

Stone Soup

demo url <http://content.uclick.com/content/ss.html>



feature type
comic strip

frequency
7x / week

delivery methods
FTP, UClick®

target audience
parents, families, women age
25 - 55

Stone Soup is here for the masses. It's a comic strip that addresses modern families who don't quite fit into the old version of the perfect family (mom, dad, 2.5 kids and a white picket fence).

When Jan Eliot created STONE SOUP, her goal was to reflect real life because finding the humor in reality is often the only way to survive it. The strip's name comes from an old fairy tale that illustrates how a community turned its limited resources into a grand feast and celebration – creating something from nothing. This is what parents, especially single parents, often must do.

STONE SOUP not only addresses single-parent households, but it also attracts women with its character make-up. Val is a widow who lives with her two daughters, Holly and Alix. Val's younger sister, Joan (whose husband went out to get milk...at a convenience store in the Virgin Islands), and her son, Max, also live with them. Val and Joan's mother, Gramma, and a yappy little dog named Biscuit complete the household. There are also male characters such as Wally, the epitome of a swell guy who lives next door; Wally's 15-year-old nephew, Andy; a motorcycle cop named Officer Phil Jackson (Val's new love interest); Simon, Val's hairdresser and lone confidant; and finally, Dickerson and Mr. Maybe, who both work with Val.

Through these characters, Eliot explores themes involving a 10-year-old tomboy, a 13-year-old self-absorbed drama queen, an opinionated grandmother, aggravated sisters (of all ages), a single parent in an unsympathetic workplace, a work-at-home mom, women venturing into complicated romances, and every other frustration and joy that comes from of a house of chaos such as this.

About the Creator:

Jan was born in San Jose, California, moved briefly with her parents to Detroit, Michigan, and then spent the remainder of her childhood in St. Charles, Illinois. She studied art at Southern Illinois University, got married and had two children, and eventually settled in Eugene, Oregon with aspirations of finishing her education. Jan earned a degree in Women's Studies and English at the University of Oregon, having temporarily given up on the value of studying art. A position in the production department of a newspaper eventually led to a career in graphic design (back to art, where she started out). After hailing down the owner of a new design studio on a local byway and begging him for a job, she ended up spending seven happy years in his design/advertising agency.

Through it all, Jan was cartooning – and after the creation of two different cartoon strips, many ups and downs, and many thoughts of quitting, Jan arrived, happily, here. Jan lives with her husband, Ted, who is a corporate consultant and therefore the unwitting subject of "Dilbert" cartoons, and Lily, a Schipperke, who is the occasional subject of STONE SOUP in the character of Biscuit. STONE SOUP has been syndicated since November of 1995. Jan has published two STONE SOUP collections, "Stone Soup" and "You Can't Say Boobs on Sunday."



4520 Main Street, Suite 500
Kansas City, MO 64111-7700
voice: 816 300 6500
fax: 816 300 6504
email: sales@uclick.com

www.uclick.com

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