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## **KEY=MEGAHEX - CAMILA ELAINA**

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### **CRISIS ZONE**

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*Fantagraphics Books In March 2020, as the planet began to enter lockdown, acclaimed cartoonist Simon Hanselmann decided that what the world needed most was free, easily accessible entertainment, so he set out to make the greatest webcomic ever created! The result is also certain to be one of the most acclaimed and eagerly anticipated graphic novels of 2021. As the Covid-19 pandemic continued to escalate far beyond any reasonable expectations, Crisis Zone escalated right alongside, in real time, with daily posts on Instagram. Crisis Zone's battle mission was to amuse the masses: no matter how horrible and bleak everything seemed, at least Werewolf Jones wasn't in your house! Over the course of 2020, Crisis Zone has amassed unprecedented amounts of new fans to the Megg and Mogg universe and is presented here, unabridged and uncensored, with a slew of added pages and scenes deleted from the webcomic, as well as an extensive "Director's Commentary" from Hanselmann himself.*

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### **MEGAHEX**

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*Fantagraphics Books Megg is a depressed, drug-addicted witch. Mogg is her black cat. Their friend, Owl, is an anthropomorphized owl. They hang out a lot with Werewolf Jones. This may sound like a pure stoner comedy, but it transcends the genre: these characters struggle unsuccessfully to come to grips with their depression, drug use, sexuality, poverty, lack of work, lack of ambition, and their complex feelings about each other in ways that have made Megg and Mogg sensations on Hanselmann's GirlMountain tumblr. This is the first collection of Hanselmann's work, freed from its cumbersome Internet prison, and sure to be one of the most talked about graphic novels of 2014, featuring all of the "classic" Megg and Mogg episodes from the past five years as well as over 70 pages of all-new material.*

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## ONE MORE YEAR

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*Fantagraphics Books* Simon Hanselmann's previous two *Megg & Mogg* books have both been *New York Times* best-sellers, and *One More Year* continues to cement Hanselmann as one his generation's defining graphic novelists. *Megg the witch*, *Mogg the cat*, and their friends *Owl* and *Werewolf Jones* are imbued with far more pathos and depth than seems plausible. *One More Year* continues to give more substance to the characters and personalities of its protagonists in ways that never fail to surprise, delight, and horrify.

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## MEGG & MOGG IN AMSTERDAM

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### AND OTHER STORIES

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*Fantagraphics Books* *Megg the witch*, *Mogg the cat*, their friend *Owl*, and *Werewolf Jones* struggle unsuccessfully with their depression, drug use, sexuality, poverty, lack of ambition, and their complex feelings about each other. It's a laff riot! *Megg* and *Mogg* decide to take a trip to Amsterdam for some quality couple time, although the trip gets off to a rocky start when they forget their antidepressants. They need *Owl* to come and help them save their relationship. But why does he have a suitcase full of glass dildos? And what will they do when they realize that the housesitting *Werewolf Jones* has turned their apartment into a "f#@k zone"? *Megg & Mogg in Amsterdam* collects all of Simon Hanselmann's contributions to *Vice.com*, the Ignatz Award-nominated short story "St. Owl's Bay," and other surprises that will add additional color and background for fans of *Megahex*.

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### BAD GATEWAY

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*Fantagraphics Books* *Owl* is gone, *Werewolf Jones* has moved in, and everything as *Megg* and *Mogg* know it begins to fall apart. Hanselmann's comic premise of his previous graphic novels — eternally stoned, slacker roommates — stretches at the seams as his characters reflect the psychological toll that their years of unsustainable, determined insouciance and self-medication has inflicted.

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### SEEDS AND STEMS

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*Fantagraphics Books* In 2016, Hanselmann began producing Xeroxed zines starring the depressive *Megg* (a green-skinned witch), her abusive boyfriend *Mogg* (an actual cat), their submissive roommate *Owl* (a vaguely humanoid owl), and the self-destructively hedonistic *Werewolf Jones* (half human, half wolf) in print runs of 300 to 500 copies, with hand-painted covers, custom stamps and hologram security stickers. *Seeds and Stems* collects all of these out-of-print, self-published stories produced by the artist between 2016-2019, along with a generous smattering of rarities from various anthologies and magazines. *Megg* and *Mogg* and friends explore

*the worlds of lucid dreaming, banking scams, cinema, mixed drinks, alien invasions, and budget vasectomies in this varied collection of rare and often experimental adventures, designed and curated entirely by the artist.*

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## **BOY'S CLUB**

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*Fantagraphics Books This collection of slacker psychedelic comics spawned a thousand Internet memes.*

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## **BELOW AMBITION**

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*Megg, Mogg and Owl Following Simon Hanselmann's 2021 smash hit graphic novel Crisis Zone -- which captured the zeitgeist of life under Covid and the New York Times Book Review called "the first great work of pandemic fiction" -- things settle down, and Megg the Witch and Werewolf Jones get the band back together.*

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## **JIMBO'S INFERNO**

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*Fantagraphics Books Jimbo's Inferno is the hugely anticipated sequel (or prequel, as it was actually completed first) to Jimbo In Purgatory. In this volume, produced to the same exacting standards as 2004's Purgatory, Jimbo, accompanied by his trusty guide and ride Valise, visits Hell (here envisioned as a gigantic subterranean shopping mall called Focky Bocky), and in so doing runs across minotaurs, drug-addled punkettes, UFOs, giant robots, and more, leading him to such profound questions as, "Why do so many recreational activities involve smoke and heat?"*

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## **MINDVISCOSITY**

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*Fantagraphics Books This is a collection of paintings, a one-man bestiary of monsters, weirdos, beasties, and anthropomorphs, all painted in Furie's meticulous brand of representational surrealism. Furie's cheerful, anthropomorphic comics character, Pepe the Frog, became a meme that was appropriated by hate groups (as seen in the documentary Feels Good Man, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.) Furie's recent paintings reflect this experience. This is a showcase for an unsettling menagerie; creatures seem to be hiding their true intentions. Furie is plumbing darker depths in these works, despite the paintings' inviting colors and friendly cartoon iconography.*

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## THE DAMNATION GAME

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*Crossroad Press Marty Strauss, a gambling addict recently released from prison, is hired to be the personal bodyguard of Joseph Whitehead, one of the wealthiest men in the world. The job proves more complicated and dangerous than he thought, however, as Marty soon gets caught up in a series of supernatural events involving Whitehead, his daughter (who is a heroin addict), and a devilish man named Mamoulian, with whom Whitehead made a Faustian bargain many years earlier, during World War II. As time passes, Mamoulian haunts Whitehead using his supernatural powers (such as the ability to raise the dead), urging him to complete his pact with him. Eventually Whitehead decides to escape his fate after a few encounters with Mamoulian and having his wife, former bodyguard, and now his daughter Carys taken away from him. With hope still left to save Carys, Marty Strauss, although reluctant to get involved in the old man Whiteheads deserved punishment, decides to get involved and attempt to save the innocent gifted addict from being another victim to the damnation game*

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## GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

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*SelfMadeHero A graphic biography of Georgia O'Keeffe, one of the most significant artists of the 20th century, known for her paintings of enlarged flowers and renowned for her contribution to modern art Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), the American artist known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, New York skyscrapers, and New Mexico landscapes, was one of the most significant artists of the 20th century. During her lifetime, which spanned almost a century, she became widely recognized for her enormous contribution to modern art. Drawing mainly from O'Keeffe's letters, which are depicted in this biography, artist María Herreros delves into O'Keeffe's deepest self: a tireless traveler, a nature lover, a strong and emancipated woman who carved her own determined path through life and did it her way.*

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## ALIENATION

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*Fantagraphics Books Drawn in hazy gray pencil and printed in blue pantone ink, this book is about Elizabeth, an exotic dancer in cyberspace, and Carlos, who was just fired from the last human-staffed oil rig, attempting to keep their romance alive. When they realize that their bodies are full of artificial organs and they live almost entirely online, they begin to question what being human actually means. Do our ancestral, or even animal, instincts eventually kick in, or are we transcending the limits of our bodies? When an unplanned pregnancy is caused by an AI hack, Elizabeth must decide if the child is the next step in evolution — or a glitch that will wipe out humanity once and for all.*

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## CRASH SITE

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Fantagraphics Books *Crash Site*, the debut graphic novel from British cartoonist Nathan Cowdry, is the story of Rosie, a young drug trafficker who uses her lovelorn talking dog, Denton, to mule drugs across international lines. When Rosie and Denton's return flight to England goes down and they find themselves stranded in the Amazon basin (with fifty grand worth of coke in Denton's stomach), well, getting busted becomes the least of their concerns as they try to find their way out. Did we mention that Rosie is also wearing a pair of anthropomorphic underwear she calls *Pants Dude*, and that he may have other plans for her and Denton? *Crash Site* is a darkly funny, character-driven graphic novel that calls to mind the sense of humor of Simon Hanselmann, with a Tarantino-level appetite for gratuitous acts of sex and violence and use of flashbacks to allow the story to unfold. Cowdry's confident storytelling skills, attractive artwork, and sense of comedic timing makes *Crash Site* a winning recipe for fans of adult humor.

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## PARALLEL LIVES

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Fantagraphics Books This collects six wildly inventive short comics stories that might collectively be dubbed "speculative memoir." Schrauwen's deadpan depictions of his and his offspring's upcoming lives include alien abduction, dialogue with future agents, and coded messages in envelopes at breakfast.

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## BAND FOR LIFE

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Fantagraphics Books This is a graphic novel about a noise rock band, based in an alternate reality version of Chicago, and their community of friends and acquaintances. Though beset with disaster at every turn—and frequently reduced to squabbling—they stick together because the band is the core of their existence, and they help each other find their way. *Band for Life* is a love letter to people compelled to create with no hope of financial reward.

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## FANTE BUKOWSKI 2

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Fantagraphics Books This graphic novella catches up with aspiring young writer Fante Bukowski one year later; he's attempting to establish himself in a new city's literary scene, self-publishing his first zine, and coming to terms with his feelings for an old friend. Fante Bukowski yearns for success as the great American novelist, and to get respect from his father once and for all. But, there's just one problem: he still has no talent for writing.

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## THE PLEASURE OF THE TEXT

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*In The Pleasure of the Text, Sami Alwani weaves together themes of art induced dissociation, queer intergenerational polyamory, racial capitalism and esoteric mystical experiences into twenty slice-of-life comic stories that are equal parts comedy and tragedy. These stories question society and individual identity. A talking baby philosophizes away his own emotions. A half-man, half-dog cartoonist's spirit burns too bright when he alienates the entire alternative comics industry, drunk on his own power. A friendly ghost survives COVID quarantine with the help of CBD pot cookies and essential oil diffusers. There's something for everyone in this cheerful volume collecting all of award-winning Alwani's work-to-date with plenty of never-before-seen material.*

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## ROBERT CRUMB'S SEX OBSESSIONS

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*Taschen Somehow the Devil Got Me! The filthiest fruit of Robert Crumb's fertile imagination From the very beginning, even before the sexual revolution made Robert Crumb the world's most celebrated underground cartoonist, he felt compelled to commit his sexual fantasies to paper. Once upon a time, he'd destroy them, fearful of others discovering his quirky tastes. Then he found that baring his soul provided a sort of therapy, and he has memorialized his every desire since. Crumb's personal selection of these works first appeared in 2007 in a gorgeous, but pricey, TASCHEN Collector's Edition, complete with slipcase, lithographic print, and many strips hand-colored by Crumb himself. Now, this compact edition is offering the same high-quality obsession at a bargain price! This compendium includes the strips My Troubles With Women, If I Were a King, A Bitchin' Bod, and How To Have Fun With a Strong Girl, as well as 60 single page drawings. Recurring motifs include big strong girls, artistic wimps triumphantly subduing said girls, cavewomen, Yetis, vulture demonesses, bitter little guys, and did we mention big strong girls?*

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## CRAWL SPACE

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*In the basement, through the appliances and past the veil that separates realities, lies a rainbow-hued world where a group of kids have found retreat from their suburban mundanity with a coterie of iridescent creatures. But in the fraught realm of adolescence, can friendship survive the appeal of the surreal? Jesse Jacobs was born in Moncton, NB, and now draws comics and things from his home in Hamilton, ON. In 2009, his books Small Victories and Blue Winter were short listed at the Doug Wright Awards for Canadian Cartooning. He received the Gene Day Award for Canadian Comic Book Self-Publisher of 2008. Even the Giants (AdHouse, 2011) marked his major publishing debut after several award-winning, self-published titles, and his work has appeared in the acclaimed Latvian comics anthology š!, as well as the 2012 edition The Best American Comics edited by Françoise Mouly and published Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. He made his debut with Koyama Press in 2012 with the psychedelic creation myth By This Shall You Know*

*Him, which was followed by the trippy take on nature versus nurture, Safari Honeymoon in 2014.*

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## **THE PERVERT**

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Image Comics *A surprisingly honest and touching account of a trans girl surviving through sex work in Seattle. With excerpts published in the Eisner-nominated anthology ISLAND, the full-color volume, drawn and painted by REMY BOYDELL, is an unflinching debut graphic novel. Written by MICHELLE PEREZ.*

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## **GAST**

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Fantagraphics Books *In rural Wales, Helen, an amateur bird watcher, investigates the apparent suicide of a 'rare bird' named Emrys. Helen's inner life is slowly revealed through a mixture of naturalistic detail and phantasmagoric occurrences.*

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## **HEROES OF THE COMICS**

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## **PORTRAITS OF THE PIONEERING LEGENDS OF COMIC BOOKS**

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Fantagraphics Books *Featuring over 80 full-color portraits of the pioneering legends of American comic books, including publishers, editors and artists from the industry's birth in the '30s, through the brilliant artists and writers of behind EC Comics in the '50s. All lovingly rendered and chosen by Drew Friedman, a cartooning legend in his own right. Featuring subjects popular and obscure, men and women, as well as several pioneering African-American artists. Each subject features a short essay by Friedman, who grew up knowing many of the subjects included (as the son of writer Bruce Jay Friedman), including Stan Lee, Harvey Kurtzman, Will Eisner, Mort Drucker, Al Jaffee, Jack Davis, Will Elder, and Bill Gaines. More names you might recognize: Barks, Crumb, Wood, Wolverton, Frazetta, Siegel & Shuster, Kirby, Cole, Ditko, Werthem... it's a Hall of Fame of comic book history from the man BoingBoing.com call "America's greatest living portrait artist!"*

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## **CULTURES OF COMICS WORK**

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Springer *This anthology explores tensions between the individualistic artistic ideals and the collective industrial realities of contemporary cultural production with eighteen all-new chapters presenting pioneering empirical research on the complexities and controversies of comics work. Art Spiegelman. Alan Moore. Osamu Tezuka. Neil Gaiman. Names such as these have become synonymous with the medium of comics. Meanwhile, the large numbers of people without whose collective action no comic book*

would ever exist in the first place are routinely overlooked. *Cultures of Comics Work* unveils this hidden, global industrial labor of writers, illustrators, graphic designers, letterers, editors, printers, typesetters, publicists, publishers, distributors, translators, retailers, and countless others both directly and indirectly involved in the creative production of what is commonly thought of as the comic book. Drawing upon diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives, an international and interdisciplinary cohort of cutting-edge researchers and practitioners intervenes in debates about cultural work and paves innovative directions for comics scholarship.

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## **PERSEPHONE**

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Boom! Studios French author Loïc Locatelli-Kournwsky presents a modern-day retelling of the Greek myth of Demeter and her daughter Persephone in an exciting universe that blends high-fantasy adventure with visuals reminiscent of Japanese anime and 1950s American-style comics. Persephone may be the adopted daughter of the famous magician Demeter, but she struggles to find her place alongside such a force of nature. Persephone's desire to find out where she belongs takes her on an epic adventure deep into the Underworld, where she'll discover who—or what—she is.

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## **THE COLOR OF EARTH**

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Macmillan Ehwa tries to cope with her widowed mother's finding of new love, while she, after falling in love with Duksam, a young wrestler, discovers the pain of heartbreak when Master Cho sends Duksam away and asks for her hand in marriage himself, in a Korean novel in graphic format.

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## **PATIENCE**

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Random House *Patience* is an indescribable psychedelic science-fiction love story, veering with uncanny precision from violent destruction to deeply personal tenderness in a way that is both quintessentially 'Clowesian', and utterly unique in the author's body of work. This 180-page, full-colour story affords Clowes the opportunity to draw some of the most exuberant and breathtaking pages of his life, and to tell his most suspenseful, surprising and affecting story yet. The story opens in 2012, when Jack Barlow returns home to find Patience, his pregnant girlfriend, murdered. We meet him next in 2029, still haunted by the murder. He hears of a guy who thinks he's invented a device that enables time travel. On the next page Jack is in 2006, watching Patience on her dates with boys. Is one of them the killer?

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## **SAM ZABEL AND THE MAGIC PEN**

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*Fantagraphics Books* Acclaimed cartoonist Dylan Horrocks returns with a long-awaited new graphic novel, the first since his perennial classic, 1998's *Hicksville*. Cartoonist Sam Zabel hasn't drawn a comic in years. Stuck in a nightmare of creative block and despair, Sam spends his days writing superhero stories for a large American comics publisher and staring at a blank piece of paper, unable to draw a single line. Then one day he finds a mysterious old comic book set on Mars and is suddenly thrown headlong into a wild, fantastic journey through centuries of comics, stories, and imaginary worlds. Accompanied by a young webcomic creator named Alice and an enigmatic schoolgirl with rocket boots and a bag full of comics, Sam goes in search of the Magic Pen, encountering sex-crazed aliens, medieval monks, pirates, pixies and — of course — cartoonists. Funny, erotic, and thoughtful, *Sam Zabel and the Magic Pen* explores the pleasures, dangers, and moral consequences of fantasy.

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## **FAMILIAR FACE**

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*Drawn and Quarterly* In a thoroughly modernized, constantly updating society, where can true connection be found? The bodies of citizens and the infrastructure surrounding them is constantly updating. People can't recognize themselves in old pictures, and they wake up in apartments of completely different sizes and shapes. Commuter routes radically differ day to day. The citizens struggle with adaptability as updates happen too quickly, and the changes are far too radical to be intuitive. There is no way to resist—the updates are enacted by a nameless, faceless force. The narrator of *Familiar Face* works in the government's department of complaints, reading through citizens' reports of the issues they've had with the system updates. The job isn't to fix anything but rather to be the sole human sounding board, a comfort in a system so decidedly impersonal. These complaints aren't mere bug reports—they can be anything: existential, petty, just plain heartbreaking. Michael DeForge's ability to find the humanity and emotional truth within the outlandish bureaucracy of everyday life is unparalleled. The signatures of his work—a vibrant color palette, surreal designs, and a self-aware sense of humor—enliven an often bleak technocratic future. *Familiar Face* is a masterful and deeply funny exploration of how we define our sense of self, and how we cope when so much of life is out of our control.

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## **MOWGLI'S MIRROR**

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In this wordless tale, the young human boy Mowgli lives alone in the jungle. When he befriends an orangutan, Mowgli thinks he has found his lifemate. But Mowgli still wonders if there any other creatures that look like him. Mowgli sets out on a journey through the jungle, encountering all types of creatures and having numerous adventures. A fantastic use of layout and design by critically-acclaimed Olivier "Ollie" Schrauwen, printed in orange and blue spot colors. \* Nominated for a 2016 Eisner Award

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## SAFARI HONEYMOON

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*A pair of newlyweds honeymoon in a truly exotic location as they delve deep into a mysterious forest and themselves.*

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## ANT COLONY

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*Drawn and Quarterly Follows the strange exploits of a handful of black ants in a colony at war with a nearby colony of red ants.*

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## HEAVEN NO HELL

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*Drawn and Quarterly "One of the most inventive and prolific cartoonists working today."—Vulture In the past ten years, Michael DeForge has released eleven books. While his style and approach have evolved, he has never wavered from taut character studies and incisive social commentary with a focus on humor. He has deeply probed subjects like identity, gentrification, fame, and sexual desire. In "No Hell," an angel's tour of the five tiers of heaven reveals her obsession with a haunting infidelity. In "Raising," a couple uses an app to see what their unborn child would look like. Of course, what begins as a simple face-melding experiment becomes a nightmare of too-much-information where the young couple is forced to confront their terrible choices. "Recommended for You" is an anxious retelling of our narrator's favorite TV show—a Purge-like societal collapse drama—as a reflection of our desire for meaning in pop culture. Each of these stories shows the inner turmoil of an ordinary person coming to grips with a world vastly different than their initial perception of it. The humor is searing and the emotional weight lingers long after the story ends. Heaven No Hell collects DeForge's best work yet. His ability to dig into a subject and break it down with beautiful drawings and sharp writing makes him one of the finest short story writers of the past decade, in comics or beyond. Heaven No Hell is always funny, sometimes sad, and continuously innovative in its deconstruction of society.*

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## BIG KIDS

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*Drawn and Quarterly Teenage misfits and adolescent rabble-rousing take center stage in this dark coming-of-age tale Big Kids is simultaneously Michael DeForge's most straightforward narrative and his most complex work to date. It follows a troubled teenage boy through the transformative years of high school as he redefines his friends, his interests, and his life path. When the boy's uncle, a police officer, gets kicked out of the family's basement apartment and transferred to the countryside, April moves in. She's a college student, mysterious and cool, and she quickly takes a shine to the boy. The boy's own interests quickly fade away: he stops engaging in casual sex, taking drugs, and testing the limits of socially acceptable (and legal) behavior. Instead, he hangs out with April and her*

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friends, a bunch of highly evolved big kids who spend their days at the campus swimming pool. And slowly, the boy begins to change, too. Eerie and perfectly paced, DeForge's *Big Kids* muses on the complicated, and often contradictory, feelings people struggle with during adolescence, the choices we make to fit in, and the ways we survive times of change. Like *Ant Colony* and *First Year Healthy*, *Big Kids* is a testimony to the harshness and beauty of being alive.

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## **KARMELA KRIMM 1. RAMADAN BLUES**

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Europe Comics Karmela Krimm was the most promising young detective on the Marseille police force until she volunteered to take the fall for an operation that went sideways. When Karmela lost her job and became a private investigator, her ideals went up in smoke along with her badge. Perhaps for the better: in the troubled waters she now navigates, ideals are a dangerous luxury.

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## **MY BADLY DRAWN LIFE**

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This coming-of-age graphic memoir is a relentless and exhilarating journey to the depths of the human condition, rendered with precision and verve by one of the world's greatest living cartoonists.

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## **COSPLAYERS**

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Fantagraphics Books This graphic novel is an ode to the defining element of fandom. It celebrates both the culture's theatricality and D.I.Y. beauty—as well as its often-awkward conflation of fantasy with reality—in seven interconnected short stories about two young women. *Cosplayers* is an affectionate, funny book about how fandom can be much more inclusive and humanistic than the stories and characters it's built upon.

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## **THE HUNTER**

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## **A PARKER NOVEL**

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University of Chicago Press You probably haven't ever noticed them. But they've noticed you. They notice everything. That's their job. Sitting quietly in a nondescript car outside a bank making note of the tellers' work habits, the positions of the security guards. Lagging a few car lengths behind the Brinks truck on its daily rounds. Surreptitiously jiggling the handle of an unmarked service door at the racetrack. They're thieves. Heisters, to be precise. They're pros, and Parker is far and away the best of them. If you're planning a job, you want him in. Tough, smart, hardworking, and relentlessly focused on his trade, he is the heister's heister, the robber's robber, the

*heavy's heavy. You don't want to cross him, and you don't want to get in his way, because he'll stop at nothing to get what he's after. Parker, the ruthless antihero of Richard Stark's eponymous mystery novels, is one of the most unforgettable characters in hardboiled noir. Lauded by critics for his taut realism, unapologetic amorality, and razor-sharp prose-style—and adored by fans who turn each intoxicating page with increasing urgency—Stark is a master of crime writing, his books as influential as any in the genre. The University of Chicago Press has embarked on a project to return the early volumes of this series to print for a new generation of readers to discover—and become addicted to. In *The Hunter*, the first volume in the series, Parker roars into New York City, seeking revenge on the woman who betrayed him and on the man who took his money, stealing and scamming his way to redemption. "Westlake knows precisely how to grab a reader, draw him or her into the story, and then slowly tighten his grip until escape is impossible."—Washington Post Book World "Elmore Leonard wouldn't write what he does if Stark hadn't been there before. And Quentin Tarantino wouldn't write what he does without Leonard. . . . Old master that he is, Stark does all of them one better."—Los Angeles Times "Donald Westlake's Parker novels are among the small number of books I read over and over. Forget all that crap you've been telling yourself about War and Peace and Proust—these are the books you'll want on that desert island."—Lawrence Block*

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## **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF FANTE BUKOWSKI**

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*Fantagraphics Books Collects all three volumes of the Eisner Award-nominated graphic novels series, which skewers a self-important male literary poser. Living in a beat-up motel and consorting with the downtrodden as well as the mid-level literati, Fante Bukowski must overcome great obstacles — a love interest turned rival, ghostwriting a teen celebrity's memoirs, no actual talent — to gain the respect and adoration from critics and, more importantly, his father. Van Sciver has created a scathing, hilarious, and empathetic character study of a self-styled author determined that he's just one more poem (or drink) away from success. The book includes a foreword by novelist Ryan Boudinot (*Blueprints of the Afterlife*), a facsimile reproduction of Bukowski's literary debut, *6 Poems* (thought lost to time in the wake of a motel fire that destroyed the entire original print run), a "Works Cited" section, and a selection of "visual tributes" by over two dozen cartoonists including Nina Bunjevac, Simon Hanselmann, Jesse Jacobs, Ed Piskor, Leslie Stein, and others.*

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## **LIKE A VELVET GLOVE CAST IN IRON**

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*Fantagraphics Books The bizarre and fantastic adventures of Clay Loudermilk as he stumbles upon the mysteries behind a snuff film and becomes involved with increasingly bizarre characters should appeal to David Lynch fans. Adult.*