

SMALLVILLE

"Danny"

Written By

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&

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A caterpillar crawls along. A hand enters view. Picks the caterpillar up. Examines it.

DANNY KEYES, sixteen, mentally challenged, observes his captured prey. Means no harm to it. Just curious. He smiles. Pokes at it. Then lets it loose.

A female voice rings out.

FEMALE VOICE

Danny, come inside. I'm leaving now.

Danny ignores the voice and continues his exploring. After a moment, the woman steps out onto a back porch of a farm house that borders the field. The woman is DANNY'S MOTHER.

DANNY'S MOTHER

Danny. Did you hear me?

DANNY

(lying)

No.

DANNY'S MOTHER

Don't be like that, young man. I'll only be gone a couple hours.

Danny looks sad.

The door behind Danny's mother opens. LANA LANG steps out.

DANNY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Besides, look who's here to watch you.

Danny perks up. He likes Lana.

DANNY

Lana.

Danny runs over to Lana and gives her a hug.

LANA

Well! I'm glad to see you too, Danny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny pulls Lana along into the field.

DANNY  
Look what I found.

Danny searches for the caterpillar but can no longer find it.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
It was here...

Danny kneels and continues to search, confused. Danny's mother walks over.

DANNY'S MOTHER  
Thank you again, Lana, for coming  
on such short notice. You're a  
life saver.

LANA  
It's no trouble, Mrs. Keyes. I  
like spending time with Danny.

Danny looks up when he hears this. He smiles, then goes back to his caterpillar search.

DANNY'S MOTHER  
I think he's very fond of you, too.  
He gives the other sitters such a  
hard time.

Danny looks back up again. He looks agitated.

DANNY  
I don't need any sitters. I'm not  
a baby.

DANNY'S MOTHER  
So then Lana can go home?

DANNY  
No. I want Lana to stay.

Lana smiles.

DANNY'S MOTHER  
Okay then. It's settled.

Lana puts her hand on Danny's cheek.

LANA  
I'm not going anywhere, Danny. I'll  
be right here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny smiles. Then returns to his caterpillar search.

DANNY'S MOTHER

(to Lana)

Why don't you come inside. I'd like to go over a few things with you before I leave.

DANNY

Wait, Lana. I want to show you.

LANA

Okay, Danny. I'll be right back.

But Danny doesn't hear her. He's too engrossed in his search. Lana and Mrs. Keyes re-enter the house.

As Danny digs into some weeds, a white mouse scampers up. His mouth drops open. He's hit pay dirt.

Danny looks around for Lana, but she's not there. He turns back to the mouse. As he reaches to pick it up...

The mouse bites him on the hand. He screams.

Danny grabs his hand and runs toward the porch. He gets woozy and stumbles.

DANNY

Mom... Mom.

Danny passes out. He falls to the ground -- lies motionless. Suddenly, he begins to spasm. Shakes back and forth, curled up in a ball.

The mouse scurries up to Danny. Seems to study him.

Danny's mother and Lana come back out. They see Danny lying there.

DANNY'S MOTHER

Danny? Oh my God! Danny!

Lana and Danny's mother rush over. As Lana kneels next to Danny, she jumps back at the sight of the mouse. The mouse runs past her, toward the field.

Lana turns her attention back to Danny.

LANA

Danny, can you hear me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The mouse disappears into the tall grass of the field.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - COMMONS - MORNING

A sunny day in Smallville. Kids are just arriving to school. An old station wagon pulls up. A familiar boy exits the passenger side. It's Danny Keyes, but he looks different now. Well-groomed, straight posture, barely recognizable from the boy we saw earlier.

Danny's mother is in the driver's seat.

DANNY'S MOTHER

I'll be waiting for you right here  
after school.

DANNY

You don't have to worry about me,  
Mom. Things are different now.

DANNY'S MOTHER

I know. It's just that...

DANNY

Old habits are hard to break. I  
understand.

Danny's mother forces a smile.

DANNY'S MOTHER

I love you.

DANNY

I love you too, Mom. I gotta go  
now.

Danny's mother drives away. Danny takes a look at his new school. He's nervous. Takes a deep breath.

Some of the kids walking by recognize Danny. They stare. But they are not the only ones.

INT. VAN - MORNING

Danny's image is seen on a bank of monitors. Two men, MURPHY and ANDERSON, sit in the back of the van, wearing headphones and keeping a close eye on Danny.

EXT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - COMMONS - MORNING

Lana and CLARK stand in the foyer, the throng of students streaming past them.

Lana is on tiptoes, her eyes trained on the entrance, concern on her face.

LANA

I hope this is the best thing for him.

CLARK

I'm sure his doctors know what they're doing.

Lana turns to Clark.

LANA

This is so strange. I've known Danny for so long, but I feel like I'm about to meet him for the first time.

CLARK

I guess in a way, you are.

LANA

He might not even remember me.

CLARK

I think that's highly unlikely, Lana.

Danny enters the foyer just in time to see Lana smile at Clark and touch his arm. He stands watching them until Lana notices.

LANA

Danny! Hey.

Danny's face lights up.

DANNY

Lana.

Lana and Danny go to hug. They bob from side to side, awkwardly mirroring each other's movements. Then Lana steadies Danny and goes in for the hug.

LANA

That's better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They pull back.

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
It's been almost six months. Where  
have you been hiding?

DANNY  
I haven't been hiding. I've been  
in a maze with the other lab rats,  
poked and prodded.

LANA  
Did they find anything out?

DANNY  
The only thing they discovered was  
the limits of my patience. Hence --  
welcome me back to Smallville.

Clark interrupts. He offers his hand to Danny.

CLARK  
Let me be the first.

LANA  
Oh, sorry. Danny, this is my  
friend Clark Kent.

DANNY  
My pleasure, Clark.

As kids walk by, they continue to stare at Danny. Both Danny  
and Lana notice.

LANA  
Everyone sort of knows. Kinda made  
the front page of the Gazette.

CLARK  
You're like the wonder kid of  
Smallville.

DANNY  
More like the freak show of  
Smallville.

Lana tenderly touches Danny's hand.

LANA  
Not at all. Everyone here was  
rooting for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY  
Including you?

LANA  
Especially me.

Danny beams. The bell rings.

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Come on. You don't want to be late  
for your first day.

Lana takes Danny by the hand and escorts him into the school.  
Clark lags behind, watching them.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - HALL - CONTINUOUS

As Lana and Danny navigate the crowded corridor, CHLOE and  
PETE come out of the Torch office. Chloe spots Danny.

CHLOE  
He's here!

Chloe sprints toward Danny and Lana. Pete follows.

CHLOE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Danny Keyes -- Hi, I'm Chloe  
Sullivan. Any chance of getting an  
interview for the Torch?

LANA  
Chloe, give him a chance to get  
settled...

PETE  
Hey, Danny, I'm Pete.

Danny tries to be polite, but he's clearly uncomfortable.

DANNY  
It's Dan. Please, just call me  
Dan. And I should really get to  
class.

CHLOE  
Everyone's so curious about what  
happened to you. I thought you  
might want to set the record  
straight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I don't know what happened to me.  
Went into a coma; woke up smart.  
Nice to meet you guys.

Danny slips back into the crowd. Lana glares at Chloe.

LANA

Honestly, Chloe.

CHLOE

Hey, it's a great story.

Lana shakes her head and follows Danny.

PETE

Yeah, it is a great story, but it's  
already been in the Gazette.

CHLOE

That was a puff piece. I want the  
real story.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - CLASSROOM - DAY

Danny tentatively enters and looks for a seat as the other students stare at him. Some offer polite smiles and nods, while others just gape.

From a seat near the back, Clark catches Danny's attention.

CLARK

Dan.

Clark motions to the seat beside him. Danny nods gratefully and sits. Several students turn around for another look.

The math teacher, MR. DAVIS, comes in and closes the door behind him. He notices the attention Danny is getting.

MR. DAVIS

All right, you rubberneckers,  
Mister Keyes is here to learn, not  
to be studied.

The students ignore Mr. Davis and continue to stare.

MR. DAVIS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And I'm sure one of you will be  
more than happy to give Mister  
Keyes all the notes and assignments  
he missed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny looks around at his classmates, but one by one they turn away. Finally, Clark speaks up.

CLARK

You can borrow my notes, Dan.

DANNY

Thanks, Clark.

Mr. Davis moves to the chalkboard and gestures toward a complicated equation.

MR. DAVIS

Any luck with last week's brain-teaser, people? Anyone?

The students share embarrassed glances or chuckle. Some sink lower in their seats. Danny looks at the equation. Studies it.

MR. DAVIS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Oh, come now. Surely someone rose to the challenge. I mean, it only took some of the great mathematical minds of the twentieth century to design this little equation. No one?

Mr. Davis smiles. He knows no one in the classroom can solve this impossible problem, except for maybe...

Clark. The equation is written in the back of his notebook, along with his calculations and his solution: 47.5.

Clark closes his notebook. Knows better than to be a show off.

Danny furrows his brow, concentrating on the equation written on the blackboard.

MR. DAVIS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Well then, let's move on.

But Danny isn't finished yet. He's focused intently on the equation. He begins to perspire. Then, a thin trickle of blood drips from his nose. Clark notices.

CLARK

Dan, your nose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny doesn't hear Clark. He seems someplace else. And in a split second, he snaps out of his trance. He raises his hand and shouts out the answer.

DANNY  
Forty-seven point five.

Mr. Davis appears stunned -- and so does Clark.

Mr. Davis and the rest of the class turn toward Danny. Some gasp at the sight of Danny's bloody nose.

MR. DAVIS  
Mister Keyes, are you all right?

DANNY  
The answer is forty-seven point five.

MR. DAVIS  
Yes, yes it is. But how did you know that?

DANNY  
I don't know. It just -- all of a sudden -- made sense.

Danny finally wipes his nose. Notices the blood. Looks surprised.

CLARK  
Maybe you should go see the nurse.

MR. DAVIS  
Good idea, Clark. Why don't you help Mister Keyes.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Clark helps Danny down the hallway.

DANNY  
I'm telling you, Clark, I'm all right.

CLARK  
Better safe than sorry.

Danny begins to get dizzy. Clark helps steady him. Danny pushes him away.

DANNY  
I'm okay. I just need to sit.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - "TORCH" OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clark helps Danny into the office. Danny takes a seat.

DANNY

I'm going to be fine. I just got a little light-headed.

CLARK

I think you should see a doctor.

DANNY

I've seen enough doctors. I'm sick of doctors.

Danny looks up and sees the Wall of Weird. His eyes fall on a prominent new addition to the Wall: the Smallville Gazette's cover story on him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What is all this?

Danny approaches the wall, his eyes darting from one strange headline to another.

CLARK

Chloe gets a little carried away.

Danny is riveted, his curiosity piqued.

DANNY

All these things happened in Smallville?

CLARK

Yeah.

Danny leans in close to peruse clippings about the meteor crash.

DANNY

Do you think Chloe would mind if I looked at her files?

CHLOE (O.S.)

She wouldn't mind a bit!

Chloe bounces in, a box of office supplies in hand.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

But there's a condition.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

You want an interview.

CHLOE

How'd you guess?

DANNY

I'm smart now, remember?

CHLOE

Yeah, but how did it happen? I want the real story.

DANNY

I can only tell you what I know.

CHLOE

Cool. You do that, and we've got a deal.

Danny nods and then turns back to the wall and keeps scanning the clippings. Clark cuts Chloe a disapproving look. She just shrugs and smiles.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Clark and Pete walk with their trays, looking for seats.

PETE

He seemed pretty much normal to me.

CLARK

I thought so, too, till Davis' class. That nosebleed can't be normal.

Pete nods toward a table.

PETE

There he is.

Danny sits alone at a table, uncomfortably aware that all eyes are on him. Clark and Pete approach him.

CLARK

Hey, Dan. Mind if we join you?

DANNY

No, please do! As long as you don't mind the staring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETE

Personally, I'm used to it. From the ladies, you know.

Danny laughs. Pete feigns surprise.

PETE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Hey, it wasn't THAT funny.

CLARK

(to Danny)

The staring should stop in a day or two. Every new kid gets it.

DANNY

It shouldn't bother me, really. It's not like I've never been stared at. Half these kids have given me strange looks before, at the store or the park, back when I was...

Danny lets the sentence trail off. Lana rushes up with her tray and sits next to Danny, concern etched into her face.

LANA

Are you all right? I heard what happened.

DANNY

It was nothing, Lana. Just a side effect of some of the medications I've had to take. But I'll be off them completely in a few days.

LANA

I've been worried sick all morning.

She puts her hand on his shoulder and rubs it.

LANA (CONT'D)

(continuing)

There's no rush, you know, Danny. No one would think less of you if you decided to put off school until

--

Danny places his hand over Lana's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

I can do it. I wasn't sure at first, but now I think I can. Just seeing you again helps.

Lana smiles, flattered.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Why don't you stop by after school? I know Mom would love to see you, and we could catch up.

LANA

Great, I'd love to.

Clark clears his throat.

CLARK

So I guess that means our study session --

LANA

Oh, I'm sorry, Clark. Can we move it to tomorrow?

CLARK

No problem.

Clark's expression contradicts his words.

EXT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - COMMONS - DAY

Clark watches sullenly as Lana walks with Danny to his mother's car. Danny's mother gets out of the car and greets Lana with a hug.

Chloe steps up behind Clark. For a moment, she wistfully watches him watching Lana.

CHLOE

Jeez, his first day and he's already challenging your title.

CLARK

What? What title?

CHLOE

"Lana Lang's Best Buddy of the Male Persuasion."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK

That's ridiculous. Lana's been friends with Dan for a long time .

CHLOE

No, she's been his babysitter. But he's grown up all of a sudden.

CLARK

What's your point, Chloe?  
Friendship isn't exclusive.

CHLOE

How well I know.

Chloe walks away. Clark turns to watch her, then looks back to see Lana getting in the car with Danny.

The mysterious van is parked nearby.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Murphy and Anderson watch as the car with Danny and Lana drives off. Murphy speaks into his headset.

MURPHY

Mister Luthor, the subject is leaving school.

A monitor powers up to reveal LEX LUTHOR standing in his office, looking out from the screen.

LEX

So what do you have for me?

MURPHY

Hold on, sir.

Murphy hits a few buttons on a console.

INT. LUTHOR FERTILIZER PLANT - LEX'S OFFICE - SAME MOMENT

Lex watches the monitor. Hidden camera footage of the math class scene plays, complete with sound.

DANNY (V.O.)

The answer is forty-seven point five.

MR. DAVIS (V.O.)

Yes, yes it is. But how did you know that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (V.O.)

I don't know. It just -- all of a sudden -- made sense.

INT. LUTHER FERTILIZER PLANT - LABORATORY - DAY

Various LAB TECHS go about their business. A middle-aged scientist, DR. BLOMQUIST, is studying the progress of a white lab mouse in an elaborate maze. It is moving at a quick clip, not hesitating at even one corner of the maze.

Lex enters the lab carrying a file folder. He heads straight for Blomquist.

LEX

What miracles today, Doctor Blomquist?

Blomquist ignores Lex until the mouse completes the maze, triggering an automatic timer.

DR. BLOMQUIST

Yet another personal best for little Mortimer. He's tripled his time in less than two hours. The process seems to be speeding up.

LEX

Amazing. And still no side effects?

DR. BLOMQUIST

None. I keep expecting the other shoe to drop. But maybe Mortimer will be lucky.

LEX

It's not Mortimer I'm worried about.

Lex tosses the file folder to Blomquist. The name on the file reads, "Test Subject 1 - Danny Keyes."

DR. BLOMQUIST

Don't worry, Lex. No one's made the connection between that boy and this experiment.

LEX

At the rate that boy is progressing, he might make the connection himself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. BLOMQUIST  
That's not going to happen.

LEX  
Considering this entire company may  
be riding on your optimism, Doctor,  
you'd better be right.

As Lex exits, Blomquist picks up a blue notebook and starts scribbling.

In the maze, Mortimer stares at the wall. His eyes change from brown to a translucent shade of white. The maze wall begins to vibrate slightly.

END OF ACT ONE

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. TALON - DAY

A crowd of people are gathered around one of the tables, watching something in amazement.

Clark, Chloe and Pete enter. Notice the ruckus.

PETE  
I wonder what's up.

CHLOE  
Only one way to find out.

Chloe rudely makes her way through the crowd.

CHLOE (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Excuse me. Coming through. Make way.

Clark and Pete follow suit. When they get to the front, they find Danny and Lana sitting opposite each other at a table. Lana's holding a deck of cards.

CLARK  
So what's all the excitement?

LANA  
(enthusiastic)  
Clark, you have to check this out.

Lana shuffles the deck, then sets it in front of Danny.

Danny shoots a confident look to the crowd, then turns back to Lana. He gazes deeply into her eyes.

DANNY  
Ace of spades.

Lana turns the top card over. Ace of spades. She continues to flip the cards...

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Two of hearts, three of diamonds,  
five of spades, queen of hearts,  
six of clubs.

Danny is correct every time. The crowd applauds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE  
Incredible. How'd you do that?

As Danny is about to answer, Clark cuts in.

CLARK  
It's just a card trick, Chloe.

CHLOE  
(sarcastic)  
Do you care to give it a try,  
Copperfield?

Pete chuckles.

Clark stares intently at the deck of cards in Lana's hand. By focusing his x-ray vision, he sees through them.

Clark smirks as he turns back to Chloe.

CLARK  
Chloe, you're such a Joker.

Danny looks surprised. When Lana flips the card over, it is indeed a Joker.

CHLOE  
How did you...???

They turn back toward Clark, but he's walking away. Unseen by the others, Danny wipes a small trickle of blood from under his nose.

At the back of the crowd, Clark runs into Lex.

LEX  
Clark.

CLARK  
Hey, Lex.

LEX  
So what's the floor show?

CLARK  
It's the amazing Dan Keyes and his  
world of magic.

LEX  
You say that as if you're envious.

CLARK  
No, why would I be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEX

New wonder kid comes to town,  
impresses the locals, makes lots of  
friends -- your friends.

CLARK

You're off the mark on this one,  
Lex. I'm not jealous. And Danny's  
not a new kid. He's lived here his  
whole life.

LEX

Then maybe you should cut him a  
break.

As Clark ponders this, Lana comes over with Danny, who looks  
a little woozy.

LANA

Hey Clark, why'd you run off so  
fast?

Clark turns to answer. He notices a trickle of blood from  
Danny's nose.

CLARK

Dan, it's your nose again.

Danny reaches in his jacket pocket and pulls out a  
handkerchief. As he does so, a small sample of the green  
meteor rock falls out. Clark immediately feels ill. He  
stumbles into Lex, who steadies him.

LEX

Whoa, looks like we've got an  
epidemic.

Clark starts backing away from them, his eyes focused  
downward. Curious, Danny follows Clark's gaze to the green  
meteor rock on the floor.

CLARK

I'm fine. Must be something I ate.  
I'm just going to head home.

LANA

Hope you feel better.

Clark nods, then exits. Chloe and Pete head over.

PETE

Where'd Clark go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEX  
Home. He had a stomach ache.

CHLOE  
That's Clark Kent for you. Stomach  
of steel.

Danny bends down and picks up the green meteor rock. Lex  
raises an eyebrow.

LEX  
What are you doing with that?

Danny looks at Lex, almost as if he knows.

DANNY  
Research.

Lex looks uncomfortable.

EXT. KENT FARM - DAY

JONATHAN is changing a tractor tire. MARTHA carries a basket  
full of vegetables toward the house.

The jack holding up the tractor begins to creak. Martha  
hears it and stops.

MARTHA  
Jonathan, you shouldn't use that  
old jack. It's not safe.

JONATHAN  
This thing could hold up a five  
story building. You worry too  
much.

And as the jack begins to give way... A hand enters frame.  
Holds up the tractor. Clark is home.

CLARK  
I think Mom's got you on this one,  
Dad.

Jonathan looks chastened as Martha shoots him an "I-told-you-  
so" look.

INT. KENT FARM - DINING ROOM - LATER

Jonathan, Martha and Clark are having dinner. Clark has a  
faraway look on his face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTHA

Why so quiet, Clark?

CLARK

It's Dan Keyes. I think whatever changed him has something to do with the green meteor rock. He had some with him at the Talon today.

JONATHAN

Are you all right, son?

CLARK

I'll be fine.

JONATHAN

Clark, if he's carrying a piece of that rock, I want you stay away from him.

CLARK

That's going to be a bit hard, Dad. We go to the same school and have the same friends.

MARTHA

Just be careful.

CLARK

There's something else. He's getting smarter. A lot smarter.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Danny sits at his computer. Signs onto the internet. Sits back -- thinks.

He hits search. Types in the word BIOLOGY. He quickly clicks through the various screens, reading at an incredible rate, but the pages load too slowly for him.

Danny hits the side of the computer, frustrated.

DANNY

Come on. Go faster.

Danny stops. Thinks.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Danny passes through, his arms loaded with various household gadgets and appliances. His mother's voice rings out from the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY'S MOTHER (O.S.)  
Danny, dinner's ready.

DANNY  
No time.

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Danny's computer is in pieces on the floor. He's constructing a new one, using parts from the other appliances. He works quickly and with great skill, as if he's been doing this his whole life.

Danny sets the finished computer on his desk. Smiles at his handiwork.

Danny surfs the net. The images zip by much faster now -- too fast for any normal person to register. But Danny doesn't seem to be having any trouble.

Occasionally, Danny stops at particular articles and images. We glimpse screens dealing with topics such as biology, psychology, geology, etc...

He also stops at articles about the green meteor rock and Smallville's history. Finally, he comes across newspaper accounts and police reports that mention Clark.

This brings Danny to a complete halt. He sits back. Contemplates.

INT. LUTHOR FERTILIZER PLANT - LABORATORY - DAY

Mortimer the mouse is zipping through a new configuration of the elaborate maze seen earlier. He's practically a blur as he rounds corner after corner with no hesitation.

Dr. Blomquist watches Mortimer's progress with amazement.

BLOMQUIST  
Atta boy, Mortimer.

Mortimer reaches the end of the maze. The automatic timer goes off. With great satisfaction, Blomquist records the time in his blue notebook.

While Blomquist is absorbed in his calculations, Mortimer just stares at the maze wall. Soon, the wall begins to shake.

Suddenly, the wall breaks away and flings across the room. Blomquist looks up in surprise as Mortimer runs out onto the tabletop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLOMQUIST (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 How in the world...?

Blomquist drops his notebook and reaches for Mortimer.

Mortimer stops in his tracks. Keels over. He's not moving.

Blomquist frowns. He gingerly picks up the late mouse by the tail and goes to a keypad on the wall. He punches in some numbers, and a panel slides open. Frozen mist billows out and dissipates in the air.

Blomquist reaches inside and takes out a clear canister marked with a blank label. He drops Mortimer into the canister and writes "Mortimer #5" on the label.

Blomquist places the canister back inside the wall, next to four other canisters... Mortimers one through four.

INT. LANA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Danny sits with Lana. They're playing checkers. Lana jumps Danny's pieces and wins the game.

LANA  
 I won! I can't believe I finally won.

Danny smiles. Lana gives him a suspicious look.

LANA (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 You let me win.

DANNY  
 Why do you say that?

LANA  
 Because you've been winning all night. And not just by a little.

DANNY  
 Maybe it was just your time.

LANA  
 Doubtful.

Danny stares at Lana. Not as a boy with a crush, but as a man who has loved her an entire lifetime.

Lana looks intrigued, but uncomfortable under his gaze. She changes the subject.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LANA (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You've changed so much. Sometimes it's hard for me to believe you're the same person.

DANNY

I'm not. That boy you once knew is long gone.

LANA

Do you remember much -- from before?

DANNY

I remember everything.

LANA

What was it like?

Danny sits back. Thinks.

DANNY

In many ways, it was so much simpler.

Lana leans forward. Intrigued.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I knew I was different, of course, but I didn't realize to what extent. And I certainly couldn't comprehend anything outside my limited experience.

Lana tenderly touches Danny's hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Perhaps in one way, I haven't changed at all. I thought I understood love, and friendship, at least on the most simplistic level. But now they seem more complex to me than any of the mathematical equations or scientific theories I've learned.

LANA

I think it's just -- we're so much more innocent when we're young.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LANA (CONT'D)

Something that seems so easy when you're eight can look impossible at eighteen.

DANNY

Only I've done a lifetime of growing in six months.

LANA

It does get easier. Especially when you have good friends to help.

Danny gazes into Lana's eyes. He smiles.

DANNY

You should know. Your friends really seem to care a lot about you. Like Clark, for instance.

LANA

Clark's very special.

Danny's smile tightens a little.

DANNY

Tell me about him.

EXT. KENT FARM - NIGHT

Clark has finished up some chores. As he exits the barn, he sees Danny standing there in the yard.

CLARK

Danny?

DANNY

Just Dan. I prefer just Dan, Clark.

CLARK

What brings you over so late?

DANNY

I just left Lana's. Thought I'd stop by.

As Danny moves closer, Clark begins to feel ill. Clark uses his X-Ray vision to scope Danny out. In the right pocket of Danny's jacket is a piece of the meteor rock.

Clark backs away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
You don't look so good, Clark. Are  
you still feeling ill?

CLARK  
No, I'm better. So, how's Lana?

DANNY  
Lana's great. She thinks the world  
of you. But you already knew that.

Danny stops moving toward Clark. Clark stops backing up as  
well.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
What I don't understand is why  
someone like Lana would date a  
Whitney.

CLARK  
She loves him. That's all that  
matters.

DANNY  
But why does she love him? He has  
nothing to offer her. They don't  
even have that much in common.

CLARK  
Love defies any sort of reason. You  
either feel it or you don't.

Danny sighs.

DANNY  
All the great minds in the world,  
and not one of them has ever come  
up with a formula for love.

CLARK  
If they did, what would be the  
challenge?

Danny shrugs.

DANNY  
I'll tell you what, Clark -- when I  
do come up with that formula, I'll  
just keep it to myself. That way I  
won't spoil it for everyone else.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Clark is amused.

CLARK

That's very thoughtful of you, Dan.

DANNY

You do realize that eventually Lana will dump Whitney for someone better.

CLARK

And that someone better would be you?

Danny suddenly looks very serious.

DANNY

Actually, no.

Danny removes the green meteor rock from his pocket and tosses it to Clark. It lands on the ground right next to him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

She'd pick you.

Clark falls to his knees in pain.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. KENT FARM - NIGHT

Clark, weakened by the meteor rock, tries to back away from it. Danny walks toward Clark, expressionless.

Danny reaches down and picks up the meteor rock.

DANNY

Just testing a theory.

Danny slips the rock into his pocket and steps back away from Clark. Clark gradually regains his strength.

CLARK

I've got some kind of a bug. I'll be all right.

Danny puts his hand in his pocket again.

DANNY

So you won't mind if I toss you the rock again?

Clark reflexively backs up.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

That's what I thought.

CLARK

It's nothing, Dan. I'm probably just allergic to something in the meteor.

DANNY

It doesn't seem to affect anyone else this way.

CLARK

You've seen Chloe's Wall of Weird. No two people seem to be affected the same way.

DANNY

Want to hear my theory?

CLARK

Some other time, Dan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Clark trudges toward the house, keeping as much distance as possible between him and Danny. But Danny follows.

DANNY

Suppose the meteor was once part of a planet - a populated planet.

CLARK

Suppose you go home now. I'll see you at school.

DANNY

If the planet was located in another solar system, then any matter that came from it could have been altered upon entering our own system. By the time it hit Earth, who knows how its structure might have changed?

Clark glances back at Danny, but keeps moving. Danny's eyes are wild.

CLARK

You're babbling, Dan.

DANNY

Human life could be affected in a number of ways. Circumstantial evidence suggests a series of unpredictable, spontaneous mutations. That would explain most of the cases on the Wall of Weird. But you, Clark. You're a statistical anomaly.

CLARK

That's right. I'm the one guy in a million who'll put up with this nonsense. Good night.

Clark reaches the door of the house and opens it.

DANNY

You're not from around here, are you, Clark?

Clark freezes in the doorway. He looks back at Danny.

CLARK

I'm adopted, if that's what you mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny grows more intense with each word.

DANNY

I can understand how the meteor  
might cause a range of mutations.  
But why would an earthling -- just  
one earthling -- be allergic to a  
substance from another solar  
system?

Clark glares at Danny. Danny meets his gaze, a twisted smile on his flushed face. A trickle of blood trails from his nostril.

Jonathan comes to the door.

JONATHAN

In or out, Clark. You're letting  
bugs --

Jonathan notices Clark's weakened condition.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
Are you all right, son?

CLARK

Yeah Dad, it's just...

Clark looks over at Danny. Jonathan notices the trickle of blood from Danny's nose.

JONATHAN

Clark, I want you to come inside.

Clark enters. Stands behind his father.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
What happened to your nose, Dan?

DANNY

I just get nosebleeds, Mister Kent.  
Pesky side effect of acquiring  
instant genius, I suppose.

Danny produces a handkerchief from his back pocket and wipes the blood away.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
Good night, Mister Kent. Clark.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JONATHAN

Good night, Dan.

Danny turns and sprints off into the darkness. Clark looks as if his strength has returned. Jonathan turns to Clark.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Are you sure you're all right?

CLARK

Yeah, Dad. I'm fine. But I'm not so sure about Dan.

EXT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - COMMONS - MORNING

Students congregate in front of the school before classes. Danny is holding court with a group of kids, mostly girls. He's got a cocky look on his face as he speaks fluent French.

DANNY

(subtitled French)

It's amazing how anything one says in such a romantic language sounds incredibly seductive.

"Oooohs" and "ahhhs" from the girls. One girl turns to another.

GIRL

I take French. I think he said something about seducing.

They giggle. Lana saunters up to the edge of the group.

DANNY

(subtitled French)

I bet you'd even be impressed if I said, "You imbeciles are too dense to know when you're being ridiculed."

Danny follows the sly insult with a pleasant little laugh. The girls laugh, too. All except Lana. She's not amused.

LANA

(subtitled French)

I'm in French class, too, Danny. I got an "A."

Danny looks at Lana. He knows he's busted, but he still manages to smirk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY  
(subtitled French)  
I'm just having a little fun, Lana.

The other girls look confused as Danny wraps his arm around Lana and leads her toward the entrance to the school. This clearly makes her uncomfortable, but Danny doesn't notice.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing; sotto to  
Lana)  
Sorry about that. But it's not  
like they know what I was saying.

LANA  
How can you be so sure?

DANNY  
I gauged their reactions to a few  
innocuous phrases and determined  
that only one of them had even a  
rudimentary knowledge of French.

LANA  
But when did you learn to speak it?

Danny produces a French textbook from his backpack.

DANNY  
In the car, on the way to school.

Lana gapes at him.

LANA  
That's impossible, Danny. Even for  
you.

DANNY  
Well, I may be exaggerating.  
(beat)  
But just a little.

Lana softens a bit. She manages a slight smile as they enter the school.

INT. SMALLVILLE HIGH - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Lana and Danny enter, his arm still around her shoulder. Clark and Chloe are talking to Whitney nearby.

WHITNEY  
You guys seen Lana?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chloe spots Lana and Danny as they pass by on the other side of the hallway.

CHLOE  
Um... there she is.

Whitney turns. Lana and Danny have passed by. Whitney spots Lana, but can't see Danny's face from this angle.

WHITNEY  
Lana?

Whitney catches up to them and spins Danny around.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Hey, buddy, what do you think  
you're--

Whitney sees Danny's face.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Oh, sorry, man.

LANA  
Whitney, what are you doing?

Whitney tries to laugh it off.

WHITNEY  
I thought somebody was making time  
with my girl.

Whitney backs away from them.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
We still on for tonight, Lana?

LANA  
Uh, sure.

WHITNEY  
Great. Catch you later, Danny.

Danny glares after Whitney. Whitney passes Clark and Chloe again.

CHLOE  
Doesn't that bother you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WHITNEY

Why should it? It's just Danny.  
They've been friends forever.

Clark's jealousy surfaces.

CLARK

Yeah, but this is not the same  
Danny.

Whitney stops to consider this. Now he looks a little  
worried.

INT. LUTHOR FERTILIZER PLANT - LEX'S OFFICE - LATER

Lex is seated behind his desk. He looks up as Blomquist  
enters.

LEX

Doctor Blomquist.

BLOMQUIST

I'm very busy, Lex. What's so  
important?

Lex reaches in his desk drawer and pulls out a canister  
containing one of the dead Mortimers. Places it on his desk.  
He glares at Blomquist.

LEX

I'm not a man you want to keep  
secrets from, Doctor.

Blomquist looks worried and flustered.

DR. BLOMQUIST

Listen, Lex, there's no reason to  
think this will happen to the boy.  
One little bite couldn't have been  
enough to --

LEX

You don't know that!

DR. BLOMQUIST

But we could be on the verge of  
something revolutionary.

LEX

What's so revolutionary about  
frying this boy's brain? That  
approach might fly with my father,  
but I can't condone it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Blomquist picks up the canister from Lex's desk.

DR. BLOMQUIST

Very well, I'll write a full report on this. Tomorrow, I'll take another run at the formula.

LEX

I'm changing the parameters of this experiment. The formula can wait. Find an antidote.

DR. BLOMQUIST

But Lex, we're so close to a solution. Finding an antidote is a complete waste of my resources.

LEX

They're not your resources; they're mine. And if Danny Keyes dies as a result of this experiment, then we both lose everything.

EXT. LUTHOR FERTILIZER PLANT - LEX'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Blomquist exits. He doesn't look happy. He tucks the canister under his arm and takes out his cell phone. Dials.

BLOMQUIST

(into phone)

Murphy - Mister Luthor has changed the parameters of the experiment.

EXT. THE TALON - NIGHT

Danny walks toward the entrance, rubbing his temples. He shakes it off and goes inside.

INT. THE TALON - CONTINUOUS

Danny looks around, spots Lana at the counter. He brightens.

DANNY

Lana!

Lana smiles as Danny sprints over to sit next to her.

LANA

You're in a good mood.

DANNY

I am now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny's adoring gaze makes Lana uncomfortable. She checks her watch.

LANA

Can I get you something before I go?

DANNY

No, but we can go together. Maybe catch a movie?

LANA

That's nice, Danny, but --

Whitney bounds over to them. He pecks Lana on the cheek.

WHITNEY

Sorry I'm late, babe.

LANA

That's okay. It's only a couple of minutes.

Danny stares at Whitney, fuming. His face grows red.

DANNY

It's not okay, you preening lummoX.

Whitney is taken aback; not sure he heard correctly.

WHITNEY

What?

DANNY

It's clear from your vacant expression that you don't even see how blessed you are.

LANA

Danny, please.

WHITNEY

I've cut you just about as much slack as I can, Danny.

DANNY

Then let's go.

WHITNEY

Don't be ridiculous. Just leave Lana alone. I don't want to hurt you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

Hurt me? Now I think you're the one being ridiculous.

Danny steps closer to Whitney. Gets in his face.

LANA

Danny, there's no call for this. You and I are friends. Good friends. And you should respect what I have with Whitney.

Danny wavers for a second, but her reasonable words clearly don't stick.

DANNY

Why should I respect this insect?

Danny shoves Whitney as hard as he can. Whitney stumbles backward, but quickly regains his footing.

WHITNEY

That's it.

Whitney grabs Danny, spins him around and grabs hold of his shirt at the neck and waist. He carries Danny toward the exit, much to the amusement of the other customers.

Danny's expression hardens into a mask of pure concentration. His entire body goes rigid. He straightens up until he's standing immobile in the doorway. Whitney is stunned to find he can't budge him.

Suddenly, Whitney is flung up into the air by an unseen force. He does a complete flip and lands hard on his back at Danny's feet.

Lana rushes over to help, but Whitney's unconscious body slides across the floor and slams into the wall. Lana is stunned. She glares at Danny in utter disbelief.

Danny smirks.

LANA

What are you doing?

Danny directs his gaze at Whitney again. He raises his hands. Like a marionette, Whitney's body is pulled up into the air and made to "dance." A sinister smile spreads across Danny's face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Danny, please, stop it!

Whitney's flailing body rises ever higher, toward the ceiling.

DANNY  
Okay, Lana. I'll stop it.

Danny drops his hands to his side. Whitney's body stops flailing. Hangs in mid-air for a moment. Then drops.

LANA  
No!!!

Whitney's body slams into a table. It shatters beneath him, and he hits the floor with a thud.

Lana runs to Whitney's side. He's hurt. She turns to Danny. She's confused and frightened.

DANNY  
Don't look at me like that, Lana. I don't like it.

Whitney starts to come around. He's still dazed, though.

LANA  
Why are you doing this?

DANNY  
I love you.

LANA  
This isn't love.

DANNY  
But I thought...

LANA  
You thought wrong.

Lana turns back to Whitney. Danny, hurt by Lana's words, storms out of the Talon.

EXT. TALON - CONTINUOUS

Danny exits. He stands in front of the building, grimacing in mental agony as he presses his palms against his temples.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The surveillance van is parked across the street from the Talon. The side panel is slightly open. A rifle barrel peeks through.

INT. VAN - SAME MOMENT

Murphy takes aim at Danny. Adjusts the rifle sight.

EXT. TALON - SAME MOMENT

Danny spots the rifle. He lowers his hands and stares straight ahead.

POV - RIFLE SIGHT CROSSHAIRS

Danny looks right into the sight.

INT. VAN - SAME MOMENT

Murphy pulls the trigger.

EXT. TALON - SAME MOMENT

In slow motion, the bullet zips toward Danny. Danny's gaze never falters. When the bullet gets within a few inches of his face, it suddenly freezes in mid-air. It's soon joined by another bullet.

Murphy opens the van door slightly wider and gapes at Danny in disbelief.

The bullets drop to the ground. Danny starts striding toward the van.

Murphy takes another shot. Same results. Freaked, Murphy motions for the driver, Anderson, to take off.

The van tries to peel away, only...

It's not moving. The wheels are turning, but the van remains in place.

Danny reaches the van. With one glance from him, the side panel flings open. Murphy swings the butt of the rifle toward Danny, but instead it stops in mid-air. Murphy can't budge it.

Suddenly, Murphy seems to be pulled from the van by an unseen hand. He lands at Danny's feet.

Anderson finally realizes the van isn't going anywhere. He jumps out and runs. Danny shoots him a look. Anderson levitates and just hangs there above the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny turns his attention back to Murphy.

DANNY  
Why are you trying to kill me?

Murphy remains silent.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Tell me.

Murphy begins to levitate, too. Then he begins to choke as if his throat is closing up.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Tell me.

Murphy sputters.

MURPHY  
Luthor. It's Lex Luthor.

DANNY  
Why?

Lana rushes up behind Danny.

LANA  
DANNY!

This distracts Danny. Murphy and Anderson both drop to the ground.

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
What are you doing?

Murphy and Anderson scramble toward the van.

DANNY  
Getting answers.

Danny turns back to the van. He stops Murphy and Anderson just as they're about to dive inside.

LANA  
Stop it. Whatever you're doing,  
just stop it.

Danny is distracted long enough for Murphy and Anderson to get in the van and close the doors. The van peels away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

You don't understand, Lana.

LANA

What don't I understand? What's going on with you?

DANNY

Your friends. They aren't what you think they are.

Whitney emerges from the Talon.

WHITNEY

Lana!

Lana turns to Whitney, then back to Danny.

DANNY

Come with me. Let me show you.

Danny shoots a glance at a parked car. It suddenly starts up and drives over to them. Only there's no driver. The doors open.

Whitney starts toward Danny and Lana. Danny freezes him with a look. Whitney's stunned.

Danny turns back to Lana. She has to make a choice. Without a word, Lana gets into the passenger side of the car. Danny sits behind the wheel.

WHITNEY

Lana, no!

Though Danny isn't touching the steering wheel, the car drives away. As it does, Whitney is released from Danny's power. He chases the car on foot, but it's hopeless.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Clark approaches the house. The lights are out.

Clark goes to a window and looks inside. No one seems to be home.

EXT. DANNY'S HOUSE - BACK FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Clark makes his way around back. As he begins to look around...

Someone jumps out, startling him. It's Chloe.

CLARK

Chloe, what are you doing here?

CHLOE

Working on my story -- looking for answers. But what about you, nightcrawler?

CLARK

Same reason. Something's not right with Dan.

CHLOE

I think this is where it all began.

CLARK

What makes you say that?

CHLOE

On the day Dan started to change, he'd been playing near the field. He went into some kind of seizure. My guess is that something back here caused it.

Clark scans the area with his X-Ray Vision. He sees nothing useful.

CLARK

What do you think it could have been?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

I'm not sure. But Lana told me something I thought was kinda strange. She thought she saw a mouse running from Dan.

CLARK

So? This field is probably full of mice.

CHLOE

Not white ones.

CLARK

The mouse Lana saw was white?

CHLOE

Yeah, like the kind you find in laboratories? Lex's Fertilizer Plant is just on the other side of this field, and they're always experimenting on different kinds of crops --

CLARK

I think you're stretching, Chloe.

CHLOE

But what if --

Chloe stops as she notices something in the distance.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Hey, what's that?

Clark looks, too. He sees smoke and flames coming from a field a few miles away. Clark and Chloe look concerned.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Looks like one of the fields is on fire.

CLARK

Call for help. I'm going to check it out.

CHLOE

Clark, how are you going to --

CLARK

Just go, Chloe. Hurry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Chloe hesitates, then runs off. When she's out of sight, Clark runs at super speed toward the burning field.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

As Clark comes closer to the field, he begins to slow. He grows weak. He finally stops running and falls to his knees, out of breath.

Clark is about fifty yards from the blaze. He watches as several men use flame throwers on the crops. They wear protective gear to guard against the intense heat.

Clark trains his X-Ray vision on the area. Underground, he spots a large quantity of the green meteor rock.

He then looks past the flames to the other side of the field. There in the distance sits the fertilizer plant.

Slowly, Clark gets up and walks away from the field.

EXT. LUTHOR MANSION - NIGHT

Danny and Lana pull up to the front gate in the stolen car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Danny shuts off the engine.

LANA

Lex's house. Why are we here?

DANNY

To find the truth.

LANA

Danny, I don't understand what's happened to you. You need help.

DANNY

You don't have to understand it, Lana. You're incapable of understanding it.

LANA

I'm not going to let you hurt Lex.

Danny smiles. He exits the car and closes the door behind him. Lana tries the door handle, but it's jammed.

EXT. LUTHOR MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks up to the gate. He makes a hand motion and the gate opens. Danny turns back toward Lana.

DANNY  
I'll come back for you when I know  
it's safe.

Lana struggles, but no luck. She's trapped. Danny walks toward the house.

INT. LUTHOR MANSION - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Lex slams a blue notebook of equations onto his desk. Standing across from him is Blomquist.

LEX  
You had the antidote all along.

BLOMQUIST  
That doesn't belong to you.

LEX  
Read your contract, Doctor.  
Everything developed at Luthorcorp  
belongs to Luthorcorp.

BLOMQUIST  
If we give him the antidote, we'll  
be moving backward. Science must  
move forward.

LEX  
How does ordering a hit on an  
innocent boy serve the needs of  
science?

BLOMQUIST  
You said it yourself, Lex. If he  
dies as a result of the experiment,  
we lose everything. I will not  
allow that to happen.

LEX  
You're forgetting who's in charge.

Suddenly, the doors to the library fly open. Danny stands in the doorway. Lex tries to act nonchalant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEX (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Dan! Well, this is a pleasant  
surprise. What can I do for you?

DANNY  
Do you really find it necessary to  
play this childish game, Lex?

LEX  
I don't under --

But Lex is cut off as Danny levitates him. Blomquist panics  
and runs toward the door. With a glance, Danny flings  
Blomquist against the wall, knocking him cold.

Danny turns his attention back to Lex.

DANNY  
I need answers.

EXT. LUTHOR MANSION - MOMENTS LATER

Clark runs up to the house at super speed. He stops when he  
sees Lana trapped in the car.

Clark knocks on the window. Lana is startled until she sees  
who it is.

LANA  
Clark!

CLARK  
What are you doing here?

LANA  
I can't get out.

Lana pushes on the door as hard as she can. Clark pulls on  
it slightly. It creaks open.

CLARK  
It must have been stuck.

Lana looks at the door curiously, but then shakes it off.

LANA  
Something's wrong with Danny. I  
think he's going to hurt Lex.

Clark looks worried.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK

Wait here.

LANA

No, I'm coming with you.

CLARK

Lana, it might be dangerous.

LANA

It's Danny, Clark. He'll listen to me. I know he will.

Clark hesitantly agrees. They head toward the house.

INT. LUTHOR MANSION - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Lex is still levitating. Danny paces slowly around the room.

DANNY

Why did you try to have me killed, Lex?

LEX

I didn't, Dan. I've been trying to save you.

DANNY

Explain.

LEX

We were testing a new fertilizer. Some of the corn we grew was fed to lab mice. One of them escaped.

DANNY

The one that bit me.

LEX

We don't know why it's had this effect on you.

Danny releases Lex from his mind grip. Lex slams to the ground. He painfully struggles to his feet.

DANNY

I guess I should be thanking you. This time next week, I'll be the smartest man on the planet. And at this rate, the most powerful.

LEX

You won't make it to next week.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Threats, Lex? You should know by now you can't hurt me.

Lex gets right up into Danny's face.

LEX

It's not me you have to worry about. You're dying.

Danny's nose begins to bleed. He senses it and wipes the blood off. His expression darkens. His eyes become very clear. Almost transparent.

Danny seems different now. He knows something. His voice echoes when he speaks. Almost God like.

DANNY

I'm not dying. I'm evolving.

LEX

Dan, all the mice died. It was never meant to be tested on people.

Suddenly, Lex grabs his head in pain.

DANNY

I know everything you know, Lex. I'm not interested in your antidote.

Lex's pain grows more intense. He falls to his knees. Danny leans over him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'll never go back to the way I was.

Clark and Lana rush in.

CLARK

Lex!

Clark runs over and grabs Danny by the shirt.

CLARK (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I won't let you hurt my friends, Dan.

DANNY

I won't let them hurt me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Unnoticed by Lex and Lana, Danny takes the chunk of meteor rock from his pocket and pushes Clark away with it. Clark falls to the floor, weakened.

Lana rushes over to Danny.

LANA  
Danny, stop it. Please.

DANNY  
I can't.

Danny screams in pain. More blood flows from his nose. Lana is freaked out by the sight. Danny notices her expression.

LANA  
What's happened to you?

DANNY  
I used to think if I was smarter --  
better -- then you could love me.  
But I was wrong. You still look at  
me as if I were a freak.

LANA  
I never looked at you that way.

Lana puts her hand on Danny's cheek. She stares into his eyes.

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
What happened to that innocent boy  
I cared so much about who couldn't  
even harm a caterpillar? I know  
he's still in there.

DANNY  
(smiles; fondly  
remembering)  
Simpler times.

Danny holds Lana's gaze. He looks at her lovingly.

After a moment, Danny looks over at Lex. Lex's pain immediately subsides. Lana moves over to help Lex to his feet.

While Lex and Lana are distracted, Danny trains his eyes on the meteor rock. It dissolves into thin air. Clark immediately feels better.

Danny now begins to bleed from his eyes and ears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANNY (CONT'D)  
I love you, Lana Lang.

Danny passes out. Lana and Clark run over to him. Lana cradles Danny in her arms.

LANA  
Danny, can you hear me?

No response.

LANA (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Danny?

Lex goes to his desk. Picks up the phone. Dials.

LEX  
This is Lex Luthor. I have a  
medical emergency at my home.  
Please hurry.

After Lex hangs up, he notices Blomquist's notebook.

LEX (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Don't worry, Lana. I'll get him  
the best medical attention money  
can buy.

CLARK  
Why did he come here, Lex? What  
did he want from you?

Lex considers telling the truth. Then decides against it.

LEX  
I don't know, Clark.

But Clark shows a hint of disbelief. As he starts to say something, he is distracted by a groan. Blomquist is regaining consciousness.

CLARK  
Who's that?

LEX  
A former employee.

EXT. FIELD - DAY - WEEKS LATER

Danny is out in the field playing - chasing down bugs to study. He's now back to the way he was before the mouse bit him. He's retained none of the super intelligence.

Clark, Lana and Danny's mother watch Danny from the porch. Danny's unaware of their presence.

DANNY'S MOTHER

Mister Luthor paid for all of Danny's medical expenses. He's even paid for special tutors to help Danny along with his studies.

CLARK

That's very generous of Lex.

LANA

I'm so sorry, Mrs. Keyes. This must be very difficult for you.

DANNY'S MOTHER

He's happy. That's all that counts.

CLARK

Does he remember what happened to him?

DANNY'S MOTHER

You know, I'm not really sure. Sometimes he seems to, but then it just fades away.

Danny finally sees Clark and Lana. He runs up to them.

DANNY

Lana!

LANA

Hi, Danny.

Danny gives her a big hug. Lana hesitates for a moment, then returns the hug.

CLARK

How are you doing, Dan?

Danny nods to Clark, almost ignoring him, then turns back to Lana.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Come see what I caught.

Lana takes Danny by the hand and runs out into the field with him. Clark hangs back. Lana notices.

LANA

(to Danny)

Come on, Clark.

Clark follows. And as they all run out into the field...

INT. MOUSE HOLE - DAY

Lying dead is the same white mouse that bit Danny.

A small white baby mouse steps into view. Then several more. Six white mice in all.

The mice surround their dead mother. Seem to communicate with one another.

They run for the exit.

EXT. FIELD/MOUSE HOLE - CONTINUOUS

And six intelligent mice run free in the world.

FADE OUT.

THE END