

THE VILTRUMITE WAR

THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

image

SKYBOX

78

\$2.99

INVINCIBLE

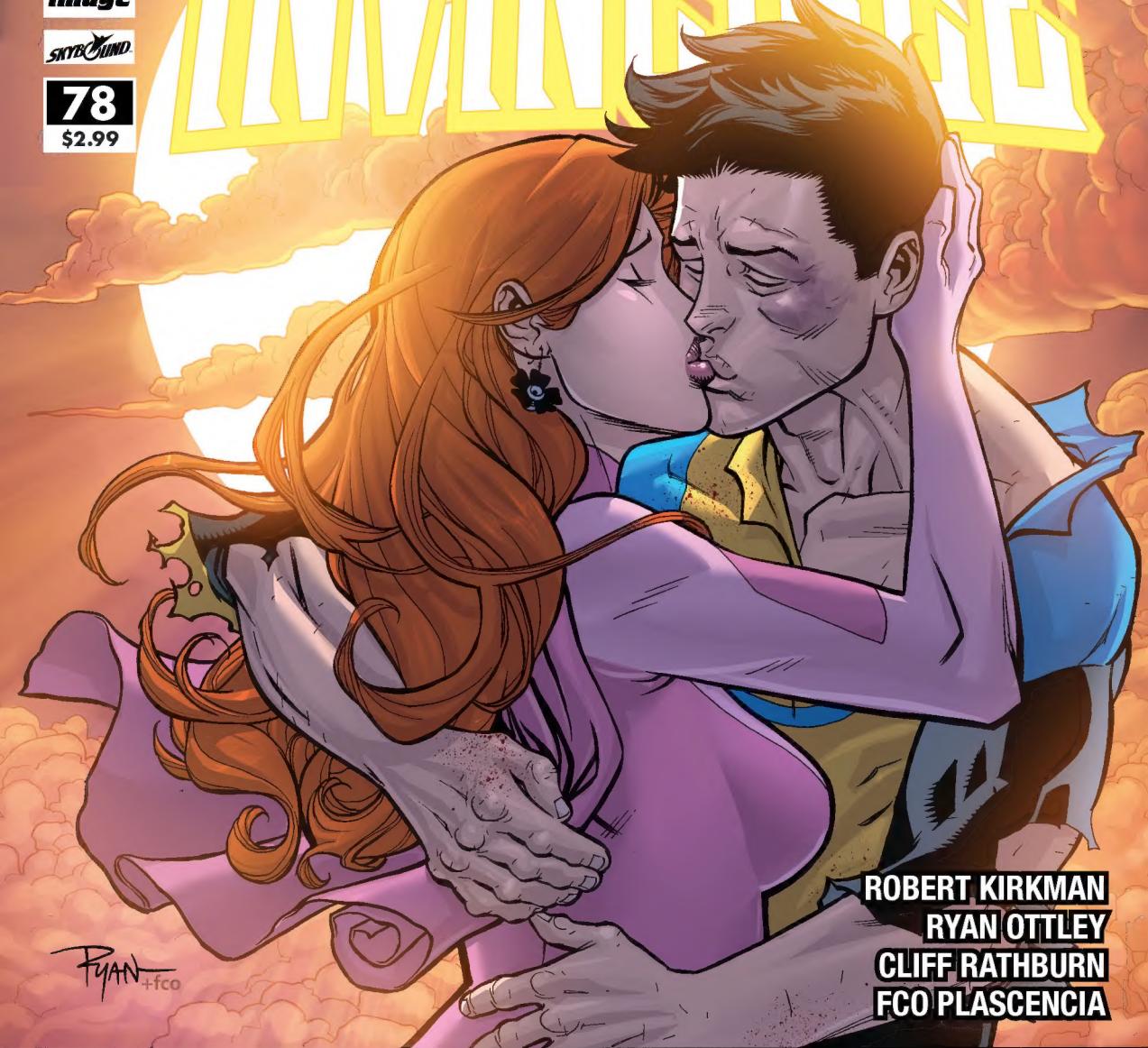


image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN
INKER

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLORIST

SHEILA SALDANA
COLOR ASSISTANT

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

SINA GRACE
EDITOR

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & FCO PLASCENCIA
CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman - chief operating officer

Erik Larsen - chief financial officer

Marc Silvestri - president

Todd McFarlane - chief executive officer

Jim Valentino - vice-president

Eric Stephenson - publisher

Todd McFarlane - creative & licensing coordinator

Sarah deLine - pr & marketing coordinator

Branwyn Bigglestone - accounts manager

Emily Miller - administrative assistant

Tyler Tarr - production manager

Drew Gill - art director

Jonathan Chan - senior production artist

Monica Howard - production artist

Vincent Yuen - production artist

Kenny Yuen - production artist

Jana Cook - production artist

www.imagecomics.com



For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Kirkman - CEO

J.J. Diddie - President

Sina Grace - Editorial Director

Chad Manion - Assistant to Mr. Grace

Tim Daniel - Digital Content Manager

www.skyboundent.com

INVINCIBLE #78. March 2011. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2011 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST - 99999

YOU HAVE
CHOSEN
WISELY.

YOU HAVE
MY WORD. WHILE
WE LIVE AMONG
YOU, NO HARM
WILL COME TO YOUR
PEOPLE BY THE
HAND OF ANY
VILTRUMITE.

THE TRUTH
IS, BY ALLOWING
US TO LIVE HERE,
THE TWO OF YOU
MAY VERY WELL
HAVE BECOME
THE SAVIORS
OF OUR
PEOPLE.

IRONIC.



MY
GOD...

WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?

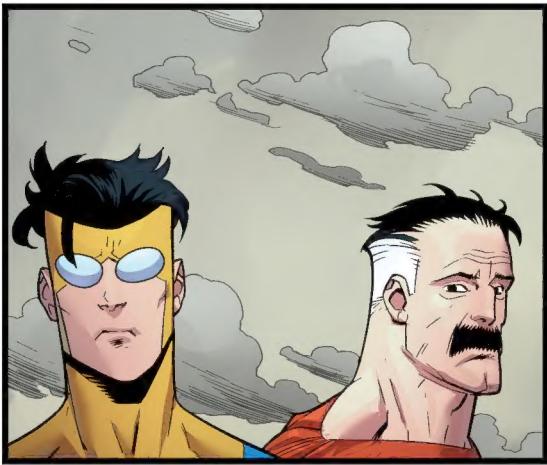


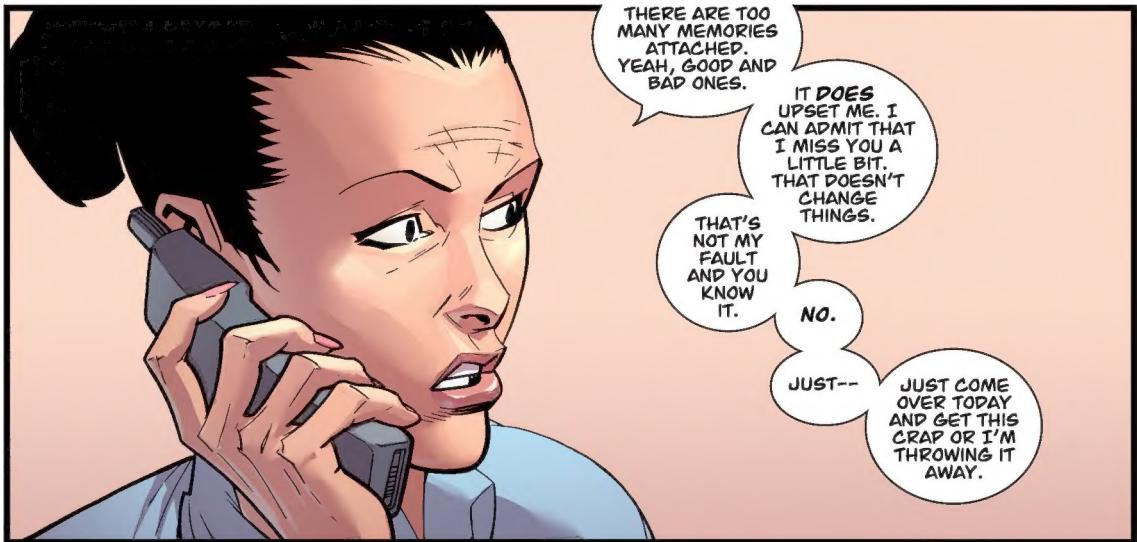
YOU HAVE
SAVED THE
LIVES OF
EVERY LIVING
THING ON THIS
PLANET.

YOU WILL
NOT HEAR
FROM ME AGAIN.

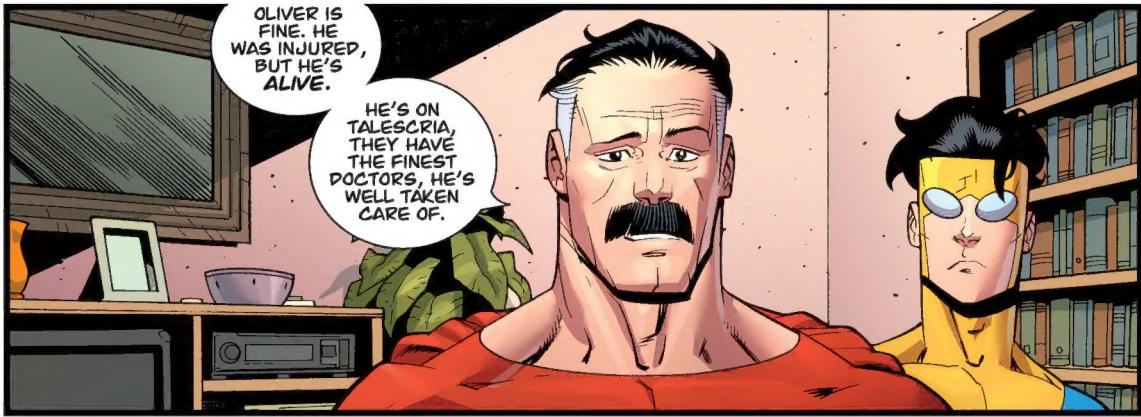
I LEAVE
YOU.

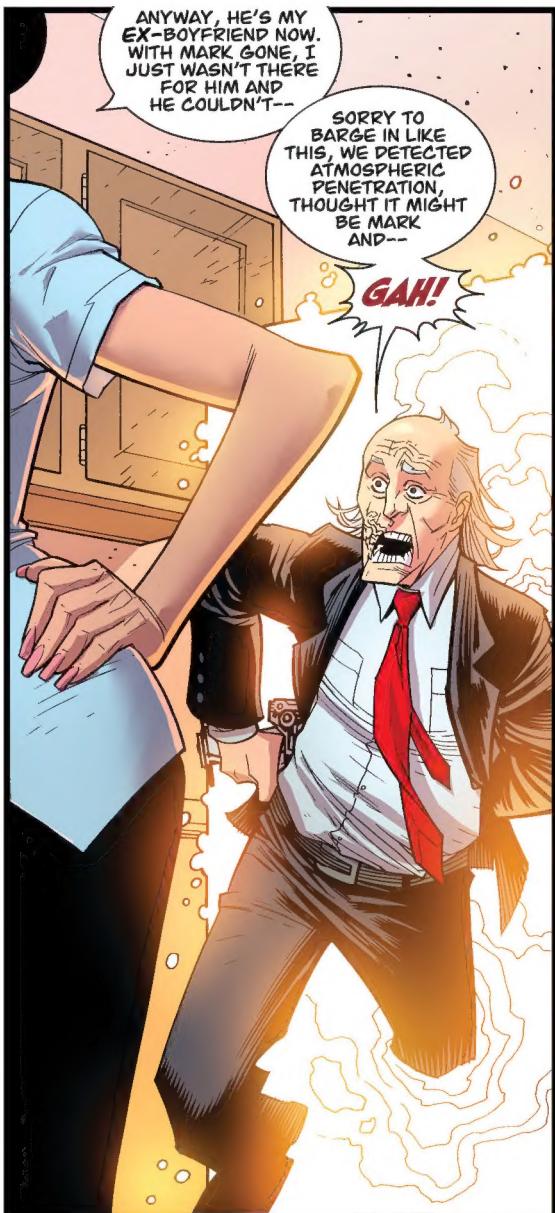


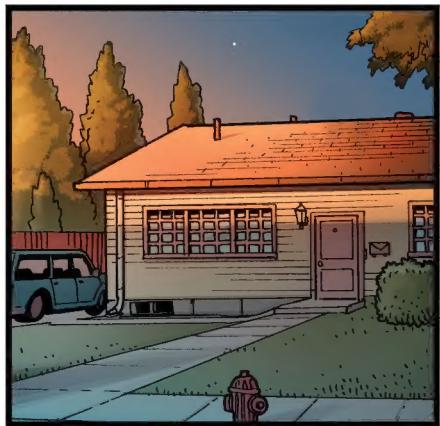




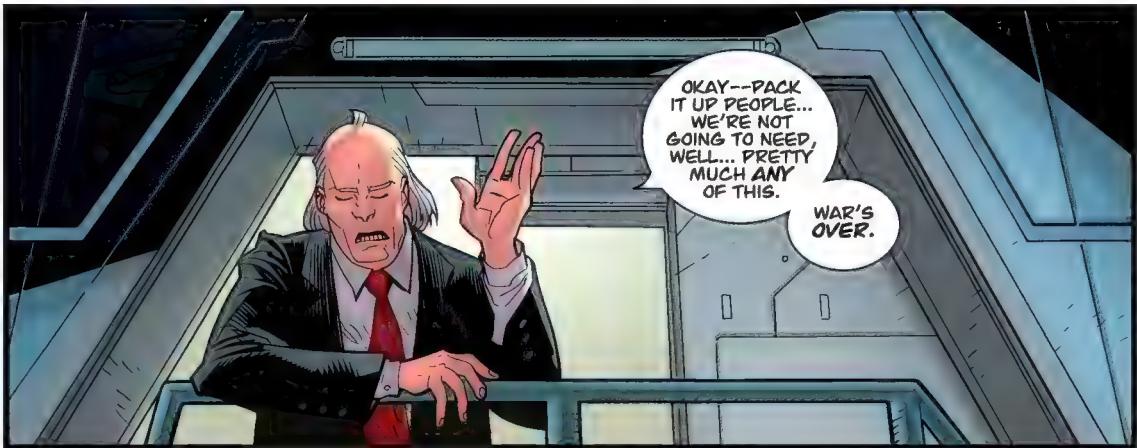
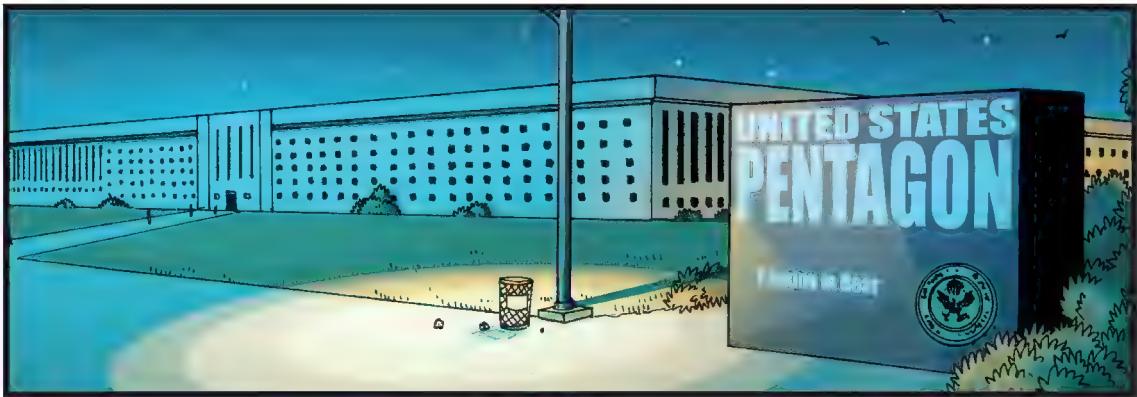












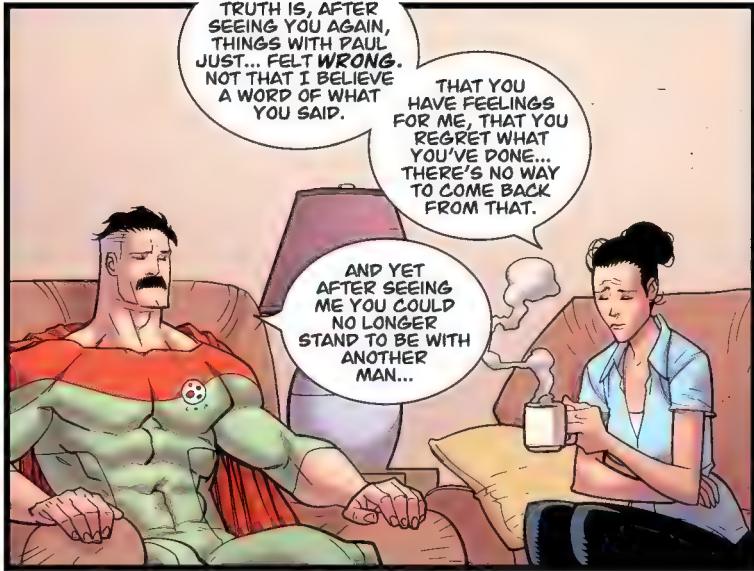


BUMMER.









I CAN NEVER
TAKE BACK WHAT
I DID TO YOU. I
UNDERSTAND THAT.
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT
I WAS MISGUIDED...
LOST... THERE WERE
SO MANY EMOTIONS...
CONFLICTING
THOUGHTS...

I HAD
THOUSANDS OF
YEARS OF BELIEFS
TO OVERCOME, YOU
HAVE TO TRY AND
UNDERSTAND...

I DON'T
HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND
A GODDAMN
THING! YOU
RUINED MY
LIFE, YOU
SON OF A
BITCH!

DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT?
YOU
RUINED--!!

I JUST
WISH...

I WISH
EVERYTHING
COULD GO BACK
TO THE WAY
IT WAS
BEFORE...

NO.

THINGS
WILL NEVER
GO BACK
TO THE
WAY THEY
WERE...

...BECAUSE
I WILL NEVER
LIE TO YOU
AGAIN.





I KILLED CONQUEST.

WE DESTROYED VILTRUM.

WE ENDED THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

...

BUT NOW THEY'RE HERE...

THE WAR IS OVER...

...BUT WE DIDN'T WIN.







WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 1870
RICHMOND, KY 40476

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE

Hey all,

We've happened upon the final installment of the ever-epic Vitruite War! I came on as the editor right at part one, so it feels like a massive achievement to see this entire arc come to a close.

More importantly, I'm impressed by the little surprise we have on page 16...

Robert has known that William is gay for a long time, and shared it with me pretty much right off the bat after a conversation about another gay character he wrote (Freedom Ring, anyone?). If you go back through the series, there are all these little hints. I love it. There will be more with that character and his relationship in the future.

So yeah, William's been gay since the beginning. I don't know why I never really came out and plainly said it. And really, let's not make a big deal out of it. That's why I revealed it so casually on page 16. It's not a big deal.

But yeah, of the Vitruite War... what a big deal for this book and I hope you guys see what a huge transition this is for the book and how it sets the stage for what's to come in the next 200 issues or so of this series. I know we're all itching to dive in to the future ahead. It's going to be a blast!

Lez open some mail, shall we?

Yez, Lez.

I just wrote a similar letter to Erik Larsen.

Of all the American comics coming out right now Invincible and Dragon are my only must reads every month. (The other must read comic is Gantz, but that's irrelevant)

In the past, we've been made aware that both characters exist in a shared universe, and big things are happening in both books right now. While it might not be the best idea to follow Erik's story to the letter (he destroyed the earth before you! ha!), I would be interested in your take on the continuity of both titles. It would be great to tie both storylines together in some way. I know Erik generally gives "multiple realities" as an explanation for differences, and that's fine, it doesn't bother me, but what's going on with Kurr in your universe right now?

Uhhm, King Kirkman?

First of all, Savage Dragon is my all-time favorite comic series, so it's awesome to be mentioned alongside it. Now, as for the continuity: I have to go by Larsen's explanation that the two books are in fact NOT in the same universe. BUT there's an Invincible in his universe and a Dragon in ours. And when there's a story important enough... it happens in both. But Kurr didn't take over the planet in Invincible. Neither did Mr. Glum, when he took over in Dragon. And y'know, an army of alternate Invincibles didn't destroy a group of the world's largest cities in Savage Dragon. Trust me, it's better this way.

Plus following the recent events in Dragon, not only is most of the planet dead, Kurr's people theoretically should be arriving at earth about the same time the Vitrumites do. Is this going to be addressed at any point in the story?

No, see... because if we DID do that... anyone who didn't read Dragon would be completely confused by that. That's why we don't reflect each other's stories exactly.

I know creator owned books are difficult to work in harmony together, especially when you break things on the scale you and Erik do, BUT neither of you have ever shied away from guest appearances. I know that your plans could completely destroy Erik's plans and vice versa, but I would still be very interested in a renewed awareness of the shared universe both characters live in, even if it's only 1 page.

If 2 Image books should exist in a shared universe they're Dragon and Invincible. Just saying.

Man, what if Hack/Slash and Emitown existed in a shared universe? Can I haz one-shots?

Don't ruin your plans by trying to follow each others storylines, but at this point allowing a little inspiration to leak through would be great. Kurr and his people exist in your universe too (at least I'm hoping they do). And Invincible exists in Kurs. And Invincible could likely tear Kurr's head off. Both characters may be fighting their own wars right now, but an awareness of the 2 wars would be great. Maybe you 2 should put your heads together and come up with a way of uniting storylines without destroying each others plans. I think that would be a lot of fun.

Dustin Burdick

This may seem like a good idea, Dustin, but do you know whose lap continuity-tracking will fall onto? The editor's. I'm already busy enough trying to get crazy one-shots in place (The Astounding Wolf-Man meets I Kill Giants: I Kill Wolf-Men).

One of the charms of this book, and SAVAGE DRAGON, that makes them more appealing to some over the fine books from Marvel and DC, is that you DON'T have to read multiple series to understand what's going on. I don't plan on losing that... ever. Aside from the rare mini-series like Guarding the Globe.

Dear Invincible Crew!

Issue 75: Pages 2 and 3, cool! They all look great. Battle Beast looks incredible. Oliver, NOOOOO! For reals? Um, he was just getting cool. T-th-the whole planet? Dude, Epic! Thaeus, um ok -him I can understand. BB knocked out? Eh.

Overall, it was great to see a super team go to war and not make it all out okay. It was brutal, I'm sad about Oliver (who knew? He was a jerk and now I miss him). However,

touch Eve again and I drop the book like a two day old potato skin.)

Robert has other ways of tormenting his characters besides physical violence. Making them fat, for example.

Being fat isn't so bad...

And then Issue 76: I was with you up until Thrall changed his mind. I don't buy it. Omni-man dying so that Mark can escape - that I'd get. But Thrall just changing his mind, leaving the other betrayers alive thinking their gonna join up? Ehuhhhh. Nope. Seems weak. Going to Earth after Mark had escaped to get revenge I get. But their planet, Vitruum, was just blown up. The main baddie stopping when he's got them both right there? WHA? The good guys escaping with casualties seemed... to fit. Not heroic, but right. And that's what I love about your books, defying typical superhero convention. Giving us your twist, but making it believable. AND THEN Nolan's okay? Okkkaaaay, I like the guy - suuuurrrre. The Great Allen? Ugh, really? Please no, that just seems lazy. You're telling me there was no one else in the government to step in. It seemed way out of his character to me. And Oliver's alive? Umm, dude this is officially becoming your fall back "Look I killed someone, and next issue they are back" thing. I'll hang in there because I really love this book (I tell all my friends about it as it is just heads and shoulders above all other superhero books) and I know as the Head Vitruite you've got crazy awesome plans, but issue 60's Invincible War and the Conquest Aftermath were so much better than this Vitruite War. And we're not seeing much of the war either, come to think of it. I know you can only show so much, but the others, even the other planets and other Vitrumites, are really back seat in this thing. I was hoping for more. Maybe instead of the neat Tech Jacket back-up that's in the past, it could've been Tech Jacket in the war from his POV?

The Tech Jacket back-up is something we can totally use for future plans with the character. If it was his side of the Vitruite War, it wouldn't really lend itself to making new fans/ future adventures.

I feel silly saying all of this, but yet I didn't want to stay silent. I care too much about the book. Don't hate me?

I just un-hated you on facebook.

It's really not a big deal, we don't hate you. Some people love this story, some don't. You win some, you lose some. No big deal. In my defense on Oliver... he got his arm and jaw punched off... in the past that HASN'T killed Vitrumites... so I thought the fact that he was alive is pretty well telegraphed. But yeah, I've done that bit three times now, so don't expect it again any time soon. Next time someone dies, you can bet that they're actually dead.

The rest of your complaints, I hope, were addressed by reading the rest of this story-arc.

Either way, the art is still so amazing! GO RYAN! The inking, coloring, and everything else are top notch too! I heard of your Superpatriot TPB coming out soon, and it seems like a missed opportunity. I loved your SP series, both of them. So why just the one? Actually, why not a Superpatriot HC with all four minis collected together? Maybe a page or two from Erik to fill in what happened to Liberty and Justice? I love all four minis, and I'm sure lots of folk would be down for a 12 issue collection over a 4 issue collection. Just a thought.

Oh, that Superpatriot book by Robert and Cory Walker? That book is the bee's knees! If you want to see any ultimate collection with that character, take it up with Larsen himself.

Not to bring up sore subjects but wtf happened to IMAGE UNITED and GUARDING THE GLOBE? I went out on a limb to support IU, was laughed at by some pals who thought it was dumb - but for me it's nostalgia from ole Image days, and now they are right and Image sucks. Well Image doesn't suck, but hey egg, face, you and me. And GTG? Such a great start and.... All I really need is an update in the letters page. I'm not gonna scour the net for info, if you don't want to let folk know then folk will buy other stuff and skip those when they finally do come out.

Anthony, by this point you've seen the third issue of Guarding the Globe, where we may have mentioned that our creative team was being built alongside the comic book's team lineup. We're wrapping it up at a quicker rate, and you're going to love issue 4!

And Image United is being worked on constantly and will be finished hopefully before the end of this year.

Um, sorry for being so harsh. But if I didn't love Mark and the gang, I'd just buy something else and not say a peep.

Way harsh, Anthony.

More Battle Beast! Come on a BB vs. Pitt one-shot by Kirkman and Keown? Printed gold!

Thanks for listening and keep up the good work!

Anthony Burns
Honolulu, HI

As much as we all love Dale Keown, do you know how long it would take for a BB vs. Pitt one-shot to come out? I should know-- I've been trying to set it up all week!

Hey Robert.

I just finished issue 76 of Invincible and I gotta say it was amazing!

After reading 75 and almost breaking down when Oliver got killed, I was very relieved to see that he didn't die and might be back in action very soon. I had the biggest smile on my face when I saw him in that bacta tank. He is one of my favorite characters!

But then you slapped me in the face again with Nolan getting his guts punched out. You

really know how to hurt a guy (myself included).

Invincible is by far one of the best comic books on the shelf today and I love everything you do. I can't wait to see what's waiting for Mark and the rest of the Invincible crew.

Oh and Ryan is such an amazing artist I can see why it's a constant fight for his pages. I'd love to have that 2 page spread of Allen from this issue! (wink, wink). Later dude.

Keep up the good work.
Cody Cook,
Calgary, AB, Canada

Hey Cody, you know that you can buy any and all of Ryan's artwork (that Robert and I haven't picked through) at splashpageart.com! Mr. Ottley sometimes adds free pages with larger orders, too. No joke.

All that being said, I'm not buying you that spread.

Kirkman and Co.,

Hello there and Happy Holidays! It's Dec 26th here in Hampton, VA and I'm a snowed in fool... Luckily I managed to snag a copy of Invincible 76 on Christmas Eve (on a whim) while shopping with my sister (I was right next to a comic shop, I couldn't help myself), so I was able to catch up on my favorite superhero book here on my first White Christmas ever (this snowstorm is crazy!!!!)

Gosh, you're probably still snowed in as of the printing of this letter. #theshining

Let's going on here too... I had a feeling that something fishy was up with Thaeus, it did seem a little odd that he and he alone decided to abandon the Empire when he did. I guess if you assassinated the head of state of your home world AND committed genocide against your own kind (using your own DNA as a roadmap to do so, no less) bouncing out would be a good idea... I have a feeling there is much more than meets the eye with this story, so I'm glad the saga of the Vitrumites isn't wrapped up just yet. If anything, the mystery is even deeper now.

Great Allen, huh? Nice... His getup is quite ridiculous, but it suits him.

Pun intended? By the way, I just found out my roommate hates puns. I don't think my living arrangement is going to last...

I'm glad that Oliver isn't dead (I figured he would survive) it would seem that these Vitrumites are nigh indestructible (we have been seeing lots of entrails lately)... I figured at LEAST Nolan was Done, but I guess not. Good for us, Team Grayson is kind of awesome I must say, I don't want to see it splintered quite so early.

I was shocked to see Nolan just basically throw in the towel to Thragg, almost as surprised as I was at Thragg's mercy upon Mark. Intriguing, indeed.

Read it all in one sitting. The reactions and character choices make a lot more sense when you have the entire war on your lap.

I'm looking forward Invincible in 2011! Happy New Year!!! Skybound, FTW!

Cam Stylez

If you thought the stuff in space was a hoot, wait until you see Mark catch up on everything he missed on Earth!

Dear Robert,

Invincible #76: Once again a winner!!! Best comic of the night, Merry Christmas...oh, wait, you're an atheist, right? Sorry, my bad.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Robert celebrates anything that allows him to gift Peter Parker the newest and coolest Transformer action figure. Do you wanna know what Robert got me as a gift, Andrew? The same Bumblebee figurine he got me for my birthday...

Your letters used to be better, Andrew. I miss the hate, the vagueness... I just... I expect better.

Hey guys!

Top notch job on the Vitrumite War. It's not often a great cosmic story is told but this one has been AMAZING! I especially love the new characters Space Racer and Battle Beast. Both of them deserve their own titles if you ask me! Speaking of Battle Beast, I just finished reading issue 76 and what's the deal with him getting chumped out in the battle? The being known only in myths should've had his time to shine!

Anyway as someone who has lost interest in many comics, thank you so much for making Invincible my favorite book on the shelves!

Al Spader

Al, if there weren't plans to bring back Battle Beast in future issues, there are now!

Dear Invincible team,

Just want to say thank you for putting out the best comic book on the market. I've been reading since issue #1 and have always enjoyed the book but my love reached near obsessive levels with the Conquest arc, which I think is the greatest comic story arc ever. I actually cheered out loud in my car (because I couldn't wait to get home after leaving

my LCS to read it) when Eve turned out to be alive and Invincible head-butted Conquest to "death". Since then I went back and bought all the hard covers and trades (the singles go to my dad to read) to get up-to-date so I could re-read the entire series time after time. I also had to go out and buy a bunch of Ryan's beautiful artwork to hang on my walls.

OK, enough with the butt kissing. I have two requests for you:

1. Please do not mess up the Mark/Eve relationship with a breakup or Eve dying. They are my favorite comic couple and one of the best things about the book. Marvel messed up Spidey/MJ for me, please don't mess with another great relationship featuring a hot red-head. I know this request probably lost me some man points but I hope the fact that I said I cheered when Invincible turned Conquest's face into a bloody pulp makes up for it.

Does making her fat mess up their relationship?

There's nothing manlier than beating up a dude for your babe. Kirkman has the nickname "Pummel Fists Kirk-Punch" in Lexington. It's a little bit of a weird name and it certainly didn't catch on, but... you know, it came from beating dudes up who were checking out her girl at the malt shop.

2. Please keep Ryan Ottley on this book for as long as you put it out. I'm sure Ryan can have his pick of projects at this point but I want to see my favorite artist continue to work on my favorite comic.

Name one person who doesn't want Ryan on this book! Besides every other editor in the business who can't have him!

We certainly love Ryan here. I know I do.

I can't wait to see how the Vitrumite War turns out and what has been happening on Earth since the Graysons left. Keep up the good work.

Cory
Las Vegas

I'm betting ten bucks that this is just Cory Walker writing from Las Vegas. Nice try, Corenthal! You can't fool me!

Dear Ryan,

I just finished Invincible 76, and I had to write in. I'm officially declaring you THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC ARTIST IN THE UNIVERSE. The page where Thragg is chasing down Mark, and Mark is looking back in terror still haunts me as I write this. Just amazing. And I also love that in the lower left panel where Thragg is punching Mark in the face, Thragg is using his other hand to hold Mark's hair. Even though aliens are flying and fighting in space with their entrails spilling out, it's this kind of realism that makes great fantasy. Sina, I know you've been losing to Robert when it comes to original art, but you have to get this page.

Maybe I should have Robert deduct like \$200 bucks every month from my paycheck and direct deposit it to Ryan's. I'm getting page sixteen from this issue (#GAY), so I may as well beef up the order.

Sina, SIR, When I first read your name, I thought you were a beautiful well-endowed blond that Robert hired for inspiration and to sort his mail. But the truth is unfortunately not as sweet as my imagination, as is usually the case.

Sorry to break your heart Paul, but I am handsome well-endowed dark-haired stud. Kind of like Angel but more like James Dean. Robert's publicist, however, is blonde. AND SINGLE! And she's got a sultry British accent! Let's set this up, Paul!

Robert, I didn't know your middle name was Xavior. I'm about to have a son and his middle name is also going to be Xavier, but I'm going with Professor X's spelling. Also, please keep doing conventions. Once my children are grown a little, I hope to have more time to meet you one day.

-Paul Im

Robert will do conventions so long as you put his kids through college, deal?

That sounds good to me.

Woo hoo! That's another awesome issue! Thanks for writing in, and keep up the fun letters. Please note that we are using fewer hash tags and are trying to now incorporate leets talk. Belly skritchiz pleez!

#notdiggingthelolcatsthing

If you haven't already heard through the grapevine, we've opened up an on-line store! For months we had been getting request to put this stuff online, and now you can pick up our goodies from the conventions and some new merch, to boot!

Check it out: www.skyboundent.com/shop

Give it away for the men behind the Tech Jacket back-up. We're almost finished... *sniff* *sniff*

'Til Next month,

-Sina Grace

Sleep tight, children.

-Robert Kirkman

TECH JACKET

CHAPTER 7 of 8

WRITTEN BY: ROBERT KIRKMAN &

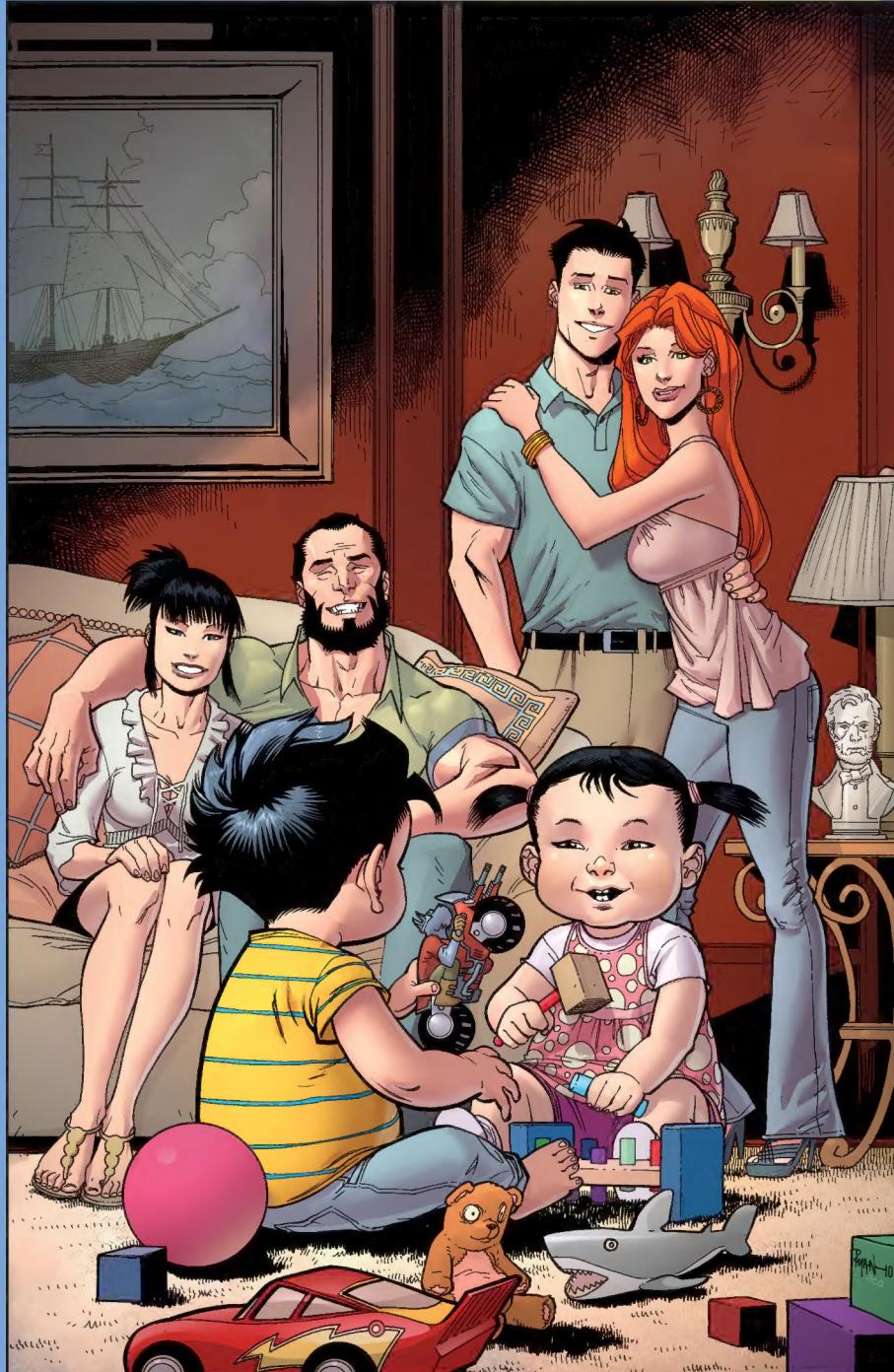
AUBREY SITTERSON

PENCILS & INKS BY: E.J. SU

COLORS BY: RON RILEY

LETTERING BY: RUS WOOTON

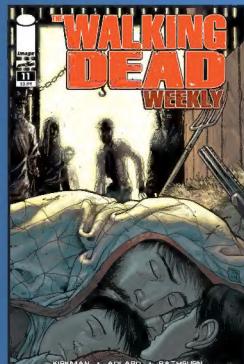
DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



INVINCIBLE #79
ON SALE APRIL 2011



HACK/SLASH #2
ON SALE NOW!



**THE WALKING
DEAD WEEKLY #11**
ON SALE NOW!



HAUNT #14
ON SALE NEXT WEEK!