



Superman: The Black Ring Vol. 1

Paul Cornell , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Sean Chen (Illustrator)

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When Lex Luthor finally regained control of LexCorp, he thought he had everything he wanted. But in BLACKEST NIGHT, he briefly became an Orange Lantern and got a taste of true power. Now he'll do anything to get that power back. Buckle in for a greatest hits tour of the DCU's most wanted as Lex Luthor begins an epic quest for power, all brought to you by writer Paul Cornell (Dr. Who, Captain Britain and MI-13) and artist Pete Woods (WORLD OF NEW KRYPTON).

Superman: The Black Ring Vol. 1 Details

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Download and Read Free Online Superman: The Black Ring Vol. 1 Paul Cornell , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Sean Chen (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Superman: The Black Ring Vol. 1 for online ebook

Mouse says

Well...not much happened, that's for sure. Definitely a read I could've done without!

The art is good, but it's pretty dull, and it's not a Superman book because he's not even in it. This book wastes a lot of time when Lex is "dead" and when the psychic caterpillar takes over. I'm talking pages and pages of stuff that we could've done without!

John Yelverton says

Decent story, despite the fact that Superman is nowhere to be seen in his own book.

Amanda says

I really enjoyed this.

Andrew says

I read the individual issues of this incredible run (Lex Luthor: Action Comics #890-899) by Paul Cornell/Pete Woods, and still to this day, it's one of my favorite runs of all time. I'm one of those folks who truly believes that a superhero is only as good as their villains (this belief can be disputed, but at some point, heroes fade out with the fans if they're not tested) and Lex is THE villain. He's narcissistic, calculated, petty, funny, brilliant, and most importantly, he BELIEVES in what he's doing. He's committed. Just as committed as Supes. That's what brings out the best in Supes. And what's great about this run is that Supes ain't no where to be found (still love ya buddy). This is the Lex Luthor show, baby, so strap yerself in and enjoy the ride. Some reviews have been a bit mixed on this run, and I can't for the life of me understand that. It's pretty straightforward if you read the events of Blackest Night. Lex is all about power. He's tasted the ultimate power (deputized by kindred spirit Larfleeze), a lantern ring, (doesn't really matter what color it is) and he catches wind that there's a Black Lantern ring to be found. Somewhere. Not quite sure where. Not even sure how he can harness this energy. I can't go on, because this is truly an epic build up to issue 900. And really, Action Comics hasn't been this good since then.

Don says

Note: This review is about both Volumes of "The Black Ring."

Back in one of DC Comics' massive events, Lex Luthor got hold of an Orange Lantern ring. Orange Lantern rings are powered by avrince because apparently "Greed" is too common of a word and these things have to

be as complicated as possible.

Anyway, Lex gets this ring, then loses it. During the event Lex also discovers this black energy that powers Black Lantern rings. Lex figures that if he can harness the power of the black energy, he can be the most powerful being in the universe. It was cool seeing Lex be the "hero" of the story, but the story was just too long. The books are Lex basically taking a tour of the DC Universe, meeting various villains along the way. You have Deathstroke, Gorilla Grodd, Vandal Savage, Mister Mind and the Joker. The Savage and Joker issues are very good, but the rest are really just padding. (There's also an issue featuring Neil Gaiman's Death that was fun, but really pointless.) The ending with the black energy being tied with the planet Krypton and some kind of Phantom Zone Starchild was also something I guess you just have to go with.

Had this been a six issue series, it would have scored three or four stars. Ten was just too much.

Relstuart says

After reading Johns Green Lantern and Blackest Night where Lex Luther becomes an Orange Lantern I ran across this story that takes place after the event with Lex trying to find a way to get the power he had back. Decent premise very focused on Lex rather than Superman.

Tif says

Lex Luthor goes on a quest to find the illusive Black Lantern ring and along the way he talks a lot about nothing particularly interesting.

Jeff says

Lex Luther as protagonist and default hero on a quest to garner the energy of the black power rings (from Green Lantern storyline). The portrayal and development of Luther's character is very interesting and the 'villians' that try to derail his quest are rare characters from other story arcs-Mister Mind, Gorilla Grodd, Vandal Savage-even an appearance by Neil Gaiman's Death (from the Sandman series)!

A fun read, but I felt that I was missing some background data that kept me from fully investing in this unusual story.

Gavin says

I didn't love this. My favourite part was definitely the section where Lex interacts with Death the Goth Teen Girl. Otherwise, it's kind of ho-hum. What is nice is to actually have all that Luthor with no Superman, but apparently the other 'villains' he runs into are just ridiculous. Guess I have to re-examine the DC baddies. Deathstroke was good, Gorilla Grodd was ridiculous. Lex having a Lois Lane sidekick was odd but explained very well. On the whole, I think this is a little weak to have as a stand-alone book, they should put it together with the 2nd half of the story and finish Lex's quest for a power ring.

Kyle says

I love when a story shows us the POV of a super-villain; a villain is the hero of their own story. And Lex Luthor is one of the greatest super-villains of all time. Following the events of Blackest Night and New Krypton and War of the Supermen, Luthor is obsessed with understanding and harnessing the power of the Black Lantern Rings. Apparently, his short-lived stint as an Orange Lantern has amplified Luthor's avaricious tendencies, and now he will stop at nothing until the secrets of the rings are his to possess. The Golem Complex, I guess.

Throw in Mr. Mind, a Lois Lane android, some Vandal Savage ret-con into the mix and boy do I EVER get giddy.

After the long, laborious New Krypton saga, this superbly written story arc is like a breath of fresh air in the Superman universe. The dialogue is sublime and the story boarding is wonderful, cinematic at times, which I think is probably due to Paul Cornell's background in screenwriting and teleplays. Regardless, this is witty, well-paced, skillful entertainment, and I can't wait to crack into Volume Two.

3.5/5

John Carter McKnight says

Dr. Who screenwriter Paul Cornell delivers a near-perfect comic book arc in this tale of Lex Luthor's quest for power, with Robot Lois Lane at his side. Luthor's written as she should be, as Shakespearean king, only mad "north by northwest," and otherwise sane, brilliant, and in a way heroic. Robot Lois, of course, is pure awesome. Cornell blends humor, pathos, action, drama and mystery flawlessly. Can't wait for the second and final volume.

Jesse A says

Well that was pretty dull. Also maybe don't call it Superman: Black Ring if Superman isn't even in the damned book.

Sam Quixote says

Were you reading every Superman story arc in 2010/11? How about the Blackest Night storyline? 'Cos I wasn't and didn't know I had to in order to understand this book! Apparently at some point in one of those arcs, Lex Luthor became an Orange Lantern (just saying that reminds me why I'm not into Green Lantern) and then he wasn't. The Black Lanterns and their Black Rings were apparently super-powerful but then went away, for some reason (I know, if I read Blackest Night, I'd probably know - maybe I will at some point).

This book opens with Superman off-world, on some quest - it's called Superman: The Black Ring, but he

doesn't make a single appearance and instead Lex Luthor is the main character - while Lex plots to find a way of locating a Black Ring to become all-powerful and supplant Superman as saviour of Earth. Also, I have no idea when this happened but Lex created a Lois Lane android to be his personal assistant/girlfriend, which is just plain creepy especially as he has sex with it.

The book follows Lex's patchy quest across the planet for these large black spheres which are apparently energy residue of the Black Rings which will lead him to the Black Rings...? This is why I'm not into Green Lantern, it's too sci-fi crazy - imagine an imaginary concept, apply semi-real science to it, then add fantasy, and make it central to your story! That's modern sci-fi, and I don't get it.

On his journey he encounters some of DC's B and C-list characters like Deathstroke, Mister Mind (a psychic space caterpillar), Grodd (an intelligent, violent gorilla), Vandal Savage (an immortal), and Death (from Sandman - yeah, Neil Gaiman's cute goth chick!). Grodd had a great scene where he announces that he's brought his biggest combat spoon to eat Lex's brain with and the Death issue was quite good - it helped that I'm a big Sandman fan, so it was a pleasant surprise to see Dream's sister show up for an issue of contemplation with Lex.

Despite a few nice moments though, I was more or less baffled throughout as to what the hell was going on. Lex and Black Rings? Superman gone off somewhere? It was whacky and fun in places, and Lex is a great character so it was good to see him get the spotlight again, but if you're a Superman fan looking for a great Superman book, look elsewhere as the Man of Steel is nowhere to be found in this one. I have Volume 2 though so maybe he shows up in that book. As for Volume 1, if you're a Lex Luthor fan and enjoy a story that jumps around the globe featuring some of DC and Vertigo's lesser known characters, "The Black Ring, Volume 1" is for you. Just be sure that you know what Blackest Night was all about or you might end up flailing for the first third of the book.

Otherwyrd says

4 stars just for the part where Lex Luthor has a conversation with Death of the Endless. Girl, we've missed you!

Anne says

Hmmmm. I thought it was a bit weird, but I'm not always aware of the goings-on in Superman's world.

Luthor is still feeling the effects of his time as an Orange Lantern, and has set out on a mission to find its power source.

And for some reason (I must be missing a chunk of the storyline) he has an *Lois Lane android* as his BFF/sidekick.

Um, I'm gonna let that one go for now...

Anyhoo, he runs all over the globe doing very Insane Genius-like stuff that went *waaaay* over my head. I had to force myself to finish the last part, because the time for Things Making Sense had passed me by mid-way through the book.

I bumped it up from 1 star to 2, because Death (from Gaiman's The Sandman, Vol. 1: Preludes and Nocturnes) makes an appearance.
