The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

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FREAK/SLAY/LOVE
VIKING VIXENS....VINYL VIGILANTES
MOM MECHAS...PSYCHO SUPERSTARS
AND OTHER FURIOUS FEMALES

PLUS...THE SONS OF EL TOPO
AND SOME OTHER DUDES, TOO
An infamously and exhausted-performance artist examines her life of cultural crime as she plans her final assault on decent society in Michael DeForge's BRAT (Fantagraphics)

A long-wandering wife returns to the family she rejected for the road in HOBO MOM, a quiet mix of the clean line styles of Charles Forsman & Max (Bastards) de Radiques (Fan)

Global sensation Emma draws and discusses the realities of women's lives in THE MENTAL LOAD, a collection of her much-shared online comic strip (Seven Stories)

Pop music connects an British couple in the 60s, a pair of friends in the 70s, and a retro rebel in the 80s in the lovely I AM YOUNG (Fantagraphics)
MEANWHILE

“War was on the menu, and crowds jostled for food in case the buffet should run out before everyone had a chance to feast.” Thus does the namesake of the graphic novel Matteo note, with typically acerbic wit, his French neighbors’ gleeful entry into what would become known as World War One. The latest EuroComics release from master cartoonist Jean-Pierre Gibrat follows the handsome Matteo, a Spaniard living in the south of France, as he first avoids the war, then gets pulled into it. As always, Gibrat draws like a dream, so Book One: 1914-1915 is one of the prettiest depictions of the horrors of the trenches you’ll ever see. Find it at Beaumont, Central and Village. LPL’s TEEN sections are where you’ll get Doctor Strange: City of Sin. A beat and burnt out Stephen Strange attempts to resurrect Las Vegas, destroyed during the controversial Secret Empire event of 2018. It doesn’t go well. In fact, Sin City becomes the hang-out of Mephisto, the Devil of the Marvel Universe. While Mephisto’s playing Doc for a sap, other netherworldly baddies show up to take advantage of a situation so dire, the dread Dormammu’s one of the good guys! Follow Doctor Strange and his new pal Bats the talking ghost dog as they fight their way through demons and depression. Look in TEEN for other new Marvel releases starring Daredevil, Cloak & Dagger, the Hulk, Squirrel Girl, Spider-Man, and Moon Girl & Devil Dinosaur, not to mention the EPIC collection of the first adventures of Ms. Marvel, Carol Danvers, star of the upcoming Marvel movie Captain Marvel!! Meanwhile, marvels of a more ancient kind fill the pages of Hasib and The Queen of Serpents (NBM). The latest from David B., the creator of Epileptic and other fine graphic novels adapts the Arabian Nights tale of Hasim Karim ad-Dim, simple woodcutter turned reluctant hero. Known for his exquisite black and white art, B. proves equally adept at work in color. Just look at that amazing cover and you’ve caught but a glimpse of the wonders rendered by the award-winning Frenchman. B. keeps his line simple but spares no details when drawing this fantastic world where flowers sing and fish catcall and buildings speak. B. loves a good battle scene, too, and there are several amazing examples, my favorite being the rumble between the ape people and the giant spiders. This Oversize volume of sheer visual poetry is available from Central, Northside and Tates Creek. Another founding myth from the Middle East forms the basis for The Sons of El Topo (Archaia). Written by visionary filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky, Sons is a sequel to that most cultish of cult films, El Topo, originally released in 1970. Just as El Topo was described as an “acid Western”, Sons reconfigures the story of Cain and Abel as a spaghetti Western. As clueless believers and their would-be leaders try to ascend to the honeycomb-cragged burial place of their godlike father, Cain and Abel follow their bliss and their curse across a Leonean landscape. Like his Biblical inspiration, this Cain has been marked so that none may harm him, but none may see him. A petty act of vengeful brutality opens the eyes of a young peasant woman, who finally sees Cain for what he is, and chooses that over a life of blind piety. Mean while, Eve has died and Abel wants to kiss and make up with his brother. Like his influence Moebius alias Jean Giraud, artist Jose Ladrøn has two styles: the sci-fi hyper-reality of Elephantmen and his Inhumans, and the stately naturalism of his Westerns such as this, the first volume of a series. Find The Sons of El Topo at Central, Tates Creek and Village. More magical mischief is afoot in Maestros. Compiling the Image title nominated for the 2018 Eisner Award for Best New Series, Maestros is a raucously violent rejoinder to Harry Potter and other fantasies of sorcerous empowerment. The tale of the half-human son of the greatest wizard of them all makes the point that living in a world ruled by magic would really, really suck. Power tends to corrupt, and Willy, the life-long whipping boy for his vicious father, knows that lesson all too well. Whether he’s truly learned it is the question asked by writer/artist Steve Skroce, who draws so pretty, even his maggots look scrumptious. Get Maestros at lexpublib.org! Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the COLLECTIONS tab!