

★★★★★FREE! Take One!★★★★★

# O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 13 #6

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

November 2009

## Spidey Goes Through "The Gauntlet"



Spider-Man lost a lot of old-time readers with the bizarre Mephisto story, but ever since has been turning out some of the best Spider-Man stories in years. We've seen the return of some classic villains like Chameleon and some new ones.

But they've been holding off on a lot of the classic, rogues gallery bad guys to allow the new take on Spidey's universe to take hold and let us see what was going on. Now, we are going to see a lot of those definitive villains reappearing in The Gauntlet.



The basic idea is a sort of "Dark Reign" for Spider-Man, where these issues will be labeled The Gauntlet without a separate mini-series or anything like that, just a sign that these events will be dominating Spider-Man's life for a while.

We will see Electro, the Rhino, Black Cat, the Lizard, and more. The threats to Spider-Man will keep building, in classic Ditko style where he is getting hammered from every direction at once.

But will any of this point to a group of villains working together - there are rumors we'll get a new improved Sinister Six.

## I M A G E - U N I T E D

Hell freezes over! Either that, or the Image founders need some money.... Six of the seven Image founders bring their characters (and varying levels of talent) to "The Crossover Event of the Century". Erik Larsen (Savage Dragon), Rob Liefeld (Youngblood), Todd McFarlane (Spawn), Whilce Portacio (Wetworks),

Marc Silvestri (Witchblade), and Jim Valentino (Shadowhawk) are all here (sadly no Jim Lee WildC.A.T.S.), each drawing their own characters every time they appear. Thankfully, the one thing that is radically changed from the early 1990s is the "we don't need no stinking writers" ethos. Having recognized that they

in fact do need a writer, they picked a doozy--new Image partner Robert Kirkman, writer of Invincible, Walking Dead, and McFarlane's new book, Haunt. So stay tuned for what will be either one of the worst comic book disasters of all time or a shiny bit of awesomeness from Image Comics!





### Groo: The Hogs of Horder #1

Okay, Groo has about one joke (maybe one and a half), but it's a funny one. Plus Aragones is a cartooning master! Plus this mini deals with economic destruction! Ah, escapist entertainment at its finest.

### God of War #1

I stink at video games, but I loved God of War (and was almost ok at it). Now you get to see more of Kratos's backstory, from Spartan childhood to minotaur and god-slaying. Just like my bio pic.

### Daredevil #501

Andy Diggle comes roaring onto Daredevil after the history-making Bendis/Brubaker runs. Daredevil attempting to take over as leader of the Hand? Leading an army of undead ninja against Norman Osborn? Kingpin playing dead? Dakota North? Dakota NORTH!?



### Dr. Horrible

Anyone who doesn't worship Joss Whedon – Dr. Horrible was an internet sensation about a supervillain, done in the form of a musical. Now Whedon does a comic of Dr. Horrible's origin! Come by the Vienna store if you want Kevin to sing the comic for you.

### Authority: The Lost Year #3

Authority was once one of the most mind-blowing comics out there, under Ellis and Millar, then it went down in flames. Until Morrison and Gene Ha resurrected it for two glorious issues. Nothing since then, but now Morrison has picked Keith Giffen to finish his storyline based on his plot, with Darick Robertson art.

### Stumptown #1

Greg Rucka made his career on crime, detectives, and thrillers. Now he has a new book about a PI in debt to a Indian casino, trying to dig out of the hole by finding a missing girl for them... I'm sure that'll tie up nicely at the end of issue #1.

### PunisherMAX #1

Our boy Jason Aaron gets let loose on Punisher with Steve Dillon, unlimited MAX-style! With the rise of... Wilson Fisk? Bodyguard to a mob boss? The origin of the Kingpin in the MAX universe I'm sure will be a lovely tale for all ages.

### Wall-E #0

Everybody loves Wall-E, right? How can you not?! He's been on earth rebuilding our cities out of garbage and falling in love while we hang out in space and get FAT! Not cool, us!

### Blackest Night #5

Nekron is here! Do the words "Coast City! RISE!" mean anything to you? Because I think it means a WHOLE LOT OF ZOMBIES! Also, someone will probably die.

### Lobo: Highway to Hell #1

A Lobo comic written by Scott Ian from Anthrax?! With art by Sam Keith?! I also hear it has demonic chihuahuas in it and a lot of face-punching! Well, it is a Lobo comic!

### Supergod #1

What happens when humans try to build a new God? I can guarantee you that it isn't anything good, and with Warren Ellis at the helm I will gladly turn that guarantee into a promise! From the Authority to No Hero, Ellis has always had interesting things to say about superheroes, and Supergod seems to be no different.

### Batman/Doc Savage #1

In preparation for his new mini-series from DC, Doc Savage has decided to team up with everyone's favorite caped crusader, Batman! I'm sure you've seen the preview in EVERY DC COMIC ever!

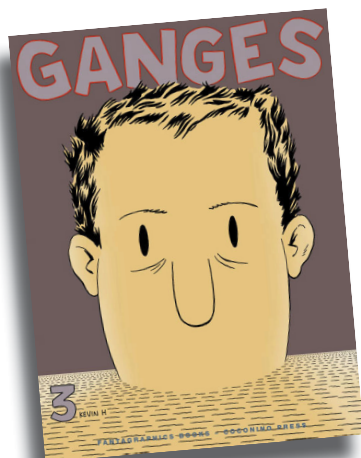


### 365 Samurai and a Few Bowls of Rice

A samurai leaves to walk the warrior's path, with full page panels of art.

### Key Moments From the History of Comics

A hilarious look at comics history, featuring Francois Ayroles' take on such historical moments as "George Herriman does the dishes", "Milton Caniff discovers the two hemispheres of his brain.", and "Dan Clowes doesn't take over Spider-Man"!



### Ganges #3

Kevin Huizenga's Glenn Ganges stories have been some of the best indie comics around for a while now, and if Ganges #3 is even half as good as Ganges #2 it'll be twice as good as anything else coming out this month!

### Kookaburra #1

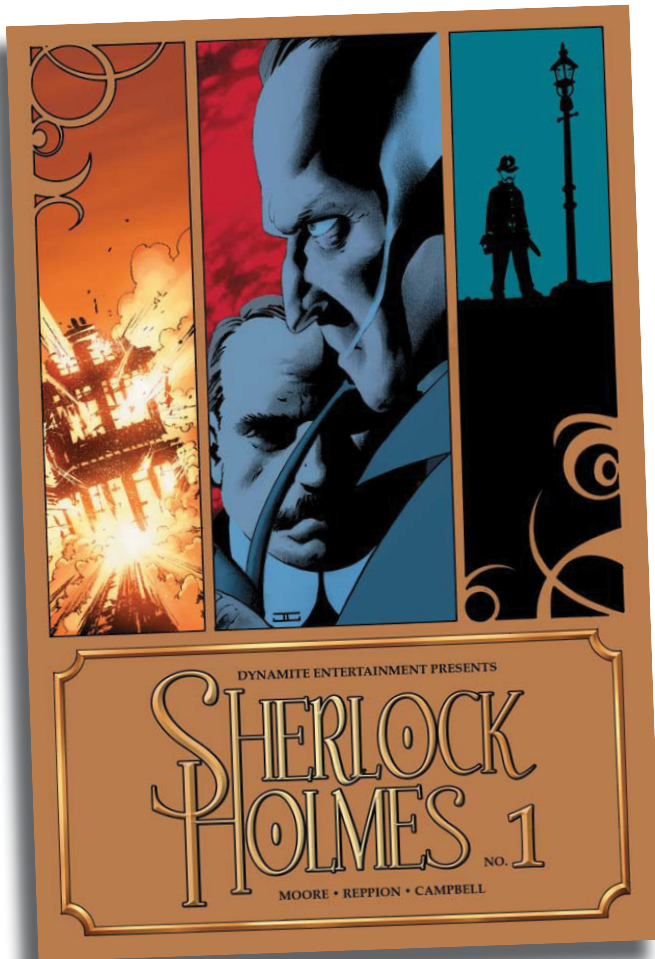
Another import from France for Marvel's Soleil line, this sci-fi adventure has Humberto Ramos art, refugee kids, mysterious

cargo, and the ghost of a cyborg. Good enough!



### Muppet Show #0

Why is Wall-E #0 listed in "The Facts" while Muppet Show #0 is forced into the ghetto that is "Indyville"? Because writer/artist Roger Langridge is an indie comics legend is why! Expect the same level of awesomeness as the previous Langridge Muppet-ness in this one-shot that kicks off the ongoing series!



### Sherlock Holmes: Trial of Sherlock Holmes HC

At last a Holmes book that feels fresh and looks lovely! And with a plot that drags you in – Holmes found over a murdered man with a smoking pistol in his hand, at a loss for words? Sounds like the detective needs a detective!

### The Escapists SC

Brian K. Vaughan (heard of him?) did a miniseries of Michael Chabon's Escapist that had a trio attempting to restart the Escapist comics, and ending up with a success and a failure – and possible jail time. Amazing. Don't ask, just buy it!

### Ultimate Wolverine vs. Hulk HC

Okay, it was hard to top the first issue, but Damon Lindelof (co-creator of Lost) sure tried – Hulk ripping Wolvie in half! Hulk harem! She-Hulk! More violence! Plus lovely Leinil Francis Yu art to get that violent detail.

### Akira Vol. 1

This has been out of print for too long – the sci-fi masterpiece by Otomo is far more detailed than your typical Japanese art, and creates an intricate world of a future Tokyo on the edge of collapse – plus psychics, special ops, bike gangs, and if the movie really confused you, an ending that makes sense! Kaneda! Tetsuo!

### Usagi Yojimbo: Yokai HC

To celebrate Usagi's 25th anniversary, we get an original full-color graphic novel, as Usagi teams up with Sasuke the Demon Queller! I need a name like that.

### Luna Park HC

Vertigo has another twist of brilliance, the tale of a former Russian soldier, now an enforcer in Coney Island trying to escape his fate with a plan that puts him between two mobs in this historical thriller.

### The 'Nam 1 SC

Back when Marvel did more than superheroes, they had real Vietnam vet Doug Murray write

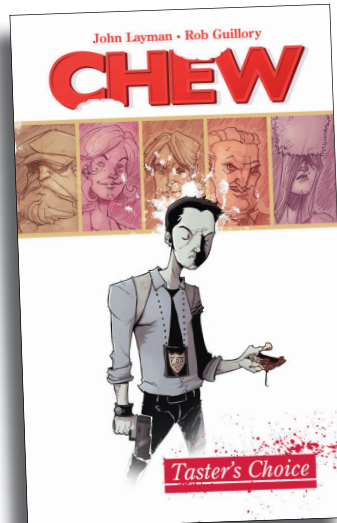
this realistic series inspired by his time there. Now the first 10 issues are back in a trade.

### Complete Adventures of the Three Musketeers SC

Ace Big Planet research assistant GT Hayes turned up some samples of Arturo del Castillo's work on this adaptation, and all I can say is be prepared to have your socks knocked off by his romantic/realistic art.

### Exiles: Point of No Return SC

The fate of this series really bummed me out. Marvel cancelled this latest Exiles series after only SIX issues. That wouldn't normally bug me, but it was actually REALLY GOOD! Oh, well. At least now you can get the whole thing in one book.



### Chew Vol 1 Taster's Choice SC

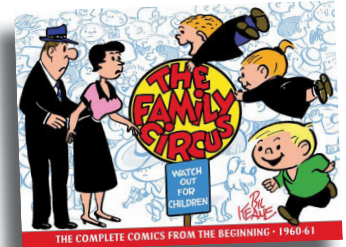
What happens when a detective gets psychic impressions from eating things? Chew happens! One of the strangest new series to hit shelves in a while, Chew examines the seedy underbelly (Belly! Ha!) in a way that is both disturbing and fascinating.

### The Boys Vol 5: Herogasm SC

If there is one series that can shock even the most hardened of fanboys, it's gotta be The Boys. From the world's most messed up version of the Teen Titans to a Batman proxy having... umm... "relations" with a meteor, The Boys always delivers the wrongness. I can't really write too much about Herogasm in The Orbit (we're a family newsletter!) but rest assured, it remains a wonderful abomination.

### The More Than Complete Action Philosophers TP

Get the complete run of Action Philosophers and four new stories in one giant-sized volume. Learning? Booo! Learning from a funny comic? Yayyy!!



### The Family Circus Library, Vol 1 HC

Has the archival comic strip reprint boom gotten way out of hand? First Hagar the Horrible, now Family Circus?! What's next? A \$50 Hi & Lois collection?! Although...who knows? Maybe these early Family Circus comics are frickin' sweeeet!

### Footnotes in Gaza HC

Joe Sacco continues to be one of the most intriguing journalistic voices in comics and Footnotes in Gaza, a new graphic novel spanning fifty years of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict, will surely be one of the most interesting (and tragic) books of the year.

### Absolute Green Lantern: Rebirth HC

Have you ever wondered "Hey! When did Green Lantern comics get so frickin' good?!"? Well, here's your answer. The epicness that is Blackest Night and Sinestro Corps War all started right here in Green Lantern: Rebirth. Sure, the Absolute Edition doesn't come out until April of next year, but you can grab the trade paperback in the meantime!

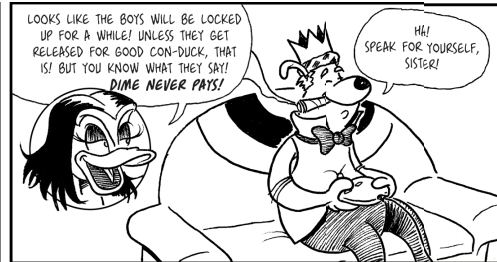
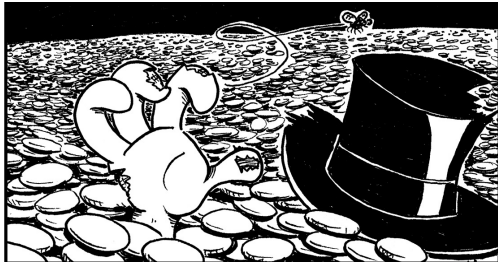
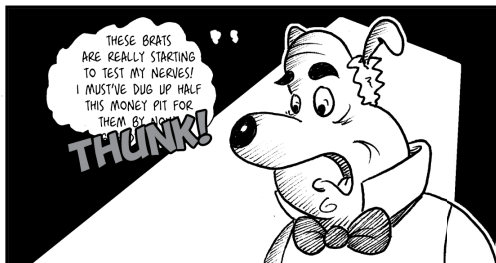
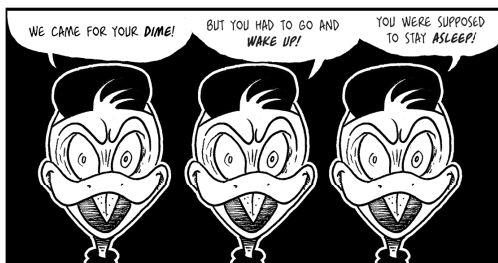
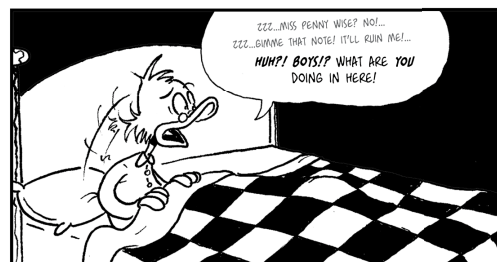
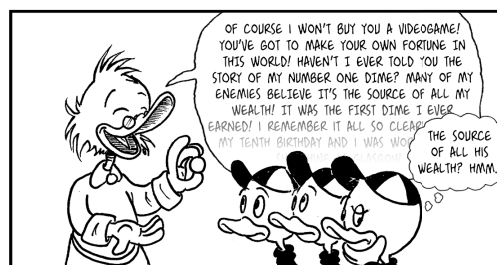
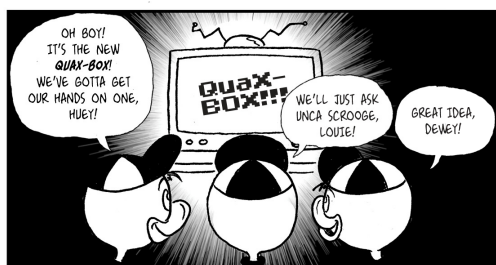
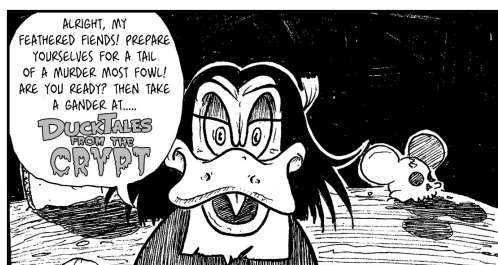


Trade  
Secrets



# Duck Tales From the Crypt!

by John McNamee and Kevin Panetta



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