


# Lost Cat

*Jason*

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A detective is walking down the street. It is raining. He sees a "Lost Cat" poster. A minute later he sees the cat from the photo. He picks it up and goes back to the poster. He calls the number. A woman answers. He turns up at her place and gives her the cat. She invites him in from the rain for a cup of coffee. They talk and find out they have a lot in common: both are divorced and living alone. Some days later he invites her out for a dinner. She accepts. He shows up at the agreed time. She doesn't. He calls her home and knocks on her door. No answer. He asks the neighbors. They haven't seen her. She has disappeared. He makes some phone calls and investigates, but can't find her. He gets a new client and has to start working on a new case. In his head he continues their conversation. Lost Cat, the new graphic novel by Jason (after years of "graphic novellas" of less than 50 pages, arguably his first genuine graphic NOVEL) is both a playful take on the classic detective story, and a story about how difficult it is to find a sister spirit, someone you feel a real connection to--and what do you do if you lose that person?

## Lost Cat Details

Date : Published August 3rd 2013 by Fantagraphics (first published June 19th 2013)

ISBN : 9781606996423

Author : Jason

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fiction, Mystery, Graphic Novels Comics, Comix, Science Fiction

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## From Reader Review Lost Cat for online ebook

### Molly says

I thought I'd read this before and it turns out I was right - thanks, Goodreads! I did not remember it very well, however.

It's something of a noir detective story/love story with a surprise science fiction element. Just like most of Jason's stuff, it's very interesting and a lot of fun.

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### Grg says

It's like Jason had three different ideas and put them in a blender. A detective story, a love story, a science fiction story. It's kind of a mess, but kind of beautiful in a nerdy way.

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### David Schaafsma says

3/1/18 I decided to reread all of my Jason books, and this is the first reread (of 2018) of one of my favorite comics artists ever. I dunno, maybe I should have read them in order of publication? Oh, well. In short, this is a detective novel that would appear to morph into a loneyhearts romance and then would appear to morph into sci-fi. Part of the reason for any confusion is that the detective, having met a woman that disappears, thinks about her, dreams about her.

Jason (John Arne Sæterøy) is a Norwegian artist living in France, very into old movies and tv and music, very active blogger, sharing his work in progress, and he also seems reclusive, The work is generally very minimal and understated, with dry, tongue-in-cheek humor, though this one is longer and more elaborate than any of his early work.

9/20/13 (somewhat edited) Lost Cat is one of my favorite books of the year from one of my favorite author/artists. I don't know if this is my favorite Jason, but now that I think of it, many seem to be my favorites, it's so hard to choose! I read it fast and will read it again slowly, savoring, appreciating the attention to craft you can miss when you go too fast with this guy. He makes it look easy, initially, and he makes the images do the bulk of the work, which I always like.

Lost Cat is a love story, a detective story, that weirdly morphs into sci-fi, so there's this interest in genre, and blending genres he usually has for fun and to explore interesting questions about genre, I think. But to play, play, play, within clean, strong lines and cartoony, anthropomorphic animal characters. For example, the detective appears as a dog, and the woman he meets asks him if he is detective like Humphrey Bogart, which--to our eyes--he clearly doesn't appear to resemble. Then Bogart references are peppered throughout.

And underneath it all is this loneliness, this sadness, this separation. In Lost Cat we have two people, both lonely, that meet over a lost cat, and they like each other. . . and then it gets all Big Sleep-ish, which is to say there are plot twists that we can just enjoy but we also know there is a plot here to figure out, but this Big Sleep thing is also a deliberate homage to Bogart and noir, which Jason especially loves. . . and who doesn't?

Maybe the most important thing for me to say (without giving away the story and that genre shift I mentioned) is that this guy (Jason!) is not just a technician (though he IS this, he is a master at comic form, proportion, all of it), but that he creates such surprisingly rich characters you come to care very much about. In the end, in the epilogue, he hasn't just played with genre, we are actually moved by what we see has happened. There is this darkly comic vein going through it, sometimes really smart-assy, through all of his work, deadpan humor and sometimes the macabre in places, but overall I think it is his humanity that shows through. He uses these silly-looking animals for characters and he STILL makes you care deeply about them. It's what Art Spiegelman and Jeff Lemire and Charles Schultz and all the great ones do in comics. Great work, and I highly recommend this and everything you can get your hands on from this guy!

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### **Stewart Tame says**

Jason writes some of the strangest, most enigmatic comics I've ever read. His anthropomorphic animal characters almost never change expression, and there's such a ... haunted ambiance to the world they inhabit. Genre tropes surface in the stories, only to be turned on their ears. *Lost Cat* starts as a private eye novel, then suddenly morphs into science fiction. Jason's comics are strange and wonderful and unlike anything else I've read.

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### **Jan Philipzig says**

#### **My Original Plan Was to Become a Cowboy, But...**

The wonderfully subtle and poetic *Lost Cat* features a private detective ("My original plan was to become a cowboy, but...") set in his lonely and uneventful ways. When the possibility of romance and maybe even happiness unexpectedly presents itself, fate immediately ensures that things instead go from bad to worse.

In his longest story to date, the always reliable Jason infuses the noir genre with his trademark melancholic, deadpan humour. Both romantic and disillusioned, cartoony and realistic, funny and sad.

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### **Morgane says**

I loved how crisp, simple, and rhythmic the art was, and how the story felt natural: it didn't focus entirely on the main plot, nor did the subplots feel forced. But most of all I really enjoyed the very, very subtle details that are easy to miss the first time through. It's worth rereading, because you'll see how the ending was already revealed in the beginning...

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### **Will Hines says**

Fun, compelling, haunting. Like the good parts of *Twin Peaks*. I should also say I'm not entirely sure what happened.

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## Liam says

Probably my worst review ever. This started well but loses its focus in the middle and ends fairly badly by my comparison with other works of his. The plot just isn't as strong or sad, and I can't recall enough of it to be more useful than that for here.

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## I. says

Men shouldn't be allowed to write about women or cats.

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## Fuchsia Groan says

Aunque me es imposible escoger una sola obra de este autor, puede que sea esta una de mis favoritas. *Y Espera...*, y *Yo maté a Adolf Hitler*, y...

Aquí nos encontramos una historia considerablemente más extensa que otros títulos de Jason, en la que vuelve, cómo no, a sus temas recurrentes y obsesiones, que nunca cansan: la soledad, el amor, la condición humana, lo que pudo haber sido, esa mezcla de géneros tan especial: novela negra, romántica, un toque de ciencia ficción... la atmósfera melancólica e irónica que todo lo embarga...

Una maravilla.

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## Dominick says

Interesting hybrid of anthropomorphic animals, noir, and SF creates an odd, post-modern narrative in which a detective pursues two evidently unrelated cases--the disappearance of a woman he met by chance, and a search for a missing painting. Why anthropomorphic animals? Who knows? What do the two plots have to do with each other? Who knows? What's going on with the alien invasion? Who knows? Lots of questions, no real answers, but nevertheless an intriguing, if elusive, read.

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## Jeff says

I need to reread this one. As Dave Schaafsma says in his brief goodreads review, Jason creates fully realized characters with very few details. *That* is what always draws me to his work. This book, though, has me teetering on the verge of a meager 3 stars ... because i can't yet find a way to connect everything non-arbitrarily ... and i still presume Jason's work to be non-arbitrary. Maybe i'll reread it today ... if we don't go see a movie ... or tomorrow morning before work....

^^^ That was Oct 2016; this is Oct 2017. Easily 4.5 stars.

I reread this to start a week-long reading retreat with my wife in Lexington (MI). I noticed so much more this time around that now my rating hesitation is between 4 and 5 stars.

Q: Who is the lost cat? A: Jason. Or me. Or you. Everyone is a lost cat. And everyone is Detective Delon. And everyone has been Charlotte, who deeply feels the loss of her cat, and who succinctly and accurately says anyone who can't understand that just doesn't have a cat or never lost one or can't imagine losing her. But Charlotte is also a lost cat in that she is estranged. As Delon is from his depressing job. Just like Kitty, everyone is so wet and cold that we'll even jump into the arms of a stranger, as long as that stranger is warm and inviting. We can only hope that that stranger is kindly, honorable, and returns us to where we feel at home.

Classic weirdo/Jason way to convey the heartfelt drama of life, of love, of humanity. I won't go into specifics because they'd necessitate spoilers. Jason honestly lays out the various bleaknesses of existence and then reveals the underlying beauties that would be lost if that's all you happened to notice.

If you like comics, and especially if you like noir, and even more especially if you're willing to read and reread, then pick this up again and again.

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### **Sam Quixote says**

The superb Jason returns with his latest book, *Lost Cat*. The story of a private detective who falls in love only to lose the woman of his dreams to his dreams, *Lost Cat* is definitely one of the best comic books of the year. Read the full review here: [here!](#)

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### **Greta says**

A lost cat, a lost woman, a lost painting and a lost world.  
Nice and sweet, but something was missing.

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### **Helen says**

This is a nifty, simply drawn graphic novel, about three interlocking "losses" - a beloved lost cat "Kitty", which leads to the protagonist, private detective Dan Delon, to meet Charlotte, the cat's owner, when he finds the cat huddled under a dumpster on a rainy night and returns it to her. Charlotte invites Dan in to get out of the rain, and in the course of their conversation, in which both reveal they are divorced as well as other aspects of their lives, Charlotte asks Dan a question: "What is the most important thing in your life right now?" To which Dan replies: "Whatever is missing, I guess." Eventually, the two become lovers, but one day, Charlotte mysteriously disappears. Delon intensely misses her & becomes obsessed with tracking her down. The book takes on a hallucinatory dimension, or perhaps a symbolic depiction of Dan's thinking, fearful or paranoid. The third missing (piece of the puzzle?) is the painting of the nude Mr. Dumont hires Delon to find - a portrait of a woman who had once been Dumont's lover that Dumont never got over after he left (because he had to marry the richer woman his parents wanted him to marry). I won't describe the book in detail - it's up to the reader to read this graphic novel to find out what happens.. if Charlotte and Dan are ever

re-united, if Dumont is ever "reunited" with the image of Ingrid.

The matter-of-fact, deadpan style of writing perfectly matches the simplified, spare drawing style, which nonetheless conveys enough detail to set the scene. This is a story of loss, loneliness, and the lack of detail, lack of emotion (mostly) emotional flatness in general, complement or reinforce the theme of loss which is central to the book. It's not an unpleasant book to read - it can be read rather quickly (it took me a day to read because I don't have much uninterrupted time to read).

I won't spoil the powerful ending, which reminded me of the final scene of "L'Avventura." Those who are familiar with the film already have enough of a clue as to the ending of "Lost Cat" but also a hint as to the emotional power of the book's conclusion.

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