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Waiting For The Great Pumpkin (Peanuts Seasonal)



Synopsis

See where Linus's quest to meet the Great Pumpkin began in this gift-book-sized collection of the Peanuts newspaper-strip story arcs. Linus and his wait for the Great Pumpkin have been a pop culture touchstone for nearly 50 years thanks to the animated television special (he's got a rock), and it all started in the classic Peanuts strips (1959-1962) collected in this affordable, fun-sized gift book. Linus's proselytizing that on Halloween, the Great Pumpkin rises from the pumpkin patch and travels the world bringing presents to good little girls and boys are derided by his sister Lucy, laughed at by Charlie Brown, met with skepticism by baby Sally, and even causes a denominational squabbling over who's better, the Great Pumpkin or Santa Claus. Year after year, Linus faces his persecution and inevitable disappointment with either blind faith or Quixotic perseverance. Charles M. Schulz's homage to the power of idealism and belief makes these some of the most beloved comic strips of all time. Two color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This slender, handsome little volume collects the daily comic strips from 1959-1962 that gave rise to the Great Pumpkin, the Halloween equivalent of Santa Claus in the Peanuts universe. Or, rather, in the mind of Linus in the Peanuts universe. It's a fun little book, and anyone familiar with the iconic cartoon "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" will recognize where much of that show's moments came from. In fact, it's fascinating to see how the cartoon was stitched together from ideas,

moments, lines, and tableaus scattered across a few years' worth of October strips. It's equally fascinating to see what was left out, including some relatively harsh ridiculing of Linus, which is a bit more hard-edged than what was seen in the cartoon. The spooky, otherworldly, and almost somber atmosphere of the TV show is not in evidence here, stripping the basic idea down into its essence. Also absent here is any hint of Snoopy's "Red Baron" interludes and Charlie Brown's repeated lament "I got a rock!" Whether these moments appeared elsewhere, or were created for the TV cartoon, I don't know (of course, Snoopy's "Red Baron" fantasies were a staple of the strip in general). I'm a fan of Peanuts from way back, but even I can't say that I've read every strip of the 18,000+ Schulz created. The layout is attractive and evocative, and includes panels and parts of panels from Great Pumpkin strips that came after the cartoon, with later-era Peanuts characters like Peppermint Patty. The strips are organized into thematic chapters: "You Believe in Santa Claus and I'll Believe in the Great Pumpkin!," "Santa Claus vs. the Great Pumpkin," "Oh, Great Pumpkin, You're Going to Drive Me Crazy!," and "True Love Revealed in the Pumpkin Patch." Overall, this is a fun book to have as a companion for the TV show, or just as a standalone for a Peanuts fan.

How foolish of me to think that the wonderful television show "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" sprung up out of a barren pumpkin patch in 1966 to grace our TVs every Halloween. In this little jewel of the book you can see all the precursors to that show. All the ideas and all the characters and how they would come together to the perfect form of the animated program. Some of the characters say different lines and the images and points of view may be changed but the simple power of the magic of Halloween for children comes through. It's a short simple and sweet story, my only negative thought is that there seems to be other comic strips that deal with Halloween that are not included in this slim volume. The Great Pumpkin deserves a comprehensive text that collects all the Halloween strips. As in all the Peanuts strips there's a heavy current of melancholy, or perhaps it's just realism of a child's view of the world. I loved it and if you love Halloween or the Peanuts characters you'll love this book too.

An adorable little gift book containing most, if not all, the Peanuts strips that inspired the classic Halloween TV special.

Great childhood memories are contained within this small book. My only complaint would be that it isn't long enough. Eagerly await a second volume

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