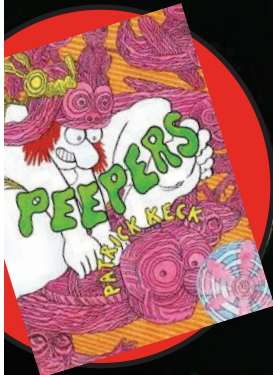
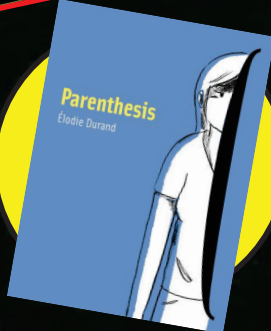
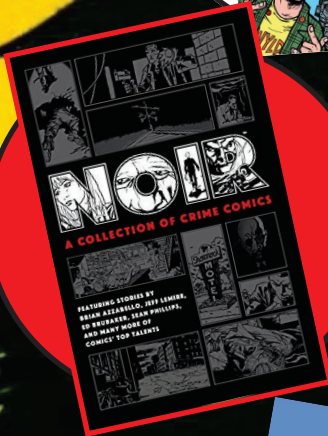


741.5

SANTA'S GRAB-BAG!

COMICS WE OVERLOOKED

HOLIDAY 2021 - NO. 65



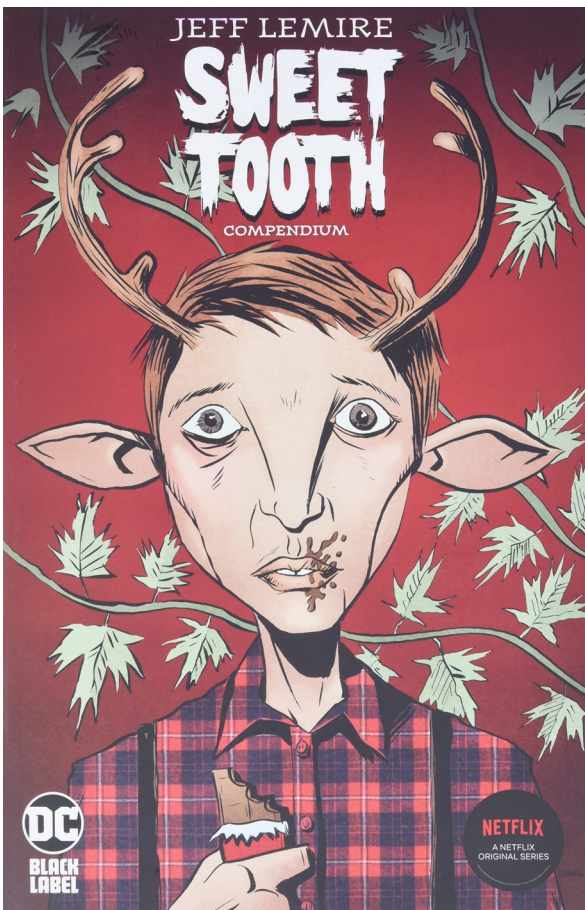
COMICS!

A PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



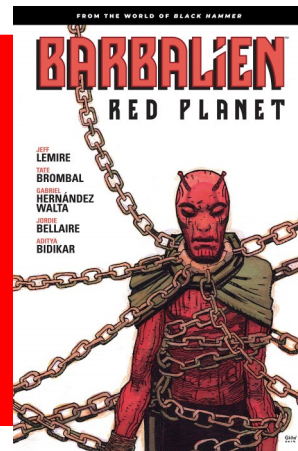
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



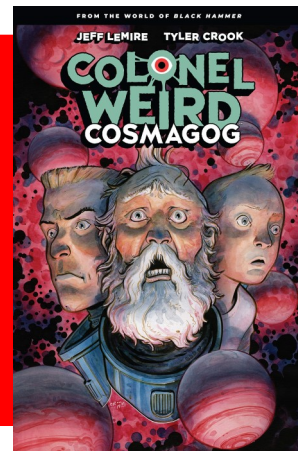
The saga of a beast-boy cast adrift in a heartless near-future, **Sweet Tooth** is now a hit Netflix series. Read the original comics that made artist/writer Jeff Lemire a star. Suggested for mature readers, the big Compendium is available at Tates Creek.



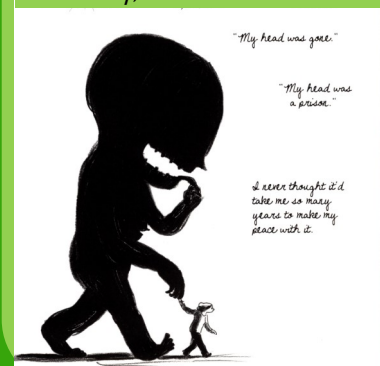
In one of those loopy twists that make comics fun, an obscure feature from an C-list publisher of the 1940s has become an inspiration for contemporary works. Not only will Hillman's Batman swipe Nightmare & Sleepy appear in the upcoming *Kane & Able*, it also inspired *Skuldigger & Skeleton Boy*. The latest addition to Jeff Lemire's Black Hammer Universe is a bloody riff on the sidekick trope. Tonci Zonjic's art is dark when necessary and bright when needed. The alien member of the *Black*



Hammer cast has his own solo book. Set during the AIDS crisis of the early 1980s, writer Tate Brombal brings back those days of rage in *Red Planet*. Barbalien reckons with his own sexual identity while confronting brutal bigots both earthly and not. In the tradition of space adventurers such as Adam Strange and Captain Science, Colonel Weird has fought for justice across the cosmos. But along the way, he got lost. An offbeat origin story, *Cosmogog* tells how and why, when and where.

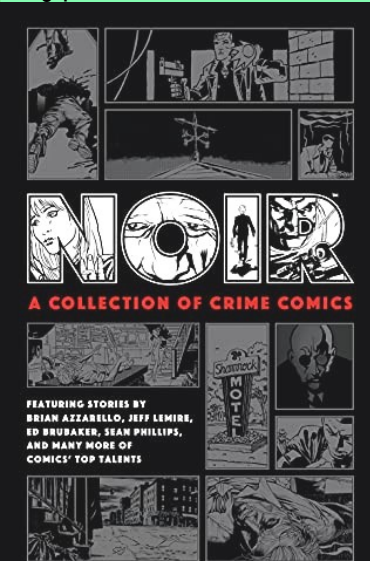


"I remember, when the rage came over me, how empty my head felt." So writes cartoonist Elodie Durand, describing one of the first manifestations of the brain tumor that would take over her life. Told in smoky shades of black & gray, *Parenthesis* is her story, available at all locations.

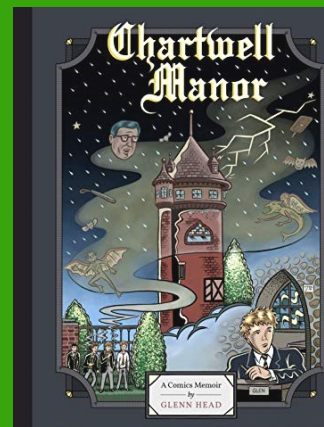


Peepers is the name of the book. Peepers is the name of its heroine, a shaggy redhead rampaging through a psychedelic world where animal, vegetable and human blend and battle. Dennis Keck takes comics into grotesque and funny realms. Get *Peepers* from Central.

Noir, meaning "dark", is the term French film mavens used to describe the postwar genre of crime movies. Noir also is the title of the new anthology published by one of the leading publishers of the new breed of



crime comics. Writers like Azzarello and Brubaker are joined by artists such as Eduardo Barreto, Gabriel Ba and Joelle Jones while Paul Grist and Dean Motter bring back Kane and Mr. X. Go to lexpublib.org for reserves.

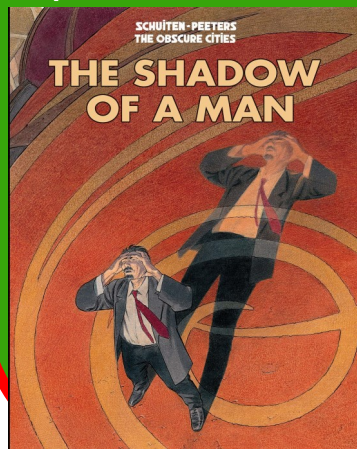


Bill and Ted Are Doomed. What else is new? This compilation of said series from Dark Horse, that's what! The boys' screen and comics daddies Solomon & Dorkin team up with artist Roger Langridge in this bodacious bridge between *Bogus Journey* and *Face the Music!*

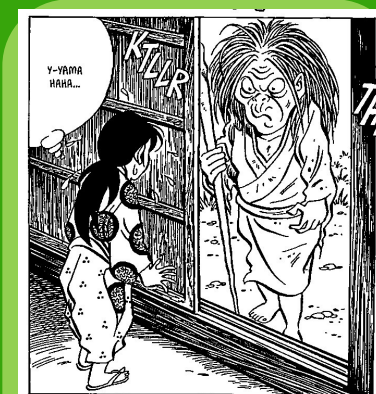
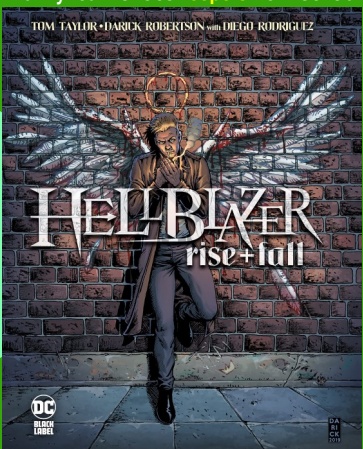
Already on several "Best of" lists, **Chartwell Manor** is Glenn Head's scouring memoir concerning his days at a private school and how it screwed him up for life. Justin Green's intimacy meets Jim Osborne's intensity at Beaumont and Tates Creek. Faced with the death of journalism and the murder of truth, newsman Mark Scribner decides to become the biggest, baddest liar of them all. Millions of dollars, millions of dead – nothing personal, just business, in the corrupt yet callow world of international war-making. Ted Rall's ugly story is exquisitely drawn and colored by Pablo Callejo in *The Stringer* (NBM).



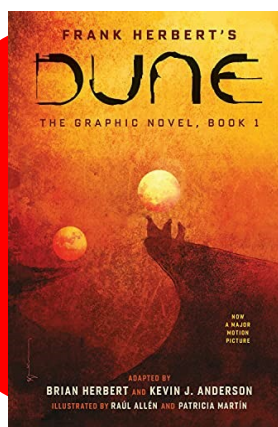
Matt Kindt is one of the few comics writers who can out-weird Jeff Lemire. His most recent opus, **Ether**, is an intense urban fantasy (see 741.5 #13 for details). Available at Eastside, this gargantuan tome showcases the astonishing art of David Rubin.



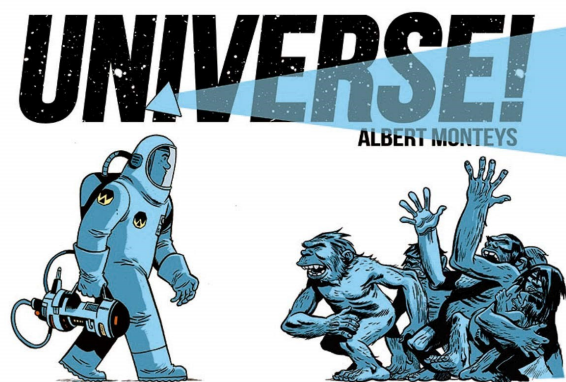
The Shadow of A Man belongs to Albert Chamisso. As a result of weird science, Albert's shadow is cast in color. It's not as cool as it sounds. IDW translates the words by Benoit Peeters. Francois Schuiten's figures live and love among vast retro-futurist architecture in the newest in the *Obscure Cities* series at Beaumont and Tates Creek. The city of Liverpool is home to street-wise sorcerer John Constantine. The latest volumes of *Hellblazer* set John against an older, meaner version of himself while the art of Darick (The Boys) Robertson looks amazing in the hardback *Rise + Fall!*



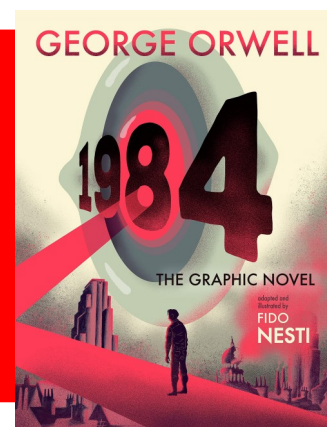
We call them "monsters". The Japanese call them "yokai." And no one was a master of yokai lore like Shigeru Mizuki. In his twilight, Mizuki adapted the literary classic *Tono Monogatari*. Ancient fairy tales live again at CL, EB and NB.



College girl checking out *1984* says to her friend "I never read this in high school." I point to the cover and in a cheery tone say "Feel-good hit of the summer!" Her: "Really!!?" Me: "NO." Despite becoming an educational warhorse, George Orwell's novel has lost none of its potency, even when translated into comics. If anything, the message is even stronger due to Fido Nesti's artistry. Especially the colors: so grim, it feels like you're reading this unabridged adaptation by the gray light

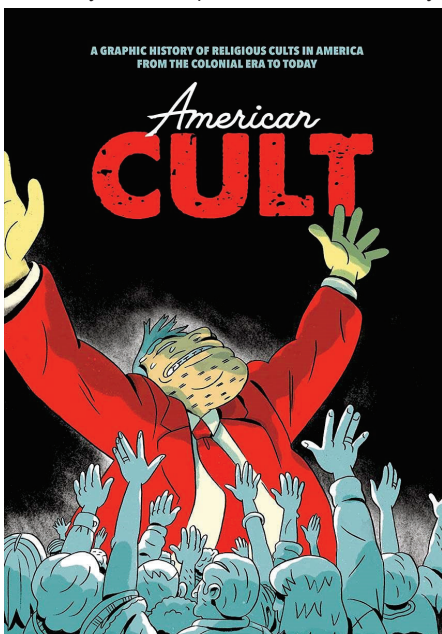


of a telescreen. Color also plays a major role in the funnybook version of *Dune*. Visually, it's a war between blue and red, with the purple-cloaked mother of Paul Atreides trapped between two worlds. Collaborators Raul Allen and Patricia Martin make this a true classic illustrated. Fellow Spaniard Albert Monteys also works in sci-fi, though his coloring more resembles old style comics. A natural satirist, his sharp riffs on SF cliches come cloaked in lovely work compiled from Monteys popular webcomic, *Universe!*





Cartooning can be a very lonely occupation. Back in the day, not so much — newsrooms, sweatshops, bullpens, group studios: all these once put artists in the same room, doing the same thing. But just as those gatherings gave way to the solo freelancer, so have other aspects of society become more solitary. **Kristen Radtke** takes us on “A Journey Through American Loneliness” in her new graphic novel from Pantheon. **Radke** fingers the usual suspects — the cowboy myth of rugged individualism, the unexpected consequences of prosperity, the dominance of mediating technology. But she also shows, through examples such as her father’s dedication to ham radio, how Americans have always been a lonesome bunch using machines to be less so. *Seek You* is an impressionistic look at the past and future of America loneliness, from guns to romcoms, Harry Harlow’s baby monkeys to robots for Mamaw. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve a copy. The desire to belong is one of the main motivations for people joining a cult. Published by Silver Sprocket and edited by

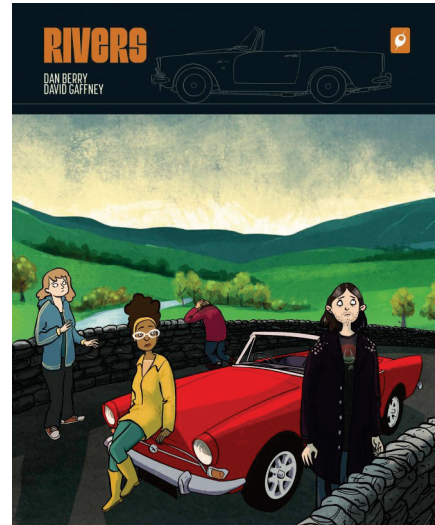


MEANWHILE

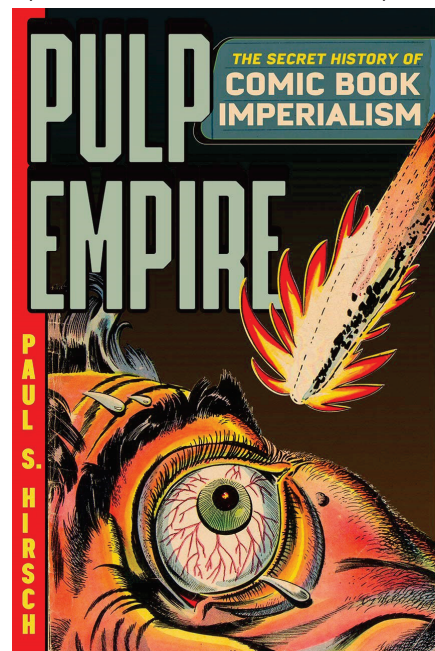
Robyn Chapman, *American Cult* is a “graphic history of religious cults in America from the Colonial era to today.” A variety of cartoonists delve into the histories and mysteries of cults both famous and obscure. Headline-makers Heaven’s Gate, the Branch Davidians and the Manson Family are discussed along with less well known sects such as Synanon, the Children of God and the Process Church of the Final Judgment, which was a huge influence on Charles Manson’s DIY theology. The most moving pieces are told in the first person by former members of the People’s Temple, Westboro Baptist Church and the Source (whose musical LPs fetch top dollar on the psychedelic collector’s market). Find *American Cult* at Central and Tates Creek. Due to the large amount of adult comics coming in, the stuff for kids has gotten short shrift. So let’s end this year with a roll call of cool kids’ comics! There are new editions of



popular series like *Big Nate*, *Catwad*, *Narwhal*, the Smurfs and *Phoebe & Her Unicorn*. The *Catstronauts* spin-off *Waffles & Pancake* shares shelves with *Max Meow* fighting *Pigs From Outer Space!* *The Awakening Storm* is the first volume of *City of Dragons* while the author of the *Witch Boy* Trilogy, **Molly Knox Ostertag**, delivers a stand-alone novel, *The Girl from the Sea*. DC’s outreach to the young’ns continues with *Ghosting*, the new *Super Hero Girls* introducing *Katana*, and DC’s 80s cult comic *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld* returns in a manga-fied telling of her origin. Disney’s *Cruella DeVille* is well-served by the two-color art of **Arielle Jovellanos** in the “*Villains*” novel, *Evil Thing*. The real lives of immigrant children are detailed in *Big Apple Diaries* and *Why Is Everybody Yelling?* **Nidhi Chanani’s** *Jukebox* is a more fantastical take, as *desi* girls *Shaheen* and *Tannaz* use the mysterious music machine to travel through time! Back in reality, *Sleepover* and *Better Place* both describe the impact of a loved one’s death on their young heroes. *Stealing Home* is the story of a *nisei* boy interned during WWII while another new book shows how *I Survived: the Attacks of September 11, 2001*. The protagonists of our next item are supposed to be adults.



Supposed to be. Three lonely, alienated strangers meet through a common interest in *Rivers* (Top Shelf). *Gideon*, *Peter* and *Heidi* all have special ways of coping, involving soup, a built-in toaster and obsessions with classic cars and an old comic book called *Revenge of the Ghoulers*. They’re brought together by an app that allows users to share their nightly dreams, which increasingly show similar— and scary — characteristics. British short story master **David Gaffney** embraces long-form narrative as partner **Dan Berry** draws both real life and dream world in his loose and lively line. *Rivers* is available at all LPL locations. Central is home to “the secret history of comic book imperialism.” As discussed in 741.5 #5, Golden Age publishers were fighting the Axis before any declaration of war. At first this was a spontaneous response to events. After Pearl Harbor, the government drafted the funnybook biz into service. That didn’t stop after V-J Day, as documented in *Pulp Empire*. From official racism to CIA agitprop, **Paul S. Hirsch** rips the cover off comics’ hidden past!



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