

# Year's Best Graphic Novels 2009

## **AMERICAN SPLENDOR: ONE DOLLAR by Harvey Pekar ADULT**

978-1401221737

Reading one of Harvey Pekar's comic books is like spending a long afternoon catching up with a favorite curmudgeonly uncle. Pekar's stories alternate between heartwarming recollections of those who've been kind to him or play by play bitter descriptions of those who've done him wrong.

## **DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR by Alison Bechdel ADULT**

978-0618968800

First appearing in 1983, by the end of its 25-year run this comic was syndicated in over 50 alternative newspapers in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. Bechdel addresses important social and political issues through this fictionalized drama of a mostly lesbian countercultural group of friends.

## **CHILDREN OF THE SEA YA/ADULT**

978-1421529141

An aquarium in Japan is caring not just for fish, but also two boys who were found in the ocean-- raised by manatees since birth. Just what is their other-worldly nature and its connection to mysterious disappearances of fish around the world?



## **ADVENTURES IN CARTOONING JUVENILE**

978-1596433694

Through the charming tale of a candy-eating dragon and valiant knights, Sturm, Arnold and Frederick-Frost explain the art of creating stories by illustrating panels upon a page. The illustrations are in the spare and simple style of Ed Emberley's instructional drawing books. Spoiler alert--although their story is told in "boxes", the princess of this story refuses to stay in hers.

## **ASTERIOS POLYP by David Mazzuchelli ADULT**

ISBN- 0307377326

After a fire burns down his apartment the Paper Architect, Asterios, tries to begin a new life only to find it bring him back to the one important thing he lost long ago.

## **I KILL GIANTS by Joe Kelly YA/ADULT**

ISBN- 1607060922

Social outcast, Barbara Thorson, might be able to protect her house from giants but sometimes there are things just too terrible to stop.

## **PERRY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

**by Nicholas Gurewich ADULT**

ISBN- 1593079885

Ranging from subtle to blatant, cute to crude, Gurewich has amassed a legion of fans desperately looking for a new Far Side comic .

NJ Library Association Conference April 2010

David Lisa, NJ State Library; Karla Ivarson, Ocean County Library System; Tyler Rousseau, Monroe Public Library, Laverne Mann, Piscataway Public Library

## **ZOMBIE SURVIVAL GUIDE by Max Brooks YA/ADULT**

ISBN- 030740577X

Turns out that zombies have a habit of popping up throughout history; well *that* explains all those missing civilizations and strange customs...

## **LOGICOMIX by Apostolos Doxiadis ADULT**

ISBN- 1596914521

An exploration on one of modern time's greatest thinkers, Bertrand Russell. Takes very complex Mathematical and Philosophical theories and presents them in terms we can all understand.



## **THE SWORD, VOL. 3: EARTH by Joshua Luna, Jonathan Luna ADULT**

978-1607060734

The saga of Dara Brighton and The Sword continues. Dara has defeated two of the three remaining god-siblings that murdered her family. Can she defeat the last one or will she meet the same fate as her parents and sister? The Luna Brothers tell a gripping story that you won't soon forget.

## **STITCHES: A Memoir by David Small ADULT**

978-0393068573

David Small's story of his life growing up is at once poignant and horrifying. It's one of the best graphic novels of the year because all of us can see a little bit of ourselves in David's portrayal of himself. This book is on many best book lists for 2009.

## **ALL-STAR SUPERMAN, VOL. 2 by Grant Morrison, Frank Quitely YA/ADULT**

978-1401218379

Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely join forces to produce some of the best Superman stories in the history of the character. Morrison's puts a different spin on the character and Quitely's art is exquisite.

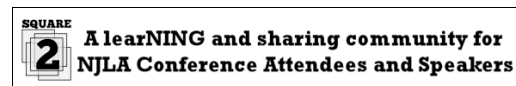
## **THE ROCKETEER- THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES**

**by Dave Stevens YA/ADULT**

978-1600105388

Dave Stevens creation The Rocketeer originally appeared in the 1980's and was the source material for a major motion picture. This hardcover collects all the Rocketeer stories and materials that Stevens created. The Rocketeer is the perfect mix of super-heroes and pulp fiction and is just as delightful to read now as it was in the '80's.

<http://njlaconference.ning.com/>



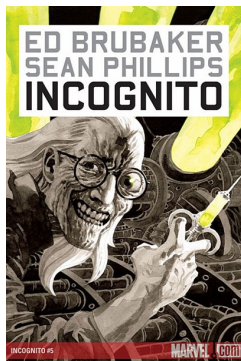
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## **SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING, BK. 1**

**by Alan Moore, Stephen Bissette, John Totleben ADULT**

978-1401220822

Alan Moore deconstructed Swamp Thing for DC in the 1980's and this was his first major company comic book work in the states. Totally turning the character inside out, Moore, Bissette and Totleben gave us a comic book that had never quite been seen before, a deft mix of horror, superhero adventure and humor. Alan Moore would create Watchmen for DC just a few years later. This Saga of the Swamp Thing hardcover is a deluxe reprinting of the Moore issues from the beginning and includes an issue never reprinted before.



## **INCOGNITO by Ed Brubaker, Sean Phillips ADULT**

978-0785139796

What if you were an ex-super villain hiding out in Witness Protection... but all you could think about were the days when the rules didn't apply to you? Could you stand the toil of an average life after years of leaving destruction in your wake? And what if you couldn't stand it? Incognito - a twisted mash-up of noir and super-heroics.

## **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE by Nancy Butler, Hugo Petras YA/ADULT**

978-78513915x

Tailored from the adored Jane Austen classic, Marvel Comics is proud to present Pride & Prejudice! Adapting the whimsical tale of Lizzy Bennet and her loveable-if-eccentric family, as they navigate through tricky British social circles. Will Lizzy's father manage to marry off her five daughters, despite his wife's incessant nagging? Collects Pride & Prejudice #1-5.

## **ECHO, VOL. 3: Desert Run YA/ADULT**

978-892597438

This Eisner Award nominated series by Terry Moore is hot! Julie Martin wakes up in a desert motel covered in a radioactive atomic alloy capable of fantastic destruction. Pursued by a maniacal killer and a sexy government mercenary, Julie discovers the spirit of another woman is living inside her...and the two of them must stop the alloy from destroying the world! Collects issues 11-15.

## **HOUSE OF MYSTERY: ROOM & BOREDOM by Matthew Sturges,**

**Bill Willingham ADULT**

978/401220792

A series that reinvents a classic DC Comics comic. HOUSE OF MYSTERY focuses on five characters trapped in a supernatural bar, trying to solve the mystery of how and why they're imprisoned there. Each one has a terrible past they'd like to forget, and with no books, newspapers or TV allowed in the House, they face an eternity of boredom. But stories become the new currency, and fortunately, the House attracts only the finest storytellers.

## **Other 2009 titles of note:**

The Walking Dead compendium vol. 1  
Secret Six  
Filthy Rich  
Chew: Taster's Choice  
Locke & Key 2: Head Games  
Wonderful Wizard of Oz  
Luna Park  
Blackest Night  
Parker: The Hunter  
AD New Orleans  
Pluto  
Logicomix  
Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451:  
The Authorized Adaptation  
Astonishing X-Men Omnibus by Joss Whedon & John Cassaday  
The Ultimates Omnibus by Mark Millar,  
Irredeemable Vol. 1 by Mark Waid,  
Everybody is Stupid Except for Me by Peter Bagge

The Complete Essex County by Jeff Lemire  
You Shall Die By Your Own Evil Creation! by Fletcher Hanks  
Alec: The Years Have Pants (A Life-Size Omnibus) by Eddie Campbell  
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Century 1910 by Alan Moore, Kevin O'Neill  
A Drifting Life by Yoshihiro Tatsumi  
Masterpiece Comics by R. Sikoryak  
Scott Pilgrim vs. The Universe by Bryan Lee O'Malley  
The Book of Genesis Illustrated by Robert Crumb  
Final Crisis by Grant Morrison et al.  
Batman: R.I.P by Grant Morrison and Tony Daniel  
The Eternal Smile by Gene Luen Yang & Derek Kirk Kim  
The Nobody by Jeff Lemire  
The Storm in the Barn by Matt Phelan

## **REVIEW and GRAPHIC NOVEL SOURCES:**

\*New York Times– Graphic Book Bestsellers

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.brodart.com

kidslovecomics.com

dccomics.com

marvel.com

