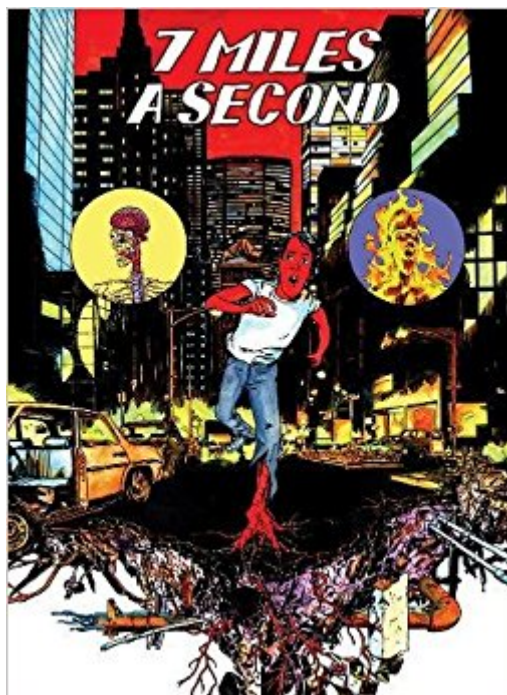


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7 Miles A Second



Synopsis

The cult classic graphic novel, the autobiographical tale of artist David Wojnarowicz's life as a hustler on the streets of NYC before he succumbed to AIDS, restored and reprinted by Fantagraphics. *7 Miles a Second* is the story of legendary artist David Wojnarowicz, written during the last years before his AIDS-related death in 1992, and drawn by James Romberger with colors by Marguerite Van Cook. The graphic novel depicts Wojnarowicz's childhood of prostitution and drugs on the streets of Manhattan, through his adulthood living with AIDS, and his anger at the indifference of government and health agencies. Originally published as a comic book in 1996 by DC's Vertigo Comics, an imprint best-known for horror and fantasy material such as *The Sandman*, *7 Miles a Second* was an instant critical success, but struggled to find an audience amongst the typical Vertigo readership. It has become a cult classic amongst fans of literary and art comics, just as Wojnarowicz's influence and reputation have widened in the larger art world. Romberger and Van Cook's visuals give stunning life to Wojnarowicz's words, blending the gritty naturalism of Lower East Side street life with a hallucinatory, psychedelic imagination that takes perfect advantage of the comics medium. This new edition finally presents the artwork as it was intended: oversized, and with Van Cook's elegant watercolors restored. It also includes several new pages created for this edition. Yes

Book Information

Hardcover: 68 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics; 1 edition (February 6, 2013)

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Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.6 x 12.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

When it originally appeared as a comic book in 1996, this harrowing memoir written by the artist and

activist Wojnarowicz just before his AIDS-related death in 1992 sank with little trace but has since achieved cult status. This welcome reissue publishes the work to its originally intended large page size and restores the original watercolors. Wojnarowicz recounts his days as a child prostitute around Times Square, then as a homeless teenager, and finally as an adult watching his friends die and his own health deteriorate, railing against society's indifference to the plague. The gritty yet gaudy artwork by Romberger, a friend of Wojnarowicz's who worked closely with him on the project, convincingly conveys the seedy milieu of Wojnarowicz's younger years as well as his later rage and frustration as he awaits his death, with the expressionistic colors ratcheting up the nightmarish intensity. Two decades on, Times Square is cleaned up and the AIDS crisis in America is largely contained; but Wojnarowicz's defiant *cri de coeur* retains its harsh potency. --Gordon Flagg

“A revelatory work of art... Romberger renders Wojnarowicz's moments of delirium and violent frustration as well as interludes of tenderness and passionate attachment. - Art in America
“The rough and seedy style of Romberger's illustrations provides a perfect foil for Wojnarowicz's text. Seven Miles a Second veers between an almost unbearably gritty naturalism and the incendiary heat of surrealist hallucination. - The New Yorker
“A cult classic... both a celebration of the unlimited potential of the comic book form, and a perfect melding of inspiring, iconoclastic imaginations. - Jim

Jarmusch
“Revolutionary.... a runaway, over-the-top circus... An excursion into areas few, if any, comics creators have tread. - Jim Steranko
“[7 Miles a Second] is punk as f**k, colored in the tones of every kind of acid, and filled with rage, against the indifference of people in general and the naked disgust those in power had for homosexuals dying of AIDS in the early 1990s, when to be diagnosed was to be given a death sentence. It is an immediate work, an attempt to communicate before death that did not win its race against time. - Brian Nicholson, Bookslut

I just wanted so much more of his story in this. It's good, but it feels disparate, and if you've read anything by or about David Wojnarowicz, nothing in this will feel new or fresh. A lot of it is said elsewhere, fleshed out more elsewhere in his writings and in biographies. It's a wonderful collaboration to see and one I wanted to get my hands on for years (and I'm glad I finally did!). I was just expecting more somehow.

Just an amazing comic. Hands down. I wrote a whole post about it on my blog. The art work and the writing and the color and everything: astounding.

This is a truly magnificent rendering of a remarkable life. James Romberger's drawings are unbelievably dynamic and Marguerite Van Cook's ravishing colors have never been more wonderfully reproduced. This book will break your heart with its beauty.

Well known 80s East Village artists James Romberger, Marguerite Van Cook and David Wojnarowicz reissue. Superb mix of these three talents meet in this nightmarish comic tale set in NYC, a reissue of hardcore storytelling.

Perfect

Powerful illustration, nothing special on the text side... pretentiousness comes in many forms.

DAVID Wojnarowicz,... I knew of him, in the 1970's at RENO SWEENEYS a boy my age. He's Defiant rage keep most people away. The manager always ate with him. That was how I met him. we were friendly not friends. Later living in the east village he was hanging his ART at LIMBO LOUNGE it's the 80s I lived next door. My 15yr old sister and I. DAVID was more talkative than. and may have wanted to be more known to the people he had seen over years 7MILES A SECOND is the cleaned up version. But since I found it buying comics on ST.marks. I read it in the PYRAMID CLUB Drinking with people. Some when to get a copy to keep... Some because they could never imagine him at the PYRAMID CLUB THIS WAY Even friends who have seen his ART. THERE ARE BETTER BOOKS THAT WILL GIVE YOU MORE FACTS, but this little book is worth having for graphics. The ART of his life.

I loved this book. The authors and artists stick you right in the viscera and show you: see, it's this way, this is the way it is. Anger, love, terror, defiance, and ultimately those open hands. Fantastic work, great beauty.

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