



## The Fart Party, Vol. 1

*Julia Wertz*

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*The Fart Party* is online comic by Julia Wertz that is a great snapshot of life in San Francisco as seen through the eyes of a highly sarcastic and sometimes deadly up-and-coming comic artist. The book includes the 80% of comics NOT posted online, interviews, funny fan letters and never before seen illustrations! It chronicles Wertz's first year of making comics, living in San Francisco, going to conventions, moving apartments, finishing college, the demise of a relationship, all that typical crap but nicely wrapped up into tiny little boxes on paper! Includes an introduction by Peter Bagge.

## **The Fart Party, Vol. 1 Details**

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Author : Julia Wertz

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## From Reader Review The Fart Party, Vol. 1 for online ebook

### **Heather Kidder says**

This is a sometimes gross, sometimes horribly drawn comic, with weird random not alway finished thoughts and I admit I loved it! Its one of those books you pick up because it has such an odd title, you read a few comics and think "this is ok" then the further you get in the funnier it is. A few of the strips were outright hilarious because they are things all girls have done at some point, rational or not. I enjoyed this comic and would pick up more. I think Julia Wertz would be a fun girl to hang out with.

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### **Simon Sweetman says**

Enjoyed this - some very fun, and also very sad comic strips included here; loved the simple drawing style too. Very good.

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### **Betty says**

Oh Fart Party! Criticism first: it's evident it was written over time rather than constructed as a coherent narrative, so it sometimes seems like chunks of the story are missing even though it's really a diary comic, not a story. That's not necessarily a bad thing, though! It's great as an autobiography, because she's so ruthless with herself. The trouble with autobiography, I think, is that it's hard to separate liking the work with liking the author (or how the author comes across, anyway) but Julia Wertz is endearing and funny and much harder on herself than an audience could possibly be.

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### **David Schaafsma says**

Spoiler alert: There is no "fart party" in The Fart Party, which should make it all the more inviting for most of you to read it.

This is a sort of diary comic of Wertz's first year drawing comics while living in San Francisco. She was 23, living in the Big City with her then boyfriend, so what can you expect? A lot of drinking, discreet veiled references to sex (she won't talk about or show too much of that stuff), more drinking (Wertz is the author of Drinking at the Movies, so we know she will eventually address this issue as a serious problem but even in this comic we see it creates tension with the boyfriend...), her Awesome Brother, drawing funny comics, lots of juvenile jokes and tons of profanity, and... (spoiler alert), the Big Break-up.

Wertz is self-deprecating to the point of laceration, and that is hilarious. She's right when she tells us that this first year she is not good at much of the comics trade, but her spirit and humor come through, and you even get to care about the Break Up because she is so likeable! This text includes a comic drawn by her brother, who is surprisingly good! She includes funny fan letters (one from her mother that she responds to hilariously; is it real? who cares, it's funny), and a devastatingly trashing review by an unnamed Famous Comics artist who basically tells her the work she has done is worthless. Devastating? Well, she includes the

letter, and her response to him is funny; the fact that she even then kinda agreed with him is also funny.

But in spite of the fact that everything after this that she does is technically way better, there is a rough realness and honesty here I like as much as anything she has done after. The key to comics success in my view is not always first and foremost technical virtuosity--though with some art comics this is the point, of course--with Wertz it is conveying the sense that we are reading an honest set of comics/stories/vignettes about someone we find real and entertaining. We are Wertz's personal BFF as we read. She's pretty hilarious, even when she is sketchy. She's like Jeffery Brown in that sense. Becoming an accomplished draftsperson doesn't make them more accessible or "better" in any meaningful sense.

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### **Craig says**

Purchased at Chapel Hill Comics from a very kind woman who was a very big fan of Wertz.

I was a bit disappointed in this one after reading Drinking at the Movies. While some bits are still pretty funny, the level of maturity is much lower than DATM. There are a couple of homophobic quips and a lot more "potty humor." Really, I suppose that should be expected from something titled Fart Party, so that failing is all on me and your mileage may vary depending on how much you like that style of humor.

Honestly, I felt much more of a disconnect from the "character" here - almost felt like a generational gap in experience, though I am closer in age to Wertz than I initially thought. It was also a much more "shallow" story as there was less at stake in a narrative sense. That could contribute to why I connected with it less, also.

Still, an enjoyable read. Not sure I will be looking for more from Wertz soon, though.

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### **Hillary says**

When I started this, I was underwhelmed. It seemed I'd read too many of the strips already and besides, I was mildly annoyed that she'd only signed the book to me rather than to me and Jared, due to not paying attention at Heroescon (not annoyed enough to say anything though). Still, in the end, it's really good stuff. Wertz does sophomoric and self-hating better than just about anyone else, and there are bits in the book that are genuinely, if lightly, moving. You might think it's not an excuse for being an asshole to be a clear-sighted, self-aware one, but it is, to some extent. Not to mention she's still very young, and it's funny, and she's adorable. Also, considering her deliberately primitive drawing style, her characters (by which I mostly mean her) can be surprisingly expressive. This sounds like a lot of backhanded compliments, and that's not fair to the book, which is almost entirely consistently amusing.

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### **Jillian says**

teehee. cheese, lots of fart/pooping jokes, and a short, sarcastic chick. there's no way i could have not loved this if i tried.

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### **Imogen says**

Look, I am as humorless as the next absolutely humorless lesbian feminist, so some of this stuff (like calling things "retarded;" HUMORLESS) rings a little sour for me. But almost all of it is totally stupid/brilliant and I have a button on my jacket of tiny little baby Julia screaming FUCK as she jumps/falls off a diving board, because "my first swear" is probably the best comic ever. It's just a tiny little kid running around yelling FUCK over and over! Totally classic, and i am not even kidding. Most of it is like that.

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### **Kest Schwartzman says**

These mistakes are just REALLY familiar.

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### **Kelly says**

If loving this book is wrong, I don't want to be right.

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### **Chibineko says**

LOL, this book is hilarious. I found Wertz through Drinking at the Movies & liked her work enough to plunk down money for this book & I wasn't disappointed.

Anyway, Fart Party is a semi-autobiographical comic on Wertz's life that covers just about everything that goes through her head. Life with her boyfriend? In here. Drinking? In here. A probably obsessive love of cheese? In here. Things that never really happened, but Wertz wishes they did? In here too.

Not every comic in this book is going to be a belly laugh, it's still an incredibly funny book to read. If you don't find at least one comic in here to laugh at then you probably skipped a few pages. (Seriously, how can anyone not laugh at Crack W\*\*\*\* Appreciation day?) Sure, the artwork is a little greener than her latest artwork, but hey- it's still better than what I can do.

Seriously, check this book out. It's got some serious laughs in it!

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### **Jason Pettus says**

Technically I read these comics in their original web form, not as these paper collections; but I thought I'd add them anyway, just so I could mention this charming, filthy trainwreck of an autobiographical tale, the ongoing adventures of our nerdy hero as she moves back and forth between New York and California, starts to drink too much and then quits drinking altogether, and experiences a series of life-fails regarding work, romance, and pop-culture obsession. One of my favorite online comics of all time, and well worth the time of

any fan of smart, bawdy humor.

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### **Aprill says**

I'm glad I read *Drinking at the Movies* first, otherwise I would have had very little patience for Wertz's earlier work. It's cool to see that she did mature and evolve into a more introspective comic maker with greater narrative capabilities (you can see faint glimmers of what's to come in the break up portion of the book, but that's about it.) Loses giant points for use of the R word, fag, and gay as pejoratives.

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### **Stephanie (aka WW) says**

What magic this little comic collection is. Reading it feels like hanging out and having a beer with a friend. A raunchy, hilarious friend, who laughs at herself harder than anyone else could ever laugh at her. Julia has the heart of Sarah Anderson (*Sarah's Scribbles*) and the mouth of Kate Beaton (*Hark! A Vagrant*). This is by far her best book. I've got Volume 2 on order.

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### **Sarah W says**

I love this comic and Julia Wertz is hilarious. I am not sure that reading the book(s) was a better experience than (or even as good as) reading the comic online, but I recommend giving Julia your money anyway.

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