

**741.5**

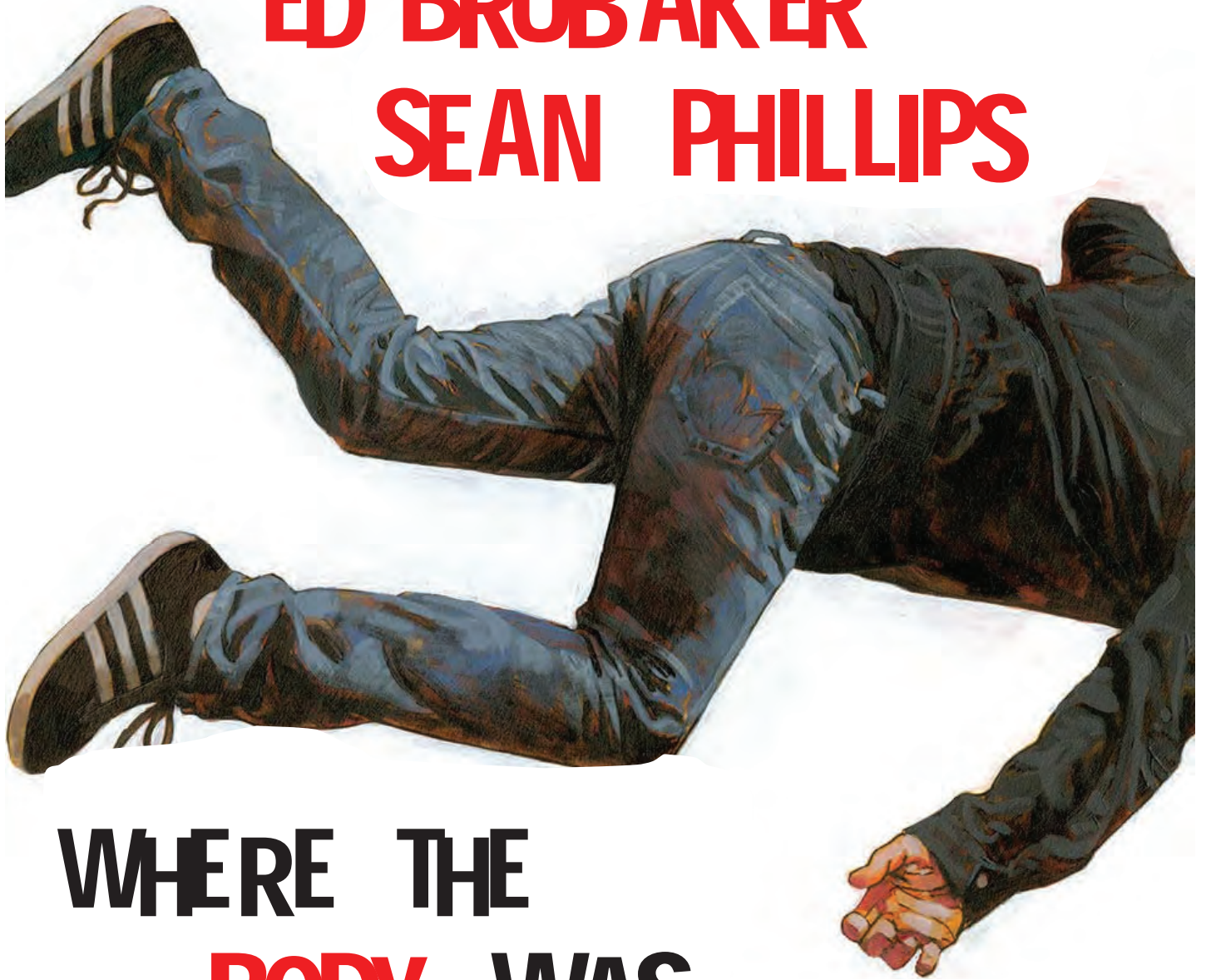
**MARCH  
MURDER  
MADNESS**

**MARCH 2024 NO. 115**

**PLUS...MARCH MANGA MADNESS!**

**ED BRUBAKER**

**SEAN PHILLIPS**



**WHERE THE  
BODY WAS**

**The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of**



**Lexington Public Library**  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*



Lying in his death bed, Slam Bradley decides it's time to tell the truth. The truth about what happened all those years ago in Gotham City...the kidnapping...the murders...the aftermath that left hundreds dead and the Southside smoldering embers and Gotham itself a fear-ridden shell of what it had been. And he tells that truth to the man he thinks needs to hear it: the Batman. After all, it was Bruce Wayne's grandparents at the center of the mystery. Patriarch Richard, his long-suffering wife Constance and their little girl, Helena, "Gotham City's Princess". It's a sordid, twisted tale that's as hard-boiled as its reluctant hero, Slam Bradley. Created by Siegel & Shuster years before Superman, the two-fisted shamus had a long career as a back-up feature in the flagship title *Detective Comics*. He's recently been rediscovered and used in new stories, including this hardcore DC Black Label hardcover by Tom King & Phil Hester, available at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)!

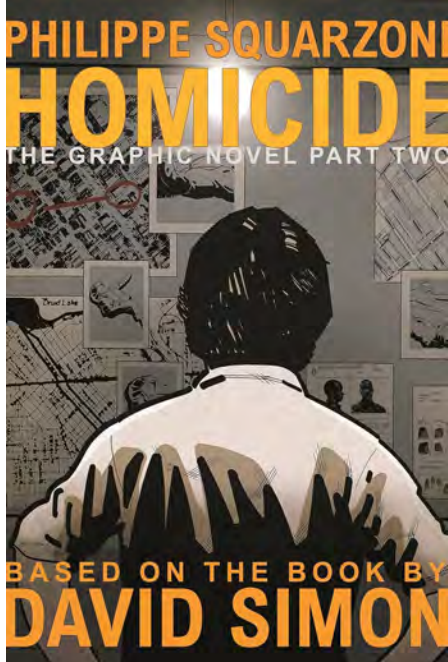


Below: Palmer Sneed, the Man with the Badge; runaway Karina Lane and Tommy Brandt, JD.



The story begins at the end of the street. That's where the stately manor known locally as the Boarding House sits, at the terminus of the *cul de sac* called Pelican Road. By June of 1984, "it had become an eyesore, and the tenants were a revolving collection of lowlifes," like Tommy Brandt and the runaway teen he crushed over, Karina Lane. Their relationship began in earnest the day Tommy got a beatdown from Karina's boyfriend, only to be saved by their neighbor, Detective Palmer Sneed. Thing is, Sneed ain't no cop; he's just claiming authority bestowed on him by the badge he swiped from his old man's coffin. But it does earn Palmer the attentions of his neighbor, Toni Mel-

Above: neighborhood superhero Lila Nguyen, the Roller Derby Kid



**EVERYONE IS GUILTY...BUT WHO IS THE KILLER?** A mysterious body that's there then not there rocks and roils a suburban neighborhood in the summer of 1984!

1988, Baltimore, Maryland, at the height of the Crack Wars. Neighborhoods have become war zones, while the storm and stress of urban life demand more death and mayhem. The Homicide Unit has its hands full. A lot of names in red on the big board wait to turn black once the killer is caught. Sometimes detectives get a "dunk", a murder easily solved, often because of the perp's own incompetence. Other times, cases stay open no matter how many dicks work them like the unsolved killing of eleven-year-old Latonya Wallace, which slowly eats away at the health of Detective Tom Pellegrini. Meanwhile, the cases keep coming: shankings, shootings, a series of sex murders. Team player Kincaid, lone wolf Edgerton, the old hand Worden, who has put in his 25, yet can't seem to quit—these men (and back then, it was men) and more confront the daily darkness of mere humanity in Philippe Squarzoni's masterful adaptation of David Simon's masterpiece of true crime. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)!

Find this new murder mystery from the creators of *FATALE*, *KILL OR BE KILLED* and the *EVAN RECKLESS* series @ [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)!

**ED BRUBAKER SEAN PHILLIPS**



**WHERE THE BODY WAS**

ville. Meanwhile, barely pubescent Lila Nguyen also claims special authority by dressing like the superheroes whose comics she loves. Both Sneed and Lila bite off more than they can chew, especially after the bona fide PI sent after Karina turns up dead on the sidewalk. Was it Sneed? Karina? Toni's husband, Dr. Melville, or maybe his patient Ranko? The homeless vet who also hangs out with the Roller Derby Kid is the wild card in a game of lies and larceny. Like a cross between *Rashomon* and *Encyclopedia Brown*, everybody's got their own story to tell about *Where the Body Was* (Image).



An average sarariman is dragged into a war of titans by a giant talking frog. A shamus loses himself searching for a missing husband. A waitress meets the boss, changing her life forever. A

**HARUKI MURAKAMI**  
MANGA STORIES



*Super-Frog Saves Tokyo*  
*Where I'm Likely to Find It*  
*Birthday Girl*  
*The Seventh Man*

Adapted by Jean-Christophe Duvassy  
Illustrations by PMGL

man confronts his fear of the sea and the guilt at the heart of his terror. Absurd, magical, spooky as hell, the tales of Haruki Murakami are beautifully adapted by French artists Deveny & PMGL!



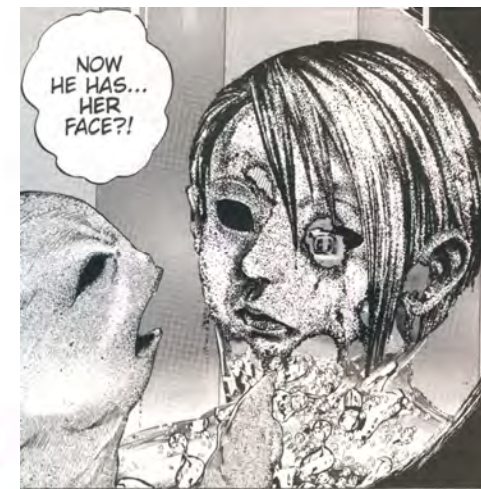
**Homunculus**



HIDEO YAMAMOTO

3-4

As discussed in **741.5 #101**, *Homunculus* is the story of Susumu Nakoshi, a deeply alienated young man who, broke and hapless, allows a weirdo med student operate on his brain. Now Nakoshi can see the true faces of the people around him. They ain't pretty. In V3-4, Nakoshi and his mentor both take advantage of a high school girl whose true face...well, see below, then read the manga that makes Junji Ito's stuff look like an ep of *Scooby Doo*. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) to reserve your copy!



Imagine the kung fu-kicking son of Foghorn Leghorn starring in a funny animal adaptation of *Attack On Titan* and you've got *Rooster Fighter!* V5 finds our hero Keiji beating up monsters (below) while dealing with some family issues. SHU SAKURATAANI's art is



dense, but his layouts propel the reader along. Plus he draws some awesome monsters! The peace between herbivores and carnivores could collapse into bloody anarchy in V22 of *Beastars*. PARU ITAGAKI renders his cast of critters with personality and style!



**CAT + GAMER**  
VOLUME 3  
Wataru Nadatani

New volumes of manga series include V3 of the charming *Cat + Gamer* and V9 of *A Man and His Cat*, in which our heroes have to deal with wayward youth as Mr. Kanda's surly son and a boisterous batch of kittens turn the household upside down. Meanwhile, Volumes 10-12 of *ZOM 100: Bucket List of the Dead* showed up at once. Action fans should nab the 36th edition of *My Hero Academy* while yuri romance fans will like V3 of *She Loves to Cook*, and *She Loves to Eat!*





(Not) A New York Love Story is a ghost story that lives up to its name. On the surface, it's a simple story of a young man haunted by the memory of his lost love. But is she just a memory? The...visions? Dreams? Hallucinations he's having seem so real, so much more real than his everyday life. Unburdened by quotidian demands, he can finally join her at all the things they meant to do but never did. They ride the Wonder Wheel at Coney Island, catch the Mermaid Parade, get dinner at that obscure, out-of-the-way Chinese place. But he always wakes up alone. So who is the ghost? **Julian Voloj** writes a sweet story that still leaves you feeling a chill down your spine. **Andreas Gefe's** art is quietly extraordinary, a thin, light, but intensely detailed pen line given form and heft by luminous pastels, with an eye for architectural elements that's its own kind of New York love story. Get it from Central. Most LPL



## MEANWHILE

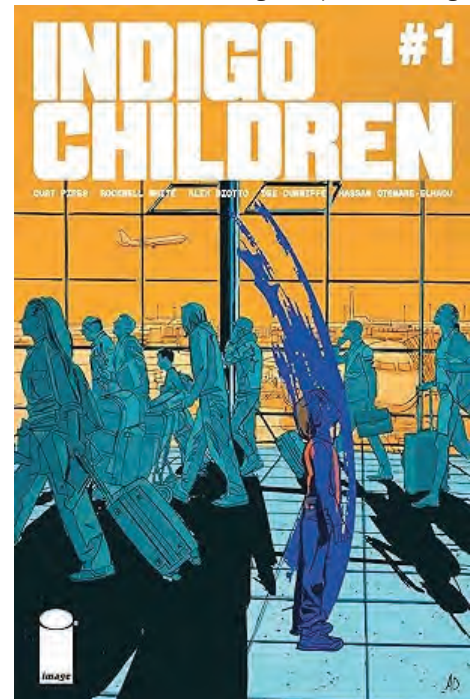
locations have a copy of the eleventh volume of the popular post-modern sci-fi series, *Saga*. The universe is at war, as always, and our intrepid trio of makeshift mom Alana, half-breed Hazel and Squire, the lost princeling of the Robot Kingdom, are on the run from agents from both sides. They hack out a living in the shadows of a backwater planet, but hot on their heels is Winged assassin Pete. Meanwhile, leader of the Horns, Gwen, is shacking up with infamous Freelancer, the Will, who really likes her a whole lot. Even Lying Cat can't find fault with the alliance, as Gwen works behind the scenes to overthrow the galactic dominance of Landfall, even as the horned hunter Petrichor seeks vengeance for Gwen's own crimes. Yeah, it sounds like a lot of crazy, but that's just skimming the surface of this complex *Saga*. You gotta read it to get it. **Fiona Staples** continues to earn her primary spot in the credits with art that's amazingly clean and real given the utter weirdness of



the story. Weirdness is one the major aspects DC Black Label inherited from its predecessor, Vertigo. The imprint devoted to harder, tougher, stranger explorations of the DC Universe delves deeper into the myth of DC's King of the Sea. Having finally shaken off his long-time burden as a punchline, Aquaman stars in a one-off tale of cosmic horror, *Andromeda*. That's the name of the super-secret vessel conducting a double-super-secret investigation into a big scary thing that's plummeted into the "spaceship graveyard" kept by the world's governments out in the furthest reaches of the Pacific Ocean. Turns out it's not alien, but Atlantean, a relic from the era before the fabled city sank beneath the waves. As a crew of scientific and military misfits dig into the ancient craft, Aquaman's tireless nemesis, Black Manta, sets a trap for both the crew of the *Andromeda* and Aquaman himself. It's a spooky story from **Ram** (*The Many Deaths of Laila Starr*) **V** told in big beautiful pics by **Christian Ward** full of swirling colors and hypnotic visuals that take full advantage of the larger page size. Frankly, I wish all DC titles would switch to this size, given their increasing textual and visual complexity. Far from the slickness of DC



but just as obsessively detailed is the art of **Thijs Desmet**. The Belgian's work shares aspects with that of so-called "outsider artists": child-like, cluttered drawings that are both highly rendered and somewhat dashed-off. The layout often explodes into visionary images of cosmic machinery. Pretty heavy for a goofy story about a ghost who smokes because he knows he's dead and his new pal, Skeleton, who won't accept he's no longer a citizen of the land of the living. *Smoking Kills* (Fantagraphics UG) is a comic both slapstick and philosophical, available at Eastside, Marksbury and Tates Creek. All LPL locations carry a copy of the new Image thriller, *Indigo Children*. Fifteen years after a group of extraordinarily gifted children disappeared, an American reporter follows a trail to where these kids ended up. Unfortunately for him and his allies, bad actors are hot on his tail, forcing the now-grown super-kids to come out of hiding with powers blazing!



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