

Superman Returns

by Jo Mariolis

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Lois Lane is lucky, very lucky;
she gets off easy in the movie.
She may have been Superman's lover,
she may have had his child,
but when he returns and she wants
to see him again, at least
she doesn't burst into flames,

***Hercules' over-eager mother was
reduced to a pile of cinders.***

Superman just takes her for an after-hours
swoop through the stratosphere,
a little flight down memory lane
to remind her of his heavy work load
and why he can't be tied to the
problems of a single woman.

Lois Lane is doubly lucky; think of her
current beau Richard:
wealthy, responsible, and brave,
with *damn* good flying nerve;
the pilot of a sea plane would be the
hero in most movies.
He may have private doubts but
hasn't shipped her kid off to boarding school
Or chucked him into a
labyrinth as a freak of nature.

***King Minos hid his bull-headed stepson,
proof of Pasiphae's strange infatuation.***

Oh, the child is lucky, too; Super, Jr.
can pass as normal, all he's done so far
is to bust up a bad guy's grand piano:
he could have had a burst of

pre-pubescent adrenaline; maybe it was the
stress of being forced into a clichéd piano duet
by a villain who beat his mother
with purloined rock samples, as a
Kryptonite-laced super-continent mutated on the
sea-bed below the luxury yacht.

There was a moment when mother and son
exchanged shocked glances:

Did I do this, Mom?

An inner headline must have flashed for her:

My puny, asthmatic child is HIS son.

But neither child nor "fathers" need to know:
not yet!

Don't squander your luck, Lois Lane;
say good-bye to the Man of Steel.
Marry the rich guy; he loves you
as well as any mortal could.
It wouldn't be a bad idea to stop smoking, either;
you spend too much time day-dreaming on the terrace.

Someday, Superman's son
is going to grow up and fly away;
then who will you love?
You can't protect a hero from their destiny;
It's in the genes, pop science might say.

***Thetis hid her son Achilles among
Lycomedes' daughters, knowing the
voyage to Troy was a one-way trip.***

Jo Mariolis is a retired music teacher who volunteers at the Carlos Museum, Emory University. She continues on a lifelong path of dreams, music, and poetry.