

= Enemies & Allies =

Enemies & Allies is a 2009 novel by American science fiction author Kevin J. Anderson . The book is set in the 1950s , in the midst of the Cold War , and follows Superman and Batman . Though suspicious of each other , they confront Lex Luthor who stages an international nuclear conflict and spreads fear of an alien invasion so that he can sell advanced weapons to governments . Themes used in the novel , reflective of the 1950s era , include alien invasion films , nuclear threats , and Cold War paranoia .

Anderson has written supporting novels in the past in established franchises , such as Star Wars and Dune . He had previously written about Superman in the 2007 novel The Last Days of Krypton . Enemies & Allies was published in May 2009 and met with mixed reviews which noted flat characterization but that it may be entertaining for comic book fans .

= Background =

The novel Enemies & Allies uses the DC Comics characters Batman and Superman . It was written by science fiction author Kevin J. Anderson who , at the time of publication , was 47 years old and living in Colorado . He had been writing novels for the past 20 years and had 15 years ' experience writing tie @-@ in novels to existing franchises , such as The X @-@ Files and Star Wars . He was best known for his prequel novels in the Dune franchise with co @-@ author Brian Herbert . His latest novels in the Dune series were Paul of Dune , published in September 2008 , and The Winds of Dune , which would be released in August 2009 , only several months after releasing Enemies & Allies . He gained experience writing in the comic book format by authoring the 2004 ? 05 six issue miniseries , JSA : Strange Adventures featuring the Justice Society of America . He had previously written a novel about the origins of Superman , The Last Days of Krypton published in 2007 .

= Plot =

The novel begins in Gotham City where Batman attempts to thwart a crime but he is being pursued by the police force who consider him a villain . In Metropolis Superman is seen as a hero as he rescues a sinking passenger boat . Lex Luthor , head of LuthorCorp , is allying himself with Soviet General Anatoly Ceridov who is mining and experimenting with kryptonite in Siberia . Luthor intends to stoke fears of an alien invasion and sell anti @-@ alien defenses to world governments . What appears to be an alien spacecraft flies over United States airspace and is confronted by the air force and Superman , but is ultimately stopped by LuthorCorp airplanes . Meanwhile , Bruce Wayne , Batman 's alter @-@ ego , discovers that Lex Luthor is blackmailing members of Wayne Enterprises ' board of directors to steal technology designs , allowing him to beat Wayne Enterprises on military contracts . As Batman , Wayne infiltrates Luthor 's mansion to gather evidence but also steals Luthor 's sample of kryptonite which sets off alarms . Superman and Batman confront each other , suspicious of the other 's motives , but both flee as security forces respond to the alarms . Wayne turns his board of directors into double agents , having them give faulty technology to Luthor . To demonstrate his defensive capabilities , Luthor has Ceridov launch nuclear missiles from Russia to the US but Luthor 's faulty systems fail and Superman stops the missiles .

Eventually , Superman discovers the Soviet kryptonite mine but is defeated by the physiological effects of the material . Batman travels to Siberia to rescue Superman . With both heroes in Siberia Lex Luthor attacks alien ships which had just attacked Metropolis , but are actually his own aircraft staging an alien invasion . Superman and Batman arrive in the middle of the fight and defeat Luthor 's forces and subdues Luthor who is arrested for treason . While Luthor is sentenced to death , Superman and Batman privately meet again and reflect that the world can use both of them to protect it , revealing their knowledge of each other 's secret identities and their promise not to expose the other .

= Style and themes =

The story is set in the DC Universe but is non @-@ canon , similar to an Elseworlds story . The content is divided into 60 chapters which mostly alternate between the (third person) points @-@ of @-@ view of the two protagonists , Batman / Bruce Wayne and Superman / Clark Kent , though several chapters follow antagonists (Lex Luthor and Soviet General Anatoly Ceridov) . While the novel is based on comic book characters , it consists solely of prose . Anderson commented on the difficulty in writing comics as prose stating , " in the comics , several pages of superpowered action can propel the story , but when you read it in a book , it 's not quite so interesting . You need more parts to the story ... "

Anderson sought to capture the nostalgic feel of the 1950s . In this effort , he used several themes associated with the time period , including alien invasion movies , nuclear threats , Cold War paranoia , and optimism in the future . About the time period , Anderson said " it seemed like this was a time when you could say with a straight face , ' I 'm fighting for truth , justice and the American way . ' " For the characters Anderson was picturing George Reeves 's Superman and Noel Neill 's Lois Lane as portrayed in the 1950s television series Adventures of Superman . One reviewer noted that Anderson 's portrayal of Lex Luthor is that of the post @-@ Crisis on Infinite Earths amoral businessman and Batman was more reminiscent of a 1930s @-@ style or a " Year One " -style Batman where he is actively pursued by the police .

= = Publication and reception = =

Enemies & Allies was published by William Morrow and Company , an imprint of HarperCollins . The novel was released as a hardcover in May 2009 and as a paperback in October 2010 . Book reviewers had mixed reactions . The review in Publishers Weekly called it a " hokey , contrived imagining " of the team @-@ up of Superman and Batman , concluding that it was " a schlocky mediocrity for die @-@ hard fans only . " Stacey Rottiers in Library Journal found Anderson 's portrayal of Metropolis and Gotham City , as well as the " imposing feel of the Soviet presence " to be well done . Both the Publishers Weekly and Library Journal reviews noted flat characterization and recommended the novel to comic fans only . In Booklist , Carl Hays had a more positive review , writing " Anderson keeps us guessing throughout with clever plot twists and some intriguing alternate cold war history . " The review in Kirkus Reviews was also positive , saying , " this is a refreshing diversion from the grimness of The Dark Knight or the tedious Superman Returns . Injects a welcome dose of retro exuberance into the capes @-@ and @-@ tights routine . "

= = Audiobook = =

In May 2013 , GraphicAudio released a full cast audiobook adaptation based on the novel , with 5 CDs and features a full cast , music , and sound effects .