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First Year Healthy



Synopsis

A mysterious, unsettling parable from one of North America's most popular cartoonists First Year Healthy purports to be the story of a young woman, recently released from the hospital after an outburst, and her burgeoning relationship with an odd, perhaps criminal Turkish immigrant. In a scant forty-five pages, working with a vibrant, otherworldly palette of magentas, yellows, and grays, Michael DeForge brings to life a world whose shifting realities are as treacherous as the thin ice its narrator walks on. First Year Healthy is all it appears to be and more: a parable about mental illness, a folktale about magical cats, and a bizarre, compelling story about relationships. DeForge's singular voice and vision have, in a few short years, rocketed his work to the apex of the contemporary comics canon. Ant Colony was his first book with Drawn & Quarterly: It appeared on The New York Times Graphic Bestseller List and was lauded by the Chicago Tribune, The Globe and Mail, and Harper's Magazine. His effortless storytelling and eye for striking page design make each page of First Year Healthy a fascinating puzzle to be unraveled. First Year Healthy, knotty and mysterious, demands to be read and reread.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“DeForge always seems utterly in control--from the dreamscape-on-drugs palette of electric blues, acid tangerines and lemon yellows, to the deft world-building worthy of Jack Kirby.”
—The Washington Post

Michael DeForge was born in 1987 and grew up in Ottawa, Ontario. After a few years of

experimenting with short strips and zines, he created Lose #1, his first full-length comic, for which he won Best Emerging Talent at the Doug Wright Awards. He has since published a handful of comic books, which have received industry praise and two Eisner Award nominations. His illustrations have been published in The New York Times and Bloomberg View; his comics have appeared in The Believer, Maisonneuve, and the Adventure Time comic book series.

I love DeForge's work, but for me this was too thin for a solo, hardback release. When an artist is telling a narrative using full pages, you just expect them to really push themselves, make those pages count, but this felt like something that should have been condensed and left to one of his collections/comic rather than a grand, specialty release.

It's DeForge and it might not be fit everyone, but I loved it as much as any of his past work. His work is like an impressionistic painting. If you're looking for a journey into the surreal buy it and enjoy the ride.

weird and pretty

it is a beautiful book i wish it was longer

Love the art. Story was odd and a lot shorter than I had thought.

love this guy. another solid journey

I don't get it. Maybe I'm just not smart enough.

DeForge's work at its prime: the breadth of existential anxiety, impressionistic surrealism, and consistent jabs at what the unwary would consider the off-puttingly "grotesque." FYH's storytelling, while short, is absolutely phenomenal from the amount DeForge leaves you to unpack both as you read, and perform inevitable rereads of the solemn tale he spans over every well-crafted page. While many - including myself - are used to the "bang for my buck mentality" meaning more pages gives a text worth, FYH, if read with the admiration I feel it deserves, is well worth the price.

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