



American Cornball: A Laffopedic Guide to the Formerly Funny

By Miller, Christopher.

Harper. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *The Cardboard Universe* and *Sudden Noises from Inanimate Objects*, Christopher Miller here takes us on a hilarious romp through what used to pass for comedy from hiccups and henpecked husbands to outhouses and old maids and considers what it tells us about our country yesterday and today. He revisits nearly 200 comic staples that have been passed down through our culture for generations many originating from the vaudeville age and explores the contexts from which they arose, why they were funny at that time, and why they eventually lost their appeal. More than 150 illustrated examples appear throughout the book as well, from Winsor McCay's *Rarebit Fiend* to Ernie Bushmiller's *Nancy*. "Miller's lovingly jaundiced exploration of the way America once laughed crackles with insight; the result is that rare book on humor that is as entertaining as its subject." *Publishers Weekly* 352.



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