



Copper

Kazu Kibuishi

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Copper is curious, Fred is fearful. And together boy and dog are off on a series of adventures through marvelous worlds, powered by Copper's limitless enthusiasm and imagination.

Each Copper and Fred story in this graphic novel collection is a complete vignette, filled with richly detailed settings and told with a wry sense of humor. These two enormously likable characters build ships and planes to travel to surprising destinations and have a knack for getting into all sorts of odd situations.

Copper Details

Date : Published January 1st 2010 by Graphix

ISBN : 9780545098939

Author : Kazu Kibuishi

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fantasy, Childrens, Fiction

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From Reader Review Copper for online ebook

Lindsay says

Wonderful!

Kaitlin says

This is a really quick read of the Copper web-series comics which are beautifully illustrated by Kibuishi. The colour palettes used for the panels was my favourite part of reading this but the short one-page stories (with a few longer than one-page thrown in) were all rather amusing and thought-provoking. This series is certainly not a kids one as far as I see it because there's a lot of reference to satire and irony about love, war and so on. However I would certainly say that the illustration style and humour is a great bonus and this is a lovely book to own.

This is a collection of various Copper and Fred adventures which are all set within the realms of Coppers imagination (which is pretty wide and crazy and filled with all you can think of). It's the story of a man and his dog and the fun they can have when they daydream together, and it's a cute and heart-warming story with darker undertones.

I adore Kazu's colours and style as I feel that his work is truly unique and easy to spot. I think there were certainly some stories within this which I found more amusing or sad or thought-provoking than others, but there was a great mix of everything and I'd certainly recommend it. A solid 4* read, if only there were longer and more crazy adventures, but maybe it would lose it's sweet charm of 'one minute it's here, the next it's gone leaving you with only memories and questions'.

Sarah Sammis says

I find it hard to believe that my son only got interested in graphic novels in December 2010. It seems like we've been sharing books for ages. The book that first piqued his interest was Copper by Kazu Kibuishi.

Copper is really more of a comic book anthology than a graphic novel but there is some on going character development. Copper and Fred, a boy and a dog who share adventures that span the mundane to the fantastic.

Copper has dreams of things as well that sometimes bleed into reality and sometimes it's difficult to tell if he's awake or asleep. Some stories are self contained and others span six or so pages.

For me, I wanted more cohesion and more plot. My son, though, who was new to the format loved having everything so short and straight forward.

Laura says

This is a webcomic I greatly enjoyed and you can read them online at Bolt City dot com but this book is a beautiful addition to any collection. As far as I can tell the comic has been discontinued due to all the other projects Kibuishi is working on.

Copper and his dog Fred are a wonderful duo, they compliment each other's personalities really well, and the one-page (usually) stories all put such a hopeful, positive and creative spin on life and the world. Sometimes they consider the meaning and purpose of life, love and nature and sometimes they just like to fly around or dance with some robots. The artwork is also gorgeous with brilliantly vibrant colors.

Austin says

this is a good book it has meny storys in it. i enjoyed it because it had meny stories and they all were interesting. it is about a kid and his dog who like to go on adventures.
i gave yhis book 3 stares because i did not engoy itvas much as other books i read but it was a good book. i reccomend this book to people who likes a book with adventures

Mehsi says

What the hell did I just read.... This was just utterly confusing. There are some stories that are just one page, but often didn't make sense, and then we had a few that just seemed to go on and on an on and on. :| In other words, yawn!

I also agree with another reviewer: Why is this categorized in various places (not GR) as a Children's book? This is NO children's book. It might have the colourful art, but the text, all the stories we have? No. There are bombs, destroyed worlds, talk about death, destruction, there is one comic where the character dreams of dropping bombs upon people. Not to talk about the depth of the conversations at times.

The dog is thinking everything is out to kill them, he is negative, he really ruined the whole book for me. I just wanted him to be silent, maybe a bark here and there, but nothing more. Sometimes you shouldn't make the animals talk.

The art, yes, I did like it (well at times), and I also liked that at the end of the book the process on how this comic was created is shown.

But that didn't save the book from the 1 star I am giving it.

Would I recommend this one? No. Not at all.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Pamela says

I guess I am the only human being on Earth (or at least, who uses Goodreads), who didn't love this. I *do* love Kibuishi's other, longer works (and he does explain in the afterword that he uses different techniques for Amulet and Flight than he does for Copper), and generally I find his art amazing. Here, not so much.

Many other Goodreads users have compared this to Calvin and Hobbes, and I can see the parallel. That also kind of explains my dislike of *Copper*, as I never liked Calvin and Hobbes (I know, blasphemy. Whatever.). *Copper* chronicles the adventures of Copper, a human boy, and Fred, his dog, in this weird wasteland environment that is sometimes there and sometimes not and sometimes they're just riding the subway in NYC. Okay. What really put me off was how didactic this was. Please, hit me over the head some more about finding TRUE LOVE (worth living for, as we all know from *The Princess Bride*), being trapped in "bubbles" by your parents rules, and taking chances. It's very teen/new adult existential angsty with some rah-rah-you-can-do-it cheering from Copper (I think we are actually meant to identify more with Fred, the dog, which is interesting).

I'll certainly keep reading Kibuishi, as I absolutely love his style in *Flight* and *Amulet*, but *Copper* just isn't for me.

Daniel says

Znam da nije fer uporedjivati neko delo sa drugim pa reci da je nesto lose posto nije ko to drugo ali ovo na momente tolko potseca na Kalvina i Hobsa da ne mogu da se odvojim od toga. Imamo klinca sa pricajucim psom (mesto tigra) koji prozivljava izmisljene avanture. Problem za mene predstavlja cinjenica da realan svet vidjamo jaaaako retko pa samim tim likovi su nekako nevezani i nerealni, fali ono nesto sto bi ih ucinilo realnim. Samim tim ne mogu da se vezem za njih pa mi brzo sve dosadi.

Sa druge strane ima finih situacija, artwork je lep i na momente autor stvarno pusti sebi na mastu sto uvek bude zabavno. Ima potencijala ali za mene ne iskoriscen. Meh.

Kristen Fiore says

This graphic novel was adorable and imaginative. The first aspect that drew me into this book was the dog named Fred. He was too cute not to pass up.

The basic plot was Copper, Fred's owner, and Fred would go on these outrageous adventures. Some occurred while Copper was sleeping or Fred was sleeping. Others happened when they were walking around town. One adventure that stood out the most to me was the last one they went on. The setting was the forest. They went on a hike and were just looking around. Copper found a cave and wanted to explore it. He told Fred to stay outside the cave and keep watch of the backpack with their food inside of it. Fred took protecting the pack very seriously. He wouldn't even let butterflies near it. "I must protect this backpack with my life! (Kibuishi77)". While Fred was waiting for Copper and trying to protect the backpack, a monkey snuck over and took a sandwich out of the bag. When Fred realized what happened, he chased the monkey all through the forest. Once he caught up to the monkey, the monkey threw the sandwich in Fred's face. "I can't even protect a sandwich, (Kibuishi 82)". As an apology, the monkey gave bananas to Fred to replace the sandwich he took.

I would recommend this graphic novel to anyone who likes to read short quirky comics. It was a fast read and I would love if there was a second book.

Dov Zeller says

Copper and Fred are part dynamic duo and part odd couple. Copper is the more adventurous of the two, and Fred is just about always worrying or complaining about their adventures, which is what much of the humor is drawn around.

In each "strip" (they are usually more of a page than a strip, but still take on the format of a strip in the sense that each page, except for a few several-page installment, is its own thing) one can find some combination of philosophical musing, fantastical dreaming, wry near-misses in love and love gone awry.

While some of the strips didn't quite work, most of them were enjoyable. I see why people compare this to Calvin and Hobbes though I also see why some readers think this comic is more for young adults than for kids. I think younger kids would be fine reading it, but that some of the humor would be more appreciated by adults.

I was between a 3 and a 4 but decided to go for the 4 because I appreciate all the mishaps and the focus on relationships, how these strips are as grounded as they are absurd.

Nancy Kotkin says

Stories: 4 stars

Art: 5 stars

A single-author compilation of short web comics about a boy and his dog. Basically this pair is a reversal of Charlie Brown and Snoopy, so that the boy is adventurous and the dog is a cautious worrier. As with all compilations, the stories vary in quality. But the art is consistently terrific.

Raina says

I'm not so sure this should be shelved in the kids' section. Our library puts it in Juvenile, and yes, the illustration style is round and cute and colorful, and yes, it features the adventures of a kid-looking boy and his talking dog in the style of Calvin and Hobbes, and no, there isn't any content that makes it inherently inappropriate for kids.

But the humor and mood of this is definitely twentysomething. Early on, there are metaphors about people being in bubbles and missing your destined love. The very first comic is about a fantasy of flying being spoiled by coflyers dropping bombs on the earth. Much of the wild and crazy fantasy hinges on being smashed back into reality. Yes, it's still very cute and fun, but it's more about disillusionment than dream building.

At least that's how I read it. I loved it. But I'm almost thirty.

Diana-christie says

I loved this comic! It was so funny.

JesusBeezus says

Copper is the story of a boy and his dog, the adventures they have together and the sometimes philosophical conversations they have along the way. Somewhat of an odd couple, Fred and Copper play off each other with humor and fondness for one another.

The book features colorful illustrations that are funny, offer memorable and lovable characters, and throw in references to Little Nemo and other classic comics along the way (there is an hilarious sequence when Fred falls beneath some giant mushrooms on top of which they'd been bouncing and it turns out the mushrooms are angry because, "QUIT BOUNCING ON MY HEAD, MAN!!!" after which Fred is flung high in the air, landing right behind Copper who hasn't noticed a thing. Fred and Copper's adventures are comical, sometimes touched by lovesickness, and set in a strange world that both evokes a modern city and the original Super Mario Brothers world (but with much richer detail, of course). A good comic for 4th grade and up.

Written by Kazu Kibuishi, author/illustrator of the wildly popular "Amulet" series, editor of the popular "Flight" compilations, and illustrator of the recent "new cover" paperback editions of the Harry Potter series.

Larissa says

I just enjoyed reading the copper book for the first time. Interestingly enough, my first exposure to copper was in book format vs. web format. It was a highly pleasant experience. Copper is a story about a boy and his dog. Both embark on journeys together and retain a solid friendship. The work reminded me of two kinds of naturalism that could apply to one's thoughts and actions, and although not as overt, it reminded me a lot of this xkcd comic here (with Copper being the "enchanted" one and Fred the "disenchanted" one). Beautiful art. Engaging panels. Well worth adding to a personal or library collection. (At the very least, check out the original webcomic, though the actual book is a gorgeous thing to behold.) Also, there is a great bonus at the end when the author explains his creative process and shows how copper goes from an idea to a finished comic.
