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Amazing Fantastic Incredible: A Marvelous Memoir



Synopsis

In this gorgeously illustrated, full-color graphic memoir, Stan Lee—comic book legend and cocreator of Spider-Man, the X-Men, the Avengers, the Incredible Hulk, and a legion of other Marvel superheroes—shares his iconic legacy and the story of how modern comics came to be. Stan Lee is a man who needs no introduction. The most legendary name in the history of comic books, he has been the leading creative force behind Marvel Comics, and has brought to life—and into the mainstream—some of the world's best-known heroes and most infamous villains throughout his career. His stories—filled with superheroes struggling with 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 superhuman and in doing so, created a new mythology for the twentieth century. In this beautifully illustrated graphic memoir—illustrated by celebrated artist Colleen Doran—Lee tells the story of his life with the same inimitable wit, energy, and offbeat spirit that he brought to the world of comics. Moving from his impoverished childhood in Manhattan to his early days writing comics, through his military training films during World War II and the rise of the Marvel empire in the 1960s to the current resurgence in movies, *Amazing Fantastic Incredible* documents the life of a man and the legacy of an industry and career. This funny, moving, and incredibly honest memoir is a must-have for collectors and fans of comic books and graphic novels of every age.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Touchstone (November 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501107720

ISBN-13: 978-1501107726

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.8 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Educational & Nonfiction](#) #52 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels](#) #173 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Rich & Famous](#)

Customer Reviews

Are you a fan of superheroes? Have you ever been thrilled by the action in a comic book? Did you ever imagine yourself a hero with special powers and super strength? Have you ever heard of Spider-Man or The Incredible Hulk? If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, then your life has been influenced by the work of comic book legend Stan Lee. Entering the world of comics in 1939, Lee (born Lieber in New York City in 1922) took on more creative responsibilities over the years, especially after teaming up with Jack Kirby. So much of American pop culture has been touched by Lee's pen, and his influence extends well beyond the pages of the comics for which he is known. From book and film adaptations to Halloween costumes and more, the superheroes and supergroups Lee created or co-created, not to mention his signature storytelling style, are now an intrinsic part of the American cultural landscape. In *AMAZING FANTASTIC INCREDIBLE*, Lee tells the story of his career and life in a comic book memoir. Written with Peter David and with lead artist Colleen Doran, this "marvelous memoir" is full of energy, vibrant color and all the excitement you'd expect from a Stan Lee comic creation. Lee's early years in New York were marked by his family's poverty, the confidence instilled by his mother's love and attention and especially his love of reading. He was particularly drawn to adventure tales. A smart kid and a hard worker, Lee skipped grades but was often bored and limited by his family's financial restraints. The gift of a bicycle on his 12th birthday opened up a world of physical imagination as he pretended to be the dashing hero of his favorite movies. After a series of odd jobs, Lee was hired by the publishing company where his uncle worked.

Amazing Fantastic Incredible IS actually an amazing, fantastic, incredible book. It's not just a look at his work at Marvel, but a portrait of key moments of his private life, co-written by Peter David and illustrated by Colleen Doran. Since it's Marvel's 75th Anniversary this year - and Stan has been there since almost the very beginning - Stan can (and does) weigh in on about just every major thing that's happened there, both good and bad. More than that, Stan's life is told in great detail, including some family secrets and probably a thing or two that was painful to relate. Like the superhero comics he's scripted for decades, his life is frequently shattered by unexpected deaths in both of his "families": the one at home and the one at work. Stan is assisted by two excellent storytellers in relating his history. Peter David writes everything (not just comics) and, like Stan, has worked at Marvel both on-staff and as a freelancer. Artist Colleen Doran is best known for her epic adventure stories, and this book is not all that much different than those (although this book has a lot fewer sharp, pointy objects and cool hair than her stories do). The artwork is much fun to read throughout, as there are an incredible number of very clever artistic

• of classic Marvel Comics scenes. They're adapted to fit into Stan's narrative as though they belong there, like when Stan meets his future wife Joan for the first time, in a framing reminiscent of the introduction of Mary Jane Watson to Peter Parker. Also, when Stan is talking specifically about things that he worked on, we get to see replicas of the covers and pin-ups and artifacts in their real-life forms. (Of course, Stan can't resist covering them with copious caption boxes! It's part of his charm!

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