

TOM OF FINLAND: THE COMPLETE KAKE COMICS

Gay drawings so explicit we can't show them here

EDITED BY DIAN HANSON



Taschen, £16.99

As a child, Tuoko Laaksonen, the fetish illustrator better known as Tom of Finland, was fascinated with burly lumberjacks, rural

hoodlums and tough, macho locals. As he grew up, his youthful interest led to a life spent creating sexually explicit drawings of the men who'd enchanted him as a child. "I always knew that a drawing was good if I got an erection," he once said.

This book is a collection of all the adventures of Kake, Laaksonen's sexually

rampant, leather-clad alter-ego, covering his encounters with numerous stereotypical gay men (handlebar moustaches, leather, jackboots etc) wherever he finds them. No matter where Kake's day starts, you can bet your outsize nuts that before it's over he'll be balls deep in some strapping young man that he happened to stumble across.

The pictures are filthy, offensive, explicit – most of them so graphic that we can't reproduce them without being pulled off the shelves. Yet they're also strangely beautiful, and it's this mixture of beauty and nigh on profanity that makes it such an engrossing book.

James Doorne

