

**January 25, 2008**

Victor Gorelick  
Vice President/Editor-in-Chief  
Archie Comic Publications, Inc.  
325 Fayette Avenue  
Mamaroneck, New York 10543-2318

Dear Mr. Gorelick:

I hope that this letter doesn't find you too busy. I've written to you before and I hope you haven't tired of hearing from me. (That is if you even remember me with all the mail you probably receive.) I appreciate very much your taking time out of your busy schedule to answer my letters in the past. I think that this letter might be a little long so I hope that you will bear with me.

My purpose for writing is to again ask permission to send you a proposal for the Mighty Crusaders. In the past you've mentioned that you don't accept unsolicited requests, but you can't blame a guy for trying and being persistent.

I really love these ultra-hero characters of yours and I feel that they need to be exhibited. I know that past attempts to revive these characters may not have met with the company's expectations. The Spectrum line was killed before it started. The eighties revival was apparently plagued with deadline problems and a lack of clear direction for the characters. The Impact "revival" – well let's just say that those were not your characters. I've also seen proposals that have been submitted or were in the planning stages of being submitted to your company, and I don't think the ones I've seen quite capture the values for which your company is noted.

As I've mentioned in the past my first introduction to Archie's ultra heroes was in the sixties with Mighty Comics Presents #48. The cover image of the Shield versus the Amoeba Man jumped out at me. I was impressed by the uniqueness of both the Shield and the Hangman (who at that time I did not know was a hero-turned-villain-turned-hero). I later found out that your characters had a rich history. The (original) Shield pre-dated Captain America making him the very first red-white-and-blue superhero; Black Hood had a pulp and radio history in addition to appearing in your comic books in the 40s; Steel Sterling was the original "Man of Steel" using that epithet long before a certain red and blue clad character with an "S" on his chest ever used it. It seems a waste to keep such heroes in comic book limbo. I, for one, would love to see them back again.

I see The Mighty Crusaders as ultra heroes, cut from a different pattern than the Avengers or

the Justice League (as they are currently portrayed). They are true heroes, self-sacrificing, espousing integrity, with humble character, as willing to help a child free a cat from a tree as save a city from the machinations of a nefarious villain bent on its destruction. When I look at the comics on the stands today, what I see mostly are "heroes" that are angry and arrogant, dark and grim. There seems to be a level of violence that is over the top. I believe that there is a need in our society today for ultra-heroes like The Mighty Crusaders. Though they are on paper, these types of role models are sorely lacking in today's world, especially in comic books.

I've seen on a website an ad (or promo piece) about bicycle safety starring Captain Flag, Bob Phantom, and Black Jack. The Web has made cameo appearances in *Archie and Friends*. There is also a Web graphic novel in the works. So obviously, these characters are on the minds of you and your staff and you still have some affection for them. They have been on my mind a great deal, also.

I think the time is ripe to revive your ultra-hero characters in an ongoing regular series. The nomination you received as Favorite Comic-Book Publishing Company was from fans in general, not just Archie fans. The market for this series would be Mighty Crusaders fans, Archie Comics current fan base, and readers of superhero comics in general. My proposal presents your

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characters in a light that is consistent with the Archie Comics Publications image as a family-oriented company espousing wholesome values. I truly believe that stories can be done on a level that appeals to your total fan base; stories that are kid-friendly and parent-friendly, as well as entertaining for adult fans.

I know a successful series can be done in this vein, even with characters such as the Hangman and Mr. Justice.

I know that you don't know me. I don't have a background in this field, but I have a love and passion for these characters that transcends that. I also have a strong belief in the same value system that is espoused by your company. I really would love the chance to present a proposal along with some brief story synopses to you. Who can better have a grasp and a feel for the characters than someone who has a love for them? Most other writers in the industry today would look at it as a business venture only. I perceive it as a labor of love to bring these characters to the fore. Please don't let these characters float around in limbo. Even if I am not the one you pick to do it, please bring these characters back. If it were within my financial reach, I would approach you about licensing or buying the characters outright and publish them myself.

Barring sending a Mighty Crusaders proposal may I send you a script for a two-page story starring the Web. The premise has the Web investigating a series of high-rise burglaries. He

catches the burglar in the act—the Tarantula. During the course of their rooftop struggle, the Tarantula loses his footing. Web catches his arm, but as the Tarantula dangles off the side of a building, the weight of his armor proves too heavy. The Web loses his grip and the Tarantula falls to his death. Last panel: Simon Spry identifies the deceased in the morgue as his son.

I know you have had the Web appear in a couple of Katy Keene stories and there is a Web Graphic novel planned. This would be a great re-introduction of the Web and something to whet the appetite of the readers for the Web graphic novel. It also foreshadows what might await the Web should there be a series. The story is short enough that it would not take up much space in a comic (two pages) and could be used as a filler if an issue falls short by a couple of pages.

I wish I could meet with you in person to convey the passion and love I have for these characters.

I have enclosed an S.A.S.E. for your reply.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*John Packer*

John Packer