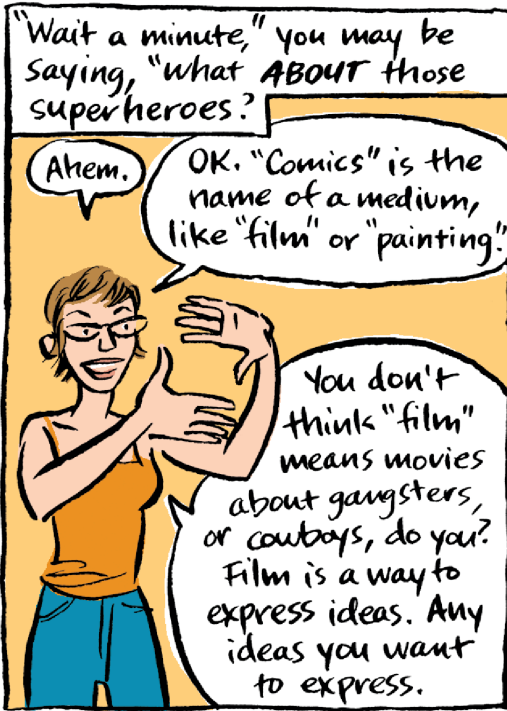




You think you're funny, huh?

Hee, hee!

I'll deal with you later!



"Wait a minute," you may be saying, "what ABOUT those superheroes?"

Ahem.

OK. "Comics" is the name of a medium, like "film" or "painting."

You don't think "film" means movies about gangsters, or cowboys, do you? Film is a way to express ideas. Any ideas you want to express.



Comics is like that. It's a container for ideas.



mmm...



Not a lot of vitamins in this kind, but you get a taste for it.

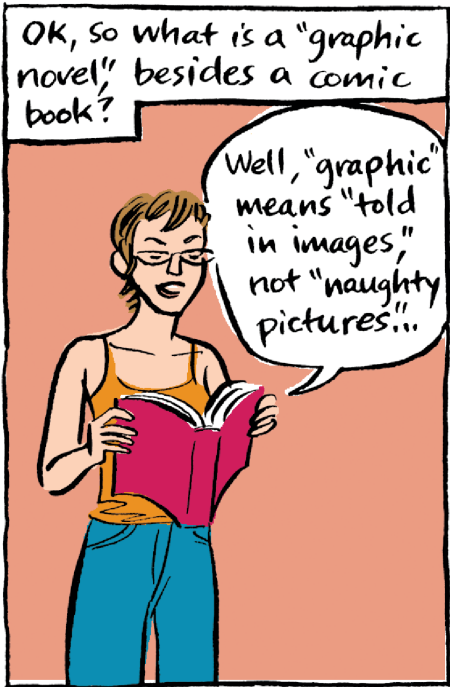


I'm done talking about it.

OK, let's stop.

my favorite flavor!

delicious and nutritious!



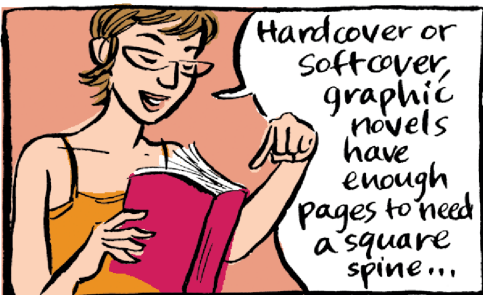
OK, so what is a "graphic novel," besides a comic book?

Well, "graphic" means "told in images," not "naughty pictures..."



But "novel" is used less precisely. The term "graphic novel" is often applied to short-story collections as well. I don't know why.

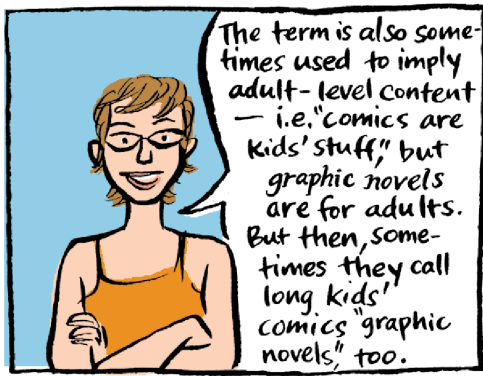
I think "novel" is just used to mean "long book."



Hardcover or softcover, graphic novels have enough pages to need a square spine...



... So they can sit on the shelf with your other books.



The term is also sometimes used to imply adult-level content — i.e. "comics are kids' stuff," but graphic novels are for adults. But then, sometimes they call long kids' comics "graphic novels," too.



But don't worry...

The great thing about comics is, you can get an idea of their content just by flipping them open!