

[Ebook pdf] Our Hero: Superman on Earth (Icons of America)

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Tom De Haven

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Tom De Haven : Our Hero: Superman on Earth (Icons of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Hero: Superman on Earth (Icons of America):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I Thought I Knew SupermanBy CliffFor those of us raised on Superman comics, TV shows, and movies who thought we really knew the character. I've adjusted my perception of who Superman is: he's an immigrant. He's an orphan. He's the loneliest person in the universe due to the destruction of his world. He's baby Moses, sent to a family in basket in the form of a spaceship. He's the source of pride and success

and later heartbreak for his creators. Tom DeHaven takes the reader on his own journey of discovery into the Superman history, the art and writing, the marketing, the making of an icon. The transformation of the character over the decades is particularly fascinating, not just the look, but the creation of his origin, supporting characters, home world, and villains. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Never stop doing good. By Johnny Heering Tom De Haven is qualified as an "expert" on Superman on the basis of his writing a novel about The Man of Tomorrow. Here, he has written a 200 page essay about The Man of Steel. It is a good read, going over the history of Superman, while giving his opinions on the "meaning" of The Metropolis Marvel. However, being a Superman "expert" myself, I did notice a few factual errors, particularly in citing the wrong issue numbers of some of the comic books. For example, he cites Action Comics #261 as the first appearance of The Fortress of Solitude when it was actually in Action #241. But that's just poor proofreading, and doesn't really detract from the quality of the book. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A bit too earthbound. By S. S. Edmiston An enjoyable read, but I was hoping for greater insight into the cultural context and iconography of Superman over the changing American decades and mediums. Much of the book is spent chronicling the stories of the men who wrote or published the comics rather than the character himself.

Since his first appearance in Action Comics Number One, published in late spring of 1938, Superman has represented the essence of American heroism. Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, the Man of Steel has thrilled audiences across the globe, yet as life-long Superman Guy Tom De Haven argues in this highly entertaining book, his story is uniquely American. Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in the midst of the Great Depression, Superman is both a transcendent figure and, when posing as his alter-ego, reporter Clark Kent, a humble working-class citizen. An orphan and an immigrant, he shares a personal history with the many Americans who came to this country in search of a better life, and his amazing feats represent the wildest realization of the American dream. As De Haven reveals through behind-the-scenes vignettes, personal anecdotes, and lively interpretations of more than 70 years of comic books, radio programs, TV shows, and Hollywood films, Supermans legacy seems, like the Man of Steel himself, to be utterly invincible.

From Booklist From his 1938 debut on, Superman has been among popular cultures most recognizable and enduring icons. De Haven, whose novel *Its Superman* (2005) reimagined the characters early years, analyzes the Man of Steels appeal and longevity in this extended essay, providing a history of the seminal superhero as not just a publishing phenomenon but also a superstar on radio and in theatrical cartoons, then TV and movies; arguably, the latter, media versions of the character did more to popularize him than his comic book. De Haven interjects pointed and insightful observations (e.g., in todays culture of celebrity worship, the very idea of keeping a secret identity seems inauthentic). Although Superman has evolved over the decades and undergone periodic rejiggerings to maintain his relevance, De Haven notes that todays Superman is fundamentally the same figure that two Cleveland teenagers created in the 1930s. If Supermans cultural resonance today is less than that of Batman (let alone, say, the Simpsons), De Haven makes a convincing case that the Man of Steel still speaks to us. --Gordon Flagg Super-geeks rejoice! This witty collection of meditations on the Man of Steel is as cleverly encapsulated as the Bottled City of Kandor. Chip Kidd, author of *The Cheese Monkeys*