

Year's Best Graphic Novels of 2010

NJ Library Association Conference April 2011

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

Berona's War: Field Guide by Anthony Coffey and Jesse Labbe ISBN 9781932386899**.

The cute and furry creatures of the Ele-alta and Cropones tribes battle for Amity. While the land is largely useless, the need to own it and the win become the most destructive forces either side will battle. Told in one-page chapters, this is a great example of how simple stories and ideas can add up to complex storytelling.

Siege by Brian Michael Bendis ISBN 0785148108

Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin, has affixed himself as America's head of Defense and decides to wage war against Asgard, which has materialized on Earth. Filled with action, the return of Captain America and the death of several well-known characters, Siege presents action, politics and plot in an almost perfect balance that keeps the pages turning and your eyes open wide.

How I Made it to 18 by Tracy White ISBN 1596434546-

Confined to a psychiatric hospital, Stacy Black talks about why she thinks she is committed. Her friends, both inside and outside of the institution, offer their views on Stacy's issues. Over time, she learns there are bigger problems in her life than she realized... but will she see the warnings signs before it is too late?

Night of the Living Dead by John Russo ISBN 9781592911066**

Co-creator of the original cult film, Night of the Living Dead, John Russo creates a prequel providing the back story of all the major characters in the film and how they wind up in a remote farm house.

A God Somewhere by John Arcudi ISBN 1401226833

Told from the view of his best friend Sam, Eric suddenly finds himself gifted with quasi-superman powers. While fame and the novelty of simple heroic tasks is enough at the start, the government has other plans... but what happens if Eric refuses to become a weapon *for the military*?



Batwoman Elegy by Greg Rucka

Adult

978-1401226923

Forced to leave West Point because she won't hide the fact that she is a lesbian, Kate Kane finds that she can best serve her country as the new Batwoman. With the strategic and technical assistance of her father, a retired colonel, she strikes at the heart of the cult of crime.

Koko Be Good by Jen Wang

YA/Adult

978-1596435551

Aimless and able to mooch her way through the world, Koko is humbled and inspired by Jon, who plans to move to Peru with his older girlfriend and teach in an orphanage. Yet becoming a good person seems unattainable as each attempt to better herself ends more disastrously than the next.



The Unsinkable Walker Bean by Aaron Renier

Juvenile

978-1596434530

At the behest of his ailing Grandpa, Admiral Bean, young Walker braves pirates, his dull-witted father and menacing monsters to return a crystal skull back to the lair of the evil merwitch sisters.

The Stuff of Legend Book One: The Dark by Mike Raicht

YA/Adult

978-0345521002

While WWII rages on across the Atlantic, an epic battle plays out in the dark closet of a child in Brooklyn. His favorite toy soldier leads battalion of toys and one faithful puppy into the land of the bogeyman to bring their boy home.

Reid Fleming: World's Toughest Milkman by David Boswell

978-1600108020

Hailing back to the days of underground comics in the 1960's, David Boswell's comics based upon counterculture anti-hero Reid Fleming originally appeared during the late 1980's. At once biting satiric, wildly funny and oddly surreal, these black and white comics are considered by comics fans to be some of the most unusual comics produced exclusively for adult readers.

Beasts of Burden: Animal Rites by Evan Dorkin and Jill Thompson

978-1595825131

The front line protectors of Burden Hill are a gang of five dogs and a cat, neighborhood pets that do their best to keep away supernatural forces from their community. Evan Dorkin has done such a good job creating characters that any reader can relate to, and takes the pets on a series of adventures that make for an obsessive page turning experience. Jill Thompson's artwork is exhilarating and heartbreaking, and her ability to render the animals in such a way that we can establish an emotional connection with them is priceless.

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Kick-Ass by Mark Millar and John Romita Jr.
978-0785134350

Mark Millar is one of the most celebrated contemporary comics writers. Here he and fan-favorite artist John Romita, Jr. presents the story of Dave Lizewski, bored high school student, who decides to emulate his favorite comic book heroes and become one himself. Kick-Ass was developed into a successful film during 2010. The comic book continues and a second film is in development. Do not underestimate the value of cross-media marketing of this franchise to your customers.

The Walking Dead Bk. 5 (978-1607061717) - Robert Kirkman, Charlie Adlard and Cliff Rathburn [Bk. 6](#) (978-1607063278) [Vol. 11](#) (978-1607061816) [Vol. 12](#) (978-1607062547) [Vol. 13](#) (978-1607063292)

2010 was the year when The Walking Dead franchise transcended comics to become a pop culture phenomenon. The story became an AMC TV series and its first season drew critical acclaim and the highest ratings of the channel's history. This stunning, no-holds-barred story of society's collapse in the wake of a zombie apocalypse continues to be a best-selling comic book month after month. The future only looks bright for The Walking Dead as a title that your customers, young and old, will be demanding for years to come.

Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths (DVD/Blu-ray)

Looking for the perfect compliment to your graphic novel collection? This is widely acknowledged to be DC Comics' best all-original, direct to DVD release to date. It's a feature-length animated movie based upon DC's multiple earths concept in which each major superhero has a different counterpart on a different version of earth



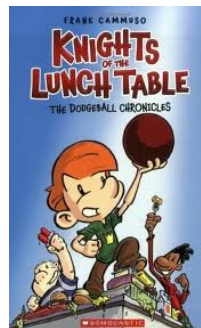
Demo, Volume 2
by Brian Wood, Becky Cloonan ADULT/YA
978-1401220822

These six stories aren't about powerful people but very troubled ones, including a cannibal; a compulsive but charming young woman who lives via instructions on Post-its; a boy who can breathe underwater; and a time traveler who tries to reassure her younger self.

Daytripper

By Gabriel Moon, Fabio Ba ADULT

A stunning, moving story about one man's life and all the possibilities to be realized or lost along the way. Brothers Bá and Moon take readers through the life of a man named Brás de Oliva Domingos, selecting a series of individual events of great significance to Brás, showing each as if it could be the day Brás dies, and in so doing creating an examination of family, friendship, love, art, life, and death that urges the reader to turn the same careful inspection on their own life.



Other 2010 titles of note:

X'd Out by Charles Burns
Saga of Rex by Michel Gagne
Vertigo Crime (Dark Rain, The Bronx Kill)
How to Understand Israel in 30 days
Chew
Birds of Prey
House of Mystery
Tunes: A comic book history of rock and roll
The Unwritten: Tommy Taylor and the Bogus Identity
Fist Stick Knife Gun
Weathercraft: a Frank Comic by Jim Woodring
The Sons of Liberty #1 by Alexander Lagos
Revolver by Matt Kindt

Juvenile comics

Knights of the Lunch Table: The Dodgeball Chronicles

Amulet

Tiny Titans

Batman: The Brave and the Bold

Artemis Fowl The Graphic Novel
Adapted by Eoin Colfer

Bone- Jeff Smith

Ninja Baseball Kyuma-Shunshin
Maeda

Stone Rabbit—Erik Craddock

Babymouse— Jennifer Holm
Lunch Lady— Jarrett Krossocka

Wilson by Dan Clowes
Twilight, The Graphic Novel, Vol. 1 - Stephenie Meyer and Young Kim
Superman: Earth One by J. Michael Straczynski and Shane Davis
Superman: Secret Origin by Geoff Johns and Gary Frank
Batman and Robin, Vol. 1, 2: Batman Reborn by Grant Morrison, Frank Quitely
[Blackest Night](#) by Geoff Johns and Ivan Reis

REVIEW and GRAPHIC NOVEL SOURCES:

*New York Times—
Graphic Book Bestsellers
Library Journal
School Library Journal
Booklist
VOYA
Baker and Taylor: Imagery
Comic Store News (CSN)
Teenreads.com (manga)
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