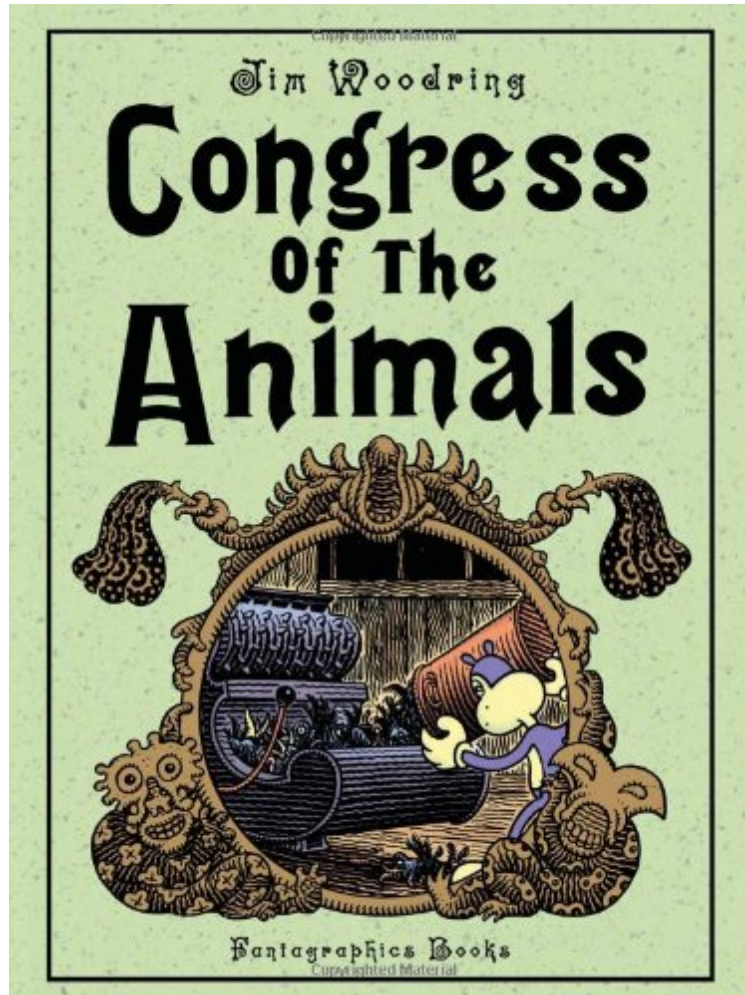


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Congress of the Animals

Jim Woodring

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Jim Woodring : Congress of the Animals before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Congress of the Animals:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Jim's Masterwork! -But don't read the dustjacket!!!By S. Wiki've been a fan of Jim's unique and unsettling visions since I first encountered JIM magazine in the late 80's, but I have to admit, it took some time for Frank to grow on me. At first I was more enamored of Mr. Woodring's illustrated text pieces such as Horse Sinister, and his lucid dream inspired pieces like What The Left Hand Did. But eventually Frank and The Unifactor won me over.One thing I've heard people say about Jim's imagery is that it resonates with them in a strange way, with a slight tug of deja vu at the base of the brain, like they've experienced it somewhere before. Perhaps in a long forgotten dream, a repressed childhood memory or a hallucination experienced during a severe childhood

fever. Count me among them. When I read Jim's work, I often feel a sense of strange memories *almost* being recalled, but remaining tantalizingly out of reach. It is as though the art is merely a "port" that my eyeballs "plug into," allowing mysteries of the universe to flow directly into my subconscious from a source behind the page. Jim's work isn't just incredible storytelling and unique visual style, it's a complete language unto itself. The best way I can describe it is that Jim's work forces the reader's brain to employ different "muscles" for comprehension than any normal human is used to exercising (at least in Western culture). The literal brain is gently lulled into stasis by Jim's hypnotic linework, while other faculties such as intuition and the ones that allow us to "read" facial expressions and detect emotion and meaning in patterns and designs come to the fore, but are used in a more all-encompassing way to "read" an entire story with a degree of depth and nuance that mere words and pictures alone could never hope to convey. -And Jim does this with such dexterity that he is able to abandon words altogether! Yikes! Anyhoo... In my opinion, Jim's narrative and artistic powers grew exponentially with Weathercraft. And they've multiplied again here with Congress of the Animals. You'll share a poignant and breathtaking journey with Frank that is equally beautiful and horrific. A truly spellbinding and hypnotic work that will speak directly to your soul. At least, it spoke to mine. YMMV. I believe Congress of the Animals to be Jim Woodring's finest and most satisfying effort to date, and anyone would be foolish not to experience it for

themselves.-----A WORD OF WARNING!!! Unfortunately, Jim appears to have felt compelled to explain far too much of the story on the inside flap and back cover of the dustjacket! DO NOT LOOK AT IT BEFORE READING THE BOOK!! In my opinion it's far more engaging and enjoyable to divine the meaning for yourself! Luckily I realized what was happening and stopped reading before I'd gotten too far. Afterwards, I went back and looked at it and confirmed that yes, my personal enjoyment of the work would indeed have been impaired if I had read the dustjacket first. Please help spread the word: DO NOT READ THE DUST JACKET

FIRST!!!-----0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A nice treasure for those who enjoy graphic art communication By Earsby I was at a chain bookstore reading a 2011 compilation of comic art and came upon an excerpt from Congress of the Animals and was busting my gut laughing. So I searched it out and found it here on . It is really an enjoyable journey, communicates well and cuts straight to a subconscious part of the brain. It was shipped quickly and I'm glad I bought it. Now I liked Jim's facebook page and am amazed at his ability to communicate through his art. I agree a tad with the other reviewer's comments about the dust jacket synopsis, but still I feel the "reading" (no words or text in the story) of the book wasn't tainted by my reading Jim's synopsis. I think it may have even clarified and increased the accuracy of the communication of the story line, although I agree that it was by no means essential. I am glad Jim put it in the book because I feel that, as the author if he wants to include that as a part of his art, then it becomes an essential part of the total package. I particularly enjoyed the chronological continuity that the book has, and feel that it is generally an upbeat story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strange Animals Mimic Human Traits By Richard C. Geschke When following the strange world of Jim Woodring's Congress of the Animals you have to pay attention. The drawings of the strange and sometimes comical and sometimes horrifying creatures will send you off course as to the story line. Hence I had to read this silent and strange graphic novel three times in order to really grasp its meaning and purpose. Woodring brings us the human conditions of everyday life as played out by this strange Congress of Animals. We see greed, anger, laziness, cruelty, sadness and happiness. Does our hero learn his lessons through his misadventures and mistakes? Well you'll have to read this silent without words graphic novel. The use of these rather strange characters only emphasizes the lessons Woodring is trying to impart on his audience. His antics of drawing certain characters certainly at times seem to overplay what he is trying to convey. That's why sometimes I got so caught up in the looks of these strange creatures I lost track of the true story line. The author conveys the true sense of his lessons in humanity while using strange almost out of this world animal-like creatures that do in the end teach us a lesson to be well learned. Genius portrayal of human traits, five stars without hesitation.

The first full-length Frank graphic novel! Readers of the Frank stories know that The Unifactor is in control of everything that happens to the characters that abide there, and that however extreme the experiences they undergo may be, in the end nothing really changes. That goes treble for Frank himself, who is kept in a state of total ineducability by the unseen forces of that haunted realm. And so the question arises: what would happen if Frank were to leave The Unifactor? That question is answered in Congress of the Animals, Jim Woodring's much-anticipated second full-length graphic novel, and first starring his signature character Frank. In this gripping saga an act of casual rudeness sets into motion a chain of events which propels Frank into a world where he is on his own at last; and like so many who leave home, Frank finds himself contending with realities of which he had no previous inkling. In Congress of the Animals we are treated to the pitiful spectacle of Frank losing his house, taking a factory job, falling in with bad company, fleeing the results of sabotage, escaping the Unifactor in an amusement park ride, surviving a catastrophe at sea, traveling across hostile terrain toward a massive temple seemingly built in his image, being treated roughly by gut-faced men and intervening in an age-old battle in a meadow slathered in black and yellow blood. And when he finally

knocks on opportunity's door he finds... he finds... Suffice to say he finds what most of us would like to find. Can he bring it back with him? Will the Unifactor accept him as he has become? Are his sins forgiven? Is love real? Is this the end of Frank as we know him? 104 pages of black-and-white comics

It takes a bit of daring to be willing to alter the status quo in a respected body of work and considerable talent to be able to do so in as assured manner as Woodring does here... - Chris Mautner, Robot 6...[T]he payoff... feels like a weight has been lifted from Woodrings strange world, while the route he takes to get there is illustrated so beautifully its almost superhuman. Its the happy ending hes spent most of his career earning. - Sean T. Collins, Robot 6I love the fact that Woodring has made a huge, fundamental change to the world of Frank, and that in doing so it still feels like an old familiar friend.... Theres no other comics quite like Woodrings out there, and Im forever thankful that we get these amazing, disturbing, wonderful creations from him. - Greg McElhatton, Read About ComicsAbout the AuthorJim Woodring lives on Vashon Island in Washington States Puget Sound with his wife, Mary. The recipient of numerous rewardsincluding a Genius Awardhe is an animator and a fine artist as well as a cartoonist.