

COMIC
BOOK
REVIEW

The Death of SUPERMAN

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*"This creature's fast, and strong
– but it seems to leap rather
than fly."*

– Superman

Are you a true Superman fan? If you have not read *The Death of Superman*, I believe the answer is a NO. This storyline has been picked apart endlessly in the last few years since its first publication in 1992. Every single frame, the storyline and its symbols and characters have been subject to thorough scrutiny by comic book fans and experts alike. The entire storyline has been collected into a graphic novel, which is what I used for my review.

DC Comics killing their signature hero shocked millions and made it their best-selling storyline of all time. Unlike any other Superman movie or comic that you have come across, here, DC's writing team takes advantage of their ending – there is no ultimate winner or loser.

Doomsday, a killing machine, emerges from nowhere, goes on a mindless, homicidal rampage across America. He goes berserk, trying to destroy everything that he comes across.

There are gut-wrenching moments throughout the comic, especially when the Justice League receives brutal beatings from the beast. No hero of the League (without Superman with them) has been able to stand a chance against this mysterious monster even with it having one arm tied behind its back! The Man of Steel shows up to find that most of the League members have been knocked out by a creature that

equals his physical prowess. Superman desperately tries to keep this living engine of destruction from reaching Metropolis. While reading this, a question kept haunting me like a plague, "Will Superman triumph in the end?"

The story slows down to a ridiculous degree near the end, going from three panel per page, to two, and then finally to about twenty full page splashes in the last chapter. However, the real genius of the book lies in the last few pages, where a devastating plot twist unravels and lays bare the entire story for what it is: a wish that things had gone differently. The two gladiators mindlessly battle, finally ending with an incredibly strong pair of death blows delivered simultaneously.

Overall a lot of effort has certainly been put into its making; each superhero is so richly drawn, each so different from one the other, you can't help but fall in love with every one of them.

If you love and care about Superman, see how DC followed up on this in its following arcs and be prepared to be astonished. Not just one, but four new characters are about to emerge in the next book of the trilogy series claiming to be Superman. The Reign of the Supermen is about to begin. It is a must read for anyone who is interested in superhero comics. One thing it taught me: you can't do great things without sacrifice.

"Death of Superman actually got me into comics again after a lapse while in college sampling real life." – Brad Ricca

HANGOUTS

PAPPAROTI

Nice buns

DYUTY AURONEE

Among all the restaurants I have reviewed, PappaRoti happens to be the one in business for the longest time. It started sometime around two years back but has not received the kind of limelight it should have. Happy and high on caffeine as I write this, the café came off more relaxing and refreshing to me than any other glorious coffee shop you can wear your jeans to. Just kidding.

PappaRoti on a weekday seemed to me what an ideal coffee shop should look (and smell) like. Infused with an intoxicating aroma of coffee and buns fresh out of the oven, the place was just as laidback as its customers. Situated on a busy road and adjacent to the famous burger joint Preetom, the chilled and caffeine filled air inside the eatery was the perfect respite for those who stopped by.

The menu was very simple. In fact, it's sized like a little card that fits well inside your palms. The first thing on top of the menu was the PappaRoti Bun priced at Tk 130. There were four add-on toppings available for this – chocolate, honey, caramel and whipped cream. Then there were the non-caffeinated drinks aka the fruit smoothies and chillers. From the espresso based drinks, we picked Café Latte and Cappuccino at Tk 190 each and Iced Caramel Macchiato priced at Tk 290.

The bun-like *roti* came in a nice wooden board. As I dug my fork into it, the crust crumbled in and revealed a gooey yet fluffy inside. At first glance, it looked similar to a regular crusty bun but biting through the crispy outer layer revealed a sweet caramel flavour. The centre was moist and gave me a hit of the rich buttery filling. The flavours in the bun and topping were mild and the sweetness restrained. I felt the caramel topping was a perfect complement but you can pick any of the other three.

The Iced Caramel Macchiato was a very good investment. It had the perfect bittersweet balance and we relished it to the last sip. The Café Latte and Cappuccino may not have been extraordinary but they were more than decent. The place was neither cramped nor very spacious but looked well-equipped to serve the average crowd on a given day.

PappaRoti is Malaysian and has its stores in many countries of the world. The place is nice and comfortable – perfect for catching up with an old friend or talking about life over coffee. Away from the crowd and hype, a relaxing place like this is what one often needs to reflect on life. Okay, too cheesy.

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PappaRoti.Bangladesh?fref=ts>

Address: 32, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh

