

M & M'S COMIC COMMENTS

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Industry News

ITEM! BEFORE WATCHMEN: OZYMANDIAS (ITEM 0174), a six-issue series from writer Len Wein and artist Jae Lee, revealing the early years of the mastermind who would go on to orchestrate the greatest single ruse ever pulled on the human race, all in the name of peace. Wein and artist John Higgins also continue the exploits of the Crimson Corsair in the back-up story.

ITEM! Direct from Emerald City Comicon, mad-scientist brotherly duo Ethan and Malachai Nicolle are back with Axe Cop: President of the World (item 0010)! This brand-new, print-exclusive story written by eight-year-old Malachai Nicolle and drawn by his older brother Ethan Nicolle promises to be as wild as the last series. Upon its debut as a webcomic in December of 2009, Axe Cop was instantly hailed by the entertainment press as a hit. "The new Axe Cop miniseries President of the World is a follow-up to Bad Guy Earth. It picks up right where Bad Guy Earth leaves off, when Axe Cop is made the president of all presidents," said Ethan. "This miniseries, much like Bad Guy Earth, was created during a monthlong visit with Malachai. It includes a lot of new characters, good and bad. It's apocalyptic and charming just like a good Axe Cop comic should be. Obviously, way back when we wrote Bad Guy Earth we did not plan for an Axe Cop comic about his presidency to come out right in the middle of the elections, but that is what happened. Perfect timing," Ethan explained. "I think anyone who loves Axe Cop will love this one. I really tried to make it a continuation from the last miniseries and not a 'sequel' that tries to top the last one. Malachai and I had a blast making it."

ITEM! Avatar: The Last Airbender creators Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko bring The Promise to its explosive conclusion! The Harmony Restoration Movement has failed, and the four nations are plunged back into war! In the midst of the battle, can Aang and Fire Lord Zuko mend the rift between them, or will Aang be forced to take actions that can't be undone? Written by Eisner winner and National Book Award nominee Gene Luen Yang (American Born Chinese) and drawn by Gurihiru (Thor and the Warriors Four), this is the adventure Avatar fans have been craving! Don't miss AVATAR THE LAST AIRBENDER TRADE PAPERBACK PROMISE PART 3 (ITEM 0011).

ITEM! MASSIVE #2 (ITEM 0021) is the perfect follow up to New York Times bestseller writer Brian Wood's DMZ series. Hidden from pirates in the ice and fog of the Bering Sea, the crew of the Kapital weigh the risk of detection against the need to rescue their missing crewmates. Revealed are details about the events of the crash, including the Kapital's resupply visit to an underwater Hong Kong and the new city that has, literally, grown out of the debris.

ITEM! Sith Lord Darth Maul still lives. Worse, he has joined forces with his brother Savage Opress! The Jedi are searching for them and, after



Maul and Opress cut a murderous swath through the Outer Rim, so is an army of mercenaries hired by a wealthy mine owner. Darth Maul has a price on his head, and for him there is only one way to deal with such a problem: go directly to the source! Death Sentence #1 (ITEM 0027) is a must read for any Star Wars fan!

ITEM! Uncle Creepy's been having all the fun in Dark Horse's revival of classic Warren magazines, so now it's Cousin Eerie's turn! The terrifying treasury of sinister sci-fi and fearsome fantasy returns with two all-new stories to thrill and chill, plus a classic reprint! First up is a dose of robotic

paranoia from red-hot writer/artist David Lapham, followed by way-too-close encounters from Creepy veteran Christopher Taylor! Your trip to the comics store is about to get a lot more horrifying in EERIE #1 (ITEM 0044)!

ITEM! Steve Niles (30 Days of Night) will take his occult detective into a new hardcover collector's format with Eisner winner Scott Morse of Pixar and TR!CKSTER fame. Brimming with terror, Criminal Macabre: The Iron Spirit (ITEM 0059) is a perfect introduction for new readers. A haunted veteran leads monster hunter Cal McDonald to a creepy subterranean military base where mad-science experiments were conducted on US soldiers. "Iron Spirit combines all of my favorite things. I wrote it as prose and handed it to Scott Morse and now Dark Horse is publishing it. I think readers will be surprised at this oddly touching story about death and undeath and the responsibilities that come with both," said Steve Niles.

ITEM! The new series from Image is Revival (ITEM 0495). Written by Tim Seeley and drawn by Mike Norton, the ongoing series is scheduled to begin in July and will show what happens when the dead come back to life in a small Wisconsin town.

ITEM! Hey retailers/readers/speculators! Still kicking yourself for not ordering and/or passing by CHEW #1, now that you see what it's going for on eBay? Here's your chance to get sweet, sweet, revenge, with an all-new CHEW #1 (ITEM 0417), a one-shot spinning off CHEW's most popular

supporting character SECRET AGENT POYO, and comics' most beloved homicidal cybernetic kung-fu rooster. Concentrated mayhem. Feathers, rage and hate! Plus: an all-star pin-up gallery from some of the most staggeringly talented artists in the industry!

ITEM! Wiebe and Rossmo teamed up to bring us one of the year's best horror comics with "Green Wake", and though the series saw an unfortunate early cancellation due to low sales (despite the rave reviews), they are back together this July with Debris (ITEM 0516). The book sounds nothing like "Green Wake" other than the fact that the dream team is back together, and for that we couldn't be happier. "Debris" is set in the distant future, a time where the world has wasted away and the spirits of old have come back to ravish the world once and for all. One rough and tough girl quests to save humanity in the midst of the chaos. Yeah, it sounds awesome as sh*t. You can expect some insane creature designs from Rossmo and top notch storytelling from Wiebe as "Debris" hits this summer from Image Comics.

ITEM! Image Comics' HOAX HUNTERS (ITEM 0521) — which began its existence as a two-page back-up comic in Hack/Slash — has just been turned into a full-fledged ongoing series. Written by Steve Seeley and Michael Moreci, the book takes the idea of shows like Finding Bigfoot or Myth Busters and suggests that they are just cover-ups for the supernatural truths that the general public can't handle.

ITEM! This July IDW Publishing will bring together two action-packed paramilitary adventure series in Danger Girl/G.I. Joe (ITEM 0432). "Danger Girl," co-created by writer Andy Hartnell and J. Scott Campbell, first debuted at Wildstorm (then an Image Comics imprint) in 1998 and rocketed to popularity on the strength of its James Bond-style espionage adventures — but with the Bond girls in the lead — and Campbell's sexy, hyperkinetic artwork; Hasbro's "G.I. Joe" line of action figures dates back to the mid-1960s, but most fans will be more familiar with the toys, comics and cartoons of the '80s, or with the modern films and comics. Hartnell himself will be writing the teams' first meeting in a four-issue miniseries illustrated by John Royle, with covers by Campbell.

ITEM! Carol Danvers will be the newest person to take the mantle of Captain Marvel. Series writer Kelly Sue DeConnick sees Danvers as inspired by both Chuck Yeager and Mar-Vell. She describes her as having being "the virtual definition of a Type A personality. She's a competitor and a control freak". She will have to learn how to control her personality and learn how to deal with the responsibility of the Marvel title. In fact, she does not even want the name, but it's Captain America who convinces her to take the mantle. The book will also deal with how the other denizens of the Marvel Universe see her. Regarding who Marvel will be facing? The author says they'll be a new adversary that is "complex and unexpected". She'll also find an ally in someone from the distant

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past. Captain Marvel #1 (ITEM 0693) is by Kelly Sue DeConnick and artist Dexter Soy.

ITEM! THE WALKING DEAD #100 (ITEM 0469-0476), the series that spawned the hit AMC television series! With 8 different variant covers to collect, this landmark issue of the series that has never shied away from "cleaning house" when the overall story called for it, will be hotter than ever! But just who walks away from issue #100 unscathed will be one the fans will be talking about for months to come.

ITEM! Writer Simon Furman and legendary TRANSFORMERS artist Andrew Wildman are back to their original roots with all-new stories, beginning with TRANSFORMERS: REGENERATION ONE #80.5. Starting after 1991's TRANSFORMERS #80 comic epic conclusion, the free issue picks up as OPTIMUS PRIME watches over a CYBERTRON that hasn't faced MEGATRON for decades. But that peace shudders to an end and dives headlong into July's new series. "The original TRANSFORMERS saga is back—with a vengeance!" exclaimed Furman, "'epic' doesn't cover it!" TRANSFORMERS: REGENERATION ONE #81 (ITEM 0359) comic will feature many fan-favorite Generation One TRANSFORMERS characters including OPTIMUS PRIME, GRIMLOCK, KUP, HOT ROD, ULTRA MAGNUS and more. "It's always nice to complete unfinished business, even after 20 years," said Wildman. Artist Stephen Baskerville, the original inker on the classic issues, joins Wildman on interiors as inker, as Wildman also provides eye-catching covers. "TRANSFORMERS: REGENERATION ONE comic is an important book to TRANSFORMERS fans," IDW Senior Editor John Barber commented, "and expectations are high. Fortunately Simon, Andrew, and Stephen have only gotten better since the last issue!"

ITEM! The BATTLE BEASTS (ITEM 0356) mini-series from IDW, based on a new toy line from Diamond Select Toys, is written by Bobby Curnow (Godzilla Legends, Night of 1000 Wolves) and penciled by Valerio Schiti (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Donatello, Dungeons & Dragons: Eberron). It focuses on a group of renegade Beasts who return to Earth to protect the ultimate weapon (and the human who activated it) from an armada of their violent brethren.

ITEM! IDW Publishing with writer John Shirley and artists Kevin Colden, Kyle Hotz, and Ashley Wood are bringing The Crow (ITEM 0349) back to life and back into comics. THE CROW is reborn-in Tokyo. Can a dark spirit fight for the light? THE CROW has always done just that—striking from the shadows, a kind of shadow himself. The spirit of the Crow is back, transfiguring Jamie Osterberg, an American studying in Tokyo and deeply in love with his Japanese girlfriend, Yumi... until the love of his life is stolen. The Crow must once more make the wrong thing right—but this time he might have to do it by killing his own true love.

ITEM! The six-issue comic series PUNK ROCK JESUS (ITEM 0316) from Vertigo, follows a former child star who is in fact a clone of Jesus Christ, created in a lab for a reality television show. Sean Murphy will write and draw the title.

ITEM! Back in 2006, writer Jeph Loeb and artist Simone Bianchi did what many fictional characters had tried to do and failed—they killed Sabretooth, the perennial X-Men villain with a healing factor that rivals his archenemy, Wolverine. They decapitated him, even, just so there was no ambiguity about the whole thing. But as you may have noticed from his recent appearances in Wolverine and the X-Men, Victor Creed is once again alive and wreaking his brutal brand of havoc.

The story of exactly how that happened will be told in "Sabretooth Reborn," a story starting in July's Wolverine #310 (ITEM 0718), by the reunited team of Loeb and Bianchi. As Loeb explains, it was always part of the plan to return to Wolverine and tell this tale. "This was always envisioned as a two part story," Loeb, who's also the head of Marvel TV. "We're very lucky that folks like [Marvel editor-in-chief] Axel Alonso and [Marvel senior editor] Nick Lowe and [Wolverine editor] Jeanine Schaefer stood on the wall for something like five years for us to come back and finish the story. For that we're super-grateful." In the interim years since "Evolution," Loeb and Bianchi's original Sabretooth story, the character of Romulus—a mysterious villain pulling strings behind the scenes—has been fleshed out by writer Daniel Way in Wolverine: Origins. Loeb says that those appearances coincide neatly with what he and Bianchi have planned.

ITEM! Last year BOOM! Studios' licenses for the various Disney properties expired, and one of the casualties of that was a four-issue Muppets arc by Roger Langridge that had not been printed yet. "As far as I understand it, the unpublished work I've done for Boom isn't technically Disney's until it's published, and obviously Boom can't publish it without a license," Langridge said at the time. "So it's in a kind of limbo right now. In the best of all possible worlds, I'd like to think that Boom and Marvel can come to some kind of arrangement whereby Marvel can eventually release the work." Apparently some sort of arrangement has been reached, as Marvel has solicited the first issue (ITEM 0714) of a four-issue Muppets miniseries for July, featuring that "lost" story by Langridge.

ITEM! After a hiatus following "The Death of Spider-Man," Ultimate Captain America is back. But the news doesn't stop there. The super soldier's return is leading to "Divided We Fall," the first Ultimate Comics line-wide event following last year's relaunch. Announced Sunday during Marvel's Ultimate Comics panel at the C2E2 convention in Chicago, the story starts in July's Ultimate Comics Ultimates #13 (ITEM 0662) and Ultimate Comics X-Men #14 (ITEM 0664) continuing into August's Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #13 and through September. Focusing on three central characters—Kitty Pryde, Captain America and Miles Morales—"Divided We Fall" is anchored by writers Brian Wood (Ultimate Comics X-Men), Sam Humphries (Ultimate Comics Ultimates) and Brian Michael Bendis (Ultimate Comics Spider-Man) and sees the rise of a new villain who plunges the Ultimate Universe into chaos, as The Ultimates are pitted against S.H.I.E.L.D. On top of that, Marvel is promoting that Cap will make a fateful "decision" during the course of the story; one that has never been done in a superhero comic. (Feel free to speculate wildly as to what that could be.) Marvel stresses that "Divided We Fall" isn't a typical crossover, but rather a concurrent event that affects each of the Ultimate Comics line's three books in different and powerful ways.

Newsarama talked to Humphries and Ultimate Comics line editors Sana Amanat and Mark Paniccia about the story.

ITEM! Xtreme X-Men (ITEM 0705) is relaunching, this time around Greg Pak & Stephen Segovia who are moving over from Astonishing X-Men and assembling a team of Howlett, Kid Nightcrawler and Dazzler. Expect some dimension-hopping with this one.

ITEM! Aspen's first-ever ongoing series begins right here! They are raised and trained to protect and serve their masters with discipline, loyalty and often violence if necessary—they are the Executive Assistants. Yet, what tales of corruption and depravity, aggression and fatal destinies await them on each of their collective paths? Find out in this fresh jumping-on point showcasing new and deadly Executive Assistants each and every month! Kicking off this exciting debut release is the beginning of a three-part story, "Life After Death," featuring the popular Executive Assistant, Lily, and her attempts to piece together a life after losing her master along with her allies. She will learn the price of freedom is often as costly—and fatal—as a life of servitude! Executive Assistant: Assassins #1 will ship with two different covers by artists Joe Benitez (ITEM 0877) and Eduardo Francisco (ITEM 0878).

ITEM! Look for Zak Penn (screenwriter for "X2," "X-Men: The Last Stand") and Scott Murphy's co-written superhero book Hero Worship (ITEM 0886), featuring art by Michael DiPascale. The book, shipping in July, is the end result of about three years' worth of work. "It's basically about society's worship of a hero and how that can be exploited against the society," DiPascale told the audience. The series' main hero is Zenith, but the story really follows the worship of heroes by a kid named Adam. Davidsen pressed DiPascale for details on Zenith, who is a "Superman-type hero," though his powers are never clearly defined. The series, DiPascale said, is about the fanaticism surrounding the world's heroes more so than the super-powered characters themselves.

ITEM! The Summer of Valiant continues! It's the start of a new mission for one of comics' all-time best-selling superheroes in Bloodshot #1 (ITEM 1309) - the first issue of new ongoing series from acclaimed novelist Duane Swierczynski (Immortal Iron Fist, Birds of Prey) and the lethal artistic tag team of Manuel Garcia (Checkmate) and Arturo Lozzi (Immortal Weapons)! **ITEM!** The writing duo of Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning—collectively known as DnA—are no strangers to far-reaching space epics, having written one of the most memorable tales of the 31st century in DC Comics' "Legion Lost" and building out Marvel's cosmic heroes in series including "Nova" and "Guardians of the Galaxy." Now, the pair prepare to launch a creator-owned odyssey at BOOM! Studios, beginning with The Hypernaturals (ITEM 0940).

ITEM! Adventure Time has been a real boon for Boom! Studios, burning through multiple prints in stores and being a solid seller at conventions, as new viewers of the TV show discover the monthly comic. And love it! And now they have more to discover. In July, Boom! are publishing a new Adventure Time mini-series called Adventure Time: Marceline And The Scream Queens (ITEM 0990). And what's more, it's written and drawn by Octopus Pie's amazing Meredith Gran. It also has a backup by Koko Be Good's Jen Wang with variant covers by Chynna Clugston, Lucy Knisley, Ming Doyle and Colleen Coover.

