



The Complete Peanuts, 1950-1954

Charles M. Schulz

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A boxed set of the first two volumes, just in time for the holidays, designed by the Award-winning graphic novelist, Seth! Ships shrinkwrapped.

The first volume, *The Complete Peanuts 1950-1952*, covers the first two and a quarter years of the strip (October 1950 through December 1952), and will be of particular fascination to *Peanuts* aficionados worldwide: Although there have been literally hundreds of *Peanuts* books published, many of the strips from the series' first two or three years have never been collected before—in large part because they showed a young Schulz working out the kinks in his new strip and include some characterizations and designs that are quite different from the cast we're all familiar with (Among other things, three major cast members—Schroeder, Lucy, and Linus—initially show up as infants and only "grow" into their final "mature" selves as the months go by. Even Snoopy debuts as a puppy!).

The second volume, *The Complete Peanuts 1953-1954*, begins with *Peanuts*' third full year and a cast of eight: Charlie Brown, Shermy, Patty, Violet, Schroeder, Lucy, the recently born Linus, and Snoopy. By the end of 1954, this will have expanded to nine. Linus still doesn't speak (except, on a few occasions, to himself, à la Snoopy), but Schulz begins laying the foundation for his emergence as the most complex and arguably most endearing character in the strip: garrulous and inquisitive, yet gentle and tolerant. And he evens acquires his "security blanket" in this volume! Meanwhile, Lucy, an infant just a year ago, has forcefully elbowed herself to the front of the cast, proudly wearing her banner as a troublemaker or, in Schulz's memorable phrase, "fuss-budget." The strong, specific relationships she sets up with each character further contributes to making her central to the strip. (She has earned her cover status on this volume.) This period's significant new character is Pig-Pen, who would remain one of the main cast members throughout the decade. And then there's Snoopy. To readers unfamiliar with the early days of the strip, Snoopy's appearances here will no doubt come as the biggest surprise. Although Snoopy has started talking/thinking to himself, he does no imitations (except for one brief shark impression), he doesn't sleep atop his doghouse (much less type or fly a Sopwith Camel), and has no fantasy life—in fact, he doesn't even walk upright! But as we know, he is merely biding his time, and his evolution continues its fascinating course within these pages.

Peanuts is the most successful comic strip in the history of the medium as well as one of the most acclaimed strips ever published. (In 1999, a jury of comics scholars and critics voted it the 2nd greatest comic strip of the 20th century—second only to George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, a verdict Schulz himself cheerfully endorsed.) Charles Schulz's characters—Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, and so many more—have become American icons. A United Media poll in 2002 found *Peanuts* to be one of the most recognizable cartoon properties in the world, recognized by 94 percent of the total U.S. consumer market and a close second only to Mickey Mouse (96 percent), and higher than other familiar cartoon properties like Spider-Man (75 percent) or the Simpsons (87 percent). In *TV Guide*'s "Top 50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All-Time" list, Charlie Brown and Snoopy ranked #8.

The Complete Peanuts, 1950-1954 Details

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From Reader Review The Complete Peanuts, 1950-1954 for online ebook

James says

The greatest comic strip of all times is being collected in these beautiful editions. Published at a rate of 2 volumes a year, each fall both of the volumes are collected in a beautiful slip-case edition. These are a standing Christmas present from my wife, who didn't quite realize what she was getting into. It's amazing to watch the comic evolve over time, the shapes of the characters, the characters who get dropped, the new (and classic!) characters who get introduced. To my college friends who remember my ambition to reproduce "Hamlet" with the characters from Peanuts, I say my life's work is now possible (in a few years, anyway.)

Anitasha says

this book is so funny. its like a comic book but also a story. people should read this for information. even for a good laugh. i recommend this book for everyone.

Tony says

What a wonderful experience to read the beginning of my favorite comic strip.

S.D. says

Please see my comprehensive review of Vols. 1-10, entered for The Complete Peanuts 1969-1970 (Volume 10)

Oceana2602 says

And then I read lots and lots and lots of Peanuts comics. I don't need to explain why I love the Peanuts so much, do I?

But I still wanted to mention this, in case some of you had missed that all Peanuts comics are being released in the order they were created in. All of them. More than 50 years of daily comics, published over a period of twelve years. in case you are looking for a christmas gifts for people for the next twelve years.

LOVE the peanuts.

Minnie says

This book is really funny and if u like comics u should read this. Its about a group of friends that call the group peanuts.

Sam says

This is "the greatest comic strip of all time?" Does it get better? I was pretty bored.

Dave says

[This review is for the full series]

When I was in grade school, I won a reading contest by reading thirty mini *Peanuts* books and *The Collected Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Even I thought I was cheating.

So I can't count finishing one of these volumes as finishing a new book. But I wanted to comment that these collected versions are as close to perfect as anyone could want (well, I want Sunday color). [They're even indexed, which was my Library School cataloging project]. Also, though my favorites will always be those thirty amazing late-sixties books I read in grade school, the strips in the eighties and nineties that I missed are as worth reading, so far, as the early and middle period were. I like Lydia (if that's her name) by the way, even more than I like 5 and Frieda.

I like them all, actually, and my happy place before bed--or when sick or tired or spiritually bereft--is that two-dimensional world of doghouses, pitcher's mounds, kite-eating trees and busts of Beethoven. Read the indexes if you don't think there's a world in there.

Brendan says

melancholy, touching, beautifully drawn, revitalizing. comfort food in book form. a cup of tea on a rainy night.

Adam says

It's Peanuts. It's amazing!

Chris Van Dyke says

I've been slowly reading this ever since I received it for Christmas last year. Its not riveting, but its fun,

casual, and subtly brilliant. If you only think of Peanuts as that anemic strip you skim over merely out of habit when you have a copy of the funny-pages, you should give this classic a chance.
