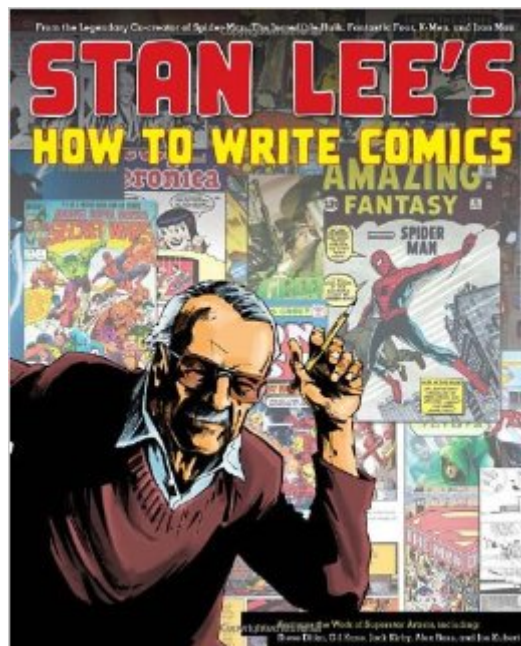# Stan Lee's How To Write Comics: From The Legendary Co-Creator Of Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, Fantastic Four, X-Men, And Iron Man

Synopsis

Comics icon Stan Lee, creator of the Mighty Marvel Universe, has set about to teach everything he knows about writing and creating comic book characters. In these pages, aspiring comics writers will learn everything they need to know about how to write their own comic book stories, complete with easy to understand instruction, tips of the trade, and invaluable advice even for more advance writers. From the secrets to creating concepts, plots, to writing the script, the man with no peer â " Stan Leeâ "is your guide to the world of writing and creating comics.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Watson-Guptill (October 11, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823000842

ISBN-13: 978-0823000845

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.6 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

Stan Lee's How to write comics is a fair to middling book at best. If your seeking a creative writing book that inspires and gives you practical techniques and exercises, there are far better books out there. Any decent script writing book, will cover most of the basics. Comics being a unique medium with different strengths and weaknesses to film, has of necessity, it's own story telling techniques, and here, to his credit, Stan Lee pretty much covers them all. But honestly, you can learn all that with one Will Eisner and one Scott McCloud book. In far greater detail.But the book has charm, and is not without merit. It's chock full of interviews from working professionals; mostly quotes really, culled from other sources and used to illustrate various points throughout the book. Some sources are wrangled specifically for the book (Roy Thomas, Marv Wolfman, Len Wein and the last two

chapters, where he interviews current editors about what they look for in a script and what they want from their writers). It's also full of personal anecdotes from his days of writing comics, which stretches from the 40's to the 70's and gives a good overview of the history of comics, and how the medium has changed. That's the fun part. The "he was there for most of it" part. The man has seen, and even helped develop many of the working methods (writing the plot driven outline and scripting later) and techniques used in comics today. What he didn't have a hand in directly, he was at least in the near periphery to observe. And, to be honest, there is a strong and even pleasant "geek factor" as he goes down memory lane that makes the experience of reading the book a pleasure, even while hoping for something more substantive in its analysis of various techniques for story telling.

This book was barely written by Stan Lee. The primary author is Bob Greenberger--whose name is only briefly is listed as a co-author in the fine print on the publishing info page. The reason Stan Lee is listed as the author is because it is a lot easier to sell a book on writing comics with Stan's name on it than Bob's. Bob did the interviews with other writers and comics professionals and dug up quotes from past interviews. It's hard to say exactly how much Stan wrote, but his role as writer appears to mostly be as a kibitzer, adding info and anecdotes here and there and distilling some of his wisdom in scattered sections throughout the book.The real issue with the book is that it is not a great book on how to write comics. Without the copious illustrations in the book, most of which have little to do with Stan Lee's works, this is more a pamphlet than a book. Since this is a book published by the comic book company, Dynamite, the bulk of the illustrations come from them and weren't authored by Stan. The book is padded out with a history of comics and a look at the different genres of comics (superheroes, scifi, etc.) such that the topic of writing comics doesn't really start till page 78. More than a third of the book barely touches on the subject of the book. It's hard to take any book on creative writing seriously when it spends so much time avoiding the subject. Books on writing fiction don't waste a third of their space talking about the history of fiction and the different genres.For the most part, writing comics is not a specialized field of writing fiction. There are some unique aspects to writing comics, but telling stories is no different between comics and books and film. The structure of telling stories is the same in all mediums.

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