Playboy: 50 Years: The Cartoons
Synopsis

For 50 years, Playboy magazine has showcased the world’s best and brightest cartoonists. Their spectacular stable of artists includes luminaries such as Buck Brown, Jack Cole, Eldon Dedini, Jules Feiffer, Shel Silverstein, Doug Sneyd, Gahan Wilson, and hundreds of others. Hip subversives and sly revolutionaries all, Playboy’s artists have continually proffered a sophisticated brand of humor sorely missing in other mens magazines. Now, Playboy celebrates its golden anniversary with this glorious collection of the finest and funniest cartoons. Handpicked by Hugh M. Hefner himself, the pages are filled with the distillation of the entire cartoon archive, offering insightful commentary on topics from the sexual revolution to relationships, money, and politics. More than 450 cartoons feature sweet young things, terrible tarts, winsome wives, suitors, and studs -- a riotous chronicle of five decades of Playboy cartoons.

Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages
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Shipping Weight: 5.3 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (24 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #716,793 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #137 in Arts & Photography > Drawing > Cartooning > Anime & Cartoons #1131 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage #2132 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips

Customer Reviews

It’s nice to see a book of coffee-table proportions just devoted to cartoons, well why not? Previous Playboy books have covered the history of the magazine, the delightful Playmates and now the cartoons. The 450 plus illustrations are the work of 107 cartoonists and if you are a regular reader of the magazine you’ll see your favorites. Gahan Wilson has the most (thirty-two) followed by regulars like Eldon Dedini, John Demsey, Alden Erikson, Kiraz, Roy Raymonde, Doug Sneyd (he of the flamboyant signature, which I was never able to decipher until now) Erich Sokol and between these, dozens of great artists who have maybe one or two works each. The humor might not be the
wonderful ironic style of the New Yorker but it is amazing how many fresh takes can be created with the bachelor lifestyle. This is a handsomely produced book, printed on thick glossy paper which, nicely, allows you to really appreciate just how good some of these artists are. My favorite, Jack Davis, unfortunately only has four shown, Richard Taylor has a super picture on page ten, an art gallery where he has created several Picasso type paintings, Doug Sneyd, Phil Interlandi and Dedini are all brilliant draughtsmen and Shel Silverstein can create so much with so little line and color. However I was a bit disappointed with this book, as another reviewer has commented, there is no indication of when the cartoons appeared and I wish the publishers had gone the extra mile and perhaps devoted some space throughout the pages for a photo and biography of the regulars, some of these guys have been with Playboy for years. Someone though, at least, did have the foresight to compile an Artists index and a useful Order of appearance list, both of which are in the back pages. Clearly a wonderful book for the bedside table if your date didn't turn up, try laughing yourself to sleep.

First of all this book is printed on excellent paper & is well done except for one thing. there is no way to tell what year the cartoons are from. They should have had chapters. 1950’s 1960’s ect so you know what era they are from

Fifty years worth of cartoons from Playboy. Doesn't that just set the mind reeling? Some of the biggest names in the business have their work showcased here in this history-making compendium. These cartoons are sometimes funny, often sardonic, frequently risqué, and one and all they once graced the pages of the world's favorite source of "illustrated" reading material. Perhaps the best way to regard this hefty collection (did you catch the pun?) is as a window to the changing mores of American society regarding not only women and sex, but what is and is not acceptable subject matter for a cartoon itself. When taken as a whole I find this material reflective of how much times have changed, and Playboy magazine with it. Very little to offend anyone here, just good clean fun and some real laughs too.

My husband has been asking for this book for a long time but I couldn't justify spending the retail price for it. I spent half here and it is a lot bigger of a book than I thought it was going to be. Nice for a good laugh

I enjoy this classic look back on humor in society, I would recommend it to people looking for either
comedy or historical documentation- it offers an interesting perspective on society that is long gone.

Some really funny stuff. And yet some material was lame. It was all hand picked by Hef. I bought this used and it arrived with only minor damage to the jacket cover. At the used price this was a good buy.

Buy this only if you have a sense of humor and really love to laugh. If your serious or to serious buy something else. This book is for Laughers and Laughers only. 5 stars

If you’re like me, you look forward to the illustrations in each issue of Playboy. They are not only witty, but masterfully rendered and executed. This book is a wonderful collection of the best illustrations Playboy has published.

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