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The sea of monsters the graphic novel pdf

Our belief in sea monsters flows from many sources, but stories about them draw at least some of their power from the strange interactions between the human mind, extreme environs and unusual experiences. Put another way, sea monsters occupy the ever-shifting sands where the human subconscious and the physical world meet.For example, Scylla and Charybdis -- dangerous creatures made famous in Homer's "Odyssey" -- might have been based on real seafaring dangers that sailors faced in the Straits of Messina. Scylla, described as having 12 feet, six heads atop long, sinuous necks, and mouths bristling with rows of sharklike teeth, was said to reach out from her cave to grab and devour any who ventured too close. Charybdis lay on the opposite shore and periodically swallowed and regurgitated the waters there. Some scholars think Scylla represented a dangerous rock or reef, while Charybdis personified a whirlpool [source: Encyclopaedia Britannica].The unktehila of the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, Kiowa and other tribes arose in part from dinosaur bones found by tribal hunters. People in China once venerated the remains of lucky "Guizhou dragons," which turned out to be the bones of 12- to 14-inch-long (30- to 36-centimeter) marine reptiles called Keichousaurus hui [source: Morell].Similarly, other fabled sea monsters may simply be fish stories -- misremembered or embellished tales of real encounters, either with living creatures at sea or badly deformed and bloated corpses washed up on shore. Sailors might have seen sea serpents in porpoises swimming in a rippling line, in large masses of seaweed or in 30- to 46-foot (9- to 14-meter) basking shark. And then there's the oarfish, a long, eel-like fish with a red, bristly head crest and long, spiny dorsal fin. These serpentine monsters, which can approach 36-50 feet (11-15 meters) long, swim in an undulating motion that could create apparent "humps" on the sea's surface.Kraken might well have been based on giant squids, which can reach lengths of 50-70 feet (15-20 meters). A famous legend tells of a sea serpent battling a whale, its mighty arms coiling around the hapless cetacean and dragging it beneath the waves [source: Encyclopaedia Britannica]. This comports with nature, where giant squids are known to tussle with sperm whales, leaving behind sucker and claw scars, or even the odd tentacle for whalers to recovered later from the cetacean's stomach [source: AMNH].The open ocean is a terrifying, humbling place, and ancient sailors faced a tenuous existence; it was natural to imagine what threats or treasures might dwell, unseen, beneath the surface. Such fancies might have been aided by transitory hallucinations, brought on by misfiring neurons caused by head injury, physical illness, drugs, stress, sleep deprivation, fatigue or mirages [source: Ocean Navigator].But does that mean that there's no room in the scientific imagination for real sea monsters?There Be DragonsBefore the Age of Exploration, books about the world, its inhabitants and its fauna derived from prior works, some of which reached back to ancient sources containing accounts of mythical creatures. Aristotle, the first zoologist, described sea monsters in detail, and Roman soldiers reported frequent encounters with them in Britain [source: Haven]. On maps, some of these beasts were used to mark uncharted areas. Keep up with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! CDC has a fun way of teaching about emergency preparedness. Our graphic novel, "Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic" demonstrates the importance of being prepared in an entertaining way that people of all ages will enjoy. Readers follow Todd, Julie, and their dog Max as a strange new disease begins spreading, turning ordinary people into zombies. Stick around to the end for a surprising twist that will drive home the importance of being prepared for any emergency. Included in the novel is a Preparedness Checklist so that readers can get their family, workplace, or school ready before disaster strikes. We talk a lot about comic book movies. That's because, for the past few years, they've dominated the box office and our collective consciousness. That's not always a bad thing — the Avengers franchise, Guardians of the Galaxy, and the Batman reboot are all out-of-this-world awesome and worthy of the attention and devout fandom they've received. But for fans of visually-driven storytelling, there's another branch of books that's brought just as much amazingsness to Hollywood. Graphic novels have become increasingly popular among readers since they first entered the scene in the late 1960s. Films based on graphic novels tend to be a little bit darker — their stories can be more political, psychological, and reflective than what we often see in comic book adaptations. And they've been some of the most thrilling and visually stunning films of the 21st century. Here are five awesome films based on graphic novels. 1. Sin City (2004) Source: Troublemaker Studios, Dimension Films Frank Miller is one of the most well-known writer/illustrators out there today, thanks to his success with The 300, The Dark Knight Returns, and Ronin. While many of his works have been adapted for the big screen, perhaps the most exciting — and most faithful — movie based on his work is Sin City. Miller co-directed this film, which was shot entirely in digital color film and then converted to black and white to achieve its comic book-esque aesthetic. The result is an engaging noir that follows an ensemble of often-unsavory characters through dark and violent streets. Though Sin City is live action, there are hints at its source material throughout the film. Splashes of color — blue eyes, a red dress, and the nuclear yellow skin of a villain — are intriguing and jarring amidst the otherwise black and white scenery. The diverse and talented cast, which includes Bruce Willis, Clive Owen, Jessica Alba, and Elijah Wood, deliver electrifying performances that bring the series' most memorable characters to life. And he highly stylized acting and dialogue give the film a glossy, often surreal feeling that matches the eerie, insidious feeling that the Sin City graphic novels leave with you. 2. V for Vendetta (2006) Source: Virtual Studios, Silver Pictures, VERTIGO DC Comics, Anarchos Productions The Guy Fawkes mask has become synonymous with vigilante activism. But before Anonymous began using it as its symbol, it stood for a different type of rebellion in the dystopian thriller, V for Vendetta. Based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and David Lloyd, the Wachovski Brother's film follows Evie Hammond (Natalie Portman) as she teams up with V (Hugo Weaving) to take down their oppressive government. Even though it was released nearly a decade ago, From beginning to end, V for Vendetta taps into some pretty timely themes — totalitarianism, censorship, and the fight for human freedom. But its message isn't the only thing that make it successful adaptation. From V's angular, unnerving mask and cloak to the image of Buckingham Palace being blown apart, it's full of stunning visuals that you won't soon be able to shake. 3. Road to Perdition (2002) Source: The Zanuck Company At first blush, 1930s Chicago and the visually-driven graphic novel may not seem like an ideal match. But with Road to Perdition, Max Allen Collins combined them into a beautiful and gripping story about a young boy and his gangster father. And Sam Mendes translates that story with an almost perfect accuracy with his 2002 adaptation. The film stars Tom Hanks as Michael Sullivan Sr., a mob enforcer who will stop at nothing to avenge his family's brutal deaths at the hands of unhinged gangster Connor (Daniel Craig). In many ways, Road to Perdition — both the film and the graphic novel — are a study in the difference between light and dark. Mendes brings that theme to fruition time and again throughout the film, and also gives some of Hollywood's most talented actors — including Hanks, Jude Law, and the late, great Paul Newman — a chance to stretch beyond their usual limits and explore some of the darkest sides of humanity. 4. A History of Violence (2005) Source: New Line Productions Those not familiar with graphic novels might assume that they're nothing more than long-form comic books. But there isn't a single cartoonish moment within many of the genres' stories — especially in John Wagner and Vince Lock's A History of Violence, which follows a seemingly normal small town man as he's forced to uncover his dark history with organized crime. The novel was adapted for the big screen by David Cronenberg, whose often macabre aesthetic sensibilities fits perfectly with the story's tone. A History of Violence delivers on what is promised in its title — that is, a pretty extreme amount of blood and death. And it features a career-high performance from Viggo Mortensen as Tom, the diner owner turned small town hero with a deeply disturbing past. But A History of Violence also plays into its ambiguous title, and becomes a meditation on how we cope with our past mistakes and reinvent ourselves. 5. Snowpiercer (2013) Source: Moho Films, Opus Pictures, Stilking Films, CJ Entertainment The future of humanity feels grim in Snowpiercer, a South Korean thriller that follows a train that carries the remainder of the world's population following a global warming-induced new Ice Age. Based on Jacques Lob and Jean-Marc Rochette's spectacular French graphic novel Le Transperceneige, the film manages to feel grounded in reality despite its often surreal story. Director Bong Joon-ho leads Chris Evans, John Hurt, and Tilda Swinton through their exhilarating performances as the train's most powerless — and powerful — residents. At its core, Snowpiercer is a story about survival — not just from catastrophe, but from under a dangerously oppressive regime. It's also, in many ways, a visual masterpiece — from spine-tingling action sequences to the quieter moments within the jarringly colorful train cars that house salons, classrooms and other microcosms of a world that no longer exists. More from Entertainment Cheat Sheet: It was only recently that the graphic novel became embraced for the art form that it is, a marriage of words and pictures that can tell serious stories that aren't just limited to men and women wearing capes fighting crime. Expanding upon comic books or just compiling them to create a full story as multi-faceted as most literary novels allow authors and artists alike to explore big ideas and complex characters while infusing the story with plenty of visual flair. If you've yet to discover the joys of this newcomer to the world of literature, here are six great graphic novels you should probably start reading right. They have pictures, so it should be an easy read, right? 1. Persepolis Iranian author Marjane Satrapi turned comics into a medium to relate her fascinating memoirs in stylish black-and-white artistic styles. The culmination of many individual entries, the graphic novel Persepolis charts the growth of Satrapi as she grows up in Iran before moving to and from Vienna as an adolescent, enduring heartbreak and tragedy on her way to true adulthood and a permanent move away from her family and home-country. The novel feels both personal and political, as Satrapi evocatively paints the political struggles and unfair power shifts that characterizes her nation's recent history. In 2007, an animated film based on the graphic novel (see trailer above) was released to critical acclaim. 2. Watchmen Image from Watchmen graphic novel | Source: DC Comics Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons created their own superhero team out of nothing, though they originally planned to adopt other DC characters, and used a limited-run comic series to tell a single coherent story that combines superhero lore with alternate history, larger-than-life characters and unexpected bursts of humor with trenchant social commentary. Superheroes went public in the twentieth century and in a venerated Nixon era, have since become outlaws, some of whom take it upon themselves to halt the beginning of a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. The relatively straightforward story is supplemented by dozens of fascinating choices, including a comic-within-a-comic and nonlinear narrative, pushing this artform forward. 3. The Dark Knight Returns Image from The Dark Knight Returns | Source: DC Comics Moviegoers will get a taste of The Dark Knight Returns' legendary narrative for this caped crusader, which serves as the partial inspiration for the upcoming Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice. Comic book legend Frank Miller penned this, one of Batman's definitive comic book storylines, in 1986 shortly before the character regained popularity, focusing on a middle-aged Bruce Wayne struggling against police and criminal forces in an epic, moody tale focused on its fascinating central character as much as its story, which culminates in a face-off with the other DC heavyweight, Superman. 4. Maus Maus cover art | Source: Raw Cartoonist Art Spiegelman chose to use his medium of choice to relate a story that feels both unique to his family and somewhat universal, specifically for central and eastern Europeans who came of age in the 1930s and '40s. Maus depicts Spiegelman speaking with his cranky, stingy, loving and moderately racist father about his present problems as well as his tragic history enduring World War II first as a soldier, then a fugitive and finally a concentration camp resident, conveying historical dynamics by portraying people as different species of animals. The graphic novel confronts Spiegelman's own insecurities about his art and his problematic, relatable relationship with his difficult father, as well as his enormous strength for surviving through tragic hardship after tragic hardship in one of history's most unforgiving eras. 5. Ghost World Daniel Clowes's cult classic graphic novel Ghost World serves as one of the definitive texts of Generation X and a memorable coming-of-age tale that works no matter what time period one reads it. The stylish, sleek visuals support a well-observed story of two pseudo-intellectual teenagers struggling to reconcile their cynicism with the real world they find themselves thrust into after their high school graduation. The unforgiving but moving story depicts their falling out and individual ways of grappling with their burgeoning adulthood, a simple story drawn (literally) with great sympathy, humor and attention to the details that make life what it is. A 2001 movie based on the graphic novel stars Thora Birch, Steve Buscemi, and Scarlett Johansson (see trailer above). 6. V for Vendetta Cover of V for Vendetta | Source: Vertigo (via Amazon) Another classic of alternate historical fiction in comic book form from graphic novel genius Alan Moore, V for Vendetta features a masked hero at its center, but can hardly be called a superhero comic due to the difficult, often terrorist tactics of its central character V. The mysterious, didactic antihero adopts an unlikely and at times unwilling protege as he takes on a version of 1990s England not so dissimilar from the one George Orwell created with his book 1984. In 2005, a movie based on the graphic novel was released. The film's visual style and use of the Guy Fawkes mask has had a notable impact on popular culture, but the novel's true strength lies in its marriage of escapist entertainment and complex political messaging concerning fascism and anarchism. More from Entertainment Cheat Sheet:

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