

Arts & Humanities

A Life in Comics: The Graphic Adventures of Karen Green

How a Butler librarian became Columbia's first curator for comics and cartoons.

By

Nick Sousanis '14TC

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Summer 2017

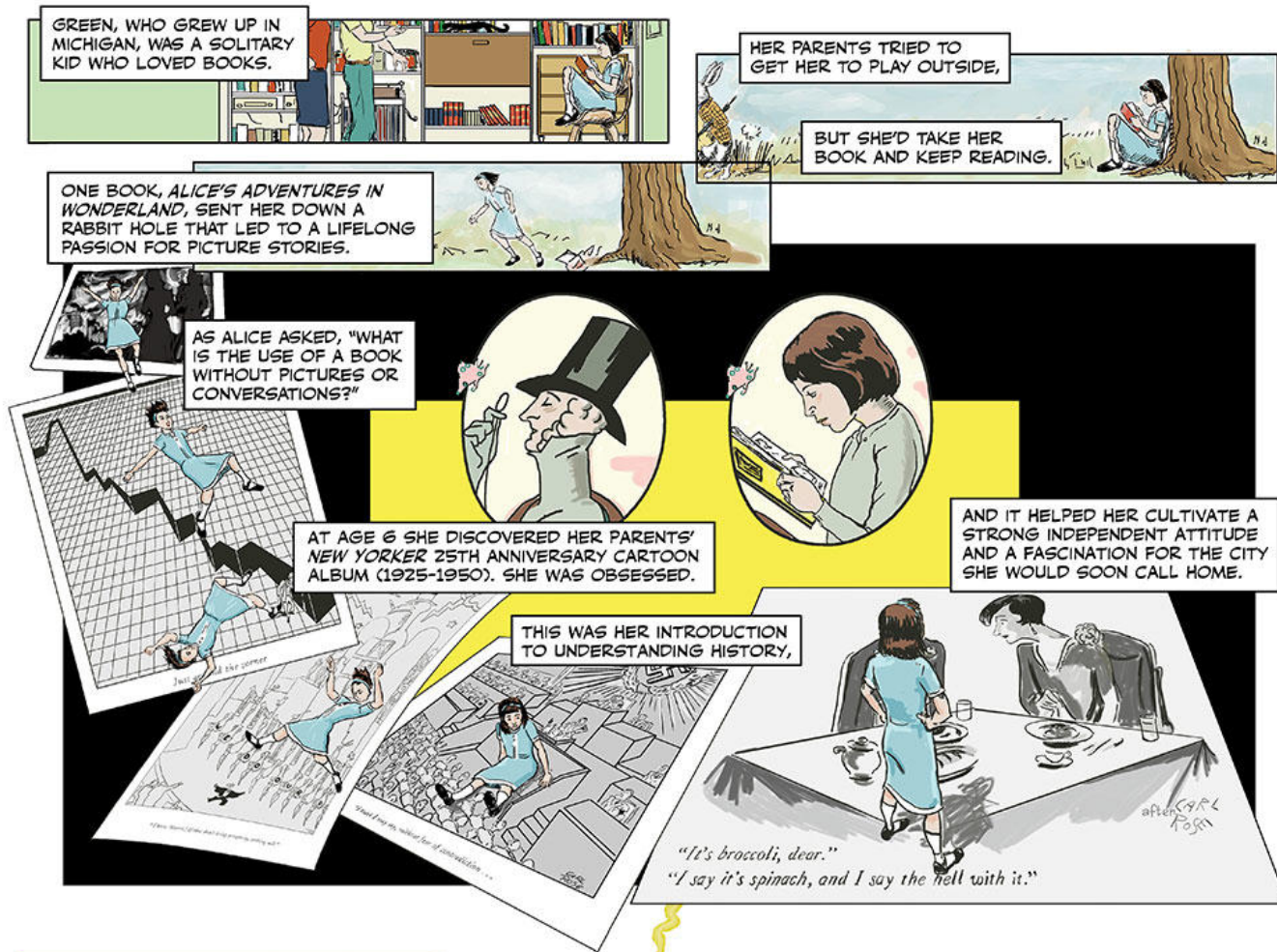


A LIFE IN COMICS

The Graphic Adventures of Karen Green '97GSAS

How a Butler Librarian Became Columbia's First Curator for Comics and Cartoons

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COMICS SEEMED TO FOLLOW HER EVERYWHERE.

BACK WHEN GREEN WAS 11 SHE GOT BRACES. TO HER DELIGHT, HER ORTHODONTIST HAD STACKS OF ARCHIE COMICS.



SHE ENDED UP STAYING FOR HOURS AFTER HER APPOINTMENT'S READING...



"I LOVED THOSE COMICS. I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT HIGH SCHOOL WAS GOING TO BE LIKE. I WAS MISTAKEN."



HIGH SCHOOL PROVED TO BE A DIFFICULT AND TROUBLED TIME FOR GREEN.

IT'S THERE SHE DISCOVERED UNDERGROUND COMICS AND THE COMICS MAGAZINE

HEAVY METAL



after Jim Cherry

- WHICH BLEW HER MIND WITH ITS SLATE OF EUROPEAN CARTOONISTS



after C. Burns

- AS WELL AS AMERICAN CHARLES BURNS, WHOSE WORK TOOK HER BREATH AWAY AND SPOKE DIRECTLY TO FEELINGS HIGH SCHOOL EVOKED.



SHE MADE IT TO COLLEGE IN 1978, BUT DROPPED OUT AFTER ONE SEMESTER AND STARTED BARTENDING, WHICH SHE WOULD DO FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS.



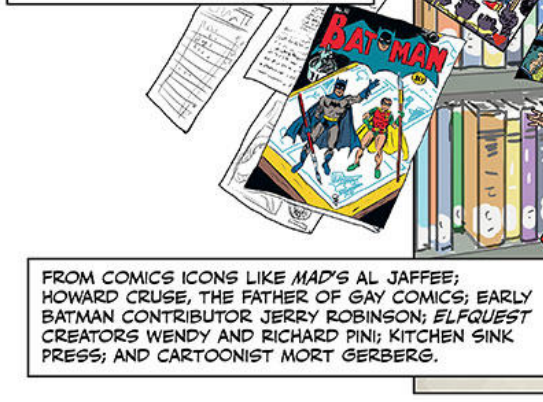
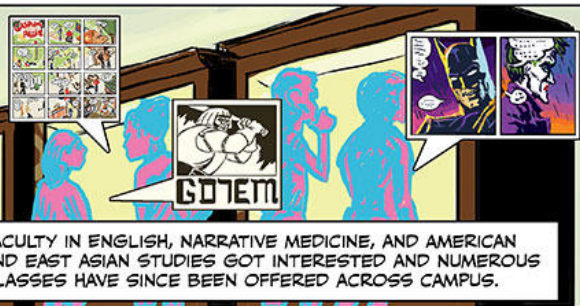
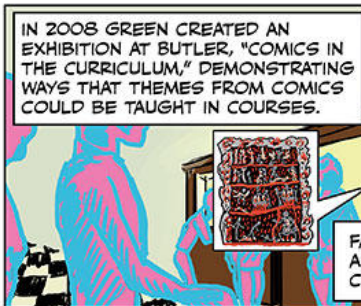
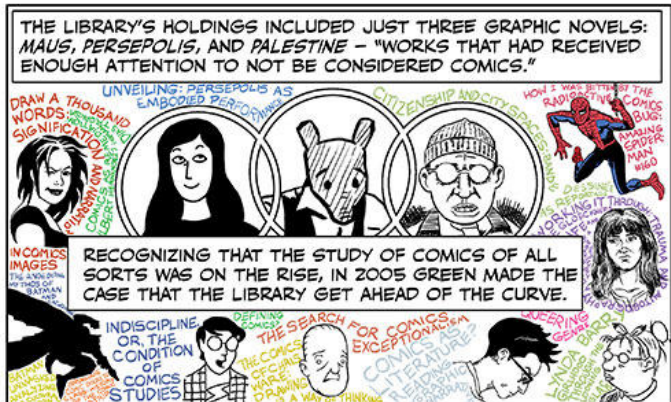
BARTENDING TAUGHT HER HOW TO WORK WITH AND TALK TO DIFFICULT PEOPLE AND GRIN LIKE A CHESHIRE CAT WHEN SHE WASN'T "FEELING SMILEY."

DURING THIS TIME, GREEN CHASED MANY DIFFERENT DREAMS TRYING TO FIND HER WAY.



IN 1989 SHE WENT TO MASSAGE THERAPY SCHOOL.





WHAT LESSON CAN WE DRAW FROM KAREN'S ADVENTURES?

HERE WE GO WITH AN HOMAGE TO AL JAFFEE'S

MAD FOLD-IN

Help Karen navigate the twists and turns of her seemingly chaotic path by folding the page.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS

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