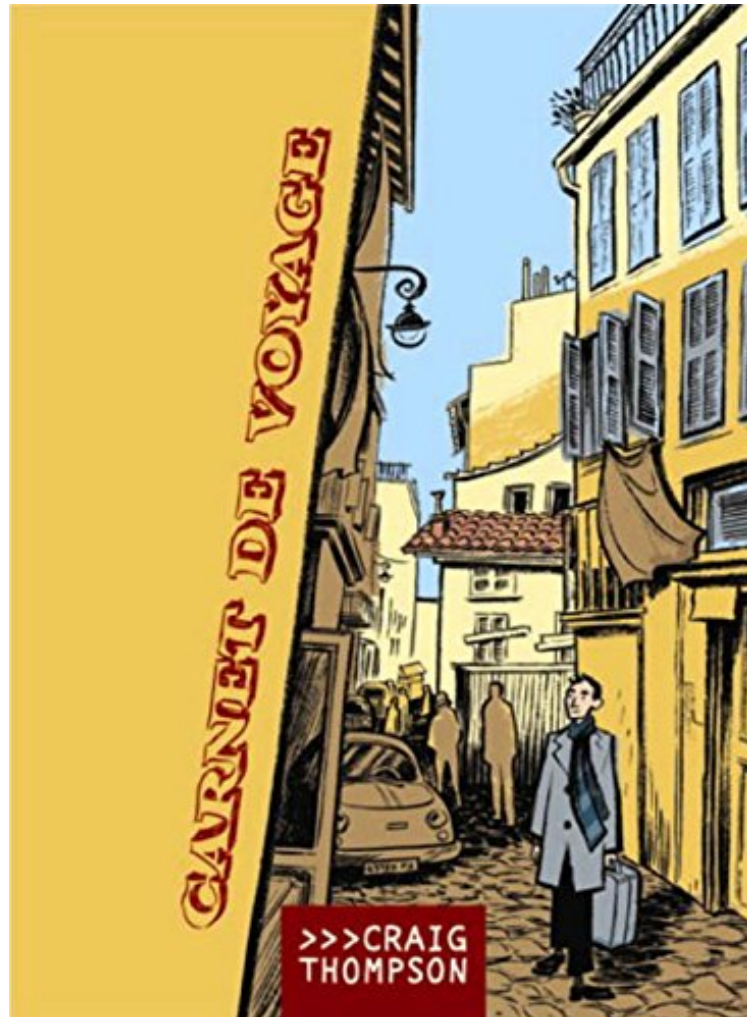


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## Carnet De Voyage (Travel Journal)

*Craig Thompson*

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**Craig Thompson : Carnet De Voyage (Travel Journal)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carnet De Voyage (Travel Journal):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Craig Thompson Does it Again..By Christine D. SumpterFirst I should start by mentioning that I am a fan of Thompson's works, so my review may be a tiny bit biased.Carnet de Voyage is essentially an illustrated travel diary of Thompson's time in France and parts of the Middle East. The style is unconventional (compared to what you see in most mainstream comics) and is refreshing. It is entirely in black and white, but is well illustrated. The writing is entirely in Thompson's hand (as opposed to pre-set type), but still very easy to read.It is, in essence, not just his travel diary, but a glimpse into a part of his life in which he did some soul searching and it comes across (in my opinion), very well in this account. The only reason I gave it 4 out of 5 stars and not 5 is that I happen to like some of his other works better and this book is a slight departure from his traditional

storytelling (it's about himself using an illustrated persona). However, as mentioned, the art is up to par and is well worth turning every page. A very enjoyable read for people who might enjoy a departure from typical western comics. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Way more than a side project. By Pops Gustav Craig Thompson's epic 600 page graphic novel, BLANKETS is one of the most beautiful comics I've ever read. I was astounded at the breadth and depth of the book and wondered how someone in his mid twenties could have crafted such a massive achievement so early in his career. With the publication of CARNET DE VOYAGE, I now understand a little bit more about Thompson's work habits... he is a nonstop drawing machine. But no... machine is wrong... there's nothing mechanical about his work. Art flows out of Thompson's brush pens with the organic fluidity of a true master. He may well be the greatest natural cartoonist of his generation... hell, even a handful of others. CARNET DE VOYAGE wasn't even supposed to be a book. While traveling through France, Barcelona, the Alps and Morocco last Spring to promote BLANKETS, Thompson's omnipresent sketchbook suddenly became his next project. In his introduction, the typically self-effacing artist dismisses it as "a rather self-indulgent side project." Yes, there's lots of self-indulgence, but no more than any other writer or artist's work is self indulgent. Smarting from a recent breakup, suffering from crippling rheumatoid arthritis exacerbated by nonstop signings, sketches and portraits of locals (many of whom demand money for the privilege of being models), Thompson's travelogue is filled with the kind of subjective experience that's only interesting to others if it's told well. And in CARNET DE VOYAGE, it's told beautifully. Mixing his two styles, the cartoony whimsy of GOODBYE, CHUNKY RICE with the more naturalistic impressionism of BLANKETS, Thompson allows us to experience everything he does: The homesickness, the culture shock, the thrill of the new and the comfort of other people. His passion for beauty, be it architectural, arboreal, feline, culinary or (often) feminine is all delineated with an artistic embellishment that's more effective than any photograph could be. That's the power of comics; They can be (in the right hands) surreal and realistic at the same time. Thompson is as much a master of capturing the empirical world as he is conveying his inner demons (and he's got a lot of `em... this boy is one tortured, sensitive artiste). He may dismiss CARNET DE VOYAGE as "not (his) next book," but it's the richest, most rewarding graphic novel I've read since... well, since BLANKETS. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A moving travel diary By Matthieu P. Raillard Carnet de Voyage is a melancholy, interesting travel diary (as the name implies), and as such doesn't have as much of a narrative drive as Thompson's other works. If you're expecting Blankets you'll be disappointed, but you shouldn't pass up on Carnet. It is a touching look into the author's psyche and experiences, and as someone who lived/grew up in many of the places he visits, I greatly enjoyed seeing my world through the author's eyes. It's a bit disconnected at times, but then so is life.

Craig Thompson spent three months traveling through Barcelona, the Alps, and France, as well as Morocco, researching his next graphic novel, Habibi. Spontaneous sketches and a travelogue diary document his adventures and quiet moments, creating a raw and intimate portrait of countries, culture and the wandering artist.

From Publishers Weekly "They say 'Wherever you go, there you are....' I thought with Morocco, I'd be setting out on some exotic adventure, but it turns out I'm just a simple, quiet fellow." So writes Thompson in this travel sketchbook chronicling two months of wandering through Africa and Europe, sometimes as tourist, sometimes as a famous cartoonist on tour. Rather than a narrative follow-up to the award-winning Blankets, this diary reveals both Thompson's creative strengths and weaknesses. Although more or less spontaneous, the book still shapes the material into something of a narrative, the continuing themes being Thompson's self-conscious love of beauty, his sense of isolation and the gradual physical deterioration of his hands due to arthritis and over-drawing. Thompson is honest enough to confront his own self-absorption (he makes constant references to his own whininess), but this recognition reveals that Blankets' naiveté is more studied than it first appears. Many of the elements that made Blankets so successful are here, not least among them Thompson's incredible, lush line-work and telling detail. Every person he meets is captured with a keen eye and a lively brush, and entries such as one recounting his fascination with Gaudí's architecture in Barcelona, or a day spent with fellow cartoonist Blutch discussing artistic muses, are both thought provoking and touching. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Adult/High School In 2004, the author, a cartoonist from Oregon, traveled to Europe on a book-signing tour, with a side trip to Morocco. Rather than writing a conventional journal, he kept notes in the form of drawings and cartoons. He shows readers how he was met in France by friends, fans, and publisher representatives, and tells of larking about finding magic, meaning, and synchronicity in Paris and the countryside. When he moved on to Morocco, his experience was darker as he struggled to relate to a more alien and less-welcoming culture. There he encountered everything from homesickness to diarrhea to fractured conversations, but in time he saw more of the country and learned how to get around. Back in Europe, he continued his book tour in Geneva and Barcelona, and saw the Alps and the south of France. Along with images of people and places, he shares, with winningly self-deprecating humor, his interior journey of emotional ups and downs. Black-and-white images range in style from realistic sketches to surrealistic riffs to funny cartoons, sometimes working together visually and thematically to create layers of depth and to amplify a point. Combined with telegraphic captions, the art captures to

perfection and with a great sense of immediacy what it's like to be young and on one's own on a foreign adventure. By turns lighthearted and profound, *Carnet* is an illuminating and charming experience that should have broad appeal. Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist After the success of the autobiographical *Blankets* [BKJ Je 1 15 03], Thompson spent two months in Europe on a publicity tour, with a side trip to Morocco to research a future project. In his preface to this sketchbook-diary of his travels, he warns that it isn't his next book but just "a little snack." Thompson's snack is more substantive, however, than most comics artists' main courses. He dashes off wonderfully expressive and evocative drawings of France, Barcelona, Marrakech, and the Alps, even after he loses his pens and has to buy cheap, secondhand felt-tips. He presents an earnest but self-aware account of the first exposure of a self-styled "bumpkin lad" to exotic locales with a facility that belies his youth and effectively depicts solo-traveler's woes both familiar--loneliness, insomnia, diarrhea--and particular--career-threatening arthritis aggravated by nonstop drawing. The melancholy of *Blankets* is here, too, for Thompson's lover had left him just before he departed. His consequent moments of self-pity are a bit self-indulgent, but they go with the territory of diary keeping. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved