

Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume 9

Chester Gould

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Chester Gould : Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume 9 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complete Chester Gould's Dick Tracy Volume 9:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dick Tracy at his BestBy David SwanVolume 9 continues the storyline with Flattop Jones that started in volume 8. Flattop ends up in a most unexpected team-up with the overacting ham, Vitamin Flintheart. Having finished the story I'm curious as to how Flattop became so famous as compared to his gruesome contemporaries. He's not the most ruthesless villian, in fact The Brow who shows up in the next story line is considerably more ruthesless. The storyline is fairly standard with Flattop committing a crime, getting caught, escaping and then dying at the end. Perhaps his popularity is due to the fact that Flattop was younger than most of the other grotesque villians. Maybe it was his inexplicably congenial relationship with Flintheart that came from out of left field. Whatever it is Flattop Jones remains the most recognizable of all the Dick Tracy villians and that alone makes volume 9 a must have.The next story features the Summer sisters, May and June but more importantly The Brow. The Brow is another foreign spy although Gould always keeps the counties his spies are working for a mystery. The Brow is up there with the cruelest villians Gould has ever created and the naive Summer sisters bear the brunt of his wraith. As with many villians Gould set The Brow up as a truly evil person in order to spend most of the story torturing him to the delight of readers. The Brow is the victim of one of the most gruesome and certainly the most unlikely death ever inflicted on a Dick Tracy villian. Let me put it this way. There is no way the physics of our universe would ever permit what happens to The Brow to actually happen. Nor even close.Next up is a crook named Shaky whose distinctive feature is the he literally shakes as if he had Parkinson's yet he is able to perform tasks that would normally take a high level of steadiness. But anyway, Shaky is involved (ironically) in a shake down scheme that is so boneheaded and likely to fail that even Shaky himself calls it dumb. After reading years and years of Dick Tracy a distinct pattern and the Shaky storyline is boilerplate. Villain attempts a crimes, villain gets ratted out and attempt revenge often on a female, villain flees the police and ends with a horrific death. Gould seemed to be always trying to turn up the volume

and Shaky's death is one of the most memorable. The story that follows features the return of Gravel Gertie who appeared near the end of The Brow storyline. This is one of the weaker Dick Tracy stories and goes all over the place. There is one inadvertently hilarious moment where Dick Tracy is dragged behind a car driving 60 MPH by the villainous Measles. Tracy accidentally shoots the gas tank causing gas to spray out and sparks from his coat ignite. The image of a flaming Dick Tracy dragged along at 60 MPH and then flung off a cliff is so funny particularly since we all know he'll be fine. It's clear that Gould was really fond of Vitamin Flintheart because for the third time he coincidentally crosses path with a Dick Tracy adversary, this time having Measles stumble into his train car. At this point Flintheart is getting more panel time than Dick Tracy jr., Tess Trueheart and Pat Patton combined. The final story introduces Breathless Mahony who was famously played by Madonna in the 1990 movie. She stumbles across the rotting corpse of Shakey while strolling on the boardwalk.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **LAW AND ORDER** By Robin Snyder I've been reading again Dick Tracy, vol. 9, 1944-45 by Chester Gould (IDW) and find therein a very different world than the one we inhabit. Back then the police, J. Edgar Hoover, Chester Gould and others were there to see to it that killers were identified, tracked and captured. Back then killers properly wound up in prison, the gas chamber and/or the grave where they belonged. Yes, as we learn in the editorial pages of Dick Tracy, there were a very few folks in the 1940s who were enamored of the notorious killer, Flattop, but there is little to suggest anyone seriously did not admire and respect the police and the military. This was also during a time of war. The Navy was so appreciative of Tracy's good work that a naval officer tells him, "Therefore, reposing special confidence in your patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities, I do appoint you a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve of the United States." That was then. Today, according to Michelle Malkin and others, there is a "sick fetish for cop-killing radicals" such as Davis, Jackson and Mumia. Adoration of Assata is the latest wrinkle in this terrible tapestry. On top of all this is enthusiasm for jihad killers and hatred for the police. It is revealing to compare men then and now and how they think.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **Dick Tracy: the "Extreme" Cases** By John J. Pocsik Finally! **THE COMPLETE CHESTER GOULD'S DICK TRACY (Volume 9)**, covering 1944-1945, has come out: definitely not a book for the faint-hearted. In this book (and during these two years) Gould finally hits his stride as master artist and storyteller. Tracy finishes up his battle with Flattop (one of the first to suffer one of those truly classic villain "deaths"). Next he goes up against the spy The Brow (remembered for his fiendish torture device and impalement of Tracy with a lightning rod). Shaky engages Tracy and company with a thrilling auto chase during an ice storm, only to make a fatally chilling mistake. Measles (the "teenage dope peddler") tries to kill our hero by dragging him, on fire, behind his car while he's escaping. And finally a not so loveable B.O. Plenty is introduced as a money-hungry would-be killer (that image would change), battling Breathless Mahoney. These are flat out "extreme" adventures, surprisingly violent for the Forties, with a gruesome death awaiting most the "bad guys", and a death trap situation awaiting our hero. It's the perfect volume to get acquainted with Dick Tracy, who could give Dirty Harry a run for his money. Try it!

Chester Gould's fertile imagination continues at a breakneck pace, as he introduces The Brow, Flattop, Shaky, Breathless Mahoney, Measles, Gravel Gertie, B.O. Plenty, and the Summer Sisters! Edited and designed by Eisner Award-winner Dean Mullaney, and containing all daily and Sunday comic strips from March 23, 1944 through September 19, 1945, this volume features an introduction by Max Allan Collins, and includes a special feature by Jeff Kersten of the Dick Tracy Museum about the famous radio program, "Dick Tracy in B-Flat," starring Bing Crosby, Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Durante, and Bob Hope!

From Booklist These 1944-45 newspaper strips open with the demise of Flattop, perhaps the most notorious of Tracy's trademark villains, and introduce such other grotesque miscreants as the Brow, Shakey, and Breathless Mahoney (Madonna in the 1990 movie). Far more significant, though, are the first appearances of two characters who would remain long-standing members of the strip's supporting cast: redneck farmers "B. O." Plenty and Gravel Gertie. Gould's distinctively blunt artwork was never more effective than in these wartime installments, which are shockingly violent even by Tracy's brutal standards.

--Gordon Flagg About the Author Chester Gould (1900-1985) was born in Pawnee, Oklahoma, the son of a newspaperman and grandson of a circuit-riding preacher. He attended Oklahoma AM (now Oklahoma State University) before transferring to Northwestern University in Chicago, from which he graduated in 1923. He produced the minor comic strips Fillum Fables and The Radio Catts before striking it big with Dick Tracy in 1931. Originally titled Plainclothes Tracy, the rechristened strip became one of the most successful and lauded comic strips of all time, as well as a media and merchandising sensation. He was twice accorded the "Cartoonist of the Year" Reuben Award by his peers. Gould continued to write and illustrate Dick Tracy until his retirement in 1977.