

★★★★★ FREE! Take One! ★★★★★

O BIG PLANET RBIT

Volume 13 #7

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

December 2009

Big Planet Names Asterios Polyp Best Comic of 2009!



There has been some debate within Big Planet as to whether Asterios Polyp is the best comic book of the year - or the decade! The New York Times and The Onion's AV Club agree. Fittingly, David Mazzucchelli's has been working on it for ten years.

Asterios is a theoretical architect, famous for his ideas, but without a single building actually constructed. Through a series of flashbacks, we see his life unfold after a fire sets him on a path towards a simpler life as a mechanic. The book is amazing for its development of Asterios as a character, but Asterios Polyp's true value lies in its innovative use of the comics medium. Mazzucchelli shifts art styles to show emotional content, or alter our view of the importance of what is happening in a scene. Asterios's reality shift is manifested through the art telling his story. The myths and philosophers of antiquity wind through Asterios's life as he tries to recreate himself, or reflect on the parts of his life that made him unproductive, divorced, and detached.

Asterios Polyp is a triumph, and offers proof of the limitless capabilities of comics as a storytelling medium.

Our Runners-Up!



A Drifting Life

by Yoshihiro Tatsumi

Gekiga master Tatsumi deftly mixes autobiography with a cultural history of Japan in the twentieth century in this epic manga.

Wolverine: Old Man Logan

by Mark Miller and Steve McNiven

Sure, Wolverine was in literally hundreds of books this year, but that doesn't disqualify this dystopic western about redemption from making the top of our list!

The Book of Genesis Illustrated

by Robert Crumb

A literal, unabridged adaptation of the Book of Genesis by the underground comix legend.

Turn the page for the rest of the Best of 2009! →→

BIG PLANET COMICS

Hulk: Red Hulk

The Hulk! With a gun!

Rip Kirby 1946-1948

Alex Raymond teaches how to draw in this detective strip.

Photographer: Into War Torn Afghanistan

A photojournalist's true tale of Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.

The 'Nam 1

Marvel's war comic, written by a Vietnam veteran.

Usagi Yojimbo: Yokai

Usagi's 25th anniversary has a new full-color book.

The Stand: Captain Tripps

Stephen King continues his takeover of comics with this adaptation.

Apes & Babes:

The Art of Frank Cho

Frank Cho can draw. And likes monkeys and pretty girls.

Dylan Dog Case Files

Supernatural detective gets a huge collection.

32 Stories: Optic Nerve Minicomics

Tomine's starting minicomics in a slipcase box.

Irredeemable 1

Mark Waid answers "what if Superman went evil?"

The Walking Dead Compendium

A HUGE book of the first 48 issues of the world's greatest zombie comic.

Absolute Death

Neil Gaiman's Death gets the Absolute collection.

Ythaq 1: Forsaken World

A European sci-fi adventure with great art.

Sleeper Season 1

Brubaker's superpowered crime thriller gets reprinted.

Voice of the Fire

Alan Moore's novel about the history of Northampton.

G.I. Joe: Cobra

Undercover in Cobra, at what cost?

Ender's Game

Orson Scott Card's sci-fi classic in comic book form.

Parker: The Hunter

The original gritty criminal, brought to life by Darwin Cooke!

Wolfskin

Warren Ellis does uberviolent barbarian comics, Conan-style.

Key Moments from the History of Comics

Hilarious gags about the big events in comics.

Escapists

Brian K. Vaughan with a new comic of Michael Chabon's character.

Children of the Sea 1

Intriguing mystery about strange children and sealife.

Ultimate Wolverine vs. Hulk

Wolverine ripped in half! 'Nuff said!

Sherlock Holmes 1:

The Trial of Sherlock Holmes

Great new Holmes adventure, where he murders someone!

Amazing Spider-Man

Marvel Masterworks SC

Ditko's defining run finally collected in affordable softcovers!

TMNT Collected 1

The first (and best) issues of the Ninja Turtles in a giant trade.

Miss Don't Touch Me

Murder and intrigue in the brothels of thirties Paris.

Scott Pilgrim vs. the Universe

Scott continues the fight against Ramona's ex-boyfriends.

Act-i-vate Primer

A collection of new material from the insanely talented webcomics collective.

The Perry Bible Fellowship Almanack

The funniest strip on the interwebs gets collected.

Strongman

Easily the best retired-mexican-wrestler-turned-private-eye comic of the year.

I Kill Giants

A poignant tale of giant killing and the nature of mortality.

Batman: R.I.P.

Grant Morrison writes the headiest Batman story in years.

Fatal Faux-Pas

A stupid yet hilarious collection of comics about Saved by the Bell and the Fonz.

Humbug

Harvey Kurtzman's magazine collected into a beautiful slipcased hardcover set.

Invincible Iron Man 1: The Five Nightmares

The best Iron Man comic ever.

Pluto 1

Naoki Urasawa reimagines Tezuka's Astro Boy.

Rasl 1: The Drift

Jeff Smith returns to comics with this cerebral time travelling tale.

The New Brighton Archeological Society

A group of young students discover a magical world.

Tokyo Days, Bangkok Nights

Seth Fisher's most idiosyncratic work finally collected.

Boody: Bizarre Comics

of Boody Rogers

A collection of one of the most surreal artists in comics history.

Dan Dare Omnibus

Garth Ennis's take on a British science fiction icon.

Air 1: Letters from Lost Countries

Trippy new Vertigo in a hidden country.

Criminal: Bad Night

New dark crime from Brubaker.

Drinky Crow's Maakies Treasury

Giant collection of the twisted and hilarious strip.

Luuna 1

Gorgeous art in this French fantasy series.

Noir: A Collection of Crime Comics

Crime anthology, including new Stray Bullets!

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Century 1910

The next generation of the League.

Transhuman

Superhuman genetics from Hickman.

The Beats: A Graphic History

History of the Beat movement by Pekar.

Planet of Beer

Ridiculous space adventure on a quest for...

Solomon Kane: Castle of the Devil

Unfinished Kane story turned into comics.

Madame Xanadu 1: Disenchanted

Relaunch with awesome art by Amy Hadley.

Locke & Key 1: Welcome to Lovecraft

Family secrets in a magical town.

Eternal Smile

Gene Yang and Derek Kirk Kim question the nature of perception in this anthology.

Pax Romana

Time-traveling mercenaries in ancient Rome.

Four Frightened Women

Murder mystery from the 1950s!

Dark Entries

Hellblazer goes on a reality show.

Filthy Rich

Forced to bodyguard a spoiled daughter.

Pictures That Tick

Dave McKean's short stories.

A Distant Neighborhood 1

New chance at fixing childhood regrets.

OS BEST OF 2009!

Binky Brown Meets the Virgin Mary

The underground classic, back in print.

Jack Kirby's The Losers

WW2 action by the King!

Deadpool 1: Secret Invasion

Deadpool betrays Earth!

Sub-Mariner: Depths

Investigating the dark reaches of the ocean.

Patsy Walker, Hellcat

Spirit journey in Alaska, great art!

Back to Brooklyn

Mob violence with old friends.

Jesus Christ in the Name of the Gun

Jesus returns to deal with Hitler.

AD: New Orleans

After the Deluge

Interviews with Katrina survivors.

Seaweed 1

Animation-style animal hijinks of the highest order.

Collected Doug Wright, Canada's Master Cartoonist

An astounding collection of work from an unknown master.

25000 Years of Erotic Freedom

Alan Moore writes the history of erotic art.

Johnny Cash:

I See a Darkness

Biography of the man in black.

Destroyer

Kirkman brings the ultraviolence!

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep 1

First part of the word for word adaptation.

Bloom County 1

The classic strip's earliest years.

Strange Suspense:

Steve Ditko Archives

Collects Steve Ditko's early macabre works.

Driven by Lemons

Josh Cotter's sketchbook.

Masterpiece Comics

Literature classics in perfect parody styles.

Peter & Max: A Fables Novel

A standalone book of Fables with the Pied Piper.

Ghostbusters: The Other Side

The Ghostbusters return in a brand-new mini-series.

House of Mystery 1

A new Vertigo anthology series featuring some great artists.

Oishinbo Japanese Cuisine

A manga about Japanese food!

Star Trek: Countdown

A tie-in to the smash hit movie.

Big Book of Barry Ween, Boy Genius

Everybody's favorite child mad scientist gets the omnibus treatment.

Johnny Hiro

Over-the-top adventure comics with a reluctant hero.

Melvin Monster 1

A forgotten monster comic classic.

Detroit Metal City

Crazy manga about a satanic heavy metal band.

Wonton Soup 2

A comic about cooking and space drugs.

Remake

Local superstar Lamar Abrams draws the adventures of robot boy Max Guy.

Nobody

Jeff Lemire's take on the invisible man.

Preacher 1 HC

The Vertigo classic, now available in a deluxe hardcover.

Swallowing the Earth

Another Tezuka classic.

You Shall Die By Your Own Evil Creation

More Fletcher Hanks craziness.

The Mourning Star 2

Spaced-out fantasy by Kazimir Strzepek.

Fahrenheit 451

An adaptation of the classic novel.

Sandman by Simon and Kirby

Kirby's original Sandman.

Complete Essex County

Jeff Lemire's epic masterpiece about love, loss, and home.

Dark Avengers 1: Assemble

Norman Osborn's evil Avengers.

Amulet 2:

Stonekeeper's Curse

More kid's fantasy-adventure.

Secret Warriors 1

Nick Fury's resistance to Norman Osborn's evil Avengers.

Super Human Resources

The goings-on at a superhero temp agency.

Sherlock Holmes:

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Ian Edgington adapts the classic novel.

Big Skinny: How I

Changed My Fattitude

A self-help/comics hybrid about weight loss.

Logicomix

The life of Bertrand Russell in comics form.

Groom Lake

Ben Templesmith's crazy alien comic.

What a Wonderful World 1

Manga stories of lives gone awry.

Map of My Heart

A new collection of King-Cat.

Red Snow

A gekiga collection from Drawn & Quarterly.

Secret Science Alliance

Eleanor Davis makes science fun!

Spider-Man:

The Short Halloween

Bill Hader takes on Spider-Man.

Monsters

Ken Dahl's tale of relationships and disease.

Mr. Stuffins

Teddy bear secret agent.

Far Arden

High seas adventurers in search of a mythical paradise.

Luna Park

Modern day noir set in Coney Island.

Go-Go Monster

Taiyo Matsumoto is back with more amazing manga.

Battlefields

Garth Ennis returns to his excellent war comics with 3 new WW2 stories.

Beanworld 3

Larry Marder has new Beanworld! An entire graphic novel of it!

Blazing Combat

The classic war comic is reprinted with gorgeous reproduction.

Fables: Deluxe Edition 1

Fables gets the oversized hard-cover treatment it deserves!

Green Arrow: Year One

Diggle and Jock give Green Arrow the origin treatment!

Incognito

Brubaker and Phillips with another supervillain noir!

Northlanders:

The Cross + The Hammer

A solitary Irish patriot fights off Viking invaders while trying to protect his daughter.

Little Mouse Gets Ready

Jeff Smith does a kid's book about a mouse getting dressed!

Spider-Man 2099

In the future, there are no more superheroes - until a new Spider-Man arrives.

Thieves and Kings:

Apprentices

Mark Oakley finally gives us another chapter of his fantasy epic.

Prince Valiant 1

Hal Foster's first 2 years of the classic comic strip.

Unknown Soldier 1:

Haunted House

Violent revenge in Uganda's civil war.

Daytripper #1

Gabriel Ba and Fabio Moon, the Brazilian twin brother artists behind Pixu, Casa-nova, and Umbrella Academy (and a lot of other awesome stuff), are back with a new ten-issue mini-series from Vertigo about an obituary writer with a miserable life! Sounds like a hoot!


Forgetless #1

The beginning of a new five-issue mini-series from Image about a nightclub filled with assassins, models, and hypnotists. Or maybe it's just one model who is hypnotized into being an assassin. I can't remember.

Siege Cabal

Everybody knows Norman Osborn is gonna go crazy and that Captain America and Iron Man are gonna beat the crap out of him. Well... it's finally happening and it all starts HERE!

Hellboy: The Bride of Hell

A new Hellboy one-shot by Mike Mignola and Richard Corben! If you liked their collaboration on Hellboy: The Crooked Man, you'll love this one! Ghosts, demons, King Solomon, Asmodeus--what more could you want?

Chimichanga #1

A new self-published book from Eric Powell, creator of The Goon. Check out this kid-friendly tale of a bearded girl, and her circus of weirdos. Originally pitched as a cartoon, and rejected by the man, but approved by Powell's two sons!

Fall of the Hulks: Alpha

The beginning of the Fall of the Hulks begins with a behind-the-scenes look at recent Marvel history, from the point of view of a secret society of supervillains - the smart ones! Well, smart for being named Egghead, the Mad Thinker, or Red Ghost and his Super-Apes. I guess throwing in the Leader and Doom helps. How's about some M.O.D.O.K.!

Fall of the Hulks: Gamma

This one sets up the Hulk gang side of things. Someone dies, and the Hulks get super angry at each other and the world! Man, it could be a world war if they don't keep it under control! If the Hulks work together, they could control the whole planet!

**Incorruptible #1**

Mark Waid plays off his hit Incorruptible - when the Plutonian when evil, Max Damage tries to change his life to make a difference. What does it take to become a hero?

Battlefields: Happy Valley #1

Garth Ennis returns to the battles of history, this time following a British crew running night bomb raids on Germany. It's like Memphis Belle, with saucy accents and much, much more violence! Probably less singing too.

Captain America Reborn: Who Will Wield the Shield?

Hmm, so apparently Captain America is alive again. Or wasn't dead. Or was a clone of Ben Reilly or something. Anyway, he's back, but Bucky's been being all cool with his shield and gun. So now what? Arm wrestle to see who keeps the shield and the Cap America name? Over the top, Bucky, go over the top!

**Afrodisiac HC**

The guys behind Street Angel (Brian Maruca & Jim Rugg) are doing a seventies pastiche about a Shaft-like hero?! SOLID!

Gogo Monster SC

This is by Taiyo MATSUMOTO. EVERYTHING that Taiyo Matsumoto does (No. 5, Tekkonkinkreet, Blue Spring,) is mind-blowing.

Truly.

Sky Doll vol. 1 SC

Marvel's attempt to bring comics titles for teens in France to the US market is not a huge success for some reason. Maybe because American teens are all about super-heroes, and French teens like sci-fi.... But if you like sci-fi and beautiful art (i.e. if you were a fan of the old Heavy Metal magazine), you owe it to yourself to check out Sky Doll--finally in an affordable softcover.

More Than Complete Action Philosophers SC

Just what the name says--every Action Philosophers story ever published, and more. The more in this case is 20 pages of new stories about William James, Auguste Comte, Rumi (the 13th century Persian poet philosopher), and Epicurus! Makes a great holiday gift for the philosophically-inclined.

The Goon vol. 6: Chinatown and the Mystery of Mr. Wicker SC

The self-contained Goon GN, Chinatown is finally available as an affordable softcover. The Goon and Franky try to keep their rackets in line, as a new player enters the underworld....

**Atomic Robo and the Shadow from Beyond Time SC**

In 1926, H.P. Lovecraft comes to get Atomic Robo to help him defeat the Shadow From Beyond Time! I expect a lot of insanity and people getting eaten. Maybe Lovecraft could get a story out of it, though.

Classic G.I. Joe vol. 6 SC

G.I. Joe assaults a Cobra town hidden the U.S.! Cobra attacks the Pit! Serpentor is created! Destro unmask! Cobra Commander has a son?!

The appearance of Chuckles AND Zanzibar? It doesn't get better than this! Fine, how about some McFarlane art!

Hotwire: Requiem for the Dead HC

Warren Ellis + The future + The dead returning as mindless ghosts = Ghostly weapons of mass destruction! Who ya gonna call? Alice Hotwire, Detective Exorcist? Man, glad the Ghostbusters finally got some more diversity.

The Rocketeer: Complete Collection HC

Every Rocketeer story is collected in one book for the first time. 1930s adventure, pulp action, Nazis, stunt pilots, jet packs, and a Bettie Page look-a-like? Sounds classic to me! They should make a movie out of it!




Big Planet Orbit Volume 13 #7; December, 2009 is published by Joel Pollack, Peter Casazza, Jared Smith, and Greg Bennett for Big Planet Comics. www.bigplanetcomics.com.

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