741.5

MEIRD HEROES





Hey look— Metamorpho got his arm back! And honestly, the sight of said arm, composed entirely of living diamond, scuttling across the shadowed parking lot of Rex Mason's motel ain't even the creepiest or goofiest or most gruesome thing you'll see in the concluding volume of Danger Street. There's the big, bloody showdown between Manhunter and Code Name: Assassin, a duel of both swords and philosophies. There's Lizard Johnny getting his arm ripped off, but that happens all the time so no big deal. Oh, and there's the dinner date between Lady Cop and the Creeper in his guise as media maven Jack Ryder. Hoo boy, does that get weird! As noted in 741.5 #116, Danger Street gathers all the characters who appeared in DC's First Issue Special series of the 1970s and they were a bunch of oddballs, both old, like Metamorpho the Element Man above, and new, like Joe Simon's Outsiders. Yet Tom King and Jorge Fornes find their basic humanity, even that of the New Gods themselves.









Somebody needs to write a monograph on the outsized influence of American police TV dramas on British pop culture, like, say, Leo Baxendale's Willy the Kid naming his hamster "Kojak." Or the dominance of cop show tropes over even the outsiders of British comics, such as writer Jordan Thomas and artist Shaky Kane. Thomas writes a basic policier full of

detectives haunted by their bloody pasts (our hero, the literally blue Ovra Sawce), snotty young rookies (the blonde with

the red skin, Donut Trustah)...and untouchable crime lords and no-good lowlifes and helpless squarejohns swept up in a gang war over the drug "froth". Kane, high on a madcap mash of Kirby,

Burns and Allred, renders a candycolored sci-fi worldscape of dwarfs and giants and cyclops and beast-men chasing their damnable bliss through a megalopolis made of birthday cake and plexiglass. Find this WEIRD WORK of art at all LPL locations!

NOTE: THE ISSUES "AVERAGE CITIZENS" AND "WEIRD HEROES" ORIGINALLY WERE SLATED TO COME OUT IN SEPTEMBER, HENCE THE SIMILARITY IN NAME AND DESIGN.



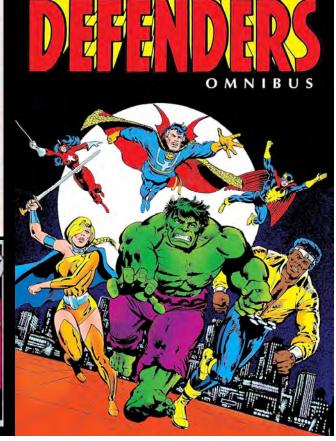


One of the highlights of the Seventies, and a huge influence on the likes of Moore and Morrison, Marvel's "noneam" welcomed many, including the Thing, Luke Cage, and the Son of Satan (above left). They helped the core group of Dr. Strange, the Hulk, Nighthawk and Valkyrie battle the cist Sons of the Serpent, Nebulon's Bozo cult (right) and the Headmen bove). Marked by absurdist plotlines like "Nighthawk's Brain", the "evil fawn" bit and the Elf with A Gun, The Defenders Omnibus is an essential read for all Friends of Ol' Marvel!

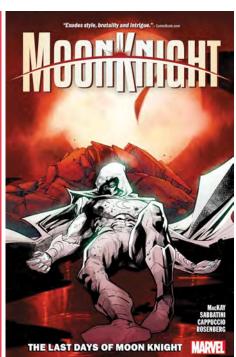


for Marvel Comics by editing reprint mags such as Weird Wonder Tales, one issue of which featured three stories Gerber used as inspiration for the trio of bad guys shown above. Gerber loved mining ideas from the back corners of the Marvel Universe, like bringing an obscure one-shot sci-fi series, Guardians of the Galaxy, and their adversaries, the Badoon, into regular continuity, or making undercard characters like Nighthawk (Marvel's first, but not last, Batman swipe) and the original Valkyrie, once a burlesque of 'women's lib", central to his epic, The Defender





STEVE GERBER • SAL BUSCEMA



Born during the weird years of the mid-70s, Moon Knight was always a weird hero. As explained in 741.5 #77, Moon Knight was created to be the antagonist for Werewolf By Night, who recently tore ship up in V3 of this MK series. But more than his opponents make Moon Knight a weird hero. There's the MPD thing, and the fact he works for an Egyptian god. But Khonshu's in God Jail in Asgard. And dominant personality Marc Spector has kept it together during the Midnight Mission arc, building a new crew and making a difference in his neighborhood. So, of course, it has to all go to hell. A new, more dangerous Black Specter rips through Spector's world, while the psychopath Zodiac waits for his shot. Moon Knight dies! (Again.) But this time he comes back without any memory of his erstwhile allies. It's friend vs. friend as everyone suffers the Vengeance of the Moon Knight!





One of the original weird heroes, whose success led to the establishment of the Vertigo imprint, was Swamp Thing. Brought to the forefront of comics by Alan Moore, Swamp Thing was taken to even stranger places by Moore's hand-picked successor, Rick Veitch. Mostly known for underground comics like Two-Fisted Zombies, Veitch followed Moore's example and used Swamp Thing as the means to dig deeper into the rich history of DC. Long-forgotten figures like the Mod Gorilla Boss and Roy Raymond, TV Detective joined Batman and John Constantine as supporting characters as Swamp Thing wrangled with the Parliament of Trees over his supposed successor as Earth's elemental hero. But nobody gets what they want, as the worst candidate ever becomes...Wild Thing! Blacklisted for years, Swamp Thing by Rick Veitch is back and available at lexpublib.org!



MEANWHILE

All LPL locations have the second volume of the spicy fantastic romance Fine Print (Image/Top Cow). The subtitle "Or How A Divine Contract May Not Be the Best Cure for A Broken Heart" gives away the basic plot: hapless hottie Lauren Thomas went looking for love and found a new world of lust in the arms of unearthly beings with an all-too-earthly itch to scratch. See 741.5 #73 for a review of the first volume; in fact, go read that first volume, because you might get lost with all the different succubi and incubi fighting over who gets Lauren and thus the Golden Contract that comes with her. Or just sit back and enjoy the ride as one particular succubus who looks like the Leather Nun's feisty headbanger daughter comes looking for Lauren, tired of all the chaos this mere mortal minx is causing back in Hot Heaven. Stjepin Sejic is the very naughty boy behind these hedonistic hi-jinx, whose use of digital color makes you forget it all comes out of a machine. Another Image release goes from the Adults Only world of Fine Print to a land of make-believe that once was the refuge for a lonely little girl. Our heroine Rose



developed a very detailed fantasy land of talking animals. That innocent dream was left behind the night Rose was found outside her burning house with the gas can in her hands. Several years later, the orphaned Rose is stuck in Juvie, with only her real childhood friend on her side. Or so she thinks, until her Aussie elephant pal shows up to bust her out! Ethan Parker's breathless script is ably translated by the art and colors of Griffin Sheridan. In the vein of The Ether and Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees, Kill Your Darlings mixes cute animals and scary monsters in one intense read available at all LPL locations. Meanwhile, far away in the City That Never Sleeps, Reed Richards made a decision in the heat of battle that's left everyone cold. Now, having lost family and friends themselves, the Fantastic Four leave behind the big hole in the middle of New York where the Baxter Building used to be and flee for the boonies. Sadly, Real America isn't the refuge they hoped it would be, especially since the Thing and his missus ain't talking to the rest of the team. Ben Grimm and Alicia Masters get trapped in a time loop in one small town, while Mr. Fantastic and the Invisible Woman find another inhabited by Doombots in disguise! The only one to stay in the City, Johnny



Storm, the Human Torch, works the secret identity angle while trying to use his powers on the DL. Even when the FF are reunited, they can't win for losing, as a detour to the Dark Dimension brings back a threat that exposes just how powerful the Fantastic Four are. Writer Ryan North shows the deft touch with characterization that has always set this title apart from others. You can go to the New TEEN section of your favorite location of Lexington Public Library to discover Whatever Happened to the Fantastic Four? Another group of friends take a trip to the great outdoors in the next item. Well, actually, it's outdoors for the first part of the trip. The rest takes place in the vast cavern in which our quintet of college pals discover a weird new world, a world full of very, very pink things...including the humongous Lovecraftian horror that initiates The Cull at all LPL locations!

