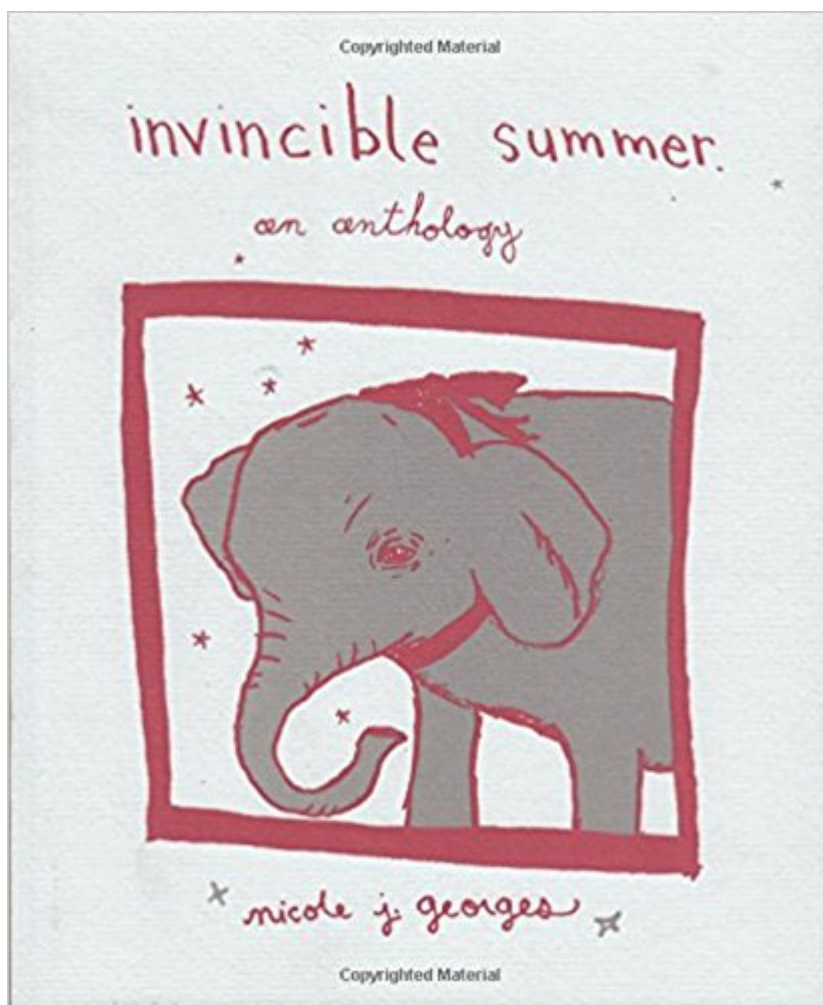


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Invincible Summer: An Anthology (Comix) (v. 2)



Synopsis

Nicole J. Georges captures her adventures and thoughts in unique, heartfelt illustrations and stories. Five years of dog mothering, chicken raising, coffee-shop crushes, drama, low paying jobs, heartbreaking romance, inspiring friendships, vegan snacks, and more! This exhaustive collection will take the reader on a whirlwind tour through Nicole's personality, wit, and charm! This second edition collects issues #1-8 of her zine and features 38 new, additional pages! Recently featured on the Sister Spit tour!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The title of Georges's offbeat illustrated journal comes from an Albert Camus quotation: "In the midst of winter, I realized that there was in me an invincible summer." Along with her self-professed addiction to coffee, that bit of philosophy sustains 19-year-old Georges during a life-transforming relocation from Kansas to Portland, Oregon. Originally published as a zine, Georges's daily writings recount the ups and downs of adapting to a new city, a live-in boyfriend, and a pair of rambunctious shar-peis. Whether describing side trips to the beach, a flea bath for her dogs, or an internship at a California farm, her handwritten, sometimes hand-typed pages bristle with quirky creativity. Complementing every coffee-fueled, introspective rant are Georges's scratchy but endearing pen-and-ink sketches, which include scads of portraits of the dogs and her own black-bespectacled self. If Linda Barry fans find Georges's drawing

style somewhat similar, they won't be surprised to see that alternative cartoonist's name on one of Georges' many lists of "favorite things." --Carl Hays

"Her personality and wit shines through her drawings which describe five years of badly paid jobs, drama and heartbreak, friendships, being mother to a dog and vegan cuisine (including recipes!). Over the course of the book we can see the improvement in Georges' illustrations, which look as though they are torn straight out of a sketchbook. What makes this comic so special is how it makes the reader think of how magical the most simplest of actions and ordinary moments can be; such as riding a bike or even having your daily coffee. An unpretentious and endearing example of life as art." •Mooky Chick" This collection of Georges' illustrated journal makes me feel good about life. The matter of fact way she deals with every day happenstance makes me feel better about issues that I usually feel awkward about." •Belle's Musings & Contemplations" On the surface, this zine anthology is a huge collection of illustrated journal entries spanning six years of Nicole's life. She writes about her work, her lovers, places she's lived, funny things her friends have said, and her beloved dog, Beija. But there's something deeper here; there's a theme of almost childlike sincerity. The way she draws herself in a hat with bear ears and her friends surrounded by little hearts, the way she doesn't gloss over embarrassing or unflattering situations, and the fact that she expresses her feelings when she's going through rough times instead of pretending it's no big deal make this zine very down to earth and relatable." •Razorcake

I first became acquainted with Nicole Georges' charming and whimsical artwork through B*tch magazine, to which Georges is (was?) a "friend and contributor." Her annual Invincible Summer calendars (available on etsy) are simply adorable, brimming as they are with nonhuman animals both familiar (dogs, pigs, chickens) and unusual (sloths, whales, and yes! yes! yes! unicorns!). Her two Invincible Summer zine anthologies have been on my wishlist for years, and Christmas 2013 was the year that Volume 1 finally found its way under my tree. It had the distinction (however dubious) of being my first read of the new year! INVINCIBLE SUMMER: AN ANTHOLOGY is like peeking inside a stranger's diary. (Indeed, Georges refers to her zines as "Diaryland.") Georges explores her life in Portland from the spring of 2001 through the summer of 2004-ish, with some sketches from the 2006 calendar thrown in for good measure. (Though it's missing April and May! *frowny face*) Entries range

from the mundane (daily chores, to-do lists, recipes; chickpea meatballs, must try!) to the less so (apparent PTSD in the wake of a car crash; “on car accidents” is especially haunting). In particular, I was able to relate to the loneliness and alienation Georges felt after moving to a strange new city, as well as her outlandish dreams (most of them dental in nature), and vestigial tail obsession. Plus you have to love a zine that’s heavy on the animals: Georges’s dogs Beija (whom she describes as her “life partner”) and Penny make frequent appearances, and she also spends a month interning at Farm Sanctuary in California and later takes a summer-long job there. Through this, Georges addresses the horrors of animal agriculture, including egg production and animal auctions. Since Georges is a self-described vegan, I was surprised to see honey included in one of her recipes. I don’t know, maybe this wasn’t as contentious an issue among vegans 13 years ago? Was agave even widely available back then? Either way, nothing changes the fact that it’s always been derived from bees. You know, animals! (Ditto wool, which takes us down a whole “another avenue of concerns.”) Also, I felt horrible for backyard chicken Henrietta, who was attacked by her pen-mate Shirley no fewer than three times and eventually mauled to death by a raccoon. I’m not even sure I want to know what was going on there. I suspect that Portland natives will likely get more out of the entries dealing with the city’s social scene; the more day-to-day stuff didn’t interest me quite as much. Also, some of the text was so small that it proved nearly impossible to read. Add to this the fact that some of the recollections seemed out of order, and it was sometimes hard to follow along. I’m still on the fence about the second volume. While the artwork is adorable, the stories are somewhat hit and miss for me. Maybe I’ll skip right to CALLING DR. LAURA: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR, which seems like it has a more cohesive narrative. Until then, there are always the Invincible Summer calendars.

This beautiful anthology compiles Nicole’s first 8 issues of her self-published zine plus some new material. Nicole is a beloved fixture in the Portland zine scene, and she does that scene proud in this book. You really get a feel for her life in PDX; her jobs, friends, dogs, her many cups of coffee per day. Her drawings seem ripped right from her sketchbooks, which gives them a real spontaneity. She draws herself like a little girl or inner child version of herself, perhaps that’s why I found her comics so innocent and endearing. Many of us can relate to wanting to settle down but feeling unsettled about it. I like Nicole’s stories because she’s searching, at times with hesitancy, at times with blind bravery, she explores and tries to live the way that feels right to her. There are many

obstacles to this, hence, comics for us to read and learn from. . . . Reviewed by Kelly Froh.

...but at the forefront, always sincere. Nicole is NOT just a young, sarcastic hipster, as is often the case in arts and entertainment nowadays. She gives thought to the people, community, family, friends, reality, and things beyond just herself. The initial sighting of her own pets, her commissioned pet portraits, or her anthropomorphous animal artwork might suggest surface kitschy cuteness, but through her zine work you see she has an obvious empathy for animals that extends towards real pet and animal issues. Lastly, her comic-diaries are FUN, as fun as any graphic work out there. A perfect balance of intelligence, realism, animation creativity, and humor.

Reading this book reminded me that even ordinary moments carry magic. Riding your bike is important. Having your morning coffee is important. Not in a narcissistic way, but in a mindful way. This collection of stories was like freshly mowed grass. Like a day spent thrift shopping with your best friend. A perfect example of life as art.

First, might I point out that though the book has garnered 4 5-star reviews (as of 1 Aug 08), that at least 3 of those 4 reviews come from folks in Portland, the author's adopted hometown? Coincidence? As for the book, I found the artwork murky and the writing uninspired. What could have been a fascinating subject (living the hippie life in Portland) instead unwittingly made a mockery of itself. Remember the "Basted in Blood" skit on SNL? By the end of the book, I was convinced that the author WAS one of those characters. --Please note, I don't WANT to think that about anybody--the book drove me to it.

I am very satisfied with this book! It was a little beat up, but that is what I paid for, and I am not at all disappointed by the product! I enjoyed reading it, and I will for as long as I have it! Thank you for the fast shipping, and the great product!

I'm a total fan of Nicole Georges' work. Not only are her scenarios witty and her humor charming, her drawing is beautiful in its sweetness.

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