741.5 SANTA’S GRAB BAG!
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS WE OVERLOOKED
PLUS...SUPER WEIRD & MAGNIFIQUE

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15 Exciting HOLIDAY FEATURES

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Reading is Just the Beginning!
Globetrotting gastronomist Anthony Bourdain’s legacy of erasing borders between cultures lives on with Hungry Ghosts. Co-written with Joel (Joe) Rose, this anthology of horror stories is based on kaidan, a story-telling contest used by samurai to test one another’s bravery. As 100 candles burned out one by one, the warriors would spin evermore terrifying tales of ghosts and monsters. Bourdain and Rose give a modern spin to this ancient tradition. Each story is about food and dining, cooking and hunger. And the contest is between a crew of cooks and servers and their hideously rich clients. The strong but subtle coloring of Jose Villarrubia accentuates the nine artists, including Paul Pope and Francesco (Black Beetle) Francavilla, whose gloriously gruesome works stand as a testimony to the brilliance of the bold but haunted Bourdain.

FAB 4 Mania is the latest from cartoonist Carol Tyler, whose autobiographical works have netted her eleven Eisner nominations and the Master Cartoonist award from the prestigious Cartoon Crossroads Columbus. Like many girls of her day, Tyler was obsessed with the Beatles. This book follows teen Carol as she battles nuns and moms and “Woolly Bully”-singing boys to maintain her love for the Mersey Mop-tops. The story climaxes at the Beatles’ performance in Coninasky Park, 8/20/65. Based on a diary from Tyler’s youth. Fab Mania is half comics, half scrapbook. That format actually delayed its publication due to its similarity to My Favorite Thing is Monsters, also from Fantagraphics. You’ll find Fab 4 Mania at various branches under 784.S4 517.11 or go to lexpublib.org to place a reserve.

Available from Central, Algeria is Beautiful Like America is autobiography in search of history. Writer Olivia Burton is the author of several books. The above description of writer Shirley (“The Lot”) Jackson could be used to describe most of the 50 Magnificent Women Who Changed the World who get their due in Femme Magnifique (FAB 4). Most of the women lauded herein were just trying to live their lives as they saw fit, but that was enough to make them rebels, pioneers, troublemakers. Femme Magnifique celebrates the lives of writers such as Jackson, Lois Fitzhugh and Octavia Butler; musicians Kate Bush, Laurie Anderson and Beth Ditto; scien- tists like Sylvia Earle, Kristy Miller and software engi- neer Margaret Hamilton, as well as Ada Lovelace and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning. Comedians and cartoonists, actresses and agit- tors share the pages with modern gender benders like Kat Blaque and ancient Amazons such as Judith of Boulogne and Hatshepsut, their stories rendered in a brilliant variety of styles. Stand-out women herein include Gilbert Hernandez on Hedy Lamarr, Rafael Albuquer- quere’s raw riff on insurgent Maria Bonita and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning. Comedians and cartoonists, actresses and agit- tors share the pages with modern gender benders like Kat Blaque and ancient Amazons such as Judith of Boulogne and Hatshepsut, their stories rendered in a brilliant variety of styles. Stand-out women herein include Gilbert Hernandez on Hedy Lamarr, Rafael Albuquerque’s raw riff on insurgent Maria Bonita and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning. Comedians and cartoonists, actresses and agit- tors share the pages with modern gender benders like Kat Blaque and ancient Amazons such as Judith of Boulogne and Hatshepsut, their stories rendered in a brilliant variety of styles. Stand-out women herein include Gilbert Hernandez on Hedy Lamarr, Rafael Albuquerque’s raw riff on insurgent Maria Bonita and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning. Comedians and cartoonists, actresses and agit- tors share the pages with modern gender benders like Kat Blaque and ancient Amazons such as Judith of Boulogne and Hatshepsut, their stories rendered in a brilliant variety of styles. Stand-out women herein include Gilbert Hernandez on Hedy Lamarr, Rafael Albuquerque’s raw riff on insurgent Maria Bonita and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning. Comedians and cartoonists, actresses and agit- tors share the pages with modern gender benders like Kat Blaque and ancient Amazons such as Judith of Boulogne and Hatshepsut, their stories rendered in a brilliant variety of styles. Stand-out women herein include Gilbert Hernandez on Hedy Lamarr, Rafael Albuquerque’s raw riff on insurgent Maria Bonita and the unsung mother of paleontology, Mary Anning.
Meanwhile

provides the psychedelic pastel colors that enliven his father’s ink-splotted photorealism. Heroin-obsessed heroine Ellie worships all the druggie idols: Morrison, Reed, Burroughs. Not just an user but actively pro-drug, she undermines the doctors at the ritzy rehab clinic where she’s cooling her heels. Ellie also snuggles up to another patient, Skip, and slowly, sweetly leads him down the primrose path. But what seems like a twisted CW soap opera turns ugly by the end. Not like Black River, which starts off rough and just gets rougher. The latest from Hard Case Crime, this album is as hard-boiled as it is hardbacked. It’s 1950, and professional hood Tyler Cross has lived down to his name by crossing his boss and swiping a briefcase full of smack. Cross ends up in Black Rock, Texas, a dead end town with its own dark and dirty secrets. In the Euro-cartoony vein of Daniel Torres and Rich Tommaso, the art by Bruno comes on like Dick Tracy drunk on absinthe. Nab your copy from Central and Northside now!

same, anyway. That guy constantly talks about what a supreme badass he is, and always in the third person, every other sentence beginning with “You dare?!” Marvel’s Tomb of Dracula was the best-seller of Marvel’s horror hero titles, thanks to the dynamic scripts of Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan’s shadowy expressionism and the sleek physicality of Tom Palmer’s inks. Volume 2 of the Complete Collection finds the ever-irascible Lord of Vampires tussling with murderous skeletons, mad scientist Dr. Sun, and his own dearly damned daughter Lilith. Drac also crosses paths and throws fists with Spider-Man, Jack Russell AKA Werewolf By Night, and Marvel’s rather lackluster take on the Frankenstein Monster. Like the first volume, V2 is available from Beaumont. And like the first volume, there’s some lovely monochrome art along with the four-color comics, as this series also reprints work from Dracula Lives, the flagship of Marvel’s mid-70s line of black & white comic magazines. But there’s black & white, and there’s black & white. The suave stylings of Dick Giordano hardly resemble the manic scrawlings of Max de Radigues. But some would argue, and convincingly, that mad Max’s work is a purer form of comics than slick Dick. “I loved to draw but wasn’t especially good at it,” says de Redigues. “I quickly stopped trying to draw in a realistic way and went for an efficient one.” Originally released as a series of DIY minicomics, Bastard is what you’d get if Quentin Tarantino developed a series for Cartoon Network. The mother and son team of May and Eugene are on the lam, carrying some of the proceeds of 52 simultaneous robberies in the same city. Pursued by other crooks, the pair hitch a ride with ex-yuppie trucker Augustus McCrae. McCrae and his friends are a stark contrast to May’s fellow mobsters. That’s why May leaves her boy with them while she gets her revenge on her former partners. It’s a sweet, savage tale of love and violence, available for reserve at lexpublib.org. More hijinx of the criminal kind can be found at Beaumont and Central, the homes of My Heroes Have Always Been Junkies (Image), Or of the Criminal kind, since this is a stand-alone spin-off from that noir series by Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips, whose son Jacob

Tis the season to be jolly, so what better way to celebrate than to read a bunch of comics about despots, vampires, hoodlums and addicts? Start with Drawn & Quarterly’s new edition of Guy (Hostage) Delisle’s Pyongyang, available from Eastside. The French cartoonist’s day job as an animator lands him a gig in North Korea, overseeing his studio’s outsourced production. Delisle’s Journey in North Korea back in 2001 revealed a nation making necessary overtures to the outside world while straining to maintain the totalitarian system that controls every aspect of its citizens’ lives. The North Koreans live in a twilight world of loud, colorful lies and unspoken truths. Delisle gently tries to undermine the all-encompassing personality cult of the regime, even as he catches himself humming the worshipful ditties devoted to Dear Leader, Senior and Junior. Such monstrous narcissism is a key feature of the truly villainous, in both real life and fiction. Take Dracula, for instance. Or the Mighty Marvel version of

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