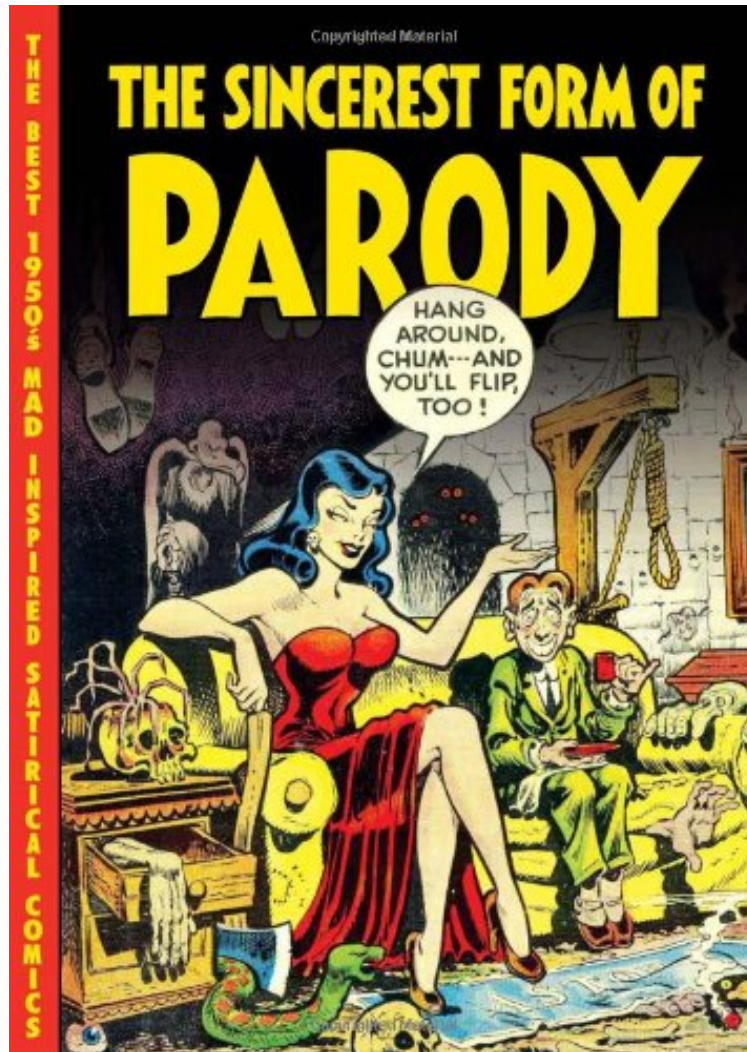


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## The Sincerest Form of Parody: The Best 1950s Mad Inspired Satirical Comics

John Benson

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**John Benson : The Sincerest Form of Parody: The Best 1950s Mad Inspired Satirical Comics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sincerest Form of Parody: The Best 1950s Mad Inspired Satirical Comics:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The golden age(IS there such a thing?)of MAD imitators!By Mark C. ScerpellaThe success of MAD magazine has prompted numerous imitators down through the decades,many of which didn't last very long,even so it was when MAD first emerged in 1953 as a comic book...even EC,Mad's publisher,tried to create one,the short-lived PANIC!...many of these obscure wannabes,with titles like

WHACK,BUGHOUSE and GET LOST have been forgotten...until now.Any fan of humor comics will love this collection from John Benson,reproduced in all their yellowing-paged glory,a compendium of zany,off-the-wall pop-culture parody circa the mid-1950s,as well as illustrating the lengths many of these writers and artists went to in their attempts to copy MAD's formulas.Benson concludes the book with a short but informative history of the subject.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What did Kurtzman wrought?By rockinrichardIn 1952, comics genius Harvey Kurtzman created one of the all-time great comic books with MAD at EC. After a few issues, the title became a top seller and other, less creative companies took note. Soon there were several imitators, none of which had much success. Most were mediocre,but a few showed some real spark. Most of the copiers didn't really "get" Mad, so they stole what they could of the style with little substance.This good-looking book presents a fine overview with complete stories in excellent color. Highly recommended. For more on the subject, look for the two issues of Alter Ego magazine that featured the subject.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What Me Worry? Worry me What???By CustomerThis book provides an enjoyable sampling of various parody comics that imitated EC's own Mad Magazine (then a comic). This includes EC's own imitator Panic.The art is interesting and at times delightful; particularly enjoyable is some parodies that Jack King Kirby drew. However, the imitations all remind one how brilliantly subversive Mad Magazine/Comic was underneath Harvey Kurtzman's leadership. The stories while funny are missing that certain zip, that ironic biting on tinfoil while laughing that Mad evoked. Some stories are clearly "lifts" from Mad performed in that creative hothouse that was the 1950's comic industry.Definitely worth the money.

What, me imitated? When MAD became a surprise hit as a comic book in 1953 (after the early issues lost money!) other comics publishers were quick to jump onto the bandwagon, eventually bringing out a dozen imitations with titles like FLIP, WHACK, NUTS, CRAZY, WILD, RIOT, EH, UNSANE, BUGHOUSE, and GET LOST. The Sincerest Form of Parody collects the best and the funniest material from these comics, including parodies of movies (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, From Here To Eternity), TV shows (Whats My Line, The Late Show), comic strips (Little Orphan Annie, Rex Morgan), novels (I, the Jury), plays (Come Back, Little Sheba), advertisements (Rheingold Beer, Charles Atlas), classic literature (The Lady or the Tiger), and history (Pancho Villa). Some didnt even try for parody, but instead published odd, goofy, off-the-wall stories. These earnest copiers of MAD realized that Will Elders cluttered chicken fat art was a good part of MADs success, and these pages are densely packed with all sorts of outlandish and bizarre gags that make for hours of amusing reading. The parody comics are uniquely 50s, catching the popular culture zeitgeist through a dual lens: not only reflecting fifties culture through parody but also being themselves typical examples of that culture (in a way that Harvey Kurtzmans MAD was not). This unprecedented volume collects over 30 of the best of these crazy, undisciplined stories, all reprinted from the original comics in full color. Editor John Benson (who wrote the annotations for the first complete MAD reprints, and interviewed MAD editor Harvey Kurtzman in depth several times over the years) also provides expert, profusely illustrated commentary and background, including comparisons of how different companies parodied the same subject. Artists represented include Jack Davis, Will Elder, Norman Maurer, Carl Hubbell, William Overgard, Jack Kirby, Dick Ayers, Bill Everett, Al Hartley, Ross Andru Mike Esposito, Hy Fleischman, Jay Disbrow, Howard Nostrand, and Bob Powell. Casual comics readers are probably familiar with the later satirical magazines that continued to be published in the 60s and 70s, such as Cracked and Sick, but the comics collected in this volume were imitations of the MAD comic book, not the magazine, and virtually unknown among all but the most die-hard collectors. For the first time, Fantagraphics is collecting the best of these comics in a single, outrageously funny volume. 208 full-color illustrations

About the AuthorJohn Benson is a comics historian living in New York City.Jay Lynch (b. 1945) is a Mad magazine and Topps'sWacky Packages/Garbage Pail Kidscontributor and a member of the 1960s-1970s underground comics movement. He recently published a graphic novel for children with Francoise Mouly and Art Spiegelman's Toon book line.