MEANWHILE

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of
PLUS...KIRBY AND KURTZMAN

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ZATANNA AND THE HOUSE OF SECRETS
GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR KIDS & TEENS
DC'S NEW YOUTH MOVEMENT

741.5

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Lexington Public Library
Reading is Just the Beginning!
Zatanna, Mistress of Magic, has been a long-time fan favorite among DC’s heriones. The first legacy superhero, Zatanna followed in the footsteps of her father, Golden Age great Zatara. True, much of her appeal is the sassy riff on the traditional magician’s outfit (image left) that’s made her a cosplay fixture. Zatanna stars both solo and with the Justice League in graphic novels and animated cartoons available via lexpublib.org.

This daughter of the Devil yawns to live like an ordinary girl in this novel called "Harley Quinn and Other Stories". Princess Diana breaks Amazon law and unleashes her magic against a cruel developer. Harleen Quinzel arrives in Gotham City and joins a troupe of drag queens against the House of Secrets...\n
Zatanna, Mistress of Magic, stars in the latest of DC’s graphic novels for Young Adults of all ages!

Rich or poor, good or bad, cat or bat, the students of the House of Secrets… both the House of Secrets…and her family’s secrets! Zatanna is joined by Peaches the rabbit, about the only friend Zatanna has left after she alienates her nel pals and the popular kids. The new boy in school turns out to be the Witch Boy! Magical hi-jinx abound in this rollicking YP novel!

I'm biased; after all, from where I sit as I type this, I can see three Zatanna figurines. But Zatanna and the House of Secrets is one of the best of the DC graphic novels for kids and teens. Described below, the books for older readers are rendered in a two-color palette, eg The lovely aquamarines of Black Canary: Ignite are a pleasure to read. The books for older readers are rendered in a two-color palette, eg. The lovely aquamarines of Black Canary: Ignite are a pleasure to read. get 'em all at lexpublib.org!

This upcoming novel stars one Barbara Gordon, alias Batgirl, left anything but helpless when evil strikes. Mera of Atlantis makes a valiant effort and meets a boy named Arthur in this gorgeously drawn YA novel.

Coming soon, this novel follows big top star Dick Grayson before he became Robin the Boy Wonder. 13-year-old Dinah Lance wants to be 1) a rock star, and 2) a cop— if she doesn’t get kicked out of school! Young Bruce Wayne gets his first bad girl crush when he's swept away in to Gotham City. A reforged Batman fights a brutal past hot on her tail.

The lovely aquamarines of Black Canary: Ignite are a pleasure to read. Get 'em all at lexpublib.org!
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Summer of Love, and the killing is easy. Well, two summers past, actually. 1970, the year the Fab Four fell apart, and they weren’t alone. “This dark cloud over the city,” as Johnny the guitarist says. “Like the dream died.” But Johnny’s dreams of being a star do come true. His songs are hits. Literally— they’re based on the murders Johnny’s done for hire. Meanwhile, Johnny’s bar buddy Jackie the private eye takes on a case and cops a cig from juvenile delinquent Lucy. Once Jackie’s Uncle Raul shows up, everyone’s locked in the Killer Groove (Aftershock). Fans of 100 Bullets and David Lapham will grok this hard-boiled hippie noir by Masters and Marron and its jaundiced look at thewaning of the Love Generation. Bohemia never dies, though. It just mutates. Moa is a modern girl in the modern world and it’s bringing her down. She’s chasing all the latest thrills and taking all the latest pills. Panic is her addiction, anxiety her art. Sadly, that doesn’t get her into art school. Happily, Moa swipes her way into the affections of a famous TV star. Most of Goblin Girl (Fantagraphics) concerns Moa’s on-again/off-again relationship with the older man who would be her lover, but settles for being her patron. But all that action takes place offline and online. We see the affair blossom and wilt in a series of texts hilariously dissected by Moa and her gal pals. Moa the character is a hot mess moving through Moa Romanova the cartoonist’s wiggly world. Romanova’s art comes on like a manga version of the film Yellow Submarine, a loopy deco style with a creative balance of color and black & white.

is the last of its kind. At least it’s pretty to look at, the larger European format giving Caspar Wijngaard’s art and Mary Safro’s colors room to breathe. Ben Passmore’s got no problem smothering the page with detail and action in the tradition of his underground forebears. Passmore’s hyperactive style shows just how much Sports Is Hell. As an after-game riot explodes into revolution and reaction, the creator of My Black Friend jumps head first without a helmet into the mad vortex of tribalism, sadism and capitalism that is sports in America. Helena Bertinelli ain’t playin’. Waging a vendetta against the gangsters who murdered her family, the former Mafia princess takes on the guise of the Huntress! The canonical origin story, this tie-in with the Harley Quinn movie reprints the mini-series by Rick Burchett and mystery maven Greg Rucka. Reserve it from lexpublib.org!

A Silver Age footnote, Peter Cannon, Thunderbolt was created by ex-cop cartoonist Pat Morisi. The character stood out on the crowded stands of the Sixties thanks to Morisi’s stylish artwork and the hero’s stark, stylish costume. But the character’s real claim to fame is that he, along with his colleagues in Charlton’s “Action Heroes” line, inspired the game-changing graphic novel Watchmen. Moore & Gibbon’s wizardry transformed Peter Cannon into Ozymandias. Both commentary and rebuke, the outsized influence of Watchmen provoked further meta-fictional takes on costumed heroes, to the point that now most comics are about comics. The snake chews up a few more feet of tail with Peter Cannon: Thunderbolt—Watch (Dynamite). Written by Kieron (Wicked & Divine) Gillen, it’s about the OG Peter Cannon rumbling with his Ozymandian doppel-ganger, a despotic representation of “the dangers of unrelenting deconstruction.” I second that emotion, with hope that Watch

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