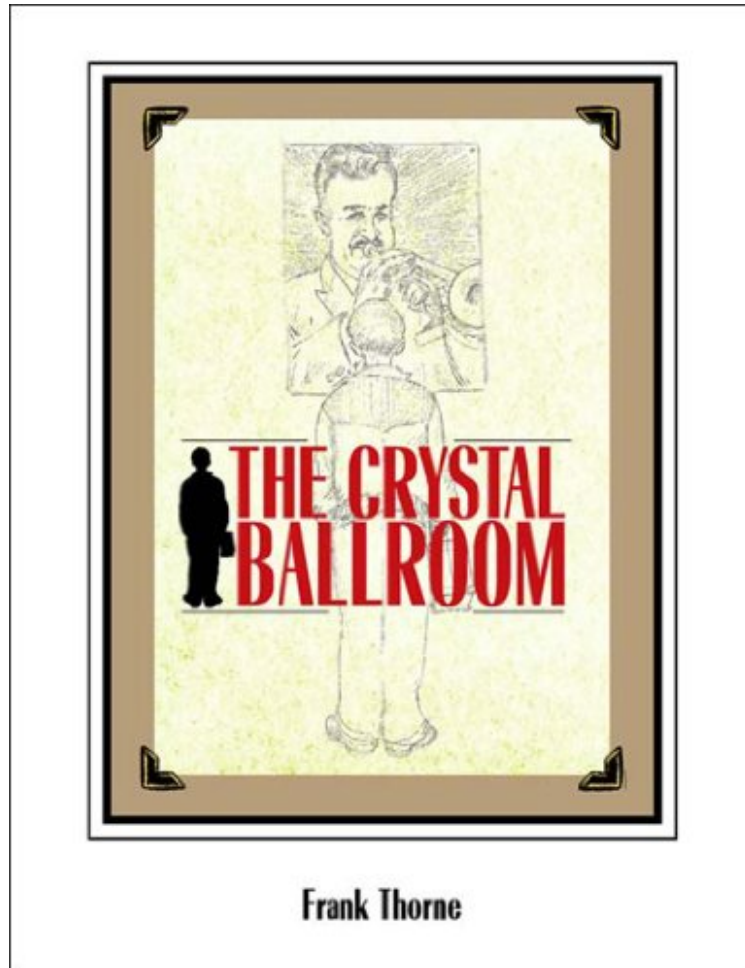


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The Crystal Ballroom

Frank Thorne

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Frank Thorne : The Crystal Ballroom before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crystal Ballroom:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Murph's commentsBy Hugh MurphyThe art work was outstanding. My wife grew up in Rahway and knew some of the characters, the depiction of whom was accurate in both text and illustration. It was an interesting story of the trials of a teenager in the late 40's.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A moving joyrideBy A CustomerThe coming of age story of a musically-inclined Jersey boy in the late 40's, who gets his big break playing his horn at the Crystal Ballroom in Keansburg... and, in the process, discovering the fickle nature of lust and beauty. Told in the prose of a young man, the book channels deep emotions that every adolescent has felt who ever dreamed of grasping the brass ring of his heart's desires. Packed with anecdotes and characters familiar to all, with historically accurate and graphic depictions of life in NJ in 1946. Emotional, funny, and thought provoking, not to mention a compelling read. More than highly recommended!1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. A moving joyride!By weirdmagicThe coming of age story of a musically-inclined Jersey boy in the late 40's, who gets his big break playing his horn at the Crystal Ballroom in Keansburg... and, in the process, discovering the fickle nature of lust and beauty. Told in the prose of a young man, the book channels deep emotions that every adolescent has felt who ever dreamed of grasping the brass ring of his heart's desires. Packed with anecdotes and characters familiar to all, with historically accurate and graphic depictions of life in NJ in 1946. Emotional, funny, and thought provoking, not to mention a compelling read. More than highly recommended!

A Moving And Eloquent Memoir Of A Professional Comic Book Artist. Frank Thorne is one of the most respected and accomplished comic artists of his generation. He began drawing comic in the 1950s and quickly established himself as a supremely competent draftsman and storyteller. By the mid-'80, he found himself drawing Red Sonja, a Conan spin-off for Marvel Comics, and discovered that he bolted from mainstream comics and became one of the preeminent erotic artists of his time. The Crystal Ballroom is Frank Thorne's sequel to his first illustrated autobiography, Drawing Sexy Women--" coming of age in the spring of '46, " as the sub-title has it Thorne describes his growing passion for popular culture--Harry James, Artie Shaw, Satchmo, Betty Grable, Buster Crabbe's Flash Gordon as well as Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon newspaper strip (in The New York Journal American), pulp fiction and movies--his growing interest in drawing and playing the cornet, his budding sexuality, and of course, his dream of playing in The Crystal Ballroom with his jazz idols. By turns an expression of postwar exuberance and bittersweet rite of passage, copiously illustrated with over 80 exquisite pencil drawings by the author that capture the feel of the period and complement the prose, The Crystal Ballroom is the most moving and eloquent memoir of a cartoonist ever written.

About the AuthorFrank Thorne has had an extensive career in comics including working on Red Sonja for Marvel Comics and creating Ghita of Alizar. Thorne's work has also appeared in Heavy Metal and Playboy. He lives in South Plains, New Jersey with his wife.