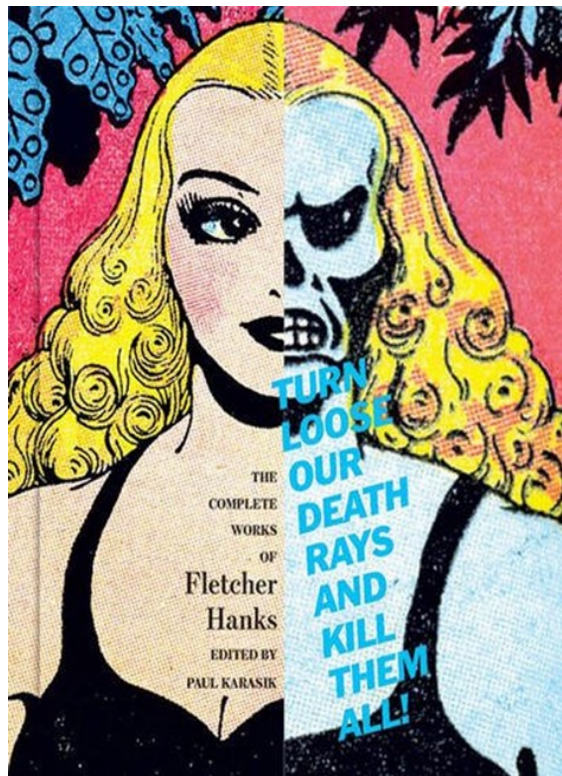


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**THE WILD WORLD OF
FLETCHER
HANKS**

JANUARY 2017—FIRST ISSUE! PLUS...SETH, DR. STRANGE & MORE!





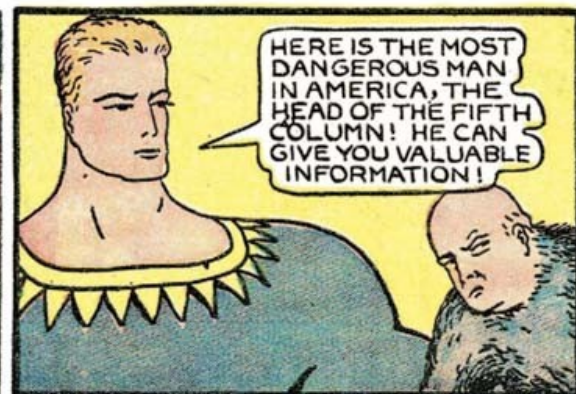
Turn Loose Our Death Rays and Kill Them All!

The Complete Works of Fletcher Hanks, edited by Paul Krasik

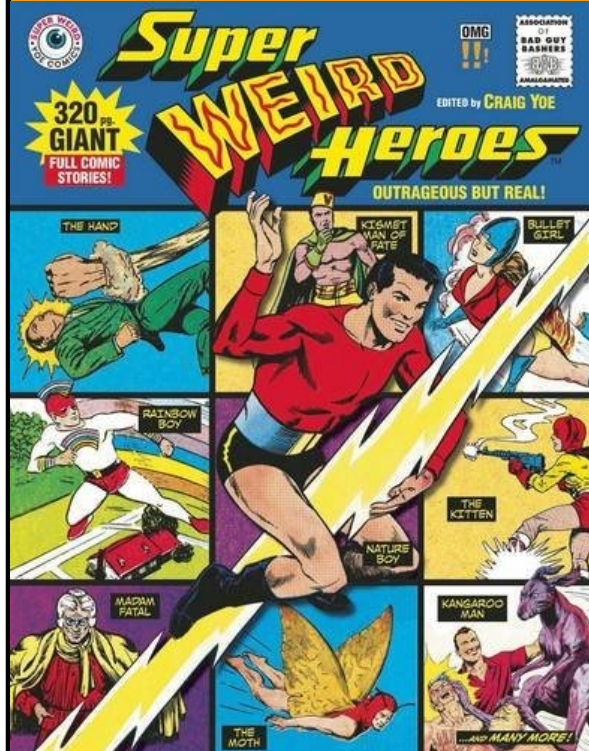
Fantagraphics Books

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None but the bravest, like Big Red McLane. None but the swiftest, like Whirlwind Carter. None but the most brutal, like Stardust the Super Wizard. None but **Fletcher Hanks**, the cartoonist responsible for the most bizarre comics of the Golden Age. Now Fantagraphics collects its previous reprints of Hanks' work into one big hardcover featuring every single strip **Hanks** turned out before disappearing from the business in 1941. Even by the standards of pre-war comics, **Hanks** was crude. His drawing was deliberately exaggerated and grotesque, the bad guys always ugly in the tradition of *Dick Tracy*, his heroes great chunks of torso sporting slablike heads and oversized limbs. **Hanks'** sole attempt at cheesecake, *Fantomah*, "Mystery Woman of the Jungle", is hideous, a bathing beauty whose deathly visage swears that "Now you shall die by your own creation!" More avenging angels than heroes, Hanks' creations doled out punishments far beyond jail or even death: evildoers are turned into worms to be devoured by giant vultures, crushed "in the relentless clutches of a shining octopus of gold", or shrunk until nothing's left but a head, which is flung across the cosmos to be absorbed by a giant "Head Hunter". But amidst the mayhem, there are moments of surreal beauty: a great glowing idol; *Fantomah* greeting a dying elephant; skies filled with citizens robbed of gravity, bodies flying into space in a funnybook Rapture. It's all as mad as hatters and hornets, colorful vigilante fairy tales churned straight from the raging id of an all-American roughneck, **Hanks** a true forgotten man who lives on through his art.

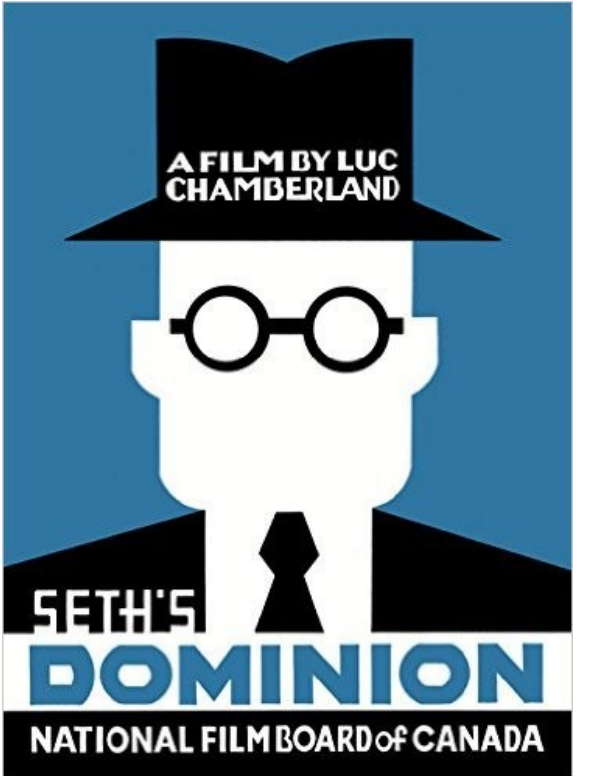


Fletcher Hanks worked for that Founding Father of the Comic Book, **Will Eisner**, who remembered him being older than the rest of the staff at Eisner's shop, most of whom were barely out of their teens. "And he got it in on time!" recalled Eisner. "Frankly, nothing else really mattered." That combination of youthful naivete and the eternal grind of deadlines informed most of the early creations of the Golden Age. Kids with heads stuffed full of dime novels and Saturday matinee serials turned their inexperienced hands to the newest cliché, the superhero. But for every successful Superman or Captain Marvel, there were a dozen Hydromans and Sergeant Spooks, born losers who filled the back pages of popular comics and the front covers of second-rate publishers. Now IDW and its subsidiary



Yoe! Books compiles the best of the worst in *Super Weird Heroes* (CL-741.5 Su76y-0000224351056). The features run from fairly long-lived also-rans like *Bulletman* and *Cat-man* to eccentric but competent strips such as *Nature Boy* and *the Deacon*, not to mention the buckskinned *Captain Fearless*, the buck-naked *Captain Truth*, and the buck-making *Captain Hadacol*, two-fisted skill for the patent medicine loathed by children across FDR's America. But then there's the real weirdos like the magical nude giant *Phantasm*, cross-dressing crimebuster *Madam Fatal*, and *the Hand*, which was just that: a giant hand. Wonder if he ever teamed up with *the Eye*? There's so much gold in them yellowed hills of pulp a sequel is already in the works. Yoe! Books loves comics for their strangeness and trashiness, as should we all. Check out their other collections, *Haunted Horror*, *Weird Love* and *The Worst of Eerie Publications*, all available from your Lexington Public Library! Go to lexpublib.org, now!

Canadian cartoonist **Seth** goes by one name, like *Cher* or *Liberace*. It's a choice made in his angry, punk rock youth, as he describes in one scene from this marvelous documentary by **Luc Chamberland**. *Seth's Dominion* mixes film footage of the world-renowned cartoonist and designer (of *Fantagraphics' Complete Peanuts* books, for one thing) with animations of his simple, elegant work. And so we learn how the man is so prolific: he never sleeps. And when **Seth's** awake, he's usually drawing. And if he's not drawing, he's working on the handmade models of his fictional *Dominion City*, or his puppet theatre, or displays—and imaginary histories—for his wife's barber shop. Or the breathtaking package for his own documentary, which includes a selection of comics and illustrations on one side, and photos of his design work—like his boss logo for the *Violet Uprising* roller derby squad—on the other. Once you've viewed *Seth's Dominion*, check out the other works available through LPL, including the latest volumes of his series *Palookaville* and the award-winning graphic novel, *It's A Good Life If You Don't Weaken*.



Seth's Dominion

by Seth & Luc Chamberland

Drawn & Quarterly/National Film Board of Canada

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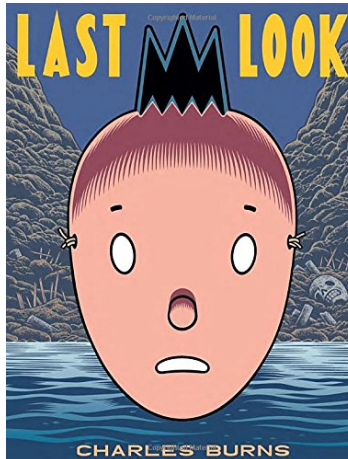
Meanwhile...

Hot on the heels of the international hit film comes the huge *DOCTOR STRANGE OMNIBUS* (Marvel), which reprints the Silver Age comics that introduced the Master of the Mystic Arts.



The companion Epic Collection, *A Separate Reality*, presents work from both the unfortunate “mask” period and the Doc’s 1970s comeback. Meanwhile, Stephen Strange faces a cold, cruel new enemy in *DOCTOR STRANGE V2: The Last Days of Magic*, with amazing art by **Chris Bachalo**. Other new books from Marvel include the action-packed *BLACK WIDOW V1: SHIELD’s Most Wanted*, **Chelsea Cain’s** controversial *MOCKINGBIRD V1: I Can Explain*, and *MOON KNIGHT V1: Lunatic*, indie comics draftee **Jeff Lemire’s** gritty yet trippy take on Marvel’s maniacal guardian of the night. The breakout star of *Captain America: Civil War*, the Black Panther returns with a regular series written by **Ta-Nahisi Coates**, collected in *A Nation Under*

Our Feet, inspired in part by the 1970s epic, *Panther’s Rage*, now reprinted in one huge volume. Another highlight of comics’ Bronze Age, *Master of Kung Fu* by **Moench** and **Gulacy**, is being republished in the Omnibus format. Volume 2 further proves that *MOKF* was the best espionage comic since England’s *Modesty Blaise*.

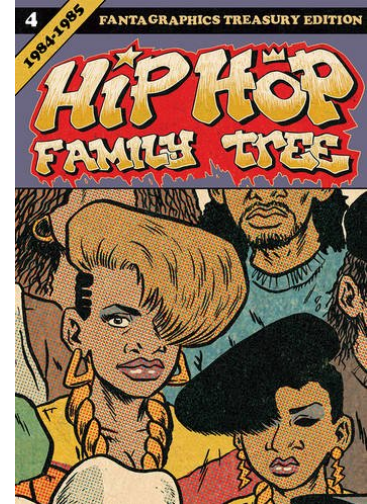


Pantheon collects alt-comix superstar **Charles Burns’** latest trilogy (*X’ed Out*, *The Hive* and *Sugar Skull*) in one big book of gorgeously rendered horror and Lynchian perplexity. One of **Burns’** influences is the focus of *Voodoo Vengeance*, the 2nd



Sweat and tension and lots of ink: Johnny Craig’s *Voodoo Vengeance*

volume of Fantagraphics’ EC Artist Series dedicated to **Johnny Craig**, the cartoonist responsible for “the cleanest horror stories you ever saw”. This and *The Living Mummy* by the great **Jack Davis** show why these comics were both revered by fans then and



now, and burned in bonfires by priests and parents. Meanwhile, the new school of horror comics is represented by Volume 3 of the demonic Southern drama *Outcast*, written by **Robert (Walking Dead) Kirkman** and now a series on Cinemax. Other new volumes of on-going series include V2 of **Cliff Chiang** and **Brian (Saga) Vaughn’s** *Paper Girls*, *Black Science V5*, *Low V3*, *Trees V2*, *Revival V7*, *Velvet V3* and the fourth editions of *The Wicked and the Divine* and **Ed Piskor’s** monumental *Hip Hop Family Tree*. Rap fans should def check out Fantagraphics’ collection of *Real Deal Comix*, a raw and outrageous burlesque of ghetto life originally self-published in the Reagan Era by **Hubbard** and **McElwee**. Mature readers only, ya dig?