



**ACE**  
COMICS

# ILLUMINATIONS

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# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN MAY



## THE GUILD: FAWKES (ONE-SHOT)

Day / Wheaton / Kelvie / Wilson

Felicia Day and The Guild are back, along with costar Wil Wheaton, for a brand-new story spotlighting Fawkes, the dashing, debonair, and douchey leader of the evil guild Axis of Anarchy!

His relationship with Codex threatened to tear the Knights of Good apart until he was thrown off a balcony for his treatment of her. Set after season 4 of the show, this issue reveals how Fawkes deals with his split from Codex and navigates the aggressive personalities of the Axis, and follows his journey to his surprising state when he returns in season 5!



## RESIDENT ALIEN #1

Hogan / Parkhouse

A stranded alien seeks refuge in the small town of Patience, USA, where he hides undercover as a semiretired doctor,

masking his appearance using his unique mental abilities. Now known as Dr. Harry Vanderspeigle, all the alien wants is to be left alone until he's rescued. However, when the town's real doctor dies, "Dr. Harry" is pulled into medical service—and also finds himself smack dab in the middle of a murder mystery! He'd rather be fishing.



## STAR WARS: DARTH VADER AND THE GHOST PRISON #1

Blackman / Alessio

The graduation celebration for the first class of Imperial cadets is disrupted by a sudden terrorist

strike! But the real targets of the attack are the new Emperor and his second in command, Darth Vader.

Only one man - a disabled, brilliant cadet who, up until the moment of the attack, was experiencing the best moment of his life - stands ready to fight alongside Vader for the life of his Emperor!



## B.P.R.D. HELL ON EARTH: THE TRANSFORMATION OF J.H. O'DONNELL (ONE-SHOT)

Mignola / Allie / Fiumara / Stewart

Twenty-four years ago, Hellboy took mild-mannered

Professor O'Donnell to the secret library of a recently dead necromancer. Since that day, O'Donnell has been the Bureau's expert on the powerful ancient forces intent on ending the age of man. Find out what O'Donnell saw in this supernatural thrill ride.



## SKELETON KEY COLOUR SPECIAL (ONE-SHOT)

Watson

Andi Watson's Skeleton Key is back - and in colour!

Using the magical Skeleton Key,

schoolgirl Tamsin and fox spirit Kitsune can turn any door into a portal to an endless multiverse. Lost somewhere in space and time and trying to get home, the two friends encounter a band using the undead in a music video, check into a haunted hotel, and become catalogued in the vast Museum of the Lost! Collecting all three new stories from Dark Horse Presents, this is the perfect introduction.



## B.P.R.D. HELL ON EARTH: THE DEVIL'S ENGINE #1

Mignola / Arcudi / Crook / Stewart

Caught between bat-faced monsters, a devastating earthquake, and the

mad science experiments of Zinco, Devon and Fenix form an uneasy alliance in order to get to safety!



## MIND MGMT #1

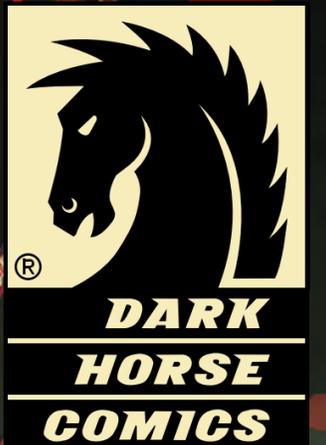
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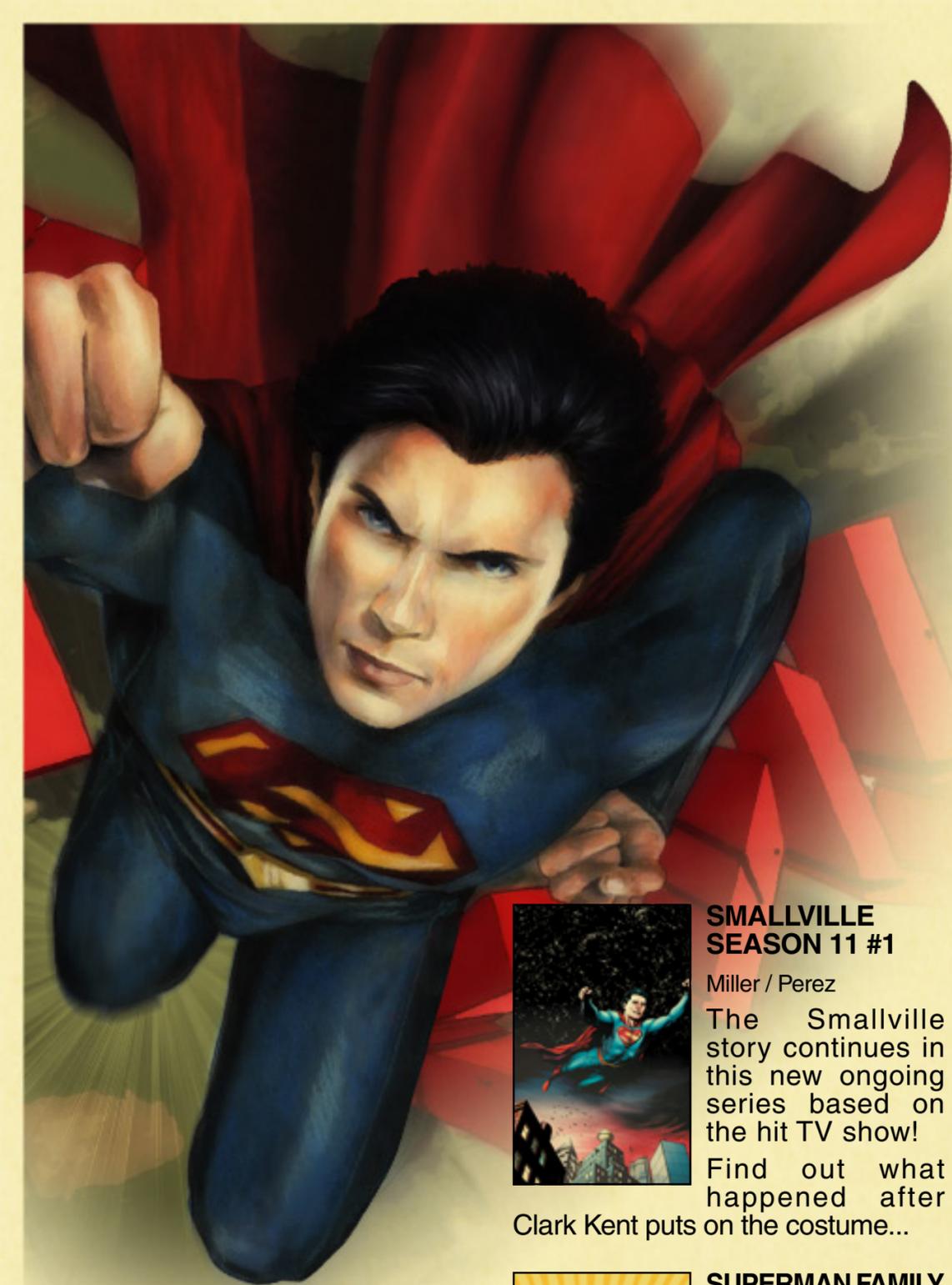
Reporting on a commercial flight where everyone aboard lost their memories, a young journalist stumbles onto a much bigger story, the top-

secret Mind Management program.

Her ensuing journey involves weaponized psychics, hypnotic advertising, talking dolphins, and seemingly immortal pursuers, as she attempts to find the flight's missing passenger, the man who was Mind MGMT's greatest success - and its most devastating failure.

In a world where people can rewrite reality itself, can she trust anything she sees?





**SMALLVILLE SEASON 11 #1**

Miller / Perez

The Smallville story continues in this new ongoing series based on the hit TV show!

Find out what happened after Clark Kent puts on the costume...



**SUPERMAN FAMILY ADVENTURES #1**

Baltazar / Franco

Superman's closest allies take the stage like you have never seen before as classic Superman elements are reinterpreted for all

ages with the humour that only the Eisner Award-winning creative team of Art Baltazar and Franco (Tiny Titans) can bring!



**ANIMAL MAN ANNUAL**

Lemire / Green / Silver

A stand alone tale detailing the history of the epic struggle between The Red, The Green and The Rot!

As seen in Animal Man and Swamp Thing, these forces will play a major role in the future of the DC Universe!



**BATMAN ANNUAL**

Snyder / Tynion IV / Fabok

Night Of The Owls continues here as Mr. Freeze is introduced to the New 52!

What is Mr. Freeze's relationship to the Court of Owls? Is he an ally – or do they want him dead?



**BATMAN, INCORPORATED #1**

Morrison / Burnham

Batman, Incorporated makes its New 52 debut with an all-new first issue!

The series hits the ground running as Batman and Robin face off against the assassin Goatboy and Leviathan's sinister mission is revealed!



**EARTH TWO #1**

Robinson / Scott / Scott

Who are the heroes of Earth 2 and what befell them? You may think you know Earth 2, but this is DC Comics - the New 52, where anything can happen!

Don't miss the extra-sized debut issue starring Alan Scott, Jay Garrick and many others!



**WORLDS' FINEST #1**

Levitz / Perez / Koblish / Maguire

New ongoing series featuring Power Girl and Huntress of Earth 2!

Discover why these heroes are stranded on our Earth and what it means for the heroes of the DC Universe.



**DIAL H #1**

Mieville / Santolouco

A brand new series by bestselling and Hugo award winning Novelist China Mieville!

What would happen if you discovered the H Dial, an unbelievably powerful artifact that turned you into a super hero? And what if you found out that the world is threatened by this very device that's become your uncontrollable obsession?

These are just the first questions asked in this thrilling and inventive storyline that introduces the strangest super heroes and super villains in the DCU while exploring the boundaries of reality!



**MYSTERY IN SPACE (DC VERTIGO)**

Pope / Baker / Diggle / Rodi / Okorafor / Allred / Nocenti / Doyle / Orlando / Gianfelice / Fumara

This one-shot anthology is loaded with unsettling short stories that will hijack your imagination and take you to strange, mysterious places. Journey to the edge of the abyss with Michael Allred! Arrive in the middle of an intergalactic space heist with Paul Pope! Plus: Broken hearts will be cryogenically frozen, a zero-gravity menage à trois will be compromised by aliens, and solar systems will spiral out of control when top comics talents and exciting newcomers collide!

**NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN MAY**



**G.I. COMBAT #1**

Krul / Gray / Palmiotti / Olivettipanosian

Featuring the first chapter of "War That Time Forgot" written by J.T. Krul and with art by Ariel Olivetti ...and dinosaurs, plus the

first chapter of "Unknown Soldier" by Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti and artist Dan Panosian focuses on all-out war in Afghanistan!



**THE RAVAGERS #1**

Mackie / Churchill

First issue of a new series spinning directly out of "The Culling!"

Fairchild, brother and sister Thunder and Lightning, the monstrous Ridge, Beast Boy and Terra are being pursued by Rose Wilson and Warblade, who want them dead at any cost! No one's survival is certain each month in The Ravagers!



# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN MAY



**DYNAMITE**  
ENTERTAINMENT



## JENNIFER BLOOD ANNUAL #1

Ewing / Marz

The year is 1987, and Jennifer Blood doesn't exist yet. Neither does Jen Fellows. Instead, there's only Jessica Blute, daughter of Sam Blute, six years old going on seven and very happy in her world... even though it's about to come to an end.



## THE SPIDER #1

Liss / Worley

The world knows Richard Wentworth as a decorated war hero and the son of a wealthy industrialist - but only a few confidants know the truth. As New York City slides into violence and despair, Wentworth has transformed himself into a force of justice as The Spider! With only his wits, his technology, and his pistols to aid him, he fights a one-man war against crime, but when a mysterious new villain threatens the city with an unspeakable horror, it may be more than even The Spider can handle.

How far will a sane man go to restore order to an insane world? Find out in The Spider #1 when it ships in May!



## LORD OF THE JUNGLE ANNUAL #1

Rahner / Davila

Tarzan finds himself the prey in a jungle hunt led by a blowhard Yankee mogul named Sykes. Several bodies and a series of mind games later, Sykes' plan unfolds: bring the captive ape-man to New York City for the Match of the Century against undefeated master of the fighting arts, Starker the Suplative!



## DANCER #1

Edmondson / Klein

### "OUVERTURE"

Retired assassin Alan Fisher and his ballerina companion must escape a ruthless sniper who stalks them through the streets of Milan. To survive and protect the love of his life, Alan will unravel the tapestry of the past he's kept hidden and discover the killer's impossible identity.

From the writer of Who Is Jake Ellis? and the artist of Viking comes a spy thriller with a 21st Century twist.

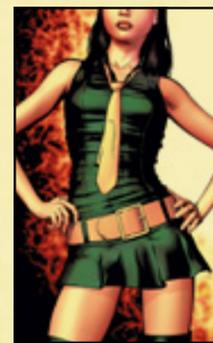


## MIND THE GAP #1

McCann / Esquejo / Oback

After Elle Petersen is mysteriously attacked on a Manhattan subway platform, she is left in a coma, the only clues to her attacker trapped inside her mind. No one knows the identity of the person behind this brutal beating or where they will strike next. In this all-new ongoing series, everyone is suspect, and no one is innocent. USA Today calls it an "anxiously anticipated modern thriller... Whodunit? McCann's done it again."

Eisner-winning writer Jim McCann joins Rodin Esquejo (Morning Glories) and Sonia Oback (S.H.I.E.L.D., The Defenders) uniting for a psychological thriller that will leave you guessing at every turn!



## EPIC KILL #1

Ienco

Hitmen and mercenaries from around the globe are ordered by the President to bring down an eighteen-year-old super assassin named

Song - but she's going to turn the tables on them - and every kill is going to be epic!

Song has trained for years into adulthood to take revenge on the man responsible for her parents' deaths - the man who has just been elected President!

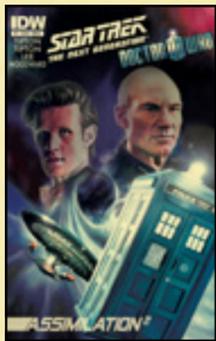


## GRIM LEAPER #1 (OF 4)

Wiebe / Santos

From critically acclaimed writer Kurtis J. Wiebe, Grim Leaper is a gory romantic comedy.

Lou Collins is caught in a cyclical curse of violent, gruesome deaths and new beginnings in the bodies of strangers. With no clue why, Lou desperately searches for a way to break the curse and cross over peacefully to the other side. Then equally doomed Ella comes along. It's a love story to die for.



### STAR TREK TNG/ DOCTOR WHO: ASSIMILATION 2 #1

Tipton / Lee / Woodward

When the Federation's most terrifying enemy strikes an unholy alliance with one of the Doctor's most hated antagonists,

the result is devastation on a cosmic scale! Spanning the ends of space and time itself, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the USS Enterprise find themselves joining forces with the Doctor and his companions, with the fate of the galaxy hanging in the balance in the first Star Trek/Doctor Who crossover ever!

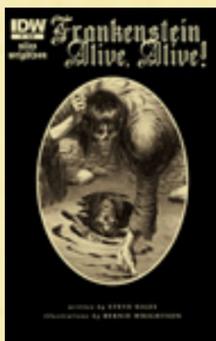


### TRUE BLOOD #1

Nocenti / McMillian / Gaydos

Alan Ball's hit HBO series, the sensually sizzling story of the lives and loves of vampires, mind readers, and all manner of creatures,

returns as an ongoing series! With creative collaboration from TRUE BLOOD creator/writer/producer Alan Ball, this series features writers Ann Nocenti (Daredevil, Green Arrow) and Michael McMillian, with art by Michael Gaydos (Alias).

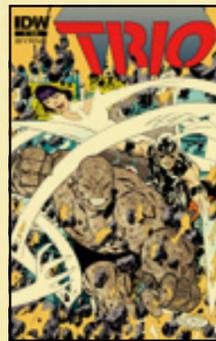


### FRANKENSTEIN ALIVE, ALIVE! #1

Niles / Wrightson

Nearly 30 years later, Bernie Wrightson returns to Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's Frankenstein with a comic series that

picks up at the end of the classic novel, hailed as one of the greatest horror stories of all time. Frequent Wrightson collaborator Steve Niles provides the script for this epic, decades in the making.



### TRIO #1

Byrne

ZAP! POW! BAM! -- are sound effects you may actually see in this series, as John Byrne returns to his roots with a brand-new superhero series.

Their code names are simple ONE, TWO and THREE, but the world calls them ROCK, PAPER and SCISSORS. Together, they are Trio.



### MAGIC: THE GATHERING: THE SPELL THIEF #1 (OF 4)

Forbeck / Ciccolo / Duce

Planeswalker Dack Fayden has followed Sifa Grent into a mysterious

plane, where a Titan's castle looms invitingly in the distance. Entering the castle in search of Sifa, Dack is soon imprisoned by the Titan and added to his vast collection. Dack must find a way out before the trail to Sifa runs cold and he remains the Titan's prisoner forever! Special playable Magic: The Gathering card polybagged in each issue!



### NIGHT OF 1,000 WOLVES #1 (OF 3)

Curnow / Wachter

In the Dark Ages, the tranquil life of Harrick Benjyon and his family is shattered by unthinkable tragedy. Before they can react, the family find

themselves under siege by hordes of wolves with one aim. Death. A race for survival becomes all the more impossible by the arrival of the supernatural... and the dark secrets that lie at the heart of the Benjyon family. Another classic horror tale from the company that brought you 30 Days of Night and Locke & Key!



### GODZILLA #1

Swierczynski / Gane

Duane Swierczynski and Simon Gane launch this ultimate action-movie blockbuster, ushering in a new era of monster battles. Ex-special

forces tough-guy Boxer is a man with a grudge and vows to end the terror of Godzilla, no matter what. He assembles a top notch team to take down monster-sized threats... at \$7 billion a bounty. What starts as a vendetta could become a lucrative business for Boxer... if he can live past day one!



### TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES COLOUR CLASSICS #1

Eastman / Laird

Relive the exciting origins of TMNT, this time in all-new full-colour comics! This is where world-wide

Turtle mania started! Detailing the entire origin of the Turtles and their first fateful encounter with the Foot Clan and the Shredder! This is your chance to get in on the ground floor of the entire Mirage Studios experience, with the most successful independent comic of all time. Don't miss it!



### ZOMBIES VS ROBOTS ANNUAL

Ryall / Wilson / Youers / Grevioux / Wood / Kieth / Kuhn / Ford

This first-ever ZvR special not only reunites co-creators Chris Ryall & Ashley Wood, but it opens

the ZvR world to other creators, too. Creators like novelists Daniel Wilson (Robocalypse) and Rio Youers, artists Sam Kieth and Andy Kuhn! In "Seasons of War," each creative team looks at a different season of the zombie-robot apocalypse!

# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN MAY

# IDW PUBLISHING

- Features an all-new story by co-creators Ashley Wood and Chris Ryall
- Also features the first-ever comic work from Robocalypse author Daniel Wilson and author Rio Youers!
- Acclaimed artists Sam Kieth and Andy Kuhn illustrate the ZvR world for the first time!



# NEW TITLES SHIPPING IN MAY



## EXILED #1

Gillen / Abnett / Lanning / Di Giandomenico

It's New Mutants. It's Journey Into Mystery. It's New Mutants and Journey Into Mystery. It's the New Journey Into Mutant Mystery!

With a left over "s".

A forgotten hero returns, mightier than Thor himself, but will the truth behind his exile consume them all?



## FANTASTIC FOUR #605.1

Hickman / Choi

In the secret history of the Fantastic Four, everything starts just like you remember ...and ends like something completely different!



## FURY MAX #1

Ennis / Parlov

Garth Ennis and Goran Parlov reunite to bring you the life of Marvel's hardest soldier like no one else could.

In the wake of World War II, Fury is fast running out of battles to fight. But the world's superpowers are gearing up for a new kind of war and they'll need a man like Fury to win it.



## AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: ENDS OF THE EARTH #1

Slott / Clevenger / Williams / Silas

From one "Ends of the Earth" to the other, Spider-Man isn't the only hero

fighting free the globe from Doctor Octopus's treacherous tentacles in this extra sized story! And the dying doctor has some wicked worldly associates of his own.

Guest starring: Big Hero Six and Union Jack.



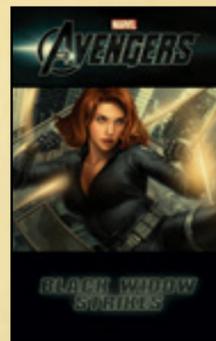
## MARVEL ZOMBIES DESTROY! #1

Marraffino / Pierfederici

At long last! The best-selling Marvel Zombies franchise returns!

A.R.M.O.R. is called upon to rescue a reality where the

Nazis won WWII ...with zombies! Howard the Duck brings in Nazi-fighter extraordinaire Dum Dum Dugan and a squadron of fighters known as Ducky's Dozen!



## THE BLACK WIDOW STRIKES #1 (OF 3)

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

A brand new Black Widow solo

adventure from the Marvel Cinematic Universe!

Before Natasha assembles with the Avengers Initiative, see her in this hard-hitting espionage adventure set between the events of 'Iron Man 2' and Marvel's 'The Avengers'!



## TAKIO #1

Bendis / Oeming

Bursting from the pages of last year's best-selling graphic novel! From the Eisner Award-winning creators of POWERS comes this all-new, all-

ages superhero adventure for a new generation! Taki and Olivia are sisters with superpowers! In fact, they are the only ones in the world with superpowers! So obviously, they have to become superheroes!



## HULK SMASH AVENGERS #1

DeFalco / Frenz

A five-part, weekly punch-fest that explores the ever-evolving relationship between the Gamma Goliath and Earth's Mightiest Heroes!

Hulk vs. the 60's-era Avengers: Captain America, Iron Man, Giant-Man, Wasp and Thor!



## INCREDIBLE HULK #7.1

Aaron / Palo

Whatever happened to Bruce Banner...?

Red She-Hulk knows, and is none too pleased!



**SILVER SURFER: PARABLE HC (MARVEL)**

Lee / Moebius

A starving Galactus returns to Earth and sets himself up as a God in order to steer it towards self-destruction. A TV evangelist takes up his

cause, preaching Galactus' message in hopes of setting himself up as his prophet. The Silver Surfer, who had hoped to leave the human race behind to its self-inflicted misery, cannot sit back while all this is happening and takes action against Galactus.

Stan Lee returns the Silver Surfer to his brooding, philosophical self, contemplating humans and their place in the universe, with art from world-famous French comic artist Moebius.

Silver Surfer: Parable collects the Eisner Award winning miniseries originally published in 1988 and 1989.



**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: SEASON 8 LIBRARY EDITION VOL.1 HC (DARK HORSE)**

Whedon / Vaughan / Jeanty / Lee / Richards / Owens

After the destruction of the Hellmouth, the Slayers—newly

legion--have gotten organized, but it's not long before new and old enemies begin popping up. Buffy, Xander, Willow, and a very different Dawn are introduced to the season's big bad, Twilight, and are only beginning to understand the incredible reach of this mysterious threat. Meanwhile, rebel Slayer Faith teams up with Giles to handle a menace on the other side of the Atlantic. It's a dirty job, and Faith is just the girl to do it!

This deluxe, oversized hardcover edition contains the first two arcs of Season 8, plus two one-shots.



**DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI'S DAREDEVIL BORN AGAIN: ARTIST'S EDITION HC (IDW)**

Miller / Mazzucchelli

Daredevil Born Again. That title strikes a chord with comic fans who know what it means. Fans who

know that it represents two of the finest creators at the absolute peaks of their game. David Mazzucchelli's superhero work had reached an artistic apex when this series was released, and the same is true for Frank Miller's writing. Together they combined to craft a story of extraordinary impact that is still regarded as a true masterpiece.

Collecting the entire storyline of Born Again, this book will feature the complete issues of Daredevil numbers 227-233, plus covers and extras. Each page was personally scanned by Mazzucchelli from his own original art. This is the largest Artist's Edition yet, weighing in at a rock solid 200 pages of beautiful Mazzucchelli art in the way you've always wanted to see it - the next best thing to holding the actual original art!



**G.I. JOE: RETALIATION MOVIE PREQUEL (IDW)**

Barber / Navarro / Rojo

Snake Eyes and Roadblock. Perhaps the most dangerous of all the JOEs — their combination of stealth, cunning, power, and raw courage is nearly

unmatched. Go figure, these two forces of might can't always see eye-to-eye. But when Storm Shadow and his ninja enter the picture, these two JOEs will have to put aside their differences if they want to stop the enemy.



**AVENGERS: THE CONTEST (MARVEL)**

Various

"I am the Grandmaster! Never in a thousand games on a thousand worlds have I quit the table ere the game was through!" Time

and again the Grandmaster sets heroes against heroes in cosmic games with billions of lives at stake! Daredevil vs. Iron Fist! Captain America vs. Mockingbird! Iron Man vs. She-Hulk! Black Knight vs. Moon Knight! Wolverine vs. Black Panther! Thor vs. Wonder Man! Plus: Bucky, Mar-Vell, Dracula, Drax, the Green Goblin, the Red Guardian and so many more!

Collecting Contest of Champions #1-3, West Coast Avengers Annual #2 and Avengers Annual (1967) #16.



**BATMAN VOL. 1: THE COURT OF OWLS HC (DC)**

Snyder / Capullo / Glapion

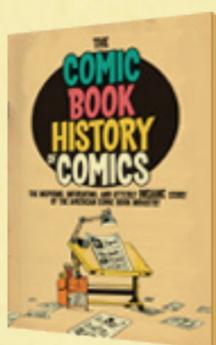
Writer Scott Snyder begins a new era for the Dark Knight with artist Greg Capullo.

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

Collects Batman #1-6.

# NOVEL IDEAS

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



**THE COMIC BOOK HISTORY OF COMICS (IDW)**

Van Lente / Dunlavy

For the first time ever, the inspiring, infuriating and utterly insane story of comics, graphic novels and manga is presented in comic book form! The award-

winning Action Philosophers team of Fred Van Lente and Ryan Dunlavy turn their irreverent-but-accurate eye to the stories of Jack Kirby, R. Crumb, Harvey Kurtzman, Alan Moore, Stan Lee, Will Eisner, Fredric Wertham, Roy Lichtenstein, Art Spiegelman, Hergé, Osamu Tezuka — and more!

Collects Comic Book Comics #1-6.



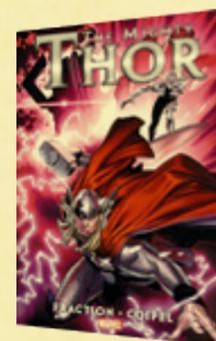
**ELEPHANTMEN VOL.00: ARMED FORCES (IMAGE)**

Starkings / Moritat / Cook / Medellin / Steen / Ladrönn

Collecting the sold out War Toys trade paperback, now in full colour for the first time, and the sequel, Enemy Species, this

highly anticipated Elephantmen Vol. 0 is packed with extras, including Moritat and Boo Cook sketchbooks and work by Ladrönn, Marian Churchland, Rob Steen and a new prologue by Axel Medellin!

Collects Elephantmen: War Toys, Vol. 1: No Surrender, Elephantmen: Yvette One Shot and Elephantmen #34-35.



**THE MIGHTY THOR (MARVEL)**

Fraction / Coipel

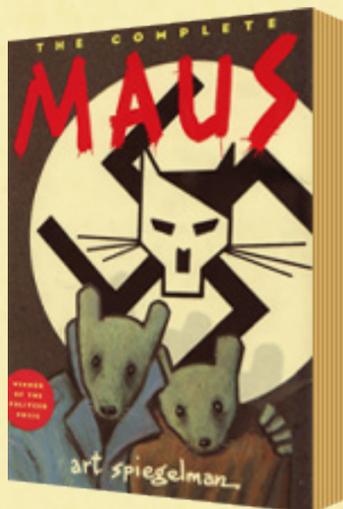
WhatistheWorldheart? Plucked by Thor and his companions from the deepest roots of Yggdrasil - the World Tree, split in twain -

the cosmic seed is now the most coveted object in Odin's possession. But the Silver Surfer - herald of Galactus, devourer of worlds - recognizes the Worldheart as the one object that could forever sate his master's apocalyptic appetite. Now, the Surfer has come to Asgard to claim a prize Odin will not surrender without a fight - and Thor is caught in the middle. Will he entrust the Worldheart to the Surfer for the betterment of the universe, or choose instead to fight to the death for the glory of Odin?

Collecting Mighty Thor #1-6.

# 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.



## MAUS (1986-1991)

ART SPIEGELMAN

Hailed as "the first masterpiece in comic book history" by The New Yorker and "the most affecting and successful narrative ever done about the Holocaust" by the Wall Street Journal, Art Spiegelman's 'Maus' is a Pulitzer-Prize winning tale of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his relationship with his cartoonist son.

Art Spiegelman's father, Vladek, was from a well-to-do family that suffered persecution, poverty and loss of life as German policy towards Jews began to change in the 1930's, eventually finding himself in Auschwitz. Wanting to record his father's history in comic form, Art Spiegelman conducted a series of interviews with his father over a number of years which he used in conjunction with a look at the contemporary life of the Spiegelman family, then living in New York. Vladek's harrowing story of survival and the Jewish Holocaust sits beside Spiegelman's own difficulties, as a second generation Holocaust survivor, to understand and come to terms with the atrocities that befell his ancestors.

In 'Maus' the Jews are depicted as mice, while the non-Jewish Germans are cats. This theme is continued throughout, utilising other animals for other religions, races and nationalities. This method allows Spiegelman to force the reader to forget any familiar notions of human nature and enables him to draw the reader further towards the true heart of the story.

Following its publication (originally in two volumes - the first in 1986 and the second in 1991), 'Maus' has won a large number of literary awards and become the subject of numerous essays and scholastic studies.

We think it's a truly great book and we think you will too!

# 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...

## MAGIC THE GATHERING (IDW)

*I'm a massive nerd For the expanded universe of Magic the Gathering. I've read and enjoyed the novels and the webcomics but I felt apprehensive about the comic itself. Unlike the webcomic and the novels, it wasn't a freebie and the inclusion of the free card made it seem like it was trying too hard to sell the comic.*

*However, I was rather pleasantly surprised. The art is very good, despite some of the colours being very muted and quite brown. The writing is interesting and ties up rather nicely with the world that can be gleaned from the cards and other pieces of lore.*

*It has certainly caught my attention and I want to find out more. The protagonist, Dack Fayden, can feel like a stereotypical 'dashing rogue' but there are glimpses of a full and whole character that we simply haven't seen since it's only the first issue.*

*If you are interested in the world and story of Magic, whether you play the game or not, I would recommend giving IDW's Magic the Gathering comic a try.*

*It just might surprise you.*

- Brenden

## CONAN THE BARBARIAN (DARK HORSE)

*I had been looking forward to this title for some time and I have to say that issue one of Conan the Barbarian did not disappoint.*

*The story, adapted from Robert E. Howard's "Queen of the Black Coast" by Brian Wood, sparkles with sharp dialogue as Conan takes to the high seas in search of the pirate queen Belit.*

*It is, however, the stunning art from Becky Cloonan that raises this title to a 'must-buy'. For me the level of detail poured into each panel is glorious as the characters are imbued with expression. She draws Conan in a more earthly, believable manner than I have seen before, and this serves to draw us in to his character, a panel where Conan almost smirks directly at the reader springing to mind.*

*The series is looking good so far!*

- Ed

## MASS EFFECT: HOMEWORLDS (DARK HORSE)

*Issue one of 'Homeworlds' was previewed in last month's 'Illuminations' and I, for one, am looking forward to this title beginning in April.*

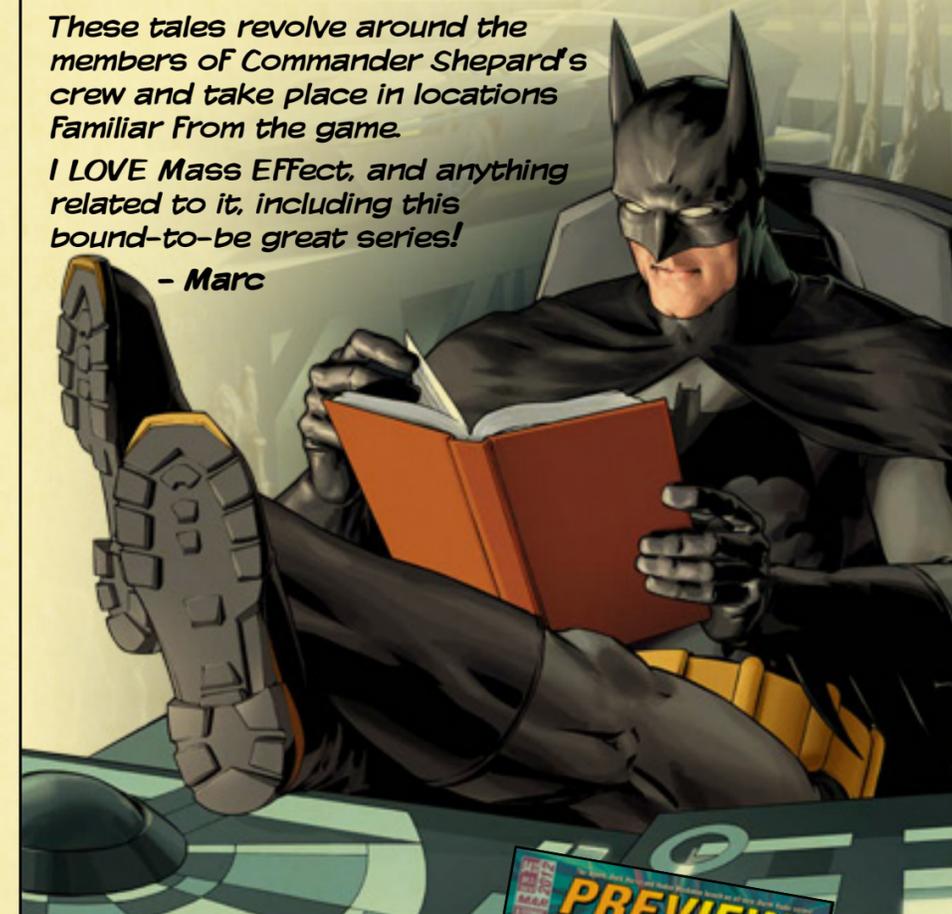
*For those unfamiliar with Mass Effect, it is a science fiction, action adventure RPG originally on the Xbox360 and PC, but now also available for PS3.*

*What is so amazing about this franchise is the fully fleshed out galaxy that the story takes place in. The planets and alien races have distinct traits, cultures and histories that feel familiar, almost as if they've always existed, which only goes to enhance the 'lived-in' feel of the universe. The only other time it's been done this well was when a young guy by the name of George Lucas created the Star Wars universe.*

*These tales revolve around the members of Commander Shepard's crew and take place in locations familiar from the game.*

*I LOVE Mass Effect, and anything related to it, including this bound-to-be great series!*

- Marc



To get the lowdown on all of the titles released in May, plus books, clothing, toys, gaming and all other merchandise, grab a copy of this month's **PREVIEWS**

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# BIFF'S BIT

Just a reminder: my e-mail address is [martin@acecomics.co.uk](mailto:martin@acecomics.co.uk), telephone 01206 364140 and online at [www.acecomics.co.uk](http://www.acecomics.co.uk)

## JOHN WATSON ART COLLECTION

Last year we offered the John Watson collection of classic DC covers with a twist. Titled *The Covers That Never Were*.

This year 'The Saturday Evening Watson' showcases preliminary sketches, pencils, inks and paintings along with some very amusing commentary.

Once again this is just £10.00 and each one purchased will come dedicated and personalised to you.

I highly recommend this 74 page A5 square bound book.

## VINCE DANKS RETURNS

A few years back I was a staunch supporter, as were a lot of you, of *Sapphire*, a British self published comic by Vince Danks and Roger Gibson. They followed this with, *HARKER*, a tale of the adventures of a grumpy Detective Chief Inspector.

Now in a one shot from Kult Creations 'The Clock Strikes!' Vince is back with his best art to date. Written by John Short, *The Clock*, possibly the first masked hero, a character from a 1936 *Funny Picture* stories is revived as he investigates murders in a classic Noir style.

This comes highly recommended, a 10/10 on the old BIFF score chart.

## CARDIFF COMIC CONVENTION

I have just returned from a very enjoyable 2 days in Cardiff attending the ComicExpo convention. Despite the date clashing with the London Docklands event which had Stan Lee as the headline guest, this was a sell out with over 1,000 people attending.

If you have never attended a convention you are missing out on a wide range of fun things. There are always comic bargains to be had, great artists who sign and sketch for free or for a small £10 fee, talks about various aspects of the industry, amazing costumes, and new friends to make.

The highlight at Cardiff for me was seeing Colin Baker (Dr Who) and the amazing array of Whovians who attended in full costume, including motorised Dalek and K 9.

Purchasing *Thor #180* (Neal Adams art) for 50p was my bargain of the weekend. A comic missing from my collection replaced for less than a cup of tea. Fabulous.

The best talk of the weekend was about the Jack Kirby Museum. There will be a link on our web site to this project. The aim is to establish a bricks and mortar museum in New York where Jack grew up. My friend Nigel has already signed up and pledged \$40.00 a year as have I. Jack's art and ideas have been the most influential force in comics history and deserve major recognition. If you have not heard of Kirby you know Jack all about comics.

That just leaves me to say on behalf of all at ACE, BIFF, Tina, Kerrie, Marc, Guy, Evil Stu, Victoria, Colin, Ed, Glenn, Matt and of course Brenden, **READ MORE COMICS!**



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## LIGHT READER?

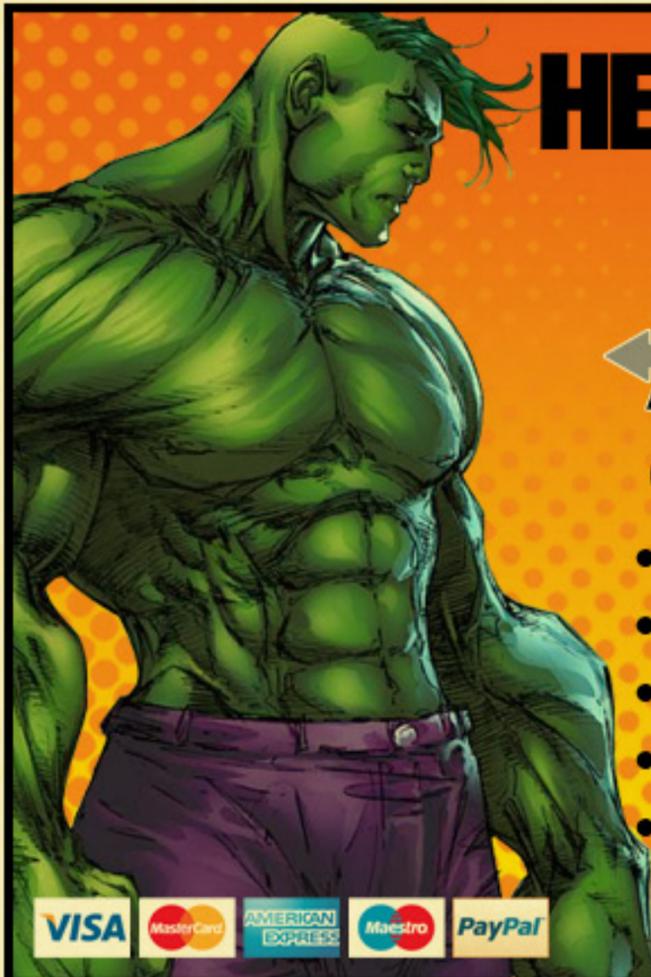
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