

Quotes

1.

Evil must be punished. Even in the face of Armageddon I shall not compromise.

Rorschach (Worlds Worst Detective), Chapter 1

Rorschach's strict moral code pushes him to investigate the Comedian's murder even when it seems like the world is on the brink of nuclear destruction. He realizes one death may not matter a lot in the grand scheme of things, but he cannot let a wrong go unpunished.

2.

Who are we protecting them from?

Dan (Peace lovin batman), Chapter 2

Dan asks this question as he and the Comedian hold rioting New Yorkers at bay in 1975. The crowd is rioting against the vigilantes, and Dan is beginning to question the usefulness of the vigilantes' profession. The Comedian responds that they're protecting civilians from "themselves," but Dan doesn't seem so sure.

Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons. It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada. From 1942 to 1946, the project was under the direction of Major General Leslie Groves of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nuclear physicist Robert Oppenheimer was the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory that designed the actual bombs. The Army component of the project was designated the Manhattan District; Manhattan gradually superseded the official codename, Development of Substitute Materials, for the entire project. Along the way, the project absorbed its earlier British counterpart, Tube Alloys. The Manhattan Project began modestly in 1939, but grew to employ more than 130,000 people and cost nearly US\$2 billion (about \$22 billion in 2016 dollars). Over 90% of the cost was for building factories and to produce fissile material, with less than 10% for development and production of the weapons. Research and production took place at more than 30 sites across the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

The name Dr. Manhattan is a clear and unsubtle reference to the manhattan project, I personally think that this is interesting because it shows that he is a unparalleled power. And doesn't really care about humanity at large.

Dr. Manhattan's Clothing

Possibly symbolizes a lack of ideology and human connection

Rorschach

Rorschach is most comfortable in his crime-fighting outfit: trench coat, gloves, porkpie hat, and black-and-white full-face mask. He continues practicing vigilantism even after the Keene Act prohibits it. Disgusted by sex and greed and suspicious of women, Rorschach holds to a right-wing moral code that prevents him from compromising where the truth is concerned. This in particular is very interesting. As he is the protagonist, but I feel like the entire book is convinced that Rorschach is right. No one in the book so far has been forgiven for their crimes, as a general rule the book is convinced that everyone is evil and violent.

Dr. Manhattan

Big, blue, and incredibly naked, Dr. Manhattan is the not-so-secret weapon in the United States' ongoing nuclear tensions with Russia. In 1945 after his father convinced him to study atomic science, a freak accident at Gila Flats in Arizona obliterated his body but not his conscious mind. He put himself back together atom by atom and developed the ability to engage with objects at the atomic level. He is also of the opinion that the universe is fundamentally deterministic. And that time is fundamentally unmovable.

Philosophy

Egoism: Egoism is the belief that people should pursue actions that are in their own self-interest. They do not care about the fate of anyone else affected by the action. This theory applies to the Comedian. He couldn't wait to leave Vietnam when the war was over even though his Vietnamese girlfriend was pregnant with his child. She pleads with him to stay, saying she can't forget the child that grows inside of her. He tells her, "Well, that's unfortunate, because that's just what I'm gonna do." She attacks him with a broken beer bottle, so he shoots her. Her death (and that of her unborn child) was in only his best interest, not hers. Until he figured out the magnitude of Adrian's plan, he cared only for himself.

Questions

What is Dr. Manhattan's Real name?

How does Dr. Manhattan apply fear because of his ultimate power?

Is the concept of ultimate power fundamentally evil and terrifying?