

THE SANDMAN: ENDLESS NIGHTS



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KEYWORDS

- Graphic Novel
- Endless
- Perception/Variation
- Sigil
- Subculture
- Artistic Style

GRAPHIC NOVELS 101: A NEW LITERARY ARTFORM!

- Graphic Novel – A medium in which text is both accompanied and complimented by art, oftentimes to a degree in which neither elements can stand alone and tell a story. (Exception: “Nuff Said” comics)



The “Graphic Novel” Controversy:

- According to Alan Moore (*Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*), graphic novel is merely “a marketing term...[that] just came to mean ‘expensive comic book’”.

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL FORMAT

American Comic Book Format:

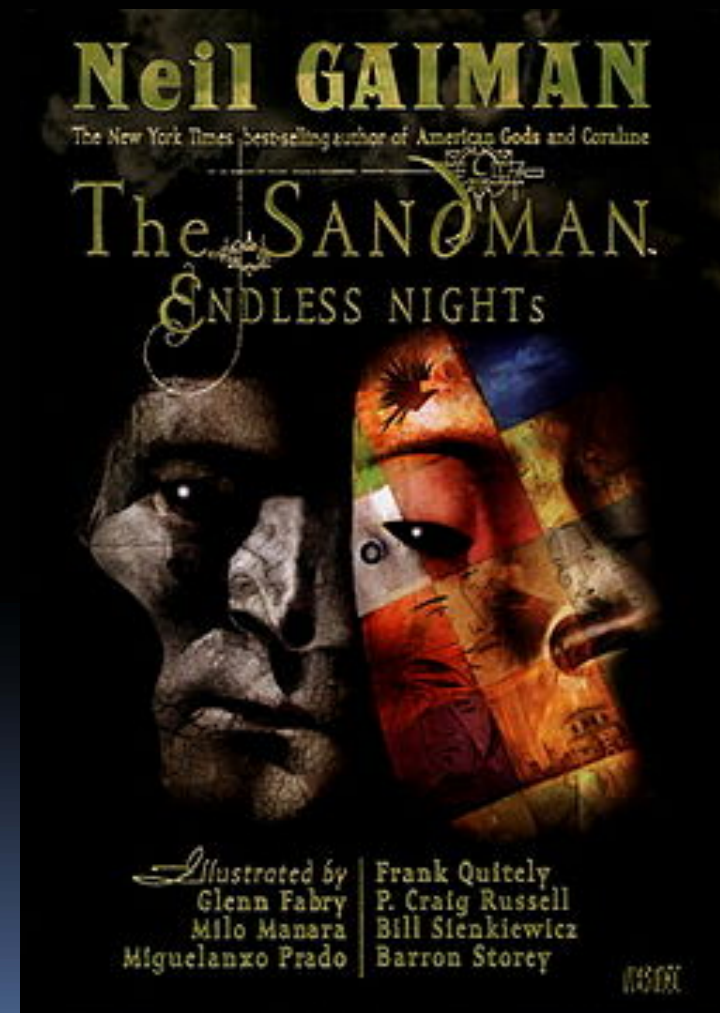
- Dimensions: 6 5/8" x 10 1/4" (17 x 26 cm)
 - Scaled up or down for graphic novels or trade collections.
- Length: 32 pages, 21-24 pages of story and art plus 8 pages of advertisements
- Read from left-to-right, top-to-bottom (unless otherwise dictated by the artistic arrangement on the pages).

Types of Publications:

- The Standard comic book
 - Published as an Ongoing Series (Amazing Spider-Man, Batman, etc.), Annual, One-Shot, or Limited Series.
- Graphic Novels
- Trade Paperbacks (TPB's), Anthologies, and Omnibuses

ENDLESS NIGHTS FORMAT

- American Graphic Novel
- Largely traditional paneled pages and directional flow



NOTE!



Endless Nights was only published as a Graphic Novel, whereas the original *Sandman* series was published as a standard monthly Comic Book later collected in TPB's.

The Early Life of Neil Gaiman

- Born on November 10, 1960 in England
- He loved comics as a child
- Graduated from Whitgift School in 1977
- Did not go to college



Neil Gaiman's Career

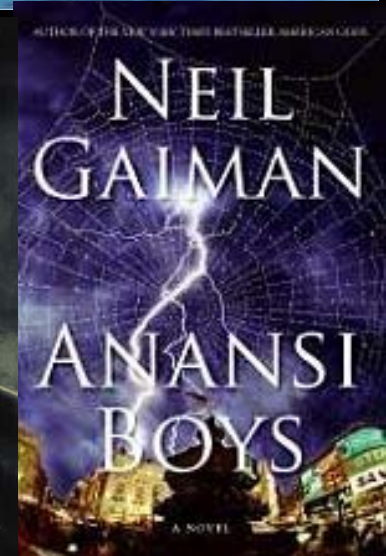
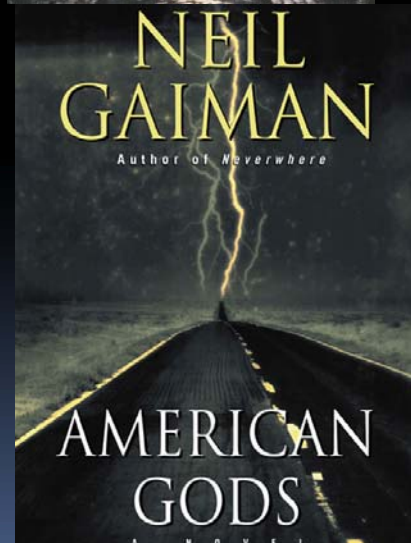
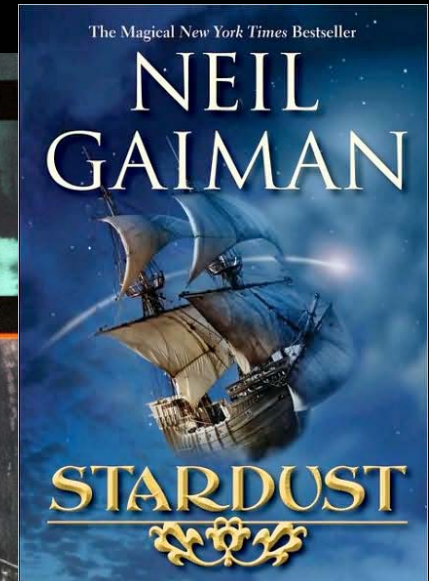
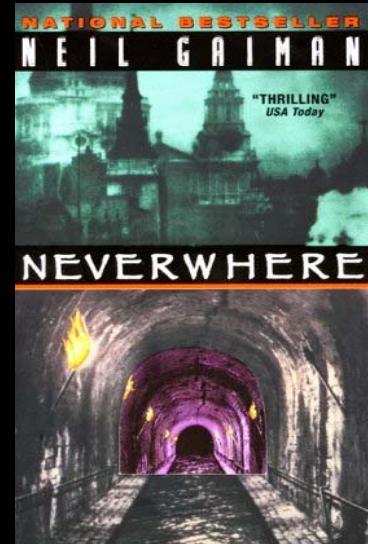


- He felt that the comic industry was severely lacking as a teen
 - His inspiration to write comic books
- At first he wrote nonfiction
 - Biography for Duran Duran in 1984
 - A companion guide to Adam's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* called *Don't Panic* in 1987

<http://www.blogcdn.com/www.tv squad.com/media/2011/04/neil-gaiman-getty-250.jpg>

Novels

- *Good Omens* with Terry Pratchett (1990)
- *Neverwhere* (1996)
- *Stardust* (1998)
- *American Gods* (2001)
- *Anansi Boys* (2005)



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_angicUpVtWM/TGH-68F61BI/AAAAAAAAAC7s/7pRpTO8DBoE/s1600/Stardust.jpg

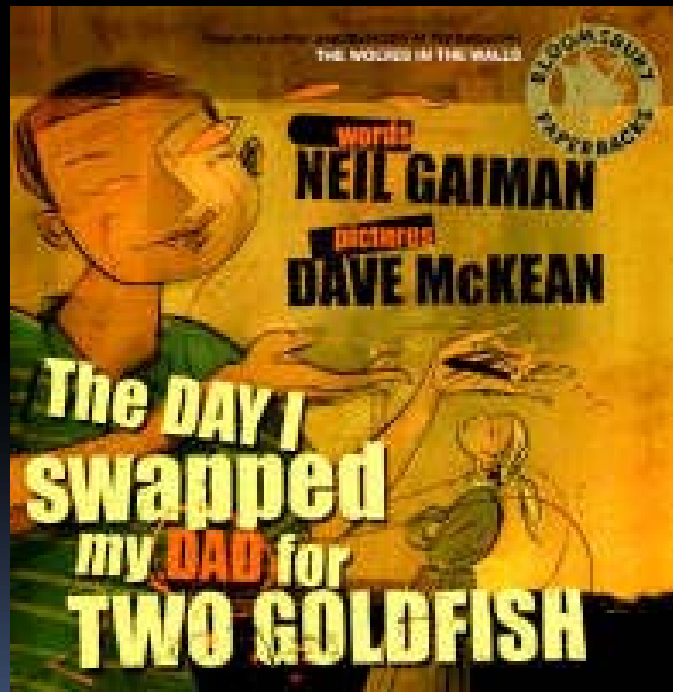
<http://figura4.com/review/picture/75>

<http://spinoff.comicbookresources.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/american-gods.jpg>

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_oihU_x3PDX8/TYCsk5ZEXpI/AAAAAAAAAHQ/wIZ6fUpBqGo/s1600/neverwhere.jpg

Children's Books

- *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish* (1996)
- *The Wolves in the Walls* (2003)
- *Coraline* (2002) (aimed at teenagers and children)



<http://www.waterstones.com/wat/images/nbd/m/978074757/9780747578406.jpg>

Neil Gaiman's Comics and Graphic Novels

- First comic was *Violent Cases* (1987)
- DC comics hired him to bring back some old super-heroes from the 1940's
 - Wrote *Black Orchid*
 - Inspiration for Sandman, a little known character
 - *The Tragical Comedy of Mr. Punch* (1994)
- Marvel Comics
 - *1602* (2003)

Film



- *Coraline*
- *Mirormask*
- *Neverwhere* (BBC Movie Miniseries)
- *Stardust*
- *A Short Film About John Bolton*
- Also worked on the script of *Beowulf* and *Princess Mononoke*

Music

- 8in8 with Amanda Palmer, Ben Folds, and Damian Kulash
- Album called "Nighty Night" for a charity web cast



<http://www.eightineight.com/band.html>

The Sandman

- *Sandman* has 75 issues, as original comics from 1988-96
- Now they're in the form of graphic novels
 - The original series, 10 collected TPB's
 - *Death: The High Cost of Living* (1993)
 - *Death: The Time of Your Life* (1996)
 - *Destiny: A Chronicle of Deaths Foretold* (1996)
 - *Sandman: The Dream Hunters* (1999)
 - *The Little Endless Storybook* (2001)
 - *Death: At Death's Door* (manga, 2003)
 - *Sandman: Endless Nights* (2003)

The Sandman: Endless Nights

Overview

- Seven Endless
 - Dream, Death, Desire, Destruction, Delirium, Despair, and Destiny
- Each has its own story, but relates to original series
- Seven Stories, Ten Artists, One Writer
 - Chapter 1: Death and Venice
 - P. Craig Russell & Lovern Kindzierski
 - Chapter 2: What I've Tasted of Desire
 - Milo Manara
 - Chapter 3: The Heart of a Star
 - Miguelanxo Prado
 - Chapter 4: Fifteen Portraits of Despair
 - Barron Storey & Dave McKean
 - Chapter 5: Going Inside
 - Bill Sienkiewicz
 - Chapter 6: On the Peninsula
 - Glenn Fabry & Chris Chuckry
 - Chapter 7: Endless Nights
 - Frank Quitely

The Structure of *The Sandman: Endless Nights*

- Composed of Seven Chapters (One for each of the Endless)
- The Number Seven in Numerology
- Each Chapter Features a Self-Contained Story
- Each Chapter Features a Different Artist

The Importance of Titles

- Endless – A familial group of seven characters. Each of the Endless represents an intangible facet of the human experience.
 - “Death and Venice”
 - “What I’ve tasted of Desire”
 - “Fifteen Portraits of Despair”
 - “Endless Nights”

The SANDMAN

ENDLESS NIGHTS



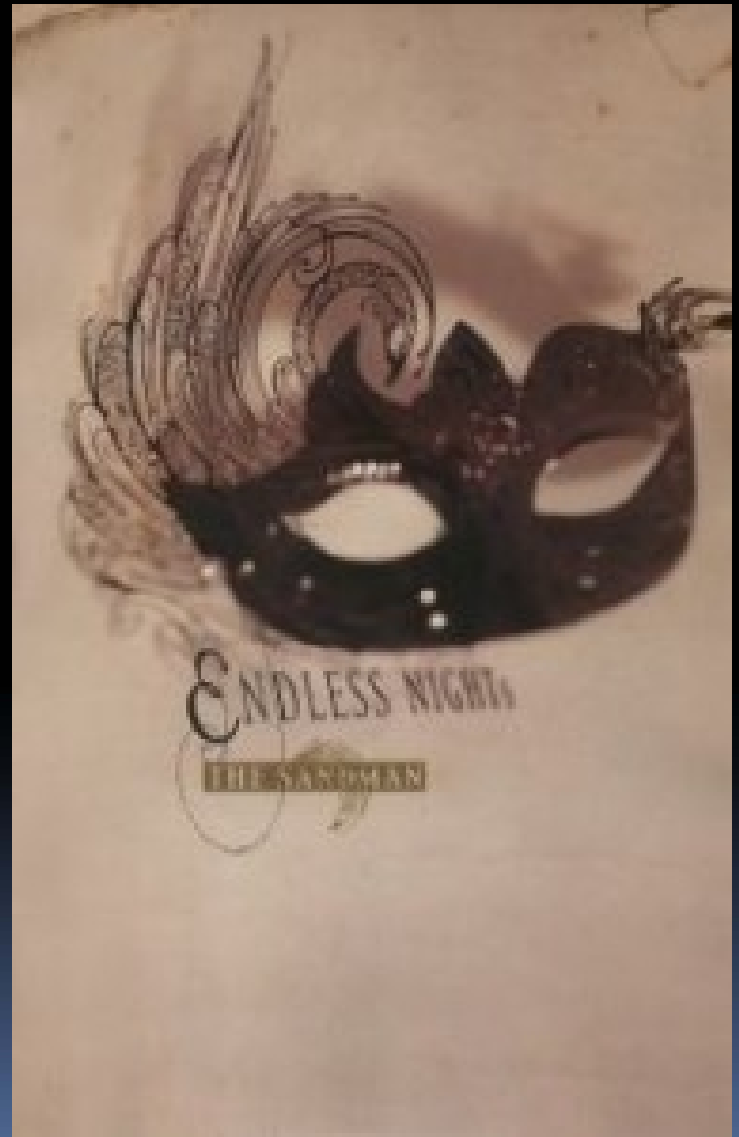
VERTIGO
vertigocomics.com
TM & © DC Comics

http://comicstock.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/the_sandman_endless_nights_1280x1024.jpg

- “But as long as there are people to live and dream and destroy, to desire, to despair, to delight or go mad, to live lives and affect each other, then the Endless will be there, performing their functions.”
– Neil Gaiman

Central Themes

- Time
- Sexual Desire
- Mortality



THE TEXT-ART RELATIONSHIP

Why Graphic Novels are a unique literary form:

- Plain text novels require the reader to employ all their powers of imagination to visualize the story.
- The artists of graphic novels do most of this heavy lifting, making the reading experience less daunting for those without a vivid imagination.

Imperative elements for Graphic Novels:

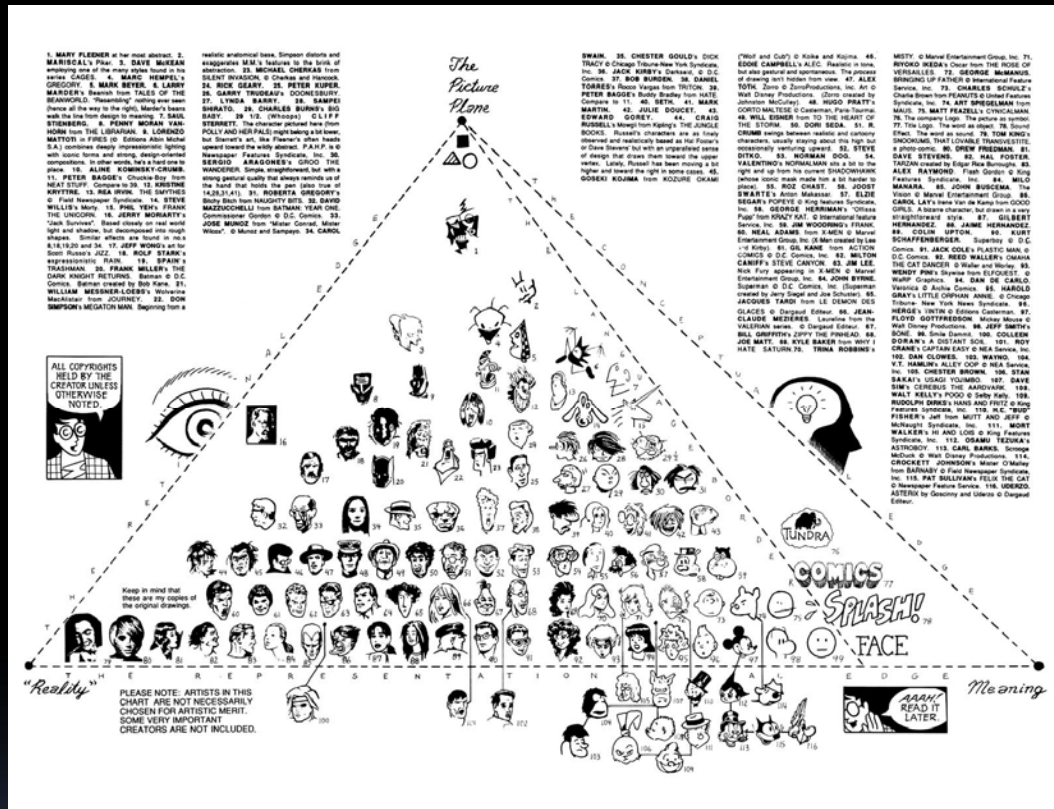
- Color
- Emotion
- Style

COMIC BOOK ART THEORY

• Perception/Variation – The physical appearance of the Endless varies to slight degrees, both due to different artistic interpretations and to the perception or expectations of the viewer.

Pioneer in creating theory in meaning for comic book art: **SCOTT McCLOUD**

• The Big Triangle Theory



<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~mfram/Media/0505-UC-triangle-all.jpg>

Connection to Literary Gothicism

• Sigil – A sign or image representing an implied status or power. Each of the Endless carries (and can be identified by) a sigil.

- Foreign Settings
- The Supernatural
- Elements of Horror
- Frankenstein (We can never escape him!)
- Byronic Hero?

Artists

- P. Craig Russell (Death)
 - Has worked in comics for 31 years
- Milo Manara (Desire)
 - Expert in erotic art
- Miguelanxo Prado (Dream)
 - Studied architecture at first
- Barron Storey (Despair)
 - Won NY Times Society of Illustrators Gold Medal in 1976



<http://spank-the-monkey.typepad.com/.a/6aood83451b66d69e200e5526fa1c98833-32opi>

Artists (Continued)

• Artistic Style – the style of a particular artist or school or movement

- Bill Stienkiewicz (Delirium)
 - Nominated for 2 Emmy's in animation
- Glen Fabry (Destruction)
 - Been drawing comics for 20 years
- Frank Quitely (Destiny)
 - Not new to the comic biz

Critics/Reception



- Critics loved it!!!
 - It's the winner of the 2003 Bram Stoker Award
 - Was on the NY Times Bestseller List
 - Developed a subculture (a.k.a. cult following)
- Other work has been received with praise and awards

• Subculture (cult following) – A group of people sharing the same devotion towards an object, usually a film or book

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