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Tijuana Bibles: Art And Wit In America's Forbidden Funnies, 1930s-1950s



Synopsis

As wry and raunchy as the subject it celebrates, this inspired volume introduces a new generation to the Tijuana Bibles, underground comic art from the 1930s, and 1950s, devoted to making sexual mockery of every sacred cow in the pasture. Editor Bob Adelman selected one hundred of the most lively and important representatives of the genre and Art Spiegelman, in his introduction, acknowledges the far-reaching impact these scandalous little booklets have had on his work. Tijuana Bibles showcases American comic art at its untamed finest. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

When Robert Crumb, S. Clay Wilson, Gilbert Shelton, and other Bay Area misfits first started producing "underground" comics in the '60s, they were considered to be highly innovative in their use of frank sexual themes. However, some 10 to 15 years before they commenced their explicit, often offensive cartoons, another genre of pornographic graphics was dying out, the so-called "Tijuana Bibles" (or sometimes "Cuban Bibles," "French Bibles," etc.). Simon & Schuster has released a collection of these antique obscenities that often featured famous political, show business, or cartoon figures having more fun than mainstream censors would have allowed. The introduction, by comic book apologist and New Yorker comics editor Art Spiegelman, is an amusing and sarcastic look at the history of this lost medium, with some interesting reflections on the genre, noting that "Though there are bound to be those who will loudly declaim that the Tijuana Bibles demean women, I think it important to note that they demean everyone ... it's what cartoons do

best." While the reprinted comic strips are often amusing in being laughingly bad, the historical essays and asides by editor Bob Adelman provide fascinating historical context. A sociology of mid-century sexual mores and the love/hate relationship that Americans have with their celebrities is evinced by the combination of reprint and commentary. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

...[C]harming and evocative, these artifacts present a little-known cultural history.... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I quite agree with the 6/10/99 customer review from Melbourne, Australia. This interestingly packaged (and heavily illustrated) collection will alternately amuse and offend most everyone. While some of the art is decent (or even good), much of it is crude but somehow apropos to the subject. The packaging is very good, and the book's price is a bargain for what you get. I'm 50 and didn't even know these "Tijuana Bibles" existed until I stumbled across this book. Very educational as well as entertaining. I first bought a copy last summer and enjoyed it so much I bought another for a friend, who enjoyed it as much as I did.

Sexy, funny and great lighthearted reads

Great all-inclusive history of a legendary underground art. Hats off to the author for compiling so many different versions of these bibles, and telling the tale of their history by using great examples.

Bought as a gift. Big book with lots of very naughty comics. He loved it!

Wasn't the 20th Century wonderful? The art/craft of comic books blossomed, along with the cult of the celebrity. Add those two to everyone's interest in... er... smut, and you have Tijuana Bibles! It's scholarly AND titillating, all at the same time!

Having never read these or even seen them as a child I found this collection to be amazing. It currently lives on the night stand in my guest room filled with evil clowns to deter my horrible family from staying.

I wanted this book for years and I'm so glad I got it. It's just an awesome look into the past.

This collection of satiric and pornographic cartoons will alternately amuse and offend people everywhere. Nothing and no-one is sacred. Some of the strips are beautifully drawn and funny, some are crude and downright witless and others (note the strips believed to be those of Wesley Morse) are both witty and erotic. If nothing else, this collection serves as a potent reminder that sex, in all its permutations and manifestations, has been around for a lot longer than some people care to admit!

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