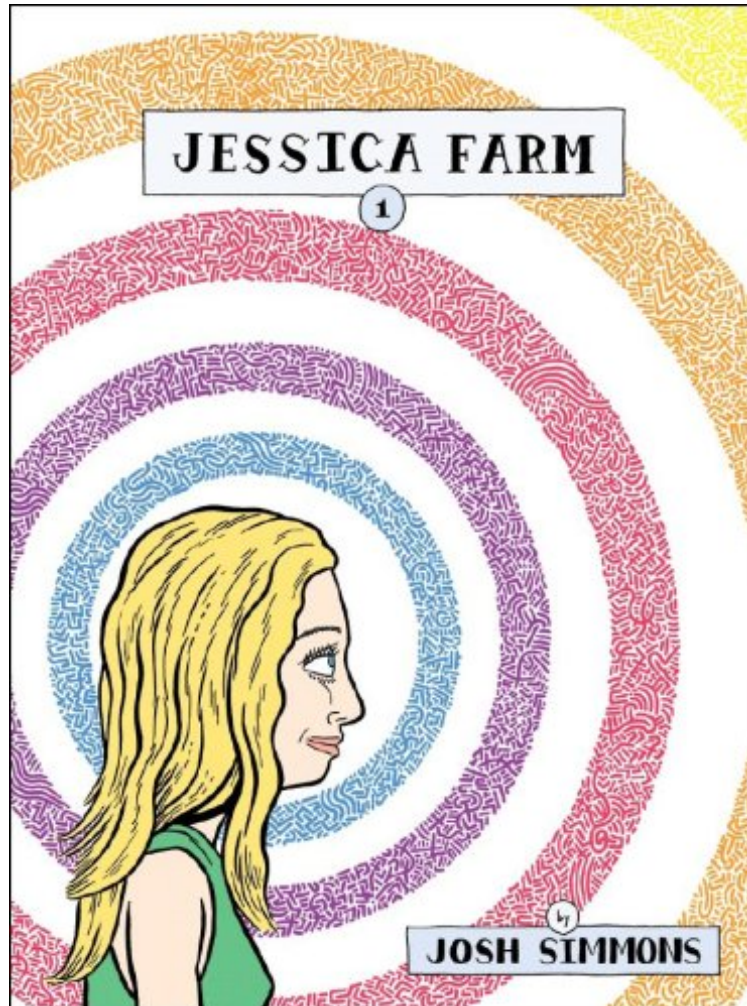


Jessica Farm

Josh Simmons

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Josh Simmons : Jessica Farm before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jessica Farm:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Like a nightmare you can escape fromBy David WeigellIt's tough to look past the gimmick. Josh Simmons, whose crisp art contrasts wildly with his insane stories, is drawing one page a month of this story. If you've ever tried to pick up a story or diary or song one month after starting it, you know how hard it is to reconnect the synapses. Given that Simmons's approach relies on eerie, disconnected events, it mostly works. The images stick with you. Jessica, who's not given a ton of characterization, quickly becomes someone you want to see survive. Will you keep checking in 12 times a year until 2048? Maybe not.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hallucinatory, improvisatory but, ultimately, coherentBy Gavin LeesThe first installment of Simmons's proclaimed "life's work", "Jessica Farm" is a surreal journey into the life of an extraordinary young girl.

With her talking toys, labyrinthine house and hidden worlds, there will no doubt be comparisons drawn with "Alice in Wonderland", but this is a much darker, adult tale. Beautifully rendered in Simmons's obsessive etching, it is a narrative that throws us into a childhood dominated by a menacing father figure, making us wonder whether Jessica's adventures are actually the product of psychological dissociation. The comic is never a light, easy experience, but is definitely rewarding. To the detractors who will say this is a rambling, incoherent mess - the book does demand work on the reader's part to dissect what happens between the lines and panels. I have recently read Simmons's ideas for a self-contained "Jessica Farm" film and, believe me, this story is headed towards a very satisfying resolution. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read By Jeff Flowers Jessica Farm is a very unique and entertaining book. It reads like a lucid dream from the moment the title character, Jessica, awakens on Christmas morning. We get to see many bizarre and disturbing things, though none are more disturbing than the fear and dread Jessica feels of her father, a shadowy figure whose only visible feature are white Mickey Mouse like gloves. Readers should note that Jessica Farm does have some adult language and nudity, both male and female, but it should be manageable by anyone living in the 21st century.

The creator of House embarks on a life-spanning epic. Hot on the heels of his first graphic novel, House, Josh Simmons' Jessica Farm fuses serialized adventure, fantasy and psychological horror and stamps it with his signature macabre sensibility in this atmospheric new graphic novel. Like a Lynchian take on Alice in Wonderland, Jessica Farm opens with an exterior of what could be any Midwestern farmhouse. Once inside, we track our titular heroine as she bounds out of bed on Christmas and goes about her morning routine, eventually breakfasting with her grandparents. The banality of the situation is subverted by a ratcheting sense of dread, however, as we discover that Jessica's increasingly nightmarish house is filled with creatures around every corner: some whimsical, some sexual, some despairing and some malevolent. Most terrifying of all is Jessica's father, whose promise of presents under the tree is loaded with the threat of violence. As in Simmons' debut graphic novel, House, a large portion of the tension in this book is generated not only by the sudden acts of brutality and the fear of the unknown, but by the dynamics of Jessica's relationships. Jessica Farm is an ambitious experiment in world-building as conceived by Simmons. This book is the first volume of a life-spanning comics project in which he drew one page every month for the past seven years, starting in January 2000 and will continue this project for 50 years in total, making up the story as he goes and releasing 96-page increments every 8 years until he amasses a 600-page body of work.

From Publishers Weekly Simmons's eerily bizarre sophomore graphic novel about a teen-aged girl who lives on a farm represents the first installment of an extremely ambitious life-spanning project: Simmons plans to create a single page per month for the next 50 years. The mammoth story begins simply enough when the titular character wakes up on Christmas morning. She proceeds to talk to her monkey friend, shower with a miniature lounge band performing in her soap dish and get abducted by a foul-mouthed vagrant living under the stairs. And then things get weird: menacing monsters float through the hallways and, more startling, her monkey is savagely knifed to death. Despite a mounting number of mysteries, there's only a hint of a plot line, and the story unfolds as a series of weird encounters. The grainy black and white illustrations lend an additional layer of atmospheric disquiet to the stark narrative that includes full nudity, bloody violence and at least one image of grotesque infant mutilation. Despite the fragmented nature of the tale, the unique story is captivating because it is odd in the fullest sense of the word: there's no sign of the ordinary, usual and expected. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Josh Simmons currently lives in Los Angeles, CA, although he tends to move a lot.