



# RIN TIN CAN'S INHERITANCE

-MORRIS &  
GOSWINKY-



A LUCKY LUKE ADVENTURE 75



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ARTWORK: MORRIS  
SCRIPT: GOSCINNY



## FOREWORD

Published for the first time in 1973, this episode of *Lucky Luke* is very much a product of its time. While neither Morris nor Goscinny could ever be accused of genuine racism, some of their attitudes, jokes and representations are a reflection of French and Belgian society at the time.

That is rather painfully clear in the visual representation of Chinese characters in this comic. By and large, they are simply people and shown as basically decent like everyone else, yet Goscinny did make extensive use of clichés and stereotypes in his script. And Morris drew them according to the practice at the time – with exaggerated features, prominent teeth and bright yellow skin.

It would be wrong to say that such representation shocked no one. No; it did, in fact, shock people of Chinese (and generally Asian) descent very much. Quite frankly, though, society didn't bother listening to them back then. Caricaturing minorities was perfectly all right.

Fortunately, society has evolved, and any comic attempting to portray Asian characters this way nowadays would rightly be quashed immediately. So, why did we decide to publish this one?

We did hesitate, for a long time. In the end, we decided that withholding an entire volume from the series would be counterproductive. No, this sort of thing isn't, and should never again be, acceptable. But we should all remember that it *was* acceptable once, that there was a time when entire segments of the population were fair game for derisive, insulting, hurtful representations and had little choice but to grit their teeth and bear it. That even in a series as otherwise innocent and simply fun as *Lucky Luke*, you can see the result of toxic social practices.

We should remember it so that we can continue rooting out similar, enduring practices in our own time, in our own society, whomever they may be aimed at.

So, enjoy this book for what it is. Enjoy the art and the story and the humour, and when you see or read something that makes you wince, or swear aloud, remember that it is a product of a (hopefully) bygone time – and take comfort in the progress made since then.

*The Cinebook Team*

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