



Superman/Wonder Woman, Volume 4: Dark Truth

Peter J. Tomasi (Writer) , Doug Mahnke (Artist)

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The all-star creative team of Peter J. Tomasi (*Batman & Robin*) and Doug Mahnke (*Justice League*) continue the chronicles of the world's most powerful couple.

Superman, deprived of most of his power and outed to the world as mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, is in trouble. Someone is targeting his human friends and hometown. Lana Lang has disappeared. The Kent family home has vanished. And graves have been desecrated within Smallville. With Wonder Woman at his side, Superman flies home to investigate.

Frustrated with Wonder Woman's growing vigilance over his weakened state, Superman leaves her behind in an effort to protect her when he realizes that whoever is targeting his friends and family might soon move on to her. But it is Wonder Woman who discovers the key to unlocking the mysteries plaguing Smallville: an imprisoned Lois Lane.

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From Reader Review Superman/Wonder Woman, Volume 4: Dark Truth for online ebook

James DeSantis says

So this wasn't bad. Better than the last two that's for sure. Dark Truth is all about Supes being depowered and still working out his relationship with his girlfriend wonder woman. What happens here is Supes isn't really that Super anymore and WW thinks she needs to help him at every turn, which the way he throws himself in danger, she has the right to be worried.

What I liked: The art was solid once again, and unlike Batman/Superman stays the same. The moments with Diana and Clark is touching and feels real. Also, how great was it when Lois got her fucking face smacked. Finally!

What I didn't like: Lois is the absolute worse. Her New52 version has always been bad, but talk about awful, that's all her. Also the breaking up shit was pretty badly done, even if it somewhat makes sense.

Overall this is like a 2.5. It's good, fun at times, but the reasoning behind the motives and some of the dialog is really off putting. Owell, this is the end so yay!

Angie says

Wow... this comic had a huge flaw ... worst break up scene ever. I mean... first off how do they continue this title with Superman/Wonder Woman broke up? There was no discussion between the two of them about it. Just simply.. Superman doesn't love her anymore. I don't know if they are saving the story for the next volume but there should've been way more plot exploration into it in this volume.

Cookie says

Yo that was soo good! A great step up from the French Tome 2!

This issue deals primarily with a post-revelation-of-Supes'-identity and a weak Superman.

In the continuing tradition of uber confusing story telling of these collected (French) editions, I had no idea whatsoever how we reached that point and what in the world was going on. But I loved it to pieces.

This particular issue depicts a very different Superman. One that is not the usual perfect Mr Boy scout. And it was so refreshing. He felt so real and so human.

I loved how they illustrated the consequences of the world knowing his identity. His relationships with others, how they felt betrayed or it just dawned on them how blind they had been. I loved how loved he was and how much he loved.

I enjoyed how he felt betrayed by WW and Lois, that he felt resentment, how he second guessed proposing to WW and never took the leap...

I particularly adored the questions put forward with the loss of his powers : what is Superman without his powers? I liked how clear it is that his power shaped a lot of who he is. The need to protect others, the feeling of invulnerability and the prideful I-don't-need-to-be-protected thing.

It was all so refreshing. Loved it!

P.S: really liked Parasite for some reason.

Btw awesome quote : "La vie n'a cessé de faire obstacle à la vie."

Jerry says

The same as the previous volumes...in both good and bad ways.

Vikas says

This was so much better than the "What the hell was that" 3rd volume of this series, this picks up almost from where the volume 2 ends so this way the entire 5 issues of the series or volume 3 of the series was an aberration and almost had nothing to do with the end of the story in volume 2, well this one picks it from there (more or less) also the illustrations are so much better as compared to the last volume is it's astounding to think that this was the same team that worked on that then what were they thinking while drawing that issue. This one is much better though it has the same trappings of DC where in story would jump here and there but it mostly remained coherent. so yeah worth checking and especially for the illustrations and for story too.

I have always loved comics, and I hope that I will always love them. Even though I grew up reading local Indian comics like Raj Comics or Diamond Comics or even Manoj Comics now's the time to catch up on the international and classic comics and Graphic novels. I am on my quest to read as many comics I can. So you also give a chance to comics and Graphic Novels and Keep on Reading.

Anne says

Warning: May Contain Spoilers!

However, this review has been certified:

Young love... *sigh*

But, as most of you well know, all good things must come to an end.

Hang on. Give me a second. Is it just me, or does anyone else feel a bit *flushed*? Cuz, I'm definitely a bit flushed. I gotta go turn down the air, get a glass of iced tea, take a cold shower...something!

Whooh!

Alright. *fans self*

And, yes, I realize I'm being ridiculous over a cartoon.

So how did we get from *I'll love you forever* to *I'm just gonna run out for a pack of smokes, baby* in just 4 short volumes?

Well, if you'll remember back in Superman Vol. 1: Before Truth, Clark's old pal, Lois, decided the best thing for him would be to get outted as Superman. Now everyone hates him, and (because of nonsense reasons) is trying to hunt him down. This coming on the heels of some sort of weird solar flare power, and then subsequent loss of some (most) of his powers.

So, he's having a good week.

Still, he has the love of a good woman that he trusts implicitly. <--not like that ho Lois!

The gist of the story is that **someone** is kidnapping everyone Clark knows, and holding them hostage to get leverage/information. The trail leads Diana & Clark into a brawl with everyone's favorite band of misfits - **Suicide Squad!**

Which they quickly trounce.

Because....because they *seriously* didn't stand a chance. I mean, for God's sake, people! I know Harley is every fanboy's wet dream, and every *pseudo* geek girl out there is going to dress up in booty shorts, pigtails, and a baseball bat this Halloween.

But if anyone thinks that psychosis and an oversized mallet is going to kick the shit out of Wonder Woman, they've lost their mind.

And Deadshot's *amazing aim* isn't a big deal if you're bulletproof.

Pfffft

Nice try, *Manta*.

After dispatching Waller's dream team, Supes takes off to confront Steve Trevor.

And the President of the United States.

Because who can resist drawing Obama into their comic book!?

But before he runs off to the White House, he leaves Diana with strict instructions not to interfere with anything. He wants her to stay out of the whole situation, so she can't be accused of anything, be considered guilty by association, stays in the light, or something like that. <--more nonsense!

Long story short, she runs off to rescue his friends as soon as his back is turned.
Which leads us back to this:

Aaaaaand....I'm fanning myself again.

Anyway.

Supposedly, he's so broken up by her *deception* that he doesn't know if he can ever trust her again, or whatever. <--nonsense!

Dude, she just rode to the rescue of your pals. And for *that* you're kicking her to the curb?

When I'm done licking your abs, I'm gonna be very upset with you, Clark!

At any rate, the Power Couple are taking a break.

But that *doesn't* mean they don't still respect each other as teammates.

And it certainly doesn't mean that they don't care about each other anymore.

The continued comradery between these two is what made the book work for me. If they had showed Wonder Woman slinking off to pout, instead of kicking ass, I might have been tempted to rage a bit, but it didn't happen that way.

You can see Diana's upset (rightly so), but she's also a superhero who puts her job first. They both still care deeply, so I'm interested in seeing how they resolve (or don't) this one.

But, seriously, Clark's an idiot if he doesn't get his shit together.

Brandon says

After a slight detour in the previous volume of this series this book brings the focus back where it belongs; the romance between the Man of Steel and the Amazon Queen. There are no Doomsday virus taking them into left field, no behind the scenes power plays by the Batman and no unnecessary diversions brought on by the Justice League. They all feature in this book but they are not the main drive of the narrative, they are secondary stories to the main narrative which centers on the Super-romance and it's a winning formula. There is an overall arc in this book involving Parasite and some minor villains with a power hungry Chief of Staff with Daddy issues and there are numerous guest appearances. Obama, the Flash, The Suicide Squad and Firestorm all have cameos and keep the story moving but most of this book is about the Power Couple - in particular Superman who is still recovering his powers and becoming a whiny little bitch because of it. Though there are too few moments of togetherness between the two the relationship is never far behind. The book begins with Superman sleeping while Wonder Woman watches over him before a phone rings and the tranquility is shattered. But they still work together and look like a couple as they wonder through Smallville and in the Justice League Tower, that is until Superman - who's riddled with self-doubt throughout this book - decides to drop a bomb and break up with the W/W. She of course blows him off because they are in the middle of finding out WTF is going on with the various Government kidnappings and such. Wonder Woman

is probably to much of a class act to do it but the Man of Steel needs a slap around the back of the head. He has his moments though including saving the Amazon Queen who finds herself in a Mech-suit, but still, grow a pair Clark.

This book is still not perfect. I don't really know what the Suicide Squad was doing in Smallville despite the fact that there was a movie to promote and Lois Lane has upped the ante and is not simply a super-bitch but is a mega-super-bitch. Also the artwork was a little confusing and jumpy but this series is back on track and the writing and interaction between the characters is top notch. The villains may not be the best in the DC cannon but this series was never about the action, IMO, it's about the Power Couple and how they deal with it all and on that note this book delivers.

Cale says

AKA the many women in Superman's life. This is where the 'relationship' between Superman and Wonder Woman ends, with what amounts to a whimper. Wonder Woman 'betrays' Superman (in a totally contrived manner), and they have it out (in a sequence that has an 'alternate' version that goes a long way for a Pink Floyd reference). Oh and there's some story about energy creatures that are in service to an underwhelming villain that basically is there so Supes and Wondy can mistreat another Superman villain. The more I think about it, the less I like it. There's an utterly gratuitous presidential cameo, and underpowered Superman just comes across as whiny. And for a Goddess, Wonder Woman sure doesn't do much. There's an utterly unimportant crossover with Suicide Squad, and a lot of stuff happens that makes no sense at all and ends up being pointless. The art's still pretty good, but the whole Superman/Wonder Woman relationship never paid off in its existence or its ending.

Robert says

Moody, weak, and morally duplicitous Superman is far from entertaining, sneaky Wonder Woman less so, and a 'cameo' by an unnamed, jug eared, dark skinned president was virtue signaling of the worst sort.

Scott S. says

It was just . . . okay. (More of a 2.5 star rating.) The angle of Supes losing his secret identity, etc. was apparently covered in earlier book - but not Vol. 3 of this series, because that would make too much sense - so that led to a muddled start. Suicide Squad's early appearance also seemed a little forced, and was possibly related to their movie debuting last summer like this volume. However, it improved somewhat as the story moved along.

David says

Was a pretty good read. Better than I expected, I think. Tomasi! Why do I always forget how good he is? He's always one of DC's best writers. Hope he's getting paid the big bucks cuz he's worth it.

SSShafiq says

Lord this was awful. It adding nothing to the mopey Superman/ aka the Truth event, except to break up Superman and Wonder Woman. Why? Silly.

Wonder Woman at least valiantly tried to help Supes but he was determined to self destruct. The plot with the parasite and super baddy of the book (who I won't name in case you're interested in this) was lame. As was the appearance of the Suicide Squad. Who cares?

Only good think was that Lana punch Lois. About time.

However that modicum of spark was snuffed by the art which I found to be unattractive and inconsistent. Some panels looked half finished.

This can be safely skipped even if you are a Superman fan. I'll summarize it for you - nothing happens, Superman is moopy and rude, he breaks up with Wonder Woman and government is evil. Ayn Rand would be proud.

Jesse A says

Good story with good art. Well worth your time.

Sam Quixote says

Is it possible to sleep through a book with your eyes open? I think that's what I did with this one! I read it so passively, I feel like I ghosted through the whole thing. The reason why is how utterly crappy the stories are in this one.

So thanks to Lois Lane, everyone now knows Clark Kent is Superman. Which of course means the US government is rounding up Clark's nearest and dearest to ask them such pressing questions as: how they felt about the reveal, what he was like in school, and whether they trust him or not. I mean, what?! How does this take up half the book!?

Suicide Squad show up to fight two of the most powerful superheroes in the DCU. Never mind how pointless their appearance was, what a ridiculously one-sided match that was! Even if Superman's currently a bit depowered, Wonder Woman alone could beat these clowns single-handed! Can't wait to read Justice League v Suicide Squad, that's gonna be edge of the seat stuff if this is anything to go by...

Superman and Wonder Woman have relationship troubles over nothing, but then them getting together was contrived nonsense to begin with (DC just needed a Superman/ Wonder Woman series) so it's fitting that things piffle out in a similar fashion. How dare Diana use her lasso of truth on his friends for information?? But she's ok to use it on non-friends and it's ok for him to beat the snot out of Parasite for information. This book is full of garbage writing.

The volume closes out with a story about Vandal Savage's son Angelo wanting to be immortal like his creepy dad. It involves Firestorm, aliens with giant mouths shooting energy beams, Wonder Woman trapped in some kind of armour, and Parasite acting as a kind of bloodhound. Drivel. I've read recipes more compelling than this.

I'm actually feeling quite sleepy thinking about it all again. It's like a sleeping pill in comics form! Anaemic on content, stunningly stupid stories, and thoroughly vapid, Superman/Wonder Woman, Volume 4... is...

ZZZ...

Chad says

Why can't Peter Tomasi write all of the comics in the DC universe? Tomasi really excels at writing relationships, and that's where he succeeds here too. Superman and Wonder Woman feel like partners as well as a couple. The story isn't that compelling. It's about dealing with the dumb story where Lois Lane outs Superman and its aftereffects. The repercussions of this sends all the Superman titles into a downward spiral that could only end with replacing Superman so they could reset the books.
