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Lynn Johnston, Katherine Hadway, Amber Landgraff
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Lynn Johnston, Katherine Hadway, Amber Landgraff : For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Family InsightBy NewmsIf you love the comics, or you have kids or you have dogs, you will love this book. It is hard to turn a page and not be able to relate to one's own family experience. The artwork is terrific.I would recommend this to young kids who are just starting to display their imagination. Aside from the cartoons, it is a great story of Lynn Johnson who followed her dream to be a great success. According to the book she overcame the "constructive coaching" of well meaning people who thought she was wasting time and going nowhere and never gave up her dream.Her cartoons are a real insight into the lives of many families. "For Better or Worse" is to family life and Scott Adams (Dilbert) is to business life."If you believe what is real is only what you can touch or feel, then rainbows have no pots of gold and stories of elves cannot be told. The dreamers of the world survive in keeping their beliefs alive."Hats off to the dreamer - Lynn Johnston3 of 3 people

found the following review helpful. A "must have" for any For Better or For Worse FanBy ConniePFor Better or For Worse by Lynn Johnston is one of my favorite comic strips of all times. I love the story lines and relatable humor, and I thought it was especially neat how the characters aged in real time. I actually felt like I came to know the individual characters. Although the strip originated in 1979, I discovered the For Better or For Worse strip myself in my local newspaper during the 1990's. I became an immediate fan and purchased every For Better or For Worse book that had been published to date, and bought each collection as it was published thereafter. I was so disappointed when Lynn ended the strip in 2008, although I understood her reasons for doing so. It was the end of an era, so to speak. (The comic strip began running "repeats" in the newspapers immediately thereafter, including a small amount of updated material. That way, a new generation of fans could discover this innovative strip as well.) When I saw For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston was going to be published, I pre-ordered it on . I knew I would be familiar with the comic strips themselves, but I figured the book would give me new perspective/history on Lynn and the comic strip. The book is being published to coincide with an international touring exhibition at the Art Gallery of Sudbury (Ontario, Canada). The exhibition runs from July 11 through November 1, 2015, then will tour other galleries across Canada and the United States. Lynn had been told previously by two curators that what she does is NOT art. However, the Art Gallery of Sudbury felt otherwise, saying her work IS art and belongs in a gallery. The Art Gallery of Sudbury was interested not only in Lynn's syndicated work, but drawings from her childhood, her days as a commercial artist, and work she has done since For Better or For Worse. I would love to see the exhibition, however, I have no idea if and when it will be anywhere near me here in Michigan. In the meantime, I'll settle for this book. The book itself does not disappoint. The first thing I noticed was the quality. Although it is a paperback, the front and back covers are fairly thick and very colorful. Even the inside portions of the front and back covers have colored print. The featured daily strips are in black and white, while photographs and Sunday strips are in vibrant color. The book contains 192 unusually thick pages beginning with a table of contents and ending with an index. (See customer image.) While some of the book's information has been covered in some of Lynn's previous books (such as the anniversary publications), much of it is new and more in depth. Lynn talks about such things as growing up in a family of artists, her love of drawing from a very young age, getting in trouble for her humor at school, attending but not completing The Vancouver School of Art, various jobs/projects she took on that paved her way for a future she never saw coming, and things she is working on now that she is "retired" from the strip. In addition, she discusses some very personal things, including a mother who never could give full praise (which hurt Lynn's self-confidence), two failed marriages, and her health crisis. She also discusses who the characters in her strip were based on, where she drew her ideas from, how the strip and its demands grew bigger than life itself (resulting in a staff of people working for Lynn), etc. All of this gives a great insight into the artist and her long running comic strip. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and would definitely recommend it to any For Better or For Worse fan. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoy 1/2 ! By Greg Ward I've always enjoyed this comic strip- likely at least partially because my son daughter were born about the same time I saw the strip in our paper! (They even did alot of the same things- like she was "spying" on them! Still!)

For thirty years, cartoonist Lynn Johnston made daily additions to what would become a monumental body of work: her newspaper comic strip, For Better or For Worse. Chronicling the daily lives of the middle-class suburbanite Patterson family — Elly and John and their children, Michael, Elizabeth, and April — Johnston's strip was ground-breaking in its adherence to narrative and emotional realism, and its refusal to engage in melodrama, superpowers, or anthropomorphic animals. As the syndicated strips appeared in daily newspapers throughout the 1980s, 1990s, and the first decade of the 2000s, these characters aged with their readers, and their trials and tribulations were the same as those of their readers: the daily struggles of work, family, school, and bureaucracy. Wildly funny and formally innovative, For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston was published to coincide with an international touring exhibition of Lynn Johnston's work, organized by the Art Gallery of Sudbury. The book features some of Johnston's most popular narratives, interspersed with an essay that chronicles the development of her drawing, her life, influences both personal and artistic, and the history of her wildly successful comic strip. This book also gathers together a generous selection of Lynn Johnston's daily comic strips and Sunday pages, spanning the lives of the Patterson family. Whether readers are new to Johnston's work or old fans returning once again, they'll find this book to be a rich treasury of For Better or For Worse.

"This retrospective . . . digs deep into Johnston's archives and biography, in order to illustrate the stories behind the creation of the iconic family who aged in real time on our funny pages." (Globe and Mail 2015-07-24) From the Back Cover For more than thirty years, Lynn Johnston captured the hearts of readers around the globe with her Pulitzer Prize-nominated comic strip "For Better or For Worse." Chronicling the lives of the middle-class suburbanite Patterson family Elly and John and their children, Michael, Elizabeth, and April "For Better or For Worse" was both goofy and ground-breaking. The experiences of the Patterson family mirrored those of their readers, the characters aging in real time with the audience. "For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston" takes you behind the scenes of

one of the world's favorite comic strips. Explore Lynn Johnston's influences and early drawings and the surprising, real-life inspirations behind her beloved characters and storylines. Along the way, revisit some of the most memorable moments in the "For Better or For Worse" universe. Whether you're encountering Lynn Johnston's work for the first time or a fan returning to it once again, you'll find something new yet richly familiar in "For Better or For Worse: The Comic Art of Lynn Johnston.""

About the Author
Cartoonist Lynn Johnston, best known for her strip For Better or For Worse, attended the Vancouver School of Art and worked as a medical artist before turning to comic art. For thirty years, her popular strip appeared in newspapers around the world before Johnston retired. Amongst many other honours, including several honorary degrees, Johnston is a member of the Order of Canada, has a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, and is in the Canadian Cartoonist Hall of Fame.

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Katherine Hadway is the daughter of Lynn Johnston and works in her studio as her mother's executive assistant. She has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Western Ontario and a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Amber Landgraff is an artist/curator.