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1001 Comics You Must Read Before You Die: The Ultimate Guide To Comic Books, Graphic Novels And Manga



Synopsis

Visually amazing, this critical history of comic books, manga, and graphic novels is a must-have for any comic buff or collector. Over the centuries, comic books and their offshoots, such as graphic novels, manga, and bandes dessinées, have evolved into a phenomenally popular, influential, and unique art form through which we can express our opinions, our fantasies, our nightmares, and our dreams. In short: comics are emphatically no longer just for kids. This volume is the perfect introduction to a dynamic and globally popular medium, embracing every graphic genre worldwide to assess the very best works of sequential art, graphic literature, comics, and comic strips, past and present. Packed with fantastic reproductions of classic front covers and groundbreaking panels, this book is visually stunning as well as a trove of information—perfect for the passionate collector and casual fan alike.

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Customer Reviews

"1001 Comics You Must Read Before You Die emphasizes comic books, graphic novels, and manga from recent decades though the earliest entry dates to 1867. Comics historian Paul Gravett, the book's general editor, consulted specialists in 27 countries." ~Boston Globe "There have been other guides to comics and comics characters, but this book is the only one that is global in breadth, considerate of every genre, fully illustrated, and offers a critical assessments to winnow out only the very best works. This colorful and authoritative review includes every important artist in comic books, manga and graphic novels. Visually amazing, this critical history of the graphic

narrative form - including comic books, manga and graphic novels - is a must have for any comic buff or collector." ~Legacycomics.com"Recommended for those with a curiosity about the medium and highly recommended for fans who might need to expand their horizons." ~Forcesofgeek.com

Paul Gravett was hailed by The Times of London as "the greatest historian of the comics and graphic novel form." Gravett co-edited the important British magazine Escape (1983-89), and was an independent exhibition curator, journalist, lecturer, and broadcaster. He is the author of Manga: 60 Years of Japanese Comics (2004), Graphic Novels (2005), Great British Comics (2006), Mammoth Book of Best Crime Comics (2008), and Incredibly Strange Comics (2008).

Reads too much like a snobby critic's catalog and full of too many obscure titles that would probably be nearly too difficult or impossible to find, even if you were interested in reading them.

I love the books in this series and my only complaint would be that for a topic such as this there should probably have been a photo from each book, especially when a book would be described as "visually ground-breaking" ... or "this artist really opened up a new field" ... and so on. But then, I had a little trouble handling the book as heavy as it is and it would have to have been at least twice as heavy, so I am thrilled to have it as it is. Also, the reviewers did a great job with the inclusive world-wide selections and the individual descriptions, which I see as "word pictures". I have been buying and reading "comics" for years, and I was so glad when they became an accepted niche in the stores as well as in the industry, and I dare say that is largely due to artists and writers who had the courage to be different and to take themselves seriously. When I read STITCHES by David Small a couple of years ago I thought it was brilliant and was so moved that he had the talent and the courage to tell his story in this way. That is the wonder of comics in the 21st century, and it took long enough but was worth the wait!

This is a well printed, 960 page book. The title is fantasy and completely misleading. When they discuss comics, they often discuss an individual one, but also they discuss, full runs of titles like the X-Men. But they don't break down which individual issues are done by the artists they like, including Kirby, Heck and Adams. When they discuss the character Sauron, they don't mention what issue. So this is really 10,000 comics you must read before you die. Which doesn't help me much in determining which comics stood out in long runs. It doesn't cover just comic books as we know them. It covers comic strips too. That is, the Complete Peanuts and other reprints of newspaper strips are

mentioned here as well. So is Manga, Graphic Novels etc. Also, books by Feiffer and similar artists are mentioned. There are several contributors who address their specialties. They do something which is good, but then left me frustrated. They often mention a series within a comic, like Adam Strange. So it wasn't just the comic. However, in so many cases, if there is NO picture of the cover, there is NO listing of what issues the character appeared. An example of that is Red Nails, they do not mention what issue of Savage Tales that Conan story was in. Good look seeing that on a shrunken cover. And sometimes there is no picture of a cover. For Nick Fury (SHIELD) they don't mention what issue Steranko started or ended. They do reference issue #159. But again, they don't tell where Strange Tales end. At the bottom, they often have a section of "Also by" For example, for the Aforementioned SHIELD they say, "Also by Steranko" then list, "At The Stroke Of Midnight," "Captain America," "X-Men" and a few others. But they don't tell you what comics the stories appeared in or the artist did. Good Luck. And Steranko was not mentioned in the X-Men section at all. Two other books are available and I enjoyed them more: The Slings and Arrows Comic Guide, which lists so much of everything comics. Or Tony Isabella's 1,000 Comics you must read.

Great Gift for the Comic collector

I just bought this book and it's great! There is a lot of comics from many different countries, and a lot of information about the comics. Just as I thought it would be.

I love this book, but I don't like it when books tell me what to do. 1001 Comics I Must Read Before I Die? What are you, the Pope of Reading?

Won't know till Christmas if this is valuable or not... purchased as a gift for my nephew. word word word word word

Nicely produced, and some few of the pix have charm, but a lot of the writing feels merely dutiful (the layout means words outweigh pictures) and the whole methodology of this corporate effort is frankly screwed. Many of the comics we 'must read' are not in English and never will be (Croat cowboys? pur-leeze) and the sheer quantity means many loved and iconic figures - Blondie, Li'l Abner, Nancy - never even rate a picture. Sure, WE know THEM, you say, but remember this is aimed at the wider anglophone market. How many of you lot, for instance, are familiar with the distinctive look of Desperate Dan or our own (much edgier, and funnier) Dennis the Menace? You

don't care about England's Dennis or Scotland's take on Texas? Then why bother with this book? On the other hand, if you want to break out of the narrowly national mould, *The Essential Guide to World Comics* is one title that means what it says, though Israel unaccountably gets missed out, and the old Penguin Book of Comics's Brit-tilted but still broadly inclusive view remains a nostalgist's delight

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