



Peanuts: A Golden Celebration: The Art and Story of The World's Best-Loved Comic Strip

Charles M. Schulz

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Charles M. Schulz has been cartooning for an astonishing 50 years (the "Peanuts" strip itself debuted October 2, 1950, but he drew an earlier incarnation called "Li'l Folks" before that). *Peanuts: A Golden Celebration* is a remarkable collection of strips spanning that time period. Readers get to see the first appearance of Linus, Marcy, Pigpen, and Woodstock, and even the momentous first time Lucy holds a football for Charlie Brown to kick. Schulz comments on the cartoons and his inspirations via notes in the margin, ranging from boyhood stories about his father (a barber, just like Charlie Brown's) to an account of the time the narcolepsy experts at Stanford University expressed concerns over Peppermint Patty's constant sleeping in class. One of the most interesting inclusions is that of several letters of complaint, ranging from readers whose religious sensibilities have been offended to a 1969 missive from Schulz's own syndicate asking him not to depict Franklin in the same school as the white students anymore. Naturally, the much-loved "Peanuts" holiday specials are covered, as is the musical adaptation *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, but it's the strips that really make the book. Readers can follow the evolution of Schulz's drawing style--deliberately less realistic as the years went on--and even check out a few panels drawn by Schulz's own cartooning heroes. This is a terrific compilation that serves well both as a chronicle of popular culture and as just a really funny collection of comic strips. Don't wait for the Great Pumpkin to bring you one. --*Ali Davis*

Peanuts: A Golden Celebration: The Art and Story of The World's Best-Loved Comic Strip Details

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Oceana2602 says

PEANUTS! 50 YEARS!

So I may be collecting the most awesome comics project ever, the COMPLETE PEANUTS collection (see reviews of the already released books here on goodreads), but that doesn't mean I don't feel obligated to get gems like the 50 Years of Peanuts book in addition.

Especially when it's golden. ;-)

Ellie Dynek says

A beautiful collection of one of the world's most beloved comic strip characters and his friends and all their crazy adventures!

Heather says

Read this in high school and used a comic in it for my paper on Anna Karenina. Since I'm leading the Anna Karenina book club in February, I thought I'd see if I can find that comic again. Plus Margaret loves "Chibby Brown."

Matthew Lloyd says

I picked up this volume to be an introduction to the world of *Peanuts*, because I believe I have managed to go more than thirty years without actually reading more than a handful of these comic strips. The comics themselves do not disappoint. Ranging from laugh-out-loud-funny to poignant and thoughtful via existential horror (or was the one just me?) Charlie Brown, his self-centred dog Snoopy, and pals are a delight to read. As for the volume itself, well, it was a fine introduction but it was far from perfect. There are a number of occasions where strips that form a story are printed out-of-order and occasionally the same strip is printed twice (this happens on the first two pages!). On the other hand, the commentary by Schulz is often interesting, although it isn't always as insightful as one might hope ("in this comic I revealed Woodstock's name!" accompanying a comic in which Woodstock's name is revealed...). The two-page spreads about the films, the musicals, and the colour strips are interesting, too. Despite having not read many of these comics, but being familiar with most of the characters and the recurrent tropes like Lucy's psychiatric help stand, Snoopy's Red Baron fantasies, and Linus' blanket, I was surprised to see how long it actually was before all the familiar elements were assembled. Interesting historically, fun to read, and a good introduction that could have done with a bit more careful editing.

Lisa Vegan says

What can I say. After The Far Side, Doonesbury, and some New Yorker cartoons, the Peanuts strip is my next all time favorite; I used to like Kathy also. I was never much of a comic book or comic strip reader, but as a kid, this was my favorite cartoon strip for years and years. And this collection is terrific for Peanuts and Charles Schulz fans. The characters in these cartoons are lovable and Schulz knows about dogs & children & human nature in general.

Sarah83 L says

Eine schöne Zusammenstellung über 50 Jahre Peanuts. Es ist wirklich interessant zu sehen, wie sich manche Figuren im Lauf der Zeit verändert und entwickelt haben

Nathaniel says

AMAZING!!!!!!

Karl says

Thank you Schulz. Peanuts have inspired me to read. Most important. I'm dyslexia. Charlie Brown had encouraged me. Never give up and keep on trying. If Peanuts have never existed. I would never have graduated college. Again. Thank you Schulz.

Paul Carr says

This is a delightful, smile-inducing compilation of the best Peanuts comic strips, with comments and explanations from Charles Schulz himself. More Schulz notes would have been appreciated, as he offered good insight on introducing and developing characters, storyline origins, audience response, and much more. This book was published in 1999, months before Schulz died, so it's nearly comprehensive in its coverage of his work. If you're a Peanuts fan (as I am), this is highly recommended.

Colton says

Absolutely love Peanuts. A great collection and overview of Charles Schulz's legacy, and inspired me to start reading the actual full collections. As this is an overview across the years, there are lots of gaps between longer "arcs" if you will, but nothing too terrible. There were a few pages where the printers inserted a strip out of order, and one glaring error where they reprinted a 1989 strip in with the 1998 ones! Other than that, this is a fine collection for any Peanuts fan, young or old.

Bridget says

I used to stay at my Nana and Grandpa's house a lot in Boulder City, NV. I would "walk uptown" to the library to check out books while I was there. I read all of the Peanuts comic books that they had.

Tim Thompson says

An excellent overview of the career of the masterful, Charles M. Schulz. If you love the Peanuts and want an inside view of how they sprung to life, this is the book for you. The margin notes are superb. Charles Schulz himself, gives brilliant insight into how he developed his characters, how particular strips and story lines came about, the inner workings and dynamics of his characters and their relationships, connections to his own family life, ongoing themes and motifs, and his own personal feelings about his life's work. This is a joyful celebration of one of our most treasured comic strips. If you love the Peanuts, you'll adore this book.

Gulshan Naqvee says

Really one good history and background read. It tells story behind the famous comic strips and development of characters. Snoopy is my favorite. Logical Dog.

Seth says

I found this at a thrift store in almost perfect condition for \$3, so I grabbed it. As a kid, I became acquainted with the Peanuts gang mostly by checking out collections of their strips from the school library.

This book is just that - a collection of strips spanning about 50 years. It's not comprehensive, but there is enough there to gain an appreciation for the genius of Charles Schulz. Organized by decade, it includes notes from Schulz providing insight on the development of perhaps the greatest comic strip ever devised - such as why there were no adults in the strips or why Linus thought there was such a thing as the Great Pumpkin or why Marcie and Patty are the only characters not to use the name "Charlie Brown" or why Snoopy's doghouse is seen only from a side view.

Clearly, the heyday of the strip was the 60's and 70's, or maybe I just feel that way because those are the books that were available in the library when I was a kid reading in the 80's. But that is also when many of the Charlie Brown TV specials were produced so I don't think I'm mistaken.

In one strip, Schroeder, who is the catcher on Charlie Brown's baseball team, comes to the pitcher's mound to complain to Charlie Brown about getting hit on the hand with a foul ball. Charlie Brown asks, "Well, do you think you can still play?" Schroeder goes back to his house, knocks out a riff on his toy piano, and then reports back to Charlie Brown that, yes, he can still play.

I identify strongly with the humor in the strips. It could be because Charles Schulz and I see the world in a

similar way, or it could be that reading all the strips in my youth contributed to the development of my sense of humor and what I perceive to be funny.

For fans of the Peanuts strip, this is a worthwhile read. The only thing that I didn't really like was how Charles Schulz likes to go by the nickname "Sparky". But, hey, it's his nickname, not mine.

Lexi says

A beautiful retrospective of Schulz's work, of Charlie Brown, of Schulz's life, of all we love of the Peanuts, and most importantly, of Snoopy! A great coffee table book, but even better just before bed, to cheer you after a long adult working day. Such a joy.
