



**M & M Comic Service**  
 3128 Hidden Haven, San Antonio, TX 78261  
 Phone: 830-438-6131 www.mmcomics.com



# M&M'S COMIC COMMENTS

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Written by Anthony Musiala and edited by Mike

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## Previews Highlights

**ITEM!** Sean Gordon Murphy's long-rumored Batman/The Joker miniseries will finally hit stores; titled *Batman: White Knight*, the publisher describes the seven-issue miniseries as "the tragic story of a hero and a villain, The Batman and The Joker. The question is, which one is the hero and which one is the villain...?" In the story, roles are reversed, with a reformed Joker trying to act as the voice of reason and use the system against Batman. "We know Joker's a genius, we know he's relentless, and we know he can play the crowd, so why not make him a politician?" said Murphy.

"Why not strip away the psychosis (the thing that's holding him back) and let him challenge Batman unimpeded? And to make it even scarier, what if he did it legally and without breaking any rules, so that Batman couldn't stop him?" *BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT #1* (ITEM #0269) is written and illustrated by Sean Murphy.



**ITEM!** Following up on one of the key mysteries from DC Universe: Rebirth #1, the JLA will continue their mission to help Ryan Choi's mentor Ray Palmer in October. But Ray's rescue is no small task, as he not only shrank so small he's in the Microverse, but he's apparently "crossed galaxies" in search of the 'Ignition Point'... although it looks like someone will betray the team.

**ITEM!** Another mystery from DC Universe: Rebirth will get some answers in October as Wonder Woman features the character Grail, the daughter of Darkseid. Remember her from way back in the "New 52"? After "Darkseid War," the character and little baby Darkseid were seen plotting her father's return. Now Grail is killing children of gods to power the return of Darkseid in *Wonder Woman #33* (ITEM 0267), probably putting the pieces together to bring Darkseid back in time for November's Justice League film.

**ITEM!** Everyone's been assuming that Oz is in cahoots with Dr. Manhattan, but in October, the mysterious character recruits Superman's son Jonathan to "join forces" with him. That'll rock Superman's world in *Action Comics #989-991* (ITEM 0182 - ITEM 0189), continuing the ramifications of finding out Oz's identity.

**ITEM!** OK, Catwoman, what will it be? In June's *Batman #24*, Bruce Wayne proposed to his frequent flame Selina Kyle, literally getting on one knee with a rock in a box. The solicitation for *Batman #32* (ITEM 0197) indicates Batman - and the rest of us - will get an answer in October, although issue #33's text makes the love-match sound questionable. Superman's married and has a kid. Is a married Batman in the cards for "Rebirth"?

**ITEM!** After the events of

"The Lazarus Contract," Wally West (the elder redhead) was told that his heart was too damaged for him to continue being a Flash. Now he's facing death, but in a desperate attempt to save his own life, he reaches out to the other Wally West. They'll team up in *Titans #16* (ITEM 0261) for what solicitations call a "race against time."

**ITEM!** Superman is also picking up on remnants of "Darkseid War" in October, as Lex Luthor attempts to reclaim the throne of Apokolips. The story, which appears in *Superman #32-33* (ITEM 0251 and ITEM 0253), features New Gods characters, a Superman-Lex team-up, and Lois Lane as a female fury.

**ITEM!** They said "Rebirth" would bring back core concepts and characters, and it looks like Green Lantern fans will get their fill soon. October's *Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps* (ITEM 0219 and ITEM 0221) will see the hero teaming up with Superman to deal with classic Lantern villains Sinestro and Hector Hammond.

**ITEM!** Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis and Scott Kolins are leaving *Blue Beetle* after September, as DC gives the book to Christopher Sebela and Tony Silas in October (ITEM 0205). The publisher is also giving Bernard Chiang a solo gig (both writing and drawing) on *Batman Beyond* (ITEM 0201).

**ITEM!** OK, Catwoman, what will it be? In June's *Batman #24*, Bruce Wayne proposed to his frequent flame Selina Kyle, literally getting on one knee with a rock in a box. The solicitation for *Batman #32* (ITEM 0197) indicates Batman - and the rest of us - will get an answer in October, although issue #33's text makes the love-match sound questionable. Superman's married and has a kid. Is a married Batman in the cards for "Rebirth"?

**ITEM!** Catwoman and Poison Ivy are on the cover of *Batgirl and the Birds of Prey #15* (ITEM 0195), so it looks like they're becoming full-fledged members of the team. And they're just in time to deal with a flu epidemic that only affects men. The Birds are feeling fine, but the men around them (including Batgirl's dad) are deathly ill. (No indication yet if Yorick will be the "last man.")

**ITEM!** DC's new Halloween-timed one-shot, *DC HOUSE OF HORROR #1* (ITEM 0272), holds plenty of potential for super-powered scares. An all-new, all-creepy one-shot set in the DC Universe, *DC House of Horror* features the contributions of some of the most exciting voices in contemporary horror fiction, including Bram Stoker Award winners Brian Keene and Weston Ochse, Bram Stoker nominees Edward Lee and Mary SanGiovanni, and other masters of horror including Wrath James White, Nick Cutter, Ronald Malfi and Bryan Smith. They're partnered up with some of our best artists, including Rags Morales, Bilquis Evely, Howard Porter, Scott Kolins, Dale Eaglesham and others for some short stories that will keep you reading late into the night.

**ITEM!** Ragman (ITEM 0285) is getting his own miniseries from DC Comics this October! From the creative team

of writer Ray Fawkes, artist Inaki Miranda, and colorist Eva de la Cruz, with covers by Guillem March. Though the character hasn't had his own series since 2010, Ragman was recently featured in Season 5 of the television show *Arrow*, so the new book hopes to capitalize on that and bestow the sacred gift of synergy upon the DCU.

**ITEM!** Jason Aaron and Russell Dauterman's *Mighty Thor* is rolling up its odometer to #700 for "Marvel Legacy" and a story that the



writer says he's been planning for some time. Teased in the original homage cover reveals as "The Death of Mighty Thor" (homaging Jim Starlin's *The Death of Captain Marvel*), this new arc beginning in the fall might - or might not - homage that story itself. According to the solicitation, the long-teased Mangog will

arrive in *Mighty Thor #700* (ITEM 0848). The War Thor goes to fight him directly, while Thor herself - Jane Foster - wrestles with her cancer progressing.

**ITEM!** In the Golden Age of television, Ruff and Reddy were on top of the entertainment world... until the world turned, and they were forgotten. Now, Ruff is a washed-up television actor. Reddy is a clerk in an upscale grocery store. Can a hungry young agent convince the two one-time partners to make a comeback—and convince the world that it wants to see the famously infamous dog-and-cat comedy team back in the spotlight? Don't miss *RUFF AND REDDY #1* (ITEM 0299) if you can!

**ITEM!** The new *Star Trek* IDW series will be titled *Star Trek: Discovery* and the 32-page first issue will be written by long-time IDW *Star Trek* comics writer Mike Johnson and *Star Trek: Discovery* TV writer (and *Trek* novelist) Kirsten Beyer. Veteran artist Tony Shasteen (*Star Trek: Boldly Go*) is doing the artwork and cover. Each issue of the *Star Trek: Discovery* comic will feature a "ships of the line" cover by Declan Shalvey and Jordie Bellaire which will offer a "first look at the new ships of *Discovery*." Issue #1 (ITEM 0484).

**ITEM!** The cities of Gotham and Riverdale collide this fall when DC Comics and Archie Comics bring together two high-profile female duos in the six-issue crossover *Harley & Ivy Meet Betty & Veronica* (ITEM 0278). Harley Quinn co-creator Paul Dini will collaborate

with writer Marc Andreyko and artist Laura Braga on the miniseries, which sees the fan-favorite anti-heroine and her pal Poison Ivy team up against Betty Cooper and Veronica Lodge when a new proposal looks to drain the wetlands between Gotham and Riverdale. The nature lover that she is, Ivy comes up with the idea to kidnap Riverdale's resident heiress Veronica and her best friend Betty. Amanda Connors, who co-writes DC's Harley Quinn, will provide the covers for *Harley & Ivy Meet Betty & Veronica*, with Betty & Veronica's Adam Hughes providing variant covers.

**ITEM!** Peter Milligan (*Shade, the Changing Man*)





and Tess Fowler (Rat Queens) will team on KID LOBOTOMY (ITEM 0373), which will not only kick off the Black Crown comic line in face-melting fashion, but also set the tone of the buzz-worthy and hotly anticipated new line (no pressure, guys)! Kid, as he's affectionately referred to, is the youngest descendant of a strange, overbearing hotelier. While he sports rock star good looks, Kid Lobotomy has more in common with Hannibal than Morrissey in his prime. Unsuspecting hotel guests who check in to "The Suites" are in danger of losing more than their luggage. Living up to his name, Kid has shed a few brain cells in his day, which naturally makes him qualified to perform a lobotomy or two. And why let those brain bits go to waste when he can use them to help — or unwittingly harm — his subjects? Ultimately, Kid hopes to restore some of his sanity. But can he survive the truth about his cursed lineage and face what runs rampant throughout the torturous hotel hallways? Simply put, you've never read anything like this.

**ITEM!** Co-writers Justin Jordan and Nikki Ryan join artist Morgan Beem for *The Family Trade* (ITEM 0534), a new Image Comics series. Jordan, of course, has already enjoyed great success at Image with his hit titles, "The Strange Tale of Luther Strode," "Dead Body Road" and "Spread." So when he and his "Family Trade" co-creators were shopping their new series around, it only made sense that it would end up at a publisher already familiar with the writer. *The Family Trade* sees Jordan teaming up with co-writer Nikki Ryan and artist Morgan Beem for an "oceanpunk" story about the self-appointed protectors of a floating city in a flooded world.

**ITEM!** Black Panther won't be in theaters until February, but October's Marvel's Black Panther Prelude #1 (ITEM 0964), a new story featuring the MCU version of T'Challa will begin. The two-part series will revisit T'Challa's origin as Black Panther before his debut in *Captain America: Civil War*.

**ITEM!** The return of the deceased Gert in the new volume of *Runaways* has been teased for some time, but it looks like her resurrection will come sooner rather than later. The solicitation for October's *Runaways* #2 (ITEM 0966) mentions Gert's return, posing the question of whether her romance with Chase has survived in her absence.

**ITEM!** With *Marvel Legacy*, Deadpool will become *The Despicable Deadpool*, picking up its classic numbering with #287 (ITEM 0830). What's more, the title will embrace Deadpool's origins as a villain - and reignite his rivalry with Cable. As for how the newly "Despicable" Wade Wilson will come to clash with his old rival/pal Cable, series writer Gerry Duggan pointed to another classic X-Force character. "Just before *Secret Empire* began Deadpool needed help to save the Preston family, and his friends weren't immediately available - so he turned to an enemy: Stryfe," Duggan explained. "Stryfe saved for lives for him, and now Deadpool must pay his price: he has to kill 4 people for him. Cable is the first name that Stryfe gives him. Deadpool might have been able to do some



damage control after *Secret Empire*, but now with Stryfe calling in his maker."

**ITEM!** Independent game developer and publisher Digital Extremes announced it has partnered with famed indie label Top Cow Comics to create an original *WARFRAME* (ITEM 0601) comic series. Based on source material from the cooperative online action game and in collaboration with the *Warframe* development team, the series is written by Top Cow President/COO and Writer Matt Hawkins (Think Tank, *The Tithe*, *Aphrodite IX*) and Top Cow Editor Ryan Cady. This five-issue series expands the *Warframe* universe with intriguing new characters and original locations, and offers an imaginative character-driven tone to *Warframe* players and comic book fans alike. The narrative hinges on the lone *Warframe*, Excalibur, who is determined to protect a blinded young girl, the last survivor of a recently destroyed village on Earth. Seasoned Tenno may even find hints to future game updates in the series not yet revealed in the *Warframe* universe.

**ITEM!** The fallout from the Totally Awesome Hulk/Weapon X crossover "Weapons of Mutant Destruction" continues in October as "Weapon H," the Wolverine/Hulk hybrid will go on a rampage in *Weapon X* #9 (ITEM 0984), leading to a big payoff in #10 (ITEM 0985). That's right - there will finally be a new twist on the old rivalry as *Weapon H* and *Old Man Logan* finally come face-to-face.

**ITEM!** Long-time Marvel editor Ralph Macchio returns to the publisher in October for a story entitled *Thor: Where Walk the Frost Giants* (ITEM 0938) in which Thor battles Ymir, lord of Niflheim. Macchio retired from Marvel as an editor in 2011, though the bulk of his work as a writer took place in the 70s and 80s.

**ITEM!** The return of the Slingers was presaged in the solicitation for September's *Ben Reilly: The Scarlet Spider* #8 - but the solicit for October's #9 (ITEM 0942) teases an even bigger surprise. It looks like Ben Reilly will have to deal with a new iteration of *Homet* who may have a connection to the *Scarlet Spider* himself.

**ITEM!** Kamala Khan is arguably the hero of Jersey City, but it seems that this fall she'll face a little competition for the title as a new hero starts patrolling the city's streets in *Ms. Marvel* #23 (ITEM 0955). According to the solicitation, Ms. Marvel will be "conflicted" over her relationship with the new hero, whose identity remains unrevealed.

**ITEM!** Since the start of the *Black Bolt* ongoing series, the mystery of the Jailer's identity has been a consistent subplot in the title. Now, in *Black Bolt* #6 (ITEM 0957), the mystery of the Jailer's identity will be solved, and according to the solicit, the answer is "more terrifying than any of them could imagine."

**ITEM!** All-New *Guardians of the Galaxy* launched with a core roster of the five team members featured in the films. But in October, that line-up will expand by one in All-New *Guardians of the Galaxy* #12 (ITEM 0975). Though the new team member's identity is still classified, the "Legacy" variant cover for #11 includes several possibilities, such as Nova and Adam Warlock. And there's always the possibility of Mantis, to become more in line with its latest movie.

**ITEM!** Frank Castle first became the Punisher during his final tour of Vietnam, but what about his first tour of duty? A new *Marvel* miniseries launching this October will answer that. *Punisher: The Platoon* (ITEM 0930) by Garth Ennis and Goran Parlov is a prequel to 2003's *Born*, show-



ing that even before there was a Punisher there was a darkness inside Frank Castle. Previously hinted at in convention appearances, *The Platoon* will detail Frank Castle's first military command as well as his first kill.

**ITEM!** Superstar comics and storyboard artist Steve Skroce (*WE STAND ON GUARD*, *Wolverine*) will take on both writing and art duties in his all-new, totally irreverent and fantastical action-comedy *MAESTROS* (ITEM 0542) this October from Image Comics. The Maestro and his entire royal family have been murdered. Now, his banished son from Earth will inherit the Wizard King's throne along with a spell that turns its user into GOD. With enemies everywhere, will this Orlando-born millennial be able to keep his new magic kingdom? "MAESTROS is a finely seasoned stew of everything I love about the fantasy and action adventure genres," said Skroce. "I tried to create a universe where all my beloved magical characters and settings might exist together, side by side. The protagonist, Willy Little, isn't a chosen one; he's granted ultimate power through blind luck—but can a nice guy stay nice when no one ever says 'no' to him again?"

**ITEM!** *Wolverine* was always the epitome of cool and is undeniably one of the best heroes in comic books. However, in 2014's *Death of Wolverine*, the X-man lost his healing factor and tragically passed away. It was an event that shook the X-Men and greatly effected *Marvel Comics*. A short time later, *Marvel* brought back a different version of *Wolverine* to replace the original. *Old Man Logan* was brought into the *Marvel 616 Universe* in order to keep a version of *Wolverine* in the *Marvel* universe without reviving the version who had died in *Death of Wolverine*. After *Secret Wars*, he became a permanent part of the *Marvel 616 Universe*, and will now take on that reality's *Deadpool* in a five-issue miniseries called *Deadpool vs. Old Man Logan* (ITEM 0926). The title has an extremely promising creative team attached, with Declan Shalvey writing and Mike Henderson illustrating.

**ITEM!** Rodney Barnes is a Peabody and AFI Award-winning writer and producer on *The Boondocks* and *Everybody Hates Chris*, so he should have a solid take on *FALCON* #1 (ITEM 0785) with art by John Cassara.

**ITEM!** Tom Taylor is continuing on the *Laura/X-23*-led All-New *Wolverine* into this fall's "Marvel Legacy," and is being joined by Elektra artist Juan Cabal. It all begins with All-New *Wolverine* #25 (ITEM 0910), in a new storyline titled "Orphans of X" concerning *Laura* and her half-brother *Daken* returning to the *Weapon X*-related site, the Facility, and crossing paths with a mysterious group known as the *Orphans of X*.

**ITEM!** Led by the creative team of writer Marguerite Bennett and artists Rafael de Latorre and Rob Schwager, *Animosity* has been the breakout hit of *AfterShock Comics*' early days as a publisher. The series has already grown to include multiple one-shots spinning out of the main series, and in October,

*AfterShock* will launch a second *Animosity* ongoing series. *CBR* has the first details. *Animosity: Evolution* (ITEM 1120) will also be written by Bennett and colored by Rob Schwager, with art by Eric Gapstur. Bennett describes *Evolution* as the "Star Trek to *Animosity*'s *Star Wars* — the ethical and philosophical exploration to *Animosity*'s dark adventure."

**ITEM!** *Batman* and *The Shadow* (ITEM 1470) are about to join forces — again. *Dynamite Entertainment* announced a second crossover event between the two titles from writer Steve Orlando and artist Giovanni Timpano. The six-issue crossover event will thematically follow the events of this earlier miniseries.

