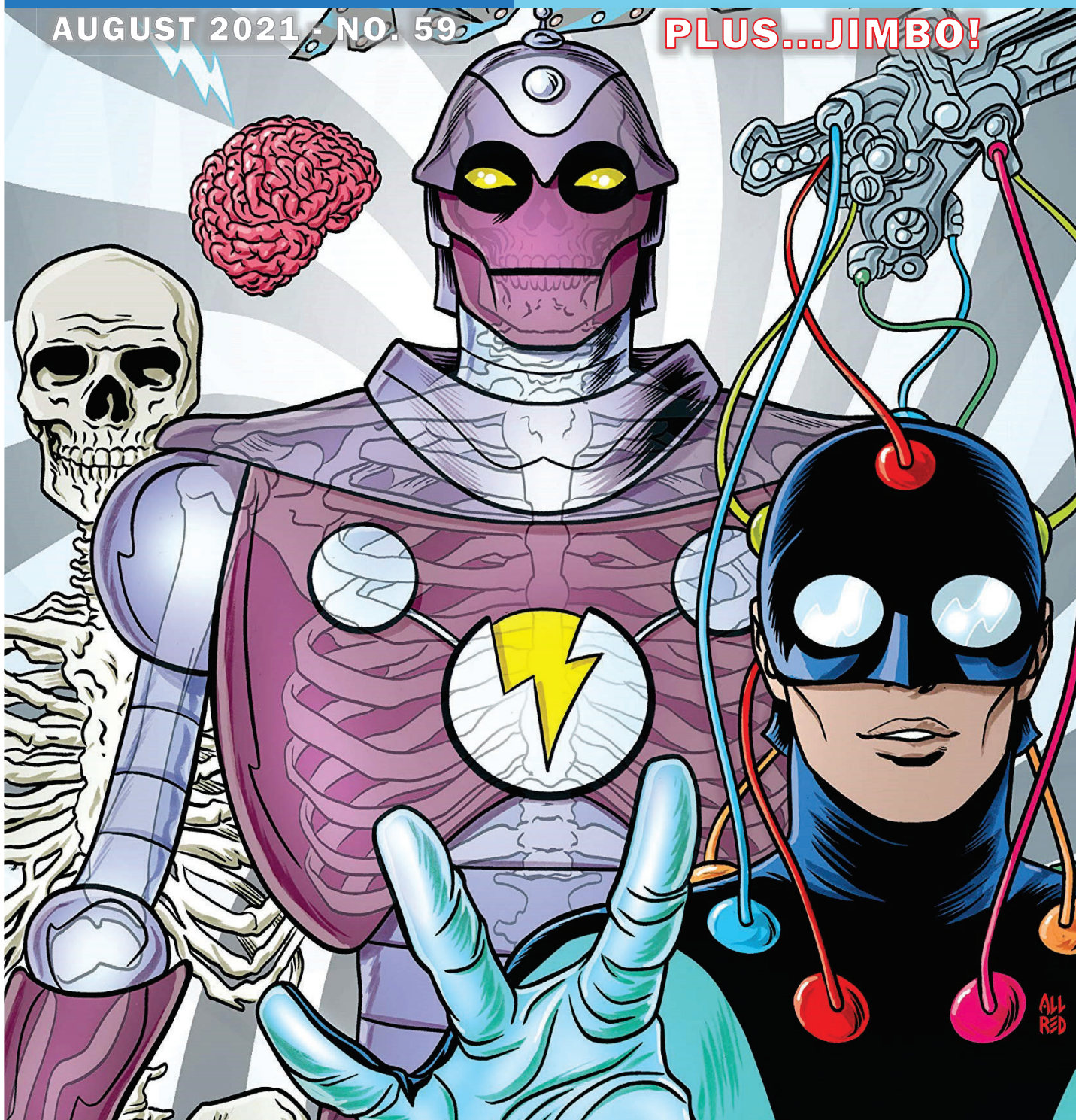




**MICHAEL ALLRED'S X-RAY ROBOT
AND OTHER
BIG DUMB FUN
SUPERHERO COMICS**

AUGUST 2021 - NO. 59

PLUS...JIMBO!





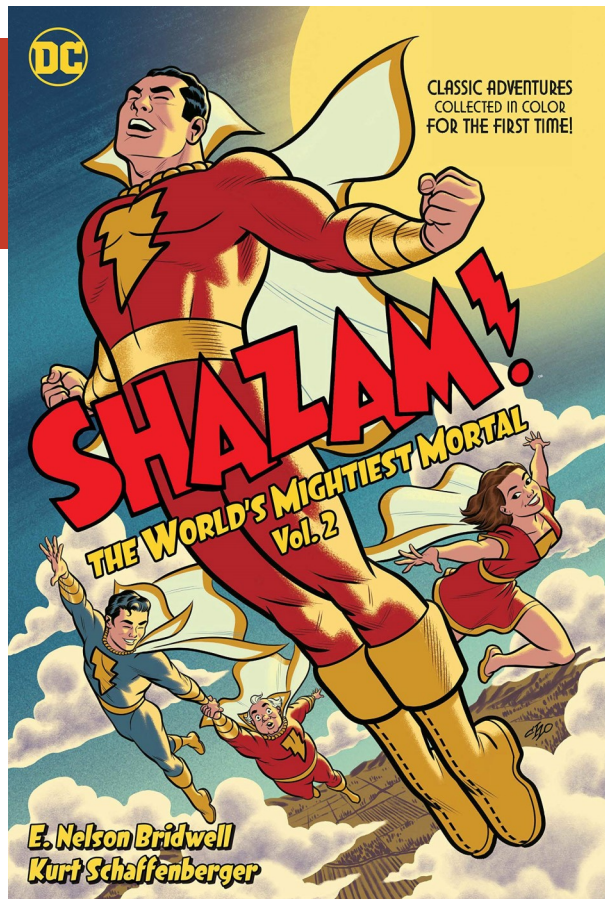
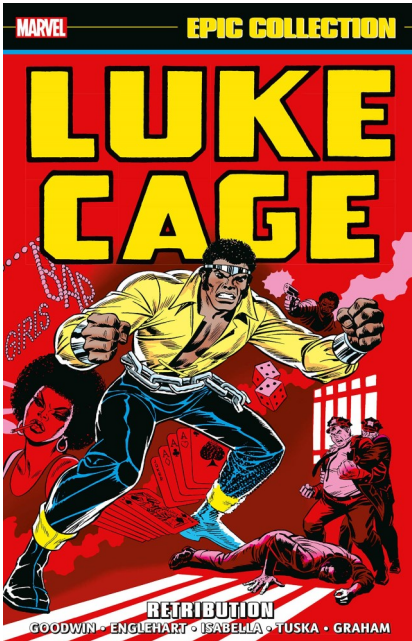
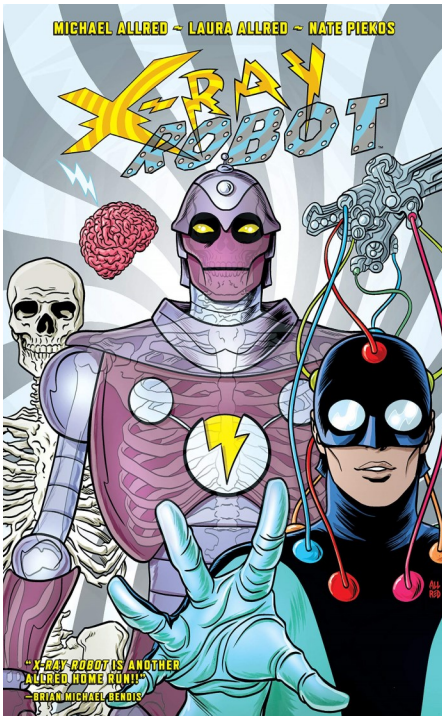
It's a done deal that the original Captain Marvel is officially called Shazam, especially now that Brie Larson is firmly affixed in the public eye as THE Captian Marvel. "SHAZAM", of course, is the magic word that transforms the boy Billy Batson into the World's Mightiest Mortal. *Shazam: Seven Magic Lands* follows the plot of the recent motion picture, as Billy and his expanded Marvel Family find fun and fear in the weird, wondrous worlds ruled by the despotic KING KID!

That lovely couple the Allreds, **Michael & Laura**, are back to take us for a wild ride through alt-time and sub-space in the Dark Horse compilation of *X-Ray Robot*. Featuring Mike's trademark mix of sleek and zany and Laura's eye-popping colors, *X-Ray Robot* is a trip. Literally. Led by their own creation, Max Wilding and his crew of scientists



journey through holes torn in the fabric of reality by the results of their research into time travel (above). To make things worse, there is a trans-dimensional entity, the Ultimate Nihilist, which seeks to do away with all of existence. Lost between utopia and dystopia, can X-Ray Robot and his allies save reality from themselves? Read and see!

Unlike these other items, you'll find the new Epic Collection of **LUKE CAGE** in the adult comics. That's because it reprints the 1970s debut of Marvel's foremost African-American character, and comics during the "Bronze Age" were...intense. And angry, as angry as Luke Cage, convict-turned-superman. Cage escapes his unjust imprisonment and hangs his shingle as HERO FOR HIRE. Based in Harlem, Cage chases a dollar as he battles white racists, black gangsters and street-level



EXCITING, ACTION-PACKED, AND COLORFUL AS A KALEIDOSCOPE, HIGH CONCEPT MEETS BIG FUN IN THESE FINE COMICS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY!



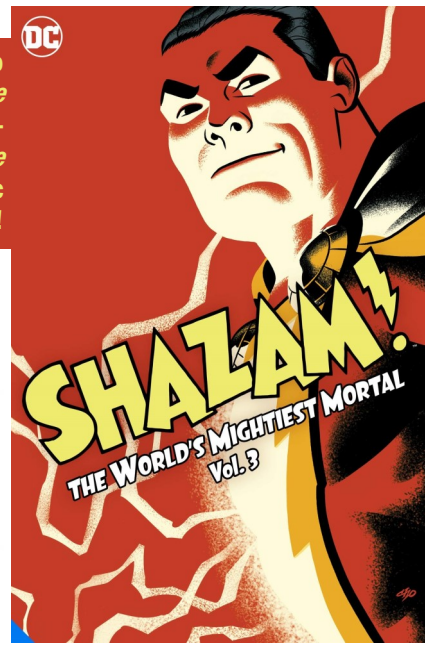
Meanwhile, the newest collection of Cap's 1970s comeback tour is on its way to join its predecessors on Eastside's TEEN shelves. Volume 3 of *SHAZAM! The World's Mightiest Mortal!* reprints those adventures of the original Marvel Family that appeared after the *Shazam* title was cancelled. Picked from *Adventure* and *World's Finest Comics*, these stories began the trend toward more realistic artwork for the Big Red Cheese by the likes of the late Don Newton. Reserve now!

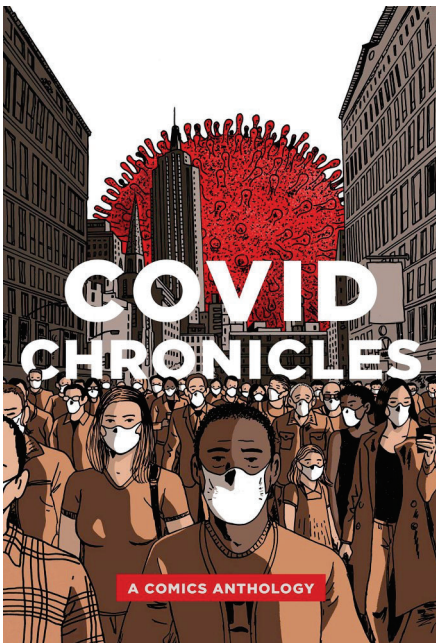
Flying to meet the uncle he never knew, orphan Robby survives when the airliner crashes. He's rescued by a motley crew of weirdos and monsters who turn out to be the long-lost members of the mighty **ATOMIC LEGION!** The Professor, Metal Man, the Amazon, the Moon, Atomic Frankenstein and more fight the good fight behind the scenes, even as their nemesis plots their doom!



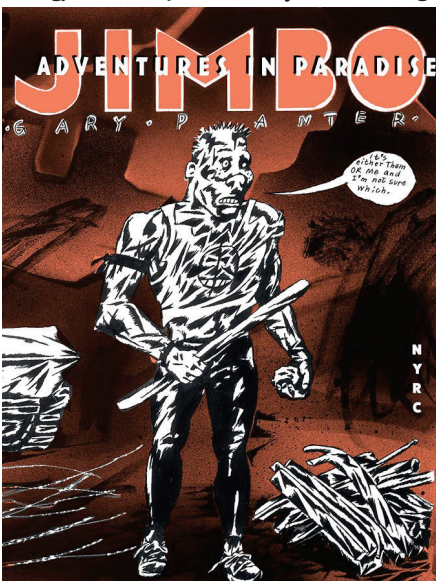
Mike Richardson took time off being the head honcho of Dark Horse to write this paean to old school comics. Artist Bruce Zick supplied both pix and palette. Unlike Allred's slick drawing, Zick has an endearingly clunky style that revels in nuts-n-bolts detail, a colorful amalgam of Kirby krackle and Wallace Wood's fleshy physicality. Find *Atomic Legion* in LPL TEEN!

super-villains. A change of moniker and title to **POWER MAN** kept the low-selling book going until Iron Fist could show up and bring the fun. Issue #50 saw the debut of **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST**. The twin spawn of Seventies film fads adjusted to the 1980s by becoming a rollicking buddy comedy. *Iron Fist* artist John Byrne passed his duties on to veterans like Lee Elias and newcomers such as Af-Am penciller Trevor Von Eden. Enjoy the riotous results in the upcoming Epic Collection!



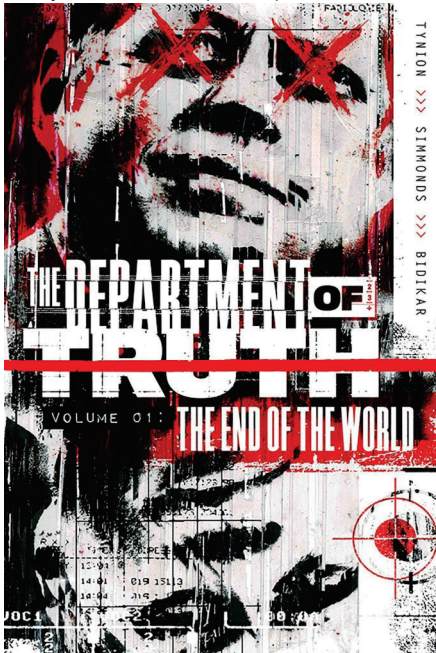


A sad testimony to the current proliferation of talented cartoonists is how quickly the community responds to a crisis. Anthologies devoted to previous crises such as mass shootings and natural disasters came out soon after the events themselves. Tragically, those compilations have a new companion in *Covid Chronicles* (Graphic Mundi). Seventy-eight creators coughed up 268 pages of comics concerning the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Comics veteran **Lee Marrs**, indie icon **Terry Moore** and international star **Jason Chatfield** are joined by recent wave-makers like **Rob Kirby** and **Thi Bui**, author of *The Best We Can Do* (see 741.5 #4). But most of the contributors are part-timers, academics and up-n-comers, wielding a variety of styles, from inky underground clutter to mechanistic post-modern graphics. Some of it's CGI, some of it's watercolor, wash, and colored pencil. But the quality of work is really high, especially for this kind of "emergency anthology." *Covid Chronicles* is available at all LPL locations. Sometimes, **Gary Panter** has come on like a one-man anthology. *Dick Tracy*, **Jack Kirby**, detective rags

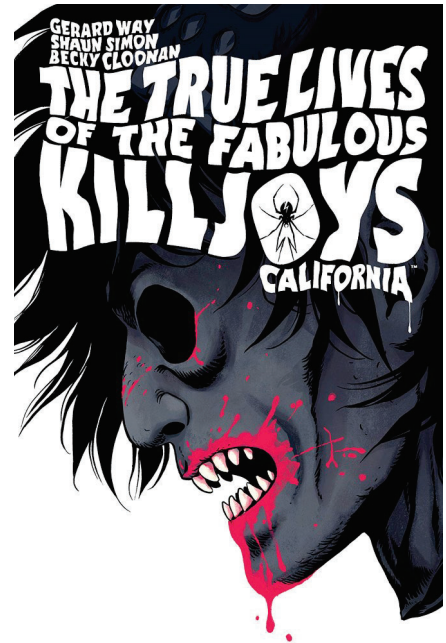


MEANWHILE

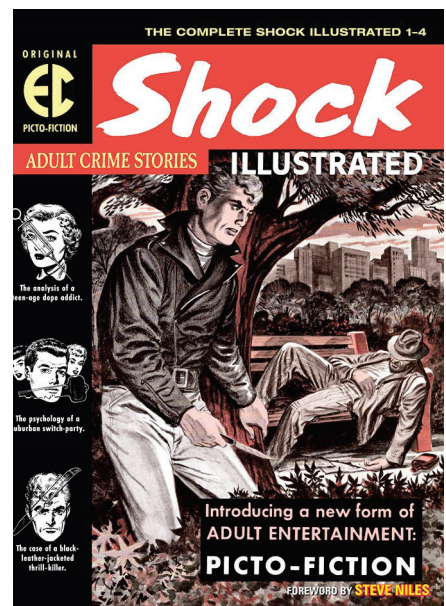
and monster mags, **George Grosz** and **Spain Rodriguez** and *Tarzan of the Apes*—a roaring whirlwind of pop culture influences rages through the pages of *JIMBO: Adventures in Paradise*. **Nicole Rudick** organized—one does not "edit" **Gary Panter**—this Oversize book for New York Review Comics. It gathers all the original strips, scattered across a dozen zines during the heyday of California hardcore, that introduced the worlds of art high and low to both **Panter** and his subliminal surrogate, Jimbo. Jimbo rolls, rocks and raises a ruckus in an ever-shifting world that can change in the space of a panel from muscular superheroic hyper-realism to a Dadaistic debate with comic strip icon Nancy to something more like Mayan codices than comics. Available at Central, Northside and Tates Creek, *JIMBO: Adventures in Paradise* is a wild ride through the metamorphic id of one of alternative culture's founding fathers. But what does "alternative" mean, these days? One legacy of that underground was the revival of conspiracy theory as an intrinsic part of politics. Now, dec-



ades after Fox and Dana and poor **Bill Cooper**, the people who used to kick the crap out of "alternative" types are the biggest paranoids of all. That the phrase "reality-based community" even exists proves how far down the rabbit hole we already were. But in the funnybooks, that beleaguered collective is protected by *The Department of Truth*. *The End of the World* is not only the title of V1 of this Image series, available at all LPL locations, it's also the awesome, and quite impossible, sight witnessed by our protagonist, scholar Cole Turner. He accompanies some heinously rich dudes to the vast wall of ice that surrounds the Earth...now flat, thanks to the socio-psychic influence of said plutocrats. Fortunately, everyone but Cole is shot to pieces by a hot chick with a gun and the world stays round. She's an agent of the Department of Truth, the government agency that mitigates, by hook or crook, the baneful effect of conspiracy theories and counter-factual manias. And now the Department wants Turner to turn. But sometimes



it's not easy to tell the good guys from the bad. Our heroine, the Girl, learns that the hard way. But in *California*, there is no other way. As shown in the Oversize pages of Dark Horse's new edition of *The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys*, life is an eternal struggle, against either the soulless bureaucracy of Battery City or the would-be revolutionaries led by the vicious Val Velocity. Artist **Becky Cloonan** brings to vivid life the cracked concepts of **Shaun Simon & Gerard (Doom Patrol) Way**. The idea behind EC's "Picto-fiction" line was simple enough: avoid the strictures of the new Comics Code Authority by getting rid of the color and the word balloons and candidly promoting the new magazines as adult reading. The results were mixed, the immediacy of comics sacrificed for the authority of text. But given the opportunity to strut their monochromatic stuff, **George Evans**, **Reed Crandall**, **Jack Kamen** and especially **Graham Ingles** proved they had few peers as illustrators. The newest Dark Horse EC Archives release, *Shock Illustrated* is available from Central!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the COLLECTIONS tab!