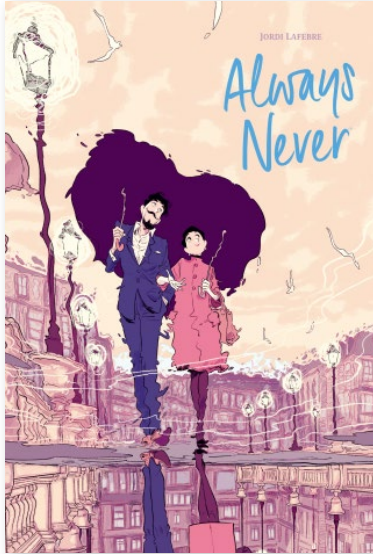


READER'S GUIDE

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Always Never (Dark Horse)



Always Never is a romantic read from Spanish cartoonist Jordi Lafebre that is both heartwarming and different from traditional lovey-dovey offerings, with a narrative style that warrants further conversation.

CREATOR: Jordi Lafebre

ABOUT: A 2023 Eisner and Harvey Award nominee. It is never too late to love someone loudly. After forty years of being madly in love, Ana and Zeno are finally retiring and giving their romance a chance to bloom while they both still have time left. A unique but relatable love story told in reverse, with each chapter stepping further back through the decades of touch and go courting, showing both the heartbreaking moments that kept the two lovers apart and the beautiful moments that kept their flame alive. This isn't a tale of missed connections and regret but rather a story celebrating the complexities of family, responsibility, destiny, and how love persists across time with complete disregard for all of that.

“

“Spanish illustrator Jordi Lafebre is perhaps best known for his collaborations with the great French writer Zidrou, with works like *Les Beaux Étés* (*Glorious Summers*), *Lydie*, and *La Mondaine* (*Vice Squad*). In *Always Never* he strikes out on his own, handling both the writing and the art, and proves he's up to the task. This is a great love story across the ages told in reverse, allowing Lafebre many an artistic touch.” —**The Comics Journal**, 2021



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ana and Zeno's story is told backwards. What does that do for your sense of the story's timeline?
2. What do you think it would be like to read it from the beginning (i.e. the final page) and backwards? Does it change the story, or not make a difference?
3. How would you describe their unique love story: Comedic, tragic, realistic, or something else entirely?
4. If Ana and Zeno had actually been able to commit to one another while they were young, do you believe they would've stayed together for their entire lives? How would they have potentially been different in that alternate reality?

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