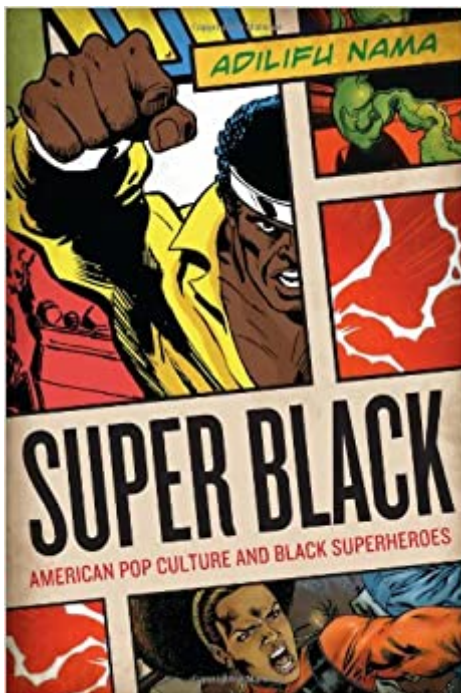


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# Super Black: American Pop Culture And Black Superheroes



## Synopsis

Winner, American Book Award, Before Columbus Foundation, 2012 *Super Black* places the appearance of black superheroes alongside broad and sweeping cultural trends in American politics and pop culture, which reveals how black superheroes are not disposable pop products, but rather a fascinating racial phenomenon through which futuristic expressions and fantastic visions of black racial identity and symbolic political meaning are presented. Adilifu Nama sees the value and finds new avenues for exploring racial identity in black superheroes who are often dismissed as sidekicks, imitators of established white heroes, or are accused of having no role outside of blaxploitation film contexts. Nama examines seminal black comic book superheroes such as Black Panther, Black Lightning, Storm, Luke Cage, Blade, the Falcon, Nubia, and others, some of whom also appear on the small and large screens, as well as how the imaginary black superhero has come to life in the image of President Barack Obama. *Super Black* explores how black superheroes are a powerful source of racial meaning, narrative, and imagination in American society that express a myriad of racial assumptions, political perspectives, and fantastic (re)imaginings of black identity. The book also demonstrates how these figures overtly represent or implicitly signify social discourse and accepted wisdom concerning notions of racial reciprocity, equality, forgiveness, and ultimately, racial justice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This well-conceptualized, well-written book is enriched by Nama's witty turns of expression,

occasional corrections of earlier errors and omissions, and fascinating background material." (Choice)"Throughout, Nama takes a refreshingly nuanced approach to his subject. Nama complicates the black superhero by also seeing the ways that they put issues of post-colonialism, race, poverty, and identity struggles front and center." (Rain Taxi)

Adilifu Nama is an Associate Professor at California State University Northridge. He is the author of the award-winning *Black Space: Imagining Race in Science Fiction Film*, the first book length examination of the topic. Throughout his books, various articles, and presentations, Nama has explored how race and media intersect in television, film, and hip-hop music with a critical eye toward contextualizing black representation along with black racial formation.

I purchased this book because I wanted to learn about African-Americans in science fiction. I was amazed by the history, the education and the artistry of Black science fiction. I learned about the negativity, as well as the positivity of Black sci-fi characters in comic books, television, movies and documentaries. It is important for African-Americans to become more involved with sci-fi because there are plenty more stories about Black History to be told through sci-fi and other genres of literature.

This is an excellent introduction (or review) of the history of Black superheroes. It takes into account some perspectives that have certainly not been considered or highlighted in more cursory evaluations. I don't agree with some of the points in the latter half of the book, but I found it a great read nonetheless.

made a great gift

What an amazing read! Dr. Nama presents a clear and compelling analysis of the role of race in super hero comic books. *Super Black* gives language to the experiences of African Americans seeking authentic representations in American Pop culture.

This book is the shish!!! I got this from the library and was mad it had to go back. I wasted NO time finding it on that same day! The author is very informative and shares useful and historical information about the roles of both past and present black super heroes in the American pop culture. I wish he would write one about black actors in movies.

This was given as a gift to a super intellectual friend who is a fan of comics and also Blackness. I think this book is good because I had to sit through a 30 minute lecture about it which included a few low brow - Wow! , They included them? Cool!. : )

Awesome text. For someone interested in (black) superheroes and what they do for society in text and in the world, this book was AMAZING! It taught me things I didn't even know and I will be using it as much as I can. Its short but really informative. Highly recommend for all superhero enthusiasts!

Spot on and in depth. Treats with the subject of the black superhero in a blunt head-on but memorable way.

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