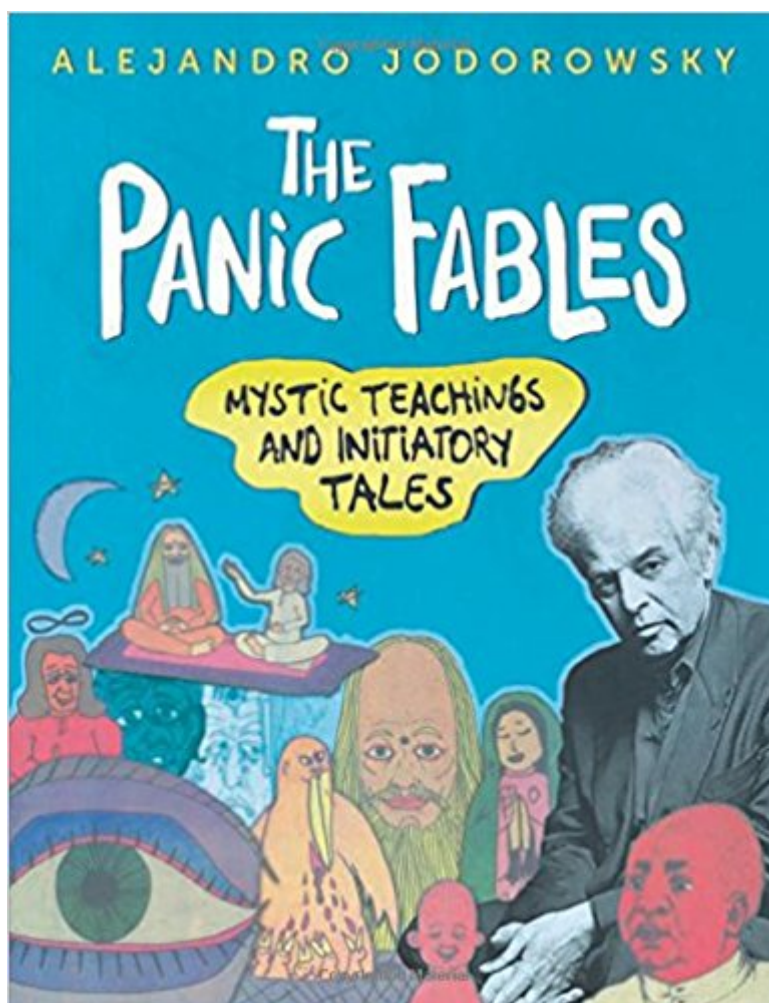


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# The Panic Fables: Mystic Teachings And Initiatory Tales



## Synopsis

The complete series of filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky's spiritual comics, translated into English for the first time • Contains all 284 of Jodorowsky's Panic Fables comics, published weekly from 1967 to 1973 in Mexico City's El Heraldo newspaper • Includes an introduction describing how the Panic Fables came to be • Explains how he incorporated Zen teachings, initiatory wisdom, and sacred symbology into his Panic Fables, as well as himself as one of the characters

In 1967, in response to theatrical censorship rules that put him on the political "black list" in Mexico City and caused his plays and his pantomime classes at the School of Fine Arts to be cancelled, Alejandro Jodorowsky decided to pursue a new form of artistic expression to earn his living: comics. Working with his friend Luis Spota, the editor of the cultural section of the newspaper El Heraldo de México, Jodorowsky initially planned 3 months' worth of weekly comics, which he would draw himself. However, his "Panic Fables"—named after his early '60s avant-garde theater movement in Paris—were met with such insatiable popularity that he continued the series for six and a half years, from June 1967 until December 1973. Appearing for the first time in English, this book presents all 284 of Jodorowsky's Panic Fables in full color, along with an introduction by the author. He reveals how his first comics reflected his pessimism about the future and the meaning of life, the negativity of which soon exhausted him. He realized he needed to show the positivity that he encountered in life, and thus, little by little, he began incorporating Zen teachings, initiatory wisdom, and sacred symbology into his Panic Fables. Through this transformation and the outpouring of support from his devoted readers, many of whom cite the Panic Fables as providing pivotal guidance during their adolescence, Jodorowsky discovered that art can serve to heal as well as raise consciousness. Writing himself into his comics, Jodorowsky can be glimpsed as the character of the disciple who talks with his master and, as the series progresses, gradually grows to assume the role of master, providing psychomagic solutions to the problems of everyday life. In reading the complete Panic Fables in chronological order, much like his film *The Dance of Reality*, we witness in colorful detail Jodorowsky's own path of spiritual growth.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Park Street Press (May 9, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620555379

ISBN-13: 978-1620555378

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,491 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Religion & Spirituality #449 in Books > Self-Help > Spiritual #1795 in Books > Self-Help > Personal Transformation

## Customer Reviews

Alejandro Jodorowsky is a playwright, filmmaker, composer, mime, and psychotherapist. He has directed several films, including *The Rainbow Thief* and the legendary cult classics *El Topo* and *The Holy Mountain*. His most recent film, *The Dance of Reality*, debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013 alongside a highly acclaimed documentary about his visionary film that never was, *Jodorowsky's Dune*. He is the author of more than 20 books on spirituality and tarot, including *Psychomagic*, *The Way of Tarot*, *Metagenealogy*, and *Sacred Trickery and the Way of Kindness*, as well as more than 30 comic books and graphic novels. He lives in Paris, France.

Finally translated to English, *Zen Koans as comics*.

Mysticism is pretty serious business, so what are we going to do with a comic book about the subject? Excuse me, *it's a graphic novel*. *It's a novel*, alright, but not fiction. *It's also comic*, in that the word in the title, *pan-panic*, suggests a popular way to get motivated to see enlightenment "when we are panicked! What a book, and by a true mystic, as well. And *it's HUGE!* The author, Alejandro Jodorowsky, as you can tell by his name, is a mixed-media person, a playwright and psychotherapist, a composer, filmmaker, and probably some other stuff, too. He's written many books, each one bearing the stamp of this unique artist and communicator. What we have in this very large book is a collection of very interesting, colorful, amusing, stimulating, and provocative drawings. Actually, the author began this series of comics, and he calls them *comics* in response to his frustration over how the art establishment was regarding his work. But don't get the wrong idea, there's a lot of seriousness in the fun and play. He'll take you out of the ordinary and give you some jolts. To just pick on one type of entry: *Zen Koans*. The author creates some interesting pictures to go along with these riddles. If you've encountered the koans before, you certainly haven't encountered their interpretation in quite the way that the author

does. He's been there, done that, and come back with something new, and effective!

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