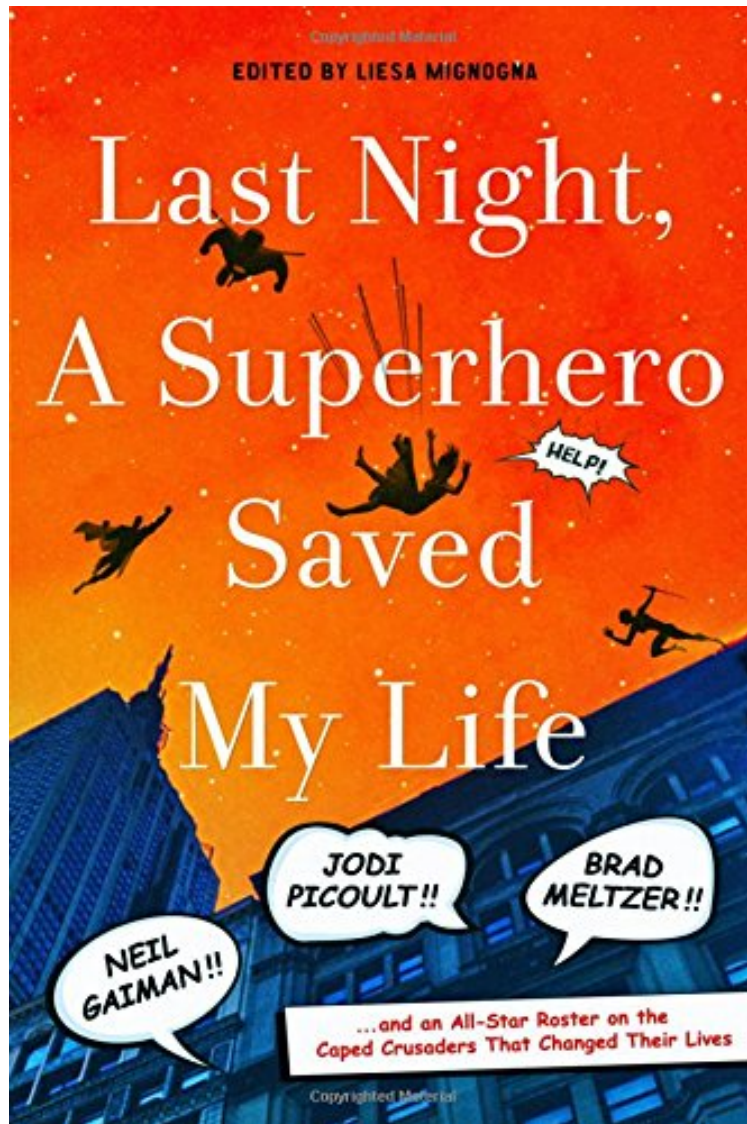


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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Last Night, a Superhero Saved My Life*: Neil Gaiman!! Jodi Picoult!! Brad Meltzer!! . . . and an All-Star Roster on the *Caped Crusaders That Changed Their Lives*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super-Powered Essay Collection By R. Silva This collection of essays connect the mythology of superheroes with the lives of the writers, broken down into themes such as childhood, gender, writing, love, and trauma. Essayists include top-selling authors Neil Gaiman, Jodi Picoult, and Brad Meltzer, all of whom have had success in comics as well as prose writing. I enjoyed the insights into the lives of the authors, many of whom discussed their influences from the world of comics during various eras in comics history where I was also following comics. Some of the material felt familiar, especially some of the thoughts on the Batman, who has been analyzed by many different writers over the years. More interesting to me were some of the essays focusing on less known characters, including Matt Wagner's Grendel, John Byrne's Next Men, Underdog, and even Marvel's somewhat obscure cosmic entity the In-Betweener. As far as the essays themselves, among my favorites was Anthony Breznican's "Dented Hearts", about Iron Man and a family history of heart disease. "Becoming Bethany" by Alethea Kontis recounts a year in which the author lost seven friends and family members, some deaths expected and some not, and relates the process of grieving to John Byrne's invulnerable Bethany from Next Men. Jenn Reese, in "Swashbuckle My Heart", told the story of her love for X-Men character Nightcrawler set in her teenage years against a background of domestic abuse. As someone who has lived in geek and fandom culture my whole life, the essays give fascinating glimpses into the minds of some very creative people, while expounding on themes familiar to generations of comic book readers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Suzana E. Flores A phenomenal read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Howard Steven Namkin Really enjoyed the essays in this book

As broad as our exponentially growing cultural fascination with caped crusaders is, it runs just as deep as this long awaited anthology underscores. Liesa Mignogna the VP, Editorial Director at Simon Pulse and editor of this anthology can expound on the virtues of Batman (her wedding was even Batman-themed) but it's her retelling of incredibly harrowing yet ultimately inspiring encounters with The Dark Knight over the years, as she struggled to coexist with the supervillains in her own family that birthed this collection. *Last Night, A Superhero Saved My Life* gives readers the chance to connect to their beloved authors, while those same authors connect to their beloved superheroes, and within that feedback loop of respect and admiration lies a stellar, and phenomenally accessible, anthology full of thrills, chills, and spills. Contributors include New York Times bestsellers Christopher Golden, Leigh Bardugo, Brad Meltzer, Neil Gaiman, Carrie Vaughn, Jodi Picoult, and Jamie Ford, as well as award-winners and mainstays like Joe R. Lansdale, Karina Cooper, and Ron Currie, Jr among many others. *Last Night, A Superhero Saved My Life's* authors share their most hilarious and most heart wrenching experiences with their chosen defender to explain why superheroes matter, what they tell us about who we are, and what they mean for our future.

At the heart of the collection are contributions that plunge deeply into dark recollections...these essays bear out how superheroes are powerful psychological receptacles, helping us define the crucial strength we need to survive a sentiment which will be of great value to many soul-searchers...There's ample insight to be found here, not the least of which is that superheroes have a deep, resounding place in our cultural and individual psyches. Booklist This is a collection with a lot of heart and variety; each piece takes the premise in a different direction and unveils in compelling ways why these superheroes are so revered. Library Journal A fantastic example of how heroes, real or made up, can change lives. It serves as a testament to the staying power of story and how, sometimes, a fictional character can save a real life. Book Reporter About the Author By day, LIESA MIGNOGNA is VP, Editorial Director of Simon Pulse, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children's Books, where she edits novels for teens and tweens including the #1 New York Times bestselling *Dork Diaries* series. By night, Liesa is a passionate comics fan and lover of all things Batman. Liesa lives in New Jersey with her photographer husband and their son, whose first word was "Bat."