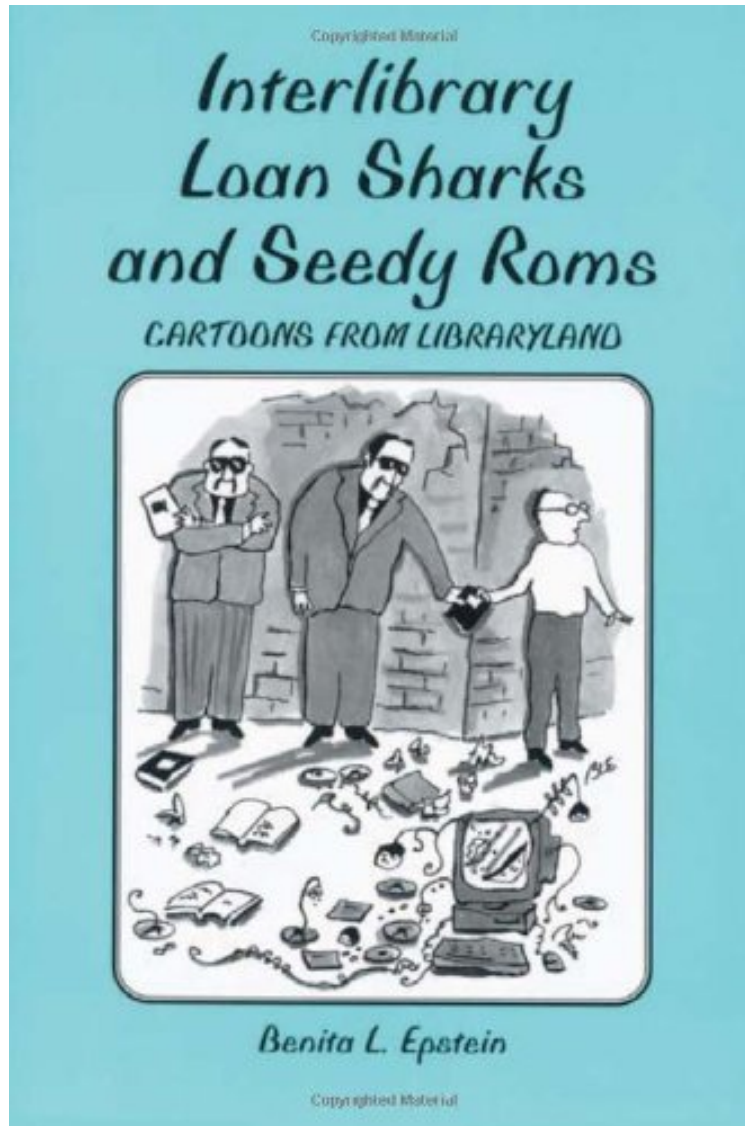


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Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy Roms: Cartoons from Libraryland

Benita L. Epstein

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Benita L. Epstein : Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy Roms: Cartoons from Libraryland before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Interlibrary Loan Sharks and Seedy Roms: Cartoons from Libraryland:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The humor comes first By Mark Heath There are many fine cartoons in this collection, but one sticks in my mind like an arrow in a bull's eye. It shows a librarian at an information counter,

with two patrons waiting for service -- a chicken and an egg. The librarian asks, "Who's first?" A second later, the subtle, implied punchline strikes; a wonderful, somehow profound cartoon. That same style of riddle might apply to the rest of the book -- which came first, the humor or the library themes? -- but the riddle is a simple one. I know the answer. With everything Epstein draws, the wit always comes first. This is how good the book is: when I read my copy, I did so by flashlight, shivering in a house without heat (thanks to the ice storm that snapped New England into powerless pieces), and I laughed. Along with the rest of your emergency provisions, that's a book to keep at hand. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Witty, whimsical, good-natured -- buy it!! By A Customer Attention librarians and library lovers: Benita Epstein's cartoons exhibit true wit with a whimsical, good-natured tone. If you are turned off by the many cartoonists who are preoccupied with trite or gross subjects, check out this book!

Sit down, my dear, says the fortuneteller. Let's see what the future holds. She draws her robe around the chair, addresses her crystal ball. You're a librarian? she says, rubbing the ball. Your future? You will enjoy -- oops, it's changing.... You will go on a long -- oops, it's changing again! Sound familiar? It's just one of the many wry observations from cartoonist Benita Epstein. One could say that she sees the libraryland as a place full of offbeat characters, from interlibrary loan sharks to patrons who need references -- for their resumes, of course. Or as a technological jungle where signs read Beware of the DOS. In short, she sees a land with which we are all familiar, a place called libraryland, where we can always enjoy a good chuckle and sometimes even a belly laugh.

From Booklist In the five-plus years since she took up cartooning, Epstein has published in more than 130 publications, including, from 1993 until its demise, Wilson Library Bulletin. Here she presents 111 of her "cartoons from libraryland." Former WLB editor GraceAnne DeCandido praises Epstein highly for her empathy and her ability to "go to the heart--and funny bone--of daily life in the library." Others, seldom cracking the hint of a smile, may conclude their funny bones are broken and that Epstein's drawing style is an acquired taste, but tastes differ, and still others may be pleasantly surprised and amused. Edward Swanson "Epstein, whose work has appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, Wilson Library Bulletin, and Punch, portrays in 114 whimsical cartoons a libraryland that is both odd yet familiar. Good for a chuckle" -- Library Journal "[Epstein's] cartoons...have become classics...whether one is a librarian, a seasoned user of libraries, or just a casual user, there is something in this collection to make them laugh" -- Library and Information Science Annual "more than 100 cartoons to help tickle your funny bone" -- The Library Association Record "pithy and pertinent captions which ring all too familiar" -- The Australian Library Journal About the Author Benita L. Epstein lives in Cardiff, California.