Meanwhile

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

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Marv Wolfman
Frank Frazetta Jack Kamen
Lan Medina
Edgar Rice Burroughs

POP ART GENIUS

KIRBY & KING

PLUS...SEA QUEENS & JUNGLE GIRLS

Oh, Andy... if only I could turn back the clock, I would do it all again, all the heartaches and the pain...

...Just to get back to the time when I was Mrs. Warhol!

See the Triumph and Tragedy of a LIFE lived for ART!

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Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!
In the wake of Stan “The Man” Lee’s death, the argument over who truly created the now-global Marvel Universe of comic book characters, Lee the editor and writer or artist Jack Kirby, grew more heated. Now the masterminds behind the Kirby Collector magazine have scoured every available source, from Marvel office memos to mimeographed fanzines, radio interviews to the original art, to create an oral history of the birth, death and resurrection of the most fertile—and fractious—collaboration in comics.

Though now an international sensation, Marvel Comics’ African Avenger, the Black Panther, had a tough time of it on the newsstands throughout most of his career. Coming on the heels of Don MacGregor’s 19-Issue run in Jungle Action, Jack “the King” Kirby’s outlandish take on the King of Wakanda lasted only 12 issues. Like most of Kirby’s work during his last days with the House of Ideas, such as Machine Man and Devil Dinosaur, his Black Panther is a comic for the kids. Aided by the untrustworthy Mister Little, T’challa pursues occult objects across the world like a costumed Indiana Jones. The art is bombastic and baroque, mutating jungle tropes via Kirby’s patented technodelic style, as shown by the Afro-futurist foxiness of Princess Zanda image right. The rest of this Epic Collection reprints T’challa’s more adult political adventures from the early 1980s. Revenge of the Black Panther can be found in TEEN at every LPL location.

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Lauded by fans and mainstream critics, winner of the prestigious Eisner Award for Best Writer and Best Artist, Mister Miracle was DC’s 2018 Book of the Year. Now the mind-bending and heart-breaking mini-series has been collected in one volume available from Beaumont, Central and Northside. This iteration of the World’s Greatest Escape Artist stays true to the story of Scott Free and his wife Barda, enemies and enemies of the hell-world Apokalips and its ruler, Darkseid. But writer Tom (The Vision) King renders the cosmic quotidians as Scott and Barda wage a brutal war between gods while arguing over what to do with the guest room. Meanwhile, artist Mitch Gerads channels Warhol with layouts that never break from a nine-panel grid, often repeating the same image (right), a stasis symbolic of Mister Miracle’s struggle within his own soul. It’s a tale of marriage and mayhem and mental breakdown, a sci-fi superhero epic that sleeps on the couch.

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Lexington Public Library has several biographies of Andy Warhol, the man who made the art world POP. One of them is even a graphic novel. But none of them quite capture the chameleonic spirit of Warhol, whose life encompassed the history of 20th Century bohemian culture, like ANDY: A Factual Fairy Tale—The Life and Times of Andy Warhol.

The latest in the Art Masters series from Self-Made hero, Andy is the work of Dutch cartoonist Raymond Koot, a.k.a. TYPEX. Named after Britain’s version of the Enigma code machine, Types is a master of the codes of visual narrative. Andy is both a biography of an artist and a history of arc; each chapter—or “issue”—is rendered in a different style apropos to the period it covers. Warhol’s childhood looks like the primitive Sunday comics of those years, while the era of the Factory is all loud colors and flowing brushwork. The tragic tale of Edie Sedgwick is drawn like a romance comic (see cover), the weird, wired tale of Valerie Solanas’s attempted murder of Warhol is a speed freak against blood-red backgrounds. Meanwhile, the ever-shifting cast of characters in Warhol’s life appear as trading cards with relevant info on the back (images right and far left). Celebrities galore make the scene, from an obnoxiously butch Jackson Pollock to the regal-yes, Studio 54 to the Shah of Iran, not to mention a certain future President of these United States. And rock stars abound. But they’re all selfish jerks except, surprisingly, Lou Reed (below, with the Velvet Underground). It’s a graphic tour de force that also manages to catch the quiet moments of Warhol’s often lonely life. Get one of the best graphic novels of the year from Central or go to legpublib.org.

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Flash, Supergirl, and Hal Jordan and the Green Lanterns. Check out The Fall of Slade in Deathstroke V5 and Superman’s conflict with the Bizarroverse, while her creator Marv Wolfman returns to pen the adventures of Raven, Daughter of Darkness. Back on the stands following the success of his TV series on the CW, Black Lightning returns to his home town, Cleveland, Ohio, in Cold, Dead Hands. Black Lightning was one of many characters, including Enemy Ace, Hawkman, and Mister Miracle’s Big Barda, slated to star in back-up strips added to established titles as part of the “DC Explosion!” of the mid-1970s. It never happened, one of the biggest shocks and set-backs in the history of comics. Discover the drama in Comic Book Implosion (TwoMorrows). New collections from Marvel include the Black Panther spin-off Wakanda Forever, the return of Thor as Thunder God Reborn and a new Cloak & Dagger just in time for Season 2 of their show. Spider-Gwen and Tony Stark are joined by the Cosmic Ghost Rider, who is actually Frank Castle, the Punisher, now endowed with both the Power colonial rage, as anarchist glazons like Judy of the Jungle incite both natives and Nature to rebel against their oppressors. That, and you get to see future greats like Frank Frazetta and Jack Kamen cut their teeth on these wild tales of knife-wielding nubility. Get Jungle Girls at Central. Look to the TEEN section of that location and others to find Mera, Queen of Atlantis (DC). The breakout star of the recent Aquaman film, Mera has been a supporting character in that series since 1963. But now Mera has the spotlight. She’s caught up in the civil war tearing Atlantis apart while fighting the ruinous best intentions of her husband’s estranged brother, the Ocean Master. Artist Lan Medina really captures Mera’s mix of regal dignity and barbaric ferocity. Dude draws a mean sea monster, too! Other new DC books feature Batwoman, Nightwing, the Cosmic and the hell-spawned abilities of the Ghost Rider! Yikes! One might prefer to face one of the implacable android soldiers known as Exterminators. Set in a grimy cosmos of incessant conflict, Exterminator 17 (Titan) follows the title character, an obsolete model now inhabited by the soul of the creator of all Exterminators! The trademark physicality of Enki Bilal’s gouache-based art brings to harsh life this tale of retribution and resurrection available from Northside. An equally brutal but far more festive future fills the bright and busy pages of The New World. This graphic novel stands out from similar new Image releases like the spy epic The Dead Hand and the self-described “cyber-dys-topian noir” Analog thanks to the playful art of Trad (All New Ghost Rider) Moore which enlivens Ales Kot’s mod mash-up of The Running Man and Romeo & Juliet. Reserve these titles and more at lexpublib.org!

As explained in a fine story on the website Vulture.com, the Black Panther got his first solo series because a young proofreader for Marvel Comics was offended by the old-fashioned comics reprinted in the title Jungle Action. Jungle comics—that is, series based on the pulp adventure tropes popularized by Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Tarzan of the Apes—were long-lived as a genre. And many of the stars of said comics were women, especially in the post-war period when publishers began depending on cheesecake art to grab readers. Now the industry’s premier trash collectors Yoe! have compiled Jungle Girls. From leader of the pack Sheena to the desert-dwelling Slave Girl, these ferocious females deliver rough justice to malevolent big game hunters, manipulative witch doctors and others who would exploit the jungle and its creatures and citizens. Easy to dismiss as racist relics, many of these stories seethe with a subtext of anti-

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