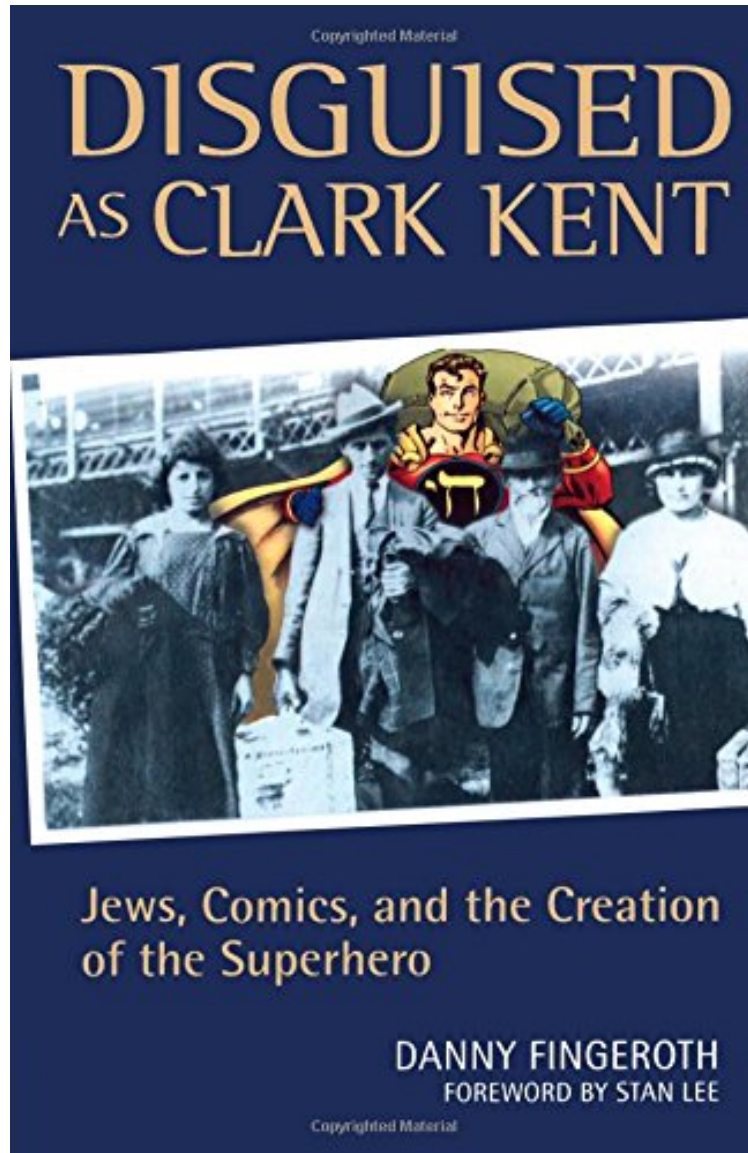


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Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero

Danny Fingeroth

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Danny Fingeroth : Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An eye opener on superhero backgroundBy Elvin OrtizThis text reveals how Superman, Batman, the X-Men, Spiderman, and other popular superheroes show traits of Jewish identity in implicit and explicit ways. Also the lives of superhero creators such as Jerry Siegel, Bob Kane, Will Eisner, Neil Gaiman, Joe Kubert, and others are explored succinctly to show how their Jewish background created and shaped the comic book industry from its inception in the thirties until the present moment. This is a well-documented account of the pervasive influence of Jewish heritage on the superhero genre. Fingeroth also explains why Jewish themes were implicit at first, hinting at the fact that some comic book writers such as Bob Kane hid their Jewish identity; and why these themes became more explicit afterwards. He sees this turning point in the 1960s with the Marvel revival, which is well-documented.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. new insightsBy Joe S.some of the material in this book was not new to me, since I've been reading many books lately on the history of comics, but this book has a lot in it that is new to me. I loved comix as a kid growing up. Now that I learn the story behind them, I have a new appreciation of the subject1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. InformativeBy N. VasBought as a gift for College aged son is using in Thesis, has found informative . He is truly enjoying.,

"Fingeroth's book is an easy, intriguing read, exploring the histories of superheroes and their creators. This is clearly a topic in which Fingeroth is eminently well-versed." -Jewish Book World "Like a Yiddish theater play on the old Jewish Second Avenue, or like a really good comic book, Danny will make you laugh, cry and, best of all, he'll make you think."--From the foreword by Stan LeeIn *Disguised as Clark Kent*, Danny Fingeroth--a long-time executive in the comics business who wrote and edited *Spider-Man* as well as other famous lines for Marvel--reflects on the phenomenon of the heavily Jewish elements that, consciously or not, went into the creation of the superhero. Centering on questions of Jewish identity, which is historically about the push and pull toward and away from that very identity, *Disguised as Clark Kent* brings valuable insight into the fantasies that fuel our imaginations and entertainment industry, as well as many significant and often hidden aspects of our society.

From *Publishers Weekly*Not only do comic book superheroes Batman and Superman disguise themselves to save the world, but, according to former Marvel group editor Fingeroth, they also disguise their Jewish heritage and values. In Fingeroth's debut, he uncovers Jewish themes in comics history, starting with the introduction of Superman in 1938 and ending with a look at what the current crop of Jewish mainstream comics creators are doing with the freedom to explore overtly their religion. Chronicling the creation of each new "Jewish" superhero, Fingeroth notes the concurrent changes in the comic industry, including the audience shift from children to adults and the effect of comic critic Fredric Wertham. Looking back at the gold and silver eras of comics, he uses close reading and artist testimony (Stan Lee, Joe Simon and Will Eisner among them) to explore parallels between Superman and Moses, *Spider-Man's* morality tales and the Torah, *Fantastic Four* arch-nemesis Hate Monger and Hitler, and others. Fingeroth's theories can seem far fetched--Bruce Wayne must be Jewish, Fingeroth claims, because Jewish creator Bob Kane does everything he can not to mention it--there's nothing here that wouldn't be at home (or much appreciated) in a spirited debate among hard core fans. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Like a Yiddish theater play on the old Jewish Second Avenue, or like a really good comic book, Danny will make you laugh, cry and, best of all, he'll make you think." - From the foreword by STAN LEE