



# Not My Bag

*Sina Grace*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Not My Bag

*Sina Grace*

## Not My Bag Sina Grace

From the artist of *The Li'l Depressed Boy*, and Amber Benson's *Among the Ghosts*, comes a haunting retail hell story like you've never encountered before! A young artist takes a job at a department store in order to make ends meet... little does he know that he may meet his end! In this gothic story for fans of *Black Swan*, *Blankets*, and *The Devil Wears Prada*, can the artist withstand competitive pressure, treachery, and high fashion while still keeping his soul?

## Not My Bag Details

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Image Comics (first published October 23rd 2012)

ISBN : 9781607065975

Author : Sina Grace

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fiction, Comic Book, Graphic Novels Comics

 [Download Not My Bag ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Not My Bag ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Not My Bag Sina Grace**

---

# From Reader Review Not My Bag for online ebook

## Kaleb Fischer says

I thought there would be more interesting or spooky elements here, but it was mostly just a rant about retail jobs and "oh poor me, I have to bend to capitalism and work rather than just pursuing my actual interests".

I liked the art style, but there wasn't a whole lot of depth to the storytelling. It could have explored in greater depth his response to mental breakdown is like or how being queer and/or Persian presents a unique set of pressures, but the narrative was just really superficial and kind of dull.

---

## Tyler Kroon says

A struggling artist takes on a job at a department store and toils to get a promotion, dealing with cutthroat competition from other salespeople while struggling to keep his relationship afloat as he's haunted by ghosts of his past. Comedic and a little dark, it's a testament to keeping your originality and creativity close while working an exhausting, rigid job.

---

## Daria Yogacoon says

What was I supposed to get out of this book? It's not funny, it has too much text for the graphic novel and doesn't add anything with the illustrations. I don't say they are bad; they were made by a talented hand, but they didn't add anything to the story, neither by storytelling nor by some clever illustrative way that make you go "ow that's a cool idea".

---

## Lizzy says

This is such a fun, fascinating look into the world of retail! It's funny and quirky, but also insightful. Sina Grace's visuals are a pleasure, and his memoir employs several spooky (I don't want to spoil anything) metaphors that give this glimpse into his life even more depth. Years after reading this graphic novel, it's still stuck with me, so I've gotta give it 5 stars! Great autobio work from a talented artist/writer!

---

## Komi Amegblenke says

Was expecting a tell on how horrible the retail industry is. But came to expect something a little different. Was a story about a gentleman who learned that sometimes where we work can change us in monsters. Monsters that can wreck our livelihoods if not put into check. He shows how brutal a commission based work can be and how it almost ruined his life. One lesson which is saved till the end is the following:

"clothes, money fear ghosts, these are not things to rely on.... The only thing you can rely on is yourself."

---

## Heather says

I wish I'd enjoyed this more as I like the artist's style but essentially any story that is about the tedious work fall-outs of a retail job is going to be relatively tedious also.

---

## Hollowspine says

3.5

Really, I wasn't sure exactly how to rate this, and wasn't sure what to expect when I picked it up. It was the cover art, the tentacle coming out of the shopping bag and it's description as a 'gothic tale' that had me put it on request at the library, but after reading it, I'm not sure I would describe the art, the story or the style as overly gothic.

I don't know much about the fashion world, and though I did try to read "the Devil Wears Prada," fans of which it was suggested would enjoy this auto-com, I couldn't get interested in the story at all.

I enjoyed Grace's art and portrayal of the various characters at his place of work. I could understand in the retail atmosphere the competitive nature that came out, even of a shy character, but what I didn't understand was the compounding of a desire for expensive clothing. I try to shop fairly exclusively at the cheapest place around, Savers, and only then when I can get a discount. So it is fair to say I'm no fashionista.

I really found his relationships throughout the story much more interesting and wonderful how his art was supported rather than the job at the clothing store, which brought in money, but also tension and stress. Not to mention spending quite a lot on unnecessary clothing. I'm certainly glad, after having read this, that I never got a job in a competitive retail store with odd characters and back stabbing bosses.

---

## Joel Cuthbert says

A charming little autobiography of a desperate spell through the exhaustive world of luxury fashion retail. Does what great biographic fiction does in immersing you in a world you might be unfamiliar with and wrestles through the difficult lessons learned. Full of imaginative art flourishes that help embellish the highs and lows of the story told. Recommended.

---

## Caleb says

I had this recommended to me by a co-worker after spending some time talking about how wonderfully bizarre the fashion industry is and our own vanity. It was amazing and I loved it.

It appears to be a somewhat autobiographical tale about the perils of retail, the thrall of fashion and the difficulties of relationships both past and present. While I found it highly enjoyable as all three of these themes appealed to me, I can see it may fall flat for those who don't find appeal or resonance with the subject matter.

We follow the artist as he loses himself to the strange glamour a retail role in a high-end department store has. Soon it is sales and fashion not his own art that drives him daily. The stories of his previous and current relationship are also interwoven throughout the narrative. While they don't appear to have immediate relevance to the story, it is elegantly done and does inform the story and enrich the characters.

While I can see why it may be labeled 'gothic' that may be a tad misleading to most. It is certainly more *The Devil Wears Prada* than any literary gothic tale the tentacle on the cover suggests. Just a note to those who would judge a book by its cover.

The illustration is also highly enjoyable being clean, crisp and expressive.

Due to its subject it may not have wide appeal to those generally interested in graphic novels but I would urge those people to give it a go. Sure it is self-indulgent and not the usual fare but that is exactly why you should try it. Diversity is the spice of life as they say. If you have an interest in fashion or have worked in a competitive commission based retail environment there will be real appeal here too. Also it does feature a genuine and non-cliche gay relationship which may be attractive to some.

---

## Stephen says

**\*\*This review includes a review of the newly published Self-Obsessed comic by the same creator (see below).\*\***

As in any sales position, there are backstabbers to deal with, managers who cannot be relied upon, and customers who are NOT always right. This is the story of a guy trying to avoid all of the above and still do a good job.

The book was nice because it gave us an insider's peek into something as common as a (upscale) mall retail position, and made it clear that there is more involved than just putting clothes on hangers.

The author did himself a disservice by throwing fantastical elements into an otherwise interesting read. For example, if he didn't like a particular bitchy co-worker he'd draw her with fangs, claws, and a monster-like mouth. This was a distraction.

The art itself was weak, lacking style, and sloppy as well. The book was also thin, but that didn't stop its publishers from giving it a big price.

This was a 2.5 / 5-star book, but I'm feeling generous today so I'm rounding up. I support slice-of-life books like this in a world overflowing with costumed superhero books.

---

Now, I would like to do a second review of a comic by this same author/artist, and I'm putting this addendum

here because this particular one-shot comic isn't on goodreads yet. The comic is called

## **Self**

-

## **Obsessed**

and that one little trick with the hyphen getting its own line is the closest thing to interesting graphics in the whole book. Yep, Sina blew his wad on the front cover and had nothing else to offer. The book is..well...it's unlike anything else I've ever seen.

I picked up Self-Obsessed based on the hopes that the creator of Not My Bag would progress in his artistic ability and his writing skills. That didn't happen. Not even close.

This is the kind of book that is so bad you absolutely can't wait to finish the thing before you start composing the snarky little things you will say about it on goodreads. But we're not going to pick on the poor artist for little things like his complete misuse of English grammar in multiple locations. No, no. We've got much bigger fish to fry here.

This is the kind of book made with so little introspection that the creator has a conversation with himself about how an older male lover is just trying to use the new generation of gay men to seem younger and live vicariously through them. Hmmm. This is also a book in which this creator, who is heading toward 30 at breakneck speed, uses the word 'TOTES' in casual conversation. As in 'TOTSIES'. As in, if he's over 15 he should probably use the adult version of the word, which has always been 'TOTALLY', at least since the early 1980s.

The art looked like he wrapped the tip of his pens in his man thong and couldn't figure out why the ink was having difficulty getting to the page. It's a fucking smudgefest. To be honest, I can't think of a worse artist working at the moment. Is it that I just don't like his particular style of art? NO! There is no style when an 'artist' cannot even render basic things like an anatomical part, or clothing, or a door, or anything in the background.

Okay, so not everyone can draw like a comic master. He must make up for it with some really good stories, right? No! And not just 'No', but Fuck No! It's a bunch of gender identity issues and relationship shit, filled with his fantasy of giant, 6-foot penises, a full page dedicated to his love of Sarah Jessica Parker's hair, and even a penis on the cover. It's all surface oriented crap, and even half of that is made up because he tells you he made composite characters. In other words he makes up situations so he looks smart and cute in his own little semi-autobiographical ficto-comic. Ain't no meat on these chicken bones, just skin and glitter.

This jumble of shit uses distractingly bad font choices, as well as incorrectly sized and disproportionate art projects he made years ago in high school. In fact, he KNOWS the crap is bad and he cuts parts of it out, excusing his lackluster storytelling skills by saying he cut out the parts that were boring. Well, yeah, there should have been cuts (like the whole thing), but can you at least finish the little story you started????

This whole comic is made up of unforgivable amateur filler. This isn't a retrospective of an important artist, it's just all he had sitting around on a shelf somewhere. When the art doesn't fit the page he just gives you blank white space or a list of songs he likes, without rhyme or reason!

THERE ARE ENTIRE PAGES OF TEXT IN THIS THING BECAUSE THE ARTIST KNOWS HE CAN'T DRAW. THERE ARE PAGES OF JUST RANDOM DRAWINGS IN HERE BECAUSE THE AUTHOR

KNOWS HE CAN'T WRITE. THERE'S A PAGE WHERE BETTER ARTISTS EMBARASSINGLY (AND PROBABLY REGRETFULLY) DREW THIS ARTIST IN SUPER-QUICK, THERE-YOU-GO-KID-NOW-SCRAM COMIC CONVENTION STYLE! THERE ARE EVEN FIVE WHOLE PAGES OF PHOTOS OF THE ARTIST IN THIS THING. **FIVE. WHOLE. FUCKING. PAGES.** WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?????

How did this abortion get published? He was an intern with this comic company and apparently they thought he was owed a favor.

I'm now revising my overall rating of this creator's skills based on the quality of this book, and Sina Grace is now on my shit list of comic creators who wasted my time and my money with sub-par, retard-level product. This is the kind of immature dreck that killed independent comics in the mid 1980s and spilled over into the early 1990s, a glut of poor quality slop that the industry has not yet recovered from.

Mr. Grace goes so far as to include a preemptive excuse in the form of a quote in bold for why his book will be so poorly received: "There are a ton of wonderful queer creators, and I don't know how true this is, but my perception is that we're still being ghettoized" Oh, no no no you don't. You don't have the *right* to hide behind your sexual preferences when you put out trash like this product. The art sucks. The stories suck. The lack of coherence sucks. You, young man, need to take responsibility for your lack of artistic integrity. I purchased this comic MONTHS after I read Not My Bag. In that book you make it clear that you are gay or bi-. I didn't give a shit, didn't mention it once in my review, and I gave you a review that the material earned. Believe me, I'll be doing the same here with this comic.

Sina Grace, in your book you tell us how you have dreamed of being a comic creator since you were a little boy. This is your wakeup call: It's time to find a new dream. If you have the ability to be objective, as you look at the graphic novels around your home, you must realize that your lack of artistic skills places you very, very near the bottom of the books you have read over the years. Your delusion of comic greatness, or even competence, needs to end.

I know we're only four years into the 2010s, but I guess someone has to call it because it's inconceivable anything could be worse than this book: Self-Obsessed is the worst comic of the decade.

---

## **Dorothy says**

I really liked the drawing style and the direct focus on the topic. He dives right in and tells a story while analyzing everything that was going on. The characters were funny and clearly from real life, and I like the way his creepy boss has a different face all the time. It was a quick, afternoon read! I'd be interested to check out more of his stuff.

---

## **Himi says**

He's a brand specialist at a department store and this job that begins with a love for fashion comes to an end in a blaze of stress, unbecoming behavior and paranoia. Throughout his telling of this stop-over period in his life, we learn about his passion for comics and struggles with relationships. But all is not returns and lost sales; with time, a renewed sense of self, and some good people looking out for him, he manages to climb

out of the void he got sucked into and move on to much better things.

I've never worked for commission—I'm wholly against it—but I can relate to his retail woes. Actually, I can relate to a bunch of things in this comic, though that saddens me. I'm glad I picked this up during an Image Comics sale on comiXology. I also got his *Self-Obsessed*, so I'll be reading that soon enough.

---

### **Y says**

Very funky, very *Devil Wears Prada*, very fun! It's not something too experienced or professional, but it's a great, short read, and I loved the art style. Definitely liked the complicated mix of autobiographical elements in the story. My one complaint would be that, visually, there was a *lot* of text. And that's not a huge issue for me, but it definitely could've been pared down or given more illustrations to match. Sometimes it swallowed up the pages.

That said, it's super fun on its own, and I'm definitely keeping it around for future re-reads.

---

### **Cale says**

This is not your normal topic for a graphic novel - a comic artist's (assumably semi-autobiographical) retelling of his time working in an upscale fashion store. It's a very different world than any I've experienced, so it's interesting for the peek it gives into that, but at the same time, there's a reason I don't know much about fashion - I don't care to. It carries all the tropes of indie comics; overly self-absorbed, a story that hardly rises to the term, and a character that isn't particularly interesting. It's moderately well-drawn navel-gazing. Not bad, but you really need to know what you're getting into if you're going to read it.

---

### **Toni says**

This was something I probably never would have picked up but i'm glad I did. Sina Grace is such a talented artist and I'm glad to own something so beautiful. Not only the art, but the message was one I think about a lot having worked a retail job (granted not one as demanding and vicious).

---