

I listened to "Synchronicity I" every day after school, drumming my way through the entire album using chopsticks, pillows and tupperware.



Duran Duran, Imelda Marcos and Me by Lorina Mapa (Conundrum Press)

THE SETTING

Canada and the Philippines



The Sound of the World by Heart by Giacomo Bevilacqua (Magnetic Press)

THE SETTING New York

THE READ GRAPHIC NOVELS

Cape-twirling old-timers like Batman and Superman always had their more thoughtful sides, but comic books really grew up in the 1980s and 90s with titles such as – pow! bam! – *Maus*, a deeply personal, anthropomorphic take on the Holocaust and – kapow! – *Ghost World*, a deadpan tale of teenage life in small-town America. Now earthbound narratives are mutating faster than the X-Men, and their authors are redrawing the way we see potential destinations using eyewitness accounts, memoir and original storytelling. One front-runner was Guy Delisle, a Canadian animator whose baffled narrator stumbles through various overseas postings, revealing more about life in Pyongyang, Burma and Jerusalem in just a couple of panels than many documentaries do in an hour. Other new books include *Collecting Sticks*, a tenderly amusing fable of glamping and parenthood for the post-festival, post-Bear Hunt generations, *On the Camino*, a rite-of-passage lope along the epic pilgrimage route, and *The Sound of the World by Heart*, whose story pans across New York as a photojournalist tries to spend 60 days there without speaking to a soul. A simple frame, a few speech bubbles and a little cross-hatching can be remarkably evocative and poignant – and no medium does thoughtful silence and interior dialogue quite as well as a graphic novel. ‘It’s a different way of connecting,’ says Lorina Mapa, who spent six years creating *Duran, Duran, Imelda Marcos and Me*, inspired by her childhood in Manila and covering everything from Filipino streetfood to religion. ‘There’s a certain intimacy you get with comics. Although the artist can draw their world, a reader has to interpret and imagine things in their own way.’ RICK JORDAN

For the latest titles, visit London’s Gosh Comics (goshlondon.com)



On the Camino by Jason (Fantagraphics Books)

THE SETTING Spain



Collecting Sticks by Joe Deci (Jonathan Cape)

THE SETTING A campsite in Kent



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH BRIAN CHESKY

HE'S THE DISRUPTOR WHO FORESAW THE SHARING ECONOMY FROM A BLOW-UP MATTRESS ON HIS SAN FRANCISCO APARTMENT FLOOR. AIRBNB IS NOW WORTH \$30 BILLION WITH 52 MILLION NIGHTS BOOKED LAST YEAR

will be more mobile. Also, the idea of a travel concierge or agent will be back, but it will probably be enabled by artificial intelligence.'

Name a trailblazer we should be watching?

'In the USA there's a restaurant-booking app called Resy that lets you choose from a curated roster of the coolest restaurants in every city, and reserve seats. You can pay for your meal through the app too.'

Which destination are you most excited about visiting?

'My girlfriend and I really want to go to Osaka. We spent a week last April in Tokyo

discovering the food, but people say Osaka has the best restaurants in the world.'

Is there a big idea you wish you'd had?

'Ride-sharing apps. I lived in LA in 2005 and had to buy a car. I'd sit in the five-seater by myself, surrounded by other empty five-seaters. The whole thing seemed incredibly inefficient.'

What excites you most about the future?

'The idea of people discovering not places but other people. Objects or destinations don't have the opportunity to transform you, but people do.'

IMAGES: IAN ALLEN; GIACOMO BEVILACQUA/THE MAGNETIC COLLECTION AT LION FORGE; JOE DECIE/JONATHAN CAPE; FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS; LORINA MAPA/CONUNDRUM PRESS