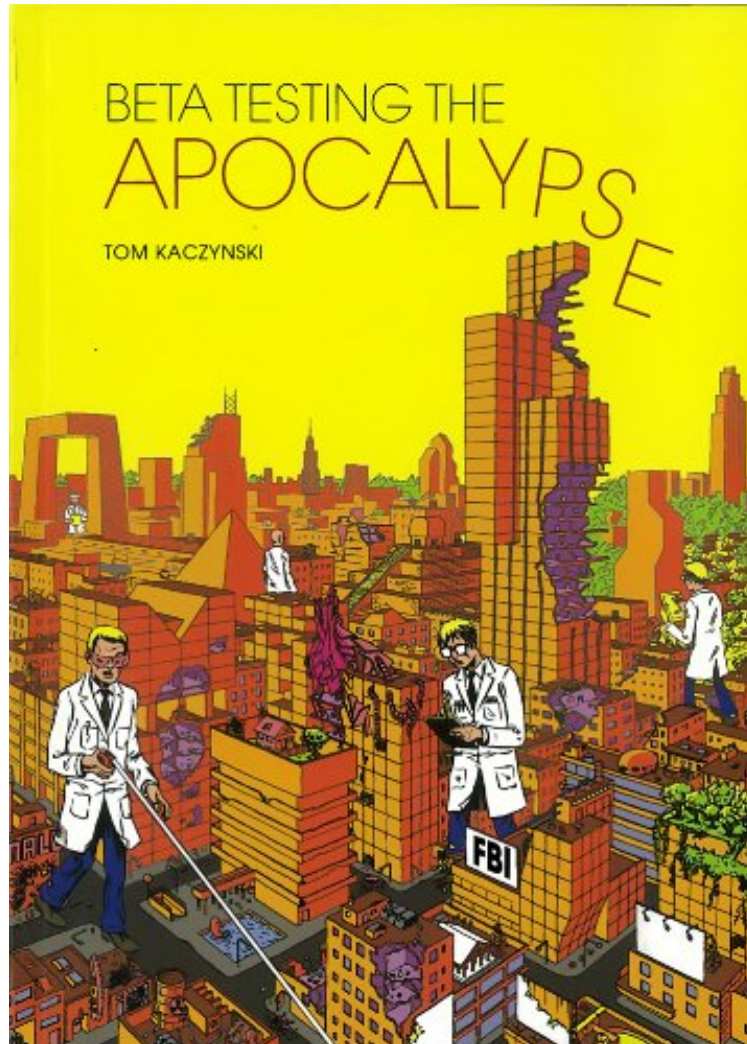


(Get free) Beta Testing the Apocalypse

Beta Testing the Apocalypse

Tom Kaczynski

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1785705 in Books 2013-01-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x .60 x 6.80l, .82 #File Name: 1606995413136 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Tom Kaczynski : Beta Testing the Apocalypse before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beta Testing the Apocalypse:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. More theory please.By C. BrockI like short stories, and was looking for some stuff in the graphic narrative department and found this little gem. I would have preferred this book to be longer because I did enjoy these thoughtful stories. If you are looking for narratives propelled with characters speaking to each other then you should look to DC and Marvel. The stories here are often told through narration with the occasional speech bubble. The drawings suit the themes of architectural theory and alienation, as well as all the other theories coexisting in this book. This book is more of a existential brooding on the modern world done in a sometimes humorous way. Maybe because I am a sort of junkie for new theories to understand the world, I enjoyed this book and

look forward to re-reading it soon. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Get Your Pessimist Reading Glasses Out (and that's a good thing) By Marc Schiffman This is one of those books I pulled from the shelf because of its cover. The back blurb promised a sci-fi perspective on the "contemporary global megalopolis." That sounded right up my alley. Kaczynski has a stark style. His art is primarily black and white with a third color that changes from story to story, adding shading and accent. A constant behind each story is a vague sense of paranoia imprinted on 21st century first-world malaise. These are stories that start off as typical days in the lives of 20- or 30-somethings and then start to dig under the surface to whatever machinations our nightmares might suggest exist under the mundane surface of our lives. Kaczynski's presents stories (many of which have previously appeared in the "Mome" series--also put out by Fantagraphics) that alternate between longer tales and short one-page intermissions. There's even a handy index in the back in case you want to refer back to when he referenced things like "repressive de-sublimation," "inanimate consciousness," or "situationism,"--the later having nothing to do with the Jersey Shore guy. The index is a nice touch that reinforces the blurb's suggestion that the author is setting out "a few elements of a new untested future eschatology." My Graphic Novel tastes run to science fiction tales, strange stories, and realistic documentary/memoir more than the super-hero variety. If that matches your tastes, this is a fine read. I left off the fifth star mainly because while some of the stories really did light up parts of my brain. Others had a lesser effect.

Eisner Award Nomination (Best Publication Design) A heady conflation of philosophy, fiction comics. It would be easy to call Tom Kaczynski the J.G. Ballard of comics. Like Ballard, Kaczynski's comics riff on dystopian modernity, bleak man-made landscapes and the psychological effects of technological, social or environmental developments. Yet while Kaczynski shares many of Ballard's obsessions, he processes them in unique ways. His visual storytelling adds an architectural dimension that the written word alone lacks. Kaczynski takes abstract ideas -- capitalism, communism, or utopianism --and makes them tangible. He depicts and meditates on the immense political and technological structures and spaces we inhabit that subtly affect and define the limits of who we are and the freedom we as Americans presume to enjoy. Society and the individual, in perpetual tension. Once you've read Kaczynski's comics, it should come as no surprise to learn that he studied architecture before embarking on a career as a cartoonist. Beta Testing includes 10 short stories, most notably "The New," a brand new story created expressly for this book. It's Kaczynski's longest story to date. "The New" is set in an un-named third-world megalopolis. It could be Dhaka, Lagos or Mumbai. The city creaks under the pressure of explosive growth. Whole districts are built in a week. The story follows an internationally renowned starchitect as he struggles to impose his vision on the metropolis. A vision threatened by the massive dispossessed slum-proletariat inhabiting the slums and favelas on the edges of the city. From the fetid ferment of garbage dumps and shanties emerges a new feral architecture. Color throughout

"[A] terrific anthology [...] It's not important what happens to the people in Kaczynski's comics; what's important is how they process a world that's crumbling and becoming harder to navigate by the day. They adjust, in the same way that people in a dream learn to accept talking animals or purple skies or whatever other strangeness abounds. And in Beta Testing The Apocalypse, the fact of that adjustment is even more disturbing than doomsday." - The Onion AV Club "[Beta Testing the Apocalypse] is weird as all f**k and funny as all sh*t, a Singles Going Steady for the art comix crowd that merges Burroughs' cut-up commentary with Ballard's keen tech consumer insight and siliconic wit [...] is where we should be looking if we want to know what comes next, if we want to discern which hip priest had their ear closer to the ground." - Comics Bulletin "Kaczynski's [...] wildly anarchic imagination fuels his insightful and unsettling narrative. He combines socioeconomic fact, fantasy and farce in this seriously paranoid criticism of modernity, and the result is a disturbing but hilarious tale of identity loss and consumerism run amok." - Miami Herald