

Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story

By Frederik Peeters

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Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story By Frederik Peeters

From one of Europe’s most celebrated young comics artists, a deeply personal story that will resonate with all of us who have chosen to love in the face of great challenges

One summer night at a house party, Fred met Cati. Though they barely spoke, he vividly remembered her gracefulness and abandon. They meet again years later, and this time their connection is instantaneous. But when things become serious, a nervous Cati tells him that she and her three-year-old son are both HIV positive. With great beauty and economy, Peeters traces the development of their intimacy and their revelatory relationship with a doctor whose affection and frankness allow them to fully realize their passionate connection. Then Cati’s son gets sick, bringing Fred face to face with death. It forces him to question the meaning of life, illness, and love — until a Socratic dialogue with a mammoth helps him recognize that living with illness is also a gift; it has freed him to savor his life with Cati.

Like the best graphic memoirs, Blue Pills puts a daunting subject into artistic and human terms in a way that is refreshingly honest and profoundly accessible. A brave and unsentimental romance, Blue Pills will resonate with anyone whose love has faced great obstacles and triumphed.

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Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story By Frederik Peeters Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Originally published in Switzerland, Peeters's comics memoir of his romance with an HIV-positive woman named Cati (whose young son is also seropositive) is a new and sweeter kind of AIDS narrative-set in the era when HIV has become a chronic condition rather than a death sentence. There's not much of a plot here (the unnamed boy gets sick, then better; Peeters and Cati panic after a condom breaks, and are reassured by their doctor), but the book is much more about Peeters's fluid, slashing, unfailingly evocative ink brushwork documenting the psychological changes he's gone through. Sure-handedly caricatured facial expressions and body language tell a lot of the story, and almost every page is punctuated with a silent panel or two that suggests the way Peeters's newly expanded awareness of his mortality has made him more aware of the world he lives in, too. The final chapters feature an ingenious visual metaphor: after a doctor tells Peeters that he has "as much chance of catching AIDS as you have of running into a white rhinoceros on your way out," he imagines himself stalked everywhere by the rhino. It's a small gem of a book, whose only real flaw is an ungainly English translation, larded with unfiltered Gallicisms.
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Review

"[Frederik Peeters'] elliptical, atmospheric storytelling style creates waves of surprising emotion." --Alison Bechdel, author of Fun Home

"Passionate and celebratory . . . Profound questions are embraced in delicate details and quiet moments of pleasure." --Craig Thompson, author of Blankets

"If you need to be reminded that people can still love both intelligently and passionately, Blue Pills is for you." --Alexander Chee, author of Edinburgh

"Compelling . . . riveting . . . the drawings of Peeters . . . elevate the book to another level . . . a memoir that ranks with the best." Kirkus Reviews, Starred

"In the unvarnished humanity of the story lies the book's strength and attraction. Excellent." Booklist, ALA

About the Author

Frederik Peeters, born in 1974, is an established comics artist. Acquired and translated by the same editor who brought Persepolis to the United States, Blue Pills is Peeters’s first book to be translated into English. Frederik Peeters currently lives with his girlfriend, her son, and their young daughter in Geneva.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Sherrer:

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Jonathan Garcia:

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Jacqueline Thompson:

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William Levitt:

In this particular era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of many books in the top listing in your reading list is Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking right up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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