

READER'S GUIDE

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Ripple Effects: The Deluxe Edition (Fanbase Press)



Most people have read or watched at least one superhero's origin story, but *Ripple Effects* asks a unique question: What if the superhero derives their powers from an otherwise debilitating and unseen disability?

CREATORS: Jordan Hart and Bruno Chiroleu

ABOUT: *Ripple Effects* explores life as a superhero with an invisible illness and was the winner of the Dwayne McDuffie Award for Diversity in Comics in 2023, as well as being nominated for an Eisner Award and a Harvey Award. In a world that is no stranger to superheroes, George Gibson is invulnerable to physical harm but fights every day to stay alive. Suffering from an acute case of type 1 diabetes, his invincibility is offset by a defective pancreas that must be monitored and treated daily. This incurable disease makes George's body both his greatest strength and his eternal weakness.

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“*Ripple Effects goes further, and this is what makes it such a brilliant master class in health literacy. What happens when you flip the page is that each issue of the story ends with a short essay. Each essay connects to something that happened in the story immediately preceding, connecting something that happened with or to George (a.k.a. his superhero name, “Ripple”) to the lived experiences of the essay’s author.*” —**Graphic Medicine**, 2024



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. George/Ripple's super suit includes a pocket for his insulin pen. If you had to design a super suit for yourself, what kinds of pockets, accessories, or practical design decisions would you include?
2. What is it about *Ripple Effects* that makes it particularly well-suited to the comics medium? Or, do you think Hart's story would be better told as a movie, TV show, or traditional novel?
3. One theme in *Ripple Effects* is how different characters define their idea of justice. How do you define justice, and how does your definition compare to the various versions of it in the text?
4. *Ripple Effects* is a work of fiction that is designed in part to raise awareness around real-life issues, specifically invisible illnesses and chronic pain suffered by people around the world. What other works of fiction, in any media, cover invisible issues that affect you or people you know?

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