

**FRANK MILLER'S**  
**741.5 SIN CITY**  
**THE HARD GOODBYE & A DAME TO KILL FOR**  
**NEW EDITIONS OF HARD-BOILED HITS**

**FEBRUARY 2022 - NO. 69**

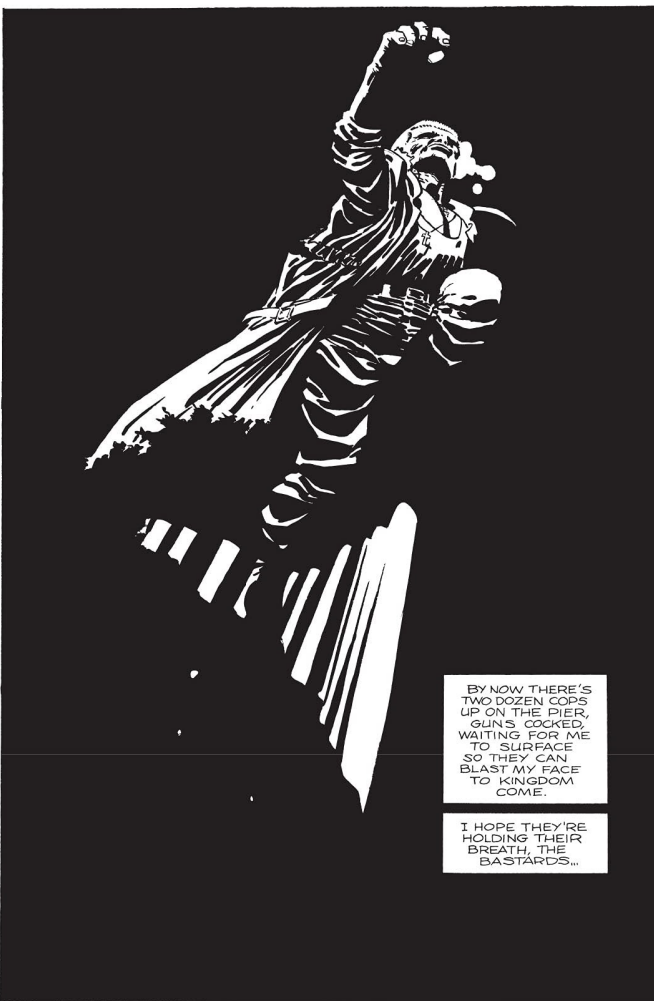
**PLUS...AFRICAN LASSKICKERS**



**The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of**



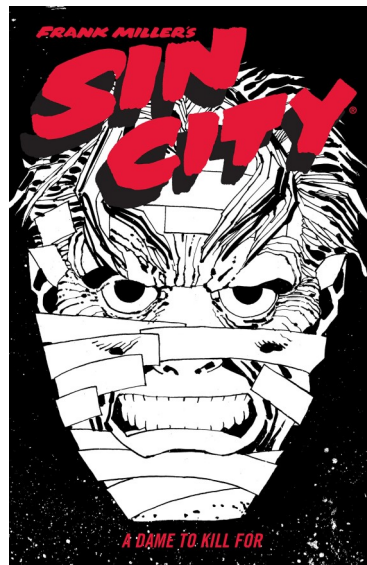
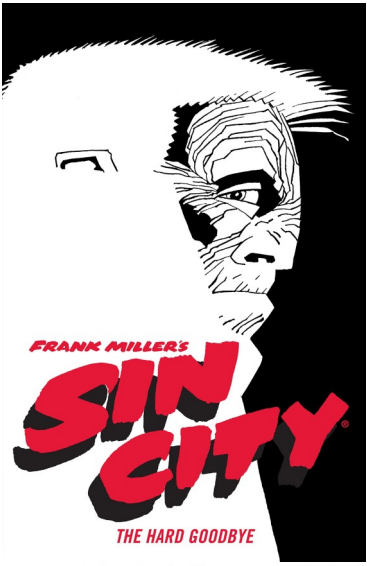
**Lexington Public Library**  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*



BY NOW THERE'S TWO DOZEN COPS UP ON THE PIER, GUNS COCKED, WAITING FOR ME TO SURFACE SO THEY CAN BLAST MY FACE TO KINGDOM COME.

I HOPE THEY'RE HOLDING THEIR BREATH, THE BASTARDS...

Given the impact Frank Miller's had on comics, it says something that many consider his magnum opus to be *Sin City*. Made up of a series of stand-alone graphic novels, *Sin City* was the ultimate expression of Miller's obsession with both hard-boiled crime fiction and the possibilities of black & white comics. Each book is a ink-slathered mix of Richard Stark and Hugo Pratt, a Jim Thompson novel drawn by Alex Toth. Thirty years later, these comics have lost none of their narrative and aesthetic power, as shown in the new editions being released by Dark Horse. New covers give a fresh gloss to the classic tales reprinted at their original size, allowing the



pictures room to breathe...and fight...and bleed...and kill. And love — indeed, these are love stories, each hero driven to ultraviolence by heartache. *The Hard Goodbye* follows the monstrous Marv as he seeks revenge for the murder of Goldie, the only woman ever to give the mugg a tumble. *A Dame to Kill For* stars Dwight, ex-reporter, ex-drunk, ex-lover of Ava, who strolls back into his life dragging hell behind her. Dwight enlists Marv to help him rescue his damsel...but who's really in distress? Mature readers can cop these trend-setting crime comics at Beaumont, Central and Northside!



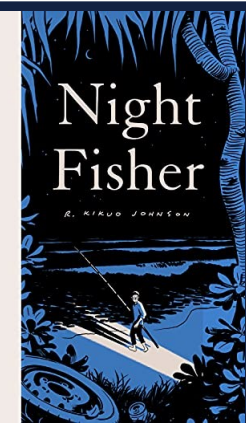
and Squirrel and Captain and Ms. Marvel. So what does it say about the Seventies that the Hulk, a huge green-skinned kid with anger issues, was Hero of the Decade? Ponder that as you read these Epic Collections from the early 1970s. *Battle of the Behemoths* begins immediately after the co-creator of *Fantastic Four* Jack Kirby quit. Stan Lee soldiers on as writer while artist John Buscema brings his dynamic drama. But sales began to slide, so the Hulk was slapped on the cover. Even before the TV show, Ol' Jade-jaws had become the cover boy of

One of Marvel's perennial selling points has been relevance. Popular characters reflect the issues of their day. In the Sixties, Spider-man, reject turned hero, represented the people demanding the agency denied them by society. In the '80s, the X-men stood for multi-culturalism while their boy Wolverine, Daredevil and the Punisher got rougher and tougher as America embraced the cowboy ethos of Reaganism. Currently, the rise of women into positions of influence has inspired acclaim for the Girls Moon



The Me Decade. His book was used to promote lesser heroes, as shown in *Crisis On Counter-Earth*. Between rumbles with the Rhino, M.O.D.O.K. and the Gremlin, the Hulk meets the newly-furry Beast, aggravates the Inhumans and wraps up the dangling storyline from Adam Warlock's defunct title. The Harpy also makes her debut, returning in the final volume of *The Immortal Hulk* as one of Devil Hulk's Gamma Beasts smashing the Avengers. Get the finale of this intense, horrific take on the Hulk in TEEN!

Readers looking for less *sturm und drang* in their funnies should give a look at two newish books from R. Kikuo Johnson. Originally released in 2005, his debut *Night Fisher* is a coming-of-age story about a private school kid taking a walk on the wild



side before graduation. *No One Else* is a quiet slice-of-life story about a mom, her son and Mom's ne'er-do-well brother, home for a funeral. Both books are set in Hawaii, but the stories told are so American, it could just as well be Kentucky or Iowa.

*Night Fisher* and *No One Else* are available at all LPL locations!

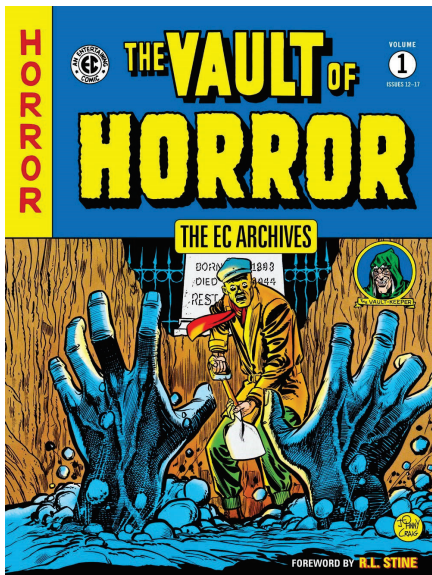


The concept of a comics "universe"—titles and characters belonging to a shared background—is all over this issue: the interconnected novels of the *Sin City* series, the "Mignolaverse" and the biggest and baddest, the Marvel Universe. Add to the list the YouNeek YouNiverse. Watch an Afrocentric fictional world being built from the ground up in the pages of *Iyanu, E.X.O.* and the two collections dedicated to *Malika: Warrior Queen*. Created by an artistic team from Nigeria, *Malika* is a brawling historical

fantasy set in 15th Century West Africa. *Malika* is the super-powered queen of the imaginary empire of Azzaz. While protecting her land and people, *Malika* faces revolts from within both her nation and her court and dangers from without, the worst being an invasion by the armies of the Ming Dynasty! The second volume finds *Malika* transported to the year 2025. She keeps a low profile in this strange new world while training a new adept in the use of her powers. But the Olon Jin, a vicious cult of sorcerers, has other plans. Both editions of *Malika: War-*

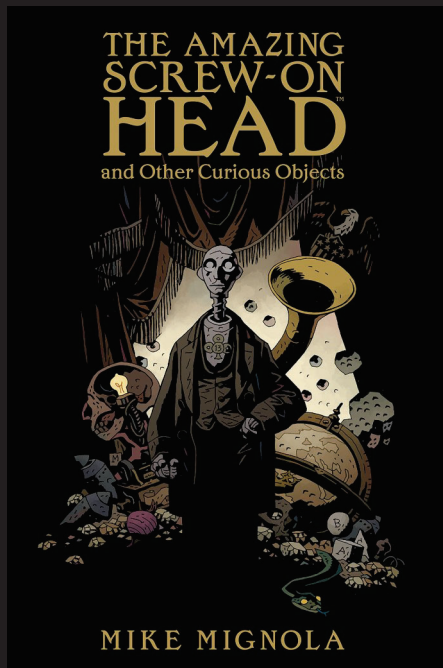


*rior Queen* are available at Central and Northside. Much as *Wonder Woman* is a modernized take on Greco-Roman myth, so is *Djeliya* based on the cultures of Senegal and Ghana. Our heroine Awa is a *djeliya*, a musical storyteller charged with safeguarding Prince Mansour. The duo scrap their way through a dystopian landscape both ancient and futuristic in a quest to confront the man who made the world that way, the Wizard Soumaoro. Junji Ba's gorgeously idiosyncratic art rocks the pages of this fine TEEN item!



I swear Dark Horse publisher **Mike Richardson** didn't bribe me to push his product this issue. It's just that DH has its hooves in a lot of tasty pies, including the new series of paperback editions of the company's well-regarded EC reprints. The first softcover volume of *Tales from the Crypt* has done great numbers. Hopefully its two companions from Entertaining Comics' trinity of horror titles will follow suit. The initial collections of *Vault of Horror* and *Haunt of Fear* are shambling slowly towards us, available for reserve at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org). The ill-fated successors to EC's fabled "New Trend" comics were undone by hostile distributors and

Three new books by or inspired by groovy ghoulie **Mike Mignola** are on LPL shelves or on the way, like the paperback re-release of his oddball steampunk farce, *The Amazing Screw-On Head*. President Lincoln calls on TAS-OH to battle Emperor Zombie and it just gets weirder after that. It includes shorter works, like the story **Mignola** wrote with his seven-year-old daughter. Like the Visitor (see 741.5 #12),



skittish vendors. So we'll never know if EC's "picto-fiction" books would have found a readership for their fish-nor-fowl combo of art and text. Following *Shock Illustrated* (see 741.5 #59), *Crime Illustrated* is more typical of EC's ironic noir sensibility, with many of the tales of desire and devilry being adapted from the earlier comics. The art is the reason to check out these books. The incredible talents on the EC roster showed why they are so admired 70 years after the fact, like **Reed Crandall** — every story was a new experiment in style and medium. *Crime Illustrated* is available at Beau-



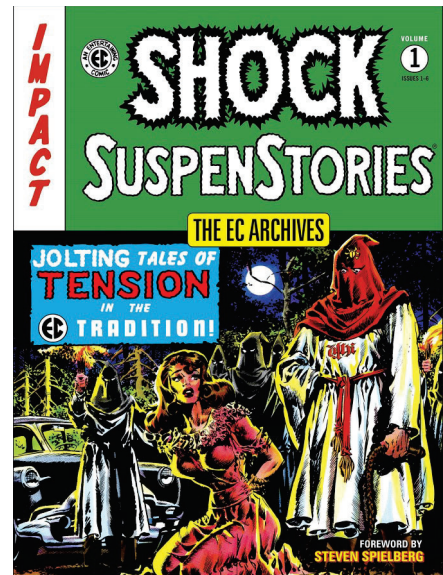
Introducing...

**PICTO-FICTION**  
a new form of  
**ADULT ENTERTAINMENT**

FOREWORD BY **WILLIAM MALONE**



Sir Edward Grey was introduced to the Mignolaverse in the background of the ongoing *Hellboy* saga. In the second Omnibus dedicated to his occult adventures, Queen Victoria's *Witchfinder* continues to defend Albion against an invasion of vampires, when not distracted by sea monsters, elder gods and the hunt for Jack the Ripper. **Chris (Cinderella) Roberson's** deft touch with Victoriana is matched by the moody



mont and Central. All locations carry *Shock Suspense Stories* V1. The penultimate New Trend title was meant to be an EC sampler of crime, horror, sci-fi and war comics. War was quickly replaced by "shock", the term describing stories dealing with social issues such as racism ("The Guilty"), police brutality ("Confession"), anti-Semitism ("Hate!"), mob violence ("The Patriots"), addiction ("The Monkey") and more. With tongue in cheek, the EC staff called them "preachies." But they poured their hearts into it, especially **Wallace Wood**. All that and a lead crime story by **Jack Kamen** at his peak await in every issue of *Shock Suspense Stories!*

colors of **Michelle Madsen** and the sleek art by **Stenbeck, D'Israeli and Mitten**. The art of Warwick Johnson-Cadwell can't be called slick. But it is highly detailed and fun to read. The latest adventure of Prof. Meinhardt and his associates follows *Mr. Higgins Come Home & Our Encounters with Evil* (still available at LPL) as the trio pursues the mystery of their fellow monster hunter, *Falconspeare*, at all locations!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) under the **COLLECTIONS** tab!