



Lex Luthor: Man of Steel

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Written by Brian Azzarello Art and cover by Lee Bermejo Superman has been called many things, from the defender of Truth, Justice and the American way to the Big Blue Boy Scout. In LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL, he is called something he never been called before: a threat to all humanity! In this trade paperback collecting the acclaimed 5-issue miniseries LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL, fan-favorite writer Brian Azzarello (SUPERMAN, 100 BULLETS) teams up with artist Lee Bermejo (BATMAN/DEATHBLOW) for a bold story in which readers get a glimpse into the mind of Superman's longtime foe. MAN OF STEEL reveals why Luthor chooses to be the proverbial thorn in the Man of Steel's side - to save humanity from an ntrustworthy alien being.

Lex Luthor: Man of Steel Details

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From Reader Review Lex Luthor: Man of Steel for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

Lex Luthor gets his own book to give his side of the story, to convince us readers that Superman is the menace he believes he is. Lex is building a giant new structure devoted to science and the accomplishments of humanity, making sure people understand Superman is not human nor is he needed to save anyone. But just to be sure Lex is also building a female version of Superman to become the new saviour of Metropolis.

I think Brian Azzarello's books are hit and miss but this one was definitely a hit. He writes Lex as a charming, suave, and pretty decent guy who talks to cleaning staff like real people, who give a helping hand to underprivileged people, basically is the opposite of the arrogant and selfish prig he's depicted as in many Superman books. More than the image, Azzarello gives him a voice that's authentic to the reader and adds weight to his monologues against the idea of Superman.

Interestingly, Azzarello plays up Lex's obsession with Superman in the form of "Hope", a robotic superhero under the control of Lex and a pretty good impersonator of Superman - except she's a woman. Then he has Lex seduce her! I thought it was a funny as Azzarello basically implied that Lex's entire obsession with Superman was, despite the rhetoric and argument, sexual in nature - Lex loves Superman, he really just wants to have sex with him. But maybe I'm wrong.

Full credit too goes to Lee Bermejo who draws utterly beautiful panels on every single page. He is one of the finest comics artists working today and nowhere does his work shine more than in the DC books he's worked on - Joker, Lex Luthor, and more recently Batman: Noel (which he also wrote) are hugely impressive works of art. He's one of the few artists whose work I immediately buy purely on his inclusion on the project alone.

Lex is a fascinating character and through his eyes we see Superman from a different angle, making him more interesting too. "Lex Luthor: Man of Steel" is a compellingly written, beautifully drawn, comic book that any fans of Superman will love, and those with a passing interest in Superman will find strangely beguiling. A must read for all fans of comics.

James DeSantis says

This was pretty interesting. Superman is almost always in a positive light. Besides Red Son or Injustice he basically is the "Good guy" everyone looks up to. He's all about hope, about helping, and about fighting for a better future. He's our protector. Lex obviously doesn't see him that way. What makes this story interesting is you see the perception of Lex and how Superman can come across as evil. On top of that you get a pretty cool flashback of Bruce vs Clark (which I assume is when they first meet) to show how scary Superman really could be. Lex creates a creature/robot called Hope to combat Superman. Not one on one but as a symbol of protection.

What I liked: Watching Lex and his view of the world and how he's not all bad. He actually is very humanized in here and somewhat likeable. I really enjoyed the art design and they made Superman pretty freaking scary. I also enjoyed the hope storyline though the ending not so much but before that it was nice.

What I didn't like: The Batman vs Superman scene was a bit confusing at first. I also thought Lex had too

much talking to himself haha. It was really short too which was a bummer. Another 2 issues would have flushed out Lex more.

Overall this was a unique and different take on Superman. It's a Lex story for sure but still feels like a Superman, just the other side of the coin. I liked it just didn't love it so it stands at a 2.5-3. Check it out if for nothing else then the sweet art.

Anne says

3.5 stars

Good story told from Lex's point of view. Of course, *he* doesn't see himself as a villain, and by the middle of the book you can feel yourself mustering up quite a bit of sympathy for him. Poor misunderstood fellow.

Or maybe not.

I would have given this a solid four stars, but there was this weird fight between Batman and Superman that really confused me. Maybe I'm missing an important piece of the puzzle, but it just didn't make sense. Other than that it was a great portrayal of everyone favorite bad guy.

Logan says

Personally, I loved Batman v Superman, I thought it got a lot of flack it did not deserve, however what I will say is, THIS IS HOW YOU DO LEX LUTHOR!!!! So here we have Brian Azzarello, doing another villain story, and like his 'Joker' novel, this book is entirely from Luthor's perspective! The story, well its basically a week in the life of Lex Luthor, is how I would put it! You get the monologue of Luthor as he narrates the story. Its a perfect example of Luthor's character. as he is an idealist, and he wants Metropolis to be a shining example of Hope! But of course in Luthor's eyes, if you wanna make an omelette you gotta break some eggs, in Luthor terms, that is whoever gets in the way of 'progress', is eliminated! Lee Bermejo's art is awesome in this, he draws Superman in this way, where his face his blacked out, and his eyes are always red because of his heat vision, it projects him as this villain; and that's exactly what Luthor's perspective is! Overall this an amazing read!

Pochodnia says

Najlepszy? rzecz? w tym by? fakt, ?e Luthor u?ywa? zwyk?ej myszki z dwoma przyciskami, nawet bez scrolla, do kontrolowania robota

Garrett says

A fantastic character study of Lex Luthor that makes you think he isn't as bad as he is and leaves you wondering if Superman is actually the bad guy.

Bookdragon Sean says

Lex Luther is such a compelling villain because he is so convinced that he is the good guy and that is so, so, dangerous.

He fears Superman; he fears that this alien could one day turn and that nobody could ever hope to stop him. He is right to have such fears, though his reactions are nothing short of evil. And he knows it, though he is willing to sacrifice his morality because he believes he is striving towards a greater goal: the protection and betterment of mankind.

This comic almost made me feel sorry for him simply because you cannot fault his reasoning; it is his actions after that brand him a villain. In this he consorts with Bruce Wayne and gives him the tools to bring down Superman, though this was a largely underdeveloped and rushed idea within the story. Certainly, it shows the broadness of Luther's mind, and his resourcefulness, though it did detract from the main message Luther was trying to show: with Superman on the scene hope is dead, simply because we can never hope to be as good as him: it is impossible.

So this is definitely worth a read. The art work was dark and grimy; it perfectly fitted the story, though I wanted the narrative to be a little tighter and more focused on Luther's introspective choices and scheming.

Wendy says

Upon finishing Joker, I learned that Azzarello and Lee Bermejo had teamed up again on Lex Luthor: Man of Steel, another captivating character in the DC universe that is often poorly represented as simply a mad genius.

Where Joker is violent and unpredictable, Lex Luthor reflects its main character's cold, calculating subtlety. It lays out Luthor's purpose right from the start, painting the undeniable picture of Superman as an alien. A monster with no understanding of humanity. Luthor despises the hero that Metropolis worships, but he is the only one who seems aware of how easily such a being could snap. In other words, that Man of Steel movie with the questionably violent Superman wreaking havoc and murdering bad guys in cold blood? That's the Superman Luthor fears and wants to protect his city from. But Luthor is also intent on showing the world what Superman's existence takes away from humanity. If Superman is there to do everything for us, what need is there for self-improvement?

These aspects of Superman are touched on in my other favourite Superman story, Superman: Red Son. The latter focuses on Superman himself, while Luthor is on the other side of the world thinking up bigger and better ways to defy Superman's reign of perfection. The only problem I have with Red Son's Luthor is that he is too cold and inhuman. Azzarello ensures that you never forget Luthor's humanity as he works toward his ideal, which takes the form of a manufactured superhero Luthor aptly names, "Hope." Luthor's story

culminates in his ultimate success and his ultimate failure in the most perfectly atypical way.

When I initially glanced at the issues of this series, I joked about Batman's involvement since Bruce Wayne seems incapable of staying out of other people's books. Yet it was when Luthor meets with Bruce Wayne to negotiate a business arrangement that this book went from five stars to simply delicious for me. Because if there is anyone who would appreciate Luthor's hatred of Superman, it's Bruce Wayne. The interactions between them are so intricate and delectable as they speak to each other in an intimate dance of words that reveals just how brilliant these two men are.

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

I'm pretty familiar with the essence of this comic - namely, Lex Luthor isn't the baddie like we know him traditionally but is trying to protect Earth from a potential alien dictator. I suppose when this first came out, it was more uncommon and "new" than it is these days. I can't help but yawn slightly and mutter, "Been there, done that."

The art is great, but really, was it necessary to have so many butt and boob shots of women? Mona is basically just a walking butt and boob shot, only there to whinge about wanting into Lex's tighty-whites. As for "Hope" - I think a brick to the face is a bit more subtle than that inclusion, coupled with Lex's pretentious monologuing.

BUT at the end of the day, this was not unenjoyable. Meaning: it was a decent read.

Eric says

4 1/4 stars

Mike says

Azzarello seems to think that Luthor thinks in metaphor. Clever, inventive metaphor, but intellectual flights of fantasy all the same.

I never quite perceived Luthor as a man of intellectual ego, more someone who mercilessly beats down his opponents until they're ready to yield, and then takes advantage. This is a whole new character - a reinvention, or even a phoenix-like rebirth.

It's also possible that - rather than a narrative telling Luthor's story - this is all a self-rationalising delusion of Luthor's mind, like some internal misinterpretation trying to polish the turd that is his evil, petty life.

However, in the end Luthor grants us a little tragedy, a little sadness, and a hint of powerlessness, which ties the whole story into a believable whole.

The portrayal of Superman as a mute judge from on high is really effective, and only borrows (or overlaps) slightly from Irredeemable. He looks very *sharp* throughout, and often pissed or distasteful.

The art throughout this book is incredibly well executed - nice style of lines, interestingly near-abstract inks, and great selection of colour - each section given a tone that subtly supports or offsets the moods.

In the end I still feel a little ambivalent about what Azzarello is trying to do here. I'm not entirely convinced whether he's fully committed to the idea of Luthor as a good guy with the personal strength and conviction to break the moral code for greater self-sacrificing good, or if he's just a deluded weak man who can't find it within himself to embrace the fact that someone else is better than him. If Azzarello intentionally drew this line for the readers to walk precariously, bravo. If he chickened out of committing fully to one vision or the other, then sorry.

I just wish I could decide which it is for myself - and thus, I feel like Azzarello is holding up a mirror to my own inability to fully commit to my own convictions in the face of a world of strong opinions. Bravo dear sir.

Jesse A says

Fun story. I would have rated this higher but I don't love the art. 3.5 stars.

Colin McKay Miller says

I read *Joker* and *Luthor* at the same time. Despite having the same creative team on both, I enjoyed the former yet disliked the latter. So what gives?

Both focus on the villains as the protagonists, with the usual heroes—Batman and Superman—as their antagonists. Before *Joker*, I wasn't sure if I liked Brian Azzarello's writing, but he nails it here. He doesn't explain why Joker got freed from Arkham Asylum—he *is* a criminal after all—but he does explain just one part of the Joker through the narrator, a henchman named Jonny Frost. Nailing this one aspect of the Joker does enough to carry the rest of his mayhem, and the narrative distance from the madman does the story good. Even other villains have a hard time with the Joker, and Azzarello writes Jonny Frost's doomed loyalty well.

The problem with *Luthor* is that it has to be told from Lex's viewpoint. He's an egomaniac who guards his secrets, so everything is told through his perspective, and the insight that a Jonny Frost-type character could give is missing. Additionally, *Joker* benefits from layered storytelling—Frost clarifies certain situations, but he's in the dark on others. Meanwhile, I missed parts of *Luthor* by tuning out his monologuing and apparently being dense regarding visual cues. There's even an amusing moment where a nude Lex Luthor has a giant speech bubble over his manhood (visual cue averted!). Alas, I have that now boring opinion where I think Superman is boring, but I generally like his villains, as they're scheming to fly kryptonite missiles and the like into his Superchín. In *Luthor* though, Superman is hardly around, and the bald man is

kinda dull when he's just being a seedy capitalist. Call me crazy, but the Union is not an enticing villain, and when Superman finally collides with Luthor, he glares at him silently through a window. Yup, that's it.

This isn't to say everything in *Luthor* falls short of *Joker*. I preferred the art in the former, as Heath Ledger seems to have shifted this era's take on the clown. Meanwhile, I appreciated how Superman is drawn with Luthor's skew: He looks down on humanity with a snarl and sneering red eyes. It's a nice touch, but unfortunately, artist Lee Bermejo missed out on the chance to skew the Joker's view of Batman... if only for a few panels. Still, the misses in *Luthor* are often story-related. A couple of times, Azarello brushes up against the notion of Luthor's theology, but stops short of what could be an interesting view of the world with Superman in the mix. Maybe if he'd nailed other parts of Luthor's viewpoint, I wouldn't have rabbit trailed into what I'd like to see instead. One star for *Luthor*; four for *Joker*.

StoryTellerShannon says

MINI REVIEW: focus is upon the perspective of Luthor and how he feels Superman holds humanity back from greatness because he makes us lazy. Cameo by Bruce Wayne/Batman. Beautiful artwork and a credible enough story that probably needed another 20-30 pages to do the story seeds justice.

OVERALL GRADE ON THE SHANNON SCALE: B minus to B.

Library Next Door says

"When I see you(Superman), I see something...

No Man can ever be. I see the End.

"The End of our Potential.

The End of our Achievements.

The End of our Dreams.

You are my biggest nightmare"

-Lex Luthor.

The Lines already describes how much Lex Luthor hates the Man of steel, And Why he is one of the Greatest Villains. Because he talks the viewpoint of every person in the world and how We would hate a Man who can do anything And still be indestructible and immortal.

I would highly recommend this book to people who didn't understand the BvS Lex Luthor.

This the best comic till now that defines what is the actual reason Lex Luthor hates the Man of Steel so much.
