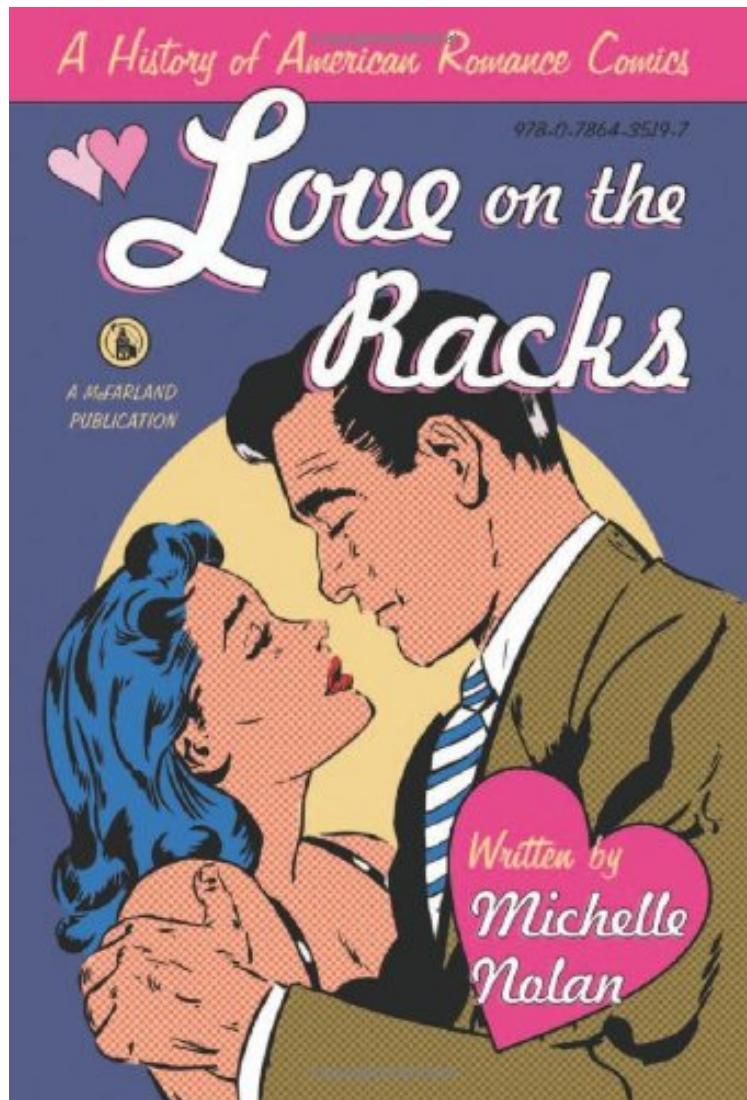


[Read free ebook] Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics

Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics

Michelle Nolan

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2293037 in Books McFarland 2008-04-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.25 x 7.00 x .751, 1.36 #File Name: 0786435194246 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Michelle Nolan : Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love on the Racks: A History of American Romance Comics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Definitive account of romance comics By Hal Jordan Michelle Nolan is well-known in comics fandom for her work on the history of comic books. This book will almost certainly stand the test of time as the definitive account of romance comics. Given that no new romance comics have been published for more than 35 years and given that not all that many comic book collectors collect romance books, it seems unlikely

that anyone will again attempt to write this extensively on the genre. Romance comics arose fairly suddenly in the late 1940s, peaked in popularity in the early 1950s, and then limped along until they finally fizzled out in the late 1970s. Along with teen humor comics, such as Archie, romance books were the main way in which comic publishers attempted to appeal to preteen and teenage girls. Nolan has done a great deal of research and it shows in her detailed account of each of the major romance publishers. For a fan of the genre, the detail is a plus and the book will be very useful as a reference work. For the casual reader interested in the history of comics, however, the level of detail is likely to be too much. At times, the list of book titles becomes a bit tedious and there are some pretty dry stretches in her discussion. In addition, the book has relatively little to say about Archer St John, his publishing house, and his star artist Matt Baker. Because Baker has become the focus of a lot of current fan interest, having a longer discussion of him would have been a plus. Unfortunately, Baker died in 1957 while still in his thirties and not a great deal is known about him, so Nolan may have done her best. Overall, then, for hard-core fans of romance comics, I would give the book five stars. For readers interested in the history of comic book publishing, I would give the book four stars. For someone with a general interest in the evolution of mid-twentieth century U.S. culture, I would give the book three stars, largely because the level of detail is likely to prove off-putting.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fills in a missing piece of history

By Scott Rowland Romance was once the dominant genre in American comic books. Unfortunately, most histories of the comic book seldom touch on the topic, other than a token comment that comics legends Joe Simon and Jack Kirby pioneered the form with *Young Romance 1* in 1947. *Love on the Racks* finally fills in the missing pieces with the whole story of the genre's beginnings through its end. Michelle Nolan is a respected comic book historian who has documented dozens of obscure comics for *Comic Book Marketplace* and *Comics Buyer's Guide*. There is probably no one more qualified to write the history of American romance comics, and the book serves well as a history of the genre. Nolan has an engaging style that keeps the book moving quickly, and she picks out notable stories for further description, which keeps the book from being too dry a recitation of publication dates and name changes. However, the book could have used a more thorough editing job. It appears to be in part derived from a number of her previously published columns, and those columns were not combined as seamlessly as one would hope. This does lead to some problems in the book's flow, as redundancies or backtracking distracts from the overall narrative. I would also have appreciated more insight from those who worked on the last days of the Romance comic, some of whom should have been relatively easy to contact via the internet, like Tony Isabella, one of the last editors of DC's *Young Love*, the last major romance title. In all, though, it's well worth the money to anyone interested in comic book publishing history and especially in the days when love conquered all.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. REALLY THOROUGH COVERAGE OF THE SUBJECT!

By John Benson There won't be a more thorough or complete book about romance comics, because this book covers it all, meticulously and interestingly. Nolan knows her stuff! The complete listing of every single romance comic ever published, listed by publisher, is worth the price alone.

For the better part of three decades romance comics were an American institution. Nearly 6,000 romance comics were published between 1947 and 1977, and there was a time when one of every five comics sold in the U.S. was a romance comic. This is the first book devoted entirely to the rarely studied world of romance comics. The text includes information on several types of romance comics and their creators, plus the history, numbers, and publishing frequency of dozens of romance titles. The author examines several significant periods in the development of the romance genre, including the origins of Archie Comics and other teen romance publications, the romance comic "boom and bust" of the 1950s, and the genre's sudden disappearance when fantasy and superhero comics began to dominate mainstream comics in the late 1970s.

About the Author Michelle Nolan has been a newspaper and magazine feature writer for more than 40 years, working with such periodicals as *Comics Buyer's Guide* and *Comic Book Marketplace*. She lives in Bellingham, Washington.