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# Z Is For Zorglub (Spirou & Fantasio)



## Synopsis

A hairdryer sent by an unknown party temporarily turns Fantasio into a docile automaton. Coming to his senses in a moving, but driver-less, car, he hears the voice of his abductor, who introduces himself as Zorclub. When an accident allows Fantasio to escape, the mysterious kidnapper tries again with Spirou. In fact, the abductions' only purpose is to send the Count of Champignac a message – he and Zorclub are old acquaintances. But what is the enigmatic genius planning?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

André Franquin was as important and influential throughout his career as Hergé, moulding and training dozens of artists through his long years at Spirou magazine. Creator of the Marsupilami and of Gomer Goof, he was in charge of Spirou & Fantasio for 20 years. Extraordinary prolific author of the golden age of BD – 250 titles – Greg is best known for creating the outrageous Achille Talon and the poetic Olivier Rameau. Jidéhem, who partnered with Franquin on both Spirou and Gomer, is also a legend of the comic world, and creator of popular children series Sophie.

I have around thirty of the hardcover Spirou and Fantasio graphic novels, in Spanish, from when I vacationed in Spain as a boy. As a college student now, I look back on those days fondly, and these graphic novels have aged extremely well. This French comic series are adventure stories similar to those found in the more famous Tintin books by Hergé. However, in my opinion, Spirou and Fantasio are far superior...more whimsical and imaginative (the character Marsupilami originated in

the series' pages before being bought by Disney). Spirou and Fantasio travel the world, toppling dictatorships, fighting mad scientists, traveling to the future and the past, and stopping organized crime rings. A few years back, a series called *El Pequeno Spirou* (or *Little Spirou*), spinned off of the Spirou and Fantasio comics. Little Spirou stories are one page comic strips (like those that appear in the Sunday paper) full of hilarious lowbrow (and award-winning) humor. The main character is Spirou as a child, and Fantasio, unfortunately, doesn't appear in the stories. These too are worth getting. Unfortunately, as other reviewers have stated, it's hard finding these graphic novels outside of France (and Spain). Hopefully, as with Asterix and Tintin, these books will someday reach avid young readers everywhere.

"Spirou and Fantasio" is almost unknown in the English-speaking world. It's a Franco-Belgian adventure comic. Only a few albums have been translated to English, usually in India (of all places). When I grew up during the 1970's and 1980's, the series was popular in Sweden, since many of the albums were available in Swedish. As a kid, I preferred "Spirou and Fantasio" to "Tintin", considering the former to be more exciting. Today, I would probably prefer "Tintin", although I must admit that I'm no longer very interested in comics! "Tintin" always struck me as more realistic, while "Spirou and Fantasio" is obviously fictional. "Spirou" is somewhat chaotic, probably because the comic was written and illustrated by more than one person. There are also annoying crossovers with other comics. As a child, however, I liked the more fantasy-prone atmosphere of "Spirou". The main characters of "Spirou and Fantasio" are the two reporters Spirou and Fantasio, who frequently visit the absurd small town of Champignac. According to Wikipedia, this fictional town is situated in Wallonia, while I always assumed it was in Brittany. (Maybe two different writers placed it in two different regions?) The goofy and paranoid Mayor of Champignac is a recurring character in the comic, as is the genial inventor, the Count of Champignac. Spirou has the most uncool pet animal of any comic hero I'm familiar with: a squirrel the size of a dog! Later, Spirou and Fantasio adopt a fantasy animal known as the Marsupilami, a kind of monkey with near-supernatural fighting abilities. The Marsupilami frequently saves the two reporters from the clutches of various villains, the most notorious being Fantasio's cousin Zantafio and the mad scientist Zorglub, an old competitor of the Count of Champignac. Occasionally, Spirou and Fantasio visit the fictitious Latin American nation of Palombia, a favourite hang-out for said Zantafio and Zorglub. Despite my liking for "Spirou" as a child, I never liked Zorglub. Most comic book characters are either good or bad, but Zorglub is both and neither. You never know what to make of him. Somehow, I didn't like his unpredictability. His goals are also incomprehensible. In "Z is for Zorglub" he tries to take over the world with the aid of a

sinister ray weapon which can brainwash people and turn them into mindless robots. However, it later turns out that his main goal is simply to write "Coca Cola" on the Moon! Unfortunately, his brainwashed astronauts write the advertising slogan backwards, thus making Zorclub the laughing stock of the entire world. The mad scientist suffers a nervous break down and quite simply absconds. (It's not clear what the Coca Cola Company thought about this episode.) If you are interested in comics, you might as well try out "Z is for Zorclub", or other albums available in English. Personally, however, I feel I have somehow outgrown Spirou, Fantasio and their absurd friends and foes. And I'm sure that town was in Brittany...;-)

I've read all Spirou's books 15 years ago and definitely Franquin's ones are unbeatable. Unfortunately you won't find the same imagination and humour inside the other authors' books. Nowadays, you only find Franquin's books in french. Why, if they have the other not so cool books print in english and portuguese, and probably spanish, italian..? I used to find those books in portuguese in Portugal's bookstores back then. Kim Thompson, please do us a favor. Translate all the other Franquin's books to english. I wish my kids will have the same joy of reading Spirou as I had...and Tintin, Asterix, and Blake & Mortimer. Real, flesh and bone heroes, full of humour and wit.

Ever since childhood, my favorite comics were Franco-Belgian. Tintin, Asterix, Lucky Luke and last but not least Spirou. As a kid, I read all the Spirou books in French and I thought they were amazing. This book was written by Andre Franquin, the first artist to turn spirou into a major success. This book was drawn in the 60's, and shows the battle between Spirou and Fantasio against a maniacal inventor named Zorclub. This book is considered as one of Franquin's finest by most Spirou fans. It is a must read. I hope that someday more Spirou books will be available to the English reading public, especially those drawn by Franquin and by Tome and Janry.

Z is for Zorclub was the 15th Spirou book Franquin made. He then left the comic to focus on his own character Gaston la Gaffe. In Z is for zorclub we'll meet the mad scientist zorclub who wants to dominate the world. However, there is one spirou book even better than this one: Le dictateur et le champignon: In which Spirou and Fantasio must battle Fantasios evil cousin Zantafio (whom is the archvillain of the series)

It is a big disappointment not finding any of these books anywhere in the U.S. These comic books used to rule my childhood'days back in Asia. All of the kids back then really loved them. I

remembered my friends and I used to wait early at the bookstore waiting for the new release. I would recommend these books to anyone from adults to kids. Unfortunately, they are only available in French.

"Spirou et Fantasio" is as fresh as it was 40 years ago. I enjoyed it in the sixties and having a copy in front of me is a rare treat, just like seeing an old friend and to find out the old friend is as young as ever. Let bring in more of these, Moebius had his days, now is the time for Spirou...

This is so far the only translated book of Franquin who Draw and wrote in French few beautiful serie like Gaston Fantasio and Spirou, Le petit Spirou, etc... This your only chance to read one of his book in English.

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