

NONFICTION & BIOGRAPHY GRAPHIC NOVELS

These Graphic Novels present true stories of life, war, murder and more told in an illustrated format in these stories, some of which are located in our Adult Graphic Novel area, and others in our Nonfiction area.

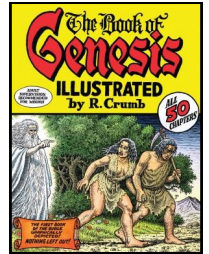
[Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic](#) by Alison Bechdel (Biography: **B BECHDEL**)

This breakout autobiography is a darkly funny family tale, pitch-perfectly illustrated with Bechdel's sweetly gothic drawings. Her father is a historic preservation expert and obsessive restorer of the family's Victorian home, a third-generation funeral home director, a high school English teacher, an icily distant parent and a closeted homosexual. Through narrative that is alternately heartbreaking and fiercely funny, readers are drawn into a daughter's complex yearning for her father. When Alison comes out as homosexual herself in late adolescence, the denouement is swift, graphic and redemptive.



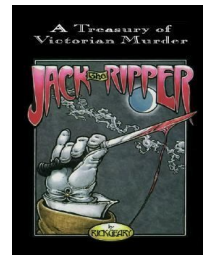
[The Book of Genesis](#) illustrated by R. Crumb (222 **CRUMB**)

Envisioning the first book of the bible like no one before him, R. Crumb, the legendary illustrator, reveals here the story of Genesis in a profoundly honest and deeply moving way. Originally thinking that we would do a take off of Adam and Eve, Crumb became so fascinated by the Bible's language, a text so great and so strange that it lends itself readily to graphic depictions, that he decided instead to do a literal interpretation using the text word for word in a version primarily assembled from the translations of Robert Alter and the King James bible. Now, readers of every persuasion—Crumb fans, comic book lovers, and believers—can gain astonishing new insights from these harrowing, tragic, and even juicy stories.



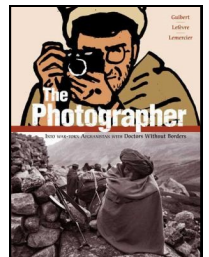
[Jack the Ripper: a Journal of the Whitechapel murders 1888-1889](#) by Rick Geary (**GEARY**)

Geary has researched these books extensively and presents, with his own inimitable tongue-in-cheek style, these Victorian mysteries as told through journals of a fascinated Englishman of the day. Both factual and darkly funny, Geary's personal take on this story shines an ironic light on the repressive society that spawned such a monster. Also try [The Beast of Chicago](#).



[The Photographer: Into War-Torn Afghanistan with Doctors Without Borders](#) by Emmanuel Guibert (070.49 **GUIBE**)

In 1986, Afghanistan was torn apart by a war with the Soviet Union. This graphic novel / photo-journal is a record of one reporter's arduous and dangerous journey through Afghanistan, accompanying the Doctors Without Borders. Didier Lefevre's photography, paired with the art of Emmanuel Guibert, tells the powerful story of a mission undertaken by men and women dedicated to mending the wounds of war. Guibert has written a great many graphic novels for readers young and old, and lives in Paris with his wife and daughter.



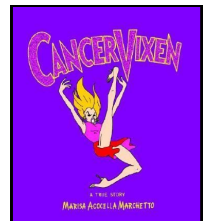
[The 9-11 Commission Report: a Graphic Adaptation](#) by Sid Jacobson (973.931 **JACOB**)

Using every skill and storytelling method Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon have learned over the decades, they have produced the most accessible version of the 9/11 Report. Jacobson's text frequently follows word for word the original report, faithfully captures its investigative thoroughness, and covers its entire scope, even including the Commission's final report card. Colon's stunning artwork powerfully conveys the facts, insights, and urgency of the original. Published on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, an event that has left no aspect of American foreign or domestic policy untouched, The 9/11 Report puts at every American's fingertips the most defining event of the century.



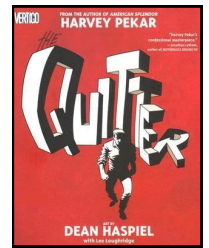
[Cancer Vixen: a true story](#) by Maris Acocella Marchetto (**B MARCHETTO**)

"What happens when a shoe-crazy, lipstick-obsessed, wine-swilling, pasta-slurping, fashion-fanatic, single-forever, about-to-get-married big-city girl cartoonist with a fabulous life finds . . . a lump in her breast?" That's the question that sets this powerful, funny, and poignant graphic memoir in motion. In vivid color and with a taboo-breaking sense of humor, Marisa Acocella Marchetto tells the story of her eleven-month, ultimately triumphant bout with breast cancer—from diagnosis to cure, and every challenging step in between. But Cancer Vixen is about more than surviving an illness. It is a portrait of one woman's supercharged life in Manhattan, and a wonderful love story.



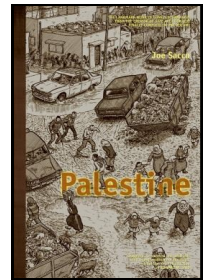
The Quitter by Harvey Pekar (QUITTER)

Graphic novel fans need no longer speculate about "the missing years of Harvey Pekar." In *The Quitter*, the author of the American Book Award-winning series *American Splendor* tells the story of his troubled teenage years. This book-length autobiographical comic presents the enigmatic, sometimes self-destructive Pekar as a self-doubting work-in-progress. Also try [American Splendor: The Life & Times of Harvey Pekar](#).



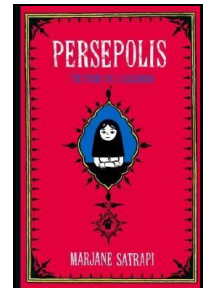
Palestine by Joe Sacco (SACCO)

A landmark of journalism and the art form of comics. Based on years of research and extended visits to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the early 1990s, *Palestine* is the first major comics work of political nonfiction by Sacco. It has been favorably compared to Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus* for its ability to brilliantly navigate such socially and politically sensitive subject matter within the confines of the comic book medium. Sacco has often been called the first comic book journalist, and he is certainly the best. Also try [The Fixer](#) and [Safe Area Gorazde](#).



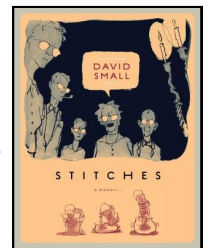
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (SATRAPI)

Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny and heartbreaking two-part memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to 14, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. Also try [Persepolis II](#), [Chicken With Plums](#) and [Embroideries](#).



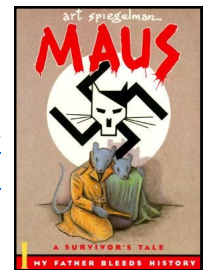
Stitches: a Memoir by David Small (Biography: B SMALL)

One day David Small awoke from a supposedly harmless operation to discover that he had been transformed into a virtual mute. A vocal cord removed, his throat slashed and stitched together like a bloody boot, the fourteen-year-old boy had not been told that he had cancer and was expected to die. In *Stitches*, Small, the award-winning children's illustrator and author, re-creates this terrifying event in a life story that might have been imagined by Kafka. As the images painfully tumble out, one by one, we gain a ringside seat at a gothic family drama where David—a highly anxious yet supremely talented child—all too often became the unwitting object of his parents' buried frustration and rage. Believing that they were trying to do their best, David's parents did just the reverse.



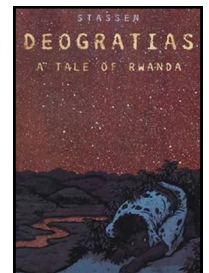
Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman (940.53 SPIEG)

Told with chilling realism in an unusual comic book format, this is more than a tale of surviving the Holocaust. Spiegelman relates the effect of those events on the survivors' later years and upon the lives of the following generation. This is a complex book. It relates events that young adults, as the future architects of society, must confront, and their interest is sure to be caught by the skillful graphics and suspenseful unfolding of the story. The story concludes in [Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began](#). Also try [In the Shadow of No Towers](#) and [Breakdowns: Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@&!*](#)



Deogratias : a Tale of Rwanda by Stassen (STASSEN)

The 2000 winner of the Gosciniy Prize for outstanding graphic novel script, this is the harrowing tale of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda, as seen through the eyes of a boy named Deogratias. He is an ordinary teenager, in love with a girl named Banigne, but Deogratias is a Hutu and Banigne is a Tutsi who dies in the genocide, and Deogratias himself plays a part in her death. As the story circles around but never depicts the terror and brutality of an entire country descending into violence, we watch Deogratias in his pursuit of Banigne, and we see his grief and descent into madness following her death, as he comes to believe he is a dog.



Pride of Baghdad by Brian K. Vaughan (VAUGHAN)

From one of America's most acclaimed comics writers a startlingly original look at life on the streets of Baghdad during the Iraq War inspired by true events. In the spring of 2003, a pride of lions escaped from the Baghdad Zoo during an American bombing raid. Lost and confused, hungry but finally free, the four lions roamed the decimated streets of Baghdad in a desperate struggle for their lives. In documenting the plight of the lions, *Pride of Baghdad* raises questions about the true meaning of liberation - can it be given, or is it earned only through self-determination and sacrifice? And in the end, is it truly better to die free than to live life in captivity? Based on a true story, Vaughan and Henrichon have created a unique and heartbreaking window into the nature of life during wartime, illuminating this struggle as only the graphic novel can.

