

M/R

"Smallville"

TESS - SCENE 2

INT. ARCHIVE ROOM - DAILY PLANET - NIGHT

Shadows cloak the dusty archives, stretching out from a lone desk lamp. Sneaking in, Jimmy quietly saddles up to the computer, the glow from the lamp on his nervous face.

TESS (O.S.)

Careful.

Jimmy jumps with a start and spins to see, emerging from the dark corner... TESS, in a sharp business suit, her starched white shirt unbuttoned just low enough to add a little edge.

TESS

(ominous)

Little hard to find your way around  
this place in the dark.

JIMMY

I was just... trying to hit a  
deadline, and I... that's pretty  
much it.

TESS

You're a hard man to track down,  
Olsen.

JIMMY

Hazards of a field job.

TESS

From what I'm hearing, working for  
Lex had more than its share of  
hazards.

JIMMY

I wouldn't know anything about--

TESS

Don't patronize me with a half-  
hearted attempt at an excuse. All  
I've gotten since I arrived are  
lies and mis-directs.

JIMMY

(realizing who she is)

You're the suit who's holding the  
golden key to the Luthor castle,  
aren't you?

TESS

Never had it put that...  
romantically.

(she approaches him)

Yes, I'm handling the Luthor  
estate, and I need a few answers.  
If Lex put his trust in you, I have  
to assume you were worthy of it.

JIMMY

I don't know what you're talking  
about. I can't imagine there's too  
many "i's" to dot or "t's" to cross  
down here below sea level.

Tess exhales, seeing she needs to try another approach.

TESS

James Olsen... catchy name. The  
kind of name that would whitewash  
any indiscretions in your past and  
give you a clean slate.

(off his reaction)

If one was predisposed to that kind  
of deception.

JIMMY

How did you... lady, I don't know  
what you think you know about me,  
but it's not true.

TESS

I'd hate to see such a promising  
career in photojournalism go up in  
flames just because you were too  
stubborn to help someone who's just  
doing her job.

JIMMY

You can't do this to me.

TESS

Then don't make me. What lie did  
Lex ask you to sell Lois Lane about  
his excursion to the arctic circle?

OFF Jimmy, trapped...