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87

INVINCIBLE™



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image COMICS PRESENTS

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MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO RULE THIS DIMENSION WAS A HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT, DOOMED TO FAIL FROM THE VERY START.*

MY WORLD WAS DYING, ITS ENERGY DEPLETED, I WAS DESPERATE AND HUNGRY—I ENTERED YOUR WORLD IN MY DEPLETED FORM, TRYING IN VAIN TO OVERTAKE YOU.

I UNDERESTIMATED THE RESISTANCE THIS WORLD WOULD HAVE TO OFFER... BUT NOT THIS TIME.

THIS TIME I ENTERED YOUR WORLD UNDETECTED, SPENT MONTHS RESTORING MYSELF, DRAINING YOUR WORLD OF ENERGY WITHOUT DETECTION—WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO STRIKE...

*SEE INVINCIBLE 27.



AND THAT TIME...

...HAS PASSED.

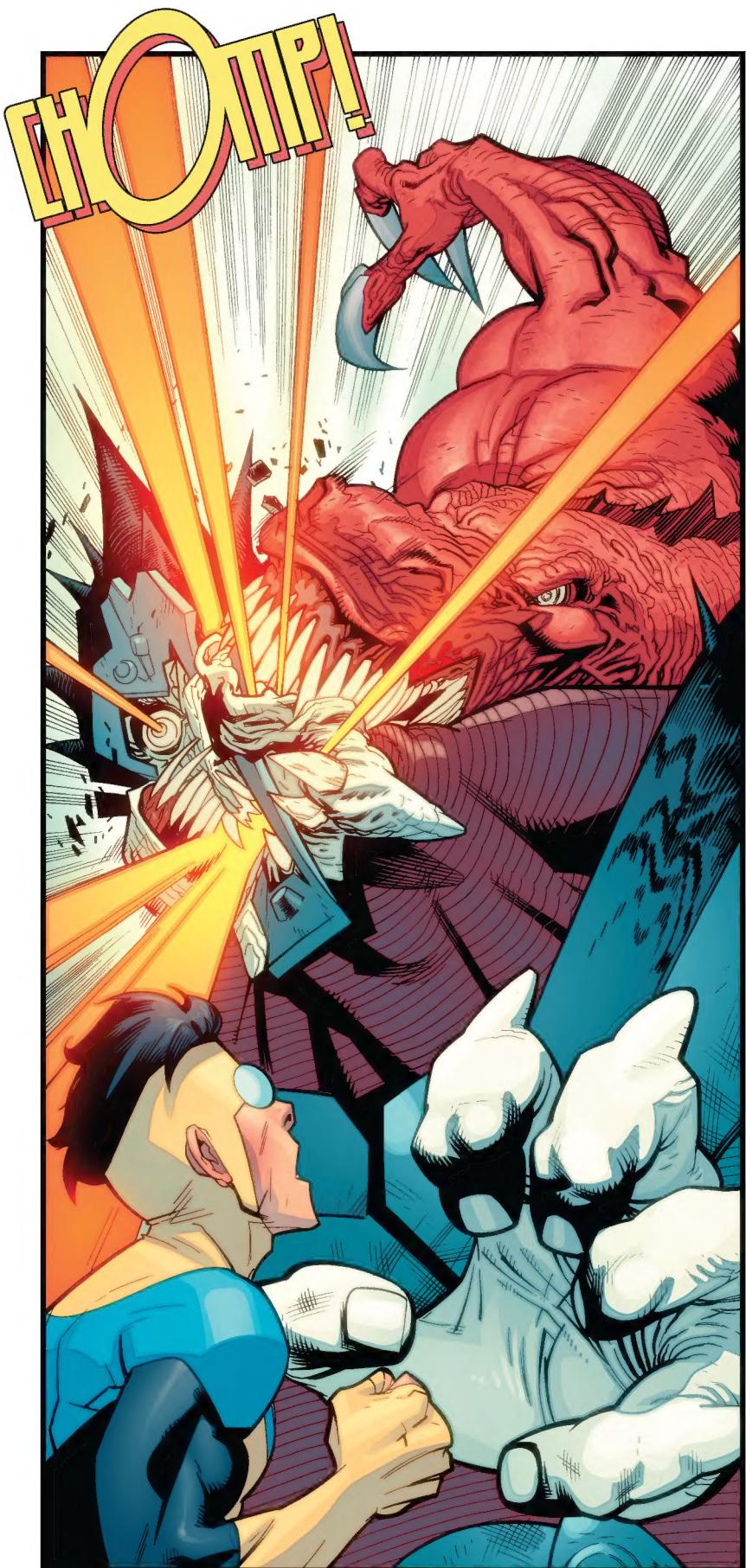


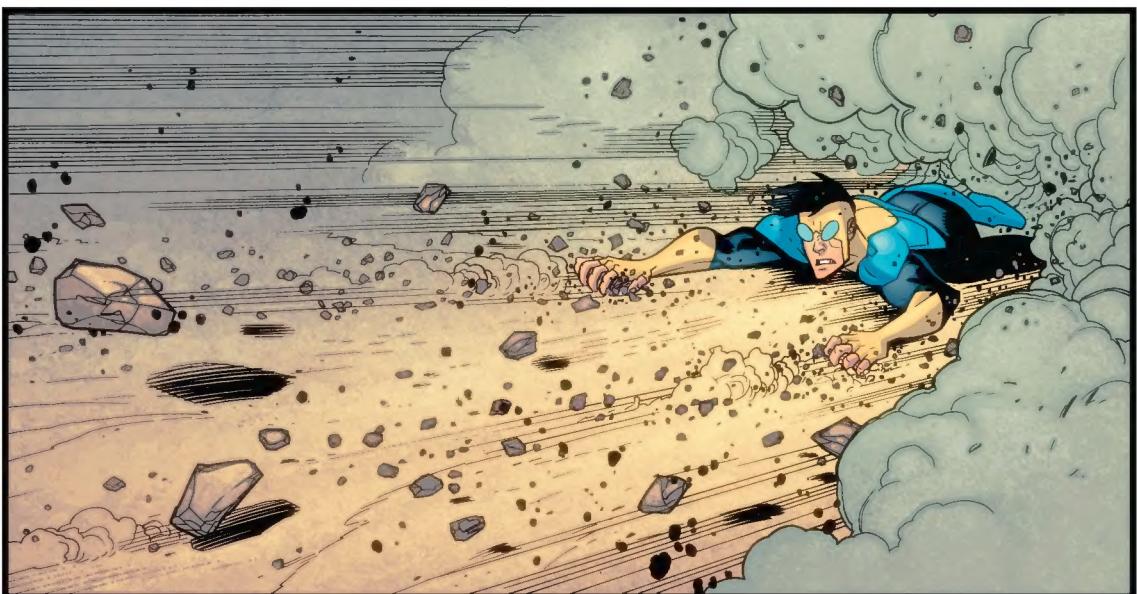
HOW LONG
DID YOU WAIT
TO TELL ME ABOUT
THIS?! THESE ARE
MY FRIENDS! THEY
COULD HAVE BEEN
KILLED!! SOME OF
THEM MIGHT
ALREADY BE
DEAD!

THOSE
IRRIGATION
CHANNELS YOU
WERE DIGGING
WERE FAR MORE
IMPORTANT IN
THE GRAND
SCHEME OF
THINGS.

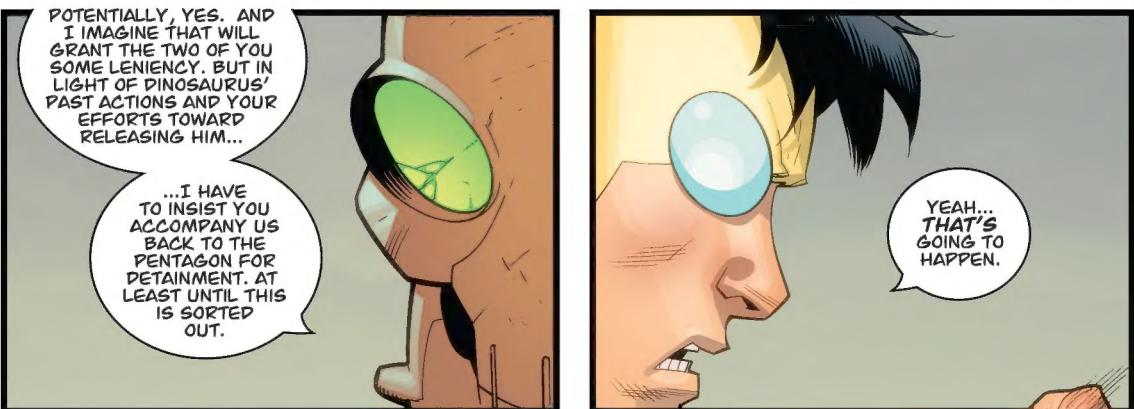
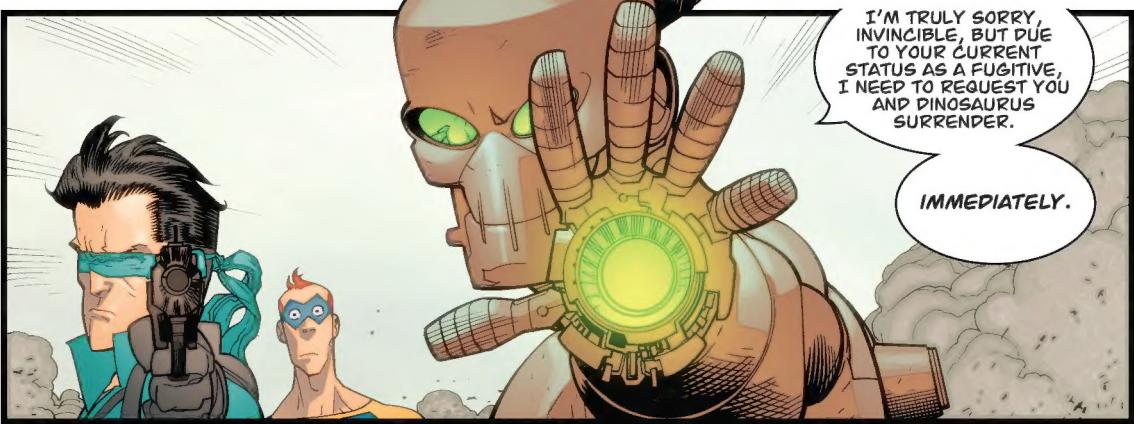
I ONLY
ALERTED YOU
WHEN IT
WAS CLEAR
WE'D BE
NEEDED.

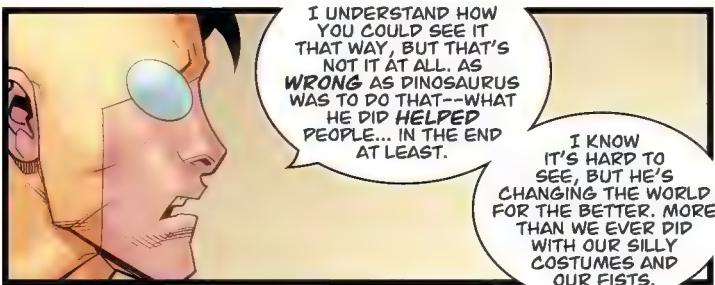












I THINK I'M ABLE TO FIX THAT... AND I HAVE BEEN ALREADY. WE'VE BEEN HELPING PEOPLE ON A LARGER SCALE-- THINGS LIKE WHAT WE DID IN AFRICA.





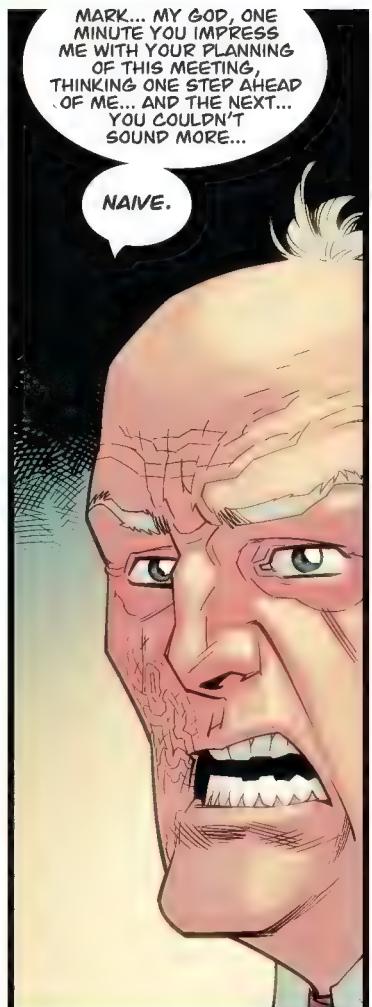
YOU SAW THAT SOLAR PANEL ARRAY... YOU BUILT IT. YOU CAN'T ARGUE THAT IT WON'T HELP PEOPLE. IT'S GOING TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES, AND HELP THE WHOLE PLANET... AND IT COULD LEAD TO MORE LIKE IT.

DINOSAURS DID THAT. HE DID A HORRIBLE, UNFORGIVABLE THING TO ACCOMPLISH IT-- BUT HIS REASONING WAS SOUND.

I CAN GUIDE HIM, PREVENT HIM FROM CARRYING OUT HIS PLANS IN A WAY THAT HURTS PEOPLE... AND HE CAN HELP ME DO THINGS THAT ACTUALLY HELP PEOPLE... THINGS THAT MATTER.

MARK... MY GOD, ONE MINUTE YOU IMPRESS ME WITH YOUR PLANNING OF THIS MEETING, THINKING ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME... AND THE NEXT... YOU COULDN'T SOUND MORE...

NAIVE.







WOW, THEY'VE GOT YOU BACK IN ONE PIECE-- YOU'D NEVER KNOW ANYTHING HAPPENED!

YEAH, THEY GREW MY SKIN OVER NEW MECHANICAL PARTS. THEY ALMOST FEEL NORMAL.

I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT THIS REUNION, BUT WE'RE HERE FOR A REASON...

WHERE'S MOM AND DAD? DID THEY COME?

WELL, NO... THEY...

THEY REMAINED ON TALESRIA. THERE'S A LOT TO DISCUSS. YOUR FATHER INFORMED ME OF THE VILTRUMITES' STATUS HERE ON EARTH, AND...

I'VE DEVISED A PLAN I NEED TO RUN PAST YOU.





IT'S DIFFERENT BECAUSE ONCE THE VILTRUMITES FEEL THEIR NUMBERS ARE SUFFICIENT AND THEY'RE THROUGH INTERBREEDING WITH EARTH THEY WILL RESUME THEIR MISSION OF UNIVERSAL CONQUEST.

THEN MORE PEOPLE, LIKE MINE, WILL BE PUSHED TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION... AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING. THINK OF WHAT THEY DID WITH THEIR NUMBERS DWINDLING. HOW MUCH WORSE WILL THINGS BE WITH THEIR FULL POWER RESTORED?

IF I CAUSE THE EXTINCTION OF HUMANITY IN ORDER TO RID US OF THE VILTRUMITES-- THAT'S IT. IT STOPS HERE AND THE HUMAN RACE BECOMES A WORTHY SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE.



MY FATHER'S NOT HERE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T AGREE WITH YOU... RIGHT?



HE COULDN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE. YOUR BROTHER DOES... WHY CAN'T YOU?



MY FATHER IS RIGHT, AND I'M SORRY OLIVER, BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ODDLY COLD TOWARD HUMAN LIFE IN GENERAL.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS.



I'M SORRY, MARK. BUT WE HAVE TO.



DON'T ACT SURPRISED, ALLEN.

YOU KNEW I COULD NEVER LET YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.



IN FACT, I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SOMEWHERE, DEEP INSIDE, YOU WANT ME TO STOP YOU!

DON'T BET ON IT!

AND YOU--
DON'T DO
THIS, OLIVER.
HELP ME STOP
ALLEN.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE ON THAT
PLANET YOU KNOW--
AND COUNTLESS
OTHERS WHO ARE
INNOCENT. THEY
DON'T DESERVE TO DIE!

THIS
ISN'T
ABOUT
THEM!

OLIVER IS
RIGHT--
BUT ENOUGH
ARGUING!
YOU'RE
WASTING
TIME!

THIS HAS
TO BE DONE
QUICKLY--IT HAS
TO BE DONE NOW!
BEFORE THEY GET
A CHANCE TO
DETECT WHAT'S
HAPPENING!

YOU NEED
TO JUST LET
THIS HAPPEN.
TRUST THAT I KNOW
WHAT IS BEST. I
WAS MADE HEAD OF
THE COALITION OF
PLANETS FOR
A REASON.

BESIDES--
NOLAN
COULDN'T
STOP ME.

WHAT
CHANCE
DO YOU
HAVE?!

HE
HAS
ME.

WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE

Heya Invincipals!

Welcome to 2012. This will be a remarkable year for Invincible. We're going to start shipping on-time again, with the book coming out every three weeks until we're back to monthly. Also, if you do the math, it looks like we'll be hitting a certain 100 issue mark before 2013. Suh-weet.

Let's check out letters responding to the return of Cory Walker (thanks for stopping by, dude), and all the events building up to Mark's stand-off against Allen.

And I may pop in and say something every now and then (Robert in italics, you know the drill by now, right?). Cory did an awesome job on the last couple issues, right? He's great. Let's do it again soon, Cory!

And Ryan is BACK this issue--with a vengeance! I'm really proud of this issue, Ryan really just knocked it out of the park, and Cliff and everyone's favorite new colorist John Rauch are amazing as always. Wooton! Can't forget that guy, always consistently great. Thanks everyone!

Except you, Sina. You suck. Merry Christmas!*

*Christmas will be long passed by the time this sees print.

Dear Invincible Crew,

I have probably drafted at least five emails to you but always get too scared to mail them. I'm a huge fan of the book and started reading it when a local book store was going out of business and got the collected editions for a discount. I quickly started to buy the most current issues and add to my pull account. I just wanted to say how talented I think you guys are. I love Ryan Oterry's art so much. I love his work so much in fact that I started to buy some of his original art, it helps that he was super nice at the convention too. I would love to see Eve back in better shape so he can showcase his talent more. And I hate buying both the collect editions and the singles but I love the sketches and special stuff in them, so please keep throwing those great sketches and other fun goods in there.

Ryan has plenty of art available at cons and on-line! He'll be happy to sell you older art of Eve in her slim form, because I don't think her current figure is changing any time soon.

I have some small requests as a loving fan. #1 (and most important) More Battle Beast! I love that guy, he makes me smile and he rocks in general, if you do another mini book in Invincible like Tech Jacket please consider using him. #2 If you could also use some of the fine characters from Guardian of the Globe in Invincible that would be great too. In particular Le Brusier, Knockout, Kid Thor, and Japandroid I liked a lot. #3 Don't make Monster Girl too loose, it displeases me. If you need someone to be easy use Outrun she fits the bill. #4 Please don't make small action figures for Invincible, if you make them they need to be at least 8 inches tall and if possible don't use McFarlane.

Love it all so much though. Wish there was more Invincible out there to share! Keep up the great job.

-James Moulton

Oh man, Battle Beast is the unspoken Awesome of 2011, to be sure. I can't make any promises about Monster Girl and being loose. Girl's got her own prerogative.

As for action figures, whenever those come about, they'll be the

best things ever!!

They BETTER be! We've been waiting long enough!

I have been on this crazy Kirkman train since the beginning (I was so giddy and thankful back when I had a letter printed in Walking Dead #8) and I have to say that every issue of everything, especially Invincible, just keeps getting better and better. I picked up the Invincible Compendium to jog my memory and for some excellent reading on the bus going to-and-from work. When I finished with it I just kept re-reading all my old Invincible issues and I'm so f***ing happy right now! Invincible IS the best superhero comic book in the universe. It twists and turns and has highs and lows, and watching my hometown of Las Vegas, NV get obliterated was just amazing. I was sitting on my couch in Vegas reading that issue watching Walking Dead blu-rays going, "Damn, look how far Kirkman and his books have come. YES!!!!" So thanks for being so awesome. Invincible is still the number 1 first thing I read every week I come back from the comic store. Now how about a Dinosaur/Super Dinosaur cross-over!! YES!!

Nate Nease
Las Vegas, NV

I would be first in line for a Dinosaur/Super Dinosaur cross-over. That'd be a tough order, tho'. Those characters don't quite have a justifiable reason to be in the same place at the same time besides unparalleled mayhem.

Yeah, for the record... Invincible and Super Dinosaur DO NOT take place in the same universe. They're completely separate. As separate as Walking Dead and Invincible.

Kirkman and Co.,

First off, it's always good to see Mr. Walker pick up the sticks for a bit, especially when he gets to draw Allen (who we just don't see enough of these days). I had a feeling we would be seeing the Scourge virus again, but I am surprised it has come back into play so soon! I'm shocked Allen acted so fast on this, but then again... Did he?

There's been some time since the events of the Vitruvite War.

I loved the stuff with Oliver, Nolan and Mrs. Grayson as well.... Classic. At this rate we could have a whole litter of Invincible kiddies tearing up the place... but I guess that is getting a bit ahead of ourselves, isn't it?

I'm looking forward to December's issue, as I'm not QUITE buying the whole Allen vs Nolan thing... yet. There is usually more than meets the eye when it comes to the cliffhangers in this book (and I wouldn't have it any other way), so I guess I'll see if I'm right or not soon enough.

Will we see what's up w Tech Jacket, Battle Beast, and Space Racer any time soon? What about Universa?

Cam Stylez

Another vote for Battle Beast! I do believe that Robert has his intergalactic heroes on the shelf for a little while... too much to catch up with on Earth. That being said, anything's possible, especially this year!

As with most everyone that's kicking around in this book, we'll see Battle Beast again eventually. But y'know the constant requests

can't hurt. It helps me remember them!

Mr. Kirkman and Mr. Grace

Allen the Alien v. Omni-Man! Drawn by Cory Walker! I haven't been this excited for a new issue of Invincible in a while. Because I am extra excited not because you guys have been doing a craptastic job or anything.

That's right.

Did Allen tell Omni-Man his plan ahead of time so that Nolan would stop him? I am assuming Omni-Man won. Right?

Stop guessing, start reading.

Does Allen really think Earth is an acceptable loss to defeat Viltrumites or is he giving in to political pressure?

Repeat: stop guessing, start reading.

Why is Oliver's skin turning lighter with age? Are his Viltrumite genes asserting themselves more?

This has been explained through the series: as he gets older he is becoming less and less like his mother's side. Viltrumite genes for the win!

Random complaint, because you guys seem to feed off of negative reinforcement (sickos). The ink on your letters page smudges under my fingers. There I said it.

Then go digital—does that actually happen to you?

Thank you for putting out the best superhero comic in any universe.
James Kephart II

Seriously, though: is ink smudging onto your fingers?

Happens to me sometimes, too. Oily fingers--plus death grip on the comics... bad combination.

Gentlemen,

First off, thanks for explaining the Rex/Robot thing again in the letters page. I do recall that little troll guy now. A note from issue #84, how could there not have been a single Viltrumite in all of Vegas? How funny would it have been to have another naked dude off in the distance in that scene? He'd be all, "Dude, I was just about to cash in my chips!"

For some reason all I can think of is Nicholas Cage in "Honeymoon in Vegas." Don't ask why.

Back to issue #85, I love the panel of Allan sitting shirtless on his bed. He's so yolked it's ridiculous. That being said, I'm having trouble believing he'd decide to fight Nolan and release the Scourge virus. Just doesn't feel in character.

Go back and read the past year's worth of issues... it's there.

Anyway, thanks for bringing Cory on to help get things caught up. I'm all about Ryan's pencils but Cory does some nice work and it will be great to have some timely issues.

Kevin

Cory was a welcome addition! It's great to have him revisit the characters that he worked on establishing. You hear that, Cory? I LOVE YOU.

I love you, too!

Dear Robert,

I like how you take everything and turn it on its head! And hey, do I smell spin-off?! You got two different pencil artists...two different planets, and storylines...what's to stop you?! Honestly, I'm not really sure who I like better, Cory Walker or Ryan Ottley! I would've expected Cory to do a lot more by now, what with having left Invincible's regular pages...regularly some 6 or 7 years ago! Guy should be a superstar. Really. Thoughts of The Viltrumite War...

man, that was something, wasn't it? But--why stop there! You know we want more and more, and different, alien races, right? After all it's a big universe; especially since this is actually Labeled "The Best Superhero Comic Book In The Universe!"...but hey, I liked this issue.

Andrew J. Shaw

AJS, the whole point of running two different storylines with two different artists is to keep ONE book running smoothly... do you really want me trying to juggle TWO monthly amazing books? One word: uffda.

Yeah, and as much as I'd love to have 24 issues of Invincible out every year (trust me, if I could--I WOULD) it's just not feasible. But thanks for the kind words. If you're happy, I feel like I've actually accomplished something story-wise. Thanks for continuing to write in!

I recently heard that Topps is going to be releasing a line of Mars Attacks comics in 2012. Would you ever consider doing a crossover with them? Angstrom Levy sort of looks like one of the Martians.

Roscoe
Madison, WI

Honestly, we have never considered that. Ever. Nor will we pursue it. Thanks for the suggestion!

It was awesome when Savage Dragon did it--but I can't do EVERYTHING Larsen did in that book. That would just be ridiculous!

Yo What Urp Kirkman and Co.?

Ty Weezy here; I've written a couple times to the Walking Dead, but I think this is my first letter to Penvincipals. Anyways, short and sweet, I'm doing my quarterly reread of the entire series and I caught something that I'd never thought about before. I think it's in Angstrom Levy's first issue when he busts the Maulers out of jail; Invincible and the GotG are fighting an alien invasion and some unknown figure in the sky takes flies over and then the aliens retreat. I don't remember this ever being discussed later—the identity of the unknown flying person, I mean. Was this Tech Jacket or somebody and I just didn't know about it?

Oof, RK?

That's a tie-in with BRIT: RED WHITE BLACK & BLUE which is collected (in full color no less!) in BRIT, Volume One: Old Soldier. I don't want to spoil it, but that whole alien invasion from Invincible 16 is the plot of that book and it will answer all your questions.

Also you rule. The Skybound Squad is ruining other comics for me. I shout your work out to everyone I know. Also, I'm pumped for where everything is going. Can't wait to see where Allan is headed as a character. Also, pumped for a Larger World. Keep up the good work.

Also what up Sina?

Ty Weezy
Boone NC

I'm just hanging with Mr. Kirkman! Thanks for asking!

Feh... nobody asks what's up with me, ever!

Alright, I think we've got a slammin' start to 2012. Be back in three more weeks for another issue, and find out exactly how messed up stuff is going to get. Woo-hoo,

-Sina Grace

Thanks for reading, as always. Every year I get to write this series is a year I feel incredibly fortunate, so sincerely, thanks everyone! We'll try to make sure we get at least 12 issues out next year--and issue 100! Woo!

-Robert Kirkman

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



INVINCIBLE #88
ON SALE FEBRUARY 2012



THE ACTIVITY #2
ON SALE NOW



REED GUNTER #7
ON SALE NOW



PROPHET #21
ON SALE NOW

Question of the Month

"Mark Stafford is one of the most unique, talented and criminally underrated artists around. His work includes *Cherubs* written by Bryan Talbot and I'm working on a major project with him next year. You can check out his art at: www.hucub-baloney.com. Warning, his art can make your eyes bleed."

David Mme
BULLETPROOF COFFIN,
THE DARKNESS