

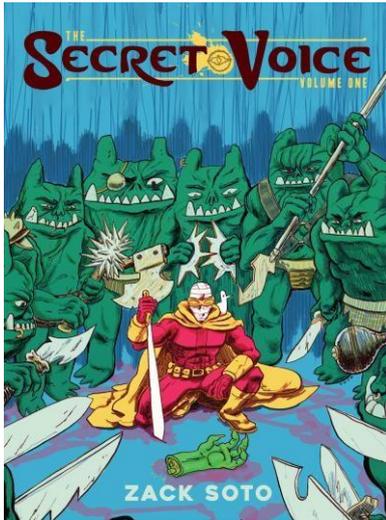
The logo for FUSE LITERARY features the word "FUSE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "L" in "LITERARY" is replaced by a stylized red graphic of a lit fuse, with several orange and yellow rays emanating from the top, suggesting a spark or explosion. The word "LITERARY" is also in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# **FUSE LITERARY**

## **Graphic Novel List**

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## ADULT



### The Secret Voice Trilogy

by Zack Soto

#### Volume 1

Epic Fantasy, 4-Color Hardcover, 160 pages  
World English to Floating World Comics, April 2019

[Click to Read Excerpt](#)

Doctor Galapagos, famed warrior-monk and agent of the Red College, is on a desperate mission to unite the realms of magic and man in a last-ditch effort to stop the seemingly invincible forces of the Smog Emperor. But the good Doctor carries a secret. An unseen and unknown psychic menace eats away at his very soul and threatens to jeopardize his mission... and the world itself. Can the Red College turn the tide?

Can Doctor Galapagos stay true to himself, hold on to his love, and defeat the Smog Emperor all at once?

"This richly imagined fantasy epic follows the mysterious Doctor Galapagos...kicking off what promises to be an excitingly original adventure."—*Library Journal*

"The scope here is not unlike *Lord of the Rings*: Vast battles, cities under siege, huge armies of monsters, and a desperate defense. His fusion of genre tropes and alt-comics storytelling has been the model for this kind of comic for quite some time."—*The Comics Journal*

#### Volume 2

TK

The second volume of *The Secret Voice* divulges the first encounters of Dr. Galapagos and Proctor General Absalom with the evil Smog Emperor before coming back to the looming crisis of the present day. Giant battles, arctic exploration, psychic warfare, flying houses, & fungus zombies are the name of the game. Our heroes end up behind enemy lines at the end of the volume.

#### Volume 3

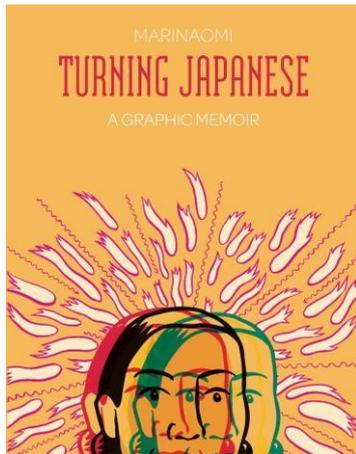
TK

The epic conclusion of *The Secret Voice*. The climax involves the forces of the Smog Emperor on the doorstep of the Red College, betrayal most foul, Dr. Galapagos confronting a dark mirror, the grand library of Ama Arza in flames, and the final fate of EVERYTHING.

*Dramatic rights represented by APA.*



**Zack Soto** lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and their son. He is the publisher of Study Group Comic Books, co-editor of Study Group Magazine, co-host of the Process Party Podcast, and editor at a major Portland-based comics publisher.



### **Turning Japanese** by MariNaomi

Memoir, B&W Hardcover, 228 pages

North American English to 2D Cloud, May 2016;

World French rights to Editions IMHO, May 2019

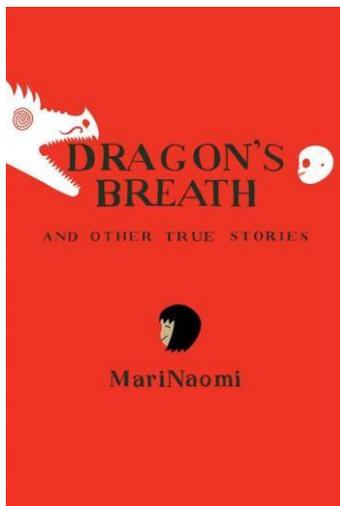
[Click to Read Excerpt](#)

Following a traumatic breakup, the loss of her job, and a move to another city, 22 year old, half-Japanese Mari finds herself with the perfect opportunity to explore her Japanese roots, previously forbidden by her mother in an effort to assimilate. Mari gets a job at an illegal hostess bar in Silicon Valley, determined to learn the language from its clientele, randy Japanese businessmen. She then embarks on a three-month adventure working as a hostess in Tokyo's Ginza District and meets up with her grandparents in Fukuoka with the goal of speaking to them for the first time in her life without a translator (her mom) to edit and censor. Though she is somewhat successful in learning the language, her cultural education and whirlwind engagement to a young man are not at all what she expected as a young feminist. *Turning Japanese* is a story about otherness, culture clashes, generation gaps, and youthful impetuosity.

"The best comic about being Asian American in Japan. Like *Fun Home* and *Persepolis*, *Turning Japanese* is at once modest and grand. MariNaomi is a master of the small, intimate moments that build to a surprisingly emotional climax."—Jason Shiga, Ignatz and Eisner Award—winner

"Mari's portrait-of-an-artist-as-a-culturally-'nebulous'-young-woman is a vulnerable, searching, raw record. Exploring the meaning of 'hafu' on both sides of the world doesn't always result in easy answers, and the need for translation—not just of language—proves to be ongoing. May the illuminating journeys continue." —Smithsonian APA Center

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### **Dragon's Breath and Other True Stories** by MariNaomi

Memoir, B&W Trade Paperback, 384 pages

North American English to 2D Cloud/Uncivilized, September 2014

[Click to Read Excerpt](#)

**2015 Eisner Award Nomination for Best Reality-Based Work  
Selected for 9 "Best of 2014" lists**

In this collection of thought-provoking, emotionally honest graphic vignettes, MariNaomi explores a wide spectrum of topics including youthful rebellion, mortality, disillusionment, and compassion. Many of these stories first appeared on *The Rumpus* as the series "Smoke In Your Eyes," which garnered a SPACE Award and an Honorable Mention in Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *Best American Comics 2013*. The book appears in "Best of 2014" lists by: *Bitch Media*, *The Comics Journal*, *Foreword Reviews*, *Largehearted Boy*, *Mental Floss*, *Panel*

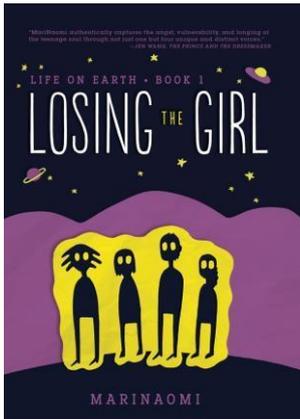
*Patter*, *Publishers Weekly Comics World*, Robert Kirby, and Whit Taylor.

"The simplicity of the art only magnifies the universality of the stories... It's no surprise *Dragon's Breath* was nominated for a 2015 Eisner." —*The A.V. Club*

"Award-winning author MariNaomi (Kiss and Tell) returns with this charming and intimate collection of vignettes and meatier personal histories...The book is utterly absorbing, funny, intimate, and even philosophical." —*Publishers Weekly*

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## YOUNG ADULT



### **Life on Earth Trilogy by MariNaomi** **Volume 1: Losing the Girl**

Contemporary, Light Science Fiction  
B&W with Spot-Color Hardcover, 280 pages

World English to Graphic Universe, May 2018

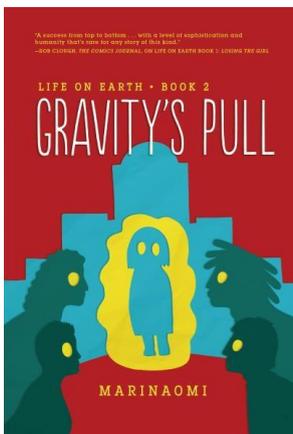
[Click to Read Excerpt](#)

Claudia Jones is missing. Her classmates are thinking the worst . . . or at least the weirdest. It couldn't be an alien abduction, right? None of Claudia's classmates at Blithedale High know why she vanished—and they're dealing with their own issues. Emily's trying to handle a life-changing surprise. Paula's hoping to step out of Emily's shadow. Nigel just wants to meet a girl who will laugh at his jokes. And Brett hardly lets himself get close to anybody.

In *Losing the Girl*, the first book in the *Life on Earth* trilogy, Eisner-nominated cartoonist MariNaomi looks at life through the eyes of four suburban teenagers: early romance, fraying friendships, and the traces of a mysterious—maybe otherworldly—disappearance. Different chapters focus on different characters, each with a unique visual approach.

"Losing the Girl is a success from top to bottom. . . . There are many familiar elements of teen romance here, to be sure, but MariNaomi approaches with a level of sophistication and humanity that's rare for any story of this kind." —*The Comics Journal*

"(MariNaomi's) creative artistic effects amplify the tension and awkward emotions, transforming a familiar story of young love into something memorable and new." —*Publishers Weekly*



### **Volume 2: Gravity's Pull**

Contemporary, Light Science Fiction  
B&W with Spot-Color Hardcover, 224 pages

World English to Graphic Universe, March 2019

[Click to Read Excerpt](#)

When Claudia Jones returns to her high school after a mysterious disappearance, she exerts a strange effect on the classmates around her. Meanwhile, her fellow students also struggle with the challenges of regular young-adult life. How should they navigate problems with identity, illness, and consent? Bringing the full possibilities of the graphic novel medium to the page, the author-artist writes and draws every chapter from a different character's point of view in a unique art style.

". . . gripping, affecting graphic novel. . . . A moody, compassionate reflection of adolescence in turmoil." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"MariNaomi skillfully weaves webs of intrigue, and fans of suspenseful graphic novels will be interested in how events play out." —*School Library Journal*

### **Volume 3: Distant Stars**

Contemporary, Light Science Fiction  
B&W with Spot-Color Hardcover, 260 pages

World English to Graphic Universe, Spring 2020

As the protagonists take on greater issues of teenage isolation via abuse, family dysfunction, and sexual awakening, the secret plan of Claudia Jones becomes apparent in an uplifting ending that depicts the interconnectedness of our diverse experiences and the importance of reaching out to your neighbor.

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