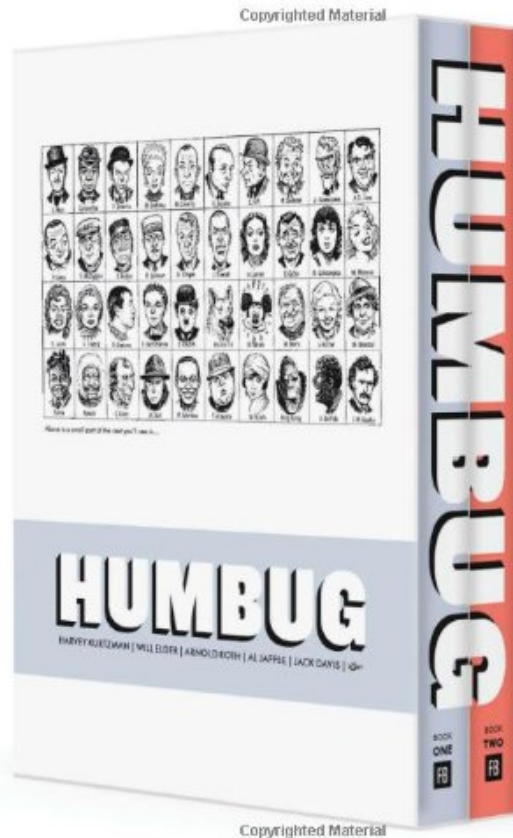


(Ebook free) Humbug (2 Volume Set)

## Humbug (2 Volume Set)

*Harvey Kurtzman, Jack Davis, Will Elder, Al Jaffee, Arnold Roth*  
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**Harvey Kurtzman, Jack Davis, Will Elder, Al Jaffee, Arnold Roth : Humbug (2 Volume Set)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Humbug (2 Volume Set):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Production Values, Weak Script By R. C. Bell As a physical package this slipcased collection is like a technicolor MGM musical. As humor, however, it's more like *The Bowery Boys Meet Ma and Pa Kettle*--a not especially hilarious Monogram double feature, with the exception of the last issue in the collection where the mag lived up to its promise just in time to implode and drop beneath the waves for good. With some rare exceptions, the humor isn't really satire at all -- more gentle spoof or straight gags, although the historically minded will find the occasional piece touching on mob influence on the unions and jeering at staunch segregationists (in one shot panels calling for them to be sent as ambassador to the moon or declaring them 'Humbug of the Month'--not exactly deft and cutting satirical pieces). There are some gems, the art is beautiful, and there is value to those interested in the careers of the principals, but mostly the material does feel tired, not especially inspired, and there are very, very few laughs to be had here. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Laugh Out Loud, Fall Of Your Chair Funny By Andromeda First off, "Humbug" is just plain hilarious - there were times reading "Humbug" when I was laughing so loud, I was afraid the neighbors were going to call the police. Kurtzman is

definitely on a high note during this period, and Larry Siegel, who would go on to write for Mad and other humor magazines, puts in some great prose work as well. Al Jaffee and Jack Davis put in career best work - their art is stunning - I just have never seen better from Davis. Jaffee's articles, the writing and the art, are spectacular, inventive, imaginative, scathing in their satire. Arnold Roth was a great discovery for me in this collection, and I immediately picked up Arnold Roth: Free Lance: A Fifty Year Retrospective deeply discounted on . Will Elder's photo realistic ad parody's are incredible, and of course he also contributes his usual brilliantly madcap illustration of Kurtzman penned comics. The material, if anything, was amazingly timely - I was astounded at Kurtzman, Jaffee, Roth and Siegel's ability to find those timeless qualities in the everyday in their satire. True, today's sensationalistic media, game shows, corrupt politicians, intelligence-insulting ads, and chintzy consumer products have different names, but they still have qualities that touch on the universal folly of humankind, and thus we can relate to the humor presented in "Humbug." The material that is firmly of its time serves as a history lesson, and in some cases, is a reminder of how far we have come as a nation. The civil rights movement was just getting started, and many of the "Humbug" articles touch on racism. Their (cartoon) version of Olberman's "Worst Person in the World" was called "The Humbug Award," one of which was given to Gov. George Wallace (a racist Governor who tried to stop desegregation), which prompted a firestorm of critical letters in the magazine's letter column, followed by equally angry letters supporting "Humbug" - the civil rights debate strait from ordinary people from the time period. The collection is annotated by John Benson, a comics historian who has written several books, and edited several EC and Kurtzman fanzines, including "Squa Tront." His notes are fairly complete. There is also an extensive interview with the surviving "Humbug" artists, Al Jaffee and Arnold Drake, all of which helps to put the work into context. "Humbug," in my opinion, is far more accessible than the old Mad Comics, because the Mad comics were mostly comic book, television and movie satires. I have the two DC Mad Archives, and tho I find many stories outrageously funny, and the art is superb, I haven't seen more than half the movies they are parodying. Also, the Mad Comics become very formulaic as you read them, since they have a set, concrete page count and pattern. In contrast, "Humbug" is a magazine with articles of varying length, which include comic strips (usually parodying a movie or t.v. show), gag panels (by New Yorker artist R.O. Blechman), prose articles, and articles that combine prose and illustration in imaginative ways. There are single and double splash pages, beautifully rendered by Jaffee, Roth or Davis, that parody the onset of spring, a resort town, holiday parades, summer sporting events, sports car racing, etc - the detail in these drawings is stunning, a testament to the labor of love "Humbug" was. "Humbug" is some of the funniest material I have ever read, right up there with the best of Charles Schultz, R. Crumb, Roberta Gregory, Bill Watterson, Roz Chast, and, of course, anything Kurtzman, Roth or Jaffee ever did in their careers. This is a must-have collection for humor comic/magazine fans. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. HUMBUG!!! By Karl P. When I learned that Harvey Kurtzman's late 50's, short lived humor magazine: "Humbug" was being published I was as excited as a body could be! Then when I learned it was to be priced at \$60 for the two volumes I slunk into a mini-depression. However, saved the day when they priced it at nearly 50% off its cover price...and for two massive tomes! Ee-gads I was born again! I purchased the two splendid volumes and have been using them for inspiration in my creative illustration work ever since. What more can one say? For the irreligious this is as close to a divine miracle as one can get! I only hope that Fantagraphics will be re-printing his defunct co-print with Playboy (the even shorter lived) Trump and then a compendium of ALL his "Help" publications...that is the only thing that could bring this boy as close to nirvana without resurrecting poor Harvey from the dead and having a 'pow-wow' session with him! Having been born long after all of these publications it would be the proverbial 'icing on the cake'...or at least I can hope and dream for that day? As for now, I am fully and completely content with these two illustrious and enormous volumes of "Humbug"...as I expected to only ever hear or be told about them from those who lived and bought them back in the day...so, thanks Fantagraphics and thanks for providing this young graphic designer/illustrator with enough fodder to make him happy for as long as is possible! Cheers...congrats!

Nominated for a 2010 Will Eisner Comic Industry Award: You know MAD. Do you know Humbug? Harvey Kurtzman changed the face of American humor when he created the legendary MAD comic. As editor and chief writer from its inception in 1952, through its transformation into a slick magazine, and until he left MAD in 1956, he influenced an entire generation of cartoonists, comedians, and filmmakers. In 1962, he co-created the long-running Little Annie Fanny with his long-time artistic partner Will Elder for Playboy, which he continued to produce until his virtual retirement in 1988. Between MAD and Annie Fanny, Kurtzman's biographical summaries will note that he created and edited three other magazines Trump, Humbug, and Help! but, whereas his MAD and Annie Fanny are readily available in reprint form, his major satirical work in the interim period is virtually unknown. Humbug, which had poor distribution, may be the least known, but to those who treasure the rare original copies, it equals or even exceeds MAD in displaying Kurtzman's creative genius. Humbug was unique in that it was actually published by the artists who created it: Kurtzman and his cohorts from MAD Will Elder, Jack Davis, and Al Jaffee were joined by universally acclaimed cartoonist Arnold Roth. With no publisher above them to rein them in, this little band of creators produced some of the most trenchant and engaging satire of American culture ever to appear on American newsstands.

At last, the entire run of 11 issues of Humbug is being reprinted in a two-volume slipcased hardcover deluxe format, much of it reproduced from the original art, allowing even owners of the original cheaply-printed issues to experience the full impact for the first time. Nominated for a 2010 Will Eisner Comic Industry Award: (Best Archival Collection/Project: Comic Books). Full-color throughout both volumes

From Publishers Weekly Starred . MAD's early years have been justly lauded for their japing assault on postwar American culture, but this outstanding two-volume boxed set reflects the history of comedy in the period after staff stars like Kurtzman jumped ship in 1956. Humbug, whose mere 11 monthly issues published in 1957 and 1958 are all collected here, was a refreshing if little-noticed seat-of-the-pants hybrid of MAD-style buffoonery and a tony wit that sadly never found its place. Read today, Humbug seems a time capsule from when comedy was entering its drier, postvaudevillian period; comedians still wore ties and were expected to if not attend college at least have read a book or two. The magazine's mix of chaos and control Kurtzman's Cecil B. DeMille-sized comedic crowd scenes set against Larry Siegel's pitch-perfect literary satires creates an uneasy balance that almost necessitated a short shelf life, much in the same manner as National Lampoon (which years later briefly picked up the mantle that Humbug threw down). The set might not be best for end-to-end reading (11 issues is a heavy dose, with all those Sputnik and Have Gun, Will Travel references) but for dry cocktail laughs and low schoolboy snorts, it's hard to think of a better pair of books to have at your nightstand. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist When editor Harvey Kurtzman left the original, comic-book-format MAD to helm the Playboy-size Trump for Hugh Hefner, he took the best MAD artists along with him. Most stayed with Kurtzman when Hefner shut down Trump but let the staff retain its offices to produce Humbug. Owned equally by Kurtzman and four artists, Humbug lasted only from August 1957 to August 1958 but realized, more fully than anything else Kurtzman edited, his dream of a topical satire magazine primarily for adults. Kurtzman packed Humbug's 32 pages with movie and TV parody comics like those that dominated his MAD; single-panel and sequence cartoons similar to the New Yorkers; prose parodies of popular novels with, usually, one illustrative cartoon; parody product advertisements; and spoofs of popular-magazine articles on such pop-culture staples as child care, dieting, physical fitness, sports, and trends. All of Humbug except the Trump reprints that plumped up the final issue is in this set, along with an appreciative introduction and a long interview with Humbug co-owners Al Jaffee and Arnold Roth. Its the dawning of contemporary satire in a box. --Ray Olson In a way, Humbug almost feels like a goof-humor version of The New Yorker or something. There's a lot of fairly serious political/social commentary, cloaked in wry raiment. It's a blend as interesting as any cocktail, and it's goddamn great to have this stuff easily available. Hats away! - Byron Coley and Thurston Moore, Arthur Magazine Featuring the entire run of Humbug satirical magazines masterminded by Harvey Kurtzman, creator of the legendary US comic MAD, this luscious two-volume box set will fascinate. - David McComb, Bizarre Magazine Humbug reveals Kurtzman as a satirist who still demands our attention. - Ben Schwartz, Bookforum Kurtzman and company aimed high for a more sophisticated humor mag than the competition... Fantagraphics package for it is bar none handsome, sturdy and restored with great care... I was most interested in the behind-the-scenes story of Humbug and the creative process that went into it not to mention the book's introduction and exclusive interviews more than satisfy on that count. - Rod Lott, Bookgasm Humbug is a testament not only to Kurtzman's genius, but to the astounding skills of his fellow artists as well people like Jack Davis, Will Elder Al Jaffee and Arnold Roth and R.O. Blechman. - Comic Book Resources Unparalleled parodists Kurtzman and Elder ran rampant for themselves when they published these 11 exceptional issues of comic art anarchy. This two-volume hardcover box set has been reproduced from the original art and digitally restored to make everything look even better than when it first came out in 1957. This long-overdue definitive edition of Humbug is an essential slice of satire from the masters of the genre. - Jeffrey Morgan, Detroit Metro Times Smart writing, savvy pop-cultural lampoons mirroring the mid-century's social turmoil, brilliant artwork. - Michael H. Prince, Fort Worth Business Press Its Humbug that functions as the spiritual father for magazines such as National Lampoon, Spy and The Onion, among many others, but there's something invigorating about it because of its vantage point in the supposedly stodgy and bland 1950s. Coming out of that decade, Humbug really did break new ground. - John Mitchell, North Adams Transcript A lot of Humbug's humor now tickles the mind more than the funny bone, collected here it serves to fill in the missing piece on a seminal period of satiric shenanigans. - John McAlley, NPR.org This omnibus of all eleven issues of Humbug is equal parts giddy genius and period piece. The satire is razor-sharp... [T]here are such subtleties here and such rapier wit that the line is clearly visible from the Algonquin Round Table to Kurtzman to Crumb to Ralph Bakshi to Mr. Show to The Colbert Report. - Byron Kerman, PLAYBACK: still Its a really impressive collection of work... and the production design here is nothing short of stunning. Fantagraphics really knocked this one out of the park in restoration. - Chris Mautner, Robot 6 [I]ncludes so many all-time great cartoonists (Kurtzman, Jaffee, Elder, etc.) at the peak of their powers and ambitions. - Timothy Hodler, Robot 6 A comics blockbuster. - John DeFore, San Antonio Current Never before reprinted, Fantagraphics recently collected Humbug, complete with new essays, interviews, and annotations, in two handsome hardback volumes.... Jack Davis and Will Elder... elevated the comic-book parody beyond the standards of MAD and Trump. For Humbug, Davis produced some of the best work of his

long career. Al Jaffee... tackled varied topics... all with equal skill and irreverence. - Rick Klaw, San Antonio Current

A deluxe collection of a classic but long-forgotten satirical magazineOriginally edited by Harvey Kurtzman of MAD fame, and written and drawn by his MAD compadres, among them Jack Davis and Will Elder, Humbug was cool beyond cool. - Roger Sabin, The Guardian

[T]he artwork is uniformly mind-blowing. ... This collects the whole ill-fated run in a luxurious hardbound package including top-notch background material. Worth it for the mammoth Arnold Roth and Al Jaffee interview alone. - M. Ace, Irregular Orbit

At long last, a handsome, two-volume, slipcased set brings back into print a pivotal, neglected portion of the oeuvre of Harvey Kurtzman and that of a cadre of gifted pranksters bent on smart satire. - Rich Kreiner, The Comics Journal