



BATMAN

AND
PSYCHOLOGY

A DARK AND STORMY KNIGHT

TRAVIS LANGLEY

FOREWORD BY **MICHAEL USLAN** INTRODUCTION BY **DENNIS O'NEIL**

Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight, Travis Langley, John Wiley & Sons, 2012, 1118167651, 9781118167656, 337 pages. 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 the way they are? And why won't he kill that homicidal, green-haired clown? 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 world's most popular comic book characters Written by a psychology professor and Superherologist (scholar of superheroes) .

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The Power of Persuasion How We're Bought and Sold, Robert Levine, Feb 21, 2003, Psychology, 278 pages. Looks at the power of effective persuasion, describing the mindset and tactics of persuasion professionals and detailing ways to protect oneself from becoming a victim of

The Boy Who Loved Batman A Memoir, Michael Uslan, Aug 10, 2011, Biography & Autobiography, 256 pages. The Boy Who Loved Batman is a coming of age story of a kid from New Jersey who used his childhood love of comics to help create the Batman franchise that we know and love today

Batman and Philosophy The Dark Knight of the Soul, Mark D. White, Robert Arp, Jun 23, 2008, Philosophy, 294 pages. Twenty essays explore questions in moral philosophy through examinations of the character of Batman as seen in comic books, graphic novels, and the mass media..

Impulse Control Disorders , Christine A. Adamec, Christine Collins, Jan 1, 2009, Psychology, 94 pages. When an individual suffers from an impulse control disorder, that person has little or no control over repeated impulsive acts, causing problems for him or her. Impulse control

The Dark Knight Rises The Official Movie Novelization, Greg Cox, Jul 24, 2012, , 415 pages. An official novelization of the much-anticipated conclusion to the Dark Knight movie trilogy..

Batman knightfall and beyond, Alan Grant, Graham Nolan, Scott Hanna, Aug 1, 1994, Comics & Graphic Novels, 157 pages. When Batman is severely injured in a fight with the evil Bane, Batman's apprentice, Azrael, decides to take his place.

Batman the strange deaths of Batman, Gardner Francis Fox, Carmine Infantino, Jan 27, 2009, , 160 pages. One of the staples of super-heroic sagas is the story in which the hero appears to die -- and even his closest allies believe it. These startling stories from the 1960s, 1970s

Hunting the Dark Knight Twenty-First Century Batman, Will Brooker, Jul 17, 2012, Performing Arts, 272 pages. An investigation into the Batman movie franchise by Christopher Nolan analyzes the relationship between popular films, audiences, and producers, addressing questions about

The Batman Files , Matthew Manning, Oct 25, 2011, Antiques & Collectibles, 308 pages. Collects photographs and journal entries to provide a glimpse into the life of Bruce Wayne and his metamorphosis from visionary to crime fighter..

Batman Begins And the Comics , Julian Darius, 2005, Performing Arts, 184 pages. Studies the 2005 film, directed by Christopher Nolan, paying particular attention to how it draws on its comic book source material..

Clinical Manual of Impulse-Control Disorders , Eric Hollander, Dan J. Stein, Apr 2, 2007, Medical, 368 pages. Visibility of impulse-control disorders (ICDs) has never been greater than it is today, both in the field of psychiatry and in popular culture. Changes in both society and

The Batman Filmography , , , , . .

Taken , Jerry B. Jenkins, Tim F. LaHaye, 2003, Juvenile Fiction, 408 pages. Four teens, left behind after the Rapture, battle the forces of evil in "The Vanishings," "Second Chance," "Through the Flames," and "Facing the Future."

Riddle Me This, Batman! Essays on the Universe of the Dark Knight, Kevin Karl Jones Durand, Mary K. Leigh, 2011, Literary Criticism, 222 pages. "These essays examine how Batman is both the canvas on which our cultural identity is painted, and the Eternal Other that informs our own journeys of understanding. Questions

Batman the last angel, Eric Lustbader, 1994, Comics & Graphic Novels, 96 pages. .

Batman The Dark Knight Returns, Frank Miller, Klaus Janson, Lynn Varley, May 1, 1997, Comics & Graphic Novels, 227 pages. After ten years away from the public eye, a wave of violence in Gotham City brings Batman back as a vigilante..

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?

"If you love Batman you will love this book. If you love psychology you will love this book! Do not worry about getting lost though, as Langley does an excellent job explaining everything he discusses... A book you shouldn't pass up, as once you start reading it you simply will not be able to put it down!" - International House of Geek

"...more entertaining than many of the others which populate the ever-growing field of texts about pop culture and the sciences. Rather than just telling us what we should know or think about Batman, the book supplements our own interest in the hero, and provokes us to think more about what's going on in his head." - StarPulse.com

"I'll never get to meet the late Bob Kane or Bill Finger. We can't chat about their creations. I can't watch them greet fans, hear them recount anecdotes from their amazing lives, or thank them for everything they set in motion and all that their legacy has meant - not face-to-face anyway. This book is more than my answer to a question Adam West, the man who played my childhood hero, once asked me. It's my heartfelt 'thank you' to Bob and Bill. Jerry too." - Travis Langley, author of Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight, from his acknowledgments.

"...scholarly and insightful... His professional credentials, mixed with his love for the comic books and the character of Batman, create a fascinating, entertaining, and educational read." - Bat-Films executive producer Michael Uslan (Batman, Batman Begins, The Dark Knight Rises), from his foreword to Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight.

"It is a terrific book. It explores the psychological implications of Batman's various incarnation, in print and on screens both large and small, and in the process gives us a pretty thorough biography of Batman, his friends, and his enemies... It serves as a witty and absolutely clear introduction to

psychology, especially clinical psychology." - comic book writer and editor Dennis O'Neil (Batman, Detective Comics), from his introduction to *Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight*.

This book combines two of my loves into one well thought out and well organized book. Dr Langley provides well thought out justifications for diagnoses of Batman and many of his rogues, examines the root cause of their behaviors, and provides a lovingly thorough and surprisingly accurate rundown of Batman's history in all forms of media. This book is up to date with *Flashpoint*, which is quite impressive when considering how recent said story is, and also discusses some of the themes in the upcoming *Dark Knight Rises* without giving spoilers. This book is something I've craved for a long, long time!

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:

As a comic and psychology geek, I have to say that this book is an amazing read and excellent psychological exploration in to the Dark Knight and his rouge of villains and supporting characters. The amount of research and psychological analysis really shines through. The trauma section was especially revealing and well-supported... Highly recommend it!!

When I first picked this up I thought that it would just be an interesting way to pass a day or two. I've had a few college courses in psychology and thought it'd be neat to read about mental disorders in Batman's universe. This book is so much more than that. This could literally be the foundation of the most interesting college class EVER. Langley does a fantastic job of detailing various mental disorders and motivations not just in the Batman universe but also in the real world. The real pleasure in reading this book is that it's not just comic books and pop psychology but a primer for understanding real mental issues, and why some people are the way they are. It also explains why Batman only works inside of the universe he's in. The book is excellent.

Having been a Batman fan for nearly 30 years, I've come to form some concrete opinions on the character. Through his various iterations on TV (both live-action and animated), film, and in the comics, Batman has had core elements that make up what is Bruce Wayne/Batman. In his aptly titled '*Batman and Psychology*,' Dr. Langley examines these core elements (and a few of the variables or fringe elements the character has picked up along the way as well) in a detailed, professional, and entertaining way.

I've read some other great "superherology" books like '*Wisdom from the Batcave*' and '*The Psychology of Superheroes*,' and Langley references them both in his book. However, Langley's book is the first in-depth professional psychological analysis of Batman and the Batman "universe" or mythos that's ever been published. Langley is an unabashed Batman fan, but in the book he takes a look at Bruce Wayne from an objective psychologist's perspective and draws some interesting conclusions--some of which may change the way fans look at the character--about Batman in all of his iterations from the first comics Bob Kane and Bill Finger put out in 1939 all the way to Christopher Nolan's 2012 film '*The Dark Knight Rises*.' However, Langley is a professional and he doesn't come to his conclusions lightly. He goes in to great detail with his analysis and makes sure his conclusions are on solid footing. The man has 40 pages (Forty!) of listed references, so this book isn't simply some collection of fanboy riffing or factless, opinion fueled blogging.

This summer, Batman will once again burst onto the screens with the July release of Warner Brothers' *The Dark Knight Rises*. By this time, many of us have wondered about our culture's seven-

decade fascination with the Caped Crusader. "Superherologist" Travis Langley has done so more tellingly than most. In this singular book, he writes about Batman as a superhero with no superpowers, a hero who taps into our most primal fears and our deepest wishes. Dr. Langley puts this masked vigilante and his admirers on the analyst couch to examine what makes him—and us tick. A revealing look at Bruce Wayne and his alter-ego.

Langley's excellent book is interesting in that unlike most writers who've written about Wertham and the Comics Code, he allows that Dr. Wertham was, in most respects, quite a valuable member of society. Wertham did a lot of good—he was a civil rights advocate whose work was cited in the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. (Blood, Dirt & Angels, 21 July 2012)

Seriously, Batman more than any other superhero is driven by the psychology of the character. This book masterfully analyzes Batman, his enemies, his long history. The author knows his Batman. He knows his psychology too and explains it in such clear text, respecting the readers' intelligence but without making the material tough. Heck of a balancing job. Smart and entertaining, this book is spellbinding. I could not put it down.

I am not sure who has been writing these reviews (perhaps the author) but this is really not a very well-crafted book. I am a huge fan of Batman, and this attempt at analysis does both a huge disservice to both the character and psychology. Large portions of this book had nothing to do with Batman, and the reading was dry. I would not recommend this book if you are a fan of Batman.

scholarly and insightful; His professional credentials, mixed with his love for comic books and the character of Batman, create a fascinating, entertaining, and educational read; Michael Uslan, *Bat-Films* executive producer (*Batman*, *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, etc.)

If you ever wanted to really know if Bruce Wayne is nuts, then this is the book for you. Perhaps some incarnations of Batman are more crazy than others! Great read and tremendously insightful into the psyche of The Dark Knight. Also features a forward by Michael Uslan and an introduction by Denny O'Neil; Bill Jett; Ramey, *Batman-on-Film.com*

It's pretty interesting, because if you love the Batman Universe then it's kinda fun. Also, if you have an interest in learning about real psychological analysis then those things are explained in great detail. I found the book to be both very entertaining AND educational. — Tom Sheridan, *Bat-Blog*

Langley is heavily in depth with his exploration of Bruce/Batman. The book gives new Batman recruits a jist of who Batman is, his motivation, his foes, and allies; I find the book highly interesting because it explores the regions of Bruce/Batman that may explain unanswered questions. Also, it is nice ice breaker to leave on your coffee table or to show off during lunch time with colleagues or friends. — "Dark Knight News"

Langley cleverly combines his two loves—as evinced by the title—to create a work that will draw the most disinterested psychology students in by using the seemingly universally loved Byronic hero of Batman. Using concrete examples from the Batman universe(s), Langley explores Freud, Jung, Erikson, as well as Kubler-Ross's Stages of Grief and many other classic theories psychology principles, making it a helpful read for any struggling student of psychology. — Geekscape.net

It's very interesting, and engaging, trying to be low on technical terms, and explaining those that are necessary, as it was written not for psychologists, but for general public. And as such, it is an excellent way to understand a bit more about the science of mental health, about character development, and about Batman himself! a very good way to understand how and why somebody would come to become a caped hero. An excellent read, period. I'm quite happy to have

bought this one.â€• â€“ Ager Somnia, GoodReads

â€œIf you would like an introduction to psychology, a history lesson (interesting history lesson) about DC Comics and one of it’s most enduring heroes – Batman, and to read a good psychological analysis of Bruce Wayne/Batman and his friends and enemies, buy or borrow this book.â€• â€“Â Jacqueline O., GoodReads

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