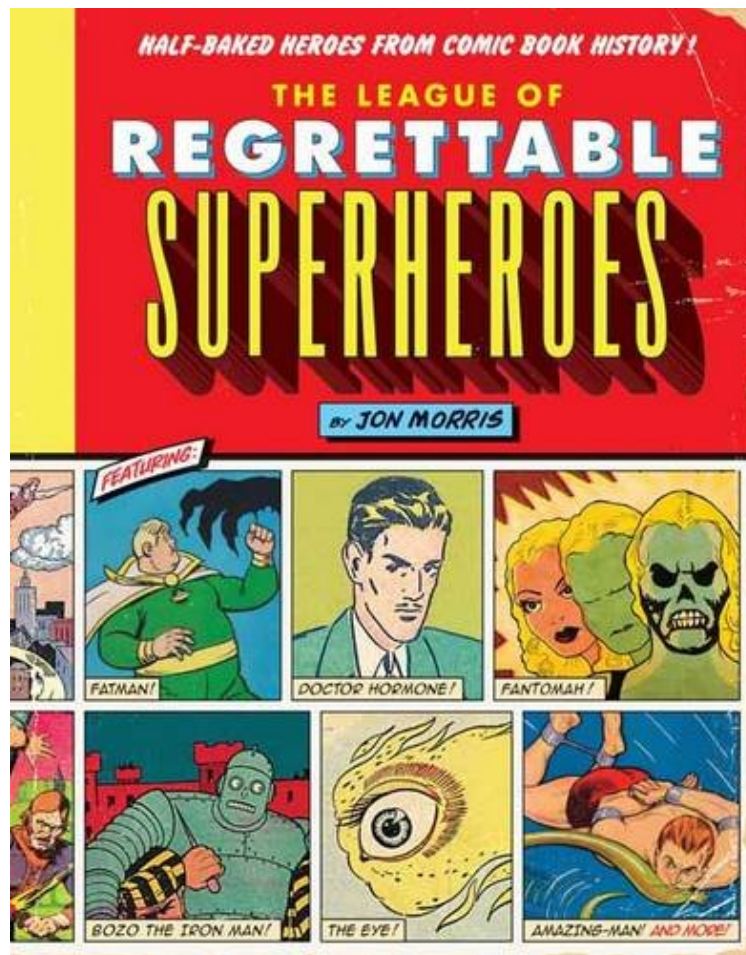


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The League of Regrettable Superheroes: Half-Baked Heroes from Comic Book History

Jon Morris

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Jon Morris : The League of Regrettable Superheroes: Half-Baked Heroes from Comic Book History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The League of Regrettable Superheroes: Half-Baked Heroes from Comic Book History:

42 of 42 people found the following review helpful. Nothing regrettable about purchasing this excellent bookBy HermgermA beautifully produced book filled with vintage material about superheroes who were destined to fail. After reading it I checked out the author's blog, and I must admit - Jon Morris is a pretty funny guy. However, this book is only 90% humor. There's a lot of relevance here as well, and every article on each of the poor unfortunate characters Jon showcases has been meticulously researched. Hence, the end result is a product filled with useful facts that can be read either encyclopedic style by selecting individual entries, or by adopting a more story-centric approach by starting

from the Golden Age and working upwards through The Silver Age and into the Modern. Each hero's biography paints a complete picture of his/her history and a short analysis of why he/she may be deemed regrettable. The main character art of each entry is stunning, but the real highlight for me was the short one-page strips accompanying each superheroes' well-written history. The overall look and feel of the book exudes charm and is a true pleasure to read. Most of the weirdest and zaniest creations spotlighted came from The Golden Age, but there are a fair number of entries from other eras too. My favorite Golden Age mishaps featured within are, among others, Stardust the Super Wizard, Speed Centaur, Kangaroo Man, The Puppeteer, Fantomah, Bozo the Robot and Doctor Hormone. Oh, and how could I forget Invisible Scarlet O'Neil, the very first invisible superheroine? The Silver Age is also ripe for the picking, with entries like B'Wana Beast (Love him!) and the classic Legion of Super-Pets. For the Modern Age I need only utter a single name: Thunderbunny! But the list goes on and on, and each page is as entertaining as the next. A worthy read, and a bang-for-your-buck purchase indeed.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Completely unique and entertaining
By MARK YERGER
Completely unique and entertaining. Firstly the book is beautifully produced with cleanly printed and fully rendered pages and reproductions of the original comics. Along with Jon Morris' well researched and at times laugh out loud funny analysis, makes this a great addition for collectors or casual comics fans. Much of the book is dedicated to the emerging golden age of comics, where we are introduced to the likes of "Bozo the Ironman" and "Captain Tootsie." The profiles range from the utterly ridiculous; "Dr. Hormone" to the poorly conceived rip offs, "Nature Boy" to the what might have been had the sold more copies; "Captain Science." Morris notes that the downfall of many of these was economic and not always the pure silliness of the product. Honestly, some beloved legendary characters such as Dr. Strange, Silver Surfer, and Plastic Man easily could have wound up in this book had the been scraped by their publishers. Great Book overall!!

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

One Hit and No Hit Superheroes of Comic Book History
By Craig A. SAUNDERS
A light hearted trip through comic book history of the duds, flops and never ready for prime time superheroes, as you travel through this book one is struck of what were the creators of this superheroes were thinking of while drawing their creations., Each regrettable is allotted one to two pages of a panel of the comic books and some of the history and backstory of each character. I chuckled over and over while reading this book- get this book you will not be disappointed. .A great companion book would be regrettable villains of comic book history.

You know about Batman, Superman, and Spiderman, but have you heard of Doll Man, Doctor Hormone, or Spider Queen? In *The League of Regrettable Superheroes*, you'll meet one hundred of the strangest superheroes ever to see print, complete with backstories, vintage art, and colorful commentary. So prepare yourself for such not-ready-for-prime-time heroes as Bee Man (Batman, but with bees), the Clown (circus-themed crimebuster), the Eye (a giant, floating eyeball; just accept it), and many other oddballs and oddities. Drawing on the entire history of the medium, *The League of Regrettable Superheroes* will appeal to die-hard comics fans, casual comics readers, and anyone who enjoys peering into the stranger corners of pop culture.

A volume rich with historical anecdotes and informed commentary on every era of comics history.
A.V. Club
With its gorgeous full page images of the comics and humorous descriptions of the heroes, each second-stringer gets a few pages of glory.
Boing Boing
Jon Morris has compiled the histories and art of some of the strangest and most unusual superheroes that ever saw print and collected them here for you. Definitely check it out!
Nerdlist
This compendium of short-lived superheroes (from actual comics) will thrill and amaze.
Mental Floss
It's a great idea, executed with adroit prose, attractive design and painstaking production quality full-page, full-color excerpts accompany each entry, turning what could have been a merely dutiful archive into a vibrant, living, expertly curated tour of a long-neglected and seriously goofy facet of American cultural history.
Monkey See
An amusing collection of obscure wonderments.
Sci Fi magazine
Forgotten but not gone, cartoonist and graphic designer Jon Morris has lovingly resurrected, wittily chronicled, and copiously illustrated these idiosyncratic super-D-list-ers more than a hundred for our enlightenment and mostly amusement.
Print magazine [Morris's]
wealth of knowledge and whip-smart sense of humor add up to a book that's both deeply informative and quite funny.
Seattle Weekly
This excellent book would be a worthy addition to any comic fans collection, be they the hardcore enthusiast or the more casual fan of the superhero genre.
ComicBook.com
This compilation is essential reading both old and new fans who revel in the art of comic books... This is a wealth of comic art and undeniable fun.
The New York Journal of Books
About the Author
Jon Morris is a cartoonist and graphic designer. Since the late 1990s, he's operated the blog *Gone Forgotten*, an irreverent look at the weirdest and most unfortunate stories and characters comic books have offered. In 2001, he was invited to participate in a superheroes-themed episode of the public radio program *This American Life*, a popular and frequently rebroadcast episode.
Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.
Superheroes are big!
Contemporary culture has embraced superheroes in a major way. Hardly a month goes by without an announcement about the release of a new blockbuster superhero movie. Superhero television shows are all over the airwaves, with more waiting in the wings. Superheroes populate our video games, advertising, clothing, and collectible even home furnishings. You can make your bed with superhero sheets and light your house with superhero lamps. Perhaps this ubiquity should come as

no surprise. When superheroes burst onto the scene almost eighty years ago, they captured the public imagination like nothing before. Bold, distinctive, and sometimes bizarre, the four-color caped crusaders quickly leapt from drugstore comic book racks to newspapers, radio, movie theaters, and television. True, their popularity has had its ups and downs. But however you look at it, brightly colored defenders of right and goodness like Captain America, Superman, Wonder Woman, and Spider-Man have become household names. Even once-obscure characters like the X-Men or Guardians of the Galaxy have achieved silver screen success. Still, not every Spandex-clad do-gooder manages to make the big time. From the very origins of the genre to the newest digital graphic novels, the family tree of costumed crimefighters includes hundreds of third-stringers and Z-listers: near-misses, almost-weres, mightabeens, nice tries, weirdos, oddballs, freaks, and even the occasional innovative idea that was simply ahead of its time. In the pages that follow, you'll meet largely forgotten heroes, those who walked away from their comic book careers without so much as a participation ribbon to show for it. They are some of the most intriguing also-rans in comic history: super-centaurs, crime-fighting kangaroos, modern-day Draculas, shape-changing spaceships, and even an all-powerful disembodied flying eye. We call these second-tier (or lower) superheroes regrettable, but it's important to remember that none of these characters are inherently bad. Sometimes, the only factor that kept them from succeeding was bad timing, an unstable marketplace, or merely being lost in the crowd. There's not a single character in this book who doesn't have at least the potential to be great. All it takes is the perfect combination of creative team and right audience to make even the wildest idea a wild success. In fact, several members of the League of Regrettable Superheroes have been revived, revamped, reintroduced, or otherwise regifted with a new lease on life. A few are attempting a comeback even now. In comics, there's always a chance that a seemingly vanished character will come back from extinction. With superheroes becoming more popular with every passing day, you never know when a once-regrettable hero might return and become the next media sensation or at least find devoted fans among a whole new generation of comics readers. To count these heroes out and consign them to oblivion without appreciating what they represent evolving notions of heroism, insights into comics history, and a sampling of fantastic fashion trends in cape-and-cowl ensembles well, that would be truly regrettable.