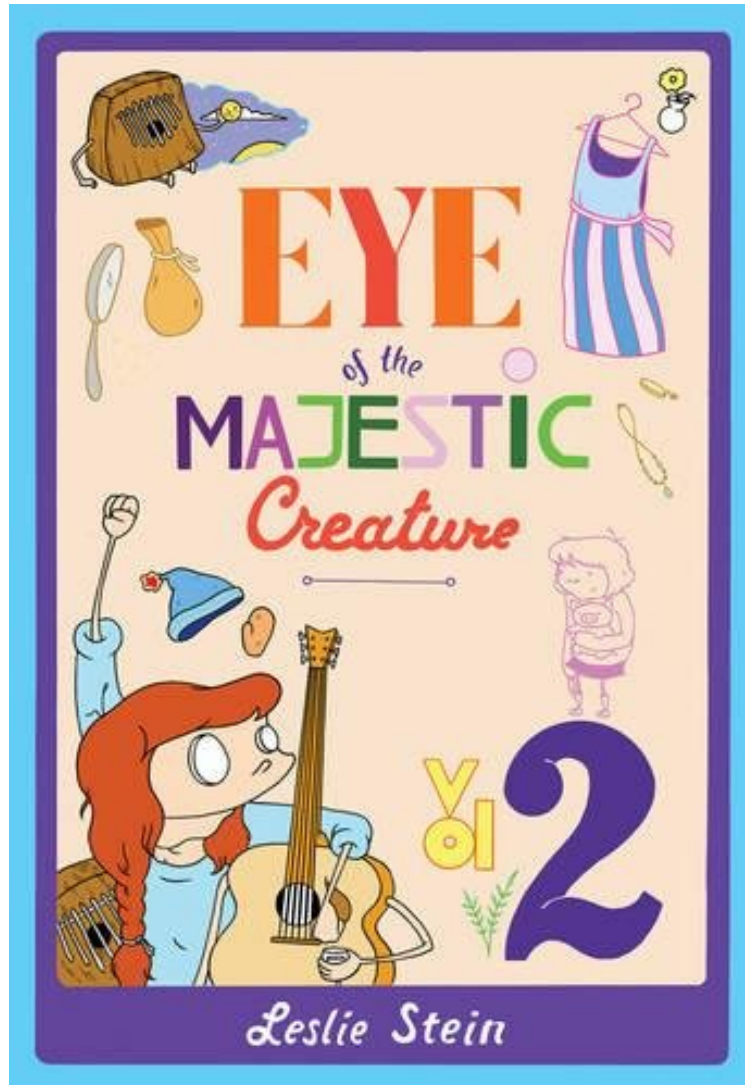


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## Eye Of The Majestic Creature Vol. 2

Leslie Stein

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**Leslie Stein : Eye Of The Majestic Creature Vol. 2** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eye Of The Majestic Creature Vol. 2:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eye of the Majestic Creature Volume 2 is subtle, insightful, literary and outstanding. By Daniel Elkin Leslie Stein is a detached observer. The problem is that her detachment is in a constant battle between itself and Stein's own overarching empathetic nature. In her comic Eye of the Majestic Creature, Stein wanders and stumbles through experiences. She notes them coolly with a seemingly flat affect, but the next moment? Well, that belies her heart. If you have never read any of Leslie Stein's Eye of the Majestic Creature then you should do so. Right now. I'll wait... The reason I'm talking about this is that Fantagraphics has just published the

latest volume of Stein's work, *Eye of the Majestic Creature Volume 2*. This collection continues the story of Stein's semi-autobiographical and wildly wonderful alter-ego, Larrybear. Larry has moved back to the city in this volume and it is this experience that makes up the first third of this book. Larry echoes Stein's dichotomous nature and the character's story chronicles that war between head and heart with humor, intelligence, and profundity. What Stein does in this first part of the book is to draw parallels between Larry's world and the world of Theodore Dreiser's masterpiece of American Naturalism, *Sister Carrie*. In Stein's conception of the modern world, little has changed in a young urban woman's experience from the turn of the twentieth century to the turn of the twenty-first. The second part of *Eye of the Majestic Creature Volume 2* focuses on incidents in her character's past. These include when her mother brought a drifter along on a family trip to Disney World, hanging out during her mother's AA meetings, and being a kid in a band with people much older than she. Once again, the stories are told with Stein's detachment. She records the events without seeming to comment on them, and yet her choices in narration and perspective have their own emotional heft. Larrybear lives through each moment as it occurs, and she neither comments on them nor seems to engage them through any sense-making efforts. Yet through this, Stein pushes the reader to feel in order to understand. It's subtle, and in this subtly great power lies. The final act of *Eye of the Majestic Creature Volume 2* follows Larry as she takes a trip to meet her friend Poppin's father. Poppin's head is a flower, though his father's head is human, but this doesn't seem to be an issue for anyone in this book. Then again, Larry's best friend is a talking, heavy-drinking guitar named Marshmallow. This final section of *Eye of the Majestic Creature Volume 2* is my favorite part of the book for its all-too-humanness, especially in the midst of the strange scenario of Poppin's relationship with his dying father. Once again, Stein doesn't force anything. She lets it unfold with a casual sweetness, even in the midst of death and drunkenness and dysfunction. The story ends with the onset of change for Larrybear bred out of discontent and self-realization. The last panel in the book alone could be the subject of thousand word critique. It also features a Booji Boy mask which brought back all sorts of memories for me - another moment of quiet connection, the kind of which this volume is full. Leslie Stein is a voice for a certain aspect of her generation, the ones you see feigning ironic detachment while inside they are either all honest excitement or vast empathy. While it's just so much easier and cooler not to get emotionally involved, for people like Stein, that's just really not possible. She's also in a pretty awesome band: Prince Rupert's Drops

Larrybear hits the city! Watch out city! *Eye of the Majestic Creature Vol. 2* is the second book collecting Leslie Steins loose, funny and charming autobiographical narratives that combine idiosyncratic fantasy and stark reality. Larrybear, our hero, has moved from the countryside to the city, where she finds work as a shop girl. Quotes from Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* are sprinkled throughout the story to add humor and poignancy. Stein then takes us back to a childhood in the 80s filled with odd experiences including joining a rock band with older people, sitting in on her mother's AA groups, and the mystery of the disappearing gumballs. Finally, a fun story in which Larrybear and her new friend, Poppin the Flower go on a strange trip to see his father. Let us not forget that Marshmallow, Ping-Ping and Mimolette, Larry's walking and talking instruments, have adventures all their own. Steins gorgeous cartooning, highlighted by incredibly detailed stippling, and her dry sense of humor combine to make one of the most unique and immersive narrative experiences in comics. Black white illustrations throughout

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.