



741.5

LOVE EVERLASTING

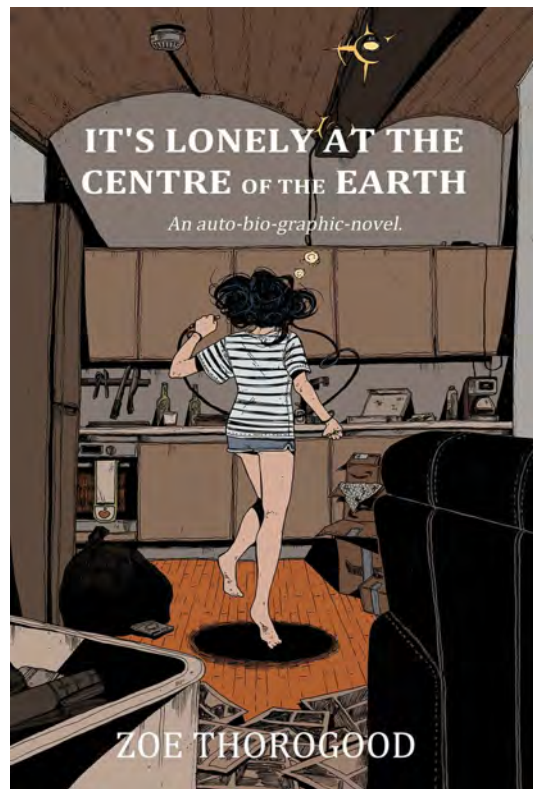
KING & CHARRETIER RAISE A ROMANTIC RUCKUS

and

THE LONELINESS OF ZOE THOROGOOD

PLUS...SHE-HULKAMANIA!

A YOUNG CARTOONIST MAKES HER BONES IN THE BIZ WITH TWO NOVELS ABOUT A DISASTER: ONE FICTIONAL, THE OTHER ALL TOO REAL!



THIS BOOK WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST is painted by the artist across the back of *It's Lonely At the Center of the Earth*. Indeed it wasn't. Zoe Thorogood was looking forward to hitting the convention circuit to promote her work, like the hardback graphic novel *Rain* from Image. Adapted by writer David M. Booher from a story by horror hierophant Joe Hill and beautifully colored by Chris O'Halloran, *Rain* is an environmental disaster story. On one of the nicest days of the year, nails made of crystal fall from the sky. The inescapable deluge kills hundreds of thousands in mere hours. One of the few survivors is Honeysuckle Speck (right), who, like so many, has to watch helplessly as her lover is skewered by the sky. *Helpless* is how Zoe herself feels when the real catches up with the unreal. All her plans come to naught as COVID-19 shuts down the world. Left to her own admittedly neurotic-as-hell devices, Zoe fights off her inner demons; that is, when she's not collaborating with them on her new project, a graphic autobiography called *It's Lonely at the Center of the Earth*. The dense narrative leaps, creeps and stumbles from past to present in the space of a page, while the graphics shift from the goofy to the sublime and back again in a thin-line, loose-limbed but intensely detailed style. A comic masterpiece of cosmic introspection, *It's Lonely...* is one of the best books of the year!

IT'S LONELY AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH and **RAIN** are available at ALL LPL LOCATIONS



With the exception of one remaining volume of Yoe's *Weird Love*, LPL doesn't have many examples of the romance comics critiqued by *Love Everlasting*. But their essential tropes inform the work collected in *Confessions Illustrated* (Dark Horse). The first person narratives from a woman's perspective, the charged relationship between passion and propriety, the struggle between intimacy and independence: All are expressed with a touch of EC intensity in mid-century melodramas like "They Ran Me Out of Town" and "I Joined A Teenage Gang." That story, along with "The Alcoholic" and post-war tearjerker "Two Husbands," addressed social issues of the 1950s. The latest and last reprint of EC's ill-fated "Pictofiction" magazines features the usual stunning artwork, with Jack Kamen's romantic realism at the forefront. Fans of mod love stories and beautiful illustration will find it at Central.

THE COMPLETE CONFESSIONS ILLUSTRATED ISSUES 1-3
ORIGINAL PICTO-FICTION
Confessions
ADULT ROMANCES ILLUSTRATED



LOVE EVERLASTING...BUT WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A PROMISE OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS COULD BE A CURSE OF ENDLESS MISERY!



Joan Peterson is a young woman with the same hopes and dreams as any other: to find a man who loves her as much as she loves him. And Joan does find that man, from sweet suburbia to the Western badlands to the mansions of the aristocrats of old, falling into his arms again...and again...and again...



Joan meets the football hero, a hippie songsmith, the handsome ranch hand, the heir to the fortune, a lonely doughboy. They all need her love, all want her hand, but Joan...just can't. And as she flees across space and time in search of freedom, someone is in deadly pursuit.



Having deconstructed supermen, space gods and spies, Tom King turns his jauntily jaundiced eye on romance comics and the misogynistic hoodoo at their heart in an ongoing series for Image. Elsa (*Star Wars Adventures*) Charretier's sleek simplicity grabs the eye and captures the heart in TEEN at all LPL locations!



The reactions to Marvel's TV programs has been mixed. I wasn't happy about *Iron Fist* myself. But most viewers have loved *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law*. Based on the spin-off character first introduced to protect the suddenly-valuable *Hulk* trademark, the Disney+ series skipped the years of generic villain-of-the-month punch-ups to mine the metafictional fun that has come to define most contemporary *She-Hulk* comics. It was writer/artist John Byrne who first embraced the ludicrous qualities of Jennifer Walter's alternative lifestyle. He was the creator who had Shulkie confront her reality as an unreal person (above) while *Breaking the Fourth Wall*. Others followed Byrne's lead, focusing on humor over drama, like Rainbow Rowell's sweet-natured *Jen, Again*, with Walters helping D-list hero Jack of Hearts get his stuff together. Meanwhile, Javier Pulido's Cookean cartoonishness (below with Hellcat and ants, just to be trendy) is perfect for *The Complete Collection* written by former barrister Charles Soule, who has Jen in court against Doctor Doom, Titania and her toughest opponent yet...lawyer Matt Murdock! And there's a office monkey! Just plain fun to read, these She-Hulk comics—and the angsty ones, too—are available at lexpublib.org!





Rick Remender has been behind a lot of popular alternative comics series like *Fear Agent*, *Black Science* and *Deadly Class*, as well as influential work on the Punisher, X-men and Captain America. But many fans consider the space fantasy epic *Seven to Eternity* to be his *magnum opus*. Set in a sprawling alien landscape rendered in fantastic detail, *Seven...* is the sad and savage tale of Adam Osidis. Trying to live up to his father's ideals leads Osidis to betray them, doing the one thing dear old Dad begged him not to do. Now Osidis and his kin are at the mercy of the monstrous despot Garils Sulm, the Mud King, the God of Whispers. Osidis fights for freedom alongside a septet of powered rebels. But can even victory wipe away the sins of Adam? This lap-busting Oversize Deluxe edition from Image includes the complete series and tons of extras and is available at Northside. Meanwhile,



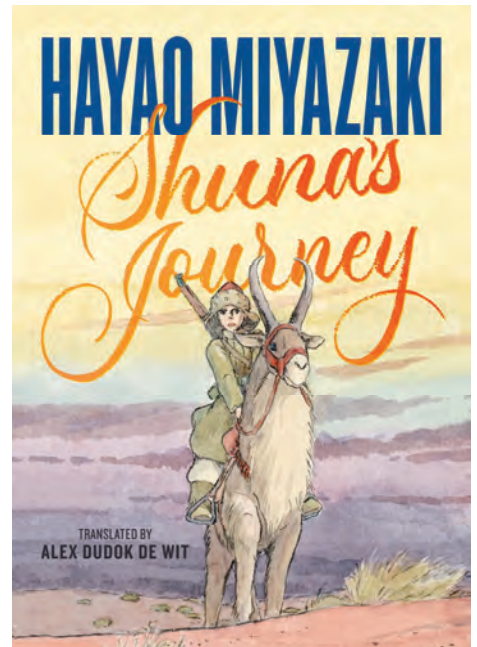
MEANWHILE

across the universe — the Marvel Universe, that is— some very bad guys have been wreaking havoc. The multiversal Masters of Evil are made up of alternate versions of classic Marvel villains. There's an Osborn, a Thanos, a Dark Phoenix, a combo pack of Venom and the Red Skull called the Black Skull, not to mention the Doom of Dooms, who earned that title by breaking all the other gazillion Doctor Dooms to his will. The Masters' gambit is visiting Earths in their infancy, before the heroes really get their game on, and snuffing out human potential in its cradle. But now *The Lords of Earthly Vengeance* are building an army of resistance and revenge. Guided by the Last Deathlok, Robbie Reyes, the current Ghost Rider of Earth-616 (the canonical Marvel Earth), is something more than just another vessel for the Spirit of Vengeance. That's why Reyes is charged with gathering all the Steve Rogers, all the Carol Danvers and Thors and Tony Starks, all the manifestations of *The Pillars* that are the foundation of the Earths' Mightiest Heroes he can find. Reyes forges them into a fighting force of extradimensional magnitude in the first two

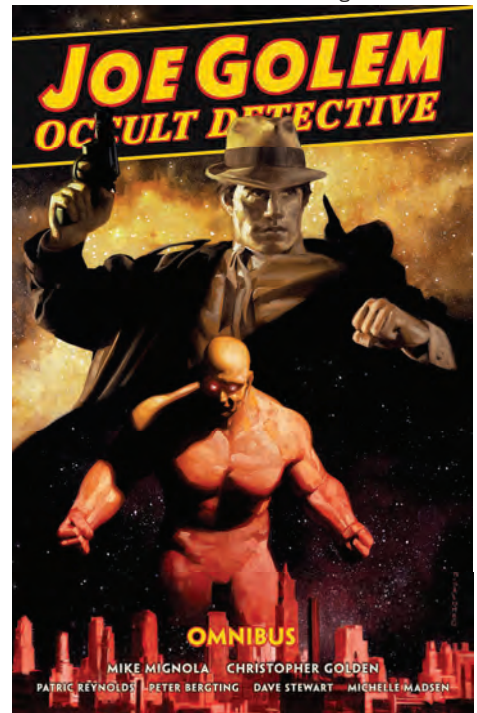
DAISY



volumes of *Avengers Forever*. It's an intensely dark and violent story, so reader beware. But if you want a more fun-filled take on the same basic plot, check out *Spider-Gwen: Gwenverse*. This limited series shows Gwen Stacy of Earth-65, alias Ghost-Spider, meeting a mob of *What If?* riffs, each an expression of her true self...which may be why they spend as much time fighting each other as they do the Big Bad, a bratty "Kang the Influencer" looking to create the Ultimate Meme to end all space and time. *Avengers Forever* and *Gwenverse* are available in new TEEN at all LPL locations. That's also where you'll find *Daisy* (Dark Horse), but in the section for adult comics. You don't want the kiddies reading this, unless psychic trauma's part of your parenting process. It is for Daisy's dad. He's raised her and a passel of other people's kids to believe in an especially violent interpretation of the Old Testament, specifically the long-banned *Book of Enoch*. A big ol' girl, Daisy believes she is a descendant of the Nephilim, the monstrous offspring of angels and the daughters of Eve. Their story, and that of Daisy and her makeshift family, is grisly, gruesome and really well-written and drawn by **Colin (The Prisoner) Lorimer**. The artist behind such classics of manga and anime as *Howl's Moving Cas*



tle and *Princess Mononoke*, **Hayao Miyazaki** had a career long before he founded Studio Ghibli. Originally published in 1983 and re-released by First Second, *Shuna's Journey* is a story of survival set in a medieval steampunk landscape of want and desperation. Shuna is inspired by the words of a dying traveler to set off on a quest for the Golden Seeds. He rumbles slave traders, discovers the Land of the God-folk, meets giants and much more in a quietly glorious adventure told in an exquisite mix of pencils and watercolors. Take *Shuna's Journey* in TEEN at Beaumont, Central and Tates Creek. *Joe Golem, Occult Detective* works the mean canals of the Drowning City, which we know as Manhattan. An alternative America haunted by witches, ghosts and gill-men provides plenty of work for the hard-boiled shamus who used to be a living statue, and may yet be again. Another terrific tome from **Mike Mignola's** fear factory, this ominous Dark Horse *Omnibus* looms large at Eastside.



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