



Beautiful Darkness

By Fabien Vehlmann, Kerascoët

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"Kerascoët... render Aurora and her friends in the huge-eyed style of classic children's book illustrations, but cuteness is just another Darwinian survival strategy here. Even on her clover-high scale, as Aurora discovers, romance is decided by social pecking order and murderous deceit."?Douglas Wolk, *New York Times*

Kerascoët's and Fabien Vehlmann's unsettling and gorgeous anti-fairy tale is a searing condemnation of our vast capacity for evil writ tiny. Join princess Aurora and her friends as they journey to civilization's heart of darkness in a bleak allegory about surviving the human experience. The sweet faces and bright leaves of Kerascoët's delicate watercolors serve to highlight the evil that dwells beneath Vehlmann's story as pettiness, greed, and jealousy take over. *Beautiful Darkness* is a harrowing look behind the routine politeness and meaningless kindness of civilized society.

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Beautiful Darkness By Fabien Vehlmann, Kerascoët Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—What starts as a common fairy tale trope—Prince Hector and Princess Aurora are having tea the day after a ball—quickly turns dark and disturbing. The prince is charming but self-absorbed, and the princess is somewhat flighty and unprepared, when the ceiling appears to fall in, and they find themselves in a dark forest filled with other refugees, all Borrowers-small. While Aurora and her friend Plim adapt to their surroundings, taking charge and feeding the others they have found, Hector is only concerned with staring into space. None of the characters notice the dead body that they are playing on and living around (a human-sized girl, also named Aurora), and do not question where the items they are using are from (quite possibly the corpse's purse). The forest's animals do not speak, distancing this from other fairy tales. The end does not find our characters rescued but living in the shack of a hermitlike human man, referred to as a giant. The artwork is cartoonlike and colorful, in contrast with the morbid and macabre tone. All of the protagonists are wide-eyed, though the animals and bodies are drawn realistically. Purchase where teens like their graphic novels and fractured fairy tales on the dark side.—Suanne B. Roush, formerly at Osceola High School, Seminole, FL

From [Booklist](#)

When Princess Aurora's world implodes, she puts her courtship with the handsome prince aside to help make a life for herself and the other fairylike folk of her kingdom who inhabit this gorgeous, brutal book by award-winning French writer Vehlmann (*Isle of 100,000 Graves*, 2011). In scenes that mirror the worst of human behavior, the more Aurora blithely goes about putting things in order, the more those around her scheme, betray, belittle, and disregard everything our morality tells us the characters should care about. The delicate, haunting, and beautiful watercolor artwork by Kerascoët helps to enhance the fairy-tale setting, juxtaposing the small, petty characters perfectly against the lush blues, greens, and purples used to create the huge forest that surrounds them. The result is a story that shocks as it entertains and is predictably unpredictable. As the seasons turn and wide-eyed Aurora loses her amiable innocence, the reader is left not knowing whether to cry or cheer when Aurora finally decides she's had enough. --Eva Volin

Review

"A twisted tale that draws from the likes of *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Borrowers*, only *Beautiful Darkness* presents a much bleaker allegory about brutality. As the tiny people lose hope, their underlying pettiness, greed and jealousy become evident despite their polite words and pretty faces." ?*Los Angeles Times Hero Complex*

"This unforgettable graphic novel hovers on the edge of your daydreams and nightmares." ?*Publishers Weekly Starred Review*

"Eerily enchanting." ?*Washington Post*

"You've seen countless stories about cute little creatures living secretly in our world, but you've never read one like *Beautiful Darkness*. It's a world that's as adorable as it is cruel, where life is beautiful but also cheap, and where death is omnipresent." ?*io9*

"Set against the saccharine sweet storybook aesthetic of Kerascoët's rapturous watercolors, Vehlmann's narrative is a sinister saga that you won't be able to put down." ?*Nerdist*

“The watercolor artwork here is painfully beautiful, and the book is...best read on three separate sittings -- one day for each season -- to take in rise and wane and grudges of the miniature empires.” ?*Buzzfeed*

“It's *The Borrowers* meets *Lord of the Flies*.” ?*Comic Book Resources*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Castorena:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for us. The book Beautiful Darkness had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book Beautiful Darkness is not only giving you far more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book Beautiful Darkness. You never feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Chris Manley:

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Antonio Batts:

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Patricia Rivera:

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