



SEPTEMBER 2021 - NO. 60

# THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

WOMEN SEIZE THE NARRATIVE

PLUS...LUCHA LIBRE!



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library  
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

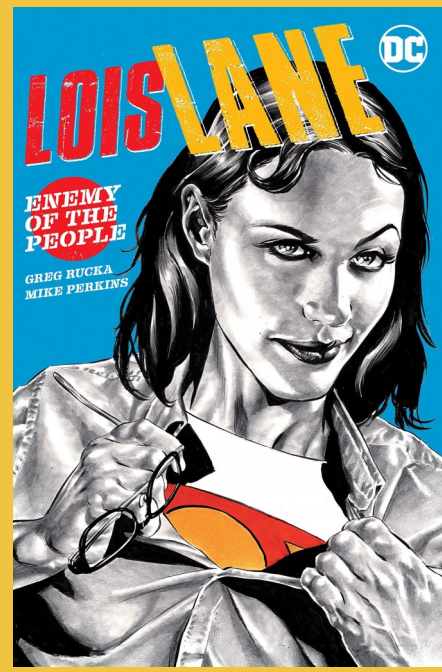
International cartoonists expose the graphic truth about their bodies/themselves!

**THE SECRET TO SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH**  
ALISON BECHDEL  
AUTHOR OF FUN HOME



Originator of the Bechdel Test (look it up), cartoonist Alison (*Dykes to Look Out For*) Bechdel returns with a new graphic autobiography. But unlike her award-winning—and gloomy—*Fun Home*, *The Secret of Superhuman Strength* is a big, thick book rendered in ink and full watercolors with a light but confident hand. Bechdel describes her lifetime of obsession with physical fitness while exploring the societal pressures undergirding her drive for bodily perfection. Find *The Secret* at all locations!

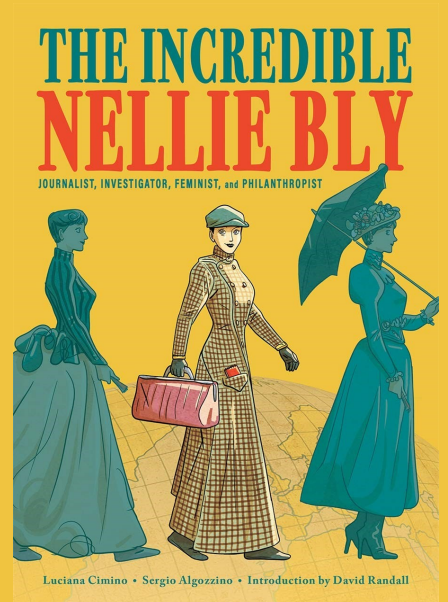
Comics' second-most famous reporter is on the beat and in the spotlight and on the run when she is labeled an *Enemy of the People* (DC). Still breaking news and making headlines for the *Daily Planet*, Lois Lane finally crosses the wrong people. Bullets start flying, bodies start dropping, and there's not a damn thing Superman can do about it but stay out of the lady's way while she does her job. Compiling a limited series published during the waning days of the Trump Administration, *Enemy* captures the atmosphere of hostility to-



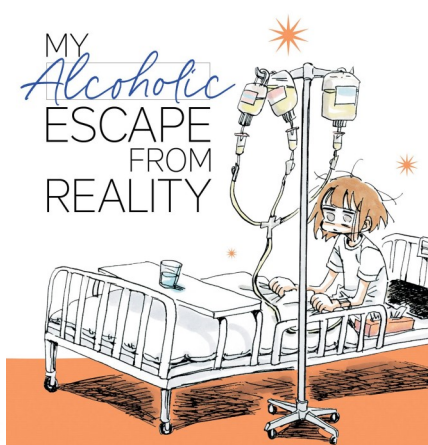
Intrepid newshounds pursue the story around the globe and into the shadows!

Archaia, the label behind previous subjects of 741.5 such as *Big Black: Stand at Attica*, *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *We Fed the People* brings to America the fine work of German cartoonist Katja Kengel. *Girlsplaining: A (Sorta) Memoir* gathers Kengel's thoughts on the simple things in a gal's life that get complicated by society and its relentless demands. Like body hair, child-bearing, relationships between women, even toys and their sexist baggage. Oh, and vulvas, and all the weasel words we use to keep from saying "vulva". Drawn in full page panels in a palette of pinks, *Girlsplaining* is funny because it's true. Get one from your fave LPL branch!

KATJA KENGLER  
*Girlsplaining*



ward facts and those who dared to report them that marked said regime. When Lane's Russian counterpart is murdered, Lois enlists the Question as both investigator and bodyguard. But there's more than one Question and no easy answers in this tense political thriller (with capes) written by Greg Rucka and drawn by that master of mood and menace, Mike Perkins. Meanwhile, the woman who inspired generations of would-be Lois Lanes gets her own gorgeously drawn and colored biography from Abrams Comic Arts. *The Incredible Nellie Bly* broke through the patriarchal prejudices of her times through sheer chutzpah and raw talent. Not simply a reporter, Bly became a public



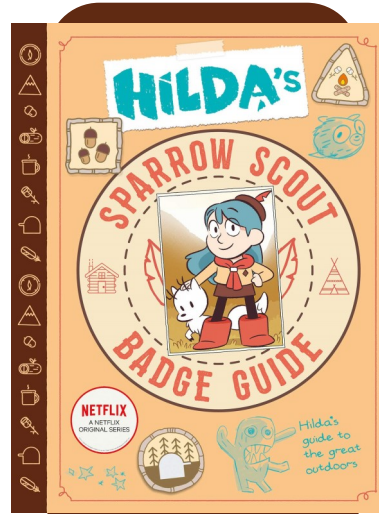
From the Bestselling Author of *My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness* and *My Solo Exchange Diary*  
(Real Story & Art by Nagata Kabi)

The sad and sordid saga of manga artist and hot mess Nagata Kabi continues in *My Alcoholic Escape From Reality* (Seven Seas). The third entry in her series of autobiographical comics finds the self-destructive Nagata drinking herself into the ICU. Forced by pancreatitis to confront her demons, the talented cartoonist finds a way out of her perpetual funk by using her gift to express all the angst eating away at her. Get *My Alcoholic Escape* and the others via [lexpublib.org/](http://lexpublib.org/)

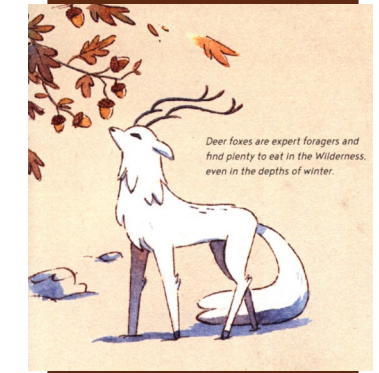
figure in her own right due to her steadfast pursuit of not just journalism, but justice, for women and others oppressed by the rule of man and Mammon. That quest continues in the declining city of Creighton, new home for Lara Dominguez. A good reporter and a bad drunk, Dominguez gets drawn into the war against crime and corruption waged by Creighton's homegrown mystery-man, the *Black Ghost*. Lara becomes the story in this thrilling and emotional Dark Horse comp of the popular Comixology series, available at your favorite LPL location!



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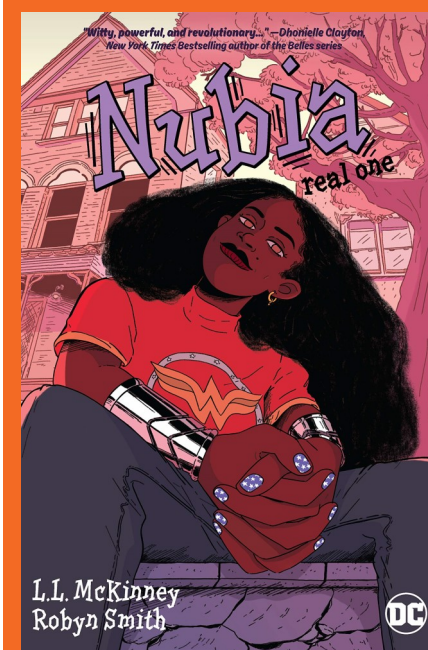
Hilda, the blue-haired little girl who has taken bookshelves and Netflix by storm, is back with some really cool ancillary material available in the Juvenile section of your favorite LPL location!



*Hilda's Sparrow Scout Badge Guide* will help your young one set up their own Sparrow Scout troop. Her *Book of Beasts and Spirits* studies the magical Norse-inspired creatures that roam Hilda's wild world.

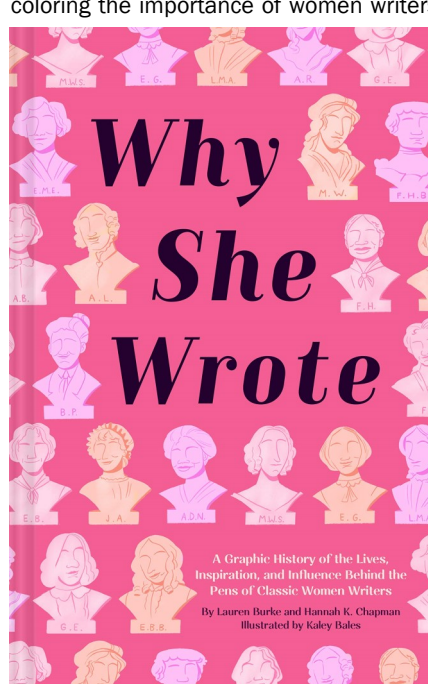


Intense African-American amazons seize the day and take on the powers that be!



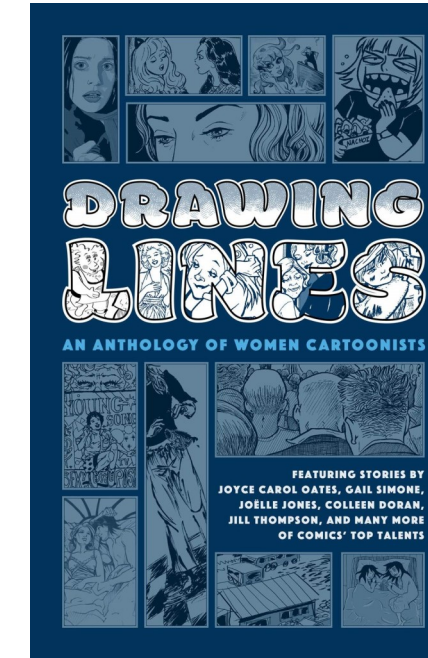
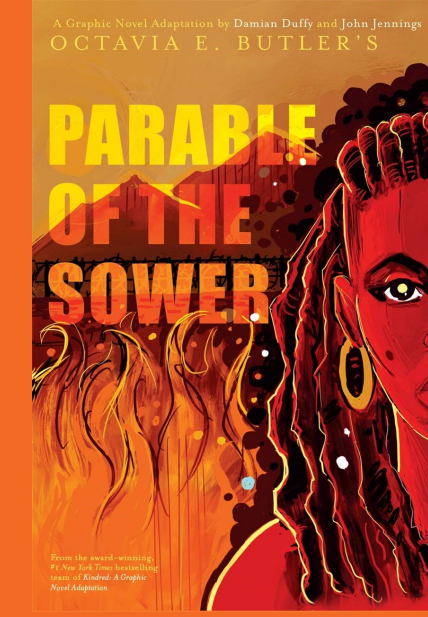
As explored in the hit Marvel/Disney+ TV series *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, and the *Captain America* comics written by Ti-Nahesi Coates that inspired it, being a black superhero in America would be...complicated. No matter how hard our costumed crusader would try to do right by the people, the baked-in bigotry of American institutions would see no red-white-n-blue, but only black. That's what the heroine of the eponymous *Nubia* discovers in the first volume of her DC series, *Real One*. Stopping a robbery, defend-

Ultimately, the answer to *Why She Wrote* is that it was the only way for the eighteen subjects to keep soul, mind and, too often, body intact in a world run for and by men. From Gothic godmothers revealing "the horror of the everyday" to Beatrix Potter and Louisa May Alcott becoming artistic entrepreneurs, *Why She Wrote* shows through lovely line work and expressive coloring the importance of women writers.

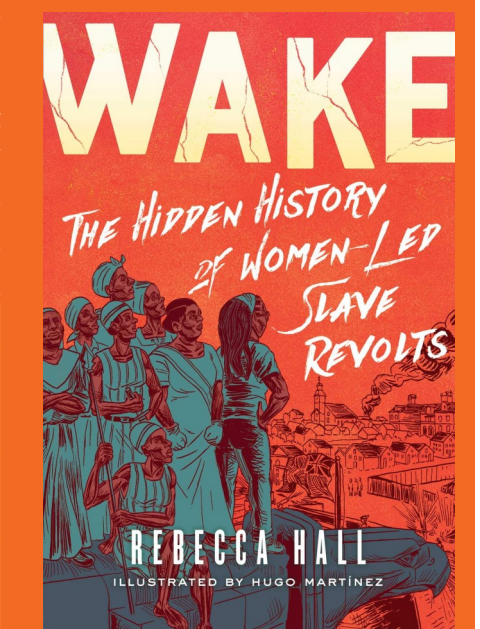


Incredible art and writing flows from the hearts and minds of creative women!

a friend from sexual assault— these worthy actions, all in a day's work for a white superhero, become controversial when carried out by a teenage girl of color. Even the revelation of Nubia's true origins do nothing to quell the building heat coming down on Nubia, her friends and their community. Drawn with cartoonish exuberance by Robyn Smith, *Nubia* is available from our TEEN collection. There ain't one dang thang exuberant about the new Octavia Butler adaptation from Abrams Comic Arts. A dystopian novel so dark it makes 1984 look like the feel-good hit of the summer, *Parable of the Sower* is a quest tale set

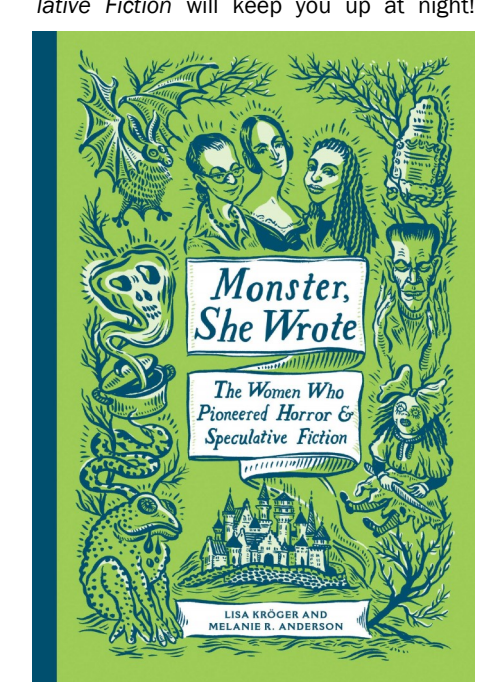


As noted in reviews of other anthologies of comics by women, the work is often distinguished more by enthusiasm than artistry. That's not the case with *Drawing Lines*. Creators of the highest caliber such as Jill Thompson, Gail Simone, Trina Robbins, the Colleens Doran and Coover, even Joyce Carol Oates, contribute moving, masterful comics to this fine Dark Horse release available at Beaumont, Central and Eastside.

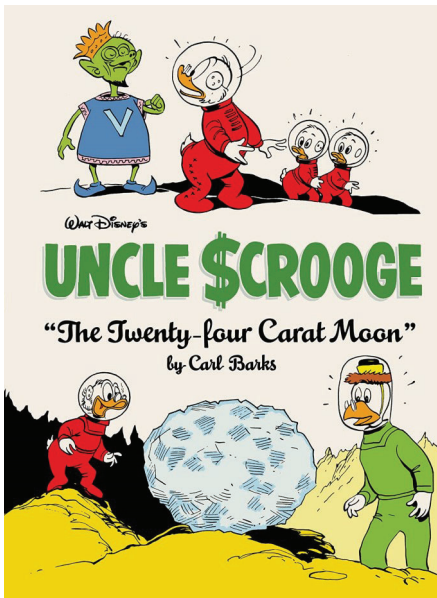


in a near-future America ravaged by a decadent economy and a devastated environment. Teenager Lauren Olamina is the catalyst for a search for a better life and the creator of a new way to live that life, *Earthseed*. That Lauren may not survive long enough to see her work come to fruition is the burden of all who would change the world. That was true of the various protagonists of *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts* (Simon & Shuster). The scratchy, inky art of Hugo Martinez brings to hard life the vivid, violent story told by historian Rebecca Hall.

Though not a graphic novel, there are lots of pretty pictures in *Monster She Wrote* (Quirk Books). Well, "pretty" if you like ugly things like ghosts and monsters. From founding mothers like Shelley and the Radcliffes to modern icons such as Anne Rice and V.C. Andrews, with more obscure writers like Kathe Koja and C.L. Moore in between, *The Women Who Pioneered Speculative Fiction* will keep you up at night!



Incredible art and writing flows from the hearts and minds of creative women!

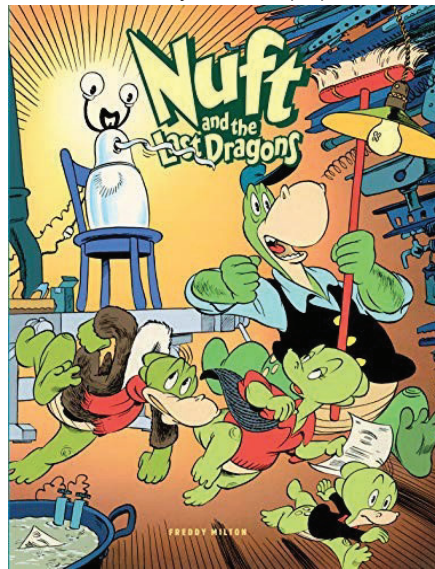


Long before Disney (begrudgingly) began giving credit to the armies of cartoonists who turned out comic books and strips featuring its stars, one man always stood out. Kids just called him "the good artist." His name was **Carl Barks**, and his work on *Donald Duck* and its spin-offs *Uncle Scrooge* and *Junior Woodchucks* (starring Donald's nephews Huey, Dewey and Louie) was so essential, it was "REPRINTED BY POPULAR DEMAND" for decades. For the last several years, these exquisite examples of funny animal comics at their best have found a new home on the Fantagra

Betrayed by both friend and foe, a champion luchador suffers the ultimate humiliation: he is unmasked in the ring. A deal with the devil remakes him as La Mano del Destino, and he will have his revenge. A super-stylish, super-violent superhero story based on the flamboyant Mexican form of professional wrestling known as *lucha libre*, J. Gonzo's action-packed Image series is compiled in a gorgeous package featuring tons of fab background material.



-phics imprint. The latest **Barks** reprints to arrive on LPL shelves include *Island in the Sky* and *The Twenty-Four Carat Moon*, starring Uncle Scrooge. Published on the eve of the New Frontier, these comics show the influence of the burgeoning Space Race. The World's Richest Duck follows his bliss into the void as he pursues profit on a new moon made of gold and an asteroid turned interplanetary service station. Sci-fi is followed by the supernatural in one of my fave Scrooge stories concerning the hunt for the legendary Flying Dutchman. Meanwhile, Donald and the boys take a trip up North in an

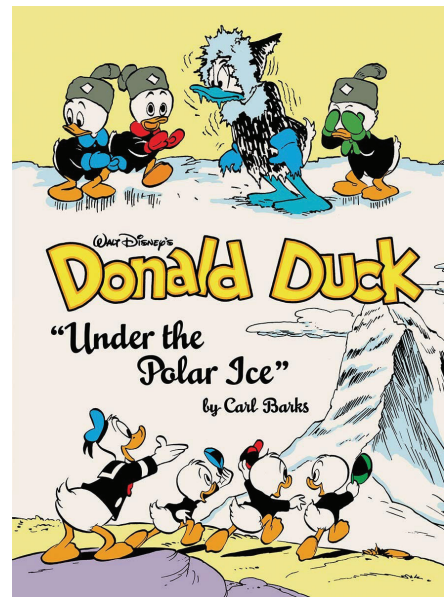


## MEANWHILE



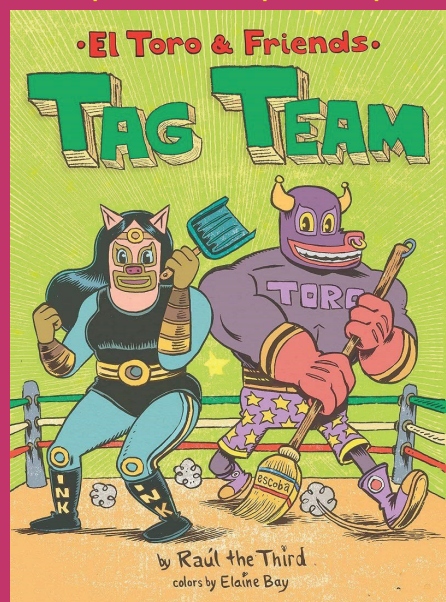
Wrestling Drawings by Jaime Hernandez 1980 - 2020 | QUEEN OF THE RING

From the first issue of *Love & Rockets*, the groundbreaking alt-comic co-created with his brother Gilbert, Jaime Hernandez included professional wrestlers as characters. Especially women wrestlers: the decades-long feud between global adventurer Rena Titanon and Maggie's aunt Vicki Glory was a *Locas* backstory for years. *Queen of the Ring* (Fantagraphics, natch) compiles images of wrestling women Hernandez drew with marker and crayon for his personal enjoyment. It also stands as a study of Xaime's artistic development, from the scratchy physicality of his youth to the stark perfection of his current work.



atomic submarine, then head into the jungles of South America in a trademark Barksian mix of hi-jinx and high adventure. Recognized as the best of Disney's European creators, Dane **Freddy Milton** struck out on his own with *Nuft and the Last Dragons*. *The Great Techno-whiz* shows both **Milton's** similarities to Barks—strong personalities, engaging relationships and simple but beautiful cartooning—and his differences, namely his tendency to root for the little guy. Oppressed by the mammalian majority, Nuft and his family end up saving everybody's hide in this sweet but thrilling comic for kids of all ages, available at all LPL locations!

El Toro is a luchador who stars in two hardback comics for children by the author of the *Lowriders* series, Raul the Third. *Training Day* introduces El Toro and his allies and enemies such as trainer Kooky Dooky and *rudo* The Wall. *Tag Team* finds El Toro facing an enemy too tough to beat on his own: a stadium wrecked by last night's show! Luchadora La Oink Oink helps her fellow *tecnico* (good guy) clean up while the book helps readers bone up on their Spanish!



by Raúl the Third  
colors by Elaine Bay

Back issues of 741.5 are available at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) under the COLLECTIONS tab!