



ILLUMINATIONS

DECEMBER 2013:

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NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY: PREMIER PUBLISHERS

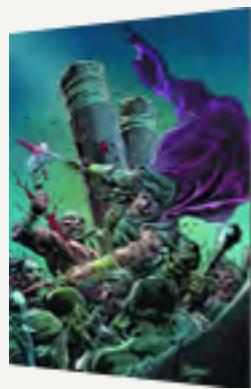


#1 FOR \$1 MASS EFFECT: FOUNDATION

Walters | Francia |
Atiyeh | Carré

Explore the vibrant, engaging world of BioWare's blockbuster science fiction epic—for just \$1! Mass Effect: Foundation starts with

a bang, introducing readers to an enigmatic agent and revealing the story of her time spent on the violent mining colony of Themis!

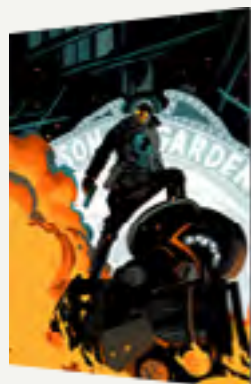


KING CONAN: THE CONQUEROR #1

Truman | Giorello |
Villarrubia

In the port city of Messantia, the deposed, fugitive Conan could uncover the key to regaining his throne—or he could get a knife in the back! Conan follows

a lead to a lost relic, revisits an old friend, and finds that he's not alone in his risky hunt for a missing, magical gem.

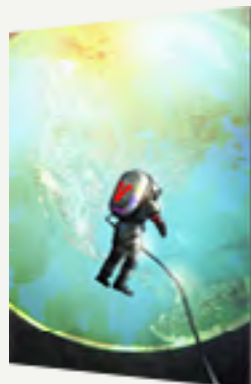


LOBSTER JOHNSON: GET THE LOBSTER #1

Mignola | Arcudi |
Zonjic | Stewart

A Manhattan sporting event goes terribly wrong as the ref is killed in front of a live audience by two crazed—and seemingly bulletproof—wrestlers. Who is behind this new

reign of terror?



PARIAH #1

Warner | Gelatt |
Weldele

Trapped in space, the genetically engineered geniuses known as "vitros" must band together and create a plan to get back to Earth before their failing satellite turns into a deathtrap!

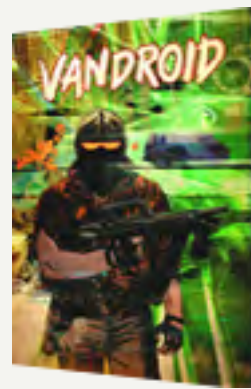


TERMINATOR: ENEMY OF MY ENEMY #1

Jolley | Igle | Snyder

In 1984, Kyle Reese protected Sarah Connor from a cyborg that would stop at nothing to terminate her. In 1985, Skynet targets a scientist whose discoveries threaten its future, but

this time there is no resistance fighter sent back to face it! With only enemies around her, what chance does Elise Fong stand against the perfect killing machine?

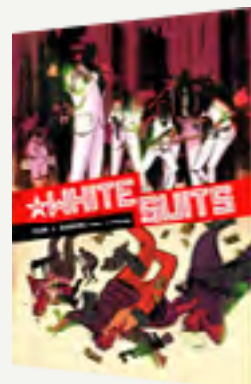


VANDROID #1

Edwards | Smith |
McDaid | Edwards

When Palm Springs Entertainment studios burned to the ground in 1984, the most definitive motion picture of a generation was lost before its time.

Thirty years later, the extraordinary talents of Tommy Lee Edwards, Noah Smith, and Dan McDaid unite to resurrect this lost epic.

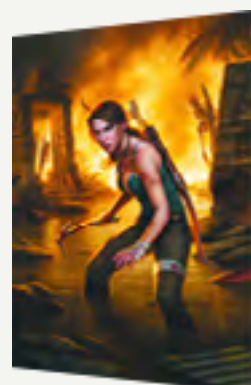


THE WHITE SUITS #1

Barbiere | Cypress

Mysterious killers dressed in white, they savaged the Cold War Russian underworld—then disappeared. Now they have resurfaced in New York, leaving a trail of dead mobsters. In this bloody wake, an

amnesiac and an FBI agent search for the answer to a single question: Who are the White Suits?

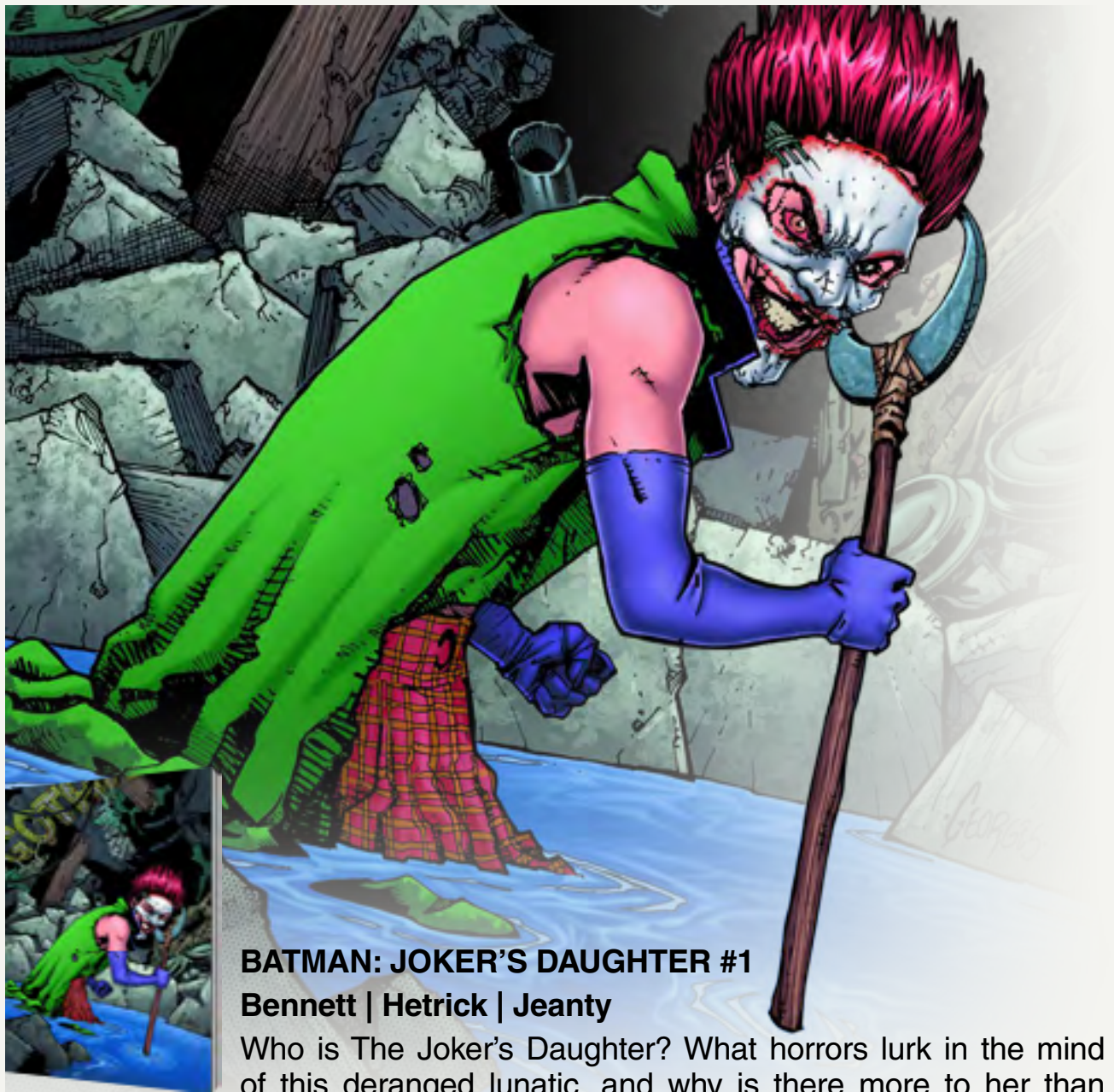


TOMB RAIDER #1

Simone | Selma | Gedeon | Atiyeh | Dos Santos

Superstar writer Gail Simone picks up Lara Croft's story where the smash hit Tomb Raider game left off—in a new ongoing comics series! Following the game acclaimed for its bold and sophisticated new vision, this series launches Lara Croft on the formative adventures that will change her life forever!





BATMAN: JOKER'S DAUGHTER #1
Bennett | Hetrick | Jeanty

Who is The Joker's Daughter? What horrors lurk in the mind of this deranged lunatic, and why is there more to her than meets the eye? More than just a crazy person who stumbled upon The Joker's face, more than just a woman with a mission, The Joker's Daughter sees herself as a woman on the path of greed, dominance and lordship over the Gotham Underground. This special issue tells a sordid tale in the life of one of DC's most popular new villains!



SUPERMAN: LOIS LANE #1
Bennett | Lupacchino | Rocafort

Lois Lane is known for chasing down stories — but what happens when the story is her family?

As her father gains more power in the government,

Lois's sister Lucy has become involved with a deadly drug scene! Meanwhile, Lois thought she was rid of the influence of Brainiac, but now she finds that the computer tyrant of Colu is calling out to her again!

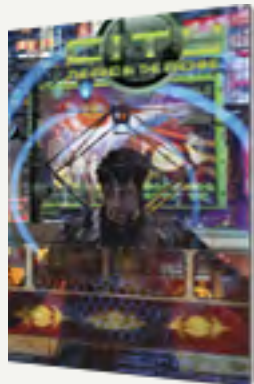


THE ROYALS: MASTERS OF WAR #1
Williams | Coleby | Bolland

The year is 1940. As the Blitz destroys London and kills thousands, the Royal Family looks on. But in this world, the only people with special abilities are Royalty,

and the purer the bloodline, the greater their abilities. So why don't they stop the carnage with their powers? A truce between the Earth's nobles has kept them out of our wars—until now. When England's Prince Henry can take no more and intervenes, will it stop the planet's suffering or take it to another level?

NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY: PREMIER PUBLISHERS



CITY #1
Garcia | Fernandez | Edwards

New from Darby Pop!

Ben Fischer helped build the world's greatest surveillance system, Golden Shield, which utilizes every camera, cell phone, and

computer in San Francisco to battle crime. There is only one problem: Golden Shield can't work without a human mind to operate it, resulting in a controversial melding of man and machine.

Writer Eric Garcia (Anonymous Rex, Matchstick Men) delivers an action-packed story that questions the roles of security and technology in our modern society.

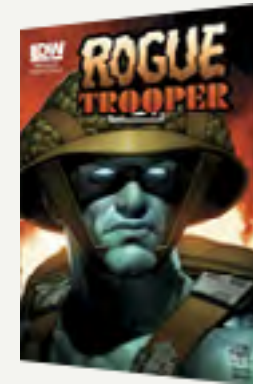


MY LITTLE PONY: FRIENDSHIP IS MAGIC #1 - HUNDRED PENNY PRESS EDITION
Cook | Price

The story that started Pony comic book-mania returns for an affordable price! The perfect place to jump on to the My

Little Pony bandwagon!

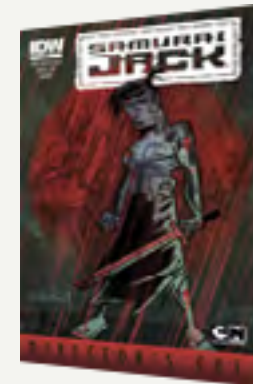
IDW PUBLISHING



ROGUE TROOPER #1
Ruckley | Ponticelli | Fabry

Nu-Earth, just another planet ravaged by a galaxy-wide war, its atmosphere poisoned by chemical weapons. Created to fight in such conditions were the G.I.s—genetically

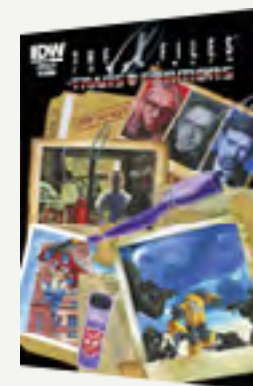
engineered infantrymen. But now only one remains, the man known as... Rogue Trooper. IDW is proud to re-introduce Rogue Trooper in this all-new series!



SAMURAI JACK SPECIAL: DIRECTOR'S CUT
Tartakovsky | Naylor | Wray

Back to the past! As the evil demon Aku takes over the ancient world, the fate of the world rests in the hands of a noble samurai warrior. But

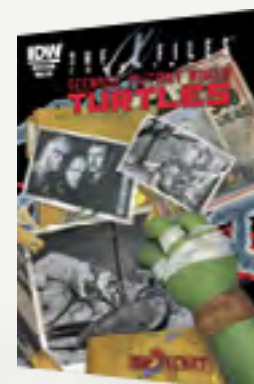
when Aku blasts him into the future (a future ruled by the shapeshifting demon), Samurai Jack must find a way to return and right the wrongs of the past! This special Director's Cut reprints the classic adaptation of the first three episodes of Samurai Jack, along with bonus pages and commentary from creator Genndy Tartakovsky and artist Bill Wray!



THE X-FILES: CONSPIRACY - TRANSFORMERS
Crilly | Verma | Kim

The Lone Gunmen's trail of secrets leads them to evidence of extraterrestrial life—mechanical extraterrestrial life! Will Optimus Prime and

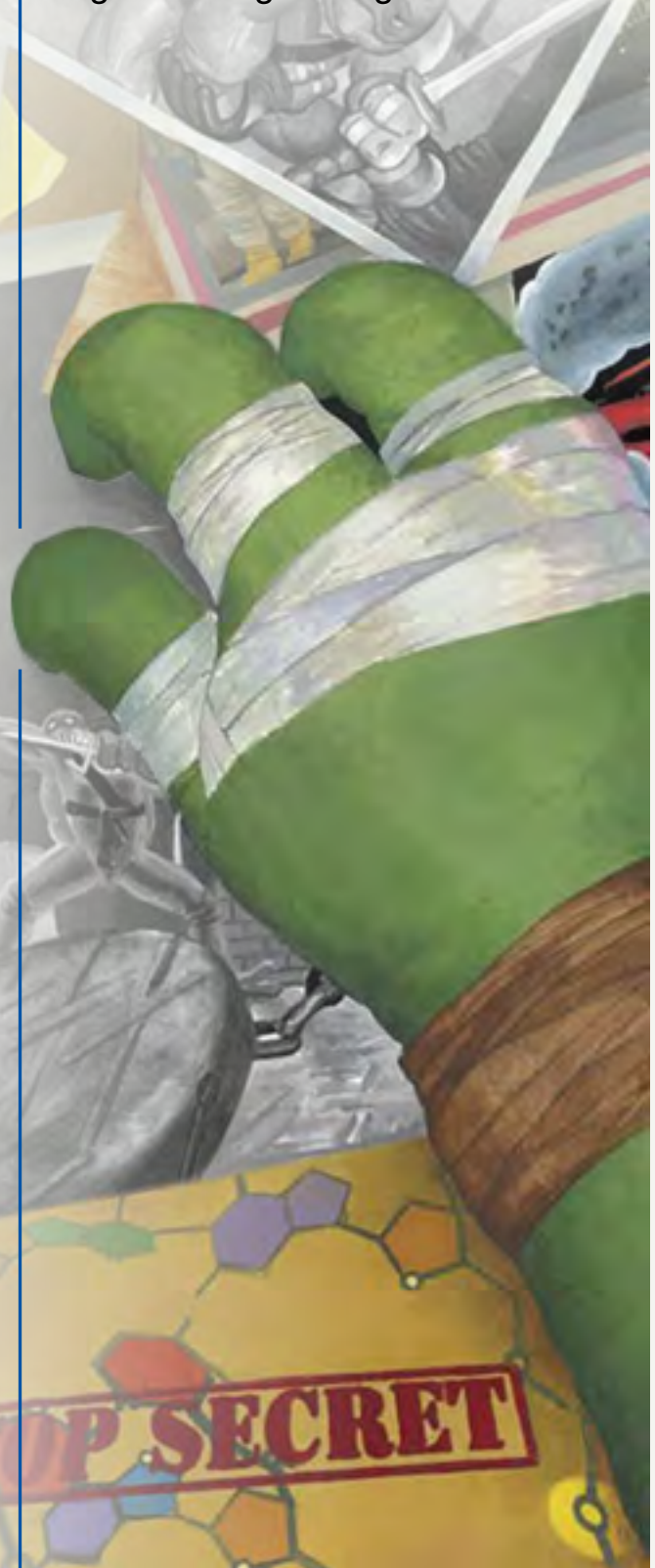
his allies trust these human interlopers—and what secret conspiracy could involve Cybertron, anyway?!



THE X-FILES: CONSPIRACY - TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
Brisson | Walsh | Kim

The Turtles are doing their best to avoid trouble

in Northampton. Unfortunately, trouble finds them in the form of the Lone Gunmen! The fate of the world depends on the Gunmen getting the reclusive Turtles' help. Add in an undead menace and things are going to get downright dangerous!



NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY: PREMIER PUBLISHERS



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THE REVENGER #1

Ross | Churchill

Griffin Franks was a joke in Hollywood. A washed up action-hero. Over the hill. Past it. A has-been. A barely-was. But now he IS The Revenger. He's a star. His movie's a hit. His latest wife is hot. He finally has everything he wants. Just in time for someone to take it all away. Forever. Starting with his face.



APOCALYPSE AL #1

Straczynski | Kotian | Farmer | Sook

Alison Carter is a private detective. Her beat: the end of the world. Or more accurately, preventing same. With an attitude of "shoot first and the hell with the questions," she leads a life that would

drive other investigators mad, filled with monsters, demons, trolls, mad prophets, zombie detectives, technomages, machine-gun toting imps and dead boyfriends. In the first action-packed installment of this new universe, Al is given her biggest assignment ever, one that will take her into the heart of Ultimate Darkness itself. The first of a four-issue miniseries, this issue contains 30 pages of story, unbroken by advertisements.

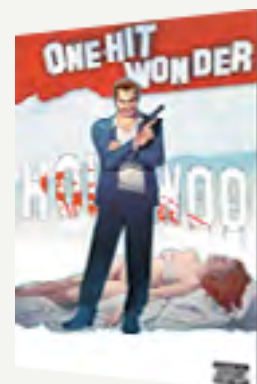


THE FUSE #1

Johnston | Greenwood

"The Russia Shift," Part One - Working homicide 22,000 miles up on an orbiting energy platform, in a five-mile-long jury-rigged steel city stuffed with a half million people, with no help from your so-called

colleagues back on Earth, is more than tough...it's murder! Cynical, foul-mouthed veteran Antony Johnston (Umbral, Wasteland, Daredevil) gets partnered with fresh-faced idealist Justin Greenwood (Wasteland, Resurrection) for a new crime series with attitude! Murder, mayhem, and mystery—22,000 miles straight up.



ONE HIT WONDER#1

Sapolsky | Olivetti

If there was a thin line between reality and fiction, Richie Reese tore it down. Better, he crushed it. Smashed it. Destroyed it. From child star to hitman in Hollywood, this is the story of a glorious

bastard. Written by Fabrice Sapolsky (Spider-Man Noir) and drawn by superstar artist Ariel Olivetti (Cable, Punisher War Journal, Conan), this is the crime comedy series you don't want to miss this year.

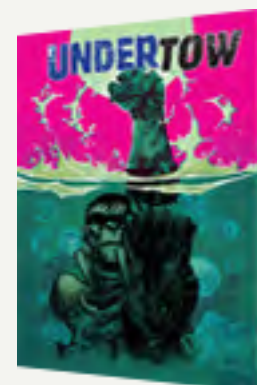


THE MERCENARY SEA #1

Symons | Reynolds

"Nice Work If You Can Get It" - Action and adventure set in 1938 - The South Seas. Japan has invaded China. War in Europe is imminent. Ex-bootlegger Jack Harper captains The

Venture, a refitted German U-Boat, with a crew of expats, mercenaries and treasure hunters. They do whatever it takes to stay afloat, often running up against pirates, headhunters, spies, and soldiers. They're always one step away from the greatest score of their lives...or their certain demise.



UNDERTOW #1 (OF 6)

Orlando | Trakhanov

Atlantis is the world superpower, and Redum Anshargal is its worst enemy. If you want to break free of the system, he can offer you a place at his side, exploring the wild surface world in his watertight city barge

The Deliverer. He and his hostage-protégé Ukinu Alal hunt the Amphibian, a legend that could be the key to an air-breathing life on land. But as they become the hunted, can Anshargal's team survive long enough to turn the tables on the godlike beast they set out for? A brand new pulp monster adventure with Ray Harryhausen at its heart and a look at Atlantis like never before from the up-and-coming team of writer Steve Orlando (Mystery in Space) and artist Artyom Trakhanov.

NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY: PREMIER PUBLISHERS



FANTASTIC FOUR #1 Robinson | Kirk | Opeña | Ross | Young | Cook

"The Fall Of The Fantastic Four" Part 1.

The world's greatest comics magazine begins anew with Marvel's First Family, the Fantastic

Four! But as the brilliant Mr. Fantastic, the compassionate Invisible Woman, the ever lovin' Thing and the hot-headed Human Torch embark on a strange mission, they aren't met with new beginnings, but an untimely end! As the family of cosmic explorers head towards their darkest hour, who could possibly be behind their downfall? And how is one of their oldest enemies, the sadistic dragon known as Fing-Fang-Foom involved? Prepare for the fantastic!



NEW WARRIORS #1 Yost | To | Perez | Campbell | Young | Samnee

Warriors reborn! Adventurers Speedball and Justice have come together with a group of young heroes including Nova, Sun Girl, and Hummingbird (and

even a couple of new faces) to stop the latest threat to the Marvel Universe - the Atlanteans, Inhumans, clones and hundreds of other so-called "superior" beings are living among the humans of the Marvel Universe, but not everyone is pleased about it. The High Evolutionary has raised an army to combat the evolution of humanity - and the New Warriors are locked in his sights!

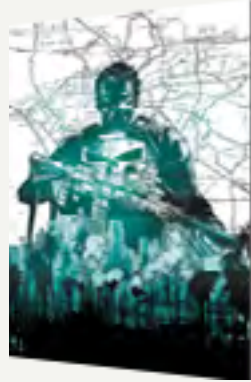


LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD #1 Ewing | Garbett | Frison | Cho | Del Mundo

Old God - New Trickster!

Kid Loki's all grown up - and the God of Mischief is stronger, smarter, sexier and just plain sneakier than ever before. As Asgardia's one-man secret service, he's ready to lie, cheat, steal, bluff and snog his way through the twistiest, turniest and most treacherous missions the All-Mother can throw at him... starting with a heart-stopping heist on Avengers Tower - and the death of Thor! And that's just the beginning!

Would we lie to you? This is Loki, true believer - we're lying to you right NOW!



THE PUNISHER #1 Edmondson | Gerads | Larroca | Samnee | Young

Issue #2 - variant cover by Jerome Opena

For years, The Punisher has waged a war on crime in New York City with an array of very large guns, but a lead on a major source of drugs, weapons, and more has set his many sights due west. NOW! Frank Castle's in the City of Angels, looking to give the devil his due. Things aren't all they appear, though, with a highly trained military hit squad hot on Frank's tail. Caught between a posse of Punisher predators and targets of his own one-man-war, Frank's manifest destiny may be a shallow grave!

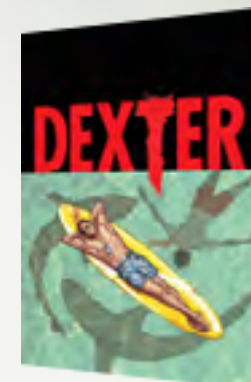


MS. MARVEL #1 Wilson | Alphona | Pichelli | Adams

The legend has returned!

Marvel Comics presents the all-new Ms. Marvel, the ground breaking heroine that has become an international sensation! Kamala

Khan is just an ordinary girl from Jersey City--until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm, and prepare for an epic tale that will be remembered by generations to come. History in the making is NOW!



DEXTER DOWN UNDER #1 Lindsay | Talajic | Del Mundo | Perkins

Dexter returns in an all-new, all-australian adventure written by his creator Jeff Lindsay!

It's a new, blood-soaked adventure starring Dexter Morgan, who isn't just Miami's #1 forensic blood splatter expert... he's also a serial killer who targets other serial killers!

When Dexter travels down under, he quickly discovers that sharks aren't Australia's only deadly predator!



REVOLUTIONARY WAR: DEATH'S HEAD II #1

**Lanning | Cowsill
| Roche | Brooks |
Sharp**

Part 4 of "Revolutionary War".

The long-awaited return of Death's Head -- one of the biggest hits of the

original Marvel UK!

Death's Head! Death's Head II! On an adventure together for the first time ever!

What threat could be grave enough to bring these two heroes together from across time? How about the villainous Mys-Tech organization resurfacing with an army?!



REVOLUTIONARY WAR: SUPERSOLDIERS #1

**Williams | Anderson |
Brooks**

Part 5 of "Revolutionary War".

Some of the most popular heroes of Marvel UK return for Supersoldiers -- and

where the Supersoldiers go, trouble isn't far behind!

It's the Supersoldiers versus Mys-Tech in all-out war! When a vast army of Mys-Tech Psycho Wraiths come calling on a small Scottish town, it's up to the Supersoldiers to put them down for good!



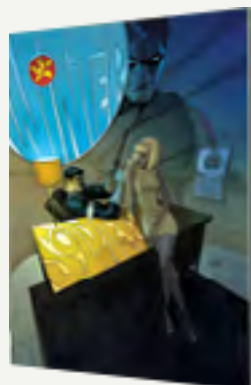
SUPERIOR CARNAGE ANNUAL #1

**Bunn | Jacinto |
Garres**

Cletus Kasady is behind bars! The Carnage symbiote is in quarantine! But we all know that's never going to last, right?

Cletus has been evaluated and imprisoned and even lobotomized! Carnage has been sampled and cloned and poked and prodded. But they've had enough! It's time to get the band back together!

A return to bloody, murderous form for the deadliest killer in the Marvel Universe!



WINTER SOLDIER: THE BITTER MARCH #1

**Remender | Boschi |
Robinson | Eliopoulos
| Lee**

1966: With Nick Fury missing, and presumed dead, global espionage agency S.H.I.E.L.D. sends secret agent Ran Shen to collect two Nazi

scientists with the key to defining who wins the Cold War. But the Americans are not the only ones who want the high value scientists. The Soviets have opened the Red Room, releasing their most dangerous operative --The Winter Soldier, who unbeknownst to the world, is the presumed-dead partner of Captain America--Bucky Barnes! The brainwashed soldier's mission: to acquire the scientists by any means or to kill them should they fall into American hands.

This classic 60's style, high-octane, spy pulp told at Cold War's peak follows Ran Shen and his terrified scientists as they creep out of the shadow of East Berlin. Intrigue, adventure, romance and murder abound with ramifications that will shatter relationships in the modern-day Marvel Universe—including one with the Star Spangled Avenger himself!



WOLVERINE #1

**Cornell | Stegman |
Opeña | Cook**

Wolverine no more?

After the events of Killable, Wolverine has something to prove. Before he can take on Sabretooth again, he'll need to build himself

back up, get better and stronger than he's ever been...but it's not as easy as he thought, and he'll soon find himself turning to other means of revenge when the normal channels don't seem to be working fast enough. Can he fight back his demons, or is this the beginning of a Wolverine who's gone to the dark side?



X-FORCE #1

**Spurrier | Kim | Noto |
Cook**

Almost every sovereign state in the Marvel Universe makes use of sanctioned superhumans to protect national interests and pursue a covert agenda. The United States has

the Secret Avengers. The United Kingdom has MI13. And mutantkind has X-Force. In this dirty, secret, no-holds-barred, deadly game of superhuman black ops, veteran X-Man Cable and his team will spy, torture, and kill to ensure that the mutant race not only has a place in the world...but also a stake in it.



SHE-HULK #1

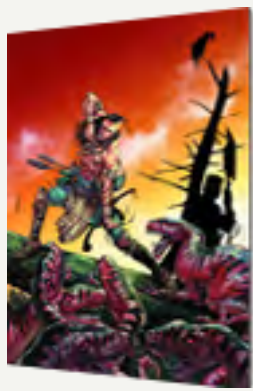
**Soule | Pulido | Wada | Manara |
Stegman | Oyum | Young**

Jennifer Walters is... the She-Hulk! A stalwart Avenger, valued member of the FF, savior of the world on more than one occasion, she's also a killer attorney with a pile of degrees and professional respect. A 7-foot-

tall drink of cool, emerald water, she's tough enough to knock out Galactus with one punch (possibly?) and has a heart bigger than the moon. But juggling cases and kicking bad guy butt is starting to be a little more complicated than she anticipated. With a new practice, a new paralegal and a mounting number of super villains she's racking up as personal enemies, She Hulk might have bitten off a little more than she can chew...but she just calls that that Tuesday.



NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY: PREMIER PUBLISHERS



TUROK: DINOSAUR HUNTER #1

Pak | Colak | Sears
Dynamite

The Gold Key universe begins here! Classic Characters by some of Comics Hottest Creators! - Magnus, Solar, Turok and Dr. Spektor! Dynamite is proud to

present an all-new adventure ongoing from superstar Greg Pak (Batman/Superman, World War Hulk) and incredible artist Mirko Colak (Red Skull: Incarnate, Conan)! Shunned from his tribe, a young Native American named Turok fights to survive, making a lonely life for himself in the unforgiving forest. But his hard-won cunning and survival skills face the ultimate test when man-eating thunder lizards attack his people! Why are dinosaurs here? How have they survived? And will Turok use his abilities to save a society that's taken everything away from him?



THE BUNKER #1

Fialkov | Infurnari
Oni

The smash hit digital comic comes to print with a double-sized debut issue! When five friends go to bury a time capsule before going their separate ways, they find a

mysterious bunker stamped with their names and containing artifacts from a time that has yet to come. Will their discovery save the world or doom it? From Joshua Hale Fialkov (I, Vampire; Ultimates) and Joe Infurnari (Marathon) comes a new ongoing series that proves outrunning your future is no easier than escaping your past.



BLOODSHOT AND H.A.R.D. CORPS: H.A.R.D. CORPS #0

Gage | Dysart | ChrisCross | Lozzi | Sepulveda | LaRosa
Valiant

Remember the '90s?! The most elite assets of Project Rising Spirit team-up for an early

mission together — Bloodshot and the H.A.R.D. Corps, living weapons! But, in the decade of dial-up, the technology is far from perfect and bugs are bound to pop up in the hardware...with disastrous results...

SELECTED TITLES SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY



ROBOCOP: BETA #1

Brisson | Laiso | Smallwood
Boom!

Alex Murphy was the first successful attempt at creating a man in the machine. But before he could rise, many had to fall. Through the eyes of the failed test subjects on

the path to making a successful integration between man and machine, Dr. Norton is forced to ask whether the sacrifice of a few is truly the path towards salvation. His morality must come head to head with Sellars' vision.

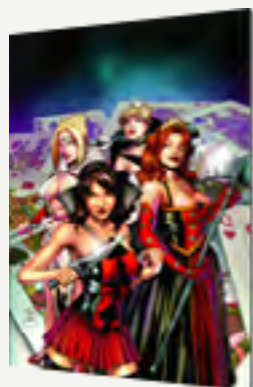


ROBOCOP: MEMENTO MORI #1

Barbiere | Vieira | Mooneyham
Boom!

When Alex Murphy goes under the knife, his memories converge with reality. Perception is blurred and his mind tries to cope with the

changes forced upon his very soul. Through a distortion of the past, his present horrors loom over him. The man within must be corrupted to make way for the future of America.



GRIMM FAIRY TALES PRESENTS WONDERLAND: CLASH OF QUEENS #1

Shand | Preitano | Spay | Reyes | Chen | Ortiz
Zenescope

There had long been an uneasy peace between the various Queens of

the realm of wonderland. But with the arrival of Keres, the death card and Ace of spades, it is a peace that will not last.

Vying for control of the realm of madness each has been brought to this place of insanity for unknown reasons. But now those reasons will stand revealed and the madness of wonderland will threaten to engulf them all in a battle that will only end in a battle of the... clash of the queens.



ROBOCOP: TO LIVE AND DIE IN DETROIT #1

Harris | Kowalski
Boom!

RoboCop is too good at his job. While the people love him, his ability to find and remove corruption puts fear into the corporate heads and government leaders.

With OCP at the wheel, they will do their best to steer him away from the powerful corrupt leaders, and keep him on the lower-level criminals. But some crimes cannot go unpunished.

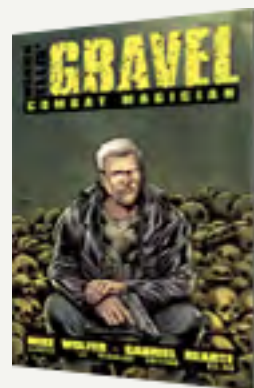


ROBOCOP: HOMINEM EX MACHINA #1

Moreci | Copland | Rossmo
Boom!

After a series of successful campaigns that cripple a portion of Detroit's criminal activities, RoboCop's system inexplicably

goes down. While RoboCop's consciousness remains, his control is gone. As crime rises in his absence, a paralyzed RoboCop must watch his city burn. For the first time, OCP will learn that control is in the hands of the man, not the machine.

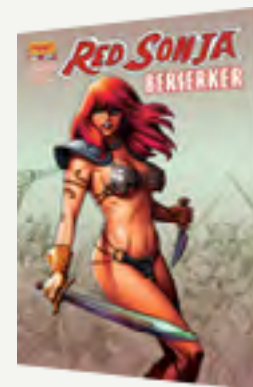


GRAVEL: COMBAT MAGICIAN #1

Wolfer | Rearte
Avatar

The next gut-wrenching chapter in the life of William Gravel, Combat Magician has begun! Locked away in military prison since the destruction of the Major

Seven, Gravel has been content with having all of his needs met by the British Army, even though a man with his supernatural abilities could never really be contained. Life has been good. Until today. A horrifying terrorist threat has struck the heart of Tokyo, a rogue Combat Magician, driven mad by the magic he wields, and a former trainee of Gravel.

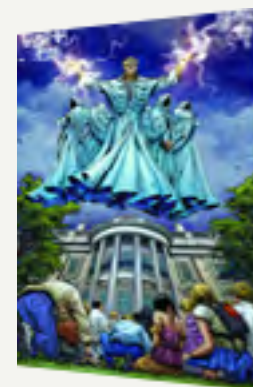


RED SONJA: BERSERKER (ONE-SHOT)

Collins | Casas | Linsner
Dynamite

After a fight in a tavern results in Red Sonja being arrested and becoming a prisoner, she is sold to a promoter who stages

gladiatorial games. There, in the blood-soaked sand of the arena, she finds herself pitted against an old friend — a huge snow bear that she once saved from hunters. But will they unite to wreak havoc on their enemies, or will they fight one another to the death?

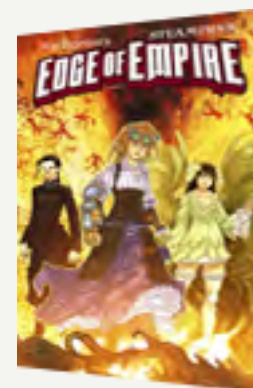


GRIMM FAIRY TALES PRESENTS: ASCENSION #1

Shand | Mapa | Malsuni | Ortiz | Eric J | Cafaro
Zenescope

What if God lived among us? The Being has won. Now with the almighty powers of the Keepers

running through his veins, he descends onto Earth to begin his new reign. Though his intentions are to rid the world of evil, absolute power corrupts absolutely, and it falls to Sela and Van Helsing to put a stop to him. But what will they do when they see that many of their own have been wooed to the Being's side.



ROD ESPINOSA'S STEAMPUNK EDGE OF EMPIRE #1

Espinosa
Antarctic

A trio of noble sisters, all mighty mages and steam-tech experts, use their wits and combat savvy to aid their teammates in a dungeon

quest gone horribly wrong. Then they must face a smug emperor and his warrior hordes in a Colosseum of Carnage!

Rod Espinosa, steampunk story-weaver extraordinaire, forges a world of grand adventure, where magic and mechanisms mix marvelously!



LOKI: RAGNAROK AND ROLL #1

Esquivel | Gaylord | Ziritt
Boom!

Up-and-coming writer Eric Esquivel first caught our attention with Thor: The Unkillable Thunder Christ, and wowed us with his work on

Freelancers. When he told us he wanted to bring those sensibilities to the trickster god Loki, we had to say "Yes!" Pairing him with Fanboys Vs Zombies artist Jerry Gaylord sealed the deal.

What happens when Odin banishes Loki to Earth? He finds a world of outcasts that appreciate his style! While his kin sharpen their weapons, he picks up an electric guitar. Loki steps out of the shadow cast by his thunderous brother as Norse mythology crosses over with the only thing on Earth as wild and crazy... rock and roll!

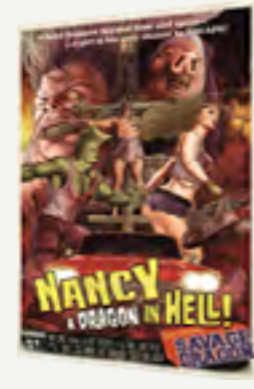


ARCHER AND ARMSTRONG: ARCHER #0

Van Lente | Perez | Henry | Eisma | Bullock
Valiant

Once upon a time... a baby went into Project Rising Spirit... Who is Obadiah Archer, where

did he come from, and how can he do the incredible things that he can do? (Which is everything, remember?) Fresh off the shocking conclusion of the Sect Civil War, learn the startling truth behind Archer's origin with an exciting look into his secret past by comics superstar Fred Van Lente and fan favorite Pere Perez!



NANCY: A DRAGON IN HELL ONE-SHOT

EI | Lorenzana
Amigo

Nancy and The Dragon visit Amigo Comics! A demon has trapped Malcolm Dragon in Hell itself! His only chance to escape is the scantily-clad girl armed with

a chainsaw: Nancy — and his spineless companion, the fallen angel Lucifer. Malcolm will need all his resources to survive the perils of Hell and the sinister forces that his father fought and left behind!



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: FAMILY BUSINESS (HC)

WAID | ROBINSON
| DELL'OTTO | DELL'EDRA
Marvel, 112 pages

Someone has Spider-Man in their crosshairs, and the only person in the Marvel Universe who can save him is... Peter Parker's sister?! As the web-slinger meets family he never knew, will she end up becoming his greatest ally, or the one who damns him? And what does the Kingpin of Crime have to do with it? This all-new, original graphic novel — written by Eisner Award winner Mark Waid (Daredevil) and acclaimed author James Robinson (Superman), and fully painted by the legendary Gabriele Dell'Otto (Secret War) — comes to you in a high-end, oversized format. It's the web-slinger's darkest hour — and greatest triumph!



UNCANNY X-MEN VOL. 1: REVOLUTION

BENDIS | BACHALO | IRVING
Marvel, 136 pages

The true flagship X-Men series returns! In the wake of the Phoenix event, exactly what are Cyclops and his team of outlaw X-Men: visionary revolutionaries or dangerous terrorists? Whatever the truth, Cyclops, Emma Frost, Magneto and Magik are gathering new mutants and redefining the name "Uncanny X-Men." But they face harsh challenges: Once again, robotic Sentinels hunt the team and the mutants they protect — but who's doing the hunting? And there's a mole on Cyclops' squad — who is it? A weakened Magneto must prove he's still the master of magnetism as Magik wonders why she's the only member of the Phoenix Five to emerge unscathed! Plus: Learn what it's like to be a student at Cyclops' new school! Blockbuster creators Brian Michael Bendis and Chris Bachalo revamp the entire X-Men concept! Collecting Uncanny X-Men (2013) #1-5.

NOVEL IDEAS

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



MY LITTLE PONY: PONY TALES VOL. 2

ANDERSON | BALL | ANDERSON | COOK | BATES | MEBBERSON | GARBOWSKA | PRICE
IDW, 104 pages

Four individual tales highlighting some of the Pony's favorite friends—the Cutie Mark Crusaders, Princess Celestia, Spike, and Princess Luna! Collects the My Little Pony Micro-Series issues #7–10.



ITTY BITTY HELLBOY

BALTARAZ | FRANCO
Dark Horse, 128 pages

Witness the awesomeness that is Hellboy! The characters that sprung from Mike Mignola's imagination, with an aw yeah Art Baltazar and Franco twist! This book has all the fun, adventure, and aw yeahness in one itty bitty package! That's a true story right there. Collects Itty Bitty Hellboy #1–#5.



MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN

FISCH | MONLOGO | KAUFENBERG
IDW, 104 pages

The classic Jay Ward characters return! Join the world's smartest individual who happens to be a dog, Mr. Peabody, and his son Sherman, on their maiden voyage in the time-traveling WABAC machine!



DAREDEVIL: DARK NIGHTS

WEEKS | LAPHAM | PALMIOTTI | SILAS
Marvel, 184 pages

The greatest talents in comics bring you gorgeous new stories featuring the Man Without Fear! First, a blizzard brings New York to a standstill — and a little girl in desperate need of a heart transplant lies on death's door, unless Daredevil can get to her in time! The trouble is, DD is recovering from a severe concussion! Then, it's a race against time when Daredevil must battle the Shocker, track a fugitive and reclaim stolen evidence Matt Murdock needs to protect his innocent client — while the Avengers confront massive monster mayhem in the streets of NYC! Finally, Matt is out of his element and surrounded by enemies when a client fleeing persecution leads him to the Caribbean. Good thing he's got a new partner: the Fearless Defender herself, Misty Knight! Collecting Daredevil: Dark Nights #1-8.



ALABASTER: GRIMMER TALES (HC)

KIERNAN | LIEBER | ROSENBERG | RUTH
Dark Horse, 120 pages

Dancy Flammarion possesses a savvy awareness and a keen knife for the monsters that lurk in the shadows. She does the bidding of an unholy host, a legion of dark gods guiding her across America's southern wilds. And a blackbird's grim tales of her battles could be his only salvation from becoming dinner for a boxcar full of beastly hoboes. Collects Alabaster: Boxcar Tales #1–#13 from Dark Horse Presents.



DEATH

GAIMAN | BACHALO
| BUCKINGHAM | DRINGENBERG
| JONES III | PENNINGTON | DORAN
| McKEAN | JONES
DC Vertigo, 320 pages

This new trade paperback collects Neil Gaiman's Death: The High Cost Of Living #1-3, Death: The Time Of Your Life #1-3! Also included are extras like "Death Talks about Life" AIDS pamphlet, stories from Vertigo: Winter's Edge #2 and The Sandman: Endless Nights, the short story "The Wheel" from the 9-11 tribute book, Sandman #8 and #20, and art from the Death Gallery!



REVIVAL VOL. 3: A FARAWAY PLACE

SEELEY | NORTON | ENGLERT | BALTAZAR | NORTON | FRISON
Image, 128 pages

For one day in rural central Wisconsin, the dead came back to life. Now the living and the recently returned struggle to maintain a sense of normalcy amidst political and religious conflicts. Officer Dana Cypress is hot on the trail of a man she believes may have murdered her sister Em, but Em herself is on a quest through the snowy woods to find the strange glowing creature that haunts a child. Collects Revival #12-17.



BATWOMAN VOL. 4: THIS BLOOD IS THICK

WILLIAMS | BLACKMAN | MCCARTHY | FRANCAVILLA
DC, 192 pages

After taking down Medusa, Batwoman is caught in the crossfire between Batman and the D.E.O. in these stories from issues #18-24! The organization has their sights set on the Dark Knight and could be using Batwoman to capture him. But is Batman the true threat?



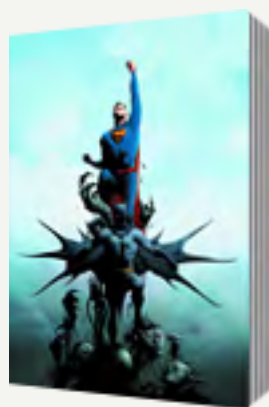
**NEW AVENGERS
VOL. 1:
EVERYTHING DIES**
HICKMAN | EPTING |
JOCK
Marvel, 152 pages

The Illuminati must reassemble to prevent the collision of our universe with another! It's the Marvel Universe's most powerful and brilliant team — Black Panther, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, Black Bolt, Mr. Fantastic, Sub-Mariner and the Beast — armed with the six Infinity Gems against an infinite legion of parallel realities. But their task is complicated by old wounds, lies and secret agendas. When the Illuminati experiences its first dimensional incursion, can the members of this loose brotherhood trust each other enough to use the Infinity Gems in unison? And when they learn Earth is the center point for the death of the universe, doesn't that mean destroying it might save everything else? Enter the world-eater, Galactus, as the Illuminati do the unthinkable! Jonathan Hickman and Steve Epting revamp New Avengers in a multiverse-spanning saga! Collecting New Avengers (2013) #1-6.



SIDEKICK VOL. 1
STRACZYNSKI |
MANDRAKE | HiFi
Image, 160 pages

What happens when a hero's sidekick is abandoned by tragedy, mocked by the media, scorned by enemies and heroes alike...when his entire world is turned upside-down? Drawn by Julia Moonglow into investigating the death of the Red Cowl, Flyboy will discover things that will shatter his life completely as he uncovers a conspiracy of murder and terrible, life-changing secrets. Who was the Red Cowl, really, and what scared him so badly that he had to stage his own death in order to escape it? The debut volume of Sidekick contains the first six issues of this saga of grief, madness and murder. Collects Sidekick #1-6.



**BATMAN /
SUPERMAN VOL. 1:
CROSS WORLD
(HC)**
PAK | LEE | OLIVER
| CINAR | BOOTH |
RAPMUND
DC, 144 pages

The Dark Knight and The Man of Steel are close friends in the modern day — but the two weren't always such close allies. In this first hardcover collecting Batman/Superman #1-4 and Justice League #23.1: Darkseid, learn how these two legends met for the first time in The New 52 as they launch into a mysterious adventure that takes them to the world of Earth 2!



**TRUE BLOOD
VOL. 3: THE
FRENCH QUARTER**
HUEHNER | TISCHMAN
| MESSINA | BALBONI |
LETIZIA | NIRO
IDW, 160 pages

Mind reading waitress Sookie Stackhouse is in New Orleans helping Vampire Sheriff Eric Northman track down an insane killer named Guerra. Bill Compton's in town, too, making sure Eric doesn't get fresh with Sookie, and investigating a local Hep-D outbreak that may be connected to Guerra's latest victims. Meanwhile, back in Bon Temps, why is Pam hanging out at Merlotte's—and what does she want with Lafayette?



**KING CONAN
VOLUME 3: THE
HOUR OF THE
DRAGON**
TRUMAN | GIORELLO |
VILLARRUBIA | PAREL
Dark Horse, 160 pages

Dethroned by a traitorous alliance backed by a resurrected sorcerer, Conan must fight his way out of a villain's dungeon and across battle-ravaged countries, seeking a mysterious gem that will help him reclaim his kingdom! Collects issues #1–#6 of King Conan: The Hour of the Dragon.



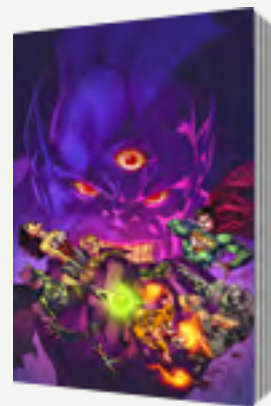
**ALL-NEW
X-MEN VOL. 2:
HERE TO STAY**
BENDIS | MARQUEZ |
IMMONEN
Marvel, 136 pages

Yesterday's X-Men continue to adjust to a present day that's simultaneously more awe-inspiring and more disturbing than any future the young heroes had ever imagined for themselves. And the situation gets even more dangerous when the villainous duo Mystique and Sabretooth target the young time-travelers — starting with Cyclops! Plus: How will Earth's Mightiest Heroes react to the time-swept X-Men? Find out when the Avengers visit the Jean Grey School! But they're not the only ones to do so, as the outlaw Uncanny X-Men drop by for a recruiting session. Who will join the adult Cyclops and his revolutionary crew? The answer will shock you! Collecting All-New X-Men #6-10.



**ZERO VOL. 1:
AN EMERGENCY**
KOT | WALSH | MOORE
| SANTOLOUCO |
JESKE | TEMPEST |
BELLAIRE
Image, 172 pages

Edward Zero was the best spy the Agency had—and then he realized he was working for the wrong side. Collects Zero #1-5.



**JUSTICE LEAGUE
VOL. 4: THE GRID
(HC)**
JOHNS | REIS | PRADO
| SAIZ | CANNON | HA |
GUINALDO | OTHERS
DC, 176 pages

These amazing tales from Justice League #18-20 and 22-23 lead into "Trinity War," and spotlight Cyborg, Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman! Plus: Learn the secret behind Pandora's Box!

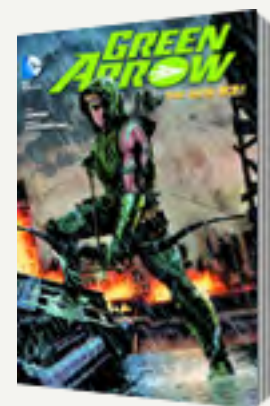
NOVEL IDEAS

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



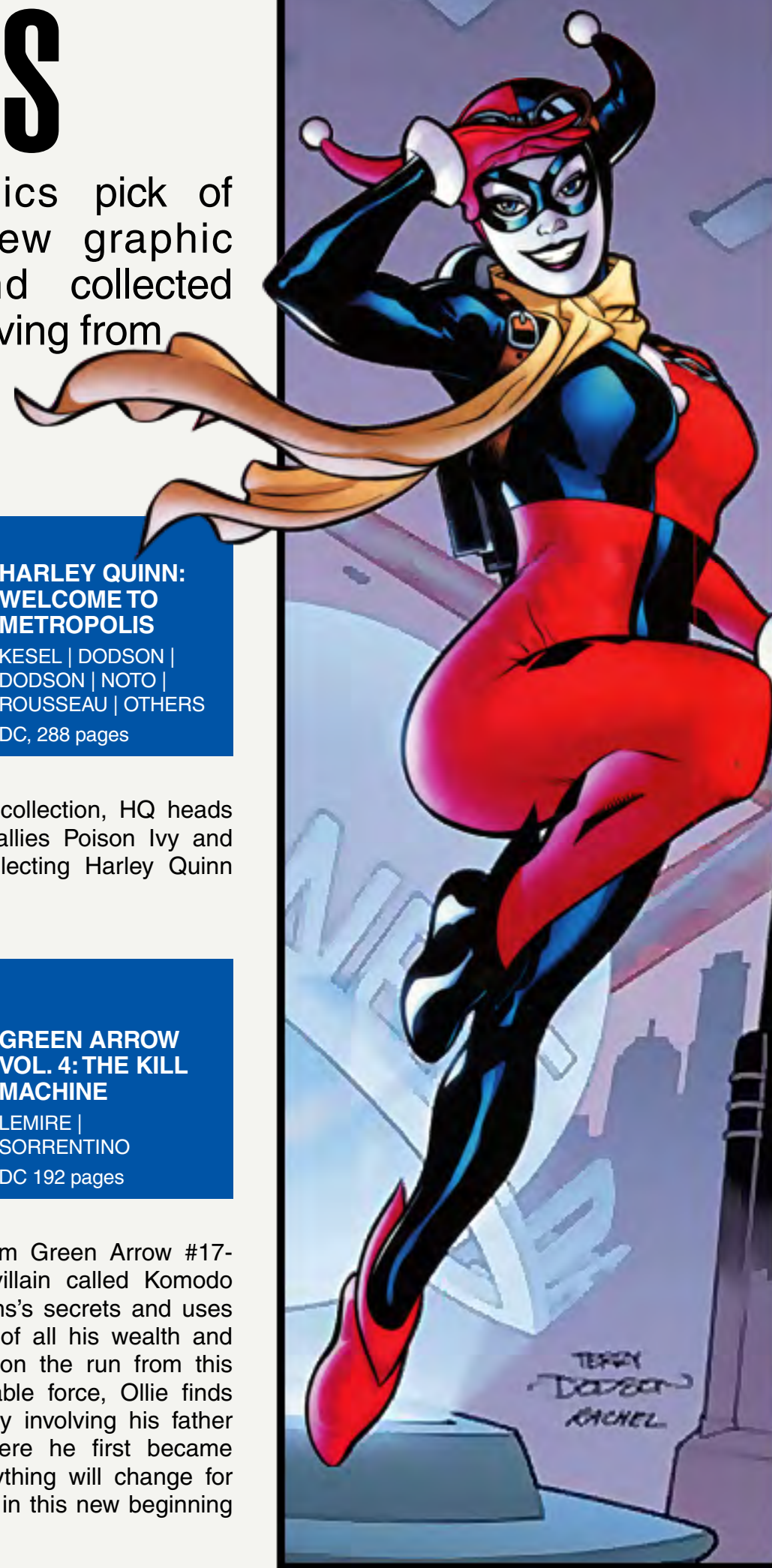
**HARLEY QUINN:
WELCOME TO
METROPOLIS**
KESEL | DODSON |
DODSON | NOTO |
ROUSSEAU | OTHERS
DC, 288 pages

In this new Harley collection, HQ heads to Metropolis with allies Poison Ivy and Bizarro in tow! Collecting Harley Quinn #14-25.



**GREEN ARROW
VOL. 4: THE KILL
MACHINE**
LEMIRE |
SORRENTINO
DC 192 pages

In these stories from Green Arrow #17-24, a mysterious villain called Komodo knows Oliver Queen's secrets and uses them to rob Oliver of all his wealth and his company. Now on the run from this seemingly unstoppable force, Ollie finds himself in a mystery involving his father and the island where he first became Green Arrow! Everything will change for the Emerald Archer in this new beginning for the character.



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.



SERENITY VOL. 1: THOSE LEFT BEHIND (HC)

JOSS WHEDON | BRETT MATTHEWS | WILL CONRAD | LAURA MARTIN | ADAM HUGHES

"The ragtag crew of Serenity—mercenaries, fugitives, and one law-abiding prostitute pursue fast cash and a little peace along the fringes of space. On a scavenger mission that promises a big payoff, they realize too late that they are being played by an old enemy with a grudge." - Dark Horse

Serenity began life as 'Firefly', Joss Whedon's space western TV show set in

2517, about the crew of 'Serenity', a Firefly-class spaceship, in a future recovering from civil war under the rule of federal government. After the show ended very prematurely (courtesy of network Fox), in 2005 Dark Horse published the first miniseries, 'Those Left Behind', a continuation of the TV show and prequel to the one-off movie, 'Serenity'.

Opening with Mal, Zoe and Jayne in a mid-heist stand-off with fellow thief Ott and his gang, the story unfolds like an episode of the show, with the crew treasure-hunting unclaimed wealth from the Battle of the Sturges. But not all is what it seems...

Joss Whedon provided the story for writer Brett Matthews, who does a capable job of capturing Whedon's trademark caustically witty dialogue. While not plot-heavy, 'Those Left Behind' does tie-up a few loose ends from the TV show which, to those who saw it, is welcome.

Will Conrad has opted for a photo-realistic art style for the book which, while not as dynamic as it could be, manages to avoid the flatness that so often occurs when this style is used.

The colouring is a great, somewhat muted palette that never threatens to be garish, instead adding to the illusion that the printed page is just another screen to continue viewing the live-action TV show through.

With a new comic series debuting in January, there's plenty of life in the Serenity franchise. If you haven't tried it, maybe it's time to find out just why it remain so popular, more than ten years after it finished?

£13.50



ONES TO WATCH

Lara Croft returns to the printed page next February in **Tomb Raider #1**! This new series from **Dark Horse** will be showcasing the early adventures of the re-imagined Lara from the fantastic **Square Enix** 2013 videogame reboot. If that wasn't exciting enough, Dark Horse have signed famed female writer **Gail Simone** as the scribe.

Gail Simone talking to **Kotaku**: *"The way I see Lara now is, she's not after treasure. She's not really after thrills. She's a questioner, she's an explorer. She wants answers... The thing is, she's completely unstoppable. That's what I love. Everyone underestimates her, and that is a terrible mistake to make."*

Tomb Raider debuts on 26th February 2014.

Another female character debuting in February is the all-new **Ms. Marvel**. No longer **Carol Danvers**, Marvel have instead bestowed the powers upon **Kamala Khan**, a Pakistani Muslim teenager from Jersey. It's an interesting and welcome change from the generic white male figureheads and it looks very promising. There could be echoes of early **Spider-Man**, with Khan's everyday life and struggles, such as school, making up a large amount of the storytelling.

Writer **G. Willow Wilson** talking to **Marvel**: *"The Ms. Marvel mantle has*

Here's our look at the upcoming comics and graphic novels that you won't want to miss!

passed to Kamala Khan, a high school student from Jersey City who struggles to reconcile being an American teenager with the conservative customs of her Pakistani Muslim family. So in a sense, she has a "dual identity" before she even puts on a super hero costume... This makes her tough and vulnerable at the same time. When you try to straddle two worlds, one of the first things you learn is that instead of defending good people from bad people, you have to spend a lot of time defending good people from each other. It's both illuminating and emotionally brutal. That's what makes this book different."

Ms. Marvel lands on 5th February 2014.

The third offering we are tipping is **Pariah**, written by **Aron Warner** and **Philip Gelatt** with **Brett Weldele** on artistic duties. This eight issue series begins with a group of genetically engineered geniuses trapped in space and in need of a plan to get back to Earth as soon as possible.

The cover cojurs images of the recent hit movie **Gravity**, and the premise from issue one also bears some resemblance, so it will be interesting to see in which direction the plot will develop as we learn more about the protagonists and their predicament.

Pariah launches on 26th February 2014.



BIFF'S BIT

E-mail Biff [here](#)

ALAN MOORE HATES SUPERHERO COMICS

Alan Moore has set the cat amongst the pigeons with an interview in the Guardian wherein, amongst other interesting nuggets he said the following:

From the Guardian 22nd November 2013

"Now, see," he says, "I haven't read any superhero comics since I finished with Watchmen. I hate superheroes. I think they're abominations. They don't mean what they used to mean. They were originally in the hands of writers who would actively expand the imagination of their nine- to 13-year-old audience. That was completely what they were meant to do and they were doing it excellently. These days, superhero comics think the audience is certainly not nine to 13, it's nothing to do with them. It's an audience largely of 30-, 40-, 50-, 60-year old men, usually men. Someone came up with the term graphic novel. These readers latched on to it; they were simply interested in a way that could validate their continued love of Green Lantern or Spider-Man without appearing in some way emotionally subnormal. This is a significant rump of the superhero-addicted, mainstream-addicted audience. I don't think the superhero stands for anything good. I think it's a rather alarming sign if we've got audiences of adults going to see the Avengers movie and delighting in concepts and characters meant to entertain the 12-year-old boys of the 1950s."

Alan is one of the best ever comic book writers, that I feel goes uncontested, but he does have very contentious points of view and an inability to compromise with the current big publishers. The only publisher he seems to be at ease with being Avatar.

I will stick to the highlighted comment above with my point of view reply.

Comics From 1939 to 1960 were indeed for 9 to 13 year olds, one only has to read some of those to realise that. Then along came Stan Lee who wrote magnificent all ages comics as he homed in on the 14 to 30 year old market. He had soap operas and super heroics intertwined with modern takes on mythology and the ultimate basics of good against evil. Youngsters who grew up with this style are now in their Fifties and up, and still reading comics. Is this really alarming? Adults still go to watch Disney cartoons and films which are aimed at 9-13 year olds but are enjoyed by all ages. Is this alarming too?

These people are the bulk of the audience that Alan Moore's comments are aimed at, myself included. What he is missing is what initially attracted me to comics and drew me in, in particular to Captain America, Superman and Daredevil (before Frank Miller). What I wanted then and even more now is to see good triumph over evil. I wanted my heroes to be strong in moral fibre as much as physical strength. I find I need this even more today than then. Now as an adult I see the moral decay of big business, government, police and celebrity all around. I feel powerless to effect any change, and to dive into the simplistic world of good defeating evil gives me the strength to get up the next day and do my best amidst what I see as a gradual moral decay all around me.

Go back 50 years and society presented (maybe just a good front but presented it anyway) a view point wherein respect was given to ones elders, police, and society. If someone in a position of power was exposed they had no choice but to fall on their sword.

Look at the attitude now. It is one of deny,

deny, lie, lie and then walk with a massive payout. What sort of example does this give? A poor one. This helps in part to explain the behaviour of more and more of the young who react in the same way as their elders and why should we not expect them to? The footballers who blatantly cheat and when confronted see no wrong. They just blame the referee for not seeing it. Celebrities of all descriptions behave in crass and disgraceful ways and at times revel in their notoriety. Politicians take bribes and make illegal expenses claims. The police change statements to protect their own jobs. Moral decay is all around, except in the comic books I still read to keep me sane.

From 1960 to 1985 this style of comic reigned supreme. Although the heroes didn't really age their ever changing supporting characters gave an illusion of ageing. I felt the characters I followed were moving with the times.

That said, I do read other styles of comics that broaden my thinking and horizons, plus paperbacks and reference books. I read and enjoy all genres. I would agree with Alan Moore about it being worrying that so many adults enjoy escapist fantasy if all they watched or read was that style. It is a fact though that a good dose of good defeating evil always recharges my batteries.

If that means I am a stunted individual, then so be it.

However, I would rather be that than have the mindset of an Alan Moore who does seem to have an inability to compromise on anything.

Superhero comics did their job right up to 1985 then something happened to change the status quo, yes, the ubiquitous Alan Moore and Frank Miller. They wrote stories

of super heroics intertwined with reality. By this I do not mean setting stories in the real world, but exploring what would really happen if people had these powers and acted as a regular flawed human being. Good as their seminal works were, it has unleashed a torrent of pale imitations, plus a few good ones, which have dominated super hero comics from 1985 to now. The effect of this has been to create a comic book world with virtually no moral compass. Superman has killed! Daredevil killed Bullseye!

Now comics are sold on the next big event, be that the death of a hero, big alien invasion, the crumbling of the barriers between dimensions, the destruction of whole continents on an almost monthly basis or the relaunch #1s. Exploration of the human condition has been forgotten in the modern super hero comic world as morally ambiguous heroes populate too many of today's comics.

This is indeed a world that concerns me and I too worry that if anyone stays solely in this world it is worrying. On this point I agree with Alan Moore.

There are a few 'old style' comics being produced which I seek out and cherish. If you have not read Nova for instance, then check it out, also Mark Waid's Daredevil still has some fun in it. Archie comics always make me smile and laugh.

The only good thing about such an offensive remark is that it might make people sit up and debate.

What do you feel?

On behalf of all of my fabulous staff at ACE COMICS and RED HOT COMICS...

...READ MORE COMICS!!