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Chick Dissection | Here, Kitty Kitty

– Jabberwock | 4/29/2007 @ 2:37 am | Filed under:

Dissections Jack Chick

Bad boys had mean plans for Betsy's kitty. Will help come in time? A great salvation story for children.

Manipulate children into adopting your religious beliefs by making vague implications that their pets' lives are in danger from Satanists and ne'er-do-wells if they don't believe in Jesus. Special guest illustration by Charles Schulz.....'s corpse.



Meow at the moon.

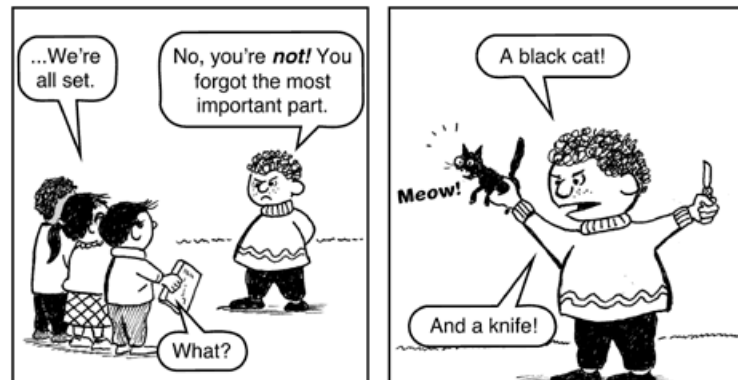


Parents: Be sure to burn all candles and chalk. They are tools of the devil.

Oh, come on, Jack - shouldn't it be Majik Spellz? And I'm certain one or two of the letters should be backwards, especially the 'e'. This is totally not cutesy enough.

"And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the... er, I mean... then I guess we're all set."

Is she gesturing to indicate they need to transition into the next panel in order to see whether they have everything they need, or is that just some kind of palsy?



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Like twenty-sided dice, rock music, consensual sexual intercourse, fossils, critical thinking, and technology, black cats are tools of evil. Burn every one you can find at your next book burning. Knives, too.

"The most important part of our ritual is a black cat, and a knife, a knife and a black cat. The *two* most important parts of our ritual are a black cat, a knife, and ruthless efficiency. Er, the *three* most important parts of our ritual are a black cat, a knife, and ruthless efficiency. And an almost fanatical devotion to Satan. Our *four* - no - *amongst* the most important parts of our ritual are... such elements as... I'll come in again."



He's like the bastard child of Charlie Brown and Peppermint Patty.

Man, there are some sexual allegories going on here I'm not even going to try to touch.

"Don't you **want** to permanently destroy your cat in order to not achieve any kind of real-world effect at all? What are you, **stupid**?"



I love the reliable duality in all of Chick's Tracts: Either you believe in Jesus, or you're the kind of person who'll stab a kitten to death.

Wait a minute, how'd she get the cat away from him?

"Good grief! My poor kitty!"



Ge... now, where have we heard this kind of thinking before? Oh, right, that guy fundamentalists turned out in record numbers to vote for in the last election.

Suddenly the kid in the near-copyright-violating wavy-lined shirt has become an angry, middle-aged, soccer-mom dwarf.



Oh, wow, they're "In Class", huh? I'd never have fucking guessed that without the little word block in the top corner. I missed it the first time I read it and thought they were sitting on desks inside a volcano on Venus. Or, like, at a meat processing plant.

It was especially hard to figure out because, I mean, it's not like we've ever seen this particular scene layout before.

GULP!



Who's going to kill her kitty? Jack was right all along - rock music really *is* evil!

So cliché she's even got an apple on the desk.

Hey... hey wait a second! Adults aren't supposed to be comprehensible to the audience in these!

SNIF "Uh, honey... you're getting snot all over my apple. Thanks."



YOU

What a little fucking tattletale.

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She's pointing so hard, it's vibrating the hair on the back of the teacher's head. And she spills her secrets unbelievably easy, especially given they're rather disturbing and threatening things, and she's speaking to the intended victim. "We were thinking of killing a cat in order to do horrible things to you!"



"But spells don't work on me, Betsy." "Why **not**?" "Well, because spells don't work in general. I mean, think about it: How many times in your life have you EVER seen ANYTHING that was the result of black magic? And similarly, how many times have you ever seen anything that was the result of prayer? Come on, let's try both right now and see if we can get any kind of effect at all out of either. Oop, there. Nothing? Thought so. Go save your cat."

Oh, come on. There is *no fucking way* this girl could be living in the United States and be completely oblivious to the name "Jesus".

Whoa, teacher fall in crude oil between the two panels?



So if Jesus made the universe, what did God do? I mean, I get the whole "Trinity" thing, but the terminology here doesn't make any sense. Jesus was Jesus before Jesus was born on Earth? Why did they need Mary? If Jesus is "God the son", and there's a "God the father", then if God the son created and did everything, then what did God the father do? This is just... fucking stupid. Also, wasn't the Trinity primarily a Catholic thing? I've heard fundamentalists argue against the idea of a "triune God" numerous times. It's a big part of why "Catholics aren't *real* Christians" - it's "worship of Baal". So what the fuck?

She's gesturing to her left again. Yeah, must be some kind of palsy.



So you can repel zombie midgets by just sternly telling them "**NO!**" I guess.

Wait - that's Pigpen! I guess Pigpen wasn't dirty, he was just visibly manifesting sin all around him.

Why doesn't God just... destroy all sin? He hates it so much that he's willing to torture everyone who engages in it - which is apparently everyone - for all eternity. If you're going to be that fascist, you might as well just eliminate free will while you're at it. It's much better to control people's actions their whole lives than it is to *fucking torture them forever*.



"God won't let me in just as I am?" "**NO**, because God's love is *conditional*. See, God is incapable of unconditional love. It's kind of weird that *ordinary people* can love each other regardless of what they do, but that God basically *hates* you unless you choose to believe in him. But I don't question; love is a *human-specific* quality. But God is love!"

Wait, so if there's "a much **better way**" than soap and water to clean yourself of sin, that implies that soap and water is "a way", just not as efficient.

Why does she have a suitcase?



PUNT "Get the fuck off my cloud!"

Hahaha, I *love* this one. It's like God is just tossing Jesus down to Earth. Y'know, from his space cloud.

The dotted lines are amusing, too. *swatswatswat* "Oh, shit! Bee! There's a bee following me down!"

The fact that people thought (and likely many still think) God lives "up on a cloud" and that Hell is a "hot place underneath the ground" should be evidence enough that the entire idea was conceived when people had no fucking clue at all what was happening outside their range of perception and just created speculative stories about mythical deities and creatures living somewhere beyond the skies and deep down in the Earth where all the stuff that shoots out of volcanoes comes from.

"His name is Jesus, and he dances on the sand. I mean... and he taught us how to love and forgive."



So God told God that God would take God's punishment for sins? Er... what?

This is like God saying "okay, well, I'm only *fucking omnipotent*, so because it's not like I can just, y'know, outright forgive sins or anything, I'm going to make a physical embodiment of myself, call it my "son", and then let you torture it to death. That'll make us even, right?"

And the thing is, he *didn't* take everyone's sin on himself, he basically just distilled it all down into a single sin for everyone: disbelief. And that's apparently the only one he can't save you from.



Three days later a **miracle** happened - **Jesus became a Batman action!**



"Do you **want** to go to heaven?" "You mean, do I **want** to spend my eternity with a petty, angry, incompetent, judgmental monster who afflicted me with a vague condition that wasn't my fault, and is so ineffectual at being omnipotent that he couldn't just alleviate the condition but instead created this bizarre, contrived process wherein I have to somehow have a very specific way of thinking about Jesus in my head or I'll burn for eternity? Oh, sure, yeah, sounds like a fucking blast. I totally can't wait!"

And then...



Ever have that "Not-So-Fresh" feeling? Plug yourself up with Jesus! "I feel so **clean!** God **forgave** me! I'm going to heaven! But first, I'm going to go horseback riding and play some tennis!"

Wait, why "Later"? And how much "Later"? "Later, after Miss Johnson finished molesting Betsy..." "Three hours later, after an extremely awkward silence..." "Three seconds later, nearly immediately after the last panel, which is what seems to make the most sense in context and renders this text block unnecessary..."



They're playing hand-puppets! Either that, or Miss Johnson has a set of vocal cords in her arm with an additional tracheal passage terminating in her wrist. Try as she might, though, Betsy just can't get the hang of projecting her voice into her hand.

"OH NO! Where's **Fluffy?** Gee, maybe if I didn't stand around for an hour praying with my teacher, I could've gotten something done and actually had a tangible effect in the world around me!"

I wonder how long that dog has been sitting there, exaggeratedly startled by the presence of an empty cage. Maybe it's dead and they had it taxidermically preserved.



Isn't this the one where they take the masks off after midnight and their faces have been permanently altered to look like the masks they were wearing?

Poor kid in the back in the ghost costume got a rock.

She has to be dressed like a witch, because if you're not dressed "the part", the spell won't work. Which is why he's dressed like an angry Ziggy.

Pfft. Yeah, kid, God didn't stop the Holocaust, he's not stopping the genocide in Darfur, but he'll save your pwecious widdwe kitty.



Hah, they're just stabbing the cat to death. No rituals or chanting or anything one would associate with stereotypical "black magic" behavior. Fuck, if it were that easy, you'd have pre-psychopathic children (at least, in this imaginary universe where black magic and prayer actually work) running around getting wishes granted left and right.

"STOP right there! I wanna know right now: Before you go any further... do you love me?"

At least one of these kids is armed, and instead of, oh, say, *calling the police* or something, she just goes out there by herself with nothing but a flashlight.



She's squeezing the cat like it's a tube of toothpaste. Everyone just keeps swinging that poor fucking thing around like it's a hammer or something.

Okay, so these are kids who were willing to *kill a fucking kitten* to get what they wanted, yet when confronted by the object of their scorn, they back down nearly instantly. "Don't do witchcraft... Do your **HOMework!**" "Okay, sorry! Didn't mean to bring a knife over here and try to stab a kitten to death in your back yard to curse you with the powers of Satan. Our bad..."

AAAAUUUUUUUGH! Good grief. I can't stand it, I just can't stand it...

Because everyone else is doing it:



23 Comments »

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1. Chick is kind of a one-trick pony, isn't he...?

Comment by Crane — 4/29/2007 @ 4:26 am

2. The Father looks a bit limp-wristed in that throw-down scene, too.

Comment by Djur — 4/29/2007 @ 10:25 am

3. Well, maybe Chick's just misinterpreting another thing the fundies think of as a sin, which is also referred to as "killing kittens" ...

Hey, it could happen with this guy's mental ability.

Comment by Chelonianmobile — 4/29/2007 @ 11:47 am

4. So, kids dressing up like cartoon characters and begging door-to-door for sugar is evil, along with rolling funky dice to determine the outcome of fantasy scenarios and bestsellers about four-eyed kids with lightning bolts on their foreheads. Funny how in all the Sunday school, confirmation, sermons, and assorted spiritual discussions I've attended over thirty years, that was never covered...

Charles Schultz is rolling in his grave.

Comment by TheDiva — 4/29/2007 @ 12:13 pm

5. *Chick is kind of a one-trick pony, isn't he...?*

His world is amazingly narrow and cramped. He sets up a range of situations, but nearly all of them just feed into that same little canned speech about sin, Jesus, and salvation by faith alone. It's hard to imagine a fantasy or SF writer whose created world was as bland and simple as this selling many books, but it's the best his omnipotent God can do.

Comment by Infidel753 — 4/29/2007 @ 2:09 pm

6. Wait, if this is based off of Charlie Brown's style, wouldn't that teacher speak in "OWAAAO WAOOO BLOOOO" way like all adults in those cartoons?

Just imagine her speaking like that for extra absurdity

Comment by Sarasoji — 4/29/2007 @ 2:12 pm

7. Sarasoji: Indeed. I'm actually working on a follow-up to this along a similar vein.

TheDiva: Not only is he rolling, but I think he's going at such a high RPM that, were we to somehow figure out a way to harness it, we could power the entire United States well into the future.

Comment by Jabberwock — 4/29/2007 @ 3:03 pm

8. So- Wikipedia says that the majority of Christians, not only Catholics, believe in the Trinity.

I never really understood the whole concept, as my childhood only contained spots of religion. As far as I was concerned, God and Jesus were the same, and what the fuck was the Holy Spirit slash Holy Ghost?

Wikipedia, my ever-loyal source of information, says that Pentecostals believe the Holy Spirit shows itself in glossolalial form.

Ah.

O/T, sorta: Stephen Lynch's "Kill a Kitten" is now stuck on repeat in my brain.

Comment by Rachael — 4/29/2007 @ 6:10 pm

9. I'm confused. Why is the girl bringing chalk? Were they going to draw a line around the cat after it was murdered and investigate it as a crime scene?

Comment by Mom — 4/29/2007 @ 7:06 pm

10. Wait a second. Now, maybe I wasn't paying close enough attention, but just who is this Jesus guy or lady they're talking about?

Comment by Randy — 4/29/2007 @ 7:32 pm

11. Oh, sorry — Jesus is apparently the teacher's boyfriend. Forget I asked.

Comment by Randy — 4/29/2007 @ 7:34 pm

12. Jesus said, *Punish Me, instead.*

Does this mean her boyfriend is an S&M bottom? I didn't think the teacher looked that kinky.

Or is *Punish Me* the title of a book Jesus is referring to?

I think the teacher is toting around a portable guillotine, so that when people ask to go be taken to heaven, she can help it go on right there on the spot. The case is just to minimize the mess.

Comment by Randy — 4/29/2007 @ 7:51 pm

13. "Punish Me instead. My safe word is Holy Ghost."

When I saw the title, I thought it might have been Jack Chick's warning about how BESTIALITY IS AN ABOMINATION IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.

Comment by Your Face — 4/29/2007 @ 11:34 pm

14. From what I gather in the last two panels... her teachers' name is Jesus Johnson. Interesting.

Comment by Nicest Girl — 4/30/2007 @ 9:00 am

15. Ok, is the teacher blind, or does she have special white sunglasses she wears even at night...

Comment by Kat — 4/30/2007 @ 4:48 pm

16. heh, i like panel 25 "god loved betsy so much (even though she didn't exist yet) he sent his son to become human"

...so this whole christianity thing happened for the sake of one little girl, and god doesn't give a rip about the rest of us? that's got to make the poor kid have a complex, like god's stalking her. "look sweetie, i love you so much i killed my son! geez that didn't work... she doesn't even know who jesus is... i guess i'm going to have to send someone to kill her cat. yeah, that should get her attention."

Comment by nimue — 4/30/2007 @ 6:28 pm

17. Oh man,, you guys will die over this DVD! It's 9 films based on Chick Tracts:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&ssPageName=ADME:L:LCA:US:11&item=140112404595>

Comment by Tim — 5/1/2007 @ 3:15 am

18. Jokes from my never-completed dissection of this comic:

Panel 10: Check it out, the cat's wearing blackface!

Panel 14: Teacher: "Betsy, would you mind stepping back? You're getting tears on my cliché..."

Panel 18: Teacher: "What are you, some kind of Jew? How can you not know about Jesus..."

Panel 19: Betsey: "So the apple is Jesus?"
Teacher: "I really fucking hate you, Betsy"

I also noticed that the teacher has picked an odd time to check her breasts for lumps...

Panel 22: So you have to believe in Jesus and bathe regularly to get into Heaven?

Panel 25: [I'm skipping the shoving joke] Shouldn't Jesus be a baby or something if he's being sent off to be born? And if Jesus created the universe like Chick said in that earlier panel, wouldn't that make him God and thus also be the guy on the cloud? Why is there a cloud in space? Why am I expecting logic in a Chick tract?

Panel 27: The Passion of the Christ, now in convenient comic panel format! Also, you've gotta love the hooked noses Chick gave everyone in this panel.

Panel 31: Betsey: "But I saw [a video on Youtube that says otherwise...](#)"

All kidding aside, why is she so eager to go to Heaven? The teacher never said anything about why anyone would want to go there!

Panel 37: That's a sweet "angry hook-nosed Roman" mask, Charle Brown.

Panel 38: Shouldn't that ghost costume be full of holes? Come on Chick, if you're going to rip-off the Peanuts, at least be consistent. Waitaminute... ghost...holes...hole-y ghost? HAHAAHAAHAAKILLME.

Panel 39: What, no helpful panel telling us that it's nighttime? You're slacking off, Chick.

Panel 42: I don't know what's worse: that pun or fact that the cat is doing a blackface routine again.

And here's my comment for the [missing end page](#):

I'm guessing that "The Next Step" is a fundamentalist Christian exercise system, like those Charles Atlas ads in old comic books. "That bully used to kick sand in my face...but now that I've found Christ, I'm king of the beach!"

Comment by Atomic Mystery Monster — 5/1/2007 @ 2:25 pm

19. I think it's nuts how Chick thinks girls are forced into dressing as witches....I mean, *when and where does that happen?!*

Comment by Dookia — 5/2/2007 @ 5:42 pm

20. Actually, there's another great Halloween-themed Tract that involves a girl actually being forced to dress up for Halloween, and being castigated because she doesn't dress like a witch.

Comment by Jabberwock — 5/2/2007 @ 7:15 pm

21. "Check it out, the cat's wearing blackface!"

That was the very first thought that popped into my head too! XD

Comment by Ryan — 5/3/2007 @ 1:52 am

22. Tim: Just ordered a copy. Should hopefully be here in a few days. I'll have to post about it after I've watched.

Comment by Jabberwock — 5/3/2007 @ 9:00 pm

23. "You mean, do I want to spend my eternity with a petty, angry, incompetent, judgmental monster who afflicted me with a vague condition that wasn't my fault, and is so ineffectual at being omnipotent that he couldn't just alleviate the condition but instead created this bizarre, contrived process wherein I have to somehow have a very specific way of

thinking about Jesus in my head or I'll burn for eternity? Oh, sure, yeah, sounds like a fucking blast. I totally can't wait!"

..if i get to hell first i promise to save you a seat. maybe two.

Comment by Mephy — 5/4/2007 @ 4:09 am

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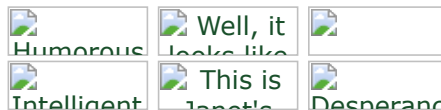
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