

# 741.5

## PRETTY, WEIRD AND PRETTY WEIRD

**ANAIS NIN: A SEA OF LIES**  
AWARD-WINNER *LISTEN, BEAUTIFUL MARCIA*  
& THE IMAGINARY CREATURES OF JOSEP BAQUE

AUGUST 2023 NO. 101

She is the Creation. A fantasy.  
She seems to have no  
substance of her own.

Her love for Henry  
keeps her whole.

Without him, she  
would break into a  
thousand shards.

I understand...

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



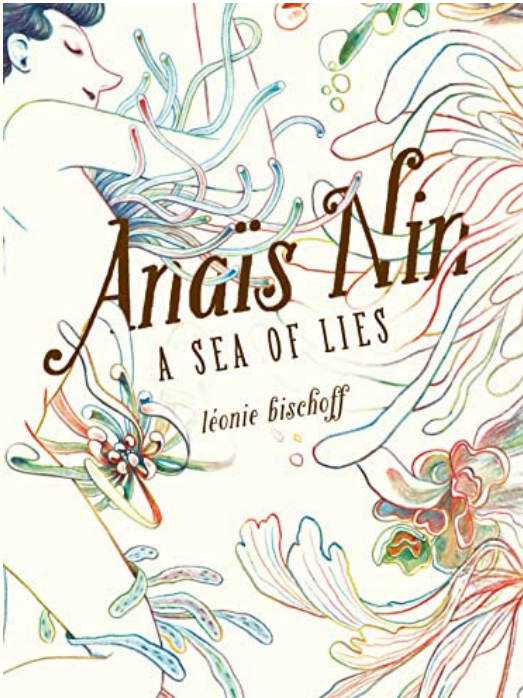
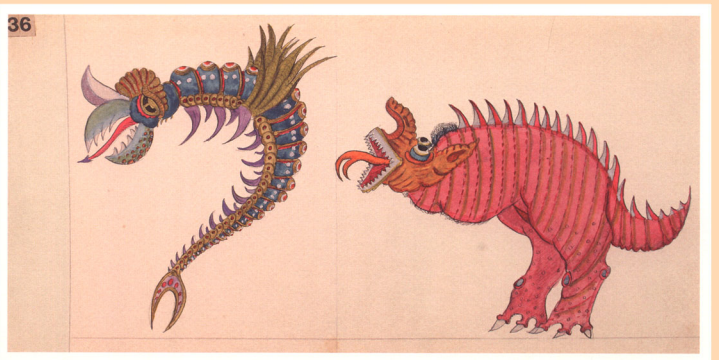
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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



In the 1960s, Gold Key, publisher of such boy-hood faves as *Mighty Samson* and *Boris Karloff Tales of Mystery*, didn't just feature monsters by pros like Sparling and Celardo, but drawings from fans. GK's "Readers Page" would feature childish renditions of "Magneto Thing" and "Molecule Dum Dum." I was reminded of these polymorphous weirdos, so colorful, so unrestrained in their innocent creativity, when perusing *Out of My Head*. Edited for Fantagraphics by Brian Chidester, this beautiful brick of a book brings *The Imaginary Creatures of Josep Braque* to light. Little is known

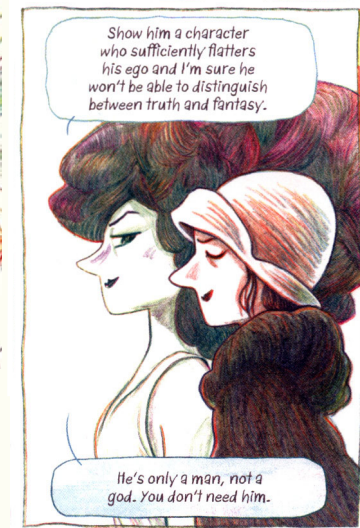


about the artist, a Barcelona traffic cop who began drawing his self-described "bestiary" of "1500 MONSTRUOS" in 1932. He continued during the Spanish Civil War and the subsequent Franco regime. Baque kept to himself and resisted all efforts to publicize his work: "He did not want to come out of the shadows." He spent years conjuring these entities, each in their own section: beasts, primitive men, bats and insects, giant spiders and more. Playful and perverse, goofy and creepy, *Out of My Head* is a mesmerizing example of outsider art. Get it from Beaumont and Village!



The internal and external struggles of a woman of great passion and imagination are rendered in luscious, luminous color pencil by Swiss cartoonist Leonie Bischoff in this exquisite graphic biography found at Beaumont, Central and Village.

One of the most famous love triangles in literary history was more of a love pentagram. True, Anais Nin fell in love with American writer Henry Miller, then head over heels for his wife, June. But Nin's husband, friend, analyst, even her father, had claims on her heart, even as Nin fiercely strove for artistic and sexual freedom.

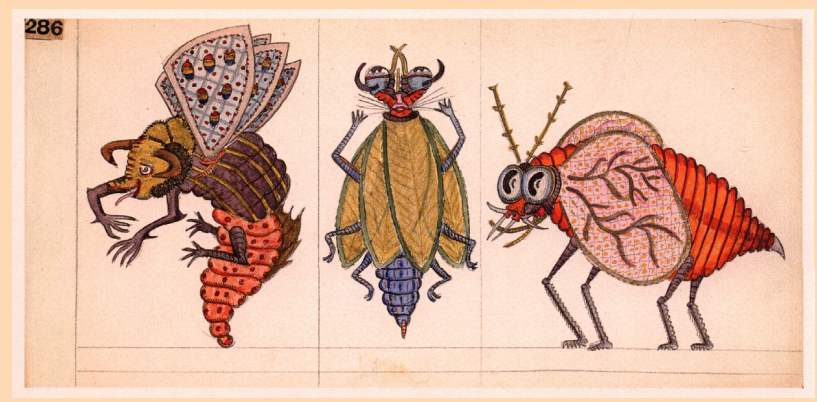
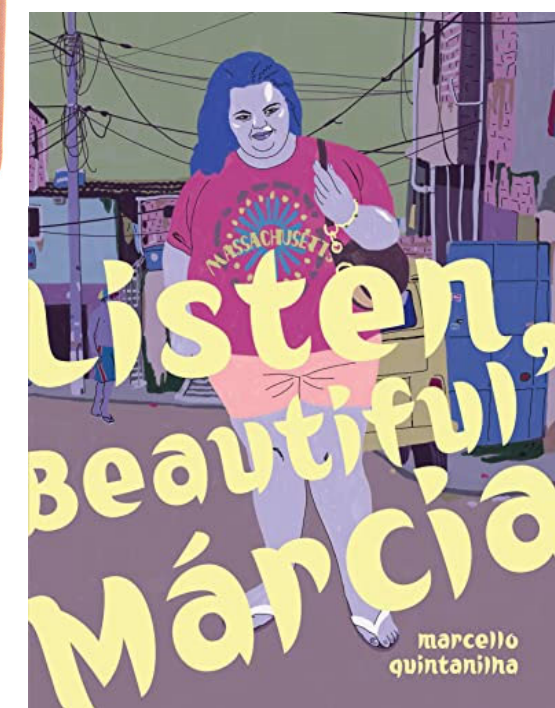
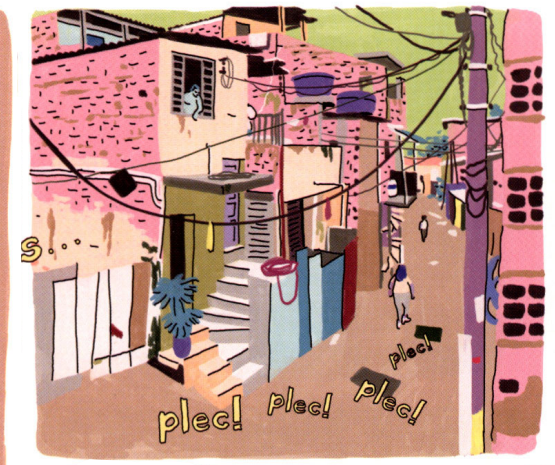


Above: Nin meets Henry Miller. Left: Nin and her muse, the avatar of her own diary. Below: Nin, crumpled under the stress of bourgeois life. Below left: a vision of Nin's lovers—Eduardo the bohemian, long-suffering husband Hugo, and June & Henry Miller.



It's tough being a mother. It's even tougher when your family lives in the favelas (above right) of Rio De Janeiro. Marcia is a nurse who tries to live on the straight and narrow in a corrupt and crime-ridden society (above). When her daughter Jaqueline (below) gets in deep with gangsters, Marcia does what she must to save her wayward child, no matter the consequences for herself.

Winner of the 2022 Prize for Best Album at the Angouleme International Comics Festival, *Listen, Beautiful Marcia* is a wildly colorful take on social realism. This Oversize edition from Fantagraphics gives the open layouts and ice-cream hues of Marcello Quintanilha room to move. Part family drama, part crime story, the tale of Marcia and her loved ones is available at Central, Tates Creek and Village!





Nana: "So...what do you think God's plan for you is?" Bunny: "IDK...probably just to stay hot and simple forever." Nana: "Nice." Bunny's the bubbly blonde from Central Casting, Nana the brunette with a thing for clown culture. Sadie is the tall gal with the pink hair and an actual lick of sense, Tallulah is her GF who gets a little too involved with her Instagram account. This fun-tastic four-some bust open a bodacious bottle of *Girl Juice* thanks to Drawn & Quarterly. **Benji (Catboy) Nate** cranked out these hilarious strips during the depths of the COVID shutdown. She admits this episodic saga of four roommates living, loving and loathing side by side was inspired by her own loneliness. And horniness: bombshell Bunny is one of those kids who was raised strict and godly and went buck wild the second they got out of the house. Her erotic escapades make up much of the first half of the book, so *caveat lector*. The later part shows how the girls deal with Tallulah's demons. Her *literal* demons. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)!



## MEANWHILE

The fun continues with Marvel's newest "all ages" compilation, *Spider-Men: Double Trouble*. Written by **Vita Ayala** and former indie darling **Mariko (This One Summer) Tamaki**, the book stars two Spider-Men: the original, Peter Parker, who invites the new kid, Miles Morales, to "Take-Your-Sidekick-To-Work Day." Despite his protests that he is not a sidekick, Miles is still jazzed when Peter shows him the warehouse where Spidey the 1st stashes all the stuff he takes off the bad guys. Like, for instance, the thing that looks like a coffee cup but isn't. Hi-jinx ensue when Miles ends up crashing a super-villain convention. Miles raises such a ruckus the keynote speaker, Thanos the Mad Titan, comes looking for revenge. Meanwhile, Peter's got his own problems, including Venom, the worst room-mate ever. It's a hilarious, high energy read beautifully drawn and colored by the

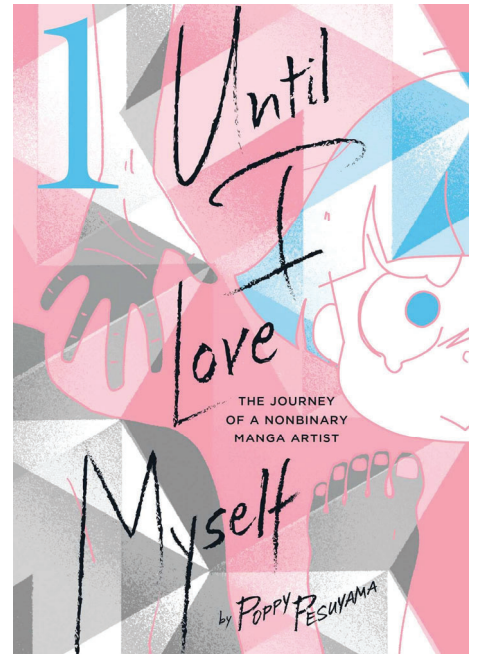
## Homunculus



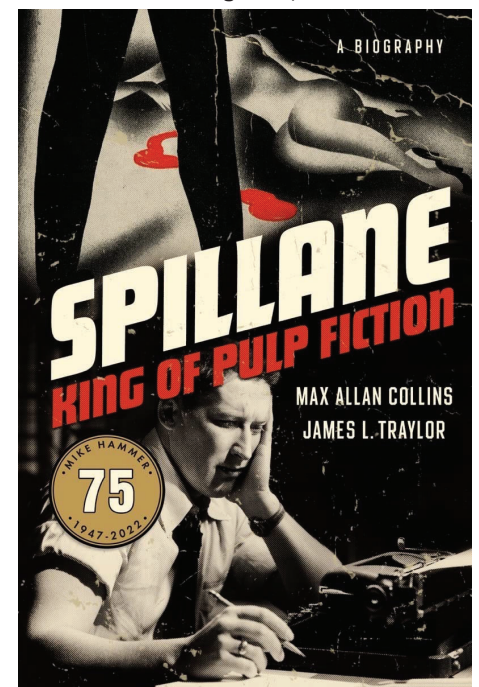
HIDEO YAMAMOTO

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Japanese art team **Gurihiru**. I don't like their take on the Rhino, but their Lizard is to die for! Entertaining for all ages, *Spider-Men: Double Trouble* is available at all LPL locations under J for Juvenile! More Japanese talent is showcased in the next two items. **Hideo Yamamoto** is famous for *Ichii the Killer*, adapted into the infamous film by **Takashi Miike**. **Yamamoto** is a leader in *seinen* manga, comics aimed at a male audience between 18-40, often focused on lurid subjects like crime and psychopathy. The new translation of **Yamamoto's Homunculus** from Seven Seas lives up to that description. Susumu Nakoshi is a man in a suit who sleeps in his car. Parked on the street between a luxury high rise hotel and a public park turned homeless encampment, Nakoshi (just barely) lives between both worlds. When his precious car is towed, he's forced to accept an offer from a renegade medical student. Nakoshi undergoes an operation at the hands of the enigmatic Ito, who seeks to instigate psychic powers through the act of trepanation. And it works, to Ito's delight and Nakoshi's despair, as the latter begins to



see people as they truly, hideously are. A more subtle kind of creepy than most horror manga, *Homunculus* is available at all LPL locations. Everybody but Eastside has a copy of *Until I Love Myself (Viz)*. An autobiography, this is **Poppy Pesuyama's** first solo book. They spent most of their career working as an assistant for other manga artists. Like the man called only "X"; his offhand but incessant harassment made **Pesuyama's** life a misery. The experience triggers a breakdown, during which **Poppy** is forced to confront lifetime of gender dysphoria. The first of two, Volume 1 ends with a cliffhanger: do they forgive and forget? Neither was the usual choice for America's most notorious private eye, Mike Hammer. The story of Hammer is the story of his creator, **Mickey Spillane**. An American original, **Spillane** began writing during the Golden Age, scripting Blue Bolt, Sub-mariner and other wartime heroes. How comics influenced Spillane and vice versa is revealed in *King of Pulp Fiction* at Central.



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