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## Supergirl Vol. 1: Reign of the Cyborg Supermen (Rebirth)

*Steve Orlando*

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**Steve Orlando : Supergirl Vol. 1: Reign of the Cyborg Supermen (Rebirth)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Supergirl Vol. 1: Reign of the Cyborg Supermen (Rebirth):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. All That Was Good About the TV Show Except...By Adam Graham This book marks the re-launch of Supergirl in a way that makes it's reality a little closer to that of the TV show. The big difference is that Kara is much younger than on television (still a teenager.) The book begins with the Rebirth story with the DEO shooting Kara at the sun to help recharge her Kryptonian powers. As a condition of that,

she has to agree to work for the DEO under the supervision of two married yet childless agents who will be her parents. However, Cyborg Superman returns, this time with a startling revelation and a promise to fulfill her dreams of bring back Argo City but with a high cost to Earth. The book gets a lot right. It really captures the way she feels out of place on Earth and how difficult everything is for her to adjust. It'd be like a smart modern teenager being dropped off in an Eighteenth Century school and you really get that sense of how lost and homesick she is. And she really experiences a lot of conflict. Yet, she remains the same hero, showing kindness to vanquished enemies and never giving up on people, even on villains. The story really captures the kindness and compassion of Supergirl that the TV show portrayed in the first series that made her such a likable character. I also liked the idea of her foster parents and the way they were portrayed with her mother even being willing to follow her into space as part of the plot. I love the Danvers as just such really likable and interesting characters. The art in the book is somewhat inconsistent. There are several pages where facial features are (for no apparent reasons) very non-distinct. There may be a style to this, but given that it's on some pages and no on others it makes the art seem occasionally lazy. The DEO Director isn't Hank Henshaw/Martian Manhunter and what we're given instead is a very generic director who just constantly shouts, gives orders, complaints, and threatens. It's like Maria Hill from Marvel but with nothing interesting about her. I like Cat Grant's character on the TV show, but I don't think using that TV portrayal as a basis for the comics works well. For one thing, Calista Flockheart manages to make the character likable when with a lesser star, the character could have become insufferably smug. Unfortunately, that's how she comes off in the comic, particularly in her first appearance she chews out Supergirl for stopping high tech armed robber and getting in the way of her brilliant plan to interrogate them and find out everything about their evil organization. It's Cat Grant not Batwoman here. In addition, while it's okay for Cat to give a one or two minute speech every episode on a 40 minute television, that sort of verbosity in a comic book slows things down. Overall though, I liked the book. The story is solid and relatable and most importantly, the lead and her foster parents are likable. Even though Kara's younger than in the TV show, these first issues captured everything that made Supergirl appealing in Season 1 with it's incredibly kind and caring lead character without the burden of heavy duty politics that came to define the series later on.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Kara Zor-El Blasts Off in Fun New Adventures in Her New Series By MereChristian

As the events of this first volume of the Supergirl comic post-*\*Rebirth\** begin, Kara is in a jam. You see, she lost her powers during previous events, but she wants to keep her word to her cousin and fight for justice. At one point she was just so full of anger, but she came to terms with the events of her life, and thus wants to be a better person. She also wants to honor her dead cousin. You see, while the pre-New 52 Superman is alive, the New 52 version died. Well, there's more to it than that. It's complicated. Anyways, she goes to the DEO (Department of Extra-Normal Operations) and asks for help getting those powers back. She is offered a deal. If the DEO can find a way to successfully restore said powers, she'll work for them. To that end, she is given handlers that act as her parents, Agents Jeremiah and Eliza Danvers. Yes, this is very much a partial adaptation of, and shout-out to, the Supergirl tv series. Anyways, to make a long story short, this graphic novel begins at the tail end of the effort to restore Kara's powers. In the process of this, we are introduced to the problems that make up the main plot of the book. Of course, the characters don't actually yet *\*know\** this is what is happening. They think it an isolated incident, which to be fair it is, but it is a presage of sorts to what the main problem and Big Bad of the story is. Namely, Kara's father, Zor-El, the Cyborg Superman. In the comics' continuity, there were two men who took up the name "Cyborg Superman". The first was Hank Henshaw, and this is the version that the Supergirl tv show loosely adapts. The second version is Zor-El, who in his madness after losing all of Krypton and failing to save so much, turns to Brainiac for help and is remade into a Cyborg. Kara already fought him, but he is back. He has gone through so much that drove him over the edge, including being able to save Argo City from immediate destruction, but not from the populace dying due to red Kryptonite radiation poisoning. As I said, Zor-El is insane, and this, combined with his daughter's difficult time on earth, and (it's suggested) his jealousy of those on earth who she is close to, have driven him to remake Argo with soulless cyborgs who populate Argo City once more. They are dead bodies animated but not themselves who have long died. It needs to be reiterated that these are soulless creatures who are not the folks who died, merely their bodies animated. There might, *\*might\** be part of the person's personality there, but it isn't them really. It's a corpse with the knowledge of the person downloaded into it. What's more, even if it were them, you don't save your race by genociding another, which is what Zor-El plans to do. He intends to destroy earth and kill the populace to harness the life energies to fully bring the Argoan cyborgs to biological life. Whether they'd have souls and be truly *\*alive\** again is doubtful. It's never really resolved if it *\*is\** them back again or their personalities distorted by Zor-El's desires. Kara, obviously, is horrified by all of this. She was unhappy on earth and wanted her family back, but not like *\*this\**! The question is if she can, with the help of the DEO, actually defeat the bad guys and save National City and the Earth. What I liked about this GN were a couple of things. First off, the tone was just right in my opinion. They managed to portray Kara's unhappiness, without having her overly w angst. Technology and science on earth are practically the level of ancient Krypton. She is incredibly smart, but she doesn't know how to handle earth technology, so the other kids at the prestigious school she is in think very negatively of her. They wonder if she got in due to family connections or some such. And while they are close to the truth, that part can't be helped and she is one of the smartest people there, if not the smartest. She also misses her family and her cousin

terribly. So yes, she's unhappy, but she isn't the angry girl she once was. She's loved and she is happier than she thought she was. I also like how they make the tv series basically the basis of the story. National City is brought into comics officially as Kara's new home. She works, albeit as a teenager now, for the DEO, and the Danvers are her parents. Haven't seen Alex yet, but we'll hope for her introduction in the future. Even Cat Grant and CatCo. are there, but here they are just starting out, with Cat Grant younger as well in this continuity. It's clear that the writers like the Danvers, but it's not clear what they think of Cat Grant. She is selfish, narcissistic, and out of touch with reality at one minute, and then she is truly caring, deeply protective of her employees, and honest and realistic the next. It's hard to tell if they dislike her, yet still strive to write a well-rounded character, or if they like the character, but enjoy making jokes and funnies at her expense. Lastly, they make Kara's new costume just look the tv show one, which is a nice touch as well. The writers here did not run from the tv show, but embraced it and actively used elements of it in the comic. I personally think that's cool. The art was quite fun and fit the new aesthetic. Gone is the serious, grim, and angsty atmosphere, and here are panels and colors that are bright, vivid, fun, and show a happy, joyful, while still serious and introspective, teen. I quite enjoyed this volume and look forward to more adventures from the Girl of Steel in the future. Highly Recommended. Rating: 5/5 Stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Terrible art, poor writing. By Spidey This may be the worst of the Rebirth titles. Steve Orlando further proves he's a crap writer. The title is now a version of the TV show. Supergirl is in high school in National City. The Danvers are secret agents for the D.E.O. and are acting as surrogate parents. Supergirl is working for the D.E.O. with Agent Chase in charge and is also working for Cat Grant at CatCo. Cyborg Superman is now Kara's dad, Zor-El which makes zero sense. He's going to restore the citizens of Argo as cyborg Kryptonians but they all need the odic force from humans to survive. No one else in the DC universe helps out when the Earth is invaded by hundreds of Kryptonians. It's like the book is taking place on a different Earth just like the TV show. The Good: Emanuela Lupacchino's art in the rebirth issue. The Bad: This whole revised origin of Cyborg Superman makes no sense, especially since Supergirl has fought him before in the new 52. The Ugly: Brian Ching's art. He draws Supergirl as if she's a little girl. His art is way too cartoony for a superhero book from one of the big two. His art made the book feel like a bait and switch after seeing Emanuela Lupacchino's gorgeous art in the rebirth issue. Received an advanced copy from DC and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

A part of DC Rebirth! Supergirl moves to National City! As Kara Danvers, average American teenager and high school student, Supergirl must balance her life as a superhero with her new life on Earth. But some demons from her Kryptonian past are coming back to haunt her, and Kara will find herself face-to-face with her father: the sinister Cyborg Superman! Critically acclaimed writer Steve Orlando (MIDNIGHTER) comes a new beginning for Kara Zor-El in SUPERGIRL VOL. 1, a new series that is sure to appeal to fans of the TV series! Collects SUPERGIRL: REBIRTH #1, SUPERGIRL #1-6. Rebirth honors the richest history in comics, while continuing to look towards the future. These are the most innovative and modern stories featuring the world's greatest superheroes, told by some of the finest storytellers in the business. Honoring the past, protecting our present, and looking towards the future. This is the next chapter in the ongoing saga of the DC Universe. The legacy continues.

A promising return for Kara Zor-El! The best you can ask from a character that has had numerous firsts over the last six decades. Newsarama Kara Zor-El is back and Steve Orlando and Emanuela Lupacchino have made it worth the wait. Comic Vine About the Author Steve Orlando is a comic book writer who has worked for both DC Comics and Image Comics. He has created Undertow, an underwater epic for Image, MIDNIGHTER for DC Comics, and is currently writing SUPERGIRL.