



## Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature

By Charles Hatfield

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

### Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield

In the 1980s, a sea change occurred in comics. Fueled by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly's avant-garde anthology *Raw* and the launch of the *Love & Rockets* series by Gilbert, Jaime, and Mario Hernandez, the decade saw a deluge of comics that were more autobiographical, emotionally realistic, and experimental than anything seen before. These alternative comics were not the scatological satires of the 1960s underground, nor were they brightly colored newspaper strips or superhero comic books.

In *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature*, Charles Hatfield establishes the parameters of alternative comics by closely examining long-form comics, in particular the graphic novel. He argues that these are fundamentally a literary form and offers an extensive critical study of them both as a literary genre and as a cultural phenomenon. Combining sharp-eyed readings and illustrations from particular texts with a larger understanding of the comics as an art form, this book discusses the development of specific genres, such as autobiography and history.

*Alternative Comics* analyzes such seminal works as Spiegelman's *Maus*, Gilbert Hernandez's *Palomar: The Heartbreak Soup Stories*, and Justin Green's *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*. Hatfield explores how issues outside of cartooning—the marketplace, production demands, work schedules—can affect the final work. Using Hernandez's *Palomar* as an example, he shows how serialization may determine the way a cartoonist structures a narrative. In a close look at *Maus*, *Binky Brown*, and Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*, Hatfield teases out the complications of creating biography and autobiography in a substantially visual medium, and shows how creators approach these issues in radically different ways.

Charles Hatfield, Canyon Country, California, is an assistant professor of English at California State University, Northridge. His work has been published in *ImageText*, *Inks: Cartoon and Comic Art Studies*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, the *Comics Journal*, and other periodicals.

See the author's Web site at [www.csun.edu/~ch76854/](http://www.csun.edu/~ch76854/).

 [Download Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature ...pdf](#)

# Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature

By Charles Hatfield

## Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield

In the 1980s, a sea change occurred in comics. Fueled by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly's avant-garde anthology *Raw* and the launch of the *Love & Rockets* series by Gilbert, Jaime, and Mario Hernandez, the decade saw a deluge of comics that were more autobiographical, emotionally realistic, and experimental than anything seen before. These alternative comics were not the scatological satires of the 1960s underground, nor were they brightly colored newspaper strips or superhero comic books.

In *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature*, Charles Hatfield establishes the parameters of alternative comics by closely examining long-form comics, in particular the graphic novel. He argues that these are fundamentally a literary form and offers an extensive critical study of them both as a literary genre and as a cultural phenomenon. Combining sharp-eyed readings and illustrations from particular texts with a larger understanding of the comics as an art form, this book discusses the development of specific genres, such as autobiography and history.

*Alternative Comics* analyzes such seminal works as Spiegelman's *Maus*, Gilbert Hernandez's *Palomar: The Heartbreak Soup Stories*, and Justin Green's *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*. Hatfield explores how issues outside of cartooning—the marketplace, production demands, work schedules—can affect the final work. Using Hernandez's *Palomar* as an example, he shows how serialization may determine the way a cartoonist structures a narrative. In a close look at *Maus*, *Binky Brown*, and Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*, Hatfield teases out the complications of creating biography and autobiography in a substantially visual medium, and shows how creators approach these issues in radically different ways.

Charles Hatfield, Canyon Country, California, is an assistant professor of English at California State University, Northridge. His work has been published in *ImageTexT*, *Inks: Cartoon and Comic Art Studies*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, the *Comics Journal*, and other periodicals.

See the author's Web site at [www.csun.edu/~ch76854/](http://www.csun.edu/~ch76854/).

## Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #872130 in Books
- Published on: 2005-08-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.90" h x .50" w x 8.34" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 182 pages



[Download Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield

---

### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

This critical study is written for people who take comics seriously. Hatfield, an assistant professor of English at California State University, successfully establishes a historical and theoretical framework in which graphic novels can be considered "literature." He begins with the 1960s comix movement, when people began creating graphic fiction that improvised on personal and social themes, and he shows how that artistic impulse has continued to develop. Along the way, he confronts the kind of serious questions that accompany the birth of a new genre of literature, examining Gilbert Hernandez's use of extreme temporal and thematic shifts in *Love & Rockets* and Harvey Pekar and Art Spiegelman's use of exaggerated cartoons to present tragic real-life experiences. Insights into these issues emerge from a sometimes exhausting survey of critical theory and an invigorating close reading of important comics. Hatfield recognizes the real-world limitations of alternative comics and graphic novels, but he also sees their potential for stimulating readers' appreciation of life. It's hard to imagine anyone coming away from this book without new insights, a deeper respect for comics as a challenging artistic form and sharper reading skills to use when enjoying new comics.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

#### From [Booklist](#)

An outgrowth from the underground comics of the 1960s, alternative comics took shape in the 1980s in such serial publications as the Hernandez brothers' *Love and Rockets* and the anthology *raw*, edited by Art Spiegelman, whose *Maus* later ratified comics as a literary form. Hatfield shows how the movement rejected mainstream comics by snubbing old genres; developing such new ones as autobiography, history, and journalism; employing a wider range of graphic styles; and incorporating international influences. After an overview of the movement, Hatfield focuses on some seminal works in detailed, lucid readings of such milestones as Gilbert Hernandez's *Palomar* and Justin Green's *Binky Brown*, as well as autobiographical comics by Harvey Pekar, Robert Crumb, Daniel Clowes, and others. Knowledgeable and erudite, Hatfield makes a compelling case for at least the comics he examines as worthy of serious attention. If his jargon occasionally makes hard slogging for nonacademics (such as when he discusses theories anent the comics-reading process), anyone interested in investigating comics as a serious literary form could find no better starting place. *Gordon Flagg*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

#### From the Inside Flap

An exploration of the potential for self-expression found in groundbreaking comics and graphic novels

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Lucille Renner:

This Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be

full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

**Tiara Arnold:**

Now a day people that Living in the era just where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources included can be true or not need people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information especially this Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature book since this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

**Larry Brackett:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the subject Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature suitable to you? Often the book was written by popular writer in this era. The actual book untitled Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literatureis the main of several books this everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their concept in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world in this book.

**Jack Johnson:**

The book Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

**Download and Read Online Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield #Y3278XZQ5RC**

# **Read Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield for online ebook**

Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield books to read online.

## **Online Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield ebook PDF download**

**Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield Doc**

**Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield MobiPocket**

**Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield EPub**

**Y3278XZQ5RC: Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature By Charles Hatfield**