



# Jimbo in Purgatory

*Gary Panter*

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## **Jimbo in Purgatory** Gary Panter

The founder of "Punk" art reinvents Dante through his character Jimbo in this landmark graphic novel.

Gary Panter has been one of America's pre-eminent designers and cartoonists of the last quarter century: In addition to being a prolific and sought-after illustrator, he was one of the graphic minds behind the award-winning *Pee-wee's Playhouse* show, and, as the creator of Jimbo, one of the pillars of the legendary *RAW* magazine. Panter's early graphics defined the California punk ethos and the alternative zine scene—and although he hasn't achieved the notoriety of Keith Haring or Kenny Scharf, the post-Pop painting world is also deeply in his debt. Now, Fantagraphics is proud to present a major, all-new book by Panter: *Jimbo in Purgatory*.

In this spectacular graphic novel, Panter has transformed his protean punk hero Jimbo into the protagonist of a reinterpretation of Dante's *Purgatorio*. After years of comparing Dante and Boccaccio to find commonalities between the two, Panter developed a narrative of his own that includes literary and pop references regularly injected throughout the captions of the reinterpreted cantos.

In Panter's adaptation, Jimbo traverses a vast infotainment-testing center built in the shape of Dante's Mount Purgatory. Within its borders every man or robot stands in for a character in the *Divine Comedy*. In this version all the participants in the drama must respond to one another within a lunatic logic wherein each quotes a literary fragment that demonstrates their respective knowledge of a particular passage and its import to the specific location in a poem.

Presented in a huge, oversize hardcover format (even bigger than the classic *RAW!*) to do justice to Panter's densely packed pages, with a stunning two-color stamping on the cloth covers, *Jimbo in Purgatory* is an art object, a brilliant literary game, a visual feast, and the most eye-popping, visually and verbally challenging, and memorable new graphic novel of the year.

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