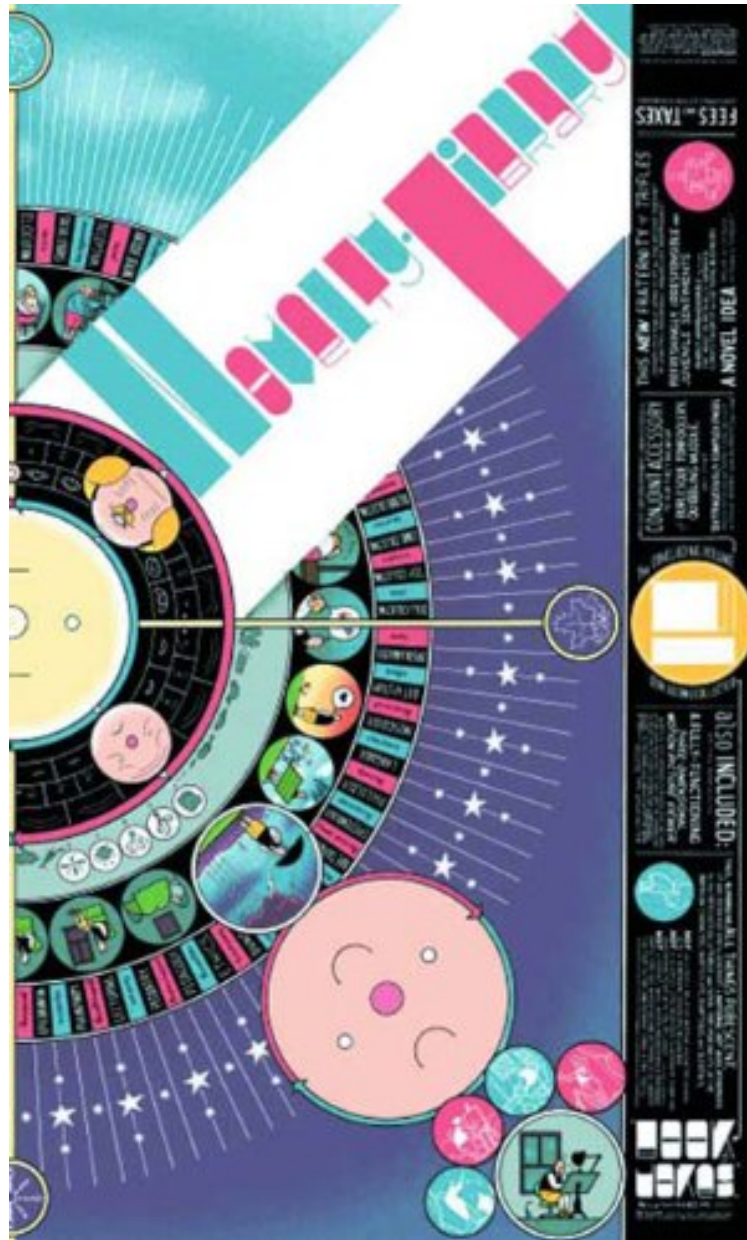


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Chris Ware

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#2605609 in Books 2001-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 .11 x 10.85 x 18.001, #File Name: 156097475332 pages | File size: 45.Mb

Chris Ware : Big Book of Jokes II #15 (Acme Novelty Library, 15) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Book of Jokes II #15 (Acme Novelty Library, 15):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant, as always. By YakovChris Ware is brilliant in every way.

Design! Story! Dialogue! Pacing! Layout! Composition! This huge 32-page book (intended to evoke the huge comics sections of yore), printed luxuriantly on yellow-tinted thick paper, includes the serialized exploits of Rusty Brown (collector), Tales From The Future (consumer), and Quimby the Mouse (who has one strip for each season of the year). Like in Acme #7, the centerfold is a huge Jimmy story (this time it's about Christmas). But there is another centerfold (printed on thick white paper) inside of THAT centerfold, which has a stereoscopic motion picture viewer cutout on one side and a Rusty Brown calendar on the other side. The movie viewer is nearly impossible to put together, but the calendar would make a great wall hanging. As always, the themes are always loss and grief -- but executed through the most brilliant whole-package design comics has seen since Crazy Kat or Flash Gordon. Every element is controlled and used to Ware's advantage. Appearing in cameo is God/Superman (cover, where he appears as the antithesis of Jimmy), Rocket Sam (2 strips), and Big Tex (one strip). There's also a serious article by Ware, an obituary for his art teacher who died (it's even relevant to the book because he collected like Rusty Brown) which is especially touching because it's not funny or ironic. The cover itself unfolds to become a huge diagram to which I still haven't figured out all the meanings. And the cover is colored by HAND. It's beautiful. One thing to watch out for is that the front cover has some spots in the white areas -- this was true for every copy at my local comics shop. I think they're all like that. So don't yell at if your copy is speckled. It's not a big deal, only in one area of the cover. Notice Ware's cameos: he appears buying the Edison rolls from Chalky White, his early book "Floyd Farland" is at Captain Kid's Treasure Trove, and his 6' display is in the small "Putty Gray" comic strip below the movie viewer cutouts. His next book will be the first chapter in a full-length Rusty Brown novel. In a few years we should see a Chris Ware sketchbook from Germany (Fanta will import it). If you like this one, be sure to seek out Ware's other issues of the Acme Novelty Library at your local quality comics shop or Fantagraphics's web site. Hint on storing this book: I keep my Acme 15 and 7 sandwiched in between my computer tower and the wall, and it works very well. -Yakov. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. new collection from the master By dan acton The Jimmy Corrigan saga having culminated in Mr. Ware's gorgeous, haunting, touching graphic novel of last year, the Acme universe expands in this new issue to include the horrid Rusty Brown, and it's wonderful. Unlike most of the other numbers in this series, the unprecedentedly huge #15 is a collection of mostly one or two page comics, comprised of Tales of Tomorrow, Quimby the Mouse, Big Tex, the aforementioned Rusty Brown (an as of yet unsympathetic, spiteful collector of 1970s ephemera), and even a welcome look in on Jimmy Corrigan. It's a given that Ware's books will be endlessly fun to look at from a design standpoint, but there's more to it than even that sizable accomplishment. I always feel a lot happier about life in general after reading an Acme. In #15, Mr. Ware is no longer under the more serious demands of the Jimmy Corrigan story, and the comics here have more thematic freedom than the last few issues. The Jimmy Corrigan graphic novel made a lot of friends of the format, and I hope that many of these carry over to this new book, to see how wonderful comics can be today. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More Brilliance from Ware By saara For my money, Chris Ware is one of the outstanding artists of the late 20th/early 21st centuries. His meticulous, bitter, bleakly funny vision is best viewed in his sporadically released volumes of the "Acme Novelty Library" from Fantagraphics-- even more so than in his bound collection of Jimmy Corrigan narratives (almost all of which came from the previously published ANLs). The early large-format ANLs are unsurpassed, and this new volume returns to those heady days-- this huge magazine format, in full color, shows Ware to his best advantage. As always his draftsmanship is precise to the point of absurdity, and his characters suffer unimaginably in his peculiar little hells. Ware is without equal-- buy this and see why, then investigate the first four ANLs as well to see more of his best.

Chris Ware's ACME Novelty Library has been the best-selling and most critically-acclaimed alternative comic book throughout the last decade, since its debut in 1993 from Fantagraphics. For the last several years, the series serialized the landmark graphic novel Jimmy Corrigan, collected last year by Pantheon and currently in a third hardcover printing. This new issue, #15, marks the first non-Jimmy Corrigan issue in years. A stand-alone, all-new collection of short humor strips featuring Ware's most popular characters, the issue serves as a perfect introduction to Ware's meticulous work as well as a welcomed follow-up to those craving more after Jimmy Corrigan. This is the first issue of the ACME series to be available to the book trade. As Chris Ware puts it, "Our new chapbook promises the densest array of foolish quips, gags, and muddle yet. The 'Book of Jokes II' attempts to adhere the broken narratives of favorites like 'Rocket Sam,' 'Big Tex,' 'Quimby the Mouse,' and 'Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth' while introducing new favorites like 'Rusty Brown' and our scientific survey of the world of the future, 'The Tales of Tomorrow.' The volume is printed in full color with special pull-out bonuses, including a painfully complicated cut-out three-dimensional motion picture viewer, and two only slightly less cumbersome flip books. Taller than most bookshelves, this will be one of the first things you throw away the next time you move."