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# Cardboard



## **Synopsis**

When cardboard creatures come magically to life, a boy must save his town from disaster. Cam's down-and-out father gives him a cardboard box for his birthday and he knows it's the worst present ever. So to make the best of a bad situation, they bend the cardboard into a man-and to their astonishment, it comes magically to life. But the neighborhood bully, Marcus, warps the powerful cardboard into his own evil creations that threaten to destroy them all!

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (124 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

When I was a youngster, I loved to read! I spent most of the money I earned on books, you couldn't keep me out of the library until I had so many books, I created my own library at home. My daughter is 7 and despite the thousands of dollars I have probably spent on books, she doesn't seem to take a similar interest as I had at her age. Thankfully, "Cardboard" changed all that. I stumbled on this book; not sure what I was looking for at the time but Oh So Thankful I happened upon this gem. I looked over the preview of the book to ensure that it wouldn't be too advanced for her and I really enjoyed the story line of the struggling single father trying to make ends meet while providing the "extras" for his son. The graphics were really fun. My daughter has never read a comic book so to have this nearly 300 page book as her first was going to be interesting. Once I had ordered the book, I showed my daughter the preview on to ask her what she thought. Immediately, she took to it, wanting to "Look Inside" again and again. When the book arrived I received even greater confirmation that I had made a good purchase. My daughter was enthusiastic despite this being a book seemingly geared more towards boys. Now my daughter is more of a princess type then a

tomboy and she LOVED this book. I guarantee if I it weren't for me forcing her to call it a night and save some of the story for the next night, we probably would have read the entire book (all 270+ pages) in one night! I was worried that it might be too "scary" for her but she was fine with it; worried the words may be too advanced, she did very well in reading it.

As a teacher and as a geek parent, it's one of my jobs to find graphic novels that appeal to kids that are also readable and enjoyable for adults. It seems like that should be easy enough, but too many of the "adult" books indulge in over-the-top violence, sex, or language that we all use, but you wouldn't necessarily recommend to young readers. One of the more reliable authors and artists for "all ages" comics has been Doug TenNapel. Most famous for his creation "Earthworm Jim," I've also enjoyed three of his recent books, "Ghostopolis," "Bad Island," and now "Cardboard." Like the others, "Cardboard" features a young protagonist with a family in turmoil. Cam's dad is unemployed, and his mom died a few years ago. It's been a rough patch for his dad, who's so broke that Cam's birthday present is...a box. An empty cardboard box. Now, growing up, we had some lean times, and goodness knows I've had my fun with empty cardboard boxes...but this sucks. Cam makes the best of it, and he and his Awfully Handy dad build a boxer out of the box. Bill the Boxer, standing in the living room...until he comes to life. Seems that the cardboard that Dad bought from the odd man on the side of the road will bring to life whatever you build out of it. In this case, a boxer. Bill's friendly, and eager, and wants to become a "real man" like Cam and Dad. From this point the story expands. If you can build anything out of cardboard and have it become a living thing, what are the limits? They start by building smaller things with the scraps, but quickly run out of cardboard. They come up with an ingenious solution, one that puts them on the road to unlimited possibilities. If they're able to make anything, are there ethical constraints?

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