

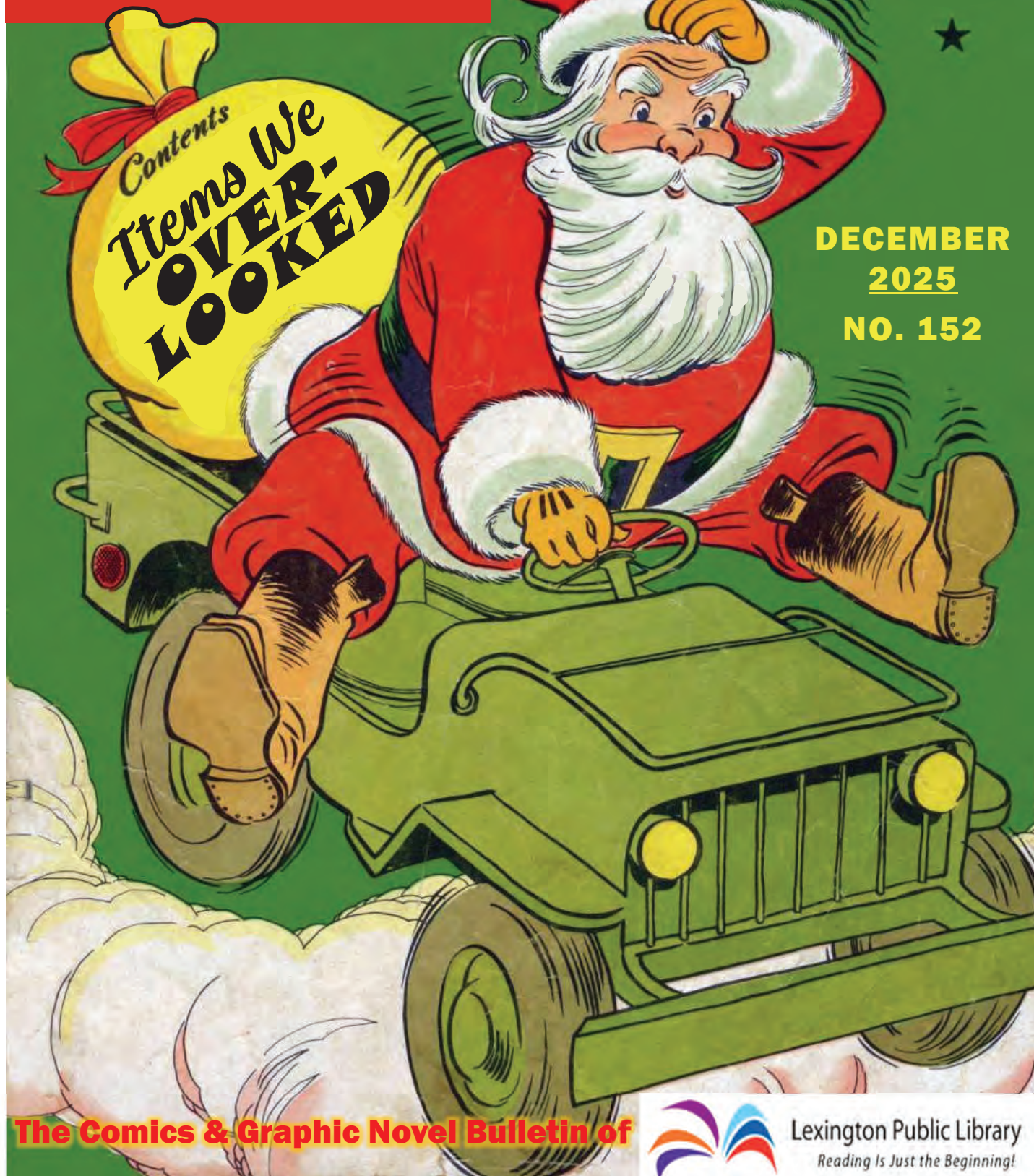
# 741.5

## SANTA'S GRAB-BAG!

Contents  
**Items We  
OVER-  
LOOKED**

**DECEMBER  
2025**

**NO. 152**



**The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of**



**Lexington Public Library**  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*





Candidly, this and ZOWIE!, both from the fine TwoMorrows imprint, actually came out in 2024. But LPL didn't get them until early 2025, so here we are, finally giving them the attention they deserve. Intended for hardcore nerds like



Ye Editor, *Marvel Comics in the Early 1960s* describes the development of the Marvel Universe issue by issue, from the early days of Kirby kaiju to the mid-decade world-building crossovers that turned even Western and war comics into superheroic sagas.



Readers who were kids in the 1960s should fondly remember the game "Mousetrap." The complicated contraption that was the ultimate goal of the game was based on the work of cartoonist **Rube Goldberg**. His comedic inventions (example left from Rube's USPS stamp) were a satire of the technological mentality that swept America in the

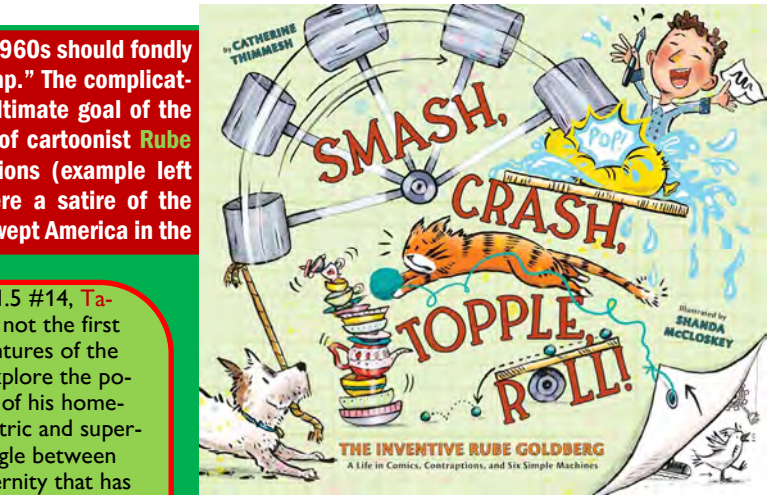


Marvel Premier Collection  
**BLACK PANTHER**  
A NATION UNDER OUR FEET  
TA-NEHISI COATES · BRIAN STELFREEZE · CHRIS SPROUSE  
FOREWORD BY KILLER MIKE

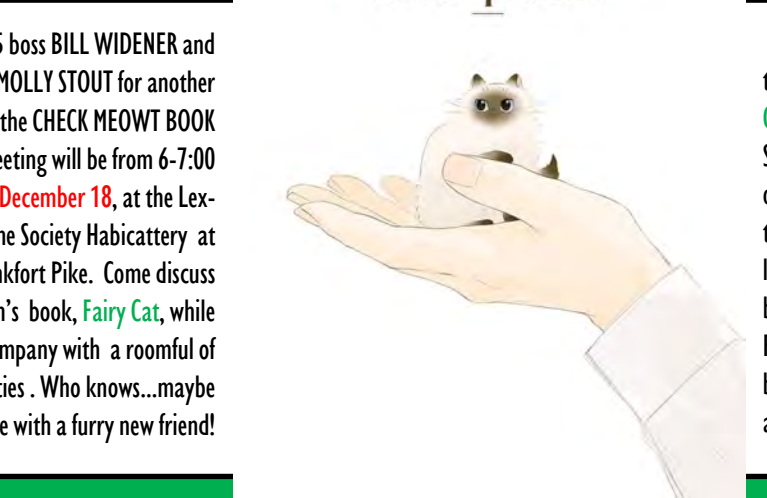
Known for her literary satires and her award-winning *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands*, **Kate Beaton** has a side gig: kid's books. Her latest, *Shark Girl*, is a wildly colorful tale that shows Beaton's new confidence with drawing and painting. Below: seeking to infiltrate the enemy, a cruel, over-fishing humanity, our heroine is transformed by the Sea Witch!



It's eerie how much horror has become mainstream. And how much of that product goes for the grins as much as the grims. Take the *Marvel Zombies* franchise...please! The idea of turning the good guys of the Marvel Universe into gut-munching revenants always had a touch of parody to it, but the new graphic novel for kids (!), *Dawn of Decay*, takes it all the way into pure farce as Groot sneezes up an infestation of undead Avengers!



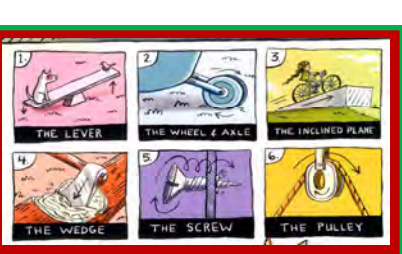
As discussed in 741.5 #14, **Ta-Nehisi Coates** was not the first writer of the adventures of the Black Panther to explore the political ramifications of his homeland. Both Afrocentric and super-scientific, the struggle between tradition and modernity that has caused so much upheaval through-out Africa is cranked to 11 in Wakanda. Ancient loyalties fray as new powers arise in the shadow of skyscrapers, the depths of the jungle. The first of the Marvel Premier Collections devoted to important storylines, *A Nation Under Our Feet* is a must-read.



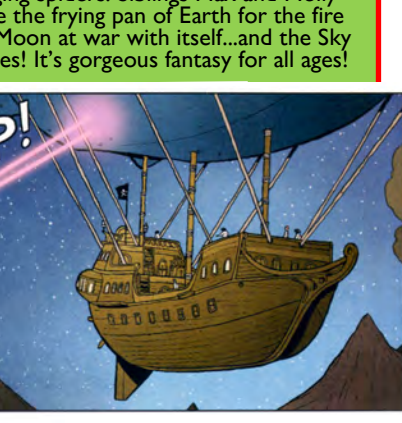
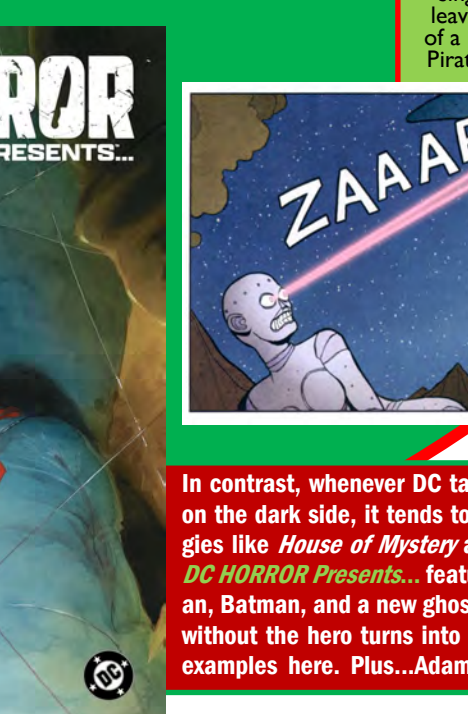
early 20th Century. His gimmicks were so popular, his name became an adjective for machinery "designed to accomplish very simple tasks in the most complicated way possible," as discussed in *Smash, Crash, Topple, Roll!* A fun mix of biography, comics and blue-prints, it's available under J 621.815 T348s!

Strips starring super-powered animals have been a part of comics from the beginning, from Hoppy the Marvel Bunny to the Terrific Whatsit to Peter Porker the Amazing Spider-Ham. *Hero-bear and the Kid* are worthy successors. Tween Tyler inherits an old watch and a stuffed bear from his beloved grandpa. At first unimpressed with *The Inheritance*, Tyler changes his tune when the tiny toy transforms into a talking polar bear. In a cape. With powers. Former animator **Mike Kunkel** brings a breathless sense of motion to his drawings while his story captures the rough'n'tumble realities of a little boy's life.

Register online at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) and go to Beaumont to pick up a copy of *Fairy Cat* by **Hisa Takano**. Published by Seven Seas, *Fairy Cat* is the sweet, simple story of Kanade, a young man who sees something he shouldn't see: a fairy cat! It looks like a regular long-haired Siamese, but fits in the palm of Kanade's hand. Fascinated by this visitation, Kanade becomes obsessed with winning the affection of this otherworldly kitty!



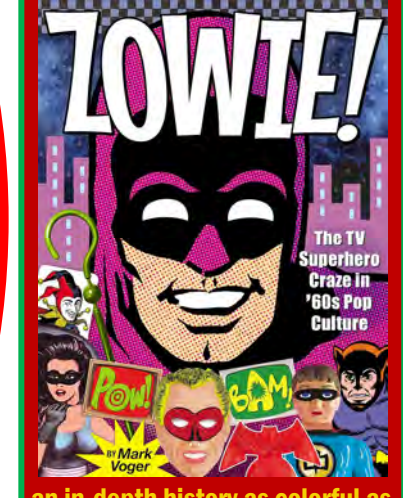
Yes, that's a dirigible tricked out like a 17th Century pirate ship getting eye-beamed by a shapely giant robot lady (who's actually really nice once you get to know her). It's a perfect image to get across the sheer clunky, clanky wonder of *The Moon Prince*. Best known for his grown-up creeper *The Rough Pearl*, **Kevin Fraser Munch** creates a YA steampunk novel set in the Moon of Poe's hoax, peopled with batmen, blue monkeys and singing spiders. Siblings Max and Molly leave the frying pan of Earth for the fire of a Moon at war with itself...and the Sky Pirates! It's gorgeous fantasy for all ages!



In contrast, whenever DC takes its iconic superheroes for a walk on the dark side, it tends to follow the format of classic anthologies like *House of Mystery* and *The Unexpected*. The compilation *DC Horror Presents...* features short stories about Wonder Woman, Batman, and a new ghost hunter. Of course, a superhero story without the hero turns into a horror tale, and there's some good examples here. Plus...Adam Strange forgets to wipe his shoes!



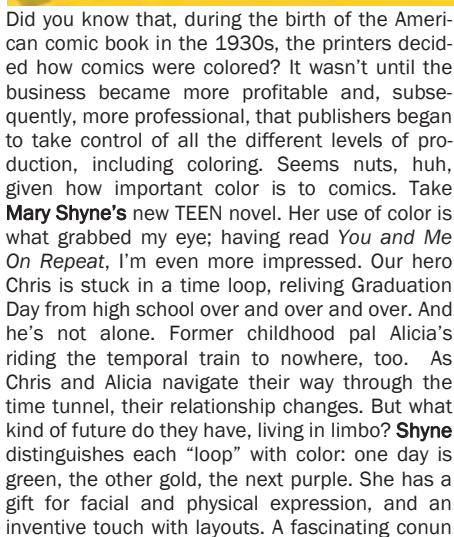
The wider world had noticed superheroes were making a comeback. But it wasn't until ABC broadcast *Batman* in 1966 that costumed characters became a cultural phenomenon. ZOWIE! Is



an in-depth history as colorful as those glorious days, when comics fed TV and TV fed comics in turn (above), from the Mighty Crusaders to the Mighty Heroes, BatFink to Rat Pfink, and more!





The cover art features a dynamic composition of DC superheroes. Superman is at the top left, flying towards the viewer. Batman is positioned below him, also in flight. Wonder Woman is on the right, holding her lasso. Other characters like Flash and Aquaman are visible in the lower half. The background consists of large, stylized yellow and red triangles pointing outwards, creating a sense of motion and energy. The DC logo is in the bottom left corner.

**DC** **FINEST**

**EVENTS:**

**ZERO HOUR**

**CRISIS IN TIME PART TWO**

DAN JURGENS | JERRY ORDWAY

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