

# FREE! Take One!

# O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 13 #1

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

April 2009



## League Of the Century

You were blown away by the first League of Extraordinary Gentlemen series. Even though it was Alan Moore, the man who wrote Watchmen, From Hell, and V for Vendetta, it was hard to believe that a superhero team made up of Victorian-era literary characters could be so cool. You were creeped out by the second series — that

Mister Hyde is a nasty one. And you were dazzled by the Black Dossier, with all its extras and 3-D glasses. (And the movie was awful, but let's not talk about that...). Get ready to be rocked again, as Top Shelf Productions presents The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol. III: Century #1 "1910" (hereafter referred to as



LOEG III #1).

The new LOEG series features some familiar characters like Mina Murray, Allan Quatermain, and Mycroft Holmes, as well as some new ones — Pirate Jenny, Mac the Knife, Anthony Raffles — reformed thief, and Orlando — the eternal warrior. Oh yeah, Jack the Ripper too, it looks like. And maybe some opera...? Whatever, it's Alan Moore — pretty much guaranteed to be awesome.

LOEG: 1910 is the first of three 80-page self-contained graphic novellas, each set in a different era, with the conclusion coming in our modern age. As always, written by Alan Moore, art by Kevin O'Neill, and lettering by Todd Klein (the guy who won all the Eisners for lettering Sandman), and colors by Ben Dimagaliw (hereafter referred to as Ben D.)

## Geoff Johns brings back Barry Allen

### Flash: Rebirth #1

Barry Allen is back! Not a dream, not a hoax, not an imaginary story — and DC's brought in Flash writer extraordinaire Geoff Johns to make

sure it's done right. Barry Allen died saving the Multiverse way back when in Crisis on Infinite Earths #8. But now thanks to some Final Crisis magic, he's back amongst the living,

just in time to try to find out who's killing off speedsters in the DCU. Art by Ethan Van Sciver, who's a lot better now than back when he did Cyberfrog.





### Irredeemable #1

After Kingdom Come and Empire, you know Waid has a darker look on superheroes. But what if all the rules of right and wrong lead the world's greatest superhero into becoming its greatest supervillain? And how did he get there?

### Killer of Demons #1

X-scribe Yost and Wegener, one of the men behind the pulp-robot action of Atomic Robo, have a new one, about an insane guy who thinks all his co-workers are demons and has to kill them. Or maybe the li'l angel talking to him is right, and only he can save the world!

### Bad Dog #1

Joe Kelly has a new actioner, with a bounty hunter team where one guy is a werewolf dude – and not like he turns into a wolf on the full moon, he's wolfman all the time. Plus swearin', shootin', and drinkin'!

### Invincible #60

Now that Kirkman's a partner

at Image, he can lay the smack-down on everyone else and use their characters in the ULTIMATE INVINCIBLE CROSSOVER! Yup, all the Image dudes, from Spawn, Pitt, and Savage Dragon to Ultra and Cyberforce, in an extra-long issue. Plus Kirkman wrote it all, so it'll actually be good!

### The Amazon #1

It came out 20 years ago, and now its available again, with adventure deep in the Amazon, written by Steve Seagle and drawn by Tim Sale!

### Incognito

I say again: Buy this if you know what's good for you. Ed Brubaker can do no wrong, these days.

### Black Vault #1

B. Clay Moore's writing it, set on the Space Station. But cross that sci-fi with some screaming terror and the good times really roll.

### Rawbone #1

Avatar tries out pirates, with a new one by Jamie (Hellblazer) Delano. British against the pirates, with supernatural death in the wings.

### The Incredibles #1

Yup, the movie that ripped off every great FF



### Mysterius the Unfathomable

What happens when a real magician has to operate in a world of cynics? You get an awesome comic like Mysterius the Unfathomable is what happens! Jeff Parker strikes again!

### Britten and Brulightly GN

PI Britten is good at digging up the dirt, but hopes to dig up something that actually makes things better one day. A murder covered up as suicide starts raking up blackmail and revenge instead. Nice try, Britten!

### I Am Legion #3

The first two issues were out before (as a GN from Humanoids), but now we get into the new stuff – Cassaday drawing Nazis, spies, mind-controlling

vampire girls, and body-jumping villains. Sold!

### The Beats: A Graphic History

Pekar teams up with Piskor again for a look at the beatnik generation, from Kerouac and Burroughs, art and jazz, Chicago to San Francisco.

### Courtney Crumrin's Monstrous Holiday TP

Courtney's off on a vacation to fabulous Europe! Too bad all the supernatural stuff over there

is now in comics! Mark Waid's writing, so don't feel so bad. It's the circle of life!



### The Literals #1

The first Fables / Jack of Fables crossovercrosses over into a new book, about the literary notions from J of F. You know, like the one that might

have created all the Fables in the first place. Best way to deal with that is try to kill him! Good plan, Fables!

### Viking #1

In case Northlanders isn't enough medieval mayhem for you, the writer of Cross Bronx brings a criminal story crossed with Viking action.

### Smash Unleashed!

Loeb's writing, Liefeld is drawing, Smash is smashing! Hulk out, Hulksters! Uh, I mean, Smash out, Smashters!

### Ignition City #1

A new miniseries by Ellis of retro-punk sci-fi, when space flight is becoming illegal and laser pistols settle all arguments. You know, in 1956. When pilot Mary Raven has to find who killed her dad in the last spaceport, Ignition City.

### Battlefields: Tankies #1

Ennis teams up with Ezquerra again for an infighting British tank crew trying to survive the invasion of Europe when they're cut off behind enemy lines, and being hunted by Tiger tanks. Good times.

### Seaguy: The Slave of Mickey Eye #1

Do you ever wonder what Grant Morrison does when he's not killing off Batman or writing the most confusing crossover ever? He writes comics about giant prophetic tuna fishes and matadors who dress bulls up in women's clothing, of course!



### Superman: World of New Krypton #1

Co-written by James Robinson and Greg Rucka (Not Andrew Kreisberg, as originally announced), Superman: World of New Krypton is the 12-part tale of Superman's exploits on fascist New Krypton. Look for much General Zod fun. Superman and Action will continue, scripted by Robinson and Rucka respectively, but they'll be set on Earth (mostly) following the exploits of Nightwing and Flamebird, and The Guardian of Metropolis. If you have trouble keeping it all straight, just follow the sequential triangle numbers on the cover.



is attracted to her as well. But is the attraction of a pale young man romantic or vampiric?

### Barefoot Gen Vol. 7 and 8

If you made it past the first volume of this critically-acclaimed Hiroshima survivor's story, you must be pretty hardcore. Here's more. Good luck.

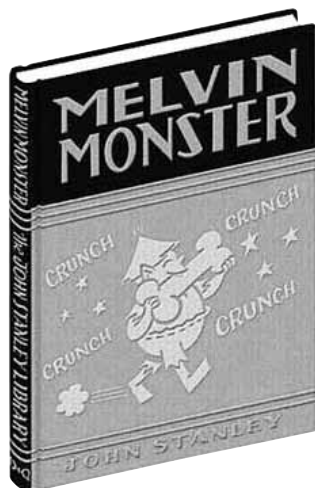
### Naoki Urusawa's 20th Century Boys V.1

Pluto: Urusawa x Tezuka V.1 Naoki Urusawa isn't a household name in the USA yet, but we're working on it. His suspense

series Monster is up to volume 18 (plug, plug), but he's most famous in Japan for these two new (to America) series. Pluto is his reimagining of Tezuka's Astro Boy for the 21st Century. And 20th Century Boys is the best Stephen King novel that you never read! You must have these.

### Rasl #4

Are you reading Jeff Smith's new sci-fi masterpiece? If not, here's your perfect jumping-on point. Just grab the oversize TP of issues #1-3, and you're ready for #4. Recommended, but not for kids.



### John Stanley Library Vol.1: Melvin Monster HC

So when John Stanley wasn't writing and drawing Little Lulu, one of the greatest kids' comics of all time, he was apparently writing and drawing Melvin Monster — another great kids' comic. Check it out in its new snazzy D&Q packaging. And check out the second Little Lulu color collection whenever Dark Horse finally ships it.

### Losers by Jack Kirby HC

Before the recent special forces miniseries, Jack Kirby had his WW2 heroes, the Losers! Including some stories like Olympic rivals facing each other on the battlefield, and combat tactics learned from a comic book! (That's how I got through boot camp.)

### Air Vol.1: Letters from Lost Countries TP

One of the weirder ones Vertigo has thrown at us recently (yeah, I know how that sounds) where a bunch of loonies try to steal their own planes to defend against terrorist hijackings. Plus a stewardess travels to a lost country or two. Good stuff.

### Anna Mercury Vol.1 TP

Warren Ellis brings us a Big Idea sci-fi, where twin-gun-toting Anna Mercury blasts her way through assorted baddies in a 1950s city of death rays and rocket ships. Plus a few other twists.

### American Jesus Vol.1: Chosen

So Jesus has been born again, as a kid today. Bit of a problem when you start manifesting miracles on the schoolyard, and the local priest wants to burn you as a

witch. Plus it's written by Mark Millar, so you know things aren't going to turn out well.

### Secret Invasion: Black Panther TP

Just when you thought you never wanted to hear the word "Skrull" again, Jason Aaron had to go and mess it up by writing some of the most exciting action-packed Black Panther stories in years. Skrulls will get their heads bashed in.

### Transmetropolitan vol. 1: Back on the Street TP

Back in a new edition of the first 6 issues, this sci-fi masterpiece of gonzo journalism, politics and mad, mad science put Warren Ellis on the map.

### Hulk Vol.1: Red Hulk TP

If you ever thought Hulk needed a little more intelligence, misogyny, and Red Dye #5, you need the Rulk! This guy's cunning mean, uses weapons, kills people, and is a big jerk. Man, I wish I was gamma-irradiated already. Ow, my kidney.

### Invincible Vol.10: Who's the Boss TP

Invincible begins to question his loyal work for the Global Defense agency, and soon they are fighting each other off! Plus leading up to a great secret of the Viltriumites!

### Shazam!: The Monster Society of Evil TP

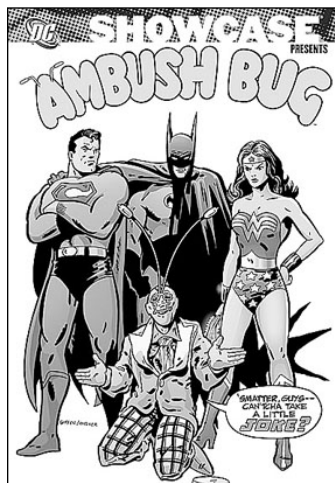
Jeff Smith recreates Captain Marvel's origin story in his own style, with all the magical tigers, giant robots and annoying girls you'd expect!

### Pax Romana TP

Jonathan Hickman writes about a time-traveling special forces team is sent by the Vatican back to the Roman Empire to insure that the Catholic Church remains powerful and the Roman Empire does not fall. Too bad not all the soldiers agree with the plan.

### Justice League International Vol.1 TP

First it was a comic book. Then it was a trade paperback. Most recently, it made its debut as a hardcover. Now, the funniest JLA comics this side of ever are finally available in a...trade paperback?! Awww, man!



### Showcase Presents: Ambush Bug Vol.1 TP

Sometimes it's easy to forget that the folks at DC Comics have a sense of humor, what with all the Sue Dibnys and refrigerators and what have you. Well, Keith Giffen's Ambush Bug is here to remind you that DC can be as ridiculously stupid as the next guy! In a good way, of course.

### Comic Book Comics #4

Everybody's favorite comic about the history of comics is back with a fourth issue, and this time they'll be taking a look at sixties superstars like Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, and...Robert Crumb? Sweet! Keep on truckin' and/or Exclesior!

### Dylan Dog Case Files

Did you ever see the movie Cemetery Man, starring Rupert Everett? Why not? Go rent it, and come back — we'll wait for you.... Pretty awesome, huh? Now read the comic that it's based on — Dylan Dog from Italy. Even awesomer, or something.

### A Drifting Life TP

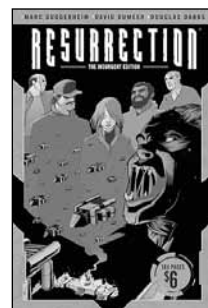
Yoshihiro Tatsumi's short-form comics from the late sixties and early seventies (Push Man, Abandon the Old in Tokyo) have been having quite a resurgence of late, but I think A Drifting Life is the book that will catapult him into the manga history books. An 800+ page book that serves as both an autobiography and a history of Japan in the 20th century and an exploration of the origins of manga? Sign me up.

### Big Book of Barry Ween

Long out-of-print and never quite all available at the same time, the Barry Ween trades have become quite an elusive piece of comedic entertainment. But those were the olden days! Now the complete 12 issue Adventures of Barry Ween series is finally available in one volume! So sit back, relax, and enjoy the hilarious adventures of everybody's favorite ten year old with the 350 I.Q.

### Resurrection

Do you love Walking Dead but hate zombies? Honestly, I've gotta say that seems unlikely. How about this? Do you love Walking Dead but hate the fact that there is not a book that is as awesome as Walking Dead but with aliens in it? Of course you do! That's why you need to read Resurrection!



### American Flagg! Vol.2 TP

In case you missed the hardcover, the legendary adventures of Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! are now available in two softcovers. Buy them both — you won't regret it. Classic 1980s post-Heavy Metal sci-fi action, with a sense of humor — and maybe just a little influence on Batman: The Dark Knight Returns.

### Showcase Presents: The Doom Patrol Vol.1 TP

Previously unavailable except in Archive format, the strangest comic of the 1960s is finally available for your perusal at a bargain price. Yeah, it's in black-and-white, but you've gotta check these out. The Doom Patrol may or may not be the influence for the original X-men, but it's a lot cooler and weirder.

### Humbug HC

Back in the 1950s Harvey Kurtzman created Mad. And after he oversaw its transition from comic to magazine, he left to create Trump for Hugh Hefner (back in print later this year!). Then he and his pals Will Elder, Jack Davis, Arnold Roth, and Al Jaffee went on to create Humbug. All eleven issues are collected here. Highly recommended.



# Talking Watchmen

## Comics Roundtable with Greg Bennett, Kevin Panetta and Jared Smith

**Greg:** Well, it looks like the Watchmen movie isn't going to be the massive blockbuster that Warner Bros was hoping for. Still looks like it'll make okay money though — although thankfully not enough to cause sequel pressure. I'm wondering if the fact that so many people have read the Watchmen book cut down on repeat viewings. So what's next? We've got the Tales of the Black Freighter & Under the Hood DVD that just came out, and then we've got some "After Watchmen...What's Next?" comics.

**Kevin:** Don't forget the Watchmen video game prequel, Watchmen chain wallet, and my personal favorite, the Watchmen Doomsday Clock clock! Now you can count down the minutes until nuclear annihilation everyday!

**Jared:** It's still no Watchbabies: V for Vacation. These atrocities aside, there is an amazing amount of great Moore comics out there that a lot of people still haven't read. If you haven't read V for Vendetta, how can you anger everyone by claiming that it's better than Watchmen?

**Greg:** Well, I see from the list of current and forthcoming "After Watchmen..." \$1 comics, that the Alan Moore classics Batman: The Killing Joke, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Swamp Thing, and V for Vendetta are/will all be sample-able. I think if you blow a buck on V #1, you'll be guaranteed of buying the TP — then you can piss everyone off much more convincingly than if you'd just seen the movie.

**Kevin:** I love the idea that people are reading Alan Moore comics to piss each other off. It's like a race to see who can read the most obscure Alan Moore books! "I read V for

Vendetta." "Oh yeah, well I read Promethea!" "Well ... um ... I read Skizz!!". It's like the only way to win is by losing.

**Jared:** Sadly, Swamp Thing is almost in that category. It astounds me how many people haven't read this, but then I think of the critical acclaim the movie AND TV show both got, and it all makes sense. So seriously, you want to see where Moore came from, and how amazing he was, try the Swamp Thing, it was his first work in the United States.

**Kevin:** I'm always surprised that the Swamp Thing animated series isn't the first thing that's mentioned when people talk about botched Alan Moore adaptations. It's always "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" this and "From Hell" that, but, c'mon! The theme song to the Swamp Thing animated series is set to the tune of Wild Thing and it goes "Swamp Thing! Nuh-nuh, nuh-nuh. You are amazing!". That puts the problems that people may have had with the Watchmen movie in perspective, I think.

**Greg:** We should all be thankful that Swamp Thing (on the verge of cancellation) was his first U S

work. I shudder to think what would have happened if he had been on a major book, with strict editorial control in the early-1980s.

I'm picturing Jim Shooter saying, "No, Alan, let me show you how to write a good comic." Plus then we never would have enjoyed the legions of great writers who were inspired by Moore, like Neil Gaiman, Grant Morrison, and Warren Ellis, just to name a few.

**Jared:** True, and they've got a big amount of great stuff too. Ellis is one of my all-time favorites, just because he plays with genres like Moore, but a LOT of genres, and has a huge amount of output. This means you have a few misses, but his hits are still amazing, like the sci-fi/political Transmetropolitan (especially relevant after one of the weirder elections here). And then his Planetary has Cassaday's ridiculous art, plus some of the best short stories done in comics. He even does his own riffs on Green Lantern and Thor and Superman in it.

**Kevin:** And without the guys like Ellis and Morrison, we wouldn't have this new crop of amazing writers like Brian K. Vaughan (Y: The Last Man), Robert Kirkman (Walking Dead), Jason Aaron (The Other Side), and Jonathan Hickman (Nighly News). Moore set the bar for quality comics quite high during his glory days, and it's good to see that comics continue to get better and better because of it.

## After Watchmen: The Big Planet List!

**Walking Dead** - Robert Kirkman does zombie survivalist horror in comic form

**The Boys** - Garth Ennis does things to heroes, sidekicks, and just about everyone else that you wouldn't believe

**From Hell** - Alan Moore's take on the mythology of Jack the Ripper

**DC Universe Stories of Alan Moore** - Includes the greatest Superman story of all time, "Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow", and the second greatest, "For the Man Who Has Everything".

**Brat Pack** - Rick Veitch does things to sidekicks that you wouldn't believe

**All-Star Superman** - Includes the third greatest Superman story of all time, Grant Morrison's "All-Star Superman"

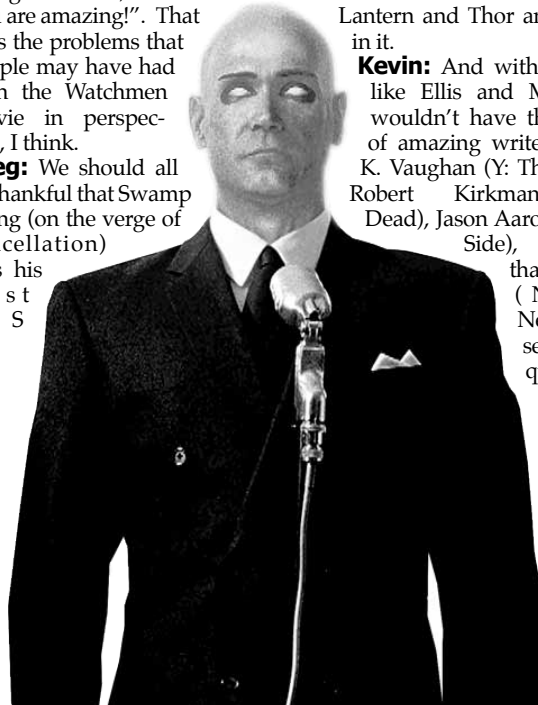
**American Flag!** - The book that would have made Howard Chaykin a household name 20 years ago. Humorous, action-packed sci-fi.

**Batman: The Dark Knight Returns** - Batman comes out of retirement at age 50 to try to fix the mess that Gotham City (and the world) have become. A Frank Miller classic!

**Daredevil: Born Again** - Pretty much all of the Frank Miller-scripted Daredevils are great, but this one is the best. Unbelievable art by David Mazzuchelli.

**Gotham Central** - A superhero universe from the flip side, the perspective of all the cops working in Gotham City. By Greg Rucka and Ed Brubaker.

Go to [AfterWatchmen.com](http://AfterWatchmen.com) to see DC's list.



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