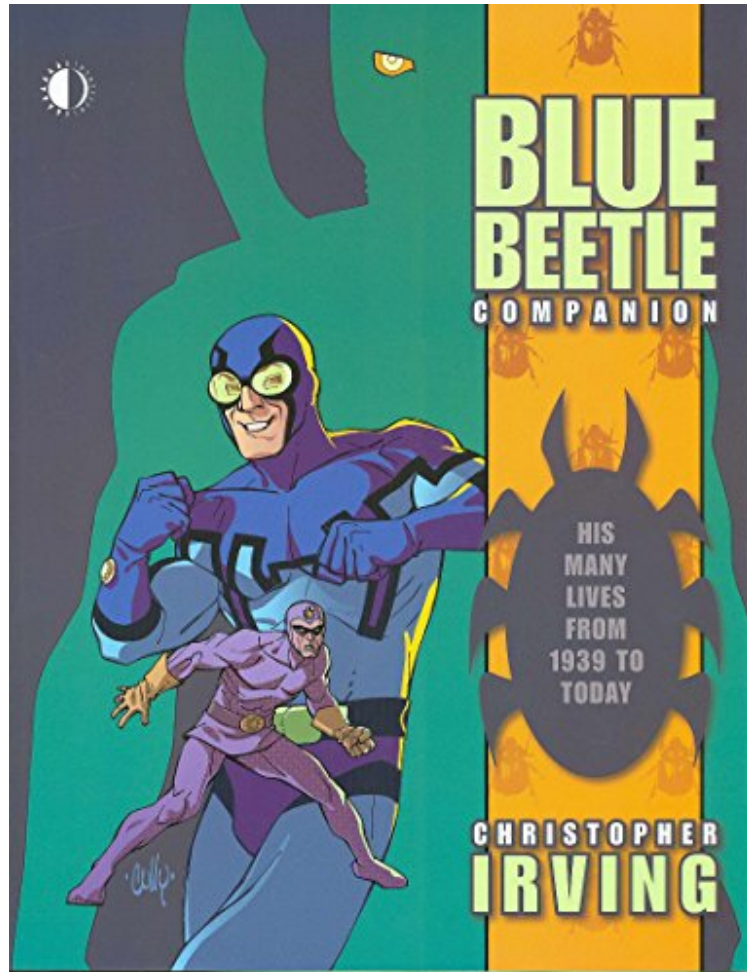


Blue Beetle Companion

Christopher Irving

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Christopher Irving : Blue Beetle Companion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue Beetle Companion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable book!By Richard J. ArndtI liked this book a lot. It told me a lot of information about a character I didn't really know all that well but liked (especially the Steve Ditko stories). Good book to have and enjoy.0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable but not essentialBy Daniel TrogdonAn entertaining look at the history of the character but overall it seemed a bit too breezy, especially compared to TwoMorrows other companion books.1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. comicbook manBy R. PowellExcellent . A complete history for such a obscure character . I especially liked the homage paid to poor Ted Kord , a totally overlooked hero .

The Blue Beetle debuted in 1939, rivaling such icons as Superman and Batman for longevity in comics, but not in

popularity until his recent death and resurrection as a result of DC Comics' hit Infinite Crisis series. Now, Comic Book Artist Magazine's Christopher Irving explores the history and uncovers the secrets lurking under the cover of the character's comics in *The Blue Beetle Companion!* Follow his 60-plus years of evolution from the world of Fox Comics to an in-depth history of Charlton Comics all the way to the hall of today's DC Comics. Find out what really happened to infamous Golden Age publisher Victor Fox, and get an in-depth look at the Blue Beetle radio show and Jack "King" Kirby's Blue Beetle comic strip. Also, presented for the first time since 1939: the first appearance of The Blue Beetle from *Mystery Men Comics #1!* Featuring interviews with Will Eisner, Joe Simon, Joe Gill, Roy Thomas, Geoff Johns, Cully Hamner, Keith Giffen, Len Wein, and others, plus never-before-seen Blue Beetle designs by Alex Ross and Alan Weiss, as well as artwork by Will Eisner, Charles Nicholas, Steve Ditko, Kevin Maguire and more! It also features an introduction by Tom DeHaven, the acclaimed author of the novel *It's Superman!* and Derby Dugan's *Depression Funnies*. Featuring a new cover by current Blue Beetle artist Cully Hamner, this is the ultimate look at one of comicdom's longest-living heroes!

From Booklist In one form or another, the Blue Beetle has been around virtually since the birth of the comic book, making up in longevity what he has lacked in prominence. Debuting in 1939 as a Green Hornet rip-off (he even had a short-lived radio show, like his model) published by various second-string companies, his first run lasted just beyond a decade. In the mid-1950s, Charlton Comics the equivalent of movies' Poverty Row studios briefly revived him; a decade later, artist Steve Ditko, fresh off his Spider Man stint, revamped him. When Charlton dropped its superheroes, the character moved to DC, where he found his natural tier as a comic-relief second-stringer. Recently that embodiment of him was killed off and replaced by a Hispanic teenager, apparently to diversify DC's stable of superheroes. This account of the Beetle's various incarnations is so detailed as to suggest that Irving has paid inordinate attention to an obscurity. Yet its exploration of the character's checkered history, and particularly of the operations of his shadier publishers, is a fascinating cruise in the comics industry's backwaters. Flagg, Gordon Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved