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Aisha Franz

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Aisha Franz : Earthling before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earthling:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Matt ElaGreat book! Not what I was expecting at first but I still really enjoyed reading it.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Finding yourself. A lovely graphic novel on growing-up.By Vivek TejujaOff late, say in the last decade or so, there has been a spurt of graphic novelists and artists from all over the world. Earthling by Aisha Franz is not just another graphic novel. There is something about it, which speaks to you and which hits the nail right on the head of the problem of our society today: Alienation and Loneliness.The graphic novel is also a coming-of-age story of two sisters. It is about their estranged mother. A father that is supposed to take them on a trip which none of the girls wants to go to. The mother dreams of what could have been had she not got pregnant early in her life. The older daughter wants to be accepted. The younger one is confused about life. All the three of them want is some semblance to a regular life and happiness. The setting is

the suburbs unknown places, a big industrial wasteland and vast fields with nothing to talk about. In all of this, each of these three characters has built a fantastical element to their stories. They find their solace and comfort there. Franz's setting itself is another character. The black and white illustrations also add that bleak element to the story. I think *Earthling* to me is more than just a story about coping with life. It is also to a very large extent about finding yourself amidst all the noise and silences. The book, in its graphic elements relays a lot on the human condition, how we are and yet there is a glimmer of hope somewhere for these people to perhaps want something more and get it after all. I loved *Earthling* because it was for sure a different graphic novel and to some extent also reminded me of Daniel Clowes characters, all wandering and trying to find their way in the world.

A finely wrought account of aliens and alienation in the suburb The German cartoonist Aisha Franz's debut graphic novel details a few short days in the life of two sisters and their single mother. Set in a soulless suburb populated by block after block of identical row houses bordered by empty fields and an industrial no-man's-land, *Earthling* explores the loneliness of everyday life through these women's struggle to come to terms with what the world expects of them. *Earthling* unveils a narrative rich with surrealist twists and turns, where the peas on the dinner plate and the ads on television can both literally and figuratively speak to the most private strife and deepest hopes in a person's life. As the sisters begin to come to terms with their sexuality, they are confronted by harsh realities and a world that has few escape routes for young women. Drawn in deep gray pencil, the claustrophobia of Franz's crosshatching and smudging matches the tone of the book perfectly. *Earthling* is an atmospheric and haunting account of the inevitability of losing the dream worlds of childhood.

[*Earthling* is] a coming-of-age story that shimmers between the alien and the familiar, between feeling at home with those around you, and feeling hopelessly estranged . . . Franz crowds her pages full of panels, to convey what constrained lives these characters lead, and her drawings--all sketched out in pencil--look fittingly tentative, fragile, and easily effaced. *Globe Mail* [*Earthling* is] full of dark humour, sex and hilarious snippets of perilous teenage life that you'll be glad are far, far behind you . . . Anyone you know who's into the witty, sarcastic humour of Daniel Clowes' *Ghost World* definitely needs to get their hands on this. It's Nice That This is a quiet book, but one with a lot to say . . . It warrants deep and repeated readings. *Publishers Weekly* The softness of Franz's pencil drawings telegraphs the quiet of these spaces, and her approach to moment-to-moment storytelling communicates some of the joy of movement . . . The overall feeling of melancholy this combination evokes is felt perfectly [in *Earthling*]. *Bookslut* About the Author Aisha Franz was born in Frth, Germany, and was named after an elephant on TV. She studied illustration at the School of Art and Design in Kassel and since graduating has worked as a freelance illustrator and cartoonist. She has published two graphic novels, which have been translated into Italian and French. Her work has been exhibited in Germany, Belgium, and Italy. She currently lives in Berlin, where she's part of the comics collective the Treasure Fleet.