

HUNTING THE DARK KNIGHT: TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BATMAN BY WILL BROOKER



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Review

'Will Brooker casts dazzling light on Batman as myth, brand and canon.' - Matt Hills, author of *Triumph of a Time Lord* 'An excellent summary of the Batman phenomenon and why so many writers adore him...a fascinating and incredibly detailed analysis of the comic fiction's most powerful and successful hero.' - Pat Mills, 'the godfather of British comics'

About the Author

Will Brooker is Reader and Director of Research in Film and Television at Kingston University, London. He is a leading expert on the Dark Knight, author of the cultural history of Batman, *Batman Unmasked*. His other books include *Using the Force* and *Alice's Adventures*. He edited the *Audience Studies Reader* and *The Blade Runner Experience*, and wrote the BFI Film Classics volume on *Star Wars*.

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Publishing on the eve of the world premiere of the third of Christopher Nolan's Batman movies, *The Dark Knight Rises* in July 2012, Will Brooker's new book explores Batman's twenty-first century incarnations. Will Brooker's in depth investigation into *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight* uncovers the complex relationship between popular films, audiences, and producers in our age of media convergence. He addresses a myriad of questions raised by these films: did *Batman Begins* end when *The Dark Knight* began? Does its story include Burger King's "Dark Whopper," the *Gotham Knight* DVD, or the "Why So Serious" viral marketing campaign? Is it separate from the parallel narratives of the *Arkham Asylum* videogame, the monthly comic books, the animated series and the graphic novels? Can the brightly campy incarnations of the Batman ever be fully repressed by *The Dark Knight*, or are they an intrinsic part of the character? In other words, do all of these various manifestations feed into a single Batman metanarrative?

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Literal Batman

By J. Cronin

Very in depth literal analysis of my favorite character, Batman. Interesting observations by the author combined with an in depth knowledge of the comics. It really should have been longer, and explored Bill Finger's contribution to the character's creation, but this is a minor point. I loved the literary angle the author takes in the analysis.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The Language and the Words of Batman

By Brian Beise

There are many books on the market that use pop culture figures as spring boards to delve into sociological, philosophical, and ethical topics. Usually those books have little to say about the pop culture figures, so the whole thing ends up feeling like a bait and switch, when you wander into a book expecting to read about the Simpsons, but instead you find yourself reading long quotes from Kierkegaard.

Will Brooker's "Hunting the Dark Knight" is not that kind of book. As he discusses Nolan's films, the genesis of "Batman Begins," and, best of all, the nature of Batman as being more than any one iteration suggests, Brooker draws from postmodernism, deconstructionism, and anthropology about middle-age carnivals, but he does it all in a way that illuminates Batman. If you read with attention and patience, you will learn about some of the most important thinkers of the 20th century, but you'll also learn more about one of the greatest pop icons we have, and one of the only mythical heroes that belong to us, not generations past.

Any reader who wants to argue that Batman represents more than childhood nostalgia and vicarious thrills must read this book. It is the best expression I've ever seen of Batman's value, and of his constantly expanding, ever hardening mythical core.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Batman Carnival

By Igor Harb, Midori

The carnival of Batman comes to town. This is by far the most insightful of Mr Brooker's books on Batman

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