



Tijuana Bibles: Art and Wit in America's Forbidden Funnies, 1930s-1950s

Bob Adelman

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Hidden in a corner among the great sacred texts of the world lies a series of exuberantly ribald underground comics known as the Tijuana Bibles. Iconoclastic, hilarious, and sexy, these anonymous little books, written from the 1930s through the 1950s, are revered among scholars and aficionados of American folk art, and devotees of comics as well as collectors of erotica. The primitive energy of their vigorous, often crude line, combined with their gonzo sensibilities, has given the Bibles a tremendous if largely unacknowledged influence on such talents as Art Spiegelman, Robert Crumb, and Lenny Bruce.

Comic strips in general were an American phenomenon, and at their zenith the Sunday funnies were as important as breakfast. But the anonymous creators of the Tijuana Bibles turned the saccharine tradition of the comics on its head, cheerfully savaging every sacred cow in the pasture in their pursuit of satire and sex. Political leaders, cartoon heroes, storybook legends, and American folk icons -- no one was safe from the glowering wit and smutty irreverence of these eight- and sixteen-page booklets, cranked out illicitly in basements and sold under counters across the country. From Donald Duck, Al Capone, and Greta Garbo to Lou Gehrig, Mahatma Gandhi, and the Fuller Brush Man, the pure and the impure were burlesqued with equal inspiration.

Aboveground for the first time, these subverive comic masterworks are presented here in all their brilliant and raunchy glory. Author Bob Adelman reviewed almost 1,000 of the Tijuana Bibles before selecting 100 of the most lively and important examples of the genre. The book opens with an introductory essay by Art Spiegelman, America's most famous comic artist and a man who proudly acknowledges the impact these rollicking and scandalous little booklets have had on his own work.

Paging through reproductions of the Bibles, the reader discovers that there is more to the Tijuana Bibles than good dirty fun. Indeed these tremendously entertaining comics also tell us fascinating things about American attitudes toward celebrity, about the hypocrisy of certain social and political values, and about the hypocrisy of certain social and political values, and about the ability of artists working outside the establishment of effectively tweak its sensibilities in a way few others can. For anyone who believes irreverence can be patriotic and sex can be just plain fun, *Tijuana Bibles* showcases American comic art at its untamed finest.

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George Hartzell:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The actual Tijuana Bibles: Art and Wit in America's Forbidden Funnies, 1930s-1950s is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Fabiola Gaylor:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled Tijuana Bibles: Art and Wit in America's Forbidden Funnies, 1930s-1950s can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Troy Harlow:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book Tijuana Bibles: Art and Wit in America's Forbidden Funnies, 1930s-1950s it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Laura Bradberry:

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