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Big Kids



Synopsis

Teenage misfits and adolescent rabble-rousing take center stage in this dark coming-of-age tale *Big Kids* is simultaneously Michael DeForge's most straightforward narrative and his most complex work to date. It follows a troubled teenage boy through the transformative years of high school as he redefines his friends, his interests, and his life path. When the boy's uncle, a police officer, gets kicked out of the family's basement apartment and transferred to the countryside, April moves in. She's a college student, mysterious and cool, and she quickly takes a shine to the boy. The boy's own interests quickly fade away: he stops engaging in casual sex, taking drugs, and testing the limits of socially acceptable (and legal) behavior. Instead, he hangs out with April and her friends, a bunch of highly evolved big kids who spend their days at the campus swimming pool. And slowly, the boy begins to change, too. Eerie and perfectly paced, DeForge's *Big Kids* muses on the complicated, and often contradictory, feelings people struggle with during adolescence, the choices we make to fit in, and the ways we survive times of change. Like *Ant Colony* and *First Year Healthy*, *Big Kids* is a testimony to the harshness and beauty of being alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"*Big Kids* is a bildungsroman of sorts; the story of a troubled teenage boy navigating the transformative years of high school, redefining his friends, interests, and life path. Anybody with a passing familiarity with DeForge's unsettling, vividly beautiful comics will know that this is a deceptively simple summation." —Zainab Akhtar, *The Guardian* "In the world of comics, there's no shortage of narratives about adolescence. But you've probably never read one as memorably

surreal as Michael DeForge's Big Kids." • Abraham Riesman, Vulture "Michael DeForge's Big Kids comic is a transcendental heartbreaker." • The Fader "... an outstanding work by one of the most original voices in comics today." • Pete Redrup, The Quietus "Big Kids is a revelation and DeForge's art is an unsettling, uncompromising and highly refreshing addition to the comics landscape." • Mark Sinclair, The Creative Review "... a book that is bursting with complex ideas and fragile emotions" • Craig Hubert, Artinfo

Michael DeForge was born in 1987 and grew up in Ottawa, Ontario. His one-person anthology series *Lose* has received great critical and commercial success, and has been nominated for or won every major comics award, including the Ignatz and Eisner awards. His illustrations have been published in *The New York Times* and *Bloomberg View*; and his comics have appeared in *The Believer*, *Maisonneuve*, and the *Adventure Time* comic book series.

A stunning emotionally charged dance for the retinas. Every book by DeForge has been perfect. I've collected all... In fact, his are the only comics I am completist about because I've yet to be disappointed. Each has an interesting psychologically evocative narrative brought to surface through surreal art. Each book has delivered an experience of cognitive overload where I've laughed out loud, sighed deeply, cried, and even exclaimed from the constant surprises. I'm not a huge graphic novel/comics connoisseur so perhaps my opinion is not adequately informed, but I can't imagine there are any current comic artists I would prefer to fill the gaps between reading books for school.

I don't normally rate items on , but felt compelled to heap some praise on this book. The art and storytelling is brutal, delicate, gripping, poignant, fantastic, odd, honest, sensual, humorous, sad, surreal, and surprisingly empathic. Sometimes our emotions and experiences are so transformative that the best way to articulate ourselves is through hyper-reality. We pass into another dimension and what was normal is never again. DeForge captures this transcendent feeling of loss, evolution, and the non sequitur series of events that bring about these changes. If you're a synesthete, as I believe I am, this book may carry even more relevance for you. When music has felt so substantial that it pushes through into other dimensions of our senses, or the poetry of an experience is so profound that you can almost feel the textures of your perception change, then DeForge's work will resonate with you. This was one of those surprise reads that ended up baptizing my imagination and evoking profound feelings.

Probably the strongest work yet from DeForge. He really nails the ending, which he has occasionally had some trouble with in the past. It's a freaky, uncomfortable, body-horror & sci-fi tinted coming of age story. Plus his lines & color just keep getting better.

As a painter and a graphic artist, I appreciate the randomness and humor of this wee book! It's totally relatable even though the characters look like psychedelic mushrooms or microbes. Pretty smart! IF you have trouble being able to read into the context because the subject matter is so visually alien, you should stick with Archie...nothing wrong with the gang!!

Wonderful, didn't know what to expect, but it was great. Surreal, hits the emotions, and the pace is spot on. DeForge is sooo goood

This is my first Michael DeForge book but not the last .

i enjoy most of michael deforge's books so this was a nice kind of novella

...it's so good

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