



Charley Harper  
Lizards, *The Animal Kingdom*,  
1968

**Charley Harper: An Illustrated Life** / Edited by Todd Oldham / American Modern Books / \$200 / [www.ammobooks.com](http://www.ammobooks.com) / A modernist naturalist, Charley Harper captures nature with drafting tools and a gift for wit.



Chances are that most of us are subconsciously aware of Charley Harper's work—childhood memories of sifting through *The Giant Golden Book of Biology* (odds are good that Grandma still has a copy) or vague glimpses of national park posters. Taking time away from *Top Design*, Todd Oldham edits this massive summation of the 86-year-old illustrator's career—from his earliest commercial work for Ford and Hallmark, to his cheeky line drawings for *Betty Crocker's Dinner for Two Cookbook* (Harper jokes that he turned to animals because he couldn't draw happy enough housewives), to the now-classic compilation of serigraphs *Birds and Words*. Four limited edition boxed variations contain an original signed serigraph.