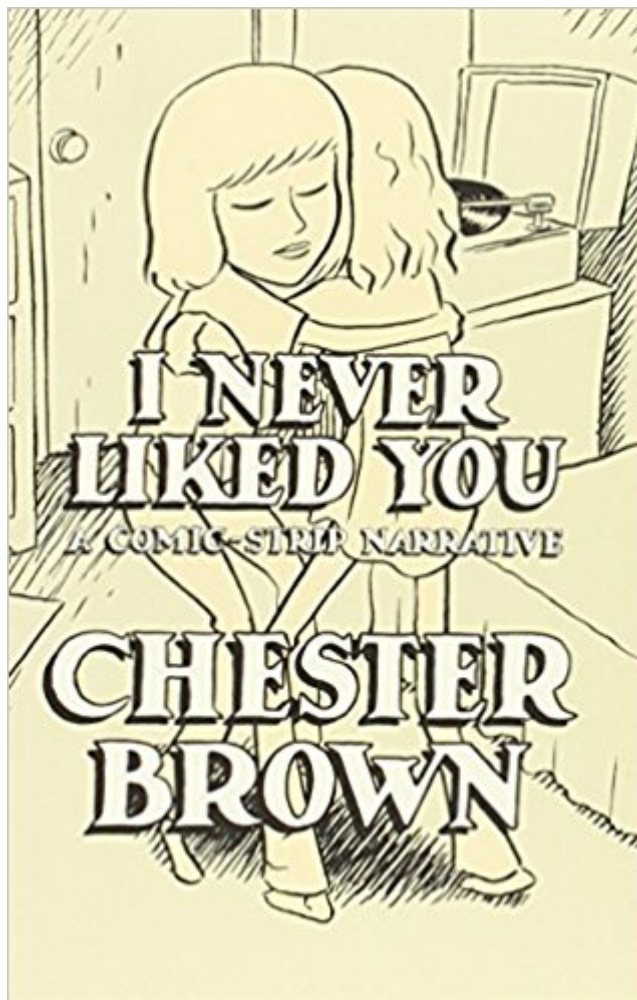


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# I Never Liked You



## Synopsis

In one of the best graphic novels published in recent years, Chester Brown tells the story of his alienated youth in an almost detached, understated manner, giving *I Never Liked You* an eerie, dream-like quality. For the new 2002 definitive softcover edition Brown has designed new layouts for the entire book, using "white" panel backgrounds instead of the black pages of the first edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"a minimalist, but haunting, memoir of the artist's troubled adolescence". -- The New York Times Book Review  
"an engrossing memoir by one of the most talented artists working in alternative comics today". -- Publishers Weekly

Chester Brown is commonly regarded as one of the leading figures of the alternative comics "renaissance" that began in the 1980's. As a cartoonist, he has produced three regular comic book series, *Yummy Fur*, *Underwater*, and *Louis Riel*, and his work has been collected in four books: *Ed The Happy Clown*, *The Playboy*, *I Never Liked You*, and *The Little Man*. Throughout his career, Brown's work has been known for its diverse and unpredictable nature. His stories have ranged from the absurd surrealism of *Ed the Happy Clown*, to the deeply personal, understated autobiographical accounts of his youth, to, more recently, the dada-esque, linguistically-challenged oddness of *Underwater*. Brown has won two Harvey Awards, for Best Cartoonist and Best Graphic Album

Brown writes and draws excellently; a book I didn't put down. And my 14 year old liked it too. Only negative: too short!

Great stuff and this made me a fan! Very poignant, honest, and sometimes heart-breaking.

It's always nice when a writer can depict an unflinching look at all of the most profound moments of their lives, or at least the ones that are good examples of what shapes us. I love stories about awkward moments that end up showing us more about ourselves, but this book offers nothing more than that. The art leaves a lot to be desired, and there is absolutely no story nor much of a moral here. In fact, the main character is so positively stupid that it is near impossible to relate to his irrational stumblings through life. **DON'T BUY THIS BECAUSE SOME INDIE-LOVING BOOKWORM TOLD YOU THAT IT'S GREAT.** It's not. Much like many other indie comic books, it's just celebrated because it's different, and not because it's of much quality at all.

Typical adolescent angst. Accurate but nothing unusual, just normal insecurities and confusions of adolescence. No great insights, but well-written and the drawings are very evocative. Details the pain and heartbreak of teen love and rebellion.

I love self autobio's done in comic book fashion.....But, this one tends to go nowhere from the beginning to the end. One is left scratching their head wondering why Chester Brown wrote this? The basic plot that goes nowhere is that Chester is bugged by a group of bullies who want him to say the F word and S word. Some skinny chick really digs him but, cause of that age he says he loves the girl with big boobs. As a side plot that over all had maybe 6 pages dedicated to it his mom dies.....It's a very fast read cause theres nothing to look at or read....Just terrible. After reading some of his work in American Splendor this was just a big disappointment. If you have to fill your comic auto bio look somewhere else this one will leave you really hungry....

As stated by several previous reviewers, there are many graphic novels about teenagers coming of age, but none do it as well as Brown in this book and it's companion *The Playboy*. Coming off the insanity of "Ed the Happy Clown", Brown shows how subtle a cartoonist can be in his auto-bio work. The sparse drawing and dialogue give the reader just enough without hitting you over the head. The understated beauty of the drawings work perfectly with the story told... cartooning at it's finest. And, as with most of Brown's works, repeated reading brings out understated story points

that might be skimmed over upon first reading. When dealing with a medium such as comics, you are often confronted with loud, screaming, obnoxious drawing and storytelling. With this book, Brown successfully avoids all that and shows comics can be an artform. Several of the previous reviewers (who mistakenly call this work "overrated" or "bland") should take this to heart. Or, if not perceptive enough to pick up on the nuances of Brown's work, perhaps should just stick to "Batman"...

I love reading graphic novels, especially from the publishing company of I Never Liked You (Drawn & Quarterly). I've read maybe a dozen or so that they've put out. But for some reason, this one surprised me. It might be because many of the things that occur in the story I can relate to, or they resemble what I was like in high school. Though, as most cartoonists are outcasts and that is often shown in their work, this doesn't make a graphic novel that special. Other aspects of the book...his mother, how he dealt with other people, etc....were what really struck me as sad. Yes I've read lots of sad stories in comics, but this one just seem to ring a little truer or deeper. It may be his minimalist approach; this lets you interpret many actions for yourself in that there is not often any definite reason or meaning behind the things that happen. Nor do you really know what's always going on in the speaker's head. These things, for me, made the book much more personal, because I was interpreting the events from my point of view, not necessarily seeing exactly how the speaker was interpreting them.

awesome storytelling and artwork. I could totally relate to Chester's character, as I myself was an awkward nerd growing up who hated himself and had low self-esteem. The only difference is, i didn't have girls fighting over me! recommended.

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