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Brian Cronin

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#847646 in Books 2009-04-28 2009-04-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.90 x .54 x 5.30l, .47 #File Name: 0452295327256 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Brian Cronin : Was Superman a Spy?: And Other Comic Book Legends Revealed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Was Superman a Spy?: And Other Comic Book Legends Revealed:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. National Enquirer for Comic Book Readers By Eric K. WAS SUPERMAN A SPY? is chock-full of information and dirty little secrets about comic book companies' pasts. The big two (DC and Marvel) are tackled, as well as other current and no-longer-existent independent comic book companies. The author, Brian Cronin, seemingly did a lot of research to uncover mysteries and validate (or disprove) urban legends. There was also quite a bit of information about subjects and situations that I never even thought about, but I'm

glad I know now why they are like they are. Although I really enjoyed the book, I think it could have been presented better, and I'm not sure why the author (or his editor(s)) didn't consider it. The title of the book grabs you: Was Superman A Spy? Well, was he? The book is divided into the following sections: DC Comics, Marvel Comics, and Other Comic Book Companies. Within each of these sections, there are chapters for each super-hero or team (i.e., Superman, Batman, X-Men, Hulk). The chapter then tells you all of the "little secrets" about that hero in separated paragraphs. What happened to the questions to be answered? Cronin should have presented the questions (i.e., Was Superman a spy?, Why did Captain America's shield change after one issue? Who really created Batman?) and then answered them for the reader, not just present an essay on each superhero and then spill any and all related facts about that superhero. I think it would have made for a much more interesting and grabbing read if you knew what fact was coming up next. As it stands, I'm not sure what theory or story he's proving or disproving until at least halfway through the paragraphs. Don't get me wrong; it's still interesting, but it could have been presented to the reader SO much better. Lastly, Cronin should have stuck to discussing only events/situations in the past, or the text needs to be periodically updated. The current or upcoming events he references are no longer current and in the past (i.e., there's talk of a new Spider-Man movie (which was already filmed and released in 2012)). It makes the book feel very dated. All in all, though, I recommend this book for the longtime comic book reader who would love all these juicy details that bring to light circumstances and situations you never even knew you wanted to know about. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it's ok, By Lord Raiden it's ok, not what i was really expecting as far as comic book information it's still an OK read 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Grimmer Awesome, interesting and easy to read. Love it!

Fascinating and often bizarre true stories behind more than 130 urban legends about comic book culture Was Superman a Spy? demystifies all of the interesting stories, unbelievable anecdotes, wacky rumors, and persistent myths that have piled up like priceless back issues in the seventy-plus years of the comic book industry, including: * Elvis Presley's trademark hairstyle was based on a comic book character (True) * Stan Lee featured a gay character in one of Marvel's 1960s war comics (False) * Wolverine of the X-Men was originally meant to be an actual wolverine! (True) * What would have been DC's first black superhero was changed at the last moment to a white hero (True) * A Dutch inventor was blocked from getting a patent on a process because it had been used previously in a Donald Duck comic book (True) With many more legends resolved, Was Superman a Spy? is a must-have for the legions of comic book fans and all seekers of "truth, justice, and the American way."

From Booklist Recent years have seen a multitude of books about the comic-book industry aimed at a general readership. Was Superman a Spy? is for the opposite kind of audience, hard-core comic-book fans, especially fans of superhero comics. Cronin covers familiar ground with a fine net, hoping to uncover the facts behind some of the urban legends in comic-book history. Was the Thing, member of the Fantastic Four, Jewish? Did Bob Kane, creator of Batman, also create Robin, the Boy Wonder? Why did artist and cocreator Steve Ditko leave Spider-Man? Cronin also traces the transference of comic-book heroes into other media, such as movie serials, feature films, and television series. He focuses primarily on stories promoted by the Big Two comic-book companies, Marvel and DC Comics, although he includes a section on Walt Disney and such smaller publishers as Fawcett and EC. Those just getting into graphic novels may not find much of interest here, but for hard-core superhero fans and comic-book history mavens, it will be good to the last identity switch. --Stephen Weiner About the Author Brian Cronin is the writer and producer of the Comics Should Be Good blog at Comic Book Resources (www.cbr.cc). He has been writing the online column "Comic Book Legends Revealed" since June 2005. He has a JD from Fordham Law School and is a member of the New York State Bar.