

The Complete Peanuts 1983-1984, Vol. 17

Charles M. Schulz

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Charles M. Schulz : The Complete Peanuts 1983-1984, Vol. 17 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Peanuts 1983-1984, Vol. 17:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Rerun takes the leadBy Frederick WiegandCharles M. Schulz goes out the way he came in--with solid characters, quirky humor, and a wry social commentary. After several decades of relegating Rerun Van Pelt, younger brother of Lucy and Linus, to the back seat of their mother's bicycle, Schulz in the last two or three years started to develop the character into one of the shrewdest and funniest of the entire cast. Rerun questions everything, including long-standing traditions such as his brother Linus' blanket habit and the fact that of all of the kids in the neighborhood, Charlie Brown is the only one with a dog. Rerun develops a strong affinity for Snoopy and despite the fact that his mother won't let him have a dog of his own, a true camaraderie arises between Rerun and Snoopy. This serves to make Snoopy more dog-like and it makes Rerun very sympathetic, which has not always been the case with other members of his family. But this book is about much more than Rerun. Every major character who was current with the cast at the time is represented here--Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Peppermint Patty, Marcie, Franklin, Snoopy, and Woodstock. We even get the final chapter in the Football saga--where Lucy tries one last time to pull the ball away when Charlie Brown is about to kick it--but this time around, there is a plot twist that may surprise the reader. The book also includes the final Sunday and the final daily strips that closed out the run of Peanuts, with the author's farewell. Unfortunately, there appears to have been a printer's error with the Sunday finale strip, because most of the images are missing and there is a lot of blank space. Hopefully future editions will rectify this error. The complete last Sunday strip can be seen correctly rendered on the last page of the book "Peanuts 2000."This book also features a foreword by none other than the President of the United States, comprising a reverent and tasteful tribute. It is rounded out by the complete run of "Li'l Folks", Schulz' pre-Peanuts single-panel gag strip that shows a prototype of what would evolve into the Peanuts comic strip that is known and loved today. If you have not been collecting this Fantagraphics series of Peanuts reprints, this volume makes a good place to start. Once you have read this, you will want to collect the rest. If you have been collecting them, congratulations--you now have a copy of every Peanuts

comic strip! (with the one exception noted above)14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Superb - But we Need a Slipcase for the Next and Final Volume Too!By Kevin J. RobertsAnother superb edition, in a wonderful slipcase! Schulz was able to maintain his quality right through his later years.I am certain that there are many collectors who have purchased every one of the slipcased editions and display them proudly. But the announcement that Fantagraphics will publish the final book (Volume 25) in this series without a slipcase leaves me greatly disappointed. Will it just be an appendage on your shelf of 12 slipcased sets? This is hard to believe. I hope Fantagraphics will provide a slipcase for the final volume. They are a company for collectors, after all. I will write to them, and I hope others will as well.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a must have, plain and simple.By C. GregoryA Great collection, I have all the books from the 1950s to 1990 and eagerly am awaiting the rest of the collection. (last strip came in 2000). You really can't go wrong with Peanuts, intelligent and fun humor it will simultaneously take you back to your own childhood and take you deeper into the experiences of Schulz's life. These characters are icons, and the humor/art is a template that many others have tried to emulate and only a few can pull off. Snoopy could have easily been considered "jumping the shark" in the hands of a lesser cartoonist, but in Schulz's hands its a stroke of genius. A bit sad at times, but always clever, anyone who enjoys comic strips and wants to make life a little better needs to own these books. They have definitely been a bright spot in my life. and I look forward to passing them down to my own kids some day....a great way to do something as a family. Either by sharing the books or reading them aloud, the characters jump off the page, and the writing will have you looking deeper into your own psyche and laughing at the same time.

Snoopy's brother Spike and Peppermint Patty take starring roles in the latest Collection for the years 1983 and 1984 of one of the world's most popular newspaper comic strips.As Peanuts reaches the mid-1980s, Charles Schulz is still creating and playing with new characters, and in this volume Snoopy's deadpan, droopy-mustached brother Spike takes center stage: Surrounded by coyotes in the desert where he lives and who are attacking him with rubber bands, he sends a frantic message to Snoopy who launches an expedition to save him. Then, he makes the long trek back to Snoopy's neck of the woods accompanied by his only friend (a cactus, of course)... and throughout the rest of the book, pops up in hilarious, Waiting for Godot-style vignettes set in his native Needles.In romantic news, the Peppermint Patty-Marcie-Charlie Brown love triangle of overlapping unrequited love heats up (well,kind of), while Linus continues to vociferously deny that he is Sally's "Sweet Babboo"; of course, Lucy's unsuccessful pursuit of Schroeder remains unabated. Also, a romance blossoms between two of Snoopy's "Beagle Scout" birds. (We will pass over Spike's brief attraction to one of the coyotes.)In what is probably his most baroque and hilarious baseball-involved humiliation yet, Charlie Brown agrees to join Peppermint Patty's team the "Pelicans" only to discover that he's wanted not as a player but as a mascot... Linus gives up his security blanket and forms a support group for other kids who are trying to do the same... and Peppermint Patty manages to be held back in school (leaving a "Snoring Ghost" to take her place in the rest of the class that has advanced) and yet get to go on a European trip with her dad, sending back periodic dispatches from the road. All this plus appearances from Franklin, Rerun, and the rest of the gang in these strips from a period of Peanuts that's far less well-known than the endlessly-collected 1960s and 1970s eras... Black white throughout

"The seventeenth volume of . . . [The Complete Peanuts] is just as delightful as all the rest. Yes, the ink line of Charles Schulz is a little wobbly at times, but his humor is just as sharp as ever...if you want reading material that will make you smile and laugh it's hard to beat this series. And I'm continuing to admire the subtle and classy cover designs by Seth." - Todd Klein, (Eisner Award-winning letterer and designer)"The Complete Peanuts 1983-1984 is an excellent installment of an excellent series. ...Peanuts is a standalone achievement that deserves every accolade it has received. Fantagraphics' reprints have more than risen to the challenge of giving Peanuts the comprehensive editions it has long deserved. Stellar." - Eric Hoffman, Comics BulletinAbout the AuthorCharles M. Schulz was born November 25, 1922, in Minneapolis. His destiny was foreshadowed when an uncle gave him, at the age of two days, the nickname Sparky (after the racehorse Spark Plug in the newspaper strip Barney Google).In his senior year in high school, his mother noticed an ad in a local newspaper for a correspondence school, Federal Schools (later called Art Instruction Schools). Schulz passed the talent test, completed the course, and began trying, unsuccessfully, to sell gag cartoons to magazines. (His first published drawing was of his dog, Spike, and appeared in a 1937 Ripley's Believe It or Not! installment.) Between 1948 and 1950, he succeeded in selling 17 cartoons to the Saturday Evening Post?as well as, to the local St. Paul Pioneer Press, a weekly comic feature called Li'l Folks. It was run in the women's section and paid \$10 a week. After writing and drawing the feature for two years, Schulz asked for a better location in the paper or for daily exposure, as well as a raise. When he was turned down on all three counts, he quit.He started submitting strips to the newspaper syndicates. In the spring of 1950, he received a letter from the United Feature Syndicate, announcing their interest in his submission, Li'l Folks. Schulz boarded a train in June for New York City; more interested in doing a strip than a panel, he also brought along the first installments of what would become Peanuts?and that was what sold. (The title, which Schulz loathed to his dying day, was imposed by the syndicate.) The first Peanuts daily appeared

October 2, 1950; the first Sunday, January 6, 1952. Diagnosed with cancer, Schulz retired from Peanuts at the end of 1999. He died on February 13, 2000, the day before Valentine's Day and the day before his last strip was published, having completed 17,897 daily and Sunday strips, each and every one fully written, drawn, and lettered entirely by his own hand, an unmatched achievement in comics.