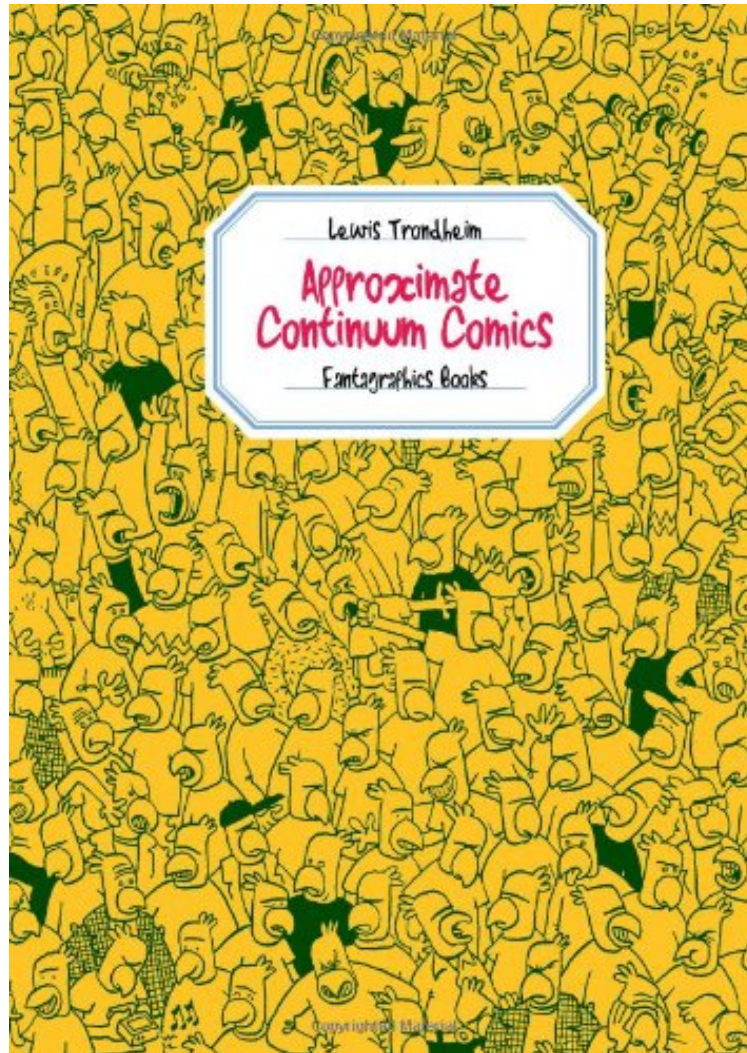


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Approximate Continuum Comics

Lewis Trondheim

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Lewis Trondheim : Approximate Continuum Comics before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Approximate Continuum Comics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great autobio comicxBy Kindle CustomerSure, this material is close to 15 years old already, but it's still pretty easy to love. Give it a read, you'll love it too.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classic of hilarious autobiographyBy Michael 'De Smurfhrer' ThomsenAfter years of following Trondheim's autobiographical "Little Nothings" series, I finally got the chance to read the volume that started it all. I've seen the french edition of this book described as a classic of comic book autobiography, and I have to say that it lives up to the hype. It is extremely funny, and it's probably the most enjoyable Trondheim book in print in

English. It should appeal to everyone who has a soft spot for self-deprecating neurotics in the vein of Robert Crumb, Woody Allen and Larry David. Admittedly I kinda miss the beautiful watercolors he would start using in the later series. Also I don't like the way he draws his wife in this book, her bird-like features look more female in the "Little Nothings" books. But apart from that, I have nothing bad to say about his thoroughly enjoyable tome. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The net effect is both satisfying and likely to leave you wanting just a little bit more. By GraphicNovelReporter.com

If you're not yet familiar with the comics of Lewis Trondheim, you probably should be. One of France's top creators, Trondheim's work is just starting to regularly appear on these shores. Two series dominate his American appearances: the *Dungeon* graphic novels with Joann Sfar and other collaborators; and his autobiographical travelogues, *Little Nothings*. Both of those series are published by NBM, but for many years prior to *Dungeon* and *Little Nothings*, Fantagraphics was Trondheim's American publisher, most notably with the black-and-white series *The Nimrod*, which ran 7 issues from 1988 to 2003. I only discovered Trondheim a couple of years ago, so *Nimrod* slipped under my radar, just as it did with too many US comics readers. Luckily, I found a few of the back issues this past winter, and they're great. One of the highlights was a series of autobiographical stories that looked at Trondheim's roles and misadventures in the Franco-Belgian comics scene. Those tales, along with a few chapters that have never appeared in the United States, are now collected in *Approximate Continuum Comics*. If you've read *Little Nothings*, you know that it is comprised of one-page vignettes, beautifully executed in watercolor. *Approximate Continuum Comics* is much earlier work (first drawn around 1993 and 1994), so it's looser, rougher, and not quite as developed artistically. It's also a deeper story, chronicling an important phase of Trondheim's life. These were the years he made his real leap from self-published upstart to internationally published superstar. It's a wonder how he got there. Trondheim (as depicted by Trondheim) is a mass of neuroses and tics. He's full of self-doubt and more than a little bit of anger. But what sets him apart from oh-so-many other autobiographical cartoonists is that he's also devoted to his life and his art. You might say that this is a book about beating yourself up in service of self-exploration, which itself is in service of creating great stories. As Trondheim tells his story, we get to meet the other players in his life, including his partner, Brigitte (whom he marries halfway through the book), and cartoonists David B., Emile Bravo, Didier Tronchet, Jean-Christophe Menu, Killofer, and Philippe Dupuy, among others. These are all creators growing up alongside him and creating their own careers, and as his main sounding boards, they are also the primary avenue upon which he throws his insecurities. Now, I'm not well versed in European comics, so I don't have much of a clue who most of these people are, and maybe some of the book would have meant something more if I were more familiar with them or their work, but luckily you don't need to know much about them or the French comics scene to read this book. Some passages and references went over my head, but it's not a history book, so it could be forgiven. The looseness of the art serves the story well, allowing Trondheim to depict a greater level of emotion than in his more recent stories, and also to be more surreal. Many segments of the book are dreamlike, which actually serves the diary aspect of the work well. It allows Trondheim to give his imagination form and to show how that imagination, which is his greatest asset, is on occasion also his worst enemy, since it allows him to blow any little event in his life way, way, way out of proportion. The book ends with a unique element: several pages of rebuttals from the other comics creators depicted throughout. These are both hilarious and insightful, providing a broader picture of the tales within, and of Trondheim himself. It's a great way to bring the collection to a close. By the way, the title of this book does give a hint as to its own weakness: As with most diary comics, *Approximate Continuum Comics* is not quite a complete story, but a collection of anecdotes that work together to tell a broader tale. Some details are missing, sometimes leaving you to wonder how Trondheim got from point A to point C. Some chapters end abruptly with no signal that the next page is the beginning of a new anecdote. A few story threads disappear. But the anecdotes are still more solid and deeper than those in *Little Nothings*, which restricts each story to a one-page gag. The net effect is both satisfying and likely to leave you wanting just a little bit more. If that means buying and reading your next Trondheim book, so be it. Reviewed by John R. Platt

The groundbreaking Trondheim autobio graphic novel: finally collected and released in English. One of the very first autobiographical graphic novels to come from France, Lewis Trondheims *Approximate Continuum Comics* set the standard for the honest, often hilarious chronicling of a cartoonists life. Trondheims typically graceful, confident cartooning shows him wrestling with his own demons (sometimes, in dream sequences, literally) and an often malevolent world, while trying to maintain his rising career as one of Europes most beloved cartoonists. *Approximate Continuum* finally brings American readers the first portion of the Trondheim autobio trilogy that also comprises the Eisner nominated *At Loose Ends* meditation serialized in *Mome* (which will be released as a graphic novel in 2012) and the ongoing *Little Nothings* series of short slice-of-life stories (three to date from NBM Publishing). This volume contains the first three chapters serialized in the *Nimrod* comic book, the last three (never-before-translated) chapters, and a hilarious rebuttal section in which Trondheims family and cartoonist friends (including Epileptic creator David B. and Trondheims mom) dispute (or ruefully agree with) Trondheims depictions. 160 pages of black-and-white and color comics

Trondheim, a 2006 Angoulême Festival Grand Prize winner, creates autobiographical sketches with a Seinfeld-ian mania for capturing the quotidian details of normal life, particularly its irritations. - Publishers Weekly
Trondheim suggests a French Woody Allen... Trondheim evokes, with the deft scrappiness of his agitated, angular figures, the universality of so many of our concerns and insecurities, and the completeness with which they surround us. - Max Winter, Boston Globe
Some of the very first autobiographical works on the French bande dessinée scene, these little gems were a genuine game-changer for cartoonists and storytellers... Trondheim's cartoon interior catalogue is always a supremely rewarding and enjoyable experience - Win Wiacek, Now Read This!
Trondheim is truly at the height of his powers in *Approximate Continuum Comics*. - Rob Clough, *The Comics Journal*
About the Author
Lewis Trondheim (one of the co-founders of the comics collective *L'Association*) lives and works in Montpellier, France. He won the career-spanning Angoulême International Comics Festival Grand Prize in 2006.