



Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth

Jeff Lemire

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth

Jeff Lemire

Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth Jeff Lemire

In this second installment of bestselling author Jeff Lemire's (Descender, Sweet Tooth) ambitious new series we travel back to the year 1993 and follow the then teenaged Pike siblings and see the last week of Tommy Pike's life unfold. The mysteries of his death and all the sins that now plague the Pike family are brought to light in this heartbreaking and new story line.

A new chapter of superstar creator Jeff Lemire's critically acclaimed new series is here.

Collects issues 6 through 10

Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth Details

Date : Published April 17th 2018 by Image Comics

ISBN : 9781534305526

Author : Jeff Lemire

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Fiction, Graphic Novels Comics

 [Download Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth Jeff Lemire

From Reader Review Royal City, Vol. 2: Sonic Youth for online ebook

Shannon Appelcline says

The first volume of *Royal City* painted the portrait of a family reunited in tragedy, but it dragged, and it was dragged down by the (literal?) ghost that was haunting them all.

Volume 2 is freed of that twist by returning to 1993, when the family was shattered, and it's an entirely enthralling volume. We learned enough about these characters in the present day to be intrigued by who they were decades earlier, and our eyes are riveted to the loss that we know is quickly approaching.

Though volume 1 was unfocused and weird, this second volume is a brilliant expansion that makes that all worth it.

And what a cliffhanger!

David Schaafsma says

“This town’s bones are loneliness.”

In the second volume of Jeff Lemire’s *Royal City*, we flash back to 1993. Peter (Dad) doesn’t like the factory, but he gets his son Patrick a job there. Pat wants to be a writer, but you know, he needs to work.

“Sometimes I wish I could get on a train and go somewhere far from here. Somewhere where no one knows me and I can be whoever I want.”

Pat’s older brother Richie cheats on his girlfriend. Sister Tara may be pregnant.

Their younger brother, Tommy, has headaches that sometimes lead to hallucinations. He’s the centerpiece of this volume, where we also get to read pages of his handwritten journal. We already know from volume one that Tommy will die, so this volume basically gives you the events of the week leading up to his death.

“That’s when I find her. And for the first time I realize that two people can be alone together.”

Royal City: Sonic Youth is about growing up teenaged in a small town. It’s one of the best things I have read this year, even better than the first volume. It’s bleak, but it’s honest about where some people actually live, and powerful. The sketchy drawing, the colors, the inventive layouts: A master at his craft. Achingly beautiful.

Sonic Youth’s “Teenage Riot”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23fL0...>

If you are into Spotify, Lemire makes lists for some of his work, so you can listen as you read along.

Read also Lemire’s *Essex County* work, his *Roughneck*, *Sweet Tooth*, so much there.

Here's Lemire talking about the series. I just found it and haven't even yet read it myself:

<https://www.bleedingcool.com/2017/03/...>

Chihoe Ho says

The pain and heartache continues in this family saga, illustrated beautifully as usual but this volume also comes with Tommy's handwritten journal which serves as another gut-punching, emotional effect. Jeff Lemire brings it again, and as with his other series, *Black Hammer*, *Royal City* is one of the most underrated ongoing series right now - You. Have. To. Read. It.

Elizabeth A says

In this second volume of *Royal City*, we flash back to 1993, and immerse ourselves into the final week of Tommy Pike's life.

As one would expect there is much going on with all the individual members of this family, and they ebb and flow around each other, none of them aware of what's headed their way. While I liked this flashback, it lacked the emotional gut punch of the first installment. This is the before, so that is to be expected, though there is plenty of ordinary drama underfoot already. I continue to love Lemire's sketchy and loose artwork, and look forward to see how this family drama unfolds.

Stewart Tame says

This whole volume is set in the past--the 90's, specifically--as we learn about the Pike family and begin to see what happened to Tommy. There's a pervasive sense of loneliness and alienation throughout this book. *Royal City* is a town of limited possibilities, and some never manage to escape.

As usual, Lemire is a master storyteller, conveying meaning with a glance, or a well-chosen snatch of conversation. We know, from volume one, that Tommy eventually drowns, and that knowledge haunts the corners of this book--in the opening scene, for instance, Tommy is gazing at his reflection in a puddle. This is not a happy, cheerful book. I find myself imagining Lemire and Seth vying with each other to see who can write the ultimate stifling small town story ... Not many laughs to be had here, for sure, but it's quite good. Recommended!

MK King says

I cried during this one. I grew up in a shitty small town with 3 other siblings. Our town was the one factory shithole where dreams went to die. I was lucky that my parents allowed me to roam wild in the neighbourhood and back at the local abandoned stone quarries. It wasn't an abusive household but we kids raised ourselves.

LeMire is so worthy of another Eisner for Royal City. The storytelling is wonderful. It captures the angst, pitfalls, peer pressure, broken miserable family structures of the Pike's so well. We also see in this prequel to Volume 1 how many of the unfolding plot lines came to be. His art is also top notch.

5/5. This Volume was better than Volume 1 btw. Can't wait to read Volume 3. This stuff is right up there with Essex County and Roughneck.

Anthony says

Wow, Lemire. Wow

Sam Quixote says

With Volume 2: Sonic Youth, Royal City goes from being a mediocre series into a flat-out terrible one.

The whole thing is a pointless flashback centred around the Kurt Cobain-looking kid, Tommy, the ghostly character every other surviving member of his family was haunted by in the first book. It might've been good if Tommy was an interesting character but he's not. He gets headaches and he makes lists of his favourite albums. ... fascinating...

The rest of the book was an equal waste of time. Things we already knew about the characters from the first book are repeated again to absolutely no effect: Peter's obsession with radios, Patti's regrets about the man she didn't marry, Tara and Steve start a family prematurely, Pat wants to write and Richie's a fuckup. What was gained from seeing any of that soap-opera cheesefest begin when we got all that in the first book anyway?

Nothing in the second book adds anything to the already weak story, nor is any of it remotely entertaining. It's just the cliched teen narrative of dull school and silly relationships ending when the kids go for a party and, like, feelings, man. Utterly pathetic and unoriginal.

I'm completely done with this title - Royal City is a royally crap comic!

Donovan says

This second volume flashbacks our dark and conflicted characters to 1993. What makes this series stand out is its surrealism, especially through artwork. What makes this volume stand out is Tommy Pike's journaling, in his own handwriting, to entrench the reader in his pathos.

Artemy says

Jeff Lemire's story of small town misery continues with a flashback to 1993. This volume chronicles the last week of Tommy Pike's life. Turns out, Tommy was a pretty regular teenager with regular teenage problems — girls, booze, music and boredom. But Tommy also recently started to get bad headaches that cause weird

hallucinations — that's probably not good...

Volume 2 of Royal City was even better than the first one. The story feels more focused because it revolves around just one character, but through his eyes we learn more about his whole dysfunctional family. Jeff Lemire also captures the feeling of being a teenager in a small town perfectly, with all the emotions, uncertainty and fear. I had several uncomfortable flashbacks to my own youth while reading this volume, and a lot of the things about it rang true.

The only thing that was a letdown was the ending. The entire volume was building up towards Tommy's death, so that's what I was expecting — but Lemire decided to cop out with this weird cliffhanger that made me think I was missing a couple of pages. It's not the kind of story that warrants a cliffhanger at all, so the way it was handled in this volume was unsatisfying. I'm not going to hold that against the book, because it was a brilliant read otherwise, and it all won't matter when the next volume is out anyway, but still — not cool.

While Lemire didn't manage to stick the landing, at least he's on top of his game with the artwork. I always liked his style, but Royal City is on a totally different level. Gorgeous watercolours, imaginative layouts, excellent work with architecture and landscape. Royal City feels like a real, lived-in place with its own unique atmosphere and history, and reading this book is like going there and experiencing all of its torments first-hand.

When Jeff Lemire writes and draws his own comics, he's an exceptional storyteller, and not a lot of people in comics could rival him. Royal City proves to be yet another success — it's a bleak and depressing read, but it's also completely engrossing.

James DeSantis says

This is it. A freaking MASTERPIECE of a volume. I forced myself not to read through it so quick because I didn't want it to end.

The Pike siblings are a interesting bunch. All very very different from each other. And we seen them as adults. Now let's go back. To the time before the youngest of the group had died. Tommy is a tragic character because he's so in the middle of life as a teenager. Dealing with shit like fitting in, being alone, feeling lost, and then on top of that the major headaches he gets. Then when his brothers/sisters problems are also presented in a really fasnating and non-cliche way, we get some of the best family drama ever.

Good: Usually not a huge fan of Lemire's art but it works great here. The writing is masterful, filled with heart and emotional bits that will make you smile, laugh, and cry. The dialog is nothing short of perfection, really giving a sense of reality to it all. The ending is both sad and intriguing.

Bad: Nothing.

This is Jeff at the top of his game. I will re-read this a few times in my life probably. While volume 1 was great, volume 2 is a masterpiece. Thank you Lemire. 5 out of 5.

Rod Brown says

Lemire substitutes in generic, low-key teen angst for volume one's generic, low-key midlife crises to the same muted effect. A powerful ending could retroactively make these opening chapters better, I suppose, and while I don't really hold out much hope on that front, I do wish I had waited to read this book until the whole series was completed. I'll try to hold off on future volumes until the conclusion has been published.

Candice says

Well, that was depressing af.
And yet, I adore it.

Richard says

Again filled with expressive art and lovely, aching writing, this 2nd volume continues to deepen the story of the Pike family by flashing back to the 90's during the siblings' teenage years and try to further explore what could've led to Tommy Pike's death.

I really enjoyed this one but I do think that given the fact that this flashback is the prime opportunity to look deeper into Tommy's character, I feel like Lemire didn't explore far enough and that Tommy isn't a very compelling character. But maybe, it's by design that he still remains a mystery. This is still one of the best comic series out there this year.

Manni says

I want to give it more stars! The last page turns were intense. Cant wait to see where this is going with Vol 3.
