



Superman: War of the Supermen

James Robinson , Sterling Gates , Eddy Barrows (Illustrator) , Aaron Lopresti (Illustrator)

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The final chapter in the critically acclaimed, best selling NEW KRYPTON storyline.

A war is coming, and all that stands between Earth and 100,000 vengeful supermen is one Superman! The storyline the SUPERMAN books have been building to since 2008 has arrived. The Man of Steel must stop the two worlds he loves from destroying each other, while General Sam Lane and all of Earth's heroes make one last stand against General Zod and his army of super powered Kryptonians. The fate of two worlds will be decided here. In the end, can Superman save either?

Collecting SUPERMAN: WAR OF THE SUPERMEN #0-4 and materials from SUPERMAN #700.

Superman: War of the Supermen Details

Date : Published February 8th 2011 by DC Comics (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781401229672

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Format : Hardcover 144 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Dc Comics, Superman, Superheroes, Comic Book,
Graphic Novels Comics

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Download and Read Free Online Superman: War of the Supermen James Robinson , Sterling Gates , Eddy Barrows (Illustrator) , Aaron Lopresti (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Superman: War of the Supermen for online ebook

Mohammad Aboomar says

The worst in comics is concentrated in this volume. The cheesiness, false grandeur, lack of coherence, and even a naive shot at romance are all here.

Kyle says

It's over. Sigh of relief. It was a huge investment of time and resources; but, finally, the New Krypton story-arc is over.

Of course it was a predictable ending, and I think that's what made the whole series an exercise in patience: with Supes, you always know exactly how it is going to end, so there really is never any mystery or suspense... You always get what you'd expect with The Man of Steel.

I was disappointed with the writing on this series. Near the beginning, I thought that maybe, just maybe, Robinson had learned a thing or two about pacing his storyline. With past series, he has had this problem of stretching out the first issues with exposition and choppy dialogue, and then, in the final issue, realizing he is running out of pages, he rushes the ending, letting it dissolve with confusing and loosely connected fight scenes. However, the New Krypton series started off differently. The dialogue was not very choppy, and there was a lot of action near the start, so I thought he had given up his poor-paced ways. Not so, unfortunately.

This last issue is pure Robinson. Rush job and a half. So little dialogue. Disjointed story boarding. Time doesn't seem to exist because every frame just cuts one into the next, most of the action happening off-panel so all of the events can fit in one volume, poorly described, with virtually no exposition, no meaning, no catharsis. It may as well have read, "C'mon! We have to go here now! Hurry! Now over here! Quick! Now we have to do this! Run!!! Go Go Go!! Phew that was close."

As a whole, the series was average. As a final volume, War of the Supermen left me very unsatisfied. Mostly because it doesn't show us a war!!! It's more like "The Nightly News Recap of The War of the Supermen".

3/5

James DeSantis says

This was...a whimper of an ending. So right off the bat the story starts with Superman busting through a wall claiming he'll stop Zod. That's right. Just burst through the walls while Zod's entire army is there to stop you...what? Then have Supergirl do something dumb and cause the death of the entire race. Not a spoiler, we knew it wasn't going to last. Then people fight...a lot...yeah. Everything wrong with Zack's vision of Superman is present in this story.

The Good: There's a bitter sweet moment with Clark and Kara. There's also a cool moment with Superboy

(So weird there's ANY good moments with him) and that's about it...

The bad: The fights are bland and boring. The ending feels wrapped up and silly. The Zod planning makes no f'ing sense and when they get to earth it just comes down to kill everything but with no planning. This is supposed to be a general...right? RIGHT!?

Yeah overall this whole event wasn't great. Some moments of fun to be had but if you never read this you won't be skipping much.

William Thomas says

You know how some people will judge you, you in your entirety based on this one question: Beatles or Rolling Stones? It's the same thing with which side you take in the Superman or Batman question.

And I've always been into the Stones and the Batman. Whatever you think that says about me, it's probably true.

I've always thought of Superman as a Nancy. A watery, weepy type of superhero. And that's a very unfair characterization, but to me he's like the Jimmy Stewart of superheroes when Batman is the Lee Marvin.

But once in a long while I read a great Superman book like this and get all revved up to start picking up his single issues. Disappointment immediately ensues because I realize that Superman gets by most of the time on his name alone, and that quite a few writers are very lazy in the monthly books. I do however think he is always written pitch-perfectly in the JLA books.

But I loved this book for it's return to the mythology of Krypton and it's incorporation of a new insidious villain on Earth, one that trumped even Lex Luthor and collaborated with Brainiac. Namely, Lois Lane's father. On top

Of this and Zod returning for another attempt at conquering Earth, it was a supremely enjoyable experience.

Paul Riches says

It was the last great pre-TheNew52 Superman storyline. It was supposed to entertain and enlighten and energize the Superman books for years to come. It was one of the most massive, interconnected tales of Kal-El ever told.

And I thoroughly enjoyed it.

And I think I was one of the few who did.

And that is a complete shame.

Superman New Krypton is a storyline that takes place over almost two years worth of Superman, Action Comics, Supergirl, Superboy, World of New Krypton, Adventure Comics and various one shots and mini-series. One of the slight modifications after Infinite Crisis to the mythos was opening the floodgates to plenty

of other Kryptonians being alive and well, and this concept became a tidal wave when Superman faced off against Brainiac for the “first” time and freed the kidnapped bottled city of Kandor.

In all classic and neo-modern versions of this tale, these fellow Kryptonians become jolly good friends of Superman and benevolent helpers to him. Those stories would always bore me to tears. Even when they enlarged and got their own planet, I couldn’t have cared less.

This time, this contemporary version, they range from arrogant to somewhat ungrateful to outright hostile to all sorts inbetween. It is made abundantly clear that one of the points of New Krypton is that a great part of makes Superman “Super” is the parentage of Ma and the now late Pa Kent. Early on the now powered up Kandorians relish “their” new planet, and view the current inhabitants, namely us humans, as like pets. The part with the whale illustrates this dichotomy so precisely, it is downright prescient of what future troubles are brewing.

Tensions immediately escalate when Lois’s presumed dead father, General Lane, enacts Project 7734, with the goal of fulfilling his genocidal hatred of all things Superman. Plots within plots within plots, each met with large body counts, becomes the constant theme here. Anyone and anything that gets in the way of eliminating these filthy aliens must be abolished. The massacres the Kandorians have to endure, and their counter measures to ensure their safety, cause global tensions and bring about a huge cadre of superheroes to sort the situation out.

At this point the preamble is done, the Kandorians see the welcome mat yanked away, which makes them launch their city off into space, create a crystalline planet for themselves, and take up orbit on the far side of the sun. Goodbye you crazy humans!

At this point, Kal is still trying to fix all the myriad problems that have come about here, and so with a heavy heart he talks to wife Lois and mother Martha and goes off to outer space and New Krypton.

The stage is set and the players are now in place.

Kal-El is now world building, society changing and evil plot solving in the World of New Krypton comic by James Robinson, Greg Rucka and Pete Woods. Guest stars like Green Lantern, Adam Strange and Jemm pop up here because of the new galactic power this planet represents. We also see the creators reinvent Krypton by incorporating as many different previous versions as possible, and somehow keeping internal logic. Kal learning about how things work here does not make him a happy Superman, and brings out the social revolutionary in him.

Meanwhile, back in Metropolis, new protectors have emerged in the Superman comic, by James Robinson and Renato Geudes. Through a series of flukes, Mon-El has been plucked from the Phantom Zone and managed to be cured, while another clone of the golden age hero The Guardian has come to town. These two bring truth and justice and subplots galore here every month.

But what of all the subterfuge between the two planets? Action Comics by Greg Rucka and various artists plays with this concept by showcasing the hunt for Kryptonian infiltrators by Nightwing and Flamebird. This crime fighting duo, and potential couple, are also Kryptonians and fighting against the evil General Zod’s plans for Earth.

The tale of someone genuinely torn between the two worlds is in the Supergirl comic, by Sterling Gates and Jamal Igle. Whether she is on New Krypton endlessly arguing with her mother – and leader of Kandor, or

learning about humanity while living with Lana Lang back on Earth, Supergirl is constantly challenged. She is also subjected to relentless yellow journalism by Daily Planet gossip hound Cat Grant, trying on the secret identity of Linda Lang, and recovering from Kryptonite poisoning, which by the way, is a brilliant plot device to fix the many many problems plaguing the character over the years. Supergirl 43 is the absolute best of this series, featuring her birthday and choosing a guild.

Joining in on the fun is Adventure Comics, by Geoff Johns and Francis Manapul. Starting with Superboy slowly becoming a part of everything, the series then evolves into telling the tale of how the time travelling Legion of Super Heroes are involved with this crisis.

Along the way with this sweeping storyline, we get some one shots giving us the journey of Jimmy Olsen as he investigates General Lane, and another one shot at a critical junction of everything. A personal favourite is the World's Finest miniseries, by Sterling Gates and various artists, which has several very important plot developments. But the real reason this is a classic part of New Krypton is that these four issues have a literal whackload of Superman and Batman supporting characters teaming up, arguing, bantering, and just giving us readers a grand old adventure. Come on, Guardian and Robin Damian taking on Mr Freeze and the Parasite, what more can you ask for?

The only downside to this undertaking is the midway point. You can tell the gears behind the scenes were being shifted slightly, with some ideas, like Mon-El's powers or what to do with Guardian's "kid", becoming increasingly sidelined. By the time of the epic ending with The Last Stand of New Krypton comic, you can feel the lethargy kicking in. This is not to say the conclusion, which reaches its final crescendo with the War Of The Supermen mini-series, was not good and gripping and emotional, but it is obvious the fatigue from creating all those stories had taken its toll.

Afterall, besides everything I have mentioned, New Krypton also stars Lois Lane on a quest for the truth about her father, Perry White trying to guide her, Lex Luther being the master manipulator, Atlas being a brute, Steel helping out in Metropolis, the Creature Commandos making a comeback, Reactron being a ruthless murderer, Doomsday terrorizing everyone, Captain Atom playing a role, Daxam history getting re-explained, Codename: Assassin getting a dust-off, Silver Banshee giving a shout out, Insect Queen crawling about, Rao gaining new followers, and a partridge in a pear tree. With all this, and so much more, is it any wonder that everyone involved probably needed a nice long vacation when it was all said and done?

One issue that was present from the start, as related in interviews by writer Greg Rucka, is that New Krypton was very much behind schedule right from inception. Playing catch-up was always a present concern for all creators, who all want to do their best, but are facing a super deadline looming before them.

Because of this rushed nature of the series, and despite the promotional push from DC Comics, fans seemed slightly jaded before New Krypton even began. I myself got every issue, but only read them all last month. Because of this malaise, I firmly believe sales of the entire storyline were far below expectations, which is most likely why virtually all aspects of it were promptly ignored as soon as it ended. And this failure was also the most probable reason why the major surgery was committed on Superman's history with The New 52 Relaunch. Think about it, this massive sweeping tale of epic proportions with far reaching ramifications vanishes from continuity a year later? Such a shame.

Everyone has a favourite Superman. Mine is the From Crisis To Crisis era. This storyline, with a nip and tuck and a bit of mental rewiring, can still fit somewhat gently into that beloved version of the Man of Steel. Yes, some leaps are harder to take than others, and I am looking at you Lucy Lane, but so many of the basic concepts are still present and accounted for.

So many thoughts and ideas are expressed here. The Clark Kent of Ma and Pa Kent faces off against the Kal-El of Krypton, nature versus nurture on a planetary scale. Earth and New Krypton on a collision course caused by madmen, people who know nothing of what Superman stands for. All this encompassing something like 150 comics in total.

A Super tale for a Superman.

Emmett Spain says

The epic saga comes to an end. But was it worth it?

The New Krypton saga as a whole has been a real mixed bag. The Mon-El spin off was passable, the Nightwing and Flamebird spin-off was poor at first and came good later, the Supergirl stuff was the best the title has been in years. And the main focus of it all? Well, he was hardly the main focus of it at all, was he? The entire run has been marked by everybody getting meaningful stories and arcs except for the Man of Steel. Once again, people are writing around him. Typical. It seems only Geoff Johns is able to write FOR Superman these days. But that aside, what of the conclusive volume? Did it come good in the end?

The answer is... yes and no.

There are some moments in here that are genuinely epic. Really great stuff. There are some big emotional beats here, too. But again, none of these are really about Superman or Clark. They are stories about Zod, Kara, Alura, and General Lane. Superman features prominently, but he has little to offer the story except as a central figure for people to punch. In this sense, the volume is as poor as the majority of the New Krypton saga. Outside of this element, however, there is real gold to be mined.

Superman fans will have mixed feelings about the end of this saga - my feeling is one of gladness. Glad it's over. It had its moments, and the end is decent, with plenty of big twists and character deaths. Still, it was James Robinson who again let this down. His focus on story is fantastic, his focus on emotion is extremely limited. Sterling Gates fares better, but ultimately it appears that without Geoff Johns, the title is getting by with "decent" stories rather than great ones.

All in all, though, this is one of the better volumes in the saga. If you want to see how it ends, I do recommend you give it a read.

Alan says

I wanted to like the conclusion to the New Krypton storyline a lot. Unfortunately, the 100 minute war failed for me. The results of what happened to Thara, Chris, Faora and Non seemed either too brief or too much happened off panel. The added issue might be that Robert Kirkman (of Walking Dead fame) pretty much did this war story in Invincible with a mildly surprising outcome.

There is at least one thing writers James Robinson and Sterling Gates do better than Kirkman. The sheer amount of damage. There were very few Viltrumites left in Invincible, less than 100 (hell I think about 25 it

has been awhile since I read it). Here Kandor has a population of 80,000, and most of it is wiped out by page 20 (or so). The devastation to Earth is the same in both titles.

So credit for the war's toll, but demerits for how the characters bits, much of it built up for year played out. Especially, General Sam Lane's final fate.

M says

The New Krypton arc reaches its harried conclusion in this Superman volume. As Zod plans his Kryptonian invasion of Earth, Luthor and General Lane are putting their "defensive" scheme into motion. Superman, Supergirl, and the S-team are caught in the crossfire of defending the lives of both planets' citizens. Aptly dubbed the 100-minute war, that seems to sum up this volume. The collection seems rushed, requiring other tomes to help piece together the entire puzzle of events. As always, Superman's adventures fall a little short of exemplar and remain only superfluous.

Amanda says

Eh, the story was only ok but I do want to say that the colorist did a great job.

PJ Carter says

This was like reading a summary of an actual story. Also, how is Superman still relevant if everyone and their brother now has weapons that decimated an enormous army of Kryptonians.

Sam Quixote says

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a turd called War of the Supermen, the finale to the awful New Krypton storyline! General Zod decides to invade Earth 'cos he's a prick and General Sam Lane (Lois' pop) tries to commit genocide, also 'cos he's a prick. Superman flies around punching people because that's always fascinating, some second-tier characters "die" because death means so much in superhero comics, and James Robinson does what he does best: blandly resetting things back to normal without any consequences for anything that happened before.

What a load of crap! There was build-up to a big battle and it culminates in something crummy called "the 100 minute war", an appropriately rushed-sounding affair because it's exactly that. I suppose it's cool seeing that many Kryptonians flying towards Earth but it's a lot of visual spectacle for nothing as it's dealt with very anticlimactically. Robinson careens from one big set piece to the next without a single one feeling significant despite their scale. The sun's been turned red somehow – look at the Kryptonians die! Oh wait, it's gone back to yellow again – thanks Deus Ex Machina!

I'm a Superman fan but there wasn't anything in this one I liked at all. The one positive about this book is that it marks the end of the New Krypton arc. Wow, Airboy really is the only James Robinson book worth

reading, eh?

John Yelverton says

Absolutely amazing end to one of the greatest Superman stories in years.

Jeff says

[(hide spoiler)]

Gavin says

OK So apparently, Superman: Brainiac, which I just read before this, was the start of a saga, and this was the conclusion.

Interesting.

I like the fact that Superman isn't in control at all, that there's more powerful forces (Zod and Lane) and that while he is of both worlds, he is also of neither, and both his homes have committed genocide against the other.

This would be a great time for him to go apeshit. Really would be.

Other than that, More of the Krypton reborn...sheesh, why can't it be like Alderaan and just stay dead? I mean I suppose that's the thing at the end of the day, how often do you kill/destroy something to have it come back...not everything is like that. Plus, having more Kryptonians makes Superman/Kal-El even less important.

I dunno I guess I should read more in the middle of this but it wasn't too bad on it's own. Nothing earth-shattering for me though.

Michael says

And it's done. Pretty solid and gripping finale - but again, I find the ease with which many Kryptonians were killed distracting. And frankly, I find it antithetical to my opinion of Superman as a hero that he could fail to colossally to save nearly all of the lives on New Krypton. Saving lives is what he does, even against impossible odds.

Aside from my philosophical differences, however, it's a pretty gripping ride, with some interesting individual conflicts - Guardian vs. Codename Assassin, Steel vs. Atlas, and of course Superman vs. Zod. Superboy comes up with the brilliant endgame, using the Phantom Zone Projector to capture Zod's forces, including Ursa and Non.

