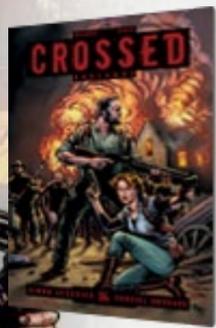


# ILLUMINATIONS

## DECEMBER 2012:

New Titles Page 2-6	Staff Picks Page 9
Novel Ideas Page 7-8	Biff's Bit Page 10
History Books Page 9	Competition Page 11

# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



## CROSSED ANNUAL 2013

Simon Spurrier / Gabriel Andrade

The first ever Crossed Annual promises a super-sized tale of extreme horror you will not want to miss!

Simon Spurrier unveils a standalone story, that is a perfect starting point for new readers, exploring a black corridor from before Wish You Were Here!

Jackson, the mad Scotsman who tears into the Crossed with the sort of efficiency only the truly insane could accomplish, was hard-as-nails before the outbreak. Then he got tougher. Spurrier and the stunning art of Gabriel (Ferals) Andrade deliver a grueling dose of viciousness that explores what it means to be insane in a World gone Crossed.

There is no hope. There is no help. There is only the Crossed.



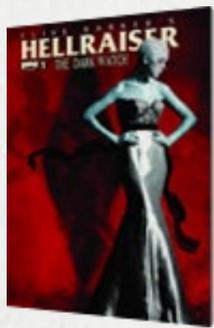
## FAIRY QUEST #1

Paul Jenkins / Humberto Ramos

The world of Fablewood, where all of the stories that have ever been told live side-by-side, is a sinister place indeed! Under the

watchful eye of the dreaded Mister Grimm and his Think Police, Red Riding Hood and her Wolf must risk everything to try and escape and find sanctuary in a mysterious place called the Real World...

Written by Paul Jenkins and drawn by Humberto Ramos, the smash Kickstarter success story, Fairy Quest, is now available in single issue format for the first time!



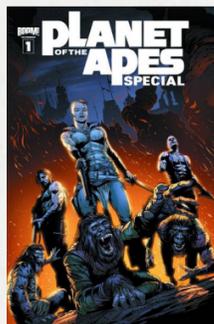
## HELLRAISER DARK WATCH #1

Clive Barker / Brandon Seifert / Tom Garcia / Janusz Ordon

As promised, Clive Barker did not only return to the Hellraiser universe, he re-imagined it.

Nothing is as simple as it seems – the old ways have been destroyed and a dangerous new world lies in its wake. The Cenobites and their order are no longer hidden – how does the world respond, knowing that Hell is real? Where are Elliott Spencer and Kirsty Cotton? Who will rule, and who will serve?

Rising star Brandon Seifert (Witch Doctor, Hellraiser: The Road Below) joins forces with the legendary Clive Barker to begin this amazing new chapter in the history of one of horror's greatest franchises.



## PLANET OF THE APES SPECIAL #1

Daryl Gregory / Diego Barreto

Daryl Gregory returns to the Planet Of The Apes in this over-sized issue, with 32 pages of new story and art!

Ten years have passed since horrific violence fell on Ape City and a fragile peace is finding footing. Voice Alaya, once the revered leader of the ape ruling class, has been deposed and awaits sentencing in Ape City's prison; meanwhile Sully, the exiled leader of the human resistance has begun to rally forces, both human and ape. Little do they know they're both on a collision course towards an even greater danger neither can even begin to imagine...



## DEJAH THORIS & GREEN MEN OF MARS #1 (OF 4)

Mark Rahner / Lui Antonio

The princess of Helium is taken to the hideaway of the brutal rogue Voro, a butcher, and the

incomparable Dejah Thoris will be the rarest of delicacies.



## GARTH ENNIS RED TEAM #1

Garth Ennis / Craig Cermak

Red Team, the NYPD's elite anti-narcotics unit, have taken down one drug lord after another,

but their latest case has even them stumped. Their frustration leads them to take extreme measures- setting them on a path from which there's no coming back.



## THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #1

Matt Wagner / Wilfredo Torres

Much is known of Kent Allard/Lamont Cranston's years in the Orient and Central America - wherein he gains

his powers and purpose... but not how he first developed his persona as the Master of Darkness.

Matt Wagner is joined by Wilfredo Torres in an exhilarating limited series that will explore the dynamic events that first drew Cranston back to the States, how he first met his companion and lover, Margo Lane, how he began to assemble his vast network of agents and how he first adopted the famous black hat and cloak as his alter-ego's disguise...



## RED SONJA UNCHAINED #1 (OF 4)

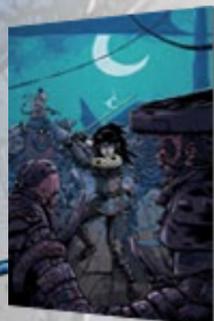
Peter Brett / Jack Jadson

Picking up where Peter V. Brett's Red Sonja: Blue one-shot left off, with Sonja fleeing

the scene of a murder after killing a young man who tried to test her vow. Bereft of her signature chain-mail and the reputation that goes with it, she must rely on her wits and her sword as she embarks on a new series of adventures. Guilt-ridden, penniless and on the run, she is unaware that the innocent blood she spilled has awakened the dark spirit of the demon whose pelt she wears.



# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



## AMALA'S BLADE #0

Steve Horton / Michael Dialynas

A behemoth pirate ship is captained by a pirate with a fat price on his head. And out for that head is Amala, N a a m a r o n ' s

greatest swordfighter (according to Amala). The odds are against her, but that's the fun . . . if only the ghosts of Amala's past would shut up and get out of the way!

A 24-page story, plus a preview of the upcoming series, from the pages of Dark Horse Presents. Look for the new series coming in April!



## STAR WARS: DARK TIMES—FIRE CARRIER #1

Randy Stradley / Gabriel Guzman

Jedi Master K'Kruhk is on the run with a group of young Padawans. In a galaxy suddenly

hunting Jedi, they are forced to land on an Imperial-run planet, hiding in the refugee camp, among other beings who were displaced by the Clone Wars. But K'Kruhk senses there is something wrong!

Is K'Kruhk the last hope for the Jedi Order?



## BALTIMORE: THE WIDOW AND THE TANK

Mike Mignola / Christopher Golden / Ben Stenbeck

Eisner Award-winning horror master Mike Mignola and

Christopher Golden present this horrific double feature about a widow with a not-quite-dead husband and a child-killing vampire taking refuge from something even worse.



## BEFORE WATCHMEN: DOLLAR BILL #1

Len Wein / Steve Rude

"Are you kidding? I'm only an actor, not a real crimefighter."

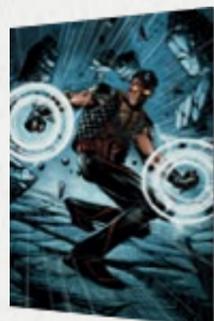


## JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1

Geoff Johns / David Finch

The march toward Trinity War begins with part one of "World's Most Dangerous!"

Green Lantern! Green Arrow! Catwoman! Katana! Vibe! Hawkman! Stargirl! They aren't the world's greatest super heroes—they're the most dangerous! But why does a team like the JLA need to exist? What is their ultimate mission? And who is pulling the strings?



## JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S VIBE #1

Andrew Kreisberg / Geoff Johns / Pete Woods

No, that's not a typo. Vibe stars in his own ongoing monthly title, starting with

this debut issue cowritten by Geoff Johns!

One of the most unlikely members of the Justice League of America ever (okay, the most unlikely) will soon discover he's one of the most powerful individuals on Earth. But how did Vibe get his abilities? What is the cost to them? And why does the JLA want him on the team so desperately?



## YOUNG ROMANCE: A NEW 52 VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL #1

Andy Diggle / Ann Nocenti / Cecil Castellucci / Peter Milligan / Gene Ha / Emanuella Luppichinno / Becky Cloonan / Phil

Jimenez / Sanford Green / And Others

Romance is in the air in this very special Special!

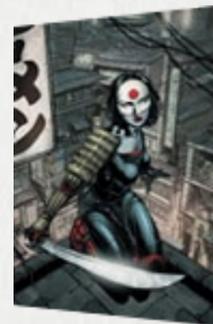
Wonder Woman consults Eros himself about her feelings for The Man of Steel, while Barbara Gordon has always been too busy for romance, but could her role as Batgirl bring her back to the first guy she ever kissed?

Following the events of "Death in the Family," how can Catwoman ease Batman's troubled soul, and Aquaman makes waves as he treats his wife like a queen for a day.

From the pages of Stormwatch, Apollo and Midnighter celebrate Valentine's Day separately but with each other in mind. Who—or what—stands between them?

Dick Grayson and the daughter of Lucious Fox meet-cute!

Plus: Perforated Valentine's Day cards featuring the stars of these stories!



## KATANA #1

Ann Nocenti / Alex Sanchez

From the pages of Justice League Of America and Birds Of Prey!

Katana is a former assassin on a noble

quest to restore the Outsiders to their former glory!

Will she succeed, or will she be overcome by the power of her sword, the SoulTaker?



# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



## G.I. JOE #1

Fred Van Lente / Steve Kurth

Yo Joe! The truth is out: the world knows the G.I. Joe team is real. Now Duke leads his squad directly into the public eye, confronting Cobra on American soil! The best of the best just got better, as Fred Van Lente and Steve Kurth lead the charge and we roll out one new G.I. Joe title a month for the next three months!

G.I. Joe "Comics History" cover by Ryan Dunlavey and Fred Van Lente, co-creators of the Comic Book History of Comics!

Wraparound cover by Jamal Igle featuring the new team—All three new G.I. Joe launches will have one!

The biggest, most radical relaunch of G.I. Joe comics since IDW got the license!

Bigger action, bigger thrills, bigger stories!

Great jumping-on point for the entire G.I. Joe line of comics!



## FEVER RIDGE: A TALE OF MACARTHUR'S JUNGLE WAR #1 (OF 8)

Mike Heimos / Nick Runge

The South Pacific theatre of World War II is usually seen from the perspective of the Marines fighting from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. Unsung in WWII fiction is the story of the 6th Army's 6th Infantry Division ("the Sightseein' Sixth") and their jungle commandoes, the Alamo Scouts, under the command of Gen. Walter Kreuger, the trusted and savvy lieutenant of "America's Caesar," Douglas MacArthur.

Fever Ridge explores unique events, perspectives, exotic locales and peoples that are different than any you have encountered in other WWII stories... and ultimately is the story of a secret that could have changed the War, and the world.

Fever Ridge is historical fiction inspired by and dedicated to the writer/ creator's grandfather, decorated for gallantry and missions behind enemy lines, given the Purple Heart for his many wounds.



## MY LITTLE PONY MICRO-SERIES: #1 (OF 6): TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Thom Zahler / Amy Mebberson

Introducing the first of six spotlights focusing on everyone's favorite Ponies! Twilight Sparkle becomes enthralled in a literary masterpiece. Dismayed to hear the series never continued, Twilight goes on a quest to hunt down the reclusive author, Jade Singer. It will take all of the studious Pony's detective skill to find the author, and twists and turns abound! Don't miss this adventure in imagination!



## GHOSTBUSTERS #1

Erik Burnham / Dan Schoening

The Ghostbusters are gone, spirited away by some dastardly demons from another dimension! But spectral shenanigans haven't ceased in the city that never sleeps, meaning a new group will need to step up and don the proton packs. Will the New Ghostbusters be able to rescue their predecessors, or will they share the same fate? The Ghostbusters creative super-team of Erik Burnham and Dan Schoening return to bust out more ectoplasmic excitement in this all-new Ghostbusters ongoing volume!

Picks up where the first mega-hit IDW ongoing Ghostbusters series left off!

Features all-new Real Ghostbusters 2-page back-up stories written and drawn by Erik Burnham in every issue!

Four covers by Dan Schoening, each featuring one of The New Ghostbusters!



## KILL SHAKESPEARE: THE TIDE OF BLOOD #1 (OF 5)

Conor McCreery / Anthony Del Col / Andy Belanger

The critically acclaimed series returns with a new adventure of Shakespearean proportions! With Richard III and Lady Macbeth defeated, Hamlet, Juliet, Othello and Romeo face an even greater danger—Prospero, a rogue wizard who plans to destroy all of creation. Hamlet must embark on a perilous journey to a remote island whose inhabitants have gone mad and want the Dane's blood... if they aren't beaten to the chase by one of Hamlet's allies.



## ROCKETEER: HOLLYWOOD HORROR #1

Roger Langridge / J. Bone  
You wanted more Rocketeer... and you've got it! Missing scientists! Plucky girl

reporters! Betty and Cliff on the rocks! The mysterious Church of Cosmicism! And who is the sinister Otto Rune? Pulp thrills the way you like them as the Rocketeer comes up against a brand-new adversary in... "The Hollywood Horror!"

Roger Langridge and J. Bone offer their take on Dave Stevens' greatest creation! With covers by the legendary Walter Simonson!



## TRANSFORMERS SPOTLIGHT: MEGATRON

Nick Roche

Megatron is back! Writer/artist Nick Roche (Last Stand of the Wreckers) takes us back to

the last time Megatron returned—when he found his Decepticon forces in tatters under the control of Starscream. In this never-before-revealed tale, we learn exactly how Megatron reacted... and how Starscream survived!

Ties directly into this month's Robots In Disguise!



## VITRIOL THE HUNTER #1 (OF 6)

Billy Martin / Brent Allen

They own the night... they yearn for the day! In this gothic sci-fi adventure, Billy Martin (guitarist of Good Charlotte)

and Brent Allen bring a new grisly horror to life! As Basilika City's last great hope, Vitriol stands as the only force that can stop Lord Barthus and his heinous vampire regime from overtaking the city.

# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



## FIVE WEAPONS #1 (OF 5)

Jimmie Robinson

13-year-old Tyler finds himself in a specialized school where assassins send their kids for education and

training in one of the five deadly weapons.

Tyler doesn't have a weapon or any fighting skills, but he still plans to graduate by beating every weapon master in the school because he has a powerful ability that nobody can match: his razor-sharp mind!

Jimmie Robinson twists the insanity of Bomb Queen in a fun new series that will keep you guessing to the end.



## SON OF MERLIN #1

Robert Napton / Zid

The battle begins anew.

Simon Ambrose is a brilliant young professor at MIT. Always somewhat

out of sync with the rest of the world, Simon is a man of science and does not put much stock in faith.

When he discovers that he is the bastard son of the world's greatest wizard Merlin, he is forced to put his skepticism aside and embrace a world of magic and the mayhem it embodies.

Science and magic collide in this introductory priced first issue! You can't afford to miss this next step in a battle that has been waged for ages!



## RAVINE #1

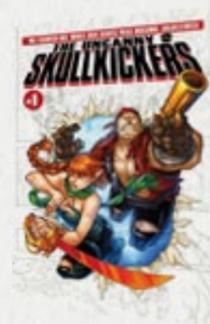
Stjepan Sejic

"They are a powerful foe, but they will fall!"

In a fantastic world far from our own, an ancient magic spell almost split

the world in two and left an endless ravine in the north. One man, Nebezial Asheri, driven by the deaths of his wife and daughters will attempt to reclaim that magic and bring his loved ones back to life. The forces of an entire city, Paladia, will rise to oppose him, but his greatest foes will be a ragtag band of an outcast wizard, a dragonrider, and their allies.

Artist extraordinaire Stjepan Sejic (Artifacts, Witchblade) branches out into his first ever creator-owned and original property for Top Cow! Presented in a perfect-bound, dramatically oversized issue format, Ravine is an epic about the lengths one man will go to to reconstruct his family, and the forces of good who must stop him at all costs.



## UNCANNY SKULLKICKERS #1

Jim Zub / Edwin Huang

The Uncanny Skullkickers: Two hard-headed mercenaries kill monsters and

cause havoc in their search for money, fame and adventure!

A bold new direction! A perfect jumping-on point! A newly added adjective! Our nineteenth issue, but also a new issue #1! It's all here, people! Don't make us use more exclamation marks!!

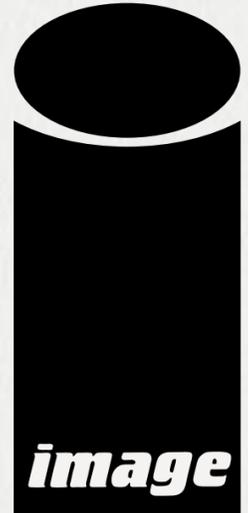
## SNAPSHOT #1 (OF 4)

Andy Diggle / Jock

Jake Dobson is your typical nerd; works at the Near-Mint Rhino comic-book store in San Francisco.

But when he finds a lost cell phone, he's horrified to discover it's full of snapshots of a murder victim. Suddenly he finds himself hunted by a vengeful hitman who wants his phone back... and Jake in a body bag!

And then things start to get *really* complicated...



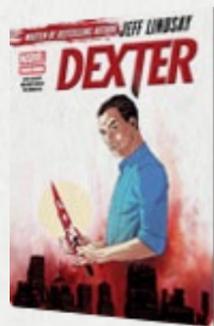
# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



## UNCANNY X-MEN #1

Brian Michael Bendis / Chris Bachalo

The true flagship book of the X-Men returns. In the wake of the Phoenix, the world has changed and is torn on exactly what Cyclops and his team of X-Men are – visionary revolutionaries or dangerous terrorists? Whatever the truth, Cyclops, Emma Frost, Magneto, and Magik are out in the world gathering up new mutants and redefining the name Uncanny X-Men.



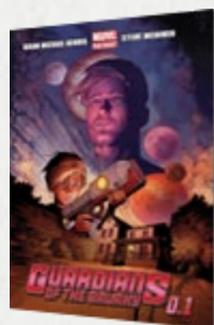
## DEXTER #1 (OF 5)

Jeff Lindsay / Dalibor Talaji

Dexter Morgan is not just an above-average forensic blood spatter expert. He's also Miami's friendly neighborhood crime-fighting serial killer! But Dexter's "killing" streak gets put on hold, as he find himself trapped in a sticky situation – his high school reunion!

The Skid Row Slasher, Miami's newest serial killer, is racking up quite the body count. The rookie is giving good ol' Dexter a run for his money. And Dexter's problems are only beginning to multiply as his Dark Passenger, Dexter's inner voice, screams for a little murderous fun to feed the need!

This issue is a resolicit. All previous orders have been cancelled.



## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #0.1

Brian Michael Bendis / Steve McNiven

Move over Avengers... the Guardians got this.

Star-Lord. Gamora.

Drax. Rocket Raccoon. Groot. ... and the Invincible Iron Man?!

The Marvel Universe just got bigger as the legendary cosmic epic returns in the hands of superstar creators Brian Michael Bendis (Avengers, All-New X-Men) and Steve McNiven (Civil War; Old Man Logan).

In this special prelude issue meet the man behind the Guardians: Star-Lord... and discover how this child of Earth became the leader of the rag-taggiest of teams in all the Galaxy. All setting the stage for next month's historic Guardians of the Galaxy #1. This is the start of something big, Marvel fans.



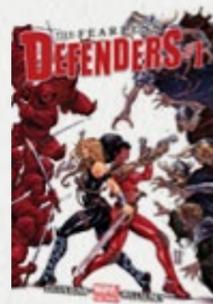
## ALPHA #1 (OF 5)

Joshua Hale Fialkov / Nuno Plati

From the pages of Amazing Spider-Man, get ready for the greatest hero who ever existed... ever!

Alpha was having an awesome time of it, till that buzz-kill Spider-Man made him quit being a hero. But that was then ...and this is NOW!

Josh Fialkov & Nuno Plati (Amazing Spider-Man) reunite to tell the tale of a hero who's about to hit the big time!



## FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1

Cullen Bunn / Will Sliney

New team! New villains! New creators! Valkyrie and Misty Knight are the Fearless Defenders and not

since Power Man and Iron Fist has an unlikely duo kicked this much—well, you know. Writer Cullen Bunn (Venom, Sixth Gun, The Fearless) and new-to-Marvel artist Will Sliney (MacGyver, Star Wars) bring you the book everyone is going to be talking about on Thursday morning.



## MONSTER'S INC.: THE HUMANWEEN PARTY #1 (OF 1)

Alessandro Ferrari / Elisabetta Melaranci / Federica Salfio / Michela Frare / Paco Desiato

It's that time of year again: Humanween! Monstropolis' version of Halloween — where monsters dress up as humans — comes but once a year, and this time the annual party is at Mike and Sulley's home.

Mike goes into panic mode when he learns of an unplanned visit from his mother the day after the big bash!



## NOVA #1

Jeph Loeb / Ed McGuinness

The mystery of the all-new Nova is revealed in this breathtaking new ongoing series.

Sam Alexander is a kid bound by the gravity of a small town and a father whose ridiculous, drunken fairy tales about a "Nova Corps" were just another heavy burden in a life full of them. But luckily for Sam Alexander...soon gravity won't even matter. And those troubles? It's like they're a billion miles away.

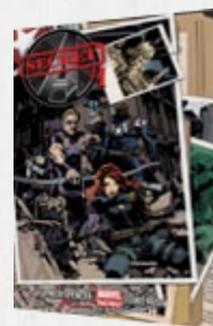


## POWERS: BUREAU #1

Brian Michael Bendis / Michael Avon Oeming

A new chapter of the Eisner Award-winning Powers!

Deena Pilgrim is now a federal agent and dealing with the biggest powers cases in the entire country. But will this new life close the closet full of skeletons she carries with her? (Absolutely not!) And what does this mean for her old partner, Walker? This is a bold game-changer for the iconic crime superhero comic that started it all and an amazing jumping-on point for new readers!



## SECRET AVENGERS #1

Nick Spencer / Luke Ross

"The Most Dangerous Secrets We Have... Are The Ones We Keep From Ourselves." The new Nick Fury

leads a covert Avengers strike team including but not limited to Hawkeye, Black Widow, The Hulk, The Winter Soldier, Maria Hill and Phil Coulson on missions so dangerous, even the team members themselves can't know about them!

# NOVEL IDEAS

ACE Comics pick of the best new graphic novels and collected editions arriving from February onwards



## ROCKETEER: CARGO OF DOOM

Mark Waid / Chris Samnee

IDW, 104 pages

Cliff Secord and the Rocketeer take to the skies once again as Mark Waid and Chris Samnee

spin a yarn in the best tradition of Dave Stevens, bringing us a tale of great adventure, suspense, and humor!

A ship docks in Los Angeles harbor from a far-off and exotic locale—with a big, mysterious... and living... cargo! Danger and mayhem abound as our hero leaps into the fray!

Plus, the emergence of a lovely new character who will be vying against Betty for Cliff's affections!

The Rocketeer is back, courtesy of Eisner Award-winning team Mark Waid and Chris Samnee!



## ALIENS: INHUMAN CONDITION HC

John Layman / Sam Kieth

Dark Horse, 56 pages

On a distant, frozen world, "artificial persons" are manufactured in discreet seclusion. With formidable new security synthetics coming online, how better to test their mettle than against a hive of deadly xenomorphs? But as Socialization Specialist Jean DuPaul sees her ever-more-human android charges sent to their destruction, she learns that the most savage species in the universe is man.

Collects stories from DHP #12-#17.

Deluxe graphic novella format.

Written by Eisner and Harvey Award-winner John Layman (Chew, Detective Comics)!



## JUDGE DREDD: THE COMPLETE CARLOS EZQUERRA VOL. 1

John Wagner / Carlos Ezquerra

IDW, 248 pages

Return to the legendary stories from Mega-City

One in this first collection of tales illustrated by Carlos Ezquerra! Reprinted in classic B&W and featuring a wealth of complete stories.

The work of Judge Dredd co-creator Carlos Ezquerra, the way it was meant to be seen!



## AVENGERS: SEASON ONE PREMIERE HC

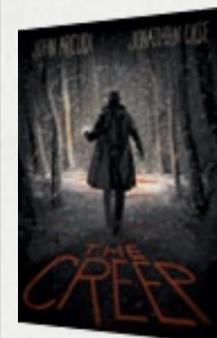
Peter David / Andrea Di Vito / Jon Buran / Nigel Raynor / Mike Bowden

Marvel, 112 pages

An all-new original graphic novel, modernizing the

formative first days of the superhero icons that defined pop culture!

A hidden foe manipulates the newly minted Avengers from the shadows, meticulously sowing the seeds of discord and mistrust—and causing the new teammates to question the very ties that bind them together as they hunt for the fugitive Hulk. Thor—a shape-shifting alien with a secret agenda? Captain America—a hoax? Iron Man—an enemy conspirator? Their confidence in each other shattered, will the heroes destroy each other before the conspirator is revealed? Only the smartest among them will see through the deception...and it's not who you think!



## THE CREEP HC

John Arcudi / Jonathan Case

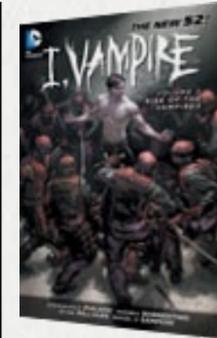
Dark Horse, 136 pages

A young boy puts a gun in his mouth and pulls the trigger. The police don't care—not

about his death or the death of his best friend two months earlier. The dead boy's mom seeks help from an old flame that's employed as a detective. Will the detective's freakish appearance get in the way of uncovering the terrible secrets of these two teenagers? Collects issues #0-#4.

From the writer of B.P.R.D. and the artist of Green River Killer.

Additional art by Frank Miller, Mike Mignola, and Ryan Sook.



## I, VAMPIRE VOL. 2: RISE OF THE VAMPIRES

Joshua Hale Fialkov / Peter Milligan / Andrea Sorrentino / Admira Wijaya / Daniel Sampere

DC, 192 pages

In this second New 52 collection,

Andrew Bennett finds himself in a place he never thought he'd reach during his countless decades walking the Earth. But his absence on Earth signals a deadly loss of order in the vampire hierarchy, as the savage attack on humanity he's long feared looks like it's coming to pass. Plus, the vampire pilgrimage begins—but along the way, they encounter an ancient enemy: the Van Helsing!

Collects I, Vampire #7-12 and Justice League Dark #7-8.



## HAWKEYE VOL. 1: MY LIFE AS A WEAPON

Matt Fraction / David Aja / Javier Pulido / Alan Davis

Marvel, 136 pages

Fraction. Aja. Hawkeye. Kate Bishop. Cars.

Guns. And videotape. The breakout star of this summer's blockbuster Avengers film, Clint Barton—a.k.a. the self-made hero Hawkeye—fights for justice...and good rooftop BBQs! And with ex-Young Avenger Kate Bishop by his side, he's out to get some downtime from being one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!

Matt Fraction and David Aja (Immortal Iron Fist) reunite to tell the ongoing tales of the Arrow-Avenger. Barton and Bishop mean double the Hawkeye and double the trouble! Plus: Relive Kate's first meeting with Clint, as she learns wanting something can be miles away from actually earning it.

Collecting Hawkeye (2012) #1-5 and Young Avengers Presents #6.



**ALL-NEW X-MEN VOL. 1: HERE COMES YESTERDAY PREMIERE HC**

Brian Michael Bendis / Stuart Immonen

Marvel, 112 pages

It's a blast from the past as

Professor X's original five students — Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Iceman, Angel and Beast — are plucked from the past and brought to the present. But what they find, the state their future selves are in and the state of Xavier's dream, is far from the future they dreamed of.

How will these young, idealistic heroes react when faced with the crushing knowledge of what their future holds? And how will the embittered X-Men of the present day deal with their past coming crashing forward? When the original team comes face to face with their counterparts, it isn't a peaceful meeting — and one of the X-Men will be forever changed. Brian Michael Bendis and Stuart Immonen blaze a new trail for the X-Men!

Collecting All-New X-Men #1-5.



**WORLD OF WARCRAFT: DARK RIDERS HC**

Mike Costa / Neil Googe

DC, 144 pages

In this new, original World Of Warcraft graphic novel, a stalwart

mage searches for a powerful artifact, stolen by Dark Riders, only to find his son accused of murder. A righteous priest, driven by a mysterious fervor, investigates a savage Wolf Cult. As the paths of these two men join, a fantastic adventure emerges! Supported by a cast of brave heroes, the two find out just how dangerous the wolf cult and dark riders are.



**DOCTOR WHO: THE FORGOTTEN**

Tony Lee / Pia Guerra / Stefano Martino / Kelly Yates

IDW, 160 pages

Doctor Who: The Forgotten presented in an

oversized hard cover collection! Stranded in a strange museum that's dedicated to him, and with The Tardis lost, The Doctor and Martha Jones must make sense of their surroundings, hindered by one small fact—The Doctor has lost the memories of every one of his previous incarnations! With items relevant to each Doctor in their possession, The Doctor and Martha must try to use them to regain total recall before it's too late.

Ten Doctors in one book!



**JOE THE BARBARIAN**

Grant Morrison / Sean Murphy

DC, 224 pages

Joe is an imaginative eleven-year-old boy. He can't fit in at school. He's

the victim of bullies. His dad died overseas in the Iraq war. He also suffers from Type 1 diabetes.

One fateful day, his condition causes him to believe he has entered a vivid fantasy world in which he is the lost savior—a fantastic land based on the layout and contents of his home. His desperate attempts to make it out of his bedroom transform into an incredible, epic adventure through a bizarre landscape of submarine pirate dwarves, evil Hell Hounds, Lightning Lords and besieged castles. But is his quest really just an insulin-deprived delirium—from which he can die if he doesn't take his meds—or something much bigger?

Collecting the 8-issue miniseries!



**ZED: A COSMIC TALES GN**

Michel Gagné

Image, 280 pages

When a cute little alien named Zed demonstrates his invention to the Hierarchy of the Galaxy, something

goes wrong — terribly wrong! Before long, Zed's universe is thrown into complete turmoil and our little hero must face nearly insurmountable odds trying to survive and save the very fate of his home world.

Imbued with a dark edge, peppered with pure silliness, and wrapped up in a childlike sense of wonder, Zed's adventures will keep readers tickled and captivated from start to finish.

Originally published in comic book form over a period of eleven years, Zed has been completely revised and remastered for this definitive edition.



**IRON MAN: SEASON ONE PREMIERE HC**

Howard Chaykin / Gerald Parel

Marvel, 144 pages

An all-new original graphic novel, modernizing the formative first days

of this super-hero icon that defined pop culture! Billionaire weapons manufacturer Tony Stark lived a life of wealth and privilege. That all changed when an on-site visit to a war-torn nation went horribly wrong, leaving Tony gravely injured in the hands of dangerous extremists — one a former friend. When asked to build a weapon, Tony instead constructed a mechanized suit of armor and escaped. But the horrors he left behind are coming for retribution, and the only way to stop them is for the carefree playboy to become the Iron Man!

# NOVEL IDEAS

ACE Comics pick of the best new graphic novels and collected editions arriving from February onwards



**THE CROW: DEATH AND REBIRTH**

John Shirley / Kevin Colden

IDW, 128 pages

The Crow is reborn—in Tokyo. The spirit of the Crow is back,

transfiguring Jamie Osterberg, an American studying in Tokyo and deeply in love with his Japanese girlfriend, Haruko... until the love of his life is stolen. The Crow must once more make the wrong thing right—but this time he might have to do it by killing his own true love...



**BATMAN VOL. 1: THE COURT OF OWLS**

Scott Snyder / Greg Capullo / Jonathan Glapion

DC, 176 pages

In this new trade paperback, a series of brutal

murders rocks not only Gotham City to its core but also the Caped Crusader himself when the prime suspect is one of Batman's closest allies: Dick Grayson!

Collects Batman #1-7!



# HISTORY BOOKS

With the huge volume of titles released each week, it can be quite easy to overlook the rich history of comic books available in the form of back issues and graphic novels, so we're going to take this opportunity to showcase some gems in Illuminations, that you previously might have missed.



## PLANETARY VOL. 1: ALL OVER THE WORLD AND OTHER STORIES

Warren Ellis / John Cassaday

*"Collecting the stories that first introduced the world to Planetary, this graphic novel features the adventures of Elijah Snow, a hundred year old man, Jakita Wagner, an extremely powerful and bored woman, and The Drummer, a man with the ability to communicate with machines. Infatuated with tracking down evidence of super-human activity, these mystery archaeologists of the late 20th Century uncover unknown paranormal secrets*

*and histories, such as a World War II supercomputer that can access other universes, a ghostly spirit of vengeance, and a lost island of dying monsters." - DC*

Planetary originally ran for 27 issues between April 1999 and October 2009 on DC's 'Wildstorm' label and was set in the same universe as the Stormwatch and Authority series - a place where writer Warren Ellis wanted to explore the superhero genre, rather than focussing directly on the superheroes themselves. A number of the characters that feature are alternate representations of popular DC and Marvel comic characters as well as many figures from pop culture.

Likened by some to a superhuman version of the 'X-Files', this first volume is the ideal entry point to this critically acclaimed series, introducing the 'mystery' archaeologist trio of Elijah Snow, Jakita Wagner and The Drummer. Ellis's stories are presented in an episodic fashion, with the trio's investigations into Wildstorm's reimagined and recognisable classic tales, seeming to point towards an overarching conspiracy. Excellently written, he imbues his characters with a true sense of realism and believability.

John Cassaday's artwork is beautiful throughout and makes it a joy to turn each page in anticipation of what you might be visually presented with next.

A fantastic idea for deconstructing the lore of comic books, heroes and history, which is brilliantly executed by a very talented creative team, Planetary is a genuine treat for anyone with an interest in comics and literature.



## STAFF PICKS

We're often asked to recommend something fresh for our customers to read at ACE Comics, so we've decided to throw a few ideas in here...

*Marvel Comics have been issuing a series of original graphic novels exploring and updating the origins of a number of treasured characters, which began in February 2012 with **Fantastic Four: Season One**. This series of books has covered ground familiar to any fan of the comics, but with a modern approach to the style and language and a contemporary setting. Available to preorder this month are two of Marvel's current 'big-hitters' in the form of **Iron Man** and **The Avengers**. We think these will be great reads, not only for the hardened fans of the characters, but also for the next generation of young readers, tasked with continuing the interest in comics into the future.*

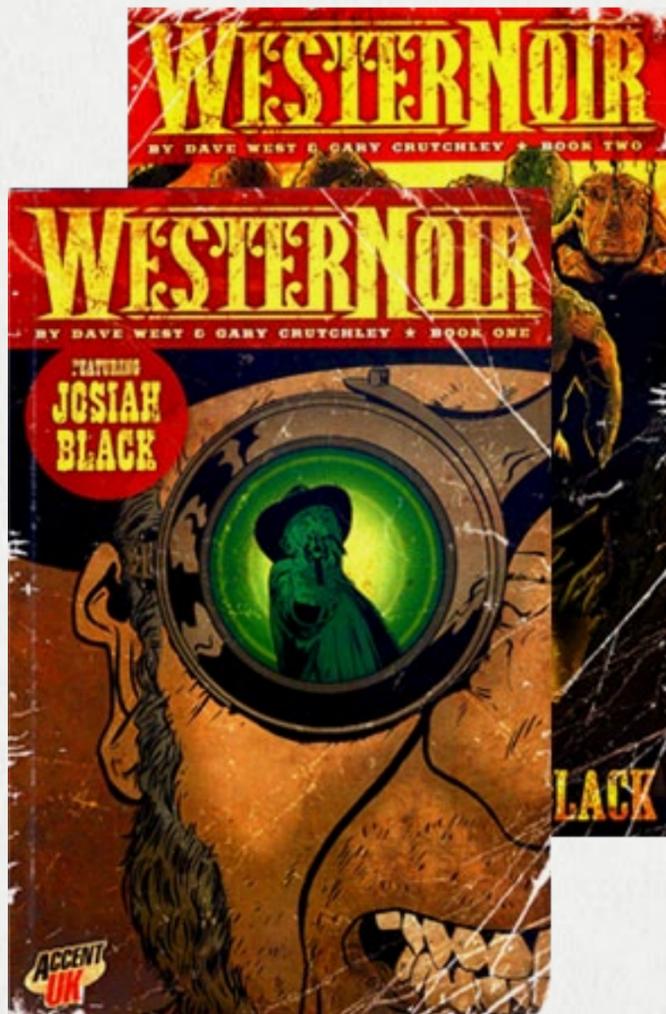
*Another graphic novel worth mentioning is IDW's collected **Rocketeer: Cargo of Doom**. If you missed the original comic series this year, you can now grab the whole story in one, handy, rectangular, papery bundle. **Mark Waid** and **Chris Samnee's** book is full of the perfect balance of excitement, action, drama and fun, which is bound to entertain all generations of readers.*

*Finally, staying with our classic adventure theme, we must bring your attention to a character we are really enjoying at the moment - **The Shadow**. IDW are releasing **Year One**, an in-depth look at **The Shadow's** origin. Featuring information both familiar and previously unknown. We can't wait!*



# BIFF'S BIT

Just a reminder: my e-mail address is martin@acecomics.co.uk, telephone 01206 364140 and online at www.acecomics.co.uk



## ACCENT UK COME OF AGE

While at Leeds Thought Bubble Comic Convention on the weekend of November 16th to 18th 2012 it struck me how much comic conventions were changing. Leeds is now a big event, over 300 tables, however only about 15 had comic back issues. The rest of the tables were taken by creators signing, by publishers like 2000AD showcasing, for merchandise such as Manga and its like and the majority were small press self publishers.

A large proportion of the visitors were cosplayers, both manga and superhero.

The purpose of their visit was not to buy anything, visit any creator or in anyway add to the medium, just to parade like peacocks.

I would estimate that 25% of the other visitors were there solely to spend their time queuing in the hope of getting sketches from their favourite creator, 25% were curious visitors from Leeds and the surrounding area, 25% were there because of all the small press and the minority, like me were there to buy comics which ironically were not there!

Having spent just 30 minutes exhausting the comic tables I decided to check the small press tables, if you cannot beat them, join them.

Amongst this plethora of the good, bad and the down right ugly there were a few real gems. One such small press publisher that has finally come of age is Accent UK.

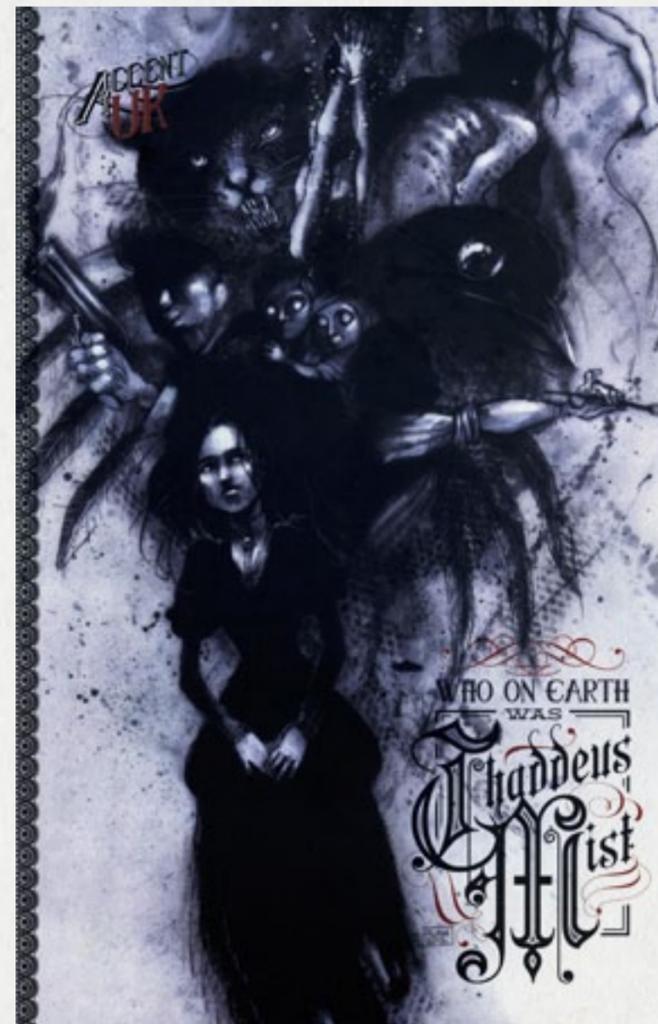
I have, over the years, highlighted a few of their books and each year they get better. This year I have returned with two gems that herald the maturity of their line and the exceptional skills of their creators.

Western Noir by Dave West (writer) and Gary Crutchley (artist) will be a 4 issue (36 pages) deluxe bound mini series and for my money should be an on going monthly. I came back with issues one and two (issue 3 due out in the new year) on Sunday night and by Monday morning I was cursing that had to wait for the next issue.

Move over Jonah Hex and All Star Western, this is how weird, off-beat western stories should be told.

Crisp clear art, an artist that can draw more than one facial expression, pace

a story and use panels well. Our anti-hero Josiah Black is introduced through the entire story as well as telling a story that mixed mystery and suspense with the supernatural seamlessly. This gets a BIFF gold star, no pun intended.



The second gem is the seven story 180 page anthology Who On Earth Was Thaddeus Mist. Thaddeus Mist was a 19th Century adventurer and man of mystery, heir to Mist Industries of Great Britain. Thaddeus was a man who immersed himself in the part of the character he invented during his adventures, playing both hero and villain? Seven distinct chapters by

different creative teams each chapter linked together by the same artist Conor Boyle. Mystery, action, adventure, shocks and moments that make you question your world view. Good god another BIFF gold star. These are offered for sale via our advance service and on a buy it now button. I expect these buttons to get red hot.

There were two more publishers who stood head and shoulders above the crowd, but as their stories are not yet complete I will wait until I know I can offer you the full series or graphic novel.

The weekend was not quite what I expected, but still highly enjoyable, and well worth the round trip. Start saving now and visit Leeds Thought Bubble next year and tell them BIFF sent you.

That just leaves me to say on behalf of all at ACE Colchester, BIFF, Tina, Kerrie, Marc, Guy, Evil Stu, Victoria, Colin, Ed, Glenn, Matt and of course Joe and Bryony, Lea in Southend, Richard and Guy in Richmond, Ivor, Scott, Scott, Lorna, Stuart and Bennie in Glasgow...

**...HAVE A VERY  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

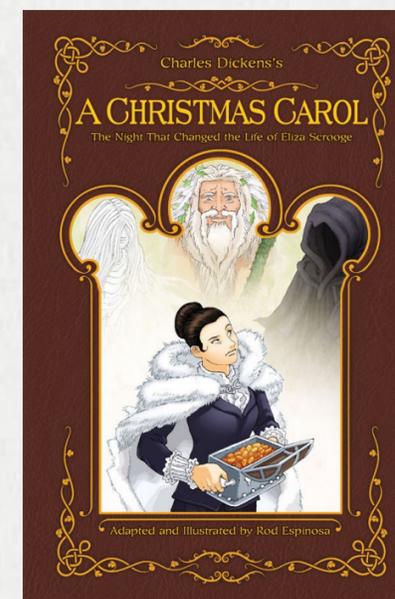
Have an  
**ACE**  
 Xmas!



# A Christmas Competition

**Can you spot the 37 comic-related characters having fun in the snow?**

If so, you could win a copy of *A Christmas Carol: The Night That Changed The Life Of Eliza Scrooge* Graphic Novel by Rod Espinosa, published by Dark Horse!



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL:  
 The Night That Changed  
 The Life Of Eliza Scrooge**

**Rod Espinosa**

*Charles Dickens's holiday classic, A Christmas Carol, is given a fresh twist – with a female Scrooge! Rod Espinosa (The Courageous Princess) adapts and illustrates this story of the miserly Eliza Scrooge, who is visited by the ghosts of the past, present, and future on one fateful Christmas eve.*

**HOW TO ENTER:**

Simply identify as many of the 37 characters as you can in the image below, then either enter the competition online at [www.acecomics.co.uk/xmascomp](http://www.acecomics.co.uk/xmascomp), or send your answers along with your name, address, email and telephone number to **ACE Comics, 42 Culver Street East, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1LE**. The closing date for entries is 12pm on **December 21st 2012**.

Those with the most correct answers will be entered into a prize draw, taking place after 12pm on December 21st 2012. Winners will be notified by email / telephone.

*Good luck!*

ACE COMICS PRESENTS

# DARTH VADER'S GALACTIC GROTTO

## SATURDAY

### 22ND DECEMBER 2012

### ACE COMICS, COLCHESTER

### 11AM - 4PM



# £5.00

## STAR WARS

## ENTRY

HE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE GETTING - HE FELT YOUR PRESENTS!

Visit DARTH VADER'S GALACTIC GROTTO on Saturday, 22nd December and tell the Dark Lord of the Sith what you would like for Christmas, if you dare!

Entry price includes a visit to the Galactic Grotto and a special gift from Darth Vader!

[www.acecomics.co.uk/darthsanta](http://www.acecomics.co.uk/darthsanta)