



# Moonhead and the Music Machine

*Andrew Rae (Illustrations)*

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## **Moonhead and the Music Machine** Andrew Rae (Illustrations)

Life's a peach when you've got a moon for a head and your head's in space. You can wander out of the Earth's atmosphere on intergalactic daydreams, drift blissfully across star-speckled skies and fly close to the Sun, like a fireproof Icarus.

Snap! Back to reality—having a moon for a head at high school is much more tricky. You get picked on for your "crater-face" and the cool kids kick your head around like a soccer ball!

But when the school talent contest is announced, Joey spots an opportunity to impress his classmates and so begins Joey Moonhead's stellar mission to create a music machine that is out of this world!

An imaginative and visually poetic take on the stock American high school drama, *Moonhead and the Music Machine* is a subtle blend between *Napoleon Dynamite* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Andrew Rae's graphic novel is life-affirming and powerfully illustrated.

**Andrew Rae** is a London-based illustrator with a worldwide client base through his work in advertising, print, publishing, and animation.

## **Moonhead and the Music Machine Details**

Date : Published September 2nd 2014 by Nobrow Press (first published July 15th 2014)

ISBN : 9781907704789

Author : Andrew Rae (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review *Moonhead and the Music Machine* for online ebook

## Derek Royal says

A nice story, especially one that would appeal to a younger audience. But was this one written with that certain readership in mind? And am I not giving the book it's due by framing it as a book primarily for younger readers?

Another book for our upcoming Publisher Spotlight on Nobrow.

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## Maude says

Dominique a piqué ma curiosité lors de notre cercle de lecture avec cette bd... j'ai a-do-ré! les planches sont magnifiques, colorées et l'histoire touchante. deux pouces dans les airs pour le passage avec les pochettes d'albums.

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## Michael says

An interesting take on young adult tropes, *Moonhead and the Music Machine* is one of the more bizarre and intriguing graphic novels I've read in recent memory.

Joey Moonhead is aptly named -- he and his family have moons for heads. Trying to find his place in high school, Joey struggles between his parents' expectations and his desire to fit in. When the school talent show comes up, Joey invents his own instrument and shocks his peer by not only playing but being pretty good at it.

Filled with things only a graphic novel can do, *Moonhead and the Music Machine* is an immersive, entertaining experience. On one level, it would be easy to zip through the story but doing that doesn't allow for really taking in the various panels and visuals created by Andrew Rae. And while the story itself isn't exactly a new one, Rae's take on the coming of age young adult story is intriguing enough to make spending time with Joey Moonhead worth it.

In the interest of full disclosure, I received an ARC of this book from the Amazon Vine program.

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## Fantasy Literature says

I've recently had the good fortune to discover comics and graphic novels published by Nobrow Press, and if you've never heard of Nobrow before, *Moonhead and the Music Machine* by Andrew Rae is an excellent place to start. It is a stunning graphic novel that is representative of Nobrow's highly selective catalog. Nobrow puts out high quality art books, so if you are a fan of sequential art, you'll want to get your hands on

their new releases. In addition to high quality content, each book has unique dimensions that are well-suited to the nature of each individual project. As a result, the books don't look like all the ... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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### **Barbara says**

For reasons that are never explained, Joey Moonhead has a moon for a head. He's pretty much like most other teens in every other respect. He wants to attract the attention of Melissa, the hot girl at school; ignores his real friend, Sockets; contends with bullies who belittle him and tease him about his imperfections; and dreams of somehow becoming a rock star. When Ghostboy decides to help him build an amazing musical instrument and perform in the school talent show, Moonhead is thrilled. Suddenly, everyone notices him--in a good way--and the music has an unusual effect on some classmates. At its heart, of course, this graphic novel about bullying and having faith in oneself tackles some familiar themes, but it does so in a unique way. I liked this one for a lot of reasons, one of which was because of what happens to the main bully and his partner. (Shhh! I'm not telling. You'll have to read it to find out.)

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### **David Schaafsma says**

This is just silly, but it has a little edge of surrealism that I like. I thought it was hilarious, actually. But the story itself, on the bare surface, is typical YA alienation, though not dark and brutal, but light and sorta Beavis and Butthead. Sorta.

Moonhead is an outsider. Hangs with a nerd girl. Bullied by popular kids. But the reason he is bullied is because he has a moon head... which his parents don't find strange because they do, too. The precise drawing of buildings makes me think he has been influenced by Chris Ware. Moonhead invents a kind of guitar and gets involved (or thinks he gets involved?) with a ghost friend who helps him break on through to the other side into popularity by performing at the high school talent show, dude! And there's some ghostbuster kinda slime that figures in. Maybe it's just juvenile silly, mainly, but it made me smile.

The goofiness of the story and the increasing surrealistic aspects of it are attractively and well done. It's not Charles Burns, but it has a little Burns in it, maybe, as it turns stranger. I mean, Burns begins with normal high school students in Black Hole and then put them through a night mare of bizarreness. This story in Moonhead is not that original at all on the surface; it's in the weird silly details that it is crazy, possibly drug-induced. I think alt high school kids would dig it.

Oh, and that moon head design reminds me of the moon face in Georges Méliès' trippy 1902 A Trip to the Moon (that is also featured in that Martin Scorsese film Hugo). That aspect of the drawing and conception (and the precisely designed architecture ala Ware) makes me think this is a cut above the usual Beavis stuff.

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### **Naty says**

I wanted to like this story because it was recommended to me by a friend whose opinions I trust. But the story overall is just...meh. I don't have any strong feelings about it one way or another. The whole thing felt lacking to me in a way I can't pinpoint. Some of the beginning scenes where his head travels to all these

places leaving his body behind were more engaging for me than the later plot line about the music machine. Maybe that's because I wanted the story to be more about him having a moon for a head and less about him just being an odd kid that happened to have a moon for a head.

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### **Nicola Mansfield says**

I'm not sure what to say or where to start with this review. I really liked this book, both the story and the art; however, I will admit I don't \*get\* it and am perplexed by its meaning. I don't really believe in over analyzing books; if you are not hit with deep profound meaning, philosophy, theology, etc. then don't look for it and just enjoy the entertainment. And that is what "Moonhead" was to me. Pure enjoyment. Joey Moonhead has an actual moon for a head, so does his mum and dad. Everyone else are normal human beings. Nobody makes an issue of this except that bullies tease him and grab his head to throw around and stuff. Joey gains some fame after competing in the school talent contest, gains self-confidence but also learns lessons about what happens when one forgets old friends on the way up, and the price paid to enter the "in crowd". I really felt for Joey and his female friend Sprocket. Even though I was completely baffled, the psychedelic transformations and accompanying artwork, when he played his music machine had me gleeful. I found the art totally impressive. Very sixties, Beatles, hallucinogenic. It's a difficult call on recommended age group but the story is about highschool and contains adult language, so certainly not for children even though the art does look cute. Very unique and whimsical.

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### **Erin Cataldi says**

This book made me feel as if I were on acid or something. It's a wee bit trippy, but not necessarily bad. This beautifully illustrated graphic novel follows Joet Moonhead as he attempts to rise above his not so awesome life. As can be imagined, the kids at school pick on him because HE HAS A MOON FOR A HEAD! He lusts after one of the popular girls, Melissa, but the only person who treats him normal is his friend Sockets. Joey decides that in order to be noticed (in a good way) by the people who matter he must form a band and play in the talent show. Joey can't just play any old music instrument, he has to make something really cool. With the help of his friend Ghostboy they make this crazy instrument and blow the socks off the whole school. Suddenly Joey Moonhead is too cool for Sockets. Is he letting popularity get to his already too large head?

This book is utterly ridiculous. Thank goodness for the awesome illustrations. That's really what kept me going. The bright psychedelic colors are amazeballs. The storyline is your not so typical coming of age story. Due to the illustrations of some of Joey's lustier thoughts I wouldn't recommend this to young teens. That is unless you want to listen to parents chew you out about why there are colorful animals humping like crazy and phallic symbols (among others) galore. Interesting read....

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### **Stewart Tame says**

The story itself is an old, familiar one: oddball kid, picked on by the popular kids, discovers hidden talent, impresses everyone, discovers that true friends are what really matter. What elevates this is Andrew Rae's artwork. It's decidedly on the surreal side, with metaphors becoming concrete. Moonhead literally has a floating moon for a head, and when his mind wanders, it really wanders, as his head goes floating off on flights of fancy. It's really quite fun. Rae's art springs from a nice clean line, and kind of reminds me of

Chester Brown, skinny figures with slightly elongated heads, subtle facial expressions, etc. I especially enjoyed the sequence toward the middle of the book where Moonhead is listening to records. Rae devotes a number of half page panels to showing the records, and at least some of them are based on classic albums. Possibly all of them are and I'm just not familiar with the originals. But The Ministry of Beat is pretty clearly based on The Beatles' Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and Space Surfing by The Asteroids is a riff on Cream's Strange Brew. The story may be something of a cliché, but the execution is enjoyable enough to more than make up for that. Recommended!

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### **Bonnie says**

What an odd book! Joey Moonhead does indeed have a moon for a head. And when he gets bored, his head takes off on flights of fancy. Joey is a bit of a dreamer and a weirdo, but this is recognized because of his moon head, and bullies at school torment him for it. Andrew Rae's story shows a passion for music as Joey discovers a box of records and is transported by listening to them. He builds his music machine (because why just learn an instrument when you can build one that sort of magically plays for you?) and, after overcoming some issues with the prototype, he and his friend, Ghostboy, have a working magic music machine. I liked the artwork, particularly the homages to famous albums/ musicians. The change in layout when Joey plays at the talent show was gorgeous. I felt kind of meh about the storyline because it seemed like it was trying to work on too many levels. I was sure I was missing something. The occasional moments of humor - joey's shop teacher giving him run of the shop - we're welcome and I would've liked to have seen more.

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### **Kathleen says**

A musical, magical coming of age story! Very enjoyable, would re-read. My favorite part is all the made-up album covers.

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### **Edward Sullivan says**

Joey is a normal kid in every way expect for one: he has a moon for a head. Weird and funny.

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### **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

How odd?! That's my initial reaction after checking out this graphic novel by Andrew Rae. The illustrations are undeniably eye-catching, but I just don't get some parts which I found really strange.

Also, the artwork has the psychedelic vibe because of how multicolored they are. Even though it didn't made to my criteria of notable reads, there are other people who can find this graphic novel still inspiring — notably those who are artists or musicians.

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## **Steph Myers says**

I'd give this higher marks for the artwork, which reminded me of Daniel Clowes combined with a hint of Crumb. The characters were fine and the plot was fine, but psychedelia just didn't work for me. However, if you look past that, it's kind of the classic high school story. Geek gets pushed around then does something cool, then might be accepted by cool kids, but it's not to be . . . Yada yada yada.

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