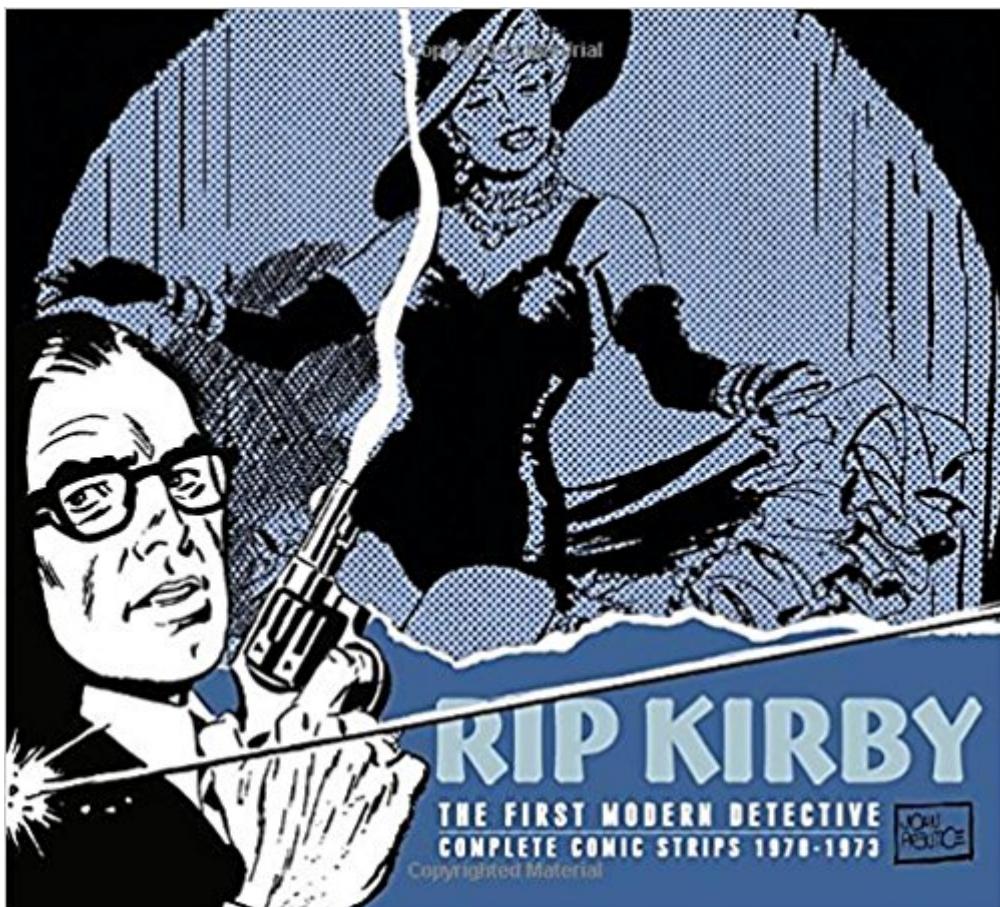


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# Rip Kirby, Vol. 10: 1970-1973



## Synopsis

The longest-running modern adventure strip celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1971. As Bruce Canwell notes in his introduction to this volume, John Prentice and Fred Dickenson continually varied the contents of their stories, mixing and matching themes, as well as locales. In these thirteen stories, they were willing to tap into popular topics of the day (1971—“The Girl with Something Extra” uses extra-sensory perception as a key plot driver), but carefully contrasted those efforts with stories emphasizing family relationships in ways both positive (“The Midas Affair”) and negative (“Murder by Misanthrope”). The science fictional Doctor Data and his super-computer were counterbalanced by more light-hearted capers, such as “The Parrot Who Sang Like a Canary.” Included are more than 800 sequential comics from April 27, 1970 to January 20, 1973 reproduced from the original King Features Syndicate proofs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"John Prentice's work is superb. He's one of the few cartoonists who took an important strip by a great cartoonist and did it not only justice, but in some ways, was as good as—and in some cases better than—the originator." —Tom De Haven, author of the Derby Dugan trilogy

John Prentice (1920—1999) received the National Cartoonists Society award for "Best

Story Strip Cartoonist" in 1966, 1967, and 1986. Born in Whitney, Texas. He joined the Navy in 1939 and survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, served on two destroyers in eight combat campaigns, and was honorably discharged in 1945. After the war he enrolled in the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and then moved to New York, where he eventually became a successful freelancer, illustrating paperback book covers; comic books for the Joe Simon/Jack Kirby studio, DC Comics, and others; as well as being a regular contributor to major magazines before taking over Rip Kirby in 1956.

Exelent

Every year when a new volume of Rip Kirby appears I am delighted. We now have 4 volumes of the entire original Alex Raymond run and even more startling six volumes by the equally talented and almost unknown John Prentice. Prentice who spent decades doing just this strip needs much more exposure. This collection includes Daily strips from April 1970 to January 1973. Nine complete storylines reprinted in this quality deluxe Hard Cover with Dust Jacket, Quality paper and a linen attached book mark are included. The strips are reprinted in crystal clear sharp black & white with 3 comic strips per page in the Landscape Format ( Wider then Tall). The introduction by Bruce Canwell is only average as he dwells on TV dectectives and other non-Germaine material. The stories focus on the glasses wearing bachelor Detective Rip Kirby and loyal valet Desmond who used to be a theif. Desmond is the source of much comedy relief. Rip's two re-occurring girl friends have now departed the strip and the only other regular is Desmond fellow butler and frienemy Wiggins. 1) THE SHORT CIRCUITING OF DOCTOR DATA demonstrates writer Fred Dickenson's on the nose and corny use of character names. Calling the villain who knows a lot about computers Dr. Data is just too cute for my taste. This is the most "dated" strip of this collection. When Rip suggests that someday Computers may be come common place Dr. Data insults his intelligence. Anyways this story involves a villain who predict Rip's every move. In the end the defeat Dr Data by using a hole puncher on the computer punch cards. Yes, very dated. 2) WHEN RUBBER TURNS TO GOLD is probably my favorite of this collection. It involves Rip and a beautiful girl going down the River in search of Gold Treasure. Pure escapist adventure. 3) THE FATALE MISTAKE is a Desmond centered strip about an old flame. Femina Fatale is more of The on the nose names. While this is meant to be a humoresque run it is interesting for showing us a young Desmond. 4) THE PARROT THAT SANG LIKE A CANARY is about armoured car thieves that have a Parrot that talks too much. 5) THE MIDAS AFFAIR has Rip and his lady friend dressing like 1920's flappers for a party.

Millicent Midas ( who of course is very Rich) is looking for a long lost movie actress.6) THE GIRL WITH SOMETHING EXTRA is about a girl with E.S.P. This was a big craze at the time, but seems a little dated now.7) THE PEERLESS JOHNNY PARAGON is a story with a lot of plot twists about a athelic Mister Perfect and a shrill girl who claims he is a crook.8) GLOW LITTLE GLOWSTEP reminds me of an Alfred Hitchcock movie like To Catch A Theif or something. A romance stolen jewels and people pretending to be something else. Wiggins the butler has a large role in this one. Lots of fun.9) MURDER BY MISANTHROPE is the final story about a derelict bum who has information that Rip needs so Lirby takes him in to try to reform him. As you can tell from my comments the stories are all pretty diverse and entertaining. The John Prentice volumes are not Guaranteed to continue so it is important that we support this project with your purchases. The publisher prints these at almost break even point and he has stated that as long he doesn't loose money they will continue, so your patronage is vital. Highly Recommended.

The 10th Rip Kirby collection from IDW is written by Fred Dickenson and drawn by John Prentice although the latter gets top billing. There are almost three years worth of daily strips collected forming nine separate story arcs. Although nominally mystery stories the strip was borrowing from other genres freely; there are large doses of humor, romance, adventure, and a dab of fantasy. All the stories are well written and engaging. There are a few common threads. Desmond is played largely for comic relief. Kirby is usually hooked up romantically in every story. Their once extensive supporting cast and rogue's gallery is long gone. Coincidence plays a too large a role in the plots, like a parrot belonging to a criminal flying onto Kirby's balcony or an extortion note accidentally delivered to Kirby. My favorites were "The Peerless Johnny Paragon" where Kirby has to deal with a felon with as many talents as himself and "Glow, Little Glowstep" which has a very exciting chase scene ending in the Statue of Liberty torch. Much less effective in my view was "The Midas Affair" which was all romantic comedy. Production values were generally excellent. I hope to see many more of these collections in due course.

Another superb collection of storylines from Prentice/Dickenson duo. The book starts as usual with a relatively detailed explanation of the "life and time" around 70's and how that affected the storylines. Also, this volume contains the strip that marks the silver jubilee of "Rip Kirby" printed exactly 25 years after Alex Raymond started the strip. In the same lines, I believe there will be another 10 volumes that it would take to cover all the strips of Rip Kirby (and I hope it continues to come out at a regular cadence). Prentice's art continues to be elegant as usual. Stories cover all

diverse characters and themes - scientists, fraudsters, political unrest, scams etc. Interesting to note that IDW chose to rename the stories as it is christened in the Wikipedia. This volume contains 9 storylines starting from "Dr. Data's Deadly Predictions" till the "Case of the Mixed-up Missive".

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