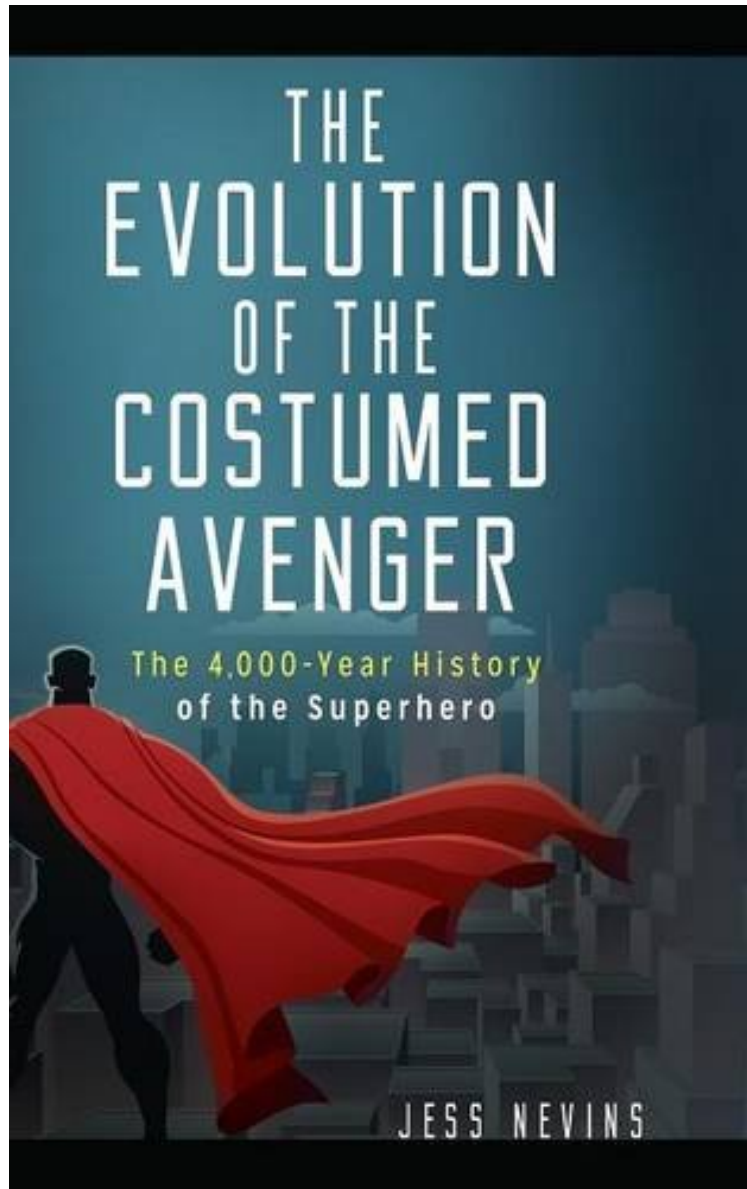


[Ebook free] The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger: The 4,000-Year History of the Superhero

The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger: The 4,000-Year History of the Superhero

Jess Nevins

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Jess Nevins : The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger: The 4,000-Year History of the Superhero before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger: The 4,000-Year History of the Superhero:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Up, up, and away! By Robert P. Although this book claims to be a scholarly reference work for authors, that is only a minimal guise hiding a fascinating read for anyone interested in fantastic characters and such. Nevins' previous work "The Encyclopedia of Fantastic Victoriana" was the ultimate "open at random and read a few entries" book. This book is more linear and focused, which helped me in understanding (and admiring) the material. The best non-fiction book I've read in a very long time. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Internet forum question: "Who was the first superhero?" Answer: read this book. By Kevin Holsinger I don't normally write reviews (don't think I've EVER done it before, actually), but feel this work requires one. The short version: dense, thorough, thought-provoking book that I'll be rereading for years. The longer version: PROS: 1. After pointing out how hard it is to lock the word "superhero" down to a specific definition, Mr. Nevins provides a semi-definition that I'll probably be using myself whenever I think of how to define the word. 2. Traces the history of particular ideas in superhero fiction back way further than my inferior researching skills would have led me to. 3. As someone who's purchased other works of Mr. Nevins, it's pleasant to see him pull together his many, many, many interests into a single pattern. CONS: NOT a book for beginners. This is a very expensive book, filled with tons of references to fictional characters you've never heard of. If you're new to superheroes, I wouldn't read this until you're certain that you love this subgenre. My thanks to Mr. Nevins for this work. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a brilliant, informative book by a hell of a writer. By Cherie Priest This is a brilliant, informative book by a hell of a writer. I am a smarter person for having read it.

Using a broad array of historical and literary sources, this book presents an unprecedented detailed history of the superhero and its development across the course of human history. Presents a concise but thorough history of the superhero comic industry, from the 1930s to today. Clearly describes the two main forms of the historical superhero, the Costumed Avenger and the Superman. Suggests a new way in which to evaluate superheroes and explains why this new methodology is important. Identifies and examines the ways in which superheroes have been present in popular literature since the beginning of human history.

"A well-researched and utterly captivating book offering the complete history of the superhero and how the concept has evolved over time. . . . [T]here are hundreds of other superheroes that Nevins explores in-depth and with remarkable insight. The thrill of reading a book like *The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger* is that, aside from being educational and interesting in itself, it inspires readers to seek out more superhero stories." - Kirkus
"To trace these multitudinous precursors to Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman is obviously a job that only super-researcher Jess Nevins could undertake. . . . Jess Nevins has now mapped the DNA that links ancient Enkidu to our own Wolverine. He convincingly shows that the superheroes of today's page and screen got their start long before baby Kal-El was sent rocketing toward Earth as the planet Krypton exploded." - Wall Street Journal
"A solid contribution to the literature on a phenomenon that today commands so much time, attention, and money. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty." - Choice
"Another remarkable work from Jess Nevins, exposing and exploring the roots of the forms of weird adventure fiction that continue to dominate 21st-century culture. Essential archaeology." (Warren Ellis, Author of *Gun Machine*, *Transmetropolitan*, and *Normal*)
"A deep and fascinating dive into the origins of the superhero. Everything you could want to know about the roots of the genre, delving back into myth, folklore, epic poetry, pulp fiction, and more, exhaustively researched and organized. A dream book for anyone interested in superhero history this is a book I'll find myself consulting again and again." (Kurt Busiek, New York Times best-selling author of *ASTRO CITY*, *MARVELS* and more)
"As always, Jess Nevins is the ultimate historical source for pulp fiction. This book is like if *Encyclopedia Brown* had grown up obsessed with superheroes and made the ultimate guide to them." (Ed Brubaker, Best-selling author of *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *KILL OR BE KILLED*, and *THE FADE-OUT*)
About the Author Jess Nevins is reference librarian at Lone Star College in Tomball, TX.