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Acme Novelty Library #20



Synopsis

Jordan Wellington Lint, fifty-one, is chief executive officer of Lint Financial Products, a company he began serving in 1985 as assistant and adviser before working his way up its corporate ladder to record-setting innovation in the fields of finance and high-yield investment. In his seven years as the head of Lint, Jordan has grown the company from a business lender and real estate speculator to a leading provider of network financial infrastructure services, all the while positioning Lint as a model of corporate integrity and high-yield, low-risk product. Lint's vision has made him one of the most influential and widely sought-after leaders in the complex Omaha securities industry, and his fresh approach to an understanding of local problems, leadership, and determination have enabled Lint to outdistance and outpace its competitors. Lint graduated from UNL in 1981 with a B.A. in business and briefly studied music and recording in Los Angeles before returning to his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, where he has continued his life journey ever since. In his ongoing role as chief executive officer and his dual roles as public servant and father, Lint continues to put his creative leadership and vision to work in a variety of challenging settings. He is married and the father of two boys. The ACME Novelty Library #20 comprises a contributing chapter to cartoonist Chris Ware's gradual accretion of the ongoing graphic novel experiment "Rusty Brown".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review The latest entry in Ware's roughly annual Acme Novelty Library is devoted to a heretofore peripheral figure in his ongoing "Rusty Brown" saga, Jordan Lint, who appeared

briefly in earlier installments as a school bully. Here Ware chronicles nothing less than Lint's entire life in a series of single-page vignettes, from a newborn who sees the world in the form of benday dots to his troubled childhood, stormy adolescence, and failures as husband, father, and businessman, right up to his eventual death. Ware uses a wide palette of graphic devices— "isolated words, symbolic objects, and near-subliminal flashbacks"—to convey Lint's inner thoughts and hidden turmoil. The assertive Lint seems a departure from Ware's typically hapless and passive protagonists, but he shares many of their traits, from a damaging early trauma to a near-spiritual attachment to a childhood home. And Ware's formal mastery of the medium continues to astonish. While he uses his characteristic techniques— "meticulous drawing; tiny, repetitive panels ingeniously juxtaposed; creative typography"—to brilliant effect, here he adds to his arsenal with a powerful sequence depicting a harrowing experience that happened to Lint's son, rendered in a primitive scrawl that's all the more powerful for its radical break with Ware's usual detached approach. --Gordon Flagg

Chris Ware lives in Oak Park, Illinois, and is the author of *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth*, which was recently selected as one of the hundred best books of the decade by the *London Times*. He is an irregular contributor to *The New Yorker*.

This entry in the Acme Novelty Library series is a really good one, I think. I don't follow regularly, but after seeing excerpts of this one in *Best American Comics* series volumes, I found myself wanting to read the entire work. It is gorgeously illustrated, as all of Ware's books are. But the central story-telling device: each page represents a day in each year of Jordan Lint's life, really works quite well. The efficiency with which Ware has to convey the story over a small amount of pages really ends up propelling the story quite nicely. I understand that this book ties in to the *Rusty Brown* series, which I have read parts of, but really: this book stands on its own very well. It feels much like most other Ware books. Bittersweet, thoughtful, full of regret, mistakes, memories (happy or sad), and struggling with the past. This book could fall apart if it were much larger and denser, but as a short story, it is really a lovely one-off. As a supporting book to *Rusty Brown*, it's still quite good. The production of this book is in keeping with everything Ware. A handsome cloth-bound volume with really nice heavy paper (cardstock weight). There's a nice hour or so in reading this book, and the art slows you down enough to take it in.

I was so used to the *Jimmy Corrigan* cycle from Chris Ware, I did not realize this is a completely

independent, detailed biography of the lead character, Lint. Chris Ware is a storyteller. He is an artist in both his graphic presentation and in his storytelling. The use of the multi-color process as part of this American tragedy is effective. I was not as emotionally attached to Lint as I have been with Jimmy Corrigan, but it is an excellent graphic novel on its own.

Ware is a genius.

This is art. It is greater than the sum of its parts...exponentially so....and yet, initially, seems so simple. It is only vignettes tied poignantly together. These vignettes (what a poor descriptor that) reflect truths too painful, simple, or profound to explain. It moves you. You move to it and cannot help but be altered and maybe uncomfortably so. Mr. Ware ties the story artfully into his Acme world and gives the reader a veritable continent in the Lint character to experience. The beginning is ingenious, the ending gut wrenchingly apt and the rest like watching the best movie you have ever seen but played in the confines of your own personal all too small mental sphere-too small because you feel that there is so much in the world of Lint and your own feelings add in on top of that to make for a reaction that is at times claustrophobic and at others cathartic. Yet it is pathetic and icky. Too dirty and real. These things should be left behind closed doors and not flaunted in the pages of a finely bound book.....or should they? Thus....it is art. It was made and I experience, like some cross dimensional traveler, decades in a few hours (I like to take breaks and slowly meander through the pictures). When I was done reading and turned the cover over - closed- and read in the smallest font size the last two words all I could think of is - what was the character's name in The Matrix, Ah- Cipher...when he said to the character Neo, "Jeezuz...what a mind job". I feel awfully cheap in quoting from some pop movie to compliment a work like this...but What a mind job....

We collect Chris Ware's works and he never fails to amuse. If you like this, I would definitely recommend the Joke Library. However, if you want to build all of the cut-out designs and keep the book intact you will need three copies! Aside from that I bought this for my Fiancé as a gift and he was very happy, this book does not have any cut-outs but is still a lot of fun. Can capture the subtleties of real life in a way that most people cannot do!

After reading these adventures of the Lint family, we want more of it! But then we get the "Building Stories" funny box where the stories are printed in many different formats (so that you cannot file them in a regular bookcase:

I am a big fan of Chris Ware and this volume is another great work by him that I'm very happy to have gotten.

This is a very odd book. I read good reviews on this so I picked it up. This is a good read, but you may have to re-read it once or twice

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