



FROM THE LEAD WRITER OF MASS EFFECT 2

MASS EFFECT™

REDEMPTION

**THEY'VE TAKEN
THE GALAXY'S
GREATEST HERO.**

MAC WALTERS
JOHN JACKSON MILLER
OMAR FRANCIA

**ONLY
SHE CAN
STOP THEM.**



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MASS EFFECT™

REDEMPTION

The stars teem with life . . . and death.

In the generation since discovering the **mass relay** near Pluto, humanity has used the ancient device to make its presence felt in the cosmos. Welcomed into the **Citadel Council**, the people of Earth have proven adroit and adaptive—to the consternation of some longer-established species.

But tragedy struck one of Earth's greatest heroes just weeks after rescuing the galactic capital, the **Citadel**, from a devastating strike. **Commander Shepard**, one of the few elite agents known as **Spectres**, was lost in a mysterious attack on the *Normandy*.

Now, Shepard's friends—including the intrepid asari, **Dr. Liara T'Soni**—want answers. But Shepard's enemies are searching for something, too. Something worth killing for . . .

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OMEGA.

IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE HUMANS, THE TURRIANS, THE ASARI, OR ANY OF THE OTHER SPECIES OF THE CITADEL, IT HAS THE SAME NAME --

--THE END OF ALL THINGS.

OMEGA, A STATION CARRIED FROM AN ASTEROID IN THE TERMINUS SYSTEMS, FAR FROM CITADEL CONTROL--

--ANCIENT, CONTESTED GROUND FOR THE MANY SPECIES THAT NOW COEXIST UNEASILY INSIDE ITS PRESSURIZED HALLS.

OMEGA -- FINAL DESTINATION FOR SO MANY DESPERATE BEINGS WHOSE HOPES HAVE FAILED.

PROVIDING, OF COURSE, THAT THEY CAN GET THERE ALIVE...

WE'RE HERE. A LONG WAY TO BRING ONE PERSON --



-- **THOUGH SHE SURE PAID WELL ENOUGH. THINK THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM?**

I'M SURE OF IT -- BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT SHAKING HER DOWN.



I CAUGHT AN EXTRANET REPORT ON HER. SHE'S PART OF **COMMANDER SHEPARD'S TEAM.**

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, **TURIAN --**



--THEY HAVEN'T SEEN SHEPARD IN A MONTH. NOT SINCE THE **NORMANDY GOT TAKEN OUT.**

IF **TWO-EYES BACK THERE WANTS HELP FROM A **SPECTRE**, SHE'D BETTER PICK ONE THAT'S STILL ALIVE!**



--I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO SPEAK THAT WAY ABOUT MY FRIENDS, **CAPTAIN --**



-- DEAD OR ALIVE.



YOU'RE AWAKE, SO DID OUR LITTLE ASARI CARGO ENJOY HER FLIGHT? WE TRIED NOT TO MAKE IT TOO BUMPY FOR YOU.

I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE SHE LIKES IT ROUGH.



ARE WE READY TO DOCK AT OMEGA OR NOT?

SOON, SOON. I WANTED TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU FIRST ABOUT CERTAIN... *POCKING FEES.*



THIS IS AN EXPENSIVE SHIP I RUN HERE, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE MY OVERHEAD.

I'M REDUCED TO HIRING PEOPLE LIKE THE BROTHERS HERE, AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE THEM MANY... *PERKS.*



YOU'VE BEEN PAID, *BATARIAN.* NOW GET BACK AND --

HEY, HEY--IT'S ALL RIGHT, WE'RE NICE PEOPLE, EVERYTHING'S NEGOTIABLE.

IF YOU CAN'T PAY, MAYBE WE CAN THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE...



I SAID GET BACK!

SHE'S USING BIOTICS!

TAKE HER DOWN!



LNNHHH!



ATTENTION; BATHARIAN FREIGHTER; THIS IS OMEGA CONTROL. DO YOU WISH TO DOCK OR NOT?



THIS IS LIARA T'SONI, OMEGA CONTROL. APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY -- I WAS NEGOTIATING MY FARE. STAND BY FOR DOCKING.

COPY, T'SONI. THIS TRIP BUSINESS OR PERSONAL?



BOTH. I HAVE SOMEONE TO MEET...



"...IN THE AFTERLIFE."

NO (ANNOYED TO BE BOTHERED), I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE LIKE THAT HERE --



-- NOR HAVE I BEEN LOOKING (SAID STANDBOFFISHLY). WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM (USING AN OLD JOKE), THE BAR'S INFORMATION MINISTER?



I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND, I JUST THOUGHT --

YOU THOUGHT BECAUSE I WAS AN ELCOR (A LITTLE MIFFED), I WOULDN'T BE WATCHING THE GYRATING FLESH-THINGS ALL DAY.

ELCOR ARE GOOD DANCERS --





IT'S NOT REALLY SAFE, WALKING AROUND ASKING QUESTIONS ON OMEGA -- EVEN IF YOU'RE FROM AROUND HERE.

THE INFORMATION YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WASN'T EASY TO FIND -- NOT EVEN FOR ME.



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT --



-- WHULP!



SORRY, LIARA...



...WE WERE BEING FOLLOWED. I'M FERON-- AND YOU'RE RIGHT. I DO KNOW WHERE COMMANDER SHEPARD IS.

BUT YOU WON'T LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU.



DEAD?



YES-- OR VERY CLOSE TO IT. IT'S HARD TO SAY. THE BODY HAS BEEN RECOVERED, IN SOME KIND OF STASIS POD--

-- IF NOT DEAD, THEN CERTAINLY NOT ALIVE. I KNOW YOU CAME A LONG WAY-- SORRY TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS.



I NEED-- I NEED TO SEE FERON. FOR MYSELF.

LIARA-- YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE INTERESTED IN FINDING SHEPARD.

I SUGGEST YOU LET THE DEAD SLEEP.



I GUESS MY WORDS DIDN'T TRANSLATE CLEARLY INTO DRELL.

I SAID, I NEED TO SEE SHEPARD.



IT'S YOUR MONEY. YOUR LIFE.

THIS ISN'T
LIKE THE CITADEL,
WITH *TRANSIT* GOING
EVERYWHERE. WE'RE
GOING TO GO A LONG
WAY ON FOOT.

I DON'T
MIND, JUST
AS LONG AS
WE FIND --



NO!



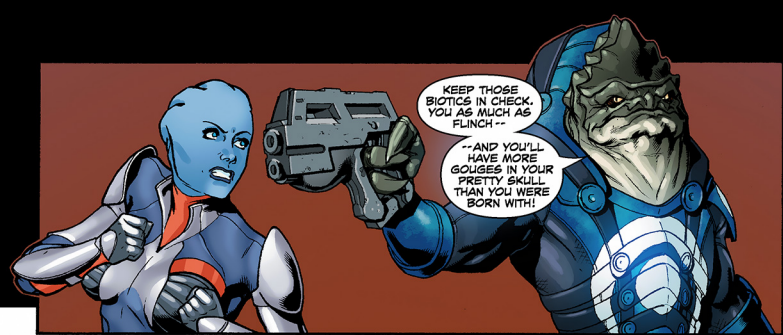
BLUE
SUNG!





FERON,
LOOK OUT!

HOLD IT,
ASARI!



KEEP THOSE BIOTICS IN CHECK. YOU AS MUCH AS FLINCH--

--AND YOU'LL HAVE MORE GOUGES IN YOUR PRETTY SKULL THAN YOU WERE BORN WITH!



YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO OMEGA LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S DEAD. THE *SHADOW BROKER* WANTS TO KNOW WHY.

MY INTEREST IS MY OWN BUSINESS, KROGAN. NOT THAT OF SOME *MERCENARY*--

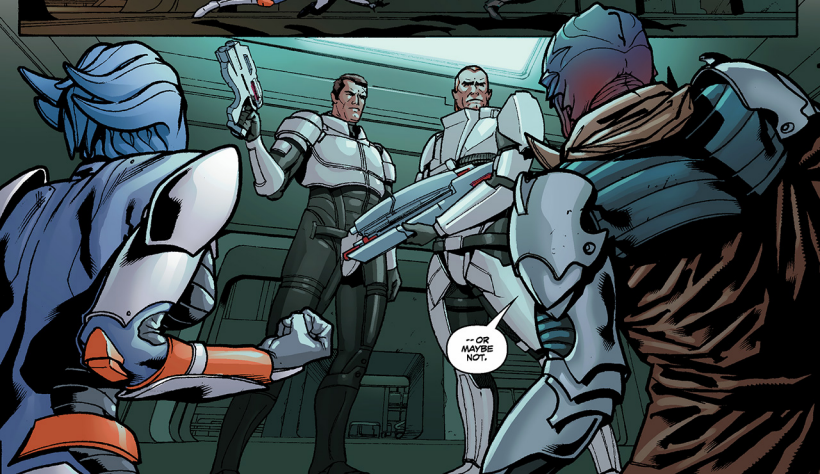
--AND CERTAINLY NOT THE BUSINESS OF SOME DISTANT INFORMATION TRADER.



EVERYTHING'S MY BUSINESS, LADY-- BUT ESPECIALLY THIS. SHEPARD'S A *HOT COMMODITY*.

NOW TALK, BEFORE I DECIDE TO--

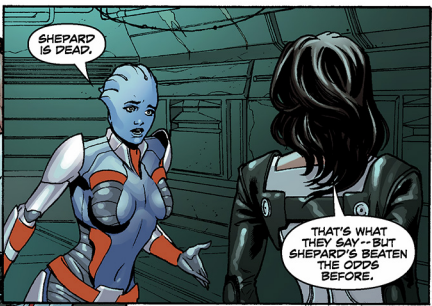






RELAX, DRELL. WE'RE WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL.

FINDING COMMANDER SHEPARD.



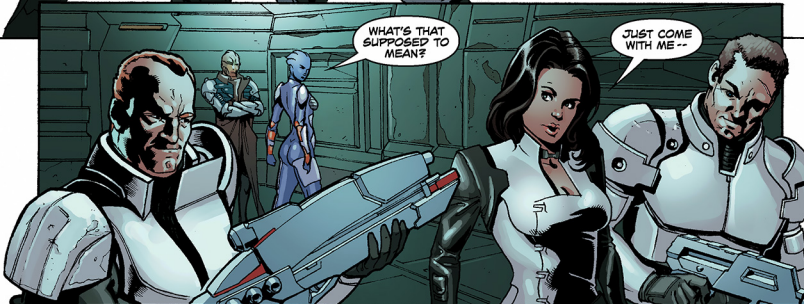
SHEPARD IS DEAD.

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY -- BUT SHEPARD'S BEATEN THE ODDS BEFORE.



I'M MIRANDA. I REPRESENT SOMEONE WHO WANTS VERY MUCH TO MEET YOU. WORK WITH US --

--AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING SHEPARD BACK.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

JUST COME WITH ME --



--AND YOU CAN EVEN BRING THE DRELL. WE'RE NOT BEING CHOOSY TODAY...



SOON, ELSEWHERE
ON OMEGA...

WE SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME HERE,
LIARA. US, LEAST
OF ALL! DON'T YOU
KNOW WHO THESE
PEOPLE ARE?

THEY'RE
CERBERUS-- A
PROHUMAN HATE
GROUP. NEVER
MIND THAT YOUR
PEOPLE SIT ON
THE CITADEL
COUNCIL--

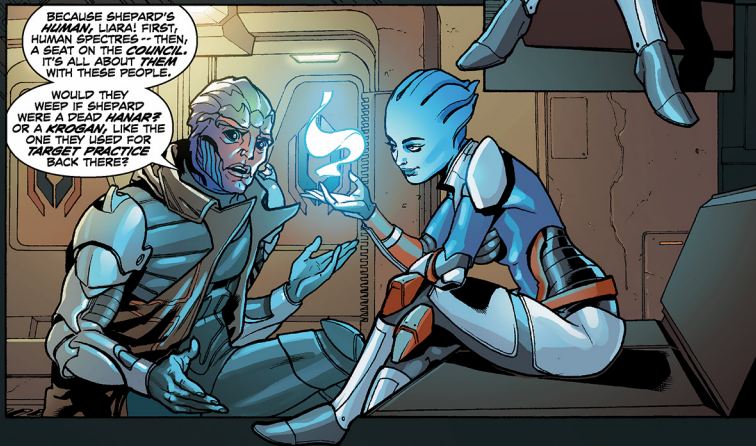
--THEY DON'T
HAVE ANY MORE
USE FOR THE ASARI
THAN THEY DO FOR THE
DRELL! I WOULDN'T
LISTEN TO A WORD
THEY SAY!

I'M NOT
SURE I'D CALL
CERBERUS A HATE
GROUP, FERON--
BUT I WON'T BE
HELPED WITHOUT
REASON,
EITHER.

AT LEAST
THEY SEEM TO
WANT TO GET
SHEPARD
BACK--

BECAUSE SHEPARD'S
HUMAN, LIARA! FIRST,
HUMAN SPECTRES-- THEN,
A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL.
IT'S ALL ABOUT THEM
WITH THESE PEOPLE.

WOULD THEY
WEEP IF SHEPARD
WERE A DEAD **HANAR**?
OR A **KROGAN**, LIKE THE
ONE THEY USED FOR
TARGET PRACTICE
BACK THERE?







WELCOME, LIARA T'SONI--

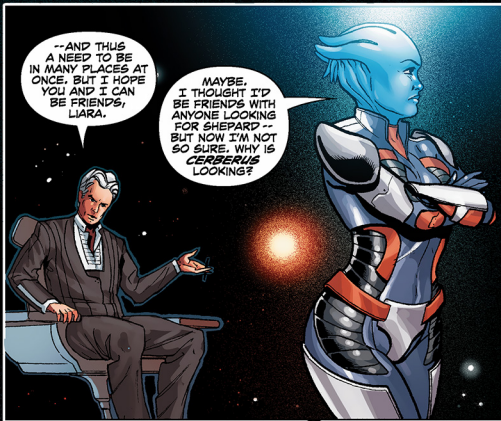
-- YOU MAY CALL ME THE *ILLUSIVE MAN*.



ILLUSIVE--?

THAT'S *ILL-USIVE*--

-- BUT YES, I OFTEN NEED TO BE HARD TO FIND, AS WELL. SOMEONE IN MY POSITION, YOU UNDERSTAND, HAS *ENEMIES*--



--AND THIS A NEED TO BE IN MANY PLACES AT ONCE, BUT I HOPE YOU AND I CAN BE FRIENDS, LARA.

MAYBE. I THOUGHT I'D BE FRIENDS WITH ANYONE LOOKING FOR SHEPARD -- BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE. WHY IS CERBERUS LOOKING?



SHEPARD IS UNIQUE -- ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF OUR SPECIES, A SYMBOL FOR ALL HUMANITY.

DEAD OR ALIVE, WE WANT SHEPARD BACK IN HUMAN HANDS.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF SHEPARD IS DEAD, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT WITH A CORPSE --

AS AN ASARI, I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND OUR TRADITIONS, BUT OUR REASONS ARE NOT IMPORTANT.



WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE SHADOW BROKER WANTS SHEPARD, TOO -- AND SENT THOSE MERCENARIES TO STOP YOU.

IN SOME WAYS, THE SHADOW BROKER IS MY OPPOSITE NUMBER IN THE INFORMATION-GATHERING BUSINESS --

-- ALWAYS WORKING FROM AFAR. BUT NOW, THE BROKER HAS MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL. OR, MORE PRECISELY, DEVILS --

-- THE COLLECTORS.





THE COLLECTORS!
BUT THEY'RE
A BUNCH OF
SLAVERS. WHY
WOULD THEY
WANT A DEAD
BODY?



THAT'S
WHAT I
NEED **YOU**
TO FIND
OUT.

FEW KNOW WHAT
THE COLLECTORS WANT
AT ALL. THEY'RE LITTLE
MORE THAN COSMIC
VAGABONDS--



--TURNING
UP ON OMEGA
FROM TIME TO
TIME, MAKING
OFF WITH
BEINGS OF NO
REAL USE-- OFTEN
WITH TRIVIAL
DISTINCTIONS.

VOLLIS
MIDDLE SIBLINGS.
DYSLEXIC KROGAN.
ELCOR WHO SING
WELL. PERVERSE,
BUT HARMLESS
IN THE LARGER
SENSE --



--OR SO WE
THOUGHT. BUT
THEIR INTEREST
IN SHEPARD IS
ALARMING.


WE WOULD
WANT SHEPARD'S
REMAINS IN ANY
EVENT -- BUT IT'S
VITAL THAT THE
COLLECTORS **NOT**
HAVE THEM.



WHATEVER
THEIR REASONS
ARE, THEY CAN'T
BE ANY GOOD.
WHICH IS WHY WE
NEED **YOU**.




WHY ME? YOU HAVE ALL THESE RESOURCES -- AND YOU HAVE MIRANDA AND HER PEOPLE HERE.




IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO CONTENT DIRECTLY WITH THE SHADOW BROKER OUT IN THE TERMINUS SYSTEMS.

AND WHILE MIRANDA HAS HER ROLE TO PLAY--



-- NOTHING BEATS HAVING SOMEONE WITH A PERSONAL MOTIVE DRIVING THEM.

YOU WERE VERY CLOSE WITH COMMANDER SHEPARD. WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE HERE, I KNEW I WANTED YOU ON MY TEAM.



THE DRELL, FERON, DOES SEEM TO HAVE A LEAD ON SHEPARD. I SUSPECT HE, ALSO, MAY PROVE USEFUL... FOR AN ALIEN.

WILL YOU WORK WITH HIM? CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?



NO --



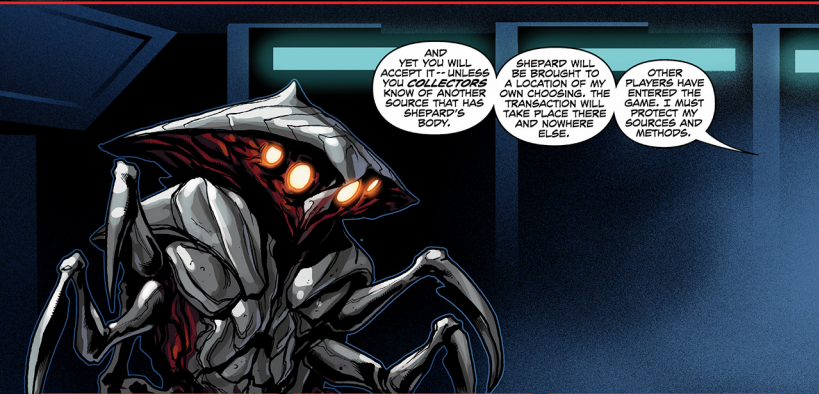
-- BUT SHEPARD CAN.

GOOD--



"-- THAT'S WHAT I WAS COUNTING ON..."

THE DELAY IS UNACCEPTABLE; **SHADOW BROKER!**



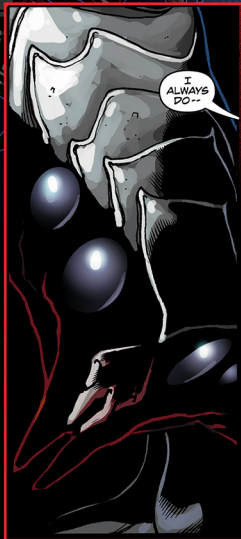
AND YET YOU WILL ACCEPT IT-- UNLESS YOU **COLLECTORS** KNOW OF ANOTHER SOURCE THAT HAS SHEPARD'S BODY.

SHEPARD WILL BE BROUGHT TO A LOCATION OF MY OWN CHOOSING. THE TRANSACTION WILL TAKE PLACE THERE AND NOWHERE ELSE.

OTHER PLAYERS HAVE ENTERED THE GAME. I MUST PROTECT MY SOURCES AND METHODS.



QUICKLY, THEN. **SUCCESS.**



I ALWAYS DO--



-- I ALWAYS DO.

TO BE CONTINUED!



JANUARY 2010



HORSEPOWER!

JAPAN LOVES COMICS, TOO! If you doubt it, consider their largest fan convention, a self-publishing event that 500,000 people attend (imagine Stumptown, APE, or SPX, only three times the size of San Diego, and, oh yeah, this thing in Japan is held twice a year). It isn't called "Manga Market." No, it's called "Comic Market," Comiket for short. Looking for comics in a Japanese bookstore? It's spelled コミックス in Japanese, pronounced *komik'ksu* . . . and it's where they keep all their manga. How about picking up one of those thick, phone-book-size magazines that practically every manga first appears in (the way *B.P.R.D.* or *Conan* first appears as a comic before being collected in graphic-novel form)? The tender *Translucent* ran in a magazine called *Comic Flapper*; the tough *Lone Wolf and Cub* and tripped-out *Domu* ran in a magazine that labeled its graphic-novel line—are you ready?—*Action Comics*. I can just picture Itto Ogami raising that baby cart above his head, while panicked Yagyu flee the scene.

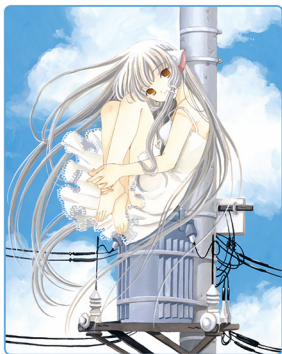
You get the idea, brah! The Japanese have no problem calling what they draw "comics" as well as "manga"—in most circumstances, they use them interchangeably. It doesn't mean they think their comics are the *same* as our comics . . . but who said comics had to be the same? Dark Horse never did—look at our catalog. Recently president Mike Richardson and director of Asian licensing Michael Gombos were in Japan. We were honored to hear many positive things from the publishers and creators, but one interesting detail stood out for me above all. It seems that several years back, when the manga bookstore boom was in full fireball, there was some doubt in Japan as to whether Dark Horse, despite its long history with manga (dating to 1988!) was well positioned to take advantage of it. After all, Dark Horse's strength selling manga had traditionally been in the direct market, not the bookstores.

But now, it's the incredible future year 2010, and even as the manga bookstore boom has receded, we're *still* strong selling manga in the direct market—and reaching further than ever into bookstores with our omnibus program collecting the classic works of CLAMP. The initial title, last spring's *Clover*,

was the first time Dark Horse had ever published a manga the Japanese would consider *shojo*. The truth is, we've wanted to publish *shojo* manga for years—the Dark Horse way. CLAMP is working directly with us to remaster their manga from their own original artwork; you're seeing their work exactly how they intended, and you're going to be seeing a lot more of it soon with this month's *Chobits*, this July's *Cardcaptor Sakura*, and this September's *Magic Knight Rayearth*.

What's most exciting of all is that *Clover* has been bought by people who say they've never purchased a Dark Horse book before—in some cases, they hadn't heard of Dark Horse before. We're hoping that now they're here, they'll get to know us the way you already do. That brings us back to our catalog. I was just helping to proof the summer 2010 edition, and I couldn't help but notice it's in alphabetical order—*Chobits* and *Conan* share the same page. Now *that's* Dark Horse as it enters a new decade. We love コミックス, too!

Carl Horn
Editor



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You LOVE COMICS! WE LOVE COMICS, TOO!



Scott Cook, one of Dark Horse's junior designers, broke into the comic-book biz via Craigslist of all places. Scott's awesome work can be seen in many different titles, including *Star Wars: Legacy and Invasion*, *Sinfest*, *Gigantic*, and a bunch of manga like *Gantz*, *Oh My Goddess!*, *Blade of the Immortal*, and *MPD-Psycho*. Scott's manga collection now exceeds 350 volumes!!!



Quite possibly the fastest letterer in the East—at least for this little West Coast company—**Nate Plekos**, AKA Blambot, graduated with a BA in Design from Rhode Island College in 1998. Since founding blambot.com, he has lettered comic books for Marvel, DC, Oni Press, and Dark Horse. Nate's designs have also been featured worldwide in print, on television, and in feature films.

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