

Hurting Mayson

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Rated G

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Summary: Sometimes being Superman means hearing things you shouldn't.

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Author's note: This is set during 'Lucky Leon', after Clark rushes away from his lunch with Mayson. Considering the range of his hearing, it's always struck me as odd that he didn't hear her whisper.

I heard something I wasn't supposed to.
Being Superman, this happens to me all the time. But this was different. This was personal.

As I rushed away from our lunch date, intent on stopping terrorists from stealing a nuclear missile, I heard Mayson whisper, "I love you."

My heart bleeds for her. Unrequited love is just as painful as the poets would have us believe — trust me, I know.

And it is unrequited. Mayson is a wonderful woman: smart, funny, passionate, beautiful. Any man would be lucky to have her, and I do care about her.

But I don't love her.

Lois remains the only woman I've ever loved.

If that wasn't the case — if I wasn't deeply, passionately, head-over-heels in love with Lois Lane — could I have fallen for Mayson?

The truth is, I think the answer is no. There are things about myself that I could never tell Mayson, the most glaring of these being my extracurricular activities in red and blue Spandex. She dislikes Superman, and how could I be with someone who disapproves of such a big part of my life?

On top of that... she makes me doubt myself. She makes me doubt my own actions, the path I've chosen in life, the use to which I put my powers. Becoming Superman made the difference between being able to live a normal life and being condemned to a wandering existence, constantly fleeing from the threat of discovery. I need someone who supports and believes in me, and Mayson doesn't.

I don't want to hurt Mayson, but I have to.

If I could go back to when we met, I wouldn't accept her invitation to lunch. I shouldn't have accepted it then. I knew there was no future for us, but I was wrapped up in the heady feeling of finding someone who was interested in me and not the superhero. So I said yes and ignored the consequences. I wish I hadn't.

She would've been better off.

THE END