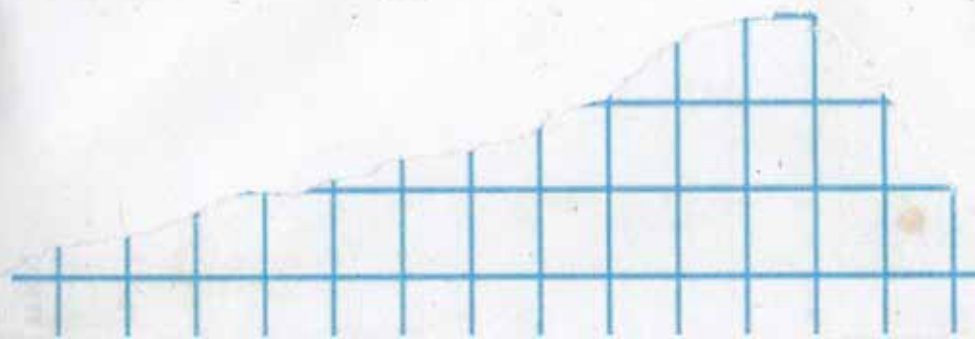


# SUPERZERO

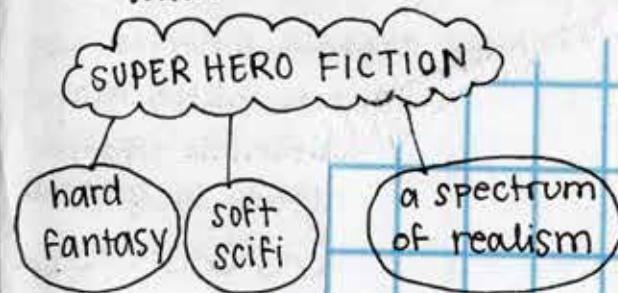
issue # 1



# WHAT MAKES THE GENRE?

"SUPERHERO FICTION is a genre of SPECULATIVE FICTION examining the adventures, personalities & ethics of costumed crime fighters (known as superheroes) who often possess superhuman POWERS & battle similarly powered supervillains."

- WIKIPEDIA



## TERMS TO KNOW

- rouge's gallery
- mystery men
- secret identity
- duality
- retcons
- continuity
- Women in Refrigerators
- tie-in event



## ★ GENRE FLEXIBILITY ★

In my opinion, superhero fiction is one of the most flexible genres as it can span the spectrum from fantasy, scifi, mystery, HORROR & crime all in one singular story or even just one arc of a larger story.



# ★ PROPAGANDA ★

It's no secret comic books have been used and even LOVED as military propaganda.

From Superman in DC to Captain America at Marvel, superheroes are a huge tool historically when it comes to motivating militaristic efforts or, the attitude around the military in general.

A pretty nuanced critique of superheroes as a concept is that defending/saving the world as is, does little to change injustice built into the system.

It's no surprise then that the MCU is so heavily associated with the US military industrial complex in particular. The DC cinematic universe is no different when it comes to its movies but its TV shows vary.

To give an example, the first ever Ironman movie showed Tony Stark as a hero, selling weapons to the US and only condemned that due to them being coopted by terrorists... Who he then murders indiscriminately.

I wonder what kinds of stories we'd get if depictions of the military weren't so heavily controlled BY the military & our imperialist state.



# ~ women in comics ~

Women have a long tradition in indie comics that's for sure, but a lot of the way women revolutionized a male-dominated industry like commercial comics is largely under appreciated.

These days, women make up a good portion of fans AND creators.



## WOMEN TO KNOW

- ★ Elizabeth Holloway Marston
- ★ Flo Steinberg
- ★ Ramona Fradon
- ★ Rachel Pollock
- ★ Linda Barry
- ★ Gail Simone
- ★ Alison Bechdel





# TEEN TITANS

## Finding Family

A lot of the super hero genre particularly resonates with LGBT and mentally ill people because of themes of **FOUND FAMILY**

### FOUND FAMILY

A family made from bonds that is chosen rather than created through blood ties.

IN TEEN TITANS everyone was originally brought together by Raven, Robin may be the leader but he also has a lot of work to do on that, Starfire is practically stranded on Earth, Cyborg was an all-star before a devastating accident and Beast Boy was raised by another dysfunctional superhero found family...

Together, they learn to really understand each other & grow as a team & a family.

It's one of the first medias I really latched onto as a kid particularly because of the complicated & nuanced way Beast Boy & Raven interacted on screen.

DOOM PATROL is one of the absolute weirdest comics you'll ever read, with a lot of its concepts rooted in old silver age stories that have been updated in a fun, quirky way for a modern audience.

The show is NO DIFFERENT.

Throughout the show you see everyday people in the skin of heroes dealing with complex emotionally fraught turmoil & outlandish, wild & fantastical situations & the contrast is glorious.







ZERO

When people realize that being familiar with certain properties can get you fame & money: suddenly it's cool to be a geek.

Some people might argue that the first commercial success of superhero media was Ironman, which it certainly did kick off a major cultural touchstone but in my opinion, it was Ramey's Spiderman.

Ever since, people now fight over "geek cred" & it's suddenly viable to be a Peter rather than Spidey



# WHEN SUPERHEROES BECAME

## COOL

? WHEN DID LIKING SUPERHERO STUFF BECOME COOL ?



A WHEN IT BECAME COMMERCIALY VIABLE TO MAKE SUPERHERO MEDIA

# HERO



"DORK"



"not a real fan"



I sometimes feel out of place even amongst other girl fans of comics and superhero fiction because what many of them are concerned with is rooted in what a lot of girl-centric fandom is ...

\* SHIPPING (which largely is) uninteresting to me



\* I care about it a little but I don't make it my LIFE & disagreements on shipping don't mean much to me



# THE NEW TREND

## DECONSTRUCTING THE SUPERHERO

### IT ALL STARTED WITH ★ WATCHMEN ★

"Deconstruction of a hero implies taking a stable archetype of something (for example, a superhero) and analyzing its basic components to turn it into something different."

- Cinemacure

Genres evolve over time & the idea of examining the genre INSIDE of the genre is relatively new, but now is becoming a steadfast trope in and of itself FOR the genre.



Things like "The Boyz" analyzing commercialization & celebrity heroes, "Invincible" which examines the real gravity of superheroics as well as the 'corrupt' Superman — its become, especially in a world filled with superhero pop culture, a welcome analysis of our own obsessions.

DECONSTRUCT

A ZINE BY:

★ DANI CLOVER - FLICK ★

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
MAY 1918

Dear Mr. [Name]  
[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text]

[Faint text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side]

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]