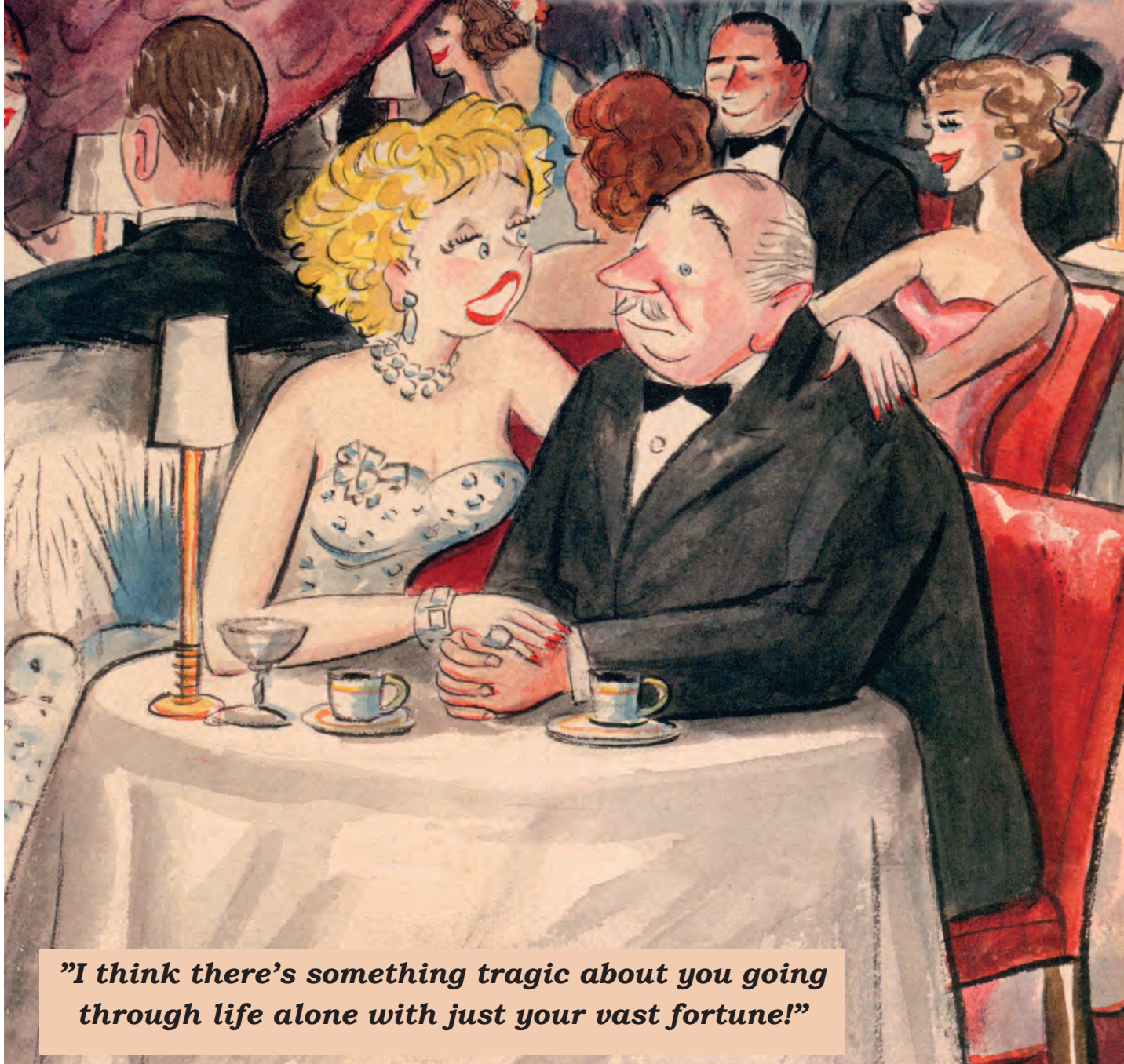


741.5

SWING SISTERS

MARCH 2025 NO. 136

BARBARA SHERMUND*KATE CAREW
& THE SURREAL SAGA OF UNICA ZURN

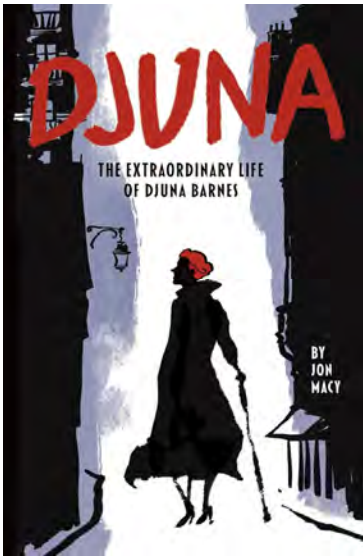


"I think there's something tragic about you going through life alone with just your vast fortune!"

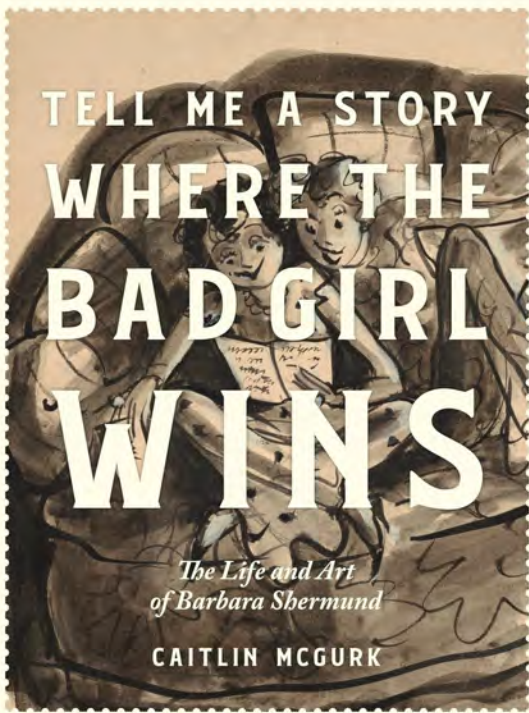
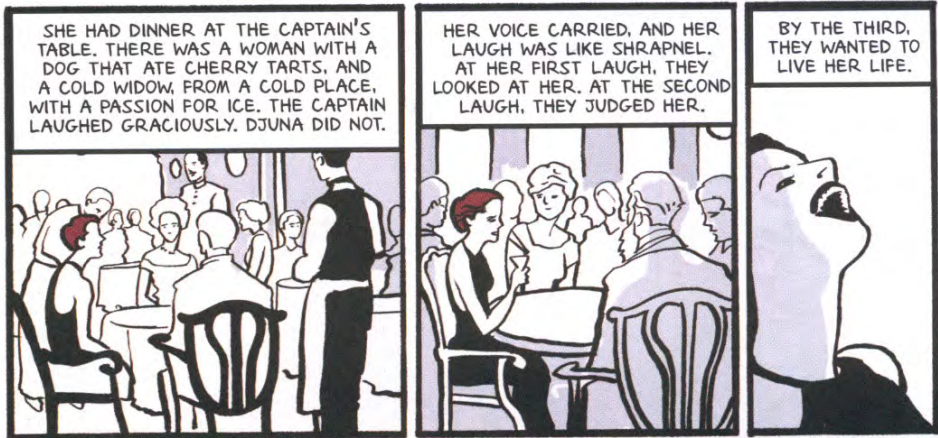
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



She made headlines as one of the first female reporters...went to jail for publishing James Joyce's *Ulysses*...hung out with the leaders of the Dada movement...and set the standard for independent and creative women...*Djuna Barnes did indeed live an Extraordinary Life!*



By the time she passed in 1978, Barbara Shermund had been forgotten. A living embodiment of the New Woman born of the early 20th Century, Shermund had been one of the original contributors to the *New Yorker* (below left), a cover artist for best-selling magazines like *Esquire* and *Judge* (right), and sought after for commercial campaigns such as her work for Pepsi-Cola (below). Revel in the revival of a true legend in this Oversize beauty available at Central and Tates Creek.



"And I can see what your hobby is."



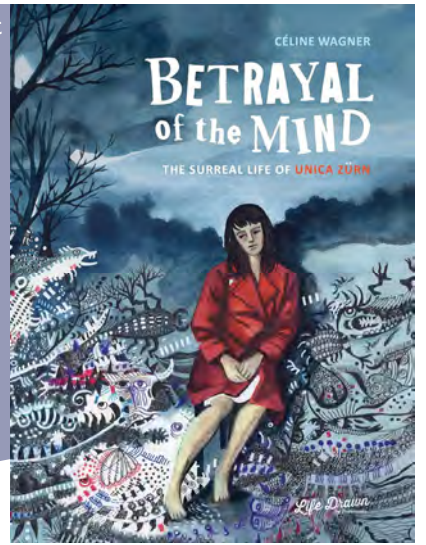
"He's the gentleman who came up to complain about the noise!"



Fandom's favorite Bad Girl...or is she so Bad, she's Good?...**HARLEY QUINN** is back, with two volumes of her regular title and an exquisitely eclectic sequel to her best-selling **BATMAN HARLEY QUINN BLACK & WHITE & REDDER**. First, Harley dies. That leaves her trusted side-kick Kevin no choice but to dip Harley in a Lazarus Pit. Now Quinn's back from the dead, and hardcore hi-jinx ensue as she tries to find out **Who Killed Harley Quinn?**



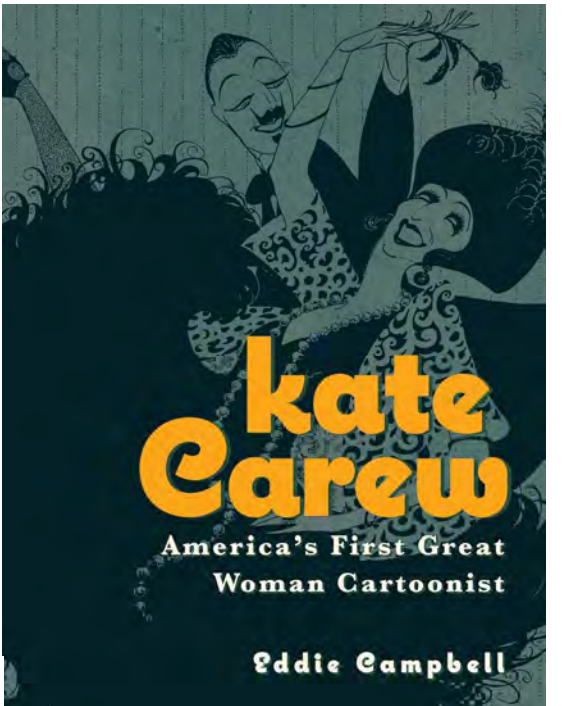
Unica Zurn was a Surrealist inside and out. Her work in automatic drawing and word art equaled that of peers such as Ernst and Braque. But an abusive childhood and haunted womanhood bent and eventually broke Zurn, as shown in this beautifully rendered bio.



That's Auguste Rodin in the drawing left. Yeah, the *Thinker* guy. He's just one of many luminaries interviewed by Kate Carew, *America's First Great Woman Cartoonist* (Fanta-graphics Underground). Ethel Barrymore, writer Bret Harte, boxer Jack Johnson, even Mark Twain—these and other newsmakers were questioned and caricatured by "Aunt Kate," who often put herself in the middle of the action. Like her peers such as George Herriman and Tad Dorgan, Carew also created daily and Sunday comic strips (below). A lifelong theater buff (below right), Kate Carew made all the world her stage as you'll see @ lexpublib.org!



Harley's contribution to the Dawn of DC is *Girl In A Crisis*. A multiversal Crisis, that is, as reality hangs in the balance unless Harley Quinn, of all people, can set things straight. Sweeny Boo's gloriously colorful and cartoony art perfectly captures the transdimensional experience, especially when Harley teams up with funny animal hero Captain Carrot! Then Harley has to deal with the *Knight Terrors*, and finally has a heart-to-heart with her hyenas!





As discussed in the “Meanwhile” feature for 741.5 #124, writer **Tom King**, who never met a paradigm he didn’t want to shift, has set the full force of the American government against all Amazons, including and especially *Wonder Woman*. *Sacrifice* continues that shocking saga with Diana under the thumb of the Sovereign who secretly rules the U.S.A. Using a Lasso of Lies just as strong— and unbreakable— as Wonder Woman’s Lasso of Truth, the Sovereign tries to break the Princess of Power. Diana finds herself trapped in a candy-colored fantasy of domestic tranquility that will remind readers of the similar tropes explored and exposed in **King’s** *Love Everlasting* (see #92). Meanwhile, *Wonder Woman* and *Superman* hit the intergalactic shopping



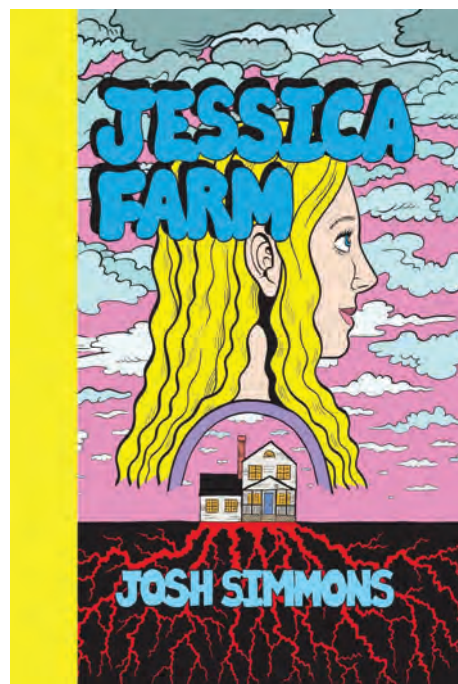
MEANWHILE

mall in the vain hopes of finding the perfect gift for Batman’s birthday. Whether ruled by a Sovereign or a government in which the People are sovereign, America has essentially conquered the world. In *Earth Divers*, that’s lead to a world near beyond saving. Born in a culture imprisoned by the aristocracy of wealth and on a planet poisoned by unchecked capitalism, a group of youths, all descendants of First Nations peoples, find a hole in time. That gives the kids a Big Idea: if the world is being brought to an ugly end by America, then the best way to save it is to kill America in the cradle. The attempt to murder Columbus didn’t work, so in V3, one of the kids goes back to 1776. She learns that Ben Franklin had his heart in the right place, but the other Founding Fathers were utter blackguards. Will she succeed in snuffing out the lamp of liberty at the moment it’s being lit? Reserve this thought-provoking IDW series from Beaumont and Central and see! In comparison



to all the fantastical *mishegoss* of the other items on this page, the simple, everyday crisis at the heart of *Bald* is almost refreshing. Writer **Tereza Čechova** starts losing her hair. A little, at first. Then more. And more. She’s eventually diagnosed with alopecia — yes, the condition that led to the Slap Heard Around the World. **Čechova** lays bare not only the personal dynamics engendered— and they are indeed engendered— by her condition, but the history of hair and all its symbolism. The two-tone art by **Štěpánka Jislova** is very clean and modern, just like the author once she embraces her situation and shaves her head. Get *Bald* at Central and Northside. In stark raving contrast, the art of author **Josh Simmons** is very cluttered and primitive, which is all too fitting for his latest, *Jessica Farm*. The titular heroine wakes up Christmas morning and makes her way downstairs to open her presents. It’s an oneiric odyssey fraught with desire and danger, a real freak scene recommended for Mature Readers. Get it at lexpublib.org!

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Meanwhile, the Image series *Monstress* has reached its ninth volume of ferocious feminine fantasy. Returning from the prison planet where they had spent most of V8, our trio of heroines find things have got from bad to worse back home in the Known World. While the forces of good find refuge in the unsure safety of the Spice Islands, the mainland burns before the rampage of the man made god, the malevolent Lord Doctor. Leastways, that what Ye Editor thinks is going on. I’ve not kept up with the series, so I just sat back and enjoyed the ride, digging on all the talking animals, especially the angry but super-cute cat people, and tripping balls on the swirly girly artwork of **Sana Takeda**. Another hit from **Marjorie Liu**, *The Possessed* is available at all locations.



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