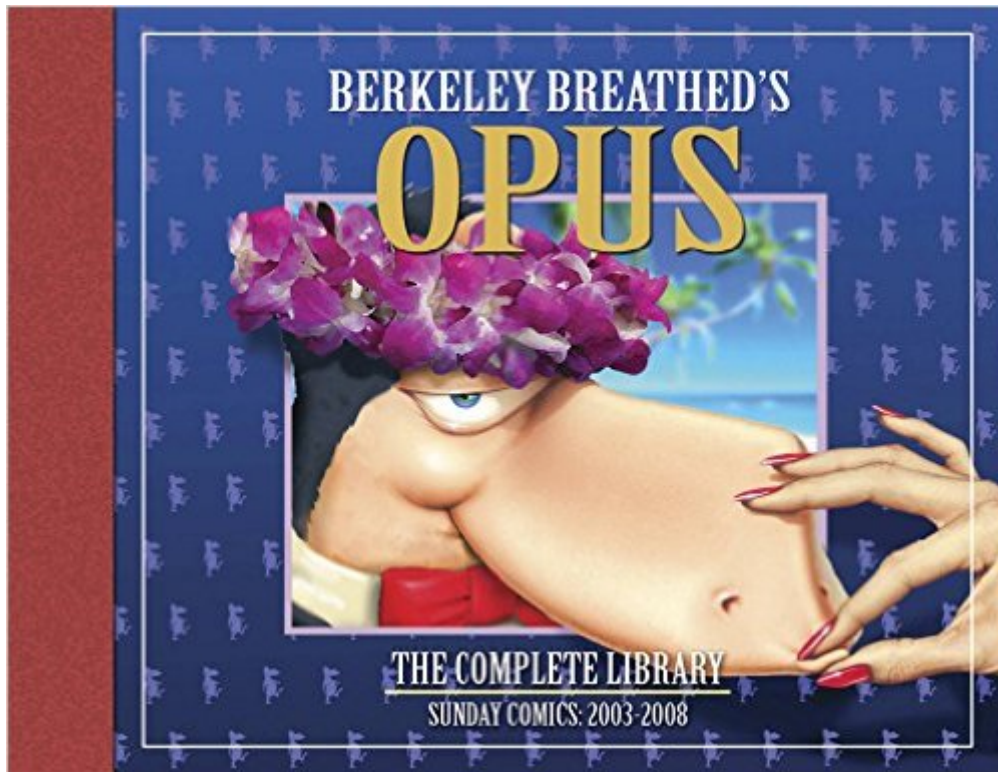


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OPUS By Berkeley Breathed: The Complete Sunday Strips From 2003-2008



Synopsis

Itâ™s Berkeley Breathedâ™s final spin around the dance floor with his most quirky and endearing characterâ"Opus. The Pleasant penguin has long been the moral center of the Berkley-verse, and nowhere is that as abundantly clear as in his own self-named book. Aside from our waddling friend, this book contains numerous characters readers will fondly remember from the days of Bloom County. This volume collects the entire run of Berkeley Breathedâ™s Opus, from first to last, and features an introduction and running commentary from Breathed.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ"Â" See all reviewsÂ" (34 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I grew up reading Bloom County so I was delighted to find this book available on the Kindle Store. Unfortunately, my delight turned to disgust when I realized that there is no way to zoom in on the image (using Kindle for iPad). This appears to be a fairly low quality scan of the book. The pages fill less than half of the screen and it is locked in portrait mode. Even using the "panel view" technology barely increases the size and the text remains unreadable. The only saving grace is that it has a 7 day return policy on Kindle books. Love Berkeley Breathed but stay away from this Kindle edition!

Good stuff, not quite up to caliber of former Bloom County and even Outland collections, but a worthy addition to your complete Breathed library. The wit was still there, but the computer generated art took something away from the venerable penguin's antics and punchlines. Maybe I'm just too old school. Still, the guy won a Pulitzer. And what the hell ever happened to Bobbi Harlow, anyway? :)

It looks great on the iPad but I wouldn't recommend viewing it on a phone or small tablet (who would try to read a comic on a tiny phone screen? LOL). I recently discovered that all of Bloom County/Outland/Opus are available on Kindle and I am having a WONDERFUL time reading all of the beloved comics from the wonderfully wacky mind of Berkeley Breathed!

The artwork in this collection is great, and on occasion, Breathed reaches back and finds that special something that put him, at his best, in the same class as Schulz, Watterson, Trudeau and the early McGruder. Too often, however, he comes up short. Overall, one has the impression of an artist who, precisely at the moment when he has mastered the techniques of his craft, finds himself running on fumes. Not coincidentally, it was at this moment that Watterson walked away to focus on his paintings - to the benefit of Calvin and Hobbes. Breathed comes back for one more bout and, however happy we were to see him again, one can't shake the feeling that this fighter would have done himself a good turn by staying retired.

This follows the collection of Breathed's Bloom County and Outland series and is much the same, as entertaining and enlightening as those other volumes. All Color Sunday strips with some limited commentary near some strips. REALLY wish he had put more comments in but as he sometimes remarks it was hard to recall what he was thinking when he did certain strips. The volume matches the other works in the collection and BB could be as hard hitting as Doonesbury but was usually much funnier. Opus was a cultural hero that too many missed! Pick this up and get acquainted or reacquainted with one who should be the best known Penguin in the world this side of Burgess Meredith. Very Good Quality in the work and book format.

While not on par with his work done in Bloom County, the continuing tales of Opus in this collection are definitely a step up from his work in Outland. He develops some new characters that are very good (Auggie, Steve's son) as well as brings back some familiar faces.

Perfect Breathed addition to my library. completes the set. Always great enjoyment to review, relive and remember the great strips. Nicely bound and reasonably priced. Terrific volume to hold and return to.

Same as any other guy, mostly, so here's me taking my turn. Bloom County stands only with Pogo

and Calvin and Hobbes as the comic-strip voice of an age. (Fans of Feiffer and Doonesbury, you have points. They're just not strong enough.) When it went off the air, we waited for Opus. And it's good, great even. It pulls old characters back, pulls new ones in, and pulls us all along. How? The funny bits keep us coming back. But it's the deep, warm, wisdom that brings us back years later. "The meaning of life isn't something you find," I misquote, "It's something you make." I like that. I really do. It means that "meaning" isn't something god-given and supernal, it's home-cooking. Meaning is flawed, and human-scaled, and changeable, as are we all, unlike that god-given thing. It's never the same twice, any more than home cooking is. But, if you do it right, it satisfies, and keeps you strong, and gets you from day to day. That "god-given" thing would be totally out of my reach and probably wouldn't fit. Lumpy butt and all, Opus is a mythic character. And this is his book, the opus of Opus.-- wiredweird

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