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Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume 2 (v. 2)



Synopsis

Presenting a deluxe hardcover collection of Chester Gould's timeless comic strip, Dick Tracy. The second volume of this multi-year project includes nearly 500 comic strips from May 1933 to January 1935. This special second volume also features an exclusive essay from Consulting Editor and longtime Tracy writer Max Allan Collins. 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

This review is from my "Tony's Tips" column in COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE...I planned to pace myself reading The Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume Two [IDW Publishing; \$29.99], but that plan went awry pretty quick. This volume reprints the strip - both dailies and Sundays - from May 21, 1933 to January 29, 1935. As author and Gould successor Max Allan Collins recounts in his introduction to this volume, Gould was learning while he was earning, refining his storytelling while creating one of the most exciting comic strips of all time. The action moved as fast as speeding bullets and it often seemed like Tracy or sidekick Junior or girlfriend Tess were in mortal

peril weekly. It must have been maddening for readers of the era to have to wait an entire day to find out what would happen to Gould's good guys and bad guys. I breezed through eight months' of the strip in a morning and couldn't turn the pages fast enough. I'd still be reading if I didn't have to stop to write this review. The sacrifices I make for you...Tracy has already amassed a number of mortal enemies as this volume opens and their aggregate hankering to rid themselves of the detective puts him and his loved ones in life-threatening peril on a far too frequent basis. But the hatred of the villains is just as likely to work against them. It's a dangerous dance and there are casualties on both sides. Junior emerges as a star in his own right during these strips. He's smart, tough, and a crack shot. But, just when you think he's invincible, his youthful naivety gets him into a seemingly hopeless jam. No wonder he was such a popular character back in the day. Indeed, the more I read of these early strips, the more I'm convinced he was the main inspiration for Batman's Robin.

I had a brief interest in Dick Tracy after the release of the 1990 film and bought several books that collected the early strips. Although the movie was just ok as far as I'm concerned I was intrigued by the grotesque villains, many of which appeared for just a moment or two in the film. Volume 2 spans the years 1933 to 1935 which is prior to the more famous villains. Recognizable villains in this volume include Steve the Tramp and Big Boy, who was intended to be recognized as Al Capone not a giant shouldered Al Pacino in a purple suit and pancake makeup. Also featured in volume 2 is "Stooge" Viller who does appear in the 1990 film for the blink of an eye. Chester Gould has a very unstructured writing style. The storylines blend into each other rather than containing an obvious beginning and ending. A minor character in one part of the story may grow into a major character later on. It often feels as if Gould is making it up as he goes along and sometimes that works. Life isn't a structured story and Gould tries to make his stories somewhat realistic. On the other hand I tend to prefer a story that's plotted out ahead of time and the meandering storylines tend to feel disorganized. What shocked me the most was the level of realistic violence. Dick Tracy is assisted at one point by a rather stereotypical looking British detective with an amusing moustache. The American cops giggle at his comical appearance but he proves to be a very competent detective. That is until he is beaten near to death by Steve the Tramp and left paralyzed. His humorous introduction makes the violence inflicted upon him all the more shocking and horrifying and it's not just good folks who take punishment. Steve the Tramp absorbs near fatal injuries twice and finds himself more and more fearful.

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