

***Guts and Glory: The Golden Age of American Football, 1958-1978* by Neil Leifer**

oversize hardcover, \$49.99, Taschen

I was almost speechless as I paged through this amazing coffee-table book. Yes, phenomenal photography is expected, and it's delivered. Yet I was still unprepared for how much of a body blow some of these photographs are. Jim Brown almost runs straight off the page into my lap! Even photos I've seen before are revealed as new peeks into the long-gone, rough and dirty days of American football.



Yet there's so much more to the experience than the photography. I'm impressed with the writing, the narrative, actually kinda overwhelmed by the entire package. ***Guts & Glory: The Golden Age of American Football*** is to football books like watching an NFL game for the first time on a 55" high-definition flatscreen. What an experience. I'd buy a coffee table for this book if I didn't already own one!

***75 Years of DC Comics: The Art of Modern Mythmaking* by Paul Levitz**

more than oversize; a box that fits on a coffee-table, \$200



This isn't a book review. I'm letting you know that should you be any type of comic book fan at heart, be in love with American popular culture, or more specifically DC Comics, you owe it to yourself (and your descendants) to park a copy of ***75 Years of DC Comics*** in your home somewhere. Some coffee-tables aren't going to be sturdy enough to handle this thing; it's a beast.

I grew up a comic book fan. Even as a member of the Merry Marvel Marching Society as a kid, I avidly read *Batman* and *Superman* and other DC titles. As an adult I was involved with the industry for years on the publishing side. I knew Paul Levitz, compiler and author of this wonderful work, when he was head of DC. Having seen many wonderful, extravagant packages put together over the years in the field, I was nonetheless unprepared for wondrous box.

I'm tempted to tell you how much it weighs rather than give you a silly page count.

75 Years of DC Comics is much more than a history of graphic storytelling from this particular company. It's even more than a labor of love from Levitz, though I'm sure it's all that. Somehow this brings to life a significant part of America, as seen through the eyes and words and brush strokes of diverse people from around the world. Every page, each look, brings to life a different individual memory, just like the pages bring alive characters and time periods. In comparison to the modern comic book world of endless storylines, gimmicks, endings that don't ever take place, characters dead or alive, the Golden and Silver Age of DC Comics appears remarkable clean, adventurous, exciting and emotionally tugging.

I cannot even begin to accurately describe the design elements that went into this package. Go to the Taschen website, electronically leaf through the book, and you'll be wowed. I'm here to tell you that's the equivalent of seeing a photograph of a piece of original art. Somehow find a way to have a copy of this in your life if you count passion for DC Comics as an important element of yourself. The only thing that would improve it is Batman on the cover! (I know, I know).

Please utilize the Amazon shopping widget on my site to the right for ordering any of these books. I thank you.