

## It Always Comes Back to Heath Ledger

Can I help you guys? I've taken it upon myself to memorise Orion's Shaft Comics' entire inventory so – oh – you just want to pay – fine. 'The Walking Dead'? I didn't take you for an indie<sup>1</sup> fan – not in that t-shirt – have you actually ever seen AC/DC? I saw their concert in Sydney...on YouTube. 'Hellboy'? Big, red Ron Perlman? Not considered the best – never bothered to read it myself. Hey! Not many people know this but David Hyde Pierce – the brother from 'Frasier' – is the uncredited voice of Abe the fishman in the first 'Hellboy' film – oh you did – well, I bet you definitely didn't know that he's also the voice of Emperor Zombie in the pilot of Mignola's 'The Amazing Screw-On<sup>2</sup> –' oh you did...well duh! Who doesn't?

'The Long Halloween'?<sup>3</sup> You read all this independent crap but you've never read one of the most influential Batman comics ever written?! Pfft. Well fair enough actually – neither have I. Batman's overrated. I'm a Marvel. Actually...some people say I look like Wolverine from X-Men: "Hey, bub, I'm not finished with you yet." Yeah? Well...obviously not Hugh Jackman Wolverine<sup>4</sup>...more like...erm...well my girlfriend says I do...well she would...if I had one.

You have to look like Heath Ledger to get a girl these days. I bet Ronald McDonalds all over the world got well lucky when 'The Dark Knight' came out. I've got the same socks Joker wears...note I said 'Joker' not 'The Joker'. I asked a girl if she wanted to see them...she said no. Yeah, girls come in here sometimes – and not just to use the loo! That was a joke by the way – we don't have a customer toilet. It's the lolitas<sup>5</sup> that really get me going – those goths who wear frilly dresses and knee-high socks. Yeah. But they always want to buy that Japanese manga<sup>6</sup> crap. Big shame. I mean come on...manga? There's Superman, Ironman...the Incredible Hulk and all girls want to read are goopy romances with pretty boys kissing each other! I'm telling you...it always comes back to Heath Ledger.

I met my true love here you know – by the monthly recommendations – this month mine is 'Absolute V For Vendetta' – 25% off. She was reading 'Greek Street' and looked like Gwen Stacy from 'The Spectacular Spider-man' – blonde and specky<sup>7</sup>. The spec-tacular Raelyn May<sup>8</sup>. See what I did there? I told her the shop wasn't a library and she laughed – she thought I was joking and since I never make girls laugh I pretended I was. The next week she bought 'Robin Year One' and the week after that the first volume of 'Wet Moon'. I made a joke that if she was looking for porn – wet moon yeah? – she'd got the wrong book. She didn't laugh. I'd never talked to a girl for that long before so worrying that I'd lost her I did my 1960s Penguin impression: WAUGH! WAUGH! WAUGH!<sup>9</sup> That got her. I explained to her the difference between Green Arrow and Green Lantern<sup>10</sup> and she told me the story to the first series of 'Glee'. We listened to alt rock on my iPod and cool jazz on hers. I invited her to a comic convention and she said yes. I walked her to the bus stop and when her bus came we hugged and she kissed me on the cheek – just here.

I went to the convention dressed as the Fourth Doctor Who – that's Tom Baker. Raelyn said she liked my scarf<sup>11</sup>. I knitted it myself. She'd never been to a convention before so I showed her everything and when I came back from the toilet she'd found something I hadn't shown her – an emo dressed as Heath Ledger. She was kissing him on the lips – just here...it always comes back to Heath Ledger.

Well...I guess...girls come and go...but Batman's forever.

That'll be £33.97 please.