



Little Nothings 1: The Curse of the Umbrella

Lewis Trondheim

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The great talent behind the new generation in Europe, the Dungeon series, A.L.I.E.E.N. and Mr. O, pours his heart out in funny snippets of everyday life. His paranoia, little annoyances, big annoyances, chase of rainbows, love of comics, travel impressions from around the world, dealing with kids, being a kid: it's all about life as we know it. A collection from his comics blog that expands his palette with full color painting, one can only be awed at Trondheim's uncanny sense of observation and relate to all his experiences closely. Another touch of genius by one of today's best and most influential comic artists.

Little Nothings 1: The Curse of the Umbrella Details

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From Reader Review Little Nothings 1: The Curse of the Umbrella for online ebook

Joe Decie says

My favourite of the Little Nothings series. Basically diary comics, but as the author is one of France's most celebrated (rightly so) cartoonists you get a nice insight into his life, very easy to read.

Eric T. Voigt says

I forgot November only had 30 days, and that I was starting this on November 30, and thought I'd be able to squeeze this onto my Fall shelf, and start Winter off with "Infinite Jest," and be able to look at my Winter shelf and see "Infinite Jest" there, pristine in its solitude, but that all fell apart like a goddamn burrito. Anyhow, this book is pretty quaint. The least exciting pages still left me feeling a "Hm. Well then" of contentment. It was worth the risk.

Ruby says

Beautiful, simple watercolours. A sort of autobiographical comic, where people are depicted as different kinds of animals and birds-although it doesn't seem to mean much, (if at all?) which kind of animal or bird someone is. Very well done, full of the irony of life.

Abby says

This one lived up to its title, but in a good way. I love Trondheim's sketchy little drawings that float on the page, unencumbered by panel borders, and how he draws his people with animal faces (reminds me of Jason, one of my favorites). I also like his self-deprecating, charmingly paranoiac personality. This is the good side of autobio comics -- little riffs on the small pleasures and annoyances of modern life.

Michael says

I've seen Trondheim's work before and heard many good things about it, but this is actually the first time I've read anything. At first glance, I wasn't sure I liked his art enough to read a whole book of it. It's loose, cartoony work, but slightly sketchy. After reading this book, my first impression of his art was very, very wrong. I like Trondheim's work a lot.

He uses nice watercolors throughout the book, something I haven't always seen when flipping through other works of his. Everything looks very natural, postures, panel layouts, etc., which helps ground the reality of the strips.

This book, each page is a one-page observation about life. Frequently self-deprecating (one page has Trondheim swinging a plastic lightsaber very animatedly, only to end with the caption "41 Years Old" - he's also something of a hypochondriac, though it seems that he just acts out the little things that we all think to ourselves) and humorous, but always very gentle. There's no harsh or caustic humor. He's frequently noticing that a few "good luck" moments have occurred, and then dreading the inevitable "bad luck" turn, and he can only shake his head when the bad streak comes upon him.

Plus, behind-the-scenes stories from the European comics market! Trondheim and Sfar at Angouleme! Awesomeness abounds!

Beautiful art + warm, funny observations = recommended comics.

Jamil says

the best bits are the interactions at Angouleme between Trondheim & other cartoonists (Joann Sfar, Christophe Blain, Moebius) drawn in his inimitable anthropomorphic style. these comics were all originally part of his blog. i also liked his relentless (okay just two) criticisms of CSI, "The series that's neither for scriptwriters nor scientists." it's not gonna win him the grand prize at Angouleme or anything, but it has that nice slight observational humor about it that Seinfeld raised Americans should love.

Korynn says

Lewis Trondheim's creates a series of personal vignettes from his life, the most entertaining of which are his views on his work in comics, and his actions when left alone with his children's lightsaber. A well-sketched portrait of the artist himself and his personal superstitions and a wonder if people working in comics ever really need to grow up?

Courtney says

So satisfying. Filled with moments of humor, neuroticism, and personality.

Matt says

I think James Kochalka's American Elf deserves the credit it gets. It's a good and entertaining journal comic, and is definitely the best Kochalka that I've read.

That said, Trondheim's "Little Nothings" put all other journal comics to shame. It's not just his mastery of the form-- his highly detailed watercolors and masterful development of themes and even storylines in his own life is extraordinary. Even better, though, is his sense of humor. Trondheim is a master of delivery, and whether he's relating a perfectly unique experience or telling a fart joke, the nuanced way he tells jokes helps them surprise me every time. At the same time, I feel like I get to know the artist through his work, in a very genuine and uninhibited way. A+.

For more on comics, humanity, morality and the world check out The Stupid Philosopher, aka a place where I put my words.

John says

Droll and delightful. Why didn't anyone tell me about Trondheim ten year's ago???

Blue says

Someone mentioned that Trondheim is a "parisian Woody Allen" and I think that's spot on. I love Trondheim's Mister I and Mister O stuff. He is utterly funny and thought-provoking. And I enjoy autobiographical graphic novels. And I did, I suppose, but not as much as I would have liked, precisely because Trondheim is too much like Woody Allen... (I don't like Woody Allen in his films.) Sometimes it is really funny, and sometimes downright annoying. Nevertheless, the drawings are exactly the good stuff you can expect from Trondheim and the stories of little things are surprisingly insightful.

Jim says

I can't believe I forgot to add these to my books. This is the first of a series of autobiographical comics by French cartoonist, Lewis Trondheim.

I really loved this book. He draws himself and other people as anthropomorphic animals, as he illustrates those little moments of confusion, frustration and triumph in his life. There is plenty here that we can all identify with.

I recommend his books.

Mjhancock says

I wound up enjoying this book more than I thought I would. Essentially, it tells of Trondheim's life as he does little things: inadvertently kill houseplants, play with a cat, accept a grand prize for artistic excellence (okay, maybe not that last one). I know Trondheim from the Dungeon series, and I didn't think that style would translate well into something comparatively low key, but it works really well here. It reminded me of Guy Delisle's stuff, in its artistic simplicity and low-key, autobiographical examination.

Sophie says

Belle découverte, les dessins sont sympas et les petits riens donnent le sourire :)

Andrew says

Certainly one of the better diary comics I've read.
