

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - DAY

A knock at the door. CLARK KENT, dressed in black, opens the door and, upon seeing who is knocking, looks unamused.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The person in the doorway is none other than BRUCE WAYNE, dressed to the ten's in a black suit.

INT. CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Clark stands, defiant.

BRUCE WAYNE  
I hope I'm not too late.

CLARK KENT  
Well, everyone left, so...

BRUCE WAYNE  
Perfect. Can I come in?

Clark steps aside and lets Bruce in.

Bruce looks around the place. It's empty. Clearly not the home it once was. No decorations except for a singular picture, of Clark and LOIS LANE.

CLARK KENT  
What do you want?

BRUCE WAYNE  
Wanted to see how you were doing.  
And to offer my condolences, of course.

CLARK KENT  
Thank you. I'm fine.

BRUCE WAYNE  
You don't look it.

CLARK KENT  
How's that now?

Bruce continues wandering, checking corners, tables. He pulls out a drawer to reveal NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS with HEADLINES LIKE "STAR JOURNALIST KILLED DURING UNDERCOVER MISSION OVERSEAS", "MURROW AWARD WINNER MURDERED IN WARZONE", and a special DAILY PLANET TRIBUTE HEADLINED "OUR GIRL, LOIS".

BRUCE WAYNE

Two military bases disappeared last night.

CLARK KENT

What does that have to do with me?

BRUCE WAYNE

One was in a Russian base 150 miles north of Moscow. The other one was in Sudan. They happened within 20 minutes of each other. Obliterated. People 30 miles out thought they were seeing fireworks.

Clark looks down, avoiding eye contact.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

Those countries are five thousand miles away from each other. They're not at war. Not enough to drop a nuke on each other like that.

Clark turns his back and looks off.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

You can't keep doing this.

CLARK KENT

If I don't, who will?

BRUCE WAYNE

You can't fight our wars for us.

CLARK KENT

You know I can.

BRUCE WAYNE

You're not supposed to.

Clark turns.

CLARK KENT

What is that supposed to mean?

BRUCE WAYNE

You know what it means.

Clark looks down.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

Clark...

CLARK KENT

I am no more alien than you are.

BRUCE WAYNE

Well I can't leap a building in a single bound, or whatever.

CLARK KENT

I don't even remember the planet. I don't even know what my parents looked like.

BRUCE WAYNE

That doesn't matter. You're able to do things that I have never seen any one man capable of doing. You could be the one man to stop all the war in the world. And that's the reason why you shouldn't.

CLARK KENT

I could be doing more.

BRUCE WAYNE

You are doing enough. You have staved off wars with beings from other planets. Quite frankly, that's a little more than enough.

CLARK KENT

Innocent people are dying every day, millions of them. Across the world. Every single damn second. And I could stop every single one of them.

Clark walks to the picture of him and Lois.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)

I could save them. War is the single biggest problem facing human kind right now, and I could solve it in three hours.

BRUCE WAYNE

And have the planet right in your hands, just like that.

Clark is trying very hard to hide how pissed he is at Bruce.

BRUCE WAYNE (CONT'D)

War will never go away, Clark. You can't make it go away.

CLARK KENT  
You don't know that.

BRUCE WAYNE  
Do you even understand what you're talking about, getting rid of war? Like, what, wiping out every countries army?

CLARK KENT  
Whatever is necessary.

BRUCE WAYNE  
You don't even know where to start, and that is your first problem.

CLARK KENT  
People need to learn how to change their ways, Bruce. What's the point of protecting people that can't change?

BRUCE WAYNE  
It's not up to you to make them change.

CLARK KENT  
Who's it up to, you?

BRUCE WAYNE  
No, it's up to them. Mankind has only known a life of war and survival, from our ancestors till now.

CLARK KENT  
Well, they could be doing better.

BRUCE WAYNE  
There are better ways to help.

CLARK KENT  
Than guaranteed world peace?

BRUCE WAYNE  
Your intervention will only make things worse. What happens when you've taken out every countries army, huh? You're going to take away guns, too? No violence? No crime? Ever? What happens when you betray the people you consider your own by lording over them like a god? They're going to come for you.

CLARK KENT  
I don't care.

Bruce chuckles to himself.

BRUCE WAYNE  
You don't care.

CLARK KENT  
Tell me, Bruce. If someone could have stopped that bullet, all those years ago. Would you have wanted them to?

Bruce gives Clark a frosty look.

CLARK KENT (CONT'D)  
Night at the Opera, back alley. We all know the story.

BRUCE WAYNE  
Shut up-

CLARK KENT  
If someone could have stopped it, would you have wanted them to Bruce?

Bruce grabs Clark by the collar and hoists him up.

BRUCE WAYNE  
I better like the next words that come out of your mouth.

Clark smiles at him, his eyes hollow.

CLARK KENT  
That would not end well for you.

A beat.

Bruce realizes he can't take on Superman. He drops Clark, and adjusts his own collar.

BRUCE WAYNE  
Make the right choice.

CLARK KENT  
Or else what?

Bruce walks to the table with the picture, staring at it.

BRUCE WAYNE  
I'll make it for you.

Bruce opens the door and walks out. Clark stares off into the balcony.