

Brian Fies

Writer, Cartoonist

Bibliography

Mom's Cancer (webcomic): 2003–2005

Mom's Cancer (hardcover, Abrams): 2006

- *Mutter hat Krebs* (German, Kneseback): 2006
- *Le Cancer de Maman* (French, Ca et La): 2007
- *Mom's Cancer* (Italian, Double Shot): 2007
- *Mom's Cancer* (Japanese): 2018

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow? (hardcover, Abrams): 2009

- *Und Wir Träumten von der Zukunft* (German, Kneseback): 2010
- *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* (softcover, Abrams): 2012
- *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* (Scholastic edition): 2013

The Adventures of Old Time-Traveling Brian (self-published limited-edition zine): 2012

The Last Mechanical Monster (webcomic): 2013–2015

- Distributed on Andrews McMeel Universal's GoComics.com, 2017

“Alter Ego,” *Raconteur No. 5* (mini-comic anthology): 2014

“Solstice,” *Raconteur No. 6* (mini-comic anthology): 2015

“A Fire Story” (webcomic): 2017

Personal

Lives in northern California.

He and his wife Karen have two grown daughters.

Graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a physics major and English minor.

In addition to making comics, has worked as a newspaper reporter, environmental chemist, freelance writer, and science writer.

Recognition and Awards

***Mom's Cancer* (webcomic, 2003–2005)**

- Eisner Award, Best Digital Comic

***Mom's Cancer* (hardcover, Abrams, 2006)**

- Harvey Award, Best New Talent
- Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis (German Youth Literature Prize), non-fiction
- Lulu Blooker Prize, Best Comic

Nominations:

- Eisner Award, Best Reality-Based Work
- Eisner Award, Best Graphic Album–Reprint
- Harvey Award, Best Artist
- Harvey Award, Best Single Issue or Story
- Cybil (Children's and Young Adult Bloggers Literary) Award
- American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults Award
- Quill Book Award, Best Graphic Novel

Published in English, German, French and Italian

***Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* (hardcover, Abrams, 2009; softcover, Abrams, 2012)**

- American Astronautical Society's Eugene M. Emme Award for Best Astronautical Literature for Young Adults

Nominations:

- Eisner Award, Best Publication Design (with designer Neil Egan)
- Eisner Award, Best Lettering
- Harvey Award, Best Artist
- Harvey Award, Best Letterer
- Harvey Award, Best Colorist

- Harvey Award, Best Original Graphic Album
- Harvey Award, Best Single Issue or Story

Chosen for the Texas Library Association's Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List

Published in English and German

The Last Mechanical Monster (webcomic, 2013–2015)

Nomination:

- Eisner Award, Best Digital/Webcomic (2014 and 2015)

A Fire Story (webcomic, 2017)

- Finalist for the 2018 Cartoonist Studio Prize

Museum and Gallery Exhibitions

Great Neck Arts Center, Great Neck, N.Y., 2006

Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art (MoCCA), New York City, N.Y., 2007

Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Mass., 2007

Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, 2009

James A. Michener Museum, Doylestown, Penn., 2010

Charles M. Schulz Museum, Santa Rosa, Calif., 2010

Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, Mass., 2011

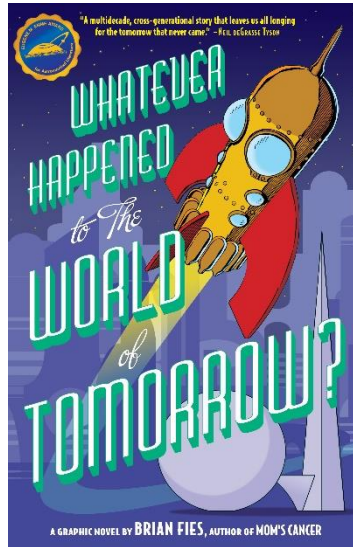
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, New York, 2012

National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland (traveling exhibition), 2018

California College of Arts, 2018

ABRAMS
THE ART OF BOOKS SINCE 1949

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?
By Brian Fies



Now in Paperback!

“A multidecade, cross-generational story that leaves us all longing for the tomorrow that never came.”

-Neil deGrasse Tyson, American Astrophysicist, Director of the Hayden Planetarium, Author of *Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier*

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow? People *believed* in it for a long time. Then they gave up on it for a long time. And then, gradually, without even necessarily meaning to...*they built it.*

Now in a wonderful new format, ***Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?*** tells the touching and fantastical story of a boy's relationship with his father. Spanning the period from the 1939 World's Fair to the last Apollo space mission in 1975, it depicts an optimistic and ambitious era fueled by industry, engines, electricity, rockets, middle-class pop culture, and the atom bomb.

Award-winning author Brian Fies presents his story—an insightful look at relationships and the promise of the future—in a way that only comics and graphic novels can. A lively trip through a half century of technological evolution, *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* is also a perceptive look at the changing moods of our nation—and the enduring promise of the future.

About the Author:

Brian Fies is a writer and cartoonist whose widely acclaimed first graphic novel, *Mom's Cancer*, won the Eisner Award for Best Digital Comic (the first web comic to win the award in this new category), the Lulu Booker Prize for Best Comic, the Harvey Award for Best New Talent, and the German Children's Literature Award, among other awards and recognition. He lives in Santa Rosa, California.

About the Book:

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?

By Brian Fies

Abrams ComicArts

US \$14.95; CAN \$16.95

August 2012

208 pages

200 full color illustrations

Paperback with flaps

ISBN: 978-1-4197-0441-3

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?

By Brian Fies

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow? [Abrams ComicArts; June 2009; Hardcover with die-cut jacket; 208 pages; over 200 full-color illustrations; \$24.95 U.S.; \$27.50 CAN.] is a vibrant new graphic novel by **Brian Fies** and the long-awaited follow-up to his award-winning debut *Mom's Cancer* (Abrams, 2006).

Spanning the period from the 1939 New York World's Fair to the last Apollo space mission in 1975, *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* is told through the eyes of a boy as he grows up in an era that was optimistic and ambitious, fueled by industry, engines, electricity, rockets, and the atom bomb. The book also offers an insightful look at a relationship between a son and his father, and the promise of the future, told with the engaging and deeply personal style that is unique to comics art.

Interspersed with the comic book adventures of Commander Cap Crater (created by Fies to mirror the styles of the comics and the time periods he is depicting), and mixing art and historical photographs, this groundbreaking graphic novel is a lively trip through a half century of technological evolution. It is also a perceptive look at the changing moods of our nation—and the enduring promise of the future.

About the Author:

Brian Fies is a writer and cartoonist whose widely acclaimed first graphic novel, *Mom's Cancer* (Abrams 2006), won the 2005 Eisner Award for Best Digital Comic (the first webcomic to win the award in this new category), the 2007 Lulu Blooker Prize for Best Comic, the 2007 Harvey Award for Best New Talent, and the 2007 German Youth Literature Prize, among other awards and recognition. His second book, *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* (Abrams 2009), was nominated for several Eisner and Harvey Awards, and won the American Astronautical Society's 2009 Eugene M. Emme Award for Best Astronautical Literature for Young Adults. He and his wife Karen live in northern California.

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?

By Brian Fies

Abrams ComicArts; US \$24.95; CAN \$27.50

Pub Date: June 2009

208 pages

200 full color illustrations

ISBN: 978-0-8109-9636-6

Powerful Graphic Novel Provides an Honest and Unflinching Look at One Family's Struggle with Serious Illness

Mom's Cancer
By Brian Fies

"Fies is gentle but honest in telling his story. The clean, simple comic-strip quality of Fies's art fits the story perfectly, highlighting the gravity of the situation while cutting away undue sentimentality. Mom's Cancer is a quiet, courageous account of one family's response to a universal situation."

-- Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Winner of the 2005 Eisner Award for Best Digital Comic, Abrams Image is proud to publish *Mom's Cancer* as a graphic novel. An honest, emotional, and sometimes humorous look at the practical and emotional effect that cancer can have on patients and their families, Brian Fies' wholly original work is a story of hope – uniquely told in words and illustrations.

Mom's Cancer is the true story of a woman's battle with Stage IV metastatic lung cancer told through the cartoons written and drawn by her son. Covering two years in the life of the author, his mother, his two sisters, and his stepfather, in sequences that range from incisive one-page observations to more extended narratives that cover several pages. The challenges of diagnosis, information overload, impersonal medical care, and the conflicts that arise among family members as a health crisis reveals their strengths and weaknesses are all portrayed with keen observation, understanding, and sympathy.

Originally conceived as an emotional outlet for Fies, *Mom's Cancer* was originally posted in installments on the Internet. News of the site quickly spread by word of mouth and eager readers regularly returned to learn of the latest developments in his family's struggle. The story soon garnered widespread praise by reviewers, bloggers, and healthcare professionals who found its perspective deeply moving and enlightening. In fact after reading this powerful story, those going through similar situations are overwhelmingly relieved to discover they were not alone.

About the Author:

Brian Fies is a writer and cartoonist who lives in northern California with his wife, twin teenage daughters, and three cats. *Mom's Cancer* is his first graphic novel.

Mom's Cancer

By Brian Fies

Abrams; US \$14.95; CAN \$16.95; UK £7.99

Pub Date: April 1, 2006

Hardcover; ISBN 978-0-8109-7107-3

128 Pages; 112 Black & White and Color Illustrations

Reviews

Mom's Cancer

“*Mom's Cancer* similarly accomplishes something that is almost impossible to do with pure text . . . These powerful images illustrate the patient's and family member's experience in a way that standard clinical reportage could never achieve with such economy.”

—Dr. Michael Green and Kimberly Myers, *British Medical Journal*

“A new book took up residence in my medical humanities personal mini-library this week: *Mom's Cancer* by Brian Fies. This is no ordinary pathography. It is a series of beautifully drawn, witty and poignant cartoons that tell the story, not only of Fies's mom's cancer, but also the effects that her illness has on him and his sisters. . . . The volume is exquisitely produced with a cloth binding, tactile cover, and color printing throughout on high-grade paper, in spite of most of the graphics being grayscale. . . . The production does justice to the quality of the content.

“Fies is an outstanding artist and writer, but what makes the narrative so effective is Fies's ability to conceptualize aspects of his topic in thought-provoking, allegorical visual vignettes. . . . *Mom's Cancer* is an inspirational work of great love and care. In spite of its serious subject matter, this is not a pathos-saturated book. Fies's ability to universalize his particular and personal situation affords an authentic, original insight into the realities of coping with serious illness.”

—Giskin Day, Imperial College London

“Don't let the title put you off: collecting the Eisner Award-winning Web comic of the same name, this story is more about how a life-altering event affects an entire family than another Lifetime disease-of-the-week story. . . . Fies is gentle but honest in telling his story. He refrains from painting his mother as a saint, depicting her instead as someone getting through a horrible situation by refusing to acknowledge just how bad it is. Nor does he shy away from the more complicated emotions his mother's health generates, including a sometimes heated rivalry with his two sisters. . . . The clean, simple comic-strip quality of Fies's art fits the story perfectly, highlighting the gravity of the situation while cutting away undue sentimentality. *Mom's Cancer* is a quiet, courageous account of one family's response to a universal situation.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Fies's excellent graphic novel, which started as a weekly webcomic, describes his mother's cancer treatment with neither sentiment nor hysterics, and the effect is quietly devastating. . . . What may earn this book a spot in oncology offices, self-help groups and, probably, medical school curricula, is how carefully Fies tells the truth about what happens to people. *Mom's Cancer* doesn't soften any blows. It gives us a woman getting through the most horrible episode of her life. She could easily be one of us.”

—Laurel Maury, *Los Angeles Times*

“The graphic novel remains an unusual medium for a story about a devastating disease. Still, *Mom’s Cancer* works on several levels. The stark black-and-white drawings, with the occasional burst of color, convey the drama of a family battling the fear and uncertainty of cancer treatment, and the illustrations help explain technical matters ... that might make readers’ eyes glaze over in traditional text-only format.”

—Laura Landro, *Wall Street Journal*

“With insight, compassion, and honesty, Fies captures important moments of the ordeal, delves into some remarkable family history, and tells a story of heartbreak and hope with depth and universality. His black-and-white cartooning is simple but sophisticated, starkly depicting the awful pain that Mom undergoes; the result, when combined with his sparing use of color and his exploration of metaphor and memory, creates images that would never be as effective or memorable in text alone. . . . Highly recommended.”

—Steve Raiteri, *The Library Journal*

“Using simple language, classically cartoony images, and not a hint of sugarcoating, Brian Fies’ graphic novel—first published as a webcomic—chronicles his colorful mother’s long struggle with lung cancer. It’s both an involving look at one woman’s battle with disease and a useful guide for what someone undergoing treatment for cancer can expect, both physically and mentally.”

—“That’s Cancertainment,” *The Onion*

“Brian Fies gives us the day-to-day scenes of a talented and interesting family knocked sideways. With the diagnosis of a tumor in their mother’s brain and then the discovery of cancer in her lungs, Fies’s family finds itself under siege. The allusion to battle here is apt, as Fies and his two sisters put their lives on hold to rally around their mother, calling on whatever resources they have to save her even as they drive each other crazy at times. . . . Fies’s intentions with these strips were humble. As he writes in the preface, he simply told his story in hope that others may somehow benefit from it. But *Mom’s Cancer* is more than a consoling hug. It’s a collection of brief dispatches from a quiet war being waged on fronts found on just about any block.”

—Oscar Villalon, *The California Report*, KQED Radio

“Fies uses abrupt shifts in style and focus: He imagines his family as warring superheroes or Mom as a game of Operation with the instructions, “Chemotherapy: repeat until better or dead.” ... Wry and poignant, *Mom’s Cancer* expresses the schizophrenic reality of dealing with a serious illness.”

—Hannah Tucker, *Entertainment Weekly*

“The book’s title is so blunt it’s likely to chase many would-be readers away. *Mom’s Cancer* is Brian Fies’s graphic-novel rendition of the storm that tore through his family when his mother was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer. . . . Many readers won’t be able to get past the title, and even if the book rings true, it’s not exactly a cheery gift—although it should become

required reading in medical schools. But those who do pick it up will find it a brave and honest tale. Meeting “Mom” and her family will help you appreciate and understand your own.”

—Gael Fashingbauer Cooper, MSNBC.com

“Sure, the name is off-putting, but *Mom’s Cancer* does everything it can to ease readers into its difficult subject. Creator Brian Fies began it as an online comic addressing his mother’s lung cancer, and he writes and draws in a newspaper-comics-friendly style that’s inviting to look at and easy to read, but does nothing to soft-sell his family’s difficulties. He began it not knowing how it would end, but in collected form, it coheres nicely into a moving story about saying “no” to death even when the odds appear impossible.”

—The A.V. Club, *The Onion*

“The pairing of light-hearted medium and troubling subject matter works surprisingly well: Fies’s sweet-faced characters are brave but a bit bewildered by their medical adventures, and they find that cancer treatment, like cartooning, can contain heroic efforts and absurd comedy. . . . It’s frustrating to be reminded that the frontiers of medicine are domains of partial solutions and best efforts. What *Mom’s Cancer* shows us is that when we’re traveling through that cartoon wilderness, our attitudes—and our traveling companions—sometimes mean as much to our spirits as the medicine.”

—Mark Bradshaw, Watermark Books

“Brian has a delightful cartoon style you will warm up to instantly. His scripting and sense of humor makes it readable from first to last. Regardless of how the story may end, it is a story of hope. Another person may have been resigned to her fate and that would have been a different journey. This one is about a choice to fight and not give up. It is uplifting to see these people not give in to despair. I hesitate to say how it ends, though there are really two endings. I will say I teared up reading the afterword. Anything that affects you emotionally like that is well worth your time and money. This one’s a keeper.”

—David LeBlanc, Comic Book Network Electronic Magazine

“With a preface by Fies and an afterword by his mother, this graphic novel proves touching and endearing. It’s little surprise, given its content and art, that *Mom’s Cancer* was the recipient of an Eisner Award. Anyone can find something redeeming or worthwhile within this book.”

—Lance Victor Eaton, BookLoons.com

“*Mom’s Cancer* is a cartoon that is every person’s story of cancer, whether you have experienced it yet or someone important to you has. The diagnosis, the fear, the confusion, the delays, conflicts, scans, chemotherapy, radiation, and delusions; the twisted situations with friends, family, doctors, your fate and your hope. Every moment in this precious little volume is the cancer experience. Whether you’ve lived this piece of life or not yet, you most certainly will sometime. It is brilliant. The best piece of animated writing since *Maus*. You will not put it down until you finish it. And it will make you cry (at least once). Believe me.”

—Dr. Philip Berman, RedToeNail.org

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?

Having published an autobiographic novel about his mother—2005's moving *Mom's Cancer*—Brian Fies now delivers an equally nuanced tale about fathers and sons. Beginning with the 1939 New York World's Fair . . . and ending with the final Apollo space mission in 1975, Fies juxtaposes an evolving parent-child relationship—as filtered through our complex cultural feelings about science and technology—with marvelous faux-pulp, Benday-dotted renditions of four decades' worth of "Space Age Adventures," featuring Commander Cap Crater and the Cosmic Kid. Fies neatly nails each era's look—from Siegel & Shuster to Buscema—and the Cosmic Kid's departure from Cap Crater's orbit is no less moving than the son's inevitable independence from his father in a hopelessly optimistic moon-age daydream.

Richard Gehr, *The Village Voice*

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow is Brian Fies' reaction to the oft-quoted cry of "where's my flying car and jetpack?" that we're all familiar with. But Fies just doesn't agree with the idea that we've somehow lost the ideals and dreams of earlier generations. He believes, as his book goes on to show, that our collective future is still something bursting with potential, albeit considerably different from the one imagined in the technological fires of the last century. And Fies makes a sweet, nostalgic and heartfelt case for it in his book that's all about not just the development of technology in new and unexpected directions but the ever so predictable growth and eventual separation between fathers and sons. Technology marches on and children grow older and leave. And both are handled perfectly in this book.

Richard Bruton, Forbidden Planet International

There was a time when the future was something to look forward to. That's the spirit Brian Fies captures in his graphic novel, *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* . . . an affectionate look at a time when science and technology promised a better life, and no one worried that the flying car and jet pack would contribute to global warming.

Brigid Alverson, *Publishers Weekly*

Fies's follow-up to his excellent first graphic novel, the Eisner-winning *Mom's Cancer*, explores the history of popular futurism. Throughout most of the book, Fies wisely tempers wide-eyed wonder by acknowledging the dark side of scientific progress—but emotionally, he's clearly on the side of the optimists. Verdict: Thought-provoking, this is recommended for fans of Jim Ottaviani's science graphic novels or Larry Gonick's *Cartoon History* books.

Steve Raiteri, *The Library Journal*

Fies' drawing is superb—low-key but effective. He makes good use of photos, and even introduces us to the man behind some of the iconic "artist's conception" space vehicle paintings

seen so often in 1960s magazines, Chesley Bonestell. As for the writing, it neatly captures Buddy's tone of amazed wonder at the beginning and its shift into thoughtful reflection and near-disillusionment. But Fies never totally strips away his characters' sense of wonder, as the book's ending reveals. *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* deftly sums up America's Space Age as experienced by its most enthusiastic (that is to say, geekiest) followers.

Kathy Ceceri, *Wired.com*

Brian Fies is an incurable optimist. Even his previous book, *Mom's Cancer*, clung to strength in the face of adversity. *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* is a reasonably meta collection of father-son stories that examine, with wide-eyed wonder, technological advances from America's can-do last century. Most comic creators are outsiders by trade, but Fies seems remarkably well-adjusted, a trait a lot of comics readers will find jarring. But that upbeat perspective goes well with the author's clean drawing style, and by the end of the book we just really hope Fies is right in predicting a non-dystopian future.

Casey Jarman, *Orlando Weekly*

Brian Fies' follow-up to *Mom's Cancer*, *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow*, was a worthy successor to the magnificent *Mom's Cancer*. *World of Tomorrow* examines the relationship of a father and son through the years as America (and the relationship) becomes progressively more cynical . . . It's a strong, poignant work by Fies.

Brian Cronin, *Comic Book Resources*

With *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* Brian Fies has created a true graphic novel. Graphic in the sense that the way the story is told can only be told by using the comic vocabulary and novel by intermingling the effects of real world technological achievements, human relations and the cultural landscape that happened during the fifties until the present in a nation.

Bart Croonenborghs, *Broken Frontier*

I am beyond impressed with this one. The graphic style makes it appealing to younger audiences, but the story is subtle enough for adults to enjoy. Spanning the years from the 1939 World's Fair in NYC to beyond the world of tomorrow, this one is clearly a labor of love, but also of genius. It serves as touching testimony to the fact that while yesterday may be forever lost to us, tomorrow never is . . . You owe it to yourself to check this one out.

Ken Murphy, *Out of the Cradle*

It was as if Fies had channeled so many of my passions . . . into 200 beautifully illustrated pages that chronicle the birth, death and potential rebirth of forward-thinking idealism. If Disney's original EPCOT film gave you goosebumps, or if you ever emerged excited and energized after riding Spaceship Earth or Horizons at EPCOT Center, you will no doubt be similarly thrilled and motivated by Brian Fies' amazing journey across the 20th century. It is a hopeful, happy vision, and one I intend to revisit many times in my own world of tomorrow.

Richard Pepper, 2719 Hyperion.com

Fies's clean, cartoon-like art is bursting with such wonder and exuberance that it'll undoubtedly bring a smile to the face. It cleverly nods towards a simpler style of illustration more frequently seen in comics aimed at kids . . . nicely juxtaposing with the core theme of a loss of childhood innocence. It adapts itself well to "real world" situations, incorporating (often recognizable) photographs that sit comfortably with the hand-drawn imagery, and a playful use of colour successfully evokes different time periods. Of particular note for comic book fans is the comic-within-a-comic trick, here using an archetypal character called Cap Crater, which breaks up the main story by cleverly reflecting the way the medium matured and changed over the decades. The real humdinger is that different, "inferior" paper-stock is used for these pages for a more authentic four-colour feel.

The brilliance of *Whatever Happened To The World Of Tomorrow?* is that it reminds us something important that we may occasionally forget: mankind hasn't given up on pushing itself forward, hasn't stopped trying to better itself and look at the future with optimism. We may not be living on the Moon yet, but there's still plenty of time left to make that happen and there's no reason to believe we won't one day return there and then continue onwards into the unknown.

It's a beautifully produced, affecting book that and deserves a place on any discerning comic fan's bookshelf. 8/10

Matt C., Paradox Comics Group

The marvelous thing about *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* is that through the century of war, of killing and of tragedy, Buddy never loses his wide-eyed innocence. He takes his father's dream for him and makes it his dream. Buddy is us, the person who read comics, saw all the movies and is young enough to think that he too would one day walk in space and on the moon . . .

Through the tale of Buddy and Pop and through the tales of Cosmic Kid and Cap Crater, Fies reminds us of our dreams and how they failed us or maybe it's how we failed them. He shows us the imagination and courage it took just to have the dreams but in the end, we fell short of achieving them in the 20th century. Fies does comfort us though, showing that even as the century is over and our hopes are unfulfilled at this time, it doesn't mean we are through dreaming or are done reaching for the stars. *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow?* reminds us how to dream by showing us what we were able to once accomplish. Buddy and

Cosmic Kid may have grown up but that doesn't mean that they've lost their hope for the future.

Scott Cederlund, Wednesday's Haul

As the father and son see the actual world change, Cap and the Cosmic Kid go through their own metamorphosis. From carefree defenders of the city of tomorrow to Commie-bashing patriots to socially concerned sci-fi characters, the comic within the comic sees the effects of the changing attitude of the world almost as much as the father and son do.

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow? is a rare book about the future (that) does not foresee a completely bleak outcome.

Anthony Geehan, Blast Magazine

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow? That's a great question and an extraordinary graphic novel. Brian Fies recreates most of the Twentieth Century with many creative minds and inspirations that explored the future . . . I highly recommend this book for kids in sixth grade and up, plus adults! I think of it as history, science, science fiction, and a unique graphic design. The author even pays homage to veteran comics creators in the Space Age Adventures that are the four comic books throughout the story. If you are looking for a book that both fathers and son would enjoy, look no further than *Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow*.

Joyce Laiosa, Pied Piper of Books

Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow by Brian Fies is as wonderful as the 1939 New York World's Fair was. He has captured in words and pictures the essence of that great event exactly as I remember it. The fair opened as World War II was casting its terrible shadow over everyone and everything. Yet the Fair proceeded and lifted the spirits of millions of people. Brian Fies has brought this all to life so much so that it was, as Yogi might say, *deja vu* all over again. I thoroughly enjoyed every scene, so accurately recreated by Brian, as if I were right there again. My buddies and I were about eighteen years old at the time, prime cannon fodder for the looming war, yet the fair's magic erased all our anxieties during our visits to there.

Another creative and highly entertaining feature of this book are the imagined comic magazines that carry the story of the Fair forward. They are excellently written and drawn. I was a beginning comic book artist/writer at the time and this too rang a memory bell for me.

People of all ages cannot help but enjoy this fascinating book.

Al Jaffee, *MAD Magazine*

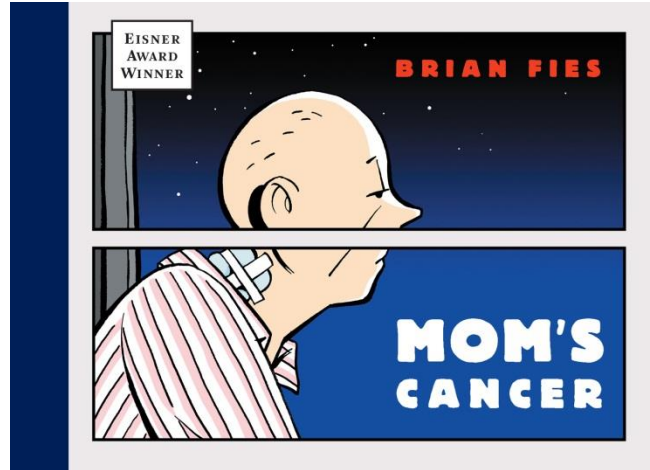
In truth I'm simply thrilled and charmed by this book . . . It's not often something comes along that speaks so truthfully to the place inside. I feel certain that despite all attempts, deliberate and unwitting, to sap them of their power, dreams will find a way just as surely.

Thank you.

Richard Pini, co-creator, *Elfquest*

Images

(All images © Brian Fies. Also available in high resolution or JPG format. Contact brianfies@comcast.net.)



Brian Fies (credit: Photo by Karen Fies)

