

BAILEY'S COMICS 102 "Return of Bailey's Comics"

By

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BAILEY'S COMICS 102 "RETURN OF BAILEY'S COMICS"

TEASER

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

SOUND: PHONE RINGING

SOUND: PHONE BEING PICKED UP

MAX

Bailey's Comics, this is Max. Oh hey Bailey. No, I haven't heard from the air conditioning guy yet. I'll call you when he does. Alright, bye Bailey.

KEVIN

Bye Bailey!

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

Bailey says hi.

SOUND: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

KEVIN

I was looking through my old Marvel comics recently.

MAX

How old are we talking?

KEVIN

When I was a kid.

MAX

Okay, continue.

KEVIN

You know who didn't deserve their job?

MAX

Dazzler?

KEVIN

Besides her.

MAX

Rob Leifeld?

KEVIN

Exactly. It reminds me of Hulk Hogan. Easily the most famous and recognizable pro-wrestler of all time, as well as one of the worst all round workers to ever set foot in the squared circle.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Over Ultimate Warrior? Over Giant Gonzales?

KEVIN

Alright, El Gigante I'll give you, but let me put it this way: Warrior Warrior and The Hulkster might be tied for the worst combination of low on skills, high on the card. It gets to point where I know I could do better. Which reminds me, I had an idea for a wrestling angle last night.

MAX

I guess I'll humor you. What was it?

KEVIN

It's called "The Dookstroke."

MAX

I'm done humoring you.

KEVIN

You set up this feud between a shit-tar cheating heel and a plucky underdog face. The face can't get a W, but the heel never wins clean. Finally, the heel's valet messes up the screwjob one time, and the face gets in a victory. As he's celebrating, the heel knocks him out from behind. The heel then proceeds to put his title belt in the middle of the ring, drop trou, and take a big, live shit on it.

MAX

I don't think you can televise that.

KEVIN

Then, he picks up the face and gives him a Jeff Jarrett stroke onto the belt, or as it will be known, "The Dookstroke." He then waits for the face to get to his feet and goes to nail him in the face with the dookbelt, with his valet cheering on from the apron. But at the last second the face ducks-

CUSTOMER #1 - AMANDA

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

KEVIN

Hey, Amanda. Anyway, he ducks, and SPLAT! Shit all over the valet's face! Some of it probably sprays into the audience. The heel runs away so as not to get dooked; Title Match.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

I walked in at the wrong time. What is Kevin talking about?

MAX

The destruction of modern television. Nice Amidala costume.

AMANDA

It's even battle scarred. Clone Wars was my favorite.

KEVIN

Can I hit her Max? Please?

AMANDA AND MAX

Shut up, Kevin.

AMANDA

I'll probably end up regretting this, but I'm curious what you were talking about.

KEVIN

Why tell you when I can show you? Max? Hand me down that Big Gold.

MAX

I will ban you Kevin. Don't think I won't.

KEVIN

Oh, the dookstroke? It's just the greatest pro-wrestling angle ever devised by man in the history of... man. I came up with it.

AMANDA

What's an angle?

KEVIN

It's like a storyline.

MAX

Or what passes for one.

AMANDA

I actually had an idea last night for a comic.

MAX

It's gotta be better than the dookstroke.

AMANDA

I was thinking, what if it was a graphic novel that was a collection of short stories, each based in a different nerd genre.

KEVIN
Nice.

AMANDA
There would be Superhero-

KEVIN
Nice.

AMANDA
Western.

KEVIN
Nice.

AMANDA
Superspy.

KEVIN
Nice.

AMANDA
World War Two.

KEVIN
Nice.

AMANDA
But the twist is, they're all romance stories.

KEVIN
Lame!

MAX
Comics really need to expand back into the range they once had. The rise of the Superhero was the death of comics as art.

KEVIN
Blasphemy!

MAX
You see all this shelf space? How much of it do you think is devoted to Superheroes, and how much to other genres?

AMANDA
Wow, Max, you're quite the nerdosopher.

MAX
You should write it. I'm sure you could find somebody to pencil it.

AMANDA

I've never written anything but poetry. I wouldn't know how to start.

MAX

I've got a book around here somewhere... lemme see...

AMANDA

Oh, I was sortof hoping that you-

MAX

(INTERRUPTING)

Here it is! A lot of these books focus too much on the art part, but this one has a nice big section on writing.

AMANDA

Alright, thanks. Is this... your copy, or...

MAX

No, it's the store's. It's sixteen-ninety-nine.

AMANDA

I'll go get the X-Comics.

MAX

No need. Popper set them aside for you, and this time they are clearly labelled.

KEVIN

(SARCASTIC)

That Lo-Pop is a swell guy! Maybe you twos could go to the malt shop later and jitterbug!

AMANDA

Yes, we like Logan.

KEVIN

Since when do we like Lo-Pop?

AMANDA

Kevin...

KEVIN

No, seriously. Lo-Pop has got to be the worst human being ever to walk the face of the earth.

CUSTOMER #2 - JOSHSOUND: DOOR CHIME

JOSH

(WALKING CLOSER)

What's up, Jackwagons. Hey, Mandy, nice outfit!

AMANDA

Where's Britney?

JOSH

She's at the nail salon. Fifth Element chick, right?

AMANDA

I'm leaving now.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

JOSH

See you later! Max, bro, you gonna hit that?

MAX

I wasn't planning on it.

JOSH

'Cause if you're not I might.

MAX

What about Britney?

JOSH

I told you man, she's at the nail salon. Tell me my Fin Fang Foom is in.

MAX

Just came in this morning.

JOSH

Finally! I was about to go out to Seattle myself and and put those jackwagons in a box, ship them six feet under.

SOUND: BOX BEING SET ON COUNTER

JOSH

Aw, man. The box is dented. How much is a round trip to Seattle?

MAX

I really don't think that's necessary. Try opening the box, and seeing if it's alright. I've got a blade around here somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

No need. I got a knife right here.

KEVIN

What the hell, Josh!

SOUND: BOX BEING CUT OPEN

KEVIN

Is that thing legal?

JOSH

Barely. It's for protection. Not that I'd need it, thanks to these twelve gauge shotties, Dexterous and Sinister.

SOUND: KISSING SOUND

SOUND: KISSING SOUND

SOUND: SILENCE

JOSH

It looks alright. I'll take it.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

MAX

Eighty-four, seventy-three.

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING.

SOUND: SILENCE

KEVIN

Later, Josh.

JOSH

You know, you guys are the kind of nerds that might be into this. I had an idea last night.

KEVIN

Stop the presses!

JOSH

It's for a table-top miniatures game. I call it "Panty-Raid."

MAX

I can guess at it's objective.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

It's like capture the flag, but with panties and boxers, and there's two races: Sorority and Fraternity.

MAX

And the miniatures...

JOSH

Would be totally hot tiny chicks in their underwear!

KEVIN

And tiny dudes.

JOSH

Well, yeah. You need two races, though.

KEVIN

Couldn't a Sorority raid another Sorority?

JOSH

I never thought of that! I like the way you think, Melvin.

KEVIN

It's... Kevin.

JOSH

They could all be Sororities, and they could be, like, the nerdy Sorority, and the fat one, and the black one... awesome!

MAX

I think that might actually be popular.

KEVIN

A bunch of dudes sitting around a table raiding eachothers panties. Hooray.

JOSH

Jackwagon. You play it with girls. You are so queer.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)
I forgot my comics.

MAX

Got them right here.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

And the book you recommended to me.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

JOSH

Couldn't stay away, huh?

AMANDA

I'm sorry, Josh is it?

JOSH

Yeah.

AMANDA

Shut up Josh.

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

JOSH

What're you doin' right now. You hungry?

AMANDA

Actually, I think I'm about to lose my lunch. Bye Max.

MAX

Bye Amanda.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

KEVIN

(SARCASTIC)
Bye, Amanda.

JOSH

Wow, Melvin, she really doesn't like you.

SOUND: SILENCE

JOSH

Well, no offense, but there's nothing to oggle in here anymore, so I'm gonna go.

MAX

Later Josh.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

KEVIN

That guy is begging to get dookstroked. Though, I have to admit, Panty-Raid sounds like a pretty good game.

MAX

You'd play Panty-Raid?

KEVIN

If I was a nerd, yeah. Anything's better than a collection of romance comics.

MAX

Say what you will, but the time is ripe for someone in comics to corner the Twilight demographic.

KEVIN

You're just proving my point. I'm gonna go get a soda from the breakroom.

CUSTOMER #3 - GUNTHER

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

GUNTHER

(FAR AWAY)

Is it just me, or is it really cold in here?

MAX

Hey Gunther. The air conditioner is broken. The guy was supposed to be in this morning to fix it-

GUNTHER

If there's one thing switching cable companies every six months has taught me, it's that repairmen come when they damn well please.

MAX

You could leave the door open, if you want.

GUNTHER

I suppose I'll survive the pollen. It's like the clips show episode of Clerks in here. A cartoon which, like it's predecessor, has some laughs but lacks a grounding force.

MAX

C'mon, this is nothing like Clerks.

GUNTHER

Where's Kevin?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

He's in the employee breakroom, drinking the employee's beverages.

GUNTHER

At least he helps.

MAX

Did he tell you that?

GUNTHER

In fact he did. Not true?

MAX

Not true.

GUNTHER

A more clever deception than I gave him credit for.

MAX

It wasn't really all that clever.

GUNTHER

I gave him very little credit.

MAX

Here for the Whedon stuff?

GUNTHER

Just the Buffyverse for right now. I've been reevaluating Whedon as a writer.

MAX

Oh? What is it this time?

GUNTHER

I've been thinking about River Tam as a feminist icon in the same vein as Buffy.

MAX

I suppose you could.

GUNTHER

That's just it. You can't. River's useless most of the time and can't survive without her brother taking care of her.

MAX

Surely Zoey is the strong female lead.

GUNTHER

The woman who does whatever the male protagonist says? Hardly.

MAX

At least you're still enjoying the Buffy stuff.

GUNTHER

Actually, if there's one more contradiction with Angel I might have to stop reading.

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)

Please don't tell me we're talking about Buffy.

GUNTHER

It's a good show considering. I could do a better one, of course.

KEVIN

Oh really.

GUNTHER

Yes. You know the legend of Spring Heel'd Jack?

MAX AND KEVIN

Yes/No

GUNTHER

Imagine a Deadwood style retelling, utilizing ultra-violence, grittiness, and vast exaggerations to illustrate the collective psyche of urban England at the time.

KEVIN

You know Deadwood was canceled, right?

GUNTHER

And so was Kings, both prematurely. But at least in David Milch's defense, Deadwood had an amazing amount of closure, considering they didn't know they were going off the air. But to my point: Jackie Earle Haley as the titular Jack, Hugh Laurie as the no-nonsense Detective, and Evangeline Lilly as a victim that gets involved with the investigation. Fifty-five minute episodes, twelve episodes per season, no more than four seasons.

MAX

You really thought this through.

GUNTHER

And that's just the elevator pitch. I'm just going to grab the comics.

MAX

What took you so long in there?

KEVIN

I ate your sandwich. I thought you wouldn't mind.

MAX

I didn't bring a sandwich.

KEVIN

Then whose sandwich did I eat?

MAX

I think Popper's.

KEVIN

Awesome.

GUNTHER

Ready.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

GUNTHER

(WALKING AWAY)

Bye guys. Good luck with turning off the air conditioner.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

KEVIN

You know the problem with the dookstroke?

MAX

You mean besides it being a biohazard?

KEVIN

It's the matter of escalation. After the number one contendership match, after the dookstroke, how do you kick it up a notch? Their Title Match will invariably be a disappointment.

MAX

An intractable problem. Might as well give up on the whole thing.

KEVIN

One concept has occurred to me, though. A jolly rogering.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Please tell me it has something to do with pirates.

KEVIN

Butt pirates maybe. A good old dry anal raping in the middle of the ring is the only appropriate receipt for a dookstroke. But even the jolly rogering has a problem.

MAX

And what, pray tell, is that?

KEVIN

I'm not sure it's appropriate for a family wrestling show.

CUSTOMER #4 - DERRYL

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

DERRYL

Hey guys.

MAX AND KEVIN

Hey Derryl.

MAX

You get that big check you were looking forward to?

DERRYL

Absolutely. I'm here for that import I didn't get last week.

KEVIN

How was battletoads?

DERRYL

Short. Short but good.

SOUND: RUSTLING THROUGH VIDEOGAMES

MAX

Did you work yesterday?

DERRYL

No, but I might as well have. I was planning on playing Madden all day so I could get it out of the way.

MAX

Didn't go according to plan?

(CONTINUED)

DERRYL

My dad called asking a computer question and I was unable to land that plane from the other end of a telephone.

MAX

You went over to your dad's house for a computer problem? What was it?

DERRYL

He couldn't replace the ink cartridge.

KEVIN

How long could that have taken?

DERRYL

Not long. But afterward he roped me into watching television. With Madden sitting in my PS3 at home.

MAX

Sounds horrible.

DERRYL

I suppose it wasn't all bad. We watched a show I hadn't seen since my childhood: Mission Impossible.

KEVIN

Great movie.

DERRYL

Didn't see it. I'm talking about the sixties TV show with Peter Graves and Martin Landau.

KEVIN

Didn't see it. Wasn't born.

DERRYL

The point is it got me thinking. Wouldn't a Mission Impossible videogame be great?

KEVIN

They have those.

DERRYL

Not the Scientologist version, the groovy one. It occurred to me that there are a lot of games that use competitive multiplayer, but why not put together something just as epic that can be accomplished together?

KEVIN

I'm not following you.

DERRYL

You have five classes: The Coordinator, The Thespian, The Femme Fatale, The Strongman, and The Technologist. There's an agent creator for character customization. Then it's a lot like an updated Hitman, but with more options and everyone working together with split second timing to accomplish their goals.

SOUND: RUSTLING THROUGH VIDEOGAMES

KEVIN

Splitscreen wouldn't work.

DERRYL

It would have to be over a network.

KEVIN

So they're communicating over headsets?

DERRYL

Of course.

KEVIN

Online play is weak. For this sort of thing you would need to be in the same room as your crew.

DERRYL

But the headsets emulate the communication buds used in the game.

MAX

He's got a point. I'd play it.

SOUND: RUSTLING THROUGH VIDEOGAMES

DERRYL

Oh, nice. A NOAH game. It even has Mitsuvara Misawa in it, may he rest in peace.

KEVIN

Who's Mitubishi Mister Jawa?

DERRYL

I thought you of all people would know about NOAH.

KEVIN

As far as I understand Noah wasn't Chinese.

DERRYL

It's Japanese Wrestling. Mitsuvara Misawa is a wrestler.

KEVIN

Like I care. How do you even know about him?

DERRYL

Video games.

KEVIN

You ask a stupid question...

DERRYL

You know, you should really consider organizing your games by developer, and then by year released. They'd be a lot easier to find.

MAX

Derryl, they're in alphabetical order.

DERRYL

Yeah, I know, it's so confusing! How am I going to find anything in this mess?

KEVIN

You found your stupid ass not American wrestling game.

DERRYL

Compared to Madden, I'll take Puroresu any day.

KEVIN

You played Nintendogz.

DERRYL

I still play ET on the Atari.

KEVIN

Touche?

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

MAX

You should try to pitch your game to one of the major companies. I hear people bitching about lack of cooperative multiplayer all the time.

DERRYL

You need to know people for something like that, and I have no idea how to know the right people.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

You just have to get out there and mingle.

DERRYL

There's so many wierdos, though.

MAX

Not as many as you'd think.

CUSTOMER #5 - STU

(STU SPEAKS IN A RIDICULOUS GAMEMASTER BRITISHY
ACCENT)

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

STU

(FAR AWAY)

Good morrow, merchant companions!

DERRYL

I think it's time for me to leave.

STU

You there, have I not seen thee whilst I was
pre-ordering the newest Bioware masterpiece?

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

STU

He seemed to be in more of a hurry than a halfling
being chased by an owlbear.

(SMALL CHUCKLE)

MAX

Good to see you again Stu.

STU

Oltherin. It has been far too long since I have gazed
upon thee-

KEVIN

Gay.

STU

Pray tell, when willst thine Palladin's holy light be
blessing my party with his presence?

(SMALL CHUCKLE)

MAX

I'm just so busy at the shop. I'm working double
shifts, and-

(CONTINUED)

STU

(INTERRUPTING)

Tis a pity that Oltherin has been trapped in the underworld so long. I must admit I had an ulterior motive for asking after the half-elf. My current party was last seen at the gates to the nether-region.

KEVIN

Heh. Nether region.

STU

As such I require a preponderance of ghosts, ghouls, demons, and dead. The only method of purchase at the card shop are those dreadful mixed packs one must acquire sans an understanding of their contents. I refuse to be hornswaggled in such a way.

MAX

I don't know if we'll have enough for you, but the bucket is over there behind the Star Wars.

STU

(WALKING AWAY)

I shall have to make due. Though truth be told I am in a position to eliminate miniatures from our sessions altogether.

MAX

In fourth edition? How is that possible?

STU

(FAR AWAY)

I am currently in the process of designing a system I call Bards and Barbarians.

KEVIN

Original.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

As I have always been more the thespian than the munchkin...

KEVIN

Thespian midgets. Hot.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

I have endeavoured to create a simple mathematical framework within which my party and I can roleplay with an "E" to the height of our copious abilities.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

The setting sounds... Tolkienesque.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

I have indeed been heavily influenced by the giants of the fantasy genre from The Hobbit to 4E. In BnB there are nine races, which I trust will be self explanatory: the hardy Dwarves, the mysterious Elves, the noble Garuda-

KEVIN

What's a Garuda?

MAX

It's a bird-man.

KEVIN

Cool.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

Also the lonely Giants, the mischievous Goblins, the storytelling Halflings, the ornery Ogres, and the cultured Orcs. And of course, Humans.

MAX

Interesting.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

There are then six classes from which to choose: the distant Archer, the silent Assassin, the supportive Cleric, the direct Fighter, the offensive Mage, and the cunning Thief.

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

Interesting.

STU

(FAR AWAY)

Clerics and Mages obviously possess magical abilities, and magic in Bards and Barbarians is divided into three types: sinister Dark Magic, pure Light Magic, and natural Terran Magic.

KEVIN

What's Terran Magic?

(CONTINUED)

MAX
It's Earth Magic.

STU
(FAR AWAY)
Elves of course are divided into three clans: the altruistic Dusholl, the hedonistic Levann, and the Militaristic Lenonn.

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX AND KEVIN
Interesting.

STU
(WALKING CLOSER)
So as you can see, Oltherin, this might be your last chance to play in the old campaign.

MAX
Alright. I'm free Sunday evening.

STU
I shall call on mine party and attempt an arrangement. I have found seven ghosts, eight ghouls, five assorted demons, and, luckilly, fourteen undead.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

STU
Kevin, perhaps you could join in on Sunday. We still have room for a Warlord.

KEVIN
Fourth Edition isn't my system.

STU
Ah, excellent! An edition war! Pray tell, what is thine system?

KEVIN
Marvel Super Heroes.

SOUND: SILENCE

STU
I do believe it is time for me to exuent.
(LIGHT CHUCKLE)

SOUND: SILENCE

STU

(WALKING AWAY)
For I am so large I count as twice a man...

SOUND: SILENCE

STU

(FAR AWAY)
Exuent, you see, is the plural form of exit...

SOUND: SILENCE

STU

(FAR AWAY)
Regardless, I leave.

MAX

Bye, Stu.

KEVIN

Bye Stu.

SOUND: DOOR CHIMETAG

MAX

Oltherin. I don't even remember what God he worshipped.

KEVIN

I didn't know you played DnD.

MAX

Back in middle school I did. I can't believe he's kept the old campaign going so long.

KEVIN

You know what's going "So long"? Any shred of respect I had for your nerd-ass.

MAX

You played Marvel Super Heroes.

KEVIN

That was a good system!

MAX

All I'm saying is, wouldn't it be a trip if you saw all your old outdoor wrestling buddies and backyarded again one last time?

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

I only retired last year. Me and the Red Menace still get lunch, sometimes. Did you know he's dating Suplexia now?

MAX

Suplexia was a beast.

KEVIN

Menace is a bottom, anyway.

MAX

Good to know.

KEVIN

I remember when they got into some politicking with Beautiful Bret Bilt over whether she could suplex him. She was all like "It's my gimmick!" and he was like "I'm the result of a radiation experiment gone wrong!" Good times.

SOUND: SILENCE

KEVIN

It's been a creative day. Lots of good ideas. And Stu's idea.

MAX

It was impressive.

KEVIN

Yeah, everyone except you, Max. I guess you're not creative. You must be one of those sociopathic logic-bot nerds.

MAX

Actually, today's got me thinking. We aren't using this store to the best of it's abilities. This is more than a way to get nerdchandise into the hands of the locals. This location is the basis of an entire community. We should utilize that community.

KEVIN

What you wanna have tea or something? Get together for a bar-b-que out in the parking lot?

MAX

We could. But I was thinking more about the creative ideas I've been hearing. If we can get creative customers in touch with eachother, and then share the fruits of their labor with the community at large...

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

You wanna sell Bards and Barbarians?

MAX

I envision a whole section of the shop devoted entirely to local artpieces.

KEVIN

Did you know Chip raps?

MAX

That's exactly what I'm talking about. He could set up in the store and perform for the customers. Who knows how much business something like that could bring in?

KEVIN

You know, usually I tune out what you say 'cause it doesn't make any sense, but this I get. We could sell our old outdoor wrestling tapes.

MAX

(UNSURE AT FIRST, THEN SUDDENLY SUPPORTIVE)
I... suppose we could, yes.

SOUND: PHONE RINGING

KEVIN

If that's Bailey you should suggest that stuff to him right now.

MAX

I think I should feel it out, wait for the right time...

SOUND: PHONE BEING PICKED UP

MAX

Bailey's Comics, this is Max speaking. Yeah, I... Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Ten O'Clock to Eight. I understand. Thank you. Goodbye.

SOUND: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

KEVIN

Just a customer?

MAX

It was the Air Conditioner guy. He won't be coming in 'til tomorrow.

MUSIC: END THEME

(CONTINUED)

ANNOUNCER

Next time, on Bailey's Comics.

SOUND: GUN COCKING

MAX

Alright, when you go in, aim low. Word from central is they want as many detainees as they can get.

SOUND: TWO GUNS COCKING

KEVIN

These bastards don't deserve anything less than my foot detonating a bomb in their ass.

SOUND: SIX GUNS COCKING

MAX

Listen rookie! I understand you're the Mayor's son, but out here in the field that means jack-shit. You get your head on straight or I will shoot you in the foot and leave you here!

ANNOUNCER

Bailey's Comics and all characters therein are the intellectual property of Kevin Garrity and Paul Logan.

MUSIC: HIT