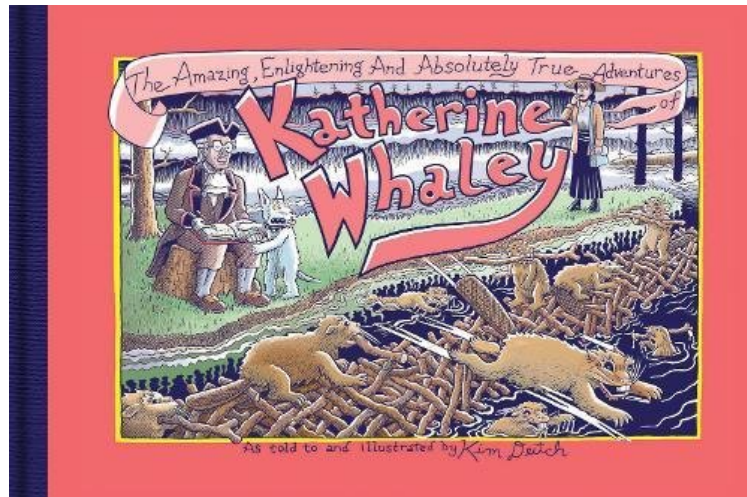


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The Amazing, Enlightening And Absolutely True Adventures of Katherine Whaley

Kim Deitch

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Kim Deitch : The Amazing, Enlightening And Absolutely True Adventures of Katherine Whaley before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Amazing, Enlightening And Absolutely True Adventures of Katherine Whaley:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fiction stranger than truthBy Tom ParmenterA typical page in a graphic novel is a large, over-designed picture of a lock with a stylized KLIK! superimposed, followed by the ever-popular frightened eyeball, a silhouette of a cat, and an overturned wastebasket. On the other hand, it may just be a comic book, more nicely finished, kinkier, and larger format than what you might call a "real" comic book.Kim Deitch's first graphic novel is like no other, plenty of pictures in Deitch's familiar style where everyone looks slightly electrified, but what the surprise is that the pictures are surrounded by provocative text purporting to tell the story of Katherine Whaley, through whose eyes we see glimpses of the development of movies and the avant garde of the early 20th century, interspersed with disquisitions on evolution, history of religion, the French Revolution, and lumbering in upstate New York, all of which may provoke thoughts of utterly unexpected possibilities. Katherine Whaley is forever shedding her clothes, but she never sheds her honesty or her innocence, surrounded though she is by drunkards, definitely, and confidence men, possibly.There's stimulation on every page. You'll be dismayed to see that you're getting near the end but there is nothing unsatisfying about completing the book. The tone is totally controlled, bemused humor, decadence, like nothing you've ever read before, even if you've read every other Deitch book and every other graphic novel. It draws you in and carries you along and climaxes with satisfaction. You won't begrudge the time or money spent on this fine book, beautiful drawings, smooth text.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Kim delivers a unique reading experience.By DE BurkeReading this book is like visiting another universe. If you are a fan of Kim Deitch you will enjoy this book. The art is gorgeous. It's a deep book. You can't read or digest it all in one sitting. The printing and binding are very nice as well.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy richard fineoFantastic. Where do these stories come from? Amazing!

Kim Deitch's first work conceived of and executed as a graphic novel follows the scandalous adventures of a young woman whom an eccentric wants to put in a film serial. This is a story about a girl, born at the beginning of the 20th century. She grows up in a small river town in upstate New York. One day the mysterious Charles Varnay, an eccentric who dresses in the style of an 18th century dandy, comes to town, his sole companion a remarkably intelligent dog named Rousseau. Varnay wants to star Katherine in a movie serial he plans to make, called *The Goddess of Enlightenment*. Katherine is rather put off when she discovers that he expects her to appear nude in this film. But even more strange is the film's subject matter: It has to do with 12 metal cylinders that Varnay claims are actual recordings of the voice of Jesus Christ which, he says, contain an urgent message that the modern world needs to hear! Varnay also claims that his dog, Rousseau, is the product of experiments he has been making in advanced selective breeding. He's eager to continue these experiments with human subjects; Katherine realizes that he's expecting her to be a part of this, and it worries her... *The Amazing, Enlightening and Absolutely True Adventures of Katherine Whaley* is a full-length graphic novel created in a striking widescreen landscape format that allows Deitch to give full rein to his astonishing graphics. BW illustrations throughout

From Publishers Weekly **Starred**. Underground legend Deitch has crafted his first full-length graphic novel, using material related to characters who figured into his earlier work *The Sunshine Girl*, resulting in one of the weirdest, funniest, and best books of the year. In this alternative history of American popular culture, a young woman named Ellie conveys to Deitch's fictive doppelgänger the story of her Aunt Kate, who lived through the entire 20th century and saw many of its innovations and eccentricities up close. As a young woman, she enjoys a brief spell as an accidental silent film star, until she meets the shadowy Charles Andreas Varnay and his dog, Rousseau. Varnay quickly enlists Kate to be his loyal aide in his ambitious plot to reveal to the world a secret that will bring about true human enlightenment. Meanwhile, Kate's life becomes a parade of 20th century American philosophical fads, particularly those rooted in the entertainment business, pseudoscience, commercialized spiritualism, and general quackery. The story is earnestly told from Kate's wide-eyed perspective and achieves a tone that emphasizes the multifaceted nature of human experience. The text-heavy book is formatted more like an illustrated novel than a comic, but it never plods, aided by a fast, incident-filled pace and Deitch's humorous, detailed, black-and-white illustrations. (Aug.) **From Booklist **Starred**** * In 1913, in an upstate New York boomtown gone bust, Katherine Whaley teaches school and plays piano in the sole thriving business, a movie theater. She enjoys the adventurous movie serials starring Pearl White, Ruth Roland, Grace Cunard and Molly ODare (see Deitch's *Shadowland*, 2006), for whom Katherine stands in when the drunken star comes to town, drawing the attention of the man who soon changes her life, Charles Varnay. Rich, eccentric Varnay recruits Katherine to star in a serial he will make based on her resemblance (in the nude, no less) to the ancient statue of an original follower of Jesus that he found along with first-century recordings of the Messiah's voice that make his teachings much clearer than the Gospels do. The yarn Deitch spins around that outrageous premise includes surprisingly less of the supernatural and many more words than usual, which wrap around the panels and are carefully chosen to project the heroine's personality that of a smart but unpretentious woman who once had an utterly fantastic adventure. Even more riveting than Deitch's other spellbinders. --Ray Olson **About the Author** Kim Deitch lives in New York, NY, with his wife, the artist Pamela Butler. His books include *The Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, *Shadowland*, *Alias the Cat*, and *The Search for Smilin' Ed*!