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The Acme Novelty Date Book: Sketches And Diary Pages In Facsimile



Synopsis

Acclaimed cartoonist Chris Ware reveals the outtakes of his genius in these intimate, imaginative, and whimsical sketches collected from the years during which he completed his award-winning graphic novel *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth* (Pantheon). His novel not only won the Manchester Guardian First Novel prize in 2001 but it has sold over 100,000 copies. This book is as much a companion volume to *Jimmy Corrigan* --one of the great crossover success stories-- as a tremendous art collection from one of America's most interesting and popular graphic artist. Chris Ware has a passion for drawing that is surprisingly wide-ranging in style and subject. This book surprises the reader on every page with its sense of spontaneous vision. Architectural drawings from Chicago and interplanetary robot comics collide with cruelly doodled human figures and quietly troubling studies of the still life. A must for people with a passion for modern design and old-fashioned style.

Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly; 1st edition (August 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1896597661

ISBN-13: 978-1896597669

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #551,803 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly](#) #97 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Art of Comics and Manga](#) #554 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels](#)

Customer Reviews

Prolific alternative-comics artist Ware follows his epic, *Jimmy Corrigan* (2000), and *Quimby the Mouse* [BKL S 1 03] with a collection of sketchbook pages. Ware owes his lofty reputation largely to his awesome command of the "grammar" of comics, and this handsome volume showcasing his drawing ability amounts to something of a new revelation. Ware's strips are so meticulous in their rigid perfection that they seem to indicate an obsessive character. Yet these hundreds of life drawings, cityscapes, doodles, preliminary sketches, and other drawings, rendered in an impressive

variety of styles, contrarily display unexpected spontaneity and looseness. Particularly revelatory are a handful of actual strips in Ware's familiar multipanel approach, and featuring Jimmy, Quimby, and other characters from his long stories, that are rendered in a rougher, almost crude style. Ware's fans will find his marginal notes fascinating, too, for their revelations about his creative process. Besides showing off Ware's facility and variety, this beautifully designed book demonstrates just how much thought and planning go into his acclaimed graphic novels. Gordon Flagg

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"(Ware) Pushes The Form Of Comics Into Unexpected Formal And Emotional Territory." - The Chicago Tribune; "Ware's Use Of Words Is Sparing, And At Times Maudlin. But The Real Joy Is His Art. It's Stunning. In Terms Of Attention To Detail, Graceful Use Of Color, And Overall Design - Ware Has No Peer. His Drawings, Somehow, Remain Delicate And Achingly Lyrical." - Dave Eggers, The New York Times Book Review

Tho interesting in the way that all his stuff is interesting, I find getting into this a bit of a challenge. Sure, it is a sketchbook, which by its nature can be less than compelling story-wise, but man I was hoping for some of his trademark sad, lonely storytelling, if even in snippet form, because, ya know, I can relate to them (if you're looking at this item, you likely can too). I really don't relate to Robert Crumb's stuff, which is definitely what some of these (earlier?) sketches were aiming for. Still worth checking out for Chris Ware diehards.

Got this as a present for my SO, who really enjoys Chris Ware's other stuff, and he loved it. It's full of weird, random, silly, intriguing pictures and introspective notes about his artistic process at the beginning of his career. If you are or know a Chris Ware fan then I think this is an excellent gift. As a side note: there are several sexy drawing of people's fun time bits, so keep that in mind if you're getting for a younger/more sensitive crowd.

The book is a record of an absolute monster drawing talent! It collects tentative investigations, as a scrapbook of ideas and odds and ends. The amazing thing about it is its vitality. Anything and everything becomes a source of inspiration and investigation into the nature of drawing. A coffee cup, a telephone in a waiting room, a washing machine, such mundane things seem to begin as notations but are transformed by Ware's observation of line and tone into their inner vitality - much like Van Gogh's peasant shoes. There are beautiful portraits. And beyond the observed notes, the

book is positively brimming with characters, mutations, and cartoons from his eccentric imagination. The fantastical musings and the observed notations blend, merge together, separate like DNA strands through the book, adding up to a rich record of creativity

Chris Ware is an amazing artist--one of the best in the comics industry. His books are something I treasure like a sweaty gold miner. He published this sketchbook in "response" to Bob Crumb's sketchbooks. In the intro, Ware states how influential those books were on him. The variety of styles Ware is capable of using is amazing. You'll also gain insight into the characters we've come to know and love (Quimby, Jimmy Corrigan, etc). If you're a Ware fan--get this book. If you are new to Ware, I'd probably start somewhere else like Jimmy Corrigan.**The one caution I would provide is that states that this is the 1st volume. However, the picture above is of volume 2. The 1st edition has a black cover and the 2nd edition cover is blue. The two editions cover different periods of Ware' life.

beautiful drawings...no matter how self critical mr. ware was back in the day. the book really allows the reader into the head of a master illustrator. if you're looking more for a graphic novel, don't start with this one (try his first real freshman work jimmy c, or his ACME novelty library, probably my favorite - you get a real sense of what ware is all about - clean lines, insane, or better put, anal details). anyway, back to this one...great book, if you're a fan of ware, there's no reason not to get this one, and if you're not yet convinced, this is a nice piece just to have - these same drawings and doodles that once inspired ware himself, now get me thinking. love it.

I didn't think I would like this one. But after owning everything else the man ever made, I asked for this one for x-mas. Wow! I love it! There are spontaneous portraits of people on the bus, views from friend's rooftops, the rudiments of strips like: God, Jimmy the robot etc...If you are a Chris Ware fan YOU WILL LOVE THIS BOOK! If you are not familiar with Chris, best to start somewhere else.

I found this book very inspiring and entertaining. To my non-trained eyes, even his rough sketches are amazing. And the journal entries are intense to read. In publishing this sketchbook, he seems unafraid to show us his most private moments of self doubt and insecurity. It was surprising to me that someone this talented could be such a harsh critic of his own work. That's probably what keeps his work so unique. There's lots to check out in this very cool book.

I just finished reading this, and it's a real treat. Fans of Jimmy Corrigan or Acme Novelty Library will

enjoy drafts of these but expect differences in style. This gives a better look at Chris Ware than his other publications that I've read. You can really feel his frustrations in this work. I recommend this to both fans and non-fans.

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