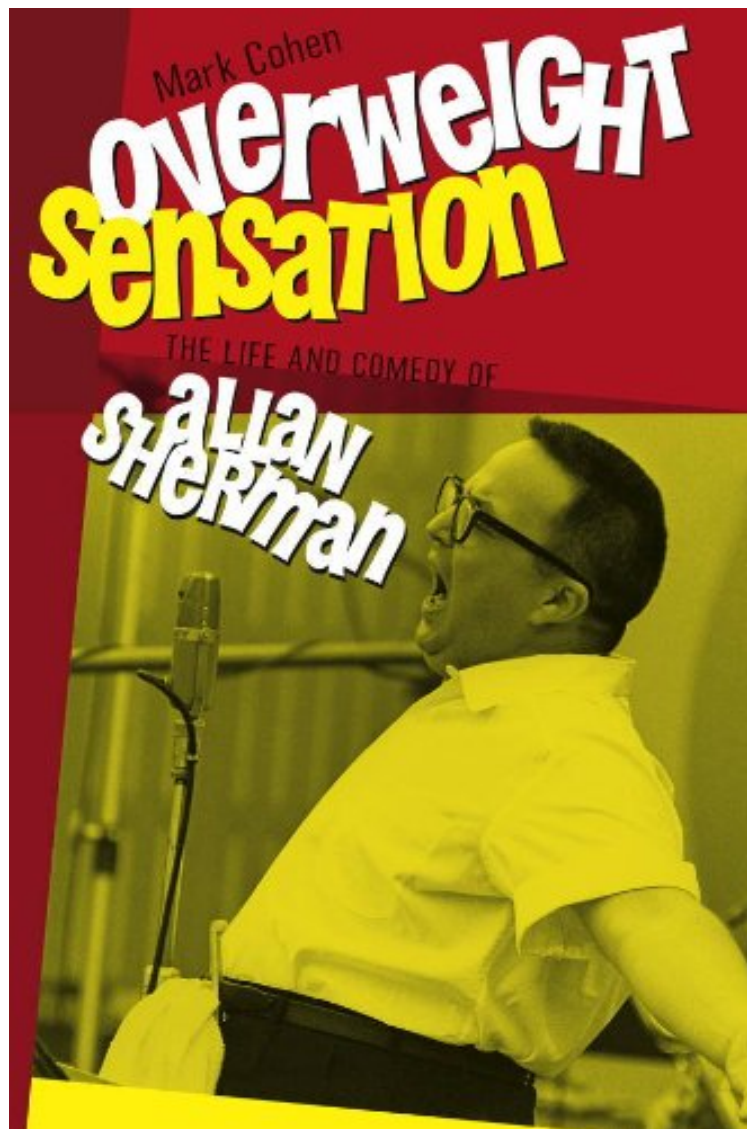


[Ebook pdf] Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life)

Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life)

Mark Cohen

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#140818 in Books 2013-05-14Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.24 x 1.19 x 6.38l, 1.58 #File Name: 1611682568320 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Mark Cohen : **Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Overweight Sensation: The Life and Comedy of Allan Sherman (Brandeis Series in American Jewish History, Culture, and Life):

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for Swinging Livers
By Jason Fogelson
If you grew up listening to Allan Sherman's great records like I did, you will be fascinated by Mark Cohen's scholarly, yet readable, biography. Sherman's life was tragic, fraught with childhood trauma and adult excesses. Cohen renders his narrative into a clear-eyed tale that neither excuses nor demonizes this troubled artist. I came away from the book with a much greater understanding and appreciation for Allan Sherman - and for the talents of Mark Cohen.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Some words on Allan Sherman from a Borscht Belt Indian Poet
By Susan Deer Cloud
I noticed this book because I am an alumna of Binghamton University (once Harpur College) and the book was mentioned in B.U. alumnae magazine ... Mark Cohen happens to be an alumnus. Well, a Harpur College man who had written a book about Allan Sherman whose parodies I first heard in the early 1960s ... THAT just had to be good, and so I bought the book for my boyfriend who probably has every song Allan Sherman ever wrote. *Overweight Sensation* met up to my expectations ... and then some. Mark Cohen does a remarkable job of writing about one highly creative individual's life while weaving it in with the history of Jews in America beginning in the late 19th century and spanning the decades from then until the 1970s ... especially Jews in show business and music industry. I was born and grew up in the Borscht Belt and truly appreciated Allan Sherman embracing his "Jewishness" while others were doing whatever they could to assimilate into "White" American society. Cohen conveys the complexity of Sherman's life, the admirable aspects of the man as well as some of his self-destructive and destructive flaws. As with any good biographer, Adam Cohen brings respect and balance to his subject matter and to why comedian-songster Sherman was as he was. The author really conveys so much of Jewish culture, transition and transformation in America. Great read ... I learned a lot ... I laughed a lot. And I cried some. Oi.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and Worthwhile Bio On This Forgotten Phenom
By Bennett Cohen
I enjoyed the book immensely. Great detail about Sherman's career, his complex childhood, his personal demons, with the American Jewish experience weaved throughout. I did find some of the psychoanalyzing a bit far-fetched. And the editing could have been tighter - people introduced and then reintroduced an so on. But those are minor quibbles. If you are interested in Sherman, humor, 1950s and 1960s pop culture, and the American Jewish experience you will love this book. Also interesting were parallels between Sherman and Paul Lynde (see "Center Square") - Problems with weight, talent emerging in high school and college outlets, self-hatred, substance abuse problems, edgy sexuality, early deaths. One importance difference - Sherman appeared to have been a nice guy. Paul Lynde wasn't.

In *Overweight Sensation*, Mark Cohen argues persuasively for Sherman's legacy as a touchstone of postwar humor and a turning point in Jewish American cultural history. With exclusive access to Allan Sherman's estate, Cohen has written the first biography of the manic, bacchanalian, and hugely creative artist who sold three million albums in just twelve months, yet died in obscurity a decade later at the age of forty-nine. Comprehensive, dramatic, stylish, and tragic, *Overweight Sensation* is destined to become the definitive Sherman biography.

From Booklist
In this entertaining biography of song parodist and comedian Allan Sherman, who wrote and sang the iconic hit *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah!*, Cohen shows that Sherman was the Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld, and Weird Al Yankovic of 1963. The account details Sherman's childhood, his comedy breakthrough, his struggle to adjust to fame, and his decline and untimely death at 48 in 1973. The opening section, covering Sherman's family and childhood, is slow going, but Cohen hits his stride when he tackles Sherman's comedy career, offering insightful and witty analysis of the song lyrics and explaining how his subjects' comedy impacted all strata of American society (it didn't hurt, Cohen notes, that JFK was a fan). Finally, Cohen sees Sherman's life as a case study of how immigrants chose between assimilating or maintaining tradition (or struggling to do both) and an example of how postwar American Jews broke into the mainstream, bringing with them a richness of wit and language. In bringing context to the life of a now largely forgotten one-hit wonder, Cohen adds a valuable chapter to the history of American popular culture. Song lyrics are appended, along with hints on how to find Sherman's vinyl albums on CD. --John Rowen
"exhaustive and gripping new biography, *Overweight Sensation*"-- *The Forward*
"[Sherman] did as much as anyone to bring Jews out of the American pop-culture closet. One can hope that, thanks to Cohen, his legacy is now safe." - *Tabletmag.com*
"*Overweight Sensation* is a remarkably well-researched, passionately written story of quite nearly tragic proportions."-- Eric Alterman, co-author of *The Cause: The Fight for American Liberalism* from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama and *The Nation* columnist
"A penetrating biography by a savvy observer of show business." -- Jonathan Kirsch, *The Jewish Journal*
"told with intimate details, an affectionate touch of humanity and lots of [Sherman's] parody lyrics in the well-researched book *Overweight Sensation*." -- *The Hollywood Reporter*
"Lively and meticulously researched." -- *Chicago Tribune*
"You rarely come away from a portrait of a comedian understanding so totally why he and his work mattered and how they mattered."-- Mark Evanier, *News From Me*
"a well thought out cultural history of Jewish Americans in the mid- to late 20th century." -- *Library Journal*
"Mark Cohen's masterful, critical biography, '*Overweight Sensation*.'" -- Daniel Kimmel, *The Jewish Advocate*
From the Inside Flap
Allan Sherman was the Larry David, the Adam Sandler, the Sacha Baron Cohen of 1963. He led Jewish humor and sensibilities out of ethnic enclaves and into the American mainstream with explosively funny parodies of classic songs

that won Sherman extraordinary success and acclaim across the board, from Harpo Marx to President Kennedy. For the first time since vaudeville, Jewish dialect humor spread to mainstream culture and led to fame and fortune. Ethnicity was back.