

**M.S.C.U**  
METROPOLIS . SPECIAL . CRIMES . UNIT

METROPOLIS: SUPPLEMENTAL  
EPISODE 4: "*INSPIRE*"

Written by

ALEX M. P. MATTHEWS

Executive Producers  
Alex Matthews, Chris Davis  
& Jack Malone

XaleCorp Productions 2016

CAST

MAGGIE SAWYER ..... Jill Teed  
TOBY RAINES ..... Kelly Rowan  
UNIFORMED OFFICER .....  
FIREFIGHTER #1 .....  
FIREFIGHTER #2 .....

and

VIC SAGE ..... Mark Pellegrino

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - DAY

The building is BURNING.

SMOKE pours from windows, and FLAMES lick every surface of the structure - only to be quickly doused by a HUGE BURST OF WATER.

PULL BACK to reveal that it is coming from one of two stationary fire trucks - one is a PUMPER, the other a LADDER. Several FIREFIGHTERS wield hoses, aiming the water high up, extinguishing the fires.

Several POLICE OFFICERS have blocked off the area, where a crowd has begun to form, all watching with morbid curiosity, while PARAMEDICS tend to smoke/burn victims just outside the cordoned area.

Pushing through the crowd, looking very determined, is TOBY RAINES, making her way straight for the young OFFICER standing closest to her.

TOBY

Excuse me, excuse me! Officer! Over here! Toby Raines, Daily Star, can I ask you some questions.

The officer staunchly ignores her, keeping his eyes focused on the crowd.

TOBY (cont'd)

(undaunted)

Witnesses say that a certain superhero has been on scene, helping out with the rescue, can you confirm that?

The officer, surprised, snaps his gaze towards Toby.

OFFICER

How did you--

He stops, biting his tongue at the slip, but Toby grins in delight. *Gotcha.*

OFFICER (cont'd)

(calmly, business-like)

Ma'am, I'm gonna have to ask you to step back from the cordon, please.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

MAGGIE

Actually, I'm looking for Toby, she was supposed to meet me outside to go to lunch.

VIC

(realizing)

She was? Ah.

MAGGIE

'Ah'? What's 'ah'?

VIC

(sighs)

She, uh, bolted out of here about twenty minutes ago, we got a report that there was a fire in an apartment building downtown.

MAGGIE

(confused)

Why would she care about an apartment fire?

(beat, realizes)

Someone said Superman was there, didn't they?

VIC

Yeah. Sorry.

MAGGIE

(resigned, sighs)

Hey, it's not your fault, right?

Vic quietly sips his coffee, as Maggie pulls out a cellphone and starts dialing...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Toby, notebook in hand, scribbling away, stands next to a person in the crowd, before nodding and smiling at them.

TOBY

Okay, thank you very much.

*RING! RING!* She quickly fishes out her cell from her jacket, and frowns at the screen - before realization dawns.

TOBY (cont'd)

(embarrassed)

Oh, crap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She hits the 'answer' key and holds the phone close, eyes closed in surrender.

TOBY (cont'd)

I am such an idiot. I totally forgot about our lunch date.

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY STAR BUILDING - CONTINUOUS/INTERCUT

Maggie stands by Toby's desk, trying to appear casual as she talks, but it's clear she's more than a little annoyed.

MAGGIE

Yeah, you did. I even came up to the bullpen to meet you.

TOBY

I'm so, so sorry, but this sighting came in, and I was nearby, and lost track of time. I was able to get a few witness statements, they corroborate each other enough to at least establish he was here.

MAGGIE

That's great, babe, but to be honest, I was really looking forward to spending some time with you.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

As Maggie continues talking, Toby catches sight of two firefighters, stepping away from the now-nearly-extinguished blaze.

MAGGIE (O.S.)

(over phone line)

Look, we've both been really busy the last few months, me with setting up the new precinct, you with your Superman sightings. I thought you were only going to do a few hours this morning so we could have the afternoon together before I had to go to work?

Toby isn't paying attention, instead she's focused on what she can just about hear the firefighters talking about.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FIREFIGHTER #1  
Everyone's out of the building, but  
some of them, they don't remember how  
they got outside.

FIREFIGHTER #2  
Smoke inhalation, maybe?

FIREFIGHTER #1  
That's what I thought at first, but  
then I heard a few of them saying  
something about seeing a blue and red  
blur, the next thing they knew, they  
were outside.

FIREFIGHTER #2  
You think it's really him?

Toby GRINS - that's just what she wanted to hear. She brings  
the cell close.

MAGGIE (O.S.)  
(over phone line)  
Toby? Babe? You still there?

TOBY  
(distracted)  
Listen, I'm not going to be able to  
make lunch, there's too much going on  
here. But I'll take us out for dinner  
tonight, okay. Promise. Love you.

MAGGIE (O.S.)  
(over phone line)  
Toby, no, wait, I'm--

With a press, Toby hangs up, and makes her way towards the  
firefighters...

INT. BULLPEN, DAILY STAR BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Maggie, a little disbelieving, looks down at the cell..

MAGGIE  
(quietly, to herself)  
I'm working late tonight, remember.

She lets out a frustrated sigh, and sits down on the corner  
of Toby's organized, if unoccupied, desk.

She looks up as Vic approaches, a coffee mug in each hand,  
steam rising from them, offering one to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC  
Black, no sugar, right?

MAGGIE  
How'd you know?

VIC  
Well, I could remind you that I *am* an  
investigative journalist, and dazzle  
you with my deductive reasoning.

MAGGIE  
(amused)  
Toby told you, huh?

VIC  
She talks about you a lot, actually,  
when we're not working an assignment.

Maggie sips her coffee, thoughtful for a moment, as Vic  
seats himself at the desk across from Toby's. She turns to  
face him as he starts typing on his keyboard.

MAGGIE  
Vic, I need to ask you something.

VIC  
(understanding)  
You want to know what I saw the night  
of the monorail crash.

MAGGIE  
(impressed)  
Damn, you are good.

Vic stops typing and rubs his chin, thinking.

VIC  
Honestly, I didn't see that much.  
Neither of us did. I mean, we  
couldn't see his face, it was dark,  
the front lights were cracked and  
broken. All we really saw was the  
great big 'S' on someone's chest, and  
the red and blue streak as they took  
off up, up and away.

MAGGIE  
On 'someone's chest'? You mean you  
couldn't for sure say it was actually  
'him'?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC

For certain?

(beat)

No. No, I couldn't.

MAGGIE

(vindicated)

That's what I thought.

She adjusts herself, getting a tad more comfortable.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

Don't you think it's strange?

VIC

What?

MAGGIE

Back before he disappeared a couple of years ago, just after everything that happened with the vigilantes in Gotham, Superman was the poster boy for superheroes, supporting truth, justice, the American way.

VIC

Yeah, I'm with you so far.

MAGGIE

Now, he's back, but instead of coming out and saying so, he's gone back to hiding in the shadows, not sticking around to have any pictures taken.

VIC

(considering)

Yeah, yeah, I see your point. And what's with the fact he's gone back down to working with street level crime. Before, he was all about natural disasters, major-level incidents that needed a major response.

MAGGIE

Whereas now he's gone back to taking out low level bank robbers, and cats in trees.

VIC

Well, he has been gone almost what, three years, right?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC (cont'd)  
Maybe he's figured that he needs to  
earn the people's trust again?

MAGGIE  
(scoffs, unimpressed)  
Well, he'd be right in thinking that.

She sighs, and sips her coffee, before shaking her head.

MAGGIE (cont'd)  
I don't know, maybe I'm just being  
too hard on the guy. All I really  
know is that I'm worried about Toby.

VIC  
She's a big girl, she can take care  
of herself.

MAGGIE  
(frustrated)  
I know, I know, but I just have this  
feeling in my gut, that the longer  
she goes around chasing each and  
every Superman story, she's going to  
get herself hurt.

VIC  
Yeah, maybe she should leave it to  
the suckers over at the Planet, huh?

Maggie can't help but smile a little at his comment,  
although she fixes a sarcastic glare at him.

MAGGIE  
That supposed to make me feel better,  
Vic?

VIC  
Sorry, sorry.  
(beat)  
But seriously, I know you're worried  
about her, but I think this is  
actually all doing her some good.

MAGGIE  
Run that one by me?

VIC  
I know, I haven't been here long, or  
know Toby that well, but I have seen  
a big change in her recently.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC (cont'd)

(beat)

Look, I've read everything she's ever written, and in the last few years, I don't know, it felt like, even though she was still delivering the goods, there wasn't as much passion for the work. Not after she won a Pulitzer.

(beat)

But lately, her articles, although they've been really hero heavy of late, that spark has been back in her writing. That passion has been re-ignited, by *him*.

Maggie stays silent, but her face clouds in thought as she considers his words. Vic himself gets more animated as he talks.

VIC (cont'd)

And she's not the only one. The entire city seems to have swallowed a happy pill for the last few months since everything that happened with Toyman.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

The fire is finally out, and the firefighters are packing up, as tenants talk with police and paramedics. Toby is talking to a young woman, wrapped in a blanket, while a little boy (dressed in a Superman t-shirt) plays with toys.

VIC (V.O.)

The reason for that? It's Superman. People have begun to have hope again, because the original superhero guardian of the city is back. Yeah, there was Green Arrow and the JSA back in the day, but they stayed in the shadows the entire time, whereas Superman, at least before, was someone you could point to and say "there he is!"

A gust of wind blows the boy's toys over, and he looks up, and breaks into the biggest smile you've ever seen. He pulls at his mom's trousers, pointing up in the air excitedly. Both Toby and the mom look up, and gasp silently.

In the air, low enough to be recognisable, but high enough so his face isn't visible, hovers a familiar figure - *SUPERMAN*, cape billowing in a gentle breeze around him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Have you been reading the "Dear  
Superman" letters that the Planet has  
started publishing the last few  
months? There is a lot going on out  
in the world that has made people  
shut off from everything, but now  
he's back, people have started to  
care again. He's a symbol.

As the assembled crowds look up and spot the floating  
superhero, they start to wave and point, cameras flashing as  
people start snapping pictures.

MAGGIE (V.O.)  
Of what?

Toby, looking away, takes in the joyful reactions of the  
crowds around her - even the paramedics, officers and  
firefighters are waving and cheering. She watches, smiling.

VIC  
Hope.

As everyone watches, Superman slowly turns and in a sudden  
burst of superhuman speed, BLURS away in a flash of blue and  
red into the sky and away, as we:

FADE TO BLACK:

**END OF EPISODE**