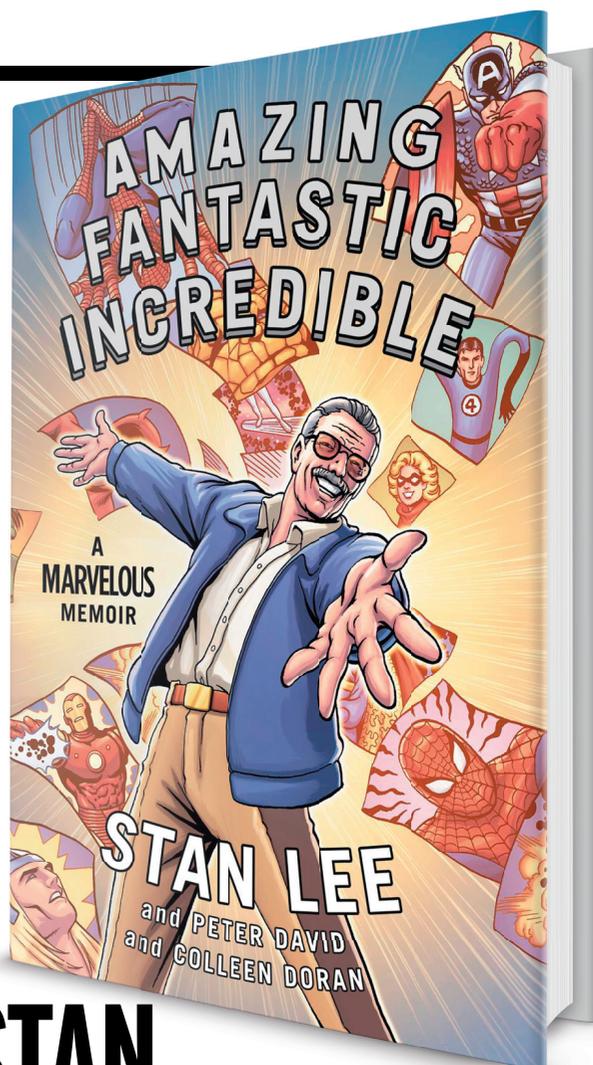




MEMOIR



ALL ACCORDING TO STAN

EMPIRE SPOKE TO COMIC BOOK LEGEND STAN LEE ABOUT HIS NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL **AMAZING FANTASTIC INCREDIBLE: A MARVELOUS MEMOIR** – HERE ARE 10 CHOICE THINGS WE LEARNED...

1 HE'S HAD THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE PULL GUNS ON HIM

During the Jimmy Carter administration, Stan visited the White House with some actors dressed as Marvel characters. All was peachy, until the berk dressed as the Green Goblin decided to scare the bejesus out of Carter's daughter Amy by staying in character. "That was so scary!" recounts Stan the man. "They didn't know who this strangely dressed person was. He was approaching this girl so menacingly, they didn't know what to do! They couldn't afford to take any chances so they pulled their guns on us!"

2 HE LOVES DOING MARVEL MOVIE CAMEOS – UNLESS HE HAS TO DRESS AS HIMSELF

"Each one of them is so much fun," enthuses Stan. "The only thing that's surprising is sometimes I show up to set and I'm told to go to wardrobe, and I

might be wearing jeans and a white T-shirt and white sneakers, and the person in wardrobe says, 'We want you to put on these jeans, and this white T-shirt and these white sneakers.' And I say 'I'm already wearing that!' 'Doesn't matter, you have to wear ours!'" Expect to see him in *Captain America: Civil War*, *Deadpool* and *X-Men: Apocalypse*, too: "Yeah I'll be doing those! I did a great one for *X-Men: Apocalypse* with a guest star, but I can't tell you who it is." Cryptic.

3 HE RECKONS SPIDER-MAN CAN SURVIVE ANOTHER CINEMATIC INCARNATION

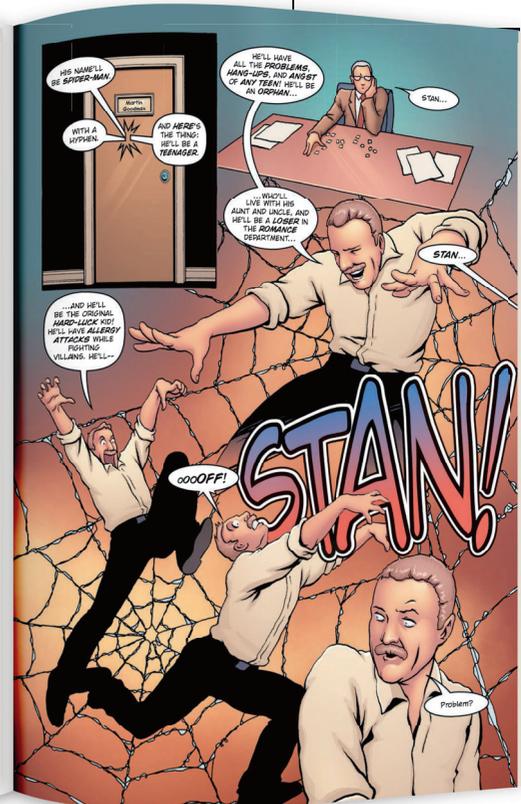
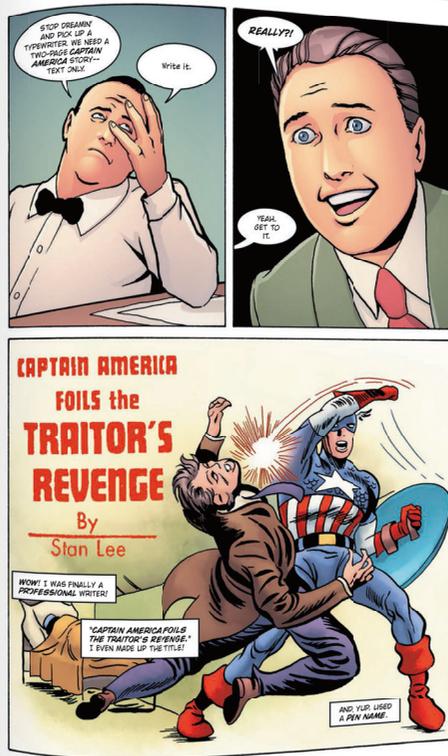
Stan hasn't seen the look of the new Spider-Man (played by Tom Holland), but he's confident the latest take will work. "I think the [Spider-Man] characters are strong, the readers love them, the movie goers love them," he says. "As long as we can keep up the good

stories, why should the interest be any less?" He's also disappointed we never got to see James Cameron's nixed *Spider-Man* movie in the '90s. "He sent me a 50 page treatment, and I tell you, it was wonderful — it would've been a big hit."

4 SPIDER-MAN ALMOST DIDN'T HAPPEN

Back in 1962, Stan Lee's proposal for Spider-Man was unceremoniously shot down by publisher Martin Goodman. "I told him about a new character called 'Spider-Man', and I wanted him to be a teenager with a lot of personal problems," recounts Stan. "And he said 'Stan, that's the worst idea I've ever heard. Don't you realise people hate spiders? You can't call a hero Spider-Man. And you want him to be a teenager? Stan, teenagers can only be sidekicks. And you want him to have personal problems? He's supposed to be a superhero!' So as you

> ROBERT RODRIGUEZ TO HELM ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL > THE NOTEBOOK'S NICK CASSAVETES TO



can gather, he wasn't enthusiastic about my idea. We were killing the magazine called *Amazing Fantasy*, and when you kill a magazine, nobody cares what you put in the final issue. I put Spider-Man in there and featured him on the cover, and the sales came in and it was our best-selling book that month. So my publisher ran in and said 'Stan, do you remember that character of yours, Spider-Man, that we both liked so much? Why don't you do a series about him?' And that is exactly how it happened."

5 BATMAN CREATOR BOB KANE LIKED TO BIG NOTE HIMSELF

Little known fact: Stan was pals with Batman creator Bob Kane. "Bob and I went back a long way," says Stan. "He was very conceited about Batman; he used to rip me about Batman. He'd say 'See! I've got Batman at the movies, he's a big hit, and none of yours are movies yet!' We went out for dinner often, and the minute the waiter would come over he would say 'Do you know who I am? I created Batman!' I'd be so embarrassed that I'd want to crawl under the table. But that was Bob for you!"

"Bob Kane would rip me: 'Batman is a hit and none of yours are movies!'"

6 PAUL MCCARTNEY WANTED STAN TO MAKE A COMIC BOOK FOR HIM

Back in his Wings days, Paul McCartney made Stan an interesting proposition. "He wanted to start a group for his wife called 'Suzy & The Red Stripes', and he wanted me to do a comic book based on that to promote it! So we got friendly, I went to his house. It was very funny, behind the gates there was a Rolls Royce and also a little Morris Minor. It looked as if the Rolls Royce had had a baby."

7 HE USED TO HANG OUT WITH KISS

"When KISS started, Gene Simmons came to my office dressed the way he dresses and said 'Do you think this is gonna catch on with the public?'," says Stan. "I said 'You look ridiculous!' Shows how much I know! [laughs] One time they decided to put KISS blood in the ink at the printing plant so that when the KISS comic book was printed, every issue would have a little bit of KISS blood. They took me to the plant where they stood over the vat of red paint and each KISS member stuck a needle in their finger and let a few drops of blood fall in! I've been involved with some crazy stuff."

Top left: Stan details the creation of Ant-Man.

Top middle: Stan's first comic book writing job was a two-page Captain America tale.

Top right: An excitable Stan details his new idea: a little character called 'Spider-Man'...

8 STAN CAN OFFICIATE YOUR WEDDING

Stan officiated Comic Book Guy's wedding on *The Simpsons*, and he can do it for you, too. "I do that often. When I moved to LA I found a little religion called the Universal Life Church, and for \$25 you could become a minister and perform weddings. So I paid the \$25 and now I'm a Universal Life Minister! So if you ever want to get married or divorced or anything like that, then come to me!"

9 HE'S AWARE PEOPLE COSPLAY AS HIM AT COMIC BOOK CONVENTIONS

"That is the funniest thing," laughs Stan. "They're usually kids, and the father will say 'Look at how I dressed up little Johnny!' He'll show me how he sprayed his kid's hair grey and put a phony moustache on and glasses... I don't know whether to be complimented or annoyed!"

10 IF THEY MAKE A MOVIE OUT OF THE MEMOIR, HE WANTS IN

"Who'd play me? Gee, I dunno," muses Stan. "Errol Flynn isn't around anymore, so that rules him out. And I'd have to have a cameo. They better hurry up and make it while I'm still around!" [laughs]

AMAZING FANTASTIC INCREDIBLE: A MARVELOUS MEMOIR BY STAN LEE, PETER DAVID AND COLLEEN DORAN IS OUT NOVEMBER 3 THROUGH SIMON & SCHUSTER.

DIRECT RONDA ROUSEY IN ROADHOUSE REMAKE > KATE WINSLET TO STAR IN LEE MILLER BIOPIC