





TO GARY--WHAT CAN I SAY! YOU BELIEVED IN ME FIRST...AND STRONGEST! I OWE ALOT OF IT TO YOU! WELCOME BACK TO THE COMICS

BUSINESS! BEST.

## ROB LIEFELD

COVER: 5. CLARKE HAWBAKER BACK COVER/CENTERSPREAD: JOHN THOMPSON YOUNGBLOOD POSTER: ROB LIEFELD & JERRY ORDWAY TRADING CARD ART BY: KELLEY JONES & JIM SINCLAIR

WRITERS: GARY CARLSON, RON FORTIER, HEMBECK, KEN MEYER, JR., ED DEGEORGE

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BILL & VERONICA MAUS/ HOUSE OF MAUS

LETTERS: BRENT CARPENTER, GRASS GREEN

**PRODUCTION: DAVID LAWRENCE** 

SPECIAL THANKS TO ERIK LARSEN & IMAGE COMICS, LARRY SHELL AT HEROES WORLD & BILL MAUS.

Back in 1987, there was a terrible glut in the comic book marketplace, and I was part of it. MEGATON had helped create the black and white boom back in 1982, and by 1987 there was so much product out that it was almost impossible to get noticed.

Instead of persevering with the single MEGATON title, I opted to expand the line. We had some high quality books planned: Color MEGATON and VANGUARD series, YOUNGBLOOD by Rob LIEFELD, a DR. WEIRD special by Jim Starlin, Grass Green's hilarious WILDMAN and the truly offbeat RAMM title. The MEGATON X-MAS SPECIAL was intended as a showcase for all of our characters and talent. All of the creative teams supplied something: A story, pin-up, prose piece, etc. It was fun.

Unfortunately, nobody cared. There was just too much stuff out there, and we were adding to it. The planned "MEGATON EXPLOSION" was a dud. Sales dropped to nothing and I dropped out of comics.

Somewhere there exists two unpublished VANGUARD issues, half of a MEGATON story, another issue of RAMM, part of the original YOUNGBLOOD book (write to Rob and beg him to print it someday) and a big chunk of stuff intended for X-MAS.

I've tried to stay close to the original blueprint, but only have 40 pages instead of 64, so it isn't exact. The

chunk of stuff intended for X-MAS.

I've tried to stay close to the original blueprint, but only have 40 pages instead of 64, so it isn't exact. The WILDMAN and RUBBEROY story done for X-MAS was eventually printed in an issue of GRASS GREEN'S WILDMAN. They're hard to find. Try writing to GRASS GREEN, DO Box 13181, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46967-3181 to see about buying one.

The YOUNGBLOOD piece intended for X-MAS was never finished, but Rob Liefeld graciously has let us print in color for the first time ever the gorgeous wrap-around cover to the long-lost 1987 YOUNGBLOOD book. Thanks Rob!

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A wild RAMM prose-piece and an ETHRIAN pin-up were the other casualties this time around.

Finally, I'd like to thank Don Chin for publishing this book, Erik Larsen for letting me use VANGUARD away from Image, Kelley Jones for the MEGATON card, Clarke Hawbaker for the front cover, and especially all of the guys who waited so long to see their work in print.

Happy holidays!

Gary S. Carlson

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## COVER







BY JACKSON GUICE, KEN MCFARLANE, 5. CLARKE HAWBAKER, ANGEL MEDINA, TIM DZON, ERIK LARSON, FRANK FOSCO, GARY THOMAS WASHINGTON.

































































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