



Superman/Batman, Vol. 1: Public Enemies

Jeph Loeb , Ed McGuinness (Illustrator) , Dexter Vines (Illustrator) , Tim Sale (Illustrator)

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A tale of loyalty and unlikely friendship featuring two of the most recognizable and popular super-heroes on the planet, SUPERMAN/BATMAN: PUBLIC ENEMIES pairs the Man of Steel with the Dark Knight. The iconic super-heroes unite when longtime Superman enemy Lex Luthor, now president of the United States, accuses Superman of a horrible act against mankind, and assembles a top-secret team of powerhouse heroes to bring Superman in — dead or alive. But after the Dark Knight Detective proves Luthor's accusations to be baseless, the "World's Finest" duo prepares to topple the corrupt president's reign once and for all.

Collects Superman/Batman #1-6.

Superman/Batman, Vol. 1: Public Enemies Details

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Author : Jeph Loeb , Ed McGuinness (Illustrator) , Dexter Vines (Illustrator) , Tim Sale (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Superman/Batman, Vol. 1: Public Enemies for online ebook

Anne says

I love Loeb's Superman/Batman! If you haven't checked these out, you are seriously missing out on the fun.

Mizuki says

Jeph Loeb...just this name is enough to motivate me into reading this series, and Mr. Loeb really doesn't disappoint. Plus the artwork is also good.

PS: and President Lex Luther isn't such a bad idea after we saw what is going on in the real-life USA!

Logan says

An okay read! So this my first time reading the comic for this story, there was an animated film of this story, that I have watched over ten times! Unfortunately overall, I think I like the animated film better... My major issue with this story is just how confusing a lot of it is, I don't wanna spoil, but so much stuff happens in this one book that its crazy; I can see why the animated film they had to simplify the story a lot, but this one time, it was for the right reasons! So basically the story is that a giant Kryptonite meteor is headed for earth, this is during that period in the comics when Luthor was President, and Luthor blames Superman for the meteor(In the most stupidest way possible, more on that later). Usually I like Luthor, he is by far my favourite Superman Villain, but this and Batman v Superman, are the two times where I didn't like him; they do explain later why he is acting so weird, but for me it was too late. Also my other gripe is the reason Luthor gives for blaming Superman, for the meteor, its like really stupid(That's something I'm glad they changed in the movie), and the fact that most of the heroes eat it up, and just believe whatever Lex says, really stupid. Positive's I love how the book constantly contrasts Batman and Superman, from the awesome opening to end, its written and done really well! But overall guys, I'm disappointed, I wanted to love this story, but overall, I'd rather watch the movie then read this again!

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

You can find my review on our blog by clicking [here](#).

The world's oldest question: Superman or Batman? Now, what if it isn't always a "or"? The two titans haven't always been either side of the fence. Although their sense of justice and their means vary grandly thanks to differences in their childhoods, there are various similarities that bring these two together more often than not. Legendary Jeph Loeb brings forth one of the many popular series that stars the "World's Finest" duo as they tackle the danger that lies within their reach. With Gods roaming Gotham and Metropolis, it is only fair to find non-believers among the crowd. Superman/Batman (Volume 1): Public Enemies reunites the two biggest members of the Justice League in a story of survival. President Lex Luthor announces that an imminent meteorite made out of nothing other than the famous and scrumptious

Kryptonite is heading straight towards Earth. Jumping on the opportunity, Luthor convinces the world that Superman is at fault and conveys a “Wanted Dead or Live” order on Superman, with an extra 1 billion dollars on his forehead. With a special secret team in the palm of his hands, known villains appear from the shadows to take up for grabs the great Superman and his partner, Batman.

Dark, gritty, cynic, and filled with death, it wasn't. Simply put, this first volume to the series was simple, action-packed and passionate on several levels. The first issues gets both titans to meet again over mysterious circumstances and lead them into a confrontation with a villain who might hold pertinent information for Batman's past. Until we get a blast from the past with the arrival of Future Superman, things start to become urgent and chaotic. The alert of an imminent threat as well as disclosure on a potential mistake lead Superman and Batman to quickly hatch up a plan to seize the danger. Until the President comes forth to the media and puts the whole weight of the danger on Superman's back. Accused for the giant chunk of Kryptonite coursing its way through the galaxy to Earth, Superman and Batman team up to take down Lex Luthor and find a solution to the problem in the sky. It is only from this part on that we're gifted with a dose of DC Universe and its almighty collection of superheroes and villains. Page after page, we're treated with a nifty collection of fights between Superman and Batman against the world.

I'm quite thankful that this turned out a lot better than *The Dark Knight Strikes Again*, because that sequel was one atrocious pile of poo. With Ed McGuinness' artwork, this first volume captures a more bubbly and cartoonish illustration. Although it does exhibit a finely drawn artwork, it felt a lot closer to an animated TV show put on paper. It isn't a bad thing, but it does take away any attempt to make it anything close to sinister. The artwork does however put forth a more colorful palette and gives all the characters a more vibrant and popping presence. After all, with the countless number of appearances, especially the inclusion of both Superman and Batman's “families”, the artwork was a great complement. While we're still on this subject, I'd even say that the whole experience was so overwhelming, but still remained satisfying. Seeing the beloved heroes of DC unite in one volume and figure out their different allegiances was probably the highlight of this volume.

Hey man, how is it “passionate on several levels”? Well, friend, listen here. Although it might have been unintentional, Jeph Loeb's writing for this volume depicted more bromance than necessary. Aside from the sexual jokes toward a certain character (Yes. You. Power Girl.), Superman and Batman's relationship is probably the most exuberant part. To highlight this, I'll definitely point at the narration. Original and clever overall, it however also added an extra layer of acute admiration for each other (Superman and Batman). Throughout the volume, both Batman and Superman narrate the story with background descriptions on themselves and comparisons to their fellow partner. As they continuously alternate bubbles, each pair are fairly similar and showcases the similarities between the two heroes, despite their differences. But these very similarities also show admiration and a level of bromance that slightly spills over the threshold. Even if the narration is overlooked, some scenes between these two Gods illustrates the love nonetheless. However, I did enjoy how laid-back Batman seemed, and giggle a little bit at his inability to panic and rush. While on the other hand, Superman's recklessness and simpleton manner held some comedic value.

Superman/Batman (Volume 1): Public Enemies is still a fun and adrenaline pumped volume. It's never a bad thing to have the two blockbuster superheroes share the same panel and wreck havoc against shared enemies. Another part I actually enjoyed are the allusions done to chess. The idea behind the metaphors was fun and invigorating. It showed tactic, strategy and chemistry. I do have to say that I'm a sucker for anything related to chess. I see a lot of things like a game of chess. And now I see Batman in the mist of it? Win. Even if the volume as a whole was quite hectic and simple plot-wise, it remained a fun and creative path taken by Jeph Loeb. If you ask me, Jeph Loeb knows his chess pieces and doesn't hesitate in making good use of them. Although there are plenty of other series that are far superior to this Superman/Batman series, this still remains one of the many long series that has attracted attention and brings two of our favorite heroes together.

Yours truly,

Lashaan

Lashaan & Trang | Bloggers and Book Reviewers
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

I thought it would be a good idea to check out one of the many series where Superman and Batman are under the same spotlight before Batman v Superman comes out. It's one thing to see them team up instead of fighting each other, but to see them go beyond bromance? Wish it didn't go overboard. The artwork felt so bubbly; like it was made to have an animated adaptation in the future (which it does!). The story is fairly simple, but the first volume contains a HUGE chunk of DCU. I wonder if it has as many as The Dark Knight Strikes Again... One thing's for sure, this was by far better than Frank Miller's attempt to put every hero in one book.

The story is fun nonetheless...if you can overlook all the flaws that jump in your face! ;)

P.S. A full review will be before BvS comes out in theaters!

Yours truly,

Lashaan

Lashaan & Trang | Bloggers and Book Reviewers
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Nicki says

Well, let's start with the art because that's my biggest complaint. I felt like I was seven again. I *hated* this style. Perhaps it's because I didn't grow up in the 70's. I was a 90's kid. Almost everything from the 90's was dark and gritty. That's the way I like my comics. Dark, gritty, edgy, and clean, not cartoon-ish. If I wanted cartoons, goddamnit, I could have picked up the next Naruto.

Next, to the story. Oh my God, it was only slightly better. My biggest complaint was all the fighting. I know it's a comic, but come on! This entire plot was just Supes and Bats going around and kicking some ass. I would find that highly entertaining at some point if it had some plot.

But it didn't. At all. Ever. As a DC fan, I am disappointed.

Alas...

But on the upside (!) we got to see some awesome stuff with some rather witty quotes.

Alfred with a shot gun? Priceless.

Luthor: Under the Homeland Security Act, I could—

Huntress: Bleed all over the carpet.

Humorous.

Nightwing! Dick, oh how I have missed you!

Creepy ass old Superman is made of win.

FINAL RATING

1 out of 5

Scott says

I am so loving that I committed to reading more graphic novels in 2014 because books like this are so much fun! I'm actually a Marvel guy and have never read much in the DC universe but this book was a blast.

Asteroid heading toward earth. President Lex Luthor offers a bounty on Superman (blames the asteroid on him) and an all out battle royal ensues. It's pretty much everyone against Superman & Batman - Solomon Grundy, Hawkman, Green Lantern, Power Girl (yea), Mister Freeze, Captain Cold, Mongul, Lady Shiva, Nightshade, Grodd and about 20 more that I didn't recognize. Reminded me of the job of reading Marvel's Secret Wars back in the 80's.

The story is much deeper than I'm giving it credit for but what I enjoyed was the fun

AND

The fact that it was self contained (if you follow my reviews you'll know about my aggravation lately with books that can't seem to exist outside of a series).

Yes it could be better - there is still that cheesy DC universe to contend with but recommended nonetheless. A good way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Roxanne says

Lex puts out a warrant for Supes, a bunch of villains/heroes turn up to help/capture him, it's not heavy on plot as it focuses on Batman and Superman waxing poetic about each other. I'm not sure about the artwork some of it works and then at times it looks like a shitty knock off Bruce Timm.

After reading some reviews i was expecting some over the top bromance, proclamations of love, life saving endearing moments, y'know a lil something something.

But nah son, you all lied.

It's probably a bit too cutesy for me, i need more drama from my guys and at least 70% more brooding from Batsy. Also there's a line about Alfred in this that really annoyed me and i don't get it, i don't think Bruce would only think of Alfred as just the 'help' like come on without Alfred, Bruce would be 100% done.

Annnnd i've read a bunch of Loeb's work and this is the only one where it didn't feel like his writing like i had to double check he wrote this, usually my emotions have been kicked in the teeth or there's a plot twist this doesn't have either, and i know he isnt glued to Sale's side but i missed his art.

It's definitely one for Lex fans he kinda steals this show in this and Batman and Superman are kinda meh. I'd still say pick it up just don't expect a lot and if you do want a good Batman and Superman bromance then pick up Snyder's unchained instead.

Brenda Clough says

Superb. Surely the very best iteration of the World's Finest Team we will see in our lifetimes.

Callie Rose Tyler says

I really wanted to like this one, but it was bad, painfully bad. It had a moment or two of hope and it held my interest, but ultimately I was left hugely disappointed. First off, this is by far the most homoerotic comic I have ever read. The relationship between Batman and Superman surpassed the "Odd Couple" and dabbled into the very strange territory of secret love affair. I'm sure this was not the intention of the author but the constant secret admiration and worship of one another is uncomfortable and odd at best.

Second the writing is just awful, clunky and forced. The whole purpose of a graphic novel is to see more than tell, but the author was constantly stating the obvious.... *I hate when Batman does that, it makes me angry, I am so mad!* The constant switching between the internal monologue of 'B' and 'S' (yes they actually refer to one another with these nicknames) is distracting, annoying, and unnecessary. We get it. We can understand the differences and similarities between the two without you hitting us over the head with it.

Thirdly, the interpretation of some of the characters, especially the women is terrible. Lois Lane looks like a tranny and Power Girl is supposed to be one of the sexist superheroes out there and she looks like a cross dresser who ate Power Girl.

Finally, the plot seems very poorly constructed with quite a few plot holes and the most absurd resolution I have ever seen (view spoiler) Lex Luthor convinces the public and most shockingly members of the JLA that Superman needs to be taken out due to his ties to Krypton, um what about the several other 'Super' characters?? Supergirl? Superboy? The fricken dog Krypto! Not to mention that this story has the absolute worst treatment of time travel that I have ever seen!

What a huge disappointment. Read it if you must, but don't expect much.

Sarah says

This is literally like a McDonald's value meal for the eyes. I consumed something, yes, but it's not lasting and I don't feel sated. Sigh.

Kevin Izworski says

Just wrapped up "Superman | Batman: Public Enemies

I gave it 3 stars, it certainly had it's moments, but a lot of it was crap.

SPOILERS

Basically Superman and Batman team up (as the bestest of best friends) to take on President Lex Luthor who has amassed a team of Supers to take the Man of Steel down all while a continental sized hunk of Kryptonite hurtles towards earth (really fast!) threatening to destroy the world. It's really a Superman story, Batman is important to the plot mostly as a love interest. Their thoughts are in sink, they finish each others sentences, and they're little worry wort's over how the other is doing. Gag me, I prefer when Supes and Bats spare with each other (whether being portrayed as friends or enemies). They might have had more success in their early skirmishes if they weren't so busy staring into each others eyes.

Now that I got that out of my system, I'd like to say it was actually pretty good. A lot of cool stuff happens, a wide range of characters take part. Explosions, plenty of fights, giant robot rocket ships, turmoil as heroes struggle to make the right choice. It is laden with all of that. But it is not without it's crap (as I mentioned earlier).

Some of the things I had a problem with: Lex Luthor turns the world, and superman's friends against him. We are supposed to believe that would happen. Lex apparently has "irrefutable evidence" that Superman is the reason the Krypton Asteroid is coming to Earth and everyone takes him at his word? and without seeing this so called evidence. Well, not all of them, but thinking any of them would take that bait is a little far fetched.

Another thing, I know this is a Comic Book, and I need to suspend reality for the sake of the story, but the Superman Vs. Future Superman scene. Isn't their a scientific principle, or at least a science fiction principal, that dictates that two objects cannot occupy the same space in time? OK, that may be a little bit of a harsh criticism, the real problem I had with that scenario is that Superman has come from the future. He has already lived that day, even dwelled on it for a while. Loeb makes it clear that superman knows there is kryptonite in the bat cave vault. Wouldn't he also be keenly aware that there is another piece of kryptonite floating around the batcave that day. Especially since it almost killed him (the first time around). And the kryptonite was fired out of a shotgun. Wouldn't Mister Faster Than a Speeding Bullet be able to dodge that?

Maybe I'm being to hard on the book, but that annoyed me. Other then that it was pretty good. I did like it, but wanted to get some of those issues off my chest. It is a worthwhile read even though it seems at times that Bats and Supes may abandoned the fight to head to the Fortress of Solitude to snuggle.

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/57...>

Fizzgig76 says

Reprints Superman/Batman #1-6. Batman and Superman team-up when Luthor frames Superman for the impending doom of the world. First off, I kind of like the art, but the story and writing is really bad. The juxtapositioning of Superman to Batman is interesting, but it is so forced that drawing out an entire series based on it seems fake. The supporting characters are so out of synch and the idea that Lex Luthor could turn the world against Superman with a lame press conference is laughable. At least the Batman/Superman robot is made fun of but that doesn't make up for all the other horrible plotlines that should be mocked.

Dmitry Yakovenko says

Superman/Batman, Vol. 1: Public Enemies, Superman/Batman, Vol. 2: Supergirl, Superman/Batman, Vol. 3: Absolute Power, Superman/Batman, Vol. 4: Vengeance.

The Kryptonian poster-boy of truth and justice has never seen eye to eye with Gotham City's night prowler, having sparred on more than occasion for the very same reason.

This comic collection from writer Jeph Loeb sees them fighting side by side, bending the spectrum to show that at the core, the two crime fighters are really one and the same, with differing histories that define who they are.

Using a tag-like narration style between the man of steel and the dark knight, Loeb guides us from the Smallville days when the two first meet, to the adventure that ensues in the book.

Lex Luthor, president of the United States, accuses Superman of crimes against humanity when his crack team of scientists discovers a giant ball of Kryptonite headed on a collision course with Earth. To sweeten the deal, Luthor throws on a \$1 billion bounty for capturing the Kryptonian fugitive.

The absurdity of the accusation drives Superman to fight his way to the White House to clear his name; with much ass-kicking along the way, as both heroes and villains drive to cash in on the bounty.

The bond the book creates between Supes and Bats as they fight off wave after wave of super beings is the same as one would find in blood brothers. You'll find yourself squealing with joy as you notice the parallels between the thoughts of the two.

Ed McGuiness' stellar artwork goes tit for tat with the narration adding on short gasps of excitement to your already aroused self. The intricate details imbedded within McGuiness' work, especially the many full-page illustrations such as the spread of Supes and Bats striking a pose on pages four and five, cannot be done justice with words alone and must only be enjoyed first-hand.

Although the book breaks into some gushy, "ain't that cute" type moments, but it does so in a very rough and tumble type way. You get the usual discussion of post-9/11 themes and other age-old adages such as groupthink in the government, but those too work on an integral level with the story.

There's much to be expected from the man who brought us the explosive classic called "Commando" back in the '80s, and more recently enthralled us with TV series like Smallville and Heroes.

It's safe to say that he gets the job done. When you can successfully illustrate, both through words and drawing, what it's like to piss off the world's most powerful being, you deserve a damn medal.

Grab some Kleenex and paper towels before reading this, because watching Superman laying down the fists with his future self and then brandishing a shotgun is enough to make even those with the strongest wills wet themselves. Trust me, I did.
