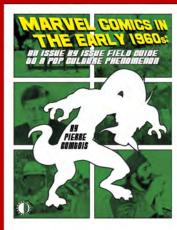




from the fine TwoMorrows imprint actually came out in 2024. But LPL didn't get them until early 2025,so here we are, finally giving them the attention they deserve. ntended for hardcore nerds like



Ye Editor, Marvel Comics in the Early 1960s describes the devel opment of the Marvel Universe ssue by issue, from the early days of Kirby kaiju to the mid-decade world-building crossovers that





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



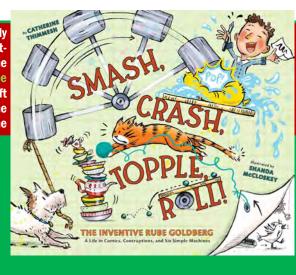
As discussed in 741.5 #14, Talehisi Coates was not the first writer of the adventures of the Back Panther to explore the political ramifications of his homeand. Both Afrocentric and superscientific, the struggle between tradition and modernity that has caused so much upheaval through out Africa is cranked to 11 in Wakanda. Ancient loyalties fray as new powers arise in the shadow of skyscrapers, the depths of the ungle. The first of the Marvel remier Collections devoted to mportant storylines, A Nation Inder Our Feet is a must-read.

## **BLACK PANTHER** A NATION UNDER OUR FEET

TA-NEHISI COATES · BRIAN STELFREEZE · CHRIS SPROUSE

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!

Join 741.5 boss BILL WIDENER and Beaumont's MOLLY STOUT for another fine edition of the CHECK MEOWT BOOK CLUB! The meeting will be from 6-7:00 PM, Thursday December 18, at the Lexington Humane Society Habicattery at 1600 Old Frankfort Pike. Come discuss this month's book, Fairy Cat, while keeping company with a roomful of charming kitties. Who knows...maybe you'll leave with a furry new friend!





STORY & ART | HISA TAKANO



Register online at 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!

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 blueprints, it's available under J 621.815 T348s!

Strips starring super-powered

nimals have been a part of com-ics from the beginning, from Hoppy the Marvel Bunny to the

Ferrific Whatsit to Peter Porker

the Amazing Spider-Ham. Hero-bear and the Kid are worthy suc-

cessors. Tween Tyler inherits an

from his beloved grandpa. At first

tiny toy transforms into a talking

polar bear. In a cape. With pow-

ers. Former animator Mike Kun-kel brings a breathless sense of

motion to his drawings while his story captures the rough'n'tum-ble realities of a little boy's life.

unimpressed with The Inheritance, Tyler changes his tune when the

old watch and a stuffed bear













PAPERCUTES\*

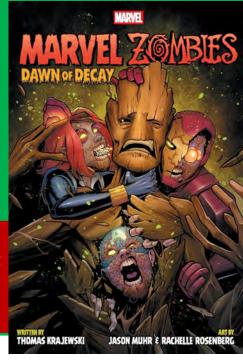
es, that's a dirigible tricked out like a 17th Century pirate ship getting eye-beamed by a shapely giant robot lady (who's actually really nice once you get to know her). It's a perfect image to get across the sheer clunky, clanky wonder of The Moon Prince. Best known for his grown-up creeper The Rough 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!



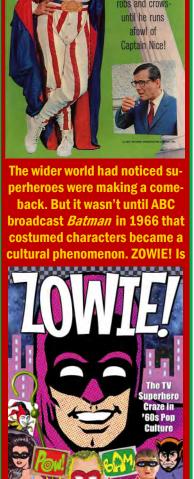
In contrast, whenever DC takes its iconic superheroes for a walk on the dark side, it tends to follow the format of classic anthologies like House of Mystery and The Unexpected. The compilation DC HORROR Presents... features short stories about Wonder Woman, Batman, and a new ghost hunter. Of course, 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!



t'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!









Did you know that, during the birth of the American comic book in the 1930s, the printers decided how comics were colored? It wasn't until the business became more profitable and, subsequently, more professional, that publishers began to take control of all the different levels of production, including coloring. Seems nuts, huh, given how important color is to comics. Take Mary Shyne's new TEEN novel. Her use of color is what grabbed my eye; having read You and Me On Repeat, I'm even more impressed. Our hero Chris is stuck in a time loop, reliving Graduation Day from high school over and over and over. And he's not alone. Former childhood pal Alicia's riding the temporal train to nowhere, too. As Chris and Alicia navigate their way through the time tunnel, their relationship changes. But what kind of future do they have, living in limbo? Shyne distinguishes each "loop" with color: one day is green, the other gold, the next purple. She has a gift for facial and physical expression, and an



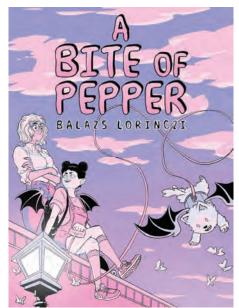
## **MEANWHILE**

drum, a touching love story, You and Me On Repeat is one of the best graphic novels of 2025, available at Central. That location joins Beaumont and Tates Creek in hosting the latest adventures of DC's ecological antiheroine, Poison Ivy. We last saw Pamela Isley rising from the dead after winning a fatal victory over her mentor, Jason Woodrue AKA the Floronic Man and his army of fungal zombies. It was the Green that brought her back, but the Gray wants a word with her, too. Seems everybody wants a piece of Poison Ivy, including a new mob of youthful radicals and the former ally behind them. G. Willow Wilson provides the script for some gorgeous art in Poison Ivy: Human Botany. Plus...Croc in love! Meanwhile, as we wait for the pipeline to unclog and cough up that fat stack of DC Finest tomes, let's consider one that showed up: Crisis in Time, part two of DC's Big Event, Zero Hour. Frankly, it's like looking at pix from that party where your old pal who ended up an addict did his first line of blow. You just wanna



grab him and scream "NO!!! Don't do it, dude!" Nonetheless, snorrrrfff! Now, years down the line, after so many series and characters and storylines have been wasted, weakened and waylaid by the now-obligatory Summer Events that followed, one can see Zero Hour as Patient Zero for this apparently incurable affliction. As noted in 741.5 #133, Zero Hour was intended as a sequel to DC's blockbuster Crisis On Infinite Earths, which itself was meant to clean up the multiversal mess of DC continuity. It was a big mess, though, leaving room for cosmic cut-up Extant to interfere with the tangled time-line created by the collapse of all them Earths. Jurgens, Ordway, et al, might have pulled it off if not for the fact that Zero Hour was published in the mid-Nineties, AKA the Age of Extreme. The artwork is that loud, overwrought style common to the Image-wannabe impulses of the era. Speaking of Impulse, the story is slopping over with annoying new INTENSE AND EXTREME!!! characters like him, juvie Superboy, and those deservedly short-lived versions of Fate and Manhunter seen on the cover with their more successful littermate Starman. If after that screed you still have an itch to read Zero Hour Part 2, get it from Eastside. Our TEEN sec-

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tions are filled with some really cute comics. There's Pizza Witch, Blades of Furry (about, yes, ice-skating animals), and A Bite of Pepper (Simon & Shuster). Scots by way of Hungary, Balazs Lorinczi wields a slim but confident pen line that renders both architecture and attitude with equal grace. His use of a palette limited to pinks and purples is perfect for not only the love story he's telling, but the monster comic he's drawing. See, our heroine Pepper Mint is a vampire, member of a supernatural community that's a part of society. A skate punk tomboy, Pepper's under pressure from her mom to make the final change, for which Pepper needs a mortal Bride. Then she meets Ana...Elsewhere, in the immortal words of the Didjits, "Mama had a skull baby/ And it screamed all night long!" Frankenstein and the Mrs. make a baby, and it's twice the monster they are. Then it meets its grandpappy. Three generations of Frankensteins mix it up in Frankenstein: Agent of S.H.A.D.E. Book Two. DC's D-list take on the horror icon finds the perfect pair of indie freaks, Kindt & Lemire, to turn on the limelight!

