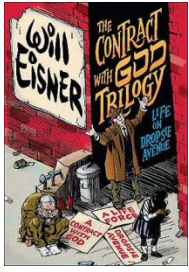


Welcome to the world of comics and graphic novels!



If you're new to this format, here are some tips on getting the most out of this literature:

Comics & graphic novels are not just for kids. There is a great deal of published work intended solely for adults— but not necessarily because of anything risqué. (Well, OK. Sometimes that's exactly the reason. No different than the romance section!) We certainly wouldn't put Ian McEwan or Don DeLillo in a kid's section, and the same idea applies to comics.

Serial Art (that's what we insiders call comics!) is a format, not a genre. Here you will find anything from sci-fi to romance to nonfiction, all told through a combination of words and art.

Reading comics and graphic novels is a bit different from reading a regular book. Here you're not just reading the words, but the art as well—often much of the story is told through the art.

The twenty titles listed below are some of the best in our collection; my thoughts on each are in italics. Try one! You might be surprised.

Aaron, Jason and Jason LaTour – [Southern Bastards: Volume 1: Here Was A Man](#)

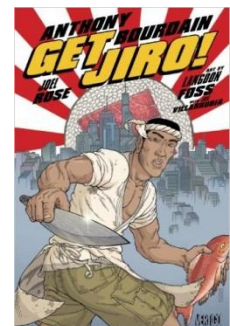
40 years ago, Sheriff "Big Bert" Tubb cleaned up Craw County, Alabama with an iron jaw and a big ol' stick. When his son, Earl Tubb, returns home to settle some family business, he finds his daddy's grave unkempt, the stick he was buried with grown into a gnarled old tree, and Craw County in worse shape than ever. *If you like "Justified" or "Walking Tall" you'll love this deeply southern-fried crime drama.* (Continuing series, 2 volumes)

Bechdel, Alison - [Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic](#)

This darkly funny memoir focuses on Alison's relationship with her icily distant father, a funeral home director and a closeted homosexual. The saving grace in their relationship is books, and when Alison comes out as homosexual herself in late adolescence, the denouement is swift, graphic — and redemptive. *This unsparing account of an LGBT woman's tumultuous childhood won numerous awards and near-universal critical acclaim.*

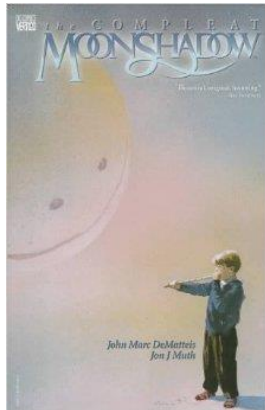
Bourdain, Anthony and Joel Rose – [Get Jiro!](#)

In a not-too-distant future L.A. where master chefs rule the town like crime lords and people literally kill for a seat at the best restaurants, a bloody culinary war is raging. Jiro, a renegade and ruthless sushi chef, arrives in town with strong ideas of his own. In the end, no chef may be left alive! *This romp from celebrity chef Bourdain brings new meaning to "Chopped!"*



Carey, Mike – [The Unwritten: Volume One: Tommy Taylor & The Bogus Identity](#)

Tommy Taylor, whose father wrote novels about him as a wizard, evades a mysterious group obsessed with him and investigates the possibility of a conspiracy underneath the various forms of fiction that have been written throughout history. *Inspired by Harry Potter and the life of Christopher Robin Milne, this engaging series deals with themes related to fame, celebrity, and the relationship between fiction and human consciousness.* (Series collected in 12 Volumes)



DeMatteis, J – [Moonshadow](#)

Born in an intergalactic zoo and raised on the romantic works of Byron and Shelley, Moonshadow is suddenly kicked out of home at the age of 14 into an uncaring cosmos. He embarks on a journey that not only takes him to different planets, but also to the farthest reaches of the human heart. *This beautifully painted, haunting and thought-provoking coming-of-age tale was at the heart of the mid-80's comic revolution, and is regarded as a classic to this day.*

Diaz Canales, Juan and Juanjo Guarnido – [Blacksad](#)

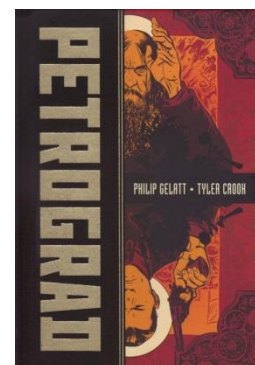
Private investigator John Blacksad is up to his feline ears (yes, he's a cat!) in mystery, digging into the backstories behind murders, child abductions, and nuclear secrets. *Written by two Spaniards and initially published to great acclaim in France, this anthropomorphic noir series nails the gritty underbelly of 50's America.* (Continuing series, currently at 3 volumes)

Eisner, Will – [A Contract With God: Life on Dropsie Avenue](#)

Published quietly in 1978, this legendary trilogy of stories about the Jewish tenements of Eisner's childhood is widely considered the first true literary comic. Today it is considered one of the greatest classics of sequential art storytelling, and the yearly awards given out to the best in the world of comics bear Eisner's name.

Gelatt, Phillip and Tyler Crook – [Petrograd](#)

Set during the height of the First World War, this title follows a reluctant British spy stationed in the heart of the Russian empire as he is handed the most difficult assignment of his career: orchestrate the death of the mad monk, the Tsarina's most trusted adviser and the surrogate ruler of the nation. *This beautifully drawn piece of counter-historical fiction imagines an international conspiracy at the heart of Rasputin's murder – a spy thriller against the backdrop of WWI Russia!*





Hernandez, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez – Love & Rockets

Maggie the Mechanic: The First Volume of 'Locas' Stories

Heartbreak Soup: The First Volume of 'Palomar' Stories

First published in 1981, Los Bros Hernandez have been telling the tales of their beloved characters now for 35 years. Gilbert's "Locas" stories focus on Latin-American friends/lovers Maggie and Hopey and their circle in L.A., while Jaime's "Palomar" stories take place in the so-named Mexican town. *Featuring quirky characters, Latin-American flavor, magical realism, sci-fi, and complex storytelling, these are the*

comics to read if you want to understand why comics can be great literature. (Continuing series, currently collected in 11 volumes)

Kim, Dong Hwa – The Color of Earth

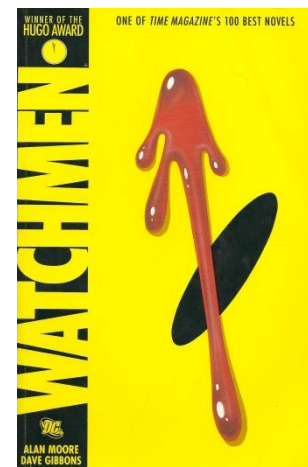
This trilogy from one of Korea's most beloved creators chronicles the lives of a single mother and her daughter in rural Korea. Centered on the life of a young girl named Ehwa, it follows her growth from a child to young woman to her eventual marriage. *This extraordinary example of Korean Manwha is one of the experience of love and the relationships of mothers and daughters.* (Followed by 'Color of Earth' and Color of Heaven')

Moon, Fabio and Gabriel Ba – Daytripper

Follow Bras de Olivias Dominguez through various important periods in his life in exotic Brazil, with each story ending the same way: his death. In every chapter, Bras dies at different moments in his life, as the story follows him through his entire existence. *Both a celebration of Brazillian culture and a story about living life to its fullest, this multiple award winning work is a modern classic.*

Moore, Alan – Watchmen

Alan Moore's legendary Watchmen is set in an alternate 1980's where superheroes exist and Nixon is still President. When a retired hero is killed, his former teammates must investigate. The conspiracy they uncover will entwine their secret traumas and twisted psychologies, ultimately asking where the fine line is drawn between heroes and villains. *One of the most lauded comics ever written, Watchmen is a both a complete deconstruction of and a darkly human look at the superhero genre. It made Moore a superstar and helped plant the idea that comics could be serious literature.*

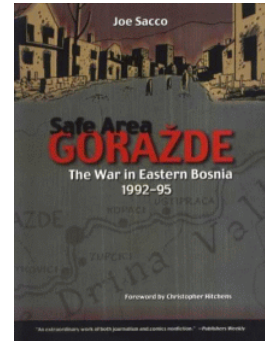


Rucka, Greg – [Queen and Country](#)

Welcome to the thrilling and often-times devastating world of international espionage! Join SIS field agent Tara Chase as she is sent all over the world in service to her Queen & Country, while Director of Operations Paul Crocker walks a narrow tightrope between his loyalties to his people and the political masters that must be served! *Reminiscent of classic LeCarre, this gritty and realistic espionage thriller won multiple awards as well as great critical acclaim.* (Collected in 4 volumes)

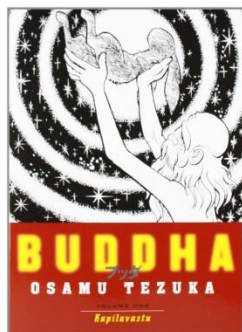
Sacco, Joe – [Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995](#)

In 1996, Sacco spent five months in Bosnia, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime. The book focuses on the month he spent in the Muslim-held enclave of Gorazde, which was besieged by Bosnian Serbs during the war. *Sacco is one of the most acclaimed creators of graphic nonfiction, and this extraordinary work of Journalism is considered his magnum opus.*



Satrapı, Marjane – [Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood](#)

Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. *One of the most acclaimed and popular graphic novels of the last 20 years, one that is now a staple in American high school classrooms.*



Tezuka, Osamu – [Buddha: Volume 1: Kapilavastu](#)

Created over the course of 11 years and spanning 8 volumes, this fictionalized account of the life of the Buddha was one of the last great epic works of the man known as the “Godfather of Manga.” *A mature and masterful epic from the man who not only launched Japan’s manga and anime culture, but created many of its most enduring classics.* (followed by volumes 2 – 8)

Vaughan, Brian K and Fiona Staples – [Saga](#)

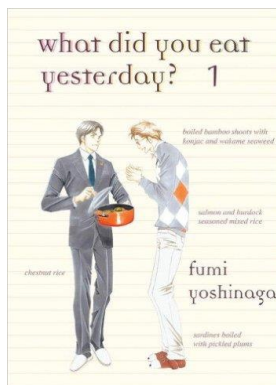
Husband and wife Alana and Marko, who hail from long-warring extraterrestrial races, must flee authorities from both sides of a galactic war as they struggle to care for their daughter, Hazel, who is born in the beginning of the story and who occasionally narrates the series as an unseen adult. *One of the most celebrated comics of recent years, this epic space opera is like Romeo & Juliet crashing headlong into Star Wars. A must-read wild ride!* (Continuing series, currently at 5 volumes)

Willingham, Bill – [Fables: Volume 1: Legends in Exile](#)

Not only are fairy tale and folklore characters real, many have been forced out of their Homelands by "The Adversary" who has conquered the realm. The Fables (as they refer to themselves) have traveled to our world and formed a clandestine community in New York City known as Fabletown. *Covering multiple genre forms and filled with stories ranging from mundane to personal to epic, this long-running series won more than twenty Eisner awards and has become a beloved modern classic.* (Collected in 22 volumes, 2 Graphic Novels and 'The Fables Encyclopedia.' Also has 3 spinoff series...)

Yoshinaga, Fumi – [All My Darling Daughters](#)

Yukiko, a salarywoman in her thirties, still lives with her mother Mari. But their relationship suffers a sudden change when Mari announces that she's getting married-- to an ex-host and aspiring actor who's younger than Yukiko. *Yoshinaga, a highly regarded creator in Japan, here weaves together the lives of Yukiko and her friends in five short stories, exploring the various aspects of female relationships with skill and elegance.*



Yoshinaga, Fumi – [What Did You Eat Yesterday?](#)

After long days at work, Shiro and Kenji, a middle-aged gay couple living in Tokyo, will always have down-time together by the dinner table where they can discuss their feelings and enjoy delicately prepared home cooked meals. *Part comic, part cookbook, this heartwarming story is about enjoying the finer moments of life through food. And not only is food incorporated into the narrative, recipes are listed at the end of the chapters!* (Continuing series, currently at 8 volumes)