

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

FREE
FCBD
MAY
2014
THE COMIC
SHOP'S
CATALOG

PREVIEWS

PREVIEWSworld.com

WHAT'S @
COMIC
SHOPS



LEARN How to Use **PREVIEWS**
and **PRE-ORDER** from
Your Comic Shop!

DISCOVER
The Magic
of Collecting
Comics!



THIS ISSUE IS WRITTEN AND DESIGNED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE COMICS, TOYS AND OTHER POP-CULTURE PRODUCTS AND WANT TO ORDER THEM USING THE PREVIEWS MAG-A-LOG* AND THE POWER OF THEIR LOCAL COMIC SHOP!

IT'S ALSO FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE NEW TO COMIC BOOK COLLECTING OR THOSE JUST GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR COLLECTING EXPERIENCE.

*'CAUSE YOU GET A MAGAZINE AND A CATALOG!

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S FOR EVERYONE!

OR, AT LEAST EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S AT COMIC SHOPS AND HOW, WHAT AND WHY THEY COLLECT!

THERE'S A LOT TO TALK ABOUT SO LET'S GET STARTED!

Comic Script: J.C. Vaughn
 Art & Colors: Gene Gonzales
 Letters: Gene Gonzales & Mark Huesman
 Edits: Mark Huesman & Dan Manser

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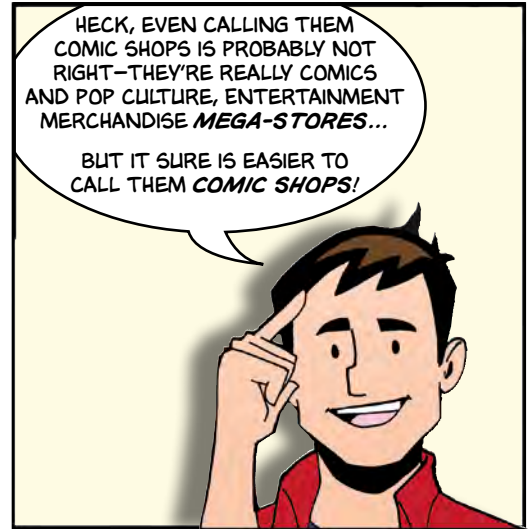
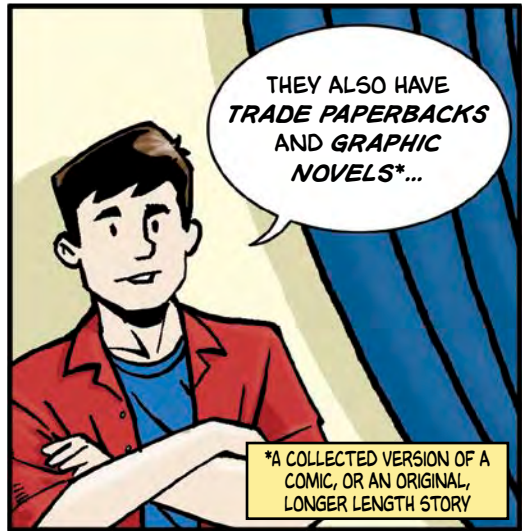
I ♥
COMIC SHOPS!



SORRY. JUST HAD
TO GET THAT OUT
OF THE WAY.

WELCOME
TO THE WONDERFUL
WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES
AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK
INSIDE!







THERE'S SO MANY **GREAT ITEMS** HERE, BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING? AND HOW DO YOU **ORDER** IT ALL?



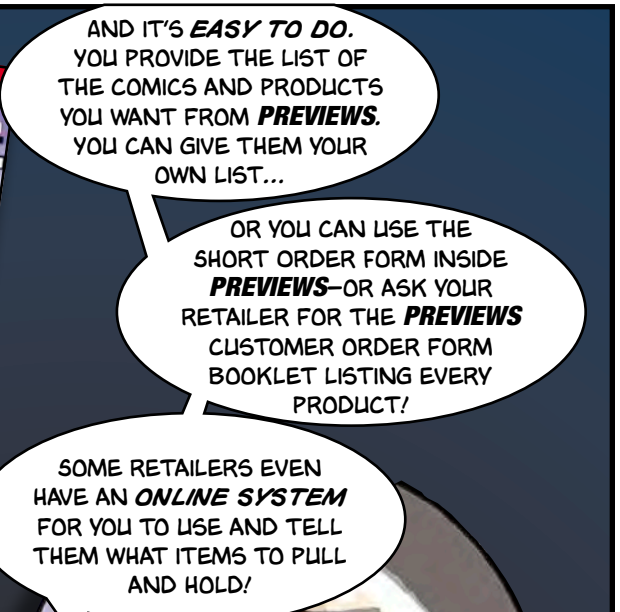
THAT'S WHERE **PREVIEWS**, THE CATALOG OF YOUR COMIC SHOP COMES IN!

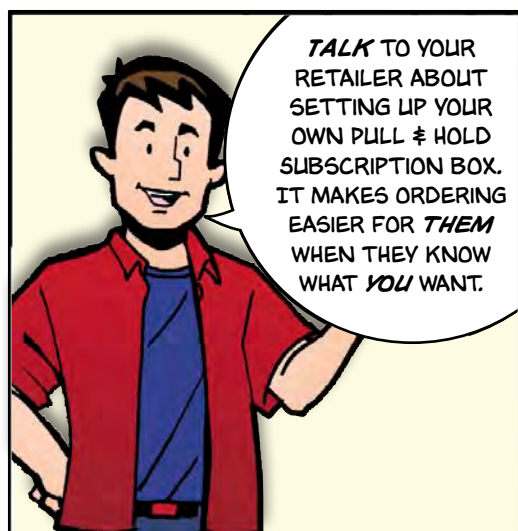


WE CALL **PREVIEWS** A **MAG-A-LOG**—BECAUSE IT'S PART **MAGAZINE** AND PART **CATALOG**. INSIDE, YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING THAT'S COMING TO YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP. MOST ITEMS ARE OFFERED **2 MONTHS** AHEAD OF TIME.

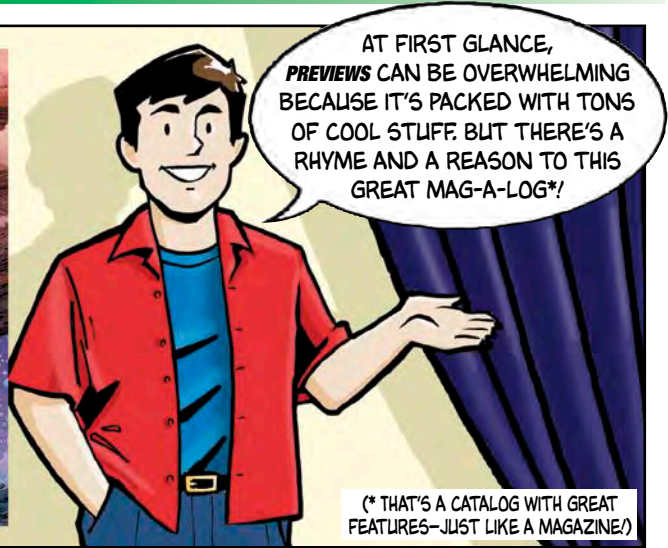


SO, WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE **MAY** MAG-A-LOG, YOU'RE LOOKING AT COMICS AND OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN **JULY**. THAT'S SIMPLE TO REMEMBER!





How to Read *PREVIEWS*



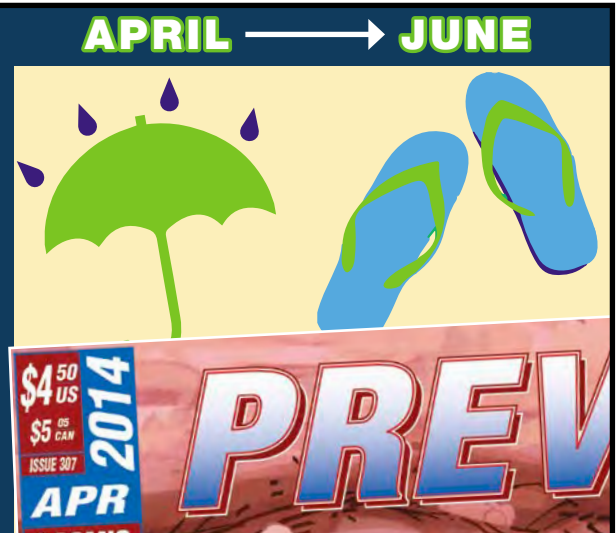
AT FIRST GLANCE, *PREVIEWS* CAN BE OVERWHELMING BECAUSE IT'S PACKED WITH TONS OF COOL STUFF. BUT THERE'S A RHYME AND A REASON TO THIS GREAT MAG-A-LOG!

(* THAT'S A CATALOG WITH GREAT FEATURES—JUST LIKE A MAGAZINE!)

WE'VE BROKEN DOWN PRODUCT LISTINGS BY EASY TO UNDERSTAND SECTIONS.

DARK HORSE	DC COMICS	IDW PUBLISHING	IMAGE COMICS	MARVEL COMICS	COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS	BOOKS	TOYS	GAMES	APPAREL	TRADING CARDS
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MOST ITEMS LISTED—ESPECIALLY COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS—WILL BE IN COMIC SHOPS IN 2 MONTHS TIME. SO, IF YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE *APRIL* ISSUE OF *PREVIEWS*, MOST ITEMS WILL BE IN COMIC SHOPS SOMETIME IN *JUNE*!



Each month, you'll find detailed listings for just about every comic book and pop-culture product. If it's in your comic shop, it's in the pages of PREVIEWS! Here's how to read each description!

1 Company Name - The publisher or manufacturer is listed above each of their listings—and for many comic pages on the sidebar of their section.

2 Title - This is the name of the comic book, graphic novel or product.

3 Issue number - If it is a continuing or ongoing series of comic books, it will have an issue number. If it is a limited series, each solicitation will show how many in the series [i.e., #3 (of 4)]. Volume numbers are used for graphic novels and trade paperbacks.

4 Creators' names - We give credit to the creative team that worked on the comic. You'll find (W) writers, (A) artists, and (CA) artists denoted in each listing. An anthology style book, creators are just listed as "Various".

5 Product Description - This is a brief description that provides an overview of the comic book or product. We try to tell a little bit about the storyline for each comic, and for each product—as much as we can pack in a listing to help you make a decision to buy!

6 Stock (STK) Code - Use can this code or the regular Item Code to order this product.

7 Product Format Line - Here you'll find what type of product it is. For comics and graphic novels, we tell you what type of book it is—whether it's softcover or hardcover; what size it is (if different from a regular sized comics), whether it's color, black & white, or partial color, and the page count of the comic or graphic novel.

8 Suggested Retail Price - The price you pay; the U.S. retail price of the product. If the line says PI, that means Please Inquire because your local retailer sets the price—so make sure to ask them how much it will cost!

The image shows a page from PREVIEWS magazine with several listings. Callouts 1-8 point to various parts of the listings:

- 1** Points to the publisher name: ARDEN ENTERTAINMENT.
- 2** Points to the title: DEVIL'S HOPTARD #2.
- 3** Points to the issue number: #2.
- 4** Points to the creators' names: (W) Brandon Denner, (A/CA) Szymon Kudranski.
- 5** Points to the product description: The series that has been praised by Robert Kirkman, Geoff Johns, and Brian K. Vaughan continues here!
- 6** Points to the stock code: (STK641022).
- 7** Points to the product format line: MATURE THEMES 24pgs. FC \$3.99.
- 8** Points to the suggested retail price: \$3.99.

Other listings shown include 'FEARLESS DAWN: HARD TIMES #1' by Steve Mannion and 'SECONDS' by Bryan Lee O'Malley.

PREVIEWS legend

Throughout each issue, you'll find a variety of symbols and terms to give you more information and help you select the items you want.

Gems of the Month
 The top offerings of the month, as chosen by our Premier publishers—these are the best bets in comics whether it's the next high-profile project or a new ongoing series.

Featured Items
 In other sections, you'll find Featured Items, the top monthly products offered in their categories.

Spotlight On
 These items are not to be missed; highlighted to get your attention.

Previews Exclusive
 These are items available only through PREVIEWS! When you see this icon, you'll know you're ordering a limited item found nowhere else!

Featured Theme
 Each month, PREVIEWS features a different theme to highlight certain titles and products. Look for that month's themed icon to find these selected items.

Staff Pick
 This icon denotes items that have been reviewed by our staff and are worthy of a second look!

STAR of the MONTH
Star of the Month
 These are best-selling backlist items that are available for immediate order from your local comic shop, and usually available for pick-up in about a week!

PREVIEWS Abbreviations
 SC = Softcover, HC = Hardcover, TP = Trade Paperback, MMPB = Mass Market Paperback, FC = Full-Color, b&w= Black & White; PC = Partial Color, O/A = Offered Again, M(SRP) = Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price, MATURE = Mature Readers, ADULT = Adult Material

Since 1988, *PREVIEWS* has been the premier magazine and catalog for comic book shops. We've seen it all in comics and pop culture!

SINCE THE BEGINNING....

27

Years

308

Issues

574

Covers

IN ONE YEAR...

6,128

of pages printed

28,828

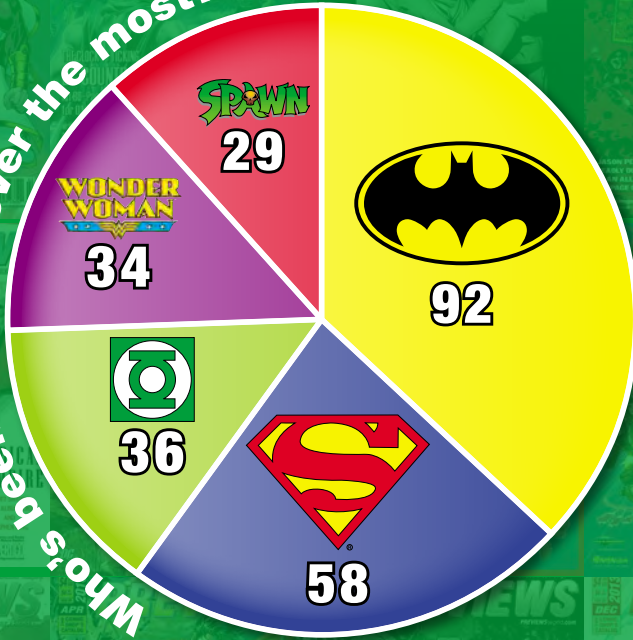
Products in a year

527,290

of catalogs printed

FAME, FORTUNE & PREVIEWS COVERS

Who's been on the cover the most?



TIMELINE

1980's



1990's



6.5%
ISSUE #1
COMICS
IN PREVIEWS
MONTHLY

3 Side Ways Covers

2010
30K

2014
105K

TOP COLOR T'S
48% of all T-Shirts listed are black.

Black 48%

White.....	11%
Red.....	9%
Blue.....	9%
Gray.....	7%

PREVIEWSworld.com
MONTHLY ONLINE VIEWERS

29,921
Writers & Artists in our creator database that have been listed in PREVIEWS

SLOGANS

- THE COMIC SHOP'S CATALOG
- THE EXCITEMENT'S INSIDE!
- ONE CATALOG. TONS OF FUN!
- YOU'LL FLIP FOR PREVIEWS!
- IT'S ALWAYS WEDNESDAY ONLINE.

PREVIEWS The Excitement's Inside

ONE OF EVERYTHING **\$ 17,430.75**

How much it would cost you to buy all the new comics & graphic novels in one issue of *PREVIEWS*. (April 2014)



SAVE THE DATE!



FREE COMIC BOOK - DAY -

**1st SATURDAY
IN MAY!**

www.freecomicbookday.com

PREVIEWS Monthly Themes

P

Each year, readers turn to *PREVIEWS* and the *PREVIEWS*world.com website for special monthly themes on topics including Manga, Movie Tie-ins, Unsung Heroes and more. You'll find a mix of in-depth interviews, themed sections and staff picks on each monthly topic!

January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



Head to the Movies!

With films like *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Godzilla*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, comic book-based movies are once again set to blow up the box office. As fans, we've been treated to some truly awesome adaptations of our favorite reads and now you can pay tribute to the comics and graphic novels that served as the basis for movies, or vice-versa with these choice selections for your reading list!



Mr. Peabody and Sherman
 Mr. Peabody and Sherman
 IDW Publishing
 DEC130453 • \$17.99



Noah
 Noah
 Image Comics
 JAN140537 • \$29.99



Captain America: The Winter Soldier
 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
 Marvel Comics
 SEP130783 • \$34.99



Amazing Spider-Man 2
 The Amazing Spider-Man: Brand New Day
 Marvel Comics
 AUG082456 • \$19.99



Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return
 Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return
 IDW Publishing
 JAN140504 • \$12.99





Godzilla
Godzilla: Kingdom of Monsters Volume 1
IDW Publishing
JUL110352 • \$17.99



X-Men: Days of Future Past
X-Men: Days of Future Past
Marvel Comics
OCT130749 • \$39.99



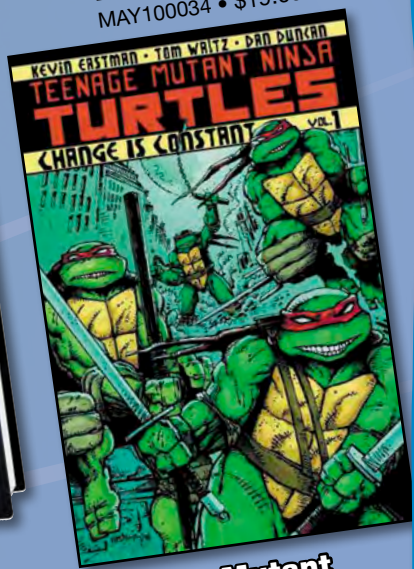
Sin City:
A Dame to Kill For
Sin City: A Dame to Kill For
Dark Horse Comics
MAY100034 • \$19.00



Transformers:
Age of Extinction
Transformers: Robots in Disguise Volume 1
IDW Publishing
MAR140426 • \$19.99



Guardians of the Galaxy
Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 1: Cosmic Avengers
Marvel Comics
MAY130717 • \$24.99



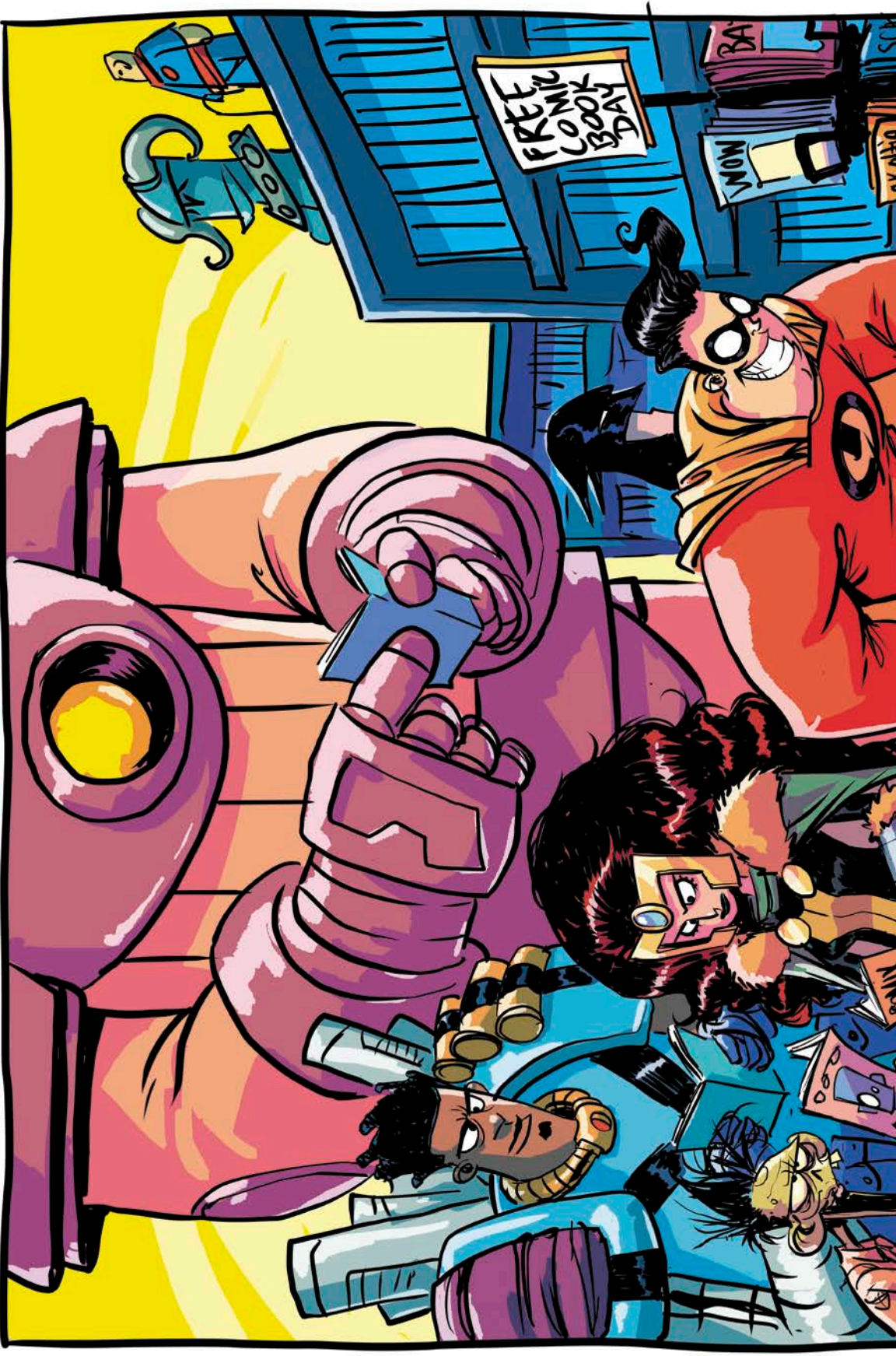
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volume 1: Change is Constant
IDW Publishing
JAN148115 • \$17.99

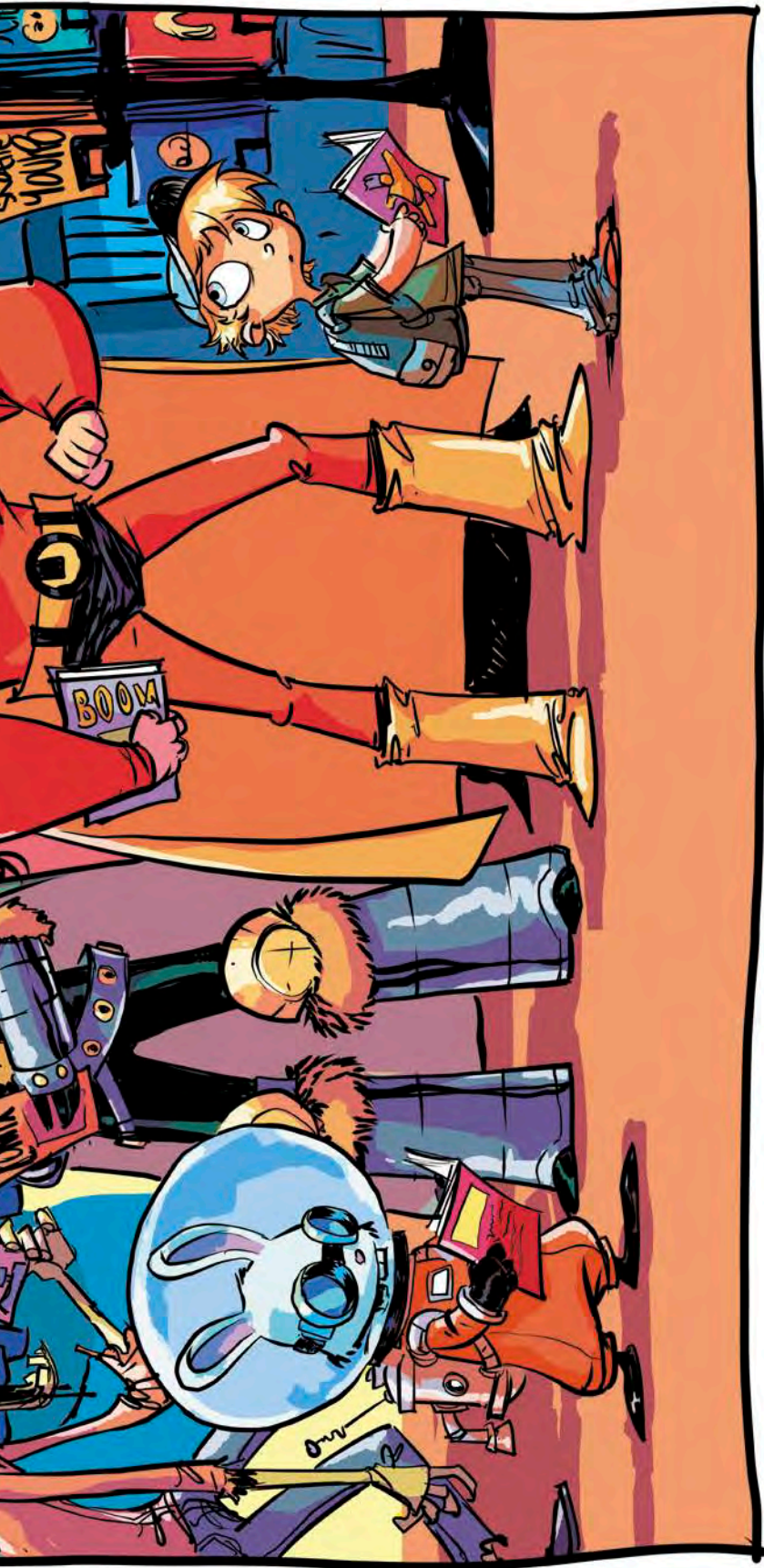


Game On!

If you're into video games and their storylines, there's also some great reads to go along with your playing! Here are some great companion stories in graphic novel form for gamers.

- Halo Halo Oversized Collection HC** (Marvel/MAY130712/\$49.99)
- Assassin's Creed Assassin's Creed: The Ankh of Isis Trilogy HC** (Titan Comics/SEP131315/\$24.95)
- Batman: Arkham** (Batman: Arkham Unhinged Vol. 1 HC (DC Comics/OCT120263/\$22.99)
- Mass Effect Mass Effect Library Edition Vol. 1 HC** (Dark Horse/OCT128093/\$59.99)
- Dragon Age Dragon Age Library Edition Vol. 1 HC** (Dark Horse/FEB140045/\$39.99)
- Tomb Raider Tomb Raider #5** (Dark Horse/APR140071/\$3.50)
- DC Universe Online** (DC Universe Online Legends Vol. 1 TP (DC Comics/AUG110249/\$19.99)
- Street Fighter** (Street Fighter Classic Vol. 1: Hadoken HC (UDON Ent./APR131264 / \$49.99)





PREVIEWS

WHAT'S@
COMIC
SHOPS

PREVIEWS.world.com

BEST sellers

TOP 100 COMICS

THE WALKING DEAD #115 (MR)

Rick and the other survivors prepare for all-out war in Robert Kirkman and Charlie Adlard's *The Walking Dead* #115, a special 10th-anniversary issue from Image Comics and the best-selling comic book in 2013.



RANK	CODE	TITLE	SUPPLIER	RANK	CODE	TITLE	SUPPLIER
1	AUG130518-M	THE WALKING DEAD #115 (MR)IMA		51	DEC120174-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #17DC	
2	DEC120237-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1DC		52	AUG130213-M	SUPERMAN UNCHAINED #4DC	
3	APR130107-M	SUPERMAN UNCHAINED #1DC		53	SEP130164-M	FOREVER EVIL #3DC	
4	JAN130642-M	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #1MAR		54	JUN130154-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #23DC	
5	FEB138598-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #1MAR		55	MAY130155	BATMAN ANNUAL #2DC	
6	JUL138068-M	INFINITY #1MAR		56	FEB138600-M	AGE OF ULTRON #4MAR	
7	FEB130497-M	X-MEN #1MAR		57	FEB130121-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #19DC	
8	JAN130627-M	AGE OF ULTRON #1MAR		58	JUL138301-M	BATMAN/SUPERMAN #2DC	
9	DEC120608-M	UNCANNY X-MEN #1MAR		59	JUL130582-M	MIGHTY AVENGERS #1MAR	
10	MAY130128-M	SUPERMAN UNCHAINED #2DC		60	JAN138376-M	BATMAN INCORPORATED #8DC	
11	APR130117-M	BATMAN/SUPERMAN #1DC		61	JAN130205-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #18DC	
12	DEC120264-M	BATMAN #17DC		62	MAR138132-M	AGE OF ULTRON #5MAR	
13	NOV120190-M	BATMAN #16DC		63	SEP130661-M	INFINITY #6MAR	
14	JUN138144-M	BATMAN #21DC		64	JAN138235-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #4MAR	
15	JUL130149-M	FOREVER EVIL #1DC		65	AUG130172-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #24DC	
16	FEB138251-M	BATMAN #18DC		66	FEB130480-M	AGE OF ULTRON #6MAR	
17	JUN130176-M	SUPERMAN UNCHAINED #3DC		67	OCT130115-M	FOREVER EVIL #4DC	
18	MAY130151-M	BATMAN #22DC		68	MAR130173-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #20DC	
19	FEB130151-M	BATMAN #19DC		69	FEB130472-M	THE WALKING DEAD #109 (MR)IMA	
20	JUN130199-M	BATMAN #23DC		70	DEC120614-M	UNCANNY X-MEN #2MAR	
21	OCT130650-M	ORIGIN II #1MAR		71	DEC128333-M	UNCANNY AVENGERS #3MAR	
22	JUL130565-M	INFINITY #2MAR		72	MAR130600-M	AGE OF ULTRON #7MAR	
23	MAR130201-M	BATMAN #20DC		73	FEB138324-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #5MAR	
24	OCT130656-M	AVENGERS #24.NOWMAR		74	MAR130603-M	AGE OF ULTRON #8MAR	
25	JUL130570-M	INFINITY #3MAR		75	JUL130188	BATMAN #23.4: BANEDC	
26	SEP130143-M	BATMAN #25DC		76	SEP130208-M	SUPERMAN UNCHAINED #5DC	
27	AUG130235-M	BATMAN #24DC		77	JUN130146-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #7DC	
28	MAR138357-M	THANOS RISING #1MAR		78	AUG130187-M	SUPERMAN/WONDER WOMAN #1DC	
29	NOV120628-M	NEW AVENGERS #1MAR		79	APR130586-M	AGE OF ULTRON #9MAR	
30	JAN130653-M	WOLVERINE #1MAR		80	JAN130195-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #2DC	
31	DEC128234-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #2MAR		81	DEC128228-M	AVENGERS #3MAR	
32	NOV120161-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #16DC		82	APR130137-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #21DC	
33	OCT130190-M	BATMAN #26DC		83	JUL138227-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #6DC	
34	SEP130227-M	HARLEY QUINN #0DC		84	MAR130615-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #9MAR	
35	FEB138446-M	AGE OF ULTRON #2MAR		85	SEP130170-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #25DC	
36	APR130589-M	AGE OF ULTRON #10DC		86	FEB138321-M	ALL NEW X-MEN #8MAR	
37	JUN138143-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #22DC		87	FEB130512-M	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #2MAR	
38	AUG130159-M	FOREVER EVIL #2DC		88	JUL130578-M	AVENGERS #19MAR	
39	JUL130658-M	X-MEN: BATTLE OF THE ATOM #1MAR		89	OCT130185-M	HARLEY QUINN #1DC	
40	AUG130735-M	INFINITY #4MAR		90	JUL130187	BATMAN #23.3: THE PENGUINDC	
41	SEP130740-M	AMAZING X-MEN #1MAR		91	NOV120202-M	DETECTIVE COMICS #16DC	
42	MAY130589-M	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #5MAR		92	JUN130193-M	BATMAN/SUPERMAN #3DC	
43	AUG130325-M	SANDMAN OVERTURE #1DC		93	DEC120597-M	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #0.1MAR	
44	FEB138467-M	JUPTERS LEGACY #1 (MR)IMA		94	OCT130121-M	JUSTICE LEAGUE #26DC	
45	JUL130186	BATMAN #23.2: THE RIDDLERDC		95	FEB138450-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #6MAR	
46	FEB138542-M	AGE OF ULTRON #3MAR		96	DEC128326-M	ALL NEW X-MEN #7MAR	
47	JUL130185	BATMAN #23.1: THE JOKERDC		97	NOV120623-M	UNCANNY X-FORCE #1MAR	
48	FEB138599-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #3MAR		98	NOV120657-M	UNCANNY AVENGERS #4MAR	
49	DEC128162-M	SAVAGE WOLVERINE #1MAR		99	JAN130641	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #6AUMAR	
50	AUG130740-M	INFINITY #5MAR		100	JUL130618-M	SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #17MAR	



ANOTHER BUSTLING DAY AT THE RESTAURANT.



BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO MIND.






IT WAS FINALLY WEDNESDAY.



Just the facts: no fluff, no opinions, no forums. Just you and a copy of *PREVIEWS* and a visit to PREVIEWSworld.com.

PREVIEWSworld.com
It's always Wednesday online.

New Releases • Upcoming Releases • Product Updates
Featured Items • Sneak Peeks • The Latest News • More

Available on RSS Feed,   
follow us on Twitter and find us on Facebook.

Sign up for our **FREE** weekly e-newsletter at PREVIEWSworld.com/subscribe.

Don't miss an issue, get the print edition today at your local comic shop and visit PREVIEWSworld.com for daily updates.



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

& THE MAGIC OF COLLECTING COMICS!



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY IS CELEBRATED BY PARTICIPATING COMIC BOOK RETAILERS ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY.



A WIDE VARIETY OF PUBLISHERS AND MANUFACTURERS ALSO ARE PART OF THE EVENT, AND WORKING WITH THOSE PARTICIPATING RETAILERS THEY PROVIDE A WIDE SELECTION OF OFFERINGS FOR FREE COMIC BOOK DAY.



WHY DO WE EVEN HAVE FREE COMIC BOOK DAY? THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION!

COMIC BOOKS ARE AN ORIGINAL AMERICAN ART FORM, FIRST POPULARIZED IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY...



THEY ARE FUN TO READ, FEATURING A WIDE RANGE OF DIVERSE STORY LINES THAT CAPTURE THE IMAGINATION OF THE READERS IN MANY DIFFERENT GENRES.

AND THAT, LIKE COLLECTING, MAKES THEM WORTH CELEBRATING!



AND MORE AND MORE, WE'RE STARTING TO SEE THE CULTURE AS A WHOLE RECOGNIZE JUST HOW GREAT COMICS CAN BE!



ONE OF THE COOL THINGS ABOUT COMIC BOOKS IS THAT THERE ARE LOTS OF NEW ONES TO DISCOVER...



AND THERE ARE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT BACK ISSUES, TOO!



BACK ISSUE COMICS RANGE FROM LESS THAN COVER PRICE TO \$2,100,000.

A COMIC BOOK FOR \$2.1 MILLION? HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?



THE FIRST COMIC TO HIT \$1 MILLION WAS ACTION COMICS #1, THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF SUPERMAN.

THE SECOND, JUST A FEW DAYS LATER, WAS DETECTIVE COMICS #27, THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF BATMAN.

ANOTHER ACTION #1 SOLD FOR \$1.5 MILLION JUST A SHORT WHILE AFTER THAT.



MANY OTHERS HAVE SOLD FOR RECORD PRICES IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, EVEN WITH THE TOUGH ECONOMY NATIONALLY.



THE GRADE AND SCARCITY OF THE ISSUES HAVE A LOT TO DO WITH THAT. WE'LL GET INTO THAT IN JUST A BIT...





THE BEST PART IS THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO COLLECT.



YOU CAN CHOOSE TO FOLLOW INDIVIDUAL PUBLISHERS, WRITERS, ARTISTS, CHARACTERS...



YOU CAN COLLECT SUPERHEROES, WAR COMICS, WESTERNS, ROMANCE OR WHATEVER YOU LIKE...



YOU CAN CHOOSE #1 ISSUES, FIRST APPEARANCES, CROSSOVERS, OR MANY OTHER VARIATIONS.



THE BEST THING TO COLLECT IS WHAT YOU LIKE, NOT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE LIKES.



WHETHER IT'S SPIDER-MAN OR EVERY COMIC THAT CAME OUT THE MONTH YOU WERE BORN, IT'S BEST TO DO IT WITH A PLAN.



THE BEST WAY TO HAVE A GOOD PLAN IS TO FIRST GET INFORMED.

CAPTAIN ACTION ©2014 CAPTAIN ACTION ENTERPRISES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



THE BEST WAY TO GET INFORMED IS TO GO TO THE EXPERTS!

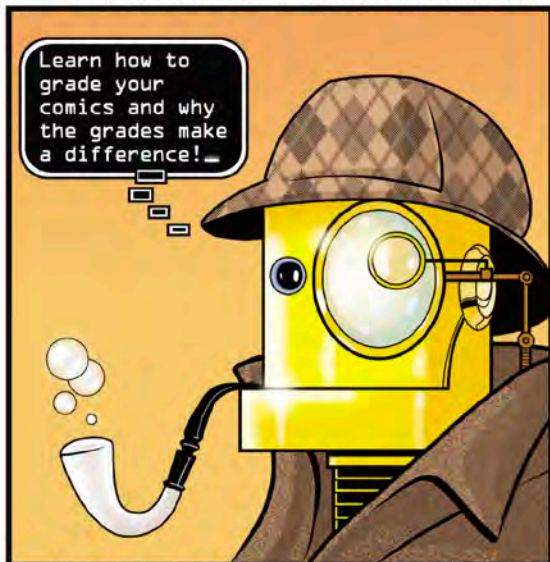
CAN'T I SAY "OR ELSE!" AFTER THAT?

DOCTOR EVIL ©2014 CAPTAIN ACTION ENTERPRISES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF COLLECTING, INCLUDING HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR COLLECTION!

SHI ©2014 WILLIAM TUCCL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Learn how to grade your comics and why the grades make a difference!

SHERLOCK DOME ©2014 J.C. VAUGHN & GENE GONZALES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



LEARN WHAT TO EXPECT AT CONVENTIONS OR WHEN BUYING AND SELLING COMICS.

AND MAYBE HOW TO FIGHT ZOMBIES...

BILLY BOB DRMAHL ©2014 J.C. VAUGHN & VINCENT SPENCER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



NOW LET'S GIVE YOU THE BEGINNINGS OF ALL THOSE THINGS AND MORE. SEE YOU AT THE COMIC SHOP!

EXPLORE THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THE WORLD OF COMICS!

"A wonderful info-packed gift idea for long-time fans and those new to the comics hobby!"

-- Joe Field, Flying Colors Comics

"The go-to name in comics values has created the go-to book for comics collecting."

-- Benn Ray, Atomic Books

"How To Collect Comics should be the title as it covers literally every aspect of learning the ins and outs of collecting comic books. I wish I had one of these when I first started out."

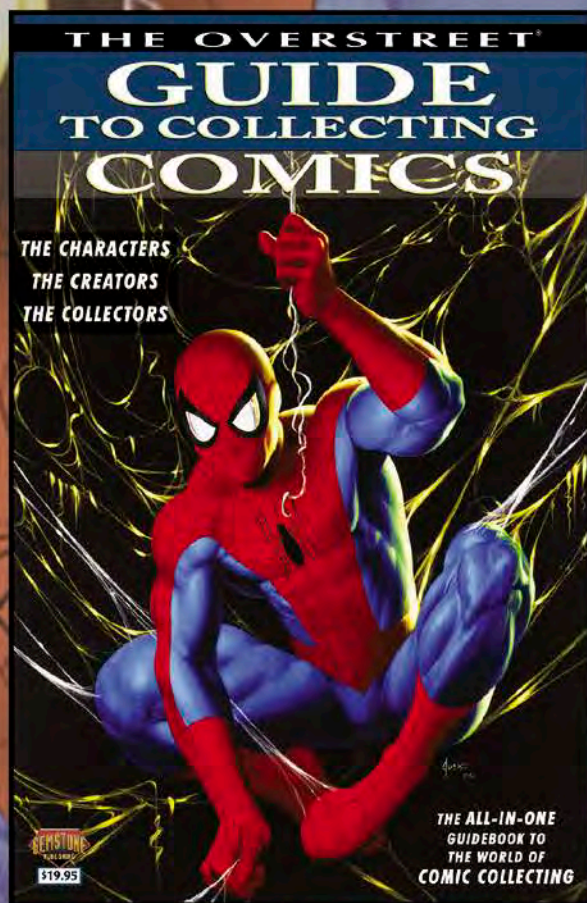
-- Vincent Zurzolo, Metropolis Collectibles & ComicConnect

"Wow! What a comprehensive look at the hobby in such a compact edition!"

-- Mike McKenzie, Alternate Worlds

"It's the perfect look at comics both for the beginner and, almost even more, for the experienced collector. It's a great gift for anyone who wants to introduce their friends and family to our crazy world."

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How to Preserve and Store Your Comic Books

Comics were not manufactured or the long haul. They were built to last just a short time, made with acidic newsprint paper, thin covers, and inconsistent inks. They weren't originally made with bags and boards, long boxes, Mylar snugs or CGC slabs. They were created—as painful as this is for a true collector to think about—to be disposable.

Is there any way to combat the ravages of time on your comics? Yes! You might not be able to keep comics in Gem Mint condition forever, but you can slow the damage with good methods of preservation and storage.

Some of the best advice for preserving a comic is simply to handle it carefully. Most dealers would prefer to remove the comic from its bag and show it to the customer themselves. In this way, if the book is damaged, it would be the dealer's

responsibility and not the customer's.

When handling high-grade comics, always wash and dry your hands first, eliminating harmful oils from the skin. Lay the comic on a flat surface or in the palm of your hand and slowly turn the pages. This will minimize the stress to the staples and spine.

Careful storage is also a key element in the preservation of a cherished comic book. They must be protected from the elements, including the dangers of light, heat, and humidity. In addition to thinking about where you store your comics, you should also consider what you store them in. For years there have been arguments about what materials are acceptable.

For many years, it has been the policy of *The Overstreet*

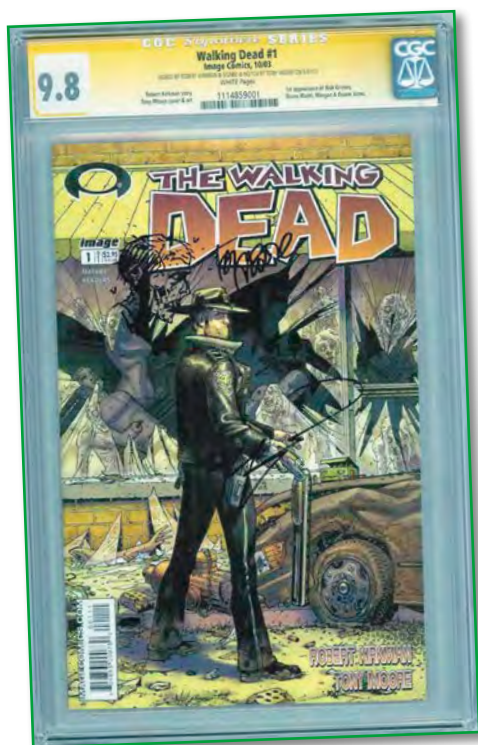


Comic Book Price Guide that in the *short term*, under good conditions, most plastic bags and boards are acceptable. It is vital to remember that it is up to you as a collector to find out what materials are used to make your collector supplies and to understand that when combined with negative conditions, particularly heat and humidity, the safe lifespan of bags that might otherwise be fine in the short term is quickly decreased.

For long term preservation, only archival materials should be used. Generally speaking, this means Mylar snugs and acid-free backing boards, but there are numerous variations on these products. The time you spend learning about these materials, though, will be time you don't have to spend later wondering what happened to your collection!

Even when it comes to boxes, care must be taken. Some contain chemicals that will actually help to destroy your collection rather than save it. Always be aware whether you are purchasing materials designed for long-term storage or not.

*This article and many others like it can be found in **The Overstreet Guide to Collecting Comics**, on sale at comic book shops everywhere.*



The advent of CGC (Certified Guaranty Company) to grade comics has allowed collectors to be sure of the quality they're purchasing from a distant seller.

There are a number of powerful foes waiting to strike at collectors, not least of which are the comic books themselves, or rather the effects of time on them.



Several brand names available at your local comic shop provide a full line of collecting supplies from bags, boards and boxes— with archival quality supplies (the same used by the Smithsonian Institution!) also available from E. Gerber, the premium line in collecting supplies.

Comic books have a language all their own and here's a look at some common words and phrases that you might hear about comics or in your comic book shop.

Anime

The Japanese word for animation has become associated with Japan's unique style of animated films and television. Anime encompasses many different genres and is typically either adapted from or into manga.

Annual

An issue of an ongoing comic book title that, in addition to its regular monthly issues, as the name implies, comes out once a year, usually in the summer.

Artist

Usually refers to the illustrator of a comic. Artists are divided among three specific groups: penciler, inker, and colorist. Traditionally, the three tasks were handled by three separate individuals, but today, it is becoming more and more common for a particular title to have one artist do all three tasks, or a combination of any two.

Back Issue

An older issue of a comic series whose value and collectability depend largely upon market supply and consumer demand.

Collected Edition

A graphic novel that reprints multiple issues of a comic book series into a single volume.

Comic Bag/Cover/Sleeve

Two clear plastic sheets fused together, open on one end to create a pocket in which a comic book is inserted for protection, with a flap on the open end that can be tucked within or taped shut.

Comic Book/Comics

Used generically in the industry to refer to any sort of literature that combines story and art, whether as an ongoing series, mini-series, maxi-series, graphic novel, or other format.

Continuity

The timeline of most ongoing comic book stories. All that has happened prior to a particular issue is adhered to in order to tell a cohesive story over many years. Continuity often also encompasses other titles that may be related to the title at hand. For example, if Superman and Batman have previously met, then they are considered to have interlinked continuity that has happened in Superman's world has happened in Batman's as well. (See **Retcon**.)

Creators

A term used to describe the writers and artists responsible for the production of a particular comic or graphic novel. Often times, a comic is the collaborative work of a writer and a team of artists, though it is common for one person to create an entire work single-handedly.



Crossover

A story that continues from one comic book title to a separate title, usually involving the lead character(s) of each one appearing in both for the duration of the story. Historically, such a story will showcase the exploits of two popular heroes battling a common enemy. Sometimes crossovers can even involve characters from rival publishing companies.

Digest

A collected edition that is reprinted at a smaller scale than a trade paperback (which is reprinted at the same size as the original comic). A digest typically measures 4" x 5" and thus fits better on a traditional bookshelf and in a small reader's hands.

Digital Comics

Comics that can be read on computers and tablets.

Graphic Novel

A comic book that is longer in format than the usual "pamphlet," and typically contains a complete story unto itself. Graphic novels usually have higher production values than the typical stapled comic; i.e. hardcover volumes, squarebound, or dust-jacketed. Although a graphic novel usually stands on its own as a complete story, it is possible to have an ongoing series or limited series of graphic novels telling a single story or series of related stories.

Imprint

A specific line of books that share a certain theme, subject, or editorial tone, all published under the same marketing banner.

Incentive Cover

A special cover, produced in limited numbers, that retailers may purchase if they stock the parent book at specific quantities.

Indie

Used to identify non-mainstream comics, independent comics are from outside the Premier Publishers and can encompass a vast number of genres. Usually, the term is associated with a particular style of storytelling and art not found in traditional superhero comics.

Inker

The artist who uses black ink to enhance the initial penciled artwork. Inks are used to add depth and shadow to the images.

Letterer

Responsible for placing and filling the word balloons and captions over the finished artwork.

Limited Edition

An item produced in a finite, and possibly numbered, print or production run.

LCS

Abbreviation for “Local Comic Shop.”

Manga

Literally the Japanese word for comic book, manga typically refers to a uniquely Asian style of trade paperbacks from Japan, Korea, and China. Manga is usually smaller than traditional graphic novels (often digest-sized) and printed in black & white.

Manhwa

Another term that refers to Asian-styled comic books. The term is most identified with Korean manga.

Maxi-series

A comic book series that runs for only a certain number of issues, usually more than six, and then concludes.

Mini-Series

A comic book series that runs for only a set number of issues, usually six or fewer, rather than as an ongoing series.

One-Shot

A single comic book that is not part of an ongoing series or mini-series that tells a complete story in itself.

Ongoing

Usually used in conjunction with “series.” This implies a comic book series that has no ending planned and will continue until sales dictate its cancellation. An example is *Action Comics*, published by DC Comics, a series that has been published nearly continuously since 1938. Ongoing series can have a frequency from weekly to semiannually. Most are monthly or bimonthly.

Pamphlet

Used by some to describe the slim, periodical-like format of original comic books.

Panel

The basic unit of storytelling in a comic book. Usually square or rectangular, panels frame the action of a comic book and graphic novel. The placement and construction of panels on a page can represent anything from movement to time.

Penciler

Responsible for the initial layout of a comic’s art. Provides the basis for the rest of the books art, i.e. inks, colors, etc.

Premier Publisher

The five largest comic book publishers in North America – Dark Horse Comics, DC Entertainment, IDW Publisher, Image Comics, and Marvel Comics. Their products are spotlighted at the front of the monthly *PREVIEWS* catalog.

PREVIEWS Exclusive

A comic book or merchandise product that is only available through Diamond *PREVIEWS* and the local comic book shop.

Pull List

A customized list for customers of books that are automatically set aside for them at their local comic shop each week.

Reprint

A new publication of a previously published comic book.

Retcon

A word made up from the words “retroactive continuity.” Refers to a newly published story that changes or contradicts already-known details of a particular character’s past. The new story takes precedence not only for all future stories, but also for all previous stories.

Signed & Numbered

An item with a creator’s autograph and a numerical designation as part of a set, specific amount.

Small Press

A book or product from a publisher outside the top 10 publishers.

Signed Edition

An item signed by one or more of the creators involved in the item’s production.

Story Arc

A story arc is a specific story told in an ongoing series over a course of many issues. The story arc will often have its own title, with each issue being a “chapter.”

Super-hero

The genre most associated with comics. Super powers, capes, masks, secret identities, and more.

Trade Paperback

A squarebound edition that collects and reprints mini-series, maxi-series, or story arcs in this sturdier format, giving readers a complete story at one time, rather than over a period of months. Sometimes, a trade paperback may collect stories that are not interconnected, but rather are related by some theme. Many trade paperbacks also contain additional material not available in the original serialization, such as an introduction or foreword, or character sketches.

**Variant Cover**

An issue of a comic book printed with multiple covers, each with unique cover art, and may be available in limited quantities as an incentive cover.

Webcomics

Comic strips and longer stories that are produced to be read on computers and tablets.

Word Balloons

The text-filled “bubbles” that contain a story’s spoken dialogue.

Wraparound

Cover artwork or image that wraps continuously around the back and front covers of a publication.

Writer

Responsible for the story’s script to be interpreted by the artist team. The writer plots the story, provides the dialogue, and lays the foundation for the book.

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