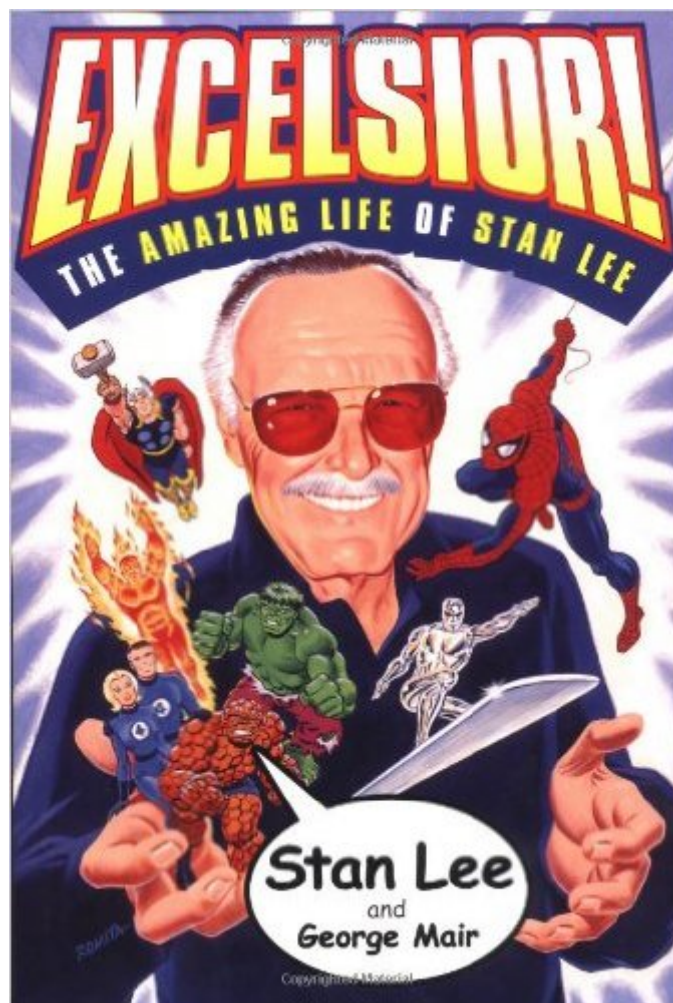


The book was found

Excelsior!: The Amazing Life Of Stan Lee



Synopsis

The man behind Spider-Man, The X-Men, The Incredible Hulk, and a legion of other superheroes tells his own amazing story in a book packed with punch, humor, anecdotes, and a gallery of never-before-seen photographs. Stan Lee is the most legendary name in the history of comicbooks. The leading creative force behind the rise of Marvel Comics, he brought to life some of the world's best-known heroes and most infamous villains. His stories, featuring super-heroes who struggled against personal hang-ups and bad guys who possessed previously unseen psychological complexity, added wit and subtlety to a field previously locked into flat portrayals of good vs. evil. Lee put the human in the super-human. In the process, he created a new mythology for the twentieth century. In this treasure trove of marvelous memories, Stan tells the story of his life with the same inimitable wit, energy, and offbeat spirit that he brought to the world of comicbooks. He moves from his impoverished childhood in Manhattan to his early days writing comicbooks, followed by military training films during World War II, through the rise of the Marvel empire in the 1960s to his recent adventures in Hollywood. The story of a man who earned respect by blazing new creative trails in a storytelling form once dismissed as just for kids, *Excelsior!* is an inspirational story about following one's vision, no matter the odds. Yet it's also the story of how some of the most exciting and memorable characters in the pop-culture universe came to thrill a generation.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Original ed. edition (May 7, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684873052

ISBN-13: 978-0684873053

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #135,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides](#) #164 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Cartooning](#) #239 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists, Architects & Photographers](#)

Customer Reviews

"Excelsior! The Amazing Life of Stan Lee" has a cover with Lee surrounded by some of his famous Marvel comics creations (or co-creations depending on where you stand on the whole Lee/Kirby

debate), but you may be surprised and/or dismayed to find that only six of the twenty-one chapters are devoted to the glory years at Marvel. Much of what is contained within Lee has talked about before, which means that by now the stories of how the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, the X-Men and the rest came to be born have been refined and polished to the point you really wish he would provide more of the details. "Excelsior!" starts from Lee's childhood in Manhattan to those early days when he stumbled into writing comic books, his work as a "playwright" in World War II, and then through the rise of the Marvel empire and beyond. The focus of the book is on the narrative recollections of Lee and if you have ever had an opportunity to hear Stan "The Man" Lee do a lecture or speak at a convention, then you are familiar with his conversational style (I liked it when Stan would pretend to be Clark Kent, take off his glasses and have people wondering where Clark went--plus, the man's autograph is always legible). One thing that struck me was how much Lee was affected by the Great Depression, especially since he often laments over the value of the comic books he created but never bothered to collect. Yet it is also clear that Lee is not driven by money but more by love of family and work, two subjects he talks about with equal passion. He does take pains to try and address the issues of his infamous rifts with artists Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, and whether you believe his side of the story or not he certainly bears no animosity towards either man.

4.5 stars, really, I wish there were more examples of his work. I am one of those people who loved the Marvel Age of Comics. While many people say they read Spider-Man, the Hulk or the Fantastic Four, even as a kid in the sixties, I would say I read Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko...and a few others. When they left, I left. Though the years I had heard about and read about many behind the scenes stories about Marvel. It was hard to give credence to many of them and I always wanted to find out Stan Lee's story. Here it is. Here Stan Lee tells his story. And what an enjoyable story it is. Mr. Lee tells of his early years, his years in the service during WW2, how he met his wife and how he started working for Martin Goodman, owner of Timely (later Marvel) Comics. The major part of the story is the creation of the Marvel Age of Comics. Stan Lee, born Stan Lieber, describes how he almost left the occupation of writing comic books. An occupation that was not well respected. But Stan stayed and broke the conventions of book characters. Stan discusses such stories, how he "snuck" his first Spider-Man story into Amazing Fantasy #15 after the publisher turned it down. We learn what was in his mind when he created the Fantastic Four, Hulk, and Thor. For me the most important parts involved the Marvel Method of creating comics and his relationships with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. For years I have heard stories that, frankly, cast Mr. Lee in a bad light. Here, Stan Lee describes how he came up with the character of Spider-man and, at first, gave it to Jack Kirby

to draw. Dissatisfied with Kirby's take, Stan turned it over to Steve Ditko. Stan goes out of his way to give co-creative credit to the artist.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Excelsior!: The Amazing Life of Stan Lee 101 Facts... Stan Lee: 101 Facts About Stan Lee You Probably Never Knew (facts 101 Book 7) Bruce Lee Striking Thoughts: Bruce Lee's Wisdom for Daily Living (Bruce Lee Library) Stan Lee's How to Draw Comics: From the Legendary Creator of Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, Fantastic Four, X-Men, and Iron Man Stan Lee and the Rise and Fall of the American Comic Book Stan Lee's How to Write Comics: From the Legendary Co-Creator of Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, Fantastic Four, X-Men, and Iron Man Who Is Stan Lee? (Who Was...?) Stan Lee's How To Draw Superheroes (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition) Freedom Journey: Black Civil War Soldiers and The Hills Community, Westchester County, New York (Excelsior Editions) Beer of Broadway Fame: The Piel Family and Their Brooklyn Brewery (Excelsior Editions) Bruce Lee: The Celebrated Life of the Golden Dragon (Bruce Lee Library) Bruce Lee: Artist of Life (Bruce Lee Library) Remembering the Master: Bruce Lee, James Yimm Lee, and the Creation of Jeet Kune Do Stan Levey: Jazz Heavyweight CONCERTO FOR STAN GETZ TENOR SAXOPHONE TIMPANI AND STRINGS PIANO SCORE AND PART Amazing Crayon Drawing With Lee Hammond: Create Lifelike Portraits, Pets, Landscapes and More The Amazing Adventures of Phoenix Jones: And the Less Amazing Adventures of Some Other Real-Life Superheroes: An eSpecial from Riverhead Books Clouds of Glory: The Life and Legend of Robert E. Lee Lee's Miserables: Life in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Wilderness to Appomattox Lee's Miserables: Life in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Wilderness to Appomattox (Civil War America)

[Dmca](#)