



CHRIS SIMS | September 28, 2015

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If you had to guess what six comic book artists would do first on a trip to Tokyo, you might feel there were just too many choices to narrow it down. It's a big city with a lot of history and a huge number of tourist destinations, from the culture to the food. But then you'd probably remember that you're talking about people in comics, and then you'd realize that *of course* the first thing they're going to do is go shopping for manga.

That, at least, is the impression that I got from watching a video from Felix Comic Art, a company dealing in original pages, that took six of its artists on a trip to Tokyo last month and documented the entire thing in a fun little ten-minute travelogue. Give it a watch!

The artists taken on the trip included *BPRD*'s [James Harren](#), *Manhattan Projects* artist [Nick Pitarra](#), *East of West*'s [Nick Dragotta](#), *Catwoman* and *Black Road* artist [Garry Brown](#), *Prophet's* [Daniel Warren Johnson](#), and *Five Ghosts*' [Chris Mooneyham](#), who spent a few days seeing the sights in Tokyo --- and, if the video is any indication, taking every opportunity to hit up the local comic shops on the way. But, you know, I'd do the same thing, even if my trip would definitely include getting out of Tokyo to visit that [Kamen Rider museum](#).

Either way, it's pretty fun to see a bunch of talented artists essentially taking a field trip to somewhere other than a convention, something that I'd really like to see more of. For more information, [check out Felix Comic Art's website](#).

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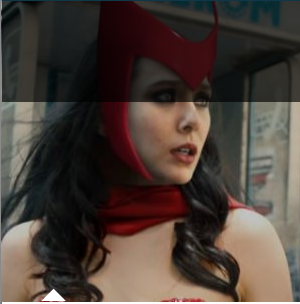
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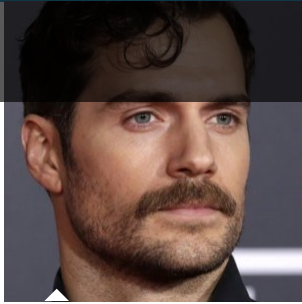
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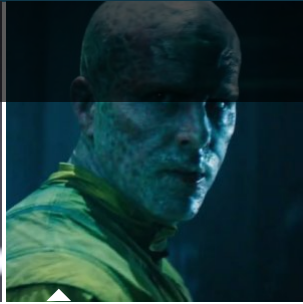
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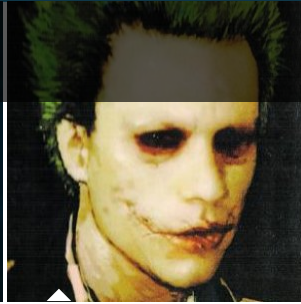
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# CODERS

SMART READS: GENE LUEN YANG PICKS THE BEST GRAPHIC NOVELS ABOUT MATH & SCIENCE

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR | September 28, 2015



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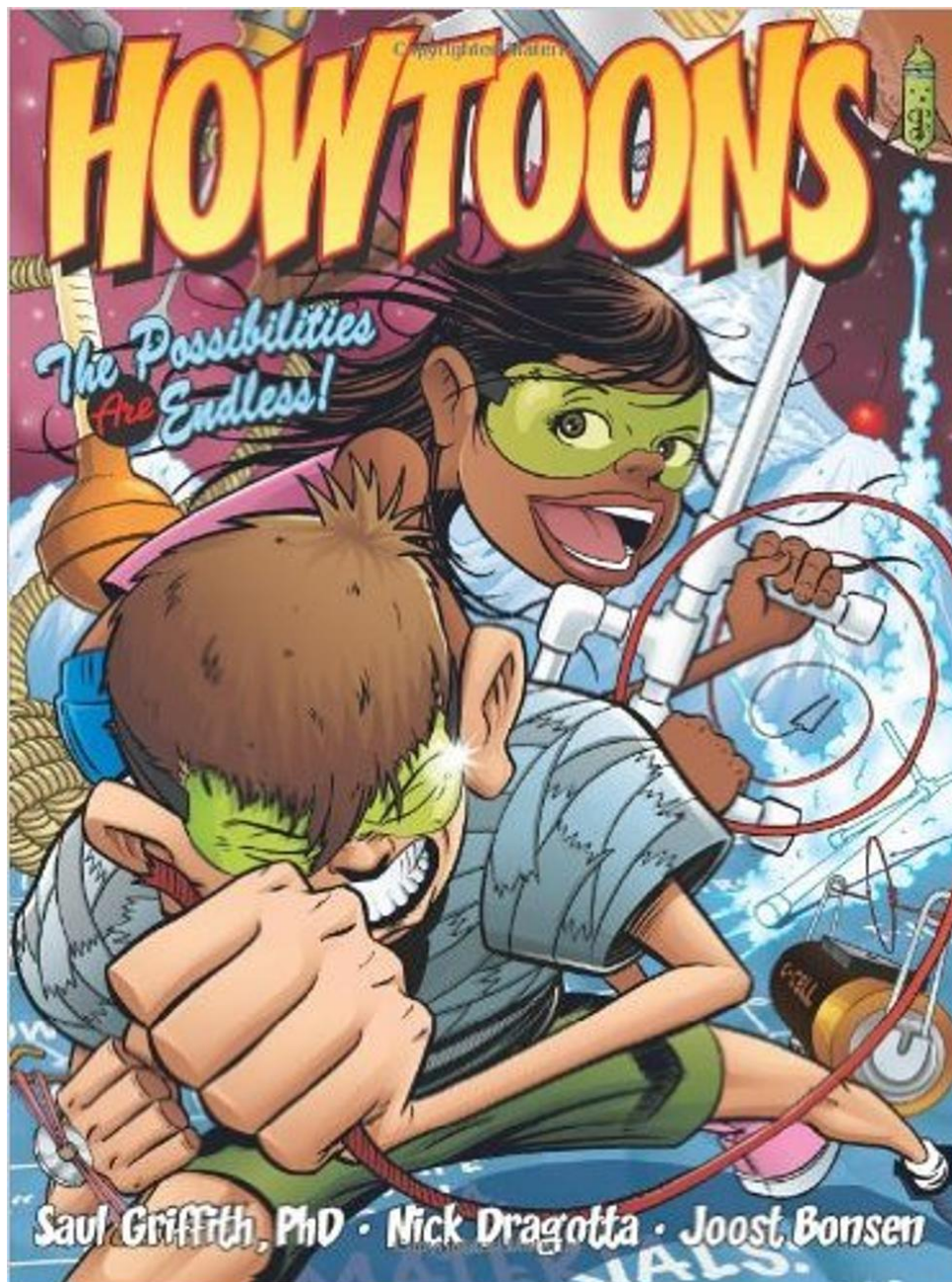
With their new book, *Secret Coders*, writer **Gene Luen Yang** and illustrator **Mike Holmes** set out to do something many of us might consider near-impossible; turn the head-scratching world of computer coding into an adventure tale fit for a middle-grade audience. Yet by combining a mystery story with a series of compelling logic puzzles, the authors have actually succeeded in creating the sort of book that could inspire the next generation of computer geniuses.

And it turns out using comics to inspire young scientists and mathematicians is not at all impossible. Gene Luen Yang provided us with five more examples of excellent educational comics that turn potentially daunting topics into engaging comic book tales. Check them out below.

## HowToons

Saul Griffith, Joost Bonsen, and Nick Dragotta

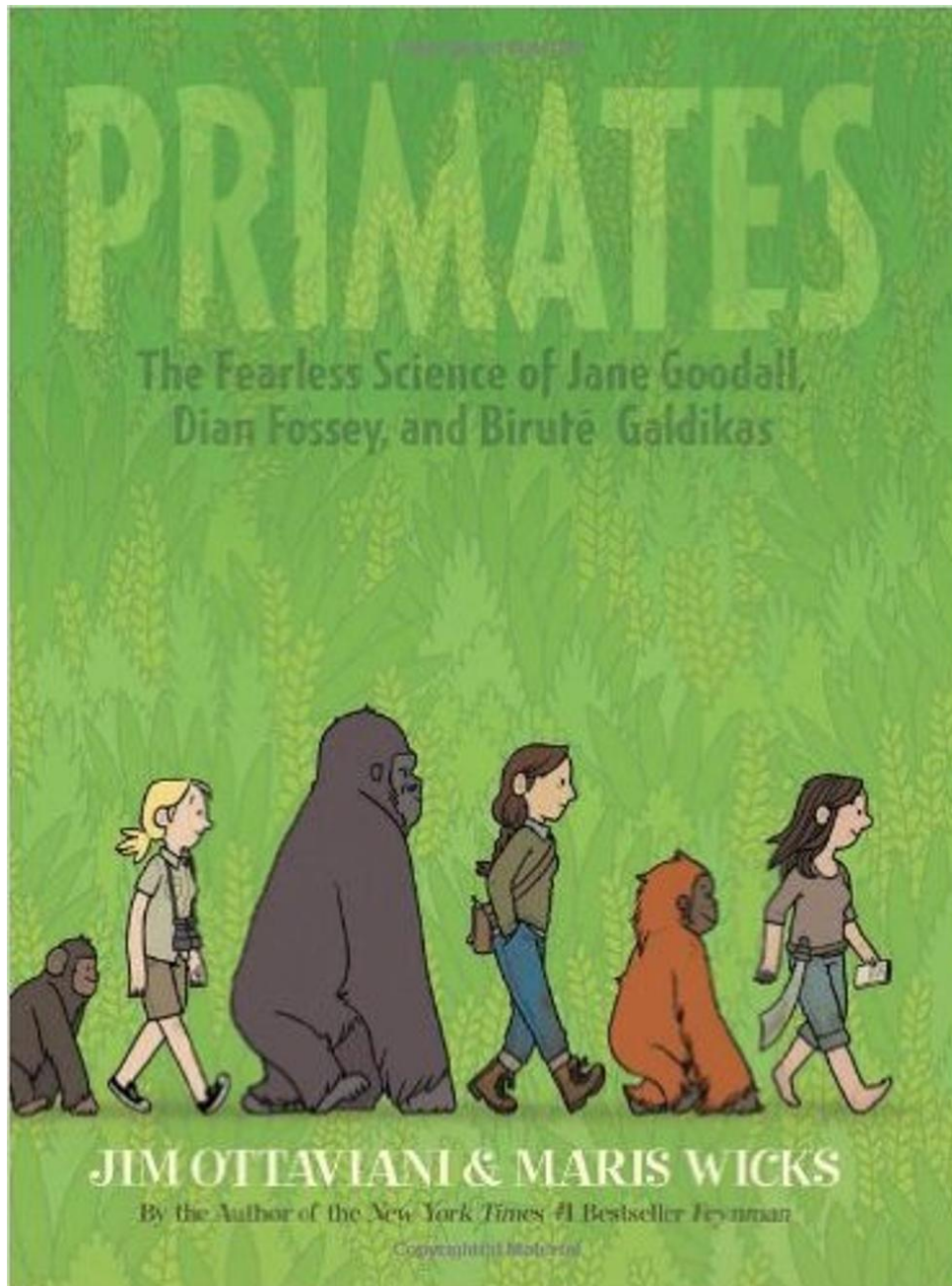
This ingenious comic book series teaches you how to turn common household items into the most amazing contraptions. Soda bottle submarines! PVC pipe marshmallow guns! Drinking straw robot hands! It's all here! A sure-fire hit with the maker set.



## Primates

Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks

Through their study of primates, scientists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas not only challenged prejudices against women in science, but also fundamentally changed humankind's understanding of ourselves. Jim Ottaviani and [Maris Wicks](#) bring their stories to wonderful, four-color life.



## Meanwhile

Jason Shiga

[Jason Shiga](#)'s choose-your-own-adventure masterpiece is half comic book, half maze. By solving math puzzles and making good choices about ice cream flavors, you can help young Jimmy figure out the secret of his world.

## **Last of the Sandwalkers**

Jay Hosler

Lucy's a consummate scientist – curious, determined, and fearless. Also, she's a beetle. Lucy leads a team of her fellow hyper-intelligent beetles on an expedition of her dreams, and together they discover that the world is bigger and more complex than they'd ever imagined.

## **Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth**

Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitriou, Alecos Papadatos and Annie Di Donna

What are the logical foundations of mathematics? Young Bertrand Russell is obsessed with this question, and this epic graphic novel describes his search for the answer.

*Secret Coders* by Gene Luen Yang and Mike Holmes goes on sale September 29 from First Second Books. [Buy it online](#) or check out [some preview pages](#).

[Next: The Creators of 'The Divine' Pick Their Fantasy Reading List](#)

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**Filed Under:** Alecos Papadatos, Annie Di Donna, Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitriou, Gene Luen Yang, howtoons, jason shiga, Jay Hosler, jim ottaviani, joost bonsen, last of the sandwalkers, logicomix, Maris Wicks, meanwhile, Mike Holmes, nick dragotta, primates, saul griffith, Secret Coders

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