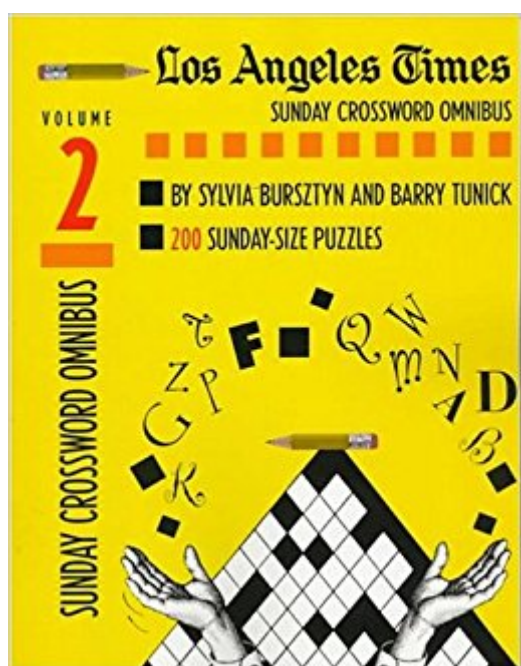


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Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Omnibus, Volume 2 (The Los Angeles Times)



Synopsis

This extra-value collection of 200 Los Angeles Times Sunday crosswords is a great bargain for anyone who loves fun-filled, pun-filled puzzles. The first omnibus collection from the LA Times was amazingly popular, and this second volume follows right in its footsteps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This extra-value collection of 200 "Los Angeles Times Sunday crosswords is a great bargain for anyone who loves fun-filled, pun-filled puzzles. The first omnibus collection from the "LA Times was amazingly popular, and this second volume follows right in its footsteps.

In their crossword-writing partnership, Sylvia Bursztn creates the grids and Barry Tunick (a former president of the National Puzzlers' League) writes the clues.

I have a confession to make... I'm a crossword puzzleaholic!!! They both stimulate and calm my mind, so there's pretty much no situation in which I won't sit and do a crossword. I love them on planes, especially.- These puzzles are the perfect level of difficulty for me. They're not at all easy, but I can finish (or come close to finishing) each puzzle so I get that sense of accomplishment. It's also a ice ego boost, y'know? ;- The book has a spiral, which is awesome! SO much easier to prop the book on your knee and solve a few clues when you're not fighting to keep a stiffly bound book

open.- The clues are from this century. Look, I like old movies and classic references as much as the next person, but when you have a puzzle book that mixes references from multiple decades, clues like "star of a top cop show" lose all meaning. The clues in this book are current enough to make sense without being reliant on abhorrent things like reality stars or gossip columns. Beware: Some people are obsessed with the type of paper their puzzles come on. This is pretty cheap old-school color booking-type paper. Rough and beige in color. It's fairly flimsy, but I don't mind it at all. After all, I'm not framing my tiny mental masterpieces! All in all a great book and I'll be buying more in the series!

These puzzles are rated medium difficulty (which I consider to mean hard for most non-addicts), and modern, which means lots of puns, plays on words, and misleading (but actually fair) clues. (Example: "Got milk?" in Persian -- Meow.) There is normally a themed "long answers" subject, although some are just potpourri. I personally like this style of puzzle a lot, because these clever clues give you a chance to keep thinking and work out the answer, rather than forcing you into a situation where you simply don't know the answer to some obscure factual question. I would say this is a very good puzzle book for someone who likes puzzles for the adventure and the intellectual fun.

Of course the cross words are of excellent quality. But the size of the print of the clues is very small. Please note that a lot of senior citizens do cross words and they prefer to read the clues on a larger size. The LA Times cross words volume 2,6 etc had larger size.

I couldn't decide between this book and the Weekend Picnic Crosswords book as a gift, so I ordered both. The other one won hands down. This one has really cheap paper and the pages hang down below the cover. The puzzles may be okay, but the Weekend Picnic book offered so much more. In the answer section, it gave little tidbits of information regarding some of the answers and provided the author of the puzzle. This one is bare bones. I would not give this as a gift to anyone, so I will probably return it if I can.

The last LA Times puzzle book I bought had the puzzle at the top of the page, whereas this one has it at the bottom. This makes it really hard for me to fill in the lower 1/3 of the crossword, since I don't have anything to rest my hand or wrist on. I never realized how important this design feature was until now. Other than that, I like the puzzles. I do them in bed to help quiet my mind so I can sleep.

I don't like the newsprint puzzle books, and unfortunately, I didn't find check before I ordered my books. Two of them were newsprint, and my pencils (yes, I use pencils, not pens) tend to go right through the page. These puzzles were a bit difficult - not as easy as I would have liked.

Cleverest crossword puzzles around. I have all seven of these LA books by Barry Tunick and Sylvia Bursztyn now. I completed the first three volumes and I just can't get enough of them. I wanted to make sure I got this volume in case it ever becomes obsolete. I probably can complete 10% of these without error and on the majority of them I miss five clues, so it's both fun and still challenging for me. I like to have at least a ghost of a chance in finishing these versus the New York Times puzzles which frustrate the heck outta me. I feel I learn a little something with each puzzle. If you are still not sure if this is your style, they have volumes which are smaller, 50 puzzles at a lower price I would imagine. Give it a go!

What do I look for in a crossword puzzle book? Well, I was already familiar with LA Times crosswords. They're not as difficult as NY Times. Sometimes I find the answers frustrating, especially when they're trying to be funny but I think this is really a matter of taste. These puzzles all have some puns in them. I want a book that is easy to write on. The binding of the book is nice, the spiral is in the back and the book lies nice and flat and fits on a clipboard. The paper is perhaps a step up from typical coloring book paper. A bit rough. The printing is clear and the boxes a reasonable size. I also want to be able to find the answers quickly, just in case.... The answers are all together in the back of the book. Not much else you could ask for, a great bargain for the price.

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