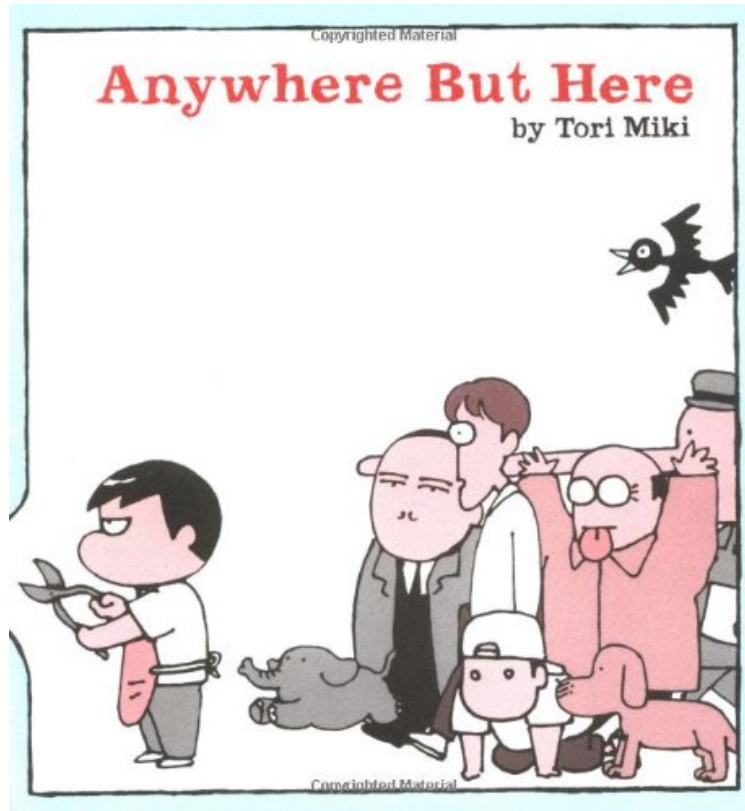


Anywhere But Here

Tori Miki

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#3237649 in Books 2005-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .32 x 6.50 x 7.16l, #File Name: 156097630696 pages | File size: 53.Mb

Tori Miki : Anywhere But Here before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anywhere But Here:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The un-GarfieldBy Mauricio BussabThis is a collection of one-page stories without text and unrelated to each other. The drawings are deceptively cute and more or less traditional. But the scripts are completely refreshing and read like something written in another planet. I don't know how to compare it to anything else, it is THAT original. The closest parallel I can find is to very old stuff like the Rarebit Fiend series by Winsor McKay or his Little Nemo, surreal and dream-like. But here there are no words, ever. Some of the stories are laugh out loud funny. Some are surreal. Some are just very cute. A few I just don't get and read to me more like a zen mantra. This is no Garfield, it is unlike any other type of humor you've ever encountered. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Getting some great reviewsBy T. SmithEntertainment Weekly chose it #1 on their "Must List" in their April 8, 2005 issue and had this to say: "Sublime and silly: Nothing's lost in translation in these wordless Japanese strips and their bone-dry Zen humor." Publishers Weekly gave it a starred review in their May 9th issue: "The strips always begin with a simple premise: the man walking, fishing, talking or looking, and then, around panel six or seven, a surreal twist takes shape, revealing itself in the very last panel for maximum effect. Each development is wonderfully hallucinatory and inventive--never monotonous or predictable." Volume 2 is already in production and readers can expect more of the same twisted humor. Give it a try!

The American debut of one of Japan's most distinctive humorous voices. Tori Miki has won awards for his essays, screenplays and manga, including the prestigious Bunshun Manga Award. With four best-selling volumes released to date, the comic strip series *Anywhere But Here* is one of his greatest successes, Running weekly in Japan's *TV Bros*, a respected magazine of television and media criticism, *Anywhere But Here* is a wordless comic strip that could perhaps best be described as "Monty Python meets *The Far Side* meets Zen humor." Miki's unnamed lead character (modeled after himself) works as a bookstore owner but somehow finds himself entangled with aliens, alternate realities, and other mysterious disturbances in the space-time continuum. Like Gary Larson's *The Far Side*, *Anywhere But Here* can leave you scratching your head in bemusement almost as often as it makes you laugh, but we've selected the very best of his first two volumes for this special collection, printed in an elegant two-color edition.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Miki is a renowned Japanese cartoonist and writer who specializes in the kind of scratch-your-head-and-laugh humor popularized in comics like *Nancy* and *The Far Side*. His unnamed protagonist is a squat little bookstore clerk of blank expression and deadpan movements. Each adventure occurs in just nine well-paced panels on a single page. The strips always begin with a simple premise: the man walking, fishing, talking or looking, and then, around panel six or seven, a surreal twist takes shape, revealing itself in the very last panel for maximum effect. Each development is wonderfully hallucinatory and inventiveness never monotonous or predictable. Miki's patient, steady storytelling is well suited to his quirky artwork, which looks a little like manga around the eyes, but thereafter departs into his own seductively simple-looking cartoon language. With minimal tools, Miki portrays all sorts of expressions and atmospheres in his vignettes. Characters' limbs elongate, deform and are cut off; others turn into objects, and still others are monstrous looking. Miki treats them all the same, his poker-faced humor evident in every line. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Wordless comics come no more demanding than the nine-panel creations of Miki, a media and literary critic, prolific translator from English, and anime scripter as well as cartoonist. *Anywhere but Here* samples Miki's regular feature of the same name that has run in a Japanese analogue of *TV Guide* since 1988. The central character in every installment--a short, round-headed fellow with a bowl-shaped haircut, half-moon eyes, and a mouth drawn in only when it can be expressive--is ostensibly Miki. Other people and animals participate, as needed. The American cartoon Miki's most resembles is the Sunday episodes of Irving Phillips' *Strange World of Mr. Mum*, which far more often than Carl Anderson's famous *Henry* ventured into the kind of get-it-or-don't situations that Miki characteristically conjures. Some of the sight gags are fairly straightforward: our man photographs a Loch Ness-style monster and later sees a man, woman, and child whose hairdos recapitulate the sea beast's head, spinal fins, and tail. Others are stranger and less explicable. All amuse, even if, finally, you don't get them. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Tori Miki scripted the recently released anime movie, *Patlabor WXIII*, which has been submitted for an Oscar nomination. He has published over 20 volumes of collected essays, comics, and media criticism.