



**ALL SUMMER LONG
AND OTHER AWESOME NEW
COMICS FOR KIDS
OF ALL AGES!**

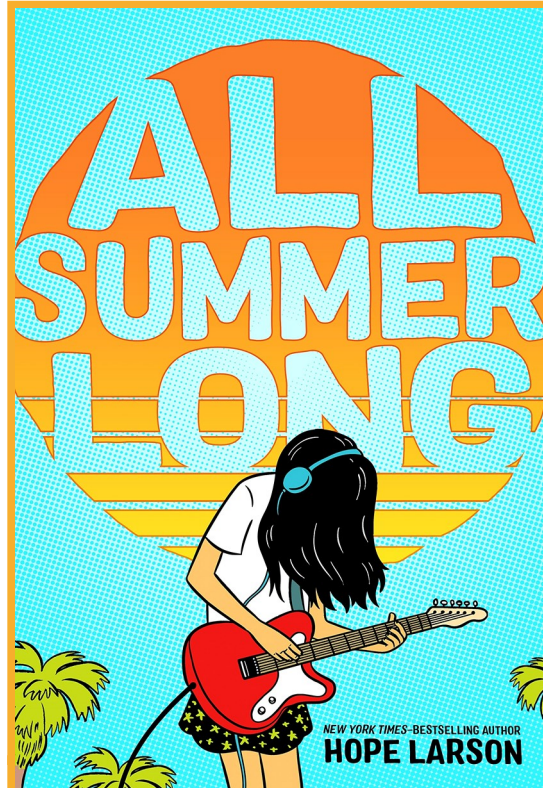
JULY 2018 — NO. NINETEEN PLUS...SOME OL' GROWN-UP JUNK



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



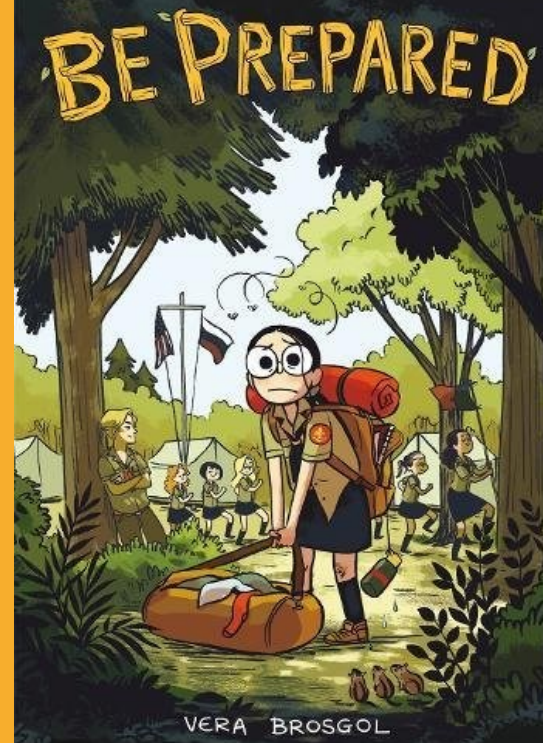
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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



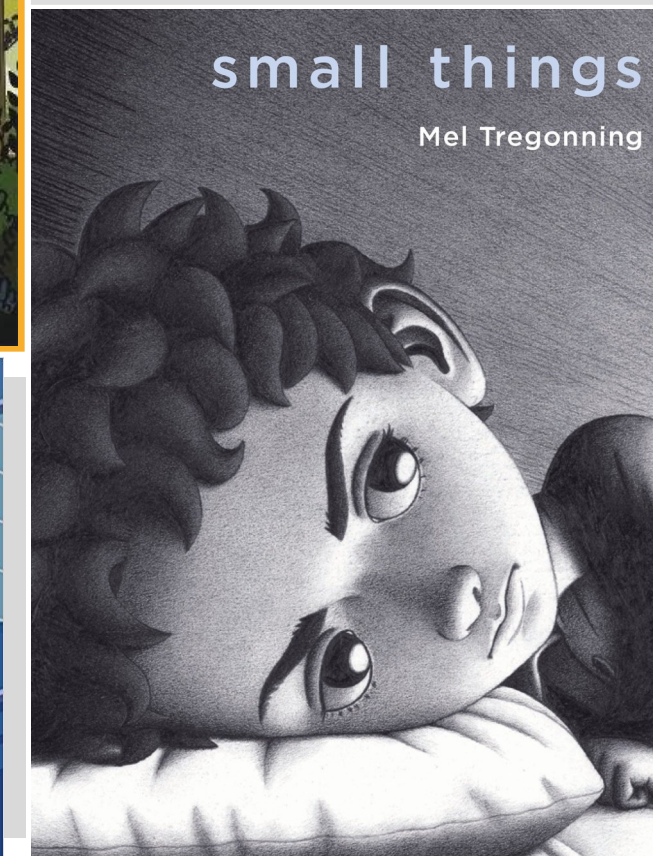
Ah, summer vacation! No more pencils, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks! It's the freedom to frolic, the time to hang with your friends and family...if you're lucky. Two new graphic novels explore two different experiences with summer vacation. Published by Farrar Straus Giroux, *All Summer Long* is the new book from Hope Larson, the artist responsible for the best-selling graphic adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time*. Thirteen-year-old Bina is on that uncomfortable cusp between child and teenager. She wants to continue the Summer Fun Index she's kept for years with her neighbor and best friend, Aaron. But Aaron thinks they're too old for that stuff; besides, he's off to soccer camp. Stuck home by herself and cut off from the internet by her parents, Bina finds a new friend in Aaron's older sister, Charlie. Bina and Charlie bond over their mutual interest in alternative rock (right) and help each other get through the summer. *All Summer Long* is a meditation on friendship and a testament to the transformative power of music. Elsewhere and –when in *Be Prepared* (First Second), Vera Brosgol spends



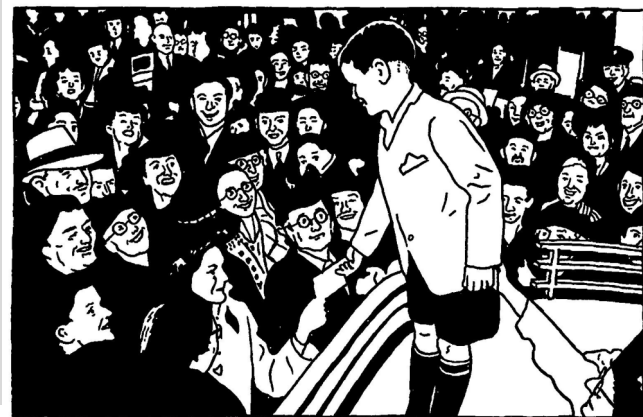
summer at Russian Camp, a remnant of pre-Communist scouting maintained by emigres. Unfortunately, nine-year-old Vera is also caught between ages, too old to be with the little kids, but never really fitting in with the older girls who share her tent. Vera tries her best, tries to be the good scout, tries to be grown-up. But it's rough. She keeps messing up and breaking rules and getting the rest of the girls in trouble. But through pluck and luck, Vera Brosgol the character eventually finds her place in this little world. Vera Brosgol the cartoonist (and author of *Anya's Ghost*) does a wonderful job with this graphic memoir. Her script is heart-warming and hilarious in turns, and her art captures both the beauty and scariness of nature in the raw (left). *Be Prepared* and *All Summer Long* are available from several LPL locations; go to lexpublib.org for the details!



Published by Pajama Press, *Small Things* is a wordless graphic novel for children. It's the story of a boy who is having a hard time. He can't make friends. His grades start to tank. He's avoiding his parents and starting fights with his older sister. As his anxieties build, they begin to manifest as swirling black creatures who bite pieces out of him. Exquisitely rendered in pencil, this was the final work of Australian cartoonist Mel Tregonning. It reflected the artist's own inner struggle. She took her life before this book was finished. Tregonning's mentor Shaun Tan drew the final three pages. Dark but still hopeful, *Small Things* is available at Beaumont, Tates Creek and Eastside.

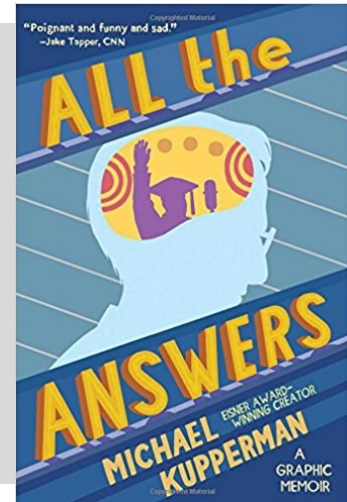


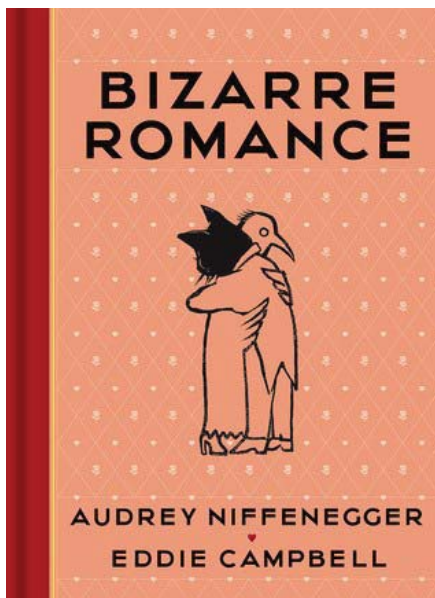
IF MY GRANDPARENTS HAD SET OUT TO CREATE A CHILD PRODIGY, THEY HAD SUCCEEDED BEYOND THEIR WILDEST DREAMS. HE WAS SOON THE MOST FAMOUS PRODIGY IN AMERICA, AND POSSIBLY THE WORLD.



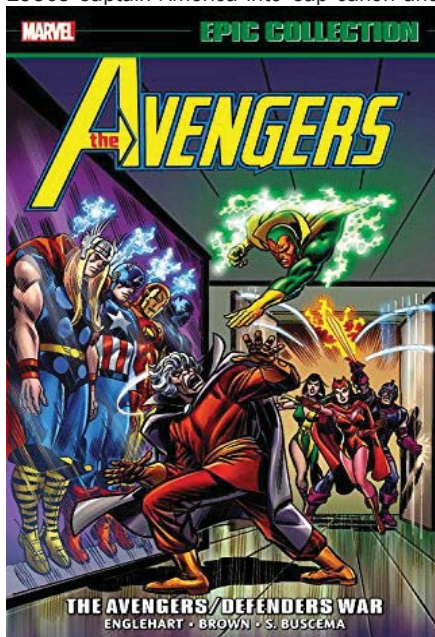
Eisner Award-winning cartoonist Michael Kupperman is known for his mixture of trash culture tropes and egghead irony. In such strips as "Hercules and Dracula" and "Magritte the Surrealist Crime Dog", Kupperman used a style based on the stiff, over-rendered figures of hack comics from the mid-20th Century. That connection to the corny yet potent past of American mass media serves Kupperman well in *All the Answers* (Galley 13). Michael's father, Joel Kupperman, was one of the Quiz Kids. A game show starring child prodigies, *Quiz Kids* was one of the most popular programs in the Golden Age of Radio. Though one

of hundreds of Quiz Kids, Joel Kupperman was the most famous. A math prodigy from a Jewish family, Kupperman pere was exploited by every adult he met. He was a cash cow for his mother, the producers, even the government once the U.S. went to war with the Nazis. During WW2 the Quiz Kids sold \$125 million in war bonds while traveling across the nation. But while his fellow Quiz Kids moved on with their lives, Joel remained on the show, stuck in an eternal childhood. He eventually achieved a different kind of fame and fortune as a professor of philosophy. But Kupperman's youthful trials affected him—and his family—forever after. Ostensibly a biography of his father, *All the Answers* becomes a quest by Kupperman fils to solve the puzzle of his own relationship with his distant, mysterious forebear. But even as Michael digs into his father's past, Joel's mind flees even further from reality as he succumbs to dementia. A history, memoir and lament in one, *All the Answers* is available at Central, Eastside and Beaumont.



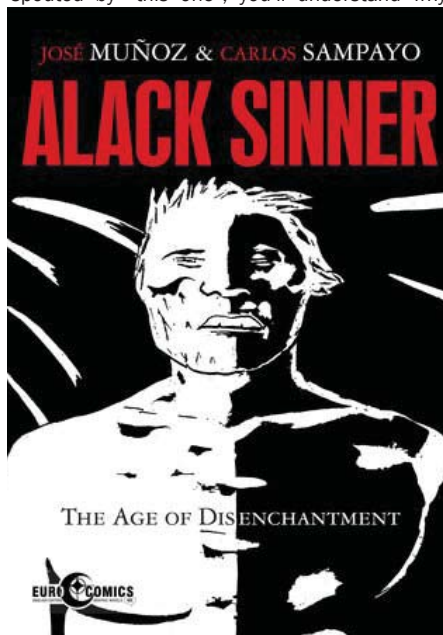


Comics are a mix of words and picture, with the emphasis on the latter. But there have always been works which gave equal weight to both. Now the author of such bestsellers as *The Time Traveler's Wife* and the artist behind *Bacchus* and *From Hell* team up in *Bizarre Romance* (Harry N. Abrams), available from Central. **Audrey Niffenegger** provides the words and **Eddie Campbell** the pictures for this anthology of whimsical short stories ranging from domestic fantasy to historical romance. Some are told in the panel-and-balloon form, others are more like illustrated books. Then again, some modern comics are so wordy the page barely has room for the art. You can thank the 1970s for that. As the writer of *Captain America* and *The Avengers*, **Steve Englehart** was the leader of a group of post-collegiate fans-turned-pro who brought their own hip, literate and, frankly, verbose style to the House of Ideas. **Englehart** expanded the "shared universe" aspect of Marvel's success, reconning the 1950s Captain America into Cap canon and

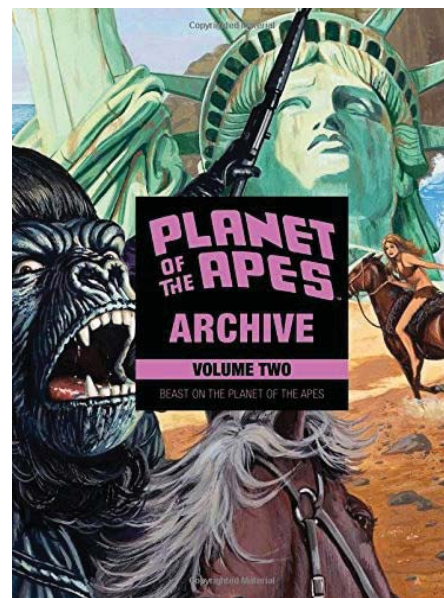


MEANWHILE

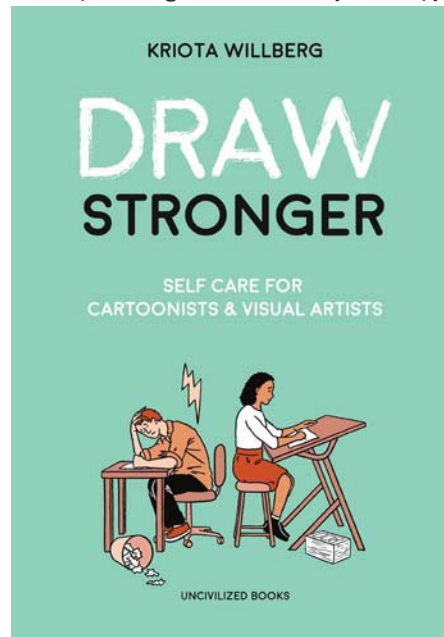
re-introducing Golden Age stars like Patsy Walker and the original Human Torch to the Marvel Universe. He also took Marvel's patented "Continued Next Issue!" story-telling to the next level with increasingly complex epics such as the "Phantom Empire" and "Cosmic Madonna" sagas. The latter got started during the run of *Avengers* reprinted in that group's latest Epic Collection, available from the TEEN section at all LPL locations. *The Avengers-Defenders War* set the two teams **Englehart** was writing against each other. At a time when such "events" happen every summer whether readers want them or not, it's hard to understand just how radical this crossover was. It lasted only five issues (two *Defenders*, three *Avengers*), but made a huge impact on future creators. This compilation also introduces the character Mantis, who would play a huge part in the Bronze Age *Avengers*. Unfortunately, once you read the kung fu clichés spouted by "this one", you'll understand why



they made her an alien for the movies. But, hey, it was the *Seventies*, man! That weird, wild decade lives again in the aptly entitled *Age of Disenchantment* (EuroComics). The second collection of *Alack Sinner* stories by **Jose Munoz** and **Carlos Sampayo** starts in the 1970s and ends in the first decade of this century. Sinner continues to work as a private detective, whether the cops like it or not. His cases get stranger- a failed cartoonist hunts the man who has swiped his work to great success, the hallucinogenic "North Americans"- and more political-the growing incarceration of women, "Nicaragua." But it's the art that amazes in this volume. Unlike most comics, the name of the artist, **Jose Munoz**, comes first. That's because he is the star of the duo. Other series with new volumes out include **Warren Ellis'** *The Wild Storm*, the slam-bang fantasy *Curse Words*, sci-fi shoot-em-up *Horizon* and volumes 3-5 of the graphic adaptation of the occult detective series *Rivers of London* from Titan. That imprint's collaboration with Hard Case Crime continues with comics based on **Stieg Larsson's** best-selling *Girl Who...* series, available from Beaumont, Central, Eastside and



Tates Creek. Speaking of the 1970s, one of the iconic film franchises of that era was *Planet of the Apes*. So popular were those movies that Marvel Comics jumped on the bandwagon. One of Marvel's black & white magazine-sized comics like *Dracula Lives!* and *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu*, *Planet of the Apes* featured new stories set in the *Apes* universe (which finally introduced gibbons into the mix) and adaptations of the films. The Marvel take on the first film and its sequel, *Beneath...*, make up the bulk of *Apes Archive Volume 2* (BOOM! Studios), available from Northside. Meanwhile, we still feel our past as primates in our body and bones when we stand, walk...and draw comics! Published by Uncivilized Books, *Draw Stronger* schools inkslingers on the physical dos and don'ts of drawing. Massage therapist and health teacher—and cartoonist—**Kriota Willberg** discusses the physical issues inherent to being a cartoonist while giving advice on how to keep the body limber and the mind clear. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve your copy!



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