

(Read now) Batman: The Complete History

Batman: The Complete History

Les Daniels

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Les Daniels : Batman: The Complete History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Batman: The Complete History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Place To StartBy thirtdtwinPretty comprehensive overview but a lot has happened with the character since this came out- so you will need to supplement it with other books for maximum enjoyment.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The vampiric sinister elegance of the gothic, hero Batman winged creature of the knight!By PeppercornBatmans longevity has always been artibuted to him being an icon and his presence today is testament to that from the very first onset appearance way back in 1939 to his very current 2010 appearance we can only say that he is beyond a chronicled myth in what so many people would inspire to be as a heroic knight. Batman as a story has spanned over half a century and has no inclination of stopping fans from reading him as a caped crusader. He has appeared in comic books TV and motion pictures always ready to suprise and astound people with his amazing aerial acrobatic feats in which he has no special powers besides having a brain that is second to none in deductive reason like sherlock holmes. He is good at hiding his inner feelings of

fighting evil like the bat from which he takes his name from. Neal Adams a great writer has personified Batman in which at times makes out to being the very evil that he is fighting a brawler! Batman the Complete History is more than a coffee table book it's a reference book that is packed with knowledge and information that only Batman fans can expect which is excellent. If the history wasn't enough for Batman fans to purchase this book then there is also one complete story in which it is "Two of a Kind" a heartbrokenly sad story about a roguish man's love life torn apart by another woman after having plastic surgery done to him in having his face fully restored from the physical burnt scars which . Obviously attention in this book is paid to the other roguish principal Batman villains as well such as the Joker, Riddler, Penguin and host of other characters. The whole essence of this book in Batmans career is about his creator's lifestory in creating batman which is Bob Kane and Frank Miller's lifestory as well is included in creating batman. This is a well researched and illustrated book reading this book as a fan of batman can only enhance the appreciation of him that we have all come to know and love from fans of the heroic character and will continue to do so as well in the end. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Now Incomplete, but Still a Fine, Perhaps Essential Read By J. R. Trtek This is one of Les Daniels' histories in the trilogy that also encompasses Superman and Wonder Woman. It's a marvelous read, full of information and insight, and more than amply illustrated with comic pages and photos of various bat memorabilia. My only reason for rating it at four stars rather than five is that it was written in 1999, and in the ensuing fifteen years, more history has been added to the saga that's not in this book. Still, the 60 years that had gone before is just as important, if not more so. Highly recommended, and perhaps invaluable.

The super-powered trilogy that captured the world's greatest superhero triumvirate of all time is now available in paperback. Relive the adventures of Krypton's favorite son inside and outside the comic book world in *Superman: The Complete History*. Uncover the Caped Crusader's mysterious real-world origin and his evolution into a hugely successful TV and movie franchise in *Batman: The Complete History*. Follow the Amazon Princess as she evolves from curiosity to feminist icon in the Eisner Award winning *Wonder Woman: The Complete History*. Each book is filled with enough archival comic book art, photographs, and in-depth history to satisfy the most demanding fan and is now priced to appeal to the most casual reader. Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and all related characters, names, and indicia are trademarks of DC Comics 2004.

These days we devour super-sized meals, ogle strutting supermodels and experiment with superconductivity. But once upon a time there were only superheroes. Murmur their names, and from out of memory's deep emerge lazy summer afternoons spent on covered porches with a bottle of Orange Crush and a bag of Fritos, weekly bike rides to the revolving wire racks in corner drug stores and, of course, our increasingly daring leaps, from picnic tables and brick fireplaces, with an old sheet fluttering from 9-year-old shoulders: "I can fly, I can fly." And we could -- if only during that moment when we flexed our knees and pushed off into the air. Then, for one blissful second, we were commensurate with our dreams. But, ah, those names, how they thrilled and fed our imaginations: the Flash, Green Lantern, Green Arrow, Aqua-Man and Hawkman, the Mighty Thor, and a little later the Silver Surfer, Spiderman and the X-Men. To the ignorant eyes of parents, our carefully tended stacks of 20, 50 or 200 issues of Action Comics, World's Finest, Detective Comics, Marvel Comics and so many others merely appeared to tell the same story, again and yet again: A gaudily costumed crime fighter battles a seemingly unbeatable enemy -- sometimes the oddly loquacious alien from another planet or dimension, sometimes the white-coated mad scientist with his destructo-ray, often (and best of all) the monstrous result of some laboratory experiment gone horribly wrong. Never such innocence again. Nowadays, comics have grown up and taken steroids: They are swarthy, mean, perverse, complex, adult. They even require specialized stores -- like X-rated videos -- and aspire to literature. "Graphic novels" can be intricate and wonderful -- ask any student of Neil Gaiman's *The Sandman* or look at the pastiche brilliance of Alan Moore's *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* -- but they would likely frighten or puzzle the children who lingered for hours over the early adventures of Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Three oversized histories now document the life and times of these most durable of all the comic-book legends. Les Daniels's cleanly written text reveals not only the artistic, business and marketing decisions that have made Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman recognizable round the world, but also the ways in which each of their comics differs from the others in style and tone. Superman's adventures, for instance, were nearly always laced with humor and frequently relied on slightly screwball situations: For instance, Mr. Mxyzptlk -- the impish troublemaker from the future -- and Lois Lane's niece Susie Tompkins generally treated the Man of Steel as either an amusing buffoon or a playtime doll. Bizarro -- the simple-minded partial clone of Superman, who resembled a crystallized Frankenstein's monster -- provoked endless chaos without being truly threatening. The entire reporting cast of the Daily Planet often tended to be exploited just for laughs: wide-eyed Jimmy Olsen, love-struck Lois Lane, even gruff editor Perry White with his favorite ejaculation, "Great Caesar's ghost!" By contrast, Batman dealt with obsession in all its forms (a theme underscored in Tim Burton's two Batman films). Bruce Wayne transforms himself into a caped crusader to avenge the brutal death of his parents. But his opponents are even more seriously damaged individuals, usually driven to crime by psychological trauma: the Joker, who yearns to be acclaimed the world's greatest comedian; Two-Face, who struggles with a Jekyll-and-Hyde

personality after his disfigurement; Cat-Woman, a mousy secretary who escapes repression by releasing her inner tigress. Wonder Woman is, of course, the supreme avatar of that particular myth. The ludicrously bespectacled Diana Prince is actually an princess, at ease with her physical strength and beauty. She grew up in a world -- Paradise Island -- where sisterhood was truly powerful (and telepathic to boot). As a result, she presented a usable role model for the girls who would eventually spearhead the feminist movement of the 1970s. (Compare Xena and Buffy in the 1990s.) In some ways, Wonder Woman, though popular as a comic book, actually found her true identity in dark-haired, busty Lynda Carter, star of the television series. Nearly all the comics touched on, usually obliquely, the issue of sex: Indeed, Batman's adventures sometimes resembled a fetishistic daydream of skintight leather and rubber. But TV's Wonder Woman could often seem beyond sexuality, utterly serious and focused, hardly aware of that low-cut metallic breastplate and the bounty it scarcely contained. Daniels covers the "complete history" of these three modern myths, from their inception to their latest incarnations. For instance, he touches on the influence of pulp-magazine heroes like the Shadow and Zorro on the creation of various super crime fighters, and also stresses the widespread inspiration of Douglas Fairbanks's acrobatic film stunts. But no mere nostalgist, he sympathetically delves into the camp TV shows, blockbuster movies and highly revisionist 1980s interpretations of the Man of Steel, the Dark Knight and the warrior-princess. I do think Daniels might have stressed more fully the pervasive influence of science fiction on all these comics. There were, for instance, several popular novels of the 1930s on the theme of supermen -- e.g.. Philip Wylie's *Gladiator* (1930) and Olaf Stapledon's *Odd John* (1935). Moreover, he actually refers to Murray Leinster, Edmond Hamilton and Otto Binder but without pointing out that these are honored figures not only in the history of comic books but even more so in the development of sf. All this said, Daniels offers plenty of shrewd insights: "The Joker became the model for other Batman bad guys who were to follow: a seemingly endless parade of tormented, avaricious lunatics who would sacrifice anything to earn a place in the moonlight. A peculiarly American form of expressionism developed, in which characters lived surrounded by countless emblems of their obsessions, treated crime as a series of publicity stunts, and dressed up in crazy costumes as they struggled to dominate the night. Some critics have suggested that Batman was a more realistic hero than Superman because the former had no incredible powers, but Superman's stories generally followed the logical patterns of science fiction. Batman's world, by contrast, was sheer fantasy, featuring multiple maniacs striving to turn their dreams and nightmares into concrete reality, with only a man dressed as a bat to say them nay." It's important to stress how good Daniels's text is, if only because the illustrations and layout of these three volumes display so much eye-popping, gosh-wow, full-color razzle-dazzle. Chip Kidd, the highly regarded designer, created the look of these books, and no page is like any other. He enlarges single images, plays with type size, reprints entire stories, reproduces advertisements, movie stills, toy collections and just about anything else pertinent to the iconology. As a result, each of these glossy colorful paperbacks seems part chronicle, part comic book and part collector's catalogue. Thus Kidd has made sure that in their layout these dossiers exemplify the exuberance and imaginative daring of the classics they celebrate. These are, finally, tantalizing cultural scrapbooks, and as such they remind us of how much our pop myths have reflected the mores and anxieties of their times, whether the 1930s, the 1960s or the present. Superheroes certainly feel as American as jazz, baseball and the Fourth of July -- and their espoused values have traditionally been those that matter to most Americans: determination, self-sacrifice, a desire to protect and help the underdog, an essential, deep-down goodness. Yet note that all of these virtues have been questioned, quite legitimately, by the latest generation of artists who have reinterpreted Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. We are currently far more wary of homegrown vigilantism, and we know all too well that being a superpower, like possessing super powers, may not suffice in the 21st century. Indeed, every contemporary comics hero repeatedly, even neurotically, questions the troubling relationship between might and right. Superman's own willingness "to fight the never-ending battle for truth, justice and the American Way" still seems, nonetheless, a soul-stirring, admirable credo, especially on this day of family picnics and evening fireworks. And yet even the most patriotic citizen might look out on the world and sadly pause over that one distinctly disheartening word: "never-ending." --The Washington Post

From the Inside Flap
In 1939, Batman's dark shadow swooped over the comic book scene, and his vigilante battle with the vicious villainy of Gotham City has been thrilling his fans ever since. Once the tragic victim of a horrible crime, Bruce Wayne's nocturnal alter ego became the ultimate crime fighter--teamed with Robin the Boy Wonder and equipped with a formidable array of Bat-accessories. Batman: The complete History offers the first definitive history of the most popular super hero of all time. Author Les Daniels traces Batman's evolution from his comic book beginnings to the campy theatrics of the Adam West TV show, to the emergence of Frank Miller's hard-edged Dark Knight, to today's blockbuster motion pictures. Illustrated throughout with rare comic book art, sketches, movie stills, and Batman merchandise, this tribute to the Caped Crusader reveals the multidimensional crime fighter in all his complexity. No matter which side of Batman's persona you find most appealing, you will treasure this rich and colorful tribute to an always intriguing super hero. About the Author Les Daniels is a renowned comic book expert. He's the author of *DC Comics: Sixty Years of the World's Favorite Comic Book Heroes*. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island.