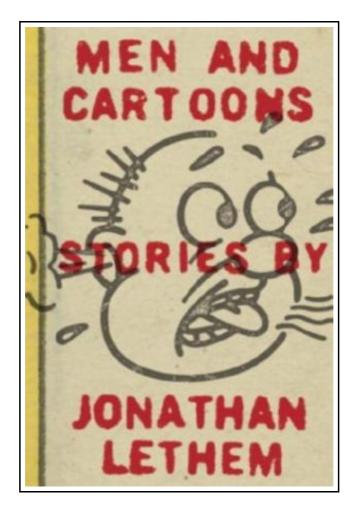
Men and Cartoons: Stories



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Reviews

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(Mrs. Felicia Windler)

MEN AND CARTOONS: STORIES



Doubleday Books, 2004. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Edition. Book Description: Jonathan Lethems new collection of stories is a feast for his fans and the perfect introduction for new readersnine fantastic, amusing, poignant tales written in a dizzying variety of styles, as Lethem samples high and low culture to create fictional worlds that are utterly original. Longtime readers will recognize echoes of Lethems novels in all these piecesnarrators who cant stop babbling, hapless would-be detectives, people with unusual powers that do them no good, hot-blooded academics, and characters whose clever repartee masks lovelorn desperation as they negotiate both the stumbling path of romance and the bittersweet obligations of friendship. Among them: The Vision is a story about drunken neighborhood parlor games, boys who dress up as superheroes, and the perils of snide curiosity. Access Fantasy is part social satire, part weird detective story. Evoking Lethems earliest work, it conjures up a world divided between people who have apartments and people trapped in an endless traffic jam behind The One-Way Permeable Barrier. The Spray is a simple story about how people in love deal with their past. A magical spray is involved. Vivian Relf is a tour de force about loss. A man meets a woman at a party; theyre sure theyve met before, but they havent. As the years progress this strangely haunting encounter comes to define the narrators life. The Dystopianist, Thinking of His Rival, Is Interrupted by a Knock on the Door is a Borgesian tale that features suicidal sheep. (This story won a Pushcart Prize when first published in Conjunctions.) Super Goat Man is a savagely funny exposé of the failures of the sixties baby boomers, and of their children. Sparkling with the off-beat humor and subtle insights, Men and Cartoons is a...



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