

741.5

MARV WOLFMAN & GEORGE PEREZ

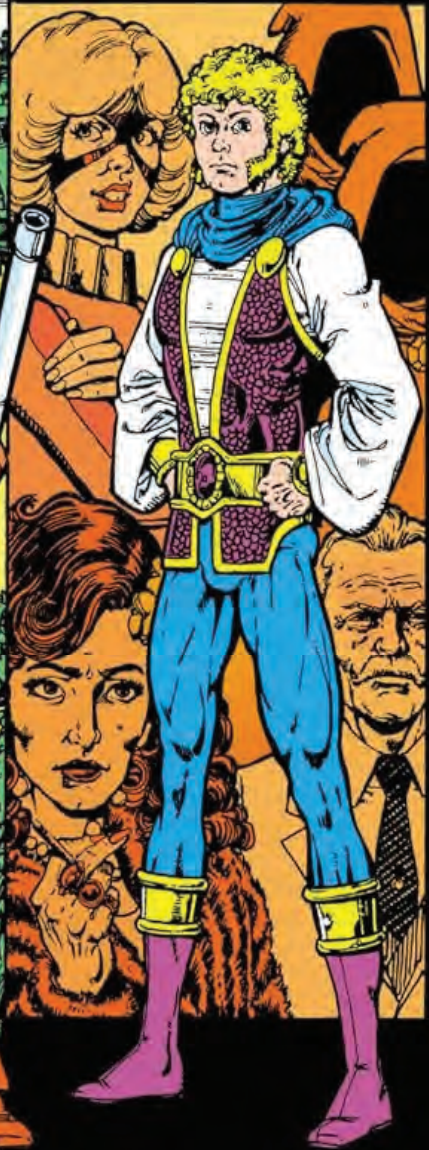
TEEN TITANS

THE JUDAS CONTRACT

JUNE 2026

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THE COMPLETE
EIGHTIES EPIC



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of

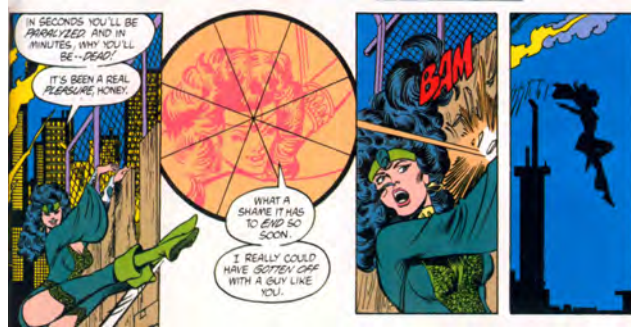


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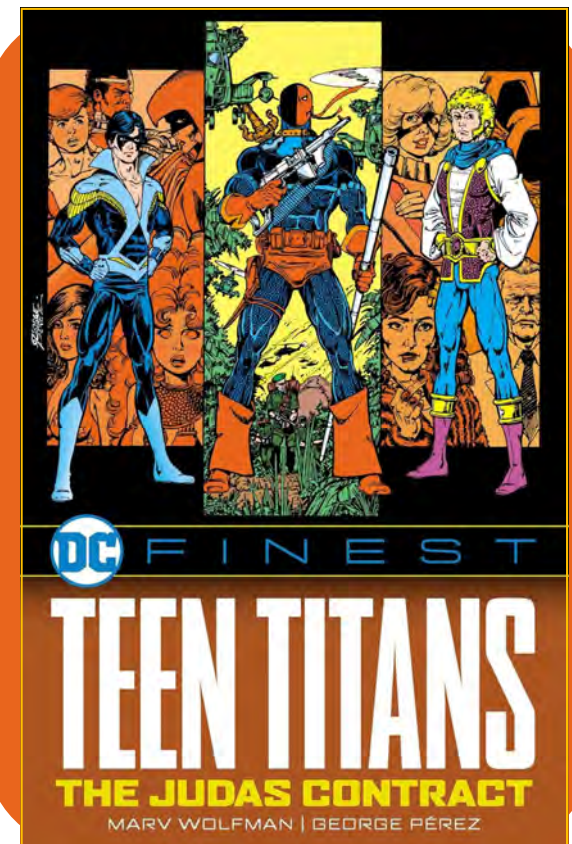
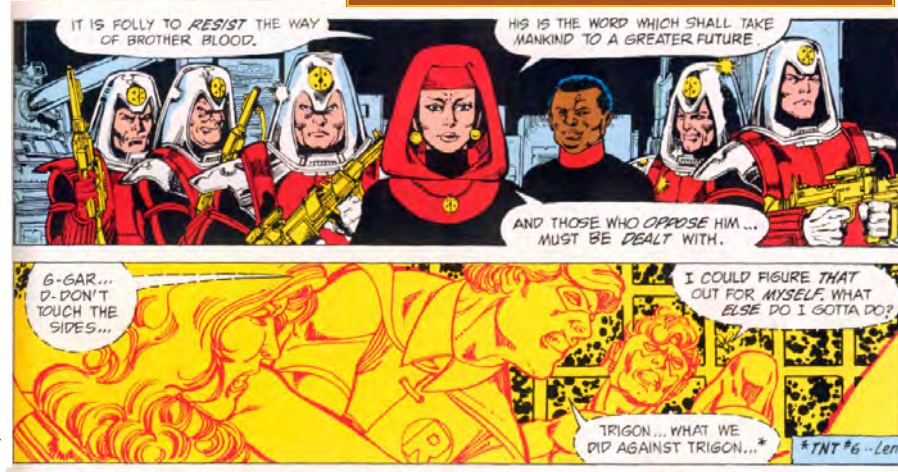


In 1980, Marv Wolfman and George Perez revived DC's long-dormant *Teen Titans* to compete with Marvel blockbuster *X-men*. The combination of Wolfman's gift for absorbing plots and based on intense detail and the ol' Perez pizzazz made *The New Teen Titans* one of DC's

most successful books. The apex of the series was the story arc involving the newest, and youngest, member of the Titans, the geokinetic Terra, focal point of *The Judas Contract*. A potty-mouthed delinquent (as seen and the ol' Perez pizzazz made *The New Teen Titans* one of DC's



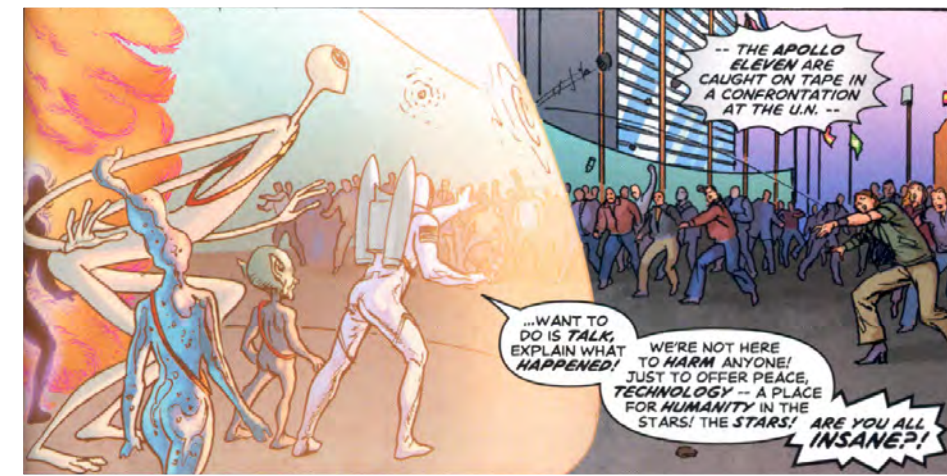
Mistress of secret society H.I.V.E. and sexy assassin Chesire (above top). Terra's story intersected with others, such as Deathstroke the Terminator (above right), whose connection with the mysterious Jericho (the blond dude on the cover) complicated an already labyrinthine plot. Stone killer (right) made the art as sharp as the writing. Fulfill *The Judas Contract* at Eastside and Tates Creek!



He was the next Robin, the Boy Wonder for the Awesome Eighties. He was troubled, and nothing but trouble. He was a character so loathed that the audience has shown more love for the villain who beat him to death with a crowbar. He was Jason Todd, whose very public demise readers voted for in the thousands. Now Lemire & Nguyen tell his story in the sequel to their exquisite *Robin & Batman*. Lemire provides a rival father figure in the murderous Wraith (below) as Nguyen's smokey



watercolors paint Todd's world as one gigantic bruise. Not even Nightwing (left) can help, as Jason is haunted by visions of his grim future. Go to lex-publib.org to reserve *R&B:JT*.



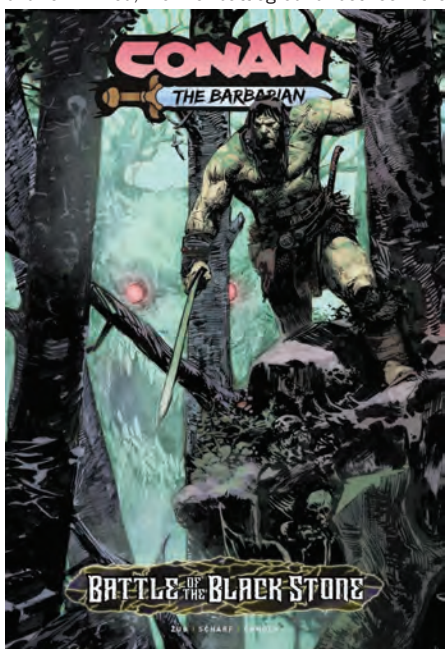
Central has a new copy of the 2023 ASTRO CITY METROBOOK reprinting the entirety of the story arc *The Dark Ages* as well as the *Silver Agent* mini-series. Set in the self-created *Astro City* universe, *The Dark Ages* was Kurt Busiek's action-packed commentary on "the Bronze Age of Comics." Ranging from 1971, which saw the loosening of the Comics Code regarding certain subjects, to the beginning of the Reagan Era and its tough guy zeitgeist, the Bronze Age saw comics, specifically superhero comics, grow darker in tone, more mature in their approach to story and art, and beholden to the new audience of fans which refused to "grow out" of comics. Blaxploitation, "New Wave" science fiction, violent paperback series like *The Executioner* and his kith, the Occult Revival of the Sixties and the liberation movements of the Seventies; these all had influence on Bronze Age comics. "Street" heroes like Ghost Rider and the Punisher competed with drug-inspired "Cosmic" characters such as Warlock and OG Guardians of the Galaxy for



readers, just as in *The Dark Ages*, cruel, even monstrous vigilantes such as Hellhound and the Blue Knight break heads and spill blood while the space-based superteam the Apollo Eleven (below left) try to usher Earth into a New Age of galactic brotherhood. In typical *Astro City* fashion, all that happens in the background while we follow the story of the Williams brothers, cop Charles (the purple dialogue) and hoodlum Royal (the orange). They are on a quest of vengeance against the man who murdered their parents, which takes them ever further into the increasingly savage world of powers and principalities (below). Both a badass superhero epic and a complex and still timely work of cultural criticism, *The Dark Ages* is a brilliant graphic novel.



"From the world of HELLBOY" comes this slick and slender hardback courtesy of Dark Horse. Showrunner **Mike Mignola** was too busy turning out the latest *Tales from Lands Unknown*, *Uri Tupka and the Gods*, another fabulous compilation of folklore from another world, available at Eastside and Northside. So **Chris (iZombie) Roberson** scribed the script and *Powers'* **Michael Avon Oeming** scribbled the art for *Shadow of the Golden Crane*. Having made quite a bit of trouble in Japan, Hellboy's employer the B.P.R.D. investigates China. Agent Sue Xiang has visions, and lately they've been making her sick. Homesick, for an ancient China she never knew and the secret society that protected it from spooks and monsters. It's nice to see the Mignolaverse acknowledge China's wild and often wacky supernatural mythology, even if this story nearly verges on yellowface. Go to Beaumont, Northside and Tates Creek. Speaking of ancient lands, *Conan the Barbarian: Battle of the Black Stone* is damn near worth the price just for its kickass map of the Hyborian Age. That's Conan's imaginary antediluvian milieu, now a battleground between the



MEANWHILE

Cimmerian's archenemy **Thulsa Doom** and a super-team of other creations of **Robert E. Howard**. The art by **Jonas Scharf** is both rugged and realistic, the perfect medium for this roughneck epic of occult adventure co-starring adventurer **El Borak**, Renaissance rebel **Agnes De Chastillon**, ghostbusters **Kiowan & Conrad**, and Puritan swashbuckler **Solomon Kane**. And speaking of Puritans...Whenever LPL acquires graphic novels featuring sexually explicit themes or scenes, Ye Editor usually doesn't review these items in 741.5. In my experience, those who need to know will know, and those who don't need to know, won't. Frankly, that spares everyone a lot of potential hissy fits and hullabaloo. But sometimes such artful dodging does a disservice to both work and readers. Vide the latest by *Saga's* **Brian K. Vaughan**. *Spectators* is about sex, about violence, about the human impulse to engage in and to watch both. Artist **Niko Henrichon** does not flinch at portraying either, whether it's the brutal mass shooting that opens the book, the orgy in the shadow of *Gotterdammerung* in the second act, or the *menage a*

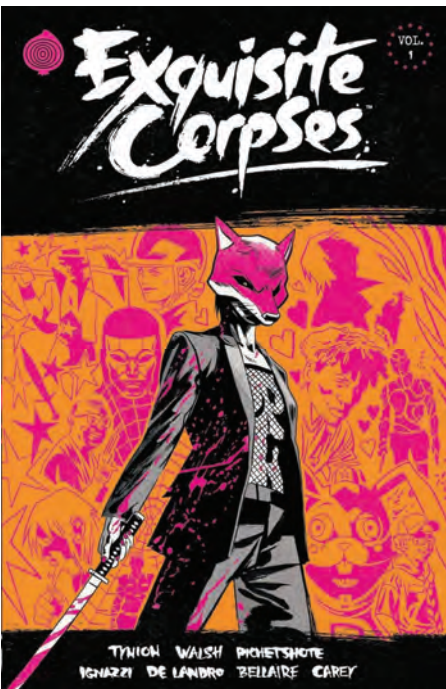


trois at the end. All that and more is witnessed by a pair of ghosts, two among a host of spectral voyeurs haunting our future, a mechanized culture on the verge of destruction at the hands of those sick of watching and now ready to act. **Vaughan** uses our heroine, a cinephile who died in a hail of bullets with porn running on her phone, to explore the American compulsion to condemn sex while sanctifying violence. *Spectators* is satire, smut, and romance in one. *Caveat lector* at lexpublib.org. The sea-faring hero was once a staple of pop culture, from **Rafael Sabatini's** *Captain Blood* to multi-media mariner *Don Winslow of the Navy*. A new hero sets sail under the flag of England's Titan Comics. In this mash-up of cult TV series *Tales of the Gold Monkey* and the Lovecraft Mythos, **Shannon Eric Denton's** *Captain Kraken* disappears into a wormhole for three years, then returns...changed. What's unchanged is his dedication to the destruction of the Barons, masked malefactors who seek to make the South Seas their hunting grounds. Go to Central and Northside for pirates, Nazis, elder gods and a monkey with a gun,

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all drawn by animator **David Hartman** with a manic touch of exaggeration more typical of British comics. Horror hierophant **James Tynion III** follows up such high concept hits as *Department of Truth* and *The Nice House by the Lake* with yet another made-for-prestige-TV gimmick in *Exquisite Corpses* (Image). Like **Tom King's** recent run on *Wonder Woman*, turns out American history is a lie. The U.S.A. been run by the same thirteen state-based families since the Founding. How do they decide who runs the country without it getting messy? A game. Every five years, twelve killers—professionals, maniacs, or something in between—are dropped into some unsuspecting Podunk to fight it out to the last skull. Each represents the ruling families; each gets judged on not only survival, but how many civilians they take out, too. This year, poor little Oak Valley is the setting and we watch as the gay goth kid, the burnt out EMT and others duck and dodge the bloodthirsty freaks invading their town in this chilling series with art by **Ignazzi & De Landro!**



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