

SMALLVILLE

“Danny”

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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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LANA

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LANA
Danny, can you hear me?

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

 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.

 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK
What? What title?

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (V.O.)
The answer is forty-seven point
five.

MR. DAVIS (V.O.)
Yes, yes it is. But how did you
know that?

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."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny is correct every time. The crowd applauds.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARK

No, why would I be?

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PETE
Where'd Clark go?

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.

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY (CONT'D)
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. 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?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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.

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?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEX (CONT'D)
 That approach might fly with my
 father, but I can't condone it.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
I am now.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WHITNEY

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

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?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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.

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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.

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 --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARK
Just go, Chloe. Hurry.

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 understand --

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEX

You won't make it to next week.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARK (CONT'D)
(continuing)
I won't let you hurt my friends,
Dan.

DANNY
I won't let them hurt me.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK
How are you doing, Dan?

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

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