



SINA LOT OF THINGS



UPDATES AND FREE STUFF!
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST:

Address:

mail address

5 REASONS TO READ: BEAUTIFUL DARKNESS

August 11, 2015

Kerascoët's and Fabien Vehlmann's *Beautiful Darkness* is an anti-fairy tale, reflecting the bleak experience of survival. The story follows Princess Aurora and her friends who have been displaced from their home. Their beautiful surroundings become their new habitat, but as soon as their different personalities are given free roam to evolve, we see just what these characters turn into. Here are 5 reasons, why this book should be on your must-read list!

The Toned-Down Dark Fantasy

Although this book doesn't necessarily come off like a magical world made grim, its darkness is a truly subtle presence. As the pages progress, we're entreated to panels of gruesome realness which only become more effective since everything seems so sweetly done in watercolor. The world of the comic is child-like without having magic involved much like the *Smurfs* or the *Borrowers*. Having that set up works to the book's benefit since everything seems more natural and human-like than we care to admit. *Beautiful Darkness* reflects the idea that you don't know how vicious you can be until you have nothing in you but your instinct.



Survival to the Extreme

The story may not seem to have a fully coherent plot, but what we see instead is an evolution of different characters to their environment. Much like *Lord of the Flies*, their naiveness and innocence all had a place and time for where they formerly lived, but out in the wild, these little creatures cling to the most basic instincts that leave them morally ignorant.



Memorable Characters

Princess Aurora may be our protagonist, but she's surrounded by others who are kind, funny, creepy, and most notably, clueless. Prince Hector for example, is the charming love interest Aurora dreams about, but his ignorant apathy and manipulateness make him stand out that much more. There's a lovely twist to some of the characters that plays back to true selves coming out.



The Unforgettable Artwork

The beautiful watercolors utilize light pastels with the background and give the characters a vibrant pop. The mastery at work here completely sets the scene, and whether you're looking at a lush landscape or the inside of a dark home, the colors are probably the most effective tool for this book. Also, the art conveys a nice balance between a cartoony cast mixed in with a more realistic style. At times, the unsettling images tend to set an impression that much more. We ultimately get a book with a *Madeline*-feel, but with killing and backstabbing.

Simple Yet Hauntingly Effective

There isn't a set destination from the beginning where we're headed. The story's characters evolve on their own, and nothing ever feels forced. After it's all over, the book will stick with you longer than you expect. As readers, we set ourselves up for charm and laughs, but as soon as those moments hit, we're left at our most vulnerable.

Up until the end, you'll get a lingering feeling, pulling the hairs on the back of your neck. This is where you turn off the lights, tuck yourself in, think about what you just read, and plan for the next day on how to get your friends to read this book.

Pick up a copy on [Amazon](#) or your local bookstore!

