

741.5

JENNY

FROM THE BLOCK

**THE SPIRIT OF THE 20TH CENTURY
CONFRONTS THE TRAUMA OF THE 21ST!**

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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



She was born on the first day of 20th Century. One of several special individuals born that day, she grew into the abilities granted her. She became living lightning, the embodiment of the electricity that powered the century she safeguarded. At the end of her fabulous life, she joined other special individuals in a group called the Authority. Together they fought an army of supermen, defeated an extra-dimensional invasion from an alien Britannica, and punched God in the face. Then she died.



She's the embodiment of electricity. She's the Spirit of a dead century. She's **Jenny Sparks. And she needs a #@%*& light. Get her DC Black Label graphic novel by King & Spokes at Central.**

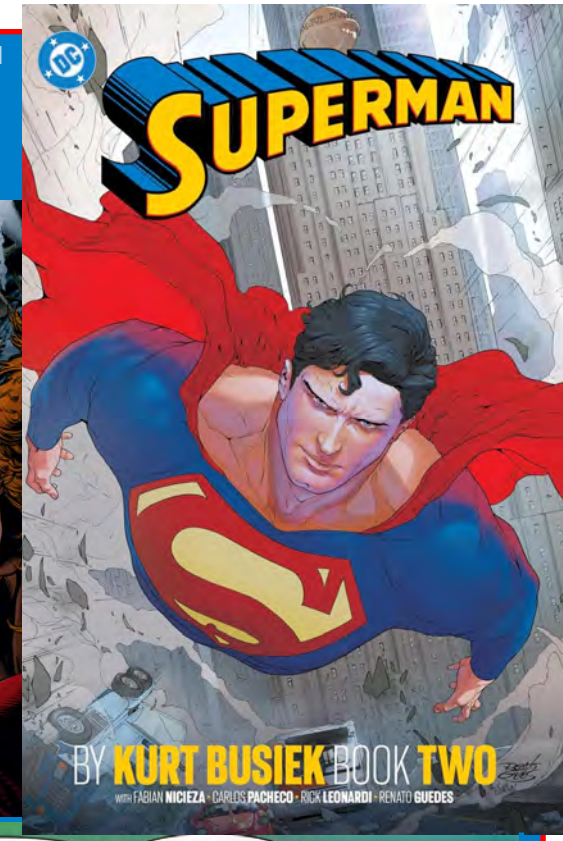
So no one was more surprised than Jenny Sparks when she woke up in her coffin. Blasting her way out of her crypt in Winchester Cathedral, the Spirit of the 20th Century suddenly found herself breathing, swearing, smoking once again in the 21st. As shown in the eponymous graphic novel by Tom King and Jeff Spokes, Jenny Sparks witnesses and endures the craptacular crises of this misbegotten century: 9/11 and its martial aftermath, the Crash of '08, the 2016 election, COVID. Meanwhile, she's recruited for a new gig. Batman and Superman ask Jenny Sparks to act as a kind of Internal Affairs officer for her fellow superheroes.



Like, say, Captain Atom. The former Charlton character (above center) has always been too powerful for the DC Universe. Now he thinks he's God (left). And he has hostages. Tom King's script features his usual mix of horror, humor and humanity while artist Jeff Spokes merges the sensual hyper-realism of Mike Deodato with the measured layouts and shadowy stagecraft of Michael Lark. Got a light for a lady?



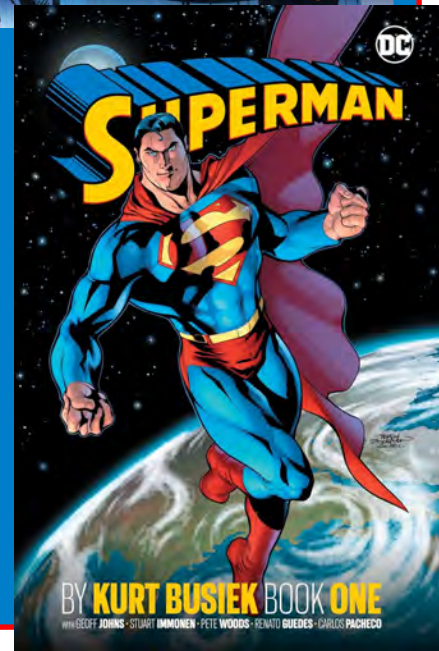
Will the Man of Tomorrow be the end of civilization? Superman confronts prophecy, space pirates, and the Prankster in the second collection of **SUPERMAN** by Kurt Busiek!



Writer Kurt Busiek has built a career on humanizing superheroes. From *Martians*, his ground-breaking collaboration with Alex Ross, to his creator-owned series *Astro City* (see *Meanwhile*), Busiek has displayed a real gift for making the impossible feel like the everyday. He brought that talent to bear on *Superman* for DC. In the first volume, available at Central, Clark Kent and Lois Lane adopted a little Kryptonian boy found lost in the Phantom Zone (below). The second volume shows the Man of Steel bedeviled by juvenile delinquent New Gods, old demons from Krypton, and



vengeful Daxamite zealots, not to mention Paragon, the Kryptonite Man and the new, improved Insect Queen! Meanwhile, Superman's Pal, Jimmy Olsen, embarks on a new career as a superhero, while making friends with Krypto the Super-dog! All this *Action* happens against the background of doom and gloom ginned up by the recrudescing Arion of Atlantis. Having watched civilization rise and fall a dozen times, Arion is convinced that Superman and his super friends distort the cycle of history. Arion openly manhandles and secretly manipulates the Man of Steel in a game of cat-n-mouse that tests both the spirit and the flesh of Superman. Get **Superman** by Kurt Busiek V2 at Central and Marksbury!





DESTRO! Warmonger from a long line of same. DESTRO! Merchant of mayhem, dealer of destruction! DESTRO! Bad dude whose silver head looked so cool amid all those other tiny G.I. Joes! He's back, his story the latest chapter in the growing saga being built by Image/Hasbro. Blending the world of *Transformers* with the Reagan Era revival of the G.I. Joe franchise, the Energon Universe is off to a roaring start thus far (see 741.5 #137). V1: *The Enemy* gives Destro's backstory as he faces off against cyber-assassin Chameleon and would-be usurpers Tomax and Xomax while Cobra Commander watches from the sidelines, ready to cut a deal with whoever comes out alive. Find *Destro* at all LPL locations! Central is the lone location carrying the latest and last *Astro City Metrobook* (Image). Volume 6 reprints the last several issues of *Astro City* as a periodical. Writer **Kurt Busiek** works with his reg-



MEANWHILE

ular artist **Brent Anderson** to tell more tales set in their self-contained universe so much like, yet so different, from Marvel and DC. Meet the new sorceress in town, the Silver Adept! Hear the origin of the Gentleman! Finally learn about the hero who gave Astro City its name! And behold the sound-sational secret behind the Broken Man! In the vein of juvenile heroic fantasy series like **Jo Rioux's** *Cat's Cradle* and the author's own *Squire & Knight*, *Three Thieves* is set in your basic medieval kingdom ruled by corrupt and brutal aristos and their handsome henchmen, and those are "the authorities"! The real bad guys like smugglers and brigands hang out at the Black Rock Inn. And, as bad luck would have it, that's where our intrepid trio of protagonists—Dessa the girl, Topper the goblin and Fisk the ettin (like a baby giant)—find themselves seeking shelter from the storm. That same squall has driven the royal enforcers, the Queen's Dragons, to take refuge in the Black Rock, led by their one-eyed captain, Drake,

SCOTT CHANTLER THREE THIEVES The SIGN of the BLACK ROCK



who really, really wants to catch Dessa and her friends. Mishap turns to misadventure as Dessa, Topper and Fisk try to avoid capture by Drake, the Dragons, and the shifty innkeeper. **Scott (Bix) Chantler's** expert mix of realism and exaggeration is empowered by strong, solid inks and bright, lively colors in *The Sign of the Black Rock*. Like the first of these reissues from Papercutz, this second volume and the upcoming third are available under J 741.5 at Beaumont and Central. **Tom King** must have cranked out our cover feature during his lunch hour, given how many books he's writing for DC. LPL finally received the second volume of his series devoted to Batman's longtime nemesis, *The Penguin*. Did I say "nemesis"? More like "accomplice", as we discovered in the first volume. The Penguin and the Bat have been working together all this time, so the Dark Knight is pretty peeved when Oswald seems to renege on their agreement by 1) returning to Gotham, and 2) wreaking havoc on the organization run by the Penguin's wanton, wicked children, AKA the Sibs. Bullets fly, blood flows, Batman punches and the Penguin floats over it all as he sees to the dastardly disposition of *All Bad Things*. Find *The Penguin V2* at Beaumont and Marksburg. Though Ye Ed's not watched a single episode of the HBO series, congratulations to **Cristin Millioti** for winning an Emmy!

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Speaking of television, writer **Christopher Cantwell** divides his attention between what we used to call "the tube" and funnybooks, including *Plastic Man No More!* One of the most popular heroes of the Golden Age, Plastic Man has struggled to stay relevant, even with a cult TV show and the likes of **Kyle Baker** working on him. He's become a figure of fun in the DCU, especially in the *Justice League* cartoons. That relationship is at the dark heart of ...*No More!* When Plas takes a ray gun in the chest during a League mission, he begins to melt. Everybody thinks it's a big joke, but, this being a DC Black Label book, Plastic Man is doomed as doomed can be. **Jacob Edgar** draws the League scenes with a **Cookean** dash while **Alex Lins** renders the sad, disgusting end of Patrick "Eel" O'Brien with a scratchy, itchy physicality. Fans of the recent remake of Troma's *Toxic Avenger* should check *Plastic Man* out at Central!



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