

[PDF / Epub] ★ Bending steel

By Aldo J. Regalado –

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4 stars from Bill How Superheroes Grappled With Industrialization, Modernization, And Capitalism Faster Than A Speeding Bullet More Powerful Than A Locomotive Able To Leap Tall Buildings In A Single Bound It S Superman Bending Steel Examines The Historical Origins And Cultural Significance Of Superman And His Fellow American Crusaders Cultural Historian Aldo J Regalado Asserts That The Superhero Seems A Direct Response To Modernity, Often Fighting The Interrelated Processes Of Industrialization, Urbanization, Immigration, And Capitalism That Transformed The United States From The Early Nineteenth Century To The Present Reeling From These Exciting But Rapid And Destabilizing Forces, Americans Turned To Heroic Fiction As A Means Of Explaining National And Personal Identities To Themselves And To The World In So Doing, They Created Characters And Stories That Sometimes Affirmed, But Other Times Subverted Conventional Notions Of Race, Class, Gender, And NationalismThe Cultural Conversation Articulated Through The Nation S Early Heroic Fiction Eventually Led To A New Heroic Type The Brightly Clad, Super Powered, Pro Social Action Heroes That First Appeared In American Comic Books Starting In The Late S Although Indelibly Shaped By The Great Depression And World War II Sensibilities Of The Second Generation Immigrants Most Responsible For Their Creation, Comic Book Superheroes Remain A Mainstay Of American Popular CultureTracing Superhero Fiction All The Way Back To The Nineteenth Century, Regalado Firmly Bases His Analysis Of Dime Novels, Pulp Fiction, And Comics In

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Historical, Biographical, And Reader Response Sources He Explores The Roles Played By Creators, Producers, And Consumers In Crafting Superhero Fiction, Ultimately Concluding That These Narratives Are Essential For Understanding Vital Trajectories In American Culture DO J REGALADO, Homestead, Florida, Is A Teacher Of History And American Studies At Palmer Trinity School, An Adjunct Lecturer Through The American Studies Program At The University Of Miami, And An Adjunct Lecturer In US History At Florida International University A critical and fun analysis of golden silver age comic heroes often through the lens of critical race theory that gets at how we imagine heroes and thus core cultural values Great read for comic fans and an excellent one for non comic folks. Disclaimer I received a free copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I enjoyed this book a lot It starts out slow and can be a bit dry at times There is a lot of material that introduces the comic book superhero Once the author gets through that and into the meat of the book, things get interesting quick. This feels like it was approached similar to an academic paper to some degree It starts out by looking at early American adventure stories He examines character tropes, themes, and cultural influences that shaped these stories and ultimately led to the creation of superheroes The book benefits from this because it is very thoughtful and thorough But it has the potential to turn off readers that are interested in the later periods discussed. The payoff to this slow buildup is worth it though The author is able to draw comparisons between those earlier pieces and their creators with the superheroes that came out in comic books and those creators He does give a good overview of the history of comic books as well That information might not be as useful to diehard fans that are familiar with it I felt like it was well presented and gave me a lot of knowledge that I didn't already have. There is a bit of focus on major comic book series from Marvel and DC This works well to establish the tone of the books and eras discussed I would have liked some mention of independent comic books that follow along the path that he creates through the book Overall this is a great read for anyone that has an interest in comic books, specifically superheroes. My one issue with the book are his first few chapters While Regalado makes a strong case that American superheroes

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Regina's Song

Tomcat In Love

Emma

Blueeyedboy

The Inheritor

The Son of Neptune

Doctor Who: Legacy

The Silkworm

The Woven Path

Mansfield Park

Humboldt's Gift

Omerta

House of Holes

The Wild Palms

have their origins in earlier American heroic fiction, his need to explore this in two full chapters felt unnecessary. It feels as though he realized his central focus on comic book superheroes wasn't enough for a full monograph and decided to combine it with previous articles on heroic fiction. Other than that, I just slightly disagree on his interpretation of evidence, but not enough to drastically downgrade his work. Overall, an excellent work for those wanting a complete understanding of American masculinity, American literary heroes, and their relationship with various periods of modernity.

The Bangkok Asset

The Pictures of
Emptiness

Ethan Frome



