



Idéal Standard

Aude Picault

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Claire, trentenaire, infirmière en néonatalogie, voit défiler ses relations amoureuses et désespère de construire un couple – le vrai, le bon, l'idéal. En choisissant de vivre avec Franck, elle croit enfin y être arrivée. Mais la réalité standardisée de ce qui l'attend n'est pas à la hauteur... Aude Picault aborde avec grâce et humour des thèmes essentiels aux femmes d'aujourd'hui : le couple, le désir, la recherche de soi, la jouissance, etc. Remarquable !

Idéal Standard Details

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Author : Aude Picault

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From Reader Review Idéal Standard for online ebook

Charlotte Jones says

This graphic novel is all about sex, motherhood and relationships. The artwork is simple and understated, with a monochrome colour palette. Almost every image is coloured in shades of yellow with odd splashes of baby pink and pale blue throughout. I had a bit of an issue with the font personally as it was almost like someone's handwriting and I found myself having to stop to decipher some words that weren't very legible to me which took me out of the story.

I also thought that the plot and themes were handled in a very heavy handed manner which made me feel very disconnected to the characters and what they were doing. Some of the choices the protagonist made were nonsensical in my opinion.

Overall, I think there are readers that would love this. However, personally, I feel that the same story could have been told in a better way; maybe the translation didn't portray the emotion well, or maybe there is some other reason, but on the whole I just felt very detached the whole way through. I love the art style and would be interested in seeing what this artist does in the future but as a story it is quite forgettable.

Ad Rocks Socks says

"I can't live like a halfway open cabinet."

3.5 very real stars.

Limited Edition (French: Idéal Standard) read like an indie movie, and paid homage to the belief that art mirrors life — the story was real, extremely so, and Aude Picault did a really good job of portraying that restless feeling that 30+ women tend to feel, when trapped by a heteronormative society that imposes restrictions on their happiness. In short, I liked it, I really did.

The novel centers on Claire, a neonatal nurse living in France. She's in her early thirties, and because of societal conditioning, begins to feel her biological clock ticking. She desperately wants to settle down and have children with "the one", her problem being that she doesn't have such a person like "the one". She meets a man named Franck, and despite not being attracted to him in the least, attempts to build a life with him for one simple reason: he seems persistent, and she just wants someone.

Limited Edition chronicles her life with Franck, and depicts how they try to make it work. (Or do they?) It's not a romance, it's not a fairytale — it's simply about one woman, and her struggles with everyday life, as she tries to decide whether settling down is worth it, especially when it's not with "the one". (Because really, this perfect man that she often daydreams about is literally a citizen of utopia — no such man exists.)

And if there is no such "the one", and Franck is the only option she has, having invested time and effort into this relationship, will she still be happy? That's the question that Claire tries to answer in the pages of Limited Edition, which sees her grow from her early thirties to her mid thirties.

The art was the typical fare, and more than the artistic skill, I enjoyed the book for Picault's blasé way of

portraying life. I really enjoyed how thought-provoking this book was, and I kinda hope I'll see more of Claire around!

Note: I was provided a copy of the translated work by NetGalley for an honest review!

TW: (view spoiler)

Lauren loves llamas says

[abortion (hide spoiler)]

Andreea says

I was sent a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

This was such a cute short graphic novel talking about the pressure and expectations set for women by society, family, the norm or themselves, done with humour, but in a realistic way.

The book is not condescending nor is it trying to change something or offer solutions, it simply follows a 30-something y/o nurse for babies born prematurely. She is single and she is looking for someone to possibly start a family with. At least that's what she should want, right? Or maybe she really does, but when you are 30, there's even a bigger pressure to get a husband and a baby.

Claire is also a bit of a hopeless romantic, but willing to settle for less because... that's what you are supposed to do, right? She goes from date to date, bed to bed, until she finally gets into a stable relationship. She finally joins normal society, right? Claire finally got what she was supposed to get - just a boyfriend for now, yet things do not change or get easier. But is this really what she wants? Is this how it's supposed to feel? At one point, Claire asks herself what if this is her only shot?

I think this book was a great and simple way to talk about these ideas of gender role, society expectations of women, relationships and independence. And at its core, I think this book is about if what we think we need or should do or have to be happy is what makes us happy indeed.

Oh, and the art is adorable and so great for the story. It is simple, yet fits the mood and atmosphere perfectly. The use of color was great to separate different parts of Claire's life. I also loved the other characters like Claire's friends and her mum and how different they were as persons and as ideas.

Chad says

Details the life of a thirty-something neonatal nurse as she looks for love. This one is obviously written for women. A large portion of the book is women complaining about men. At first it was kind of humorous but then it starts to weigh on you. I know we aren't perfect, but we do try and we are not all the same. But most of all, I just found this book to be very boring. It's just everyday life. I don't need to read about that, I live it every day.

Anya says

Soooo I headed over to NetGalley on a whim today and found this little comic about a thirty-something neonatal nurse, Claire who's trundling along her life looking for a love that would last long.

I honestly felt bad for her; Claire was surrounded by friends and colleagues who are starting new chapters in their lives and she feels left behind and lonely. The story is simple enough and realistic but the art is **GORGEOUS**. I loved how despite looking like a fluffy comic, Limited Edition grappled with serious issues like misogyny, expectations in relationships, independence, societal standards etc.

vostendrasamigos yotengolibros says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange of a honest review.

I loved the book, it absolutely perfect the way that it talks about social issues at the same time that tells a story, the end it's perfect I have say it, this is just a solid wonderful and beautiful book, I really recommend it for everyone. Masterpiece.

[Shai] Bibliophage says

Limited Edition tackles some real-life issues that women were experiencing, such as still being single in their 30s, pregnancy, and being in a relationship. I'm quite sure that women will appreciate the tale of Claire in this graphic novel, and they will be able to relate to some of the topics addressed in the story.

prettybooks says

17/20

Aude Picault raconte avec réalisme et humour la vie d'une trentenaire, sa recherche incessante de LA relation amoureuse et ses petits tracas quotidiens. Un air de féminisme en ressort et c'est définitivement une belle réussite !

Ma chronique : <https://myprettybooks.wordpress.com/2...>

Julie says

J'ai adoré. Ces planches démontre de façon simple et très claire tout les stéréotypes de genre actuels. Charge mentale, hypersexualisation de la femme, banalisation de leurs désirs : tout y passe à travers l'histoire, malheureusement bien banale, de sa protagoniste principale. À lire.

♥ Sandi ♡ says

3.75 stars

Thanks to NetGalley and Europe Comics for a copy of this graphic novel. Published March 21, 2018 in English.

Mid-life and no relationship! Crisis ?!?!?

That is the premise of this newly translated French graphic novel. Holding true to French culture, this graphic novel is graphic. It spends as much time in the bedroom as out of it. We follow a 30-something nurse as she navigates one relationship after another, until she finds the right one. But...is it the right one?

Sara M. Abudahab says

Following Claire, a thirty-year-old neonatal nurse, trying to find the man of her dreams was fun, I hope this has a sequel I'm interested to know what happens next.

Mehsi says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

So this isn't going to be a very nice review at times. I just need to rant a bit.

This book began good, I would have given it a 4 stars at the beginning. The middle was 3 stars, but with the ending and how I felt overall after reading the whole book... 2.5 stars.

This mostly had to do with how I just got tired of all the bitching about men and how terrible they were/are. And then probably calls it feminism. :|

What I liked:

*The art, it was pretty cute and sweet! Plus I liked that the author/artist used limited colours (you just have pink/blue/yellow).

-The MC's job. I have read tons of books, but I don't think I have read one where someone has a job working with preemies.

-Some of those preemie part just brought tears to my eyes. That one scene were the tiny little baby touched

her dad's hand just had me in tears.

-That the author/artist didn't shy away from sex scenes (yep, we got quite a few of those).

-I could understand Claire (well... minus the man hating parts) and her quest to find someone perfect for her. I also had my share of bad experiences with men and at times I also wondered if I would ever find someone to spend my life with. I was definitely rooting for her.

-Her dreams about her future kid and future husband. It was just so lovely and I like that it was added to the story.

What I didn't like:

*I did think Jo was a bit overkill on her hubby when they had that baby (those 3/4 pages). The guy is doing his effing best, but all you do is bitch bitch and bitch. Oh no, he forgot things, oh no he bought the wrong things. Heaven, woman, we all make mistakes no need to burn someone to the ground. Be happy he tries! Good grief woman. Plus I am sure the guy is working (given that guys generally don't get a lot of parental leave), do you want him to stop working and do everything, thus meaning that you get less money? I am sure you will bitch about that then. Girl, please. Plus she kept being dismissive about him throughout the book. :| *Also, if you can't get an orgasm and then just expect boys just have to magically know what they should do or that you have problem? I am sorry, ever heard of opening that mouth of yours and talk to him? I get so unhappy that woman are all boohooing about guys this and that, while never ever really talking to guy in question for about 2 or 3 years of a relationship. *sighs* And sure, eventually she did talk, but it took motivation from someone else to do so (yes, we finally had a woman who understood that men are not (unlike apparent popular opinion) mind readers).

*If your hubby just got home from work, and just wants to sit down for a bit, LET HIM. Instead of constantly getting on his case every time he got home for a busy day of work. Just let him sit for a bit, eat some dinner, and then talk about stuff (and no shouting or cursing or grunting or whatever, just normal talking).

*(view spoiler)

*All the complaining about men throughout the book, I just got so tired about it. Sure, you had some shitty experiences, and yes, sometimes men can be a bit eh, but I am sure we women also make them crazy at times. But oh no, it is all the fault of the men, obviously. *rolls her eyes*

*The part with the store and them buying clothes. Really, is it that OFFENDING when someone asks you girl or boy or tells that something is for girls? Geez Louis, people. Just buy whatever you want, do you need to make rude remarks to someone just doing her job? :|

Sometimes I don't get my own gender (aka women).

The handwriting was a really nice touch to the book, made it more personal, but it was hard to read at times. :(

So yeah, a decent book, but it could be better without all the menbashing.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Anjalee says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

A series of sunny-hued panels tell the story of Claire, a neonatal nurse on the hunt for her dream man. At 32,

Claire very much feels the pressures that come with a ticking body-clock and often finds herself settling for lack-lustre relationships. Over time she learns the importance of being happy on her own terms.

Limited Edition loudly deals with feminist issues but doesn't always align with my own beliefs. Whilst I appreciated the discussion of valuing your self-worth and what constitutes as a healthy relationship, I do think it was rather man-bashing.

Aude Picault uses characters such as Franck to highlight everyday sexism towards women and how often their needs, thoughts and abilities are undermined and underestimated. That being said, the female characters attitudes towards men are not shown to be as problematic or severe, which I found troubling.

There was some other glaring issues, but the final message resonated quite strongly with me. I'm a romantic, often wishing I could hurry up and have the husband, the white picket fence, the kids and don't often take time to be happy in the now. If Limited Edition taught me anything it's to not always think the grass is greener on the other side and to appreciate where I am currently at in life.

Overall I have to give it a 2.5. Although I enjoyed the loose illustrations and related to Claire, the font was jarringly hard to read at times and I found some of the messages to be quite questionable.

Ije the Devourer of Books says

Claire is in her thirties and desperate to settle down and start a family. She is on the dating merry go round and doesn't seem to be able to meet a guy who wants to settle down. Meanwhile family and friends are settling down and having babies, buying homes and getting on with life. Despite her career as a nurse Claire feels left behind and left out.

And then Claire meets a man, moves in with him, and three years down the line she examines if this is what she really wants. Should she settle for less and stick with her partner? Or should she learn to appreciate who she is instead of focusing on some kind of ideal, and live her life to the fullest without compromise. Is the man she is with really the man she wants?

This is an interesting comic with good drawings. The storyline is great too and it left me wanting more.

Copy provided by Europe Comics via Netgalley in exchange for an unbiased review.
