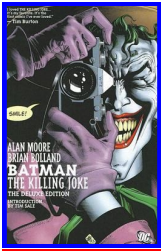


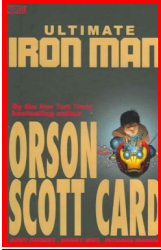
SUPERHEROES FOR GROWN UPS!

While the majority of our Superhero Graphic Novels are located in our Young Adult area, some titles, notably those with mature themes or more graphic violence, are located in our Adult Graphic Novel area.



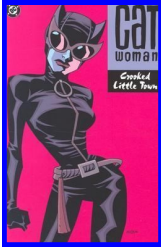
Batman: The Dark Knight Returns by Frank Miller (BATMAN)

An aging, time-worn Batman struggles with the acceptance of a new Robin while facing the latest generation of vicious, hyper-violent criminals. Old foes like the Joker and Two-Face add to the maddening mayhem which Batman must face and somehow conquer. Even Batman's relationship with his friend and ally Superman takes a fresh and inventive turn that would have been unthinkable outside of Miller's richly imagined vision of the Dark Knight's future. Also try almost any other Batman stories, including [Batman: The Dark Knight Strikes Again](#).



Batman: The Killing Joke by Alan Moore (BATMAN)

The Killing Joke stirred a bit of controversy because the story involves the Joker brutally, pointlessly shooting Commissioner Gordon's daughter in the spine. This is a no-holds-barred take on a truly insane criminal mind, masterfully written by British comics writer Alan Moore. The art by Brian Bolland is so appealing that his depiction of the Joker became a standard and was imitated by many artists to follow. Also try [Arkham Asylum: A Serious House on a Serious Earth](#).



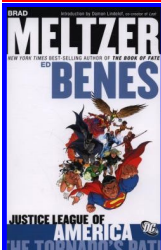
Ultimate Iron Man by Orson Scott Card (CARD)

The most imaginative, groundbreaking comic of 2005! International bestseller, multiple award winner Orson Scott Card (*Ender's Game*) comes to the Ultimate Universe. He's joined by industry legend Andy Kubert to show the shocking beginning of Ultimate Iron Man! If you thought *The Ultimates* told you everything you needed to know about Ultimate Iron Man, think again! Also try [Extremis](#).



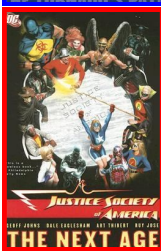
Catwoman: Crooked Little Town by Ed Brubaker (CATWOMAN)

After years of life as a thief, Catwoman has changed her ways and dedicated herself to becoming the protector of Gotham's East Side. Looking to destroy the drug trade that is infecting in her neighborhood, the former cat burglar asks Holly, her new sidekick, to go out on the streets and learn what she can about the illegal narcotics trafficking. But when Holly discovers that the head of the drug ring is actually a crooked cop, she quickly becomes a wanted woman. Also try [Catwoman: Dark End of the Street](#).



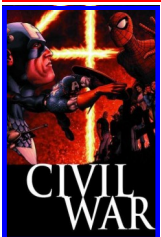
Fifty Two: Volume 1 by Geoff Johns, et. al. (FIFTY)

After the "Infinite Crisis," the DC Universe has spent a year without Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman--a year in which those heroes are needed more than ever. "52" is a four-volume collection of the unprecedented, critically acclaimed weekly series of death, danger, romance, terror, and the never-ending search for heroism. The series continues with volumes 2, 3, and 4.



Justice League of America: The Tornado's Path by Brad Meltzer (JUSTICE)

Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman decide to reform the Justice League and must choose the new roster of members. A new villain appears during their selection process and he's just one of the many sinister forces gathering to bring an end to the league. Like Meltzer's earlier work, this story will have ripple effects throughout the DC Universe for many years to come. This is a perfect book for new readers as well as longtime fans.

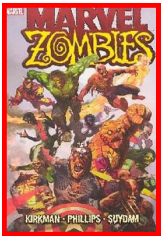


Justice Society of America: The Next Age by Geoff Johns, et. al. (JUSTICE)

Determined to rebuild the Justice Society, founding members Green Lantern, Flash and Wildcat initiate an unprecedented recruitment program, tracking the bloodlines of heroes across the world and bringing in the new Starman, Damage, Liberty Belle and more! But just as the Society welcomes the rookies into their ranks, an evil force is hunting them down one by one. Now the world's first super-team must solve the mystery of the brutal murders--before more members fall!

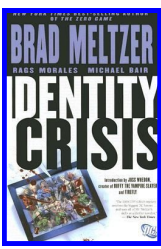
Civil War: A Marvel Comics Event by Mark Millar (MARVEL)

This landmark event in the Marvel Universe pits hero against hero and friend against friend in a conflict that has been brewing for over a year. It seems there is a government hero-registration act which requires heroes to reveal their secret identities. Some heroes support the measure in our post-9-11 world, but many do not. Also try [Civil War: Marvel Universe](#).



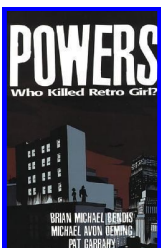
Marvel Zombies by Robert Kirkman (MARVEL)

On an Earth shockingly similar to the Marvel Universe's, an alien virus has mutated all of the world's greatest super heroes into flesh-eating monsters! It took them only hours to destroy life as we know it - but what happens when they run out of humans to eat?! Follow their search for more food, and witness the arrival of the Silver Surfer! Also try [Marvel Zombies vs. Army of Darkness](#).



Identity Crisis by Brad Meltzer (MELTZER)

This volume collects 2004's evocative seven-issue miniseries that takes an all-too-human look into the lives of superheroes, and the terrible price they pay for doing good. The crime-fighting community is devastated by the death of one of their own when Sue Dibny, the wife of Elongated Man, is murdered in her home, leading to a search for clues and suspects. Also try [Justice League of America: The Lightning Saga](#).



Planetary: All Over the World and Other Stories by Warren Ellis (PLANETARY)

Follow the enigmatic heroes Jakita Wagner, Elijah Snow, and the Drummer as they excavate the secret history of the world from its wealth of bizarre happenings. The stories are both broad and deep, exploring a web of conspiracies and shadowy superheroes that manipulate and "protect" our world. From ghost cops in China to radioactive creatures in the Pacific, the group uncovers long-hidden wonders of the world.

Powers: Who Killed Retro Girl by Brian Michael Bendis (POWERS)

From the city's seamy underbelly to the gleaming towers inhabited by immortal beings, Detective Christian Walker and rookie Detective Deena Pilgrim investigate the murder of one of the world's most popular superheroes, Retro Girl. In the course of their inquiries they discover shocking truths about the victim, and Walker may have to reveal his own dark secret in order to solve the crime. Also try [Powers Volume 2: Psychotic](#)



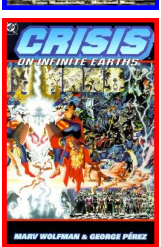
The Punisher Born by Garth Ennis (PUNISHER)

Frank Castle, the one-man army known as the Punisher, has dedicated his life to waging war against the criminal underworld. But that isn't the whole story. In the tradition of "Wolverine: Origin," witness the true birth of the Punisher years before, as Frank Castle the man enters his third tour of duty in Vietnam, but leaves as a force of nature. Also try [Punisher: Army of One](#).



Superman: The Kents by John Ostrander (THE KENTS)

"This issue isn't me and Jeb anymore nor even the town. We are abolitionists. They will kill us if they can keep other men in chains just as we will kill them if we must -- to defend ourselves or set other men free." --from the journal of Nathaniel Kent, December 12(?), 1855 Before Clark Kent took to the skies as Superman, there were other legends who went by the name of Kent. This is their story. Also try just about any other Superman title, including [The Man of Steel](#) and [Superman for All Seasons](#).



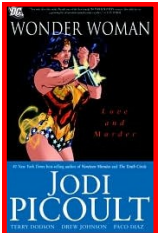
Crisis on Infinite Earths by Marv Wolfman (WOLFMAN)

Trapped in a timeless limbo, the Flash can only watch in silent and helpless horror as, one by one, countless universes fade from existence in order to feed the insatiable villain the Anti-Monitor. Under the guidance of the Monitor, his benevolent opposite, the super-heroes and villains of all realities are brought together for a last, desperate stand against the forces that promise the literal end of all existence. Also try [Infinite Crisis](#) (YA INFINITE) and [Final Crisis](#) (MORRISON).



Watchmen by Alan Moore (WATCHMEN)

It all begins with the paranoid delusions of a half-insane hero called Rorschach. But is Rorschach really insane or has he in fact uncovered a plot to murder super-heroes and, even worse, millions of innocent civilians? On the run from the law, Rorschach reunites with his former teammates in a desperate attempt to save the world and their lives, but what they uncover will shock them to their very core and change the face of the planet! Also try Moore's stories of an entire city populated by super-heroes in [Top 10](#) and also [Supreme: the Story of the Year](#).



Wonder Woman: Love and Murder by Jodi Picoult (WONDER)

Wonder Woman is assigned the task of capturing Wonder Woman while in her disguise as Special Agent Diana Prince of the Department of Metahuman Affairs. How will she be able to accomplish the impossible task of capturing herself without revealing her secret identity? This is just the start of the Amazon Warrior's problems, as Diana must relearn how to exist as a human woman while a deadly foe begins closing a net on her that will lead to a catastrophic outcome. Also try [Wonder Woman: Eyes of the Gorgon](#).

** Please see our other reading lists: 'Superheroes Deconstructed' and 'Superhero Novels'*