

LOIS, SUPERMAN AND WILLY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

A train zips through flat countryside.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

LOIS and SUPERMAN, face to face, look out of the window. They look upset.

A TICKET INSPECTOR appears, checks and stamps the tickets.

SUPERMAN

Do you realize how ridiculous and demeaning this is for me?

LOIS

Nobody forced you to come.

SUPERMAN

I could fly us to Venice and back in thirty seconds.

LOIS

Boring.

SUPERMAN

Do you know how many girls would kill to fly with Superman?

Lois looks him straight in the eyes.

LOIS

Go wherever you want, with whoever you want.

She glances out the window and then back to him.

LOIS (CONT'D)

It's always YOUR way. Faster than light. Showing off your supernatural strength. Using your x-ray gaze. Until the scary kryptonite appears!

She sulks.

LOIS (CONT'D)

If I want to go to Venice. On the train!

Both stare at the landscape flying past.

Lois blinks back tears. Superman jaw clenched.

Lois' eyes look faraway, beyond the window, beyond the countryside, towards a future without superheroes.

SUPERMAN

Lois, I can't live without you. I
love you so much.

Lois doesn't answer.

The train clatters on, noisily.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. STREET OF METROPOLIS - DAY

Lois, depressed, ambles past a café. She looks through the window, something strikes her attention.

INT. CAFÉ - CONTINUOUS

ALEX, 35, short, pudgy and balding, fiddles with a shabby, outdated pinball machine. A pitcher of Pastis stands on a nearby table.

The pinball machine jams. Alex hits it. Repeatedly.

The Ball finally disappears in the hole. Game over.

ALEX

Shit!

He raises his head and sees Lois, leaning on the machine, watching him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I want to destroy this piece of
junk.

LOIS

Long time no see, Alexander.

He plays cool, and barely stares at her.

ALEX

Since elementary school?

LOIS

Just since College, Alexander.

ALEX

Right.

He launches into another game. Totally focussed on the machine.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I prefer Alex.

She pulls a "don't be ridiculous" face. Takes a packet of cigarettes from the table, and writes on it.

LOIS

This is my number.

And she's gone.

Alex looks at her number.

The ball drops in the hole.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex on a couch, talks straight to camera, documentary style.

ALEX

I've always fancied Lois. In second grade, she kept me hanging on the swing. Even when I begged her to let go. In high school, she was the cheerleader, who wanted nothing to do with me. In college, she was bored and flirtatious, showing me her legs, saying: "feel how silky."

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lois and Alex in bed, post coital. The sheet around their waists.

ALEX (V.O.)

But when she gave me her number, she became something else. She became the woman who chose me.

Lois kisses his forehead and touches his soft biceps.

LOIS

These are soft and comfy.

Lois reaches over to the bedside table and retrieves her make up bag.

In eye-liner she draws eyes around Alex's nipples.
With a lipstick, she makes a laughing mouth on his belly.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Lois pushes the cart. Alex picks up a jar of olives stuffed with Chili Peppers.

One of the olives looks like a face smashed against the jar, the pepper is the tongue.

He shows it to Lois.

With a squeaky voice, he impersonates the olive.

ALEX
Help... get me out of here!

Lois laughs.

They look happy and in love.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex's interview.

ALEX
Lois and Superman were still friends. I knew sooner or later I'd meet him. Sure I was worried. He could destroy me.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex crashed on the couch, watching a soccer match on TV.

ALEX (V.O.)
But how? Would he grind my bones with a simple handshake? Maybe. He can do anything. He can reverse the time, for God sake!

Lois enters, hangs up her coat and takes off her shoes.

She goes to the bathroom and pees leaving the door open.

LOIS
(from the bathroom)
Superman can't wait to meet you.
He's going to call.

He puts his head between his hands.

She flushes the toilet.

INT. SUPERMAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Superman stirs tomato sauce with a wooden spoon.

With the other hand he holds an iPhone.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex plays Call Of Duty.

His phone rings.

Alex looks at the phone. Decides to answer.

INTERCUT - PHONE CALL

SUPERMAN
Superman speaking.

Beat.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I'd like to meet you.

ALEX
Great.

SUPERMAN
I have to be honest. I'm good
friends with Lois and I want her to
be part of my life. So...

ALEX
So?

SUPERMAN
Lois told me that you're between
jobs and you don't really know what
to do with your life. I have an
offer for you. Are you there?

ALEX
I'm listening.

SUPERMAN
I want you to be my assistant.

No response from Alex.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)
I need to loose the lone wolf
image.

ALEX
You always did very well by
yourself.

SUPERMAN
You don't have to decide right now.
Think about it.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A bottle of wine on the table. Two full glasses.

LOIS
I think it's a fantastic idea.

ALEX
It's terrible. Superman's special
assistant. It's ludicrous, come on!

Lois empties her glass and refills it. She encourages Alex to
drink.

LOIS
You'd be working again.

Lois and Alex drink again.

LOIS (CONT'D)
And you'd meet so many interesting
people.

ALEX
Come on...

And he drinks.

They laugh. She reaches for his hand.

LOIS
So? Will you do it?

ALEX
If you think it's a good idea.

INT. HISTORIC CAFÉ - DAY

Alex is at the counter, drinking an espresso.

Superman enters and approaches Alex, hand outstretched.

Alex hesitates.

It's a vigorous but normal shake.

ALEX

Alex.

SUPERMAN

Superman.

Superman gives him a plastic bag.

ALEX

What's this?

SUPERMAN

A little something to make you feel
more comfortable.

He gestures that he's wearing a costume.

EXT. STREET OF METROPOLIS - LATER

Alex tries to keep up with Superman.

He's clearly uncomfortable in his new skin tight black jumpsuit, which accentuates his weedy arms, wobbly belly and generous love handles.

"Willy" is emblazoned across Alex's chest.

ALEX

(point to the text)

Why?

SUPERMAN

You're my sidekick now. You need a
name.

ALEX

What's wrong with Alex?

SUPERMAN

It's the name of Flash Gordon's
dad.

INT. SUPERMAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sweating in his jumpsuit, Alex irons Superman's costume.

The phone rings.

ALEX

Superman's residence, who's speaking? I'm Willy, his personal assistant. Superman is not available at the moment. Would you like to leave a message?

Superman bounces in, happy.

He points at Alex's belly.

SUPERMAN

This is a crime against humanity, my friend and there is nothing I can do about it.

He pokes it playfully.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

When's the due date?

He crashes on the sofa.

SUPERMAN (CONT'D)

Willy, gets some cotton wool from the bathroom. I have a zit on my back that needs popping and I cant reach it.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex takes the cotton wool from the cabinet.

He looks at himself in the mirror, eyes full of hate.

ALEX

You are a super son of a bitch, Superman. But I'm the one fucking Lois.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex's interview.

ALEX

Days were horrible and degrading around Mister Muscle and his cheap hair wax. But nights were so sweet with Lois. Always waiting for me at home. But Superman was a constant presence. I knew he thought he was better than me. And sometimes Lois knew I was thinking about him.

INT. PIZZA PARLOUR - NIGHT

Superman enters followed by Alex.

WONDER WOMAN and her ASSISTANT, a bespectacled forty-years-old, greet them.

ALEX (V.O.)

The situation deteriorated one Tuesday night.

FLASH GORDON enters with his father ALEX, a decrepit old man, in a gray urine stained jumpsuit.

Followed by the GREEN LANTERN and his ASSISTANT, a tattooed sixty-years-old, wrestler type, shaved, muscular and angry.

ALEX (V.O.)

It was one of those Tuesday nights when Superheroes meet for beers, pizzas and brags. But that night, Lois decided to join us.

At last BATMAN and ROBIN arrive.

Everybody takes a seat. Superheroes at their table. Assistant at another.

Robin sits next to Alex.

Flash dumps his father in an empty seat next to Alex.

FLASH

(whisper)

Please keep an eye on him. He's out of his mind most of the time. I usually leave him in the car... but because you're here...

Beers and pizzas on the tables.

The superhero's table is noisy and high-spirited. They drink, sneer, slap each other on the shoulders.

The assistant's table is quiet and morose.

Robin and Alex mutter to each other.

ROBIN

You should try being his sidekick.
He's a pedantic control freak. I
never get a moment to myself. He
even insist on bathing me. Of
course people think I'm a faggot. I
hate him. I can wash my own ass,
motherfucker!

Alex looks over Robin's shoulder.

Superman and Batman look at him and whisper, their superhero
chests shaking with laughter..

ALEX

(to Robin)

The thing I hate most is popping
his zits.

Alex suddenly falls silent.

Lois enters, gorgeous, smiling, a breath-taking cleavage on
display.

Superman stands up.

Alex stands up too.

Superman shoots him a nasty look and gets to her.

He kisses her cheek and holds her close.

Alex exits, hands clenched into fists.

No pocket to hide them in.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The wall clock reads ten past two.

Lois opens the main door and enters.

Alex is sitting on the couch, in the dark.

He switches on the lamp next to him.

ALEX

(icily)

Welcome back.

LOIS

I'm sorry... so sorry...

She tries to hug him, but he moves away.

ALEX

Where have you been?

LOIS

I walked him home and I stayed with him a little bit. He needed it... he's in such a funk. I've never seen him like this.

ALEX

In a funk, uh?

LOIS

He's obsessed with the universe's emptiness. He says that since we broke up, he's been looking for God. Literally, flying from one side of the cosmos to the other. For a clue of God's existence. He says that he didn't find anything at all.

Alex puts his head between his hands.

LOIS (CONT'D)

I never realized how obsessive he is. He remembered that once I threw my hair back in a certain way. He liked it so much that he flew around the globe seventy five thousand times to get it out of his mind. I never knew before.

ALEX

(to himself)

It makes me sick.

LOIS

He's so sensitive. Did you know that on Krypton, when two people fall in love they become inseparable?

ALEX

So sweet.

LOIS

They have special clothes to wear together and they learn how to move together. He says that here on the Earth, they call those apparels, Fundies and they sell them only in sex shop. He says Earth is a rotten place.

Alex and Lois look at each other, quietly.

LOIS (CONT'D)

I should go.

ALEX

Maybe it's better.

EXT. STREET OF METROPOLIS - DAWN

Alex wanders along empty streets.

The sun is rising.

ALEX (V.O.)

My fear was not that Lois and Superman were getting back together. That was just a matter of time. I was afraid that she'd remember our time together as the worst period of her life.

EXT. STREET OF METROPOLIS - DAY

Alex still walking.

ALEX (V.O.)

The most miserable, disgusting, dreary time of her life. I could even imagine her stupid comment: "You don't need a super power to recognize how dull he was."

Streets are busy now, vibrant.

Alex's eyes are full of tears.

EXT. STREET OF METROPOLIS - DUSK

Alex passes by the outdoor tables of a café. Many people drink cocktails.

CLARK (O.S.)

Alex! Alex!

Alex turns around and in one of the tables Clark Kent.

ALEX

Clark.

CLARK

Have a seat... you look terribly sad.

Alex sits down.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Let me get you a beer.

Alex looks around. Young people sit chattering at the tables.

ALEX (V.O.)

I don't know Clark Kent well. We met a few times at Lois's parties, but I've always liked him.

Clark returns with two beers.

ALEX (V.O.)

When he said: "you look terribly sad", not you look depressed, it made me feel better. So I told him what happened with Lois and he listened. It was all I needed. Someone to listen.

CLARK

How can you be so sure that Lois and Superman will get back together?

ALEX

You should hear her rave about him. We're talking about Superman, someone who basically defeated Hitler. How can anyone compete with someone like him?

Clark bursts into laughter, people stare at him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I want to tell him what I think about him. I want to say, you're a phony, hypocrite. You think you know what it means to be a human being, but you don't.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
Men feel pain. You may be super...
but you're not a man.

CLARK
You should tell him that.

Clark stands to leave.

CLARK (CONT'D)
Let's have dinner together.

Alex stands too.

As they walk away, Clark places a hand on Alex's shoulder.

Clark and Alex become two small dots on the horizon.

FADE TO BLACK.