

741.5

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

THE BRUTALITY & BEAUTY OF THE GOLDEN AGE

BY ROXANNE MOREIL & CYRIL PEDROSA

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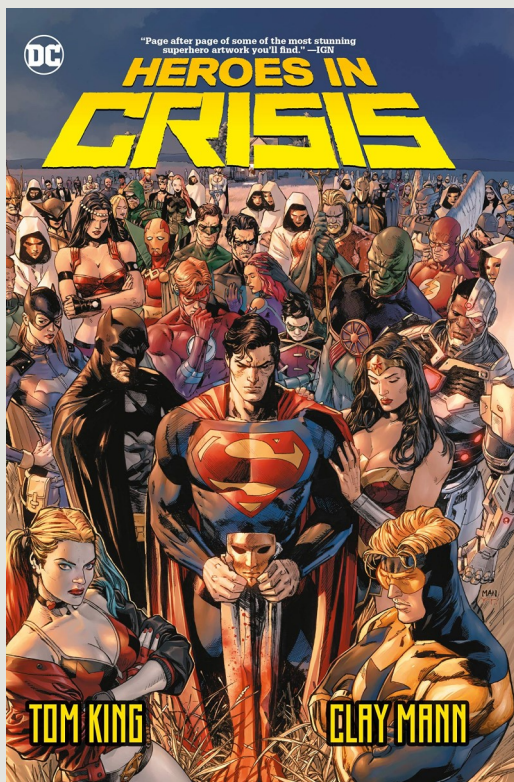
PLUS...HEROES IN CRISIS



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



Okay...when did Ted Kord come back from the dead? I mean, he was dead a LONG time. Ted Kord was the secret identity of fan favorite Blue Beetle (below). The last time I saw him, he was shot in the head by the villainous Maxwell Lord. But that was many years — and even more reboots/retcons/senses-shattering Summer Events — ago. No doubt Ted was brought back during Flashpoint or the New 52 or his best bud Booster Gold's recent futzing about with the time stream. I, for one, do not know. It's just too exhausting to keep up with the constant changes in "continuity." And if it's that tiring for the reader, imagine how the actual characters feel. Well, Tom (*Sheriff of Babylon*) King has done that for you with *Heroes In Crisis*, DC's sleeper hit of last year. An unassuming farm in the heartland is where superheroes can go when they're overwhelmed by the job. Sanctuary is a place to unwind, to rest, to deal with the

HEROES IN CRISIS

BY TOM KING & CLAY MANN

A hidden Sanctuary for stressed-out superheroes becomes the scene of an astonishing act of bloody violence in this moody murder mystery by the award-winning writer of *The Vision & Mister Miracle!*

issues that come with being a caped crusader, an immortal amphibian, or the last Cro-Magnon on Earth. But some people can't be helped, and Sanctuary becomes a slaughterhouse. Accused of the crime, Booster Gold and Harley Quinn are on the run...and on the hunt for the real killer! Meanwhile, the secrets of Sanctuary are about to be exposed to the world. Though action-packed and unflinching in its intensity, it's the quiet moments that make *Heroes in Crisis* as paladins renowned and obscure confess to the camera, showing the human face behind the mask. Get it at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)



Below: The resurrected Ted Kord, alias the Blue Beetle, lays it out.

Heir to the throne of Antrevers, Princess Tilda has a vision of a new kingdom where the cruel hierarchy of lords, knights and peasants no longer rules. Instead, Tilda is exiled by her brother the usurper, raised to power by her treacherous vassals (right). Fugitive and wounded unto death, Tilda has another vision, one of herself as a warrior in armor on horseback (see cover). It portends the war she knows she must fight to regain her kingdom. But is it a

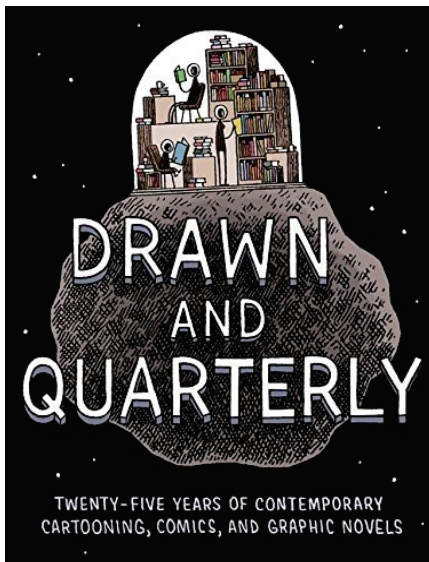


prophecy of triumph...or of utter defeat? Caught between her pursuers and a peasant uprising, Tilda must find her answers in a fabled sepulcher of the ancients. Book One of *The Golden Age* is a fairy tale, political thriller and social commentary in one. Roxanne Moreil takes a clear-eyed look at medieval tropes in her first graphic novel. Former Disney animator Cyril (*Hunchback of Notre Dame*) Pedrosa puts that experience to good use with exquisite character work and fantastically rich colors that will take your breath away!

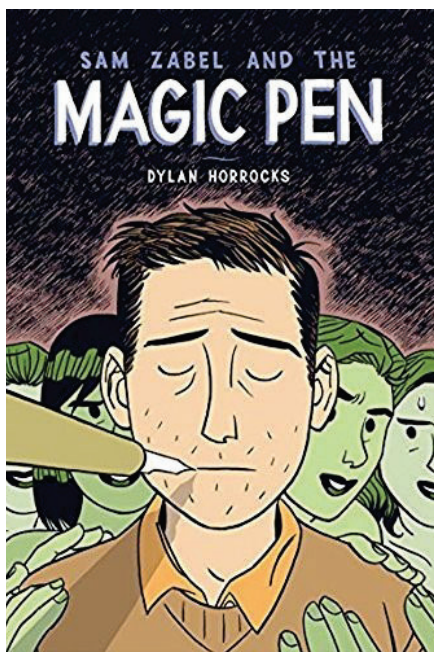


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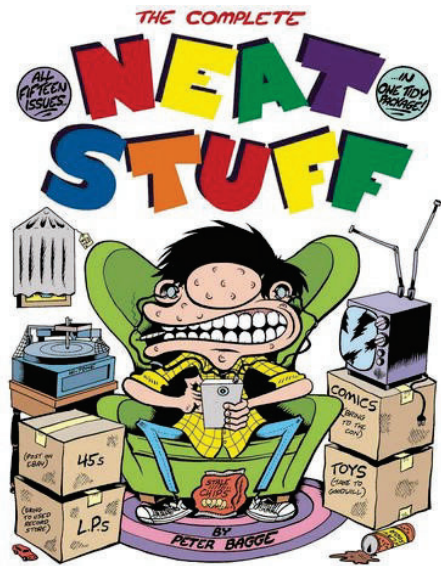


Covid-19 has brought much of our economy to a standstill. That includes the comics industry. Given that few new books have come in, let's look back at some prime comics that arrived before the inception of 741.5. You'll find our first item under another Dewey Decimal number, 070.5, the location of books about, well, books, and other forms of publishing. Headquartered in Montreal, Drawn & Quarterly is one of the foremost publishers of modern comics. The imprint started out as a quarterly magazine in the style of the seminal art comic *RAW*. Then editor/publisher/chief bottle washer **Chris Oliveros** expanded into single titles like *Palookaville* and *Optic Nerve* before focusing on graphic novels and collections such as *Doug Wright: Canada's Master Cartoonist* (a gorgeous Oversize book available at Central). *Twenty-five Years...of the best North American, European and Japanese cartoonists* are celebrated in comics and essays both personal and historical by artists and fans like **Margaret Atwood**. Released in 2015, this is a chunk of book weighing in at 776 pages and 4.6 pounds, a perfect way to while away quarantine. Get it from Central. That location is also



MEANWHILE

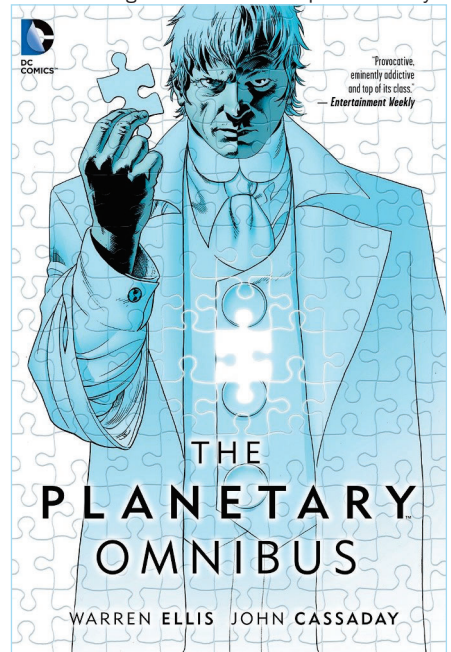
home to the other items discussed, including *Sam Zabel and the Magic Pen*, the most recent novel by New Zealand's finest cartoonist, **Dylan Horrocks**. Sam Zabel is a professional comics creator who is utterly exhausted after years of grinding out superhero stories. The Magic Pen was inherited from an obscure NZ producer of old school sci-fi comics featuring hardy explorers and hot green chicks. Using the Magic Pen, Zabel literally escapes real life and ends up in the pages of various comic books. He's accompanied by Alice, whose webcomics subvert man-made and male-dominated fantasy worlds to her own progressive ends, and Miki, a jet-booted manga character on the run from the malevolent *otaku* whose perverted desires brought her to life. Desire is at the heart of *Sam Zabel*, a rollicking but sincere rumination on fantasy and its consequences both within and without. Finding herself among the hot green chicks, Alice tries to recast the rules of that



imagined world to reflect contemporary mores; meanwhile, Sam is swept away in those verdant arms into an erotic vision. So, yeah, *caveat lector*, there's a lot of naked green women running around. This is **Horrocks'** first book in color. The kiwi cartoonist has worked mostly in black & white like his peers such as **Peter Bagge**, one of the forefathers of alternative comics. Following his stint as editor of *Weirdo* (see 741.5 no.31), **Bagge** created for the young and snotty publisher Fantagraphics the young and snotty comic book *Neat Stuff*. This anthology was a high point of the Eighties, featuring a slew of hilarious characters: the obnoxious *Girlly Girl* and her pal/patsy *Chuckie-Boy*, cocksure radio host *Studs Kirby*, born loser *Junior* and suburbanites *Chet* and *Bunny Leeway*. *Neat Stuff's* breakout star was sullen teen *Buddy Bradley*, whose iconic mug adorns the cover of the two-volume box set, *The Complete Neat Stuff*. Laugh your head off while **Bagge** moves from grotesque slapstick to trenchant satire as he matures as an artist and a writer. For a rollercoaster ride through the development of comics, read **Dan Nadel's** *Art Out of Time*. **Nadel** arranges his 29 *Unknown Comics Visionaries* by style, not chronology. Hippie horror fiend **Rory Hayes** follows the Art Deco delights of girly artist **Jefferson McHa-**



mer while Silver Age cult character **Herbie Popnecker** shares a chapter with polychromatic fantasias from the turn of the 20th Century. Once-popular strips and artists like **Milt Gross** and the *Seinfeld*-esque *Bungle Family* rub cheeks with obscurities such as *Silly Milly* and **Boody Rogers**. From the lovely *Naughty Pete* to the weird tale "Colorama", *Art Out of Time* is a truly eclectic study of the artistic potential of comics. Meanwhile, take another trip through time with the enigmatic **Elijah Snow** and his colleagues, the superwoman and the guy who talks to machines. Said "mystery archeologists" take a deep dig into the roots of international pulp culture. Japanese *kaiju*, Hong Kong ghost cops, the mountain hideaway of a long-dead super-team — these are but a few of the wonders unearthed by the intrepid trio. There are horrors, too. Most are the work of the Four, a vicious riff on a certain "world's greatest" quartet. A thrilling journey through secret history, *Planetary* was a pinnacle for writer **Warren Ellis** and artist **John Cassaday**. The *Omnibus* includes all 27 issues plus covers, sketches and more. "It's a strange world. Let's keep it that way."



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