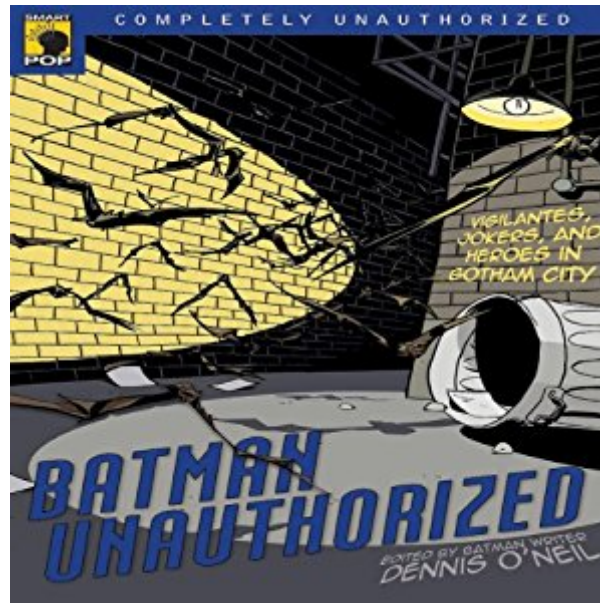


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# Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, And Heroes In Gotham City



## Synopsis

Compiled by a veteran writer of the comic series, this collection of essays explores Batman's motivations and actions, as well as those of his foes. Batman is a creature of the night, more about vengeance than justice, more plagued by doubts than full of self-assurance, and more darkness than light. He has no superpowers, just skill, drive, and a really well-made suit. One of the most recognized superheroes ever created, Batman has survived through campy TV shows and films, through actors like Adam West, Michael Keaton, and Christian Bale. It covers both the silly and the solemn, asking questions like Why is the Joker so good at pushing Batman's buttons? What does Batman's technology say about the times? Why are Batman's villains crazier than average? and Why is Batman the perfect, iconic American hero?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While Batman Unauthorized might not be the be all end all of serious literary criticism on Batman the way that, say, Geoff Klock's How To Read Superhero Comics and Why is for the superhero genre as a whole, it is still really fun, interesting read. The essays examine a variety of interpretations of the character on film, comics and television through the years. They manage to do a good job of picking apart Batman's multi-faceted existence without ever taking themselves too seriously which, I think, is always important when examining pop culture icons. Highlights include: "The Cost of Being Batman", not the heavy handed 'emotional costs', mind you, but the actual monetary cost to pay for the equipment (the cost of the Batcomputer will make you soil yourself),

"Holy Signifier, Batman!" which valiantly and convincingly explains why the old 60's show might actually be the most enduring version of the character and, my personal favorite, "To The Batpole" which imagines how the, uhm, Bat-talk might have gone down between Alfred and pre-pubescent (sp?) Bruce Wayne in the styles of the 60's camp Batman, Tim Burton's Batman, and the Michael Caine version from Batman Begins (not only is this hysterical but it manages to point out one of the inherent flaws with Batman Begins that I think a few of us have touched on in the blogs here). There are some weak points like Mike Barr's defense of Batman's Sci-fi adventures from the 50's and early 60's ("Batman In Outer Space!" I'm sorry but this is just one aspect of the character that's best left forgotten) and an uneven essay comparing Batman to Superman that unilaterally decides to ignore The Dark Knight Returns which, for my money, is essential when comparing the two. Overall, a nice quick read well worth the price of admission (17.95!)

"Batman Unauthorized" is a fun collection of essays concerning the Caped Crusader, his friends, his enemies, and his home, Gotham City. As opposed to other so-called academic works I've read, the pieces are very readable and the introductory commentary by Denny O'Neal helps put the essays in context. I have to give Darren Hudson Hick credit for his research on "The Cost of Being Batman." Checking to see how much being Batman would cost in real world dollars is a hoot and may aid in discouraging readers from thinking about a career in crimefighting. I'm also glad there's a variety of opinions on Frank Miller's interpretation of Batman. For a long time, it seemed everyone loved his work on "The Dark Knight Returns." After reading this book, I see that's not the case. Fun read. But for the Batman scholar only. JThreeWilliston, ND

If you are a Batman fan this is a fun must read for you! Every essay has kept my interest and challenged my own thoughts on many aspects of Bruce Wayne and Batman. Batman in the comics, in cinema, TV, there is something here on every version! Mind expanding and enjoyable!

'Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City' is edited by Dennis O'Neil which should give lie to the "unauthorized" part of this title. It may not have the blessing of DC Comics, but it's edited by a Batman legend. It's a series of essays and criticisms about the Caped Crusader. I found it much better than a similar one I've recently read about Superman, but I am biased towards the character. The essays include an argument in favor of Frank Miller's The Dark Knight Strikes Again, which left most fans wondering what happened. There is an essay on what the true cost of being Batman would be (including time spent in forensics and martial arts classes). It

turns out you really would need to be a billionaire to pull it off. There is an essay about the murky origins of Batman and how we've heard one story, but there is much more to who is owed credit. The wacky stories of Batman in the 1950s are defended and praised in 'Batman in Outer Space.' And we learn that we get the Batman we deserve, as we look at how the character evolves with the times he lives in. Most Bat-related things are discussed, but I would have liked a bit more on the really fine animated series. Since the book was writing about 10 years ago, only the first Christopher Nolan work is discussed. It's also nice that nobody came to the defense of the truly dreadful Joel Schumacher Batman films. This book would have lost a star or two if anyone had defended them. I received a review copy of this ebook from BenBella Books and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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