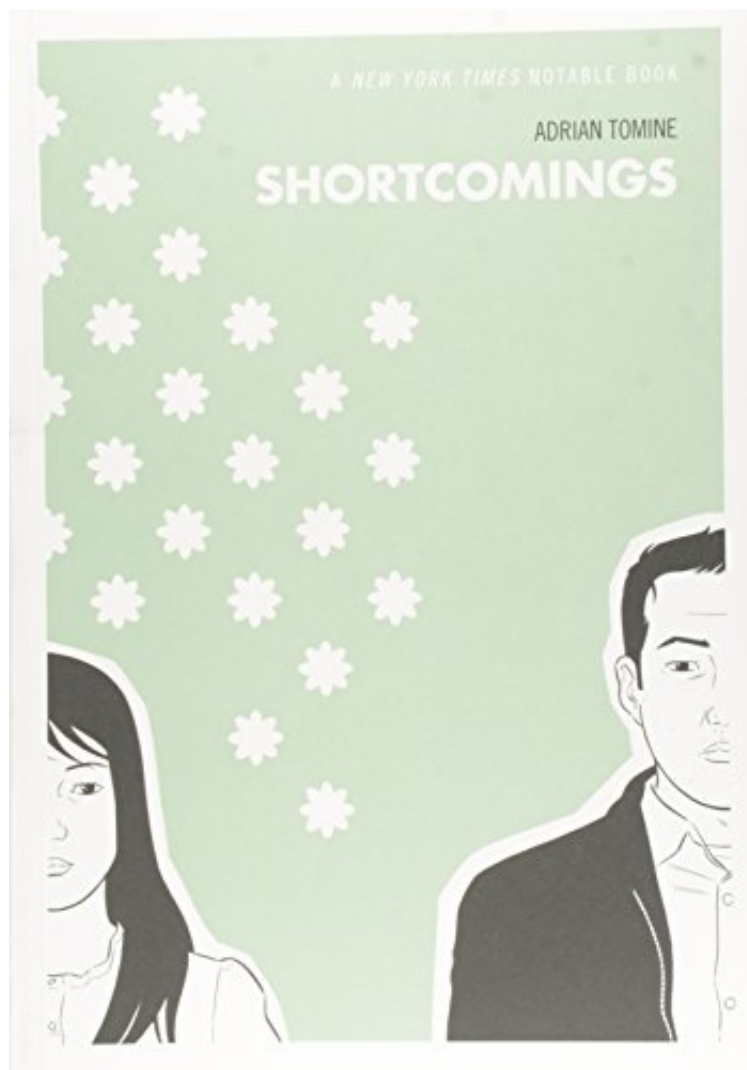


Shortcomings

Adrian Tomine

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#128899 in Books Drawn and Quarterly 2009-04-28 2009-04-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.17 x 10.16 x 6.57l, .55 #File Name: 1897299753104 pages | File size: 18.Mb

Adrian Tomine : Shortcomings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shortcomings:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Haha, Nice!By Lyon LeoWow, this is just story telling at its finest. Ever watch an embarrassing moment in slow motion? That was the pace of the book. The main character's frustrations on society and his views of himself is overwhelmingly college-like. There are some very funny moments in the book. Adrian does a good job addressing some stereotypes but does not openly dispel any of it. I felt that he kind of spells it out for the reader but it is up to the reader to believe them or not and that might be worth more than the story itself. I found myself questioning on how much I really know about other cultures and let alone other cultures that have one or

two generations in America. I hope that Adrian Tomine continues the main character in other books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting story by a talented author and artist By CNguyen This is a great graphic novel. I would recommend it in hardcover though. It was a quick read. I read it in a night, and enjoyed the Asian-American perspective. Growing up in the Bay Area, I also appreciated the setting even more. Overall, it was thought-provoking, and brought up themes that I have thought about, but never have seen too much about, especially in graphic novel form. This was my first time reading something by Tomine, and I'd like to check out more of his work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Erika Clark Arrived in a timely manner and was as described in product description.

The 2007 New York Times Book Review Notable Book now in paperback Lauded for its provocative and insightful portrayal of interpersonal relationships, Adrian Tomine's politically charged *Shortcomings* was one of the most acclaimed books of 2007. Among many interviews and reviews in outlets around the country, Tomine was interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR's *Fresh Air* and also in *The Believer*, *New York* magazine, and *Giant Robot*. *Shortcomings* landed on countless "best of" lists, including those in *Entertainment Weekly* and *The New York Times*; was praised by Junot Diaz in *Publishers Weekly*; and was the subject of a solo review in *The New York Times Book Review* that drew comparison between Tomine and Philip Roth. The groundbreaking graphic novel now returns in paperback.

.com Significant Seven, November 2007: Adrian Tomine draws his mid-twenties slackers with an impeccable, exact line for every slumpy gesture and cultivated rumple. In *Shortcomings*, this ex-wunderkind tackles a book-length comic for the first time after three collections of stories, and his maturity shows not so much in the ages of his characters, who are still slackly wandering, dropping out of grad school or managing a movie theater, but in his calm and masterful handling of his story, in which vividly individual characters wander through the maze of imposed and self-generated stereotypes of Asian and American identities (the title is a wry allusion to one of the most enduring of those assumptions). Never has that old commonplace that the personal is the political seemed more paralyzing, and more true. --Tom Nissley From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . Signature ed by Junot Diaz Tomine's lacerating falling-out-of-love story is an irresistible gem of a graphic novel. *Shortcomings* is set primarily in an almost otherworldly San Francisco Bay Area; its antihero, Ben Tanaka, is not your average comic book protagonist: he's crabby, negative, self-absorbed, ber-critical, slack-a-riffic and for someone who is strenuously race-blind, has a pernicious hankering for white girls. His girlfriend Miko (alas and tragically) is an Asian-American community activist of the moderate variety. Ben is the sort of cat who walks into a Korean wedding and says, Man, look at all these Asians, while Miko programs Asian-American independent films and both are equally skilled in the underhanded art of fighting without fighting. As you might imagine, their relationship is in full decay. In Tomine's apt hands, Tanaka's heartbreaking descent into awareness is reading as good as you'll find anywhere. What a relief to find such unprecious intelligent dynamic young people of color wrestling with real issues that they can neither escape nor hope completely to understand. Tomine's no dummy: he keeps the issues secondary to his characters' messy humanity and gains incredible thematic resonance from this subordination. Tomine's dialogue is hilarious (he makes Seth Rogan seem a little forced), his secondary characters knockouts (Ben's Korean-American only friend Alice steals every scene she's in, and the Korean wedding they attend together as pretend-partners is a study in the even blending of tragedy and farce), and his dramatic instincts second-to-none. Besides orchestrating a gripping kick-ass story with people who feel like you've had the pleasure/misfortune of rooming with, Tomine does something far more valuable: almost incidentally and without visible effort (for such is the strength of a true artist) he explodes the tottering myth that love is blind and from its million phony fragments assembles a compelling meditation on the role of race in the romantic economy, dramatizing with evil clarity how we are both utterly blind and cannily hyperaware of the immense invisible power race exerts in shaping what we call desire. And that moment at the end when the whiteboy squares up against Ben, kung-fu style: I couldn't decide whether to fold over in laughter or to hug Ben or both. Tomine accomplishes in one panel of this graphic novel what so many writers have failed to do in entire books. In crisp spare lines, he captures in all its excruciating, disappointing absurdity a single moment and makes from it our world. (Oct.) Junot Diaz's first novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, has just been published by Riverhead. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Meticulously observed . . . Pitch-perfect and succinct. [Tomine] is an invisible reporter, a scientist of the heart. *The New York Times Book Review* Exploring race, adulthood, and ambition with exquisitely tuned humor and poignancy, *Shortcomings* is a graphic narrative as piercingly realistic as any prose fiction. *Entertainment Weekly* Tomine's lacerating falling-out-of-love story is an irresistible gem of a graphic novel. Junot Diaz, *Publishers Weekly* *Shortcomings* is Tomine's richest and most rewarding read, packed with the most human characters he has ever created. *Star-Tribune* (Minneapolis) One of the most masterful cartoonists of his generation . . . [*Shortcomings* is] equal parts poignant, hilarious, and sad. *The Village Voice*