

(Ebook pdf) Bottomless Belly Button

## Bottomless Belly Button

*Dash Shaw*

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**Dash Shaw : Bottomless Belly Button** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bottomless Belly Button:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Accomplished; Buy it!By Buzz AdvertShaw's book is truly top notch. The family drama was not initially engrossing for me, but it eventually drew me in with its well-drawn characters and interesting relationship dynamics. The characters' lack of communication, understanding, articulateness, and contentedness are painful yet often amusing. A reviewer complained that the characters lack depth, and perhaps there's some truth to this. However, one might make such a complaint about a Robert Altman film; for example, "Short Cuts." Nevertheless, such a film and such a book rely more for their effects on a composite approach. The whole is

greater than the sum of the parts. The narrative is deftly handled. Especially notable are the sections where various subplots are crosscut, quickly cycling through each seemingly unrelated narrative strand a number of times. It is true that the book doesn't conclude with a resolution that neatly unties the knot. Instead, it does something much better, which is to finish mysteriously, emotionally, realistically, and poignantly. All this should suggest that if you like stock stories, then caveat emptor. If you like more literary fare, then you'll be right at home. Shaw makes a somewhat amusing plea to the reader to rest between the three parts of the book. I suppose if I'd foisted a 700 page book on potential readers I'd be a little worried too. But let's be realistic for a moment: It's a graphic novel! It still a very quick read. Two minor criticisms: I was fine with the basic illustrations--the graphic part of the book doesn't reach nor attempt to reach the heights of some others in the genre. But I didn't like how Shaw adds words to describe non-dialogue physical features; for example, such as writing for sound effects, "shrug" on a shoulder or "grip" on a hand gripping something or writing "Purples" and "Pinks" so we know what color the sky is. An even more awkward example is when Dennis is cooling down after a hot run, and he places his head in front of a fan. On his forehead it says, "Cool air against the sweat on your forehead." Very clumsy. The other criticism: He names the family the Loonies. Really cute. Mercifully, this is mentioned only two or three times. Recommended if you like: Adrian Tomine; David B.; Jason; Chris Ware; Charles Burns; Daniel Clowes; Rutu Modan; Allison Bechdel; Craig Thompson; or Yoshihiro Tatsumi. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poignant By liteblu004 Bottomless Belly Button was a quick read. The subject is pretty mundane, but it will leave you pretty introspective and wanting more. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Worthy Account of a Family Break Up By Daniel Lobo Bottomless Belly Bottom offers a good insight into the dynamics of family living as the elderly parents organize a reunion to announce their divorce. Sure enough, the work may have been over-hyped elsewhere, and sometimes the characters could feel a bit flatter than what they actually are, or aim to be... But overall, the touches about a reaction to a family break up, life perspectives, the range of situations covered, and an general sense of existential uncertainty make for a good graphic read. The volume might look imposing given its length but it reads quickly. The narrative tries to stir away from more traditional comic-book patterns, but it is not particularly complex, and the graphic work is more than adequate to explore the story at hand.

This is a reprint of the graphic novel that launched Dash Shaw as a major young cartooning talent: Official Selection, 2009 Festival International de la Bande Dessine de Angouleme; named one of Publishers Weekly's 2008 "Best Books of the Year: Comics." Bottomless Belly Button is a graphic novel comedy-drama that follows the dysfunctional adventures of the Loony Family. When the parents announce their divorce, the family comes together at their beach house for a week. Dennis, the eldest son, is having marriage troubles of his own, and searches for clues, trap doors, and secret tunnels. Claire, the middle child, is a single mother with a troubled 16-year-old daughter, Jill. The youngest child, Peter, is a hack filmmaker suffering from paralyzing insecurities who establishes an unorthodox romance with a mysterious day care counselor at the beach. Black white illustrations with some color.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Shaw's stunningly conceived and executed comic opus captures one moment of change in a family. Maggie and David Loony have called their three adult children to their childhood home to announce that, after 40 years of marriage, they're getting a divorce. Dennis, the eldest, desperately searches for an answer to why. He believes that if he just finds the right old letters, he'll understand what's happening to his parents, only to find that his answers say a lot more about his own marriage and infant son. Claire, the middle child, has been through her own divorce and is now struggling to raise a teen daughter by herself. The youngest, Peter, who has always felt like a changeling in his family and is drawn with a frog's head, is going through a delayed coming-of-age. Shaw's style deftly combines cartoon drawings with slavish attention to detail. The result feels reminiscent of a photo album, one person's quest to remember everything from the floor plans of the vacation home to the texture of the sand on the lake beach. Masterfully using the comics medium to juggle all the different characters, weaving their stories together seamlessly, Shaw allows the Loonys' emotions to play out naturally without forced resolutions, leaving a wistful hopefulness that feels just as conflicted and confusing as every family is. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred \* Shaws huge new work is, like The Mothers Mouth (2006), about ordinary love. Its scope is, however, as much broader as its six-times-larger size suggests, while its technique is a lot simpler. Its the story of what may be the last gathering of the Loony family at their oceanside homelast because, after 40 years, Mom and Dad are divorcing. Despite his wife Akis attempted calming, elder son Dennis is freaked and, when not out running or minding baby Alex, pokes into every nook and cranny to find incriminating evidence of either parents infidelity. Early wed, long-divorced daughter Claire and her daughter, 16-year-old Jill, are accepting and separately get away from the house for some unsatisfactory social life. The younger son, aspiring filmmaker Peter, hovers in the background and, mirabile dictu, meets a girl at the beach who actually likes him, as the single panel representing her perspective, in which Shaw draws Peter with a young mans instead of a frogs face, confirms. Employing the same cartoony-ness, bold line, and two-tone high contrast as in The Mothers Mouth but dispensing with that books stylistic variety and fantasy effects, Shaw renders in comics situations

and characters identical with those of mainstream realistic novels and movies and handles them with the sensitivity and humor of the best humanist novelists and filmmakers. --Ray Olson Shaw's online and bound comics inhabit surreal spaces both cerebral and emotional, leaping from zombie love stories to futuristic set pieces without resorting to predictability...It's probably safe to say he has arrived. - WiredReads almost like a John Updike novel... [Dash Shaw] really utilizes the medium to its fullest capacity. - Benn Ray on WYPR Baltimore public radioBottomless Belly Button is a wonderful book that I strongly recommend for every comic fan... Dash Shaw is a name to remember. - Laurent De Maertelaer, freaky.beFormally inventive and emotionally acute, Bottomless Belly Button indeed proves to be as fascinating and affecting a depiction of family ties as Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections* or Wes Anderson's *The Royal Tenenbaums*. - Ed Park, Los Angeles TimesUsing Peanuts-like comic strips in addition to pie charts, letters, and floor plans, Shaw draws an honest, meditative 720-page portrait of a multigenerational middle-class family... - GQIn the insular comics community, Shaw has made a name for himself (and a good one it is) by willfully eschewing the mainstream to follow his own decidedly original and peculiar muse. - Punk PlanetBottomless Belly Button reaches so high and executes so much of what it does so well that it shames you into reconsidering every other book you may have praised recently. ...A work this humongous, this idiosyncratic and this almost totally devoid of pretension... is sort of a miracle. If there are better books this year, it will be a very good year. - Tom Spurgeon, The Comics ReporterDash Shaw brilliantly weaves the multiple story lines together to create a funny/tragic tale of a family at the brink of falling apart. I like Dash's intelligently-restrained creativity with the comic medium... I was mesmerized through the entire book. - Boing BoingShaw draws the story of this family reunion with rare attention to detail, the lives of every family member young and old are explored with his nuanced pen. From the elegant cover to the closing panel, this is a powerful emotional story, and one I will recommend as an example of the heights graphic novels can attain. - Largehearted BoyCartoonist Dash Shaw displays the kind of ambition that comics could use more of in his graphic novel *Bottomless Belly Button*... Design-wise, *Bottomless Belly Button* is frequently stunning, as Shaw conveys shared memories and states of mind in a few poignant, impressionistic panels. - The Onion A.V. ClubBottomless Belly Button720 pages of knotty family drama, emotional teen angst, lyrical passages about nature, good jokes, bad parenting, architectural schematics, rudimentary codes, and explicit sexhas become the graphic novel of the year, combining youthful exuberance, sage storytelling, and visual experimentation. - New York MagazineDash Shaw's mammoth new graphic novel is a sweeping tapestry of a family in crisis. It's sad, it's thoughtful, it's dirty and funny and hesitant and right in your face... *Bottomless Belly Button* even further establishes his credentials as a cartoonist you should be paying attention to. You find a lot of him inside his new book, but you'll find even more of yourself. - Alan David Doane, Comic Book GalaxyA clear candidate for book of the year. - SequartStarred . Stunningly conceived and executed... Masterfully using the comics medium to juggle all the different characters, weaving their stories together seamlessly, Shaw allows the Loonys' emotions to play out naturally without forced resolutions, leaving a wistful hopefulness that feels just as conflicted and confusing as every family is. - Publishers WeeklyKaleidoscopic... Shaw has a deft touch... Like the very best illustrated fiction, Shaw's work moves between pathos and humor, between the fantastic and the familiar. - The Christian Science MonitorEasily the best graphic novel of the year so far... a triumph of the form that is going to echo in my mind for quite some time. *Bottomless Belly Button* is a book that made me laugh, think, smile, and finally, over a ten-page sequence at the end, weep like I've not in a very, very long time... Dash Shaw may be an artist and storyteller of the highest caliber, but his work here is refreshingly free of facade or ironic distance. Recommended very, very highly. In fact, this may be the Great American Graphic Novel I'd been waiting so long for. - Kevin Church, BeaucoupKevin.com[Dash Shaw] seems to have managed to cross [the] strict border between painstakingly planned genius and slapdash brilliance... It's enough to make a grown-up reviewer swoon. - The StrangerEngrossing... very compelling. - The New York TimesOne of my favorite books of the year. - USA TodayShaw's dysfunctional-family epic is so funny and engrossing we'd expect Oprah to pick it, but for all the graphic frog sex. - New York MagazineA genuine masterpiece. - Entertainment WeeklyThis book came from out of nowhere to great critical acclaim, and it pushed young Mr. Shaw in the spotlight as one of the most exciting new cartoonists in the field. ... This haunting story of a dysfunctional family twists and turns and stuck with me long after I read it. - Suvudu[A] family drama filled with neurosis, romance, mystery, comedy, fond memories, bad parenting, teen angst and sexual awakening. The book is big but not overwhelming, and sad with out being tragic. This is a graphic novel of the tallest order, from one of the most unique voices in the medium today. - Steve Ponzio, Multiversity ComicsAn utterly brilliant young cartoonist who has, in a few short years, advanced from the academic experiments of his earlier work... into a formalist genius whose skills encompass both a natural gift for color and a feel for subtle, indirect characterization. *Bottomless Belly Button* is a daring, daunting work. - Ed Howard, Only the Cinema