

# MAN OF STEEL 2

## NOTES

- **Possible Titles:** *Man of Tomorrow*, *Man of Steel II*, *Family of Steel*, *Girl of Steel*, or *Last Son of Krypton*.
- **Inspiration:** Pull reference from *Superman/Batman: Public Enemies*, *For Tomorrow*, *2016 Superman Vol. 4*, and *The Supergirl from Krypton* comics, as well as the animated film *Superman: Unbound*.
- **Luthor as President:** The United States economy was in the gutter, and everything seemed to be falling apart for the American people. Luthor's promise to improve the country's finances and stability wins him the presidential election and true to his word, the economy begins to thrive once more under Luthor's leadership.
- **Act 1:** The Exposition of Act 1 will include Superman stopping John Corben from committing a crime and his capture results in his mutilation, requiring cybernetic surgery in order to survive. Here, in the Exposition, we will see Superman being Superman. Yes, he's stopping crime, but his first priority seems to be to protect people. He wants to help. Not because he has to. But because he wants to. That's why he's here. We'll get an understanding of this when Superman stops chasing Corben to save a few civilians, ensuring that they're ok with a few quick questions. He'll retrieve a little girl's toy that is buried beneath rubble and hand the stuffed rabbit plushie back to the frightened and crying child, kneeling down before her and asking her if she can hold on to the rabbit for Superman and make sure that he is ok while Superman goes back to help other people. The little girl will hold back her tears and nod as she accepts the toy, and Superman will stand and say with a sincere smile, "don't worry...everything is going to be alright...it'll get better". Then, he'll rush back into the fray. Once the crime has been stopped, the press will rush forward to interview Superman, and one of the reporters will ask the Man of Steel if he feels obligated to save humanity because of his powers? Does he feel like he *has* to be a superhero? Superman will take a moment to stop and think about it, before replying that he doesn't help people because he feels like he has something to prove. He doesn't have anything to prove to the world. He is who he is, and that's all there is to it. He helps people because he wants to and takes joy in knowing that he was able to make a positive change in someone's life. That's what his parents raised him to do, regardless if he had superpowers or not, and it's because of his parents' influence that Superman admits that he'd still be helping people even if he wasn't blessed with powers. Act 1 will deal with

Luthor's election and the disbanding of the Justice League. Each of the heroes are forced into retirement and they all go their separate ways. Luthor will spin a tale for the public about how the Justice League – as a private organization – refused to let go of their power and are resentful towards corporate America, to which Luthor is a symbol of. Luthor admits that corporate America has its faults and that it is not a perfect system but look at what it has done for their economy. LexCorp has been the leading enterprise in reestablishing financial stability for the country. Now other businesses and corporations are following LexCorp's example, the end result being a higher quality of life for the American people. But the Justice League don't care about that. They just care about being anti-authoritarian. True, superheroes like the Justice League can protect American citizens from alien invasions and supernatural threats. But can they protect American citizens from poverty? Or from a corrupt bureaucratic system? No. That's where the U.S. government comes in. So that is why Luthor invited the Justice League to become official agents registered with the Pentagon, but when they refused, they left him with no other choice. He was forced to disband the Justice League for the sake of keeping order, stability, and protection within America. For their heroic deeds in saving the Earth from Steppenwolf, Luthor has given each of the Justice League members one grace. They may return home to their families and their old lives, free and innocent. But the moment that they use their powers or take up arms without government clearance, they will be labeled outlaws and tried as such. The Inciting Incident will be Supergirl's arrival to Earth and Superman breaking his oath to save her and keep her safe from Luthor, who dispatched agents to secure her. Superman beats the Society to Supergirl's escape pod and fights them off before fleeing into the wilderness with her. This gives Luthor the stick he needed to beat Superman with, and thanks to a recording of the fight, Luthor broadcasts to the public that Superman has betrayed his country and allied himself with enemies of the state just to spite Luthor and incite rebellion. As such, Luthor brands Superman as public enemy #1 and the Society follow after the Kryptonians to hunt them down.

- **Act 2:** Forest battle between the Kryptonians and the Society while en route to their next destination. Forest should be somewhere beautiful like the Sierra Nevadas. When the Society fail to capture the Kryptonians, Luthor will radio Waller and tell her that her team is up. Task Force X is sent in to reel in the Kryptonians, and they actually manage to give the Kryptonians a run for their money and injure them, even momentarily capturing Supergirl. Despite the fact that they fail in their mission just like the Society. But their battle is interrupted by the arrival of Lobo, and his fight with the Suicide Squad is the perfect distraction that the Kryptonians needs to make their escape. After butchering a

few of the Suicide Squad, Lobo instills enough fear in the survivors for them to retreat and he continues on his hunt for his bounties.

- **The Suicide Squad:** This version of the team will consist of mostly Superman villains such as Killer Frost, Livewire, the Hellgrammite and the Parasite, with Deadshot and Harley Quinn leading the team.
- **Possible Ideas:**
  - o The Kryptonians seek sanctuary at Themyscira and Supergirl receives combat training from Wonder Woman and the Amazons.
  - o After the Society and the Suicide Squad fail to capture the Kryptonians, Luthor engineers a new henchman for the specific purpose of bringing them down. He has the scientists at LexCorp labs rebuild John Corben into Metallo, and that is whom he releases in the third act climax.
  - o Brainiac is the Big Bad and the main antagonist who has been holding Kara and her family hostage for years as a part of his collection. He'll basically just be the man behind the scenes for this film, only being referenced. The only physical appearance he'll make in this film will be through a hologram when Lobo contacts him. But I think it would be fun to use certain camera angles to keep Brainiac's appearance a mystery for this film, where even though the hologram, we only catch glimpses of him like the back of his head or even a little bit of his shoulder in an OTS shot. Lobo is hired by Brainiac to retrieve Supergirl and return her to him. Lobo becomes the Heavy archetype of the film. When Lobo updates Brainiac on the existence of Superman and that he is protecting the girl, Brainiac orders Lobo to capture both Kryptonians and bring them back alive. Lobo demands to be paid double since the terms of their contract have been changed. More targets, more value, more pay. Brainiac agrees before redeploying Lobo.