



Superman, Volume 6: Imperius Lex

Peter J. Tomasi , Patrick Gleason (Illustrator) , James Robinson , Doug Mahnke (Illustrator)

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Superman and Lex Luthor are beamed to the fiery hellscape known as Apokolips to see who will take Darkseid's throne in SUPERMAN VOL. 6: IMPERIUS LEX!

It's a game of thrones on Apokolips as the lords of the dreaded world battle each other to claim its rule. Lex Luthor is summoned back to the warring planet, and he will need Superman to help him reclaim a crown he did not ask for.

As the conflict continues, a new warrior enters the battlefield: Lois Lane, Female Fury. May Granny Goodness have mercy on all their souls...

Peter J. Tomasi (SUPER SONS) teams with illustrator Doug Mahnke to continue their amazing run on one of the most critically acclaimed series of DC Rebirth! Collects #33-36 and #39-41.

Superman, Volume 6: Imperius Lex Details

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From Reader Review *Superman, Volume 6: Imperius Lex* for online ebook

Scott S. says

3.5 stars

While the colorful 'Imperious Lex' / Apokolips opener runs a little long, it was sort of worth it for the scenes of armor-clad Lois joining forces with / jumping into battle alongside the Furies. Lots of action here, and a few scenes that echo Shakespeare's "Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war!" line.

The latter half of the book features two stories that are more down-to-earth in nature. Superman practices his own style of the 'Make-A-Wish Foundation' in the pleasing *Goodnight Moon*, featuring a group of juvenile cancer patients on a surprise field-trip they'll never forget. The closer *Last Days* is a father / son adventure (featuring some nice, natural-sounding conversations between the two) with a narrative that bears intentional similarities to Superman's own origin tale.

Christian Zamora-Dahmen says

It was up and down.

Apokolips was amazing and kept me on edge. The other half barely kept me asleep...

Sarah says

Another great installment from Peter J. Tomasi. The "Imperius Lex" story alone was fantastic: solid action alongside phenomenal characterization as it allowed each member of the Kent family to shine in their own way: Superman, Lois, and Jon. The strong family themes that were interwoven were done perfectly, but even more interesting were the dynamics explored between Lex Luthor and Superman. I am fascinated by this "good" Lex Luthor, and the relationship between a Superman expecting him to go bad--but who is honestly also hoping for him to continue on the right path--and a Luthor who is still just as prideful and ambitious as the one we've always known, but who is also genuinely trying to fill those needs by being a hero rather than a villain... that relationship and (after this volume) former partnership is one that is being handled brilliantly. Seriously, the strongest aspect of these Superman comics is how characterization comes first; story just half a step behind it, hold its hand; and THEN the comic book action we all know and love. Fantastic. Though my favorite issue was definitely the "Goodnight, Moon" story. It was so sweet, and had practically no action. It just simply showed the Justice League being heroes in a different way--a way that we can all do in our own lives: being kind and going out of our way to do something special for someone who needs it. Seriously, I NEED TO OWN THAT COMIC. The last one was also really solid, but it was much more... "thinky." I had to really ponder that one long after I closed the book. I wasn't quite sure how to take it, but once I mulled it over... the end theme to me seemed to be about how religious belief is not enough--it's being a good person along with religious belief. And that's a nice theme that also doesn't alienate any faiths. I also liked the theme that science and religion can coexist. I'm a religious person, and as such, it was nice to see those ideas in a mainstream comic book. (Though, of course, I know the comic could be interpreted many ways. This was my personal take-away. But, to me, that's the magic of writing: It's a conversation between writer and reader,

both coming with their own ideas and intentions, and both learning something about each other and themselves. That is what good writing is supposed to do... and this graphic novel was DEFINITELY good writing.) So, again, thank you Mr. Tomasi, for delivering with Superman. I look forward to the next adventure.

Aldo Haegemans says

3,5/5

Travis Duke says

(3.5) solid superman series contiues right along. This volume had 3 stories but they all worked well together. The Lex story about the planet Apokolips was fun. The mid story about the supers taking the kids to space was silly and lighthearted. The last story with Clark and John saving a distant plant was great. Art was great. Ill keep reading

Kay says

I don't really have what to say on the Imperious Rex storyline... I don't know why or how Lex got the S on his chest, how long he and Superman have been working together, or how Lex ended up as the pretend savior of Apokolips for a bit...

Though I didn't like the art, there are two aspects of the story I really liked: 1. How Lois and Jon are independently smart and strong...How they each held their own and were able to find a way back to each other.

2. The confrontation at the end between Lex & Superman. Though rushed, it got them back to where I'm most comfortable with them -on opposite sides of the fighting line.

3 stars for Imperious Rex. Even though it was a four-part story, I think it could have gone on a bit longer, maybe adding more to the end.

The next story Goodnight Moon... I don't even know how to rate, so I won't. This is one-off fluff issue of Superman hanging out and being wonderful with children with cancer. I just can't give this a poor rating even though it had nothing to do with the volume.

I actually liked the last storyline The Last Days by James Robinson, but didn't love the writing. Clark and Jon go off to try and save a planet on what is its last day of existence. There's a lot of overt Krypton baggage (it's the anniversary of Krypton's destruction & Clark and Jon are in the middle of watching the video of Krypton exploding when Clark gets an alert that the planet Galymayne is about to explode very much the same way).

When Clark & Jon arrive, they find Galymayne to be a (science hating) Theocracy, readying themselves to die as it is their god's will. They don't want or need Superman's help to be saved. To which Superman says: "Even if it might be morally wrong to force my values on an alien race, if it means lives will be saved, that's all that matters."

Which is *such an interesting idea* for a Superman comic, and I wish held more focus in this story.

3 stars for The Last Days storyline. The art was eh, and the writing could have been tighter, but the ideas were all there.

M says

A host of talents unite for this hope-infused Superman collection from the DC Rebirth era. The opening arc sees Lex Luthor abducted back to Apokolips to once again rule the desolate planet. Refusing the responsibility, Lex uses a contingency plan to try and locate Superman as backup. While the Man of Steel is found, the entire Kent family finds themselves separated on the hostile alien world. Though Superman manages to end the civil war with a new democracy, Luthor opts to rid himself of the S symbol and return to doing things his way back on Earth. A fun romp of a filler issue follows, as Superman enlists the Justice League to provide some relief for a wing of hospitalized children. A zero-gravity rude, Watchtower scavenger hunt, and a moonwalk are great - but nothing compares to try to get a photo of Batman smiling! The volume concludes with Superman and Superboy attempting to save an alien race from their planet's inevitable destruction. Yet things get complicated when the population has accepted its grisly fate as per their religious beliefs. The book's strengths and weaknesses both arise from the same area - a plethora of writers and artists. The Lex-centered story offers the most action, but bounces between rough cut lines and shapely feminine curves depending on the artist selection. The one-shot issue is wonderfully written, but is not as smooth on the artistic details. The closing arc is well-drawn, but falls into the science vs. religion debate trope. Overall the hopeful discourse does give the collection an upbeat feel, yet sets the stage for darker developments down the road. Superman: Imperius Lex closes the door on the heroic Luthor, while still infusing the DC Universe with hope.

James DeSantis says

Superman, Superman, he can do what...Oh wrong hero.

Wow I'm bored.

Okay, so this is getting very close to the end of Tomasi run on Superman! A run I mostly loved despite a drop in quality for last volume (Which half wasn't even done by him) but this volume we have Superman heading to Apokolips or however spell it, after Lex comes clean that he is not a god to these people. So instead they want Superman to replace Lex but of course Superman decides fuck that and fights for what's right! We also have a one shot of Superman taking a bunch of terminally ill kids up to the justice league tower. Last but not least is James Robinson story of Superman visiting a planet who wants to die.

Good: Loved the HELL out of the one shot of Superman with the kids. It's heartfelt, amazing, and so damn adorable. It's everything Superman is about. I also enjoyed the Apokolips arc, though not crazy good it was interesting enough throughout to keep my attention. Once more the art is stunning as usual.

Bad: The last arc was really boring. To the point I frankly kind of lost track of the page a few times and nearly fell asleep. What a weak closing chapter to a otherwise solid volume.

Overall, not amazing but better than last volume. Here's hoping volume 7 will close out Peter's run in a strong way! A 3 out of 5.

Adam Fisher says

An overall nice, complete graphic novel with several really good lessons!

The story here is divided into 3 parts:

- With Darkseid gone (see Darkseid War AND Dark Nights: Metal to find out where he really is!), the throne of Apokolips is empty. There is a prophesy about who will reign next, so the denizens of the planet take it upon themselves to abduct Superman, Lois, Jon, and Lex Luthor and see who really should be in charge. A cool story involving lots of battle, Jon taking over a pack of wild dogs who help him, Lois defeating a Fury and taking her place, and Superman establishing a reign of peace and hope that will hopefully continue on in that chaotic realm. Also, Lex, furious at how events unraveled, removes the "S" from his chest.
- A short, one issue story where Superman takes a bunch of cancer kids for a trip to the Watchtower where the Justice League helps them to have a great day ending with them watching the Earth from the surface of the moon. (So heartwarming and touching!)
- Technology at the Fortress of Solitude warns Clark and Jon that a planet is nearing destruction in a manner very similar to Krypton. Off they go to save the day, but the inhabitants want to follow the "will of their gods" and die along with the planet. They do meet a "man of science" (though the species that lives on that planet more closely resembles sea horses) who doesn't agree with the rest of the people. Compromise happens, as sad as it may be, so the planet dies with everyone, with the exception of a container holding the embryos of the scientist and his wife, which Clark and Jon take to a safe planet to grow and develop without the chaos of the religion battle.

Good art, good story.... another winner here, big fan of Tomasi.

Recommend.

Wing Kee says

A bit rushed, a bit simple but still quite good.

World: The art is fantastic, so far this series has had a couple of artists and I will say that the art has been able to set the hopeful tone for this series since Rebirth. The world building here is also quite good with tied all the way back to Darkseid War and Superman's past. The pieces were all there to play with and I will never say no to a trip to Apokolips. The ties to the past and the ties to the core of the character of Superman for Last Days was also pretty great.

Story: 'Imperius Lex' was a rushed story where characters and interaction could have slowed down to breath and allowed for better progression. That being said this story had huge consequences and it was a good story. The past with Lex and then with Superman and the prophecy was done well and as I said a little more time would have made a huge difference especially the end when the emotional cues needed to pay off. That being said seeing all those characters and the amazing art was fantastic. 'Last Days' was almost bordering on preachy and othering but Superman and the final conversation he has with the aliens really showed that he is the best and has a layer of depth and hope and compassion that other heroes simply does not. I like it, it was a quick 2 issue arc that was expected but the mirror of Superman's origins really hit the emotional cues. Then there is a amazing and beautiful 'Goodnight Moon' a perfect book. It was sugary it was melodramatic but it was needed. Much like the 'Independence' story a couple of issues back this one is quiet, and really focuses on the humanity of Superman and the world. Lateef and the kids were all the feels.

Characters: Superman is great, he's a rock, he's an ideal and so far with this creative team he's been a beacon for the DC universe, it's great. Jon playing along side him is fantastic and gives area for Jon to grow and also accept and learn from Superman, he's our window into Supes. Lois is fantastic this arc and has been since the start of Rebirth, she's strong, she's deep and she's just a well written character. Lex gets a lot of growth this arc and the end of 'Imperious Lex' was a culmination that has been going on since the end of New52 good job (1 more issue would have been so much better). Apokolips and all the people we see, awesome and that's all I can say cause you need to see them, the art did them justice.

A good arc that hits the feels but could have used an extra issue to knock it out of the park.

Onward to the next book!

read individual issues

Scott Lee says

This one was frustrating...The actual "Imperius Lex" storyline which opens the volume is all right. It wraps up the situation on Apokalips post Darkseid's fall...of course as I just saw him over in Wonder Woman he seems ready to come right back...so...Also I'm a bit confused by the ending. The denizens of Apokalips, who were willing to boomtube Luthor and Superman over to force them to take the throne of Apokalips as the new dictatorial power now that Darkseid's gone are suddenly willing to accept Superman as absentee ruler...Didn't quite sit right. There are, however, some Lois and Jonathan moments that made the story worth the read, oh, and Lex being humbled. That's always nice.

Then issues 37-38 weren't collected here. I assume they're part of some other collection somewhere that I have yet to identify. Issue thirty-nine was weak...I've never seen a better single issue example of pure filler. Superman and the JLA team up to be nice to some sick kids in what seems essentially to be the ultimate granting of Make a Wish...

Finally, the last story, a two issue take that covers Superman's attempt to save a world destined to explode much like Krypton did, and on/near the anniversary of Krypton's death is fantastic. Tomasi tries a little too hard to play up religious fanaticism, but he does end up asserting that faith, knowledge and science can work hand-in-hand, a gesture I appreciated. Also having Superman face so dramatically the issue of whether someone he attempts to help actively refused to be saved was well-handled, particularly in the context the story uses. I liked this story a lot.

A smaller complaint, but one I find myself making a lot with this newest round of DC collected volumes is that so many of the issues are drawn by guest pencilers, and clearly relatively untrained and lower quality guest pencilers. They're not bad, they're just...not anywhere near on par with the pros who get advertised as having these monthly gigs. Another reason the final two-issue story was my favorite is both issues were drawn by Ed Benes who did a fantastic job on both of them a welcome relief after the previous issues of the volume.

Kat says

Basic plot: First, Apokolips kidnaps Lex Luthor because they think he is their savior, and then Superman is kidnapped by Lex to set things straight. Then a couple of other shorts show Superman showing a good time to a kids cancer ward and attempting to save a planet from destruction.

The Apokolips story had some cool moments in it. Lois as a Fury was pretty damn cool. I really liked the shorts, though, as I felt they really captured the heart of Superman. There is some fairly deep philosophy in the last short, and I really liked it. Solid art throughout. Very enjoyable.

Malum says

[Superman becomes emperor of Apokolips, which isn't as cool as it sounds. He just says "Be good to each other like Ma and Pa Kent taught me" and then leaves (hide spoiler)]

Chad says

Imperious Lex picks up the story that started in Darkseid War towards the end of the new 52's Justice League run. It's been a long time coming and ultimately caps Superman and Lex Luthor's relationship. It could have used another episode or two to fully flesh it out. Then there's a very emotional issue where the Justice League spends the day with some kids with serious illnesses. Having friends whose son went through the whole Make-a-Wish thing, this definitely gave me a case of the feels in a very nice way. Also included was a 2 part story by James Robinson paralleling Krypton's destruction. Superman and son head to a planet that is ready to explode to help and are rebuffed by an ultra-extreme religious theocracy that is ready to die instead of striving to save themselves. Robinson surprised me by nailing the relationship between Clark and Jon. Robinson seems to be regaining some of his mojo from when he was writing Starman and Leave It to Chance back when he was one of my favorite writers.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

There exists a prophecy on Apokolips of the one who will replace Darkseid, killed in the event known as the Darkseid War. It is time for that prophecy to come to fruition. But when Superman, Lois, Jon, and Lex Luthor are all transported across the universe to fulfill it, the true heir apparent might not be quite so apparent after all. Plus, Clark and Jon travel to a planet dying in a way very similar to Krypton, and find that they cannot stand by and watch that kind of catastrophe befall anyone else. But how do you save a planet whose inhabitants don't want to be saved?

Imperius Lex is one of those storylines that feels like it's been teased for a long time, but I think it's just that it was due to start about two months earlier than it actually did, but art schedules pushed everything back a bit. Unfortunately for me, this upped the hype levels as well which means that the story itself fell a bit flat. It scatters the characters across Apokolips and then focuses on each in turn, which you'd think would be a recipe for great character moments, but it all just feels kind of...eh, until they join back up again.

The stakes never seem that high either. With the throne of Apokolips as the prize you'd expect it to feel like a high pressure storyline, but there's a lacksidical element about it where no one feels like they're in much of a rush.

Then we get yet another filler arc as James Robinson steps in to tell a more compelling tale that helps Jon come to terms with his ancestry even if he's never been a part of Krypton. The parallels between the world in this story and Krypton are eerily similar which is exactly the point, but the ending's a little more optimistic, if not by much. Robinson nails the father-son dynamic easily too, which is the lynchpin of the story. There's also a one-and-done set on the Justice League Watchtower between the two stories that will 100% make you cry, and that's one of the highest compliments I can give to a comic.

The art is mostly Doug Mahnke and Ed Benes, both reliable Superman artists, with the one-off issue pencilled by Barry Kitson. It's a bit of a mish-mash in terms of timing, since there aren't many issues by the same artist consecutively, but it's not a bad combination overall.

My own expectations may have marred my experience of this storyline. I'd actually recommend the filler stories over the main one, which isn't something I often do. Imperius Lex feels like it should be more epic than it should be, while the filler stories don't pretend to be anything that they're not.
