



The Abominable Charles Christopher, Vol. 1

Karl Kerschl

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The Abominable Charles Christopher follows the adventures of a dim-witted yeti through a forest full of colourful animal characters.

Who is Charles? Where did he come from? Where is he going? He knows about as much as you do - probably much less, actually - and his adventure is just beginning.

The Abominable Charles Christopher, Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review The Abominable Charles Christopher, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Lissibith says

If you like comics and haven't read this yet? Read it.

The Abominable Charles Christopher began life as a web comic. If you can't get the book, go read it online. But read it. The art is beautiful, the story simplistic and the main character apparently mute, but the story it tells is powerfully moving and funny by turns, with quirky, engaging animal characters that give this book the feel of a cross between Bone and We3 (both of which I also recommend highly).

This is a very quick read, but you can spend a lot of time looking at the art, especially some of the two-page spreads. And you may need a little time to get something out of your eye at a couple points. Just saying.

I don't want to say anything about the plot, because in part discovering it is part of the fun and in part... well, it doesn't really matter. The journey is indeed the important thing here. And I suspect if you're a fan of comics, you'll find something to enjoy about this and you'll be disappointed when you reach the end - until you realize there's a bunch more online :)

Judd Karlman says

The Abominable Charles Christopher is the worthy predecessor to Smith's graphic novel, Bone. It has a similar vibe, with adorable talking animals and good humor wrapped around an epic fantasy story that is unfolding at a slow and easy pace.

Unlike Bone, ACC is a print version of a web comic with a really pretty book, though pricey, well worth it in order to support an independent creator. The web comic medium means that each page feels like a complete moment but these moments add up and the pacing is right on.

That said, I want more and I want it now. If I had any gripes, it would be that the first graphic novel felt a little light for the money and the antagonist's presence is felt, though it doesn't yet have any kind of a face or a real presence just yet, other than some off-screen humans.

If there is a hole in your graphic novel reading that is curiously shaped like a stupid, stupid rat creature, The Abominable Charles Christopher is the way to start filling it.

Mike says

This collection contains the first "chapter" of the webcomic "The Abominable Charles Christopher." It's two years worth of the weekly strip.

Note: I am reviewing the comics that comprise this book. I read them in their original webcomic form, not as printed.

The Abominable Charles Christopher is an unusual strip, and takes a while to really get going. Anthropomorphic animals and the titular Charles share "screen time" in several tangentially related gradually unfolding plotlines of drastically varying tone and substance.

This made it a very uneven read for me. I really loved the more serious main plotlines and characters (Charles, Vivol and Moon Bear, Luga, Gilgamesh) and both the humor and drama that arose from them. But the pacing drove me a little nuts. I didn't like the secondary humor strips (drunk bad husband bird, Cedar Forest Players, the shrink, etc) nearly as much as the above stuff so lost some interest whenever it switched over.

Which was quite often. As a very detailed, rich webcomic the author clearly puts a lot of effort and care into the strip. It's understandable that after say, a month of working on heavy themes that he would want to lighten things up a bit. But it's a weekly strip, which that means every time the plot got serious it went no more than three-four pages before interjected humor and sidetracking. Again, perfectly understandable from a production point of view, but purely from a reader's perspective I found it very jarring.

There is a ton of promise shown in this first book (which continues to build in later strips), just be prepared for a bit of an up and down ride.

The art is fantastic. Great style and masterful use of the black and white medium. Again, I feel it really shines in the more serious and dramatic strips.

Overall while The Abominable Charles Christopher is a mixed bag for me, the good is so great I still heartily recommend it and will definitely keep reading myself.

Gizmo says

Charles Christopher es en apariencia un yeti medio atolondrado que vive en un bosque rodeado de animales parlanchines que tienen a su vez sus propios problemas. El protagonista se encuentra de pronto con una misión épica que lo llevará a conocer nuevos compañeros y tirarnos sonrisas y lágrimas en pocas viñetas. Con un estilo de arte tierno pero descarnado Karl Kerschl hace emocionar con una sutileza al mejor estilo Miyazaki. Si les gustó Totoro y quieren más humor a lo Porco Rosso, deben leer este comic.

Recopilación del "primer capítulo" de un webcomic que sigue colgado y listo para leer. Si bien se supone que este libro tiene alrededor de 2 años de tiras juntas fui leyendo de la página por lo que desconozco dónde es exactamente el corte. Se puede encontrar todavía en <http://abominable.cc/> aunque con pocas actualizaciones nuevas.

Rauf says

I have not read this de-luxe, hardcover, collected edition. I've only heard about Charles Christopher this morning. Before the day is over, I have read 3 years worth of strips, each and every one of them, that Kerschl (and a number of special guest artists) made. You can check them too at <http://abominable.cc> -- it's on the house.

Read from the very beginning. The story was beautiful and could be very touching sometimes, the toned

drawings are just fantastic--can't get enough of it, and it was as funny as it was melancholic.

The main story is this: Charles Christopher, a sasquatch who so far hasn't said a single word, must protect the Cedar Forest from King Gilgamesh. Kerschl uploaded a new strip every week and it's never monotonous. It's non-linear and Kerschl doesn't just stick to the main story. There are tons of characters and from week to week, it always varied. One week Kerschl would draw the main story. Then the next week you'll read about the birds family. Then the next week you'll read about the main story again.

Then next week you read about this cockroach shrink--every beast in Cedar goes to see him, apparently.

Then the next week you might read about Sissy the skunk who always advertised her eatery. Or these 2 wise-guy raccoons who did nothing but lounge and idle about. Or the heartbreaking story of Vivol who used to be a circus bear, told in flashbacks. Or the cats who always perched outside King Gilgamesh's windowsill.

Then we're back with the main story.

My only complaint about The Abominable Charles Christopher? There isn't enough of it. I'm already at phase 5, acceptance.

My name is Rauf and I'm a C.C. addict.

Wil Wheaton says

This is absolutely wonderful. I got it at a con early this year, read it in one sitting, then read it again and, and one more time. It's just a beautiful story, with beautiful characters, and manages to be sad, funny, and heartwarming without ever making you feel manipulated.

Adam Adamson says

This is an original, endearing and beautifully drawn graphic novel. It started as one of the top webcomics and quickly bagged its creator an Eisner award for best digital comic.

The story is about a child-like sasquatch called Charles Christopher and his journey through a forest that is faced with destruction. His trip sees him make both plenty of friend and enemies of the animals within the forest, and through this Charles manages to grow up a bit and learn something about himself.

The themes don't run too adult but they are deep. Once you've read this graphic novel you'll want to run outside, grab the first animal you see and give it a great big hug. I don't recommend you do this though.

Thomas says

I read this webcomic several years ago. I started on it when it was still fairly new, and kept up with it for a few months. It seemed to be a deeper version of Bone, but for whatever reason, I didn't stick with it. It wasn't until a few weeks ago, when I saw that the author was selling the books at a great deal, that I decided to look into it again. Based on the blurbs by well-known authors (Neil Gaiman!), I decided to give it a shot. I'm glad I did.

Like Bone, Charles Christopher is a heavy story with humorous overtones. Kerschl writes both with a deft

eye and a keen ear, and he captures his characters well. Charles is a gentle giant, strong though he sometimes cowers, with courage and empathy to spare. The rest of the cast are the animals in the forest where Charles lives, all of whom can talk and communicate with each other, and with Charles. Kerschl writes those characters as well as he does Charles, such that when the story takes on its heaviness, the reader will feel it as well as his characters do.

The story itself is about the world of humans invading the world of animals, and the conflict that arises from the two worlds clashing. There is a spiritual theme to the story, as well, as Charles meets with a lion who represents the spirits of the animals. Charles, being an abominable (I'm guessing he's intended to be a Yeti, though it's never directly stated in the story) is a breed of both worlds, and serves as a potential intermediary in the conflict. This is how Charles gets involved with the conflict, and with the first two books, it's only barely begun.

Given that this is a collection of a webcomic, the structure of the books is a little odd. Kerschl will intersperse a humorous few strips amid the heavier storyline, making it a little difficult to grab on to the main plot of his story. I got used to it, and I assume other readers will, too, and it's a good thing, since the main story behind Charles Christopher is a heavy one. It begins with tragedy, continues into further tragedy, and then concludes (such as it does at the end of book two, with a lot more story to go) with even more tragedy.

Graphic storytelling should be a balance between the art and the story, and Kerschl excels at both. The story has been in development for a long time (the webcomic began nine years ago, and hasn't developed much further than what's in the two books), and it's clear that Kerschl has much more to tell. The story moves slowly, which might be frustrating for some readers, but for fans of Bone looking for something a little more geared for adults, The Abominable Charles Christopher is a good place to start. Like I mentioned above, the books are on sale right now!

Liss Capello says

My brother picked this out for me as a Christmas gift, so I sat down to read it with no preconceived notions - I'd never even heard of the comic previously. It's splendidly reviewed, and my impression was very favourable as well. The story is interesting and mysterious, with interludes of poignant humor, and the artwork is simply breathtaking. I got the first and second books (and read them both in a matter of days), but I suppose I will have to go look up the rest of the story on the web now!

Twan says

The first story arc of a continuing weekly web comic about a not very bright Yeti type creature, the forest wildlife and some woodland god like spirits. An all ages comedy/fantasy tale with gorgeous artwork, strong black inkwork with subtle grey washes. A joy that I reckon all of you would enjoy.

All if it is up to read free online although reading it in book form makes it feel more betterer ;)

Also, I got a great signed edition with an illustration by Karl -

Amanda says

I picked this up on the recommendation of my friend Mark, whose taste I always trust, as he works in media and has a good sense of what is making waves but not necessarily on the mainstream radar. *Charles Christopher* is a great example of this. The art is incredible, the strips are emotionally impacting, and it is a great light read. I was so excited to discover, having purchased the paperback at TCAF, that it is a webcomic being released online, which means I don't have to wait to see where the story is going next!

Nancy says

If nothing else, read this for the art. It's marvelous.

As the author explains in the Introduction, "...the Abominable Charles Christopher has become something altogether different; something truly strange. Not strictly a 'story' nor simply a series of standalone jokes, it blends both formats into a hybrid beast - a balancing act of slapstick humour, pathos and myth".

The stories range all over, from a therapist seeing clients, to a restaurateur's shameless advertising, to a an alcoholic father. Some are ongoing, some are just one-strip grace notes or straight up gags. All done with forest animals and absolutely gorgeous art. And then there's childlike Charles Christopher making friends and angering bees and getting swept into what looks like an epic quest. All these disparate elements are rolled together and it works.

The webcomic is ongoing (though currently on hiatus), and you can read it [here](#).

Jess says

This is a wonderful book, and has made its way onto my favourite's list.

Kerschl is such an amazing writer. Every word is so carefully thought out, and he never overwrites and info-dumps like some web comics do. With just a few words, he made me laugh madly, and then bawl my eyes out over a broken heart on the next page. And sometimes he doesn't even use words. Sometimes he conveys such a strong message just by a few panels of art alone.

This book is amazing. It really is. It hurt so wonderfully.

You can read his series for free online, but I'd recommend going the extra step and supporting him by buying the book. I promise you won't regret it.

G.B. Gordon says

This is just utterly gorgeous, and I follow Charles's adventures with bated breath every week. Can't wait for the second book.

Kevin Gentilcore says

One of the best comics I've ever read.
