



Jinchalo

Matthew Forsythe

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From the author of *Ojingogo*, another tale of enchantment and adventure

Jinchalo is Korean for “Really?” and that question (formulated variously as “What is and what isn’t?” “What is real?” and “What is imagined?”) is at the heart of this book. A companion to Matthew Forsythe’s vastly successful *Ojingogo*, *Jinchalo* stars the same little girl as its heroine. When the mischievous shape-shifter Jinchalo hatches from a mysterious egg, he starts our heroine adventuring anew. Magical troubles drag the pair out of the safety of her home, through the small village where she resides, up, up, and away. In the course of their flight, they visit a robot garden, follow a vine into the clouds, and leave the village far behind.

These comics are firmly rooted in Korean folktales and stylistic conventions, with a playful, joyous drawn line. *Jinchalo* welcomes readers back into Forsythe’s Miyazaki-tinged dreamscape where spotted octopi fly and bears give piggyback rides, where hummingbirds are larger than people and a sad furry monster wearing a bowler hat lurks around every corner. Forsythe uses page space innovatively in this wordless, panel-less book, and his storytelling is compelling for all ages, both simple and intricately detailed.

Jinchalo Details

Date : Published February 14th 2012 by Drawn and Quarterly

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Author : Matthew Forsythe

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From Reader Review Jinchalo for online ebook

Melki says

A freaky little head trip of a book!

This wordless graphic novel features morphing birds, a little girl who loves to eat, and a whole cast of characters straight out of a Hayao Miyazaki film. (Look for a close cousin of the Radish Spirit and clones of the long armed robot from Castle in the Sky.)

Inspired by Korean comics and folk tales, this is a clever, quick read, suitable for all ages.

Erica says

This nearly wordless, surreal gem is exquisitely strange and absolutely delightful. It stars a little girl who literally eats herself out of house and home as she consumes everything in sight and is sent to the market. There she finds an egg that hatches into a shapeshifter and leads her on a series of strange journeys including one seemingly meta-fictional one where she calls a time-out and asks that Forsythe alter his drawing. Being nearly wordless it would be great to give to a child and ask them to describe what's happening in the story. Adult fans of the surreal are sure to enjoy it as well.

Read more of my reviews at: <http://auldschoollibrarian.blogspot.com/>

Donovan says

beautiful, confusing.....but beautiful.

Sam Quixote says

A hungry little girl eats everything in her house driving her dad crazy so he sends her to the village to stock up on supplies. What starts as a simple errand turns into a delightfully bonkers adventure as the little girl encounters mischievous shape-shifters, giant birds, robot gardens and a vine that reaches into the clouds.

Matthew Forsythe draws wordless beautiful line drawings in the style of Korean comics without the panels to create a lovely, creative story that reminded me a lot of Hayao Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli movies and Jim Woodring's "Unifactor" world. The strange creatures and sense of wonder throughout reinforce this impression and draws the reader in as an initially-straightforward story goes off in a variety of imaginative directions that are all compelling.

“Jinchalo” (Korean for “Really?”) is a charming and wonderful comic that will appeal to readers of all ages.

Phoenix says

Some interesting ideas and a cute and surreal story. At times, I felt a little lost, but I don't mind so much, as overall I enjoyed the experience of reading this (almost) wordless comic. The artwork is very lively too and at times put me in mind of Adventure Time with its quirky charm. No surprise that Matthew Forsythe has worked on the show. :)

Miriam says

It was cute, I guess, but I didn't get much out of it.

First Second Books says

My current favorite graphic novel. Just pure fantasy, a surreal, sweet delight that's part Miyazaki, part Jim Woodring, part something else you've never seen before.

Charles Hatfield says

Jinchalo is a joy. I know no more about author Matthew Forsythe than the book's jacket tells me, having not read his previous books, but now I'm studying up at his website, <http://comingupforair.net>, because he's *that good*.

Jinchalo is a fairy tale of sorts, and a shaggy-dog quest narrative too. It claims inspiration from Korean comics and tales, and indeed a Korean student at my school paged through the book and told me that it reminded him very much of certain Korean children's books. Almost wordlessly (but for the odd scrap of Korean text), it tells the story of a ravenous little girl who devours all the food around her and is therefore sent to market to get some more. There she encounters the title creature, a shapeshifter that takes many forms, including, eventually, the form of the girl herself. A chase/quest ensues—frenetic, unfinished, probably pointless—and by book's end I frankly wasn't sure *which* version of the little girl I was looking at. Along the way fairy tale and Miyazaki riffs keep popping up, and often ending in midair, or in some narrative cul-de-sac apart from the book's main thrust, if indeed I can even say the book has a "main thrust." So what? The trip is transporting, magical, witty and provocative, and deliriously well drawn. Gorgeously toned in two colors, *Jinchalo* is a sweet, hand-sized paperback that boasts a surpassing elegance of design, inside and out. I read the book twice straight through, right away, marveling in the surehandedness of the cartooning (scruffy and elegant, minimal yet lush, all at once) and digging for narrative clues.

In the end, I wasn't sure I had understood the tale properly—a serious problem in most other instances—but wasn't worried. *Jinchalo* creates a world—a surreal fantasyland—and I'd be happy to have another wallow in it. Forsythe's images sing, his characters are funny, his reversals and transitions are startling, and his work seems profoundly good-natured. A self-reflexive, metacomic turn late in the book is just one of many sly delights scattered along the way. Great stuff.

A Taylor says

The part that I truly enjoyed about this little story was the fact that nothing was really explained, it is a brilliant wordless comic. It leaves much of the story to the imagination, but not so much that it became disgruntling, which is, more often than not, the case with a fair number of stories that attempt this formula unsuccessfully. The art and the story are perfect and it is, overall, very enjoyable.

Shannon says

Randomly borrowed from the library. No words, artwork doesn't make sense, story doesn't make sense, seemingly nothing to follow or understand. This feels like one of those things someone would say, "You just don't *get* it, man. Open your *mind*."

No.

I shouldn't have to read other reviews to try to figure out what the hell I just read.

Nate D says

Near-wordless fantasia built of bits (apparently) of Korean myth. Spews out fanciful idea much more rapidly than they can be developed (or, occasionally, made sense of), but also suffused in general adorableness. Or probably an overabundance of adorableness. Has its moments of magic though.

Bess Y. says

I saw a few illustrations from "Jinchalo" on one of the illustration blogs I follow and immediately wanted to find this book. I found it, loved it, and it has been added to my bookshelf. Such a fun story to read again and again.

Amanda says

How odd and imaginative and wonderful was this? I could totally see manga kids loving this even though its not manga. Really great art with funny details like peeing dogs and puking monster-sized birds, all those things kids go nuts for.

Forrest says

With a bit more linearity than Forsythe's Eisner-nominated *Ojingogo*, Jinchalo still delivers most of the goods, including the giant egg that contains . . . well, I'm not going to spoil that for you. Just note that I said a "bit" more linearity than its predecessor. You'll be caught in a surreal loop again by the time you're done. This time through, Forsythe introduces three English words into the graphic novel which, while spoiling the innocence of the completely wordless *Ojingogo*, intentionally decontextualizes the words "dog", "apple", and "ogre" in a way that would make Saussure proud. While it is a titch muted from its younger sibling, Jinchalo is still a vibrant un-voice in the graphic novel choir.

Heidi says

This book reminded me of Miyazaki movies with the odd fanciful characters, the Asian setting, and of course a small child on a quest. It is very cute and imaginative. The book is wordless mostly, but it would be fun to look at/talk about with kids.
