



## Perla la Loca

*Jaime Hernández*

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## **Perla la Loca** Jaime Hernández

*Perla* begins with the "Wigwam Bam" story, arguably Jaime Hernandez's definitive statement on the post-punk culture. As Maggie, Hopey, and the rest of the Locas prowl Los Angeles, the East Coast, and parts in between trying to recapture the carefree spirit of those early days. "Wigwam Bam" brings us up to date on all the members of Jaime's extensive cast of characters and then drops a narrative bomb on Hopey (and us) in the very last pages. Split up from Hopey yet again, Maggie bounces back and forth between a one-laundromat town in Texas (the "Chester Square" that serves as the title of two of the strongest stories in the book), where she has to contend with both her own inner demons and a murderous hooker, and Camp Vicki, where she has to fend off her aunt Vicki's attempts to make her a professional wrestler and the unwanted advances of the amorous wrestling champ-to-be, Gina. As usual, Jaime spotlights a wide range of headstrong female characters. And what's this about Maggie getting married?

## **Perla la Loca Details**

Date : Published December 17th 2007 by Fantagraphics (first published 1990)

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Author : Jaime Hernández

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## From Reader Review Perla la Loca for online ebook

### Mel says

I am becoming completely and utterly obsessed with these books. I read this one in just over 24 hours. I've not read a comic book (and very few "actual novels") that have as brilliant characterisation as this one. Things are not going well for Maggie, Hopey and co. in this book. It starts with Maggie and Hopey having a huge fight and they spend the entire book apart experiencing some pretty unpleasant things. The title of one of the stories, "Maggie the mechanic or Perla the prostitute" killed me. While I enjoyed the wrestler's and the Maggie and Hopey stories, I was less interested in the lives of Doyle, Danita and Maggie's ex-boyfriend. But the story of Izzy and the milk cartons during that made up for it! It is great to see how everyone grows up and changes. There were so many wonderful little moments, Izzy finding Maggie's description of her best friend from childhood who died, Hopey returning to Hoppers after 7 years, and of course the end. I'm totally loving these comics and may well try to find a way to buy the next one today. They've totally captivated me. They are just so messed up and strange and very very real at the same time.

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### Kristina says

I pretty much devoured this book. Enjoying this series so much and the characters. Really great stuff. On to the next one!

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### Ernie.pichardo says

In this graphic novel "Perla La Loca" by Jaime Hernandez i learned that when you run away from things its just come back. Also in this graphic novel it thought me that when someone is struggling to complete their goal to help them out. I recommend this book to first who ever like graphic novels and like to be entertained. Also, i recommend that people under the age of 14 should not read this book. Finally, I like this book because i learned a lot of life skills and its a fascinating book.

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### Sara says

4.5 stars... possibly my favorite volume in the series thus far.

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### Sean says

After three collections I didn't feel any closer to Maggie and Hopey than when I first started. Far too many wrestling subplots and not enough of the emotional resonance that made the Palomar stories so engaging. Jaime has an affinity for slapstick that I found sort of off-putting, and it doesn't help that his main characters are so unlikable and shrill. He does share his brother's knack for creating a universe that feels lived in-- unfortunately I didn't like living in it nearly as much. Oh well.

## **Maria says**

At this point, the stories start getting darker and grittier, and I didn't like that quite as much. The art is still fantastic. Lots of time jumps in this batch of stories, and sometimes that got a bit confusing.

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## **Bryan says**

Not much to add in my review of Volume 3 of Love and Rockets. Continues the themes and lives of the Hoppers crew from previous volumes, but begins to edge into darker territory with stories exploring death and mental health.

Nowhere is Jaime's love of Archie comics more apparent than in this volume where Archie Andrews himself makes a cameo, albeit in looks only. However, there are three panels of a one off character that looks exactly like Archie himself, which gave me a good chuckle.

The stories expand to include more of the satellite characters as well as newer ones, but everything still centers around Maggie and Hopey as they age, change and move in different directions.

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## **Batmark says**

<http://morethansuperhumans.blogspot.c...>

This is the third volume of Jaime Hernandez's "Locas" stories from Love and Rockets (vol. 1). Since I don't own this volume myself (I have the Locas: The Maggie and Hopey Stories book [not to mention the original comic books], which collects these first three volumes), please allow the person who wrote the blurb on the back of the book to tell you what happens in this volume:

"Perla la Loca begins with the story 'Wigwam Bam,' arguably Jaime's definitive statement on the post-punk culture. As Maggie, Hopey, and the rest of the Locas prowl Los Angeles, the East Coast, and parts in between trying to recapture the carefree spirit of those early days--except for Izzy, who tries to flee and ultimately, ironically, is the one who finds Hopey (and who unlocks the secret of Maggie and Hopey's relationship.) Split up from Hopey yet again, Maggie bounces back and forth between a one-laundromat town in Texas (the 'Chester Square' that serves as the title of two of the strongest stories in the book), where she has to contend with both her own inner demons and a murderous hooker, and Camp Vicki, where she has to fend off her aunt Vicki's attempts to make her a professional wrestler and the unwanted advances of the amorous wrestling champ-to-be, Gina. As usual, Jaime spotlights a wide range of headstrong female characters, including Maggie's sister Esther and her cousin Xochitl; Penny Century, Hopey, and Danita show up as well, as does Rena Titañon, who, joined by the wrestler El Diablo, dominates the finale with a rousing free-for-all slugfest against six armed thugs."

This volume and the two that precede it are recommended over the Locas collection because the Locas collection is missing a few of the stories that are contained in these three volumes. So Maggie the Mechanic is the best place to start if you want to read Jaime's half of the Love and Rockets phenomenon.

## Zack! Empire says

I didn't enjoy this as much as the last book in this series. Jamie's storytelling is very clear but I don't think he is as good at conveying information. There were some parts where I was really shocked to learn something that it seemed like I should have known all along. Like the time Maggie and Hopey were apart. I thought it had only been month's, but it turned out to be years. Maybe I just wasn't paying attention, but things like that just kept happening while I was reading.

Jamie's art work is masterful. He must be one of the best artist to ever work in the medium. He seems to really put a lot of thought into how things move around. There is one panel where Maggie is going to sit down and the way he draws her hair, moving forward as she leans to sit, is such a great touch. Its not something I see alot of other artists do.

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## David Schaafsma says

Omnibus volume three (of five, so far, 283 pages!) of Jaime Hernandez's *Locas* stories features the graphic novel *Wigwam Bam* (which is also shelved separately as *Love and Rockets* volume 14 of the collected *Los Bros Hernandez* collected works). I like volume 2, the *Hoppers* volume, a bit better, because Maggie is separated from Hopey and the rest of her friends for much of this volume, but *Wigwam Bam* is a great portrait of post-punk (largely L. A.) culture, classic Jaime. The *locas* girls try to keep the *locas* alive, as we get caught up with each of the girls-now-women Maggie, Hopey, Izzy, Ray and Danita, Doyle, Daffy, Penny Century, Hopey's brother Zero, and others. In serialized format I imagine it would be just crazy as it is like (his part inspiration) Archie comics, jumping all over the place from character to character, episode to episode, but in one volume it is great, a kind of sprawling landscape, manic and affecting.

Perla, (a nickname for Maggie), has Maggie in Texas, dealing with hookers and pro wrestlers and advances from (wrestler) Gina. A lot of strong women characters, sometimes dealing with men, most often just trying to figure out how to be friends with each other. In the end Maggie is reunited with her bff Hopey. On to Penny Century, also a reread.

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## Austin says

The *Locas* series (which this and two other books encompass) is a soap in Comic Form, primarily following two girls as they have various adventures that range from Sci-Fi insanity, to Punk Rock mythologies. The stories appeared in the book *Love & Rockets*, along-side work by his brother, who's stories were centered around a village called *Palomar*. In a way, you need both to really absorb either story, but reading *Locas* in three-volumes, all at once is also extremely rewarding.

I will be up front: I am in love with the girls in these stories. Jaime Hernandez draws beautiful girls, and he loves to draw them, too. In many ways he manages to capture the voice of these women better than any man has ever captured a woman in comics, and it's this keen observation and well-written dialog that really drives everything forward. While there are definitely sub-stories within the *Locas* series, to me it seems more about the characters interacting, and less about events happening.

This is, perhaps, the only shortcoming of Jamie's work: much of it seems a little "light" compared to his brother. On the whole, it IS a soap, and people break-up and fight more often than anything else. There are other elements, true, but the stuff that sticks with me is Maggie & Hopey wandering around, having fun, while I find myself hard-pressed to find other connecting threads.

Which is fine. Light entertainment is good, too, and the art and dialog is superb. I never get sick of this guys work, and that is probably the best recommendation I can give.

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### **Chloe A-L says**

This book is beautiful. Fucking beautiful. It made me cry. I really loved the previous two volumes but this one makes me understand why love and rockets is fucking LOVE AND ROCKETS. Why every comics person has read it and how it became an indie comic empire. Because this is fucking BEAUTIFUL. The realist, craziest, most human, and most fucking beautiful story I've read in a long goddamn time

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### **Jeff says**

A fine end to the first part of the Maggie and Hopey story cycle, *Perla La Loca* represents Jaime Hernandez at the top of his game, both in terms of visual and narrative execution. As the protagonists have aged a bit, Hernandez allows some experimental technique to enter into the proceedings, visiting territory more often associated with his brother Gilbert. Particularly interesting is a series of stories set in the nearly abandoned Chester Square, a run-down strip mall that Hernandez uses as a sort of focus for contemporary aspects of the Mexican-American experience. All-in-all, *Perla La Loca* is more of what the Hernandez brothers so often deliver: essential comics reading.

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### **Noah says**

It was great to finally get to read the rest of this story arc, but ultimately the strongest parts were in the middle of it. And since much of this book is spent with the two main characters apart, it never quite had the joy (and sorrow) found in the previous section. Still there are plenty of fun parts and the incredible artwork is worth the price of admission alone. Worth reading, but a bit of a weaker finish than I expected.

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### **Megan Kirby says**

Uhhh I love Love & Rockets so much that I don't even think I'm up to the task of writing a Goodreads review about it. This collection was excellent with a few weird missteps, but the ending was absolutely perfect. It gave off that precise sort of "this is the perfect conclusion" feel that every ending should strive for.

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This is not my favorite L&R collection (VERY hard to follow the genius Girl from HOPPERS) but god DAMN, the conclusion to the Locas storyline is so perfectly executed. Maggie's breakdown--the collective moment of violence in her imagining everyone from her past slapping her one by one and all at once, the

sudden rift with reality, the brief--so brief!--slip to an alternate timeline and the bittersweet desire of "it was all just a dream," the return to reality: Backseat of a police car, and the sudden fateful return of Hopey. Oh! God! It moves so fast, it encompasses so much, it ends on such a sweet and sad and inevitable note! Rarely does such a long-running storyline end in such an immaculate place.

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