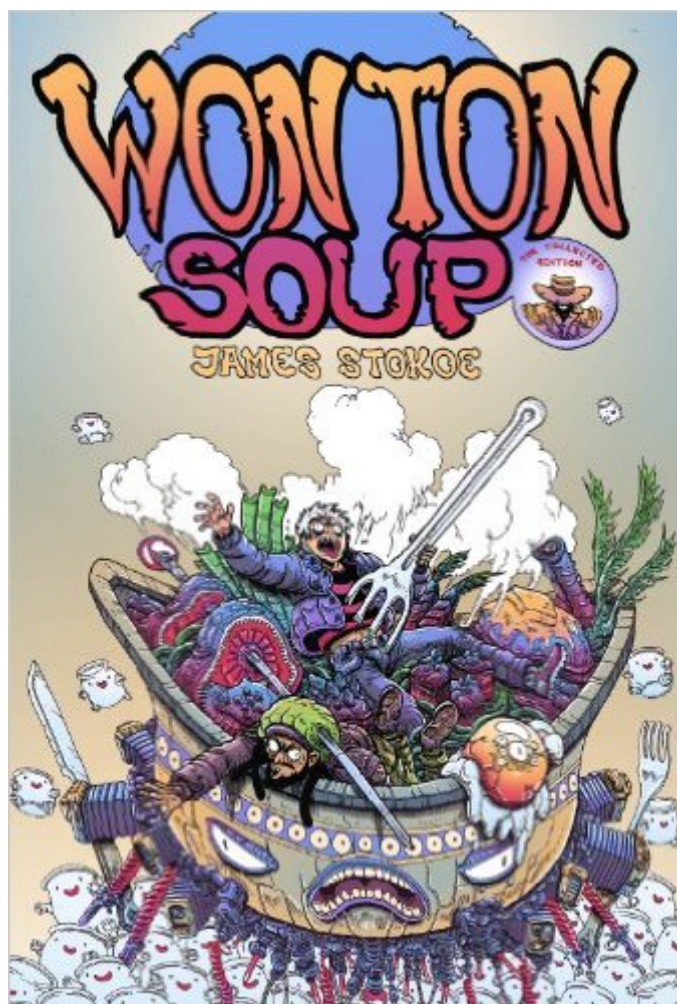


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Wonton Soup Collection



Synopsis

James Stokoe's crazy space trucker cooking epic returns to print bigger and badder than ever before! Join Johnny Boyo and Deacon as they cruise the intergalactic superhighways in search of legendary ingredients and amazing adventure. Collects Wonton Soup Volumes 1 and 2.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Oni Press (July 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620101661

ISBN-13: 978-1620101667

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.3 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Wonton Soup is a space trucker opera. It turns out that freight haulers are rednecks whether they drive semis or spaceships. The space truckers pull into a space station with the expectation of getting laid (the consuming ambition of truckers everywhere) although Johnny Boyo, who dropped out of cooking school to explore the universe of food firsthand, is mostly interested in eating wonton soup. The outer space version of wontons isn't traditional Chinese but Boyo likes it until he spits out a hidden message warning of a threat to the rebellion. Boyo ignores it, of course, and the crew soon resumes its regular routine of fighting space ninjas, hauling dangerous food, and getting into trouble. The descriptions of alien food are good for several laughs. Boyo is particularly interested in dangerous food, the kind that might explode or poison everyone or eat the chef if not prepared correctly. After a couple hundred pages of serious foolery, the story winds its way back to a different version of wonton soup. That's followed by Wonton Soup 2, in which our truckers take a different kind of trip after smoking a little too much something and Boyo's trucking partner tells the story of the sex bear. Of course, exotic food again plays a key role in the story. In its look and feel, as well as its themes of drug use and strange sex, Wonton Soup reminded me of underground comics of the 1970s. That's pretty cool.

James Stokoe has soul. *Won Ton Soup* is a throwback to the kind of comic book that most people these days forget exists; one without capes and superpowers, where real characters move through fanciful settings as beautiful, exotic, and detailed as the background of a Sergio Argones' comic, a combination of the high concept space opera and down to earth space western that characterized the heyday of *Heavy Metal* magazine and the best of the British 2000 AD serials. Today known and moderately famed for his solo series *Orc Stain* and *Godzilla Half-Century War*, as well as his contributions to Brandon Graham's *Prophet* (who also provides the introduction), *Won Ton Soup* represents a more accessible look at one of his earlier under-the-radar efforts. Johnny Boyo is a talented young chef that ditches culinary school to get his spacer legs, moving between alien worlds and trying new and dangerous recipes; along the way he deals with plenty of aliens, strange drugs, and gets in a chef duel with a pair of psychically linked twins. The moods are real but the tone rarely slips into anything deep, this is a light-hearted bit of spacepunk for people that remember what it's like to order strange food in foreign cities, to go on long road trips with odd friends, to try and work a long-distance relationship with a girl sweet as citrus, and to find that place between what they teach you at school and what you learn out in the real world. Have a taste. You might like it.

I love Stokoe's work, and i do want to give this 5 stars, but i guess i thought this was in color? Don't get me wrong it is still great, but part of the reason i love his art so much is because of his extraordinary color! All those wonderful purples and such are replaced by black and white. Boring. Story and line work are as per usual, so check it out if you like his other work. Cheers.

I'm a little surprised by how much I enjoyed this book. It reminds me of *Chew* crossed with underground comics. Stokoe's linework is great and he actually knows how to draw for the black and white medium. In fact, I think the art here looks better than his color artwork found in *Godzilla: the Half Century War*.

My review is not for the content of *Wonton Soup*, as its been out for some time and there are plenty of other reviews out there already. That said I wanted to take a moment and comment on this new format. It is awesome. The one thing that always bugged me about the two standalone *Wonton Soup* volumes was that they were printed and bound in the manga style. I appreciate that the comic was intended to be a sort of a western manga but those small volumes sit so weird on my shelf of TPB's and other western comics. This new collected volume captures both of the original manga size volumes in one neat and tidy place. The roughly 9 x 6 x 1.25" volume is substantial in the hand and

doesn't get swallowed by its neighbors on my bookshelf. The full color cover art is beautiful as well. The only criticism I could possibly come up with for Wonton Soup (and pretty much any Stokoe comics) is that there isn't enough of it. WE NEED MORE JAMES!!!! YOU HEAR ME, JAMES?

Hey, it's Stokoe's early work. He has really come a long way. I love the guy, but it's no Orc Stain. BTW, when are we getting more Orc Stain?

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