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# The Complete Cul De Sac



## Synopsis

The complete library of all Cul de Sac cartoons and more! In addition to every Cul de Sac cartoon ever published, selections of Thompson's pre-syndication Cul de Sac art are included in this affordable, paperback boxed set. Cul de Sac began newspaper syndication in September 2007 and ended in September 2012, when creator Richard Thompson retired to focus on treatment for Parkinson's disease. In its too-short time on the comics page, Cul de Sac garnered an avid fan base, a Reuben and a Harvey Award, and remarkable admiration from the cartooning community. In tribute to the strip, all the published cartoons are gathered here--as a bonus, there are selections of Richard Thompson's pre-syndication Cul de Sac watercolored Sundays. If you haven't discovered Richard Thompson's wonderful Cul de Sac comic strip, you are in for a real treat. Cul de Sac is noted not only for its humor and intelligence, but also for creator Richard Thompson's fun, imaginative watercolor artwork. Thompson's drawings, along with his pitch-perfect timing and gentle humor, made the cartoon an instant classic. Cul de Sac is brought to life through manhole-dancing Alice Otterloop, a curious four-year-old who discovers life's ups and downs in suburbia. Along with her Blisshaven Preschool classmates, Alice charms fans of all ages with her escapades. From crafting projects in a cloud of glitter and glue or just trying to comprehend a completely incomprehensible world, Alice is a creature of pure and indomitable will, an irresistible force. Alice describes her father's car as a "Honda-Tonka Cuisinart" and talks to the class guinea pig, Mr. Danders. Alice is joined by her family: her older brother Petey who is intent on being the King of the Picky Eaters; her dad, who's the Assistant Director of Pamphlets at the U.S. Department of Consumption, Office of Consumer Complaints; and her mom, who is capable of doing a million things simultaneously (about five of them well). This library of cartoons and art will both delight longtime fans and provide a fantastic introduction to new readers. Includes an introduction by Art Spiegelman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Thompson's "Cul de Sac" is the comic you've been missing in your life. It is funny, true, and amazing. You want to read these. ALL of these. They are excellent. I purchased the physical slipcased two paperback set of The Complete Cul de Sac. I love physical books and this strip is worth every penny. The paperbacks are very readable and very clear reproductions. The color Sunday strips (and watercolor original strips) are beautiful! History: CUL dE SAC started in The Washington Post on February 8, 2004 and became syndicated on September 10, 2007. The strip ended in September 2012 because the creator/artist/writer suffers from Parkinson's disease and he wanted to focus on his health (a very valid reason). WHAT'S NEW IN THIS SET: 1) Per the write-up on the slipcase "Annotations giving NEW insight into individual strips and story lines." I know some of these were in the previous Cul de Sac Golden Treasury, but there are a lot of new ones. This includes a very long multi-paragraph annotation on the "last" strip (which was a reprint). 2) Some newly collected strips. Per the box, "All the cartoons that were ever published are in here" (I think some haven't been previously collected since the last collection was released in May of 2012 and the strip didn't fully end until September 2012). I think this might only be talking about the syndicated strips because it also says this set includes "SELECTIONS of pre-syndicated Cul de Sac water-colored Sundays that appeared in the Washington Post." With THAT kind of wording, I don't know if ALL of the ones that exist are actually in here or not.

Richard Thompson deserves a place right up there with the other greats, namely Al Capp, Walt Kelly, Bill Watterson, Berkeley Breathed, and Garry Trudeau, in no particular order, and no particular degree of completeness, for Cul de Sac does what all those other great comics do: capture the human spirit at its most vulnerable, pitiful, wonderful, hilarious, touching, moving, and memorable moments, right there on paper, making you laugh out loud, bond with imaginary characters, and causing you to seek it out daily for your little fix of humanity presented by these gifted writers and artists who seem to understand things the rest of us are still figuring out. If you thought Calvin & Hobbes was the last and final great strip forever, or Pogo, or Bloom County, or any

other strip, you're going to be pleasantly surprised to find that Cul de Sac is the real last and final great comic strip forever. Until another last, greatest strip emerges, this one is surely the last great comic forever. The strip's little pre-school aged girl, Alice, is the central character, though her middle-school aged brother Petey is nearly as often featured. Petey is the cynical introvert with a dry wit, while Alice is the id-driven narcissist, perhaps with a touch of ADHD. Their father is somewhat distant, but good natured, while the mother is the foundational cornerstone of the family, the one who always seems to know what they need, who offers wisdom and solace, but not too much.

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