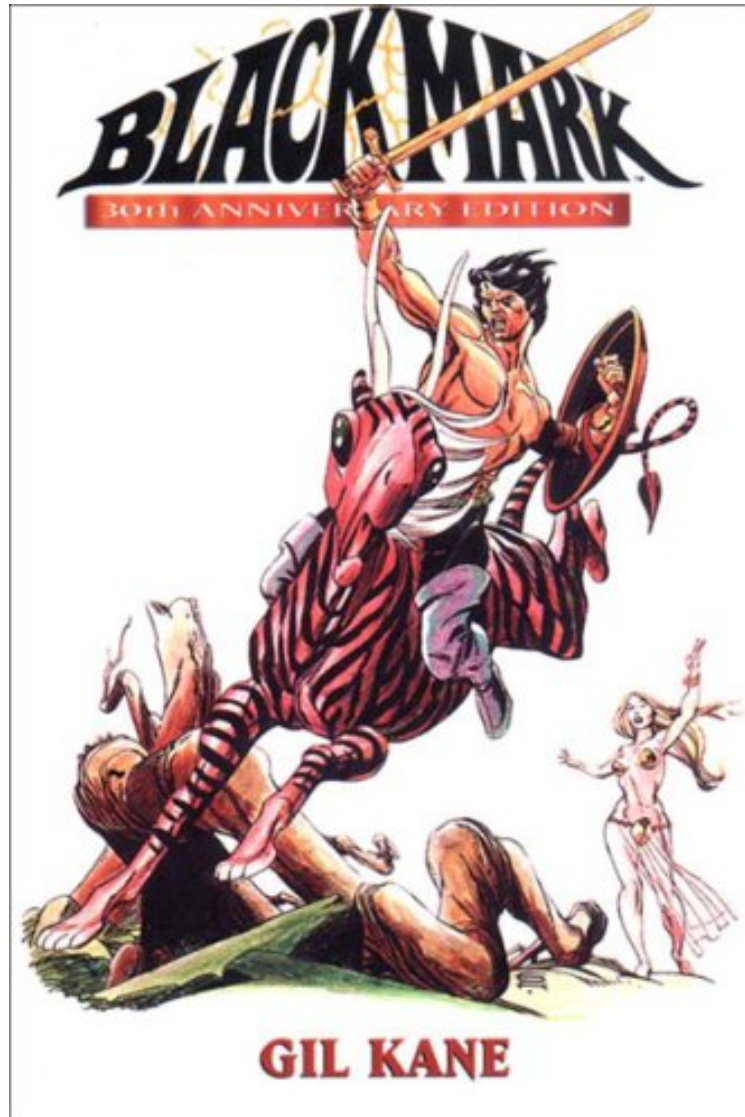


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Blackmark

Gil Kane

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Gil Kane : Blackmark before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blackmark:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gil Kane : Unchained!By Tony FigueroaGil Kane was at once one of the most ubiquitous and recognizable stylists in comics during the mid sixties into the early eighties. His supple, lithe figures and dynamic compositions were integral elements of a style whose influences were Lou Fine, Reed Crandall, Burne Hogarth and Jack Kirby. Gil Kane assimilated all of his influences into a personal viewpoint that became a school unto itself. What is not as known is that he is quite possibly the pioneer of the American graphic

novel first with "His Name is...Savage" and then with "Blackmark". Kane had hoped that these projects would allow him to create and control his own material with the freedom not available in the mainstream publishers. Although he wasn't able to break away from mainstream comic book work he nonetheless triumphed with "Blackmark". Conceptually "Blackmark" doesn't break any new thematic ground but the story is intriguing and the design of the book; a hybrid of a novel and comic book is ahead of it's time. Gil Kane's artwork lends the title character an Olympian grace and his command of deep space perspective serves the narrative very well. "Blackmark" would be a bargain at twice the price.⁹ of 9 people found the following review helpful. The first, and still the best of it's kind By Richard A. Tucker The first thing to note is that this is not just a glorified kid's comic. In fact it was not created with kids in mind at all but adults who wanted to grow out of comics or adults who never cared for comics. It was a sad day when Gil Kane passed away two years ago. Besides the original Blackmark novel that was released in 1971 his career never amounted to his own expectations. Even "His Name is Savage" was a disappointment due to low distribution. Gil did not want to be known simply as a good comic artist and sequential storyteller. Well, at long last, both of the only Blackmark stories written and drawn have been collected into one trade paperback volume for the first time in the story's history. In the magazine reprints these stories were cut up to add more volume to the pages and bring down the page count. There were also mediocre bits of fill-in art provided by Gil in an attempt to hold the sequences together. Now this wonderful science fantasy graphic novel has been collected to show just how far Gil Kane was ahead of his time. The story and illustrations work seamlessly to tell the epic tale of one man's rise to power, and the challenges he faces trying to unite a world now torn apart by a cataclysmic war and the following, ruthless, feudalism maintained by selfish lords and wandering bands of warriors who maintain a stranglehold on the surviving population. This is a powerful story by Gil Kane who provides the art and the story concept which was scripted by the late and incredibly talented Archie Goodwin. Archie was the early editor of Warren publications, Marvel's Epic line editor, and finally DC's Batman writer/editor. Together (though Archie was brought in pretty late) these two men made a sincere effort to elevate the comic format beyond it monthly serial, soap opera continuity as well as bringing the graphic elements up to be compared with best of the golden age of magazine illustration. Sadly, this effort, released in 1971, while not entirely overlooked, was ignored by many due to the lack of promotion within the industry and outside of mainstream comics. The first half of this current book was released as a standard format paperback. It was an odd duck with no real place on the book rack or the book store and wasn't easily catagorized. Like most things wonderfully unique, the people responsible for getting the news out just didn't get it. Now the old book is a collectable. This collection, the very first real graphic novel, is back in the book market. It is a beautiful hybrid of graphics and prose. The story is a mix of various legends from the immaculate conception to the Arthurian myths all bound together in a world forced to reverting to desperate survival. The characters are human, not superheroic. The setting is exotic and dangerous. The world is looking for an opportunity and Blackmark may be it's last. Gil Kane's angular, lean and powerful art is perfectly suited to this story. Please, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a gorgeous book and a glimpse of what sequential storytelling can be.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sword and Sorcery action characters By Anthony De Oliveira An excellent novel, a great story (the second time around), love the artwork. First time I read Blackmark, was back in the 70 's. I've always been a big fan of Sword and sorcery action hero characters.

The groundbreaking paperback sees print for the first time in 25 years, with a never-before-published second volume by the late artist. In 1974, Gil Kane created Blackmark as a paperback series for Bantam Books. Kane was a comics artist specializing in super-heroes who had drawn every major character from Superman to Spider-Man. Blackmark was his attempt to go "independent" and create a series which he would own and whose creative direction he could control. The first volume of this sword sorcery/heroic fantasy narrative, designed and published in the paperback format, has been out of print for over 25 years, and the completed second volume was never published. Fantagraphics Books is proud to collect both volumes in a single trade book format, larger than the original paperback size to better showcase Kane's elegant art.

Kudos to Fantagraphics for restoring this material for a new audience...Blackmark gets...a honored place on my bookshelf. -- Tony Isabella, "Tony's Tips," 4 June 2002 About the Author Gil Kane, who passed away in 2000 at the age of 74, is considered one of the great comic book craftsmen of his generation, and is a featured character in Michael Chabon's The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.