

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION Birth of a Medium	xi
CHAPTER 1 The Rise and Rise of the Comic Strip	1
CHAPTER 2 Comic Books Explode (in Every Sense)	39
CHAPTER 3 Who's Afraid of the Comic Book?	92
CHAPTER 4 From Censorship to Camp	138
CHAPTER 5 Comics with an X	182
CHAPTER 6 Convergences and Contracts	223
CHAPTER 7 New Worlds	256
CHAPTER 8 Between Spandex and Seattle	300
CHAPTER 9 New Worlds (Reprise and Variation)	357
CHAPTER 10 Endings, Beginnings	390
EPILOGUE	431
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	447
NOTES	451
INDEX	539