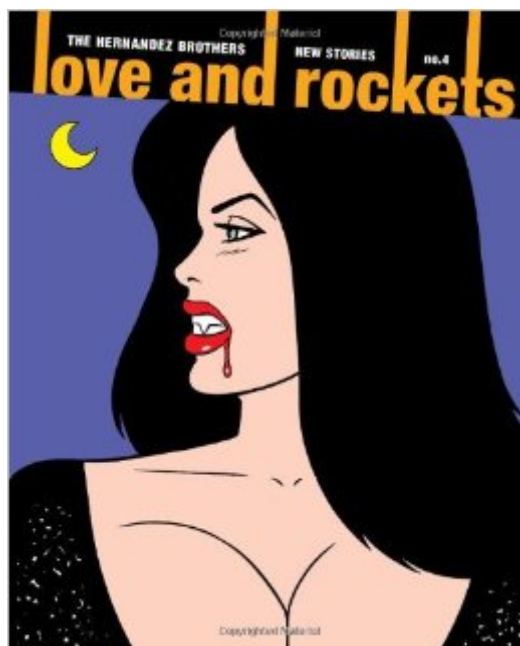


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# Love And Rockets: New Stories No. 4 (Vol. 4) (Love And Rockets)



## Synopsis

More romantic travails for Maggie (in the sequel to the acclaimed *œBrowntown* •) • plus vampires! *With Love and Rockets: New Stories #3*, Jaime Hernandez returned to his beloved *œLoca* • Maggie after a three-year hiatus, and the resultant stories • one (*œThe Love Bunglers* •) set in the here and now detailing Maggie's continued romantic travails, and one, the heartrending *œBrowntown* • (which was immediately hailed as one of the very best stories in the 30-year history of the series), set in her teenage days and involving some previously unseen members of her family. *Love and Rockets: New Stories #4* picks up both of these storylines, first with the conclusion to *œLove Bunglers* • (did Maggie really dump Ray again?), then with a sequel of sorts to *œBrowntown* • in which teenage Maggie returns to Hoppers and a new life. Meanwhile, on the Gilbert side of town, High Soft Lisp's Fritz returns in *œTalkabout*, • a 15-page dialogue with an old beau. Second up is the 35-page *œKing Vampire* •: Two lovable teens, Cecil and Trini, want to join a local vampire club but real vampires show up and things get serious. Cecil loves it but Trini has her doubts about going all the way. But wait • is this a real story or another *œFritz movie* •? Some of the characters look awfully familiar! 104 pages of black-and-white comics

## Book Information

Series: *Love and Rockets* (Book 4)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Jaime's on point here, we follow Maggie through middle age with looks at the past and now the near distant future. There's a brilliant dream sequence from Ray, Vivian makes a brief and uneven

appearance with one of the classic lines of the series "I've had it with that fat old Mexican", a fantastic panel maybe worth the price of the purchase. Angela is here in all of her beauty, but no action shots. The Hoppers stuff is good, not great. Gilbert's story "and now reality kicks in" is nothing short of exceptional, his vampire story is also interesting, though dirty and bleak.

In this book, Jaime finishes up the Ray & Maggie story from the last volume -- and the ending is so "complete," it feels like it could easily serve as the finale of the entire "Locas" storyline. It's well done, and strongly affecting -- it left me reflecting for hours about the series, the characters' lives... and "life" in general. Jaime's compositions and plotting are as strong here as ever -- there are pages and panels containing details that only fully reveal themselves when you flip back, after reading further, and look back over them again (something longtime readers should be very familiar with). The book also includes a standalone story, revisiting preteen Maggie's return to Hoppers and reunion with her friend Letty (as seen at the end of "Wig Wam Bam") -- only this time told from Letty's point of view. It is excellent; and, like the main storyline, should be highly resonant for "L&R" fans. It's remarkable how Jaime is able to add new details and layers to old stories, without the result feeling "rehashed." We'll have to wait and see whether this is truly the final "Locas" book (though I wouldn't bet on it!). In a Jaime story, you sometimes can't tell whether events have "actually happened," or if they're experiments or alternative ways of looking at things, "What If...?" style. (Not all "fantasies" involve super heroes, ghosts, or people from other planets -- some are much closer to home.) Meanwhile, to quote a band that also recently wrapped things up after three decades (a band that Maggie and Hopey probably always hated) -- Vol. 4 is "A must...!"

The book concludes the storyline set up in the last book called "The Love Bunglers" about Maggie and Ray's on again off again relationship which Jaime draws, as well as "Browntown" which takes place when Maggie was a teen. Gilbert writes/draws a bizarre and funny vampire story and a shorter one about a fading alcoholic movie star. All the stories were excellent especially Gilbert's as I've never fully gotten into "Love and Rockets" proper as there's too much backstory to go through to be up to date on the characters. The vampire story is probably the best part of the book, partly because I like those odd stories Gilbert puts out ("Speak of the Devil" is a brilliant book), but I think he's the better artist of the two. As good as the Maggie stories are, Jaime's artwork makes it hard to distinguish between male characters - they just all look too similar! The ending of the book is very dramatic but I think it would've been clearer if I could identify who Ray was and who the other male characters were. As it was, I was confused as to what had happened and who Maggie was with in

the end. Was it Ray? Was it someone else? It was probably Ray anyway. I think...Fans of the series will love this new book while newcomers will still find plenty to enjoy inside. A great collection of the Hernandez brothers' latest stories.

Love and Rockets is hands-down the best comic book series ever published, and the new series is among some of the best work that the Hernandez Brothers have ever done. These volumes highlight a new standard in black and white illustration from Jamie, who somehow manages to simultaneously simplify his style even further than before and bring more life and energy onto the page, and some of Gilbert's (ever the master storyteller) writing. As much as I enjoyed the unbridled energy of the old books, I love the brilliance, passion, and quality of this new series.

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