

Feminism and *The Watchmen*

Look at the following pictures, and answer the questions below (don't worry about getting the answers wrong, this is just an exercise to get your first impressions about women in *The Watchmen*):

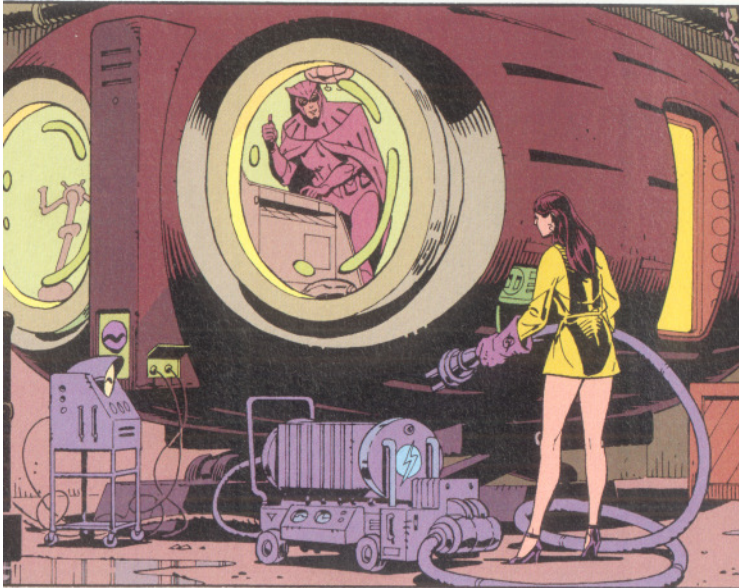


Figure 1.
Silk Spectre,
Fill 'er up.



Figure 2.
The Silk Spectre tidies up the lab.

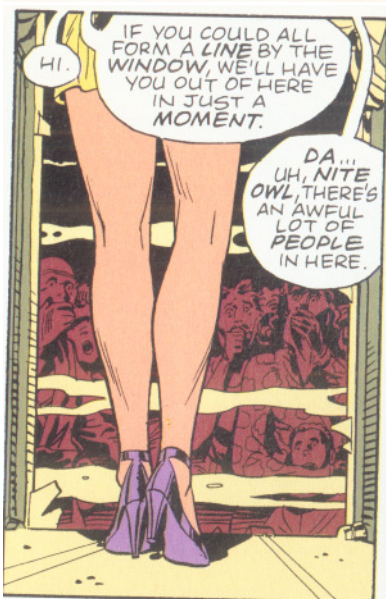


Figure 3. The Silk Spectre, a super stewardess.



Figure 4. The attempted rape of the original Silk Spectre.

1. Which "traditional" female roles are being fulfilled in these panels?

2. What female stereotypes are at work?

3. What do you think of the Silk Spectre's superhero costume in Figures 1 and 3? Would you expect a superhero to be wearing that kind of outfit? Does it fit your ideal of a superhero? Why or why not?

4. Are the female characters defined or affected by oppression and identity issues in figures one, two, and three? How do the labels assigned to the panels effect your impressions?

5. Does the scene in figure four affirm or challenge traditional values of men, women and relationships? How?

6. Have you ever thought about domestic violence as a "superhero" issue? Why or why not?

7. What do these panels reveal about women in our culture?

8. Do these panels remind you of any women in other books, movies, or television shows? Which ones?

9. What do these panels say to you personally? Why?

10. Would you say these depictions are true-to-life? How?