

The Redeeming Culture Guide to

DEADPOOL

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Special Preview Copy

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What's all this then?

Deadpool, Redeeming Culture, and this book

Due to technical difficulties, our podcast about the very popular Deadpool movie has still not been released and does not look like it will be in the near future. Whether you have seen the movie or not, he went from a cult favorite to pop culture icon seemingly overnight; and Culture, pop or otherwise, is what we're all about Redeeming here. And let it be known that there is a lot of redeeming to be done for this character and the aforementioned movie. One of the more popular headline topics is in relation to the movie making record-breaking money for an R-rated film, especially one based on a comic book property. And truly that is what this series is going to be about, a trilogy of Deadpool comics that begin their titles with, "Deadpool kills." So for those readers who feel out of the loop having not heard of Deadpool before the movie and even perhaps since, I would like to go ahead and lay some groundwork so that everyone knows a little bit about the "merc with a mouth" before we dive into one of the best sets of comic stories involving him. In fact, during the podcast we recorded I had to do this very thing for David who is a stalwart defender of Superman against any who would seek to malign Supe's good name. You might think he would be more likely than most to have come across another comic book character that eventually landed their own movie. So without further ado, I give you the history of Deadpool.

Well, ok, a little bit of further ado. Before I really, REALLY start I'd like to add one caveat. There are things called "retcons" in comics. It happens when one writer picks up a character someone else left off and they want the past to be different for the story they want to tell now. So they go back and retell that part of the past so it matches their new story. Deadpool has had many writers and artists who have worked with his character over the years so there are many things about Deadpool that may be true now but won't be later or that were true that have been changed. So I will try and pick out the basics so that when we get to discussing these particular comics about Deadpool it makes as much sense as possible and we can pull out the themes worth talking about without too much confusion.

Also, there are lots of spoilers in this book for *Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe* and *Deadpool Killustrated*. You've been warned.

Confused about Redeeming Culture and this Podcast we're talking about? You can find more about it at www.RedeemingCulture.com, but the long and short of it is: Redeeming Culture is a site (with a podcast) that looks at culture through the lens of Scripture, seeking the parts of it that resonate with the story God wrote on our hearts before time began. I'm a writer on that site and a host of the 3D Podcast.

All right. The ado is all done now. Promise.

1

Who Is Deadpool?

Origins of an Antihero

Deadpool is a very talkative anti-hero created by Marvel. His real name is Wade Wilson, and he's an ex-American Army Special Forces member who grew up in Saskatchewan. He was an average man who was enlisted into the Weapon X program and gained a healing factor through experimentation with some of Wolverine's DNA. Unfortunately, when the regenerative abilities were activated, Wade had some form of cancer in his body. That cancer is also in a constant state of regeneration which leaves him with a scarred appearance under his suit.

Creation of Deadpool

Rob Liefeld and Fabian Nicieza are the minds behind Deadpool. Liefeld claims he was always competing against Spiderman and Wolverine. so he made Deadpool from those characters as inspiration. After drawing up the character with notes that Deadpool would be an agile killer, Nicieza noticed that it was pretty much the same as Deathstroke, his villain from DC's Teen Titans, whose real name was *Slade* Wilson. So Liefeld made his Deadpool character's real name *Wade* Wilson as an inside joke that they were related.

As a foil and/or straight man to Deadpool, Liefeld also created Cable, the son of the X-man Cyclops; thus, Wade Wilson started off as a mercenary hired to attack Cable and

his team, the New Mutants. But throughout his many appearances and iterations he began to become less of a villain and more of an anti-hero. Though he gained some popularity, it was never to the point of guaranteed sales; and one of the writers mentioned that they thought Deadpool would get canceled at any minute, so they could get away with anything. This led to the character breaking the fourth wall and talking directly to the audience.

Deadpool's Evolution and Powers

Wade Wilson's main super power is that he can heal and regenerate cells very quickly. He has been decapitated and completely incinerated many times, and lived to quip about it later. He is invulnerable to disease, and highly resistant to drugs and toxins (though he can be tranquilized in high enough doses). Over time, this regeneration has been used as a way to explain Deadpool's increasingly silly and erratic behavior, saying that the neurons in his brain are being remade so quickly that psychoses take hold of his mind and make it unstable. These psychoses are now often represented by different colored text boxes on the comic page, displaying two opposing voices in his head that he talks to directly. This zaniness is also to his advantage because his enemies can never predict his next move.

As fans and creators of Deadpool became fond of his penchant for breaking the fourth wall and his awareness that he was a comic book character, it also became a pseudo-power of his; for example, he may read the comics of other characters to find their secret lair. He has acquired many different teleportation devices throughout his comic runs, so he can figuratively and literally pop in and out of other characters' stories. He also carries a magic satchel that has an unlimited number of weapons and ammunition (not seen in the recent movie), used to comedic effect.

He also has some more mundane abilities. Due to his training as an assassin and mercenary he is multilingual and adept at martial arts, including sword fighting and marksmanship.

Read the Comics

As of time of writing, you can download the digital versions of “Deadpool kills the Marvel Universe,” “Deadpool Killustrated,” and “Deadpool kills Deadpool” on Amazon separately, or as the “Deadpool Killology” Kindle edition for pretty cheap. Feel free to also check your local library or comic book store for copies, because it’s going to get crazy.

Special Notes: There will be violence and probably some language (there was some censored) in these comics. Also, although this is in honor of “Deadpool kills the Marvel Universe Again” being released episodically, the new comic series is not the focus of this book; don’t get confused and buy those in preparation for these articles.

Further, if you decide to get a digital copy from Amazon and plan to read it from a laptop or desktop, I HIGHLY recommend you create a free comixology account. You can then merge your Amazon library with your empty Comixology library. I say this because trying to read some of the pages in the desktop Kindle app can be very difficult because it will not let you zoom in or magnify the page in any way, but on Comixology you not only can magnify and read so much easier, but you can even choose a reading format that will zoom in from cell to cell automatically within each page- almost like a silent Reading Rainbow for comics. So awesome!

2

Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe

Jerk Deadpool

The story revolves around Deadpool doing some very un-Deadpool things; namely, killing all the main characters in the Marvel Universe. He has never been averse to dispatching people—especially bad guys and henchmen—but he has never actively hunted and killed the heroes without some joke or gag involving money or chimichangas. So there is a mystery over the 4 part series about what is driving Deadpool to this heroic killing spree.

But Why!?

Slowly throughout the story, hints are dropped about what is driving him (and his new voice bubble) to massacre anyone and everyone systematically. He starts to mention “puppets” and an other-worldly “they.” In his fight with Taskmaster, we finally see his motivation; he wants to be forgotten. He no longer wants to be a comic book character who suffers for the amusement of the readers. He decides—with assistance from the new black and red voice in his head—that the only recourse is to kill all the characters he could possibly interact within these comics.

But the voice in his head knows he has to go even further. He has to kill the ones writing

and drawing these stories, which leads to one of the best twist endings of any comic ever.

Crazy like an Assassin

So what can we learn from all this violence and silliness about a comic book character trying to free himself from the confines of the page gutters?

First is the real possibility that we have, at one time or another, looked completely crazy (or thought someone else was crazy) on account of the knowledge of an outsider's perspective on reality. There is more to this world and this universe than meets the eye. There is an all-powerful entity watching us as we suffer, as we revel, as we experience all manner of things in life.

That can sound crazy to an unbeliever, and we were all in that same boat at one point. Stories of a man long ago who lived a perfect life and performed miraculous signs may as well have come from a comic book, which is probably where the writers get the root of their inspiration.

Did you hear that?

There is a nagging voice in our heads that keeps telling us we aren't there yet; there is more to the truth. Even when we were not yet believers, there is eternity written on our hearts.

Deadpool was experiencing something very similar. He knew there was more beyond the pages of the comics he inhabited and that what really mattered was outside those pages. Just like anyone pursuing truth, he kept searching—with his swords and guns and bombs—until he got to the truth he knew was there.

Crazy Coincidence

The weirdest part about this story is how silly and meta it is; but it really has a strong parallel to the gospel message. In the end, the creators see this character they've created. He has this gift for Fourth Wall breaking written into his list of powers. They see his suffering, and write out a story leading him to kill his creators for his own happiness and freedom, much the same way that God came down to Earth having written a scenario where we would kill him for our own happiness and freedom. Deadpool may be a silly, vulgar character but there is plenty to chew on biblically in his stories.

Don't Worry. Be Crazy.

So in conclusion, the moral of the story is not to kill everyone until a portal opens up to God so you can kill Him. In fact, He already opened up a portal to us and came down to be killed long ago. Whether you believe that already, or it sounds like nonsense to you, rest assured; it is true. If you are a believer, don't let the bad guys or the good guys stop you in the pursuit of absolute truth or the sharing of that truth. Many will not accept it, and that is unfortunate; even our own real-life versions of Professor Xavier would probably have a mental breakdown if they were to see the truth. Stand firm until the end. Then we will get to meet our own Creator, who wants nothing more than to release us from the confines of this world and accept us into the next; to revel in His glory, free from suffering for eternity.

2

Deadpool Killustrated

There's more!?

At the end of the last comic, Deadpool killed his own writers and was going to come for the readers next. So that must be the end, right?

Apparently not. The comic book industry is always reinventing its characters, which is why we have things like retcons, and multiple versions of Batman or Spiderman or Nick Fury. So Deadpool finds out that, even though he killed everyone in the Marvel Universe, new versions keep popping up as fast as he can kill them. So he (or maybe the voice in his head) devises a plan to kill the inspirations for all the different characters and stories in the Marvel Universe, so that writers won't think to come up with the same stories over and over again.

Too easy.

It's hard to believe that the writers didn't have Redeeming Culture in mind when they penned these stories. The whole basis for this second "Deadpool kills-" series is that **all stories have come before, and resonate deep within us to create new stories**. Pinnocchio inspired Vision. The Three Musketeers inspired team-based stories. The Little Mermaid inspired Namor. And the Bible inspires them all.

It doesn't go that far in the comic, but that's what Redeeming Culture is all about. In light of this striking parallel, this chapter is a little different: Deadpool Killustrated tied Marvel characters back to classic story roots. I'll tie all those classics back to roots in the Bible.

WARNING! I am going to go through all 25 references in the comics, and I am just going to look at aspects of these classics that look like they were inspired by biblical characters and stories. I won't be diving into why each one is a classic, or why those stories resonate with us, or what truths we can find in them. If I did that, this would be even longer than it already is, and we might run out of stuff to say on Redeeming Culture. This is just some silly fun. So strap in for a wild ride!

Teleporter Macguffin Away!

Moby Dick- Check out 1 Samuel Chapter 16-31 for the life of King Saul, a man bent on revenge against something/someone that could be seen as a symbol of purity and holiness. Saul and Captain Ahab both receive prophecies about the circumstances of their deaths that relate directly to the source of their obsessions.

Don Quixote- Saul, in the New Testament book of Acts, is fighting for an old "chivalrous" way upheld by the Jewish Pharisees, killing monsters that are not monsters at all until a moment of clarity reveals the truth. Both Don Quixote and Paul are also beaten very often. And they both collect a side kick; Sancho Panza for Don Quixote and Timothy for Paul.

Pinocchio- The creation of man in Genesis seems a likely inspiration for a story about a creator who wants to love and be loved by his creation, turning an inanimate ob-

ject (wood or clay) into life, and seeing if the object will be “good” or “bad” and become even MORE alive (a real boy, or caught up into heaven for eternity).

Tom Sawyer- Check out the story of Jacob in Genesis 25, 27, 29, and 35. He also is a character that tricks someone out of something valuable for something ordinary. He too has trouble with the woman he wants to marry because he gets caught up with another. In Jacob’s story his love actually dies, though; instead of being saved liked Tom’s.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea- Jonah is another man who ran away from something by way of the sea, and was very concerned about his crewmates, to the point where he was willing to be thrown overboard for them. Jonah and Captain Nemo both spend time inside the bellies of their respective sea monsters; for Nemo it was the Nautilus (which was mistaken for a narwhal), and for Jonah it was literally a giant sea-dwelling creature.

Dracula- Again we are looking for inspiration in the Bible for these classic stories. So there may not be a particular person that went around biting people to get their blood that hated garlic and crucifixes, but look at Leviticus 17:10-14 and tell me if you see some inspirational content there. It talks about the life of each creature being in its blood, and how the Lord will set His face against anyone who consumes the blood. You can also look to the last supper in any of the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Jesus tells his disciples to drink His blood so they can have everlasting life. Putting those two sections together gives us enmity with God, and an unending life that can be passed through the devouring of blood. In Dracula, the symbols of the Christian faith are substituted for God Himself, but the rest seems to be used the same as the text it was inspired by.

Sleepy Hollow- A classic love triangle where the rowdy guy in town scares off the outsider so he can get the girl. 2 Samuel 11 paints a very similar picture. David, known for actions that some would call rowdy, sees Bathsheba and decides he must have her even though he learns she is unfortunately already married to Uriah the Hittite. Uriah descended from one of the nations Israel was supposed to wipe out in Joshua's day, so you could say he's a little bit of an outsider. This information doesn't stop David from getting Bathsheba pregnant and he even starts to try and cover it up with trickery to make it look like Bathsheba is carrying Uriah's child. When that doesn't work, he fixes things so Uriah gets killed in battle and he can have Bathsheba for himself.

Little Women- As generic as the comic makes it look, Little Women really is a book about different women that are trying to be the best they can and who are all strong in their own ways. Some are honing their skills, like becoming a successful writer or becoming a married woman, but they're all trying to take care of each other and of the less fortunate.

There are many amazing women in the Bible. Deborah in Judges 4-5 fills in as judge for the people in a time of need; Esther, in the book of Esther, saves the Israelites from a genocidal plot against them by risking her own life; Ruth and Naomi, in the book of Ruth, even stick together and get Ruth a husband (leading, eventually, to Ruth's presence in the genealogy of Jesus).

A Christmas Carol- Ebenezer Scrooge is a shrewd and cruel business man who will do anything to make more money and spend as little as possible. He is visited by the dead that warn him money is best spent on charity and making friends, because otherwise your death will lead to a tormented afterlife. In Luke 16 there are two parables that look like they may have been the last things Dickens saw before he started writing his classic

novel.

The first is called the Shrewd Manager, where someone hurriedly uses money to get into the good graces of others before what he sees as his impending unemployment.

The second is of Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man is stingy and doesn't even offer his table scraps to Lazarus who begs at his door. Then in the afterlife Lazarus is comforted in Heaven and the rich man is in torment begging for relief. Not only that, but he asks Abraham to go back and warn his family who don't believe, because he thinks seeing the dead rise would convince them.

Frankenstein- This one is pretty straightforward. Victor Frankenstein brings an inanimate creation to life and is horrified by it. This creature escapes and is cast out of society for its appearance. It learns language and sees its own reflection as hideous. After failed attempts at kinship it goes into a rage and burns down a cabin and murders someone close to his creator as revenge for making him in the first place. Next it demands a female version be made so it can experience some sort of relationship, but Victor is fearful of the female being evil too and what horrible things they might have as offspring that could threaten humanity.

In the book, the monster actually talks about reading Paradise Lost, and how he related to Adam (from the Bible) right away, but later said he related more to Satan (also based on the biblical figure). There is definitely inspiration from the book of Genesis in here, if only through another book based on Genesis. Also, the description of Satan and his tactics match well with the methods of the creature. Satan, upon analyzing his appearance in Ezekiel 28, actually sees himself as beautiful instead of hideous; but still seeks to strike out against his creator, God. Both seek to harm their creator by attacking someone that their creator loves.

The Jungle Book- To see some talking animals in the Bible look up the story of Balak in Numbers 22. And if you want a word picture that could almost be the cover of an edition of the Jungle Book see Isaiah 11:6, where it describes different types of animals living together and being led by a little child.

The Little Mermaid- The tale by Hans Christian Anderson is a little different than Disney made it out to be. The sea witch is still there, but she gives Ariel a potion to drink. Ariel not only has her voice taken from her in exchange for legs, but she is told by the witch that each step will be like being stabbed with a knife. She also is told she can gain an eternal soul, something merfolk do not have, if the prince falls in love with her, but if he marries someone else she will die without a soul and turn to sea foam—the typical mermaid death—the very next day.

He indeed marries someone else at the prodding of his family, even though he is taken with Ariel who has gained his affection through painful dancing. The night before Ariel is to die soulless, her sisters give her a knife so that she can kill the prince, drip his blood on her feet, turn back into a mermaid, and at least live out a full life...but would still have no soul when she eventually dies. She can't bring herself to do it, and turns to sea foam. But she starts to feel warm and meets up with “daughters of the air” and is told she can now serve mankind for 300 years, the typical lifespan of a mermaid, to gain her immortal soul.

There may be no particular instance of a half fish, half human in the Bible, though there are many instances of creatures and humans with the head of another in visions and prophecies. There is some connection between a biblical era god that was at times in art depicted as half-man and half-fish associated with Phoenicia, but no direct description is found in the biblical account.

The story, however, strikingly resembles the early parts of Genesis. There, Eve is in the garden in a world set apart. She is told by a sinister character that, if she ingests something, she will get what she wants. Afterwards, she is cursed with pain. Then she is told she will return to the dust she was made from, like Ariel will return to sea foam.

That would seem where the equivalencies end, but many literary so-and-sos have noted that the ending of Anderson's story does not meet the natural conclusion of Ariel becoming sea foam with no soul, as if it is disjointed and taken from some other story. If we do the same, we could see some resemblances in the New Testament where sacrifices were common until Jesus made them unnecessary, so Ariel is ready to sacrifice for her own sake, but then is saved by someone else in the "air." Unlike the Bible she is still required to work for her soul, but there is still a good amount there to inspire Hans Christian Anderson to his own version.

The Odyssey- Odysseus, a child of gods, went on a twenty year journey; wandering throughout the Mediterranean, encountering enemies on all sides, and overcoming them by performing great feats—such as putting out the eye of a cyclops; shooting an arrow through ten ax heads; and sailing to and returning from the underworld—before he was finally able to return to the place he belonged, only to find his bride wooed by other suitors causing him to fight to get her back.

Moses, a prophet of God, was on his own journey, wandering through the desert for forty years in an attempt to enter the land where he belonged. Along the way he was attacked by enemies on all sides and performed great feats to overcome them, such as parting the Red Sea; inflicting plagues on Egypt; and causing a battle to turn in the favor of the Israelites by raising his arms. The Israelites were often swayed by the worship of other gods such as when his own brother, Aaron, forged a calf out of gold for them to worship. Moses had to intervene with God on their behalf on multiple occasions in or-

der to prevent them from being destroyed due to their fickle hearts. Unlike the Israelites, Odysseus' wife Penelope was faithful, but the simile stands nevertheless.

Macbeth- The story of Macbeth follows a friend of the king who is told by witches that he will be king himself one day. This leads him to kill the king, and then become more insane and "murderous" as time goes on to try and cover up his actions and keep his new throne. This seems to be inspired by two biblical accounts; first, the story of Eden, and second, the rule of King Saul.

Adam and Eve are told that they too can be equal to their ruler. Afterwards Adam and Eve make clothes for themselves, similar to the way both Macbeth and his wife are afraid of what they've done and change clothes immediately after the murder of their king. Adam and Eve are no longer in the comfort of the garden and Macbeth can no longer sleep, and both sets receive unexpected consequences for their sins.

The rest seems more akin to Saul. Saul was already king, but he was worried that David would take his throne so he sought to kill him. Macbeth, too, was worried others would take his place and killed them. And both end in tragedy.

The Raven- Poe's poem is little more than a man sitting exhausted from the grief of his love dying. Abraham, Jacob and Naomi all lost their spouses. All were distraught for a number of years, and Naomi even asks people to call her by a different name because of the bitterness she felt. This, coupled with 2 Corinthians 7:10 which talks about how worldly sorrow leads to death, become a strong foundation for the tone and topic of the poem.

The Metamorphosis- Gregor Samza wakes up one morning in bed to find himself transformed into a disgusting creature. His finances and family life suffer as he can no

longer work (being some sort of giant cockroach), until he dies in his bedroom and his family can finally move on.

In Daniel chapter 4 we find King Nebuchadnezzar being shown in a dream on his bed that he will turn into a beast that will be driven away from people for a long period of time. Only the biblical story is more kind to the one being transformed: the king repents of his sin and transformed back to his old self again.

The Picture of Dorian Grey- Dorian Gray is granted the ability to maintain his youth in his physical body, letting a portrait age and show decay instead. He is encouraged to live a life of excess (which he does). This leads to the portrait getting so ugly he cannot be recognized in it any longer. After remorse over a string of murders and deaths he himself caused, Dorian decides to change his ways and start to live a morally upright life. But the picture does not change; it continues to get uglier. He realizes this morality is just a facade covering the real intention of his change: to revel in knowing that he was a “better” person.

Looking in the bible we see a main character or characters accused by Christ directly of the same problem. In Matthew 23:27, he calls the pharisees (the religious leaders of the day) whitewashed tombs that look beautiful on the outside but are full of all sorts of unclean things on the inside. Jesus can see their ugliness without a magic picture, but in both cases it is right in front of everyone’s faces, though not everyone can see the significance of it.

The Island of Dr. Moreau- A man is shipwrecked and ends up on an island where a disgraced doctor is conducting vivisection-style experiments on animals to make them into humans. The narrator encounters all manner of half-man, half-beast creatures, who recite law and avoid habits that will revert them to their animal form.

Daniel 7:4 shows a beast being turned into a more human-like creature. It describes a lion with eagle wings having its wings torn off, and then standing and thinking like a man. It may start with a mythical creature of some sort, but it ends with it being more human after a rather barbaric kind of surgery. The second part is very much like the Jewish nation in the Old Testament. They would recite the law and abstain from certain activities to remain holy and set apart to God, so they would not revert back to their sinful ways. It is of note that neither the animal creatures nor the Israelites were good at keeping themselves from reverting.

Gulliver's Travels- There are many images in Gulliver's Travels that stand out: the warring countries of little people; the giants he encounters on his next journey (those were the ones I knew best); the next two journeys where he encounters a flying city involved in science, but with ridiculous intents and means (for instance, trying to soften marble so it can better be used as a pillow); and the last journey, in which he meets a group of horse creatures that look down on humans for their uncivilized and foolish ways, going so far as to call humans Yahoos. By the time he is forced back home he is no longer comfortable around all the humans he now sees as Yahoos like the horse people he has come to appreciate.

Joshua, in the Old Testament went on many journeys outside the camp of Israel and the city of Jericho into hostile territory. One of his first missions involved scouting out Jericho, where the people were revealed to be like giants next to the Israelites with produce to match (giant grapes). Later, he goes on multiple campaigns to wipe out the people groups surrounding Israel. Those cultures did things that were intolerable to God and unthinkable to His chosen people, like sacrificing their own children to a statue with fire (which could seem just about as weird as talking horses). And that's not including the fantastical things that God did for Joshua in some of these battles like stopping the Sun

in the sky so he didn't lose the enemy in the dark. You can also just imagine how uncomfortable Joshua and all of Israel felt when they settled in their new home surrounded by all those Yahoos.

Julius Caesar- Julius Caesar comes into town victorious, and with adoration and celebration, and is warned of his death to come. Then his friend Brutus is convinced that Caesar should be killed for the greater good of all Romans. He participates in the assassination, and afterwards is driven from Rome and must wage war against Anthony and Octavius. Brutus is visited by Caesar's ghost and warned that he will die in Phillipi. During the first day of battle Brutus is victorious, but during the second day he commits suicide.

It sounds a lot like the story of Judas Iscariot. Let's look at Matthew 21:1-11, chapter 26, and chapter 27:1-5. In Matthew 21 we see Jesus enter Jerusalem as a triumphant king. Then, by chapter 26 Judas, is scheming with the chief priests to kill Jesus for the sake of their control over the people. After Judas sees that he has condemned Jesus he goes out and hangs himself. The only key differences here are that Jesus has been foretelling his own death instead of a "soothsayer," and that there is no account of Jesus appearing to Judas as a spirit before his suicide, though Jesus does appear to many disciples after his own death in his resurrected body.

Beowulf- Grendel has been killing men at a distant hall, and Beowulf goes to stop this menace. He fights it barehanded and tears off its arm which leads to its death. He tracks down the cave that Grendel's mother lives in and fights her. Finding a giant sword in the cave he kills her. Beowulf then retires home for 50 years. He gets into a fight with a dragon and wins, but is mortally wounded in the process; he is cremated and a memorial is set up in his honor.

There are many direct references in the text to the bible. Grendel is described as a descendant of Cain, who was cursed for killing, which is what Grendel is doing over and over again at the start of the story. The text also describes the flood, and how the giants were wiped out during it, which is where it proposes the giant sword came from in the cave. There are many instances where Beowulf gives God credit for his good fortune, too. Then his final foe is a dragon, the same form Satan is described as in the book of Revelation as someone who will be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire.

All of these are good and easy to see, but I feel that the structure is most reminiscent of the story of Samson in Judges 13-16. He begins his feats of strength by ripping a lion apart with his bare hands. Next, he hides in a cave until the Philistine army comes to kill him. He grabs another uncommon weapon, a donkey's jaw bone, instead of a giant sword (it is still unique). Finally, after he is captured and blinded and used up with his strength gone, he is brought before many Philistines to entertain them. He asks God for help so he can kill them all, but also kills himself in the process. The Israelites then set up a tomb for him.

Hua Mulan- A young woman in China is worried for her father's life when the army comes to enlist the able man/men of the house. In some versions she disguises herself as a man, in others she just volunteers in his stead taking his armor and weapons. She is proficient in battle and wages war for 10-12 years, after which she is offered a government position and riches. She refuses it all and asks to go home.

There may not be a hero that cross-dresses in the Bible, but Hua Mulan sounds like a familiar male character in the Bible. 1 Samuel 17 and 18 tell the story of David and Goliath and the aftermath with Saul. David took the place of probably Saul and many other men in the army to fight Goliath. Saul offers for David to wear his armor, but in this case it does not fit and David refuses the offer.

After Goliath is slain, David goes back to playing music for the king. Many times Saul will offer a daughter or some other gift, and David will decline, saying that he is just a poor man who doesn't deserve such stately presents and positions. David never does get to go back home where he feels like he belongs, because he eventually becomes king himself; but the same spirit is there in both Hua Mulan and David after their victories in battle.

Natty Bumppo- Natty Bumppo is in a series of five novels that record his involvement as a frontiersman in the early settlement of the United States. He was in many battles, and known for being proficient with many types of weapons. He was also friendly with Native Americans, having been raised by one tribe. Little else stands out in his story or his character other than he appreciated the outdoors and wilderness. The story seems more like an action movie script of modern times than anything else.

It also brings to mind Nimrod in Genesis 10. He was simply known as a mighty warrior and hunter for the Lord. Both share this defining characteristic, but if we look closer we can see possibly a little more inspiration. In Genesis 10:10, it talks about the start of Nimrod's kingdoms (including Babylon). In the next chapter, we see that same kingdom building a tower to the heavens. God sees what they are doing and strikes them with an inability to all communicate the same language. This has led many to associate Nimrod with orchestrating the building of this tower himself.

It may be a small detail but seeing Nimrod among people of different tongues and tribes looks similar to seeing Natty Bumppo alongside Native Americans and various European military factions acting as an interpreter.

The Three Musketeers- The Biblical inspiration for this tale even has a similar name (if shorter): "The Three". In 2 Samuel 23:8-19, where their exploits are described,

we find out that they, like the three musketeers, are made up of actually 4 heroes with one being their leader and just as famous as the others put together.

Sherlock Holmes- Sherlock Holmes saves the day, or literature at the end of the comic. Even he isn't sure why he must remember during the events he encounters but he knows he must. He is the most discerning and wise character in all of literature, or at least the inspiration for all others. In Sherlock's own stories he is very interested in basic sciences and insightful observations. He is famous for being able to figure out things no one else can. The Bible has just such a character who is famous for solving a mystery of his own.

King Solomon in 1 Kings 3:16-27 has two prostitutes brought before him to settle a dispute: both claim that the same living child is their own. They both claim the other accidentally killed their own baby by rolling on top of it while they were asleep. Once the unfortunate mother woke up to find her own child dead, she stole the still living baby from the other mother. After presenting their case Solomon orders that the baby be cut in half and each mother given one piece. One woman agrees, saying it is the right thing to do, but the other panics and asks that the other woman be given the baby. Solomon grants the baby to the worried mother, seeing her care more that the child lives than that she raise it herself. Solomon was also interested in basic sciences of his day like Sherlock in his. 1 Kings 4:33 talks about how Solomon would impart wisdom about all manner of plant and animal life. Solomon is also famous for being sought after for his wisdom. The queen of Sheba comes to ask him everything on her mind, and he can answer it; in 1 Kings 10:1-13 and then in verse 23 and 24 it says the whole world sought to do the same.

That was Crazy!

Well, there you have it. All 25. Were there any in there that were too far of a stretch

to really have any inspirational material in there for the classic work I applied it to? Were there better parts of the Bible that look more like direct inspiration for any of these works? Let us know on our Facebook page or in the comments on RedeemingCulture.com. And read the last comic to get ready for the last chapter (coming soon). There can't be many more for Deadpool to kill at this point. Right? Right!?

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