

BAILEY'S COMICS 109 "Attack of the Bailey's Comics"

By

Kevin Garrity & Paul Logan

BAILEY'S COMICS 109 "ATTACK OF THE BAILEY'S COMICS"

TEASER

MUSIC: THEME SONG

SOUND: PHONE RINGING

SOUND: PHONE BEING PICKED UP

MAX

Bailey's Comics this is Max. Oh hey Bailey. Actually he's right here. Yeah, he hasn't left yet. Logan, it's for you.

LOGAN

Hello? Hello Mr. Bailey, how's Mrs. Bailey?

AMANDA

I didn't know Bailey was married.

LOGAN

That's good.

MAX

High school sweethearts.

LOGAN

Do you want me to keep it open all the way until midnight?

AMANDA

Uh-oh. Sounds like a Gremlin situation.

LOGAN

I guess I can, yeah. It's no problem Mr. Bailey. Alright. Alright, goodbye sir.

SOUND: PHONE BEING HUNG UP

LOGAN

I'm coming in late friday, Max.

MAX

I thought you were leaving early to get ready for the Avenegerverser double-feature.

LOGAN

Yeah, well I'm not seeing it anymore. Mr. Bailey asked me to keep the store open to attract the movie nerds.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

That's too bad.

LOGAN

I saw them when they came out, and I've got them on blu-ray, I'll survive. I've got two tickets, though. Do you want them Amanda?

AMANDA

Absolutely, thanks.

LOGAN

I better get ahold of Paul and tell him we're not going. (WALKING AWAY) I'll see you later Max. Bye Amanda.

MAX AND AMANDA

Bye Popper/Bye Logan

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

AMANDA

So Max, you want to go with me to the midnight showing?

MAX

I can't stay up that late on fridays. Saturday is the outdoor show.

AMANDA

Isn't it in the afternoon?

MAX

We have to set up the ring and chairs and work on our spots. Call-time is at eight.

AMANDA

That's pretty early.

MAX

I think Kevin has rubbed off on Red Menace. The pinko's been taking it very seriously lately.

AMANDA

Where is Kevin? Usually he comes in with you.

MAX

He's at a family reunion.

AMANDA

That's pretty cool. I don't really have much of an extended family. Just me and my parents. And a grandma upstate.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

How come I've never met your parents?

AMANDA

They avoided a lot of the school functions. They didn't really mesh with the system.

MAX

As I recall neither did you.

AMANDA

I guess I got it from them. That's why they were so understanding during my... wilder years.

MAX

How understanding?

AMANDA

Like, pick me up from a rave at three in the morning because the cops called them and then still let me go out the next night understanding.

MAX

High school was a crazy time.

AMANDA

Actually that was eighth grade.

MAX

Really? Damn.

CUSTOMER #1 - GUNTHER

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

MAX

Hey Gunther.

GUNTHER

(FAR AWAY)

Hey Max. Hey Amanda. Arwen from L.O.T.R., right?

AMANDA

You got it right!

GUNTHER

(FAR AWAY)

Despite the costume's inaccuracy, yes.

AMANDA

Inaccuracy?

(CONTINUED)

GUNTHER

(WALKING CLOSER)

Don't get me wrong, it's beautiful workmanship as always. Impeccably sewn. But you show your hand at the metalwork on the headdress.

AMANDA

I've always had trouble with jewelery.

MAX

You should talk to Chip about that.

AMANDA

Why's that?

MAX

He's a certified jeweler. His dad taught him.

GUNTHER

That makes him lucky. My parents refuse to teach me any of their useful skills.

AMANDA

What do they do?

GUNTHER

My dad is an independent film director.

MAX

Anything I'd know?

GUNTHER

He wrote and directed Third Mind's Eye: A Surrealistic Endeavour.

MAX

Yeah, doesn't ring a bell.

AMANDA

Your dad directed Third Mind's Eye?

MAX

You know about it?

AMANDA

I used to watch that every time I- I used to watch it on weekends.

GUNTHER

Awful isn't it?

AMANDA

I can't remember.

GUNTHER

My mom was in it.

AMANDA

Which one was she?

GUNTHER

"Nude Woman."

AMANDA

Yeah, I remember her. So your mom's an actor?

GUNTHER

She just does it on the side to help out my dad. Her real love is abstract painting. Though she's been dabbling in sculpture recently. Rather unsuccessfully, I think.

MAX

Sounds like you don't much appreciate your parent's skills to begin with. Why do you want them to teach you?

GUNTHER

I don't know. Isn't that what parents are supposed to do? I mean, they let me watch Clarissa Explains It All. They knew better.

MAX

Are you interested in directing?

GUNTHER

I suppose I see myself more as a writer. Even if I wanted to learn non-sequiturs I'm not sure they can be taught, so my dad's basically useless.

AMANDA

And the visual arts?

GUNTHER

I can appreciate them objectively, but personally I'm not really into them. Too much symbolism, not enough substance. Art... drama, exists because of the passage of time. Visual art is always caught between moments, like the gutters of these Whedon comics I would like to buy.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

What about the visual art in those comics?

GUNTHER

Visual art in service of a narrative is fine. A dress is of no interest to me until it serves a purpose in a film, for instance.

MAX

So a drawing is of no interest to you until it serves as a panel in a comic book.

GUNTHER

Precisely. Or as a matte painting in a film, or something.

SOUND: REGISTER DING

GUNTHER

It's not that visual art doesn't take talent, obviously, just that the finished product always ends up lacking.

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

GUNTHER

My father has the same problem. The arguments they'd have over the validity of visual art.

AMANDA

Sounds awful.

GUNTHER

Oh, they thrive on it. As soon as they start agreeing on something the spark goes out and they sit in awkward silence, forks scraping plates.

MAX

Well it must have been hard on you.

GUNTHER

My analytical brain and ability to express it have been honed by my exposure to their quarrels.

AMANDA

So in a way they have taught you something.

GUNTHER

Yes. Without their influence I might actually be able to enjoy these comics.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

I know what you mean. Writing my own comic has exposed all the cracks in other people's stories. Plot holes that whizzed right by me the first time annoy the crap out of me on a second viewing.

GUNTHER

And so it begins. Later Amanda. Later Max.

MAX AND AMANDA

Later Gunther.

GUNTHER

(WALKING AWAY)

I'll see you saturday. Break a leg.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

MAX

I don't think you're supposed to say that in wrestling.

AMANDA

Gunther wouldn't consider me an artist.

MAX

You're a writer, that counts.

AMANDA

I've been a seamstress longer. This dress is as much art as any of these comics.

MAX

You know why that dress is art? Because it elicits a response.

AMANDA

It certainly elicits a response in Kevin.

MAX

I wouldn't pay much attention to him. He hasn't gotten laid in years.

AMANDA

Seriously?

MAX

Yeah. Since high school.

AMANDA

Damn. That's almost enough to make me want to fuck him. Almost.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Well if it helps any I hear he's got a big dick.

CUSTOMER #2 - DERRYL

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

DERRYL

(FAR AWAY)
Hey Max.

MAX

Hey Derryl.

DERRYL

(WALKING CLOSER)
Hey Amanda.

AMANDA

Hey Derryl.

DERRYL

Hey! World Destruction: Guided Wills, developed by Imageepoch and released in September of 2008!

MAX

I've got to warn you that it is a role playing game, in Japanese.

DERRYL

It's alright. I've already played the American version, Sands of Destruction, released in January of 2010.

AMANDA

So I guess you don't need it, huh?

DERRYL

Are you kidding? I've been looking all over for this. I won't be able to fit it into my schedule until early next year, but it'll be worth it.

MAX

You even schedule your handheld time?

DERRYL

Max. Come on.

MAX

I don't know how you do it.

(CONTINUED)

DERRYL

I'm really good at scheduling and things like that.

AMANDA

Why do you think that is?

DERRYL

I guess it's in my genes. My mom is a hoarder-

AMANDA

I love that show!

MAX

It must be a mess.

DERRYL

Actually it's not. My dad has OCD. They use a sort of Marvel Ultimate Alliance 2 power Fusion thing and he organizes what she collects.

SOUND: SILENCE

DERRYL

Marvel Ultimate Alliance 2 of course, published by Activision in September and October of 2009.

SOUND: SILENCE

DERRYL

And was developed for the PS3 and 360 by Vicarious Entertainment, and N-Space for the Wii, DS, and PS2.

SOUND: SILENCE

DERRYL

And by Savage Entertainment for the PSP.

MAX

You and your dad sound like peas in a pod.

DERRYL

I wish. He actually threatened to disown me when he caught a glimpse of my filing system.

AMANDA

That's awful.

DERRYL

Filing systems are serious business. I don't blame him.

MAX

How do you deal with the filing system at work?

DERRYL

Now that is awful. I long for the day when I can organize a store Developer/Year/Title/System/Language.

AMANDA

How is it you came up with that?

DERRYL

Filing systems should go from most important to least, and obviously the most important thing about a game is its developer.

AMANDA

Followed by the year it came out?

DERRYL

That says so much more about a game than its title.

AMANDA

I can see where you're coming from. There are a few games called Goldeneye, but the most telling thing about them is when they were made.

DERRYL

And who made them.

SOUND: SILENCE

DERRYL

There's something missing.

MAX

What?

DERRYL

I don't know... something... sardonic.

SOUND: SILENCE

DERRYL

That's it. Kevin's usually butting in with all the asshole comments. I never thought I'd miss that...

AMANDA

He's off at a family reunion.

DERRYL

I wanted to tell him I really enjoyed the backyard show.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Good thing you didn't.

DERRYL

What?

MAX

Nothing. Thanks. We only have a week to put together each show and a lot of the guys are real busy.

DERRYL

Kevin must not be very good.

MAX

Why do you say that?

DERRYL

He's lost three weeks in a row according to the youtube highlights.

MAX

Right, but that's to put people over so they're strong for the feud they're transitioning into.

DERRYL

So you actually feed him to up-and-comers, knowing he's no good? That's cruel.

MAX

You ever hear of The Montreal Screwjob?

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

Survivor Series, 1997?

DERRYL

No...

MAX

Then yes. I keep him around to feed to up-and-comers. Wrestling is a tough business.

DERRYL

It was brutal though, I'll definitely be coming back this saturday. You're actually pushing out my 360 time. I was going to play Armored Core: For Answer developed by From Games and released in September of 2008. It's worth it though.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

MAX

Curtain's at two.

SOUND: REGISTER DING

DERRYL

What?

SOUND: REGISTER OPENING AND CLOSING

MAX

I mean Bell time. Bell time's at two.

DERRYL

I'll be there. (WALKING AWAY) Will you be there again, Amanda?

AMANDA

Never miss it.

DERRYL

(FAR AWAY)
Alright, I'll see you there.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

You know, I've been thinking about it, and I do have one question about your romance comic. I know the different genres are pretty disparate, but I was wondering if there was some way you could shoehorn in a framing device, something to make all the short stories part of a larger whole?

AMANDA

What, like an Arabian Nights thing?

MAX

I guess. Something like that.

AMANDA

I thought about it, but decided I couldn't link the different genres together in that way. That's why I did the love-letter-narration thing. It ties them to each other thematically.

MAX

What if you were to just add on the end a page of someone looking through a box of letters? The stories are set about twenty years apart. Is there any reason each protagonist can't be the last one's daughter?

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

That's pretty interesting. It might require a few tweaks to the superhero story... if it's supposed to take place in the same universe as the others.

CUSTOMER #3 - LOGAN

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

AMANDA

I think it will be worth it, though.

MAX

Luckily, because of the surnames being passed paternally-

LOGAN

(INTERRUPTING)
Don't everybody welcome me back at once.

AMANDA

Sorry, Logan. We were just workshopping my comic. Did you get ahold of Paul?

LOGAN

Eventually. I don't know how anyone can survive without a cell-phone.

MAX

But he was home, right?

LOGAN

Yeah. But I had to listen to his mom go on and on about her garden before she'd hand me over. Like I give a shit about petunias.

AMANDA

I heard that garden is legendary.

LOGAN

Yeah, I'm more into lilies than petunias. Roses.

SOUND: SILENCE

LOGAN

...Daisies.

MAX

You garden too?

AMANDA

I wish. I love gardens.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

Yeah, they're great.

SOUND: SILENCE

LOGAN

My mom does Bansai. She's obsessed with Japanese culture. Spent three years there and went native. Now we have to take our shoes off. And the tables are so low.

MAX

That's pretty cool.

LOGAN

My dad hates it.

AMANDA

Why's that?

LOGAN

He's British.

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

That's a very cosmopolitan household. You must get exposed to a lot of culture.

LOGAN

I watch britcoms and anime.

MAX

Doesn't everyone?

LOGAN

My sister won't go near anything British. She's a regular shojo.

MAX

Wait, you know Japanese?

LOGAN

Doesn't everyone?

CUSTOMER #4 - GLEN

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

GLEN

(FAR AWAY)
Hey guy- what's going on?

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

Alright, I'm going to go eat.

GLEN

(WALKING CLOSER)
Goodbye, Mr. Popper.

LOGAN

(WALKING AWAY)
Yeah, yeah.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

MAX

Hey Glen.

AMANDA

Hi, I'm Amanda, nice to meet you.

GLEN

Hello.

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

You can take it back, he's not going to shake it.

GLEN

Where is Kevin?

MAX

He's at a family reunion.

GLEN

I'm so sorry. (WALKING AWAY) Well, I better be going then. I'll see you next week Max.

MAX

Wait, Glen. Did you come in for something?

GLEN

(FAR AWAY)
Yes.

MAX

Then come back, I'll get it for you.

GLEN

(FAR AWAY, KNOWINGLY)
I just figured...

(CONTINUED)

MAX

(CLUELESS)

I know you don't like change, but maybe you can imagine that Amanda is Kevin, just for today.

AMANDA

Seriously?

MAX

See, you're getting into the part already.

GLEN

(WALKING CLOSER)

That wasn't... alright, if you insist.

MAX

Why are you sorry Kevin's at a family reunion. Do you know something about his family I don't.

GLEN

I suppose that's just my reaction to family in general. My brother, well... my adopted brother is a big-shot lawyer...

AMANDA

Your brother's adopted?

GLEN

No, I am.

MAX

Your parents must be very proud of him.

GLEN

His parents, you mean? They're dead.

AMANDA

I'm so sorry to hear that.

GLEN

Your condolences are noted. Though they did live past eighty.

MAX

How old is your brother?

GLEN

Fifty-six.

AMANDA

So he was already out of the house by the time you were adopted.

(CONTINUED)

GLEN

I should be so lucky. He was a constant presence in my early life. His shadow seemed to stretch for miles.

SOUND: SILENCE

GLEN

I'm here for my Divining Top.

MAX

Oh yeah! I almost forgot about that.

GLEN

Not surprising.

MAX

(WALKING AWAY)
It's in the back, I'll just be a second. Amanda, watch the store for me.

SOUND: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING

AMANDA

So, Glen, right?

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

What kind of comics do you read?

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

Like, DC comics? Marvel Comics?

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

Alright, I'll bite. What's a Divining Top?

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

Are you okay?

SOUND: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING

MAX

(WALKING CLOSER)
I found it. That'll be forty-five dollars.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

GLEN
 Actually I think I'll get a booster.

MAX
 Mirrodin?

GLEN
 Yes.

SOUND: KEYBOARD TYPING

SOUND: REGISTER DING

GLEN
 That's kind of expensive. I should probably pay with
 my card.

SOUND: CARD BEING SWIPED

SOUND: BOOSTER PACK OPENING

SOUND: DIAL-UP TONE, CONTINUOUS

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
 (SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
 (SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
 (SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
 (SIGH)

SOUND: DIAL UP TONE ENDS

SOUND: DIAL UP TONE, CONTINUOUS

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
 (SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

SOUND: A CARD

SOUND: DIAL UP TONE ENDS

GLEN
(SIGH)

MAX
You know, if I can get you the specific cards you need,
maybe you should stop buying boosters.

GLEN
You just don't understand the thrill of opening a
closed pack.

CUSTOMER #5 - JOSH

(JOSH IS INCREDIBLY DEPRESSED)

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

AMANDA
Hey Josh.

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA
Josh?

JOSH
What? Oh, hey. Hey Max. Little dude.

MAX
Hey.

GLEN
Good afternoon.

JOSH
Is it? I don't think so.

GLEN
Is it just me or did it get gloomy in here? I know
what will cheer me up. Opening another booster.

SOUND: BOOSTER PACK OPENING

(CONTINUED)

MAX
Still growing the beard I see.

JOSH
I am? I hadn't noticed.

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

AMANDA
Still pining over Britney?

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN AND JOSH
(SIGH)

JOSH
I mean... no. Who would want to be with... (SNIFFLING)
be with... (SUDDEN COMPOSURE) you know, her.

GLEN
Who?

JOSH
(SUDDENLY CRYING)
Britney!

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

AMANDA
You want to get her back, right?

JOSH
(STILL CRYIING)
Yeah. (SNIFFLE)

AMANDA
Then here's a suggestion. Bathe.

JOSH
You think she'll like that?

MAX AND AMANDA AND GLEN
Yes

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

MAX
So what brings you here?

JOSH
Where?

MAX
To the shop?

JOSH
Which shop?

MAX
The comic shop.

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

MAX
Bailey's Comics?

JOSH
Oh shit. Look, the shop.

AMANDA
When was the last time you slept?

JOSH
I don't know. What month is it?

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

JOSH
Where's Bepin?

MAX
The gas giant in Empire?

JOSH
No, you know... little Bepin.

MAX
Oh, Kevin! He's at a family reunion with his parents.

JOSH
So his parents are still together, huh?

MAX
Yeah.

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

JOSH
Mine aren't. They had... (SNIFFLE) a good thing going... (SOBBING) and then she dumped me!

SOUND: SILENCE

JOSH
I mean him.

SOUND: A CARD

GLEN
(SIGH)

JOSH
After that I was pretty much raised by my dad.

MAX
That explains a lot.

JOSH
I think my brother had it easier because he was a little older.

AMANDA
Didn't he join the army?

JOSH
Marines. (SNIFFLE) I remember... one time... Britney painted her nails aqua-marine. (SOBBING)

GLEN
(WALKING AWAY)
I'd better... go. I'll see you next week, Max.

MAX
Later Glen.

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

AMANDA

I think you should move on, Josh. Sometimes you just have to look for the signals, right Max?

MAX

Yeah. Last time I saw Britney she was giving off some pretty strong signals. About not liking you.

JOSH

You think?

MAX

Oh yeah, I'm pretty good at reading people. That's why I stopped trying to hook Amanda up with Popper. She's obviously not into anybody at the shop.

AMANDA

You know what you need, Josh? You need to get out. How would you like to go see an Avengersverse double feature with me on Friday?

JOSH

(SNIFFLE)
I'd like that.

AMANDA

Pick me up at eight?

MAX

Wait, eight?

AMANDA

Well we have to have dinner first.

JOSH

Yeah. I'll be there. (WALKING AWAY) Later guys.

AMANDA

Make sure to shower between now and then!

SOUND: DOOR CHIME

TAG

MAX

That's pretty surprising.

AMANDA

What?

MAX

I thought you didn't like Josh.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

He's been showing a different side of himself the last few weeks. Anyway, it's nothing. I'm just trying to get him out of his funk.

MAX

Literally.

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

What?

MAX

Nothing.

AMANDA

So what about your family, Max? Any skeletons in the closet? Any nuts on the family tree?

MAX

Very little to tell. Mom and dad both raised me and my slightly younger sister. My mom's dad is still with us, and my dad's mom is as well. Sister and I always got along.

AMANDA

So your house is Ozzy and Harriet?

MAX

What do you mean?

AMANDA

What do you mean what do I mean?

MAX

What's Ozzy and Harriet?

AMANDA

A perfect family from forties and fifties media. You mean to tell me you've never heard of little Ricky Nelson?

MAX

No clue what you're talking about.

AMANDA

Did your mom work?

MAX

No, she stayed home and dealt with me and my sister.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

And when your dad got home from work, did she bring him a cocktail and cook him dinner?

MAX

Well, yeah... but dad was a terrible cook. Good with speeches about life lessons, though.

AMANDA

All that's missing is the pipe.

MAX

How did you know he smokes a pipe?

MUSIC: END THEME

ANNOUNCER

Next time, on Bailey's Comics.

AMANDA

By then it will be too late.

MAX

So what are our options?

AMANDA

Quarantine.

MAX

Quarantine all of Australia?

AMANDA

Yes sir, Mr. President.

MAX

And I'm to just sit here, and watch while all the Aussies die?

AMANDA

And the Kiwis, sir. They've already been infected.

MAX

My god.

ANNOUNCER

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

MUSIC: HIT