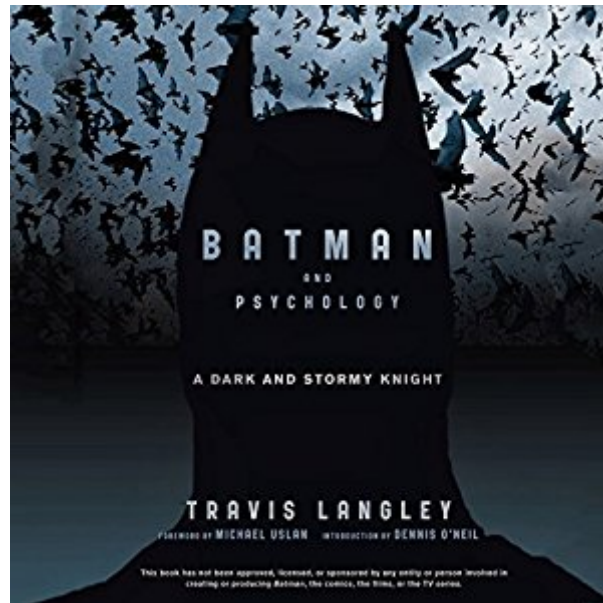


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Batman And Psychology: A Dark And Stormy Knight



Synopsis

A journey behind the mask and into the mind of Gotham City's Caped Crusader, timed for the summer 2012 release of *The Dark Knight Rises*. Batman is one of the most compelling and enduring characters to come from the Golden Age of Comics, and interest in his story has only increased through countless incarnations since his first appearance in *Detective Comics #27* in 1939. Why does this superhero without superpowers fascinate us? What does that fascination say about us? *Batman and Psychology* explores these and other intriguing questions about the masked vigilante, including: Does Batman have PTSD? Why does he fight crime? Why as a vigilante? Why the mask, the bat, and the underage partner? Why are his most intimate relationships with bad girls he ought to lock up? And why won't he kill that homicidal, green-haired clown? This book: Gives you fresh insights into the complex inner world of Batman and Bruce Wayne, and the life and characters of Gotham City Explains psychological theory and concepts through the lens of one of the worlds most popular comic book characters Is written by a psychology professor and Superherologist (scholar of superheroes)

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 21 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: August 6, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B008TSHU8U

Best Sellers Rank: #11 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Comics & Graphic Novels #13 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides #34 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Criticism

Customer Reviews

There are few pop culture icons that are more well known than Batman. His popularity transcends comics, TV and movies and has been built up for more than 80 years. While there have been many books written about the cultural impact of this character, the most recent one explores the underlying psyche of Batman and how readers relate to him. *Batman and Psychology* isn't an overly technical book, but it does shed some new light on this well known shadow. Travis Langley's book

serves two audiences very well; it exposes fans of Batman to basic concepts about psychology and introduces the Batman mythos to people who have a background in psychology. Langley achieves this balance by using the 80 years of Batman's "post industrial mythology" as the case studies for various mental conditions and experiences including:1) Post traumatic stress disorder, the stages of grief and childhood development - Bruce Wayne watching his parents killed2) Anti-social, sociopathic and psychotic behavior - The Joker3) The impact of symbolism and identity issues - Creating the bat tallsman and wearing the mask4) Intimacy issues - Batman's romantic endeavors and lack of deep connection5) Family dynamics including surrogate parents, adopted children and birth order dynamics - Batman's relationship with Alfred, Commissioner Gordon and the various RobinsOne of the most interesting aspects of the book is the exploration of how these stories remain popular. Langley explores the effects that the stories have on the psychology of fans including discussions of Jungian archetypes, the hero's journey and plausible escapism.

Batman remains my all-time favorite superhero for a variety of reasons ranging from the fact he's a non-powered mortal who gets by on his wits to the fact he has one of the most impressive rogues galleries in comics. I also love his costume. The biggest benefit of Batman, though, at least to me is he's also one of the few superheroes who is every bit as psychologically interesting as the villains he fights. Why does Bruce Wayne put on the cowl? Why does he let himself be defined by his parents being gunned down in a filthy alley? Why do we sympathize with this action so much? What sort of mental illnesses or conditions do his rogues suffer from, if any? How would you diagnose the majority of Gotham City's kooky criminals? Could you do so without being disrespectful to real-life conditions and practices? Travis Langley answers most of these questions in this work. I was both intrigued by the premise of this book and a bit cautious. Not just because attempting to assign real-life conditions to fictional characters as extreme as the Riddler and Joker has the potential to be disrespectful to the mentally ill but also because I've bought many of these books before and they rarely display the kind of in-depth knowledge of either the subject they're reviewing or the topic they're trying to apply to it. The Philosophy of X book tends to be a waste of money for fans despite the fact I've enjoyed a few of them very much. Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight is the exception. It's not only extremely respectful to the issue of mental illness in real life, explaining the differences between reality and fiction, but also is written by a man who has a genuine wealth of knowledge about the Batman character in all of his incarnations.

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