



ALEX ROSS

MARVELOCITY

PHOTOREALIST FANTASY AND THE
TRIUMPH OF THE SUPERHERO

JANUARY 2019 - NO. 25

PLUS...AQUAMAN!



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

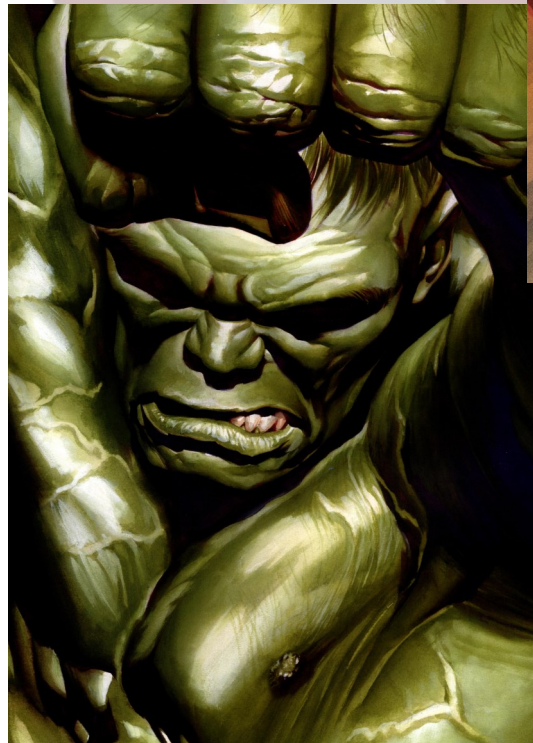


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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



Superheroes dominate the screen from the multiplex to Netflix. Why now, after so many years of superhero comics being considered “unfilmable”? One reason: Alex Ross. His photorealistic painted comics changed the way readers and creators looked at costumed characters. What once seemed too strange, even silly, to work in live action became believable when rendered in Ross’s vibrant style. And it did so without sacrificing any of the glamor of superheroic power.

It began with *Marvels*. The 1994 mini-series written by Kurt Busiek was the true debut of Alex Ross as the powerhouse artist he had become. *Marvels* was a history of the Marvel Universe told from the perspective of an ordinary Joe. That combination of the everyday and the fantastical set the template for Ross in his subsequent endeavors, from the DC mini-series *Kingdom Come* to the covers of Busiek’s *Astro City* to the work for his own imprint, Dynamite. A follow-up to *Mythology*, devoted to his work for the Distinguished Competition (like his glorious Aquaman *page right*),



MARVELOLOCITY
 THE MARVEL COMICS ART OF
ALEX ROSS
 CHIP KIDD — GEOFF SPEARS
 (PANTHEON)
 741.59 R733m OVERSIZE
 BEAUMONT — CENTRAL



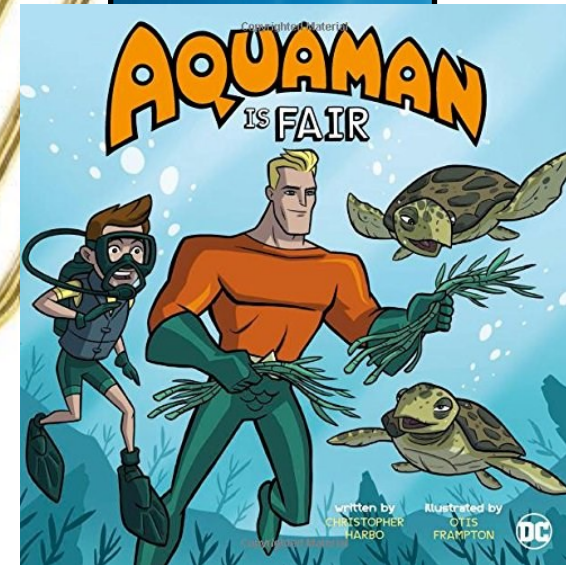
Marvelocity focuses on Ross’s work for the House of Ideas. Art directed by Chip Kidd and beautifully photographed by Geoff Spear, *Marvelocity* includes sketches, finished works both published and unreleased, homemade models from recent work and material from childhood, like puppets of the X-men and Fantastic Four. From the Golden Age Human Torch to the past and present Guardians of the Galaxy, there’s hardly a Marvel character Ross hasn’t rendered. (Woodgod, maybe?) Wrestle this terrific tome from Beaumont and Central or reserve it at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org)



Aquaman was always a member of DC’s B-team, ever since his debut in *More Fun Comics #73* November 1941. A blatant swipe of Timely’s Sub-Mariner, Aquaman was a back-up feature for the equally imitative Green Arrow. Fortunately for Aquaman, his creator Mort Weisinger became editor of all the Superman titles. As far more popular and original superheroes fell by the post-war wayside, Aquaman rode Superboy’s cape to a safe spot in *Adventure Comics*. From there he became a founding member of the Justice League of America, got his own book, became part of DC’s Saturday morning cartoon roster, lost his own book. But through ups and downs, Aquaman remained a household name. He’s been a running joke for fans and the public. Now the King of the Seven Seas stands (swims?) poised to sweep the box office and finally get the respect he deserves.

Go to lexpublib.org to see the variety of graphic novels, kids’ books and videos starring the King of Atlantis,

AQUAMAN!



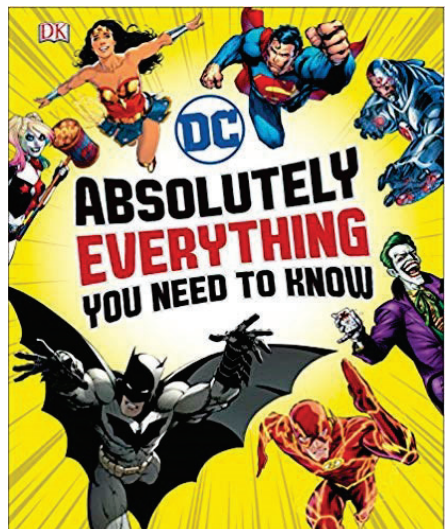


Perdy is a plus-sized uberwench who uses sex and violence to get what she wants. Which is usually more sex and violence. Released from Yuma Prison—to the love-struck consternation of both guards and inmates—she makes her way to the bustling frontier town of Petiteville. There she meets Rose, the local florist and apple of the local men-folk’s collective eye. A rivalry based on mutual history blooms between the two women, turning Petiteville upside down. This hard-back album from Image by international cartooning star **Kickliy** comes on like a spaghetti Western directed by the guys who do those Red Bull commercials. Rowdy, randy, and reckless, *Perdy V1: Flowers Sex Robbery* is available from Central and Tates Creek. Another dangerous dame can be found in the TEEN section of every LPL location. Kate Kane, the modern Batwoman, pursues the

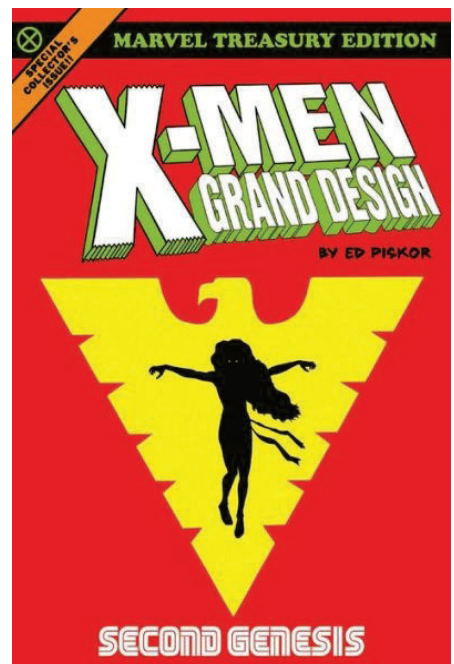


MEANWHILE

terrorist group known as the Many Arms of Death into the Sahara desert and finds herself trapped by the malevolent master of fear, the Scarecrow! Volume 2 of Batwoman’s “DC Rebirth” title, *Wonderland* has plenty of company on the shelves, including new collections of *Supergirl*, *Wonder Woman* and *Batgirl & the Birds of Prey*. Over in the men’s locker room, *Nightwing*, *Blue Beetle* and the *Green Lanterns* have new comps out. Meanwhile *Batman* deals with the *Prelude to the Wedding* and *The Wedding* between Bruce Wayne and Selina Kyle, neither of whom are Batman or Catwoman thanks to Booster Gold’s screwing up the timeline. A troupe of artists who have a history with the Caped Crusader render the latter volume, yet another example of DC twisting its continuity like Silly Putty to squeeze a few more stories out of these long-lived properties. It can be tough keeping up with all the reboots and rebirths DC characters have gone through. That’s why you should pick up *DC COMICS: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know* from the Juvenile section of your favorite LPL location. Made for kids, it has that loud and busy quality common to contemporary kids’ stuff. All the info is presented in factoids like “KA-POW! (Green



Arrow) is such a good shot, he can even target a single drop of falling water!” and “AAARGH! Lois (Lane) is taken over by Brainiac, who uses her to turn the world against Superman!” and “WHAT TH..?! If Beelzebub, one of the Lords of Hell, takes physical form, he appears as a giant fly!” Yes, even figures from the weird world of John Constantine, Hellblazer—not to mention the Brotherhood of Dada, Dinosaur Island and even the Legion of Super-pets—get entries. There’s also dope on DC’s classic war and Western heroes like Sgt. Rock and Tomahawk, plus private eyes like Slam Bradley and sci-fi fighters such as Adam Strange. And there’s plenty of reference on the mob of alternate Earths that haunt the DC Universe despite all past efforts to clean up the mess. Continuity can become an albatross for both creators and fans. And few continuities are as tangled as that of Marvel’s mighty mutants, the X-Men. It’s easy to get lost in the narrative woods, what with the retconning, time travel and trips through the heavens and Hell, not to mention all them Jean Greys running around. Fortunately, the cartoonist behind the *Hip Hop Family Tree*, **Ed Piskor**, has set the record straight with his monumental *X-Men: Grand Design* (Marvel). The second volume of the over-sized series, *Second Genesis*, details the history of Professor X and his many students that began with the



title’s resurrection in 1975. The Phoenix saga dominates, but *Second Genesis* also covers the war against the Brood, the rise of the Morlocks, and the struggle between Carol “Ms. Marvel” Danvers and Rogue. Speaking of sagas, fans of the award-winning fantasy comic *Saga* should check out the first volume of *ISOLA* from Image. Like *Saga*, *ISOLA* mutates hoary adventure tropes, in this case frontiersman and jungle girl clichés, into strange new forms. Like the teal-striped tiger the Queen of Maar becomes as her Captain of the Guard, the woman called Rook, tries to protect her in a savage world of men and monsters. Other new series compilations include V8 of both *Giant Days* and *Lumberjanes*, available from LPL TEEN, and the third of **Noah Van Sciver’s** *Fante Bukowski*, in which the pickled poetaster confronts his nemesis: DAD! Go to lexpublib.org to reserve!



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