



Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City (Smart Pop series)

By Alan J. Porter, Chris Roberson, Jake Black

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Batman Unauthorized 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 such as Adam West, Michael Keaton and Christian Bale. *Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City* covers expansive territory ranging from the silly to the solemn. 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?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—The appeal of Batman waxes and wanes, but he has doubtless been one of the most popular superheroes in recent years, with the upcoming movie generating even more buzz. This entry looks at Batman as a literary figure worthy of several critical essays. Eighteen authors, including those with backgrounds in journalism, editing, and academia, contribute short critical essays focused on the many aspects of the superhero through the years. Though each writer has a particular point of view, there are several points on which they do agree: *Batman Begins* was the best of the movies, the campy TV series nearly ruined the character, Batman is even darker than many casual observers realize, and Frank Miller made him darker still. These recurring themes give the book cohesion, even though it is doubtful that any but the most ardent fan will read it from cover to cover. A particularly clever essay looks at the cost of being Batman, estimating the value of the costume, the Batcave, the Batmobile, and more as just under \$300 million. This book would be a good addition where superheroes are popular, as well as a clever alternative to more dry, dusty literary criticism for those doing assignments.—*Jamie Watson, Harford County Public Library, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Over the course of nearly seven decades, there have been dozens of different versions of Batman, from playboy detective in his early comic-book days to camp TV clown in the 1960s to grim masked avenger of the most recent movie—not to mention Pez dispenser. The 18 contributors veteran Batman scripter O'Neil presents in this collection tackle those Batmans and Caped Crusader sidekicks and foils, including the different youngsters who have filled the role of Robin and such notable adversaries as the Joker and Ra's Al Ghul. Frank Miller's radical interpretation of the character and all the movie Batmans, which vary as much as the many comic-books permutations, are necessarily covered. Many contributions address the problems endemic to a corporate-owned pop-culture icon whose adventures have been told by hundreds of authors in various media for more than half a century. Although the all-too-serious approach of most of the articles demonstrates the pitfalls of taking commercially generated pop culture too seriously, readers more than passingly interested in the venerable character will be genuinely, one hopes enjoyably, diverted. --Gordon Flagg

Review

"Teens and teachers . . . will be mesmerized." —*School Library Journal*

"The premiere writer of Batman comics . . . offers a complete picture of Batman in all his incarnations."
—ink19

"Darren Hudson Hick's scrutiny of what it costs to be Batman is wonderful fun." —Tony's Tips

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Ahlstrom:

The reason? Because this Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City (Smart Pop series) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Judith Carter:

Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City (Smart Pop series) can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City (Smart Pop series) however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Frank Ouellette:

Reading a book being new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, along with soon. The Batman Unauthorized: Vigilantes, Jokers, and Heroes in Gotham City (Smart Pop series) will give you new experience in reading through a book.

Charles Frye:

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