

# Green Dreams

Check out how Dan Slott's 'She-Hulk' has muscled into our hearts and why October's 'Vol. 2' will color our world

By Michael C. Sherrin

There are few certainties that people dread more than jury duty. Lucky for both the denizens of the Marvel Universe and fans like us, there's the evergreen chance that Jennifer Walters, the sensational She-Hulk, might be on the case. It's been eight months since we last saw the Jade Giantess, but thanks to writer Dan Slott and artist Juan Bobillo, *She-Hulk* returns with a new #1 in October. Over the last 12 issues, Slott & Co. have worked furiously to deftly meld Avengers-caliber heroics with the law-office quirkiness of "Ally McBeal" in order to create one of the most entertaining comics around. "With super-human law, you just need to know the absurdities of the Marvel Universe," says Slott. "That's the way it works in She-Hulk's world; you're allowed to argue cases with comics. So all the stuff that everyone does on the message boards, you have all your legal training [right there]." In anticipation of the new #1, here are some highlights from last year's run.



The courtroom may be a place for justice and order, but things can get wacky when superhuman law is concerned. The wisecracking web-slinger guest-stars to sue his oldest nemesis, *Daily Bugle* publisher J. Jonah Jameson for libel (a claim that Jonah published articles with the express intent of injuring Spidey's reputation). Eager to make his Spider-Man extra witty, Slott bounced jokes off his most trusted barometer.

"I knew this was funny when my dad said, 'That's not funny,'" says Slott. "I went, 'Oh, that's gold.'" Shulkie's future legal battles include a superhero sexual assault case, the debate over teaching classes on evolution and superpowers in Marvel U. schools and challenging the legality of Marvel continuity itself.



While many heroes are measured by the villains they fight, that would just be selling poor She-Hulk short. While Shulkie may lack a star-studded rogues gallery, Slott never hesitates to throw in an assortment of unexpected villains from M.O.D.O.K. to the Constrictor to She-Hulk's greatest foe, Titania.

"I just have this bizarre affection for [these characters]," reveals Slott. While Blizzard expects a thorough beating, She-Hulk instead offers him a drink. Fans can expect some more Blizzard in the coming months. "There might be a legal problem that he needs She-Hulk's help for," hints the writer.



Better break out your *Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe*, 'cause Slott has a penchant for the obscure. Whether it's office assistants or guest stars, She-Hulk's supporting cast mixes Marvel A-Listers with has-beens and never-weres. Take Awesome Andy, for example. Once an enemy of the Fantastic Four, the Awesome

Android has now changed his name and relinquished his villainous ways to become a clerk at She-Hulk's law firm. "He's such a good boy," coos Slott. "Everybody loves Awesome Andy. That should be a sitcom."

While no deals are yet in place, Slott teases future events. "There might be love in the air for Awesome Andy." Look for cameos aplenty in volume 2, including the "return" of Hawkeye in issue #2! (Don't worry—it's definitely Clint Barton!)



Some days you wake up and everything looks green. Unfortunately, green rarely looks this good. "She's very curvy, ain't she?" asks Slott.

While artist Juan Bobillo didn't handle every issue of the first series, he brings his ultra-sexy She-Hulk and adorable Jen Walters back for volume 2.

"Juan brings this whole world with him where you get these wonderful actors that act their parts," Slott says. "You get these characters that we care about. At the same time, isn't his Jen Walters the sweetest, cutest person on the planet?"



Lauded for its innovation and clever scenarios—from making Comics Code-approved back issues admissible in court to shrinking dangerous supervillains—Slott has turned classic comic concepts on their head.

Thanks to Ant-Man's Pym particles, the U.S. government has begun shrinking captured supervillains, thereby making them easier to hold. While hosting the Mad Thinker, Tiger Shark, the Wrecking Crew and more in a regular prison may be tough, it's much simpler when they're action-figure-sized. "I've wanted to do [this] for years," says Slott.

From giant android clerks to miniaturized villains, She-Hulk uses the Marvel Universe like a four-color playground. "In a time when some books have their own little worlds, She-Hulk revels in Marvel continuity, Marvel history and Marvel characters," Slott says. "The most important supporting cast member in She-Hulk is the Marvel Universe." 

Alpha intern Michael C. Sherrin passed the bar. Then he changed his mind, went back and blew his money on 12 shots of Apple Pucker.



"Mike Mayhew did these gorgeous covers for us that had all these characters in them that weren't in any stories and fans complained," remembers Slott. "Howard the Duck was on the cover to #8. So, we threw in that scene in #9 and I'm like, 'So why does Howard the Duck need a lawyer?' Well, obviously to sue George Lucas [who produced the universally panned "Howard" flick]. Nowadays, that would probably be Elektra arguing with Jennifer Garner."

Slott packs panels with enough humor, cameos and Easter Egg material to reward fans for years to come. Volume 2 introduces a new boss who changes policy allowing the firm to defend supervillains. Slott promises that the firm will receive another surprise member. "A classic Marvel character is coming to She-Hulk. Will it be as a lawyer? Will it be as something else? Why will they be joining the law firm? [It's] someone that will make classic Avengers fans happy."