

FEATURING BORGIA #2 BY MANARA & JODOROWSKY

JULY 2006

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FANTASY MAGAZINE

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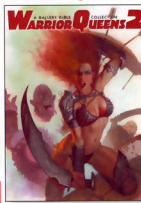
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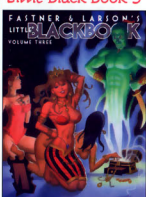


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UNITED COLOR, INC. pre-press
subscription manager **PAT HAYWARD**
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STAFF



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Illustration by Steven J. Wenta.
To find out more about Steven's work,
contact him at www.stevewenta.com.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey Gang,

Welcome to the first part of summer, and I'm looking forward to a great one—wishing you the best one ever! Cool beans!

This notice will be a little late, but I want to get it out there—my best friend, Paul Jenkins and his exceptionally lovely wife, Melinda welcomed "Jack Richard Jenkins" into the world a few months back. Here's an



extra cute pic of the happy Dad and son—we at Heavy Metal wish them all our best, and want all the Dads that might have daughters soon to beware—eighteen years from now they'll need to worry about "Jack"!

Okay, that is cool and I look forward to telling you of all the fun projects Paul and I are working on in the near future—some I'll spill here, some you'll have to track down on the "What's On My Brain" section of the Heavy Metal website. So, since I took up a chunk of the Publisher's note with the photo of Paul and his beautiful baby, let me get right to the folks that helped make this issue extra amazing.

Speaking of Paul, he teamed up with artist, Rob Prior to create "Shadow Walker", a short story based on a movie script they've developed—more news on that later...

The terrific Greg Hildebrandt blessed us with this month's cover, and I look forward to having him around more in the near future. I'm one of his biggest fans.

A good friend of mine and an artist I've wanted to showcase for some time now, David Michael Beck finally gets his premiere in the "Gallery" and you'll find all the information there to track down more of his work. Another rising star showcased in the "Artist's Studio" is Patrick Byers—hope you'll get as much a kick out of his work as I do and I'm sure you'll see more of him around here in the future. If that isn't enough artists for you in this issue, check out Steven Wenta in the "Featured Artist" section and Charli Siebert on the back cover. Nice work guys!

For shorts this time around, Luis Royo's back with another classic entitled, "Hybris", Marcelo Sosa gives us "The Ladies and the Knight", while Autheman returns with a new tale called "Book Fair". Top shelf, boys! The sad part of the last short for this issue is the final installment of Art Suydam's "Mudwogs". It was a thrill to have him back in the magazine for the past year or so, and I'm looking forward to having him create something new for us. We love you, Art!

I saved the best for last, as we've got Jodorowsky and Manara back with our featured story, "Borgia #2: Power and Incest". This is an outrageous follow-up to "Borgia: Blood for the Pope" we ran in the March 05 issue. Most excellent!

Okay, that is it for me, but before I go I always like to tip my hat to Mr. Kofoed and Mr. Ringgenberg for their ongoing contributions.

See you all soon!

Kir Eastman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

OK... this kinda thing has been bugging me for the past few years now. However, now I think the situation is outta control. Now I know that bitchin' about the theme/special issues is not a new thing. Personally, I like getting two full length graphic novels and have no complaint on the content. My gripe is that for the past few years, (since it was bumped up to a minimum of 3 specials a year) the stories haven't always fit each issue's specific "theme". Due to my fan-boy love of H.M., I have been able to overlook this; however, the new Spring '06 issue—"Steam Punk" Special has gone too far. Please, could anyone tell me how any of the stories in this issue qualify as fitting into the "Steam Punk" genre? And... how come the obvious choice of another installment of "Robur" didn't make it into this supposed "Steam Punk" Special??

Prism Dan

Dear Prism Dan,

Point well taken—the "Steam Punk" Special theme wasn't really correct, and I had used "Sci-Fi" Special for the Spring 2004 issue, and honestly didn't think many people cared! Very cool to know you all do—we do try to truly theme out an issue—look back at most of them and you'll see we're not too far off... But I promise to be more careful in the future.

Dear H.M.,

While reading the latest *Previews* catalog, I noticed that the Summer 2006 issue of H.M. will finally contain the first volume of "Skydoll"! That's very good news... And what timing since some good news was finally published in French and crossed to North America (well... Quebec) last week. So, in the same week I have a new volume to read and the rest of America will be able to enjoy volume one of the story.

Vaz

Dear Vaz,

Very cool that you picked up on the "Sky Doll" series a long time ago. We were finally able to work out a deal with the publisher for all three volumes last year at the Frankfurt Book show, and here's the really, REALLY rock'n news—ALL THREE INSTALLMENTS WILL BE IN THE SUMMER SPECIAL! How cool is that? (By the way Prism Dan, we decided to call it the "Sky Doll" Special. Heh.)

Dear H.M.,

Okay, what's with the November 1997 issue? Why can't I find it? Anyone that knows any more about the censored Canadian version of the November 1997 issue, I'd love to know. As far as I've heard, there was one page torn out of the "Gypsy" story before the issues

were shipped to Canada. I've purchased about six or so issues from Canadians on e-Bay hoping to get the censored version. But they all look the same. All pages are intact. Finally I got one that still had the mailing label on it, so I know it was originally shipped to Canada. But it's still the same. "Sigh".

Lostboy

Dear Lostboy,

There was one page that Canadian customers thought was pedophilia. They said the page needed to be censored or all 30,000 or so issues would be returned. It was page 29 of the story, where a bad guy attacked a minor—and although nothing happened because Gypsy saved the day, they didn't like it and had the right to stop the shipment.

We very rarely censor anything we publish and try not to at all costs—it's mainly the Druuna issues that give us the most difficulty. We wouldn't censor at all if it was only going to be sold in the states—but we've got all these great Canadian fans that help keep the magazine going each month so we do what we have to do to ensure everyone gets their H.M. fix.

Dear H.M.,

I kept thinking of a cartoon I saw in H.M. years ago. The magazine was from the late 1970's, maybe early 1980's. I think the cartoon was called "Coming Apart" and it had no text. It was just a guy going about his daily business and then he was riding his bike and he started to come apart. He broke into little squares and off he went into the universe. That's what I remember... Does this ring a bell for anyone? Does anybody know what issue? Where I can find it?

Heather

Dear Heather,

That would be "Going To Pieces" by Schuiten. It was in the May 1978 issue and again in the 1982 special, "The Best of Heavy Metal", and once more in the 1994 "Heavy Metal Greatest Hits" issue (hardcover version).

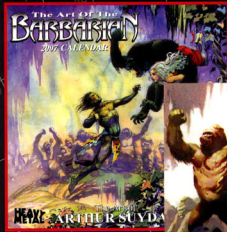
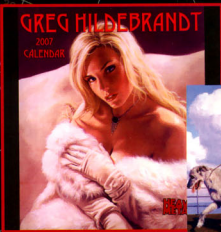
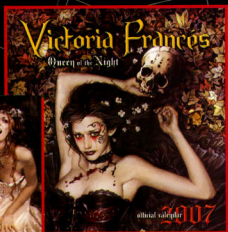
Lostboy

Dear Heather (and H.M. forum fans),

As I'm too swamped lately to get up on the forum and chat with all the great fans there—I fortunately have "Lostboy" who fields and answers a ton of fan questions. Here's a great example (above)! Thanks, Lostboy. We should have you on the payroll!

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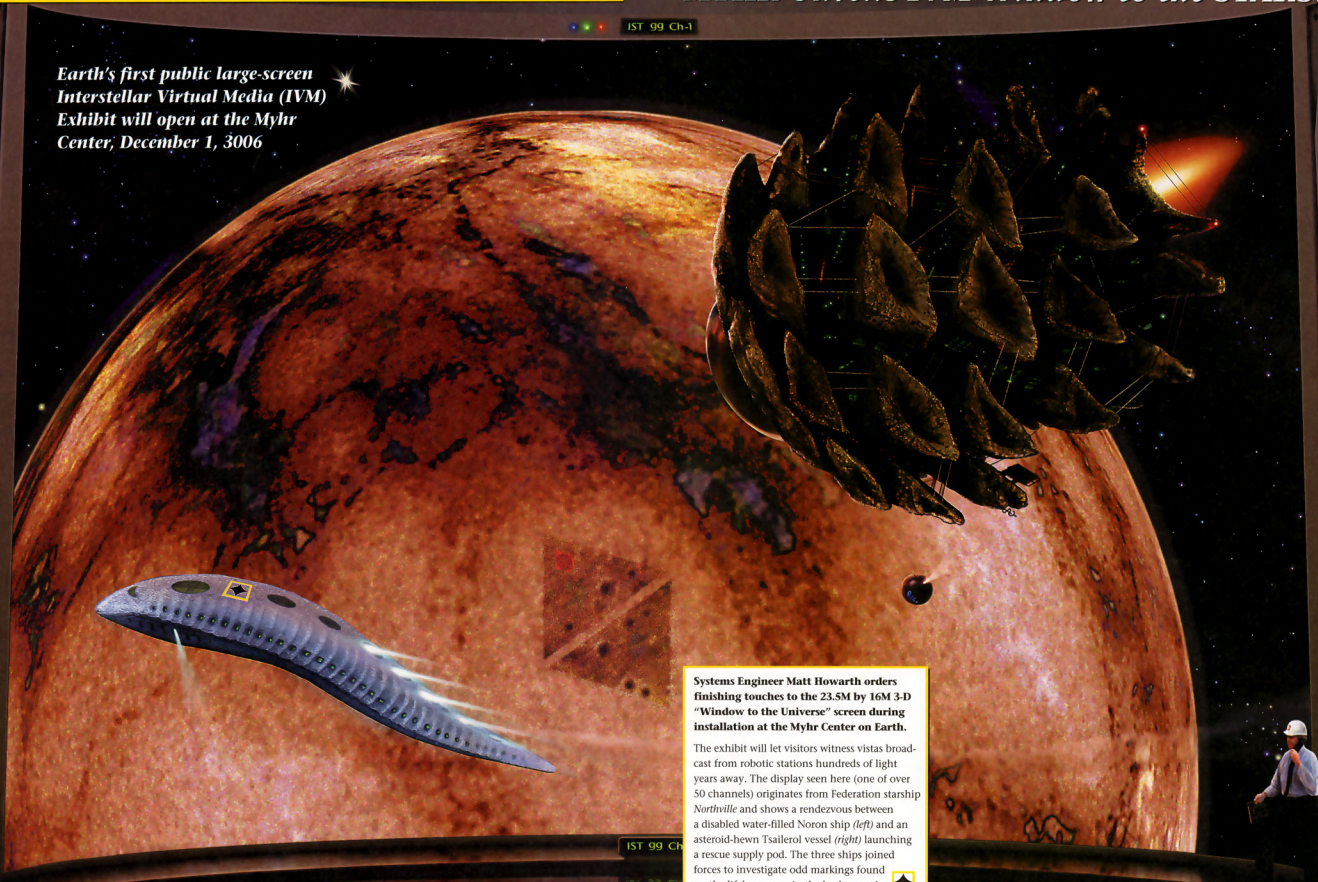
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Systems Engineer Matt Howarth orders finishing touches to the 23.5M by 16M 3-D "Window to the Universe" screen during installation at the Myhr Center on Earth.

The exhibit will let visitors witness vistas broadcast from robotic stations hundreds of light years away. The display seen here (one of over 50 channels) originates from Federation starship *Northville* and shows a rendezvous between a disabled water-filled *Noron* ship (left) and an asteroid-hewn *Tailorol* vessel (right) launching a rescue supply pod. The three ships joined forces to investigate odd markings found on the lifeless moon in the background.

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David Michael Beck has been a professional artist for over 30 years. A working artist for many years in Chicago, he now produces highly conceptual art from his studio in Cincinnati, Ohio. This range of working experience lead him into various markets of illustration which included advertising, publishing, editorial, institutional, entertainment, teaching and graphic design. His personal artistic exploration covered European, American, and Oriental painting, as well as folk, and modern art, sculpture, architecture, and contemporary illustration. He continues his work in many professional and graphic art fields as well as developing inroads in the world of painted comic images and sequential art which he produces for major comic book companies.

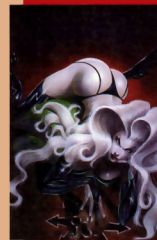


David's great strength as a conceptual artist, as well as his masterful technical skills, has developed a visual voice quite unlike any other in the field of illustration. The underlying editorial, narrative themes evident in his work won acceptance with many Fortune 500 companies, and high profile periodicals. In recent years, he has developed an impressive body of work in genre illustration covering adventure, science fiction, fantasy, horror, and comic books.

His client list is extensive. David has produced illustrations for such notables as The American Medical Association, Boy Scouts of America, Walt Disney Productions, McDonald's, Anheuser-Bush, Playboy Enterprises, United Airlines, Land's End, Simon & Schuster, Hasbro Toys, Universal Pictures, Dow Jones, Bloomberg Financial, Jacor Broadcasting, Warner Cable, Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, The America's Cup, The Grammy Awards, HarperCollins, The Grateful Dead and Warner Brothers. In his recent forays into the comics field he has worked with Dark Horse Comics, Marvel Comics, DC, Top Cow Productions, Devil's Due, Chaos! Comics and Image Publishing. And that's the short list!

David has received awards from Print Regional Design, Communication Arts, The American Society of Business Press Editors, The Artist Guild of Chicago, The Art Directors Club of Cincinnati, World Science Fiction Show, as well as "Awards of Excellence" from the Society of Illustrators. "Sketch Magazine" recently featured his artistic accomplishments. His paintings have been included in national and international exhibitions, and hang in the collections of celebrities.

David has always been generous in giving back to his chosen field by teaching young artists in workshops, and lectures with such institutions as The Syracuse University Satellite Program, The Dallas Community College, The American College of Medical Illustration, The Cincinnati Art Academy, The Cleveland Art Institute, and The Cincinnati Art Institute.





David has brought new realism to the world of serious comic and fantasy art. His realistic paintings of SPIDER-MAN, THOR, BATMAN, the G.I. JOE characters, RED STAR, VAMPIRELLA, JONAH HEX, LADY DEATH and George Lucas' STAR WARS Properties have earned him a large body of fans of both national and international acclaim.

David continues to produce uniquely original illustration for a wide range of applications and shares his time with (voluptuous) wife Kitty and their two children, Brian and Anna.

See more of David's work at: www.davidmichaelbeck.com

MIDNIGHT SLEAZY TRAIN Track 2

Track two is now boarding! Some towns have legends of haunted houses or underground communities in the sewers. But in Takumi's town, the ultimate urban legend is the Midnight Sleazy Train. Desperate for a spot on the train, Takumi waits by the station after hours. But he finds that you can't just buy a ticket. Only by bringing the perfect female guest can you ensure permission to come aboard... **\$29.95**

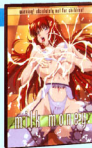


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At the deadline, all the site's visitors will vote on which one of them deserve to be Tsumugi's boyfriend. **\$29.95**



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Kyoko lost her baby boy in a traffic accident while she was breast-feeding. Since then, she's always needed to have one young man or another fill in for him. She tried to find work as a nanny, but after some unfortunate incidents she ended up cooking and cleaning for the student Mariko. But when Kyoko meets Mariko's boyfriend, the boyish Toji, she becomes violently jealous. Will Toji stay faithful to Mariko, or will Kyoko teach him the meaning of liquid love? **\$29.95**

BLACK GATE

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Keiichi Morisato is an engineering student, top driver of his campus motor club, and not very lucky with the ladies. While calling for take-out food one evening, a wrong number puts him in contact with the "Goddess Hotline". One misplaced wish later, Keiichi finds himself blessed with Belladine, the perfect girlfriend and a goddess in every sense of the word. Unfortunately, she doesn't have any idea of how to act in the human world, and her presence quickly gets Keiichi kicked out of the dorms. Fortunately for Keiichi, his troubles have just begun! **\$29.95**

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SUKISHO Rules of Attraction

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As Sora comes to terms with Yoru, his hidden personality, and his relationship with Sunao, new levels to the mystery continue to appear. What was the goal of Aizawa and his strange experiments? What is the meaning behind Sunao's strange behavior? Does Sunao hold a deep hatred for Sora within his heart? Love and hate battle each other as the past threatens to repeat itself. **\$19.95**

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ALL HAIL WINSOR MCCAY, Lord of Splendid Dreams and Hideous Nightmares!

Hey, Metalhead—if you've never heard of the great Winsor McCay or seen any of his artwork, then you've been missing out on one of the most fabulously imaginative cartoonists who ever put pen to paper. His *Little Nemo in Slumberland* newspaper strip is a legendary achievement in fantasy art; he was an early innovator in the animation field, an incredible draftsman, and one of the best editorial cartoonists of all time. Strictly speaking, this guy was a fucking graphic art genius. I kid you not: McCay's incredible drawing, fabulous imagination, and total command of perspective and architectural detail made him one of the most influential cartoonists ever.

McCay's prolific career began almost at the inception of comic newspaper comics and lasted until his tragically premature death in 1934. (He was only 67 at the time of his death.) A diligent and dedicated craftsman, McCay literally worked himself into an early grave to support his family's lavish lifestyle and his wife's extravagant spending. At the time of his death, McCay had put aside his most famous creation (having continued it for the Hearst Syndicate as *In the Land of Wonderful Dreams* in the 1910s, and then briefly reviving it for the *Herald Tribune* in the



1920s) and was the top editorial cartoonist at the *NY Herald Tribune*, having been ordered to do so by the domineering newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst. So in 1913 McCay began cranking out masterpieces of political cartooning. Done at the peak of his drawing powers, McCay's editorial cartoons have never been equalled, at least in the area of draftsman-ship. To this day they remain jaw-droppingly beautiful examples of this talented penman's artistry.

While most of McCay's early creations have faded into obscurity, Nemo has been continually revived in succeeding decades, by August Derleth and others in the 1940s, with selected pages reprinted in *Havens Kutzman's Help in the 1960s*, while McCay's



Nemo oeuvre was more ambitiously plumbed by Nostalgia Press in the 70s in a massive color and black and white volume, and most recently by Fantagraphics, which reprinted the entire run of *Little Nemo* in color in a series of hardbound volumes that even included the hard-to-find later strips from McCay's Nemo revival in the 1920s. Nemo inspired a lavish, expensively mounted musical in 1908 during the strip's heyday, and McCay even drew a hand-drawn color Nemo cartoon. In the modern era, Nemo inspired an animated cartoon musical, that despite the participation of heavy hitters like Moebius and Ray Bradbury, was disappointingly bland and lacking in the sense of wonder that made McCay's original so memorable. One has only to peruse a handful of Nemo pages in glorious color, drinking in their detailed, wonderful, imaginative ambience, to realize that with his masterpiece, McCay crafted a comic strip for the ages.

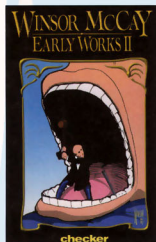
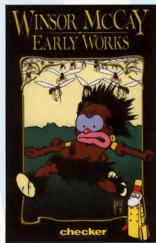
However, McCay's earlier works, such as *Little Sammy Sneeze*, *Hungry Henrietta*, *Phlooshy Phil*, *Draws of a Rarebit Fiend*, etc., are also a look for any serious student of American cartooning. Although *Rarebit Fiend* was reprinted in trade paperback by Dover in the 1970s, almost all of McCay's other, earlier works languished in undeserved obscurity, save for occasional articles or tantalizingly brief fanzine reprints, until John Canemaker's commendable thorough biography of McCay (Abbeville Press) in 1987. A new, revised edition of Canemaker's book came out in 2005.

Fortunately for McCay aficionados and all fans of classic cartooning, the good folks at Checker

Publications have taken on the worthy task of bringing to light almost all of McCay's lesser-known early and later cartoons and illustrations, including the aforementioned *Story of Hungry Henrietta*, plus *A Pilgrim's Progress*, *Tales of the Jungle Imps*, *Little Sammy Sneeze*, the sports-themed *This is a Baseball Town*, various editorial cartoons from McCay's stint with the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, as well as many of his trenchant, beautifully drawn editorial illustrations (these can't reasonably be called cartoons) from the final phase of his career with Hearst's *American*. In addition to McCay's early comic strips, Volume II of *Winsor McCay Early Works* even contains some ultra-rare frame blowups from "The Centaurs," a silent cartoon now permanently lost because the nitrate film stock has decayed. Although the existing fragments of "The Centaurs" have tumbled up from time to time at small film festivals staged by animation buffs, this is almost literally the only place the average fan can find them. So, kudos to Checker Pubs for unearthing these and other exceedingly rare and obscure bits of McCay-ania. And the good news is, that the "Centaurs" frame blowups are only one of the many rare visual treats on display in the *Early Works* series. Checker is putting out a total of eight volumes of rare and obscure McCay artwork, including complete runs of several of his many series, and at least samples of some of the others, along with a healthy overview of his editorial cartoons for Hearst. This represents one of the most complete reprintings of McCay's oeuvre outside of Fantagraphics' complete *Nemo* series.

In looking at these early strips,

what's fascinating for Nemo fans is to see McCay already experimenting with deconstructing the conventions of the comic strips (see the sample panels of *Little Sammy Sneeze* included here), as well as toying with perspective (McCay's wildly inventive experiments with perspective would become one of the hallmarks of the *Nemo* strip, something that was decades ahead of anything any other cartoonists did), and introducing the *Imp* character, who was to be one of the main supporting characters in *Nemo* throughout that strip's long run. Although McCay's depiction of the jungle imps as big-lipped, simple-minded savages in grass skirts seems appallingly racist to modern eyes, McCay was unfortunately only creating a character in line with the prevailing racial attitudes of the early 20th Century. To be fair McCay's depiction of the *Imp* in the *Nemo* strip was generally sympathetic, even though he was frequently the recipient of the bad-tempered *Flips* boot in his backside.



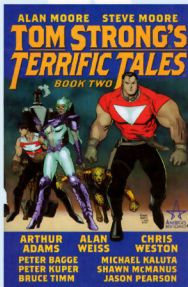
One of the things I liked about the Checker *McCay* series is their size. The books are 7X9", almost digest size, which makes them easy to stash in a briefcase or pocket while traveling. Some of the art suffers a bit from being reduced to this size but it's all clear and easy to read. The Checker books are all in black and white, so even strips that were originally published in full color such as *Sammy Sneeze* or *Tales of the Jungle Imps* are reproduced here either in black and white or half-tones. All of McCay's editorial cartoons were originally printed 8 columns across in black and white, and they are reproduced in the Checker books at a much-reduced size, though the reproduction is generally excellent. However, the sometimes-mediocre quality of the images can be attributed both to the rarity and age of the original newspaper strips. Comparatively little of McCay's original artwork survives, especially from his early strips such as *Sammy Sneeze* or the *Rarebit Fiend*. In fact, many of the surviving *Nemo* pages were cut apart and recycled by McCay's son Robert when he attempted a revival of the strip after his father's untimely passing. All in all, the Checker *McCay* books are an admirable work of comics scholarship, with excellent notes and essays about McCay and his work, and a commendable breadth of subject matter. As a lifelong fan of Winsor McCay's artwork, I have to say that I love this series!

One of the things I like best about Checker's *McCay* books is the price, only \$19.95 per book for 200 pages of sparkling black and white printed on good paper stock. I give this series my highest recommendation. As always, if you can't find Vols. I-8 of *Winsor McCay Early Works* at your local comics shop or book empire, you can always order them directly from Checker Publishing Group's website: www.checkerpubs.com. If you order them right off the CPG web site, shipping is free! (That's something you don't see every day!) It's yet one more reason to dive into this fabulous exploration of one of the true geniuses of the American comics medium. And don't forget to tell 'em, *Heavy Metal* sent you!

TOM STRONG'S TERRIFIC TALES

And while I'm on the subject of excellent comic art, there are few American comics currently being printed in the US that can boast better-looking art than Alan Moore's *Tom Strong's Terrific Tales*. Book 2 of this series, which came out in 2005, collects issues 7-12 of the regular *America's Best Comics* title in a hardbound edition and is a regular feast of eye-candy, containing gorgeous art, inked and colored by artist Adam Adams, Alan Weiss, Chris Weston, Michael Kaluta, and a host of talented sidemen, including the estimable Kevin Nowlan and Sandy Plunkett on inks. There's even work by alternative comics heavy hitters like Peter Kuper and Hate's Peter Bagge. Kaluta's work in this book is especially striking. He illustrates a Tom Strong text page with gorgeous nearly full-page illustrations that leave no doubt in my mind that Kaluta is one of the foremost imaginative talents in American comics and illustration. His work here is just great and left me hungering for more. Peter Bagge's parody of Tom Strong is also a hoot.

The "Young Tom Strong" stories in this volume, written by Brit Steven Moore (no relation to Alan) and American comics vet Alan Weiss, are some of the most engaging and fun comic book stories I've ever read. Weiss has been drawing comics since the 1970s and, like Michael Kaluta, just keeps getting better with age. His



work here is lively and beautiful, and just plain fun to look at.

Arthur Adams' "Jinni Future" stories are also a blast to read, with Adams drawing one of the cutest, most visually appealing heroines in contemporary comics. And when Adams' pencils are inked by Kevin Nowlan, they recall the best of comics' legendary pencil-inker teams, like Neal Adams inked by Dick Giordano, or Jack Kirby inked by Wally Wood. The artwork is detailed, dynamic, and wonderfully cinematic. But really, just about everything in this book is well, terrific. Taken as a package, *Tom Strong's Terrific Tales, Book 2* is one of the best anthologies of comics I've read in the last few years. I recommend it highly. It's available at better book and comic shops everywhere. When you go looking for it, don't forget to tell 'em *Heavy Metal* sent you.

LONG LIVE THE TORTUGA TWINS! (HEY, WAIT—THERE'S THREE OF THESE CRAZY BASTARDS!)

In these grim times of war, terrorism, fascist politics, and the grim specter of environmental holocaust, there are few things the world needs more than a good, raunchy laugh, so here's Cheers for the Tortuga Twins! This trio (yeah, I know of genial madmen plays Renaissance Fairs all over the country with their patented blend of swordplay, stupidity, and downright raunchy sexual innuendo, and they are laugh out loud funny, people!) If there are no Ren Fairs in your neck of the woods, you can catch their act on DVD. Their DVDs and a lot of other overpriced TT knickknacks are available from their web site: www.tortugatwins.com. I could tell you to say *Heavy Metal* sent you, but, ah, why bother? Anyway, by all means, do check out the twins in some venue or other. They're three of the funniest humans on this whole, battered planet.

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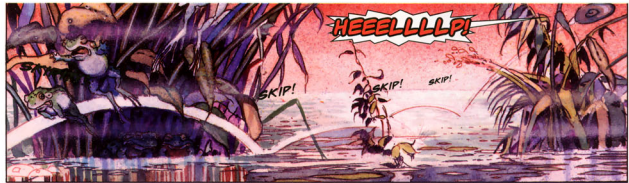
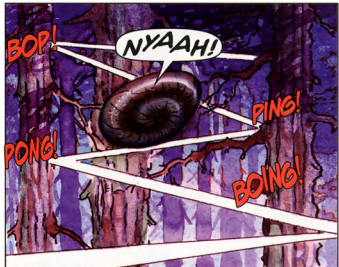
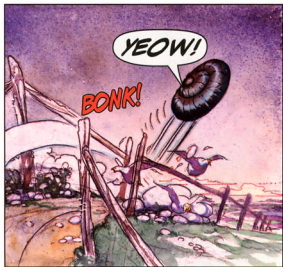
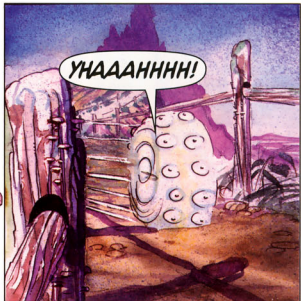
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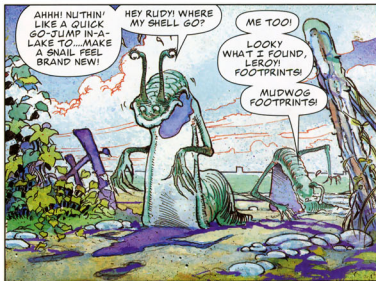
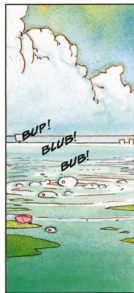
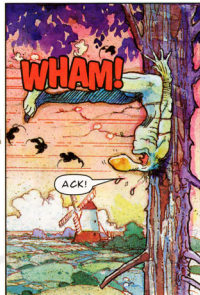
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THAT EVENING...

THE SUMMER COTTAGE! AT LAST!

NO TIME TO WASTE! WE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE AND HEAD FOR THE CITY AT SUN UP TO BEAT THE HEAT, JUNIOR!

COOL BEANS.

GOOD THING I ALWAYS KEEP A SPARE KEY UNDER THE MAT AND...

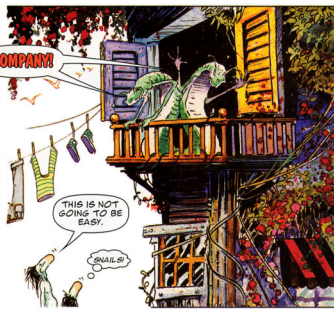
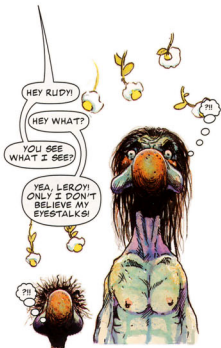
HUH? WHAT'S THIS...

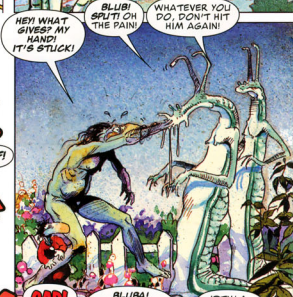
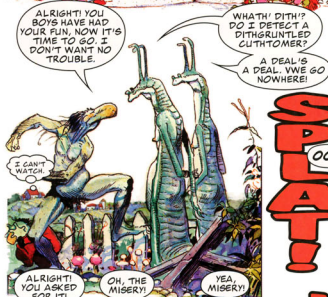
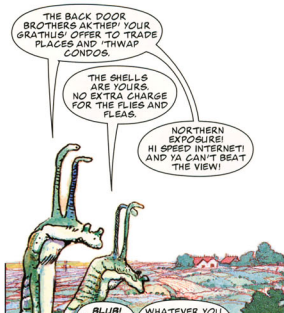
LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE!

SPOOKY.

C'MON, OPEN UP IN THERE! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!!

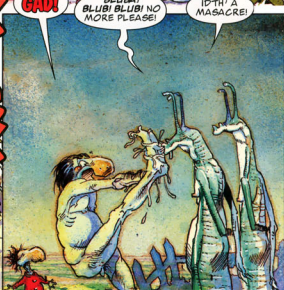
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

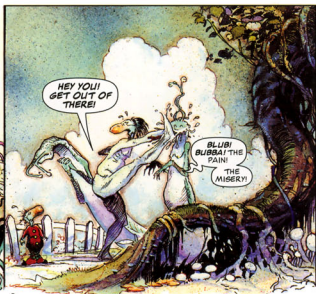
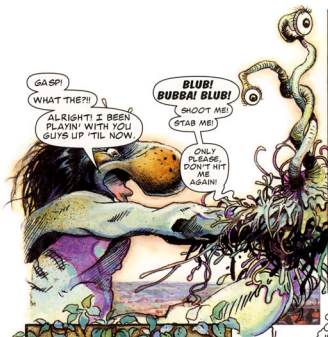




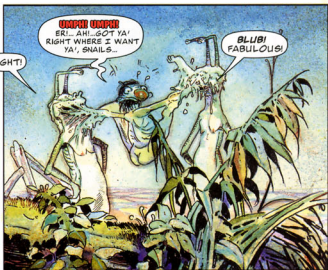
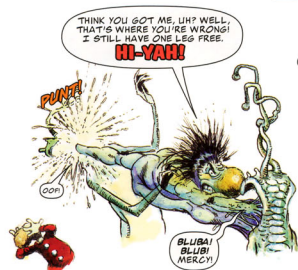
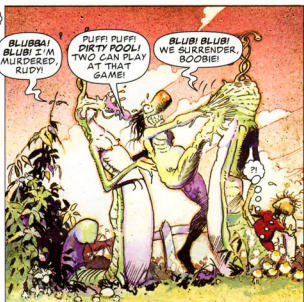
SPLAT!

KICK!





SKAWISH
OOFI

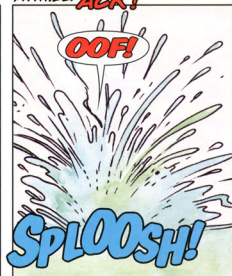




LEMME! GO!
PASS HIM OVER THIS WAY!

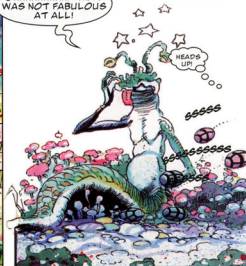
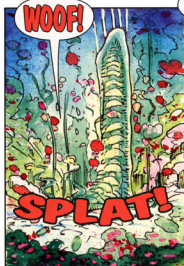
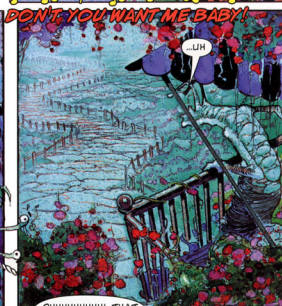
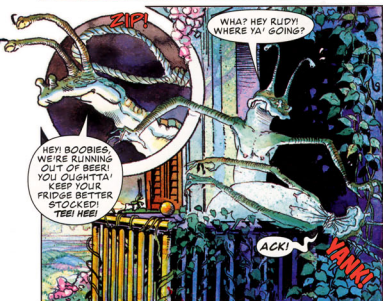
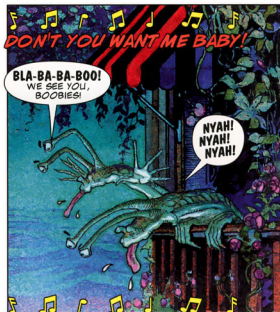
SPLABBA!
FLABBA!
FOO!
YEOWP!
BLOOPA!

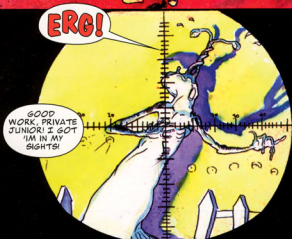
LEMME! HAVE HIM FOR AWHILE! **ACK!**

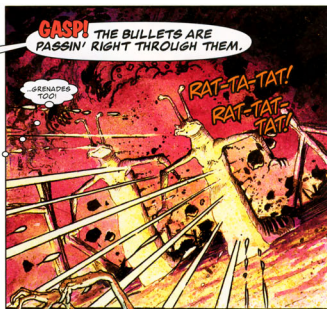


I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW, THIS MEANS WAR...





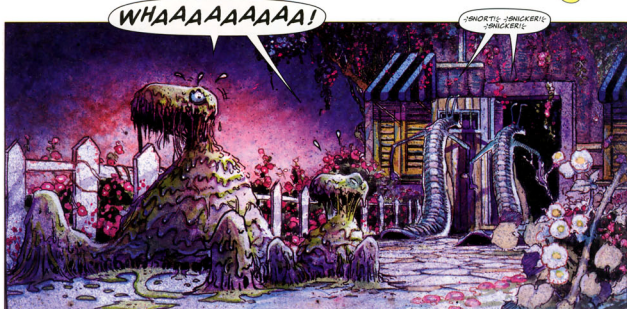




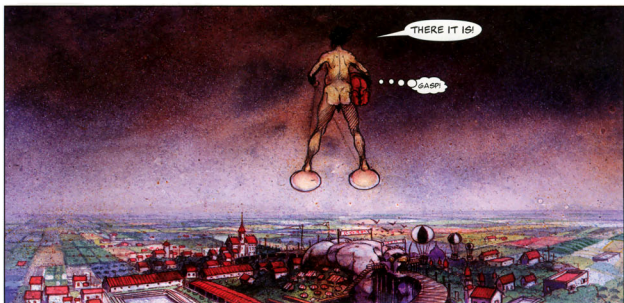
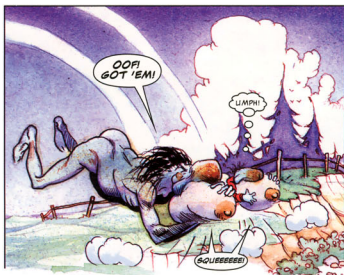
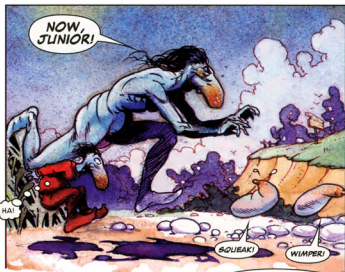
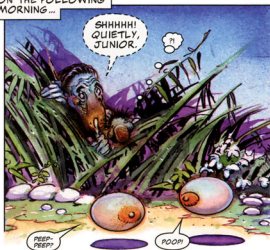


THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

POOT! PA-TOIE!

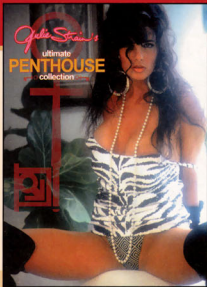


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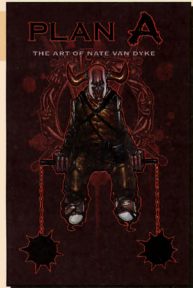


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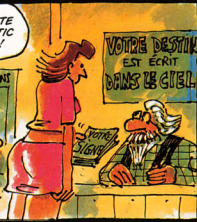
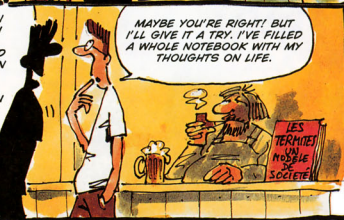
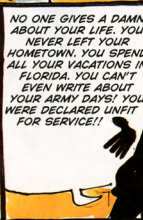
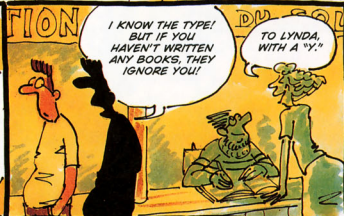
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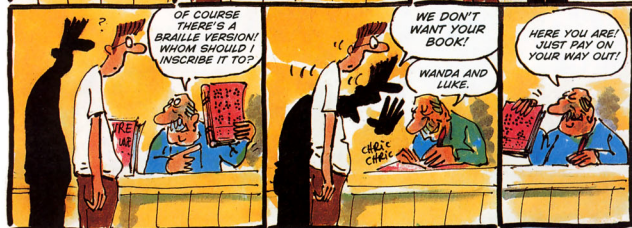
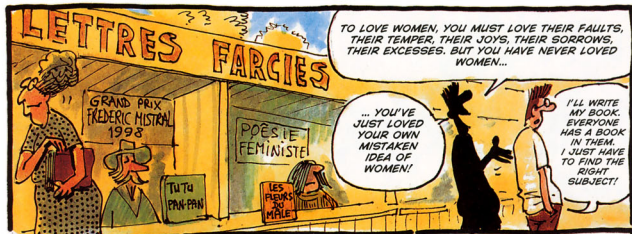
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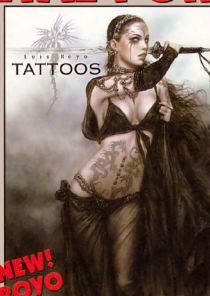


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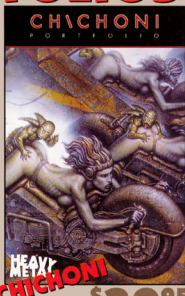
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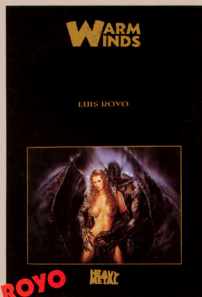
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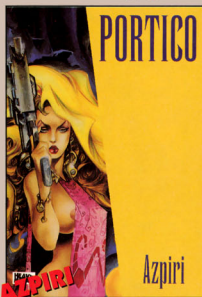
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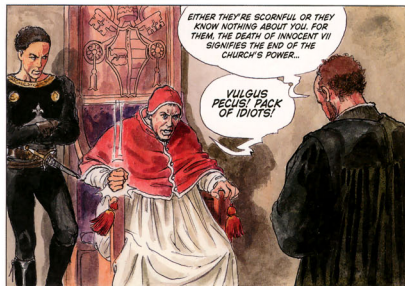
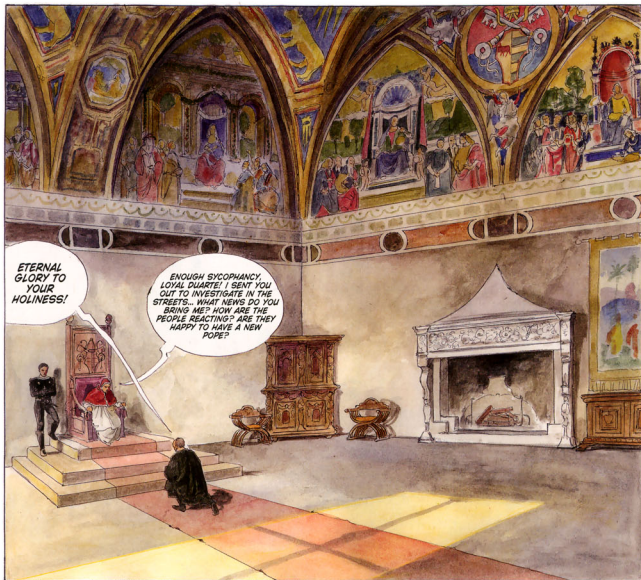
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THE VATICAN'S SACRED SQUARE HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY PIMPS AND PROSTITUTES. THEY DRINK AND FORNICATE DAY AND NIGHT.

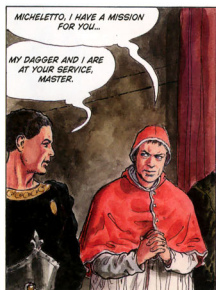


HOW DISGUSTING! THEY'RE BEHAVING LIKE A HORDE OF BEASTS! I UNDERSTAND! MY FIRST DUTY IS TO REINSTATE LAW AND ORDER IN THE STREETS OF ROME... THEY WILL SEE HOW SEVERE MY JUSTICE CAN BE.



IS THERE ANYONE THAT THIS FILTHY CROWD STILL RESPECTS?

YES... GIUSEPPE BERTOLI, THE SCULPTOR. HE IS REGARDED AS A SAINT BECAUSE HE, HIS WIFE AND THEIR TWO SONS MAKE CASTS OF CHRIST AND OF THE VIRGIN.

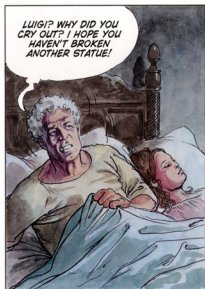


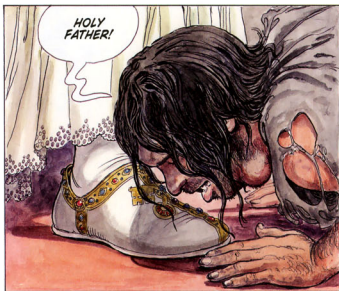
MICHELETTI, I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU...

MY DAGGER AND I ARE AT YOUR SERVICE, MASTER.

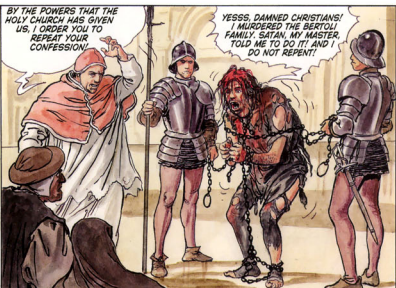
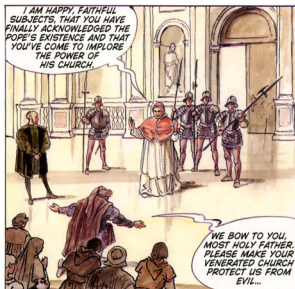
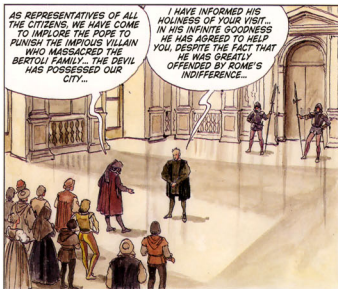


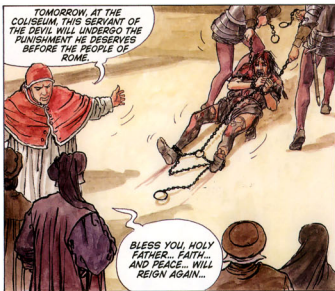


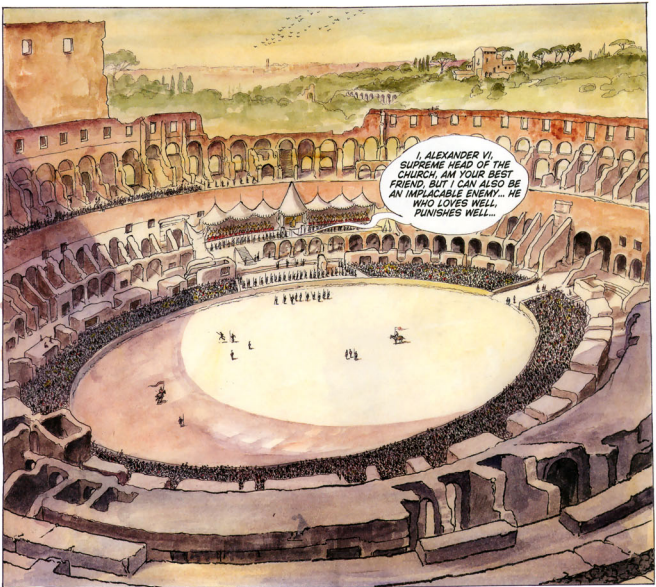




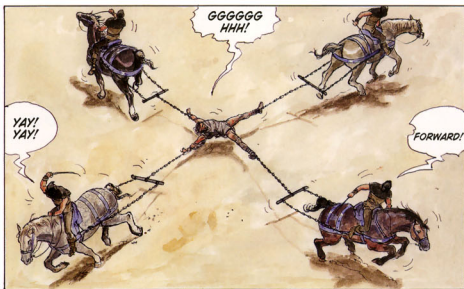




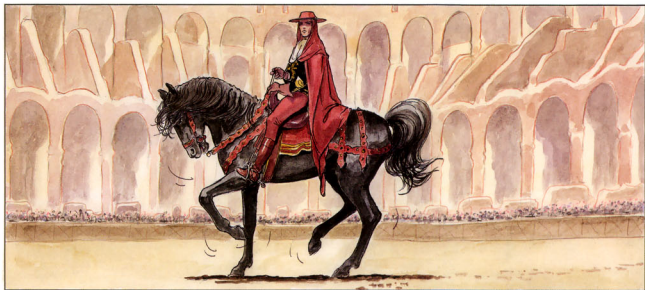
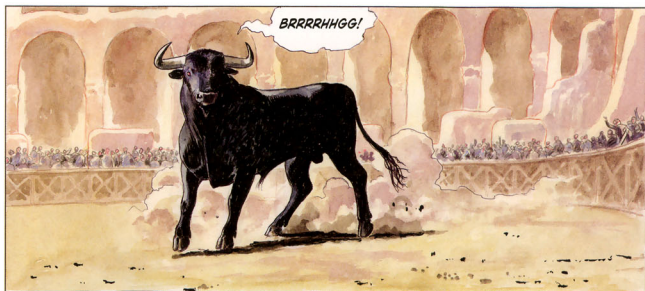




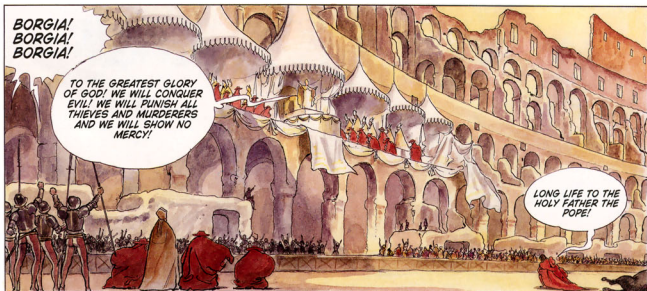
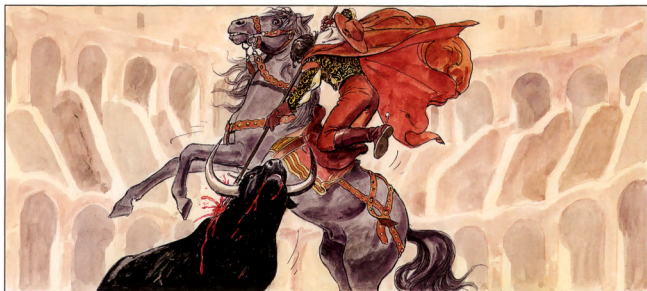


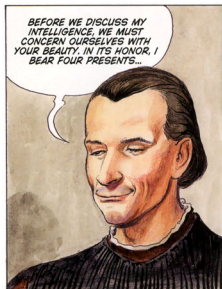
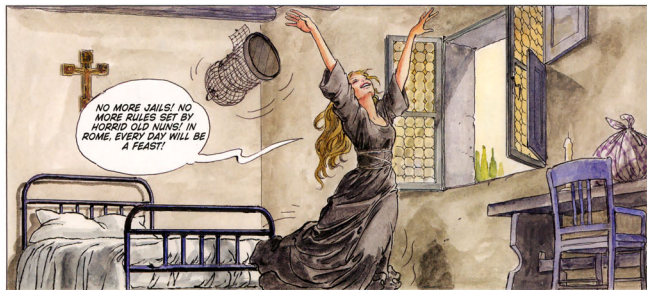


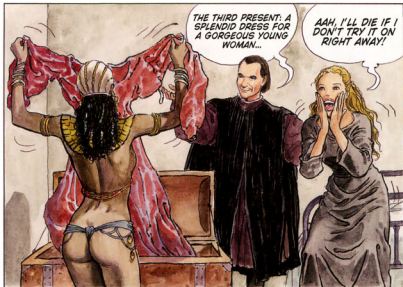
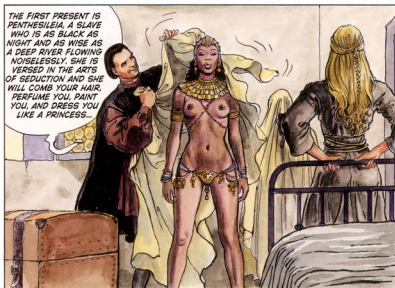


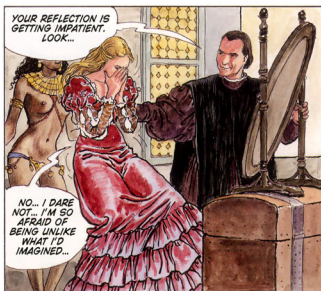
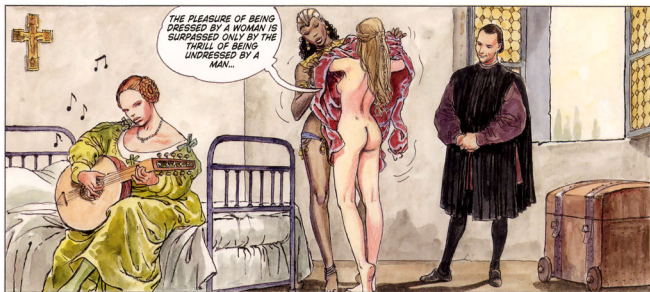


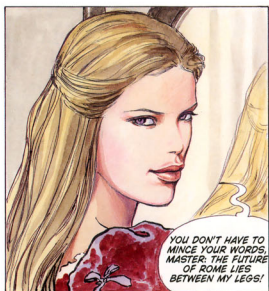
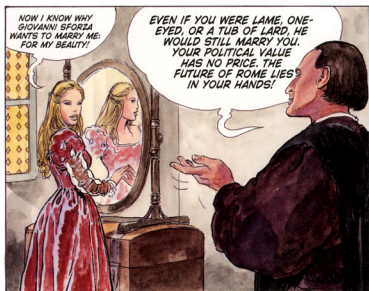
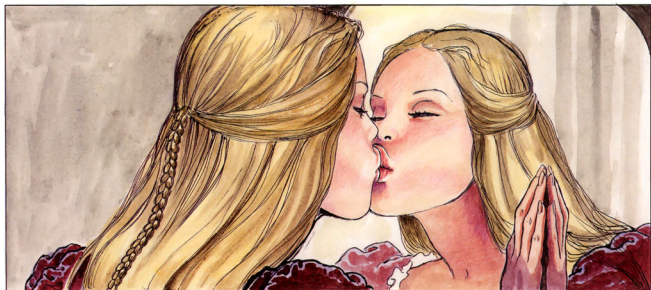
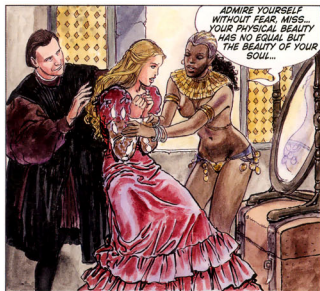










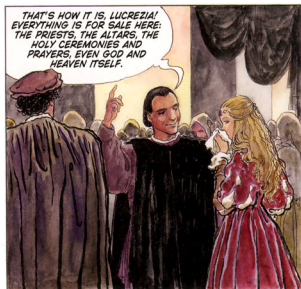




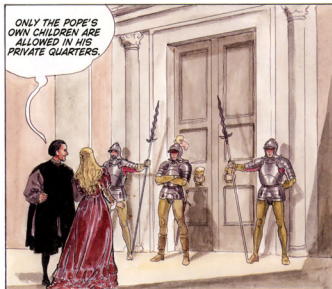


CHRISTIANS FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF EUROPE COME HERE ON PILGRIMAGE, THEIR PURSES BULGING WITH CROWNS, TO PURCHASE THE SALVATION OF THEIR SOULS...

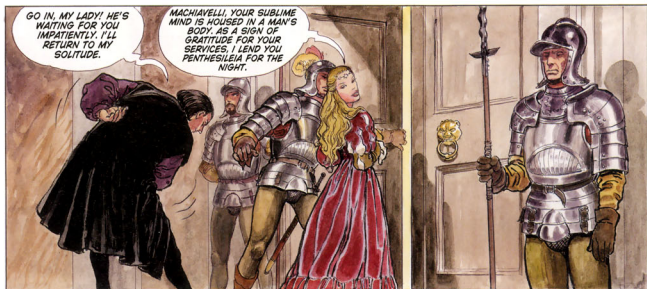
MASTER, AM I MISTAKEN IN REGARDING THE CHURCH AS A GREAT WHORE?



THAT'S HOW IT IS, LUCREZIA! EVERYTHING IS FOR SALE HERE: THE PRIESTS, THE ALTARS, THE HOLY CEREMONIES AND PRAYERS, EVEN GOD AND HEAVEN ITSELF.

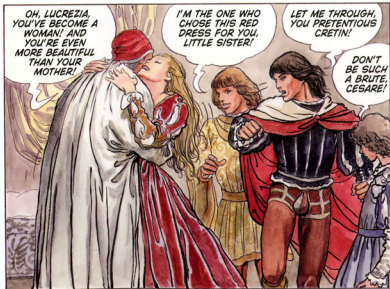


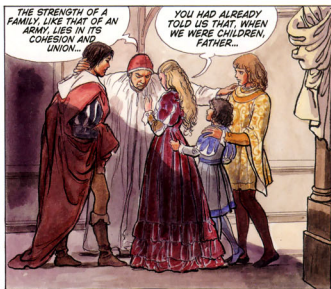
ONLY THE POPE'S OWN CHILDREN ARE ALLOWED IN HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS.

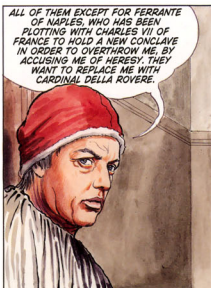


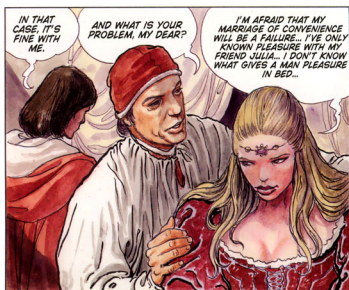
GO IN, MY LADY! HE'S WAITING FOR YOU IMPATIENTLY. I'LL RETURN TO MY SOLITUDE.

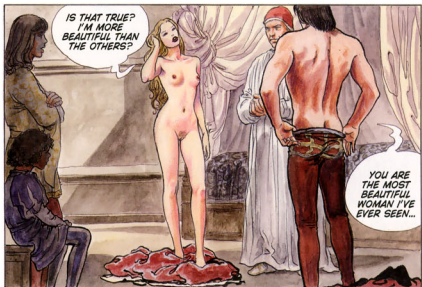
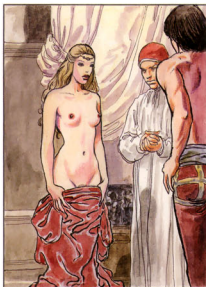
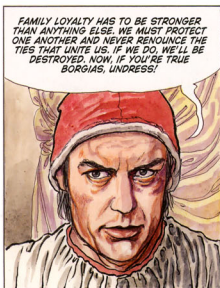
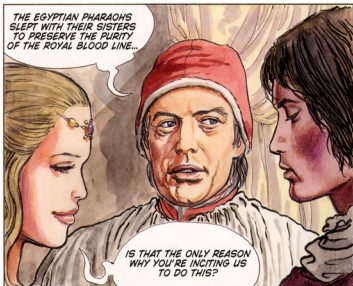
MACHIAVELLI, YOUR SUBLINE MIND IS HOUSED IN A MAN'S BODY. AS A SIGN OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICES, I LEND YOU PENTHESILEIA FOR THE NIGHT.

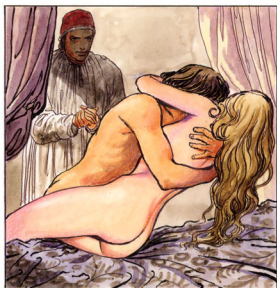
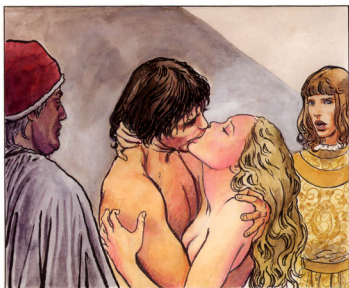
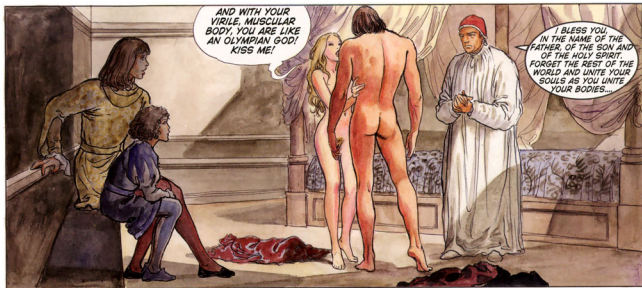
















I SAW SAINT ANNE
WEeping TEARS OF
BLOOD!



THE BLACK DEATH AND
THE FRENCH ARMY ARE
AT OUR GATES! PILLAGE,
FIRE AND DEATH!

OHhhh! IT'S
GOD'S
PUNISHMENT!

SAVE US,
SAVONAROLA!

HOLY MARY,
MOTHER OF
GOD! THEY'RE
GOING TO HURT
ME!



AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF
ALEXANDER VI WHO
OBTAINED THE VOTES TO
BECOME POPE THROUGH
SIMONY AND TRAFFICKING.

SUCH
INFAMY!

CURSED
CUPIDITY!

CUT OFF HIS
TONSURED
HEAD!



THIS DEPRAVED POPE
HAS FORNICATED
WITH ALL THE WOMEN
OF ROME, AND AT
NIGHT THE DEVIL,
WITH BREASTS AND A
VAGINA, SLIPS INTO
HIS BED!

IT IS RUMORED THAT
THE RAKE SLEEPS
WITH CHILDREN,
GOATS, CHICKENS,
AND ALSO WITH A
MARE THAT HAS BEEN
BATHED IN MILK AND
PERFUMED WITH
INCENSE.



FLORENCE MUST
INVADE ROME AND
DISPOSE THE
DIABOLICAL POPE!



DOWN WITH
THE MEDICI!

LONG LIVE
SAVONAROLA!

THIS HOLY
FRIAR MUST
RULE US!

WAR ON
THE
BORGIAS!



Shadow Walker

MY BEAUTIFUL,
IMPERFECT BOY:
ADrift ON A CURRENT
OF SIGHs.


HE SLEEPS LIKE WATER

IF I COULD, I'D WHISPER SEA SHANTIES IN
HIS SHELL-LIKE EAR... PROMPTING QUIET, BLUE DREAMS

H'E'D FLOAT AWAY ON THE TIDE,
AND H'E'D ALWAYS WAKE UP ON SAFER SHORES.

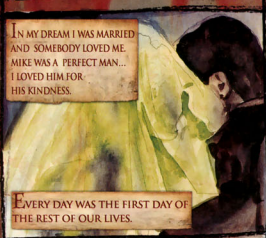
H'E'D LOVE ME.

IF I WERE REAL



IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER
THAT'S THE WAY IT ONCE WAS.

LIFE IS A DREAM, THEY SAY, THAT YOU WAKE FROM WHEN YOU DIE.



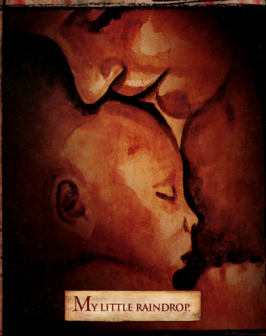
IN MY DREAM I WAS MARRIED
AND SOMEBODY LOVED ME.
MIKE WAS A PERFECT MAN...
I LOVED HIM FOR
HIS KINDNESS.

EVERY DAY WAS THE FIRST DAY OF
THE REST OF OUR LIVES.



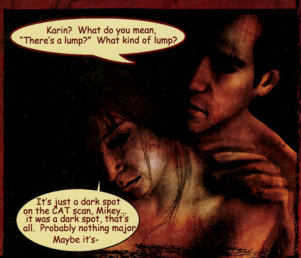
THE DAY I FOUND OUT; THE DAY
I ACCEPTED THE ANGEL GROWING
INSIDE ME.

THE DAY I SAW HIS IMAGE
ON AN ELECTRIC SCREEN.



I THINK I DROWNED IN HIM.

MY LITTLE RAINDROP.




Karin? What do you mean,
"There's a lump?" What kind of lump?

It's just a dark spot
on the CAT scan, Mikey...
it was a dark spot, that's
all. Probably nothing major.
Maybe it's-



-breast cancer.




AND THEN I WAS IN A BED,
HEARING MIKEY CRY,
FLOUNDERING IN A WHIRLPOOL
OF DAYS THAT NEVER
SEEMED TO END.



HEARING HIM SAY,


I don't want to lose you.

NOT REALIZING THAT SOON, I'D WANT THEM BACK
FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.



AND BEING ALREADY LOST.

...IN DARKNESS.



Mikey... 'zat you..?




No. Not Mikey.
Someone else.

Do you know me, Karin?



Am I dreaming?

Yes.



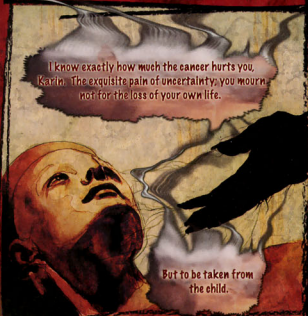
It's cold in here.
I feel cold.

I know you?



"Everybody knows me.

"I've brought
you something
to read."



I can't... I can't see it.
My eyes hurt real bad.
Doctor Nguyen says it's
a reaction to
the chemo.



GET
WELL
SOON

Open them wider. The world
is a lie. It doesn't have to
end this way.

I know exactly how much the cancer hurts you,
Karin. The exquisite pain of uncertainty; you mourn
not for the loss of your own life.

How do you know..?

Are you-

But to be taken from
the child.

A messenger.

There is a way that you yet may live.

"FOREVER."

I REMEMBER HE SHOWED ME...
A BOOK OF SHADOWS THAT
FLICKERED BEFORE MY EYES —
A STORY, COMING INTO FOCUS.

COMING OUT OF THE PAGE, LIKE A VOICE.



A WHISPER ACROSS A MILLION YEARS.



A BEAUTIFUL ANGEL, FLYING
AGAINST THE SUN. HE LOVED
HIS GLISTENING WINGS.

TOLD EVERYONE

FLEW TOO CLOSE TO THE LIGHT.



AND THAT POOR ANGEL WAS
THROWN INTO DARKNESS
BECAUSE ALL HE DID WAS LOVE
HIMSELF FOR THE PERFECT WAY
HE'D BEEN CREATED.

HE SAT IN CHAOS.

KNOWING HE COULD NEVER
HAVE BACK WHAT HE LOST.

THE BOOK IS ITS OWN STORY. IT WHISPERS SECRET,
ARCANE KNOWLEDGE TO A MAN NAMED LEONARDO.

"TO LIVE FOREVER," IT SAYS
"YOU MUST SACRIFICE THE ONE
YOU LOVE THE MOST."

LEONARDO SACRIFICES HIMSELF.

JACK CHOOSES THE SACRIFICE
OF OTHERS, WORKING UNDER
COVER OF DARKNESS.

HE PLIES HIS TRADE IN SHADOWS,
BECOMING A SECRET PAGE.

V LAD DRAKULYA LOVES HIS PEOPLE.

TO LIVE FOREVER, HE SACRIFICES THEM BY THE THOUSANDS.

ALL THIS I SAW IN THE
PAGES OF THE BOOK OF
SHADOWS.

BY MORNING, I
UNDERSTOOD HOW
TO BECOME PART OF
THE STORY.

AND WHAT I HAD TO DO.




BEFORE YOU
GROW TO LOVE
THE CHILD MORE
THAN THE FATHER.

"HURRY..."
WHISPERED MY VISITOR
FROM WITHIN A FADING
SHADOW




Mommy!
Mommy!

Heya, raindrop. Hey, Mikey



Poppa sed you was
sleepin' but you was
pretendin'

I hadda cake
for your birtday!



"GO OUTSIDE," I SAID.

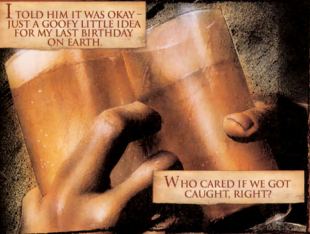
"THERE'S A SECRET I WANT
TO TELL YOUR FATHER."



A drink?
What are we
drinking to, babe?

Christ... >snff<... if
one of the nurses sees...

I TOLD HIM IT WAS OKAY -
JUST A GOOFY LITTLE IDEA
FOR MY LAST BIRTHDAY
ON EARTH.



WHO CARED IF WE GOT
CAUGHT, RIGHT?

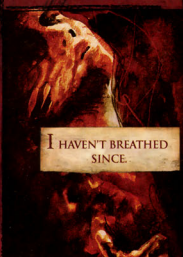


MEDICINE FROM THE
CABINET. ENOUGH TO
FELL A TREE - I WATCHED HIM
DRINK IT.



THE ONE I LOVED THE MOST.

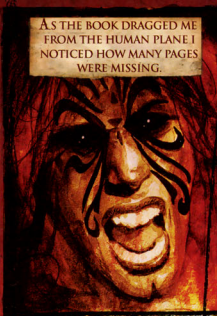




AS THE BOOK DRAGGED ME
FROM THE HUMAN PLANE I
NOTICED HOW MANY PAGES
WERE MISSING.


I HAVEN'T BREATHED
SINCE.

BECAUSE THE EXISTENCE OF
THE SHADOW WALKER IS
A TRAP.

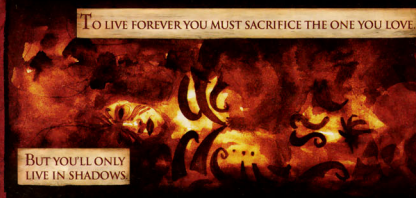


HE WAS RIGHT: THE WORLD IS A LIE.

MOST OF THEM ARE HIS.



TO LIVE FOREVER YOU MUST SACRIFICE THE ONE YOU LOVE.



BUT YOU'LL ONLY
LIVE IN SHADOWS.



MY CHILD WILL GROW
OLD AND LEAVE ME ONE DAY.

HE'LL DRIFT AWAY ON
A CURRENT OF TIME.
AND I'LL BE ALONE

UNTIL THEN, I'LL STAY.
PRETENDING TO SING
HIM TO SAFER SHORES.

I KNOW HE LOVES ME STILL.

LIKE A RAINDROP LOVES THE OCEAN.



Classic Pin-up Artists



Bill Ward
THE GLAMOUR GIRLS OF BILL WARD
 Bill Ward's cartoon girls were staples of countless men's magazines of the 1950s and 60s. This volume features the best of Ward at the height of his fame and skill, and reproduces over a hundred beautifully rendered illustrations shot from the original artwork and printed in full color.
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Although best known for his *Archie* work, Dan DeCarlo spent the late 1950s and early 1960s drawing pin-ups for the *Humorama* line of girly digests. Once one gets past the disturbing element of seeing dead ringers for Betty and Veronica in various stages of saucy undress, this thick collection is a delight for connoisseurs of pin-up art.

200 pages • two-color • \$18.95



Bill Wenzel

THE PIN-UP ART OF BILL WENZEL

Virtually every humor and men's magazine, ranging from *Judge* in the mid-'40s to *Sex to Sexy* in the '60s and '70s, boasted two, if not a dozen, of Bill Wenzel's pin-up cartoons. Quick with pen and ink, Wenzel was equally adept with the brush, and nowhere was this more evident than in his work as a long-time contributor to the *Humorama* digests. Wenzel is undoubtedly the most overlooked of all the pin-up cartoon artists of his era (including Bill Ward, *Playboy*'s Jack Cole and *Archie*'s Dan DeCarlo), but with this volume, Wenzel takes his rightful place among *Humorama*'s top artists.

220 pages • \$18.95 • two-color

Don Flowers

THE GLAMOR GIRLS OF DON FLOWERS

Don Flowers' newspaper cartooning work spanned over four decades and boasted one of the most fluid lines ever to grace the comics page. It evoked the art of Russell Patterson and Hank Ketcham, and nowhere was this more evident than in his quintessential single-panel pin-up feature, the aptly named *Glamour Girls*. This volume collects the best of those cartoons, and showcases Flowers at the height of his skill.

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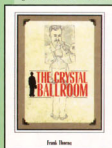
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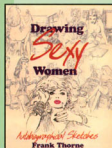
Frank Thorne



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Frank Thorne presents a sweet, somewhat autobiographical tale of creative and sexual awakening from his youth as an aspiring musician (and horny teen), executed in prose and dozens of lush pencil illustrations. A unique work of remembrance, in both style and content.

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DRAWING SEXY WOMEN

Less a "how-to" book than an examination of the thinking behind erotic illustration, this volume also features Frank Thorne's (*Ghita*, *Lann*, *Red Sonja*) reminiscences of his long career as a cartoonist (including his personal encounter with Bettie Page) and a generous selection of illustrations and photos.

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THE COMPLETE GHITA

Back in print after a lengthy absence, this generous 240-page soft cover collects Thorne's epic and raunchy tale of swords and sorcery (with a big slice of cheesecake) in its entirety, complete with never-before-seen pages, a model's photo section and commentary by the artist.

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LANN

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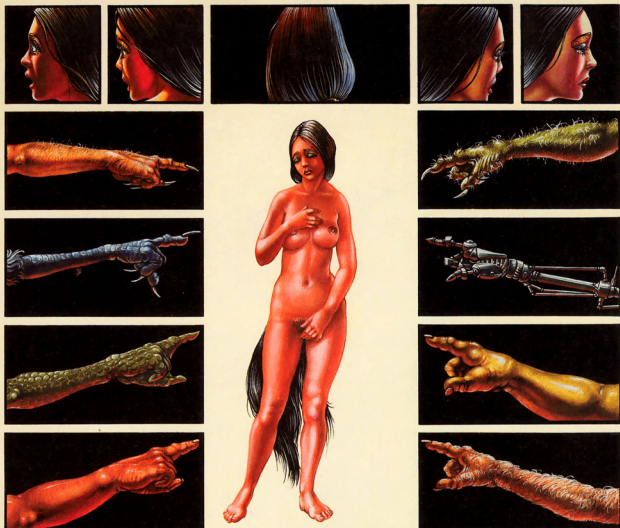
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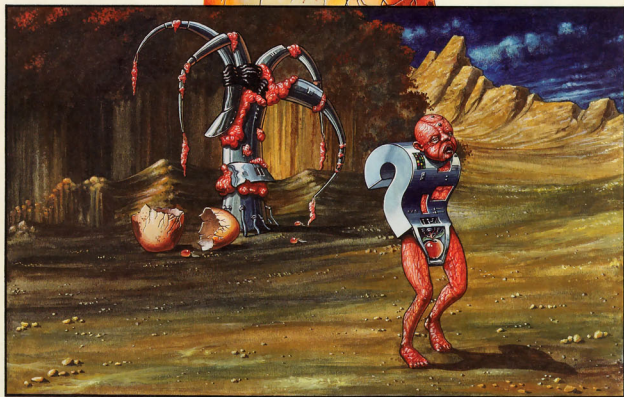
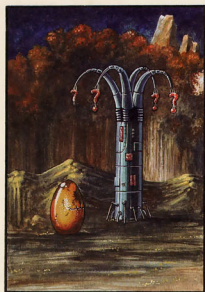


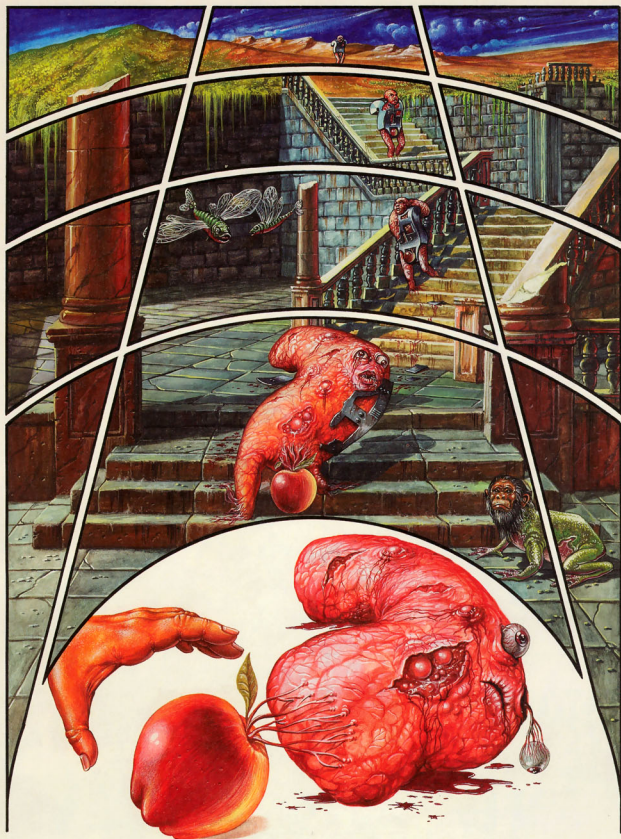






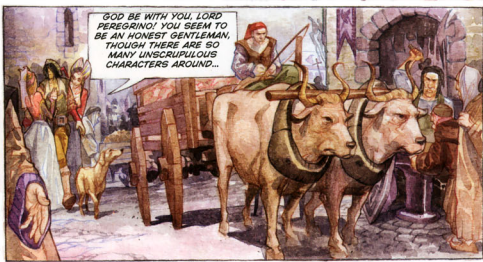
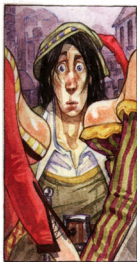






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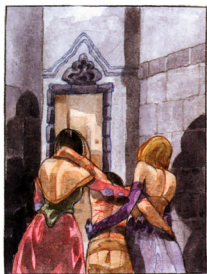




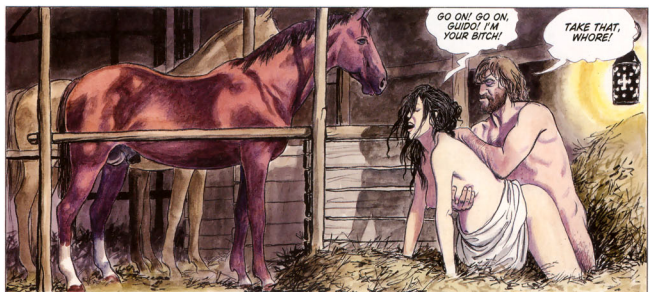
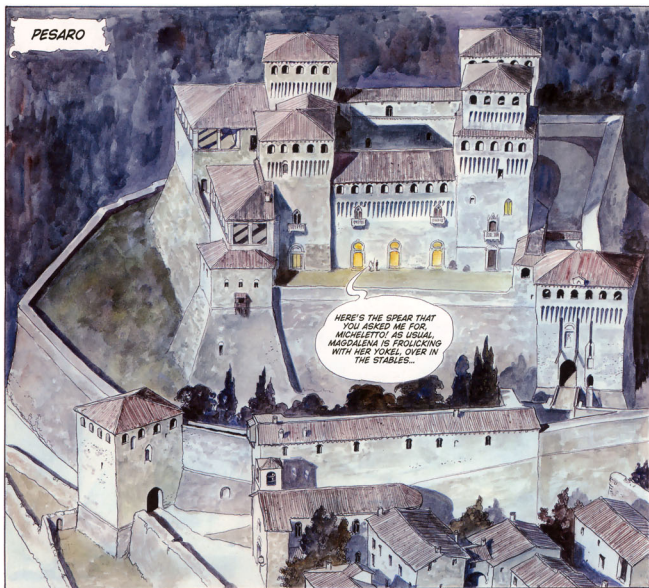




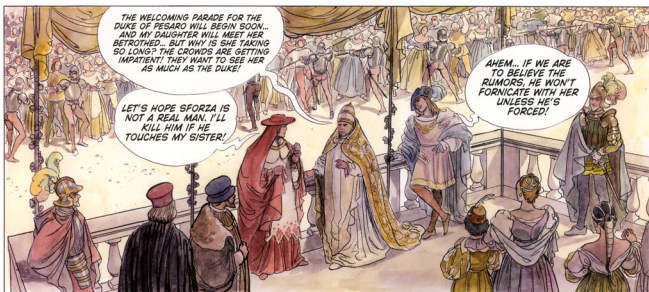
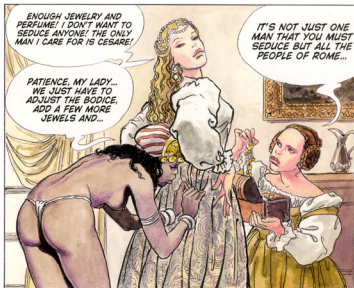


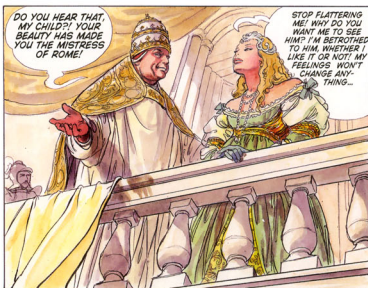


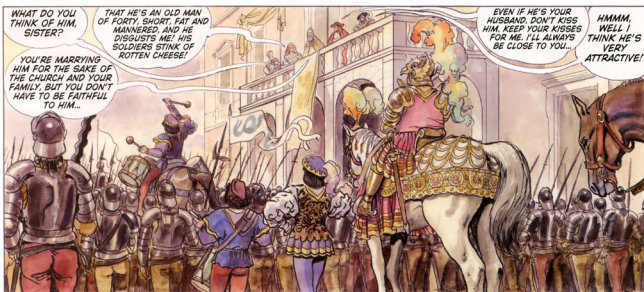
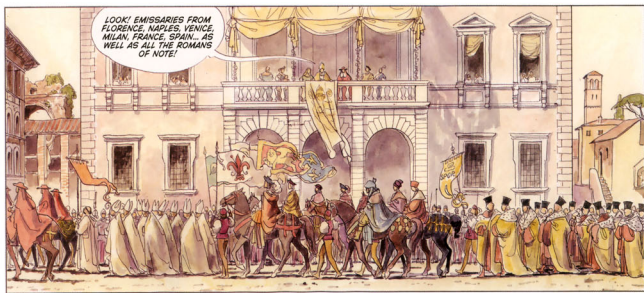




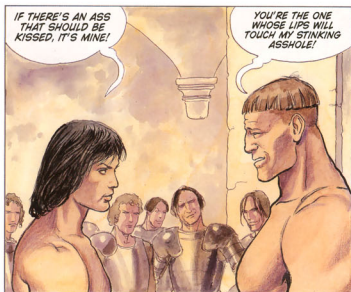
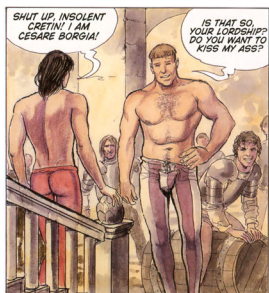
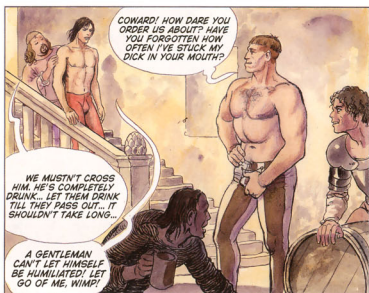


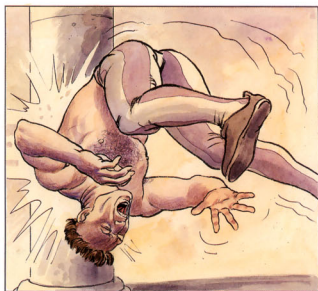
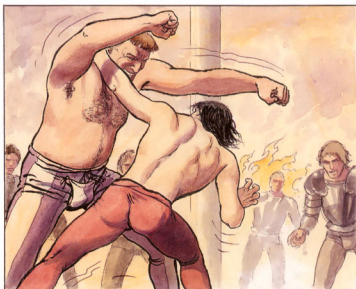
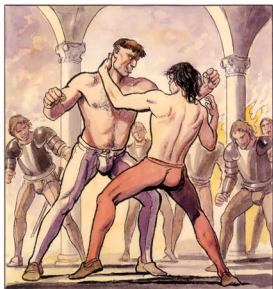


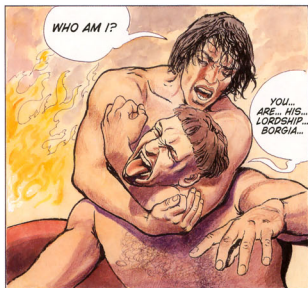










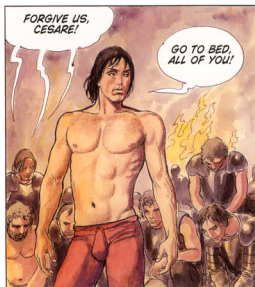


WHO AM I?

YOU...
ARE... HIS...
LORDSHIP...
BORGIA...

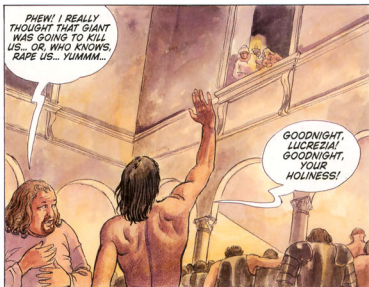


YOU HAVE DEFEATED
ME, MONSIGNOR!
I MUST GET DOWN ON
MY KNEES AND KISS
YOUR FEET!



FORGIVE US,
CESARE!

GO TO BED,
ALL OF YOU!



PHWE! I REALLY
THOUGHT THAT GIANT
WAS GOING TO KILL
US... OR, WHO KNOWS,
RAPE US... YUMMM...

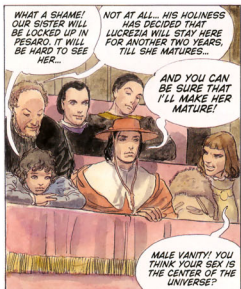
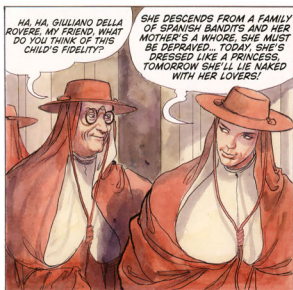
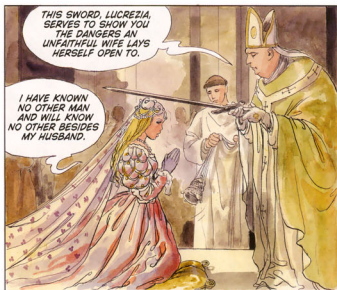
GOODNIGHT,
LUCREZIA!
GOODNIGHT,
YOUR
HOLINESS!



GIOVANNI SFORZA IS A
COWARD! BUT CESARE IS
A REAL HERO!

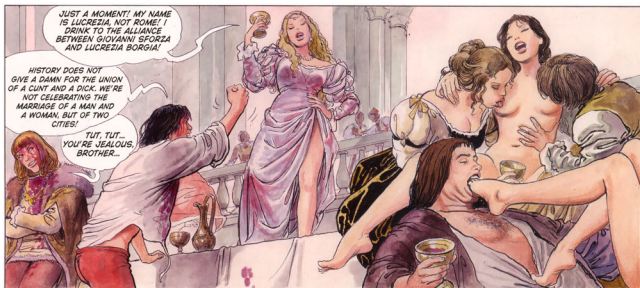
HE'S A
BORGIA!

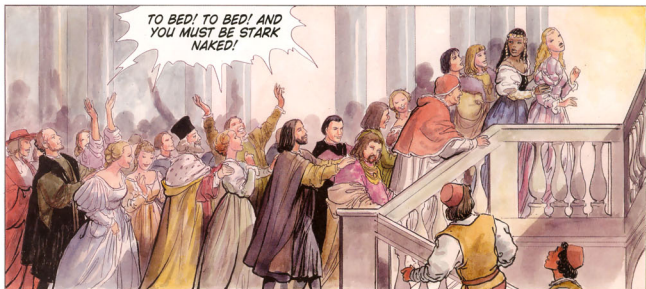
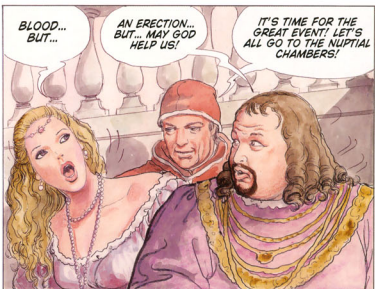


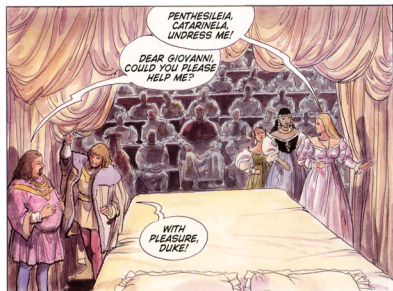
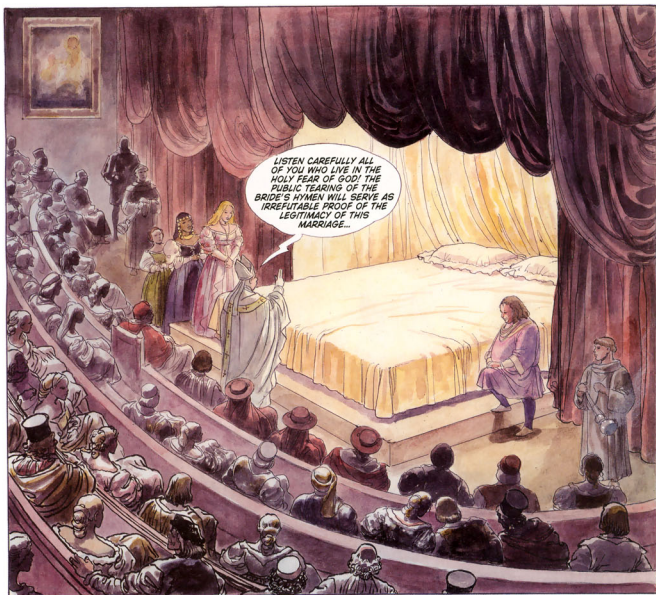


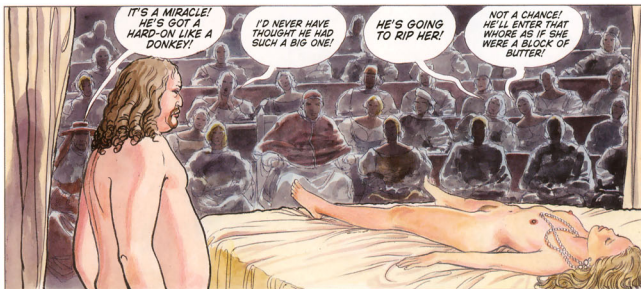
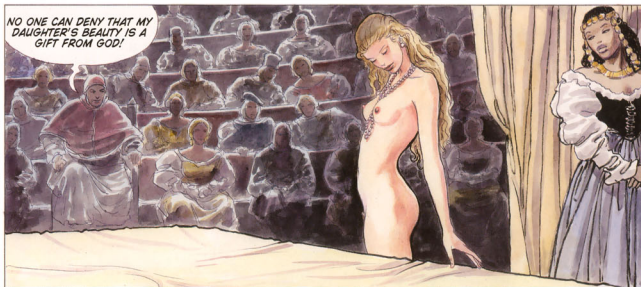


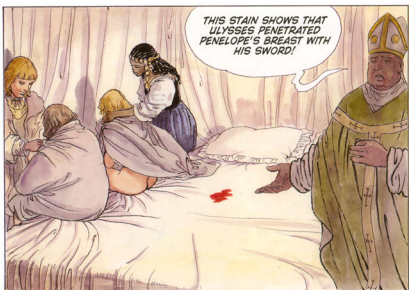


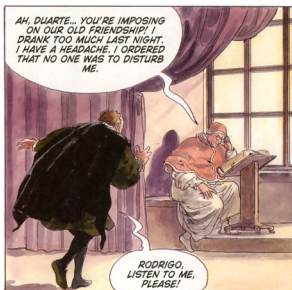












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The images featured here were created using digital photo manipulation. However, Patrick's course of expression is not limited to just one medium. He has also used photography, sculpting, drawing, and painting to bring to life the haunted visions of his mind's eye.



PATRICK BYERS



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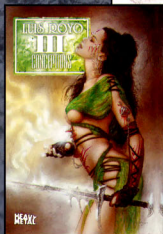
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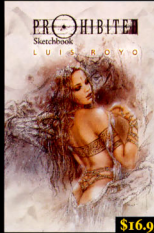
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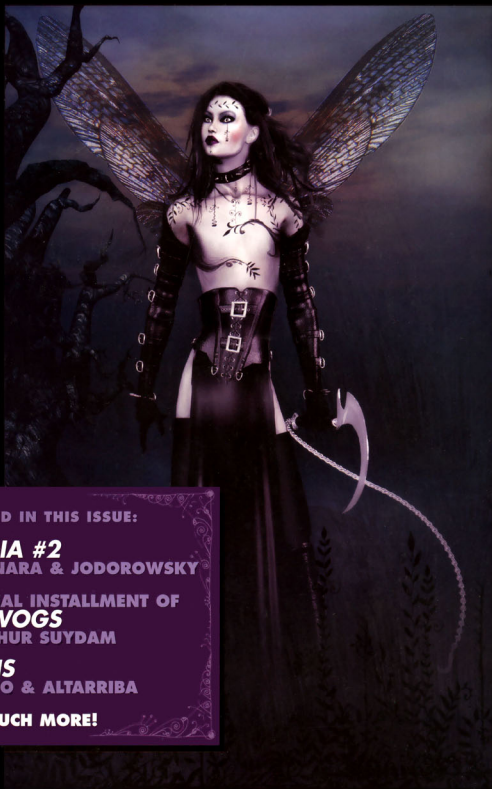
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