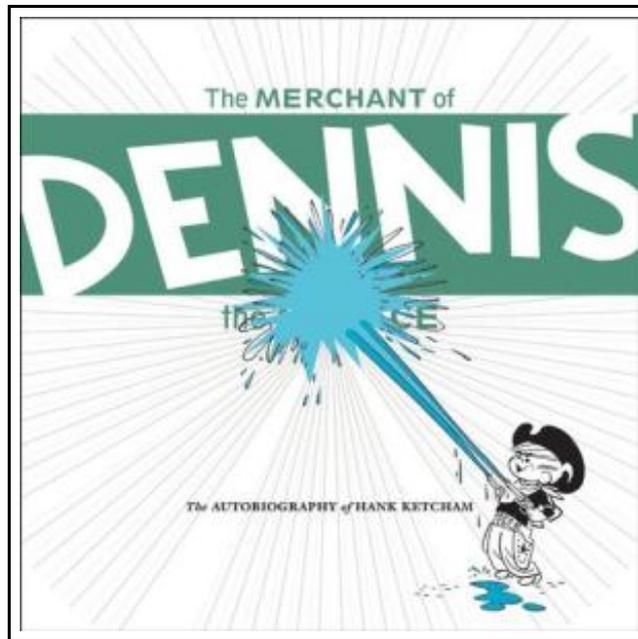


## The Merchant of Dennis the Menace: The Autobiography of Hank Ketcham



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## THE MERCHANT OF DENNIS THE MENACE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HANK KETCHAM

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Fantagraphics. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 240 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 8.8in. x 0.7in. In this engaging memoir, the Dennis the Menace creator charmingly tells his own colorful story, with copious illustrations of his artistic development, a behind-the-scenes section, and his hand-picked favorite strips. Hank Ketcham, the self-styled Merchant of Dennis, passed away in 2001 at the age of 81, but not before writing this engaging memoir. In this volume, the Dennis the Menace creator charmingly tells his own colorful story, starting when he was about five-and-a-half and first picked up the magic pencil. A child of the Great Depression from Seattle, Ketcham abandoned college for Hollywood, to pursue a dream of making drawings for Walt Disney films. Initially rebuffed at Disney, he persisted in huffing and puffing at the Mouse Factory door (all the while drawing Andy Pandas, rabbits, squirrels, and monkeys at Walter Lantz studio) until finally he was let inside to labor happily on Pinocchio, Bambi, Fantasia and a host of Donald Duck shorts. World War II intervened, but Photographers Mate Ketcham was, nevertheless, able to resume his artistic career in the Navy, where, in Washington, D. C. , he created cartoons for the War Bond program. Following the war, Ketcham developed into a successful freelancer, placing cartoons in The New Yorker, Saturday Evening Post and Colliers. Then one fateful day, his harried wife screamed at him that his son Dennis was a menace! That, of course, sparked an idea that subsequently was sold to a newspaper syndicate in the fall of 1950. Within a year, Dennis the Menace was up to a hundred daily subscribers-a figure that climbed steadily. The Merchant of Dennis the Menace not only traces the humorous adventures of Hank Ketcham-with copious illustrations of his artistic development from a kid with an early knack...



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