

(Mobile pdf) Masters of the Comic Book Universe Revealed!

## Masters of the Comic Book Universe Revealed!

*Arie Kaplan*

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**Arie Kaplan : Masters of the Comic Book Universe Revealed!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of the Comic Book Universe Revealed!:

This informal history of the comic book chronicles, largely in their own words, the lives and careers of the artists and writers who created the most significant and memorable comic books and graphic novels. Stretching from Will Eisner,

who started his work in the industry in 1936, to Marjane Satrapi, whose latest graphic novel was published last year, 11 comic book masters are discussed, including Art Spiegelman, Neil Gaiman, Stan Lee, Dwayne McDuffie, Kyle Baker, and Ho Che Anderson. Amazing stories of how these artists and writers fell in love with the genre and built up their careers are coupled with never-before-disclosed anecdotes and previously unpublished self-portraits that will surprise even the most knowledgeable fans.

From BooklistKaplan's set of interview-based profiles of 11 creators aims to be an informal history of the comic-book industry, but the medium is now far too diverse to be effectively covered by highlighting so few figures. Kaplan's subjects range from 1940s pioneer Will Eisner to Iranian-French autobiographical graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi. Many are key figures in their niches, indisputably worthy of the coverage: Marvel Comics impresario Stan Lee, who spearheaded the 1960s superhero revival; Art Spiegelman, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus* (1986) helped legitimize the comics medium; Neil Gaiman, whose *Sandman* is outstanding among recent mainstream comics. Others are questionable. Why represent underground comics with a marginal figure like Trina Robbins rather than R. Crumb or another member of the Zap Comix gang? Dwayne McDuffie's claim to fame seems to be founding a failed line of 1990s African American superheroes. Ah, well, significant if not monumental creators such as early Batman artist Jerry Robinson, *Love and Rockets*' Gilbert Hernandez, and iconoclastic cartoonist Kyle Baker offer insightful observations on comics as industry and art. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The creative geniuses responsible for turning this genre into a brilliant art form." Al Jaffee, cartoonist, *MAD* magazine