

ILLUMINATIONS

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NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN AUGUST

BOOM!
STUDIOS
BOOM-STUDIOS.COM

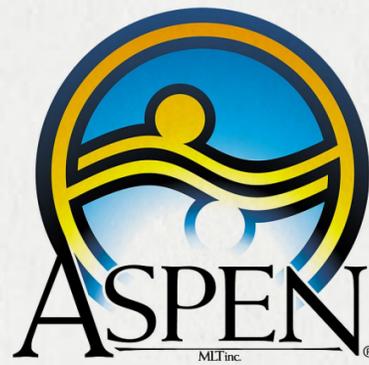


STEED AND MRS PEEL #0

Waid / Bryant

The original Avengers. The original Hellfire Club. Mark Waid. The all-time favourite Avengers episode 'A Touch of Brimstone'

that inspired legendary X-Men team Chris Claremont and John Byrne to create Marvel's Hellfire Club and enduring hero/villain The White Queen continues with a brand-new ongoing series from Daredevil and Irredeemable's Mark Waid. Taking place in the continuity of the original TV series, find out how the hottest super-spy duo of all time takes on the dreaded Hellfire Club in this sexy, action-packed adventure where the gloves come off...and the leather goes on. With stunning artwork from Athena Voltaire's Steve Bryant, you won't want to miss the return of this modern classic!



IDOLIZED #1

Schwartz / Gunnell

What would a real world filled with superheroes look like? In this all-new series it gets ugly, as a young, girl-next-door named Joule reveals her tortured

past and her desperate attempt for revenge - all while auditioning in front of the cameras and judges of the hot new TV show 'Superhero Idol'!



PLANET OF THE APES ANNUAL #1

Parker / Gregory / Hardman / Bechko / Magno / Dewey / Lucas

The Planet of the Apes Annual leaves no stone unturned! Join superstar writer Jeff Parker (Hulk, Thunderbolts), acclaimed writer/artist Gabriel Hardman (Hulk, Agents of Atlas), red-hot writer Corinna Bechko (Heathentown, Fear Itself: The Homefront), and Apes mega-scribe Daryl Gregory (Raising Stony Mayhall) as they pit man versus ape. And with art from Gabriel Hardman, Carlos Magno (Transformers), and John Lucas (Uncanny X-Force), this is a special issue you won't want to miss. Discover the untold stories of the Planet of the Apes, spanning from the first human rebellion, to Ape society's glorious renaissance, to a simple story of a boy and his pet human. There's something for every Apes fan in this Annual!



HOMECOMING #1

Wohl / Laiso

Hunter Wilson is just an average American teenager in an average American town, but when the beautiful an amnesiac Celeste arrives

in his backyard, Hunter's life will change forever. He discovers that Celeste had disappeared from that very house 10 years earlier, and now she's back with little memory of who she was -- but with strange, fantastic abilities and the knowledge that dark forces are rapidly approaching!



SOULFIRE VOL.4 #1

Krul / DeBallo

The Bearer of the Light, Malikai, is back - alive and well with his closest friends. The balance of magic has been restored to the world, but there

are signs of a coming chaos - one greater than anything seen before. The Master and his greatest teacher, Grace, has fought for the light and all that encompasses it her entire life, but when the darkness takes a hold of her in the process - the entire Soulfire universe will fall into jeopardy as Dark Grace emerges!



PEANUTS VOL. 2 #1 (OF 4)

Schulz / Scott / Houghton / Koth / Whitlock

It's a Peanuts beach party as Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the gang live it up for the

last days of summer! After a summer vacation of its own, Peanuts comics are back and better than ever. With all-new stories, a How-To-Draw, and classic Sunday strips from Charles Schulz, get your perfect beach read right here.

NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN AUGUST



BEASTS OF BURDEN: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (ONE-SHOT)

Dorkin / Thompson

Adventure, mystery, horror, and humour thrive on every

page of the Eisner Award-winning *Beasts of Burden*. The four-legged occult-investigating team—a heroic gang of dogs and one cat—are doing their best to protect their home, Burden Hill, from a chicken-stealing goblin, a frightful basilisk, and a strange lost herd of sheep!

This special one-shot reprints three stories from *Dark Horse Presents!*



B.P.R.D. HELL ON EARTH: THE RETURN OF THE MASTER #1

Mignola / Arcudi / Crook

In the Scottish Highlands, a rogue scientist who escaped the bloody massacre

in *B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth*: Russia assembles a paranormal cult bent on world destruction. Can the B.P.R.D. hunt down this group in time, or will demons be released into a world already teetering on the edge of apocalypse?

From the pages of *Hellboy*, featuring a Year of Monsters variant cover by Mike Mignola!



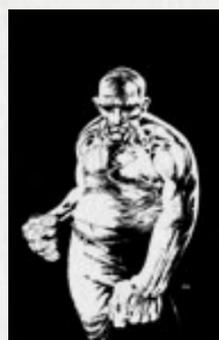
BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: SPIKE #1

Gischler / Lee

Having fought to regain his soul after falling in love with the Slayer Buffy, the once-terrifying vampire

villain Spike has been a bit less fearsome (to humans, at least). On his own adventure, Spike is forced to examine the man he once was, the man he is now, and the man he still hopes to become.

As master of a steampunk ship filled with loyal, oversized alien cockroaches, Spike embarks on a journey to the dark side of the moon, setting into motion an adventure filled with demons, witches, and others who brew new evil in the world without magic!



THE CREEP #0

Arcudi / Case

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 mum seeks help from an old flame that's employed as a detective. What she doesn't know is that he suffers from acromegaly—a physical deformity resulting in brutish facial features at mid-life. Will his freakish appearance get in the way of solving the case?



DRAGON AGE: THOSE WHO SPEAK #1

Gaider / Freed / Hardin

In this essential story from the lead writer of BioWare's *Dragon Age* games, a king travels to an empire of evil

magicians to uncover the fate of his lost father! Accompanied by the pirate captain Isabela and the underworld merchant Varric, King Alistair will stop at nothing to learn the truth—even if it means battling an army of cultists single-handed!

An essential addition to the *Dragon Age* canon with the story by David Gaider, lead writer of *Dragon Age: Origins* and *Dragon Age II*!



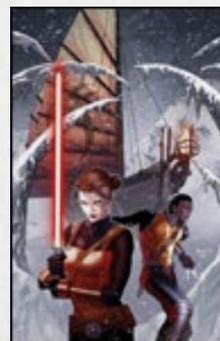
MICHAEL AVON OEMING'S THE VICTORIES #1

Avon Oeming

Not long from now, all that will stand between you and evil are the Victories—six heroes sworn to protect us from

crime, corruption, and the dark. As one member cracks down on the violence, he discovers himself touched by a painful past through the psychic powers of Link. Will this trauma cause him to self-destruct or continue the fight?

The raunchiest superheroes since *The Boys* from the co-creator of *Powers*!

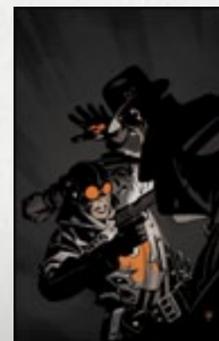


STAR WARS: LOST TRIBE OF THE SITH #1

Miller / Mutti

On a planet ruled by a tribe of Sith—marooned thousands of years ago and cut off from the galaxy—the

throne holder is about to be challenged by a power-hungry Sith rebel from the slums . . . and a thwarted royal Sith princess! Their few shared interests set them on a quest together—but most certainly not as partners!



LOBSTER JOHNSON: THE PRAYER OF NEFERU (ONE-SHOT)

Mignola / Arcudi / Torres

The Helioptic Brotherhood of Ra hold a Victorian

themed party complete with the unrolling of a mummy, with decidedly unexpected results, including a gun-blazing vigilante promising justice!





DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #1

Daniel / Molenaar / Florea

The grudge match you've been waiting for: Batman vs. The Black Mask!



THE FLASH ANNUAL #1

Manapul / Buccellato / Manapul / To

The Rogues – victorious? If the Flash had trouble with them individually, together they'll kill him!

Something worse than The Rogues is just waiting for the right moment to attack...



JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL #1

Johns / Didio / Fabok

Will this issue be the final adventure ever for Justice League International?

The true nature of O.M.A.C. revealed!

Ties in to the shocking events of Justice League #12!



SUPERMAN ANNUAL #1

Giffen / Cafu

Abducted by a group of mysterious aliens, Superman is dragged to a remote alien galaxy to take part in The Games, a world hopping

game of cat-and-mouse where players are hunted for sport.

Can even the help of a mysterious new Green Lantern overcome the might of an alien empire?



GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL #1

Johns / Van Sciver

The conclusion of "The Revenge Of Black Hand"!

Everything changes here! Everything!

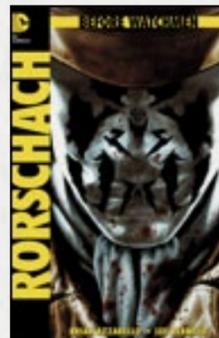


BEFORE WATCHMEN: DR. MANHATTAN #1

Straczynski / Wein / Hughes / Higgins

"I watch as a box containing a mystery is lowered into the soil." And don't miss the latest

chapter of the Crimson Corsair backup epic from writer Len Wein and artist John Higgins!



BEFORE WATCHMEN: RORSCHACH #1

Azzarello / Wein / Bermejo / Higgins

"What made you this way?" And don't miss the latest chapter of the

Crimson Corsair backup epic from writer Len Wein and artist John Higgins!



PHANTOM LADY #1

Gray / Palmiotti / Staggs / Perrotta

The female freedom fighter debuts in her own miniseries!

Featuring her partner-in-crimefighting, the diminutive dynamo known as Doll Man!



NATIONAL COMICS: LOOKER #1

Edginton / Miller

New digital-first adventures!

Emily Briggs was a top supermodel until she was turned into a vampire!

Briggs uses her supernatural powers to protect the innocent as they navigate the corrupt world of high fashion and modelling!

A fresh, sexy take on a classic DC character!



NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN AUGUST

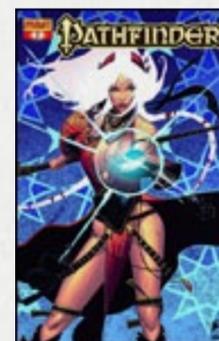


DARK SHADOWS/VAMPIRELLA #1

Andreyko / Berkenkotter

Two classic vampires meet for the first time! When the disappearance of a family friend brings Barnabas Collins to New

York, he is ill-prepared for the seedy underworld of clubs that awaits him! And Vampirella's quest to find the "big apple butcher" sends her on a collision course with the vampire of Collinsport! Will Vampirella and Barnabas uncover the shocking identity of this madman before they kill one another?



PATHFINDER #1

Zubkavich / Huerta

Valeros can rely on his sword arm and his friends, the mysterious and beautiful sorcerer Seoni and silver tongued quick-witted elven rogue

Merisiel, but nothing can prepare him for the dangers that lurk ahead. The scattered and chaotic goblin tribes of Varisia are changing, growing in power and unifying in ways no one has ever seen before. At the heart of this strange evolution is an ancient evil looking to establish itself anew.

The iconic heroes at the core of the Pathfinder's world are brought to life for the first time in a brand new story full of charm and high adventure that will please fans and entertain new readers alike.



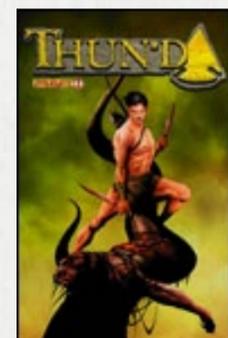
RED SONJA: ATLANTIS RISES #1

Lieberman / Dunbar

Know also O Prince, that Thulsa Doom did not go quietly into the night, his spirit endured, weak and horrible and viscous. Free of

all humanity, hungering with a primal desire, all his thoughts were bent on but a single purpose, Thulsa Doom wanted to go Home.

Atlantis Resurrection! Can Sonja save the Hyborean nations from slavery and doom!



THUN'DA #1

Place Napton / Richards

The time is now. A Military helicopter crash lands in a remote valley in Africa. A lone survivor awakens with no memory

of who he is or what he was doing there, but he's wearing a uniform and is a skilled combatant. From the wreckage he learns only his name — Roger Drum. As he explores his new surroundings he is confronted by a bizarre lost world of dinosaurs and other strange creatures. Drum must learn to survive in this terrifying new reality while coming to terms with fragments of a past he isn't sure he wants to remember.



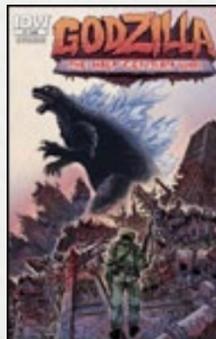
DOCTOR WHO ANNUAL 2012

Wein / Dinnick / Lee / Diggle / Dow Smith / Gerads / Buckingham

The Eleventh Doctor returns in this all-new Annual! This oversized issue contains three complete stories by an all-star lineup, featuring legendary writer-editor Len Wein, Doctor Who novelist Richard Dinnick, and writer Tony Lee, with art by Matthew Dow Smith, and Mitch Gerads. Also included is a prelude to the next ongoing series by series writer Andy Diggle and superstar artist Mark Buckingham!



IDW PUBLISHING



GODZILLA: THE HALF-CENTURY WAR #1 (OF 5)

Stokoe

Introducing a new and exciting look at Godzilla's reign of destruction, courtesy of Orc Stain creator James

Stokoe! The year is 1954 and Lieutenant Ota Murakami is on hand when Godzilla makes first landfall in Japan. Along with his pal Kentaro, Ota makes a desperate gamble to save lives... and in the process begins an obsession with the King of the Monsters that lasts fifty years! Don't miss the first decade in a tale of a lifetime!

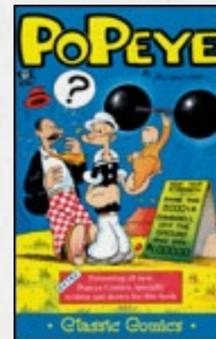


DEADWORLD: WAR OF THE DEAD #1 (OF 5)

Reed / Makkonen

Special All-new 5-part weekly series returns what has been called the forefather of all zombie comics! The

undead have overrun the Earth! A small outpost, remnants of a twisted scientists' scheme to defeat the plague, holds out against the army of King Zombie with their secret weapon, the Lepers—victims of a bizarre experiment that left them with dead flesh in breathing husks with flesh that even zombies won't touch.



CLASSIC POPEYE ONGOING #1

Sagendorf

Representing the classic Popeye #1 from 1948 by Bud Sagendorf! This collector's item begins a reprinting of the complete

Sagendorf's Popeye comic book series, nearly 100 issues long! Carefully reproduced from the original comic books and lovingly restored. Eat your spinach!



LOVE AND CAPES: WHAT TO EXPECT #1 (OF 6)

Zahler

Mark and Abby, comicdom's favourite couple is having a baby, and they're not telling anyone yet. But

will they be able to keep the secret from Darkblade, the world's best detective? And what problems come about when you're expecting a super baby? Plus, Mark has a secret of his own.



LOCKE & KEY: GRINDHOUSE

Hill / Rodriguez

This is the blood-splashed, bare-knuckled Locke & Key standalone story you've been waiting for!

In the glare of a Depression-era summer, three Canuck gangsters pull the heist of their dreams and take off for the perfect hiding spot... an isolated mansion on the tip of Lovecraft Island known locally as Keyhouse. Locke & Key: Grindhouse includes an expanded "Guide to Keyhouse," revealing every dark corner and secret room in America's most frightening mansion!



THE ROCKETEER: CARGO OF DOOM #1 (OF 4)

Waid / Samnee

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Rocketeer with an all-new full-length series!

Dave Stevens created the Rocketeer in 1982 and it has proven to be a uniquely enduring Character. Now 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 humour!

A ship docks in Los Angeles harbour 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, we introduce a lovely new character who will be vying against Betty for Cliff's affections!



STAR TREK 100-PAGE SPECTACULAR SUMMER 2012

Archer / Golden / Sniegowski / Hoover / Moy

Presenting two incredible stories from two incredible corners of the Star

Trek Universe! First, the crew of the starship Enterprise, under the command of Captain Jean-Luc Picard, finds itself in a very unusual setting—in Embrace the Wolf! Plus, Captain Janeway, Seven of Nine, and the rest of the crew of the U.S.S. Voyager have a close encounter of the Borg kind in False Colors!



BLACK KISS II #1 (OF 6)

Chaykin

Sex, death, and the movies — what else really matters?

Nearly twenty five years ago, Howard Chaykin brought

the '80s to a close, and comics to the brink, with his landmark erotic thriller, Black Kiss. Now, after years of anticipation, he's back with issue one of Black Kiss II, a six-part miniseries that tells the story behind that legendary story — like the original, in glorious black and white.

And really, now — does it have to be so dirty?



HARVEST #1 (OF 5)

Lieberman / Lorimer

Human traffickers. Rogue medical teams. Yakuza-run organ mills and a six-year-old drug fiend. Welcome to Dr. Benjamin Dane's

nightmare. His only way out? Bring down the man who set him up by reclaiming organs already placed in some very powerful people. If Dexter, ER and 100 Bullets had a three-way and that mind-blowing tryst somehow resulted in a kid, that kid would read Harvest. Medical Grade Revenge.

New from the author of Cowboy Ninja Viking and Term Life!



IT GIRL & THE ATOMICS #1

Rich / Norton

Fresh from the pages of Mike Allred's Madman: Snap City's favourite heroine is ready for her own crimefighting

adventures! With the Atomics boys in outer space, it's up to It Girl to keep the streets safe. Easier said than done: The Skunk, the man who murdered her sister, is out of jail and back to old tricks. Meanwhile, Dr. Flem has a brand new space-time experiment and wants It Girl to be his guinea pig!



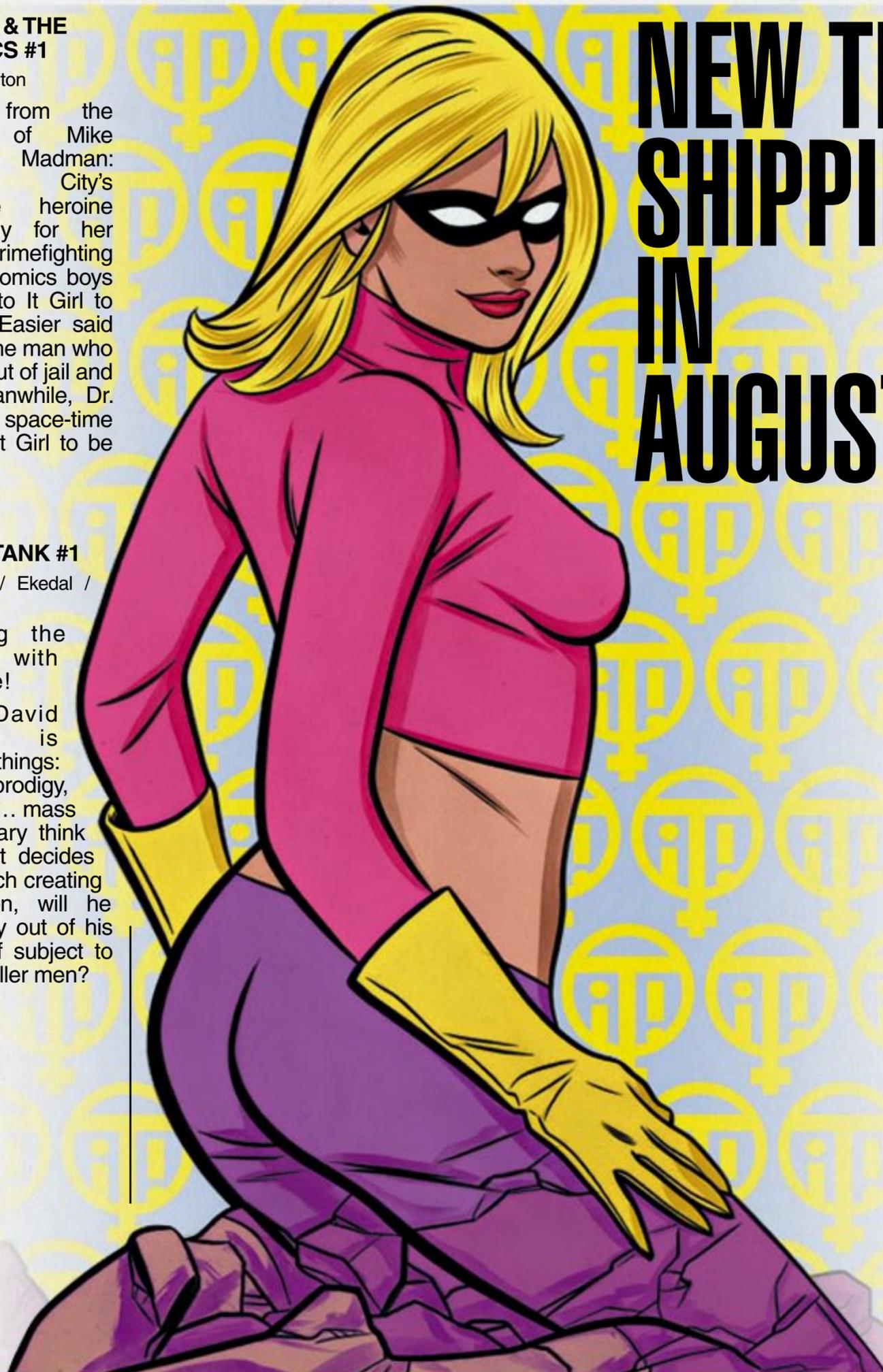
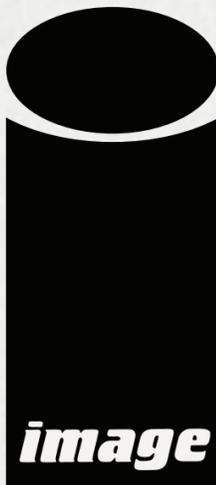
THINK TANK #1

Hawkins / Ekedal / Reber

Fighting the man... with science!

Dr. David Loren is many things: child prodigy,

inventor, genius, slacker... mass murderer. When a military think tank's smartest scientist decides he can no longer stomach creating weapons of destruction, will he be able to think his way out of his dilemma or find himself subject to the machinations of smaller men?



NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN AUGUST



ARCHER & ARMSTRONG #1

Van Lente / Henry

It's a globetrotting quest for the Valiant Universe's greatest secrets, from the New York Times bestselling team of Fred Van Lente

(Amazing Spider-Man, Marvel Zombies) and Clayton Henry (Uncanny X-Men)!

Obadiah Archer was born and raised to cherish three things above all else: the faith of his parents, the love of his 22 brothers and sisters, and his lifelong mission to defeat the ultimate evildoer. Now, after years of training, Archer has been dispatched to the heart of America's festering modern day Babylon, aka New York City, to root out and kill this infamous Great Satan. Unfortunately, dying has never been easy for Archer's target — the hard-drinking, 10,000-year-old immortal known as Armstrong. Together, this unlikely pair of heroes is about to stumble headfirst into a centuries-old conspiracy that will bring the whole of ancient history crashing down on the modern day Valiant Universe. And that's going to mean one Hell of a hangover.

NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN AUGUST



PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #156.1

Stern / De Latorre



SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #33.1

DeFalco / Barberi



WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #129.1

Moore / Scott

Celebrating 50 Years of the Great Responsibility of his Great powers, The Spider-Man 50th Anniversary Series collects the Webbed Wonder's greatest heretofore secret history! Spanning from his earliest days as a hero to the heyday of the heralded Big Time era and everything in between, a collection of Marvel Legends, venerated comic creators and awe-inspiring artists shine the spotlight on everything that makes Spider-Man the World's Greatest Superhero!



CAPTAIN AMERICA AND NAMOR #635.1

Bunn / Conrad

Captain America and Namor battle the Thule Society during WWII!

The Thule unleash the Kraken - a weapon of Atlantean origin and ungodly power.

Namor encounters a clandestine society. But are they friend or foe?



DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #1

Davis

The return of a menace from the past sets Daredevil, Doctor Strange and the ClanDestine on a collision course!

Continues in this month's Wolverine Annual #1!



WOLVERINE ANNUAL #1

Davis

A debt owed to a dead man causes Wolverine to seek the truth behind the mystery of the rogue member of the ClanDestine

family called Vincent!

The finale to the tale started in FF Annual #33 and DD Annual #1!



DEADPOOL KILLS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1 (OF 4)

Bunn / Talajic

What if everything you thought was funny about Deadpool... was actually just disturbing?

What if he decided to kill everyone and everything that makes up the Marvel Universe?

What if he actually pulled it off? Would that be fun for you?

The Merc with a Mouth takes a turn for the twisted in a weekly horror comic like no other...



FIRST X-MEN #1 (OF 5)

Adams / Gage

X-Men legend Neal Adams returns to Marvel's Mutants!

The secret history of the X-Men...before Xavier's team!

Starring Wolverine & Sabretooth!



GAMBIT #1

Asmus / Mann

All-new ongoing series!

When Marvel's premiere thief sets his sights on his biggest score yet, he may just end up

over his head. It's going to take more than just playing cards and southern charm to get out of this one!

Bonus... Bella Donna is NOT in this issue!



HAWKEYE #1

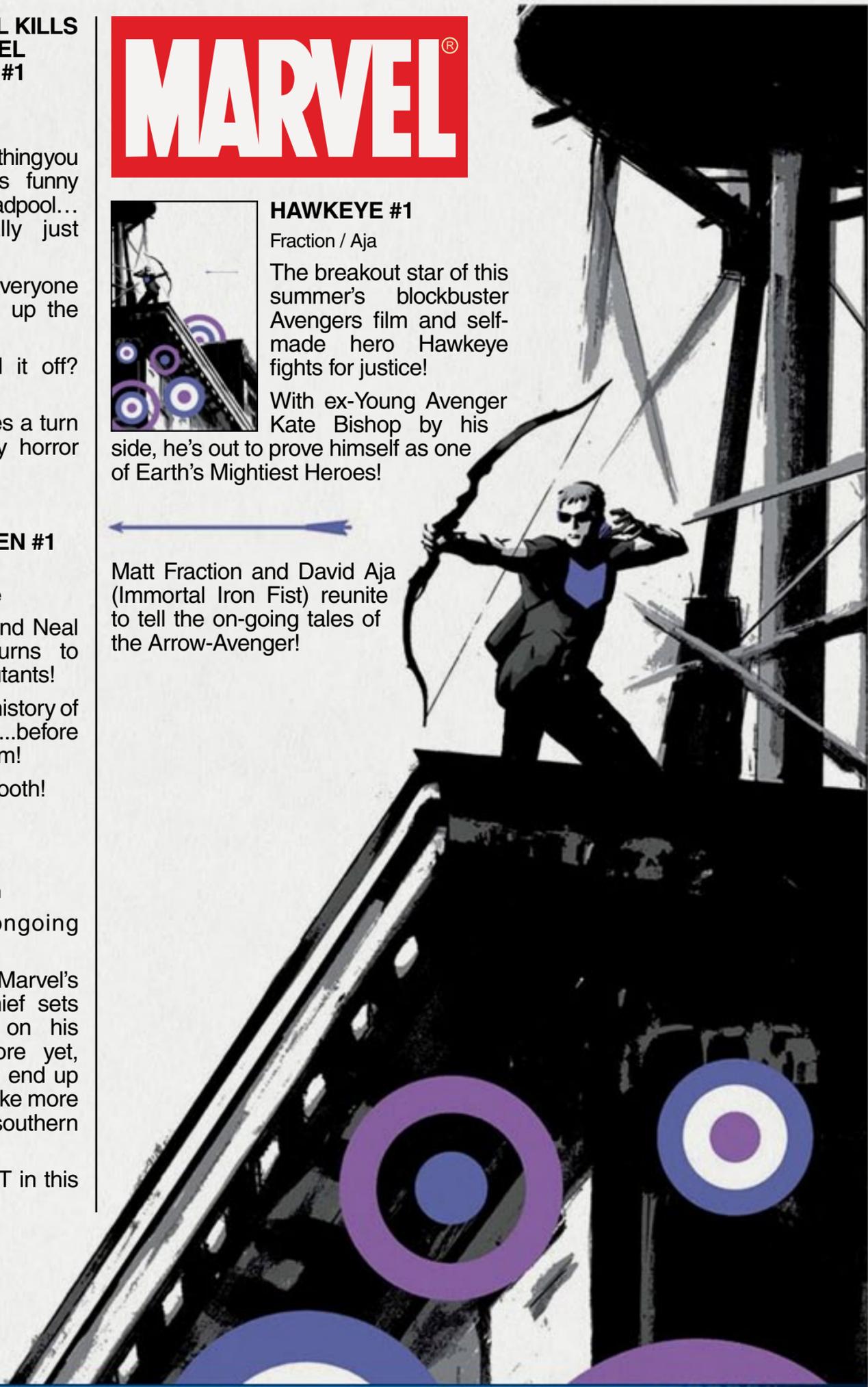
Fraction / Aja

The breakout star of this summer's blockbuster Avengers film and self-made hero Hawkeye fights for justice!

With ex-Young Avenger Kate Bishop by his side, he's out to prove himself as one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!



Matt Fraction and David Aja (Immortal Iron Fist) reunite to tell the on-going tales of the Arrow-Avenger!



NOVEL IDEAS

ACE Comics pick of the best new graphic novels and collected editions arriving in August



MILLAR & McNIVEN'S NEMESIS

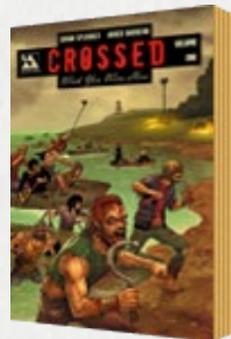
Millar / McNiven

Marvel, 112 pages

The writer and artist behind Civil War and Old Man Logan return with a

tale of one man with a plan for vengeance! Who is Nemesis? He is a son of privilege, an inheritor of billions from his deceased parents. He owns a fleet of the finest cars, a hangar full of planes and has countless technological gadgets at his command. Donning a mask and long flowing cape, he's a man in white fighting relentlessly for a cause he believes in. But if you're thinking this is a story you've already heard before, think again. Nemesis tracks the violent fantasies come to life of the villain to top all villains in an in-your-face, unapologetic tour-de-force of action, ultraviolence and over-the-top humour Millar (Kick-Ass, Wanted) and McNiven (Civil War) style!

Collecting Millar & McNiven's Nemesis #1-4.



CROSSED: WISH YOU WERE HERE VOL. 1

Spurrier / Barreno

Avatar, 160 pages

The first volume of the most popular Horror web comic is finally here! Crossedcomic.com

has been delivering weekly chapters of this blood-stained epic and now the legion of fans can finally buy it in print! Simon Spurrier and Javier Barreno take us on a fresh journey into pain and misery with a new batch of survivors in the brutal Crossed world. This is the story of a writer who witnessed the downfall of London, and now finds himself in the midst of a new community, a new start, on a barren island off the Scottish coast. Pretending, just for a while, that he's safe, that he's useful... that he has a future. It won't last. There's no sanctuary. No fighting back. No hope. There's only the Crossed. Available with a Trade Paperback, Hard Cover, and a special Signed Hard Cover Edition (limited to 1000 copies and signed by Si Spurrier and Jacen Burrows) all featuring covers by Jacen Burrows!



SUPERMAN: ACTION COMICS VOL. 1: SUPERMAN AND THE MEN OF STEEL

Morrison / Morales / Kubert / Anderson / Bryant / Delperdang / Parsons

DC, 256 pages

The first collection of Grant Morrison's epic run on Action Comics, with art by Rags Morales, Andy Kubert and more!

In these startling tales, the people of Metropolis turn on their new champion! Plus, the Superman of today and the Legion of Super-Heroes must save the jean swearing Superman of five years ago!

Collects Action Comics #1-8.



HULK SMASH AVENGERS

DeFalco / Casey / Stern / McCann / Van Lente / Frenz / Fiumara / Moline / Avon Oeming / Padilla

Marvel, 120 pages

After stealing the show in Marvel's

blockbuster 'Avengers Assemble' movie, here's a five-part punch-fest that explores how the relationship between the Gamma Goliath and Earth's Mightiest Heroes has evolved through the decades! First, Hulk takes on his former teammates, the original 1960s Avengers! Then, he clashes with the Avengers of the 1970s and 1980s! As Mr. Fixit, the cunning Gray Hulk battles the 1990s West Coast Avengers. And finally, the Red Hulk faces off against the 2000s' Mighty Avengers!

Collecting Hulk Smash Avengers #1-5.



DR. STRANGE: SEASON ONE PREMIERE HC

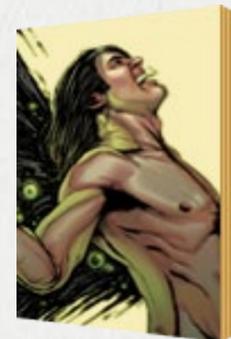
Pak / Rios

Marvel, 136 pages

A window-crashing, high-flying, globe-traveling, ghost-battling

adventure from the earliest days of Doctor Strange's training in the mystic arts!

Part Indiana Jones, part Lord of the Rings, thrill to this new tale of how a selfish, arrogant surgeon collided with a hot-headed martial artist to become the greatest team the mystic arts have ever seen! If only they can stop hitting each other and figure out how all this magic stuff works anyway. Also featuring Defenders (2012) #1, by Matt Fraction and Terry Dodson.



THE DARKNESS REBIRTH VOL 1

Hine / Haun / Rauch

Image, 144 pages

A bold new era of The Darkness!

"The crack in everything"

Hot on the heels

of The Darkness II video game release, this introductory-priced volume welcomes the new creative team of David Hine (The Darkness: Four Horsemen, The Bulletproof Coffin, Detective Comics) and Jeremy Haun (Artifacts, Detective Comics)! On the surface, Jackie Estacado has everything he ever wanted – control of the Darkness, a successful career, and happy family life. Only his desire to make his life truly perfect will be his undoing. What will Jackie do when everything begins to slip away?

Featuring a complete cover gallery alongside a host of bonus content and extras, this entry-level priced collection is a must for anyone curious about Top Cow's Rebirth!

Collects The Darkness #101-105.



THE MANHATTAN PROJECTS VOL 1: SCIENCE. BAD.

Hickman / Pitarra / Bellaire

Image, 144 pages

"Science. Bad."

What if the research and development

department created to produce the first atomic bomb was a front for a series of other, more unusual, programs?

Collecting the coolest new series of the year into one super science package.

Collects The Manhattan Projects #1-5.



HACK/SLASH VOL. 1: FIRST CUT (NEW PRINTING)

Seeley / Caselli / Manfredi

Image, 160 pages

First Image printing!

In almost every slasher movie, there's one girl who makes it all the way to the end. She's the survivor... the last girl. Meet Cassie Hack, the lone survivor of an attack by a vicious slasher called The Lunch Lady. Now, Cassie - along with her monstrous partner, Vlad - travels the country, hunting down other slashes before they can leave a trail of blood and terror. This collection includes the critically acclaimed one-shots "Euthanized," "Girls Gone Dead," and "Comic Book Carnage." It also includes never-before-seen production art, sketches, and pin ups, as well as a new short story, "Slashing through the Snow."

Also included is an introduction by award winning author, Craig Thompson (Blankets).

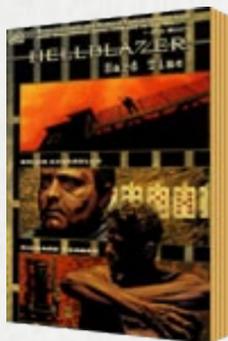


DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: DARK SUN: IANTO'S TOMB

Irvine / Bergting
IDW, 132 pages

The post-apocalyptic Dungeons & Dragons setting's first-ever comic!

Beneath a crimson sun lie wastelands of majestic desolation and cities of cruel splendour, where life hangs by a thread. Welcome to Athas! When an imprisoned gladiator named Grudvik escapes the city of Tyr, a part-time slave hunter and full-time dune trader is hired to bring back the fugitive. But after crossing swords, the pair must join forces to survive the harsh desert.



HELLBLAZER: HARD TIME

Azzarello / Bradstreet / Corben

DC Vertigo, 128 pages

John Constantine has lost his freedom and must adapt to life behind bars.

Sentenced to a maximum-security penitentiary, the Hellblazer soon learns that there is a whole different set of rules to live and die by within the prison walls. But for a man that is used to making the rules, Constantine quickly realizes that to become king of this castle he will have to fight his way up the ladder through ruthless gangs, brutal guards, and finally to the prison's overlord. Then it will be time for everyone to learn his rules.



KEVIN SMITH - THE BIONIC MAN VOL. 1: SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

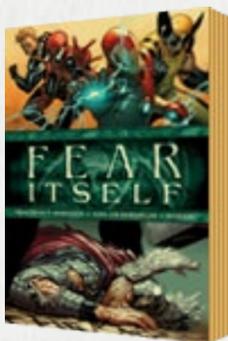
Smith / Lau

Dynamite, 248 pages

We Can Rebuild Him! Steve Austin is back

and acclaimed filmmaker Kevin Smith unleashes his high-octane vision in this new series from Dynamite. Smith unleashes The Bionic Man into the 21st century as only he can, with an innovative take on this classic character that will show you The Bionic Man with a whole new set of powers and abilities - not to mention enemies! Kevin Smith is joined by Phil Hester, artist Jonathan Lau, and cover artist/character designer Alex Ross (the team that brought you the new Green Hornet series).

This trade paperback collects the entire critically acclaimed 10-issue story, along with a complete cover gallery.



FEAR ITSELF

Brubaker / Fraction / Eaton / Immonen

Marvel, 248 pages

Captain America, Thor, Iron Man and the Avengers are Earth's Mightiest Heroes - but even they know fear.

And when a powerful and ancient evil overtakes our world, each hero must make a sacrifice to save the Earth. But as the Serpent's mystical hammers transform friend and foe alike into unstoppable agents of destruction, as terror takes hold and the Serpent's power grows, as Odin prepares to burn the Earth to cinders to save his people - it's not these sacrifices the Avengers fear. It's the knowledge that no matter what price they pay, this battle may be unwinnable. Heroes will fall, gods will die, and fear will rule the day - as the hammer falls!

Collecting Fear Itself: Book Of The Skull and Fear Itself #1-7.



DEADPOOL VOL. 10: EVIL DEADPOOL

Way / Espin / McCreary

Marvel, 136 pages

Would the real Wade Wilson please stand up? Deadpool returns to America, but

he's not coming home alone! When a collection of Deadpool's discarded body parts meld to form an evil clone, the Merc With a Mouth faces off against himself for the crown of most hated former mercenary turned super hero turned pirate turned intergalactic bounty hunter. But their explosive confrontation brings the NYPD, Interpol and even Captain America bearing down on Deadpool, and he'll have to convince them all there's an even crazier, less principled version of himself on the loose! Plus: Deadpool: The Musical!

Collecting Deadpool (2008) #45-49 and #49.1.

NOVEL IDEAS

ACE Comics pick of the best new graphic novels and collected editions arriving in August



SUPERNATURAL: THE DOGS OF EDINBURGH

Wood / Bond

DC, 144 pages

Sam Winchester visits the United Kingdom on what is meant to be a sleepy trip...

but on his first day he meets the alluring but dangerous "Emma of the Isles."

Collecting the 6-issue miniseries!



MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS: BLACK WIDOW STRIKES

Van Lente / Alves / Arlem / Edwards / Kurth / Lim / Padilla

Marvel, 96 pages

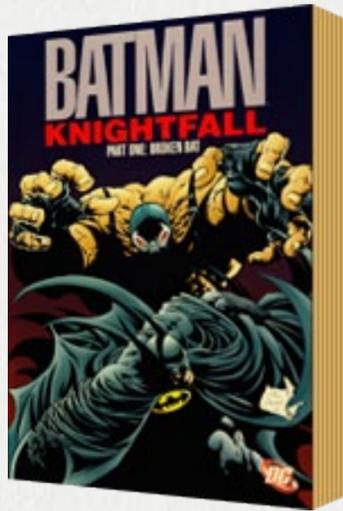
A new Black Widow solo adventure

from the Marvel Cinematic Universe! Before Natasha assembles with the Avengers Initiative, see her travel back to her homeland to match wits and fists with a deadly admirer in this hard-hitting espionage adventure set between the events of Iron Man 2 and Marvel's The Avengers!



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.



BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL PART ONE: BROKEN BAT (1993)

MOENCH / DIXON / APARO / NOLAN /
BREYFOGLE / BALENT

“Every man has a breaking point...
even the Batman!”

The Dark Knight's deadliest enemies have escaped Arkham Asylum! The Joker, Amygdala, the Mad Hatter, Poison Ivy, Zsasz, Killer Croc, the Firefly, the Riddler, the Ventriloquist and Scarecrow – one by one, he must face them all in mortal combat! But lurking at the end of this seemingly

endless gauntlet is the deadliest menace of all – a mysterious man-mountain known only as... Bane!” - DC

With ‘The Dark Knight Rises’ (which takes some inspiration from Knightfall) due to hit cinemas this summer, we thought it would be a great time to add this pivotal chapter in Batman’s history to our canon of essential reads.

The plot introduces Bane (created by Chuck Dixon, Graham Nolan, and Doug Moench for the Knightfall storyline), as he attempts to ‘break’ the Batman, first by mentally exhausting him (Bane blows a hole in the side of Arkham Asylum, freeing a number of the inmates and therefore setting Batman the task of recapturing everybody as fast as possible), and then in a physical battle once Batman’s spirit has been broken.

While the whole story unfolds across three collected volumes, it is the first instalment that is considered by many to be the strongest. Featuring a cast of classic adversaries including the Joker, the Riddler, Poison Ivy, Scarecrow, Scarface, Firefly and Killer Croc, the tale also gives prominence to some of the lesser known villains such as Victor Zsasz.

The final pages feature some of the most memorable moments as Bane becomes the first villain to truly get the better of Batman. If you haven’t read any of Knightfall, get Broken Bat as soon as you can.



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...

HAWKEYE (MARVEL)

I have always had a soft spot for the superhero genre especially daft oddball characters. Hence I love Hawkman, a hero who carries a mace into battle. Truly bizarre he will kill and mutilate people. Likewise I have always loved Hawkeye. A hero who stops crime by firing arrows! Once again truly ludicrous but somehow it works for me. Especially the trick arrows. This new series is written by Matt Fraction whose pedigree is without peer and art by David Aja means this is a must for me. Good art, great story telling and hopefully trick arrows. - BIFF

THE CREEP (DARK HORSE)

Then something to stretch my mind is The Creep #0 From Dark Horse. This comes under their ‘Horror’ label but mixes it with crime noir, at least so I feel. Written by John Arcudi, whose credits include Doom Patrol, Dark Horse Presents and BPRD to name a few, ensures a good solid story. A young boy puts a gun to his mouth two months after his best friend also died. The police don’t care so a private detective is called in by the parents. Enter the Creep. Cover art is by Frank Miller and that alone is worth the three bucks but the art by Jonathan Case is a beautiful mix of water colour and standard inks. - BIFF

BEATLES IN COMIC STRIPS (SKIRA)

As the biggest resident Beatles fan at ACE, I’m looking forward to ‘Beatles In Comic Strips’, scheduled to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of ‘Love Me Do’. The Beatles representation in comic books has often been a little left of centre, and this 222 page collection promises to celebrate the band in a ‘Festive, Fun and original way’. Whether the Beatles are the focus of the stories themselves or just making cameo appearances, I think this tome will make for some entertaining reading for any comic book fan, even more so if you love the Fab Four! - MARC





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

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

When ACE First participated in Free Comic Book Day I was handing out 'goodie' bags to all customers to my store and got bad feedback as customers refused the Free comics thinking there was a catch and somehow they would have to pay for them. This was six years ago.

How times have changed. This year was a phenomenal success as a queue formed before we opened and there was a constant stream of new customers and regulars calling in to pick some Free comics. By 2pm all the official FCBD comics were gone and I was left with 30 packs of stock selected by me from recent over stock. By 4pm all these were gone too.

As an extra celebration I had 20 comic boxes of quality comics at just 50p. These proved very popular and 12 Full boxes were sold!

This year we had more people through the door than at Christmas peak Saturday! A success for us? Certainly. The feedback from our customers was that they too thoroughly enjoyed the day, the FCBD giveaways, the 50p bargains and the general atmosphere.

If you missed out this year make sure you attend next year.

The success was the same in Southend, Richmond and at Red Hot Glasgow.

My thanks to my staff and all our customers for such a great day.

CYNICAL MARKETING OF THE YEAR AWARD

Some of you have been buying the recent 'piecework' series Marvel Graphic Novel Collection, currently up to Vol.12 in store now. These graphic novels are good value for money at £9.99 and look good on a bookshelf. The publishers have had a small falling out with WHSmiths and you may have trouble finding them at a newsagents now as a cunning sharp practise has been

brought to my attention. Apparently Vol.11, as by the white sticker on the packaging, is actually Volume 4 as per the spine on the book. Also Volume 12 is actually 14 on the spine. The rationale for this is that if a customer has random numbers on their book case they will be encouraged to buy more volumes until they can actually have a complete 1 to 20 on display, even if they have to buy 30 volumes to achieve it! WHSmiths are not impressed by this tactic, nor am I, but for sheer cynicism this is unbeatable.

Marvel and DC are no better in the way they randomly have graphic novel series sometimes in numbers and sometimes in title only. It makes following a series very difficult and also difficult for me when reordering. DC are good with the Vertigo series like Preacher, Sandman, Y The Last Man etc as it is nice and clear. However, you try and buy the Batman Confidential series in graphic form in order. There are no numbers on the spine and no information on the back cover.

Marvel are all over the place. Try following the Hulk/Red Hulk sequentially.

I can understand that numbers on spines may put people off having just volumes 1,5,8,12 on a book shelf and titles on spines is not as off putting as missing numbers. However, it is simplicity itself to have in large bold type the real volume number and contents on the back cover.

Let me know of your worst examples of this.

Motto for the month, is TRY SOMETHING OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT READING. Anything from Image, except Liefeld associated, is sure to be a breath of fresh air. Manhattan Project, Saga, Secret, Dancer, Fatale, Hoax Hunters to name a good few.

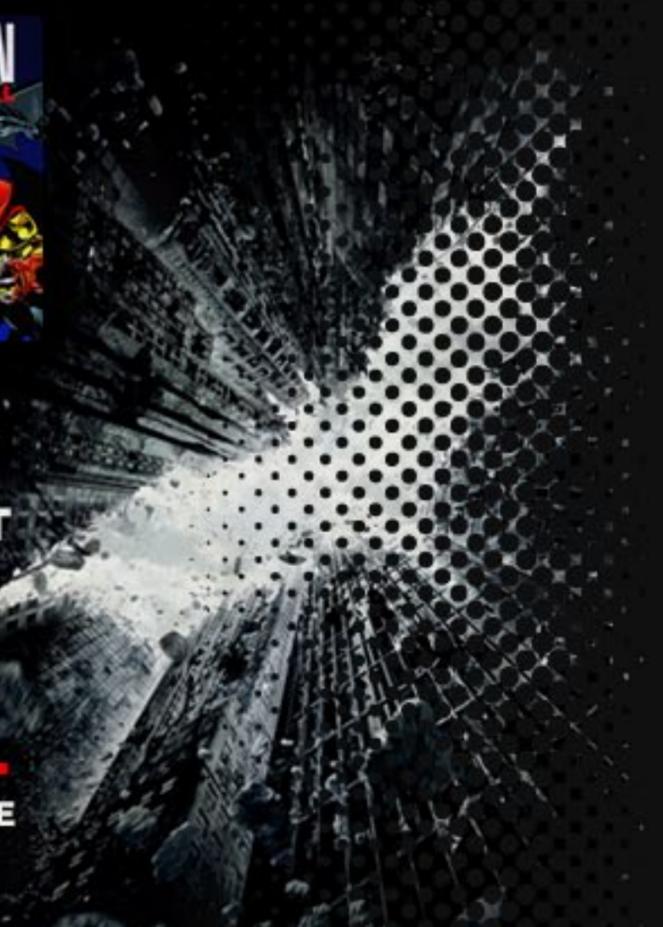
Martin Biff Averre. That's me, the boss, comic aficionado of 40 plus years but still loving the medium



GET THE FULL STORY THAT INSPIRED THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL
PARTS ONE TWO AND THREE

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