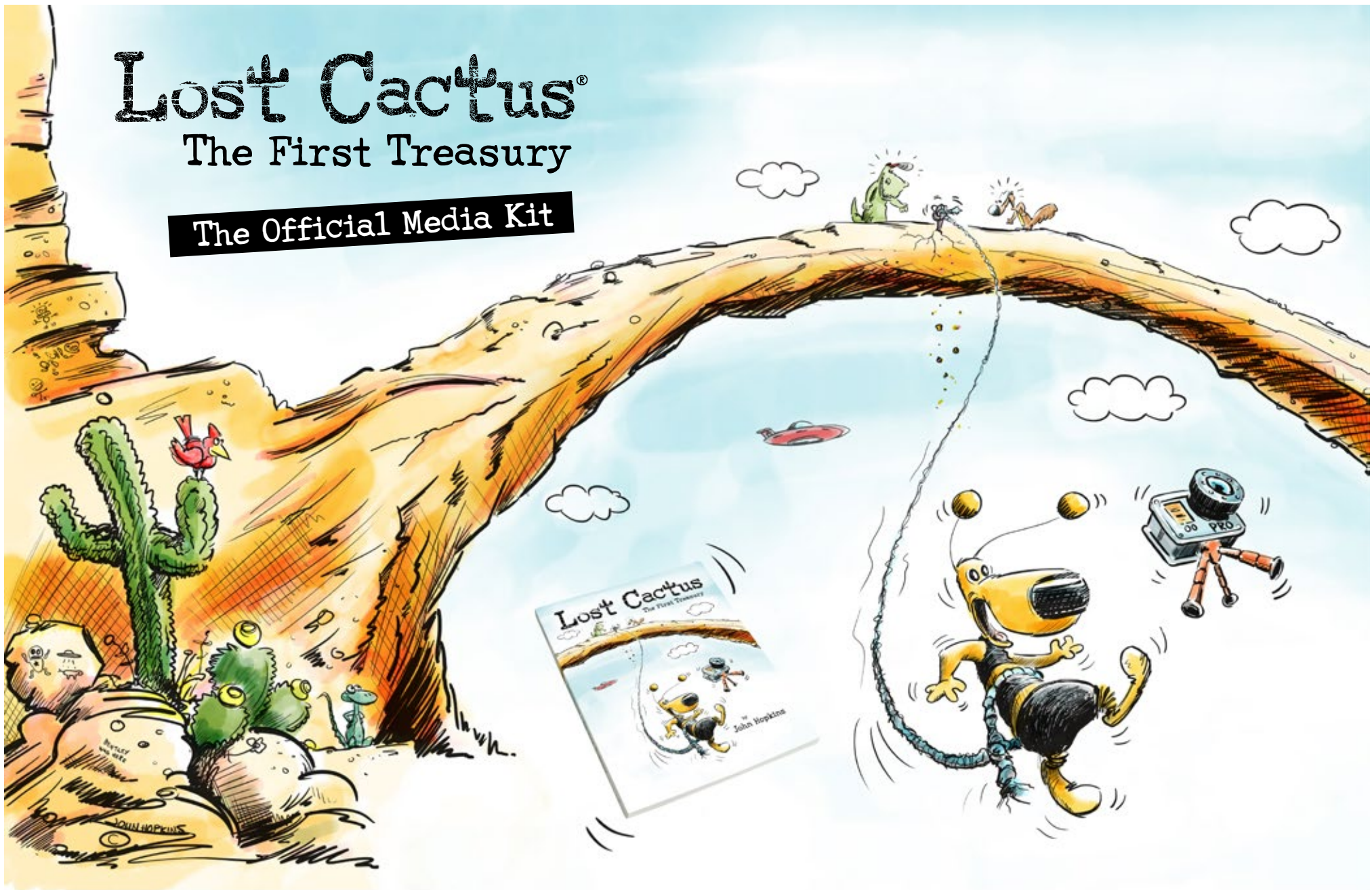


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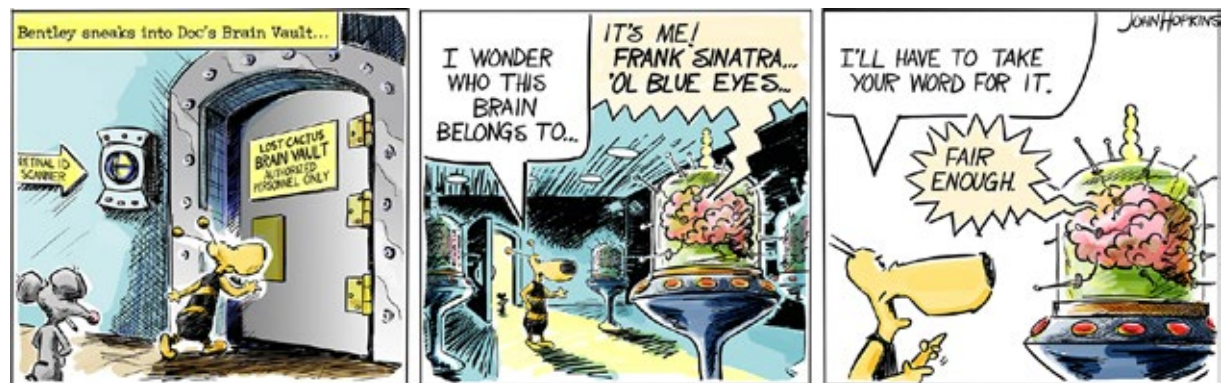
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10 things about Lost Cactus

1. In business since 1947
2. Symbol is a Saguaro cactus
3. Intentionally dilapidated base appearance to fool outsiders
4. It's the only intergalactic laboratory on Earth
5. Not found on Google maps
6. Base has and aircraft graveyard
7. Ghost town of Bentley is only nearby habitation
8. The 'Warehouse of Secrets' contains legendary items considered lost to the ages
9. Base employees must sign NDA
10. Area 51 competitor

{ Lost Cactus Comic Strip Samples }



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{ The Complete and Thorough Synopsis }

Introducing: **Lost Cactus - The First Treasury**
a comic strip anthology by John Hopkins

(where the **truth** actually is)

On a far-flung parcel of government land situated somewhere in the vast reaches of parched American Southwestern desert sits an abandoned and long-forgotten government facility known as Lost Cactus.

Where did you **think** your **tax dollars** went?

Way back in 1947 the Lost Cactus base first broke ground under the supervision of a mysterious character named Doc. However, by the mid-1950s, it was unceremoniously purged from all records, mothballed, abandoned and left to rot in the sweltering desert sun. Only lizards and ground squirrels remained behind to shelter beneath its decrepit facades. Or so we thought.

Urban Myth? Sure, let's go with that.

Today, if you happened to stumble upon Lost Cactus, well, first off, you would be hopelessly lost. Secondly, however, you would spy through the rusted perimeter barbed-wire fencing, the erstwhile Lost Cactus National Laboratory building. You would also see an expansive complex of dilapidated hangars, potholed runways, crumbling buildings, rusted warehouses, and wobbly water and control towers. The denizens of the nearby ghost town of Bentley and the scattered population of local desert dwellers largely ignore the strange occurrences that emanate from the base to this day. Moreover, when tourists, conspiracy theorists, and nosy politicians do somehow find their way to Lost Cactus asking pesky questions, they're consistently given the same answer: *"Lost Cactus is simply an urban myth."*

we **deny** everything...

And that, dear readers, is what the shadowy agency that continues to operate at Lost Cactus wants everyone – from presidents on down to John Q. Public – to believe.

no trespassing, loitering or feeding the locals.

The Lost Cactus base is similar to an Area-51. However, unlike that infamous facility, it has intentionally dilapidated buildings, Quonset huts, and hangars – all set against the colorful desert landscape – forming the backdrop for the characters' interactions throughout most of the strips.

Which brings us to the quirky cast, starting with the precocious **Bentley the Bee** and quick-witted **Ty the Dinosaur** – who are the heart and soul of Lost Cactus – and drive much of the comic storytelling. They're both laboratory creations of **Doc**, the brilliant scientist and founder of Lost Cactus. There's **Sammy the Squirrel**, who owes his anthropomorphic traits to an irradiated acorn. Next up is **General Fox**, the befuddled base administrator. Then there's **Penny**, she's the all-too-popular doctor at Lost Cactus. Rounding out the staff is **Professor Otto**, the base shrink. Lastly, what sci-fi inspired comic strip would be complete without an extraterrestrial? Introducing **Cato**, Doc's resourceful alien advisor.

And, mixed in throughout the strip's storylines: ubiquitous lab rats, staggering clone zombies, animated cacti, loquacious birds and lizards, self-important celebrities, and of course, nosy politicians.

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{ The Complete and Thorough Synopsis }

...continued

Introducing Lost Cactus - The First Treasury

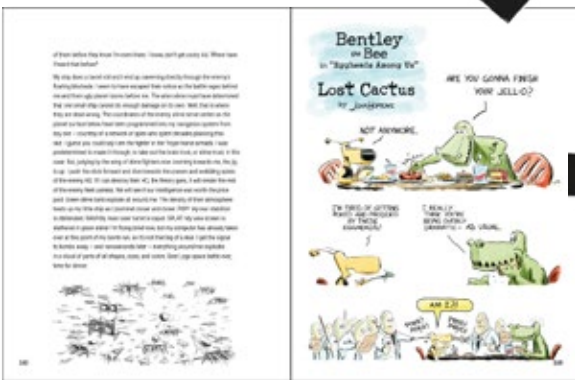
First published in July 2015, this anthology of comic strips titled **Lost Cactus - The First Treasury** is available on iBooks, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other retail outlets in a variety of print and ebook formats. Showcasing my comic strips in book form provides the opportunity for an **enhanced reader experience** whereby the reader is not only entertained by the Lost Cactus comic strips, but also a plethora of intriguing content, that expands upon the Lost Cactus universe.



Each chapter starts off with one of the following:

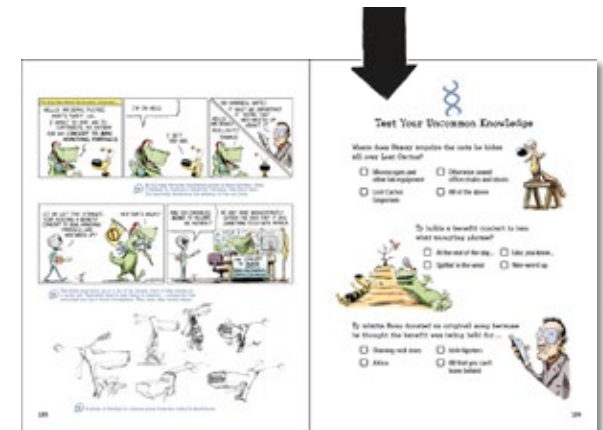
- **Urban Myth or Tall Tales** – Short stories conjured in the Lost Cactus characters' fertile imaginations
- **Random Brain Scatterings** – Acerbic essays and commentaries on a variety of off-beat topics
- **For Your Eyes Only** – Insider information right out of the Lost Cactus base archives

The stories are followed by a colorful Lost Cactus Sunday comic strip.



Eight 3-panel strips follow and are interspersed with trivia, liner notes, and artwork from the author's sketchbooks.

Each chapter ends with a short quiz to test your newfound "uncommon knowledge".



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{ The Complete and Thorough Synopsis }

...continued

Here is a chapter-by-chapter breakdown of all of the stories in the first Lost Cactus comic strip anthology.

- Chapter 1 – **Lost Cactus character introductions**
In-depth background on the comic strips' eclectic cast of characters
- Chapter 2 – **What's in a name?** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
Details the author's method for naming his characters
- Chapter 3 – **Mascots are people too** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
A humorous slice of life at the local amusement park
- Chapter 4 – **You can call him Werner** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
A short essay on Heisenberg, the physicist
- Chapter 5 – **The Moleman** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
"Every gardener has her secrets."
- Chapter 6 – **In regards to nothing** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
An essay on nothingness, starting with the Big Bang
- Chapter 7 – **Cosmic Comeuppance, Part 1** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
Humanity gets payback against a bunch of slimy aliens
- Chapter 8 – **An acorn in every pot** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
Who knew the life of a squirrel could be so complicated
- Chapter 9 – **The pixel pusher** (*For Your Eyes Only*)
A mysterious co-worker named Alice
- Chapter 10 – **Here comes the judge** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
How one achieves the lofty level of connoisseurship
- Chapter 11 – **The Stowaway** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
Owen and Rachel's honeymoon in space
- Chapter 12 – **Bubble gum cards** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
Confiscatory price of cards vs. the cheapness of celebrity
- Chapter 13 – **The middle of nowhere** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
"This was day three, and he was starting to lose it."
- Chapter 14 – **Weight of the sun** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
It involves math, you've been warned
- Chapter 15 – **Amelia orate** (*For Your Eyes Only*)
What really happened to the famed aviatrix
- Chapter 16 – **Draw this** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
Can you draw a circle? Sure you can!
- Chapter 17 – **Cosmic Comeuppance, Part 2** (*Urban Myth and Tale Tale*)
Conclusion of cataclysmic space battle – with a surprise ending!
- Chapter 18 – **Self preserved** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
That brief moment preceding action – or inaction
- Chapter 19 – **A brave new world** (*For Your Eyes Only*)
Doc travels to the heart of the Amazon rainforest and garners a little alien know-how
- Chapter 20 – **Patience, I have it** (*Random Brain Scattering*)
"What were we talking about? Don't worry, I remember. Patience."

Here are three excerpts, one from each kind of story in the book.

Tall Tales & Urban Myths

Short stories conjured in the Lost Cactus characters' fertile imaginations

Excerpt from Chapter 11: "The Stowaway"

...Suddenly, Owen and Rachel felt a rumble through their hand-sewn leather seats. The noise from the ion thrusters, though dampened by the nano-tiles, resonated throughout the ship's interior. They had watched videos, but nothing quite prepares you for the real thing. As if cut loose from ropes that held it to the platform, the immense black triangle leaped up into the air. Rachel looked straight down past her quivering knees and watched the pad they had been on shrink below them and the Nevada desert stretch out in all directions. The airship had the ability to hover and was now doing just that at about 25,000 feet. Then, it seemed to lower a fraction – like a snake coiling before a strike. Without warning the afterburners ignited...

Random Brain Scatterings

Acerbic essays and commentaries on a variety of off-beat topics

Excerpt from Chapter 16: "Draw This"

...Can you draw a circle? Sure, you can! Grab a pencil and a piece of paper and draw one right now. Let me know when you are finished. (I'll wait.) Ok, got that down? Now, draw a line straight down from the bottom of your impeccably drawn circle. There! You have just drawn a balloon. Or, better yet, you are halfway to a right proper stick man. Either way you slice it, you've just put down a creation of your own making onto a piece of paper that has never been drawn in precisely that same fashion ever before! Because, no matter how in-depth my artistic direction was, and let me tell you, it was exquisitely precise, your interpretation of my direction was completely and utterly random. Isn't that amazing?...

For Your Eyes Only

Insider information right out of the Lost Cactus base archives

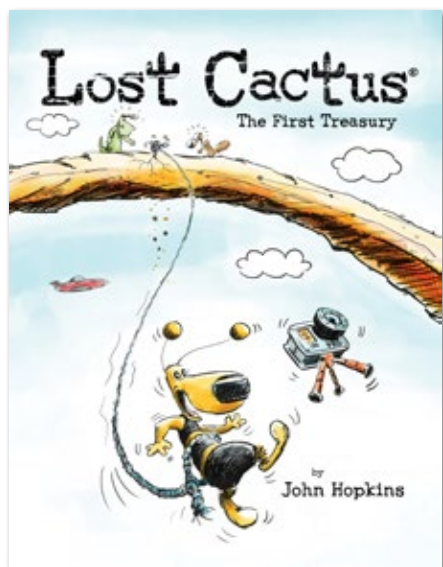
Excerpt from Chapter 9: "The Pixel Pusher"

...Alice loves her job. She sets her hours, comes in and does her work when she wants – day or night – and no one bothers her. She has her office with tinted windows overlooking the parking lot three stories below. Yes, Alice has it made in the shade. She also does not officially report to anyone in the office. In fact, if you asked, no one is sure exactly what it is Alice does behind her locked office door on the third floor. One time, a co-worker named Bob, cornered Alice by the coffee machine and attempted to pry out of her what it was she did all day. She returned his queries with a polite smile, shrugged her shoulders, took a sip from her art college coffee mug, returned to her office, and shut the door. Twenty minutes later, good old Bob was frog marched by security right out the front glass double doors past the receptionist, who simply waved, and said, "Bye Bob!" It turned out Bob was an undercover reporter for one of the tabloids. Somehow, he had been tipped off about the mysterious Alice and was planning to write an exposé. But Alice saw Bob coming a mile away. You could say, she has a sixth sense about such things...

Lost Cactus®

The First Treasury

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Front cover design



Lost Cactus - The First Treasury
*winner of a prestigious Silver Medal
in the 2016 Independent Publisher
Book Awards.*

{ Book Taglines and Short Synopses }

The book tagline

Lost Cactus - The First Treasury. Lost Cactus comic strip anthology, plus an eclectic mix of sci-fi short stories, witty commentary, off-beat trivia, crammed with illustrations, renderings, and sketches.

Elevator Pitch

What if there was a top-secret desert base populated by brilliant scientists, genetic mutants, aliens, and assorted quasi-military characters, called Lost Cactus? And, what if it was completely nuts?

Want more? Here's the 50-word synopsis

Lost Cactus - The First Treasury showcases the first 171 comic strips, character introductions, and top-secret base information. The book also features acerbic commentaries, off-beat trivia, colorful illustrations, interactive quizzes, and short stories conjured in the imaginations of the comic cast intended to evoke laughter, fear, and wonderment.

“Ripped from the back cover” synopsis

On a far-flung parcel of government land situated somewhere in the vast reaches of parched American Southwestern desert sits an abandoned and long-forgotten government facility known as Lost Cactus. At least, that's what the shadowy agency—that operates there to this day—wants everyone from presidents on down to John Q. Public to believe.

Welcome to Lost Cactus – The First Treasury!

This first in a series of full-color comic strip anthologies features the exploits and misadventures of the Lost Cactus comic strip characters. Meet Bentley the Bee, Ty the Dinosaur, Sammy the Squirrel, Doc, Cato, Penny, and General Fox, along with an eclectic supporting cast that wanders in and out of the storylines. The comic strips, sci-fi inspired short stories, and acerbic commentaries in this book provide an original perspective on ever-evolving technologies, current events, and celebrity, mixed with conspiracy theories, paranormal, extraterrestrials, and urban myths.

Most of all, Lost Cactus shines a light on the shadowy government world that operates beyond the realm of public knowledge. *Sit back and enjoy your trip to Lost Cactus.*

Lost Cactus®

The First Treasury

{ The Lost Cactus Cast of Characters }

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Ty the Dinosaur

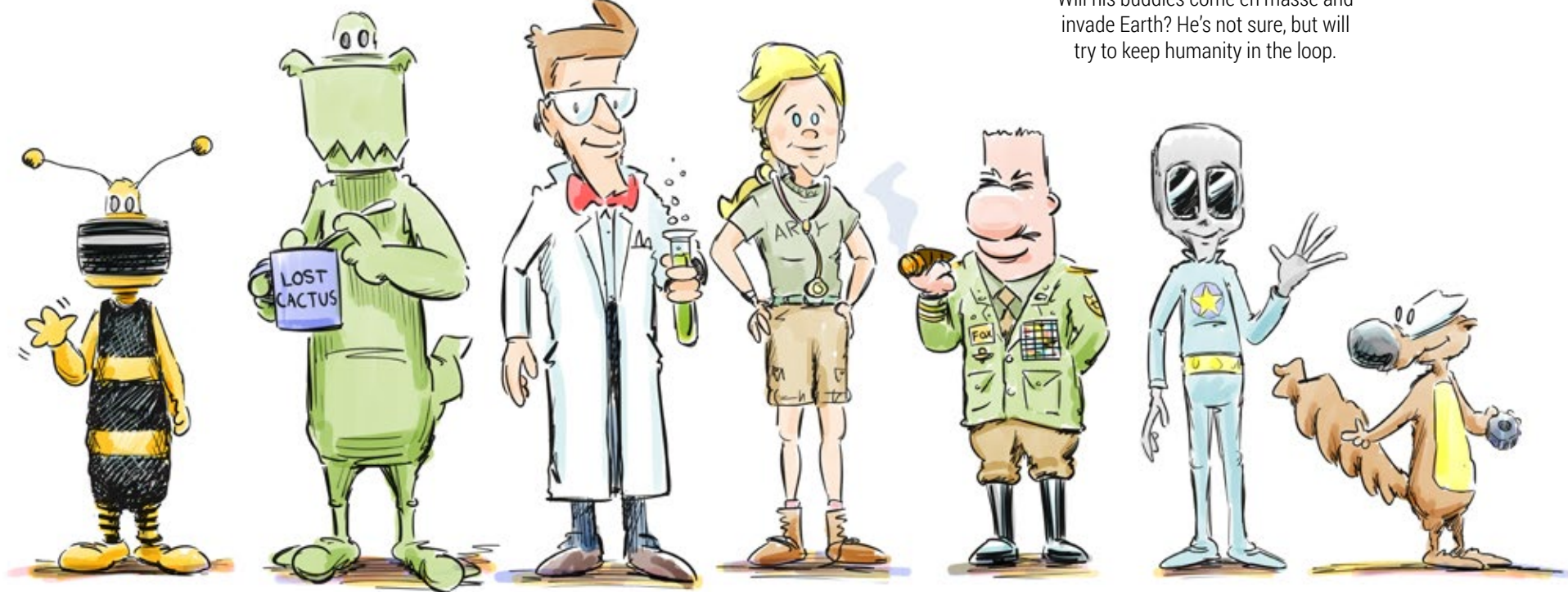
Quick-witted, caffeine-addicted, genetically-engineered T-Rex who is green in color, but never with envy.

Penny

Classic overachiever who went from the top of her med school class to the top-secret world of Lost Cactus.

Cato the Alien

Will his buddies come en masse and invade Earth? He's not sure, but will try to keep humanity in the loop.



Bentley the Bee

A good bee with a shaky sense of direction and an appetite for mayhem. Don't call him a drone. He hates that.

Doc

The brains behind Lost Cactus who creates, concocts, and conjures with impunity—sometimes with unexpected results.

General Fox

Charged with maintaining military discipline, to little avail. A regular army guy stuck in a most irregular world.

Sammy the Squirrel

The Lost Cactus sights, sounds and inhabitants are befuddling to this irradiated little squirrel.

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Official comic strip website


www.lostcactus.com


Social Media Links


 facebook.com/lostcactus

 instagram.com/lostcactusthecomicstrip

 www.lostcactus.com/the-blog.html

 twitter.com/johnhopkinsart

 <http://bit.ly/LostCactusYoutube>

 www.goodreads.com/John_Hopkins

{ About John Hopkins }

Bio Tagline

John Hopkins, cartoonist and writer: Lost Cactus comic strips, sci-fi short stories, acerbic commentaries.

Short Bio

John Hopkins is the brains behind the “Lost Cactus” comic strip. He weaves an eclectic mix of topics—from sci-fi, paranormal, and technology-fueled content with on-trend cultural, political, and celebrity-focused news items, into off-beat short stories and acerbic commentaries. A professional illustrator, designer, writer, and proprietor of a successful design studio with a diverse clientele for more than 20 years, Hopkins draws upon his experience while crafting “Lost Cactus.” His caffeine-fueled imagination—and gift for seeing the comically absurd in almost anything—provide the grist for his strip’s plotlines and extensive backstory. As a life-long comic strip fan, he is proud to contribute “Lost Cactus” to this quintessentially American art form. He is a member of the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA) and the Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLI).



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10 things about John Hopkins

1. Favorite food ~ homemade chile
2. Has two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
3. Mountain biker
4. Attended Seinfeld episode taping before it was famous
5. Photoshop expert
6. Oingo Boingo aficionado
7. Coffee ~ black
8. Favorite animal ~ sea turtle
9. Once struck out 18 batters in a little league game
10. Fine artist

{ John Hopkins: The Interview }

Why draw a comic strip?

Simply put, it is something that I have wanted to do since I was ten-years old. My whole life, I have admired so many talented cartoonists who made the leap and did not let setbacks and rejection letters stop them from following their paths. If they did, we might not have the likes of a Calvin or an Opus to be sure. The world would be a much less interesting place without comic strip characters that people can identify with in their lives. My idea for a strip—germinating in my brain for over 20 years—has found its niche in the independent publishing world, bypassing those nasty rejection letters altogether. And as a bonus, I have complete autonomy over my work, which is an important aspect of my creative endeavors.

What is the inspiration behind Lost Cactus?

I began drawing my original bee and dinosaur comic strips that provided the genesis for Lost Cactus in the early 1990's. I became inspired after reading the novel, Jurassic Park, by one of my all-time favorite authors, the late Michael Crichton. I recall thinking at the time that its central theme of scientific progress ran amok would be the basis for a wonderfully unique comic strip. And since comic strips tend to anthropomorphize animal characters, I decided genetically manufactured characters provided a good foundation as to how they got that way. Using traditional methods of pen and ink on vellum, I drew lots of strips featuring my dinosaur and bee characters back in those early days, but unfortunately, I let the concept fade while I pursued my design career.

Why didn't you follow through with your comic strip back then when the idea was fresh in your mind?

Saying you are going to sit down and create a comic strip is much simpler than actually doing it! Maintaining a roof over the family's head and food on the table has tended to take precedence over "my crazy project." However, my career in illustration and design has advanced my artistic skills and has kept me current with the technologies and applications. Today, I am utilizing all of that experience in creating my Lost Cactus comic strips.

Aside from the DIY publishing, why did you decide to resurrect your comic strip now, after so many years in hibernation?

There is a saying: *"The perfect time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now."*

So, my original bee and dinosaur comic strips had been buried in my flat files all the way up until mid-2013. I think I had just experienced a business deal go South, and I was a little down. I was filing away some artwork and came across the large, dog-eared folder stuffed with all of my old bee and dinosaur sketches, inked strips, and tons of other related stuff. I spent the rest of that afternoon going over every scribble and note. That day in mid-2013, I made the decision that the time was right to resurrect my comic strip. From that point forward, it's been like getting reacquainted with old friends. And from 2013 to the present, I have been writing, drawing, adding characters and fleshing out Lost Cactus into its fully realized world. The first book, Lost Cactus – The First Treasury, is the culmination of that effort. There is so much creative juice flowing through Lost Cactus that it can go practically anywhere I want to take it. My goal is to present to the world of comics readers a unique cast of characters that interact in storylines relevant to our modern world. All while leveraging science fiction, conspiracy theories, urban myths, paranormal, rogue government agencies, celebrities, current events, and more, to great comic effect. In short, this is the evolutionary result of what I originally started over 20-years ago. I am hard at work on the sequel, and there will be more to come after that! I am making up for a lot of lost time, and thoroughly enjoying finally fulfilling my life's passion. Everybody should get the opportunity to do that in their lives.

What else would you like people to know about yourself?

As a lifelong fan of the comic strip art form, I am keenly aware of what goes into producing a long-running and successful strip. I have drawn inspiration from some of my all-time favorite comics – Calvin & Hobbes, Bloom County, Peanuts, Beetle Bailey, and the Far Side, to name a few. Comic strips can always make you laugh, but the great ones, like those I just mentioned, also give you something more. It's that intangible quality that sets them apart: The familiarity of Calvin and his tiger, Hobbes. The topical wit and wisdom of Bloom County. The timeless Peanuts characters. The satire of Beetle Bailey. And the twisted humor of the Far Side. I have written and drawn Lost Cactus with these crucially important elements in mind while maintaining the uniqueness of my creation. That is the essence of what I am striving to achieve with Lost Cactus. I want to draw strips and create stories that people will read and then reread often. I want them to laugh, and always leave them wanting more.

Would you like to be the next Charles Schultz?

No. I would never say that. Charles Schulz was a genius, and I have the utmost respect for him and all of the other professional comic strip creators out there, past and present. Plus, I am trying to create a wholly unique new strip and characters, and just as importantly, I am presenting it in an exciting new format by combining my comic strip with the mythology I have invented and will continue to explore in short stories and graphic novellas in this and future books and ebooks. I'm just a guy with a great new comic strip looking to garner some exposure and get the word out to as many people as possible. I do wish I had Mr. Schulz' PR Department; that would be nice.

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Here are the official author and book cover images that can be downloaded in hi- or low-resolution.

You can use these images to help promote the book and the comic strip on your blog, website, article, or featured with a review of Lost Cactus - The First Treasury.

Download the images in jpeg format by clicking on either the hi- or low-resolution link.

These images are pre-authorized only for use in the promotion and/or review of Lost Cactus books and the Lost Cactus comic strips.

{ Author & Book Images }



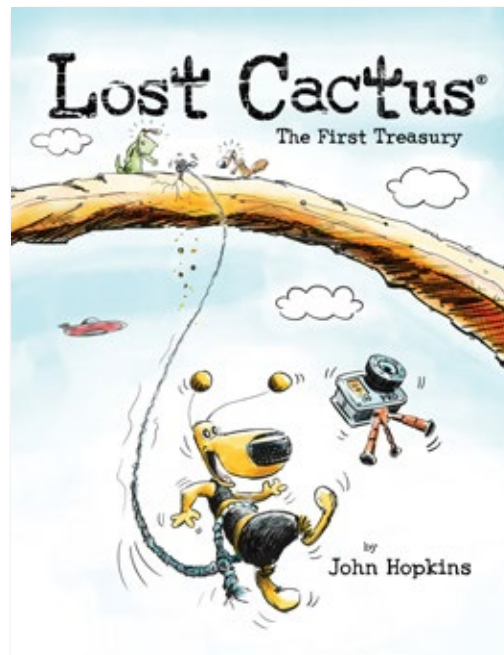
John Hopkins Author Photo

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Lost Cactus - The First Treasury Book Cover

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Here are some visual book teasers that you can download and use to promote my book *Lost Cactus - The First Treasury* on your blog, website, social media, or featured with a book review.

Access the jpeg files by clicking on the image link(s) that you wish to download.

These images are pre-authorized only for use in the promotion and/or review of *Lost Cactus* books and the *Lost Cactus* comic strips.

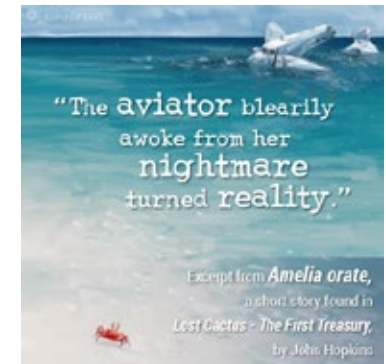
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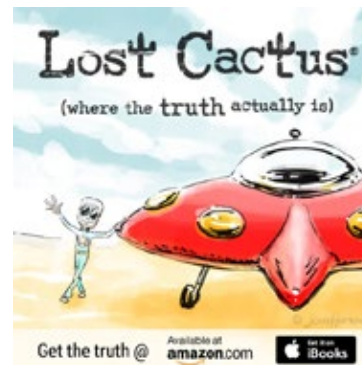
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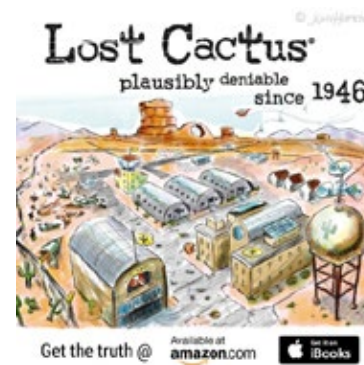
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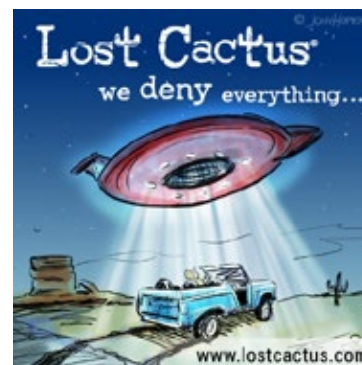
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{ Book Ordering Information }



Social Media Tags:

abduction, acorns, aliens, Amazon, Amelia Earhart, archeology, ancient aliens, area51, arch, art, astronomy, Bentley, base, bees, bigfoot, bird/s, blueprint, Bono, bookbloggers, bookboost, bookgeek, booknerd, bookaholic, bookworm, booklove, boondoggle, brains, buttes, cactus, cafeteria, cartoons, Cato, celebrity, cigars, Clampett, classified, clones, coffee, comedy, comiccon, comics, comic strip, conspiracy theory, desert, digital art, dinosaurs, Doc, DNA, ducks, drones, eavesdrop, ebooks, eggheads, Elvis, epub, espionage, ET, ET highway, experiments, exploration, extraterrestrials, flying saucers, General Fox, genetics, ghost town, golf ball, GPS, gray, gridlock, hangar, History Channel, Hopkins, humor, ibooks, indieauthor, indiebook, indiebooksbeseen, indiecomic, IngramSpark, instabook, invasion, iPhone, kindle, laboratory, lizards, Lunar Rover, machine, mammoths, Mayan calendar, medicine, microscope, military base, Moab, Moon, mothership, mug, mutants, NASA, NSA, Otto, outer space, painting, painted, desert, paleontology, paranormal, Penny, photoshop, pizza, psychology, PX, radiation, rats, raygun, reading, red rocks, research, robots, saguaro, Sammy the Squirrel, Sasquatch, science, scientist, sci-fi, shrink, selfpublishing Sinatra, Sketchbook, smartphone, snooping, spying, social media, southwest, space, stealth, stowaway, squirrels, Sun, tablet, taxes, technology, telescope, test tubes, tinfoil hat, top-secret, transplant, T-Rex, Ty, ufo, urban myth, wacom, uncommon knowledge, Wall Street, warehouse, Washington DC, water tower, weapons, woolly, zombies, x-files



Interactive eBook Edition

<http://bit.ly/LostCactusiBooks>

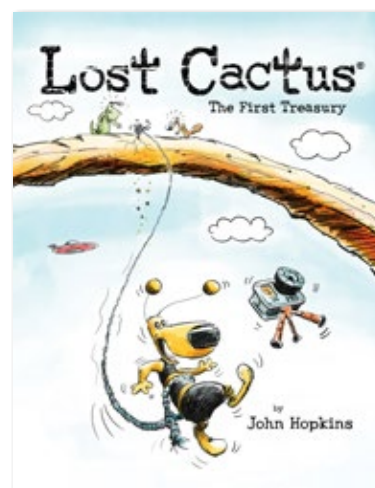
Price: 9.99 USD

ISBN 978-0-9965067-0-0

Pub. Date: 07.23.2015

Length: 190 pages

This book is available for download with iBooks on Mac or iOS device.



Full Color Print Edition

<http://bit.ly/lostcactus-firsttreasury>

Price: 21.99

ISBN-10: 0-9965067-5-6

ISBN-13: 978-0-9965067-5-5

Orig. Pub. Date: 07.23.2015

Length: 196 pages

8.5 x 11 inch US trade paper, full color throughout with bleed



Kindle Edition

<http://bit.ly/LostCactusKindle>

Price: 4.99

ASIN: B0147QN30M

Pub. Date: 08.19.2015

Length: 196 pages