741.5

ALL THEM WITCHES

STORIES TO HOLD YOU SPELLBOUND

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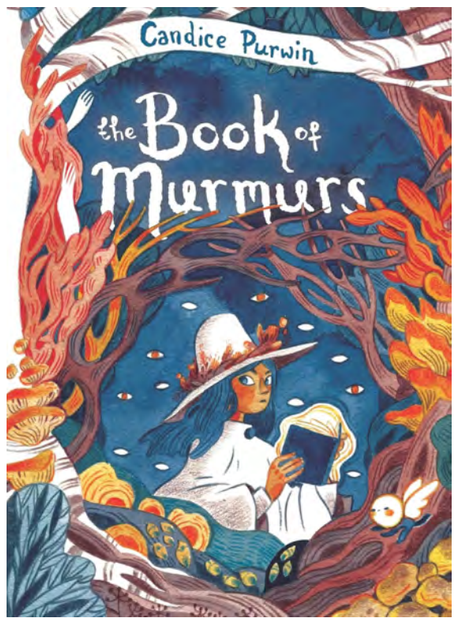
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



I admit that I've included the latest collection of *Storm* in this issue so I could use the badass splash page by Luciano Vecchio for the cover. But the book still fits within the context of witches and witchcraft. Storm in now not just an Avenger...not just one of the most powerful mutants on Earth...not just a human manifestation of thunder and lightning, an honest-to-Thor GOD...she's also the avatar of Eternity, one of the primordial personages that make and break the universe (s). Ororo Munro's one busy gal. Heck, she's got so much going on, she doesn't remember doing some of it. Seems like Eternity's been running errands while keeping Ororo in the dark. That's worrisome in itself, but Storm has more pressing matters. There's the posse of her formerly fellow X-men, looking to drag a fugitive Charles Xavier back to the hoosegow. There's the mob of rival storm gods out for her hide. There's the OG storm god who just whooped Galactus and dumped his sad ass at the superhospital. There's Eternity's sister, Infinity, and her agita over her brother's new girlfriend. And, worst of all, there are SUITS. Yes, the FBI is looking to bust Ororo Munro, alias STORM! It's a loud, violent, earth-shaking *Thunder War* @lexpublib.org!

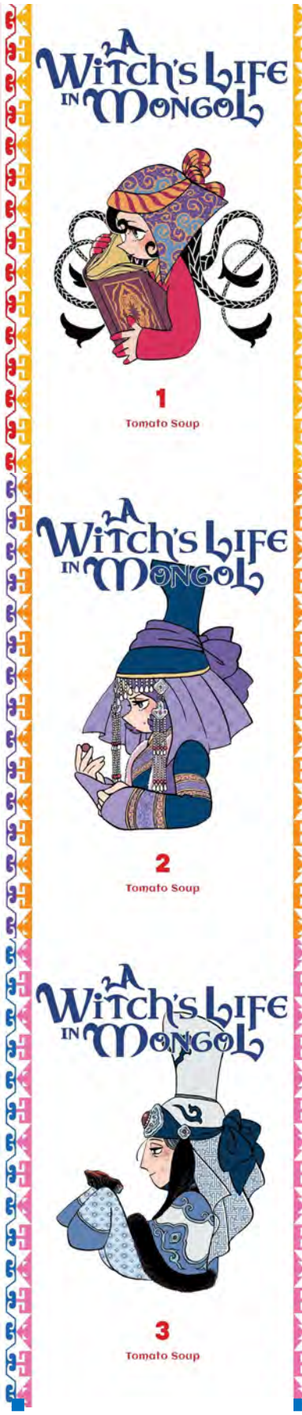




The Book Of Murmurs **is the well-worn handmade book of stories her mother shares with Little Moon...until the night her parents are murdered. On her own, pursued and helped by strange people, Little Moon must follow the Book into the weird world that lies beneath the one we know, in search of her parents...and her true self.**

"NOT ALL STORIES ARE SPELLS..."







"BUT ALL SPELLS ARE STORIES."

The Book Of Murmurs **is the latest graphic novel by Candice Purwin. An astonishing fantasy epic sure to win the Edinburgh cartoonist a pile of awards, *Murmurs* is meant for Young Adults, but will chill and thrill adult readers with its colorful breathtaking creativity and blood-curdling creepiness. Reserve one @ lexpublib.org!**







Laura Perez's *Nocturnos* is more experience than narrative. It's hard to explain, but I'll give it a try: It's being a kid spending the night at your grandparents' house. You wake up at midnight and have to go to the bathroom. During the day, it would be no trouble, but it's nighttime and this isn't your house. The blanket is a little itchy and the clock seems louder than when you went to bed. It could also be something scratching at the walls outside. If you do get up, you can't hear your own footsteps over the clock or whatever else it might be, even though the floorboards squeaked before. There are shadows that don't make sense and the bathroom is hard to find. When you finally return to the bed, the room looks different than it did when you left. In the morning it will feel like this never happened. The way the night makes everything unfamiliar but starkly intimate. The feeling of being utterly alone. That's *Nocturnos*. I could comment on the subtle eerieness of the art, the impact of the sparse dialogue, or the ambiguity between dread and comfort, but I think you probably get it. Or maybe I just dreamed this book. Whatever. This witchy little number is available at Eastside, Marksbury, Northside and Tates Creek. —**Shelby Stuart**

A girl, a slave, a "witch"...uses her secret smarts to gain power at the heart of a mighty empire in the charming manga by **Tomato Supu!**

MEANWHILE



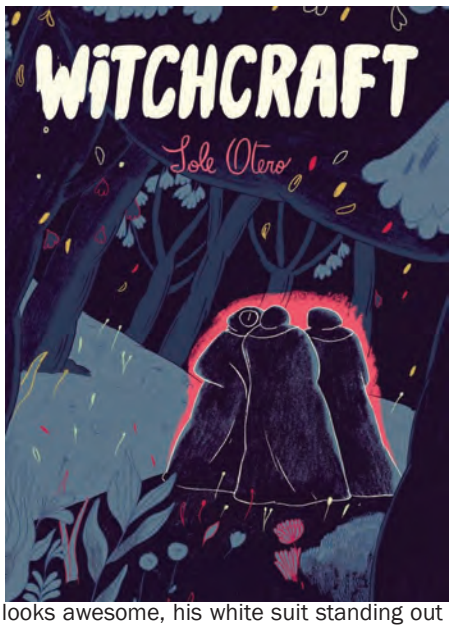
If, as the saying goes, science is a way of talking about reality, while magic is a way of talking to reality, what is this thing many of us are looking at right now, science or magic? The internet, that hotbed of the Mandela Effect, that battlefield of Wikipedia wars, that monstrous hybrid of Permanent Record and memory hole, is good ol' slide rule science, yet bends and blends the real world with bewitching ease. The internet plays a role in the graphic novel *Mister Magic*, which, of course, it would. A long-running TV show for children, *Mister Magic* broadcast live without any recording, existing only in the memories of its viewers...not all of which agree on what they saw, especially when it comes to the infamous final episode. Our heroine Valentina abandons exile and joins her fellow cast members at a shindig meant to both celebrate and resurrect *Mister Magic*. Valentina suspects there's good reason to leave the past in the past. So



Casualties of our recent distribution drama, these two items showed up a year after their original release. They would have gotten the cover treatment, otherwise, because both books are bangers. And both deal with witchcraft. *A Salem Story*, **Ben Wickey's** *More Weight (*Top Shelf*)* is a transtemporal retelling of those notorious witch trials. He uses color and technique to denote time, color coming on stronger the closer we come to modernity, while his monochrome cross-hatching captures the grotesque heaviness —of clothing, of faith, of authority—of the Puritan era. A decade in the making, *More Weight* is available at Northside and Tates Creek. Like **Wickey**, **Lole** (*Mothballs*) **Otero** spins an intergenerational yarn, this one based on indigenous South American folklore. South of the border, witches loom large in everyday culture. **Otero**'s post-**Ware**an approach to time and space sweeps the reader under the spell of



do others in this malevolent mystery box based on **Kiersten White's** novel. Our next item came out in regular format a couple of years ago. Now recast in the smaller size DC uses for its books aimed at the YA audience, *Mystik U* stars Zatanna — or a teenage version thereof, up to her top hat in a graphic version of what we in the biz call "dark academia." Far from the mistress of the mystic arts we all know and love, Zatara's little girl gets sent to Magic School. She's joined by the Enchantress, also teenaged yet no less the hot mess for it; the latest member of the Sargon bloodline that bears the Ruby of Life; and the surly sexy son of Justice League foe Felix Faust. The faculty is similarly made up of magic makers from DC's long history, including Madame Xanadu, Dr. Occult and Mr. E, who



looks awesome, his white suit standing out amidst artist **Mike Norton's** cluttered, clamorous hi-jinx. Oh, and super-kudos to writer **Alisa Kwitney** for creating a character named Plop! (Bronze Age babies will get it.) *Mystik U* is available under TEEN at all LPL locations. J is the designation for our next item, though it's so intense, I wonder if little kids should read it. Whatever, dude—I woulda eaten this stuff up when I was a kid. Specifically twelve years old, the age of our haunted hero Maxwell Dark. As established in the first of the series, *Nightmare Hunter*, Maxwell can enter your nightmares...and fight them. *Bad Blood* reveals that Maxwell's crusade may be a family affair. After years of searching for his sister, he finds her...at the side of the king of nightmares, The Bogeyman! Creator **Brady Smith** expresses honest human emotions through totally gnarly monsters at LPL!



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