

[Free and download] The ACME Novelty Library, Vol. 13

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*Chris Ware*

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**Chris Ware : The ACME Novelty Library, Vol. 13** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The ACME Novelty Library, Vol. 13:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pure BrillianceBy Kirk JonesI read this after my first daughter was born and my wife returned to work after maternity leave. We lined up our vacations so I'd have time off after she returned to work. It was miserably hot outside. My daughter spent most days eating and crying. The rest of a difficult week was spent reading this. It was my temporary escape. It was brutally honest, but humorous at the same time. It was exactly what I needed. If I had to boil this book down to a sentence, it would be "Yes, life IS that bad . . . but your life is not that bad so enjoy the ups and downs as much as possible." I suggest the book to everyone, but it has a special place in the hearts of comic book collectors and geeks such as myself.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Prepare to be DepressedBy David SwanChris Ware's works have been described as 'unbearably obtuse', 'psychologically abusive', 'bleak' and 'depressing'. And these are just the descriptions offered by Mr. Ware himself. Wikipedia says, "The defining characteristics of Ware's work include a pervasive sadness and nihilism, tales of disappointment, thwarted affection, and the dehumanization of the individual in a modern and mechanized world."So get ready for a good ole' time....Maybe not.Chris Ware is a very interesting artist. His visuals have an extraordinarily clean/meticulous look with extensive use of primary shapes particularly circles, simple flat colors without shading and thick black bordering. They look like they came straight from a graphics design class. The light, whimsical visual contrast dramatically with Mr. Ware crushingly depressive writing. His stories tend to focus on pathologically introverted figures and main characters who tend to be chunky misfits and loners with little to no friends. The art

teacher obsesses on the appearances of his young students and spends class time trying to sneak peeks at the girl's panties. After school he smokes pot in the back of his student's car. And the teacher's name? Mr. Ware. As strange as it may sound my biggest issue with Chris Ware is his tendency to print his books in odd physical dimensions. When I purchased 'Quimby the Mouse' I was surprised to find that it was an unwieldy 14 by 11 which made it difficult to store. This may seem trivial but I now check the dimensions of anything I purchase by Mr. Ware. The book I'm reviewing is a much more compact 9 by 7. Another issue I have is his tendency to use absurdly small fonts. I have very good vision and I've never worn glasses or contacts but sometimes I flat out can't read the text. You really have to see it (or not see it?) to know what I'm talking about. My last beef is that his work often goes beyond bleak into the realm of sterile. His art is SO meticulous and precise that it can sometimes lose its humanity as if it were drawn by a robot. The characters tend to resemble each other in manner and appearance with Rusty Brown and Chalky White being practically interchangeable. This particular edition focuses on Rusty Brown, a young boy in primary school who imagines himself with super powers rescuing the Supergirl doll he carries around. The only semi friend he has is Chalky White who is equally unaccepted by his peers. Since the events are part of an ongoing series there is no beginning or end to the story and nothing triumphant or uplifting occurs. Regardless of the quality of his works it's unlikely that Chris Ware will ever have mass appeal because he is so unconventional. I enjoyed the book but I'm generally one of those people who enjoys comics and movies that are out of the mainstream. On the other hand I love a good Superman story too. I recommend the Acme collection but I can understand where Mr. Ware's critics are coming from. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Floating Round My Tin Can By S. Sullivan Chris Ware's recent output of work is no doubt his most impressive. Sadly this won't be recognized for a few years. It won't be until these chunks of story that comprise the last few Acme Novelty installments are collected and released in their full form that it will be clear what he is up to. The two books on the horizon are "Building Stories" (a piece of which makes up Acme Novelty Library #18) and "Rusty Brown" which has had now three releases, numbers 16, 17 and now 19. Rusty Brown himself makes a rare appearance in this volume as the focus is placed instead on Rusty Brown's father, minor science fiction writer W.K. Brown. The work is segmented into two halves, the first being an illustration of one of Brown's science fiction stories, a gripping piece called "The Seeing Eye-Dogs of Mars". There is something very satisfying about seeing Ware tackle science fiction. His art style isn't the most obvious for the genre but the two compliment each other surprisingly well. The novel then progresses into more traditional territory for Ware (which is not to say it isn't emotionally affecting, well observed, and masterfully composed, because it is) and it has the advantage of reflecting back on the opening section. As usual with Ware the book itself is beautifully assembled. Chris Ware is growing leaps and bounds as an artist because he has not lost anything that made his early work special yet has increased his scope as a writer and continues to invent with the form. With each release Ware's status as the best living cartoonist becomes more and more certain while his relative obscurity (considering the emotional power and formal importance of his work) becomes more and more disconcerting. At the very least, this new volume raises the bar for what we can expect from the complete "Rusty Brown."

Acme Novelty Library items by Chris Ware in the early 1990s.