

**741.5**

**RAGING CLOUDS**  
**AND OTHER STEAMY STORIES**  
**OF LIFE AND LOVE**

**FEBRUARY 2026 - NO. 155**

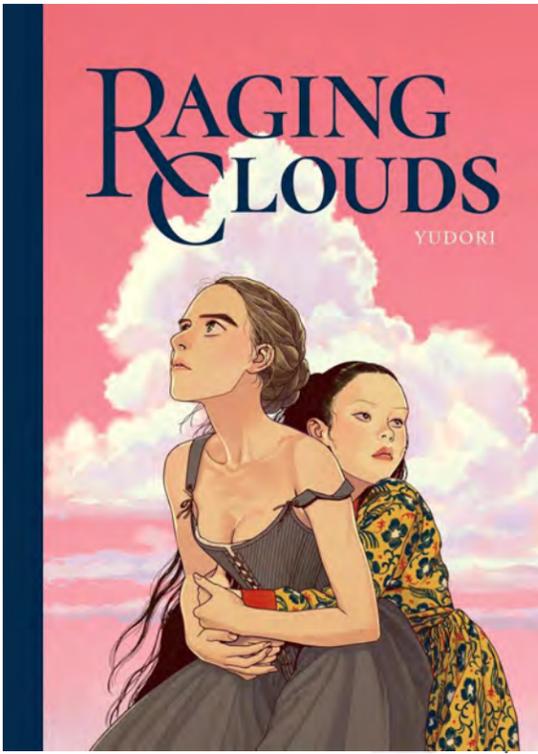
**PLUS...POLICE & PIRATES**



**The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of**



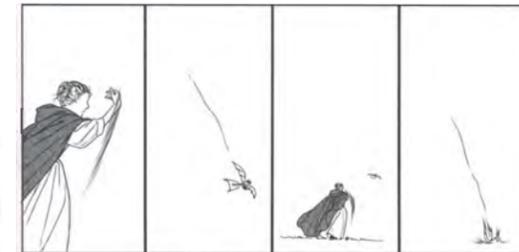
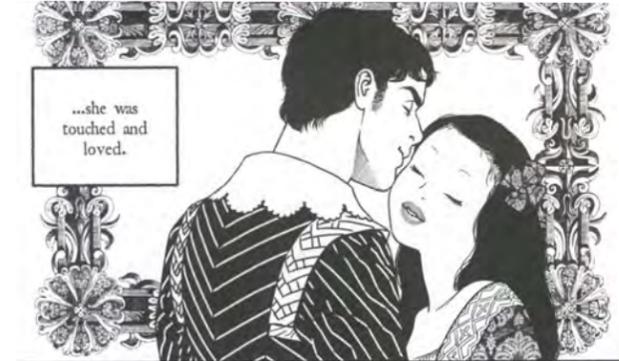
**Lexington Public Library**  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*



It's the Age of Exploration. Empires and upstarts sail the seven seas in search of fortune, such as Hans, the ambitious young Dutch merchant. He is newly married to Amelie, a not so proper lady from a no longer proper house. Amelie chafes under the rules of her age, grows to loathe her husband's touch, dreams of freedom in the uncolonized skies. Confined in a household made up of her family servant (below left) and Hans' far too admiring housemaid (center), Amelie (right) acts the role of housewife as she pursues her own muse. Until...



Her husband returns from his voyage with a slave. "She was as silent and supple as a cat. Her skin was the color of the most exotic desert sand." Hans calls her Sahara, although her origins lay much farther East. He takes her as a lover. Amelie is torn between jealousy and relief. A sudden illness brings Amelie to her rival's bedside; caretaking becomes caring, as the two women make common cause against the uncaring world in which they are trapped. Together they pursue Amelie's dreams of flight, assisted by Junior the cat (left). But then Hans gets wind of their plans. Will the promise of freedom end up broken?

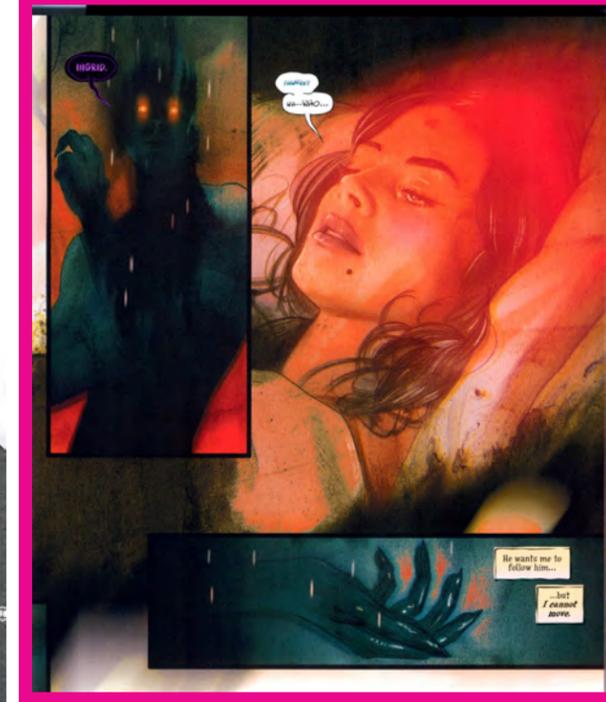


A relative newcomer to comics, Korean cartoonist **Yudori** has attained the top flight of international talent with her debut novel, *Raging Clouds* (Fantagraphics). Though reminiscent of Japanese *manga*, Korean *manhwa* tends more toward realism while sharing the open layouts that often break out of the panel grid to emphasize an action, a feeling, a moment.

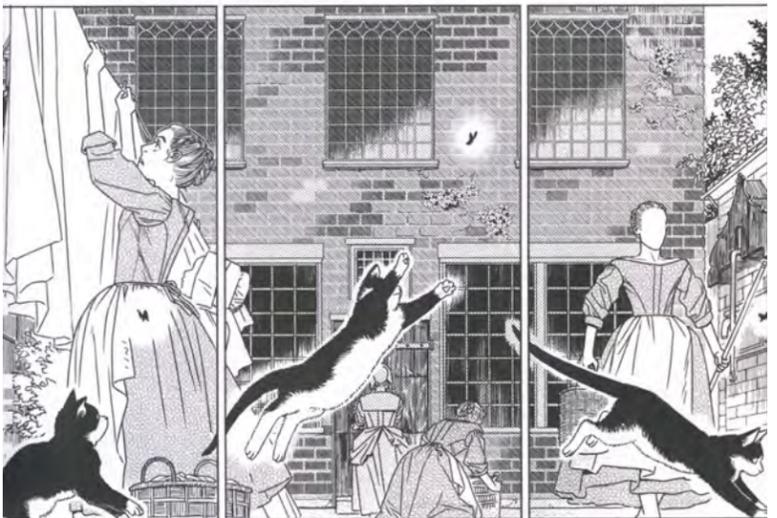
Yudori is a master of that technique, as well as an amazing draftsman whose attention to historical detail will leave you stuck in strapped-and-strictured 16th Century Holland just like our heroines. Fiercely feminist, intensely erotic, visually stunning, *Raging Clouds* is a masterpiece recommended for Mature Readers at Central, Marksbury and Northside.



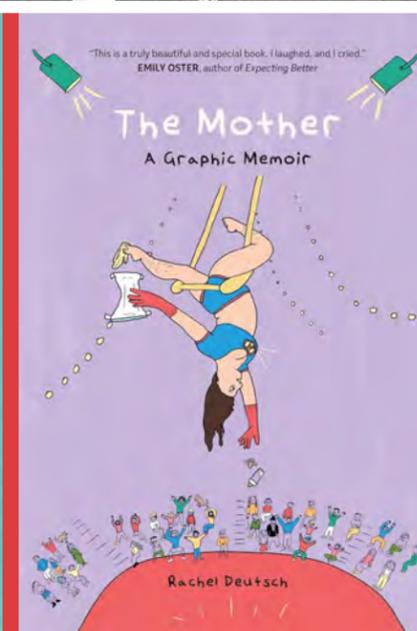
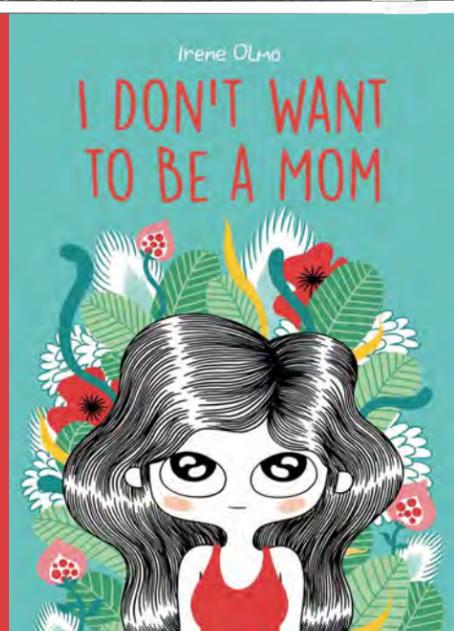
Historians call it the Early Modern Period, but it was a savage time for women. Caught in the rolling tide of Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the decline of Europe's old order of lords and priests and the rise of the new order of lay preachers and businessmen, women by the hundreds of thousands were accused, convicted and executed for the crime of witchcraft. This is the big picture within which the panels play out the sensual and sorrowful saga of Ingrid, wife of Roland, the barrister. Ingrid aches for her husband. He is distracted by his duties, especially the burning of their neighbor, Gretchen. And Ingrid is disturbed in turn, by the seething,



ing, smoldering dreams in which the Stranger offers the fulfillment forbidden by her God and her community...and by her growing suspicion that her best friend Maja is why their village is beset by mayhem and murder. Can Ingrid regain her husband's trust, his respect, his love? Or will duty demand its pounds of flesh upon the pyre? Artist Becky (*Batgirls*) Cloonan draws the passages set in the real world (below) and Tula (*Bodies*) Lotay paints the smoky dreamscapes where desire holds sway (left). A truly adult graphic novel from DSTLRy, *Somna* is recommended for Mature Readers at all LPL locations.



Irene Olmo played with baby dolls just like all the other little girls. Dressed 'em, burped 'em, carried 'em around under her shirt like she had a bun in the oven...but that was when she was a little girl. Once the Spanish cartoonist grew up, she had a totally different attitude: I DON'T WANT TO BE A MOM. Her gorgeous little memoir-slash-manifesto from Graphic Mundi literally draws a picture for the multitudes unwilling to heed the words of Olmo and all other women who wish to remain childless. Find the prettiest screed against parenthood ever at Central and Eastside.

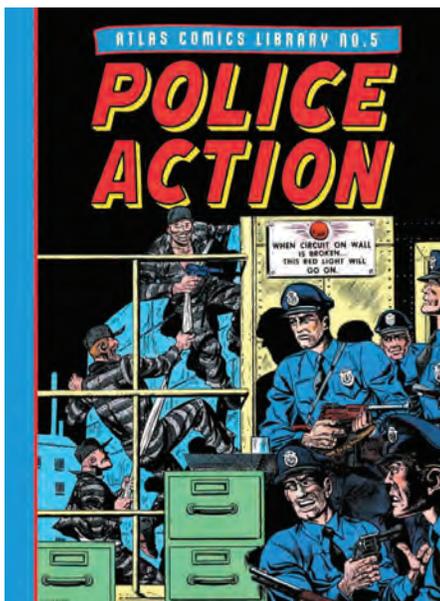


LPL had to order new copies of this item after somebody dropped our first one in the bath tub. DON'T READ BOOKS IN THE BATH TUB! Now that we got that out of the way, *The Mother is A Graphic Memoir* by New Yorker cartoonist **Rachel Deutsch** (not to be confused with the film director of the same name). Coming from that rarefied background, Deutsch has a somewhat uncommon approach to layout and storytelling. The ceaseless storm of physical and emotional changes that make up pregnancy is expressed graphically by the usual pages full of panels using captions and word balloons being broken up by cartoon charts and full page illustrations both symbolic and descriptive. Her loose approach is a perfect medium for the slovenly realities of being *The Mother*, at Beaumont and Central.





Steve Orlando's fabulous run as writer for Marvel's sorcerous sex symbol, Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, comes to an end with this volume, *Amaranth Rising*. Amaranth is the sweet young thing to Wanda's left on the cover; that's the ever-trickys Agatha Harkness on the right. To her chagrin, Agatha must call on frenemy Wanda for help when she realizes Amaranth is a mess so hot even a stone bitch like Agatha can't deal. Speaking of bee-yotches, who should show up in the middle of this mystical mishegoss but sticky-fingered sexpot, the Black Cat! Golden Age obscurity Jack Frost returns to the Marvel Universe, while one of my fave D-list villains, the rabid robot known as the Eliminator, attacks...right before his boss, Nicholas Scratch! Illuminated by the usual gorgeous art and coloring by the likes of Lorenzo Tammetta and Frank William, *Scarlet Witch V5* is available at Tates Creek and



## MEANWHILE

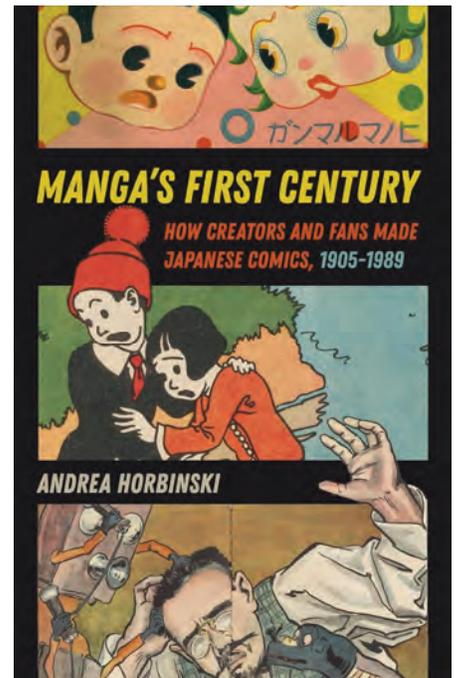
Marksbury. Beaumont and Central are the headquarters for *Police Action*. The fifth volume of the Atlas Comics Library from partners Marvel and Fantagraphics was compiled by one of the leading experts in the Atlas Era, Dr. Michael J. Vassallo. He also contributes a typically in-depth introduction explicating Atlas publisher Martin Goodman's involvement in true detective magazines and their four-color brethren, crime comics. From *Justice Comics* to radio star Casey *Crime Photographer*, the Atlas bullpen churned out stacks of hard-boiled cops-n-robbers stories. *Police Action* stands out from the pack due to its intensity, an unapologetic pugnacity in the face of growing cries for censorship in the early 1950s. Stories like "Riot Squad," "The Fugitive" and "The Rat-hole!" show goons and gangsters at their worst, and the forces of law and order ready to give it right back at 'em. The art is aptly rough-hewn, featuring the gun-crazy grotesques of Robert Q. Sale, Paul Reinman's poor man's Krigstein, and early work by future Marvel mainstays Don Heck and Dick Ayers.



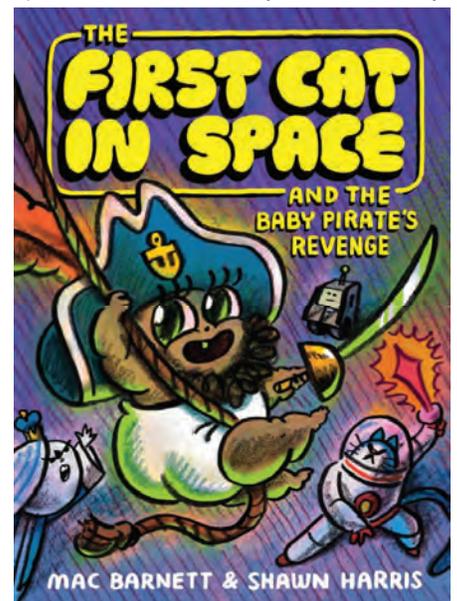
### SAL BUSCEMA 1/26/1936–1/24/2026

He was so good, few realized how good he was. No flashy lay-outs, no extravagant detail, no academic influences—just solid storytelling, simple realism, and emotional resonance. And ACTION! He penciled and inked 100 issues of *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. He drew hundreds of pages of the most physical character in comics, the Incredible Hulk. Alongside such now-legendary writers as Englehart, Gerber and Simonson, he created Starhawk, detective Jean DeWolf, the U-Foes and Valkyrie. His big brother John may have gotten the lion's share of accolades, but Sal Buscema was an essential part of the House of Ideas right when Marvel became the world's leading comic book publisher. He was a big reason why. Sal Buscema will be missed.

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Get *Police Action* from Beaumont and Central, if only to read "The World's Largest Theft!," which recasts the conquest of China by Mao's Communist rebels as a huge heist perpetrated by the agents of "the Big Man," Uncle Joe Stalin hisself! Meanwhile, *Manga's First Century* stands out from all the other histories we've discussed due to Andrea Horbinski's gifts as a storyteller. She discusses not just creators, but consumers, too. She explores the socioeconomic pressures, such as the birth of anime to the disruptive Oil Shock of the Seventies, that influenced the medium, from the growth of *shojo* (girl) comics to the rise and fall of the more adult *gekiga* style. Learn *How Creators and Fans Made Japanese Comics* at Central and Tates Creek. Set sail for all LPL locations to find the latest adventure of *The First Cat in Space*. It's as fun and freaky as it looks, matey!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at [www.lexpublib.org](http://www.lexpublib.org) under the **READING SERVICES** tab!