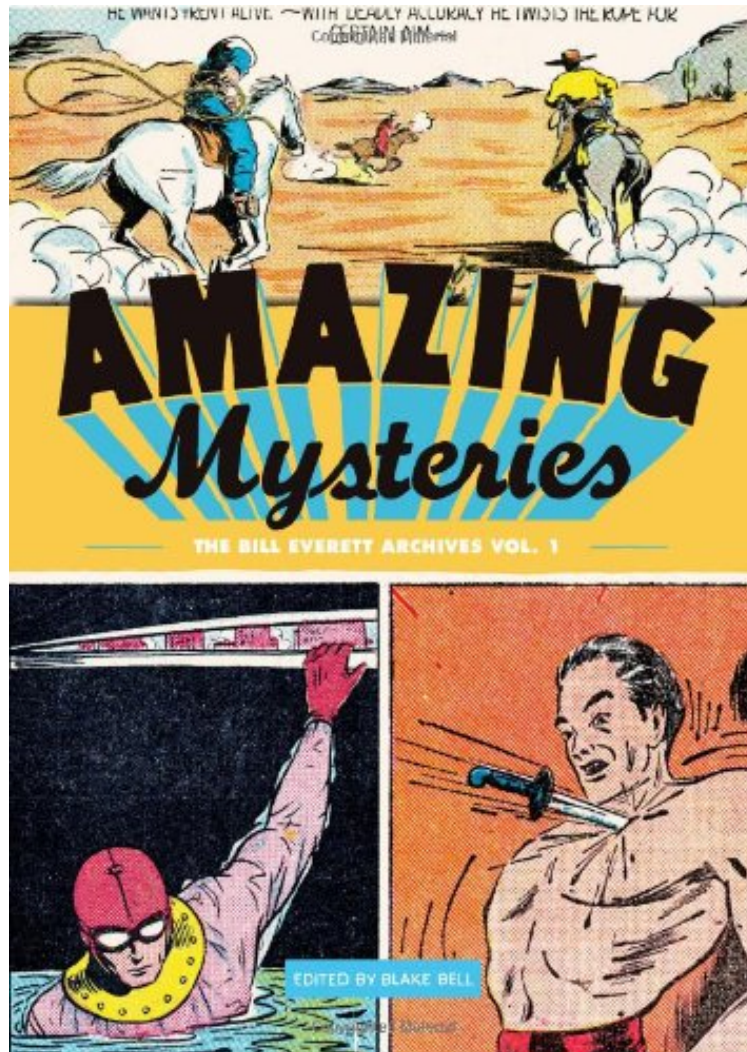


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From Fantagraphics : Amazing Mysteries: The Bill Everett Archives (Vol. 1) (The Bill Everett Archives) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazing Mysteries: The Bill Everett Archives (Vol. 1) (The Bill Everett Archives):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Amazing FindBy Edward LeeAuthor Blake Bell has written an extraordinary book on the life of Bill Everett, Marvel Comics/Atlas/Timely artist and writer. The material presented in this book has never been published or has never seen the light of day in the last 70 years. This book has a plethora of art and background material on the creation of his comic book characters --- Namor The Sub-Mariner and The Fin.

Unlike other Archive editions published by Marvel and DC Comics, most of the stories presented in this book have NEVER been reproduced before. To the comic book collector, that makes this book a treat beyond belief. After reading this book, I was pleased to find out that Volume 2 was currently available through at another extraordinary retail price. I would not hesitate to recommend this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just What I expected! I think By Steve Cass A must have book reprinting the early historical exploits of the great Bill Everett, creator of the Sub-Mariner. If you are collecting archive editions of old comics, this is a no brainer that will surely entertain and in that respect is a 5 star purchase. What I like about these books is you get to enjoy those rare elusive and valuable comics and a very low price especially 2nd hand(on)! Wish they printed an AMAZING MAN SET as well as the other titles but until then... This be it. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Great Archive By Robert Barker If there were a Mount Rushmore of Golden Age Comic Book artists, there would be only three heads, Jack Kirby's, Jack Cole's, and Bill Everett's. While it took Kirby and Cole a while to refine their styles and get going, Everett was pretty much firing on all cylinders from his entry into the new comic book field. There is a distinction to Everett, Kirby and Cole that automatically announces that this is their artwork, no matter the character being drawn. There were many able draftsmen in the early days of comic books, but Everett stood out with something more, something different, something exciting. Everett is also the most overlooked of the three. Jack Cole has had a resurgence due to a well known book being written about him just a few years back. Most adults, well, the men, were well acquainted with his fantastic cartoons for Playboy in the 1950s, even if they couldn't put a face to the art. But then to know he was the genius behind Plastic Man awed the fans of graphic arts. Kirby of course spanned two giant eras of comic book art. Puh-lenty is known about Kirby. But Everett barely gets out of the Golden Age. His alcoholism seems to have stunted his later work. His artwork on the 1st Daredevil seems clunky and throwback, compared to his great work in the 1940s, and early 1950s. As to the great archive book Mr. Bell has recently published, I can only give it the highest praises. Much of the artwork is quite rare and difficult to find, being the product of long defunct companies. He seems to have made a compromise between making this antique artwork palatable to a modern audience, while retaining the integrity of the original lines. I bring this up because both Marvel and DC archives are practically unviewable, they have been altered and cleaned up so much. All comic art presenters can take a lesson from Art Spiegelman/Chip Kidd's Jack Cole book, where the comic pages were simply photographed and put on the page, pulpy warts and all. I don't think the average person buys a Golden Age Comic Book Archive edition anyway, so the urge to overcompensate is unnecessary. I love Everett's Hydroman and Anan-The Amazing Man works. His western work on Bull's-Eye Bill is top rate, but oddly amusing, as it's hard to imagine Everett doing a 'Western', even though I understand him to have spent time out there as a kid. And Everett knew how to draw an exciting cover. I love his Amazing Mystery Funnies work. I have to support someone who unearths great forgotten artists, and I also own Mr. Bell's 'Fire Ice', a fine overview of Bill Everett's career. But you don't have to buy this to support Mr. Bell. You should buy this because it's fun to read.

A classic collection of pre-WWII super-hero comics by one of the founding fathers of the genre. The 1939 creation of the Sub-Mariner for the first issue of Marvel Comics assures Bill Everett a place in history. Co-creating Daredevil, the Man Without Fear, for Marvel Comics in 1964 gave Everett a link to one of the most popular superheroes of the past 50 years. And producing over 400 additional pages of superhero-related work in the very early days of the Golden Age of Comics (1938-42) makes Bill Everett a legend. This book collects over 200 pages of this never-before-reprinted work from titles such as Amazing Mystery Funnies (1938), Amazing-Man Comics (1939), Target Comics (1940), Heroic Comics (1940), and Blue Bolt Comics (1940). These titles feature an endless array of great vintage Everett characters such as Amazing-Man, Hydroman, Skyrocket Steele, Sub-Zero, The Chameleon, and many more, all produced by Everetts shop Funnies, Inc. for such clients as Centaur, Novelty Press, and Eastern Color, and all displaying Everetts brilliant cartooning and energetic storytelling. Edited and compiled by best-selling author and comic-book historian Blake Bell (Strange and Stranger: The World of Steve Ditko), Amazing Mysteries: The Bill Everett Archives is a stunning companion to Bells 2010 critically acclaimed Everett biography and art book, Fire and Water: Bill Everett, The Sub-Mariner and the Birth of Marvel Comics. This volume follows the format of Bells Steve Ditko Archives series; never-before-reprinted, beautifully restored, full-color stories from one of comic books greatest visionaries and most accomplished artists. Also includes an introduction by Bell that delves even deeper into Everetts life, fiery personality, and the history of the era. The resultant package enhances Everetts place in history as one of the first and best comic-book creators of all time. 224 pages of full-color comics

The stories and artwork are laughably crude by modern standards, although no more so than those in other comic books from the period. But even the earliest ones show trace of the sleek polish that would become Everetts hallmark. . . a sign that future volumes in the series will be of even greater interest. - Gordon Flagg, Booklist This volume provides an illuminating look at the artists numerous attempts at catching Sub-Marineresque lightning in a bottle for a second time... Forgotten sci-fi and superhero creations, as well as forays into westerns, historical retellings, and crime comics, populate this loaded volume... - Publishers Weekly Everetts vivid, varied work emanated from a man who was

a lot like his most famous creation: a destructive antihero, always a little angry at the puny humans around him. - The Onion A.V. Club
What's exciting for me about this book is watching Everett develop as an artist and storyteller.... What you see here are the glimmers of an artist struggling to comprehend the potential of this relatively new medium. - Chris Mautner, Robot 6
This is a wonderful collection of golden age material from Bill Everett, all never before reprinted.... For fans of golden age material or Bill Everett, *Amazing Mysteries: The Bill Everett Archives, Vol. 1* is a must have look at early comics from lesser known publishers... - Scott VanderPloeg, *Comic Book Daily*
For fans of comics from the dawn of the comic book era, this book is an indispensable gift... - Jason Sacks, *Comics Bulletin*...
[*Amazing Mysteries*] does a wonderful job of showing off Bill's early work.... Bill was an enormous talent for telling stories. . . This volume is a lot of fun as you can flip through it and see how much Bill played with layouts and panel design... this book is hard to beat. - Jim Martin, *Comics and... Other Imaginary Tales*
About the Author
Blake Bell is the author of *Strange Stranger* (a retrospective of Spider-Man co-creator Steve Ditko); *The Secret History of Marvel Comics*, *Fire Water: Bill Everett, The Sub-Mariner, and the Birth of Marvel Comics*; *Amazing Mysteries: The Bill Everett Archives*; and *Strange Suspense and Unexplored Worlds* (two volumes in *The Steve Ditko Archives*). He lives in Toronto, Ontario, with his son.
Bill Everett, the creator of the Sub-Mariner and the co-creator of Daredevil, died in 1973.