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M&M'S COMIC COMMENTS



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M&M News

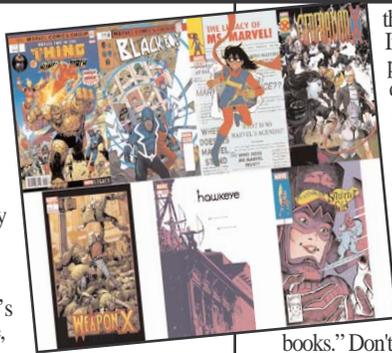
ITEM! The 3rd round of Marvel Legacy 3D Lenticular covers are offered to you this month featuring seven new titles. But we've been hearing rumors of more down the line and possibly even "unannounced" ones this month. Stay tuned. Also, the nationwide boycott of the Marvel qualifier variant program continues. Marvel is not backing down. It's a showdown folks. Meanwhile, we smell opportunity.

Previews Highlights

ITEM! Adam Warren joins forces with Carla Speed McNeil in Empowered & Sistah Spooky's High School Hell (ITEM 0019) Empowered's "frenemy" Sistah Spooky was once a schoolgirl who sold her soul for hotness, but was granted even more magic than beauty. Now, both superheroines find themselves trapped in a high-school hellscape by Spooky's Infernal Service Provider—with her blonde ex- classmates plotting ritual murder to claim her magic for themselves! Eisner and Ignatz award-winning artist Carla Speed McNeil, acclaimed creator of Finder and artist of No Mercy, Queen and Country, and more joins Empowered creator and writer Adam Warren for the first Empowered comic-book mini-series in standard comics format.

ITEM! Gotham's Dark Knight joins forces with New York's Heroes in A Half-Shell this December as DC Entertainment and IDW Publishing today announced plans for BATMAN/TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II (ITEM 0211), a six-issue follow up to the smash-hit crossover series of 2015. Writer Adam Tynion IV (BATMAN, DETECTIVE COMICS) and artist Freddie Williams II (HE-MAN/THUNDERCATS) will reunite for this second meeting of two icons of pop culture. When Donatello goes looking for a new mentor to help him improve his fighting skills, he opens a doorway to another reality, hoping to summon the Turtles' one-time ally, Batman. But instead, he gets sent to Gotham City and someone else comes through the open portal—Bane! Suddenly, there's a new gang boss in New York and he's out to unite all the other bad guys under him. Can Donnie get back in time and bring Batman with him to help his brothers before Bane causes irreparable destruction?

ITEM! Damage, a name that once belonged to a DC legacy hero named Grant Emerson. First appearing in Damage #1 in 1994, Emerson was the son of the son of Al Pratt, the original Atom, and was a member of the Titans, Freedom Fighters, and the Justice Society of America. This Damage goes by the name Ethan Avery, a military recruit who is granted the ability to turn into an unstoppable monster for one hour at a time. Whereas the physical appearance of the Emerson version of Damage stayed the same, it's clear from the cover that Avery will undergo a transformation when he turns into the oversized gray weapon of destruction. "Dark Matter" is a return to bringing both the writer and artist to the fore to unlock



their full potential," Co-Publisher (and Immortal Men artist) Jim Lee said in a press release. "At the talent summit we discussed what was missing in comics and how we could create something that's new for this generation of fans. The result was 'Dark Matter.' You'll see bombastic action scenes and a visual narrative driven by the artist. This approach has energized the creators involved, myself included, and we're going to have a lot of fun with these

books." Don't miss Damage #1 (ITEM 0201), from writer Robert Venditti and artist Tony S. Daniel.

ITEM! The Silencer (ITEM 0203) by writer Dan Abnett and artist John Romita Jr. (September) "will focus on Honor Guest, the former world's deadliest assassin now trying for a quiet life in the suburbs until (surprise!) her former life comes back to haunt her, and she must become the Silencer to protect her family."

ITEM! DC Universe Holiday Special 2017 #1 (ITEM 0215) includes a story about Sgt. Rock fighting the Nazis on Hanukah, and it also lists King as one of the writers. So it's likely readers will get to read that story among a list of other interesting line-ups, including the return of Denny O'Neil to Batman.

ITEM! Fans of the character Madame Xanadu get an appearance of the character in DC's new series The Demon (ITEM 0248), which releases its second issue in December. Then Etrigan himself is making a guest appearance in another new DC series, as the copy for Ragman #3 (ITEM 0299) says the lead character turns to the Demon for help.

ITEM! Next month's launch of the new spin-off series Wildstorm: Michael Cray will feature the assassin formerly known as Deathblow targeting Oliver Queen, although it's an alternate version of the street-level hero that exists in Ellis' alternate universe. Now we find out that in December (ITEM 0328), the series - which is written by Bryan Hill from a story by Warren Ellis - will go deeper into the alt-version of the DCU by having Cray go after Barry Allen.

ITEM! There sure do seem to be a lot of "tomorrow" versions of young DC heroes these days, and December is no different. The month will see future iterations of Damian Wayne, Jonathan Kent, and

Donna Troy driving stories in several titles. Future Jon and Damian's story appears in a crossover titled "Super Sons of Tomorrow," which kicks off in Superman with a visit from the "Batman of Tomorrow" (who in this case might be Damian Wayne?). The crossover will continue in December's Super Sons (ITEM 0314) and Teen Titans (ITEM 0316) then conclude in January's Superman, all written by Peter Tomasi. The Donna Troy of tomorrow will show up in Titans #18 (ITEM 0318), described in



solicitation copy as "a twisted version from the not-so-distant future. The character, who calls herself Troia and is Donna's "worst nightmare," will try to destroy the Titans. Donna previously used the name "Troia" in the mid-90s.

ITEM! Death isn't forever in comics. In 2003, Jean Grey died during an iconic run on New X-Men by acclaimed writer Grant Morrison. Since then, that version of Grey has been dead, but this

December, Grey will return in the five-issue miniseries Phoenix Resurrection: The Return of Jean Grey (ITEM 0824), her new story written by Matthew Rosenberg and drawn by Leinil Yu will follow—you guessed it—the resurrection of one of the original five X-Men: "Strange events are no surprise to the X-Men," reads the official synopsis from Marvel. "But when events start occurring that are more specific and stranger than usual, the group is forced to confront the truth: could Jean be alive after all? And how will this Jean Grey deal with a world that is now so different from the one she left years ago?"

The story is still a pretty big mystery at the moment, but the upcoming months in the current X-Men titles should shed some light on what's coming ahead. "This is very cool mystery building to a mind-warping climax," said senior editor Mark Paniccia. "And it has plenty of what you'd expect from an X-Men epic of this magnitude. Action, romance, sacrifice, lots of X-Men, and five great artists." In addition to Yu, the series will feature five artists taking on the story. It has yet to be revealed how that is going to come into play, whether each issue will be an individual artist or all five will be featured in each issue.

ITEM! Several titles are welcoming new creators in December - some announced previously, some we're just learning about today. Underworld co-creator Kevin Greivoux is taking over CYBORG (ITEM 0243), while Phil Hester is now illustrating Batman Beyond (ITEM 0231).

ITEM! After Batman leaves the team in November's issue of Justice League of America, The Ray is now quitting the team in December (ITEM 0283). For the latter, it means a spotlight issue that returns him to his hometown of Vanity, but if this keeps up, the team might need to add a few new members soon (which isn't necessarily a bad thing).

ITEM! Written by James Tynion IV with art by Jim Lee, THE IMMORTAL MEN (ITEM 0202) were born at the dawn of time, five siblings find that with eternal life comes eternal war. As the forces of destruction march into the modern world, they operate from the shadows, recruiting the elite against the foes who seek to bring about Armageddon. They are humankind's hope sprung eternal...they are the IMMORTAL MEN.

ITEM! Aside from Batman's villains, one of the most beloved rogue's galleries in the DCU is the collection of thieves and bad guys who often unite to fight the Flash. Even Barry Allen has a sort of love-hate relationship with the



MORE >>>

Flash Rogues, sometimes teaming up with the characters to take down bigger threats to Central City. In December, DC is teasing that one of The Flash's (ITEM 0257) Rogues is murdered in Iron Heights prison.

Understandably, the Flash will want to get to the bottom of the crime, and fans might not be happy to see a fan-favorite villain taken out.

ITEM! As much fun as it was to see baby Darkseid in DC's event series Metal, the dark villain might not be an infant much longer. December's Wonder Woman #36 (ITEM 0322 & 0324) is teasing that Darkseid will steal Diana's powers to increase his "rise back to godhood." And if the cover is reflected in the story, that means Darkseid's back to being a full-fledged adult. Bye bye baby.

ITEM! Eisner Hall of Fame Artist Gilbert Hernandez teams up with rising star writer Timi Howard (The Skeptics, Magdalena, Rick and Morty) for a full-octane action & family drama assault in IDW's ASSASSINISTAS (ITEM 0405). "It's a Kill Bill story in a Venture Brothers world! or better yet: Fun Home taking place on a back-drop of The Expendables.

ITEM! 30 DAYS OF NIGHT (ITEM 0412) The classic 2002 three-issue horror series by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith that spawned numerous follow-ups and two feature films is getting a reboot in December. Steve Niles will return to write the series, and Ben Templesmith will draw covers along with original cover artist Ashley Wood, while Piotr Kowalski takes on interior art in what is being billed as "a horrifically different re-telling" and likened to Fargo's reinvention for television, just in time for the fifteenth anniversary of the original book.

ITEM! Writer Sarah Vaughn (ALEX + ADA, ETERNAL EMPEROR) teams up with artist Leila del Duca (SHUTTER, AFAR), editor/colorist Alissa Sallah, and letterer Deron Bennett for the fantasy romance series SLEEPLESS (ITEM 0590) this December. Lady "Poppy" Pyppenia, daughter of a king, is ever guarded by the devoted Sleepless Knight Cyrenic. But a new king has just been crowned—and danger lurks anew around each and every corner. "SLEEPLESS is a story that is very dear to me, grown from an idea I would play in my head at night as I tried to fall asleep," said Vaughn. "It's wonderful to see the book come to life with Leila, Alissa, and Deron. I hope readers enjoy reading about Poppy and Cyrenic and getting a little more romance, costumes, and fantasy in their lives."

ITEM! The Image Comics series Rumble (ITEM 0552) doesn't read like any other comic. The series combines urban horror with mythical fantasy, grounded personal drama, and boisterous comedy, and John Arcudi's story for the first volume was brought to life with exhilarating energy by the art team of James Harren and colorist Dave Stewart. It's hard to imagine Rumble without Harren on board, but for the book's new volume debuting in December, Arcudi and Stewart are joining forces with Spanish artist David Rubin, one of the industry's most innovative visual storytellers. Rubin brings a bold new visual sensibility to the title, and while it's a different look than Harren, it maintains the vivacious quality that makes Rumble so exciting.

ITEM! Witchblade came to an end in 2015 with issue #185. It was followed by a



fanfic-made-official of the series teen-remake by Stjepan Sejic as Switch. But with news that NBC Universal is still developing a new TV series based on the character, after a TNT show back in 2001, it might be about time to go back to the blade. Which is why this December,

Image/Top Cow will publish a brand new WITCHBLADE #1 (ITEM 0557). Yeah, no #186 Legacy number for this comic, Witchblade will relaunch with a new series by Caitlin Kittredge, Roberta Ingranata, and Bryan Valenza.

ITEM! Image Comics has announced the coming release of Bonehead (ITEM 0566) by Bryan Hill and Rhoald Marcellius. Bonehead is described as a gritty techno-thriller. In a near future, a sprawling megalopolis sees the rise of "Boneheads," parkour gangs who use neuro-linked helmets to augment their abilities and live for the thrill of physical risk. As a gang war threatens to tear the city apart, a mysterious Bonehead rises—a man with no past who might be the key to saving the city's future.

ITEM! Writer Ram V (Grafity's Wall, Black Mumba), artist Dev Pramanik (Nightbloom, Black Mumba), colorist Dearbhla Kelly (James Bond: Moneyppenny), and letterer Aditya Bidikar (MOTOR CRUSH, Black Mumba) team up for the mind-bending science fiction tale PARADISO (ITEM 0582) this December. Jack Kryznan arrives on the outskirts of Paradiso City, haunted by fragments of childhood memories and in possession of a mysterious device—one with the power to change the destiny of this living breathing metropolis: the people who dwell within, and the guardians who strive for and against it.

ITEM! Marvel is publishing one issue of Avengers in December, Avengers #674 (ITEM 0807). It seems to be a normal state of affairs, the fifth and final part of Worlds Collide by Mark Waid and Jesus Saiz. As you might expect, but Marvel will also have Avengers #675 for January 10th for \$4.99 with a leaked advance listing that says so much—and yet so little. The listing reads "Classified". No creative names are mentioned, at least not for the inside. But Marvel will run a launch party promotion for Avengers #675. So whatever it is, it's clearly a thing. Or something else entirely?

ITEM! The other classified entry we know a tiny little more about, Guardians Of The Galaxy #150 (ITEM 0816). All we it's by Gerry Duggan and Marcus To with a cover by Aaron Kuder.

ITEM! Many fans of Marvel Comics have been wondering about the fate of the First Family after the events of Secret Wars. The Fantastic Four have yet to appear ever since Reed Richards and Doctor Doom had their fateful confrontation in the event's climax, though the Thing and Reed Richards made homes with the Guardians of the Galaxy and Inhumans respectively. Now the two are reuniting to find out what happened

to Reed, Sue, Valeria, and Franklin in the pages of Marvel Two-In-One (ITEM 0834) by Chip Zdarsky and Jim Cheung.

ITEM! Marvel will revive another classic - but long dormant - title as part of "Marvel Legacy," with Tales of Suspense #100 (ITEM 0870) putting Winter Soldier and Hawkeye on the trail of the presumed dead Black Widow. Written by Matthew Rosenberg with art from Travel Foreman, the revived Tales of Suspense will ask the question of whether Black Widow was actually killed by the Hydra aligned Steve Rogers in Secret Empire. Though it has been presented



in continuity that she is presumed dead after taking a seemingly lethal strike in Secret Empire #8, this week's Secret Empire: Omega featured a scene in which it was implied she was still secretly alive.

ITEM! Spider-Man will square off with one of his greatest rivals in "Venom, Inc.," a six-issue crossover that unfolds in The Amazing Spider-Man and Venom, beginning in December. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/ Venom, Inc. (ITEM 0876) begins with an Alpha issue, continues through The Amazing Spider-Man #792-793 and Venom #159-160, and then concludes in Venom, Inc. Omega #1.

ITEM! Have you ever tried to explain the X-Men comics to a friend who doesn't really read comic books? I mean, like all of their various adventures and plot-lines and alternate timelines and deaths and resurrections? Of course not, that would be virtually impossible—and that's exactly what Hip-Hop Family Tree creator Ed Piskor and Marvel are

going to try to do in X-Men: Grand Design (ITEM 0956). On paper, Grand Design's core concept is pretty straightforward: Take the first 280 X-Men comics—that's all the issues from September 1983 to September 1991—and distill them down into a single 300 or so-page comic book that weaves together the series' most major events into one, cohesive story. That's how Piskor first inadvertently pitched the idea to Marvel back in 2015 and not long after, the publisher got in contact to take him up on his offer.

ITEM! In December's Cable #152 (ITEM 0950), Cable and his team's mission exploring the deaths of the fabled Externals will bring back one of their number that hasn't been seen in some time. That's right - Gideon, the classic X-Force villain that debuted alongside Deadpool in New Mutants #98, will return as part of "Legacy."

ITEM! It's no secret that, come "Legacy," Wilson Fisk will be Mayor of New York City. But there's another evil politician out there haunting the streets of Chicago - Blackheart, the son of Mephisto, is posing as the Mayor of the Windy City in Falcon. The solicitation for December's Falcon #3 (ITEM 0930) lets the secret out, along with setting the stage for the inevitable showdown between the winged Avenger and the son of darkness.

ITEM! Monsters Unleashed leads the charge of new creative teams this December, with writer Justin Jordan and artist Francesco Gaston taking the reins of the title with #9 (ITEM 0874).

ITEM! The team of near-future mutants will return in X-Men: Blue #17 (ITEM 0948), when the young X-Men are sent through time. At least one of the X-Men 2099 will be sticking around too—the solicitation for X-Men: Blue #18 (ITEM 0949) mentions the rather 90s Bloodhawk. What's more, the original Generation X will also guest star in the story - making it a very 90s X-Men affair all around.

ITEM! Christos Gage will write ROM AND THE MICRONAUTS (ITEM 0424) with art by Paolo Villanelli and covers by Richard Wentworth, George Caltsoudas, Jeffrey Veregge, and one from Guy Dorian and Sal Buscema. The book will see Rom and the Micronauts form an alliance to stop a team-up of their respective enemies. Baron Karza and D'рге, the Dire Wraith sorcerer, have joined forces to carry forward their equally malignant goals-Karza desires to conquer all of Microspace (again), while the Wraiths seek to awaken their Wraith God and conquer Earth! Now it's up to Rom and the Micronauts to form their own alliance in order to stop the evil domination of two worlds!

