

741.5

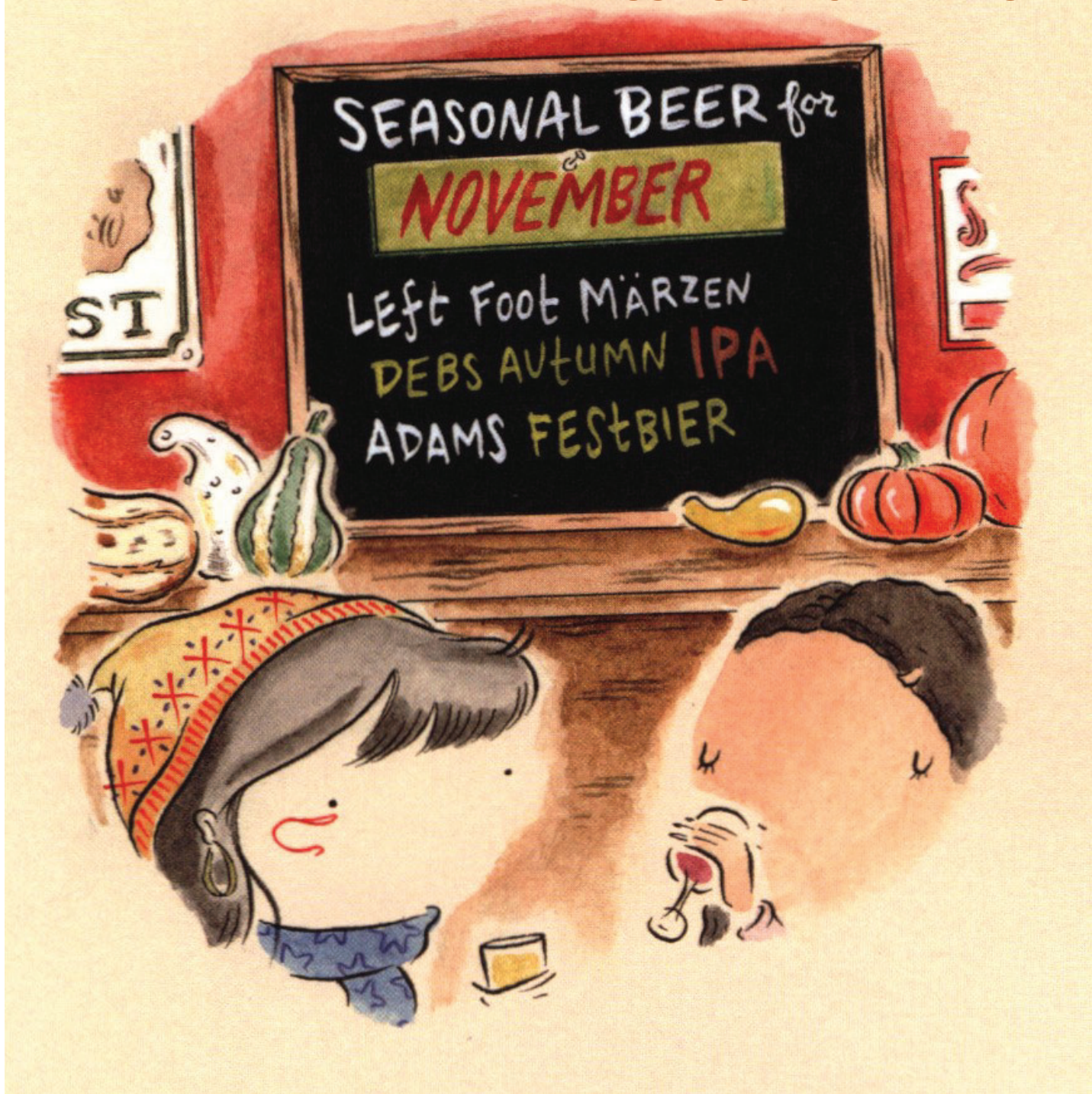
QUIET

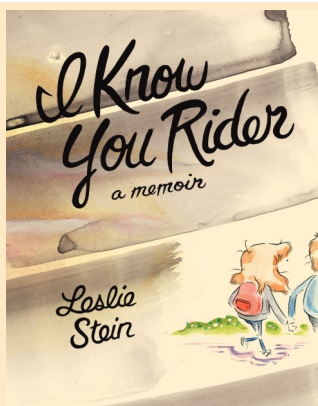
COMICS FOR NOISY TIMES

LESLIE STEIN-SARAH ANDERSEN-WALT KELLY
YOSHIHARU TSUGE-NOELLE STEVENSON-AND MORE

NOVEMBER 2020 - NO. 46

PLUS...SCIENCE FANTASY





The story begins in the middle, as cartoonist Leslie Stein deals with the unexpected result of an evening of passion with an old flame. As her tale shifts from then to now and back again, the regular contributor to *Vice.com* gives us a loving look at hipster life in Brooklyn. Stein and her pals pursue their muse while working low level jobs as they make music, make art, make pizza while quoting Nietzsche. *I know You Rider* is a quietly forthright memoir of a woman who chooses to live her life without excuse or apology.



A famous samurai plays the clown for a village full of tourists. Two hapless ronin invent the next big thing in drunkenness. A collier for a crematorium confesses his sins. An arrogant warlord marries the lady ninja sent to murder him. A young artist plays too rough with his pet bird. A schoolboy's obsession with a used book leads to further mysteries...



Under heavy manners in his homeland of Canada, Langosh picks up his pooch Peppi and lights out for Europe. The quasi-legal Langosh stays on the move, living rough as he travels in a circle through the wreckage of the Eastern Bloc. As they roam the post-Communist backwoods, Langosh and Peppi uncover, among other relics, a former listening station for the Hungarian secret police. Elsewhere, Langosh encounters rustic gangsters, neo-Nazis and brutally biased police. At first a footloose fool in the proud comics tradition of Happy Hooligan and Barney Google, Langosh gets swept up in the migrant crisis of 2015. *Fugitive Days* (Conundrum Press) is a fine debut novel by cartoonist Veronica Post, available at all locations.



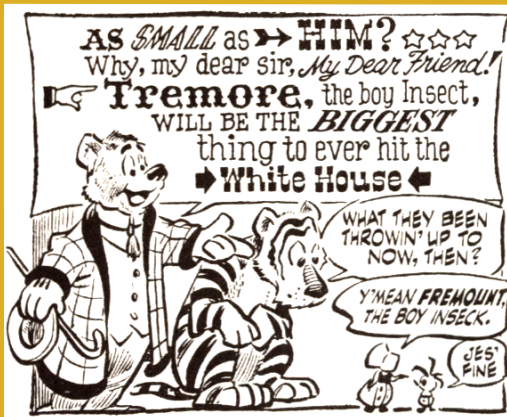
The most outrageous of the books discussed here, Simon Hanselmann's *Seeds & Stems* is a Fantagraphics compilation of odds and ends from zines and anthologies. As usual, the strips feature the misadventures of Megg the witch and Mogg the cat, straight man/fall guy Owl, and the proudly dissolute Werewolf Jones (see 741.5 no. 35). Deviants and dope fiends, the quartet meander from one screw-up to another, rarely learning anything from the trouble they cause. But what sounds like a litany of bad trips and dirty jokes often ends up in a quiet place, a kind of contemplative depravity, looking up at the stars from down in the gutter. It's still rude, crude stuff, though, so reader beware at lexpublib.org.



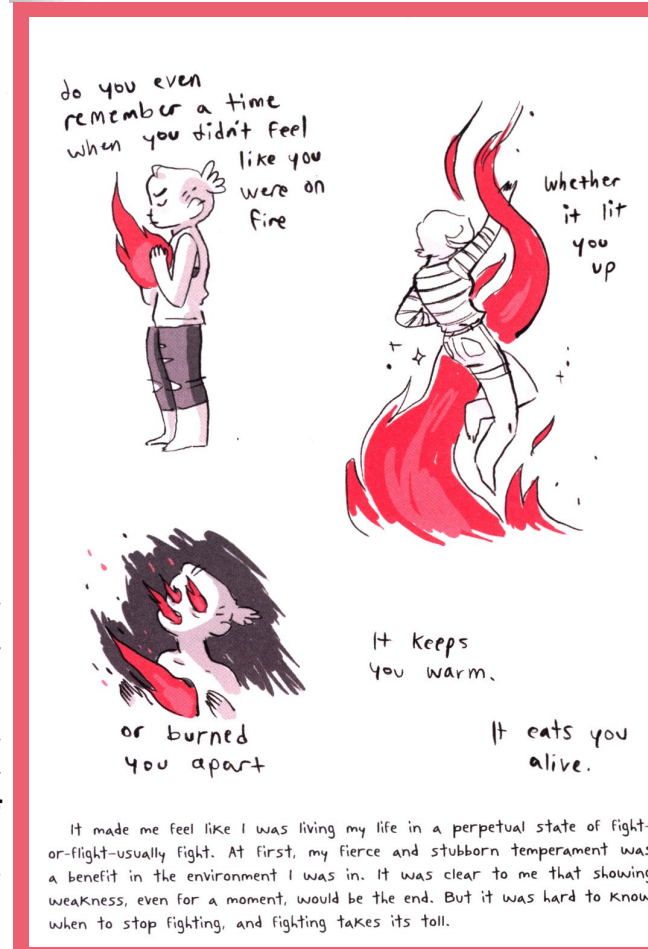
Sarah Andersen is the creator of the much-memed webcomic *Sarah's Scribbles* (*Meanwhile*, 741.5 no.17). Turns out Sarah's an artist of many moods. Her latest book *Fangs* is a collection of one page strips about the burgeoning romance between a vampire and a werewolf. She makes "Date Him/Eat Him" lists, he tries not to chase squirrels while strolling through the park. All the nosferatu/lycanthrope tropes are taken for a spin with delightful results. Andersen shows a huge Aubrey Beardsley influence, down to the design of this lovely book, available at all locations.



Walt Kelly lived the dream of many a funny-book artist: he graduated to newspaper syndication. His strip *Pogo* was one of the few political strips in the 1950s. The latest in the Fantagraphics series reprinting the entirety of the strip's run, *Clean As A Weasel* features dailies and full-color Sunday strips from 1959-1960. As Pogo and pals get up to their usual stuff'n'nonsense, Nikita Krushchev arrives in a crashed missile, and Fremount the Boy Bug runs for President "of the U.S. and A." with his unbeatable slogan, "Jes' fine". Get it from Central!



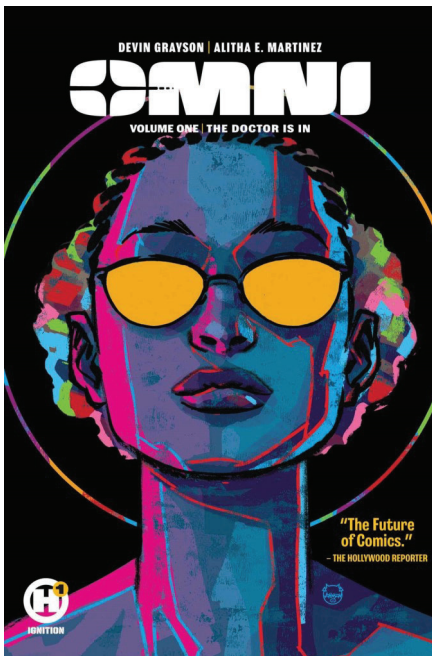
These tales and more fill the pages of *The Swamp* by Yoshiharu Tsuge. Drawn & Quarterly presents the work that made Yoshiharu a major influence on those 1960s manga artists who wanted to expand the medium beyond juvenile entertainment. Tsuge believed in art for art's sake. His dream-like, loosely plotted stories were expressions of the strangeness of life. As one character says, "Who understands why any of us do the the things we do?" Get *The Swamp* at lexpublib.org.



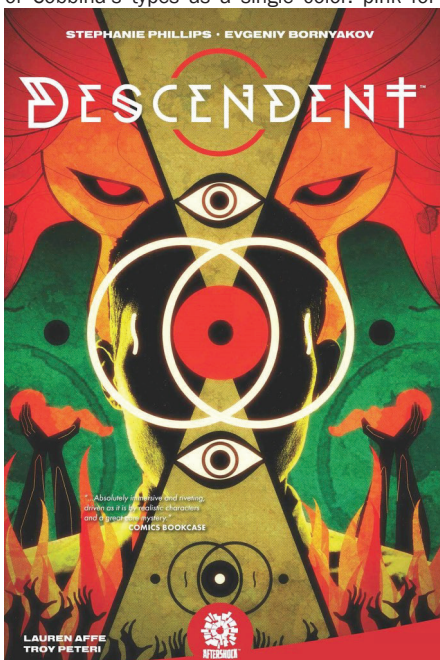
Noelle Stevenson is best known for her contributions to the best-selling comic *Lumberjanes* and the evergreen YA graphic novel *Nimona*. Her new solo work is *The Fire Never Goes Out* (HarperTeen). This self-described "memoir in pictures" mixes text and comics to detail the last eight years of her life. It's been a roller coaster of heartache and triumph, with a happy ending, even! Go to lexpublib.org to reserve a copy from LPL TEEN!



It made me feel like I was living my life in a perpetual state of fight-or-flight-usually fight. At first, my fierce and stubborn temperament was a benefit in the environment I was in. It was clear to me that showing weakness, even for a moment, would be the end. But it was hard to know when to stop fighting, and fighting takes its toll.



In stark contrast to this issue's headliners, the quintet of books offered here, all compilations of ongoing series, are fanciful in both theme and execution. Released by French-American publisher Humanoids, *Omni* is a near-future thriller. *The Doctor Is In* is set in the shared "H1 Ignited" universe where members of oppressed social groups inexplicably are "igniting" with super powers. Dr. Cecilia Cobbina ignites under the gun in war-torn Africa. She returns to the US with the ability to access all nine of the intelligence "types" identified by psychologist Howard Gardner, from the "bodily kinesthetic" to the "existential". Now she seeks out the other Ignited, accompanied by two reluctant metahumans and her normal assistant, Mae, who chronicles the Doctor's adventures in a popular webcomic. **Devin Grayson** writes a new kind of superhero, one whose impact is personal, not physical. The artwork of **Alitha Martinez** is ably assisted by colorist **Bryan Valenza**, who renders each of Cobbina's types as a single color: pink for

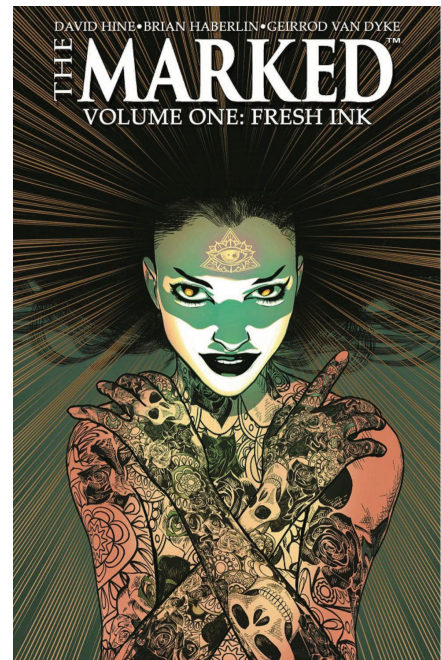


MEANWHILE

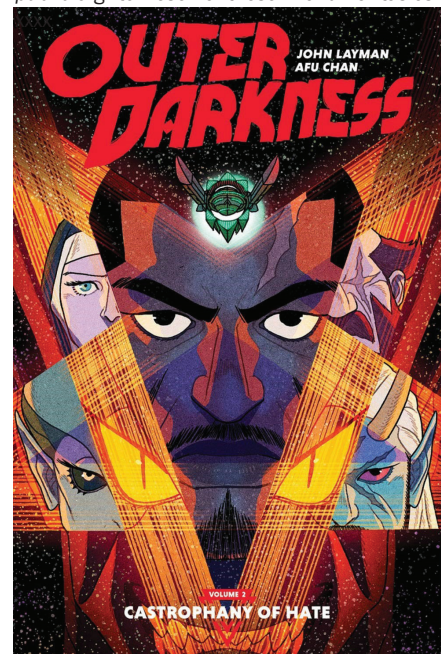
Interpersonal, blue for Logical Mathematical, and so on. Find *Omni* V1 at Central, Northside And Village. A tense combination of cosmic horror and conspiracy theory, *Descendent* (Aftershock) should thrill fans of both **Ramsey Campbell** and *The X-Files*. The children of high-ranking government officials are being disappeared, the only clue the same enigmatic sigil that accompanied the notorious Lindbergh kidnapping. Paranoid podcaster David Corey thinks he knows what's happening, if only he can get FBI agent Hernandez to believe the unbelievable before she shoots him in the name of the law. A breathless script by **Stephanie Phillips** gallops astride the scratchy realism of **Evginy Bornyakov** to a flaming climax of monsters and mayhem. *Descendent* is available at all LPL locations. Central and Tates Creek are home to the mischievous *Money Shot*. The latest from the feisty new imprint Vault, this saucy sci-fi farce involves a quartet of researchers



determined to reach the stars, even though the rest of humanity couldn't care less. In the face of such global indifference, and the resulting dearth of revenue, physicist Christine Ocampo figures out a new way to pay for science: SEX. A jaded audience bored with even the most perverse offerings on the internet become subscribers to Project: Money Shot. Ocampo and her colleagues—once rivals, now lovers—teleport to unknown worlds and get it on with the local sentients. It's all going great until the Funtastic Four take their show to a barren world ruled by a malevolent warlord. Writers **Tim (Nightwing) Seely & Sarah Beattie**, herself an internet sensation, keep things light while also delivering a sex-positive message. Artist **Rebekah Isaacs** does a great job of both world-building and storytelling with lively lay-outs and lovely figure work, including some awesome monsters. *Money Shot* is a sweet, funny book about, well, sex with aliens, so caveat lector. Speaking of sexy, imagine that Dr. Strange, Sorcerer Supreme, was one of punk rock pin-ups from SuicideGirls.com, and



you have the basic premise of *Marked* (Image). Volume One, *Fresh Ink*, introduces the ancient secret society whose magic lies in the ornate and arcane glyphs tattooed on their bodies. New girl Liza is inducted into the Marked, then exiled when she uses her powers unwisely. Liza doesn't take rejection well. Writer/artist **Brian (Witchblade) Haberlin** orchestrates his co-creators in a dark opera of art and abomination. Meanwhile, *Castrophy of Hate* is the second collection of the Image series *Outer Darkness*. This misanthropic mash-up of the spacey and spooky follows the crew of the *Charon*, a starship powered by an angry, hungry Elder God and staffed by the usual crew of humans and aliens, plus a couple of demons and oracles. Not to mention the medieval nun. **Afu Chan's** art is clean and lovely and gnarly and horrific. **John (Chew) Layman's** script comes on like **Joss Whedon** directing a really messed-up episode of *Star Trek*. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve these weird fantasies!



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