

Today's Artist: Craig Thompson



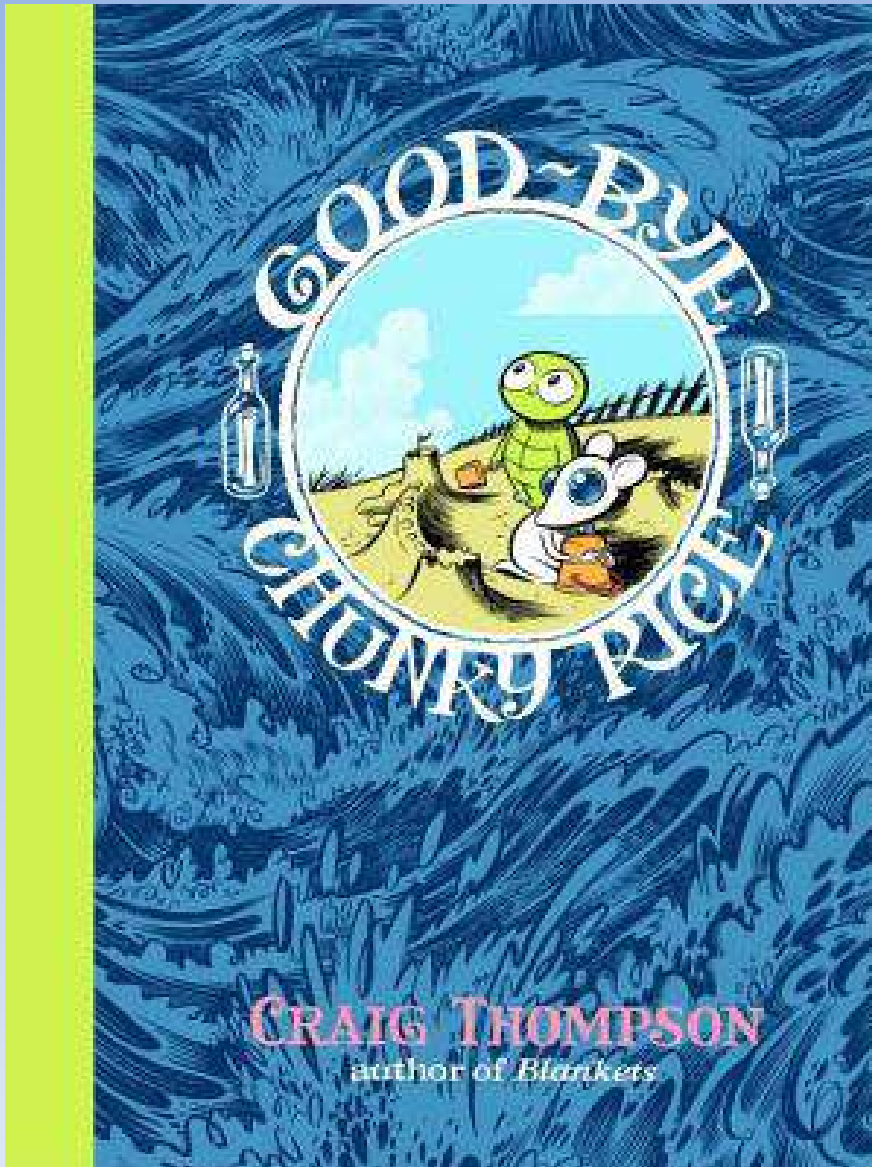
Craig Thompson is a graphic novel artist currently living in Portland, Oregon.

He was born in Michigan and grew up in a very Christian family in rural Wisconsin.

Growing up he was denied TV and music that wasn't Christian. His only access to art was Sunday comics which influenced his art style.

He has won several awards for his art and writing.

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Although he worked for Dark Horse Comics for a short time, he is best known for his graphic novels.

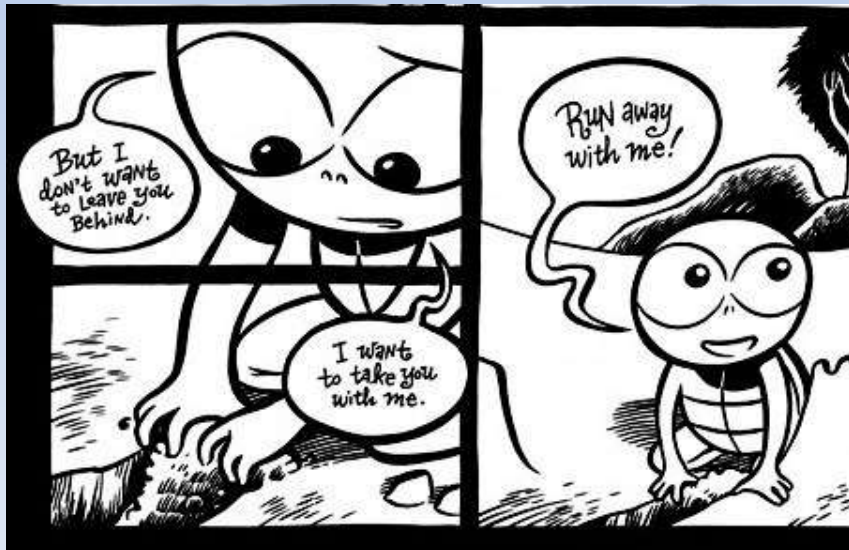
Good-bye Chucky Rice was his first major release.

The story was a semi-biographical, yet highly fictionalized account of how it FELT to move from Wisconsin to Oregon.

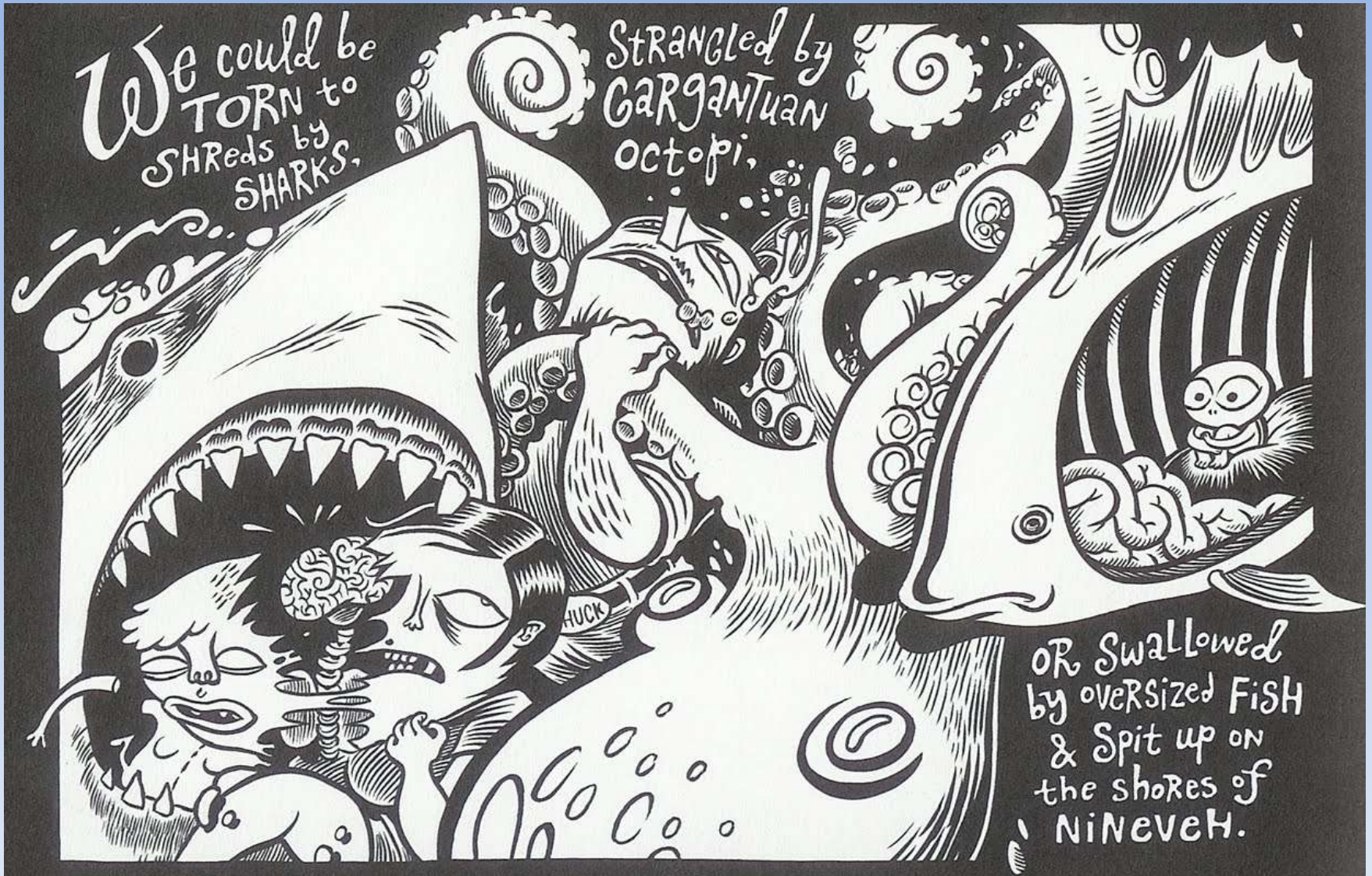
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In the story he is represented by the turtle.

Aside from being a tribute to his friends he left when he moved, it is also a tribute to Jim Henson, Dr. Seuss, Tim Burton and other artists he admired as a child.



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Look at his composition, use of hatching for texture/ value, repetition, contrast etc. in this one panel.



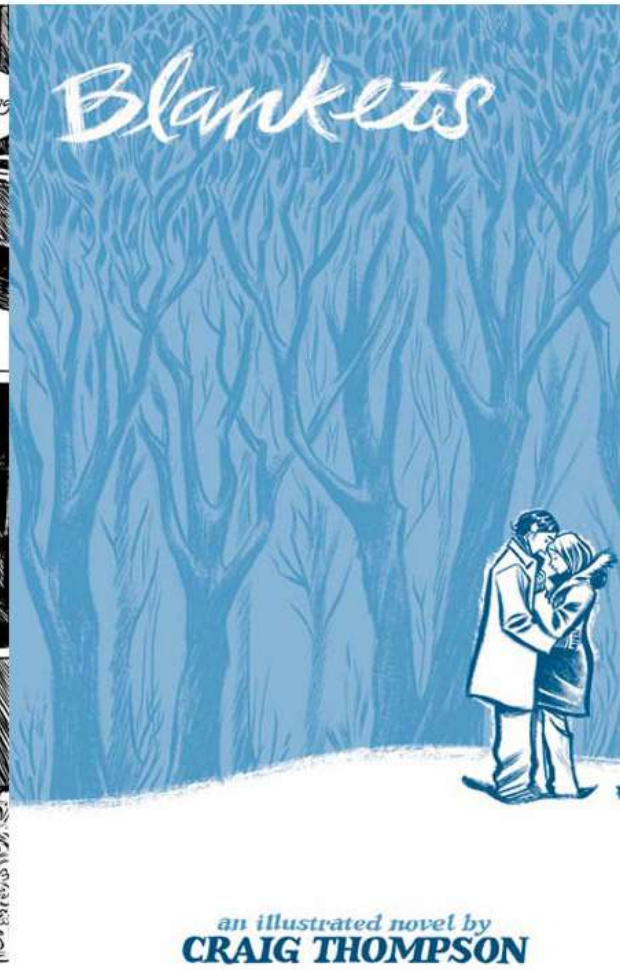
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His most famous novel is **Blankets**.

This book has won or been nominated for several awards.

This story is autobiographical. It focuses on growing up in a poor Christian family. It also deals with finding and eventually losing his first "love".

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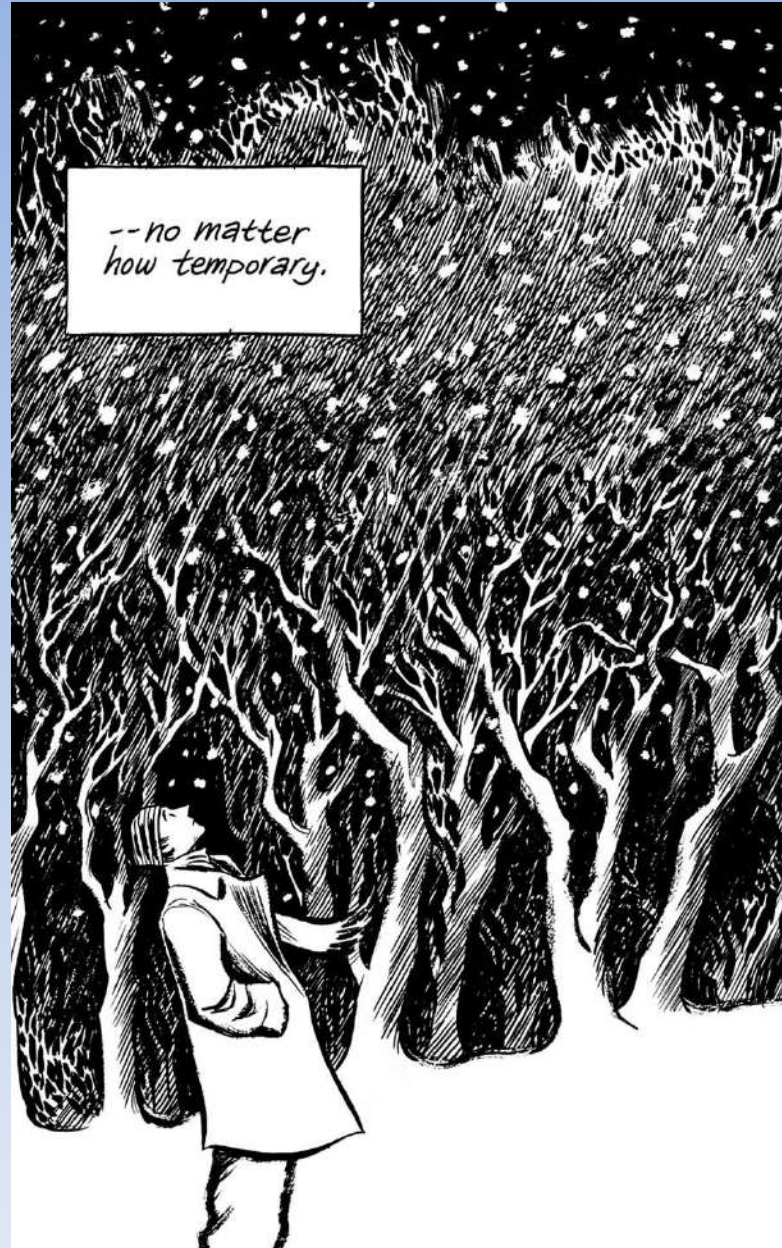


Blankets are used throughout the book as a symbol of comfort, youthfulness and love

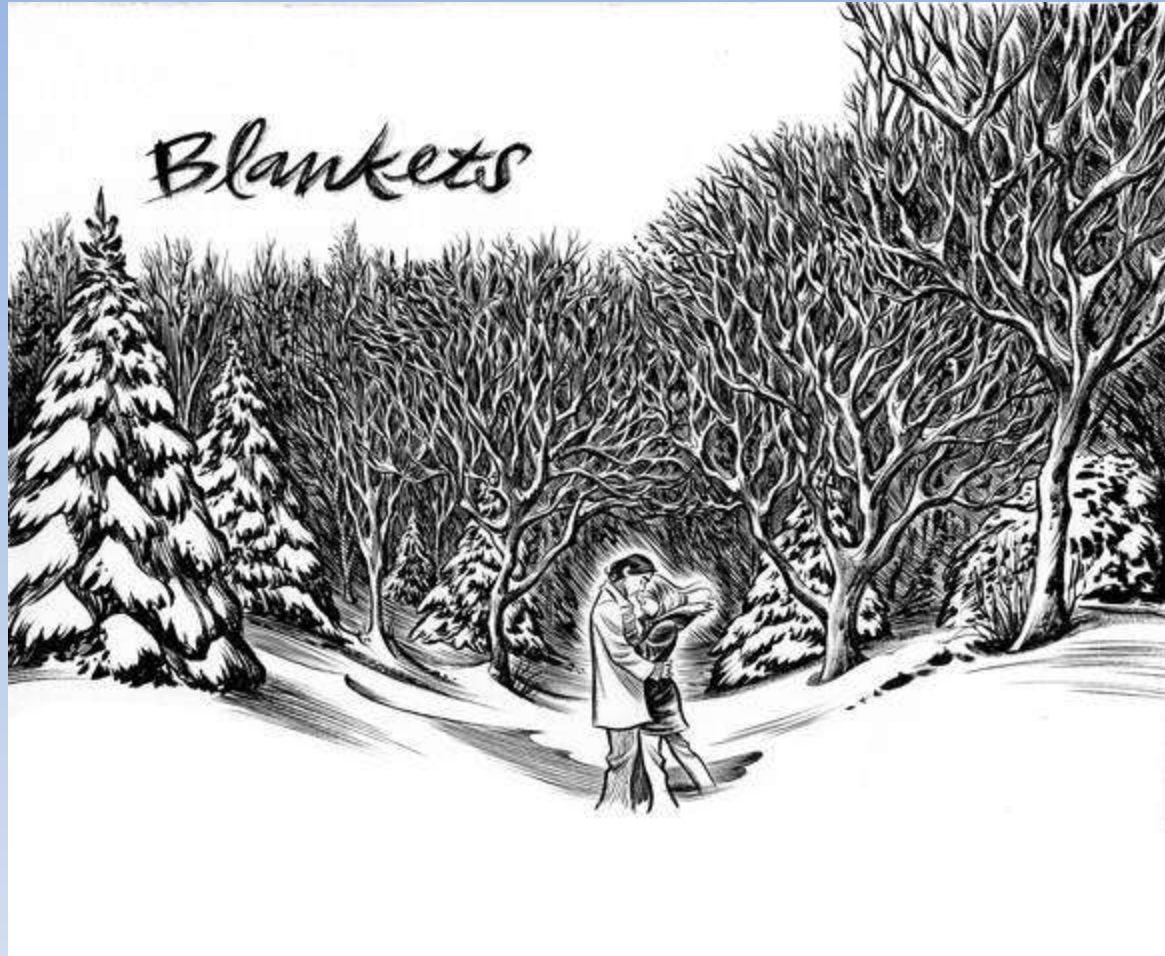
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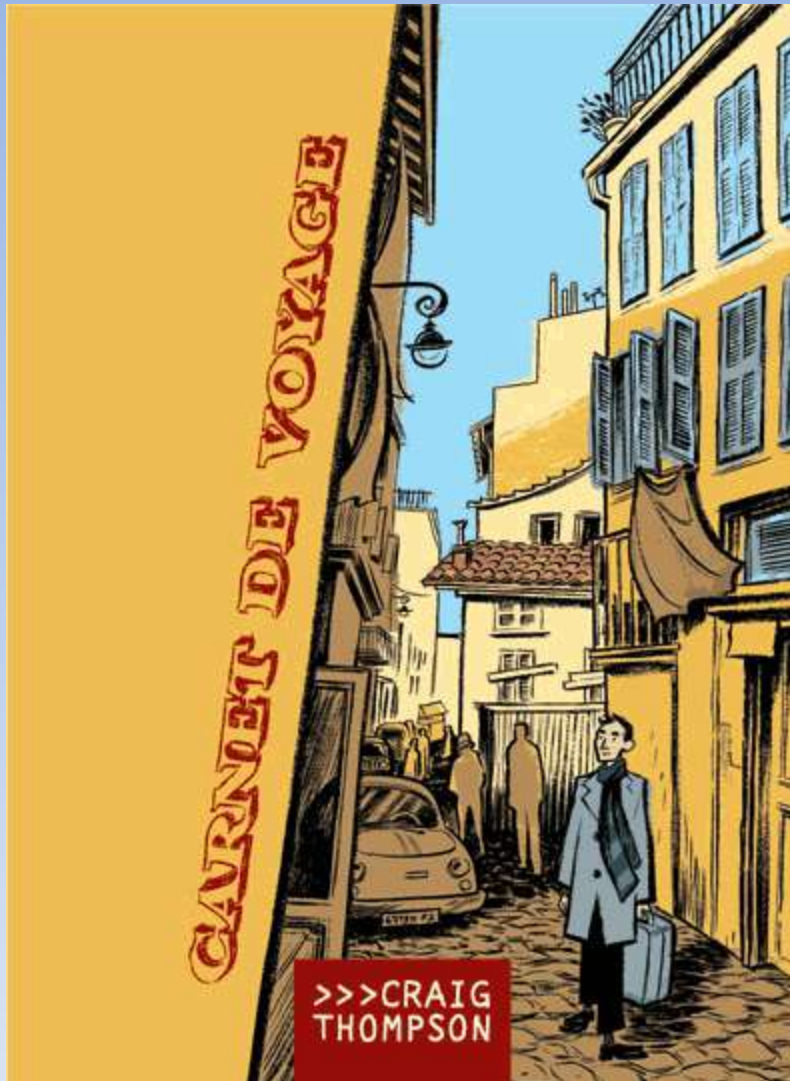
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Carnet De Voyage was a travel journal that he wrote while doing a book signing and making sketch references for elements from his next book.

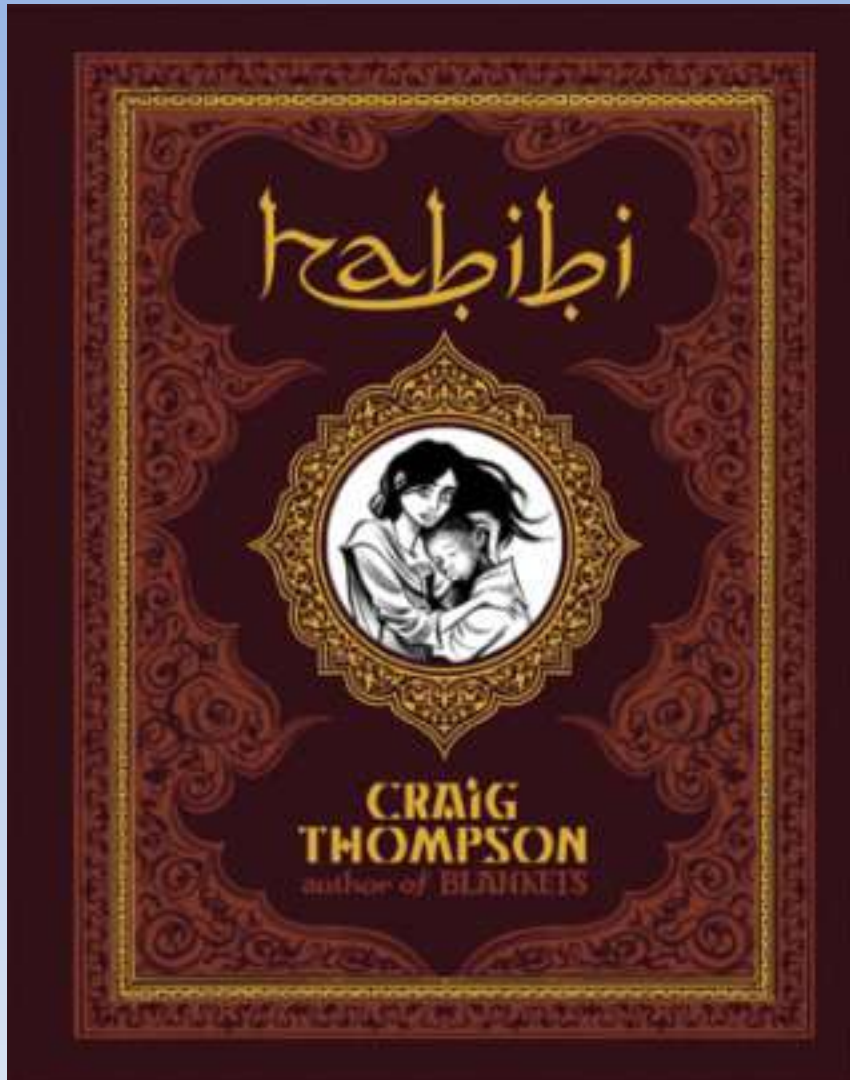
He draws land features, architecture and people from his journey. He also talks about his issues with arthritis and joint pain caused by his obsessive art style.

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Here is one of
the sketches
from **Carnet De
Voyage**

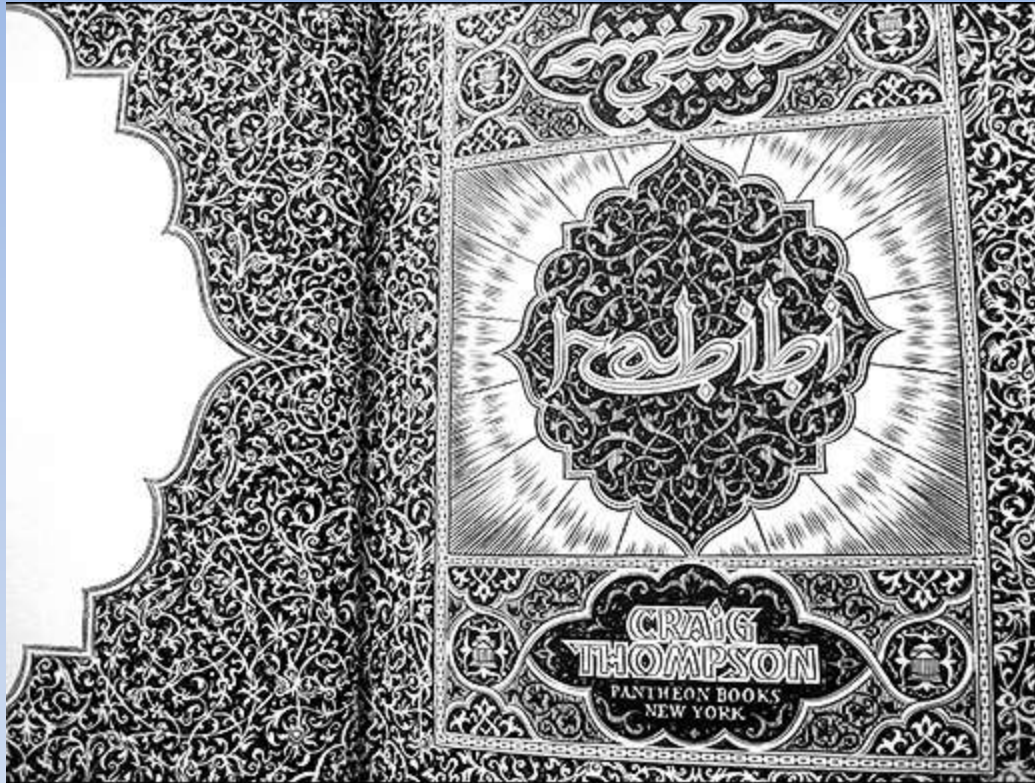
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Habibi is a 672 page graphic novel that took him around 7 years to complete.

This book is a complete work of fiction based on Arabic calligraphy and Islamic mythology. The story is about love but it also has to do with religion, human environmental impact, greed and cruelty.

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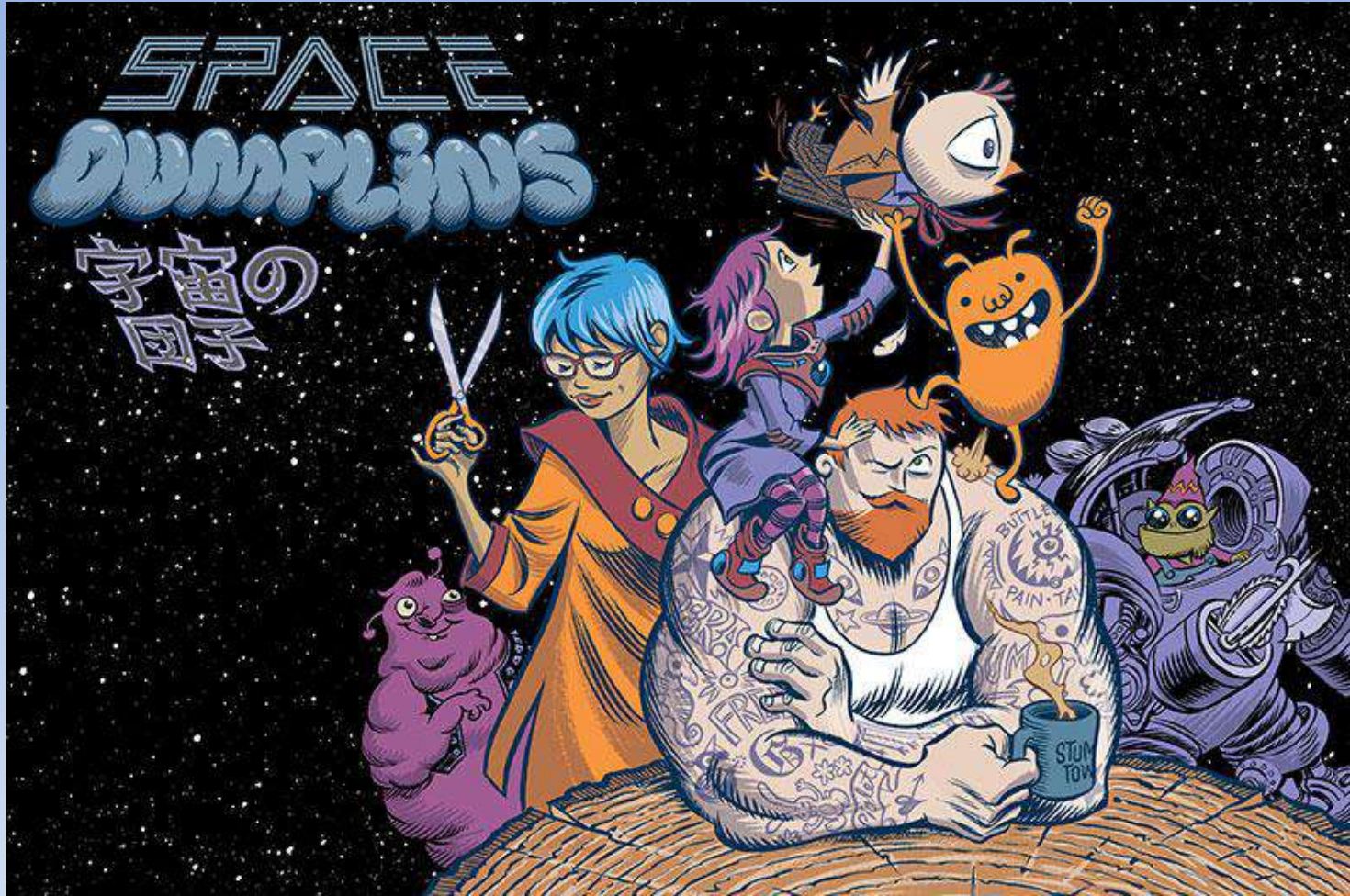
He has also made several short drawings and illustrations for various topics.

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In 2007 his album art he created for the band, Menomena's "Friend or Foe" album was nominated for a Grammy for design. The album had several panels, spinning wheels and other hidden illustrations.

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His current project Space Dumplings is set to be completed by the end of 2014. It is much shorter than his other books and designed with full color.