



DYNAMIC
SWEDISH
COMICS
2024



SERIE FRÅN JANDET

SWEDISH COMICS ON THE MOVE!

Swedish comics have evolved through more than two centuries, and despite influences from major comics cultures around the world, have always kept a distinct quality of their own.

Today, the comics scene in Sweden is incredibly diverse, with hard hitting autobiography, social realism and political satire as well as engaging science fiction, horror and adventure stories – and much, much more. It's easy to see that comics in Sweden are right now experiencing a veritable golden age, and the rest of the world is starting to take notice. Artists like Kim W. Andersson, Peter Bergting, Daria Bogdanska, Niklas Eriksson, Maria Fröhlich, Anneli Furmark, Åsa Schagerström, Moa Romanova and Liv Strömqvist, to name just a few, are right now making inroads in countries all over the world.

But there is much more where that came from, and the Swedish Arts Council is ready and willing to support publishers in other countries who wants to get going publishing Swedish comics. This catalogue contains examples of contemporary Swedish comics, as well as information on how you can apply for grants to translate and publish Swedish comics.

So, welcome to a brave new world of comics!

Fredrik Strömberg
the Swedish Comics Association

Swedish Comics Conquer the World!

Publisher: The Swedish Comics Association.
Address: Friisgatan 12 B, 211 46 Malmö, Sweden.
Web: www.serieframjandet.se.
Mail: info@serieframjandet.se.
Published with the support of the Nordic Culture Fund and the Swedish Arts Council.
Editor: Fredrik Strömberg
Design: Jakob Hallin
Cover: Mats Källblad
Texts: Copyright Fredrik Strömberg, 2024.
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Printed at The Comics Archive, Malmö 2024.

THE SWEDISH COMICS ASSOCIATION

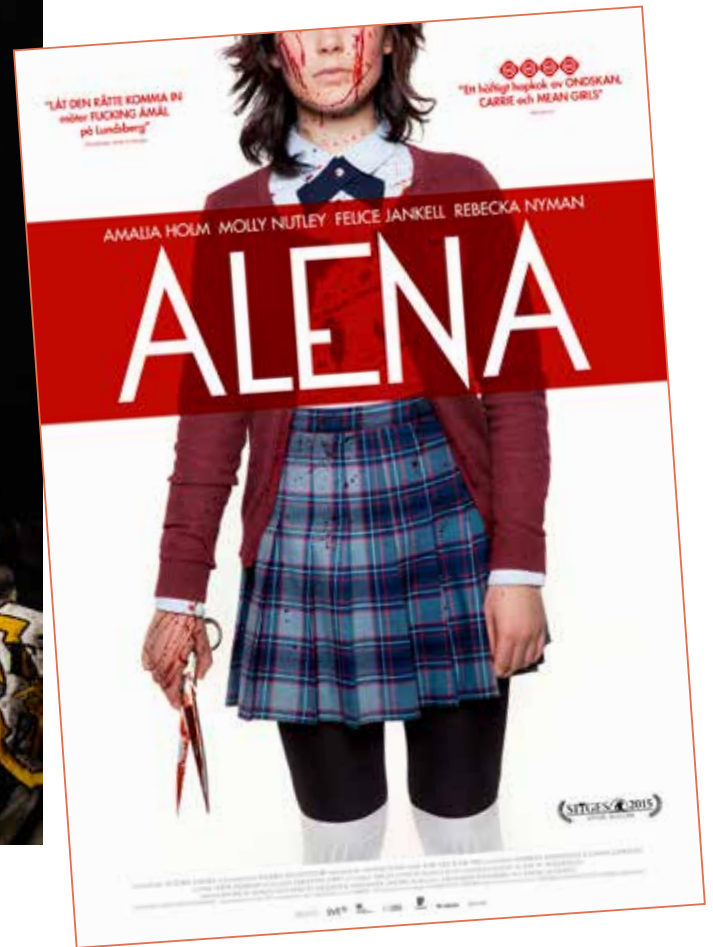


The Swedish Comics Association was founded in 1968 and is the foremost organization promoting the knowledge and understanding of comics in Sweden. The objective of the association is to spread knowledge of the unique characteristics of comics and support and develop the comics culture in Sweden.

The activities that the association pursues include publishing the magazine *Bild & Bubbla* (Picture & Balloon) – Scandinavia’s oldest and most prominent journal about comics, along with various books about comics. The association also administrates the prestigious Urhunden awards and organizes festivals, exhibitions, lectures, debates and much more.

The Swedish Comics Association has its headquarters in Malmö and local chapters in several other cities in Sweden. The activities of the association are aimed at children, adolescents and adults – from the curious reader to the professional practitioner.

© Anna Thorbjörnsson



KIM W. ANDERSSON

Kim W. Andersson has carved out a special niche for himself, making comics in traditionally male dominated genres that clearly appeal to female readers. This encompasses his tongue-in-cheek horror stories made under the title *Love Hurts*, as well as his sci-fi stories about the heroine Astrid. One of Andersson's graphic novels, *Alena*, has also been made into a major Swedish motion picture.

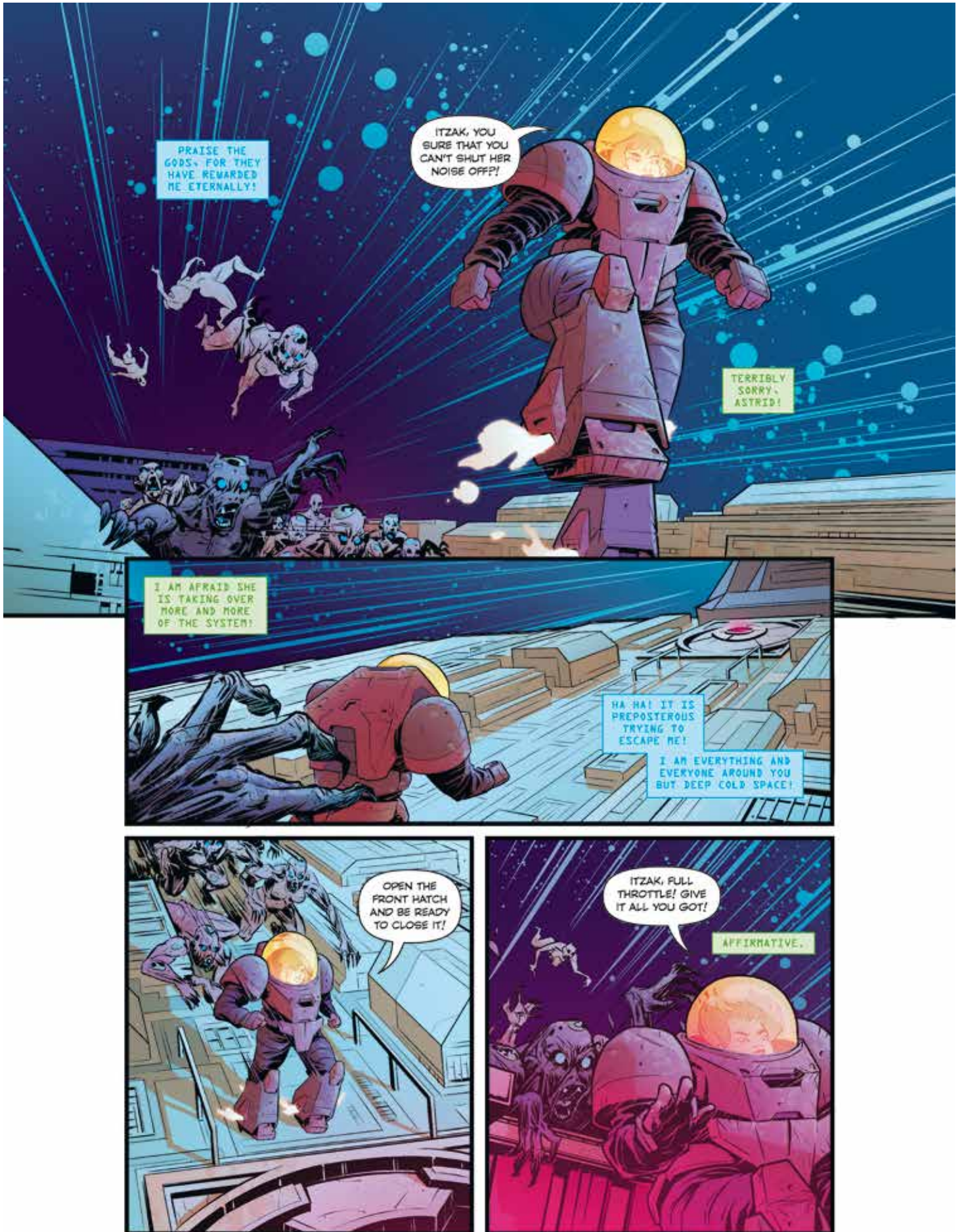
Andersson has a style clearly inspired by American mainstream comics, with his own unique twists. The elegantly inked lines, realistic character designs and emphasis on contrasts between black and white work to accentuate the drama in the visual storytelling.

All of Kim W. Andersson's *Love Hurts* short stories have been collected into one hefty volume, complemented by the stand-alone *Love Hurts* graphic novel *Alena*. There is, so far, one volume of Andersson's new major opus *Astrid: Cult of the Volcanic Moon*.



Graphic novels by Kim W. Andersson have been published in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Germany, Spain, Brazil, France, South Korea and the US.

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A page from the graphic novel *Astrid – Cult of the Volcanic Moon*.

© Nosebleed Studio



NATALIA BATISTA

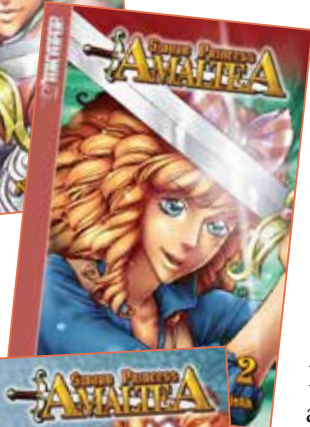
Natalia Batista is an illustrator, teacher and comics artist who uses Asian comics traditions to tell stories with decidedly Swedish/European themes. Her major opus is the three-volume *Sword Princess Amaltea*, an epic fantasy series set in a matriarchal fantasy world where all gender roles are reversed. Batista is also one of the driving forces behind the cartoonist collective Nosebleed Studio.

Batista labels herself a Swedish manga artist and works in a spectrum of styles with strong inspirations from Japanese comics, capturing the aesthetics of manga as well as its visual storytelling. Her works target a young to teen audience, mainly focusing on a female readership with adventurous, romantic and comedic stories.

Natalia Batista has created several comics, including the stand-alone boys-love inspired volume *A Song for Elise*, the children's comics *Mjau!* and *The Mermaid Minna* as well as the aforementioned *Sword Princess Amaltea*. Batista has also co-authored two instructional volumes on how to draw manga.

Natalia Batista's comics have been published in the US, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Portugal.

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Ever since the Eternal Peace was established, this tradition has been of utmost importance to the Queendoms of the realm.

Every princess ripe of age should complete this journey.

You'll strive to fulfill the quest of your life: to find a prince in distress! To save and marry him--

I refuse!!

© Gabriel Liljevall



SARA B. ELFGREN & KARL JOHNSON

Sara B. Elfgren and Karl Johnsson have created an epic, two-volume adventure set in a fantasy version of the old Norse legends, complete with giants and Asgardian gods. The story follows a young warrior who is destined to be the ultimate human champion in the meistarileikir, a bloody tournament between the gods and the giants. Sara B. Elfgren is a writer and screenwriter known for the Engelsfors trilogy which has been translated into more than 20 languages.

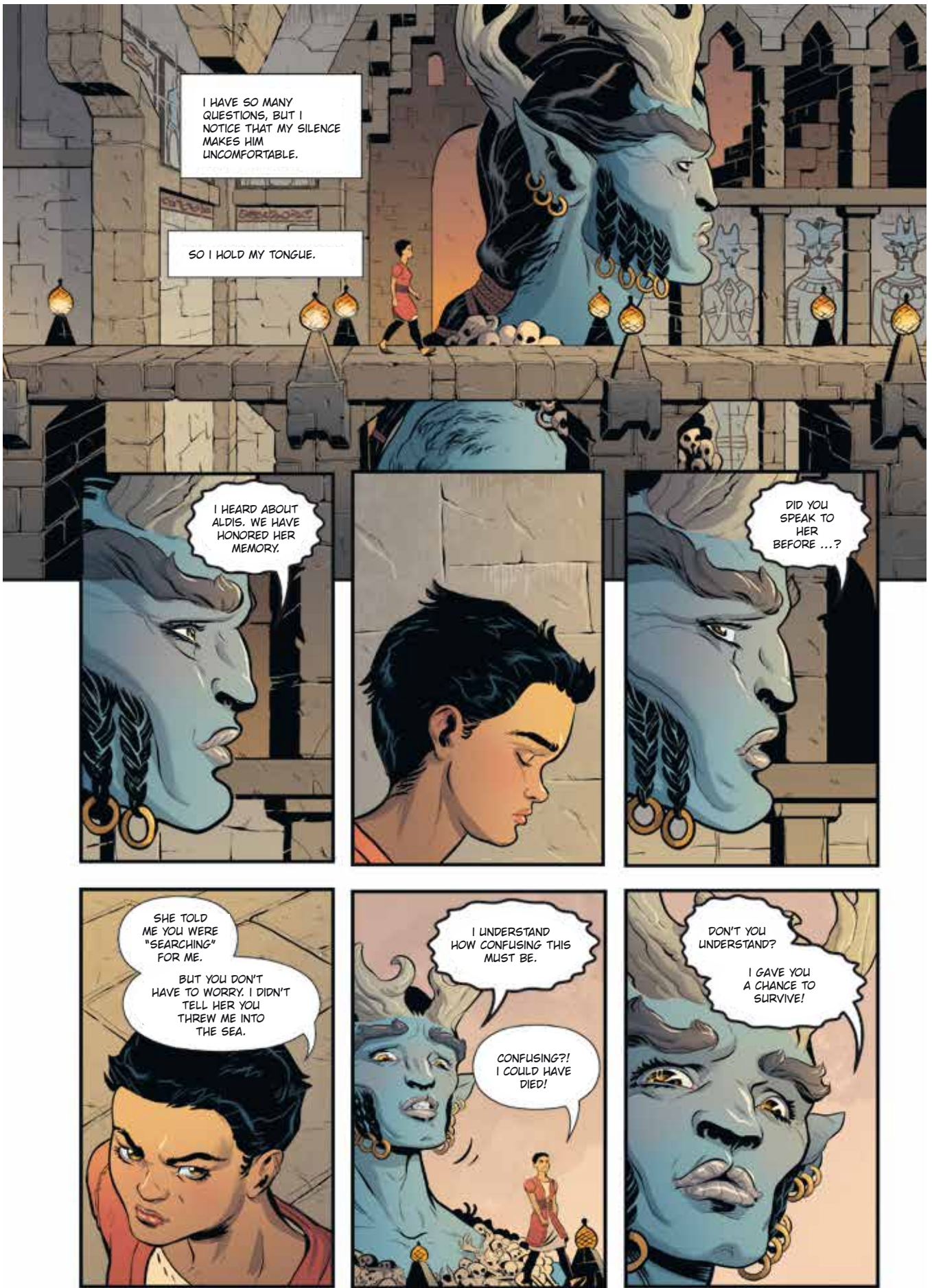
Karl Johnsson is an internationally acclaimed comic book artist and illustrator with over ten years in the industry.

His work can be found in books as well as films, and he has worked as a cover artist for the American market. In *Vei* he applies varied and engaging page layouts and realistic representations of everything from humans to giants. Add to this lush, vivid colors and the result is captivating, inviting the reader into this Norse fantasy world.

The two volumes of *Vei* are at the moment available in Swedish, English, French, Norwegian, Danish, Polish and Czech.

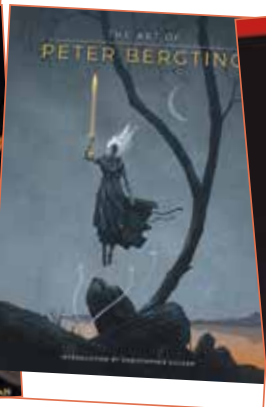
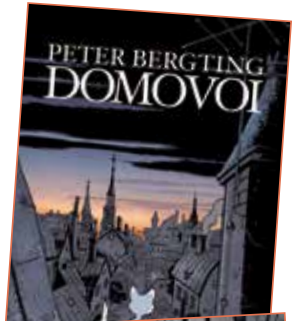
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A page from the first volume of *Vei*, showcasing Johnsson's ability to draw the fantastical in a way that makes it believable.

© Gabriel Liljevall



PETER BERGTING

Peter Bergting is an illustrator and comics artist with a long, international career. Peter's debut graphic novel, *The Portent*, was released by Image Comics back in 2006. The book led to several successful collaborations with Rick Remender, Richard Morgan, Clive Barker, and Joe R. Lansdale for Boom! and IDW.

Peter has worked with Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden for the past decade in the Mignola-verse and Hellboy-verse, illustrating graphic novels for Baltimore, Joe Golem, and Frankenstein.

Bergting has a style influenced by both American mainstream comics and European artists like Jean-Claude Mézières and Giraud. Still, he can also adapt his style depending on the assignment, something that can be seen in the comics he has made with Mignola, where he combines the latter's contrast-rich art and effective use of black with his own distinct style.

Apart from the books mentioned above, which are available in English, Bergting has written and drawn his own series, *Domovoi*, illustrated the critically acclaimed holocaust book *We'll Soon Be Home*, illustrated the novel *Kråkorna* (The Crows), and painted hundreds of covers for authors like Philip Pullman, Tolkien, and Astrid Lindgren.

A few of all the books that Bergting has worked on, mostly published in Sweden and in the US..

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A page from the graphic novel *We'll Soon be Home Again*.



© Chen Xianzhe

JONAS DARNELL

Jonas Darnell has been making comics since the 1980s, when he created his main opus *Herman Hedning* (Herman the Heathen), a bizarre comic set at the dawn of time, with God, the Devil, dinosaurs, spaceships and everything else that Darnell can think of. The main protagonist is fat, sadistic, lazy and always plotting something evil to release upon his two companions Gammelman and Lilleman. The comic often takes inspiration from pop culture, parodying everything from *Lord of the Rings* to the latest Star Wars TV-series.

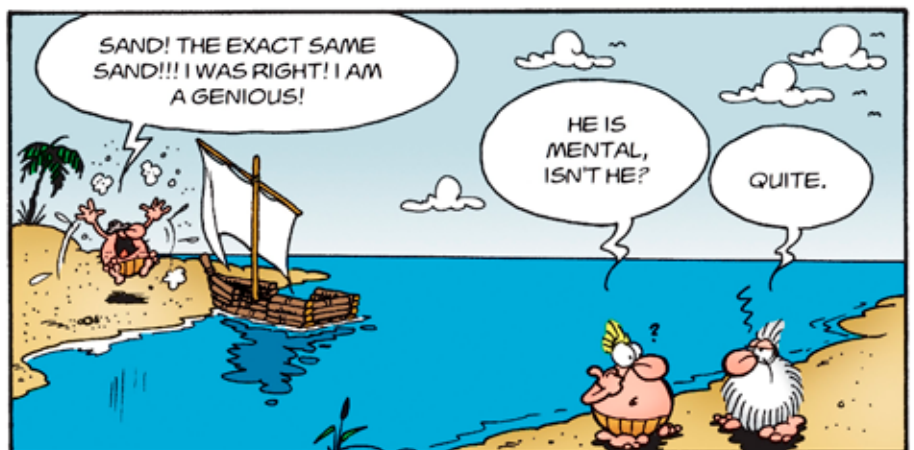
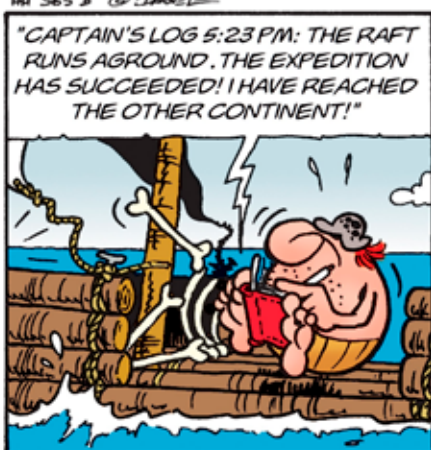
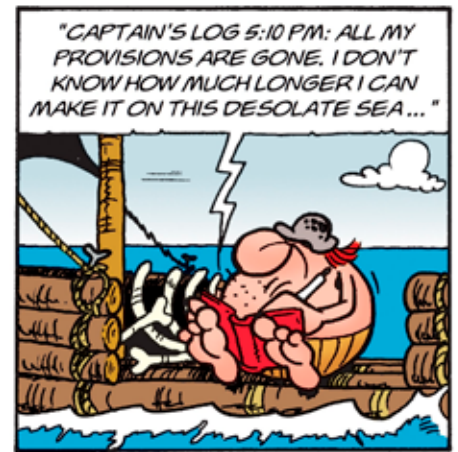
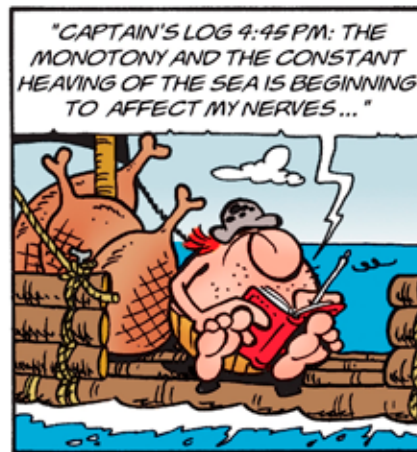
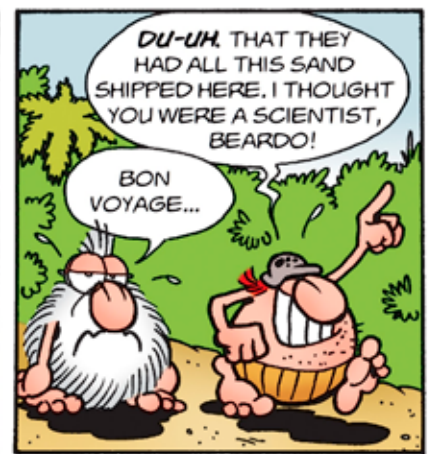
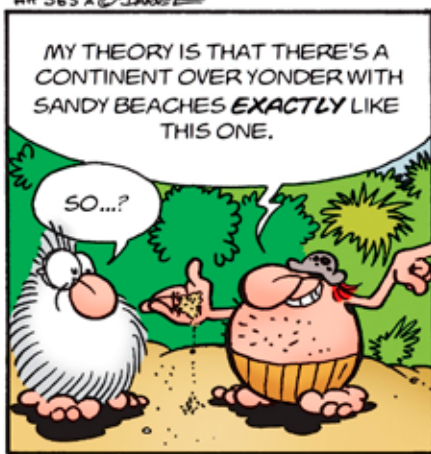
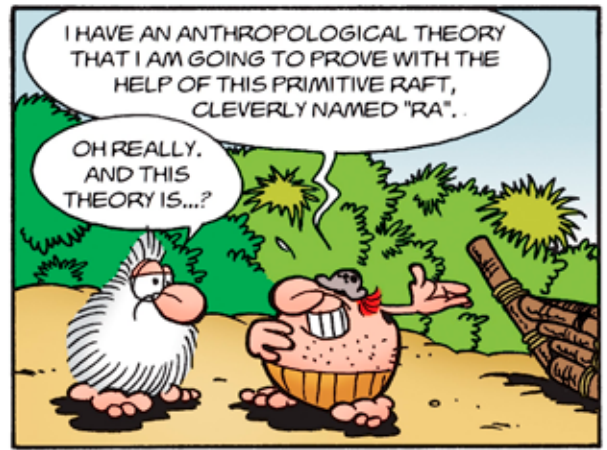
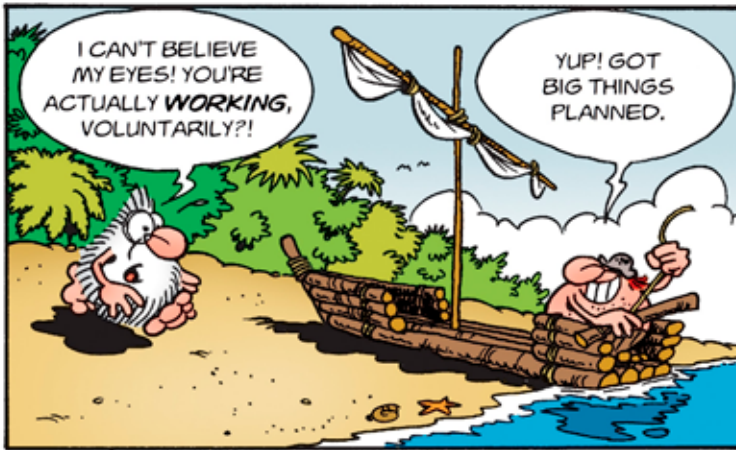
Darnell has a unique, expressive style, with his main characters being more or less round balls with arms and legs. His drawings often contain a lot of action and innumerable details.

Darnell has collected his comics with *Herman Hedning* in several thick volumes, but has also illustrated the award-winning *Beer, Brewing & Bastards* – a book about the art of making and enjoying beer, and comics.

Jonas Darnell's creation Herman Hedning is the protagonist in all kinds of wacky adventures.

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Herman Hedning exists in one- and two-tier strips as well as in short stories that are 6–14 pages long.



© Daniel Ström



© Tuss Bernegård-Rojas



PATRIC NYSTRÖM & PER DEMERVALL

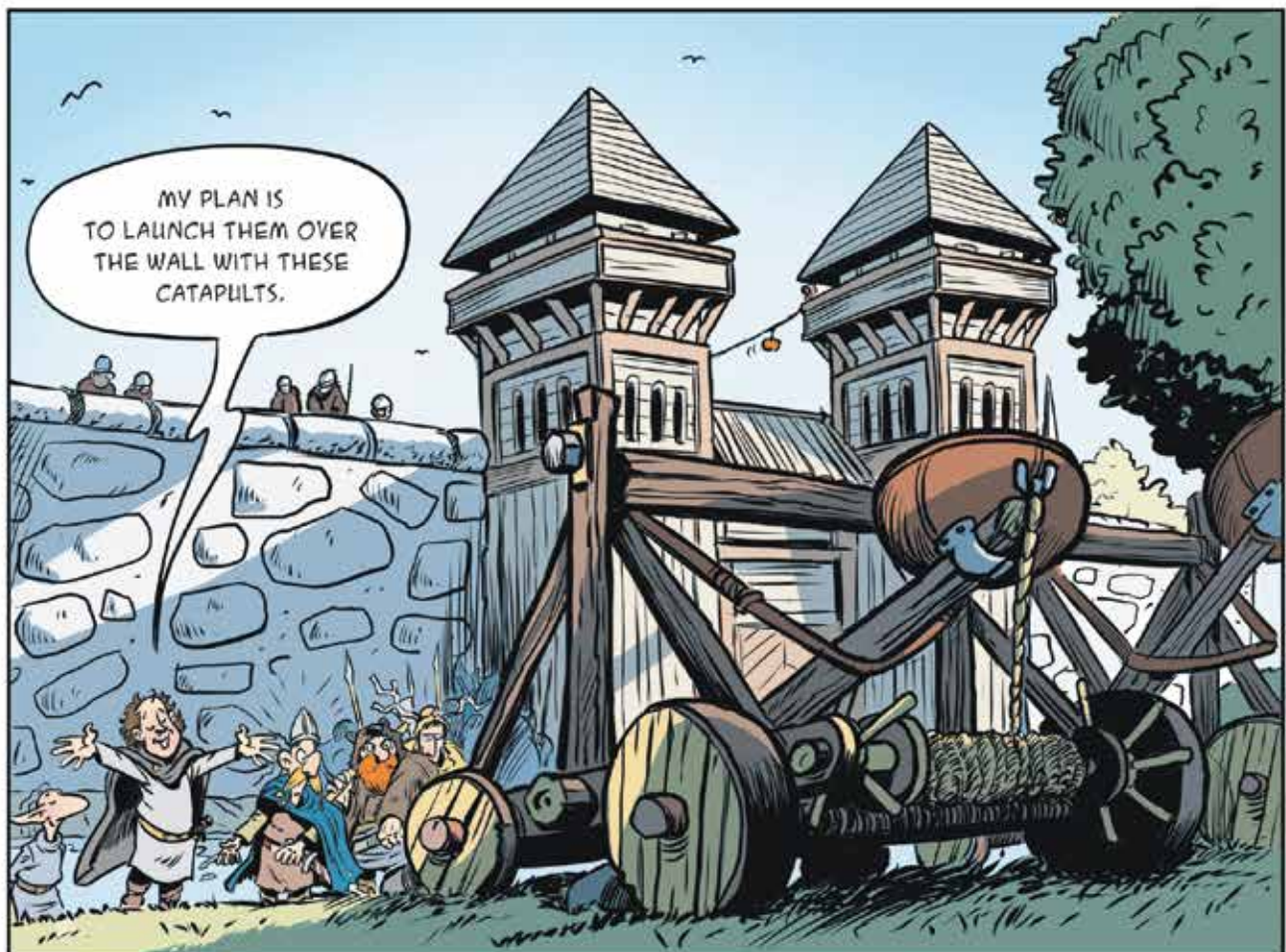
Patric Nyström and Per Demervall are both veterans from the comics business in Sweden. Nyström has, among other things, written scripts for the *Moomin* strip and Demervall has illustrated a graphic novel based on August Strindberg's novel *The Red Room*. Together, they have created a series of graphic novels about Siri the Viking, adventures for young readers that have garnered a lot of praise from critics and readers alike.

Demervall has for this project adopted a cartoony, caricatured style that seems connected to the French-Belgian tradition of comics like *Asterix* and *Lucky Luke*, an expressive yet easily decipherable style that with its distinct coloring suits these children's comics well.

There are at the moment four volumes about Siri the Viking: *Siri and the Emperor's Treasure*, *Siri and Mimir's Well*, *Prisoners in Paris* and *Calamity in Constantinople* all available in Swedish, Danish, Turkish and English. More volumes are in preparation.

Four volumes have so far been published in the book series about Siri the Viking, with a fifth on the way.

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© Åsa Ekström



ÅSA EKSTRÖM

Åsa Ekström is a Swedish comics artist that has done the seemingly impossible and become Big in Japan. She has created *Hokou Joshi*, a comic strip about her experiences in Japan, which has become a huge hit online and has been collected into several best-selling books.

Ekström has also created the book series *Sayonara September*, which is an auto-fictional story of attending a comic art school in Sweden.

Ekström has a style that is clearly inspired by Asian comics in general and Japanese shoujo comics in particular, with large expressive features and over-the-top representations of emotions.

The comic about Ekström's experiences in Japan have so far been collected into seven volumes, published in Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Sweden and France. The three volume *Sayonara September* has been published in Japan and Sweden.

Some of all the volumes that Åsa Ekström has published so far.

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The cool women of Japan



Of course, there are a lot of Japanese women who don't drink, too...



All Japanese women I know are really cool and awesome. And super strong. I don't mean to say all Japanese girls are like that, of course. But that's the impression I get.



© Henric Lindsten



MARIA FRÖHLICH

Maria Fröhlich is an illustrator, comics artist, and writer. In Sweden she's been published since the early 2010s. But she made her international debut in 2014 with the comic adaptation of the Neil Gaiman novel *The man who forgot Ray Bradbury*, published in the anthology *Shadow Show*. Fröhlich has since worked on Marvel titles such as *Women of Marvel* and

Marvel Voices Legacy, to great acclaim.

She also illustrates children's books, among others *Nu leker vi!* and *Jag är inte sjuk!* written by the Swedish author Sara Bergmark Elfgren (see also *Vei*, in this catalogue). Recently, Fröhlich made her debut with her own picture book *Ruby och Lejon* (Ruby and Lion).

Fröhlich has a style clearly inspired by American and French comics cultures, with semirealistic images and a lush, vibrant coloring. Her character designs give the impression of depicting living, breathing people, and never seem to be cast from stereotypical molds.



Maria Fröhlich has both created her own books, such as *Ruby och Lejon* (Ruby and Lion) and contributed to Marvel titles such as *Women of Marvel* and *Marvel Voices Legacy*.

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A page from *The Ballad of Kara and Tyke*, a story based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydike, first published 2014 in *Utopi Magazine*.



© Fanny Bystedt

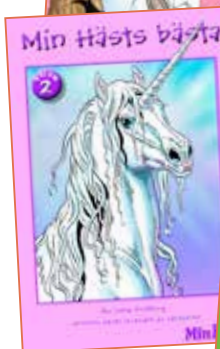
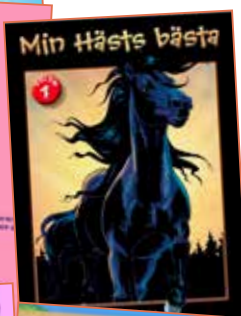


LENA FURBERG

Lena Furberg is the undisputed queen of the horse comics genre. She has since her debut in the 1970s produced thousands pages of comics and is perennially a fan favorite among the readers. The most popular of Furberg's characters is undoubtedly Mulle, a lazy, stubborn and willful pony, who often makes life hard for his handler. Furberg also makes longer adventure comics, which also center around life with horses.

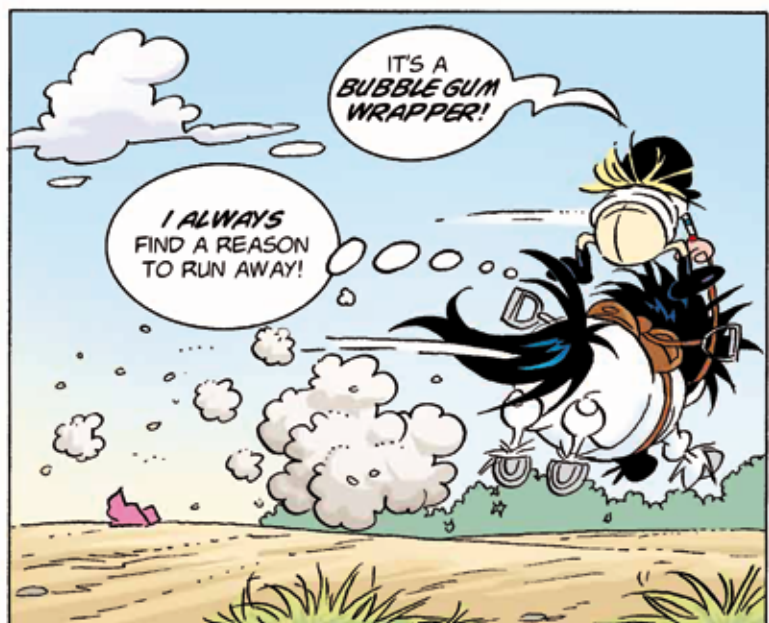
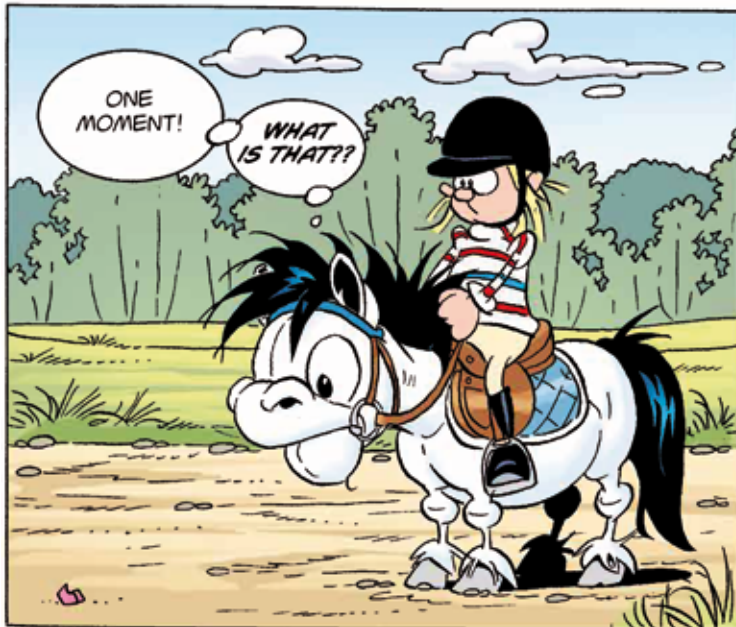
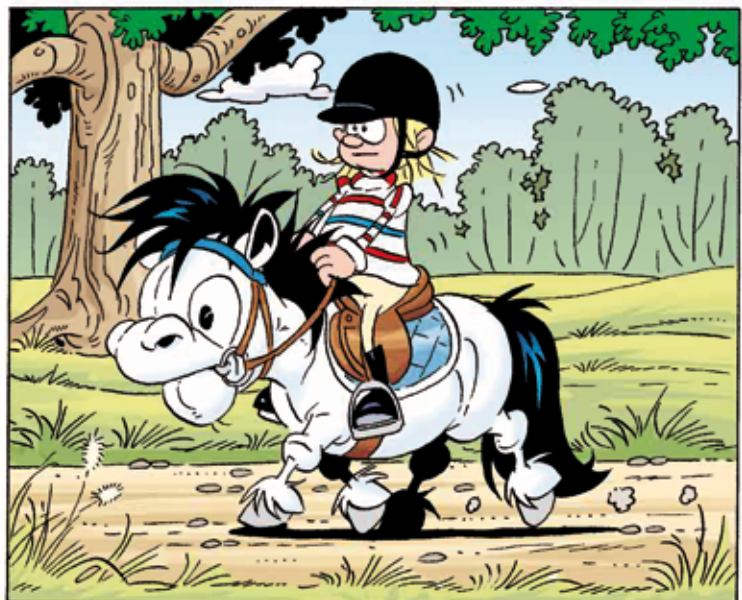
Furberg has two distinctly different styles, depending on the comic she's working on. For *Mulle*, she employs a heavily caricatured, action-packed and fun style. For the adventure stories, she uses a more sedate, realistic style that suits these stories.

The comics by Furberg have been collected into several multi-volume book series: the one-page comics with Mulle, the ten-volume graphic novel *Stallgänget på Tuva* and seven volumes with the best stand-alone adventure comics.



Lena Furberg has produced comics since the 1970s, so there are several collections of both her cartoony comics with Mulle and the more realistic adventure comics.

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An example from *Mulle*, a one-page comic about a stubborn and lazy pony and his often hard-tried handler.



© Patrik Remark



DENNIS GUSTAFSSON

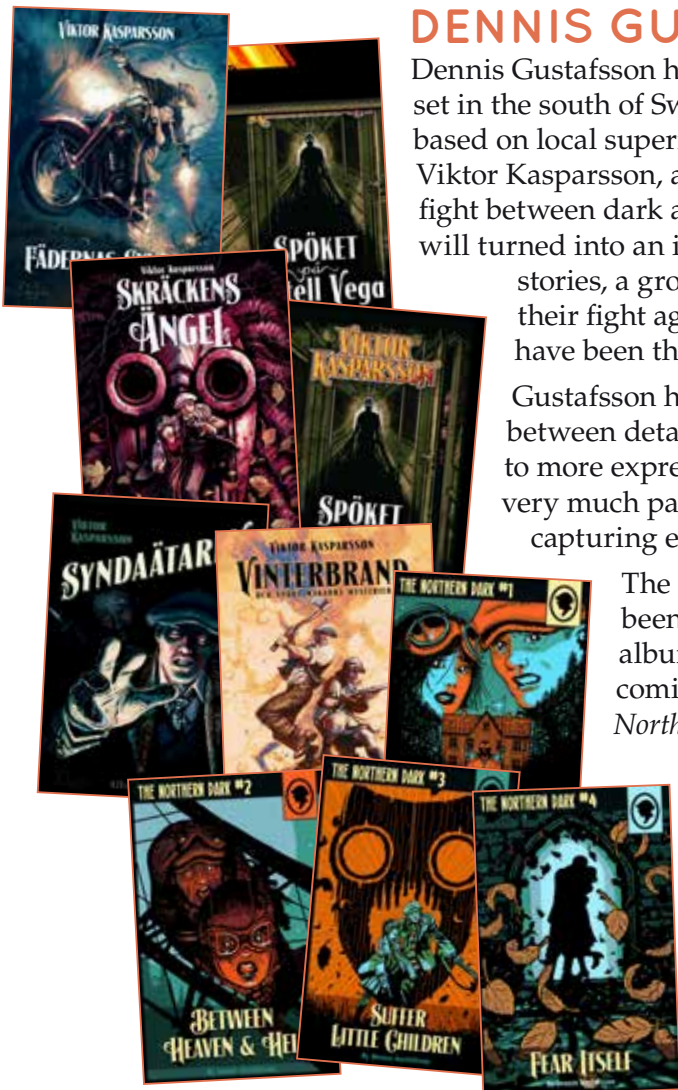
Dennis Gustafsson has created his very own horror-universe, set in the south of Sweden during the 1920s and 1930s, often based on local supernatural tales. His main protagonist is Viktor Kasparsson, a young man who is slowly drawn into a fight between dark and light and is more or less against his will turned into an investigator of the supernatural. In later stories, a group of investigating priests and nuns and their fight against a growing darkness in Sweden have been the main focus.

Gustafsson has a personal, fluid style that changes between detailed and historically correct city-scapes to more expressive action scenes. The coloring is very much part of the art, as it tends more towards capturing emotions than recreating mimetic effects.

The comics about Viktor Kasparsson have been collected into eight European style albums, but are also available in a 32 page comic book format under the title *The Northern Dark* on comiXology.

The comics about Viktor Kasparsson are available both as albums and as online comic books.

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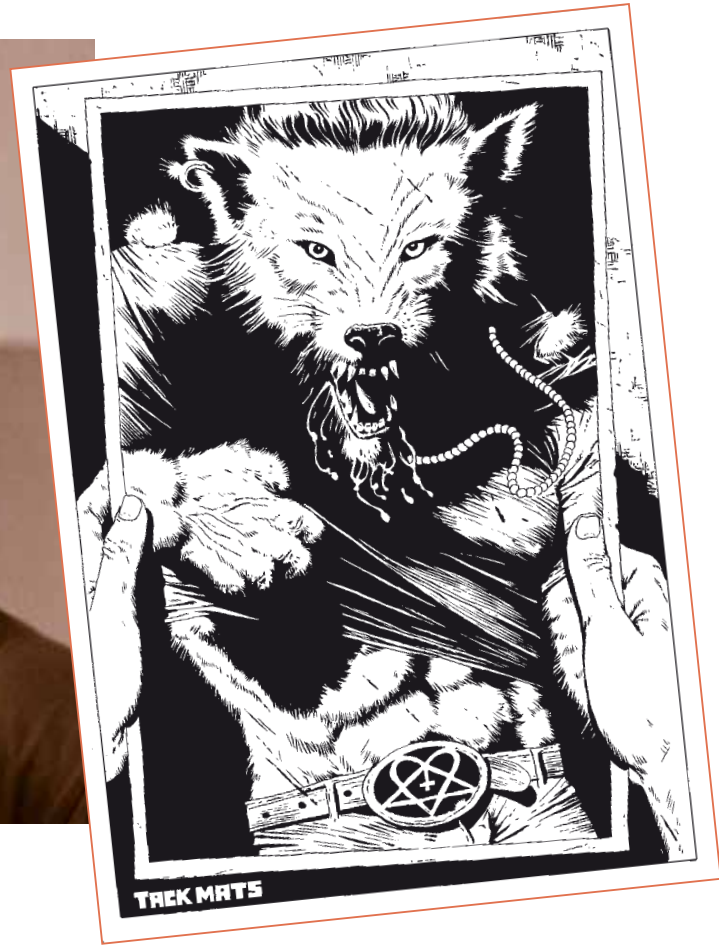




A page from the comic *The Sigil of Athu*, produced directly for *comiXology*.



© Lars Krantz

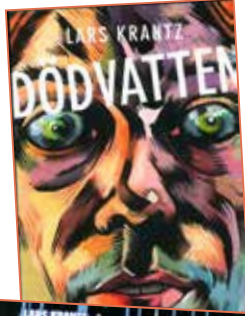


LARS KRANTZ

Lars Krantz is a master at horror comics, creating stories that are truly disturbing, both in story and art. Krantz' major opus is several graphic novels set in a dystopian, fictitious Sweden at the time of WWI, where Sweden is part of the Great War (Sweden was in fact neutral all through WWI), supernatural beings roam the battlegrounds, and the world is a bleak and relentlessly dangerous place.

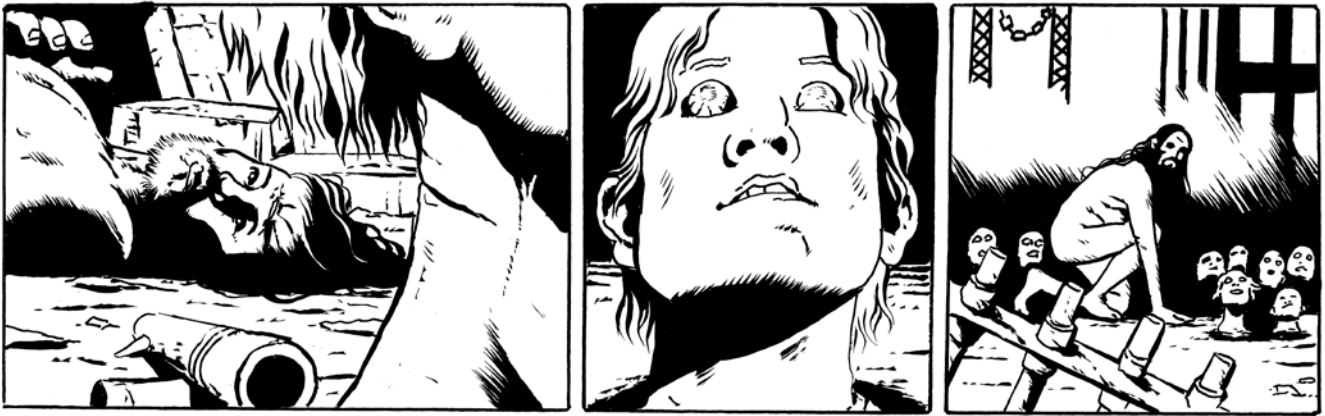
Krantz uses an effective, evocative style, heavily caricaturing his characters and constantly contrasting black and white and filling every image with numerous details, making his world believable, and terrifying.

The Black Planet comics by Krantz has been collected in a two volumes, so far only available in Swedish. Krantz has also illustrated three horror novels by Swedish author Henrik Möller.



Krantz has created several graphic novels in his series *The Black Planet*, but also illustrated books with scripts by Henrik Möller.

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A page from an ongoing, auto-fictional project by Lars Krantz.

© Emelie Asplund



HENRIK LANGE

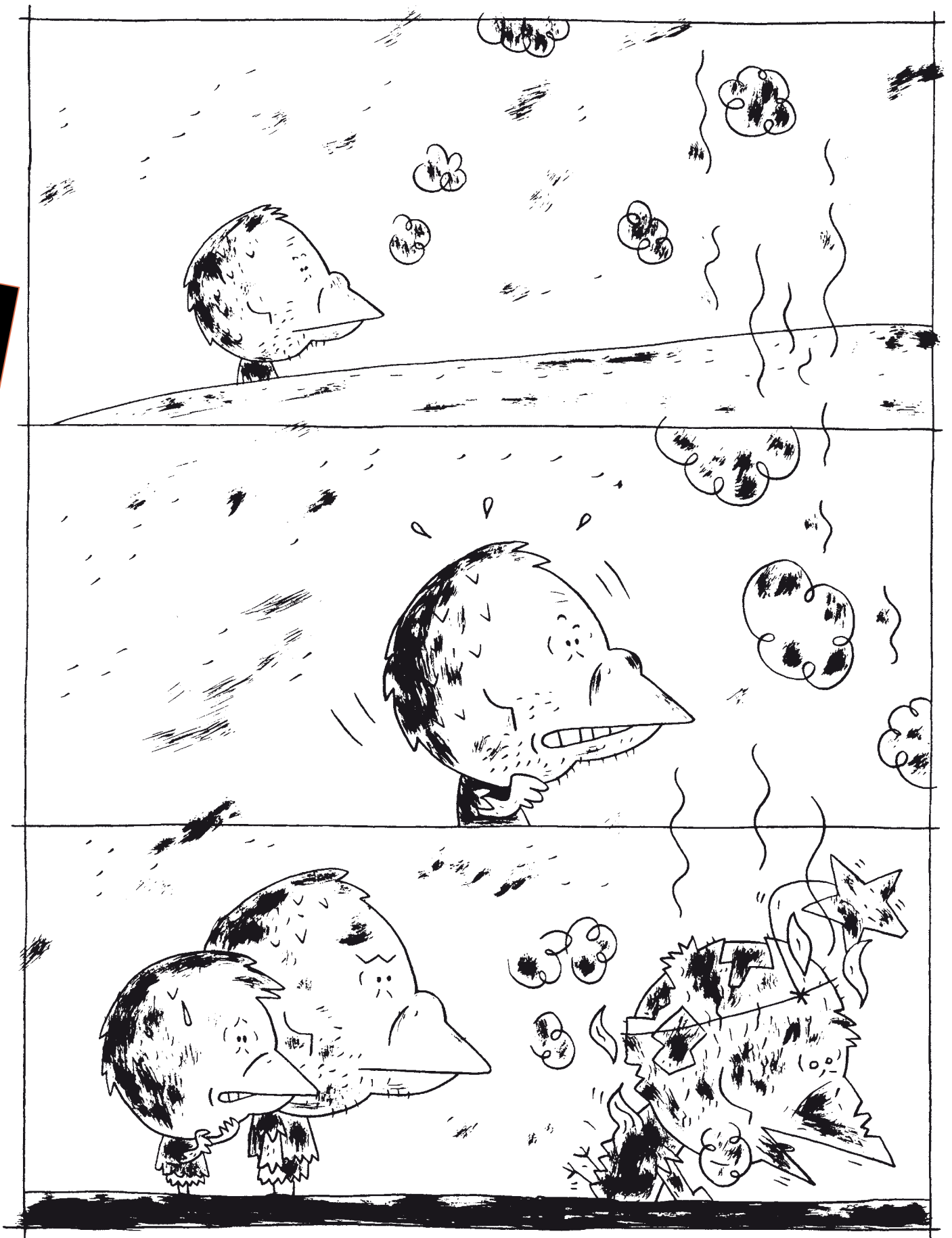
Henrik Lange is a comics artist, animator, and illustrator. With his book *90 Classic Books for People in a Hurry*, in which old and new classics are summarized in four-panel comics, Lange created the »hurry-novels«. People in a hurry can quickly cover literary classics as well as great films and TV-series through Lange's numerous volumes in this new genre.

Lange has also created visual biographies of famous authors, composers, and playwrights, such as Ibsen, Zola, Strindberg, Dante, Lagerlöf and Bellman. He has furthermore drawn and written books such as *Lessons in Murder* – about Swedish detective novels, and *Freaking Fatherhood* – about the perils of becoming a father.

Lange uses a seemingly simple, comic style which is often rich in contrast between black and white. He creates a feeling for larger contexts using sparsely applied iconic details, rather than aiming for a photorealistic representation.

Henrik Lange's numerous books have been published in France, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Poland.

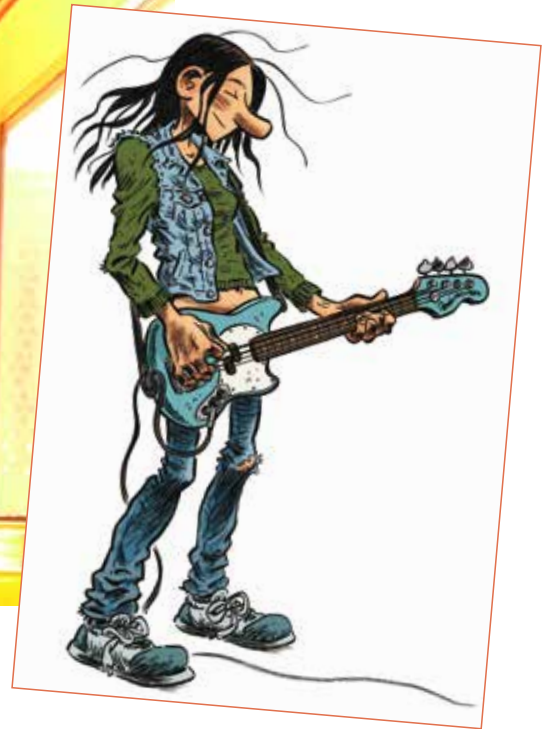
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A page from Lange's latest book *The Last Black Salt*, published in France as *Le Dernier sel noir* by Édition ça et là.



© Mats Källblad



MATS KÄLLBLAD

Mats Källblad made a name for himself in the 1990s with the highly praised graphic novel trilogy *Garagedrömmar* (Garage Dreams), *Vakna laglös* (Waking up an Outlaw) and *Lång väg tillbaka* (Long Way Back). Although not outright autobiographical, these books portrayed life in a small rural town such as the one Källblad grew up in, in southern Sweden. These books would later be collected into the book *100 år i samma klass* (100 Years in the same Social Class), augmented with a new comic based on the true-life story of his impoverished but hard-working grandmother.

Källblad went on to create an all-ages album series called *Vimmelgrind*, about adventures in a small village in the countryside, of which there are four volumes so far. Lately Källblad has started a new album series, *Polly* about a hard-hitting, no-nonsense young woman, also with his recurring themes of rock-n-roll, cars, and small towns.

In his visual narrative style, Källblad hails from traditional Swedish humor comics, combined with the aesthetics and book format of the French-Belgian album culture. Thematically, he almost always depicts life in a rural setting with characters from the working class.



Källblad has published more than ten original albums and several collections of shorter comics.

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A panel from an album in the Polly-series.



© Henric Lindsten



EMIL MAXÉN

Emil Maxén has created a unique story, set in a fantasy version of Sweden and filled with supernatural beings inspired by Swedish folklore. At the center is Stor-Jobal (Big-Jobal), a strange, humanoid, big-nosed creature who acquires a sack from a witch that can combine different animals into weird, mythical creatures. We follow Stor-Jobal as he attempts

to use the sack for his own benefit, but ultimately wreaks havoc on the whole community where he lives.

Maxén works in the European album format and has a style reminiscent of the French-Belgian tradition, but with decidedly more gruesome aspects. The detailed art and the earthy coloring make the strange beings depicted seem real, no matter how strange.

So far, there are three volumes of Maxén's story about Stor-Jobal published in Swedish. Maxén has among other things also illustrated the novel *The Big Banquet* (Knäckarbanketten) by Swedish author Sara Bergmark-Elfgren.



Emil Maxén's story of Stor-Jobal encompasses three volumes: *Skräcksäcken*, *Det surnar i säven* and *Ragnajöken*.

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A page from Maxén's comics about the supernatural character Stor-Jobal.



© Ulrica Svenger

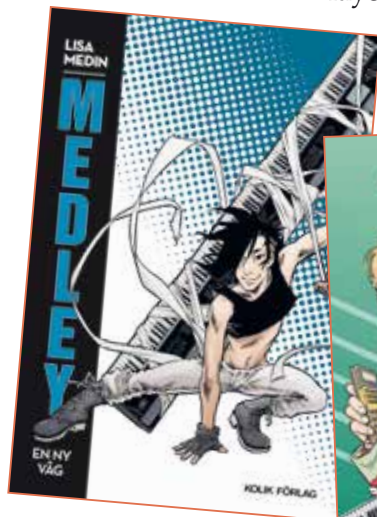


LISA MEDIN

Lisa Medin is an illustrator and a comics artist, whose major opus *Medley* is set in a world where music is not only a vocation but a creed – and the basis for war. In this postapocalyptic fantasy setting, the world has been ravaged by wars between representatives for different music genres and the Symphonics have seized power, subduing the representatives of the other genres. At the center of the story we find Catherine Hayes, a lieutenant in the Royal Music Corps, who has her beliefs in the righteousness of the Symphonics shattered when she meets Axel, who walks around with, and fights with, a huge synthesizer.

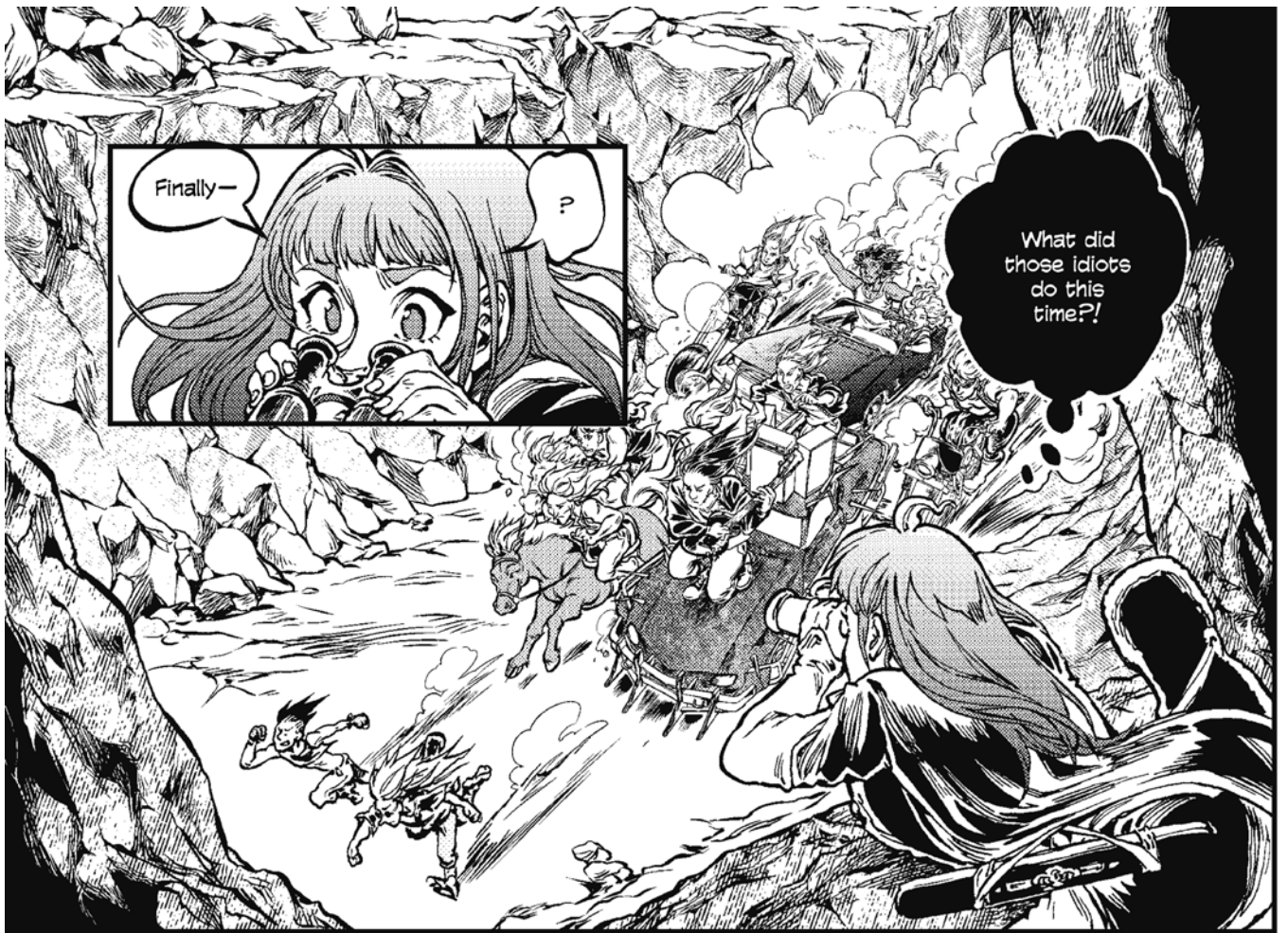
The art of Lisa Medin is clearly inspired by Asian comics, but with a decidedly European/Swedish twist. This amalgam utilizes Asian page layouts with character designs that share traits with both Asian and European/American visual traditions.

Medin has so far collected her comics set in the Medley world into two tomes: *En ny våg* (*A New Wave*), and *Rewind*, a short-story collection.



So far, two books of *Medley* have been published in Sweden, with more volumes on the way.

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Instagram: [@lisa.medin](https://www.instagram.com/lisa.medin)



© Jeannette Axenmo



PATRIK NORRMAN

Patrik Norrman has enchanted readers with his humorous and somewhat psychedelic comics for almost four decades. These anthropomorphic stories about the two characters Bacon & Egg often start with an everyday event but then takes an unexpected turn, sending the protagonists out on weird and wonderful adventures. Norrman has won the prestigious Adamson Award, sometimes labelled the Nobel Prize of comics.

The style of Norrman is unique, combining anthropomorphic characters à la Carl Barks' *Donald Duck* with the energy and elasticity of André Franquin's *Spirou* and *Gaston*. Norrman's playful page layouts are a master class in visual storytelling and his cityscapes twists and turns in all directions. All-in-all, you know a comics page by Norrman when you see it.

Norrman's comics has been collected in several beautifully designed hardcovers, such as *Konrad och kungen*, *Fukt, frukt & frihet*, *Let Your Spirit Fry* and *Nefertiti 2000*.

Some of the comics collections and graphic novels collecting Patrik Norrman's oeuvre.

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Instagram: @norrmanpatrik



A SPEEDER!
WHERE DID YOU
FIND IT?!

YOU SAID
IT: WE'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
- SO I FIGURED THAT
THOSE ALIENS MUST
HAVE GOTTEN HERE
SOMEHOW TOO,
RIGHT?!



AND SURE ENOUGH, I FOUND
THIS THING PARKED BEHIND
THE RIDGE--

NOW LET'S
TRY TO FIND SOME
SIGNS OF LIFE!



LOOK!
LIGHT!

HEY!
WATCH IT,
TITI!

LOOKS LIKE A
TOWN, BUT-- WHAT
IS THAT GREAT, BIG
CIRCLE?!

PERHAPS
WE CAN ASK
INSIDE--



INSIDE
WHAT?

THAT
CABIN!

WAIT, TITI!
IT MIGHT NOT
SAFE!

MAYBE,
BUT WOULD
YOU RATHER
RISK GOING
INTO THE
TOWN?



© Linn Olsson



LINN OLSSON

Linn Olsson, also known only as Linn, is a young artist making comics inspired by Asian comics culture. She is also part of the Swedish manga collective Nosebleed Studio. Olsson major project is a comic taking place in a fictional version of the Viking age where old Norse myths are a reality, and magic and magical creatures abound.

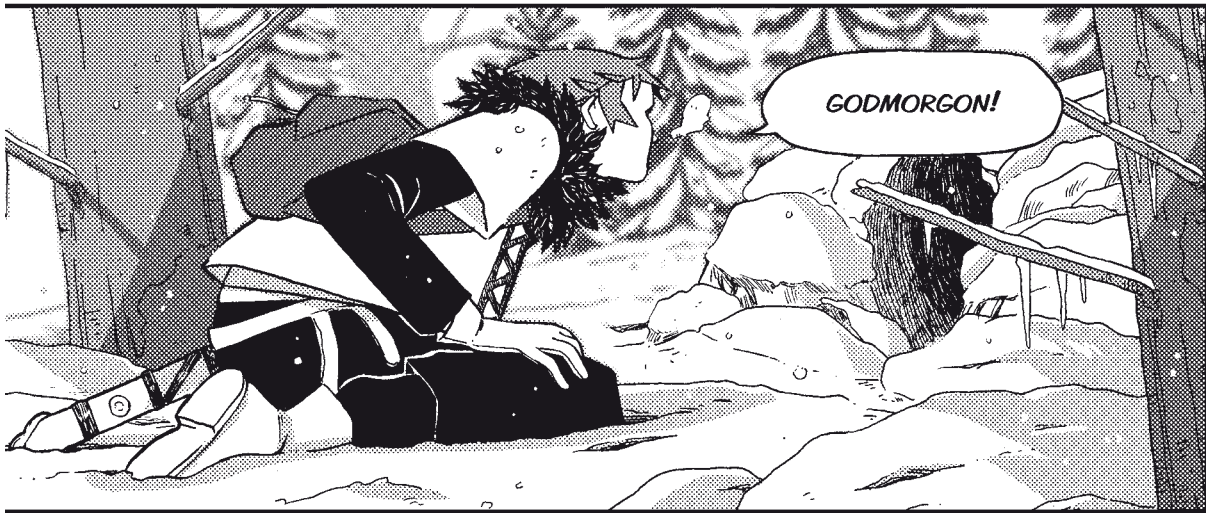
The style of Olsson is clearly inspired by Japanese comics, seemingly a combination of the realistic gekiga style and the more stylized and humoristic shonen manga.

Olsson has so far produced one volume of *Nidur*, but more is to come. *Nidur* is published continuously on Webtoons and Tapas. Olsson has also made contributions to comics anthologies such as *Manga Royals* and the forthcoming *Manga Sagas of the Vikings*.



The first volume of the Nordic fantasy series *Nidur*.

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Mail: linn@nosebleed-studio.com
Instagram: @linndo



A page from the first volume of *Nidur*.



© Henric Lindsten



JOAKIM WALLER

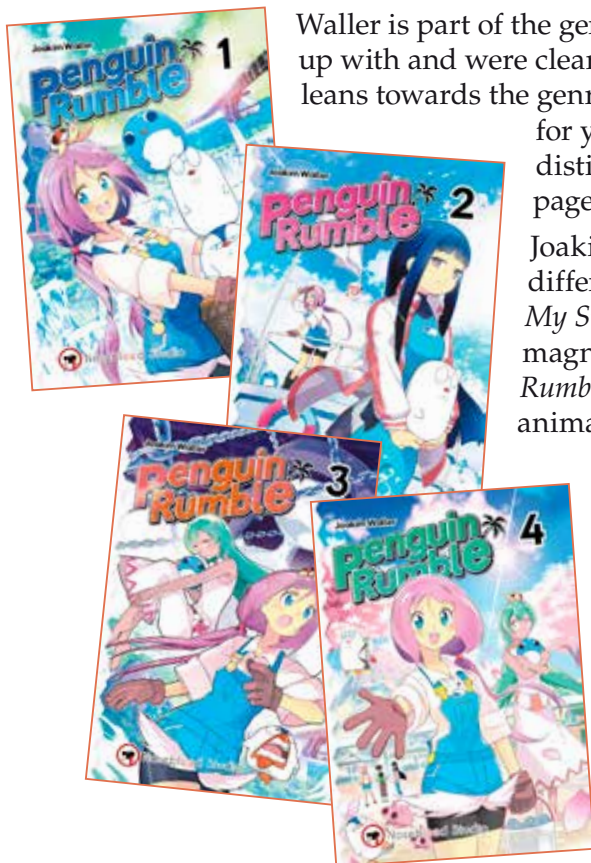
Joakim Waller is a young artist living in Stockholm, working both with comics and illustrations. He is a member of the artist collective Nosebleed Studios and has had a comic chosen as part of the final selection for the much acclaimed, Japanese Weekly Shounen Magazine/MediBang's international manga competition.

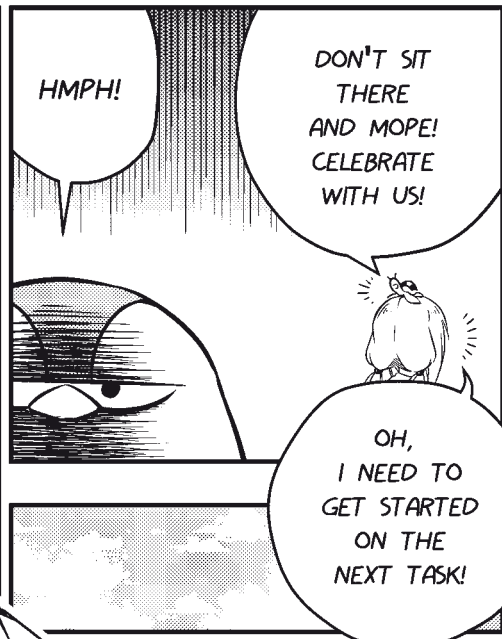
Waller is part of the generation of Swedish artists who grew up with and were clearly influenced by Asian comics. His style leans towards the genre of shonen manga, i.e. Japanese comics for young boys, which shows not only in the distinct black and white style but also in the page turning layouts.

Joakim Waller has contributed to several different anthologies, and is now working on *My Succubus Girlfriend* on Webtoon. Waller's magnum opus is the four volume *Penguin Rumble*, a fun-filled slice-of-life story set in an animal preserve institution where the 17-year-old protagonist finds that she can talk to the animals.

Penguin Rumble has so far been published in Sweden, Germany and Italy.

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A page from *Penguin Rumble*, volume 4.



© Ola Kjellbye



JOHAN WANLOO

Johan Wanloo is one of Sweden's most assiduous artists, contributing comics and illustrations regularly to everything from the biggest daily newspapers, to the most alternative comics magazines – for almost three decades. Wanloo also creates everything from contemporary cartoons about phenomena in today's society to longer, humorous adventure stories.

Wanloo's style is deceptively simple, even cartoonish, with sleek lines and heavily caricatured, expressive characters.

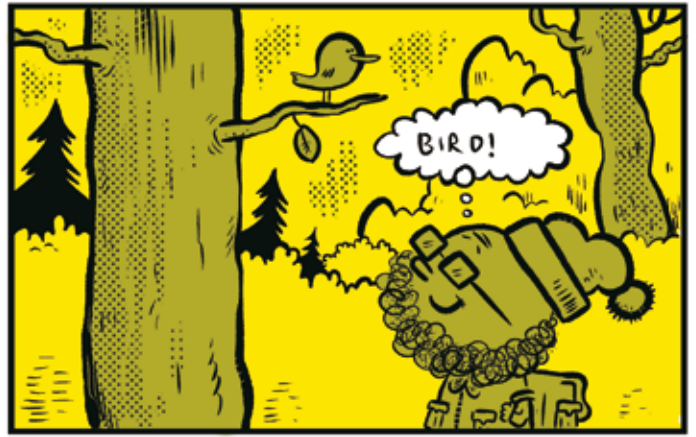
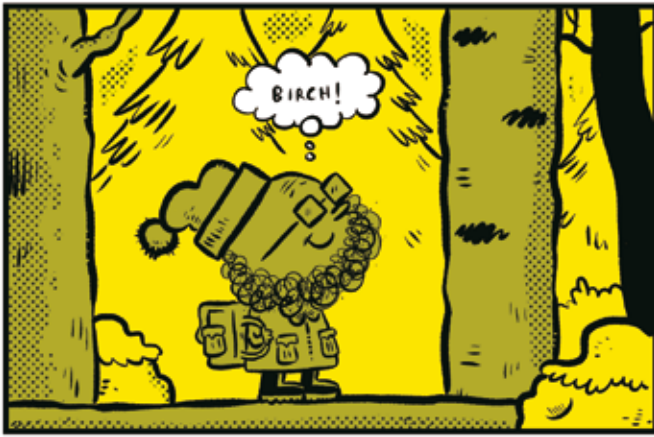
The stories of his longer comics are often clearly influenced by American popular culture from the 1960s and 1970s.

Wanloo has worked on numerous comics and graphic novels over the years. Some of his major works are the tongue-in-cheek, retro-pastiches *De äventyrslystna karlaktarlarna* (The Adventurous Manly Men) and *Rock Manlyfist* as well as the adventurous, imaginative children's' comic *Kapten Klara* (Captain Clara).



Johan Wanloo's comics constantly allude to popular culture, and thus have great potential to reach international audiences.

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Instagram: @johanwanloo



la science fiction française!



Two examples from Wanloo's shorter comics, commenting on contemporary phenomena.



© Nosebleed Studio



MAGNOLIA WINROTH

Magnolia Winroth (aka Toffuo online) is a part of the new generation of comics artists who make comics predominantly for online reading. Winroth's major comic *Uriah* is published weekly as an Original series at the portal Webtoon over 400 000 readers on the English release, and over 200 000 on the Spanish. *Uriah* is a thriller for adult readers about a young boy who wakes up hurt and tied up in a car without any memory of what has happened, or who he is for that matter. What follows is a thriller where we slowly piece together what has happened, together with the main protagonist.

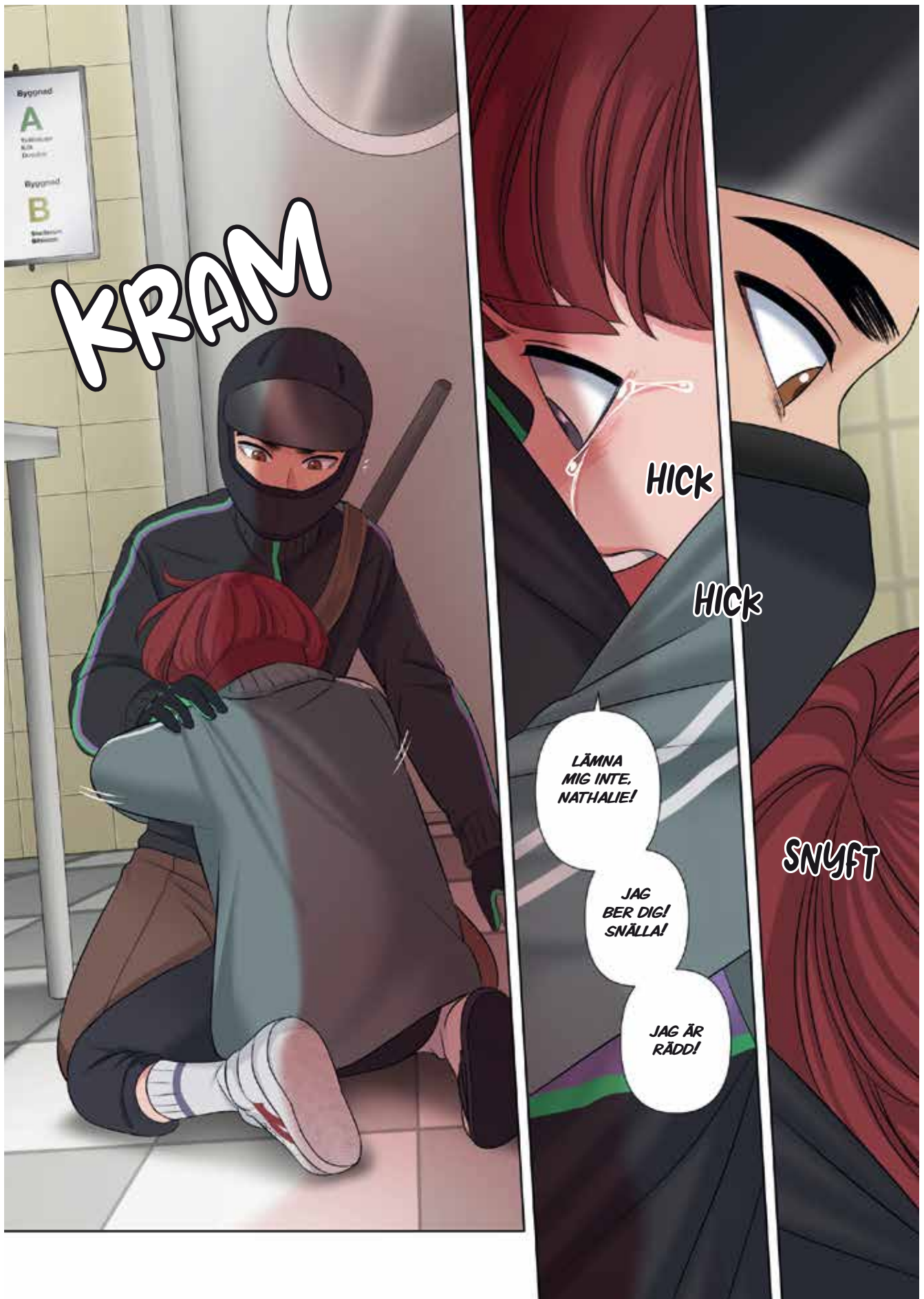
Winroth has a style clearly inspired by Asian comics, with big, soulful eyes and a focus on emotions. The coloring is lush and dark, adding to the thriller-like qualities of the story.

The first collection of *Uriah* was released in Swedish 2023. English and German editions are forthcoming. Winroth has also been part of making a book on creating manga, *Nosebleed Studio lär dig teckna manga: Serieskapande* (Nosebleed Studio Teaches you to Draw Manga: Creating Comics).



Winroth's comic *Uriah* is published continuously at Webtoon, and the second collection is forthcoming.

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Mail: magnolia@nosebleed-studio.com
Instagram: [@toffuo](https://www.instagram.com/toffuo)





© Li Österberg



LI ÖSTERBERG

Li Österberg creates a series of graphic novels centering on the myths of the Greek gods, retelling these stories from a deeply personal perspective, at the same time as she strives to stay true to the original stories. Driven by a life-long fascination for these myths, and a passion for storytelling, Österberg tells us of Athena – Zeus' estranged daughter, who is too strong and intelligent for a girl; Persephone – daughter of the fertility goddess Demeter, who really does not want to be a mother; or Hades – ruler of the Underworld, who really dislikes people and just wants to be left alone.

Österberg has a distinct, black and white style, reminiscent of American alternative comics artists like the Hernandez brothers. Her art is crisp and clean, yet expressive when it comes to features and emotions.

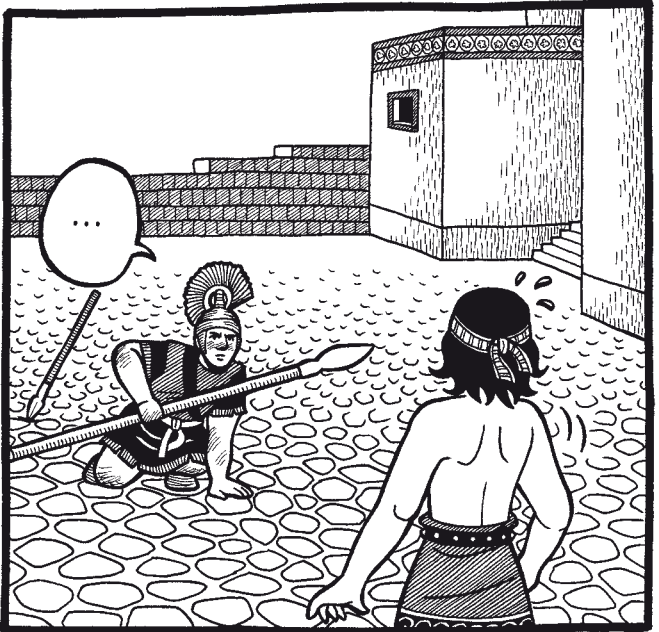
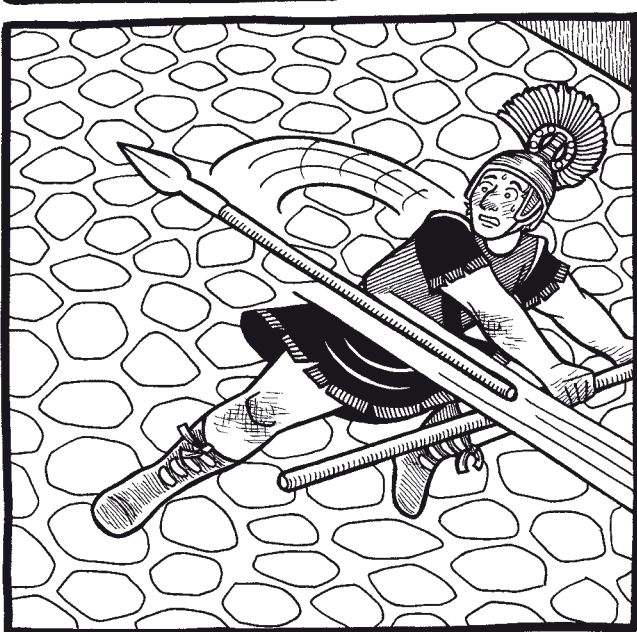
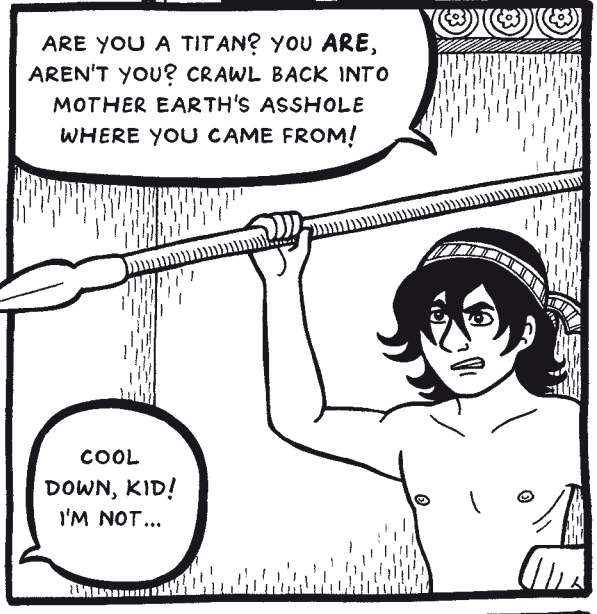
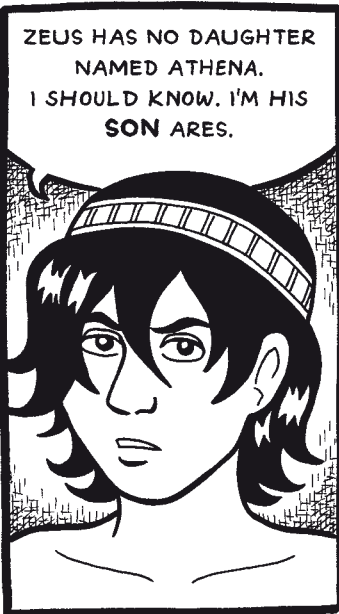
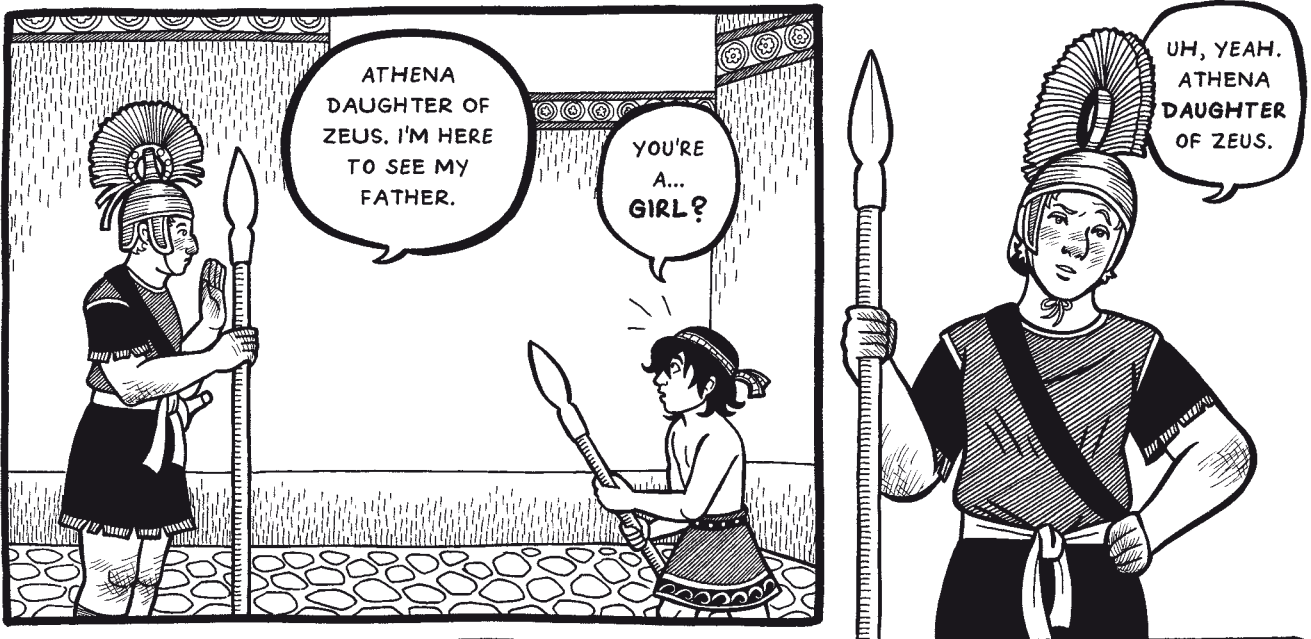
Österberg has created more than twenty critically acclaimed graphic novels in Sweden, books that are just waiting to be translated into other languages. Her epic retelling of the myth of the Greek gods encompasses four volumes, but there are also ten volumes in the book series about

Johanna and her friends, written by Patrik Rochling.



There are so far four volumes in Li Österberg's epos about the Greek gods.

Web: deviantart.com/a-gnosis
Mail: liosterberg@hotmail.com
Tumblr: a-gnosis.tumblr.com



A page from the graphic novel *Athena – Daddy's Girl*.

SWEDISH LITERATURE EXCHANGE

The Swedish Arts Council works to promote Swedish literature and drama in translation. Under the name Swedish Literature Exchange, we do this through grants, information, networking, translator activities, and attendance at book fairs and other meeting places for literature exchange.

Grants for translation of Swedish literature

If you would like to publish a book translated from Swedish you can apply for a grant from the Swedish Arts Council.

The translation grant covers part of the costs for translating Swedish fiction, nonfiction, poetry, children's books, narrative nonfiction and comics/graphic novels. You can also apply to cover licensed stage performances of full length Swedish plays. The applied sum should correspond to the sum agreed with the translator according to the translator contract.

You can also apply for a maximum of SEK 10 000 for production costs for fully illustrated colour illustrated books. but only for fully illustrated four colour picturebooks, non-fiction or comics and graphic novels. Non- or partly illustrated books or books with black and white illustrations (except in some cases, such as comics) are not eligible for production support. The grant cannot cover copyright costs.

Irrespective of genre, the work must be of high quality in terms of both language and literary qualities. The grant is meant to support translation of contemporary works, but could also be given to classics. Priority will be given to introduction of the work of contemporary Swedish authors into languages where there are no or few previous translations of that author's work.

You cannot apply for handbooks, popular psychology, self-help, gardening, cookbooks, travel guides or academic works.

Grants for travel, promotion and themed events

This grant covers a wide range of activities, also in digital format, for example:

- Invite Swedish authors, illustrators, playwrights for book launches, book tours, panel talks, literary festivals – the grant can cover costs for travel, accommodation, performance fees
- Arrange reading events for unpublished books or theatre plays – the grant can cover translation costs for a sample of the text being read, but also for inviting the author, (see above), and for producing material in conjunction with the event.
- Promote the books that might need an extra push – the grant can cover some marketing costs.
- Arrange workshops or seminars for translators from Swedish into other languages – the grant can cover costs for a workshop/seminar leader, guest lecturers, some material costs in conjunction with the workshop/seminar. The length could be a full year or just one or two days.
- Produce publications on Swedish literature and drama – it could be online magazines, blogs, special issues in papers, overviews over the Swedish literary scene. The grant can cover fees for contributors, marketing, some production costs.
- Arrange larger events around Swedish literature, such as a Guest of Honourship at a bookfair or a festival – the grant can cover costs for the invited authors and illustrators, as well as costs for the Swedish stand, and some marketing material and events at the fair/festival.

For more information, see www.swedishliterature.se.

CONTACTS

PUBLISHERS

Albumförlaget

Albumförlaget publishes adventure comics, both translations from French and original comics from Swedish, all in the traditional album format.

albumförlaget.se
jonas@albumforlaget.se

Apart

Apart mainly publishes translations of trade paperbacks in series such as *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*, but also original Swedish comics.

apartforlag.se
info@apartforlag.se

C'est Bon Kultur

C'est Bon Kultur has published an anthology since 2001, *C'est Bon Anthology*, focused on experimental and innovative works by artists from all over the world.

cestbonkultur.com
info@cestbonkultur.com

Cobolt

Cobolt is a publisher focusing mainly on translating traditional French-Belgian comics albums into Swedish, but also publishes original Swedish comics in the album format.

coboltforlag.se
kontakt@coboltforlag.se

Egmont

The largest publisher of comics in Sweden and Scandinavia. Mainly handles international licenses, such as Disney, but also local Swedish comics.

storyhouseegmont.se

Epix

Epix publishes comics from all over the world and have done so since the 1980s, with a minor part being original Swedish comics.

epix.se

Hegas

A publisher specializing in easy to read books for young readers, including comics.

hegas.se
info@hegas.se

Galago

Galago is one of Sweden's leading publishers of alternative comics collections and graphic novels and has been around since 1979. Their focus is on social realism and political satire and most of their comics are created in Sweden.

galago.se
galago@oradfront.se

Kaunitz-Olsson

Kaunitz-Olsson publishes original Swedish as well as translated graphic novels, but also art books and novels.

kaunitz-olsson.com
thomas@kaunitz-olsson.com

Kartago

Kartago is another major publisher of graphic books with images that conveys both entertaining and intelligent views on contemporary society, books that may inspire new ideas and new thoughts.

kartago.se
kontakt@kartago.se

Lystring

Lystring translates and publishes alternative comics, e.g. the works of Simon Hanselmann.

lystring.com
lytsring@ownit.nu

Mooz

A Swedish subsidiary to the Danish publisher Zoom, focusing on traditional French-Belgian albums.

forlagetzoom.dk
info@forlagetzoom.dk

Natur & Kultur

A major Swedish book publisher, with a section for graphic novels, including books by Henrik Lange.

nok.se
info@nok.se

Nosebleed Studios

Nosebleed Studio is a collective of Swedish manga artists, publishing their own original manga books, as well as how-to-books and translated editions of Asian-inspired comics.

nosebleed-studio.com
contact@nosebleed-studio.com

Placenta

A publishing house focusing on publishing online content including comics, into the book form.

placenta.se
info@placenta.se

Sanatorium

Publishes an eclectic mix of sequential and non-sequential art.

sanatorium.se
info@sanatorium.se

Stevali Kids

Publisher and agent who represents among others, the comics artists Per Demervall, Patric Nytsröm and Johan Wanloo.

stevali.se
info@stevali.se

ASSOCIATIONS AND AGENTS

AM Book

Am-Book is a literary agency that represents cartoonists, including Swedish artists such as Daria Bogdanska, Henrik Bromander, Simon Gärdenfors, Liv Strömquist and Alma Thörn.

am-book.com
alessandra@am-book.com

Bulls Press

Bulls Press is a syndicate that sells editorial material and commercial rights to newspapers, magazines and publishers.

bulls.se
info@bulls.se

The Comics Archive

The biggest archive for comics history in Northern Europe, situated in Malmö.

seriearkivet.se
kontakt@seriearkivet.se

Dotterbolaget

Dotterbolaget is a feminist comics network for women and transgender people, organising exhibitions and other events.

dotterbolaget.blogspot.se
info@dotterbolaget.com

Grand Agency

A literary agency that represents Swedish comics artists such as Karl Johnsson and Henrik Lange.

grandagency.se
lena@grandagency.se

Rights & Brands

Rights & Brands is an agency that represents several Nordic comics, including Nyström's & Demervall's *Siri the Viking*.

rightsandbrands.com
info@rightsandbrands.com

Serieteket

Serieteket (The Comics Library) is Sweden's only library devoted to the ninth art. It is the foremost meeting place for comic fans and offers a wide range of comics and art books as well as a vibrant programme with author/artist talks, film screenings and comics in concert.

kulturhusetstadsteatern.se
ola.hellsten@stockholm.se

Strand Comics

An agency specialized in Nordic comics strips, with Swedish artists like Ellen Ekman and Lina Neidestam among their creators.

strandcomics.no
haakon@strandcomics.no

The Swedish Comics Association

The Swedish Comics Association works to spread knowledge about the unique characteristics of comics and develop the Swedish comics culture. The activities of the Association includes publishing the journal *Bild & Bubbla*, presenting comics award *Urhunden*, organizing festivals, exhibitions, lectures, debates and much more.

serieframjandet.se
info@serieframjandet.se

Tusen Serier

Tusen Serier (A thousand comics) is a project to make Swedish comics culture more inclusive by supporting Swedish artists with an immigrant background.

tusenserier.com
info@tusenserier.com

FESTIVALS

All Swedish comics festivals are free of charge for visitors and welcome international exhibitors.

AltCom

C'est Bon Kultur organises the international comics festival AltCom biannually in Malmö, together with Tusen Serier. The focus is on alternative comics, with an international outlook.

altcomfestival.se
altcomfestival@gmail.com

Malmö Seriefest

Seriefest is organised by a group of independent comics artist and librarians. The focus is on small-press and self-published fanzines, with the booths manned by the artists themselves.

seriefest.blogspot.se
seriefest@gmail.com

Seriefest i väst

Seriefest i väst is a comics festival in the city of Gothenburg, which is organized by the Swedish Comics Association and takes place in the autumn every year,

serieframjandet.se
info@serieframjandet.se

Sis

Stockholms internationella seriefestival (Stockholm International Comics Festival) is the major comics festival in Sweden, organised by Serieteket at Kulturhuset in Stockholm every spring. Apart from a wide variety of public discussions, interviews and lectures it includes the biggest marketplace for comics in Sweden.

seriefestivalen.se
ola.hellsten@stockholm.se

Uppsala Comix

Uppsala Comix is a yearly festival held every spring in the town of Uppsala, with a comics market, signings etc.

uppsalacomix.se
info@uppsalacomix.se

The comics scene in Sweden is incredibly diverse, with hard-hitting autobiography, social realism and political satire as well as engaging science fiction, horror and adventure stories, and much, much more. It's easy to see that comics in Sweden are experiencing a veritable golden age, and the rest of the world is starting to take notice.

This brochure gives you a brief insight into the current state of Swedish comics and provides information on support for translation and projects as well as contact details to publishers, festivals and relevant organisations.

Sword Princess Amaltea
by Natalia Batista.



**SWEDISH
ARTSCOUNCIL**