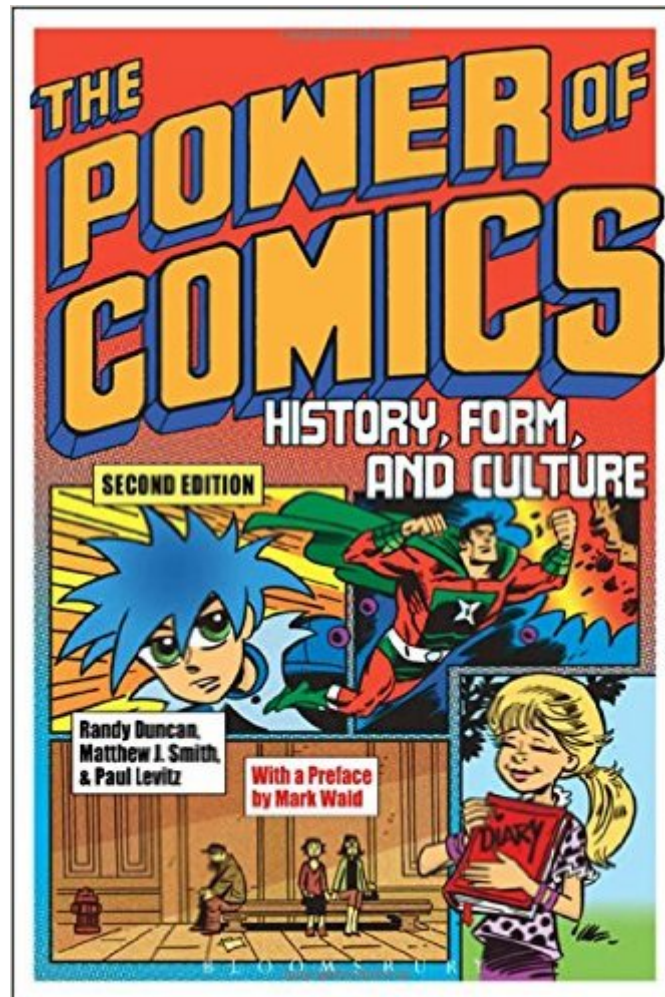# The Power Of Comics: History, Form, And Culture

Synopsis

Fully revised and updated for its second edition, The Power of Comics remains the most authoritative introduction to comic books and graphic novels â " the history of the medium, its many forms and manifestations and their place in contemporary culture. The new edition includes: An expanded historical section bringing the story of comic books up to the present and covering the rise of the graphic novel and the advent of digital comics A new chapter on the memoir genre and a thoroughly revised chapter on the superhero genre A revised chapter â " â œExploring Meanings in Comic Book Textsâ • â " introduces students to the theoretical tools they need to read comics critically Study objectives, discussion points, activities and annotated further reading guides in each chapter, helping students master the topics covered Illustrated throughout, with an extensive glossary of key terms, The Power of Comics also includes further updated resources available online at www.powerofcomics.com, including additional essays, weblinks and sample syllabi.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Highly Recommended !!

The 464 pages of the book includes quite a bit of introductory material and over 50 pages of glossary, bibliography and index (the latter being quite invaluable, naturally), so there's not quite as much "meat" in the book as you might imagine. And while the size of the book is clearly stated on the order page, I must say it is a little underwhelming when you hold the book in your hands.

Essentially, the diminutive 6x9 inch format and 100% black-and-white content leaves little opportunity to truly demonstrate THE POWER of comics, as there are very few examples of truly powerful work. For $75 and up, I expected a little more production value and visual dynamics.The snippets of professional reviews on the book's main page summarize the significant attributes of the "The Power of Comics," so there's no need for me to drone on about them. The content does provide a basic primer on comic books and it's quite thorough, and while clearly focused on American comics it does have a decent chapter at the end of the book on international comics.In my opinion, the book gives short shrift to the impact of underground comix and barely acknowledges the brilliance and influence of Robert Crumb, but that's a pet peeve of mine that may not be shared by conventional comic-book fans and historians. Overall, I'm glad I purchased the book (thank goodness for the gift card from a co-worker that helped on the cost) and it will prove to be the type of authoritative work I reference in the future (hence the 4 star review). But I do wish it had provided more aesthetic punch to the impressive analyses.

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