

BARTON

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Dare to Know

Coming-of-Age Comics

Comics depicting the development of a character from youth to adulthood.

A genre which depicts a protagonist's psychological, emotional, and moral growth from lost youth to mature adult. Plots focus on the trials and misfortunes that influence the characters' maturation, as they experience emotional changes, overcome obstacles, and come to understand the world. These character-focused stories explore serious themes, typically over the course of several years. Readers can relate to the protagonist's struggles and successes, as the plot emphasizes dialogue or internal monologue over action, providing insights into the character's thoughts and emotions.

Common Elements

Emotional loss
Physical or metaphorical journey
Conflict
Self-discovery

Friendship
Personal growth
Maturity
Challenges
Beliefs and values

Limitations
Wicked authority figure
Orphans
Misfit
Unrequited love

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>Am I There Yet?: The Loop-de-Loop, Zigzagging Journey to Adulthood</i> (2018) by Mari Andrew
<i>Basil and Oregano</i> (2023) by Melissa Capriglione
<i>Big Ethel Energy</i> (2022) by Keryl Brown Ahmed
<i>Bloom</i> (2013) by Kevin Panetta and Savanna Ganucheau
<i>The Crows</i> (2022) by Anders Fager and Peter Bergting
<i>Four Sisters Volume 2: Hortense</i> (2019) by Cati Baur
<i>Girl on Fire</i> (2022) by Alicia Keys, Andrew Weiner, and Brittney Williams

<i>Jane</i> (2017) by Aline McKenna and Ramon K. Perez
<i>The Kampung Boy</i> (1970) by Lat
<i>Merry-Go-Round</i> (2023) by Sergio Rossi
<i>Nayra and the Djinn</i> (2023) by Iasmin Omar Ata
<i>One Year at Ellsmere</i> (2020) by Faith Erin Hicks
<i>She's Josie</i> (2021) by Frank Doyle
<i>Summer Fires</i> (2022) by Giulia Sagramota
<i>Sunburn</i> (2022) by Andi Watson and Simon Gane
<i>This One Summer</i> (2014) by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki