

741.5

MEDIUM  
COOL

ETHAN HAWKE \* KAMEN \* GERARD WAY \* TOPPI \* ERIC POWELL

DECEMBER 2021 - NO. 64

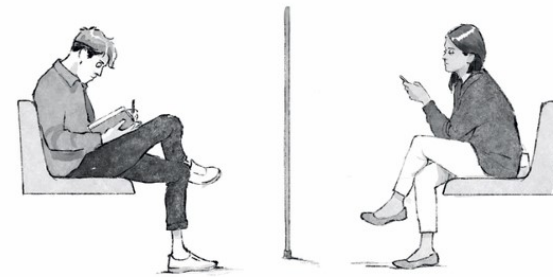
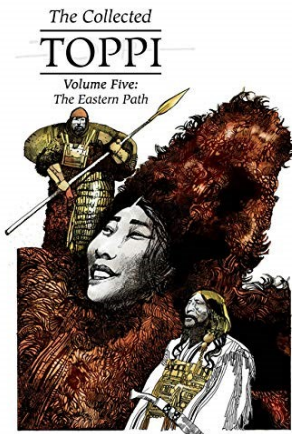
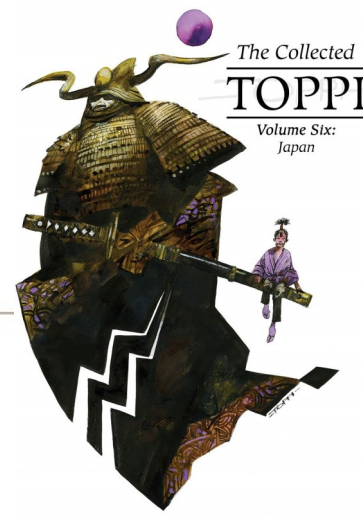
PLUS...MURDER, MADNESS,  
MUSIC AND MIRTH

**IN**

THE NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL  
BY NEW YORKER CARTOONIST  
**WILL McPHAIL**



The latest Fantagraphics reprints of European comics great Sergio Toppi are in. Volume 5, *The Eastern Path*, features folkloric tales set in Eastern Europe and Siberia. V6, *Japan*, takes place during that nation's violent feudal era. Never before published in English, these beautifully drawn weird tales from myth and history will charm and chill the reader. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) to reserve both fantastic volumes!



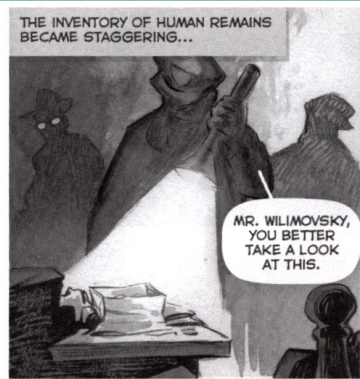
Nick is an illustrator. Nick draws from life because he doesn't know how to live it. He's like an actor who never got the script everyone else is performing. Something as simple as making small talk is an excruciating exercise for Nick. So he plays what he sees as his part, as shown above. But that situation, like so many others, doesn't turn out the way Nick expected. The rest of the world isn't putting on a show. Except maybe Wren, the new gal in Nick's so-called life. *New Yorker* cartoonist Will McPhail taps into the alienation felt by so many with *In*, while keeping his feet firmly planted in the reality beyond our tyrannical self-consciousness. It's also a very funny book. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)!



When you're a superhero, you hit things. But what do you hit when the bad guy is a pill? STERELAX™ is "The Little Pill for Letting Go" ...of any perception of reality not owned, altered or approved by The Control. Mike Milligram is getting the band back together as THE FABULOUS KILLJOYS belt out the NATIONAL ANTHEM in an Oversize outburst of revolutionary ultraviolence! The colors explode with a Lichtensteinian POP in this brilliant book available at Central and Eastside!

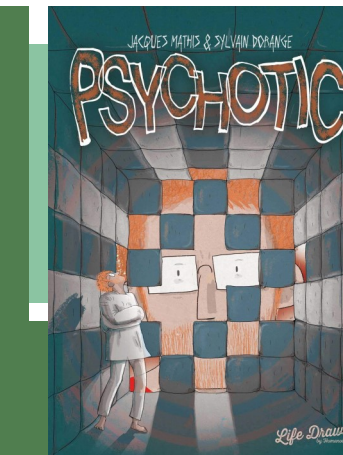
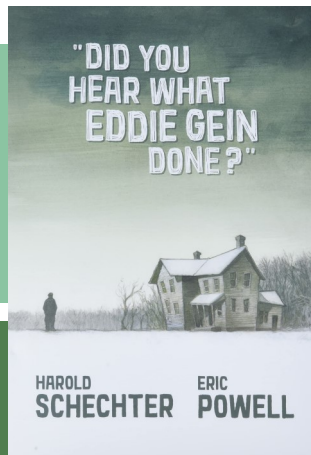


Gerard Way  
Shaun Simon  
Leonardo Romero  
Jordie Bellaire  
Nate Piekos



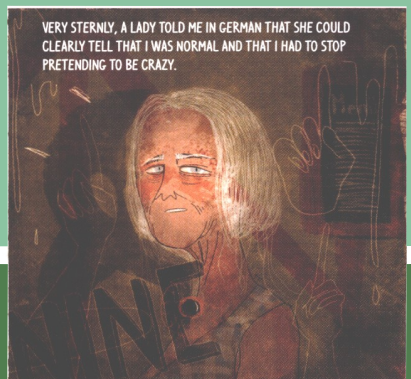
The American appetite for murder nearly founded on the surfeit of horrors discovered on a solitary farm outside Plainfield, Wisconsin, in 1957. The owner of that farm committed crimes so heinous, they inspired novels and films that haunt us to this day. True crime expert Harold (Deranged) Schechter and artist of the macabre Eric (The Goon) Powell dig past the legend to uncover the fearsome facts. Dare to find out ...*What Eddie Gein Done* at Beaumont and Central!

Jack Kamen and his criminal Kuties return in another edition of the EC Artists' Library from Fantagraphics. *Three For the Money* collects the sordid sagas of greed, adultery and murder he drew for *Crime* and *Shock Suspensstories*. Ray Bradbury's "The October

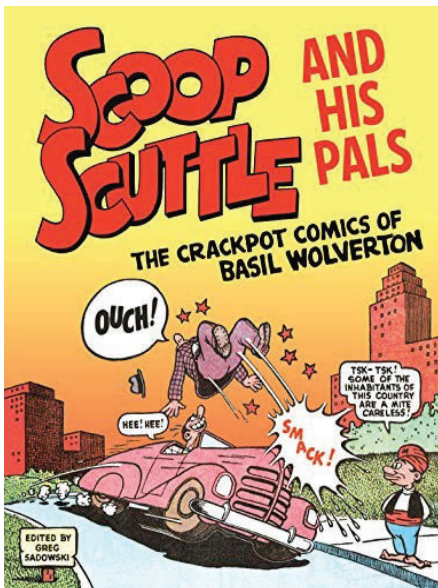


"Psychotic" gets thrown around whenever, say, one of the neighbors turns out to be Ed Gein. As anyone who has dealt with actual psychosis knows, that Hollywood hokey can't touch the pain and strangeness of the real thing. Poet Jacques Mathis ran the gamut: mania, delusions, hallucinations. His vision-crowded struggle with life is clearly, creatively, even gorgeously rendered by artist Sylvain Dorange in this *Life Drawn* book now at Eastside and Tates Creek.

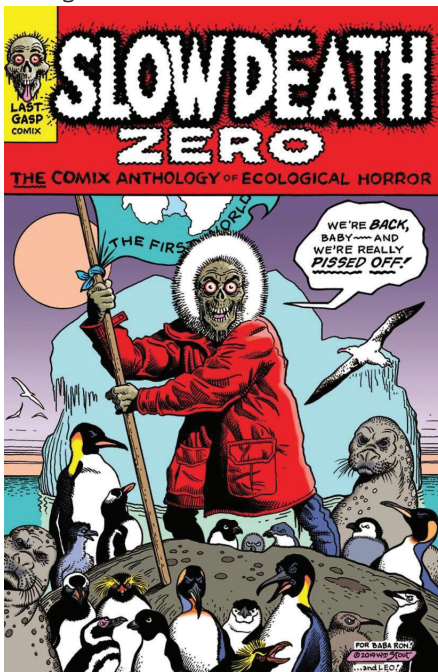
"Game" is adapted to chilling effect. The title story concerns a man so hated, he was killed twice! And widdle-kid creeper "The Orphan" lives up to its notoriety. These EC classics of mid-century menace can be found at Beaumont, Central and Tates Creek!



VERY STERNLY, A LADY TOLD ME IN GERMAN THAT SHE COULD CLEARLY TELL THAT I WAS NORMAL AND THAT I HAD TO STOP PRETENDING TO BE CRAZY.

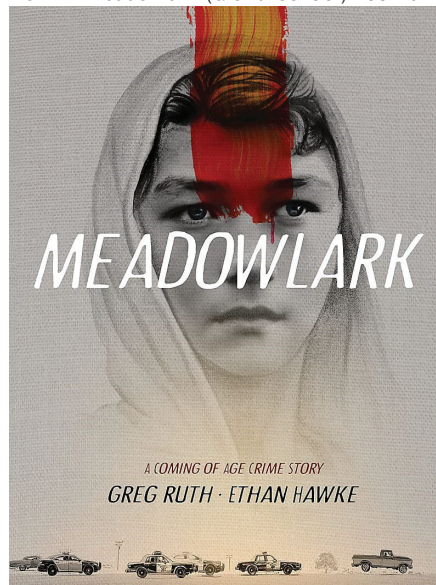


As discussed in 741.5 #37 Jan 2020, **Basil Wolverton** was one of a kind. Rendering cartoonish exaggeration in illustrative detail gave his work a physicality that made his drawings jump off the page. That's true whether it's his horror and sci-fi in *Brain Bats of Venus* or the humorous strips reprinted in *Scoop Scuttle and His Pals* (Fantagraphics). Editor **Greg Sadowski** once again scoured the back pages of Golden Age comics for the funny features starring the titular hero, a newspaperman given to talking in rhyme ("I've got to get to a hot spot on the dot and write a lot of rot about how a fire is fought!"), the misadventures of "Mystic Moot and His Magic Snoot," the Wild West wackiness of "Bingbang Buster" and more. Manic word-play, beautiful logos, Nazis getting tricked and trampled...find the fun at Central and Tates Creek! **Wolverton** was one of the prime influences on the creators of the underground comix of the 1960s. One of the leading titles from that era was *Slow Death*.

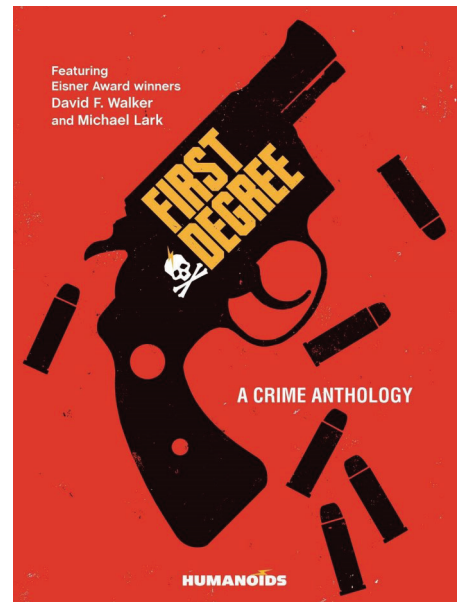


## MEANWHILE

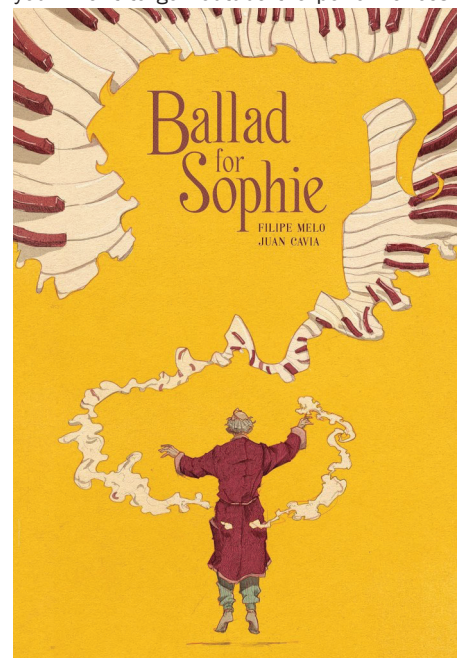
Ostensibly a sci-fi comic, *Slow Death* always focused on environmental issues. In fact, its publisher began life as Last Gasp Eco-Funnies, the first issue of *SD* released in conjunction with the first Earth Day. *Slow Death* ended in 1979 as a non-fiction comic (see 741.5 #6). More than four decades later, **Baba Ron Turner** returns with *Slow Death Zero*. Available at Central, "the Comix Anthology of Ecological Horror" features *Slow Death* vets like **Rick Veitch**, **William Pound** and **Richard Corben**. Alt-comics icons like **Hunt Emerson** and the **Peters Kuper** and **Bagge** join in with the New Kids of the Underground like **Max Clotfelter** and **Carel Moiseiwitsch**, not to mention the return of cartoonist cause celebre' **Mike Diana**. Even former editor **Greg Irons** reaches from the grave to contribute to this harsh book full of lovely drawings of awful things. Speaking of which, take a look at the sweet pencil-n-wash work in *Meadowlark* (Grand Central). It's ironic



that film always gets more respect than comics, given that most movies start out as comics. Not just as source material—the majority of modern directors work from a storyboard, on which the script is broken up into individual camera shots. A storyboard is, for all intents and purposes, a comic strip. Joined by his partner on the best-selling *Indeh*, **Greg Ruth**, Hollywood hunk turned serious artist **Ethan Hawke** brings his cinematic experience to the hard-boiled graphic novel, *Meadowlark*. The character coming of age in this crime story is Cooper Johnson, son of prison guard "Meadowlark" Johnson. One day, Dad gets stuck with son and has to take him along to work at the prison in Huntsville, Texas. That's the best thing that happens all day. Cooper and Meadowlark bond over beatings, stabbings, shootings, as the sins of the father are visited upon the son in this naturalistic take on rural noir available at Central and Eastside. Hard-boiled crime and its various media are the subject of the POLAR Awards given yearly in Cognac, France. "Polar" is French for "thriller" and, since 1996, the best of crime fiction in literature, film, theater, television and comics have been awarded a prize. From the latter comes the anthology *First Degree* (Humanoids).



The usual suspects— ego, greed, desire, hatred, fate — conspire to inspire these twisted tales drawn in a variety of styles by some of Europe's best cartoonists such as **Borris**, **Alain Paillou** and **Eric Liberge**. Stand-outs include the drug-driven sci-fi of "Overdose" and **Johnson & Vigouroux's** meta-mystery about a Diaboliquesque mystery-man. Get *First Degree* at Beaumont and Eastside. Those locations plus Village carry *Ballad For Sophie* (Top Shelf). A young reporter camps out on the doorstep of an old maestro who hides from the world as he wallows in his past. When he finally agrees to an interview, she hears a history of 20th Century France told through music. Julien Dubois was once the pop superstar known as Eric Bonjour. But he spent his life in competition with another pianist, a better musician and a better man. Caricature and realism sing a duet full of humor and humanity in the art of **Juan Cavia**. The story by **Filipe Melo** is so believable, you'll want to go Youtube the performances!



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