



The Science of Supervillains

By Lois H. Gresh, Robert Weinberg

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The authors of The Science of Superheroes now reveal the real genius of the most evil geniuses

Ever wonder why comic book villains, such as Spiderman's bionic archenemy Dr. Octopus or the X-Men's eternal rival Magneto, are so scary and so much fun? It's not just their diabolical talent for confounding our heroes, it's their unrivalled techno-proficiency at creating global mayhem that keeps comic book fans captivated. But is any of the science actually true? In The Science of Supervillains, authors Lois Gresh and Bob Weinberg present a highly entertaining and informative look at the mind-boggling wizardry behind the comic book world's legendary baddies. Whether it's artificial intelligence, weapons systems, anti-matter, robotics, or magnetic flux theory, this fun, fact-filled book is a fascinating excursion into the real-world science animating the genius in the comic book world's pantheon of evil geniuses.

Lois Gresh (Scottsville, NY) and Bob Weinberg (Oak Forest, IL) are the authors of the popular Science of Superheroes (cloth: 0-471-0246-0; paper: 0-471-46882-7)

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The authors of *The Science of Superheroes* turn their attention to the heroes' spectacular foes in order to uncover just how worried we need to be that some day a Magneto, Dr. Octopus or Lex Luthor may arise to threaten world domination. Considering the science reality underlying the cartoon science fiction, the authors look at Luthor's youthful harnessing of solar energy and the basis for Brainiac as a form of artificial intelligence. While the idea behind this investigation is undeniably appealing, the authors are unclear about who their audience is. Several chapters, such as the one on Lex Luthor, employ an overly simplistic sentence structure or seem otherwise aimed at middle-schoolers: "be a hero to your class by correcting your science teacher." Other topics are aimed at adults without a science background or "those who have forgotten their high school biology." While this inconsistency may serve to stimulate young readers, it will likely turn off adults—especially since the first chapter is particularly simplistic and underdeveloped. However, later chapters grow in complexity and provide a solid base of information about their topics. Taken as a whole, this primer is a fun way to introduce young adults to a vast range of subjects—from the solar system to the mechanics of flight, bioengineering and beyond—but it may seem patronizing to adults.

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Review

"The best part of this book is not the science, which is fine but somewhat perfunctory, but the material on the various superheroes." ("Sci-Fi, December 2002)

..".Gresh and Weinberg's wonderful little book is both a potted history of superhero comics, and a pop science manual for the extremely lazy..." (hero.ac.uk-Higher Education and Research Opportunities, 28 October 2002)

..".children who enjoyed the Spider-Man and X-men movies will delight in *The Science of Superheroes* Perfect for turning a comic-book obsession into an enthusiasm for the laboratory..." ("The Times," 7 December 2002)

..".This is definitely a fun book..." ("The Alchemist," 9 January 2003)

..".All in all I can thoroughly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in science and at least a nostalgic fondness for comics..." ("Chemistry In Britain," December 2002)

..".*"The Science of Superheroes"* could be a useful tool for encouraging comic fans to delve into science..." ("Physics World," February 2003)

From the Inside Flap

What sort of damage could an insane supergenius like Lex Luthor do with chemical and biological weapons? Just how close are we to creating robotic appendages for our bodies? Can a human being actually soar through the air just like Spider-Man's nemesis, the Vulture, by using a giant set of wings? And if not, why not?

In the tradition of its successful predecessor *The Science of Superheroes*, *The Science of Supervillains* takes a lighthearted yet penetrating look at the true science that underlies some of the greatest comic book supervillains of all time. From Doctor Octopus and Grodd the Super-Gorilla to Magneto, Brainiac, the Silver Surfer, and many more, renowned science fiction authors Lois H. Gresh and Robert Weinberg explore the

background of these fascinating foes, asking intriguing questions that lead to illuminating discussions about the limits of science, the laws of nature, and the future of technology.

Could a suit of body armor like Dr. Doom's increase a soldier's strength and speed— or even help a disabled person to walk? Could an implanted alien computer take control of the human brain? Is it possible to create killer lipstick? From teleportation to time travel, from artificial intelligence to alternate dimensions, each chapter examines the supervillains' devilish deeds, separating those that retain an aura of scientific believability from the barely plausible and the simply impossible.

You'll discover the puzzling link between magnetism and the brain; how Venom's self-aware costume anticipated the development of intelligent textiles; and whether it's possible that humans, like certain comic book characters, could someday live for hundreds, even thousands of years (the answer may surprise you). Plus, you'll hear from comic book writers, editors, and artists on how believable science fits— or doesn't fit— into the creative process.

Filled with entertaining tidbits of comic book lore, *The Science of Supervillains* honors the remarkable talents of the writers and artists who brought these complex criminals to life, seeking out new rationales for what makes the Bad Guys tick (and keeps us reading cover to cover).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tammy Pursell:

This book untitled *The Science of Supervillains* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail store or you can order it through online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this book from your list.

Katherine Velasquez:

The publication with title *The Science of Supervillains* possesses a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This specific book exist new information the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Mary Lewis:

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Carolyn Ziolkowski:

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