



Superman: Sacrifice

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The pivotal story that forever alters the relationship between Superman and Wonder Woman is collected here for the first time. Max Lord has taken over Superman's mind and has him in his total thrall. With his peers and loved ones threatened, Superman is helpless. But not Wonder Woman, who must battle past the Man of Steel and decisively end the threat. Her actions, and the repercussions, are explored in this controversial saga that leads into INFINITE CRISIS.

Collects: SUPERMAN #218-220; ADVENTURES OF SUMERMAN #442-443; ACTION COMICS #829; and WONDER WOMAN #219-220.

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From Reader Review Superman: Sacrifice for online ebook

Jeffrey Jelmeland says

I have mixed feelings about this one. The underlying plot that ties it all together is cohesive and whole, but some of the stories were more than a bit rough around the edges. And don't let me talk about some of the horrid artwork for part of the arc. It was bad enough that I basically just skimmed that section as I couldn't bear to stay there long enough to read the story. That said, there were some very nice parts in there, and I finally got the story where Wonder Woman committed murder that I had encountered in the Manhunter books, so that filled in some blanks quite nicely. All in all, while it all made up the story arc, only about 50% of this volume was really Superman and worth reading. The other bits...not so much, and they are what pulled the rating down so low.

Will Robinson Jr. says

If superheroes like the Justice League really existed would we worship them or fear them? I picked up this book on a whim. I have not read a lot of the past pre-Flashpoint DC Comics runs. So this was a pleasant experience. This one book has definitely given me an understanding of why so many longtime DC comics fans miss the character continuity that existed before the New 52. Written by Greg Rucka this collection of the Superman series that ran in 2005 sees our hero being taken over mentally by Maxwell Lord, the leader of a spy organization known as Checkmate. Checkmate's goals seem to be to take down the Justice League because of their fear that the super heroes potentially can bring against human kind. It is a dark time for the DC universe. Supes finds himself more isolated as human kind begins to fear his supernatural abilities. It is heartbreaking to watch how Clark becomes distant from his wife and friends. What is very impressive is that this superhero tale is not short on action and balances it well with a truly emotional story. There are a lot of great artists on this issue which include Ed Benes, Rags Morales and my personal fan favorite Tony Daniel. This is a great Superman story and actually has one of the best Wonder Woman tales as well.

Victor Orozco says

Cool! If I ever needed any further proof that Wonder Woman is a tough woman that does whatever she must to get things done was in this story.

I understand that there is a massive fan base against super-heroes killing because of their powers they should be able not to kill. This same silly controversy was present in The Man of Steel movie. I believe what Diana did was right and Clark (who after reading in For Tomorrow is still a wuss) and Bruce (a self-righteous angry jerk) had no right to judge. She saved their lives and they are pissed that she violated their one rule.

Wonder Woman is a great character and this comic allowed her to shine even if it was mostly a Superman story. B+

Dovile says

Collects SUPERMAN #218-220, ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #642-643, ACTION COMICS #829 and WONDER WOMAN #219-220.

I'd recommend reading Countdown to Infinite Crisis Special and The OMAC Project issues 1-3 before reading this story and issues 4-6 after finishing Sacrifice for a more complete backstory.

The art and the story itself are quite good, and also important for the DC universe if you're following Superman, Wonder Woman and/or Justice League comics. Although I do see why Batman is angry with WW at the end and he's quite right to be, because even I can think of several solutions to the Maxwell Lord problem that could be more acceptable than the one WW chose.

John Yelverton says

The Superman book series just keeps getting better and better as this counts down to an event that is supposed to rock the DC Universe to its core.

Michael says

Here's my big problem with this whole "shattering of the trilogy" conceit behind Infinite Crisis - it's not believable. Superman particulaly is bent so out of character to make the story work that I just can't buy it. He turns his back on Wonder Woman, like a spoiled ten-year-old. Even if he disagreed with her actions, he can certainly recognize the need. Worst case scenario, the story should've ended with Superman saying, "I wish it hadn't come to that."

The epilogue, with wishy-washy Superman teaming up with wishy-washy Superboy for a pointless skirmish was pretty lame as well. Verheiden's scripting is too heavy-handed and the behavior forced - such as Superman's over-reaction in the battle against Blackrock - and it shows in the final chapter.

Superman whines about people being afraid of him - as if that has ever stopped him from doing the job before. Then, just when Superman starts to show a hint of spine, Superboy gives some self-pitying crap about how he's just a dumb kid who can hide from his problems (what?!), but Superman has to "get over it."

Ugh. Forcing characters to fit into a story that you want to tell, regardless if it makes sense, is never satisfying. (And I won't even get into Max Lord's out of character behavior, because it ultimately could've been any penny ante "mastermind" in his shoes.)

Bevans says

The fact that, when mind-controlled, the first member of the Justice League that Superman takes out is Batman should tell anyone just how big of a threat Batman is to everyone, despite having no superpowers (and Superman almost kills him).

Maxwell Lord is quite an interesting villain, as his reasons for wanting to kill all the superheroes actually makes a lot of sense: if *he* can control them, someone else could too, so they're basically bombs waiting to go off.

The fight between Wonder Woman and Superman was very well done. They seemed fairly evenly matched, even though Superman is certainly more powerful. His only disadvantage is his uncontrollable rage, caused by Lord making him think Lois is dead.

The final scene (which I unfortunately knew about already) was amazing, as Wonder Woman is forced to snap Lord's neck to break his mental grip on Superman. It's a very brutal, shocking way to end such an interesting character's life...at least until he gets resurrected at the end of Blackest Night.

Sesana says

So I'm really not a Superman person, I'm just reading this because I'm trying to read up on the DC crossover events. I know that's like 50 trades, and I accept that I'm crazy for trying at this point. At any rate, Superman: Sacrifice was part of the buildup to Infinite Crisis. Unfortunately, I haven't gotten my hands on Project OMAC yet, and it seems like OMAC should probably be read first. There's a lot of intermingled events here. The basic idea is that Maxwell Lord (Luthor Lite) has managed to take control of Superman's mind. I'm not exactly sure how. If it was explained in the issues collected here, I missed it. Maybe that's in OMAC. The end result is that Wonder Woman feels compelled to do something that Superman and Batman both regard as essentially unforgiveable.

And it's ok. I guess everybody seemed more or less in character. The storyline itself simply wasn't that interesting to me. I get that an out-of-control Superman would be a very scary thing, but I don't think that was developed very well. Considering the implications, the entire storyline felt like it had been compressed, but that's probably partly to do with the crossover. Storylines need resolving in a set number of issues, no more and no less. Of course, I may not even be seeing the end of the storyline, and it may end up spreading out across a dozen or so trades. But what was here? It was ok.

M says

The downfall of the trinity of the DC Universe begins here in this Infinite Crisis prelude. Slowly losing his grip on reality, Superman has taken a darker turn toward dealing with his adversaries. The result is a suspicious Justice League and a fearful public, especially after his heat vision solution for new villain Blackrock. Things come to a head when Superman's battle with Brinaic proves to have occurred only in his mind - when in reality he has pummeled Batman within an inch of his life. Paranoia prevents Superman from allowing the League to aid in his search for answers, forcing Wonder Woman to follow in pursuit. As the mastermind behind it all is revealed to be Max Lord, former liaison to several incarnations of the League, Superman is forced to battle Wonder Woman for Lord's amusement. The fatal solution breaks the trust held between each hero, and starts the eventual crumbling of the Justice League itself. Greg Rucka is joined by a host of others in this multi-title collection, depicting the scary possibility of an out-of-control Superman; the process would be done better in the Injustice series to a deadlier effect. Overall, Sacrifice just tosses the Big Three to the wolves, setting up the yearlong 52 event without the most recognizable heroes of the DC Universe.

Jim C says

This is a collection of comics that tell the story of what happens when the most powerful being is being controlled. Superman is losing his mind and during altercations he is not holding back. This terrifies humans and his fellow Justice League members are also affected by Superman's recent outrage.

I have read other collections that lead up to the Infinite Crisis storyline and I liked those better. This was a decent collection but it did have flaws. My major concern with this collection was there wasn't enough exploration of Superman not being in control. This collection's storyline portrayed humans distrusting Superman as if it was instantaneous. It felt like it was rushed. Also, there was no explanation of how Superman lost his mind. I am not a huge DC fan and maybe serious fans will know how this happens as they read this collection. Also, I thought the artwork was up and down.

There were positives to this collection. There were several scenes that were poignant and the writers and illustrators handled them perfectly. The handling of the big three coming apart was touching. Also, there were some funny panels that made me laugh out loud.

All in all this won't blow off your socks but you also will not feel like you wasted your time reading this. I would suggest reading the other collections to this huge storyline before reading this one.

StoryTellerShannon says

This graphic novel poses the question what would other superheroes do if Superman were out of control and mind controlled by a supervillain, Maxwell Lord.

It all begins with the gradual erosion of Superman's mental capacity from reality as he's put in the impossible situation to save loved ones from evil that will destroy them at any instant. We also get to see Wonder Woman and Superman go at it and tear apart the world around them.

Greg Rucka, Gail Simone and Mark Verheiden put this tale together. Commendable artwork by a host of people (I don't know the artists as well as the writers).

Spoilers below the grades.

STORY/PLOTTING: A minus; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B plus to A minus; ARTWORK PRESENTATION: B plus to A minus; THEMATIC FOCUSES: B plus; ACTION FOCUSES: B plus to A minus; OVERALL GRADE: B plus to A minus; WHEN READ: end of June 2012.

(view spoiler)

Rabiaah Abdalreda says

So Batman and his pathetic paranoia causes all this mess and he's forgiven for it. Wonder Woman fights for her life, saves Batman, and ends the threat but gets shunned for it. I'm really pissed here.

Brian says

As the header says, this story collection is one of the many lead-up stories for Infinite Crisis. As far as I know, the main gist of Infinite Crisis was to have the big three (Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman) all distrust one another and this certainly sets this up. Superman wrestles with the knowledge that if he ever truly loses control, the world is pretty much doomed.

This volume has a rather iconic page showing how Wonder Woman dealt with Maxwell Lord. Nice to read that finally in context.

I'm glad this collection was bundled together in order since the Sacrifice storyline was in four parts across three series (Action Comics, Superman, and Wonder Woman). I don't know how close this is to Infinite Crisis, but it's still a good story without knowing that.

Fugo Feedback says

Piñas van, piñas vienen, pero los muchachos no se entretienen. Hay tantas incongruencias argumentales en este comic que las ganas de releerlo para escribir una reseña más elaborada son mínimas. Ahora que finalmente encontré la edición de SD a un precio accesible la compré por una cuestión de completismo tardío. Lástima que por culpa de este tomo no metieron el capítulo correspondiente de Wonder Woman en la miniserie OMAC, aunque ahora que la tengo ya no me molesta mucho que digamos.

Scott says

Dependable writers Rucka & Simone were a selling point, but the first half of the book was kind of dry and repetitive until the involvement of the Justice League. But then . . . a mind-controlled Superman and Wonder Woman have a knock-down, drag-out brawl by Devil's Tower National Monument (a close encounter of the incredibly violent kind?) that is pretty harsh and lasts for several pages. Or, to quote Superman - "HNAA-AAAAA-AHHH!"

Keith says

I've gone 10+ years never really knowing what *Infinite Crisis* was about, only that it was a snarl of crossovers that just made me sad. But then I couldn't even get through Greg Rucka's *Wonder Woman* run without running afoul of IC. So now I've read this book (which is actually the penultimate storyline of Rucka's WW, sandwiched in between Land of the Dead and Mission's End), I have finally learned that the giant repugnant OMAC Project / Infinite Crisis / Checkmate / 52 clusterbomb which is really what led to the shambling horror The New 52 and ruined DC for like ten years mostly starts here (and in all the other books which like happen simultaneously or were maybe literally all just born in hell together).

And the plot of all these books, seriously, is the same plot as Civil War, the Marvel title published at the same time that was. um...8 issues long. And quite good. *Civil War* was a story about government oversight, and in it the heroes have to decide whether or not to submit to a Registration Act after some villains accidentally blow up a school.

But in *Sacrifice*, villains suddenly decide that the heroes have too much power and so they have to be stopped before they kill somebody. And then the heroes get wind of that and kill someone in order to stop the villains from stopping them.

It is just so fucking terrible.

The reason that Marvel can make morally ambiguous superhero comics and DC just *can't* is that Marvel comics are, and have always been, comics for the horny angry teenagers inside us, while DC is for our inner ten year olds. Seriously. You want to know the difference between the two companies-- the central difference? That is it. DC comics are about reaffirming the primal ideas of a child, and there's real value in that. Marvel is about dealing with how weird the world is, and there's value in that too.

And there's certain kinds of things DC comics can do involving big crazy universes and exploring essential questions about consciousness, and there's things Marvel can do like question the nature of heroism and get into the nitty gritty of the superhero metaphor, but they *can't do each other's things* and DC basically forgot this for ten years and was like *let's make the good guys into killers and the bad guys into serial rapists* and everyone was like SERIOUSLY FUCK YOU and the *Wonder Woman* movie may be the first time DC has actually been able to remember itself since this fucking terrible bunch of comics i am reviewing was first published in 2005.

It's just looking into the center of shit-hell, this comic. It's the comic that killed a brand for a thousand years, or at least a solid eleven.

Two stars because the art's not bad in places, though.

Amanda says

I loved this side of Wonder Woman!

Dan says

A seemingly confusing story about a mind controlled Superman. The ending just left me with more questions.

Jerry Daniels says

In *Superman: Sacrifice*, Superman's greatest nemeses wreak havoc on the lives of those he cares about, or so it seems until members of the Justice League learn that his mind as well as the illusions he sees is being controlled by foe Maxwell Lord. The story gets interesting after Wonder Woman commits the unthinkable and -- in the eyes of Superman and Batman -- unforgivable. (See review of *The OMAC Project*.) Using Wonder Woman's voice, DC Comics explores the validity of her actions and speculation of consequences she might face from committing those actions. It is here where the story finds its heart. It concludes in the same manner, when Clark Kent/Superman returns home to check in on his clone, Connor Kent/Superboy, only for the two of them to be called away on a mission that allows the two to bond.

Jordan says

Superman is mind-controlled and goes nuts. Wonder Woman saves the day and gets shunned for it. Batman... is a huge jerk.
