

★★★★★ **FREE! Take One!** ★★★★★

# O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 13 #2

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

June 2009

## Batman's new all-star staff

### Batman and Robin #1

Okay, so Frank Miller tried to convince us that All-Star Batman was always supposed to be a joke, but Grant Morrison made All-Star Superman into one of the best Superman series ever with insightful looks at Superman and his entire supporting cast, as well as some of his villains, cutting-edge crazy concepts, and dynamic and inventive art by Frank Quitely showed us what a universe with Superman and super geniuses and strange sun-eaters would be like.

Now they are set to work together on Batman.

Morrison's run on Batman recently has gotten super complicated during the RIP storyline, but few know Batman's history better, and he worked in many great stories and introduced such new ideas as Damian and the mind job of the Black Glove and his goons.

Plus, this series will finally have the new Batman and Robin.



Batman and Robin could be the best thing to happen to Batman in years, but it's not the only thing going on with the Caped Crusader in June! Check out these other

new and returning books to get the whole Bat-story!

**Batman #687:** The regular Batman series is back with a new Dark Knight and the return of

writer Judd Winick.

**Detective Comics #854:**

Now co-starring Batwoman and the Question. With art by a awesome king of a awesomeness, JH Williams!

**Red Robin**

**#1:** Who is Red Robin? Is it Dick Grayson? Tim Drake? Jason Todd? BRUCE WAYNE?!?! (It's probably not Bruce Wayne.)

**Batman: Streets of Gotham**

**#1:** Paul Dini and Marc

Andreyko team-up to write a Batman / Manhunter series!

**Gotham City Sirens**

**#1:** Paul

Dini doing what he does best; writing comics about Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy! Featuring amazing art by Guillem March.



### Thor: Tales of Asgard #1

Between DC's Kirby Library volumes and Marvel's Essentials and Masterworks, pretty much all of Jack Kirby's classic work from the 1960s and 1970s have been available, with one glaring exception--Tales of Asgard. These were

the backup stories from Kirby's legendary Thor run, which Marvel omitted from their Thor reprints for some strange reason. Now they're being published in affordable comic format first, before being collected.

While not quite 100% true to the original Norse myths, these

stories are a) great, and b) hugely informative about the supporting characters, like Balder, Loki, and Hela in Jack Kirby's Thor universe. Oh yeah, they're written by Stan Lee too. Check 'em out--these are some of the best Silver Age-stories that you never read. 'Nuff said.





### Chew #1

What is Cibopathy? The ability to get psychic readings from food that you eat, of course! What would happen if a cop had that ability? I have no idea. That's why I'm gonna read Chew!

### Spider-Man: The Short Halloween

What happens when Bill Hader (Pineapple Express, Forgetting Sarah Marshall) and Seth Meyers (anchor of Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update) write a Spider-Man comic and Kevin Maguire draws it? Hopefully some bwa-ha-ha!

### Buffy: Tales of the Vampires

Take a step away from the Slayer(s) and see what life is like for Vampires in New England! Supposedly, it involves video arcades and decadence. So it's like the eighties?

### Bad Kids Go to Hell #1

This book is advertised as Breakfast Club meets The Grudge. Sounds good to me!

### Special Forces TP

Kyle Baker's dark satire on the Iraq War is a bit hard to take, and perhaps seems a bit out of place in 2009. Other than that, it's awesome, like everything he does.

### Brat Pack TP

Rick Veitch's classic deconstruction of superheroes and sidekicks is available again for your reading pleasure. Actually pleasure is too nice a word--this book is really disturbing. Written and drawn while Veitch was still seething mad at DC for not



### Batman in Barcelona: Dragon's Knight #1

Mark Waid isn't at DC any more, as far as I can tell, but they must've had this script in the can for a bit. Waid always tells a good super-hero yarn, but the big selling point here is the art by Spanish sensation Diego Olmos, who's actually from Barcelona. Plus a Jim Lee cover to boot. Recommended.

### Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep #1

Philip K. Dick's sci-fi masterpiece is being adapted into a 24-issue maxi-series. If you've never read the book (or even if you have!) check this out. It could blow your mind.

### Barack the Barbarian #1

This is exactly what you think it is. Guest-starring Red Sarah, She-Devil With a Something!

### Captain America #50

Ed Brubaker's Captain America run just keeps getting better. This issue it's Bucky's birthday,

publishing one of his Swamp Thing comics--revenge is sweet! Highly recommended.

### I Kill Giants TP

Joe Kelly has been quietly producing beautiful indy-ish comics for Image. With artist J.M. Ken Niimura we have a middle school girl who's fighting giants, unless she's really just crazy. Kelly and Max Fiumara's Four Eyes covers dragon fights in NYC. If Fiumara ever starts making deadlines, we might finally get a Four Eyes

so we get to relive all of his best and worst birthdays going back to the glory days of WWII. And knowing Brubaker, these episodes will probably set the stage for more mayhem to come in future issues. If you're not already reading Brubaker's Cap run, please buy some TPs or something. This book is great!

### Sherlock Holmes #1



Leah Moore has either inherited her dad's story-telling skills, or he's ghost-plotting her comics. Either way it doesn't matter. Check out her take on Sherlock Holmes! And while you're at it, check out her take on Dracula too!

### Cursed Pirate Girl #1

She's a girl, and a pirate! What more could you ask for? How about some insanely beautiful art from newcomer Jeremy Bastian! Check it out.

### Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers #1



Move over Legion of Super-Pets, it's Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers! (Lockheed, Redwing, Hairball, and the all-new Frog Thor make up the rest of the team). Franklin Richards' writer Chris Eliopoulos brings us these zany stories. Throw in the Infinity Gems and you've got some great fun!

### From the Ashes #1

Bob Fingerman tells an autobiographical tale of what life is like

for him and his lady -- after the apocalypse! In New York. So plan for stress over Blackberries not working, and rampant cannibalism.

### The Boys: Herogasm #1

If you missed the start of The Boys, the raunchy, uber-violent story of the team that takes down uncontrollable superheroes, then here's a chance to try their new miniseries! Based on the cover and title, it's gonna be more of the same over-the-top offensiveness.



### The Wheel of Time #1

Robert Jordan's kazillion page epic fantasy series is finally being made into comics. Expect a lot of reading ahead!

### Ultimatum Spider-Man #1

If Ultimatum ever finishes up, we're going to get a relaunch of the Ultimate books, starting with Ultimatum Spidey. A tale of his fine heroism, written by J. Jonah Jameson?!

### Dark Reign: The Hood #1

If you haven't picked up Brian K. Vaughan's The Hood collection yet, get it for a look at how this low-level criminal with a pregnant girlfriend and crazy mom lucked into the tools that made him into the demonic supervillain crime boss he is today. Now Jeff Parker takes us back into his personal world to show what's going on behind the scenes in this miniseries.

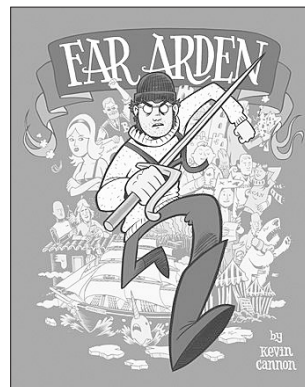


### Indyville

collection later this year.

### Too Much Coffee Man Omnibus

Well it looks like the Too Much Coffee Man opera didn't take off, so Shannon Wheeler is back around the comics scene. At 536 pages, this might be a little too much Too Much Coffee man, but hey, you

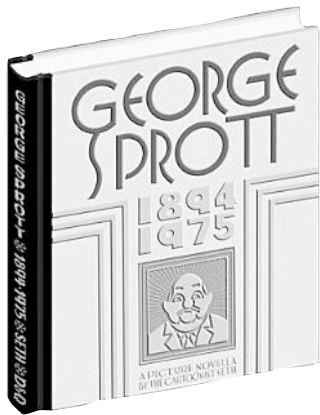


don't have to read it in one sitting. Mars needs coffee, and I suspect Shannon's kids want to eat. Buy one of these and help the cause--you will laugh.

### Far Arden HC

High-seas adventure on the high seas! Don't take my word for it, though. Check it out at [www.kevincannon.org](http://www.kevincannon.org).





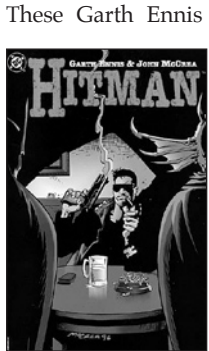
### George Sprott (1894-1975) HC

In case you were wondering where Seth went after Wimbledon Green, he was working for the New York Times too. This time it's the fake biography of a television personality. As usual expect beautiful and melancholy.

### Cages SC

Everyone knows that Dave McKean can draw, paint, and photograph like crazy, but did you know that he can write too? Check out his 1990s masterpiece, back in print for the first time in years. The first chapter is a bit inaccessible, so if that's slowing you down, start with chapter two and keep on going. Absolute highest possible recommendation!

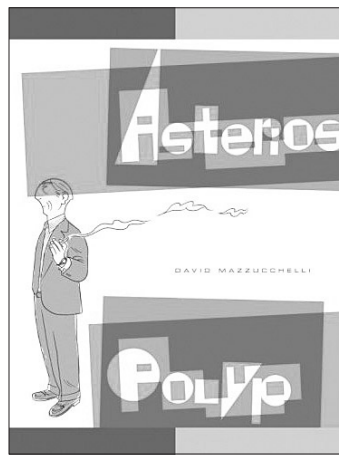
### Hitman 1: A Rage in Arkham TP



These Garth Ennis semi-classics have been out of print for way too long. Intentionally politically incorrect, and hilarious tales of a hitman who only kills truly bad people. This volume Hitman "teams up" with Batman. Future volumes include some amazing team-ups with Catwoman, Green Lantern, and everyone's favorite team of misfit psychopaths--Section 8. Now if only DC would reprint the Ennis Demon issues too....

### Asterios Polyp HC

David Mazzuchelli is probably best known for his work with Frank Miller on Batman and Daredevil. But he also did some



of the best indie comics ever, in the long OP Rubber Blanket. Now he's back, with the story of a man who leaves New York City after his apartment burns to try to find himself again in a small town. Might be the best indie book coming out this year.

### Batman: Resurrection of Ras al Ghul TP

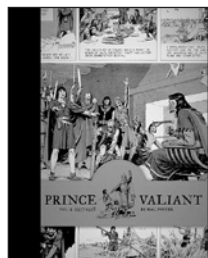
DC Comics shows the right way to do a multi-writer, multi-comic crossover. Hire Grant Morrison, Peter Milligan, and Paul Dini to tell us the story of the Return of Ras al Ghul, and throw his daughter Talia, and grandson Damian into the mix. And finally put it out in an affordable soft-cover!

### Superman: Escape from Bizarro World TP

Geoff Johns story, Eric (The Goon) Powell art, and Bizarro all in one book! Plus some classic Bizarro reprints to boot. It's allegedly co-written by Richard Donner, but you'll have to decide that for yourself. Reads like pure Johns.

### Prince Valiant Vol.1 HC

This will probably be a much easier sell this time around, since the reprint technology has improved greatly in the last 20 years, and because the current incarnation of the strip by Gary Gianni is so great. But if you haven't read any of the original classic Prince Valiant comics by Hal Foster,



presented in their full-page glory, you are totally missing out.

### Absolute Death HC

This book contains all the GOOD Death stories by Neil Gaiman and a bunch of bonus features. Plus, your Absolute Sandmans look lonely on the shelf all by themselves.

### Halo: Uprising HC

This comic was way better than it should've been. Focusing on Master Chief as well as a couple of (semi-)regular folks during a Covenant invasion, Bendis and Maleev's Halo: Uprising manages to capture the feel of the videogame while still telling an intriguing story.

### Remake 1

A new 144 page book by local-comics-guy-soon-to-be-superstar (and Big Planet customer) Lamar Abrams! Remake is the story of Max Guy, a guy who has a gun that turns things into other things! It's crazy and action-packed and hilarious and awesome.

### Zombie Survival Guide: Recorded Attacks

Just when you thought you were safe (from more zombie comics), king of the zombies Max Brooks (World War Z, Zombie Survival Guide) has decided to try his hand at comics. Read stories of zombie attacks throughout history!

### Seaweed: A Cure for Mildew HC

Animation and comics have relationship going back to the beginning of the twentieth century,



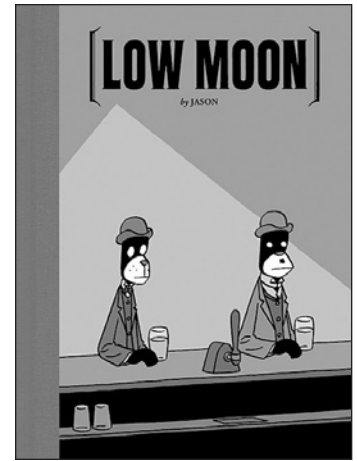
and Emmy-winner Ben Balistreri shows us just how awe-inspiring that relationship can be. Some of the most energetic and expressive comics you'll ever read.

### Back to Brooklyn TP

Garth Ennis plus mob revenge story equals recipe for blood-splattered awesome.

### Low Moon TP

Jason, the Norwegian cartoonist of few (or no) words, is back with a collection of his western comic Low Moon--which originally ran



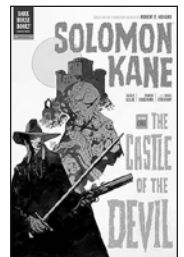
in the New York Times Sunday Magazine. Nobody does it better without dialogue.

### Sleeper Season One

So if you're reading Brubaker's Incognito of supervillains and noir tales, and wonder why no one's done this before, don't worry, Brubaker did it once before! Sleeper is one of the best comics ever, with a protagonist who's committing evil acts in the hope of stopping a greater evil. But when he has lost the chance to stop, what will he become? A serious book, but an action-packed superpowers thriller too! Amazing. Check out the reissued Point Blank to find out the prequel to Sleeper.

### Solomon Kane: Castle of the Devil

One of Conan creator Robert Howard's lesser-known characters, Solomon enters a German castle suffering under the curse of a monster.



### Pixu: The Mark of Evil

A tale of horror in a building draws together the strangers who live there into evergrowing madness. A combo work of four greats, Gabriel Ba, Becky Cloonan, Vasilis Lolos and Fabio Moon.

### Wolfskin TP

Warren Ellis gives his take on barbarian action, and we get the hyper-detailed art of Juan Jose Ryp to show us all the carnage! A Northish berserker in wolfskin, taking his sacred battle drugs to kill with his two swords all the more efficiently. Gory awesomeness.

# Best Panels of the Month

There are always a few moments in a comic that are particularly striking, from great twists to really funny dialogue or great art. We've picked a few of our favorites from last month below. Send us an email at [bigplanetvienna@verizon.net](mailto:bigplanetvienna@verizon.net) if you have some suggestions from this month for the next issue!



## Groom Lake #2

"I knew the Smoking Man in X-Files was really one of them."



## Amazing Spider-Man #592

"Man, why didn't his Spider-Sense warn him about investigating further?"



## Mr. Stuffins #1

"The new Toy Story/James Bond crossover looks amazing!"



## Ultimate Wolverine vs. Hulk #5

"Logan's new nemesis, Friendly Panda. Fear his hug!"



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