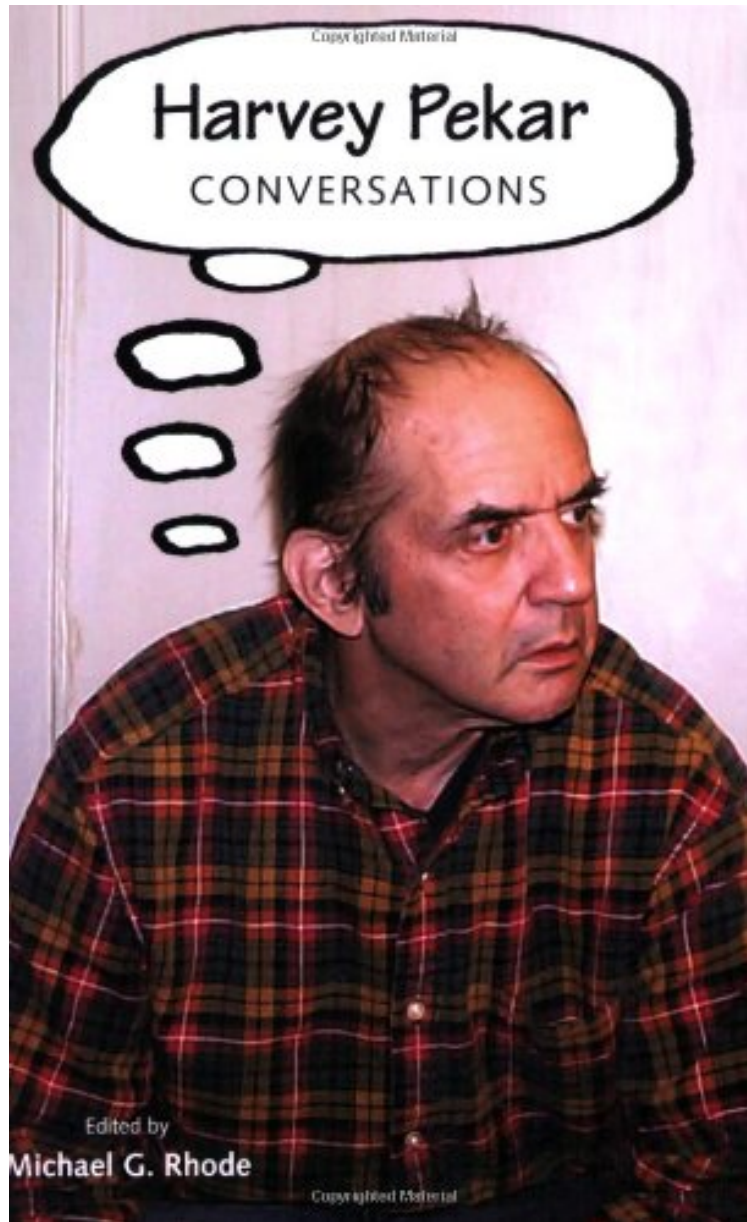


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Harvey Pekar: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series)

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From University Press of Mississippi : Harvey Pekar: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harvey Pekar: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pekar was one of our Great Modern writersBy Frank H. StackAnything Harvey Pekar had to say was pithy and thoughtful. He had that remarkable quality of being able to talk on almost any subject and say something refreshing.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Inside the mind of an American treasureBy Mike EverlethEven though my own interview with Harvey Pekar from 1999 (before he was a movie star) may be included in this book, as a lifelong American Splendor fan, I would have given Conversations a home on the Pekar-dedicated shelf of my bookcase even if I wasn't in it.What's fascinating about Harvey is that even if you've read all of his comics work from the past 30 years and seen the Splendor film, there's still more to learn about this incredible writer. Editor Michael Rhode has assembled a fantastic collection of diverse interviews with Harvey from 1984 to 2007. That Rhode dug up my own brief and obscure interview on a dead website just proves how far he went to dig up great material. There are interviews from print magazines, online sites and also the occasional transcript of a radio show and an excellent two-day comic book convention panel dedicated to Harvey that Rhode himself moderated.Harvey has had such a long writing career and has so many devoted fans because he's such an excellent storyteller. Every interview here has some sort of interesting tidbit or revelation or insight from Harvey that lets us know him even better, even when us fans thought we knew all there is to know. Also nice are the interviews that include Harvey's wife, Joyce Brabner, that give us a different perspective on our man.And more, I think this book will appeal to those who aren't so devoted to Harvey. This is just an insightful look into the mind of a true American treasure and a master storyteller. For anyone who wants an intimate look into a writer's process as he's created a nearly 40 year narrative out of his own life, this book should prove a highly entertaining read. I am humbled to have been a part of it.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A look at a complicated and fascinating manBy CustomerThough perhaps best known to the public at large as the subject of HBO's "American Splendor" film, Harvey Pekar is much more than just another entry on Paul Giamatti's IMDB. Pekar is a hospital file clerk, a pioneer in the field of autobiographical comics, an often remarkable jazz critic, a curmudgeon, a- well, believe me, I could go on and on. Michael Rhode was carefully chosen the interviews in this book to illuminate the many different facets of Pekar- and he draws them from often unexpected sources (who knew that a website devoted to the pleasures of movie nudity once featured a chat with Pekar?)One of Pekar's most memorable achievements in comics is "Our Cancer Year," a book length volume that explored his struggle with serious illness. In some of the more memorable interviews collected here, Pekar offers genuine wisdom and insight to those who may be experiencing medical problems of their own. I've had health problems in my own family and so I was really able to appreciate the truth of what Pekar has to say. Pekar's words have affected other patients as well; when I was in the hospital a few years back I saw someone reading "Our Cancer Year." He told me it was suggested by the head of his cancer support group. It's a book that's helped people. And yet it represents only one part of Harvey Pekar. Read "Conversations" to get to know the whole man.

Harvey Pekar's American Splendor is the longest-running and arguably the most influential autobiographical comic book series produced in America. Since 1976, Pekar (b. 1939) has reported on his life through his comics. Pekar's comic books deal with his life as a Veterans Administration clerk and freelance music critic; his friends and co-workers and their stories; and his home city of Cleveland. Pekar's struggles with physical and mental problems, a low-paying job, Hollywood, marriage, his daughter's adoption, and success are all laid out in his comics. Pekar prides himself on depicting his life in all its "splendor." Harvey Pekar: Conversations offers almost twenty-five years of interviews from a variety of sources including small fanzines, local public radio shows, and the Washington Post. The volume reveals his thoughts and feelings about comics, autobiography, his appearances on David Letterman's show in the 1980s, his life with cancer, and how a successful 2003 movie adaptation of American Splendor has changed and not changed his life. His comics work has won the National Book Award, spawned theatrical productions, and served as the basis for the award-winning movie starring Paul Giamatti as Pekar.

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the International Journal of Comic Art. His work has been published in the Comics Journal and Hogan's Alley.