



Harvey Kurtzman: The Man Who Created Mad and Revolutionized Humor in America

Bill Schelly

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This biography reveals the true story of *Mad* creator Harvey Kurtzman?the man who revolutionized humor in America; it features new interviews with his colleagues Hugh Hefner, Robert Crumb, and others.

Harvey Kurtzman created *Mad*, and *Mad* revolutionized humor in America. Kurtzman was the original editor, artist, and sole writer of *Mad*, one of the greatest publishing successes of the 20th century. But how did Kurtzman invent *Mad*, and why did he leave it shortly after it burst, nova-like, onto the American scene? For this heavily researched biography, Bill Schelly conducted new interviews with Kurtzman's colleagues, friends and family, including Hugh Hefner, R. Crumb, Jack Davis, and many others, and examined Kurtzman's personal archives. The result is the true story of one the 20th century's greatest humorists: Kurtzman's family life, the details of the FBI's investigation during the McCarthy Era, his legal battles with William M. Gaines (publisher of *Mad*), are all revealed for the first time. Rich with anecdotes, this book traces Kurtzman's life from his Brooklyn beginnings to his post-*Mad* years, when his ceaseless creativity produced more innovations: new magazines, a graphic novel, and *Little Annie Fanny* in *Playboy*.

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