



Superman for All Seasons

Jeph Loeb (Writer) , Tim Sale (Artist) , Bjarne Hansen (Artist)

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Similar to the premise of the Smallville television series, this hardcover book takes a look at the life of a young Clark Kent as he begins to develop strange powers. Living in a small Kansas town, the boy who would grow to be the Man of Steel must come to terms with his true origin and his uncanny abilities. In this mythic tale, we witness the experiences and adventures that transform a simple country boy into the world's greatest hero.

Superman for All Seasons Details

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Author : Jeph Loeb (Writer) , Tim Sale (Artist) , Bjarne Hansen (Artist)

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Download and Read Free Online Superman for All Seasons Jeph Loeb (Writer) , Tim Sale (Artist) , Bjarne Hansen (Artist)

From Reader Review Superman for All Seasons for online ebook

Paz R.M. says

3.5 Stars

Superman: For All Seasons is a tender story that reflects perfectly the core of this character. **It is not the tale of heroic actions and big spectacles, of violent fights and villains, it is the story of a boy loved by his family, growing up and trying to do good, trying to be better.** It is sweet and strangely nostalgic. It's a bit cheesy, but enough for you to care, to connect with Clark. It's a story divided in four seasons paralleling Clark's life and every season has a different narrator, through their eyes we'll see his journey.

Spring is the first chapter and it is the loving story of a father watching his son grow up, of trusting him enough to let him go. The book starts as a photo album with beautiful pictures of Clark as a baby and then growing up with the Kents. It's a fitting beginning for this story and one that sets the tone. In Spring, Clark is learning and experiencing his power for the first time and it's a hard revelation for Jonathan, our narrator, but for Clark too. This chapter has some of the most beautiful moments of the whole book. *"Pa, I'm scared."* It is intimate and personal and we see beautiful scenes between Jonathan and Martha Kent and their young son.

Summer is the second chapter and it's narrated by Lois Lane. In her words, as a grown woman and someone who has seen the real nature of humanity, we are presented to Superman. This powerful man that against all odds works for the good of the people. It's a great counterbalance against the sweetness of Spring. Especially, because in here we see Clark struggling being by himself in Metropolis. **The tough words of Lois and the encounters with Luthor are the perfect contrast for the boy that yearns for Smallville, for his fortress of solitude.**

Fall, told by Lex Luthor. After feeling wronged and betrayed, Luthor finds a way to show Superman a lesson he won't forget.

"Long before you appeared on the scene, I was here. I built Metropolis up from an ordinary "town" into the most powerful city in the world. Enjoy the public's little infatuation with their new Mascot while you can, Fame's fleeting... But Lex Luthor is forever."

Winter. The last chapter in this story is told by Lana Lang and starts with a Metropolis without Superman and The Daily Planet without Clark Kent. **It's, for him, the difficult time of accepting hard realities, but surviving them and growing stronger still.** And Clark's development is beautifully explained by Lana, who, at the core, is not that different from him, both children from Smallville. It all ends in a hopeful note, because it is Superman and because there's always the next season.

This was the first Superman book I read and all in all I think it was a great first choice. **It is not the fantastic story of the boy who escaped Krypton, in fact, Loeb skips all Kryptonian story and focuses on the boy raised in Smallville,** which I loved, it gave this book an unexpected tone and made me enjoy the story on a much personal level and strangely, seeing Clark and his parents made me yearn for mine, my home and my childhood.

I had some issues with the **artwork** by *Tim Sale*, but in the end it grew on me and there are some pretty emotional illustrations that go perfect with the story.

Erica David says

I used to have a problem with Supes. Being a fan of the Bat, Superman was a little too squeaky clean for me. I'm not saying that all of our modern heroes need to be dark, tortured antiheroes, but the whole Midwestern farm boy turned reporter thing never really interested me. Then I read *Superman For All Seasons* and something happened. I can only describe it as a warming of the cockles of my tiny Grinch heart. Loeb and Sale have given us a beautiful and elegant exploration of the origins of Superman, from his beginnings as a boy growing up in Smallville, to his days as a man and superman in Metropolis. The graphic novel bears a dedication to Norman Rockwell and it's easy to see why when taking Sales's careful pencils and Bjarne Hansen's delicate colors into account. But perhaps the biggest debt it owes to Rockwell is its particular vision of America, a vision which—even if you've never known it or can't possibly believe in it—makes you mourn it, yearn for it and wish that it could be.

Sam Quixote says

Despite being a massive Superman fan, it's taken me a while to get to this book – which many readers put forward as one of the “must-read” Superman books – because it's written by Jeph Loeb. I really don't like Loeb's writing and his Batman stuff is among the most overrated garbage I've ever read. That said, I felt compelled to read this if only to say I have and can say with authority that it too is terrible – which is why I was pleasantly surprised with what I found with *Superman For All Seasons*. It's still not an amazing Superman read but, considering that I was expecting far worse from Loeb, this turned out to be a decent Superman book.

Right away the book is structured in a gimmicky four-part/four-seasons fashion for no real reason except that Loeb has some weird fascination with this kind of symmetry with time as seen in his most famous book, *Batman: The Long Halloween*, which is based around public holidays. Each of the four chapters are narrated by an important person in Superman's life though never by Superman himself – Jonathan Kent, Lois Lane, Lex Luthor, and Lana Lang (lotta LL's in Superman's life).

First thing you're going to notice as it's on the cover is Superman's character design. Tim Sale's a decent artist but I'm sorry, this character design is just ridiculous. His face is too small for such a massive head, he looks by turns a cartoon character – in a comic! – or like Down's Syndrome Superman. I just don't understand his design, his body is too balloon-like, especially once he puts on the costume, to take seriously.

Like so many of Superman's books, this one is also concerned with retelling the character's origins: how he slowly discovered his powers, moved from Smallville to Metropolis, met Lois and Lex and became Superman. It's a well-worn story done numerous times in the 75 years the character's been around (by the way, Happy 75th Birthday, Superman!), but a fascinating one nonetheless, hence it's endless repetition. But I would argue it's not nearly as good as other origin stories like John Byrne's *Man of Steel* or Mark Waid's *Birthright*.

The first part in Smallville is pretty good as we see a young Clark discovering his abilities and there's a nice visual reference to the first Chris Reeve Superman movie when Clark races a train (and of course beats it). But there's a scene between Clark and Jonathan that summed up the book for me. Clark is afraid of his

powers, standing in a field looking lost and Jonathan walks out to talk to his son. Martha stands on the porch, along with the reader, as we see, in the distance, two specks, one Jonathan the other Clark, standing, then move together at the end in a hug. That distance seemed unnecessary – why couldn't we have seen Jonathan and Clark, father and son, up close? Why couldn't we hear their conversation? Waid does something similar in *Birthingright* but doesn't keep the reader at a distance, instead drawing them in right into the conversation and we see the two interact up close in real time. Loeb's choice to keep the reader well away from Jonathan and Clark not only makes reading this book a less personable experience but also sums up the book's coldness. Everything is narrated in the past tense for some reason and makes reading it feel less immediate and urgent.

But Loeb does get the characters right, and most importantly gets Superman right. At the end of the Smallville sequence, a twister devastates the small town and is also the first time Clark behaves like Superman sans costume. After saving several peoples' lives, he looks troubled and has this great look in his eyes as he surveys the destruction and murmurs "I could have done more..." which is Superman in a nutshell. Later in Lex's sequence, Lex says "Fame is fleeting... but Lex Luthor is forever!" which also sums up that character nicely (it's also worth noting that this is still John Byrne's Lex, ie. middle-aged, paunchy, with red hair and a constant cigar poking out of his mouth rather than the lean, bald figure that will emerge shortly after). Lois behaves true to form, independently, strongly, and only once as the damsel in distress, and even Jimmy has his classic bow-tie! Also, and this is a very minor point, but Shelby, Clark's dog, is in this one which I loved seeing (I'm a dog person).

I felt it was an inferior origin story because Loeb doesn't really explain much. Clark moves to Metropolis from Smallville, but why does he get a job at a newspaper? Where did his Superman outfit come from? How did he meet Lois and when did he fall in love with her? Is he in love with her? When did he make the choice to become Superman? How long has he been Superman – literally just a season? Where did his personal philosophy come from? Where did the Superman/Lex rivalry spring from? These are things that are addressed better in *Birthingright* where we see the formation of a character – in *All Seasons* we see Superman fully formed. He literally transitions from Clark Kent from Smallville one minute and then Clark Kent, superstar reporter and Superman the next. It's too quick and almost lazy because his origin story is so well known, that Loeb doesn't even try telling it properly. But most importantly this shows that Loeb doesn't have anything new to say about the character, or have anything interesting to add to Superman's story – no new angles are explored, it's like watching a jigsaw come together: flat and predictable.

Also the Jenny Vaughn/Toxin scene was very weird. Superman saves Jenny from a burning building and she becomes obsessed with him. Lex uses this brief connection to Superman in a convoluted plan to infect the city with an airborne virus only he has the antidote for, and then gives to Jenny – who is now conditioned as a hero of sorts, stupidly called Toxin – so that Superman can lift her up as she sprays the antidote over the city. Except through another arbitrary twist of fate, Jenny dies and Superman is unable to stop her, sending him into a deep depression where he stops being Superman temporarily. Wha...? There are just too many questions over this bizarre sequence to convince me that it's a positive addition to the book.

Sale's art is pretty good, I guess, I'm not a big fan though his stuff here looks better than his Batman art thanks in large part to colourist Bjarne Hansen who really brings the images to life. Sale often uses splash pages in his comics and there are lots of them in this book, though unlike splash pages in most superhero comics, Sale's are often focused on landscape imagery and the ones here, in particular the sunset on the Kent farm, are very beautiful with Hansen's colours giving the scene a natural majesty. But I also really liked Sale's depiction of Smallville, it's streets, it's malt shop (really!), and the splash page of Superman stopping a train was really eye-catching too.

Superman For All Seasons is an ok origin story. Loeb crucially gets the characters and their voices right but doesn't do anything different with his version of Superman's story to help readers understand the character. The story isn't spectacular or especially original, but Sale's art is the best I've seen it thanks to Hansen's colours. Considering I was dreading this, I was pleasantly surprised with what I found – Loeb's best book! Which is still only average. Read Byrne's Man of Steel and Waid's Birthright for better Superman origin stories and you'll see where I'm coming from.

James DeSantis says

I feel like I could copy and paste my review of Birthright and put it on here. Jeph Loeb is a mixed writer for me. I thought Spider-man blue was good but overrated. Ultimatum but the biggest fuck you ever to comic fans. However, I LOVE Hush and put it as top 10 Batman stories of all time. So when I picked up Superman For All Seasons I came in with an open mind.

This is basically a 4 part story of Superman's early days. We start off with Clark finishing High School, his first few months of being Superman, his withdrawal from it all back to Smallville and his rise back to Superman. No spoilers really because it's what you'd expect from a Superman story. Maybe that's why it came off a little meh. Because I read this before, and better.

What I liked: I enjoyed the light hearted feel of it all. Very old school supes. I enjoyed most of the dialog and never came across as trying too hard. The art was a mixed bag. I love some shots, while others not so much. Also enjoyed his relationship with Lana a lot in this story.

What I disliked: The art could sometimes make characters weird. I really disliked Superman's design here. I thought the villain Lex storyline was bad (Fall?) and I was bored throughout. It was only thanks to Winter I began liking it again.

Really it's not amazing, but it's solid. A good introduction to Superman. However, I can offer better stories to read on the Man of Steel. This sits at a 2.5/3 out of 5 for me.

Sam :) says

Rating: 4 stars!

This was required reading for my Epic Hero unit in Communication and Literacy class. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, including the beautiful illustrations, and look forward to reading more graphic novels in the future!

Sarah says

The graphic novel that returned my love of comic books. As a newly minted college graduate, I had seen no reason to embrace comics again outside of a research capacity for my plays. This novel, however, made me remember everything I loved about comics as a kid: the almost "morality play" storylines, the majesty of the characters as they move across panels, the comedy that can easily be found in running around in tights, the hardbitten women unwilling to sit on the sidelines while the boys have all the fun.

I knew I was in for a treat the minute I picked up *Superman for All Seasons*. The stunning visual work of Tim Sale is easily matched by Jeph Loeb's monumental tone--something that persists through all his writing, but never appears so alluring and based in a character's humanity as when he works with Sale. One of the group of their origin/color series, they tackle Superman's early career in this work. I wouldn't really call it an origin story; it is more an impressionist piece, showing Clark going through all the trials and tribulations any young adult experiences as they attempt to define their own lives. His existence is just a bit more complicated by the fact that he's a superhero.

A nice twist here is that Loeb doesn't write in Clark's voice at all. He leaves Pa Kent, Lois Lane, Lex Luthor and Lana Lang to narrate the story through the seasons of one year. Each has a unique voice, particularly Lois, and by discussing their feelings about Superman, they create the mythic stature that will surround him in coming years. Only on one of the last pages, when you watch Supes play with a dog he's rescued from a flood in Smallville do you realize how human Clark is. A truly great Rockwellian-like piece, in its humane voices and picturesque visuals, Loeb and Sale manage to capture all that the 1980s reboot revealed about Superman, while still maintaining the nostalgic rhythms of the Max Fleisher cartoons.

Mizuki says

I have never been a Superman fan but...just look at the lineup for this comic! Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale who gave us *Batman: The Long Halloween* and *Batman: Dark Victory*! I'm totally sold!

Turns out, Superman's story is a lot less complicated than Batman's. While Batman's story offers up murder mysteries, crime-noir, a huge bunch of colorful crazy villains, childhood traumas, battles with criminals and crime families; what Superman has to offer is a big dude flying around in his underpants and a cape *and* a straight forward coming-of-age tale.

Don't get me wrong, Jeph Loeb's story about Superman might be a lot simpler than B-man's, yet it isn't any less worthy than B-man's stories. It is a fun read, this story is fast-paced, with likable and understandable characters, heart-warming moments, we got to hear the voices of different characters (Clark's foster father, Clark, Lana Lang and even Lois Lane) and a few set of good moral messages. Still, after reading Mr. Loeb's gothic and gritty Batman's tale of crime, madness and violence, the nearly 180 degree change of coloring, tone and mood in *Superman for All Seasons* is almost stunning.

Plus, a Lex Luthor who *has hair* also needs some getting used to as well.

Anyway, Jeph Loeb is great in story telling, characters' development and emotional depth and Tim Sale is still as masterful as before with his artwork (who would have guessed 'a big dude flying around town' can be such a funny but kind-of awesome sight to behold?). Great job!

My review for *Batman: The Long Halloween*: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Callie Rose Tyler says

I enjoyed the change in narration, each season has a slightly different tone. Spring is Jonathon Kent, Summer is Lois Lane, Fall is Lex Luthor, and lastly Winter is Lana Lang.

This is basically Superman: Year One. It is drawn in a very colorful romantic, watercolor way that is very Norman Rockwell America.

Due to the narration, the reader has some distance from Clark and gets to see him through the eyes of those around. It is a great way to add new life to a very old, sometimes boring, character.

This one is all about tone and atmosphere and emotion and less about the actually plot. A great read!

Donovan says

"Believe none of what you hear. Half of what you see. And everything you write."

Why did I wait so many years to read this? Seriously. *I loved* this. This is in my top two with All Star Superman.

While this isn't the first Superman retelling, it's certainly one of the greatest. Jeph Loeb tells the tale of Superman's coming of age and coming into his own, skipping Kryptonian lore and going right to Kansas. The writing is tender, nostalgic, and simple. I yearned for the down home and loving parents that are Jonathan and Martha Kent and all the corny platitudes they say. Clark himself is so very likable and human: naive, erroneous, shy, lost. And Superman is written true to his Golden Age self, pure-hearted and saving the day. Although nothing groundbreaking happens in terms of story, the restraint and maturity and realism, the lack of giant explosions and space wars, is what makes this so enjoyable. It's about the super-man himself, not his villains and feats, and how he maintains and finds balance between a personal and super life.

The classic characters are all present: Jonathan and Martha Kent, Lana Lang, Lois Lane, Lex Luthor, Jimmy Olsen. (I never noticed all those alliterative Ls before.)

I also really enjoyed the seasonal-themed chapters and how Clark/Superman never narrates. Spring is narrated by Jonathan Kent. Summer by Lois Lane. Fall by Lex Luthor. Winter by Lana Lang. It's comforting that the story ends in winter because of the mythical fortress of solitude mentioned and the peace it's supposed to provide.

Last but not least, the artwork. Tim Sale dedicated this book to Norman Rockwell, and the influence is obvious. Bjarne Hansen's soft coloring is like watercolor. Sale's fine, sketchy lines remind me of Frank Quitely with that vintage rough comic feel. I was hesitant at first, then really got into it, especially the splash pages. The artwork just perfectly complements the Golden Age tone of the comic. Few reads send me off scrambling to get my own copy, but this is one of them.

I will admit, however, that the cover was off-putting every time I saw it and is *not* accurately representative of what's inside. I really hope DC does a cover redesign for the trade paperback like the Deluxe HC, which I plan on snatching up.

So yeah, this was incredible. I've read a lot of Superman hyperbole like Crisis, Infinite Crisis, Final Crisis, The Return, Unchained, Red Son. And those are all magnificent stories in their own right. But they're

macroscopic, heavy with numerous plots and subplots and villains and conspiracies, always taking away from the quiet life of Clark Kent. And similar to All Star, but even more reductionist, Superman For All Seasons is Supes at his most humble.

L. McCoy says

So I must say I didn't expect this to be as good as it is.

What's it about?

This story is pretty much the origin story of Superman told from the perspective of other characters and through seeing a year in his life, the year he officially became Superman.

Pros:

The story is interesting. What's interesting here is despite being a comic about the most iconic and well known superhero ever, it's not your standard superhero story. Yes, it's about the title character becoming a superhero but it's mostly about the people around him and how Clark becoming Superman changed their lives.

The art is hit and miss, I'll give it a point for the good parts of the art, there are some panels that are amazing. The characters are interesting and well written. A few are particularly noteworthy, one of them would be how well written Superman is. I personally just see him as a guy who flies around and punches bad guys most of the time so seeing the character get more depth is cool. Lex Luthor is fantastic in this, I consider him a more interesting villain than many give him credit for. Lois is very interesting and well written (not to mention hot as fuck!).

This book is a bit more suspenseful than I would expect a Superman comic to be, that's nice.

Even though this book doesn't focus on action as much as other superhero comics, there are some exciting moments.

The narrative... holy shit, this might be the highlight of this book. Each chapter is told from a different character's perspective. It's not only well written but also one of the things that gives these characters that much more depth, I love this book's narrative.

Cons:

I said the art is hit and miss. Yeah, okay, some of these panels are just... no.

The relationship between Clark Kent and Lana Lang is so poorly written. At first it's well done but then in the Summer chapter (view spoiler)

Overall:

Even as someone who isn't a huge Superman fan, this is a great book. Sure it has a couple of flaws but as a whole the story, depth to the characters and fantastic narrative make this one worth reading for sure. I think that this would be ideal for someone who isn't familiar with Superman comics but wants to try some out. If you want a good comic that is different from other superhero stories this is a very good choice.

Highly recommended!

||Swaroop|| says

Folks call me "**SUPERMAN.**"

This was an awesome read. *Such beautiful art!*. Fell all the more in love with the greatest superhero ever!

Superman for All Seasons by Jeph Loeb is a **not-to-be-missed graphic novel**. This graphic novel is about a young Clark Kent who is coming to terms with all his superpowers and super capabilities.

From a Smallville country boy to the world's greatest hero - *Superman*

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

You can find my review on my blog by clicking here.

If there's one superhero that everyone and their mother knows about, it's Superman. From his hair curl to his red trunks, this icon has established himself as the prime example for all things heroic. Throughout the years, countless writers and illustrators have tackled his lore and expanded his impact on a scale as little as Kansas to as big as the multiverse. While his earlier stories focused on his exploits within the frontiers of Metropolis, his backstory grew in every horizon and explored the dark corners of Krypton to the point of introducing countless alien creatures to the mix. Nonetheless, underneath the red cape and heroism lies Clark Kent. Even as an alien, he has shown us the very purity of humanity that no man was ever able to grasp. But Clark Kent's journey to becoming Superman is what truly justifies the reasons why this being was gifted by fate the greatest powers ever, and the biggest heart in the universe.

Superman for All Seasons is a four-part story conceived right around the time Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale embraced great success with *Batman: The Long Halloween*. Instead of following the holidays, this story focuses on our four favourite seasons, starting with Spring and ending with Winter. With a different key character narrating each season, the story explores Clark Kent's coming-to-age. While focusing on his struggle and exploits that lead him to go beyond his parent's farm and into the big city, the story also focuses on Clark Kent coming to terms with his powers. In a nearly-perfect retelling of Superman's early life, Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale delivers one of the most intimate story of a character that holds a burden far too huge for anyone to carry around.

It's easy to think that Superman is a hero with no flaws and who has it easy with the powers he possesses. Being able to bend metal with his bare hands and to run faster than a speeding bullet sure does give us plenty of ideas on how to make the most of our lives. In fact, plenty of people would surely want to do things that will solely benefit themselves alone, but Clark Kent is a man who sees in his powers an opportunity to serve a greater good. In his realization, he however crumbles under the weight of such a duty and finds himself feeling alone in the world. His journey will however bring him to understand things that will lift the veil of sorrow that hinders his own happiness. What Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale accomplish is a truly stunning tale that comprises a very powerful, mythical and majestic tone that only this dynamic duo of a creative team could

have ever achieved.

The artwork is also incredible, although it will take a couple of pages before adjusting to it, and believe me when I say the adjustment will be quick, smooth and unconditional. I personally had a hard time accepting Superman's bulkier and bubblier design, with a very minimal and small facial design, but as he grows in the story, his character becomes much more fabled and conveys his grandeur with ease and grace. The watercolour is also exquisite and stunning thanks to colourist Bjarne Hansen. The two-page panels are always impossible to resist and portrays Superman in such an epic scope that you just have to take a couple of seconds to admire his splendor.

What Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale accomplish is truly admirable and easily falls into the domain of classics. To take Superman and give life to the hero through his secret identity, Clark Kent, could never have been done better than in Superman for All Seasons. The softness of the artwork, with the brilliant analogies between Clark Kent's life in the cornfields and his struggles with his powers and the pressures of modern society, this story simply transcends the very comic book medium and illustrates hope and virtue through love and understanding.

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <https://bookidote.com/>

Roxanne says

Confession time, i don't really like superman.

There's just something about the guy i don't know what it is, maybe it was being forced to watch that crappy 90's tv show, or how fucking dumb his disguise is, either way i just tend to avoid the guy the most i see of him is in the justice league and even then it's like shut up kent let bruce deal with this shit okay.

However i did think maybe i should give this guy a break so picked this one up for two reasons, first it's a loeb & sale creation and their work together is always amazing, secondly the artwork makes superman look so adorable you can't leave this book in the store, it haunts you, you have to take this farming dick home with his big ol' face. Some may not like the artwork, but i really like it, the style has been growing on me since reading the long halloween, and it really works well with the story and it just hits you in the feels man.

I read it really quickly, in a pretty rough mood and by the end i had totally cheered up, it's kinda cheesy and it's not too heavy on the plot there's no dramatic story line but if you're feeling you need a pick me up then this is definitely one to read, it's just really sweet.

I'm definitely now gonna have to pick up more superman trades (any recommendations hit me up!) i feel this is the one to convert you into a superman fan, i like the guy tons more than i ever did he's still no batman, and shit he ain't aquaman but we'll get there. Definitely worth picking up!

Anne says

3.5 stars

It's definitely a good graphic novel about Clark Kent and his first few years as Superman. Though, I was kind of hoping for more...*something*? Maybe it was the art that turned me off? Not sure. Anyway, it was good, but not *quite* totally satisfying.

Cheese says

Another fantastic story from Loeb and Sale. I love the way he puts a calm and meaningful spin on some of the biggest comic characters out there. My favourite was Daredevil yellow and Spider-Man blue, but this is up there too.

The story is told in four different seasons by four different people in Supermans' life and shows how he matures throughout his teenage years leaving smallville to becoming superman and working in Metropolis.

I thought it had great artwork and a different insight into Superman and Lex Luthor.
