



Superman, Volume 4: Black Dawn

Peter J. Tomasi (Contributor), Patrick Gleason

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Though Superman and his family have found a measure of peace in their adopted town of Hamilton, they've also sensed a sinister presence lurking beneath its idyllic rural façade—something, as a visiting Batman and Robin are about to discover, that is stripping young Jonathan Kent of his powers and pitting neighbor against neighbor, hero against hero, father against son.

Soon the time will come for Jonathan to choose: Will he follow his father into the light of truth and justice? Or will this Boy of Steel be forever warped by the corrupting powers of darkness?

Find out in SUPERMAN VOL. 4: BLACK DAWN, featuring the creative team of Peter J. Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, Doug Mahnke, Mick Gray and more! Collects issues #20-26.

Superman, Volume 4: Black Dawn Details

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Author : Peter J. Tomasi (Contributor) , Patrick Gleason

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From Reader Review Superman, Volume 4: Black Dawn for online ebook

Rory Wilding says

Having read the initial three volumes of Peter J. Tomasi and Patrick Gleason's *Superman* run, it's been interesting to see how DC is retconning the Man of Steel throughout the Rebirth initiative. Although I have not read *Action Comics* as well as the crossover event *Superman Reborn*, based on this fourth volume, some things have changed (with a suit with a new belt buckle) and some haven't (failing to maintain a normal family life in Hamilton County, USA).

Please click [here](#) for my full review.

James DeSantis says

Another really strong volume. I'm reading these so slow because I really don't want Peter J. Tomasi to leave this title (even though he already has).

So we begin our story here in a semi-dark way. The town Superman and his family live in is becoming unhinged. Something isn't right in our little farm-town and things are going wrong. Before that Batman and Damien show up and Bruce tells Clark that Jon has untapped potential. In fact, Batman is convinced he should be stronger than he is already. That's when the town begins to collapse on itself and a new evil arises, one you might not expect. When friends become foes, and secrets begin to show themselves, will our heroes make it out okay?

Good: The dynamic of family is still strong here. Clark and Lois are both caring parents and Jon is growing quick and dealing with life situations. I really love that Peter makes Lois a fucking badass without trying. She is able to handle herself in this series, and more than once comes to the rescue. I thought the villain here was a great choice to counter Clark's views on saving people and fighting villains and the twist of the town was cool.

Bad: The last issue, while cute, was a little overdone. Having Clark relive his days with his Pa to share the same storyline with Jon felt a bit cliche. I also will be sad to see them leave the farm.

Overall this was a great volume. I really am loving Peter's run. I think he did wonders for the character if you ask me. A 4 out of 5.

Fraser Sherman says

The good thing about this TPB is the way it portrays Superman, Jonathan Kent and Lois. It's old-school nice-guy non-edgy Superman and family, and I like that. And I thought the reveal of what's really going on in Hamilton was going to be interesting ... only it wasn't. Manchester Black was a memorable character when he showed up as a Superman villain but his arc ended well. Reviving him as once again a hardcore You Need Me On That Wall type (and a lot less well executed than in his earlier stories) is just a waste. This would get

maybe 1.5 stars, but the Super-family stuff is still pretty winning.

Wing Kee says

Not my favorite choice by Tomasi and Gleason.

World: The art is good, I've always liked Gleason art, it's full of character and bits and pieces. The world building is okay but it is a bit wonky and out of left field. I don't really like what they did with the town of Hamilton and I don't agree with it.

Story: The pacing is fine and so is the tone and the dialog. The issue I had with this arc was the fact that it exists. I like Kathy and Farmer Cobb and I did not like what they did with these characters. Why could there not just been this little beautiful slice of Americana in Hamilton. The villain also annoyed and the fight in the end contrived and far easily dealt with. Not a big fan of this arc at all.

Characters: This is probably the first step in Rebirth that I don't agree with this creative team. I don't need a dark sinister thing brewing beneath a wholesome town. I don't need it. Kathy was a great character for Jon to be friends with and the town was a good place for Jon to learn to love humans and people and life. This was unnecessary. The villain was stupid zzz.

Not my favorite arc.

Onward to the next book!

Chad says

Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, and Doug Mahnke deliver yet another knockout punch with this entry into the Superman mythos. All of the oddness in Hamilton County is finally explained. Something of a redux of Superman -

What's So Funny About Truth, Justice, and the American Way? (Action Comics #775) for the next generation. My one complaint would be too many inkers on a few of the issues. You can definitely see a distinct shift in the quality of the art and style. Fantastic art, fantastic story.

Artemy says

What kind of a sick sadistic fuck is Peter Tomasi? Not only did he introduce the character of Jon in his first volume of Superman by murdering a cat, not only does he keep rubbing it in every chance he gets (see also Super Sons), but now there's also this?

Why do you hate cats so much, Tomasi? If you don't like them, just don't include them in your stories, you asshole.

But anyway. This huge 6-part story is a continuation/rehash of Joe Kelly's famous Action Comics one-shot *What's So Funny About Truth, Justice, and the American Way?*, and it's shit. The idea of The Elite as a one-off team of crazies worked fine for an issue just to make the point that Kelly was trying to make, but to base an entire story arc around that same premise only shows how little life there is in this concept beyond its original intent. Manchester Black is a pastiche character who just doesn't work on his own, his beliefs are comically wrong and villainous, and honestly, we don't need yet another story to explain how Superman is still actually a good and relevant character. The guy's got 1000 issues under his belt and trunks, of course he's still relevant! Now go and do something useful with him instead of torturing that poor cat's soul even more, Peter Tomasi YOU SICK FUCK.

The volume is capped off with an issue written by Michael Moreci, and it's honestly even worse than Tomasi's story. It's a one-shot about Clark parenting Jon, and it undermines everything we've learned about Jon to date by depicting him as an insufferable ill-mannered brat more akin to Damian Wayne, who never listens to his father and does everything backwards. Looks like the only thing Michael Moreci knew about the character before writing this issue is that Jon is a teenager. Sorry, dude, but he's not THAT kind of teenager.

Just as I was ready to give Tomasi another chance at redeeming himself as a writer in my eyes, he goes and does shit like *Black Dawn*. A useless, derivative story that desperately tries to say something meaningful about an 80-year-old character by rehashing a story that is almost 20 years old. I'm so glad that Bendis is replacing this hack, he can't possibly be worse than this.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Pete Tomasi and Patrick Gleason are back with a vengeance in this volume of Superman, which brings a lot of the stories from the first year of the book into tight focus as Superman, Jon, and Lois are all tested to their fullest when a mysterious yet familiar threat emerges from the shadows.

Black Dawn is a bit of a rehash of *Whatever Happened To Truth, Justice, and the American Way?*, but in a good way. It's reimagined nicely, and it brings Superboy along for the ride on the next step of his character arc too. There are a few quick handwavey explanations about things, but it's a decent way to close down this chapter of the Kents' lives as they move away from Hamilton and back to Metropolis where they belong.

Gleason is also back on art, with Doug Mahnke tag-teaming with him for certain issues, like the extra-sized #25 that tops off the story. They have a great visual synergy that means this is the most consistent the book has looked for a while, and that really helps sell the story overall.

Strong character work as ever and a decent homage to a very famous story gives us a great volume of Superman adventures.

Scott S. says

Rebounding quite nicely from the blah *Vol. 3: Multiplicity*, Vol. 4 finally explains some of the oddness that has been percolating under the crust of Hamilton County since the arrival of Clark, Lois and Jon. Also, Lois has a true *deus ex machina* moment ("Now we're talking!" exclaims Lois . . . and the reader), courtesy of an unexpected visit to the farm from Gotham's dynamic duo, that I wished would've lasted longer than three pages. With said visit we get the amusing dialogue many other reviews have commented on - "Batman doesn't eat pie" - during dessert with our superheroes.

Though the epilogue chapter seems sort of tacked-on, this was an otherwise *really* good volume that seems to get things back on track. DC's doing something right with this *Rebirth* title.

L. (Vacation All I Ever Wanted) says

I received this book through a GoodReads giveaway.

I'm not a big fan of this kind of artwork. On practically page one I've got a nitpick. They go out of their way to show the Kents now live on a farm way out in the boondocks, yet Lois takes the trashcan out to the curb. When you live in the county you haul your own trash off. Ain't no truck gonna come pick this up. But as I said, that's just nitpicking.

My true complaints contain spoilers so **Spoiler Warning**.

Batman and Robin stop by to chit chat about Superboy. Immediately Robin gets on my nerves with his constant pshaw noises. Batman disappears early on and frankly has nothing to do with the story at all. Even at the end with the big boss battle he's barely in two or three panels. Heck, the Batmobile did more. Why was the Dynamic Duo even here? They were unnecessary.

Another complaint has to do with Lois being severely injured during a fight scene. She's hurt bad enough for Superman to leave the fight to fly her to the hospital. Yet at the very end she shows up at the battle, her body intact, and we're given a throwaway line to explain it all away. It just pissed me off. I would have been more interested in seeing how the family dealt with her injury than be told, "Oh, it was all an illusion."

Steve Quinn says

Superman's been one of the better Rebirth titles so far, for me. I'm definitely enjoying superboy, seeing the Kent's go to the fair, and suchlike things. This volume though was a bit of a letdown. Manchester Black? Whodahell? I remember him from the New 52 Titans, but beyond that I don't know his history. Seems pretty formidable, but they never really explained his powers. At all. I had to Wikipedia him.

Well, so things in this book got all confusing after he showed up. The townspeople are all super powered aliens who believe in killing? Superboy may be okay with this? What just happened to Lois' leg? Ok just about every page I was pretty damn turned around as to what was going on and why.

Manchester Black took down Supes and Batman pretty easily, and then...someone got really angry and beat him? And now the aliens are going to fix the town, and Superman just lets them off the hook? And did superboy lose his powers? Or not?

I thought the art was good, and I still like the Kent family, and watching Damien and Jon interact. That's still lots of fun, but the main story got in the way, which was a shame.

Thanks to DC for giving me a review copy in exchange for a review!

Will Robinson Jr. says

Without a doubt Tomasi & Gleason are writing one of the best comicbook series around. The bonds of the Kent family are tested as an old Superman for, Manchester Black returns to wreck the peaceful town of Hamilton. In this volume of Superman young Jon is tempted to see the life of being a hero differently than his father. I fondly remember being exposed to Manchester Black from the DC Animated film, Superman & the Elite. I never read the Superman and Justice League books that introduced Black & the Elite. I did enjoy the concept of Superman confronting his ideology of trying not to kill an enemy versus the eye for eye code that Black follows. This story brings this battle of ideologies to a more personal conflict as Black tries to manipulate Superman's son into going to the dark side. There is a lot of jaw dropping action moments in the book and the emotional moments are incredibly written and drawn. I can not express how much the family dynamic has made the Superman series both relevant and just a all around fun read. I am going to try to go back and read some of the earlier stories with Black. Superman continues to be one of the strongest series in the DC Rebirth era of DC comics.

Kyle says

Some moments of really great artwork (I totally dig Mahnke's style); however, I found this storyline to be a little lacklustre. What starts as an intriguing mystery unravels into a bit of nonsense, even though it does tie up a few loose ends from before Superman Reborn.

3.5/5

Wayne McCoy says

With 'Superman, Volume 4: Black Dawn,' Peter J. Tomasi continues a really great run on this title. It's one I always look forward to reading.

The Kents have had a pretty idyllic existence in the farm town of Hamilton, but that is about to end. It's been hinted at in other story lines. It comes to a head here. Something is not right with how Jon's powers are developing and Batman shows up with Robin to investigate. What they uncover unleashes a secret that the

town holds. When one of Superman's old enemies shows up, he tries to turn Superboy toward the darkness. Will a dark Superboy find new powers or will he be able to fight it off?

It was only inevitable, I guess, that this perfect town would be hiding some secret. Part of me wishes that it hadn't been so, and there is a change to a couple characters that I wish hadn't been part of the conspiracy.

Overall, I did enjoy the story, and, especially, the back up story that Clark teaching Jon about decisions and responsibility while having a flashback to an episode with his own father Jonathan.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from DC Entertainment and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

Travis Duke says

(3.5?) I am really enjoying this superman series, I think mainly because of the strong family story they got going on. After a sidestep with volume 3, volume 4 gets back into the flow with a good twist about the town Hamilton that the Kent family has made home. We also get a great villain cameo that I wont spoil. Like I mentioned I really enjoy the family aspect that Tomasi is writing. The father and son relationship with Jon and Clark is heart warming and I love seeing how they struggle at times but ultimately succeed. Lois isn't forgotten either, she has few nice moments too. Solid series so far.

Adam Spanos says

The main six-part story here is an epic Superman family story that, despite being set in and around the farm and (under) the local town, is epic, as a villain from the 'wrong' timeline makes his reappearance (I had to read the Wikipedia page for his back-story), reveals the secrets of those strange neighbours, their cow, the haunted house, and even the whereabouts of Mr & ("Ex.") Mrs Frankenstein.

Despite the presence of Batman & Robin, Lois still manages to be a full-partner in the story, reminding us that she has been a strong female character in comics ever since the 1930s, surviving the forced domesticity of the 1950s to take her place as the role-model she started her career as.

This has an excellent story, with humour, tragedy and epic action, and with excellent artwork, recapitulating the villain's original *raison d'être*, and also reminding us of the importance of the Superman Family to the main character and his back-story.

The seventh issue is a stand alone with Superman and son doing a bit of bonding with a flashback to young Clark and Pa Kent's similar situation back in the day.
