

741.5

**BE GAY, DO CRIMES: SINS OF THE
BLACK FLAMINGO**

**RAVISHING ROBIN HOOD
ROBS NECROMANTIC NABOBS**

PLUS...A PRIDE MONTH PARADE OF COMICS!

JUNE 2023 NO. 97



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



MEMOIR AND MYTH, HISTORY AND MYSTERY...THESE ARE THE LIVES OF OUR LGBTQ+ CITIZENS RENDERED IN ART AND STORY @LEXPUB.ORG!

SINS OF THE BLACK FLAMINGO
ANDREW WHEELER & TRAVIS MOORE
(IMAGE)
ALL LPL LOCATIONS



TRASH-TALKER, SCENEMAKER, RELIC HUNTER, THE BLACK FLAMINGO STEALS A HEAVENLY TREASURE FROM AN ALL-AMERICAN DEVIL!

Sebastian Harlow belongs to an elite species of pulp adventurers: the gentleman thief. In the tradition of Raffles, Arsene Lupin and Jimmie Dale alias the Gray Seal, Harlow robs from the rich under the guise of the Black Flamingo, burglar of the bizarre!



The *Sins of the Black Flamingo* unfold against the fabulous backdrop of Miami nightlife, as a theft from undercover Nazis exposes even deeper, darker secrets. Not content to have a gay golem in his debt, now Harlow must protect a living, breathing angel from captors past and future, with the fate of the Republic hanging in the balance!



Heist drama, horror story, political thriller, this compilation of the popular Image comic introduces its sexy and sinister hero and his allies and enemies in a propulsive plot fit for the multiplex widescreen while asking all-too-relevant questions about the nature of good and evil!

Raised by hippies, Maia Kobabe was never taught how to be "a girl." When she joined her peers at school, Maia didn't know how to be "a girl." Confronted with the limitations endemic to sex roles, Maia didn't want to learn how to be "a girl." And when Nature demanded her monthly toll, Maia decided she would never be happy to be "a girl". *Gender Queer* is the story of Maia's ongoing struggle— with biology, with society,

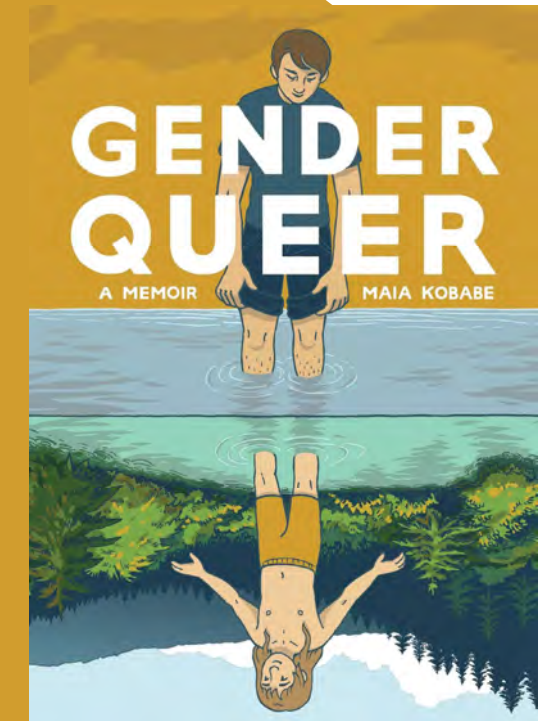


with family and friends, and, ultimately, with Maia. Even compared to the protagonists of other trans sagas like *The Third Person* and *Welcome to St. Hell*, Maia is a hot mess. Neither fish nor fowl in a world that commands you choose air or water, Kobabe finds both peace and power in the arts, ie. *comics*.



Ultimately, that is why *Gender Queer* has inspired such outrage: because it tells a genuinely difficult story in a straightforward way that is easy to read, thus, easier to understand, to empathize, to accept. Because it is an expert use of the comics form. Read it while you still can!

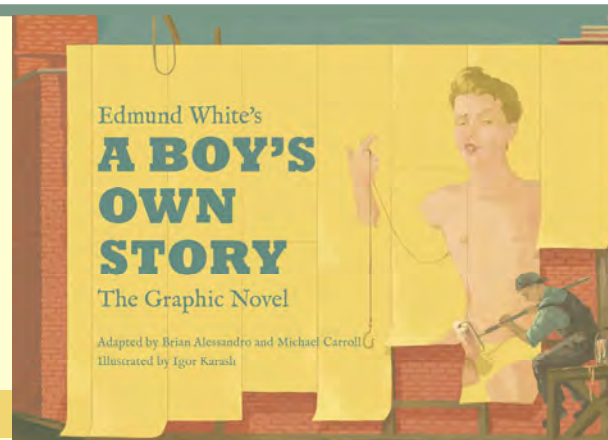
THE MOST BANNED BOOK IN AMERICA IS A GRAPHIC MEMOIR ABOUT ONE PERSON'S STRUGGLE TO LIVE BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF GENDER!



GENDER QUEER
MAIA KOBABE
(ONI PRESS)
CENTRAL*TATES CREEK*NORTHSIDE



In his Introduction, Edmund White writes, "My regular publisher rejected (*A Boy's Own Story*)...they found it disappointingly realistic." Flush with the new spirit of Stonewall, White sought to eschew the pulp'n'porn clichés of previous queer literature and tell his own story without excess or exaggeration. The result still resounds through the world of letters, both gay and straight. Moving from era to era, White honestly records his



life as a gay man during the years of silence and surreption, when there was both fear and freedom to be found in the shadows. From the pre-Kinseyan days of WW2 to the apocalyptic arrival of AIDS, archetypal nerd turned modern libertine White followed his bliss through a labyrinth of bodies, hearts and minds. Like White, the comic pulls no punches, so 741.5 recommends *A Boy's Own Story* for Mature Readers.



A pioneering text of global gay culture is adapted to the medium of comics in this

moody, magnificent work by Alessandro, Carroll & Karash @ Central & Beaumont



To be candid, 741.5 usually selects the items for “Meanwhile” according to aesthetic standards, such as color and composition and how well the cover images work with each other and that issue’s cover. But beyond those connections, others often develop. For instance, the way all the books this month have to do with identity as performance. That’s quite literal in the case of *Brooklyn’s Last Secret* (Drawn & Quarterly). The latest from award-winning *Vice* cartoonist **Leslie Stein** concerns the national tour by the indie rock quartet Major Threat. (“Are you guys a cover band?” asks the comedian who opens one gig. “SIGH,” sighs guitarist Liliith. “It’s really hard to name a band these days.”) Having known a hundred musicians (and having them crash at my place after playing in town), I can vouch for the veracity of the band’s experiences. Fortunately, Liliith (obviously a stand-in for the author) and the boys are pretty low-key for musos, so most of the crazy stuff—fights onstage, injuries onstage, declarations of love onstage—happen to other bands. But there’s still sex,



MEANWHILE

(off-page, with a Canadian), drugs (cannabis-infused lollipops and a wayward tab of X) and lots’n’lots of rock’n’roll, as you’ll read at Central and Tates Creek. But as my favorite band **Mission of Burma** so wisely sang “Fame and fortune is a stupid game/ Fame and fortune is the game I play.” It’s literally a game in the latest from **Nathan** (*Hazardous Tales*) **Hale**. *The Mighty Bite* (Amulet/Abrams) is the saga of Trilobite, his palgal Amber the ambulocetus (a primordial ancestor of whales) and their new friend and collaborator, Tiffany Timber, paleo-newscaster. Under the influence of internet sensation Tiffany, Bite and Amber try to become viral sensations. That just puts them in the sights and in the debt of the Wise Opabinia. So it comes down to a contest between the Mighty Bite and his crew and the (actually kinda stupid) Opabinia to see who can wow the audience with their meme-making prowess. An amazing job of



world-building undergirded by **Hale**’s physical cartooning makes *The Mighty Bite* a fun read for young and old, available under J 741.5 at all LPL locations! Meanwhile, the old gods are back. The Luminary, the Prodigy, the Brute, the Trickster, and the Innovator long ago lost the War of Immortals. These five deities are trapped by their own devices on the device built to cage their kind: our world. Our hero Christopher is a fairly average twentysomething, until the day his beloved kid sister murders their parents with a kitchen knife. Seems she’s part of the cosmic conspiracy, too, triggered by Christopher’s true existence as the leader of the rebel gods. That’s according to Dominic, the guns-blazing badass who’s trying to get the band back together. But can Christopher trust Dominic and his other new allies any more than his alleged enemies? Fans of *The Magic Order* and *The Wicked and the Divine* will enjoy *Ordinary Gods*, the new Image series found at Eastside and Northside. Mere mortals often hide behind masks that conceal their true powers, too. Especially in circumstances where society enforces limitations based on class,



sex, race or origin. *The Man in the Macintosh Suit* is named Bobot. He’s an immigrant from the Philippines. Bobot has a law degree back home, but it’s not worth the paper it’s printed on in the United States. Bobot picks fruit like all the other Filipino men. There are few Filipino women because most of them are back in the old country. Which is why, when Bobot follows a trail of long-lost letters from home and finds a dead ringer for his wife, he falls for the doppelganger. Individualized by the rough-hewn but expressive wet-brush work of author **Rina Ayuyang**, *The Man in the Macintosh Suit* is a classic noir set-up enlightened by its background in the immigration struggles of Depression era California. Get it from Central, Eastside and Village. Another D & Q release, it’s joined by *Harvey Knight’s Odyssey* at Northside and Tates Creek. **Nick Maandag** is known for his clunky yet detailed art which works in service of his surreal yet banal stories of weirdos and normies who become increasingly indistinguishable. Framed by two stories of everyday office culture, the title tale follows Harvey Knight as he takes over a cult and drives it deeper into lunacy. It’s...really odd, and more than a little haunting.

