

This conference room is darker, and the bg is dominated by a
huge, backlit WORLD MAP (behind Waller). As PAN CONTINUES
around this table, we first see PROFESSOR HAMILTON, also reading
from a report.

HAMILTON

...Galatea will be fully recovered
soon, and ready to return to
active duty.

WALLER

And the Doomsday weapon?

HAMILTON

Considering the damage done to its
frontal lobe, the cellular
regeneration has been... remarkable.
Its EEG's are still flat;
nonetheless we're monitoring it
closely.

WALLER (O.S.)

Keep me updated.

CAMERA PANS past GENERAL EILING to Doctor Waller. She turns to her other side.

WALLER (CONT'D)

Tala, have you developed a plan to retrieve the armor?

PAN passes HUGO STRANGE... and then finds TALA - a sexy, mystical-sorceress type.

TALA

We've come up with some promising scenarios. But they're going to require certain... additional resources.

WALLER (O.S.)

Fine. See me after.

PAN BEHIND ANOTHER CHAIR - and we find ourselves back in...

INT. WATCHTOWER - BIG SEVEN CONFERENCE ROOM

...as CAMERA emerges to find us facing SUPERMAN. CAMERA SETTLES ON TWO-SHOT of him and Flash, completing the circle.

FLASH

What are they so worried about?
We'd never try to take over like that.

BATMAN (O.S.)

The Justice Lords did, in their dimension. What's to stop us?

FLASH

Me! Those guys went overboard because their Flash died. So as long as you all focus on keeping me alive, that'll never happen here.

He smiles, pleased with his logic.

J'ONN

Let's put a pin in that theory, to explore another time.

He looks across to Superman.

SUPERMAN

I've seen the federal budget.
There's no funding for a Project
Cadmus. Where's the money coming
from?

J'ONN

We're all thinking the same thing.

WONDER WOMAN

Luthor.

BATMAN

The obvious suspect. He's funded *
General Hardcastle's rogue *
operations. But if he's *
bankrolling Cadmus, he's doing an
excellent job of covering his
tracks. I've got the Question
looking into it..

THE HEROES

(BIG GROANS...!/Not that kook!)

BATMAN

I admit he's wound a bit too
tightly, but if anyone can find a
hidden link from Luthor to Cadmus,
he's the man. In the meantime,
I'll be following the trail from
Waller's end.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CADMUS - SITUATION ROOM

Waller glances down at her papers, then looks across the table.

WALLER

(saved the worst for
last)

And Doctor Milo. Splicing
together human and animal DNA.
How's that going?

ON DOCTOR MILO - an aging, nebbishy scientist, seated next to
Tala. He shrinks from Waller's tone, then tries to sell himself
hard.

MILO

I know what you're thinking -- but my experiments are actually quite close to paying off. Doctor Langstrom's research has proven very useful! I just need a little more time, and I promise I'll have something concrete to show you.

WALLER - nods patronizingly. She knows better.

WALLER

Concrete. Like, say, the super-powered warthog that tore up your lab last week? Professor Hamilton's already shown me the remains.

Milo throws Hamilton dagger eyes. Thanks a lot, snitch.

MILO

(defensive)

That, that was only a prototype -

Waller stares at Milo.

WALLER

Wart... hog. Doctor Milo, I'm not known for my sense of humor, but I know a sick joke when I see one.

MILO - is stunned. He listens silently, STEAMING...

WALLER (CONT'D)

In light of the continuing lack of results from your work, I'm pulling your funding. In accordance with the Special Services Act, we'll set you up in a new, non-vital capacity, and confiscate your classified research.

MILO'S POV - ON WALLER... PAN TO HAMILTON... BACK TO WALLER

WALLER (CONT'D)

As you're well aware, any public discussion of Cadmus or its work will result in your immediate sanction. And rest assured, Doctor, our people will be keeping an eye on you...

MILO - LEAPS TO HIS FEET --

CLOSE ON HIS HAND - It PULLS OUT A GUN AND STARTS SHOOTING across the table --

CLOSE ON MILO'S FACE - lit by the MUZZLE FLASHES -- <BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!>

BACK TO WALLER, EILING AND HAMILTON - sitting quietly, staring O.S. at Milo -- unharmed. It was just a fantasy.

WALLER

...You can go now.

MILO - picks up his papers and goes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CADMUS PROJECT - HALLWAY OUTSIDE LAB - DAY

Milo sulks down the hall, incensed. He passes a large STEEL LAB DOOR. Looks at it... gets an idea.

INT. CADMUS PROJECT - DOOMSDAY'S LAB - DAY

THE STEEL DOOR SLIDES OPEN -- and Milo enters a sterile, hi-tech lab. He walks forward to:

DOOMSDAY

who's fastened to an upright X-Rack, bound by heavy, Kirbyesque restraints. Wires run from his forehead to an EEG machine. Protective bone has grown over his lobotomy scars. His eyes are closed.

Milo briefly checks the EEG -- but he already knows what it says:

MILO

I know you're faking. The
lobotomized portion of your brain
has completely regrown.

DOOMSDAY - opens his eyes. Looks silently at Milo. Patiently.

MILO (CONT'D)

Do you remember anything from
before?

Doomsday is unresponsive.

MILO (CONT'D)

That's all right. I'll show you.
You've been used... and you
deserve to know.

Milo walks over to a computer, types some keys, and a video
image of another lab appears.

ON THE VIDEO - we see A CLONING TANK - similar to the Bizarro
tanks in "Identity Crisis," only the Superman clone in this tank
is bigger and more muscular. In the corner of the video, the
words: CADMUS DD-8.

MILO (O.S., CONT'D)

You see, you were created from a
sample of Superman's genetic
material...

PUSH IN and...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK: INT. BIZARRO MARK II LAB

ON THE TANK - with Doomsday growing inside.

MILO (O.S. CONT'D)

But your DNA was altered to make
you his superior. ...And then you
were trained to hate him.

CUT TO:

DOOMSDAY - BOUND TO A CHAIR, with specula holding his eyes open
(a la "Clockwork Orange") -- staring at:

A PROJECTED IMAGE OF SUPERMAN.

MILO (O.S., CONT'D)
 You were conditioned, humiliated,
 repeatedly injured...

HEAT BEAMS SHOOT OUT of the screen --

-- and SEAR DOOMSDAY'S SKIN.

DOOMSDAY
 (SCREAMS!)

CUT TO:

INT. HOLOGRAM CHAMBER

(like the one used in "Galatea.") Now we see a HOLOGRAPHIC
 SUPERMAN FORM -- starting from wireframe, and then becoming
 fully rendered.

MILO (O.S.)
 But not by Superman.

Doomsday ATTACKS -- the Holo-Superman DODGES, then PICKS UP A
 TRUCK AND SWATS DOOMSDAY with it. Doomsday goes CRASHING into a
 building.

MILO (O.S., CONT'D)
 ...By Amanda Waller and Professor
 Emil Hamilton. *

When he emerges, he's IN A MAD FRENZY -- HURLING CHUNKS OF
 CONCRETE from the building in all directions.

CUT TO:

VIDEO-CAM SHOT: INT. ROCKET CAPSULE

ON DOOMSDAY, strapped into a cramped capsule, struggling against
 his bonds.

MILO (O.S. CONT'D)
 When you became uncontrollable,
 they tried to dispose of you.
 They put you in a rocket, and shot
 you into space.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD

The rocket LAUNCHES and disappears into the sky.

VIDEO-CAM SHOT: INT. ROCKET CAPSULE

BACK ON DOOMSDAY - struggling so hard he SHAKES THE CAMERA. He BREAKS HIS BONDS, LASHES OUT, and SHORTS THE PANELS around him.

MILO (O.S., CONT'D)
 But you were too strong. Your
 struggles threw the rocket
 off-course, and it came back to
 Earth.

EXT. STRATOSPHERE

THE ROCKET - tips back down, re-enters the Earth's atmosphere, and begins to BURN...

The body of the rocket MELTS, and collapses in on itself -- forming a BURNING, MOLTEN, tech-laden ROCK (as we saw in "A Better World").

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT. CADMUS - DOOMSDAY'S LAB

-- and Milo, talking to Doomsday.

MILO (CONT'D)
 When you landed, you fought a
 different Superman, one from a
 parallel universe. He lobotomized
 you.

A QUICK FLASH OF MEMORY

Superman fires his heat vision into Doomsday's skull. (Reprint?)

ON DOOMSDAY

Serious as a heart attack.

DOOMSDAY
 Superman.

Milo reacts to Doomsday's voice -- pleasantly surprised.

MILO

Yes, good. But he isn't your enemy. Your hatred of him was manufactured. Your real enemies are the same as mine.

DOOMSDAY - listens.

MILO (CONT'D)

At every turn, Waller and Hamilton abused and betrayed you, just as they've betrayed me. Don't we both deserve retribution?

DOOMSDAY

Yes. Release me.

MILO

(hopeful)

...And you'll solve both our problems?

DOOMSDAY

Yes.

Excited, Milo turns back to the computer, presses a button...

ON DOOMSDAY - and Doomsday's RESTRAINTS RETRACT. Doomsday steps off the X-rack, and marches directly toward Milo.

MILO - REACTS --

MILO

What are you - ?

DOOMSDAY - reaches toward CAMERA...

DOOMSDAY

Your problem's solved.

...his HAND FILLING SCREEN TO BLACK.

MILO (O.S.)

(SCREAM!)

INT. CADMUS - HALLWAY OUTSIDE LAB - DAY

Doomsday BURSTS OUT of his lab into the hall, sending the DOOR FLYING. RED EMERGENCY LIGHTS ACTIVATE, and <KLAXONS SOUND>.

DOOMSDAY
Now for Superman.

He MARCHES down the hall. A PAIR OF GUARDS come around a corner, and SEE HIM. They OPEN FIRE with laser-rifles -- Doomsday SWATS them both to ground.

GUARDS
(Aah! -- OOF!)

Then Doomsday MARCHES O.S.

INT. CADMUS - ANOTHER HALLWAY - KLAXONS SOUNDING

...and a GAUNTLET OF GUARDS, laser rifles aimed, waiting for someone to come around the corner. Doomsday appears. The guards OPEN FIRE. Doomsday marches right up to them, unfazed by their LASER BLASTS. He HURLS THEM AWAY, and PUNCHES THROUGH A DOOR at the end of the hall.

INT. CADMUS - A HANGAR

Doomsday leaps into a ONE-SEAT POD. The canopy closes, the pod LIFTS on rockets, and Doomsday SHOOTS OFF down a tunnel.

INT. UNDERGROUND RAIL TRACK

Doomsday ROCKETS PAST CAMERA down an underground rail track.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The middle of nowhere. Suddenly, Doomsday's POD BURSTS UP from beneath the waves, and ROARS OFF into the sky.

INT. CADMUS - WALLER'S OFFICE

Waller's rising from her desk, reacting to the <ALARMS>. A slider runs in.

WALLER
What's going on?

SOLDIER
Ma'am! Doomsday's escaped!

WALLER
 (immediately realizes)
Milo. I'll have his hide for
 this.

SOLDIER
 Doomsday beat you to it, ma'am.

Waller sees the look on the soldier's face.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN BOQUERO ISLAND - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING SHOT: A Caribbean island -- thick, green, dots of small towns -- and dominated by a gigantic central VOLCANO, that's currently sending a BILLOWING CLOUD OF ASH UP INTO THE SKY.

EXT. SAN BOQUERO HARBOR/MOUNTAIN ROAD - NIGHT

PAN THE HARBOR on the far side of the island; it's Evacuation Central. The docks are lined with bulky, FLYING TRANSPORT SHIPS -- their loading ramps down. PEOPLE run from buses onto the transports, as VIXEN, COMMANDER STEEL, and HAWK & DOVE help the local RESCUE WORKERS usher them along.

PAN ENDS ON a higher, winding mountain road in the fg, where WONDER WOMAN is busy PUSHING BOULDERS off the road, to allow a line of stopped vehicles to make it to the harbor.

WONDER WOMAN
 (effort grunt...!)

FLASH RUNS IN from farther up the road.

FLASH
 Our radios are barely working!
 I'm spending half my time running
 messages around.

WONDER WOMAN
 It's the electromagnetic interference
 from the volcano.

She puts her finger to her ear.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Superman! How's it going in
 there?

EXT. MOUNTAIN - ANOTHER SIDE - NIGHT

Here, a CAVE ENTRANCE leads into the mountain.

WONDER WOMAN (O.S., FILTERED, CONT'D)
 (staticky -- in and
 out)
 Can you read me any better than
 before?

SUPERMAN (O.S., FILTERED)
 You're dropping in and out. It
 depends on where I am.

INT. VOLCANO

We see A CROSS-SECTION OF THE SOLID ROCK -- and SUPERMAN,
 "FLYING" through it, TUNNELING WITH HIS FISTS. Lava floods the
 tunnel as he creates it, streaming in behind him as he digs.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
 I'm trying to ease the pressure on
 the volcano. If I can dig some
 tunnels off the main core, maybe I
 can stop the eruption before it
 starts.

INT. A CAVE INSIDE THE VOLCANO

A CAVE WALL BURSTS OPEN, and Superman flies out. LAVA streams
 in behind him, filling the cave to knee-height. Superman lands
 and looks around, scanning the walls with his x-ray vision.

WONDER WOMAN (O.S., FILTERED)
 When will you be able to tell if
 it's working?

SUPE'S X-RAY POV PAN of the wall of the cavern: More pockets
 and caves like the one he's in -- interspersed with veins of RED
 HOT LAVA... and ending on THE MAIN CORE: a ten-meters-thick, RED
 HOT TUBE of surging power, roiling and pushing upward. TILT UP
 -- to where the lava tube ends, just beneath the crater --
 pushing at the last layer of hardened rock like a cork.

SUPERMAN (O.S.)
Hard to say. I could just as easily
set it off, so I have to go slow.

BACK TO SUPERMAN - choosing his next spot to dig.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
Just get everyone clear as soon as
you can.

Suddenly, the CAVE SHAKES WITH terrific underground TREMORS.

Superman looks around, unsure what's going on. <BAM! BAM!> --

Then another CAVE WALL CRASHES IN -- and when the dust
settles... there's DOOMSDAY.

He MARCHES TOWARD SUPERMAN.

DOOMSDAY
Superman. I'm here to kill you.
Is this a bad time?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SAN BOQUERO VOLCANO - CAVE - NIGHT

Doomsday TACKLES SUPERMAN and the pair CRASH through one cave wall --

INT. ANOTHER CAVE

-- and in another. They SPLASH into a pool of lava, Doomsday on top of Superman. He POUNDS HIM, PUNCH AFTER PUNCH with one hand, while holding him down with the other.

Superman STRUGGLES to free himself, but Doomsday isn't giving him the chance.

SUPERMAN
(struggling and impact grunts!)

He gets his legs under Doomsday, and KICKS HIM into the far wall.

DOOMSDAY
(impact OOF!)

Then, before Doomsday can charge again --

SUPERMAN - shoots HEAT BEAMS from his eyes up at --

THE CAVE ROOF -- causing it to COLLAPSE ON DOOMSDAY'S HEAD.

Superman gets to his feet, when --

DOOMSDAY - quickly BURSTS FREE of the rubble.

DOOMSDAY (CONT'D)
I remember. Those eyes!

He CHARGES again, RAMS Superman back against the far wall, and JABS him right in the eyes with his bony knuckles.

SUPERMAN
(pain cry!)

DOOMSDAY
Let's see you do that again.

SUPE'S POV: Everything's BLURRED, out of focus. Another FIST RUSHES TOWARD FRAME. WHAM!

ON SUPERMAN - wobbling, half-blinded, he takes a wild swing, and SLUGS DOOMSDAY. Contact. SLUGS HIM AGAIN.

SUPERMAN/DOOMSDAY
(two effort grunts!/TWO IMPACT
GRUNTS!)

Doomsday goes reeling backward.

Superman shakes his eyes clear, and faces his opponent.

SUPERMAN
I know who you are -- but I'm not
the one who hurt you!

Doomsday readies himself for the next round.

DOOMSDAY
Superman is Superman. And I will
kill you.

SUPERMAN
Why?

DOOMSDAY
It's what I am. I don't care why.

He CHARGES AGAIN -- Superman braces himself -- but Doomsday is bigger and stronger --

SUPERMAN
(IMPACT OOF!)

-- and the pair go CRASHING THROUGH ANOTHER WALL and out of sight. STEAMING LAVA GUSHES IN the hole where they disappeared.

CUT TO:

INT. CADMUS - SITUATION ROOM

Waller and Eiling stand at the world map. Eiling points roughly at Central America.

EILING
G-P-S puts the stolen pod on San Boquero. Doomsday went right back after Superman. I love a well-conditioned soldier.

WALLER

And what will your soldier do after he's killed Superman? We can't leave him loose -- for all we know, he'll try to kill everyone on the planet! He has to be stopped. Before he leaves that island.

EILING

But how am I supposed to...

WALLER

I don't care! Get it done.

She marches out. Eiling considers her words, and picks up a phone.

EILING

This is Eiling. Authorization: Firewall.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Calm, dark water -- until it starts to ROIL...

-- and a SUBMARINE SURFACES. The sub is unmarked -- it bears no nation's flag.

INT. SUBMARINE - BRIDGE

It's a high-tech, computer-station-lined bridge, manned by a half-dozen OPERATIVES -- men and women in unmarked black-ops outfits like the man in "Galatea."

One such Operative at a weapons station turns to the CAPTAIN.

OPERATIVE

Target locked. Package is ready.

The CAPTAIN nods.

CAPTAIN

Deliver the package.

The operative hits some keys.

EXT. SUBMARINE - NIGHT

A TUBE DOOR SLIDES OPEN in the sub's deck. A GUIDED MISSILE LAUNCHES OUT, ALIGNS ITSELF, and SOARS OFF.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN BOQUERO HARBOR - NIGHT

ON ONE OF THE GIANT TRANSPORTS - as its ramp closes and it LIFTS OFF over the water, its enormous mass palpable. Flash, Vixen and the other heroes all help passengers board another transport nearby.

WONDER WOMAN FLIES IN, carrying an ambulance. She touches down at the harbor, and RESCUE WORKERS help INJURED PEOPLE out of the back. Wonder Woman steps away, and puts her finger to her ear.

WONDER WOMAN
Superman, give me an update.

At first all she gets back is <STATIC> -- then through it, interspersed with <CRASHING ROCK> she hears.

SUPERMAN (O.S., FILTERED)
(impact OOF!)...Something's come
up!...

CUT TO:

INT. VOLCANO - ANOTHER CAVE

Superman and Doomsday TRADING PUNCHES and TACKLES -- SHATTERING STALACTITES, SPLASHING through lava. Superman's getting the worst of it. His suit is tattered and he looks like crap.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
(to communicator,
tired)
Just keep doing what you're doing!

He THROWS A FIST -- Doomsday CATCHES IT AND SQUEEZES. <CRUNCH!>

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
(PAINED GROAN...!)

EXT. HARBOR - BACK TO WONDER WOMAN

She reacts to what she hears, concerned.

WONDER WOMAN

Where are you?! I'll come help!

INT. CAVE - ON A ROCK WALL

as SUPERMAN FALLS IN BACKWARD AND SLAMS AGAINST IT.

SUPERMAN

(OOF! - then)

No! Stay with the evacuation!
This isn't important! Getting
those people to safety is!

He musters his strength and FLIES BACK INTO DOOMSDAY -- TACKLING
him and FLYING THEM BOTH backward THROUGH ANOTHER ROCK WALL.

EXT. HARBOR - BACK TO WONDER WOMAN

exasperated -- no way to help her friend. Accepting it, she
pounds the Transport door with her open palm.

WONDER WOMAN

Move it out!

CUT TO:

INT. WATCHTOWER - J'ONN'S STATION

ON J'ONN AND BATMAN, both seated at the main console,
supervising the evacuation from up here.

BATMAN

(reading a screen)

Another transport just landed on
the mainland. They're over half
done.

Suddenly, they hear an urgent <BEEP! BEEP!> at J'Onn's station.
Both look. They're stunned at what they see.

J'ONN

I don't believe it. It's a
nuclear missile -- headed straight
for San Boquero.

THEIR POV - A RADAR SCREEN - with one BLINKING BLIP. Next to
that, a computer screen with BAR GRAPHS and SCROLLING NUMBERS.

BATMAN (O.S.)
 And from the spectrograph, its
 warhead's lined with kryptonite.
 (beat)
 Can we hit it from up here?

BACK TO J'ONN AND BATMAN

J'ONN
 No, it's moving too fast... But
 who fired it?

BATMAN
 I have a good idea.

CUT TO:

INT. CADMUS - WALLER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Waller's alone at her desk. She hears a HI-TECH PHONE CHIRPING.
 Surprised, she opens a desk drawer.

INSIDE THE DRAWER - is, literally, a RED PHONE.

Waller answers it, instantly deferential.

WALLER
 Yes, Mister President.

INTERCUT WITH: INT. WATCHTOWER

While Batman barks at Waller, J'Onn clacks urgently at his
 keyboard in the bg.

BATMAN
 Call off the missile.

WALLER - is shocked to hear the voice.

WALLER
 How did you get this-?

BATMAN (O.S. ON PHONE)
 (cuts her off, no
 bullshit)
 The missile, headed for San
 Boquero.

Waller's eyes GO WIDE. She didn't know.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
 If anyone dies on that island
 today, I'm coming for you.

Waller gathers herself.

WALLER
 You do what you have to, and so
 will I.

She abruptly hangs up, then thunders out of the room, shouting.

WALLER (CONT'D)
 Eiling!

INT. WATCHTOWER

Batman hangs up, and turns to J'Onn. He could tell:

BATMAN
 She didn't know.

J'ONN
 Captain Atom's on his way from
 Southern California...

BATMAN
 His top speed's under Mach 2. He'll
 never get there in time.

Batman instantly decides. He races out of there.

INT. WATCHTOWER - CORRIDOR

Batman runs through the corridor, leaping over railings, **SHOVING ASIDE** a PAIR OF TBD HEROES in his way.

TBD HEROES #1 AND #2
 (annoyed grunts!)

INT. WATCHTOWER - JAVELIN HANGAR

OBSIDIAN, HAWK and DOVE - heading for the Javelin's bay - when Batman **RUNS PAST** and **SHOVES** them out of the way.

OBSIDIAN
 Hey-!

BATMAN
Clear the hangar! Now!

The heroes get on the other side of the hangar door fast.

INT. JAVELIN COCKPIT

Batman quickly hits some buttons on the controls, then straps himself in as we hear:

ELECTRONIC VOICE
Initiating emergency drop. In
three -- two -- one --

EXT. WATCHTOWER - SPACE - UNDERSIDE OF HANGAR

The hangar doors FLY OPEN, and the Javelin DROPS straight down, quickly going nose-first, in FREE-FALL.

Once it's clear of the ship, its BOOSTERS IGNITE. The Javelin ROCKETS DOWNWARD, its NOSE SUPERHEATING from the atmosphere.

J'ONN (O.S., FILTERED)
Batman. You're going too fast.

INT. JAVELIN COCKPIT

It's SHAKING HARD in there. Batman wrestles with the controls.

BATMAN
If I let the Earth's gravity
accelerate me, I should reach
intercept in two minutes.

J'ONN (O.S., FILTERED)
If you don't burn up on entry.

Batman doesn't respond.

CUT TO:

INT. CADMUS - SITUATION ROOM

Eiling's still standing at the world map, watching a TINY BLINKING LIGHT over the Atlantic -- when Waller STORMS IN.

WALLER

What were you thinking?! You're going to kill Superman and everyone else on the island!

Eiling turns to her, takes it calmly.

EILING

We have to sanction Doomsday, we were gonna get to Superman somewhere down the line, and we've been trying to stop drug traffic from San Boquero for years. The way I see it? Three birds, one stone.

Waller looks at him, stunned.

WALLER

Call it off!

Eiling gestures toward the map and the tiny BLIP.

EILING

Anti-abort safeties have already engaged. I couldn't stop it now if I wanted to.

CUT TO:

EXT. - SKY OVER OCEAN - NIGHT

ON THE MISSILE - ROCKETING at immense speed, its WARHEAD GLOWING GREEN.

OVERHEAD AND BEHIND THE MISSILE - THE JAVELIN descends into frame, levels off and GIVES CHASE -- both it and the missile low above the surface of the ocean.

INT. JAVELIN COCKPIT

Batman pushes the yoke forward, accelerating the Javelin even more. The whole SHIP RATTLES from the forces.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN BOQUERO - VOLCANO - NIGHT

ON THE SIDE OF THE VOLCANO - when SUPERMAN AND DOOMSDAY BURST out of the ground, sending rock and lava spraying everywhere. They CRASH back into the sloped hillside.

Doomsday gets on his feet first and LIFTS SUPERMAN INTO FRAME by what's left of his collar. WHAM! Supe's not in frame anymore.

He SMASHES into a row of trees, CRACKING THEM like toothpicks. Doomsday MARCHES IN, and does the whole thing again.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN BOQUERO HARBOR - NIGHT

ON WONDER WOMAN - helping people board a transport... but looking toward the mountain with concern, when she hears --

J'ONN (O.S., FILTERED)
 (staticky...in and out)
 Wonder Woman, can you hear me?
 There's a missile with a
 Kryptonite warhead heading for
 your position...

Wonder Woman's EYES WIDEN.

WONDER WOMAN
 Say again?!

INT. WATCHTOWER

ON J'ONN - twisting knobs and trying again.

J'ONN
 Repeat -- there's a kryptonite
 missile heading your way! Can you
 read me?

EXT. HARBOR - BACK TO WONDER WOMAN

She's heard enough to get the gist. Into her communicator:

WONDER WOMAN
 Flash! Get everyone as far away
 as you can, I'm going back for
 Superman!

FLASH

But—

WONDER WOMAN

Do it now!

She FLIES OFF toward the mountain.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY OVER OCEAN - NIGHT

as the Javelin TRAILS RIGHT BEHIND THE MISSILE, matching its speed and every maneuver.

ANGLE FROM BEHIND THE TWO CRAFTS - The island, and its BILLOWING VOLCANO, are GROWING FAST in the bg.

REVERSE - ON THE TWO CRAFTS - TWO HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES FIRE out of the Javelin and bear down on the missile.

They get closer... closer... and then without warning both FLING AWAY, TUMBLING OUT OF CONTROL -- and EXPLODE HARMLESSLY.

INT. JAVELIN COCKPIT

Batman reacts.

BATMAN

The missile's armed with magnetic repulsors.

INT. WATCHTOWER - ON J'ONN

J'Onn hears, and has an idea. But it's a grave one.

J'ONN

(this is a death sentence)

The only way past that is with the Javelin itself. You could give the hull an opposing charge.

INT. JAVELIN - BACK TO BATMAN

already hitting buttons. He knows what it means.

BATMAN

Understood.

He pushes the stick forward.

EXT. SKY - ANGLE BEHIND THE TWO CRAFTS - ISLAND IN BG

The Javelin speeds up, and pulls right next to the missile. The island is getting REALLY BIG NOW...

The Javelin edges closer... careful! -- closer...

The Javelin and missile suddenly CLAMP TOGETHER MAGNETICALLY.

INT. JAVELIN

The Cockpit is roughly JARRED as the ship clamps on.

BATMAN
(impact GRUNT)

Batman WRESTLES with the controls, the missile suddenly pushing against his strength. He FORCES the yoke off to one side...

BATMAN
(sustained effort GRUNT...)

And jams a big batarang into the console to lock the yoke in place.

EXT. BIRD'S EYE - ISLAND AND VOLCANO SURROUNDED BY OCEAN

The Javelin-and-missile ROCKET INTO FRAME, heading right for the island -- when they VEER OFF-COURSE in a wide curve.

INT. JAVELIN

Fighting the g-forces, Batman reaches a button --

CLOSE ON BUTTON - It's labeled "EJECT." Batman PUNCHES IT.

EXT. OCEAN - JAVELIN AND MISSILE

The Javelin's cockpit BLOWS CLEAR of the speeding craft as a single enclosed pod --

-- and what's left of the missile and ship quickly LOSE ALTITUDE and PIERCE the surface of the water. An instant later -- BOOM! -- THE MISSILE DETONATES, sending a GEYSER OF WATER upward and SHOCK WAVES RIPPLING in all directions.

CAMERA PANS - to find the COCKPIT-POD still CAREENING at rocket-speed in an arc over the water.

INT. COCKPIT-POD

Batman's still at the controls -- but from the SHAKING, control is a meaningless word.

EXT. OCEAN

The pod CRASHES hard, TUMBLING HEAD OVER HEELS and SHATTERING as it skips across the water.

INT. WATCHTOWER

ON J'ONN. Several other heroes, HAWK, DOVE OBSIDIAN, VIXEN, SHINING KNIGHT, HAWKGIRL, FIRE and ICE, have gathered behind him, nervously waiting for news.

J'ONN

Batman? ... Batman, come in...

No reply, only STATIC on the line.

ON THE HARBOR

as the SHOCK WAVES from the EXPLOSION reach the shore. The whole island SHAKES SEISMICALLY and a <RUMBLE BUILDS>...

The last of the TRANSPORTS TAKES OFF. PAN TO FLASH, watching people board the last one, as he puts his finger to his ear.

FLASH

That's the last of the evacuees.

He now reacts to:

ON THE MOUNTAIN - SHAKING -- CRACKING WITH FISSURES -- LAVA STARTING TO STREAM FROM THE CONE...

ON SUPERMAN - stumbling weakly to his hands and knees on the shaking slope. Doomsday MARCHES toward him again and lifts him to his feet.

SUPERMAN

(weak GROAN)

In desperation, Superman fires HEAT VISION right at Doomsday's forehead.

DOOMSDAY
(ROAR of pain)

Doomsday grabs Superman's face in his huge palm, blocking the heat vision. Doomsday's hand SMOLDERS but he smiles grimly.

DOOMSDAY
Ah, ah, ah. Can't beat me the same way twice.

Superman wrenches his head out of Doomsday's grasp and looks up at the mountain.

SUPERMAN'S X-RAY POV - THE MOUNTAIN - and the VOLCANO'S MAIN CORE pushing up against the rock crater -

SUPERMAN
Then I guess I'll need a bigger fire.

SUPERMAN - with his last bit of strength, he GRABS DOOMSDAY and FLINGS HIM in a high arc over the crater --

SUPERMAN
(HUGE EFFORT GRUNT!)

DOOMSDAY
(surprised falling CRY)

-- just as the VOLCANO ERUPTS in all its glory. The top of the
*
mountain explodes. *

SUPERMAN - collapses where he stands -- when WONDER WOMAN FLIES IN and SCOOPS HIM away, a second before the WALL OF PYROCLASTIC BLAST engulfs the spot.

WIDE

Wonder Woman flies off to safety, a tattered, exhausted Superman in her arms... as behind them the entire island is devoured by hell on earth. What happened to Doomsday -- there's no sign.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. WATCHTOWER - TRIBUNAL ROOM

Six of the Big Seven are seated like the Supreme Court, in a half-circle, in the front of the League's own courtroom. Superman's in the center chair -- and there's an empty chair beside him: Batman is missing. From their raised platform, the heroes look down in judgment on:

DOOMSDAY - who's encased in a giant, cooled block of lava -- with wide, steel restraining bands around that. Only his head sticks out above the rock.

SUPERMAN
(to Doomsday)
Did Cadmus create you?

Doomsday just stares at him silently. Waiting.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
J'Onn?

J'Onn concentrates, then shakes his head.

J'ONN
I can't read his mind. His
brain's been altered to resist me.

SUPERMAN
(back to Doomsday)
You don't owe anything to them.
They manipulated you, and then
tried to kill you.

DOOMSDAY
So I keep hearing.

SUPERMAN
From who?

Doomsday smiles.

DOOMSDAY
All you need to know is that I
will get free. And I will kill
you.

The heroes look up and down the line at one another. There's nothing they can do.

SUPERMAN

If that's your last word...

Superman presses a button on his chair, and A PLATFORM RISES from the floor in front of him. On it: The PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR. As Superman powers it up and aims it...

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

I only use this as a last resort.
It's going to send you into
another dimension. You won't be
hurt -- but you also won't hurt
anyone else again.

DOOMSDAY

(grins one last time)

You'll wish you killed me.

Superman ACTIVATES THE BEAM -- and Doomsday disappears.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WATCHTOWER - SICK BAY

ON BRUCE WAYNE - lying in bed -- in traction, a neck brace, and bandages. He's watching a TV (its back to CAMERA), with the sound off.

Superman and Wonder Woman WALK IN. Bruce isn't happy to see him. Wonder Woman smiles and tries to make light.

WONDER WOMAN

You'll do anything to avoid
monitor duty.

Bruce ignores her completely. Looks straight at Superman.

BRUCE

Sent him off to the Phantom Zone,
didn't you?

SUPERMAN

He left us no choice.

Bruce scowls.

BRUCE

Spoken like a true Justice Lord.

SUPERMAN

What?! Come on!

BRUCE

Passing judgment like gods? With our superpowered army, and our orbiting death ray?

(he looks away)

Cadmus is right to be scared. The human race wouldn't stand a chance.

SUPERMAN

We'd never go there. It isn't in our nature, and nothing can change that.

BRUCE

Nothing? What if Luthor does become President, like he did in their world? What would stop you from doing what that Superman did?

Superman smirks.

SUPERMAN

There's always that kryptonite you carry around.

Bruce EXPLODES at him --

BRUCE

(enraged)

You don't get to joke! Not today! I just took a bullet for you.

Superman sobers, the smile leave his face.

*

SUPERMAN

I'm sorry, Bruce. You're right. But you don't have to worry about the Justice League. Trust me. You know me.

BRUCE

Yeah. I do.

Superman squeezes Bruce's shoulder. His manner says, "you're just upset."

SUPERMAN

Get some rest.

Superman and Wonder Woman exit. On the way out, Wonder Woman shuts out the lights. Bruce's eyes go to the muted TV that's been playing all scene.

ON THE TV (MUTED) - It's a commercial, showing a head-and-shoulder shot of LEX, supered in front of a flowing flag. The caption reads, "LEX LUTHOR FOR PRESIDENT."

BACK ON BRUCE - lying there in the shadowy room, his eyes wide open, his mind racing.

FADE OUT.

THE END