

## From Wonderland with Love: Danish Comics in the Third Millennium

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FROM WONDERLAND WITH LOVE



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**From Fantagraphics : From Wonderland with Love: Danish Comics in the Third Millennium** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Wonderland with Love: Danish Comics in the Third Millennium:

Edgy comics from the country of Lars von Trier and The Raveonettes. In all the excitement over manga from Japan and bandes dessinées from France, it's easy to forget that other countries have a thriving comics culture all their own.

This eye-popping anthology, assembled by Danish publisher/editor/ translator Steffen P. Maarup, introduces adventurous readers to 19 exciting talents, most of whom are taking their first bow on the English-speaking stage. One centerpiece of the book is Nikoline Werdelin's stunning *Because I Love You So Much*, a *Doonesbury*-style slice-of-life daily strip about a suburban Danish couple who discover their daughter is being molested—is it happening at her daycare center, or, horrifyingly, closer to home? Other major revelations include Julie Nords elegantly drawn *From Wonderland With Love* (which gives the collection its title), a modernistic riff on *Alice in Wonderland*, and Ib Kjeldsmarks *Sloth*, a riotously punk-inflected day-glo duo-toned road trip. The book also spotlights the snarky and surreal single-panel work and gags by HuskMitNavn, Christoffer Zieler, and Johan F. Krarup; the visually explosive silent comics of Mardon Smet and Peter Kielland; cover artist T. Thorhauges spectacular philosophical piece *M*; and many other stories in a wide variety of styles from the sinister black and white Lynchian surrealism of Simon Bukhaves wooden robot story *All that I Hold in My Hand* to the watercolored animal-fable extravaganza *Tomb of the Rabbit King* by Allan Haverholm, from Soren Mosdal and Jacob Orsted's meticulously delineated and colored nightmare yarn *Dog God* to Zven Balslev's slashing, black and white, Panter-esque *Cadarul Zombie*. And more! Nominated for a 2010 Will Eisner Comic Industry Award (Best Story: "Because I Love You So Much," by Nikoline Werdelin). 66 pages full-color and 110 pages black-and-white

From Publishers Weekly Starred . An eye-opening cornucopia of visual storytelling styles traversing a wide variety of narrative avenues, this anthology gives a strong representation of contemporary Danish comics as a thriving comics culture. Largely surreal, the work is tough to nail down, but much of it is lighthearted even when dealing with very dark issues; it's devoid of the self-conscious self-referentialism that so often dogs American comics both genre and literary. The artists here are drawing for love and passion and it shows. Items of particular note are Mardon Smet's *Bill Wrayesque Stig Martha* and Peter Kielland's wordless and hilarious *Valkuren Traume*, which features the unlikely goings-on when an anthropomorphic roast chicken crashes a rather smutty Wagnerian opera and incites a fascist regime. However, the standout is Nikolein Werdelin's *Because I Love You So Much*, which treats a mother's discovery that her daughter is being molested with the four-panel rhythm of a comic strip. It sounds tacky, but the result is heartrending. An essential volume for those interested in comics' global development and newest voices. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Starred . An eye-opening cornucopia of visual storytelling styles traversing a wide variety of narrative avenues, this anthology give a strong representation of contemporary Danish comics The artist are drawing for love and passion and it shows An essential volume for those interested in comics global development and newest voices. - Publishers Weekly A beautiful book, full of very different temperaments and different styles. All comics are from the 21st century and together they show both the great width and breadth of Danish comics. There are quiet, direct, hard hitting stories... And there are more poetic, allegorical, dreamy stories... And if you want new, interesting and strange, look no further. - Fredrik Stromberg, *Sekventiellt* Although far from all the artists represented in the new anthology *From Wonderland with Love* are so experimental with form and content that you must ask yourself if this can really still be termed comics, it is truly the cream of the crop who are assembled here. This collection offers a great perspective on how broad and versatile the talent pool is in Denmark. - Torben Rolmer Bille, *Kulturkapellet* *From Wonderland with Love* is an excellent introduction to the part of the modern Danish cartoon trying to push the boundaries of media and especially the wild young people who came out early this decade... If you know a comic bookish alien *From Wonderland* is the obvious idea. And if you love the place where the arts are challenging the status quo and moving milestones, you will feel at home here. - Ulf Reese Naesborg, *Tegneseriesiden* The aptly titled *From Wonderland With Love* features the best of contemporary Danish comics and with weather like they have up there, you can bet that a lot of drawing gets done. If we had to generalize, we'd say that Danish comics specialize in a clean visual style, deadpan humor and a fidelity to revealing strange truths. - Molly Young, *We Love You So* Starstudded. The comics medium merges with pictorial art into a groundbreaking narrative form in a new gorgeous anthology with the Danish highlights of the last ten years. jam-packed with cherry-picked quality material which is guaranteed to find happy readers far beyond the circle who consider themselves comics fans. - Nikolaj M. Lassen, *Weekendavisen* About the Author Through his publishing house *Aben Maler*, Steffen P. Maarup has published Danish edition of books by (among others) Edward Gorey, Chris Ware, and Daniel Clowes, as well as original graphic novels and collections by Danish authors.