

The Death of Superman Study Guide

The Death of Superman by Dan Jurgens

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Plot Summary

The Death of Superman is the story of Superman's confrontation with his greatest enemy, the beast called Doomsday. The beast will be unrelenting and single minded. The only hope that Superman has is to give everything he has in order to stop the monster and save those he loves. Superman will have to fight not just for his life, but everyone's lives when Doomsday arrives.

Lois Lane is at the Daily Planet news paper building when she receives an anonymous note telling her to send Superman to a power plant. Lois goes herself and Superman will have to come and save her from a band of hideous creatures that plan on taking over Metropolis.

Superman goes for an interview with a talk show host, Cat Grant. During the interview unbeknown to Superman the members of the Justice League are battling a creature that they soon dub Doomsday. Ice, Blue Beetle, Maxima, Booster, Guy Gardner, and Bloodwynd battle the creature but Doomsday is too strong for them and too quick. Blue Beetle is nearly killed and several others are hurt. Ice goes off to try and slow the creature down while Maxima takes Blue Beetle to the hospital.

Superman shows up shortly after while Doomsday is attacking a home of single mother and her two children. Superman arrives and he and the other members of the Justice League begin to battle the creature again. Many members of the team are already hurt and Guy Gardner can no longer see where to blast because his face is so swollen. The house catches on fire and Superman has to stop his battle for a moment allowing the creature to escape, in order to save the woman that owned the house and her infant. The paramedics arrive and most of the members of the Justice League require medical attention and are taken away. Superman continues to battle the creature and finds that it seems to get stronger the more that Superman fights it. Maxima comes back to fight with Superman for a moment but her apparent lack of concern for the innocent people around puts them all in danger and allows Doomsday to get away for a moment and puts Maxima in the hospital.

The creature is finally able to make its way to Metropolis. Superman has fought it every step of the way but out of the two only Superman looks to be hurting. Superman is determined to stop the creature. When the beast turns toward Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane Superman grabs the monster and finds a way to hurt it. In one last final blow both of them fly through the air and Superman has defeated Doomsday. Lois runs to his side and Superman dies in her arms.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

The Death of Superman is the story of Superman facing his greatest enemy ever. The beast will be unrelenting and single minded. The only hope that Superman has is to give everything he has in order to stop the monster and save those he loves. Superman will have to fight for not only his life, but everyone's lives when Doomsday arrives.

The scene opens with a gloved hand hitting a steel door repeatedly. Each time that the glove hits a little piece of it is torn away. As the the hand breaks through the door the caption reads "Doomsday is here!" As the creature erupts from underground the earth shakes and the wildlife begins to flee from the place where the creature is.

Meanwhile in Metropolis a young boy named Keith is buying spray paint that glows in the dark. Keith is scared but feels like he knows what he must do. Keith goes back to the orphanage where he lives and goes over his plans to save his mother. Keith had stumbled upon a bunch of monsters in the underground tunnels. Keith had been warned not to say anything or they would hurt his mother. Keith uses the spray paint to mark his direction in the dark tunnel to ensure that he and his mother won't get lost.

Lois Lane arrives at work at the Daily Planet and finds a note that has been left for her. The not says that that Superman is needed under the power station and is signed simply with the word "friend." Lois decides to head there herself leaving a message for Clark Kent—Superman's alter ego. When Clark gets in her has time only to glance at the computer before the lights suddenly go out.

Back at the power station creatures are howling and celebrating the fact that they have stolen the city's power. Lois Lane manages to break in to the power station only to be taken prisoner by a monstrous creature called Clawster, and a homeless man named Charlie. Charlie says that maybe the boss will keep Lois as a prisoner but Clawster laughs explaining that the boss doesn't believe in taking prisoners. Little Keith is hiding in the shadows and hears this. Keith now knows that his mother isn't here to be saved and Keith quickly leaves to try and find Superman. Once outside Keith uses his spray paint to draw a giant S on a basketball court and Superman sees it. Keith relays what he has seen and Superman heads to save Lois.

Once in the underground tunnels Superman begins to battle the creatures and easily subdues them and saves Lois. The vagabond, Charlie, was keeping watch over Lois. It was Charlie that had left the message for Lois at the Daily Planet telling her to send Superman. Charlie and the others in the tunnels put the monsters under lock and key and wave goodbye to Lois and Superman. Meanwhile the creature that crawled from the depths has been destroying everything in his path.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The creature that crawled out of the underground containment isn't really named but in the coming chapters one of the members of the Justice League will call it Doomsday. The word Doomsday is continually associated with the monster. This is a foreshadowing of what the monster will do.

When Lois is taken hostage by Clawster and Charlie it becomes obvious that they are bad guys. The author will use symbols to hint at Charlie's role in the story. Lois will explain to Superman that Charlie is a pacifist. Charlie's shirt has a peace sign on it. After the reader knows where Charlie truly stands his past actions will be more clearly understood, such as when Charlie suggested that Lois be used as a hostage although they don't take hostages.

The monster is wrapped up when he first comes out of the underground. While it covers his true features he will soon be unmasked. The first living thing that the creature encounters is a small yellow bird. The creature kills the bird by crushing it in his hands and then laughs. The creature doesn't talk and so actions like this will be useful in showing the state of mind of the creature. His intentions will be further defined later in the story when Maxima and Bloodwynd use their mental telepathy on the creature.

The pages in the book aren't numbered in any respect and so it makes it somewhat more difficult to site each reference. This book is one in a series surrounding the events prior to and after Superman's death. There are notations in certain places regarding what book certain references come from. Superman will return to the underground tunnels once more in the story.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The members of the Justice League, minus Superman, soon arrive at the location where the creature has been attacking and battle a blaze and save several lives. The creature is already gone. They soon get into their aircraft and go on the look for the monster. Once in the air the team can see a path through the woods where trees have been laid to waste. Bloodwynd and Maxima try to make telepathic contact with the creature. Maxima tells them that the creature is hate, death, and blood lust personified and nothing more. The creature soon spots them and hurls a full grown tree taking their craft to the ground. The crew is unhurt but are now on the ground and begin battling the monster at an oil refinery.

The monster grabs Guy Gardner and knocks him momentarily unconscious. Bloodwynd tries to stop him next but is no match for the creatures power. The Blue Beetle is grabbed and the monster nearly kills him before the others can save him. Despite their best efforts none of the group are able to handle the monster and are taking a massive beating.

Meanwhile Superman is in an interview with Cat Grant. When asked if he is scared of anything he says that yes he is but he knows that there is a greater good and that he chooses to protect that good. Superman leaves suddenly when he hears of the monster attacking the rest of the Justice League. Superman arrives to find Booster being flung through the air. Superman catches him and Booster explains that the creature is just like Doomsday.

While Superman was in the interview with Cat Grant it had been posted to all the high schools. A teenage boy named Mitch talks about how lame it is that it is Superman giving the interview.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Mitch is only seen for a moment in this chapter. In the next chapter Mitch will take up a much larger portion of the story as the fighting between Doomsday and the Justice League spills over into his home.

Bloodwynd is hiding something something from the Justice League. Both Superman and the Blue Beetle seem to know it. Blue Beetle will seemingly have found out what it is that he is hiding but Blue Beetle is attacked and nearly killed before he can state his belief to anyone, including the reader.

The interview happening with Cat Grant and the battle at the oil refinery are happening at the same time. Each page will start out with Superman at his interview and then the rest of the page is dedicated to the battle. This gives the reader a good idea of time

setting for the two scenes. There is some obvious tension between Superman and Guy Gardner. Later in the story it will appear that Guy is over his feelings quite a bit and encourages Superman.

Mitch is a character that is shown to dislike Superman. He will come to need Superman in the following chapters. This will be one of the moments that Superman will show that he is a hero because he will stop what he is doing to go back and help Mitch.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Ice is standing over Blue Beetle as he lays dying. Maxima is ready to let Blue Beetle fall and honor him as a fallen comrade since the monster still needs to stop. Ice becomes insistent that Maxima fly Blue Beetle to the hospital since Ice doesn't have the ability to get him there before he dies. Maxima reluctantly agrees and leaves Ice to try and hold the monster off of the city until Maxima can return. Ice goes after the creature looking at the straight path that the thing is cutting toward a housing development.

Mitch, the teenage high school student, has arrived home. He doesn't want to go inside because he hates to hear his mother pretending to care about him. When Mitch enters his mother is caring for his baby sister. Mitch asks for soda and then gets angry when there isn't any. His mother explains that the baby has been sick and she didn't get a chance to go to the store. Mitch becomes angry. He tells his mother that the baby is the only one that she cares about and it is no wonder that his dad has asked her for a divorce. Mitch turns to leave when suddenly Ice's body is thrown threw the window. Mitch steps outside to find the Doomsday creature picking up their family car.

Superman and Booster soon show up. Superman takes the first punch given without even flinching. Mitch says Superman was to stupid to duck. The second attack by Doomsday throws Superman completely through Mitch's house. Doomsday grabs Booster and uses his face to knock over a large tree. Once inside Doomsday continues his attack on an unconscious Ice. He soon turns to attack Mitch's mother and her baby when Superman returns and allows the woman a chance to head to safety.

Soon the rest of the Justice League reappear looking battered and bruised. They decide to combine their powers on the creature. Maxima, Bloodwynd, Guy Gardner, Booster and Superman all hit Doomsday with everything they have until Maxima and Booster are drained of energy. When the massive firing stops Doomsday is still standing. His outfit has been partially burned away but the creature himself appears unharmed. He quickly begins to attack the group. The rest of Mitch's house is destroyed while Doomsday fights the Justice League.

Doomsday laughs and leaps a massive amount into the air and Superman begins his pursuit. On the ground Mitch's mother and sister are trapped in the fire. The rest of the Justice League are out cold, some looking like they might not live. Mitch begins to beg for Superman to come back and help his family. Superman is reluctant to go back and help. If he lets Doomsday get to far ahead of him Superman isn't sure what other destruction will be caused. Mitch continues his pleas for help.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Mitch had started out feeling like Superman is not much of a hero. Mitch is obviously an angry young man who blames his mother for his father leaving. When his mother is in danger Mitch becomes frantic to find a way to save her and is forced to depend on the one person that he has continually talked bad about. Superman has been trying to ignore Mitch's call for help. Later in the story Superman will explain that he had hoped one of the other Justice League members would have been able to help.

The reader has been able to look on the other characters through Mitch's eyes. He knows that several of the team members look as if they easily could be dead. In the next chapter it will be shown that none of them have died at this point in the story. The next chapter will have many of these Justice League members going off to the hospital. Superman will have to continue much of the fight alone.

This entire chapter has taken place at Mitch's home with his mother and sister in the middle of the danger. In the next chapter the story will take place here for a short period but Mitch's home will not be an important place in the story after the Justice League and Doomsday have left. What becomes of Mitch and his family long term will remain unclear.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Mitch is going over the events that have lead him to this point. He got into a fight with his mother, his house has been destroyed and the members of the Justice League are badly hurt, some might die. Mitch can hear his mother calling him but he can't get to her and the baby because of the flames. Mitch knows the sirens that are coming are not going to reach them in time to save his mother. Mitch tries again to yell for Superman to help them. The other members of the Justice League try to get up but are so badly beaten they have trouble moving.

Superman realizes that no one will help the boy and his mother and he slowly leaves Doomsday to go back to help the family escape the inferno. When Superman has his back turned Doomsday jumps on him. Superman is once again in a battle. Superman realizes that Doomsday leaps but doesn't fly. Superman plunges the creature into a lake and deep into the silt with the hopes that without a place to launch from the creature will slow down until Superman can save the family.

Before Superman can return to the house Bloodwynd appears and holds the beams off the woman and her baby until Superman gets there. Once outside the paramedics have arrived. The Justice League are being cared for but Bloodwynd declines medical attention and chooses instead to teleport away. Guy Gardner is badly beaten but tells Superman to be sure and put Doomsday in a pine box. Superman heads back to the lake to try and find Doomsday.

Before Superman can reach Doomsday he manages to get out of the water and hits a helicopter that is flying overhead. Superman is able to save the two pilots but Doomsday runs farther away. Doomsday quickly touches down outside the Kirby County Police station. The two policemen on duty quickly come out to see what is going on. As they stand looking at the creature Superman lands on top of Doomsday with all his might. Much to Superman's surprise, Doomsday seems to be getting more powerful as the battle continues.

Inside the police station the policemen are calling for the national guard while Superman continues to battle Doomsday. A helicopter soon is circling the combatants and targets onto Doomsday. Their firepower doesn't phase him in the least and he takes a light pole from the ground and bats the helicopter out of the air like it was little more than a bug. Superman is again able to save the pilots and before he can get back down to the ground Maxima has returned to help in the fight.

Back in Metropolis Lois Lane is at News Studio trying to find Jimmy Olsen for a job that they are supposed to be on. Lois is finally able to get to Jimmy but before they can leave they are shown an on going news cast that is interrupting the regular schedule. The news is covering the destruction caused by Doomsday. At the same time that Lois



and Jimmy are watching the news brief so are Lex Luthor and Supergirl. Supergirl tries to convince Lex that she should go and help Superman but Lex convinces her to not leave his side.

Maxima has battled the beast for a short period of time but it is clear that it is taking a toll on her physical being. She throws the creature into a department store window. Superman touches down and quickly tells Maxima that she could have injured innocent people in the building by doing that. Maxima defends herself to Superman and then tries to hit him. While they are arguing with each other Doomsday recovers from being thrown and comes out and attacks the two. Superman is holding the beast and Maxima tries to hit it but it moves too fast and her blow catches Superman's face. Doomsday hits Maxima and in the fight a stream of gasoline is exposed. Maxima is looking for a weapon and quickly pulls a light pole out of the ground. Superman yells for her to stop but it is too late and the sparks ignite the fuel. There is a large explosion and with Maxima and Superman out Doomsday simply walks away.

The superhero Guardian arrives and checks on the two fallen superheroes. Maxima is stirring slightly and Superman now knows that he is going to have to face Doomsday alone.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Maxima was willing to stop Doomsday at any cost. If it had not been for her desire to win regardless of those she put in danger she could have been a great help to Superman. She seemed to desire the battle that the monster was giving her. Maxima is from a different planet and the reasons that she is so different to humans won't be explained in this book. Guardian will appear another time in the story although his role is not completely understood.

With the exception of Guardian there won't be anymore of the superhero's seen in the battle with Superman and Doomsday.

Lex Luthor and Supergirl have been shown in the story. Later on their relationship will be expounded on. Supergirl will continue to feel that she should be fighting and Lex will continue to tell her that her place is beside him. It will appear that Supergirl is unaware of the true nature of Lex. Superman as well will state that Lex is nothing like his father. Lex will reveal himself only to the reader through his thoughts.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Guardian takes Maxima to the hospital while Superman goes off more determined to stop Doomsday than before. Superman flies through the sky and can see a clear path that Doomsday has left. Doomsday tears up an overpass and throws a car into the air. Superman catches the car and calmly sets it down. The driver tells Superman that the creature came out of nowhere and seemed to be destroying things at random.

Doomsday enters a Lex-Mart shopping store. The people are running out of the store as the creature suddenly finds something that catches his attention. There is an advertisement on a department store television for a wrestling match at the Metropolis Arena. The advertisement says that it will be war and asks "Where are ya gonna go?" and Doomsday slurs out a one word sentence that greatly resembles Metropolis.

Batman enters and the two begin fighting again. The people hiding in the store continue to try and flee. Doomsday seems to be enjoying it the harder Superman fights him. Superman suddenly sees helicopters overhead once again. This time it is the local news crews. In one of the helicopters is Lois and Jimmy. Lois hopes that 'Clark' will be careful but doesn't say anything out loud as she begins to speak into her recorder.

Lex and Supergirl are still watching the news happenings on the television. Lex is upset that Supergirl might run out and leave him. He convinces her that if anything did happen to Superman then the people of Metropolis would need to know that they still have Supergirl there to protect them. She reluctantly agrees to stay put for the moment. Lex is thinking to himself that there is no need to worry because nothing bad is going to happen to Superman. Lex is sure of this because he has tried to plan Superman's fall before and failed.

Lois continues to cover the battle between Superman and Doomsday from the copter. The crash through everything as Doomsday slowly continues on his path. They come to a sign that says Metropolis is just 60 miles away and the creature again begins to hiss the word Metropolis. Superman realizes the beast is thinking of the commercial that he had seen and knows that he has to stop Doomsday from reaching Metropolis and the people. Superman grabs Doomsday and hurls him as hard as he can away in the opposite direction of Metropolis. Doomsday lands on a hill.

The hill that Doomsday hits is the site of a secret underground facility called the Cadmus Project. The men inside decide that it most likely isn't an earthquake and they try to call for Guardian.

Superman is able to get to Doomsday before he is up and knocks Doomsday into a large structure belonging to the Cadmus Project. As they fight the large timber construct begins to crumble. Guardian is back in the city when he is contacted by the men at the

Cadmus Project and told to come check out an explosion that just happened and that the base might be under attack.

Superman tries to hit Doomsday with a huge piece of timber. Guardian arrives just as the whole structure, Superman and Doomsday fall into a massive pile of rubble. Superman quickly wakes up but is having trouble focusing his eyes. He knows that he must beat Doomsday soon or fail completely. Guardian is telling him that Doomsday is certainly dead when suddenly the pile of rubble explodes and Doomsday leaps away still hissing Metropolis. Guardian has been hit when the monster erupted from the rubble.

Doomsday hits Metropolis in just a few leaps despite the great distance. The men of Cadmus know that they need to warn the people that Doomsday is coming.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Cadmus may have something to do with the monster. Guardian had been sent to look for a creature although it is never told what he is looking for. In the next chapter another creature will try to mind read Doomsday to discover his origin but will have no more success than Maxima had. The creature had been able to listen to the television commercial and glean something from it. It is unclear if it was the promise of a war or how much the monster understood. It appears that he is not completely stupid because he is able to seemingly coordinate his attacks. When he was fighting the Justice League earlier in the book he would use one of them as a projectile to hit another member of the team. While his intelligence is never revealed it appears that he is ruled by a single minded thought of destruction that over rules any other thought that he may have.

Superman knows that he must stop Doomsday alone. While he knows this he also seems to know that he is beginning to wear out while Doomsday seems to be refreshed no matter what is thrown at him. In the following chapters Cadmus will continue to have a role in the story and try to aid Superman to some small degree but it becomes clear that Superman was correct in his assumption that he was going to have to fight Doomsday alone.

Lois Lane is in the helicopter watching Superman and Doomsday when she hopes that 'Clark' is careful. She no longer thinks of him as Superman and Clark Kent but loves him as one and the same. Later in the story it will be clear how much she is willing to risk for him just as he is willing to risk for her.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Doomsday is in Metropolis and begins killing people. Lois is still talking into her tape recorder giving an account of the horrific acts that the beast is responsible for. Superman rushes in and picks Doomsday up and tries to fly him out of the atmosphere. The reporters in the helicopters can only watch.

Guardian is awake at the sight where Superman and Doomsday took off. He is talking telepathically with a creature called Dubbilex. Dubbilex says that the creature may in fact be a D.N.Alien that they have created. Guardian hopes that this isn't true but tells Dubbilex to try and mind read the creature to get a location of its origin. Meanwhile Superman has the creature in the air when it suddenly is able to twist around and kick Superman away. Superman can't breathe for a moment after being kicked. Dubbilex reports that there is nothing on the monster's mind but anger and destruction. Dubbilex says that they will have to work to stop the creature.

Superman comes crashing to the earth with the news choppers watching and reporting live. Far away Superman's parents watch the television with horror as their son is being beaten. Superman's mother feels the reporters are callous and cold but his father knows that the people just believe nothing bad can happen to Superman. Doomsday also comes crashing to the ground but manages to fall into one of the underground tunnels where Superman had fought the underworld monsters earlier. The prison that Clawster and the others were being kept is broken and they try to thank Doomsday only to be attacked by him. Superman quickly enters the tunnels and grabs Doomsday with the hope that if he can keep him in the air that he will have an advantage over Doomsday. Doomsday's foot catches an electrical line and there is an explosion. The helicopters in the air nearly crash into each other when the after shocks of the attack jolt them.

Back at Lex Corp Lex and Supergirl are getting ready for a press conference when they too feel the explosions. Lex decides that the monster must have something personal against Superman. Supergirl decides it is time for her to go and help Superman. This time Lex agrees with her.

Superman and Doomsday are in the air and Superman is badly hurt when Supergirl shows up. She hits the creature but he hits her back so hard that she is instantly knocked unconscious and transforms back into her true alien figure. On a rooftop close to them a laser cannon is being set up to blast the creature. Doomsday is still in the air and the cannon is fired at him. Doomsday turns and lands on the roof top destroying everything on it.

The fire in the city has spread and Keith at the orphanage is trapped with several others in the blaze. Superman comes to help them and saves them from the fire. Metropolis Police try to attack the creature with guns but have no effect on the creature. Superman

appears, looking ragged and bleeding and tells them to get everyone out of the way. Cadmus fighters show up with specialized weapons that hopefully will have an effect on the creature but they can't get a clear shot with Superman and Doomsday locked in close battle. Superman will hold the line at Metropolis, even if it kills him.

Chapter 6 Analysis

The orphan Keith that was shown at the beginning of the story has shown up again. This will be the last time that he is seen. Lex and Supergirl also will not be seen again. It is unclear how badly Supergirl was hurt or if Lex has anyway to know that she has been hurt. It seems that the news reporters in the helicopters would have been reporting on her just as they were reporting on Superman's battle but that will remain unclear. Lex appears to have his own agenda for not wanting Supergirl to go help earlier in the battle. If Supergirl had went earlier it may be that she could have been a help to Superman. As it is it appears that she did nothing more than get herself hurt.

The creature doesn't change much during the story other than his physical appearance slowly being revealed. Through the whole story he is unrelenting and determined on his course. It will be unclear if there was anything more to the creature.

Superman has been badly hurt but it wasn't really clear how badly until moments when he is able to stand for a brief time without in battle. Superman is looking worn and bloodied and his clothing is torn and shredded with blood beginning to flow. Despite the danger to himself Superman continues to fight for what he knows to be right.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

The men from Cadmus are firing on the creature now hitting Superman as well. They try to focus all their firepower on the creature. Superman knows that he has to move faster or there will be no hope for him. Doomsday throws Superman into one of the men from Cadmus and then they collide with a news chopper holding Jimmy and Lois. Lois is worried about Superman but he has to get back to Doomsday after setting the helicopter down. Lois asks him to go get help but he tells her that it is too late and it is all up to him now. Lois calls him Clark and they kiss and Superman tells her that he will always love her and then rushes back into battle.

Superman is now more determined. The Cadmus men have to stop firing because of the speed that Doomsday and Superman are suddenly moving with. Superman is grabbed by Doomsday and Doomsday plunges Superman's head into the concrete. Lois rushes up and tries to help Superman. Doomsday eagerly turns toward Lois and Jimmy but Superman crawls out of the ground and punches Doomsday in the back. Lois asks Superman to stop but Superman continues to fight. Superman is fighting to stay conscious when suddenly he realizes that by grabbing the creature's bony extensions that he can cause the monster pain. The next few punches are so massive that the glass on the Daily Planet building windows shatters and rains down on the people watching the fight.

As the two fight it becomes clear that both are giving it all they have. On film Jimmy Olsen catches the fall of Doomsday, and the last fall that Superman would make. Lois, Jimmy Olsen, Superman's parents, Ice and Bloodwynd will all watch as Superman lay dying. The eyes of all that watch are wide with horror and filled with tears. Superman has given all he has to give.

Lois rushes to his side and takes him in her arms. Jimmy Olsen is still holding his camera staring at the scene. Lois begs him to hold on for just a moment for the paramedics. Weakly Superman asks if Doomsday is finished. She tells him that he has saved them all and that Doomsday is gone. Superman dies and Jimmy takes pictures of Lois Lane crying while what is left of Superman's cape blows in the wind caught on a pole.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Doomsday body isn't regarded any further once the battle is over. Everyone appears to be completely focused on the fallen hero. The story doesn't show a single person who had dried eyes when Superman died. It appears that going in Superman knew that his death was a possibility and chose to save the people in Metropolis rather than worry about himself. It wasn't only his willingness to sacrifice that made him a hero. Maxima

had been willing to die in order to stop the creature but she lacked the compassion that Superman had. Maxima had been willing to put anyone in danger in order to accomplish her goal. Superman would do his best to put lives and safety above the battle.

The book's last page ends with Superman's last breath. The moment that Superman died the reader is shown this death through the lens of a camera rather than first hand. This view gives the reader a clear picture of what Lois was going through at the moment that he died.

Characters

Superman

Superman is the hero in the book. He is a member of the Justice League. Superman is doing an interview during the story when he is asked about his role leading the group. Superman denies being the group leader but it becomes apparent that Superman is a central part of the group. The reader is able to see the thoughts and emotions of Superman. This will be useful in showing the reader how determined Superman is to stopping the monster and how much Superman has taken on himself in regards to protecting the city.

Superman is looked at as a hero by most of the people in the book. Even Lex Luthor, who hates Superman, will comment on the fact that there is nothing to worry about, that Superman can handle anything. There has been a lot of hope placed on Superman's abilities. It will become obvious as the story continues that Superman himself knows that he has limitations. Superman will show himself a true hero when he realizes he must give his own life in order to stop Doomsday. Superman will not show fear for anything other than the thought that he might not be able to save the city from the creature. Superman's death is watched all over the world and the reaction is shown to the reader from people that knew Superman differently. Lois Lane was the woman he loved, his parents watched, Jimmy Olsen was his friend, and the rest of the world watched their hero fall.

Superman has an alter ego named Clark Kent which is what he is known by when he isn't working with the Justice League or saving the world. This identity is kept secret although close friends and family know the truth. Despite the importance of this alter ego the character will be Superman for the vast majority of the story.

Doomsday

Doomsday is the first character seen in the story but is one of the characters that is least explained. The reader sees Doomsday break out of a place that had a heavy steel door on it, however it isn't explained if Doomsday had been a prisoner there or not. Doomsday immediately begins to kill things as he walks towards the city. The first few living things that he comes into contact with are a bird and a deer. Both of these things the monster will kill and laugh. Doomsday never truly articulates a sentence but his actions show that he is getting great enjoyment out of the death of these creatures. This will not change as Doomsday continues his destruction.

Doomsday has an arm tied behind his back when he first emerges in the story but the reason for this won't be explained either. When members of the Justice League try to read Doomsday's mind they find only hate there and a desire for destruction. Doomsday is obviously single minded but the depth of his intelligence will remain unknown. There

are other mysteries around Doomsday besides his origins and true purpose. Doomsday is able to receive massive attacks from the members of the Justice League. It will be explained by the characters fighting Doomsday that he seems to be growing in strength each time that someone attacks him. The truth of this and the reason will remain a mystery.

Lois Lane

Lois Lane is a reporter for the Daily Planet. Lois follows a tip and goes to an underground city where she is taken hostage. Lois is the reporter in one of the helicopters following Superman as he battles Doomsday.

Blue Beetle

Blue Beetle is a member of the Justice League. He is one of the first hurt and is taken to the hospital by Maxima at Ice's insistence. Blue Beetle wears an outfit that is blue with the outline of a beetle on the chest. Blue Beetle will realize what Bloodwynd is before Doomsday attacks Blue Beetle. Blue Beetle will be unconscious before he has a chance to tell anyone what he has found out about Bloodwynd.

Maxima

Maxima is a member of the Justice League and is from another planet. Maxima is consumed in a green flame when she is using her powers. She is a warrior.

Guy Gardner

Guy Gardner is a member of the Justice League. Guy and Superman don't really get along very well. After Guy is injured by Doomsday he tells Superman to "put this Doomsday guy in a pine box."

Ice

Ice, a member of the Justice League, who has the ability to create ice. It is Ice who convinces Maxima to take Blue Beetle to the hospital while Ice fights the monster. Ice will be knocked unconscious when Doomsday throws her through a window.

Lex Luthor

Lex is watching Doomsday's destructive path. Lex tells Supergirl, who is watching with him, that Superman can handle things. Lex doesn't like Superman and doesn't want Supergirl to go to Superman but will eventually let her go.

Supergirl

Supergirl is in love with Lex Luthor. She is determined to go and help Superman. She is able to fight with the creature but is hit only once before she is knocked unconscious.

Bloodwynd

Bloodwynd is a member of the Justice League. The full extent of his powers is unknown by his team mates and he is secretive. After most of the Justice League has been hurt Bloodwynd teleports rather than go to a hospital for medical treatment.

Jimmy Olsen

Jimmy is the photographer with Lois Lane in the helicopter following Superman and Doomsday's battle. Jimmy is first seen in the story when he is at a studio being taped in a show called "The Turtle-Boy." Jimmy will be the one that gets the final pictures of Superman as he dies.

Objects/Places

The Daily Planet

The Daily Planet is the newspaper that Lois Lane, Clark Kent (aka Superman), and Jimmy Olsen all work for. It is here that Lois receives an anonymous tip.

Metropolis

Metropolis is the city in which Doomsday is heading creating destruction. It is here that Superman and Doomsday are both killed. Much of the story takes place in Metropolis.

The Turtle-Boy

The television show that Lois Lane interrupts to get Jimmy Olsen. Jimmy is the star of the show.

The Justice League

The Justice League is a group of super heroes that fight crime. Superman is considered the leader of the group although he denies it.

Lex-Mart

The store that Doomsday finds a television advertising for a wrestling match. While fighting, Doomsday and Superman will destroy the store.

Glow in the Dark Spray Paint

The spray paint that Keith uses to find his way out of the under ground tunnels and to write a signal for Superman.

Yellow Bird

The yellow bird is the first thing in the story that Doomsday kills. It is the killing of the small and beautiful creature that shows his cruel nature and his enjoyment in the death of creatures.

Underworld

The monsters that steal the electricity and take Lois hostage go by the name of Underworld. They are made up of monsters and the cities undesirables.

The Cat Grant Show

The Cat Grant Show is the television talk show that Superman is appearing on when the Justice League begins to battle Doomsday. The show is broadcast into high schools all over the city. Superman will answer questions from the crowd before he is called away to help battle Doomsday.

Kirby County

It is in Kirby County that Superman and Doomsday do part of their battle. It is outside the police station that Maxima is injured. It is also in Kirby County that Gardian shows up.

Themes

Good Versus Evil

Good Versus Evil in the story is a very central theme. When Doomsday erupts into the world he comes out of an underground lair of some type. Even his entrance into the world seems to foreshadow evil coming. Doomsday will kill a small yellow bird and a deer by crushing them in his hands. Each time that he takes a life he laughs about it and seems to delight greatly in their deaths. Superman and the members of the Justice League will be the forces of good in the story. These characters will continue to sacrifice themselves in order to try to protect people and try to stop Doomsday.

Even the names of these two sides show the sides of the coin that they are on. Doomsday will appear almost inhuman with his lack of emotion. He kills hundreds of people before he is finally stopped. The differences between Superman and Doomsday will be shown in greater contrast when both Doomsday and Superman are dead. Superman's death creates an overwhelming flow of emotion from those that knew him. Superman was known to the city as a hero, Lois Lane mourned his death because they loved each other, Superman had a mother and father that loved him and mourned the passing of their son. There is no mention made anywhere in the story of anyone that mourned the passing of the creature known as Doomsday.

Description of a Hero

Superman, and the other members of the Justice League are the hero's in the story. While these characters each have their own superpowers and amazing abilities it clearly becomes more than just what they can do. Each of these characters continues to fight until they are more than just wounded. They never ask for money or gratitude in return for the services that they provide. While all the members of the Justice League are hero's the one that will stand out the most and truly define the description of a superhero is Superman himself.

Superman isn't loved by everyone. It is shown that Lex Luthor, the young teenage boy known as Mitch, and even Guy Gardner don't care much for Superman. Despite this Superman still works to save them and help them. When his own life is in obvious danger Superman chooses to sacrifice himself with the hope that he will be able to save Metropolis. While Superman couldn't have known absolutely that he was going to die in battle he knows that it is a definite possibility. Rather than run to save himself or pause he gives himself in the hope that he can save other people's lives.

Love

Love plays a role in the story in many different ways. The very first show of love seen in the story is by a young orphan boy named Keith. Keith is willing to go into underground

tunnels where he knows there are monsters. Keith goes there in the hopes of finding his mother. Although this doesn't have much to do with the story of Superman and Doomsday it shows the reader the profound effect that love can have on a character.

Ice will later convince Maxima to take Blue Beetle to get medical attention. Ice explains that they are a family. This is never actually called love but is a bond that is equal to love. Lex Luthor also shows his love in the story. Lex is in love with Supergirl although it seems that Lex cares more about controlling her. The greatest show of love in the story will be aimed towards Superman. Superman will be loved by Lois Lane and by his parents as well as other friends and the people of Metropolis that care for him. It becomes apparent that Superman loves them as much as he is willing to give his life for them. The love in the story will appear to be a great deal of what sets Superman and Doomsday apart. The reader will witness Doomsday killing small defenseless animals and humans and seemingly enjoy it. The creature will seem incapable of love. Superman will be the direct opposite of Doomsday emotionally although they are both matched almost equally for strength.

Style

Point of View

The story is presented in a first-person point of view from the perspective of a series of characters. The author relies heavily on illustration. The point of view in the story is omniscient with the reader seeing thoughts and feelings of multiple characters in the story. Some will only be seen for a moment while other characters are much more pivotal. For example there is a character in the first part of the story that is listening to a radio scanner when they are first calling in reports of the Doomsday creature. This character is never even given a name in this book but the reader will be given access to his thoughts. Other characters that are followed will be shown often, such as Superman and Lois Lane.

The point of view will be given with different thought and speech bubbles outside the characters to show who is speaking and when they are thinking rather than speaking. The author will use different color, shapes, sizes and word font to depict the different ways the information is being given to the reader. For instance when Bloodwynd is talking his speech is surrounded with a jagged red line which is a mirror of his powers. No other character is given this. The speech and thoughts will also be different when someone is talking who is not in the scene. There will be times when a news caster is talking, or someone on the television. These are also different than other speech bubbles. The point of view will be vastly varied but will not ever come from Doomsday. He will laugh, speak slurred single words, and seemingly growl. When people try to read Doomsday's mind they will find he is so filled with hate that he is unable to have any other thoughts, even ones that would reveal his origin. This may be the reason that the reader never has any information given from Doomsday's perspective.

Setting

The story takes place in a fictional setting where there are superhero's and super villains and the city where much of the story takes place is Metropolis. Despite the fictional setting and characters much of the story will appear to be much like modern day reality. There are times in the story when the reader won't be told what a place is but the vast majority of the story will be in Metropolis and the surrounding areas. Superman will do battle in the underground tunnels to save Lois Lane from the Underworld creatures and then go back to do a television show. The television show will be going on at the same time that the rest of the Justice League is doing battle and so the reader will have glimpses of both scenes on each page. This will create both a time line and setting that are being used.

Much of the setting used in the story will have items or places in the background that show more information about the city. Many of the things in the city will have the name Luthor on it for one reason or another. Superman and Doomsday will do battle in a store

owned by Lex Luthor called Lex-Mart. There will also be newspapers that are seen in different scenes where Luthor is on the front page. These all are used to show the structure in the city.

Language and Meaning

Although the story takes place in a fictional place the language is very much similar to that of the real world. There are characters in the book that will talk with different words and phrases. Some will be misspelled to show either that a character is trying to use slang and show social status or the misspelled words will be put in place to show a lack of intelligence or learning. The creatures in the underground tunnel where Lois Lane is taken hostage talk very unintelligent. Often their words will be placed together badly or misspelled.

There are other characters in the story, such as Maxima and Bloodwynd, who speak differently because they are from a different planet. This shows the reader the vast differences these characters face in trying to fit in and completely understand the way that humans work. Maxima will seem to approach things differently than Ice does. Ice will have to beg Maxima to save Blue Beetle's life by taking him to a hospital and leaving Ice to deal with the monster. Maxima almost seems to enjoy the fight even though she is not winning. She will explain that she is a warrior and the best thing to do for Blue Beetle is to honor him as a fallen fighter rather than take him to a hospital. The differences in speech and the characters language will make much of what is happening easier to understand since there are no dialogue tags.

Structure

The story is written as a comic book and so has no dialogue tags. The author will use many different systems to relate who is talking. Often there are sentences continued from a character in a following box in which that character does not appear. The author will show this by having the word bubble colored and shaped differently. There are also mentions made of past events in the comic. At these points in time the author gives a reference at the bottom of the box telling which comic issue is being referred to.

This book is one in a series leading up to the death of Superman and after. There will be much that the reader is left unaware of and reading the previous books in the series would increase the reader's knowledge of certain aspects of the book. Despite this the book is easily read without the others. The story pages are not numbered which can make referencing a certain piece of the story harder. The book is divided into chapters but they also are not numbered and the only thing to signify a new chapter is a small yellow box on a page which will explain that the story continues in the next chapter. At some of the sections where the chapters begin and end there are boxes to explain who worked on the next chapters. The people responsible for one section of the book are not necessarily the writers and cartoonists responsible for the following.

Quotes

"...Doomsday is here!" Chapter One: Pages Unnumbered

"I've found the creature! He's hate—death and blood lust personified! Nothing more."
Chapter Two

"'Trouble' isn't the word, Superman! I'm telling you right now—it's like Doomsday is here!" Chapter Two

"This creature's fast, and strong—but it seems to leap rather than fly." Chapter Three

"This 'Bubba's' taking everything the chain gun's raining on him with a smile!" Chapter Four

"This just handed me... the village of Griffith in upstate Kirby County was rocked by an explosion moments ago, as Superman and Maxima fought to stop the creature dubbed Doomsday—whose rampage has broken the JLA and left a trail of death and destruction behind him. Despite their efforts, However, the creature is reportedly still on the loose." Chapter Five

"I'd swear...the harder I fight...the more Doomsday likes it! He's been fighting most of the day, but he still seems as eager—and as strong—as ever!" Chapter Five

"As if Superman ever really needs help! He's always survived... despite my best-laid plans!" Chapter Five

"It's not that they're callous. 'Least they don't mean ta be. It's just—they don't think anything bad can really happen to him!" Chapter Six

"Your rampage ends here, Doomsday! Even if it kills me—Metropolis is where I hold the line!" Chapter Six

"Earth's mightiest heroes have already fallen under Doomsday's murderous blitzkrieg. Only one hope... one man remains." Chapter Seven

"Just remember...No matter what happens...I'll always love you. ALWAYS." Chapter Seven

"For a city to live, a man had given his all and more. But it's too late. For this is the day—that a SUPERMAN died." Chapter Seven

Topics for Discussion

Examine the characters of Superman and Doomsday from what is seen in the book. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? Explain.

When Superman and Doomsday both fall dead at the end of the story they are shown through the lens of Jimmy Olsen's camera before they are shown firsthand to the reader. What effect does this create for the reader? Why were they shown this way?

In what ways was the name of the creature, Doomsday, appropriate? Explain. What other name or names, if any, would have better suited the creature?

Superman tells Cat Grant that he isn't the leader of the Justice League. Given what is seen in the story in what ways is Superman NOT the leader and in what ways does he lead? Does leading the members of the Justice League make him the leader? Explain.

The creature known as Doomsday doesn't speak. Explain the ways that the reader is shown his nature and characteristics. Is this as useful as a speech or a thought bubble as the other characters have?

Superman is answering questions on the Cat Grant show when a young girl asks about Superman being afraid and the violence that is associated with his responsibilities. In what ways was this foreshadowing the events to come? Did his answer to the girl make his decisions to sacrifice himself to Doomsday more understandable?

Maxima seems cold when faced with the possibility of Blue Beetle's death. Speculate on the reasons that her initial response is to let him die rather than take him to the hospital.

Some of the Justice League seems to be curious about Bloodwyn's power. Does their curiosity seem to be more worry or simple curiosity? In what ways does it add to the story to have Bloodwyn's mysterious behavior?