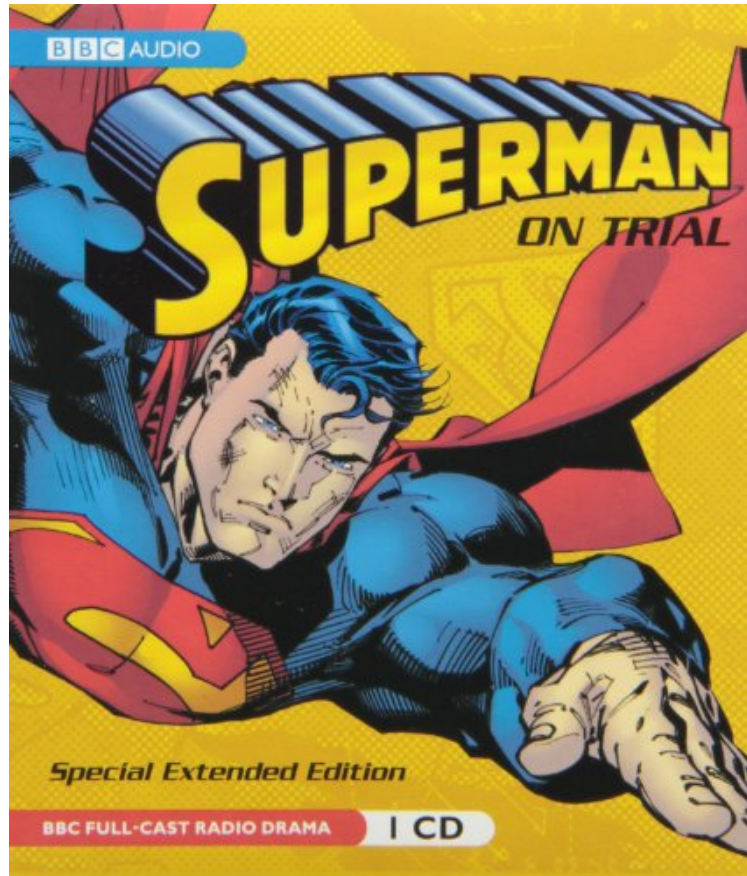


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## Superman: On Trial: A BBC Full-Cast Radio Drama

*Dirk Maggs*

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**Dirk Maggs : Superman: On Trial: A BBC Full-Cast Radio Drama** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superman: On Trial: A BBC Full-Cast Radio Drama:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Superman on Trail, for the worst story ever. By Benjamin Reynolds I was looking forward to this, but when I got it I was so disappointed. The story didn't make scene because the fictional and non-fictional characters were mixed into the story. The story was horrible and the plot was chaotic. If they stuck with the main presumes it would have been fine. When they brought in comic book writers and actors that have played the superheros, the story really fell apart. I can bring myself to listen to this one again. Save your money, this one is a wash. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too Short. A Lost Opportunity to Create Something Truly Amazing. By DWD's Reviews Superman is captured and on trial. Lex Luthor is the prosecutor, Lois Lane is Superman's sole defender. A Guardian of the Universe is the judge and if Superman is found guilty, he is to be sentenced to the Phantom Zone. The charge? Superman is not the defender of humanity - he is actually committing crimes against humanity. Luthor's arguments go along this line - Superman is an alien and he is interfering with life on Earth. As Lois Lane makes her arguments that Superman is actually helping, Luthor blunts them with his own arguments. For

example, Luthor calls Batman to the stand to testify that Batman feels the need to monitor Superman to make sure that he does not abuse his powers to enslave humanity. The audiobook ventures into some fairly unique territory. Not only are Superman's peers questioned but the assumption is that a real-life Superman literally inspired the creators of Superman's comic books (Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster) to create his comic book. There is a discussion of comic book censorship controversies in the 1950s and Luthor asserts that comic books are bad for the morality of the America's youth. My favorite part of the book is the surreal moment when Adam West appears as himself and testifies as to the influence of TV and movies on young people. Meanwhile, the real Batman the he portrayed on TV is also waiting to testify. As you could probably guess, Superman is not found guilty. The credits are read in a unique manner - Luthor is screaming as he reads the names off the closing credits and tells how he is going to sue them all. The audiobook is performed like an old-fashioned radio play with different actors playing different characters and the real-world people playing themselves. My problem with the audiobook is it's abrupt start (how was Superman captured? Who set up this court? Why did the judge agree to be the judge?) and its abrupt ending. In reality, the one hour length is just too short. I really enjoyed the surreal mixing of our reality and Superman's Metropolis. A world where Adam West and Batman can exchange a few words with one another and D.C. Comics writers and artists. I would have loved to have had it explored further. The possibilities are so intriguing and this short format just left me feeling intrigued and disappointed. For example, imagine Adam West and Batman going out together to look for clues to help Superman and Batman bristling every time Adam West calls him "old chum". Truly, a lost opportunity. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Life and Times of Superman By Steven Brandt @ Audiobook-Heaven Lex Luthor finally has the Man of Steel right where he wants him. Using all the power and influence money can buy, Luthor has managed to drag Superman into a court of law, charging him with crimes against humanity, and set himself up to be the chief prosecutor. Normally, Lex is no match for Superman, but for some reason the Last Son of Krypton is oddly speechless, and seemingly too weak even to defend himself. What nobody knows is that the manacles Luthor bound Superman in are laced with traces of Kryptonite, a radioactive substance that is deadly to Superman. So it's Lois Lane, feisty, hotheaded Daily Planet reporter, to the rescue. It will be up to Lois to defend Superman from Luthor's trumped-up charges, but is she up to the task? I hate to admit it, but I think Lex Luthor has a valid point here, that point being that maybe Metropolis would be better off without Superman. I mean, let's face it, 90% of the super-villains that come around Metropolis, are only there because they want to destroy Superman. He's like a magnet to them. And property damage? Supes can't even flex his muscles without knocking down a skyscraper or two. Okay, okay, I'm being a little too hard on the guy, and to tell you the truth, I collected quite a few Superman comics in my day. If we start over-analyzing comic books, where will it end? Next thing you know we'll be criticizing a judicial system that allows power-hungry tyrants to drag superheroes into court, and sets up newspaper reporters as defense attorneys. Superman: On Trial was written to celebrate Superman's 50th anniversary, which would put it somewhere around 1988. The story is, admittedly, short on plot, but it's still an entertaining recap of the life and times of one of our planet's greatest superheroes. Through the various witnesses called to testify in the trial, we are treated to glimpses of Superman's life: how he came to earth, his upbringing, the first time he met Lex Luthor in person, and the origins of his complex relationship with Lois Lane. My favorite part of this audiobook actually came at the very end, when Luthor's evil plot is revealed and he is arrested. At the police station, Luthor demands his phone call, and he uses it to call his legal staff. Here, Lex begins to rant and rave, beginning with "I want you to sue...", and then he proceeds to read off the list of actors who lent their voices to the production. This was William Hootkins shining moment. I really got a kick out of that scene, and I thought it was a pretty clever way to read the credits. Along with Hootkins' convincing portrayal of Lex Luthor, I thought all of the voice actors did a decent job in their roles, with the possible exception of the guy who voiced Jimmy Olson. He didn't do a bad job necessarily, he just sounded too old for the part. Superman: On Trial is not a display of brilliant story telling, but I think you might get a kick out of it, especially if you enjoy radio dramas.

This long-awaited CD release features Stuart Milligan as Superman, Shelley Thompson as Lois Lane, William Hootkins as Lex Luthor, and Bob Sessions as The Batman and was written to celebrate Superman's 50th birthday. Accused of crimes against humanity, the Last Son of Krypton stands powerless before a court dominated by Lex Luthor criminal genius turned Prosecutor. Has Superman really corrupted our children? Can he justify his continued interference in world affairs? What is the truth about his powers? Packed with spectacular sound effects and a thrilling orchestral score, mixed in cinematic Dolby Surround, this extended and unedited recording can now be heard as writer/producer Dirk Maggs originally intended. Guest appearances include Adam West (TV's Batman), Jenette Kahn (President, DC Comics) and Dave Gibbons (DC Comics artist/Co-creator, Watchmen).