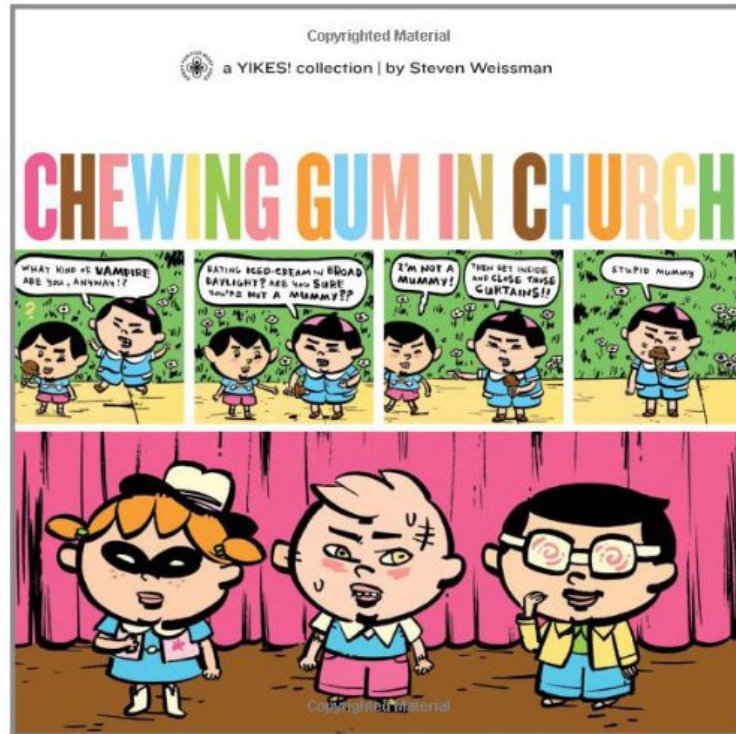


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Steven Weissman

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#1255618 in Books 2001-08-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.60 x .38 x 7.54l, .61 #File Name: 1560977361104 pages | File size: 52.Mb

Steven Weissman : Chewing Gum in Church (Yikes!) (v. 4) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chewing Gum in Church (Yikes!) (v. 4):

Cruel was never so cute, or so funny, in this all-ages gem. Chewing Gum In Church is the new "Yikes" book by Steven Weissman, starring "Sweet" Chubby Cheeks, Kid Medusa, the Pullapart Boy, Elzie Crisler, Dead Boy, X-Ray Spence and, of course, Li'l Bloody. This cast, having survived enough adventures to fill three mass-market paperbacks (see below), now "settles" into a daily routine of cruelty, failure, jealousy, bitterness, gluttony, sloth, violence, arrogance, and stupidity. But especially stupidity. Having written short stories (Don't Call Me Stupid), long stories (Champs) and every kind of story in between (White Flower Day) for his famous "Yikes" characters, Weissman has recently stripped his creation down to a classic, four-panel strip structure. This is Weissman's first full-color book, which is hard to imagine for an artist so renowned for his color sense. His artwork has never been more beautiful and assured, and his writing has never been as sharp or funny. Chewing Gum In Church, the fourth book in the "Yikes" series, is simultaneously more dense and accessible than any previous volume. First time "Yikes" readers will be delighted by Weissman's "cuter than cute" drawings drawings that treat each other so terribly. Longtime fans, on the other hand, will certainly find this book to be tremendous addition to their library of Li'l Bloody and the Pullapart Boy's adventures.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . The most recent collection of Weissman's whimsically mordant Yikes comics is the first to utilize the traditional four-panel structure of the Sunday funnies, but anyone expecting the standard setup punch line routine is in for a pleasant, if unsettling, surprise. Combining the "bubblegum" tone and bright color scheme of Bazooka Joe comics with such semicreepy 1960s-era fare as *The Addams Family* and *The Munsters*, these bizarre explorations of childhood friendships (not to mention competitiveness and mutual enmity) are hilarious. Weissman milks the jarring collision of sugary cuteness and abject cruelty for all it's worth, and with names like Li'l Bloody (a junior vampire), Kid Medusa, the Pullapart Boy (who literally pulls apart from time to time) and X-Ray Spence, his characters are clearly suited to the task. Stomping on anthills, talking about barf, beating each other up and getting bitten by black widow spiders—these occasionally undead little scamps always seem to be having the time of their lives. Weissman's deployment of vivid pastel colors is equally tongue-in-cheek, but there's more to the art than simple irony. With all its warm, fuzzy morbidity, *Chewing Gum in Church* gives new meaning to the phrase "sickly sweet." (Aug.)

Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist "Those monster kids," as a walk-on character calls them, are back, in rich polychrome rather than the monochrome of *White Flower Day* (2002) and, instead of in long stories, looking like comic-strip denizens in four-square-panel bursts that set up, more or less complicatedly, and deliver punch lines and wordless payoffs. Besides *Day* protagonists Li'l (or Lit'l) Bloody (a vampire), Pullapart Boy (stitched-together a la Frankenstein's monster), Kid Medusa (a gorgon), X-Ray Spence (possessor of supernatural specs), and Dead Boy (a zombie), the main cast here includes the mean fat boy "Sweet" Chubby Cheeks. Again the humor drolly exploits the principals' stereotypical supposed propensities and characteristics. After Chubby roughs up Li'l Bloody and Pullapart Boy, the latter says Chubby is "the meanest person I've ever met"; "Why don't we like him more?" Li'l Bloody wonders. Pullapart asks Chubby how, given that he, Pullapart, stinks so (of death), Chubby can stand his company; quoth the sweet one, "We fat kids can't be too picky." Weissman's winsome, cute-kids'-book drawing style makes every joke peculiarly funnier. Ray Olson

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