

741.5

**TRIAL OF THE
AMAZONS**

WONDER WOMAN! NUBIA!

WONDER GIRL: HOMECOMING!

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The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

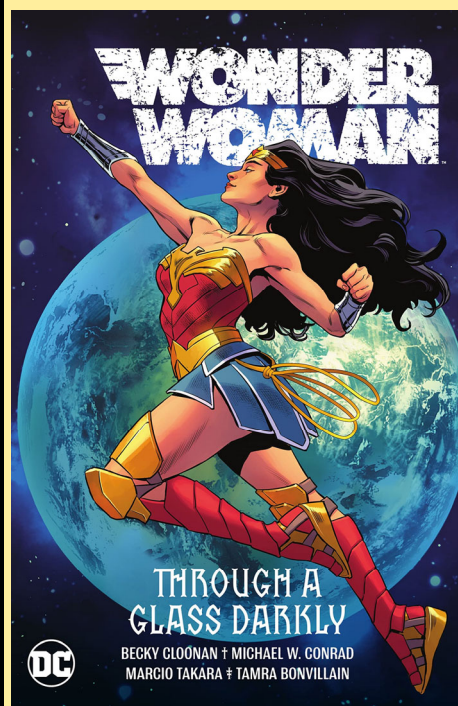


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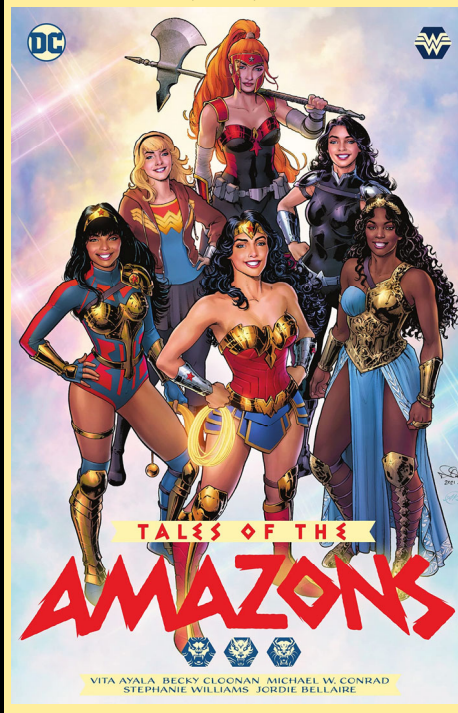
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



Like its predecessor *Harley Quinn Black White & Red* (see 741.5#71), *Wonder Woman Black & Gold* is an anthology of stories about the character rendered in a variety of styles. Yet, despite their differences, each entry describes something essential about the distaff member of DC's Trinity. The sleek classicism of Christian Alamy, Ryan Sook (below) and Nicola Scott (above) works alongside the cartoonish brashness of Amy Reeder, Andrew Maclean and Sebastian Fiumara (left) to show the many sides of Princess Diana of Themyscira...even delving into that controversial period when she was a depowered Emma Peel wannabe (right: art by Steve Epting)! Ride the invisible jet from neo-Nouveau frills to photorealist chills in *Wonder Woman Black & Gold*, available at Central and Tates Creek!



The last year has seen an outburst of books dedicated to the saga of Wonder Woman and her people, the Amazons. And they all tie together. So you can read these books as single adventures or follow the storyline from series to series. Begin with the latest volumes of the regular *Wonder Woman* title. *Afterworlds* details Diana's adventures in the Sphere of the Gods after her death at the climax of the *Death Metal* crossover event, *Through a Glass Darkly* follows Wonder Woman as friends and foes (especially a peeved Dr. Psycho) deal with her resurrection. That volume feeds right into *Trials of the Amazons*. But first, Wonder Woman has to help her colleagues in the Justice League. The Justice League Dark, that is, an off-shoot that fights the weird stuff, like the return of Merlin, who, as John Constan-



READ IN THIS ORDER

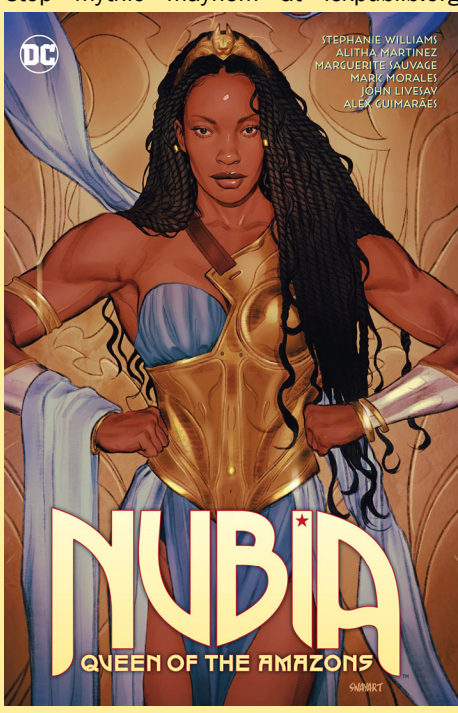
- Wonder Woman: Afterworlds
- Justice League Dark: The Great Wickedness
- Wonder Woman: Through A Glass Darkly
- Nubia & the Amazons
- Wonder Girl: Homecoming
- Tales of the Amazons
- Nubia: Queen of the Amazons
- Trial of the Amazons



stantine asserts, is "not just a magician, but the magician." Working with Constantine, Zatanna, the Demon, Detective Chimp and the original Ragman, can Diana's innate goodness defeat *The Great Wickedness*? A darkness within haunts the woman warrior Artemis. Her martial fury has made her a danger to her people, an outcast among the Amazons of Themyscira. But she, too, has a part to play in the *Tales of the Amazons*, thanks to her new allies. A tribe of Amazons that long ago split away from those who took refuge in Paradise Island, the Bana-Mighdall have resided in Man's World all these centuries, fighting its evils and providing a place for women in search of better lives. But even that long-exiled tribe is caught by surprise when another group of Amazons makes itself known. Based in South America, the Esquecida



debuted in *Homecoming*, starring the new Wonder Girl, Yara Flores. How a brown girl from Boise ends up being the Wonder Woman of the Future—or the doom of the Amazons, depending on which prophecy you heed—is a tangled tale written and (mostly) drawn by award-winner Joelle (Lady Killer) Jones. Yara and the Esquecida face off with the Bana-Mighdall and the Themyscirans in the big showdown, *Trial of the Amazons*. As shown in *Queen of the Amazons*, the mighty Nubia has ascended to the throne. Nubia must be replaced as Guardian of the gate to Tartarus, Doom's Doorway. Now all the tribes of Amazons must compete to choose a champion from their ranks, even as Wonder Woman hunts the killer of Nubia's predecessor—Hippolyta, Diana's mother! It's non-stop mythic mayhem at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org)



Princess Nubia is an only child. Literally. She is the only little girl on an island of grown women. That island is Themyscira, Paradise Island, and those women are the Amazons. It's fun and all, but still, Nubia wishes she had other kids to play with.



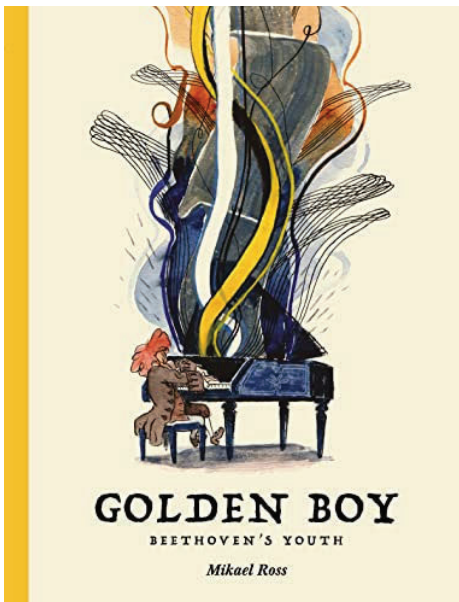
Then one morning, she does. There's another girl sharing her room. A girl named Diana. And even though Nubia has never seen this kid in her life, everyone else, especially their moms, insists they've been together for years. The thing is, just as Nubia



remembers a life without Diana, Diana remembers the same without Nubia. What's going on? What does the mystery have to do with the upcoming Trials of the Amazons? Who's the interloper: Nubia or Diana? And will the girls get together before it



all falls apart? Continuing from their first volume, *Diana: Princess of the Amazons*, Shannon & Dean Hale join artist Victoria Ying in another sweet-natured but action-packed adventure starring both the young Wonder Women at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org)



How does one draw music? That is the challenge faced by cartoonists when dealing with the subject in the form of comics (for some more examples, see 741.5 #55). Some have adopted a conventional approach (using actual musical notes on the page) while others have gone for a more expressionistic rendition of sound in motion, like Berliner **Mikael Ross** in *Golden Boy*. In this Fantagraphics translation of his graphic biography of “Beethoven’s Youth”, good old-fashioned sound effects bring to life boy **Beethoven’s** Bonn and Vienna, whether the “CLANG” and “CRASH” of his arguing parents, the “BOMPH” of a punch to a romantic rival’s eye or the “PLINK” and “PLOING” of a less-gifted musician. But when our hero sits down at the piano, a hypnotic phantasm of swirling colors barely contained by rivers of contrasting black lines rises, dances, explodes across the page. This contrast between the beautiful and the base is the heart of the book, the lacey pretensions of the 18th Century drawing rooms of the elite existing cheek-to-jowl with the woolly reality on the filthy,



MEANWHILE

plague-ridden streets. That art is the means for both poor and rich to escape the limitations of their world is one of several ironies explored in this lovely book available under TEEN at Beaumont, Eastside and Tates Creek. All locations carry *Captain Carter* (Marvel). As shown in the TV program *What If?*, dedicated like its source comic to twists on the established history of the Marvel Universe, in this reality the Super Soldier formula that created Captain America was used on British agent Peggy Carter, not American GI Steve Rogers. But, like Rogers, Carter ended up a human popsicle near the end of World War Two. Now defrosted, the Avenger from Albion must confront an ancient evil dressed in 21st Century garb, while dealing with an England much changed from the days of Keeping Calm and Carrying On. Even without the smoldering star power of actress **Hayley Atwell**, *Captain Carter* is a two-fisted festival of feminine heroism recommended for anyone who loves watching women kicking ass. Of which there are several in the new YA graphic novel, *Neverlanders* (Razorbill). In an explosive example of the wonders



possible thanks to the legal doctrine of public domain, this is an updated look at the world of **J.M. Barrie’s** *Peter Pan*. A gang of runaways take in a new kid, Paco, after he rescues two of them from certain death. But Paco’s not as alone as he pretends. Nope, he has a fairy in his pocket. A feisty, foul-mouthed fairy who is none other than the fabled Tinkerbell. But this “Tink” ain’t no twink, but a tough little number hardened by the war against Neverland. The Pan has fallen, taken out by the forces of Neverland’s opposite number, Otherland. “A barren island. A murky reliction. Grown-ups began to appear there...They built something dirty and dark.” Now Bee, Luz and their pals gain super-powers and join the Lost Boys in this intense and riff on a childhood classic by **Tom (Nightwing) Taylor** and artist **Jon (Harley Quinn) Sommariva**. Meanwhile, another pair of youngsters are on the run in Gotham City. Tagged terrorists by the militant private police force known as the Magistrate, it’s a tough time to be *Batgirls* (DC). Formerly know as Spoiler, the very blond Stephanie Brown takes on the mantle of Batgirl alongside totally brunette Cassandra Cain as they duck and dodge the authorities while trying to fight crime, including a grisly series of murders rocking their new neighborhood. As the original



Batgirl, Barbara Gordon, watches over her youthful charges as Oracle, a new hacker goddess calling herself Seer is out to expose the Batgirls to the world...if the zombie legions of graffiti artist, the Tutor, don’t get them first! **Becky Cloonan** and **Michael Conrad** keep the story rolling with sparkling characterization, tricky intrigue and wild action while the vibrantly polychromatic art of **Jorge Corona** and colorist **Sarah Stern** provides an alternative to the heavy business of most other DC titles. A less dynamic duo than the Batgirls wrangle with the fog of confusion that envelops adult relationships in this modern age in *Men I Trust*. As recovering alcoholic Eliza says to her new would-be pal Sasha, “It’s normal for people to talk to each other about their lives, right?” Sasha can only reply “I don’t really know much about what’s normal.” And that’s a highlight of their relationship. The struggle to connect in a world held at arm’s length is described by **Tommi Parrish**, who paints colorful cubist comics narratively dedicated to an inescapable realism for Fantagraphics.

