

Rise To The Top

One day, Superman was flying around when he notices someone falling off a bridge. He flies into action and catches the man before he hits the icy water. Superman looks at the man, and feels certain that he's seen him somewhere before but he isn't exactly sure.

As Superman ponders this thought, the man begins to revive.

"Wh-Where - W - Who?" he begins.

"Don't worry," Superman says, "I saved you from falling to your death. What were you doing on the bridge so late?"

In a fury, the man attacks Superman.

"I was trying to forget all my troubles! I've lost all my faith in people. There's no one that's honest anymore."

"Why do you feel that way," Superman asked as he dodges one of his punches.

And, so begins Larry Trent's story of why he's lost hope in humanity. You see, Larry was a successful boxer. He was winning match after match when a new manager approached him. This manager promised that he'd take Larry to the top of the boxing world. Larry loved this idea, and agreed to have a new manager.

"What I didn't know, was that my new manager worked hand-in-glove with ruthless gangsters. He took me to the top, but it didn't last long. On the night of the big fight for the championship belt, they placed a drug in my drink. My senses were reeling from the effects of the drug, and my opponent KO'd me in no time. I had lost my title. I've never recovered. I'm just a stumbling bum who fights for just \$40 bucks a night!"

Superman suddenly had an idea.

"Hey, if I were to restore the title back to you, would it bring back your self-respect?"

"Would it!! - But what could you possibly do? Larry asked.

"I'll disguise myself as you, and battle my way to the heavyweight championship of the world!"

"You crazy loon! People will know your Superman, not Larry Trent!"

"Not with the right disguise. Come on, you'll need to stay out of sight for a few months while I battle my way to the top" said Superman.

Superman's plan seemed a little crazy to Larry but he didn't have any other options. The plan was simple. For several months, Larry would train to be a top-notch boxer again while Superman, disguised as Larry, would fight his way to the top.

"Hey, Larry," Superman started, "when were you suppose to fight next?"

"The Crystal Club - Tonight!" he said.

After applying some make-up, Superman expertly alters the appearance of his features. Larry is shocked when he comes out of his bedroom.

“Good Gosh! You’re ME!” exclaimed Larry.

“Wrong! You’re not looking at Larry Trent, ex-champ but at Larry Trent, the upcoming Champion of the World!”

After reminding Larry to stay low, Superman flies off to the Crystal Club. The line coming out of the club is long, and tons of people are pressing to get in. Disguised as Larry, Superman enters the rear of the club.

“You’re late, Trent!”

“Oh, sorry boss.”

“Now move it over there with the others!” barked a man in a black tuxedo.

Superman assumes this is Larry’s boss. He immediately seems like a mean guy. His eyebrows are always down, and he has a cigar hanging out of mouth. The smoke smarts everyone’s eyes around him, while ash falls all over the place. He was barking orders to everyone when he turned his attention to the fighters again.

“Not listen, you bums, I want action. Plenty of fists flying, and lots of laughs too. Now, get into the ring and when I give the signal, start sockin!”

The group quickly leaves the room. Superman is shocked to see so many people as they approach the ring. He thought boxing was pretty unpopular but there are people from all acts of life in attendance. Movie stars, singers, football players, wrestlers, and models are all shouting in excitement as they fill the ring. Lights, followed by fireworks just added to the enthusiasm everyone feels.

Superman is surprised to see eleven other men in the ring with him. He thought boxing was just against another opponent; not eleven! Before he could ask any questions, Larry’s boss began the introductions.

“Ladies and gentleman, you about to witness twelve men battling together in one ring! Now I ask ya, is that givin ya yer money’s worth? Is it? Is it?”

The crowd goes crazy with shouting and applause as the bell rings. Superman didn’t waste any time. Faster than the eye could follow, he clips one jaw after another until everyone was down on the mat. The crowd looks wide-eyed in amazement.

“You knocked them all out so quickly!” exclaimed Larry’s boss.

“Got any more?”

“Wow, I just ca—Er, the Winner!” said Larry’s boss as he raises Superman’s arm in the air.

After that, superman, disguised as Larry took one fight after another. And, each fight ended in the same fashion. A quick knockout followed by Superman’s arm being raised in the air.

While Superman is fighting as Larry, Larry continues his training. He gets up while it's still dark to jog five miles a day, he practices punching a body bag, and when Superman returns to his apartment, the two spar with one another in the living room.

"Hey, do you think this is really going to work?" Larry asked.

"Well, why wouldn't it work?"

"I don't know. I just don't know if I got what it takes anymore."

"Larry, cut that out! You're an excellent fighter. You've just forgotten how great you really are" said Superman.

Finally, the moment arrives. Larry's been offered a chance to fight against Rick Barnes, the boxing champion of the world. Larry's worried about the fight but Superman reminds him that he's ready. The two continue their training up to the night of the fight.

Right before the fight begins, Tom Croy, Larry's former manager approaches him.

"Larry, I can't believe you're at the top again. Wait to go, kid!" Tom said.

"Yeah, I can't believe either," said Larry.

Superman looks at Tom carefully. As the two continue talking, Superman notices that Tom had a small vile of liquid in his coat. Just as he was about to slip the liquid into Larry's water, Superman leaps into action.

"Here! Go on! Drink it, Tom!"

Tom ran from the building yelling, "Help, someone help! I'm poisoned!"

"Don't worry, Larry. I've got your back," said Superman.

That was all Larry needed to hear. Once the bell rung, Larry leaps into action determined to win back the belt. After eight brutal rounds, Larry had done the unthinkable. He was the heavyweight champion of the world once again.

"I couldn't have done this without you, Superman! Thank for everything," he shouted as the crowd stormed the ring.

Superman flew off with the biggest smile as he heard the chants of, "Larry! Larry! Larry!"

