



Chew: The Omnivore Edition, Vol. 1

John Layman , Rob Guillory (Illustrator)

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Tony Chu is a detective with a secret. A weird secret. Tony Chu is cibopathic, which means he gets psychic impressions from whatever he eats. It also means he's a hell of a detective - as long as he doesn't mind nibbling on the corpse of a murder victim to figure out whodunit and why. He's been brought on by the Special Crimes Division of the FDA, the most powerful law enforcement agency on the planet, to investigate their strangest, sickest and most bizarre cases. This gorgeous, oversized edition loaded with extras follows Tony for the first ten issues of IGN.com's pick for "Best Indie Series of 2009," and MTV Splash Page's "Best New Series of 2009." Collects the New York Times' best seller "Taster's Choice," as well as the follow-up story-arc "International Flavor."

This edition collects CHEW #1-10.

Chew: The Omnivore Edition, Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review Chew: The Omnivore Edition, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Jeniece says

Chicken just isn't that crucial. ?

[Name Redacted] says

A strange and gruesome tale of law enforcement in an alternate universe where a supposed bird-flu pandemic killed millions and the F.D.A. has since become the single most powerful arm of the U.S. Government. The art reminds me of the work of Sam Kieth and the setting reminds me of...well...a parody of the alternate universe on "Fringe". I'm enjoying this series, and especially I love how odd elements which at first seem to be one-liners or sight-gags wind up becoming EXTREMELY important later on.

Jeffrey Keeten says

I don't read very many comics (do they call them comics still?),but when I saw the premise for this series I could not resist. *"Tony Chu is Cibopathic, which means he gets psychic impressions from whatever he eats."* The only thing that he can eat and not be subjected to a Johnny Mnemonic download overload moment are beets.

I like beets, but I know that it wouldn't take me long to develop a passionate abhorrence of the rather unique taste of that particular vegetable. Too much of a good thing is well...too much of a good thing.

Tony works for the FDA in a world where poultry, due to an epidemic of "Avian Flu", has become an illegal commodity on a level with heroin. Naturally a black market for chicken becomes vibrantly alive to fulfill the sudden desperate desires of a poultry starved population. It is Tony's job to take down traffickers and keep the world safe from a recurrence of another devastating epidemic.

My favorite character is Mason Savoy, a charmer, a foodie, extremely competent, and the villain. He is also Cibopathic. Mason has possession of Tony's ear and is willing to use it (You'll have to read the book.) if Tony gets to be too much of a problem.

Tony has a partner named John Colby with half a cybernetic face after an unfortunate accident in an illegal chicken kitchen. He is not a straight and narrow by the book cop, but he does have Tony's back when he needs it most.

There are a host of supporting actors that are not only interesting, but provide key roles that give buoyancy to the plot. One of my favorites was Lin Sae Woo. An extremely curvy, bad ass gal that works for the Department of Agriculture. (I'm hopeful of a resurrection later in the series.)

I know with the percentage of people who do not like beets I've probably insured, by putting such a healthy bowl at the start of this review, that this review will not receive any attention. I want to say to those strong willed enough to get passed the beets that I heartily enjoyed this book. I laughed out loud. I deformed my face into several universal signs of disgust. I found the dialogue clever and refreshing. I have volume two on my next book order.

Aaron Schmid says

This book is a feast for the eyes. I absolutely devoured book 2 (International Flavor). The art style is half the treat, and the writing has a flavor all of its own. The texture of the world-building and the perfect balance of super-powered characters keeps Chew fresh, all the way down. I can't wait for another helping... okay, I've finished my puns, haha.

Loki says

So much fun! The world of **Chew** is a wild and strange one, where chicken eating is illegal, a rooster named Poyo is the greatest warrior that several worlds have ever known, and Tony Chu, FDA agent, is just one of those gifted with a strange array of food-related superpowers. There is no summary that can do this series justice - it's the kind of thing that William Burroughs might have devised after a particularly strong hit of morphine and a nice chicken dinner. It's funny as hell, but also oddly poignant in places. It will even bring a tear or two to your eyes between bursts of explosive laughter. Do not miss it!

Rebecca says

Although a dark premise, it is also delightfully humorous and the art is essential for the tone of what should be a much more grisly story. Tony is likable and develops over the course of the two beginning story arcs and the secondary characters are interesting and well drawn (both literally and figuratively) as well.

Jamie says

This was strange, yet interesting. Interesting but sometimes disgusting. Chu is a cop who gets sworn in as an FDA agent when they learn of his special ability to TASTE a bit more than others. It leads to some cannibalistic detective work. Hence the Eww factor. The whole world has gone crazy for chicken when it becomes illegal. Who would have thought that would be the hottest item on the black market ever? It is confusing at first but gets better after the first couple issues, once I get into the pacing and start to understand

what is going on. Although I still have questions. The art is not my favorite style but it is well done and descriptive.

Jennifer says

Initially I was drawn to *Chew*, because who could really resist a comic procedural drama whose main agent solves crimes by eating all sorts of nasties (since as a "cibopath" he gets psychic impressions from anything he eats)? I wasn't disappointed, as *Chew* is one of those works that actually succeeds with dark, absurd humor, and the premise is definitely creative. The thinly-veiled satire about government control, conspiracies and questionable enforcement, as well as the "clean food" and foodie bent aren't heavy-handed enough to cause eye-rolling, but noticeable enough to serve dual functions of fleshing out the setting and being appealing to hipsters who likely find the messages "deep." As a last thought, *Chew's* appeal to me might actually be due to the combination of elements not usually blended successfully into one comic book series, including textbook Western action comic characteristics such as bloody/explicit violence and huge-breasted women; food industry and government criticism; absurd, dark, quirky humor; and Rob Guillory's vibrant graffiti-reminiscent art.

P.S. If you read *Chew* don't gloss over the papers, signs, flyer and articles on the walls. At least some of them will amuse you ;p

Max Washington says

Very funny! Disgusting. Brilliant.

Stevie Oberg says

This comic was awesome, as long as you don't eat anything while you read it. xD

OonaReads says

If you're looking for a new graphic novel series to read, pick this one up. It is so fucking incredible. I can't wait to read the next volumes.

Morgan says

It has a good premise, and gets points for originality, but I think I'm starting to show my age on this. It felt like I was reading some bullshit teenage wankfest. Everything boils down to poop jokes, gross out moments, and extreme violence, which believe it or not I'm fine with, but there needs to be something more. Instead, what little is actually here is a constant barrage of asshole characters. The book starts introducing the main character and his partner. His partner is an unlikeable asshole. Then it introduces a federal agent, who is a pompous asshole. Then he gets a new boss, who somehow is an even bigger asshole. Then we get to meet his

brother, who is also an asshole. He does his job and interrogates some people who all happen to be assholes. So there are a couple of antagonists, they are all assholes. We meet some scientists, who happen to be assholes. Then we run into another fed from another department, she's an asshole too. Really deep character development here. Seriously, the only person that we meet outside of the main character who isn't openly an asshole is a girl that we don't know anything about because she leaves the plot as soon as she appears. So she isn't an asshole ... yet.

All of this is a vehicle for the writer to spout out racist, sexist, & homophobic BS. It's cool to do it, because he's just writing what his characters would say right? Except everyone is awful.

After a while, you start thinking that the main character must be a terrible person too because he isn't saying anything to the contrary, and laughs when people make Asian stereotypes. The whole thing is reinforced by blacks that can't use linking verbs or prepositions, and a cover with a giant breasts but a head that is cropped out of the picture. This is really accentuated when a character dies and she is torn up on the ground but still shows off her rack.

To make matters worse the art while nicely stylized just accentuates everything that is ugly in this world. So there is never any contrast to the churlish adolescent writing.

I'm really bummed that I bought this new because that means that I gave John Layman my money.

Stephanie (aka WW) says

This book delivers on story and art. It's a little juvenile in its attempts to gross-out the reader and in the exaggerated ways in which females are portrayed, but the art bowled me over. And the story is fun and complex. I'll be reading the next installments.

Nicole says

I enjoyed the story more than the art. The art is unique.

Mark Desrosiers says

There's lots to like about this comic -- gore, vomit, tits, vampires -- yet there's a safety-first cynicism underlying the whole enterprise that plummets it into a goofy Establishment sitcom. Buddy-cop drollery, jail-rape-evasion wackiness, coprophage-riffing -- it's all here, but just, I don't know, too obviously staged and plotted. Even worse, despite its premise (where eating chicken is outlawed by the government due to some mysterious avian flu whatnot), there are zero serious political or social questions raised. And though I'd normally celebrate a comic that trolls the federal government by turning its agents into preposterous action heroes, and its astronomers into sloppy drunkards, this shit is dull and unfunny, a MAD magazine parody gone hazy and predictable.

When our hero Tony Chu -- whose "Cibopathic" abilities allow him to conjure the past by eating corpses (or occasionally live humans or their ashes or their excrement) -- somehow gets to predict the *future* (seriously, even the ashes he licked must have had a vague plan) -- I just lost it. This is a silly, contrived comic and I'm hoping Layman has the balls to actually make us uncomfortable at some point. Most of my discomfort and

contempt came from his soothing calculated plot, tell the truth.

Also the tits and vampire are clearly fake.
