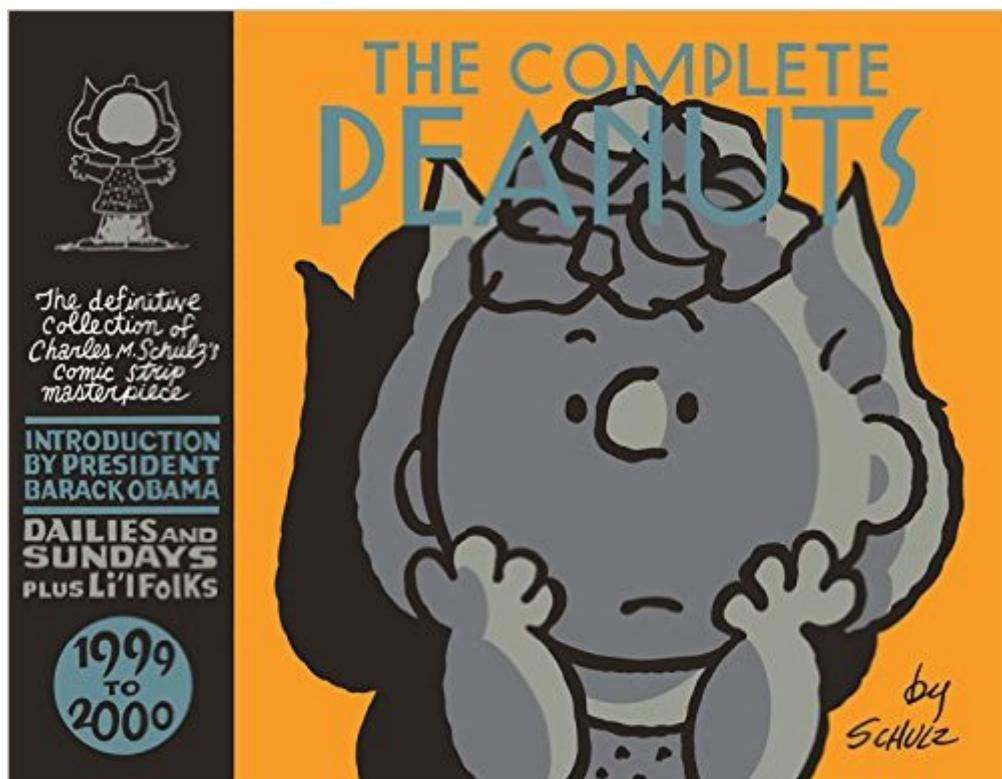


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The Complete Peanuts 1999-2000 (Vol. 25) (The Complete Peanuts)



Synopsis

The NYT best-selling newspaper strip collection concludes its groundbreaking run; as a little-seen "extra," it includes Schulz's proto-Peanuts comic. The 25th volume of *The Complete Peanuts* collects the very final year-plus of the defining comic strip of the 20th century, which ran for nearly 18,000 strips and for 50 years after its debut in 1950. This masterpiece includes all of 1999 through the final Feb. 13, 2000 strip. In this volume, Rerun takes center stage and cements himself as the last great Peanuts character when he embarks on a career as an underground comic book artist! This volume also features a huge surprise: the complete *Li'l Folks*, the weekly one-panel comic that Charles Schulz produced for his hometown paper. *Li'l Folks* was a clear precursor to *Peanuts*, and its inclusion here will bring *The Complete Peanuts* full circle. Black & white illustrations throughout

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This fourth volume shows Peanuts keeping the stride it slowly established over the first six years of its existence. Here the characters pretty much look as they will look for decades to come. The cast also becomes more solidified with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Pig Pen, and of course Snoopy. Shermy, Violet, and Patty show up far less frequently than earlier. Schulz would add more characters later (most notably Woodstock, Peppermint Patty, and Marcie), but here he established his core cast. Snoopy completely comes into his own here, and his image on the cover couldn't be more appropriate. He appears with startlingly more frequency throughout 1957 and 1958. By the end

of this volume his top spot gets nearly set in stone. And it's not hard to see why. Here the long transformation from the "real" pet dog of the early 1950s to an almost surreal fantasm of a dog nears fruition (he still hasn't put on his WWI goggles or quaffed root beer yet, though). The imitations that began in the last volume continue inexorably here. He becomes a polar bear, a pouncing wild animal, a sea monster, he imitates Lucy, he gets called "ol' Dime a Dozen" and "Fuzzy Face", he imitates a penguin, and, best of all, a vulture. He also begins to really appreciate classical music (he even accompanies Schroeder on violin), sleeps with his head in his dog dish, and violently whips Linus around by his blanket. The extent of his transformation shows on the January 7th, 1958 strip where Charlie Brown says "The teacher told us to make a drawing of a real dog." Snoopy has truly come into his own. And later on, he became the most recognizable character of the Twentieth Century apart from Mickey Mouse. Charlie Brown continues his quest for something meaningful and positive. But, as usual, some snags occur.

This is another transitional 2 years in Peanuts (with cartoons that appeared in You Need Help, Charlie Brown, The Unsinkable Charlie Brown and You'll Flip, Charlie Brown). Sally has lazy eye and has to wear an eye patch (which Snoopy often steals to play pirates, until he gets "scuttled" by Captain Sally). A bird who has trouble flying (he still has yet to make his formal debut, but he still looks like Woodstock) flies on Snoopy's nose ("Good grief, the return of the native!"). Snoopy debuts 2 of his alter ego's- a novel writer ("It was a dark and stormy night...") and the World War I Flying Ace ("Curse you, Red Baron and this stupid war!"). Charlie Brown watches in bemusement and thinks "Some people have dogs who chase cars, some people have dogs who bite the mailman... I think MY dog has finally flipped!" Lucy is the arm-wrestling champion on her block (later used in It Was a Short Summer, Charlie Brown), but can she withstand the paw of the Masked Marvel? Charlie Brown tries his hand (or foot) again with the football with a new twist up his own sleeve. Also, he has to endure dandelions on his pitcher's mound is covered with dandelions, which Frieda and Lucy beg him not to cut because he looks so cute up there with them (even Schroeder agrees). Snoopy falls in love with a dog on the beach and tries to impress her with his surfing skills. The next winter, he's still not over her and tries to forget through... eating, what else? Also Snoopy's doghouse gets burned down (Schulz got a lot of sympathy cards in real life on behalf of the beagle!). Also, Linus and Lucy move away (later used in Is This Goodbye, CB?) and Schroeder reluctantly admits he misses her (he sees her face by the piano long after her demise and thinks "Don't tell me I've grown accustomed to THAT face!").

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