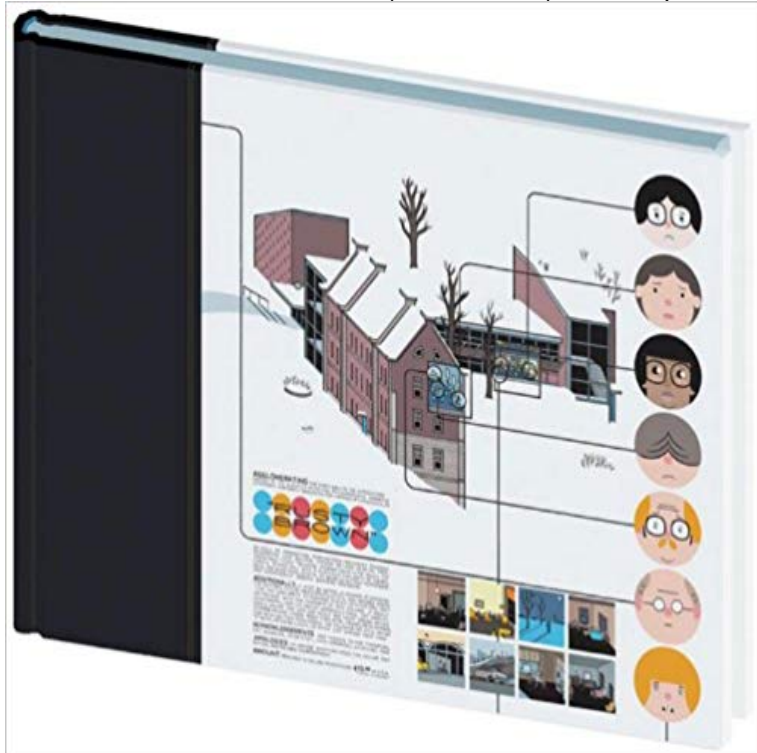


## The ACME Novelty Library #16 (Vol 16)



After four years of almost exclusively repackaging his sophomoric early work for the book trade, the childrens entertainer and award-winning calligrapher F. C. Ware returns to his groundbreaking 1990s cartoon series The ACME Novelty Library, a nearly decade-long publishing experiment which more or less single-handedly demonstrated the redemptive power a fancy paper stock or a little gold foil might exert over an otherwise dull, dry visual narrative. This semi-annual periodical originally serialized his surprisingly undismisssed Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth, and now, with the 16th issue, Ware rejoins the proud, vital esthetic forum of the American comic book with his ongoing serial Rusty Brown, a love story concerning the ambitions and mistakes of seven consciousnesses at a private school in Omaha, Nebraska, all revolving around a universally reviled child-and absolutely certain to be a favorite with readers of all tastes and biases. As told through the eyes of someone absentmindedly watching a television sitcom circa 1975, this first installment begins one January morning of that same year and describes everything of importance right up to and including the ring of the first period bell before eventually spiraling off into 1955, 2004, and toward the planet Mars, amongst other interesting and exotic time periods and locales. Riveting, fast-paced, and irresponsible, Rusty Brown distills the confusing and indulgent storytelling technique that led Mr. Wares work to be referred to as nearly impossible to read by the Los Angeles Times Book Review. (In addition, Mr. Ware promises parallel serialization of his other work-in-progress, Building Stories, which is actually a much better and more interesting project.) Though originally released by alternative comics vanguard Fantagraphics Books, this new sixteenth issue is the first to be entirely

produced, printed and published by Mr. Ware alone; limited to a single press run, once it is sold out, pulped, and/or burned, neither of these narratives will be available again until Rusty Brown and Building Stories are eventually edited, collected and remaindered as hardcover books. Thus, be the first in your mercantile district to own this first chapter of what years from now is sure to be a tart, possibly insincere reminder of the fragile economy and mental disposition of the early 21st century. 64 pages, full color, 9 x 7

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