

★★★★★ **FREE! Take One!** ★★★★★

# O BIG PLANET ORBIT

Volume 13 #4

"News, reviews and opinions from the world of comics"

August 2009

## A Timely anniversary

### Marvels Project #1

Marvel has been celebrating their 70th Anniversary for a few months now, and as fun as some of their re-issued Timely comics have been, they've yet to put out anything completely mind-blowing.

Well, Ed Brubaker and Steve Epting look to change all of that with the release of Marvels Project.

This eight issue mini-series explores the events that created the Marvel Universe, and more specifically, how they are linked to the origin of Captain America. Sounds a lot like Ultimate Origins, right?

The big difference here is that this is meant to be canon for the ORIGINAL Marvel Universe, and with Brubaker and Epting (the team behind the last four years of Captain America) at the wheel, Marvels Project promises to be one of the most intriguing books of the year!



### Archie #600

Well, it's summer, so it's time for the big events, and what can be bigger than "Archie Marries Veronica"! The story jumps ahead to after Archie and the gang have graduated college, so think Days of Future Past crossed with Beverly Hills 90210, and hopefully we'll get something like that. Maybe Archie will invite the Punisher to the wedding to deal with the Sentinels.

This is only the first part of the storyline, The Proposal, so maybe Veronica finally proposed to Archie. I'm still betting that Betty is going to be involved in some hijinks as well! But they promise that we'll know why Archie would choose Veronica instead of Betty (I'm sure it has nothing to do with her parents' fabulous wealth), and how Betty reacts, as well as what everyone else is up to in the future. Even money on the wedding being interrupted by Cheryl Blossom. Or a Sentinel.



### Move over Blacksad, LeBrock's on the case!

Bryan Talbot is best known for his heavily researched "serious" comics, like the multi-award-winning Tale of One Bad Rat, and Alice in Sunderland. But he also has done

tremendous thinking-person's action-adventure sci-fi in the form of Luther Arkwright and its sequel, Heart of Empire.

His newest project, Grandville is definitely in the Arkwright vein, with some good old Victorian steampunk

going on, but with a twist—Detective-Inspector LeBrock of Scotland Yard is an anthropomorphic badger.

If you liked Blacksad (which is coming from Dark Horse in a few short months!), you're gonna love Grandville.





**Blackest Night: Batman**

It might not be the only Blackest Night crossover book this month, but it is the only one that is focused on the recently dead Caped Crusader! I don't care if Batman is in a cave in the past or a grave in the now, all I know is that I want him to become a murderous zombie.



**Ghost Riders: Heaven's on Fire**

I guess enough of you hadn't noticed that the amazing Jason Aaron is writing Ghost Rider (in addition to Scalped, Wolverine: Weapon X, and the occasional issue of Immortal Weapons). So here's your perfect jumping-on point. Ghost Rider and his posse try to take control of Heaven back from some renegade angels! Did we mention that it's by Big Planet's favorite writer, Jason Aaron?

**Red Herring**

A new six-issue mini-series from David Tischman (Greatest Hits) and Philip Bond (The Escapist) about scandals and intrigue in Washington, D.C. Hey! That's where I live!

**King City**

Just your average, run-of-mill



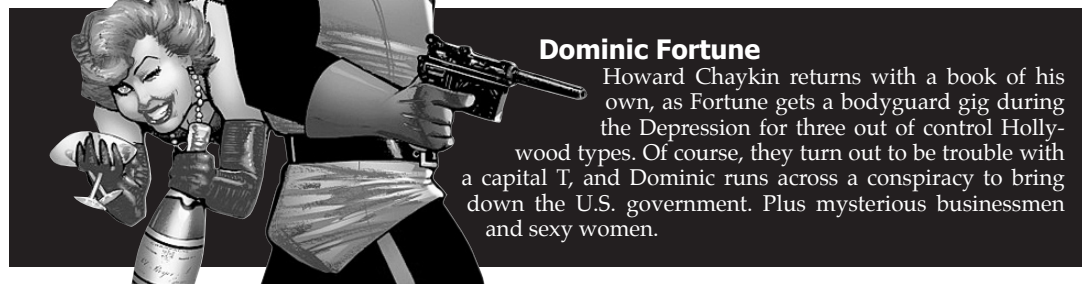
comic about a guy with a cat that can be turned into a super-weapon. Perfect for fans of Wonton Soup, Scott Pilgrim, and North World.

**Batman: Widening Gyre**

Kevin Smith writes more Batman.... Oh wait, that's a good thing! Bring it on!

**Adventure Comics**

Geoff Johns is now writing Superboy (now that the legal issues are settled) and the Legion of Super-Heroes in the same 40-page comic every month. That Jim Shooter stuff was kind of a fun throw-



**Dominic Fortune**

Howard Chaykin returns with a book of his own, as Fortune gets a bodyguard gig during the Depression for three out of control Hollywood types. Of course, they turn out to be trouble with a capital T, and Dominic runs across a conspiracy to bring down the U.S. government. Plus mysterious businessmen and sexy women.

**Killer Vol 2 HC**

Archaia is finally back on a publishing schedule, so we might actually see this conclusion! The Killer finally begins to find out who has tried to ruin his life, and what is going on, which means a return to civilization and a lot of people getting killed.

**Dungeon: The Early Years Vol 2 GN**

The adventures of the Dungeon

Keeper continue, as he saves the assassin he loves, only to descend into a life as a poor husband and a poor lover! Luckily, Alexandra the assassin has a plan to straighten him out.

**A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge GN**

Josh Neufeld helped out after Katrina, and now, 4 years later, he tells the tale of 7 real people from



New Orleans, and how they survived the hurricane, and then their experiences, from the Superdome, to taking in refugees, to watching the storm from the roof of their store, to losing everything, and what happened to them next.

**Domo**

Cuteness! Box car racing! Wii

back, but Johns' 31st Century version of the Legion kicks butt! Check out his Superboy and the Legion TP, or the Final Crisis: Legion HC for a taste of things to come.

**The Red Circle**

J. Michael Straczynski, while a great writer, has screwed up (never his fault, mind you) Babylon 5, Rising Stars, and the Amazing Spider-man. Before DC lets him play with the big boys, they're having him try out on the old Archie super-hero characters (like the Fly, not Archie in a cape). I guess if he doesn't screw this up too bad, they'll let him tackle Brave and the Bold (the one for grown-ups, even)....

**Daredevil #500**

104 pages of awesome! The Kingpin and Lady Bullseye stories collide as we find out what they have in common. What is the Kingpin really doing? And this is the last issue for Brubaker and Lark, so what are they going to set up for the next storyline (written by Andy Diggle)? Last time Daredevil jumped from

Bendis to Brubaker, we got the Punisher and Murdock in jail. I bet Ed can top that!

**Ultimate Comics Avengers**

The whole Ultimate Universe is going through a bit of a relaunch, what with the massive destruction and

death count of Ultimatum. Of course, Ultimatum may still not have finished by the time this comes out, but who cares! We've got Mark "Old Man Logan" Millar back on the book he made great, this time with Avengers in the title so no one is confused! Carlos Pacheco is on art, so it might actually be on time. Nick Fury returns when a secret threatens Cap. Expect the violence!

**Models, Inc.**

Marvel finally returns to the heart of its universe, Fashion Week! All the models in one book, from Mary Jane Watson to Patsy Walker, Millie the Model and more, dealing with robbery attempts and overly friendly cops, until Millie becomes the suspect in a murder, and the girls set out to prove her innocence. Really. I'm not making any of this up.



**Die Hard: Year One**

John McClane was just a hard-working cop in corrupt Gotham City when suddenly... oh, sorry, I'm dreaming again. But it is McClane as a rookie cop, 10 years before Die Hard, when he's learning how to make it in NYC, during the Summer of Sam! Find out why he causes trouble for himself down the road, when he gives too many parking tickets to the wrong German tourist.

**Dominic Fortune**

Howard Chaykin returns with a book of his own, as Fortune gets a bodyguard gig during the Depression for three out of control Hollywood types. Of course, they turn out to be trouble with a capital T, and Dominic runs across a conspiracy to bring down the U.S. government. Plus mysterious businessmen and sexy women.

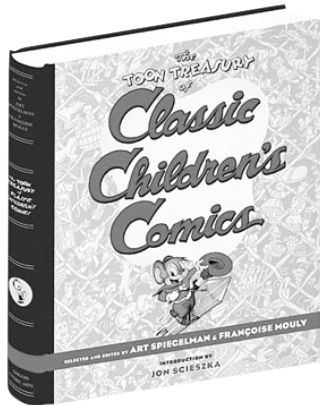
playing! Tarzan! Samurai! Chef! Dooooooom!

**Asterios Polyp HC**

It came out. We recommended it earlier. We have now read it. It may be the best graphic novel every created. Buy it.

**Lenore Volume II #1**

Lenore is back in all-new full-color adventures by creator Roman Dirge! You know, the



### Toon Treasury of Classic Children's Comics HC

The name says it all. The best Golden Age kids comics ever, by the best kids cartoonists ever--Carl (Uncle Scrooge) Barks, John (Little Lulu) Stanley, Walt (Pogo) Kelly, Sheldon (Sugar & Spike) Mayer, and Basil Wolverton, to name a few. Buy one for a kid, and one for yourself.

### Groo Treasury Vol. 1

The parody of sword-and-sorcery that brings endless destruction and mendicants! Groo's idiocy is matched only by his fighting skills, and now this 336 page treasury collects all the early stories before his series started, including Destroyer Duck and the Groo Chronicles.

### Peter & Max: A Fables Novel HC

I know, I know, it's a book. But it does have illustrations by Steve Leialoha, and Willingham's writing it. Plus they do 8 pages of comics that tie this into the rest of Fables. You've got the tale of the Piper brothers in the Black Forest, who head down very different paths, which then plays out in modern Fabletown. Max Piper has dark magical powers, and Peter Piper is a master thief, and good friends with Run DMC.

### Sandman: The Dream Hunters HC

Okay, I think I've got it. This is the hardcover collection of the comic book adaptation of the illustrated novel. Um. Right. P. Craig Russell tells the story of a monk and a shape-shifting fox, with some demons and the Japanese emperor thrown in for variety.

### Killer of Demons TP

Yost writes, Wegener (of Atomic Robo) draws! After Hell infiltrates Earth, only one man can root out

the hidden demons, junior account executive Dave Sloan! Luckily an invisible cherub follows him around, telling him to murder the demons who are disguised as his co-workers or people who annoy him! Man, I've got an angel who tells me that too.

### Irredeemable Vol 1 TP

Mark Waid has a Superman-gone-bad story. The world's most powerful superhero suddenly turns on everyone, and he's so tough there's little chance of stopping him. The surviving heroes begin investigating his past to try to find a weakness. This has the first 4 issues for only 10 bucks! Plus issue 5 comes out the same day for only a dollar! Don't ask, just buy it!

### Unknown Soldier Vol.1:

In 2002, Uganda was torn apart by child soldiers, and degenerate fighters. A pacifist doctor is caught in the violence, but suddenly hears a voice that shows him how to kill all too well. Violent and intriguing.

### Dark Avengers Vol 1 HC

The flagship title of Marvel's Dark Reign storyline, now in hardcover! See what happens when a group of villains take over as the Avengers. I'll give you a hint. It's evil!



### Filthy Rich HC

Brian Azzarello has another crime book, this time a whole new graphic novel. Junk sells cars after gambling and an injury took him out of football. When the sexy and spoiled daughter of his boss needs a bodyguard in NY's club scene, he jumps at the chance. Until he realizes she wants a lapdog to do her dirty work, someone who wants to be filthy rich. Drawn by Santos, artist of the French series Young Ronin.

### Dark Entries HC

They sure don't want to tell you, but this is actually a new Hellblazer story. Where Constantine has to face the horror of reality TV! He gets locked inside a haunted house that is literally killing the contestants, all the while a deadly figure from his past is monitoring him. Yeah, I could see the next season of Big Brother doing this.

### Punisher: Dark Reign HC

See the Punisher do what the

Punisher is good at in this collection of Rick Remender and Jerome Opena's new Punisher series. "What is the Punisher good at?", you ask. Shooting super-villains with guns, of course!

### Captain Easy Soldier of Fortune Vol 1 HC

We love comic strip reprints around here. Particularly collections of adventure-y strips like Terry and the Pirates and Steve Canyon. Now everyone can finally read some comics by the guy who CREATED adventure-y comic strips, Roy Crane. Captain Easy: Soldier of Fortune tells a story of adventure that influenced characters ranging from Superman to Indiana Jones. A must-have book for any fan of comics history.

### Amulet Vol 2 SC

How can volume two be the end of the Amulet?! It is too awesome to end! Oh, well, I guess two volumes of an amazing story about two kids who chase their mother into a fantastical world under their house is better than NO volumes of an amazing story about two kids who chase their mother into a fantastical world under their house.

### Super Human Resources

Local writer (and Big Planet customer) Ken Marcus has teamed up with artist Justin Bleep to deliver one of the funniest superhero comics in a long time. Find out what it's like to work at a Super Human temp agency!

### Umbrella Academy: Dallas

Not a big fan of the band, but the singer of My Chemical Romance writes a fine comic book. A bunch of other musicians are jumping on the bandwagon, but as far as I can tell, they should all stick to music. But Umbrella Academy, with its interesting characters, great dialogue, and killer art is still the book to beat!

### Final Crisis: Legion of Three Worlds HC

Geoff Johns, George Perez, and The Legion of Super-Heroes all in one tidy hardcover--much better than waiting the interminable months between issues. See previous write-up for how much we here at Big Planet love Geoff Johns' Legion comics

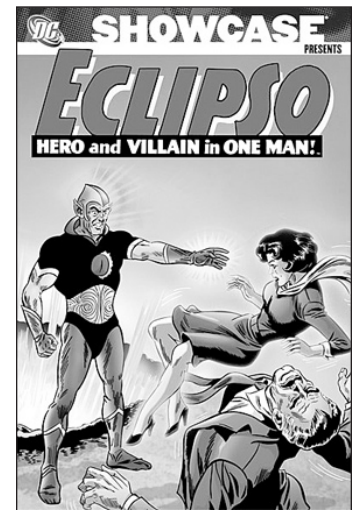
### Walking Dead Vol 10 TP

Now that Robert Kirkman's a partner at Image, his comics

come out on time, which means we get a new Walking Dead TP every six months! There's really no point in starting this zombie epic with Volume 10, so if you're not already hooked grab Volume 1 now, and start reading! Mmm, zombies...

### Captain America: Death of Captain America Omnibus HC

Lots and lots of Ed Brubaker/Steve Epting Caps, at a truly fair price--and the art looks beautiful printed large! Just don't fall asleep reading it in bed, or you might seriously hurt yourself.



### Showcase Presents: Eclipso

The 1960s weirdness that started it all (if by all you mean some weird forgotten DC annuals from the early-1990s). DC is finally starting to reprint a lot of their late-1960s, post-Batman TV show oddball comics. Hopefully we'll get some Inferior Five or Binky comics next...

### The Surrogates: Flesh & Bone TP

Bruce Willis' movie is coming soon (September)! Read the prequel that sets the stage for it. You could always read the original Surrogates book too, about a future where everyone has a good-looking robot double, but then you'd have to complain how the movie isn't as good as the comic.

### Eomplete Essex County

Jeff Lemire's taking over! He's got an original Vertigo hardcover, The Nobody, a new Vertigo series, Sweet Tooth, and his award-winning Essex County trilogy collected in an omnibus all in a six-week period. Check him out--he is that good!

# Best best from SDCC

**Greg:** So, did DC own G4's coverage of Comic-Con, or what? Green Lantern seems to be the hot property of the summer. Well, that and Wednesday Comics. What a great idea!

**Kevin:** I think Blackest Night and Wednesday Comics have definitely captured the attention of superhero fans. Zombie Superman? Home run! Paul Pope Adam Strange? Grand Slam!

I am honestly surprised at how much coverage the con was getting in general this year. Who would've thought we'd be hearing about the rights to Miracle Man on TV?

**Greg:** I don't think I will ever get used to Alan Moore being a household name. Even my mother-in-law knows who he is! What other hot news did we hear?

**Kevin:** Maybe it wasn't the biggest news at San Diego, but, for me, the fact that Jeff Smith is putting out FOUR new Bone books is awesome sauce. The first, "Bone: Tall Tales" will be



out in Summer 2010! Just check out that cover!

**Greg:** Sweet! I'm loving Rasl too. Even his Little Mouse book for little kids was really good. Jeff Smith is the man! My

mother-in-law knows who he is too.... Oh yeah--does everybody realize that this is the 25th Anniversary of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

**Kevin:** Hell yeah! Ninja

Turtles are awesome! Also, this 25th Anniversary business seems to have convinced Mirage to finally put out a solid Ninja Turtles collection. It even has the Cerebus crossover in it!

**Greg:** But no Flaming Carrot crossover. Alas.... (Fair warning, we're discussing the early killer-ninja turtles comics, not the later kid-friendly, pizza-eating turtles). Not sure it's San Diego news, exactly, but we've got some killer indy comics coming up soon from Marvel, all of all people. Give 'em the spiel, Kevin!

**Kevin:** You're talking about the soon-to-blow-the-minds-of-Big-Planet-customers Strange Tales: Max! This three issue mini-series in the Bizarro Comics vein will feature a host of amazing indie artists taking on Marvel characters. What I've seen so far is incredible! Dash Shaw, Nick Bertozzi, Paul Pope, Nicholas Gurewich, and a whole bunch of other awesome creators. Comic-Con may be turning into a movie festival, but comics still rule!

## Funny Book Funny by John McNamee and Kevin Panetta



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