



## **Kvinnor ritar bara serier om mens**

*Sara Olausson (editor)*

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## Kvinnor ritat bara serier om män Sara Olausson (editor)

En antologi med tecknade serier av kvinnor, som handlar om män. Upprinnelsen är ett sommarprogram av Liv Strömquist 2013 som hon (i lätt förkortad version) inledde: ”En gång i begynnelsen av min karriär som serietecknare träffade jag en manlig serietecknare som hade gett ut några album på ett riktigt förlag. Jag berättade att ”jag ritat också serier”. Då sa han: Jag hatar serier av kvinnliga serietecknare. Jaha... varför det? frågade jag. ”Jo, sa han, för kvinnor ritat bara serier om män”.

Det tråkiga i den här historien är att han hade fel. Jag skulle tvärtom säga att MENS som konstnärligt tema är fruktansvärt försummat i världshistorien.” Sara Olausson kom tillsammans med flera andra i en Facebooktråd efter programmet, på idén att göra en hel bok på temat.

MEDVERKANDE i boken är: Sara Olausson, Anneli Furmark, Elin Lucassi, Emelie Östergren, Karolina Bång, Lena Acebo, Susanne Fredelius, Tyra Blomster, Emma Rendel, Frida Ulvegren, Monica Hellström, Hanna Gustavsson, Lisa Rydberg, Jojo Falk, Stina Hjelm, Lisa Medin, Fanny Lindgren Agazzi, Julia Hansen, Joanna Hellgren, Wendel Strömbeck, Malin Biller, Siri Ahmed Backström, Lotta Sjöberg, Joanna Johnson, Lina Neidestam, Linda Spåman, Li Österberg, Matilda Ruta, Klara Wiksten, Bitte Andersson och Julia Thorell.

## Kvinnor ritat bara serier om män Details

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## **Fredrik Strömberg says**

A much talked about Swedish comics anthology, with short stories on the theme of menstruation. It's genesis was a radio show where comics artist Liv Strömquist talked about having been met early on in her career with the comment from an older, male comics artist that "Women only draw comics about menstruation". This started a debate on Facebook on the lack of such comics, which lead to the idé of this book. The debate is even printed in the book, which is a nice touch.

The comics included vary a lot in the way they are presented, but are almost all of them autobiographical, telling stories of how these cartoonists have experienced having their menstruation, how the people around them have reacted and so on. There are comics that vary from this theme, like Frida Ulvegren's more fact based comic about the menstruations cycle, Joanna Hellgren's fictitious story of a survivor on a deserted island who keeps track of time using her menstruation cycle, or Karolina Bång's more instructive comics on how to use a menstrual cup.

This is a solid, interesting anthology, were the participants clearly have been inspired by the theme. As it contains contributions from several generations of artists, it can also be read as a who's who of modern day female comics artists from Sweden. The person(s) who instigated this book are not represented, though.

Firstly, Liv Strömquist, who talked about female comics artists and the theme of menstruation in comics, has done a whole book of her own on the subject of the female genitalia, *Kunskapens frukt*, a book I reviewed a few weeks ago. As that was published by another publisher, I can readily see why she didn't want to also contribute to this anthology, even though it feels a bit odd that she's not represented here. Comparing the two books, which is sort of inevitable, makes it clear, to me at least, that Strömquist's book is the better one, though not by as far as I would have anticipated.

Secondly, Natalia Batista, who was the actual instigator of the book, being the first person to suggest an anthology (this is even recorded in the preface to the book...), sent in a short, autobiographical comic which seems to have been misplaced, lost or something. In any case it was not included, which is a shame. It, together with a rant about this sad situation, can be found [here](#). I found this state of affairs more disturbing than the lack of comics by Strömquist, and in order to rectify it, I have now printed Batista's comic and interfoliated it into the book. So, now at least my copy is complete.

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## **Fia Borglin says**

Något ojämn men rolig, fin och igenkännande antologi.

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## **Linda says**

Ville verkligen gilla denna bok då det är ett superbra initiativ, men den gav mig ingenting - trots många talangfulla serietecknare involverade. Antologier är svåra att pull off generellt sett vilket nog är förklaringen.

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## **Malin says**

An anthology by several Swedish comic book artists, all comics regarding menstruation. I love the idea in theory, and I also loved some of the entries. Others i didn't like at all as much, and many of them were also really cis-normative (with a few exceptions, which were great!)

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## **Miriam says**

3.5

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## **Leena-Maaretta Dixon says**

It's an anthology so the material is very uneven. Some comics were awesome and some were very lacking in substance. But ever all enjoyed it.

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## **ebba says**

4 stjärnor då en del av serierna var cissexistiska. Annars ett asbra initiativ -- mer liknande behövs!

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## **C.H. Svedén says**

Alla borde läsa denna, kvinnor som män, bara för folkbildningens skull. Boken som idé är dock bättre än sitt utförande tycker jag. Stundtals helt genialisk, stundtals tråkig. Men jag väljer att se de genialiska sidorna främst!

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## **Jon says**

Lysande bok, den spretiga kvalitén till trots! När min flickvän berättade att hon visat den för sin lillasyster (som troligen får sina första blödningar inom en snar framtid) slog det mig hur fullständigt fantastiskt pedagogiska många av serierna i boken egentligen är.

Vem skriver man till när man känner ett brinnande behov av att påpeka fördelarna med att tillgängliggöra den här boken på samtliga av landets grundskolor? Den hade med stor fördel kunnat delas ut tillsammans med Liv Strömquists ABC.

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## **Ane says**

i really wanted to like this book. there's lots of great artists in it and there should be more comics about menstruation. it's a hugely important initiative and its about time menstruation is being a more talked about topic. there should have been a comics anthology about menstruation long before 2015. however even though i could take a step back and appreciate the comics storytelling or art it was hard to focus on that when almost all of the comics was extremely cis-sexist and one even racist (talking about being one with nature religions/native people because you were now having your period).

there are women that never have and never will menstruate! there are people that are not women that menstruate! there are men that menstruate! trans people!! all the talk about linking menstruation to coming into womanhood etc was very disappointing from an anthology coming out 2015 from i assume many of people identifying as feminists. i can understand when they are describing their thoughts and experiences from the time it happened, or when there are text from history books, and also the importance of being proud of being a woman, but the almost complete lack of even knowing trans people exists are very disappointing. i mean there is even (at least one) trans person in the book talking about not being a woman and menstruating but still on the cover it says that there's only women. that's just offensive. would've loved giving it more stars, because without the cis-sexism i think i would have really enjoyed the book.

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## **Rebellatrix says**

Ett väldigt ojämnt album, med ett viktigt budskap. Om vi inte pratar om mens, hur ska vi då veta vad som är normalt? Älskar initiativet, och några av serierna är klara femmor.

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## **Anna Dahl says**

Älskar den!

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## **Linn says**

bra bra.

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## **Anna says**

Recension finns på bloggen: Bokbabblaren :)

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## **Joella says**

Överlag härligt tema och bra initiativ, men med undantag av 2-3 serier otroligt cissexistisk. Inte bara kvinnor

har mens! Tyvärr kan inte de flesta seriernas biologism uttraderas av en eller två som påpekar transmän och icke-binära personers mensande, det borde varit genomgående i hela antologin. Men fler serier om mens behövs och detta är en härligt start på en förhoppningsvis växande genre!

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