

500 Manga Heroes and Villains

Helen McCarthy

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Helen McCarthy : 500 Manga Heroes and Villains before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 500 Manga Heroes and Villains:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Disorganized, Disjointed and Disappointing By Debora Aoki I always enjoy checking out new points of view on Japanese manga criticism, so I ordered this book to see what the author had to add to the work done by Fred Schodt and other manga scholars. While this book has its merits, I found it difficult to read, appreciate and use as a reference. By titling it "500 heroes and villains," it gives the illusion that it provides a lot of content, or at least a lot of manga reviewed in this volume. But really, the author just dissected several characters from a few manga and split them up into 'groups' based on their roles in the various series. Splitting up the heroes and villains for each series and talking about them in separate sections of the book makes it harder to understand the relationship dynamic between these 'good' and 'bad' characters' and how they drive the plot of the various series. The result is a disjointed critique that is difficult to cross-reference or refer to as a resource for discovering new manga series or understanding the history of manga. Also, there are a lot of listings and descriptions of characters without illustrations to accompany them. I would rather that the author had concentrated on fewer series and provided illustrations for each entry rather than jamming in a lot of entries w/o accompanying artwork. Without artwork to illustrate the various points she's making about each character, it's like a cookbook without pictures of food. It does the job, but does it really entice you to cook the dish, much less think it's worthwhile to do so? Entries jump from decade to

decade, describing a character from a series from the 1970's next to one introduced in 2002. This is because the author opted to list characters alphabetically by name. Again, this is a bizarre way to organize this book. Most readers relate to a manga series by its title, not by its individual characters' names. For example, most fans of "Bleach" by Tite Kubo would look for "Bleach" vs. looking up Ichigo Kurosaki, the name of the lead character, much less try to find him in the "Heroes" section. I'm tempted to sell this book back -- but there are things in here that aren't available in other similar books. I'll just gnash my teeth anytime I try to refer to it -- but I wouldn't recommend it for either the casual manga fan or the reader looking for insight into the evolution of manga and why it's so special and unique compared to Western comics.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice format, interesting, could possibly do with more research

By Anne-Li I mostly bought this book because it contains information about my favourite manga, From Eroica With Love. I do enjoy the format and the way the book is ordered. Nice image of Klaus and Dorian too and I enjoy the description of Dorian. However, I think the author mixes Klaus up with Bannai when calling Klaus a "police chief sent to trap him" (him being Dorian) and "a cop", which is a bit of a turn-off. The weight put on the three superpowered teenagers also makes me think that the author only checked out the first book - after the second story they never again appear in the series. And, technically, the three appears long before Klaus, not after, which the "things get even more complicated" (when they show up) implies. This makes me slightly unsure as to the amount of research to this book. Still, it is entertaining to read.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bad Spelling!

By A Customer Now when I first picked up this book I thought it would be an interesting read. When I started to read through information on my favourite heroes and villains I was shocked to see the misspellings. Helen McCarthy couldn't even spell Ikumi right, I suppose it could be a typo but should have been checked before published. Sohma wrong put it as Soma, she should have checked these things out. I was very disappointed.

Fans of the Japanese cartoon art genre called manga, and of its sister genre anime or manga-style films will treasure this survey of an art form currently sweeping the world. The book is an illustrated history of Japanese comics, with separate chapters devoted to male and female heroes and villains, non-humanoid characters, and even manga depictions of historical and literary characters. Brief descriptive sketches of all characters accompany colorful illustrations of heroes and villains caught in moments of dramatic action. Key figures include Astro Boy, Akira, Lupin III, Pokemon, and many others. Just as fascinating are biographical sketches of several of the world's most successful manga artists including Motoko Kusanagi, as well as Astro Boy's creator Osamu Tezuka, and many others. As the first illustrated book to show and evaluate such a wide range of manga characters, 500 Manga Heroes and Villains is an essential basic reference source for both manga fans and popular-culture historians. Approximately 200 memorable color illustrations.