

Welcome to Marwencol

Mark E. Hogancamp, Chris Shellen
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Mark E. Hogancamp, Chris Shellen : Welcome to Marwencol before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Welcome to Marwencol:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. beautiful and disturbingBy Frog MeisterI have to start by letting you know that this is the first book I have ever reviewed. That, in itself, should say a lot. After hearing about Mark and the world that he has created (Marwencol) on an NPR story, I had to order the book. I received it yesterday, started it this evening and finished it within hours. The world Mark has created is beyond remarkable. And, his ability to capture this world in snapshots is astounding, beautiful and disturbing. The pictures alone could carry the publication. However, the authors have taken Mark's photos to the next level by giving us insight into Mark's life and the traumatic experiences that led him to create Marwencol. I can not say that this book is for everyone, but it was certainly for me.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. wonderful and inspiringBy LisaThis book is so inspiring, Mark is

inspiring. It's about following your heart and moving forward and being true to yourself. I remember taking pictures of my action figures and becoming attached to them as though they were something more. My pictures never could really capture that, " something more" but Mark's do. His pictures, setups and stories are so amazing. His pictures were validating. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book, well told story, compelling read. By Jess L. This is a beautifully made book that tells an amazing and compelling story. I highly recommend both this book and the documentary made about Mark.

In April 2000, Mark Hogancamp was beaten and left for dead outside a bar in his hometown of Kingston, NY. Waking from a nine-day coma, he had no memory of the thirty-eight prior years of his life, including his ex-wife, family, artistic talents, or military service. To reconstruct his past, Hogancamp built, in his backyard, Marwencol, an imaginary village set in World War II Belgium, where everybody is welcome Germans, Americans, French, British, and Russians as long as peace is kept. With 1:6 scale action figures and Barbie dolls, as well as toy armaments and meticulously built props, buildings, and clothes, Marwencol is an alternate reality, created with painstaking (and sometimes painful) realism and obsessive attention to detail. Here, riveting wartime dramas are played out and photographed in saturated hues and unflinching detail. The emotional narrative mirrors the artist's own: through Marwencol, Hogancamp regained his cognitive facilities. Welcome to Marwencol is an astonishing story of the redemptive power of art of art as therapy and act of obsession.

"No side of humanity is ignored, no detail too small." -Omnivoracious" With Nazi figurines, miniature G.I. heroes, and Barbie dolls, Hogancamp and his alter ego-a toy soldier named "Hogie"-have managed to transform the trauma of a violent attack into an ingeniously rendered alternate reality brimming with drama, romance, and adventure." - Wired.com" This book, which interleaves striking reproductions of Hogancamp's art with his tragic story and the richly imagined narrative of his fictional town, is fascinating on many levels. While his history is compelling (the beating was prompted by his revelation of cross-dressing), his work is also art in its own right: painstakingly created (the models are rigorously aged for authenticity) and carefully composed pictures that, at a glance, might be mistaken for actual WWII scenes.. Truly remarkable." - Booklist starred review" Obsessive, unsettling, his work caught the art world's eye, was the subject of a 2010 documentary, and is now this fascinating, moving book." -Chronogram About the Author Mark Hogancamp and Marwencol have been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Psychology Today, Huffington Post, Denver Post, Oakland Tribune, Austin Chronicle, and dozens of other magazines and newspapers, making this a truly national story about the restorative effects of art.