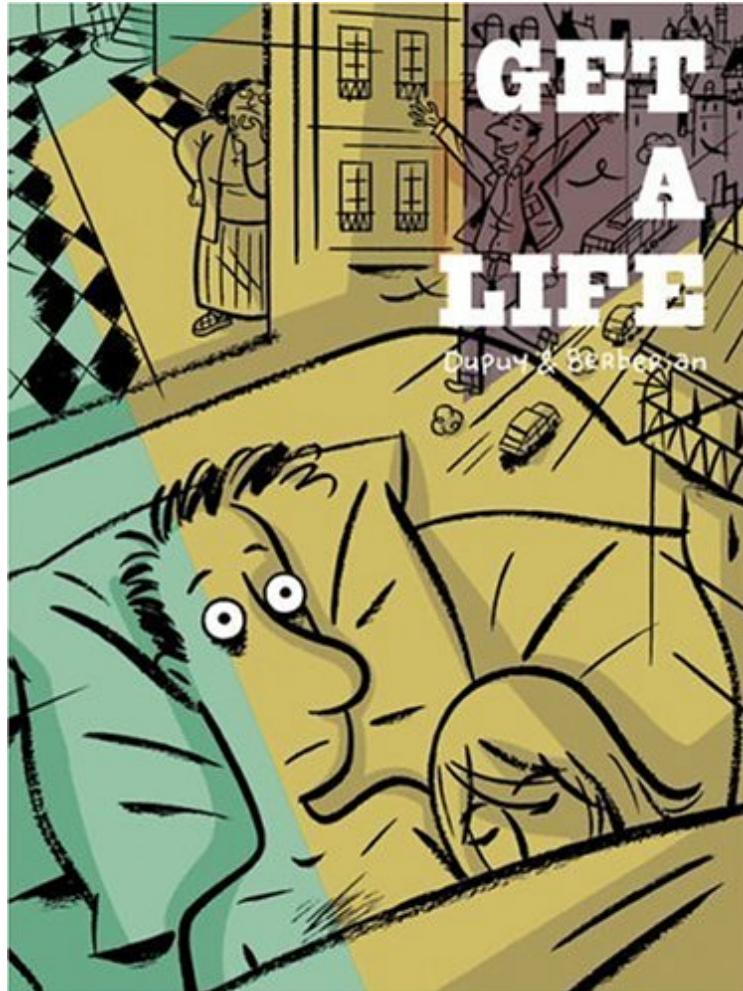


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Get a Life

Philippe Dupuy, Charles Berberian

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Philippe Dupuy, Charles Berberian : Get a Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Get a Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get this book! By Sam Quixote Comics for the most part are a collaborative medium usually with one person writing, another drawing, another inking, colouring, lettering, and so on. Rarely do you find two people who work on a comic and do both the writing and drawing together, but such is the case with Charles Berberian and Phillippe Dupuy. In fact, their drawing/writing styles are so similar, they've said that even they have a hard time figuring out who did what in their comics! Get a Life collects the first of their acclaimed and bestselling Monsieur Jean comics from 1989 to the early 90s, a time I only mention because you'll notice that when people want to make a phone call outside they go to a phone box, and they can smoke indoors everywhere! Besides small details though, these comics are timeless and wonderful. Jean is a young writer in Paris and we follow

his travails with women, friends, his concierge (landlady), the everyday material mixed up with fantasy/dream sequences, comedy and a vivid, eye-catching art style. The stories are often entertaining and funny like when Jean looks after his friend's cat and ends up arrested for suspected sex in a public park, or when he takes on a screenwriting job for an unscrupulous film producer and has to dodge mob enforcers. But there's some beautiful, slice-of-life stories here too that are quite poignant. Like when Jean realises he and his childhood friend have grown apart, or the time he recounts his first break-up, or the story where he battles his critical dark side who tries to convince him that his writing is as worthless as the critics say it is. There are also stories that apply to his age of late 20s/early 30s like trying to find a decent flat for a reasonable rent, seeing friends having kids of their own, and being nagged about marriage by his nearest and dearest (he's something of a playboy). The art is absolutely lush in true Gallic style - Jean has the same bulbous nose as the more famous French character, Asterix! Charming European architecture, the colours, and the settings: moonlit parties in apartments, lengthy meals in exotic restaurants, glamorous nightclubs, contrasted with smashed up flats, rainy nights, heartbreak, insomnia and food poisoning. Regardless of what they're writing about, all of Dupuy and Berberian's panels look amazing. If you collect gorgeously produced comics, this is a great one to get. High quality, thick paper, excellent printing, well-designed - it's a lovely object in itself. Full marks to Drawn Quarterly! Also, if you love these comics and want more, check out the Drawn Quarterly Anthologies Vols 3 and 5 for some lengthy 50+ page Monsieur Jean stories that follow the character as he ages, gets married, becomes a dad, etc. - they're also really good! I first bought/read this back in 2007 and, re-reading it 7 years later, it's still as fantastic as I remembered. If you enjoy non-superhero comics and want to sample some of the best grown-up comics France has to offer, look no further than Dupuy and Berberian's *Get a Life*. Funny, moving, romantic, enjoyable and totally compelling, *Monsieur Jean* is the best! 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Making the Mundane Meaningful By K. N. An engaging and bittersweet set of comics detailing the rather ordinary life of Monsieur Jean, a kind of late-twentysomething Everyman. Dupuy and Berberian, who collaborated on all aspects of this comic's writing and illustration, create a meaningful storyline for Jean without sacrificing humor or imagination. Jean's misadventures in love are nicely tempered by more lighthearted scenes, including Jean's endless standoff with the apartment building's concierge as well as the running gag of the telephone ringing every time Jean settles into a warm bath. Dupuy and Berberian's strength resides in their mastery of quotidian observation. This extends not only to their writing but also to their illustrations, which reflect a fine sense of detail for apartment clutter, youth culture, and the vagaries of life in the city, among other things. Their lines and coloring are pleasant to the eye, and the artistry of Jean's dream sequences is especially notable. Credit to the Montreal-based publishing collective Drawn Quarterly for bringing Dupuy and Berberian across the Atlantic in a superb English translation. Some of the best graphic novels are being published by independent houses these days. Available in a lovely hardcover edition, this book deserves the highest praise for its literary, graphic, and book-design quality. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Passing Pleasant-Enough Time with Jean By Imez I'm new to the graphic novel genre, as I have only recently discovered they are not all about Japanese vampires battling evil and sexual tension. *Get a Life* is something else all together. It has humor but it is small, gentle humor. It doesn't have thick plots, no deep pains or truths to exorcise. It's just a French guy living a French life flanked by interchangeable attractive women and so-so friends. In fact, all the characters are so-so people, no heroes and few villains, very real in that respect. Compelling, not boring, but no deep shakes. Another book I liked even though I sense I (American female a generation behind Jean) am not the intended audience. If I were the intended, I might think it was genius.

A celebration of the sophistication, wit and charm found only in the singular collaboration of French cartooning team. For twenty years, French cartoonists Philippe Dupuy and Charles Berberian have collaborated on every aspect, sharing both the writing and drawing of their highly acclaimed Mr. Jean short stories, creating one of the most endearing, clever, and readable series in contemporary French comics. Their award-winning, critically acclaimed series has sold more than 120,000 copies in France and has won one of comics' most coveted awards, the prestigious Angoulême Alph-Art Award for the Best Book of the Year. *Get a Life* is a collection of the early Mr. Jean stories where the reader is introduced to the life of the titular character, a laconic, single Parisian male struggling through the usual calamities of life: bachelorhood in his twenties and early thirties and the impending responsibilities of marriage, kids, and deadlines for his publisher. Mr. Jean is a typical everyman scholar who fancies himself a man of letters, a nostalgist whose memories carry a weight few can understand, a lover whose heart knows the greatest of burdens. Melancholic yet joyful reflections on past loves, favorite authors, marriage, and fatherhood are laid out in a breezy, comic style.

From Publishers Weekly Only a few of French cartoonists Dupuy and Berberian's delightful Monsieur Jean stories have previously appeared in English, but this volume collects translations of the earliest ones, originally published in the mid-'80s. Jean is a small-time literary figure, a novelist, translator and jazz collector on the cusp of 30, realizing that life is moving faster than he is. He's got an apartment too cheap to leave, with a landlady he can't stand; his old friends are getting married, having children, casually revealing long-ago betrayals and inflicting their own life disasters on

him. He's fine at attracting women, but can't sustain a serious relationship for long. By the end of the book, he's repeatedly playing daddy to other people's babies and recalling the days when the life of an artist and culture-vulture seemed a lot easier. Dupuy and Berberian play Jean's not-quite-midlife crises as whimsy, though, with occasional goofy fantasy sequences in which he imagines himself guarding the castle of his bachelorhood. The book's artwork is breezy, simple and very European (everyone's got gigantic, near-abstract noses, and the landscapes of Paris and Lisbon are lovingly caricatured); its smooth playfulness helps to alleviate the sting of its well-aimed darts toward the moments when the bohemian life begins to curdle. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. For more than 15 years, fans of bandes dessinées--French for comics--have followed the life in Paris of young novelist M. Jean as he, a flawed but sympathetic everyman, traded footloose bachelorhood for marriage and fatherhood. Although individual stories have appeared in American anthologies, this is the first American collection of M. Jean stories, including the earliest in the series. Mr. Jean, as he's styled here, is a surrogate for Dupuy and Berberian, who each contribute to both the writing and the art, and who have, like their signature character, experienced the satisfactions and challenges of domesticity during the past decades. While the setting may seem exotic to stateside readers, Jean's bittersweet struggles with friends, lovers, and employers, depicted in a cartoonish style chockablock with place-realizing details, are recognizable and familiar; indeed, few American comics characters possess even a modicum of Jean's unassuming normalcy. The appearance of the initial installments of his saga raises hopes that readers this side of the pond will henceforth be able to follow his changes. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "THE STORY OF JEAN, A NOT-QUITE-SUCCESSFUL WRITER FACING UP TO MIDDLE AGE AND THE INEVITABILITY OF GROWING UP AND GETTING MARRIED, WHIRLS AROUND PARIS AND NEW YORK AND JEAN'S IMAGINATION WITH A CONFIDENCE AND LIGHT TOUCH RARE IN ANY MEDIUM."