

Calvin and Hobbes



by Bill Watterson
Foreword by Gerry Trudeau



Calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATSON



There are few adherings of humor more consistently reliable than the mind of a child. Most cartoonists, being childlike, recognize this, but when they set out to capture the humor of the very young, they almost always do so, shamelessly, resulting not in recognizable children, but highly annoying, wince-making, miniature adults. Check it out in either inkblots or children's read, but most people who write comic dialogue for movies (up to and including the perpetrators of the Celine "kiss") demonstrate surprisingly little feel for — or faith in — the original source material, that is, childhood, in all its unfettered and winsome glory.

It is in this respect that Bill Watterson has proved as original as his fearless creations, Calvin and Hobbes. Watterson is the reporter who's gotten it right; childhood as it actually is, with its constant, swirling horres of reference. Anyone who's done time with a small child knows that reality can be highly situational. The reference which an adult knows to be a "he" may well reflect a child's respect nomenclature, at least at the moment it pops out. Fantasy is so accessible, and it is jotted with such force and frequency, that essential parents like Calvin's assume they are being manipulated, when the truth is far more frightening: they don't even exist. The child is both king and keeper of his realm, and he can be very choosy about the company he keeps.

Of course, this exclusivity only provokes many grown ups into trying to regain the serendipity of youth for themselves, or, in effect, retrieve the unretrievable. A desperate few do things that have kept them in the Betty Ford Center.

The rest of us, more sensibly, read Calvin and Hobbes.

— Gary Trudeau

TO
MELISSA









Calvin and Hobbes

SCARY! WHY SHOULD I GO TO BED? I'M NOT TIRED! IT'S ONLY 7:30! THIS IS TERRIBLE! ONE!





HERE WE FIND A THRIVING CITY: GRAND NEW BUILDINGS, A BUSTLING ECONOMY...



A SCENE THROUGHOUT WINDS THROUGH THE HAPPY MUNICIPALITY. HERE, A FARMER DROPS HIS LAMBSOCK TO MARKET.



TRAGICALLY, THIS SERENE METROPOLIS LIES DIRECTLY BENEATH THE HOOPER DAM.



THE SWEETS LIKE BAT BARS!



THAT DOES IT, YOUNG MAN! YOU ARE EXCUSED TO YOUR ROOM!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IS A LITTLE HARSH, DEAR? YOU'LL GET HUNGRY.



CALVIN HAS GOT TO LEARN SOME MANNERS! HE WON'T STARVE TO DEATH.



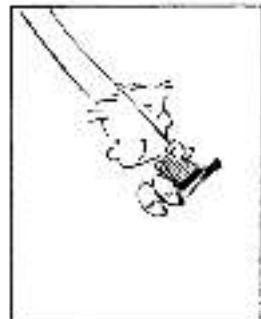
...AND EXTRA PEPPERONI!!











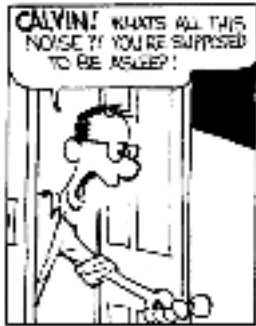
















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