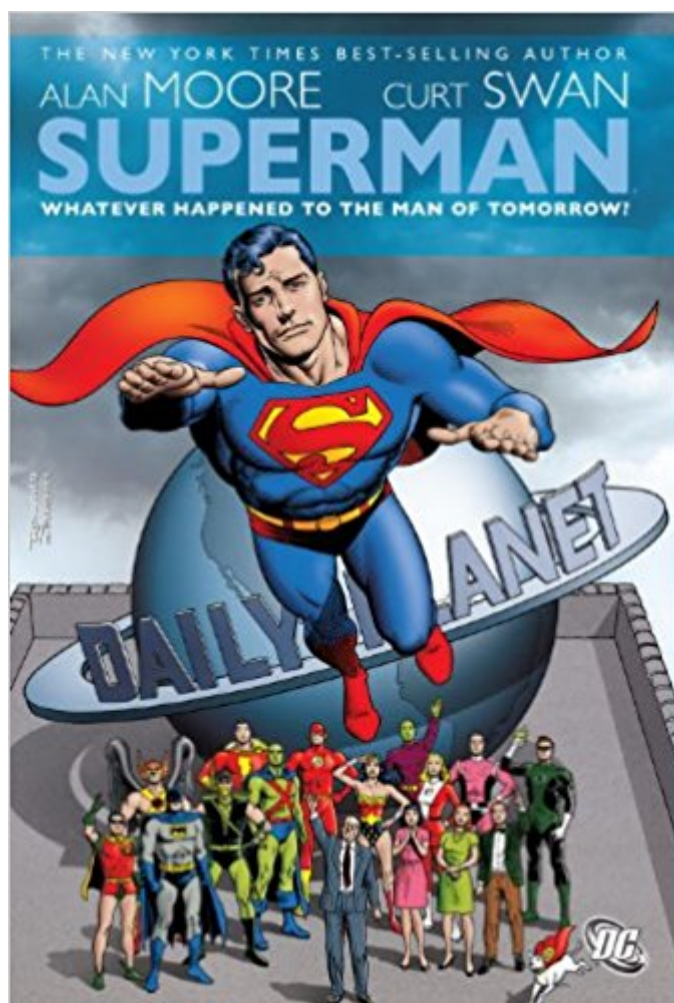


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Superman: Whatever Happened To The Man Of Tomorrow?



Synopsis

An unforgettable trade paperback collection of WATCHMEN writer Alan Moore's definitive Superman tales that is sure to appeal of readers of his BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE graphic novel. Moore teams with Curt Swan, the definitive Superman artist from the 1950's through the 1970's, to tell the final adventure of the Man of Steel featuring his last stand against Lex Luthor, Brainiac and his other foes in "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MAN OF TOMORROW?". This volume also includes Moore's classic early collaboration with WATCHMEN illustrator Dave Gibbons, "FOR THE MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING", in which Batman, Robin and Wonder Woman find Superman held captive by the villain Mongul in the Fortress of Solitude and dreaming of an idyllic life on Krypton courtesy of a wish-fulfilling parasitic plant known as the Black Mercy. Both tales are considered two of the top five all-time best Superman stories among fans. The rare first team-up adventure between the Man of Tomorrow and Swamp Thing, the character that first brought Moore to notoriety in the United States, is included as an additional bonus. This volume collects the two-part "Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow?" from SUPERMAN #423 and ACTION COMICS #583, as well as "The Jungle Line" from DC COMICS PRESENTS #85 and "For the Man Who Has Everything..." from SUPERMAN ANNUAL #11.

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Customer Reviews

"A sweeping, surprisingly tender elegy to Superman's rich, primary-colored history. . . . A moving farewell to the Superman most of us grew up with." •NPR

Alan Moore is perhaps the most acclaimed writer in the graphic story medium, having garnered countless awards for works such as WATCHMEN, V FOR VENDETTA, From Hell, Miracleman and SWAMP THING. He is also the mastermind behind the America's Best Comics line, through which he has created (along with many talented illustrators) THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN, PROMETHEA, TOM STRONG, TOMORROW STORIES and TOP 10. As one of the medium's most important innovators since the early 1980s, Moore has influenced an entire generation of comics creators, and his work continues to inspire an ever-growing audience. Moore resides in central England.

This is a great collection of Superman stories, and the main story is a fitting final story for all intents and purposes, of the original Superman character. It is a well told summation of every Superman story and all the characters that had ever been told from 1938-1986. Some might argue that every story from 1938-1956/7 were of Earth 2 Superman and after that they were about Earth 1 Superman but having read many of the old comic book stories from 1938 on up to 1986 in this case, you don't really get the sense when reading straight thru from the start to the finish that there was any sort of break per say in the stories, setting or characters involved. The main comics I'm referring to are Action Comics, Superman and Adventure Comics which told the tales of Superman when he was Superboy along with the old Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen comic books. Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow tells the final story of Superman and all his friends and enemies and the way they were portrayed from 1938-1986 which is why the multi-earth argument doesn't particularly matter nor hold water so to speak because it all seemed to portray one linear story and characters therein. It doesn't appear that the stories from 1938-1986 were of two different Earths and Supermans but in fact one and only one, but opinions might vary, to each their own. If you had been reading the comics and enjoying them for what they are and not overly complicating things for yourself it is a very great final story of the original Superman. Alan Moore did a good job writing a story with respect to everything that had been done up to this point in time, and the art work was very good, I liked the Curt Swan/ George Perez art team the best but the Curt Swan/ Kurt Schaffenberger team was reminiscent of late 50's early 60's Superman comics artwork and it was still good, I just preferred the former a bit better but the latter is good too. No complaints. If you've read all the old Superman comics listed above and haven't read this particular one you will enjoy it but all Superman fans and comic book fans in general, will enjoy reading this well written and illustrated final Superman story. You can't go wrong with this one.

After having seen Superman movies, cartoons, and documentaries, I realized that I had neglected Superman comics (with the exception of Kingdom Come), and so decided to wade into those waters, choosing some trades of Dark Knight Over Metropolis, (not great) Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years, (From my limited perspective, I think this is a good retrospective with a view towards embracing various time periods/eras and some of their highlights) The Man of Steel, Vol. 1 (I can definitely see some of its influence over the most recent movie version, haven't finished reading it yet, but it might be okay/good) and now this: Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow? I had read Alan Moore's Watchmen previously and that was basically what I knew of his work. I had read some good reviews and heard some good word of mouth on this trade, and the premise did intrigue me. So I decided to check it out, and I'm glad I did. It explores the end of a particular era of Superman comics, the Silver Age, as DC was planning on rebooting Superman with Man of Steel, so they had the chance here to basically write out Superman and Alan Moore jumped at the chance to portray this tragic, semi-epic final showdown between Superman and some of his major villains with a bunch of friends and family showing up, trying to help save and protect Superman, but they can't. Superman is doomed, and so are many of his friends and family members as well. The clock is ticking as one era says good-bye and a new era is just beginning... This trade also includes some other Alan Moore-penned issues of Superman, and I love the premises of these stories.

Swamp-Thing showed up to help save a deranged Superman, which encouraged me to go grab Alan Moore's Swamp-Thing, and Superman gets stuck in a dream of what life could have been like for him on Krypton, and it isn't pretty. But Alan Moore's descriptive, evocative language, written out on panel boxes in some of these stories, is pretty lush and wonderful, giving these comic books a more epic feel to them beyond simple plots, exploring tragedy, loss, and new beginnings.

Love Alan Moore. Like Superman well enough. I enjoyed this book, but as far as getting the most out of combining Moore with Superman, this format isn't ideal. The title story is a reprint of the monthly, a special issue for sure, but still too short for Moore to really spread his wings with the story. It feels rushed, and too densely packed. Not to say that it is bad, not at all.

It's just not as good as I had hoped. There were several typically great Moore-ideas coming fast and furious in the story, but each one could have been so much more interesting with a little more flesh on the bone. A longer story or a true graphic novel would have served the combination of writer/character better. Your mileage may vary, of course.

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