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Heads Or Tails



Synopsis

This is an award-winning, one-woman anthology of short comics fiction, which previously appeared in books such as Best American Nonrequired Reading. The comics collected in Heads or Tails display a virtuosic breadth of visual styles and color palettes, each in perfect service to the story; they range from experimental one-pagers to masterpieces like "The Thing About Madeline" (featured in The Best American Comics 2008), to novellas like "The Carnival" (featured in David Sedaris' and Dave Eggers' 2010 Best American Nonrequired Reading). Carr's elegant stories read like the gothic family narratives of Flannery O'Connor or Carson McCullers. Poetic rhythms—a coin flip, a circling Ferris wheel—are punctuated by elements of melancholic fantasy, and are pushed forward by character-driven, naturalistic dialogue. Full color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I rarely have bad dreams, but when I do it usually revolves around being unprepared or being in an insane time crunch. I might be packing a suitcase and I can't find a piece of clothing. I get stuck in a kind of time loop, frantically digging around drawers and turning up nothing. Meanwhile, the cab is waiting outside or I can see a giant clock or maybe I can see the plane from an airport lounge about to take off without me. I don't know what Freud would say but I can imagine this kind of dream sequence squeezed inside the pages of Heads or Tails. Heads or Tails by Lilli Carr is an odd collection of short stories that visually strike a light, whimsical tone but are deceptively dark, even bordering on gothic. There is a streak of breathy melancholy in the surreal snippets created by

Carr's work that reminded me of something from a Marc Chagall painting. Dreams are often thought of as illogical but despite their bizarre topsy-turvyness, there's always an emotional rationale, right? Dream logic. Lilli Carr's stories blur that line between the mundane of waking life and the weird of some alternate reality of that waking life. In "Wishy Washy," a smug art critic who judges flower arrangements for a living wakes up one day and finds he has lost his ability to judge. That one was profound. In "The Thing About Madeleine," a woman encounters her double sleeping in her bed. She lets this other woman take over her life and enjoys watching a 'better' version of herself: like watching a movie with the sound turned low. In "The Flip," a woman tosses a coin and waits and waits. When the coin never reappears, she is stuck, frozen in her decision-making.

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