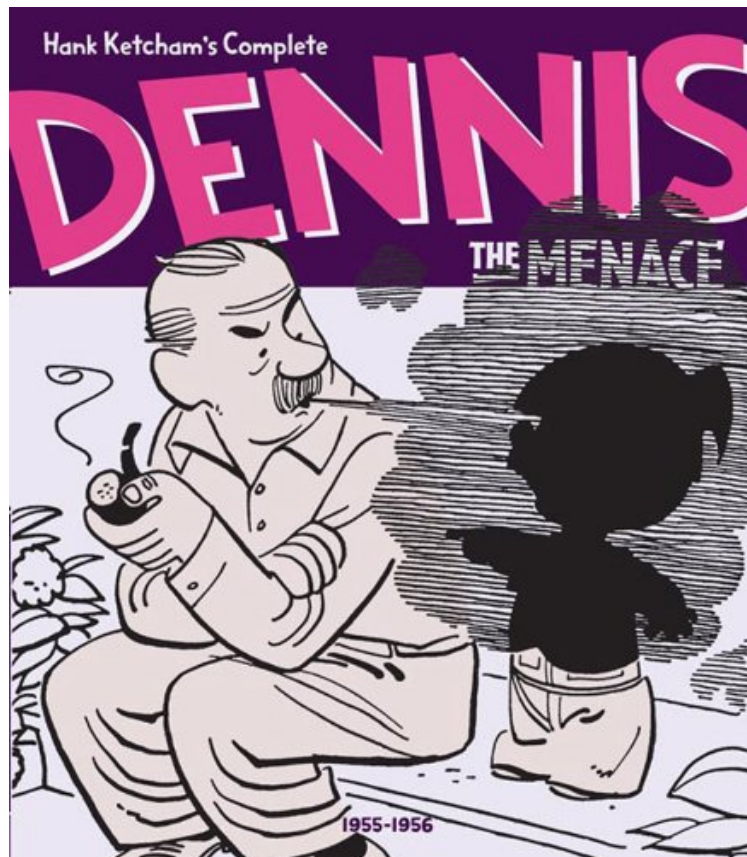


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Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace 1955-1956 (Vol. 3)

Hank Ketcham

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Hank Ketcham : Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace 1955-1956 (Vol. 3) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace 1955-1956 (Vol. 3):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1955-1955, Complete CollectionBy Laura A. FitzgeraldI'm glad that I waited long enough for the next book (1957-1958) to arrive so I could purchase this book. I'm quite fond of Dennis the Menace as far as I can remember - a great seller in everything!2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. KETCHAM HITS HIS STRIDE WITH VOL. 3By Tim JansonDennis the Menace is one of those classic comic strips, like Charles Schulz' Peanuts, that will endure forever. Still, it doesn't hurt to have just a little bit of help and that's where the wonderful people of Fantagraphics come in...Just as they did with Peanuts, Fantagraphics has been reprinting Hank Ketcham's wonderful Dennis the Menace daily strips in chronological order. This is the third volume in the series and reprints each daily strip from 1955 - 1956.By this time Ketcham had really hit his stride. Dennis Mitchell complete with overalls and cowlick, and his parents are now fully developed as is irascible neighbor Mr. Wilson who now becomes the main target of Dennis'..umm...mischievous behavior. The slice-of-American-Pie, 1950's life-style simply exudes from these strips. Dad is generally always wearing a tie and mom an apron in this ode to less

complicated times. Ketcham's work certainly had a huge influence on the work of Bill Watterson (Calvin Hobbes) and Bill Amend (FoxTrot) and their own, too smart of their own good creations of Calvin and Jason Fox. Dennis is an equal opportunity offender whose wisecracks to police officers often get him, although more his dad, into hot water. If there's one strip that maybe defines Dennis best it may be one from January 29, 1955 in which Dennis is dressed up in a suit and tie at a kids party but tells a little girl, "I Don't really look like this, Y'know." Absolutely classic! Then there is the call he gets from his parents to check on him as Dennis explains that the babysitter "chickened out and went home." Another strip which perfectly defines his character is from July 11, 1955. Dennis has opened a fire hydrant and proclaims proudly, "Why should I shut it off? I start trouble, I don't stop it!" Never were truer words ever spoken in the annals of comic strips. Dennis' schemes range from trying to sell dad's neckties for .5 cents, to getting even with a cop by letting the air out of his patrol car tires. The Christmas strips are simply delightful as Dennis behaves as any other kid does as he scours the house to find his hidden presents, and wakes up mom dad in the dim hours of the morning to let them know that Santa has arrived. Ketcham was a brilliant cartoonist. He was capable of displaying such vivid emotions just with his character's expressions. You didn't need captions to know what they were thinking. We all knew a kid just like Dennis (or were one ourselves) and that's what makes Dennis so great, we can all relate to the character. This volume is testament to Dennis' enduring popularity, nicely packaged in a neat little 672 page hardcover book with dust-jacket. Reviewed by Tim Janson² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very highly recommended for academic and community library American Popular Culture reference collections. By Midwest Book Review. The brain child of cartoonist Hank Ketcham, Dennis the Menace became an American favorite and a staple of the comic section of newspapers across the country. Ketcham's mischievous little boy was so popular that the character also appeared in comic books, a television series, and even the movies. Fantagraphics Books has been compiling the Dennis the Menace series for a new generation of readers and has now released the third volume which covers the newspaper cartoons published from 1955 and 1956. Very highly recommended for academic and community library American Popular Culture reference collections, this Dennis the Menace series is a 'must' for American comics buffs in general, and the legions of Hank Ketcham fans particular. For those new to this series, or who have an interest in American comics art and history, visit the Fantagraphics Books website for a complete listing of their available cartoon and graphic novel titles.

An American icon defined: the third volume of Ketcham's classic comic strip. Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace was Fantagraphics' second "complete" series of newspaper strip collections and one of the most successful books in the company's history, greeted by reviews with praise similar to that garnered by The Complete Peanuts. We are proud to present the third volume of Hank Ketcham's phenomenal panel covering the years 1955 and 1956. Dennis the Menace began on March 14, 1951 and he went on to become the second most popular cartoon kid in the world (after Charlie Brown). The timing was perfect: the post-war generation, at the height of the baby boom, embraced the perennial troublemaker and turned Dennis into a global publishing, merchandising and multi-media phenomenon, with over 50 million book collections sold, the fondly remembered live-action TV show from 1959-63, two major motion pictures in the '90s, a full-length animated film in 2002, and many other media tie-ins. The strip currently is enjoyed by readers of over 1,000 newspapers every day. Ketcham captured the mischievousness, rambunctiousness, and anarchy of a kid's world better than any other cartoonist. The strip appeals to both parents and children -while parents shake their head ruefully at how accurately Ketcham caught the essence of children's natural zest for mayhem, children identify with Dennis and the chaos that he leaves in his wake. Ketcham's gags are funny, subtle and touching, and executed with a vivacious, exquisite line. Ketcham drew Dennis the Menace from 1951 to 1994, when he retired and let his assistant take over the strip. This third volume of Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace publishes every single panel strip from 1955 and 1956 in one handsome and thick hardcover volume. Ketcham's legendary pen and ink work achieves its full flowering in this volume as do the various situations and themes that Ketcham would return to: This volume includes the first "split screen" (two-panel strip) that Ketcham would occasionally use; Dennis actually flirts with a girl; he rats dad out to Mom; exacerbates confrontations between Dad and the police; and stymies hapless baby-sitters. Oh, and Mr. Wilson finally comes front-and-center as Dennis' #1 victim. Also included is one historic and highly unusual panel devoted to a lovingly rendered caricature of President Dwight D. Eisenhower (Ike) answering the phone and asking, "You have a collect call from whom? Dennis who?," which was bumped by newspapers who considered it in poor taste because Ike had just suffered a heart attack (the panel had been drawn and slotted for September 1955 long before Ike suffered the stroke, of course). 625 full-page black-and-white comics

From Booklist. The 1950s saw the apogee of the magazine gag cartoon, with dozens of skilled artists plying their trade in publications ranging from the Saturday Evening Post to Playboy. Ketcham's one-panel syndicated newspaper cartoons were as graphically adroit as any, but it wasn't his visual sophistication that kept Dennis the Menace on the comics page for half a century. Funny-pages readers aren't that artistically demanding. Rather, it was consistently sharp humor and the well-defined personalities of Dennis, his beleaguered parents, curmudgeonly neighbor Mr. Wilson, and the rest of the cast, who were never more engaging than in these early panels. Gordon Flagg. Copyright

American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorHank Ketcham was born in 1920 and created Dennis the Menace in 1950. He passed away in 2001.