

Brave New Worlds in Graphic Novels & Comics

Presented by: P. Michael Bradshaw

CLASS HANDOUT

NO CAPES: NON-SUPERHERO

The Contract with God Trilogy:

A Contract with God + A Life Force + Dropsie Avenue

Writer: Will Eisner

Artist: Will Eisner

W. W. Norton & Co., 1978 / 1988 / 1995

ISBN: 0393061051

Summary: 528 pages of inter-related stories about a run-down tenement section of New York & the people who live there. Slices of life of regular, everyday people, but it is mesmerizing.

Will Eisner created **the Spirit**, but this may be his true triumph. Sometimes credited with coining the term "graphic novel."

Maus: a Survivor's Tale (aka The Complete Maus)

Writer: Art Spiegelman

Artist: Art Spiegelman

Pantheon Books, 1996

ISBN: 0679406417

Summary: A son tells the story of his father's life, including his harrowing time in a concentration camp in World War II. To date, this is the only graphic novel to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize. This edition collects both *Volume 1: My Father Bleeds History*, and *Volume 2: And Here My Troubles Began*.

X-Men: Magneto Testament

Writer: Greg Pak

Artist: Carmine Di Giandomenico

Marvel Comics, 2009

ISBN: 0785126406

Summary: Completely divorced from the superhero world of the X-Men, this is the story of their greatest villain, Magneto. This is a harrowing account of the holocaust, Magneto's childhood and early adult life, and his time in a Nazi death camp. An incredibly powerful book, both in story and in its artwork. It was named one of the 2010 'Great Graphic Novels for Teens' by the Young Adult Library Services Association.

NOIR

100 Bullets

Writer: Brian Azzarello

Artist: Eduardo Risso

DC Comics/Vertigo, 1999-2009

Summary: A 100-issue comic book series. The individual story arcs were collected into 13 GNs, usually 2 story arcs in each GN. The premise was this:

A man you've never met before reveals to you the name of the person that has destroyed your life. He then gives you a briefcase containing a gun with 100 bullets. The gun & the bullets

are untraceable. If you use the gun to dispatch this person, you will never be sought by or caught by the police. This is the moral dilemma faced by person after person in *100 Bullets*.

Over the course of the series, we see that an underlying story is also being told – who is the man with the briefcases? Who did he work for? Why are those people after him, now? Engaging, thrilling, & thought-provoking.

The series poses the moral quandary: If you could shoot and kill those you feel have wronged you, with no repercussions whatsoever, would you? That question is raised again and again with different characters, until one begins to wonder – who IS Agent Graves, the man who brings the gun with 100 bullets... and why?

1. First Shot, Last Call (issues 1-5, Vertigo Winter's Edge #3) – ISBN 1563896451
2. Split Second Chance (issues 6-14) – ISBN 1563897113
3. Hang up on the Hang Low (issues 15-19) – ISBN 1563898551
4. A Foregone Tomorrow (issues 20-30) – ISBN 1563898276
5. The Counterfifth Detective (issues 31-36) – ISBN 1563899485
6. Six Feet Under The Gun (issues 37-42) – ISBN 1563899965
7. Samurai (issues 43-49) – ISBN 140120189X
8. The Hard Way (issues 50-58) – ISBN 1401204902
9. Strychnine Lives (issues 59-67) – ISBN 1401209289
10. Decayed (issues 68-75) – ISBN 140120998X
11. Once Upon a Crime (issues 76-83) – ISBN 1401213154
12. Dirty (issues 84-88) – ISBN 140121939X
13. Wilt (issues 89-100) – ISBN 1401222870

Blacksad

Writer: Juan Díaz Canales

Artist: Juanjo Guarnido

Dark Horse Originals, 2000

ISBN: 159582393X

Summary: Probably my favorite of the noir comics out there. It is made by two Spanish men, Juan Diaz Canales & Juanjo Guarnido, but written & published first in French.

All the characters are anthropomorphic animals: the main characters are usually talking, clothes-wearing cats & dogs, the villains snakes or weasels. It's drawn & paced in a very cinematic style, and uses a lot of the social issues & mores of 1950s America as backdrop – conspiracy, racial tension, & the communist “red scare.”

There are 6 Blacksad GNs, collected together in English, with 2 more reported to come.

1 – *Somewhere Within the Shadows*,

2 – *Arctic Nation*,

3 – *Red Soul*,

4 – *A Silent Hell* – ISBN 1595829318

5 – *Amarillo* – ISBN 1616555254

6 – *They All Fall Down, pt. 1* – ISBN 1506730574

* The first 3 volumes are bundled together in the U.S., simply under the name *Blacksad*, ISBN 159582393X.

Criminal

Writer: Ed Brubaker

Artist: Sean Phillips

Summary: An on & off again series from 2006/2007 to the present. It deals with the gritty criminal underworld in what appears to be the 1970s. It has produced 7 GNs to date, winning 2 Eisner Awards.

*Brubaker & Phillips work together on project after project. This is one of their best. Together, they've created a dark, seedy world that looks like the 1970's, feels like the 1940's, & tastes like Noir.

- 1 – **Coward** – 2007 – ISBN 0-7851-2439-X
- 2 – **Lawless** – 2007 – ISBN 0-7851-2816-6
- 3 – **The Dead and the Dying** – 2008 – ISBN 0-7851-3227-9
- 4 – **Bad Night** – 2009 – ISBN 0-7851-3228-7
- 5 – **The Sinners** – 2010 – ISBN 0-7851-3229-5
- 6 – **The Last of the Innocent** – 2011 – ISBN 0-7851-5829-4
- 7 – **Wrong Time, Wrong Place** – 2016 – ISBN 1-6321-5877-9
- **My Heroes Have Always Been Junkies** – 2018 – ISBN 1-5343-0846-6
- **Bad Weekend** – 2019 – ISBN 1-5343-1440-7

Parker: the Hunter

Writer: Darwyn Cooke & Richard Stark/Donald Westlake

Artist: Darwyn Cooke

IDW Publishing, 2009

ISBN: 1600104932

Summary: The original book, *the Hunter*, was published in 1962 by Donald Westlake, using the pseudonym Richard Stark. That book was made into a motion picture in 1967 (*Point Blank*, with Lee Marvin), and again in 1999 (*Payback*, with Mel Gibson). Rarely has the written word been translated so perfectly in this genre.

*As an aside, Jason Statham starred as the character in January 2013 in a movie just called **Parker**, based on the 19th Parker book, *Flashfire*; the first ten minutes of which were filmed at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, Ohio.

Darwyn Cooke turned four Parker novels in graphic novels before his death in 2016:

- 1 – **Richard Stark's Parker: the Hunter** – ISBN 1600104932
- 2 – **Richard Stark's Parker: the Outfit** – ISBN 1631407406
- 3 – **Richard Stark's Parker: the Score** – ISBN 1631409964
- 4 – **Richard Stark's Parker: Slayground** – ISBN 1684051266

A 334 p. hardcover, coffee table book, *Richard Stark's Parker: the Martini Edition*, contains:

- 1 – **Richard Stark's Parker: the Hunter**
- 2 – **Richard Stark's Parker: the Outfit**
- Parker: the Man with the Getaway Face** (short)
- Parker: the Seventh** (short)

Sin City

Writer: Frank Miller

Artist: Frank Miller

Dark Horse Books, 1991 – 2000

Summary: The new (or) Neo-Noir series by Frank Miller, the man behind *Batman: the Dark Knight Returns*. It is currently a 7-GN series – 1448 pages, all written AND drawn by Frank Miller, a series credited for renewing interest in Noir, once again – the New new noir.

- 1. The Hard Goodbye. (Episodes #1-13) ISBN 1593072937
- 2. A Dame to Kill For. (Issues #1-6) ISBN 1593072945
- 3. The Big Fat Kill. (Issues #1-5) ISBN 1593072953
- 4. That Yellow Bastard. (Issues #1-6) ISBN 1593072961
- 5. Family Values. (A single Graphic Novel) ISBN 1594970181
- 6. Booze, Broads, & Bullets. (single issue "one-shots" collected in one book.) ISBN 1593072988
- 7. Hell and Back: a Sin City Love Story. (Issues #1-9) ISBN 1593072996

TRUE CRIME

The Borden Tragedy: A Memoir of the Infamous Double Murder at Fall River, Mass., 1892

Writer: Rick Geary

Artist: Rick Geary

NBM Publishing (Nantier Beall Minoustchine), 1997

ISBN: 1561631892

Summary: The artwork is beautiful, stark, and simple – like wood-cut images from the 1800's. The plotting is pointed and precise. One might call it 'CSI: 19th Century.' This is both a great work of academic scholarship, and also a great work of art.

My Friend Dahmer

Writer: John "Derf" Backderf

Artist: John "Derf" Backderf

Abrams Comics Arts, 2012

ISBN: 1419702173

Summary: The author writes about his high school friendship with Jeffrey Dahmer, before he became the infamous serial killer. Backderf details Dahmer's home life – the disconnect and isolation, the inattentiveness and self-absorption of his parents – ultimately, the makings of a monster. Remarkably, he does so in a way that reports on it without trying to soften or be sympathetic towards him.

Torso: a True Crime Graphic Novel

Writer: Brian Michael Bendis

Artist: Marc Andreyko

Image Comics, 2003

ISBN: 1582401748

Summary: Arguably the biggest writer of Marvel Comics for decades, this is an early work of his in the crime noir genre. It details the Cleveland torso murders of the 1930's, and the true story of (then Cleveland Safety Director) Eliot Ness, trying to solve the case.

Originally published as single issues in 2000, there have been at least three attempts to make it into a motion picture, including one with David Fincher (director of Fight Club, the Social Network, House of Cards, & Zodiac) in 2013, and also Paul Greengrass (the Jason Bourne movies) scuttled in May of 2018.

Bendis all did several other crime-noir GNs, including *Jinx* and *Goldfish: a Crime Graphic Novel*.

MEDICAL

Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story

Writer: Frederik Peeters

Artist: Frederik Peeters

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008

ISBN: 819062413X

Summary: Autobiographical story about falling in love with someone who is HIV Positive.

Depresso or: How I learned To Stop Worrying and Embrace Being Bonkers!

Writer: Brick

Artist: Brick

Fanfare/Knockabout Comics, 2010

ISBN: 0861661702

Summary: Nominated for the MIND Book Award. The journey through depression and antidepressant medicines. The blurb ends with "Depresso is only semi-fictional."

Epileptic

Writer: David B.

Artist: David B.

Pantheon Press, 2005

ISBN: 0375423184

Summary: David B.'s account of a childhood lived in the shadow of his brother's epilepsy, detailing the disease, attempted treatments, his own pain, and the effect it had on his family.

Tangles: Alzheimer's, My Mother, and Me

Writer: Sarah Leavitt

Artist: Sarah Leavitt

Jonathan Cape Publishing/ Skyhorse Publishing, 2011/2012

ISBN: 1616086394

Summary: A memoir about her mother's Alzheimer's disease, and how it affected her family.

With the Light: Raising an Autistic Child

Writer: Keiko Tobe

Artist: Keiko Tobe

Yen Press, 2001 – 2010

Summary: Keiko Tobe wrote and drew "josei" manga, which is comics aimed at women in their late teens and early adulthood. A mother of two, her youngest had a friend on the autism spectrum.

She would befriend his mother and eventually write this fictional/fictionalized series about the trials and tribulations in the raising of an autistic child.

Published in 15 volumes in Japan, they were published as 8 volumes in the U.S., until the author's death in January of 2010.

Vol. 1 – ISBN 0759523568

Vol. 2 – ISBN 0759523592

Vol. 3 – ISBN 0759523843

Vol. 4 – ISBN 0759523851

Vol. 5 – ISBN 0759524017

Vol. 6 – ISBN 031607733X

Vol. 7 – ISBN 0316077348

Vol. 8 – ISBN 031619445X

Wrinkles

Writer: Paco Roca (Francisco Martínez Roca)

Artist: Paco Roca (Francisco Martínez Roca)

Fantagraphics Books, 2007/2016

ISBN: 160699932X

Summary: The story of a man with Alzheimer's, attempting to stay active and maintain his dignity as the disease progresses. Made into an award-winning animated film in 2011.

Psychiatric Tales: Eleven Graphic Stories about Mental Illness

Writer: Darryl Cunningham

Artist: Darryl Cunningham

Bloomsbury USA, 2010/2011/2013

ISBN: 1608192784

Summary: The author explores a different mental health problem in each story, looking at it from

multiple points of view – the person afflicted, their friends & family, and the mental health professionals trying to help them.

Mom's Cancer

Writer: Brian Fies

Artist: Brian Fies

Abrams Image, 2006

ISBN: 0810958406

Summary: This one focuses a lot on the forms, the insurance company calls, the doctor's visits, all the things that are frustrating and enraging, but still have to be done when a parent has cancer.

Our Cancer Year

Writer: Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner

Artist: Frank Stack

Four Walls Eight Windows, 1994

ISBN: 1568580118

Summary: Pekar, author of the 'American Splendor' series of comics & graphic novels (and the basis of the movie of the same name), writes about his fears and failings while facing cancer.

Cancer Vixen: a True Story

Writer: Marisa Acocella Marchetto

Artist: Marisa Acocella Marchetto

Alfred A. Knopf, 2006

ISBN: 0307263576

Summary: A lot of humor, a lot of attitude, as the author details her road from diagnosis to treatment.

Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person: A Memoir in Comics

Writer: Miriam Engelberg

Artist: Miriam Engelberg

Harper Perennial, 2006

ISBN: 0060789735

An Elegy for Amelia Johnson

Writer: Andrew J. Rostan

Artist: Dave Valeza, Kate Kasenow

Archaia/Archaia Studios Press/Boom! Studios, 2011

ISBN: 1932386831

Summary: Amelia asks her two best friends to deliver messages from her to six people before she dies of cancer.

The Inflatable Woman

Writer: Rachael Ball

Artist: Rachael Ball

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015

ISBN: 140885807X

Summary: Gritty details and magic realism combine in this story about a woman with breast cancer.

Mammoir: A Pictorial Odyssey of the Adventures of a Fourth Grade Teacher with Breast Cancer

Writer: Tucky Fussell (Rosalind Fussell)

Artist: Tucky Fussell (Rosalind Fussell)

AuthorHouse, 2005

ISBN: 1420874780

Summary: Serious and funny, memoir and fantasy meet in this story. I've been told it is frequently used by cancer support groups.

Relatively Indolent but Relentless: A Cancer Treatment Journal

Writer: Matt Freedman

Artist: Matt Freedman

Seven Stories Press, 2014

ISBN: 160980516X

Summary: This is the 200+ page journal, pictures and words, created by the author as he underwent treatment for adenoid cystic carcinoma.

Stitches: A Memoir

Writer: David Small

Artist: David Small

W. W. Norton & Company, 2009

ISBN: 0393338967

Summary: The difficult story about a difficult childhood that leads to the author's cancer and being mute. A benchmark work, bringing great ART to the graphic novel medium.

When David Lost His Voice

Writer: Judith Vanistendael

Artist: Judith Vanistendael

Abrams Publishing/SelfMadeHero, 2013

ISBN: 1906838542, 978-1-906838-54-6

Summary: Both beautiful artwork and moving prose tells the tale of David and his struggle with stage 3 supraglottic cancer.

The Death of Captain Marvel

Writer: Jim Starlin

Artist: Jim Starlin

Marvel Comics, 1982

ISBN: 0939766116

Summary: Even in the Marvel universe, there is no cure for cancer. Read the graphic novel that changed comics, even before *Watchmen* and *the Dark Knight Returns*.

ARTISTS

Neal Adams

George Perez

Brian Bolland

Stuart Immonen

Frank Quitely

Frank Cho

Jim Lee

Greg Land

Arthur Suydam

John Romita Sr.

John Romita Jr.

Jack Kirby

FOR CHILDREN

Captain Long Ears

Writer: Diana Thung

Artist: Diana Thung

SLG Publishing, 2010

ISBN: 1593621876

Summary: An eight-year old puts on his 'Captain Long Ears' costume and heads off on an adventure with his imaginary friend Captain Jam, a purple gorilla. Underneath the child-like, space and pirate exploits lies many layers, including the story of animal abuse and the true meaning behind the boys' search for 'Captain Big Nose.'

The art work for the boy is reminiscent of the boy in Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, but the story is all its own.

This may very well be the most compelling children's book I have ever read. It is sometimes funny, often poignant, and occasionally a little sad. All and all, it is absolutely beautiful.

While the cover may make it look like it's for children, I would rate it for slightly older children or Teens; Young Adults & all ages will love it, though!

Rapunzel's Revenge

Writer: Shannon Hale, Dean Hale

Artist: Nathan Hale

Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2008

ISBN: 1599902885

Summary: Rapunzel doesn't need a prince to help her, she's does it herself! Soon she's out of the castle tower, and off to save her mother and the entire kingdom!

A Wrinkle in Time: the Graphic Novel

Writer: Madeleine L'Engle, Hope Larson

Artist: Hope Larson

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

ISBN: 0374386153

Summary: The classic childrens/YA book, about 3 kids who have to find their Dad & maybe save the universe while they're at it. 400 p., nicely done!

***Hardy Boys graphic novel series**

Writer: Scott Lobdell

Artist: Daniel Rendon & others

Papercutz/ Papercutz Graphic Novels, 2005 –

Summary: Frank and Joe Hardy go graphic in new adventures written by Scott Lobdell.

Titles:

01 – **The Ocean of Osyria**

02 – **Identity Theft**

03 – **Mad House**

04 – **Malled**

05 – **Sea You, Sea Me!**

06 – **Hyde & Shriek**

07 – **The Opposite**

08 – **Board to Death**

09 – **To Die or Not to Die**

- 10 – **A Hardy's Day Night**
 - 11 – **AbracaDeath**
 - 12 – **Dude Ranch O' Death!**
 - 13 – **The Deadliest Stunt**
 - 14 – **Haley Danelle's Top Eight**
 - 15 – **Live Free, Die Hardy!**
 - 16 – **Shhhhhh!**
 - 17 – **Word Up!**
 - 18 – **D.A.N.G.E.R. Spells the Hangman!**
 - 19 – **Chaos at 30,000 Feet!**
 - 20 – **Deadly Strategy**
- <http://bit.ly/2GrbDte> + <http://bit.ly/2IpiLMB>

***Nancy Drew graphic novel series**

Writer: Stefan Petrucha, Sarah Kinney

Artist: Sho Murase

Papercutz, 2005 –

Summary: Nancy, Bess, and George get all new adventures in this new series of graphic novels.

Titles:

- 01 – **The Demon of River Heights**
- 02 – **Writ in Stone**
- 03 – **The Haunted Dollhouse**
- 04 – **The Girl Who Wasn't There**
- 05 – **The Fake Heir**
- 06 – **Mr. Cheeters is Missing**
- 07 – **The Charmed Bracelet**
- 08 – **Global Warning**
- 09 – **Ghost in the Machinery**
- 10 – **The Disoriented Express**
- 11 – **Monkey Wrench Blues**
- 12 – **Dress Reversal**
- 13 – **Doggone Town**
- 14 – **Sleight of Dan**
- 15 – **Tiger Counter**
- 16 – **What Goes Up...**
- 17 – **Night of the Living Chatchke**
- 18 – **City Under the Basement**
- 19 – **Cliffhanger**
- 20 – **High School Musical Mystery**
- 21 – **High School Musical Mystery II: the Lost Verse**

Nancy Drew the New Case Files #1: Vampire Slayer, Part One

Nancy Drew the New Case Files #2: Vampire Slayer, Part Two

Nancy Drew the New Case Files #3: Together with the Hardy Boys

<http://bit.ly/2wLpVoT>

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

MARCH, Book One

Writer: (Congressman) John Lewis, Andrew Aydin

Artist: Nate Powell

Top Shelf Productions, 2013

ISBN: 1603093001

Summary: A first-hand account of the Civil Rights Movement in America by John Lewis, now congressman, then one of the "Big Six" leaders who organized protests and marches on Washington and Selma, Alabama.

1 – MARCH, Book One – ISBN 1603093001

2 – MARCH, Book Two – ISBN 1603094008

3 – MARCH, Book Three – ISBN 1603094024

*Three-Book set – ISBN 1603093958

Pride of Baghdad

Writer: Brian K. Vaughan

Artist: Niko Henrichon

Vertigo / Perfection Learning, 2008

ISBN: 1606861727

Summary: Using the true story of four lions that escaped the Baghdad Zoo in 2003, Vaughan creates a story about those animals that's also an allegory about Iraq, its people, the nature of freedom, & war. Warning: it IS violent.

The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation

Writer: Sid Jacobson

Artist: Ernie Colón

Hill and Wang/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006

ISBN: 0809057395

Summary: It is drawn well, & compellingly written. It takes you step by step through that day. It can be a difficult read at times, but still, important & worthwhile.

The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation

Writer: Jonathan Hennessey

Artist: Aaron McConnell

Hill and Wang/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008

ISBN: 0809094703

Summary: The Constitution, Article by Article, Amendment by Amendment, explaining it all.

MEMOIR / NON-FICTION / TRUE STORY

Best of American Splendor

Writer: Harvey Pekar

Artist: R. Crumb, etc.

Ballantine Books, 2005

ISBN: 0345479386

American Splendor: Another Day

Writer: Harvey Pekar

Artist: Eddie Campbell Haspiel, etc.

Vertigo / DC Comics, 2007

ISBN: 1401212352

Harvey Pekar's Cleveland

Writer: Harvey Pekar
Artist: Joseph Remnant
Top Shelf Productions, 2012
ISBN: 1603090916

Fun Home: a Family Tragicomic

Writer: Alison Bechdel
Artist: Alison Bechdel
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006
ISBN: 0618477942

Summary: A family memoir, ultimately about the author's icy relationship with her father, a high school English teacher, funeral home director, & closeted gay man. At turns funny and heartbreaking, it's a fascinating character study that offers laughs, pathos, and redemption. It was listed as one of the best books of 2006 by *the New York Times*, *the Times of London*, *New York* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, and Amazon.com. *Time* magazine and *Entertainment Weekly* called it the best book of the year.

It was nominated for two Eisner Awards, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. It won the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Comic Book, the Stonewall Book Award for non-fiction, the Publishing Triangle-Judy Grahn Nonfiction Award, and the Lambda Literary Award.

*The graphic novel was made into a Broadway musical, nominated for 33 different awards, winning 15 others, including Best Musical, and it won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.

Persepolis

Writer: Marjane Satrapi
Artist: Marjane Satrapi
Pantheon Press, 2003
ISBN: 0375422307

Summary: The memoir of a childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Both political and personal, we are pulled into a world of war, public whippings, and repressive regimes, as seen through the eyes of a child.

The cartoon film of **Persepolis** was winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival & was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

*The 1st book is **the Story of a Childhood**, about growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In the 2nd book, **The Story of a Return**, Satrapi & her family flee to Vienna. After graduation, she returns to Iran as an adult & has to confront the huge changes in both Iran & herself. Like *Maus*, both books are now available as a single volume, **The Complete Persepolis**.

Pedro & Me: Friendship, Loss and what I Learned

Writer: Judd Winick
Artist: Judd Winick
Henry Holt & Co., 2000
ISBN: 0805089640

Summary: Winick, a writer/artist of many DC Comics favorites (Green Lantern, Green Arrow, Batman, Catwoman, Justice League), writes about his friendship with Pedro Zamora, one of the first openly gay men with AIDS on television. This GN would win at least 13 awards, including five from the American Library Association.

GN SERIES

The Walking Dead

Writer: Robert Kirkman

Artist: Charlie Adlard, Tony Moore (issues 1-6, covers 1-24)

Image Comics, 2003 – 2019

Summary: The zombie apocalypse has happened like in a million movies, but never quite like this. Two things I love about this series. 1) When I realized that “the Walking Dead” referred to the human characters & not the zombies, as they walk numbly through life. And 2) as they encounter more humans alive, you realize that the zombies are just doing what’s in their nature to do. That **humans** are the REAL monsters.

Both the comics and the TV series have gone on (for 15 and 8 years, respectively) because it is so **Character-driven**; it’s not about zombies, it’s about **people** living in a world of zombies.

Vol. 1 – Days Gone Bye – ISBN 1-58240-358-9

Vol. 2 – Miles Behind Us – ISBN 1-58240-413-5

Vol. 3 – Safety Behind Bars – ISBN 1-58240-487-9

Vol. 4 – The Heart’s Desire – ISBN 1-58240-530-1

Vol. 5 – The Best Defense – ISBN 1-58240-612-X

Vol. 6 – This Sorrowful Life – ISBN 1-58240-684-7

Vol. 7 – The Calm Before – ISBN 1-58240-828-9

Vol. 8 – Made to Suffer – ISBN 1-58240-883-1

Vol. 9 – Here We Remain – ISBN 1-60706-022-1

Vol. 10 – What We Become – ISBN 1-60706-075-2

Vol. 11 – Fear the Hunters – ISBN 1-60706-122-8

Vol. 12 – Life Among Them – ISBN 1-60706-254-2

Vol. 13 – Too Far Gone – ISBN 1-60706-329-8

Vol. 14 – No Way Out – ISBN 1-60706-392-1

Vol. 15 – We Find Ourselves – ISBN 1-60706-440-5

Vol. 16 – A Larger World – ISBN 1-60706-559-2

Vol. 17 – Something to Fear – ISBN 1-60706-615-7

Vol. 18 – What Comes After – ISBN 1-60706-687-4

Vol. 19 – March to War – ISBN 1-60706-818-4

Vol. 20 – All Out War (part one) – ISBN 1-60706-882-6

Vol. 21 – All Out War (part two) – ISBN 1-63215-030-1

Vol. 22 – A New Beginning – ISBN 1-63215-041-7

Vol. 23 – Whispers to Screams – ISBN 1-63215-258-4

Vol. 24 – Life and Death – ISBN 1-63215-402-1

Vol. 25 – No Turning Back – ISBN 1-63215-659-8

Vol. 26 – Call to Arms – ISBN 1-63215-917-1

Vol. 27 – The Whisperer War – ISBN 1-53430-052-X

Vol. 28 – A Certain Doom – ISBN 1-53430-244-1

Vol. 29 – Lines We Cross – ISBN 1-53430-497-5

Vol. 30 – New World Order – ISBN 1-53430-884-9

Vol. 31 – The Rotten Core – ISBN 1-53431-052-5

Vol. 32 – Rest in Peace – ISBN 1-53431-241-2

Sandman

Writer: Neil Gaiman

Artist: Dave McKean (covers), Sam Kieth, Mike Dringenberg, Jill Thompson, Shawn McManus, Marc Hempel, Michael Zulli

DC Comics/Vertigo, 1989 – 1996, 2013

Summary: A series about the immortal ‘Lord of Dreams,’ that mixes real life with mythology, history, and classic literature, creating an unique universe all its own.

1 – Preludes and Nocturnes – ISBN 1401225756

2 – The Doll’s House – ISBN 1401227996

3 – Dream Country – ISBN 1401229352

- 4 – Season of Mists – ISBN 1401230423
- 5 – A Game of You – ISBN 1401230431
- 6 – Fables and Reflections – ISBN 1401231233
- 7 – Brief Lives – ISBN 1401232639
- 8 – Worlds' End – ISBN 140123402X
- 9 – The Kindly Ones – ISBN 140123545X
- 10 – The Wake – ISBN 1401237541
- *0 – The Sandman: Overture – ISBN 1401248969 (2013/2015) – a prequel story.
- *0 – The Sandman: Overture (Absolute Edition) – ISBN 1401280471

Fables

Writer: Bill Willingham

Artist: Mark Buckingham, Lan Medina, Steve Leialoha

DC Comics/Vertigo, 2002 – 2015

Summary: Fairy tale characters are being hunted to extinction & escape to our world.

- 1: Fables: Legends in Exile – ISBN 1-56389-942-6
- 2: Animal Farm – ISBN 1-4012-0077-X
- 3: Storybook Love – ISBN 1-4012-0256-X
- 4: March of the Wooden Soldiers – ISBN 1-4012-0222-5
- 5: The Mean Seasons – ISBN 1-4012-0486-4
- 6: Homelands – ISBN 1-4012-0500-3
- 7: Arabian Nights (and Days) – ISBN 1-4012-1000-7
- 8: Wolves – ISBN 1-4012-1001-5
- 9: Sons of Empire – ISBN 1-4012-1316-2
- 10: The Good Prince – ISBN 1-4012-1686-2
- 11: War and Pieces – ISBN 1-4012-1913-6
- 12: The Dark Ages – ISBN 1-4012-2316-8
- 13: The Great Fables Crossover – ISBN 1-4012-2572-1
- 14: Witches – ISBN 1-4012-2880-1
- 15: Rose Red – ISBN 1-4012-3000-8
- 16: Super Team – ISBN 1-4012-3306-6
- 17: Inherit the Wind – ISBN 1-4012-3516-6
- 18: Cubs in Toyland – ISBN 1-4012-3769-X
- 19: Snow White – ISBN 1-4012-4248-0
- 20: Camelot – ISBN 1-4012-4516-1
- 21: Happily Ever After – ISBN 1-4012-5132-3
- 22: Farewell – ISBN 1-4012-5233-8

***There were also a number of spin-off titles from FABLES:**

- 1001 Nights of Snowfall – ISBN 1401203698
- Cinderella (1): From Fabletown with Love – ISBN 1401227503
- Cinderella (2): Fables are Forever – ISBN 1401233856
- Fairest, Vol. 1: Wide Awake – ISBN 1-4012-3550-6
- Fairest, Vol. 2: Hidden Kingdom – ISBN 1-4012-4021-6
- Fairest, Vol. 3: The Return of the Maharaja – ISBN 1-4012-4593-5
- Fairest, Vol. 4: Of Mice and Men – ISBN 1-4012-5005-X
- Fairest, Vol. 5: The Clamour for Glamour – ISBN 1-4012-5426-8
- Fairest in All the Land – ISBN 1-4012-3900-5
- Jack of Fables, vol. 1: The (Nearly) Great Escape – ISBN 1-4012-1222-0
- Jack of Fables, vol. 2: Jack of Hearts – ISBN 1-4012-1455-X
- Jack of Fables, vol. 3: The Bad Prince – ISBN 1-4012-1854-7
- Jack of Fables, vol. 4: Americana – ISBN 1-4012-1979-9
- Jack of Fables, vol. 5: Turning Pages – ISBN 1-4012-2138-6

Jack of Fables, vol. 6: The Big Book of War – ISBN 1-4012-2500-4
*The Great Fables Crossover – ISBN 1-4012-2572-1
Jack of Fables, vol. 7: The New Adventures of Jack and Jack – ISBN 1-4012-2712-0
Jack of Fables, vol. 8: The Fulminate Blade – ISBN 1-4012-2982-4
Jack of Fables, vol. 9: The End – ISBN 1-4012-3155-1
The Last Castle – ASIN: B000NLJSK4
Peter and Max: a Fables Novel – ISBN 1401225373
Werewolves of the Heartland – ISBN 1401224806
The Wolf Among Us, vol. 1 – ISBN 1401256848
The Wolf Among Us, vol. 2 – ISBN 140126137X
everAFTER, vol. 1: The Pandora Protocol – ISBN 1401268366
everAFTER, vol. 2: The Unsentimental Education – ISBN 1401275028

Y: The Last Man

Writer: Brian K. Vaughan

Artist: Pia Guerra

Vertigo Comics/DC Vertigo, 2002 - 2008

A plague sweeps the planet killing every male of every species, except for unemployed Yorick, and his pet monkey. Yorick begins his journey seeking his girlfriend, and answers to why this happened.

1. Unmanned. ISBN 1-56389-980-9, collecting issues #1-5
2. Cycles. ISBN 1-4012-0076-1, collecting issues #6–10
3. One Small Step. ISBN 1-4012-0201-2, collecting issues #11–17
4. Safeword. ISBN 1-4012-0232-2, collecting issues #18-23
5. Ring of Truth. ISBN 1-4012-0487-2, collecting issues #24–31
6. Girl on Girl. ISBN 1-4012-0501-1, collecting issues #32–36
7. Paper Dolls. ISBN 1-4012-1009-0, collecting issues #37-42
8. Kimono Dragons. ISBN 1-4012-1010-4, collecting issues #43–48
9. Motherland. ISBN 1-4012-1351-0, collecting issues #49-54
10. Whys and Wherefores. ISBN 1-4012-1813-X, collecting issues #55–60

(or)

Y: the Last Man – Book One. ISBN 978-1401251512, collecting issues #1-10

Y: the Last Man – Book Two. ISBN 978-1401254391, collecting issues #11-23

Y: the Last Man – Book Three. ISBN 978-1401258801, collecting issues #24-36

Y: the Last Man – Book Four. ISBN 978-1401261689, collecting issues #37-48

Y: the Last Man – Book Five. ISBN 978-1401263720, collecting issues #49-60

(or)

Y: the Last Man – Omnibus. ISBN 978-1401298159, collecting issues #1-60

Superheroes

Superman: Secret Identity

Writer: Kurt Busiek

Artist: Stuart Immonen

DC Comics, 2004

ISBN: 1401204511

Summary: How irritating would it be to be named Clark Kent, and be oppressively average? How *weird* would it be if one day you began gaining the powers of Superman? Each of the five issues here jumps about 10 years, giving you a long life story of *this* Clark Kent. Excellently written, and beautifully drawn, *this* should be the next Superman movie.

Superior

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Leinil Yu

Image Comics/MillarWorld, 2012

ISBN: 1534308083

Summary: Superior is a Superman-like character, and in the story, he's fictional. The story is really about a kid in a wheelchair. He has multiple sclerosis, and like in the movie BIG, he wishes he was SUPERIOR. And the next day, HE IS.

Umbrella Academy: the Apocalypse Suite

Writer: Gerard Way (of the band My Chemical Romance)

Artist: Gabriel Bá

Dark Horse, 2007

ISBN: 1593079788

Summary: This is like a British novel from the 1800's, mixed with *the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, with a team of kid superheroes, written by a rockstar, the singer from My Chemical Romance. 1st time I've read something, closed it, opened it up, & read it again.

The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl & the Great Lakes Avengers

Writer: Steve Ditko, Dan Slott, Fabian Nicieza

Artist: Georges jeanty, Kieron Dwyer, Staz johnson

Marvel Comics, 2005/2016

ISBN: 1302900668

Summary: A compilation of several series in which Squirrel Girl appears. Fairly dark humor and repeated deaths make this more appropriate to older teens and adults.

Watchmen

Writer: Alan Moore

Artist: Dave Gibbons

DC Comics, 1986

ISBN: 1852860243

Summary: Along with the Dark Knight Returns, perhaps the greatest deconstruction of the superhero mythos. Ever. A big story, covering multiple generations of heroes, a multitude of characters, and a surprise around every corner. Sad, poignant, beautiful, and absolutely brilliant.

Webcomics

1) Webcomics to read:

<http://bit.ly/3V45FVA>

2) Webcomics now in Print:

<http://bit.ly/3Amfl64>

Titles Discovered over Covid

House of X / Powers of X

Writer: Jonathan Hickman

Artist: Pepe Larraz, R.B. Silva

Marvel Comics, 2019/2020

ASIN: B07Z8HGWC3

Summary:

Five Ghosts, Deluxe Edition, Volume 1

Writer: Frank J. Barbiere

Artist: Chris Mooneyham

Image Comics, 2015

ISBN: 978-63215-288-6

Summary: Fabian Gray is a 1940s or 50s adventurer that has five ghosts (and their skills/powers) inside him. Though, they're not named, they appear to be Dracula, Robin Hood, Sherlock Holmes, a Shogun warrior, and Merlin? Great concept, not completely pulled off, but good retro fun nonetheless.

Saga of the Swamp Thing: Book One

Writer: Alan Moore

Artist: Stephen Bissette, John Totleben, Dan Day, Rick Veitch

DC Comics, 2012

ISBN: 978-1-4012-2083-9

Summary:

Ironheart: Those with Courage

Writer: Eve L. Ewing

Artist: Luciano Vecchio, Kevin Libranda

Marvel Comics, 2019

ISBN: 978-1-302-91508-7

Summary:

Arrowsmith: So Smart in their Fine Uniforms

Writer: Kurt Busiek

Artist: Carlos Pacheco

Wildstorm/DC Comics, 2004

ASIN: B005KFFIE8

ISBN: 978-1401202996

Summary: An alternate history where we follow young Fletcher Arrowsmith into World War I, but one with magic, flying men, wizards, and vampires. A surprisingly good allegory on war and innocence lost.

The Old Guard, Book One: Opening Fire

Writer: Greg Rucka

Artist: Leandro Fernandez

Image Comics, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-5343-0240-2

Summary: Introduces Andy and her team of (possibly) immortal assassins. A fun action comic with dissertations on the nature of life, of death, and living beyond our loved ones. (#1 of a planned 3.)

The Old Guard, Book Two: Force Multiplied

Writer: Greg Rucka

Artist: Leandro Fernandez

Image Comics, 2020

ISBN: 978-1534313774

Summary: Andy finds someone from her past is not gone after all. Discusses the nature of good and evil, loyalty, and loneliness. (#2 of a planned 3.)

VARGR aka Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in VARGR

Writer: Warren Ellis

Artist: Jason Masters

Dynamite Entertainment, 2016

ISBN: 978-1-60690-901-0

Summary: A very gritty, new tale of James Bond 007. Mr. Ellis should be asked to pen the next Bond movie, this is so good. The best Bond I've seen in years. And the artwork of Jason Masters is top notch, setting the pace, and artfully doing action at its best.

EIDOLON aka Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in EIDOLON

Writer: Warren Ellis

Artist: Jason Masters

Dynamite Entertainment, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-5241-0272-2

Summary: Is Spectre raising its ugly head once more? Also: Moneypenny with a gun!

The Mueller Report Illustrated: the Obstruction Investigation

Writer: Rosalind S. Helderman, the Washington Post

Artist: Jan Feindt

Scribner/Simon & Schuster, 2019

ISBN: 978-1-9821-4927-7

Summary: Graphic novel presentation of the findings of the Mueller Report - investigating charges of obstruction of justice by President Donald Trump and those in his employ.

VELVET

Writer: Ed Brubaker

Artist: Steve Epting

Image Comics

Velvet, vol. 1: Before the Living End, 2014

ISBN: 978-1-60706-964-5

Velvet, vol. 2: The Secret Lives of Dead Men, 2015

ISBN: 978-1-63215-234-3

Velvet, vol. 3: The Man Who Stole the World, 2016

ISBN: 978-1-63215-727-0

Summary: Do you like James Bond? What if Moneypenny had been a secret agent way back when? And when Bond ends up dead, she decides to find out why. It's Brubaker's version of this, of course, but it's done with gritty aplomb. Check it out of your local library. 3 graphic novels, or 1 deluxe edition of the whole story.

Paper Girls (series)

Summary: Four girls delivering their newspapers one morning start an adventure with time travel, monsters, and a future war. Hijinks ensue.

Writer: Brian K. Vaughan

Artist: Cliff Chiang

Image Comics, 2016 - 2019

Vol. 1, ISBN: 978-1-63215-674-7

Vol. 2, ISBN: 978-1-63215-985-6

Vol. 3, ISBN: 978-1-5343-0223-5

Vol. 4, ISBN: 978-1-5343-0510-6

Vol. 5, ISBN: 978-1-5343-0867-1

Vol. 6, ISBN: 978-1-5343-1324-8

Star Wars: Darth Vader (series)

Summary: Taking place between the first two movies, Star Wars and the Empire Strikes Back, this is a character study in one of the most famous villains in film: Darth Vader. Extra points for creating an exciting new character in Doctor Aphra.

Writer: Kieron Gillen

Artist: Salvador Larroca

Marvel Comics, 2015 - 2016

Vol. 1: Vader, ISBN: 978-0785192558

Vol. 2: Shadows and Secrets, ISBN: 978-0785192565

Vader Down, ISBN: 978-0785197898

Vol. 3: The Shu-Torun War, ISBN: 978-0785199779

Vol. 4: End of Games, ISBN: 978-0785199786

Fangs

Writer: Sarah Andersen

Artist: Sarah Andersen

Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2020

ISBN: 978-1524860677

Summary: The cute story of a vampire and a werewolf in love.

Jupiter's Circle

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Wilfredo Torres

Image Comics, 2015, 2016

Book 1 - ISBN: 978-1-63215-556-6

Book 2 - ISBN: 978-1-63215-707-2

Summary: Prequel to *Jupiter's Legacy*. Follows a group of six superheroes in the 1950s and 60s,

Kick-Ass: the New Girl (Book One)

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: John Romita Jr.

Image Comics, 2018

ISBN: 978-1-5343-0832-9

Summary: Patience Lee returns from her latest tour in Afghanistan to find her home life in shambles. Maybe the guise of Kick-Ass can put it right.

Old Man Logan

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Steve McNiven

Marvel Comics, 2009

ISBN: 978-0-7851-3172-4

Summary: In a possible future, Wolverine is a pacifist, a man with family scraping out a living under the thumb of ruling villains. Old friend Hawkeye, offers him a job... and an adventure.

Starlight

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Goran Parlov

Image Comics, 2015

ISBN: 978-1-63215-017-2

Summary: Duke McQueen is basically Flash Gordon. Nobody on earth believes his outer space adventures happened, and 40 years have passed. Now, the alien race he saved has returned, needing his help.

BANG!

Writer: Matt Kindt

Artist: Wilfredo Torres

Dark Horse Comics, 2020

ISBN: 978-1-50671-616-9

Summary: Four characters (similar to/doppelgangers of James Bond, Die Hard, Bat Girl, and an Agatha Christie sleuth) team up to solve a case. And find out who they, in fact, are.

Cross Over, vol. 1: Kids Love Chains

Writer: Donny Cates

Artist: Geoff Shaw

Image Comics, 2021

ISBN: 978-1-5343-1893-9

Summary: The sky opens up over Denver and all the heroes and villains of comic books cross over into our world, fighting. A dome is built to contain them. Ellie wants to get inside the dome and find her parents, trapped there.

Y, the Last Man

Writer: Brian K. Vaughan

Artist: Pia Guerra

DC Comics/Vertigo, 2002 - 2008

Book One, ISBN: 978-1-4012-1921-5

Book Two, ISBN: 978-1-4012-2235-2

Book Three, ISBN: 978-1-4012-2578-0

Book Four, ISBN: 978-1-4012-2888-0

Book Five, ISBN: 978-1-4012-3051-7

Summary: Yorick is about to propose to his girlfriend (on a trip to Australia), when the line goes dead. Actually, all the males in the world are suddenly dead, except for Yorick and his pet monkey. Thus launches an adventure to cross the globe for his girl and answers to what happened.

The Magic Order (Book One)

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Olivier Coipel

Image Comics, 2019

ISBN: 978-1-5343-0871-8

Summary: Regular people with regular jobs, but they also belong to the Magic Order, a group of magicians that have held the forces of evil at bay for thousands of years. But now, there is a warring faction aiming to take over control of the Order, and one very special book.

Huck (Book 1: All American)

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Rafael Albuquerque

Image Comics, 2016

ISBN: 978-1-63215-729-4

Summary: Huck is gas station attendant that tries to do one good deed every day. He also has the ability to find any lost item, has super strength, and can run across the entire country. Somewhat of a play on 'what is Superman never left his small town,' Huck is a warm-hearted story about friends and family.

Basketful of Heads

Writer: Joe Hill

Artist: Leomacs

DC Comics, 2020

ISBN: 978-1-77950-297-1

Summary: It's the end of the summer season on Brody Island, and the summer deputy is about to hand up his badge and leave with his girl. But a huge storm hits and four inmates go on the run. A fairly short graphic novel, but fantastic author, Joe Hill, fills it with surprises and twists. A great read.

The Sleeper and the Spindle

Writer: Neil Gaiman

Artist: Chris Riddell

HarperCollins, 2015

ISBN: 978-0-06-239824-6

Summary: This may or may not be seen, technically, as a graphic novel. It's more of a short story with illustrations, like a classic children's book. The story combines Sleeping Beauty with a bit of Snow White, and adds some delightful Gaiman twists and turns along the way. A wonderful new look at an old tale (or two).

Meadowlark: A Coming-of-Age Crime Story

Writer: Ethan Hawke (yes, THAT Ethan Hawke)

Artist: Greg Ruth

Hachette Book Group/Grand Central Publishing, 2021

ISBN: 978-1-5387-1457-7

Summary: Cooper is the product of divorced parents, and a bit of a troublemaker. He learns who his father really is, versus who he thought he was, in a crime story that should be made into a film.

Something is Killing the Children

Writer: James Tynion IV

Artist: Werther Dell'edera & Miguel Muerto

BOOM! Studios, 2020-21

Vol. 1, ISBN: 978-1684155583

Vol. 2, ISBN: 978-1684156498

Vol. 3, ISBN: 978-1684157075

Vol. 4, ISBN: 978-1684158041

Book One, Deluxe Edition, ISBN: 978-1684157648

Summary: The title says it all, really. Something is killing the children of Archer's Peak, Wisconsin. And someone has shown up to stop it. Gritty, raw, and human. Definitely not for kids. Adults only.

Planet Hulk

Writer: Greg Pak

Artist: Greg Pagulayan

Marvel Comics, 2007

ISBN: 978-0785120124

Summary: The Hulk is shot into space because he believed that his power and rage will one day lead to tragedy here on earth. He lands on the planet Sakaar, where he is enslaved and made to fight in gladiator battles. Hulk fights for his own, and others freedom.

World War Hulk

Writer: Greg Pak

Artist: John Romita Jr.

Marvel Comics, 2008

ISBN: 978-1-302-92077-7

Summary: Back on earth, Hulk seeks revenge on those that shot him into space.