



## Superman: Up, Up, and Away!

*Kurt Busiek , Geoff Johns , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Renato Guedes (Illustrator)*

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Written by Kurt Busiek & Geoff Johns Cover by Terry & Rachel Dodson Art by Pete Woods and Renato Guedes It is One Year Later...and no one has seen or heard from the Man of Steel. In this collection featuring SUPERMAN #650-653 and ACTION #837-840, as Clark Kent concentrates on his career, the need for the Man of Steel has remained as strong as ever - especially now that Lex Luthor has returned to Metropolis, with his thirst for power fully intact!

## Superman: Up, Up, and Away! Details

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Author : Kurt Busiek , Geoff Johns , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Renato Guedes (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Superman: Up, Up, and Away! for online ebook**

## **Artemy says**

A very good Superman book with exceptional focus on the character of Clark as a reporter and a superhero, and his relationships with everyone around him — Lois, Jimmy Olsen, Perry White and Lex Luthor. The pacing is a bit wonky and the artwork may not be to everyone's liking, but the story is full of fun twists and turns, and the character work is absolutely incredible.

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## **John Yelverton says**

I was very concerned with the status of this book series following the "One Year Later" status, but this was absolutely amazing as it returned Superman to his true level of super powers.

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## **Shannon Appelcline says**

A nice re-into to Superman that touches upon much of the modern mythos and also sets the groundwork for stories to come. So, above average, but I'd also expected more from two of DC's top stars."

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## **Wing Kee says**

Nice little character piece that focuses on Clark and Kal-El instead of Superman, and I like it.

So, one year later following Infinite Crisis where do we find Superman? Being Clark Kent!

World: I feel Woods' art is ok, it's not the best and I find his character designs to be weird and his splash pages to be meh, but it served it's purpose. The world building here is quite good, it's very character driven and I like it. It's very on the ground and gives the series time for readers to see Metropolis through Clark's eyes and not Superman.

Story: Overall a fun and enjoyable read that focuses on character development. I did find that the action was a bit shoehorned in and resolved rather boringly but the rest of the story was fine. I don't really want to ruin the story, but I really enjoyed how much time we were seeing Clark instead of Superman and how we got huge huge chunks of character development through the internal dialog. As I said above, the finale in terms of the conflict was fairly boring and meh as was Luthor for this story which was disappointing but overall it was fun.

Characters: Clark gets a huge chunk of development and I love it, we get to see Clark wax about what it means to be human and him contemplating about his purpose and role in Metropolis, it's good. Lois is also, that monologue near the end of the arc when she's talking to Superman from their apartment was great, she doesn't really have an arc but her awesomeness is fully on display here. Luthor is written very poorly, he's

illogical, he's just a mwaa haaa haaa villain, in fact as I've said above I found the conflict and villains in this arc very unremarkable and forgettable.

A fun read that has wonderful Clark Kent development, but is very hindered by the poor villains.

Onward to the next book!

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### **Fugo Feedback says**

En su momento lo arranqué con bastantes ganas pero nunca lo pude terminar por culpa de una persona cuyo nombre no quiero recordar pero que comparte mi apellido. Años después, finalmente lo conseguí en papel a un precio relativamente barato y le di otra chance.

ACTUALIZACIÓN: Y hoy, por esos azares del inexistente destino que a uno nunca lo dejan de sorprender, lo tengo firmado por su dibujante el talentosísimo y simpatiquísimo Renato Guedes. Cuando tenga menos sueño quizás cuente la anécdota pertinente... :)

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### **Christopher says**

I liked how this was a story about how Clark Kent loves the city he protects, and reminiscent of an old fashioned great cartoon, where every villain in the Superman mythos pops up, and Lex Luthor has yet another grandest plan to destroy Superman.

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### **Jesse A says**

Easily the worst damn Superman cover ever! Moving past the cover however it's a very good book.

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### **James DeSantis says**

So I love Kurt Busiek work usually, and I'm a fan of Superman, so this should be a slam dunk right?

Superman doesn't have powers. After the events of Infinite Crisis he lost them. So he's trying to be the reporter he always wanted to be with his wife. However, soon Lex returns to begin his evil plotting as well as a world without superman having trouble adjusting. Half way through, no big spoilers, Superman regains his powers and begins the rebirth, in a way, of our caped hero.

Good: I enjoyed the art, and the moments with Clark and Lois was amazing. I really dug the idea of Clark using his smarts for once to out do his villains instead of pure power, least for the first half.

Bad: The pacing felt disjointed. Overly long build up for not a major payoff. Lex's plans seemed meh, the fights not all that interesting, and honestly the overall plot felt too saturday morning cartoon for me.

This wasn't all that great. Busiek wrote a much better superman tale, one of my favorite, called secret

identity. I recommend that one 100%!!! This is a 2.5 out of 5.

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### **Sunil says**

In his continual quest to get me to care about Superman, my pusher bought me this for my birthday. It begins as the story of Clark Kent, Superman having lost his powers during Infinite SuperMegaCrisis or whatever. It's been a year of living as a norm, and...he kind of likes it. Lois likes it too. It was neat to see the character in this light, as well as his relationship with Lois. Truthfully, I could have read a whole book about that, but the title is *Superman*, not *Clark Kent*, so he has to get his powers back eventually. Yet what surprised me was that even that didn't feel like an eye-rolling reset of the status quo. Even that actually tied into the characterization and what makes Superman/Clark Kent who he is. In a way, the story is really a character study about not just who he is but why he does what he does. Toss in Lex Luthor at his Lex Luthor-est, and you've got a great book. It's a bit overstuffed with heroes and villains, but it's also highly accessible to new readers, since Clark helpfully explains who everyone is.

By the time I reached the last page, I had a startling, unexpected realization: *I actually cared about Superman*. Maybe I only want to read more Kurt Busiek/Geoff Johns Superman stories, but there you have it. This is a great book for Superman fans and non-Superman fans alike.

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### **Patrick says**

I think Busiek did a really nice job with this one. A very nice story that centers more around the character of Superman, rather than the action of people fighting all the time. That's a big problem with a lot of the mainstream superhero comics, in my opinion. Too much action, not enough character and story....

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### **Sam Quixote says**

It's a bird, it's a plane, no – it's that rarest of beasts: a good Superman book!

Whether or not you enjoy this book comes down to how you feel about classic Superman. By that I mean classic outfit, demeanour, and world setting – he isn't the dickish New 52 Superman or the psychotic Injustice Superman or a combination of both in JMS's Earth One Superman; he's the true blue hero of yesteryear. If that character's not your bag, you're unlikely to enjoy Up, Up and Away! If you do like the original guy though, you'll really like this one, like I did.

It's a year after Infinite Crisis when Superman lost his powers. He's been plain old Clark Kent for a while and his life post-Superman is actually pretty great. He's become a dependable journalist (much to Perry's delight), he's spending more time with his wife, Lois Lane, and he's enjoying the little things like pretzels slathered with mustard (apparently his favourite snack!). Metropolis is doing fine without Superman as Supergirl has stepped up as the city's new protector, but Lex Luthor, now ex-president and bribed out of criminal charges, is free and Superman's brief holiday is about to come to an end.

What makes this such a good Superman book is the well-balanced character study split down the middle – first half, Clark Kent, second half Superman. Usually the focus is more on the Superman side so it was great

to see Clark get a lot of the page count for a change.

Clark is made vulnerable and is unable to deal with problems the usual way: transform into Superman, punch the villain out, use superpowers to solve the problem. Now, he's got to rely on other superheroes, if they're around, like Supergirl, Green Lantern and Hawkgirl, or else deal with the situation by putting himself in danger regardless of the (now very real) possibility of death – the mark of a true hero.

Kurt Busiek and Geoff Johns have created a fantastic situation and make the most of this opportunity for a much more involved read. Not least because the common complaint about Superman is that he's boringly invincible and difficult to relate to because he's essentially a god. Well, all of a sudden he's humanised in more ways than one, and by developing his new life, Clark's character resonates more deeply for the audience.

Busiek/Johns also bring back long-forgotten villains like the Prankster, who uses refrigerators and Walk/Don't Walk signs to cause havoc in downtown Metropolis (a very Batman '66 moment!). Normally a silly bad guy like him wouldn't cause much trouble for Superman – but Clark? It's a whole new ballgame! In this book, the villains aren't the story like they usually are – Clark is. They're there to further explore and challenge Clark's newly depowered status, and it works really well.

The first half of the book is excellent but the second half takes a bit of a dip. Clark gets his superpowers back just like that! No real reason, they just appear one day. It's a bit disappointing. And from there, Superman's world is quickly brought back in line with the pre-established version: Superman's Fortress of Solitude reappears, Jimmy Olsen is given the signal watch back, Lex goes from being the ruthless corporate businessman to his mad scientist role from way back when, and Clark is the unreliable reporter. The swiftness of reinstating the status quo is a bit too neat for my liking. That's not to say it's the worst it's just that it feels at odds with the freshness of the first half of the book.

And speaking of Superman's return, there's a gut-wrenching moment that reminded me of the dismal Superman Returns movie. Lex begins his punishment of Metropolis using kryptonite and giant shards of the crystal sprout up across the city, similar to that scene in the movie when the same thing happens. Fortunately this is the only instance where the comic bears any similarity to that movie!

Besides that, this book has one of the best Superman/Lex fights ever. From the epic battle between Superman and the Lex-piloted giant morphing Kryptonian robot to Superman being temporarily depowered to the level of a human and the two fist-fighting on the Metropolis docks, it's a brilliantly plotted fight that gets to the core of the characters' conflict. Even Jimmy has a part to play in Superman's victory which was a nice touch from Busiek/Johns.

Up, Up and Away! is a well-written character study showcasing what readers love about Superman as well as building up his personality as Clark Kent for those who feel that side to him has been underdeveloped. It's entertaining, it's smart, and it's a strong Superman book – Kurt Busiek and co. bring it with this story arc! Fans of the real Superman will really like this.

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## **Koen says**

Kal-El, Clark Kent, Supes... It's great to see him going at it, in real life, as Clark, struggling, doing his thing without being "Super"... And still he tries to go after the bad guys... what a guy! :)

And then all of a sudden, he gets his powers back.. And how! Being powerless for so long, for a year, you can see him struggling a bit with the overabundance of it all..

But of course Superman wouldn't be Superman if it would all turn out for the better..

Go read this book and see him take on Lex on the "Lext Level" ;)

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### **Daniel Sherrier says**

This is how you do Superman. The book uses the simple gimmick of taking away his powers for a whole year so that when he finally returns, Superman feels special and grand -- as he should. Skip this year's movie and read this book instead.

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### **Travis says**

Every couple years somebody comes along and does a story that reminds you just how cool Superman is. After the events of a really over hyped event mini-series that you don't want to bother to read, Superman has lost his powers and is actually enjoying just being mild mannered reporter Clark Kent. He writes, gets soft pretzels from street vendors and spends quality time with his wife.

Then things start to go bad, villains keep popping up, Lex Luthor has given up that stupid evil business man thing and is back in full blown mad scientist mode and Clark realizes that the world needs Superman.

Really good stuff rebuilding Superman's rogues gallery, reminding us what a great supporting cast he has and the Luthor/Superman fight at the end is one of the best, and contains several bits of the most brilliant bits of dialogue summing up the Lex/Superman relationship.

Just a great story that manages to balance some nice character moments with some huge, big screen 'man, that is cool!' action.

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### **Joanne G. says**

Back in the '50s and '60s, I didn't know of another girl who read superhero comic books. Thankfully, the boys I knew didn't mind me borrowing their copies. I devoured DC comics by the stacks. I loved Batman, the Flash, Hawkman, Green Lantern, and Wonder Woman, but, mostly, I loved Superman. I liked that he came from a small town in Kansas, became a reporter for a newspaper, and loved a strong, brave woman named Lois Lane. Those were all peripherals to the person he was, however. He was decent, solid, and good. He fought for truth, justice, and the American way. He was a true hero.

When I became a teen, I put away my comics and became more interested in other things (boys, mostly). I didn't think much about comic books until I had children (which often follows when a girl gets interested in boys). When my son began to read, I picked up some Superman graphic novels (which looked suspiciously like comic books only they cost considerably more). I was excited to share Superman with my son. Unfortunately, the graphic novels didn't have my Superman in its pages. Instead of the true-blue hero, the new Superman was dark, conflicted, broody, and morally confused. He was more Peter Parker than Clark Kent. I didn't like the artwork, storyline, or the gritty Superman.

I didn't bother with comics after that experience until a friend recommended I try this offering by Busiek. Here, I found my old Superman. He was kind, thoughtful, and heroic--just the way he should be.

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