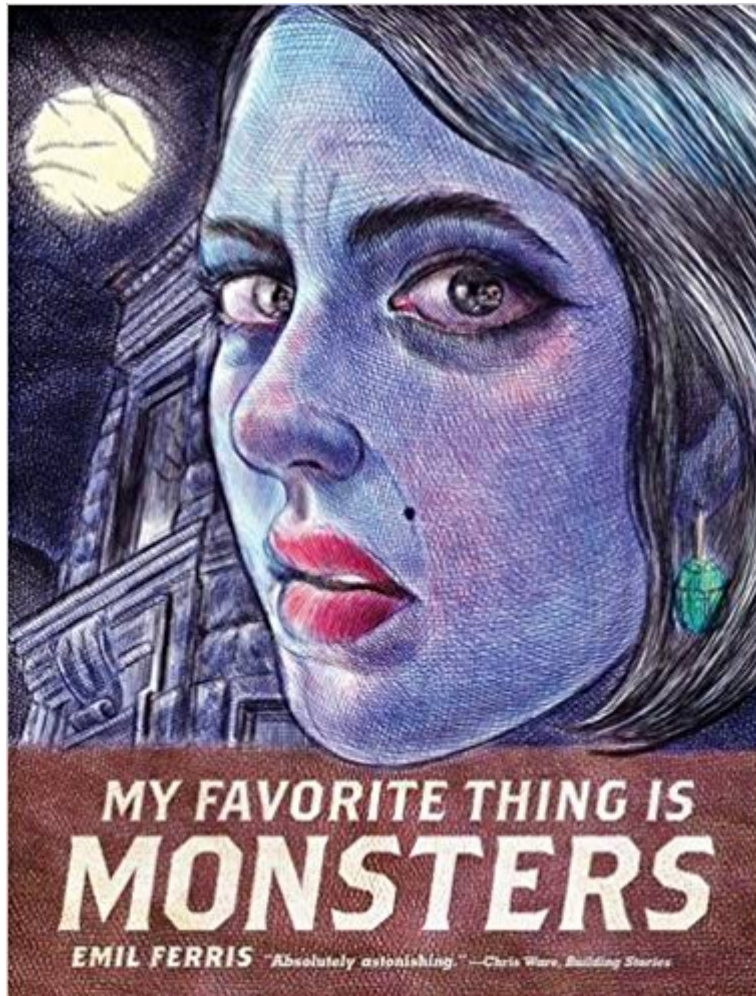




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# My Favorite Thing Is Monsters



## Synopsis

In this debut, which takes the form of a fictional graphic diary, a 10-year-old girl tries to solve a murder. Set against the tumultuous political backdrop of late 1960s Chicago, *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters* is the fictional graphic diary of 10-year-old Karen Reyes, filled with B-movie horror and pulp monster magazines iconography. Karen Reyes tries to solve the murder of her enigmatic upstairs neighbor, Anka Silverberg, a holocaust survivor, while the interconnected stories of those around her unfold. When Karen's investigation takes us back to Anka's life in Nazi Germany, the reader discovers how the personal, the political, the past, and the present converge. Full-color illustrations throughout.

## Book Information

Series: *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters*

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 101 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,691 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Contemporary Women #2 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Fantagraphics #3 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Historical & Biographical Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Emil Ferris grew up Chicago during the turbulent 1960s, where she still lives, and is consequently a devotee of all things monstrous and horrific. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from The School of the Art Institute.

Based to some extent on Ferris's experience growing up in Chicago's Uptown, *MFTIM* features 10-year-old, monster-obsessed Karen Reyes as, in her trenchcoat, she investigates a woman friend's death in her apartment building. It's declared a suicide, but signs point to murder. There are many intertwined stories, as she begins to

better understand her older brother Deeze, who's irresistible to the ladies, and other friends, neighbors, and relatives. Many are already calling this a masterpiece, and they're right, IMO. I loved the quirky but skillful drawings. The story is surprisingly deep and wide-ranging. A local newspaper article explained that she sketches people on Chicago's El trains for inspiration, and that's easy to imagine in this book. One of my favorite parts is the time she spends in the Art Institute with her brother Deeze, talking about various paintings, and even entering some. If you enjoy graphic novels, you'll want to read this one. If you like reading something different, and seeing a new talent emerge onto the scene, that's reason to give this one a try, too. (

I heard this book being reviewed on NPR and thought my 21 yo daughter would love it, so it was one of the birthday presents and she DID really love it. The story and the amazing drawings.

This is narrative art, sequential art, if you will, at it's finest, although I concede for me this is comix, with every evocative words and pictures greatness that medium has to offer. Nostalgic and thoughtful, the work does something so rare: captures a moment in time when the adult world crashes into the imaginative panorama that is childhood creativity, when a wolf-man can be more than a wolf-man, embodying a living, breathing, moving piece of graphic art. Our hero sees and experiences things she shouldn't see, and still that is life, in so many ways. There is some weighty material here, but it really captures that mood of a world filled with mystery, where Lon Chaney is married to real-world turbulence, and the artist comes out the winner.

Just finished reading Emil Ferris's amazing graphic novel and I can say, as a grizzled comics fan with wide-ranging tastes, that I've honestly never seen anything quite like it. Spectacular illustrations cover almost every inch of this huge volume, all printed on lined three-hole paper emulating the illustrated diary of the ten-year-old protagonist, a tough and beleaguered tomboy on the rough streets of 1960's Chicago. Well-written and deeply immersive, this piece drew me into the world of Karen, a monster-obsessed kid struggling with sexuality, race, poverty, and the violence of her surroundings. It is as dark a work as I've read in comics yet has a jaunty sort of zest for life in it that constantly pulls the narrative along and saves the reader from being overwhelmed by some of the disturbing elements within. It's especially astonishing as the first work from a writer/artist, working in seclusion for over six years. It reminds me, in all the best ways, of the confessional work of Robert Crumb and Harvey Pekar, of the strange life-stories of Chris Ware and Daniel Clowes and Jeffrey Brown. It also reminds me of my own childhood, of how different a child can view the world, though

my own early years were far less fearful. Ferris's illustrations also show an abiding love not just for horror movies (and particularly for our mutual Universal monster favorite, the Wolf Man) but for the great horror magazines of the 1960's from CREEPY and FAMOUS MONSTERS though the gory WEIRD and TERROR TALES varieties. Perhaps also some of the Spanish/Mexican horror mags, too, I'd guess. This is a great book. I can see it speaking to those that struggled with gender issues, but its scope is well beyond that, a love poem to lonely, different kids everywhere. I eagerly await the second part of the story, which will be published in early 2018. Go to [my website](#) and browse through a few pages, if you wish. It is not a story for children (and, honestly, I swore aloud when I hit the pages that will keep it out of most school libraries) but it speaks to the damaged child in each of us, I think.

When I returned this to the library, the clerk looked at it and said, "We cannot keep this one on the shelves!" Small wonder. This book is one of the most extraordinary of the year. There really are no words to sum up how I feel about this story. It's literally and figuratively a heavy read. It may seem to be just a book about a girl who likes monsters but it's so much more. It's a heartbreaking story of a young girl, who visualizes herself as a werewolf, in a poor family and dealing with tragedy while at the same time curious about the death/murder of the tenant above her and her horrifying past in Weimar and then Nazi Germany. (Note: This book really isn't for kids The artwork is phenomenal and goes at times from pencils to pen and ink. I have to admit that at one point, I even wondered if Emil Ferris was just a pen name from Lynda Barry as in one sequence, a character looked just a a Barry creation. But no, it was a coincidence. "My Favorite Thing is Monsters" is new and exciting. I cannot believe I have to wait an entire year for book 2. I thought I was done waiting for books in a series after Harry Potter yet here I am.

Extraordinary. Wheels within wheels, layers on top of, and embedded within, layers. Horrifying and heartbreaking and bursting with unsentimental poignancy. About so many things at once that you are forced by sheer overwhelming to just keep reading and watching the page. Preternatural artwork. A masterpiece, truly.

This book is beautiful, captivating, heartbreaking, mystifying, and even educational. You are immersed in pen drawn pages contrasting monsters that hurt us and the monsters we can aspire to be. Young Karen tries to solve the mysterious death of a neighbor as other mysteries and real life horrors pile up on her. She sketches the covers of her horror comic books, famous works of art, and her encounters with the incredible personalities of Chicago. It is both painful and beautiful. You will

want the second book.

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