

741.5

FEBRUARY 2023 NO. 89

**THE RAGING RETURN OF
BLACK
HAMMER**

**AND OTHER CREATIONS & CREATORS
OF COLOR**

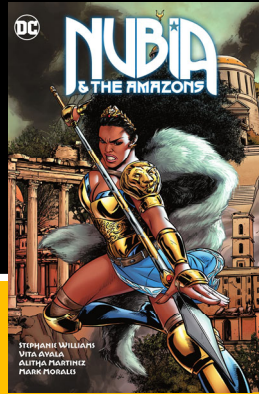


The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

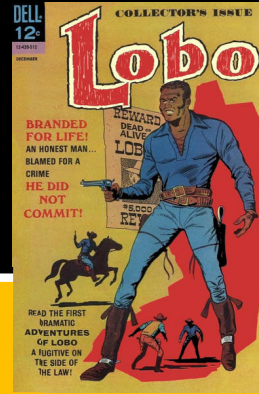


Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

**FRIDAY FOSTER ICON & ROCKET BISHOP
CLEOPATRA JOHN STEWART, GREEN LANTERN
BLACK PANTHER VIXEN MILES MO-
RALES, SPIDER-MAN GRAVEDIGGER THE
PROWLER BUMBLEBEE MR. TERRIFIC II
BLUE MARVEL MIDNIGHT ANGELS NUBIA**



**CYBORG MOON GIRL BLACK ATLAS KID
FLASH TOMBSTONE STATIC SHOCK MPH
CLOAK DEATHLOK THE DEMOLISHER
VYKIN BLOOD SYNDICATE SUPERMAN OF
EARTH-D SHURI BROTHER VODOO BLACK
RAPIER STORM ERIK KILLMONGER TYROC**



**<LOBO BLACK MANTA WAR MACHINE THE
LIVING MUMMY STEEL THE BLUE KNIGHT
LUKE CAGE THUNDERBALL SHILO NORMAN,
MISTER MIRACLE BUTTERFLY THE SIGNAL
MISTY KNIGHT BLACK GOLIATH DR. MID-
NITE II TORCHY BROWN ROCKET RACER**



**BLACK LIGHTNING HARDWARE MONICA
RAMBEAU COTTONMOUTH TRIATHLON ROB-
BIE ROBERTSON BLACK VULCAN AMAZING
MAN GLOWWORM BATWOMAN II IRON-
HEART CENTURIUS LUCIUS FOX TEMPEST
<SAM WILSON, FALCON/ CAPTAIN AMERICA**

ABOVE: A list of Black characters from different companies across the decades

BELOW: An incomplete list of African-American comics creators past and present

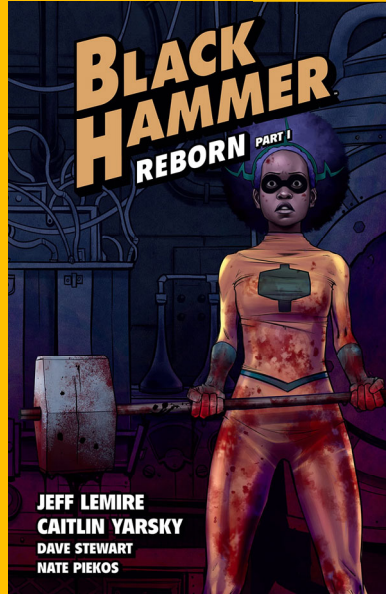
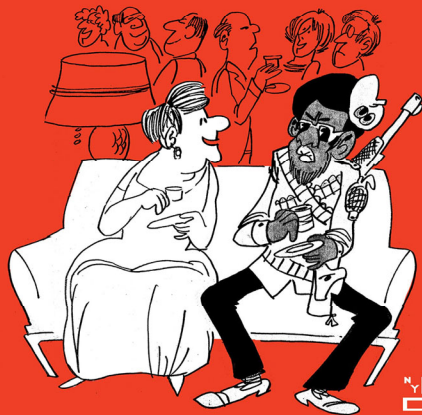


"Nice touch, don't you think?"

Winner of the National Book Award for his novel *Middle Passage*, **Charles Johnson** began his career as a cartoonist. He worked in the once ubiquitous but now moribund form of the "gag cartoon," a single panel with a caption. But unlike his white peers, Johnson used gag cartoons to comment on the racial issues roiling 1960s America. Soul brothers and sell-outs, cops and Klansmen, the Right On and the dropped-out: all get gibed for their jive in these fiercely funny cartoons, currently available at Central.

ALL YOUR RACIAL PROBLEMS WILL SOON END

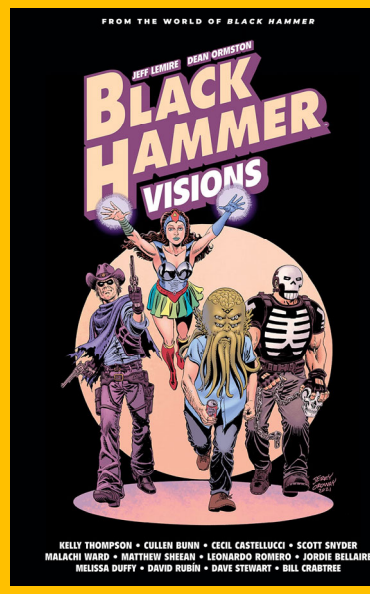
The Cartoons of Charles Johnson



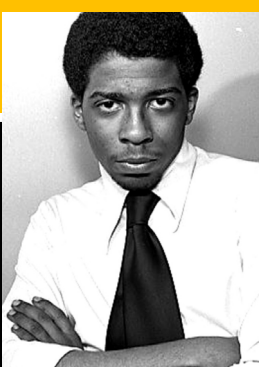
As seen in *Black Hammer VI* (still available via lexpublib.org!), the superheroes who pro- tected Spiral City disappeared in 1986 after a cosmic conflagration, foremost among them the man known as **BLACK HAMMER**. The hero's daughter, Lucy Weber, unraveled the mystery behind the missing supers while taking on her father's mantle. She continued to fight for justice in Spiral City as the new **Black Hammer**. Then...something happened. Some- thing bad. And Lucy laid down the Hammer and became just another wife and mother.



But one day, as Lucy deals with a cheating husband, a rebellious daughter and a son with issues, the sky breaks open. Another crisis is upon Spiral City. But what can Lucy do? Even if she wanted to be **Black Hammer**, which she doesn't, superheroes are illegal. That doesn't stop the brutal vigilante **Skulldigger** (see 741.5 #65). Nor does it save Lucy's family from the enigmatic actions of the deranged Colonel **Weird**. Lucy Weber...**Black Hammer**...can either win the war she never wanted to fight? Meanwhile, *BH: Visions 2* features **Skulldigger**, **Cthu-Lou**, and more!



Jeff Lemire's superhero series BLACK HAMMER returns with three new volumes and an anthology available via LEXPUBLIB.ORG!



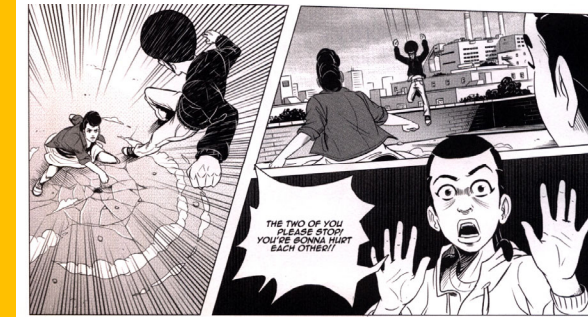
**A.C. HOLLINGSWORTH DWAYNE MAC-
DUFFIE BILLY GRAHAM WAYNE HOWARD
JACKIE ORMES TREVOR VON EEDEN DENYS
COWAN ROXANE GAY VALENTINE DE
LANDRO CHUCK COLLINS KHARY RUDOLPH
<CHRISTOPHER PRIEST TA-NAHESI COATES**

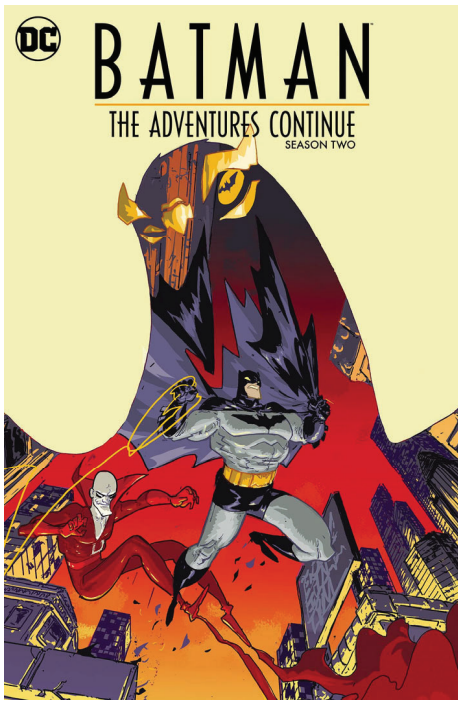


**<GRASS GREEN REGINALD HUDLIN AFUA
RICHARDSON KYLE BAKER LARRY STRO-
MAN RON WIMBERLY SHANNON WRIGHT
BEN PASSMORE JOEL CHRISTIAN GILL E.G.
STONER CASANOVA FRANKENSTEIN ROB
GUILLORY JIMMIE ROBINSON MATT BAKER**

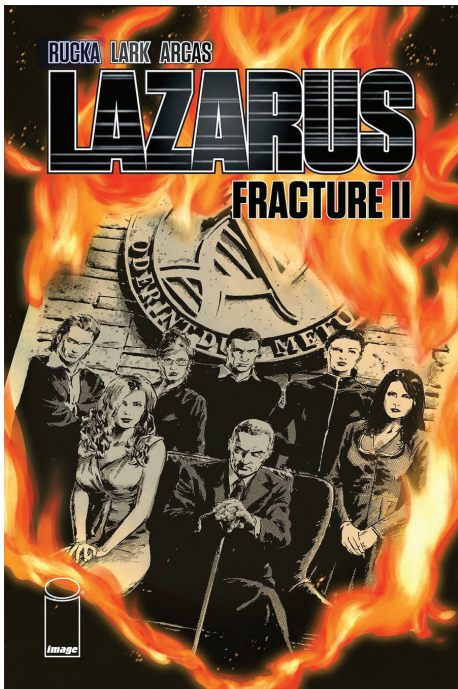


It's the 90s, it's the 'hood, and Inez is sick and tired of being poor. She wants to get with the local kingpin, but this cat from her school is up in her face (above). Gabriel's got an amazing Afro and, it turns out, fighting skills. Good thing when an old flame comes looking for pay- back (below). *Tephlon Funk* is the name of the buzz, *Tephlon Funk* is the name of the book, written by **Stephanie Metayer** and drawn with manic mangafied moxie by **David Tako** and **Nicolas Safe**, available at Central.



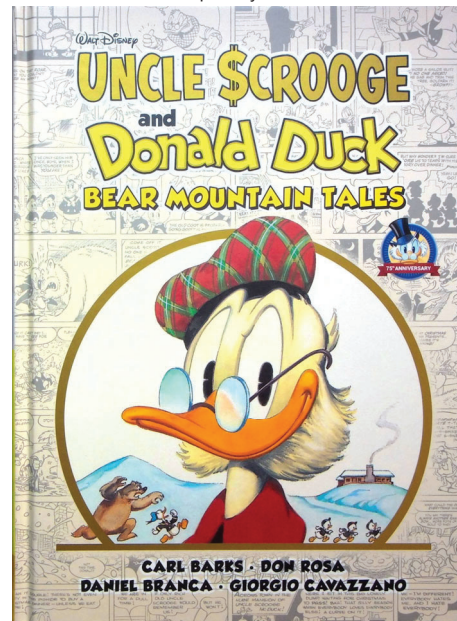


Based on the trend-setting animated series of the 1990s, *Batman: The Adventures Continue* update that era's storylines with creations from recent Bat-sagas. Specifically the Court of Owls: the malefic secret society that has been ruling the roost in Gotham City behind the scenes finally impinges upon the Timmverse in *Season Two*. With the help of occasional ally Boston Brand, AKA Deadman, Batman solves the murder of Gotham mayor Hamilton Hill at the claws of the Court...if, indeed, murder it was! Gotham City politics motivate much of the mysteries in this book, as Batman fights both villains and City Hall with the help of Nightwing, the Huntress and the new Robin. Readers looking for a respite from the burden of continuity should check out this edition and others of the simpler yet no less exciting *Batman Adventures*. If you're looking for more realistic thrills, get the long-awaited seventh collection of the hard-

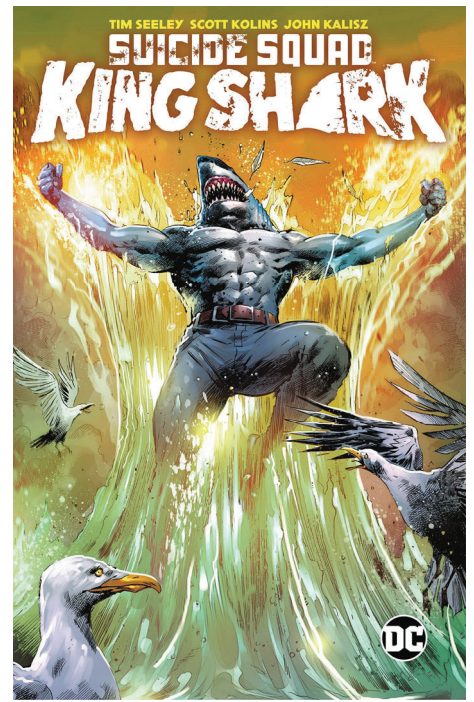


MEANWHILE

boiled Image series, *Lazarus*. Written by crime maven **Greg Rucka**, *Lazarus* is set in a near-future after the collapse of nation-states has led to a neo-feudal system run by the Families. Of glorified mobsters, that is, who maintain order and discipline with jacked-up killer clones called Lazari. Previous volumes showed how the Lazarus of the Carlyle Family, Forever, sussed out who and what she really was. She wasn't happy with what she learned. The fallout from her rebellion shook the feudal system to its core, and the world is at war. Now the sixth, seventh and teenage eighth Forever clones work together, using the war as a cover to eliminate other Families while undermining the plans of their own. A history of personal betrayals that lead to this new society is told in the story arc, *Fracture II*. The four-tier grid broken up by big pix when needed replicates the constrictions which bind every member of this despotic society while **Michael Lark** portrays mood and movement



with his trademark shadow-glazed photorealism. Find *Lazarus Volume 7* at Central and Eastside. Speaking of characters who never die, Fantagraphics has dipped into the vast amount of comics starring Donald Duck and his Uncle Scrooge to compile *Bear Mountain Tales*. The World's Richest Duck was introduced in the classic "Christmas on Bear Mountain" by the "Duck Man", **Carl Barks**. Since then, European and American heirs of the **Barks** tradition have added to the pile of pages. **Barks** himself shows up, explaining he got the story of "Christmas..." from the duck's mouth, including how he talked the unwilling Scrooge into appearing in more adventures. Another explanation for Scrooge's return to his globe-trotting ways is given by Kentucky's own **Don Rosa**, who shows what happened that fateful day after "Christmas on Bear Mountain." A treasury of beautiful cartooning, this 75th Anniversary celebration of the career of Scrooge McDuck and his wastrel nephew can be found under J741.5 at all LPL locations. Go to the adult comics section of your favorite location to cop the latest *Suicide Squad* spin-off, *King Shark* (DC). Poor guy—just because he eats people,



everybody thinks Nanue, *alias* King Shark, is a bad guy. But there are much worse than him, and he's got to fight them all—Queen Tiger, King Roach, the Man-King, and more—to be the Exemplar of the Red, the mystical biosphere of beasts and bugs. That is, if Squad boss Amanda Waller doesn't get him first. Ferocious but full of feeling, *King Shark* is bloody fun from DC. But, as noted in 741.5 #80, DC's always been the leader in animal heroes. Krypto the Super-Dog, Streaky the Super-Cat, Comet, Beppo—all were popular back when comics were for kids and kids were for comics. *Tails of the Super-Pets* include their origins and those of others like Ace the Bat-hound and Chameleon Boy's pet blob, Protty. This charming collection snuck past us onto TEEN shelves sometime last year. But fans of the naïf surrealism of Silver Age comics should get it from [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)



Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the COLLECTIONS tab!