

LOIS & CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

"Thorny Weather"

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ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. DAILY PLANET - PERRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Perry is at his desk when Lois & Clark enter. Perry smiles, holding up a copy of the Planet. The headline reads, "THORN STRIKES AGAIN."

PERRY

This is good morning copy, Lois. It's like Superman all over again, with exclusive coverage for the Planet.

LOIS

I can't take full credit for it, which is why I shared the byline with Jimmy. I'm just sorry I wasn't exactly there for all the action.

CLARK

Interesting you should put it that way. Where exactly were you?

LOIS

I told you. I went to call the police. What are you driving at?

CLARK

I was just wondering--

PERRY

I hate to interrupt this little lovers quarrel, but I'd like to know if you two have anything new for the next edition? Perhaps something for the Forrest story?

LOIS

Well, we still don't know what that note he gave us means.

CLARK

But we did find out that Forrest was late for three Intergang busts. Big ones.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERRY

Phil? Late? That wasn't his style, son.

LOIS

So we suspect. We were talking to a dispatcher at police headquarters when Turpin threw us out.

There is a commotion outside in the pit. We hear someone shouting Perry's name. Perry looks past Lois and Clark.

PERRY

Speak of the devil.

The door swings open and in storms Turpin. He stalks past Lois and Clark, slamming a newspaper down on Perry's desk.

TURPIN

What is it with you people? I've seen more responsible reporting on "Top Copy."

PERRY

You've got some nerve storming into my office like this.

TURPIN

I've got enough problems on my hands without you glorifying every costumed freak that comes out of the woodwork.

LOIS

Maybe if your department spent less time eating donuts and more time catching crooks, we wouldn't need heroes like Superman or Thorn.

TURPIN

I find it interesting, Miss Lane, how you're always on the business end of trouble. Since Superman showed up, it's like you crave it or something.

Lois crosses her arms, taking offense.

TURPIN (cont'd)

And how is it that you were conveniently missing last night when Thorn was causing trouble?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LOIS

What are you saying?

TURPIN

You tell me. You're the one who's nearby but MIA when Thorn shows. Care to explain?

CLARK

You can't possibly think Lois is the Thorn...can you?

He looks at Lois, not totally convinced himself.

TURPIN

If the tights fit.

Perry gets up from his desk. He goes over to stand between Lois and Clark.

PERRY

Turpin, you're off your rocker. If Lois is near the action it's because she's a fine reporter. And there's about as much chance of her being the Thorn as there is of Clark here being Superman.

Lois and Clark do a double take and laugh nervously.

PERRY (cont'd)

Now if you don't mind, my star reporters and I have the next edition to put together. You can come back and complain about that one, too, if you like.

He opens the door for Turpin, who looks sourly from Lois and Clark to Perry. He steps through the door.

TURPIN

(to Lois and Clark)

Fine. Just stay out of my way. But I want Olsen at the station this afternoon. I've got some mug shots for him to go over. I want Thorn.

Turpin exits. Lois and Clark follow...

INT. DAILY PLANET - PIT - CONTINUOUS

...and walk to their desks.

LOIS  
I think we should go along with  
Jimmy... for moral support.

CLARK  
Turpin won't like that.

LOIS  
All the more reason to go.

Lois glances at Clark, who looks at her strangely.

LOIS (cont'd)  
What are you looking at?

CLARK  
Well, he had an interesting  
question.

LOIS  
Oh, give me a break.  
(beat)  
I can't believe he actually thinks  
I could be Thorn.

Jimmy overhears as he walks up.

JIMMY  
You, Thorn? That's a good one.

LOIS  
And why is that an impossibility?

JIMMY  
Well come on. Thorn's hot. She's  
sexy. She's... (off Lois' glare)  
...tall? Anybody want coffee?  
I'll just run over to--

CLARK  
Try Brazil, Jimmy.

Jimmy beats a hasty retreat. Clark smiles.

CLARK (cont'd)  
Going back to the station might  
give us a chance to do some super-  
sleuthing, if you know what I mean.

CONTINUED:

LOIS

Good thinking. Sounds like my devious ways are finally starting to rub off on you.

CLARK

Want to plot strategy over an early lunch?

LOIS

Actually, I've already got plans... with Rose... girl talk... you'd be bored. I'll meet you at the police station. And don't forget to bring Jimmy.

She exits abruptly, leaving Clark bewildered.

INT. KENT HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Clark eats lunch with JONATHAN and MARTHA KENT at the table.

CLARK

For the first time, I'm not really sure I trust Lois.

MARTHA

And you have no idea what she could be hiding from you, honey?

JONATHAN

Isn't it obvious, Martha? Lois is this Thorn character.

MARTHA

It could be something else.

JONATHAN

Like what? She said if she could do something about the crime situation she would.

CLARK

You know, I'm not sure what bothers me more. That Lois could be hiding this from me, or that Thorn is so violent.

MARTHA

And you think Lois could be Thorn because...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONATHAN

C'mon, Martha. She's evasive with Clark. She's unaccounted for when Thorn shows up.

CLARK

And she's started this habit of disappearing suddenly with the strangest excuses. Like today. We were supposed to go to lunch, but--

MARTHA

(smiling)

Now you know how she felt when you did that to her.

CLARK

But that's the strangest part. Now that she knows I'm Superman, you'd think she would trust me.

MARTHA

So you think because Lois knows your secret that she feels slightly inferior and is driven to fight crime on her own terms without your help? Please!

Jonathan ponders what his wife just said.

CLARK

I guess it does sound far-fetched.

JONATHAN

Either way, it sounds to me like you just need to sit Lois down and have a talk.

CLARK

If I can get her to stay still.

He finishes his food, looks at his watch, and stands.

CLARK (cont'd)

I need to get back. Jimmy and I are supposed to meet Lois at the police station.

He steps back from the table and spins into a super-speed blur. He stops, standing in his Superman costume.

SUPERMAN

Thanks for lunch. And the advice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

His parents walk over, and Martha kisses him on the cheek. Taking off through the door in a blur, he streaks into the air and we HEAR him break the sound barrier.

INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

Fiore ties up the branches of some large plants. Kelly stands nearby.

KELLY

Everything's just like you wanted, Mr. Fiore. The police think I was just a mole planted by Intergang.

FIORE

Which you were until you began working for me. What do they know about the 100?

KELLY

Nothing. But they do know what Forrest's list means.

FIORE

How unfortunate, but the damage is already done.

Fiore points to an aerated container, which Kelly hands to him. It contains insects that Fiore begins feeding to a row of Venus's-flytraps.

FIORE (cont'd)

I take great pride when a plan comes to fruition. After all, who would have suspected that the city's latest crime wave would be committed by criminals using guns stolen from the police department itself?

(to the last flytrap)

Isn't that right, Aphrodite?

He places the last insect gingerly in the flytrap's "mouth," which shuts around its "dinner".

INT. POLICE STATION - TURPIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Turpin is going over some plans with a couple of DETECTIVES.

TURPIN

That should do it. Any questions?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They shake their heads.

TURPIN (cont'd)  
No more screw-ups. The next time  
Thorn shows, we'll nab her. Now  
get outta here!

They leave as Turpin puts away his file on Thorn. He opens another file folder as Lois, Clark, and Jimmy enter.

LOIS  
(gives a mock salute)  
Reporting as ordered, sir.

Caught off guard, Turpin closes the file and clumsily stuffs it into the top drawer of his desk. Lois notices and glances at Clark, who nods.

TURPIN  
I just wanted Olsen. What are you  
two doing here?

CLARK  
Moral support?

TURPIN  
Well, I need him down the hall to  
look at those pictures.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Turpin points the trio down a corridor. He spots a box of donuts left at a coffee station and pulls out a jelly-filled one. Walking down the hall, he almost bumps into Clark, who returns from around the corner. Turpin gets jelly on his shirt.

TURPIN  
Of all the--!

Turpin tries to clean his shirt but only makes it worse.

CLARK  
I'm sorry! Umm... Have you learned  
anything new about the Forrest  
murder?

TURPIN  
No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK

We don't believe he was intentionally late for those busts. Are you investigating the possibility that those dispatches were tampered with?

TURPIN

Well, if we were, I certainly wouldn't tell you about it.

Lois comes around the corner.

LOIS

You know, it's statements like that which give this whole investigation the stench of a police cover-up.

Turpin glances around nervously and pulls her to the side.

TURPIN

(confidentially)

What we have here, Miss Lane, is a little problem. We learned that Officer Kelly was working for somebody other than Metropolis' finest.

Lois is surprised, but as soon as Turpin looks away, she gives Clark a quick look, cutting her eyes to Turpin's nearby open office. Clark gives Lois an "I can't do that" look.

TURPIN (cont'd)

But you reporters spooked him. He's completely vanished. You two have completely fouled up a carefully orchestrated police investigation.

Lois' look says "GO!" Reluctantly, Clark ducks out and manages to slip into the office unnoticed.

INT. POLICE STATION - TURPIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Clark winces as he hears Lois begin to respond to Turpin.

LOIS (O.S.)

Now listen here, Turpin--

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CONTINUED:

Clark closes the door and walks over to Turpin's desk. He opens the drawer and pulls out the folder, which is labeled "Forrest". Inside, he finds a sheet of paper covered with numbers.

Puzzled, Clark grabs a blank sheet of paper and searches the clutter of Turpin's desk. Finding a brand new pencil, he copies the numbers at super speed, periodically re-sharpening it until he is done. He folds the paper and places it in his jacket pocket as he returns to the door. Peeking out, he hears Lois and Turpin and exits.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

On his way back, Clark sees the donut box and helps himself. As he approaches, Lois continues to hold Turpin's attention.

TURPIN

So thanks to you Planet reporters, the countless man-hours put into this investigation have been flushed down the toilet.

LOIS

Well, if you had come clean with us in the first place, Inspector, none of this would have happened. Isn't that right, Clark?

CLARK

Sure.

Turpin turns to Clark, now realizing that he had been away.

TURPIN

Where've you been?

Clark chews, hefting the donut.

CLARK

You made me hungry.

LOIS

And you didn't bring me one?

CLARK

(off the top of his head)  
You know how hard it is to keep that girlish figure of yours, Lois.

She glares at him. Turpin laughs as Jimmy arrives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Sorry Inspector, none of the women  
in your books are... (glancing at  
Lois) ...tall enough to be Thorn.

Turpin glares at the trio, aware that he is missing an "in-joke."

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Lois, Clark, and Jimmy walk down the steps onto the sidewalk. Clark takes a bite as Lois smacks him, spreading the donut over his face.

CLARK

Hey!

LOIS

That's for your witty remark.

CLARK

Lois, I was only kidding. That was  
just to distract Turpin.

She stares at him for a moment. Finally convinced, she hands him a tissue and walks off. Clark shakes his head as he and Jimmy share a laugh and follow her.

LOIS

So what did you find?

He pulls out the list of copied numbers and shows it to her.

CLARK

These are the numbers Forrest  
wanted us to check. But I can't  
make sense of them.

JIMMY

Whoa! When did you find time to  
copy all that down, C.K.?

LOIS

(diverting him)

Clark and I need to give Perry an  
update on the Forrest story. Why  
don't you swing by my place and  
check on Rose?

JIMMY

But I thought you didn't want me--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOIS  
Well, if you don't want to--

JIMMY  
No, no! I really want to. I mean,  
I'd like to... I mean--

LOIS  
Just go, Jimmy.

Lois and Clark laugh as Jimmy takes off.

CLARK  
I suppose you're going to disappear  
on me again now?

LOIS  
(innocently)  
Where would I go?

CLARK  
Hmm...

They start to walk in opposite directions.

LOIS  
(pointing)  
I parked over here.

CLARK  
(pointing the other way)  
I'm over there.

LOIS  
Then I'll meet you at the Planet.

Clark eyes her suspiciously.

LOIS (cont'd)  
Really.

She heads toward her car.

INT. POLICE STATION - TURPIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Turpin looks out his window, watching Lois and Clark leave.  
He turns as DETECTIVE MURPHY enters.

MURPHY  
You wanted to see me, Inspector?

Turpin holds up several pistols wrapped in plastic bags.

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CONTINUED:

TURPIN

I want to know why those punks you pulled in last night had guns from our impound locker.

MURPHY

What?

TURPIN

Every one of them is on Forrest's list, Murphy.

MURPHY

I don't understand how that could be.

TURPIN

Well, find out!

Murphy leaves and Turpin reaches for a pencil. He ponders the stub Clark left.

EXT. POLICE STATION - TURPIN'S WINDOW - DAY

Thorn crouches on a ledge outside Turpin's office and watches as a frustrated Turpin flings away the pencil stub.

TURPIN

Somebody get me a pencil!

INT. LOIS' APARTMENT - DAY

Rose is in Lois' apartment. She notices a light on Lois' answering machine and presses the playback button.

THORN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Rose, the serial number on Charlie's gun might be important.

Rose appears unfazed by the message, seemingly unaware of it as she presses the erase button. The phone RINGS and she picks it up.

ROSE

Lois Lane's residence.

LOIS (O.S.)

Oh, Rose. Has Jimmy been by?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE  
Jimmy? No, I don't think so. But  
I was in the shower.

LOIS (O.S.)  
Oh. I was just calling to check my  
messages.

Rose looks at the answering machine. The light is no longer  
on.

ROSE  
Nobody's called.

INT. DAILY PLANET - PERRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lois is on Perry's phone. Perry reads Lois and Clark's notes  
as Clark looks on.

LOIS  
Thanks. Come by later with Jimmy,  
if you like. Bye.

She hangs up as Perry looks up.

PERRY  
Turpin actually admitted that the  
police dispatcher was probably an  
Intergang mole?

Lois nods.

PERRY (cont'd)  
Great shades of Elvis!

CLARK  
This list of numbers is the new  
mystery, though.

PERRY  
Well, how hard can it be to figure  
out?

CLARK  
So far, pretty hard.

LOIS  
Modern civilization has reduced our  
lives to endless series of numbers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERRY

Well keep at it you two, 'cause  
I've got a gut feeling you're on  
the verge of blowing this case wide  
open.

Lois and Clark nod and stand to leave.

INT. DAILY PLANET - PIT - DAY

Lois and Clark sit at their desks as Rose exits the elevator  
and walks over.

ROSE

Hello Lois. Clark.

LOIS

Hi. I tried to call you back.

ROSE

Really? Jimmy never showed up, and  
I got stir crazy at your apartment.

LOIS

Actually, you two must have just  
missed each other. Jimmy got  
called away on assignment.

CLARK

But he should be back soon.

ROSE

That's okay. I guess I'll wait.  
What are you two working on?

Lois and Clark exchange glances.

CLARK

Actually, we're working on the  
story about... your father.

ROSE

(unfazed)  
Can I help?

Lois and Clark look at each other, surprised. Lois nods and  
gestures for her to take a seat next to her. Rose sits.

LOIS

We've been stumped by this list of  
your father's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lois hands Rose the note and the list of numbers.

CLARK

We've checked bank account numbers,  
telephone numbers, social security  
numbers--

Rose puts down the papers. But then a strange look passes  
over her face and she picks them up again.

ROSE

Have you considered serial numbers?  
For guns.

LOIS

Why would you say that?

Caught off guard, Rose is suddenly unsure of herself.

ROSE

I... I don't know. I remember  
seeing the numbers on my Dad's  
guns. You know, cop family. I  
wonder if Charlie's gun...? Could  
you excuse me?

She gets up suddenly and walks away. Clark looks after her.

CLARK

Is it me, or did that seem strange?

Lois nods absentmindedly, thinking.

CLARK (cont'd)

Do you think she could be right  
about those numbers?

LOIS

I don't know. But I think we  
should pay our friend Turpin  
another visit.

INT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

Fiore sprays mist on a group of orchids. Charles Mazzolo  
enters with Kelly. His chest and right arm are encased in a  
cast.

FIORE

Charles, good to see you back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAZZOLO

Hey, Mr. Fiore. I'm sorry I failed--

FIORE

Ah, but you didn't. If Rose Forrest knew anything, she would be under constant surveillance by the police.

MAZZOLO

So we move forward?

FIORE

We distribute the guns tonight. During the ensuing chaos, several pivotal members of Intergang will be caught in "random acts of violence."

MAZZOLO

Along with the mayor, the D.A.--

KELLY

(with venom)

And Inspector Turpin.

FIORE

By morning we will have weeded Metropolis, cultivating the perfect environment for my 100 to bloom over the withered remains of Intergang.

He pauses for a few moments to brush some unseen fungus off a leaf.

FIORE (cont'd)

Tell me everything about this Thorn woman, Charles. By no means will she or those two reporters keep me from owning this town.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE