



Superman, Volume 2: Trial of the Super Sons

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Superman and his super-son Jon are back in the second volume by best-selling author Peter J. Tomasi!

With Jon becoming more and more powerful by the day, Superman's greatest foes are starting to take notice of the new super-kid on the block. When one of the most evil and ruthless of Superman's rogues' gallery comes for the Man of Steel's son, Clark must decide just how far he's willing to go to protect the ones he loves.

Superman and Jon Kent are transported to Dinosaur Island to find the last of the Losers! Then, after a quick trip to the county fair, Jon meets his match in Damian Wayne—and the Super Sons' fathers soon put the two young heroes through their paces as a new crime-fighting team is forged!

Collecting: *Superman* 7-13

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From Reader Review Superman, Volume 2: Trial of the Super Sons for online ebook

Rory Wilding says

Having read plenty of DC's Rebirth titles, it did seem like a light was shining on the publisher following The New 52, which many readers considered a disappointment. Although my Bat-fandom is still going strong from the likes of Tom King and James Tynion IV, the first volume of Peter Tomasi and Patrick Gleason's Superman run did not shine so brightly for the Man of Steel. However, following the boring slugfest with the Eradicator, Tomasi and Gleason step up their game and deliver the Superman and Son story I wanted to read.

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

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

We get a little bit of light-hearted action in this second volume of Superman, which is a good palette cleanser after the doom and gloom of the first book.

Opening with a little one-shot that lets the Kents enjoy their family time, we then progress into some father-son action as Superman and Superboy go on vacation to Dinosaur Island. And by vacation I mean 'get abducted by Kryptonian tech and have to fight dinosaurs' which is every bit as awesome as it sounds. This little two-parter also ties into Darwyn Cooke's New Frontier, which is nice.

Next is In The Name Of The Father, another two parter that has Superboy and Robin teaming up to prove to their parents that they're good enough to operate on their own. But Batman and Superman's intensive training programme might teach them more about each other than than their kids; this is also a lead-in to the new Super-Sons ongoing, so the arc pulls double duty. Patrick Gleason gets to draw this one, which is of course wonderful, since he drew the majority of Tomasi's Batman & Robin run too.

And finally, the weakest story of the bunch is Super-Monster, which sees Superman team up with Frankenstein to fight a rogue alien. That should be more fun than it is, but never mind. We do get Doug Mahnke drawing Frankenstein again though, so that's well worth the price of admission.

Superboy is still front and centre in this volume of the book, which I expect is the point since Superman and Lois get more of the spotlight in Action Comics, but it's beginning to feel more like a family book than just about Superboy.

James DeSantis says

A extremely good volume once more. Rebirth for Superman has been wonderful.

We have a bunch of individual stories. The weakest being about the "losers" but even that was fun and exciting. Seeing Jon and Clark together just works so well. Their relationship is near perfect feeling of father and son. Then we get a issue where the Kents go out for a fun night and it's both touching and funny as hell.

Then you got a great two parter to show how marriage can be bumpy through even the Superhero eyes. Then of course we got the big one. Damien meets Jon. DAMN is this entertaining as fuck!

Without giving spoilers Superman Rebirth really is just hitting ALL the right notes. Making sure it stays true to the character, letting us grow with his son, and then getting entertaining as heck stories with it. I really hope this series continues to be good otherwise I'll cry like a bitch! Keep it up peter!

Anne says

4.5 stars

What happens when you pair up a smaller, slightly stabbiier version of Batman with a smaller, slightly more naive version of Superman?

The main story focused on Damian and Jon getting forced by their fathers to work out their issues with each other.

Why would the boys have issues, you ask?

Well, Damian thinks Jon's powers are unstable and could quickly turn evil (Hmmm. He sounds a bit like his pointy-eared father, no?), so he attempts an ill-advised kidnapping that quickly goes south. After all, if Batman would invade the hellish Apocalypse to get *his* son back, Superman would have **no** problem invading the Batcave to get *his* back.

While Bruce talks to Clark to try and tries to take tempers down a notch, Joh and Damian take a different route - destroying a chunk of the Batcave in the process.

And *that's* why the Superdads decide to force them to 'work together' on a faux mission that will (hopefully) teach them the value of teamwork.

The first issue in this volume was a cute story about the ~~Kent~~ Smith family going to the local county fair. Lois wants an uninterrupted evening with her guys, and Clark pinkie swears to stay out of costume - going so far as to hand over his cape so he won't be tempted.

Of course, some thugs decided to try to rob the gate, so Clark has to avoid capture by Lois **and** dash around in a silly makeshift disguise to stop them.

But even after going to all that trouble to stay out of the doghouse...?

The issue with Frankenstein was (to me) the lamest. It was still readable, and I liked that Lois has such big

balls, but it just felt like an excuse to cram one of the DC monsters into a Superman story. Meh.

Was there anything groundbreaking in this volume that I'd never seen before?

No.

But as a **huge** fan of not only Superman but of this family-oriented version of him, I absolutely LOVED it. And since tastes vary, I'm not going to say that this is for *everyone*, but I will say that this is *my* personal favorite Rebirth title.

Logan says

Very good! Superman is probably one of the best rebirth titles at the moment; and that's just partially due to Peter J. Tomasi's writing which remains solid through out! So this volume is a series of short stories, first issue being Clark having family time with Lois and John, which made for a very fun issue! Then we have the Trial of Super Sons story, which is basically just advertising for the new John and Damain team up series(Roll my eyes); and then finally a very good team up story with Frankenstein! The Family time issue, and the Frankenstein crossover were the best, and very well done, the cover story, was the least impressive, and I didn't really care for most of it. Overall another solid volume from this title!

Jay says

This title is so much fun.

Roy says

I dont know why I didnt like this as much as the 1st. The dinosaur and Frankenstein storys were really quite cheesy in my opinion but the Sons story was pretty cool. The artwork was still just as good. Not sure if I'll continue with this one.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

Anyone else think it looks like Superman and Batman are about to kiss on this cover???

Kyle says

I loved this collection. The pairing-off of Damian and Jon is comedy gold and I can't wait to follow their odd-couple adventures elsewhere. The artwork is also exceptional in this collection with some great single frames, but also with some really dramatic storyboarding. The writing is witty and playful and fresh and it takes full advantage of placing a familiar version of Superman into a completely new context.

Really fun stuff.

4.5/5

Artemy says

Whoa, wait a sec! This was actually... not bad?!

So yeah, I absolutely hated Tomasi's first volume of Superman. It was abysmal. Of course I was never intending to pick up the second one, but somebody convinced me that this one was still worth giving a read. I'm glad I did!

This book consists of seven issues which make up four short stories. The first one, issue #7, is brilliant, and could easily be the best Superman single issue in years. Yeah, it's one of those! A standalone, done-in-one little slice of life story is about Superfamily going to a fair and having a good time, and Supes still manages to save the day. It's a great issue, and I would recommend checking this volume out to any Superman fan, if only for this issue alone (or, you know, just get the single).

The next two-part mini-arc is set in The New Frontier universe, of all places! I happen to be a huge fan of Darwyn Cooke's classic storyline, and I was happy to go back to the Dinosaur Island with Superman (and son) for a fun, pulpy adventure.

Unfortunately, the book stalls out a bit after this arc. The next two-parter is focused on Jon 'Superson' Kent and Damian Wayne learning to be friends and superhero partners. While it had its moments, the story felt a bit overlong and sometimes poorly paced. I get it, Super-Sons is a big hit right now, and I will get to that comic eventually, but when I'm reading a Superman comic, I want more Superman. His involvement in this story was kept to a minimum, instead focusing much more on Jon, who I still don't quite like and can't yet forgive for killing that cat in volume 1 (Damian actually taunts him about that, reminding us that this shit occurred in a kid-friendly comic and was written as a sweet bonding opportunity for their Superfamily).

After that, the final two-issue arc is a sort of fight and then team-up between Superman, Lois and DC's Frankenstein. I believe this is the very first time I came across this character, and I can't say that I'm a huge fan. A pretty generic story that unfortunately did very little for me, although it was readable, and I liked Tomasi's characterisation of Lois here.

Overall, it was still a surprisingly solid collection for a writer I was all but ready to deem a hack. I'm not sure if I'll continue reading his Superman, because the same person who convinced me to read this volume says that the series goes right back to shit in the following ones (Tomasi attempting to expand on Morrison's Multiversity? Hell no, there's no way he could pull that off and not ruin anything), but now I'm willing to at least give his Super-Sons a try, even despite my prejudice towards Jon. Who knows, maybe one day I'll grow to like the kid?

Sam Quixote says

The second Rebirth Superman book surprisingly didn't suck - it's definitely a step up from the derivative Terminator-ripoff first volume - but Trials of the Super Son still never rose above middling.

This one is a mish-mash of rando stories. Clark, Lois and Jon go to the local fair where Lois makes Clark promise not to Superman all evening so they can have a family night out together butguesswhathedoes... In another story, Superman, Jon and Krypto somehow get transported to an island full of living dinosaurs and World War 2 pilots where they fight a giant white gorilla - it's fair to say that one's a fucking mess!

The title story sees Superman and Batman force their sons to "earn their capes" by undergoing an elaborate obstacle course Batman's constructed. It's important they get along because... ? I mean, it's not like they need to work together - this is the first time they've met! And why do Supes and Bats care if their kids don't like each other? Gah, it's all so contrived! For anyone keeping track, this is where the Super Sons series spins off from.

The final story sees Agent Frankenstein invade Superman's small town life to track down a wanted alien - but not if Frank's estranged bounty hunter wife has anything to say about it! ... zzz... pointless drek...

Honestly, none of the stories are that bad - some are predictable, some are plain dumb, Jon's cutesy act gets old and annoying fast, and I could get nitpicky about some stuff like why didn't Superman see through the alien's disguise with his x-ray vision to start with - but they're perfectly readable; they're just not that good either. They're so forgettable and disposable and ultimately the book reads like the pure product it is.

Doug Mahnke's art is pretty good, though in some panels he makes Jon weirdly look like he's wearing lipstick, and Patrick Gleason's definitely done better work elsewhere. Like Peter J. Tomasi's writing, the visuals are fine but nothing special.

Superman, Volume 2: Trials of the Super Son is a mildly interesting entertainment, though, given the low quality of most Superman comics in general, that unfortunately makes this volume somewhat notable! Definitely not a must-read for most and really only worth a look for Superman fans - can't wait for Bendis to take over this line and hopefully turn things around!

Sesana says

This is probably about as good as Superman and Son can get. The first issue, a sort of slice-of-life family piece, is the best of the lot, and one of the best single issues I've seen from the Rebirth books so far. That's followed by a Darwyn Cooke homage, good pulpy fun with dinosaurs and a lost World War II regiment. And then the book's momentum comes screeching to a halt, because it becomes all about Damian's continued refusal to get along well with others. Specifically, Jon. Apparently there's going to be a new series starring the two of them being frenemies or something. I have zero interest in such a book, particularly after these two issues felt like such an awful slog. The collection ends with two issues dedicated to a guest stint by Frankenstein. I never got around to reading any of DC's Frankenstein books, so I wasn't thrilled at the idea. As it turns out, it's a decent, if mostly unremarkable story, redeemed by a few really good scenes towards the end. All in all, this volume is on average pretty good. I don't think I'm likely to continue with the series. It just doesn't quite feel like my kind of thing. Good, and maybe I'll pick up the next volume from the library if I need something to read and it's on the shelf, but nothing I'd go out of my way for again.

Chad says

This title continues to be the shining star of Rebirth. The Kents' family dynamic is perfection and Clark and Jon's relationship is the heart of this series. Plus, we get alternating top tier art from Patrick Gleason and

Doug Mahnke.

This volume contains a bunch of shorter stories. First up, Superman takes the night off so the Kents can attend the county fair. Then we get a story where Clark and Jon are accidentally transported to Dinosaur Island. Next up, Damian and Jon finally meet and Damian's not a fan. So their dads force them to work together. Lastly, we have a team-up with Frankenstein.

If I had to give a recommendation for one DC book to buy, this would be it. This creative team is absolutely killing it.

Received an advance copy from DC and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Charles says

This was pretty rough unfortunately. It looks like the further we get away from the Final Days of Superman, the less coherent and compelling the story gets. I think it's best to think of this volume as separated into four, mini arcs. The first was interesting enough, with the continued look at Lois, Clark, and Jon trying to settle into their new lives. It's corny, cheesy, and cute but doesn't really push things along other than showing the challenges of trying to be Superman and Clark Kent at the same time in a small town. It's hard to be a hero and family man I guess. As for the other three arcs, it sort of all gave me the same reaction: Forced conflict between a pair of characters I really didn't care about. Damian is as annoying as ever and really pulled any humanity out of the one arc. The Frankenstein arc felt tacked on and really didn't add anything to furthering the development of Superman or his family. The fact that this volume has Superman as it's banner, it sure left me at a loss to feel anything for him and more often left me to wonder where he was in all this. Lastly, I found it absolutely tasteless that one character said to another to not go "absolutely Fukushima" on them. Sure, "don't have cow" and "chill out" are dated, but by God, using an incredibly tragic and massive nuclear accident as a glib talking point is just disgusting.

Scott S. says

Well, I think *Wonder Woman Vol. 2: Year One* just met its rival for my favorite Rebirth series book so far. I thought *Superman, Vol. 1: Son of Superman* was **really** good, but Vol. 2 was even better.

I tell ya, there was not a single bound in the wrong direction. The artwork, the stories, the heartland ambiance . . . everything just clicked and I did not want it to end. From family night at the county fair to the 'Skull Island'-like central story (complete with assistance from a Sgt. Nick Fury doppelganger - his original WWII Howling Commando-era look, not Samuel L.) to the Frankenstein finale, it was a such a crime how much I enjoyed it that I think Batman may come after me.

Oh wait, the cover story. Jon and Damian - frenemies to the end (of adolescence?) - knock heads *and* various obstacles as they are put through their paces by dear ol' dads in an effort to provide a teachable moment of sorts. Bad guys eventually beware.
