



Microcosm Publishing  
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# My Brain Hurts, Vol. 1

by Liz Baillie



**SUBJECT CATEGORY:** Graffiti Novel, Queer

**RELEASE:** 2/1/8

**PRICE:** Retail: \$6 | Direct: \$5 | Wholesale: \$3.60

**ISBN:** 978-1-934620-03-8

**FORMAT:** paperback, 5.5" x 8.5", 128 pgs, illustrated

## MARKETING NOTES:

Self-published zines have sold over 4,000 copies

- Book is featured on 15,000 postcards distributed to stores and individuals

- Book is advertised regularly in *Maximum RocknRoll*, *Give Me Back*, *Slug & Lettuce*, *Razorcake*, and *Reader's Guide to the Underground Press* magazines

- Diamond Comics Dateline Campaign as well as 400 store insertions

## COMPARATIVE TITLES:

*Annie on My Mind*, Nancy Garden, 272 pages, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, February 20, 2007, ISBN 978-0374400118, \$8

*The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities*, David Levithan, 288 pages, Knopf Books, May 9, 2006, ISBN 978-0375832901, \$9.95

*Potential*, Ariel Schrag, 224 pages, SLG Publishing, February 4, 2000,

*GLBTQ: Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens*, Kelly Huegel, 256 pages, Free Spirit Publishing, June 2003, ISBN 978-1575421261, \$15.95

*My Brain Hurts, Vol. I.* collects the first five issues of cartoonist Liz Baillie's celebrated zine of the same name. Based around Baillie's vibrant and deceptively intricate hand-drawings, we follow the story of a set of queer teenage punks growing up in rough and tumble New York City. From the perils of coming out to your parents to the horrors of homophobic violence, Baillie captures the anguish of being different, all the slings and arrows revealed and sharply rendered. But it's not all trouble-times here, Baillie also shows the other side—the fun, the parties, all the loud music and unruly pranks and antics. She may depict high school as a war-zone, but the camaraderie of the displaced is not ignored.

Through hard times and punk rock shows, Baillie's characters bounce between the good and bad, showing what it's like to be young and marginalized and, above all, truly alive in America.

"At its best, *My Brain Hurts* serves as a graphic counterpart to some of the best punk fiction, exploring the emotional depth of 'zines like *Cometbus* and *Burn Collector*." - Brian Heater, *The Daily Cross Hatch*

"Baillie's become more adventurous as an artist as the series has proceeded, and the interesting choices she's made have deepened the book's emotional impact." Rob Clough, *Sequart.com*

"Most comic books leave me a little dissatisfied—it just seems that in five minutes, you've read it all. However, as far as comics go, this one has a good storyline going on (queer punk kids in NYC) and a decent graphic style (it also came in an elaborately decorated envelope that made me miss the days of pen pals). I'm looking forward to future issues." - *Maximum Rock N Roll*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Liz Baillie's** work has been included in several zines and anthologies, including *Other Magazine*, *MAULED!*, and a number of projects for Fall of Autumn. She calls Brooklyn home, where she lives with her husband Zane and their dog Ginger.



## ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:

**Microcosm Publishing** is an independent publisher and distributor based in Portland, OR and Bloomington, IN. Our titles attempt to teach self empowerment to disenfranchised people and to nurture their creative side.

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