



Karen's Beach Reads

Graphic Novels for Every Taste (and yes, there's Superman too!)

Ata, Iasmin Omar. *Mis(h)adra*, (2017). **Health/Psychology**. Isaac just wants to be a normal college student, but managing his epilepsy is an exhausting battle to survive. An intense and illuminating look into epilepsy in which the author uses her own experiences with the condition to bring us directly into a world balanced on a knife-edge, with seizures always threatening. Starkly different palettes and styles take the reader back and forth between Isaac's struggles in everyday life and the frightening alternate reality of his seizures.

Bevilacqua, Giacomo. *The Sound of the World by Heart*, (2017). **Fiction**. What happens when a young New Yorker commits himself to living without speaking to other human beings in order to forget a troubled past and mend a broken heart? The city has answers for him that he could not have foreseen. Stunning, full-color illustrations bring hustling, bustling, present-day New York alive as a character in itself. (Some nudity).

Davis, Eleanor. *Why Art?*, (2018). **Art**. Black and white drawings begin sparsely but fill the page by the end of this brief and surreal deep dive into the meaning and purpose of art in our lives. What is beautiful? What is ugly? Does art distort life, mirror it, or copy it? A thought-provoking journey in a 5X8 package.

Dixon, Kevin H, Illus. Translation by Kent H. Dixon. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, (2018). **Mythology**. The father-son Dixon team bring the oldest recorded story known to humans from clay tablet to page. Gilgamesh is a bad king who learns (the hard way) how to become a good one, in an epic journey that includes facing not only lions and monsters, but great suffering and the ultimate questions about human mortality. Fabulously fantastical pen and ink illustrations fill the page.

Irvine, Alex. Tomm Coker and C.P. Smith, Illus. *The Comic Book Story of Baseball*, (2018). **Sports**. The Great American art form takes on the Great American Pastime in this jam-packed, full-color history that covers baseball's story from sandlots to major stadiums, including "the heroes, hustlers, and history-making swings (and misses)..." For any fan – young or old.

Longino, Jay. Canaan White, Illus. Diego Rodriguez, Colorist. *Son of Shaolin: Book 1, The Beginning*, (2017). **Kung Fu**. Partial to a good kung fu flick? Here's a fresh, urban take on a time-honored story. Great art heightens the drama of intense fight-scenes as young Kyrie, a struggling street artist, discovers he is the last living descendant of a secret sect of ancient Shaolin elders and must defend himself against Red Fist, who is determined to end the bloodline forever.

Niffenegger, Audrey. Eddie Campbell, Illus. *Bizarre Romance*, (2018). **Short Fiction**. From the author of *Her Fearful Symmetry* and her new husband, the artist of *From Hell*, *Bacchus* and many others, come thirteen stories to surprise and delight, all of which walk the line between weird and wonderful. Any topic is fair game: spies, fairies, cats, monsters, more cats, bibliophiles, you name it. Quirky and colorful (with some nudity).

Pedrosa, Cyril. *Portugal*, (2015). **Memoir**. Set in France, this is the poignant and largely autobiographical story of an artist in limbo. Unable to work or connect with those closest to him, Simon finds a new path when he makes an unexpected visit to his ancestral home in Portugal.



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Multi-framed, evocatively colored art harks back to the author's start as an animator (notably for Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Hercules*).

Sanders, Ed. Rick Veitch, Illus. *Broken Glory: The Final Years of Robert F. Kennedy*, (2018).

Biography. This graphic history arrives on the 50th anniversary of RFK's assassination and looks at whether his murder was the result of a conspiracy. The text, free verse that reads very close to prose, and black-and-white line drawings combines to bring us snapshots of the man and the momentous last years of his life.

Wyld, Evie. Joe Sumner, Illus. *Everything is Teeth*, (2015). **Memoir.** This lovely account of the author's childhood obsession with sharks is evocative for all of us who vividly remember our childhood fears. Yellows of sand and the reds of blood, enhance cartoonish black and white artwork, while life-like sharks (and shark bites!) pop off the page, looming large and real in a child's imagination. Charming, despite the naturally grisly subject matter.

Yang, Gene Luen. *New Superman Vols. 1, 2, 3*, (2017, 2018). **Superheroes.** The DC Universe has expanded! This "Rebirth" story, courtesy of the author of the wildly popular *American Born Chinese*, introduces Kong Kenan, a brash teenager from Shanghai with the usual chip on his shoulder who suddenly finds he has all the powers of a Kryptonian and teams up with other newly-minted superheroes to form the Justice League of China. By Volume 3 some of his Western counterparts show up, all in DC's usual kinetic style, brimming with color. Enjoy!