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## **KEY=HEARTBREAK - EWING BENTLEY**

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### **HEARTBREAK SOUP**

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### **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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The first volume in a chronological series featuring the complete first series of fifty issues from the celebrated comic book series Love & Rockets includes the provocative "Heartbreak Soup" stories about the inhabitants of Palomar, a small village in a Central American country. Original.

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### **PALOMAR**

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### **THE HEARTBREAK SOUP STORIES**

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Collects stories featuring the inhabitants of a mythical South American town called Palomar and the interconnected lives of its unusual inhabitants.

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### **LOVE AND ROCKETS**

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## HEARTBREAK SOUP

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*Titan Publishing Company* This volume collects the first half of Gilbert Hernandez's acclaimed magical-realist tales of Palomar, the small central American town, beginning with 'Sopa de Gran Peana' and continuing on through modern-day classics."

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## HEARTBREAK SOUP AND OTHER STORIES

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## DUCK FEET

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## A HEARTBREAK SOUP GRAPHIC NOVEL

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Life goes on in the mythical Central American town of Palomar, with Luba, the town's larger-than-life mayor, providing a centerpiece to tales weaving in and out of the town's entire population, in a complex tapestry of Latin American life.--Publisher description.

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## HUMAN DIASTROPHISM

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## A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK

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*Fantagraphics Books* "Human Diastrophism" is the only full graphic novel length "Palomar" story ever created by Gilbert. In it, a serial killer stalks Palomar—but his depredations, hideous as they are, only serve to exacerbate the cracks in the idyllic Central American town as the modern world begins to intrude. "Diastrophism" concludes with the death (the suicide, in fact) of one of Palomar's most beloved characters, and a postscript that provides one of the most hauntingly magical moments of the entire series as a rain of ashes drifts down upon Palomar. Also included are all the post-"Diastrophism" stories, in which Luba's past (as seen in the epic *Poison River*) comes back to haunt her, and the seeds are sown for the "Palomar diaspora" that ends this dense, enthralling book.

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## HEARTBREAK SOUP

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## THE FIRST VOLUME OF 'PALOMAR' STORIES FROM LOVE & ROCKETS

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## LOVERBOYS

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*Dark Horse Comics* An all-new graphic novel from Pen Center USA Award winner, Gilbert Hernandez! Welcome to Lagrimas, a small south-of-the-border town where young men who consider themselves "loverboys" constantly hit on the ladies, but get shot down most

of the time--until one begins an affair with the woman who used to be his seventh grade teacher! As their torrid romance unfolds, three young girls plot to poison the town's populace, just so they won't have to listen to their parents or teachers anymore. It's a passionate--and sometimes comical--tale, as only the celebrated cocreator of Love and Rockets can deliver!

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## **THE ADVENTURES OF VENUS**

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*Fantagraphics Books* A rare foray into all-ages work, "The Adventures of Venus" was Gilbert Hernandez's contribution to the kids' anthology Measles which he edited in 1999 and 2000. This super-affordable little hardcover collects all the previously uncollected "Venus" stories from Measles in which Luba's niece creates and collects comic books, walks through a scary forest, plays soccer, schemes to get the cute boy she likes, laments the snowless-less of a California Christmas, catches measles, and travels to a distant planet (OK, the last one may be a dream). Plus a new story done just for this book!

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## **CHANCE IN HELL**

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*Fantagraphics Books* Chance in Hell tells the story about a little orphan girl who lives in the slum of slums. Nobody knows who she is or where she's from, but her fellow shantytown inhabitants collectively look over her. The three-act story follows our heroine as she is adopted by a decent man who raises her well, and she eventually marries a kind, well-to-do man, only to discover that she can't relate to the good life and the comforts it provides. This is the first in a series of standalone stories depicting the fictional filmography of Gilbert's Love and Rockets character, the B-movie actress Fritz.

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## **ALTERNATIVE COMICS**

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### **AN EMERGING LITERATURE**

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*Univ. Press of Mississippi* In the 1980s, a sea change occurred in comics. Fueled by Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly's avant-garde anthology Raw and the launch of the Love Rockets series by Gilbert, Jaime, and Mario Hernandez, the decade saw a deluge of comics that were more autobiographical, emotionally realistic, and experimental than anything seen before. These alternative comics were not the scatological satires of the 1960s underground, nor were they brightly colored newspaper strips or superhero comic books. In *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature*, Charles Hatfield establishes the parameters of alternative comics by closely examining long-form comics, in particular the graphic novel. He argues that these are fundamentally a literary form and offers an extensive critical study of them both as a literary genre and as a cultural phenomenon. Combining sharp-eyed readings and illustrations from

particular texts with a larger understanding of the comics as an art form, this book discusses the development of specific genres, such as autobiography and history. *Alternative Comics* analyzes such seminal works as Spiegelman's *Maus*, Gilbert Hernandez's *Palomar: The Heartbreak Soup Stories*, and Justin Green's *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*.

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## **AMOR Y COHETES**

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### **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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*Fantagraphics Books* To a very great extent, *Love and Rockets* is synonymous with Hoppers' *Maggie & Hopey* and *Palomar's Luba & Carmen & Heraclio & Tonantzin*... but there was always more to L and R than that. *Amor y Cohetes* finally collects together in one convenient package all the non-Maggie and non-Palomar stories by all three Hernandez Brothers from that classic first, 50-issue *Love and Rockets* series—a dizzying array of styles and approaches that re-confirms these groundbreaking cartoonists' place in the history of comics.

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## **FATIMA: THE BLOOD SPINNERS**

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*Dark Horse Comics* Comics luminary Gilbert Hernandez envisions his strangest, most thrilling future yet! A drug called "spin" offers the wildest trip imaginable, followed by its users' inevitable, rapid deterioration into undead flesh eaters. Despite the side effect, the drug is so popular that the human population is dying out! With no cure to be found, the beautiful, lovesick Fatima may be the only thing standing between the survivors and the apocalypse! Get ready for zombies, mutants, drug lords, and gorgeous women! Collecting the complete, berserk series! \* From *Love and Rockets* cocreator Gilbert Hernandez! "I picture Gilbert Hernandez approaching his drawing board these days like Lawrence of Arabia approaching a Turkish convoy: 'NO PRISONERS! NO PRISONERS!'" —Comic Book Resources

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## **COMICS DEMENTIA**

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### **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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*Fantagraphics Books* *Comics Dementia* collects unexpected treasures, oddities, and rarities from outposts of the *Love and Rockets* galaxy, by one of Earth's greatest living cartoonists, Gilbert Hernandez. Saints, sinners, and the *Candide*-like Roy mingle in jungles, in fables, in outer space: in cocktail lounges and living rooms. Ditko meets Melville meets Bob Hope—but the party really starts bumping when the Alfred E. Neuman of the L&R-verse, *Errata Stigmata*, makes her entrance. Many of these stories haven't been available since their original appearance in comic shops in the 1990s.

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## OFELIA

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### A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK

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*Fantagraphics Books* In *Ofelia*, the sisters, the kids, and the cousins are all settled comfortably in California after leaving Palomar in *Luba and Her Family*. Luba and her cousin Ofelia's relationship has always been fraught, but when Ofelia threatens to write a book about Luba, past memories, secrets, resentments, and pain resurface. Meanwhile, Luba's children—genius Socorro, recently out-and-proud Doralis, and prickly Maricela—show that a talent for trouble may be hereditary. Luba's sisters, Fritz and Petra, swap lovers (as usual), but . . . are Fritz and family friend Pipo sittin' in a tree? These vividly drawn characters are charged with Hernandez's trademark complexity; they live, love, age, fight— and die—in this sweeping, multi-generational saga.

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### LOVE AND ROCKETS

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#### THE COVERS

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*Fantagraphics Books* Five women stand in a police lineup; four of them are garishly dressed, impressively endowed superwomen — perfectly normal, because this is, after all, the cover of a comic book. A closer look, however, reveals a fifth woman who seems thoroughly out of place — mousy, in bathrobe and curlers, smoking a cigarette, she appears to have been suddenly yanked from her breakfast table. Surely, this diminutive, dowdy woman is here by mistake — or is she? From the very first cover of the very first issue of *Love and Rockets* in 1982, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez have created artwork that has subverted, contradicted and celebrated the history of the comic book medium, inverting familiar tropes and creating some of the most iconic images in comics over the past three and a half decades, inviting fans and readers into their world. Amazingly, many of the covers created by Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez for the various iterations of *Love and Rockets* over the past 35 years have never been collected or have only been reprinted in black-and-white. *Love and Rockets: The Covers* will not only rectify this problem, but present them without trade dress (logos, marketing hype, etc.), allowing the original cover illustrations to communicate on their own.

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### HUMAN DIASTROPHISM

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#### A HEARTBREAK SOUP GRAPHIC NOVEL

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More interweaving stories of human passion from the village of Palomar: Bisexual Israel's quest for partners. Heraclio's feelings for his

wife Carmen. Humberto's drawings, clues to the identity of a murderer. And the tragic life of Tonantzin, who cared too much for the world..

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## **THE TROUBLEMAKERS**

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*Fantagraphics Books* Low-life drug dealer Dewey Booth has \$200,000 that even-lower-lives want. BLING! Wes is a rock and roll loser that only wants to buy a club where nobody can tell him he can't sing or perform. WAILIN'! He's known Dewey for years, but that isn't enough to get his dough. Wes needs help. Nala is an uber-stacked bombshell whose pleasure in life is to seduce and then humiliate men dumb enough to fall for her. HUSH HUSH! For half the dough, she agrees to help Wes get Dewey's ill-gotten goods. Things don't go so well when a wily grifter from Wes's past shows up to complicate things. GULP! Vincene is another troublemaker who enjoys wrecking people's plans and wants the Dewey dough, too. In the end, deadly fires ignite, heads literally roll, eyes are shot out — and all Wes wants to do is sing in a rock and roll club. The Troublemakers is the second volume in a series of original graphic novels in which Gilbert Hernandez creates comics adaptations of movies starring or co-starring Luba's half-sister Rosalba "Fritz" Martinez from Love and Rockets.

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## **GIRL CRAZY**

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*Dark Horse Comics* Kitten, Maribel, and Gaby are three very different childhood friends about to celebrate their sixteenth birthdays, which all happen to fall on the same day. But someone's missing--their fourth friend, Una, who's imprisoned in Tijuana. So the trio set out to give Una the ultimate birthday gift--freedom--even if it means taking on an entire city! Prepare yourself for some sweet sixteen super-action, madcap plot twists, identity crises aplenty, and--of course--gorgeous girls galore! You'll go crazy over this lighthearted, rowdy, and sexy romp from Pen Center USA Award winner Gilbert Hernandez!

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## **MAGGIE THE MECHANIC**

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## **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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*Fantagraphics Books* The first of three volumes chronicles the globe-trotting adventures and exploits of Maggie, her best friend and occasional lover Hopey, and their companions, Peggy Century, her weirdo mentor Izzy, aging wrestler Rena Titanon, and Maggie's new love interest, Rand Race. Original.

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## THE LOVE AND ROCKETS COMPANION

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### 30 YEARS (AND COUNTING)

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*Fantagraphics Books* *The Love and Rockets Companion: 30 Years (and Counting)* contains three incredibly in-depth and candid interviews with creators Gilbert, Jaime and Mario Hernandez: one conducted by writer Neil Gaiman (Coraline); one conducted some six years into the comic's run by longtime L&R publisher Gary Groth; and one conducted by the book's author, spanning Gilbert's, Jaime's and Mario's careers, and looking to the future of the ongoing series, with a follow-up conversation with Groth. This book has foldout family trees for both Gilbert's Palomar and Jaime's Locas storylines; unpublished art; a character glossary (which is handy, considering that Gilbert alone has created 50+ characters!); highlights from the original series' anarchic letters columns; timelines; and the most wide-ranging Hernandez Brothers bibliography ever compiled, including album and DVD covers, posters and more.

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## THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN COMICS ARTIST

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### CREATORS AND CONTEXTS

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*Univ. Press of Mississippi* *Contributions* by David M. Ball, Ian Gordon, Andrew Loman, Andrea A. Lunsford, James Lyons, Ana Merino, Graham J. Murphy, Chris Murray, Adam Rosenblatt, Julia Round, Joe Sutliff Sanders, Stephen Weiner, and Paul Williams Starting in the mid-1980s, a talented set of comics artists changed the American comic book industry forever by introducing adult sensibilities and aesthetic considerations into popular genres such as superhero comics and the newspaper strip. Frank Miller's *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* (1986) and Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons's *Watchmen* (1987) revolutionized the former genre in particular. During this same period, underground and alternative genres began to garner critical acclaim and media attention beyond comics-specific outlets, as best represented by Art Spiegelman's *Maus*. Publishers began to collect, bind, and market comics as "graphic novels," and these appeared in mainstream bookstores and in magazine reviews. *The Rise of the American Comics Artist: Creators and Contexts* brings together new scholarship surveying the production, distribution, and reception of American comics from this pivotal decade to the present. The collection specifically explores the figure of the comics creator—either as writer, as artist, or as writer and artist—in contemporary US comics, using creators as focal points to evaluate changes to the industry, its aesthetics, and its critical reception. The book also includes essays on landmark creators such as Joe Sacco, Art Spiegelman, and Chris Ware, as well as insightful interviews with Jeff Smith (*Bone*), Jim Woodring (*Frank*) and Scott McCloud (*Understanding Comics*). As comics have reached new audiences, through different material and electronic forms, the public's broad perception of what comics are has changed. *The Rise of*

the American Comics Artist surveys the ways in which the figure of the creator has been at the heart of these evolutions.

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## **JULIO'S DAY**

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*Fantagraphics Books* It begins in the year 1900, with the scream of a newborn. It ends, 100 pages later, in the year 2000, with the death-rattle of a 100-year-old man. The infant and the old man are both Julio, and Gilbert Hernandez's Julio's Day (originally serialized in *Love and Rockets* Vol. II but never completed until now) is his latest graphic novel, a masterpiece of elliptical, emotional storytelling that traces one life -- indeed, one century in a human life -- through a series of carefully crafted, consistently surprising and enthralling vignettes. There is hope and joy, there is bullying and grief, there is war (so much war -- this is after all the 20th century), there is love, there is heartbreak. This is very much a singular, standalone story that will help cement Hernandez's position as one of the strongest and most original cartoonists of this, or any other, century.

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## **COMIC BOOK FEVER**

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### **A CELEBRATION OF COMICS: 1976-1986**

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*TwoMorrows Publishing* GEORGE KHOURY (author of *The Extraordinary Works of Alan Moore* and *Kimota: The Miracleman Companion*) presents a "love letter" to his personal golden age of comics, 1976-1986, covering all the things that made those comics great—the top artists, the coolest stories, and even the best ads! Inside this full-color book are new articles, interviews, and images about the people, places, characters, titles, moments, and good times that inspired and thrilled us in the Bronze Age: Neal Adams, John Romita, George Pérez, Marv Wolfman, Alan Moore, Denny O'Neil, Jim Starlin, José Luis García-López, The Hernandez Brothers, The Buscema Brothers, Stan Lee, Jack Davis, Jack Kirby, Kevin Eastman, Chris Claremont, Gerry Conway, Frank Miller—and that's just for starters. It covers the phenoms that delighted Baby Boomers, Generation X, and beyond: *Uncanny X-Men*, *New Teen Titans*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Love and Rockets*, *Crisis On Infinite Earths*, *Superman vs. Spider-Man*, *Archie Comics*, *Harvey Comics*, *Kiss*, *Star Wars*, *Rom*, *Hostess Cake* ads, *Grit(!)*, and other milestones! So take a trip back in time to re-experience those epic stories, and feel the heat of *Comic Book Fever* once again! With cover art and introduction by Alex Ross.

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## **THE CHILDREN OF PALOMAR**

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*Fantagraphics Books* *New Tales of Old Palomar* is Gilbert Hernandez's much-anticipated return to the small Central American town of Palomar, more than a decade after his last "Heartbreak Soup" story. Originally released as a three-issue magazine series in the



acclaimed international “Ignatz” format, *New Tales Old Palomar* is finally collected into one handsome book. All three issues deal with the classic characters of Palomar such as sweet Pipo, her sharp-tongue sister Carmen, sheriff Chelo, and the gang of boys who help start it all: studious Heraclio, tall and fey Israel, disfigured but good-natured Vicente, and girl-crazy Jesús and Satch. In the first story, “Children of Palomar,” mysterious, fast-moving thieves are stealing food from wherever they can grab it; Sheriff Chelo and some citizens do their best to solve this mystery, but nobody seems to be able to catch these bandits in action until Pipo puts her soccer-trained legs to work and goes after them herself. In the second, Gato, Soledad, Guero, Pintor, and Arturo go exploring a bottomless chasm and come face to face with... well, we won’t spoil the surprise. The third and last story focuses on one of Palomar’s most beloved characters, the gorgeous but troubled Tonantzín: Everybody in Palomar seems to take the supernatural with a grain of salt, but young Tonantzín is determined to uncover the mystery of the laughing baby that only appears to her, haunting her daily life. What is the baby’s link to the giant stone idols that stand outside the small town...?

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## GRAPHIC BORDERS

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### LATINO COMIC BOOKS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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*University of Texas Press* From the influential work of Los Bros Hernandez in *Love & Rockets*, to comic strips and political cartoons, to traditional superheroes made nontraditional by means of racial and sexual identity (e.g., Miles Morales/Spider-Man), comics have become a vibrant medium to express Latino identity and culture. Indeed, Latino fiction and nonfiction narratives are rapidly proliferating in graphic media as diverse and varied in form and content as is the whole of Latino culture today. *Graphic Borders* presents the most thorough exploration of comics by and about Latinos currently available. Thirteen essays and one interview by eminent and rising scholars of comics bring to life this exciting graphic genre that conveys the distinctive and wide-ranging experiences of Latinos in the United States. The contributors’ exhilarating excavations delve into the following areas: comics created by Latinos that push the boundaries of generic conventions; Latino comic book author-artists who complicate issues of race and gender through their careful reconfigurations of the body; comic strips; Latino superheroes in mainstream comics; and the complex ways that Latino superheroes are created and consumed within larger popular cultural trends. Taken as a whole, the book unveils the resplendent riches of comics by and about Latinos and proves that there are no limits to the ways in which Latinos can be represented and imagined in the world of comics.

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## TONTA

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*Fantagraphics Books* Tonta is staying for the weekend with her half-sister, the self-absorbed Vivian. At home, Tonta's stepfather is

shot during a botched burglary, which leads to the discovery of family secrets that require Tonta to confront some unpleasant truths that she previously managed to suppress or remain ignorant of. Meanwhile, back at school, Tonta and Gomez discover that Coach Angel harbours a secret of her own (can you say, 'lucha libre?') while local punk band Ooot provides the soundtrack for a summer not soon to be forgotten.

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## **LUBA AND HER FAMILY**

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### **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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*Fantagraphics Books* Gilbert Hernandez's sprawling family saga focuses on the United States, where newly immigrated Luba and her sisters, body-builder Petra and therapist/film star Fritz, find their families' and friends' lives becoming more and more intertwined. As the three sisters have "memories of sweet youth," the next generation finds the spotlight: Luba's adult daughter Doralís emcees the proceedings in her role as mischievous host of a children's TV show, while Petra's little girl, Venus, has adventures with her aunt Fritz and her best friend Yoshio. At her mother's urging, Venus also writes missives to her fierce, one-armed cousin Casimira, who's back in Palomar. In these stories — never before collected together — Venus tells it like it is!

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## **LUBA**

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### **THE BOOK OF OFELIA**

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*Fantagraphics Books* The author of Palomar continues the travails of matriarch Luba, her cousin Ofelia, and their circle of family, friends, and enemies, in an illustrated volume that finds them working to acclimate to life in America, finding inspiration from Luba's young children, and reliving a painful memory about a baby from the past. Original.

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### **CELEBRATING LATINO FOLKLORE: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS [3 VOLUMES]**

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#### **AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS**

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*ABC-CLIO* Latino folklore comprises a kaleidoscope of cultural traditions. This compelling three-volume work showcases its richness, complexity, and beauty. • 300 A-Z entries that describe the myriad topics of Latino folklore • Contributions from distinguished scholars from across the United States • Photographs, paintings, and documents that supplement and enhance the essays • A short bibliography of suggested readings accompanies each essay

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## HOW TO BE HAPPY

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*Fantagraphics Books* A collection of literary comics exploring joy, anguish, fear, and loneliness.

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## ANGELS AND MAGPIES

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*Fantagraphics Books* This collects the stories from Vol. 3 of the Love and Rockets comic book, including the LA Times Book Prize-winning Love Bunglers, and much more. The sublime, the superpowered, and the senior citizen converge in Angels and Magpies, which collects the Gods and Science: Return of the Ti-Girls and Love Bunglers storylines from the Love and Rockets: New Stories series, as well as Hernandez's 2006 serial for the New York Times. In the latter, Maggie pays a visit to Queen Rena, who is living out her twilight days on an island after a lifetime as a wrestler and an adventuress. In the Ti-Girls segment, superheroics get a screwball spin when Angel of Tarzana and Maggie square off against Dark Penny Century. In the "Love Bunglers," held as perhaps Hernandez's greatest masterpiece in his thirty-five-year career, and one of the great graphic novels of all time (it was hailed by Slate and Publishers Weekly as one of the best stories of the year), the past and present converge as Maggie and Ray's reunion is threatened by long-buried family secrets.

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## SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

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*Dark Horse Comics* There's a peeping tom prowling the neighborhood. Eyewitness reports vary, but one thing is agreed upon: he wears a devil mask. This is the story of Val Castillo, a promising gymnast with a strange hobby. She is secretly the neighborhood peeping tom. At first she is alone in this, but when a male friend discovers her doings he joins her into a dark journey of spying and making discoveries about their neighbors that may have been better left alone. Especially secrets that threaten all involved. Like Val spying on her own father and stepmother in their bedroom. This snowballs into a journey darker than even the most cynical would care to endure. \* Collects the six-issue miniseries. \* Ranked as one of The Comics Journal's "Best of 2007"!

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## FROM THE EDGE

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## CHICANA/O BORDER LITERATURE AND THE POLITICS OF PRINT

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*Rutgers University Press* Chicana/o literature frequently depicts characters who exist in a vulnerable liminal space, living on the border between Mexican and American identities, and sometimes pushed to the edge by authorities who seek to restrict their freedom. As this groundbreaking new study reveals, the books themselves have occupied similarly precarious positions, as Chicana/o literature has

struggled for economic viability and visibility on the margins of the American publishing industry, while Chicana/o writers have grappled with editorial practices that compromise their creative autonomy. *From the Edge* reveals the tangled textual histories behind some of the most cherished works in the Chicana/o literary canon, tracing the negotiations between authors, editors, and publishers that determined how these books appeared in print. Allison Fagan demonstrates how the texts surrounding the authors' words—from editorial prefaces to Spanish-language glossaries, from cover illustrations to reviewers' blurbs—have crucially shaped the reception of Chicana/o literature. To gain an even richer perspective on the politics of print, she ultimately explores one more border space, studying the marks and remarks that readers have left in the margins of these books. *From the Edge* vividly demonstrates that to comprehend fully the roles that ethnicity, language, class, and gender play within Chicana/o literature, we must understand the material conditions that governed the production, publication, and reception of these works. By teaching us how to read the borders of the text, it demonstrates how we might perceive and preserve the faint traces of those on the margins.

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## **ARRESTING DEVELOPMENT**

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### **COMICS AT THE BOUNDARIES OF LITERATURE**

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*University of Texas Press* Mainstream narratives of the graphic novel's development describe the form's "coming of age," its maturation from pulp infancy to literary adulthood. In *Arresting Development*, Christopher Pizzino questions these established narratives, arguing that the medium's history of censorship and marginalization endures in the minds of its present-day readers and, crucially, its authors. Comics and their writers remain burdened by the stigma of literary illegitimacy and the struggles for status that marked their earlier history. Many graphic novelists are intensely aware of both the medium's troubled past and their own tenuous status in contemporary culture. *Arresting Development* presents case studies of four key works—Frank Miller's *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*, Charles Burns's *Black Hole*, and Gilbert Hernandez's *Love and Rockets*—exploring how their authors engage the problem of comics' cultural standing. Pizzino illuminates the separation of high and low culture, art and pulp, and sophisticated appreciation and vulgar consumption as continual influences that determine the limits of literature, the status of readers, and the value of the very act of reading.

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## **BEYOND PALOMAR**

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### **A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK**

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*Fantagraphics Books* Two classic Gilbert Hernandez *Love and Rockets* graphic novels in one beautiful volume: "Poison River" traces

the backstory of Luba, from child to teenage mob bride to her escape to Palomar; "Love and Rockets X" is a wide-ranging, Altman-esque story set in early-1990s L.A.

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## **POISON RIVER**

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Volumes cover the Hernandez Brothers' work from the first Love & Rockets series, 1982-1996, calendar illustrations from 1989-1993, covers from the series, and hard to find drawings from various publications.

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## **YOUR BRAIN ON LATINO COMICS**

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## **FROM GUS ARRIOLA TO LOS BROS HERNANDEZ**

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*University of Texas Press* Though the field of comic book studies has burgeoned in recent years, Latino characters and creators have received little attention. Putting the spotlight on this vibrant segment, *Your Brain on Latino Comics* illuminates the world of superheroes Firebird, Vibe, and the new Blue Beetle while also examining the effects on readers who are challenged to envision such worlds. Exploring mainstream companies such as Marvel and DC as well as rising stars from other segments of the industry, Frederick Aldama provides a new reading of race, ethnicity, and the relatively new storytelling medium of comics themselves. Overview chapters cover the evolution of Latino influences in comics, innovations, and representations of women, demonstrating Latino transcendence of many mainstream techniques. The author then probes the rich and complex ways in which such artists affect the cognitive and emotional responses of readers as they imagine past, present, and future worlds. Twenty-one interviews with Latino comic book and comic strip authors and artists, including Laura Molina, Frank Espinosa, and Rafael Navarro, complete the study, yielding captivating commentary on the current state of the trade, cultural perceptions, and the intentions of creative individuals who shape their readers in powerful ways.

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## **BLOOD OF PALOMAR**

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A serial killer stalks the usually placid streets of the tiny Central American town of Palomar in "Human Diastrophism," the novel-length story in this all-Gilbert Hernandez Love & Rockets Collection. The tangible loss of life is accompanied by the less tangible but no less real loss of the social and psychological ligaments that bind the inhabitants of Palomar together. As the story progresses, it becomes evident that the killer is merely the most obvious symptom of the encroaching modern world; even after the crisis is resolved, the ripples continue to spread throughout Palomar... With over three dozen sharply etched characters interwoven in a confidently complex

narrative, "Blood of Palomar" confirms Gilbert Hernandez's position as one of the finest and boldest comics storytellers of his generation. Book jacket.

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## **THE HERNANDEZ BROTHERS**

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### **LOVE, ROCKETS, AND ALTERNATIVE COMICS**

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*University of Pittsburgh Press* This study offers a critical examination of the work of Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, Mexican-American brothers whose graphic novels are highly influential. The Hernandez brothers started in the alt-comics scene, where their 'Love and Rockets' series quickly gained prominence. They have since published in more mainstream venues but have maintained an outsider status based on their own background and the content of their work. Enrique García argues that the Hernandez brothers have worked to create a new American graphic storytelling that, while still in touch with mainstream genres, provides a transgressive alternative from an aesthetic, gender, and ethnic perspective. The brothers were able to experiment with and modify these genres by taking advantage of the editorial freedom of independent publishing. This freedom also allowed them to explore issues of ethnic and gender identity in transgressive ways. Their depictions of latinidad and sexuality push against the edicts of mainstream Anglophone culture, but they also defy many Latino perceptions of life, politics, and self-representation. The book concludes with an in-depth interview with Jaime and Gilbert Hernandez that touches on and goes beyond the themes explored in the book.