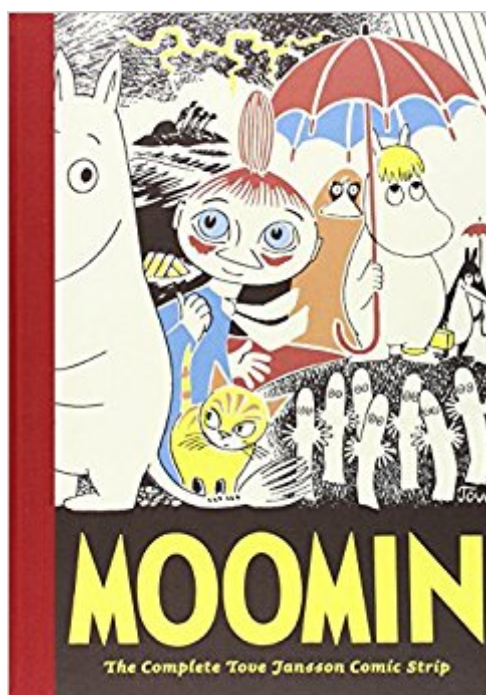


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# Moomin: The Complete Tove Jansson Comic Strip - Book One



## Synopsis

The enchanting comic strip that introduced adult readers to the wonderful world of MoominTove Jansson is revered around the world as one of the foremost children's authors of the twentieth century for her illustrated chapter books regarding the magical worlds of her creation, the Moomins. The Moomins saw life in many forms but debuted to its biggest audience ever on the pages of the world's largest newspaper, the London Evening News, in 1954. The strip was syndicated in newspapers around the world with millions of readers in forty countries. Moomin Book One is the first volume of Drawn & Quarterly's publishing plan to reprint the entire strip drawn by Jansson before she handed over the reins to her brother Lars in 1960. This is the first time the strip will be published in any form in North America and will deservedly place Jansson among the international cartooning greats of the last century. The Moomins are a tight-knit family-hippo-shaped creatures with easygoing and adventurous outlooks. Jansson's art is pared down and precise, yet able to compose beautiful portraits of ambling creatures in fields of flowers or on rock-strewn beaches that recall Jansson's Nordic roots. The comic strip reached out to adults with its gentle and droll sense of humor. Whimsical but with biting undertones, Jansson's observations of everyday life, including guests who overstay their welcome, modern art, movie stars, and high society, easily caught the attention of an international audience and still resonate today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tove Jansson's Moomin stories are read and loved around the world, enjoying devoted attention in

Japan, Europe and Jansson's native Scandinavia. Jansson's work is now seeing a further growth in popularity, with the Moomin chapter books republished in Britain and France, and new US editions released by FSG. The revival continues in North America with this new volume of comic strips from premium publishers Drawn & Quarterly. Originally published in London's Evening News, Jansson drew and wrote these strips in English. Written in the same period (1954-1960) as the chapter books *Moominsummer Madness* and *Moominland Midwinter*, these strips will entertain children with their familiar characters, while adult readers will appreciate their gentle wit and often satirical stance. This volume is the first in an anticipated five-volume set, and collects the four stories *Brigands*, *Family Life*, *Moomin on the Riviera* and *Moomin's Desert Island*.

Starred Review. From 1953 to 1960, the late Finnish artist Jansson drew a comic strip about her creation Moomin for the London Evening News. Though the strip was an enormous success around the world, this is the first North American edition of an expressive and endearing classic. Moomin's stories begin simply (he needs to rid his home of freeloaders, or goes on a family vacation) and snowball into a series of amusing, whimsical misadventures, which can involve elements of the fantastic, like magic, monsters and ghosts. Although Moomin, his parents and his girlfriend, Snorkmaiden, are trolls, they look like friendly hippopotamuses. Moomin is reminiscent of a big, chubby baby; there is something of Charlie Brown in him: Moomin is like a child beset by life's troubles and usually (but not always) too passive to get angry and fight back. Adults should appreciate Jansson's satire—although she always provides happy endings, dark undercurrents are at play: one episode opens with Moomin attempting suicide; reunited with his missing parents, he's abandoned by them again. Jansson's deceptively childlike style masterfully conveys her characters' personalities. Moomin's mouth rarely appears, but his eyes, his brows and his gestures are expressive and endearing. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

My father had a Fulbright fellowship to teach and research blood diseases in Finland from August 1960 to August 1961. I was eleven when the family moved to Turku for the year. We had a copy of this book in English, possibly published in Great Britain. From the description of stories yet to be released, it sounds like the book we had included the entire series and not just the story in this volume. I remember the pictures of the Moomintrolls wearing their bikinis in the Riviera. It was and still is my favorite picture book. My brother, sister, and I read it until it fell apart. We don't know what happened to our copy, but it was unreadable by the time we were finished with it. Mom probably

tossed what was left of it when we weren't paying attention. The Moomintroll stories are a little darker, edgier and more mysterious than many other popular children's series, I think. That was certainly part of their appeal for me. I'm thrilled to see this in print through a US publisher. I've searched for it for years, not even finding a used copy anywhere.

We had gotten *Moomin: The Deluxe Anniversary Edition* from the library and loved the comics but it was way too big and heavy for bedtime reading with kids. This compilation only has 4 stories but the size is more suited for little kid hands or for bedtime reading with kids. The stories are wacky and dark but the idea of a family adventuring together is really sticking with my 5 year old, and I love that.

Despite the comic book style younger children may miss some of the humor behind the misadventures of the ever accommodating Moomintroll and his best friend Sniff. These comics, filled with bizarre imaginary creatures such as the finger-like Hattifatteners and ever critical Stinky are best understood by pre-adolescents and older.

Beautiful book that stirs the imagination for these charming characters. Not for the 7 and under crowd. But good for any precocious child with an adult to mull things over. Some references to adult beverages. I will be collecting the next volumes.

I read these whimsical, carefully crafted comicstrips as a kid, way back in the seventies in the Dutch newspaper "De Volkskrant" and the strange atmosphere intrigued me. Drawn in a very distinctive, clear line, the stories leisurely meander through the loose plots. Reading Moomin brings you in a relaxed state of mind. Read a story every night before bedtime and you're guaranteed to have pleasant dreams.

Most original and imaginative. A delightful cartoon. I was very keen about getting the english edition because I study Russian and I bought the Russian edition while visiting Moscou. Learning with cartoons is a good way to learn everyday language. The stories also reflect true life attitudes and characters with a special sense of humour. Good for children and grown-ups. Seems that it is nearly totally unknown in France. A pity

I love moomin and this collection is amazing. The book is big, the pages are nicely made, and it's

just great!

I discovered Tove Jansson's Moomin world while visiting Finland in the summer of 1999. There was an exhibit at the Tampere library that caught my attention and where I fell in love with this wonderful world she created. Being an American who adored Winnie the Pooh as a child (and still do as an adult) I always tell people who have never heard of Moomin's that they're kind of like the Finnish version of Winnie the Pooh. We visited Moomin World while in Finland which was great fun. I have since collected all of the books translated in to English and love reading them myself or to my grade school age children who also now love Moomins. This particular book is a collection of the comic series Tove Jansson did for the London paper in the late 1950s. They are magical; witty; wonderful; warm; and just plain great fun. Even my first grader was laughing out loud when we read through them last night. Who doesn't love the comics? Quickly becoming obsolete in today's high tech world this book is a charming respite back to good old basic fun. There is great little tid bits of wisdom woven in to this wonderful imaginary world and I always find some trivium to ponder or chuckle. I will always be grateful for discovering this wonderful world of Moomins. I am so glad that I did and can pass on the magic to my own kids. I think this book is a must have for Moomin fans!

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