



Superman: The Coming of Atlas

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It's a literal clash of the titans as fan-favorite writer James Robinson (STARMAN, JSA: THE GOLDEN AGE) kick-starts his Man of Steel run with a battle to end all others when Superman faces off with Atlas, the lost God of myth.

When the long-missing God stakes a claim on Metropolis, it's up to Superman and his family to bring Atlas down. But who's pulling Atlas's strings? Guest-starring Green Lantern, Supergirl and more.

Superman: The Coming of Atlas Details

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From Reader Review Superman: The Coming of Atlas for online ebook

Amanda says

I must be in the minority but I liked it. 3.5 stars.

Jean-Pierre Vidrine says

I don't think I've ever been so disappointed with a Superman story. James Robinson is usually a great writer with a real knack for taking obscure characters and making them important. But this four-chapter wrestling match he scripted was not his best work. The little glimpses into Lois and Clark's morning routine were nice, and Atlas' flashbacks to his life in ancient times were great. But, even with those nice bits, this could have easily been cut down to one or two issues. The real killer of the story was Superman taking all four issues to figure out that he was fighting a nemesis whose powers were based in magic. I shook my head and winced when he finally got it. The ending, though usefully open, was not satisfying. Thankfully, Robinson's work on Superman got a lot better than this, even though use of Atlas remained fairly one dimensional. The redeeming quality of this collection is the inclusion of the original Atlas story from First Issue Special by Jack Kirby! The story, maybe a little derivative of Conan, is pure King Kirby. And, believe me, Kirby unbound is always a treat.

At the end of Robinson's otherwise wonderful Superman arc, Atlas was again defeated but still alive. I hope to see more of this obscure Kirby character, only handled better.

Kyle says

I really liked this Superman story; it sparked something inside of me. Maybe because I read it so recently after the death of Jack Kirby (Kirby contributed, like, a bazillion characters to the world of comic books, and this story-line features one of his characters) and so my heart was still aching from that loss. But, I think the reason I enjoyed this one so much was because of Krypto. This is one of the best Superman stories that utilizes Krypto. It really explores that man/dog bond in a stylish, yet honest, way that is truly cathartic. Robinson injects a lot of humour into these issues, which is something I usually don't recognize in his writing.... usually his jokes fall flat for me (and there are a couple of REALLY flat, almost sexist, jokes in this story), but for the most part, he shows he is capable of excellent comedic timing. The artwork is excellent, borderline perfection, in how the events get story-boarded, and how the fight scenes are laid out (the majority of this story is one big fight-scene, a la Doomsday), there is such a flow to the action. But the major fault of this collection, and this is a running problem with James Robinson, is that the story just ends! He writes all of this wonderful lead-up and then he seems to run out of pages for the ending. In one page, it's over and there is no denouement, no post-mortem, no answers, and too many questions. Let's hope the next issues in this series pick up where this one left off.

Sam Quixote says

You guys know who Atlas is? He's a strongman who wears red shorts and a red hood, and that's it. He's strong enough to fight Superman, which is what he does in this book. His reasons? Some nonsense about working with a secret government agency to kill Superman. He'll then replace Superman and go on to conquer the world or some ridiculous crap that doesn't make sense.

This is my third James Robinson Superman book and boy does he write terrible Superman books! This one's about as deep as a WWE match. Superman and Atlas punch each other in the street until one of them falls down. No interesting choreography to the fight, just straight up slugging, one after the other, and it couldn't be more boring.

For some reason Robinson puts Superman's dog, Krypto, into the spotlight here, which I actually liked - I'm one of those people who loves Superman's dog and the fact that Superman has a dog. I don't get why Robinson wrote Lois the way he did though, having her hate the dog and hate that he's stealing Superman's attention from her (this was back when she and Clark were married). Her character's not some insecure dimwit and having her talk crap about Krypto makes her seem like a total bitch, which she isn't!

Also, this book might have the least satisfactory resolution to a fight, or any book, ever. Superman and Atlas fall into a hole, Superman emerges and announces to everyone that Krypto is a hero for fighting Atlas when he was down. The end. Yup, James Robinson is a mega-shitty Superman writer!

The inclusion of Atlas' first appearance in First Issue Special #1 written and drawn by Jack Kirby could be seen as providing the reader with background info on Atlas, if there was anything more to the character than "he's a tough guy who punches stuff". Yeah, Atlas is not one of Kirby's best creations - he's a forgettable wrestler and nothing more, that's why we never see him in any DC comics these days!

The only positives about this book (besides Krypto) was Renato Guedes' art on the Robinson story and Kirby's art in his issue. Both were fantastic, especially Kirby's, though I doubt anyone's going to be rushing out to grab this book on the strength of the art!

It's tough finding good Superman books isn't it? Here's a pointer though: avoid the ones written by James Robinson, especially The Coming of Atlas!

Michael says

So I guess this is the first suggestion of Sam Lane as the evil mastermind?

Anyway, really long arc for what's essentially a pointless fight. This could've been an issue. To his credit, Robinson did kinda make Krypto cool, which nobody else has managed in - what, ever?

The original Kirby Atlas story is ... well, it's honestly, - I can't believe I'm going to say this about a Jack Kirby comic - but it's just terrible.

++++++

My opinion of this one hasn't really changed. Too long, too ponderous, and Robinson seems to only write one voice - and it's not Superman's.

I found the whole thing just odd - Superman orders Supergirl away, but lets Krypto stay, and then demands that the people of Metropolis pay hommage to his dog. Which is just weird. Steel and Bibbo (?!?) are

dispatched by Atlas in literally one panel each - why bother to even show them? The whole thing could've been done in two issues, but it lasted five.

Kirby's Atlas story from *First Issue Special* is here as well, and it's not Jack's best work. But at least it isn't a slow, dull mess like Robinson's story.

Victor Orozco says

Very good.

Very seldom does a stand alone Superman story deserve such attention. This deserves it an more. The artwork is wonderful and the premise behind it is simple and straightforward. Maybe a little too simple but I love it.

Atlas seems like a good adversary, not so much a villain but it's really a good show. Krypto is wonderful as ever. I've come to see how annoying Lois Lane can be. It was interesting seeing Zatanna's cousin Zachary. Not too bad but neat.

Like how the end of this begins Jimmy Olsen's epic journey into the discovery of what will become the New Krypton Conspiracy is cool. Subtlety is key.

Not too bad at the end of this collection we get to read about Atlas' original run. Nice to know he was remembered by DC, though I can't help but wonder if they were influenced by Conan the Barbarian.

Still very good. B+

Nicholas says

Beautiful artwork, and some awesome moments that define Clark as the most hopefully naive and greatest hero in the universe. However the story, particularly the ending, feels really abrupt. Still, it's short, it's sweet, and it's vaguely reminiscent, at moments, of the Death of Superman. A super-powerful foe comes out of nowhere to confront and kill the Man of Steel and destroy half of Metropolis in the meantime, blah, blah, blah. This story is more about the Superman's supporting cast than about him, particularly Krypto. Good boy.

orton41290 says

The Coming of Atlas is a bare bones graphic novel that presents us with an interesting villain who could be so much better. We get right into the fight between Atlas and Superman and rarely stop to provide any background or story building. Sometimes, side events are brought in and quickly discarded. The whole thing feels rushed and underdeveloped. The ending didn't make any sense to me. Maybe I'm missing something, but Superman finds his ace in the hole, but it is very unclear how it is used. I see a lot of untapped potential, but not much payoff.

Tyreese says

This was terribly boring. I want my 25 minutes back...

Tyler says

Other than being a decent look at the relationship between Superman and Lois Lane, this was only OK. In fact, it's a bit too close to the fight with Doomsday. We also have Krypto, Superman's dog. While I don't fully hate him like many people, he's not really the finest facet of the Superman mythology. He's better than Bizarro, at least...

This is really a one-shot, barely linked to the overall storyline. It can easily be skipped in lieu of what's to come.

Julie says

I am not a rabid comics fan, but I do enjoy them.

This one has some nice character pieces about Superman and Green Lantern & Superman and Lois's home life. I really enjoyed Krypto. He is a good dog. I did feel, as some others did, that the ending is a bit abrupt and too compact.

A reprint of the original intro of Atlas is included and again affirms the great talent of Jack Kirby.

Astrid says

Not much of a plot, but Krypto makes it all worth it.

Scott S. says

I cracked this open for some light reading when downing a cup of coffee on a Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the coffee was more enjoyable and memorable than this book. The Lois & Clark breakfast conversation flashbacks were the highlight of this otherwise mundane volume.

Nicolas says

I think this one gets a bum rap. This isn't an epic Superman tale and if you just want the main storyline you could probably skip it. That being said, I thought it was really enjoyable just as a character piece. It was cool to see Superman and Green Lantern just chatting. There were some nice scenes between Lois and Clark. Supergirl makes an appearance... And yes, Krypto plays a large role. I know there is a lot of Krypto hate

going around, but I've always had a soft spot for him. I think he fits in well with Superman's lighter, all-American side... plus I have a dog so I can relate. Bottom line, this was a fun story and was a very pleasant read. However is isn't necessary for the overall story. If you don't like Krypto or Superman character pieces you can probably just skip it and read Superman: Braniac instead.

Steve says

The reasons why liked this book so much was:

- 1)The artwork was decent
- 2) An interesting look at Clark and Lois' married life
- 3) Krypto finally gets a decent role that is not just him showing up to fight for a bit, but to actually bite some ass

The only problem I had with the plot was its resolution. After discussing/arguing about Zatanna, we are robbed of her cameo and they don't tell us how Superman counters Atlas's magic, and an off-screen battle finishes off everything way too soon.

Superman should have visited Zatanna, only after getting permission from Lois. Then she appears and helps him, and when Krypto is finally starting to lose, Superman lays the smack down on Atlas by lifting him into the atmosphere (Atlas needs the Earth for strength, he needs some sort of weakness since he is kind of dull)

If the ending would have been done a bit better, I'd give it a higher score.
