

## Action! Mystery! Thrills!: Comic Book Covers of the Golden Age 1933-45

*From Fantagraphics*  
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**From Fantagraphics : Action! Mystery! Thrills!: Comic Book Covers of the Golden Age 1933-45** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Action! Mystery! Thrills!: Comic Book Covers of the Golden Age 1933-45:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Content, Flimsy Book By Moss This book has a very nice selection of Golden Age comic covers. Some are better than others but all are enjoyable if you have an interest in this period of comics. The Fawcett and Fiction House titles are some of my favorites. The foreword by Templeton is good reading and just the right amount of information for each cover is provided in the back. Thankfully, there are no unnecessary academic/comic historian essays and opinions that usually clutter retrospective books of this nature - just pages and pages of cool covers, nice and simple. The covers take up the entire page they are presented on and look

great. This makes the black gutter stand out more, but at least they didn't roll the covers into it. Unfortunately, I only had this book a couple of days and the glued cover started peeling away from the spine. This isn't the first time I've had this problem with Fantagraphics softcovers. Hopefully it won't come completely apart. This book deserves to be a nice sewn hardcover. 5 stars for great content, 2 for the cheap magazine construction. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Action, Mystery and Thrills By Edward Lee During the Golden Age of Comic Books, the surest way to separate a potential customer from his dime was a striking cover. This book presents 176 fully restored full-size classics arranged chronologically to follow the evolutionary trends of comic books. This long overdue collection includes extensive historical commentary by editor Greg Sadowski. This was the time when comic books grew up to adulthood. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. high quality book, for historians mostly By Thomas E. Stazer I was hugely disappointed, but that is my own fault. I had expected more of the over-the-top goofy fun, and solid illustrations, as grace the cover. A huge portion of the book - majority, really - is of covers that, despite their originality and impact in their day, are dull and stiff. Halfway through the book things get lurid and more fun - was anyone ever crazier than Biro?? - but it still left me feeling unsatisfied. AGAIN - that is a problem with my expectations, not the book itself, whose quality and professionalism is 5 solid stars. But that cover image seen here? Not even marginally typical of what is inside. And that in it's own way is a mirror of the covers it showcases, which lure you in with ribald and violent images, then deliver yawns and chatter inside.

176 classic covers unfurled in full-sized glory! When we contemplate a memorable old comic book, the first thing that comes to mind is its cover, and that was no accident. Publishers realized fairly quickly that if they spent a little extra to hire a good cover artist, they could fill the insides with mediocrity and still make a sizable profit that all it took was a striking cover to entice thousands of kids to fork over their dimes. Even today, covers drive the collectors market. Apart from number-one issues and first appearances, the strength of a comic books cover is the first consideration in determining its value. Indeed, it is now common practice to entomb the book between slabs of sealed plastic with only the cover visible as if the interior pages sole purpose was to provide a place to secure the staples. In order to locate the best possible examples, collectors from around the world have been enlisted to share their rare and valuable comic books. The scores of cover artists represented include Carl Barks, Charles Biro, Dick Briefer, L.B. Cole, Jack Cole, Reed Crandall, Will Eisner, Bill Everett, Lou Fine, Walt Kelly, Jack Kirby, Mac Raboy, and Alex Schomburg. Every comic book genre will be explored, from superhero to detective to Western to funny animal. Majestic, iconic, chaotic, or downright weird, a classic comic book cover has an undeniable appeal, and Action! Mystery! Thrills! celebrates in spades this unique cultural icon. The covers will be printed full-sized on glossy paper to most faithfully replicate the originals, and arranged chronologically to give the reader a sense of the sweeping trends and stylistic developments throughout the mediums first decade, as inexorable waves of dazzling imagery battled monthly for newsstand attention. 240 pages of full-color comics

Nearly every cover in this collection sizzles like a good slice of breakfast bacon. Pop art and the peculiar modernist aesthetic that defined postwar American culture really started here ... [F]lipping through the gory, scary, and often beautiful pages of this discerning and honest anthology is an intoxicating experience. - Publishers Weekly... Sadowski offers up an incredibly diverse gallery of forgotten superheroes, pistol toting gangsters, cartoonish Nazis, and talking animals. Each cover has been painstakingly restored . . . Its as close to browsing the comics rack of a World War II era drugstore as most of us will ever get.... Sadowski... is one of the most adept chroniclers of comic book history working today.... At a perfectly reasonable \$29.99, its a must for any comic book fans library. - April Snellings, Knoxville Metro Pulse... [Action! Mystery! Thrills!] is one the best books yet done on Golden Age Comics! Sadowski is by far my favorite editor of compilations/retrospectives on comic book art!... [An] important look at an exceptional period of American art! My highest recommendation to anyone interested in 20th Century illustration and of course the comics! - Golden Age Comic Book Stories Editor/designer Greg Sadowski returns to his tireless exploration of the comic book with [Action! Mystery! Thrills!].... As in his previous volumes..., Sadowski supplies copious end notes and annotations. . . an entertaining history of early comics.... Sadowski once again delivers an essential book for anyone with an interest in comics history. - Rick Klaw, The SF Site: Nexus Graphica About the Author Greg Sadowski is a writer, editor and designer (B. Krigstein, Superman!, Four Color Fear, Setting the Standard: Alex Toth; Action! Mystery! Thrills!) living in Washington State.