



## Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years

By Various

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When Superman debuted seventy-five years ago, it was not merely the beginning for one character, but for an entire genre. The phrase "super hero" had yet to be coined when ACTION COMICS #1 hit newsstands in 1938, but once Superman entered the scene, effortlessly lifting a car above his head on that first iconic cover, the character paved the way for each of the hundreds (if not thousands) of super-powered heroes written since.

SUPERMAN: A CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS gathers a range of stories featuring the first and greatest super hero, highlighting the many roles the Man of Steel has played over the decades. In these celebrated stories, Superman is in turn the Herculean champion, the lonely alien survivor, the super-powered Boy Scout and the soul-searching leader. Over the course of seventy-five years, watch as the character grows from a simple strongman to the beloved international symbol he is today!

This Volume Collects:

**("Superman, Champion of the Oppressed") / ("War in San Monte") --**

**ACTION COMICS #1-2 (1938)** Writer: Jerry Siegel, Artist: Joe Shuster

**"How Superman Would End the War" -- Look Magazine (1940)** Writer: Jerry Siegel, Artist: Joe Shuster

**"Man or Superman?" -- SUPERMAN #17 (1942)** Writer: Jerry Siegel, Penciller: Joe Shuster, Inker: Joe Sikela

**"The Origin of Superman" -- SUPERMAN #53 (1948)** Writer: Bill Finger, Penciller: Wayne Boring, Inker: Stan Kaye

**"The Mightiest Team in the World" -- SUPERMAN #76 (1952)** Writer: Edmond Hamilton, Penciller: Curt Swan, Inker: John Fishchetti

**"The Super-Duel in Space" -- ACTION COMICS #242 (1958)** Writer: Otto Binder, Artist: Al Plastino

**"The Girl From Superman's Past" -- SUPERMAN #129 (1959)** Writer: Bill Finger, Penciller: Wayne Boring, Inker: Stan Kaye

**"Superman's Return to Krypton" -- SUPERMAN #141 (1960)** Writer: Jerry Siegel, Penciller: Wayne Boring, Inker: Stan Kaye

**"The Death of Superman" -- SUPERMAN #149 (1961)** Writer: Jerry Siegel, Penciller: Curt Swan, Inker: George Klein

**"Must There Be a Superman?" -- SUPERMAN #247 (1972)** Writer: Eliot S. Maggin, Penciller: Curt Swan, Inker: Murphy Anderson

**"Rebirth" -- ACTION COMICS #544 (1983)** Writer: Marv Wolfman, Artist:

Gil Kane

**"The Living Legends of Superman" (excerpt) -- SUPERMAN #400 (1985)**

Writer: Elliot S. Maggin, Artist: Frank Miller

"For the Man Who Has Everything" -- SUPERMAN ANNUAL #11

(1985) Writer: Alan Moore, Artist: Dave Gibbons

**"The Name Game" -- SUPERMAN #11 (1987)** Writer/Penciller: John Byrne,

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**"What's So Funny About Truth Justice and the American Way?" --**

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Inkers: Tom Nguyen, Dexter Vines, Jim Royal, Jose Marzan, Jr., Wade Von

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**"Question of Confidence" -- Mythology: The DC Comics Art of Alex Ross**

**(2003)** Writer: Chip Kidd, Artist: Alex Ross

**"The Incident" -- ACTION COMICS #900 (2011)** Writer: David S. Goyer,

Artist: Miguel Sepulveda

**"The Boy Who Stole Superman's Cape" -- ACTION COMICS #0 (2012)**

Writer: Grant Morrison, Artist: Ben Oliver

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### Editorial Review

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This celebratory volume marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the debut of Superman, featuring 19 stories representing the many facets and eras of the hero's lengthy career. The selections include his very first appearance, from 1938; landmark tales featuring his first encounters with Batman and archfoe Brainiac; and a recent story depicting a newly revamped version of the character. The creators include Superman's originators, Siegel and Shuster; the artists most associated with the character in the 1950s and '60s, Curt Swan and Wayne Boring; and such comics superstars as Alan Moore, Frank Miller, and Grant Morrison. Although chapter introductions explain Superman's revised histories—for a while, he was married to longtime girlfriend Lois Lane, but now he's single again—the multiple universes and alternate worlds are likely to confuse the casual reader, while hard-core fans will no doubt gripe about the selections (the most glaring omission might be Morrison and Frank Quitely's *All-Star Superman*, 2007). The myriad approaches demonstrate the evolution of not just Superman but the entire superhero genre. --Gordon Flagg

#### About the Author

Born in 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio, Jerome Siegel was, as a teenager, a fan of the emerging literary genre that came to be known as science fiction. Together with schoolmate Joe Shuster, Siegel published several science-fiction fan magazines, and in 1933 they came up with their own science-fiction hero -- Superman. Siegel scripted and Shuster drew several weeks' worth of newspaper strips featuring their new creation, but garnered no interest from publishers or newspaper syndicates. It wasn't until the two established themselves as reliable adventure-strip creators at DC Comics that the editors at DC offered to take a chance on the Superman material -- provided it was re-pasted into comic-book format for DC's new magazine, ACTION COMICS.

Siegel wrote the adventures of Superman (as well as other DC heroes, most notably the Spectre, his co-creation with Bernard Baily) through 1948 and then again from 1959-1966, in the interim scripting several newspaper strips including *Funnyman* and *Ken Winston*. Jerry Siegel died in January, 1996.

Joseph Shuster was born in 1914 in Toronto, Canada. When he was nine, his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where Shuster met Jerry Siegel. The two became fast friends and collaborators; together, they published the earliest science-fiction fan magazines, where Shuster honed his fledgling art skills. In 1936, he and Siegel began providing DC Comics with such new features as *Dr. Occult*, *Slam Bradley* and *Radio Squad* before selling Superman to DC in 1938. Influenced by such comic-strip greats as Wash Tubbs' *Roy Crane*, Joe Shuster drew Superman through 1947, after which he left comic books to create the comic strip *Funnyman*, again with Siegel. Failing eyesight cut short his career, but not before his place in the history of American culture was assured. Shuster died of heart failure on July 30, 1992.

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