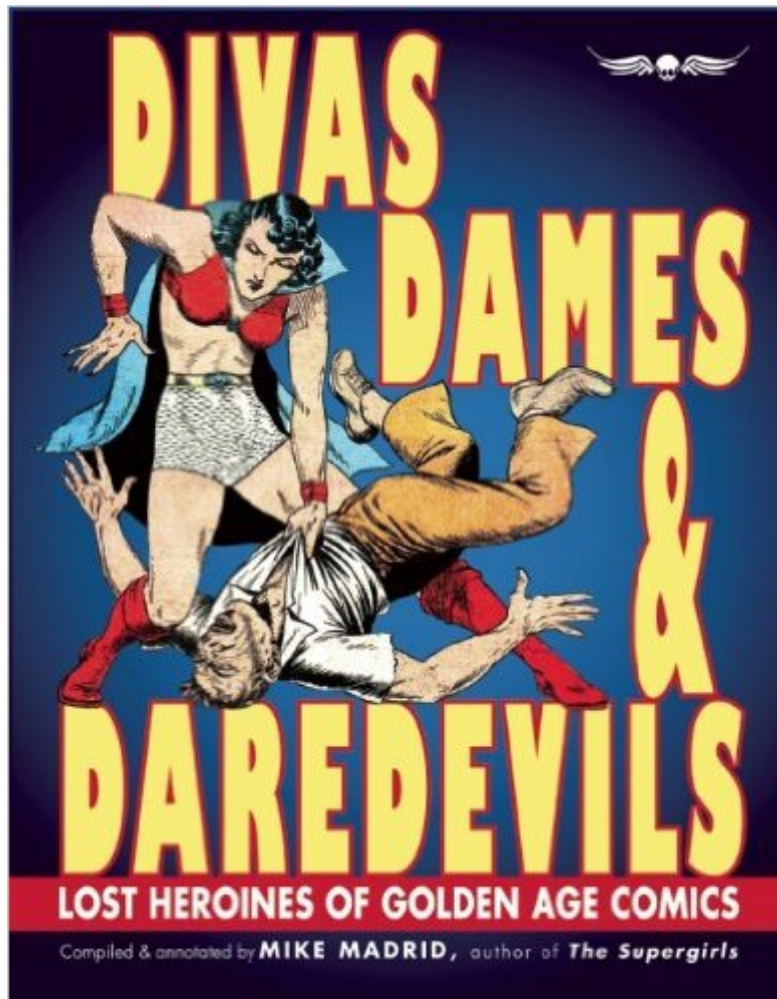


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# Divas, Dames & Daredevils: Lost Heroines Of Golden Age Comics



## Synopsis

ComicsAlliance and ComicsBlend Best Comic Book of the YearBUST Magazine &#147;Lit Pickâ • RecommendationCertified Coolâ,,ç in PREVIEWS: The Comic Shopâ ™s Catalog&#147;Mike Madrid gives these forgotten superheroines their due. These &#145;lostâ ™ heroines are now found&#151;to the delight of comic book lovers everywhere.â • &#151;STAN LEEWonder Woman, Mary Marvel, and Sheena, Queen of the Jungle ruled the pages of comic books in the 1940s, but many other heroines of the WWII era have been forgotten. Through twenty-eight full reproductions of vintage Golden Age comics, Divas, Dames & Daredevils reintroduces their ingenious abilities to mete out justice to Nazis, aliens, and evildoers of all kinds.Each spine-tingling chapter opens with Mike Madridâ ™s insightful commentary about heroines at the dawn of the comic book industry and reveals a universe populated by extraordinary women&#151;superheroes, reporters, galactic warriors, daring detectives, and ace fighter pilots&#151;who protected America and the world with wit and guile.In these pages, fans will also meet heroines with striking similarities to more modern superheroes, including The Spider Queen, who deployed web shooters twenty years before Spider Man, and Marga the Panther Woman, whose feral instincts and sharp claws tore up the bad guys long before Wolverine. These women may have been overlooked in the annals of history, but their influence on popular culture, and the heroes weâ ™re passionate about today, is unmistakable.Mike Madrid is the author of Divas, Dames & Daredevils: Lost Heroines of Golden Age Comics and The Supergirls: Fashion, Feminism, Fantasy, and the History of Comic Book Heroines, an NPR &#147;Best Book To Share With Your Friendsâ • and American Library Association Amelia Bloomer Project Notable Book. Madrid, a San Francisco native and lifelong fan of comic books and popular culture, also appears in the documentary Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Divas, Dames, and Daredevils: Lost Heroines of Golden Age Comics*, Mike Madrid picks up where he left off with *The Supergirls: Fashion, Feminism, Fantasy, and the History of Comic Book Heroines*, but in reverse chronological order. In *The Supergirls* he told the stories of Wonder Woman, Sheena, Batwoman, Elektra, Storm and the She-Hulk, among others. In *Divas* he has compiled and annotated the actual comics of the Golden Age (black and white in the print book and colorized in the e-book). Most of the heroines will be new names to readers--they were to me--Madame Strange, a two-fisted reporter; Lady Satan, a woman who lost everything to the Nazis, Black Venus, an exotic dancer, and Mother Hubbard, a senior citizen. There's also Betty Bates--Lady at Law, Maureen Marine, Marga the Panther Woman, Spider Queen and Spider Widow. These are Rosie the Riveter-type heroines who fly planes, punch out villains, and more, often while holding day jobs. And there's Pussy Katnip, a real catwoman in world of anthropomorphized animals. The characters in *Divas* are a far cry from the 1960s-era comics when women stand-alone comics were Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane and Millie the Model, and the powers of ensemble heroines were things like invisibility. The comics in *Divas* are pre-Wertheim, pre-code so the stories are a bit grittier and the language reflects the sensibilities and stereotypes of the times. The comics of the 1940s are a source for all manner of interesting observations--on language, society, narrative and design, mythic origins, readership and women's history. The art is rough but avoids the exaggerated proportions of later work. If I were a comic historian, this would be a treasure trove of research ideas.

Wonder Woman wasn't the only strong female in comics during the 1940s. This book explores the lost heroines of the comic book golden age. These are female characters that were introduced before the 1950s when the comic code took effect. The code watered down female characters and turned them into love interests instead of superheroes and adventurers. The different types of characters are grouped together in chapters. War, espionage, jungle, science fiction and fantasy comics are represented in the book. Each of these chapters includes five or six full comics reproduced in black and white. The comics range from well written and illustrated to poorly written

with amateurish art work to bizarre and almost psychedelic. Some of the comics were worth finding and others should have remained lost. It's always interesting to read old comics because they reflect society at the time they were first published. I also enjoy the art work, it's the same kind of illustrations you see on the covers of pulp magazines. This book is for those readers interested in comic book history. Superheroes like Superman and Batman were not the only comics during the golden age.

Mike Madrid brings back to life a time when comic books were new, fresh, and promising, and looks at super-heroines who have faded into the background but nonetheless deserve their time in the limelight once more. Nostalgia and cool information. How can you beat it?

Very interesting! The book includes a brief history of comics during the Golden Age as well as general info about the time period. The "lost" heroines are separated by types with an introductory section for each. Recommended for all comics fans. Great for new converts too! GoodReads FirstReads Giveaway

GREAT AND INFORMATIVE BOOK BUT BUT..COLOR RE-PRINTS WERE THE TICKET, NOT B&W!! COMPARE THIS BOOK TO GREAT HARDCOVER : THE The League of Regrettable Superheroes: Half-Baked Heroes from Comic Book History ....ALL COLOR. THE PRICES OF THESE 2 BOOKS ARE NOT THAT DIFFERENT AND MOST/ALL OF US WOULD HAVE PAID EXTRA, GLADLY, TO SEE THE SUPERHEROINES IN COLOR, AS THEY ORIGINALLY APPEARED! IF NOT FOR THE "LOST" SUPERHEROINES COVERED, A THREE STAR

It was interesting to see all these women characters! I found a's origin to be strangely familiar. Hmmmmmm-wonder where I have heard this story before? I would like to know why Miss Victory is never mentioned in these books. She also preceded Wonder Woman by a few months yet no one will acknowledge her! How about Mike Madrid - why no mention of her?

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