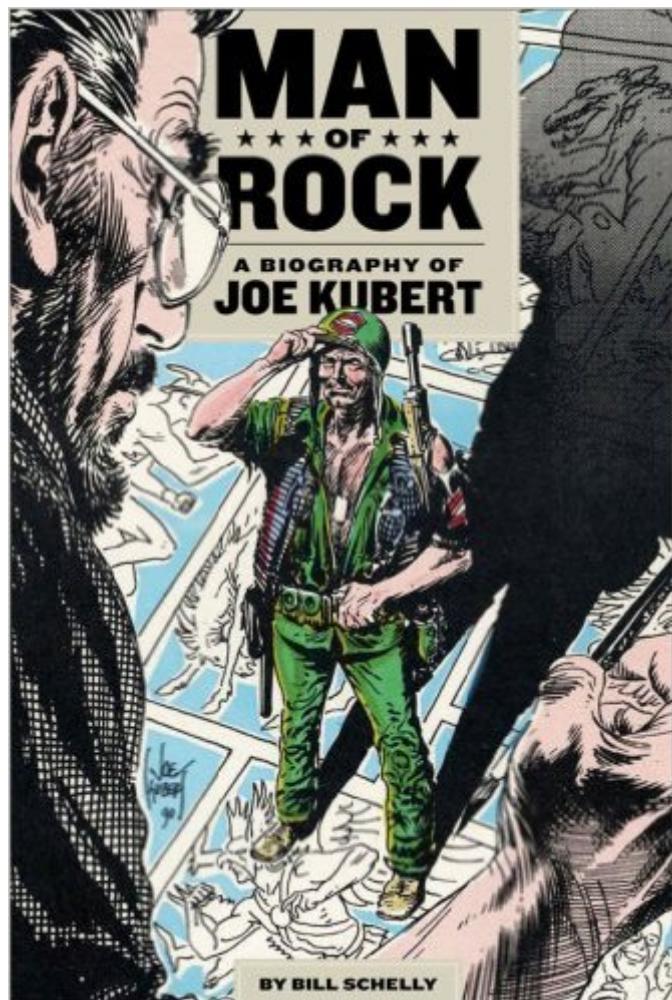


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Man Of Rock: A Biography Of Joe Kubert



Synopsis

Joe Kubert's extraordinary career spans the history of the comic book in America: he began drawing comics in 1938, just as Superman made his debut in Action Comics #1, and continues to be one of the most vital cartoonists working today, writing and drawing both mainstream comic book characters as well as, more recently, graphic novels of his own conception. Kubert made his name working for DC Comics on acclaimed series starring Sgt. Rock of Easy Co., Hawkman, Tarzan, and has worked on many of DC's most commercially successful properties (Superman, Batman, Flash, et al.). Kubert has created comics for virtually every major publisher over an incredible 70 years in the business, including Marvel and EC. He started the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art in the 1980s. In the 1990s, he wrote and drew his own graphic novels, including *Fax from Sarajevo*, which won the Will Eisner Comics Industry Award for Best Graphic Novel. He was subsequently inducted into both the Harvey Awards' Jack Kirby Hall of Fame and the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame.

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Customer Reviews

Back in May 1962 I was a young teenager getting seriously interested in comic book collecting. That was a magic time which saw the revival of numerous super heroes from the 1940s. In some of the Julie Schwartz edited books I was finding intriguing ads for The Brave and the Bold starring a character called Hawkman. This I was later to learn was a revival of another hero from the Golden Age of Comics. When I visited the local drugstore that carried comics I purchased a copy of The

Brave and the Bold #42. As the ad had proclaimed Hawkman was star feature in this issue. Hawkman was a flying policeman from another planet who with his wife and fellow law enforcement officer had come to Earth to learn our planet's police techniques. Hawkman's methods were to use ancient Earth weapons to subdue alien and supernatural foes. However it wasn't the character but the artwork that made Hawkman a standout among the super heroes of the early 1960s. Most of those super doers were drawn with a very slick line and the spotting of blacks were used sparingly. The artist on Hawkman, however, used a deceptively rough line and made liberal use of blacks which gave the artwork a rather foreboding atmosphere. I learned that this artist was Joe Kubert. As a young teenager just beginning to look at comic book art seriously I gravitated toward the more slick work of people like Murphy Anderson and Sid Greene. A year later I started to become aware of emerging comics fandom. One of the first rallying cries of this young movement was "Save Hawkman by Kubert" The Brave and Bold issues of Hawkman that I had purchased were the second tryout for the Winded Wonder and apparently the sales were not warrant giving the character his own book.

Once upon a time there was a young man named Joseph Kubert who traveled across the ocean to arrive in New York. His father, Jakob, and mother, Etta, encouraged him as a young man in his pursuit of art. With the arrival of Action Comics #1, and the influence of the daily comic strips by Raymond and Foster, he found himself. Joe the young man, had become Joe, the artist. He arrived at the Harry A Chesler shop, a precocious 11 year old eager to learn. At \$5 a week, he practised and watched the industry grow from the Shops. Growing up as a professional artist while still in school, Joe's early work can be found in books from Fox, Quality, Fawcett, MLJ, and eventually DC comics. His stops at the Demby, Eisner, and finally the DC shop under Shelly Mayer proved valuable. His age presented no barrier to his development. He learned at the elbows of the early practitioners that included Irv Novick, Tex Blaisdell, Alex Kotzky, Lou Fine, Will Eisner, Nick Cardy, Reed Crandall, Jack Coke, and many other talented individuals. His first published work was for Hollyhoke, a back up story that featured Voltron that Kubert thought stunk. For a young artist of 13, it was the beginning of a long career that still continues today. "Man of Rock" is an amazing, in depth, passionate, detailed, living chronology of the story of Yosaf Kubert. Schelly discusses his beginnings in the Jewish ghetto, and his rise to prominence from janitor to art school owner/director/teacher. The book is addictively fascinating, with each chapter unveiling the genesis of Kubert through his work and interests. It is very fitting that he and his late wife Muriel, created the Kubert School to mentor future artists given his steep learning curve in the shops at the tables of the

legends.

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