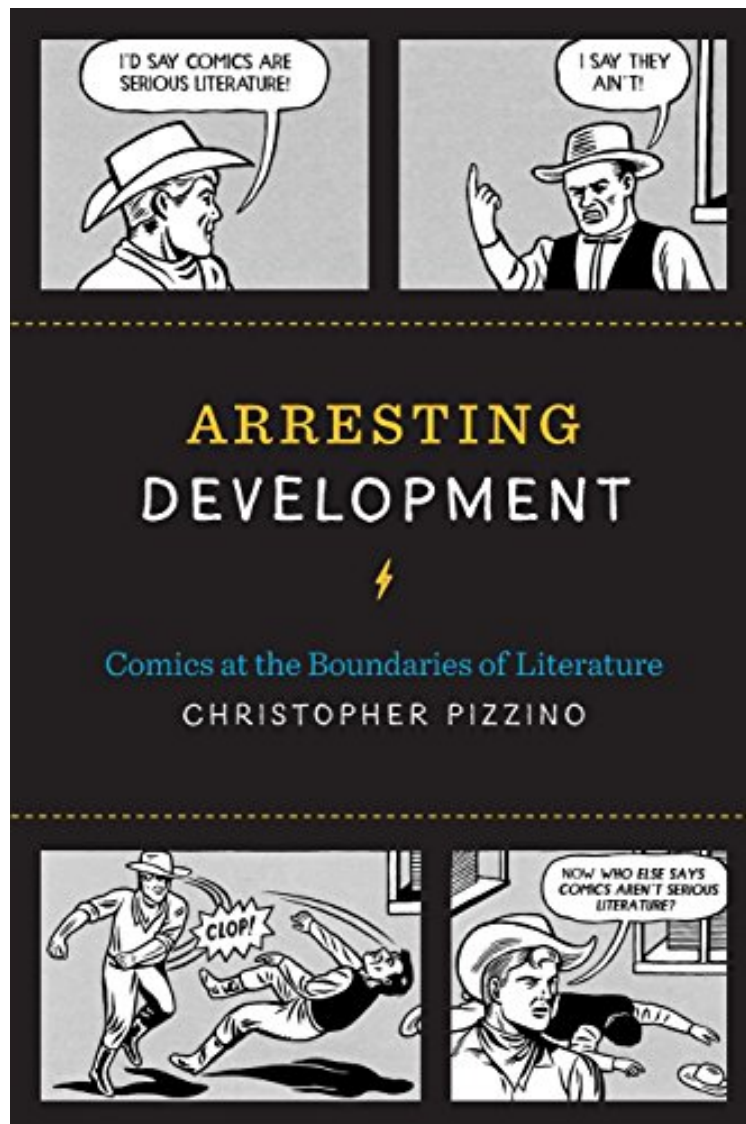


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## Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature (World Comics and Graphic Nonfiction)

*Christopher Pizzino*

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**Christopher Pizzino : Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature (World Comics and Graphic Nonfiction)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature (World Comics and Graphic Nonfiction):

Mainstream narratives of the graphic novels development describe the forms coming of age, its maturation from pulp infancy to literary adulthood. In *Arresting Development*, Christopher Pizzino questions these established narratives, arguing that the mediums history of censorship and marginalization endures in the minds of its present-day readers and, crucially, its authors. Comics and their writers remain burdened by the stigma of literary illegitimacy and the struggles for status that marked their earlier history. Many graphic novelists are intensely aware of both the mediums troubled past and their own tenuous status in contemporary culture. *Arresting Development* presents case studies of four key works: Frank Millers *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*, Charles Burnss *Black Hole*, and Gilbert Hernandez's *Love and Rocket* exploring how their authors engage the problem of comics cultural standing. Pizzino illuminates the separation of high and low culture, art and pulp, and sophisticated appreciation and vulgar consumption as continual influences that determine the limits of literature, the status of readers, and the value of the very act of reading.

"This extraordinary book is a potential game-changer in comics studies. In brilliant analyses of disparate works from the Batman of Frank Miller to the literary memoirs of Alison Bechdel Pizzino reveals an autoclastic and self-questioning tendency in comics and productively challenges the mediums gentrification. The result is a breathtaking critical synthesis that will spark arguments (of the best kind) and may redraw the very boundaries of the field." (Charles Hatfield, California State University, Northridge, author of *Hand of Fire: The Comics Art of Jack Kirby*) "Learned, energetic, and wide-ranging. Pizzino is one of the best scholars of comics working today." (Hillary L. Chute, author of *Disaster Drawn: Visual Witness, Comics, and Documentary Form* and *Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics*) About the Author Christopher Pizzino is an assistant professor of contemporary US literature at the University of Georgia.