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Dare to know

Dystopian Comics

Comics set in an uncertain future, in a society ruled by an ineffectual, corrupt, or oppressive regime or by aliens, robots, etc.

A sub-genre in which the world has become the opposite of a utopia and the protagonist must liberate himself or herself or an entire community. Stories often include horrid societies, deep social control, and exploration of what we fear will happen in the future of humanity. Dystopian societies in science fiction provide a platform for readers to figuratively remove themselves from and look critically at their own time. Science fiction comics can use the intensity of sequential art to create situations not bound by reality in order to satirize, critique, or warn audiences of contemporary society's failings.

Common Elements

Oppressive societies
Tyrannical governments
Government control
Police states

Overwhelming poverty
Lack of personal freedom
Secret rebellions

Ruined cities
Ostracized minorities
Propaganda

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>2021: Lost Children</i> (2018) by Stéphane Betbeder and Stéphane Bervas
<i>Beautiful Death</i> (2018) by Mathieu Bablet
<i>Blade Runner 2019 Volume 1: Los Angeles</i> (2019) by Michael Green, Mike Johnson, and Andrews Guinaldo
<i>Bonehead</i> (2018) by Machine56, Bryan Edward Hill, and Rhoald Marcellius
<i>Breathers</i> (2023) by Justin Madson
<i>Crowded Volume 1: Soft Apocalypse</i> (2019) by Christopher Sebela, Rio Stein, and Ted Brandt
<i>Dörfler</i> (2015) by Jeremy Baum
<i>East of West, Volume 1: The Promise</i> (2013) by Jonathan Hickman and Nick Dragotta

<i>The Extraordinary Part Volume 1: Orsay's Hands</i> (2023) by Florent Ruppert and Jérôme Mulot
<i>The Few</i> (2017) by Sean Lewis and Hayden Sherman
<i>Freeway Fighter</i> (2017) by Andi Ewington
<i>Heavy Liquid</i> (2019) by Paul Pope
<i>Joy</i> (2022) by Brian Michael Bendis and Stephen Byrne
<i>The Kill Lock</i> (2020) by Livio Ramondelli
<i>Lazarus Volume 1: Family</i> (2013) by Greg Rucka and Michael Lark
<i>Little Bird: The Fight for Elder's Hope Book One</i> (2019) by Darcy Van Poelgeest
<i>Metax</i> (2022) by Antonine Cossé
<i>The Night</i> (2019) by Phillippe Druillet

<p><i>Pandemica</i> (2020) by Jonathan Maberry and Alex Sanchez</p>

<p><i>The Path of Most Resistance</i> (2017) by Sara Kenney and John Watkiss</p>
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<p><i>Press Enter to Continue</i> (2019) by Ana Galvañ</p>
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<p><i>Survival Street</i> (2023) by James Asmus and Jim Festante</p>
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<p><i>V for Vendetta</i> (2008) by Alan Moore and David Lloyd</p>

