



PRESS RELEASE  
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## We all know comics aren't just for kids but do you know your Manga from your Maus, your Super-man from your Spiegelman...?

One of the fastest-growing areas in publishing, the world of Graphic Novels can confuse even the most informed comics aficionado, let alone comics newbies. From *Sin City* to *Persepolis*, Raymond Briggs to Harvey Pekar, the new ***Rough Guide to Graphic Novels*** is the ultimate companion to this diverse medium.

Written by industry insider and former *Spiderman* editor Danny Fingerroth of Marvel comics, the *Rough Guide to Graphic Novels* leads you seamlessly through the history of this ever-expanding genre from sequential art in Egyptian tombs, through the superhero boom of the 1940s to the birth of the graphic novel movement and the latest online offerings.

Uniquely, the guide includes an exclusive graphic novel, written by Fingerroth and illustrated by Roger Langridge, which sheds light on how to make a graphic novel. Giving insight into scripting techniques, the artist/writer collaboration and finding a publisher, this is sure to inspire even the graphic novel novice.

The guide takes in detailed reviews of 60 un-missable reads, from canonical items such as *A Contract with God* to modern classics-in-the-making like *Alice in Sunderland*, and it profiles industry legends such as Frank Miller, Joann Sfar, Denis Kitchen and other illustrators, writers and publishers who've helped win respect for this once marginalized art form. *The Rough Guide to Graphic Novels* also gives you the low-down on film and television adaptations and essential books, magazines, conventions, courses and websites.

Also available in a limited edition. This special collector's edition includes an elegant slip-case and fold-out cover with panoramic artwork from award-winning graphic novelist and illustrator Kyle Baker, author of the genre-defining *Why I Hate Saturn*.

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### **Notes for Editors:**

The Rough Guide to Graphic Novels by Danny Fingerroth  
ISBN: 9781843539933 • RRP: £11.99 • Published: August 2008

The Rough Guide to Graphic Novels – **Limited Edition** – by Danny Fingerroth  
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### Did you know?

- Graphic Novels in the classroom - Ministers have recommended a list of comic books for primary schools to encourage more boys to read for fun.
- The films *Road to Perdition*, *A History of Violence*, *Iron Man* and *Sin City* all began life as graphic novels.
- We may think of comics as a very modern art form, but sequential art is nothing new. The paintings in ancient Egyptian tombs record events through a combination of sequential drawings and hieroglyphic lettering.
- Angoulême in France and Brussels in Belgium are both self-proclaimed comic-strip capitals of Europe. Upcoming comics talent is recognized each year at the International Comics Festival in Angoulême, while the Belgian comics artist “Hergé” bequeathed European graphic art two great legacies: Tintin, and the style of illustration known as “ligne claire”.
- The Comics Code is enforced by the **Comics Code Authority** (CCA) who stamp their seal of approval on comics who comply with the code. The CCA is still in operation, but it’s unlikely many comics would warrant approval. Rules include:
  - Policemen, judges, government officials and respected institutions shall never be presented in such a way as to create disrespect for established authority.
  - In every instance good shall triumph over evil and the criminal be punished for his misdeeds.
  - The use of “profanity, obscenity, smut and vulgarity” are prohibited, as are scenes depicting “the walking dead, vampires, ghouls, cannibalism and werewolfism” and scenes of “excessive bloodshed and gory or gruesome crimes”.
  - Love stories are required to reinforce the “sanctity of marriage” and love scenes are forbidden from stimulating “lower and baser emotions”.