

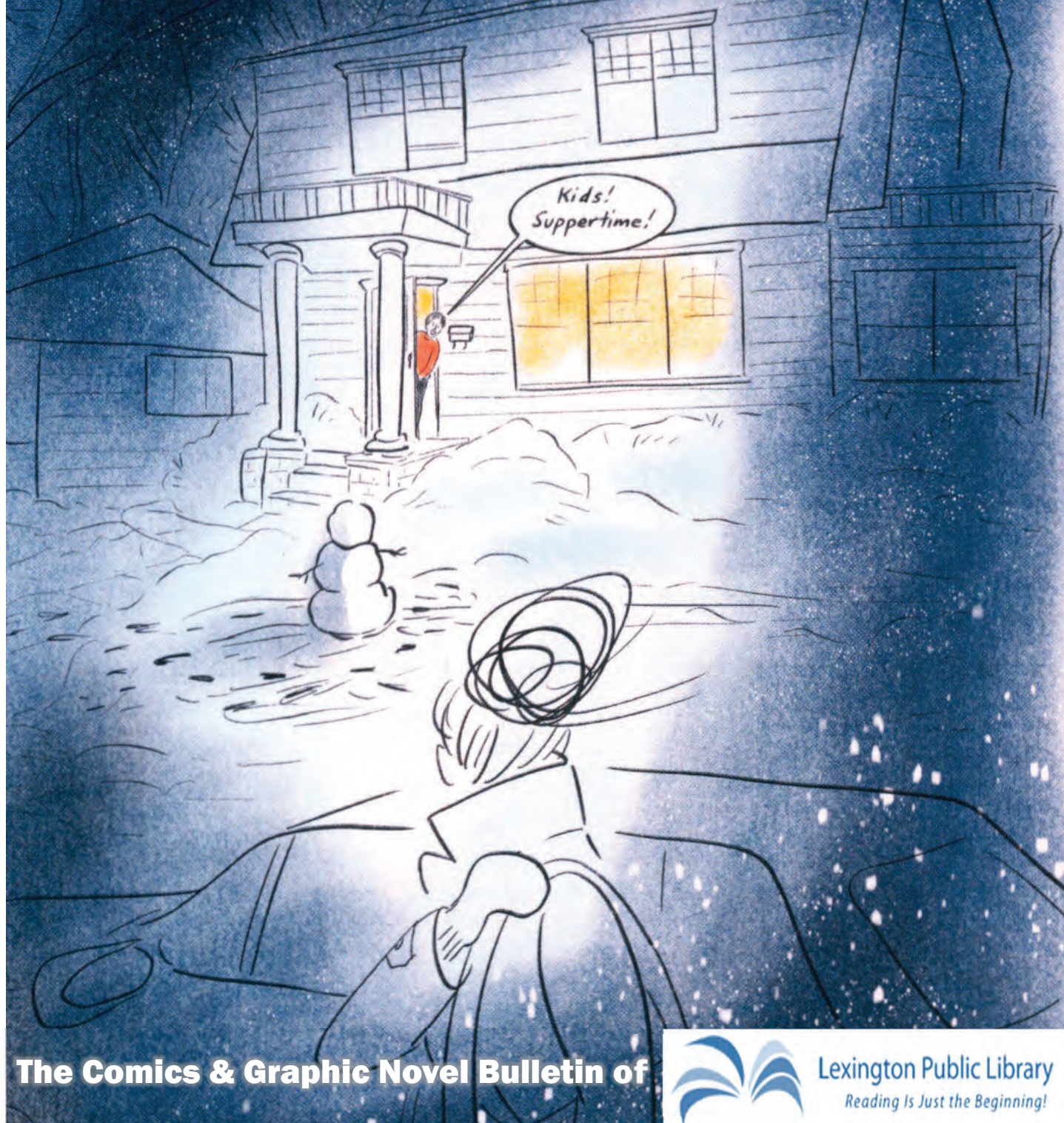
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CHILL OUT

**POLAR VORTEX * SUNFLOWERS
BARKING * TRACES OF MADNESS
& OTHER COOL COMICS ABOUT HOTHEADS**

SEPTEMBER 2024 NO. 124

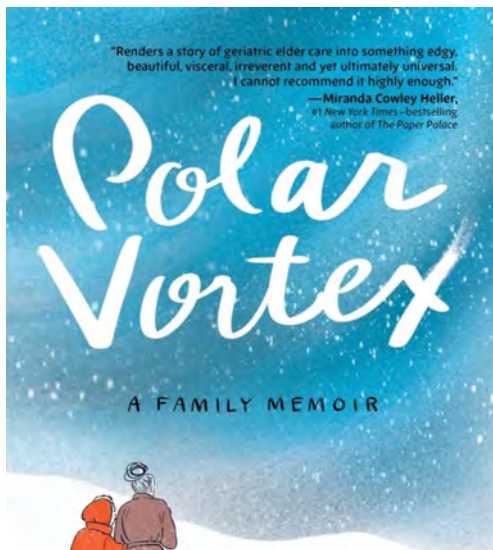
PLUS: ANTARCTICA & PALOOKAVILLE



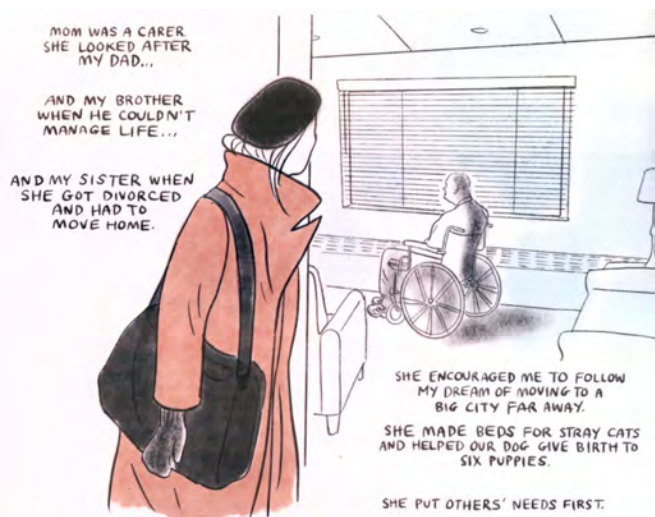
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
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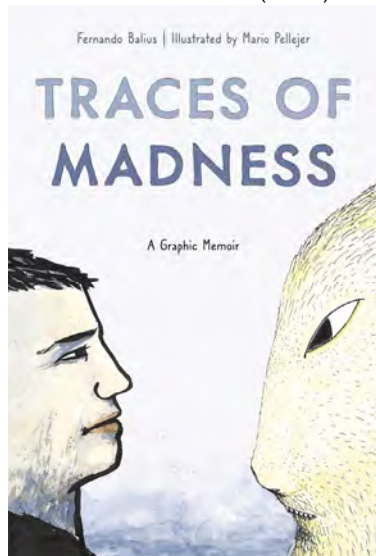
Denise Dorrance has lived a romantic life of the arts overseas, far from home. But Dad is dead, and Mom is fading, and Sis is happy where she is, far from Denise. When her mother is overcome with dementia, Denise must return home to take care of her. Just in time for them both to be trapped within a polar vortex. Dorrance's wintry palette brings a chill to every page as mother and daughter navigate the flurry of the broken past and uncertain future.



"I have bipolar 1 disorder, which comes with occasional severe manic psychotic episodes, as well as periodic long episodes of severe depression. I wasn't able to work full time in a normal job...so art became the only real way for me to make money. But it was also the thing that gave me the most happiness, and when I was stable, I was so fulfilled and so enthusiastic about my work, it became obvious that this was where I was meant to be...getting to a good place with it meant getting my illness under control, but now that I'm here, there's nowhere I'd rather be." How Keezy Young "got there" is the tale told in *Sunflowers*.



Like a lot of bright people who live in their heads, Fernando Balius imagined different voices. The trouble began when the other voices got louder than his own. (above)



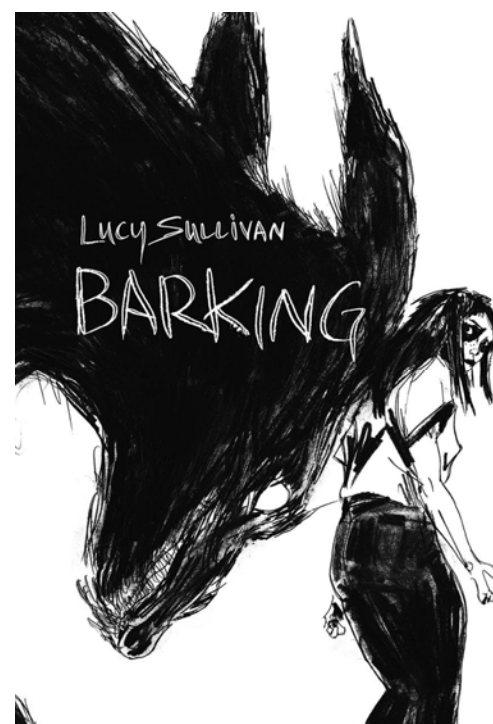
Traces of Madness is the story of Fernando's struggle with the voices. That struggle was complicated by the near-fatal bike accident involving his collaborator, artist Mario Pellejer. All LPL locations possess a copy of this brutally frank yet genuine memoir of mania.



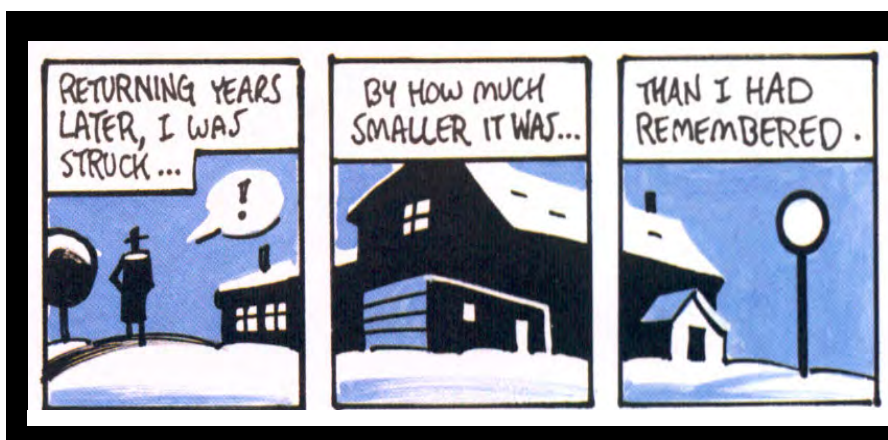
"I don't want her. I want to give her back. Not put her back where she came from, but maybe give her away? So many women yearn for a baby. Will I learn to love her one day? She stole my body. My mental health. My identity. I regret making her. Wanting her....I can tell that she needs me. Calls for me. Wants me. It's too much for me." The next page shows the baby crying her mighty cry as our heroine covers her face with her hands. It's tough going for new mother Sophie Anriksen, with little real help from a clueless, callous world. Artist Mathou leavens those baby blues with a light line and deft use of color in this mental memoir.



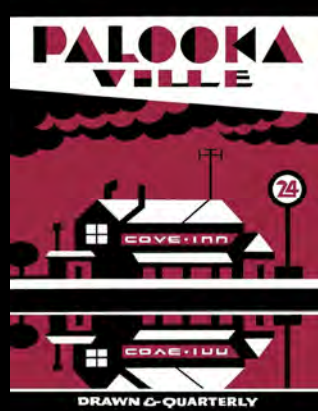
Winston Churchill is famous for embodying the depression that haunted him as a familiar figure from English folklore, the black dog. Fellow Briton Alix is hounded by that same malefic mutt. It's been on her trail since the day her galpal's body was fished out of the river. The men in white coats promise to save Alix from the black dog. But their offer of asylum is a trap that leaves Alix walking cold, colorless rooms with that big black dog at heel. Author Lucy Sullivan draws upon her own history with mental illness in this stark, scourging novel available via lexpublib.org.



All her life, Hannah has been oppressed by Antarctica. First it claimed her beloved father, never to return from the sinister Smith-Petersen Research Station. As a street kid on the highway to hell, Hannah is rescued and retrained by a friend of the family. The same connections get Hannah a gig at the same base where her father disappeared. It's dullsville until it isn't, and Hannah finally sees the ghost in the machine hiding in the darkness at the bottom of the world. A gun-slinging sci-fi political thriller in the vein of *Fringe*, *Black Science* and *Velvet*, *Antarctica Volume 1* is available at all LPL locations!



More than a year late thanks to them supply chain blues, the 24th issue of *Palookaville* is at last available at Beaumont and Central. Canadian national treasure SETH delivers yet another gorgeously designed hard-back book of comics from Drawn & Quarterly. The first part is the fourth chapter of his autobi-



ographical "Nothing Lasts," concerning the local restaurant teen Seth worked. Part 2 explores his new work in puppetry. Part 3 includes experimental strips from his sketchbooks (right). Using simple forms rendered in blunt blacks and broad swathes of color, Seth creates a kind of Fauvist funnybooks.





Who better than **Tom King** to reveal the truth about the United States of America, that from the beginning of our nation, we have had a Sovereign? Beneath the pomp and circumstance of democracy, the Kings of America have been running the show. Forget about the man behind the curtain: the King is the curtain. Perhaps it's inevitable that such a figure would finally get fed up with certain interlopers, namely, Princess Diana of Themyscira and the other ambassadors, immigrants and refugees from Paradise Island. A barroom massacre perpetrated by a wild Amazon is ginned up by the machinery of the State into full on hysteria. Now classified invaders, every Amazon finds herself a target of the United States of America. That includes she who wears the colors of this nation as her own. She's not going quietly, "No thank you." **Tom King** pens the political thriller of the year while the dynamic duo of artist **Daniel Sampere** and colorist **Tomeu Moery** render an often ugly



MEANWHILE

story in beautiful drawings and bright and lively hues. *Wonder Woman V1: Outlaw* is available at all LPL locations. While you're at your favorite location, look for the latest chapter of *Nightmare Country*. This Sandman Universe hardback from DC Black Label continues the story of the Corinthian and his new galpal, Madison Flynn. Murdered by her best friend in the first volume, Flynn is brought back from the dead in the form of a cat, even though she hates cats. Dream of the Endless loves them, though, and he needs Flynn to control the Corinthian. That living nightmare chafes under the heavy hand of the Dream Lord, and the rogue demon Azazel knows it. The former Lord of Hell has an independent gig, a blasphemous bordello called the King of Pain, which currently employs Flynn's dead best friend, whose developed a relationship with all-American saririman Max, who works for the plutocrat whose partnership with alleged angel Moroni got Flynn killed in the first place. In the middle of this mystical *mishegoss* steps the boss witch Thessaly, and now the bodies start to drop. It's a Vertiginously involved story, written by current king of the creeps **James Tynion IV** and drawn with expressionistic fervor by **Lisandro Estherren** and others. If that sounds like a headache, just



jskip all that plot and all those words and embrace the mute magnificence of *Kommix*. The latest release from alt-comix icon **Charles Burns** builds on the sketchbook work shown in the previous *Free Sh*t*. His studies of old school romance comics artist like **Vince Colleta** and pre-Spidey **John Romita Sr.** have come to fruition in the single page drawings that make up this Fantagraphics hardback. Faux love comics like *Unwholesome Romance* and *Teen Diary* replicate the tropes of their pre-Code source material, just with a twist, often something as simple as a missing piece of clothing, that casts a pall of perversity over the hackneyed situations. Then there are the fake covers of magazines from parts unknown, many lettered in a precise mating of Cyrillic and Korean *hangul*. Many of these comics from weirder worlds reference the previously published adventures of Doug, **Burns's** dark-haired doppelganger of Tintin. The contrast of his preternaturally smooth style with its often grotesque subject matter is mesmerizing and, like the work of **David Lynch**, turns the all-American imagery of the Good Life into nightmare fuel. Look for *Kommix* at your favorite LPL location. **Burns's** fellow Smooth Boy **Bryan Hitch** is back with the book that brought him to the dance, *The Ultimates*. But how? The Ultimate Universe was de-



stroyed during the last Secret Wars, though some characters managed to survive, like Miles Morales. And the Maker: that evil Ultimate Reed Richards manages to escape his prison and find a new Universe to live and lord over. His secret plan for a Universe without superheroes keeps running into problems, some from within (that Universe's Reed Richards), some from without (Kang the Conqueror). It's all so **Jonathan Hickman** and **Hitch** can create a new Ultimate Universe, so keep an eye out for new versions of Spidey, Black Panther and the X-men. Meanwhile, *Friday*, the Eisner-winning series by **Ed Brubaker** and **Marcos Martin**, concludes with its third volume. *Christmas Time Is Here Again*, and Friday Fitzhugh gets some answers to the questions dogging her, her lifelong partner Lancelot Jones, and the oddly over-haunted town they grew up in. Can Friday save herself, much less anyone else, when the White Lady rises? Read it now and see!

