



Ask Me About Polyamory: The Best of Kimchi Cuddles

Tikva Wolf

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A hilarious and touching comic about polyamory, queer, and genderqueer issues. If your relationships or your gender are unconventional, you'll find useful advice and plenty of laughs in this compilation of the wildly popular webcomic Kimchi Cuddles. Quirky, endearing and charmingly (and sometimes painfully) realistic characters, many based on real people, explore polyamory, queer and genderqueer issues. Covering practical matters like time management and serious topics like discrimination, this book unites the best of two years of Kimchi Cuddles comics, organized into a practical and entertaining guide to the real world of alternative relationships. Kimchi Cuddles is a rare mix: fearlessly true to the lives of the people it depicts yet relatable enough to entertain and inform anyone (maybe even your parents). Dealing with both lighthearted and serious subject matter, it avoids clichés and easy answers, choosing instead to give examples of different schools of thought and show the humanity behind each one. Wolf's honesty and gift for clear explanation have made Kimchi Cuddles a hit with the most dedicated polyamorists as well as curious newcomers.

Ask Me About Polyamory: The Best of Kimchi Cuddles Details

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From Reader Review Ask Me About Polyamory: The Best of Kimchi Cuddles for online ebook

Zyriel says

Super cute! I appreciate having all of this commentary in a graphic form. A great easy read on so many topics associated with how we relate to people. This isn't just a poly book, it's so much more than that.

Alexis Sara says

I think for where I am in my own polyamory and queerness this book was a bit too basic for me and I found it a bit hard to read for extended times. I really am glad the book is doing what it is doing and I am glad that it has had a very positive impact on a lot of people's life. I think ultimately this is a book for people in a particular place in their life and I am just not that audience.

David Schaafsma says

This selection of strips from Wolf's Kimchi Cuddles I picked up at the library yesterday and ran through it pretty quickly. It reminded me of one of my students a couple years ago who did a project for our graphic novels/comics class about being polyamorous (which means, basically, consensual multiple partners). Wolf is kind of giddily happy about being polyamorous and polyamory as a kind of general principle for making space for more love for more people, and so on, and that energy helps you smile as you read and learn. Cute comics + irrepressible enthusiasm + a (decent) sense of humor.

Wolf's an advocate and a kind of advice columnist here. The book is at base pretty didactically informative about what it means to live polyamorously, and it may be amusing to the poly world, since some of it is kind of acknowledged "insider's" info. It features strips on the dating scene, relationship questions and troubleshooting. It's informative, it's pretty interesting, it's pretty good. It feels a little simple in a way, though. It reminded me of the sixties and the sexual revolution, which it seems has continued in its quiet way. So good for her and them. But I'll admit a creeping cynicism to all the enthusiasm. Which makes me a curmudgeon, I suppose.

I'm happy they all seem to be happy in their polyamorousness. Seriously. And I hope they always stay that breathlessly excited happy way that Wolf represents herself and many others in the book. As someone as famous as Scarlett Johannssen said recently, "People are not meant for monogamy." Which may be true. But maybe I'll also say, speak for yourself, Scarlett. I mean, monogamy does seem to be meant for me, which is a kind of relief, I have to say. Jealousy seems like a difficulty polys strive to eliminate, or live with. Feels very complicated to navigate, given how much work one relationship takes! I have never watched that show, either, Big Love, about a polygamist Mormon family (which is not that same thing, exactly, though it is about some people choosing to live with multiple mates (for men, not women, of course!). Clearly some people seem to make it work.

Here's some images of Kimchi Cuddles:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=kimch...>

Here's an interview with Wolf, if you are curious:

<https://culturedvultures.com/intervie...>

Kate Arms says

If you are open-minded about issues of gender and sexual orientation and open to conversations about ethical polygamy and monogamy, "Ask Me About Polyamory: the best of Kimchi Cuddles" by Tikka Wolf is a great resource for talking about relationships with teens, young adults, and adults.

The comics are light-hearted and approachable, generally 4 to 6 panels on a scenario, and have some of the best discussions I have ever seen about how to actually live in the messy, emotional middle of intimate human relationships, whether platonic, romantic, or sexual.

Genevieve Alissa says

Read my review on my blog here:

<https://polyesque.wordpress.com/2016/...>

Ylva says

The comic can be read online for free, so I've basically read the complete book and even more... That's why I'm doing a review without having bought the book.

And honestly, it's not worth 20\$. In fact, it's not even worth spending the time and reading it for free online. The book only has one purpose: promoting polyamory. And like any other advertisement, it's exaggeratedly positive and does not mention any negative points or criticism. It also attempts to "educate" readers about polyamory and gender issues. But this doesn't really work because it's way too obvious and the jokes never work. It's also oversimplifying everything. Reading these comics feels like reading a children's book with a huge neon sign saying "This is what you're supposed to learn from this book!". It fails to address many important issues and problems concerning polyamory.

The artwork... is not done very well. It's not very detailed or artistic, rather sketchy and it looks like each of the comics were drawn within five minutes.

So... If you're interested, you can read these comics on facebook and on the author's website to know what you're buying. But if you want to learn about polyamory, this is not the book to go to as it leaves out all the important things and facts.

Tiana says

I love that her comics don't just talk about polyamory but also identity and self-care. It's a good reminder to take care of myself and be honest about how I feel

PvOberstein says

AMAP is a collection of the best of Kimchi Cuddles, a webcomic by Tikva Wolf about polyamorous life in specific and healthy relationships in general. The issues in AMAP generally serve to explore different kinds of polyamorous relationships and the varying highs, lows, problems, and pleasures they bring. The strips are loosely grouped together by theme ("Practical Living", "Dating Scene", "Identities", etc.), illuminating one element of a relationship from multiple perspectives. (Please keep in mind that this review is written by a person who has had exactly one (1) romantic relationship worthy of the name.)

Despite the overarching focus on polyamorous relationships, I reckon a solid 75% of the advice is applicable to any kind of a relationship. That's because the big takeaway, at the end of the day, is that there isn't a universal rule, a perfect relationship dynamic, a one-size-fits-all solution. What worked with the last person you dated might not work with the next. And what worked in the first few weeks of your relationship might not work five years down the road. No matter how many times people write in to Kimchi Cuddles, the answer is never an ironclad dictate that Must Be Followed To Ensure Relationship Success. Only certain ways of living that will prime you for healthy relationships – be honest, respectful, communicative, open about your feelings, and aware of your affects on others. That's really the best you can do.

For whatever reason I was expecting something in the narrative style of Questionable Content, but Kimchi Cuddles' comics are more focused on delivering a clear message than an ongoing slice-of-life drama (in retrospect it was a rather dumb expectation on my part). The succinctness of the strips sometimes works just a little against KC, though. Because every strip is meant to illustrate a specific issue, the scenarios sometimes feel just a little... artificial. The dialogue sometimes has that stilted 'Sex Ed PSA' feel, and everyone is pretty much always operating at peak emotional maturity/self-awareness. For educational purposes, however, that works just fine, if just a tad inorganically. There's also some great strips on trans, asexual, genderfluid topics, though not to the same depth as the other subjects. As a combination relationship advice column/observational humor comic/non-traditional-relationship outreach work, it punches well above its weight.

Crystal says

I haven't read anything about polyamory before, and I like to learn about new topics, so when I saw this book come through our library, I picked it up. I read the whole thing. The comic isn't particularly engrossing. Each little stand-alone comic is fairly serious/ earnest, and almost didactic in its desire to explain the poly lifestyle, as well as queer identity. I think it did a good job conveying the definitions (such as there are) of the lifestyle as well as its challenges and rewards. The artwork is cute. The cast is large and diverse, but kinda difficult to track/ remember, in my opinion. a lot of times the main difference between recurring characters is the color of their spiky hair and which direction it leans.

This wasn't bad. Perhaps it just wasn't for me. I'm glad I learned a little bit more about the subject, although that lifestyle definitely isn't for me. At least it was a fast read. If I want more information on the topic, I'm

more likely to find biography/ memoir/ non fiction on the topic, though.

João Martins says

Kimchi Cuddles is best Cuddles!

In all seriousness though, this book contains a very good selection of Kimchi Cuddles' online comic. It is a little hard to describe exactly what this comic was for me. I read it, and now re-read it, at two different times. One when I had just discovered polyamory and was in the process of figuring it out - a hard task, to put it mildly - and again later at a more stable stage in life.

The first time I read it, the often poignant insights, condensed into meaningful, empathetic and emotional comic strips were invaluable. There is so much wisdom and so much self-discovery to be found in this book if you're new to the topic, and it's communicated in such a caring, loving way. There is no judgment, the language isn't prescriptive... It simply seems as if every comic opens new windows through which you can peer at your own self, finding friendly suggestions of how you might live more authentically.

The second time I read it, recently, it was a different experience. It elicited smiles of understanding, validation of lived experiences, and often food for thought in how the author's experiences might differ from my own.

I think it's fairly safe to say that there's something in this book for everyone. I can imagine myself lending it out to folks as an non-judgmental introduction to both the good and bad of polyamory, since it's short and sweet enough to devour quickly. I can also imagine myself coming back to it from time to time and it being a good catalyst for reflecting some more about where I am in life and my experiences.

Highly recommended for just about anyone :)

Denise says

Enjoyed this more than the three stars. I laughed, had a tear or two, also excitedly shared several with my husband. Normally I'd give four stars. I'm being stingy not as a fault of the author. I'm looking for help navigating murky waters and as much as this book helped relieve some stress, I'm still feeling overwhelmed with all that I'm trying to wrap my head around. Thankfully the last pages provide recommendations. Off to the bookstore!

Rod Brown says

I thought this book would provide interesting insight into the subject, but it only left me thinking the polyamorous lifestyle is pretty miserable and definitely not one I could imagine living myself. The poorly-drawn strips quickly devolved into a repetitive sequence of talking heads spouting platitudes worse than those found in the silly Love Is... comic strips from the newspapers (you know, the ones with the two squat nude people). This book had me laughing out loud in entirely the wrong way as one ridiculous-sounding monologue kept being topped by the next. Ugh.

Lola says

I learned so much from this graphic novel.

I didn't even know what the word "polyamory" meant. I googled the word before starting the book in case I would have trouble understanding the comic strips, but I didn't have to worry because Tikva Wolf is clear and informative.

Not only did I learn new words and concepts, but this book also enabled me to broaden my understanding of asexuality and transgenderism. For example, I knew asexual people are not sexually attracted to others, but I never thought that they might want intimacy nonetheless or that they could fall in love like anybody else.

Now I can understand someone I met a few years ago a little better. We weren't very close, but we talked a lot in the one class we shared. One time, we were discussing our personal lives. He asked me if I was dating someone. I answered him, then said "You?" And he replied "No, I don't really have time for a relationship right now with school and all."

There was a huge pause, so I turned my head to face the teacher, but I heard him add, "I'm bisexual, but I'm not interested in anything sexual." I didn't expect him to be so honest with me, so there was a really shy laugh that escaped from my mouth. He grinned at my reaction, but in my head, I didn't really understand his answer.

Now I do.

I decided to talk about this shared moment because polyamory is an intersectional subject, seeing that it also touches upon gender and sexual orientation.

You don't have to be polyamorous to find this book inspiring and, honestly, very, very beautiful. I'm not, and still I know this is a book I will not soon forget. It talks about relationships – both mono and poly – in a positive and instructive way. Many teaching moments.

Well done!

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Krista Regester says

YES! So informative, and I laughed aloud the whole time.

Andrea Goldston says

A book of cute comic strips focused on different elements of polyamory. The strips tend to be very thoughtful and compassionate, even if they all have a tendency to be didactic. At best they're very

considerate and empathic, and at worst, preachy.

But they

I would give this a 3.5, but it's getting a 4 for the subject matter!
