



## Seconds

*Bryan Lee O'Malley , Nathan Fairbairn (Colorist)*

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Katie's got it pretty good. She's a talented young chef, she runs a successful restaurant, and she has big plans to open an even better one. Then, all at once, progress on the new location bogs down, her charming ex-boyfriend pops up, her fling with another chef goes sour, and her best waitress gets badly hurt. And just like that, Katie's life goes from pretty good to not so much. What she needs is a second chance. Everybody deserves one, after all—but they don't come easy. Luckily for Katie, a mysterious girl appears in the middle of the night with simple instructions for a do-it-yourself do-over:

1. *Write your mistake*
2. *Ingest one mushroom*
3. *Go to sleep*
4. *Wake anew*

And just like that, all the bad stuff never happened, and Katie is given another chance to get things right. She's also got a dresser drawer full of magical mushrooms—and an irresistible urge to make her life not just good, but perfect. Too bad it's against the rules. But Katie doesn't care about the rules—and she's about to discover the unintended consequences of the best intentions.

From the mind and pen behind the acclaimed Scott Pilgrim series comes a madcap new tale of existential angst, everyday obstacles, young love, and ancient spirits that's sharp-witted and tenderhearted, whimsical and wise.

## Seconds Details

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Author : Bryan Lee O'Malley , Nathan Fairbairn (Colorist)

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## From Reader Review Seconds for online ebook

### Dylan Williams says

**WOAH!** The colouring and illustrations in this graphic novel are the most beautiful that I have ever read, and unlike most graphic novels where I struggle to form any real connection with the characters, in this everyone feels so real! The plot is really quite meaningful too and is *a lot* darker than you think it will be at the start... I loved it!

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### Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

Antes que nada: ¡gracias, novelas gráficas, por existir y sacarme de mis *reading slumps* ocasionales!

Seconds es una historia rarísima: Katie trabaja en un restaurante, pero su sueño es abrir uno propio, así que desde hace tiempo está trabajando en ello, aunque eso le ha costado muchísimo dinero, una que otra amistad e incluso su novio. Sin embargo, un día, Katie encontrará a una especie de espíritu que la guía hacia una libreta y una seta mágica, muy al estilo de Alicia en el País de las Maravillas. Cada que Katie escriba uno de sus errores en esa libreta y se coma una de las setas podrá resarcir uno de sus errores pasados... Pero lo que ella no sabe es que jugar con el tiempo, con el destino y con las grandes fuerzas mágicas no es algo que se deba tomar a la ligera.

Sí, la historia es tan enredada como suena. Con saltos temporales y líneas de historia que ni tú ni Katie entienden de dónde van saliendo, el libro se va desarrollando con una estética genial, diálogos sencillos y graciosos y un montón de rayadas mentales. Me gustó muchísimo la división de los capítulos en los que conocemos un poco más a cada personaje, especialmente los de Katie, por supuesto, Lis y Hazel. ¿Qué no me gustó? Que la única motivación de Katie para corregir todos sus errores fuera estar bien con Max... aunque quizás eso quiera dejarnos como enseñanza que hacer todo para recuperar a un chico al que claramente no le importamos nunca sale bien (?).

Pd: si alguien lo ha leído, ¿no les pareció que el árbol era muuuuy Yggdrasil?

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### Stu West says

This new self-contained story from Bryan Lee O'Malley swaps the geeky pyrotechnics of his SCOTT PILGRIM series for the more sedate story of Katie, a restaurateur who gains the ability to magically undo her own mistakes.

I really wanted to like this. It's a tremendously handsome volume, and the colouring is gorgeous. I just couldn't get past the one-dimensional and unengaging main character. That's not necessarily a deal-breaker: after all, Scott Pilgrim is also incredibly shallow and unsympathetic -- but he's part of an exciting story with a vibrant ensemble cast. SECONDS, by contrast, really is a single-hander; for me, none of the supporting cast here were developed much beyond turning up to make a bit of plot happen.

O'Malley is an immensely talented cartoonist and there were some amusing bits in the story, but I think there

will be a lot of pristine copies of SECONDS sitting on bookshelves next to increasingly dog-eared SCOTT PILGRIM volumes in the months and years to come.

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### **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

What could possibly go wrong with eating a random mushroom left for you with those instructions? Katie should have probably asked Alice about that . . .

Actually, in Katie's case the magic 'shroom simply gives her a chance at a "re-do." And boy could she use one in order to get the renovations on her dream restaurant back on track and stop just being the chef at Seconds. Unfortunately, when a waitress gets badly burned Katie uses her "do over" in order to prevent *that* from happening instead. Luckily for Katie she finds a treasure trove of these delicious little morsels growing under the floor. If changing **one** thing worked out fine then changing **everything** she doesn't like about her life should be great, right?

This was a pretty enjoyable way to spend my coffee time on Saturday morning. The story was interesting throughout, the "Revisions" were sometimes hilarious . . .

(I mean, who doesn't laugh at a good diarrhea scene, right?)

And I love O'Malley's art. You're either going to be a fan of his "cartoony" style or not and I'm a fan . . .

The only downside? All that restaurant talk made me a hungry hungry hippo. Mushroom risotto, mmmmmmmmm. It also made me think of all the times Brad Pitt eats in movies. That boy has got a purrrty mouth . . .

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### **Maxwell says**

This was a trip. I've never read anything by Bryan Lee O'Malley, but I **love** the *Scott Pilgrim* movie. And the humor in this was very similar. The artwork was adorable; it's like little chibi characters. And one of my favorite things was the interactions between Katie, the main character, and the third-person narrator of the story. It was fun to have her directly respond to the narration with snide remarks or contradictions. I also really enjoyed the use of slang and "like" and "literally," because it made it very relatable.

I appreciated how it presented a generally common theme, such as appreciating life for how it is instead of always trying to change things, and doing it in such a unique, trippy way. I mean, she literally eats mushrooms and has the ability to alter her reality...

Overall, this was a quick, really fun read. I'd heard high praise for it, and I can say that it definitely lives up to it.

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### **Ariel says**

**THIS BOOK IS SOLID GOLD.**

The illustrations? ADORABLE!  
The theme? Old but done relevantly!  
The story? Compelling!  
The characters? Loveable!  
Sequel? Doesn't exist but I want one so bad!

Everything about the story and characters had me flipping through this gorgeous graphic novel late into the night. The moment I finished it I wanted to start it again. <3

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### **Kate (GirlReading) says**

I loved this so much, it was the perfect balance of and utterly bizarre and utterly brilliant. It was funny, creepy, suspenseful, intense, adorable and impossible to put down (literally. I was reading it at 4am...) The artwork was gorgeous and the unique concept had me hooked from the first page until the last. I absolutely loved that it followed a cast of characters in their twenties and the fact that it centred around a restaurant was so much fun. It had a diverse cast of characters, all of which I instantly warmed too. I thought the occasional interactions between the narrator and Katie (the main character) were so much fun and so different from any graphic novel I've read. It was a blend of multiple genres and not at all what I was expecting, although I hadn't a clue what to expect going into it but I think that made it all the more intriguing? I had a huge amount of fun reading this and I'm certain it will be one I'll reread in the future.

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### **Victor Almeida says**

INCRÍVEL.

Eu estou apaixonado por esse quadrinho. Mais um pra lista. Sério, foi uma leitura perfeita pro momento. Amei os personagens, a história, a narrativa, tudo. Ele tem um senso de humor ótimo, que não impede a seriedade ou deixa bobinho. Também achei um quadrinho bem imersivo, os desenhos passam MUITA coisa, dentre elas, movimento e expressão.

Adorei a parte mágica da história; foi o toque perfeito. Achei bem criativo e diferente. A utilização desses elementos pra passar a mensagem (E QUE MENSAGEM) foi simplesmente a melhor escolha. Queria muito

mais dos personagens e de tudo isso. Cadê???

Muito bem desenvolvido, e com bastante sensibilidade (do jeito que o moço aqui gosta). <3

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### **Micah says**

Kinda shits the bed in end, its one of those books, but the two-hundred pages leading up to the reveal are nearly perfect. What struck me reading this was that the conversation about Seconds will always only ever be about its relationship with Scott Pilgrim and and not about the fact that this book does the thing all good YA\* does: it gets really fucked up, really fast.

When O'Malley wants it to get dark, it gets fucking *dark* .

People will talk about the time travel and the in-jokes, cute art style, char'cter 'ships, outfits. You know what people won't talk about? The desperation.

Seconds is a book about selfishness and desperation and, eventually, disorientation. The protagonist is one of those jovially oblivious adult-children who refuses to accept that their actions have consequences for anyone other than themselves. In the beginning O'Malley runs with that, gets mileage out of it, makes a joke of it and then strips it bare and calls it ugly.

Seconds is the Wake in Fright of josei time-travel comics.

Makes it kinda a shame when O'Malley throws away all that goodwill for a magical quick-fix and the type of moral gets delivered to you at the end of Disney Channel movies.

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*\*feels like YA, looks like YA, Bryan Lee O'Malley has never really shown any inclination to do anything other than manga influenced YA deconstructions, imma call it...*

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### **Jesse (JesseTheReader) says**

This was so great! One of the best graphic novels I've read. I wasn't expecting the dark turn it took there towards the end. I would definitely recommend this for those who are wanting to get into graphic novels.

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### **Nat says**

This follows Katie, a talented young chef. She runs a successful restaurant, and has big plans to open an even better one.

This review contains **\*spoilers\***.

Then, all at once, progress on the new location bogs down, her charming ex-boyfriend pops up, her fling with another chef goes sour, and her best waitress (Hazel) gets badly hurt. And just like that, Katie's life goes from pretty good to not so much. What she needs is a second chance.

Katie has been given a second chance. And it seems like she was the only one who knew.

Also, can I just comment on how utterly beautiful the colors and art style were in this graphic novel? It blew me away,

Also also, I really loved how the narrator and Katie “interacted”:

But Katie soon discovers that taking the mushrooms comes with a price. In this case, a house spirit.

If the house spirit (Lis) stops being happy, it will make your life a living hell.  
But if you make things good for her, she will make things good for you.

And Hazel's character arc and connection to Lis was incredibly intriguing.

Overall, I was thoroughly impressed with this poignant story. And the humor did not disappoint even one bit.

Some of my favorite bits:

(I was 100% the same while binge-watching Breaking Bad a couple of years back.)

(And look at this beauty!! the colors and art and ahhh it's just so good.)

*\*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Seconds**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!\**

### **April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

One of the most original graphic novels I've ever read!

Around the Year in 52 Books Challenge Notes:

- 10. A book you feel you should've read by now

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### **Calista says**

Fantastic. I love this story. It is about Katie and her restaurant. She is a chef. The story is a foodie story. It's also about mushrooms and I love mushrooms. Yum. There is a house spirit, which I think is the twist that I really love. There is other dimensions and witches and all kinds of cool things. There is a love story and there is snow! I mean this has everything. I think it's set in London, could be wrong about that, but it seems British.

There is a notebook and if you write: 1 Your mistake, 2 Ingest one mushroom, 3 Go to sleep, 4 Wake anew, you can correct a mistake you made in life. Sounds great right? It creates a great story.

I am a fan of the art and I loved Katie as an imperfect character. Her restaurant 'Seconds' sounds so good and I would love to eat the food. I'm so glad I read this. This is by the guy who did Scott Pilgrim. Of course it's good.

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### **Kat O'Keeffe says**

Hilarious and charming and relatable! I absolutely LOVED the art style and the humor--it's a beautiful book that had me laughing out loud throughout. The dynamic between the narrator and the main character was something I'd never seen before, but it thought it was brilliant! There were some aspects of the plot/worldbuilding that weren't fully developed, but if you can just go along with it, this is pretty close to perfect. Great art, great story, great characters, great humor.

So, to recap: THIS WAS GREAT. If you need a graphic novel recommendation, THIS. READ THIS. I haven't read anything else by Bryan Lee O'Malley yet, but I will definitely be checking out the Scott Pilgrim series ASAP.

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### **Diane says**

This graphic novel is just *cool*.

It's the story of Katie, a chef who wants to open her own restaurant, and she also wishes she could get back

with her ex-boyfriend, Max. Katie lives in an apartment above a restaurant named Seconds, and one night she meets Lis, the spirit of the house. Katie finds some mushrooms and a notebook in an old dresser, and by writing down a mistake and eating the mushroom, the past will be changed.

Katie quickly gets addicted trying to fix all of her mistakes, and each revision changes the universe. First she tries to prevent an accident in the kitchen that injured her friend, Hazel. Then she goes farther back in time and totally changes her relationship with Max, a decision that has serious consequences.

But Katie can't stop trying to change things and make her life "perfect." Each morning she wakes up, she isn't sure exactly how the world will be different, and her life has changed so dramatically that she doesn't remember whole parts of it anymore, because they never really happened.

And by constantly changing the universe, Katie has angered the house spirit, and she accidentally created a monster. In the end, after multiple lives and some scary situations, Katie finally stops fighting herself and accepts things as they are.

"Listen: This is what I've learned. There are things we can't change, and we just have to accept that. And maybe that's some kind of grace."

The book was written by Bryan Lee O'Malley, author of the popular Scott Pilgrim series, and I picked it up because I had also enjoyed that graphic novel. The artwork is beautiful and I really liked the story. It's a good reminder that even though we wish we could change our past, actually doing so would have unintended consequences. Maybe we should just accept our mistakes as part of life, and move on.

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### **Nick says**

*I thought this would be si-fi-ish kind of novel, but anyway it was awesome. One of the best graphic novels I have read in a while.*

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### **Raeleen Lemay says**

Amazing. This was a fun, hilarious, and at times very dark graphic novel. I'll read anything Bryan Lee O'Malley writes!

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### **Sarah Churchill says**

Fun, funny, but also dark. Katie messes with things she doesn't understand and ends up whizzing through different realities, making her realise what really matters and other such deep messages.

Katie's one of those characters that I both like and dislike, but she did make me laugh. Her little banter with

the narrator (herself?) was fun, breaking down the fourth wall a little.

I like the artwork, but what I liked more was the PRESENTATION of the artwork. Switching between standard cell work or full page illustrations to a top-down floorplan view... it felt like a nice mix that made it fun to read.

At over 300 pages there's a lot to this graphic novel, and it's a beautiful thing to have on my shelf.

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### **Carlos De Eguiluz says**

Así que esta es básicamente la historia de Katie, una chica —no tan chica— que abrió junto con sus amigos un restaurante llamado "Seconds", que mas temprano que tarde obtuvo popularidad; y en el lapso, vio muchas cosas pasar. El tiempo ha transcurrido y Katie lo que quiere es abrir un nuevo restaurante, uno que le pertenezca y la aleje de aquello que ocurrió en el anterior. En una serie de eventos que involucran a un adorable espíritu, Katie se ve envuelta en un misterio que le permitirá cambiar su presente.

Graciosa y encantadora. Bryan lo hizo de nuevo; con personajes bien formados, y adorables ilustraciones, Seconds, atrapa desde el comienzo, y no te permite soltarlo hasta que lo hayas finalizado.

No podía evitar pensar en Scott y Ramona cada vez que veía a Katie. Estoy bastante contento con el resultado.

**"This is what I've learned. There are things we can't change, and we just have to accept that. And maybe that's some kind of grace."**

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### **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

Katie is a chef that is doing well. She has built a reputation as a great cook and is opening her own restaurant. One night her ex comes into the restaurant and then her best waitress gets horribly burned. Then that night she finds a box in her dresser left by the house elf.

BAM! Instant redo.

The thing is Katie keeps wanting to change things. Why not have that instant redo. So easy..Just write it in the book and have a mushroom.

Lis the house elf is not happy with Katie. Only one redo was allowed. Katie begins to get very greedy with those little easy mushrooms.

This book is a decent little tale of working for what you want instead of just wishing for magic. It's not my favorite book but definitely not the worst ever.

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