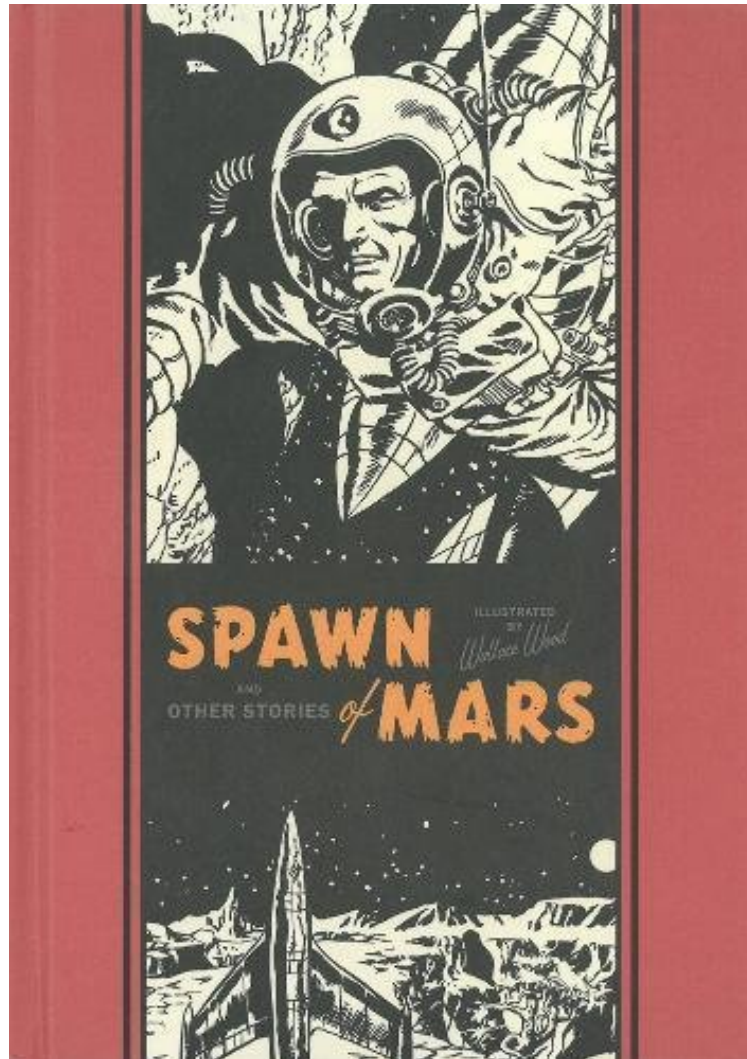


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Spawn of Mars and Other Stories

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Wallace Wood, Al Feldstein : Spawn of Mars and Other Stories before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spawn of Mars and Other Stories:

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A Wondrous Voyage Back to Sc-Fi's Golden AgeBy James J. BloomI was lucky enough to purchase the Russ Cochran cased reprints of EC Comics' entire sci-fi run (Weird Science, Weird Fantasy, and later, Weird Science-Fantasy)from the fabulous "golden age" of the 1950s.This was back when they were first offered and were pricey, but not prohibitively so. Recently, you'd have to pay several hundred dollars per set. The full boxed sets are rather inconvenient for fireside or bedtime reading. This (and the other sci-fi compilation of this series, Judgement Day, by Joe Orlando) is a welcome alternative. I keep this handier compilation of Wally Wood's work (imho he and Joe Orlando were the premier illustrators for EC's space-themed works) on my

night table for casual reading. It was EC, and more specifically Wood's meticulously depicted space-ships, robots and visions of space exploration, that awakened the sci-fi bug in this 75-year old. I was 12 years old and looking for something a bit more exciting than the usual "boys' adventure" type juvenalia available to pre-adolescents in 1952. Then I caught a glimpse of a Weird Science peeking out from among the "Field and Stream"s and various "man's saga" and True Detective pulps on my local newsstand. The cover was a typical Wood rocket interior, with amazingly intricate dials, panels, piping and gizmos surrounding a spaceship portlight through which a menacing alien was peering. I was hooked. Of course there was some prurient interest, in that WW had a penchant for depicting pulchritudinous female astronauts in revealing skin-tight space suits. It wasn't merely the artistry--thought this was a big part of it. The stories were quite thought-provoking and led me to explore further the writings of Ray Bradbury (a frequent author of the tales), Sturgeon, Clarke, Heinlein, Welles, Verne, and a host of other classic sci-fi authors. Re-reading these caringly illustrated tales some 60+ years later, I am struck by how the promise of space exploration--boldly predicted in the famous Colliers magazine articles of 1952-53, by Wernher von Braun and Chesley Bonestell--kind of fizzled after the Apollo moon landing of July 1969. Sure, we've had robotic probes, landers and rovers but the tales encapsulated in *Spawn of Mars* thought we'd have men on Mars well before 2015. By this late date, our astronauts would be embarking on multi-generational starship journeys to Earth clones circling Alpha Centauri and kindred solar systems. Ah, well, thanks to this wonderful bit of nostalgia for yesterday's tomorrows, I can rekindle the hope. Even if there's not much chance of seeing it happen in my lifetime, I can nostalgically recollect how it might have been--and still might be generations hence.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **Wally Wood Is Well Served By This Collection** By James Elfers EC rules! Wally Wood is well served by this collection. Though not in color, the reproductions are first rate. The bibliographical information adds a great deal to the reading experience, especially when explaining about his partnership with Harry Harrison, later a noted science fiction author. The title story is suitably creepy and chock full of "good girl" art. Some of the material overlaps with the current Dark Horse reprints. This allows one to compare the black and white version with the color versions, often black and white is better. Wally Wood may have been E.C.'s most skilled artist, books like this make that notion quite believable.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **Hoped that it would not end** By K. McDonald Although I may pick up a comic book occasionally, I have not been a big fan since I was a kid decades ago. Although much artwork in comics is marginally interesting, the stories are juvenile in spite of occasionally mature subject matter and are dull, uninspired and cliched (yes, including "Dark Knight Returns" and "Batman: Year One"). However, the stories in "Spawn of Mars" are a pleasure. The title story and "Transformation Completed" are particularly good, and would have been downright consciousness expanding had I read them as a child of 8 or so. This is the only "comic" that I recall ever having read as an adult that I savored every story and hoped that the volume would not end. Some of the stories may be predictable to anyone who is well-read in science fiction, but they are unique as a comic. Even though I eschew most current comics, I have taken lessons in drawing comics with a brush. In this respect, the work of Wood excels, and his style has an intricate, sensual, realistic style and is inspiring.

This is a highly anticipated collection of EC science fiction comics drawn by Wallace Wood which revolutionized the genre's visuals. The science fiction genre owes a debt, especially visually, to EC Comics, and this highly anticipated Wallace Wood collection shows why. It features over two dozen comic stories drawn in Wood's meticulously detailed brushwork (his "lived in" spaceship interiors helped inspire Star Wars' Millennium Falcon). And with titles like *Spawn of Mars*, *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *A Trip to a Star*, *The Invaders*, *The Secret of Saturn's Ring*, and *The Two-Century Journey*, how can you go wrong? Like every book in the Fantagraphics EC line, *Spawn of Mars and Other Stories* features essays and notes by EC experts on these superbly crafted, classic comic book masterpieces. Black white