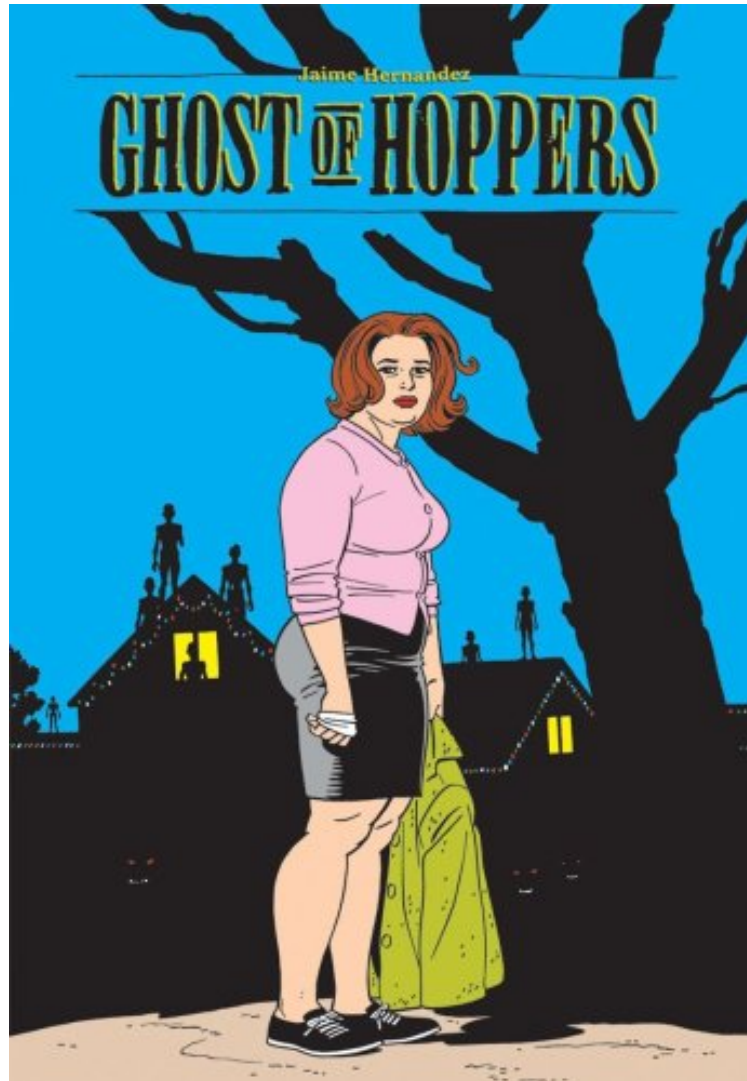


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Ghost of Hoppers (Love and Rockets)

Jaime Hernandez

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Jaime Hernandez : Ghost of Hoppers (Love and Rockets) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ghost of Hoppers (Love and Rockets):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerLove this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love and RocketsBy A.L.As a huge fan of Love and Rockets -- and especially the Mechanics / Locas story lines -- I say this book is worth buying simply to round out the collection. The artwork is top notch, as always, and the characters are as compelling as always. But the book as a whole wasn't as entertaining as some of the other 'Hoppers' collections have been.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New to Love RocketsBy Hal T.This is the first time I've read a Love Rockets comic or graphic novel. It won't be the last. I hesitated

to start on Vol 22 (!) in a series, but the price was right and I was curious about L R because so many people seemed to love it. Could I start so much later in the game and still enjoy the story? Absolutely. This was a deep and rewarding tale, told in three parts, with each seamlessly moving from one to the other. The supernatural elements that others mentioned didn't feel supernatural, frankly; they felt like a natural reflection of old fears or anxieties, expressed in shadows or misunderstandings. This story felt real, not spooky. One thing: This is very much an adult story, funny and sad and comical and real. The language and actions are those of adults. If you're offended by curse words or sexual behavior, you'll be offended within the first few pages. You should avoid this book. Everyone else? Consider giving it a try.

Maggie returns in Hernandez's first book since the smash hit *Locas*. *Ghost of Hoppers* collects for the first time the new adventures of Maggie Chascarrillo, as serialized in the *Love Rockets* comic book, and represents Jaime Hernandez's much-anticipated follow-up to his critically acclaimed 2004 magnum opus *Locas*, which *Entertainment Weekly* gave an 'A' for its "innovative technique and complex, character-driven stories about Mexican-American life." *Ghost of Hoppers* begins with the newly divorced Maggie now working as the resident building-manager of the notorious Capri Apartments deep in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, where imaginary dogs roam its walkways at night, all the air conditioners are broken, and the empty swimming pool is covered with flies. As if the eccentric, oddball tenants weren't weird enough, Maggie's houseguest and old friend Izzy Ortiz shakes things up with her usual nervous breakdowns, nocturnal screaming, and obsessive fly-swatting (sometimes with a knife!). When Izzy makes a guest appearance on a local cable access talk show to promote her book, Maggie meets the voluptuous Vivian the "Frogmouth," a curvaceous, hapless bombshell with a foghorn voice who is despised by Hopey (Maggie's long time on-again-off-again girlfriend, now a bartender sporting an eye patch after one of Vivian's previous bottle-breaking altercations). Maggie finds herself swept up in Vivian's life of random catfights, her mob-connected, knife-wielding stalker ex-boyfriend, and his violently jealous fiancée. Maggie and Vivian eventually strike up a reluctant and awkward romance, and when they set out for *Hoppers* to retrieve a stolen art object from Izzy, they get a lot more than they bargained for! About Jaime's work, the *New York Times* wrote, "These stories have all the visual smarts of film and the narrative smarts of literature. Hernandez specializes in psychological detail; we see both text and subtext immediately. What better than to open a book that shows there is more going on than we dream of in our workaday philosophies?" Black-and-white comics throughout

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . This 22nd volume of the critically acclaimed *Love and Rockets* series finds recent divorcee Maggie Chascarrillo managing a low-rent apartment complex in San Fernando Valley. She's struggling with being single, navigating a complicated relationship with her on-again off-again girlfriend Hopey and catering to a group of eccentric tenants in a complex where the air-conditioning never works. Then a crazy old "witch" legendary in Maggie's childhood neighborhood comes to stay for a few days and things take a turn for the weird. At the same time, Maggie meets Vivian, a tempestuous, deep-voiced bombshell who is intent on seducing Maggie, if only out of boredom. But where Vivian goes, trouble follows, in the form of a murderous ex and his jealous fiancée. Hernandez's tale meanders through the life of his punk Mexican heroine, using bold dialogue and just a touch of the supernatural. The clear black-and-white drawings echo classic comic books like *Archie*, but the figures are drawn with unparalleled nuance and realism. Although newcomers may have a hard time catching all the subtleties of past relationships (the "ghost" of the title), they will have no trouble marveling at Hernandez's intense artistry and humanism, which put him among the giants of the medium. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Despite the Brothers Hernandezes' massive collections of the first two decades of, respectively, Gilbert's tales of a mythical Latin American village, *Palomar* (2003), and Jaime's stories about two young Chicanas in the L.A. barrio, *Locas* (2004), new collections show that Jaime has not given up on his creation. Unlike his brother's characters, Jaime's haven't traveled far since the original series about them ended in 1996. Central figure Maggie is now newly divorced and managing an apartment complex in the San Fernando Valley, far not geographically but from the days when she and soul-mate Hopey were the coolest troublemakers in the L.A. barrio of *Hoppers*. Hopey's still back there, managing a seedy bar nearby, and the pair's spooky friend, Izzy, is still around. Maggie returns to *Hoppers* for a reunion with her mother and sister. There she witnesses the destruction of Izzy's house, which is haunted by figures from the *Locas*' long history. Maggie is still a bundle of insecurities, and watching her come to terms with growing older is genuinely poignant. Jaime's gorgeously economical artwork is better than ever, and if he isn't developing any major new characters, the established cast grows richer. Maggie, in particular, is one of the greatest creations in all comics, attractively outrageous but touchingly real. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved There is no greater all-around artist in modern comics than Jaime Hernandez, and his recent work builds on his past successes so that his oeuvre as a whole is shaping up to be one of literature's best sustained stories about aging and the shifting of relationships over the course of a life. --Ed Howard ""The Best Comics of the Decade" ""