

Mystery -- Sidekicks

The Adventures of Tintin

Vol 1: ISBN: 0316359408

by Herge

Little, Brown and Company, 1990

Age Level: 7 and up

Since he first appeared in the late 1930s, as always, of course, accompanied by his remarkable dog Snowy, Tintin has been a favorite detective. All of his adventures mirror the great pre-war capers of Poirot with a bit more slapstick and luck, and a little less debonair charm. Tintin is all about luck, and quick thinking, and his adventures certainly lead him all over the globe and to all sorts of friends...and enemies. Some titles do have dated representations of other cultures and places, be warned. All in all, though, Tintin full of adventure and heart.

Review by [Robin](#)

The complete list of Tintin's Adventures

(in the order of when they were published, from the Tintin website, the * indicates the titles available in English)

Tintin in the Land of the Soviets

Tintin in the Congo

Tintin in America *

Cigars of the Pharoahs *

The Blue Lotus

Tintin and the Broken Ear *

The Black Island *

King Ottokar's Sceptre *

The Crab with the Golden Claws *

The Shooting Star *

The Secret of the Unicorn *

Red Rackham's Treasure *

The Seven Crystal Balls *

Prisoners of the Sun *

Land of Black Gold *

Destination Moon *

Explorers of the Moon *

The Calculus Affair

The Red Sea Sharks *

Tintin in Tibet *

The Castafiore Emerald *

Flight 714 *

Tintin and the Picaros *

Tintin and the Alphart (unfinished)

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Courtney Crumrin and the Night Things

Courtney Crumrin and the Night Things

ISBN: 1929998422

by Ted Naifeh

Oni Press 2002

Age Level: 9 and up

In the introduction to **Courtney Crumrin** Kelly Crumrin observes that the only children's stories that remain popular for years after they're written are the gross, shocking, and scary ones. You be the judge. This first installment of the Courtney stories is creepy enough to ensure that they will remain popular for some time by Kelly's standard, but Courtney Crumrin herself is a girl I wish I had sat next to in elementary school. When her parents decide to move the family from the city to a posh suburban neighborhood Courtney isn't exactly thrilled, especially because they'll all be moving in with her uncle, Professor Aloysius Crumrin. As you might guess from his rather ominous name, Uncle Aloysius is guarding plenty of dark secrets in the back rooms of the most haunted (and most talked-about) mansion in the neighborhood, secrets that hide behind the curtains and lurk in the back yard! As the old mansion and her elderly uncle start to seem more ordinary, Courtney discovers that she has some interesting magical talent, and that the scariest things in her new neighborhood may be the "normal" people she sees every day.

review by [Alison](#)

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Leave it to Chance: Shaman's Rain

ISBN: 1582402531

by James Robinson

Art by James Robinson, Paul Smith, and Jeremy Cox

Image Comics 2002

Age Level: 9 and up

In the town of Devil's Echo, demons and goblins from other realms are so common that for generations the city has employed a full-time "occult investigator" to keep paranormal activity under control. Lucas Falconer is the veteran of many such battles by the time his daughter Chance is old enough to feel ready to fight some battles in the city's defense on her own. When Falconer tells Chance that the job that killed her mother is too dangerous for a girl, Chance sets out on her own to solve the city's biggest occult crime. As Chance struggles to save a powerful shaman and his daughter from abduction by shape-changing thugs and to defeat the biggest toad ever seen, she stumbles on evidence that this occult turmoil is all somehow connected to the upcoming mayoral election. If Chance can't unravel the ring of political corruption in Devil's Echo, it could mean the destruction of the city and its resident pixies, sewer goblins, dragons, and demons. Chance's affinity for reptiles, police officers, and investigative journalists is a superpower equal to her occult crime fighting skills, and both come in very useful as she sets out to save the inhabitants of the strangest city on earth.

review by [Alison](#)