



Spy Vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook

By Antonio Prohias

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Spy Vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook By Antonio Prohias

In the grand tradition of Krazy Kat & Ignatz Mouse and the Road Runner & Wile E. Coyote, the Spies (one dressed in black, the other in white) are an endless variation on a Cold War theme—forever one-upping the other, til death do they part. This diabolical duo of double-cross and deceit are, as Art Spiegelman described them in *The New York Times Magazine*, “the comic strip equivalent of the yin-and-yang symbol, good and evil, interdependent and interchangeable,...forever chasing each other’s tails.”

2001 marks the 40th anniversary of *Spy vs. Spy*, which made its first appearance in *MAD* #60, January 1961. The feature has run in virtually every issue since with nearly 1000 installments. *Spy vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook* chronicles the creation and history of the Spies and features all 247 of the strips written and illustrated by its illustrious creator, Antonio Prohias.

Delighted fans will discover a virtual treasure trove of fun-loving *Spy vs. Spy* material. Here for the first time are unpublished and never-before-seen preliminary sketches and artist roughs, photographs from his family scrapbooks, and rare political cartoons. Also included are eight biographical and historical essays, each detailing a different aspect and perspective on the Spies and their creator. A special color section reproduces dozens of *Spy* collectibles from over the years, including paperbacks, Super Specials, computer games, trading cards, and much more.

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Spy Vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook By Antonio Prohias Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #65120 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Watson-Guption
- Published on: 2001-09-01
- Released on: 2001-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.55" h x .75" w x 8.25" l, 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

An artist and his legendary comic strip are honored by MAD magazine in *Spy vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook*. Antonio Prohias's wordless, Cold War-inspired spoof of the agents of international intrigue portrays the twin enemies outdoing each other in elaborately stupid plots to achieve the other's demise. Assembled after Prohias's death, the volume commemorates the cartoon's 40th birthday as well as Prohias's compelling personal story (in 1960 he fled Castro's new regime in Cuba after being unofficially blacklisted for his political cartoons). Comic book fans, especially of the MAD variety, will love this intelligent tribute to an artist. 70 color and 300 b&w illus.

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From [Booklist](#)

James Bond isn't the only cold war-era secret agent whose career continued to flourish after the fall of Communism. For 40 years and counting, the white spy and the black spy have waged never-ending battle on the pages of *Mad*. Their creator, the late Antonio Prohias, a political cartoonist who fled Castro's Cuba in 1960, was a font of variations on the theme of having one spy meet violent death at the hands of the other. In the next issue, of course, the deceased had been resurrected to resume hostilities. This collection reprints all 247 of Prohias' strips and selections of those by his successors, who include noted illustrator Peter Kuper. The strips were to be read at monthly intervals, however; consumed in bulk, they can become tedious. For baby boomers who grew up with *Mad*, this dossier may evoke nostalgia as well as chuckles, and younger readers may greet the spies' "joke-and-dagger" shenanigans with out-and-out guffaws. *Gordon Flagg*
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Review

"This is how a compilation should be done: a combination of entertainment, scholarship, and sheer class." --
Comics Buyer's Guide - November 23, 2001

Users Review

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