

O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 11 #6

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

December 2007

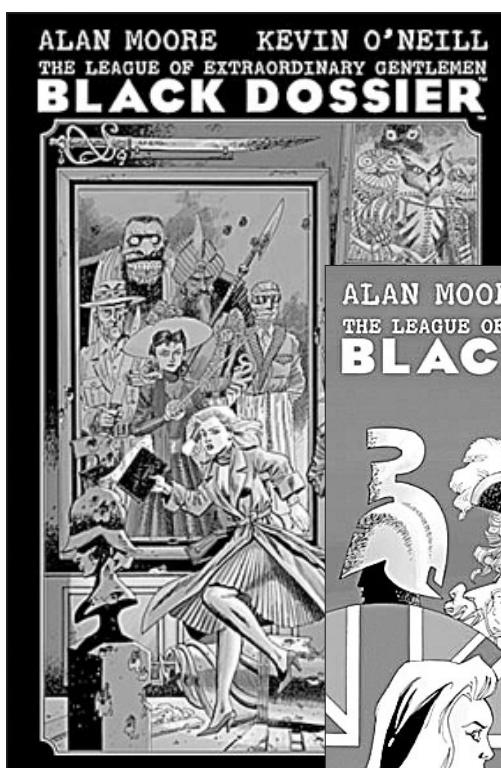
The League Returns

League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Black Dossier HC

I think we can all agree that the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen movie wasn't too good, but there's a history of mediocre adaptations of Alan Moore projects. But the truth is, the actual comics have all been excellent. If you've let that stop you from trying one of the best books of the last decade, it's your loss. Seriously, go buy volumes 1 & 2, read them, love them, and then get ready for...

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Black Dossier! Many years in the making, and many months in production, the thick hard cover tome is finally out.

Set in a dark England in the 1950s in which the League have been disbanded, it's up to Mina Murray and Allan Quatermain to find the legendary Black Dossier (the history of the League throughout the ages), before their enemies do. While not technically the third part of the League series, the Black Dossier is a full-length graphic novel, plus lots of cool DVD-style extras! Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill have outdone themselves on this one. Hopefully DC will keep it in print through the holiday season, but I'd grab a copy now, just to be safe.*



*Editor's note: Opps, looks like this book is sold out at Diamond. Better buy it now before or you'll be left waiting!!! — Smilin' Scott

Heroes Hits Hardcover

Not satisfied with only one thirty dollar hardcover this month, DC has also released the Heroes HC, a collection of the super-popular Heroes webcomics. This is no ordinary collection of webcomics, though. It also includes a total of 34 Tim Sale illustrations used in the show, as well as an interview with Heroes' Hiro, Masi Oka. Hearing Oka talk about his love of Osamu Tezuka was pretty sweet. A must-have for any hardcore Heroes fans. Did I mention that it's got a sweet Alex Ross cover? It does.





Silver Surfer: In Thy Name No. 1

Tan Eng Huat should have become an overnight sensation for his artwork on Doom Patrol, but somehow managed to stay under radar. Now Marvel has him on a much higher profile character, so soon he should be so famous that he won't have to do comics anymore. Enjoy his art while you can, he's fantastic!

Grendel: Behold the Devil No. 1

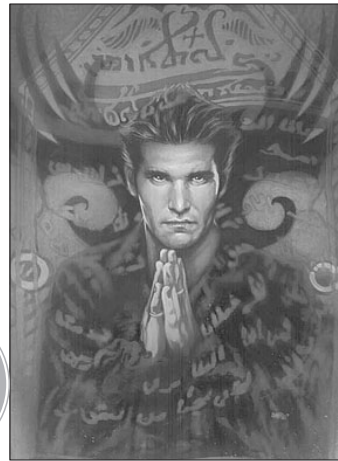
Matt Wagner finally returns to the character that made him a household name! (And no, I'm not talking about M a g e . . .) Hunter Rose, the original Grendel from the early 1980s is back, with a vengeance (seriously—lots of vengeance)!



turns out yet another new series. This one follows a crew of the last remaining heroes who have to crawl through hell to find Thor's hammer, the only item that can save humanity. Think Lord of the Rings, but without hairy feet.

Angel: After the Fall No. 1

Okay, so Joss Whedon isn't starting off writing this one, but he's overseeing the plotlines just



like on the shows and co-plotting it, and yup, this is the follow-up to Season 5. Life is good for the Whedon-verse. So just what happened to everyone after that big battle at the end of the show? Like, who's dead? Ba ba bum!!!! Argh, the tension!



Countdown: Arena Nos. 1-4

OK, show of hands – who hasn't nerded out at the possibility of seeing some of the most badass Elseworlds characters squaring off against each other? Come on, the Batman from "Gotham by Gaslight" facing off against the Batman from "The Liberty Files" – this is better than the Hulk vs. Thor argument any day. Stupid Thor.

Northlanders No. 1

Will Vikings be the new Zombies?!? Brian Wood, who is knocking it out of the park with DMZ, now turns his attention to a



Viking prince – not The Viking Prince, for you DC historians – who has to return to the northlands to reclaim his heritage. Don't miss this incredible Viking quest.



The Ultimates 3 No. 1

The Ultimates return with a new number 1 and a new creative team: writer Jeph Loeb and long-lost fan-favorite penciller Joe Madureira. This potentially could be amazing, but this also potentially could come out one issue per year.



X-Books

Messiah Complex continues across Uncanny X-Men, X-Men, New X-Men and X-Factor. Could the entire "No More Mutants" thing be over? Is there really a new bouncing baby mutant? Find out as this old-school style mutant mash up rolls along. And since the often brilliant Ed Brubaker is heading this up, you don't be too afraid of yet another X-Men crossover.

Hulk Vs. Fin Fang Foom No. 1

Genius writer Peter David answers the question that's been plaguing every fanboy since 1960s. What if so on and so forth.



Big Planet's Gift Guide 2007

2007 is winding up, and we've seen some great comics this year, as well as some great comic events. Remember when no one was even sure if 52 would come on out time? Ah, those were the days! Here's our look back at some of the coolest and most interesting books we saw this year, as well as the "Nifty Fifty" – the top selling comics at Big Planet Comics. Browse through and see if you missed anything interesting, or what ended up on our lists.

303 – Garth Ennis likes hyper-violent tales of Russian special forces soldiers in the mountains of Afghanistan...and America.

Agents of Atlas – Jeff Parker proves he's awesome again. Though it's always awesome with robots and monkeys.

Alice in Sunderland – The wait for a Bryan Talbot is always worth it, as proved by this huge multi-media hardcover of Alice in Wonderland, Bryan Talbot, and sundry mid-England weirdness.

All-Star Superman – Grant Morrison proves that you CAN write fantastically awesome Superman stories. And Frank Quitely proves that he is still amazing. Still slow, too.

Apollo's Song – Tezuka brings some other gods into his stories, as ancient myths collide with modern flaws.

Batman: Snow – Damn, Seth Fisher was GOOD. Luckily, the story is good too.

Batman: Year 100 – Worship the Pope (i.e. Paul)! And heck, an awesome Batman of 2039.

Blake and Mortimer: The Yellow M – Pretty heavy on the text, but still a European classic.

Bookhunter – Not as astounding as Fleep, but Jason Shiga shows us how bad-ass a librarian can be.

The Boys – When superheroes step out of line, who do you call to put them down? Garth Ennis, of course.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Long Way Home – WHEDON. On Buffy. Season 8, even! C'mon kids, keep up here!

Civil War – Aside from the horrors of Clor, this was still pretty amazing, and it's a good way to start arguments among Marvel fans.

Criminal: Coward – I love noir crime movies. What, this is a comic book? Coulda fooled me.

Doctor Strange: The Oath – BKV in the house! Plus, a great Strange story – guest-starring Night Nurse!

Empowered – Adam Warren actually drawing something again? Wow!

Essex County – Xeric Award winner. Greatness from outta nowhere.

Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser – Sword and sorcery classics drawn by Mignola. Sold!

Fell: Feral City – Ellis writes disturbing CSI-like detective stuff...but with Nixon hookers.

Fun Home – This won all the awards for a reason – it's great. I mean, sure growing up in a funeral home helps, but it's a great story.

Gamekeeper – It seems like a great action movie. Oh, it's been optioned for one? Hollywood, will you leave us nothing to call our own?!

Gothic Sports – Man, I wish I went to a high school where all the Goths formed their own sports team.

Houdini: The Handcuff King – Bertozzi draws a Lutes story about Houdini. Magic.

Hulk: Planet Hulk – Hmm, should we anger that strong Hulk fella? Sure, why not! Plus, gladiator armor make Hulk look cool!

Iron Man: Extremist – True, I love the Ellis, but man, Granov is a crazy-good artist. Plus, look how cool that Iron Man suit is.

Irredeemable Ant-Man – Would you see the Civil War as an opportunity to loot NYC? Or just shrink down to spy on girls in the shower? Ah, Ant-Man, hero to all!

It Rhymes With Lust – Romance from back in the day. Wait, a graphic novel romance from back in the day? Stop messing with my head!

Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibi – Finally all in color, all in order. Kirby was crazy – but good crazy!

The Killer – The best hitman since Golgo 13, but with beautiful full-color art!

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Black Dossier – Yes, it must be yours. Read the cover article.

Love and Rockets new format – Affordable, in order, and absolutely necessary. If you haven't read them, it's hard to fake being cool.

MAD War on Bush – Sure, it's almost a cheap shot. But what, me worry?

Maintenance – It's not cool to be janitors for a mad scientist think tank, but it is funny.

Marvel Adventures Avengers – Speaking of Jeff Parker – so many MODOKs! Oh, yes!

Melusine – Dang, those Euro kids can sure draw purty!

Mouse Guard – Mices! With swords and capes! Awwwww. Look out, mices, that snake's gonna eat you!

Neverwhere – Gaiman's tale of weird other-London, drawn by weird Fabry. Nice.

Nextwave: Agents of H.A.T.E. – Cannot explain it, laughing too hard. It's what they want!

The Other Side – A Marine goes to 'Nam. A Vietnamese goes south. Both go mad.

Phonogram: Rue Britannia – Everyone knows music is magic. Wait, literally? Whoa, gotta stop playing those LPs backwards!

Red Eye, Black Eye – I wish if I traveled across the US by bus I'd have this much fun. Without dying, I mean.

Re-Gifters – Ah, young love and tae kwon do. Truly, a parable for our times.

The Salon – Is it a serial killer investigation by Gertrude Stein and Picasso? Or just a good way to go to jail in Georgia? You decide!

Scarlet Traces: The Great Game – So, after the War of the Worlds, we'd better reverse-engineer all their tech to invade THEM! Ha, in your face, Mars! Earth rules!

Shazam: The Monster Society of Evil – Jeff Smith is back! With talking tigers and giant robots and all.

Spider-Man: Reign – The Dark Knight Returns" for Spidey. Plus, everything sounds better on tape!

Superman: Emperor Joker – Title says it all, really.

XIII: Day of the Black Sun – Sure, you just woke up with amnesia and saw you're on TV, wanted for killing the President. Same old, same old.

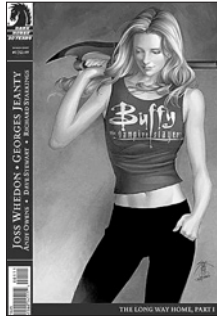
Zombies Calling – Don't forget, when zombies attack, remember the rules! Like NEVER leave the mall.

The Nifty Fifty

Big Planet Comics' 50 best-selling comic titles of the year

(Determined by number of issues sold)

- 1 Civil War
- 2 Captain America
- 3 World War Hulk
- 4 Buffy →
- 5 Astonishing X-Men
- 6 All-Star Superman
- 7 Justice League
- 8 Civil War The Confession
- 9 Fallen Son
- 10 Mighty Avengers
- 11 Civil War Initiative
- 12 Thor
- 13 New Avengers
- 14 Batman →
- 15 Justice League Wedding Special
- 16 Countdown
- 17 New Avengers Illuminati
- 18 Justice
- 19 Dark Tower
- 20 Amazing Spider-Man
- 21 52
- 22 X-Men
- 23 Ultimates
- 24 Green Lantern
- 25 All-Star Batman & Robin
- 26 World War 3
- 27 Justice Society
- 28 Incredible Hulk →
- 29 Green Lantern Sinestro Corps
- 30 Black Summer
- 31 Eternals
- 32 Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man
- 33 Brave and the Bold
- 34 Detective Comics
- 35 Ultimate Power
- 36 X-Men Endangered Species
- 37 Runaways
- 38 Wolverine
- 39 X-Men Messiah Complex
- 40 All-Flash
- 41 Iron Man
- 42 Shazam & the Monster Society of Evil →
- 43 Superman/Batman
- 44 Green Lantern Corps
- 45 Daredevil
- 46 Teen Titans
- 47 Uncanny X-Men
- 48 Fantastic Four
- 49 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 50 Wonder Woman



Graphic Novels and Trade Paperbacks

Big Planet Comics' best-selling titles of the year

- 1 Fables
- 2 Civil War
- 3 Walking Dead
- 4 Y the Last Man
- 5 Jack of Fables
- 6 DMZ
- 7 Runaways
- 8 Crecy
- 9 Ultimates
- 10 The Boys
- 11 Twisted Toyfare Theatre
- 12 Serenity: Those Left Behind
- 13 Ex Machina
- 14 Watchmen
- 15 Astonishing X-Men
- 16 300 HC
- 17 All-Star Superman 1 HC
- 18 Lucifer
- 19 Batman: Year 100
- 20 Stardust
- 21 Scott Pilgrim
- 22 Invincible
- 23 Planet Hulk HC
- 24 Plain Janes
- 25 Fell

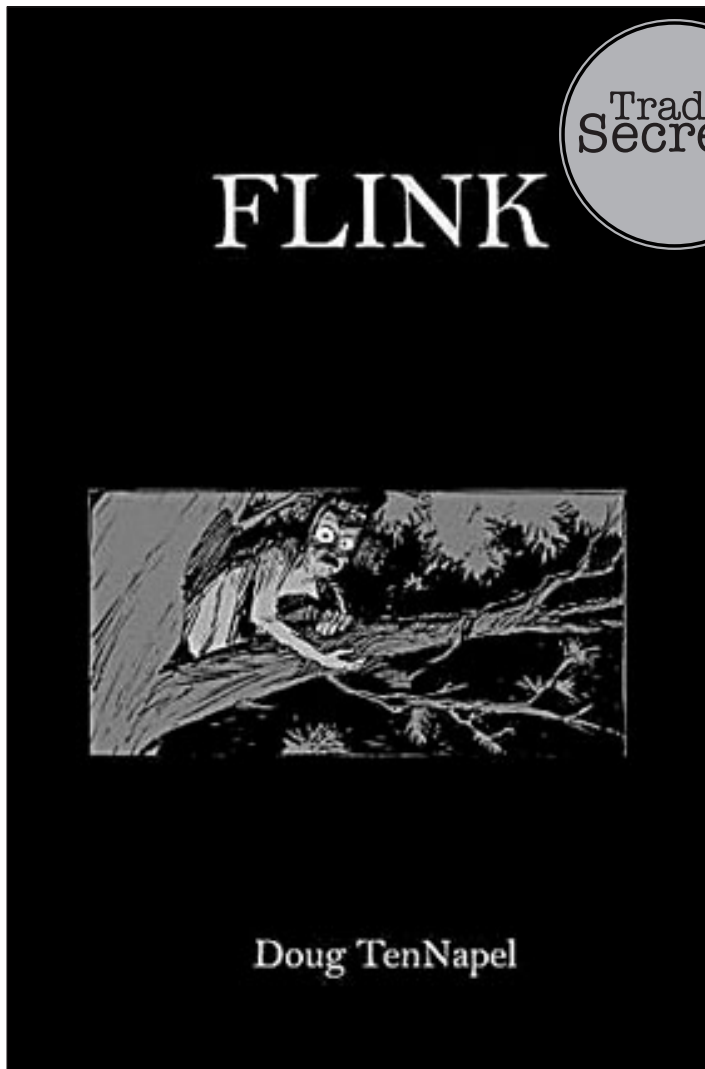
Manga

Big Planet Comics' 10 best-selling titles of the year

- 1 Path of the Assassin
- 2 Blade of the Immortal
- 3 Usagi Yojimbo
- 4 Apollo's Song
- 5 Megatokyo
- 6 King City
- 7 Kurosagi Corpse Delivery System
- 8 Phoenix
- 9 Deathnote
- 10 Ode to Kirihito

Honorable Mention:

- Justice
- Dungeon Parade
- Manhunter
- Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Vols. 1 & 2
- Laika GN
- 30 Days of Night
- Girl Genius
- Doctor 13: Architecture TP
- Heroes HC
- Immortal Iron Fist HC/TP
- Mouse Guard: Fall 1152 HC
- Killer 1 HC
- Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser TP
- Mad War on Bush TP
- Alice in Sunderland HC
- Action Philosophers TPs
- Stagger Lee GN



Flink by Doug TenNapel
Doug TenNapel is back with another all-new graphic novel about a kid who is the only survivor of a plane crash. Luckily, there's a Bigfoot named Flink who saves him. You had me at Bigfoot, Doug, you had me at Bigfoot.

Badger: Bull! Complete Badger Vol.1 TP
Capital Comics is best remembered for publishing the early issues of Baron & Rude's Nexus,

but they also published a cool Mike Baron-penned book called *Badger*, about a "super-hero" with multiple personality disorder. The *Complete Badger* collects the first 6 issues from the '80s, and *Bull!* is a brand new story by Baron. Recommended.

Pantheon Vol.1 TP
Before *Fables*, there was the *Pantheon*.... Collecting Bill Willingham's independent super-hero comics (no, not *The Elementals*—

Welcome to Indyville, home of the fancy pants! Only 10 months until the next SPX, but in the meantime, people still continue to put out comics. Even some good ones, but I'll let me be the judge of that. To the blurbs!!



Acme Novelty Library Vol 18
A collection of Chris Ware's "Building Stories", which some people consider to be his most

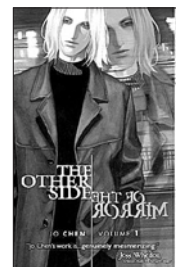
depressing work! So if Jimmy Corrigan didn't make you want to commit enough suicides to feed a family of twelve, just you wait!
The Last Musketeer
By Jason
How many times can I write about whatever new Jason books are coming out? Until we sell as many copies of them as we sold

maybe someday...) from a few years back. It's no *Fables*, but what is?

Munden's Bar
Even after Tim Truman left *Grimjack*, I kept buying it every month just to get the fantastic *Munden's Bar* backup stories. Now some of the best ones are collected for your reading pleasure. Featured creators include Brian Bolland, Phil Foglio, Steve Rude, Rick Veitch, Steve Bissette, and Jerry Ordway. I don't think they got the rights to the *TMNT* story where the Turtles can't get served because their underage--maybe for volume 2....

Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow
The best baseball comic published to date (in English, anyway) was *The Golem's Mighty Swing*. James Sturm's masterpiece about a fictional Depression-era baseball team. No Sturm is back, this time with beautiful art by stylistically sympathetic Rich Tommaso, telling the story of one of baseball's all-time greats—Satchel Paige.

The Other Side of the Mirror 1 by Jo Chen
Even if you haven't been reading the new *Buffy* comics, you probably still noticed the awesome painted covers by Virginia artist Jo Chen. Now Jo has her own comic coming out, *The Other Side of the Mirror*. Originally done a few years back, it's finally being translated into English. A troubled southern girl becomes a prostitute in NYC, and meets a guy as messed up as she. It's like *Gone With the Wind*, but with awesome art



of *All Star Batman and Robin #7*. Only then will my broken heart be mended.

Pax Romana #1
By Jonathan Hickman
A comic about the Roman Emperor and his sons fighting a time traveling army from the future by Jona-



JLA: Ultra-Marine Corps TP
Why didn't this book come out 2 years ago? I have no idea. But it's here now—Grant Morrison, Super-Gorilla Grodd, Robot Justice League—all good. Plus the Morrison-scripted *JLA/WildCATS* as a bonus.

Queen & Country: Operation: Red Panda by Greg Rucka and Chris Samnee
Finally collected, we have *Tara Chace* being sent into Iraq to deal with a businessman who might be working with the insurgents. But really the carnage of Iraq is just the trigger to reestablish the trauma that *Tara's* suffered recently (see the *Q&C* novels if you haven't read them yet!)



Walt Disney Treasures 2: Uncle Scrooge
This second volume is entirely about *Scrooge*, with the *Barks* and *Rosa* goodness we know and love, plus a lot of other greats from over 60 years of *Scrooge* stories. *Beagle Boys*, the *Number One Dime*, *Magica De Spell*, and even a tale from the future: "Whatever Happened to *Scrooge McDuck*?" Ooo, maybe he's really *Superman* in retirement. Just buy it, or I will pity you.

Wind in the Willows by Michel Plessix
Classics Illustrated is starting up again, and what better way than a giant collection of *Plessix's* entire *Wind in the Willows* adaptation? If you haven't seen the great art of *Plessix* before, grab this book and get the whole story all at once. Plus, you can use it to write your book report.

than *Hickman*, the guy that did *Nightly News*. Did your brain just explode as much as mine?

Speaking of whatever I was speaking of, *Scott Pilgrim 4* is out now. Do with that information what you will. Like buy it. Later, skaters!



Born to Run

DC Comics Finds Salvation in Villainy

What if you killed the Flash? I'm not saying you killed the Flash, but if you did, what would you expect as punishment? Would it be...

A: Beat up by Superman?

B: Jail. Lots of jail.

C: Exiled to a distant planet along with a whole bunch of other villains, including Lex Luthor and the Joker, in some sort of crazier version of World War Hulk but with less gladiator-ing.

If you picked "C", you're absolutely correct--as DC's new villain-based series *Salvation Run* is about just that. The Suicide Squad is rounding up a huge group of over 40 of the DCU's most nefarious and shipping them out to space to fend for themselves. Expect factions to form, villain wars and potentially...hopefully...Joker vs. Luthor!

As DC books become ever more dependent upon one another to tell one large cohesive story, a book like *Salvation Run* has a real chance to stand apart from the pack. The fact that this book takes place on a different planet makes me think it won't get too bogged down in current DC continuity, which at this point is a definite selling point. Also, it's about villains! Bad guys have taken a back seat for too long, and with *Fables*-scribe Bill Willingham at the helm we should be in for a classic tale of villainy.



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Big Planet Comics, Inc. 4908 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814, 301.654.6856

Big Planet Comics of VA Inc. 426 Maple Ave. East, Vienna, VA 22180, 703.242.9412

Big Planet Comics of DC Inc. 3145 Dumbarton St. NW, Washington, DC 20007, 202.342.1961

Big Planet Comics of College Park Inc. 7315 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD, 20704, 301.699.0498