

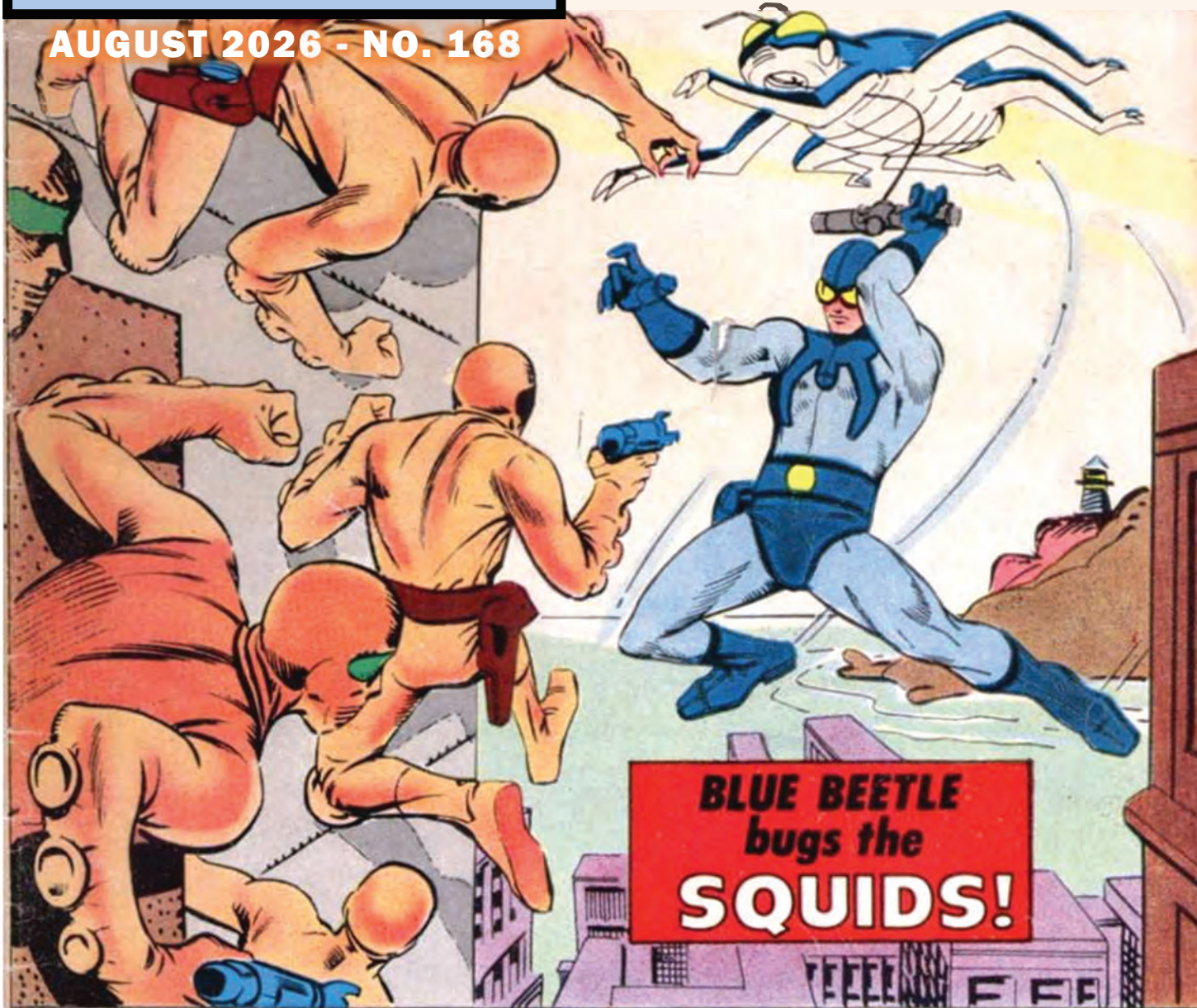
741.5

TRIUMPH OF THE WANNABES

GREEN ARROW-BLUE BEETLE

AQUAMAN VS. THE SUB-MARINER

AUGUST 2026 - NO. 168



**PLUS...WOULDJA BELIEVE THE
FURSHLUUGINER**

PEACEMAKER

The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



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DC FINEST GREEN ARROW THE LONGBOW HUNTERS

MIKE GRELL | ED HANNIGAN | DICK GIORDANO

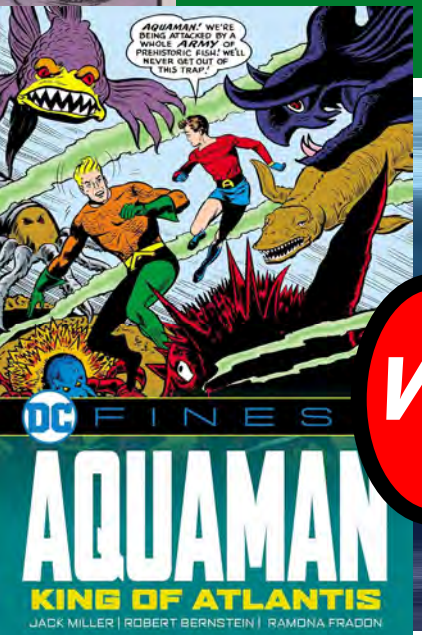
Setting the standard for grim'n'gritty comics, Mike Grell took DC's Emerald Archer in a new direction in *The Longbow Hunters*!



By the end of the Eighties, Oliver Queen had lost his fortune, lost his sidekick, lost his own title and lost his life in the Crisis on Infinite Earths. So it was fitting when artist Mike Grell took over the script and rewrote Green Arrow as a brand new character. A rougher, tougher kind of hero moved to a drug-ridden, gang-haunted Seattle and began dispensing street justice. Aided by his lover Black Canary and the Question (below), Green Arrow experienced adventures for Mature Readers marked by artistic experimentation (above) by Grell.



The inspiration for all GA comics to come, not to mention the ground-breaking CW TV show and its myriad spin-offs, *The Longbow Hunters* is available at Beaumont. The current series of Green Arrow is already at Volume 4, available at all LPL locations. Written by Chris (Scarlet Witch) Condon, *Fresh Water Kills* is a political thriller driven by environmental issues. But there's still plenty of superheroic ass-kicking, action and tension both ably rendered by artist Montos and colorist Adriano Lucas!



If that octopus looks sad, it's because he let Aquaman down in a contest to see which marine creature could capture the most crooks in "Aquaman's Undersea Partner!" Zany plots like that dominated the *Aquaman* strip in the early Silver Age because he was the back-up feature in *Adventure Comics*, edited by Mort Weisinger (see last issue). In fact, Weisinger's first job at DC was refurbishing Golden Age title *More Fun Comics* with new heroes. Green Arrow and speedster Johnny Quick were notably unoriginal, but Aquaman? A total swipe of Timely's Sub-Mariner, right down to the origin, only with more clothes and less attitude. But Aquaman prospered, nonetheless, outlasting his inspiration and remaining an essential part of the DC pantheon. The octopus eventually won the contest, by the way, becoming Aquaman's sidekick. Until, that is, Aqualad shows up halfway through *King of Atlantis*, heralding a more dramatic, action-packed approach.



DC FINEST PEACEMAKER KILL FOR PEACE

JOE GILL | PAUL KUPPERBERG | PAT BOYETTE



Introduced in 1939, BLUE BEETLE was a big deal before World War II. He even had his own radio show! Throughout the 1940s and '50s, Blue Beetle bounced from publisher to publisher, ending up, like other post-Code comics flotsam, at Charlton. When superheroes returned in the Sixties, Charlton brought Dan Garrett back with a new costume and new powers. It...didn't work.



Of the debut issue, "The Giant Mummy Who Was Not Dead," one critic said "This is what people who know nothing about comics think every comic book is like." It wasn't a compliment. Despite some appealingly primitive art by notorious hacks Bill Traccio & Tony Tallarico, Blue Beetle, featuring such foes as the Praying Mantis-Man (above), stifled on the news-stands. A few months after the final issue, a new Blue Beetle debuted in *Captain Atom*. One of Charlton's mid-Sixties slate



DC FINEST BLUE BEETLE BLUE BEETLE CHALLENGES THE RED KNIGHT

JOE GILL | STEVE DITKO | BILL FRACCIO

of "Action Heroes", this Blue Beetle was Ted Kord, scientist by day, vigilante by night. And he was written and drawn by none other than Steve Ditko, the man responsible for Marvel's big new hit, Spider-Man. In comparison to his benighted predecessor, *Blue Beetle* V2 #1 was one of the most perfect comics of the Silver Age, a straightforward BB adventure (left) backed up with the debut of the Question. Flexing his Objectivist creed, Ditko ended the series with "The Destroyer of Heroes" (above left), a two-fisted philippic against modern art. Really! Find this colorful, fascinating mess at Central and Tates Creek!

The red-headed stepchild of the Charlton Action Heroes, the PEACEMAKER was the last character anyone imagined would become a sensation on film and television. Well, anyone but James Gunn and John Cena. "The Man Who Loves Peace So Much, He Is Willing To Fight For It!" was the tagline on the cover of the first issue of his short-lived solo series full of super-spy derring-do (left). Years later, DC bought the lot, and Peacemaker re-appeared, a far more violent, even maniacal counterpoint to the Vigilante and other modern DC gunslingers. *Kill For Peace* reprints the original Silver Age stories and Christopher Smith's blood-soaked rebirth in the Reagan Era.



As an artist, let me tell you: drawing the elements is hard. Especially rainfall. Maintaining the coherence of figure and composition while convincingly portraying the fall of the rain is tough. So dig the panel right, and, yes, marvel at its mixture of intensity and physicality. It was drawn by Bill Everett, the Golden Age great who created *Namor the Sub-Mariner* in 1939. By the early 1970s, "Subby" had been through some ups and downs creatively, reflected by his book's slipping sales. With nothing to lose, Everett was given free rein to both write and draw his boisterous baby boy. The first half of *The Invasion of New York* shows Everett reveling in operatic plots with action-packed set pieces that vibrate with the almost hysterical edge common to Everett's best work. Then, in 1973, he died. The rest of this Epic Collection shows Everett's peers trying to fly in his footsteps, with varying degrees of success. See the debut of Namor's Bronze Age outfit at lexpublish.org!





Ye Editor was a fan of *Metamorpho* before I was old enough to spell his name (see 741.5 #111, "My First Charlton"). Part of DC's befuddled mid-Sixties reaction to Marvel's success, the "Fabulous Freak" was a product of his campy age. Arch-archivist **Al Ewing** takes him right back to that Go-Go Checked era with a shamelessly zany rejoinder to the gloom'n'doom of the other *All In* books. **Steve Lieber**'s art is stellar, especially the opening splash pages that recreate the Bat-crazy covers of DC's middle Silver Age. But, yeah, Amanda W

First things first: this story ain't got squat to do with the Disney/Marvel TV series. They just took the title because, well, it fit the story they're telling, and it's a cool title. The *Daredevil* comic was *Born Again* because this storyline saw the return of **Frank Miller** to the character he saved from cancellation and who in turn made his reputation in the biz. Aided by fellow noir cartoonist **David Mazzucchelli**, **Miller** dragged Matt Murdock down in the gutter and back into



Marvel Premier Collection

DAREDEVIL BORN AGAIN

FRANK MILLER · DAVID MAZZUCHELLI
FOREWORD BY CHARLIE COX · INTRODUCTION BY FRANK MILLER

Waller stole everybody's powers and Darkseid died and it's been a heavy scene, man. The new Justice League Unlimited needs all hands on deck, and that means even non-powered troubleshooters like the *Challengers of the Unknown*. DC's foremost science heroes have some super-powered help as they investigate anomalies arising under the sea, in space and even Dinosaur Island in the



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MEANWHILE



WOLVERINE OLD MAN LOGAN

MARK MILLAR · STEVE MCNIVEN
INTRODUCTION BY STEVE MCNIVEN

church. His past sins, in the form of a lost and left behind Karen Page, catch up with him in myriad ways. Meanwhile, an off-the-leash supersoldier named Nuke threatens to make Hell's Kitchen live up to its fiery name. Although the inspiration for the film *Logan*, *Old Man Wolverine* is much more Marvelous. And monstrous:



aftermath of Darkseid's death. But what special connection do these oddities have to Ace, Red, Rocky, June and Prof? And why does Prof keep getting the runaround re: *The Atom Project*? The military, that's why. The malign Colonel Eiling is in control of the Atoms' attempt to control the incredible power of Captain Atom. But Ray & Ryan have their big ideas and the former Charlton Action hero has his. **Mike Perkins'** moody artwork captures the tension in this thriller of morally suspect superhero politics at lexpublib.org!

this Logan is the last hero standing in a world overcome by its villains. And the worst of the bunch is a certain Green Goliath and his Gang. It's a harsh, brutal read, and not at all for the kiddies. Nor, for that matter, is **Matt Fraction's** adult take on Clint Barton AKA Hawkeye. *My Life As A Weapon* won awards for **David Aja's** playful post-modernism. But it was **Fraction's** affectionate but honest look at the man behind the mask that makes this a Premier pick @ lexpublib.org.



Marvel Premier Collection

HAWKEYE MY LIFE AS A WEAPON

MATT FRACTION · DAVID AJA
INTRODUCTION BY MATT FRACTION

Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpublib.org under the **READING SERVICES** tab!