

(Free pdf) Shadowland

Shadowland

Kim Deitch

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#2291912 in Books Fantagraphics Books, Inc. 2006-11-22Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 .68 x 9.02 x 12.04l, 1.88 #File Name: 156097771X176 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Kim Deitch : Shadowland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadowland:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Clowning achievementBy Sam QuixoteKim Deitch takes the reader on another zany trip through his mind in "Shadowland", a series of shorts featuring carnies, silent movie actresses, aliens, pygmies, and lots more.The book seems to take as the central character, Al Ledicker Jnr, a man who painted his face to look like a vicious clown and who became a carnival leader. The story jumps about Ledicker's life, with his father also taking a main role as a huckster who took in anyone he could with his flamboyant showmanship and flair for storytelling.Deitch's own fascination with the silent movie era comes into play here also with lots of chapters devoted to a silent movie actress called Molly O'Dare. Deitch has devoted a lot of his books to this era of movie-making from the more recent "Alias the Cat" and "The Search for Smilin' Ed" to earlier books like "Boulevard of

Broken Dreams". His knowledge of the time is well used here and the stories and drawings have an authentic feel to them. The story, as with all of Deitch's stories, doesn't seem to have any barriers to it - reality doesn't stop it and when Deitch gets going he goes far. The story goes from place to place, such as a medieval orphanage to a wild west cathouse to a sci-fi spaceship to tropical islands to underground mystical dwellings to... well you get the idea. Which isn't to say it always works. Because a lot of the stories overlap, there is a tendency to repetitiveness which can get a bit tiring. The wonderful thing to note with any Kim Deitch book is the artwork which in this book, like his others, is stellar. The layout, the texture, the level of detail, it's all utterly incredible and of such a high standard. Couple that with his inventiveness and storytelling verve and you have one underrated and highly achieving comics artist. "Shadowland" might not be my favourite of his books but it certainly is an accomplished one and certainly one to read for fans of indie comics. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is the one! By Grimmy I read this 'out of sequence': after Boulevard and Alias. In my opinion it far surpasses them both. This is Deitch's DaVinci code. This is the one that makes everything else fall into place. I put the book down and it all made sense, I could see all the minute connections, the loose ends were in fact major plot developments. The workings of the universe lay unfolded before me. I could see for miles. It was like looking through a window pane illuminated by white lightning: clear light! Believe me, this is a masterpiece. I can't believe it's out of print. This is Deitch at the peak of his god-like powers. If you have and like the other titles mentioned above you MUST get this or your life will be a sad and utter failure. It's great. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Approach with an Open Mind... By E. Spencer This was the first graphic novel I have read by Kim Deitch, and in the beginning I was unsure if I was missing parts of the serial "Shadowland." The storyline of this novel doesn't just jump around, it jumps inside of every facet of a story that at times seems disjointed and confusing, but is actually an enjoyable ride through American folklore and sci-fi fantasy. The 'plot' of the novel is not important (but still entertaining), but the psychedelic, imaginative drawings are entertaining and Deitch's artistic style is original and very imitated.

A graphic novel of unsolved murders, crazed ambitions and lost fortunes. Over a hundred years ago, a scout ship from a mysterious alien vessel crash-landed on Earth, where it was discovered by a seven-year-old boy named Al Ledicker. And so begins the confounding series of events that Kim Deitch, veteran underground cartoonist and creator of Pantheon's acclaimed graphic novel *The Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, has been chronicling for the last 20 years in a series of interrelated stories that have appeared in a variety of magazines and now finally collected into one book. *Shadowland*, whose narrative ranges from the late 19th century to (more or less) the present day, from Hollywood to an alien spacecraft 30,000 miles from Earth, tells the story of the Ledickers: Al Ledicker, the sleazy carnival owner whose mysterious disappearance has an astonishing resolution; Al Jr., his unfortunate, clown-faced son; his sister Emily Ledicker, now the whip-wielding Lady Wyndham; Ledicker's ex-wife, the midget Kewpie and a supporting cast that includes Molly O'Dare, adorable ingue and movie star (particularly in the eyes of the mysterious "Grey Ones," aliens obsessed with vintage American pop culture). Delineated in Deitch's charming, uniquely retro style, *Shadowland* is a tumble down the rabbit hole of sexy Hollywood starlets, little green (actually, gray) aliens, flying pigs and performing elephants, incest, murder, and eternal youth.

From Booklist Besides Waldo the cat (*All Waldo Comics*, 1992; *The Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, 2002), first-wave underground comics creator Deitch has another compelling recurring character in traveling-carnival operator Al Ledicker, whose adventures this oversize volume collects. Actually A. L. Ledecker Jr., Al's been in the business ever since his father, Buffalo Bill look-alike Doc Ledecker, decked him out, as a small boy, in clown togs and a rather sinister, leering face-paint job that, while he grew into checkered long pants, he kept on pretty constantly until his 1951 death. Deitch's preface to the collection uneasily owns up to how he may have come up with Al's look (he honestly can't recall for sure) by seeing pictures of serial killer John Wayne Gacy's eerily similar clown makeup. That strikes a chilling note that is quite in keeping with the strange, often fatal events in the Al Ledecker stories, which Deitch deliciously tricks out in compositions and with details reminiscent of turn-of-the-twentieth-century carnival posters and early suspense-movie-serial decor. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Kim Deitch lives in New York City with his wife, the artist Pamela Butler.