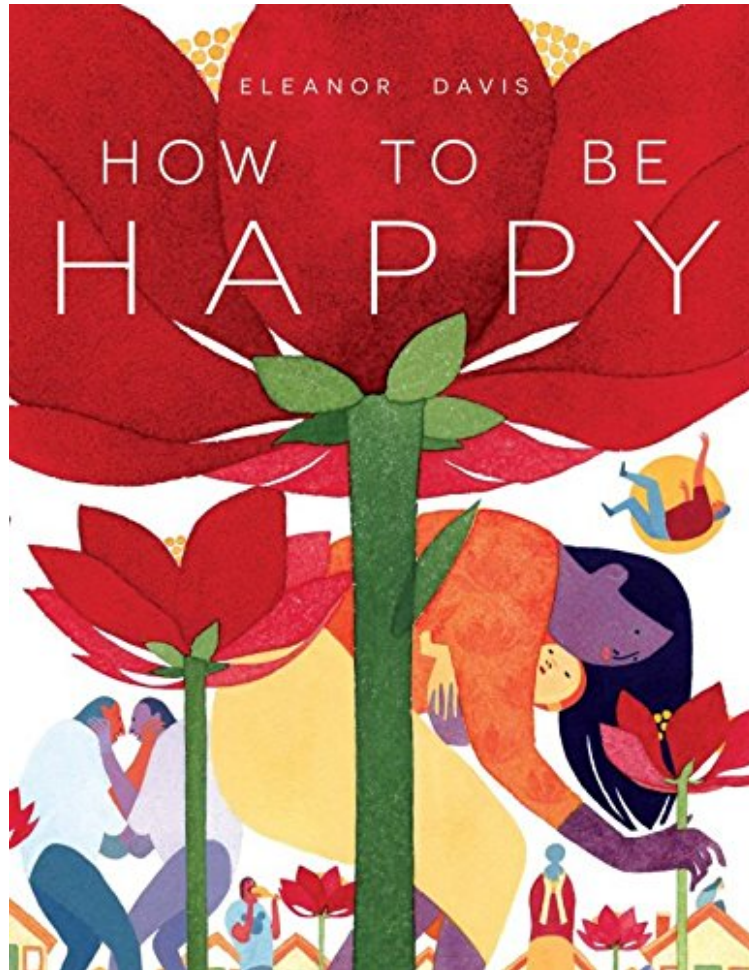


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## How To Be Happy

Von Eleanor Davis

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**Von Eleanor Davis : How To Be Happy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How To Be Happy:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein Glcksfall Von Benjamin Maack Da mein Vorredner diesen Comic leider so grundlegend missverstanden hat, muss ich mich hier kurz einschalten. Also: Eleanor Davis ist nicht Anders Nilsen, Kevin Huizenga oder Chris Ware. Deshalb wrde ich ihr eigentlich vier Sterne geben. Aber da der vorherige Rezensent das Buch so unfair abgewertet hat, gebe ich fnf - ausgleichende Gerechtigkeit quasi. Ich kam auf Eleonor Davis, weil ich einen Auszug aus "How To Be Happy" in den "Best American Comics 2015" gelesen habe. Schon unter dieser Auswahl von "Besten" fand ich sie absolut herausragend. Nach dem gesamten Band bin ich immer noch begeistert. Mit "HTBH" ist es Davis gelungen, einen Band ber das Glck zu machen, dessen Poesie in dem Raum zwischen Wunsch und Wirklichkeit schwingt. Dazu muss ich sagen: Ich mag luftige Poesie, die nicht zielgenau in eine Richtung zeigt, sondern dem Leser die Mglichkeit gibt,

mit ihr etwas eigenes anzufangen. So ist Davis' Buch. Ein Comic zum immer wieder lesen; mit Geschichten, Szenen, Momenten und Gedanken in unterschiedlichen Stilen, die immer neue Schlüsse und Verbindungen zulassen. Ein seltener Glücksfall und sehr schöne Poesie. 1 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sarkastisch/Ironische Betrachtungen über das Glückliche im modernen Leben. Von Red zum Kauf hat mich die Aufmachung (Farben, Bilder, Zeichnungen und Kunststil) sowie das Thema gereizt. Gekoppelt mit den guten Rezensionen. Inhaltlich werden den verbreiteten(?) Anstzen Glück durch Ernährungsstile (z.B. vegan) oder Lebensweisen ala Vorfahren ein Spiegel vorgehalten. Wer auf Menschen herab schaut, die sich dem Glück leicht esoterisch zu nähern versuchen wird hier bedient. Ich kann die Idee der Reflexion gut nachvollziehen, aber die Umsetzung gefällt mir nicht. Hat für mich weder einen Erkenntnisgewinn noch Unterhaltung gebracht.

**Kurzbeschreibung** How to Be Happy is Eleanor Davis's first collection of graphic/literary short stories. Happy represents the best stories she's drawn for such connoisseurial venues as Mome, Nobrow, and Lucky Peach, as well as her own self-publishing and web efforts. Davis achieves a rare, subtle poignancy in her narratives that are at once compelling and elusive, pregnant with mystery and a deeply satisfying emotional resonance. Happy shows the full range of Davis's graphic skills - sketchy drawing, polished pen-and-ink line work, and meticulously designed full-color painted panels - which are always in the service of a narrative that builds to a quietly devastating climax. "Imaginative and funny and fanciful, but it's also very thoroughly worked out. She's not afraid to be clear." - Françoise Mouly "I challenge anyone not to want to live in the world Eleanor creates." - It's Nice That **Pressestimmen** Imaginative and funny and fanciful, but it's also very thoroughly worked out. She's not afraid to be clear. --Françoise Mouly "Davis's short comics have been Tumblr favorites for her artistic style mixing classic illustrative techniques with unsettling observations and sexuality. This first print collection of her stories promises no less. "Davis's short comics have been Tumblr favorites for her artistic style mixing classic illustrative techniques with unsettling observations and sexuality. This first print collection of her stories promises no less. "Imaginative and funny and fanciful, but it's also very thoroughly worked out. She's not afraid to be clear. --Françoise Mouly "Davis's short comics have been Tumblr favorites for her artistic style mixing classic illustrative techniques with unsettling observations and sexuality. This first print collection of her stories promises no less. "...[How to Be Happy] is an inspired and inspiring collection of short work clearly establishing Davis as a leading cartoonist of the Tumblr era.... Davis' clever and sometimes jaw-droppingly beautiful artwork makes [these] stories feel real. --Dan Kois "You will not find many more beautiful books released this year. Though the individual stories themselves may seem small and even translucent to the touch, the sum is something far greater than the parts. After you've read it once, you'll find yourself revisiting these stories many times. The art is pretty and the stories are sad, but the effect is nothing less than a complete affirmation. --Tim O'Neil "Though Davis' tales can be wildly different in look and narrative, they are united by themes of yearning, of characters searching for the thing that will make their lives better. ...Remarkable ... exquisite ... How to Be Happy left me wanting more. --Carolina A. Miranda "The art of Eleanor Davis sits proudly and comfortably on a continuum with the celebrated work of David Mazzucchelli (Asterios Polyp), Jeff Lemire (The Underwater Welder), and David B. (Epileptic). Cartoonish yet naturalistic, her art limns a world that can shift from very real to utterly surreal, sometimes within the same story. ... Like the body of a dead fox as depicted here by Davis in all its gruesome magnificence, these stories hide thick raw sinews beneath their glossy pelts. --Paul DiFilippo "Eleanor Davis's stylistic inconsistency is one of her greatest strengths, and How to Be Happy, a collection of her short pieces, shows off the breadth of her artistic range. Almost all of her characters are casting about for ways to fight off despair... They're doomed to failure, of course, but they keep trying. --Douglas Wolk "Eleanor Davis breakthrough short story collection How to Be Happy is a gorgeous book filled with exquisite cartooning. Davis switches between styles and subject matter with each story, flitting between melancholy, heartbreak, and nostalgia with a casual virtuosity. --Tim O'Neil "I could praise what Davis achieves in this book all day -- it's as fine comickin' as you could hope to come across: the enmeshing of wonderful art with good, strong narrative that naturally prompts and drives discussion and thought without it feeling overt or jaggedly superficial, is superb. Exceptional cartooning is when those elements come together in a cohesive manner, and Davis' work is on that plane. I haven't come across any comics that raise similar themes and ideas and yet How to Be Happy is widely, deeply applicable and resonant. It works and works and works some more. For many people this volume will be their introduction to Eleanor Davis' work; I can't imagine anyone coming away unimpressed. --Zainab Akhtar " [Davis's] stories often feature tremendous longing and sadness, but they also lushly suggest what a blessing it is to be alive and in the world. She presents, in short, a more realistic picture of what it means to be a human, with our ever-present mind/body tug-of-war, than almost anyone else out there making art. And what art it is: there may be nothing Davis can't beautifully illustrate. How to Be Happy is fearless and fantastic, unafraid to break rules or to make new ones. --Hillary Brown "Whether she's working in ink or in color, in longer or shorter stories, from slice of life to science fiction Davis shows herself to be a gifted and versatile storyteller. --Alex Dueben "I appreciated my time in Eleanor Davis' worlds. She offers plenty of food for the hungry of

thought even if thought may ultimately be the root of our troubles. She invites readers into realms of nostalgia and of mystery and of existential terror. The portholes through which we can view these kingdoms of hope and pain are small and smudged, but we see enough. Enough to apprehend them, enough perhaps even to judge them. And certainly enough to enjoy the experience of their lessons. --Seth T. Hahne" This collection... is impressively varied and emotionally resonant. With images ranging from scratchy black-and-white line drawings to robust images saturated with color, Davis is comfortable in a variety of styles, carefully choosing each one to best fit her tone and mood.-- Kelly Thompson Davis's brightly coloured, melancholic short stories catalogue different approaches to the form -- here a science fiction tale, there a glimpse of suburban young love -- all featuring lost souls desperate for happiness.-- Sean Rogers "The Best Books of 2014 "" Davis is rightfully a rising talent, and one of her greatest gifts is her ability to build narrative momentum. She creates suspense, mystery and come-hither curiosity by never overtipping her artful hand.-- Michael Cavna "Top 10 Graphic Novels of 2014 " [Davis's] stories often feature tremendous longing and sadness, but they also lushly suggest what a blessing it is to be alive and in the world. She presents, in short, a more realistic picture of what it means to be a human, with our ever-present mind/body tug-of-war, than almost anyone else out there making art. And what art it is: there may be nothing Davis can't beautifully illustrate. How to Be Happy is fearless and fantastic, unafraid to break rules or to make new ones.-- Hillary Brown "Sad or happy, Davis is one of the greats. So is this book.-- Sean T. Collins This collection is astounding because of how hard Davis works to sequence each story and provide appropriate interstitial material. Seeing all of these stories at once provides a remarkable and surprising sense of cohesiveness, as many of them are about restless, lost, and sometimes doomed people. The drawings, the use of color, and the overall packaging all fit into this feeling of reading almost a hand-made item.-- Rob Clough The book's a unique showcase for Davis range, combining everything from minimalist, sketchy cartoons to lushly-illustrated full-color pieces and extended works -- tales that explore the simple-yet-sometimes overwhelming problems of being human.-- Zack Smith "Whether she's working in ink or in color, in longer or shorter stories, from slice of life to science fiction Davis shows herself to be a gifted and versatile storyteller.-- Alex Dueben How to Be Happy is an argument for empathy, but not of the call-and-response kind. The stories here know the world is often heavy and intolerable. And also worthwhile; sometimes touched by light, sometimes full of music. Empathy is knowing both sides of the world, shouldering them and carrying on, searching for the still unblemished parts of the soul. -- Paul Arrand Rodgers The book contains about 12 strange, beautifully drawn short stories, depending on how you count them, as well as several short vignettes. None of the stories is especially linear. Each feels almost like a sketch from experimental theater: disturbing, and emotionally pungent.-- Karen Sandstrom This collection of short stories about people desperately trying to suppress or embrace or just somehow deal with all the difficult emotions careening around in their brain just underscores... that [Davis] is a tremendous talent, and one of the smartest voices working in comics today.-- Chris Mautner Davis plays with different styles, while simultaneously mesmerizing the reader with the color choices. Her watercolors in particular are beyond gorgeous, and funny enough, the reader can feel a rush of happiness after reading the book in its entirety.-- Cameron Hatheway [Davis's] stories often feature tremendous longing and sadness, but they also lushly suggest what a blessing it is to be alive and in the world. She presents, in short, a more realistic picture of what it means to be a human, with our ever-present mind/body tug-of-war, than almost anyone else out there making art. And what art it is: there may be nothing Davis can't beautifully illustrate. How to Be Happy is fearless and fantastic, unafraid to break rules or to make new ones.-- Hillary Brown "How to Be Happy is an argument for empathy, but not of the call-and-response kind. The stories here know the world is often heavy and intolerable. And also worthwhile; sometimes touched by light, sometimes full of music. Empathy is knowing both sides of the world, shouldering them and carrying on, searching for the still unblemished parts of the soul. -- Paul Arrand Rodgers The success of this collection suggests that short pieces are likely Davis' metier, but what's here is so accomplished that it's natural to hope for a book-length work next time out.-- Gordon Flagg Lies! Deceit and rank mendacity! Eleanor Davis promises what current pop music insists is perfectly possible -- that you can be happy -- and then she doesn't deliver. Instead she draws comics full of hilarious surrealism, gut-tugging tropes and eloquent despair. How dare she? ... In her roundabout way, she dramatizes not the prospect of happiness, but the promise of it. Her natural territory is found in all the funny and tragic effects of that promise.-- Etelka Lehoczky... [Davis's] stories often feature tremendous longing and sadness, but they also lushly suggest what a blessing it is to be alive and in the world. She presents, in short, a more realistic picture of what it means to be a human, with our ever-present mind/body tug-of-war, than almost anyone else out there making art. And what art it is: there may be nothing Davis can't beautifully illustrate. ... How to Be Happy is fearless and fantastic, unafraid to break rules or to make new ones.-- Hillary Brown [Starred ] The excellence and variety of the art in this short comics story collection is matched only by the painful incisiveness of the stories, most circling around attempts both foolish and sincere to find happiness. Some of Davis's art styles are reminiscent of her children's books (Secret Science Alliance, Stinky)-- simple supple black and white line drawings-- others resemble Little Golden Books, bright blocks of colors and button nosed characters, but only as if written by Raymond Carver. ... A powerful collection that resonates with all the ills, real and imagined, of our modern life. Davis's brightly coloured, melancholic short stories catalogue different approaches to the form -- here a science fiction tale, there a glimpse of suburban young love -- all featuring lost souls desperate for happiness.-- Sean Rogers

"The Best Books of 2014 "Imaginative and funny and fanciful, but it's also very thoroughly worked out. She's not afraid to be clear.--Franc, oise MoulyIt's a stunning body of work that brings together loosely personal and wholly fictional stories about joy, anguish, fear and loneliness -- emotions all motivated by that essential quest to be the best you can be.--James CartwrightThe book's a unique showcase for Davis' range, combining everything from minimalist, sketchy cartoons to lushly-illustrated full-color pieces and extended works -- tales that explore the simple-yet-sometimes overwhelming problems of being human.--Zack SmithI appreciated my time in Eleanor Davis' worlds. She offers plenty of food for the hungry of thought--even if thought may ultimately be the root of our troubles. She invites readers into realms of nostalgia and of mystery and of existential terror. The portholes through which we can view these kingdoms of hope and pain are small and smudged, but we see enough. Enough to apprehend them, enough perhaps even to judge them. And certainly enough to enjoy the experience of their lessons.--Seth T.

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