

The Rocketeer

By Dave Stevens

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The Rocketeer, by Dave Stevens, is a rollicking tribute to pulp novels and Saturday morning matinee serials. It follows the high-flying adventures of stunt pilot Cliff Secord and his girlfriend Betty, after Cliff finds a mysterious jet pack and takes to the sky. One of the most beloved comic series of all time, The Rocketeer has been completely remastered and is presented here with glorious all-new coloring for the first time.

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The Rocketeer By Dave Stevens Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Starred Review. Speeding across the sky like a jet-propelled dream, Stevens's Rocketeer is one of the most enduring and endearing images of '80s comics. Set in the '30s, these tales follow Cliff Secord, an impulsive young stunt pilot who finds a mysterious jetpack that enables him to fly. And then his troubles—and the fun—begin. A charming, lively tribute to the pulp era—several characters from well-known pulp serials make clandestine appearances—Stevens's lively, gorgeous art captures every wide-eyed gasp and clenched-jaw struggle of the breakneck tale. While Stevens, who died in 2008, is a master of adventure, Cliff's girlfriend Betty, a delightful homage to pinup queen Bettie Page, often steals the show. Due to Stevens's slow output, only a handful of Rocketeer stories exist, collected for the first time following a checkered publishing trail and being out-of-print for over a decade. Those who have never seen the complete Rocketeer will be satisfied with the regular hardcover edition; an oversized deluxe edition brings together concept art, sketches, and background materials that make this the definite record of one of comics' most appealing recent characters. *(Jan.)*
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From Booklist
The high-flying hero of this gloriously retro comic book, which inspired a 1991 feature film, is Cliff Secord, a pleasantly lunkheaded, barnstorming aviator in 1930s Los Angeles who comes into possession of a stolen rocket pack that enables him to fly. A bullet-shaped helmet designed by Cliff’s mechanic pal, Peevy, completes the look, inspired by the 1949 King of the Rocket Men movie serial. The story lines, involving Nazi spies and the like, are slight but serviceable. What made The Rocketeer a fan favorite was Stevens’ luscious artwork, especially his rendition of Cliff’s girlfriend, Betty. Stevens’ talent for drawing cheesecake-style gorgeous women was unsurpassed, and Betty, an overt homage to pinup queen Bettie Page, was the most dazzling of them. It took Stevens, notoriously slow and meticulous, a dozen years to produce the relative handful of stories gathered in this slim volume that, unfortunately, must stand as The Rocketeer in toto, since Stevens died in 2008. In this lovingly designed, newly recolored collection, though, that legacy is very impressive in quality, however meager in quantity. --Gordon Flagg

About the Author
Dave Stevens was born in Lynwood, California on July 29, 1955. His career in comics began in 1975, assisting veteran artist Russ Manning on the syndicated *Tarzan* newspaper strip. Stevens went on to toil as a storyboard artist for Hanna-Barbara, DePatie-Freleng and Filmation animation studios, working on such programs as *Super Friends* and *The Godzilla Power Hour*. Later, Stevens was asked by Steven Spielberg to create presentation boards for *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. During the same period, Stevens storyboarded the groundbreaking music video *Thriller* for Michael Jackson and did production design for Jackson’s *Victory Tour*.

In 1982, Stevens debuted the feature for which he is best known, *The Rocketeer*. Initially appearing as a back-up feature in the second issue of an independent comic, the pulp-inspired story of Cliff Secord, a daring stunt pilot who finds an experimental rocket pack, became an instant sensation. The Rocketeer went on to star in his own comic book series, and in 1991 would become a well-received major motion picture from Walt Disney Studios.

Stevens’ lush figure work, particularly when rendering the female form, coupled with his elegant brush line, brought him much acclaim far beyond the confines of comic books. In particular, his breathy portrayals of

Cliff’s girlfriend Betty, inspired by famed pin-up queen Bettie Page, helped revitalize interest in the ‘50s icon, a fact openly acknowledged by Page, who became close friends with Stevens in her final years.

On March 11, 2008, Dave Stevens lost a long battle against leukemia.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rodney Mitchell:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what one you should start with. This The Rocketeer is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Jean Ashburn:

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