

Read. Return. Repeat.

A Wichita Public Library Podcast

Show Notes

Season 6 Episode 3: **Comic Books: Not Just for Kids!**

July 10th, 2026



In this episode

In this episode, podcast hosts Daniel Pewewardy and Jenny Durham are joined by a colleague and special guest host Ian Bailey to talk about comic books, the history of the format and why they aren't just for kids.

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- Fun facts about comic books 5:55
- Why comics aren't taken seriously in U.S. culture 15:22
- Comic book censorship 17:50
- Comic book publishers 22:04
- Indie comics 24:40
- Comic book formats 29:20
- Our favorite comics 32:30
- Lack of diversity in comics 58:45
- Comic Book Conventions 1:04:00

Books, authors, films & other media mentioned in this episode

- *Absolute Martian Manhunter* by Deniz Camp and Javier Rodriguez
- *Absolute Superman* by Jason Aaron and Rafa Sandoval
- *Action Comics #1* by various authors & illustrators
- *Adventure Time* comic book and graphic novel series (Oni Press acquired the rights to publish titles in the franchise from BOOM! Studios in 2024)
- *Les Aventures de Tintin (The Adventures of Tintin)* by Hergé/Georges Remi (originally published in French)
- *The Batman Adventures: Mad Love* by Paul Dini and Bruce Timm
- *Batman Unmasked: The Psychology of the Dark Knight* (2008 History Channel documentary film)
- *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees* by Patrick Horvath
- *Black Hole* by Charles Burns
- *Bleeding Hearts* by Deniz Camp, Stipan Morian and Matt Hollingsworth
- *Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell)* by created by Stan Lee and Gene Colan (various titles, writers & illustrators)
- *Carol* (2015 feature film)
- *Comic Book Confidential* (1988 documentary film)
- *Conan the Barbarian* created by Robert E. Howard (various titles, writers & illustrators)
- *Crumb* (1994 documentary film)
- *DC Bombshells* comic book series (various authors & illustrators)
- *Dennis the Menace* by Hank Ketcham
- *The Department of Truth* by James Tynion IV and Martin Simmonds
- *Detective Comics #27* by various authors & illustrators
- *Die* by Kieron Gillen and Stephanie Hans
- *The Exorcism at 1900 Penn* by Hannah Rose May and Vanesa Del Rey
- *The Exorcism at Buckingham Palace* by Hannah Rose May and Kelsey Ramsay (releasing November 10, 2026)
- *The Family Circus* by Bil Keane
- *Flung Out of Space: Inspired by the Indecent Adventures of Patricia Highsmith* by Grace Ellis and Hannah Templer
- *Garfield* by Jim Davis
- *Harleen* by Stjepan Sejic
- *Harley Quinn* (animated tv series, 2019-2025)
- *Invincible Universe: Battle Beast* by Robert Kirkman, Annalisa Leoni and Ryan Ottley
- *Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Damian Duffy and John Jennings, adapted from the novel by Octavia E. Butler
- *Kiteman: Hell Yeah!* (animated tv series, 2024)

- *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe (graphic novel series and webcomic)
- *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman
- *Ms. Marvel* by various authors & illustrators (2015-2019 comic book series published by Marvel Comics)
- *Once & Future* by Kieron Gillen, Dan Mora and Tamra Bonvillian
- *The Perry Bible Fellowship* by Nicholas Gurewitch (newspaper comic strip and webcomic)
- *Power Rangers* comic book series (various publishers, most recently BOOM! Studios, 2016-2024)
- *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith
- *Rat Queens* by Kurtis J. Wiebe and Roc Upchurch
- *Red Sonja* created by Roy Thomas and Barry Windsor-Smith (various titles, writers & illustrators)
- *Ren & Stimpy* (animated tv series, 1990-1996)
- *Saga* by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples
- *Saint Young Men* by Hikaru Nakamura
- *Seduction of the Innocent* by Fredric Wertham
- *Shock SuspenStories* by William Gaines and Al Feldstein
- *Skinbreaker* by Robert Kirkman, David Finch and Annalisa Leoni
- *Smile* (2022 feature film)
- *Star Trek* comic book series (IDW Publishing, various titles)
- *Strange Adventures* by various authors & illustrators
- *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow* (2026 feature film)
- *Superman #1* by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
- *The Talented Mr. Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith
- *Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtles* comic book series (IDW Publishing, various titles)
- *Teenagers from Mars* by Rick Spears
- *Le Transperceneige (Snowpiercer)* by Jacques Lob and Jean-Marc Rochette (originally published in French)
- *Über* by Kieron Gillen, Caanan White, Gabriel Andrade and Daniel Gete
- *The Walking Dead* comic book/graphic novel series by Robert Kirkman
- *Watchmen* (2009 feature film)
- *Weird Fantasy* by William Gaines and Al Feldstein
- *The Wicked + the Divine* by Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie
- *With Great Power: The Stan Lee Story* (2010 documentary film)
- *Y: The Last Man* by Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[Cal State – LA Lib Guide: Comic & Graphic Novel History and Criticism](#)
[CBR.com: Comic Legends: When Did Superman First Fly? \(December 3, 2016\)](#)

[CBR.com: Batman: Bill Finger's 10 Most Important Contributions to the Character \(January 24, 2022\)](#)
[Screenrant.com: Why Is the Estate of Superman's Co-Creator Going to Court Over the Hero? It's Complicated \(February 3, 2025\)](#)
[Science History Institute Museum and Library: Comics: Old-School Distance-Learning Tools \(September 22, 2020\)](#)
[The Collector: Comic Books in WWII: When American Comics Went to War \(November 26, 2024\)](#)
[The Comics Journal: The 50th Anniversary of Underground Comix \(October 3, 2018\)](#)
[Smithsonian Magazine: How Zines Brought Power to Those on the Margins of Culture \(December 5, 2023\)](#)
[America Rewind: How Sunday Comics Turned Every Weekend Into a Mini Adventure \(January 30, 2025\)](#)
[The Henry Ford Museum: Comic Books Under Attack \(January 2, 2020\)](#)
[The Aquarian: Gasp! Choke! How Oni Press Brought EC Comics Back From the Grave \(January 2, 2026\)](#)
[Comic Book Legal Defense Fund: The Comics Code of 1954](#)
[Screenrant.com: Comic Shop Owner Arrested for Distributing Adult Comic at Halloween Event \(November 4, 2025\)](#)
[CBR.com: Why Couldn't Watchmen's Original Ending Be Adapted to Film? \(October 25, 2024\)](#)
[Nerdist: The Comics History of all 9 Captain Marvels \(March 14, 2019\)](#)
[Vault Comics: What Are Compact Graphic Novels?](#)
[IGN.com: DC's Compact Comics Are an Incredible Value. These Are the Ones You Need \(September 1, 2025\)](#)
[Popverse: Image Comics Is Pulling All New Comics From GlobalComix After 3-Year Partnership Changes \(July 7, 2026\)](#)
[Entertainment Weekly: Smile and A Quiet Place Will Expand On Movies As IDW Charts New Original Horror in 2026 \(October 7, 2025\)](#)
[Planet Comic Con Kansas City](#)
[ICT Comic Con](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

If you enjoyed this episode, please like, share and subscribe!

Listen on Spotify

Listen on Apple Podcasts

Watch on YouTube

Credits

Hosts: Daniel Pewewardy and Jenny Durham

Guest(s): Ian Bailey

Videographer & Editing: Kyle Holly

Producers: Jenny Durham, Ian Bailey & Daniel Pewewardy

Show Notes: Jenny Durham & Ian Bailey

Transcript: Greg Nordyke

Additional Contributors: David Garcia & Steven Kelly

Read Return Repeat is a production of the Wichita Public Library. For links to past episodes, show notes and more, visit wichitalibrary.org/podcast.