



Will Eisner: A Spirited Life (Deluxe Edition)

By Bob Andelman

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An expanded, full-color deluxe edition of the out-of-print biography that explores the fascinating life of **Will Eisner**, detailing a more than 70-year career where he spearheaded comics for adult readers and created the first widely accepted graphic novel, *A Contract with God*.

Eisner's influence has been felt by such diverse talents as *Batman* co-creator Bob Kane and *Captain America* and *Fantastic Four* co-creator **Jack Kirby**, as well as underground comics legend **R. Crumb** and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonists **Jules Feiffer** and **Art Spiegelman** - all have hailed Eisner's cinematic approach to comics, and his enduring character *The Spirit*.

From his childhood to famously turning down a proposal for *Superman*, to educating Army soldiers in *P.S. Magazine*, Eisner's personal and professional life is told in dramatic detail.

Author Bob Andelman spent almost three years interviewing Eisner prior to his passing, researching his life and work and interviewing friends, family, and colleagues including **Alan Moore**, **Dave Gibbons**, **Neil Gaiman**, **Denis Kitchen**, **Joe Kubert**, **Stan Lee**, **Jules Feiffer**, **Neal Adams**, and his former School of Visual Arts students **Patrick McDonnell**, **Ray Billingsley**, **Joe Quesada**, **Batton Lash**, **John Holmstrom**, **Florian Bachleda**, and **Mike Carlin**.

In addition to hundreds of full-color images from Will's archives and private collections (not found in the original edition), this expanded Deluxe Edition includes a series of new interviews with **Drew Friedman**, **Howard Chaykin**, **Darwyn Cooke**, **Sergio Aragones**, **Ken Quattro**, **Benjamin Herzberg**, **Scott Hampton**, **Bo Hampton**, **Michael Uslan**, and others, which clear the air on some topics left unfinished by the first edition, and add depth to the reader's knowledge of Eisner's body of work.

Featuring an insightful introduction by Pulitzer Prize winning novelist **Michael Chabon** and a Foreword by legendary comic book artist **Neal Adams**.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It is highly fortunate that Andelman got to write this authorized biography of the towering American cartoonist Eisner before his death this year at age 87. Following Michael Chabon's insightful introduction, Andelman states that he will not critique Eisner's work, and so barely describes Eisner's innovative "The Spirit" or the contents of his pioneering graphic novels. Andelman thus limits his audience to comics aficionados who are already thoroughly familiar with Eisner's oeuvre; others will be left puzzled as to why he merits a biography. Thoroughly researched, the book confusingly jumps back and forth in time, while presenting vivid portraits of Eisner's colleagues like Jerry Iger, Denis Kitchen and Cat Yronwode. Eisner is depicted as a hardworking, almost universally beloved artistic visionary. Yet Eisner's work indicates that he was a far more complex figure. Andelman briefly touches on intriguing issues, like Eisner's capacity for anger, his obsessive penny-pinching, his religious doubts, and his anguish over his daughter's death, but never probes them sufficiently. A future biography should delve beneath Eisner's public persona to draw connections between his life and his art. Still, so far there are few serious biographies of important figures in American comics. In authorizing this book, Eisner has proved a pioneer yet again.

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From [Booklist](#)

Michael Chabon contributes a heartfelt introduction to Andelman's first-ever biography of Will Eisner (1917-2005), and the story that follows is a real-life *Kavalier and Clay*. Present at the comics industry's birth in the 1930s, Eisner revolutionized the field not just creatively in work spanning from his 1940s stories featuring masked crime fighter the Spirit to his later, pioneering graphic novels but also as businessman and entrepreneur, teacher, mentor, and the inspiration of countless young artists. Andelman covers all those roles and points up Eisner's uniqueness among his peers: he retained ownership of his creations, and that allowed him to reprint the Spirit stories at a time, decades after their original publication, when so doing cemented his reputation in a new era of comics fandom and facilitated launching a new career as a graphic novelist with *A Contract with God* (1978). Besides verifying Eisner's impact on nearly every artist who drew comics in his wake, Andelman shows that Eisner's influence extends to such film directors as Spielberg and Tarantino.

Gordon Flagg

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Review

What the book is most to be commended for is the sheer volume of people Andelman is able to get on the record to talk about Eisner, not to mention the invaluable firsthand accounts from Eisner himself. --Wil Moss, Nashville City Paper, June 9, 2006

The definitive profile of this influential and talented comics genius... Once I picked this book up, I found it hard to put down. I give my heartiest recommendation --Heavy Metal magazine, March 2006

Perhaps most poignant, however, are the testaments to Eisner's influence and talent from peers such as Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons, Robert Crumb and Neil Gaiman. --Kevin Walker, Tampa Tribune (January 8, 2006)

"... affectionate and comprehensive... For pure biography, A SPIRITED LIFE is great." --Steven Grant, Master of the Obvious, Comic Book Resources, December 14, 2005

"Our Highest Recommendation." --BudPlant.com, November 26, 2005

A must-have item for any serious devotee of the comics art form. - *Tony Isabella -- Comic Buyers Guide, October 3, 2005*

A significant achievement. The profuse illustrations, both photos and art, alone are more than worth the price. - *Paul Fitzgerald -- The Roanoke Times, January 8, 2006*

Andelman's affectionate biography rambles a bit, but it's entertaining and enlightening. - *Richard Pachter -- The Miami Herald, February 20, 2006*

Bob Andelman worked closely with Eisner in shaping an intimate albeit sprawling biography. - *Tom Spurgeon -- Publishers Weekly/Comics Week, November 15, 2005*

Will Eisner was a comics legend--and he has been honored with a biography to match by M Press. Savor it. - *Starlog Magazine, March 2006*

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