Tales from the Farm

By Jeff Lemire

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Essex County Vol 1: Tales from the Farm
Author: Jeff Lemire
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Xeric Award-winning cartoonist Jeff Lemire (Ghost Dog) brings a lonely Ontario farm brilliantly to life in this wonderful graphic novel.

Lester, a young orphan is living on this vast and lonely place with his Uncle Ken, a bachelor who clearly has no idea what to do with the boy. Lester continually wears a cape and mask and wanders the farm imagining that he is watching for aliens. His uncle doesn't understand him but desperately wants to build some kind of relationship with him. He invites him to watch hockey games on television, but Lester avoids it and sits in his room along watching the same game. It's heartbreaking.

One day Lester runs into Jimmy Lebeuf, gas station attendant and damaged ex-hockey star. Jimmy doesn't think Lester is strange for wearing his cape and mask and he completely believes in the possibility of an imminent alien invasion. The two bond and slowly Lester starts to come to life. Uncle Ken finds out and is clearly upset at the two's connection. Flashbacks to Lester's mother dying of cancer give the story added depth and insight into Lester's and Jimmy's connection.

Tales from the Farm is illustrated in sparse, blocky yet amazingly detailed drawings that are imbued with so much emotion and a spare, raw beauty. Each page is a delight and so much is conveyed without words. The strain and miscommunication between Lester and Uncle Ken is written on their faces as clearly as if a whole chapter had been written in text. It's beautiful and so well done.

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Tales from the Farm is the first volume in a trilogy of graphic novels set in a fictionalized version of Lemire's hometown of Essex County, Ontario. ...more. Get A Copy. Amazon.Â I say holding Tales from the Farm in your hands is like holding magic and storytelling grace. I am very proud that this is a Canadian story and I hope Tales from the Farm finds its way to lovers of literature everywhere. Great news! Top Shelf has released an omnibus edition of Jeff Lemireâ€™s trilogy titled Jeff Lemireâ€™s Essex County. ...more. flag 1 like Â· Like Â· see review. Mar 12, 2013 Kai rated it really liked it. Tales from the Farm was interesting, and enjoyable because it was simple. It really did give meaning and was a sad story.