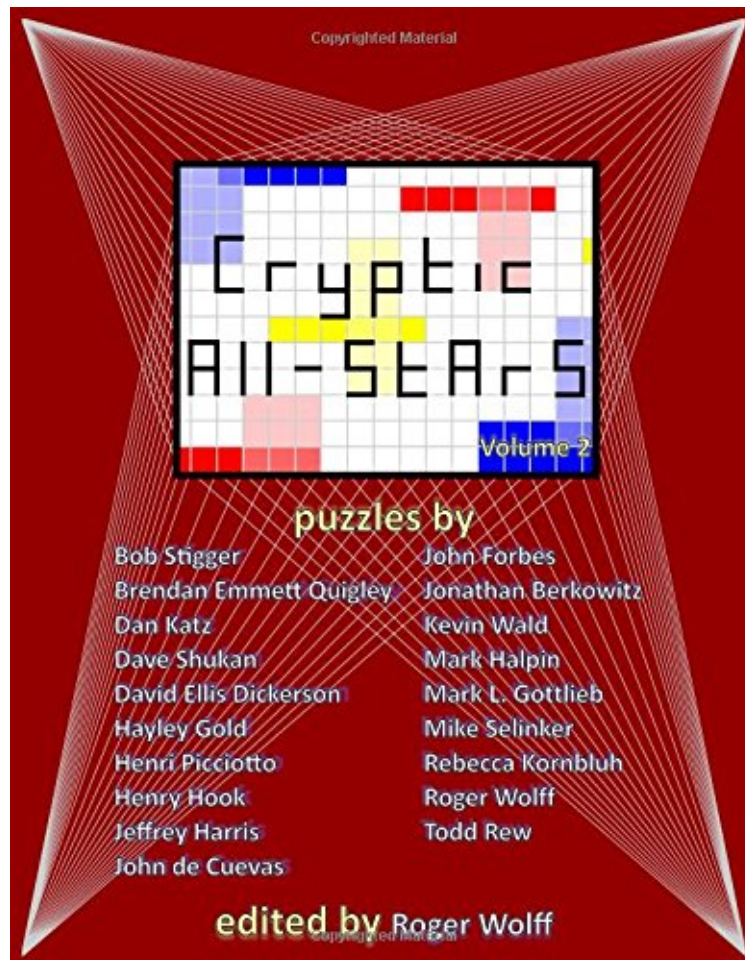


Cryptic All-Stars, Volume 2 by Henry Hook (2015-08-02)

Henry Hook, Bob Stigger, Roger Wolff, Mike Selinker, David Ellis Dickerson, Brendan Emmett Quigley, Mark L. Gottlieb, Kevin Wald, Mark Halpin, 9 more...

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Henry Hook, Bob Stigger, Roger Wolff, Mike Selinker, David Ellis Dickerson, Brendan Emmett Quigley, Mark L. Gottlieb, Kevin Wald, Mark Halpin, 9 more... : Cryptic All-Stars, Volume 2 by Henry Hook (2015-08-02) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cryptic All-Stars, Volume 2 by Henry Hook (2015-08-02):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely!By M PallaiI thought I'd wait to review until I'd solved a few. "The book looks nice--It's spiral bound," just doesn't seem like an adequate review. I finished my last puzzle today, so here we go.Be warned: These are variety cryptics. None of those 15x15 lattice-style grids here. Also be warned: Except for a very few, these are variety cryptics of the highest caliber. There are a couple that you'll finish in just a few minutes, but then you'll come to Kevin Wald's "Trafficking Report", where it takes half an hour just to understand the instructions. His was the last puzzle I solved in this collection, and it also gave me the most satisfaction.The first volume of had a few editorial hiccups, but this volume was almost perfect. A spoiler regarding

John de Cuevas' "Wrap Session", though. There are 5 different solutions that work with the given instructions. Instead of working toward one of those solutions logically, save yourself the tedium and just notice how the longest entries fit together. With this particular collection (and volume 1 as well), I find myself coveting the brains of the constructors. How smart do you have to be to conceive one of these beauties? If you love variety cryptics, you absolutely have to own this collection. Absolutely!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Challenging, but not Impossible

By J. Denhartog

My co-worker and I have been working on these together during our lunch breaks, at a rate of about 2 or 3 per week. For the experienced cryptic solver, they hit a good sweet spot of challenging, but not impossible. We have worked all the way through Volumes I and II and now will be purchasing Volume III. I do not recommend this volume for the new cryptic solver (we have had some people try to join us in solving and they were lost), but anyone who has done some simpler cryptics or regularly worked on any of the Cox/Rathvon puzzles should be OK. One criticism: I do wish the solutions in the back were a bit more descriptive, particularly on puzzles with interesting conclusions/mechanisms or additional instructions after the grid has been completed (like in the "Emergence-y" puzzle in this volume), but that is not enough to take away a star.

Favorite puzzles in this book included "42" by Roger Wolff, "Paint by Numbers" and "Dadaism" by David Ellis Dickerson, and "Way to Go" by Todd Rew. I commend all the constructors (how do you come up with these grids!?!?) and offer a sincere "Thank You" for your efforts in bringing these books to the puzzling public.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Variety cryptics by the top constructionists

By J. Paulson

Just getting started on this edition. First three puzzles were excellent. Challenging, but fair (as Cryptics go, that is) with each providing the payoff at the end that is so satisfying in a well-designed variety cryptic. So far, as good as Volume 1!

Completed the book today. Like reading a good novel, you rush to finish it and then feel sad that it's over. Puzzles are consistently strong and challenging. These types of Cryptics (variety) are my favorites, as both fans and detractors note, they are puzzles within puzzles. The payoffs can be immensely satisfying and though most reveal themselves towards the end of the clue solving process, they can be very helpful in "backing into" those answers to cryptic clues that seem to be evading you. Also, though grid construction varies widely, as a general rule I would say that these cryptics leave fewer "unchecked" letters than the crossword-style cryptics which improves the odds of 100% completion (and total satisfaction).

If you thought Volume 1 was mind-blowingly awesome, then you'll think Volume 2 is mind-blowingly awesome as well. 45 more variety cryptic crosswords from Bob Stigger, Brendan Emmett Quigley, Dan Katz, Dave Shukan, David Ellis Dickerson, Hayley Gold, Henri Picciotto, Henry Hook, Jeffrey Harris, John de Cuevas, John Forbes, Jonathan Berkowitz, Kevin Wald, Mark Halpin, Mark L. Gottlieb, Mike Selinker, Rebecca Kornbluh, Roger Wolff, and Todd Rew. What more could you possibly ask for? Besides a third volume....