



## What Would Dewey Do?

*Bill Barnes, Gene Ambaum*

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Dewey and his fellow librarians confront the FBI, psychic fairs, poetry slams, crashed hard drives, identity theft, and of course each other. Features introduction by librarian, bestselling author, and action figure model Nancy Pearl plus pages of never-before-published comics.

## What Would Dewey Do? Details

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Author : Bill Barnes , Gene Ambaum

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## From Reader Review What Would Dewey Do? for online ebook

### Matthew says

Meet the crack staff of Mallville Public Library, led by Dewey, the jaded twentysomething Young Adult librarian; Mel, his service-oriented and efficiency-obsessed boss; Tamara, the idealistic, earth-loving, vegan Children's librarian; Buddy the Book Beaver, a hopelessly cheerful, shelving wunderkind; and Colleen, the computer-illiterate, Holstein-sweatered Reference librarian who's counting the long days to retirement. Brought to you by the creators of "Unshelved," a popular website and library-themed comic strip, these instantly recognizable characters are straight out of the tedious public service world, whose patrons are as needy and bizarre as the staff is dull and brilliant.

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### Angel says

The fun continues in this volume. Dewey gets his identity stolen; the library gets remodeled (in a miraculous sort of way), and other fun adventures happen here. This is definitely one of the best comic series I have read, and I am not saying that just because I am a librarian. However, as a librarian, I can say the authors do catch the essence of what it means to be a librarian. Totally cool book.

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### Matti Karjalainen says

Nettisarjakuvana alun perin tutuksi tullutta "Unshelvedia" on julkaistu myös muutaman albumillisen verran. Kuvitteelliseen Mallvillessä kunnankirjastoon sijoittuvasta sarjakuvasta olisi mukava pitää, mutta totuus on ikävä kyllä toinen: huonosti piirretyn ulkoasun voisi vielä antaa anteeksi, elleivät stripit olisi yleensä aika kömpelöitä, eivätkä jaksa naurattaa kirjastoammattilaistakaan (tai itse asiassa on vaikea kuvitella, että kukaan muu tästä sarjakuvasta pitäisi) kuin ihan satunnaisesti. Joukkoon on tosin mahtunut muutamia mainioita helmiä, joilla voisi koristella vaikka työpisteensä, mutta nämä ovat valitettavan harvassa.

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### Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

The characters grow on you, the more you read what goes on at the library. Another funny collection of what librarians go through and the questions they get.

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### Heidi The Hippie Reader says

*What Would Dewey Do?* is a disappointing second book in the *Unshelved* series of web comics. We are reintroduced to the characters that we met in the first book, but they don't develop their characters beyond what we already know. Also, Dewey, the wise-cracking reference librarian, crosses the line, in my opinion, from sarcastically amusing to unkind. The school librarian asks him out on a date and he treats her like garbage. Then, deeper into the book, we get to see him mocking her attention and changing plans at the last minute to

make himself unavailable, when a simple 'No, thanks' would have sufficed. I was unimpressed.

Beyond that, there were still situations in *What Would Dewey Do?* that I empathized with and could have been pulled directly from my life. Here's the dialogue on page 27, middle panel, a patron is standing at the ref desk: "*I'd like the new books by Crichton, Grisham, and King.*"-patron "*They're all checked out. I can add you to the holds list.*" -Dewey "*How long will I have to wait?*"-patron "*Let's see... about six months.*"-Dewey "*Six months? What am I supposed to read until then?*"-patron Scene pulls back to reveal the shelves of books around the two of them. I swear I've had that exact conversation. Try another author, folks. There's a bunch out there.

My library actually owned the Nancy Pearl, Librarian Action Figure, from page 81! We even had her book shelf accessories. Sadly, I think we got rid of her in the remodel, but she used to sit on top of the non-circulating, reference books.

The never-ending struggle with the microfilm machine: "*I can't get the microfilm reader to work.*"-patron "*Give me a minute.*"-Dewey (*Dewey spends some time kicking the machine.*) "*That's not going to help.*"-library director "*It's therapeutic.*"-Dewey "*Well we've gotten 20 years out of it.*"-director "*Yeah, but how many years has it gotten out of us?*"-Dewey pg 86. Preach, Dewey.

Recommended for other librarians because of the subject matter. If you're not concerned with reading a complete series, you'd be ok skipping this volume. Pick up the first one instead, *Unshelved*. It was better.

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### **Rift Vegan says**

Favorites from this book...

I got mine in China, Haiku poetry slam, Organic? Look for bugs! bahaha!! and Dewey resuscitated a dog, Help, my dog isn't breathing... heck yeah!

Books + Saving Animals = LOVE!

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### **Ed says**

Amazing what truths can be contained in the several panels of a comic strip.

Are libraries just boring places filled with shelves of books, with patrons and staff just following routines? Or is it a pageant of personalities on a public stage? Are there actually "types" that can be recognized as occurring in all libraries far and wide?

Enjoy!

[Bonus: visit the comic's website to sign up for a brand new strip delivered daily to your inbox...no strings attached!]

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### **Ingrid says**

Picked this up at work (I know, right, a library...) and I could not put it down once I was done my shift. So,

so funny. Not perfect, but pretty weirdly believable. I mean, library patrons can be bizarre!

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### **Abraham Ray says**

nice collection of unshelved web-comics!

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### **Heidi-Marie says**

I absolutely love that there are not only people out there who get what being a librarian is like, but even more so that they are turning it into comics! I've known of this comic for years, and read pretty regularly with my daily subscription for the last couple of years. But reading them straight through in these collections--I can't get enough! They are fabulously hilarious and make me feel better and better about all things librarian.

A couple of things that don't suit my palate, but it does not detract much from the overall fun and enjoyment.

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

I borrowed this book (reserved it online from a Goodreads link that went awry) thinking it was the first collection (it's the second), and the comic and the characters were brand new to me.

There are some real gems in here. A few were laugh out loud funny but most of the strips were just mildly amusing, and several I just didn't get. I did enjoy them enough that I do now have the 1st collection on reserve at the library. Having a comic strip about what goes on in a library is an inspired premise; I love it.

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### **Stewart Tame says**

Unshelved deserves to be more widely known. I'll admit that, at first thought, the idea of setting a comic strip in a library seems like a poor choice (One librarian says to another, "So I told him the book should be classified as 745.4 when we both knew it should be 745.46!" Both laugh.) But one quickly realizes the potential involved: there's the library staff, with all their assorted quirks, as well as an endless supply of patrons. Plenty of grist for the cartoonist's mill. Barnes and Ambaum know their subject well, and are smart enough to know that the best humor comes not from telling jokes but from characters reacting to situations. It's also a canny promotional move on their part: get the librarians laughing and they'll make sure your book is on their shelves for people to find. I love this strip!

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### **Kit says**

Dewey is pointier (so this is why there's a joke calling him "triangle-head man"!) in this early collection of

Unshelved strips than he is drawn in his later incarnations, but just as funny. Do other professions besides librarianship have awesome insider-joke cartoons like Unshelved? Insurance adjustors? Home Depot managers? I wonder...

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### **Kaitlin says**

Cute. It bothers me that Dewey takes so many coffee breaks and that he reads on the clock because, seriously, what real librarian does that??

I wouldn't recommend this to anybody who hasn't worked at a library, but some of the strips are funny and I share them with others. I would love to post some of the better ones (bacon bookmark) at my library, but patrons either wouldn't get it or would be offended.

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### **Duane says**

I enjoyed this Unshelved collection more than the first one, but that's still not saying much. If you're not involved in the world of libraries, you won't get much of the humor in this book. Finding myself working at a library, I do get most of the humor, but even then the humor only happens occassionally. The drawing style is very juvenile and I guess that's one of my biggest drawbacks to this strip. Good for librarians, but not for most other people.

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