

( \* LEGION OUTPOST II SUPPLEMENTAL )

v2004.12.172.07

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## Future Tense

by

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### THE ALL-NEW LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES:

When I first read the intro to Mark Waid and Barry Kitson's rebooted Legion in the TEEN TITANS/LEGION SPECIAL, I wasn't too sure how I felt about the premise. Reading the preview pages in DC's HORIZON pamphlet improved my opinion some. In a few weeks (December 29th) we'll all have a chance to judge for ourselves if Waid hits the nail on the head. And you can't beat 40 pages for \$2.95 (comparatively speaking, of course). However, there are a few things I wish to see.



First, I hope that this version is completely separate from the current DC continuity. This is what the TT/LSH SPECIAL implies, and I think that works best. The timeline that Impulse and the Danny Blaine Starman are from is still out there, but it's now missing its Legion, which has been lost in the timestream. The alternate hypertimeline that we will now be reading about should not be readily accessible from the modern day DCU. This means Waid can do whatever he wants without having to worry about what's going on in DC's other titles, which I feel is the preferable way to go given past mandates from other DCU editors.



Second, I hope that Waid knows enough about physics and cosmology to properly depict the enormous scope of our galaxy and the inherent limitations on interstellar civilizations. Someone writing science fiction should be somewhat familiar with the topic about which he or she is writing. It's no different than an author knowing a little history if he's writing a period piece, or knowing something about the law if he's writing a courtroom drama. I think I read in an interview that Waid's a real science nut, so I'm hopeful that we will indeed have some good science in our science fiction. As an example of what I would consider bad science, look at the first issue of the current ADAM

STRANGE mini-series. Superman tells Adam that one of Rann's stars has gone supernova, which makes no sense on so many levels (although the author promises to explain everything). For one thing, stars don't spontaneously go supernova. A supernova is the final stage of a process that takes millions of years, which occurs at the end of small star's life (larger stars become black holes). Rann's stars (Alpha Centauri A+B and Proxima Centauri) have billions of years of life left. And when one of those stars does finally explode, we won't know it for 4.3 years, when the light finally reaches Earth. At that time, all life on our planet would be wiped out by the intense radiation. The whole plot centers around an implausible scenario, which makes it difficult for someone that is aware of this implausibility to suspend their disbelief.

Finally, I hope that readers will be more open to this Legion than they were to the last rebooted version. One of the problems with the previous team was that long-time fans just couldn't accept some of the changes (Sensor as a snake, Wildfire as a merger of two people, Leviathan being dead, Ferro from the 20th century, no Sun Boy or Bouncing Boy or Matter-Eater Lad, etc.). I think this is partly because the writers tried to let us have our cake and eat it too. I've come to the conclusion that, aside from the three founders, Waid and Kitson should create completely different characters for their Legion. In support of this, let's look at the changes being made to Star Boy. There was a lot of discussion on the DC Message boards about him now being a black man. Most posters didn't have any problem with the change per se; everyone seemed to welcome the opportunity to introduce more racial diversity (an opportunity that I feel was completely missed in the last reboot). Some people did however feel that the new Star Boy shouldn't be Thom Kallor. I can understand this viewpoint, because after 44 years of visualizing Thom's appearance a certain way, it's very difficult to see him in any other fashion. Changing all the characters into new people and giving them different costumes eliminates this mental block, enabling fans to accept an all-new Legion

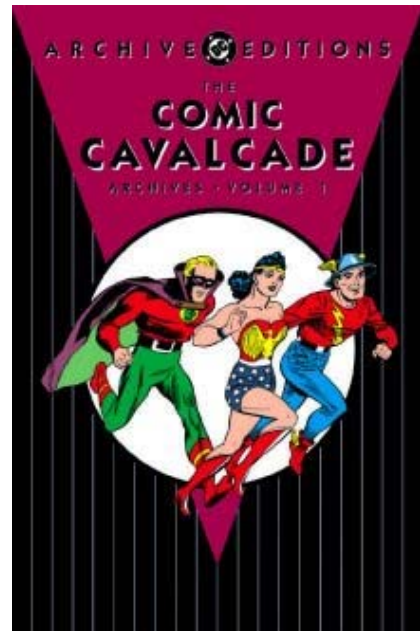


specifically because it is new and not just a rehash of old continuity. Once I envisioned the new team as being in a completely new reality, and not just in a realignment of an old one, I think I became better able to judge Waid's interpretation on its own merits. Hopefully others will also give his version the chance it deserves.

## OTHER COMIC BOOK NEWS:

In other comic book news, I loved the final issue of H-E-R-O, I'm really enjoying IDENTITY CRISIS, and have high hopes for GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH. I just completed my collection of MARVEL MASTERWORKS and am missing only one volume of DC ARCHIVES. Finding that final DC ARCHIVES volume will be tough, because it's currently in its second printing. All the other volumes I own are first printings, so I'm holding out to see if I can locate a local store with a first printing of JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA ARCHIVES vol. 3.

I realized recently that I have far more comics than I actually have room for, so somehow I'm going to have to find the time to pull out the books I no longer want and sell them without taking too big of a loss. I've been dreading this for quite some time, but I've finally reached maximum capacity so now I have no choice. Maybe I should just buy a bigger house. Sigh.



DC has announced some nice trade paperbacks for the next quarter. BATMAN CHRONICLES will reprint Batman's adventures in chronological order, beginning with Detective Comics #27 (May 1939) - #37 (Mar 1940) and Batman #1 (Spring 1940) for \$14.99. SUPERMAN VS. THE FLASH will reprint Superman v1 #199 (Aug 1967), Flash v1 #175 (Dec 1967), World's Finest Comics #198 (Nov 1970) - #199 (Dec 1970), DC Comics Presents #1 (July-Aug 1978) - #2 (Sep-Oct 1978), Adventures Of Superman #463 (Feb 1990), and DC Firsts: Flash/Superman #1 (July 2002) for \$19.99.

The thing I'm most excited about is learning the exact plans that DC has for its 70th anniversary (the 20th anniversary of Crisis on Infinite Earths). The January issue of WIZARD is supposed to reveal DC's Big News, something that will "shake the industry". It appears as if there's some kind of Hypertime Crisis planned for 2005, and it's going to be big. This past year has had numerous examples of foreshadowing. The new SUPERMAN: BIRTHRIGHT origin; the Kryptonian Supergirl and the upcoming appearances by the Legion of Super-Villains in SUPERMAN/BATMAN; the current Titans Tomorrow storyline in TEEN TITANS; Byrne's DOOM PATROL reboot; possibly Power Girl's soon-to-be-revealed secret origin in JSA; and, of course, Waid and Kitson's new LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. My hope is that DC will be returning to multiple realities, with different imprints to distinguish them. One new line is rumored to be some

type of "Ultimate DC", which kicks off with new SUPERMAN, BATMAN, and WONDER WOMAN titles. I think it would really shake the industry if the new "Ultimate" line is used to maintain the trademarks on Clark Kent/Superman, Bruce Wayne/Batman, and Princess Diana/Wonder Woman, while the current DCU is allowed to go off in radically different directions. According to the current TEEN TITANS arc, Superboy, Robin, and Wonder Girl will replace Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman in the near future. What if it actually happens? What if DC allows the older heroes to retire or die? We could even get multiple versions of the Legion out of the deal! Perhaps the latest Legion will be part of the "Ultimate DC" reality, with the previous Legionnaires eventually returning to their proper place in the future of the mainstream DCU. Whatever it is, I hope it's truly as earthshaking as they insist it will be, and not just more empty hype.



Did anyone pick up the DC ENCYCLOPEDIA by DK Publishing? It's a really nice looking book, although I am disappointed at the huge number of mistakes and inconsistencies. Because there has been talk of a corrected and expanded second edition, I've been reviewing the book and posting corrections on the DC Message Boards. I just finished the letters "A" and "B", and have already generated pages of corrections. That said, if you can get the book at a discount, I recommend it because it's still a very enjoyable read, warts and all.

Don't miss out on Glen Cadigan's THE BEST OF THE LEGION OUTPOST, which came out November 24th. Good stuff!

For those who have been collecting the Legion action figures from DC Direct, don't miss the release of the Composite Superman figure on May 25th.

Everyone have a great holiday and a happy New Year! LLLater!