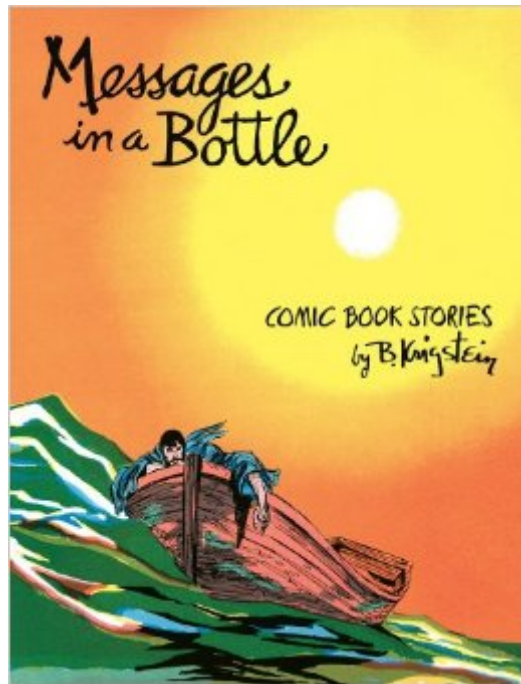


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# Messages In A Bottle: Comic Book Stories By B. Krigstein



## Synopsis

This compilation of cartoonist Bernard Krigstein's comics for EC and many other publishers spans many genres. Bernard Krigstein began his career as an unremarkable journeyman cartoonist during the 1940s and finished it as a respected fine artist and illustrator but comics historians know him for his explosively creative 1950s, during which he applied all the craft, intelligence and ambition of a burgeoning serious artist to his comics work, with results that remain stunning to this day. Krigstein's legend rests mostly on the 30 or so stories he created for the EC Comics, but dozens of stories drawn for other, lesser publishers such as Rae Herman, Hillman, and Atlas (which would become Marvel) showcase his skills and radical reinterpretation of the comics page, in particular his groundbreaking slicing and dicing of time lapses through a series of narrow, nearly animated panels. Greg Sadowski, who has previously written and designed a Harvey Award-winning biography of Krigstein, has assembled the very best of Krigstein's comics work, starting with his earliest creative rumblings, through his glory days at EC, to his final, even more brilliantly radical stories for Atlas Comics running through every genre popular at the time, be it horror, science fiction, war, western, or romance (but no super-heroes). Legendary EC colorist Marie Severin, in her last major assignment before her retirement, has recolored 15 stories for this edition. The remainder has been taken from printed comics, digitally restored with subtlety and restraint. This edition reprints the out-of-print 2004 hardcover B. Krigstein Comics, with a number of stories re-tooled and improved in terms of reproduction, and several new stories added. It also contains an extensive set of historical and editorial notes by editor Greg Sadowski. Page stats from Krigstein's personal archives and a comic book checklist of the artist's entire body of work round out this substantial volume. Yes

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics; 1 edition (March 20, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1606995804

ISBN-13: 978-1606995808

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.9 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,129,849 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #500 in Books > Comics &

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a new, improved version of the long out of print "Krigstein Comics". Pay no attention to the previous one star review, posted by a disgruntled customer who didn't bother to read the product description. This book is substantially different from the earlier version. Twelve stories were dropped from that edition, and there are nineteen stories added (not "three or four" as that person erroneously stated). One of the major improvements is that there are eight stories from Krigstein's late Atlas period, as opposed to three in the earlier book. These were done after EC folded, and Bernie runs wild with the experimental panel breakdowns and subdivisions that he is famous for. "They Wait Below" has an astonishing 75(!) panels over its four pages. There is a poignancy to these tales; they come at the end of Krigstein's tenure in comics, as the plummeting page rates and constant fighting with editors to present his artistic vision untampered with finally drove him out of the field he loved. EC is where Krigstein made his name and his eight greatest stories are present. Four have appeared in the out of print "B. Krigstein, Volume 1" book from 2002, but it's nice to have them all in one place, even if you have the biography. "Master Race" and "The Flying Machine" deserve to be in this book. Production values are, for the most part, top notch- as usual with a Sadowski book. The coloring and reproduction is mostly excellent, even on the stories reprinted from old comics, which present a real challenge. Absolutely SPECTACULAR are the twenty stories colored by Marie Severin, EC's original colorist back in the 50's. These (which include all the EC stories) were printed from original photostats and silverplates, and then colored by Marie. They are beautiful.

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