

Watch Out for the Watchmen

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Watchmen by Alan Moore and illustrated by Dave Gibbons

Published by DC Comics

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A group of everyday citizens disguise themselves as super heroes to defend the city and subsequently the whole world, when an uncanny situation decides to involve one of the most powerful and experienced group of people in the world, the Watchmen

Alan Moore's *Watchmen* is a complex graphic novel that follows a group of mysterious superheroes that are stalked by an unknown assassin. The Watchmen started with the first generation, with many of them dying, being imprisoned or retiring. Many of these heroes were murdered or framed for murder. Eventually other members joined, many related to the original members, creating a second generation of the Watchmen. The search for this unknown assassin started when The Comedian, a member of the first and second generation was murdered and they knew there was something wrong and someone was out to kill the Watchmen. So the remaining Watchmen; Dr. Manhattan, Night Owl, Rorschach, Silk Spectre II and Ozymandias set out to find out whose out to get them and avenge their friends. Then there is an unpredictable mind-blowing twist that ends up involving the watchmen against the world and against each other.

Alan Moore, the author of this exhilarating novel, mostly writes comic-like books and has been working for DC Comics. Along with *Watchmen* he has also written *V for Vendetta*, *From Hell*, *Lost Girls*, and *A League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. Moore is constantly referred to as the best graphic novel writer in history. He has won numerous Jack Kirby and Eagle

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Awards and for *Watchmen* he won such honors as the Hugo Award, Harvey Award and one of Times Magazine's 100 best novels. Many of Moore's novels had been adapted into films such as, *Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta* and *From Hell*, glorifying and popularizing his success and making his stories more known.



Dave Gibbons is the illustrator of these magnificent drawing in the graphic novel. His illustrations are incredibly detailed and realistic and make the story. Gibbons is most known for his illustrations in comics but also is a British writer. His drawings emphasize the emotions and details making it easier to understand. The dialogue and writing would be very difficult to comprehend without the addition of the illustrations.

Watchmen showed a sense of complexity. Do not be fooled by the pictures and minimum amount of words on each

page, this is not an easy read. The plot goes on from story line to story line weaving them together and building upon each of the plot lines making it at times a little complicated to grasp.

There are also many flashbacks that at moments could be hard to pick up on, so it's very

important to be aware of that. These flashbacks will show you the history of the watchmen and explain the past members, these flashbacks are almost as necessary as the present.

As a fan of comics and superheroes I found *Watchmen* astonishing. It was interesting how everything connected. There were no dead ends, every page was important. There is non-stop action, starting with the first page when the most important event of the novel occurs. You cannot skip a page.

Yet, *Watchmen* is a very selective read; I don't think that all high school students would be interested in this book. One would have to be into sci-fi and superheroes (this book is not for everyone). *Watchmen* is a realistic take on a very fictitious idea, and what would happen if there was a group of superheroes in the real world. Those who do like sci-fi and fantasy this is the perfect book; it's a mysterious, dark, action packed, mind dwelling thriller that will make you not want to put the book down.