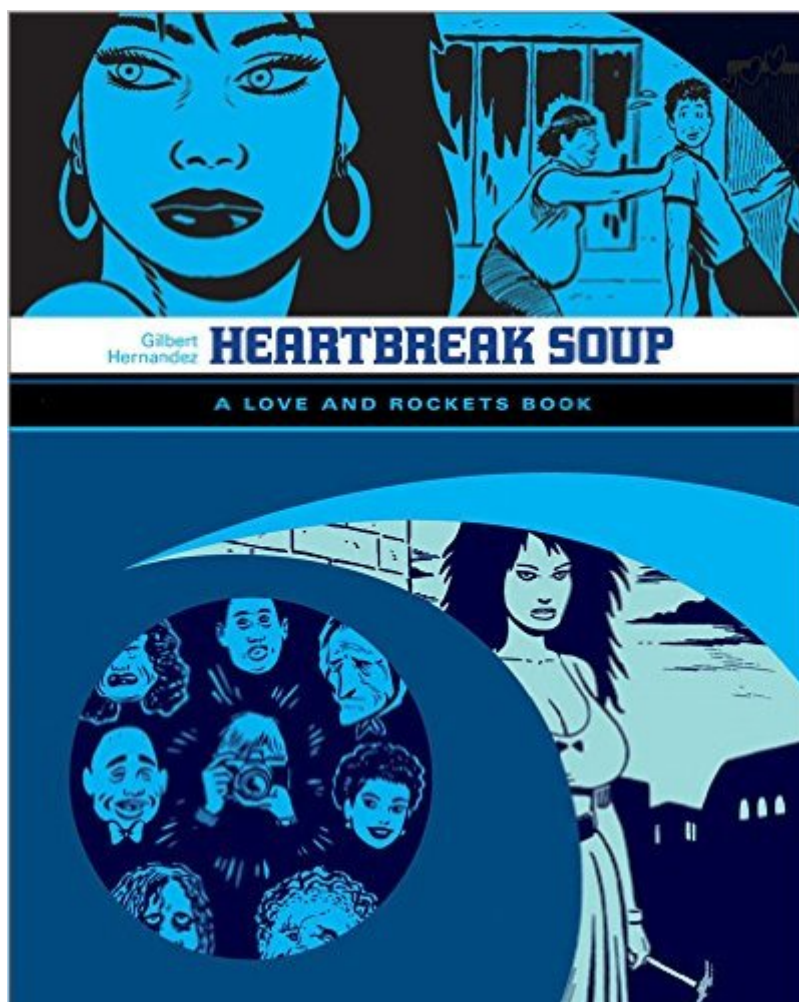


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Heartbreak Soup (Love & Rockets)



Synopsis

This beautiful, affordable volume collects the first half of Gilbert's modern-day classic, featuring the acclaimed magical-realist tales of Palomar, the Central American hamlet, and its memorable inhabitants. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2007, *Love and Rockets* is finally released in its most accessible form yet: As a series of compact, thick, affordable, mass-market volumes that present the whole story in perfect chronological order. This volume collects the first half of Gilbert Hernandez's acclaimed magical-realist tales of "Palomar," the small Central American town, beginning with the groundbreaking "Sopa de Gran Pena" (which introduces most of his main cast of characters as children, plus the imposing newcomer Luba), and continuing on through such modern-day classics as "Ecce Homo," "Act of Contrition," "Duck Feet," and the great love story "For the Love of Carmen." Black-and-white comics throughout

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics (March 17, 2007)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1560977834

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #151,949 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Fantagraphics #240 in Â Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary #24705 in Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy

Customer Reviews

A surrealist, sometimes non-linear, story of generations of families in one small, Mexican town. I would say that it felt like I was reading something akin to Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in comic form. I loved it.

I had to read this graphic novel for one of my American Literature Graduate Seminars. I easily enjoyed it! Gilbert Hernandez's characters in "Heartbreak Soup" first appear to represent typical Latino/a stereotypes, but these stereotypes are almost always subverted in his narratives because although they are familiar, Hernandez's characters are richly complex. By re-presenting how

both Latino and Latina characters behave and are perceived in public and private spaces, Hernandez's Heartbreak Soup subverts and demystifies not only Latino/Latina stereotypes but gender stereotypes as well. This re-presentation brings out complexity and depth in the characters making it difficult for the reader to categorize or read these characters as just mere stereotypes. Whether it is the Latin Lover, the Spitfire, or the Macho man, Gilbert Hernandez's Heartbreak Soup manages to bring complexity to these characters. The graphic novel takes many familiar archetypes turned into stereotypes by Hollywood and popular culture and adds very real humanistic components to them. In doing so, the reader's own perceptions, and perhaps subscriptions to certain stereotypes, are dispelled and subverted. The graphic novel both familiarizes and de-familiarizes the reader to portrayals Latino and Latina in popular culture making it difficult for readers to simply categorize many of its characters. The characters in Heartbreak Soup are certainly more "real" than most characters in Hollywood film and television, and are more accurate representations of not only Latino and Latinas but human beings as well.

Moving back and forth in time, spanning approximately 20 years, this book represents an epic in storytelling. Set in the isolated town of Palomar it moves back and forth through time telling different stories of the residents in their youth and their adulthood. Starting with a prologue about the town midwife and how she helped birth most of the children and watched them grow up. It sets up the first story in which you think that Soledad and Manuel are going to be the main characters of the entire book, but it becomes a self-contained narrative about their positions in the town and their unspoken love that ends tragically even as they circle each other. The next story skips years into the future and you see the kids who are hanging out and being punks as grown men trying to figure out their lives and deal with their wives as well as the children that keep showing up. What makes this book so amazing is the way it can seamlessly move from one character to the other, showing everyone from a multitude of perspectives filling in blanks left from previous stories and yet keeping some mysteries intact. The only criticism I can make concerns the way certain characters don't seem to age - particularly Luba who looks like Sophia Lauren in her 20s throughout the book. Still that's a very minor quibbling and for a book that succeeds in being the graphic novel tribute to One Hundred Years of Solitude (P.S.) it's not important in the overall enjoyment.

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