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Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume 1



Synopsis

Presenting a deluxe hardcover collection of Chester Gould's timeless comic strip, Dick Tracy. The first volume of this multi-year project will include the five sample strips that Gould used to sell his groundbreaking strip, as well as nearly 500 comic strips encompassing the series' beginning, from October 1931-May 1933. Among these strips are the first appearance of many long-time Dick Tracy characters, such as Tess Truehart, Junior and Chief Brandon. This special first volume features an overview and introduction from Consulting Editor and writer Max Allan Collins, as well as a never-before-published interview between Collins and creator Chester Gould. Each volume will feature book design from award-winning designer/artist Ashley Wood.-The Library of American Comics is the world's #1 publisher of classic newspaper comic strips, with 14 Eisner Award nominations and three wins for best book. LOAC has become "the gold standard for archival comic strip reprints...The research and articles provide insight and context, and most importantly the glorious reproduction of the material has preserved these strips for those who knew them and offers a new gateway to adventure for those discovering them for the first time.â • - Scoop

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is becoming clear that our society has entered a golden era of comic strip reprints. Along with this handsome volume of early Tracy from IDW Publishing, fans can enjoy beautiful, hardcover editions of Gasoline Alley (from Drawn and Quarterly Press) and complete reprints of Krazy Kat, Peanuts, Dennis the Menace, and Popeye (all from Fantagraphics Books); as well as a complete collection of

Little Nemo in Slumberland 1904-1914 (Evergreen Press). Some of these titles, like the aforementioned Gasoline Alley (being reprinted as Walter and Skeezix) and Dick Tracy are multi-volume, multi-year projects. In the case of the gorgeous and important Gasoline Alley reprints from Drawn and Quarterly, the complete collection will run over 20 volumes. I have a feeling that we have only seen the beginning of these prestigious, complete hardcover treatments for comic reprints. Many equally deserving strips linger now in incomplete soft cover editions and await this regal reassessment; most notably Little Orphan Annie, Terry and the Pirates, and the Katzenjammer Kids. But about the Complete Dick Tracy 1931-1933: What makes these years of Dick Tracy so compelling is that Chester Gould was one of the first comic strip artists to bring both a sense of realism and violence to the comic page - with the emphasis on violence. Men and women were shot dead on the panels of Dick Tracy, portrayed in Gould's brutal black and white at the moment of terminal impact. In one story arc, a mob boss ties Tracy to a chair, removes his shoes and socks, and goes to work on his bare feet with a blowtorch. Yes, this certainly wasn't Polly and her Friends or Harold Teen (and it is noteworthy that Tracy cracked under this torture, adding another layer of realism).

Comics Buyer's Guide reviewer Tony Isabella gives IDW's TRACY "5 Tonys" Comics icon Dick Tracy recently celebrated his 75th anniversary and I can't think of a better way to commemorate that success than IDW's The Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy, Volume One [\$29.99]. Hard-hitting police action, unforgettable villains, tragic losses, the science of crime-fighting, and the camaraderie of the cops who put their lives on the line to protect and serve. The Gould/Tracy legacy inspired so many other great works of detective fiction: Bob Kane and Bill Finger's Batman, Dragnet, Ed McBain's 87th Precinct, all the way to C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation and its spin-offs, and so many others. But, when you travel back past the progeny of creator and creation, and even going back to the earliest years of Tracy, you arrive at cracking good stories that can captive today's reader as much as they did the readers of 1931. This first volume has all the Tracy daily strips from October 12, 1931 through May 20, 1933. The Sunday strips didn't tie into the daily continuity until May 29, 1932, and this volume reprints those Sundays to that point and in color. The remaining Sunday strips appear in the daily continuity, albeit in black-and-white. But, wait, there's more. This first volume also includes an introduction by Max Allen Collins, author of Road to Perdition and dozens of exciting novels, of great comics like Ms. Tree and C.S.I., of the Tracy strip from 1977 to 1993, and of sharp suspense films like Mommy and Real Time: Siege at Lucas Market; the first part of an interview with Gould conducted by Collins and Matt Masterson in September, 1980; and, most

cool of all, the "Plain Clothes Tracy" strips Gould created to pitch his new hero to newspaper syndicates.

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