

Chapter 2

KALIBAK



On the dark side of the moon, a brilliant flash lit up the sky. It was followed by a thunderous

KA-BOOM!

At the ship's helm sat Kalibak, a large hulking beast. He was the eldest son of one of Superman's enemies, Darkseid. Kalibak's father ruled the faraway planet Apokolips.

The view screen on front of Kalibak displayed a small man named Desaad. He was an evil scientist who worked for Darkseid.

“By trusting you I am disobeying my father,” Kalibak explained. “He forbade anyone from attacking Earth until his plans to defeat Superman were complete.”

“But, think of the glory,” Desaad grinned, “If you defeat Superman, nothing can stop Darkseid from conquering Earth, You'll be a hero.”

“I will make my father proud of me.” Kalibak mumbled to himself.

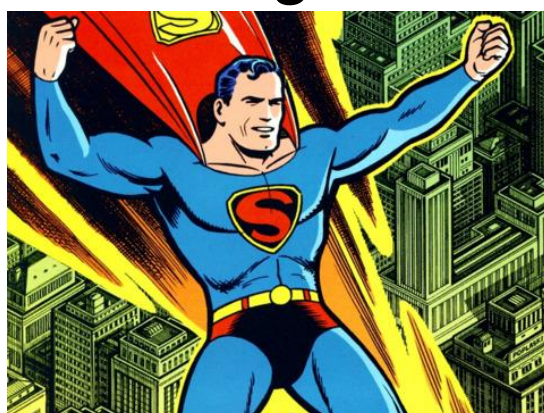
He flipped another switch. Then the pods began emitting red laser beams. Each pod shot out hundreds of beams with each of the beams connecting it to one of the other pods. By the time all of the pods were connected, the beams formed a huge net of light – a Solar net. Sunlight shining towards Earth turned red as it passed through the Solar net.

Back on Earth, a cab dropped off Jimmy and Clark at the *Daily Planet*. Jimmy skipped up the steps to the front entrance. At the top he turned round to see if Clark was following. He was nowhere to be seen.

“Huh? I wonder where he went” thought Jimmy.

While standing there, Jimmy noticed something strange above him. The Sun flickered, changing from yellow to red. *“That’s odd.”* he thought.

As soon as he had got out of the cab, Clark had ducked around a corner, then ran down an alley, looking for a secluded spot. Once he knew he was alone he changed into Superman...



Superman planned to head to the laboratories, then after putting on his special spacesuit, he would be able to investigate the object near the Sun.

Leaping into the air, Superman noticed a plume of smoke billowing from the top floors of a nearby skyscraper. Listening with his super hearing he heard a frantic cry for help

WHOOOOOSH!

Faster than a speeding bullet, he zipped off towards the sound of danger. A frightened woman had crawled onto a window ledge and was trying to escape the flames from inside the building. Superman swooped down and scooped her up, she was as light as a feather in his arms. Just then, the sunlight turned from its' normal yellow colour that gave Superman his power, to a reddish hue. Superman felt weak. The woman grew heavy in his arms. He felt the pull of gravity and began to fall to the ground. As he fell, Superman wrapped his arms around the woman to protect her.

They crashed to the pavement below.



“Are you okay?” Groaned Superman.

“It looks like I should be asking you that.” the woman replied.

The woman got up and helped Superman to his feet. Everyone was staring in awe at the Earth's red sun.

Meanwhile, in the darkness of space Kalibak watched his Solar net in action.

“It appears to be working, but the solar flares are causing it to flicker,” he said, “some of the yellow rays are getting through.”

“A small matter. Superman will still be weakened, “
Desaad sneered. “Now is the time for you to attack.”

“Ha Ha, Let me test him first,” Kalibak snickered.

He pressed a button, and a hatch opened from the bottom of the ship. From the opening emerged three soldiers, hideous warriors from Apokolips.

They roared their battle cry and then flew towards Earth, claws glinting menacingly in the red sunlight.

