

741.5

KIDS

OF ALL AGES!

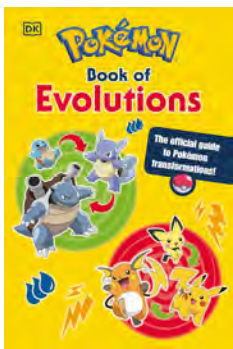
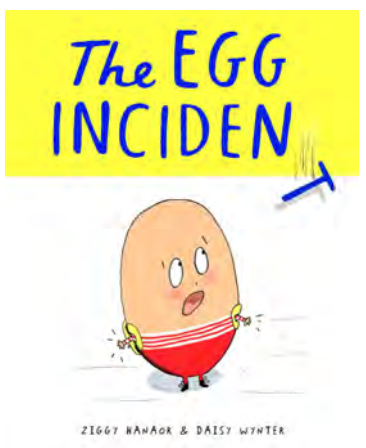
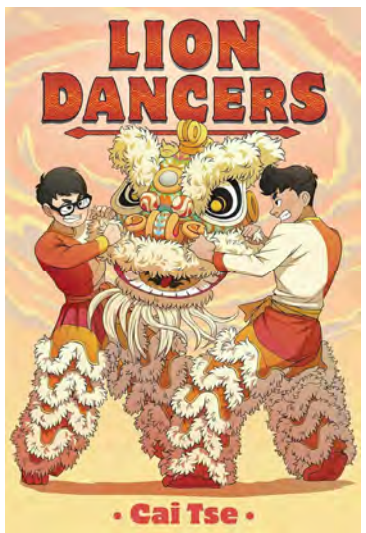
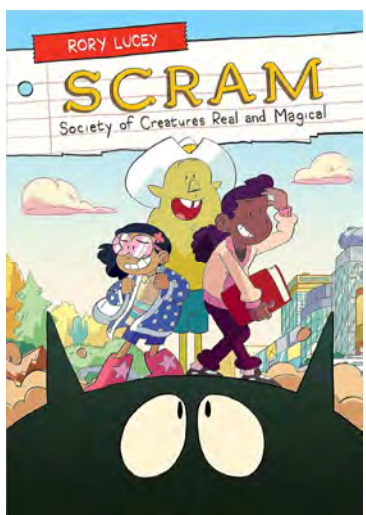
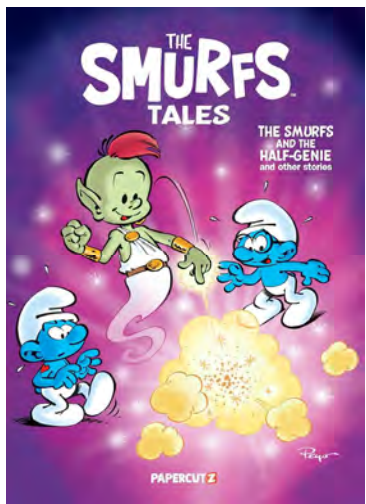
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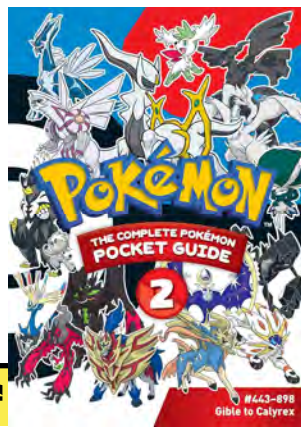
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



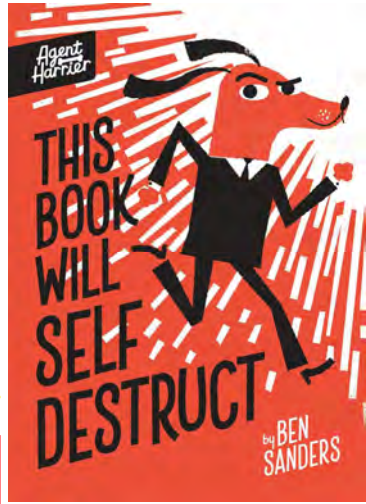
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



The global sensation known as *Pokemon* continues to crank out the product for its ever-hungry audience, especially the kiddie set for which it was originally intended. LPL's Juvenile collections feature three NEW items. *Fired Up for Battle* is basically episodes of the cartoon show transposed to paper, digitally drawn, lettered and colored. *Book of Evolu-*



tions is "the official guide to Pokemon transformations", detailing the symbiotic relationships between characters that are either combinations or mutations of previous Pokemon, like tough guy Pignite's role between the adorable Tepig and the nigh-villainous Emboar. Some stand alone, like the luchador-inspired Hawlucha, an example of how other pop cultures added to the growing mythos described and detailed in V2 of the *Complete Pokemon Pocket Guide*!

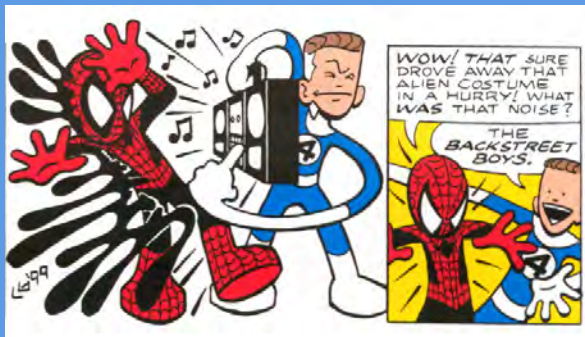


These items are just a few of the multitude of

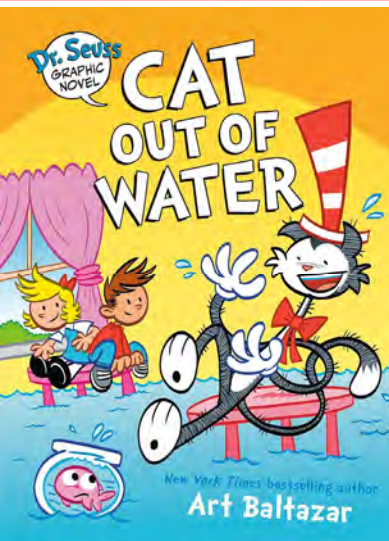
graphic novels for kids of all ages available at LPL



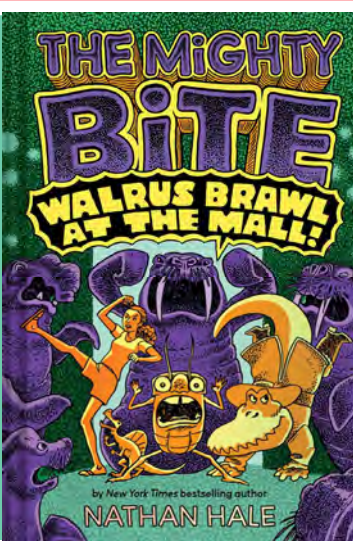
Marvel continues to offer more fun takes on the characters we all know and love intended for younger readers. Chris Giarusso's popular *Mini-Marvels* is reprinted yet again in a new compilation (right). Working with Abrams, Marvel has a new series of picture



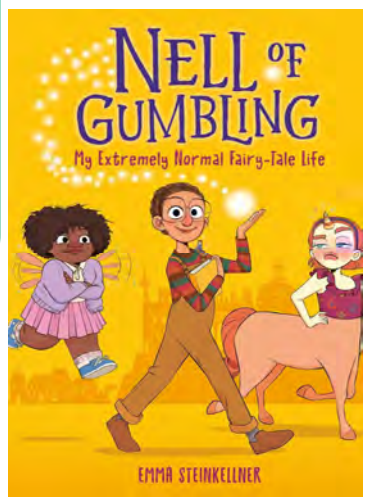
books, "Hello Heroes", beginning with *Captain Marel Soars Above* (above). The long-running *Marvel Team-Up* title is revived in a series of hard-backs for kids written and drawn by Mike Maihack. Look under J 741.5 at your favorite LPL location for #1 and 2!



A good number of kids comics are series. Here's some of the latest editions. Few cartoonists have the chops to take over from Dr. Seuss. Art Baltazar is one of them. His new *Cat Out of Water* takes Doc's famous feline and his nemesis the Fish to colorful new adventures in chaos. With its down-beat hues and fierce characterization, *Gunhild* V2 lives up to the Norse myths it adapts for a new audience. Taking time away from his best-selling



Hazardous Tales historicals, Nathan Hale follows The Mighty Bite and his friends as they rumble with risible rival Opabinia while facing down an island of truly peeved pinnipeds. *Sophie* lives two lives. In one, she's a dog; in the other, she's a dog who goes to space, fights ninjas and yeti, and brings *Frankenstein's Hound* to life. Meanwhile, the teen trio behind *Hellaween* (see 741.5 #106) must confront the curfew that their own actions inspired!



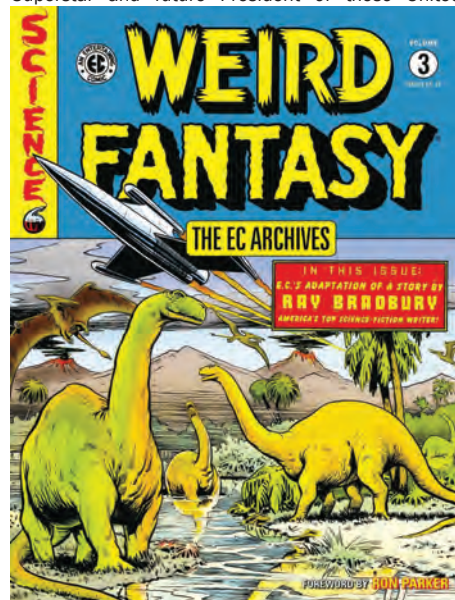


Al Ewing is the writer responsible for the (Hulk) smash-hit *The Immortal Hulk*. Taking the Green Goliath back to his monstrous roots, **Ewing** and his co-creators published the most intense Hulk comics in decades. Now **Ewing**'s been charged with working the same magic on another Marvel heavy-hitter. *The Immortal Thor* acknowledges the changes that the Odinson has gone through the last several years. But **Ewing** ditches the external signifiers of those changes to get Thor back to basics. Gone are the chain mail, the beard, all the weapons that aren't the enchanted hammer Mjolnir. Thor looks like the classic Thor from the 7-11 cups. But he has done a lot of growing up, as shown by his craft and cunning when dealing with the primordial storm god threatening Midgard as *All Weather Turns to Storm*, available at Beaumont and Eastside. Now head honcho of the DC Cinematic Universe, former Marvel-mine-maker **James**



MEANWHILE

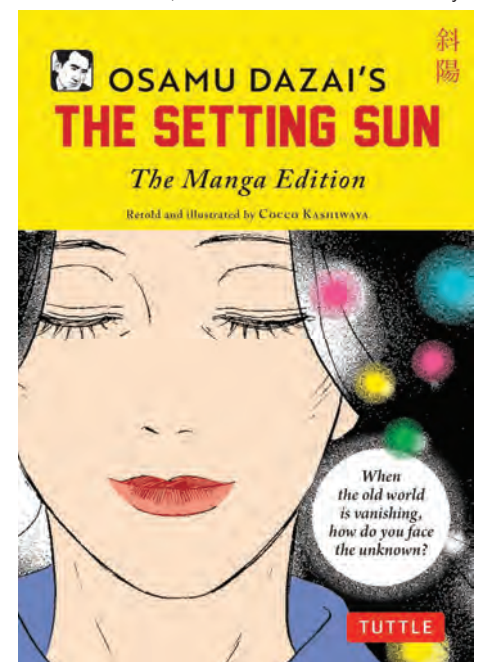
Gunn showed he had the stuff to revive the moribund franchise with his surprise hit, *The Suicide Squad*. He furthered his plans for the DCU in the HBO Max spin-off starring the unexpected fan fave from said film, *Peacemaker*. The red-headed stepchild of the Charlton "action heroes" purchased by DC back in the 80s, *Peacemaker* had languished for years while his former label-mates *Blue Beetle*, *Captain Atom* and the *Question* found fame and fortune in the DCU. **Gunn** used *Peacemaker*, who "loves peace so much he'll kill for it," to mock all the gun-toting tools infesting comics since the success of the *Punisher*. *Peacemaker Tries Hard!* follows that satirical formula as *Peacemaker* finds a friend, only to lose him to the machinations of the *Brain* and *Monsieur Mallah*. **Steve Pugh** has a ball drawing the outrageous ultraviolence, including a page full of *Deathstroke* babies, while **Kyle (Where Monsters Lie) Starks** walks a tightrope between bombastic burlesque and actual emotional involvement with the damaged little boy inside the jacked-up superman. And, of course, there's the kick of reading *Peacemaker*'s dialogue in the voice of the man who plays him on TV, *WWE* Superstar and future President of these United



States **John Cena**. Read it quietly, though—this is a DC Black Label book, thus recommended for Mature Readers at all LPL locations. The self-parody of which *Peacemaker Tries Hard!* is a prime example has its roots in *MAD* magazine and the company that created it, *Entertaining Comics*. Long before the debut of that ground-breaking title, *EC* satirized itself and the comics industry. Early examples include "The Expert" and "The Ad". These two "EC Quickies" drawn by **Joe Orlando** featured *EC* publisher **William Gaines** and editor **Al Feldstein** as lead characters and riffed on the difficulty of coming up with plots for the sci-fi books. That often led to the boys swiping ideas from their favorite writers, like **Ray Bradbury**. When **Bradbury** cold busted them, **Ray** and *EC* cut a deal. *Weird Fantasy* #17 was the first to feature a cover blurb touting the official collaboration, beginning with **Wallace Wood**'s stunning adaptation of "There Will Come Soft Rains". Those stories are found in *Weird Fantasy* Volume 3 from *Dark Horse*. Volume 4 sees **Joe Orlando** replace **Wood** as lead artist while contributors as diverse as **Reed Crandall**, **Will Elder** and **Bernie Krystein** bring their special talents to what becomes *Weird Science Fantasy*, as market realities forced *EC* to combine its science fiction titles. V4 also includes *EC*'s notorious "Flying Saucer Report," the first serious treatment of the phenomenon in comics,



available at all LPL locations. In comparison to the 1950s, when cowboy comics dominated the newsstands, Westerns have become a rarity in the American market. So imagine our delight when *The Enfield Gang Massacre* arrived on LPL shelves at Central and Marksburg. True, it had to sneak in under the auspices of the *Image* horror series, *That Texas Blood*. But it's still a Western, albeit in the vein of "revisionist Westerns" like *The Wild Bunch* and *Hour of the Gun*. A founding myth of *Ambrose County*, the crime and punishment of the infamous *Enfield Gang* is shown in all its grisly reality by artist **Jacob Phillips**. A quiet elegance distinguishes **Cocco Kashiwaya**'s adaptation of **Osamu Dazai's** *The Setting Sun* (*Tuttle*) from most manga. Not a line is wasted as the best-selling artist tells the story of poor little rich girl *Kazuko* as she and her family face the rough realities of postwar democratic Japan. Check it out at Central, Beaumont and Marksburg!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpublib.org under the READING SERVICES tab!