

741.5

DEAD BOY DETECTIVES CREATURE COMMANDOS & OTHER CREEPY CHARACTERS

OCTOBER 2023 NO. 106

PLUS...RETURN OF THE CLOVEN



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



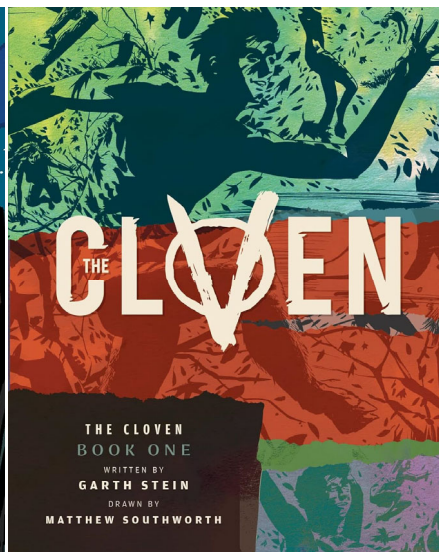
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



HELLAWEEN!

MOSS LAWTON

Kids love monsters and books about monsters. The only thing kids like better? Books about kids who are monsters! The latest entry in that contemporary canon is Moss Lawton's *Hellaween* (Razorbill). Sick of being the odd creature out among her companions, witch-in-training Gwen gets ambitious (*below*). Local normie and would-be monster hunter Hiro and his galpal Bea get swept up in the mystical mishegoss in this charming and colorful creeper available at all LPL locations under J741.5!



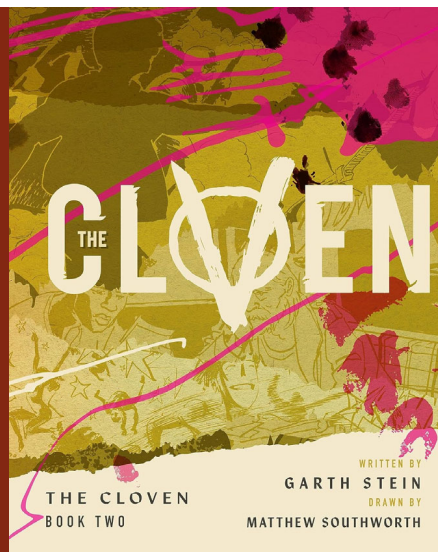
THE CLOVEN

THE CLOVEN
BOOK ONE
WRITTEN BY
GARTH STEIN
DRAWN BY
MATTHEW SOUTHWORTH

The *Cloven* is a sci-fi horror series written by Garth Stein, author of the bestseller *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Like that book, *The Cloven* is about the relationship between animal and man. Unlike that book, said relationship is cruel and capricious. A new species of human, half-goat and half-man like the satyrs of old, is born of mad science and wicked ambition. Our hero Tuck is one of the few Cloven to have had a taste of normal life. That makes him even more dan-



gerous than his wild'n' wooly brethren (left). The net cast by the masters of the world draws tighter in Book Two, while Tuck . Having fallen through the cracks during the shutdown of 2020, *The Cloven* deserves renewed attention for artist Matthew Southworth's inventive layouts (including the use of fold-out pages) and the contrast between stark Tothian blacks and emotionally rich colors. Go to Central, Eastside and Village for both volumes of *The Cloven*.

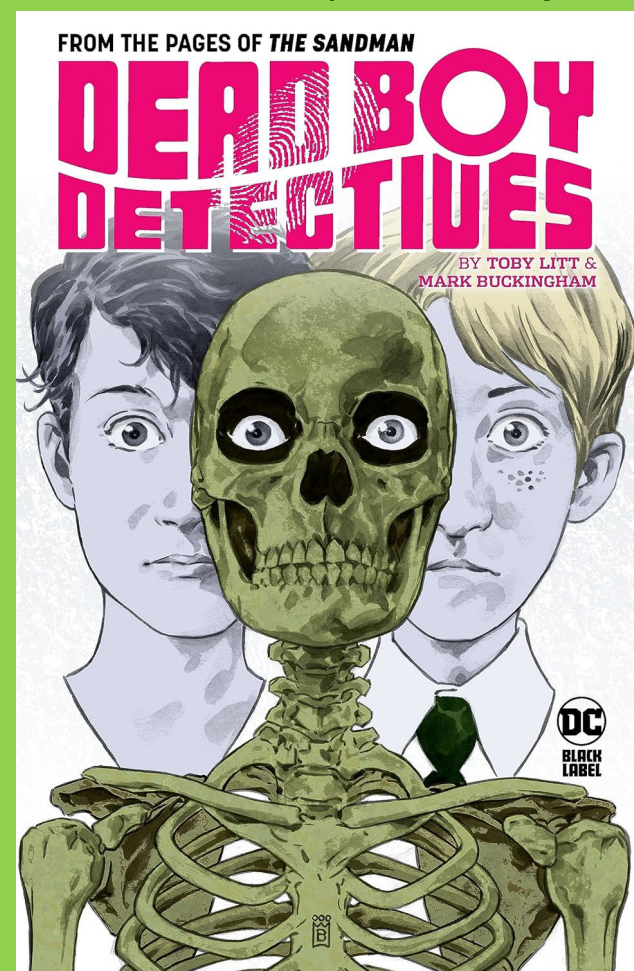


THE CLOVEN

THE CLOVEN
BOOK TWO
WRITTEN BY
GARTH STEIN
DRAWN BY
MATTHEW SOUTHWORTH

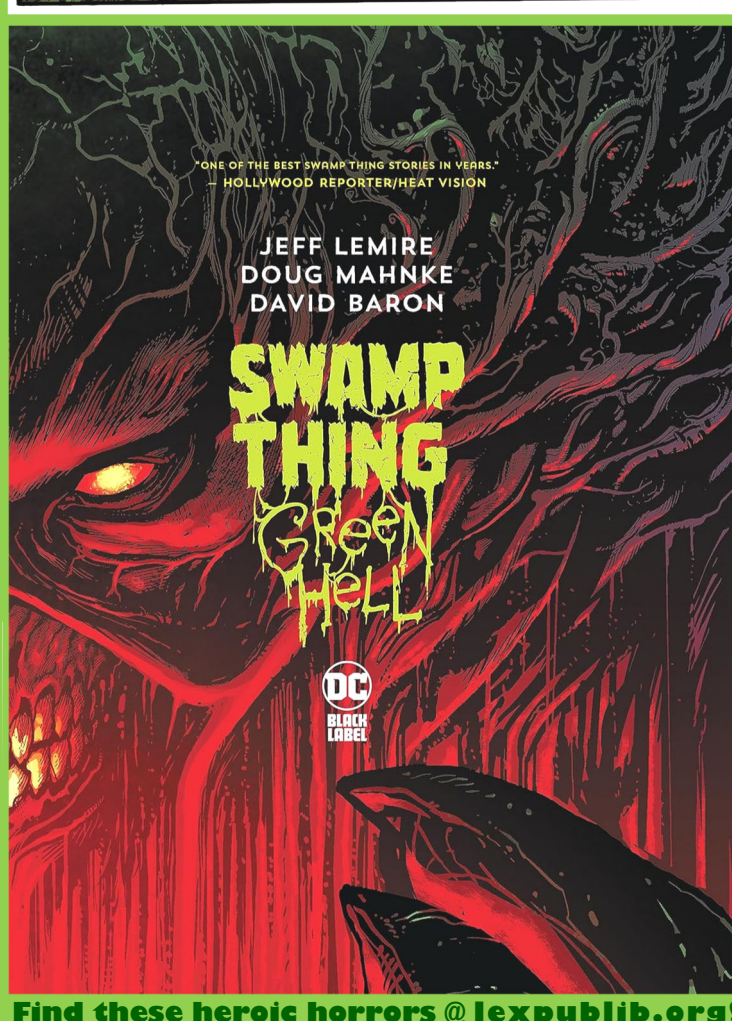
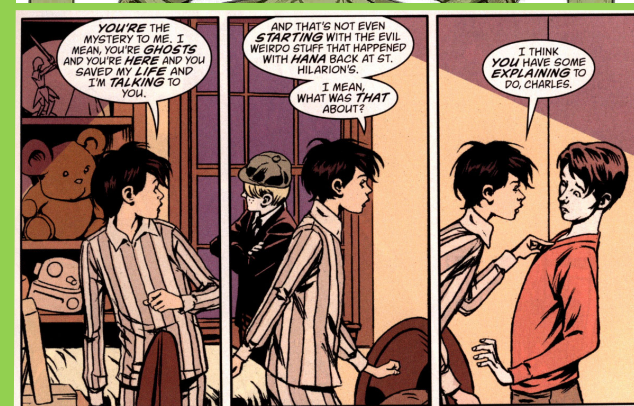


The new edition of the lovely and beloved Vertigo series! Swamp Thing fights for humanity against a vengeful Earth! 70s cult faves return ready for their close-up, Mr. Gunn!



DEAD BOY DETECTIVES

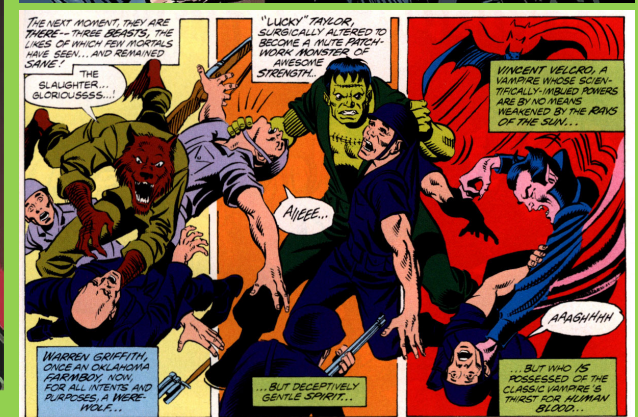
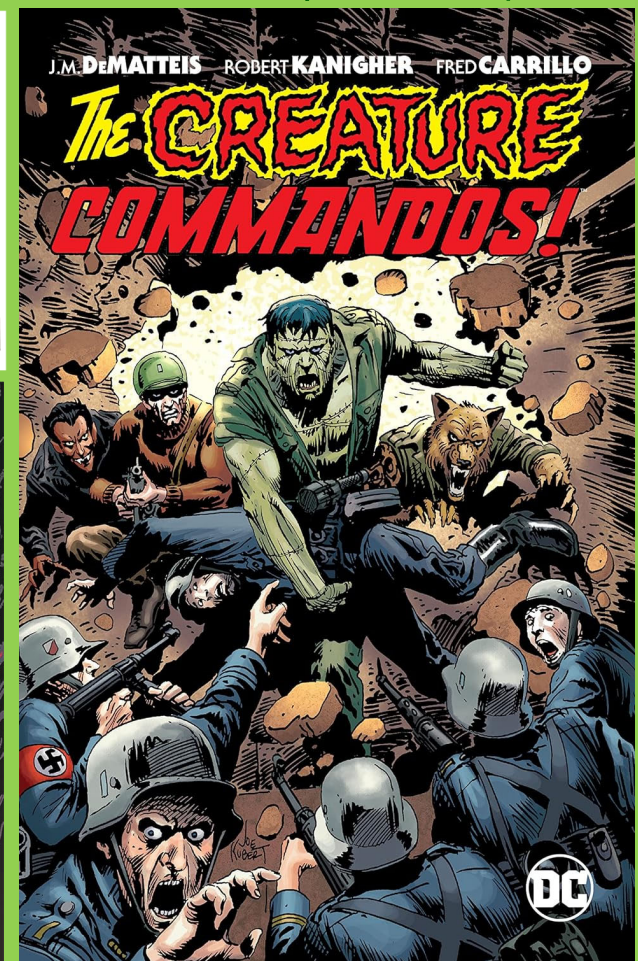
FROM THE PAGES OF THE SANDMAN
BY TOBY LITT & MARK BUCKINGHAM



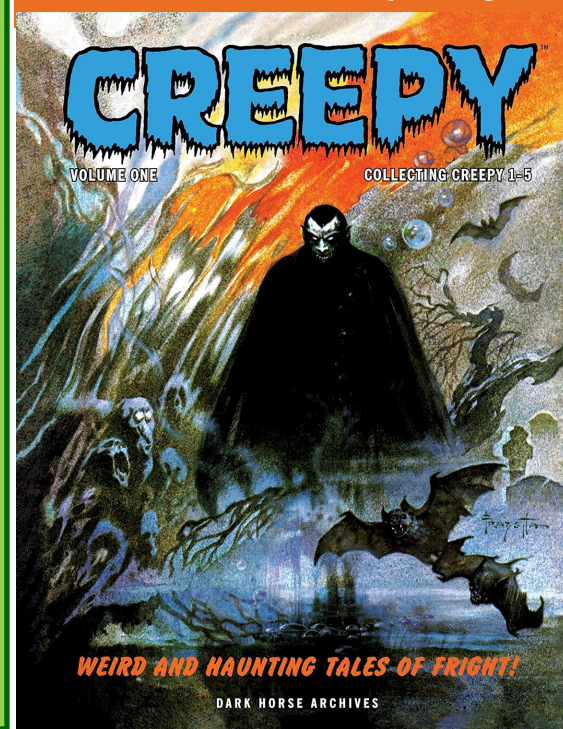
JEFF LEMIRE
DOUG MAHNKE
DAVID BARON

SWAMP THING GREEN HELL

Find these heroic horrors @ lexpublib.org!



Dedicated to reprinting the best in American horror comics, Dark Horse has issued hardback collections of not just the legendary EC titles, but their Sixties successors published by James Warren. And like the EC books, DK has followed those tomes up with a series of less expensive paperbacks. LPL has four of those in the pipeline, three compilations of *Creepy* and one of its cousin, *Eerie*. Though not on the shelves just yet, they are available for reserve. So be the first on your cemetery plot to get the comics that brought horror back from the dead! Johnny Craig, Reed Crandall, Al Williamson (above) and other EC stalwarts joined with equally excellent artists such as Gene Colan and Jerry Grandanetti to illustrate the snappy scripts by editor Archie Goodwin, with Alex Toth and Steve Ditko contributing some amazing work. Find these instigators and exemplars of the Monster Craze of the 1960s at lexpublib.org!

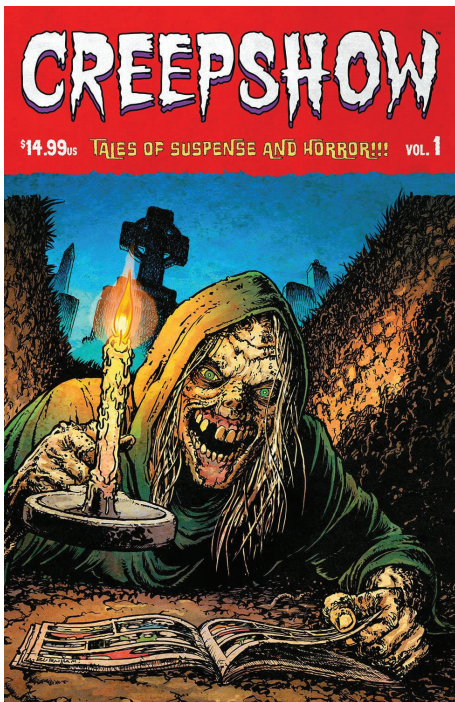


CREEPY

VOLUME ONE
COLLECTING CREEPY 1-5

WEIRD AND HAUNTING TALES OF FRIGHT!

DARK HORSE ARCHIVES

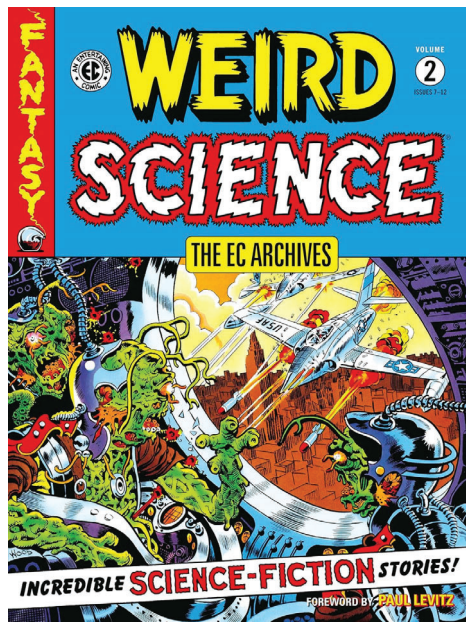


Made as a lark by **Stephen King** and **George Romero**, the 1982 film *Creepshow* has shown amazing “legs”, as we say in showbiz. There’s been two sequels as well as a Shudder TV series, the fourth season of which began this month. And, just as the original film was accompanied by a comic book version with art by **Berni Wrightson**, there’s a regular comic book based on the TV series featuring contemporary creators such as **Paul Dini**, **David Lapham**, **Francesco Francavilla**, and **Jordie Bellaire**. Though OG *Creepshow* was King & Romero’s love letter to EC, the stories in the new Image compilation are closer to the hit-it-and-quit-it ethos of the Warren titles. Without giving away the plots, there are evil trees, an imaginary friend run amuck, cartoons come

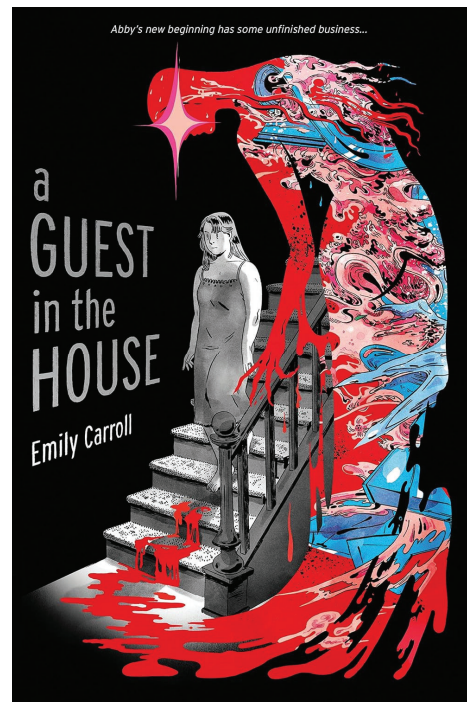


MEANWHILE

to life, plus luchadors, debutantes and raccoons. Get *Creepshow* Volume 1 at Northside, Tates Creek and Village. All the exotic horrors revealed by the Creep pale to insignificance to the everyday horrors found *Once Upon A Time at the End of the World* (Boom! Studios). Industrial society has choked to death on its own garbage, and nothing’s left but mutants—two-legged and otherwise—and a dwindling number of human survivors. And rats. As Proverb 485 of the *Wasteland Rangers Guidebook* says “There are always rats.” That book and the cult of vicious children it directs are the true enemies of our heroine, renegade Ranger Ezzy, and our hero, Maceo. “Mace” is a smart kid who, with his talent for invention, would be the protagonist in a good old-fashioned Edisonade. This future has no place for a man with ideas. “These here are the weapons of the wild and the woke,” sneer the Rangers as they hunt down the couple who dare to find *Love in the Wasteland*. Get the first vol-



ume of this graphic YA series at Central. All locations have the second volume of the Dark Horse series reprinting the classic EC science fiction comic *Weird Science*. A creation of the Atom Age, many of the stories dwell on the end of the world, though usually by means of nuclear war or alien invasion rather than the ecological catastrophe described by the previous item. There’s good old-fashioned creature feature stories like “Seeds of Jupiter” and “The Martian Monster.” But there are plenty of the moral fables the famously liberal EC used to comment on the casual cruelty of the McCarthy Era, such as “The Probers” and “The Invaders”. Then there are the domestic dramas given a sci-fi twist, like “The Android” and “Only Human.” Featuring the usual knockout art by the likes of **Wallace Wood**, **Al Feldstein**, **Jack Kamen** and more, *Weird Science* V2 shows why “EC (was) proudest of our science fiction titles!” The twist endings for which EC is so well known find a contemporary echo in the shocking denouement of *Guest in the House* (First Second). The tense tale of a second wife living in the ever-growing shadow of her predecessor combines that classic Gothic romance plot with



the physical horror of **Junji Ito** to create the background against which **Emily** (*When I Arrived at the Castle*) **Carroll** unspools her unsettling saga of marriage gone wrong, motherhood turned sour. The real world of black and white ink and wash is pierced by irruptions of wildly colorful visions that grow less beautiful and more hideous as we wonder just who the monster is. After all that trauma and tragedy, the sorcerous superheroes of *Scarlet Witch* serve as a palate cleanser of the soul. Wanda Maximoff is back, and answering *The Last Door* which admits those in need of her skills. Quicksilver and Polaris pop by whenever Wanda’s not mixing it up with Nightmare’s sister, an angry Amazon and the revived Agatha Harkness. And, by Chthon, is the artwork pretty!



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