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Life's A Bitch (Complete Bitchy Bitch Stories)



Synopsis

This thick volume collects the entire first half of the Bitchy Bitch saga, from her childhood to her hippie free-love days to her days as an office drone and her disastrous tropical getaway. Plus a new full-length story! Naughty Bits, the longest-running solo comic by a female alternative cartoonist, came to an end in 2004 after a 14-year, 40-issue run. Beloved for the expressive scrawl of Gregory's line and her take-no-prisoners satirical approach, it was particularly notable for introducing the world to Bitchy Bitch • a woman who is eternally, magnificently, and for the most part, quite justifiably pissed off at the world around her! This extra-thick volume collects the entire first half of the Bitchy Bitch saga, and it ranges widely in her eventful life. There are stories about Bitchy's travails as a little girl (when she was just "Bitsy Bitch"), including that greatest horror of all, the holidays; a long sequence about her hippie free-love days in the '70s (and the harrowing abortion that followed); tales of her miserable days as an office drone surrounded by dunces, lechers, and the occasional ultra-Christian maniac; and the hilarious full-length graphic novel "Bitchy Takes a Vacation," where a tropical getaway turns into a fiasco (romantic and otherwise) of epic proportions. The book will also feature a brand new full-length story that chronicles the (never before shown) death of Bitchy's tempestuous father (well, she had to get that temper from somewhere), as Gregory once again finds the humor in even the grimmest situation. If anger is an energy, as Johnny Rotten once said, then Life's a Bitch is a 240-page slab of caffeinated fury... but laugh-out-loud funny! Black-and-white comics throughout

Book Information

Series: Complete Bitchy Bitch Stories (Book 1)

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Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Although graphic novels have certainly come into their own in the marketplace, I have until recently not felt the need to pick one up. I hurry by their aisle at the local Borders with a smug sense of superiority. I graduated beyond comics a long, long time ago. Or so I tell myself. Having met Roberta Gregory through an organization for women writers, I decided to pick up "Life's A Bitch." This book is a collection of her Naughty Bits comics published by Fantagraphics Books in the 90s. I was prepared for the worst: a woman-centered Mad Magazine complete with clichéd commentary from the left and jokes only lesbians would get. What I found blew me away and forced me to rethink my anti-comics prejudice. Gregory's titular character, Bitchy Bitch, is today's Everyman. Bitter with her place in life, she provides us with running commentary on everything that's wrong with her world: the sad little office job, the ignorant coworkers, the filthy rich who run the joint, the person in the seat next to her on the plane that talks too much. Her rantings are complete with generous helpings of racism, homophobia, and paranoia. The stories would prove disastrously tedious if Gregory wasn't so deft at offsetting the horrible truths with humor. We laugh at Bitchy Bitch's outrageous conclusions, her extreme negativity, her use of at least one expletive per rant. Although no one would probably agree totally with Bitchy's anger, we too, are frustrated with where we are at in life. We understand her disgust at her surroundings, her disdain for the pressure to participate in things she's not interested in. But what is Bitchy interested in? There's the question. It seems the great vacuum of modern life has sucked the very soul from her.

"Life's A Bitch" is a single volume collecting stories from several of artist Roberta Gregory's earlier collections, "A Bitch Is Born", "College Daze", "At Work and Play with Bitchy Bitch" and "Burn, Bitchy, Burn". Also included is a new story written just for this volume. Bitchy Bitch is a nickname of the main character, whose real name is Midge McCracken. She was born in 1953, was a child in the late 50's/early 60's, an adolescent in the late 60's, a twentysomething in the 70's, and in her 40's in the 90's. The tone of the stories varies a great deal, and reading these is like reliving some of the societal changes which the U.S has went through since the 1950's. Some of the events which occur to Midge aka "Bitchy" are humorous, others rather ironic, and a few are simply grim, even tragic. Ms. Gregory is to be commended for facing extremely difficult issues unflinchingly, and showing their often devastating effects. In this volume, we see Midge as a child going to school, a teenager going through puberty and eventually losing her virginity, a college student and eventual college dropout, with some good and some nightmarish experiences on dates, and as an adult working just to survive, and looking for happiness in her life. Bearing this in mind, the strip is an accurate reflection

of genuine issues affecting society as a whole, and women in particular. Few people have a life which is funny or happy all the time, instead we experience good followed by bad, in different proportions. The main difference is how we handle and react to these experiences. Midge herself is complex. As a child, she is naive and innocent, as an adolescent she is optimistic and idealistic, as an adult she is jaded and often expects the worst.

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