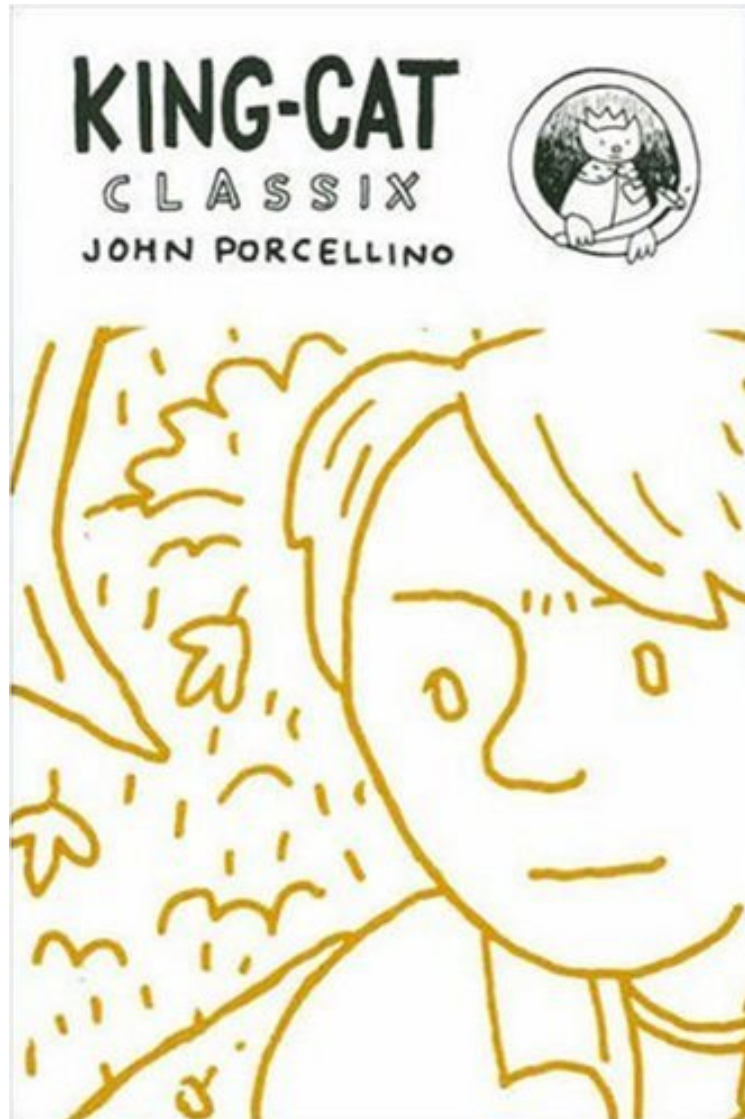


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King-Cat Classix

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John Porcellino : King-Cat Classix before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King-Cat Classix:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Proving that Comics Continue to be a Dynamic MediumBy David CrummI've been a fan of comics for more than half a century, from newspaper comic strips to comic books. I worked in newspapers for more than 30 years and now am very supportive of preserving classics like LOAC Essentials Volume 4: Alley Oop 1939 and LOAC Essentials Presents King Features Volume 1: Krazy Kat 1934If you're a

lifelong comics fan, too, I also urge you to look at the relatively newer artists who have transformed this creative field in fresh ways. John Porcellino certainly is one of them! For example, if you're looking over this book page in and you're reading these reviews I also recommend you look at the "annual" series of innovative comics. Here's the latest volume as I write this review: <https://www.comicsbookreview.com/Best-American-Comics-2016/dp/0544750357/>The genius of comics as an artform and media "voice" is that this doorway is open to so many men, women and kids, too. For nearly three decades, Porcellino has been proving this pointself-publishing his own stuff, then building an audience and eventually resulting in a big, wonderful, hardback collection like this one. He came out of "nowhere," in publishing terms; published exactly what he wanted to publish; and he succeeded in finding a loyal following and, now, lots of folks "get" the storytelling creativity that blossoms from King-Cat.If you love comics, even if you really love the classics, keep looking outward at all the new creators keeping this medium alive. Folks like Porcellino are a gift to the comics realm.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. An American life unfolds in the smallest detailsBy Tim LukemanSince first discovering the work of John Porcellino, I've been an avid admirer of his oh-so-deceptively simple style -- but what depths there are in that simplicity! From his earliest, troubled, punk rock days to his growth into a more Zen existence, Porcellino tells direct, honest stories that lay bare his feelings, without any of it ever seeming self-indulgent or egocentric. He's just describing his life at the time, its frustrations its unexpected joy It's a pleasure to accompany him through the years, from memories of childhood, to recounting his dreams, to an absolutely heartbreaking moving tribute to his dog Sam, to his first steps into meditation Buddhism.It's fascinating the read the earliest stories, where his art style is rougher more detailed. As time goes on, he begins to clarify it down to the fewest lines possible, which has the paradoxical result of becoming more richly detailed with its openness. It also reflects the shift in tone his life has taken over the years -- though I'll admit to a continuing delight in the drunken, foul-mouthed adventures of Racky Raccoon even now! Equally revealing are his Top 40 lists of whatever has captivated him at the time. These are eclectic wide-ranging, offering an emotional snapshot of the man at that moment.For anyone who thinks all autobiographical independent comics are drearily alike, you're in for a real surprise here: this is not only wonderfully readable, it's constantly re-readable. I find that I get something new out of this book each time I pick it up. It's very much in a particular American vein that's been tapped by the Beats other marginal artists, in that it allows the reader to feel what it's like to be a young man in this country at this time, told in an utterly real meaningful way. Porcellino has his finger on the pulse of life itself, and this is his report. Most highly recommended!⁷ of 7 people found the following review helpful. Zen, exhilarating, intimate--the everyman's storyBy EstherKing Cat Classix is a "selected works" of John P's past ten years' of work, and it is a hefty book! I couldn't wait for it to come out and read other reviewers, but now I'm honored to be the first. This tome is full of comics ranging from dreams, childhood memories, Zen parables, elegies to his dog Sam, animals.... a collection of mini-memoirs that add up the life of an ordinary working class man brought up in the midwest and is now in Colorado. I called his previous book, Mosquito Abatement Man, a bizarre slice of midwestern life, but the Classix is a gentler work, thoughtful, inquisitive and passionate about the woods, mountains, lakes. His earlier work is rendered in scrawling, cruder line, but full of energy and rage, and his later work calms to minimalism and simple elegance.Reading Porcellino, you truly get a feeling you know the man. Or better yet, you ARE the man, working through daily life, writing Top-40 lists, watching autumn leaves fall--getting totally drunk. The intimacy to his work is a rare and exceptional thing. There are shades of Harvey Pekar here, but also the Beats, Hemingway, the early modern greats of American lit. The Classix is such an expansive book that you can dip in at any point and read a lyric about winter, or about adolescent Porcellino experiencing the first anxieties about girls. Yet everything is done with sincerity, honesty and a painful sort of clarity. Real life doesn't get realer.

The definitive collection of the influential comic zine

From BooklistFor 18 years, Porcellino has self-published King-Cat Comix. Two books of extracts, Perfect Example (1999), about his stressful eighteenth year, and Diary of a Mosquito Abatement Man (2005), about a summer gig during college, vaulted him into the front ranks of autobiographical comics creators. Now here's a heaping helping of the rest of King-Cat, with 15 pages of annotations (including more comics) appended to make the book as impressively self-reflexive as Andrew Boyd and Ryan Yount's Scurvy Dogs (2005--hard to beat those notes). The book contains many more of Porcellino's dream stories, some of the most dreamlike in all comics (Rick Veitch develops his dreams much more elaborately--see Crypto Zoo, 2004--but they're much more diffuse). Porcellino started King-Cat intending never to censor himself or record things unimportant to him. He is as unabashedly unzipped as James Kochalka (American Elf, 2004), though not as often. Some stories are fictional, such as the adventures of Racky Raccoon, and all are drawn with a bold line and lots of white, like Peanuts drained of detail. Ray OlsonCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Punk rock was a revelation to the young John Porcellino, showing him that anyone could make art without formal education or technical virtuosity. However, unlike many people who have taken this lesson to heart, Porcellino is a born artist, someone whose nerve endings seem more sensitive to both the pain and the mystery at the center of this existence. Baltimore City PaperAbout the AuthorAn Utne Independent

Press and Firecracker Award nominee, John Porcellino (Perfect Example, D+Q, 2005) has self-published his comic-zine King-Cat for more than fifteen years. He lives in South Beloit, IL.