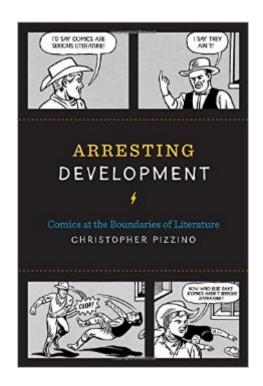
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Arresting Development: Comics At The Boundaries Of Literature (World Comics And Graphic Nonfiction)





Synopsis

Mainstream narratives of the graphic novelâ ™s development describe the formâ ™s â œcoming of age,â • its maturation from pulp infancy to literary adulthood. In Arresting Development, Christopher Pizzino questions these established narratives, arguing that the mediumâ ™s history of censorship and marginalization endures in the minds of its present-day readers and, crucially, its authors. Comics and their writers remain burdened by the stigma of literary illegitimacy and the struggles for status that marked their earlier history.Many graphic novelists are intensely aware of both the mediumâ ™s troubled past and their own tenuous status in contemporary culture. Arresting Development presents case studies of four key worksâ "Frank Millerâ ™s Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Alison Bechdelâ ™s Fun Home, Charles Burnsâ ™s Black Hole, and Gilbert Hernandezâ ™s Love and Rocketsâ "exploring how their authors engage the problem of comicsâ ™ cultural standing. Pizzino illuminates the separation of high and low culture, art and pulp, and sophisticated appreciation and vulgar consumption as continual influences that determine the limits of literature, the status of readers, and the value of the very act of reading.

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