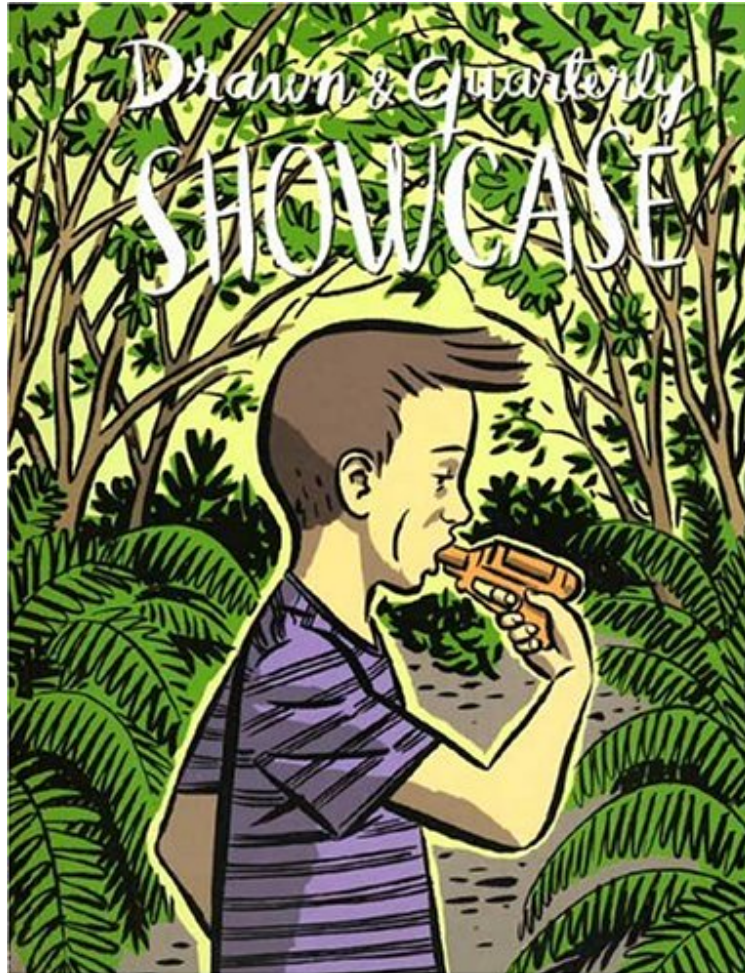


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Drawn Quarterly Showcase: Book Two (Bk. 2)

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From Drawn and Quarterly : Drawn Quarterly Showcase: Book Two (Bk. 2) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Drawn Quarterly Showcase: Book Two (Bk. 2):

Drawn Quarterly Showcase - edited by Chris Oliveros - returns featuring two more of the brightest new talents working in graphic novels today. This edition focuses on new stories by two cartoonists from opposite ends of the globe: Chicago's Jeffrey Brown and from the other side of the Atlantic, Pentti Otsamo of Finland. Brown's story is a tense-murder-mystery: a co-worker at a factory has dreams about dogs attacking a girl two nights in a row. The next day he unloads a truck and finds dirty clothing in the trailer, clothing that looks like a young girls'. As it happens, a young girl was abducted and murdered the night before, and the truck had picked up the load in that area the same day. Brown deftly paces the story, drawn in his expressive line, never quite revealing more than we need to know. Pentti

Otsamo writes about a boy's move to a new town and of the nastiness of the local kids who do their best to shun the new arrival. Otsamo's moody and atmospheric drawing style is perfectly suited to the subject of the story. His artwork is reminiscent of some of the best D+Q cartoonists, with the warm colors of Seth and the sensitive, yet expressive linework of Chester Brown.

From Publishers Weekly
The second volume in Drawn Quarterly's ongoing young cartoonists' showcase features three stories from three very different artists. All share an interest in the mysteries possible in even the most mundane of life's events. Finnish cartoonist Pentti Otsamo has the longest entry, a ponderous tale of a newly transplanted adolescent boy in a middle-class Dutch suburb. Two pets are lost and an odd reunion occurs, but the story eventually just peters out, its cool veneer and competent, streamlined cartooning unable to hold a heavier symbolic burden. The second entry, by American cartoonist Jeffrey Brown, is a switch from Brown's usual autobiographical tales, as what begins as a "true" story quickly veers into fantasy, with a disquieting, David Lynchlike mystery at its center. Brown is trying something ambitious here, weaving his workaday life into a fantasy, but ultimately comes up short, unable to make all the story threads come together to create a larger narrative meaning. Erik De Graaf, of the Netherlands, contributes the book's shortest and best story, an oddly affecting tale of a child's stay on his grandparents' farm. Like the other two stories, this one has a slight mystery and the death of an innocent, but De Graaf's nocturnal artwork and sharp writing carry the day. While flawed, this showcase delivers strong ideas and solid talent. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
The second volume of alternative-comics publisher Drawn Quarterly's Showcase series, which features a few up-and-coming talents at a time, demonstrates an international perspective. Finland's Pentti Otsamo depicts a young boy's attempts to make friends after a move to a new town, juxtaposing his failing efforts with the struggles to reach out of an equally alienated adult neighbor. Dutch artist Erik De Graaf offers an autobiographical tale of a visit to his grandparents' rural home, where he learned the fine distinction between pets and food. Chicagoan Jeffrey Brown progresses beyond his usual self-lacerating, navel-gazing relationship stories with a skewed murder mystery drawn in the same disarmingly offhand style that distinguishes *Clumsy* (2002) and *Unlikely* [BKL O 1 03]. Otsamo's and De Graaf's illustrations are slicker than Brown's but equally simple, and all three artists' unadorned styles, enhanced by the effective use of duotones, mask subtle storytelling. Their skill with sensitive subject matter and the universality of their concerns should make many eager for more of their work. Gordon Flagg
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About the Author
Jeffrey Brown lives in Chicago. His first book, *Clumsy*, was published to rave reviews and he was recently featured on the NPR show *This American Life*. Pentti Otsamo is one fo Scandinavia's best-known cartoonists. His work has been published in English in recent editions of *Drawn Quarterly*.