

Who Is Stan Lee?



BAM!

POW!!

By
Geoff Edgers

Illustrated by
John Hinderliter

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To my favorite superhero, Cal. For saving the day—GE

For Tessa, who wants to be an artist—JH

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Who Is Stan Lee?

Martin Goodman, the publisher of Timely Comics in New York City, didn't know what to do with the teenager. But the boy was his wife's cousin and she had asked Goodman to hire him. So, just like that, Stanley Martin Lieber was working in the middle of the Golden Age of Comics. As a boy, Stan spent hours curled up with comic books. Now, he was part of that world!



Superheroes were everywhere at Timely. The Human Torch fought bad guys with fire. Namor the Sub-Mariner could fly and breathe underwater, and he was as strong as a thousand men. Captain America began life as a scrawny art student, but turned into a superhero after the US government recruited him for the Super Soldier project.

At first, Stan kept to himself. The artists at Timely were a little scary. They were all older, smoked big cigars, and yelled at each other all day long. What was there for a seventeen-year-old kid from the Bronx to do?

Young Stanley Lieber ran to the deli for sandwiches at lunchtime and made sure the artists' inkwells were full. But he wasn't going to waste a lifetime fetching coffee and answering phones. He had dreams. He was a writer. He wanted to tell stories and maybe someday write the great American novel.



One day, two of Timely Comics' top managers both got angry and quit their jobs. Mr. Goodman needed someone to run the office while he was taking naps or playing golf. He called Stan over and offered him the job.

That's when Stanley Lieber became Stan Lee. In the next half century, he would help create some of America's most famous superheroes, including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Hulk, and the X-Men. He wasn't the

only person who made comic books for a living, but
Stan Lee was the best.