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The Superman Files



Synopsis

The Superman Files reveals the secret life of the man named Clark Kent and the world of the greatest superhero. It's a comprehensive account of his history, employing clippings from the Daily Planet, journal entries, surviving artifacts from Krypton, schematics for the Fortress of Solitude and other technology, files from Stryker's Island Prison, as well as hundreds of "photographs" of Superman's enemies and allies culled from modern Superman comics. The Superman Files offers a complete, in-depth life story of the Man of Steel, from his birth on Krypton as Kal-El through his present, as Clark Kent and Superman, and even onward into the future. One thousand years from now, a group of superpowered teenagers is inspired by Superman's legacy. They band together and form the Legion of Super-Heroes, a crime-fighting group dedicated to protecting the citizens of the United Planets. One of these teens is Brainiac 5, a highly intelligent descendant of Superman's arch foe, the original Brainiac. Like many people in the 31st Century, members of the Legion idolize Superman. They frequent the Superman Museum and marvel at tales of his past. A few of them even travel back in time to Clark Kent's teenage years. They recruit him to their team, thereby jumpstarting the adventures of Superboy, the Boy of Steel. In a future without precise records of the 21st Century, Brainiac 5 takes it upon himself to compile a tribute to his hero and friend. Collecting accounts from a myriad of sources, he compiles the universe's greatest historical record of the life and times of the Man of Steel. The Superman Files chronicles seventy-five years of adventures in one easy-to-understand history of the Last Son of Krypton. Appealing to Superman fans of any age--from new collectors just starting out with the New 52 to longtime readers who have followed the character from his very first adventures--there is something for everyone. With a modern tone and a deep respect for his legacy, The Superman Files is not only entertaining, but it is also a complete and thorough history of the Man of Steel. SUPERMAN and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics. (s13)

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Customer Reviews

This is an interesting coffee-table book published rather late during the 75th anniversary year of the first appearance of Superman. The simplest, most straightforward short description is that it comprises an in-DC-Universe biography of the greatest super-hero of the 21st century compiled from the perspective of his 31st-century comrade in the Legion of Super-Heroes, Brainiac 5. Generally speaking, it combines commentary from Brainiac 5 with documentary material from the Man of Steel's own journals, news reports, and sundry other faux "sources" to form a more-or-less cohesive narrative stretching from background on his lost homeworld of Krypton to the 2013 present. It does fall short of being a comprehensive history of the character in that virtually no account is taken of materials published before ca. 1985 when the Crisis on Infinite Earths remade the DC Universe and was followed by the 1986-1987 Man of Steel mini-series reimagining the flagship character with a stripped-down, more cohesive continuity that would prevail for approximately the next 25 years. But over the last quarter-century, as far as I can tell, most everything, every major event and story-line, is reconciled into a fairly organic whole that hangs together remarkably well.

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