



The Chairs' Hiatus

Matthew Bogart (Cartoonist)

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Mary and Nel were known for being close. Throughout the years the two of them zig-zagged the country as the rock duo "The Chairs" they never spent more than a day or two apart.

That is until Mary mysteriously appears in a new city having given up her music, fame, and friends. She wants nothing more than to work her lousy job and be left alone, but the two people who just showed up on her doorstep are determined to make sure won't happen.

"Matthew Bogart's The Chairs Hiatus is uncluttered in its story, quiet in its telling, and lovely in the time it spends with you. It illustrates its human moments by enveloping us in the larger spaces we are surrounded by. I felt like I was using a telescope to read a comic taking gentle steps forward into something big and small at the same time."

-Anis Mojgani

2-time National Poetry Slam champion and author of The Feather Room

"The Chairs Hiatus is a kind of comic I'd like to see more often - a small, human story about how people hurt each other without meaning to. Matthew Bogart's intelligent, graceful cartooning is a pleasure to read."

- Barry Deutsch

The Chairs' Hiatus Details

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Author : Matthew Bogart (Cartoonist)

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From Reader Review The Chairs' Hiatus for online ebook

Andy says

One of the best graphic novels from the SXSW 2014 Starter Pack from ComiXology earlier this year, *The Chairs' Hiatus* is nothing fancy or flashy, just a simple story (yet not simplistic) about a band, relationships, trust and forgiveness. Well worth seeking out digitally or in print.

Matthew Bogart says

Hey, I wrote and drew this book. I just wanted to let people know that if you're interested in reading it you can do so for free on my web site at <http://matthewbogart.net/the-chairs-h...>

You can even download a pdf of it to read on an e-reader or tablet at <https://gumroad.com/matthewbogart>

Also, if you can, consider coming back here and giving it a rating. I'd greatly appreciate it and it helps other folks find out about it.

Thank's for taking the time!

Sam Quixote says

'Cos everyyyybodyyyyyy huuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuurrrrrrrrrrrtttttttsssssssss.... If that song were a comic, it'd be The Chairs' Hiatus!

Mary was one half of popular indie band The Chairs but “something” happened and the band went on a break. Though she’s been keeping a low profile in a small town her former band mate Nel tracks her down and tries to reform The Chairs. But what caused their hiatus in the first place?

This is a pretty accomplished comic considering it's Matthew Bogart's debut! The story is developed well, the mystery is slowly unravelled, we get a good sense of Mary as a character and her interactions with Nel and their mutual friend Jen are believable. And yet... I didn't love it. Maybe it's because it's too light a narrative touch, Bogart being just a wee bit too subtle to really impress his story on the reader, but I only sorta liked it.

That said, there's interesting use of the medium as we only see one side of a critical phone conversation between Mary and her beau (the other half is included as a backup), one character disappears entirely at a crucial moment and the mystery is only partially explained with the reader expected to read between the lines (or panels, so to speak) of that silent finale.

Bogart shows a strong understanding of the language of comics and a sophisticated and confident use of it. The art is spare and competent if a bit plain. The use of blue mono-colour is a good reflection of the tone of the piece. And I appreciated that Bogart is smart enough not to try and emphasise and express the music itself through the comic – that never works in this medium.

The Chairs' Hiatus may not be the most gripping read but it's got enough going on in it to keep readers enticed. Dan Clowes and Seth fans may find this one appealing.

Mark says

Another Comixology Submit e-comic, it's the story of a member of a successful alt-rock band who has gone into seclusion. She's living in a new town, working a non-musical job, and having limited human contact. Her old band mates come to visit, and we slowly learn what happened to their musical partnership (it wasn't about the music, as is often the case in the real world).

A nice little slice-of-life story, told in B&W with blue wash. At 99 pages it also read comfortably over a lunch hour.

John says

A really fantastic slice-of-life graphic novel.

April says

Beautifully drawn, this graphic novel made my cry with the achingly earnest, quiet journey of a musician who's lost her music and herself. Short but full of quiet emotion, Bogart makes the characters come alive with gorgeous art and a beautiful muted color palette. For a quick read with wonderful art, design and writing, I highly recommend. Will definitely read again and will pick up anything Bogart writes in the future.

Kat Hulu says

Simple but good

Nick Fagerlund says

I was drinking beer and texting Ruth about this comic (along with photos, which, y'all can just check out the free online version for visuals), and I think I'll just let two of those texts make up the meat of the review here:

"This book has good confidence in its shots. The sort of panel sequence that's secure enough in the usage of the tools at hand that it's easy to read and yet you feel smarter for reading it."

"A lack of redundancy, a burly parsimony."

Tony Laplume says

This is an excellent little graphic novel about being part of something, and what it's like to then become detached from that thing.

Bogart's simple approach is to follow the course of the reunion between two women who used to be in a rock band together. The lead character walked away and has been trying to distance herself from her old life. She doesn't even know what to make of reminders, of fans who recognize her. This is the part where she's so far removed from what she used to have, she's become completely isolated, and prefers that isolation.

Then her bandmate comes back and forces a reunion, which backfires spectacularly, and as a result, we get to learn exactly what happened. And it's not just a story about being in a band and touring, but can be applied to other circumstances, and as such has a somewhat powerful therapeutic potential to it. How relationships end, and how they can begin again, is something Bogart has expressed in a profound way.

This is a thing of beauty.

Keith Schnell says

I bought The Chairs' Hiatus for the entirely non-literary reason of checking the production quality of a graphic novel published by Amazon. Finding it to be a good book in the manufacturing sense, I read it in about a half an hour while I was waiting for some movers to show up, and was pleasantly surprised by the story and artwork.

The dialogue in The Chairs' Hiatus is written as though its characters have to put dimes in the adjective jar and the scope of the story is limited, dealing only with the relationships among the former members of the garage band for which it is named. Yet, in spite of its brevity, it manages to develop these relationships and the reader's empathy with the characters at great length before the central conflict of the story is introduced. This shows careful planning on the part of the author and makes it the type of book that you have to finish in one sitting in order to find out what happens to these people. The artwork, done with pen, ink and I'm guessing the paint bucket tool, complements this storytelling style in a way, with carefully drawn and detailed backgrounds framing people whose facial expressions warrant in many cases only a few expressive lines.

I greatly enjoyed reading this, and look forward to seeing more work from Matthew Bogart.

SA says

Lovely and spare; the art conveys so much of the story, which is excellent in this medium. You hurt at the end of it, and you were supposed to; it was a familiar ache for me.

Jeffrey says

A fantastic graphic novel. Really touching and the art suits it perfectly.

Maggie Stiefvater says

The Chairs' Hiatus is an intimate portrait of a musician who's lost both her music and herself, and the quiet journey back to understanding. Highly recommended.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

An interesting, quiet little graphic novel that makes me ache in just the right way. This is just a story of two people as told mostly by one and how they've hurt each other, though no hurt was truly intended. It's a very human story in that there's no huge catalyst that brings it back around, merely emotions. It's...it's lovely, really. That's the best word I have for it.

Doreen says

12/15/13 Would I have been as affected by this graphic novel if I hadn't suffered the sudden loss of a friendship that meant everything to me? Dunno, but Mr Bogart's skill at storytelling is undeniable. Great pacing, great use of three-color panels. Review tk.

1/2/14 <http://www.iwantmytwodollars.com/2013...>
