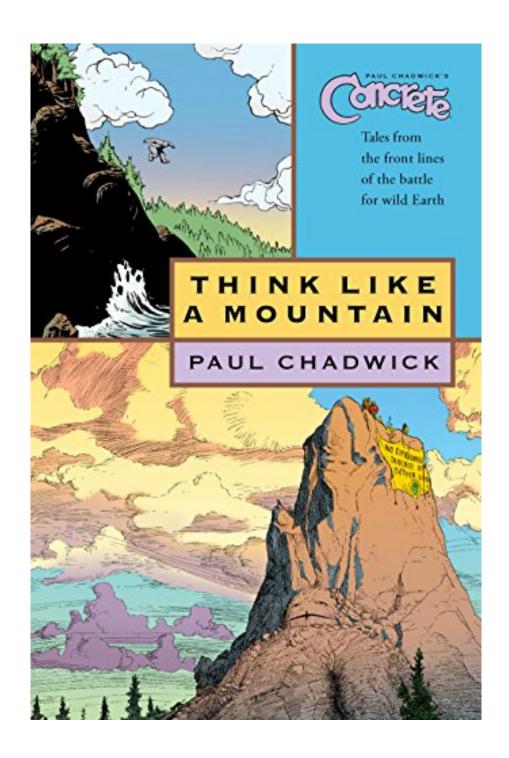


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Once again, Chadwick uses Concrete, a compassionate man whose intelligence has been transplanted into a towering, granitelike body with heightened strength and senses, to express a deeply held view on a pressing issue. In the story arc here, Concrete falls in with radical environmentalists seeking to win him to their side to save an old-growth forest. Initially observing from the fringes, Concrete struggles with his conscience, but exposure to the environmental defilement gradually convinces him to take an active role. The arboreal setting gives Chadwick the chance to show off his carefully wrought line work. Two-page spreads depicting, respectively, the remnants of a clear-cut forest and an abandoned drift net containing the carcasses of trapped sea animals are powerful. Chadwick's sympathies are evident, yet he gives the opposing viewpoint a fair hearing, and Concrete's ongoing skepticism helps keep the tale from preachiness, unlike, unfortunately, several ecologically oriented short pieces that round out the volume. Those are illustrated lectures, essentially, like the recent film An Inconvenient Truth. Gordon Flagg

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Being a celebrity has its benefits . . . and its costs. Due to his status as the world's most unusual travel writerbeing a thousand pounds of walking, talking rock will do that-Concrete is approached by a group of radical eco-warriors to see firsthand and write about their efforts to save old-growth forest. What begins as a lark soon turns into a harrowing struggle, and Concrete must decide whether to dispassionately observe or to join these people who would risk anything, even life itself, to save the planet. Called "the best comic being published by anyone, anywhere,"Paul Chadwick's critically acclaimed Concrete is at once rousing fantasy and grounded reality, as thought-provoking and challenging as it is entertaining. Think Like a Mountaincollects the 1996 Parents' Choice Award winning series along with bonus short stories, some collected here for the first time. This value priced volume collects Think Like a Mountain #1-6; short stories: "Like Disneyland, Only Toxic," "Stay Tuned for Pearl Harbor," "A Billion Conscious Decisions," "Objects of Value," "Steel Rain," various "A Sky of Heads" stories

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An imperfect classic.

By Xyon McKell

This trade collects Concrete: Think Like a Mountain issues #1-6 and numerous shorter stories from various anthology comics.

The main story here doesn't depend on previous events nor characters (except Concrete). The first four

volumes add a little depth but aren't prerequisites.

An extremist environmental group asks Concrete to help their protests against deforestation and to protect an ancient forest. He agrees only to travel with them and anonymously chronicle their struggle, but they hope to sway him into a more active role.

Think Like a Mountain is one of the most well-known and praised Concrete stories, and with good reason. It's researched in amazing detail, carefully plotted, and attempts an even handed presentation of both sides of the conflict. Both the loggers and the environmentalists have faults, and reasons behind their actions.

Where it falls apart a bit for me is that the story isn't nearly as objective or fair as it tries to be. The author has chosen a side, and it seeps into little details that bias the narrative. I'm not saying it was wrong to do so Chadwick has every right to put a message into his writing. But the lesson would have been even more persuasive if this had been as balanced as it appears and allowed the reader to draw their own conclusions and of using Concrete as an impartial guide all the way through. Instead one side's questionable actions are motivated by selflessness and righteousness, and the other's by fear and greed. And our "impartial" narrator eventually decides one side is justified in the lengths they are willing to go.

Again, Chadwick delivers a powerful, important message here none-the-less, but as is becoming a running theme with me and this comic I feel it had significantly more potential than was reached.

The short stories are the weakest I've read so far. Nothing bad but nothing that stands out either and the themes are getting repetitive.

The longer Concrete goes on the less interested I'm becoming with the direction it's taken. Still, for all my criticisms and laments about what could have been, the titular story is still an extremely strong look at an important world issue and well worth reading for yourself.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Chadwick's masterpiece

By Rosewater

This is the most well regarded (and well known) of the Concrete stories, even by Chadwick himself.

Think Like a Mountain has Concrete fall in with a group of Earth First! environmental activists in their attempt to save an old growth forest from logging. One of the strengths of this book is that Chadwick doesn't try to sway our opinions with common narrative tricks: the loggers aren't evil and the environmentalists aren't saints in the least. Chadwick wants to win us over with facts and facts alone. As always Concrete, the thinking man's superhero, approaches the problem with, well, lots of thought; specifically on whether we should leave things to the slow route of diplomacy or we should take matters into our own hands for something we think is right - even if it means breaking some laws.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Another Great Collection

By Shane White

Paul is flawless in his execution of the thought-provoking life of Concrete. He weaves his tale and makes you always think about the life you lead. The best stories are the ones that stay with you and cause you to think time and again.

This is no exception.

See all 6 customer reviews...

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