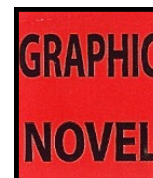


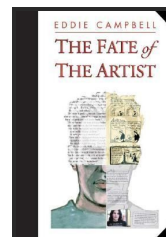
REALITY 101: REAL LIFE AS DEPICTED IN GRAPHIC NOVELS



These Graphic Novels depict people and situations just like those in real life. Relationships, family, career, war and more are explored in these stories presented in sequential art format, located in our Adult Graphic Novel area.

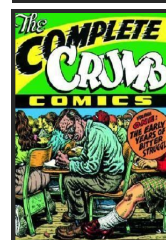
[The Fate of the Artist: an Autobiographical Novel](#) by Eddie Campbell (CAMPBELL)

In this pseudo-autobiography, the subject of the memoir has vanished without a trace. Through six separate threads, each one typographically and stylistically distinct, a private investigator tries to discover the artists' fate through false trails, family and daily life reenactments, and even an imaginary Sunday comic strip. As the narrative threads intersect and collide in surprising ways, the reader is carried along on a fantastic journey through the life of the artist.



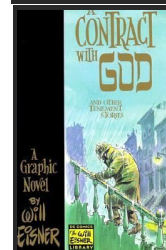
[The Complete Crumb Volume 1: the Early Years of Bitter Struggle](#) by R. Crumb (CRUMB)

This premiere volume, "Early Years of Bitter Struggle," chronicles the genesis of one of the most fascinating careers in America's popular arts, featuring the unique collaborations of Robert and Charles Crumb, the earliest appearances of Fritz the Cat (including a Robin Hood parody), "Treasure Island Days" (a reflection of the young Crumbs' fascination with the Disney movie), numerous previously unpublished strips, sketchbook work, full-color covers of comics he drew for his own amusement, and much more! *(For Mature Readers Only)*



[Contract with God](#) by Will Eisner (EISNER)

In 1978, Will Eisner, creator of "The Spirit" and one of the most influential comic artist of all time, revolutionized the comics field with the publication of "a contract with god", the first modern graphic novel. Drawing on his memories of growing up in the bronx in the 1930s, Eisner created a series of moving, thematically related stories exploring the immigrant experience and their struggle with life in new nation. This book is being made into a major motion picture. Also try [Fagin the Jew](#).



[Ghost World](#) by Daniel Clowes

Enid and Rebecca have been friends for so long that it's difficult for either of them to let the other grow or change. Now Enid will probably leave their working-class neighborhood and go away to college and Rebecca cannot accept this change in their relationship. Enid is the more radical and dramatic of the two, Rebecca is not so much a follower as simply more circumspect. She's the one who reasons that Josh, a friend they're both guilty of provoking sexually, really deserves to sleep with one of them after all the teasing he's weathered. While the vocabulary here is raunchy, it is accurate for the characters. These realistic 18-year-olds don't always talk nice and don't always act nice but they do have moral fiber underneath their tough-girl exteriors. Also try [Wilson](#) and [Ice Haven](#).



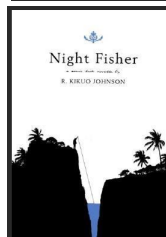
[Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth](#) by Chris Ware (JIMMY)

This book is a pleasantly-decorated view at a lonely and emotionally-impaired "everyman" (Corrigan), who is provided, at age 36, the opportunity to meet his father for the first time. The reader is helped along by thousands of colored illustrations and diagrams, which, when read rapidly in sequence, provide a convincing illusion of life and movement. The bulk of the work is supported by fold-out instructions, an index, paper cut-outs, and a brief apology, all of which concrete to form a rich portrait of a man stunted by a paralyzing fear of being disliked.



[Night Fisher](#) by R. Kikuo Johnson (JOHNSON)

Johnson has created an intimate and compelling graphic novel-length drama of young men on the cusp of adulthood. A first-rate prep school and a dream house in the heights: This was the island paradise handed to Loren Foster when he moved to Hawaii with his father six years ago. Now, with the end of high school just around the corner, his best friend, Shane, has grown distant. The rumors say it's hard drugs, and Loren suspects that Shane has left him behind for a new group of friends.



[The Squirrel Mother: Stories](#) by Megan Kelso (KELSO)

Features 15 stories of between three and twenty-two pages in full color, including two stories, "Meow Face" and "Aide de Camp," done especially for this volume. The personal stories are each self-contained but in a sense take place in the same world where similar characters inhabit different stories. The "America" stories are broader in subject matter, taking on events of political and historical significance and wrestling with ideas having to do with the American experience.



[Asterios Polyp](#) by David Mazzucchelli (MAZZUCHELLI)

Meet Asterios Polyp: middle-aged, meagerly successful architect and teacher, aesthete and womanizer, whose life is wholly upended when his New York City apartment goes up in flames. In a tenacious daze, he leaves the city and relocates to a small town in the American heartland. As the story unfolds, moving between the present and the past, we begin to understand this confounding yet fascinating character, and how he's gotten to where he is. And isn't.

[Exit Wounds](#) by Rutu Modan (MOTAN)

Set in modern-day Tel Aviv, a young man, Koby Franco, receives an urgent phone call from a female soldier. Learning that his estranged father may have been a victim of a suicide bombing in Hadera, Koby reluctantly joins the soldier in searching for clues. As Koby tries to unravel the mystery of his father's death, he finds himself piecing together not only the last few months of his father's life but his entire identity. With thin, precise lines and luscious watercolors, Rutu Modan creates a portrait of modern Israel, a place where sudden death mingles with the slow dissolution of family ties.

[Swallow Me Whole](#) by Nate Powell (POWELL)

This is a love story carried by rolling fog, terminal illness, hallucination, apophenia, insect armies, secrets held, unshakeable faith, and the search for a master pattern to make sense of one's unraveling. Two adolescent stepsiblings hold together amidst schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, family breakdown, animal telepathy, misguided love, and the tiniest nugget of hope that the heart, that sanity, that order itself will take shape again.

[The Push Man and Other Stories](#) by Yoshihiro Tatsumi (PUSHMAN)

Tatsumi's short stories about Japanese urban life are simultaneously haunting, disturbing, and darkly humorous, commenting on the interplay between an overwhelming, bustling, crowded modern society and the troubled emotional and sexual life of the individual. Also try [Abandon the Old in Tokyo](#).

[Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995](#) by Joe Sacco (SACCO)

Sacco (the critically-acclaimed author of **Palestine**) spent five months in Bosnia in 1996, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime, researching stories that are rarely found in conventional news coverage. The book focuses on the Muslim-held enclave of Gorazde, which was besieged by Bosnian Serbs during the war. Sacco lived for a month in Gorazde, entering before the Muslims trapped inside had access to the outside world, electricity or running water.

[Strangers in Paradise](#) by Terry Moore (STRANGERS)

Katchoo is a beautiful young woman living a quiet life with everything going for her. She's smart, independent and very much in love with her best friend, Francine. Then Katchoo meets David, a gentle but persistent young man who is determined to win Katchoo's heart. The resulting love triangle is a touching comedy of romantic errors until Katchoo's former employer comes looking for her and \$850,000 in missing mob money. As her idyllic life begins to fall apart, Katchoo discovers no one can be trusted and that the past she thought she left behind now threatens to destroy her and everything she loves, including Francine. Also try the rest of the [Strangers in Paradise series](#).

[Blankets](#) by Craig Thompson (THOMPSON)

Wrapped in the landscape of a blustery Wisconsin winter, Blankets explores the sibling rivalry of two brothers growing up in the isolated country, and the budding romance of two coming-of-age lovers. A tale of security and discovery, of playfulness and tragedy, of a fall from grace and the origins of faith.

[Shortcomings](#) by Adrian Tomine (TOMINE)

Tomine's graphic novel is the story of a confused, obsessive Japanese-American male in his late 20s and his cross-country search for contentment--or at least the perfect girl. Tomine tackles modern culture, sexual mores and racial politics with brutal honesty and lacerating, irreverent humour, while deftly bringing to life a cast of painfully real antihero characters.

[Pride of Baghdad](#) by Brian K. Vaughan (VAUGHAN)

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?

