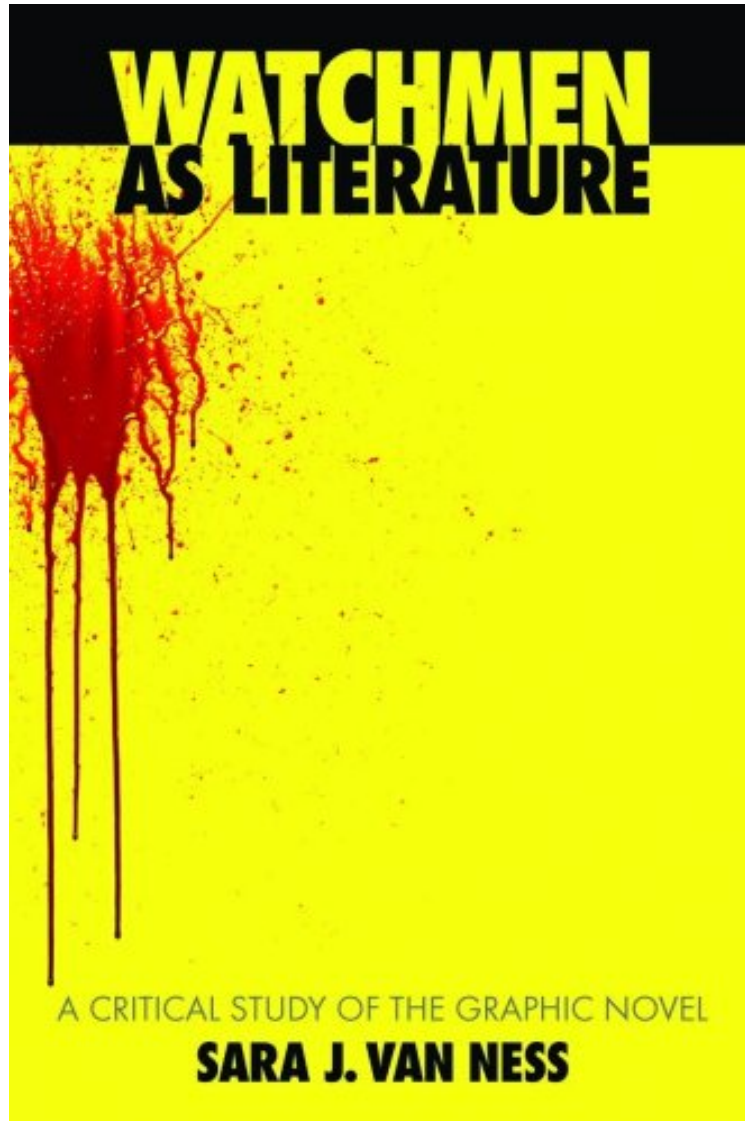


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Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study of the Graphic Novel

Sara J. Van Ness

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Sara J. Van Ness : Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study of the Graphic Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study of the Graphic Novel:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Resource to further Explore WatchmanBy The Cat-TribeA thorough exploration of the meaning of the Graphic Novel (and movie version of) Watchmen by Alan Moore. The book is sometimes a bit too academic in the way it analyzes the book from multiple viewpoints, but generally is informative, enlightening, and enjoyable. This books takes the detailed phenomenon that is Watchman and dissects it

with care, wit, and academic vigor. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Rough Draft
By Joe Keener
There are a few insights to be had in Van Ness's book, but they are few and far between. The author seems more adept at the art of paraphrase--she uses many ideas from "Watchmen and Philosophy," to name only one, and then puts them into her own words. This "study" does the same with the graphic novel, when it's not stating an overly-obvious point. Additionally, there ideas repeated within a few pages of each other and, yet, at the same time, each chapter feels choppy, not connected to what came before it or after it. Finally, the book contains typos, subject/verb agreement errors, and enough other textual problems to give one pause. In other words, this book reads like a rough draft of what could be a great idea.
9 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Especially recommended for academic library reference collections
By Midwest Book Review
An acclaimed graphic novel which has recently been turned into a big budget Hollywood film, 'Watchmen' was the creation of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Originally published in 1986, it set the standard for graphic novel science fiction for originality, complexity, and artistry. Almost immediately 'Watchmen' also became the subject for serious literary analysis. The most recent of which is "Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study of the Graphic Novel" by Sara J. Van Ness. This 219-page compendium is a serious and meticulous scholarly study that will be especially appreciated by dedicated 'Watchmen' fans as well as academia wanting to incorporate the graphic novel as a distinctive literary form in their curriculums. Enhanced with a wealth of notations and an extensive bibliography, "Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study of the Graphic Novel" is especially recommended for academic library reference collections in general, and the supplemental reading lists of 'Watchmen' fans in particular.

Watchmen has been hailed as the quintessential graphic novel and has spawned a body of literary criticism since its 1986 initial appearance in installments. This work explores the graphic novel's reception in both popular and scholarly arenas and how the conceptual relationship between images and words affects the reading experience. Other topics include heroism as a stereotype, the hero's journey, the role of the narrator, and the way in which the graphic layout manipulates the reader's perception of time and space.

"Meticulous...recommended" --Midwest Book "Valuable" --Science Fiction Studies
A valuable tool as a comprehensive overview of Watchmen and the graphic novel genre" --Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts
About the Author
Sara J. Van Ness is a contributor to *The Lost Art of Ah Pook is Here: Images from the Graphic Novel* (Fantagraphics, 2012). She currently lives in New Jersey, where she teaches English and a course on graphic novels and visual literacy.