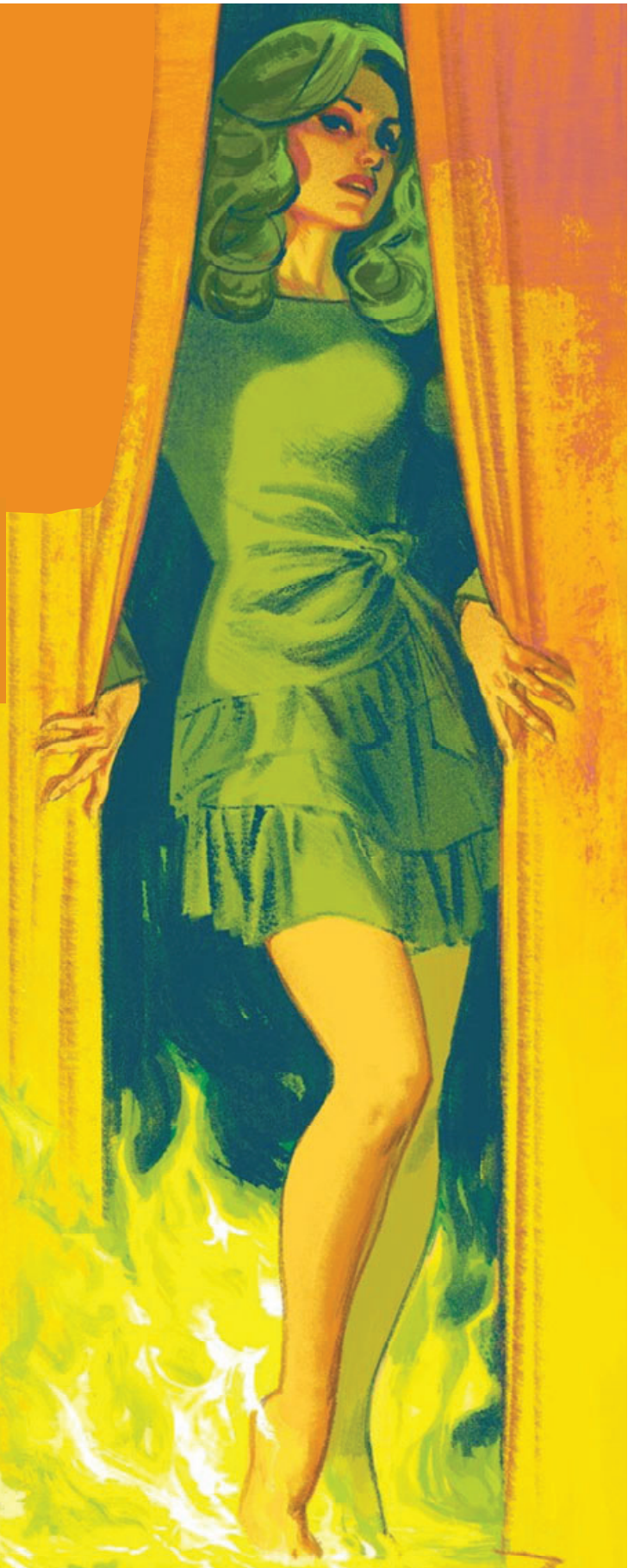


741.5

SEPTEMBER 2023 NO. 104

PUMPKIN SPICY

**SEX AND VIOLENCE
ARE THE RECIPE FOR
A NEW BATCH OF COMICS!**



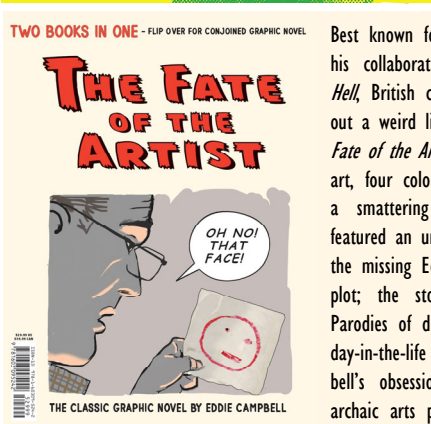
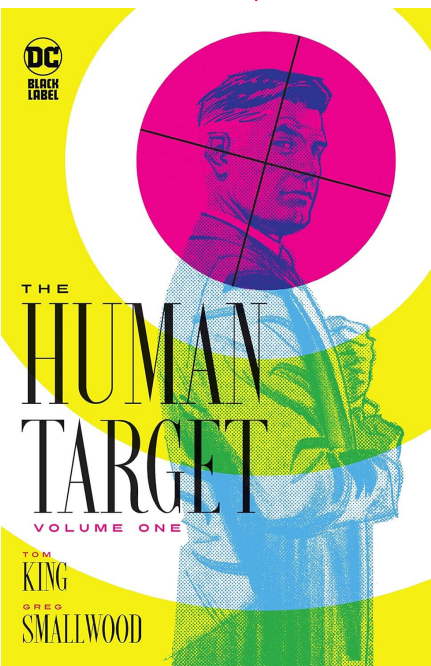
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

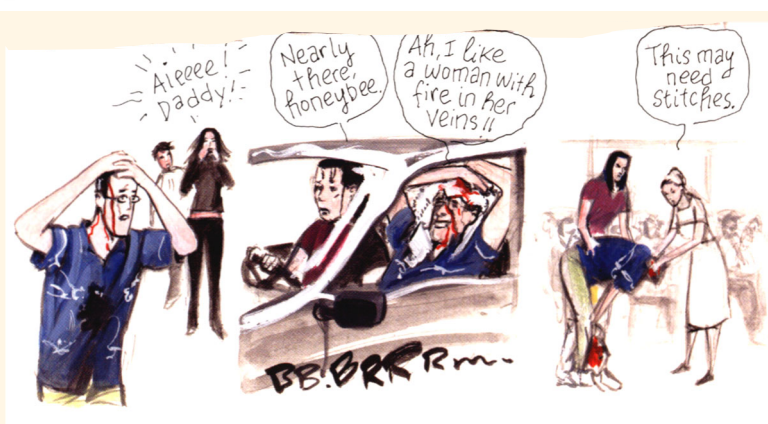


THE HUMAN TARGET
BY TOM KING &
GREG SMALLWOOD
VOLUME 1 & 2...
READ THIS ONE FIRST!

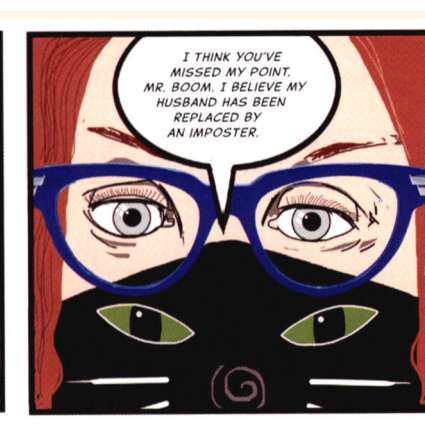
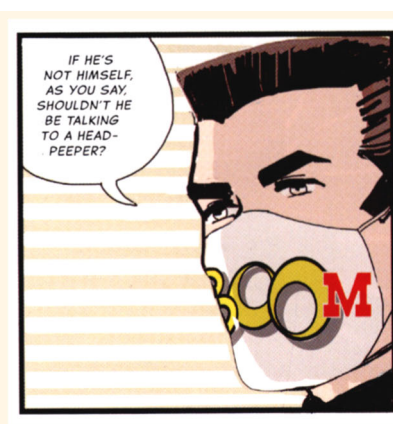


TWO BOOKS IN ONE - FLIP OVER FOR CONJOINED GRAPHIC NOVEL.
THE FATE OF THE ARTIST
THE CLASSIC GRAPHIC NOVEL BY EDDIE CAMPBELL

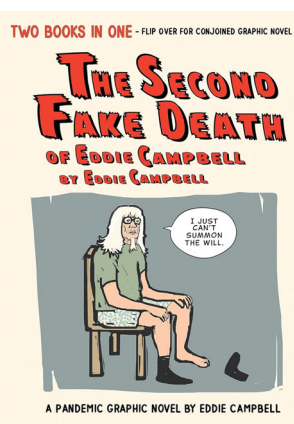
Best known for his own epic *Bacchus* and his collaboration with Alan Moore, *From Hell*, British cartoonist Eddie Campbell put out a weird little book in 2006 called *The Fate of the Artist*. A combination of painted art, four color cartooning, typography and a smattering of digital effects, *Fate...* featured an unseen detective tracking down the missing Eddie Campbell. But that's the plot; the story is much more bizarre. Parodies of domestic comic strips bookend day-in-the-life vignettes (right) while Campbell's obsessions with order, humor and archaic arts parade across the page. That



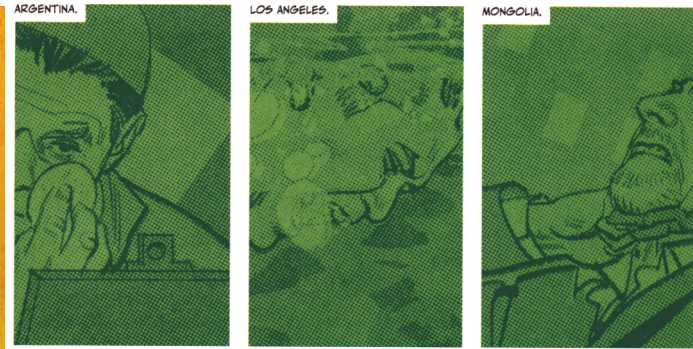
WHO IS EDDIE CAMPBELL???
Father? Husband? Artist? FAKE? That's the mystery behind the new split novel by the British master of alt comics!



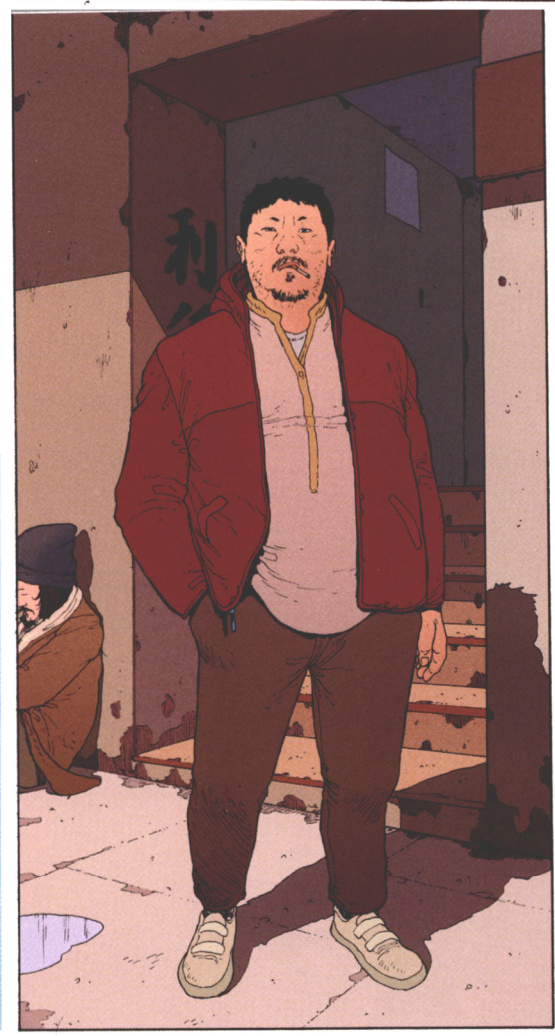
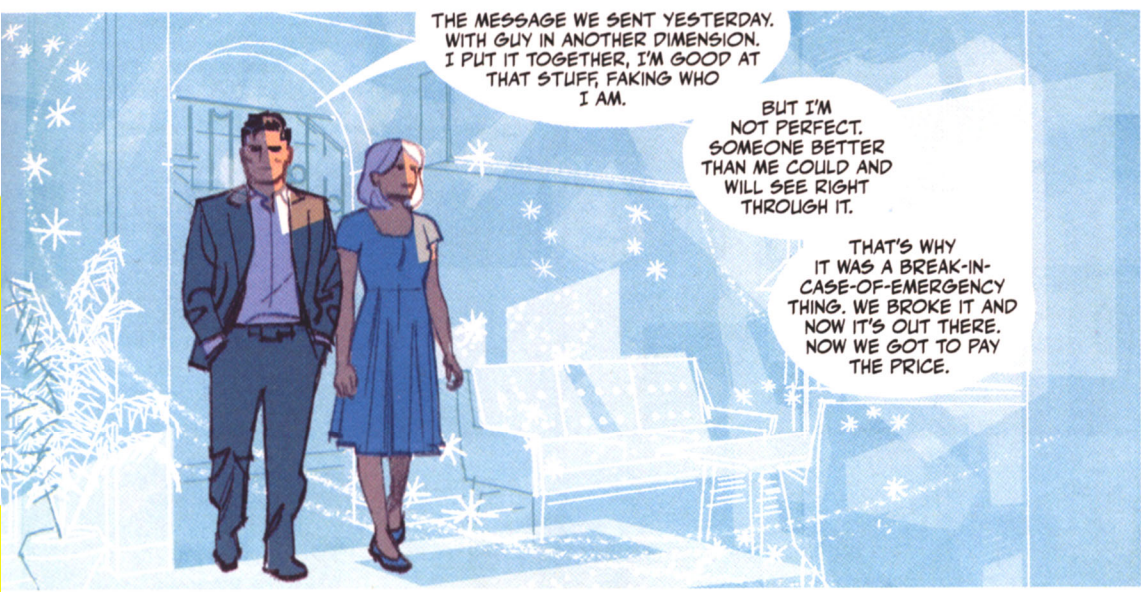
the mystery is not really solved is just part of the joke. So when Campbell needed some laffs in his life thanks to the COVID lockdown, he revisited his *Fate* and faced *The Second Fake Death of Eddie Campbell*. Campbell's new wife, writer Audrey (*The Time Traveler's Wife*) Niffenegger hires PI Royler Boom to dig up the truth behind her alleged husband's odd behavior. In marked contrast to its predecessor, *The Second Fake Death* is almost exclusively digital art...and it shows. Still, the running gag about being locked out in public with no pants is funny stuff. Get it at Central!



TWO BOOKS IN ONE - FLIP OVER FOR CONJOINED GRAPHIC NOVEL.
THE SECOND FAKE DEATH OF EDDIE CAMPBELL
BY EDDIE CAMPBELL
A PANDEMIC GRAPHIC NOVEL BY EDDIE CAMPBELL



Tom King made his funnybook bones taking apart characters like Adam Strange and Mister Miracle and seeing what makes them tick...before the bomb behind the myth goes off. He continued to walk on the wild side of the DC Universe with *The Human Target*. As noted in the review of the first volume in 741.5 #84, Christopher Chance is the Human Target, the man who dies your death for you (above). He had finished another successful job when he fell victim to another assassination attempt on his client, none other than Lex Luthor. With mere days left to live, Chance hunts his killer. Unfortunately for the simply human Chance, most of his suspects are superhuman: former members of Justice League International. Now lovers with JLI vet Ice (right), Chance must face down her partner Fire (above left), have a tough talk with Rocket Red, and trick goofball Green Lantern G'nort, all while avoiding the Bat. Artist Greg Smallwood's 21st Century recreation of Popuxe style and midcentury illustration makes *The Human Target* a joy to read at Central and Tates Creek.



Rick Remender made headlines in the comics press recently after he turned down more moolah from Marvel and DC to sign an exclusive deal with Image Comics. That makes sense given the number of successful series and novels Remender has scribed for the 3rd largest publisher in the biz, like *Deadly Class*, *Black Science* and...*A Righteous Thirst for Vengeance*. This hard-boiled crime story has been re-released in a big, beautiful Oversize edition that showcases the hyper-realist artwork of Andre Lima Araujo. Follow insurance investigator Sonny Wen (left) as he traces clues on the dark web and stumbles into a world of murder and mayhem. Obviously inspired by Jeffrey Epstein's career of evil, in *...Vengeance*, the elite (bottom right) use a secret army of crooked cops and professional psychopaths (below) to eliminate threats to their status (above). Sonny don't play that, and the best laid plans of mooks and men go ugly at Central and Village!



A RIGHTEOUS THIRST FOR VENGEANCE
THE DELUXE EDITION
BY RICK REMENDER &
ANDRE LIMA ARAUJO
CENTRAL ← OVERSIZE → VILLAGE

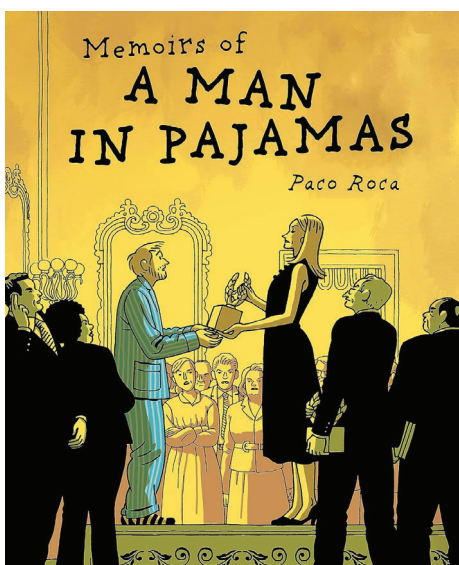


This issue's items are distinguished by top flight artwork in service to simple stories complicated by the vagaries of human emotion. The latest addition to the Millarverse wrangled by writer **Mark Millar**, *The Ambassadors* features not one, but six different artists (and as many colorists). Volume 1 of the Image/Netflix series introduces Dr. Choon-He Sung *alias* Codename Korea and her new friends. Dr. Sung has discovered the secret to endowing super-powers and shares it with select citizens of the world. All you have to do is convince her you would be able to handle that ol' Great Responsibility. An everyday guy from India, a French divorcee worried about her son, an aging Aussie politician, a former criminal from the *favelas* of Rio: these and more become the Ambassadors. Of course, the power elite ain't happy about this, especially Sung's ex, who has his own gang of suped-up associates. Each chap-



MEANWHILE

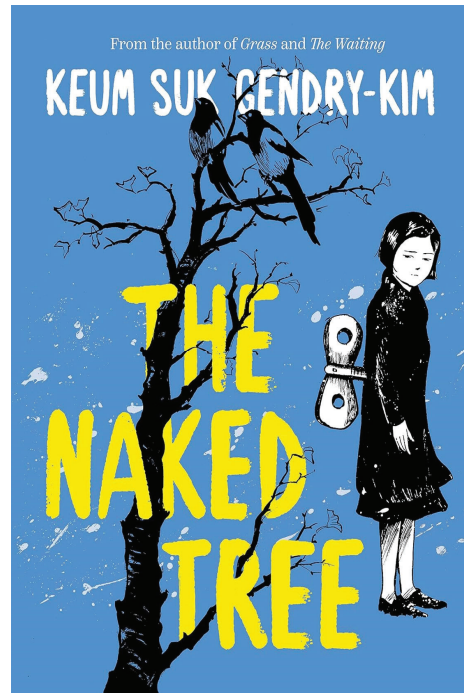
ter is drawn by a different artist, with the work of **Frank Quitely** and **Travis Charest** standing out. More hopeful than **Millar's** usual output, *The Ambassadors* is available at all LPL locations. Same goes for the first entry in **Scott Snyder's** series *Dark Spaces* from IDW Original. *Wildfire* concerns a quintet of firefighters, all prisoners except for the leader. While fighting one of California's relentless forest fires, the new girl on the crew realizes they're a few miles from the secret country home of her ex-boss, the one who sent her to prison. She broaches the idea of a heist. The crew decides to go for it. And that's when things really go to hell. Partnered with the expressive coloring of **Ronda Pattison**, artist **Hayden Sherman** really puts the reader in the middle of the action, physically and emotionally. You feel the heat and sweat and soot, smell the smoke and ashes, live inside the heads of these desperate women as they weigh their choices in the face of a cruel, unforgiving world. After comics as intense as *The Ambassadors* and *Wildfire*, it's a relief to read *Memoirs of A Man in*



Pajamas (Fantagraphics) even if, as creator **Paco Roca** states, "One cannot be serenely happy and creative at the same time." But you can be insightful ("If Hell exists...each of us will find ourselves trapped in our own particular battle against chaos," as naked figures rambling a blasted landscape mutter "My books...I need to organize my books."), philosophical ("Clearly the snows of time have less power over people who are constantly in motion, but they bury those who live in fear," as his wife smirks "Jesus, every time you come back from the barber you look ten years older."), and, most importantly, funny. Author of the historical *Winter of the Cartoonist* (see 741.5 #49), **Roca** spends as much time satirizing contemporary Spain as he does roasting himself. Judging from his encounters with clingy fans, obstreperous infants, married friends, unmarried friends, clerks and cops and bosses, they have the same problems as us. Beaumont, Central and Village have this beautifully drawn and whimsically wise collection from one of Europe's best. The Space Age is known by another name in comics: the Silver Age. During that Silver Age, DC assiduously avoided refer-



ring to real life events of the 1960s. *Superman: Space Age* re-imagines that era as Superman, Batman and the rest of the Justice League are affected by the Cold War and all the history thereafter. So Batman becomes a terrorist and Luthor gets out of prison thanks to Reagan Era distrust of government. The Crisis is coming, though, and Superman must find a way to save his family and the rest of humanity. With the usual gorgeous job by artist **Michael Allred** (he draws the best Hourman!), this DC hardback is available at all locations. Family is the focus of *The Naked Tree* (Drawn & Quarterly). The story of Lee Kyeonga and the artist who stole her hard and youthful heart during the Korean War is a tale of desire frustrated by personal and political realities. The exquisite dry brush technique of **Keum Suk Gendry-Kim** is both harshly realistic and hypnotically romantic. Get *The Naked Tree* at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org)



Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpublib.org under the READING SERVICES tab!