**Rice Boy**

Evan Dahm  
Iron Circus Comics (Dec 12, 2017)  
Softcover $30.00 (460pp)  
978-1-945820-10-6

Mythic, surreal, whimsical, colorful, and masterful, Evan Dahm's webcomic classic *Rice Boy* has been conveniently collected in a print edition.

*Rice Boy* follows the title character on a winding quest to satisfy an ancient prophecy, a mission that brings him into contact with a seemingly endless stream of creations from Dahm's fertile imagination. Dahm's inventiveness is expressed through a myriad of landscapes, and creatures that often transform their appearance.

One of Rice Boy's allies is T-O-E, short for “The One Electronic,” a machine man whose face is a screen showing an ever-changing series of expressive black-and-white photographic images. Another group of creatures speaks in a pictorial language, and throughout the book, limbs are amputated, taking on life of their own or revealing hidden secrets inside.

Strange as it may be, there's more than just surface-level experimentation here—Dahm knows how to convey emotion from his cast, particularly the innocent but surprisingly cagey Rice Boy. Dahm’s deceptively simple-looking artwork utilizes a varied and brilliant palette, and it's just plain fun to look at.

*Rice Boy* features adventure-story elements reminiscent of classics like *The Hobbit* and *Alice in Wonderland*, but with frogs as the only traditionally recognizable characters (the villains, no less), this is Dahm's world: bizarre, unique, and most importantly, enjoyable. This graphic-novel version of *Rice Boy* provides the opportunity to sit back and relax with the complete story, and to experience full immersion into Dahm's land of unlimited possibilities.

PETER DABBENE (November/December 2017)

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