

D A N G E R O U S  
*Curves*

Action Heroines, Gender, Fetishism, and Popular Culture

J E F F R E Y A . *C* B R O W N

University Press of Mississippi (Jackson

# CONTENTS

Introduction

**"WHERE ALL WOMEN WEAR SPANDEX AND KNOW KUNG FU"**

3

**1) GENDER AND THE ACTION HEROINE**

Hardbodies and the Point of No Return

20

**2) GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND TOUGHNESS**

The Bad Girls of Action Film and Comic Books

43

**3) ALIAS, FETISHISM, AND PYGMALION FANTASIES**

63

**4) "PLAY WITH ME"**

Sexy Cyborgs, Game Girls, and Digital Babes

93

**5) IF LOOKS COULD KILL**

Power, Revenge, and Stripper Movies

120

**6) "SHE CAN DO ANYTHING!"**

The Action Heroine and the Modern (Post-Feminist) Girl

141

**7) "EXOTIC BEAUTIES"**

Ethnicity and Comic Book Superheroines

168

**8) KINKY VAMPIRES AND ACTION HEROINES**

185

9) **WHEN THE ACTION HEROINE LOOKS**  
208

Conclusion

**WONDERING ABOUT WONDER WOMAN**

Action Heroines as Multi-Fetish

233

**WORKS CITED**

247

**INDEX**

257