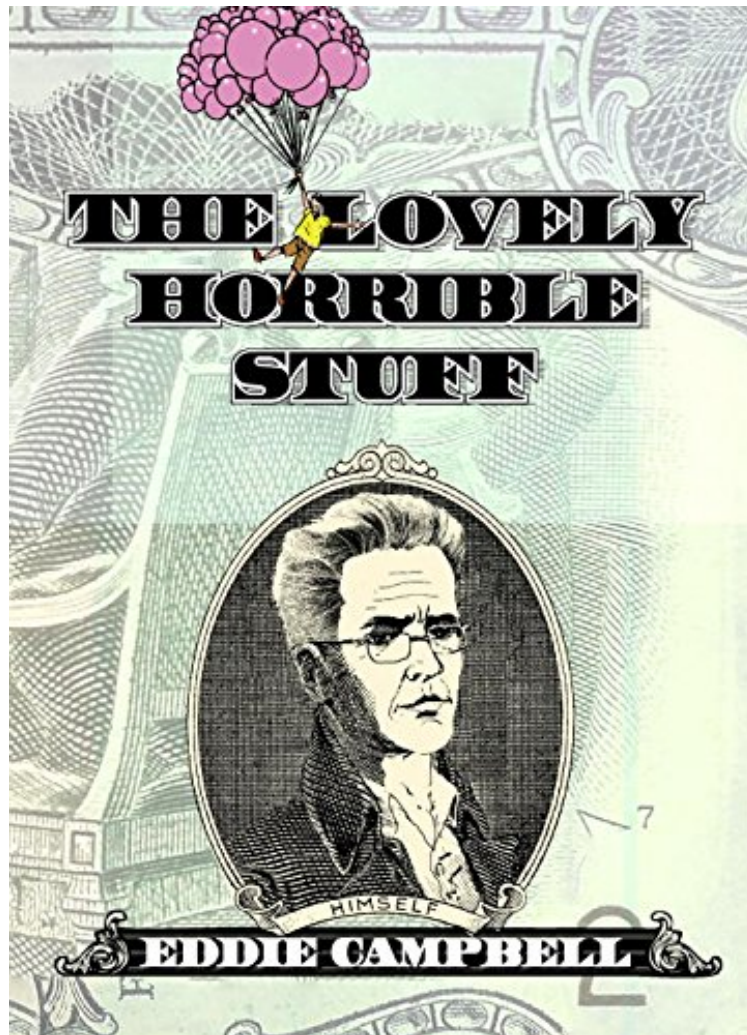


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*Eddie Campbell*

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## **The Lovely Horrible Stuff**

**Eddie Campbell : The Lovely Horrible Stuff** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [The Lovely Horrible Stuff](#):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Wealth of (Island) NationsBy Sam QuixoteEddie Campbell's new book is divided into two parts. The first is mostly autobiographical and deals with Campbell's relationship with money - "The Lovely Horrible Stuff" - and how it dictates a lot of his life from relationships with his kids, wife, and father-in-law (whose own wheelings and dealings are discussed at length), to his professional life in comics and TV work. Campbell makes the distinction that though he is careful with money, he is not interested in it nor its highly complex structures in finance and accounting, choosing instead art and dreaming over the filthy lucre every time.This first section was interesting in part, I found out that in order to be hired to work for DC and Batman that you needed to be your own company or else you wouldn't be paid, and found out that Campbell is apparently something of a media

figure in Australia. However, it felt a bit sour to read about Campbell talking about his father-in-law's financial problems and how they trickled over to his own, but Campbell is perceptive enough to see how the situation turns him from happy-go-lucky artist to bitter old man muttering about money just like his in-law. The second section deals with the island of Yap in Micronesia and the Yapese system of money which involves enormous stone disks with a hole in the centre. This was their currency and Campbell goes to great length in documenting their economic system, their culture and history. To be brutally honest, I didn't give a fig about the Yapese. They're a tiny island nation who bartered with large pieces of stone and that's it. I didn't care about which chief made which stone disk or which Western explorers showed up, it was just so tedious to read. Their inclusion is of course to make the point that their stone disks are as silly a currency as shiny gold in the West or the belief that a piece of paper is worth whatever the number printed on it. I get it, the concept of money is stupid but we need something otherwise society wouldn't function. But money can be art as seen by the stone disks which Campbell says could be viewed as sculptures as the merging of art and money in one. But it's still really dull to read. It's an uneven book with the first part being more interesting than the faux-anthropological second part, though I can't say the book as a whole was particularly fun or engrossing. Fans of Campbell's work will no doubt enjoy this but I don't see it appealing to a broader audience - it certainly didn't grab me. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful and unique

By Floradoral  
I grabbed this book off a library shelf, and I'm sure I don't fit the expected demographic for graphic autobiographies. Publishers would look at me and say, "give her the widowed pie baking sleuth from the Isle of Wight who vacations in Tuscany" kind of book. But this intensely personal meditation on the meaning of money strikes many universal chords, and Campbell's art and humor make it wonderfully accessible. It is probably best read/viewed as a kind of poetry, about a subject that is very central to the human condition. Plus, I really enjoyed little moments like his image of money literally flying out the window.

Money makes the world go round, as they say... but HOW, exactly? Award-winning graphic novelist Eddie Campbell (*From Hell*, *Alec*) presents a fascinating journey into the wilderness of personal finance. With his trademark blend of research, anecdote, autobiography, and fantasy, Campbell explores how money underwrites human relationships, flowing all around us like the air we breathe or the water we drown in. The result is a whimsical graphic essay, deeply grounded in Eddie's personal experiences with "the lovely horrible stuff," ranging from the imaginary wealth of Ponzi schemes and television pilots to the all-too-tangible stone currency of the Micronesian island of Yap. In a world where drawing corporate superheroes requires literally transforming oneself into a corporation (which is kept in a shoebox under the bed), we are in strange territory, indeed. Fortunately, Campbell's wry eye and vivid full-color artwork imbue the proceedings with real humanity, making *The Lovely Horrible Stuff* an investment that's worth every penny.

About the Author  
Publishers Weekly calls Eddie Campbell "one of the premier cartoonists of his generation." Campbell has been writing and drawing comics since 1974, and is best known for his collaborations with Alan Moore (*From Hell*, *A Disease of Language*) and Neil Gaiman (*The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountains*), as well as for *Alec*, his tour-de-force autobiographical series that Booklist called "a high-water mark in the graphic novel's short history," and the 1200-page epic *Bacchus*. Forthcoming is *Bizarre Romance* (in collaboration with Audrey Niffenegger).