



Superman: Emperor Joker

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Writer Jeph Loeb and artist Ed McGuinness present an unforgettably twisted Superman story in Superman: Emperor Joker. In this topsy-turvy tale of a world gone wrong, the Man of Steel is a hunted villain, while his imperfect duplicate, Bizarro, is hailed as a champion. With the heroes of the JLA altered almost beyond recognition, it's up to Superman to help his allies rediscover their true selves in an incredible struggle against the Joker, Emperor of the Universe.

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From Reader Review Superman: Emperor Joker for online ebook

Rachel Adiyah says

For fans of the Joker, this is a must have. The story begins with Superman breaking out of Arkham, which is now in Metropolis, and being chased down and returned by BIZARRO. This is only the start of a wild re-imagining of the DC Multiverse in which everything is completely insane to the point of being painful. I thought it would be funny, but I must say that I found myself at times horrified of this cruel new world. When the New Gods get together with Darkseid, who has called them all because of an unstoppable cosmic threat, you know that the proverbial s*** has hit the fan. As much as people are always talking about Batman being able to take down the Justice League and kill Superman, Batman is so totally outclassed that only an inhuman force of alien power such as Superman can even begin to challenge the new universal order.

Complaint: I thought that the ending was unconvincing. There's no way, after everything that happens, that this is a satisfactory explanation for the return to normalcy. But this was so good, despite the unbelievable ending, that I had to give it five stars, regardless.

Josue Orozco says

Although the artwork could have been better, the storyline was very interesting. After the Joker gains ultimate power, and becomes emperor, he turns the world upside down. Bizarro is hero and Superman is seen as a villain, while other heroes and villains are in reversed roles. It was inspiring in the end how Superman took all of those terrible memories away from Batman that had been caused by Joker, so that Batman could live in peace. I liked the book and I would recommend it.

Matt says

Collects Emperor Joker issue #1, Superman issues #160-161, Man of Steel issues #104-105, Action Comics issues #769-770, and Adventures of Superman issues #582-583

I tried, but this story is just horrible. Of the 9 issues this story collects, I read through 5 before I decided to start skimming. The Joker isn't even mentioned until the end of the forth issue, so that felt odd. It may be that this story was really rooted to the time period that it came out in (pre-Flashpoint), but I felt disconnected from almost Page #1.

Sarah says

This was a... strange read. While there were elements I enjoyed, the story overall stretched my suspension of disbelief a little farther than I like. And the Joker's universe, while understandably Joker, was just a little... much. I've learned that, while many Joker stories are fantastic, there are others that just don't work. The best ones always have balance. Basically, a little bit of Joker goes a long way. In addition, I wasn't a huge fan of this particular art style. However, this story did have some nice Superman/Batman friendship moments, and

those were enjoyable. Since I've started reading DC, I've enjoyed seeing how those two interact: Each being so different and yet also so similar. And, ultimately, they have immense mutual respect for each other. Like I said, that relationship shone through in this comic, but the other elements just didn't quite hit it for me.

Graham says

Extremely silly and inconsistent. WAY too long. Kind of a neat ending.

Jim says

Great escapist fare.

Hannah Givens says

Far, far too long. Some Joker wackiness, okay. But that's the entire book. There's some witty dialogue and meta-jokes toward the end, and an extreme tonal dissonance with Bruce getting tortured to death every day and still remembering it, but there was no particular theme or story or humor for the vast majority of this very large graphic novel, and it's just a slog.

Jerome says

A decent but fun and humorous read.

The story has some fun parts and good moments. The artwork is good; a bit cartoonish but still clean and bold. The story starts off great, with the Joker stealing Mr. Mxyzptlk's powers and transforming Metropolis into a sort of acid-trip Disney World with him as the emperor. The Flab is the fastest fat man alive, the Yellow Paper Lantern wreaks havoc with an army of shadow puppets, and Wonder Woman is a housemaid who hates men. And so on. The violence borders on sadistic at times, such as how the Joker treats Lex Luthor and Batman, although, fortunately, the rest of the world forgets the ordeal by the end of the story. Bizarro as a good guy is hilarious, as is the punchline regarding the dead Robins. The more comfortable he becomes with his new powers, the more abilities Joker gains. And, of course, he also eats the entire population of China.

Unfortunately, the jokes are repetitive, and I never had any idea Mxyzptlk was actually that powerful. Some parts don't make much sense when you first read them, and for some reason the story never even explains how the Joker was even able to trick Mxyzptlk. The story seems too drawn out for such a simple premise. The story does deliver, if a bit inconsistently; it also bogs down at times or drags. The Bizarro dialogue and Joker monologues get a bit tiresome. The story is both odd and straightforward in a way that makes it easy to put down. There aren't even any real stakes.

Funny and touching enough, though.

Dan says

DNF I had hoped that because this featured the Joker it would be good. Not even a quarter into it and it's too painfully stupid to read.

Hakim says

I would love to see Grant Morrison, Mark Waid or Scott Snyder reimagine this story and give it the execution it deserves. The concept of Emperor Joker seemed truly exciting; The Joker tricks Mr. Mxyzptlk into revealing his imp name and as a consequence steals 99% of his reality-altering powers. How great is this idea ?

Unfortunately, there is absolutely nothing exciting about this book. The portrayal of the Joker was messy and uninteresting, which is very shameful given the incredible potential that the idea had. Moreover, this incarnation of Superman is probably the worst I have ever come across - Very passive and borderline obnoxious. The cartoonish artwork and the lame dialogues, jokes and "puns" also justify the one-star rating.

Scott Waldyn says

When I read the synopsis, I was excited for the idea of this story, but man... what a letdown. It gets 2 stars because I like Ed McGuinness' art. Other than that, this wasn't the book I was hoping for.

Sarah Toth says

This was another great story from Jeph Loeb and Ed McGuinness. I really liked how it was up to Superman to save the day as well as Steel, Superboy, and Supergirl. I also liked how in the end, Superman was willing to take all the painful memories away that Joker had caused for Batman and carry the burden for him so he could stay sane. This really touched me as a true act of friendship and shows how strong their relationship really is! Plus, it was really cool and scary to see Joker as the supreme ruler of the universe! He really twisted reality, especially by turning the Justice League of America, into the Joker League of Anarchy!

John Yelverton says

Despite the flagrantly bad artwork, the story is so fascinating, that you can't help but marvel at the way this story was put together.

Blindzider says

I tried to like this, I really did, but it just isn't my cup of tea. This story is 8-10? issues long and almost all of it is Superman stumbling through the world so the writers can show what the Joker has done to it. And because it's the Joker, it's manic, insane, irrational just as you would expect. The problem is, it goes on and on and on. *Slowly* Superman starts to figure things out but it takes forever. This story also falls into the group "With all that power why don't they just get rid of the hero?" I can't get past that idea so the rest was just really annoying to me.

Jesse A says

Pretty silly and damned ugly artwork.
