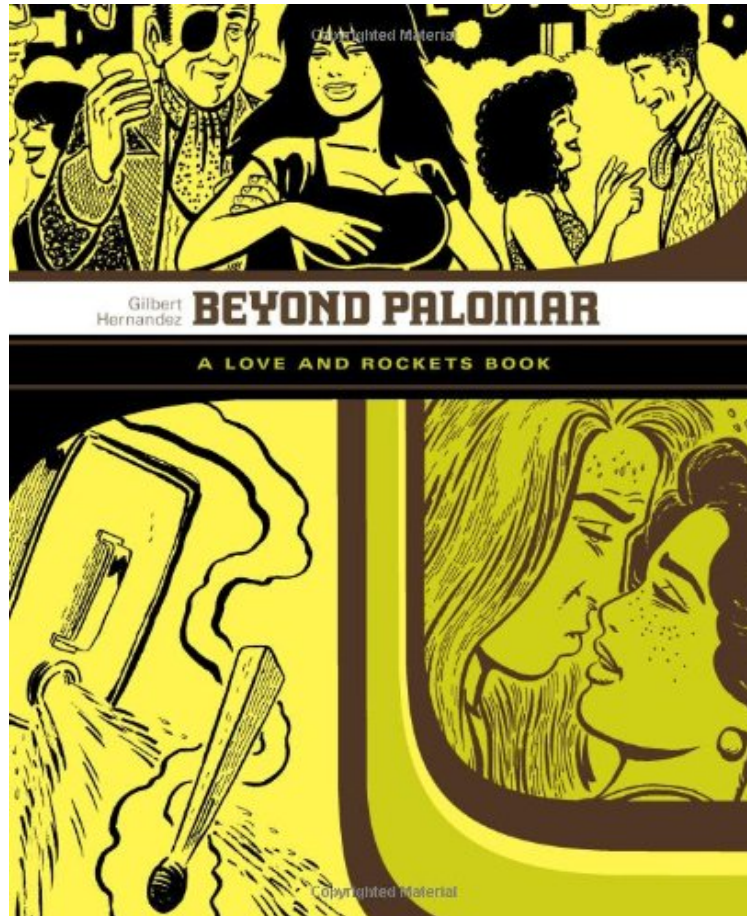


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Beyond Palomar (Love Rockets)

Gilbert Hernandez

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Gilbert Hernandez : Beyond Palomar (Love Rockets) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Palomar (Love Rockets):

6 of 15 people found the following review helpful. these books are weirdBy Todd W. RittenhouseI guess when i started reading these i liked the l.a. stories better than the mexican ones, and wanted them to be all about hispanic life in l.a. Over time though the characters in the mexican stories started to become better. Plus luba's got big boobs.1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Hands Down One of the Best Stories Ever Written.By ImogenReaders of Gilbert H.'s fiction occasionally accuse him of lifting the slightly "mystic small town" aesthetic associated with writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez or william Faulkner, and not without good reason. I won't go into detail why this is one of my favorite books of all time, but I would like to know where Gilbert got his ideas, especially the bellybutton fixation and the walnut cracking.

Two classic Love and Rockets graphic novels in one beautiful volume: "Poison River" traces the backstory of Luba, from child to teenage mob bride to her escape to Palomar; "Love and Rockets X" is a wide-ranging, Altman-esque

story set in early-1990s L.A. For the first half decade of *Love and Rockets*, Gilbert Hernandez focused on fleshing out his small Central American hamlet of Palomar. But eventually this became too restrictive for the kinds of stories he wanted to tell, and he created, in quick succession, two major standalone graphic novels. *Beyond Palomar* collects these two groundbreaking works, together for the first time. "Poison River" is a dizzying period piece often hailed as one of Hernandez's masterpieces. It traces the pre-Palomar childhood of Luba, her teenage marriage to gangster Peter Rio, the secrets behind her mysterious mother, all the way up to her subsequent escape and arrival in Palomar. This story introduces a number of characters and themes that occupied later issues of *Love and Rockets* (including Luba's mother Maria and her sinister guardian angel Gorgo), and is a riveting page-turner besides, with lots of sex, drugs, guns, politics, and women who can crack walnuts with their stomachs. "Love and Rockets X," set in the early 1990s (in the waning years of Bush I's post-Reagan hangover, with Gulf War I in the background), takes us from plush Beverly Hills to the dangerous east side and introduces us to a dizzyingly diverse cast of characters, including a lowlife rock 'n' roll band, a "posse" of black youths, a ditzy Hollywood mom and her spoiled son, a gay activist filmmaker and his rebellious, half-Iraqi daughter, and a group of racist thugs whose violent attack on an older woman sets the plot in motion as well as bringing in several older characters, including a couple of Palomar expatriates. *Beyond Palomar* is a wildly original diptych of graphic novels by one of the great cartooning talents of the last quarter century. 256 pages of black-and-white comics

In a real world, not the screwed-up world we have now, [Gilbert Hernandez] would be considered one of the greatest American storytellers. It's so hard to do funny, tragic, local and epic, and he does all simultaneously, and with great aplomb. -- Junot Diaz, author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* Words can hardly describe how much I'm enjoying these affordable reprints of one of the five greatest comics series of all time. --Tom Spurgeon "Poison River [contained in full in *Beyond Palomar*], a graphic novel by Gilbert Hernandez, gave me a master lesson in real writing. It was beautiful beyond words and violent and tender and heartbreaking. From that moment on, I knew what kind of writer I wanted to be. It's the great unknown novel of the 20th Century. --Junot Diaz, author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*" About the Author Gilbert Hernandez lives in Las Vegas, NV, with his wife and daughter. He is co-creator of the long-running, award-winning, and critically acclaimed series *Love and Rockets*.