

FULL COLOR FIRST LOOK!

Number **ONE**

COMIC SHOP OWNER
ISN'T A JOB. IT'S A CALLING.



Order from **JULY 2014'S PREVIEWS**
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I REALLY
SCREWED UP
THIS TIME.

I DUG MYSELF A HOLE
KEEPING THIS COMIC BOOK
STORE ALIVE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS
AND ANY MINUTE NOW THE DIRT WILL
SLIDE IN AND **BURY** ME.

NO **HERO** EXISTS TO LEAP IN
AND PULL ME OUT AT THE
LAST POSSIBLE SECOND.

NO **WONDROUS MACHINE**
WILL TUNNEL IN FROM BELOW
TO AUGER ME TO SAFETY.



THIS IS REAL LIFE. IN REAL LIFE GOOD MEN **FALL** AND EVIL MEN **TRIUMPH**.
I KNOW I AM A GOOD MAN, AN HONEST AND HONORABLE MAN.
TRUTH AND JUSTICE ARE NOT EMPTY WORDS TO ME. I BELIEVE IN IDEALS.

LET ME TELL
YOU ABOUT THE...

Number

ONE

ART and INKING by AARON WARNER
WRITING, TYPOGRAPHY and COLORS by GARY SCOTT BEATTY

I MET MY FIRST REAL HERO NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1964. IF I HADN'T I WOULDN'T HAVE LIVED TO SEE 1965.

MOM?

CRASH!

HEY!
THERE'S
A KID
IN HERE!


JUST STAY CALM,
KID, AND WE'LL
GET OUT OF
THIS OK.

TAKE
MY HAND.

I DON'T KNOW IF THE YEARS
AND AN EIGHT YEAR OLD'S
IMAGINATION ADDED DRAMA TO
MY MEMORY OF THE FIRE
THAT KILLED MY PARENTS.


I REMEMBER BURNING
TIMBERS EVERYWHERE
JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES.
UNLIKE THE MOVIES WAS THICK,
BLACK SMOKE THAT MADE IT
HARD TO SEE AND BREATHE.

LATER, I WAS TOLD IT WAS SMOKE, NOT FIRE,
THAT SENT MOM AND DAD TO THE GREAT BEYOND,
AS IF THAT KNOWLEDGE WOULD MAKE THE TERROR
ANY *EASIER* FOR A YOUNG ORPHAN.



I MOVED IN WITH GRANDMA AND GRAMPA AT THEIR SMALL TWO STORY ON MAPLE STREET, WHERE I SPENT THE NEXT 10 YEARS OF MY LIFE.

THEY WERE KIND, BUT THE TERROR WOULDN'T LET ME GO. I SPENT MY NIGHTS IN FITFUL DREAMS AND MY DAYS IN A PARALYZING MELANCHOLY.



ONE DAY, GRAMPA TOOK ME INTO THE ATTIC WHERE LIVED DOZENS OF INTERESTING, EXOTIC, DUSTY MACHINES FROM THE EARLY '30S.

HE OPENED A BOX FILLED WITH COMIC BOOKS AND "PULP" ADVENTURE MAGAZINES AND HANDED ME SOME.

THESE ARE AWFUL OLD, GRAMPA, I BET THEY'RE WORTH SOME **MONEY**, HUH?

DON'T LET OTHER PEOPLE TELL YOU WHAT'S VALUABLE, BOY. YOU FIGURE THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF.



JUST LOOK **INSIDE**.



THE PEOPLE IN THESE SIMPLE STORIES MADE A STRONG **IMPRESSION** ON ME.

EVIL WAS THERE, FOREVER SCHEMING, SELFISHLY STEALING MONEY AND LIVES, INTENT ON WORLD DOMINATION. I REALIZED MUCH LATER THESE CHARACTERS WERE SYMBOLS FOR THE NAZI EVIL WORLD WAR II AMERICANS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN BEATING DOWN.

THEN THERE WERE THE **HEROES!** THESE PERFECTLY SCULPTED, COLORFULLY DRESSED FIGURES WERE ALWAYS IN MOTION, LEAPING INTO THE FRAY WITHOUT HESITATION, BEACONS OF HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS I READ AND REREAD EVERY COMIC IN GRAMPA'S BOX, COVER TO COVER. THE PAIN OF MOM AND DAD'S DEATH DIDN'T GO AWAY, BUT GRADUALLY I CAME TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. THERE IS NO GAIN IN BEING TIMID AND CAREFUL.

LEAP INTO THE FRAY!