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SKYBOND
89

INVINCIBLE



1ST ISSUE
IN A BOLD
NEW DIRECTION

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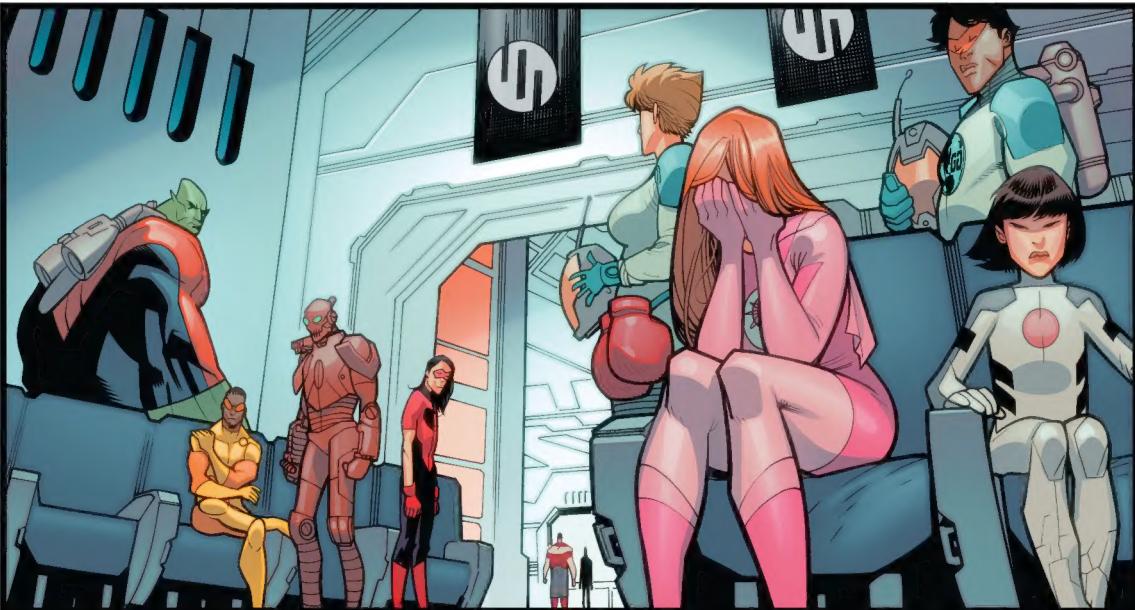
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YOU SIMPLY HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO. YOU DID NOT DETECT OUR PRESENCE HERE, BECAUSE OUR TECHNOLOGY IS VASTLY MORE ADVANCED THAN YOURS.

WE WILL COEXIST IN PEACE BECAUSE TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS, WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE EXTINCTION OF MY PEOPLE.

AND, IT APPEARS, YOURS AS WELL.

AS TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION, WE HAVE DEALT WITH THE SCOURGE VIRUS BEFORE. WE KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.

YOU MUST HONOR THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH MARK. OTHERWISE, WE WILL DESTROY YOU.



UNDISCLOSED LOCATION,
THE SECRET BASE OF
DINOSAURUS.



IT WOULD APPEAR WE ARE MORE OR LESS EVENLY MATCHED.

ACTUALLY,
I'VE BEEN
RESTRAINING
MYSELF QUITE
A BIT THIS
ENTIRE TIME.

I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
HURTING YOU.
I'M FRIENDS
WITH INVINCIBLE.





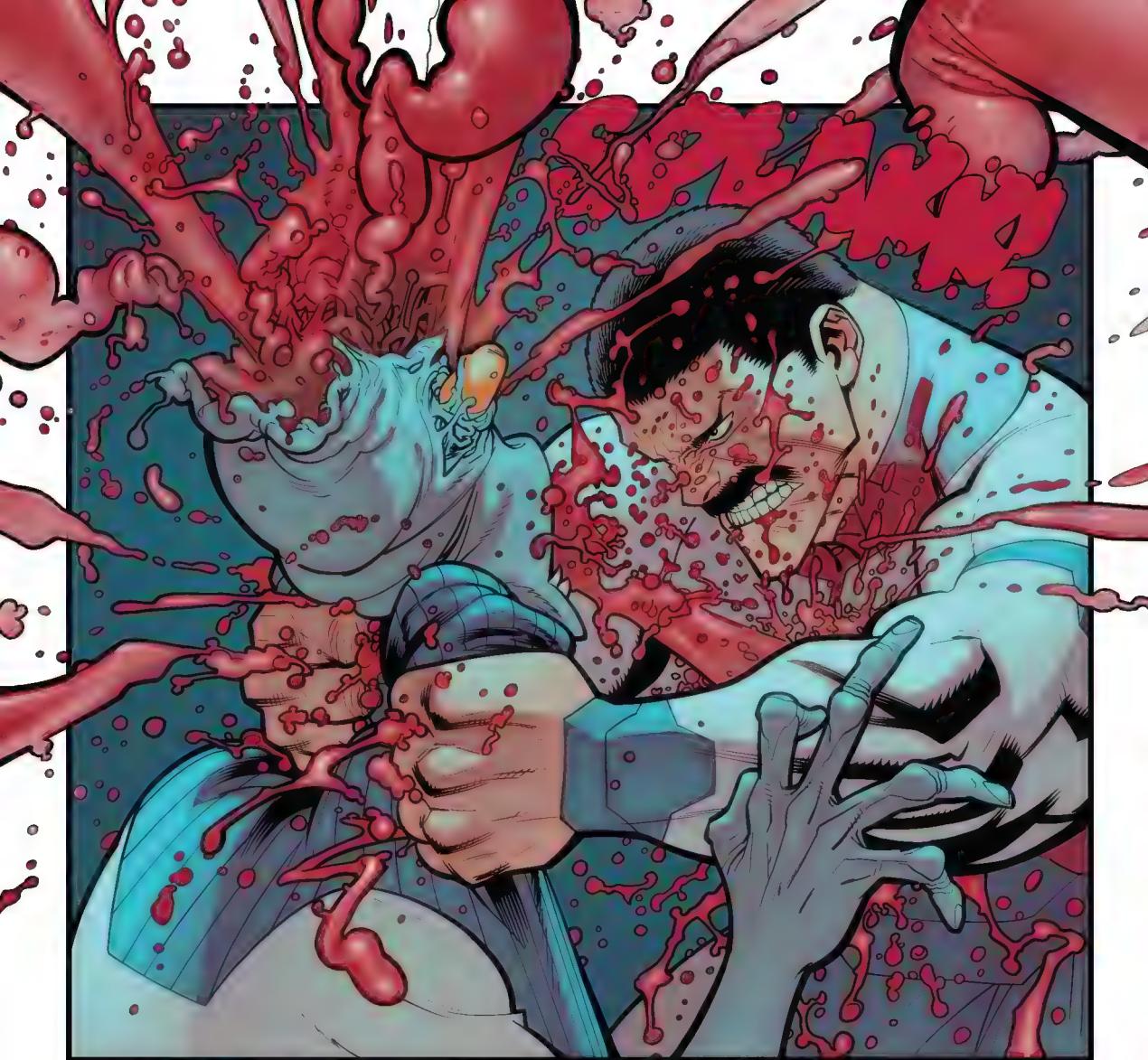


















WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIPALS

Holy Guacamole, Invincipals!

We're officially back on a four-week schedule, which will put us on-time in the early spring.

So much has been going on in this series, and IRL too! We're prepping for Image Expo (which will be going on the weekend this comes out), and slowly making our plans for issue 100. It looks like the debate over Eve's body rages on, and the compliments to John Rauch don't seem to cease (don't get a head on yourself, John... the fame and glory can go away at the drop of a hat!).

Trust me, it so can (Robert in italics). Letters!

Yo Invincible crew,

Holy damn. That was an awesome issue. Is Allen done for? Seems like it but he's tough. Thank you for bringing out this terrific comic every month, I'm so happy I can get it digitally now without delays here in the Netherlands.

If I wasn't a pacifist, I'd hope Oliver gets killed (little snot).

I know everyone's always asking what's going on with Battle Beast. But I'm much more interested in what's going to happen with Angstrom Levy. Please don't wait until issue 100 until he comes back, he's my favorite character and he's a formidable villain. Oh and what's happening with the trapped altvincibles in the other dimension?

Keep making my favorite comic! Peace.

David Vonk

Hey Buddy,

Oliver's a fun dude. Remain peaceful. The thing I love about him is that he will kind of always balance Mark's journey as a hero. The protagonist has to make the right decisions, and do what's best for mankind... his brother? Not so much. It doesn't make him a bad guy, and Oliver's place as such a morally gray character has added a lot of fun... for me at least.

Allen is NEVER done for.

I wouldn't say that...

Angstrom Levy, Battle Beast, and the ALTvincibles WILL be back in this book before you know it. Trust me.

I'm starting to notice when I plan to bring something back right away, it sometimes takes five to ten issues... when I plan on putting something on the back burner... it's twenty issues or more... which is, most of the time, far longer than I ever intended to leave something on the back burner... but... we'll get to it eventually. I mean... we're almost to issue 100 and we haven't seen Angstrom Levy since issue 60-something? (Sina, what issue was it?)

60 on the dot!

Anyway, that's too long. So sorry about that. I had his return all plotted out when we last saw him--and it's just... other things keep getting in the way.

But he'll be back, they'll all be back... eventually... soon.

Dear Invici-crew,

I have been a fan of the book since the start, but the last few issues are going slow, predictable and have become repetitive punching the shit out

of each other episodes. This is what DC comics does. Frankly # 87 was a huge disappointment, hope # 88 doesn't turn out to be another punching session. Please bring back the wit.

Arindom Baidya

First you all complain that nothing's going on and that the book is all talking heads, now you're complaining that it's all fisticuffs and mayhem? We can't win! Oh wait, after some of the sh*t that went down this issue- we DID win.

It's always going to be one thing or the other... and I think there was some wit in 87, but hey--you can't please everyone. I always feel like building up to the fight stuff makes it more awesome... but maybe that's just me.

Hey guys,

I've wanted to write to you guys for a while, around the time I wrote to TWD (thanks for publishing my letter!). I can't remember all the points I wanted to make back then, but I'll state some comments I have now.

1) Is the fact that Mark and his family's last name Grayson a blatant tribute to Dick Grayson? I imagine it is, but I'm really surprised that nobody has ever mentioned it in the letters section.

It's a blatant tribute to Dick Grayson indeed! Got us!

It's so totally NOT a tribute to any DC character. The way Cory and I devised up all the regular names in this book was a pretty goofy process. Debbie is the first name of both of our mothers, coincidentally. So that's where we got that. My dad's middle name is Nolan, and Cory's dad's favorite baseball player is Nolan Ryan, so that's where we got Nolan. The secrets of how we came up with Mark Grayson are somewhat embarrassing... so they'll just have to remain a mystery.

2) Is Eve's red hair also a tribute to pretty much every comic love interest ever? Or is it required for people who have jobs that involve comics to have a ginger fetish? (excuse the slightly non-pc term there...)

Kirkman has a total love for gingers. You should see his wall of Jenny Lewis posters.

Stop lying, Sina. I actually HATE red hair! (not true). I don't really know why we decided on red hair--it really had nothing to do with Mary Jane. Eve was not originally created to be Mark's love interest. I think the color just looked good with the costume colors we chose. Ask Cory.

3) Speaking of Eve, something has bothered me about her new "healthy body image". Excuse me, as this may offend quite a few people.

There seems to be a current trend where overweight women often claim to just be "healthy" and have "normal" or "curvy" bodies. Now I personally think almost all Victoria's Secret models are actually too thin personally to be considered "ideal", and I like curvy girls, but there is a difference between "curvy" and "overweight". And frankly, from what I've seen of how Eve is depicted currently in the comics, I would argue that she is overweight. I understand that at least Robert is a bit hefty, so sorry if I'm personally offending you, but as a chubby child in my past, I think it is wrong to try to pass off something that is unhealthy and easy to fix with enough commitment as being ok. I am a guy who has a large interest in weightlifting/fitness/natural bodybuilding, and believe me ANYBODY can lose weight and get in shape with sound exercise and nutrition, but there is no instant and easy fix. I was spurred to action when I saw the letter by a father who said that his daughter, who resembles current Eve physically, was happy to see a character that looks like her, and is promoting "healthy body image". I would argue that there's nothing wrong with making a fictional character however you want to, but frankly being overweight is unhealthy, and there is nothing wrong with "fat shaming", not counting if it's particularly nasty or abrasive. I watched a youtube clip of a talk show

where a Black, obese woman tried to compare fat shaming with racism prior to the Civil Rights movement, but that is wrong on so many levels. There is nothing inherently wrong or right about certain skin colors, and it can't be changed; while being overweight is the exact opposite.

Sorry about the quasi-rant, but I had to get that off my chest.

You know, this debate is a bigger deal than whenever there's violence against children in *The Walking Dead*, or when Eve got an abortion, or even when William came out (I was really hoping that would be a hot-button topic, but alas). Eve's kind of at a Lane Bryant model weight range... where she's a wee bit zoftig, but I don't think she's at an unhealthy place... and this is coming from a guy with major body dysmorphia.

You're also misunderstanding the point. A "healthy body image" doesn't mean healthy. Being too fat is unhealthy, no one is trying to dispute that, and being "too skinny" is unhealthy as well. But a "healthy body image" is about mental health, and not torturing yourself or feeling ashamed of your body. I'm fat and somewhat unhealthy, and it's something I'm working to change, I've lost a solid three pounds or so every year for the last few years... and kept it off. So I'm at least not getting fatter. But anyway... if a little girl is overweight, we're not saying she shouldn't try to lose weight, but telling her there's something wrong with her, or making her feel ashamed of herself... is pretty despicable. Losing weight should be a personal choice, right? Being mean to someone doesn't accomplish anything.

4) Also about Eve's weight, but this isn't a personal rant, just a question: Correct me if I'm wrong, but shouldn't Eve's powers allow her to go back to her old body, and also could have aborted her baby, pretty much instantaneously?

Uhhhhh... maybe in a "push comes to shove" manner, but I don't think she really wants to use her powers to tamper with these things...

No, she can't use her powers against living organic matter... she's got a mental block that prevents that. So she couldn't have aborted the baby herself. And yes, using her powers regularly would make her lose weight. She's not as active as she's been in the past... maybe that will change... maybe not.

Thanks for reading guys, and I hope this possibly causes some healthy discussion.

Jordan Oates
State College, PA

PS when I wrote in to TWD I mentioned how it would be cool if you guys ever stopped by my Penn State/State College comic shop, but couldn't remember the name. Well, it's called the Comic Swap.

The Comic Swap, ladies and germs!

Hello All,

Let me start by saying that I love the Cliffhanger at the end of issue #87. After all is said and done and despite the criticisms of some websites (i.e ign.com), I believe Invincible is one of the most balanced books out there in terms of realistic pacing, emotion, intensity and overall character development. The unique part of having complete character control is that the stories seem to grow organically as Mr Kirkman has grown as a writer. This book has done an excellent job of maturing and pulling various plot threads together in a unique and interesting way. I liken it to "Boardwalk Empire" in a sense that there are a lot of gray areas in the decisions that are made and ramifications that permanently change the book. I've been reading comics since the gold plated venom/spidey cover and can honestly say that in my years of reading comics this is by far my favorite. I will say generically that this is the first time that I'm writing a letter, however my reasoning is unique. I always gloss through the letters page to see what topics are discussed and I was immediately disappointed in a readers view point about Eve's figure. Now I'm a guy and appreciate the female body as much as any man but the notion that Eve needs to be in better shape to showcase her talents is extremely naive. I LOVE the fact that you have taken a very bold approach and left Eve a little thick after her pregnancy. The fact that Mark still loves her unconditionally after she gains weight is a testament to his character. Kudos for you for sticking to your guns in your response! This is another realistic element that you tackled very tactfully. Keep doing a great job with the book!

Yeah, that's kind of our stance on Eve. Robert's choice to make her bigger wasn't for some grand statement, but a logical decision on what her character's going through.

P.S Ottley is never allowed to leave Invincible!!

Brandon
Philadelphia PA

Never-ever!

EVER!

Dear Skybound Super Team:

You guys rock. All of you (yes, even you, Sina).

Shucks.

I was scrounging around the back of the comic shop and came across an old Invincible poster from back when Mark still thought his dad was gone for good. I remember how he used to hang out at the costume shop, and I really miss that old coot. Is he still around? I was wondering, since Mark got the eye pieces of his costume busted (AGAIN) in issue 87, maybe he should get a clear rubber polymer instead? Like the kind of stuff you get for deep sea diving - they wouldn't shatter, and so I imagine there's less chance of glass-in-eyeball syndrome (totally a legit disease, I'm told). Seriously- when Mark is old and retired, he's gonna look like the Crypt Keeper with all those scars and lines on his face. I don't care how handsome that Viltrumite DNA makes him, sooner or later he's going to look like a background zombie in *The Walking Dead*.

Did you see Conquest? Or Thragg! Viltrumite skin don't crack!
Conquest looked great for 240 years old! (NOT CANON – I’m j/k)

I'd peg his age somewhere in the thousands.

One more thing: How's Eve handling the abortion thing? You touched on it briefly for a bit, but I feel like there's more that needs to be addressed there. Is she going to try and have another kid, maybe? Has she really gotten over what happened initially? It's a pretty intense thing, and I was curious if there was going to be more follow-up on that bit of at-home drama.

Sincerely,
Ryuu @ SciFi Genre in Durham, NC

She's dealing with it between the panels. It's safe to say a planned child isn't going to happen right yet (with Mark in the hospital, and all), also we don't want to get a thousand e-mails about them having a child out of wedlock.

I kid. Or do I?

Robert Kirkman, Robert Kirkman, Robert Kirkman. I'm always obsessed with one writer in particular. First it was Frank Miller, then Alan Moore, then Robert Kirkman. Every book I've read written by him I'm just blown away. Invincible more than others. The excitement never ends, the jokes never get old, and the over-abundant amount of characters is astonishing. I'd like to see a second compendium soon as well as an over-sized 100th issue. Maybe some more Science Dog. Also, Ottley, great job on the art! Keep writing fantastic comics, I'll keep reading them!

Sent from Phil Pecho

Taking this love letter as an opportunity to plug THIEF OF THIEVES. If you love this super-hero book about dudes flying around and punching each other, you're going to absolutely love his realistic neo-noir about a grand thief talking about his problems! Issue one is out now, and issue two just a few weeks after!

Yes, please--buy Thief of Thieves. You'll be glad you did!!

That's the space we've got for now. If you Cory Walker fans are feeling the pangs of his departure- don't worry: he's coming back. Starting with issue 92, he'll be doing pages alongside Ryan's explaining what happened with Robot and Monster Girl in the Flaxan dimension. Sweet!

See you this weekend at Image Expo in Oakland!

Best,

-Sina Grace

Yay! Another issue down! On to issue 90! Woo!

-Robert Kirkman

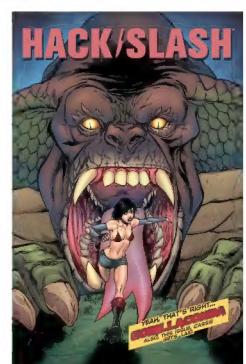
DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



INVINCIBLE #90
ON SALE MARCH 2012



DARKNESS #100
ON SALE NOW



HACK SLASH #13
ON SALE NOW



HELL YEAH #1
ON SALE NEXT WEEK



Question of the Month

"In general: the generation raised on Image Comics coming into their own and being hugely successful for it. In specific: *Saga*, *Corte Maltese* in English and *Sharknife ZZ*."

Joe Keatinge

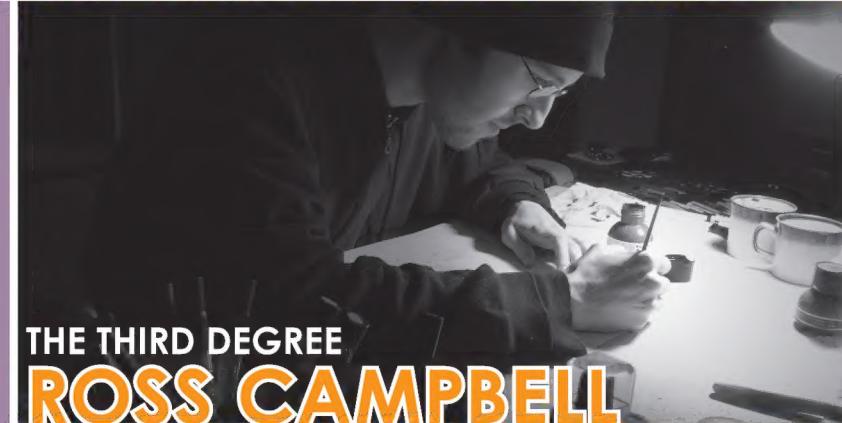
GLORY, HELI-YEAR

"Other than seeing *No Place Like Home* on the same shelves as creators I've always admired, getting excited about creator owned titles again is what I look forward to the most from comics in 2012."

Angelo Tiratzo
NO PLACE LIKE HOME

FEBRUARY 2012

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THE THIRD DEGREE ROSS CAMPBELL

Ross Campbell currently lives in Rochester, New York. He likes cats, Tifa Lockhart, tea, alien terror, and Vin Diesel. He hates frogs, sunny weather, and traveling. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/rosscampbell11 (three 1's). Comics by Ross include *Wet Moon* volumes 1-6 (Oni Press), *Shadoweyes* and *Shadoweyes In Love* (SLG, read online at shadoweyes.net/), *Mountain Girl* (self-published), *GLORY* (written by Joe Keatinge, Image Comics/Extreme Studios), *The Abandoned* (Tokyopop), *Wafer Baby* (DC/Minix), *Spooked* (written by Antony Johnston, Oni), and various short comics *Fraggle Rock*, *Hack/Slash*, and *Vertigo's House of Mystery*.

What are you working on right now?

I just finished up volume 6 of my *Wet Moon* series for Oni Press. I'm working with Joe Keatinge on the new *GLORY* series, I'm writing volume 3 of my teen antihero vigilante story *Shadoweyes*, and currently I'm working on the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*: Leonardo one-shot issue for IDW. Whew!

What's the best part of your job?

Getting to work while wearing pajamas.

What's the worst part of your job?

The frequent lack of money, the fear of a future where I might end up penniless and die on the streets, and being nipticked when drawing a work-for-hire project for somebody else since it always seems like they don't like the ideas I'm most passionate about. Also the pitch/proposal process is pretty soul-crushing.

How did you first discover comics?

I think my first comic exposure was Calvin & Hobbes in the newspaper, and then the old Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird *Ninja Turtles* comics followed by *Spawn*, *Sleepwalker*, and *WildCATs* are what really got me interested.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?

I have no idea. I don't really have any other skills but maybe something involving writing. Or working at a bakery or as a dishwasher.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?

"Can I come visit you and stay at your house?"

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Probably my dad was. But as for influences on my writing... Ross Macdonald, Raymond Chandler, Richard Stark, Patricia Highsmith, Milan Kundera, Alan Moore, and Johnny Craig.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?

Probably character design stuff. Once I get something in my head, I will almost always put up a fight if an editor makes suggestions about how a character looks.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?

Kevin Eastman, Peter Laird, HR Giger, Hayao Miyazaki, and the movie *Alien*.

"WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE MOST FOR COMICS IN 2012?"

"I'm mostly just looking forward to watching the landscape change this year. It feels like a year of change, and I hope smart retailers and publishers push that change in the right direction."

Ed Brubaker
WATER

"I love seeing all of the off beat comics getting made. Seeing weird titles take off totally stokes me. I'm also addicted to *Fearless Dawn* and she's going to space in 2012!"

Jeff Roenning
Alpha Girl

"All of the things that are coming from Image that no one has heard about yet."

Robert Kirkman

THE WALKING DEAD, *INVINCIBLE*,
THE THREE

the word

EXPERIENCE CREATIVITY

THIEF OF THIEVES #1



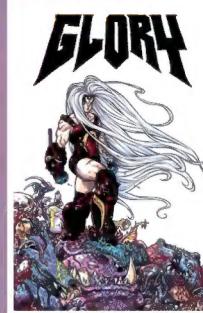
Conrad Paulson lives a secret double life as master thief Redmond. There is nothing he can't steal, nothing he can't have... except for the life he left behind. Now, with a grown son he hardly knows, and an ex-wife he never stopped loving, Conrad must try to piece together what's left of his life, before the FBI finally catch up to him... but it appears they are the least of his worries.

ALPHA GIRL #1



It's 1984, and Judith is your typical 17 year old. She chain smokes, cuts class, sells her tampons to perverts, and she just might be the last sane woman left on the planet. When a third-rate cosmetics company creates a pheromone that turns women into crazed man-eaters, the world dives into chaos. Judith must break her little brother out of juvie, all the while dodging rabid women and the men who hunt them. Judith is Alpha Girl!

GLORY #23



After missing for almost a decade, Glory's whereabouts are uncovered by a lone reporter, but the globe-spanning conspiracy keeping her hidden from humanity could make her return more dangerous than anyone ever anticipated! This first issue of an brand-new saga written by Eisner & Harvey award winner JOE KEATINGE and illustrated by Wet Moon and Shadoweyes creator ROSS CAMPBELL sets up Glory's future by expanding on her past in a way promising to shock long-time fans and excite all-new readers!

NO PLACE LIKE HOME #1



Dee's life is in turmoil when her parents are killed in a freak tornado. Returning to Kansas for the funeral after five years in LA, Dee discovers Emeraldville is the same unexciting place it was when she left—until the bizarre unexplained murders begin. With an unknown killer closing in, the events of one night in 1959 begin to unravel as a portal to a world of horror opens, a portal paved with yellow bricks...