

Father and Son

E.O. Plauen

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E.O. Plauen : Father and Son before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Father and Son:

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"This gem of an unjustly forgotten book was originally published in the 1930s. German cartoonist Erich Ohser created this charming comic strip under the pen name E.O. Plauen after being barred by the Nazi government from drawing

political cartoons....None of the darkness in his life can be seen in this sunny pantomime strip about a gruff but indulgent father and his mischievous, tousle-haired son. There's a warmth to the characters' relationship unusual in old gag cartoons....A perfect book for Fathers Day." Publishers Weekly, starred review "Fatherhood is a many-hued thing. Some moments are pure joy. Others contain levels of frustration you hadn't thought possible. Then there's the self-doubt and the love. It's a hard thing to capture in words, trust us, and a hard thing to capture in images and a hard thing to capture in both. That's why comic strips that offer even the slightest nod to the real experience of fatherhood, like Calvin Hobbes, hit so hard. But no comic strip has captured a father's rapport with his son as beautifully or accurately as the largely forgotten German comic Father Son." Joshua David Stein, *Fatherly* About the Author E.O. Plauen was the pseudonym of Erich Ohser (1903-1944). In the 1920s, he studied art in Leipzig and began a career as a cartoonist and illustrator. He moved to Berlin in 1927, and began collaborating with his friend, the writer Erich Kästner, including drawing illustrations for Kästner's first book of poetry (which would later be burned by the Nazis). Ohser's caricatures of high-ranking Nazis such as Goebbels and Hitler led to his being banned from publishing after they took power. Unable to use his own name, he paired his initials, E.O., with Plauen, the town he grew up in, and using this pseudonym created *Vater und Sohn* in 1934; it appeared in the *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*, to great acclaim, until 1937. Though he was allowed to return to regular magazine work in 1940, his caricatures of Stalin were especially popular; he was arrested four years later by the Gestapo for disparaging the regime. The day before his trial, he committed suicide in his cell. Joel Rotenberg was trained as a linguist and now translates from German and French. He lives in New York.