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# M&M'S COMIC COMMENTS

Volume 23 Number 5

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May 2017 Previews Catalog - Items Shipping in July 2017

## Previews Highlights

**ITEM!** Batman may be at the center of co-writers Scott Snyder, and James Tynion IV's "Dark Days," but Gotham City's protector will have some super-powered help when the DC Comics summer event arrives in July. In *Dark Days: The Casting #1* (ITEM 0193), the storyline kicks off with Duke, the Dark Knight's new ally-in-training, and Green Lantern attempting to put the late Hawkman's warning to good use, thus preventing the end of the DC Universe. Andy Kubert, Jim Lee and John Romita Jr. are among the artists enlisted to kick off the story in this prelude issue.



**ITEM!** Tom King and Mikel Janin's flashback storyline continues, as Batman #26 (ITEM 0211) and 27 (ITEM 0213) see new chapters in "The War of Jokes and Riddles."

**ITEM!** Over ten years ago, American Crime creator John Ridley and artist Georges Jeanty collaborated on *The American Way*, an alternate universe story that introduced Jason Fisher, a.k.a. the New American; the first ever African-American superhero in a world where only white heroes and villains previously existed. As Jason faced the racism of the era, his team was split into two and it nearly led to nuclear destruction. Now, Ridley and Jeanty are reteaming for a sequel miniseries entitled *American Way: Those Above and Those Below* (ITEM 0358).

**ITEM!** The relationship between Bruce Wayne and Alfred Pennyworth, the man Batman thought he could trust more than anyone, is in danger. The "American Vampire" team of Snyder and Rafael Albuquerque conclude their *All Star Batman* run with #12 (ITEM 0200) with the revelation of a secret that may leave the classic relationship permanently altered.

**ITEM!** The massively muscled Scrappy-Doo finally catches up to Scooby and the gang in *Scooby Apocalypse #15* (ITEM 0304). The series' long-burning sub-plot comes to the foreground in Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis and Dale Eaglesham's *Issue #15*.

**ITEM!** Comic legends Klaus Janson (*Daredevil*, *Dark Knight Returns*) and Pablo Raimondi (*X-Factor*, *Book of Doom*) proudly present *SACRED CREATURES* (Raimondi Cover: ITEM 0591, Janson cover: ITEM 0592) their first-ever creator-owned series, with a monster-sized first issue featuring 66 pages of color art! We can't reveal too much of the story as we want the reader to discover who these characters are by themselves, but suffice it to say that the *Sacred Creatures* have been with us for a very long time, they've woven themselves into the fabric of our society and manipulated mankind to further their own agenda. As we open issue 1, they are about to initiate their ultimate plan to upset the balance of power that humanity has so far been able to maintain. It's a gripping, fast



paced story that barrels to a climax full of twists and surprises.

**ITEM!** In *Deathstroke #21* (ITEM 0221), Christopher Priest and Digenes Neves have constant Teen Titans nemesis Slade Wilson recruit his own team of young heroes. Kid Flash, Power Girl, Rose, Jericho and Terra are all on Team Deathstroke, believing the mercenary has turned a corner towards doing good.

**ITEM!** Shea Fontana and Mirka Andolfo take over *Wonder Woman* from the current creative team, immediately sending Diana on a multi-issue story arc. "Heart of the Amazon" kicks off in *Wonder Woman #26* (ITEM 0285) and continues in #27 (ITEM 0287), two weeks later.

**ITEM!** The past goes futuristic as the Adam West-era Batman meets the teens from the 30th century in *Batman '66/ Legion of Super-Heroes* (ITEM 0289). Lee and Mike Allred send Batman to the future, while a group of Legionnaires spend a little time with Robin in the '60s.

**ITEM!** Volthoom's schemes against Jessica Cruz and her Earth patrolling Green Lantern partner Simon Baz take center stage in July when the *Green Lanterns* storyline (ITEM 0235 and ITEM 0237) has the two characters thrown back in time, in search of the "first Green Lanterns" — 10 billion years ago.

**ITEM!** Zatanna is joining the team of heroes who fights with Batman in *Detective Comics*. Although the character was teased previously as a guest star, it looks like she's sticking around after issue #960 (ITEM 0223), giving the usual street-level team a bit of magical power.

**ITEM!** *Cyborg #14* (ITEM 0219) teases some pretty drastic changes, all apparently stemming from that trippy boom tube ride the character took, along with the actions of the book's current villain, Anomaly. It looks like the battle with Anomaly, which have been building since the book debuted, will hit a climax in July's issue, as Cyborg has to save life itself.

**ITEM!** *Aquaman #26* (ITEM 0203) is the only issue of the book shipping in July (it had formerly shipped twice monthly). But the issue will bring back a character that many long-time Aquaman fans should remember — Dolphin. The character, who was presumed dead in previous continuity, might be among those characters revived and/or reinvented for "Rebirth."

**ITEM!** *Rom Vs.*

*Transformers: Shining Armor* (ITEM 0395-0397) will be written by John Barber and Christos Gage, with art by Alex Milne and will take place in the past, nearly 200 years ago. This is early on in the time of the Solstar Knights (aka. Space Knights) but just a sand grain in the hourglass of the *Transformers* four million year war. At this point, Cybertron is largely dead and the *Transformers* are in a brutal war, and are constantly on the lookout for Energon. The two civilizations are largely in different parts of the galaxy though and don't really cross paths, except



when they do.

**ITEM!** *The Flash #27* (ITEM 0229) is billed as the issue the series "has been building to" for a full year. Josh Williamson and Howard Porter are promising readers "the ultimate showdown" between Barry Allen and his greatest nemesis, Reverse-Flash.

**ITEM!** Back in January, Marvel announced a change to their digital redeem code program in which they would no longer include digital codes matching purchased print copies, but instead include a code to download separate comics of the publisher's choosing from their digital

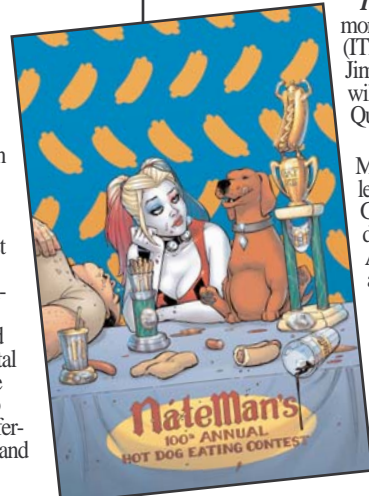
library. However, the decision wasn't quite met with the open arms Marvel expected, so beginning in May, all digital redeem codes will once again unlock a free digital copy of the purchased title, as well as one additional bonus digital comic.

**ITEM!** Throughout the month, DC is celebrating various ongoing series anniversaries with double-sized issues for every title hitting #25 for the month. *Justice League* (ITEM 0251), *Hal Jordan & the Green Lantern Corps* (ITEM 0241), *Nightwing* (ITEM 0261) and more will have 40-page issues to promote their twenty-fifth issues.

**ITEM!** Dynamite Entertainment has announced that the iconic Pinup Queen *Bettie Page*, who lit the pop culture world on fire more than sixty years ago, is returning in comic book form courtesy of writer David Avallone (*Doc Savage: The Ring of Fire*, *The Twilight Zone: The Shadow*) and artist Colton Worely (*The Shadow*, *Project Superpowers: Blackcross*). With the debut issue set for release in July, *Bettie Page #1* will bring the heat to fans this summer. In this latest telling, Ms. Page is more modest than Ms. Blaise, but peels more than Ms. Emma. She out-vamps *Vampirella*, but she's sweeter than *Honey West*. She puts the mod in model, and the bangs in bang-bang. Now the world can know the truth: her classified adventures back in 1951 Hollywood have officially been declassified. There are six different covers of the first issue offered this month (ITEMS 1373-1378).

**ITEM!** They've been teased for months, and in *Harley Quinn #24* (ITEM 0245), Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti and John Timms will finally introduce *Harleen Quinzel's* parents to the world.

**ITEM!** Cullen Bunn and Mirko Colak will give Arthurian legend a horror twist in *Unholy Grail* (ITEM 1044), a new series debuting in July from AfterShock Comics. "If readers are even passingly familiar with the story of King Arthur, I think they'll enjoy this twisted, evil version of the legend," Bunn ("X-Men Blue," "Harrow County") said in a statement. "All the familiar elements are here — Arthur, Merlin, Guinevere, Lancelot, the



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Round Table, Camelot, the Sword in the Stone, Excalibur — but they are seen through a very dark and horrific lens. If readers are unfamiliar with Arthur, they can still enjoy this as a horror fantasy, and it might even open their eyes to other Arthurian legends.

**ITEM!** “Secret Empire” races towards its finale in July, but the Marvel Comics event isn’t headed down the home stretch quietly. As revealed in the publisher’s solicitations for July 2017, things are about to get bigger before Captain America’s Hydra-fueled regime inevitable comes crumbling down around him.

First, in Secret Empire #6 (ITEM 0763), we see the arrival of Thor Odinson, along with the Scarlet Witch and Vision. Described in the solicit text as “the unworthy, the untrusted, the unstable,” it’s unclear whether they’re on Cap’s side or not, though recent events in “The Unworthy Thor” would have us guessing he, at least won’t be supporting Steve Rogers’ platform. Secret Empire #7 (ITEM 0769) may prove to be THE key moment of the event, however, as the solicit text flat-out says it’s the issue where we see whether Ulysses’ “Civil War II” vision involving the death of Captain America at the hands of Miles Morales becomes a reality. We wouldn’t have thought so, but judging by the cover, which shows the Black Widow poised to take out either Spider-Man or Cap while they face each other down, well — all bets are off.

**ITEM!** Dynamite Entertainment continues its partnership with Atari®, one of the world’s most recognized producers of interactive entertainment, to create a new comics line based on beloved Atari® video game titles. The two entertainment juggernauts are pleased to announce that Centipede will join the recently released Swordquest as the latest title in the retrogaming series. Launching in July, Centipede #1 (ITEM 1376) will bring a tale of survival and vengeance to comic book and gaming fans everywhere, courtesy of writer Max Bemis (Worst X-Man Ever, Foolkiller) and artist Eoin Marron (Sons of Anarchy: Redwood Original).

**ITEM!** Boom! Studios will be launching a new Power Rangers comic book series to run alongside their current Mighty Morphin Power Rangers series. Go Go Power Rangers by Ryan Parrott and Dan Mora, reflecting the rallying cry of the TV show, will tell early stories of the Power Rangers — at least initially. And seemingly with more of a YA feel.

**ITEM!** Deadpool does what Deadpool does best in Issues #33 (ITEM 0786) and 34 (ITEM , when Wade Wilson realizes he backed the wrong horse and must now change sides and stand against Steve Rogers. And then, of course, he’ll commit super-powered genocide once more in Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe Again (ITEM 0819).

**ITEM!** A classic codename returns in X-Men Gold #7 (ITEM 0802), as an all-new X-Cutioner makes his debut. But while his modus operandi appears to be the same as his predecessor, the question remains who he is, and why he’s intent on killing off mutants. The classic X-villain returns continue in X-Men Gold #8 (ITEM 0804), the solicitation for which features a new X-Cutioner. But the X-Cutioner isn’t the only surprise name in X-Men: Gold #8, the cover is drawn by none other than recently-dismissed artist Ardiyan Syaf. It is likely that the cover was complete prior to Syaf’s release



from his contract

**ITEM!** Another vintage X-character is back in July, as Emplate rears her head to take on Generation X (ITEM 0916) in their new series. But while the name is the same, the solicitation text teases, “she isn’t the same monster they once knew...”

**ITEM!** Astonishing X-Men (ITEM 0806) makes its debut, featuring Old Man Logan in charge of his own team of X-characters.

**ITEM!** The long-awaited follow-up to Spider-Men (ITEM 0813) arrives in July, with Brian Michael Bendis and Sara Pichelii re-teaming to tell the next chapter in the continuing Peter Parker/Miles Morales saga. And, of course, the big question will finally be answered: who is/was the Miles Morales of the Marvel Universe?

**ITEM!** Gwenpool and Robbie Reyes get sucked into Edge of Venomverse (ITEM 0843), as the fifth issue of the miniseries continues to infect the Marvel Universe. Are you ready for the Host Rider?

**ITEM!** Before you can play Guardians of the Galaxy: The Telltale Series, you may want to read the game’s prequel comic (ITEM 0899). Produced alongside Telltale Games, the miniseries will set up the events of the game in a five-issue storyline.

**ITEM!** Luke and Leia get to do some family bonding in Star Wars #33 (ITEM 0924), as the siblings find themselves stranded on a desert island. Meanwhile, Darth Vader #3 (ITEM 0927) promises to introduce a new Jedi Master, one who is “more powerful than any Vader has faced before.”

**ITEM!** June’s solicitation for Spider-Man/Deadpool #18 left a question of whether the title would even continue with the departure of creative team of Joe Kelly and Ed McGuinness leaving, but it’s clear with the solicitation of July’s #19 (ITEM 0851) that it will. What’s more, the solicit reveals the new creative team of writer Joshua Corin and Will Robson, though it’s unclear how long they’re scheduled to be on the title.

**ITEM!** The solicit for Spider-Man 2099 #25 (ITEM 0855) says “Miguel’s fight for the fate of the future comes to an end,” with the cover showing Miguel looking quite worse for wear with another Spider-Man in his old costume standing by. Is this the end of Spider-Man 2099, or just Miguel O’Hara? Taking things a step further, missing entirely from the solicit is Elektra, Kingpin. As always, it is unclear if these titles are canceled or merely on a skip month hiatus. Marvel has not offered any confirmation on these titles, though Nova and Star-Lord have both been confirmed as cancelled by the creative team. Taking things back the other direction, Dan Slott and Mike Allred’s Silver Surfer #13 (ITEM 0890) marks the title’s return after a self-imposed hiatus due to delays.

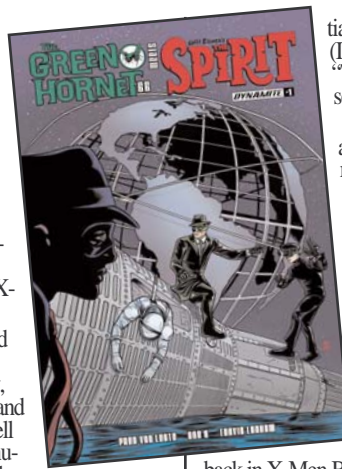
**ITEM!** In Jessica Jones #10 (ITEM 0871), Maria Hill turns to Jessica for help.

**ITEM!** America #5 (ITEM 0878) has Gabby Rodriguez teaming up with Hawkeye writer Kelly Thompson for a mini-Young Avengers reunion between America and Kate Bishop.

**ITEM!** In Doctor Strange #23 (ITEM 0791), Strange and Wilson Fisk team up to take on Baron Mordo, whose dark magic has overrun Manhattan.

**ITEM!** Moon Girl & Devil Dinosaur #21 (ITEM 0862) introduces Lunella Lafayette to Devil Girl and Moon Dinosaur.

**ITEM!** Writer Al Ewing has made it clear that Royals focuses on the Inhuman Royal Family trying to discover a secret about their very nature as Inhumans. It looks like answers may be coming sooner than ini-



tially expected — as soon as Royals #5 (ITEM 0856), with the solicit saying “The Secret is revealed!” Could it be a seeKreet? (Sorry!)

**ITEM!** Dynamite Comics recently announced their plans for the July release of their upcoming Green Hornet/The Spirit crossover. Set to debut this summer, Dynamite’s The Green Hornet ‘66 Meets The Spirit (ITEM 1396) will feature the two famous pulp heroes meeting in comics for the first time. The latest addition to Dynamite’s line will be written by Fred Van Lente (“Magnus: Robot Fighter,” “Archer and Armstrong”) with art by Bob Q.

**ITEM!** The key player in the recent “X-Men vs Inhumans” epic is back in X-Men Blue #8 (ITEM 0801) — Emma Frost returns to take on the classic team, and according to the solicitations, she’s fully embraced her villainous past as she’s hyped as being “badder than ever.”

**ITEM!** In Black Bolt #3 (ITEM 0860), the alien bounty hunter Death’s Head will show up. Death’s Head was featured in those post-Secret Wars teasers that highlighted important upcoming characters — but no indication of what the plan for Death’s Head might have been has ever materialized beyond a few minor guest appearances.

**ITEM!** Club Fenris’ gets a mention in Black Panther #16 (ITEM 0881). Could that be a reference to another pair of old-school X-Men foes the Strucker twins, collectively known as Fenris — who themselves have long familial ties to Hydra?

**ITEM!** It sure seems like just yesterday (or last week) that Sam Wilson retired as Captain America, citing his struggles in living up to Steve Rogers’ legacy. But it looks like he’s already going to be back in action as Cap as of July’s Captain America: Sam Wilson (ITEM 0776).

**ITEM!** Unfortunately for the Marvel Universe, it looks like when July rolls around, they’ll be down a couple of powerful allies in the fight against Hydra and Steve Rogers. In Secret Empire: Brave New World #3 (ITEM 0774), Namor has a truce with Hydra — however, it’s apparently on shaky ground. Then, in Avengers #9 (ITEM 0779), Thor is trapped far from the Secret Empire takeover, lost somewhere in space and time.

**ITEM!** The last time a new issue of Archie Comics horror series “Chilling Adventures of Sabrina” was released, it was the faraway era of July 2016, but it’s slated to return this July! The 40-page Chilling Adventures of Sabrina #7 (ITEM 1132), by writer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, artist Robert Hack and letterer Jack Morelli, is scheduled for release on July 5, nearly a full year since the previous issue of the series went on sale. It’s the origin of Edward Spellman, Sabrina’s father, and sets up the next arc in the series, “Witch War.” “This issue ended up being our biggest one yet — a double issue — and really, it’s a pitch-black origin story,” Aguirre-Sacasa said in a statement.

**ITEM!** A new ongoing series from Lumberjanes creator Grace Ellis and talented newcomer Shae Beagle that tells a story of monsters, romance, and magical hijinks! The first arc also includes an additional short story with artist Kate Leth! Fantasy creatures are living typical, unremarkable lives alongside humans, and barista Julie strives to be the most unremarkable of all. Normal job, normal almost-girlfriend, normal...werewolf transformations that happen when she gets upset? Yikes! But all bets are off when she and her centaur best friend Chet find themselves in the middle of a magical conspiracy. Will Julie and Chet be able to save their friends? Is Julie’s dogged determination to be normal a lost cause? Who’s going to watch the coffee shop while our heroes are out saving the world??

These questions and more will be answered in MOONSTRUCK (ITEM 0589)

