



# 741.5

# BRONZE THRILLS

**FEBRUARY 2023 NO. 90**  
**PLUS...MEGAN KELSO:**  
**PETS & POLITICS & PANCAKES**

**MARVEL IN THE SEVENTIES**  
**GHOST RIDER — THE DEFENDERS**  
**KANG THE CONQUEROR!**



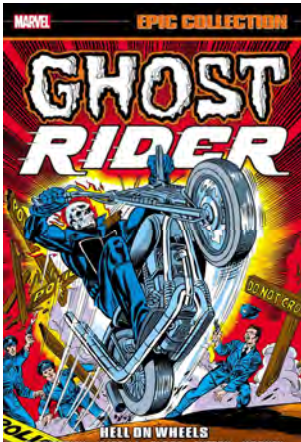
## HELL ON WHEELS

**G. FRIEDRICH • ISABELLA • PLOOG • SUTTON • MOONEY**

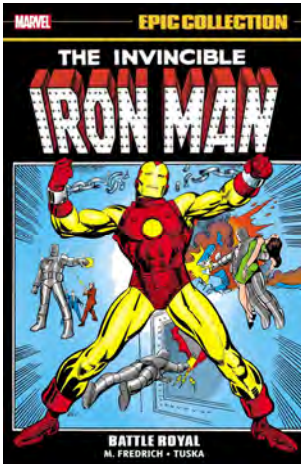
**The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of**



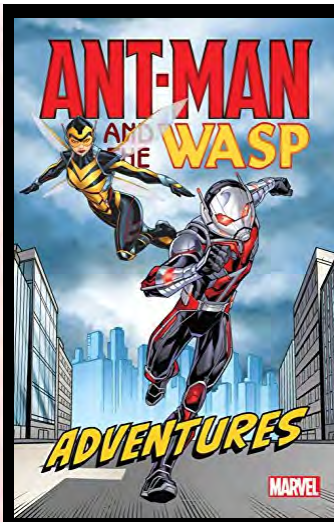
**Lexington Public Library**  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*



**THE BRONZE AGE**  
**THE 1970S, WHEN CHANGES**  
**IN THE COMICS CODE INSPIRED**  
**WEIRD, WILD & WICKED COMIC**  
**BOOKS THAT TOOK MARVEL**  
**DOWN ON THE STREETS AND**  
**OUT INTO THE COSMOS!**



Having been the law of the land since 1955, the Comics Code Authority which censored commercial comic books in the United States was forced by social and market changes to liberalize in 1971. Though not obvious at first, the loosening of the rules did have an impact on the material published, especially at Marvel Comics Group. On the cusp of its decades-long dominance of the business, Marvel had also lost its main wellspring of concepts and characters, Jack Kirby, to the Distinguished Competition. But Marvel had a new crew of fans-turned-pro waiting in the wings. Creators like Steve Englehart, Gerry Conway, Doug Moench, Jim Starlin and more soon took over the House of Ideas. Reeling from the death of Gwen Stacy, the *Amazing Spider-man*



With *Ant-Man & the Wasp: Quantumania* set to premiere mere days after the release of this issue, LPL has...not that many *Ant-man* comics on hand. We have a big batch in the pipeline, but due to supply issues, they ain't here yet. In the meantime, avail yourself of the comics we do have. The *Adventures* series feature Marvel mainstays in fun new stories rendered in the mangafied modern style the kids love, and that's true of *Ant-Man and the Wasp*, available in J 741.5 at all locations. Look in the NEW J shelf for the *Marvel-verse* collection starring both versions of *Ant-man*. Henry Pym's experiment is recalled in shiny new detail, while the adventure that introduced former felon Scott Lang in the role is reprinted in its entirety, with art by the young John Byrne!



Mighty Avengers waged the Kang War, soon joined by not only Hellcat and the Beast, but new artist George Perez! But the real trend-setter was that mystical motor-psycho, *Ghost Rider! Hell On Wheels* is what the leather-clad lad with the blazing skull brought to the Marvel Universe, blowing open the door for an anarchic host of anti-heroes. A new level of violence—and sexuality, as represented by new characters like *Witch-Woman* (above center)—added to the intensity of Marvel Comics of the Seventies. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) to get a taste of these BRONZE THRILLS!



Although consistently outsold by the more established *Avengers*, *The Defenders* was more emblematic of the Bronze Age. Instead of headliners like Thor and Iron Man, Marvel's "non-team" was originally formed by outsiders who had lost their own titles. Of the crucial three, Doctor Strange, Sub-Mariner and the Hulk, only Ol' Greenskin had a book of his own when the Defenders debuted in the fall of 1971, and even Hulk was not yet the big star he would become. That "Island of Misfit Toys" vibe would be the defining feature of the series to its end.



Alternative cartoonist MEGAN KELSO returns with an anthology of graphic short stories and novelettes rendered in a variety of styles. Known for offbeat narratives such as those showcased in *Artichoke Tales* (now available at all LPL locations), Kelso chooses, with one notable exception, to hew closer to everyday reality in these tales of domestic drama and familial history. And even "Cats In Service" (be-

Who Will Make the Pancakes

**WHO WILL MAKE THE PANCAKES?**

**Megan Kelso**

(fantagraphics)



**GHOST RIDER: HELL ON WHEELS \* IRON MAN: BATTLE ROYAL**  
**INCREDIBLE HULK: AND NOW...THE WOLVERINE \* AVENGERS:**  
**KANG WARS \* (NOT SHOWN) AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: MAN-**  
**WOLF AT MIDNIGHT \* FANTASTIC FOUR: ANNIHILUS REVEALED**

**KANG THE CONQUEROR...Master of Time...the Temporal Tyrant...the Eternal Enemy...relentless foe of the Avengers! Often has he clashed with Earth's Mightiest Heroes. But no battle was more savage, more serious, more important to the fate of the Marvel Universe than that waged during the Bronze Age and now reprinted in the Epic Collection, KANG WAR!**



The *Cosmic Madonna Saga* was unleashed over multiple issues of *Avengers* and *Giant-Size Avengers*. Reveling in continuity conundrums, writer Steve Englehart revived the long-dead Wonder Man and OG Human Torch and revealed the origins of both the Vision and the Kree Empire, and those were just sub-plots! Meanwhile, the twisted history of *Kang* is remade in a new novel! >



Now enjoy the unruly beginnings of the Defenders in the new hardback *Omnibus* at Central. It's action-packed angst Marvel style, from the struggle against the Undying Ones that brought the team together to their trend-setting crossover with the Avengers, with campaigns against the Evil Mutants, the Wrecking Crew and Xemnu the Titan in between. Meanwhile, Hawkeye and Luke Cage stop by and step up while the original Valkyrie and Nighthawk join the inner circle, setting the stage for the *really* weird stuff coming in the second volume!





Brubaker & Martin's riff on old school Scholastic Books heroes continues with the second volume of *Friday*. Former child detective Friday Fitzhugh deals with the aftermath of the brutal death of her ex-partner-in-crimebusting, Lancelot Jones. The authorities are in a big hurry to sweep it all under the rug, especially that woman from the County. As Friday shakes off her sorrow and goes on the hunt for answers, she receives the final Casebook of Lancelot Jones, the first in a series of clues that nearly leads Friday to her death at the hands of...but that would be telling, and you need to read this wonderful mystery *On A Cold Winter's Night*, available at all LPL locations! Other new chapters of ongoing series include V3 of *Undiscovered Country*; V4 of the hypnotic historical *Department of Truth*; the first two volumes of *House of Slaughter*, a spin-off of *Something Is Killing the Children*; *Follow Me Down*, the newest noir starring Evan Reckless; and *Checkmate*, the latest in



## MEANWHILE

Brian Michael Bendis's espionage saga concerning the DCU's war against the superspy organization called Leviathan. The series that put Bendis's name up in lights is being re-released by Dark Horse. *Powers* was the series in which the former cartoonist-turned-script jockey truly developed his gift for characterization and dialogue, adapting the bleak naturalism of playwright David Mamet to the needs of superhero comics. A police procedural set in a world of capes and costumes, *Powers* was a big influence on contemporary superheroics. V1, featuring *Who Killed Retro Girl?*, introduces Christian Walker and Deena Pilgrim, detectives on the "Powers" squad. V2 continues their investigations while offering some nice supplemental material. Speaking of partners...having taken up the shield of his mentor, Steve Rogers, Sam Wilson mentors in turn the new Falcon in *Homeland*, the first collection of his new series, *Captain America: Symbol of Truth* (Marvel). But that



right there— calling the man who's proven himself time and again to be worthy to carry the shield of Captain America by his civilian name —is a recurring issue. Seems nobody wants to call Sam "Captain America". Not Arnim Zola, the Bio-Fanatic...not the leadership of newly-democratic Wakanda...not the old leader, the Black Panther...not OG Cap's old nemesis, Crossbones, given a fresh lease on life by the terrorist known as the White Wolf. But Captain America he is, as Wilson takes charge and flies into the fray as he and his allies, including a flirtatious Misty Knight, bust up a global conspiracy involving Central American refugees and African-Americans emigrating to Wakanda. Writer Tochi Onyebuchi understands what makes a great *Captain America* comic: the right combination of politics, personality and POW! BAM! SMASH! Artist R.B. Silva has a grand time drawing detailed but readable pages full of top flight ass-kicking in this TEEN item available at all LPL locations. Central is home to the ruminative graphic novel *When Everything Turned Blue*. The Dark Horse transla



tion of Alessandro Baronciani's slim volume is a haunting tale of one young woman's struggle with panic attacks inspired by her overwhelming fear of disease. That's right: she's so worried about getting sick, she makes herself sick. Baronciani lightly renders a heavy subject in a simple but expressive line aided by expert use of cross-hatching and a graceful balance of light and dark, all printed in a medicinal blue. The wide blue skies over the battlegrounds of WWI are where Eugene Bullard made history as the first Black fighter pilot. His story is told in an extended flashback by Bullard himself to one of his regular riders. See, it's 1959, and Eugene is the elevator operator in a Manhattan skyscraper. How he got there from the hanging trees of Georgia to the trenches of France to, finally, the air war waged far above is a harsh but inspirational tale written by Ronald (Prince of Cats) Wimberly and exquisitely drawn by Brahm Revel. Go to [lexpublib.org/](http://lexpublib.org/)



Back issues of 741.5 are available at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) under the COLLECTIONS tab!