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## KEY=MIRACULOUS - CAITLYN ZOE

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### SUPERGODS

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#### WHAT MASKED VIGILANTES, MIRACULOUS MUTANTS, AND A SUN GOD FROM SMALLVILLE CAN TEACH US ABOUT BEING HUMAN

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*Random House NATIONAL BESTSELLER • What Masked Vigilantes, Miraculous Mutants, and a Sun God from Smallville Can Teach Us About Being Human Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Iron Man, and the X-Men—the list of names as familiar as our own. They are on our movie and television screens, in our videogames and in our dreams. But what are they trying to tell us? For Grant Morrison, one of the most acclaimed writers in the world of comics, these heroes are powerful archetypes who reflect and predict the course of human existence: Through them we tell the story of ourselves. In this exhilarating work of a lifetime, Morrison draws on art, archetypes, and their own astonishing journeys through this shadow universe to provide the first true history of our great modern myth: the superhero. Now with a new Afterword*

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### 100 FACTS ABOUT SUPERGODS

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#### WHAT MASKED VIGILANTES, MIRACULOUS MUTANTS, AND A SUN GOD FROM SMALLVILLE CAN TEACH US ABOUT BEING HUMAN THAT EVEN THE CI

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*Lennox In this book, we have hand-picked the most sophisticated, unanticipated, absorbing (if not at times crackpot!), original and musing book reviews of "Supergods: What Masked Vigilantes, Miraculous Mutants, and a Sun God from Smallville Can Teach Us About Being Human." Don't say we didn't warn you: these reviews are known to shock with their unconventionality or intimacy. Some may be startled by their biting sincerity; others may be spellbound by their unbridled flights of fantasy. Don't buy this book if: 1. You don't have nerves of steel. 2. You expect to get pregnant in the next five minutes. 3. You've heard it all.*

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### BATMAN

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*Intellect Books From his debut in a six-page comic in 1939 and to his most recent portrayal by Christian Bale in the blockbuster 'The dark knight rises', Batman is perhaps the world's most popular superhero. The continued relevance of the caped crusader could be attributed to his complex character, his dual identity, or his commitment to revenge and justice. But, as the contributors to this collection argue, it is the fans who have kept Batman at the forefront of popular culture for more than seven decades. Fan Phenomena: Batman explores the unlikely devotion to the Dark Knight, from his inauspicious beginnings on the comic book page to the cult television series of the 1960s and on to critically-acclaimed films and video games of today. Considering everything from convention cosplay to fan fiction that imagines the Joker as a romantic lead, the essays here acknowledge and celebrate fan responses that go far beyond the scope of the source material.*

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## IMPROVING THE FOUNDATIONS

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### BATMAN BEGINS FROM COMICS TO SCREEN

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*Sequart This definitive, unauthorized study of Christopher Nolan's landmark 2005 film demonstrates how BATMAN BEGINS adapted and fused a half century of comic books into a single, unified movie. This book also examines past attempts to film Batman's origins, how those origins evolved over time, and where Nolan's realism falls on a spectrum with past Batman movies and even the 1960s TV show. Dr. Julian Darius manages to reveal secrets to even the most hardcore Batman fan, while remaining fully accessible to those new to the character. From Sequart Research & Literacy Organization. More info at <http://Sequart.org>*

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### SUPERGODS

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### OUR WORLD IN THE AGE OF THE SUPERHERO

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*Random House In 1938 Action Comics number 1 introduced the world to Superman. In this book, the author draws on history, art, mythology, and his own journey to provide a true chronicle of the superhero.*

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### WHAT IS A SUPERHERO?

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*Oxford University Press It's easy to name a superhero--Superman, Batman, Thor, Spiderman, the Green Lantern, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Rorschach, Wolverine--but it's not so easy to define what a superhero is. Buffy has superpowers, but she doesn't have a costume. Batman has a costume, but doesn't have superpowers. What is the role of power and superpower? And what are supervillains and why do we need them? In What is a Superhero?, psychologist Robin Rosenberg and comics scholar Peter Coogan explore this question from a variety of viewpoints, bringing together contributions from nineteen comic book experts--including both scholars in such fields as cultural studies, art, and psychology as well as leading comic book writers and editors. What emerges is a kaleidoscopic portrait of this most popular of pop-culture figures. Writer Jeph Loeb, for instance, sees the desire to make the world a better place as the driving force of the superhero. Jennifer K. Stuller argues that the female superhero inspires women to stand up, be strong, support others, and most important, to believe in themselves. More darkly, A. David Lewis sees the indestructible superhero as the ultimate embodiment of the American "denial of death," while writer Danny Fingeroth sees superheroes as embodying the best aspects of humankind, acting with a nobility of purpose that inspires us. Interestingly, Fingeroth also expands the definition of superhero so that it would include characters like John McClane of the Die Hard movies: "Once they dodge ridiculous quantities of machine gun bullets they're superheroes, cape or no cape." From summer blockbusters to best-selling graphic novels, the superhero is an integral part of our culture. What is a Superhero? not only illuminates this pop-culture figure, but also sheds much light on the fantasies and beliefs of the American people.*

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### THE ANIMAL MAN OMNIBUS (2022 EDITION)

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*Grant Morrison's epic run on ANIMAL MAN collected in one massive hardcover! Buddy Baker is more than just a second rate Super Hero--he's also a family man and animal rights activist. Now, as he tries to jump-start his crimefighting career, he experiences visions of aliens, people transforming into strange pencil-like drawings, and hints of a terrible crisis lurking around the edges of reality. And as his odyssey of self-discovery gives way to spiritual enlightenment as well as the depths of despair, Buddy meets his maker: a writer named Grant Morrison.*

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### SUPERHEROES AND GODS

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### A COMPARATIVE STUDY FROM BABYLONIA TO BATMAN

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*McFarland The work provides a unique study of superheroes and gods in literature, popular culture, and ancient myth. The author selects a number of mythological figures (e.g., Babylonia's Gilgamesh and Enkidu), ancient gods (e.g., Greece's Eros and Tartarus), and modern superheroes (e.g., the United States' Superman and Captain Marvel) and identifies the often striking similarities between each unique category of characters. The author contends that the vast majority of mythological superheroes follow the same archetypal character patterns, regardless of each hero's unique time period or culture. Each of the first nine chapters examines the heroes and gods of a particular region or country, while the final chapter examines modern descendants of the hero prototype like Batman and Spiderman and several infamous anti-heroes (for example, Dracula and The Hulk).*

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## THE ANATOMY OF ZUR-EN-ARRH

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### UNDERSTANDING GRANT MORRISON'S BATMAN

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Sequart Research & Literacy Organization Grant Morrison has made a career of redefining heroes, but his work with Batman has been the most comprehensive. From ARKHAM ASYLUM and JLA to his seven-year run on Batman, Morrison has redefined and reworked the Caped Crusader from the ground up. He's also introduced new characters (such as Damian Wayne) and new concepts (such as Batman, Inc.). THE ANATOMY OF ZUR-EN-ARRH analyzes Grant Morrison's Batman, including how it understands and reinterprets Batman's long history. Featuring an interview with Grant Morrison. From Sequart Organization. More info at <http://sequart.org>

### HAPPY! DELUXE EDITION

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Image Comics Meet Nick Sax: a corrupt, intoxicated ex-cop turned hitman, adrift in a stinking twilight world of casual murder, soulless sex, eczema, and betrayal. With a hit gone wrong, a bullet in his side, the cops and the mob on his tail, and a monstrous child killer in a Santa suit on the loose, Nick and his world will be changed forever this Christmas by a tiny blue horse called Happy. This deluxe edition of HAPPY! includes 10 extra pages of story by creators GRANT MORRISON and DARICK ROBERTSON. Collects HAPPY! #1-4

### COMICS & IDEOLOGY

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Peter Lang Pub Incorporated "Superman's role in romanticizing commercialism; sexual violence in Japanese manga comics; Wonder Woman as Americanized immigrant; reader's reactions to the gay superhero Northstar; Dilbert as a workplace revolutionary; the Punisher's invasion of Vietnam--these are a few of the issues that Comics & Ideology addresses. Focusing on the intersection of social power and comic art, essays in this book explore how images and narratives in comic books and comic strips may portray social groups and social issues. As a scholarly examination of a form known as 'the funnies' or 'funny books,' this book argues that the themes and characterizations in comic art are often quite serious. Essays take diverse theoretical perspectives such as cultural studies, political economy, feminist criticism, queer studies, and mythic analysis, all focusing on the relationship of comics to issues of social division."--Publisher description.

### DEMANDING RESPECT

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### THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK

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Temple University Press From pulp comics to Maus, the story of the growth of comics in American culture.

### HAPPY!

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- Meet Nick Sax: a corrupt, intoxicated ex-cop turned hit-man, adrift in a stinking twilight world of casual murder, soulless sex, eczema, and betrayal. With a hit gone wrong, a bullet in his side, the cops and the mob on his tail, and a monstrous child killer in a Santa suit on the loose, Nick and his world will be changed forever this Christmas by a tiny blue horse called Happy... - Re-presented as an oversized hardcover just in time for the holidays, this deluxe edition of Happy! includes an all-new 10-page story by creators Grant Morrison and Darick Robertson.

### SUPERMAN BY GRANT MORRISON OMNIBUS

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Grant Morrison, one of the greatest storytellers of his generation, weaves the history of Clark Kent's early days in Metropolis in this Man of Steel cornerstone of the DC Universe! Collecting the entirety of Morrison's epic saga, this New 52 era Superman omnibus celebrates and explores new facets of the Superman mythos. The compelling and deliberate Superman stories in this collection showcase his quintessential character and determination in a world that doesn't know what to make of him. A milestone in The New 52, this omnibus is jam-packed with action, adventure, shocking secrets, parallel Earths, deadly encounters with the Anti-Superman Army, Brainiac, Metal-zero and so much more! Collects Action Comics #0-18 and Action Comics Annual #1

### OUR SENTENCE IS UP

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### SEEING GRANT MORRISON'S THE INVISIBLES

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Sequart Grant Morrison's graphic novel series, The Invisibles, has been hailed as an ambitious comics masterpiece-- but it's also frequently written off as incomprehensible. Meaney provides in-depth

analysis that makes sense of the series's complicated ideas, fractured chronology, and delirious blend of fiction and reality. He explores how the series's fictional conspiracy theories fare in the wake of 9/11 and the War on Terror.

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## **SUPERHEROES**

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### **THE BEST OF PHILOSOPHY AND POP CULTURE**

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*John Wiley & Sons Explore the philosophical depths of Batman, Superman, Captain America, and your other favorite superheroes—FOR FREE! Behind the cool costumes, special powers, and unflagging determination to fight evil you'll find fascinating philosophical questions and concerns deep in the hearts and minds of your favorite comic book heroes. Why doesn't Batman just kill the Joker and end everyone's misery? Does Peter Parker have a good life? What can Iron Man teach us about the role of technology in society? Bringing together key chapters from books in the Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series, this free superhero sampler engages the intellectual might of big thinkers like Aristotle and Kant to answer these questions and many others, giving you new insights on everything from whether Superman is truly an American icon to whether Wolverine is the same person when he loses his memory. Features exclusive bonus content: all-new chapters on Captain America and Thor Gives you a sneak peek at upcoming books: Avengers and Philosophy, Spider-Man and Philosophy, and Superman and Philosophy Includes superheroes from both the DC and Marvel universes: the Avengers, Batman, Captain America, Green Lantern, Iron Man, Spider-Man, Superman, Thor, Watchmen, and the X-Men Gives you a perfect introduction to the Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series (learn more at [www.andphilosophy.com](http://www.andphilosophy.com)) FOR FREE! Whether you're looking for answers or looking for fun, this classic compilation will save the day by helping you gain a deeper appreciation of your favorite comics with an introduction to basic philosophical principles.*

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### **CULTURAL EXCAVATION AND FORMAL EXPRESSION IN THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**

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BRILL

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### **WE ARE WHAT WE SELL: HOW ADVERTISING SHAPES AMERICAN LIFE. . . AND ALWAYS HAS [3 VOLUMES]**

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#### **HOW ADVERTISING SHAPES AMERICAN LIFE. . . AND ALWAYS HAS**

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*ABC-CLIO For the last 150 years, advertising has created a consumer culture in the United States, shaping every facet of American life—from what we eat and drink to the clothes we wear and the cars we drive. • Includes original essays by noted cultural and advertising historians, commentators, and journalists • Provides analysis from experts in advertising and popular culture that places American advertising in historical and cultural context • Supplies a comprehensive examination of advertising history and its consequences across modern America • Presents an extensive analysis of the role of new media and the Internet • Documents why advertising is necessary, not only for companies, but in determining what being "an American" constitutes*

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### **NEW X-MEN BY GRANT MORRISON VOL. 6**

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#### **PLANET X**

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*Marvel Entertainment Once believed to be dead, Magneto, the X-Men's greatest adversary, has instead been hiding, waiting to make a move against the team that has thwarted his plans again and again.*

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### **MOTOR CONTROL**

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#### **TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE**

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*Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Motor Control: Translating Research into Clinical Practice, 6th Edition, is the only text that bridges the gap between current and emerging motor control research and its application to clinical practice. Written by leading experts in the field, this classic resource prepares users to effectively assess, evaluate, and treat clients with problems related to postural control, mobility, and upper extremity function using today's evidence-based best practices. This extensively revised 6th Edition reflects the latest advances in research and features updated images, clinical features, and case studies to ensure a confident transition to practice. Each chapter follows a consistent, straightforward format to simplify studying and reinforce understanding of normal control process issues, age-related issues, research on abnormal function, clinical applications of current research, and evidence to support treatments used in the rehabilitation of patients with motor control problems.*

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## **FLEX MENTALLO**

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### **MAN OF MUSCLE MYSTERY**

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*Vertigo* Once he was Hero of the Beach...and of the Doom Patrol. Now Flex Mentallo, the Man of Muscle Mystery, returns to investigate the sinister dealings of his former comrade, The Fact, and a mysterious rock star whose connection to Flex may holding the key to saving them both. This fast-paced tale twists super-hero tropes, introducing one mind-boggling concept after another. This long-asked-for *Vertigo* title is collected at last, presenting an early collaboration between writer Grant Morrison and artist Frank Quitely, who would win much acclaim on ALL-STAR SUPERMAN.

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### **GRANT MORRISON AND THE SUPERHERO RENAISSANCE**

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#### **CRITICAL ESSAYS**

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*McFarland* Superheroes are enjoying a cultural resurgence, dominating the box office and breaking out of specialty comics stores onto the shelves of mainstream retailers. A leading figure behind the superhero Renaissance is Grant Morrison, long-time architect of the DC Comics' universe and author of many of the most successful comic books in recent years. Renowned for his anarchic original creations—*Zenith*, *The Invisibles*, *The Filth*, *We3*—as well as for his acclaimed serialized comics—*JLA*, *Superman*, *Batman*, *New X-Men*—Grant Morrison has radically redefined the superhero archetype. Known for his eccentric lifestyle and as a practitioner of “pop magic,” Morrison sees the superhero as not merely fantasy but a medium for imagining a better humanity. Drawing on a variety of analytical approaches, this first-ever collection of critical essays on his work explores his rejuvenation of the figure of the superhero as a means to address the challenges of modern life.

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#### **THE MULTIVERSITY DELUXE EDITION**

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*DC* There are worlds you have never imagined. Worlds beyond the ones you know. Worlds where heroes fight for truth and justice. Worlds where darkness reigns, and only a chosen few keep the light alive. Worlds of magic and science, comedy and tragedy, monsters and marvels. Fifty-two worlds. Infinite possibilities. And one threat great enough to destroy them all. This is *THE MULTIVERSITY*.

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#### **IS SUPERMAN CIRCUMCISED?**

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#### **THE COMPLETE JEWISH HISTORY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO**

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*McFarland* Superman is the original superhero, an American icon, and arguably the most famous character in the world--and he's Jewish! Introduced in June 1938, the Man of Steel was created by two Jewish teens, Jerry Siegel, the son of immigrants from Eastern Europe, and Joe Shuster, an immigrant. They based their hero's origin story on Moses, his strength on Samson, his mission on the golem, and his nebbish secret identity on themselves. They made him a refugee fleeing catastrophe on the eve of World War II and sent him to tear Nazi tanks apart nearly two years before the US joined the war. In the following decades, Superman's mostly Jewish writers, artists, and editors continued to borrow Jewish motifs for their stories, basing Krypton's past on Genesis and Exodus, its society on Jewish culture, the trial of Lex Luthor on Adolf Eichmann's, and a future holiday celebrating Superman on Passover. A fascinating journey through comic book lore, American history, and Jewish tradition, this book examines the entirety of Superman's career from 1938 to date, and is sure to give readers a newfound appreciation for the Mensch of Steel!

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#### **FRAME ESCAPES: GRAPHIC NOVEL INTERTEXTS**

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*BRILL* Graphic narrative structures, conceptual innovation, identity and representations are examined in an eclectic volume that presents multimodal approaches to constructing, reading and interpreting graphic novels and comics.

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#### **WELCOME TO ARKHAM ASYLUM**

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#### **ESSAYS ON PSYCHIATRY AND THE GOTHAM CITY INSTITUTION**

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*McFarland* Arkham Asylum for the Criminally Insane is a staple of the Batman universe, evolving into a franchise comprised of comic books, graphic novels, video games, films, television series and more. The Arkham franchise, supposedly light-weight entertainment, has tackled weighty issues in contemporary psychiatry. Its plotlines reference clinical and ethical controversies that perplex even the most up-to-date professionals. The 25 essays in this collection explore the significance of Arkham's sinister psychiatrists, murderous mental patients, and unethical geneticists. It invites debates about the

criminalization of the mentally ill, mental patients who move from defunct state hospitals into expanding prisons, madness versus badness, sociopathy versus psychosis, the "insanity defense" and more. Invoking literary figures from Lovecraft to Poe to Caligari, the 25 essays in this collection are a broad-ranging and thorough assessment of the franchise and its relationship to contemporary psychiatry.

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### **ANIMAL MAN**

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Vertigo Collects the first nine issues of the "Animal Man" comic, in which Buddy Baker uses his ability to transform into any animal he touches to help save mankind.

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### **CRIME UNCOVERED: ANTIHERO**

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Intellect Books *Crime Uncovered: Antihero* is a fascinating and timely collection of essays that all examine the antihero in crime fiction, television and film. The antihero has enticed readers and audiences for generations: why is it that we root for characters such as Tom Ripley, Dexter Morgan and Walter White, despite our conscious revulsion at some of their actions? These iconic and popular figures of literature are examined in this collection, alongside those lesser-known characters from crime fiction that you will discover here. These essays will give you an insight into the characterisation, methodology, social context and morality that makes up these unlikely protagonists.

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### **ICONS OF THE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK: FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA TO WONDER WOMAN [2 VOLUMES]**

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#### **FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA TO WONDER WOMAN**

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ABC-CLIO This book explores how the heroes and villains of popular comic books—and the creators of these icons of our culture—reflect the American experience out of which they sprang, and how they have achieved relevance by adapting to, and perhaps influencing, the evolving American character. • Includes contributions from 70 expert contributors and leading scholars in the field, with some of the entries written with the aid of popular comic book creators themselves • Provides sidebars within each entry that extend readers' understanding of the subject • Offers "Essential Works" and "Further Reading" recommendations • Includes a comprehensive bibliography

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### **ENTER THE SUPERHEROES**

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#### **AMERICAN VALUES, CULTURE, AND THE CANON OF SUPERHERO LITERATURE**

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Scarecrow Press Ever since the first appearances of Superman and Batman in comic books of the late 1930s, superheroes have been a staple of the popular culture landscape. Though initially created for younger audiences, superhero characters have evolved over the years, becoming complex figures that appeal to more sophisticated readers. While superhero stories have grown ever more popular within broader society, however, comics and graphic novels have been largely ignored by the world of academia. In *Enter the Superheroes: American Values, Culture, and the Canon of Superhero Literature*, Alex S. Romagnoli and Gian S. Pagnucci argue that superheroes merit serious study, both within the academy and beyond. By examining the kinds of graphic novels that are embraced by the academy, this book explains how superhero stories are just as significant. Structured around key themes within superhero literature, the book delves into the features that make superhero stories a unique genre. The book also draws upon examples in comics and other media to illustrate the sociohistorical importance of superheroes—from the interplay of fans and creators to unique narrative elements that are brought to their richest fulfillment within the world of superheroes. A list of noteworthy superhero texts that readers can look to for future study is also provided. In addition to exploring the important roles that superheroes play in children's learning, the book also offers an excellent starting point for discussions of how literature is evolving and why it is necessary to expand the traditional realms of literary study. *Enter the Superheroes* will be of particular interest to English and composition teachers but also to scholars of popular culture and fans of superhero and comic book literature.

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### **DIFFERENTLY MORPHOUS**

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Dark Horse Comics *Differently Morphous* is the latest and greatest tale to emerge from the mind of writer Yahtzee Croshaw (*Mogworld*, *Jam*, *Will Save the Galaxy for Food*). A magical serial killer is on the loose, and gelatinous, otherworldly creatures are infesting the English countryside. Which is making life for the Ministry of Occultism difficult, because magic is supposed to be their best kept secret. After centuries in the shadows, the Ministry is forced to unmask, exposing the country's magical history--and magical citizens--to a brave new world of social media, government scrutiny, and public relations. On the trail of the killer are the Ministry's top agents: a junior operative with a photographic memory (and not much else), a couple of overgrown schoolboys with godlike powers, and a demonstrably insane magician. But as they struggle for results, their superiors at HQ must face the greatest threat the Ministry has ever known: the forces of political correctness . . .

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## THE AMERICAN SUPERHERO: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CAPED CRUSADERS IN HISTORY

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ABC-CLIO This compilation of essential information on 100 superheroes from comic book issues, various print and online references, and scholarly analyses provides readers all of the relevant material on superheroes in one place. • Examines in detail how superheroes and superheroines have appeared in comics and other media over the decades • Shows how superheroes and superheroines have reflected the hopes, fears, and values of American society at any given period • Provides scholarly material that gives readers additional important historical context in five essays • Ensures that diverse and obscure superheroes and superheroines are given equal coverage

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## WONDER WOMEN AND BAD GIRLS

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### SUPERHEROINE AND SUPERVILLAINNESS ARCHETYPES IN POPULAR MEDIA

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McFarland Wonder Woman, Harley Quinn, Shuri, and Black Widow. These four characters portray very different versions of women: the superheroine, the abuse victim, the fourth wave princess, and the spy, respectively. In this in-depth analysis of female characters in superhero media, the author begins by identifying ten eras of superhero media defined by the way they portray women. Following this, the various archetypes of superheroines are classified into four categories: boundary crossers, good girls, outcasts, and those that reclaim power. From Golden Age comics through today's hottest films, heroines have been surprisingly assertive, diverse, and remarkable in this celebration of all the archetypes.

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## SHIP OF THESEUS: A NOVEL

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Shiny Red Nothing Press In 2006, writer Wayne Bird loses his girlfriend Sally (AKA: VD) to a heroin overdose while housesitting for Dorothy, an art dealer. Isolated in Dorothy's haunted apartment and surrounded by her vivid, surreal collection of paintings, Bird parties, hits on the vampire from downstairs, and obsesses over the Skyrat video game he can't beat... Anything to avoid his grief. Deeply depressed, his grip on reality crumbles, the apartment's ghosts close in, and his own demons threaten to consume him. Literally. However, transported to the plague-ridden Earth of a parallel reality, Wayne finds his purpose and new love as a freedom fighting journalist. Nearly 150 years after we first meet him, semi-retired and working as a creative writing teacher at Green City High School, Mr. Bird comes face to face with the Skyrat, the superhero he made up when he was only seven years old. When Skyrat accepts a crucial mission from Bird, he gets mixed up with math worshipping cultists, a pair of questionably ethical cops, a hive-minded street gang, a skin-shedding monster, and a crime boss with a vendetta against a warlord in the Evil East. Is Wayne Bird's entanglement with Skyrat a coincidence? A cosmic inevitability? The senility of an old man? Or could it be fate.... Prepare to question your own reality as you join Wayne and Skyrat to embark on the strangest adventure in this dimension!

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## KEEPING IT UNREAL

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### BLACK QUEER FANTASY AND SUPERHERO COMICS

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NYU Press "Keeping It Unreal: Black Queer Fantasy and Superhero Comics explores how fantasy-especially superhero comics, which are usually derided as naïve and childish-is a catalyst for engaging the black radical imagination. Such engagements prompt "fantasy-acts" against antiblackness, a transgressive way of "reading" beyond the comic-book page to envision and to experience alternate, and potentially more just, realities. Fantasies about superhero characters are not just or even primarily forms of escape, the author argues, but are active reshaping of readers and their worlds. This book offers a rich meditation on the relationship between fantasy and reality, and between the imagination and being, as it weaves Scott's personal recollections of his encounters with superhero comics with interpretive readings of figures like the Black Panther, Luke Cage, Nubia, and Blade, and theorists such as Frantz Fanon, Eve Sedgwick, Leo Bersani, Saidiya Hartman, and Gore Vidal"--

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## MAPPING SMALLVILLE

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### CRITICAL ESSAYS ON THE SERIES AND ITS CHARACTERS

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McFarland One of the first full-length academic projects on the television series Smallville, this collection of new essays explains why the WB/CW series is important to understanding contemporary popular culture. The essays are presented in four sections covering broad categories: Clark Kent's metamorphosis to Superman and the influence of his parents and the home; the role of the series' noteworthy female characters; the series' representations of the Other, explorations of identity, and the ways in which characters speak to Clark's own struggles; and audience reception of the series and its position within the Superman narrative universe.

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## THE JOKER

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### A SERIOUS STUDY OF THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME

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*Univ. Press of Mississippi* Along with Batman, Spider-Man, and Superman, the Joker stands out as one of the most recognizable comics characters in popular culture. While there has been a great deal of scholarly attention on superheroes, very little has been done to understand supervillains. This is the first academic work to provide a comprehensive study of this villain, illustrating why the Joker appears so relevant to audiences today. Batman's foe has cropped up in thousands of comics, numerous animated series, and three major blockbuster feature films since 1966. Actually, the Joker debuted in DC comics *Batman 1* (1940) as the typical gangster, but the character evolved steadily into one of the most ominous in the history of sequential art. Batman and the Joker almost seemed to define each other as opposites, hero and nemesis, in a kind of psychological duality. Scholars from a wide array of disciplines look at the Joker through the lens of feature films, video games, comics, politics, magic and mysticism, psychology, animation, television, performance studies, and philosophy. As the first volume that examines the Joker as complex cultural and cross-media phenomenon, this collection adds to our understanding of the role comic book and cinematic villains play in the world and the ways various media affect their interpretation. Connecting the Clown Prince of Crime to bodies of thought as divergent as Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche, contributors demonstrate the frightening ways in which we get the monsters we need.

### APOCALYPTIC PROJECTIONS

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#### A STUDY OF PAST PREDICTIONS, CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURE INTIMATIONS AS RELATED TO FILM AND LITERATURE

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*Cambridge Scholars Publishing* Apocalyptic Projections have been pondered since Biblical times. Theories abounded in an attempt to prepare for calamity and plan for the future. Worldwide concern regarding a twenty-first century apocalypse, related to the 2012 Mayan Apocalyptic prediction, sparked renewed interest. Even though the concept of apocalypse evokes images of total oblivion, threads of possibility and redemption offer a potential fabric of hope. The majority of the papers included in Apocalyptic Projections were p ...

### EMPIRE OF THE SUPERHEROES

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#### AMERICA'S COMIC BOOK CREATORS AND THE MAKING OF A BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY

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*University of Texas Press* Superman may be faster than a speeding bullet, but even he can't outrun copyright law. Since the dawn of the pulp hero in the 1930s, publishers and authors have fought over the privilege of making money off of comics, and the authors and artists usually have lost. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman, got all of \$130 for the rights to the hero. In *Empire of the Superheroes*, Mark Cotta Vaz argues that licensing and litigation do as much as any ink-stained creator to shape the mythology of comic characters. Vaz reveals just how precarious life was for the legends of the industry. Siegel and Shuster—and their heirs—spent seventy years battling lawyers to regain rights to Superman. Jack Kirby and Joe Simon were cheated out of their interest in Captain America, and Kirby's children brought a case against Marvel to the doorstep of the Supreme Court. To make matters worse, the infant comics medium was nearly strangled in its crib by censorship and moral condemnation. For the writers and illustrators now celebrated as visionaries, the "golden age" of comics felt more like hard times. The fantastical characters that now earn Hollywood billions have all-too-human roots. *Empire of the Superheroes* digs them up, detailing the creative martyrdom at the heart of a pop-culture powerhouse.

### WHY WE NEED SUPERHEROES

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*McFarland* Comic books and superhero stories mirror essential societal values and beliefs. We can be Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Black Panther or Rocket Raccoon through our everyday choices. We can't fly, fix hyper drives or hear human heartbeats a mile away, but we can think about what Matt Murdock would do in a conflict, how Superman would respond to natural disasters and how Captain America would handle humanitarian crises. This book analyzes the impact of dozens of comics by examining the noble personalities, traits and actions of the main characters. Chapters detail how superheroes, comic books and other pop culture phenomena offer more than pure entertainment, and how we can better model ourselves after our favorite heroes. Through our good deeds, quick thinking and positive choices, we can become more like superheroes than we ever imagined.