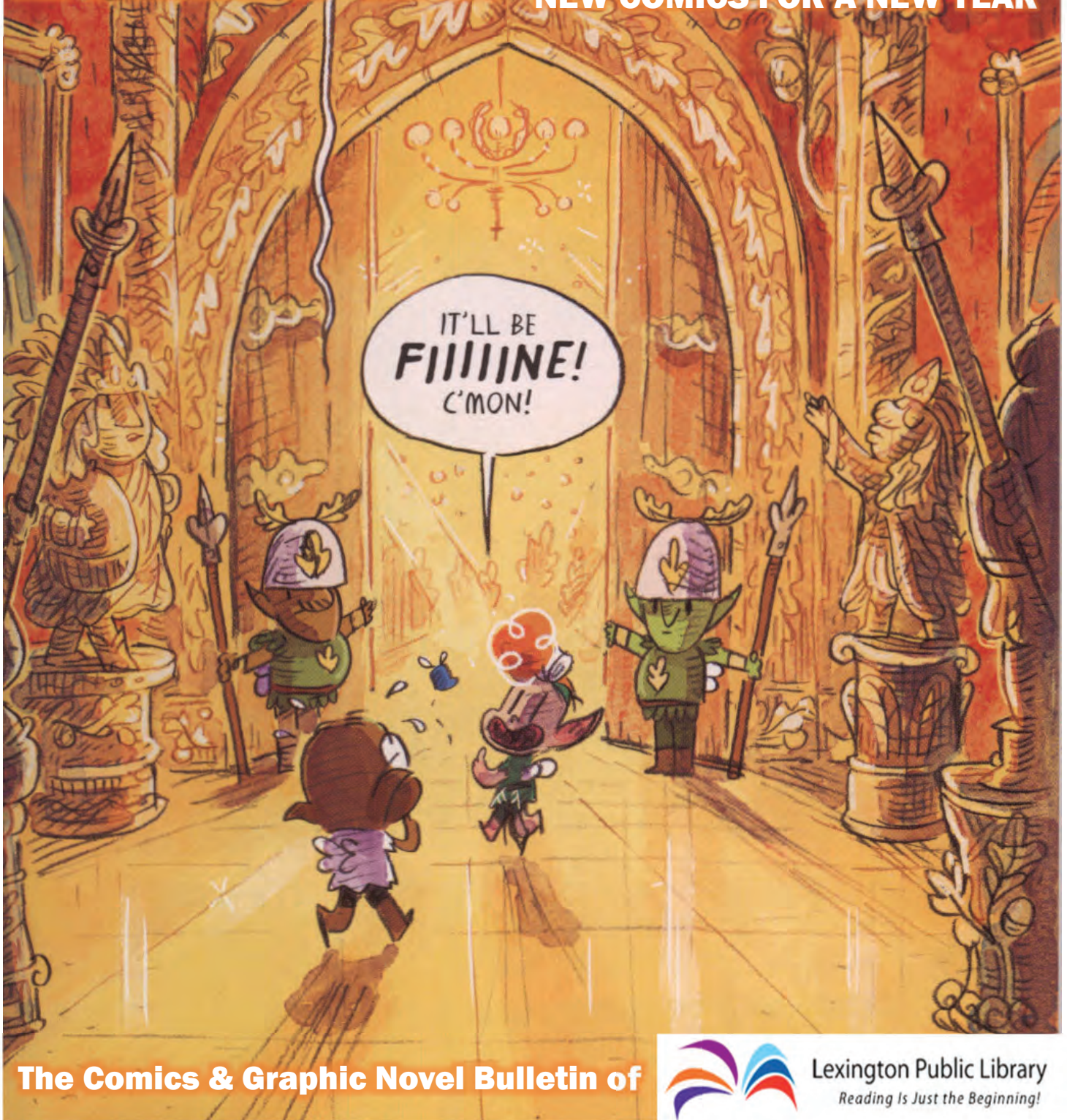


741.5

BACK TO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2026 - NO. 169

NEW COMICS FOR A NEW YEAR



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



The ginger above is Pip, "a simpleton...a nobody...Yet, somehow, the hero of this story." Pip is just looking for trouble or a good time, as if he knows the difference. So he ends up on a quest, with his frenemy Twig (also above) and rueful sidekick Stickler, in *Unfairies*, a fractured fairy tale just bursting with color and character...and chaos!

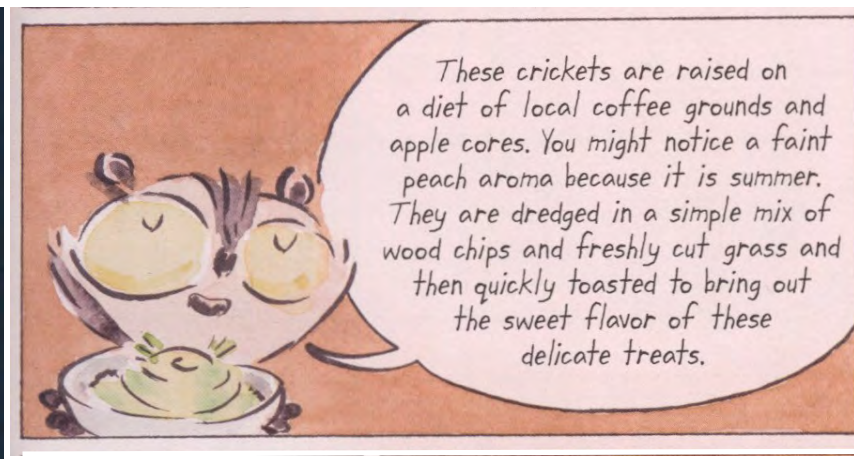


COMING SOON!

741.5 has a kid sister!
THOUGHT BUBBLES!
A monthly circular devoted to comics and graphic novels for children and teens

THOUGHT BUBBLES

curated by Shelby Stuart,
THOUGHT BUBBLES will
be available at all LPL locations! Watch for it!



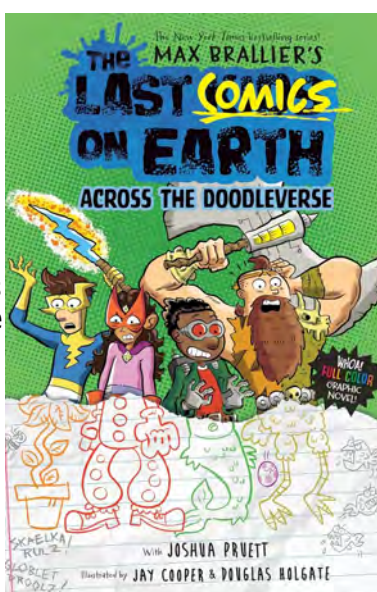
It was her charming watercolors that drew Ye Editor to Mika Song's *Night Chef* (RH Graphic). Loose-limbed with a gift for using space to define character and action, it's perfect for this tale of a foodie raccoon on a quest to find someplace to cook. He does, but only after tricks and treats with a hangry owl out to eat all his new friends!



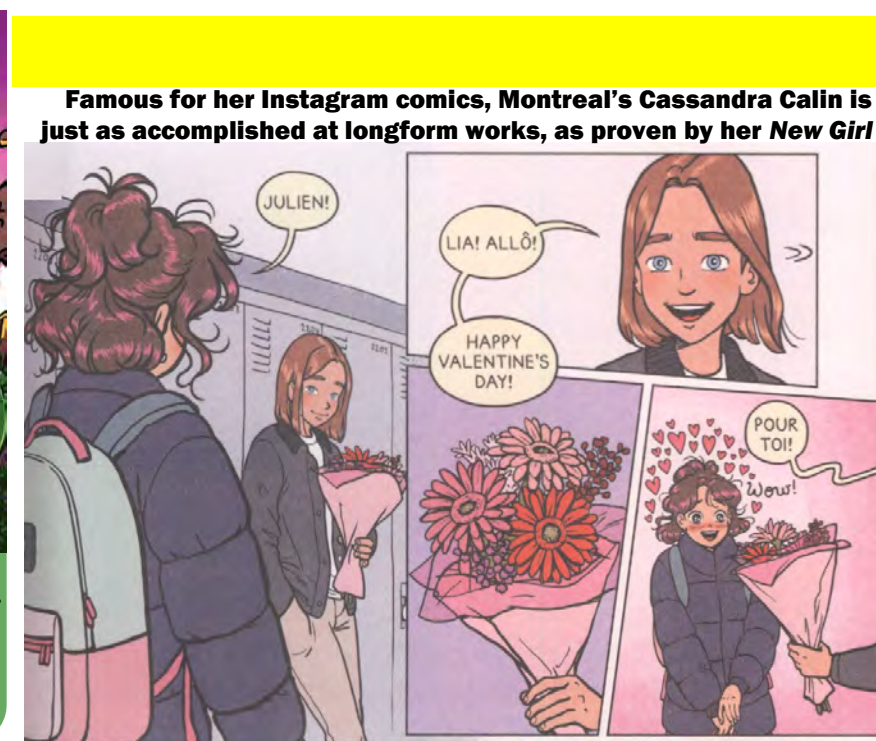
Award-winning cartoonist FAITH ERIN HICKS returns with *Inbetweeners* (First-Second). "In-betweeners" are the drawings that carry the action in animated cartoons. It also describes twin sisters Ash and Sloane, eighth graders in between childhood and teen age, spending the summer at a prestigious school of animation learning the basics of the artform both adore. But will that love survive obnoxious classmates, critical instructors, their own expectations? Read it and see!



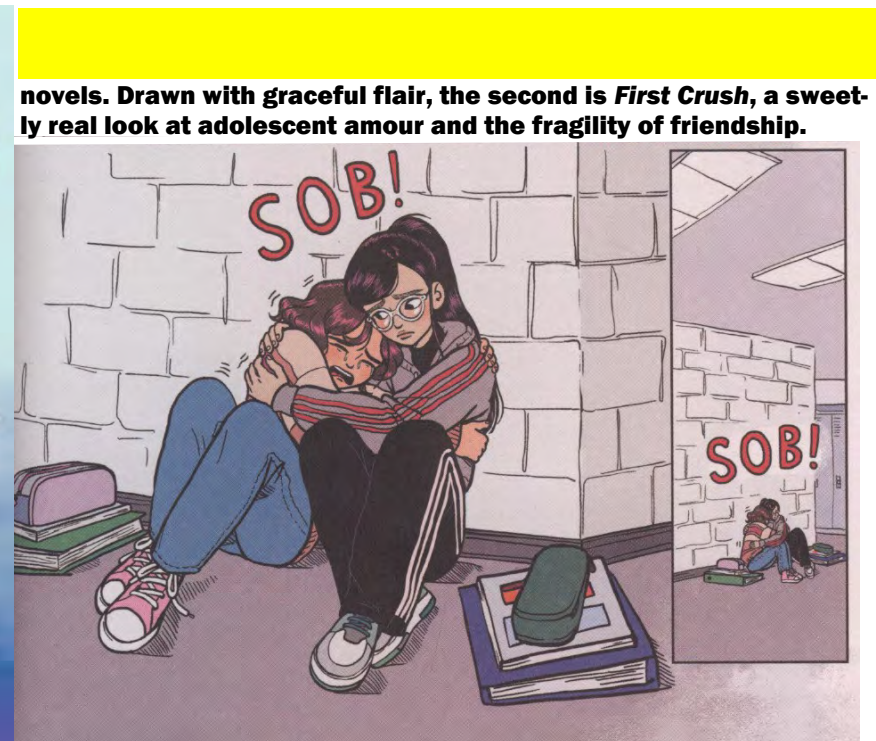
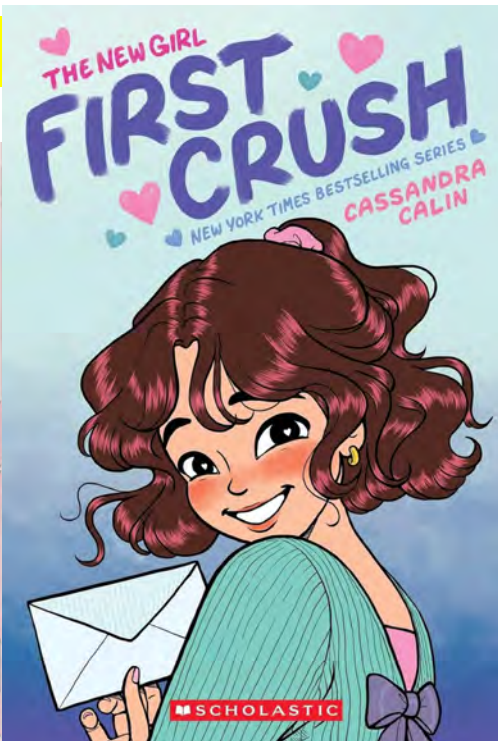
This issue was slated to review an earlier volume of the award-winning series *The Last Kids On Earth*. Ye Editor digs its variety of story-telling techniques which pay homage to comics past and present. But then this came out, the latest in the spin-off *The Last Comics On Earth*. Enjoyable as both simple adventure and complex parody, *Across the Doodleverse* shows the villainous Doodlehead turning everybody into drawings!



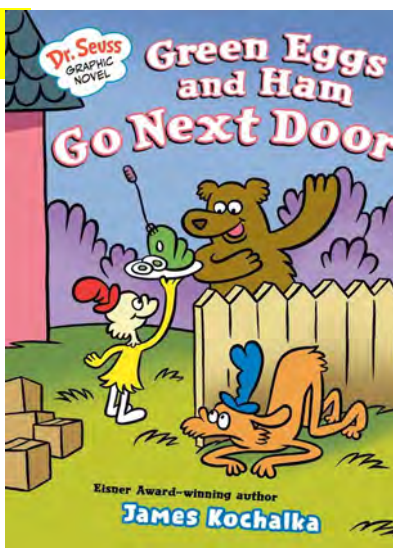
Iron Man wants to be pals with the Hulk, but the jade giant gives the Golden Avenger the cold shoulder...until they find something in common: SMASHING! With special guest star FIN FANG FOOM!



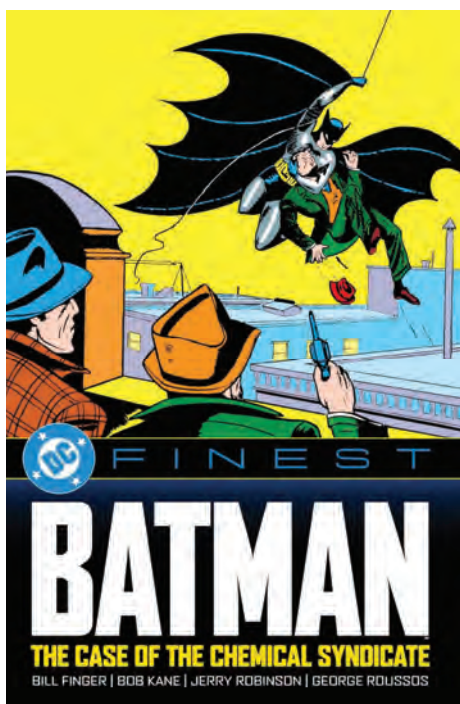
Famous for her Instagram comics, Montreal's Cassandra Calin is just as accomplished at longform works, as proven by her *New Girl*



novels. Drawn with graceful flair, the second is *First Crush*, a sweetly real look at adolescent amour and the fragility of friendship.



The protagonist of the classic *Green Eggs & Ham*, Walter...has some issues dealing with change. Can old pal Sam-I-Am get Walter to warm up to new neighbor Howdy Bear? Enjoy new Seussy fun with JAMES KOCHALKA!

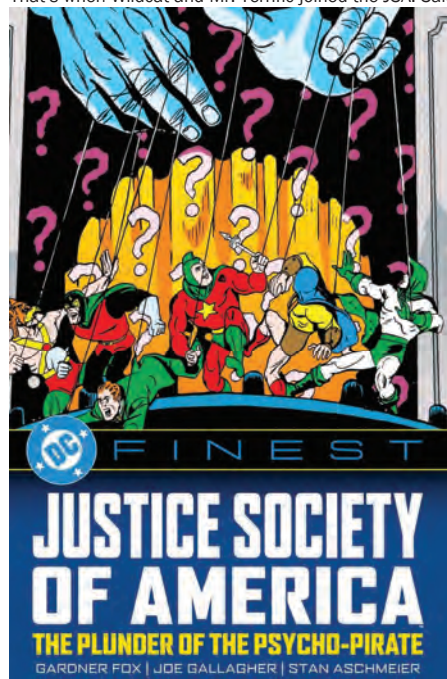


Contemporary comics have achieved global outreach, a multicultural aesthetic, a hard-won maturity. And they still ain't as popular as they were when they were childish trash. As noted in 741.5 #118, the early adventures of "the Bat-Man" were crude, which makes sense: they were drawn by a teenager, **Bob Kane** (who lied about his age to get the gig, then later used that lie to rewrite his contract with DC). The same was true of most Golden Age creators. By the time those boy wonders got good at what they did, World War II lit up.

Okay, children...it's BOOK REPORT TIME! Time to read some books made with words, not panels, and discuss them! We begin with the irresistibly bemonickered *Messiahs, Meshugganahs, Misanthropes and Mysteries*. This collection of essays by *Comics Journal* regular **Bob Levin** goes deep into the work of artists famous (**Frazetta, Gorey**) and obscure (**Guy Colwell, Mike Diana**), with a special interest in EC veterans like **Kurtzman, Craig** and **Ingels**.



Some volunteered, most got drafted, right when comics were at their hottest. Lesser talents took over, as evidenced by the art in *The Plunder of the Psycho-Pirate*. For whatever reasons, the art on the DC characters is a bit more slapdash than that for the All-American boys. Speaking of which, the final issue in this comp is from the short period when DC and All-American had a beef. That's when Wildcat and Mr. Terrific joined the JSA. Said

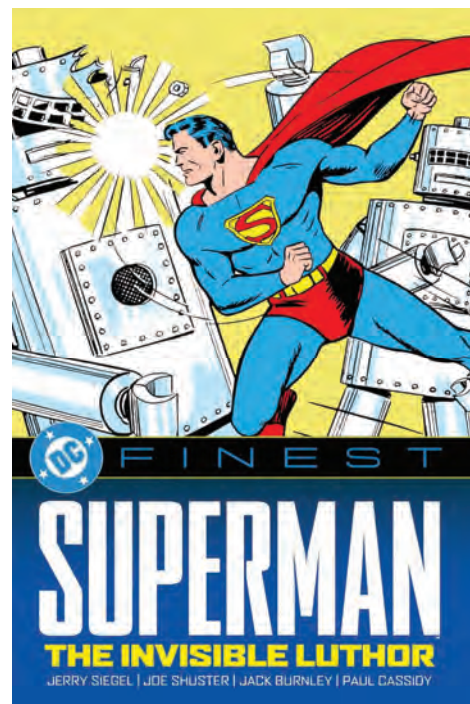


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MEANWHILE



Levin examines the relationship between **R. Crumb** and lawyer **Albert Morse, Dave Sims'** obsession with **Alex Raymond** and founding father of *Saturday Night Live* **Michael O'Donohue's** sole contribution to comics. The attention Levin brings to pioneering transexual mystic **Vaughan Bode** is long overdue. If all them words give you a headache, salve your throbbing skull with the visual delights of *Comic Book Apocalypse!* **Daved J. Hogan** displays the most lurid and lascivious examples of pre-Code comic book covers. Primitive superheroes, jingoistic war books, gloriously ghoulish horror comics, jungle junk—all receive a big bright limelight in this larger than life tome, with an especially detailed chapter on the often overlooked genre of romance comics!



issue, in which our heroes trip through time uncovering why Germans are such dicks, is a fascinating example of the wartime propaganda produced at the behest of the Office of War Information. Across town, the plots and stories got more complex. But the art by **Joe Shuster** (and his growing number of assistants) remained as rough and ready as ever as shown in the second *DC FINEST* dedicated to the Golden Age days of *Superman*. *The Invisible Luthor* shows — or doesn't, actually—Superman's novice nemesis acting big, bad and BALD!

Meanwhile, hightone publisher Bloomsbury has released a series of exegeses devoted to Marvel Comics. LPL has the first three. **Chris Ryall's** *Daredevil: Born Again* delves into that storyline, reviewed last issue. **Stuart Moore** takes a long look at *Doctor Strange* and *A Decade of Dark Magic*. In my favorite, *The Mighty Avengers Vs. the 1970s*, **Paul Cornell** radically reimagines that super-team's place in those turbulent times.



Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpublib.org under the READING SERVICES tab!