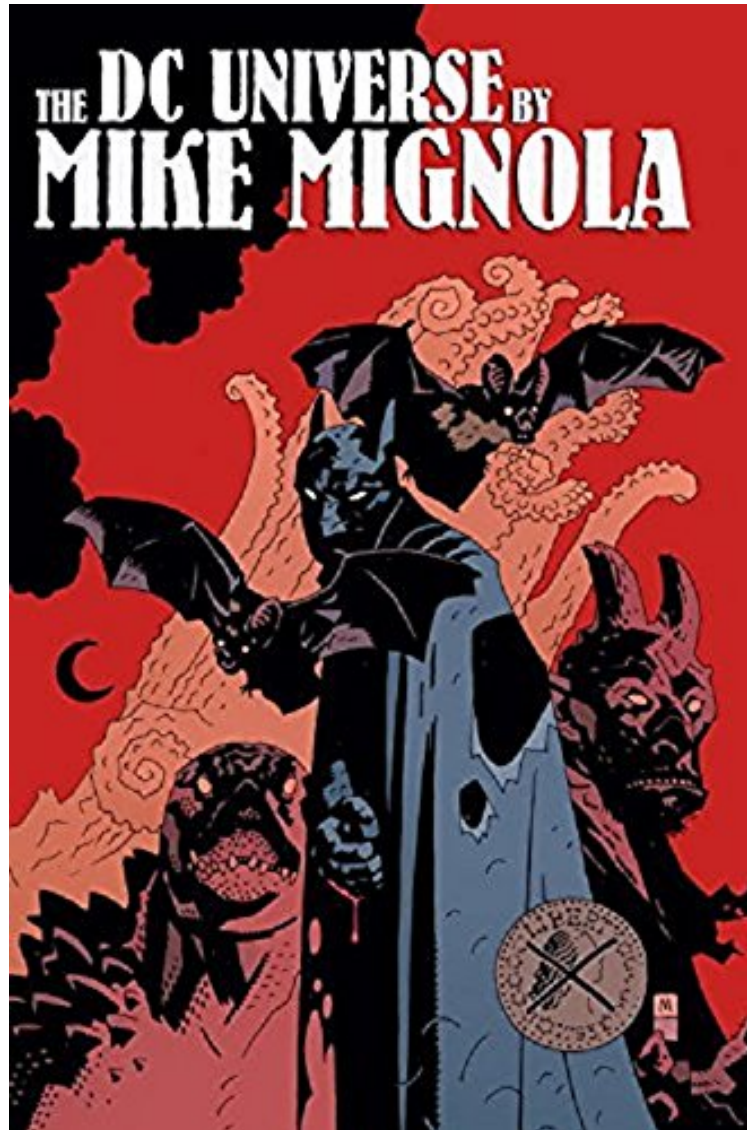


[Ebook free] DC Universe by Mike Mignola

## DC Universe by Mike Mignola

*Mike Mignola*

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#507761 in Books DC COMICS 2017-05-30 2017-05-30Original language:English 10.50 x .90 x 7.00l,  
#File Name: 1401268889395 pagesDC COMICS | File size: 77.Mb

**Mike Mignola : DC Universe by Mike Mignola** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised DC Universe by Mike Mignola:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A great book of the creator of Hellboy's early work on Batman and Superman especially.By JOHNNYSTOMP!The contents are really great, and this book is filled with things that would probably never be collected if it wasn't for Mignola's awesome name and ability. It's early Mignola work, true. But it's a lot of fun, especially considering what a world-builder the creator of Hellboy is. Great stories about the history of

Krypton and how they still effect Superman. Great Batman work. A Neil Gaiman Swamp Thing story and more. A really fun book. And for those who are upset that Cosmic Odyssey is not in this collection, it just got a collection of its own. Also, Gotham By Gaslight has also been reprinted many times and this book would have been much larger and pricier if these stories were included. Also, the paper-stock and gloss on every page is fantastic. I only wish Cosmic Odyssey had been given the same stock and gloss.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Definitely worth a read for Mike Mignola fans

By SpideyCollects all of Mignola's DC work (including covers) outside the work that has been published on its own such of Cosmic Odyssey and Gotham by Gaslight. The issues are printed in chronological order and you can see the art get more Mignola-like as the book progresses. Early on, his work is at the mercy of his inkers, i.e. the P. Craig Russell inked book looks like P. Craig Russell, the George Perez inked Superman book looks like George Perez. His art shines through in his use of shadow and drawing of aliens. Later on, Mike quits using an inker and you can see the Mike Mignola art you're used to.

The Good: All those gorgeous Mike Mignola covers. It was a nice treat to see them interspersed between the interior art.

The Bad: That Phantom Stranger miniseries is terrible. Never even knew that existed and now I know why. The World of Krypton miniseries was surprisingly brain-numbing. WAY too much narration from John Byrne. Trying to keep track of a hundred characters with names ending in "-L" just sort of had me giving up. At least Superman stepped into the last issue and told his origin himself.

The Ugly: Mignola illustrates Superman's origin 3 times in the book. The last thing I need from comics is yet another origin story from a character that's been around for 75 years.

5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Hard-to-read, sometimes disappointing blast from the past

By TimmarionI'm not sure I purchased this volume through , but if I did not, I am hoping that they will trust another one of my reviews where I try to be considerate to the potential customer. There is a lot to recommend this volume, especially if you are a fan of the comicbook art of Mike Mignola, which I am. This book collects two different mini-series and then merely the covers of two other mini-series, without any mention of whether or not there could or even should be a volume 2. The reprinted art has been worked over so that it is well-reproduced, but unfortunately, the lettering does not look like it was aided in any way, making it occasionally look scratchy or even faint.

The first miniseries collected features The Phantom Stranger in a story written by Paul Kupperberg. This is a somewhat verbose story where Kupperberg seems to think he is writing Doctor Strange and not The Phantom Stranger as he has been previously established. This even comes down to an unfortunate repetition of dialog, such as the panel where the Stranger castigates himself as Doc Strange would: "Curse me for a novice!" No, just the writer was a novice, but 30 years ago, when this first came out, I recall it was a lot of fun. The art is mainly Mignola layouts with finishes by P. Craig Russell, who were no doubt paired because they were both such popular fantasy artists in the comicbook field. Unfortunately, their styles don't really mesh that well at all --- it neither looks as stark moody as Mignola's style nor as fanciful and elaborate as Russell's style --- sort of a washed-down version of both. Both of these guys are great individually (I may even be on Facebook with them!), but together, eh. But again, 30 years ago this was loads of fun.

The main problem with reading this first miniseries was not the erratic-looking lettering but rather the fact that DC should have made these volumes wider. The text in the word balloons kept sinking so far into the margin that I would have to bend that hardback book back like we used to fold back comicbooks when we were kids before we realized just how badly we were warping those tender spines. With the front part of the book almost completely folded behind the rest, I was able to read into the margin. A lot of effort, really.

The next miniseries collected was "The World of Krypton" written by John Byrne --- such a powerful story, with so many thought-provoking elements, that it remains one graphic story which has stayed in my mind since it was first published. Mignola's art here is finished by Rick Bryant, who adds a nice, fantasy atmosphere to it all. But the art really gets to shine at the end of the volume with a large number of Mignola's covers (for issues for which he did not illustrate the interior), as well as a Batman story. Here we get to see Mignola on Mignola for art which was probably printed in full process originally. But again, the frustration is that we get only the covers for such epics as the Batman story "Gotham by Gaslight" or the Jim Starlin written epic, "Cosmic Odyssey." I don't know if these have been collected individually in hardback or not.

But something that really should be asked about all these reprint volumes is the following. It's great that the authors artists were all paid for their original work, but do they get anything when their work is reprinted like this? You could say these volumes are "for the fans" because the fans get to read the entire story in one volume (as opposed to having to look for and/or collect individual issues), but really, it's the publishers who are reaping the rewards here. Especially when they use a certain printer whom I regard as very unsavory for their business practices to their employees.

Mike Mignola, best known as the creator of Hellboy, started out his comics art career drawing the adventures of the World's Greatest Super-Heroes, applying his moody artwork to tales of Superman, Batman, Swamp Thing and more. Now, this new collection assembles these stories written by John Byrne, Roger Stern, Neil Gaiman, Paul Kupperberg, and others for the first time. Collects: SUPERMAN: THE WORLD OF KRYPTON #1-4, ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #2, SUPERMAN #18 and 23, BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #54, BATMAN: GOTHAM KNIGHTS #36, SWAMP THING ANNUAL #5, PHANTOM STRANGER #1-4 and much more.

"Today, he's best known for his supernatural, gothic works that best works with his unique style. Yet, Mike Mignola's earliest work for DC Comics tended more towards the science fiction ... DC Universe by Mike Mignola shows both ends of his artistic spectrum. The first sense of the supernatural tone of Mignola's work, interestingly came in Superman #23's first post-Byrne story, where Roger Stern introduced us to the Silver Banshee. This was also the first DC collaboration between Mignola and P. Craig Russell. They partnered again for the four-issue Phantom Stranger miniseries ...this well-regarded story from Paul Kupperberg is finally getting a return to the public eye." -- Robert Greenberger "I loved inking Mike's work. He was an obviously rapidly evolving major talent, and -- until he rightly assumed inking duties on his own work -- I had the pleasure of inking nearly 300 pages of his work." -- P. Craig Russell "The standouts of the book have to be the four part Phantom Stranger mini-series and the four part Krypton mini-series. I was pleased to see they both stand the test of time, especially the Krypton series. John Byrne wrote it, when he was remaking Superman for the 80's and he was at the top of his game -- it has a very pulp science fiction feel. I also like the Roger Stern Superman story with [Silver] Banshee. Sometimes writing doesn't hold up in these collections, but I can't say there was a true dud in the whole book." -- Michael Emond

About the Author Mike Mignola is perhaps best known for his original creation Hellboy -- a character that has spawned numerous graphic novels and two feature films directed by Guillermo del Toro. Mignola's first mainstream comics work was with Marvel Comics, where he worked on such titles as The Incredible Hulk and Alpha Flight. He then moved on to DC, where his art on PHANTOM STRANGER and THE WORLD OF KRYPTON led to high-profile work on COSMIC ODYSSEY and BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT. Mignola has also worked in film and TV as an illustrator, production designer and visual consultant on such projects as Bram Stoker's Dracula, Disney's Atlantis: The Lost Empire, Blade II, and the Lord of the Rings. John Byrne has worked on nearly every major American superhero. His better-known work includes Marvel Comics' X-Men and Fantastic Four, and the relaunch of DC Comics' SUPERMAN franchise. He has produced a number of creator-owned works, including Next Men and Danger Unlimited. He also wrote the first issues of Mike Mignola's Hellboy series, and has produced a number of Star Trek comics for IDW Publishing. Roger Stern has written for radio, television, and the stage. For ten years, he was the senior writer of the SUPERMAN series, and has written hundreds of stories about Green Lantern, Supergirl, and the Justice League for DC Comics; and Spider-Man, Captain America, and the Avengers for Marvel. His novel, The Death and Life of Superman, was a New York Times bestseller. Neil Gaiman makes things up and writes them down -- from comics (like SANDMAN) to novels (like Anansi Boys and American Gods) to short stories (some are collected in Smoke and Mirrors) and occasionally to movies (like Dave McKean's Mirrormask) or the Neverwhere TV series. Paul Kupperberg is the author of more than two dozen books, countless short stories and articles, and more than 700 comic book stories. His books include The Same Old Story, Two Tales of Atlantis, and In My Shorts: Hitler's Bellhop Other Stories.