

Superman/Batman Vol. 4: Vengeance *by* Ed McGuinness, Jeph Loeb



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The original superstar team of Jeph Loeb and Ed McGuinness return for one of the most talked about storylines of the year.

The fourth volume of the enormously popular SUPERMAN/BATMAN series finds our heroes confronting a new challenge: The Maximums, a group of super-heroes closely tied to the U.S. Government. Someone has killed one of their team, and the Maximums are on the hunt for the murderer. The trouble is, there are two names on the top of their list: Superman and Batman!



Reviews of the **Superman/Batman Vol. 4: Vengeance** *by* Ed McGuinness, Jeph Loeb

zzzachibis

I'm not quite sure why so many people have a problem with this story. Sure it's crazy, but considering the main "villains" involved, it should be nothing else. I don't think a lot of people really "get" this story, which is so crazy...it works.

There's a ton of characters involved, and some twists to old favorites. I loved The Maximums as an Avengers parody, great stuff there. Bizarro and Batarro are great as unlikely heroes, although after awhile it can be a chore reading their text. It was cool to see Loeb handle them just as he does Supes and Bats though.

Overall this is a fun read, if you take it too seriously, you'll end up jaded like the other people who've written reviews on it. It looks very likely that Loeb and McGuinness just wanted to have a good time with their last S/B arc. It's nice to have some comics left these days that don't take themselves so seriously. It's also worth noting that this arc again builds on the relationship between Superman and Batman, which Loeb is great at. I recommend it, don't listen to the hate.

Hugifyn

ME AM NOT BATZARRO'S WORST FAN!!!

Vengeance is a bit confuse at parts and the "all the time thinking" of Batman, Superman, Bizarro and every single character in this book (Jeph Loeb trademark) make is somewhat annoying, however the story is cool (I'll admit that). Once you pass what I mention above the book is a joy. Very well connected to what we've been saying.

The art is ok I guess. As I mentioned before, I'm no Ed McGuinness fan, so I guess the art in this book is ok but nothing else.

I never heard of Batarro before. I loved the character, and at some point I also liked Bizarro, but to tell you the truth, I really don't understand they're part in this story. Well, I think I understand, but I don't understand how or why they got involved.

Anyway, is clear that this story is somehow connected to an old forget book in which a main villain receive 5th Dimension powers. I never read that but, although connected, I don't think is too relevant.

My actual grade for the book is 3 and a half stars.

Rollers from Abdun

Of the four books in this Superman / Batman series this is my least-favorite. I still enjoyed it, but it's pretty dark (though with a satisfactory resolution) and doesn't have as much humor as the others. Still, it's entertaining to read and I do enjoy Loeb's writing and the Superman / Batman relationship.

Lesesshe

Lately I've been disappointed more often than not by the newer graphic novels and compendiums that have hit the store shelves but in the case of Vengeance I have to say this is really good stuff. Jeff Loeb introduces an all new team of superheroes called the Maximums that seem oddly familiar. The team is an extremely blatant homage to the Avengers/Ultimates including a mythical Viking, a super soldier, a giant man named skyscraper and so on and so forth. The team even includes doppelgangers of Spider Man and Wolverine. This is not an Avengers rip off but a playful imitation of Marvel's super team and it's pretty clear that this is likely a one time appearance for the Maximums. Late in the story there is a nod to fans of The Ultimates when the Maximums are merged into a single being called The `Ultimate' Warrior (or is it a nod to fans of the worst pro-wrestler ever). Meanwhile Batman and Superman are merged into a single being called the Composite Superman and believe me I'm old enough to remember the original Composite Superman. It's these kinds of nods and winks running through the story that made it so enjoyable.

Vengeance is a pretty wild tale, featuring parallel universes filled with piles of alternate versions of Superman, Batman and Supergirl as well as an all new Bizarro take on Batman named Batarro. Batarro may actually be the single best part of the entire story. Jeff Loeb was particularly meticulous in making sure that every single phrase spoken by Bizarro and Batarro are indeed in reverse of their meaning and it becomes rather enjoyable to try and decode their actual intent. Despite the craziness of the story (which includes The Joker and Mr. Mxyzptlk) the author manages to keep it from becoming muddled and incoherent which is often the result in stories with this many characters and swerves. Mr. Loeb also does a good job of tying the story in with previous story arc's including `Public Enemies' and `Absolute Power'.

I am a big fan of Ed McGuinness's illustrations. His art is rather cartoonish but that doesn't bother me. As always he manages to produce very clean and consistent images. I have to confess that I'm extremely surprised that Vengeance isn't getting better reviews since I found it to be a very enjoyable read.

Shaktizragore

Yes, it's silly. Yes, it's a little confusing. But yes, I loved this book. In time I have learned to relax and love MXYZPTLK, and here he has our two boys in total confusion. Batarro (who I loved), Bizarro #1, Supergirls, Maximums, boom tubes, alternate earths, and an absolutely hilarious episode with the Batman Beyond character and Bizarro. Jeph Loeb had SO much fun writing all of this and poking fun at the industry, while still managing to include some heartbreaking moments too (Batarro's death). What is not to love?? Relax, take a deep breath, buy it, and enjoy.

Trex

I've been hooked on this series since it came out. I prefer the more detailed coloring and pencilling of the other volumes, but the story is what is most disappointing. I kept looking for some spark, especially toward the end. All I got were pages of nothing. The ending read like it was pieced together at the last minute by a bunch of random guys off the street instead of the writers.

I gave it 2 STARS (instead of 1) because I love the combination of Superman and Batman. My advice - skip this volume and go right to #5. You won't miss much.

Ffyan

Good

Received this book in a timely fashion and in great condition. This book is a present for my husband.

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