

THE DEFEASIBLE PUMPKIN: An Epiphany in a Pumpkin Patch

by David P. Hoover

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The Cast

A good many years have come and gone—forty-two, in fact. The old Peanuts gang now occupies middle age, and sad to say, dog- and bird-years have long since claimed Snoopy and Woodstock. The passing of Snoopy was marked by a brief reunion (thirty-three years ago), but the gang again dispersed to busy and separate lives. The present tale is but a vignette of a second and quite recent reunion. To properly tell it, I must bring you up to date on the original cast of characters.

Charlie Brown, since his graduation from the Th.D. program at Westminster Theological Seminary, is Dr. Charles Brown. He still refuses to take life with a pinch of salt, seeing mostly the gravity and profundity of things, and his friends suspect that quite a lot of social subtlety and nuance get past him. Still, all in all, he's a good man and one can always count on him for that sober, focused attention when it counts. I should mention, too, that he's ended up a seminary professor. Theology and apologetics are his specialties.

Lucy, wouldn't you know, finished her Ph.D. in psychology (at Purdue), and is a practicing psychotherapist in Youngstown, Ohio. (Her rates, of course, have gone up.) Her perhaps envious colleagues tend to regard her as lacking in sensitivity. Just last week at a banquet "Roast" in her honor she was given the first ever "Howard Cosell of Counselors Award." She didn't think it was funny.

Peppermint Patty dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade and went into construction work. She is now a private contractor. She has been quite successful and has even landed some lucrative government contracts. Reflective she's not; it's very possible that no meta-order thought