

741.5

HARLEY QUINN
BLACK & WHITE & RED
PLUS...MR. LAFFS, TOM KING!

APRIL 2022
NO. 71

...BUT
THE REAL
ME'S RIGHT
HERE.



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

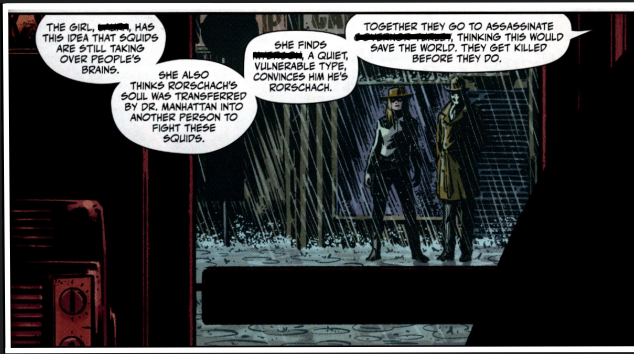


Ray gun. Jet-pack. A cool costume. And the love of Alanna, first daughter of Rann. All this and more were earned by Adam Strange when he was zapped by the Zeta Beam and transported into STRANGE ADVENTURES! But the Silver Age is tarnished when mysteries in space follow Strange to Earth. Doc Shaner draws the pretty pictures and Mitch Gerads paints the real story behind this political thriller by ex-CIA agent Tom King!



Writer **TOM KING** asks "What makes a hero?" and finds no easy answers in two new DC Black Label novels!

After 35 years, America remains haunted by the events of WATCHMEN. A counter-cultural mythology has arisen among the disenfranchised. Some believe in it more than others (above). On the eve of great change, a detective with no name must find the true face behind the mask of RORSCHACH. Artist Jorge Fornes' clear line pierces King's fog of conspiracy!

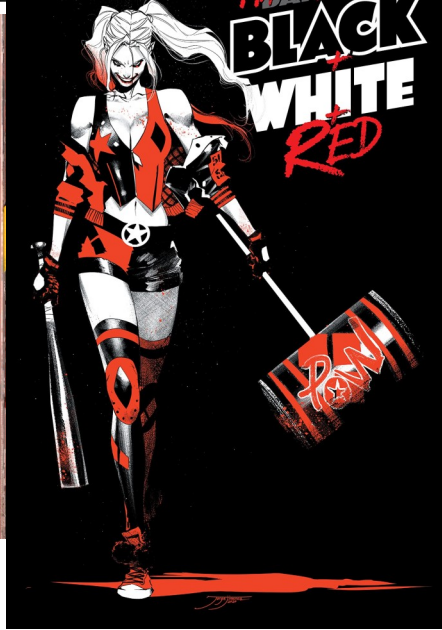


Superheroes are, by their very nature, colorful creatures. Their costumes are the essential element that separate them from other kinds of adventure characters. So most attempts to portray them in monochrome usually don't work—except Batman. One of his most popular spin-off series, *Batman Black & White*, returned in 2021 and is collected in a hardback volume available at Eastside.



As noted last issue, Harley Quinn is one of DC's most colorful characters. She graduated from sidekick to leading lady thanks to fans' love for her sparkling personality, her wacky sense of humor, her demented love for violence...and her fashion sense. She just looks fabu no matter how she mixes her trademark hues of red, black and white. That's why, of all the DC doyens, Dr. Harleen Quinzel has her own spin-off of fan favorite series *Batman Black & White*.

The art ranges from brashly cartoonish to slickly illustrative and the colors are loud one story and subtle the next. But it all works to express the many modes and moods of Harley Quinn, from dramatic introspection to parodic burlesques of the Legion of Doom and life inside Arkham. Plus the hyenas and gangsta galpal Poison Ivy get a lot of page-time, too. It's FUN!



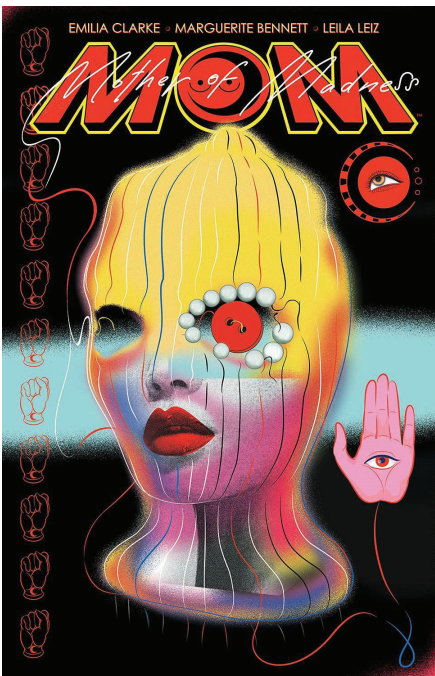
HARLEY QUINN - BLACK + WHITE + RED IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LPL LOCATIONS!



Whether it's the stark contrasts of Bengel, Charrier, the Dodsons or Riley Rossmo (left); the ink wash work of Jimenez, Sejc, and Trad Moore; the hyper-realism of Bradshaw, Stokoe and McKelvie; or the gorgeous mixed media of Gerads, Dragotta and Jamal Campbell—every artist (and writer) brings a fierce, fresh twist to the eternal saga of the Dark Knight, including the comic strip that should've been, by David Aja (above).



Iyanu is the ward of warrior priestess Olori, exiled beyond the walls of the last, the only city, Elu. Iyanu is despised by the townspeople for being a “forest girl.” Worse still, she is feared by the power structure of Elu, especially by the new leader and his counselor (and power behind the throne), Nuro. Iyanu is not just a swift, courageous young woman handy with a bow and arrow. She is the bearer of arcane powers, which may be the last thing standing between the so-called civilized and the Corruption that’s turned every animal from cheetah to zebra into a murder-mad fiend. Subtitled *Child of Wonder*, the first collection of *Iyanu* is the latest addition to the universe of Afrocentric superheroes created by You Neek Studios and published by Dark Horse. Set in a fantasy version of ancient Africa, yet dealing with issues relevant to our urbanized world, *Iyanu* is an exciting addition to the

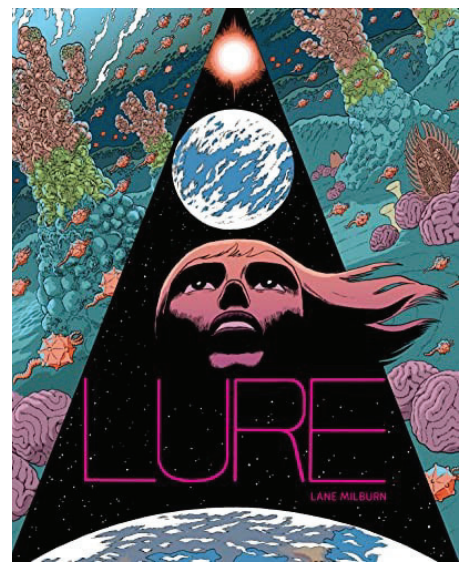


MEANWHILE

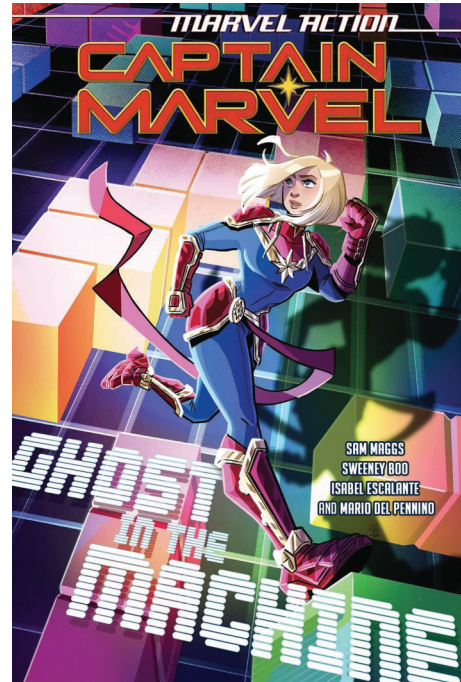
body of fantasy and science fiction by black creators. Writer **Roye Okupe**’s wondrous world-making and the luminous art of **Godwin Akpan** are waiting in TEEN at all LPL locations! Having played a warrior woman on HBO’s adaptation of *Game of Thrones*, **Emilia** “Daenerys Targaryen” **Clarke** now pens the exploits of an urban adventuress in *M.O.M.—Mother of Madness* for Image. Maya’s the single mom whose job as a corporate science drone ill prepares her for the motley assortment of super-powers that manifest in the face of danger. That danger, like those powers, spring from the same obsession with feminine perfection loudly and proudly critiqued by this caustic combo of sexual politics and fantasy action (there’s even a dragon!) The visuals by the team of **Leilas Leiz** & **Del Duca** (drawing), **Triona Farrell** (colors) and **Isobel Richardson** (production) pop off the page with post-modern power while putting the “funny” in “funnybook”. Go to lexpublib.org to



reserve your copy! Meanwhile, comics-turned-TV turn comics again in *Wynonna Earp: All In* (IDW). Based on the comic book by **Beau Smith**, the SyFy series followed the descendant of fabled lawman Wyatt Earp as she fulfilled her destiny as a demon hunter. In between rumbles with redneck werewolves and the Chupacabras Cartel, Wynonna Earp’s main gig is putting down those enemies of her forebear, like Johnny Ringo and the handsomely monstrous Boone Helm, who refuse to stay in Hell where they belong. Earp’s aided by the immortal Doc Holiday and a kooky crew of offbeat officers of the law— including the massive Mayan, Agent Valdez! **Smith**’s scripts are a nice combination of comics crazy and televisual naturalism, while the art by **Lora Innes**, **Chris Evenhuis** and **Angel Hernandez** avoids the worst habits of film & TV adaptations and stays loose while keeping it real. *Wynonna Earp: All In* is available at *Tates Creek*. Eastside and Northside are home to the graphic science fiction novel, *Lure* (Fantagraphics). Jo is a holographic artist. She’s recruited to a team of creative types who will



combine their talents for a big show at the economic summit held on Lure. Said ocean planet has become the home away from home for Earth’s elites. The trouble begins when Jo discovers they’re looking to make the move permanent, and not everyone’s invited along. **Lane Milburn**’s art is both exotic and homely, a bland and bizarre cross of **Jim Woodring** and **Nick Drano**. “Marvel Action” is the designation for Marvel comics that feature their world-famous characters in stories suitable for all ages. The Marvel Action collections appear in the smaller format favored by young readers and the latest stars Carol Danvers, a.k.a. Captain Marvel. Drawn with cartoonish vivacity by **Sweeney Boo**, both stories are about the internet. In “Look at Meme Now,” Spider-Gwen hips Carol to “Clikclok” right before the Mad Thinker and his Awesome Android crash the flash mob. Then Captain Marvel finds herself trapped in a video game as the Unbeatable Squirrel Girl helps her avoid becoming the *Ghost in the Machine* for reals. Like all the Action books, *Ghost* is terrific fun for true fans of any age!



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