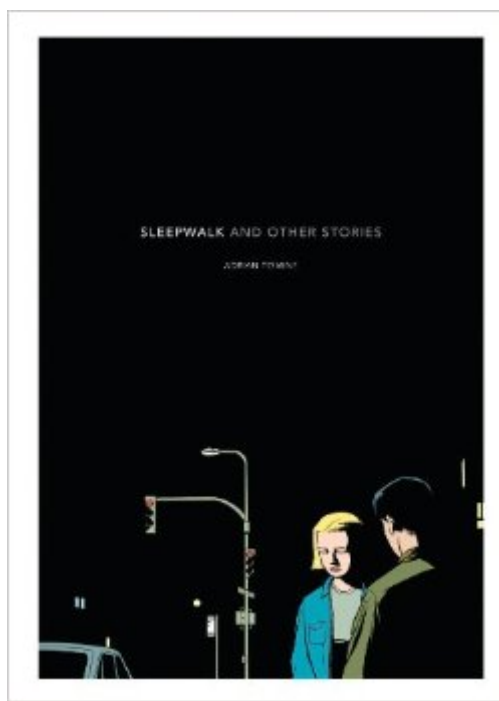


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Sleepwalk: And Other Stories



Synopsis

Collecting the first four issues of Adrian Tomine's acclaimed comic series *Optic Nerve*, this book offers sixteen concise, haunting tales of modern life. The characters here appear to be well-adjusted on the surface, but Tomine takes us deeper into their lives, subtly examining their struggle to connect with friends and lovers.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The sixteen stories contained here are predominantly quiet angst-ridden portraits of young men and women who are experiencing some kind of loss. Several lurk in the disorienting and heartbreaking wake of breakups. "Six Day Cold" is perhaps the most touching of these, showing a young man with a severe cold encountering his ex-girlfriend on the street. She takes care of him, bringing him soup and whatnot-and the way Tomine captures the unseen wistful looks he gives her is shattering. It's an awkward emotional terrain he captures with equal precision in the title story. Indeed, awkward situations are Tomine's forte, from threatening teenagers on a bus in "Hostage Situation," to a family vacation in "Dylan & Donovan" to the realization of shifting friendships in "Hazel Eyes" or a supermarket worker encountering a blind customer out on the street in "Supermarket." Tomine's ability to rapidly capture the exact right emotional tone of each situation and character is amazing. The longest story, "Summer Job" is pitch-perfect in showing a slacker-punk middle class kid on summer vacation from UC Berkeley (A Berkeley resident, Tomine sets many of his stories in and around Bay Area.). The kid's arrogant disdain for the Kinko's-like job he takes and his complete obliviousness to the economic realities of his co-workers is dead on and enraging. Another common

theme is loneliness, from the difficulty in long-distance relationships in "Long Distance" and "Layover" to an old widow remembering better days in "Lunch Break" or the creepy tale of a young woman who's stalked via the personal ads in "The Connecting Thread."

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