

741.5

NU-90S

JUNE 2022 NO. 75

1990S HEROES RETURN IN NEW EDITIONS
STARMAN! ENIGMA!
NOCTURNALS! AND...
GRENDDEL IN SPACE!

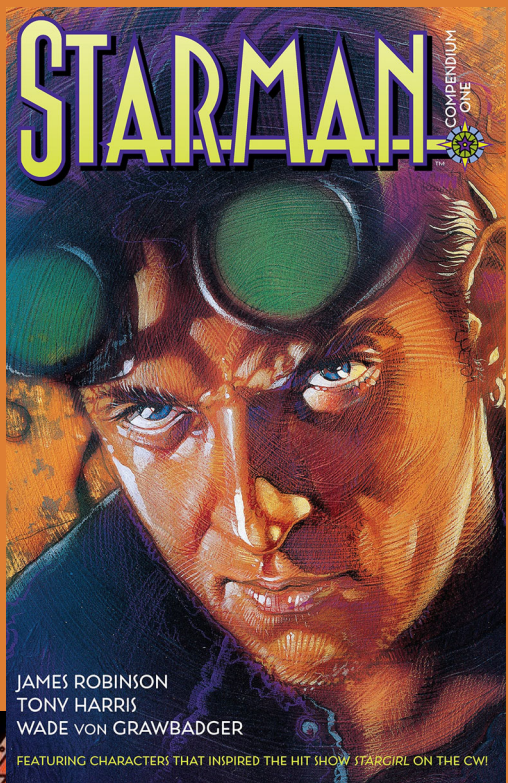


The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

Debuting in 1994, *Starman* was but one of a slate of new hero books looking to exploit the mid-90s taste for “THE EXTREME!!!” But while Fate, Gunfire and the rest met their well-deserved ends within months, *Starman* went on to be one of DC’s best-beloved titles of the era. Rather than turn his back on DC’s vast history, writer James Robinson made it the foundation of the new series. Meanwhile, artist Tony Harris eschewed the flashy pyrotechnics of his peers in favor of a decorative style influenced by Nouveau, Deco and classic illustration. The result, an exploration of generational dynamics disguised as a elegant super-duper punch-up, was one of the great Gen X artworks, the tragedy to Peter Bagge and *Hate’s* comedy. Still influential after all these years (see the CW hit *Stargirl*), the first of two massive Compendiums is available at Central!

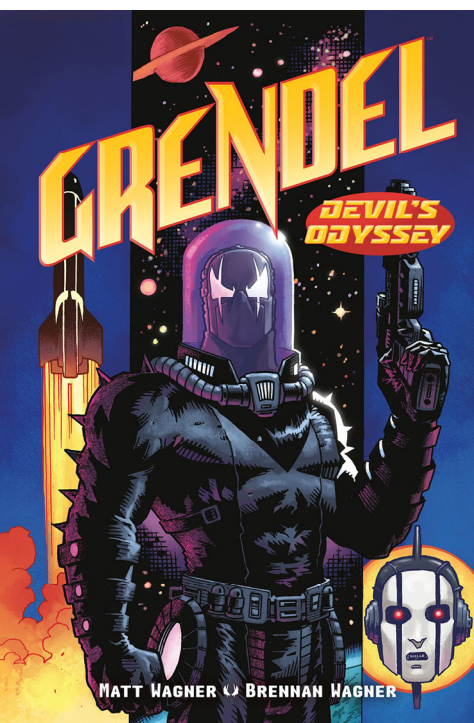


JAMES ROBINSON
TONY HARRIS
WADE VON GRAWBADGER

FEATURING CHARACTERS THAT INSPIRED THE HIT SHOW STARGIRL ON THE CW!

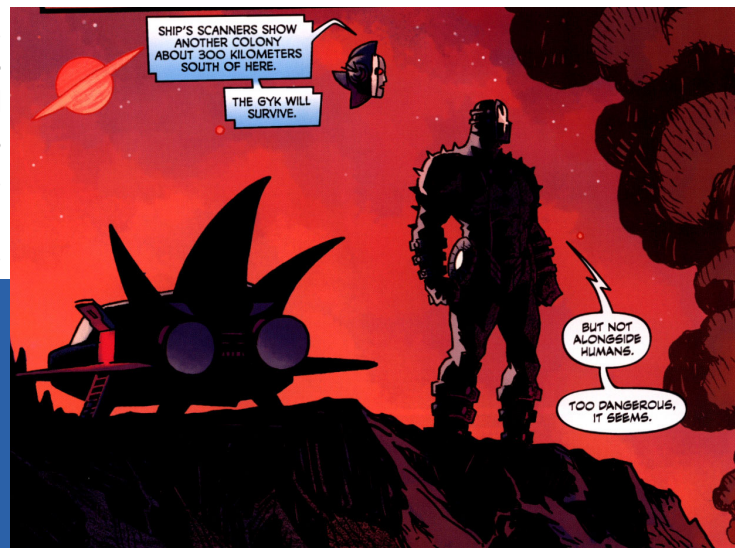


A reluctant hero takes on his father’s mantle as the defender of Opal City, as Jack Knight becomes the scourge of the skyways, **STARMAN**, in one of the best comics from the 1990s!



Michael Smith is not an unhappy man. He is not a happy man, either. He just gets through his day, doing what he’s expected to do. Then some excitement comes into his life. He almost gets his brain eaten by the new killer in town. Fortunately, Michael’s saved by the masked man from his favorite comic book as a kid. And that’s when things get really exciting. Michael discovers he has a connection to this mysterious caped crusader—mystical, mental...sexual. For Michael has been living a lie as mundane as his new life is fantastical. The truth shall set Michael free, if it doesn’t kill him first, in one of the great limited series of the Nineties.

Created in 1982 by cartoonist Matt Wagner, **GRENDEL** is an antihero in the vein of Euro-noir pulp icons like Diabolik and Fantomas. A fiend of many faces wearing the same stark mask, Grendel’s crimes stretch across space and time.



SHIP’S SCANNERS SHOW ANOTHER COLONY ABOUT 300 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF HERE.

THE GYK WILL SURVIVE.

BUT NOT ALONGSIDE HUMANS.
TOO DANGEROUS. IT SEEMS.

ENIGMA

MILLIGAN FEGREDO
VAN VALKENBURGH



Horror heroes for a new century, the **NOC-TURNALS** — Doc Horror, Halloween Girl, Firelion, Polychrome, the Gunwitch — defend Pacific City against forces even more monstrous than them!



“Monsters with guns” is such an obvious pitch for a comic book, it’s astonishing it didn’t happen until 1994. That’s when Dan Breerton originally released *The Nocturnals*. Like the most popular pin-up artist in Monsterland, Breerton’s fully painted pages combine the virile brushwork of Bama and Baumhofer with the sloe-eyed sensuality of Tamara de Lempicka. There’s always a air of carnality to Breerton’s comics, and *The Nocturnals* is no different. Doc Horror is a criminal, an enforcer for the Mob in a world populated by monsters. Faced with a threat he can’t shoot, Doc takes his daughter Evening (alias Halloween Girl) to our green and pleasant Earth. Trouble follows them, and finds them waiting. Doc and his gang of groovy ghoulies un-live again in this Oversize Omnibus available at Northside, Tates Creek and Village Branch!

Published in 1993, *Enigma* was one of the first titles released by DC’s “mature readers” imprint, Vertigo. But unlike, say, *Sandman* or *Kid Eternity*, *Enigma* wasn’t based on previous DC properties. It was, in fact, a riff on Marvel’s *Omega the Unknown*, the cult Seventies comic. Under the guidance of openly gay editor Art Young, Peter Milligan wrote a narratively bizarre but emotionally realistic saga of self-discovery spiced up with lots of lizards and Milligan’s gift for truly screwball villains. It’s a joy watching Duncan Fegredo grow as an artist page by page, in this lovely new edition from Berger Books available at every LPL location!

Available at Central and Northside, *Devil’s Odyssey* finds a far-future Grendel looking for a new world for humanity to call home. He comes in peace. But, being Grendel, he leaves everything in pieces in this gorgeously drawn satirical sci-fi epic!



DEPLOYING SOLAR SAILS.
SAILS ENLARGED.

YOU’RE NOT ON A PROGRAMMED TRAJECTORY.

EVENTUALLY, THE PLANET’S ROTATIONAL VELOCITY WILL DRAW YOU AND THE WARRIORS INTO COLLISIONS WITH OTHER ORBITS.

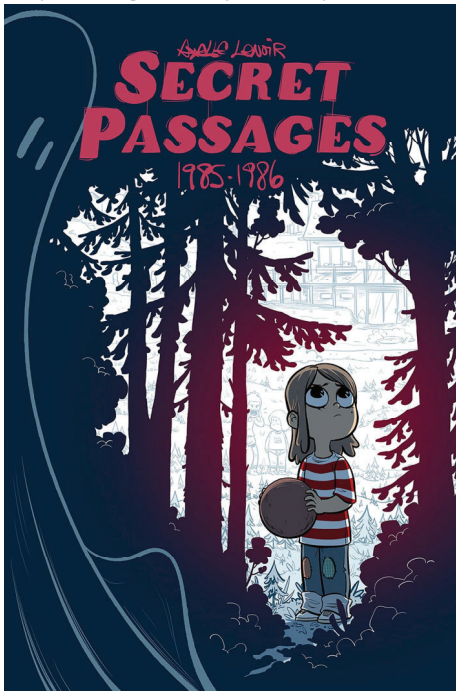
THAT BLAZING SIFLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY POTENTIAL COLLISIONS WITH OTHER ORBITS.

IN THE MEANTIME, I’LL BE WATCHING YOU. I CAN FROM THE PLANET’S DEEP DATABASIS.

GOOD LUCK, TALKERS.

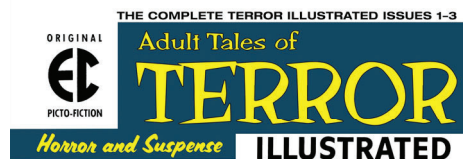


I had dental work done the day I read our first item. The two hours I'd spent in the chair caught up with me and I crashed around dusk. I woke up after 3 in the morning in a pile of sweaty clothes and sheets, nightmares still fresh, fed upon the images and ideas at the heart of this new spooker from **James Tynion IV**, mastermind behind *Department of Truth* and *Something Is Killing the Children*. A group of people, united by their relationships with that one weird friend, accept his invitation to join him at *The Nice House on the Lake*. Any further discussion of the plot will spoil the whole thing. Suffice to say, it's not the Feel-Good Hit of the Summer. But if you like your sci-fi horrific and your horror with a touch of sci-fi, grab *The Nice House*... at your favorite LPL location! Despite what its cover shows, our next story isn't a ghost story...unless you count the

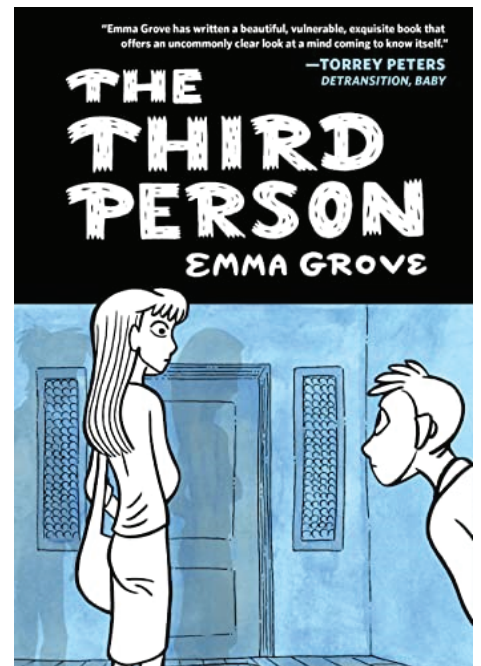


MEANWHILE

burden of memory as a kind of haunting. Sure, our heroine Axelle thinks she sees a ghost in the forest behind her house, the forest that stands as both a promise of freedom and a harbinger of doom. But Axelle's got a very active mind for a girl her age. Too active, according to her long-suffering parents, whom Axelle is convinced are aliens, and her siblings, who wrangle for their place in the family hierarchy, and her teacher, who just CAN NOT with this little troublemaker. That wild, wide-ranging mind is what created this wonderful graphic autobiography from Top Shelf by Quebecois cartoonist **Axelle Lenoir**. Half fantasy, half history, all awesome, *Secret Passages 1985-1986* will resonate with anyone who remembers the sheer oddity of being a child, even if they didn't grow up to be a 6' 4" lesbian doom metal enthusiast. Find *Secret Passages* at all LPL



locations. Central and Northside are home to the latest Dark Horse reprint of EC's short-lived "Picto-Fiction" titles. *Terror Illustrated* played to EC's established strengths as the company that invented modern horror comics. Some EC classics like "The Gorilla's Paw" and "Reflection of Death" are redone in Picto-fiction's "Big Little Books for grown-ups" format, albeit by different artists. As usual, the pics are the reason to read this book, especially **Reed Crandall's** sleekly modernist take on "Halloween" and **Jack Davis** on "Head Man" and "The Mother." Now we move from the best in midcentury illustration to one of the most basic cartooning styles 741.5 has ever reviewed. Like *Secret Passages*, *The Third Person* is a graphic autobiography about someone living outside the heteronormative cisgender binary. But unlike **Axelle Lenoir**, whose individuality flamed like a nova even as a child, author **Emma Grove** had to navigate not one, not two, but three different personalities until "they" were strong enough to be simply "she." *The Third Person* (Drawn & Quarterly) is



904 pages of **Emma** and her "alters" **Ed** and **Katina** arguing with their therapist. Seriously. But **Grove's** stark but vigorous brushwork and gift for physical expression hold the reader's eye as the elementary eight-panel layout carries the story along to its quietly triumphant end. Find *The Third Person* under 306.7662 G919t at Central and Tates Creek. Meanwhile, all locations carry the new Image book, *The Me You Love In the Dark*. This is a ghost story. A haunted house story, matter of fact. And while most haunted house stories are about haints chasing people out of the house, this one is scary because the ghost wants our heroine to stay. Ro is a bummed-out painter who finds refuge in a dark old house. Inspiration slowly curdles into damnation as Ro becomes the plaything of a power from beyond death in this stone chiller written by **Skottie (I Hate Fairyland) Young!**



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