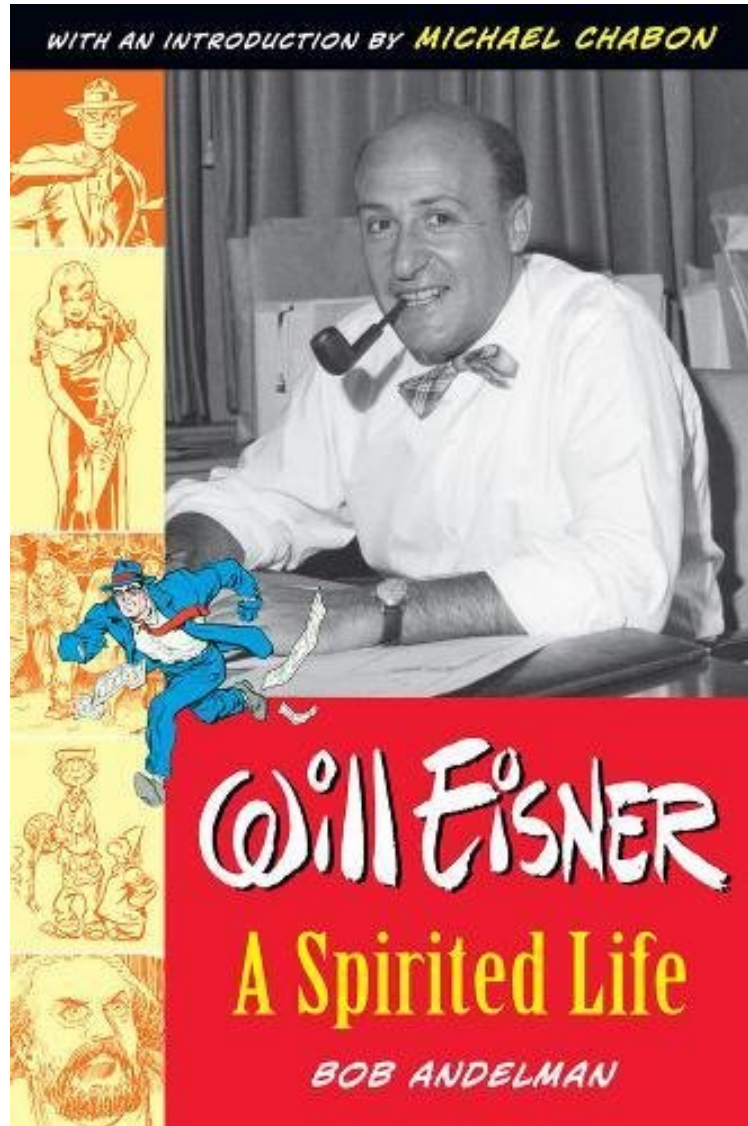


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Will Eisner: A Spirited Life

Bob Andelman

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Bob Andelman : Will Eisner: A Spirited Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Will Eisner: A Spirited Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and informative By Jerry For anyone interested in the people behind the drawings this is an acceptable and interesting read. I do wish there were more photos and artwork though. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Exhaustive, but ... By Richard Kaplan For me, this book doesn't say enough bout Eisner's creation of the Spirit and his early years in the comic business, but it will tell you all you want to know about his construction of instruction manuals for the army or how Cat W. created the master archive

list to all Eisner's work. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Spirited Summation of a Master Artist. By Michael F. Hopkins. Bob Andelman's WILL EISNER: A SPIRITED LIFE is a superb study of a great literary genius. Drawing enormously from a vast wealth of previously unavailable resources, the M Press book is made all the finer by the biographer's decision to focus on the man and, in doing so, draws a more acute, highly intimate bead on the influential work Eisner produced across the greater 20th century, and beyond. That being said, I question the logic of the Publishers Weekly reviewer, who felt that Andelman's decision to place Eisner's life as the primary focus, rather than fixate upon his technique, would somehow limit the book's readership to comic book fandom. One would think that just the opposite would be true; that a book principally aimed at discussing technical aspects would have come across as far too in-clubby and far less audience-spanning for a biographical work. Too, considering that Eisner's personal life has almost never been a topic for audience discretion, one has to wonder what the Publishers Weekly reviewer had in mind for a more appropriate biographical subject? One ponders if that reviewer was the same one who wondered if the sobering subject of Eisner's final work, THE PLOT, was appropriate for the medium of comics?! It might do such critics well to actually read the material they're reviewing, and gain some wisdom -not stereotypes- about what they purport to talk about. Few places could provide a better start into the inner workings of a classic storyteller than this book. Drawing from direct interviews with Eisner, family, friends and professional associates spanning some 60 to 70 years, this book is at once the historical goldmine and an anecdotal treasure house. Those who have long wondered about Eisner's art, cultural background, and how he parlayed all this into a life's work which crosses idioms and sets standards even now, will find this book to be a magnificent revelation into the nature by which pioneers are born. Those who know nothing about THE SPIRIT, the connections with generations of Sequential storytellers from Kubert and Kirby to Miller and Gaiman, or the vast reshaping of an art form some 30 years after "retirement", will simply find a most absorbing read about a man who grew up poor, hungry, and oppressed, yet refused to live his life as a victim. A SPIRITED LIFE is the tale of a talented man who made his aesthetic mark upon the ages, and made a lucrative living without selling out. How Eisner did this in a field still largely known for robber baron business practices, while exuding a charm and grace which complemented the succinct, no-nonsense demeanor of his images and words, is the magic which comprises Andelman's book. WILL EISNER: A SPIRITED LIFE. Clearly, a read which is more than worth the lifetime that many have waited for its pages to be filled, and its heart-stirring tale to be wondrously told...

The Spirit's creator is immortalized in TwoMorrows' Deluxe Edition of Will Eisner: A Spirited Life. So much more than just a new printing, this expanded, full-color hardcover Deluxe Edition of Bob Andelman's out-of-print biography explores the fascinating life of Will Eisner, detailing a more than 70-year career in which he spearheaded comics for adult readers and created the first widely accepted graphic novel, A Contract with God.

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. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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 Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. 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 2006Perhaps 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