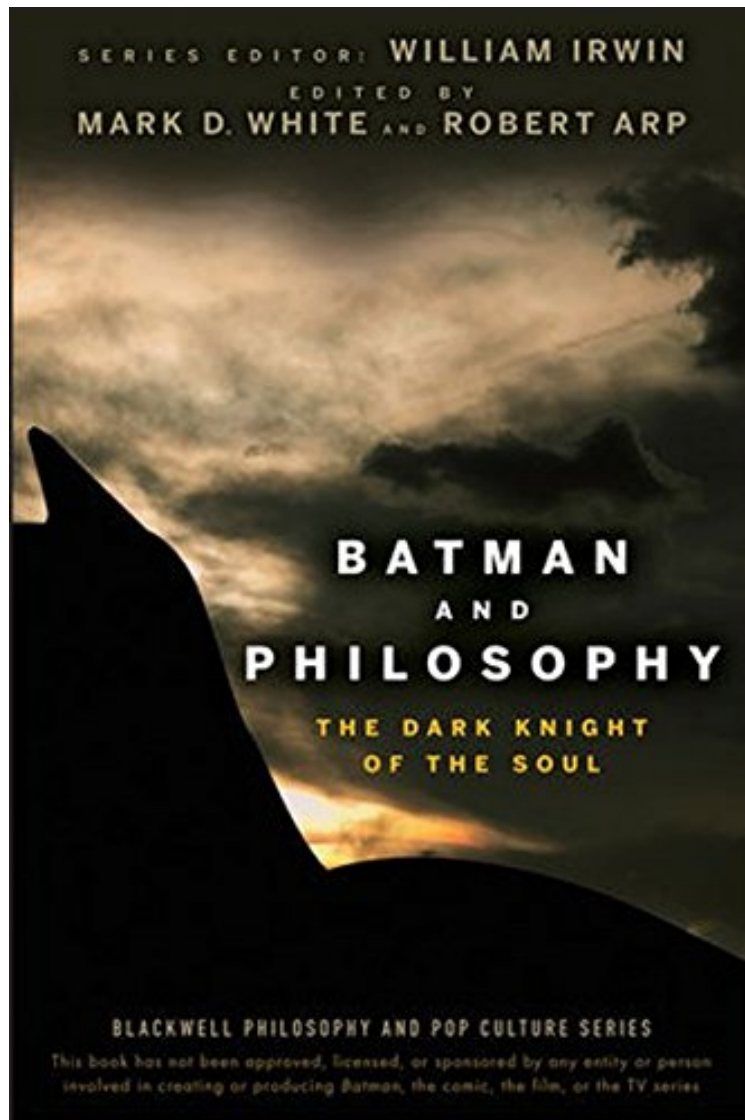


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Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul

From William Irwin

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From William Irwin : Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Dark Pathology By Jeffrey Swystun So many still mistakenly identify Batman with the campy Adam West version when the character's roots are deep and arguably disturbing. But it is that complexity that makes for fertile ground in the ongoing Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. The fact that Batman possesses no super powers outside of a limitless bank account and a drive to punish criminals made

him my favorite comic book hero. Superman seemed unbeatable so boring, The Green Lantern was far-fetched, Spiderman's angst never compelled, and so on. But Batman was more mysterious, yet his motives were clear given the murder of his parents (all things stem from one's family of origin). But it was how that pathology manifested itself in dealing with others that fascinated. The man comes across as cold and as calculating as the villains he battles. In fact, he is one step away from crossing the line and it is that danger that provides the core narrative for The Dark Knight. As explored in one of the entries in this book, "without his hate, could the Batman exist?" The answer is 'no' and though revenge is his fuel, he is seen to be mostly morally good (early stories had him killing people but the writers quickly corrected that). This book was a fun outing but should be consumed by serious fans of Batman only. They, more than most, may excuse the repetition I found in the various essays. Still Batman is intriguing for almost anyone as all of us can identify with his tenuous position as we strive to be good but our human foibles cause thoughts and sometimes actions which are clearly not. In the end, it is Batman's constancy of purpose that we admire and his inventiveness in getting the job done. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable book to read By Wajd I loved the book, I loved the way the author explained the different theories and matching it with the episodes of Batman. I found it enjoyable and can't put the book down in many occasions. You don't need to be a Batman enthusiast for you to follow the book 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. See Batman comics in a different light. By Customer Interesting take on what the story of Dark Knight says about us. Can be a slow read at times. The book is way better if you read it out loud in your best Batman voice. You will want some lemon tea on hand though.

Why doesn't Batman just kill the Joker and end everyone's misery? Can we hold the Joker morally responsible for his actions? Is Batman better than Superman? If everyone followed Batman's example, would Gotham be a better place? What is the Tao of the Bat? Batman is one of the most complex characters ever to appear in comic books, graphic novels, and on the big screen. What philosophical trials does this superhero confront in order to keep Gotham safe? Combing through seventy years of comic books, television shows, and movies, *Batman and Philosophy* explores how the Dark Knight grapples with ethical conundrums, moral responsibility, his identity crisis, the moral weight he carries to avenge his murdered parents, and much more. How does this caped crusader measure up against the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Lao Tzu?

From Publishers Weekly In this, the latest in Wiley's Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series (South Park and Philosophy, The Office and..., Metallica and...), editors White and Arp assert upfront, and without qualification (apparently, that's the contributors' job), their belief that Batman is "the most complex character ever to appear in comic books and graphic novels." Exploring certain works that have broadened the philosophical undercurrents of the Batman mythos (Frank Miller's *Batman: Year One* and *The Dark Knight Returns* are cited often, but rarely the new movies), a raft of professors, students and PhD candidates paint Bruce Wayne's choices as, most often, either utilitarian or deontological, with basic descriptions of these systems helpfully provided for the novice. A few contributions broaden the discussion beyond the well-worn (origin stories of Batman and foes, etc.); casting butler Alfred as Kierkegaard's "knight of faith" to Batman's "knight of infinite resignation," contributor Christopher M. Drohan actually gets close to the archetypal sources that keep the serialized exploits of Batman and other comic heroes from getting stale. Unfortunately, most of these essays get old fast. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. In this, the latest in Wileys Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series (South Park and Philosophy, The Office and, Metallica and), editors White and Arp assert upfront, and without qualification (apparently, that's the contributors job), their belief that Batman is the most complex character ever to appear in comic books and graphic novels. Exploring certain works that have broadened the philosophical undercurrents of the Batman mythos (Frank Millers *Batman: Year One* and *The Dark Knight Returns* are cited often, but rarely the new movies), a raft of professors, students and PhD candidates paint Bruce Waynes choices as, most often, either utilitarian or deontological, with basic descriptions of these systems helpfully provided for the novice. A few contributions broaden the discussion beyond the well-worn (origin stories of Batman and foes, etc.); casting butler Alfred as Kierkegaards knight of faith to Batmans knight of infinite resignation, contributor Christopher M. Drohan actually gets close to the archetypal sources that keep the serialized exploits of Batman and other comic heroes from getting stale. Unfortunately, most of these essays get old fast. (July) (Publishers Weekly, July 28, 2008) From the Back Cover Why doesn't Batman just kill the Joker and end everyone's misery? Can we hold the Joker morally responsible for his actions? Is Batman better than Superman? If everyone followed Batman's example, would Gotham be a better place? What is the Tao of the Bat? Batman is one of the most complex characters ever to appear in comic books, graphic novels, and on the big screen. What philosophical trials does this superhero confront in order to keep Gotham safe? Combing through seventy years of comic books, television shows, and movies, *Batman and Philosophy* explores how the Dark Knight grapples with ethical conundrums, moral responsibility, his identity crisis, the moral weight he carries to avenge his murdered parents, and much more. How does this caped crusader measure up against the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Lao Tzu?