

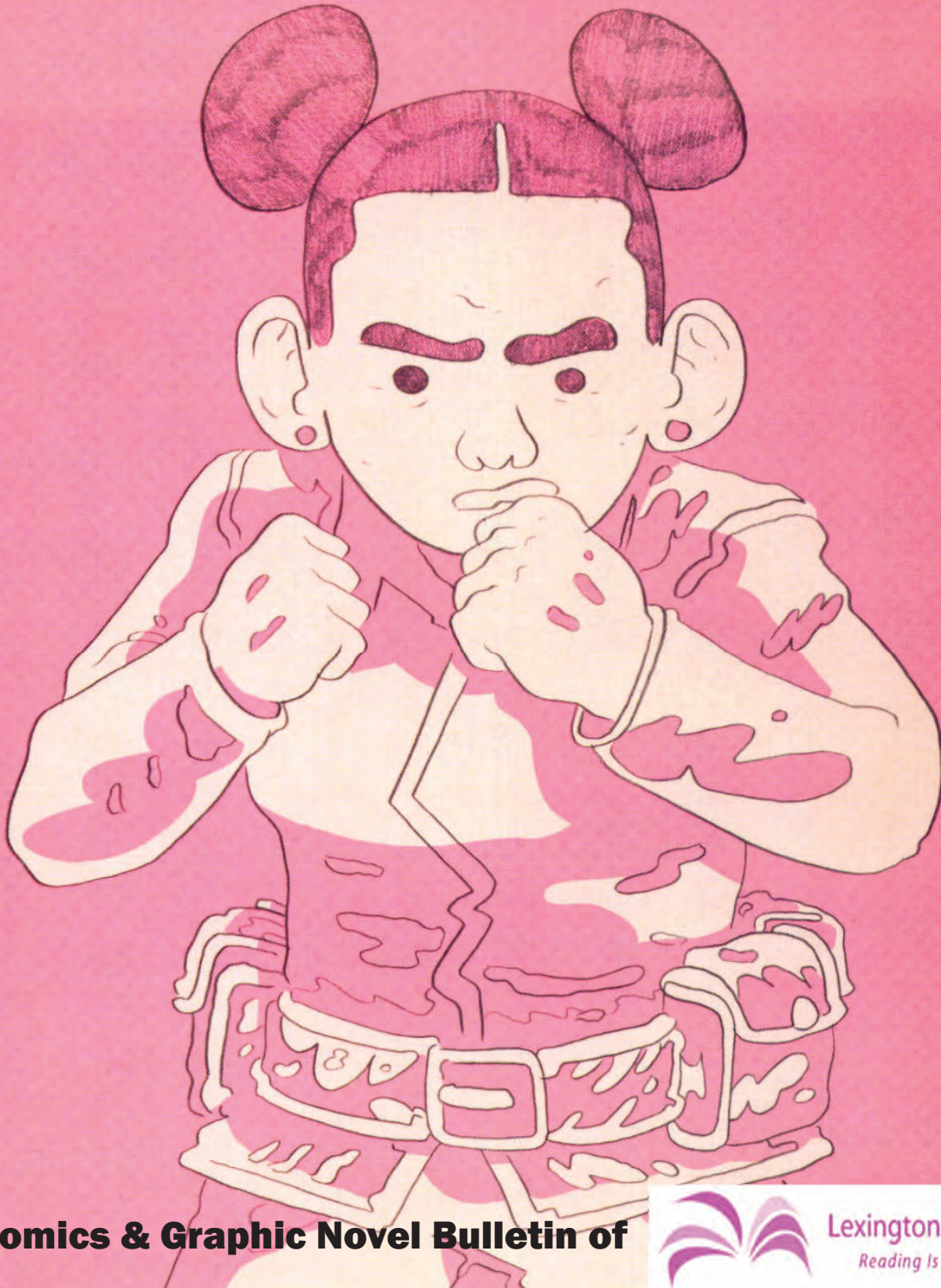
741.5

PINK POWER

ATOM EVE, MARY TYLER MOOREHAWK
AND VENUS PUT THE "HER" IN "HERO"

JUNE 2024 NO. 121

PLUS: XAIME & BETO DRAW PURTY



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

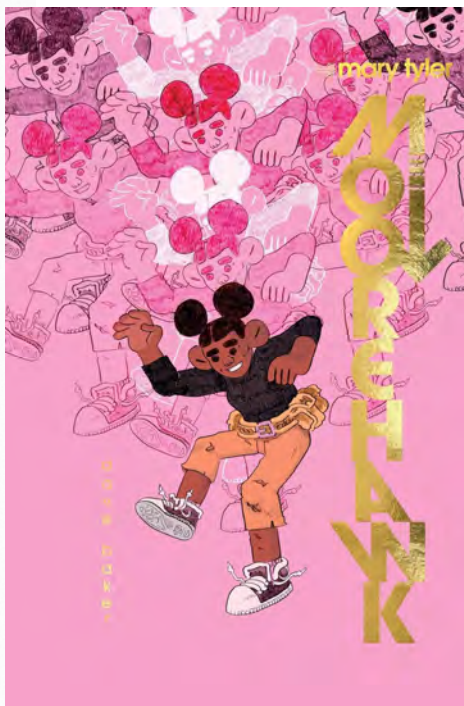
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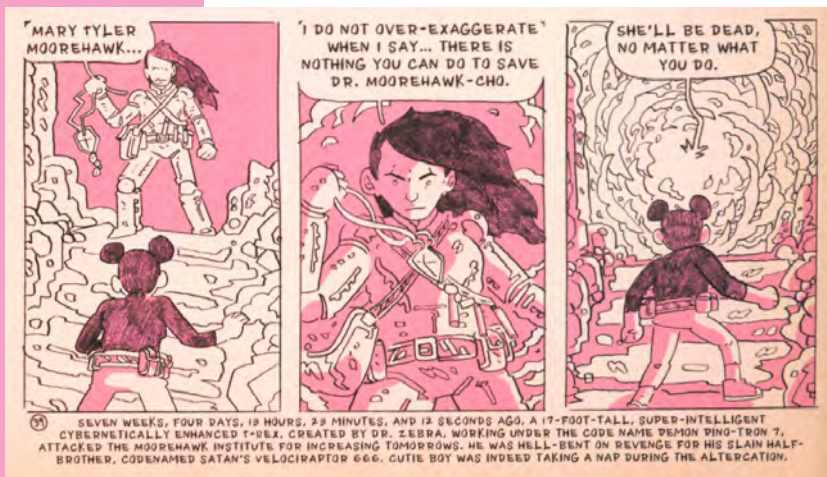
JAIME 82



JAIME 87



Mary Tyler Moorehawk is a two-fisted teenage troublemaker fighting for what's right in a squiggly, squirrely world of aliens, monsters and science heroes. *Mary Tyler Moorehawk* is the television show starring said adventuress, created by **Dave Baker**. And *Mary Tyler Moorehawk* is the graphic novel adapting said TV show, complete with interviews with one Dave Baker, taken from a magazine devoted to those lone souls who still own physical objects in a post-capitalist near-future. So Dave Baker is a character in Dave Baker's book. The comic takes the same metafictional approach, laden with footnotes like an ep of *Power-Puff Girls* written by David Foster Wallace (below). And it's all really, really pink. Go to [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)



MARY TYLER MOOREHAWK is a teenage action girl whose arcane adventures are the object of obsession in a near-future where ownership is abolished

SEBELA HENNESSY ASTONE CAMPBELL



God is dead. Fell right out of the sky, deader'n hell. The War is over. Now everybody has something new to fight about. Zanzi Vuiline doesn't care. After years of shedding blood, she just wants to go home. God's corpse is in her way. So is her new pal Neth, who has her own quest to fulfill. A feminist fantasy with imaginative world-building, *Godfell* is bloody well entertaining!



ATLAS COMICS LIBRARY NO. 2

STRANGE STORIES OF THE SUPERNATURAL VOL. 2

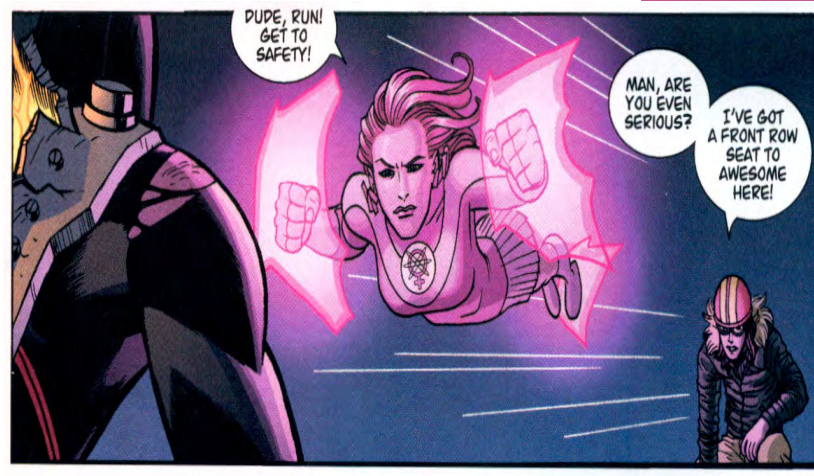
Venus



VENUS the character was the actual Goddess of Love from Greco-Roman mythology. VENUS the character descended from the planet Venus to bring love and harmony to a fractious, frightful Atom Age America. VENUS the character got a gig at *Beauty* magazine, where she began a long term romance with editor Whitney Hammond. VENUS the character went from light-hearted adventures to struggles with the Son of Satan, mad scientists and assorted maniacs and monsters (right).



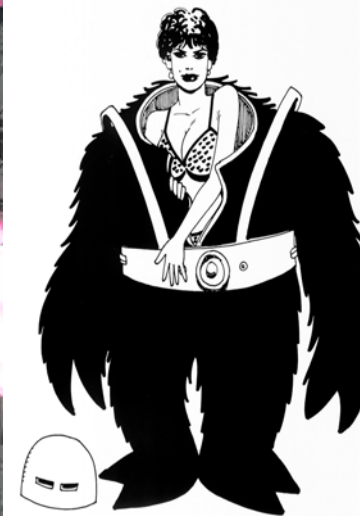
Once *The Walking Dead* made creator **Robert Kirkman** "Tony Stark rich", he turned his attentions to his first love: Silver Age superhero comics. Kirkman rewrote *Superboy* for the 21st Century and called it *Invincible*. And Kirkman had another hit on his hands. Like any superhero comic, *Invincible* became a wellspring of characters. Kirkman spun these off into their own comics, now compiled in the lap-busting *Invincible Universe*. Available at Eastside and Marksbury, *Compendium One* opens with the saga of Atom Eve and fellow teenage super-stooge, Rex Splode. Then the Guardians of the Globe get the band back together, with lots of po-mo heroics featuring a yeti, a super-dog and, at last, my fave, the Astonishing Wolfman!

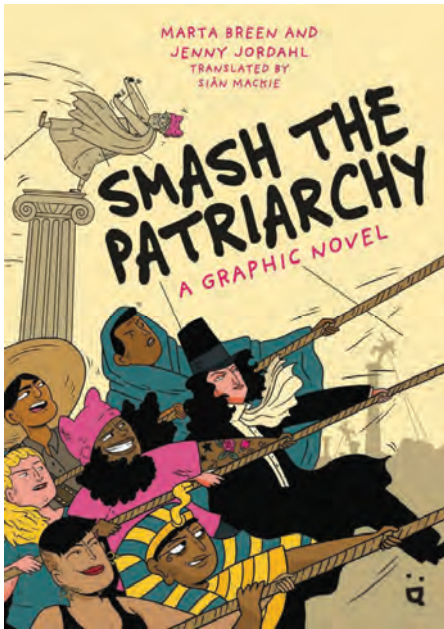


ATOM EVE grows into her powers, meets a nice boy, and joins a super-team Guarding the Globe in Robert Kirman's Over-size INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE



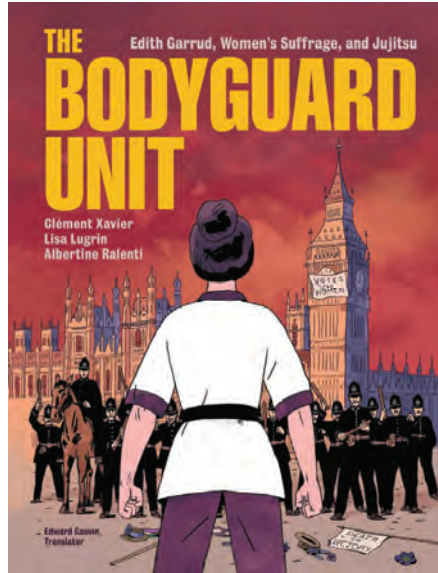
©GILBERT





The fantastic femmes who headline this issue are, of course, but shadows on the wall of the cave compared to the real life heroines of history. A troika of polemical picture books spill the tea—and quite a lot of blood—on the reality of women’s struggle for life and liberty. Available in TEEN nonfiction at most LPL locations, *Smash the Patriarchy* is a slick, funny and fierce history of what Diana of Themyscira would call Man’s World, and women’s place in it. **Marta Breen** starts at the beginning, with Socrates arguing for the equality of women and Aristotle talking nothing

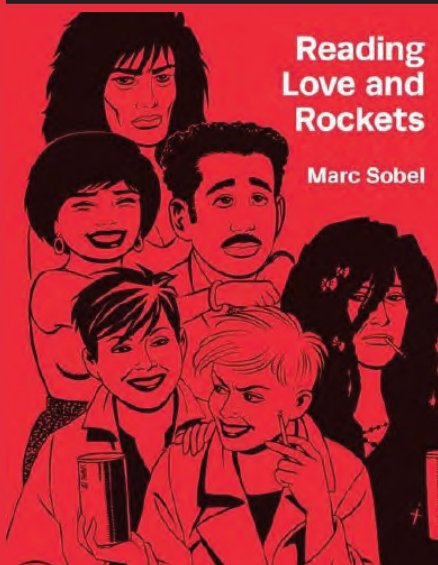
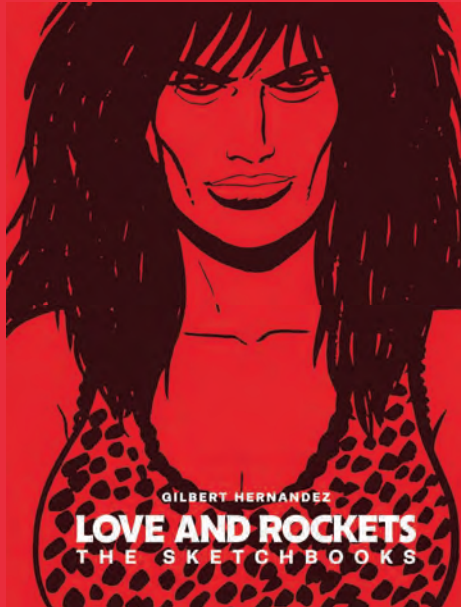
but trash about women. Sad to say, most authorities echoed the latter’s contempt for the fairer sex. **Jenny Jordahl** renders the ups and downs of distaff destiny in a clear line style bright with wit and humanity. **Lisa Lugrin** uses a similar take on *clair ligne* to delineate the true story of *The Bodyguard Unit* (Graphic Universe). Found in TEEN under B G1945xa, **Clement Xavier**’s exalts the daughters of Albion who learned the Asian martial art of jiu jitsu. They needed it, as police, husbands and male bystanders used violence to put down protestors



for women’s right to vote. That savage and unforgiving response to women’s demand for both physical safety and physical autonomy is not a relic of the past, but works its wickedness across the globe. The current revolt of Iranian women against the brutal strictures of the Islamic Republic is exposed and explored in the compilation *Woman Life Freedom*. Compiled by **Marjane (Persepolis) Satrapi**, this anthology includes many members of the Iranian Diaspora, who bring their experience and artistry to bear in a graphic outburst of rage and hope.

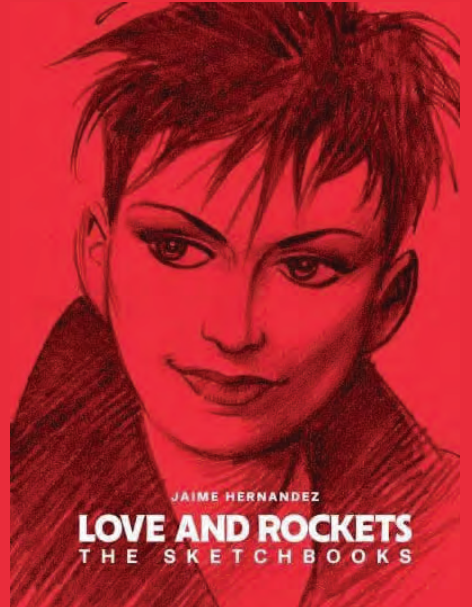
MEANWHILE

The spearhead of a new generation of cartoonists raised on Silver and Bronze Age comics and weaned by undergrounds, **Jaime and Gilbert Hernandez** stood out immediately. One major difference was their approach to women. Their earliest work, such as “BEM” and “Mechanics”, played with expectations of pulp pulchritude. The outrageously buxom Luba, the adorable Maggie the Mechanic, along with their galpals like Tonantzin and Penny Century, were post-modern pin-ups.



But those pins drew blood. As **Los Bros** grew as artists and, especially, writers, these characters and so many more developed personalities of depth and definition. That fictional feminism is one of the many aspects of the **Hernandez Brothers** and their pioneering alternative comic *Love and Rockets* explored and explicated by **Marc Sobel** in his monograph, *Reading Love and Rockets*. From the Big Stories like *Human Diastrophism* and *The Death of Speedy* to one-page toss-offs torn from old fanzines, Sobel shows how the characters have

grown up with their audience, and vice versa. A newer release is the long-awaited *Sketchbooks*. Ranging from their teenage years to 1992, this is a gargantuan gathering of the boys’ developmental drawings, from fan art to punk show fliers to character designs and, well, sketches. It’s a formidable tome, a flip book featuring **Jaime** on one side and **Gilbert** on the other. See inside this ish for examples, then reserve (and please preserve) *The Sketchbooks* from Central!



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