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First Year Healthy



Synopsis

A mysterious, unsettling parable from one of North America's most popular cartoonists First Year Healthy purports to be the story of a young woman, recently released from the hospital after an outburst, and her burgeoning relationship with an odd, perhaps criminal Turkish immigrant. In a scant forty-five pages, working with a vibrant, otherworldly palette of magentas, yellows, and grays, Michael DeForge brings to life a world whose shifting realities are as treacherous as the thin ice its narrator walks on. First Year Healthy is all it appears to be and more: a parable about mental illness, a folktale about magical cats, and a bizarre, compelling story about relationships. DeForge's singular voice and vision have, in a few short years, rocketed his work to the apex of the contemporary comics canon. Ant Colony was his first book with Drawn & Quarterly: It appeared on The New York Times Graphic Bestseller List and was lauded by the Chicago Tribune, The Globe and Mail, and Harper's Magazine. His effortless storytelling and eye for striking page design make each page of First Year Healthy a fascinating puzzle to be unraveled. First Year Healthy, knotty and mysterious, demands to be read and reread.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love DeForge's work, but for me this was too thin for a solo, hardback release. When an artist is telling a narrative using full pages, you just expect them to really push themselves, make those pages count, but this felt like something that should have been condensed and left to one of his collections/comic rather than a grand, specialty release.

It's DeForge and it might not be fit everyone, but I loved it as much as any of his past work. His work is like an impressionistic painting. If you're looking for a journey into the surreal buy it and enjoy the ride.

DeForge's work at its prime: the breadth of existential anxiety, impressionistic surrealism, and consistent jabs at what the unwary would consider the off-puttingly "grotesque." FYH's storytelling, while short, is absolutely phenomenal from the amount DeForge leaves you to unpack both as you read, and perform inevitable rereads of the solemn tale he spans over every well-crafted page. While many - including myself - are used to the "bang for my buck mentality" meaning more pages gives a text worth, FYH, if read with the admiration I feel it deserves, is well worth the price.

Love the art. Story was odd and a lot shorter than I had thought.

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