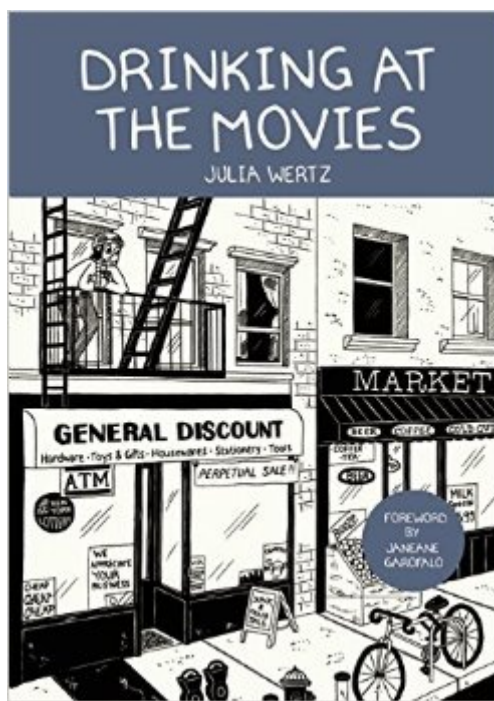


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Drinking At The Movies



Synopsis

Representing Julia Wertz's critically acclaimed first graphic memoir in a new format, with a brand new sketchbook from Wertz, and an introduction by Janeane Garofalo. But don't worry; we haven't replaced any of the wrenching and ribald, whiskey-soaked coming-of-age tale. This is Wertz at her best, which is sometimes her worst. Julia Wertz lives and works in Brooklyn. She is the author of the autobiographic comic books *The Fart Party Vols. 1 and 2* (Atomic Books, 2007, 2009). Both volumes were collected as *Museum of Mistakes* in 2014, *Drinking at the Movies* (Random House, 2010) and *The Infinite Wait and Other Stories* (Koyama Press, 2012).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was the first book I've read from Julia Wertz, and I must admit, the alcoholic in me was intrigued by the title, and the indie comic fan in me was wondering if the book would deliver. For who I am, where I am, I found this story at just the right time. If you've ever picked up stakes and moved to some foreign place, faced with the worry of rent, bills, and general month-to-month financial surprises, still unsure about what you're doing with your life and where it's currently going, get this book. There's something strangely calming about reading someone else's testament to the real world and coping with the joys and pitfalls of independence. Constantly moving between apathy and general depression, all with self-deprecating humor and the occasional small-victory joy, there's a comfort knowing that others have in fact been where you are (often in even deeper trenches than you're in now) and being able to see an albeit romanticized view of the trials and tribulations you

and others are, are going to, and have been through. It's the idea of knowing that in a world of rule followers, and breakers, there is a path for the middle-minded, and you might even come out on the other side alive, if not thriving. Excuse the optimism in these too-dark times, sometimes getting by is more than enough. Contrasted by an environment somewhat paralleled today, being that the backdrop is early thousand's bush era and the current fallout of today, it gives neither heavy weight or ignorance of what was happening, and therefore not overly political. Which is good, in our current trend of finger pointing and placing blame, we often miss the everyman's (in this case, everywoman's) real world perspective of " Well, it happened. How am I going to deal with it?

I thought I was tired of autobiographical comics, but after reading this gem by Julia Wertz, I realized I was only tired of diary strips (or to use the upscale term, "œographic memoirs" •) with nothing to say. In contrast, Wertz has in *Drinking at the Movies* a simple concept for a through-line: how and why she moved to New York (Brooklyn, specifically) from San Francisco. It's not an unfamiliar story " and that makes it more relatable, as most of us have wound up in a new city and struggled to become comfortable there " but her observations are unique and well-told. Plus, New York is The City for many people, the only one that matters, so everything there takes on a bigger significance, bringing more depth to her challenges. Anyone who's been there can relate to travel confusion, the city's heat in summer, the dirt, crazy people, and the problem of finding a decent place to live. Wertz has a good sense of history, placing her acts in the context of bigger happenings. In other words, it's not all about her, which makes the focus on her more palatable. Wertz's style is simple but skilled, comfortable but capable of telling her story. The flat figures are still expressive, and without flashy graphic tricks, the reader can concentrate on the meaning of what she's telling us. The first four pages sum up how quickly things can change, taking us from what sounds like a pretty good time to an unsatisfying existence, full of loss " loved ones, job, and so on. Once she's moved, the book settles into moments that make up daily life, with (as suggested by the title) plenty of drinking when she doesn't know what else to do. She perfectly captures the problem of not being happy with who and where you are but not knowing where you want to be.

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