



Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, Volume 1

Hope Nicholson (Editor) , Michael Sheyahshe (Introduction/Contributor) , David W. Mack (Contributor) , David Robertson (Contributor) , Haiwei Hou (Contributor) , Dayton Edmonds (Contributor) , Micah Farritor (Contributor) , Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley (Contributor) , more... Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley (Contributor) , Menton3 (Contributor) , Arigon Starr (Contributor) , David Cutler (Contributor) , Elizabeth LaPensée (Contributor) , Gregory Chomichuk (Contributor) , George Freeman (Contributor) , Tony Romito (Contributor) , Jeremy D. Mohler (Contributor) , Ian Ross (Contributor) , Lovern Kindzierski (Contributor) , Adam Gorham (Contributor) , Richard Van Camp (Contributor) , Nicholas Burns (Contributor) , Todd Houseman (Contributor) , Ben Shannon (Contributor) , Jay Odjick (Contributor) , Joel Odjick (Contributor) , Claude St. Aubin (Contributor) , Buffy Sainte-Marie (Contributor) , Andy Stanleigh (Afterword) ...less

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Produced by AH Comics Inc. (Titan: An Alternate History, Delta, Hobson's Gate, Jewish Comix Anthology) and edited by Hope Nicholson (Brok Windsor, Lost Heroes, Nelvana of the Northern Lights), MOONSHOT brings together dozens of creators from across North America to contribute comic book stories showcasing the rich heritage and identity of indigenous storytelling.

From traditional stories to exciting new visions of the future, this collection presents some of the finest comic book and graphic novel work in North America. The traditional stories presented in the book are with the permission from the elders in their respective communities, making this a truly genuine, never-before-seen publication. MOONSHOT is an incredible collection that is sure to amaze, intrigue and entertain!

Here are some of the talented writers and artists who have contributed to MOONSHOT:

Claude St-Aubin (R.E.B.E.L.S., Green Lantern, Captain Canuck), Jeffery Veregge (G.I. Joe, Judge Dredd), Stephen Gladue (MOONSHOT cover artist), Haiwei Hou (Two Brothers), Nicholas Burns (Arctic Comics, Curse of Chucky, Super Shamou), Jon Proudstar (Tribal Force), George Freeman (Captain Canuck, Aquaman, Batman), Elizabeth LaPensee (Survivance, The Nature of Snakes, Fala), Buffy Sainte-Marie (Fire & Fleet & Candlelight, Coincidence & Likely Stories), Richard Van Camp (Path of the Warrior, Kiss Me Deadly), David Robertson (The Evolution of Alice, Stone), David Cutler (The Northern Guard), Menton J. Matthews III (Monocyte, Memory Collectors, Three Feathers), Jay Odjick (Kagagi: The Raven), Ian Ross (Heart of a Distant Tribe, Bereav'd of Light, An Illustrated History of the Anishinabe), Lovern Kindzierski (X-Men, Wolverine, Incredible Hulk, Thor, Spiderman), Arigon Starr (Super Indian, Indigenous Narratives Collective), Michael Sheyahshe (Dark Owl, Native Americans in Comic Books), Fred Pashe (SpiritWolf) and more!

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From Reader Review Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, Volume 1 for online ebook

The Library Ladies says

(originally reviewed at thelibraryladies.com)

I had another impulsive moment at work recently, where I went to our New Books Wall and took a look at what there was to offer. Since these books don't go to the usual request list, sometimes you can get really lucky and find something that's in demand or brand new. I was immediately taken in by the gorgeous cover on a new graphic novel collection. I mean, DAMN, look at the cover for "Moonshot (Vol.1)"! Is it not staggering and beautiful!? I gave it some time on the wall, because I had a big stack at home and wanted to give the patrons a chance to snatch it up. But after waiting awhile I just had to have it. And I am so glad that I was entranced by the cover, because "Moonshot" as a whole was an entrancing collection!

The first thing to know about "Moonshot" is that it is a collection of one shot stories that are written by people from Indigenous Nations across North America, as are the artists. The second thing to know is that it is a collection filled with stunning variety because of all of these differing perspectives. I wasn't sure of what to expect from this collection, but whatever my expectations may have been they were blown out of the water by what I found. While there are a number of stories in this book, a few of them really stood out to me, so I will focus my attention on them. That isn't to say that the others aren't as good, however. These are the ones that left the biggest impression because of story or artwork.

"The Qallupiluk: Forgiven" by Sean and Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley, and menton3 (Ill.).

This story is from the Arctic regions, and concerns themes of death and forgiveness. This was also the one story in the collection that had minimal artwork, as it was mostly text with a few large pieces that stood out for the most important parts of the story. I liked a couple of things about this story. The first was that it was creepy as all get out, as the Qallupiluk is a creature that hides beneath the ice and takes unsuspecting victims under the water and kill them. This story is about a Qallupiluk that takes on the form of one of it's victims in hopes of stealing away a child, until a dog calls it out. I liked the personal journey that the Qallupiluk took, as odd as that sounds, and has to confront the concept of forgiveness. The art, as I said, was scattered, but the images that were there were absolutely breathtaking and visceral. As someone who loves creepy imagery, this one was a true treat.

"Siku" by Tony Romito, and Jeremy D. Mohler (Ill.)

Another story from the Arctic region, and another one that involves malevolent forces and scary imagery. This one is about a hunter who witnesses a conflict between two otherworldly beings, one of which is a demon. Boy do I love the demon stories. This book definitely was more set up like a comic, with panels, bubbles, the works. It felt like an old school horror comic, and like something that I would pick up at the comic book shop when looking for something twisted. And the end, WAHH, so unsettling. The art didn't stand out as much in this one, but that didn't matter because the story really kept me interested. I don't want to spoil anything, so I won't go into much detail, but it kind of cut to the quick in that it definitely touched on one of my bigger freak out factors in horror.

"Coyote and the Pebbles" by Dayton Edmonds, and Micah Farritor (Ill.)

I've grown up hearing many iterations of the Coyote myth, as Coyote is a very prominent character in many Indigenous narratives and mythologies. This one sounded familiar, but Edwards really made it his own. I've always liked Coyote, be he a troublemaker or sympathetic, and in this story I really liked how he was portrayed as somewhere in the middle (but being me, I still felt for him). It concerns the nocturnal animals of the world hoping to see more at night when the sun is down, and thinking that they should draw portraits of themselves to light the way. And Coyote thinks that he is the best artist of them all. This story is a straight up 'how this came to be' myth, but I really liked it. This was also my favorite art style in the collection, with animals shifting between animal form and human form, but even in human form still evoking their animal identity. Farritor has a real skill for pulling animal characteristics from his drawings, be they animals or not. This story was lovely and melancholy, and I really, really enjoyed it.

"Moonshot (Vol.1)" is a collection that was so fun, and breathtaking in a lot of ways, and I seriously cannot wait for Volume 2 to come out (YES, there is going to be a Volume 2, isn't that great?!). I think that it's also a very important work, especially since Indigenous representation is one of the lowest in Children's and YA Literature. I cannot recommend this book enough to comics enthusiasts, and I think that everyone should consider picking it up. If the cover alone doesn't get you, the stories inside certainly will.

Gina says

Great collection. Many of the inclusions are short, only giving you a tantalizing glimpse, but that accomplishes the goal.

My main recommendation is to pace yourself, taking on one story at a time and then doing something else while you digest it. There are so many different approaches and styles and themes.

There is some really gorgeous artwork, but I want to call special attention to David Mack's work as we are introduced to Maya Lopez and her hearing impairment. There are childlike drawings, sketches, text, ASL hands, hands showing a sign language used by natives from different tribes and other symbols, changes in color and perspective and format of shapes -- all working together in a compelling way to introduce you to this character and how her adjustments to her hearing loss have created her powers. When I first read about Echo I thought she could be an interesting counterpart to Daredevil, and I admire Mack's innovations in her story the way I appreciated Paolo Rivera's work on his Daredevil run.

There is a lot of beautiful artwork, a lot of interesting stories, and a lot of room for future thought.

This is a really good contribution to Indigenous literature and to comics.

Dusty says

Moonshot, a compilation of comics by and about members of indigenous communities in the United States and Canada, draws its name from a Buffy Sainte-Marie song about dying and becoming a star. It is an appropriate name not only because the collected stories pay respect to the creators' forebears, but also because many of them feature characters traveling between earth and space. In one, several animals throw pebbles into the forest sky, constructing the constellations and bringing light to the dark night. In another, an old woman returns to the abandoned planet of her birth (Earth) to console a grandson who has transformed

into an enormous snake and is trapped there.

Like any anthology, this one includes a few selections that seem, to me, to stand above the rest in beauty and poignancy. "Ue-Pucase: Water Master," the story about the old woman and the grandson who changes into a snake, turns a Muscogee Creek tradition into science fiction and is certainly memorable. "Copper Heart," which depicts a boy setting out to find the home of legendary creatures that may be able to cure his sister's ailment, is eerily drawn and tugs on the heartstrings. As the examples I have shared probably make clear, this is a book unlike any I have ever read.

As a reader unfamiliar with the authors, artists, and storytelling traditions represented here, I was disappointed to see so many of the stories ending so quickly after they began, leaving me just a taste of the larger narratives and cultures from which they are borrowed. Anyway, whether or not you love every story collected here, you will have to agree that the book is lovingly curated and deliciously illustrated. I look forward to checking out some of these writers' full-length works and reading *Moonshot, Volume 2*, which is apparently headed our way in 2017.

Emmkay says

Beautiful collection of 13 short indigenous comics, a genre that really provides an opportunity to showcase the indigenous storytelling tradition. It feels and looks stunning. Because they're so brief, the individual contributions act essentially as tasters, and some were more to my taste than others. Neat to be exposed to what is clearly a vibrant scene, with which I wasn't previously familiar (eg indigenous steampunk is a thing!).

Meepelous says

While it is always true that there will be some stories in any short story collection that you appreciate more than others, the sheer level of professionalism that went into this anthology rendered each story interesting in its own way. A lot of effort from many different people went into this book and it really shows.

It was very interesting to be reading Michael A Sheyahshe's *Native Americans In Comic Books* at the same time. The one being an amazing example of what the other is pointing towards. Not only representing native people through characters and plot, but creating stories spawned out of their own cultural experience. This is a prime example of why we need more diversity in creators. Well intentioned people can only go so far - we need to let minorities tell stories about themselves in the way they want to tell them.

The results are simply amazing. We get everything from traditional stories to a snippet from *The Daredevil Vision Quest Series*. My favorite were probably the science fiction stories, although I appreciated their own unique twist on steam punk. I suspect there is something in here for just about anyone. In a time when everything feels like a reboot, I can only hope their success on kickstarter leads to more things like this being made.

Tobin Elliott says

I'm a relative newcomer to Canada, able to trace back only four generations before I run into a relative that immigrated to Canada instead of being born here. I have no native blood in me whatsoever. And, if I'm honest, I know exceedingly little about Canada's indigenous population, who walked this land for generations before we showed up and fucked everything up.

Still, for all of that, I found myself captivated both by the stories and legends presented in this collection, as well as the stunning artwork.

I'll still claim to be mostly ignorant of native customs and lifestyles, but this collection, beautiful in both design and production, goes a little way to educating me.

And a total shout-out to Myth Hawker Travelling Bookstore, who introduced me to this graphic novel and ensured I didn't just set it back down again.

Aphrodite says

Very interesting and beautiful images.

Josée says

Moonshot contains different tales that cover quite a few genres. Interspersed between the stories, is one novella accompanied by images, a poem, some stand-alone artwork, and descriptions of each story beforehand.

As a whole I enjoyed it, and I found none of the extras took away from the stories. But, like any anthology there were some stories I loved, and others that I didn't. Usually the ones I didn't like, I felt like the story was too short... they felt rushed as if there was exposition missing, or no real depth. Luckily, reading their descriptions helped make things more interesting, but I wish I hadn't needed to rely on that. I would, however, recommend this collection solely based on the first 4-5 of them, and the diversity of offerings. I'd honestly give 5 stars to *The Qallupiluk: Forgiven* and *Coyote and the Pebbles*, and 4 stars to *Vision Quest: Echo*, and *Siku*.

Overall, take the time to read it through for the art. The illustrations were what drew me in and kept me reading. There's a range of talents, so there is definitely something out there to enjoy, so please do.

CaseyTheCanadianLesbrarian says

I didn't absolutely love every story but this is a really high quality anthology, with beautiful, thoughtful choices of stories and artwork, some of which were breath taking. Favourite stories were: "Vision Quest Echo" (about a deaf Cherokee girl), "Ochek" (Cree story explaining where a constellation comes from), "Coyote and the Pebbles" (Caddo story about where the stars come from), "The Qallupiluk: Forgiven" (about

a scary Inuit mythical creature from the sea), "Copper Heart" (historical tale of 2 siblings set in Anishinaabeg territory). Highly recommended for teens and adults!

Maggie Gordon says

Moonshot is a collection of speculative comics about Indigenous people, mostly by Indigenous people. As with all collections, there are some fantastic pieces and some weaker pieces; however, two things stand out to me the most. The first is the use of speculative fiction and Indigenous themes. It's wonderful to see stories of Indigenous people in the future since they are so often wrongfully thought of as peoples stuck in the past. Secondly, the art in this volume is gorgeous. There are some truly talented Indigenous artists out there, and this is a book you should want just for how pretty it is. Glad I supported the Kickstarter for this and excited for volume 2!

Matt says

I really enjoyed this first volume! I found some of these stories to be exceptionally beautiful! I look forward to reading Volume 2!

Julianne (Outlandish Lit) says

When I first heard about this project, I was both very excited and kind of nervous. I had never before read short fiction in comic form. I didn't really have any idea that it was possible to tell an entire story within ten pages of panels. But this collection showed me how much can be pulled off. And it taught me an amazing wealth of things about the indigenous cultures of North America.

The stories range from visiting the origins of folklore, to seeing these stories' modern impact, to brilliantly imagined futuristic sci-fi stories blended with folklore. It continued to surprise me throughout, and the artwork is absolutely stunning. Between every few stories there's a 1-2 page spread featuring an unrelated work of art that often took my breath away.

Obviously it's hard to judge an anthology of stories written by different people. **There are some that really stood out, and there were some that were just ok.** A number could've used more pages to really develop. There were probably more anthropomorphic animal characters than I normally would've liked to read about, but that's sort of to be expected if some of the stories explore tales related to local wildlife. And there's one story that I just didn't understand at all. All of that being said, the good stories and the incredible artwork were both fascinating enough to make up for them.

A few of my favorites:

Vision Quest: Echo - In a beautiful collage of a limited number of images, a young deaf girl explains the importance of storytelling to her family and culture. She learns how storytelling is possible through images. I probably cried the first time I read this one.

The Qallupiluk: Forgiven - This one isn't technically a comic. It's a short story with an accompanying

illustration every other page. It is SO CREEPY. The Qallupiluk is a creature from Inuit legend that comes from the deep Arctic ocean. It's kind of shapeless, with spines and fins, that can morph into other forms. In this story a young Inuit girl makes the mistake of approaching the creature in the water.

Ue-Pucase: Water Master - A futuristic story about two space travelers visiting another planet, this is based on Muscogee Creek story "The Young Man Who Turned Into a Snake." I loved the blend of space travel, modern dialogue, and what turns out to be startlingly real folklore.

Ayanisach - This one may be my very favorite, but it's hard to decide. An old woman teaches her grandson how to tell the story of their people. It starts with what sounds like folklore, then reaches into modern day and explains how an apocalypse of sorts went down. Extraterrestrials were involved and their people had to fight back. The protagonist goes on to tell the story to his young friends in the city, because the retelling of stories is what will teach others in the future.

There's been a long, long history of Indigenous peoples having their culture appropriated in mainstream media. Especially when it comes to comics, indigenous characters are often turned flat and one-dimensional; caricatures that are either foolish or barbaric. Their stories/traditions are blown out of proportion to comic levels and/or completely misunderstood. There is rarely any amount of respect involved when appropriating these stories and ideas. **With this collection of comics, indigenous peoples are taking space that they deserve to create and tell their own stories.** And they are damn good.

Full review: Outlandish Lit

Rick says

This was a really well done anthology. While some of the stories are little more than vignettes, many are powerful and all are certainly heartfelt offerings. There's a wide range of topics and themes included, just as there are a wide range of peoples and cultures being represented. I particularly liked the story of how Coyote "helped" put the stars in the sky. I've heard a different versions many years ago, which is possibly my favorite story of Coyote; this one is quite different, but has some tonal similarities nonetheless, basically variations on a theme. There's also gorgeous artwork through out, representing a wide variety of tales and style. A truly amazing collaborative achievement.

Elizabeth says

Moonshot first caught my attention with its beautiful cover, and kept my attention with its concept, that of highlighting indigenous voices to tell stories from unique and underrepresented backgrounds. It absolutely lived up to both it's cover and concept.

The comic book industry has often failed to do enough to serve stories from POC authors and characters. This book acknowledges that oversight, and strives to do something about it. Taking stories by and about North American natives, it presents narratives of past, present, and future. The stories are all completely unique to native culture, and the art highlights the stories to their fullest extent.

The opening story, Vision Quest: Echo, makes use of Indian Sign Language, which I was not actually aware existed (although I absolutely should have been). It was so refreshing to start off with a story of a girl who was both deaf and native. My favourite artworks were Vision Quest: Echo, Ocheke, Coyote and the Pebbles, Tlicho Naowo, and Copper Heart. My favourite stories were from Vision Quest: Echo, Ocheke, Coyote and the Pebbles, Ue-Pucase: Water Master. That said, there wasn't a bad story or piece of art in the bunch.

I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys comics, or to anyone who is looking to read more stories of indigenous origin. Although I borrowed this book from the library, I hope to purchase my own copy when I can afford to, intend to read/purchase volume two of this collection, and filled out the "request a purchase" form for the local library to get a copy of volume two as well.

Magdelanye says

Lush illustrations accompany the stories in this book of graphic short stories.
All were of interest, a couple were really amazing, hence 5 stars
