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Charles M. Schulz

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Charles M. Schulz : The Complete Peanuts 1961-1962 (Vol. 6) (The Complete Peanuts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Peanuts 1961-1962 (Vol. 6) (The Complete Peanuts):

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The Masterwork At Its HeightBy John D. CofieldHere we have Charles M. Schulz at his height. The Peanuts world is almost complete, with the main caste of characters set: Charlie Brown the neurotic, Linus the philosopher, Lucy the loudmouth, and Snoopy the . . . well, Snoopy. Other characters include the original Shermey, Violet, and Patty, who are beginning to fade away, Schroeder, who is playing Beethoven with ever greater intensity, and little Sally, who must have had one of the fastest infancies in history! The newest character is Frieda with the naturally curly hair. Frieda caused one of Schulz's few missteps, when he had her introduce a cat (which he then realized, too late, that he couldn't draw) which made Snoopy act too much like a real dog. Fortunately Schulz realized the problem right away, and Faron the cat only appears in a few strips.The old standbys are here: the Great Pumpkin, Lucy and the football, the hapless baseball team, and Snoopy's rich fantasy life. I also enjoyed the random references to American life in the early 1960s: especially an eerie strip from 1962 in which the kids speculate on the possibility of the Bomb dropping, with Lucy screaming "Don't Say It!" Schulz could not have known that that October the world would come closer than ever before or since to nuclear holocaust, so this is further evidence that Peanuts' popularity stems from its links, conscious and unconscious, to our own inner lives and fears.Its hard to wait six months or so between volumes in this series, but we can endure it in happy anticipation of the advent of treasures yet to be revealed, such as the first time Snoopy climbs into that Sopwith Camel0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy StevenThe Complete Peanuts comics are great.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Great 2 Years of Peanuts!By K. PalmerI believe I've written a review of every volume issued so far in the Complete Peanuts series that it is hard to say anything more glowing than I already have. Now we begin the 1960's, when the strip hit its stride. Linus seems to be more the focus of the strip during this time

with his need for glasses (which didn't last that long as it turns out) and Lucy's various attempts to get Linus to lose the blanket. But all of the main cast sees some serious strip time in this book. Schulz also introduces Frida to the strip along with her cat Faron. I think he was hoping to make these characters more prevalent than they ended up being in the strip (Faron didn't last long and Frida was a minor character for most of the 1960's and appeared sporadically in later years). But what surprised me is that there were still quite a few strips in this book that I had never seen before, which really shocked me. I thought as we got into the 1960's I would have seen 95%-98% of the strips, but I would guess that number to be only 80% in reality. That's a pleasant surprise and one that I hope continues for the rest of the 1960s books. So again, five stars for a great book. Only 19 more books and 10 more years to go to complete the series!

The series that launched a comic strip renaissance enters Schulz's second decade. Launching into the 1960s, Schulz adds another new cast member. Two, in fact: The obnoxious Frieda of "naturally curly hair" fame, and her inert, seemingly boneless cat Faron. The rapidly maturing Sally, who was after all just born in the previous volume, is ready to start kindergarten and not at all happy about it. Lucy and Linus' war over the security blanket escalates, with Lucy burying it, cutting it apart, and, in the longest sequence of the book, turning it into a kite and allowing it to fly away. Aaugh! In fact, Linus' life is particularly turbulent in this volume, as he is forced to wear glasses, sees the unexpected return of his favorite teacher, Miss Othmar, and coaxes Sally into the cult of the Great Pumpkin (with regrettable results). Snoopy, meanwhile, becomes a compulsive water sprinkler head stander, unhappily befriends a snowman or two, and endures a family crisis involving a little family of birds. (Woodstock? the bird, and the music festival, for that matter? is still a few years away.) And in one of the strangest continuities in the history of Peanuts, the (off-panel) Van Pelt parents acquire a tangerine-colored pool table and become obsessed with it! Plus baseball blowouts (including a rare team victory), Beethoven birthdays, plenty of dubious psychiatric help for a nickel, and an introduction by Diana Krall. 730 black-and-white comic strips

.com By 1961-62, "Peanuts" was truly the comic strip that we all still know and love, with situations and sayings that would cement its place as one of the most memorable literary creations of all time. Linus is firmly center stage, and if not for baseball would probably eclipse Charlie Brown in status. His efforts to defend his blanket are legendary (Lucy buries it and turns it into a kite), he gets glasses, and his favorite teacher, Miss Othmar (now known as Mrs. Hagemeyer) returns, which leads to some consternation when he (1) learns that she's accepting money to teach and (2) tells her he'll give up his blanket if she gives up biting her fingernails. There's a new character, Frieda with the naturally curly hair, and her floppy cat strikes terror throughout the neighborhood. Oh, about that baseball team. Everyone quits when Schroeder gives up baseball for Beethoven (leading CB to take out a personal ad to manage another team), they decide their pep talk is making them hypocrites, and Linus is assigned to scout the opposing team. As much as "Peanuts" is a reflection of its era ("Why couldn't McCovey have hit the ball just three feet higher?"), it also had a self-awareness as a comic strip (Linus: "The most recent criticism is that there is too little action and far too much talking in the modern-day comic strip. What do you think about this?" CB: "Ridiculous!") that proved just how far Charles M. Schulz was ahead of his time. With fellow pianist Schroeder on the cover, Diana Krall wrote this volume's introduction. --David Horiuchi From Booklist At the start of the 1960s, Schulz had entered into a satisfying routine of putting his beloved characters through their annual paces. Charlie Brown's baseball team went down to perpetual defeat in the summer, Linus vainly awaited the Great Pumpkin and Lucy pulled the football in the fall, and Schroeder celebrated Beethoven's birthday in the winter. These strips introduce Frieda, the girl with "naturally curly hair," sadly destined to remain a second-stringer, and for a brief period in them, Linus sports eyeglasses. Singer Diana Krall contributes a heartfelt introduction. Gordon Flagg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved A treat...a package with mass appeal. -- Publishers Weekly starred review As essential as pop texts get. -- The Onion Consider replacing those tattered old Peanuts paperbacks with this definitive series. -- Booklist Even the most demanding Peanuts fan couldn't ask for more. [Grade:] A+. -- Comics Buyer's Guide Fantagraphics' heroic project—designed with subtle, quiet beauty by the cartoonist called Seth... [Grade:] A. -- Entertainment Weekly I was surprised by how insanely funny the early strips were. -- Aaron MacGruder, creator of The Boondocks, writing for Spin What a brilliant, truly modern, totally weird idea it was to create a comic strip about a chronically depressed child. -- Time