

741.5

ALL HORROR HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!

**BLOOD-CURDLING COMICS BY
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR JOE HILL...
AL FELDSTEIN...AND MANY MORE!**

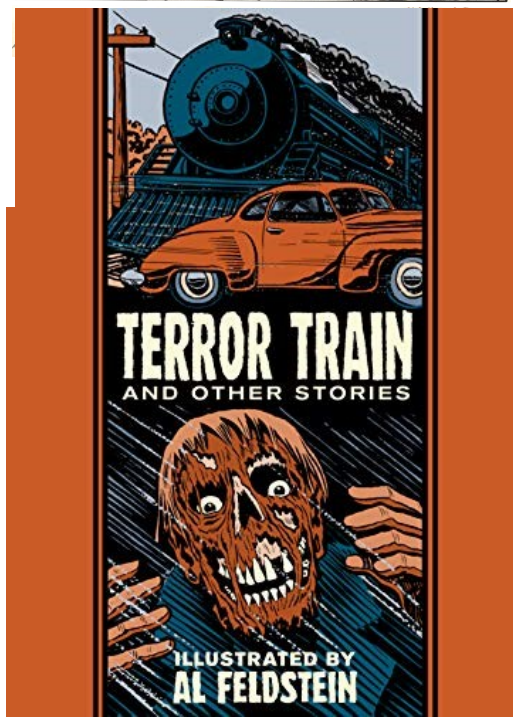
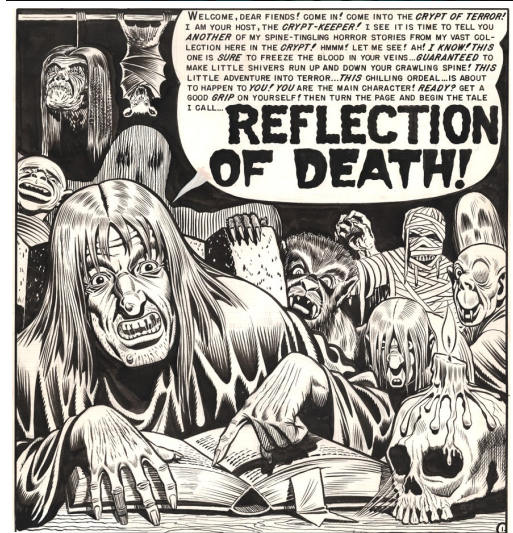
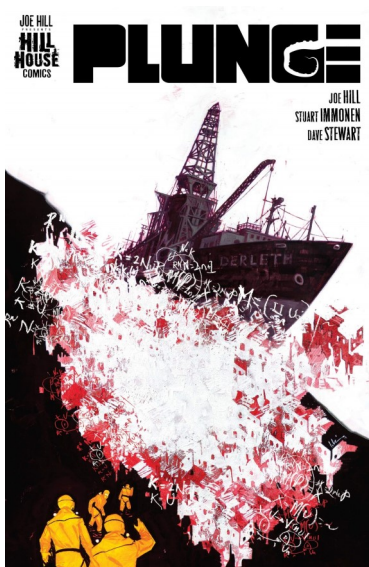
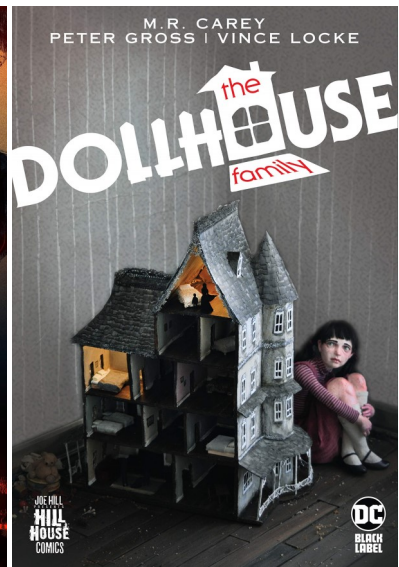
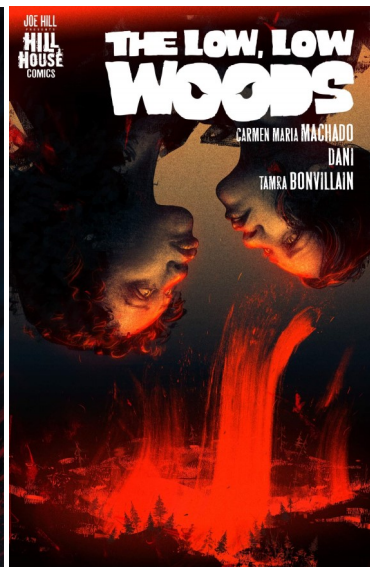
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Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



The citizens of Shudder-to-Think, Pennsylvania, are prey to an illness that eats their memories. Friends El and Vee fall victim, too, but risk all to reveal the monstrous secrets hidden in **THE LOW, LOW WOODS**. Little Alice Dealey is a child of tragedy. Her only source of stability and joy is the antique dollhouse bequeathed by a mysterious great-aunt. But the dollhouse has a history, one that follows Alice throughout her life. Even adulthood is no deliverance from **THE DOLLHOUSE FAMILY**. The only Hill House comic set in the present, **THE PLUNGE** features the art of Stuart Immonen in a

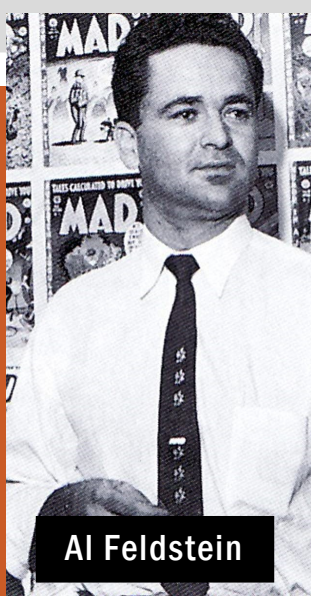


Writer **JOE HILL** has been #1 on the New York Times Best Seller List, winner of the Eisner, Bram Stoker and British Fantasy Awards, and author of the cult phenomenon *Locke & Key*. Now the horror hierophant is the showrunner for **HILL HOUSE COMICS**, a subsidiary of DC's adult-oriented **BLACK LABEL** imprint, dedicated to bringing a new breed of horror comics to unlife! Meanwhile, *Joe Hill: The Graphic Novel Collection* reprints early works such as *Wraith*, *The Cape*, *Thumbprint* and more. Go to LEXPUBLIB.ORG to reserve these eldritch items!

claustrophobic tale of marine mayhem. A crew of pros chase down a ship missing for decades. What they find is astonishing...and evil. **DAPHNE BYRNE** is the proper young Victorian miss haunted by a presence that calls itself "Brother". And Brother has friends. The shadowy stylings of artist Kelly Jones are lovely and hideous. **A BASKETFULL OF HEADS** kicked off the HH line with a bloody bang. June Branch just wanted to visit her boyfriend at his summer job. She didn't expect the home invasion, the magic axe, the chatter of severed heads in a basket. Can June chop her way out of this horrible mess?



It was his role as editor and head writer for Entertaining Comics that made him a legend. But **Al Feldstein** was a cartoonist first and foremost. He had joined EC in 1948 as an artist for the struggling imprint's teen and romance comics. As Feldstein helped novice publisher William Gaines get his creative bearings, he and his boss realized they had a lot in common...namely, a love for weird tales. The duo began slipping horror stories into their crime books. To their delight, the readers responded with dimes and demands for more. Those fledgling fables of fear are the subject of *Terror Train*. The latest EC Artists Library tome from Fantagraphics features both the original hor-



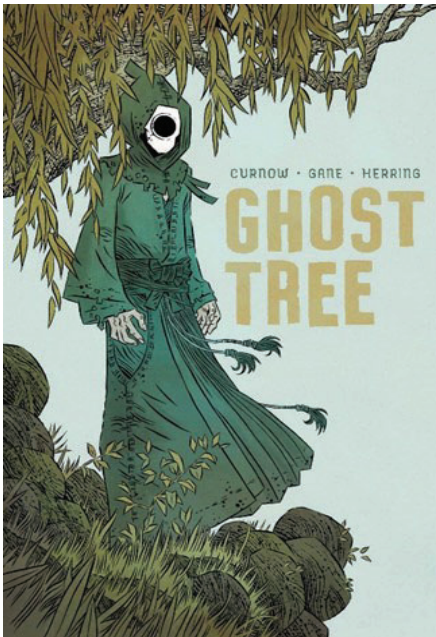
ror stories written and drawn by Feldstein and the crime comics that preceded them, some not seen since the 1950s. As Feldstein grew into the new genre, his stiff figures and overwrought inks, typical of the "Iger School" that dominated the late Golden Age, were a perfect medium for scary stories. So were the crepuscular scrawlings of **Graham Ingels**. Like *Grave Business* and *Doctor of Horror*, still available from LPL, the upcoming *Accidents and Old Lace* reprints the work that earned him the nickname "Ghastly". Sardonic tales of vice and vengeance set in a world of decaying small towns peopled by Dickensian grotesques are yours to enjoy via lexpublib.org!

The creepiest comic book I've read in ages is not a horror title, but a superhero book. *The Immortal Hulk* returns the Green Goliath to his monster movie roots. A revenant Bruce Banner wanders the West under the influence of the deathless beast within. A new kind of Hulk, the "Devil Hulk" is as smart as he is vicious. And he is *vicious*. Nothing and no



one can stop him, not the Avengers, not the new and nastier Abomination, not even dismemberment by his enemies at Shadow Base. Hulk guts in jars is just one of the many gruesome images that writer **Al Ewing** and artist **Joe Bennett** use to make this the most horrific Hulk comic ever. Get Volume 1-5 from LPL's **TEEN** collection, with #6 on the way.





One inspiration for this Halloween Special issue of 741.5 is that, due to the Shutdown, a lot of comics are coming into the LPL collection all at once. A big bunch of those are horror comics. Some of these items are already available; others are in the pipeline, but can be reserved at lexpublib.org. Our first offering, *Ghost Tree* (IDW) is one of the latter. This Eisner Award-nominated series is a rumination on loss and life disguised as a spook story. The protagonist, Brandt, flees from his bad marriage to the old home place in Japan. Not much has changed. Indeed, the old willow tree so beloved by Brandt's deceased grandfather is still there. And so is Grandfather, along with other unquiet spirits that infest the tree like so many supernatural squirrels. **Simon Gane's** artwork, with its traces of both *manga* and European comics, is calm and cool and creepy by turns. And his nature drawing is impec-

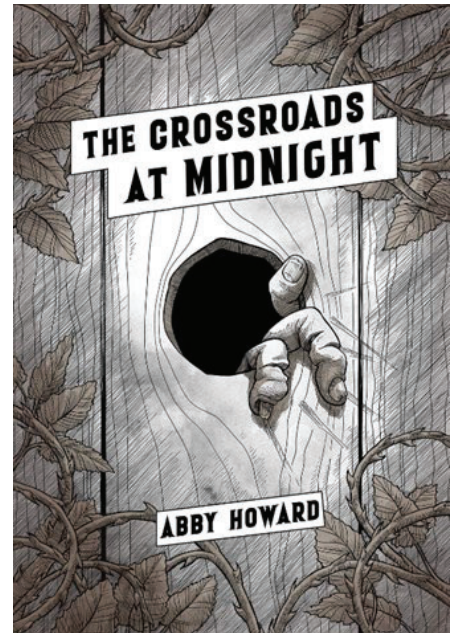


MEANWHILE

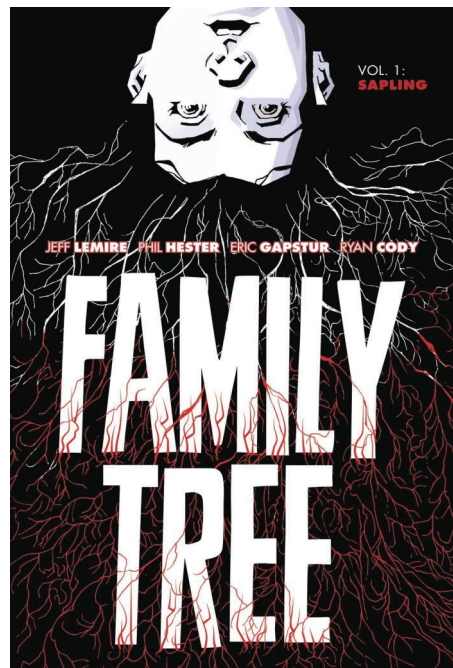
cable, as befits a comic so centered on the forest and its shadows. *The Plot* (Vault) also concerns the intersection of nature and the unnatural. The inaugural title of Vault's "Night-fall" line, *The Plot* is written by **Tim Daniel & Michael Moreci** and drawn by **Joshua (Shanghai Red) Hixson**. "Plot" refers to both the land on which sits the ancestral home of hero Chase Blaine and the conspiracy of family secrets buried in the bog behind that home. As Blaine tries to raise his new charges, niece McKenzie and nephew Zach, weirdness slowly but sinisterly begins to accumulate. The kind that apparently always haunted the Blaine family, and, if Blaine and the kids aren't careful, will always haunt them. Fans of more subtle takes on horror will enjoy *The Plot*. If blood'n'guts is more your thing, well, buddy, *Something Is Killing the Children*. And it's leaving a hellish mess when doing so.



One child has escaped to tell the tale...but no one will believe him. Not about how his friends ended up in pieces. Not about the monster. Not until Erica Slaughter shows up. A hot mess, Erica is the hard-boiled heroine of this thrilling, chilling first volume of the ongoing Boom series by DC scribe **James Tynion IV** and artist **Werther Dell'edera**, whose work on this title earned him an Eisner nomination. Erica knows Archer's Peak is not the only small heartland town to suffer such misery and mystery. She knows this because her calling is to kill the monsters no other adults can see. You get the feeling she makes common cause with James the survivor because he's the only one who understands. Cartoonist **Abby Howard** would probably dig where Erica's coming from. She's a modern gal living a modern life, as expressed by her popular webcomic, *Junior Scientist Power Hour*. Like the work of **Jane (Pigeon Gazette) Zei** and **Sarah (Sarah's Scribbles) Andersen** (*Meanwhile*, 741.5 no. 17), **Howard's** regular strip



loosely drawn. But her horror work is quite different, as evidenced by *The Crossroads At Midnight* (Iron Circus). In this collection of original stories, **Howard's** art is incredibly detailed, her cross-hatching reminiscent of woodcuts and **Joe Sacco**. Shudder to "Our Lake Monster" and "Mattress, Used" as you read the book *Publisher's Weekly* called "wonderfully terrifying." The heroines of **Howard's** stories have it pretty good compared to the mother and daughter who find themselves trapped in the branches of the *Family Tree*. The first compilation of the Image series, *Sapling* hits the ground running and doesn't let up. An eight-year-old girl begins to transform into a tree, her skin rough bark, a branch with leaves growing out of her back. She's doomed, but her mom, brother and shotgun-slinging grandfather still fight like hell to save her. **Phil Hester's** tenebrous art pulls you right into the horror!



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