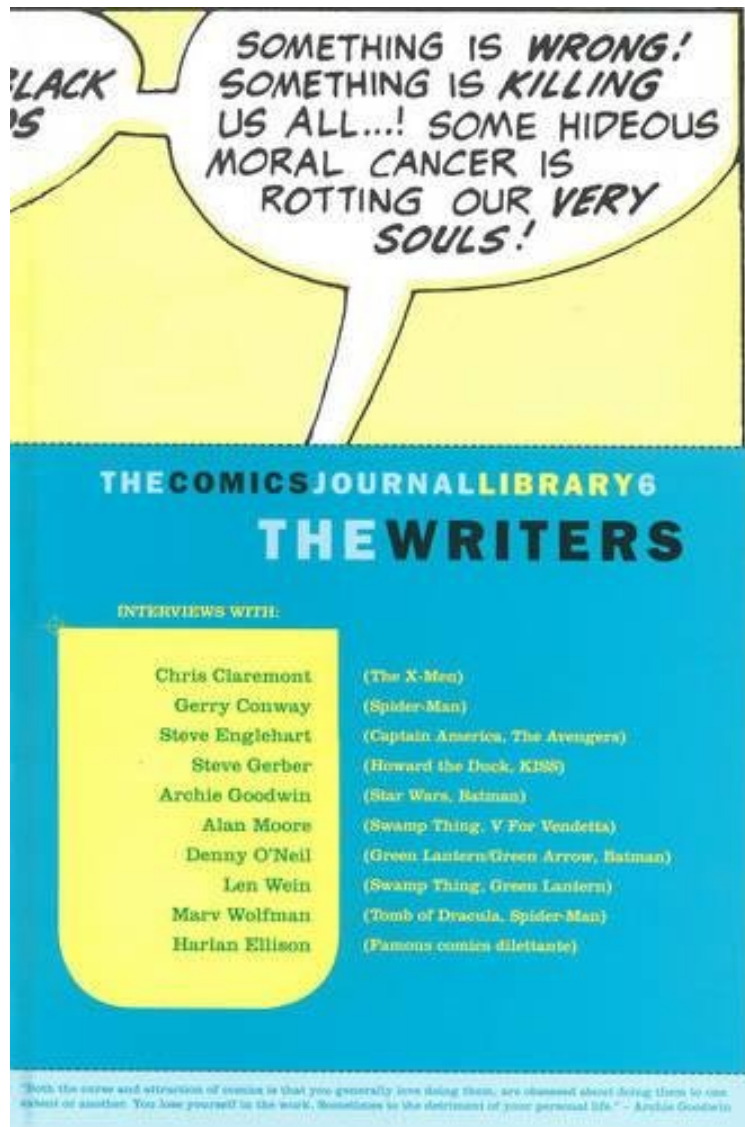


The Comics Journal Library 6: The Writers

Tom Spurgeon

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Tom Spurgeon : The Comics Journal Library 6: The Writers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Comics Journal Library 6: The Writers:

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fascinating to read the writers are all very well known in this field and have much diverse experience all in all a worthwhile buy. thanks

Celebrating the great comic book writers, culled from the pages of America's most respected comics magazine. From the cool passion of sci-fi and occasional comics writer Harlan Ellison to the soap opera explorations and genre twisting of X-Men writer Chris Claremont and Howard the Duck creator Steve Gerber, between 1966 and 1985 a generation of writers emerged that changed the face of American comic books forever. Many were fans every bit as much as they were professionals, creative artists working from an understanding of what felt right on the comics page forged by years of close scrutiny above and beyond the final sales figures. Some were tempered by exposure to new waves in cinema, new voices in writing, and new comics from Europe and Japan. Coming to comics at a time when the financial awards were poor and the chance for ownership of what one created was even poorer, these writers breathed new life into the dying icons of the past. Writers like Len Wein, Steve Englehart, Gerry Conway, Harlan Ellison, Marv Wolfman, Denny O'Neil, Mark Evanier, Mike Baron and Alan Moore infused comics like X-Men, Captain America, and Swamp Thing with a progressive social outlook that ran directly in the face of decades of simplistic might-makes-right pseudo-moralizing. Some made their careers in other writing fields but toiled in comics out of a sense of loyalty and passion; others became comic book writers just out of their teens and never left. They were America's comic book children come home. The Comics Journal Library: The Writers celebrates the ascendancy of writer-driven mainstream comic books with a series of revealing, in-depth interviews, many conducted at the height of their influence. Black-and-white illustrations throughout

From Booklist The artists have long grabbed the most attention in the world of comic books, with writers generally relegated to near invisibility. That began to change in the 1970s, when an influx of new talents brought a contemporary sensibility to comic-book stories. The most prominent of those young Turks spout off in this collection of interviews from the pages of the comics field's leading critical magazine. They include Steve Gerber (Howard the Duck), Marv Wolfman (New Teen Titans), Steve Englehart (The Avengers), Denny O'Neil (Green Lantern), and Chris Claremont (X-Men). Most of them have left direct work in comics and now toil on its periphery, and their often decades-old views on the industry will vitally interest only hardcore fans. The no-holds-barred comments of volatile sf writer Harlan Ellison, who dabbled in comics, constitute a notable exception; in their time, they prompted a suit for libel. The concluding 1984 conversation with Alan Moore, whose Watchmen was about to set comics on its ear, hints at the greater prominence writers have since come to enjoy. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Tom Spurgeon is the co-creator of the award-winning The Comics Reporter, which publishes journalism, criticism, and history, and the co-writer of a Stan Lee biography. He edited The Comics Journal for five years. He currently lives in Ohio, where he is organizing the Cartoon Crossroads Columbus convention.