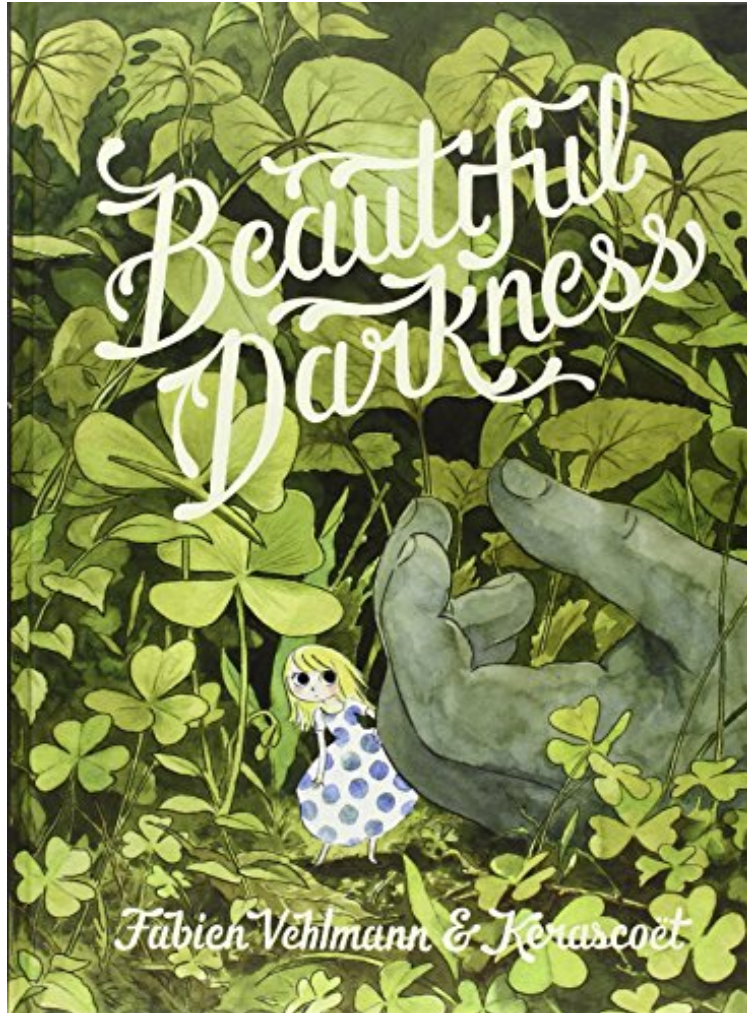


[Free] Beautiful Darkness

## Beautiful Darkness

*Fabien Vehlmann, Kerascot*  
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#54424 in Books imusti 2014-02-25 2014-02-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.22 x .60 x 8.291, 1.35  
#File Name: 177046129996 pagesDrawn and Quarterly | File size: 60.Mb

**Fabien Vehlmann, Kerascot : Beautiful Darkness** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beautiful Darkness:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Great European import from the good folks at Drawn Quarterly (spoilerless review)By A customer(Spoilerless review) This graphic novel starts out with little explanation as to who the characters are, how they got there, or what they're doing. But the story telling is so involving that you'll ultimately not care, with both writing and art that is fast paced and engrossing enough that by the time you realize the beginning was not a dream sequence you're already off and running into the next surprise. When you reach the ending you'll realize nothing was explained along the way, but will be strangely OK with it.The story centers around what appear to be a bunch of small fairy-tale type folk who live in the woods. Or are they dolls come to life? And where did they

come from, and how long have they been there? They almost feel as if they have just recently arrived, and at times you wonder if the small female lead is some manifestation of the real world body of a dead girl that is near their homes. As the only ethical person in the lot, she takes up the mantle of provider, trying to help others in this "lost boys" tribe of immature and bratty wee-folk, just as the decomposing dead body helps the nearby animals of the forest floor. Fans of Vertigo's "Fables" will like this, particularly those who think that long running series is now growing a little stale and could use a shot of creativity like what is on display here. The painted color artwork is often cartoony but still proficient, and works well with the little houses and their interiors for animals (think David Peterson's "Mouseguard" series, "Stuart Little", "A Cricket in Times Square", "The Rescuers", etc.). It also provides a nice foil to this fairy tale like story that starts out sweet but quickly turns the darkest shade of black. A strangely satisfying book considering it seems like it is both missing a beginning and leaves you wanting more at the end. Originally published in France, this English hard bound version comes in at 94 pages. No information on the writers or artist is included, making who put this book together and what else they have worked on almost as much of a mystery as the story they wrote. If you're looking for something fresh and new this is a great way to go. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful story. Beware By L. Hosier A wonderful story. Beware, when it says "Haunting" they really mean it's quite scary. This is not for your children as other reviewers have said! Definitely for teens or very mature/dark story loving preteens. This book really makes you wish for more, perfect marriage of cute, pretty art with dark, grim storytelling. The story starts off unassuming but beware, it gets good later on. As other reviewers have mentioned, this book is VERY French. The storytelling can seem aimless at times but it's more like a small collection of snippets from a long movie. Personally I love this style of comic but I can see why others wouldn't. They really got the child-like perspective down, very akin to Lord of the Flies. And even if you don't like the story, just look at that amazing art! Just wonderful watercolors. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Darkness in Watercolor By Jonathan Ruiz Beautiful watercolor graphic novel that will have you asking lots of questions after finishing reading it. The book itself has lots of nice little details everywhere and I love the artist's art style.

**BEST OF THE YEAR NODS FROM AMAZON.COM AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY!** "Kerascot render Aurora and her friends in the huge-eyed style of classic children's book illustrations, but cuteness is just another Darwinian survival strategy here. Even on her clover-high scale, as Aurora discovers, romance is decided by social pecking order and murderous deceit." Douglas Wolk, New York Times Kerascot's and Fabien Vehlmann's unsettling and gorgeous anti-fairy tale is a searing condemnation of our vast capacity for evil writ tiny. Join princess Aurora and her friends as they journey to civilization's heart of darkness in a bleak allegory about surviving the human experience. The sweet faces and bright leaves of Kerascot's delicate watercolors serve to highlight the evil that dwells beneath Vehlmann's story as pettiness, greed, and jealousy take over. Beautiful Darkness is a harrowing look behind the routine politeness and meaningless kindness of civilized society.

From School Library Journal Gr 9 Up What starts as a common fairy tale trope Prince Hector and Princess Aurora are having tea the day after a ball quickly turns dark and disturbing. The prince is charming but self-absorbed, and the princess is somewhat flighty and unprepared, when the ceiling appears to fall in, and they find themselves in a dark forest filled with other refugees, all Borrowers-small. While Aurora and her friend Plim adapt to their surroundings, taking charge and feeding the others they have found, Hector is only concerned with staring into space. None of the characters notice the dead body that they are playing on and living around (a human-sized girl, also named Aurora), and do not question where the items they are using are from (quite possibly the corpse's purse). The forest's animals do not speak, distancing this from other fairy tales. The end does not find our characters rescued but living in the shack of a hermitlike human man, referred to as a giant. The artwork is cartoonlike and colorful, in contrast with the morbid and macabre tone. All of the protagonists are wide-eyed, though the animals and bodies are drawn realistically. Purchase where teens like their graphic novels and fractured fairy tales on the dark side. Suanne B. Roush, formerly at Osceola High School, Seminole, FL From Booklist When Princess Aurora's world implodes, she puts her courtship with the handsome prince aside to help make a life for herself and the other fairylike folk of her kingdom who inhabit this gorgeous, brutal book by award-winning French writer Vehlmann (*Isle of 100,000 Graves*, 2011). In scenes that mirror the worst of human behavior, the more Aurora blithely goes about putting things in order, the more those around her scheme, betray, belittle, and disregard everything our morality tells us the characters should care about. The delicate, haunting, and beautiful watercolor artwork by Kerascot helps to enhance the fairy-tale setting, juxtaposing the small, petty characters perfectly against the lush blues, greens, and purples used to create the huge forest that surrounds them. The result is a story that shocks as it entertains and is predictably unpredictable. As the seasons turn and wide-eyed Aurora loses her amiable innocence, the reader is left not knowing whether to cry or cheer when Aurora finally decides she's had enough. --Eva Volin A twisted tale that draws from the likes of Alice in Wonderland and The Borrowers, only Beautiful Darkness presents a much bleaker allegory about brutality. As the tiny people lose hope, their underlying pettiness, greed and jealousy become evident despite their polite words and pretty faces. Los Angeles Times Hero Complex This unforgettable graphic novel hovers on the edge of your daydreams and nightmares.

Publishers Weekly Starred Eerily enchanting. Washington Post You've seen countless stories about cute little creatures living secretly in our world, but you've never read one like Beautiful Darkness. It's a world that's as adorable as it is cruel, where life is beautiful but also cheap, and where death is omnipresent. io9 Set against the saccharine sweet storybook aesthetic of Kerascot's rapturous watercolors, Vehlmann's narrative is a sinister saga that you won't be able to put down. Nerdist The watercolor artwork here is painfully beautiful, and the book is...best read on three separate sittings -- one day for each season -- to take in rise and wane and grudges of the miniature empires. BuzzFeed It's The Borrowers meets Lord of the Flies. Comic Book Resources