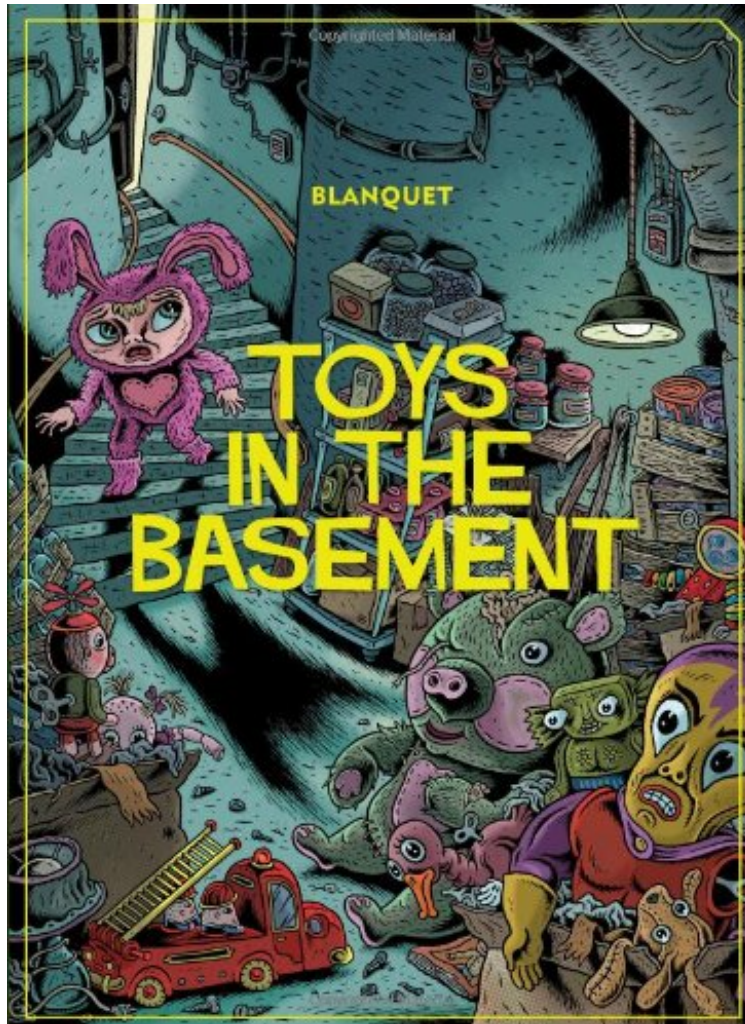


## Toys in the Basement

*Stphane Blanquet*

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#3112522 in Books Fantagraphics Books, Inc. 2010-12-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.30 x .40 x 8.60l, .93 #File Name: 160699402632 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**Stphane Blanquet : Toys in the Basement** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Toys in the Basement:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. TOY STORY RESIDENT EVIL HAVE A BABY!!!By Dusty Bottoms is Dead GoneStphane Blanquet is a french illustrator and filmmaker, known for his dark, twisted and surreal style. He's also editor for Ugly Dead Artists, and pretty much an all around very productive and incredibly talented human being. TOYS IN THE BASEMENT is his nightmarish children's story, with a not-so-subtle moral lesson on the ownership and caring of toys.Imagine TOY STORY with the visual and narrative tone of Burton's NIGHTMARE BEFORE XMAS (unfortunately without Danny Elfman doing voice-over for the main character), and you'll have a pretty good idea what to expect from this book.Parents beware the artwork is nothing shy of a lil' creepy, and at one

point in the story, toys threaten children with dismemberment and enucleation. The book is making a point about how violently toys get treated, via ripping off their parts, letting the dog chew on them or melting them on the fireplace (okay, that last one is just something I used to do), and it gives worthwhile perspective on what this destructive behavior implies about human nature. Just don't be surprised if you enjoy this book more than kids do. Fantagraphics does a fantastic job translating and republishing this French comic gem. There's no dust-jacket per their usual, instead the inviting artwork is printed right on the cover. It's gorgeous. The pages are thick, white and non-glossy, displaying Blanquet's illustrations like out of a museum. For 10 bucks you couldn't buy a better graphic novel from the avant-garde genre. Do yourself a favor, and pick up this work of art.

A creepy kids book from a French comics master. With appearances in such anthologies as *Zero Zero*, *BLAB!* and *Kramers Ergot*, Stéphane Blanquet has been delighting and terrifying American readers with his superslick, ultradetailed creepiness. So it makes perfect sense that his first graphic novel to be published in the U.S. would be a children's book? Yes indeed. Our hero, attending a Halloween party in an embarrassing pink bunny costume (he wanted to be a pirate) stumbles across a secret society of damaged, forgotten, and pissed-off toys in the basement of his friend's house including the terrifying Amlie, not an adorable gamine played by Audrey Tautou but a towering sentient assemblage of broken toy parts out for revenge! Imagine *Toy Story* as reimagined by David Lynch and Charles Burns and you'll have a good idea of what this story is like. And yes, it is for kids! 32 pages of full-color

From Booklist Has anyone ever seen a *Toy Story* movie and felt that toys having a life of their own and scurrying about when you can't see them actually might not be a good thing? French writer-artist Blanquet apparently had a similar thought, as evidenced by this eerie import in which a basement full of ravaged and discarded toys kidnap children who stray into their path and feed them to a mountainous monster formed of a thousand broken toys. While the two children in this story manage to escape such a fate, and the *Twilight Zone*-lite ending could have been eschewed in favor of something less clichéd, Blanquet's stylized and exaggerated figures have a Charles Burns-for-middle-schoolers creepiness and weight. Younger readers may view their toy chests in an unhappy new light, but for a slightly older group this is a great journey into the weird and an inheritor of a proud legacy handed down from the likes of Roald Dahl's *The BFG* (1982) and Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* (1961). Grades 4-7. --Jesse Karp A warped mash-up of *Toy Story* and *Where the Wild Things Are* The bright colors, jagged panels and irregular lettering make for a hallucinogenic experience, as if you're lurching through a lurid nightmare during an intense fever. --Eleanor Goodman "This slim graphic novel is nominally for children, but the art of the Frenchman Blanquet takes a children's story to an unexpected level.... This surrealist book by writer-artist Blanquet brings to the young reader a simple message: retribution will come, and you never know from which side. --Ray Garraty" About the Author Stéphane Blanquet lives in France, where he works as a cartoonist, animator, sculptor, and painter.