

COME HERE, BABY...  
LICK THE BLOOD  
OFF MY FIST...



## STAND-UP COMIX

The first issue of *Raw* magazine, published in 1980, was an attempt to redefine comics and distance the medium from “underground” work of the ‘60s, which had become stale. New and established European artists used its lavish production values and quirky editorial style to explore a wide range of picto-narrative possibilities. Co-editor Art Spiegelman led the way in succeeding issues with *Maus*, his moving documentary-memoir of the Holocaust. The mix, astoundingly, worked. *Maus* was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Museum of Modern Art added *Raw*’s first eight issues to its permanent collection.

You can expect volume two of *Raw*’s adult comics in a smaller and pricier format this summer. (Subsequent issues will appear every nine months.) Editors Françoise Mouly and Spiegelman have packed the first issue of their mind-gnarling digest with graphics by 27 artists from six countries. There are contributions by Mariscal in Barcelona, Pascal Doury and Jacques Loustal in Paris,

Lorenzo Mattotti in Milan, and Mark Beyer “in transit,” among others. The latest installment of Spiegelman’s brilliant autobiographical family saga may alone be worth the hefty \$14.95.

The stuff in *Raw* is not for everyone, but it certainly deserves more than a thumb-through. The cover (part Popeye, part Nancy) is by Gary Panter, the award-winning set designer of *Pee Wee’s Playhouse*. And the contents — “Open Wounds from the Cutting Edge of Comix” — feature work by a virtual freak show of creative types including performance artists, bass players, left-wing paste-up artists, and sign painters. Imagine *Inferno Joe* — Dante’s *Inferno* on bubble-gum wrappers, complete with fortunes (“You might as well get used to the smell”). Like we said, it’s not for everyone.

*Raw*, published by Penguin, is just beginning to be distributed to Boston bookstores. Avenue Victor Hugo, at 339 Newbury Street, is scheduled to receive its order by today. Call 266-7746 to check.

— Don Rubin