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# Ant Colony



## Synopsis

BEST OF THE YEAR NODS FROM THE GLOBE & MAILL, .COM, QUILL & QUIRE!"The Toronto cartoonist's first full-length graphic novel follows a clutch of misfit ants, trying to maintain some semblance of civilization in the shadow of war. Psychedelically gorgeous, uncomfortably funny."-Sean Rogers, Globe & Mail Best Books of 2014The debut graphic novel from a dazzling newcomer with a singular, idiosyncratic styleIn the few short years since he began his pamphlet-size comic book series *Lose*, Michael DeForge has announced himself as an important new voice in alternative comics. His brash, confident, undulating artwork sent a shock wave through the comics world for its unique, fully formed aesthetic. From its opening pages, *Ant Colony* immerses the reader in a world that is darkly existential, with false prophets, unjust wars, and corrupt police officers, as it follows the denizens of a black ant colony under attack from the nearby red ants. On the surface, it's the story of this war, the destruction of a civilization, and the ants' all too familiar desire to rebuild. Underneath, though, *Ant Colony* plumbs the deepest human concerns-loneliness, faith, love, apathy, and more. All of this is done with humor and sensitivity, exposing a world where spiders can wreak unimaginable amounts of havoc with a single gnash of their jaws. DeForge's striking visual sensibility-stark lines, dramatic color choices, and brilliant use of page and panel space-stands out in this volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An intriguing novel that I went into without any expectations and came out very satisfied. This comic is bizarre, edgy, surreal, and at the core of it, is about the intricacies of different types of male-male

relationships: a) paternal b) fraternal and c) sexual; as told by ants. Alternatively, it can just be read as story about a bunch of ants *À la Antz* albeit directed by Alejandro Jodorowsky. The artwork, frequently containing solid, single-panel backgrounds with dull colors, grew on me quickly. DeForge manages to mix it up by placing surreal, psychedelic art at odd intervals as well. The main protagonists of the story evolve from three different sets of black ants living in a colony that is on the verge of collapse. The story in itself is about their struggles with very few triumphs. Red ants, spiders, caterpillars, earthworms, and other critters are humorously depicted as seen through the eyes of the black ants. All in all, I would recommend it if you like your dose of strange with a side serving of introspection.

This is the first book I've read by Michael DeForge, and I'm very impressed. His artwork is clean, sometimes very detailed, complex, shocking, easy on the eye. His story, about an ant colony and some of its more unusual members, is fascinating. He captures the perspective of different bugs in a thoughtful, eerie, and humorous manner. I would definitely like to read more DeForge books and this has to be one of the best graphic novels of 2014. I would recommend it if you like Chris Ware, Dan Clowes, Ernie Bushmiller, Tom Gauld, or George Herriman.

I read "Ant Colony" back when it was just "Ant Comic," serialized on DeForge's blog. I loved it then, and I love it now â " and I'm overjoyed to have it in this frankly beautifully-produced form. It's a hell of a lot nicer than the hack-job bootleg press of it I made back in college. My only complaint: DeForge's gorgeous bestiary/cast page (published after Ant Comic ended) is missing from this volume. This is the only flaw in an otherwise perfect publication.

Everything about this book is beautiful. The artwork, the themes, the story, etc. It's a dark and existential book basically about ant colonies at war with each other, but it's also about love, loneliness, and faith. It does all this while being really weird and funny as well. Can not stress enough how visually appealing the clean artwork is. This book made me an instant fan of Michael DeForge and I highly recommend it!!

Canadian artist Michael DeForge is one of the most unique and promising talents in the world of comics. As an artist, he has a vibrant and highly idiosyncratic style, and his ambition towards high concept is on clear display, full of life and humor, as refreshing as it seems new to me now. Of course, Michael has been around, but *Ant Colony* is a wonderful first graphic novel, and it probably

served him well as a relevant departure from his lauded series "Lose," his various collections of cartooning, and his time on Cartoon Network's Adventure Time. As other reviewers have said, this colorful work concerning the trials of an ant colony, and it is an instant classic and a sure candidate for graphic novel of the year. All the while, DeForge balances a cautionary tale about war and loss with a fancifully funny exhibition of ants with personalities as striking as the artwork of the master illustrator.

Really astonishing work. Truly bizarre and engaging, and the best comics from DeForge that I have seen to date. The story starts off with an odd and amusing tone and then quickly builds and builds and builds into a horrifying yet funny tableau. This won't be for everybody (not by a long shot), but I for one can't wait to re-read it.

Very unique. Great visuals. Very dark content for the barely-above-average graphic novel enthusiast. I enjoyed it, but wouldn't recommend for everybody.

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