



Girl Town

Carolyn Nowak

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Multi-award-winning cartoonist Carolyn Nowak (Lumberjanes) finds powerful truths in fantasy worlds. Her stunning solo debut collection celebrates the ascent of a rising star in comics.

Diana got hurt—a lot—and she's decided to deal with this fact by purchasing a life-sized robot boyfriend. Mary and La-La host a podcast about a movie no one's ever seen. Kelly has dragged her friend Beth out of her comfort zone—and into a day at the fantasy market that neither of them will forget.

Carolyn Nowak's Girl Town collects the Ignatz Award-winning stories "Radishes" and "Diana's Electric Tongue" together with several other tales of young adulthood and the search for connection. Here are her most acclaimed mini-comics and anthology contributions, enhanced with new colors and joined by brand-new work.

Bold, infatuated, wounded, or lost, Nowak's girls shine with life and longing. Their stories—depicted with remarkable charm and insight—capture the spirit of our time.

Girl Town Details

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Author : Carolyn Nowak

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From Reader Review Girl Town for online ebook

Kayleighhokis says

2.5. Missed opportunity in my opinion. Art was cool but stories were vitriolic and often times essentially pointless... lots of various representation in the art depictions though, hence the round up.

Nore says

Aw, I really liked this. A collection of tales about women, mostly about their relationships with each other, platonic or not; the art was cute, the characters mostly felt 3D despite the short time devoted to each story, and honestly, I related well to what each story had to say. In particular, I'd read an entire collection expanding on Diana's Electric Tongue - I found the worldbuilding and the story interesting. Girl Town was my second favorite; if it had been a bit longer, it might have won out.

Plus, the cover? Love it.

Ian says

I don't read a lot of sequential art fiction, maybe a half dozen a year. Honestly, I want to be blown away but I'm usually left feeling a little disappointed. Not so here.

Girl Town is brilliant!

I have a general boycott in place on any book that refers to women as "girls" in the title but after looking at the sample on Amazon I knew I would be making an exception.

If I could give this book 10 Stars, I would.

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

This was just a little too weird for my tastes ? womp.

Sharon says

If I could give this six stars I would. I love Carolyn Nowak's comics so much.

Mya Alexice says

Carolyn Nowak creates FANTASTIC work. This is a collection of her mini comics that come together to make you love, love, love every minute. It celebrates women of all shapes, sizes, and colors. It's hilarious, and it's heartwarming. And the stories "Radishes" and "Diana's Electric Tongue" will WRECK you.

Rachel Macklin says

Some of the stories felt unfinished, and some were definitely stronger than others. However, I really liked the vibe of this anthology.

Stephanie (aka WW) says

(3.75 stars)

This is a collection of shorts centered around women, which are well-done if not consistently strong. I really enjoyed two of the stories, including the main one which features a humanoid “lover” purchased by a character who is reeling from a break-up. If what is in this book is excerpts from larger stories, which I believe is the case, I will be looking out for these two favorites of mine.

Laura says

Excellent. An amazing blend of weird, touching, and scathing. Carolyn is an exemplary creator.

Andrew says

In addition to the usual blurbs from critics and fellow cartoonists, the inside cover of this book features praise from short story master Kelly Link. Once you read the comics here, you'll understand why. Nowak shares Link's knack for stories that exist in slightly askew versions of our world (note how the fashion and technology in these comics look just a little bit different than you'd expect). She also shares Link's knack for compelling characters and ambiguous endings. Nowak's comics lure you in with appealing visuals and warm interactions between characters, but her goal is to unsettle you in unexpected ways, and she succeeds with every comic in this wonderful collection.

Bonus points for a story that makes podcasting seem interesting.

Melissa says

3.5 out of 4. I really liked the two center stories, “Radishes” and “Diana’s Electric Tongue.” The others felt a bit unfinished in places. Definitely a collection that fits in with Kelly Link, Sofia Samatar, Carmen Maria Machado, and Anjali Sachdeva, only sequential art instead of prose.

Part of my second Book Riot TBR/Pigeon recommendations and read for the graphic novel book group at my store.

Beth says

3.5. It's like a small collection of short stories where nothing really happens but in a nice way. The art is really nice and it's quite possible she intentionally referenced the painting/meme "Truth Coming Out of Her Well to Shame Mankind" in the cover art. I skipped the podcast story cause there were too many words. But I really liked that a lot of the time they were really normal settings but kind of unusual and a little bit sci-fi or something, but not in a way that was central to the story. I read it in like 40 minutes. Good art.

Rod Brown says

Nowak is a talent to watch, even if this book was a little disappointing for me. Though there were many interesting moments and characters, the short stories collected here didn't feel complete or satisfying. I think I would have enjoyed them more as middle chapters of longer works.

Jae says

I didnt realized this was a collection of mini comics, but they're all good, all weird, and all do that short story thing I like where they hint at a deeper back story but don't reveal too much and leave you hanging.

David Schaafsma says

A collection of mini-comics from Ann Arbor cartoonist Carolyn Nowak, and from the title yu might guess that it is woman-centric, women of all shapes, sizes, and colors. She's trying a variety of things. "Radishes" features two friends who eat magic radishes and produce temporary clones of themselves, with a touching twist ending. The podcast story is too busy, too much going on.

But "Diana's Electric Tongue" is the best of the bunch, in part because it is suprising. It features a woman who buys a male "companion" robot—think Alex + Ada, or Lars and the Real Girl—and develops a relationship with him that, again, turns into something surprisingly moving.

These are "alternative" comics wildly colored, with some pretty original invention. Hard to categorize, and yet the women seem both familiar and represent such a wide range of what it means to be a woman, and so fun. Promising, I'll say.
