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# ARCHY'S LIFE OF MEHITABEL

*Don Marquis*

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**Don Marquis : ARCHY'S LIFE OF MEHITABEL** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised ARCHY'S LIFE OF MEHITABEL:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of My All-Time FavoritesBy Toby KochThis is one of my favorite books by one of my favorite writers. The two main characters, Archy and Mehitabel, dispense wisdom comments that are applicable to the world now even though they were written in the early 1900's. Don Marquis was an astute observer of people and the world and his views are valid today. I have this book in hard copy as well as Kindle format. George Herriman's drawings are priceless and add to the charm of the stories. I got my original copy of "archy and mehitabel" when I was a newlywed (many years ago) and it and the other books that comprise "the lives and times of archy and mehitabel" have become my go-to book, In fact, I own a black cat and named her Mehitabel.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love this bookBy Michael ElliottIt's hard not to love the lyrics of Archy. In fact, I would argue that he's probably one of the greatest poets the 21st-century. It might sound like heresy to say the cockroach is such an amazing poet, but , Archy captures the national consciousness. He has so much to say about current events like the war, domestic life, traveling abroad . Lyrics are so frenzied and crazy that most people probably would put this book down after the first couple of pages, but if you allow yourself to drift into Archy's stream of consciousness, it's intensely gratifying experience unlike any other poetry ever read. That being said, I do feel that the e-book version has some quality issues. It seems like there were some typos in the conversion , and the formatting left a lot to be desired . I also would've liked to see some special features, simply more than just a text of the book itself . Overall, this was a great read , and just as memorable as when I read it the first time a few years ago. This book is one of my all-time favorites.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. whats not to like question markBy David

Keymer MARQUIS, Don. archy and mehitabel. Doubleday (Anchor). 1916-1930; reissued 1973, 1990. 193p. \$8.95.  
(pb) archyology: the long lost tales of archy and mehitabel. UPNE. Republished in 2009. 120p. \$14. (pb) archyology ii  
(the final dig): the long lost tales of archy and mehitabel. Bloodaxe. 2000. 124p. \$13.80 (pb) expression is the need of  
my souli was once a vers libre poet but i died and my soul went into the body of a cockroach it has given me a new  
outlook on life Thus wrote archy the cockroach in his fist communiq to newsman and soon to be friend Don Marquis.  
The time was 1916. The US wasn't even involved in World War I and Prohibition was yet to come. Marquis was a  
columnist and reporter for the New York Sun but he was also a frustrated poet. His way out was to write columns in  
blank verse about Archy, a free verse poet reborn as a cockroach, and archy's raggle taggle alleycat friend mehitabel,  
who claimed to have been Cleopatra in a former life. His columns had been supposedly written by archy, one letter at  
a time. archy would climb to the top of Marquis's typewriter, then throw himself head first at the key he wanted to hit.  
He couldn't print capitals because he didn't have the strength or reach to work the shift bar and a letter at the same  
time. Thus everything he wrote was in lower case with no punctuation.) archy's missals to his reporter friend are as  
enjoyable to read now as they were when they first appeared between 1916-1930. The political and social commentary  
that surfaces in some of them is dated now. It's the pieces about archy and mehitabel -a strange friendship--that are  
timeless. How can you not like a creature who writes: "i see things from the underside now/ thank you for the apple  
peelings in the wastepaper basket boss/ but your glue is getting so stale/ i cant eat it"? And mehitabel's devil-may-care  
approach to life (which usually treats her badly)? "i have had my ups and downs/ but wotthehell wotthehell/  
yesterday scepters and crowns/ fried oysters and velvet gowns/ and today i herd with bums/ but wotthehell wotthehell..." archy  
and mehitabel was made into a not very good musical called Shinbone Alley. Carol Channing sang mehitabel's role on  
the short version recording of it. Channing was probably as good as you could get for mehitabel but unfortunately, the  
vehicle was inferior. For the true stuff, you still have to go these three collections of Marquis's columns. (The  
archyology books are only for fanatics -they're collections of the leftover pieces that somehow had not made it into the  
original collection.)