



Low Moon

Jason

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The acclaimed graphic novelist Jason returns with his most eagerly awaited book yet, thanks to the inclusion of the title story, the world's first (and likely last) chess western, originally serialized in 2008 in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* "Funny Pages" section.

This 216-page hardcover book features five yarns—all brand new with the exception of the aforementioned "Low Moon," which is collected into book form for the first time.

The new stories lead off with "Emily Says Hello," a typically deadpan Jason tale of murder, revenge and sexual domination. Then, the wordless "" tells two tales at once: one about a skinny guy trying to steal enough money to save his ill mother, and the other about a fat guy murderously trying to woo his true love. The reason we follow these two parallel stories becomes obvious only on the very last page, in Jason's inimitable genre-mashing style.

"Early Film Noir" can best be described as *The Postman Always Rings Twice* meets *Groundhog Day*. But starring cavemen. And finally, "You Are Here" features alien kidnappings, space travel, and the pain and confusion of family ties, culminating in an enigmatic finale that rivals Jason's greatest twists.

Funny, poignant, and wry, *Low Moon* shows one of the world's most acclaimed graphic novelists at the absolute peak of his powers.

Low Moon Details

Date : Published July 14th 2009 by Fantagraphics (first published January 1st 2009)

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Author : Jason

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From Reader Review Low Moon for online ebook

David Schaafsma says

Another Jason reread for me, first read six years ago. A comics short story collection, featuring "Low Moon," which is a kind of tribute to the western film High Noon. Instead of guns, chess! ? Wonderful! Hilarious.

"Emily says Hello" is a strange noirish tale of a hitman killing men for a woman in exchange for sexual favors. Intriguing. Disturbing? Powerful and affecting in surprising ways.

"&" is a story operating on two levels; one, a man taking care of his dying mother, and the other about his trying (mostly unsuccessfully) to marry a woman. Manages to be touching, sad.

"Proto Film Noir" is caveman noir (which means it is a noir story told with cavemen!). Good, not great?

"You are Here" is a sad story about divorce. . . and possible alien abduction where the man builds a rocket to go find his estranged wife. Powerful, in so many surprising ways.

.

Early Jason, but finding his stride, trying different approaches to story. Some Jason stories are funny, more of them sad, but he does both well. Terrific minimal drawing and dialogue to tell the stories. Not every story is the best of Jason, though at least three of the five are on my list.

Sam Quixote says

"Low Moon" shows two things about Jason's success - firstly that he's getting blurbs from writers like Glen David Gold on the back cover, and secondly that this is his first hardback edition with colour.

It's a little larger than the average paperback and is Jason's longest work yet. It's made up of five short stories: Emily Says Hello, Low Moon, &, Proto Film Noir, and You Are Here.

Emily Says Hello is about a man killing people in exchange for sexual favours from a woman. He records their last moments on a dictaphone, says "Emily Says Hello" and then shoots them. He plays this to the woman who takes the photograph of the dead person, hangs it on the wall and crosses out the picture, then goes on to pay her part of the deal to the killer.

Low Moon is a wild west story with a difference. Instead of shootouts they have chess matches. Horses are no longer around having been replaced with old timey big wheel-small wheel bikes, and cowboys talk on cell phones. A bad guy comes to town to challenge the sheriff to a chess match at dawn.

& follows two separate story lines. A man trying to raise money to pay for a life saving operation for his mother and a man who is trying to woo a woman to marry him.

Proto Film Noir follows a similar storyline to "The Postman Always Rings Twice" only the protagonists are

cavemen. Also when the couple try to murder the wife's husband he reappears day after day.

The final story is You Are Here where the wife is abducted by aliens and the husband spends twenty years building a spacecraft to go after her. His son, now a grown man, joins him and they set off to another planet to find the woman.

The plotting and pacing are among Jason's strongest work. Each story is eminently readable and thoroughly engrossing. Emily Says Hello is the most memorable and interesting story with a haunting end and shows Jason can do drama wonderfully. Low Moon and Proto Film Noir are the humour stories while & and You Are Here contain the most pathos and sadness.

The book is a gorgeous production and the stories are brilliant. I utterly loved it and honestly cannot see this artist ever writing a poor book. His sense of story is pitch perfect and his style is developing into a unique and original look. Where Herge is remembered for his drawing, so will Jason be remembered for his, and his wildly inventive stories. Really highly recommended both for fans of Jason and comics in general.

Jon Hewelt says

ReRead 13 Jan 2018

Still one of my favorite Jason books. An excellent collection of shorter stories, my favorites being "&" and "Proto Film Noir".

Go read Jason, dagnabbit. He's fantastic!

THIS IS MY FAVORITE JASON SO FAR. UPROARIOUSLY HILARIOUS. BLEAKLY DARK. I LOVE IT. GO READ IT.

Fuchsia Groan says

En cinco historias cortas Jason consigue plasmar una y otra vez sus obsesiones, aunque vaya variando de género, sin que en ningún momento se me haya hecho repetitivo, sorprendiendo una y otra vez. Segunda lectura que hago y qué bueno.

Émilie le envía un saludo me ha gustado mucho, principalmente por el final, pero me parece la menos original, me ha recordado mucho a ¿Por qué haces esto?. Una historia de soledad y asesinatos. Siempre soledad en Jason.

Low Moon me ha encantado, tanto por la genial revisión de Solo ante el peligro como por los diálogos y el humor que va metiendo en pequeños chistes, buenísima.

& es tremenda también, sorprendente como siempre, con esa ironía tan característica del autor, y con un final perfecto.

Proto film noir la recordaba perfectamente de la anterior lectura, por lo surrealista del principio y lo desconcertante y divertido de la situación. Con el final creo que me he perdido algo, de nuevo.

Y el último, Estás allí, mi favorito sin duda, una preciosidad de aventura, alienígenas y relaciones familiares. Una gozada.

Archit Ojha says

If you haven't yet discovered Jason's works, then it is a high time that you start looking for them. His works are poignant and can leave anyone speechless. Great work.

Karl O' says

Jason's work just works for me. Consistently odd but it is always effective. The guy can so much loneliness and pathos in his simple repetitive drawings.

Anthony Vacca says

I'm sad to say that until he releases his next injection of anthropomorphic misanthropy, I'm going to be stuck clawing up the walls in the throes of Jason withdrawal. At least this last piece of pie was a wonderful collection of stories that I piggishly gobbled up and smacked over. *Low Moon* is a perfectly prepared dish: a sparse but ingeniously structured slice of unflinching noir; a slapstick Western replacing gunplay with chess; an unsettling absurdist take on the *The Postman Always Rings Twice* plot, involving cavemen and women (cavepeople?); an existentially hopeless comedy of manners involving the murderous and unnecessary lengths a person will go for love; and a tearjerker of a story that, though predicated on the abduction of a woman by an alien, becomes a haunting look at the disappointments of marriage and fatherhood across several generations. This is Jason is at his stylistic best. Every story here is a winner about how often in life we all end up losers.

Can I have some more now, Jason? Please?

Marpapad says

Emily says hello: 3/5

Low Moon: 5/5

&:5/5

Early film noir:2/5

You are here:3/5

Average:3.6

Jake B says

This book contains a good variety of short stories. You Are Here might be my favorite Jason story yet, and & was also great. Low Moon was really good and the other two were just good. Overall I very much enjoyed this.

Oriana says

why why *why* have I not read anything by Jason yet??

Liam says

If you are new to Jason, do not read this, read 'Hey Wait' or 'Why Are You Doing This?' first.

I dislike the GoodReads blurb for this.

A short story summary is like a TV episode trailer: it gives too much away.

Also this is *not* Jason at his peak, for me this only tops Almost Silent but not Shhh (his silent works being less appealing to read for me).

I believe Jason's stories feature pretty ambiguous and unexplained endings which are part of their appeal, and as such, there's no point really going in knowing what exactly happens. For me, the way I react to the emotional climax of the final few panels of any given Jason story will determine how much I like it. Jason does endings very well; I would be unsurprised if he writes plots backwards from finish to start.

This will take less than three hours even if you're being meticulous.

Order of Preference (best->worst):

& (neat plot arcs)

You Are Here (sadder than the others)

Emily Says Hello (was promising but confusing)

Early Film Noir (reminded me of a part of Hey Wait)

Low Moon (longest, but emotionally detached)

Ademption says

Jason's laconic, anthropomorphic beings schlep through multiple genres, wringing tragedy and dark comedy from the oppression they face, be it oppression from aliens, nazis, hitmen, lovers, or some combination of thereof. Using cinematographic techniques (closeups, two-shots, exterior intro shots, etc) his nearly expressionless characters methodically work through their often symmetric, downbeat entanglements. In his

last few books, Jason had been hyperactively mixing aliens and musketeers, timetravel and nazis, 1920s writers and gangsters. He has also been experimenting with length, doing long (98 page book-length works) and short pieces (3-panel and single page strips).

Jason continues to mix genres in this collection of five medium-length works (30-50 page short stories). Low Moon shows him maturing, content with following the course of a single genre mix to its deadpan conclusion: chess western, caveman noir, divorce-alien-abduction melodrama, etc.

In this collection, the stories' medium length and the patience with which he logically combines genres yields some of his best work to date. The economy of form and expression suits the limits of his genre remixing, avoiding the screwball side-plots of his longer works, most likely done for the sake of padding. Low Moon and I Killed Adolf Hitler are both recommended as starting points for -and the strongest work of- Jason's oeuvre.

Pimplop says

Wow

Maja says

It's not great, it's more than great.
I really enjoyed it, and I will definitely read more from Jason.

Elif says

Jason is just great!
