

Editing Comics: From Concept to Publication

Steven Andrews, Megan Kearney, and Allison O'Toole



Meet your panelists



Steven
Andrews



Megan
Kearney



Allison
O'Toole

Why work in comics?



THE ICv2-COMICHRON COMIC SALES REPORT 2018

NORTH AMERICAN COMIC SALES ACROSS TIME



(Combined Print & Digital Download Sales)

In 2018, Graphic Novel sales rose 11.7% compared to 1.3% of other categories.

- *Publishers Weekly*

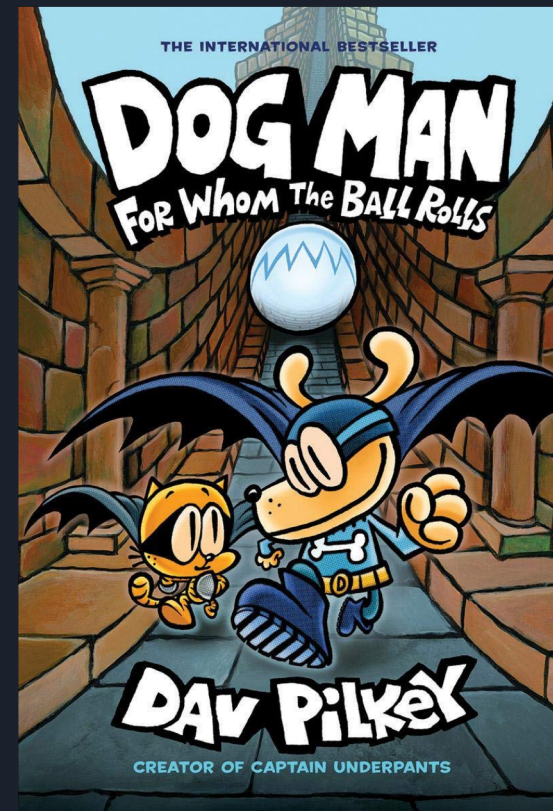
NYT Bestselling Books September 2019

#1



76,452 units in August

#3



595,890 units YTD

Superman's Dead



Superhero comics were 20% of total comic sales in 2018, but under 10% in 2019.

“Surprising New Data Shows Comic Readers Are Leaving Superheroes Behind” - *Forbes*

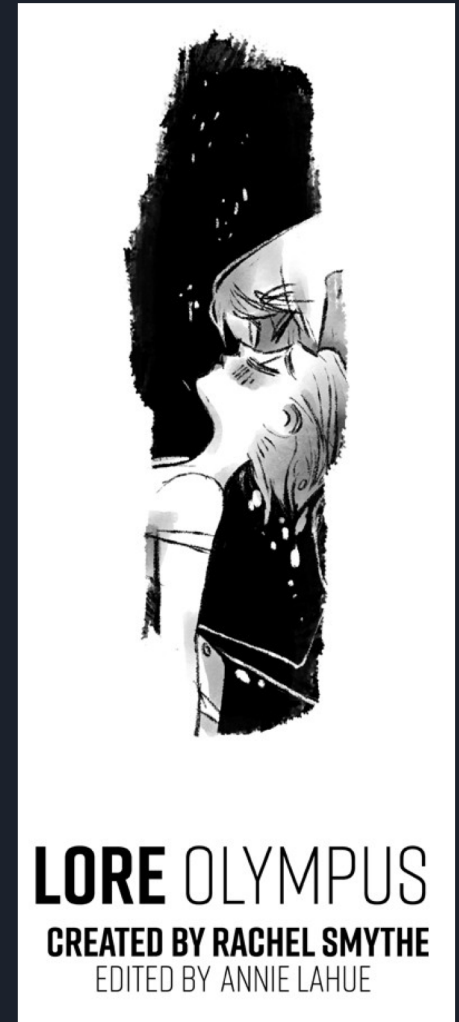


Why start now?

- **Major new imprints opening up**
 - Random House Graphic (Penguin Random House)
 - Surely Books (Abrams Books)
 - Harper Alley (Harper Collins)
- **New self-publishing opportunities**
 - In 2018, Kickstarter crowdfunded comics hit \$15 million.

So what IS a comic?

- Issues of *Superman*
- Photo novellas
- Webtoons
- Newspaper serials
- Manga
- Zines



What ISN'T a comic?

- *Superman* lunch boxes
- Picture books
- Memes with only one panel



Bringing a comic from
concept to completion

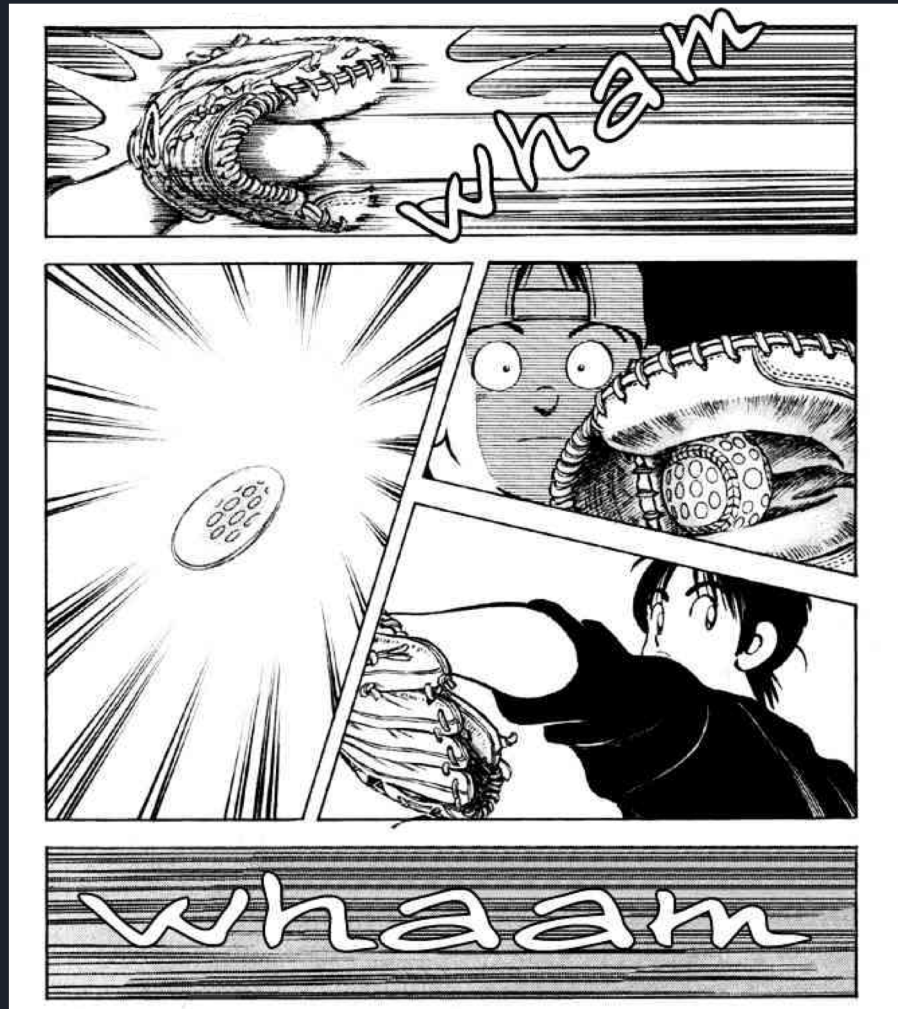




Project Management: most of an editor's job

- Editing can include:
 - substantive story and art edits
 - copy edits
 - building schedules
 - resolving disputes between team members
 - chasing creators for work
 - collecting or processing invoices

Editing a pitch





Add Open Save Print Toolbox My Studio

Project Library

- + - x
- BATB_SCRIPT_2015_Oct...
- Master Catalog (426)
- Screenplay
- Sketch

Action

b i u AA aa

100%

ACT TWO; CURTAINED GALLERY

We open on the dark tower room, light casting pinks and purples through the rose window. THE BEAST sits, hunched amongst the drapery, forlorn. We draw back and over his shoulder we see BEAUTY framed in the doorway. She doesn't speak.

THE BEAST
Please...I'm in no state to be seen
right now, so just...

BEAUTY crosses the room and stands a few feet behind him. THE BEAST doesn't make eye contact.

BEAUTY
it started to rain.

THE BEAST
...it will pass.

A beat, neither looking at the other

BEAUTY
...About the fountain.

THE BEAST huddles low, like a shamed dog

BEAUTY
...I didn't see anything.

THE BEAST
ah?

BEAUTY
whatever happened today, unless
it's something you want to talk
about, I didn't see it. All right?

THE BEAST
... all right.

Awkward silence, both watch the rain streak the window. After a moment, BEAUTY sits down beside THE BEAST, knees folded up under her chin.

THE BEAST
...your sister's story. How does it
end?

BEAUTY
Oh, um... The princess finds the
giant's heart and she kills him, I
think.

THE BEAST
(bitter laugh)
I thought that might be it. There's

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ACT TWO; CURTAINED GALLE...

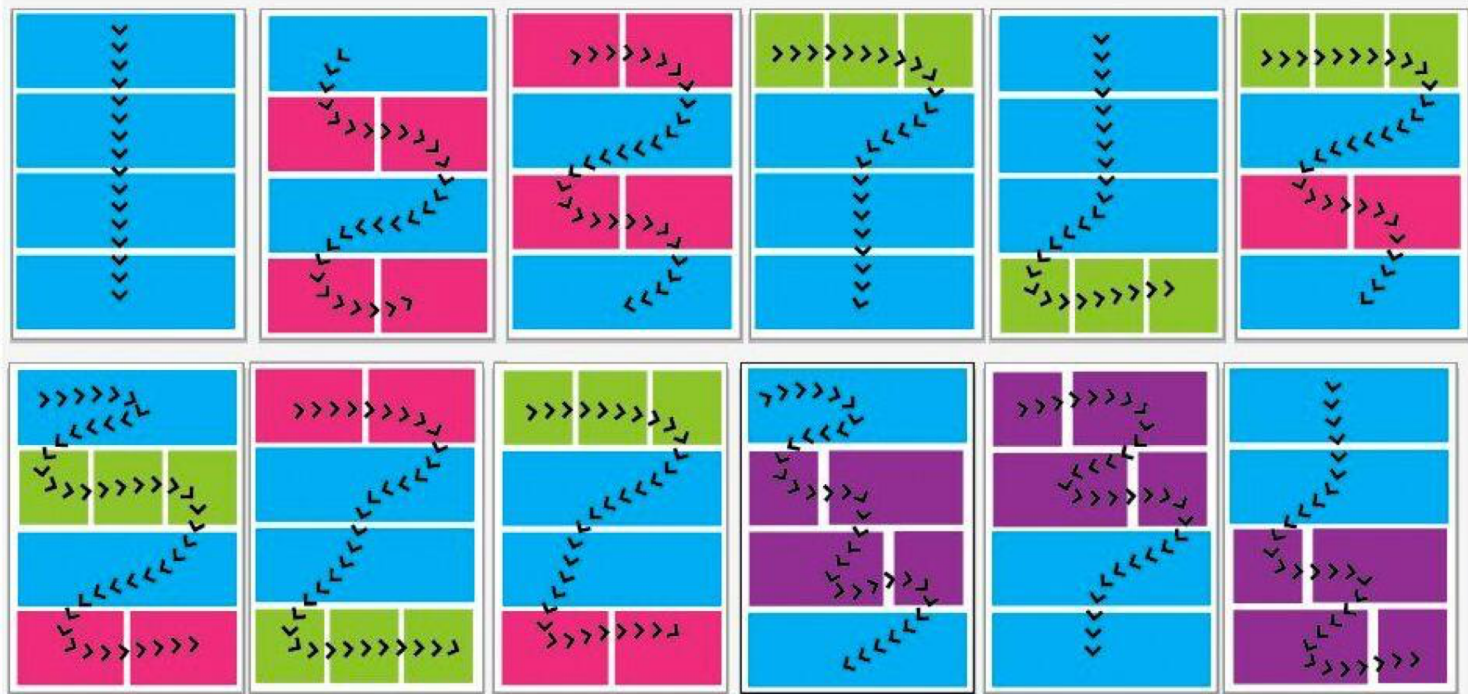
d Note

Scenes

#	Title
1	PROLOGUE; BEDRO...
2	ACT ONE; PARLOUR ...
3	ACT ONE; SNOWY ...
4	ACT ONE; PARLOUR ...
5	ACT ONE; PARLOUR ...
6	ACT ONE; KITCHEN ...
7	ACT ONE; BEDSIDE ...
8	ACT ONE; KITCHEN ...
9	ACT ONE; WOODS ...
10	ACT ONE; ENTRY H...
11	ACT ONE; DINING ...
12	ACT ONE; BEDROOM ...
13	ACT ONE; CASTLE ...
14	ACT ONE; BALLROOM ...
15	ACT ONE; DINING ...
16	ACT ONE; DREAM ...
17	ACT ONE; BEDROOM ...
18	ACT ONE; HALLWAY ...
19	ACT ONE; LIBRARY ...
20	ACT ONE; VILLAGE...
21	ACT ONE; KITCHEN ...

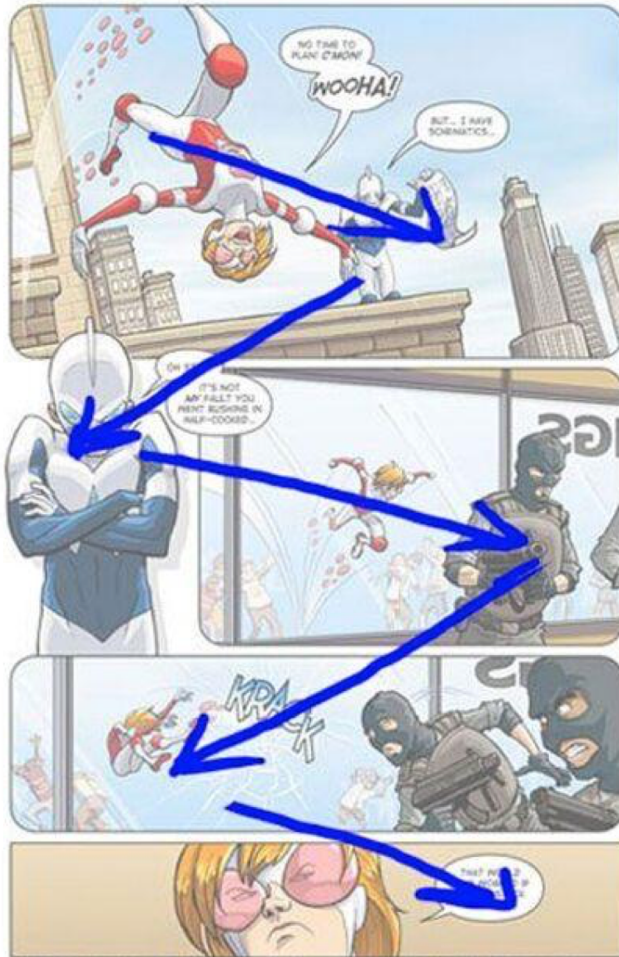


PAGE FLOW



©elixiadragmire - <http://forums.tapastic.com/t/comic-composition-layout-and-flow/933>

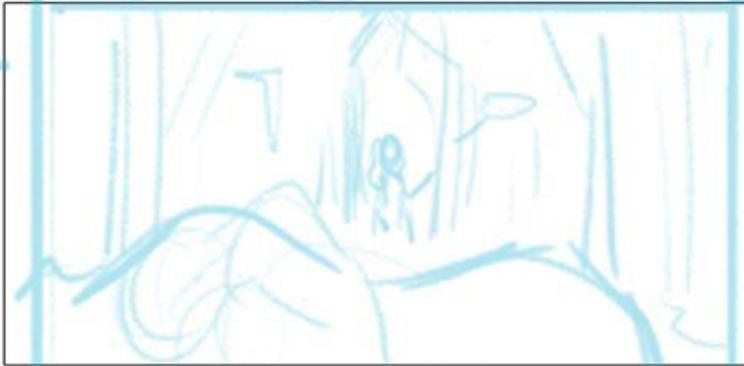
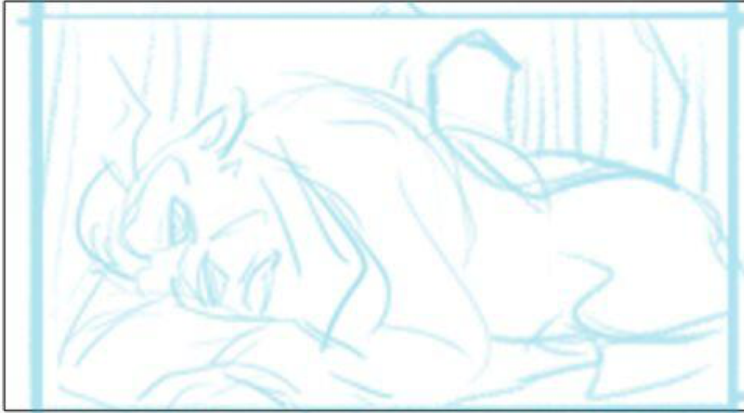
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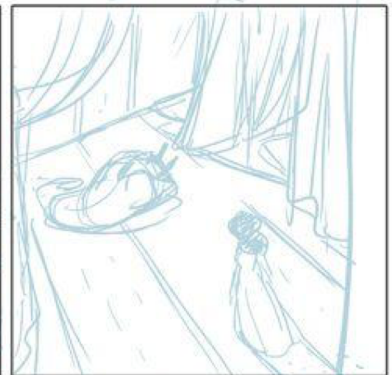
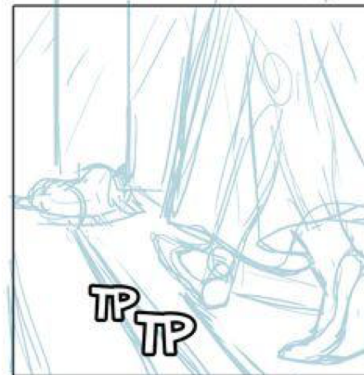
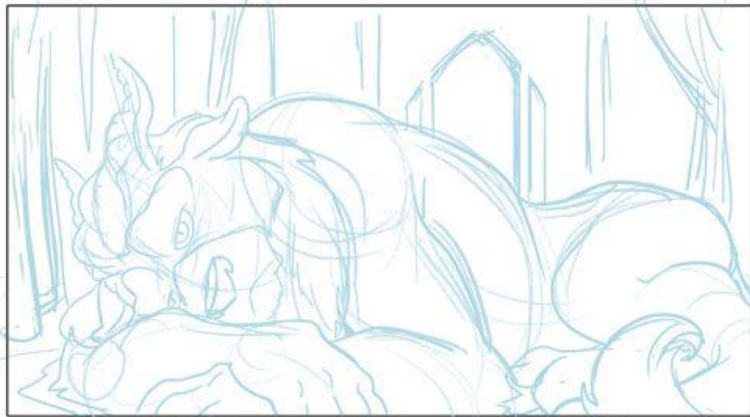


NATURAL PANEL FLOW / EYE MOVEMENT

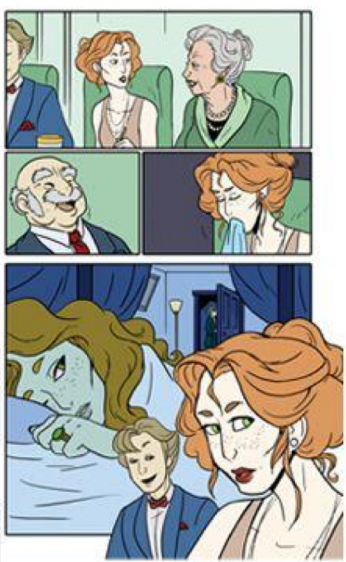


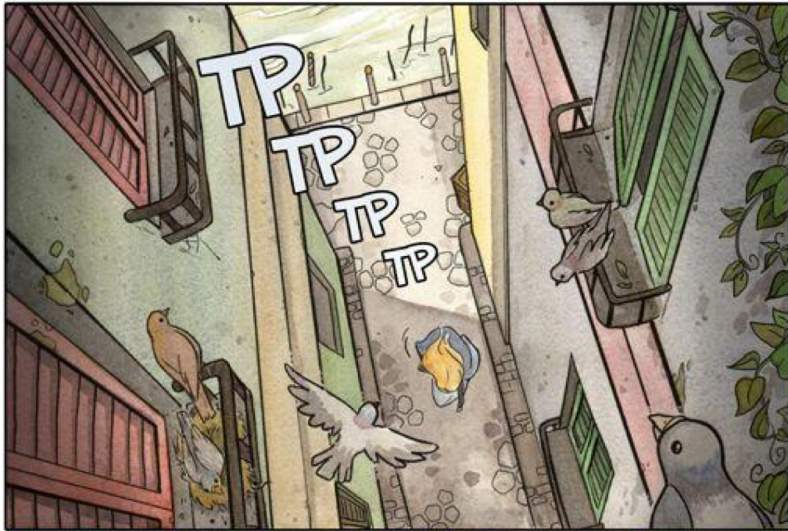
ACTION WITHIN PANELS TAKES ADVANTAGE OF AND MIMICS PANEL FLOW













In Conclusion

- The comics medium is still evolving.
- The audience is interacting with comics in new ways.
- There's no ordinary path to get into comics.
Everyone has a unique origin story.



Resources

- *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud
- Creator Resource
- Ty Templeton's Comic Book Bootcamp
- TCAF, Page & Panel and The Beguiling
- Blambot's Resources Page

Thank you!

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