



## The Alcoholic

*Jonathan Ames , Dean Haspiel (Illustrator)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# The Alcoholic

*Jonathan Ames , Dean Haspiel (Illustrator)*

**The Alcoholic** Jonathan Ames , Dean Haspiel (Illustrator)

Acclaimed novelist Jonathan Ames writes his first comics work with the original graphic novel THE ALCOHOLIC, illustrated by THE QUITTER artist Dean Haspiel.

This touching, compassionate, ultimately humorous story explores the heart of a failing writer who's coming off a doomed romance and searching for hope. Unfortunately, the first place his search takes him is the bottom of a bottle as he careens from one off-kilter encounter to another in search of himself.

## The Alcoholic Details

Date : Published September 30th 2008 by Vertigo (first published September 9th 2008)

ISBN : 9781401210564

Author : Jonathan Ames , Dean Haspiel (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 136 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fiction

 [Download The Alcoholic ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Alcoholic ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Alcoholic Jonathan Ames , Dean Haspiel (Illustrator)**

---

## From Reader Review The Alcoholic for online ebook

### David says

When I picked up this graphic novel from the library, I had no idea who Jonathan Ames was. Upon further investigation, I'd never even heard of any of his works, be they book, film, or TV show, save one (*Blunt Talk*). But even that one show I've never seen and only knew of it because Patrick Stewart played the titular role.

I gathered from the liner notes that this was the fictionalized memoir of a writer (Jonathan A.) who struggled with alcohol. Having had my own wanderings down that path over a number of years—luckily changing course before it was too late—I was curious to hear his story, even if there was a bit of fiction in it.

For the sake of simplicity, I'm going to refer to the fictional Jonathan A. as the author, Ames.

Ames explores how alcohol played a role throughout his life. Like many, his relationship started in high school. Alcohol is that wonderful social lubricant that helps combat the terrifying awkwardness of being a teenager, a human being. But alcohol didn't like Ames, and it kicked his ass. Ames ignored it though; the euphoria that came with drinking was worth it to him. And when various relationships with family, friends, and girlfriends turned sour, alcohol was there to get him through it. While he had periods of sobriety, there was always something to trigger a relapse, sometimes into harder drugs.

Ames takes us from high school parties in New Jersey to starry beaches in Bequia. He relives sexual escapades, detoxing, and the emotional fallout of 9/11. Dean Haspiel's black and white artwork perfectly encapsulates each scene, clearly conveying the emotions that Ames' character is feeling.

Although fictionalized, it still feels like Ames is telling an honest story, but only to an extent. He tries to balance the melancholy with humor, but when the latter wanders into the scatological, it took away from the sympathy I'd felt for the character. The ending seems rushed. The epiphany Ames experienced might be true, but I was left unconvinced that it would stick. An earlier epiphany after 9/11 was forgotten after a chance encounter with Bill Clinton went straight to the character's head. But the very last page has me thinking that no epiphany will ever suffice until the void in his life is filled.

3 1/2 stars.

---

### Tosh says

Jonathan Ames, at the moment, is someone who entertains me greatly. In many ways he reminds me of Woody Allen. The character in his fiction is very much the same. Totally self-obsessed and funny. But there is a tragic aspect to this character and the way Ames writes that character and make it funny is what makes him an artist or even... an entertainer.

I pick up his books expecting to be entertained or at the very least to be part of his world. What we have here is Ames world in a comic book format. Or graphic novel to be exact. The artist Dean Haspiel really sets the narrative in visual form, and it's a hard-to-put-down book.

"The Alcoholic" is very New York, in that it reminds me of "The Lost Weekend." As a reader you say to yourself "Don't go there Jonathan!" And of course he does. This is a beautifully constructed piece of work - and Ames knows how to drive and take us on a wild and funny car trip to... his own private hell.

---

### **Jason Coleman says**

This might be the most pitiful public-humiliation spectacle since Coetzee's *Summertime*. "J. Ames" is not only a hopeless alcoholic and doper; he is sexually confused, prematurely bald, orphaned, even incontinent. The hell-on-earth of addiction is vividly evoked, and Ames achieves a nice mix of humor and awful honesty. The graphic-novel format (the unfussy art is by Dean Haspiel) suits the material; it's the perfect shorthand for this odyssey. But because the story is not strict memoir, one wonders why certain elements that add up to little (e.g., the 9/11 detour) were even included. The story never really crests.

(One hopes the real Ames is doing better with his problem these days. The first clip I found of him on youtube was from the Writers Guild Awards, and Ames was pretty damn plastered. He was also pretty funny, not to mention physically imposing—not much like the wretch he invented for this comic book.)

---

### **Malbadeen says**

He drinks. He stops drinking. He drinks again. He stops drinking again. He does drugs. He stops doing drugs. He does drugs again...

and so on and so on and dubby dubby do.

but woven in with all that, there are complicated relationships, loss, and confusion that would exsist even if he were always sober.

sometimes sad but not crushing.  
sometimes hopeful but not cheesy.  
and sometimes funny.

---

### **III D says**

Since it's a new year, I decided to do something new. Instead of picking something unread from the bookcase or the hard drive, I dove back into the stack of read books to give one an ol' reread. Fingers sifted. Closed eyes opened and Jonathan Ames' lush autobiography was chosen.

Under more aged eyes I definitely found more to be critical of yet also found a lot more to enjoy as well.

Featuring a highly exposed approach, the author's transparency is as confessorial as it is painfully honest. Shying away from nothing, self-deprecation is utilized to strong effect. Disdaining the airbrush for an instrument more genuine, the result resonates with a warmth of pulsating deep self-awareness.

With the aim of expositional commiseration chosen as the highest goal, the past has been presented with warts (there's a lot of them) and all. From homosexual experimentation to its titular obsession/from sexual-awkwardness to pathetic crushes that have long lasted beyond their expiration date/and from failure to even more failure Ames has presented us a story that is completely unvarnished in all regards. With a heaping helping of tragedy and the excesses of drug abuse to top it all off, an unmistakably human construction is to be read warts and all

There's a lot of good here but there's also some not so good.

While the art style is serviceable, it's nothing to write home about. Choosing a starkly minimal duochromaticism, blacks and whites illustrate each and every panel within. The style is certainly up for subjective interpretation, but it adds an interesting level of contrast considering that the story within is highly colored in all aspects. Succeeding more as a contraposed backdrop more than on its own merits alone, the art style within is definitely the weakest aspect of this work.

Moreover, some technical flaws considering pacing, and minimal character development (in some instances) claw it back from a higher star rating it probably deserves. Respectively, multiple pages could easily have been excised to aggrandize brevity and multiple important characters, most notably his parents, are woefully unevolved. Most failures are of the nit-picky varieties but they do add up over time.

All in all, there is a deeply human and unabashedly flawed protagonist presented to us readers within. We can hate, love, and/or hopefully commiserate with him but ultimately this intimate personal portrait is as authentic as it could have possibly been.

Give it a read, you deserve it.

---

### **Anthony Chavez says**

This was an easy read, great story by Jonathan Ames, really touching, and very awesome art by Dean Haspiel.

A true to life almost memoir by Ames, my first read of his. I have been a long time supporter of his show Bored to Death, he always entertains me in his noir sort of way. He does, in his own way, remind me of Woody Allen. He writes humor but there is a great tragic aspect to his characters and the way Ames writes that character is sublime and unique, it truly makes him an artist.

The story itself is one of a very personal nature. One that you can't help but feel is a window into the past of Jonathan Ames. In "Bored to Death" the main character is named Jonathan Ames and in "The Alcoholic" he is named Jonathan A. Draw your own conclusions.

Any addict of any sort will find this graphic novel hitting close to home and too real for comfort. The constant ups and downs of life, struggling with interesting subplots concerning family, friendship, homosexuality, virility, and death.

Endings that aren't quite an ending are sometimes the best ending to me because they leave you thinking, wait did he? Is he going to? Did this mean that? or did it mean this? After a wild 136 pages of everything under the sun, from binging, to confession, from detox, to counseling. I'm not sure if Jonathan A. or Ames knew what was going on, so we the reader are left to wonder where he will go from here, is his glass half empty, half full, is it going to be completely full or is it going to stay empty? The choice is yours.

---

### **Alyssa says**

The ending of the book resolved absolutely nothing. Other than that, it was a decent graphic novel memoir.

---

### **Christina says**

I didn't have any expectations about this book, and I still hated it.

"The Alcoholic," which is actually written by Jonathan Ames and drawn by Dean Haspiel (stupid Web site people), is about Jonathan A., a young man who starts drinking at the age of 15, really enjoys drinking, and becomes (guess what?) an alcoholic. The book is about his troubles with alcohol and his visit to rehab and his relapse into alcoholism.

I'm sure I'm probably supposed to think that parts of the book are really funny. And I'm sure that at some spots, I'm supposed to feel really bad for Jonathan A.

But I don't.

The book reads to me as a series of really stupid choices.

And, frankly, those choices are boring. Oh, drinking is so cool... Riiiiigggghhht. I drink because Hunter S. Thompson and Ernest Hemingway and Jack Kerouac drank, and I want to be just like them. Riiiiigggghhht. Oh, I drink because I'm heartbroken over the loss of my best friend. Riiiiigggghhht. Oh, I drink because I'm heartbroken over the loss of the girl I loved. Riiiiigggghhht. Newsflash: Everyone goes through that stuff. And anyone who says they haven't is lying. And most people find better ways to cope than drowning themselves in booze.

Jonathan A. strikes me as just a selfish jerk who makes stupid excuses for his bad habits.

And writer Jonathan Ames strikes me as a pretentious ass-clown who used a graphic medium (which can be truly wonderful when used properly) to disguise a really poorly written story.

I might have been more impressed if Ames had actually made the effort to describe some of the people and events in the book - you know, with words.

But I guess I'll get off my soapbox now, and sum up this review by telling you that I think this book sucks.

---

### **Imogen says**

I love that when you type 'alcoholic' in the search box, two Bukowski books that don't have the word 'alcoholic' in their titles come up before anything else.

Anyway, I like Jonathan Ames. You like Jonathan Ames, right? We all like Jonathan Ames. Just like all of us, he grew up in New Jersey and then moved to New York. (well, maybe not all of us. Most of us though.) I haven't read all his books and, honestly, the most interesting thing to me (well duh) is how trans women continuously pop up in his books, and in a way that doesn't ever seem to reveal anything, except that, like, 'hi, I'm Jonathan Ames, and trans women are in my life.'

So that happened for a minute in this one.

I liked it. It's definitely a weird little book- a bildungsroman (I WENT TO COLLEGE) all about the bildungs of addiction, with an (spoiler) ambiguous/pessimistic non-ending, where some stuff happens but really just a bunch of sorrows get drowned.

Remember when I told you that I didn't think Jesus' Son resonated like it was about real addicts? Like how that thing seemed much more to be about, like, what if addiction were grimy-glamorous? There is something apologetic, meek, and self-implosive going on in this one that resonates with me way harder.

Are you listening to me? JONATHAN AMES IS BETTER THAN DENIS JOHNSON.

And, I mean, it's a graphic novel, which means you can read it in a night, which is always a plus for me. The art is, I don't know, functional? I'm not in love with this artist, but it's definitely expressive without being intrusive or obnoxious. I guess 'functional' is kind of a fucked up thing to say about somebody's art; all I mean is that it's not the art that made me like this book, it's the story.

I dunno. Sarah Goff, are you on goodreads? I can't remember. But you're the one with the boner for Jonathan Ames and graphic novels. Did you like this thing?

---

### **Tina Haigler says**

Story: 4 stars!

Art: 5 stars!

I honestly wasn't sure if I was going to like this one. It is called The Alcoholic after all. I read it in one sitting. Apparently I like memoir style comics with good art and writing. Who knew? I really felt for the main character. There were a lot of times I rolled my eyes at him too though. The first half of the book was better, or more interesting to me, but that could be because the second half was more melancholy.

I would definitely recommend it. It's a good story (I believe it's semi-autobiographical) and the art is good. There's sex, nudity, and drugs though, so I would say the age range is 18+.

????? ???? says

Irene says

This was sad but definitely as an alcoholic myself -- many years away from my last drink -- I can relate to this kind of life and can tell this is someone's true story. Kind of funny at points and as I said very sad. Unfortunately realistic too as many of us have a similar sort of depressing past. Reading this made me think over and over "thank God I don't drink anymore."

**Reid says**

Some spoilers. Fairly compelling and relatable memoir-like tale of a natural born drinker, with plenty of poignant moments and pretty good art work. The writing is simple and straightforward, but it works well with the black and white shadowy illustrations and noirish tempo. The writer throws in a truck-full of drama and heavy themes, including death, mourning, heartbreak, homosexuality, aids, 9/11, coke and heroin use, and lots of spewing bodily fluids, but also keeps a light balance with old lady dwarf sex and premature ejaculation, more than his share of sexy women (in pillow fights?), and fretting over atypical male pattern baldness. The tale doesn't go deep, but the narrator's frank telling of this on-again off-again drinker's life is interesting and entertaining. 3.8

**Valerie says**

This graphic novel focused on Jonathan A. (the main character) and his alcoholism, and how his battle with it affected everything in his life. There were so many wonderful, poignant, tragic and even funny details... I loved his devotion to his best friend, even when said friend ditched him for no apparent reason. I loved it when he referred to his ex-girlfriend by the city she happened to be living in at the time and came to refer to himself as "her bitch" because he couldn't let her go. I loved how he told part of his story while haphazardly self-buried in the sand trying to elude the police. I loved it when Monica Lewinsky said that the kielbasa looked delicious, causing Jonathan to astrally project to the ceiling out of sympathetic embarrassment for her...

It's hard to "love" some of the more tragic circumstances of the book, but while I can't identify 100% with the realities of alcoholism, I think everyone can identify with the feelings of inadequacy and want expressed in this book. The feeling of almost achieving something, and then losing it again. Hopefulness, and hopelessness, and then hopefulness again.

I was actually confused as to whether this book was semi-autobiographical. The main character is named Jonathan A., after all (the author is Jonathan Ames). But after doing a little research: it seems like it isn't. Just a really well-told tale that is true for different people in different ways.

---

### **Kevin says**

Though this graphic novel is billed as a fictionalized account of Jonathan Ames struggles with alcohol, I'm gonna go ahead and label it a memoir. Ames story rings true on ever page and Haspiel's art works really well in this sad and painful book. Besides alcoholism, this book also has interesting subplots concerning homosexuality, virility, and death. Of course, there are some great moments of Ames humor as well. And although readers familiar with Ames will recognize parts of his life that he has explored before, there are some new revelations and a more willingness (visual, visceral) from the author to uncover his demons. A powerful book.

---