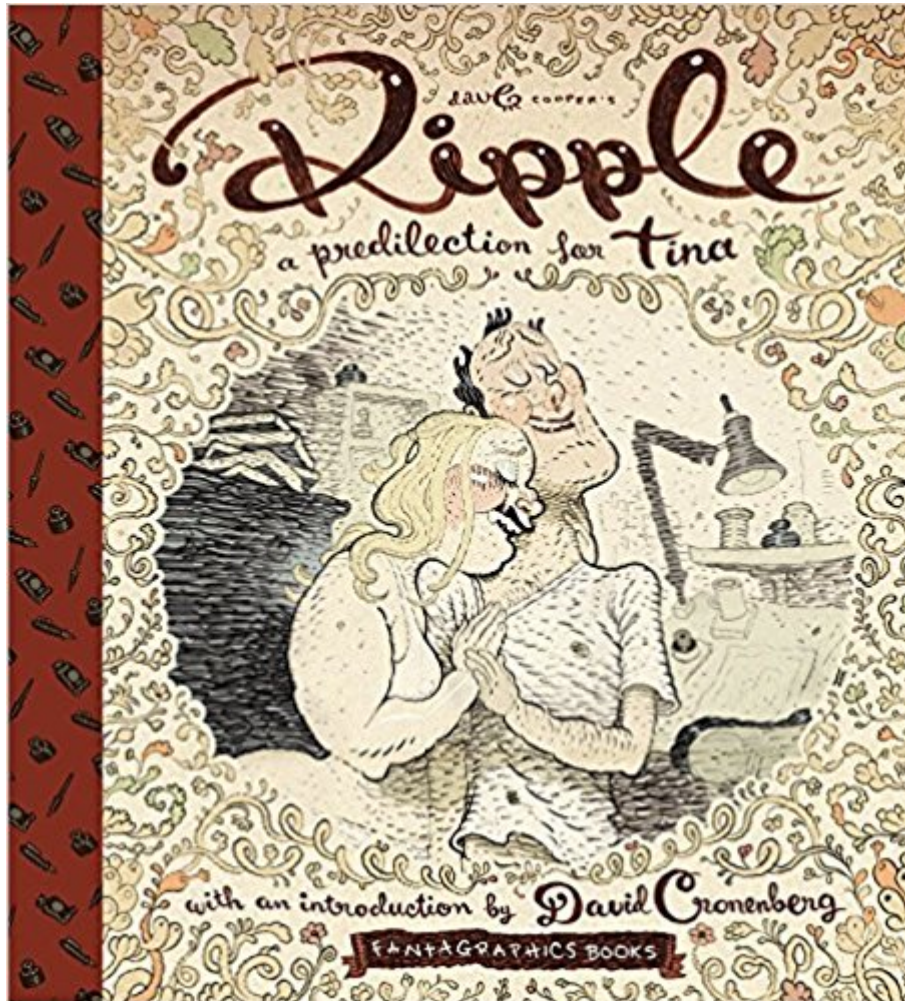




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Ripple: A Predilection For Tina



Synopsis

This is a reprint of a popular graphic novel, in which an artist and model fall into an abject relationship. In *Ripple*, Martin is a floundering painter desperately attempting to pursue his fine-art inclinations rather than toil in the world of commercial art. He hires a model, Tina, to pose for a series of paintings he dubs "The Eroticism of Homeliness." Over time, their relationship evolves from a tenuous working relationship to a confused sexual entanglement. Martin's initial repulsion for Tina slowly turns to attraction, causing him to re-evaluate his own notions of beauty and sexuality. Tina's motives in working for Martin are slowly turned upside-down as well, leading toward the book's inevitable, explosive ending. Sad, funny, and often uncomfortably titillating, *Ripple* is rendered with kinetic realism. Two color illustrations throughout.

Book Information

Hardcover: 136 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics; 1 edition (July 4, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1683960262

ISBN-13: 978-1683960263

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.8 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #788,799 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #280 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Erotica #341 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Fantagraphics #640 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Romance

Customer Reviews

Artist Martin DeSerres, 38, was getting by on children's book illustration when a grant he had applied for finally came through, enabling a project he called "The Eroticism of Homeliness." Finding models was at first difficult, but Tina, a teenager, eventually kept her appointment with him. Chubby, bespectacled, pimpled, she seemed overweeningly shy. But she warmed to posing, especially in the nude. And Martin fell for her. Sex ensued, and it was the experienced, even jaded man who felt, perhaps, in love. For Tina, everything was much more casual. She enjoyed pleasing Martin and fulfilling his fantasies, but when he tried to fulfill hers, such as she had told him, she recoiled and

eventually left. Cooper's chunky, brutal drawing style fairly drains the sexually explicit story of prurient interest without, however, making it repulsive. Indeed, this legend of sexual obsession chimes with the great Japanese novelist Tanizaki's similar stories (see the novel *Naomi* and several pieces in *The Gourmet Club*). Truly and honorably, a graphic novel for adults only. Ray Olson

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Beautifully produced and designed and is easily one of the best comics of the year. -- Chris Oliveros, Publisher, *Drawn & Quarterly*

Easily the best new book of the year. -- Seth, author of *It's a Good Life If You Don't Weaken* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I'm not much when it comes to writing reviews but as a frequent comic book reader I must say that this comic book was a delightful read. Most might think that the book may be more geared for males but I think otherwise. As a female I thought the story was though provoking and paced beautifully. The ink work is detailed and specific to the mood of the book. I like how the line work changes from blue to pink at some parts. It can be graphic but, unlike in some books, it has purpose. The nudity is there to compliment the them and pushes the story along. If your willing to try something new and something a bit more daring than your typical PG comic book, (if that's typical for you) then you should pick this up. By far this comic book is one of my favorites among others of Dave Cooper's work. Just fantastic.

Reading this graphic novel is like being thrown into the deep end of the pool: you aren't expecting such blunt and graphic realism, but once you get into it, it's hard to take your eyes away. Take care: this isn't remotely for a kid of any age. Since the summary is taken care of, I will say that I found myself thinking the story plays out almost like a FA (fat admirer) confession, of sorts. The ideas, art and ultimately the moral are much deeper and more personal than the brutish, roughly realistic and oftentimes disturbing art style would let on. The idea of large women being attractive is not found much in modern media, let alone in comic books. At first glance this appears to be a perverse sex romp, but don't judge this book by its cover.

Just prior to hanging up his comicbook hat to focus on oil painting (and why not when he can earn between \$100,000-\$250,000 per gallery show)... Dave Cooper gave us this book, *Ripple*, which in my mind is his very best work. There's something about the scratchy art that perfectly matches the

lasciviousness of the story. It's a wonderful example of an original story by an original cartoonist. You won't read or see anything like it from another. One of my most favorite books ever. I can't recommend it enough. -Bobby.N

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