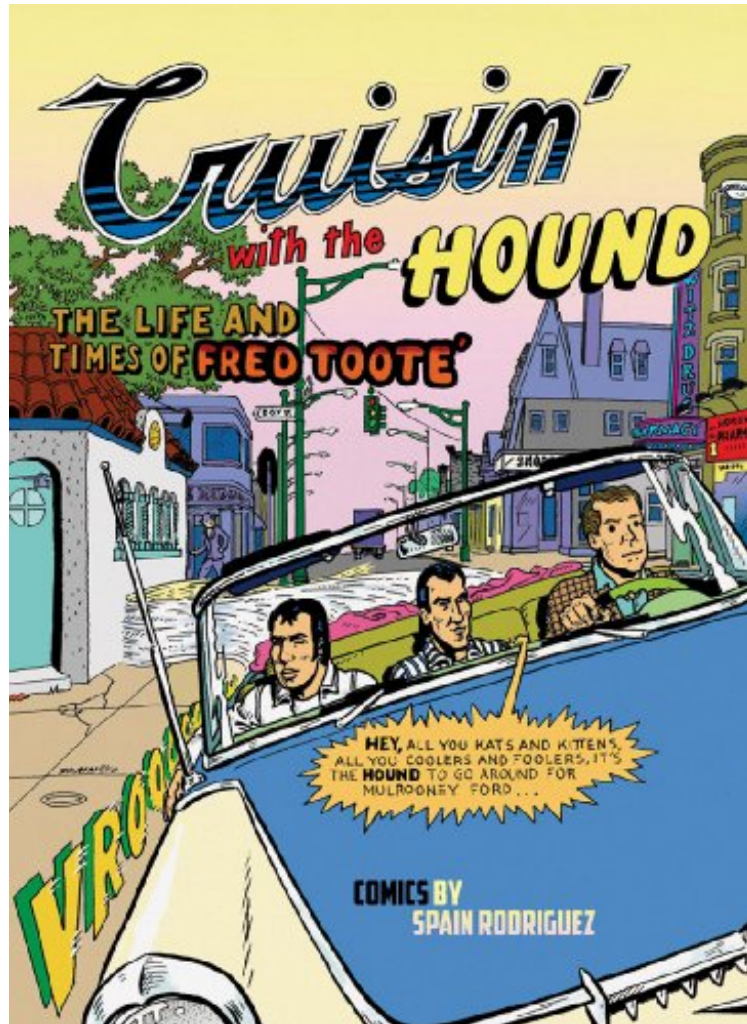


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## Cruisin' with the Hound

Spain Rodriguez

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**Spain Rodriguez : Cruisin' with the Hound** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cruisin' with the Hound:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy daniel a caputiGreat book.....3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nobody did it better...By alan asnenSpain doesn't need my recommendation, but since he was something of a mentor of mine in the 1960s and 1970s, I have to say that his work--all of it--is praiseworthy, and this book is right up there with some of the best, exploring themes from his youth.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Spain's work if fantasticBy Patricia L. McCormackI love this graphic work. The pictures are so detailed any frame could be a wonderful piece of art. He is a great artist.

An underground icon takes a trip down memory lane."They were all there, the pimps, the fags, the whores, the curious,

the alcoholic, the weird of the late 50s... blues lovers, Canadian bikers, thrill seekers, junkies, insomniacs, hepcats... So begins *Down at the Kitty Kat*, one of the 20-plus never-before-collected memoirs and yarns by Spain Rodriguez, one of the original gang of Zap Comix provocateurs. Although he's best known for his two-fisted tales of the chopper-riding Trashman, Spain's blunt graphic style and uncompromising gift for caricature, rendered in eye-punishing slabs of black and white, work equally well for more subtle fare such as these memoirs of his misspent youth. *Cruisin with the Hound* ranges from Spain's days as an innocent young churchgoer to his time as a member of the Road Vultures motorcycle gang, with stops along the way for his discoveries of science fiction and other, more adult pursuits (*The Birth of Porn*) as well as *The Education of an Underground Cartoonist*, describing his journey from a pimply Captain Marvel-reading scribbler to his arrival as a professional artist. But the heart of this collection is a cycle of stories (originally published in the acclaimed *Blab!* magazine) set during Spain's teenage days in the 1950s, often featuring the doomed, dot-eyed Fred Toot, a wild, flaky character in whose company some of his wildest escapades occurred. Raunchy, hilarious, and often violent as hell, *Cruisin with the Hound* is an unsentimentally nostalgic trip to half a century ago the anti-Happy Days, set to a true rock n roll beat. 120 pages of black-and-white comics

This collection of autobiographical stories, accompanied by a long excerpt from a biographical interview with him, is one of Fantagraphics' best production jobs as well as a helluva satisfying window on an era the fifties that American culture can't let go of. [Starred] - Ray Olson, *Booklist* Spain Rodriguez is one of the legends of the original underground comics wave, and he tells his own origin story in *Cruisin with the Hound*... [It] gives a real flavor both of Rodriguez's work which was so different in its point of view than the other underground comics of the late 60s and early 70s and from whence it came. - Noel Murray, *The A.V. Club* About the Author Manuel Rodriguez (1940-2012), better known as Spain, was one of the great American underground and socially conscious cartoonists.