

## Big Questions Anders Nilsen

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### The Cheese Monkeys Penguin

"Five years after Mr. Edward Hyde's bloody reign of terror, the streets of London run red once again when a series of prostitutes are murdered with surgical precision. Convinced that the killer is using the same serum that birthed Hyde, Inspector Thomas Adye of Scotland Yard seeks assistance from its creator, the imprisoned Dr. Henry Jekyll. But even as Jekyll convinces Adye that he can best aid in the hunt if freed from prison, evidence mounts that he is not completely cured of Hyde. With the two monsters set to collide, can Adye-or his soul-survive intact?"--Provided by publisher.

### Post York Macmillan

Presents an anthology of contemporary comics by such cartoonists as Richard McGuire, Mark Newgarden, Lynda Barry, and Jaime and Gilbert Hernandez, along with a few vintage comics.

### Ant Colony Pantheon

New and formally inventive work from a New York Times notable author In Poetry is Useless, Anders Nilsen redefines the sketchbook format, intermingling elegant, densely detailed renderings of mythical animals, short comics drawn in ink, meditations on religion, and abstract shapes and patterns. Page after page gives way under Nilsen's deft hatching and perfectly placed pen strokes, revealing his intellectual curiosity and wry outlook on life's many surprises. Stick people debate the dubious merits of economics. Immaculately stippled circles become looser and looser, as craters appear on their surface. A series of portraits capture the backs of friends' heads. For ten or twenty pages at a time, Poetry is Useless becomes a travel diary, in which Nilsen shares anecdotes about his voyages in Europe and North America. A trip to Colombia for a comics festival is recounted in carefully drawn city streets and sketches made in cafés. Poetry is Useless reveals seven years of Nilsen's life and musings: beginning in 2007, it covers a substantial period of his comics career to date, and includes visual reference to his works, such as Dogs & Water, Rage of Poseidon, and the New York Times Notable Book Big Questions. This expansive sketchbook-as-graphic-novel is exquisitely packaged with appendices and a foreword from Anders Nilsen himself.

### Big Questions Drawn & Quarterly

Follows the strange exploits of a handful of black ants in a colony at war with a nearby colony of red ants.

### Tongues Drawn and Quarterly

In Pale Fire Nabokov offers a cornucopia of deceptive pleasures: a 999-line poem by the reclusive genius John Shade; an adoring foreword and commentary by Shade's self-styled Boswell, Dr. Charles Kinbote; a darkly comic novel of suspense, literary idolatry and one-upmanship, and political intrigue.

### How to Be Happy Da Capo Press

A New York Times Notable Book of 2011, included on Amazon.com, Publishers Weekly, and NPR'S Best Comics lists A haunting postmodern fable, Big

Questions is the magnum opus of Anders Nilsen, one of the brightest and most talented young cartoonists working today. This beautiful minimalist story, collected here for the first time, is the culmination of ten years and more than six hundred pages of work that details the metaphysical quandaries of the occupants of an endless plain, existing somewhere between a dream and a Russian steppe. A downed plane is thought to be a bird and the unexploded bomb that came from it is mistaken for a giant egg by the group of birds whose lives the story follows. The indifferent, stranded pilot is of great interest to the birds--some doggedly seek his approval, while others do quite the opposite, leading to tensions in the group. Nilsen seamlessly moves from humor to heartbreak. His distinctive, detailed line work is paired with plentiful white space and large, often frameless panels, conveying an ineffable sense of vulnerability and openness. Big Questions has roots in classic fables--the birds and snakes have more to say than their human counterparts, and there are hints of the hero's journey, but here the easy moral that closes most fables is left open and ambiguous. Rather than lending its world meaning, Nilsen's parable lets the questions wander where they will.

### Tongues #3 Vintage

From one of the great comic innovators, the long-awaited fulfillment of a pioneering comic vision. Richard McGuire's Here is the story of a corner of a room and of the events that have occurred in that space over the course of hundreds of thousands of years. (With full-color illustrations throughout.)

### Dogs and Water Fantagraphics Books

Bottomless Belly Button is a comedy-drama that follows the dysfunctional adventures of the Loony Family. After 40-some years of marriage, Maggie and David Loony shock their children with their announcement of a planned divorce. But the reason for splitting isn't itself shocking: they're "just not in love any more." The announcement sparks a week long Loony family reunion at Maggie and David's creepy (and possibly haunted) beach house. The eldest child, Dennis, struggles with his parents' decision while facing difficulties of his own in his recent marriage. Believing that his parents are hiding the true reasons behind their estrangement, Dennis embarks on a quest to discover the truth and searches through clues, trap doors, and secret tunnels in attempt to find an answer. Claire, the middle child, is a single mother whose 16-year-old daughter, Jill, is apathetic to the divorce but confounded by Claire and troubled by her own "mannish" appearance. The youngest child, Peter, is a hack filmmaker suffering from paralyzing insecurities who establishes an unorthodox romance with a mysterious day care counselor at the beach. In a six-day period rich

with atmospheric sequences, these characters stumble blindly around one another, often ignoring their surroundings and consumed by their own daily conflicts. Visually, Shaw employs a leisurely storytelling pace that allows room for exploring the interconnecting relationships among the characters and plays to his strength as a cartoonist -- small gestural details and nuanced expressions that bring the characters to vivid and intimate life.

**Here** Chronicle Books

A graphic-novel release of the acclaimed online serialized story follows the desperate search for a young Iranian protester who went missing in the aftermath of Iran's fraudulent 2009 elections, a search kept alive by his dedicated mother and tenacious blogger brother. 30,000 first printing.

**A Working Theory of Love** Dark Horse Comics

A long-out-of-print classic by a master of underground comics In the late 1980s, the idiosyncratic Chester Brown (author of the much-lauded *Paying For It* and *Louis Riel*) began writing the cult classic comic book series *Yummy Fur*. Within its pages, he serialized the groundbreaking *Ed the Happy Clown*, revealing a macabre universe of parallel dimensions. Thanks to its wholly original yet disturbing story lines, *Ed* set the stage for Chester Brown to become a world-renowned cartoonist. *Ed the Happy Clown* is a hallucinatory tale that functions simultaneously as a dark roller-coaster ride of criminal activity and a scathing condemnation of religious and political charlatanism. As the world around him devolves into madness, the eponymous *Ed* escapes variously from a jealous boyfriend, sewer monsters, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and a janitor with a Jesus complex. Brown leaves us wondering, with every twist of the plot, just how *Ed* will get out of this scrape. The intimate, tangled world of *Ed the Happy Clown* is definitively presented here, repackaged with a new foreword by the author and an extensive notes section, and, as with every Brown book, astonishingly perceptive about the zeitgeist of its time.

**Skibber Bee Bye** Drawn & Quarterly

A STORY OF LOVE AND LOSS INSCRIBED IN PHOTOGRAPHS, POSTCARDS, LETTERS, AND BEDSIDE SKETCHES In this collection of letters, drawings, and photos, Anders Nilsen chronicles a six-year relationship and the illness that brought it to an end. *Don't Go Where I Can't Follow* is an eloquent appreciation of the time the author shared with his fiancée, Cheryl Weaver. The story is told using artifacts of the couple's life together, including early love notes, simple and poetic postcards, tales of their travels in written and comics form, journal entries, and drawings done in the hospital in her final days. It concludes with a beautifully rendered account of Weaver's memorial that Glen David Gold, writing in the *Los Angeles Times*, called "16 panels of beauty and grace." *Don't Go Where I Can't Follow* is a deeply personal romance, and a universal reminder of our mortality and the significance of the relationships we build. Originally published as a limited edition in 2006, this collection includes a new

afterword written by Nilsen.

**The Hospital Suite** St. Martin's Press

Assembled from work done in Anders Nilsen's sketchbooks over the course of the year following the death of his fiancée, Cheryl Weaver, in 2005, *The End* is a collection of short strips about loss, paralysis, waiting, and transformation -- a physical manifestation of grief.

**Tongues #4** Drawn and Quarterly

Gods die, centuries pass, Astrid is brought low, then goes deeper. The Swan King gets swallowed up in light, Teddy Roosevelt has a bad dream, and the Eagle learns something about human music. 56 pages. Chapter four packs a pretty big punch.

**Big Questions** Drawn & Quarterly

A series of "visual poetry" cartoon illustrations by an illustrator whose comics and drawings have appeared in *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times*, and *Canada's National Post* is comprised of non-linear, fantasy-world pieces featuring disparately whimsical characters. Original.

**Oksi** Drawn and Quarterly

Set in modern central Asia, the first chapter of *Tongues* introduces a captive deity and the eagle who is his jailor, a young man lost in a wilderness and a girl on a journey to carry out a murder.

**Tidepool** Fantagraphics Books

Traverse a lush and abandoned Eden, escaping the everyday for a world waiting to come to life A keen observer of the natural world and the mystical treasures contained within, Anders Nilsen uses lush, inky lines to craft an enchanting, meditative journey for your coloring tools. *A Walk in Eden* is a fantastical view of primeval creation, with an exquisite mix of sprawling landscapes and close-up examinations of plants, fungi, and minerals--think giant crystal formations emerging out of pools surrounded by lush vegetation and flowers the size of small trees. Though this is a world void of humans, here and there are small reminders of our presence. Informed by the designs of Ernst Haeckel and other early scientific and botanical illustration, Nilsen's world is intricate, playful, and inspired, waiting for you to make it your own. With 80+ full-page drawings, Nilsen invites you to join in the fun and bring the adult- and kid-friendly world of *A Walk in Eden* to life.

**Monologues for Calculating the Density of Black Holes** McSweeney's Books

Suddenly, comics are everywhere: a newly matured art form, filling bookshelves with brilliant, innovative work and shaping the ideas and images of the rest of contemporary culture. In *Reading Comics*, critic Douglas Wolk shows us why and how. Wolk illuminates the most dazzling creators of modern comics--from Alan Moore to Alison Bechdel to Chris Ware--and explains their roots, influences, and where they fit into the pantheon of art. As

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accessible to the hardcore fan as to the curious newcomer, *Reading Comics* is the first book for people who want to know not just which comics are worth reading, but ways to think and talk and argue about them.

**Big Questions** Drawn and Quarterly

A wise and funny collection of modern-day parables about the ties between humans and their gods. Imagine you are Poseidon at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The oceans are dying and sailors have long since stopped paying tribute. They just don't need you anymore. What do you do? Perhaps, seeking answers, you go exploring. Maybe you end up in Wisconsin and discover the pleasures of the iced latte. And then, perhaps, everything goes wrong. Anders Nilsen, the author of *Big Questions* and *Don't Go Where I Can't Follow*, explores questions like these in his newest work, a darkly funny meditation on religion and faith with a modern twist. *Rage of Poseidon* brings all the philosophical depth of Nilsen's earlier work to bear on contemporary society, asking how a twenty-first-century child might respond to being sacrificed on a mountaintop, and probing the role gods like Venus and Bacchus might have in the world of today. Nilsen works in a unique style for these short stories, distilling individual moments in black silhouette on a spare white background. Above all, though, he immerses us seamlessly in a world where gods and humans are more alike than not, forcing us to recognize the humor in our (and their) desperation. *Rage of Poseidon* is devastating, insightful, and beautifully hewn; it's a wry triumph in an all-new style from a masterful artist.

**Big Kids** Fantagraphics Books

Absurd, award-winning pencil drawings of animals in a blind collaboration by two European comic artists. In this enigmatic series of pencil drawings, flamingoes attack taxi drivers, bears eat boiled eggs and bishops contend with an angry mob of seals. A patchwork narrative of metaphoric truths about humans and nature, this is a seamless work with deep, unsettling imagery.

**Don't Go Where I Can't Follow** Penguin

A mini-comics master's poetic musings on illness & the art of getting by. *The Hospital Suite* is a landmark work by the celebrated cartoonist and small-press legend John Porcellino—an autobiographical collection detailing his struggles with illness in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 1997, John began to have severe stomach pain. He soon found out he needed emergency surgery to remove a benign tumor from his small intestine. In the wake of the surgery, he had numerous health complications that led to a flare-up of his preexisting tendencies toward anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder. *The Hospital Suite* is Porcellino's response to these experiences—simply told stories drawn in the honest, heart-wrenching style of his much-loved *King-Cat* mini-comics. His gift

for spare yet eloquent candor makes *The Hospital Suite* an intimate portrayal of one person's experiences that is also intensely relatable. Porcellino's work is lauded for its universality and quiet, clear-eyed contemplation of everyday life. *The Hospital Suite* is a testimony to this subtle strength, making his struggles with the medical system and its consequences for his mental health accessible and engaging.