

Thomas Johnson

"Live in the lie for a while": Closure in Angel: After the Fall

In *Understanding Comics*, Scott McCloud argues that comics is "a medium where the audience is a willing and conscious collaborator" in the process of "closure" (65), wherein the "human imagination takes two separate images and transforms them into a single idea" (66). This presentation will examine how issue seven of the *Angel: After the Fall* miniseries, written by Brian Lynch and with art by Nick Runge and colors by John Rauch, is a prime example of this phenomenon. Furthermore, this presentation will argue that the reader, by participating in the kind of closure that the medium of comics affords, affirms the principle of existential authenticity that is paramount to *Angel* in all its incarnations.

Thomas Johnson graduated with a Master of Arts in English Literature from The Catholic University of America in May 2014. His scholarly interests include science-fiction and fantasy literature, film and television studies, and the study of cinematic adaptations of literature. An expanded version of his Mythmoot III presentation is being published in 2015 by McFarland and Co. as a chapter in a collection of academic essays on Joss Whedon's work in comics.



MYTHGARD INSTITUTE
from Sigmum University