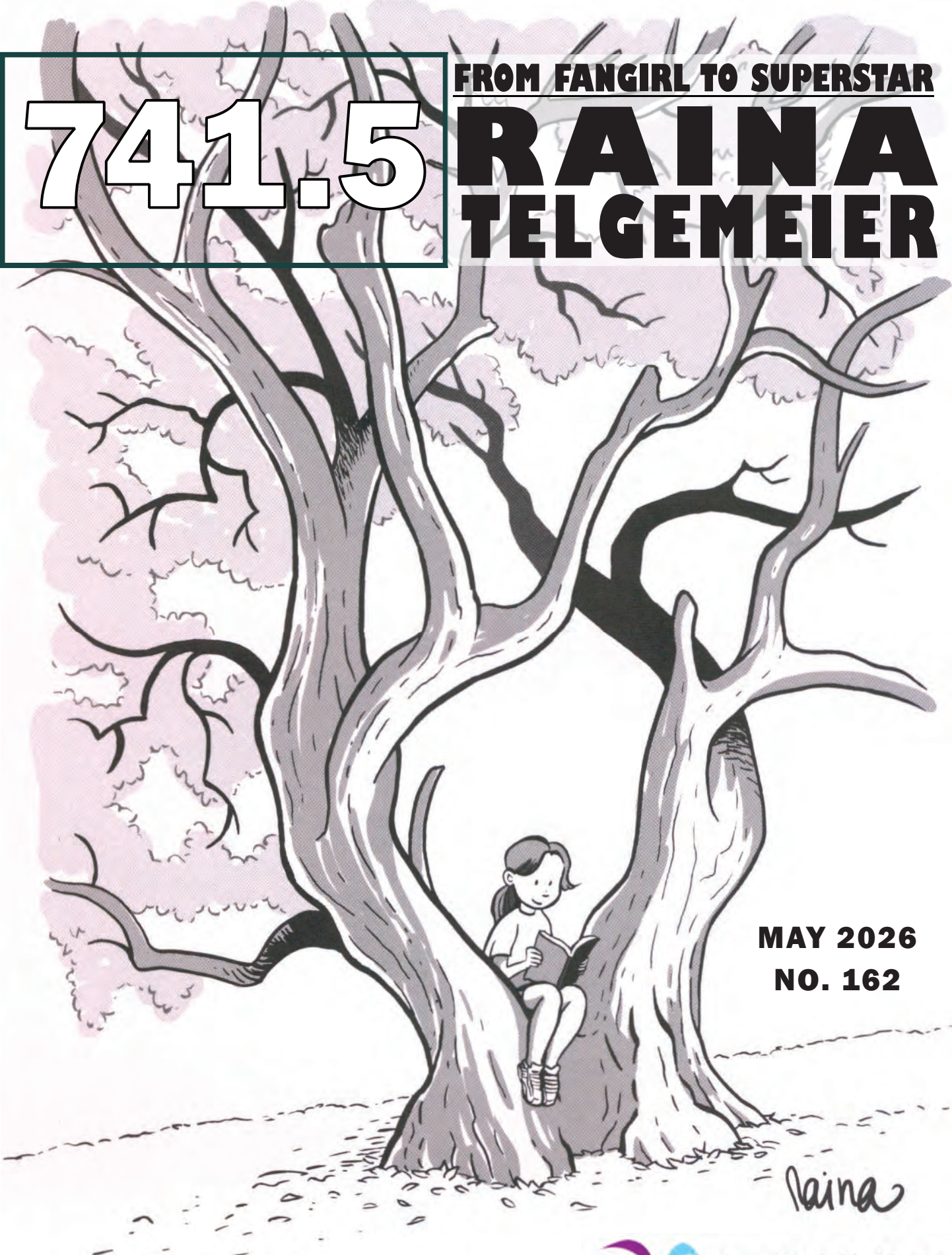


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FROM FANGIRL TO SUPERSTAR

RAINA TELGEMEIER



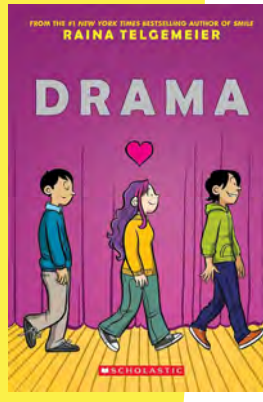
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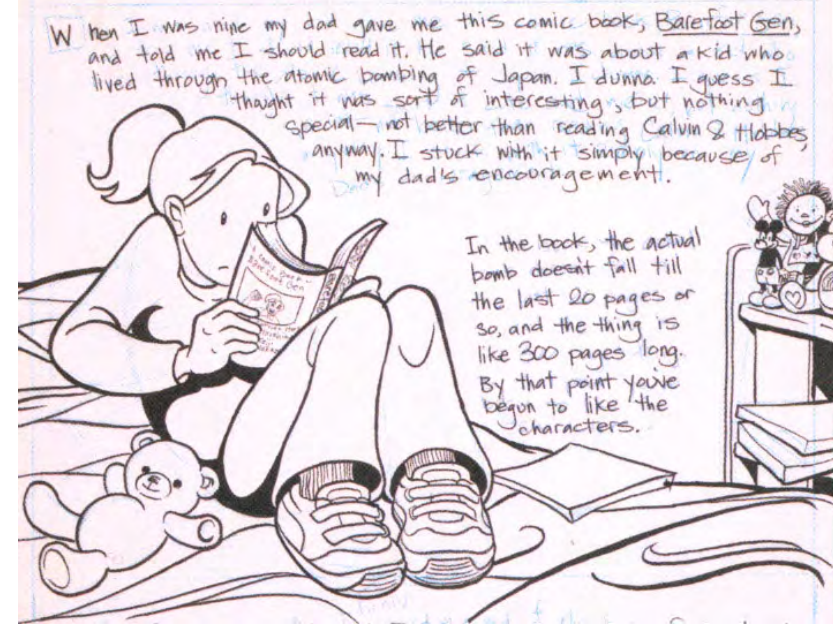
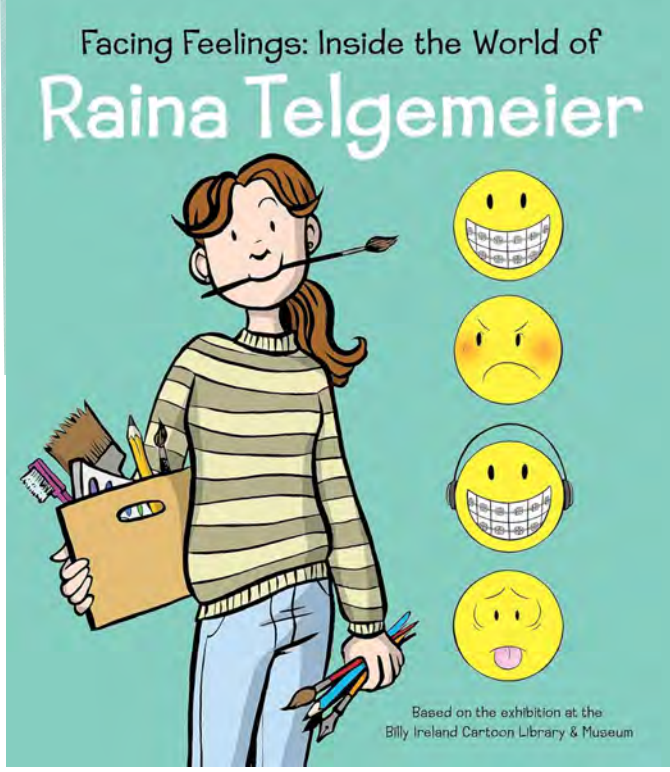


Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

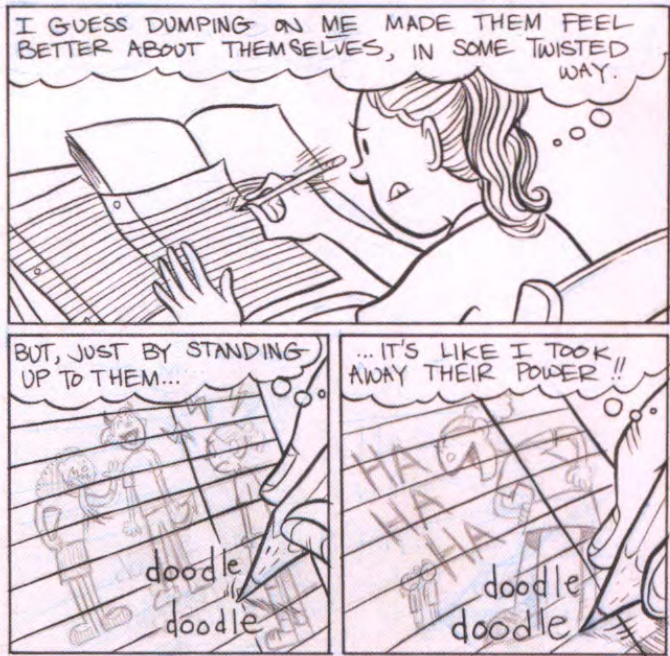


REVIEW BY SHELBY STUART (Beaumont)
Facing Feelings provides a behind-the-scenes peek into Raina Telgemeier's early work and inspiration. So it's only fair to discuss her influence on mine. I wasn't always a comic aficionada...just kidding! Did I fool you? Some of my earliest memories involve narrating *Garfield* strips to my long-suffering family. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, it was unusual for a little girl to be devouring comics, let alone making her own. Now the graphic novel section is the hottest spot in the children's department. And, as Telgemeier confirms, her book was the catalyst for that. The minute I cracked open a copy of *Smile*, I was hooked. I read it over and over, por-

ing over the illustrations and trying to copy them myself. I felt seen by this cartoon girl and the woman she grew up to be. And millions of other kids must have felt the same way, because *Smile* (and its companions!) still fly off the shelves. Years after it came out, in a market now saturated with one-word-title coming-of-age graphic novels for kids, there's still something unique about Telgemeier's hand-drawn art. Mirrored by the title of *Facing Feelings*, her iconic art style leans into the emotions of the characters, perfectly balancing exaggeration and relatability. Telgemeier doesn't write stiff coming-of-age stories with boring grown-up morals. The characters bleed, cry, and talk about acne,

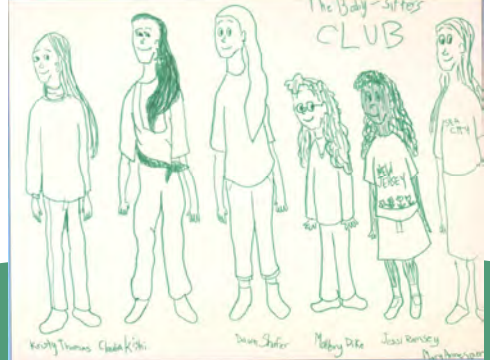
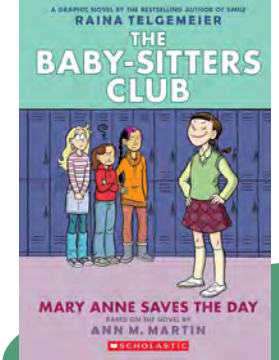


Facing Feelings is available at **ALL LPL LOCATIONS** under **JB T2374a1**



and it never feels forced or depressing. They're honest. *Facing Feelings* includes an equally poignant comic based on Telgemeier's childhood. Her father had encouraged her to read *Barefoot Gen*, which chronicles a family in 1940s Japan who, at the end, is killed by the atomic bomb. Natural-

ly, nine-year-old Raina is devastated and comes crying to her parents. Later embarrassed by her reaction, she remarks, "It was just a comic book." Her mother responds, "Raina, there's no thing as 'just a comic book.'" Call me a softie, but I think we can all learn from that.



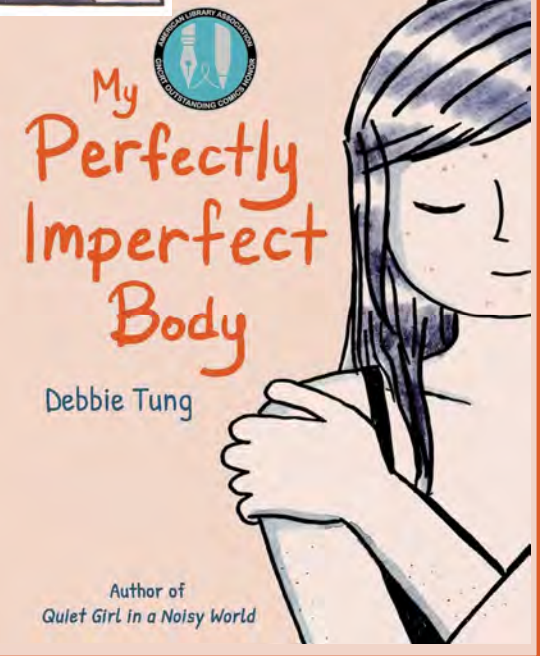
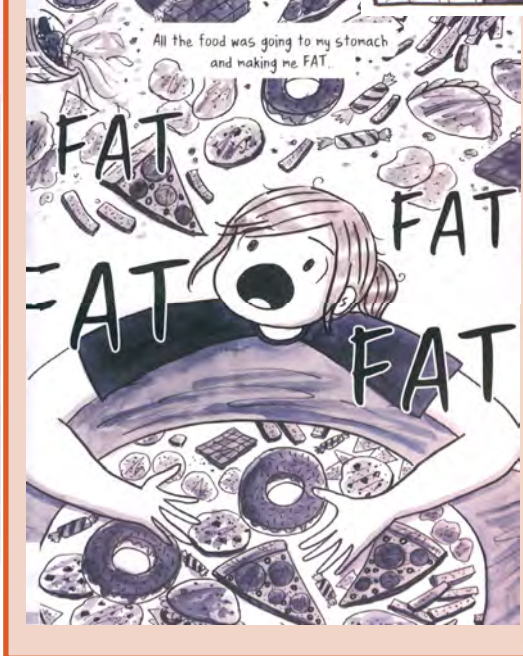
Raina Telgemeier first garnered the attention of the reading public with her graphic adaptations of Ann M. Martin's wildly popular series for tween girls, *The Baby-sitters Club*. It was a dream come true for Telgemeier, as shown by the center illustration, fan art rendered at age 11.



A prime example of the many female cartoonists who followed in the footsteps of Raina Telgemeier, **Debbie Tung** is the author of four well-received, award-winning graphic novels, most of which are available at lexpublib.org. Her latest, *My Perfectly Imperfect Body*, can be found at Beaumont, Tates Creek and Central. Now a grown woman



with a family, Tung looks back at her troubled teenhood. Pushed at all sides, by parents, peers, and mass media, young Debbie develops an eating disorder. It's scary how easily she slips into self-negating behavior, driven by a search for perfection that's forever just out of reach. Her simple drawing, bolstered by masterful use of washes, is itself perfection.





After a repast of middle school cafeteria tater tots and half a sandwich with a side of guilt, what better for dessert than CHEESECAKE! Yes, all the items covered in this month's *Meanwhile* are chockfulla pretty drawings of pretty women. Powerful pretty women, true; as we are reminded, Ororo Munroe, alias Storm, is *Earth's Mightiest Mutant*. Except...she ain't, not for most of this story, anyway. In this tricky story written by **Murewa Ayodele**, Storm tries to save a fresh young mutant from falling victim to his own powers. She fails. And gets a hot dose of radiation. The kind that only magic can cure. So Storm and Doctor Voodoo cut a deal with an ancient loa. The catch? Storm must go seven days without using her powers. Hard to do when you're a damn superhero. In a mystical predicament, Storm must crave a boon of the Sorcerer Supreme: DOCTOR DOOM!



MEANWHILE

When it comes to contemporary masters of cheesecake, one must make place for a mistress: **Rachel Dodson**. With her husband **Terry, Rachel Dodson** has joined that short list of artists, including such luminaries as **Adam Hughes**, **Brian Bolland** and **Alex Ross**, who are best known for their exquisite covers. Many examples are included in *The Art of Rachel and Terry Dodson* from the art imprint Flesk. DC icons such as Catwoman, Wonder Woman and the Birds of Prey flex and frolic across the page, soon joined by their Mighty Marvelous competitors like the Black Cat, Captain Marvel and that lovely couple Gambit and Rogue. Much of the book is taken up with designs, layouts and finished work dedicated to the series the dynamic dyad has co-created with writer **Matt (Hawkeye) Fraction**, *Adventureman*. The fourth Oversize hardback volume of the Image series is finally on LPL shelves. As we learn more about the *Family Tree*, Adventure-Mom gets ready for action!



And if that ain't enough *tsuris* for Mr. Munroe's little girl, none other than Eternity, the living embodiment of everything, has his eye on her! As will you as artist **Lucas Werneck** luxuriates in sleek, alluring yet action-packed pages radiant with the beauty of Storm, *Earth's Mightiest Mutant*, available in TEEN at Northside and Beaumont. The latter, Central and Eastside carry the compilation of the mini-series *Rogue: The Savage Land*. The "jungle girl" genre has been a leading purveyor of cheesecake comics since the birth of the comics industry. Rogue finds herself following in the unshod footsteps of glamazons like Sheena, Rima and Shanna. Powerless and far from her allies in the X-men, that sassy Southern belle is stranded in the primordial landscape known as the Savage Land. She quickly adapts to her new circumstances. "If you're bashful, you best get over that quick. 'Cus the Savage Land'll tear up your super-suit faster'n a round with the

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Juggernaut!" Drawn by **Zulema Scott Lavina**, an artist who bears a striking resemblance to her character, Rogue looks fabu in her jungle girl get-up as she joins with an old ally and an older enemy to overcome the diabolical machinations of the equally underdressed Zaladane. This volume also includes the 1985 *Uncanny X-men* two-parter drawn by **Jim Lee** that inspired the 2025 storyline, so you get an extra helping of cheesecake with EXTREME sauce! The latest X-title finds that dynamic diva DAZZLER back in the limelight! Like a lot of characters recently, Dazzler done died and came back. But with her *World Tour* split pretty evenly between pro-mutant and anti-mutant sentiment, the effervescent Alison Blaire walks a tightrope between adoring crowds and antagonistic mobs. Someone's put a contract out on Dazzler, and not for her next album! Artist **Rafael Loureiro** brings the girl power (including Domino, Shark Girl and Spider-Gwen) with layouts that make both mutant and musical action move!

