

# 741.5

HE WAS TRAPPED BY ANIMALS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN! AND WHY NOT! IT WAS THEIR TOWN!

# KAMANDI

## THE LAST BOY ON EARTH

"KING" KIRBY'S TEENAGE APOCALYPSE!

APRIL 2023 NO. 94

PLUS...BATS IN THE BELFRY,  
ANTS IN THE PANTS!

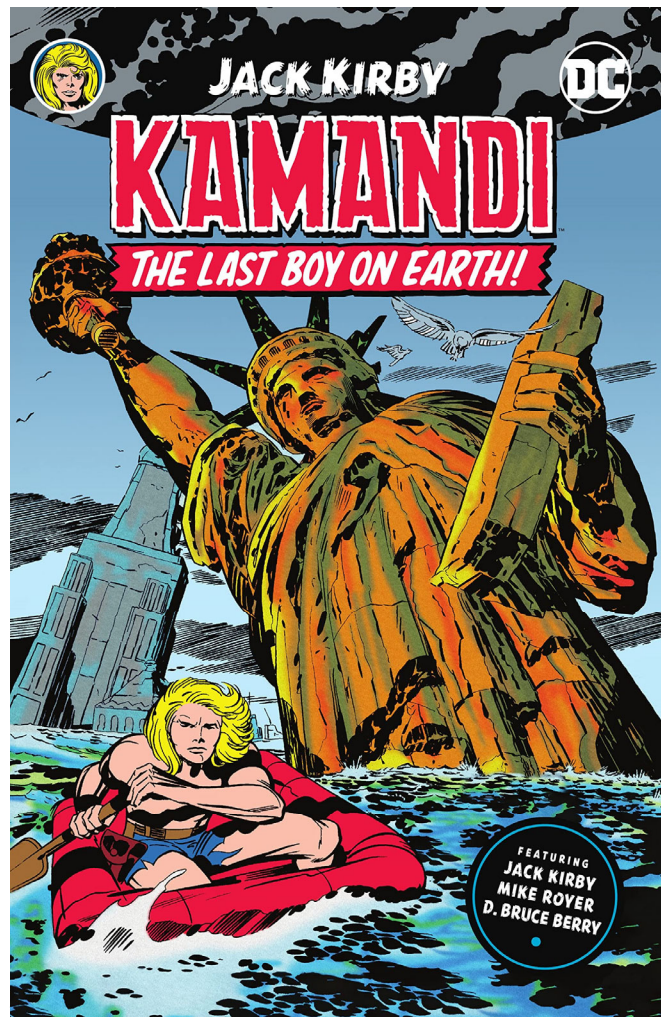


The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



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*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*





One of the best things about DC's nearly century-old characters is that they are so archetypal, one can tell any kind of story about them and, given the talent, it works. You can weave a complicated web of deceit and danger that skips around time and space like a pinball. You can plot with a panoply of good guys and goons, including the creepy new guy, the Help. And you can base the whole megillah on the ancient rites of Dionysus. That's Tom King's *Batman: Killing Time*. Artist David Marquez and colorist Alejandro Sanchez render this violent tale with real physicality. On the other hand, you can keep it simple. Bad guy is moved from Ark-



ham to Blackgate across a Gotham full of gangsters out to kill him or kidnap him. Batman protects him. Mayhem ensues. That's *One Dark Knight*, the big, beautiful Black Label book by Jock. Or you can riff on the historic relationships in the Batverse, like the bad lovin' gone good in *Batman Catwoman*, a Black Label look at the past, present and future of Bruce and Selina's rocky romance. But the standout is *Robin & Batman*, the story of young Dick Grayson learning his craft. Dustin Nguyen's luminous watercolors are a joy to behold!



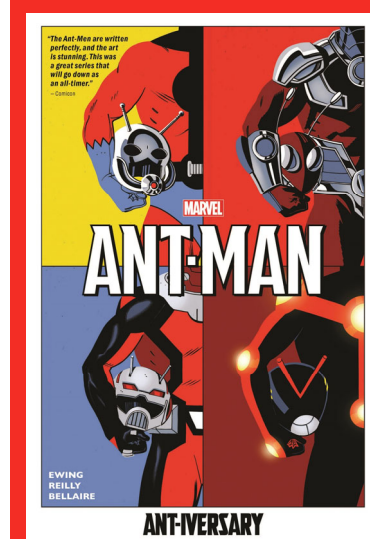
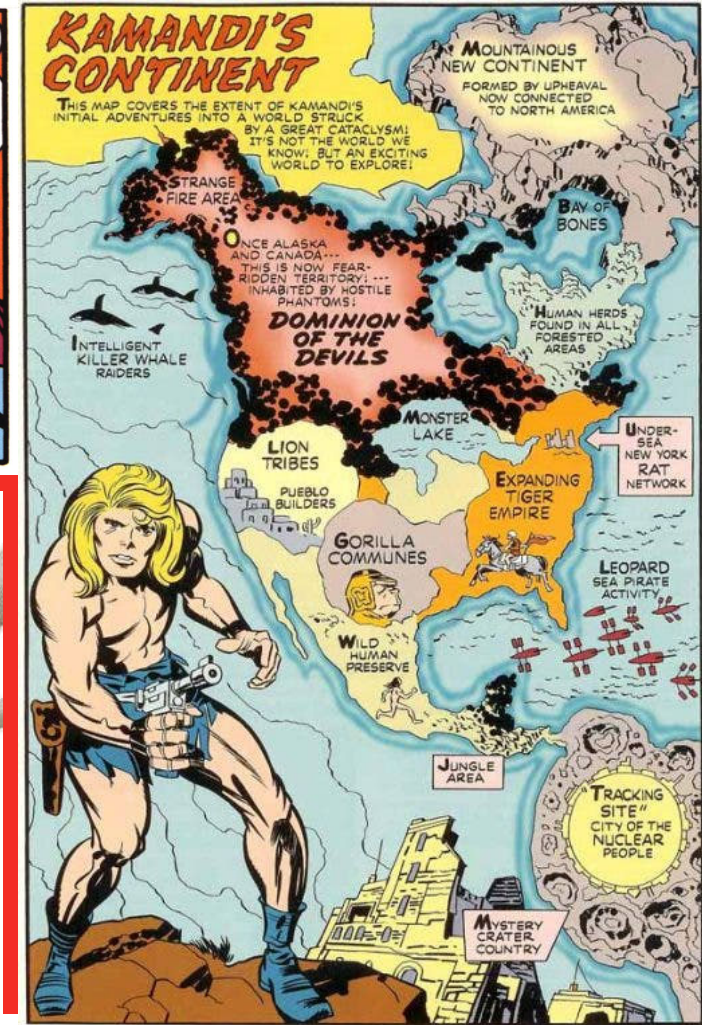
Every nation in bloody conflict! The Earth itself in inescapable upheaval! It all ended in THE GREAT DISASTER! From the devastation crawled the new masters of the world: tigers, gorillas, lions, pumas, bears, rats, bats and so many more. And under their marching feet, the sad remnants of humanity, mute savages hunted and despised by their fur-bearing superiors. Into this mutant madhouse comes the only sane man...KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH! Leaving the secret compound where he was raised and educated, Kamandi makes his way across a blasted landscape littered with the wreckage of Man's Age (like the Watergate cult, left), and wracked with war between the lords of the new aeon, such as Great Caesar of the Tiger Empire or the malevolent merchant prince Mr. Sacker and his deadly derby (above right). Kamandi is not without allies. Tiger prince Tuftan and

his trusted advisor Dr. Canus (top left), the lion ranger Sultin (below right), Ben Boxer and the other post-human "Nuclear People"—these and a handful of others aid Kamandi in his quest to find other intelligent humans, his search for a new home. Though obviously inspired by the success of the *Planet of the Apes* film franchise, *Kamandi the Last Boy on Earth* became a existential adventure that constantly asked "What makes one human?" Graphically, *Kamandi* was as strong as Kirby's Fourth World books, featuring amazing splash pages and the double-page spreads that kicked off every issue (image beneath). A bravura display of character amid chaos scenes of animals at war will thrill teens of all ages while the panorama of our shattered civilization will haunt those who travel alongside *Kamandi the Last Boy On Earth!*

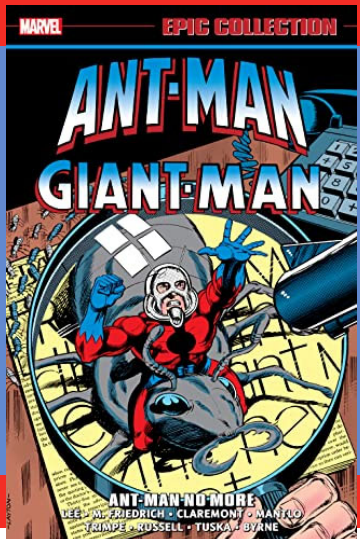
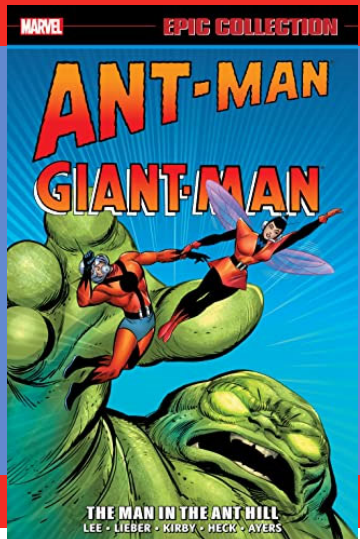
Read the first volume of this action-packed Bronze Age classic by "The King" JACK KIRBY available at Central & Tates Creek!



An "animal" in a world run by beasts, KAMANDI THE LAST BOY ON EARTH fights for his life amid the war-torn ruins of OUR future!



Maybe it was the dramatic cover, of gigantic ants, bright green against the gray and blue background, hauling a screaming man into their lair. But whatever the reason, "The Man in the Ant Hill" sold more than the usual number of *Tales to Astonish*. So a few issues later, that screaming man, Henry Pym, made a snazzy uniform and a totally boss helmet and became ANT-MAN! When that didn't sell, Pym went the other way and became GIANT-MAN! The ups and downs of Hank Pym's early career fill the pages of the two Epic Collections, *Ant-Man Giant-man*. The second volume includes the short-lived 1970s series and all five issues of *Black Goli-*



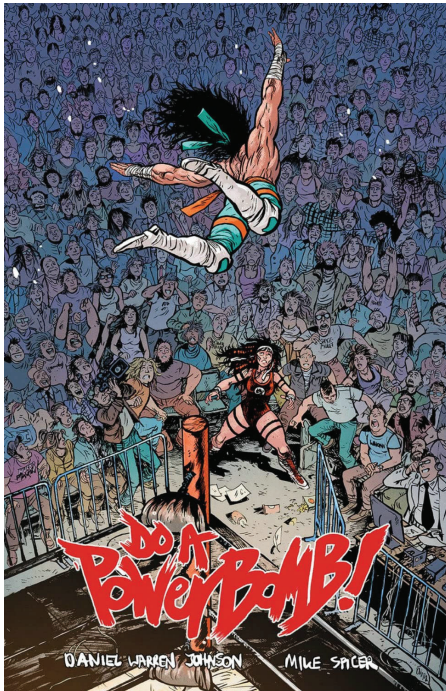
ath. It also features the introduction of the Ant-man most familiar to contemporary fans, Scott Lang. Lang's seriocomic take on *Ant-man* was the basis for the globally popular MCU series. A wacky epic set in Dimension Z, the Microverse and Miami, FLA, *The Saga of Scott Lang* was a big influence on the hit film *Quantumania*. *Ant-iversary* was released to promote that movie. Written by Marvel's current king of continuity, Al Ewing, the mini-series follows the four men who have worn the helm of the Ant-man across Marvel history as they confront themselves, each other and a titanic threat from the far-flung future! Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) to get them all!







As noted in 741.5 #90, the Defenders differ from other superhero teams. No bylaws, no secret headquarters, no coms or Quinjets or governmental liaisons. The Defenders are a non-team, originally brought together by a curse, now called into action by necessity. They also get up in some really, really weird stuff. Author of the highly-recommended *Marvel Comics #1000*, **Al Ewing** brings into the Defenders his character, the Masked Raider. In *There Are No Rules*, the Raider teams up with OG Defenders Doctor Strange and the Silver Surfer in a mission to the heart of the Marvel Universe...and the one before it! Introduced in that volume, science-warrior Taaia, mother of the man who will become Galactus, joins Teen Loki and his new pals America, Tigra and the Blue Marvel in another plunge into the spaces between reality and unreality as the new *Defenders Beyond!* The Defenders aren't the only



## MEANWHILE

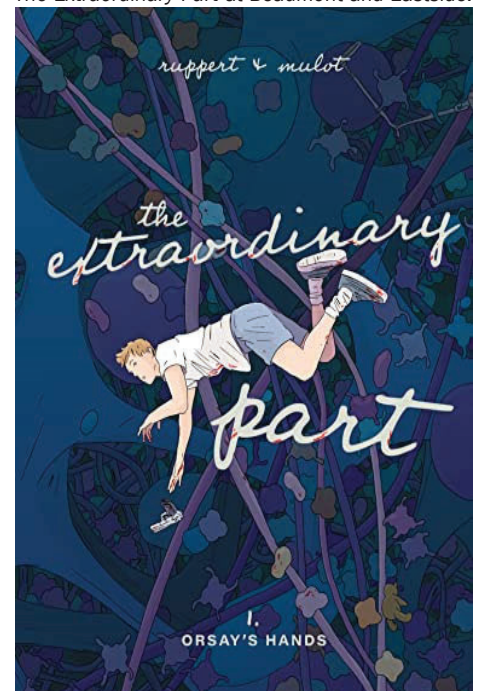
deeply weird comics ever published by Marvel. Ever read that series the company did with World Championship Wrestling in the early Nineties? Starring the likes of **Sting**, **Johnny B. Badd**, **Big Van Vader** and **Cactus Jack** (AKA **Mick Foley**), it was one wiggly mamma jamma. You know what's also strange? That there haven't been more comics devoted to the King of Sports, professional wrestling. Following the likes of *La Mano del Destino* and *Queen of the Ring*, *Do A Powerbomb* (Image) is a coming-of-age story set in an imaginary wrestling promotion. Luna Steelrose wants to follow in the boot-steps of her mother, the greatest grappler of her time. That's not an unusual story in pro wrestling. Just ask **Brian Christopher**. But Luna is determined. So determined, she breaks into the biz teaming up with the man who killed her mother with a botched move. As Sun and Steel, Cobrasun and Luna fight their way out of the dregs of the death match scene into the big time: a tournament organized by the sorcerer Necroton! Set in a *Dragonballed* version of contemporary indie wrestling, including intergender matches with actual orangutans (they're siblings), *Do A Powerbomb* really captures the mixture of artistry and chaos that typifies the best of professional wrestling.. Booker man **Daniel Warren Johnson's** vivid layouts and ferocious brushwork put you right there in the ring, *brother!*



Meanwhile, return to those thrilling days of yesteryear as the legendary Crossdraw Kid teams up with Claire Connell, the new Adventureman. Or is that Adventurema'am? Definitely not Adventuremom! Jacked up on the secret serum that empowered her predecessors, Claire and her son and gaggle of sisters confront an rebellion of ghosts in the second volume of *Adventureman*. *A Fairy Tale of New York* is writer **Matt Fraction's** love letter to the City That Never Sleeps, America's greatest metropolis a character in its own right. In what I hope will be a trend, Image has reprinted this series in the larger format of European albums. That deservedly spotlights the gorgeous art by the **Dodsons**, husband **Terry** on pencils and colors, wife **Rachel** on sleek and sensuous inks. This edition includes detailed breakdowns on how the book is put together with a combination of the palpable and the digital. Real pretty and packed with punch, *Adventureman V2* is a sweet slab of pulp pleasure available at Eastside. One of the first comics to embrace the cliffhanger ethos of old Saturday serials returns with a new creative team. *The Rocketeer* was the creation of the late **Dave Stevens**, whose drawing, influenced by the likes of **Wood**, **Williamson** and **Manning**, was so lovely, so seductive, he single-handedly rescued pin-up icon **Bettie Page** from obscurity. Though not as slick as **Stevens**, writer/artist **Stephen Mooney** does a bang-up job with *The Great Race* (IDW). The Rocketeer, Cliff Secord, and his gal Betty are once again up to their globe-trotting necks in Nazis and ne'er-do-wells. *The*



*Rocketeer* includes a tribute to **Stevens**. Find it in TEEN at all LPL locations. Meanwhile, across the pond and mere years from now, Europe has been invaded by aliens. Perhaps "invaded" is a bit harsh, since the *whols*, as the creatures are called, are passive beings who just hang around. Literally, given they look like giant balloon animals made by birthday clowns on 'shrooms. But then a couple get spicy. Country boy Orsay is "bit" and suddenly he's got powers. Orsay's not the only one. Tensions rise as those touched by the whol take increasingly radical measures to protect the creatures from an inflamed establishment. What would be a senses-shattering smackdown in American hands becomes, in *Orsay's Hands*, a measured, even quiet reflection on humanity and alienation. A wispy pen line is embodied with heft and beauty by the art of **Ruppert & Mulot** in V1 of *The Extraordinary Part* at Beaumont and Eastside.



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