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M&M'S COMIC COMMENTS



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April Previews Highlight

ITEM! In a Batman story by Tom King and artist Clay Mann, The Joker gets word about the wedding between

the Bat and the Cat, and he's not happy. With the wedding story arc reaching its climax in **BATMAN #50 (ITEM 0450)**, The Joker will be that one wedding guest most likely to speak now and not hold his peace at all." It's not just Batman's inner circle who don't fully understand the Batman/Catwoman engagement. Some comics fans weren't quite sure what to make of the proposal to start with and King insists that for as odd as fans may find the engagement, it's even weirder for the characters of DC Comics.

ITEM! Coming off a 64-issue run on Chew with John Layman, Rob Guillory announced his new series **FARMHAND (ITEM 0011)**. Guillory will be writing and drawing the new series that he describes as a dark comedy. Farmhand focuses on Jebediah Jenkins, a farmhand who has blueprints downloaded directly into his brain on how to grow human organs, allowing human organ transplants. The first three issues are already done with the overall series being planned for 20 issues. But then again, Guillory points out that Chew was originally planned to go five issues.

ITEM! **JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK (ITEM 0467)** by James Tynion IV, Alvaro Lopez, Raul Fernandez, and Brad Anderson will see Wonder Woman lead a team including Detective Chimp, Zatanna, Man-Bat, Swamp Thing, and Zatanna.

ITEM! Darkseid himself is actually joining the **JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY (ITEM 0469)** team alongside Cyborg, Starfire, Azrael, and Jessica Cruz, nicknamed Justice League Space, by Josh Williamson and Stjepan Sejic.

ITEM! **THE WILD STORM #15 (ITEM 0553)** will feature a character named Marc Slayton, a familiar name to Wildstorm fans who know him better as Backlash. The series has been re-introducing Wildstorm characters, and Backlash appears to be the latest.

ITEM! Yes, she's been busy planning her wedding in the pages of **BATMAN**, but it's been two years since **CATWOMAN (ITEM 0456)** has had her own solo, ongoing series. We don't know about you, but we've really missed her. This summer, Catwoman returns in a new monthly series written and drawn by none other than Joëlle Jones. Selina's new series will spin out of this year's much anticipated Bat Wedding in **BATMAN #50**. But if you're expecting a romantic tale set during a tropical honeymoon or focused on Selina and Bruce's newly wedded bliss, think again. Catwoman's back on the streets dealing



with a mysterious copycat and taking on a brand new, as-yet-unrevealed villain in the Eisner nominated Jones debut storyline.

ITEM! **APHRODITE V (ITEM 0030)** is arriving in July from Image. Bryan Hill, about to take Detective Comics out for a spin, and Jeff Spokes are the creative team for this adventure as the titular biomechanical heroine takes on a menace fueled by black market technology. "This is a great way for people unfamiliar with this side of the Top Cow universe to jump into a story about the intersection of technology, humanity, and justice," said Hill in the press release.

ITEM! Fan-favorite writer Joe Casey (**OFFICER DOWNE**) and artist Ulises Farinas team up for an all-new series in **NEW LIEUTENANTS OF METAL (ITEM 0033)**. From Joe Casey and Ulises Farinas—they are the most kick-ass, head-banging heroes ever assembled! They are a precision strike force, ready to face any threat! They are a metal militia of mayhem and they mean serious business! If you like blood and explosions... or if you like bloody explosions... this is the book you've been waiting in line outside the coliseum to read! Their names are legend: The Mighty Kreig! Vandenberg Riot! Manowarrior! Steppenwulf! Beset from all sides by a growing roster of vicious foes, the New Lieutenants of Metal have arrived to bust down the doors of perception and deliver you to a greater comic-book glory! Featuring the first appearance of Spike!

ITEM! Image Comics and Skybound Entertainment invite you to explore the mysteries and wonder of the Frost this July as Eisner-winning writer Sean Kelley McKeever (*The Waiting Place*, *Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane*), artist Alexandre Tefenkgi, and colorist Jean-Francois Beaulieu bring you your new favorite series: **OUTPOST ZERO (ITEM 0043)**. In *Outpost Zero*, the people work the land, go to the fights every Friday night, and tuck their children into bed—but the *Outpost* is no place for dreams or aspirations. To survive is ambitious enough. As Alea and her friends graduate to adulthood on a frozen world never meant to support human life, something stirs. Something sees...

ITEM! Strap yourselves in for a ride to an alternate and futuristic world, where the Rat Queens take to the neon streets of Palisade as an elite team of shadow operatives. An anonymous fiend creeps through the dark web, stealing identities and blackmailing innocent civilians for cold, hard Goldyen—and only the Queens can stop him! A cyberpunk take on the **RAT QUEENS!** Don't miss **RAT QUEENS SPECIAL NEON STATIC (ITEM 0047)**.

ITEM! Dark Horse has announced the next comic in the **BLACK HAMMER UNIVERSE: THE QUANTUM AGE (ITEM 0320)**. From the creative team of Jeff

Lemire, Wilfredo Torres, Dave Stewart, and Nate Piekos, and featuring a cover by Torres, *The Quantum Age* is a six-issue mini-series set a thousand years in the future of the Black Hammer universe.

ITEM! Included in the Marvel July 2018 solicitations is the continuation of Marvel's *Fresh Start*, new launching



off points for their landmark books with new creative teams! Among the new titles is **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 (ITEM 0784)**! The all-new creative team on the series will be writer Nick Spencer and the Marvel debut of

Invincible artist Ryan Ottley. In the series, an alien invasion hits New York City and the only one who can stop it is... Spider-Man?! But that's far from all you'll find here – a revelation from the past puts Peter Parker's job, relationships, and whole life in jeopardy! And if even that's not enough, you'll see a new roommate, new love interests – and a new villain!

ITEM! If you haven't been keeping up with comics legend Karen Berger's new Dark Horse imprint, now would be a really good time to start, as we've got the exclusive reveal of Berger Books' latest compelling offering: **SHE COULD FLY (ITEM 0322)**. From writer Christopher Cantwell, co-creator/showrunner of AMC's *Halt and Catch Fire*, and artist Martin Morazzo (*Nighthawk*, *Elektra*), *She Could Fly* tells the tale of Luna Brewster, a "disturbed" 15-year-old girl, according to an official announcement. Along with seemingly everyone else, Luna witnesses the demise of a mysterious flying woman when she suddenly explodes while soaring 2,000 feet in the air at 120 mph. With the flying woman's fiery death, everyone's got questions, theories, or admonishments. "No one knows who she was, how she flew, or why. Some think it was a government program. Some think it was foreign surveillance. Some think it was all fake. Some are even convinced that it was a religious, transcendent experience happening on earth," the story teases.

ITEM! Young Cable will once again meet his parents (or at least his dad and the woman his mother was cloned from) Cyclops and Jean Grey through the magic of time travel in **CABLE #159 (ITEM 0911)**—in which, the solicit says, Cable's "dark secret" will be revealed.

ITEM! The killer once known as Punisher has a new mission as Marvel's **COSMIC GHOST RIDER (ITEM 0803)**, and a solo comic book all his own. Frank Castle will be giving up the mission of eradicating the streets of criminals and killers, and taking on a more devilish charge. Trading his soul to Mephisto to live another day, the former Punisher becomes Marvel's new Ghost Rider. The comic series will be handled by writer Donny Cates and artist



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Dylan Burnett.

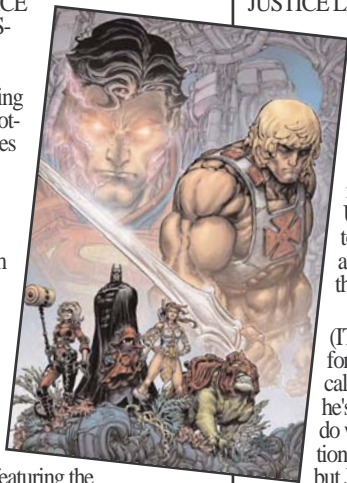
ITEM! Steve Orlando is a "guest writer" on WONDER WOMAN #51 (ITEM 0558) with Laura Braga, and Dan Jurgens and Mike Perkins are taking over GREEN LANTERNS (ITEM 0507) in July. (Perkins had already announced he was coming to DC, having worked for years at Marvel, although this is the first indication of a DC project.)

ITEM! Another new #1 in July will be CAPTAIN AMERICA #1 (ITEM 0773), as Black Panther writer Ta-Nehisi Coates takes the reins for the Star Spangled Man with artist Leinil Francis Yu. For over 70 years, he has stood in stalwart defense of our country and its people. But in the aftermath of Hydra's takeover of the nation, Captain America is a figure of controversy, carrying a tarnished shield... and a new enemy is rising! Who are the Power Elite? And how do they intend to co-opt and corrupt the symbol that is Captain America?



ITEM! DISNEY PIXAR'S INCREDIBLES 2: CRISIS IN MID-LIFE! & OTHER STORIES #1 (ITEM 0325) kicks off a three issue miniseries with stories by by Christos Gage and Landry Q. Walker with art by Gurihiru, J. Bone, Andrea Greppi, and Roberta Zanotta. Issue one will include the first part of an ongoing story "Crisis in Mid-Life!" and a one-off Jack-Jack short. "While dedicating a new submarine, Mr. Incredible is interrupted by the dastardly Bomb Voyage—who is intent on crushing the crowd of onlookers underneath the sub! Mr. Incredible struggles to save the day, which has him questioning his super powers—could something be wrong? In 'Bedtime Story' part 1, Bob tells Jack-Jack a bedtime story that has Violet and Dash calling foul: this battle from his glory days seems too amazing to be true. Then in his own adventure, at a visit to the park, Jack-Jack uses his powers to overcome a worthy opponent!"

ITEM! A new six-issue miniseries will see He-Man and the Masters of the Universe team up with Batman and other DC superheroes. INJUSTICE VS. HE MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ITEM 0473) and the first issue comes out on July 18. After freeing Eternia from the control of a robotic impostor, He-Man and his allies get recruited by heroes from another dimension, including Batman, to help put an end to Superman's dictatorship. The miniseries will be written by Tim Seeley (Nightwing, Green Lanterns) and illustrated by Freddie E. Williams II



ITEM! This summer, grab some shade and kick off those sandals for the first ever DC BEACH BLANKET BAD GUYS SPECIAL #1 (ITEM 0459), a new 80-page one-shot featuring the work of Paul Dini, Lee Bermejo, Carlos D'Anda, Corinna Beckho, Shea Fontana, Gabriel Hardman and more! Packed full of hot weather hijinks, this unique anthology shows what the less lawful members of the DC Universe get up to when the temperatures rise. Mr. Freeze, for example. Ever wonder how he beats the summertime heat? Or how about Gorilla Grodd? Something tells us he doesn't spend the summer months monkeying around. DC Beach Blanket Bad Guys Special #1 contains ten new tales of bad behavior, guaranteed to shock, surprise and delight you (provided you're not a superhero).

ITEM! FUTURE QUEST PRESENTS ends with #12 (ITEM 0501), as writer Jeff Parker and artist Mauricet finish the mash-up of Hanna Barbera's action heroes with what the solicitation describes as saving "the biggest for

last" ends with #12, as writer Jeff Parker and artist Mauricet finish the mash-up of Hanna Barbera's action heroes with what the solicitation describes as saving "the biggest for last."

ITEM! The solicitation for July's THE HELLBLAZER #24 (ITEM 0519) sounds like another possible ending for one of DC's ongoing series, although just like New Super-Man, there's no official indication of it being a "final issue." The copy for Hellblazer #24 says the "final chapter" of this storyline might be the "final nail" in

John Constantine's coffin, as he might be saying "goodbye to this mortal coil." That sure sounds like some sort of ending. However, the story has John choosing whether or not to take someone's place in Hell. For anyone else, that probably would be an ending. But for someone like John, a place like Hell might just be a new story setting.

ITEM! There are a few surprising names on unexpected titles in the solicitations for July. Readers will be pleased to see more work from Paul Dini, this time on BATGIRL (ITEM 0477), an issue that also has work by Mairghread Scott and Marguerite Bennett (the latter returning to the title after once writing an issue during Gail Simone's run in 2014). Scott's story (drawn by Paul Pelletier) is framed as a precursor to the two doing the series full-time.

ITEM! Readers have known for a while that the New Challengers book will introduce a brand new team to the DCU that is taking on the mantle of a much older team of heroes. According to Dark Nights: Metal, that team, the old Challengers of the Unknown, was lost in a mission years ago while investigating the Dark Multiverse. Well, it looks like the original Challengers might be coming back. The solicitation for July's NEW CHALLENGERS #3 (ITEM 0533) says that the new team will be fighting the "original Challengers" as "dark matter leaks from the Dark Multiverse."

ITEM! Scott Snyder likes to talk a little spoiler-y about what he's doing at DC, including his upcoming JUSTICE LEAGUE (ITEM 0524 AND ITEM 0526) run. We already know about the new Hall of Justice, the Legion of Doom, and several story points for the run that starts in June. But July's solicitations have a couple surprise names in them: "The Turtle" and the "Ultraviolet Lanterns." The former probably refers to the Flash villain who, like his name indicates, slows down the Flash. But the Ultraviolet Lanterns? They might be related to John Stewart's presence in the book, or another version of the many-colored Lanterns that the Green Lantern universe already has.

ITEM! DETECTIVE COMICS #985 (ITEM 0494) introduces a new "side project" for Batman. He's apparently found something called the "Brainiac Files," and now he's trying to figure out what to do with them. There's no indication what the Brainiac Files are, but Justice League: No Justice features the villain as a central part of the story. So this story by new Detective creative team Bryan Hill and Philippe Briones will probably follow up on some thread from No Justice, although with Batman's history of secret projects (think Dark Multiverse or Brother Eye), we're going out on a limb and predicting it's not going to end well.

ITEM! The copy for BATWOMAN (ITEM 0482) is teasing a "new partnership" between Kate Kane and Gotham police officer Renee Montoya. The two have history, not only having dated in current continuity, but also having a pretty extensive history together in DC's past continuity. Fans of the weekly series 52 will

remember that Kate and Renee were a central couple in the series.

ITEM! The Inhumans look to be doomed at the hands of none other than their creators the Kree, who, according to the solicitation for DEATH OF THE INHUMANS #1 (ITEM 0815), are looking to consolidate their empire at any cost. With Black Bolt and the Royal Family squarely in the Kree's sights, this very well could be the actual death of the Inhumans—and a way to bring the Kree back into high profile ahead of 2019's Kree-heavy Captain Marvel film. And then there's that cover, featuring a twisted version of Black Bolt, named "Carrion."



ITEM! The "Clone Saga" is one of the most infamous stories in Spider-Man history. Love it or hate it, it's impossible not to have a reaction when that name is invoked. With that in mind, it looks like Annie Parker is going to have her hands full this summer dealing with, in the words

of the solicitation for July's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: RENEW YOUR VOWS #21 (ITEM 0862), "her own clone saga."

ITEM! Doctor Strange carries the Time Stone in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and that may be about to be the case in Marvel Comics as well. In July's DOCTOR STRANGE #3 (ITEM 0885), Strange will clash with Super Skrull over the Time Stone—right on the eve of Marvel's Infinity Wars summer event.

ITEM! 2016 was a bad year to be an armored Avenger, thanks to Civil War II which killed James Rhodes and put Tony Stark in a coma. But now Tony is coming back—and Rhodey just may be coming back too. First up, the solicitation for TONY STARK: IRON MAN #2 (ITEM 0854) mentions a secret Tony has been harboring that he can only confide in Rhodey—implying Tony's gonna have to find a way to bring Rhodey back to get it off his chest. Then, over in PUNISHER #228 (ITEM 0888) Tony comes calling for the War Machine armor Frank Castle has been sporting.

ITEM! Carol Danvers will receive a new updated origin story, beginning in Marvel Comics' LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL #1 (ITEM 0795). Writer Margaret Stohl, who penned Carol's adventures in The Mighty Captain Marvel, will be joined by artist Carlos Pacheco. According to a Marvel press release, what prompts the retelling of Captain Marvel's origin story will be "crippling anxiety attacks [that] put her on the sidelines in the middle of a fight."

ITEM! Mirka Andolfo brings hit Italian comic title, Contro Natura, to Image Comics in an English translated fantasy erotica title, UNNATURAL (ITEM 0023). Set in the future, Unnatural is set in a world of segregation, where only people of the same race and groups can be together. Where your perfect partner is selected for you at 25. And where children born from other non-approved unions are the number one enemy and many enter fake marriages to avoid persecution. And her lead character, a 'pig girl' lives with her best friend, a mouse girl. There is also a Milo Manara cover available (ITEM 0024).

ITEM! Ales Kot has a book with Tradd Moore, THE NEW WORLD (ITEM 0036), set in a future California after a second Civil War. The wall still remains between California and Mexico, and an earthquake destroyed Los Angeles, now rebuilt as New Los Angeles. A Mad Max and Romeo and Juliet to the tune of Teenage Kicks and, according to Kot, Moore's finest work to date.

