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Acme Novelty Datebook Volume Two: 1995 - 2002



Synopsis

Straggling behind the mild 2003 success of cartoonist Chris Ware's first facsimile collection of his miscellaneous sketches, notes, and adolescent fantasies arrives this second volume, updating weary readers with Ware's clichéd and outmoded insights from the late twentieth century. Working directly in pen and ink, watercolor, and white-out whenever he makes a mistake, Ware has cannily edited out all legally sensitive and personally incriminating material from his private journals, carefully recomposing each page to simulate the appearance of an ordered mind and established aesthetic directive. All phone numbers, references to ex-girlfriends, "false starts," and embarrassing experiments with unfamiliar drawing media have been generously excised to present the reader with the most pleasant and colorful sketchbook reading experience available. Included are Ware's frustrated doodles for his book covers, angry personal assaults on friends, half-finished comic strips, and lengthy and tiresome fulminations of personal disappointments both social and sexual, as well as his now-beloved drawings of the generally miserable inhabitants of the city of Chicago. All in all, a necessary volume for fans of fine art, water-based media, and personal diatribe. This hardcover is attractively designed and easy to resell.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alternative-comics artist Ware reveals the impressive technical skills and thought processes behind his acclaimed graphic novels in a second collection of his sketchbook pages. The handsomely designed volume gathers hundreds of portraits, watercolors, unfinished comics pages, and other artwork. Life drawings with detailed shading display a radically different style from the simple

line-work of Jimmy Corrigan (2000), Ware's chef d'oeuvre (thus far), while still lifes and cityscapes show the mechanical precision of his comic strips. Cruel self-portraits and strips entitled "I Am Filled with Despair" and "Yesterday Was a Terrible Day" suggest that the harsh worldview of Ware's graphic novels is more than a literary device for him. --Gordon Flagg

Chris Ware is the author of Jimmy Corrigan-the Smartest Kid on Earth, which received the Guardian First Book Award and was featured in the Whitney Biennial. A regular contributor to The New Yorker and the first cartoonist to be serialized weekly in The New York Times Magazine, he is the editor of the thirteenth issue of McSweeney's Quarterly Concern and the Gasoline Alley archival series Walt & Skeeze. Ware was born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1967 and currently lives in the Chicago area with his wife, Marnie, and their daughter, Clara.

This is undoubtedly one of the most amazing artist's books I have ever come across. It first caught my eye in Chicago's popular Quimby's bookstore. There is a whole rack dedicated to Chris Ware's work (guess why). I became aware of him through his decadent cinematic "Jimmy Corrigan" collection. This book is a collection of preliminary ideas for all his grossly insightful characters and stories, as well as incredibly consummate and fanatical sketches and journal entries that seem to be drawn with a constant and overbearing nervousness. His unparalleled talent shines through page to page. Sometimes a simple sketch, other times a complex watercolor, you'll find panels filled with such scrupulous detail, you'll be tempted to get a magnifying glass just to read the words alone. Chris' obsessive and compulsive tendencies are evident in every single pen stroke. He seems to spend a lot of time in public waiting areas, as the majority of his sketches are of this. Often he will write a "short" blurb next to each sketch... almost criticizing the world and judging what is around him, as well as hiding nothing back of his inability to interact with women (or anyone else for that matter) You will get inside the mind of Chris Ware, even if you don't ask for it. This book is rich, complex, deeply intellectual and will keep you occupied for months. It is the best example of an artist's journal I have seen.

Sketchbook pages and journal entries from a magnificent artist and cartoonist, Chris Ware. His drawings are beautiful, although his journal entries tend to be a little depressing/judgmental/jaded. Buy to look at the art and be wowed! has chosen not to help me with my Kindle because it was a gift and they don't think I purchased it so they refuse to give me technical assistance.

Just as enjoyable as the first volume. It has the same type of material, same format, so if you have the first then no surprises here. Good quality production.

This is a wonderful look inside the daily workings of an amazing comic book artist. I like comics but I love sketch books and this sketch books is detailed and layered and rich and wonderful!!If you are a comic fan, this is definitely for you. If you love sketch books it's a sure winner in my opinion.

Book is great. Just what the wife wanted!

It all depends on what you're looking for. I want this book to help me learn to draw. I have already had some success with it, therefore I think it's great. It's a great 'how to' book. I expect to get many things out of it.

Chris Ware does it again! The attention to detail is once again impeccable. He even apologizes for slight difference in the book size from Vol 1 to 2. Something that only he would notice, of which I'm sure, gave him many sleepless nights. Can't wait for Vol 3!

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