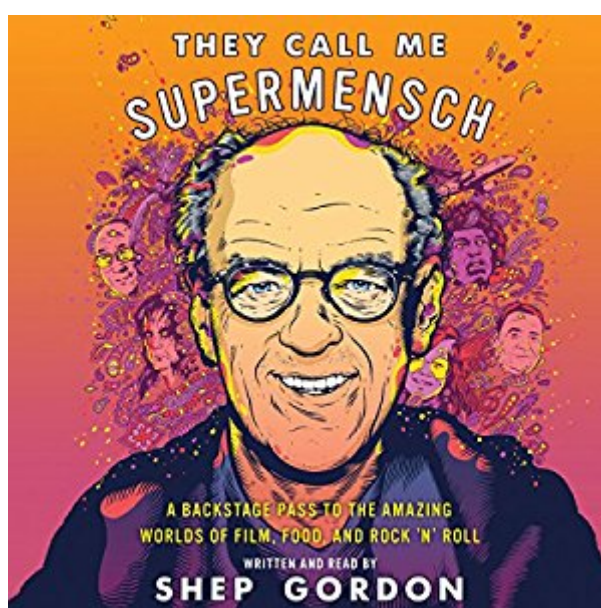


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# They Call Me Supermensch: A Backstage Pass To The Amazing Worlds Of Film, Food, And Rock'n'Roll



## Synopsis

An eye-popping peek into the entertainment industry from the magnetic force who has worked with an impeccable roster of stars throughout his storied career. In the course of his legendary career as a manager, an agent, and a producer, Shep Gordon has worked with and befriended some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry, from Alice Cooper to Bette Davis, Raquel Welch to Groucho Marx, Blondie to Jimi Hendrix, Sylvester Stallone to Salvador Dali, Luther Vandross to Teddy Pendergrass. He is also credited with inventing the "celebrity chef" and has worked with Nobu Matsuhisa, Emeril Lagasse, Wolfgang Puck, Roger Vergé, and many others, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In this wonderfully engaging memoir, the charismatic entertainment legend recalls his life, from his humble beginnings as a "shy, no self-esteem Jewish nebbisher kid with no ambition" in Oceanside, Long Island, to his unexpected rise as one of the most influential and respected personalities in show business, revered for his kindness, charisma - and fondness for a good time. Gordon shares riotous anecdotes and outrageous accounts of his freewheeling, globe-trotting experiences with some of the biggest celebrities of the past five decades, including his first meeting with Janice Joplin in 1968, when the raspy singer punched him in the face. Told with incomparable humor and heart, *They Call Me Supermensch* is a sincere, hilarious behind-the-scenes look at the worlds of music and entertainment from the consummate Hollywood insider.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First off, please note that I received a free advanced copy of the book in exchange for my honest feedback. I was so excited to get this opportunity and when I got my copy, I couldn't put it down. Over the past few years, many of my favorite artists have released their autobiographies. It is so enjoyable to read the stories behind the "idols" I had discovered along my rock and roll journey. I've also been thrilled to see the release of autobiographies of those connected to those that inspired me throughout my life and Shep Gordon's "They Call Me Supermensch" is certainly one of those. The most important thing I look for when reading these autobiographies is that the author must not only be able to tell the story that the fans already know but to do it in a way that is unique to the author's personality and Shep Gordon certainly does this. The way he relates his story is genuine and sincere. When I began reading the book, it was as if he and I were sitting down having a wonderful conversation about his life. I enjoyed the magnificent stories, the anecdotes and the reoccurring theme of various lessons on life. I hadn't read too far into the book when I ran across the statement, "create history, don't wait for it to happen." At that point I knew there would be many gems to follow and was not disappointed. I also need the author to relate something new to stories I am familiar with and again, Shep Gordon manages to do so. Whether it was his initial meeting with the Alice Cooper Group or the Dalai Lama, he was able to bring, not only a different perspective to the event, he was able to share some new information and in most cases an after-story to go with it. When reading autobiographies, I am also looking for inspiration. I love the stories of celebrities that made it, lost it and regained it. Whether it is through religion, self-preservation or a 12-step program, whenever the person has overcome personal tragedy it is an inspiration and Shep shared a few of these. I know it can be difficult to share such stories with the public as they are so personal, but in doing so, Shep offers an inspiration or a different way of looking at the situations. As to the content of the book, Shep manages to cover the stories that anyone who even remotely knows who he is can appreciate. But if you are looking for 300 pages of Shep and Alice Cooper, you will not find it here. There is enough of Alice and their dealings together but you soon discover that Shep Gordon is more than Alice Cooper's manager. You will get the pre-Cooper stories, which are essential in building the character of Shep Gordon, you will get his entry into band management and then you will get to be entertained as he takes you on the journey of his life into areas that it is safe to say most people don't know. His experiences with Raquel, Groucho, Vergil and the many other great chefs are wonderfully shared and again so insightful. I've

shared the chef's stories with several cooking friends and of course they never knew. To me, this speaks to the second point above. Bringing something new to the masses. When I got to the Salvador Dali part, I was so inspired that I went to the Dali museum's website and purchased the 3-D crystal of Alice. Again, to me, that is what a good author will do. I've also purchased another 3 copies to share with friends. Buy the book. You will not be disappointed. As you read through these pages, I hope you will find the stories as interesting and inspirational as I did.

I'll only give this 3 stars. I read this as I was always a fan of Alice Cooper. Shep obviously had a big part in Alice's success, and has done a lot of impressive things in his life. However, he is somewhat of an elitist. Which is strange coming from someone who basically bought his college degree (from now on I'll throw away any resume from the University of Buffalo based on his discussion of his education, or lack of one, there). He also mentions several times where he felt he wasn't getting the due respect -- albeit having to sit in a restaurant with the "common" people, or not liking what room a hotel gave him. An "ok" book, he does have some good points people can learn from (including his coupon theory, and his guilt by association theory), so anyone going into promotion or artist management should read this, but he labors way too long on his Chef Association, and somehow, I think he's glossed over many of his other ventures, as I truly doubt if they all jumped off the ground as successfully as he states. He basically gone from someone I would have liked to meet, to someone I could care less about meeting.

I just spent seven hours laid out in my comfy island bungalow with a bottle of Otago Pinot, Kingfish sashimi, lulled by incredible jazz and reading through the entire 300+ page book of Shep Gordon titled "They Call Me Supermensch". I couldn't put it down since I downloaded it off earlier today through the somewhat dicky Internet connection that sprinkles on Lord Howe Island where I'm spending two weeks turning off my life in a way. I am so blessed to have lived the life I have filled with music, books, connectivity, great food, fine wine and those people (and animals) I have been fortunate enough to love in my life. Like Shep, I say "Thank You!" Every morning when I wake up to the dawn and again every night after sunset. I've also been blessed to have crossed paths in my music business career with Shep whose book has kept me roaring with laughter over his tales as well as reaffirming my path to enlightenment (often rocky) parallel to his. Everybody who knows the man probably has a great 'Shep Story' so here's mine. Fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta, mid 70s, halfway through a grueling concert with Todd Rundgren that I was stage managing for promoter

Alex Cooley. I normally ran a VERY tight backstage security-wise and I was taking a short break on the stone steps of the BS entrance to breathe some fresh air when this drunken, coked-out version of Groucho Marx rocks up to the door demanding to be let in. No laminate, no satin cloth crack 'n' peel stage pass... So I stonewalled him. He gave the standard "Do you know who I am?" Ploy and gave his name as Shep Gordon. I said "Oh! Now I know, you are partners with the other two stooges (referring to Larry and Mo). The promoter happens to come out a few minutes later to catch a breath and he sees Shep waiting and is aghast that he has not been let in. At the time, Shep managed Alice Cooper and more than a few other rock and R&B stars. Alex apologized but kept my back explaining I was just doing my job. Shep went in and said "I'll make this a night to remember." As if, I thought, he might try to get me fired. Not so. Half a hour later I was back side stage as the show was winding down to last song before encore (Todd Rundgren) when across the stage from behind the side curtains, a naked man bolts along the front of the stage coming towards me. I get ready to tackle the blatant stalker but 20 feet before he could get to me, he drops out of sight as if by magic! I was stunned! Then I realized that he had run straight over the small pit where the Mighty Moller grand organ was below the stage and fallen in. Fortunately, he had only fallen about two meters and we had padded the organ so he wasn't hurt, just dazed. Turns out it was Shep... A real night to remember. Since then it's been shows with his clients Rick James, Teddy Pendergrass, Luther Vandross and encounters with his managed chefs that crossed our paths again, most recently a few times in Maui. I've put him forward to speak at SXSW in March and hope we can laugh again, sip a little wine and break bread. By the way, get the book. It's just been released and it's fabulous.

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