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Dare to Know

Psychological Comics

Comics in which the thoughts, feelings, and motivations of the characters are of equal or greater interest than the external action of the narrative.

An expansive genre in which the inner lives of characters, including their mental, emotional, and spiritual state, is depicted. This emphasis on the human mind and characters' psychological motivations drives the plot forward. Characters may represent various ideas, values, principles, or ideologies to explore aspects of a societal issue or public debate, and the narrative delves into their multi-layered personalities and motivations. Psychological thrillers can feature a protagonist who becomes involved in a situation that threatens his or her sanity or mental state. These stories often emphasize the psychological distress or delusional states of its characters, usually due to a harrowing mystery or suspenseful situation, and is told through the viewpoint of psychologically unstable characters. These unreliable narrators serve as a plot device that is useful for bending perceived reality and imparting a sinister tone. The lies, contradictions, delusions, fragmented memoirs, and delayed revelations add to the tension and dramatic twists of the plot. Psychological drama may depict a protagonist's mental struggles in response to challenges in their relationships, careers, or lives generally.

Common Elements

Interior thoughts, feelings, and motivations
Limited amounts of external action
Deeply complex and flawed characters
Darker sides of human behavior

Mental health
Addictions
Internal conflict
Guilt
Fear
Jealousy
Paranoia
Obsession
Intricacies of the mind

Inner monologues
Flashbacks
Substance abuse
Trauma
Crime
Moral dilemmas
Ethical decisions

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>The Crows</i> (2022) by Anders Fager and Peter Bergting
<i>The Great Gatsby: The Graphic Novel</i> (2020) by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Fred Fordham, and Aya Morton
<i>The Horror</i> (2023) by Lars Jacobson and Eduardo Francisco

<i>Paul at Home</i> (2020) by Michel Rabagliati
<i>This is How I Disappear</i> (2021) by Mirion Malle
<i>Tremor Dose</i> (2021) by Michael W. Conrad