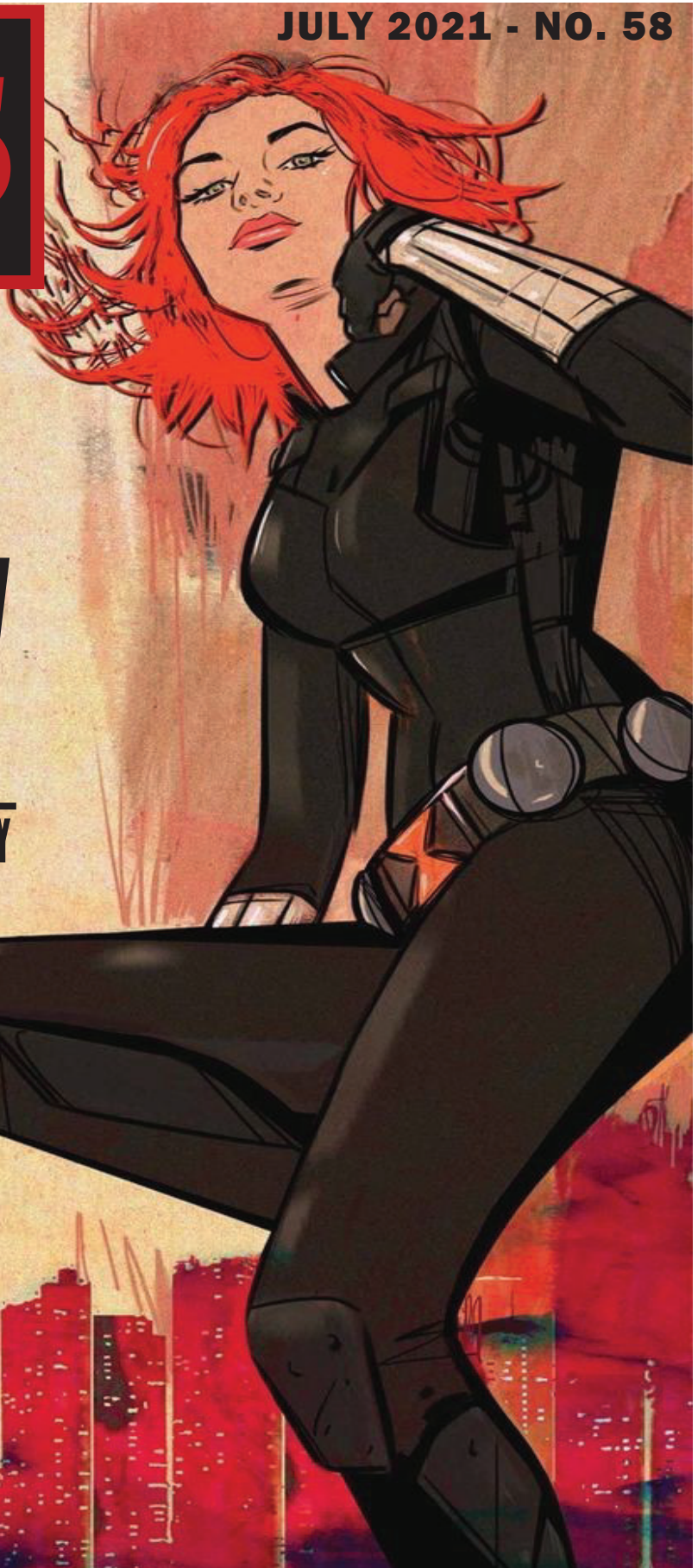


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741.5

BLACK WIDOW

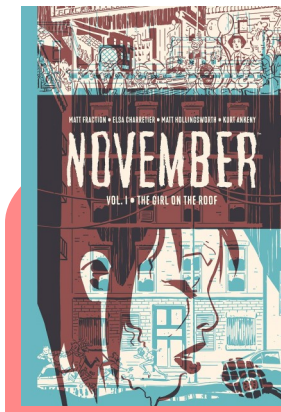
MARVEL'S SINISTER, SEXY SUPER-SPY STORMS THE SILVER SCREEN!



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



Three women: the junkie paid to check the paper every day and broadcast the code hidden in the crossword; the bystander, who finds the gun the junkie loses as she flees her paymasters; the ex-cop, who takes the 911 call from the bystander and realizes she is witness once again to an evil she can no longer hide behind alcohol and overwork—three women whose lives collide in a tangle of blood and money and mystery. They are the protagonists of *November*,



released as four hardbacks by Image: *The Girl On the Roof*, *The Gun In the Puddle*, *The Voice At the End of the Phone* and *The Mess We're In*. Written with clenched teeth and white knuckles by the omnipresent Matt Fraction, the art by Elsa Charretier is a twilight twist on comics noir evocative of Chris Samnee and Jordi (Torpedo) Bernet. Matt Hollingsworth's colors paint a city without sunlight, a world of eternal *November*. Cop this grim gem of crime fiction at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)



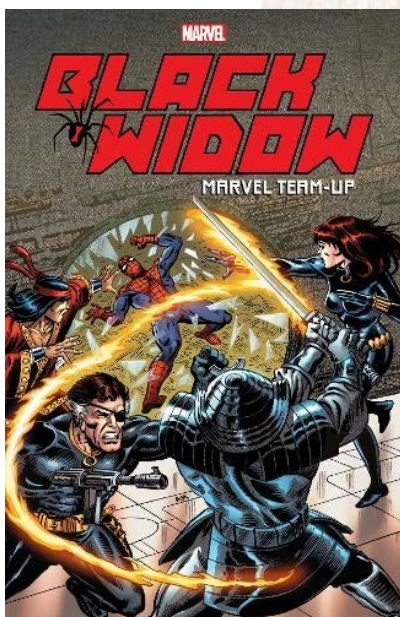
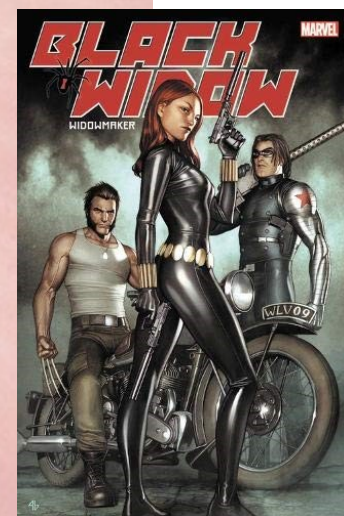
Against a universe of gods and devils, a world of men made of fire and sand and metal, of women who can fly, punch through walls, turn the very air into a weapon...stands one woman who is just a human being. One woman with no powers, no Uru hammer, no Hulkbuster armor— just physical skill born of relentless training, mental acumen sharpened by years of danger and deceit, a spirit unbroken by the worst life and death could throw at her. That woman is the preeminent heroine of the Marvel Universe, Natasha Romanoff, the brilliant, the beautiful, the badass

BLACK WIDOW!

Finally, after more than a year's delay, Natasha Romanoff will hit movie screens around the world in a action-packed prequel that delves into the blood-spattered past of the Black Widow. Beat the crowd and get these graphic delights covering the long and tangled career of Marvel's deadliest dame!



If you want the comics, start with the two Epic Collections. Volume One, *Beware the Black Widow*, covers the years 1964-1971. The first half is a somewhat clumsy read, cobbling together her initial appearances in "Iron Man" and *The Avengers* as a sneaky brunette in fishnet stockings and a pillbox hat. She became a redhead in *Amazing Spider-Man* #86; artist John Romita Sr. designed the now-iconic black leather catsuit with gold belt and stinger bracelets. V1 also includes her first short-lived solo series and some of her adventures with Daredevil. Volume 2, *The Coldest War*, reprints work from the 1980s and early '90s, culled from various mini-series and anthologies like *Marvel Fanfare* and *Bizarre Adventures*. These stories established the Widow as a major player in the Marvel Universe.



The next collection to read would be *Black Widow: Marvel Team-Up*, reprinting her appearances in that best-selling title from the Seventies, as well as her one turn with the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing in his team-up book, *Marvel Two-In-One*. *Widowmaker* shows Natasha crossing paths and throwing fists with former enemy the Winter Soldier, former lover Hawkeye, and former ally Wolverine in a maelstrom of espionage and assassination. Featuring outstanding artwork from Bill (*Elektra*) Sienkiewicz and Sean (*Criminal*) Phillips, *Welcome to the Game* brings the Black Widow back to a Russia she no longer recognizes, but that's no less dangerous. *Web of the Black Widow* (AKA *Black Widow: Year One*) finds Natasha up against a mysterious figure using the Widow's tangled past against her. Will her new comrades in the Avengers help her...or hunt her? The masterful characterization of writer Mark Waid is ably assisted by the sleek and swinging art of Chris Samnee in *The Complete Collection* of their Black Widow series. These and other books, including two TEEN novels and the historical overview *Secrets of A Super-Spy*, are available via [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)

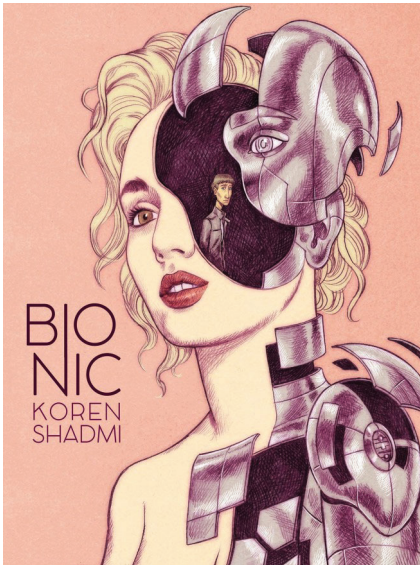


What does Wonder Woman, the Princess of Peace, find when awakened from a mysterious sleep? A world ravaged by atomic war, a war her own people may have started. *Dead Earth* is a raw post-apocalyptic saga which tests the limits of Diana's powers and principles. The larger format of DC Black Label books gives the wild, colorful and often gruesome art of



author Daniel Warren Johnson space to move. Artist Denys Cowan returns to the character that made his name back in the 1980s, the Question. Written by Jeff Lemire, *The Death of Vic Sage* happens across the timeline, from Hub City's wild west days to the urban here and now, as the faceless detective pursues those who killed him...and killed him...and killed him...



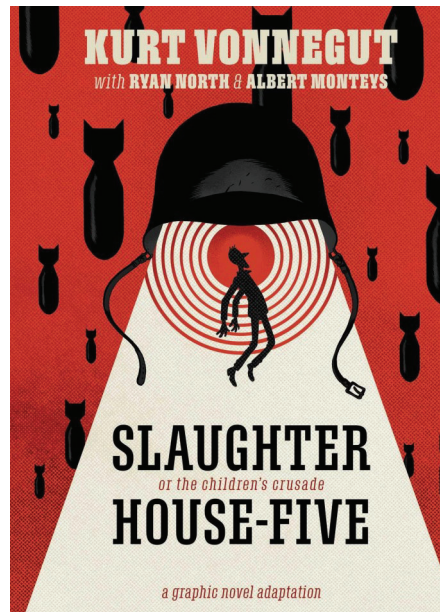


“Sure, yeah, I’d be happy to hang,” our heroine says to our hero. “Just so we’re clear, though—it’s not a date.” Those words, said mere seconds before the brutal accident that changes everything, act as a dictum for *Bionic* (Top Shelf). A teen romance set in the very near future, *Bionic* follows the struggle of nerd Victor to win over popular girl Patricia, his pursuit both assisted and complicated by his lady-love’s second life as a cyborg. One moment, she’s a new person whose status as a freak has freed her from the expectations of normality. The next, she’s the rich bitch mean girl she was before the accident. Familial, social and personal pressure build up for both Victor and Patricia, leading to an unfortunate moment which marks Victor forever. Author **Koren Shadmi’s** loose-limbed art is rendered in subtle colored pencils that showcase both the human and the mechanical. *Bionic* is available at all locations. Same as our next item, *Titan*, a sci-fi novel from Simon & Shuster; set on that eponymous moon of Jupiter, *Titan* is in the proud tradition of proletarian sci-fi like *Outland* and *Alien*. “Titan” is also the word for the genetically engineered giants created to work there. For one hundred years,



MEANWHILE

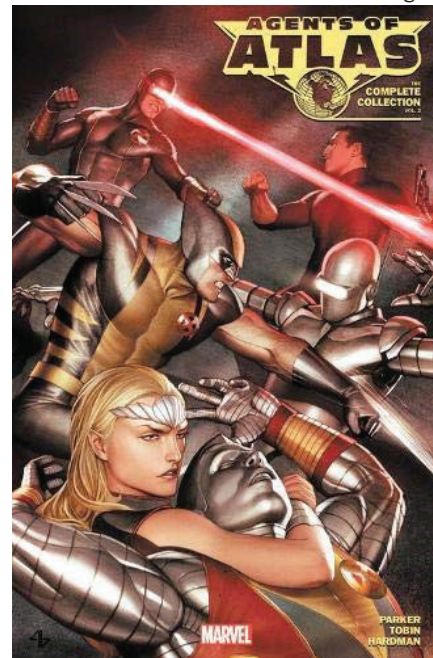
Homestead Station has mined the hydrocarbons so desperately needed by the Terran system. But a big change is coming, and the mine is now obsolete. So how does MNGR First Class da Silva tell a small planet full of already angry Titans they are now surplus to needs? Author **Francois Vigneault’s** vigorous brushwork puts you right in the middle of the sweat and smoke of a world torn between humanity and oblivion. Titan was also the setting for one of the novels by our next subject, **Kurt Vonnegut**. But *The Sirens of Titan* isn’t our focus here, but rather that author’s controversial *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Sub-titled *The Children’s Crusade*, the novel was based on **Vonnegut’s** own experiences as a POW during World War Two. However, his protagonist Billy Pilgrim does his creator one better by not only living through the bombing of Dresden, but also time-tripping into the future, where Billy lives the



postwar dream of starting a family and opening a successful business. That is, whenever he’s not lost in a moment from the war or dealing with the memories of his stint as a zoological exhibit for the aliens of Tralfamadore. The central gimmick of *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the elision of time and space, finds perfect expression through the medium of comics. Given the ability of the comics page to have anyone be anywhere at any time, Pilgrim’s peregrination from page to page, panel to panel, is less jarring than it is in text. It all makes perfect sense thanks to the script by **Ryan North**, which shows the same ironic but humane attitude of his other work such as *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl*. Spanish cartoonist **Albert Monteys** displays the best of European style with his mix of caricature and realism. And his coloring is top-notch! Find *Slaughterhouse-Five* at Beaumont, Eastside and Tates Creek. All LPL locations possess *To Know You’re Alive* by award-winning Canadian cartoonist **Dakota McFadzean**. Compiled from work published throughout the new underground, these short pieces evince the influence of all the right people, from **John Stanley** to **Los Bros Hernandez** to his countryman, **Seth**. And like those artists, kids feature prominently



in these real, weird and really weird tales, from the schoolyard drama “Buzzy” to the semi-autobiographical title story. A diary of the self-imposed hell of parenting without violence turns eerie when Dakota and his son discover an odd Youtube channel devoted to Mister Rogers. Clay creatures brought to life by a boy’s secret language, the consumption of reality by a cereal mascot, a girl’s naïve paganism—all that and more await in the pink-n-black pages of this fine Conundrum release. Marvel’s *Agents of Atlas* stars the super-team made up of characters from the 1950s—Jimmy Woo, Namora, Marvel Boy, Venus, Gorilla Man and the Human Robot—which originally debuted as a non-canonical one-off in Marvel’s *What If?* The *Complete Collection V2* combines the gang’s recent series with their dust-ups with the Avengers and the X-Men. This highly entertaining book can be found at Central and Tates Creek. Other new Marvel comps include *Doctor Doom*, *Fantastic Four*, *Hawkeye*, *Ms. Marvel*, *Iron Man*, *Jane Foster: Valkyrie*, *X-Force*, *Spider-woman*, *Morbius the Living Vampire* and the Epic Collection of the mid-Seventies comeback of *Doctor Strange!*



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