

741.5

BEA WOLF

**ANCIENT SAGA RETOLD
ADORABLY BIZARRE AND BOLD
AND...BEST ASIAN-AMERICAN COMICS
PLUS...HEMINGWAY & HIPPIES!**

MAY 2023 NO. 96

“As haunting, hilarious
and perplexing as the
ancient stories one hears
around the campfire,
castle or cafeteria.”
-LEMONY SNICKET

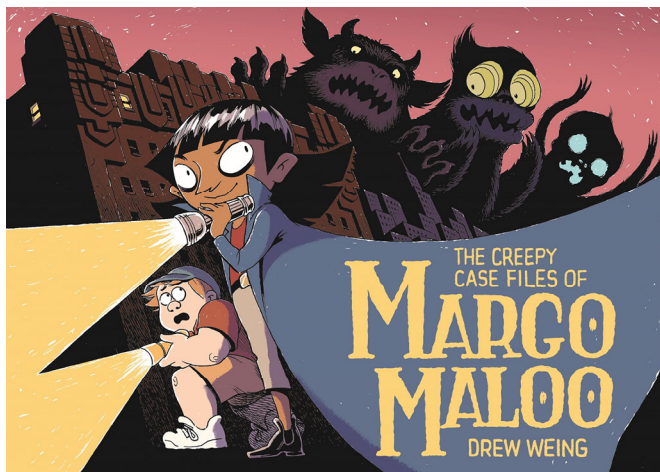
“Glorious, accurate,
profoundly silly, and
hilariously profound.”
-NEIL GAIMAN



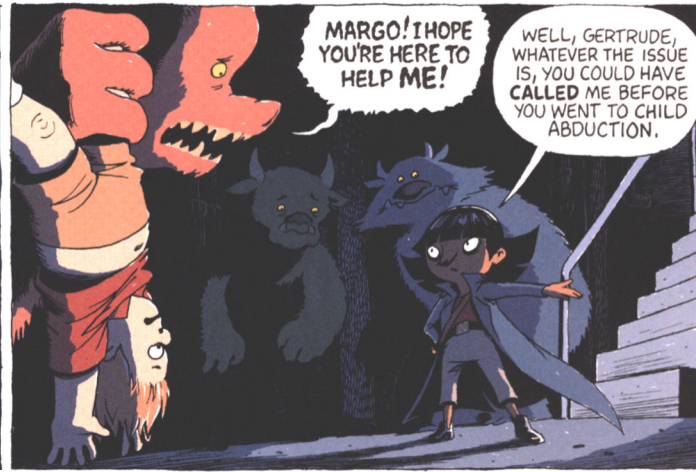
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



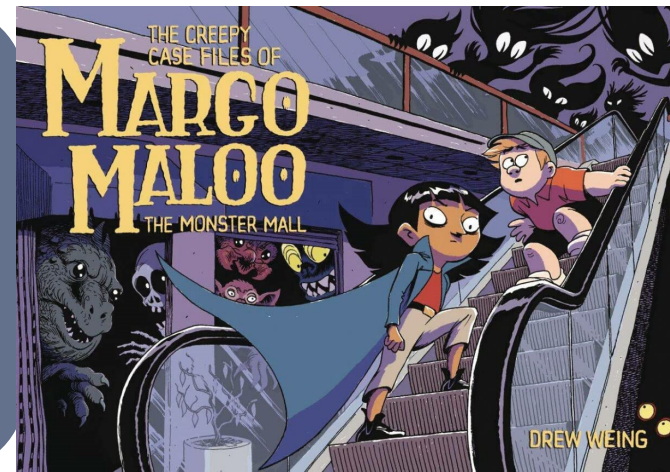
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



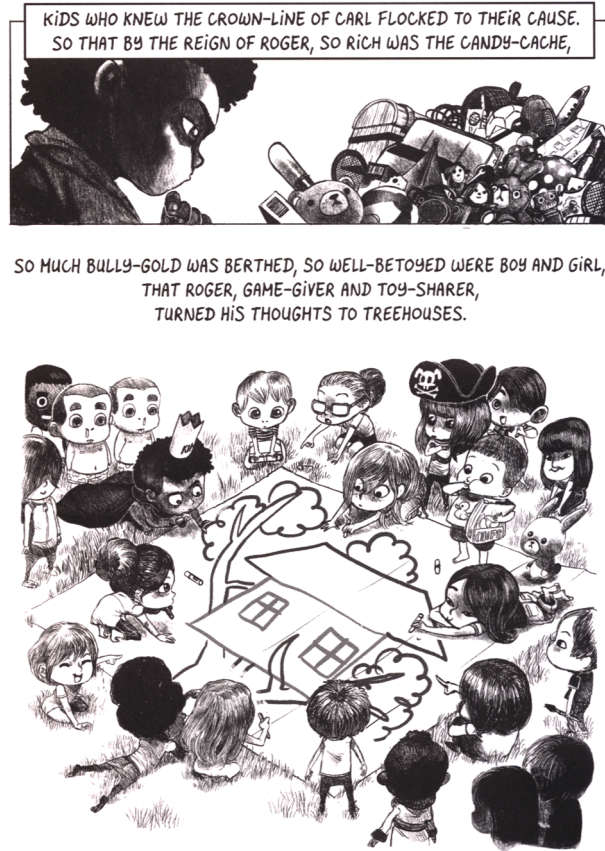
As discussed in 741.5 #93, Margo Maloo is a tween of South Asian heritage who acts as both ambassador and buffer between the human population of Echo City and the multitude of monsters who live in the dark corners of that metropolis. Three of her “Creepy Case Files” by Drew Weing have been released by First Second, available via lexpublib.org. The first introduces not just Margo and Echo City, but the sidekick she never



wanted. Charles is new in town, but he's already made enemies of the monsters he meets (left). After Margo saves his hide, and not for the last time, he joins her crusade to save *The Monster Mall* from teenage snoopers and grown-up developers in a groovy ghoulie satire of gentrification and online faddism. A charming cross between Carl Barks and Richard Sala, *The Creepy Case Files of Margo Maloo* are at lexpublib.org!



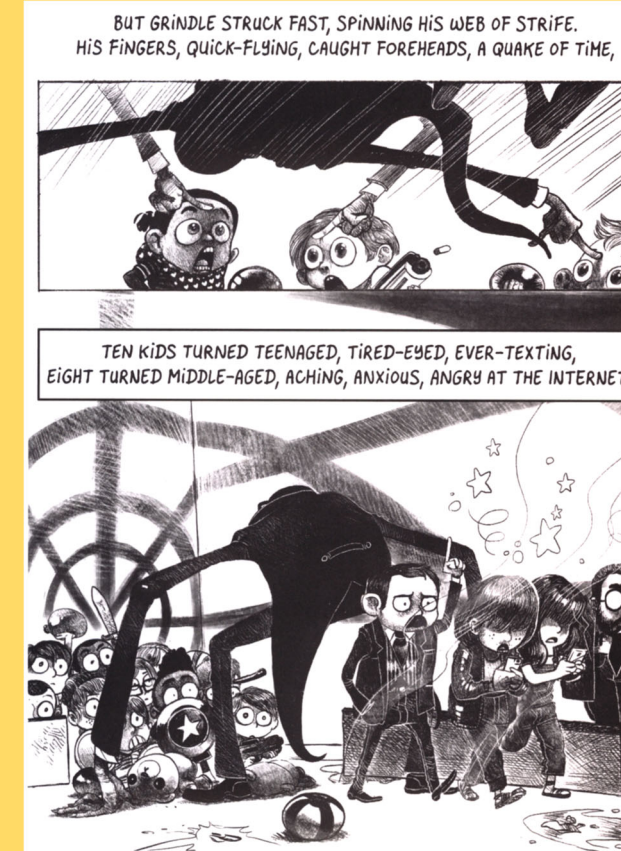
One of the foundational texts of Western culture, the saga of Beowulf has exerted its muscular, mystical influence on story-telling for centuries. Its story of man-vs-monster has been retold a thousand thousand times. But usually not as adorably as in *Bea Wolf*. A kiddie comic take on the ancient legend turns big chief Hrothgar and his thanes into a cute and cuddly crew who shake down bullies and use the boodle to build a treehouse. That treehouse becomes an object of envy for local teenagers and a provocation for next door neighbor Mr. Grindle. “Grindle, gloom’s guardian, teacher of grief! Born moustache-mouthed, tie-bound, Baron of Boredom...



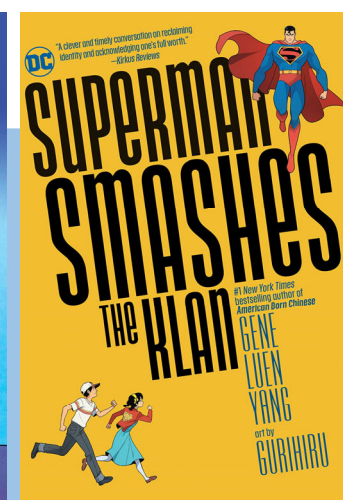
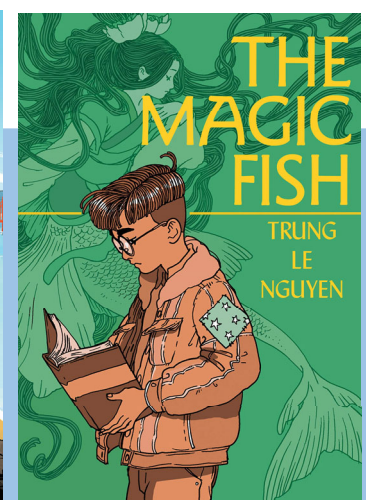
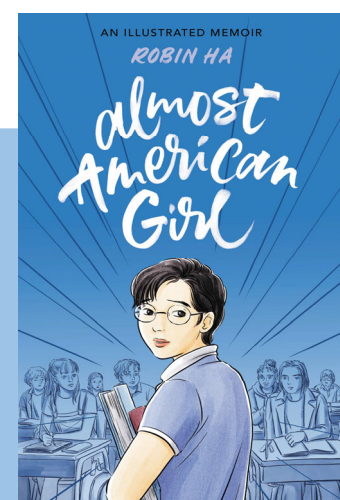
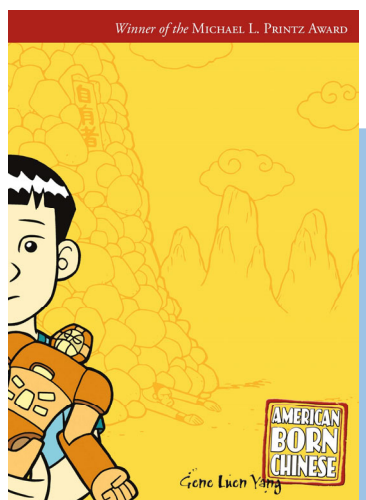
BEA WOLF ZACH WEINERSMITH & BOULET



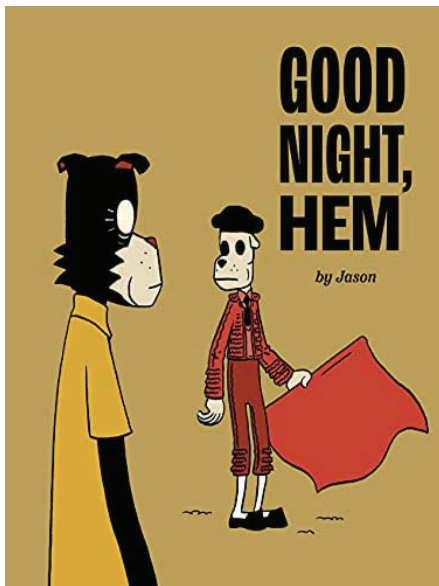
(FIRST SECOND)
AT ALL LPL LOCATIONS



Those who felt Grindle’s finger grew old—fog-eyed and furrow-faced.” When Grindle has his fill of the fun and foolery, he invades the treehouse, claiming victims by the score. Who can stand against this “hair-forsaken horror...muttering of mortgages and marginal tax rates”? Hailing from the halls of Heidi the warrior-queen comes the Sword-wielder, BEA WOLF! Zach Weinersmith’s script captures the poetic rhythms of the bardic tradition while artist Boulet combines *kawaii* kicks with an archaic look achieved by expert use of scratchboard. A modern-day *Classic Illustrated*, *Bea Wolf* is one of the best comics of the year for young and old!

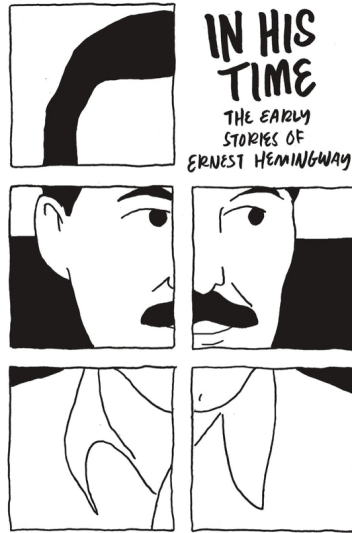


Celebrate the stories of our fellow Americans from Asia and the Pacific Islands by reading these fine graphic novels available at lexpublib.org!

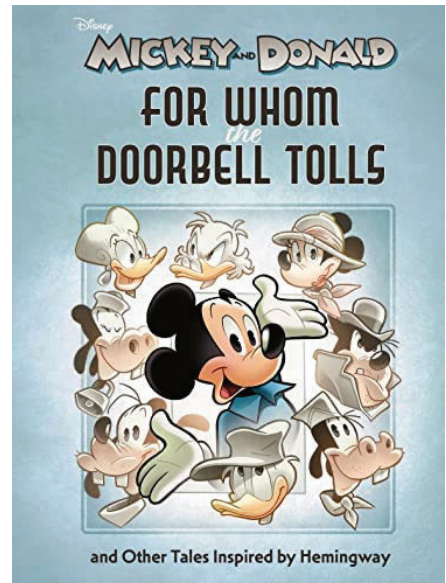


One of the most influential writers in Western literature, **Ernest Hemingway** is the inspiration for several graphic works now available at Lexington Public Library. *Good Night, Hem* isn't the latest from the prolific Norwegian cartoonist known as **Jason**; that would be his compilation of sci-fi satires *Upside Dawn*. But this 2021 release is of a piece with the other items covered here, a blend of fact and fiction depicting the young Hemingway of 1924 up to his neck in romantic and artistic drama, the older if not wiser partisan leading guerillas in Nazi-occupied Paris and the aged icon cooling his heels in Cuba as he recalls his adventures with **Jason's**

recurring figure of myth, Athos the undying musketeer. Admittedly, 741.5 has been remiss in covering **Jason's** oeuvre, mostly because his deadpan, empty-eyed characters creep me out. **Jason Novak** works a similar vein of starkly simple cartooning. So stark, in fact, **Novak** makes **Jason** look like **Tony (Starman) Harris**. Fortunately, that's the perfect look for *In His Time*. "The Early Stories of Ernest Hemingway" are famous for their simplicity and brevity, making them perfect fodder for a medium like comics that thrives on same. Many of the stories are based on Hemingway's



ADAPTED FOR COMICS BY JASON NOVAK

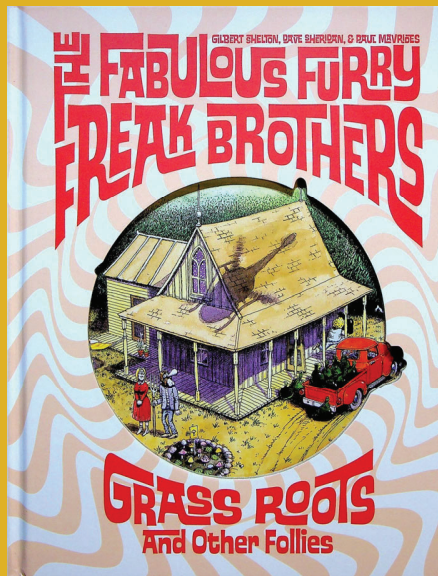
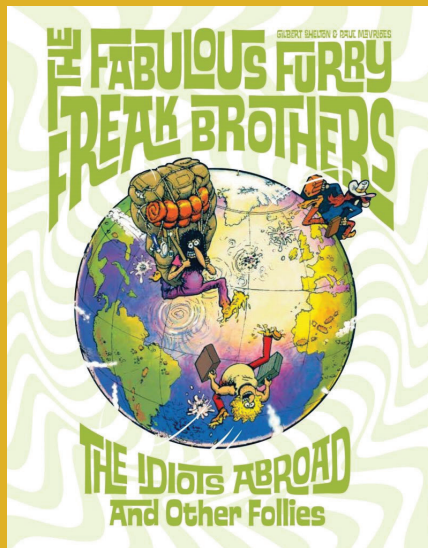


experiences during the Great War and offer a quiet, intimate look at death and destruction. Just the things **Walt Disney** and all his works are known for, right? That rep for sweetness and light never stymied European talent when working on Disney comics, as shown by the compilation *For Whom the Doorbell Tolls*. That and "Other Tales Inspired by Hemingway" got revamped for *Topolino* and *Anders And* into vehicles for stars Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Much of the art is more manic than American Disney product, reflecting the influence of **Floyd Gottfredson** on this literate crew of rudies. The best? The musical riff on "The Killers"!

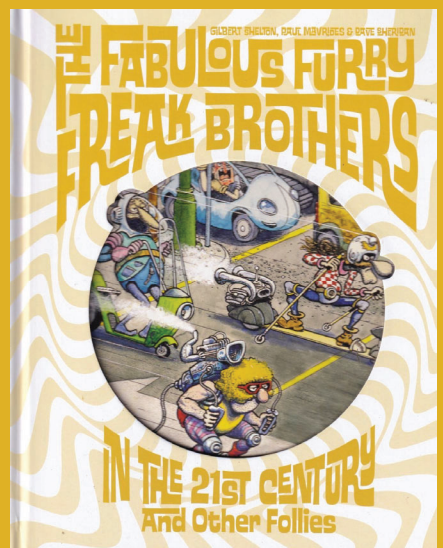
MEANWHILE

Over the last year, Fantagraphics (which also published the three Hemingway books discussed above) released three collections of the most recent material starring those icons of underground comics, the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers. So the original intent was to feature the madcap trio of hippie zanies on the cover of 741.5. But then, some folks might not take kindly to the underlying message of "Drugs are fun!" But they sure are funny, at least when master cartoonist **Gilbert Shelton** is writing and drawing about them and the foolish behavior they inspire. To be honest, though, dope isn't the only thing

and the title tale of getting back to nature in a New Age commune are perfect examples of the slapstick social satire so ably rendered by **Shelton** and his right-hand man **Paul Mavrides**. *In the 21st Century* collects the newest Freak Brothers comics. A combination of color and monochrome art show us Freewheelin' Franklin getting a gun while "Phineas Gets An Abortion." Then there's the eerie foto-comic, "The FFF Come Down," in which the Brothers forego their usual habits and try a taste of real life. Go to lexpubl.org to cop a hit of some of the funniest comics ever!



FFF are about. The picaresque epic *The Idiots Abroad* was the first Freak Brothers story to be published in full color, way back in 1984. A trip to Colombia to score weed at the source goes hilariously awry as the boys get split up and fall in with terrorists, human traffickers, modern day pirates and more in an screwball trip around the world that ends with Phineas becoming a religious leader! *Grass Roots* is more typical Freak fare: shorter black & white stories interspersed with strips starring that fan-favorite feline, Fat Freddy's Cat. "The 4th Freak Brother," "The Parakeet That Outwitted the D.E.A."



Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpubl.org under the READING SERVICES tab!