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Hero-A-Go-Go: Campy Comic Books, Crimefighters, & Culture Of The



Synopsis

Welcome to the CAMP AGE, when spies liked their wars cold and their women warm, good guys beat bad guys with a pun and a punch, and Batman shook a mean cape. HERO-A-GO-GO celebrates the camp craze of the Swinging Sixties, when just about everyone— the teens of Riverdale, an ant and a squirrel, even the President of the United States— was a super-hero or a secret agent. Back Issue magazine and former DC Comics editor MICHAEL EURY takes you through that coolest cultural phenomenon with this all-new collection of nostalgic essays, histories, and theme song lyrics of classic 1960s characters like Captain Action, Herbie the Fat Fury, Captain Nice, Atom Ant, Scooter, ACG's Nemesis, Dell's super-Frankenstein and Dracula, the "split!" • Captain Marvel, and others! Featuring interviews with Bill Mumy (Lost in Space), Bob Holiday (It's a Bird It's a Plane It's Superman), Ralph Bakshi (The Mighty Heroes, Spider-Man), Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean Meet Batman), Ramona Fradon (Metamorpho), Dick DeBartolo (Captain Klutz), Tony Tallarico (The Great Society Comic Book), Vince Gargiulo (Palisades Park historian), Joe Sinnott (The Beatles comic book), Jose Delbo (The Monkees comic book), and many more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

great!

This is a wonderful book about the flotsam and jetsam of 1960s pop culture, the carbon copy

detritus that washed up on the shore in the wake of Batman, Bond, the Beatles, and UNCLE. All these are present, represented as jumping-off points, but the joy is in the detail of the tsunami of imitations that followed. As such, you won't find much of Weisinger and Swan's Superman Family, no Star Trek, and very little of Lee and Kirby. Apart from Batman (the book is dedicated to Adam West), who rightly gets extensive coverage, Irwin Allen, and a nod to Bond and UNCLE, the big boys take a back seat. What you will find is all the glorious junk that the imitators and bandwagon jumpers turned out in their wake, piles and piles of opportunist tat like Captain Nice, Mr. Terrific, Batfink, Super Chicken, Secret Squirrel, and all the other cash-ins and rip-offs from the comics companies, toymakers, and TV producers trying to get in on the super-hero and spy fads. And oddly, that is the joy of this book. Cringe as you see Goofy become a super-hero. Wince as you see Archie become a spy. This stuff is fascinating and deserves its fifteen minutes. But it's not just about the bizarre rubbish (which, I might add, is documented with admirable objectivity, there's no Golden Turkey-style sneering; there's also no attempt to elevate trash to treasure). There are some jewels among the fake paste – the wonderful Jonny Quest is in there, as is the Green Hornet and Steranko's Nick Fury, and there's excellent coverage of the Hanna-Barbera super-heroes, the Filmation DC cartoons, and the syndicated Marvel Super-Hero shows, the last of which I've been featuring in my own Naked Pulp title. The Saturday morning cartoons are rarely given their due, but they are here. Subjects such as the 1960s Spider-Man and the Hanna-Barbera Fantastic Four cartoons rarely receive the attention they deserve, and I particularly enjoyed the feature on the Marvel and DC super-hero paperbacks, which I've had in my collection since the early '70s and never seen any coverage of before, anywhere. And author Michael Eury clearly knows and loves his subject (okay, I cringed when I saw Norman Felton given the credit for UNCLE, when all us UNCLE nuts know the real Man was Sam Rolfe, but as Michael clearly knows more about the Gold Key TV comics than I ever have, can, or will, I forgive him!). Nice to finally have a name – George Wilson – for the gorgeous Irwin Allen cover paintings for the Voyage and Time Tunnel comics. As is usually the case with TwoMorrows publications, the book is beautifully designed, and the illustrations are perfectly chosen. I leafed through it several times just enjoying the art and marvelling at the memories before I actually started cherrypicking pieces to read, just drinking in familiar and occasionally forgotten images. Part coffee table book, part reference work, if you are a 1960s pop culture fanatic like me, you cannot pass up this book for your library.

One of the best books of 2017. I enjoyed this book. And I haven't enjoyed a great many books about pop culture this year. Too many comic books, television, and movies have become obsessed with mankind's dark side, and that can get way too depressing after awhile. Michael Eury has done a tremendous job writing and putting this text together which features on the cartoons, tv, and comic books of the sixties. Covering everything from Adam West's Batman to Mighty Mouse. Articles on the Inferior Five, Pureheart the Powerful, Captain Nice, and other forgotten series from the sixties. Now, I know things weren't perfect back then, but the bright colors, the silliness, the jokes that worked and those that didn't, bring a smile to my face that is desperately needed these days. When did we get so serious that we couldn't smile at ourselves now and then. Mr. Eury did a great selection of choosing the captions, panels, illustrations and covers from the sixties. My favorite is when the Justice League tells the President of the United States, that the Blackhawks, a fellow super hero team, "just don't swing." Well, I enjoyed it. Hopefully, Hero-A-Go-Go will bring attention to some forgotten series to the not so intense pop culture fan. In the future, I'll have to track down some titles as "The Modniks," "The Mighty Heroes," "Captain Sprocket," and "Charlton's "Go Go." Great book Michael. And great research. JThreeWilliston, North Dakota

One of the nicest books on the subject, not cheesy, in any way...groovy and gear highly recommended!

Excellent reading on pop culture of the 1960's.

A fun book.

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