

## Kelly & Hillary's Picks



**Batman : the Killing Joke** / Alan Moore & Brian Bollard. DC (9781401216673) \$17.99

The Joker's shattering madness targets Commissioner Gordon and his daughter Barbara. Can the Batman save his closest allies and friends from such focused evil?

A gripping story that affected the entire DC Universe! Curious on the Joker's origin story? This one-shot story begs the question: is the Joker telling the truth and if so, which truth? A must-read and "go to" for those interested in Batman's most iconic villain.

**Bingo Love [Jackpot ed.]** / Tee Franklin. Image (9781534309838) \$19.99

In 1963, Hazel and Mari fell in love, but their families would not let them be together. They find each other again in their 60s and realize their love is still strong. Can these two grandmothers finally find happiness?

Good for tweens. The story is simplified a LOT, but it portrays the difficulties of a gay relationship in a modern setting, even when people have a loving family.

**A Bride's Story, v.1** / Kaoru Mori. Yen Press (9780316180993) \$17.00

Along the Silk Road in the 19th century, Amir is betrothed to a 12-year-old boy (eight years her junior). She must find her new role in her new home.

Along with Amir's marriage, the story also explores the relationships among other women of different cultures in Central Asia. (ongoing series) For those who are fans of Mori's historical fiction *Emma*, there's no shortage of romance in this culturally rich story. *Emma* / Kaoru Mori. Yen Press (9780316302234) \$35.00

**Daredevil : Guardian Devil [Marvel Knights]** / Kevin Smith. Marvel (9781302913885) \$19.99

Superhero Matt Murdock's faith is tested when a scared teenager on the run, claiming her pregnancy was immaculately conceived, seeks his help.

This is my "go to" when parents (and others) tell me graphic novels aren't "real" books. The complex story shows not all super-hero problems come from super-villains. And also don't forget *Daredevil : Born Again* / Frank Miller. Marvel (978078513817) \$19.99.

**Delicious in Dungeon, v.1** / Ryoko Kui. Yen Press (9780316471855) \$15.00

Laios and his company are without money, food, and one member! To save his missing teammate without provisions, Laios decides "Let's eat the monsters!"

A fun spoof of D&D quest games, but where basilisks and dragons must worry about hungry adventurers! With the growing trend of tabletop and role-playing games, this series is a favorite to recommend, from casual players to veteran journeymen. (ongoing series)

**Fables : 1001 Nights of Snowfall** / Bill Willingham. Vertigo (9781401203696) \$14.99

Channeling Scheherazade, Snow White must save her life by telling fantastic tales to the local sultan who wants to marry (and then kill) her.

Innovative and diverse stories that expanded *Fables* cast with beautiful art. A one-shot, it is not necessary to read unless looking to expand on the characters from that series. An enjoyable and unusual take on the fairy tales we grew up with. *Fables: Legends in Exile* / Bill Willingham. Vertigo (9781401237554) \$12.99.

***Kaze Hikaru, v.1*** / Taeko Watanabe. Viz (9781421501895) \$8.99

In 1863, Sei Tominaga hopes to join the Mibu-Roshi (Shinsengumi) to avenge her murdered family. And of course she must disguise herself as a boy to do it!

The plots are so carefully researched that the reader will find themselves intrigued with the historical setting and notes by the author. The romance within is methodically built, and character development shows the heroine is not a damsel in distress but can take care of herself and those around her. (ongoing series)

***My Friend Dahmer*** / Derf Backderf. Abrams (9781419727559) \$19.99

***My Friend Dahmer*** / Derf Backderf. Abrams (9781419702174) \$19.99

From an original viewpoint, classmate Backderf gives a portrait of the incomprehensible life of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer during high school.

Powerful, realistic, riveting storytelling front to back. The depiction of universally idiotic 70s high school students and their "escapades" are portrayed with an honest tone. And the artwork really compliments the story.

***Where We Live : a Benefit for the Survivors in Las Vegas***. Image (9781534308220) \$19.99

***Ricanstruction : Reminiscing & Rebuilding Puerto Rico***. Somos Arte (9780692092217) \$19.99

***Hero Comics : a Hero Initiative Benefit Book***. IDW (9781631406089) \$19.99

It's depressing, but benefit and relief books are becoming more common. These anthologies, usually organized by individuals and then produced by publishers, give various views and observations of the disaster victims and responders. Some may find it preachy, but the narratives are usually humble and moving.

***Wotakoi : Love is Hard for Otaku, v.1*** / Fujita. Kodansha (9781632367044) \$17.99

On a whim, two closeted *otakus* begin a relationship, and as their feelings for each other deepen they also get to know themselves (and their *otaku* friends) a little better too.

A fun romantic comedy with endearing characters that will make you LOL! The manga, anime, and video game titles dropped will enhance the stories if you know them but will not hinder if you don't. (ongoing series)



***Monstress, v.1 : Awakening*** / Marjorie Liu. Image (9781632157096) \$9.99

Maika must rely on herself and very few allies if she is to discover the secret of why her mother was murdered, who she really is, and what awful power she possesses.

VERY VERY VERY beautiful art. However, NOTHING happens. (ongoing series)

***Red Hood and the Outsiders, v.1 : Dark Trinity*** / Scott Lobdell. DC (9781401268756) \$16.99

Joined by Bizarro and Artemis, the Red Hood develops his own trinity to infiltrate Gotham City's underworld.

Yes, this is Rebirth, but the storyline is SO convoluted, the characters SO unlikeable, and don't get me started on Starfire's treatment! (ongoing series)

***Scarlet, book one*** / Brian Michael Bendis. Jinxworld/DC (9781401287443) \$14.99

After she and her boyfriend are unjustly shot by the police, Scarlet is pushed over the edge. Deciding to get VIOLENT revenge, she unintentionally creates a brutal revolution.

This is what would happen if the Boy Who Cried Wolf took revenge on the town. Scarlet unrealistically feels she should be believed, and she does not acknowledge her dishonest life and letting so many people down affects her choice for payback. (ongoing series)

***Scum's Wish, v.1*** / Mengo Yokoyari. Yen (9780316463720) \$15.00

Mugi and Hanabi are the perfect high school couple: they are both in love with someone else. . . .

While originality isn't stressed in most manga, this is just **TOO** cliché! The love triangles (quad-angles?!) and heartbreak make it too unnecessarily frustrating! (ongoing series)