



## After Eden

*Arnold Arre*

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Ultimately, After Eden can be summed up in these words: "For every two people who fall in love, Adam and Eve are reborn." - Arnold Arre, September 2002

After Eden tells the story of Celine and Jon, estranged childhood friends who bonded over nasty pranks and seesaws. A mall brawl and an automobile mishap bring them together, sparking the genesis of a romance that changes six lives.

(from <http://en.wikipilipinas.org/>)

## After Eden Details

Date : Published 2002 by Adarna House

ISBN :

Author : Arnold Arre

Format : Graphic Novel

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Romance, Comics, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review After Eden for online ebook

### PurplyCookie says

This graphic novel didn't disappoint (although it would've been better if the elements of good/evil were not included) what with Arre depicting our lives after we have lost our innocence and idealisms in terms of the concept of love.

For indeed, how do we cope with relationships & the concept of love after graduating from academics? Where do we pick ourselves up in the dating scene (or lack thereof) when we're all office androids working 9 hours per day? Where do you go after you're done with Sesame Street and the cushion that is your dependence of things that are familiar to you? How do you figure things out when your only companion on those gimik nights are your friends and a cup of coffee or a bottle of beer (pick your poison)?

This isn't chicklit, mind you, but it does offer you two extreme perspectives: It offers you the side of one in love, the voices of each gender of that couple; you hear their thoughts as they go through the notions of finding the one, making the other realize that you're the one for him/her as well as the adjustments to the hazy floating-on-cloud-nine world of starting the relationship.

You realize, with a start that, in as much as you can relate to the puppy-dog innocence of the first blush of love (lust?), that you can also relate to the grief felt after every failed relationship, the lack of a relationship in your life per se, and the bitterness of one who stands in the sidelines watching other people's perfect love affairs unfold.

*"I told you this would happen! I told you a hundred times! But did you listen?! No--because your brain was too deep in mush to care!!"*

*"I was dumb back then! We ALL were!!"*

More than once, I have felt that anger at the world...of the unfairness that is a botched relationship after another. Aren't you just like me? Tired of looking for the one: that perfect concept of your supposed life partner?

I think what makes this story works (aside from the visual rendering) are the dialogues. I find Arre's dialogues quite eloquent, in that modern-day edge that can only be his.

### Book Details:

Title After Eden

Author Arnold Arre

Reviewed By Purplycookie

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### Ivy Catherine says

"And if it's strong enough, sometimes we find our way back."

-Oprhan Black

Experiencing pain and happiness after reading the graphic novel.

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### **DC says**

This is a book about falling in love... and staying in love.

I was already labeling this as one of the most beautiful books I have ever read (with just a few pages in). I fell in love when the characters fell in love; I wept with passion when sadness fell so suddenly in-between these pages; I was torn apart as a relationship was slowly being broken. This book really clung to me, with its magic and simple wonder gripping me. You won't regret reading this, especially if you're a hopeless romantic.

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### **Tays says**

Never got the chance to read the first edition, so I'm only reviewing the 2016 one.

Being the third Arre title that I picked up, and coming right after Halina Filipina. I haven't had the chance to read Arre's work when it comes to mythical creatures and what not. I have Andong Agimat and The Mythology Class still on my to do read. With that said, this book is quite similar to Halina Filipina. I believe this was written before that though, atleast the original first edition one. In any case, even with the revamped new version, I still fancy Halina Filipina more than this one.

After Eden tells a story about childhood friends who accidentally bumps into each other after a long time and eventually falls in love. What comes next is a series of mushiness, then some heartaches and betrayal and ultimately a deus ex machina that pieces everything else all together. It's somewhat predictable but still an enjoyable read. Especially to young ones I guess. I think what I can say that I like the most out of this book is that it's basically just a feel good read. Kinda like when you feel good film. While I'm at it, I think if someone would adapt this into a film, I'm pretty sure tons of people would see it, seeing as how addicted Filipinos are to love stories and what not.

Nevertheless, it's not the best Arre book out there but it's good. Halina Filipina holds that top spot for me I guess.

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### **K.D. Absolutely says**

One of the most memorable local graphic novel that I've read. It's just that I felt too old for this kind of literary work. Yes, graphic works are still literature. Let's not debate about that. For me, the only difference that I see is that instead of spending hours or days reading narratives, you just have to see the pictures and follow what's happening. If prose writers spend a lot of time describing how their characters feel in a particular scene, in graphic works, the artists just draw them with sad or happy faces. Arnold Arre is brilliant in that department. Why? Because when I bought this book in one of the recent Komikons at Bayanihan in the Unilab compound, I queued with lots of teenagers and got his autograph. You know what he did? He drew my face! And I looked like my 20ish self. Thirty years younger! That's why he is good.

Content-wise, this is a story of how your own friends can ruin your relationship with your girlfriend or boyfriend. Some people can be eaten by envy and they have one goal in life: for everyone around them to be as miserable as they are. The falling in love, falling out of love and falling back in love again that many of my young friends like in this book is so passe (gasgas) but I could not blame them because they are young. I was like that too when I was their age.

Overall, as I said this is a memorable graphic book. I love some of the scenes especially when the lovers are in the mountaintop overlooking the city and fighting or when they are in front of the huge monitor with lots of people around them that reminded me of that Closeup event when young couples show the whole world how long they can stand kissing their significant other. This is my fifth Arre and I always enjoy his dramatic lovely scenes. There is still some remnants of that age my young bookish friends are in now. And I am happy I can still relate, albeit just a bit, to this book. Or to them.

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### **Sheryl says**

Sappy soppy love!  
Love wins! Love always wins!

My first Arre and am so looking forward to reading another one. :)

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### **Marj Casal says**

Changing my rating to 5 stars after an enlightening discussion with a fan. :D

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### **Diane says**

Thank you for making the rest of us feel lonely and miserable!

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### **Nicolo Yu says**

I only got to read this book when my friend, whom I've lent my first issue of Stardust, lost my book and replaced it with this title. I wasn't disappointed. It's a great read and a worthy replacement. My only complaint would be that the binding is faulty, freeing pages after multiple readings.

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### **Anne says**

I read the first edition of this graphic novel and re-reading the revamped edition still gives me so much feels. I know this is the love story of Jon and Celine, but I've always been a Greg and Lea fan. They crack me up so

much and their story is more striking despite being supporting characters. I love Arre's wit and humor, and the brilliance behind this wonderful masterpiece. I can always count on Arre for a compelling read in his graphic novels.

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### **Joy says**

"Look--the point is this: Out there is a season for you, but you'll only meet it once. It stays for a while, then it goes away. So don't lose it. Hold on to it. Never let it go. Let it know that it's loved. Let it know that you long for it. Because when you do it will have finally found a home. And you'll always have that season in your heart no matter what time of the year it is."

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### **Angeli says**

I remember seeing a friend post about this graphic novel and say that it is good way back when. I did check the blurb after and place it on my to-read list. Then, yesterday, a (different) friend shared her love for Mr. Arnold Arre's works and wanted to attend his talk the following day (aka today). She had other plans so she couldn't go so another friend and I went to the talk. I got myself a copy and read it while waiting for the talk to start.

IT. IS. A-MA-ZING.

I felt like I was being sucked into the story of Celine and Jon, two childhood friends who crossed paths after an accident, and their friends. They end up falling in love and it's so magical how they are perfectly happy together. Of course, there are those who couldn't be happy with the changes happening -- Celine focusing more on Jon and vice versa. Their solution is to ruin their relationship and throughout the graphic novel, you see the challenges and hardships the couple and their friends go through. All in all, I found the story timeless and easily relateable -- how hard it is to find someone who could understand you well and how hard it is to keep the relationship without communication.

I also like the angels and devils. They remind me of La Muerte and Xibalba from "The Book of Life". They represent good and evil. They both have some extent/form of control with the destinies of the people.

The art is very nice. You can see what each character is feeling very clearly. Some are so exaggerated and you can really feel the emotion being expressed.

Overall, I'm really glad I read this and would definitely be on the watch for Sir Arnold's other works.

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### **Maria Ella says**

I liked Halina Filipina more but this got the feels fest, man. Imagine the author going cheesy and innocent while drawing the panels...

Gah, there's even that cheesy-I-will-be-at-the-end-of-the-see-saw-like hahahahahaha

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### **Joy Reyes says**

i loved this graphic novel. it made me remember some of the old *alamat* that your grandparents in the province sometimes talk about. the storyline is great, the graphics can be further improved. actually i liked the colorful poster in the end. :) it's a good thing arre set it in present time and not to mention in UP. :)

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### **Teri Pardue says**

I absolutely loved Arre's graphic novels Halina Filipina and Martial Law Babies. In fact, I recommend them to friends all the time, loan out my personal copies, and have referenced Martial Law Babies numerous times in discussions about Philippine OFWs, nationalism, and the like. That said, I'd been trying to track down a copy of After Eden for awhile and was excited to see it had been republished recently and is popping up in National Bookstores and Fully Booked.

Maybe I went into it with too much excitement, but I was a bit disappointed with this novel. I felt like the characters were always screaming and cursing in my face. I imagined at one point that I was digging through a pile of angry, shallow one-dimensional people to find a treasure underneath. There is a treasure there: the story is sweet and unique. I had to laugh at how the demons are portrayed as dirty cops... maybe a bit too fitting for those who live in Manila. I enjoyed how the gamer geeks connected their \*world\* with their reality, and Arre seems to have a knack for portraying 20somethings who are trying to find meaning and purpose in the world. I'll hold onto this one - and possibly reread it - but I don't think it's Arre's finest work. Martial Law Babies will probably always hold that place for me.

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