

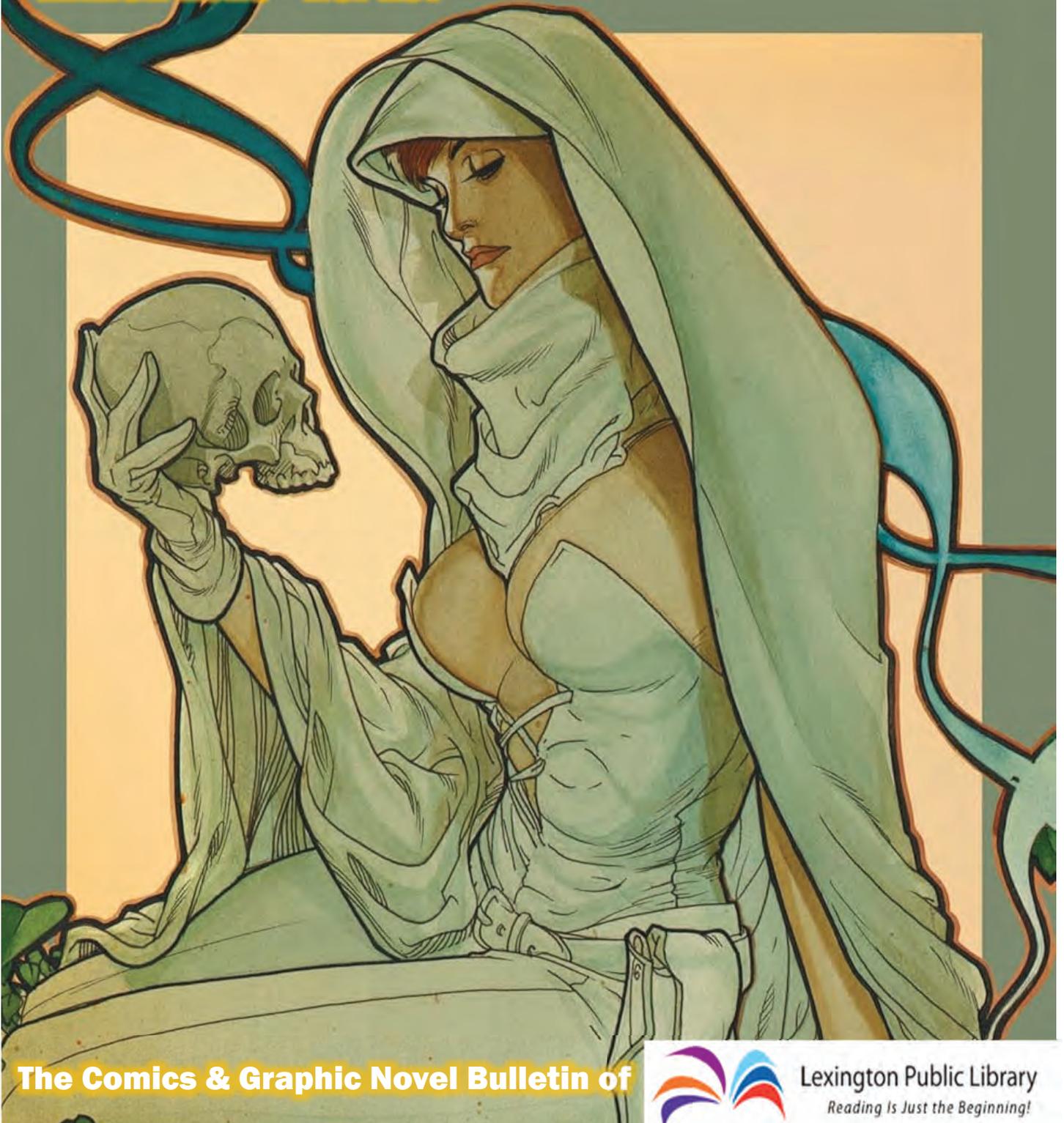
741.5

GHOST

RAVISHING REVENANT WREAKS REVENGE

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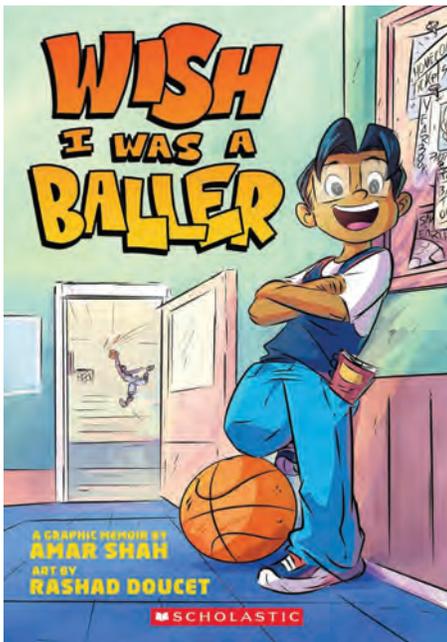
PLUS...GIRL COMICS



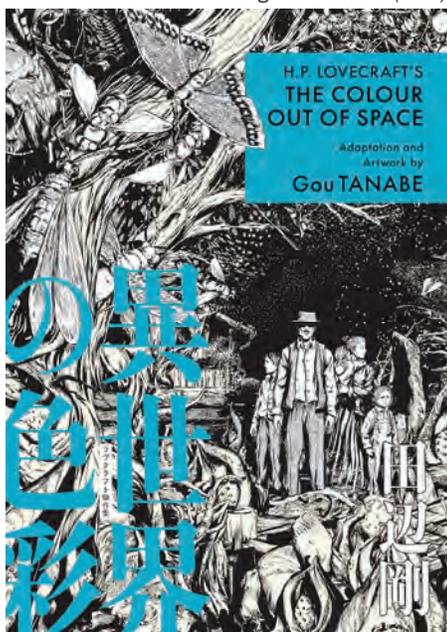
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

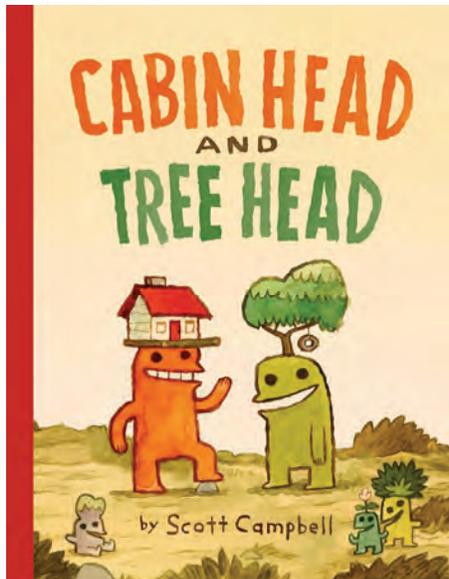


A growing number of Young Adult graphic novels are set in the 1990s...which is to say, a time when the youthful protagonists of said books would not have spent the majority of their time with their snouts in their phones. (I also think that's why so many YA books take place in fantasy worlds: there's no Tik Tok in Narnia.) So, return to those thrilling days of yesteryear. It's 1995, and basketball has achieved cultural dominance thanks to talents such as **Michael Jordan** and **Shaquille O'Neill**. As a member of the Orlando Magic, **Shaq** makes the acquaintance of an ambitious fifteen-year-old would-be sportswriter named **Amar Shah**. Their relationship is the macguffin of *Wish I was A Baller*. But the heart of this true story is **Amar's** struggle to balance his ambitions with his duty to family and friends, further enriched and entangled by his South Indian background. **Rashad Doucet's** art is, frankly, the reason I, a typical sports-hating nerd, read this book. His lively brushwork captures the breathless quality of adolescence. And try not to cry when Amar and his mom go to K-mart. (Sob!)



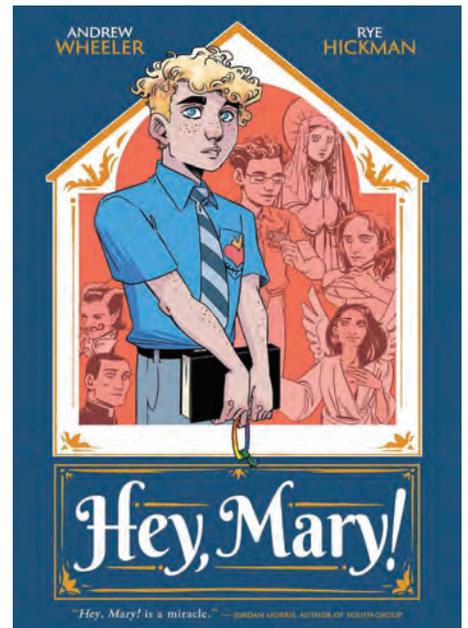
MEANWHILE

Gou Tanabe continues his crusade to adapt the works of **H. P. Lovecraft** into manga format. The most recent is based on the short story acknowledged by many to be the best of **Lovecraft's** oeuvre, *The Colour Out of Space* (sic: the Anglophilic **Lovecraft** preferred British spelling). Adapted into films featuring actors as different as **Boris Karloff**, **Wil Wheaton** and **Nicolas Cage**. *Colour* is famous for being one of Lovecraft's most concise, hence creepiest, stories. Published in 1927, it's also noteworthy for being one of the first fictional depictions of radiation poisoning. That's what happens when a meteorite lands on a typical farm in the back-country around Arkham, Massachusetts. The physical matter making up the meteorite eventually disappears, right before the disbelieving eyes of the scientists who arrive to study it. Then a strange light begins to exude from the site, especially the well, and everything around it...changes. With his ornate style, part steelpoint etching, part silver nitrate print, **Tanabe**



captures the grinding cycle of grotesque efflorescence and alien dissolution that lays waste to poor Nahum Gardner and his doomed family. Another malevolent masterpiece from the team of **Lovecraft** and **Tanabe**, *The Colour Out of Space* is available at Central, Northside and Tates Creek. Much less horrific but equally weird is *Cabin Head and Tree Head*, a Juvenile hardback comic you can reserve at lexpublib.org. The author is **Scott Campbell**, the talent responsible for the gnarly illustrations for the popular *Zombies in Love* series, available at all LPL locations, if you can find one that's not checked out already. In this happy, colorful world of Heads—Hedge Head, Fountain Head, Lamppost Head, Trash Can Head, Brick Wall Head — Cabin Head and Tree Head are special friends. Join them and their pals as they come down with a case of the Hellos, paint portraits (and eat them), and deal with a hair cut gone wrong. Painted in watercolor with a strong but squirrely brush line, **Campbell's** art is just fun and funny to look at. Looking at art is the act that arouses the young hero of our next item and forces him to

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confront his discomfiting sexuality. Specifically the art of the Renaissance, with its studly saints and beautiful martyrs. Mark is the sensitive, whisper-thin lad who's obviously gay. But he's always been a good Catholic. As a boy, he would carry on conversations with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Well, he does this time, too...but only after he's gotten a talking-to from his former best friend Luka, his drag king pal Chloe, hip young priest Father Teo, not to mention **St. Sebastian** jumping out of one those old paintings. Andrew Wheeler's script remains respectful of the power of faith while preaching for strength of self in this slim volume available in TEEN at Central, Marksbury and Northside. Our next item's title, *Blow Away*, is obviously meant to evoke that of its inspiration, the 1966 suspense film *Blow Up*. Like **Antonioni's** head-scratching nailbiter, a crime is caught on camera...or is it? Videographer Brynne Brautigan shoots something she shouldn't. **Nicola Izzo's** mix of cartooning and digital FX brings a cold, shadowy zip to **Zac Thompson's** tricky script.



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