

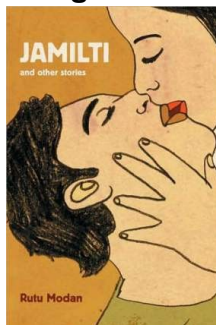
Year's Best Graphic Novels 2008

NJ Library Association Conference April 2009
David Lisa, NJ State Library; Karla Iverson, Ocean County Library System; Tyler Rousseau, Ocean County Library System, Laverne Mann, Mercer County Library System

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JAMILTI by Rutu Modan ADULT
978-1897299548

Set in Israel during various eras throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, Modan's short stories are evocative and haunting. The themes of these simply illustrated stories range from revelations of disturbing family secrets to portrayals of tragic beauty amid political violence.



HELLBOY LIBRARY EDITION,

Volume 1: Seed of Destruction ADULT/YA
by Mike Mignola and John Byrne 978-1593079109

Drawing upon occult mythology and 20th century history, Mignola has created a hero who embodies the American ideal of self-invention. Brought to earth in a Nazi occult experiment and nurtured by American GIs, Hellboy rejects his ties to the underworld as he chooses to be a force for good and fight all manner of demons and other supernatural beings.

J. EDGAR HOOVER: A Graphic Biography by Rick Geary. ADULT/YA
978-0809095032

Geary's detailed and engaging account of J. Edgar Hoover's rise within the FBI is an informative history of the agency itself.

NAT TURNER by Kyle Baker ADULT/YA
978-0810972278

Kyle Baker illustrates Nat Turner's own description of the largest organized rebellion of enslaved people in the first half of the 19th century. Baker's black and white drawings make the violence and brutality of this event explicit.

RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE 159990070X JUVENILE

by [Shannon Hale](#) (Author), [Dean Hale](#) (Author), [Nathan Hale](#) (Illustrator)

In this engaging adaptation of the classic tale, Rapunzel's shiny red locks are transformed into deadly weapons--lighting fast lassoes. Not only does Rapunzel manage to rescue herself, she befriends a young friend, Jack, and his mysterious goose and together they rid the kingdom of evil.

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WHAT IT IS by Lynda Barry ADULT/YA
9781897299357

Writer and cartoonist shows readers how she makes art and encourages us to make our own. Each page is gorgeously illustrated with collage, letter fragments, monkeys, birds, and little Lynda Barry, whose trailer-park, TV-lit childhood and chain-smoking mother will be utterly familiar to devoted readers.



CAIRO by G. Willow Wilson ADULT/YA
9781401211400

A lush and energetic drawing style makes for a beautiful book. Wilson, a journalist who has spent many years in the city of the book's title, constructs a gripping narrative, mixing magic, politics and romance. The knowledgeable view of the Islamic world and interesting visual effects do keep the reader's attention.

TONOHARU, Part I by Lars Martinson ADULT
978-0980102321

Daniel Wells begins a new life as an assistant junior high school teacher in the rural Japanese village of Tonoharu. Isolated from those around him by cultural and language barriers, he leads a monastic existence, peppered only by his inept pursuit of the company of a fellow American who lives a couple towns over.

TINY TITANS by DC Comics JUVENILE
9781401220785

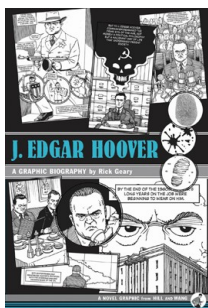
Discover what life is like for the young heroes of Sidekick Elementary in this new collection featuring TINY TITANS #1-6! Kid-friendly versions of the Teen Titans and their rogues gallery star in this fun, light-hearted, all-ages romp beautifully written and illustrated by Art Baltazar and Franco.

MINI MARVELS by Chris Giarusso for Marvel Comics JUVENILE
Here come the Mini Marvels in their very own comedy/adventure digest! Featuring Spidey, Wolvie, Iron Man, Hulk and more Marvel favorites – reimagined for an all-ages audience!



TALES FROM THE STARLIGHT DRIVE-IN by Michael San Giacomo ADULT
9781582409481

32 stories taking place over 50 years at a Drive-In Theater, featuring 21 artists from around the world. Mirroring life and the cinema with tales of crime, romance, science fiction, musicals, even a western, each stand-alone story combines to create a single novel with a powerful, shocking finale you won't forget!



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THE TWELVE ADULT/YA

Yesterday's Men of Tomorrow—Today! Thought lost to the pages of time, a dozen Mystery Men from the “greatest generation” of World War Two find themselves thrust into the morally-gray world of the 21st century!

ROBOT DREAMS YA/JUVENILE 9781596431089

This moving, charming graphic novel about a dog and a robot shows us in poignant detail how powerful and fragile relationships are

THE ARRIVAL YA 9780439895293

Shaun Tan's stunning *The Arrival* chronicles -- in a wordless, wondrous pictorial narrative -- an immigrant's parting from his family and journey toward the future in a new land that is simultaneously ominous and hopeful.

ACHEWOOD: GREAT OUTDOOR FIGHT ADULT 9781593079970

This handsome hardcover compilation of the popular Web comic *Achewood* follows the strip's most epic story arc and should win many new fans. When Ray Smuckles, a thong-clad anthropomorphic cat, discovers his father was a champion of the Great Outdoor Fight, a yearly competition held in Bakersfield, Calif., he decides to enter the nearly rule-less three-day fight.

TWILIGHT ZONE series ADULT/YA 9780802797131

This adaptation is a deliciously creepy reworking of the TV classic and offers a timeless slant on this tale. Equally engaging is *The Odyssey of Flight 33* (9780802797186)

LOCAL ADULT/YA 9781934964002

Local brings together 12 issues of a comic book series reprinted as a hardcover graphic novel. Each of the twelve chapters are individual moments of Megan McKeenan's existence as she wanders from locality to

locality in the United States, searching for her life. Brian Wood is the author of the critically acclaimed comic book series DMZ.

ZOT!: Complete B & W Collection, 1987-1991 ADULT/YA 9780061645129

Scott McCloud's comic book series *Zot!* was originally published from 1984 to 1990 by Eclipse Comics. The first 10 issues are in color and, unfortunately, out of print. This volume, however, collects #'s 11 - 36, all of the black and white issues, and can be read as a self-contained story. *Zot!* is the story of Jenny and her friendship with a superhero from another world.

LOCKE & KEY, vol. I ADULT/YA

9781600102370

Joe Hill is the author of the novel *Heart Shaped Box* and the short story collection *20th Century Ghosts*. What's not promoted is the fact that he is the son of Stephen and Tabitha King. Thank goodness the apple doesn't fall far from those trees. *Locke & Key* is an ongoing comic book series from IDW Publishing and focuses on the bizarre experiences of a family in a New England mansion called Keyhouse. Stunningly original artwork by Gabriel Rodriguez.

THE SWORD, vol. I ADULT/YA

9781582408798

Dara Brighton is a college girl whose life is changed forever when three strangers show up on her family's doorstep and demand a mystical sword. This event propels her into a dangerous quest. This is Volume I of an ongoing comic book series by The Luna Brothers (Joshua and Jonathan Luna, authors of *Ultra* and *Girls*).

THE ALCOHOLIC ADULT

9781401210564

Part quasi-autobiography and part stunning noir-realism, *The Alcoholic* is the story of Jonathan A. and the origin of his addiction to alcohol, the consequences of alcohol and substance abuse on his life and his eventual self-realization. Written by Jonathan Ames with art by Dean Haspiel. Published by DC Comics' Vertigo label.



Other 2008 titles of note:

Bluesman
Bottomless Belly Button—Dash Shaw
Comic Book Tattoo
Coraline— GN Adaptation by P. Craig Russel
Dan Dare -Garth Ennis
Gotham Central— Ed Brubaker and Greg Rucka
Incognegro
Invincible Iron Man
The Joker—Brian Azzarello
Manga Shakespeare Series
The New York Four, Water Baby (Minx line)
Notes for a War Story— Gipi
Omega the Unknown
Skim
Thoreau at Walden
Sentences: The Life Of M.F. Grimm
Twilight
The Umbrella Academy: The Apocalypse Suite
Vertigo titles: The Vinyl Underground, The Un-Men, Faker
Welcome to Tranquility

REVIEW and GRAPHIC NOVEL SOURCES:

*New York Times— Graphic Book
Library Journal
School Library Journal
Booklist GN issue
VOYA
Baker and Taylor: Imagery (btol.com)
Comic Store News (CSN)
Teenreads.com (manga)
icv2.com
bookshelf.diamondcomics.com
comics2film.com
comicworthreading.com
graphicnovels.broadart.com
kidslovecomics.com
dcomics.com
marvel.com
darkhorse.com

