

741.5

# ACTION!

GIL KANE'S CAPTAIN ACTION: HOW A FIVE-ISSUE DC FLOP FORETOLD THE FUTURE OF MARVEL COMICS

AND...A TITANIC GALLERY OF TOY COMICS!

OCTOBER 2022 NO. 82

PLUS...NIGHT HUNTERS





**GRAN CARACAS, 2057:** An old man and his two young charges scrounge for life in the favelas of a grossly urbanized Venezuela. Wrong place, wrong time finds them under the guns of the police. One boy makes it; the other doesn't. He's the one who joins the police who shot him to literal pieces, becoming the cyborg sniper called SOMBRA. But his brother chose another path, one that will bring them together in a bloody clash of class warfare waged without humanity!



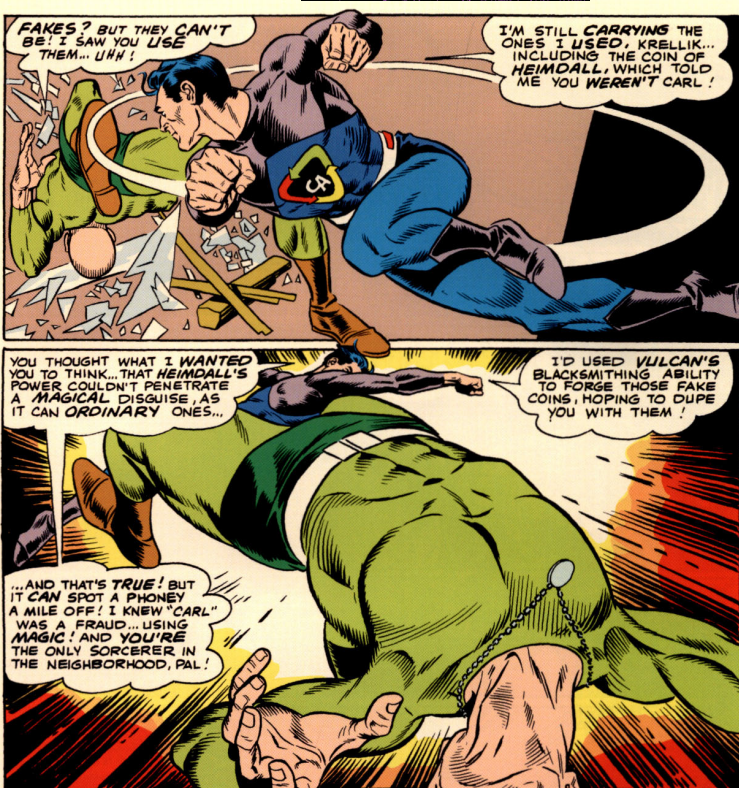
The artist behind the cult faves *Space Riders* and *Tarantula* ALEXIS ZIRITT brings his raw colors and rough-hewn art to this South Americanized riff on *Judge Dredd*. *Night Hunters* is a cyberpunk parody of the Law'n'Order mentality. In this horrific future of titanic slums, crime is the only economy left, fighting it the only industry. Freeze, citizen... *Night Hunters* are coming for you at Eastside, Northside and Village!



A touchstone of Sixties boyhood, CAPTAIN ACTION debuted in American toy aisles in 1966. He was Ideal Toy Company's answer to Hasbro's ground-breaking G.I. Joe. Like Joe, the Captain was a 12 inch plastic figure with articulated limbs. Instead of Joe's panoply of military gear, Captain Action had two sets of gimmicks. He had his own costume, plus other cool stuff like his Dymaxion-like vehicle, the amphibious Silver Streak. Then there was his actual selling point: you could dress the Captain up as one of nine other heroes. Three from then-leader of the comic book industry, DC (Superman, Batman, Aquaman), two from upstart rival Marvel (Captain America and WW2 commando Sgt. Fury), three comic strip stars (the Phantom, sci-fi icon Flash Gor-

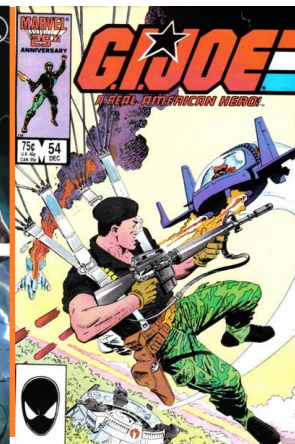
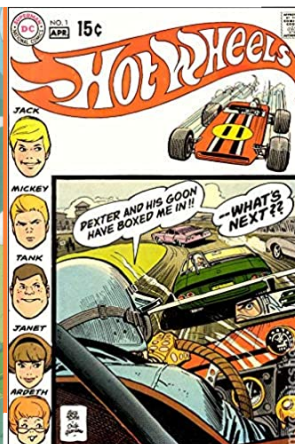


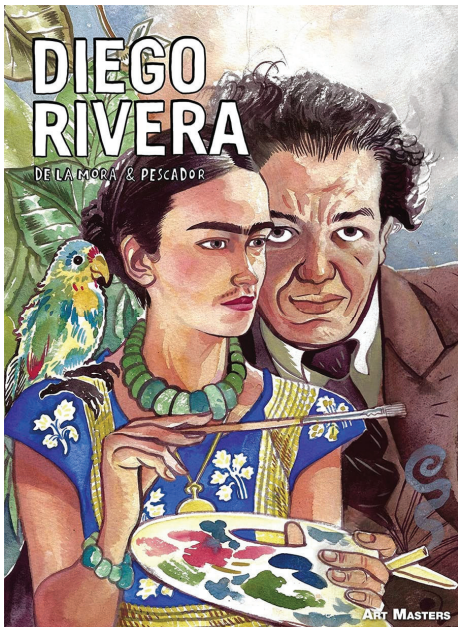
I had two of them. One purchased with birthday money at the local Newberry's department store, the other...a gift? I do remember the costume sets also being on sale, but never any of the really desirable outfits, like the Phantom or Captain America. Just lots of Aquaman and Lone Ranger packs. Mostly I used my two as actors, playing characters I created wearing home-made costumes.



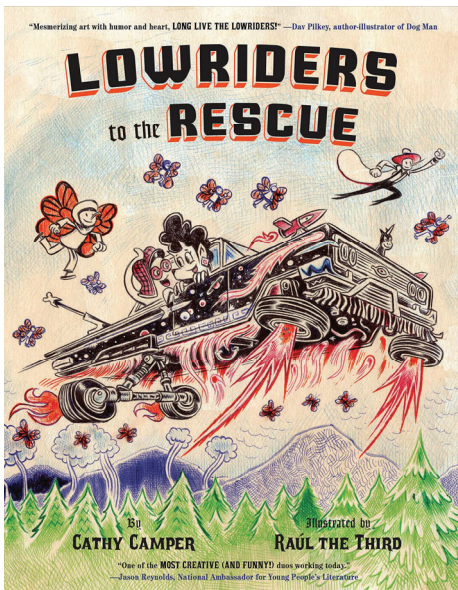
don and Cold War stud Steve Canyon) and multi-media phenom, the Lone Ranger. The next year saw the addition of Spider-Man, the Green Hornet, Buck Rogers and Tonto. An all-star line-up of alter egos made for great toys, and a real headache when Ideal cut a deal with DC to produce a *Captain Action* comic book. Tangled up in copyrights, Captain Action needed a new gimmick. DC wunderkind

the Marvel Comics Group in the 1970s. *Captain Action* gave the restive Kane the space to work out some of the new ideas he had concerning what could be done with a page of comics. His debut, the second issue with inks by Wallace Wood (right), is one of the most gorgeously violent comics of its era. Fists, boots, heads and bodies come flying out at the reader in an amped-up mix of Jack Kirby and Burne Hogarth. Kane's intro of nemesis (and new action figure) Dr. Evil (below) was a psychedelic freak-out worthy of Steranko and Moscoso. A city collapsing under siege...the explosion of a terrorist's bomb...an angry mob's descent into madness...all as Captain Action swoops and swings through the chaos in a bravura display of masculine musculature: these set the stage for the, yes, *action*-packed covers and stories which made the Bronze Age so badass. Get *Captain Action Classic Collection* at Central!





Thanks to those ever-popular supply chain issues, it took a while for LPL to get the latest from British imprint Self Made Hero's series, "Art Masters" (see 741.5 #15). Previous editions dedicated to **Picasso**, **Magritte** and **Van Gogh** are joined by **Diego Rivera**. The vitality of both the man and his art is captured by the sweeping, loose line work of **Joe Luis Pescador**. That almost cartoonish rendition of the rumpled, rugged **Rivera** is brought to solid earth by a masterful use of watercolors. The script by **Francisco de la Mora** follows **Rivera** as he pursues his muse from Mexico to Europe and back again. **Rivera** was a truly 20th Century artist in that he saw the extent to which the creator was as much a work of art as his creations; indeed, the book starts with a quote that in part reads "Diego is a creator of myths, an inspirer of myths, and whosoever concerns themselves with him must fall into mythomania." That includes his notorious relationships with women, including long-suffering wife **Lupe** and, of course, **Frida Kahlo**. Even **Trotsky** calls him out: "What you are is a paint-



## MEANWHILE

completely in love with yourself...as a painter." One of the best of the Art Masters series, **Diego Rivera** is available at Central, Eastside and Village. Meanwhile, Mexican culture continues to flavor the all-American melting pot as evidenced by the new entry in another series, **Lowriders** by **Cathy Camper** and **Raul the Third**. Published by Chronicle Kids, **Lowriders to the Rescue** is the fourth of the Juvenile graphic novels that have won praise and prizes from around the world. The intrepid trio of mechanic **Lupe Impala**, **Flapjack** the octopus and artistic **Elirio** the mosquito make a new friend when they encounter **Sokar**. **Sokar** is a monarch butterfly whose migrating family, culturally patterned after Arab Americans, are trapped by a forest fire. **Flapjack** also needs glasses and some real estate shysters are up to no

NEIL GAIMAN · P. CRAIG RUSSELL

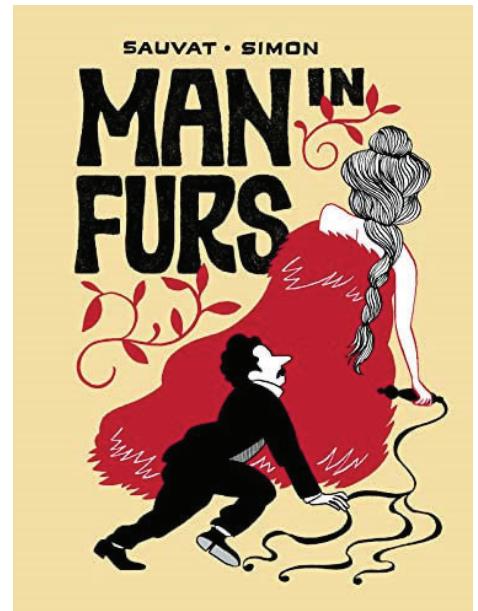
## NORSE MYTHOLOGY

VOLUME 2



MATT HORAK · MARK BUCKINGHAM  
GABRIEL HERNÁNDEZ WALTA · SANDY JARRELL  
LOVERN KINDZIERSKI · GALEN SHOWMAN

In the barrio. It's a rollicking adventure that follows a convincingly child-like logic in both plot and pictures, **Raul the Third's** spontaneous drawing displaying an expertly slapdash charm. In stark contrast, **P. Craig Russell's** layouts for **Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology** keep his artists, well, not on the straight and narrow, exactly. These are Norse myths, after all, chockfull of seduction and treachery and murder. But they sure look pretty, whether drawn by the **Marks Horath** and **Buckingham** at their most **Russellesque** or the smoky colors and woodcut line work of **Gabriel Hernandez Walta**. **Norse Mythology V2** is available at all LPL locations. Given how many Norse myths are about their Aesir menfolk getting married off to giantesses, I'm betting they would find favor with writer **Leopold Von Sacher-Masoch**. The man who—unwittingly, unwillingly—gave name to one of the foremost forms of alternative sexuality is the



subject of this excellent graphic biography from Fantagraphics, **Man In Furs**. **Von Sacher-Masoch** was a prolific novelist and editor of a popular journal. But all that was erased under the shadow of his monstrous muse, **Wanda Von Sacher-Masoch**. The living embodiment of **Leopold's** desires for domination, **Wanda** is as much a subject of **Man in Furs** as poor **Leopold**, who is haunted by the reality and reputation of a life he sought to leave behind. **Anne (The Empress Cixtisis) Simon's** art is a eye-catching blend of clunky humanity and *belle epoque* intricacy. **Man In Furs** is available at Beaumont and Central. Pussycats in purrs are available at all LPL locations in Volume 2 of **Cat Massage Therapy (Seven Seas)**. A new cat joins the crew, a femme longhair who wields her big fluffy tail like **Wanda V** snapped a whip as she bosses around the New Guy at the Office. Other new manga include the *yuri* romance **Doughnuts Under A Crescent Moon V2**, the gnarly **Dai Dark V3**, V11 of **Tales of Wedding Rings** and V8 of the popular **Way of the House Husband!**

