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# My Favorite Thing Is Monsters

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Monsters*

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## **My Favorite Thing is Monsters**

### **Book 1 *Fantagraphics Books***

Set against the tumultuous political backdrop of late '60s Chicago, My Favorite Thing Is Monsters is the fictional graphic diary of 10-year-old Karen Reyes, filled with B-movie horror and pulp monster magazines iconography. Karen Reyes tries to solve the murder of her enigmatic upstairs neighbor, Anka Silverberg, a holocaust survivor, while the interconnected stories of those around her unfold. When Karen's investigation takes us back to Anka's life in Nazi Germany, the reader discovers how the personal, the political, the past, and the present converge.

### **My Favorite Thing is Monsters**

In the conclusion of this two-part graphic novel, set in 1960s Chicago, dark

mysteries past and present abound, and 10-year-old Karen tries to solve them.

**Stone Fruit** *Fantagraphics Books*

Bron and Ray are a queer couple who enjoy their role as the fun weirdo aunties to Ray's niece, six-year-old Nessie. Their playdates are little oases of wildness, joy, and ease in all three of their lives, which ping-pong between familial tensions and deep-seeded personal stumbling blocks. As their emotional intimacy erodes, Ray and Bron isolate from each other and attempt to repair their broken family ties — Ray with her overworked, resentful single-mother sister and Bron with her religious teenage sister who doesn't fully grasp the complexities of gender identity. Taking a leap of faith, each opens up

and learns they have more in common with their siblings than they ever knew. At turns joyful and heartbreaking, *Stone Fruit* reveals through intimately naturalistic dialog and blue-hued watercolor how painful it can be to truly become vulnerable to your loved ones — and how fulfilling it is to be finally understood for who you are. Lee Lai is one of the most exciting new voices to break into the comics medium and she has created one of the truly sophisticated graphic novel debuts in recent memory.

**Unflattening** *Harvard University Press*

The primacy of words over images has deep roots in Western culture. But what if the two are inextricably linked in meaning-making? In this experiment in

visual thinking, drawn in comics, Nick Sousanis defies conventional discourse to offer readers a stunning work of graphic art and a serious inquiry into the ways humans construct knowledge.

**Temperance** *Fantagraphics Books*

Do ideas of war and enemies hold a people together? Is a culture of conflict too seductive not to be irresistible? These are the questions Cathy Malkasian explores in her second graphic novel, *Temperance*. Malkasian creates, as she did in the critically acclaimed *Percy Gloom*, a fully realized, multi-layered world, inhabited by vividly realized characters. After a brutal injury in battle, Lester has no memory of his prior life. For the next thirty years his wife does everything to keep him from

remembering—and re-constructing—a society, Blessedbowl, that elevates him as a hero. *Blessedbowl* is a cultural convergence of lies, memories, stories, and beliefs. Its people thrive on ideas of persecution, exceptionality, and enemies, convinced that war lurks just outside their walls. They have come to depend on Lester, their greatest war hero, to lead the charge once the Final Battle begins. Malkasian creates a densely textured social context, masterfully conveying the idiosyncratic physical domain with its spiraling structures and quasi-medieval architecture along with intimate yet plastic portraits of her characters in a rich, tonal pencil line. *Temperance* is a galvanizing work of empathy and violence by one of today's the most

thoughtful and accomplished cartoonists.

**Sabrina** *Drawn and Quarterly*

"When Sabrina disappears, an airman in the U.S. Air Force is drawn into a web of suppositions, wild theories, and outright lies. Sabrina depicts a modern world devoid of personal interaction and responsibility, where relationships are stripped of intimacy through glowing computer screens. An indictment of our modern state, Drnaso contemplates the dangers of a fake news climate."--

**Monsters on Machines** *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

Construction crew monsters arrive on the scene with tractors, cranes, and grader machines, and after a gruesome

site is created as their routine, they straighten it up and leave everything clean.

**Leonora in the Morning Light**

**A Novel** *Simon and Schuster*

\*One of Oprah Daily's Most Anticipated Historical Fiction Novels That Will Sweep You Away\* "Michaela Carter's training as a poet and painter shines through from the first page of this vivid, gorgeous novel based on the lives of Leonora Carrington and Max Ernst. Told with all the wild magic and mystery of the Surrealists themselves, Leonora in the Morning Light fearlessly illuminates the life and work of a formidable female artist." —Whitney Scharer, bestselling author of *The Age of Light* For fans of

Amy Bloom's *White Houses* and Colm Tóibín's *The Master*, a "gorgeously written, meticulously researched" (Jillian Cantor, bestselling author of *Half Life*) novel about Surrealist artist Leonora Carrington and the art, drama, and romance that defined her coming-of-age during World War II. 1940. A train carrying exiled German prisoners from a labor camp arrives in southern France. Within moments, word spreads that Nazi capture is imminent, and the men flee for the woods, desperate to disappear across the Spanish border. One stays behind, determined to ride the train until he reaches home, to find a woman he refers to simply as "her." 1937. Leonora Carrington is a twenty-year-old British socialite and painter when she meets Max Ernst, an older, married artist whose

work has captivated Europe. She follows him to Paris, into the vibrant world of studios and cafes where rising visionaries of the Surrealist movement like Andre Breton, Pablo Picasso, Lee Miller, Man Ray, and Salvador Dali are challenging conventional approaches to art and life. Inspired by their freedom, Leonora begins to experiment with her own work, translating vivid stories of her youth onto canvas and gaining recognition under her own name. It is a bright and glorious age of enlightenment—until war looms over Europe and headlines emerge denouncing Max and his circle as "degenerates," leading to his arrest and imprisonment. Left alone as occupation spreads throughout the countryside, Leonora battles terrifying circumstances

to survive, reawakening past demons that threaten to consume her. As Leonora and Max embark on remarkable journeys together and apart, the full story of their tumultuous and passionate love affair unfolds, spanning time and borders as they seek to reunite and reclaim their creative power in a world shattered by war. When their paths cross with Peggy Guggenheim, an art collector and socialite working to help artists escape to America, nothing will be the same. Based on true events and historical figures, *Leonora in the Morning Light* is “a deeply involving historical tale of tragic lost love, determined survival, the sanctuary of art, and the evolution of a muse into an artist of powerfully provocative feminist expression” (Booklist, starred review).

### **Black Hole Pantheon**

Seattle teenagers of the 1970s are suddenly faced with a devastating, disfiguring, and incurable plague that spreads only through sexual contact.

### **Spinning First Second**

Tillie Walden's Eisner Award winning graphic memoir *Spinning* captures what it's like to come of age, come out, and come to terms with leaving behind everything you used to know. It was the same every morning. Wake up, grab the ice skates, and head to the rink while the world was still dark. Weekends were spent in glitter and tights at competitions. Perform. Smile. And do it again. She was good. She won. And she hated it. For ten years, figure skating was Tillie Walden's life. She woke before

dawn for morning lessons, went straight to group practice after school, and spent weekends competing at ice rinks across the state. Skating was a central piece of her identity, her safe haven from the stress of school, bullies, and family. But as she switched schools, got into art, and fell in love with her first girlfriend, she began to question how the close-minded world of figure skating fit in with the rest of her life, and whether all the work was worth it given the reality: that she, and her friends on the team, were nowhere close to Olympic hopefuls. The more Tillie thought about it, the more Tillie realized she'd outgrown her passion—and she finally needed to find her own voice. This title has Common Core connections. A New York City Public Library Notable Best Book for Teens A

Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2017  
A 2018 YALSA Great Graphic Novel A  
2017 Booklist Youth Editors' Choice

**Virgil** *Image Comics*

Betrayed, beaten, and banished by his own, an outed cop fights his way across Jamaica for revenge!

**Memorabilia** *Fantagraphics Books*

This book collects five individual stories illuminating the art and lives of the all-time great comic book artists Steve Ditko, Jack Kirby, Wallace Wood, Will Eisner, and Richard Corben. Ponchione blends biographical details about each artist with the characters and worlds they created, mixing fact with fiction as a testament to the remarkable imaginations of these masterful comics-

makers.

**Hot Comb** *Drawn & Quarterly*

AN AUSPICIOUS DEBUT EXAMINING THE CULTURE OF HAIR FROM THE RONA JAFFE FOUNDATION AWARD-WINNING CARTOONIST Hot Comb offers a poignant glimpse into Black women's lives and coming of age stories as seen across a crowded, ammonia-scented hair salon while ladies gossip and bond over the burn. The titular story "Hot Comb" is about a young girl's first perm—a doomed ploy to look cool and to stop seeming "too white" in the all-black neighborhood her family has just moved to. In "Virgin Hair" taunts of "tender-headed" sting as much as the perm itself. It's a scenario that repeats fifteen years later as an adult when, tired of the

maintenance, Flowers shaves her head only to be hurled new put-downs. The story "My Lil Sister Lena" traces the stress resulting from being the only black player on a white softball team. Her hair is the team curio, an object to touched, a subject to be discussed and debated at the will of her teammates, leading Lena to develop an anxiety disorder of pulling her own hair out. Among the series of cultural touchpoints that make you both laugh and cry, Flowers recreates classic magazine ads idealizing women's needs for hair relaxers and product. "Change your hair form to fit your life form" and "Kinks and Koils Forever" call customers from the page. Realizations about race, class, and the imperfections of identity swirl through Flowers' stories and ads, which

are by turns sweet, insightful, and heartbreaking. Flowers began drawing comics while earning her PhD, and her early mastery of sequential storytelling is nothing short of sublime. *Hot Comb* is a propitious display of talent from a new cartoonist who has already made her mark.

### **Monstrous Imaginaries**

#### **The Legacy of Romanticism in Comics** *Univ. Press of Mississippi*

Monsters seem inevitably linked to humans and not always as mere opposites. Maaheen Ahmed examines good monsters in comics to show how Romantic themes from the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries persist in today's popular culture. Comics

monsters, questioning the distinction between human and monster, self and other, are valuable conduits of Romantic inclinations. Engaging with Romanticism and the many monsters created by Romantic writers and artists such as Mary Shelley, Victor Hugo, and Goya, Ahmed maps the heritage, functions, and effects of monsters in contemporary comics and graphic novels. She highlights the persistence of recurrent Romantic features through monstrous protagonists in English- and French-language comics and draws out their implications. Aspects covered include the dark Romantic predilection for ruins and the sordid, the solitary protagonist and his quest, nostalgia, the prominence of the spectacle as well as excessive emotions, and above all, the monster's

ambiguity and rebelliousness. Ahmed highlights each Romantic theme through close readings of well-known but often overlooked comics, including Enki Bilal's *Monstre* tetralogy, Jim O'Barr's *The Crow*, and Emil Ferris's *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters*, as well as the iconic comics series Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing* and Mike Mignola's *Hellboy*. In blurring the otherness of the monster, these protagonists retain the exaggeration and uncontrollability of all monsters while incorporating Romantic characteristics.

### **Saint Cole** *Fantagraphics Books*

This sophomore graphic novel from Noah Van Sciver may seem like a left turn from his critically acclaimed debut graphic novel biography of Abraham Lincoln (*The Hypo*), yet upon closer

reflection, it showcases Van Sciver's preoccupation with pathos and the human condition. *Saint Cole* depicts four days in the life of a twenty-eight-year-old suburbanite named Joe, who works at a pizzeria to support his girlfriend Nicole and their infant child—and then Nicole invites her troubled mother to move into their two-bedroom apartment until she lands on her feet again. Joe reacts by retreating into alcohol: he wants out, and he's angry. He's in a position to act rashly—and he does.

### **A Taste for Monsters** *Scholastic Inc.*

London 1888, and Jack the Ripper is terrorizing the people of the city. Evelyn, a young woman disfigured by her dangerous work in a matchstick factory with nowhere to go, does not know what

to make of her new position as a maid to the Elephant Man in London Hospital. Evelyn wanted to be locked away from the world, like he is, shut away from the filth and dangers of the streets. But in Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man, she finds a gentle kindred, who does not recoil from her, and who understands her pain. When the murders begin, however, Joseph and Evelyn are haunted nightly by the ghosts of the Ripper's dead, setting Evelyn on a path to facing her fears and uncovering humanity's worst nightmares, in which the real monsters are men. A terrifying and haunting tale from the Edgar and PEN Award-winning author of *Icefall*, Matthew J. Kirby.

### **Ask a Manager**

### **How to Navigate Clueless Colleagues, Lunch-Stealing Bosses, and the Rest of Your Life at Work** *Ballantine Books*

From the creator of the popular website Ask a Manager and New York's work-advice columnist comes a witty, practical guide to 200 difficult professional conversations—featuring all-new advice! There's a reason Alison Green has been called “the Dear Abby of the work world.” Ten years as a workplace-advice columnist have taught her that people avoid awkward conversations in the office because they simply don't know what to say. Thankfully, Green does—and in this incredibly helpful book, she tackles the tough discussions you may need to have during your career. You'll learn what to say when •

coworkers push their work on you—then take credit for it • you accidentally trash-talk someone in an email then hit “reply all” • you’re being micromanaged—or not being managed at all • you catch a colleague in a lie • your boss seems unhappy with your work • your cubemate’s loud speakerphone is making you homicidal • you got drunk at the holiday party Praise for Ask a Manager “A must-read for anyone who works . . . [Alison Green’s] advice boils down to the idea that you should be professional (even when others are not) and that communicating in a straightforward manner with candor and kindness will get you far, no matter where you work.”—Booklist (starred review) “The author’s friendly, warm, no-nonsense writing is a pleasure to read,

and her advice can be widely applied to relationships in all areas of readers’ lives. Ideal for anyone new to the job market or new to management, or anyone hoping to improve their work experience.”—Library Journal (starred review) “I am a huge fan of Alison Green’s Ask a Manager column. This book is even better. It teaches us how to deal with many of the most vexing big and little problems in our workplaces—and to do so with grace, confidence, and a sense of humor.”—Robert Sutton, Stanford professor and author of *The No Asshole Rule* and *The Asshole Survival Guide* “Ask a Manager is the ultimate playbook for navigating the traditional workforce in a diplomatic but firm way.”—Erin Lowry, author of *Broke Millennial: Stop*

Scraping By and Get Your Financial Life Together

### **The Contract with God Trilogy**

**Life on Dropsie Avenue** *W W Norton & Company Incorporated*

Frimme Hersh breaks his contract with God and ends up as a Depression-era slumlord, while Jacob Shtarkah strives to help an old friend trapped in Nazi Germany and struggles with poverty and the corruption of the residents of Dropsie Avenue.

**Sacred Heart** *Fantagraphics Books*

The children of U.S. small-town Alexandria are just trying to live like normal teens until their parents' promised return from a mysterious, four-

year religious pilgrimage, and Ben Schiller is no exception. She's just trying to take care of her sister, keep faith that her parents will come back, and get through her teen years as painlessly as possible. But her relationship with her best friend is changing, her younger sister is hiding a dark secret, and a terrible tragedy is coming for them all.

### **The Hunting Accident**

**A True Story of Crime and Poetry**  
*First Second Books*

The amazing true story of Matt Rizzo, an uneducated blind criminal who received a classical education in prison from his cellmate, Nathan Leopold Jr., of the infamous Leopold and Loeb duo.

### **Infinite Jest** *Back Bay Books*

A gargantuan, mind-altering comedy about the Pursuit of Happiness in America Set in an addicts' halfway house and a tennis academy, and featuring the most endearingly screwed-up family to come along in recent fiction, *Infinite Jest* explores essential questions about what entertainment is and why it has come to so dominate our lives; about how our desire for entertainment affects our need to connect with other people; and about what the pleasures we choose say about who we are. Equal parts philosophical quest and screwball comedy, *Infinite Jest* bends every rule of fiction without sacrificing for a moment its own entertainment value. It is an exuberant, uniquely American exploration of the passions that make us

human - and one of those rare books that renew the idea of what a novel can do. "The next step in fiction...Edgy, accurate, and darkly witty...Think Beckett, think Pynchon, think Gaddis. Think." --Sven Birkerts, *The Atlantic*

### **Where the Wild Things are**

### **The Lady from the Black Lagoon**

### **Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Milicent Patrick** *Harlequin*

The Los Angeles Times Bestseller A Tor.com Most Anticipated Book of 2019 A PureWow "Book We Can't Wait to Read in 2019" A Bustle Nonfiction Book Coming Out In 2019 To Start Getting Excited About The Lady from the Black Lagoon uncovers the life and work of

Milicent Patrick—one of Disney's first female animators and the only woman in history to create one of Hollywood's classic movie monsters. As a teenager, Mallory O'Meara was thrilled to discover that one of her favorite movies, *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, featured a monster designed by a woman, Milicent Patrick. But for someone who should have been hailed as a pioneer in the genre, there was little information available. For, as O'Meara soon discovered, Patrick's contribution had been claimed by a jealous male colleague, her career had been cut short and she soon after had disappeared from film history. No one even knew if she was still alive. As a young woman working in the horror film industry, O'Meara set out to right the wrong, and

in the process discovered the full, fascinating story of an ambitious, artistic woman ahead of her time. Patrick's contribution to special effects proved to be just the latest chapter in a remarkable, unconventional life, from her youth growing up in the shadow of Hearst Castle, to her career as one of Disney's first female animators. And at last, O'Meara discovered what really had happened to Patrick after *The Creature's* success, and where she went. A true-life detective story and a celebration of a forgotten feminist trailblazer, Mallory O'Meara's *The Lady from the Black Lagoon* establishes Patrick in her rightful place in film history while calling out a Hollywood culture where little has changed since.

**Paper Girls #15** *Image Comics*

EXPLOSIVE END OF A STORY ARC! It's the end of an era as KJ, Mac, Tiffany, and Erin must do the unthinkable to escape our prehistoric past. 24 pages of story on the best paper in comics.

**Algeria Is Beautiful like America** *Oni Press*

Algeria the Beautiful explores the rich heritage and tumultuous modern history of Algeria and its connections to Europe and colonialism. Olivia had always heard stories about Algeria from her maternal grandmother, a Black Foot (a "Pied-Noir," the French term for Christian and Jewish settlers of French Algeria who emigrated to France after the Algerian War of Independence). After her grandmother's death, Olivia found some

of her grandmother's journals and letters describing her homeland. Now, ten years later, she resolves to travel to Algeria and experience the country for herself; she arrives alone, with her grandmother's postcards and letters in tow, and a single phone number in her pocket of an Algerian, Djaffar, who will act as her guide. Olivia's quest to understand her origins will bring her to face questions about heritage, history, shame, friendship, memory, nostalgia, fantasy, the nature of exile, and our unending quest to understand who we are and where we come from.

**Rise of the Mages** *Tor Books*

Scott Drakeford's epic fantasy debut, *Rise of the Mages* combines gripping, personal vengeance with compelling

characters for an action packed first book in a trilogy. Emrael Ire wants nothing more than to test to be a weapons master. His final exam will be a bloody insurrection, staged by corrupt nobles and priests, that enslaves his brother. With the aid of his War Master tutor, herself an undercover mage, Emrael discovers his own latent and powerful talents. To rescue his brother, Emrael must embrace not only his abilities as a warrior but also his place as last of the ancient Mage Kings—for the Fallen God has returned. And he is hungry. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

**Monsters** *Random House*

35 YEARS IN THE MAKING: THE MOST

ANTICIPATED GRAPHIC NOVEL IN RECENT HISTORY \*A GUARDIAN 'BOOKS OF 2021' PICK\* The year is 1964. Bailey doesn't realize he is about to fulfil his tragic destiny when he walks into a US Army recruitment office. Secretive, damaged, innocent, trying to forget a past and looking for a future, Bobby is the perfect candidate for a secret US government experiment, an unholy continuation of a genetics program that was discovered in Nazi Germany nearly 20 years earlier in the waning days of World War II. Bailey's only ally and protector, Sergeant McFarland, intervenes, which sets off a chain of cascading events that spin out of everyone's control. As the monsters of the title multiply, becoming real and metaphorical, the story reaches a

crescendo of moral reckoning. A 360-page tour de force of visual storytelling, *Monsters'* narrative canvas is copious: part familial drama, part thriller, part metaphysical journey, it is an intimate portrait of individuals struggling to reclaim their lives and an epic political odyssey that plays across two generations of American history. *Monsters* is rendered in Barry Windsor-Smith's impeccable pen-and-ink technique, the visual storytelling, with its sensitivity to gesture and composition, the most sophisticated of the artist's career. There are passages of heartbreaking tenderness, of excruciating pain, of redemption and sacrifice, and devastating violence. *Monsters* is surely one of the most intense graphic novels ever drawn.

**Monster Portraits** *Rose Metal Press*  
Fiction. Art. Hybrid Genre. Relentlessly original and brilliantly hybrid, *MONSTER PORTRAITS* investigates the concept of the monstrous through a mesmerizing combination of words and images. An uncanny and imaginative autobiography of otherness, it offers the fictional record of a writer in the realms of the fantastic shot through with the memories of a pair of Somali-American children growing up in the 1980s. Operating under the sign of two--texts and drawings, brother and sister, black and white, extraordinary and everyday--*MONSTER PORTRAITS* multiplies, disintegrates, and blends, inviting the reader to find the danger in the banal, the beautiful in the grotesque. Accumulating into a breathless journey and groundbreaking study, these brief

fiction and sketches claim the monster as a fragmentary vastness: not the sum but the derangement of its parts. Del Samatar's drawings conjure beings who drag worlds in their wake. World Fantasy Award-winning author Sofia Samatar responds with allusive, critical, and ecstatic meditations. Together they have created a secret history of the mixed-race child, a guide to the beasts of an unknown mythos, and a dreamer's iconography. The monstrous never looked so simultaneously haunting and familiar.

**Big Questions** *Drawn and Quarterly*

A New York Times Notable Book of 2011, included on Amazon.com, Publishers Weekly, and NPR'S Best Comics lists A haunting postmodern fable, Big

Questions is the magnum opus of Anders Nilsen, one of the brightest and most talented young cartoonists working today. This beautiful minimalist story, collected here for the first time, is the culmination of ten years and more than six hundred pages of work that details the metaphysical quandaries of the occupants of an endless plain, existing somewhere between a dream and a Russian steppe. A downed plane is thought to be a bird and the unexploded bomb that came from it is mistaken for a giant egg by the group of birds whose lives the story follows. The indifferent, stranded pilot is of great interest to the birds--some doggedly seek his approval, while others do quite the opposite, leading to tensions in the group. Nilsen seamlessly moves from humor to

heartbreak. His distinctive, detailed line work is paired with plentiful white space and large, often frameless panels, conveying an ineffable sense of vulnerability and openness. *Big Questions* has roots in classic fables--the birds and snakes have more to say than their human counterparts, and there are hints of the hero's journey, but here the easy moral that closes most fables is left open and ambiguous. Rather than lending its world meaning, Nilsen's parable lets the questions wander where they will.

### **Rolling Blackouts**

#### **Dispatches from Turkey, Syria, and Iraq** *Drawn and Quarterly*

A cartoonist follows reporters across the

Middle East, learning about journalism and how stories are told. Cartoonist Sarah Glidden follows up her acclaimed debut, *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less*, with *Rolling Blackouts*, which details her two-month long journey through Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. Glidden accompanies her two friends--reporters and founders of the journalistic non-profit *The Seattle Globalist*--as they research stories on the Iraq War's effect on the Middle East and, specifically, the war's refugees. Joining them is a former Marine and childhood friend of one of the journalists whose deployment to Iraq in 2007 adds an unexpected and sometimes unwelcome viewpoint, both to the people they come across and perhaps even themselves. The crew works their way through the region with

the goal of asking civilians, refugees, and officials: "who are you?" Everyone has a story to tell: the Iranian blogger, the United Nations Refugee administrator, a taxi driver, the Iraqi refugee deported from the US, the Iraqi seeking refuge in Syria, and even the American Marine. The journalists struggle equally with how to tell these stories and with how to market them into articles people will want to read. Glidden records all that she encounters with a sympathetic and searching eye--What is journalism? What is its purpose? What is honesty? Painted in her trademark soft muted watercolors and written with a self-effacing humor, *Rolling Blackouts* cements Glidden's place as one of comics's most original nonfiction voices.

## **Stuff You Should Know**

### **An Incomplete Compendium of Mostly Interesting Things** *Flatiron Books*

From the duo behind the massively successful and award-winning podcast *Stuff You Should Know* comes an unexpected look at things you thought you knew. Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant started the podcast *Stuff You Should Know* back in 2008 because they were curious—curious about the world around them, curious about what they might have missed in their formal educations, and curious to dig deeper on stuff they thought they understood. As it turns out, they aren't the only curious ones. They've since amassed a rabid fan base, making *Stuff You Should Know* one of the

most popular podcasts in the world. Armed with their inquisitive natures and a passion for sharing, they uncover the weird, fascinating, delightful, or unexpected elements of a wide variety of topics. The pair have now taken their near-boundless "whys" and "hows" from your earbuds to the pages of a book for the first time—featuring a completely new array of subjects that they've long wondered about and wanted to explore. Each chapter is further embellished with snappy visual material to allow for rabbit-hole tangents and digressions—including charts, illustrations, sidebars, and footnotes. Follow along as the two dig into the underlying stories of everything from the origin of Murphy beds, to the history of facial hair, to the psychology of being

lost. Have you ever wondered about the world around you, and wished to see the magic in everyday things? Come get curious with *Stuff You Should Know*. With Josh and Chuck as your guide, there's something interesting about everything (...except maybe jackhammers).

### **Bezimena** *Fantagraphics Books*

The author's jumping-off point is the myth of Artemis and Siproites, in which a young man is turned into a woman as a punishment for the attempted rape of one of Artemis's virgin cohorts. Bunjevac's retelling follows Benny, a sexually deviant man who, coming across an alluring former classmate, concocts an elaborate, disturbing rape fantasy. Inked in her lush, stippled, illustrative style, Bunjevac crafts a

gripping, noirish, Nabokovian tale, by turns surreal and harrowing, that turns the male gaze inside-out. *Bezimena* is both a radical examination of the misconceptions surrounding rape culture and an artistic and psychological tour de force.

### **A Monster Calls**

**Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd** *Candlewick Press*

NOW A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor. At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor wakes to find a monster outside his bedroom window. But it isn't the

monster Conor's been expecting-- he's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the nightmare he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. The monster in his backyard is different. It's ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth. From the final idea of award-winning author Siobhan Dowd-- whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself-- Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined.

**The Star Wars Book of Monsters, Ooze and Slime** *Penguin*

The strangest and yuckiest secrets of

the galaxy What does the Zillo Beast feast on for breakfast? Does slimy Jabba the Hutt ever have a bath? What are the three yuckiest things he eats? Why are wampas so cuddly? And which monster makes the scariest sound? Take a trip on the wild side and discover the weirdest facts in the Star Wars galaxy! From gross creatures and strange bugs, to disgusting food, dangerous deserts, and sinister Sith, this icky, sticky picture ebook is the perfect gift for young readers. © and TM 2020 Lucasfilm LTD.

### **This Book Is Full of Monsters** *Clavis*

"This is a book full of monsters: small, smelly, yelling, creepy...monsters! So it's a book for hard core monster lovers, but also for beginners in monsterology. With shock effects! Try it yourself! Softies

keep out! Conquer your deepest fears! Tremble and shiver with pleasure! Are you scared already? No? Just you wait and see. (Includes a monstrously fun pop-up spread at the end of the book!)"-- Amazon.com.

### **Top Secret Summer** *Top Shelf Productions*

A delightful tale of ambition, morality, and self-discovery, drawn in a decidedly beautiful fashion, reminiscent of Richard Scary and Lewis Trondheim. All ages.

### **Only a Monster** *HarperCollins*

The sweeping romance of Passenger meets the dark fantasy edge of This Savage Song in this stunning contemporary fantasy debut from Vanessa Len, where the line between

monster and hero is razor thin. Don't forget the rule. No one can know what you are. What we are. You must never tell anyone about monsters. Joan has just learned the truth: her family are monsters, with terrifying, hidden powers. And the cute boy at work isn't just a boy: he's a legendary monster slayer, who will do anything to destroy her family. To save herself and her family, Joan will have to do what she fears most: embrace her own monstrosity. Because in this story...she is not the hero. Dive deep into the world of *Only a Monster*: hidden worlds dwell in the shadows, beautiful monsters with untold powers walk among humans, and secrets are the most powerful weapon of all.

**Eliza and Her Monsters** *HarperCollins*  
“A love letter to fandom, friendship, and the stories that shape us, *Eliza and Her Monsters* is absolutely magical.”—Marieke Nijkamp, New York Times bestselling author of *This Is Where It Ends* Eighteen-year-old Eliza Mirk is the anonymous creator of the wildly popular webcomic *Monstrous Sea*, but when a new boy at school tempts her to live a life offline, everything she's worked for begins to crumble. Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* meets Noelle Stevenson's *Nimona* in this acclaimed novel about art, fandom, and finding the courage to be yourself. “A must-have.”—School Library Journal In the real world, Eliza Mirk is shy, weird, and friendless. Online, Eliza is LadyConstellation, anonymous creator of

a popular webcomic called *Monstrous Sea*. With millions of followers and fans throughout the world, Eliza's persona is popular. Eliza can't imagine enjoying the real world as much as she loves her digital community. Then Wallace Warland transfers to her school and Eliza begins to wonder if a life offline might be worthwhile. But when Eliza's secret is accidentally shared with the world, everything she's built—her story, her relationship with Wallace, and even her sanity—begins to fall apart. With pages from Eliza's webcomic, as well as screenshots from Eliza's online forums, this book will appeal to fans of Noelle Stevenson's *Nimona* and Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl*. Young Adult Library Services Association Best Book Best Fiction for Young Adults Top Ten Kirkus

Best Book Texas Tayshas Pick

**Curveball** *Nobrow Press*

Far into the future after years of technological advancement the relationship between humans and robots is changing. Reduced energy stores means humans can no longer rely on the support of their technological counterparts. In the midst of this turmoil one woman faces her own heartbreak at the hands of a manipulative friend. Jeremy Sorese explores how heartbreak can make us feel like the center of the universe and how the realization that we aren't is often more painful than heartbreak itself. A stunning debut of futuristically epic proportions that juxtaposes the mechanical breakdown of the world against a compellingly quiet

and human tale. Jeremy Sorese was born in Berlin, raised in Virginia, and educated in Georgia at the Savannah College of Art and Design before becoming a resident of La Maison des Auteurs in Angouleme, France. He is the creator and current writer of the Steven Universe comic series, published monthly by BOOM studios. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

### **Friends With The Monsters**

Gather round close, for I have a secret to tell. Late at night, while everyone is sleeping, dreaming of white knights and fairytales. I'm making friends with the monsters. They call to me, like finds like, right? My biggest secret, I'm the scariest monster I know. I think I'm the bad guy. MFMM Reverse Harem novel with adult themes not recommended for those under 18.