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Only What's Necessary: Charles M. Schulz And The Art Of Peanuts



Synopsis

Charles M. Schulz (1922–2000) believed that the key to cartooning was to take out the extraneous details and leave in only what's necessary. For 50 years, from October 2, 1950, to February 13, 2000, Schulz wrote and illustrated Peanuts, the single most popular and influential comic strip in the world. In all, 17,897 strips were published, making it arguably the longest story ever told by one human being, according to Robert Thompson, professor of popular culture at Syracuse University. In Only What's Necessary: Charles M. Schulz and the Art of Peanuts, renowned designer Chip Kidd was granted unprecedented access to the extraordinary archives of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, California. Reproducing the best of the Peanuts newspaper strip, all shot from the original art by award-winning photographer Geoff Spear, Only What's Necessary also features exclusive, rare, and unpublished original art and developmental work, much of which has never been seen before.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is simply one of the best books ever for a true-blooded Peanuts connoisseur. Brilliant in both design and in content, it's a feast for your eyes and your mind. I'm a huge Peanuts fan, and I'm just stunned by the physical beauty of this book -- the photography, the layout and flow, and the writing by all involved. I feel like I was "behind the scenes" with all these fascinating sketches, original art, wonderful stories, and stuff never seen before. I really felt like I was seeing the process, the how and why, the genius and humility of Charles Schulz. Prepare yourself for a visual delight with this in-depth journey into the work and the man behind Peanuts.ps: the book cover is simply

perfect for this subject.

This book is more than a showcase of the genius of Charles M. Schulz -- though it is certainly that. It is more in its' design than simply another of Chip Kidd's most wonderful book designs -- although it is that too. It is the melding of genius that raises this book to a level that is seldom seen in any sort of publishing. Two very thick, cardboard covers and spine, showcase by contrast the glossy high-production-value pages within. This unusual design immediately transforms this book's feel in your hands into a sort of tactile promise of greatness. It does not disappoint. With the cooperation of The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center the book features dozens of examples of PEANUTS original art juxtaposed with the finished proof dailies, interwoven with colorful magazine covers, Viewmaster slides, game pieces, a lovely double-page spread of the paperback spines of the first series of books, bread labels and well, you name it. This is book that a fan of PEANUTS can randomly open to any single page and be entranced. The layout of all these different pieces is an outstanding example of how to visually meld such a potpourri of graphic riches into not just eye candy but an illustrative stream that carries the viewer along in a way that the idea behind the journey is what's traveled. In this case, the idea is to understand not just that PEANUTS was the funniest, most human, and finest strip ever published. Rather that it was, and is, and will be a cultural phenomenon that, as yet, has no equal.

You can't go wrong when it comes to Chip Kidd. This book gives you behind the scene originals that you don't even get to see at the Charles Schulz Museum. This makes up for IDW's poor attempt with the Peanuts Artist Edition. Chip Kidd's knack for Great Design makes this Peanuts Experience Stand out from all others, even the cover is embossed. By a long shot this is the best Peanuts Book on the market to date, well worth the price!

Are there only five stars to give? I need more! What a lovely book this is. The binding is breathtaking! Chip Kidd does it again! Any words would limit this breathless volume it's that nice. This book is a treat to the eyes, hands, and mind. Stunningly bound. If you are a bibliophile you will need this volume in your collection, even if you are not a Peanuts fan. If you are a Peanuts fan, what can I say, buy it fast. Thanks Mr. Kidd. I love your work. How many stars would I give it? Look up into the night sky. No kidding, go look.

Bought as a gift to a friend. Perfect for fans of comic art and lovers of comic strips. Features a lot of

"original" sketches and production work. Nice "behind the scenes" look at arguably the greatest comic strip of all time. Calvin and Hobbes is my favorite, but I can say nothing but great things about Peanuts! Simple, clean, to the point. A true lesson in economy of line and dialogue.

Amazing amount of content! Over 300 pages, a lot of it unpublished and what has been published are original versions with all the corrections and pasted in titles. It's an amazing under the hood glimpse of Peanuts, it's as close as you can get to going to Schultz's house and getting the original work out of portfolios and storage boxes. - If you are at all interested in seeing Schultz's progress and the evolution of the strip this is a must have.

Really interesting book. Love the sketchy examples of preliminary works, concepts, etc. It's Peanuts. Just get it already. Well worth the purchase price for artists, animators and any fan of Peanuts.

This book is great for devoted Peanuts fans. It enables you to see the strips as close as possible to the way they would have appeared on Sparky's drawing board. It also gives some insight into other interesting Schulz projects. The main purpose of this book is to look closely at funny drawings. It does that very well indeed.

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