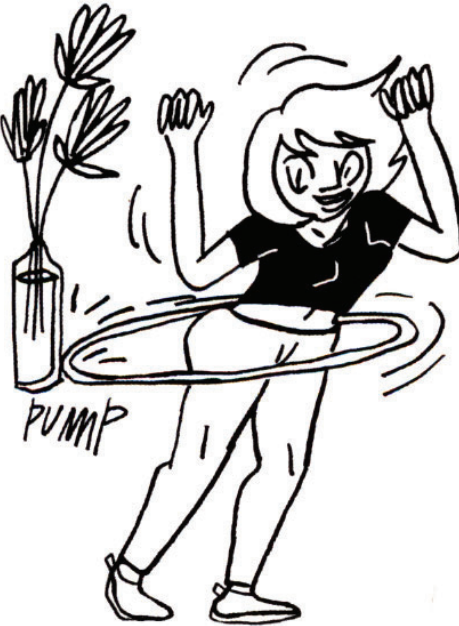


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# SCRRAWL OF THE WILD

SEPTEMBER 2023 NO. 103 SQUIRRELLY, SCRATCHY, ITCHY COMICS







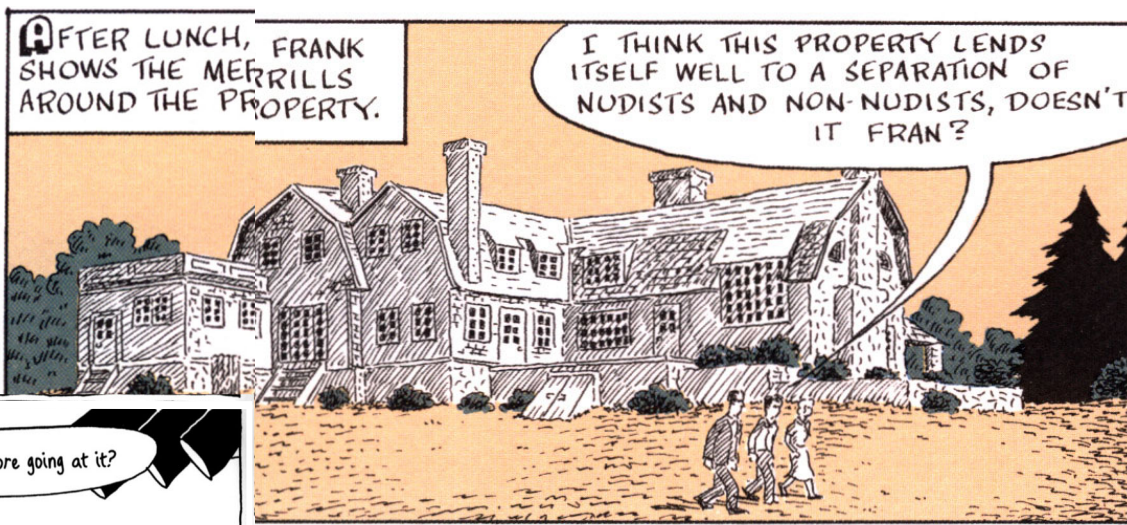
This quintet of graphic novels – two non-fiction, two realist fiction, one supernatural manga – were chosen due to their visual similarities. All are black and white, all rendered in intense detail, and all drawn with an idiosyncratic flair. They turned out to share a theme: nature and human nature and the contact and conflict between the two. In the spooktacular *Witches*, humanity has trifled with Mother Earth too long, and now Her witches are striking back. Igarshi's



**WITCHES: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION**  
**Daisuke Igarshi**  
 (Seven Seas)  
**MOON BOOTS**  
 Lorenz Peter  
 (Conundrum)  
**THE AMAZING CAMEL TOE**  
 Claire Duplan



scratchy, swirling pen line entraps the eye in its web of details (upper left). A thicker, clunkier approach distinguishes *Moon Boots* by Lorenz Peter. A mild-mannered picaresque, these *Chronicles of A Country Crooner* are a homely tribute to life on the road. Lorenz has a real gift for landscapes (below left). Property and its privileges, particularly privacy, are at the heart of the historical about one of the first American nudist colonies. *Nudity Comes to Connecticut* in large part



**NUDISM COMES TO CONNECTICUT**  
 Susan Schade & Jon Buller  
 (Fantagraphics Underground)  
**GOING REMOTE**  
 Adam Bessie & Peter Glanting  
 (Censored Press / Seven Stories)



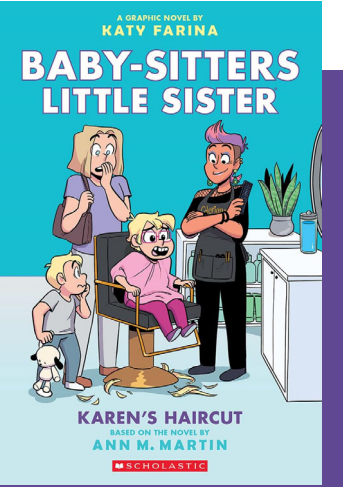
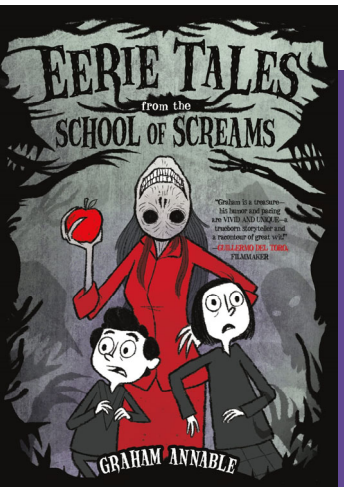
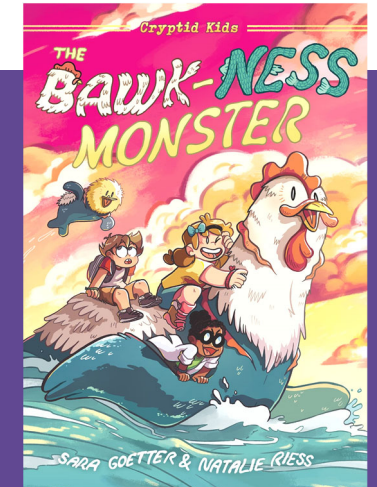
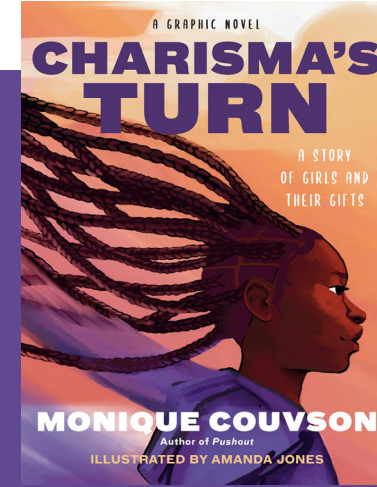
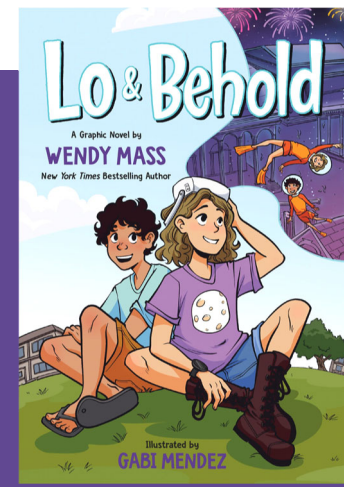
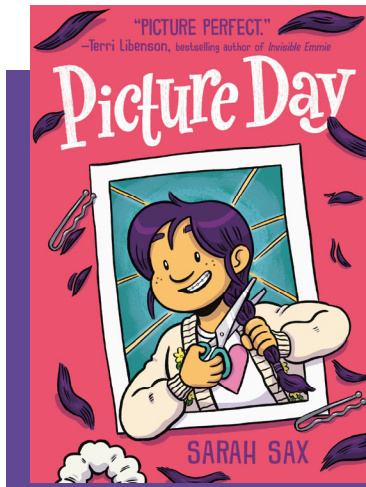
because its promoters had the cash for the acreage and infrastructure necessary to live free from prying eyes. A cross-hatching fiend in the vein of Crumb and Van Sciver, artist Jon Buller renders both backwoods and buildings with loving attention (above right). His people are endearingly lumpy, as are those of Peter Glanting (right). Glanting also does a good job drawing the buildings emptied and those re-made by the COVID lockdown of 2020. According to teacher and author Adam Bessie, *Going*

*Remote* exacerbated issues undermining the American dream of education for all, despite his valiant attempts to make it work. Constance, a modern young woman, also tries to make it work: "it" being her art, her relationship, her gender, her society. Using her creation *The Amazing Camel Toe* as her stand-in, Constance strikes back at the sexism that poisons even alternative culture (above). Fiercely feminine, Claire Duplan's loose-limbed, ink-slashed art is wild and wildly fun!



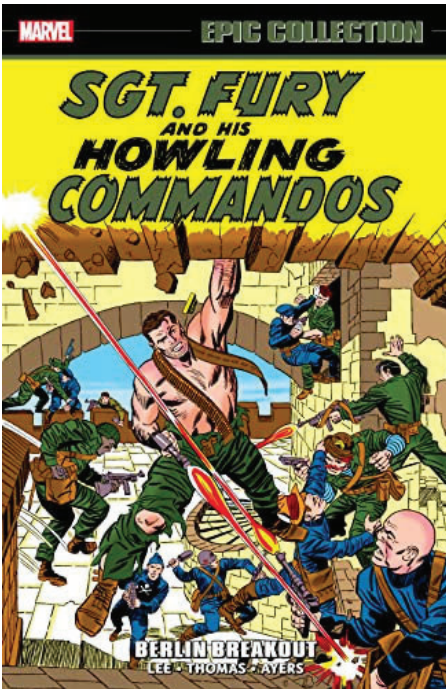
**PUBLISHERS ANNIE KOYAMA & GARY GROTH TALK**  
 FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL SMALL-PRESS COMICS PUBLISHING & DISTRIBUTION

Go to the comic shops in town and you will not find for sale many of the graphic novels LPL offers in our collections. Even publishers as established as Drawn & Quarterly or Fantagraphics fail to maintain much of a presence in the typical comic shop. So imagine how much harder it is for lesser mortals to gain purchase in such a market, such as the multitude of creators like Hyena Hell, who I met at a zine show in Lexington last spring, and subject of an interview in the latest issue of *The Comics Journal*. Other artists working in a similar vein of raw, explosive comics, such as the late Henriette Valium and Mexico's Ines Estrada (below), are eulogized and interviewed; I'd heard of neither before I read this issue. That culturally criminal lack of exposure and the market forces that impede new and different artists and products are discussed by former publisher Annie Koyama and Fantagraphics kingpin Gary Groth. All that, and Current Big Things Nick Drnaso and *Saga* get taken to the woodshed, CJ style!



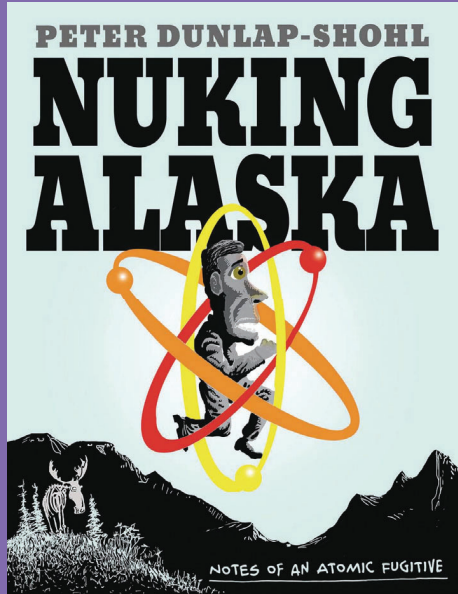
**IT'S A NEW SCHOOL YEAR, SO READ THESE NEW GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR KIDS ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY**





Rumor has it the series was the result of a bet Stan Lee made with his boss that his new "Marvel Method" could sell even something as unpopular as a war comic. Stan won that bet. *Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos* garnered not only the shrinking audience for war books but Marvel completists captivated by Jack Kirby's explosive art and Stan's trademark mix of humanity and hullabaloo. At Central and Northside, Volume 2 of the Epic Collection shows their successors Roy Thomas and Dick Ayers keeping it butch as the Howlers face their Nazi nemeses, Baron Von Strucker and his Blitz Squad!

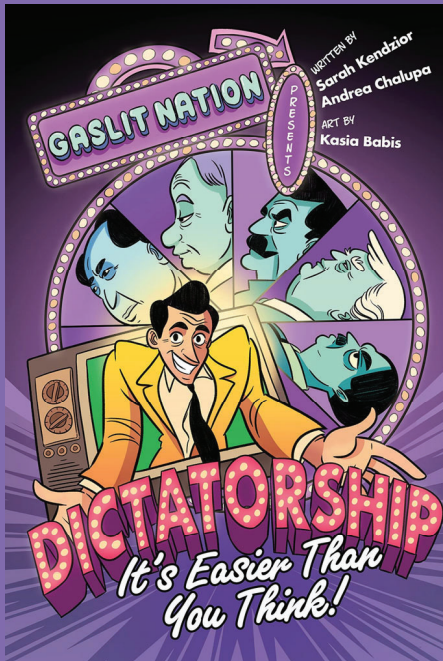
Just in time to piggyback the hoopla over the film *Oppenheimer* comes another up close and personal look at the atomic bomb. *Nuking Alaska* (Graphic Mundi) is the eyewitness account of cartoonist Peter Dunlap-Shohl. Peter had the misfortune to live in a part of Alaska the nation's nuclear nabobs like the maniacal Edward Teller considered to be expendable. Bad enough to grow up in the shadow of a mysterious missile site; Dunlap-Shohl was a teenage witness to the notorious Amchitka underground test of 1971. That and other snafus like Project Chariot are detailed in the artist's mix of loose inks and masterful coloring. The fear of the Bomb falling into



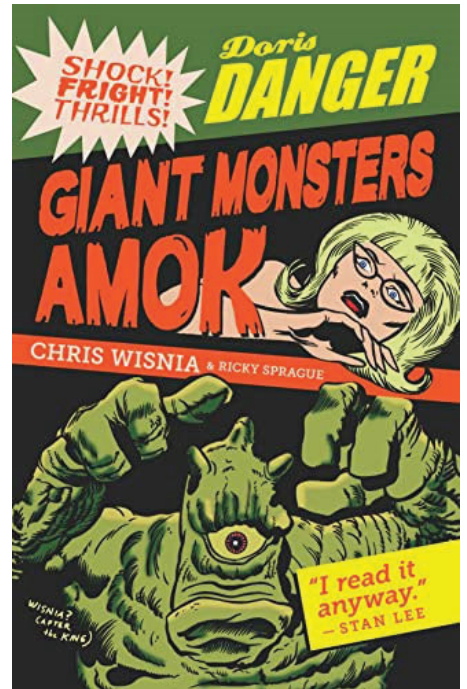
Meanwhile, *Mighty Marvel Masterworks* have two new editions available under TEEN at all LPL locations. Jack "the King" Kirby looms large over these kid-sized compilations of classic Marvel comics. In Volume 3 of *The Mighty Thor*, the Odinson battles the machinations of his evil brother Loki amid his first encounters with Crusher Creel the Absorbing Man and the indestructible Destroyer, all backed with the legendary "Tales of Asgard"! V2 of *Captain America* is chockfulla Kirby kickassery as Cap meets the beautiful badass



## MEANWHILE



the hands of "bad actors" has motivated a lot of our foreign policy over the last several decades. Among those malefactors are the various dictators of the world, especially North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Being a legacy dictator makes him a rarity; most despots, like Ceausescu, Noreiga and Saddam Hussein, end up deposed or dead before their relatives can inherit the mantle—that is, if the Big Kahuna leaves any of them alive. Both primer and parody, *Dictatorship: It's Easier*



Agent 13 and they rumble the Red Skull and his new pals, Advanced Idea Mechanics! A.I.M. creations such as the Cosmic Cube, the Super-Adaptoid (left) and the malevolent M.O.D.O.K. give the Sentinel of Liberty a fearsome fight in these fantasy masterpieces! The influence of Kirby continues to crackle in the 21st Century, as evidenced by *Doris Danger: Giant Monsters Amok* (Fantagraphics). Riffing on the 1960s monster comics churned out by Lee, Kirby and Ayers, Chris Wisnia uses the form of cheapo comics to satirize the cheapo comics biz. Go Amok at Beaumont and Tates Creek!

*Than You Think!* (First Second) gives the basic political theory behind dictators while providing historical examples from the Beer Hall Putsch to January 6th. With flowing graphics and slick illustrations by Kasia (Kittypat) Babis, the hosts of the polemical podcast *Gaslit Nation* describe how history is reflected in the present moment. Foremost among the victims of despotism, the Jewish people have persevered to become an essential part of modern global culture. *The Jewish Deli* is one reason why. This *Illustrated Guide to the Chosen Food* from Chronicle Books features a history of the delicatessen and its savory wares, including interviews with the heirs to the tradition. Ben Nadler's digital cartooning is a little stiff. But the colors are so delicious, you'll drool. Check out that spread of fish!

