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The Adventures Of Tintin, Vol. 1 (Tintin In America / Cigars Of The Pharaoh / The Blue Lotus)



Synopsis

Three classic graphic novels in one deluxe hardcover edition: Tintin in America, Cigars of the Pharaoh, and The Blue Lotus.

Book Information

Series: Tintin (Book 1)

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (May 2, 1994)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 164 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #30,781 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Children's Books >

Comics & Graphic Novels > Action & Adventure #495 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

#1348 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Hergé©, one of the most famous Belgians in the world, was a comics writer and artist. The internationally successful Adventures of Tintin are his most well-known and beloved works. They have been translated into 38 different languages and have inspired such legends as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. He wrote and illustrated for The Adventures of Tintin until his death in 1983.

Long before Steven Spielberg discovered Tintin, I was reading his comic book adventures in both English and French. (In English, you pronounce his name Tin-Tin, while in French, you pronounce it Tan-Tan.) When my wife and I visited Quebec City one summer, I bought several French versions of Tintin in a local bookstore. They have given me hours of pleasure. The Adventures of Tintin, vol. 1 (2007) is an omnibus of three early Tintin adventures: Tintin in America, The Cigars of the Pharaoh, and The Blue Lotus. The last two are direct sequels to one another, with Lotus continuing the plot of Pharaoh. I believe that they have a freshness that is lacking in some of the later adventures. The setting of the stories is a bit dated. There are speakeasies and Chicago

gangsters in America. (Al Capone makes a brief appearance.) And the Japanese are invading China and walking out of the League of Nations in Lotus. But I'm glad that no attempt was made to modernize them. The thirties flavor is part of their charm. These adventures take place before the entrance of the bibulous Captain Haddock and the auditorily challenged Professor Calculus. But that ever faithful dog Snowy is there, and the Chinese boy, Chang. And so are those bowler-hatted detectives, the Thom(p)son twins; though in these stories, they are more concerned with arresting Tintin for crimes that he didn't commit than with helping him. That villainous seaman Allan makes his first appearance in Cigars. He will make a later appearance in The Crab with the Golden Claws. The stories are Saturday afternoon serial adventures laced with slapstick humor. Tintin is tossed into the river, falls off of cliffs, faces firing squads, is lost at sea in a coffin, is toppled into meat grinding machinery, is caught by a snare (in a straight jacket, no less), has boulders toppled towards him, is tied up on a railroad track... and frequently escapes only by means of outrageous luck. Some readers have objected to some of these methods of escape as relying too much upon coincidence. I believe that they miss the point. The sheer outlandish nature of some of the escapes is all part of the humor. The artwork is terrific. Hergé is especially good with elaborate machines: ocean liners, sailboats, roadsters, airplanes, trains, and guns. But then there are the wonderful landscapes of Arabian cities, Singapore, the Indian jungle, and the Sahara Desert. And there are also animals: horses, mountain lions, deer, tigers, and Chinese dragons. My one quibble is that the size of the book is smaller than the originals, shrinking the print and preventing the pictures from having their full effect.

All three adventures in this collection - Tintin in America, Cigars of the Pharaoh, and The Blue Lotus - are of an early vintage, with neither the Thomson twins, nor Capt'n Haddock or Calculus having made their appearances... Nonetheless these are all excellent reads. In Tintin in America our reporter friend goes to the US of A to rid the city of Chicago of the menace of Al Capone, and succeeds, but not before being captured by native Americans, surviving an attempted lynching, surviving being tied and laid on railway tracks, and being thrown in a river with huge dumbbells tied to his feet... You get the picture - never a dull moment. The Blue Lotus is a favourite of mine, probably because I laid hands on this one after I had read every other Tintin, and had been wanting to read this one for a long, long time. And it does not disappoint. With a liberal dose of history thrown in, with some politically correct pointers in international relations thrown in for good effect. This and Tintin in Tibet are connected, though you can read one without having to read the other. All in all - worth every penny (or cent or paisa....) As they say in India - paisa vasool, or the return on

investment is awesome!

The good news: Volume One of the Adventures of Tintin contains three early stories by Belgian cartoonist Herge about his iconic cartoon hero, the young journalist and adventurer Tintin. The bad news: the small format of these books doesn't do justice to Herge's distinctive artwork. In "Tintin in America", the crusading reporter Tintin and his faithful dog Snowy take on the Chicago mob. In a story laden with mob stereotypes, Tintin survives one dangerous encounter after another, finally ending up out West in pursuit of a fleeing mob boss. The two will play cowboy and Indian in a thrilling finale. In "Cigars of the Pharaoh", Tintin and Snowy run afoul of a drug-smuggling operation while visiting Egypt on a cruise ship. The chase takes Tintin to the desert, the Red Sea, and finally to the jungles of India for a showdown with the drug gang. This adventure is noteworthy for introducing the bumbling detectives Thompson and Thomson, and recurring villain Rastapopolus. "The Blue Lotus" has Tintin and Snowy continuing their pursuit of the drug smugglers into war-torn China. Tintin takes refuge at the International Settlement in Shanghai, where he befriends the young boy Chang, and where he finds much official corruption and personal danger. Herge did extensive research in support of his carefully detailed plots, some of which are now a bit dated. Fans will often forgive the storylines for the sake of Herge's simple yet wonderfully detailed artwork, and for that, this reviewer recommends a larger format, if you can find it.

Some reviews have made note of the size. I think this is a good size for reading. I purchased this collection to have an English companion for the Chinese volumes I bought to practice reading Chinese. I think they're a good size. I did however have the same comment about the size with the Chinese versions. With Chinese characters, when the font gets smaller, some of the busy characters are hard to read. To a native reader/speaker it shouldn't be a problem, but for a learner it's a little small. So this may be small for some, but I think the size is just fine (English letters aren't nearly as busy as most Chinese characters).

Good way to start someone off on one of my favorite comic book characters. Tintin is a European classic. He is a boy reporter involved in espionage and world events. However, this edition is troublesome because of the size. Though the European style comics are more art-deco and simple than Marvel or DC, this is roughly half the size of the original broad sheets, making it harder to read.

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