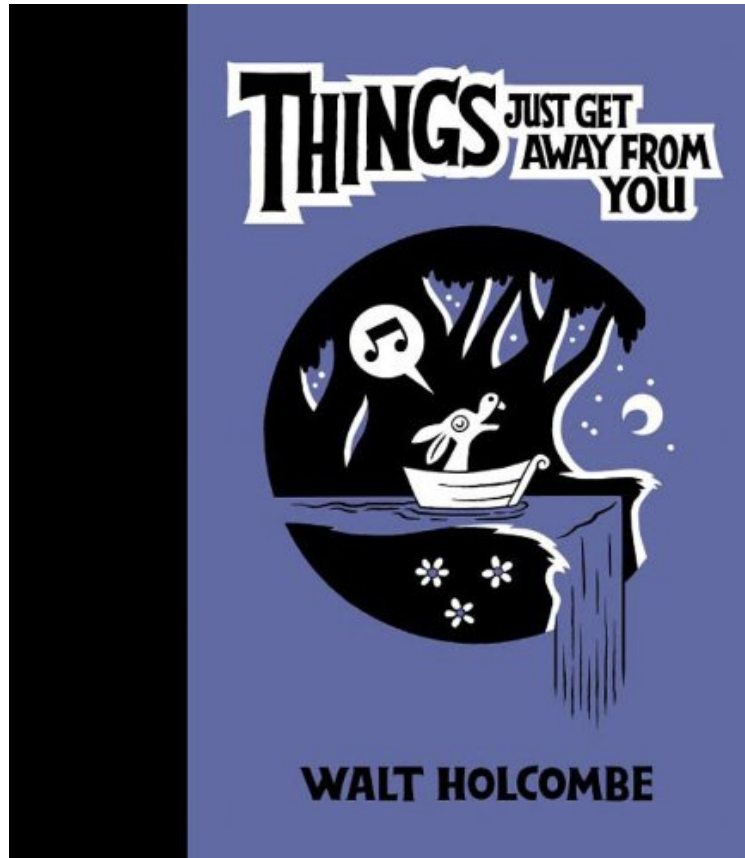


[Ebook free] Things Just Get Away From You

Things Just Get Away From You

Walt Holcombe

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Walt Holcombe : Things Just Get Away From You before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Things Just Get Away From You:

A collection of comics shorts from a brilliant young talent. Blessed with a lovely bouncy, rubbery SpongeBob SquarePants-y style, cartoonist and animator Walt Holcombe tells wildly imaginative stories of love gained and (often) lost. Things Just Get Away From You collects all of Holcombe's late-1990s comics work, with a bonus new story, "Hails at Sea," thrown in for good measure. Things Just Get Away From You leads off with "King of Persia," a 1001 Nights/Yiddish vaudeville-inspired graphic novella in which king Faisal Al-Ghazali must win the affection of the woman he loves by traveling to an enchanted land in search of a giant emerald, while accompanied by his faithful companion, the talking camel, Jamila. From the pages of Holcombe's short-lived but beloved comic book series Poot come four stories: "Swollen Holler," a romance between two bugs whose supporting characters include an elderly bachelor, Professor Owl, and a lonely snail named Snail; "The Eighth Wonder," a breezily suggestive, picaresque pantomime story featuring a romantically-inclined barrel-clad wanderer; "The Red Grampus," in which the whaler

captain Reginald Nubbins pursues an old enemy unleashed upon him by his first great love, the mysterious Julietta; and "Count Stinkenpuss," in which the eponymous count wins the prestigious Tattersall Cat Show, only to have his prize-winning cat, Mr. Lovely, stolen by a vengeful ex-lover, resulting in a battle to the death in a dogfight over Mt. Kilimanjaro. The book also includes "What Do Pretty People Think About?," a pathetic bit of speculative envy in which Holcombe muses about the condition of physical beauty: What do pretty people think about? Do pretty people feel pain like normal people? Do pretty people even have souls? Finally, the all-new "Hails at Sea" is a collage of Holcombe's troubled dreams over a three-year period. Vampires, unfortunate sexual metaphors, talking fish and Tiny Tim all make an appearance in this tribute to the return of the repressed. Holcombe has focused his attention on animation for a number of years, but *Things Just Get Away From You* is a handsome and charming testament to a unique voice in the comics medium.

From Booklist At first glance, Holcombe's simple, cartoony drawings and fanciful characters—anthropomorphic bugs, a befuddled Persian king and his talking camels—suggest children's comics. But under the surface lies an incongruous, adult melancholy. The bug is an alienated loner in a stormy relationship with a bed-hopping insect and confides in his only friend, a depressed snail who despondently throws himself against a salt lick. King and camel go on a quest to win his bride by retrieving a giant emerald, but the consequent marriage ends tragically. The gloom is dispersed by Holcombe's daffy visual style and whimsical dialogue; for instance, the king speaks a Mel Brooksian patois ("What do I know from love?"). The most striking aspect of Holcombe's work is his stunning sense of design, harkening back to early newspaper strips, particularly Cliff Sterrett's memorable *Polly and Her Pals*. Holcombe has largely abandoned comics for animation, and most of these stories are late-1990s work. A newer piece based on his dreams and featuring a talking fish and Tiny Tim shows, however, that he remains in quirky good form. Flagg, Gordon "Walt Holcombe seems woefully underrated to me. Especially because he's such a rare combination: a sensitive mind, a wide-ranging imagination, and a virtuoso of pure cartooning. What is wrong with a world where everyone doesn't know this man's name?!!" -- Seth "Walt Holcombe is a true original; his jazzy drawings and mellifluous prose (to say nothing of his partiality for pathetic nebbishes, marine adventure, and "the exotic") concoct a personal, perfectly-timed viand redolent of 1920s humorists, Cliff Sterrett, and, more than anything, of Walt himself. I should also add that a big-hearted compassion backs his work like a stretched canvas behind paint." -- Chris Ware

About the Author Walt Holcombe is an Eisner Award-winning cartoonist who lives in Los Angeles, CA and works in the animation industry; he has worked on Comedy Central's *Kid Notorious* and Cartoon Network's *Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi*.