

“Punching Evil: Redemptive Violence in Alan Moore’s *Watchmen*”

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As shown clearly by its title, this thesis investigates the theme of redemptive violence in the graphic novel (comic book) *Watchmen* by Alan Moore (writer) and Dave Gibbons/John Higgins (colourists//letterers/illustrators).

Redemptive violence does not strike this reviewer as the most important *theme* in *Watchmen*, rather, themes such as: Unchecked (super) Power and Responsibility, and The Idea of the Hero and Heroic loom much larger – but, perhaps, along with choosing a new genre to write about, Mr Mančář (and he should be commended for attempting something new in the *thesis genre*) wanted to tackle the subject from a fresh angle as well. Furthermore, Mr. Mančář certainly does not ignore *Watchmen*’s larger themes while writing about redemptive violence.

In fact, this reviewer’s only real criticism of this thesis is that there is too much repetition which means the author either A) was padding the thesis to make it longer or B) did a poor proofreading job.

Page 18: Rorschach refuses to back down... leaving the corpse of a multiple rapist in front of a police headquarters with a note saying “never!”

Page 20: Rorschach leaves a corpse of a criminal for the police to find.

Page 20: Rorschach's message found on the criminal is clear: “Never!”

Page 13: ... he manipulates public opinion against Doctor Manhattan, the only being with actual superpowers

Page 22: A cursory glance could suggest that *Wachmen (sic)* might be guilty of this phenomenon with Doctor Manhattan indeed having extraordinary abilities

page 22 However, Doctor Manhattan is the only case of superpowers existing in the world of *Watchmen*.

Such repetition disrupts the flow of the argument(s) for the reader and raises the suspicion of the work being a rushed job.

This thesis certainly does what it says on the tin – it deals with how redemptive violence appears throughout the narrative of *Watchmen* – but what pushes it to the realms of a 1 (Výborně) is its author’s excellent command of English and his choice of subject matter.

More university theses should be like this one, i.e., exploring newer works and newer forms of literature instead of merely re-treading old ground.

Recommended Grade: 1 (Výborně)

Mark Farrell, September 2013