



The Acme Novelty Datebook, Vol. 2, 1995-2002

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Straggling behind the mild 2003 success of cartoonist Chris Ware's first facsimile collection of his miscellaneous sketches, notes, and adolescent fantasies arrives this second volume, updating weary readers with Ware's clichéd and outmoded insights from the late twentieth century.

Working directly in pen and ink, watercolor, and white-out whenever he makes a mistake, Ware has cannily edited out all legally sensitive and personally incriminating material from his private journals, carefully recomposing each page to simulate the appearance of an ordered mind and established aesthetic directive. All phone numbers, references to ex-girlfriends, "false starts," and embarrassing experiments with unfamiliar drawing media have been generously excised to present the reader with the most pleasant and colorful sketchbook reading experience available. Included are Ware's frustrated doodles for his book covers, angry personal assaults on friends, half-finished comic strips, and lengthy and tiresome fulminations of personal disappointments both social and sexual, as well as his now-beloved drawings of the generally miserable inhabitants of the city of Chicago. All in all, a necessary volume for fans of fine art, water-based media, and personal diatribe. This hardcover is attractively designed and easy to resell.

The Acme Novelty Datebook, Vol. 2, 1995-2002 Details

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Author : Chris Ware

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From Reader Review The Acme Novelty Datebook, Vol. 2, 1995-2002 for online ebook

Kate says

didn't finish. will try again when I have a longer attention span. great drawings. i appreciated all his self-doubt but it got a little tedious.

Warren says

Enjoyed the short travelogue comic about his trip to Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Paul says

My main problem with this book is its size. I would have had to get out a magnifying glass in order to read a lot of the cartoon text from Ware's sketchbook pages, and it simply wasn't worth the effort, so many of the intricate cartoons were left unread.

What was left was a wealth of incredible illustrations, and a wealth of Ware whining about his art, his life, and anything that came to mind. The guy is as bad as Brunetti, at times, but for some reason I find it funny with Brunetti, but sad with Ware. I'd give up a mistress for half of Ware's talent, and once I had that half-share of talent I'd let everyone know that I was the *Greatest Artist to Ever Grace Earth with His Illustrative Genius* but Ware spends most of the book complaining about what a failure he is. I found myself vacillating between thinking that Ware should spend less time whining and more time art-ing, and wondering if it was these delusions of failure that fuel his genius in the first place.

Still...genius it is, and I'll slap four stars on the table.

patricia says

it's much better to read his finished work - the date books or jimmy corigan - than this.

Jason says

This really puts things in perspective. An artist like Chris Ware saying he can't draw. It was almost funny, but mostly sad. It made me think of all the times I have shit on something I've done - is it just in my head? Ware does these perfect sketches of faces and hands and the majority of the time he writes next to the sketch, "This is shockingly bad," or "I cannot draw. What is wrong with me?" He just needs a good slap in the face. Or, as Tweedy would say, 'maybe all he needs is a shot in the arm.'

Chadwick says

I fucking hate Chris Ware. This book is filled with page after page of exquisite drawings, whether they be careful observational sketches, diary comics, or careful reproduction of a vintage add or book cover. And page of page of Ware's unbearable, whiny scrawl: "This drawing sucks! I'm terrible! I hate my life!" Fuck you Chris Ware.

Alohatiki says

This man is truly demented.

Mycala says

I find it heartbreaking the way this man doubts his abilities and beats himself up and I recognize that feeling myself with my own work sometimes. I don't know how many times I said out loud while reading this book, "Dude, are you kidding? You so do NOT suck, where do you get that idea?" I adore his work and have idolized him for a long time. I wish he weren't so hard on himself. I love seeing his creative process and he has been such an inspiration to me.

Diego Munoz says

Amazing collection of sketches.

In between some very rough work, are fully realized pieces.

jen says

Best read in small doses - otherwise you'll get a headache trying to read the very tiny lettering (I admit there were a few items I skipped that really needed a magnifying glass for viewing) and from the amount of self-hatred expressed by Ware. But definitely worth checking out if you are a Ware fan.

David Schaafsma says

This is essentially Ware's artist's journal, with amazing sketches and notes throughout. A datebook, okay! A sketchbook. One might have a tendency to think of his formal qualities, his almost obsessive attention to detail and forget what a great artist he really is, and what a warm and funny guy he is, as well. I had looked through it before, but it was a pleasure to look at it again.

Marie Lou says

Read none of the comics, I treasure my sight. Liked the drawings, but I really want to read a proper C.W comic, a readable one this time.

George Marshall says

Ware is the most talented and exceptional comic artist of his generation. As with any outstanding artist, it is a delight to have access to their insights and sketches. Sure, his self doubt is sometimes bizarre if not irritating (as other reviewers have said) but it is even more to his credit that he was prepared to share something so personal. And ultimately it is the art that is important and these sketches are entirely worthy of publication.

Michael says

Ware's huge hardcover sketchbook, filled with tons of life drawings, a few short cartoons (several unfinished), and lots of long-hand journal entries.

The good: the artwork. Even when it's rough, you can see what a talented illustrator Ware is, and his design sense is terrific.

The bad: the journal entries. I really loved the somber tone of Jimmy Corrigan, but I found slogging through Ware's "I have no talent or insights" lamentations extremely tedious. I couldn't read them all- I just haven't the willpower to subject myself to that degree of self-flagellation.
