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Adventure Heroes: Legendary Characters from Odysseus to James Bond

Jeff Rovin

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Jeff Rovin : Adventure Heroes: Legendary Characters from Odysseus to James Bond before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adventure Heroes: Legendary Characters from Odysseus to James Bond:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Stuff that Dreams are Made Of...By OAKSHAMAN This is the sort of book that you can spend hours flipping through. Entry after entry brings back memories while revealing obscure facts that you never knew. I suspected that it would be worth purchasing from my experience with the author's ROBOTS, ALIENS AND SPACESHIPS. Sure, neither book is a comprehensive reference, but they both do a good survey while introducing quirky, obscure material that you just won't find elsewhere. The book starts with a nice little introductory survey on the nature of the hero and the purpose of the book. Then you have an alphabetical section of over 500 entries. This is followed by a bibliography of references for further reading. Then there is a full index (24 pages in small print) to help find the topic you are looking for. As for the entries, they are coded as to format: comic book, comic strip, folklore, literature, mythology, motion picture, opera, radio, stage, toy, trading cards, television, and video or computer game. Each individual entry is divided into first appearance, biography, and comment sections and range from approximately a quarter page to a couple pages. There are many sharp, appropriate black and white illustrations included. You have a range of heroes here from the mythological and archetypal from the dawn of time

to the modern day anti-hero. As for the format you have everything from 19th century pulp heroes like Frank Merriwell to video game characters like Mario. I would like to list more but there are just too many- I'd never stop. Just as an example you have Gilgamesh and Cuchulain, Sam Spade and Philip Marlowe, Jonny Quest and Clutch Cargo, Allen Quatermain and Horatio Hornblower, Tom Sawyer and Dorothy Gale, Madmax and Rambo, Captain Kirk and Paul Atreides, etc., etc., etc. My one small complaint is the cover. Why show both Doc Savage and the Lone Ranger when they aren't listed in the entries? Perhaps you get out of this book what you bring to it. If you have no experience with any of these characters then perhaps it will disappoint you- or just perhaps it will spark your enthusiasm to seek out the sources... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ROVIN DOES IT AGAIN ! By David M. Goode Here we have another wonderful research tool from the author of the Encyclopedias of Superheroes, Supervillians and Monsters. As to be expected the listings are incredibly diverse. You get super-spies like James Bond, James West, John Drake and Derek Flint just to name a few. Mythological heroes like Odysseus, Jason and Theseus are represented. Hercules was of course featured in the Encyclopedia of Superheroes. TV western heroes like Cheyenne Bodie and Lucas McCain (the Rifleman) can be found in this volume. Mike Hammer, Philip Marlowe, Johnny Dynamite and John Shaft are some of the detectives listed here. But then so are Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys. Swashbucklers like Captain Blood and D'Artagnan are here as are gentleman rogues like Simon Templar a.k.a the Saint. You can spend hours at a time going through this book. And it's loaded with illustrations (comic book and paperback covers as well as photos). Ironically the most prominent hero featured on the book's cover is Doc Savage who is featured in the Encyclopedia of Superheroes, but not in this volume. This is another book that I highly recommend. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. an excellent compilation of often-overlooked characters By A Customer I couldn't allow Jeff Rovin's ADVENTURE HEROES to be represented by only one derogatory review. In this book, Mr. Rovin continues his ongoing quest to familiarize his readers with the wide range of science fiction and fantasy characters that have been presented throughout history. I might quarrel with some aspects of Mr. Rovin's alphabetical system (The tv show wasn't called "Lt. Columbo," so why should the entry have been under the "L"s?), and, of course, Mr. Rovin's selection process is, as always, occasionally questionable (Where were the kids from the tv show "Dungeons and Dragons"? Where was Kolchak? Why give space to a one-shot parody of Sgt. Fury and Rock? If you're going to include Rama, then why not delve further into various other religions? How do some golden-age comic book adventurers rate inclusion while others do not? And will we ever be treated to more than casual glances at the literatures and popular cultures of other countries?), but this book remains an excellent example of its type; with so many characters to choose from, we can't expect Mr. Rovin to get to them all, and he does pretty well by the ones he includes. Aside from the above, the only real complaint I can offer about this book is that the cover features Doc Savage so prominently, but, since Doc was covered in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SUPERHEROES, the book does not discuss him at all. As noted, no book of this type can ever hope to be all-inclusive, but for a look at several American adventure characters of the first half of this century, most of whom Mr. Rovin had no space for, I strongly recommend Robert Sampson's six-volume series YESTERDAY'S FACES.

Originally published earlier in 1995 and now available in paperback, an alphabetical reference to more than 500 adventure heroes, from Odysseus to James Bond, which gives details of their lives, loves, exploits, adventures, lore and legend.

From School Library Journal YA? Approximately 500 fictional characters are represented in this attractive, easy-to-read volume. The focus is on diverse courageous and/or inspirational figures such as Indiana Jones, Dick Tracy, Hopalong Cassidy, Ivanhoe, Jack and the Beanstalk, Brenda Starr, and Nancy Drew. Arrangement is alphabetical by either first or last name, or by title, which makes the index a must. The entries vary in length from one paragraph to two pages. Codes after the names explain where the characters became famous? comic books, folklore, mythology, television, trading cards, opera, stage, radio, toys, or video and computer games. The black-and-white photographs are excellent. A fascinating source of information. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Charlie Chan, Modesty Blaise, Jonny Quest, and Beowulf are just some of the more than 500 characters listed here along with the works in which they appeared. Rovin (The Encyclopedia of Monsters, LJ 9/1/89) has drawn entries from the realms of comic books, comic strips, folklore, literature, mythology, motion pictures, opera, radio, television, video, and computer games. For each character or show he offers date and place of first appearance, a biography, and comments that are chock full of interesting information, including relatively obscure facts such as descriptions of the minor characters Dorothy met in Oz. Unfortunately, there are some organizational problems: The sometimes unpredictable placement of an entry (e.g., Kojak is found under L for Lt. Theo Kojak) will force readers to flip back and forth to the index, and the First Appearance and Last Appearance dates are separated by comments. Still, this is a good ready reference for popular culture collections. Judy Hauser, Oakland Sch. Lib. Svcs., Waterford, Mich. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This guide to fictional characters presents the exploits of individuals who provide inspiration through their examples of courage and determination. Characters endowed with supernatural or superscientific powers are not included, nor are legendary historical figures. This

volume features such diverse personalities as Peer Gynt, Sky King, and the Mod Squad. The approximately 570 entries are arranged alphabetically, either according to the character's first or last name (both Dick Tracy and Dorothy Gale are found in the Ds or by their title (Dr. Richard Kimble, Sergeant Preston). An index is provided and will need to be consulted on a regular basis. The entries range from one paragraph to a couple of pages; some feature black-and-white photographs. Codes indicate various media that have featured each character: comic book, folklore, literature, mythology, motion picture, opera, radio, stage, toy, trading card, television, and video or computer game. Each entry includes the character's first appearance, a biography, and a section of commentary--background information on the evolution of characters, actors who have portrayed them, and related articles. Several obscure characters not usually found in other sources are included: Ilya Murometz from Russian folklore, cartoon-character Thundarr the Barbarian, and Admiral Fudge, whose comic strip first appeared in 1908. Family histories span various media formats, such as the article on the Cartwrights of Virginia City or the selection on the Hardy Boys. Characters who play supporting roles can be found in main entries: the essay on Captain Jean-Luc Picard includes the entire cast of Star Trek, The New Generation; Huck Finn appears in the entry on Tom Sawyer. Some entries need to be updated. Prince Valiant's biography states that he and Aleta have four children, but the family has grown: Arn, and the twins, Galen and Nathan. This latest offering joins Rovin's other unique guides, such as *The Encyclopedia of Superheroes* (Facts On File, 1985), *The Encyclopedia of Monsters* (Facts On File, 1990), and *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cartoon Animals* (Prentice-Hall, 1991). All of these titles feature easy-to-read text and attractive formats and appeal to researchers and browsers from upper elementary school through adults. Not comprehensive (the Virginian is included, but not Shane; Tin Tin, but not Mr. Magoo; the A-Team, but not the Rat Patrol) but thoroughly entertaining, this book will be welcome in libraries where there is an audience for his earlier works.