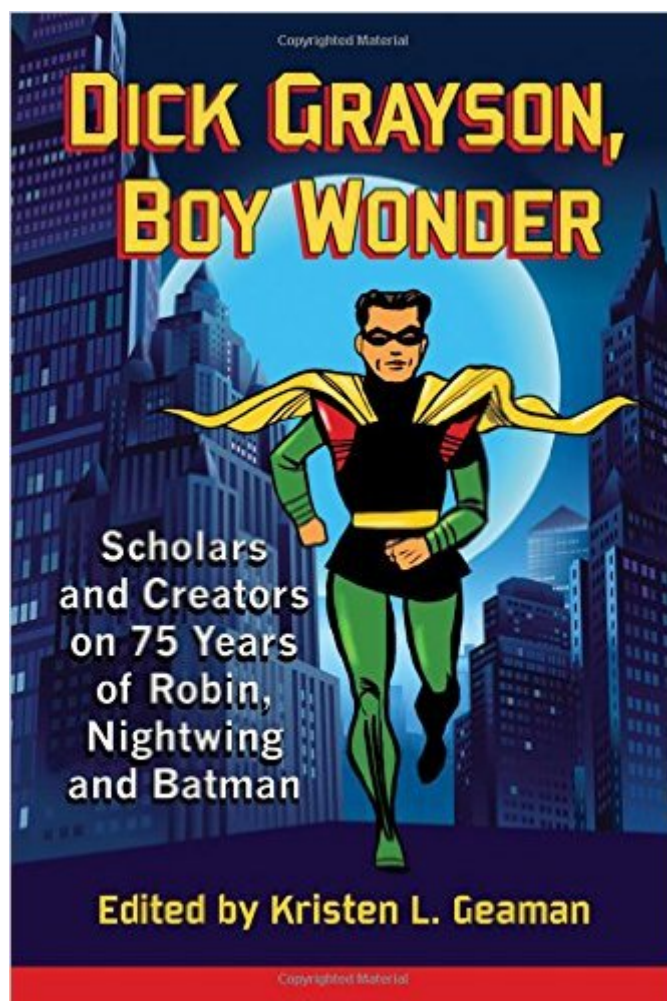


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# Dick Grayson, Boy Wonder: Scholars And Creators On 75 Years Of Robin, Nightwing And Batman



## Synopsis

Dick Grayson--alter-ego of the original Robin of Batman comics--has gone through various changes in his 75 years as a superhero but has remained the optimistic, humorous character readers first embraced in 1940. Predating Green Lantern and Wonder Woman, he is one of DC Comics' oldest heroes and retains a large and loyal fanbase. The first scholarly work to focus exclusively on the Boy Wonder, this collection of new essays features critical analysis, as well as interviews with some of the biggest names to study Dick Grayson, including Chuck Dixon, Devin Grayson and Marv Wolfman. The contributors discuss his vital place in the Batman saga, his growth and development into an independent hero, Nightwing, and the many storyline connections which put him at the center of the DC Universe. His character is explored in the contexts of feminism, trauma, friendship, and masculinity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In "Dick Grayson, Boy Wonder: Scholars and Creators on 75 Years of Robin, Nightwing and Batman", editor Kristen L. Geaman argues, "The character can...serve as a lens for viewing the world outside of comics, whether it be moral development, the homoerotic, or gendered readership. Dick Grayson is not simply a one-note sidekick but one of the most complex and developed characters in comics" (p. 2). Her objective in compiling the volume is "to begin a scholarly dialogue about Dick Grayson" since most academics focus purely on Batman as a lone character (p. 2). The book is organized into five sections. In the first, authors look at Robin as a character. Essays

examine the character's genesis and costume design among other topics. In the second, the relationship between Robin and Batman. The authors of the three essays in this section evaluate Batman and Robin's relationship through the lens of parent/child, comrades-in-arms, and through a gay subtext. The third focuses on Nightwing and Dick Grayson's solo career. These essays look at the evolution of Dick Grayson as a character and his role in the larger DC Universe, both pre- and post-New 52. The fourth, Dick Grayson's relationships with family and friends. Most of these essays focus on Dick Grayson's relationship to other Robins and members of the Bat-family. Finally, the fifth section contains interviews with comics writers such as Dennis O'Neil and Marv Wolfman. "Dick Grayson, Boy Wonder" reflects the scholarship of other McFarland Press volumes, such as "Captain America and the Struggle of the Superhero" and "The Ages of Superman". While certainly not exhaustive, it is an extensive first examination of Dick Grayson/Robin as an academic subject. The scholarly texts reflect the most recent scholarship, but will also help long-time comics fans better understand the significance of a character they may never have considered from an academic perspective.

There was a decades long gap in my comic book reading, so, as a longtime Dick Grayson fan, I was thrilled to find this book. Informative, and easy to read, it caught me up on all the years I'd missed. Especially with the recent changes to the DC Universe, it was great to relive the stories when Dick was still a part of the Batfamily. Will he be again? I certainly hope so, because I can't imagine Bruce Wayne's life without him. But not just his place in the Batfamily was explored. His connections to all the other DC heroes, some of them I knew well, others hardly at all, were scrutinized, rounding out his life and legend. If you have any interest at all in the original Robin, this is the book for you.

It's a great book. The articles provide a great look into Dick Grayson for fans new and old. The interviews are full of new material and are full of great insights into Dick Grayson.

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