



The Complete Far Side Leather-Bound Set [Signed Limited Edition]

Gary Larson

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Special Features of the Deluxe Limited Edition

A masterpiece of comic brilliance and a must-have treasure for any Gary Larson fan! The Complete Far Side limited-edition book and lithograph set contains every Far Side cartoon ever syndicated (over 4,000 of them) in a numbered, two-volume, 1,272-page book set and a limited-edition lithograph print, both signed by Gary Larson. Only 2,000 copies of this incredible package have been produced. Printed on glossy, specially milled, archival quality paper and bound in fine burgundy leather, the book set comes protected in a beautiful clamshell box that is covered and lined with Japanese cloth and emblazoned with gold foil-framed, full-color insets. The matted and framed 19 1/2" by 24" full-color limited-edition lithograph of one of Larson's well-known cartoons, *Wendell . . . I'm Not Content*, is also signed by the artist and bears the same number as the limited-edition book set.

About The Far Side

Revered by fans as the funniest, most original, most "What the...?"-inspiring cartoon ever, The Far Side last appeared over nine years ago and still boasts millions of rabid devotees. During its 14-year run, the cartoon was syndicated internationally in more than 1,900 daily newspapers, translated into 17 different languages, and spawned 22

The Complete Far Side contains every Far Side cartoon ever syndicated—more than 4,000 comic gems, with more than 1,100 that have never previously appeared in book form! Also included is a rare glimpse into the mind of Far Side creator Gary Larson, with his quirky and thoughtful introductions to each of the 14 chapters. Still want more? Complaint letters, fan letters, and queries from puzzled readers round out this eclectic and definitive collection of what many people consider the most side-splitting cartoon of all time. Actor, author, and comedian Steve Martin writes the delightful and pithy foreword, and Larson's former editor describes what it was like to be "the guy who could explain every Far Side cartoon." It's everything you could want from The Far Side—and much, much more!

The Complete Far Side Leather-Bound Set [Signed Limited Edition] Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2003 by Andrews McMeel Publishing (first published September 1st 2003)

ISBN : 9780740743610

Author : Gary Larson

Format : Leather Bound 1272 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Humor, Fiction, Graphic Novels, Comic Strips

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Gary Larson**

From Reader Review The Complete Far Side Leather-Bound Set [Signed Limited Edition] for online ebook

Chrisl says

One of the benefits of working in a public library was opening those boxes of new books. With the Far Side series, I usually sent a couple copies to a bindery for extended shelf life. Of course I read a copy. This review represents my pleasure for all of Mr Larson's books. Wonderful humor and perspective.

Candy Atkins says

Warning: If you keep it in your bathroom your guests stay in there much longer than should be necessary.

Rick says

I built a lectern/bookshelf just to keep this collection on display. My favorite? Hard to say, but it's tough to beat "Early chemists discuss the nature of dirt."

John says

This belongs on the shelf with my 'Complete Calvin and Hobbes' collection. This set is beautifully designed and presented. Gary Larson's cartoons are brilliantly perverse and funny. Larson is an artist/cartoonist who is never afraid to challenge his readers, and his 'Far Side' is a collection of the strange, the bizarre and the downright weird. I particularly like the fact that he sides most often with the animals he portrays more so than the humans (another similarity with Calvin and Hobbes) and how he often uses animals acting like people to show us just how silly we are.

So why doesn't it get 5 stars like The Complete Calvin and Hobbes? Well the simple answer is that while the Calvin and Hobbes set includes every Calvin and Hobbes strip, poem and short story ever penned, the 'Complete' Far Side only includes every strip ever published in the papers, so all the extras from the books, like the story, 'The Curse of Madame C' or Larson's collection of 'Wiener dog Art' are missing! This really bugs me every time I read through it. Here we have a stunning collection and it's incomplete. It's like someone went out of their way to ruin a potentially awesome collection for no discernable reason. If they ever publish a fully complete Far Side collection like this, I'll have to sell this copy and buy the better one. Until then, this keeps the 4 stars.

Stephen says

Gary Larson's **Far Side** was pure **MAGIC**...

...and when it burst on the scene like a **talking, cow-shaped comet** in 1980, the strip was like nothing the newspaper funnies had ever seen.

While its single panel format and light-hearted depiction of awkward social situations and shared pain bore some resemblance to earlier comics like *Ziggy* and Larson's own *Nature's Way*, **The Far Side** was an anthropomorphic animal all its own, and dominated the public's consciousness for the decade and a half that it was being produced.

Its unpretentious, surrealistic humor had broad appeal and could be enjoyed on multiple levels. At times, it was silly and sweet and designed simply to spread smiles.

Other times, the humor had such a cleverness to it that the smiles didn't simply spread so much as explode across the reader's face.

Larson's genius knew no sacred cows, and he probed and needled at just about everything. Whether providing insight into the meaning of life, by depicting God as an over adventures chef...

...or using absurd juxtaposition to subtly show the marriage between big business and the war.**

*** This interpretation is probably a bit of a stretch, but it does seem to fit.*

In addition, Larson used his talking nature and human/animal relationship reversals to highlight those little moments in life that everyone could relate to...

And sometimes, he was just a lunatic jokester casting a bizarre-filtered folk wisdom or pop philosophy in a comedic, fell good light...

But always...always, there was humor. Larson's work was beloved for its blending of humor and satire with a sense of genuine warmth. Even when poking fun or envisioning catastrophe, his work never seemed pessimistic, and there was just something oddly comforting about Larson's skewed view of the world that warmed the cockles and made you feel good.

I can't tell you how many hours I spent replenishing my stores of good will perusing Larson's work. So, after re-visiting his singular work in this massive, uber collection of his complete catalog, I thought I would share the love and try to bring a few moments of bright into your Sunday (and whatever additional days I eventually float this review).

Hope it brings a smile.

5.0 stars. HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!

Sesana says

I've loved *The Far Side* since my first brush with it. My local paper used to publish a lovely, full color comic book with their Sunday edition. Alas, it's gone now. If there's anything in the Sunday paper of the same quality as *The Far Side* or *Calvin and Hobbes*, I would dearly like to know about it.

At any rate, I always loved *The Far Side*, though I didn't always understand it. Like so many other childhood memories, there's always the question of if it'll hold up when revisited. Not a problem here. Like I said, I didn't understand every *Far Side* comic back then, and I think I got it now. Funny, irreverent, cheerfully strange, and full of cows. It's still second only to *Calvin and Hobbes* in my affections, and that's some lofty company to keep in my eyes.

(Note: My local library only had volume one for some reason (?) so I still need to get my hands on volume two to finish.)

Noran Miss Pumkin says

for humor the delights the brain, as well the heart and soul, this set is a must for all the grieved and wore cow bands in mourning, then this twisted comic stopped it's run. i still refer to cat food as fud because of this man's evil genius.

Dominick says

I'm dinging this a star for presentation. Often, there are three or even four strips a page, which, even in this oversize format, means that some strips are printed at smaller than their original size which wasn't generous to begin with). I get that even so the book is over 1200 pages long, so there were practical reasons for such a decision, but it nevertheless impacts negatively on the reading experience. Otherwise, it's hard to complain about a comprehensive collection of one of the great funny (if often bizarre and occasionally incomprehensible) one-panel strips. Even having read all the previous collections, I found I did not recognize or remember many strips here, either because they were previously uncollected, or just because I simply forgot about them. Either way, the effect was sort of like discovering a trove of new *Far Side* strips, and that's a good thing. There is occasional editorial and contextualizing material (e.g. a short introduction for each year's worth of strips, or occasional reproduced letters from baffled or offended readers--sometimes with responses), but I'd have liked to see more of this, as well. One can only imagine how many letters from irate and/or baffled readers remain unreproduced. And given how Larson pushed the envelope (even now, I was surprised when I hit the first cartoon about sperm and an ovum), a history of objections to the strip might be fascinating. Nevertheless, this is all the strips, about which one really can't complain. Essential for any fan of weird humour, especially in cartoon form.

John says

Love love love *The Far Side*. It has long been my favorite comic strip. Back in the early 90s I used to clip the daily cartoon out of the newspaper and collect them. Later I enjoyed several years of the daily calendar.

I have learned one thing from reading this collection, though. The Far Side is best enjoyed a little at a time, and for me isn't as good when reading through dozens of cartoons in one sitting. I began to notice certain themes or jokes that recurred in various cartoons, for example.

Five stars for being what it is. Just take your time getting through it. The Far Side was created as a daily strip and works better when consumed that way.

Algernon says

This is the best collection of Gary Larson's artwork simply because it includes (almost) every single one of the daily syndicated comics that he penned over the years, from 1980 to 1994. As a bonus, the reader gets posters and yearly introductions from the author, detailing the creative process, the source of inspiration and wacky anecdotes related to the series. I've spaced out my lecture over almost a whole year, in order to prolong the pleasure and avoid 'overeating' a favourite 'dish', yet the first thing I did when I ended was to go back to the beginning and re-read a couple of early 'months'. I would say "The Complete Far Side" is a keeper, a manual of life-hacks guaranteed to pull you out of a funk and to make you look at your troubles and worries from a different angle. What's Larson's secret? How does he do it?

A few examples of his comic panels would be self-explanatory, as in the old adage that a picture paints a thousand words, but the artist has kindly requested that his art should not be made freely available on the interwebs. Actually, this makes my task easier, because I would find it impossible to narrow down my favorites to the limited space granted by Goodreads.

No live organism can continue for long to exist sanely under conditions of absolute reality explains Shirley Jackson in the opening paragraph of her classic horror "The Haunting of Hill House". Well, that's what Gary Larson does here : he keeps us sane by taking us on a trip to the wild side of reality. He's the jester who dares to shout out that The Emperor is naked, that his new clothes are a hoax; the stand-up artist that mocks us for hiding with our heads down in the sand, pretending that global warming is a hoax, that the wildlife is not facing extinction, that our jobs are interesting and rewarding, that our politicians are honest or that our kids will have a better life than ours. Again, how does he do it?

By turning everything we know down on its head, upside-down and sideways, holding up a mirror of black humour and practical jokes to demonstrate that humanity does not deserve its place at the top of the food chain, that our pets are watching us and judging us, that animals in the forest are out to get us, aliens are laughing their heads off at our antics, scientists are as clueless and prone to eraser fights as kids in school, that even amoebas, flies and ticks like to sit in a comfy chair in the evening, reading the papers and gossiping about the neighbours.

*Sugar Plum Fairy came and hit the streets
Lookin' for soul food and a place to eat
Went to the Apollo
You should have seen him go, go, go
They said, hey Sugar, take a walk on the wild side
I said, hey babe, take a walk on the wild side, alright, huh*
[Lou Reed]

Some people like to let the Holy Book fall open and find wisdom by randomly pointing a finger at one of the stanzas. I would rather find my answers by picking a new Farside cartoon each day. If ever I am stranded on a desert island, or visiting a cannibal village, if deers suddenly start knocking on my door or crocodiles invite me to a cocktail party, if aliens ask me directions to the nearest fast-food restaurant or if monsters are lurking under my bed, if I'm confused about rocket science, art, prehistory or politics - I know what to do and what to say to them : Go visit the Farside! All you need is to leave your prejudices behind, get in touch with your inner child and enjoy the cowpocalypse!

Thank you, Mr. Larson for redeeming my faith in the future. It may be a future without humans, with bugs, cows, ducks and dogs (but not cats) taking over the planet, but life does go on in unexpected directions.

Books Ring Mah Bell says

this was one of the best gifts I have ever received. I love Larson's warped, intellegent humor. An enjoyable part of these books are the hate mail and letters he gets from confused and humorless readers. This collection always brings a smile to my face, and the frequent out-loud chuckle.

Bill says

The greatest single-panel comic ever, no question about it. There are dozens of head-scratchers in here (and I'm reasonably intelligent), a few duds and hundreds of laugh-out-loud funny comics. My only complaint is that there's just too much. Better to leaf through on a cold winter afternoon than sit down and try to bomb through the whole thing at once.

Lisa Vegan says

In my opinion, this is by far the funniest and most brilliant cartoon collection out there. This 2 book set contains all the Far Side cartoons that Gary Larson created, and there are some real gems in here. (I also have all the earlier Far Side books as well. I've been a huge fan from the beginning.) Exceptionally funny and intelligent.

Flannery says

If I am ever feeling shitty, I know I can laugh my brains out of my ears if I pick up this 2-volume set. Sure, it is pretty heavy and it kind of cuts off my circulation when I leave it on my lap for too long, but that is the *only* negative about this collection. Gary Larson is a comedic genius and The Far Side is one of the only comics I think is even remotely funny. (how does the Garfield writer keep winning awards? I am baffled.)If you are thinking of purchasing this set, DO IT. You won't regret it. It truly never gets old.

Trekscribbler says

This compendium weighs a ton. No kidding.

A delightfully inspired packaging of "all things FAR SIDE" from the looney talking cows all the way to conspiratorial chipmunks. Wonderfully packaged but very, very, very expensive, this two volume set includes occasional essays (yes, I said essays) from the genius Larson himself covering such items of the nature of "what I was thinking when I drew ___" to "gosh, I'm sure sorry this thing is going to weigh so much." Of course, there's no apology for the price (snicker, snicker), but, having grown up on his simplistic renderings of single panel humor, I have to admit that this collection is honestly worth every penny.

The best two-volume investment I've ever made, THE FAR SIDE should be required reading for high school graduation, as far as I'm concerned.
