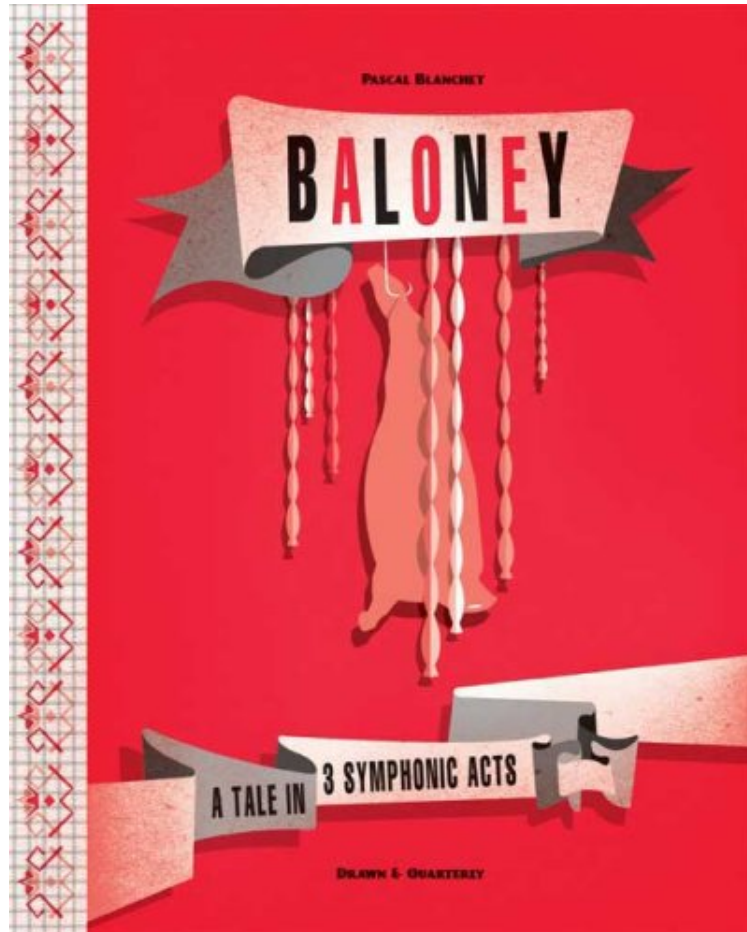


Baloney

Pascal Blanchet

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#6446534 in Books 2009-02-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .29 x 7.10 x 8.70l, .55 #File Name: 189729966480 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Pascal Blanchet : Baloney before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baloney:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Graphic novelBy Elaine O. ChaikaThe drawings are very good but the prose and plot are simplistic and appealing to a 5 year old. I guess graphic novels just aren't my thing altho I loved comic books when I was a kid. If u like graphic novels, you might give it 5 stars

A TALE IN THREE SYMPHONICACTS Following White Rapidsnamed Best Comic of 2007 by The OnionPascal Blanchet brings us Baloney. Winds swirl and darkness reigns over a hamlet perched atop a craggy peak. Russian fatalism sets the tone as Blanchet orchestrates the tale of a village butcher, his disabled daughter, and her tutor in their doomed uprising against the swaggering Duke Shostakov, local governor and owner of the only heating company in town. Curvy, retro lines and atmospheric, full-page panels evoke plaintive melodies, staccato passages, and soaring solos. In a graphic novel about love and despair that is also a homage to the music of the 1930s and 40s, double

bassists and trombonists lean into the frame, striking up a score that blends vaudeville with Kurt Weill and Russias great modern composers. Rendered in two-color, red-and-black chiaroscuro, light struggles to emerge from darkness and endurance makes way for heroism, all to no avail. Read Baloney as a reverie composed to the melodies of Prokofiev and Shostakovich: a beautiful conjuring of moods, or a call to arms against the exorbitant rates charged by utilities.

From BooklistNow this doesnt look like comics at all. Seemingly inspired by the 1950s Mister Magoo and Disney non-series-character cartoons as well as the commercial art of Jim Flora, Blanchet allows no more than one composition per page, though a few link across the gutter into two-page spreads. And it is as compositions that his images register. Their visual elements seem to be cutouts mounted on backdrops of pure white, black, or redthe only colors Blanchet uses, fading them into grays and pinks for occasional atmospheric effects. They illustrate the fable of a melancholy sausage-maker in a sunless city atop a peak. Years ago, his wife died and his daughter was maimed before his eyes, a coincidence so shocking that the ruling duke erected the wall that keeps the town dreary. Then an effervescent young man, the daughters long-awaited tutor, arrives. But alas. Appended is a playlist of classical selections (mostly Prokofiev and Shostakovich) to accompany the storys scenes. Blanchet fills a terminally maudlin tale with contradictory verve and charm, however futile. --Ray Olson Praise for White Rapids: Its rare to find a book as formally innovative and profoundly lovely as [White Rapids]. The Onion Blanchets drawings are like sheet music, too, each flowing naturally into the other as they not only tell the story of a singular place and time, but also deliver a subtle treatise about the toll progress takes on human scale. The Gazette (Montreal)