

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

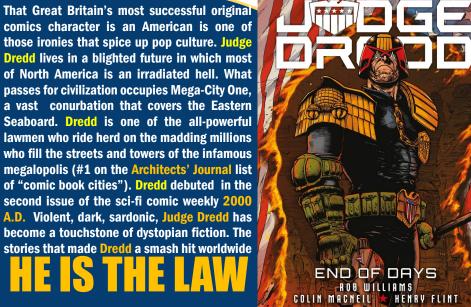


## ESSENTIAL JUDGE DREDD

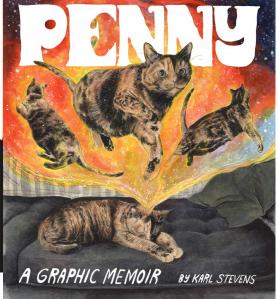


THE APOCALYPSE WAR JOHN WAGNER / CARLOS EZQUERRA

comics character is an American is one of those ironies that spice up pop culture. Judge Dredd lives in a blighted future in which most of North America is an irradiated hell. What passes for civilization occupies Mega-City One. a vast conurbation that covers the Eastern Seaboard. Dredd is one of the all-powerful lawmen who ride herd on the madding millions who fill the streets and towers of the infamous megalopolis (#1 on the Architects' Journal list of "comic book cities"). Dredd debuted in the second issue of the sci-fi comic weekly 2000 A.D. Violent, dark, sardonic, Judge Dredd has become a touchstone of dystopian fiction. The stories that made **Dredd** a smash hit worldwide











ESSENTIAL

JUDGE DREDD

AMERICA

JOHN WAGNER / GARTH ENNIS

KITTIES! They're a blessing, they're a curse...literally, in the case of lnkblot. The title character of a new Image series by Emma Kubert & Rusty Gladd, Inkblot is a runaway blob of black magic that thinks it's a cat. Will its accidental creator survive Inkblot's adorable rampage through the Seven Realms? Read the first collection and the upcoming second to see! Karl Stevens's Penny is a more realistic look at a more realistic cat. Penny's full of ideas, though, and finds herself on an unexpected adventure! Cat lovers will recognize their own dear moggies in this lovely little book from Chronicle.



I NEED THREE THINGS

FOOD IN MY DISH, A CLEAN TOILET BOX, AND SOME PEOPLE SERVANTS TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE THINGS



## ESSENTIAL JUDGE DREDD



DREDD Vs DEATH JOHN WAGNER / BRIAN BOLLAND

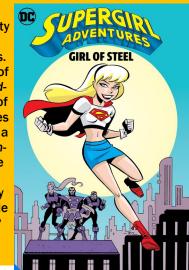
covers the early years of Dredd the character and Dredd the series. The Apocalypse War recounts that brutal saga of global conflict. erica, the story of a citizens' revolt against the Judges,stands out due to the painted art 🖡 by various hands. Popular due to the fetishistic artwork of Brian Bolland, Dredd vs. Death introduced the supernatural to Dredd's SF world. That continues in **End of Days**, when **Dredd** and his crew go up against the Four Horsemen of the Book of Revelations. The exquisitely detailed art of Chris Weston galvanizes Control as Dredd faces a Judge who thinks he ain't Judge enough! All these and upcoming editions can be reserved at lexpublib.org!



Love the classic comic book characters like Bat man and the Justice League, but don't care for the imposingly elaborate story & art of contemporary comic books? Then allow me to recommend DC's long-running "Adventures" line. Originally based on the various animated series helmed by Bruce Timm and Paul Dini, the Adventures books have taken on a life of their own. The impler, more expressive



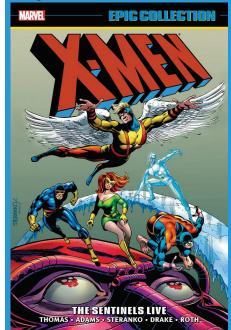
art is perfect for the back-to-basics simplicity of the stories. Go to J 741.5 for new editions. There's "Season One" of the current Batman Adventures, a collection of Supergirl's appearances in the cartoon comics, a new Justice League Unlimited focused on the Girl Power of Gypsy, Wonder Woman, Mary Marvel and others while Cat Got Your Tongue? collects the best Catwoman Adventures!



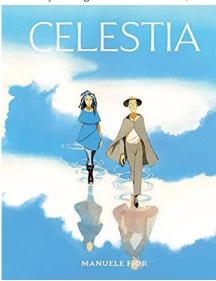


Family is at the heart of three current graphic novels. Or at least, the *definition* of family. Little Nessie is a lucky girl. She has two "aunties" who look after the child when her single mother needs some time. Ray is Nessie's biological aunt. A trans woman, Auntie Bron is Auntie Ray's live-in girlfriend. Bronwyn is the fulcrum of the plot of *Stone Fruit* (Fantagraphics). When Bron leaves Ray and goes back home to her uptight family, she breaks up the happy trio of Nessie & Aunties. Ray deals with her heartache as best as she can, which isn't very well. Meanwhile, Nessie's mom is feeling left out and worn out. An example of the new expressionism of contemporary indie cartoonists, the art of **Lee** 

It's hard to believe, but there was a time when the X-men were Marvel's red-headed step-children. Sales lagged even after the original leads "graduated" to snazzy new costumes. So writer Roy Thomas brought in fan favorite artists Jim Steranko and Neal Adams. Both did beautiful work, with Adams really putting himself into the book. The Sentinels Live reprints those final issues of the original X-Men title. Read it with Who Will Judge the Hulk? and Avengers: A Traitor Stalks Among Us and thrill as Marvel turns to Bronze!



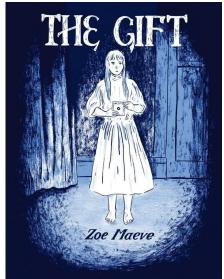
Lai is both simple and complex, with an engaging thin-line style given heft and reality by well-placed washes of blue. Stone Fruit is available from Central and Eastside. A new book by Italian master cartoonist Manuele Fiore is always cause for celebration...and promotion in 741.5 (see #5, #20 & #36)! With its mix of simple drawing and powerful coloring, Celestia harkens back to his exquisite 5,000 Kilometers Per Second (still available at Central). But like The Interview and Blackbird Days, it's a science fiction story. Years after the Invasion left an already reeling Earth a devastated, over-



## **MEANWHILE**

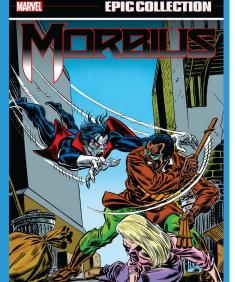


Other recent Epic Collections gather the first Silver Age appearances of Golden Age superstars Captain America and the Sub-Mariner. Captain America Lives Again in the action-packed Lee/Kirby stories that introduced a new generation to the First Avenger. Enter the Sub-Mariner cobbles together Namor's comeback in Fantastic Four with the beginning of his solo series drawn by Gene Colan!



heated sump, the citizens of the island of Celestia maintain what's left of civilization. But the poet Pierrot and the telepath Dora must leave the sea-battered city and embark on a quest. A surreal look at our onrushing future, Celestia is available via lexpublib.org. The past is where Zoe Maeve locates The Gift (Conundrum). The end of Russia's Romanov Dynasty happens offpanel as the youngest of the clan, Princess Anastasia, documents her ever-shrinking world with the camera she got for her fifteenth birthday. Maeve's spindly, scratchy drawing and palette of cool and deep blues make The Gift look like a ghost story yet haunted by the doomed living. It's in TEEN at any LPL location!

1971 saw the liberalization of the Comics Code governing content in commercial comic books. But Marvel was bending the rules before then. Vamires were verboten. That's why Morbius, the new villain for Spider-Man, was a Living Vampire. Even after the undead became street legal, Morbius continued his Adventures in Fear. His Epic Collection compiles Michael Morbius' first appearances, including the gruesomely gorgeous Vampire Tales drawn by Tom Sutton. The movie's coming in 2022, so get hemophagically hip at lexpublib.org!



THE LIVING VAMPIRE
GERBER • MEGREGOR • KANE • BUCKLER • MARCOS