



# GRAPHIC NOVELS

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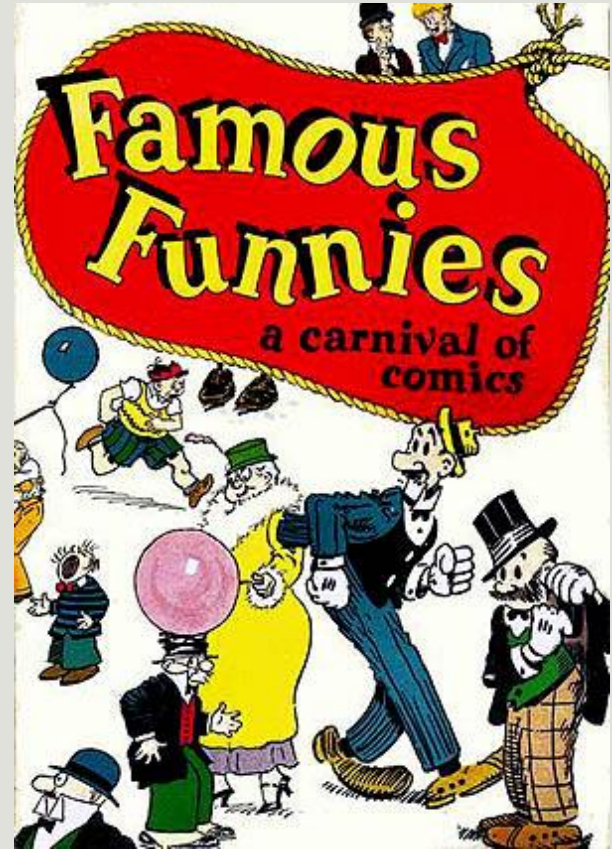
CUTTING EDGE STORIES FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD

# GRAPHIC NOVELS: ORIGINS

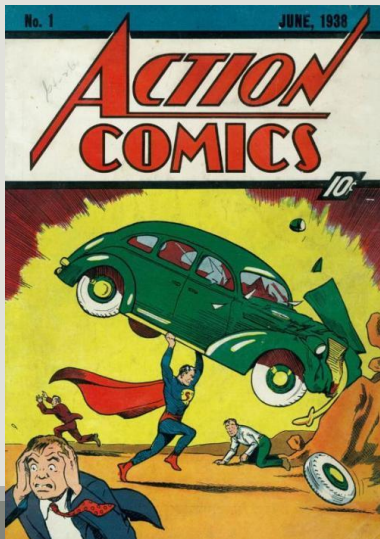
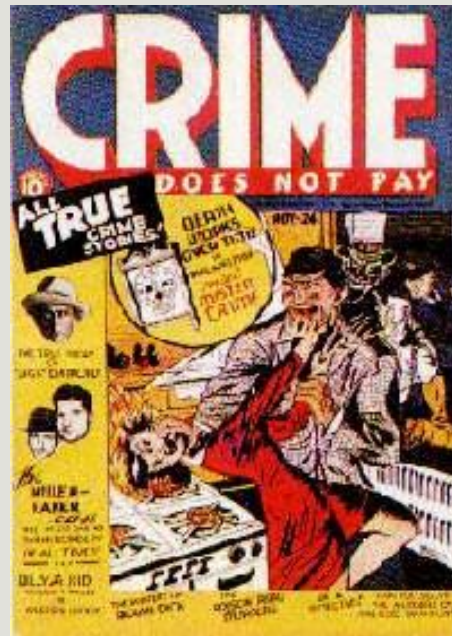
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Graphic novels grew out of comic books.

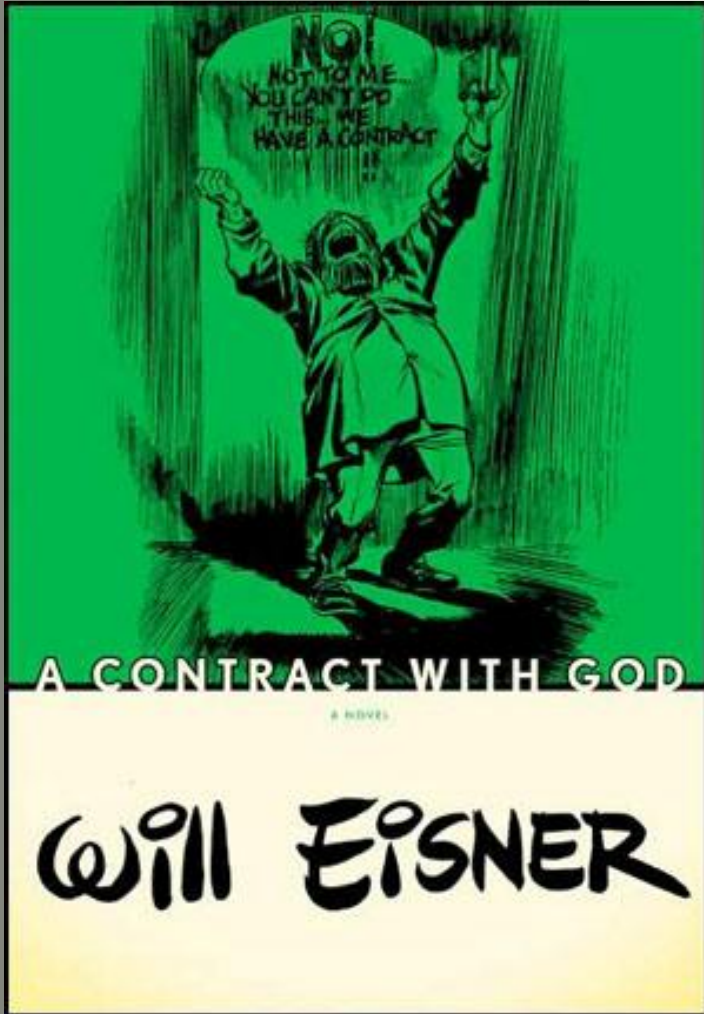
- First comic book: 1933  
*Famous Funnies*
- Superman emerged in 1938, after two sixteen-year-old boys from Ohio wrote the first Superman story with illustrations.



# Other Early Comics



# First Graphic Novel?



- Under debate, but most people consider Will Eisner's *A Contract with God* (1978) to be the first GN in the form we recognize today.
- Told the story of families growing up in poverty in New York City in the 1930's.

# KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Telling a story through images

Use of PANELS

WORD BALLOONS

THOUGHT BALLOONS

American GN are read left to right, top to bottom.



# Graphic Novel VS Manga

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- Graphic novel is the English phrase for sequential art in book form
- GNs often targeted at adults
- American GNs borrow heavily from manga, including stories and artwork.
- Manga is Japanese for “whimsical picture,” and refers to sequential art narratives of any genre
- In the US, most manga is read by teens and young adults
- Arranged top to bottom then, right to left (opposite of American/Western GN)

# GRAPHIC NOVEL AND FILM

Graphic Novels have been adapted into films, including:

*Men in Black*

*Batman Begins*

*V for Vendetta*

*Hellboy*

*Art School Confidential*

*Ghost World*

*Avatar*

*The Spiderwick Chronicles*

Books and movies have become graphic novels, including:

*Twilight*

*Fahrenheit 451*

*The Scarlet Letter*

*Artemis Fowl*

Why do you think GN and film go so well together?

GN is a very visual, cinematic representation of a story

Strong, dramatic plot

Many films use storyboards to develop the look and progression of the movie, like a GN summary of the film

GN use a lot of dialogue, just like a movie

# What do you think?

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*V for Vendetta*

Graphic novel written from 1982-1989, film produced 2005.





## *Persepolis* and the Graphic Novel Form

As you read the rest of the book, remember the rich tradition that Satrapic is drawing from, and consider why she chose to tell her story as a graphic novel.

# resources

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