Read Slowly, Appreciate The Art And Exquisite Transitions

This first book from Chicago author Chris Ware is a pleasantly-decorated view at a lonely and emotionally-impaired everyman (Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth), who is provided, at age 36, the opportunity to meet his father for the first time. An improvisatory romance which gingerly departs itself between 1890s Chicago and 1980s small town Michigan, the reader is helped along by thousands of colored illustrations and diagrams, which, when read rapidly in sequence, provide a convincing illusion of life and movement. The bulk of the work is supported by fold-out instructions, an index, paper cut-outs, and a brief apology, all of which concrete to form a rich portrait of a man stunted by a paralyzing fear of being disliked.

My Personal Review:
The technique in enjoying this book is in going through it slowly, appreciating the art, trying to digest each frame and pages. Its like a finearts thesis, you would appreciate how much time is put in to build the entire thing, how the total book is a labor of love.

The story could be soap opera, yes, but it is not told in such a way. There are themes in-between pages and transitions left unsaid that the reader has to discover himself/herself. And the drawings elicit empathy in the process.

Worth the price, also given the paper/book material.

Truly in the top10 of graphic novels. Along with WATCHMEN and DARK KNIGHT.

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