Heritage (1 of 2)

Scene 1

LexCorp, Metropolis, 14th July 2019, 15:00 EDT

Lex Luthor is sitting at his desk

Mercy: You’re 3 o’clock appointment is here sir (Arron walks into the office)

Lex: You actually made an appointment to see me rather than burst into my office?

Arron: You’ve been quiet for the past 6 months, so I’ll give you the benefit of the doubt.

Lex: But?

Arron: (Shows an image of the Heretic) this is the Heretic, or at least was before his death. I managed to get a blood sample that confirms that he was using steroids developed for the Masters.

Lex: And you’re wondering if any of that research was stolen? We did have a break-in at the bio-chem lab 3 months ago.

Arron: Any idea who?

Lex: No, security cameras were wiped clean for the night. Police investigation found no evidence.

ANARAX: (On coms) The Galactic Defence Force has just patched an alert to use, there’s a cell from Buliox heading towards Earth.

Arron: Hmm (he looks back at Luthor) keep clean, Luthor, don’t make me or anyone else break down those doors (Arron is teleported back up to the ship)

Scene 2

Aphelios Delta, 19:22 UTC

ANARAX: Three ships have entered the solar system, but we’re too far of orbit to track their trajectory

Arron: Contact SWORD

ANARAX: Connecting… Connection established

Arron: Abegail, come in.

Abegail: I read you

Arron: You’ve got 3 hostiles inbound, they’re moving too fast for the Golavaxian base to intercept, but you can track their trajectory, where are they heading?

Abegail: I’ve got eyes on them… They’re heading into the Arctic Circle, not sure what they’re looking for up there.

Arron: I think I do, thank you (coms close) connect me to Oracle

Oracle: I saw the ships.

Arron: They’re heading into the Arctic Circle

Oracle: The fortress…

Arron: Exactly, is there a zeta tube there?

Oracle: I think so, but it’s keyed to Superman’s code only

Arron: Good enough. Thanks Oracle. Can we access that zeta tube?

ANARAX: Zeta-tube accessed, I can teleport you to the fortress, but I won’t be able to lock onto your position there, this is a one-way trip.

Arron: Do it (Arron is teleported down)

Scene 3

Fortress of Solitude, Arctic Circle, 20:00 UTC

Superman is bringing food to an enclosure of alien pets, one of them looks at him with sad eyes

Superman: I know, this is only temporary, I will find a way to get you a new home (the fortress begins to shake, he gets an alert on his com but it’s just static, two soldiers in bulky armour stand either side of him, they fire sonic attacks, bringing Superman to his knees, clutching his ears)

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Arron is teleported into the fortress and an army of soldiers are gathered, they begin to fire but Arron uses his shield

<Arron>: Great, it’s Guplei and Gupla. I recognise the uniforms of their private army. They have sonic weaponry, with his super-hearing, Superman could be in real trouble (he hears the sound of a robot moving quickly into the fray)

Superman robot: The master is in trouble (he punches one of the soldiers, causing some of them turn and fire upon him)

<Arron>: (Scanning the room whilst firing another rocket, he sees Superman at the mercy of Guplei and Gupla) damn it (he throws smoke pellets into the soldiers, the Superman robot uses his X-ray vision as Arron heads off after Superman)

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Superman’s ears are starting to bleed from the ongoing sonic attack, Arron lands behind Guplei and places a device on him that electrocutes him, Gupla tries to attack but Arron uses Guplei as a human shield and charges him into Gupla, knocking them both down, he quickly gets to Superman

Superman: How…?

Arron: I’ll explain later, we’re not done yet

Superman: The animals, I can’t hear their heartbeats (Arron scans the enclosure)

Arron: I wish I could say it’s your ears recovering but I can’t detect them either, they’re dead. (Superman charges over and begins tearing the armour of Guplei and Gupla, Arron puts his hand on his shoulder) I’ll interrogate these two, your robot’s fighting an army out there, he could use a hand (Superman nods and flies away, Guplei and Gupla begin to recover) you get one chance to answer honestly, why are you here? (Guplei and Gupla laugh, Arron grabs them both and electrocutes them with your gloves) you’re not wearing armour any more, you can feel what I’m doing, TALK!

Gupla: You’ve fought enough people to understand the concept of a distraction (Arron scans the room and sees one of their soldiers grabbing the Phantom Zone projector)

Arron: The Phantom Zone projector (Guplei and Gupla are back on their feet)

Gupla: We can’t have you stand in the way (Arron takes a defensive stance as Guplei and Gupla attack him)

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Back near the zeta tube, the Superman robot is taking the fire without issue, he fires heat vision blasts to their grenades, creating explosions that knock them back, Superman flies through several of them, knocking them out

Superman robot: Master! (One of the troops throws an electrical grenade at the robot, Superman knocks him out of the way and takes the grenade himself, seemingly unharmed by it, he charges back into them, the robot continues attacking from above) master, I have spotted one of the troops near the Krypton memorial.

Superman: Thanks (he flies through more of the army as he makes his way to the Krypton memorial)

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Animal enclosure

Arron blocks punches from Guplei and Gupla, and jumps to avoid punches from their other fists, he flips back to the ground, they try to launch themselves from the walls to punch him but Arron rolls forward, with the two barely missing each other as they land. Guplei provides some jabs which Arron blocks whilst Gupla aims for low kicks, Arron does a spin kick which knocks Gupla backwards then catches Guplei’s fists and electrocutes him, throws him over the shoulder then breaks his arm, he screams in pain as Arron approaches Gupla. She holds out a detonator and presses the trigger, a number of explosives nearby are set off causing the cavern to collapse, Guplei and Gupla teleport away. Arron loads his freeze ray gun and begins creating more ice to hold the cave’s integrity.

<Arron>: That should hold it, long range teleporters wouldn’t be able to lock onto their location, they must be close.

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Krypton Memorial Chamber

One of the soldiers grabs hold of the Phantom Zone projector but is soon confronted by Superman

Superman: You might want to put that back (the soldier begins to speak, but not in a language that’s recognisable, he activates the projector and breaks out one of the prisoners, General Zod, he and Superman stare at each other)

Zod: Superman, I… (Superman fires heat vision at Zod, who’s barely able to block it)

Arron: STOP! (Arron jumps from a high position, landing on the soldier and knocking him out) he hasn’t had the chance to absorb any yellow sunlight, you’ll kill him (Superman stops)

Zod: If I knew all it took to get you angry was the death of your precious pets I’d just hold some hostages in a subway (Arron puts an inhibitor collar around his neck) what is this?

Arron: I suspected the Phantom Zone projector might be a target, an army of Supermen at their beckon call would be appealing to them. So I came equipped with inhibitor collars attune to Superman’s powers.

Zod: A man who knows battle strategy... I like this one

Superman: You’re going back to the Phantom Zone, Zod (he picks up the phantom Zone projector)

Zod: Wait! The Phantom Zone is nearly all gone.

Superman: What do you mean?

Zod: Brainiac found a way to enter the Phantom Zone, he’s trying to convert it all to data.

Superman: You’re lying

Zod: You have my word that what I say is true. But that doesn’t matter, we both know you won’t stand by and let the rest of the criminals in the Phantom Zone die. You’re going in.

Arron: The Phantom Zone is completely cut off from solar energy, you wouldn’t have any powers.

Superman: Not exactly true. (Superman’s robot flies in) suit mode gamma (a shell detaches itself from the robot) I’ve gathered a fair amount of alien tech over the years, I spent years modifying the robot with new features (the shell converts into a suit, which Superman enters) this solar suit should keep me at full strength in the phantom zone. But do me a favour, do not let him (pointing to Zod) out of your sight (Arron nods, Superman projects a portal into the Phantom Zone and steps through as the portal closes)

Zod: The fool hasn’t considered his return.

Arron: If Brainiac can find a way to travel between the zone and the real world, so can he. Meanwhile we’ve got another problem. Guplei and Gupla didn’t accomplish their objective, they’ll be back.

Zod: And the robot is useless without its shell, and I’m powerless wearing this collar

Arron: I’m not an idiot. I don’t know much about you but I know that if Superman or the Kryptonians put you in the Phantom Zone, they did it for good reason.

Zod: You’re absolutely right.

Arron: Even then, your powers require the absorption of sunlight, we’re in a cave, an ice perhaps but the amount of sunlight you can absorb from within the fortress is minimal.

Zod: You seem to know a lot about Kryptonians, but I don’t think you studied this hard for me… You want to take him down

Arron: At one time, Superman was the most powerful being on the planet. And there plenty of villains with the power to control minds. Even with Superman’s formidable mental defences he is not invulnerable to it. So yes, I know Superman’s strengths and weaknesses.

Zod: At one time?

Arron: It’s hard to tell now. We have Thor, the Hulk, the Thing, Doctor Fate, Doctor Doom, you could argue any one of them now.

Zod: Well, things have changed since I was last here. (Giplei and Gipla, now in full amour again arrive backed up by their army)

Guplei: You barely stood against both of us, how are you going to survive against our army?

Zod: I’ve absorbed enough sunlight through the ice to be able to help, but you need to deactivate the collar

Arron: Like hell (he throws down some smoke then inserts a cartridge into his left arm) let’s see if he finally got this one working (the new weapon shoots out disks which hit the ceiling causing icicles to crash down, but Gupla smashes them with her sonic cannons before they can have an impact, Arron fires rockets into the fray but as the smoke clears there’s nothing has changed, Arron activates coms) Arron to anyone, come in (static)

<Arron>: Damn it, I can’t get a signal. (He charges into the soldiers but is knocked back into a wall by Guplei, he tries again, holding up a shield to block the fire but is soon overwhelmed and knocked to the ground) damn it, I have no choice (he presses a button on his gauntlet, which releases the inhibitor collar from Zod, his eyes begin to glow and his fires heat vision, atomising all the soldiers) impossible, he can’t have absorbed that much… (Arron passes out. Guplei and Gupla fire their sonic cannons but Zod avoids them, he rams into them knocking them down and tearing off their helmets, he grabs both of them and raises them into the air)

Zod: You are nothing (he snaps both their necks and drops them to the ground, he sees Arron unconscious and smiles) I respect a general by leaving you alive. Unless you try to stop me. (He spins at super-speed whilst flying, drilling his way through the fortress)

Scene 4

Phantom Zone, --:-- ---

Superman appears in the Phantom Zone, he looks up and sees Brainiac robots laying waste to the prisoners

Superman: So he was right.

**TO BE CONTINUED**