



Mooncop

Tom Gauld

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"Living on the moon . . . Whatever were we thinking? . . . It seems so silly now."

The lunar colony is slowly winding down, like a small town circumvented by a new super highway. As our hero, the Mooncop, makes his daily rounds, his beat grows ever smaller, the population dwindles. A young girl runs away, a dog breaks off his leash, an automaton wanders off from the Museum of the Moon.

Mooncop Details

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Author : Tom Gauld

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From Reader Review Mooncop for online ebook

Kate says

This humble little book touches on some very big themes--hubris, scientific ethics, isolation, humans as social animals, and, most touchingly, hope--without feeling heavy-handed or overwhelming. I read it standing under an orange streetlamp in front of a restaurant, feeling very alone indeed. The story ended. I closed the book, smiling and feeling a little sad. And then my friends arrived, and we embraced, and went inside together.

Saif Saeed says

This comic is the definition of "Its okay".

The idea is cool. It does exactly what a comic or book is supposed to do with the setting and the atmosphere that you feel reading it. Its a melancholic and lonely vibe. It does the job of making you feel something. Telling you anything about the story would be a spoiler because there's so little story, talking about anything is giving away too much but there are events happening in the comic. It's not boring, I just felt like it didn't do enough.

And therein lies the heart of the problem. Its short. I paid money for this. The art isn't anything special, nor is the writing. I couldn't help but feel like there should have been more to it.

A lot of existential works have this issue of 'It hasn't done enough' for me, but if you're into existentialism, cute comics, short (very short) reads and feeling a little bit sad and a little bit hopeful then you should pick this up.

Richard Derus says

Rating: 4* of five

All cops in noir stories eat donuts and drink coffee.

Of course they buy them from the local shop.

[Mooncop] is 96 pages of Gauld's quiet storytelling. He isn't aiming for humor and he doesn't shy away from silence. It is deeply satisfying to be taken by the hand and led to the place that Gauld wants to go: Human hearts that are quieter than most fiction lets on. What happens between peaks is only a valley by comparison.

Paying \$20 for this book would, I admit, make me panther-screechingly furious. The library gets my thanks for having a graphic novel section. I enjoyed this gently sad exploration of endings and their occasional happy discoveries.

Sam Quixote says

A lot of old-school sci-fi as well as the hyperbole that spewed out of the 1950s/60s American space program promised lunar colonies and mostly portrayed it as desirable. Tom Gauld pokes gentle fun at that naivety in *Mooncop*, imagining what life would be like if we did have a moon colony. The answer? Bo-ring! There's nowt to do up there!

Mooncop drives about the barren landscape doing nothing because there's no crime. What few humans there are on the moon are also realising what a dreary place it is and are packing up their shit and heading back to Earth. But, no matter how much he wants to leave, *Mooncop* has to stay and maintain the peace - as if there was anything there to disrupt it anyway!

Gauld's minimalist art style is suited to the unexciting environs and subdued story which reads in a quasi-humorous, even melancholic, way. But in showing how dull moon life would be Gauld's written a pretty forgettable book, especially as there's barely anything to really call a story. The art is pleasant and it's readable but, unlike Neil Armstrong's footprints on the moon, *Mooncop* doesn't leave much of an impression. Disappointing too as Gauld's comics are usually more entertaining than this.

Nnedi says

Wonderful little melancholy story with imagery that'll stay with me for a while...BUT too dang short for a book that cost me nearly 20\$. Took me less than a half hour to read.

Jenne says

There are doughnuts, and a lost dog, and Neil Armstrong...you should just read it. It won't take very long. <3

David Schaafsma says

"Living on the moon. Whatever were we thinking? It seems rather silly now."

Here's a taste of it on vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/181677617>

This is my third book from Gauld, the London Guardian cartoonist. I loved the spare and wonderful *Goliath*, and the funny collection of cartoons, *You're All Just Jealous of My Jetpack*, and I like living in Gauld's spare sweet melancholy worlds. The moon here is very stark and still empty after a number of years, and people there are already being replaced by robots, not needed. . . maybe the grand lunar experiment may be coming to an end, surprise, surprise.

If we were to live there would it be different? Would we change and learn how to live? Nah. Lunar Bus. Lunar Donuts. With very few people. Not selling a lot of donuts. Well, the crime rate there IS lower, there's that. This comment pertains to the title, Mooncop; the main character is a Mooncop, okay, he does security on the moon, and he is doing pretty well, as you might imagine. Very dry humor. British irony on current social concerns with policing?

But hey, since the moon turned out to be so good for us, I am sure Mars would be WAY better, let's still go to Mars, hey. Possibly Gauld is slyly referencing some people's obsession with going to Mars and starting over there.

The art is wonderful, meticulously drawn, muted grays and dark blues. The story is not that memorable, and maybe goes on a little long for what it sets out to do. I found it less funny than a little silly and melancholy mixed.

Lauren says

Awwww! This was such a lovely and tender little read and I'm grateful for the recommendation of it.

Mooncop focuses on a police officer who lives on the moon, who performs the same tasks day in, day out, which isn't a lot really. There are no crimes on the moon but there are lunar donuts which he particularly enjoys.

Mooncop is an existential story which is both funny and pretty sad at times, and will definitely be re-read.

A beautiful and touching book. Go check it out.

Andrew says

Hits the same funny/sad sweet spot as the best of Jason. The deadpan expressions of loneliness and dislocation will be familiar to anybody who's lived in one place long enough to see it change in sad or unsettling ways. My only complaint is the absurdly short length. I wanted more.

Jan Philipzig says

Sparse, subdued, existentialist, melancholy, wryly humorous, and maybe even a tad romantic: I liked it quite a bit. 3.5 stars, I'd say.

Diane says

What a lovely story of loneliness and friendship this is.

"Living on the moon. Whatever were we thinking? It seems rather silly now."

Mooncop is the story of a man who always wanted to live on the moon, "but now I'm here, it seems like the party's over and everybody's going home."

We see the mooncop go about his quiet days, helping the last few residents on the moon. He has a lot of free time to gaze out on the stars and at earth. He wants to transfer back home, but no one is available to replace him.

Luckily he makes friends with the girl who works at the Lunar Donuts cafe. They're still far away from earth, but isn't having a friend all that really matters?

Ashley Brooks says

Simple and melancholy. But there's donuts. Space donuts.

Really enjoyed this.

Donovan says

What a fun, clever little book. I mean, I read it in like ten minutes. Reminds me of Douglas Adams, but with more minimalism and ennui. The illustrations are simple but great and effective. Check it out!

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Questions of duty, loneliness and the future are all addressed in this slim yet powerful GN. I would like to offer my first 'book and song' pairing (kind of like wine and cheese): listen to Jonathan King's Everyone's Gone To The Moon while you read this book...

Ariel says

Every single time I read a graphic novel I'm reminded of HOW MUCH I LOVE GRAPHIC NOVELS. This one was no exception, Mooncop was absolutely wonderful ?

It's a tiny story about a cop who works on the moon when everyone is leaving and he has nothing to do. He's lonely and melancholy but peaceful and calm. The drawings are so chilly and isolating but they made me feel like I was the mooncop's friend and that at least he wasn't fully alone. The narrative is quaint and touching and funny and quirky.

I really recommend you pick this up, especially if you like anything to do with space because the artwork will make you want to move to the moon (even if it's lonely). ??

