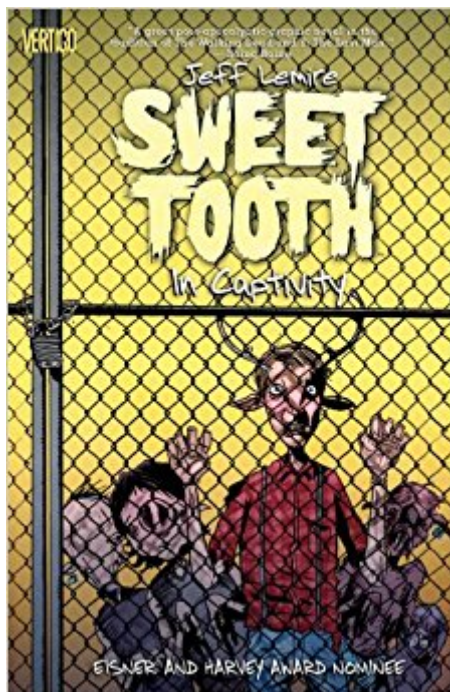


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# Sweet Tooth Vol. 2: In Captivity



## Synopsis

Following on the heels of *THE NOBODY*, his Vertigo graphic novel debut, writer/artist Jeff Lemire pens his very first ongoing series *SWEET TOOTH*. A cross between *Bambi* and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, *SWEET TOOTH* tells the story of Gus, a rare new breed of human/animal hybrid children, has been raised in isolation following an inexplicable pandemic that struck a decade earlier. Now, with the death of his father he's left to fend for himself . . . until he meets a hulking drifter named Jepperd who promises to help him. Jepperd and Gus set out on a post-apocalyptic journey into the devastated American landscape to find 'The Preserve' a refuge for hybrids. In this second volume, Lemire explores the heartbreaking story of Jeppard and how he went from a devoted husband to the ruthless mercenary he is now. Meanwhile, Gus is captured in a camp with other hybrid creatures where he meets Dr. Singh, a scientist studying the plague that's wiped out so much of the world. By traveling more into Gus' past, Singh will learn more about the plague, as well as clues at how some of it might relate to Gus and his father.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The second arc of Lemire's series continues to wear its influences (*The Road*, *The Stand*, *Mad Max*, *Y: The Last Man*) proudly on its flanneled sleeve, though Lemire's skillful storytelling ensures that nothing feels derivative. While boy-deer Gus gets poked, prodded, and hypnotized by people looking to understand the global pandemic that tore society to shreds and caused children to be born as human-animal hybrids, we learn a bit about what drove the brutish Jeppard to deliver the

boy to captivity. In Lemire's burly, chiseled artwork, a tiny tweak in Jepperd's steely glare speaks volumes, and the sweetness behind Gus's dazed expressions gets sharper by the page.

--Ian Chipman

Jeff Lemire is the creator of the acclaimed Essex County Trilogy, the Vertigo graphic novel *The Nobody*, and is the winner of a Xeric Award and YALSA Alex Award. He is currently the writer for DC Comics' *Animal Man*, *Frankenstein: Agent Of S.H.A.D.E.*, and Vertigo/DC's *Sweet Tooth*. He has also previously written the Eisner-nominated *Superboy*.

I was slightly unimpressed with the first volume of this comic, Lemire has a gift for strong character interaction--particularly with complicated family dynamics--and while the premise was wildly original, the beginning of "the road meets Bambi" was too literally implemented. The secondary character motivations were mostly unprovoked malice and seems too small of the kinds of character simplifications that ruin post-apocalyptic films and television (*AMC's Walking Dead* being a prime offender). This actually started to deliver more on the premise by removing the malice from many of the main actors and taking time with the backstory, even if there are still some cartoonish villains in the brew. Lemire's art still works here and the expressionistic art is maintained. Some of the panel designs are particularly innovative and some of the mystery is more firmly established. It takes its time with movement, which is nice as comics often rush development in a way that cheapens the characters. That said, I still feel that this isn't quite living up to its critical acclaim level yet. It's good. It's very good. Lemire is talented artist and writer, and both in one person is rare, and Vertigo is doing a good job of letting these characters breathe, which was rare in comics. Some of Lemire's superhero work seems to suffer from being forced to accelerate things. Those caveats aside, this volume, more than the first, let me truly see its promise

I love that right off its treated like a series or show where they do a "previously on" and recap the previous volume. I think the pace was pretty steady and we're learning a lot about the characters and what's happening in this new world. We pick up with Gus and Jepperd on their journey to "The Preserve." Jepperd promised to take Gus to this safe haven. It's supposed to be a sanctuary for Gus and other hybrids, but it isn't what it seems. Nothing is. What Gus learns is you can't always trust the ones you love... Heart ache, guilt, and determination are rolled into this packed volume. I totally feel for poor Gus and Jepperd with their losses and trying to cope. It's got to be hard. Jepperd struggling with internal issues which is reveal to be about his late wife, Louise, and Gus becomes

and experiment at "The Preserve". And that ending! Before starting I did NOT see that coming, but started to pick up on some hints and was like noooooo way! I'm really interested to see where this goes and how it all connects.

Lemire is arguably the greatest comic author and artist of his generation. The realistic "Essex County" is one of the greatest graphic novels of recent years, and he has jumped to a radically different genre with this disturbing and affecting post-apocalyptic story of desperation and mutation, with a simple and scared "freak" at the emotional center. This volume explains the motives of Tom Jepperd, who at the end of the last collection seemed to be a mercenary and a traitor. Like all of Lemire's characters, he goes much deeper than that. "Sweet Tooth" should be on any serious comic fan's reading list.

If you enjoyed the first book in this series, this second volume continues the unique and awesome story while moving it forward at a solid pace. Really not sure how much more needs to be explained beyond that, as Jeff Lemire keeps up the quality of work here.

Enjoying this story. Can't wait to see what is going to happen next. Will Jeppard be able to save Gus?

A great comic that keeps your attention from start to finish. I would suggest to start on volume 1 so you're not missing anything important. I read a lot of comics and this has to be one of my favorites.

Lemire is genius. He keeps every moment of this series pushing to the limit! You can't stop reading.

It is hard not to love Gus.

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