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M&M'S COMIC COMMENTS

Volume 23 Number 7

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Previews Highlights

ITEM! Marvel introduces you to the first Avengers from 1,000,000 BC – when iconic torch-bearers such as Odin, Iron Fist, Star Brand, Ghost Rider, Phoenix, Agamotto, and Black Panther come together for the startling origin of the Marvel Universe, in **MARVEL LEGACY #1** (ITEM 0990)! The acclaimed team of writer Jason Aaron (Mighty Thor) and artist Esad Ribic (Secret Wars) reunite for an all-new 50-page blockbuster one-shot that will take you through time to the current Marvel Universe, showing you how it's truly “all connected.” A true homage to Marvel’s groundbreaking stories, **MARVEL LEGACY** brings your favorite characters together for exciting and epic new stories that will culminate in returning to original series numbering for long-running titles. **MARVEL LEGACY #1** will present all fans – new readers and current readers – the very best jumping on point in the history of comics,” says Marvel Editor in Chief Axel Alonso. “What Jason and Esad have crafted is more grand and more gargantuan than anything we have ever seen before and introduces concepts and characters the Marvel Universe has never encountered. Fans are going to witness an all-new look at the Marvel Universe starting at one of the earliest moments in time carried all the way into present day. Not only will this be the catalyst for Marvel evolving and moving forward, but expect it to be the spark that will ignite the industry as a whole.” This September, prepare to **MAKE MINE MARVEL** with the most surprising, suspenseful, mysterious, astonishing tale ever told, featuring appearances from almost every beloved Marvel hero! It all leads to the return of a major Marvel icon in a shocking reveal that will leave fans speechless!



ITEM! Then the warrior O.M.A.C. is returning in the pages of **Bug** (ITEM 0440)! after the Forager fast-forwards himself to the future.

ITEM! Jack Kirby’s New Gods have are all over titles from around DC’s catalog in September, from **Mister Miracle** to **Bug** - Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps. Over in Hal Jordan’s “Fall of the Gods” storyline (ITEM 0368, ITEM 0370), Yuga Khan – Darkseid’s father – has returned as the big bad. He has appeared previously as **Zonuz** in Geoff John’s “Darkseid War” arc of Justice League.

ITEM! Superman’s Dorothy-esque pursuit of Mr. Oz looks to be heading towards a climax, as September’s **Action Comics #987** (ITEM 0323) promises that the Man of Steel will finally discover just who this cloaked figure is. Given that it’s the first part of a story-arc titled “The Oz Effect,” it probably won’t answer all of Rebirth’s questions. The second installment, **Action Comics #988** (ITEM 0326), is framed as an origin story of how Mr. Oz came to show up in Superman’s life.

ITEM! September’s **Batman Beyond #12** (ITEM 0342) will feature a rare “inventory” issue, as writers Steve Orlando and Vita Ayala are teaming with

artist Siya Oum for what DC describes as a “guest” stint on the book. Dan Jurgens and Bernard Chang remain the regular creative team, but this is the second “absence” of sorts from a DC book for Jurgens following his short holiday away from August’s **Action Comics** (although he’s back in the September).

The issue spotlights **Batgirl Beyond** – Nissa, who was introduced in 2013’s **Batman Beyond Unlimited #13** – although that was set in the DC Animated Universe continuity and not the prime DC continuity. They are, however, using co-creator Annie Wu’s design for the character. This new-ish Batgirl will be saving former Batgirl Barbara Gordon who is marooned in **Crown Point**.

ITEM! September 2017 is a slim month for DC’s Vertigo imprint – slimmer than it’s been in decades. Two miniseries – **Savage Things** (ITEM 0490) and **The American Way: Those Above and Those Below** (ITEM 0489) continue in September, but that’s as far as new content. Everafter: **From the Pages of Fables** is cancelled with August’s #12, and Vertigo’s sole remaining ongoing – **Astro City** – is absent from September’s solicitations, following several delays to the title. The establishment of **Young Animal**, **Hanna-Barbera**, and **WildStorm** titles has come at the same time Vertigo has been winding down, and Vertigo’s top editor Jamie S. Rich has been editing non-Vertigo projects for some time – from **Young Animal** titles to the recent **Vigilante: Southland**, and even the recent **Batman #24**. And that’s not to mention the two most prominent Vertigo editors during its history – **Karen Berger** and **Shelly Bond** – are now running their own boutique imprints at **Dark Horse** and **IDW Publishing**. Vertigo isn’t dead yet, but its blood work doesn’t look good at the moment.

ITEM! DC teased a **Dick & Barbara Gordon** love reconnection in the August solicitations, but September’s **Batgirl #15** (ITEM 0334) cover skips teasing with a straight-up hook-up. That being said, **Hope Larson** is still keeping the identity of the arc’s “villain from their past” a secret – but it might be overshadowed by the rekindling of a fan-favorite romance anyway.

ITEM! Over in **Mister Miracle #2** (ITEM 0429), it’s casually mentioned that **Orion** will take over the role of **Highfather**. Most people only know the previous one as **Highfather**, but he actually has a name – **Izaya the Inheritor**. Given “Fall of the Gods” is about trying to protect **Izaya** and the **Source Wall** from **Yuga Khan** and the **Godkiller Robots** – big changes for the **New Gods** seem to be in the air. **Fifth World**, anyone?

ITEM! Then, in **Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man #4** (ITEM 1073), an unnamed “classic foe” returns, while **Venomverse #5** teams

Eddie Brock up with a character whose name has been redacted from the solicitation.

ITEM! The story of **Dark Knights: Metal** (ITEM 0300 and ITEM 0304) opens up in the September and (advance) October issues’ solicitations, describing two distinct story threads. **Batman** and



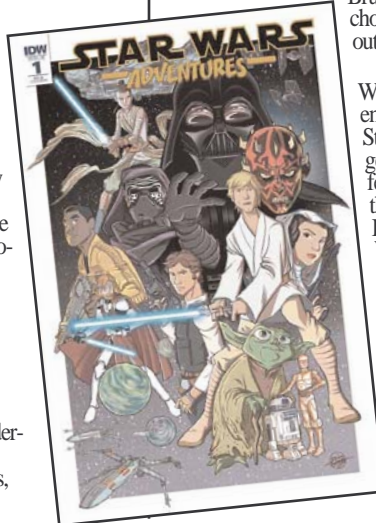
Wonder Woman are looking for a “missing ally,” which brings them to find “a foe even greater than the Justice League could possibly imagine.” That ally is unknown, but **Aquaman** is conspicuously absent from the team line-up in **Metal #1**. As for who the “foe” would be, **Bruce Wayne** has a pretty vivid imagination – as seen in his planning in **Dark Days: The Forge** – so that’s a pretty big promise on DC’s part. In the second story **Superman** delves directly into what the “Dark Multiverse” is. **Scott Snyder** has said that this doesn’t connect to the “Rebirth” mystery relating to the **Watchmen** and the upcoming **Doomsday Clock**, so where (and whom) this leads to is wide open.

ITEM! Speaking of **Aquaman**, a gray-haired **Arthur Curry** has been named in September’s **Justice League #28** (ITEM 0378) as the “Legacy” arc’s antagonist – chasing down the team’s progeny from the future in order to “destroy them.” Why? Well, it could have something to do with the junior **JL-er**’s goal, according to **Justice League #29**, to kill a current member of the team. The elderly **Aquaman** would seem the easy answer – but that’s too easy... right?

ITEM! September’s **All-Star Batman #14** (ITEM 0331) will end **Snyder**’s run on the title (although the story will continue down the road), but it seems one person close to **Bruce Wayne** won’t be with him. “Faced with either losing his future as **Batman** or the person he loves most, the **Dark Knight** must decide which ultimate price he is willing to pay.” Who does **Bruce Wayne** love most? Well, given his parents are already dead, the new **Catwoman** proposal is **Tom King**’s story and this arc is titled “**First Ally**” after **Alfred Pennyworth**, all signs are pointing to the iconic butler (although no one tell **Damien**.) **Batman**’s lost **Alfred** before, but we’ll see the

Bruce actually has to make the choice or if he’ll **Batman** his way out of it.

ITEM! **IDW** is making a **Star Wars** comic for an all ages audience, to hit stores in September. **Star Wars Adventures** will be geared toward readers 7-10 and feature one and two part stories that aren’t steeped in continuity. It’s a major coup for **IDW**. **Star Wars Adventures #1** (ITEM 0510) written by **Cavan Scott**, a veteran of multiple **Doctor Who** stories for **Titan Comics**, and illustrated by **Eisner**-nominated **IDW** mainstay **Derek Charm**, who illustrated the main promotional art released when the series was announced. **Issue #2** (ITEM 0515) is from the same team, and expected two



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weeks later. Both issues are set to tell tales of Rey's early days on Jakku, including a story in issue #2 co-starring Unkar Plutt, who famously offered Rey merely "one-quarter portion" in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Additionally, #1 will include a "comical tale of clone catastrophe." "They will be original stories, primarily," IDW President and Chief Operating Officer Greg Goldstein said behind *Star Wars Adventures*. "They will be set in the entire *Star Wars* combined universe: They can be the original trilogy, the prequel trilogy, the modern films, some of the offshoots that are still considered part of the canon."

ITEM! DC will release the Harley Quinn 25th

Anniversary Special #1 (ITEM 0413) almost 25 years to the day after her animated debut. Writers Amanda Conner & Jimmy Palmiotti and artist Chad Hardin will contribute a story to the book, and Conner will even draw a few pages herself. Harley Quinn co-creator Paul Dini is also writing a story for the special, while Bruce Timm is providing a cover of classic Harley. DC co-publisher Jim Lee is drawing the other cover, which features Harley in her cinematic outfit.

Additionally, DC has revealed that the former creative team of Marvel's most recent Howard the Duck series, Chip Zdarsky and artist Joe Quinones are also contributing to the Harley Quinn 25th Anniversary Special.

ITEM! Ben Templesmith is returning to his well-heeled zombie Mr. Wormwood in a new IDW Publishing miniseries that jumps straight into the contentious United States political system. Scheduled to debut in September, *Wormwood, Gentleman Corpse: Mr. Wormwood Goes to Washington* (ITEM 0647) will be a three-issue series following Wormwood as he's asked to help the U.S. government.

ITEM! The Phoenix Force is coming back to the Marvel Universe in a big way in September, with *THANOS #11* (ITEM 1131) pitting the Mad Titan against his own son Thane — who is now a Phoenix host.

ITEM! In *Jean Grey #7* (ITEM 1154), Jean visits Scarlet Witch to learn more about the Phoenix Force before she "inevitably" encounters it.

ITEM! For several months, the solicitations for Jessica Jones have teamed up the Defender with Maria Hill in a story about Hill's deepest secrets. Now, September's *JESSICA JONES #12* (ITEM 1102) seems to be ready to lay everything on the table, with all of Maria Hill's dirty laundry aired. What's more, the solicit says that after these revelations, "the Marvel Universe will never be the same."

ITEM! This fall will see the release of *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, Matthew Vaughn's much-anticipated follow-up to his 2015 spy thriller starring Taron Egerton and Colin Firth. But that's not the only place you can catch new *Kingsman* adventures. Before Vaughn, *Kingsman* started as a comic: *The 2012 miniseries The Secret Service*, written by Mark Millar and illustrated by Dave Gibbons. That series will now be getting its own sequel in the form of *Kingsman: The Red Diamond* (ITEM 0678), a new six-issue series arriving this fall from Image Comics. Millar and Gibbons won't be back for this one, but their roles are



being ably filled by writer Rob Williams and artist Simon Fraser. Having collaborated together in the past on *Doctor Who* comics in recent years, the pair has grown accustomed to each other's sensibilities and stand ready to fill Millar's and Gibbons' shoes. The original comic will also be getting a reprint this summer, now officially rebranded as *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

ITEM! Who will replace humanity when the Earth falls into ruin? In the new Image Comics' ongoing series *Angelic* (ITEM 0699), writer Simon Spurrier and artist Caspar Wijngaard explore a future where genetically modified animals have inherited a post-apocalyptic planet, creating a fantastic new setting filled with off-kilter characters.

Described by Image as "WALL-E by way of *Waterhip Down*," *Angelic* follows a young flying monkey, Qora, whose only desire is to see the world in all its strange beauty. She's expected to settle down and start a family, but like any rebellious teenager, Qora isn't going to let herself be weighed down by the expectations of those around her. She's going to use her wings and fly, even if that means putting herself in danger and letting down the people that care about her.

ITEM! The original *DuckTales* cartoon was based on the Duck family comic books by Carl Barks, so it only makes sense that the new *DuckTales* cartoon would inspire a new ongoing comic book series. *DUCKTALES* (ITEM 1522) will be written by Joe Caramagna, with art from Luca Usai and Gianfranco Florio who both have illustrated Disney's comics published in Italy, which are primarily aimed at the European market. The first issue will feature two stories: "The Great Experiment of the Washing Machine" and "The Chilling Secret of the Lighthouse," with the latter title especially feeling strongly reminiscent of old-school *DuckTales*. Both covers prominently feature Donald Duck, who was a guest star in the original *DuckTales* cartoon but will be a regular on the new series.

ITEM! The *Champions* will be just under a year old in September, and the fall-out of *Secret Empire* will shake them to their core — even splitting the team. According to the solicit for *Champions #12* (ITEM 1030), the team is "divided" after *Secret Empire*, and not everyone will remain a member. A clue to who might come and go can be found in the solicitation for *Totally Awesome Hulk #23* (ITEM 1045), which warns of the "return of the monster" in the wake of the title's "Weapons of Mutant Destruction" crossover with *Weapon X*. Another clue may lie in the solicitation for *Spider-Man #20* (ITEM 1080), where Miles Morales is under arrest.

ITEM! *Doctor Strange #25* (ITEM 1108) features the return of classic *Doctor Strange* artist Kevin Nowlan to the title in a one-off anniversary issue written by John Barber, who wrote the recent *Doctor Strange/Punisher: Magic Bullets* series.

ITEM! In the same month a classic *Doctor Strange* artist returns, it seems his spin-off title *Doctor Strange and the Sorcerers Supreme* will come to an end with #12 (ITEM 1107), with the solicitation saying the team's "mission is complete" — and teasing that not everyone will return home. On top of that, several Marvel titles are missing from September's solicitations, starting with *Unstoppable Wasp*, last seen in August with #8. A pair of more venerable titles also appear to be missing in September, including *Ultimates 2* which was the first title to return to "Legacy" numbering in August with #100, and *Captain America*, which became a single title



with #25, also in August.

ITEM! The solicitation for *Infamous Iron Man #12* (ITEM 1041) calls the issue the "epic climax" to the title's first year, saying it will lead to "massive repercussions" in the Marvel Universe. Given that the solicit text also talks about Victor Von Doom's villainous legacy — and *Legacy #1* hinting at a big return, could this be connected to the possible return of the *Fantastic Four*? But Victor's not the only Iron hero with a big milestone in September. The solicit for *Invincible Iron Man #11* (ITEM 1043) marks the issue as the "prologue to one of the biggest Iron Man stories in modern history."

ITEM! *Amazing Spider-Man: Renew Your Vows #11* (ITEM 1082), regular artist Ryan Stegman continues on as writer for another issue, this time featuring art by Brian Level.

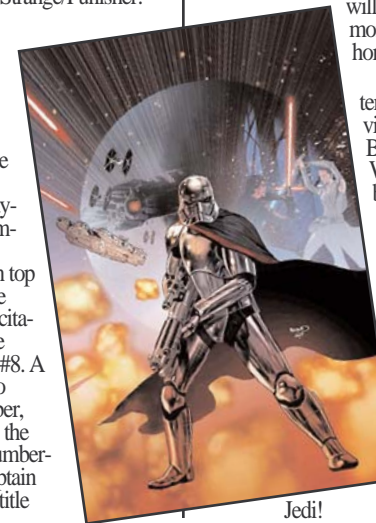
ITEM! Norman Osborn has been back in Peter Parker's life since *Amazing Spider-Man #25*, but in September's *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #32* (ITEM 1075) finds Spidey's venerable foe looking for a way to compensate for the loss of his Green Goblin persona — and possibly getting some new powers in the process.

ITEM! With the addition of *Ultimate Thor* in August, it seemed as though *Mighty Thor* would be going up to three versions of its title character (counting *Thor* himself and the *War Thor*). But now it seems that speculation has been confirmed, and the *War Thor* will indeed be another identity of the *Ultimate Thor*, who will reclaim his own hammer, which is currently being guarded by Odinson. The solicit for *Mighty Thor #23* (ITEM 1036) stops short of outright confirming the connection, but refers to the same character by both names.

ITEM! When Marvel announced that author Rainbow Rowell would be bringing back *RUNAWAYS* (ITEM 1016) — the beloved early-aughts comics series about a diverse group of teens who learn their parents are supervillains, which is soon to become a live-action Hulu original series — the buzz was deafening. Rowell's YA and adult novels are steeped in comic book lore and a deep understanding of modern fandom, making her the perfect author to make the crossover into comics — and she writes awkward, prickly, fascinating characters who are impossible not to like, making her a compelling pairing for this material in particular.

ITEM! *DARK ARK #1* (ITEM 1303) from writer Cullen Bunn (*X-Men Blue*, *Deadpool*, *Venom*) and artist Juan Doe comes a sinister tale of biblical proportions that HAD to be told at AfterShock Comics. The wickedness of mankind has moved the Creator to destroy the world by way of the flood. Noah has been tasked with building an ark to save his family and the animals of the world. But this is not Noah's story. For darker powers have commanded the sorcerer Shrae to build his own ark and save the unnatural creatures of the world — such as the vampires, the dragons, the naga, and the manticore. But what will happen on a vessel crawling with monsters, where insidious intrigue and horrific violence are the rule of law?

ITEM! It's the galaxy's big mystery: How did Captain Phasma survive the destruction of the Starkiller Base in the final moments of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*? All will be revealed this September, when superstar writer Kelly Thompson (Hawkeye, *Star Wars Annual*) teams with blockbuster artist Marco Checchetto (*Star Wars: Shattered Empire*, *Star Wars: Screaming Citadel*) to bring you *JOURNEY TO STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI — CAPTAIN PHASMA #1* (ITEM 1161), a four-part miniseries bridging the events between *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and the upcoming *Star Wars: The Last*



Jedi!