

Humor -- Sidekicks

Archie Americana Series

Archie Comics Publications

Best of the Forties ISBN:1879794039

Best of the Fifties ISBN:

Best of the Sixties ISBN:

Best of the Seventies ISBN:

Best of the Eighties ISBN:

Age Level: 9 and up

Almost every kid who's ever picked up a comic book knows who Archie is: that well-meaning but comical teenager who never seems to quite do what he should-- especially around the loyal Betty and tempting Veronica! These collections reprint the best of the decades of Archie comics, in vivid color, and show that despite the changing fashion and backdrop, Archie, his pals, his girls, and his town remain blissfully the same. Full of slapstick humor, gentle morals, and an energetic, curvy art style, these collections highlight the best of what Archie gives us: laughs, optimism, and a good heart.

review by [Robin](#)

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Asterix

By Goscinny

Dargaud Publishing International, originally published 1961-

Age Level: 7 and up

The Asterix comics rank high among the classics in comics. Written by Goscinny and drawn by Uderzo the series has been translated into over a hundred languages and its characters are familiar figures worldwide. The comics revolve around the adventures surrounding a small Gaulish village in the heart of Roman France. Asterix is the crafty, cunning warrior who is relied upon to defend the village from Rome. Obelix is his menhir toting friend with a penchant for wild boar who makes up what he lacks in smarts with sheer brute strength and unshakeable loyalty. Getafix is the village druid -- he is the voice of reason in the village and defends the villagers against Roman incursions. He also brews the magic potion which gives Asterix his supernatural strength and agility and permits him to defeat the Romans so handily. In their adventures Asterix and Obelix travel far and wide, outsmarting the Romans every time. There is a reason that Asterix is a classic and continues to be read by millions: it is well written, amusing, and the good guys always win despite the seemingly insurmountable odds.

Review by [Petra](#)

Full List of Asterix Titles

Asterix the Gaul ISBN:0917201507

Asterix and the Golden Sickle ISBN:0917201647

Asterix and the Goths ISBN:091720154X

Asterix the Gladiator ISBN:0917201558

Asterix and the Banquet ISBN:091720171X

Asterix and Cleopatra ISBN:0917201752

Asterix and the Big Fight ISBN:0917201582
Asterix in Britain ISBN:0917201744
Asterix and the Normans ISBN:0917201698
Asterix the Legionary ISBN:0917201566
Asterix and the Cheiftain's Shield ISBN:0917201671
Asterix at the Olympic Games ISBN:0917201612
Asterix and the Cauldron ISBN:0917201663
Asterix in Spain ISBN:0917201515
Asterix and the Roman Agent ISBN:0917201590
Asterix in Switzerland ISBN:0917201574
Asterix and the Mansions of the Gods ISBN:0917201604
Asterix and the Laurel Wreath ISBN:0917201620
Asterix and the Soothsayer ISBN:0917201639
Asterix in Corsica ISBN:0917201728
Asterix and Caesar's Gift ISBN:091720168X
Asterix and the Great Crossing ISBN:0917201655
Obelix and Co. ISBN:0917201701
Asterix in Belgium ISBN:0917201736

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Yotsuba&!

By Kyohiko Azuma
ISBN: 1-4139-0317-7
Tokyopop, 2005

If you've been wondering where to find a manga title that really is for all ages, then look no further. This hilarious and madcap series from Kyohiko Azuma, creator of Azumanga Diaoh, is exactly what you want. Yotsuba&! (the title of which is the best and most accurate translation of the title language in Japanese) follows the adventures of Yotsuba, an energetic and curious little girl who's just moving to the city with her father. She's a bit, well, weird, never having seen a swing before and determined to find out about everything in her new neighborhood. She quickly meets (and puzzles) the three Ayase sisters who live next door. Yotsuba is especially good at finding adventure in the most ordinary tasks – she goes to the bathroom one morning only to find that the lock is broken. The only way out is through the window (but of course!), and in her pajamas and slippers she roams the streets discovering the use of doorbells, to the bemusement of her neighbors. She only remembers to go home once someone questions her attire. The whole book works gently and comically, featuring all manner of amusing slapstick and always from the point of view of the irrepressible Yotsuba. Her kind but often spacey dad, Koiwai, is patient and maintains a “go with the flow” attitude, making a good support for the rambunctious girl, and her new neighbors help her adjust to the daily wonders of her new home and friends. I haven't laughed out loud so much as anything in a long time, and the comic timing and articulate simplified expressions common in manga art make the whole ride through Yotsuba's life one not to be missed. As her father says, she can find happiness in anything. We all need to be reminded, sometimes, that standing in a rainstorm can be the best.

review by [Robin](#)

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Magic Pickle

Magic Pickle

ISBN: 1929998333

by Scott Morse

Oni Press 2002

Age Level: 7 and up

Children's fantasy is full of talking creatures: animals, insects, even trees! So isn't it time vegetables had their say? In **Magic Pickle**, Scott Morse reveals a shocking secret: a bunch of produce has, er, gone bad and is planning to terrorize the nation. Luckily, we have a hero on our side. Code-named "Weapon Koshier," the Magic Pickle was created by Doctor Jekyll Formaldehyde to protect mankind from "villainous vegetables" like the Phantom Carrot, the Romaine Gladiator, and the fiery Chili Chili Bang Bang. Things get complicated when our hero (who's been in a jar for fifty years) discovers that his secret lab is located beneath Jo Jo Wigman's bedroom floor. Can a girl help an experienced super-pickle in his mission, even if she does still wear footsie jammies? Morse draws vegetables and humans with personality and style; if you can't imagine a pickle scowling, this book will change your mind. Hilarious artwork, plucky kids, and silly puns make **Magic Pickle** perfect for younger comics readers.

Review by [Jen](#)

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Bone

By Jeff Smith

Cartoon Books

Age Level: All Ages

One of the most acclaimed series to appear for years, loved by everyone from wee kiddies to adults, Jeff Smith's **Bone** series is a bit like throwing Looney Tunes characters into a Tolkien-esque landscape with neither a map nor a friend. The Bone cousins have been exiled from Boneville and must make their way through treacherous deserts and towering forests, all the while contending with monsters and adopting allies into their crew. You won't soon forget the lovely Thorn, one of the great fantasy heroine's to come around in a while, her mighty grandma (yes, I do mean MIGHTY grandma), and the sinister Rat Creatures (who seem to be entirely set on cooking the Bone cousins into a quiche). Laugh out loud funny and at the same time full of tense adventure, **Bone** is not to be missed!

The Complete Bone Series

(in paperback)

Out from Boneville ISBN: 0963660942

The Great Cow Race ISBN: 0963660950

Eyes of the Storm ISBN: 0963660969

The Dragonslayer ISBN: 188896300X

Rock Jaw Master of the Eastern Border ISBN: 1888963034

Old Man's Cave ISBN: 1888963050

Ghost Circles ISBN: 1888963093

Treasure Hunters ISBN: 1888963131

and don't miss the prequel, [Rose!](#)

Alison Dare: Little Miss Adventures

ISBN: 1929998201

By J. Torres

Art by J. Jones

Oni Press 2002

Age Level: 9 and up

If this book were a movie pitch, I'd have to say that Alison Dare's story is the recent reincarnation of **The Mummy** crossed with Indiana Jones if Indiana Jones were a twelve-year old girl. In slick black and white, J. Torres and J. Jones introduce us to the intelligent, adventure-obsessed Alison Dare, daughter of an archeologist mother and a librarian/superhero father. Despite her parents attempt to keep Alison in line by sending her to a boarding school, she and her two buddies still manage to get into their fair share of trouble. Her adventuresome relatives are often around to come to the rescue, however, and these infectious tales of adventure and romance revel in the traditions of classic serial adventures. Despite appearances, however, all is not fabulous in Alison's life _ her parents are divorced and the instances that remind her of this painful reality are subtle and feeling. It's fit and fun for all _ who doesn't need a witty archeologist-in-training bent on adventure in their life?

Review by [Robin](#)

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