

741.5

**WORDS: NEIL GAIMAN
& PICTURES: FRANK CHO**
AND...THE COP WHO WAS A CARTOONIST

NOVEMBER 2020 - NO. 45

PLUS...KITTEN VS. CONAN

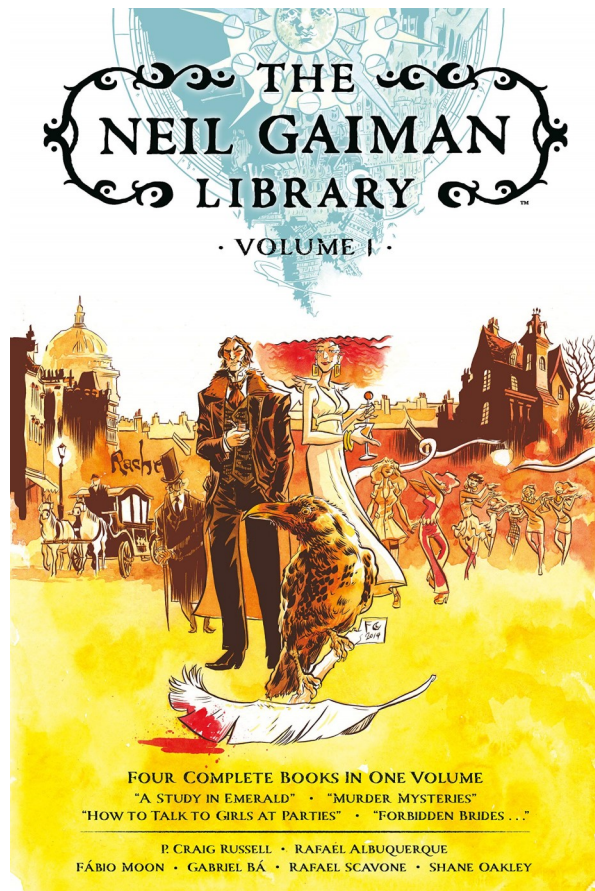
AUTUMN



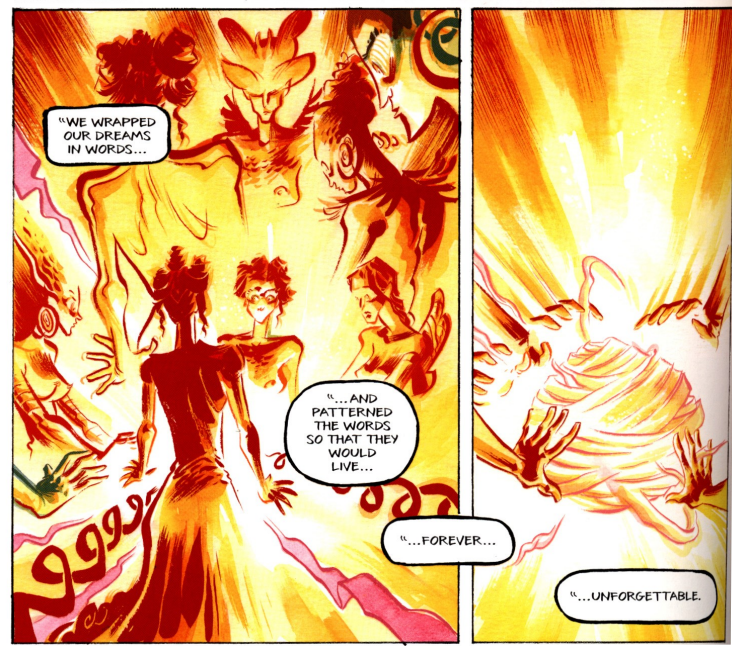
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



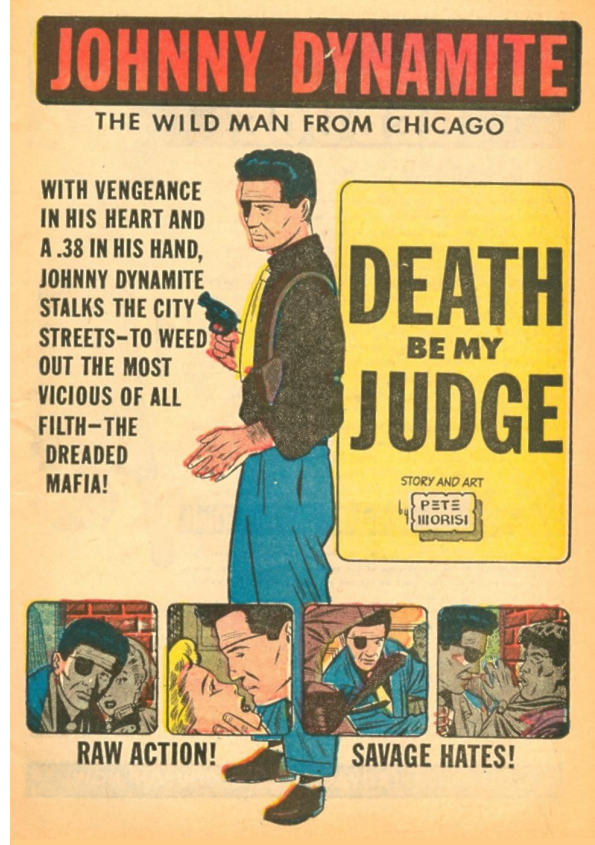
The Neil Gaiman Libray is a new series of deluxe Oversize books reprinting the prolific writer's stand-alone graphic novels. Volume 1 is currently available at all LPL locations.



Volume 1 contains *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, featuring the radiant art of Gabriel Ba & Fabio Moon (left); *Forbidden Brides of the Faceless Slaves of the Secret House in the Night of Dread Desire*, a satire of and love letter to Gothic fiction (bottom left); the Lovecraftian Holmesiana of *A Study in Emerald* (see 741.5 no. 21); and *Murder Mysteries*, a detective story set in Heaven, graced by P. Craig Russell's empyreal artwork (below).



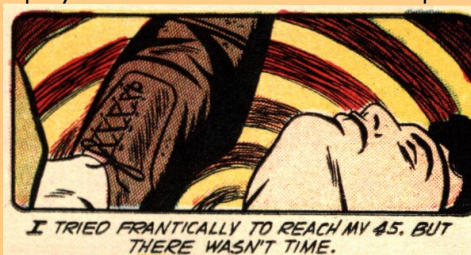
Frank Cho sure draws pretty. Cho is a master of hyper-realism in the sleek, slick tradition of Russ Manning and Brian Bolland, his work jumping off the page with a three-dimensional physicality. Frank Cho sure draws pretty women. Like predecessor Dave (Rocketeer) Stewart and contemporaries such as Adam Hughes, Cho is influenced by classic illustrators (dig our cover's Mucha riff) and pin-up artists, his penchant for pulchritude earning him both lots of work and lots of grief. Available from Central, *The Art of Frank Cho* (Flesk) is a Oversize look at his twenty years in the comics biz. And it's real, real pretty.



Before he became a full time police officer for New York City, Pete Morisi was a typical comics freelancer of the 1950s, drawing whatever for whoever. But in 1953, Morisi and journeyman scripter Ken Fitch debuted a new kind of private eye— Johnny Dynamite! "The Wild Man From Chicago" was the first funnybook shamus to be influenced by Mike Hammer, the two-fisted, millions-selling antihero created by former comics hack Mickey Spillane. The hard-boiled sex and violence of *I, the Jury* and its equally successful and controversial sequels



were transposed to the comics rack in tough tales like "The Phony Kill" and "Promise to A Corpse". Dynamite hits and shoots and is hit and shot in turn, even losing an eye in his fourth appearance. Like illustrated novels, the captions tell the story, sometimes supplanting word balloons entirely (below). Morisi's rep for well-designed pages begins here, as he uses open space, varying panel sizes and insertional dialogue (below left) to liven up the six-panel grid. Go to Central, Northside and Tates Creek to score this Yoe collection of epic crime comics.

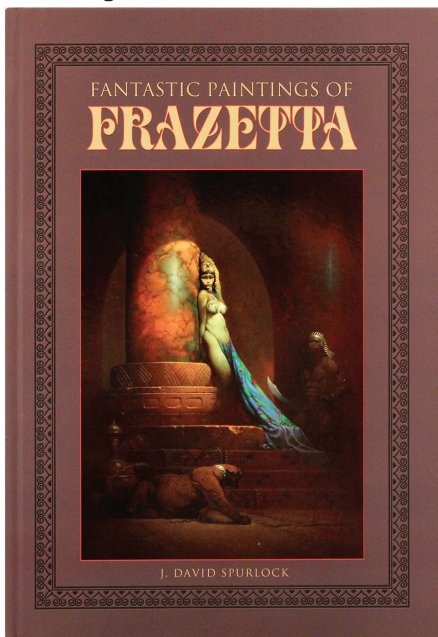


RASCAL

JEAN-LUC DEGLIN



Recently, the Fates dropped a kitten into my lap. It was not my idea, but circumstances conspired to make me a spanking new cat daddy. And, dear lord, I'd forgotten how rambunctious the critters are at that age. That's probably why I laughed as hard as I did at *Rascal*. Fighting over food, struggling for bed-space, going out in public gloved in scratches—been there, doing that. This Top Shelf translation from the pages of *Spirou* features one-page, four-panel strips rendered in a clean, airy black-n-white by **Jean-Luc Deglin**. Deglin's heroine finds a box full of kitten in her mailbox one day. Despite her utter disinterest in raising this semi-feral ball of fluff and fangs, life settles into a pattern of cuteness and chaos that any cat lover will recognize. *Rascal* is available at all LPL locations. Central and Eastside are home to the new Oversize collection of the *Fantastic Paintings of Frazetta* (Vanguard). The artist whose work defined fantasy in the late 20th Century has had plenty of compilations. But at over 10.5" X 14.5", this is the largest format ever for a **Frazetta**



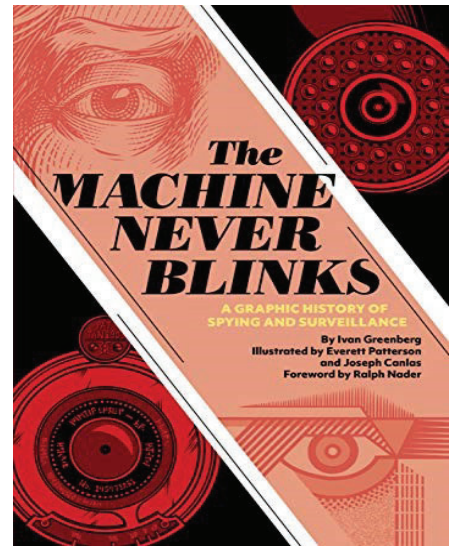
MEANWHILE

compilation. So one can study the brush strokes that enlivened the covers of *Creepy*, *Blazing Combat* and such paperbacks as *Savage Pellucidar* and *The Autumn People*, not to mention the occasional Molly Hatchet LP. So strong was **Frazetta's** mojo that his "bruised, battered, scarred monster of a guy" became the visual template for Conan the Barbarian despite looking nothing like the character described in the stories of **Robert E. Howard**. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve this gorgeous tome. Meanwhile, the recrescent Valiant Comics has moved to the silver screen with the first of several planned, interconnected films, *Bloodshot*. This **Vin Diesel** vehicle is based on the comic book that was part of the original Valiant line back in the 1990s. And that Decade of

TIM SEELEY • BRETT BOOTH • ABELSO CORONA • ANDREW DALHOUSE • DAVE SHARPE
BLOODSHOT
 BOOK ONE



the Extreme lives again in Book One of the new *Bloodshot*. Hyper-violent action is rendered in hyper-active drawings chockfull of smoke and blood and lots of scratchy lines. Bloodshot is your basic soldier turned post-human killing machine by the usual black ops corporate/governmental shenanigans. "Nanites" are the maguffin that explains away Bloodshot's extraordinary—and often gruesome—abilities. Coming on like some hybrid of Frankenstein, the Punisher and Metamorpho the Element Man, Bloodshot seeks to make right all the wrongs he committed as said post-human killing machine. But that makes him a bigger threat than ever, especially to the Black Bar, the sub rosa power behind the thrones of the world. Such organizations have become a common trope in thrillers, sci-fi and superhero stories, even horror, as evidenced by the *Laundry Files* series of novels by Brit **Charles Stross**. That's because most creative types like their freedom of speech and privacy and whatnot. And more and more, those liberties are threatened. A new



non-fiction comic available at all LPL locations, *The Machine Never Blinks* (Fantagraphics) explores the origins, philosophies and personalities that have contributed to the rise of the Surveillance Society, from slave patrols to Big Brother, **Jeremy Bentham** to **Michel Foucault**, not to mention No. 1 G-man, **J. Edgar Hoover**. Ivan Greenberg's impassive prosesfills the beans on the dream of every governing institution, political or economic, to see all, know all, control all. But as the Discordians so wisely said, "Imposition of order equals escalation of chaos." In **Scott** (*Dark Nights: Metal*) **Snyder's** Image series *Undiscovered Country*, these United States have seceded from the world, hidden behind vast security systems for decades. Ravaged by plague, the two other world powers send a hardy band of expats and experts in search of a cure. They have an invitation to visit the lost continent...or do they? Behind the walls, a literal vortex of madness has overtaken America, and no one is safe! This rampaging sci-fi road epic is available at your favorite LPL location, or go to lexpublib.org for reserves!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the **COLLECTIONS** tab!