



Batman's Villains and Villainesses

Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Arkham's Souls



Edited by MARCO FAVARO *and* JUSTIN F. MARTIN

“For serious readers of Batman comics and graphic novels, this book offers something for everyone. Many of the villains in Batman’s world are described and dissected, including corrupt politicians and police.”
—**Robin S. Rosenberg**, editor of *Our Superheroes, Ourselves*

“*Batman’s Villains and Villainesses* is a fascinating collection of essays that explores the Caped Crusader’s rogues gallery from a number of scholarly perspectives, challenging you to think about these familiar characters in new ways—definitely not a book for the cowardly or superstitious.”
—**Mark D. White**, author of *Batman and Ethics*

“This amazing collection starts at the beginning before Batman had supervillains, with the Dark Knight’s pulp roots and pulp villains. Then it moves forward, covering every type of villain—the madams, the monsters, the madmen, and the made men. I want to build my superhero class around this book because Batman has the best villains and this book has the best essays on those best villains.”
—**Peter Coogan**, author of *Superhero: The Secret Origins of a Genre*.

While much of the scholarship on superhero narratives has focused on the heroes themselves, *Batman’s Villains and Villainesses: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Arkham’s Souls* takes into view the depiction of the villains and their lives, arguing that they often function as proxies for larger societal and philosophical themes. Approaching Gotham’s villains from a number of disciplinary fields the essays in this collection highlight how the villains’ multifaceted backgrounds, experiences, motivations, and behaviors allow for in-depth character analysis across varying levels of social life. Through investigating their cultural and scholarly relevance across the humanities and social sciences, the volume encourages both thoughtful reflection on the relationship between individuals and their social contexts and the use of villains (inside and outside of Gotham) as subjects of pedagogical and scholarly inquiry.

Contributors

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