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Superman: Red Son (New Edition)



Synopsis

Imagine a reality where the world's most powerful super-being does not grow up in Smallville, Kansas - or even America, for that matter. **SUPERMAN: RED SON** is a vivid tale of Cold War paranoia, that reveals how the ship carrying the infant who would later be known as Superman lands in the midst of the 1950s Soviet Union. Raised on a collective, the infant grows up and becomes a symbol to the Soviet people, and the world changes drastically from what we know - bringing Superman into conflict with Batman, Lex Luthor and many others. The acclaimed story by writer Mark Millar and artists Dave Johnson & Kilian Plunkett is collected here, featuring an extensive sketch section by Johnson, Plunkett and Alex Ross. Collects **SUPERMAN: RED SON** #1-3.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I waited years to read this story and Millar did not disappoint. Once again, Mark proves he has one of the most original voices in comics, not to mention a particularly distinct grasp of the comic book super-hero. And good God, is it gorgeous to look at too." "Kevin Smith" "Millar takes a massive gamble here with one of the world's most enduring icons." "The London Sunday Times

Mark Millar has written some of the most successful English-language comics in recent years. His recent projects are Marvel's **CIVIL WAR**, **ULTIMATES 2**, **ULTIMATE FANTASTIC FOUR** and

WOLVERINE. CIVIL WAR was featured on everything from CNN to MTV for the public unmasking of Spider-Man. His comic WANTED was a hit movie in 2008 starring Angelina Jolie.

If you have never read this book, do yourself a favor and pick it up immediately. This is truly one of the greatest elsewords/multiverse type stories that has ever been done by DC. It is a what-if type of story; what if Kal-el's spacecraft landed in the USSR and not in the Midwest of America. DO NOT READ ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS STORY! The twists and revelations are so much fun to read without knowing they are coming.

"Red Son" supposedly influenced the makers of the "Batman v Superman" movie - but please, don't hold that against this book. This is actually one of the smartest mainstream, self-contained, Elseworlds-style comics of the past couple of decades. If this were a product of the 1980s, it might just be ranked just underneath Frank Miller's "Dark Knight." The twist is simple. In this alternate reality, Superman was raised in the Soviet Union rather than in Smallville, Kansas. This Superman is just as steeped in Soviet-style Communism as our Superman is thoroughly indoctrinated in "Truth, Justice, and The American Way." But to what degree are the qualities that make Superman such a special hero unique to his cultural upbringing? To say more is to spoil the plot. What I will say is that the artwork is first rate, and looks like a cross between propaganda posters and the now-discontinued "Superman Adventures" animated series. As always with Mark Millar's writing, characterization is to-the-point and dialogue is crisp. There's virtually no bloat or padding in a very clean, crisp story. It's well worth your time, and "Red Son" holds up to repeated readings. Even if you are put off by DC's needless recent reboots of their series, you will find much to enjoy within the pages of this book.

I just read this "what if" story, and it's the best graphic novel I've read in a long time. Suppose Superman's ship had landed on a farm in the Soviet Union instead of a farm in Kansas. How would his life have been different? Were Superman's values of "truth, justice, and the American way" caused by nature or nurture? No matter which you believe, the ending will surprise you, and will likely blow you away.

Ok, so I'm hoping that my review of this graphic novel will offer unique insight, because I'm somewhat of a unique consumer. I have purchased very few comic books in my adult life. Historically in my childhood I was a big fan of Disney comics (Scrooge, Donald Duck, and Mickey

Mouse), and then in late elementary school I liked TinTin. I was told about the plot and premise of this graphic novel by a friend, and I was planning a vacation to Russia at the time that I bought it, and I was plenty excited to buy it. I was in my mid-20s at the time, and hadn't bought a comic for probably 10-15 years. The artwork in this book is amazing. The front cover, the book title page, and each of the title pages for the three major sections (Red Son Rising, Red Son Ascendant, and Red Son Setting) all have title pages with stunning and dramatic soviet flavored artwork. The rest of the graphics frequently have stereotypical soviet iconography (hammers and sickles, sign boards of the historic soviet leaders, red everywhere, etc.), and this is all for really dramatic effect. Many superheros and super villains from the original superman (and also batman himself) are present, but as reinterpreted characters Lex Luthor is a genius loyal to the United States, and opposes Superman Red Son. The depiction of batman is especially fun, as he wears an ushanka and is a Russian rebel fighting against Superman. The plot of the book is meant to be ironic and like a twisted remix of actual superman. This is a really unique concept, and it apparent that the writers have exploited it to its fullest. One more cool thing with this comic is that there are about 8 pages in the back of this book that show sketchbook copies and notes made by the artist when they were developing the look that they wanted for Superman Red Son. These sketches are interesting to look at, and show what some of the thoughts underlying the design of the characters were. In summary, if you like the idea of reading a comic about ironic communist superman, you definitely should check this out!!!!

Collects Superman: Red Son issues #1-3 There is so much more to this story than this brief synopsis, but here's something to whet your appetite: What if Superman's ship had originally landed in Russian instead of America? What if he had grown up under a Communist regime? Would he still grow up to be a hero, or would he become something else? After years of having this book hyped up to me, you would think that it wouldn't be able to live up the hype, but it more than did. At first I was thinking that it wasn't as good as everyone was saying it was, but once I got into the book a little more, I fell in love with it too. Like many alternate reality stories, it puts familiar people in unusual roles, but this book has some deeper things to say about philosophy and politics. The world isn't black and white, and Mark Millar does a good job of writing a gray world with realistic stakes and unlikely heroes.

Wow, that's all I have to say. The thought of a Soviet Superman is WAY more interesting than I previously thought as this story shows what would happen if Superman was raised as a communist

as opposed to being raised American. I don't want to spoil too much, but the ending simply makes the story a classic. When you think of any future Lex Luthor vs. Superman stories, you will INSTANTLY think that no matter what it is, it will not compare to the ending of this story. Even if you think Superman is a boring character, this is a must-read. Period.

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