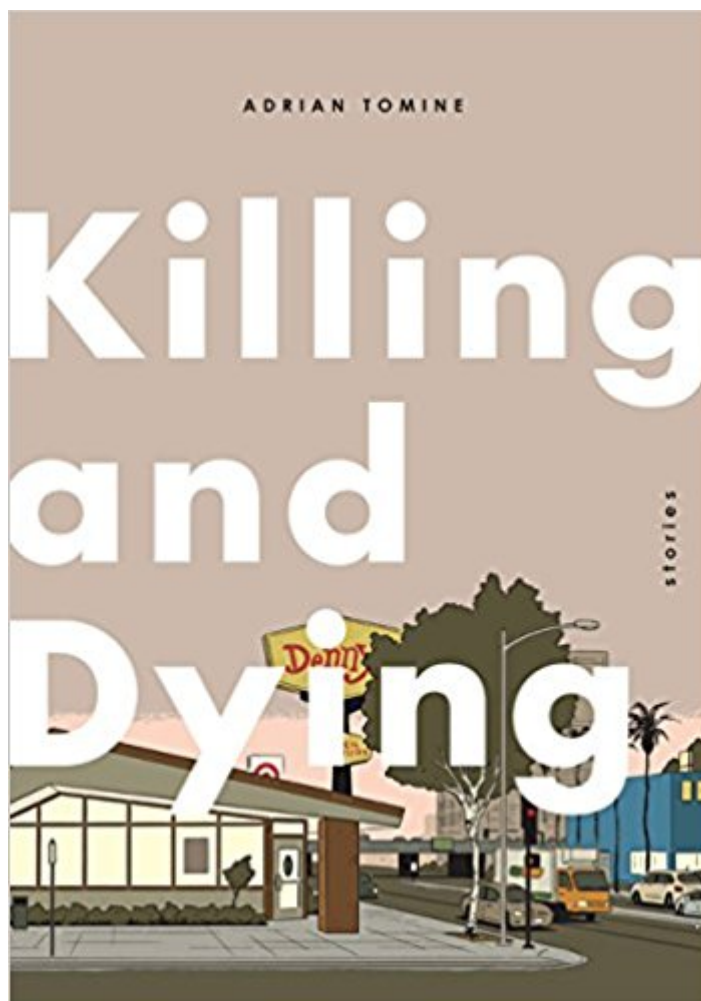


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# Killing And Dying



## Synopsis

Included on Best of 2015 lists from Washington Post and Publishers Weekly! A New York Times bestseller!"As a serious cartoonist, one secretly hopes to create "That Book": a book that can be passed to a literary-minded person who doesn't normally read comics; one that doesn't require any explanation or apology in advance and is developed enough in its attitude, humanity and complexity that it speaks maturely for itself... Adrian Tomine's *Killing and Dying* may finally be That Book, and I'm amazed and heartened by it." Chris Ware, author of *Building Stories**Killing and Dying* is a stunning showcase of the possibilities of the graphic novel medium and a wry exploration of loss, creative ambition, identity, and family dynamics. With this work, Adrian Tomine (*Shortcomings*, *Scenes from an Impending Marriage*) reaffirms his place not only as one of the most significant creators of contemporary comics but as one of the great voices of modern American literature. His gift for capturing emotion and intellect resonates here: the weight of love and its absence, the pride and disappointment of family, the anxiety and hopefulness of being alive in the twenty-first century. "Amber Sweet" shows the disastrous impact of mistaken identity in a hyper-connected world; "A Brief History of the Art Form Known as Hortisculpture" details the invention and destruction of a vital new art form in short comic strips; "Translated, from the Japanese" is a lush, full-color display of storytelling through still images; the title story, "Killing and Dying", centers on parenthood, mortality, and stand-up comedy. In six interconnected, darkly funny stories, Tomine forms a quietly moving portrait of contemporary life. Tomine is a master of the small gesture, equally deft at signaling emotion via a subtle change of expression or writ large across landscapes illustrated in full color. *Killing and Dying* is a fraught, realist masterpiece.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[Adrian Tomine] is an emotional x-ray machine. All-seeing, all-knowing." — Rachel Cooke, *The Guardian*

"One of the nation's greatest and most versatile cartoonists." — Scott Timberg, *Salon*

"Tomine may be my favorite comics artist — a deft and subtle, with a bittersweet understanding of the tension between aspiration and loss." — David L. Ulin, *Los Angeles Times*

"Achingly human and divinely rendered." — Kirkus

"A deft, deadpan masterpiece filled with heartache interspersed with the shock of beauty." — Publishers Weekly Starred Review

Adrian Tomine was born in 1974 in Sacramento, California. He began self-publishing his comic book series *Optic Nerve*. His comics have been anthologized in publications such as *McSweeney's*, *Best American Comics*, and *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and his graphic novel *Shortcomings* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2007. Since 1999, Tomine has been a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter.

Adrian Tomine is the master of the "Slice Of Life" stories and here are six recent stories collected together in a very handsome hardcover. It has a sewn binding with quality paper. The book cover is clear plastic with only the title on it. A very creative package. Five of these stories are from Tomine's magazine *Optic Nerve* (issues #12 to #14). The sixth from *Kramers Ergot* #7 has been retitled and changed from its original appearance. The lead story *A Brief History Of The Art Of "Hortisculpture"* is a story about a man and his dumb invention. Tomine structures this story to look like a newspaper strip. You get six black and white daily strips followed by a large full page color strip. The theme of trying to say something to a loved one about their life's dream which you know is totally unrealistic is something we have all experienced. *Alice Sweet* the next story is the one from *Kramers Ergot*. It is about a girl who finds out she looks just like a famous "Porn Star". This one is beautifully illustrated by Adrian Tomine in full color and wide open panels. *Go Owls* is a heartbreaker about a girl who settles in a relationship mainly because she has no other place to live. *Translated*, from the Japanese is very traditional little story told in a very untraditional format. It is a story of a mother and her young child reconnecting with the father. It is very ground breaking in that Tomine never once depicts any of these three characters or the man she meets on the airplane at all. *Killing and Dying*

is the title story about an untalented fourteen year old girl who wants to be a comedian, meanwhile something very tragic is going on in the background. The story is told in postage stamp size 20 panel grid. This is a powerful and poignant tale which will break your heart. Intruders the final story I found very disturbing. It is told from a first person narrative and it is very easy to identify with the protagonist until you figure out there is something disturbingly wrong about him. Tomine is a master storyteller and these stories will touch your heart and your head. My Highest Recommendation.

First off, Stephen Vincent Kempton has written a perfect review of this book for . Go read that. This is a collection of 6 stories, all of which may (but not assuredly) are set in Los Angeles. 1) A middle aged man invents something that is neither popular nor useful. His wife is supportive. The highlight of the story is the relationship between the married couple, how it is effected and how they communicate. 2) A young woman experiences school, and relationship problems because she looks like an internet porn star. 3) Two people meet at an AA meeting and drink and fall into a relationship. 4) A Japanese woman and her daughter return to America to see the father. The couple is not getting back together. We never see any of the characters. 5) An awkward, stuttering teen wants to become a comic. Her cancer-ridden mother is supportive while her father is skeptical. 6) A vet with PTSD returns home and ruminates on his former home and marriage. These are stories of connection, and how many people have little to no connections. Even when connections are made, they can be strange, stilted or have little foundation. Several poignant moments.

A nice mix showing Tomine's versatility as both an artist and a storyteller. All of the stories were thoroughly enjoyable for me, apart from the weird poetic one about a Japanese kid who was abandoned by his parents to grow up in the US with relatives. Probably an autobio piece or something, definitely not as accessible or clear as the others. Luckily it was the shortest. The rest were all fantastic.

I wish this was new work rather than a collection of previously published work. As a fan of Tomine, I had seen most, if not all of this work previously. However, if you are looking at Tomine for the first time, I would also suggest looking at his earlier work. The hardcover book itself is beautiful and Tomine's drawings touch my heart in a way that is unexplainably perfect.

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