



## BONE: Tall Tales

*By Tom Sniegowski*

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Ever wonder what happened before the Bone cousins got lost in the uncharted forest of the Valley? Or how Boneville came to be? This is the hilarious companion to the epic BONE saga.

Long before the Bone cousins were ever lost in the uncharted desert on the outskirts of the Valley, Big Johnson Bone, the discoverer of the Rolling Bone River, founded Boneville. But little is known of the mighty explorer's adventures before he started his famous trading post. So when Smiley Bone sits down with a group of young campers to retell the legendary stories of Boneville's origin and its tough, no-nonsense founder, what they hear are tall tales in typical BONE fashion--wild antics complete with rat creatures, dragons, and a snarky little monkey!

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## **BONE: Tall Tales** By Tom Sniegowski Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #29424 in Books
- Brand: GRAPHIX
- Published on: 2010-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 6.25" w x .25" l, .62 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8 This installment introduces Big Johnson Bone, the explorer who founded Boneville. A fearless Davey Crockett-like character, he defeats a cave bear when just a baby and grows up to best all manner of beasts, including a pack of ratlike creatures intent on taking over the forest. Big Johnson's recklessness in the face of danger results in much humor, as does the commentary of his terrified, sarcastic monkey companion. Smith's quick wit shines through in the exchanges between Johnson and his companions. The colorful art is jam-packed with action, and the characters are enhanced with exaggerated features and movements. The story moves quickly as Big Johnson falls into one predicament after another. This addition to the Bone saga will keep readers of the series happy and create new fans. *Carrie Rogers-Whitehead, Kearns Library, UT*  
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From [Booklist](#)

Now that Scholastic has completed its colorization of the entire Bone series, including the prequel, *Rose* (2009), fans get this little collection of bite-size morsels to savor as they await with bated breath the first book in a new Bone trilogy due out this fall. A couple new stories lead into the centerpiece, which was first published as *Stupid Stupid Rat-Tails* by Smith's Cartoon Books in 1999. This yarn follows the legendary founder of Boneville, Big Johnson Bone, and his adventures in the Valley, where rat creatures are threatening the cuddly forest denizens. The stern-jawed, brawl-ready Big Johnson doesn't quite have the lasting personality of Fone, Phoney, or Smiley, but his hilariously offhanded heroics and nearly delusional coolheadedness in the face of danger ("This reminds me of the time I was nearly consumed by the voracious Hungrisaur! There I was, buck naked . . ." he says as he is swallowed by an enormous rat creature) make for unswervingly entertaining reading. Pretty much an essential purchase for collections that house Bone, which should be all of them. Grades 6-12. --Ian Chipman

Review

### **Praise for the Bone series**

Named one of the top ten graphic novels of all time by *Time*

"Spectacular." -*Spin* magazine

"One of the best kids' comics ever." -*VIBE* magazine

"Jeff Smith's Bone series . . . is a true accomplishment. Not only is it a terrific graphic-novel series, but it's a superb example of storytelling." -*School Library Journal*

"Bone is storytelling at its best, full of endearing, flawed characters whose adventures run the gamut from hilarious whimsy to thrilling drama." -*Entertainment Weekly*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Jeff Puckett:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content.

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**James Robicheaux:**

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**Alita Schmidt:**

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**Neil Espinoza:**

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