

ILLUMINATIONS

JAN 2014

**BIFF'S BIT...
NEW YEAR MUSINGS**

**HISTORY BOOKS...
BATMAN: HUSH**

**ALL OF MARCH'S
BRAND NEW
COMIC SERIES AND
ONE-SHOTS**

ACE
COMICS



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DARK HORSE

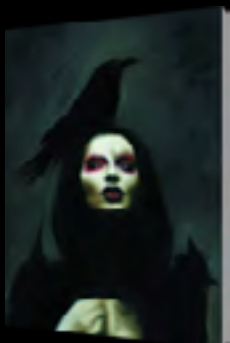
NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH



BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: SEASON 10 #1

Christos N. Gage, Rebekah Isaacs, Steve Morris

New season. New rules. The age-old battle of Slayer vs. vampire is the focus of Buffy's life once again-it's downright nostalgic! But with all the toying with magic she's done lately, this girl should know it's time for another game change ... Shouldn't she? In Shops: **19/03/2014**



NOSFERATU WARS (ONE-SHOT)

Steve Niles, Menton3

If the undead have glory days, then the Black Plague was the era they never could have imagined. No longer hunted, no longer suspected, the vampires ran, exempt from fear. They were free to play-until the night the vampires turned against each other.

Collects all four Dark Horse Presents installments!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



BLACKOUT #1 (OF 4)

Frank Barbiere, Colin Lorimer, Doug Wheatley, Micah Kaneshiro, Various

Scott Travers's special suit lets him move through our world unseen and untouchable within a shadowy parallel dimension-but he doesn't know how the suit works or where it came from. With his benefactor missing and unfriendlies after his Blackout gear, Scott must find answers before the answers find him!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



1 FOR \$1 - BPRD: HELL ON EARTH

Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, Guy Davis

B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth follows the B.P.R.D., now operating under strict UN oversight, as they face new horrors. People are once again vanishing from small towns, monsters are roaming in the woods, and a strange new creature arrives to create hell on earth.

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



WITCHER #1 (OF 5)

Paul Tobin, Joe Querio, Dan Panosian, Dave Johnson

Traveling near the edge of the Black Forest, monster hunter Geralt meets a widowed fisherman whose dead and murderous wife resides in an eerie mansion known as the House of Glass-which seems to have endless rooms, nothing to fill them with, and horror around every corner.

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



BEASTS OF BURDEN HUNTERS GATHERERS ONE SHOT

Evan Dorkin, Jill Thompson

This standalone adventure is the perfect entry point for readers new to this awardwinning series. The town of Burden Hill is defended from monsters and madmen by a brave crew of dogs and cats-and one werewolf hybrid. This book packs serious scares and occasional gross-outs, and sometimes drives readers to tears.

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



VEIL #1 (OF 5)

Greg Rucka, Toni Fejzula

A beautiful girl wakes up in an abandoned subway station with no memory of how she got there. When men try to hurt her ... they wind up dead. Where did she come from? And what is she capable of?

An all-new series from Eisner Award-winning writer Greg Rucka!

Art by Toni Fejzula (Cthulhu).

A surprising new heroine from the creator of Lazarus and Queen and Country!

In Shops: **05/03/2014**





DC

NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH

AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SECOND CYCLE #1

Scott Snyder, Rafael Albuquerque

The Eisner Award-winning, critically acclaimed series is back! #1 New York Times best-selling writer Scott Snyder (Batman, Superman Unchained, The Wake) and acclaimed artist Rafael Albuquerque (Animal Man) bring their bloodsoaked opus into the 1960s!

The story so far...

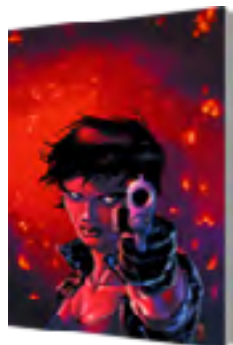
Pearl Jones is a new kind of vampire, one of an American breed that can walk in the sun and has rattlesnake fangs. She's beautiful and powerful - and she's hiding from a tragic past...

Skinner Sweet is an American vamp too - the kind you love to hate. He's good when he wants to be, but most of the time he's downright bad. He's Pearl's maker, but he's off in Mexico with an agenda of his own...

Will their two stories collide, or are they separated forever? And who is this new villain on the horizon, someone bloodier and more evil than anything seen in American Vampire before? Who is The Gray Trader and what does his arrival mean for Skinner and Pearl?

Whether you're already a fan or interested in checking out this series, the extra-sized American Vampire: Second Cycle #1 is the perfect jumping-on point!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



SUICIDE SQUAD: AMANDA WALLER #1

Jim Zubkavich

As head of both Suicide Squad and A.R.G.U.S., Amanda Waller has made a lot of enemies over the years. And now, without either of those groups at her disposal, one of those enemies has come to kill her! She must stop him all by herself or die trying...

In Shops: **26/03/2014**

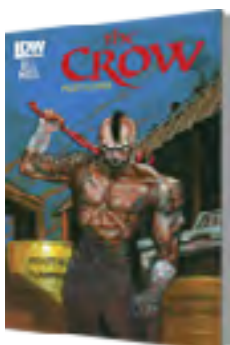


X-FILES - CONSPIRACY: CROW #1

Denton J. Tipton,
Vic Malhotra,
Miran Kim

Bernard is a decorated state policeman in love with his partner. But their romance is brutally cut short when both die following a high-speed pursuit and fiery car crash involving the Lone Gunmen. Bernard inexplicably awakens to find himself resurrected by an otherworldly crow and with only one thing on his mind: vengeance.

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



THE CROW: PESTILENCE #1

Frank Bill, Drew Moss, James O'Barr

Juarez, Mexico. A young boxer, Salvador, refuses to take a fall, but has no problem taking a vicious drug gang's pay-off. When they take their lethal revenge on the Salvador and his family, he returns as The Crow, in search of vengeance...and forgiveness.

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



ROCKY & BULLWINKLE #1 (OF 4)

Mark Evanier,
Roger Langridge

They're finally here! Welcome Bullwinkle the Moose and Rocket J. Squirrel back to comics, in this very special first issue by fan-favorites Mark Evanier and Roger Langridge. Rocky and Bullwinkle must stop the evil Boris and Natasha from duping a wealthy philanthropist in The Psychic Sidekick. And when Dudley Do-Right tries to woo the beautiful Nell, will Snidely Whiplash get away?

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



MONSTER & MADMAN #1 (OF 3)

Steve Niles,
Damien Worm

Contrary to popular belief, the story of the Frankenstein Monster did not end at the end of Mary Shelley's famous novel. Now, Steve Niles and Damien Worm have uncovered the shocking fact of the time the Monster met... Jack the Ripper. Read if you dare!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



100 PENNY PRESS: GI JOE #1 (1982)

Larry Hama,
Herb Trimpe

In this explosive first issue, Cobra Commander manages to abduct Dr. Adele Burkhart, a controversial scientist privy to secrets that could spell doom for America! It's up to G.I. Joe to infiltrate COBRA's island base and rescue Dr. Burkhart before it is too late. Will they make it in time or will COBRA succeed? Find out in the issue that started it all, for only a buck!

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



100 PENNY PRESS: TRANSFORMERS #1 (1984)

Bill Mantlo, Ralph Macchio, Frank Springer, Bill Sienkiewicz

See how the epic began, for only a buck! Celebrate issue 100 of Transformers: Regeneration One with the story that started it all! Autobots wage their battle to destroy the evil forces of the Decepticons - and their war spills onto Earth!

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



STAR SLAMMERS: REMASTERED #1

Walter Simonson

Walter Simonson can honestly be described as a living legend. Besides co-creating Manhunter with the great Archie Goodwin, in the early days of his career, Simonson has written and drawn nearly all of the Marvel and DC characters at one time or another. Highlights include The Fantastic Four, Batman, Orion, Elric, and his groundbreaking run on The Mighty Thor.

But before all of these, there was Star Slammers, a series first devised by Simonson during his college days. The Slammers would later be resurrected as a Marvel Graphic Novel, and then a mini-series. Simonson describes it thus: Once upon a time, there was a race of men who could out-shoot, out-fight, and out-kill anybody. They were paid fabulous sums to act as mercenaries. The practice became so lucrative, they decided to go into business. They became the most successful businessmen in history, and they called themselves...The Star Slammers!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**





STRAY BULLETS: KILLERS #1

David Lapham

One of the most acclaimed crime series ever returns! When Gary Goldsmith and his young son Asa are involved in a deadly hit and run, their night goes from bad to worse when their grisly deed is witnessed by a disturbing stranger. Find out what thirty dollars, a dirty diaper, and a girl named Yummy will reveal about the true meaning of life in a little story we like to call "The Love Ride." Featuring the return of Spanish Scott!

This new arc of stories about life and love and all the things we do to kill them starts out in the best noir tradition, then turns the genre on its ear. Would you expect any less? If you've never read Stray Bullets before, jump in here. Hell, jump in anywhere. Every issue always presents a complete story that fits into a larger whole.

Item Code: JAN140529 In Shops: 3/12/2014



THINK TANK: FUN WITH PTSD #1

Matt Hawkins, Rahsan Ekedal

Special oversized issue!

Dr. David Loren tries to help a Seal team member overcome his PTSD in a story that will make you laugh and cry. Plus Zero G dogs!

In Shops: 3/26/2014

IMAGE

NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH



REAL HEROES #1

Bryan Hitch

They are the six most famous actors in the world and together they play The Olympians, the biggest superhero movie franchise in history. Would you ask them to save the world? They may be our only hope...

In Shops: 3/26/2014



DARKNESS: VICIOUS TRADITIONS #1

Alex Kot, Dean Ormston, Dale Keown

Alex Kot (Zero, Wild Children) joins Dean Ormston (Judge Dredd, Predator, Books of Magick) to deliver this special Tales of Darkness one-shot! The Roman Empire is on the edge of collapse. A part of its army is stranded deep within the Visigoth territory. The barbarian leader wakes up in a mass grave. He should be dead; yet he is not.

In Shops: 3/5/2014



STARLIGHT #1

Mark Millar, Goran Parlo, John Cassaday

Forty years ago, Duke McQueen was the space hero who saved the universe. But then he came back home, got married, had kids and grew old. Now his children have left and his wife has passed away, leaving him alone with nothing except his memories... until a call

comes from a distant world asking him back for his final and greatest adventure. This issue launches the much-anticipated Millarworld Universe. Get in on the start of something MASSIVE!

In Shops: 3/5/2014



TALES OF HONOR #1

Matt Hawkins, Jung-Geun Yoon

The Honorverse expands to comics! Based on the best-selling military science-fiction novels by David Weber, this original comic book series introduces spaceship captain Honor Harrington on the eve of her execution. From prison, Honor relays her epic adventures, starting with a command outpost to a hellish backwater star system that ends up being the linchpin of an interstellar crisis that will bring war to her home planet. This series is part of a new multi-platform story world that includes a mobile game app to be released with the first issue and a feature film currently in development.

In Shops: 3/5/2014



SOVEREIGN #1

Chris Roberson, Paul Maybury

An epic fantasy in the tradition of Game of Thrones, Sovereign is set in a world which once knew gods, demons, and magic, and to which all three are returning. New York Times bestselling author Chris Roberson joins artist Paul Maybury to tell the story of masked undertakers facing the undead with swords, of civil wars and cultures in collision, of ancient threats emerging from the ashes of history to menace the future...

In Shops: 3/19/2014

MARVEL

NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH



IRON PATRIOT #1

Ales Kot, Garry Brown

“Unbreakable” Part 1

Jim Rhodes has quit the Secret Avengers!!! As the Iron Patriot, he's bringing his fight against the bad guys to the home front. But a new villain emerges with a brutal plan that could turn Iron Patriot into America's most wanted!!!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



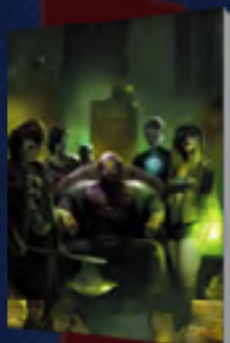
ALL NEW GHOST RIDER #1

Felipe Smith, Tradd Moore

“Engines Of Vengeance” Part 1

A street race leads a young man on the fast and furious road of destiny. Amid an East Los Angeles neighborhood running wild with gang violence and drug trafficking, a war brews in the criminal underworld! With four on the floor, Marvel's newest Ghost Rider puts vengeance in overdrive!!!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**

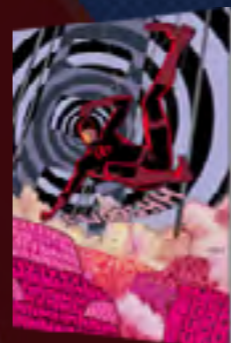


AVENGERS UNDERCOVER #1

Dennis Hopeless, Kev Walker, Francesco Mattina

Damaged by their experience in Murder World, five conflicted young superhumans go rogue and infiltrate the Masters of Evil, planning to bring the Avengers' rivals down from within. But the longer the teens spend undercover, the more they descend into darkness, and as they start to build relationships with these multi-layered criminals, the line between good and evil blurs. What will happen first...joining the Masters for real, or getting exposed and killed? If you thought Murder World was dangerous, just wait until “Most Promising New Talent” Harvey award-winner Dennis Hopeless and acclaimed artist Kev Walker surround you with Evil!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**

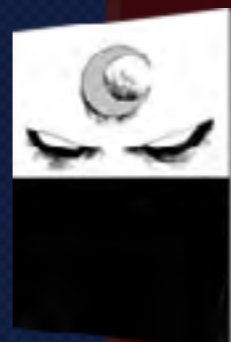


DAREDEVIL #1

Mark Waid, Chris Samnee

Join Marvel's fearless hero as he begins his most awe-inspiring adventure yet in the sunny city of San Francisco! Gifted with an imperceptible radar sense and a passion for justice, blind lawyer Matt Murdock - a.k.a. Daredevil - protects the Golden City's streets from all manner of evil. But big changes are in store for Matt Murdock as old haunts and familiar faces rise to give the devil his due. Hold on tight, because here comes Daredevil...the Man Without Fear!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



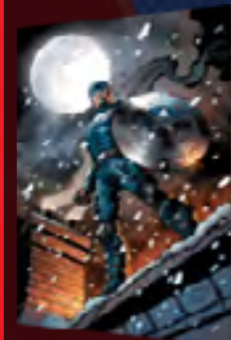
MOON KNIGHT #1

Warren Ellis, Declan Shalvey

Marc Spector is Moon Knight!...Or is he? It's hard to tell these days, especially when New York's wildest vigilante protects the street with two-fisted justice and three-that's right, count 'em-different personalities! But even with the mystical force of Khonshu fueling his crusade, how does the night's greatest detective save a city that's as twisted as he is?

Marvel's most mind-bending adventure begins NOW as Moon Knight sleuths his way to the rotten core of New York's most bizarre mysteries!

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



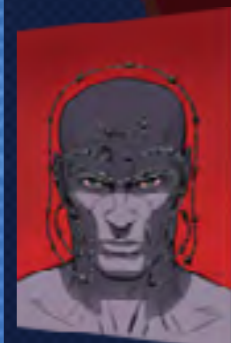
CAPTAIN AMERICA: HOME-COMING #1

Fred Van Lente, Tom Grummett, Mark Bagley

Captain America and the Black Widow leap into action in an all-new, cinematic-set adventure!

What brings Steve Rogers back to tour his old Brooklyn neighborhood? Hint: It's not just the milk shakes! Plus: Reprinting the first appearance of Cap's #1 wingman, the high-flying Falcon!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



MAGNETO #1

Cullen Bunn, Gabriel Hernandez Walta, Paolo Rivera

Once the deadliest, most feared mutant mastermind on the planet, Magneto is no longer the man he once was. After falling in with Cyclops and the X-Men, Erik Lehnsherr became just one more pawn in another man's war. But now, determined to fight the war for mutantkind's survival on his own terms, Magneto sets out to regain what he's lost...and show the world exactly why it should tremble at the sound of his name. Magneto will safeguard the future of the mutant race by hunting down each and every threat that would see his kind extinguished - and bloody his hands that they may never be a threat again.

In Shops: **05/03/2014**

MARVEL

NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH



SILVER SURFER #1

Dan Slott,
Michael Allred

“New Dawn”

The universe is big. Bigger than you could ever imagine. And the Silver Surfer, the lone sentinel of the skyways, is about to discover that the best way to see it... is with someone else.

Meet the Earth Girl who's challenged the Surfer to go beyond the boundaries of the known Marvel U-- into the strange, the new, and the utterly fantastic!

Anywhere and Everywhere... Hang On! The Silver Surfer

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



WOLVERINE AND X-MEN #1

Jason Latour,
Mahmud A. Asrar

World-famous X-Men Wolverine, Storm, and a star-studded faculty must educate the next generation all-powerful, but inexperienced mutants! But with their own lives steeped in deadly enemies and personal crises, how can the X-Men guide and educate - let alone defend - the school? At the Jean Grey School, you never know who will enroll...or who will lead the class! And what mysterious organization waits in the shadows to destroy Wolverine's mutant sanctuary?

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



COVER STAR: SECRET AVENGERS #1

Ales Kot, Michael Walsh, Tradd Moore

“Save The Empire”, Part One

The all-new Secret Avengers are ready to

get started. Are they going to be the world's most effective secret squad? Or will their personal issues tear them apart? U-Decide! Three missions kick off at the same time: one in the space, one on the ground...and one in the air. And no one's ready. Except for the at-

tackers. Russian spa. Helicarrier. Space station. Falling satellites. A hired hitman with nothing to lose. The Fury. Wait. Yes. The Fury. Why is Hawkeye still around? And why are these people chasing him? Why are Black Widow and Spider Woman in a Russian spa? Do questions in teasers excite you? Run the mission, don't get seen, save the world. NOW!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**

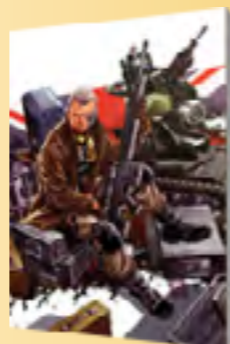


SURVIVE

Brian Michael Bendis, Joe Quinones, Olivier Coipel

Classified!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**

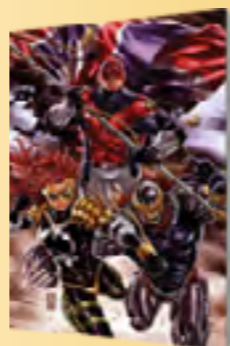


REVOLUTIONARY WAR: WARHEADS #1

Andy Lanning,
Alan Cowsill,
Gary Erskine,
Mark Brooks

Colonel Liger, formerly of the evil organization Mys-Tech, has started working as an agent of MI:13, Mys-Tech's rival agency. Not everything is as it appears, though - because Liger has just discovered that his old team, The Warheads, are still alive - and nothing's going to stop him from finding them.

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



REVOLUTIONARY WAR: OMEGA #1

Andy Lanning,
Alan Cowsill,
Richard Elson,
Mark Brooks

The final issue in an 8-part epic Marvel UK's triumphant return reaches its epic conclusion! Will the agents of MI:13 be able to stop whatever Mys-Tech has been planning?

In Shops: **26/03/2014**

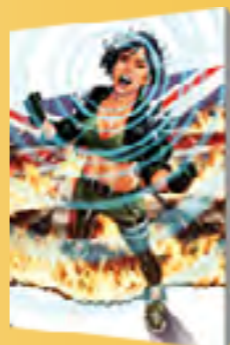


CAPTAIN MARVEL #1 (OF 6)

Kelly Sue DeConnick,
David Lopez

Hero! Pilot! Avenger! Captain Marvel, Earth's Mightiest Hero with death-defying powers and an attitude to match, is back and launching headfirst into an all-new ongoing series! As Captain Marvel, a.k.a. Carol Danvers, comes to a crossroads with a new life and new romance, she makes a dramatic decision that will alter the course of her life and the entire Marvel Universe in the months to come. It's time to go higher, further, faster and more in the most super-powered comic around!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



REVOLUTIONARY WAR: MOTORMOUTH #1

Glen Dakin,
Robin Cliquet,
Mark Brooks

When Mys-Tech returns and threatens the safety of Great Britain, MI:13 need to try to convince Motormouth to come out of retirement.

Harley Davis' days of being a hero are over, though. Now, her day job is being the mother of her two children. Until an explosive Mys-Tech attack calls her out of retirement!

Be there as Motormouth gets her mojo back!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**





EVIL EMPIRE #1 BOOM!

Max Bemis, Ransom Getty, Jay Shaw

Told through the perspective of an underground rapper named Reese, Max Bemis' gripping story explores a scenario in which we watch our modern society gradually evolve (or is it devolve?) into an evil empire.

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



GODKILLER: WALK AMONG US #1 BLACK MASK

Matt Pizzolo, Anna Wieszczyk, Ben Templesmith, Various

A sci-horror adventure about a boy's search for a new heart to save his dying sister in a post-nuclear wasteland populated by fallen gods, sex magic, and quantum physics technowizards.

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



GFT: NEVERLAND - AGE OF DARKNESS #1 (OF 4) ZENESCOPE

Joe Brusha, Various

Nathan Cross is called on to lead a strike team into the realm to find out exactly what the Horde is up to. It's a mission that will reunite him with long lost friends...if he manages to survive.

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



LIBERATOR: EARTH CRISIS #1 (OF 2) BLACK MASK

Matt Miner, Javier Sanchez Aranda, Menton3, Rod Reis

Sarah Mann, a young woman working a lousy job in an animal testing lab, is radicalized into an animal-avenging vigilante after being inspired by Damon and Jeanette's exploits.

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN: SEASON 6 #1 DYNAMITE

James Kuhoric, Juan Antonio Ramirez, Ken Haeser

Classic action, powerful science fiction and a cast of characters from one of television's most original series combine to make Season 6 a must have for comic fans!

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



JUGHEAD & ARCHIE DOUBLE DIGEST #1 ARCHIE

Craig Boldman, Rex Lindsey, Rich Koslowski

Get ready for fun in this brand new double digest series!

In Shops: **09/04/2014**

INDIES

NEW SERIES AND ONE-SHOTS FOR MARCH



MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #1 DYNAMITE

Fred Van Lente, Cory Smith, Gabriel Hardman

The Gold Key Universe is expanding! Superstar Fred Van Lente (Marvel Zombies, Amazing Spider-Man, Archer & Armstrong) and the astounding Cory Smith (Fathom) present a stunning re-imagining of Magnus: Robot Fighter you never saw coming! In the blink of an eye, young martial artist Magnus has everything

taken from him...his father, his wife, his entire life. He's suddenly thrust into a futuristic world he doesn't understand, populated by humans and robots living together in oppression! Can Magnus fight to get his life back...and once he learns the truth about himself, will he want to?

In Shops: **12/03/2014**

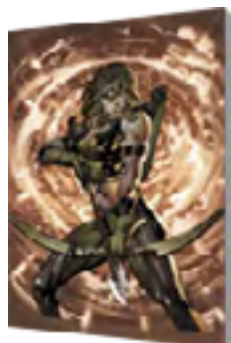


RETURNING #1 (OF 4) BOOM!

Jason Starr, Andrea Mutti, Frazer Irving

A quiet high school student with a bright future, will learn just how quickly friends and family will turn on her when she has the bad luck of surviving the worst night of her life...

In Shops: **12/03/2014**

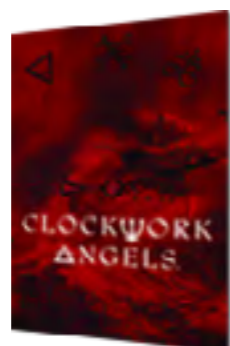


GFT: ROBYN HOOD - LEGEND #1 (OF 5) ZENESCOPE

Patrick Shand, Larry Watts, Various

Robyn thought she lost everything, but when the villainous Guy of Gisbourne makes his way to Earth, Robyn is faced with a choice. Return to Myst to save the people of Nottingham once and for all, or live life as a normal person. The final volume of the fan favorite Robyn Hood trilogy begins now... Robyn returns!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



RUSH: CLOCKWORK ANGELS #1 BOOM!

Neil Peart, Kevin J. Anderson, Nick Robles, Hugh Syme

Rush drummer and lyricist Neil Peart and bestselling author Kevin J. Anderson are bring the story of Clockwork Angels to comics and the journey of Owen Hardy to visual life!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



GHOST WOLF #1 (OF 4) AMIGO

El Torres, Siku

When the sons of Corr lost their courage, one man decided to fight - and paid with his life. He will become the vessel for the long, forsaken spirit of vengeance. The Ghost Wolf!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**

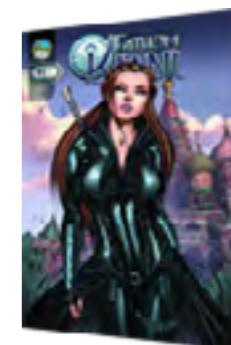


SHEENA #1 MOONSTONE

David De, Jake Minor, Various

Die Hard screenwriter Steven E. de Souza's critically acclaimed reboot of Will Eisner's Sheena, Queen of the Jungle comes to Moonstone in this action packed series!

In Shops: **26/03/2014**



FATHOM: KIANI VOL. 3 #1 ASPEN

Vince Hernandez, Giuseppe Cafaro

Kiani has risen above the surface and seemingly disappeared amongst the large expanse of the human population. However, with a power inside her that is capable of changing the world's landscape, she can only remain hidden for so long!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**

NOVEL IDEAS

NEW GRAPHIC NOVELS AND COLLECTED EDITIONS ARRIVING FROM FEBRUARY ONWARDS...



**STRAY BULLETS
UBER ALLES**
IMAGE
Lapham

A one-time printing direct market exclusive! The original five story arcs of one of the all-time greatest crime comic series are collected in this giant 1,200 page volume. "The Innocence of Nihilism," "Somewhere Out West," "Other People," "Dark Days," and "HiJinks and Derring-Do" appear in their entirety.

Collects Stray Bullets #1-41.

In Shops: **12/03/2014**



**BOOKS OF
MAGIC**
DC
Gaiman, Bolton,
Various

From Neil Gaiman comes a tale of the dangers and opportunities of youth, reprinted the original four-issue miniseries. Timothy Hunter could be the most powerful magician in the world, but does he really want to be? John Constantine, Phantom Stranger, Mister E, and Doctor Occult attempt to aid Timothy in choosing his path, but by the time Timothy makes a choice, it may already have been made for him.

In Shops: **23/04/2014**



**JOKER:
DEATH OF
THE FAMILY**
DC
Snyder, Capullo,
Various

The Joker makes his horrifying return in these tales from Batman #17, Catwoman #13-14, Batgirl #14-16, Batman And Robin #15-17, Nightwing #15-16, Detective Comics #16-17, Red Hood And The Outlaws #15-16 and Teen Titans #15, plus pages from Batman #13, Batgirl #13, Nightwing #14, Red Hood And The Outlaws #13-14, Suicide Squad #14-15 and Teen Titans #14 and 16.

In Shops: **16/04/2014**



**CONAN AND
PEOPLE OF
THE BLACK
CIRCLE (HC)**
DARK HORSE
Van Lente,
Olivetti

After an agent of the dreaded Black Seers of Yimsha assassinates the king of Vendhya, his sister Yasmina-now a queen-vows revenge! But her plans are derailed when Conan kidnaps her, and soon the Cimmerian has ruthless mercenaries, vengeance-crazed tribesmen, sinister sorcerers, and an entire army hard on his heels! Collects the four-issue miniseries.

In Shops: **07/05/2014**



**GUARDIANS
OF THE
GALAXY
VOL.1: COSMIC
AVENGERS**
MARVEL
Bendis, McNiven

There's a new rule in the galaxy: No one touches Earth! But why has Earth suddenly become the most important planet in the galaxy? That's what the Guardians of the Galaxy are going to find out! Join Star-Lord, Gamora, Drax, Rocket Raccoon, Groot and - wait for it - the Invincible Iron Man as they embark upon one of the most explosive and eye-opening chapters of Marvel NOW! Why wait for the movie? It all starts here!

Collecting Guardians Of The Galaxy (2013) #0.1 and #1-3, and Guardians Of The Galaxy: Tomorrow's Avengers #1.

In Shops: **23/04/2014**



**SECRET VOL.1:
NEVER GET
CAUGHT**
IMAGE
Hickman,
Bodenheim

Collecting the acclaimed series by Jonathan Hickman and Ryan Bodenheim, Secret tells the story of old spies losing their way in the new world of surveillance, globalization, and privatization. Collects Secret #1-7

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



**X-MEN:
NO MORE
HUMANS (HC)**
MARVEL
Carey, Larroca

Best-selling author and classic X-Men scribe Mike Carey (X-Men) and superstar artist Salvador Larroca (X-Men, Invincible Iron Man) join forces for X-Men: No More Humans, the first X-Men Original Graphic Novel since the classic X-Men: God Loves, Man Kills!

Following the shattering events of the "Battle of the Atom" the X-Men awaken to find all the world's humans gone. From normal everyday folks to the Avengers and Fantastic Four, all Homo sapiens have disappeared. It's up to the disparate sides of the X-Men to come together, get to the bottom of this mystery, and find a way to get the humans back. But do all of the mutants want their human brethren to return?

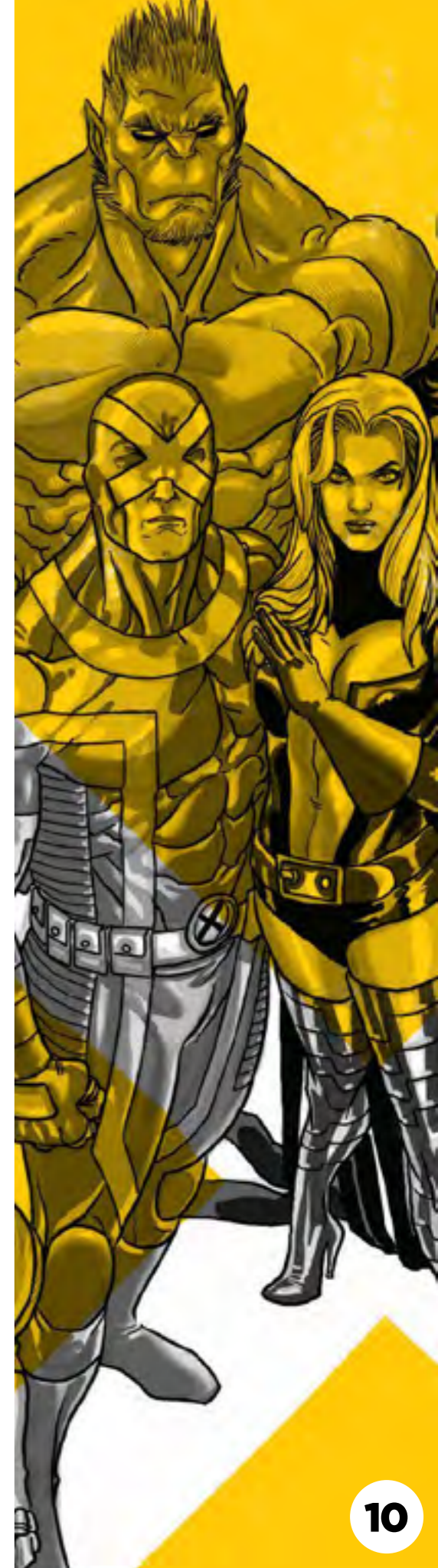
In Shops: **07/05/2014**



**LEGENDS
OF OZ:
DOROTHY'S
RETURN**
IDW
Tipton, Shedd,
Shanower

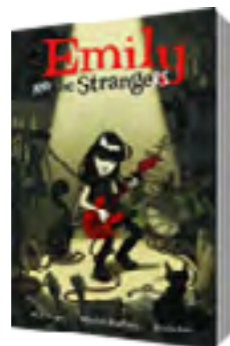
Building on the world created in the celebrated children's book by Roger Stanton Baum, Legends of Oz will tell the tale of Dorothy's return to the land of Oz. But first, read about the events that transpired to necessitate her return, and witness the rise of the Jester!

In Shops: **05/03/2014**



NOVEL IDEAS

NEW GRAPHIC NOVELS AND COLLECTED EDITIONS ARRIVING FROM FEBRUARY ONWARDS...



EMILY AND THE STRANGERS VOL.1 (HC)
DARK HORSE
Reger, Ivie, Parker

In order to win a legendary haunted guitar, Emily is determined to create the most rockin' song the world has ever known . . . but can she do it solo? Emily isn't known for playing well with others, but she's going to have to rely on the help of some Strangers if she's going to succeed on her musical journey to the true heart of rock 'n' roll!

Collects the three issue miniseries.
In Shops: **14/05/2014**



SHOOT FIRST
DARK HORSE
Aclin, Selma, Bates

The Secular Humanist Occult Obliteration Taskforce exists to defend humanity from gods, fairies, monsters, and the legions of other creatures that survive on human beliefs and fears. If you've got a problem with a demon, dragon, or deity, better call SHOOT! Collects the four-issue miniseries, plus an eight-page story from MySpace Dark Horse Presents #35.

In Shops: **14/05/2014**



PAINKILLER JANE: THE PRICE OF FREEDOM (MR)
MARVEL
Palmiotti, Santacruz, Lofti

Painkiller Jane is protecting a Saudi Arabian princess visiting New York City, but it seems a number of people want her dead - and the only thing between this bizarre group of would-be killers and her royal highness is our gun-toting, out of control Painkiller Jane!

Collecting Painkiller Jane: The Price Of Freedom #1-4.

In Shops: **02/04/2014**



DANGER GIRL: THE CHASE
IDW
Hartnell, Taliboa, Panosian

On the trail of a vitally important-and wildly volatile-briefcase, the Danger Girls enter into what amounts to the most treacherous and dangerous game of hot potato of all time! The girls use any and all means to traverse towns, cities, states, countries, continents(!) in their relentless pursuit to retrieve-and keep!-this unstable ticking time bomb... before it begins its countdown to unimaginable danger!

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



TRUE LIVES OF THE FABULOUS KILLJOYS
DARK HORSE
Simon, Way, Cloonan

Years ago, the Killjoys fought against the tyrannical megacorporation Better Living Industries, costing them their lives, save for one-the mysterious Girl. Today, the followers of the original Killjoys languish in the Desert while BLI systematically strips citizens of their individuality. As the fight for freedom fades, it's left to the Girl to take up the mantle and bring down the fearsome BLI!

Collects The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys #1-6 and more.

In Shops: **07/05/2014**



100 BULLETS: BROTHER LONO
DC
Azzarello, Riso, Johnson

When last we saw Lono in 100 Bullets, Dizzy Cordova had shot him in the chest ... but Lono always was too tough to die. Now, Lono finds himself in Mexico working on the side of the angels.

Collects the entire eight-issue miniseries.

In Shops: **09/04/2014**

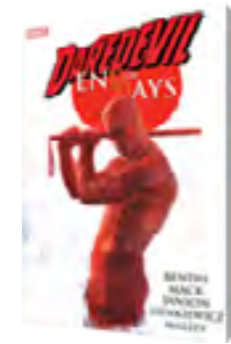


RAT QUEENS VOL.1: SASS AND SORcery
IMAGE
Wiebe, Upchurch, Staples

Who are the Rat Queens? A pack of booze-guzzling, death-dealing battle maidens-for-hire, and they're in the business of killing all god's creatures for profit. It's also a darkly comedic sass-and-sorcery series starring Hannah the Rockabilly Elven Mage, Violet the Hipster Dwarven Fighter, Dee the Atheist Human Cleric and Betty the Hippy Smidgen Thief. This modern spin on an old school genre is a violent monster-killing epic that is like Buffy meets Tank Girl in a Lord of the Rings world on crack!

Collects Rat Queens #1-5.

In Shops: **19/03/2014**



DAREDEVIL: END OF DAYS
MARVEL
Bendis, Mack, Maleev, Various

Brian Bendis heads a team of Daredevil legends to tell the last tale of the Man Without Fear.

Years after the world last set eyes on him, Daredevil finally returned to Hell's Kitchen, only to be brutally slain by his deadliest foe in a very public battle. But Matt's enigmatic last word leads Daily Bugle reporter Ben Urich to take on one final story: the truth behind what happened to his old friend...

In Shops: **26/03/2014**





BIFF'S BIT

Email Biff here: martin@acecomics.co.uk

NEW YEAR MUSINGS...

The year 2013 saw quite strong growth for our mail order and shop sales and I believe the industry in general saw an increase in sales. More and more people are becoming accepting of the medium of comics. This is partly driven by the plethora of comic based movies, a large part by The Big Bang Theory, and a considerable part by digital comics and web only comics.

For 2014 I see an increase in sales again, driven by the independent market more than the big two. Marvel, I feel, have got themselves embroiled in a self defeating arc of never ending number ones and re-launches. All I can report is that each time they re-launch, the spike in interest gets smaller and smaller and the drop off is bigger within a few issues. They, Marvel, seem to be chasing or creating a niche market of customers who only buy into a title for one to four issues and have a short attention span.

DC having ditched past continuity are in danger of creating a new continuity which is semi-entwined with pre 52 stories and will ultimately chase itself up its own tail.

Both houses are creating planet destroying story lines that then lead on to further, bigger planet destroying story lines which in a short time will have eliminated all life on planet earth.

Whereas these stories keep new readers intrigued for a few years they have lost the art of creating the soap opera world which kept the readers coming back month after month after month, in fact for decades.

The task of keeping readers interested and drawing in younger readers to the medium is falling to the smaller publishing house.

Boom have a truly excellent stable of all ages comics: Adventure Time, Peanuts, Garfield, graphic novels like City In The Desert and Beautiful Scars.

IDW have My Little Pony, Ghostbusters, TMNT, Samurai Jack, Powerpuff Girls and Popeye.

Bongo Comics have The Simpsons and Spongebob Squarepants.

Archie Comics continue to excel and sales for us of these comics have tripled in the last year.

PaperCutz have a continuing all ages output of which The Smurfs is the most prominent. Finally Kodansha and VIZ publish a large range of all ages Manga titles. They bring in customers who have watched the cartoons on television or the web.

To keep the adult reader interested the range continues to grow.

Image have a great stable of titles covering all genres by seasoned professionals and talented newcomers. They have now established a great back catalogue of graphic novels and are number two for us in sales of trades. DC are number one for trades at the moment.

For violent senseless entertainment Avatar reign supreme with Crossed, Uber, God is Dead and more.

For more cerebral output then Fantagraphics and Top Shelf continue to push the envelope and have many award winning titles and creators. This year from Top Shelf sees the next instalment of Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill's League stories, Nemo The Roses Of Berlin.

Oni Press have the awesome Letter 44 series, Wasteland and Sixth Gun, all absorbing books.

Cinebook continue to release English language editions of European best sellers like Iznogoud, The Scorpion, XIII, Pandora, Lucky Luke to name a few.

I finish with a boost for one of the top

independent creators Terry Moore, whose current hit is Rachel Rising, up to #24 and going strong, maybe a TV series or movie in view.

All in all a strong field, more than enough to keep the growth continuing.

Marvel and DC may stumble but there are many to take up the baton should that ever happen. They should take a few moments out and look at what their competitors are doing and sharpen their acts up before a rot sets in that cannot be stopped.

Final observation is that when creators work for the bigger companies they are on a treadmill that can sap their creative spirits and not produce a large salary. Small independent creators such as Terry Moore can produce just one extremely well drawn and well written book a month and still create a healthy salary. They also benefit from the back market with trades of their previous work.

If you are feeling a change from the super hero market is what you need then check out Previews and the publishers I have mentioned above. It will not be a waste of time.





HISTORY BOOKS

A GUIDE TO GRAPHIC NOVELS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...



**BATMAN:
HUSH**
DC
Loeb, Lee

“The epic crime thriller that rejuvenated The Caped Crusader is now available in one place as a trade paperback! In this story of murder, mystery and romance, Batman sets out on a simple mission to discover the identity of the mysterious villain wreaking havoc in his life known as Hush. But Batman ends up facing possibly the most intense case of his life as secrets from his past flood into the present, and the most notorious villains to ever haunt Gotham City’s street attack simultaneously! Guest-starring The Dark Knight’s greatest allies and enemies, this

Following the success of Rocksteady’s Batman: Arkham Origins videogame, we take a look at **Hush**, a Batman story that contributed to an upsurge in sales of Batman

collection features Batman #608-619 as well as the 6-page segment from Wizard #0 and a 2-page origin story that originally appeared at dc-comics.com. From best-selling writer Jeph Loeb (Superman/Batman, TV’s Heroes) and superstar artist Jim Lee (Superman, X-Men) comes the long-awaited collection!”

In 2002 Jeph Loeb and Jim Lee replaced Ed Brubaker and Scott McDaniel on DC’s main Batman book, starting with issue #608. They collaborated on a planned arc concerning a brand new villain called Hush, who sets out to destroy the Batman.

The story opens at pace with Batman exploring the sewers, hot on the heels of Killer Croc, and remains engaging and exciting throughout

its entirety. An intricate and clever plot peppered with clues and red herrings calls on appearances from a number of familiar foes (some from beyond the grave!) and successfully maintains its engaging mystery right to the end.

Loeb’s writing is excellent, and the Gotham City cast has rarely looked better than it does beneath the pencils of the mighty Jim Lee!

All-in-all, Batman: Hush is one of the highlights in the history of the Dark Knight Detective, and a must-read for anyone that missed it first time around.

£18.99