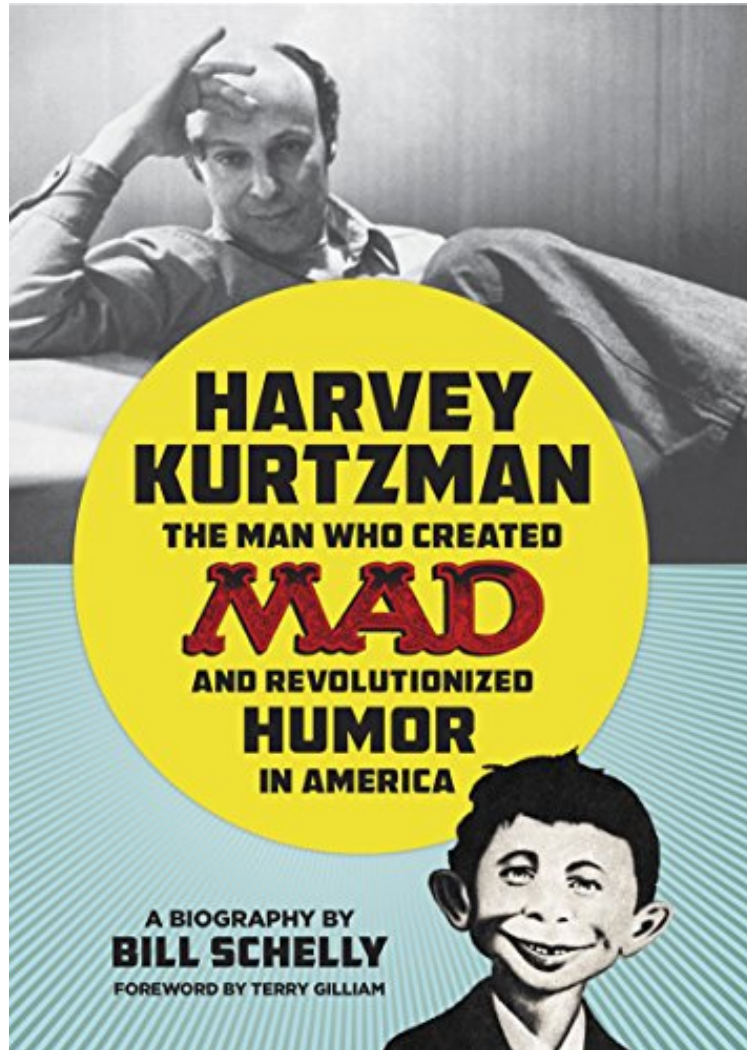


# Harvey Kurtzman: The Man Who Created Mad and Revolutionized Humor in America

Bill Schelly

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**Bill Schelly : Harvey Kurtzman: The Man Who Created Mad and Revolutionized Humor in America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harvey Kurtzman: The Man Who Created Mad and Revolutionized Humor in America:

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. A Rock-Solid Kurtzman BiographyBy William G. StoutThis is an outstanding book, a real work of well-researched scholarship. It is also an important book, as Harvey Kurtzman should be a household name in America --- and throughout the world.Harvey Kurtzman not only created MAD (he wrote and laid-out the first 23 issues before he changed it from a comic book to the black and white humor magazine we

recognize today), he introduced Terry Gilliam to John Cleese (thereby becoming one of the sparks that lit the fire known as Monty Python's Flying Circus), wrote and laid-out the very first realistic war comics (the first war comics that told the gritty truth and did not glorify war) and created "Little Annie Fanny" for Playboy, as well as the magazines Help!, Humbug and Trump. Harvey was the first to publish future ZAP! Comix cartoonists Robert Crumb and Gilbert Shelton (who were both inspired by the subversiveness of Kurtzman's humor; Harvey is considered the Godfather of Underground Comix) and played a huge role in the launching of many prominent artists' careers (including my own) and was an inspiration to legions more. One of the two highest awards in comics is named the Harvey Award (the other being the Eisner Award). The complexities that made up Harvey Kurtzman are detailed here with input from hundreds of sources. If you have any interest at all in the history of comics or the ups and downs of its greatest creators, then you won't want to miss this important book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great book about a remarkable unique funny man

By Just Bite

When I was young in the 50's I read my younger brothers copies of Mad. Then I went to art school - from 1956 to '60 where Mad was part of the visual upheave taking place - in the early 60's I had the good fortune to meet and work with the creative genius Harvey Kurtzman! Being in his company was FUN all the time as work got done. In Bill Schelly's book I learned so much more about this amazing man who's humor was totally original as he was in life. It's a wonderful book and I'm still enjoying it. Thank you Bill Schelly for honoring HARVEY KURTZMAN. I love learning more about Harvey. Anyone buying this book will love meeting Harvey and learning about his life.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is a gift to all fans of classic humor.

By Jerry Moore

For anyone who loves MAD magazine in particular, or comics in general, this is a must-read biography. Author Schelly has completed an exhaustive series of interviews with those who knew Harvey Kurtzman and combined those with his research of existing interviews with Kurtzman and others who have passed. Kurtzman changed the comics industry forever and influenced a large portion of the writers, editors and artists who are performing today. I have read many accounts of Kurtzman's life and works but this book is the first to put it all together.

2016 Eisner Award Winner for Best Comics-Related Book! 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.