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Darkstalkers: Official Complete Works



Synopsis

It's the ultimate collection of Darkstalkers artwork and history! *Darkstalkers: Official Complete Works* collects the artwork of every Darkstalkers game, including key visuals, character illustrations, promotional artwork, rough concepts, and creator commentary. Also featured are multiple new interviews with the creators behind the series, plus all-new tribute pinups from your favorite Capcom artists!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Darkstalkers: Official Complete Works is the English edition of the Japanese artbook *Darkstalkers: Vampire Artworks* released in 2013. The presentation format remains the same as a large 224-page paperback. And since I've already reviewed the Japanese artbook, I'll just duplicate that review below with minor changes. And all the pictures of the insides are exactly the same pages from the other review. The only difference between the two books is the language. *Darkstalkers: Official Complete Works* is one of the artbooks celebrating the 30th anniversary of Capcom, and the 20th anniversary of Darkstalkers. There are other Darkstalkers artbooks around, such as *Darkstalkers Graphic File* and *Darkstalkers Tribute*. This artbook features a collection of wonderful Darkstalkers character artworks. Unlike *Darkstalkers Graphic File*, there are no character profiles. It's basically illustrations all the way with the latest game included being *Vampire Resurrection* (2013). There's quite a bit of duplicated artworks mostly from *Darkstalkers Graphic File* and a small handful from *Darkstalkers Tribute*. There

are of course new artworks, some of them from “Akiman, あくまん” あくまん (BENGUS), Ikeno いの あき (Capcom 『カプコン』 あき), Tatsuya Yoshikawa 吉川 達也 あつや, Toru Nakayama 中山 順 あつし, Tamio 田代 あつし and more. You’ll notice that some of these artists have also created a lot of work for Capcom’s Street Fighter. The artworks are fantastic. There are the full page coloured illustrations, character sketches, colour pencils stage designs, promotional materials, and artworks of Darkstalkers characters as appear crossover illustrations with other game titles.

I have the Darkstalkers Graphic File book and a prior reviewer mentioned that much of this book is recycled from that. This is true. However, I don’t regret having purchased both. This book is laid out perfectly, with full-page tribute/poster artwork to start and each individual game art to follow. You’ll find yourself reading about every step of the process: original design, concepts, troubles & concerns and a retrospective look at what the artist might change today looking back. It’s a depth I’ve seen in some books but never to the extent Darkstalkers Official Complete Works has and it keeps me going back. As I run a site that collects Street Fighter & Darkstalkers art, most of the game-specific art is nothing new, but they are large pictures and are wonderful. This book collects everything including Darkstalkers Resurrection from 2013. However, that’s only half the book. Covering all the games in the series (and referring to them by their Japanese names where applicable), the book then goes on to supplemental materials and art where Darkstalkers fighters appeared in other titles. While I expected Marvel vs. Capcom and Capcom Fighting Jam to be in there, I was surprised to see even titles like Namco X Capcom and Cross Edge. Once again we’re treated to sketches, concept art, level background design, calendars, posters, promo art... (I could really go on for a while). This book also includes translated interviews, character bios and more. The last sections of the book are jam packed with images. I may be gushing here, but having collected several hundred dollars’ worth of art books, I’ve seen few include quite so much.

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