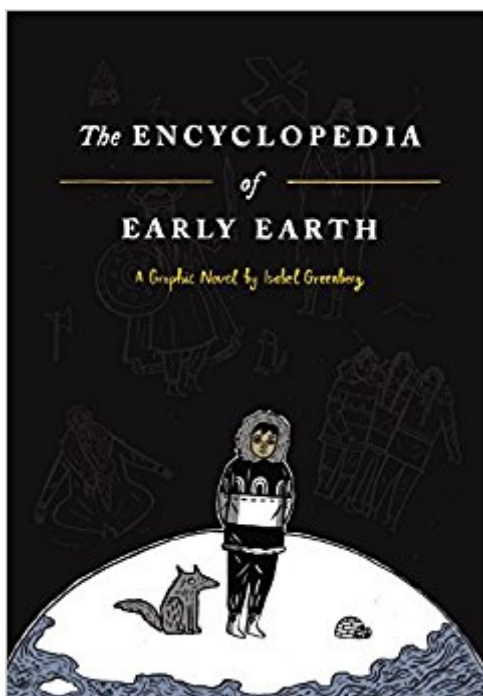


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# The Encyclopedia Of Early Earth: A Novel



## Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated book of imaginary fables about Earth's early--and lost--history. Before our history began, another--now forgotten--civilization thrived. The people who roamed Early Earth were much like us: curious, emotional, funny, ambitious, and vulnerable. In this series of illustrated and linked tales, Isabel Greenberg chronicles the explorations of a young man as he paddles from his home in the North Pole to the South Pole. There, he meets his true love, but their romance is ill-fated. Early Earth's unusual and finicky polarity means the lovers can never touch. As intricate and richly imagined as the work of Chris Ware, and leavened with a dry wit that rivals Kate Beaton's in *Hark! A Vagrant*, Isabel Greenberg's debut will be a welcome addition to the thriving graphic novel genre.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, December 2013: If The Encyclopedia of Early Earth is to be believed, the primitive days of our planet were icy landscapes drawn with thick, stark lines and highlighted with the careful use of bold colors. This beautiful comic, Isabel Greenberg's first, pulls on stories from cultural and religious traditions--Genesis, Nordic legends, Greek myths--as well as the work of other influential cartoonists--Kate Beaton, Seth, Jason--to create something unique and timeless. The stories here are imbued with such wit and heart: Two lovers--one from the North Pole, the other from the South--cannot come within two feet of each other because of their polar magnetization; an old woman defeats a giant with her storytelling; a cartographer is aided by three "genius monkeys

from the Island of What." Greenberg uses our familiarity with archetypes to play with our expectations, bending these layered stories into something strange and delightful. The Encyclopedia of Early Earth is a journey that takes us from one end of the Earth to the other--just perhaps in the direction you'd least expect. --Kevin Nguyen

*\*Starred Review\** A loving homage to storytelling itself, Greenberg's first graphic novel isn't an encyclopedia at all but an intricately crafted mythology told from within a young man's grand adventure. Split into three beings as a baby, the boy(s) find his (their) way back into one, though he is missing a tiny but crucial piece of his soul. In search of that tiny piece, he journeys farther from the snowy northern lands of his home than anyone before and encounters Greenberg's powerfully realized imaginary cultures. Along the way, he shares and accumulates tales that encompass creation, cataclysm, war, jealousy, and compassion, even as the overarching story follows him and his great love to their own poignant end. Sewing in her own sly humor, Greenberg deeply immerses readers in the themes and lessons of world mythology, but she remarkably never merely apes classic myths the way each of Early Earth's cultures tweaks the same ideas and characters for their own myths is a veritable lesson in comparative theology. Just as essentially evocative is her art, which uses simple, childlike illustrations to channel the power of ancient cave paintings and archetypal images from our own imaginations. A unique, compelling stunner from one to watch. --Jesse Karp

This is not a graphic novel that keep you on your toes. It does not keep you guessing at every turn about the outcome of the story. It is, however, a delightful page turner. Frequent allusions to the great stories of the western canon (the Odyssey, Genesis) as well the familiar structure of the fable/myth makes this story a wonderfully comforting read. It recalls the stories of bedtime during childhood--- adventure, exploration, and destiny. The drawings are adorable and really allows the reader to sink into the world of early earth. Well worth the read.

I was craving a book with an epic story that was fun to read and this fit the bill. This was my first graphic novel so I didn't know what to expect at all. There were many stories within a story, the illustrations were captivating and there is this modern edge to the telling of old stories that I enjoyed so much. My favourite characters were the gods, there were many hilarious moments and their family dynamic is relatable rather than idealised. I bought the One Hundred Nights a Hero too and I cannot wait to start and delve more into graphic novels.

A unique and consistent vast world that is entirely unlike anything I've seen before and intensely familiar. With a small selection of windows or glimpses it conveys the feeling of many other realms that could be explored beyond the on the pages of the book. An alliterative weaving of stories into each other, end into beginning like a long narrow tapestry or illuminated scroll.

This book was my introduction to indie comics and years later I still go back to it from time to time. The woodblock-style artwork is so lovely and works perfectly to tell these 'olden tales', which are so incredibly creative in themselves. These are all-ages stories that I personally thoroughly enjoyed (as a 25-year-old). Can't get enough of Isabel Greenberg's work. Props to Jonathan Cape and their short graphic story contest for helping artists like her get their start.

The art is simple but visually powerful, more impactful than typically assembly-line-looking superhero stuff. The stories are adaptations of Biblical tales (Noah, Babel, etc) but fun in this new context. I enjoyed it a lot as a heartfelt, romantic yarn.

Love the story thread throughout. It draws on myths that already exist and weaves them into a new story. The larger size really does justice to the beautiful drawings

Beautiful, entertaining and a little quirky. It was enjoyable and the illustrations are great. I don't normally by illustration books like this, but I'm glad this is in my collection.

Beautiful Graphic Novel.

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