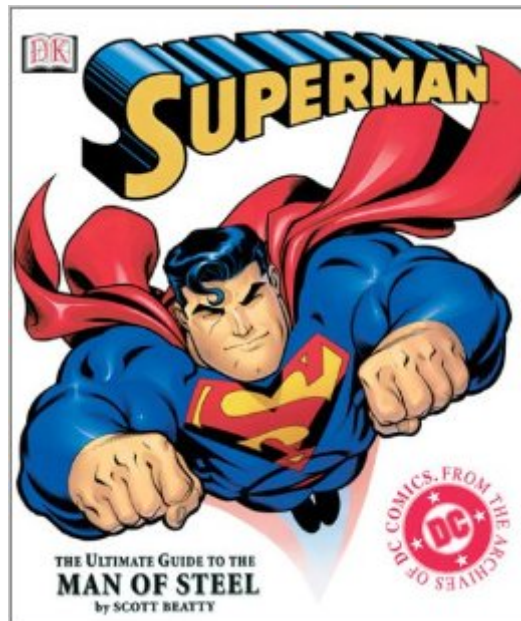


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Superman: The Ultimate Guide To The Man Of Steel



Synopsis

For 60 years the world famous Man of Steel has used his superpowers to fight for truth, justice, and fair play against the forces of evil and chaos. With unparalleled access to the archives of DC Comics-the creators of Superman-classic art is combined with some never-before-published work to create Superman: The Ultimate Guide. Discover Superman and little known facts about his universe as never before-key locations are revealed, crucial events and characters are profiled, and secrets are unlocked in this comprehensive volume.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'd like to start off by saying this book deserves a 3 1/2 star rating. The Ultimate Guide hardly lives up to its title. I am a serious Superman fan and was rather disappointed. Although richly illustrated and explained, this book was really full of information I already knew. It's very evident that Scott Beatty went to great lengths to research this, but I was rather underwhelmed. However, this book is PERFECT for younger fans. Children will love the rich illustrations and, although some explanations for storylines will go over their heads, it will still be a home run for any littler ones. One thing I did like about this book is the timeline of Superman's career, located in the back of the book. Year by year, it gives a synopsis of key storylines in events, all the way from 1938 until now. That's useful for any Superfan. So, if you're a parent looking for a wonderful book for your young Superfan, this is the one for you. But if you're already a serious collector, this book doesn't offer much. Try "Superman: The Complete History" by Les Daniels instead.

DK's series on the DC universe shows its strengths in this text on our favorite Man from Krypton. As usual, the people involved have done their homework and research well. The hours put into this text show. The pictures are fun visually, but I am concerned that a few of the photos might be intense for the under twelve set. Remember, a great many of these books will be sold at Costco, Sam's Club and a few other general outlets where some parents may not check out the books. Still, it is a vast improvement over the Batman book, which was slightly more intense. For the fans of the comic since 1986 (when the fictional character was overhauled), this book is all comprehensive and forgetting little that has happened in the comic since then. I would have liked to have seen Superman from the different interpretations given a few pages apiece (Superman in the live action the Adventures of Superman, Superman in the Superfriends, Superman in the Superboy show, Superman in Lois and Clark, etc. .) I also found myself wishing for a few pages of the pre-Crisis history. Like a page on the five types of Kryptonite (green, red, white, blue, and jewel), and other nostalgic trivia of the past. I loved the illustrations for Krypton and various other detailed graphic pages. And I especially enjoyed the six pages on the back which gave a good breakdown over the past fifty years and gave an excellent overview for those of us older fans. I look forward to the next book on the Justice League coming in November. Sincerely, JThree

I have been a lifelong fan of Superman. However, I never had the time or money that would allow me to get into the comic book aspect of the franchise. Curiosity finally got the better of me, and I set out to learn more based on how Superman has been perceived through comics. When I received this book, I was blown away at how great it was. Through beautiful illustrations and a detailed account of comic book history, I was able to learn everything I never knew about the Man of Steel. Every aspect of the character is shown in this book, and then some. I loved the way that the book went through Superman's history in chronological order. This made it very easy to learn about Superman's history. I especially enjoyed the detailed section of all the super villains that Superman has encountered. That was one area that I was seriously lacking in. Of course I had heard the names before - Doomsday, Brainiac, Metallo, etc. However, I never knew about their abilities, or what happened when they faced off with Superman. Every major villain is described in detail, which gives you a full understanding of each one. Now maybe I think more of this book than others, because I am a comic book novice. However, this book was very satisfying to me, and I recommend it to anyone who has always liked Superman, but still has a lot to learn.

Superman: The Ultimate Guide to the Man of Steel has been out for a few years now, but with the latest Superman film, "Superman Returns" just hitting theaters, DK has revised their fantastic guide to the first and greatest superhero of all! This 144 page, oversized hardcover book contains just about everything you ever wanted to know about Superman. Written by comic industry pro Scott Beatty this is a fun and informative walk through Superman's long history as we meet friend and foe alike. The book begins with a long look at the history of Superman's home world of Krypton and its long history which incorporates many of the modern concepts devised by both John Byrne and Dan Jurgens during their runs as the writer of Superman's adventures. This includes a large map of Krypton, one of several two page maps in the book. From there the book moves to Superman's early life in Smallville after being taken in as an infant by the Kents. Included here is a complete rundown of all of Superman's powers from his laser vision to his super hearing. There is another great two page map of Metropolis with important buildings such as the Daily Planet, Lexcorp Towers, and S.T.A.R. Labs noted for the reader. Next up we have lengthy chapters that highlight Superman's major foes such as Lex Luthor, Doomsday, Brainiac, Metallo, Darkseid, Mongul, Imperiex, The Cyborg, and many more. These give a brief history of the villain along with their powers and some of their previous plots. The issue with their first appearance is also noted. Next we get the same for Superman's friends and allies like Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen, Supergirl, Steel, and the Eradicator. The last chapter is actually my favorite and takes a look at Superman's career from the Golden Age right up through the present. This chapter shows how the character has evolved over his nearly 70 years of existence. Complementing this chapter is 16 page timeline spanning his first appearance in Action comics #1 in 1938, right up through the end of 2005. This year-by-year rundown notes important events and issues in Superman's career and is invaluable for both fans and comic book collectors. As with all DK's Ultimate Guides, the Superman book is a visual treat with stunning art and an eye for detail. A welcome addition to the library of any Superman fan! Reviewed by Tim Janson

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