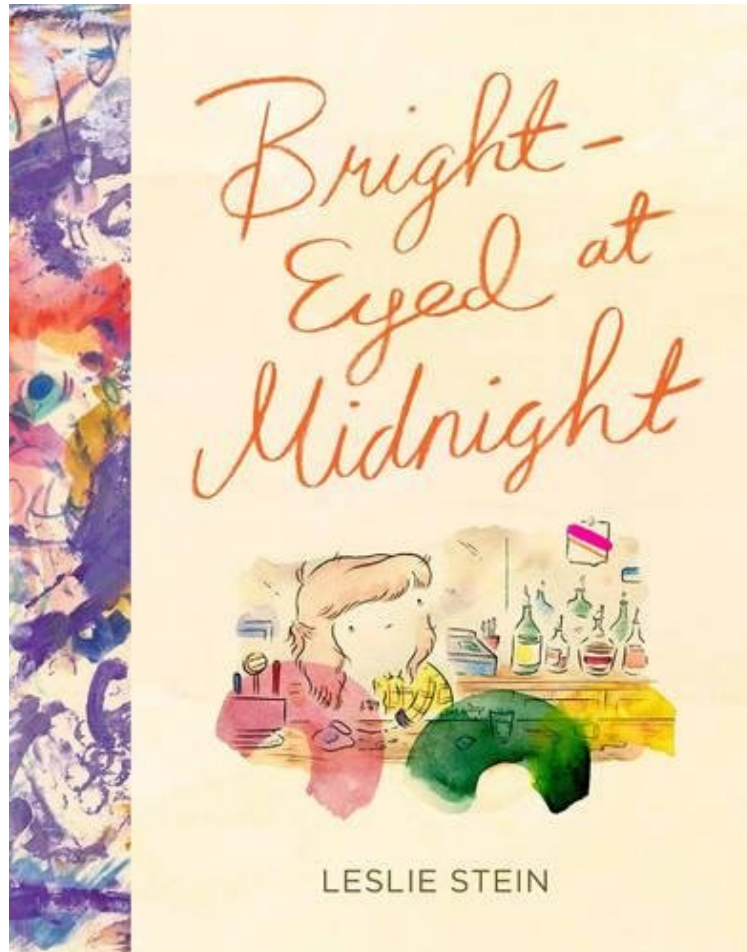


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Bright-Eyed At Midnight

Leslie Stein

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Leslie Stein : Bright-Eyed At Midnight before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bright-Eyed At Midnight:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is just an amazing bookBy reinaldo moralesI love this book and I will give it to my daughter when she is older to show her the amazing things women can do.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerKewl Book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating MidnightBy PattieBright-Eyed shines light on the midnight sojourn of a chronically-challenged sleeper. Leslie takes us on a journey of discovery into the dark world of the insomniac. My heart goes out to those who suffer from this condition! What I appreciate is the humor, color, inventiveness, and quirky way the main character (Leslie, I think) leads her life in pursuit of a real night's sleep. Alternating between her artistic and auditory pursuits, Leslie shines in presenting the ironic moments of her day to day life during the course of an entire year. Interwoven are pop culture experiences which never seem to work out the way intended. Leslie captures life's daily moments with water-

colored glasses which so often need to be cleaned, evaluated and reconsidered. This is a book I will read again and again for the gems of life moments illuminated on every page.

This book collects musician, bartender, and Brooklynite Leslie Steins diary in comics form. Beginning at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2014, and ending on January 1, 2015, Leslie Stein drew a comics page a night. Fueled by an urge toward visual and narrative experimentation and made possible by serendipitous bouts of insomnia, Stein has combined words and images in a series of comic strips, paintings, and collages that reflect her life. *Bright-Eyed at Midnight* collects the best of the 365 pages she made in 2014. By turns funny, unsettling, charming, improvisational, honest, and evocative, Stein explores her 1980s childhood, dreams, travel, artists block, drinking, recording and playing rock shows, and bar patrons, along with quiet moments of introspection and loneliness in the most exciting city in America. Drawn in pen and ink and vibrant watercolors, and written in a minimalist, poetic cadence, *Bright-Eyed at Midnight* is a thoughtful, meditative visual diary from an acclaimed cartoonist. Full-color illustrations throughout

...*Bright-Eyed at Midnight* [is] a dreamy collage of watercolor images and words, with themes and scenes spanning from Steins 1980s childhood, to playing rock and roll, to hanging out at bars, to dreams, to artists block. - Isabella Biedenbarn, *Entertainment Weekly* In the right hands, a 'page-a-day' comics project is an enlightening exploration of a cartoonists artistic impulses, and Leslie Steins daily chronicle of her 2014 is one of the best. *Bright-Eyed At Midnight*... is an immensely charming read that spotlights Steins artistic versatility. - Oliver Sava, *The A.V. Club* The results of [Stein's] productivity experiment are never less than delightful, and in some places downright great. ...[S]uddenly a capable cartoonist has become something more, possibly a great deal more. ... The result is a well-rounded story of Stein as both a burgeoning artist and a wayward thirtysomething living her childhood dreams of being both a musician and artist but still fighting occasional bouts of disappointment and depression. - Tim O'Neil, *The A.V. Club*...Steins clamorous, colourful pages swoon between childhood memories and anecdotes of daily life, or between dreamy impressionist doodling and full-on action-painter freak-outs. The results read like Kandinsky illustrating Virginia Woolf less a conventional diary than a stream of consciousness brought vibrantly to life. ... Steins recreations of life especially inner life, those reflective moments alone with oneself are fluid and evanescent, remarkably true to the texture of actual experience. - Sean Rogers, *The Globe and Mail* Fueled by insomnia and prompted by characters she encountered while tending bar or traveling the city or by bittersweet childhood memories..., [Stein] produced twelve months worth of microstories that build a larger narrative through accumulation. In addition to diaristic recollections of everyday events, she meditates on collaged aphorisms and observations snipped from Jules Renards *Journal*, offers up doodled portraits of teen crushes, and returns again and again to the moment just before dawn, when she is alone, awake, and contemplating her art and her existential questions. - Meg Lemke, *The Paris Insomnia*, alcohol, rocknroll, loneliness, bartending, the toxicity of scented candle theyre all dissected in Leslie Steins astounding *Bright-Eyed At Midnight*... - Scott Indrisek, *Blouin Artinfo* The rendering of [Stein's] character self is very childlike and the color is a blazing flower corridor which adds up to the whole thing coming across as very hopeful and vulnerable yet dealing with adult issues. Like life, the whole deal is kind of heart breaking and yet tough. - Gary Panter, *The Comics Journal* The book is not just an experiment, not just the result of a years worth of creative output, but a record of one persons encounters with the desperation of loneliness as well as the warmth of meaningful connection. Both states are depicted in a gorgeous, heightened manner that speaks directly to Steins approach to life. - Rob Clough, *The Comics Journal* Leslie Stein is one of the brightest lights of current day comics-making; her comics are very personal, both in her motivation to do them and the iconography she chooses to realize those stories. - Tom Spurgeon, *The Comics Reporter* About the Author Leslie Stein was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois. She attended the San Francisco Art Institute in 2000, moved to New York and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 2004. Her early interest in comics and cartooning was revitalized around the turn of the century by her introduction to such independent/alternative cartoonists as Jim Woodring and Gilbert Hernandez. She has self-published her own comics series, *Eye of the Majestic Creature*, since 2005, the short stories from which have been published in two *Majestic Creature* collections to date. She plays guitar and sings in the band *Prince Ruperts Drops*. She lives in Brooklyn.