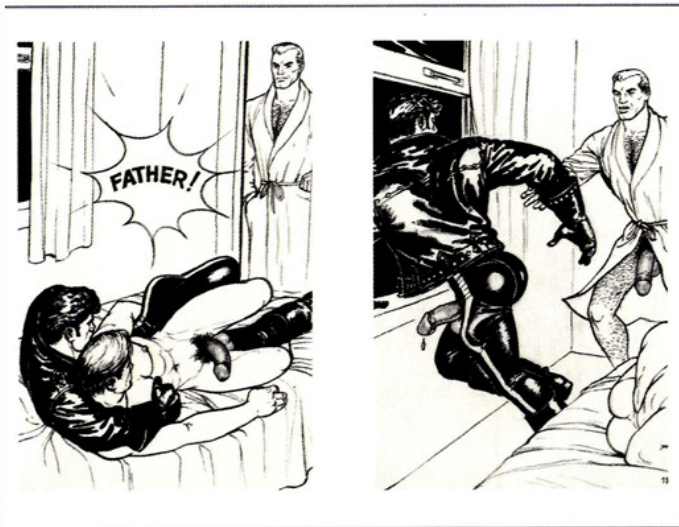


WORD REVIEWS



BOOK

TOM OF FINLAND

THE COMPLETE KAKE COMICS TASCHEN BOOKS, RRP £16.99 OUT NOW



Touko Laaksonen, the boy who would become Tom of Finland (1920-1991), began drawing cartoons at age five – though instead of toy cars or ships, his drawings were mainly of rough sailor men with giant crotches and suggestive gazes, which feature in the new collection *The Complete Kake Comics*. Back in 1965, Tom of Finland began flirting with the idea of an ongoing character for his panel stories and by 1968 Tom settled on Kake, a dark-0

often wore a tight white t-shirt bearing the motto 'Fucker'. Kake lived up to this moniker, a sort of post-Stonewall, hyper-masculine Johnny Appleseed traveling the world on his motorcycle to spread the seeds of liberated, mutually satisfying, ecstatically explicit gay sex. Tom lived out many of his most personal fantasies through Kake, and Kake's international fans made him the template for what came to be known as the gay clone look of the 1970s. Between 1968 and 1986, Tom published 26 episodes of Kake adventures, most as 20 page booklets. Now for the first time, all 26 stories have been collected in one volume released by Taschen books. Return with Kake to the days when men were men, sex was carefree, and everyone wore a big thick moustache. This new volume reproduces what many consider the best cartoon series in the history of gay art. From cock-hungry cops to *Greasy Rider*, it's a must-have for any fans of clone art, or comic books for that matter. Now, if only they'd make a movie like *Marvel comics*, and cast Channing Tatum in the lead.

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