



THE UNBELIEVABLE

Josie & MARLY

NOT A
HOAX!
NOT A
DREAM!



M & J WILL BE MARRIED THIS ISSUE!

WEDDING CREDITS

BRIDE

JOSIE CAMPBELL

MAID OF HONOR

LIZ ALPER

BRIDESMAN

LUKE CAMPBELL

GROOM

MARLY HALPERN-GRASER

BEST LADY

DELIA HALPERN-GRASER

GROOMSMAN

AUSTEN HALPERN-GRASER

OFFICIANT

PAT BOCCUZZI

ARTIST

WILL PATRICK

DESIGNER

AMY FORTUNATO

JOSIE CREATED BY

SUE CAMAIONE & ANDY CAMPBELL

MARLY CREATED BY

CAROL GRASER & JEFF HALPERN

ORDER OF EVENTS

CEREMONY 5:00PM

COCKTAIL HOUR 5:30PM

DINNER 6:30 PM

TOASTS 7:30 PM

CAKE CUTTING 8:00PM

DANCING!!! 8:15PM ONWARDS!!!

PREVIOUSLY:

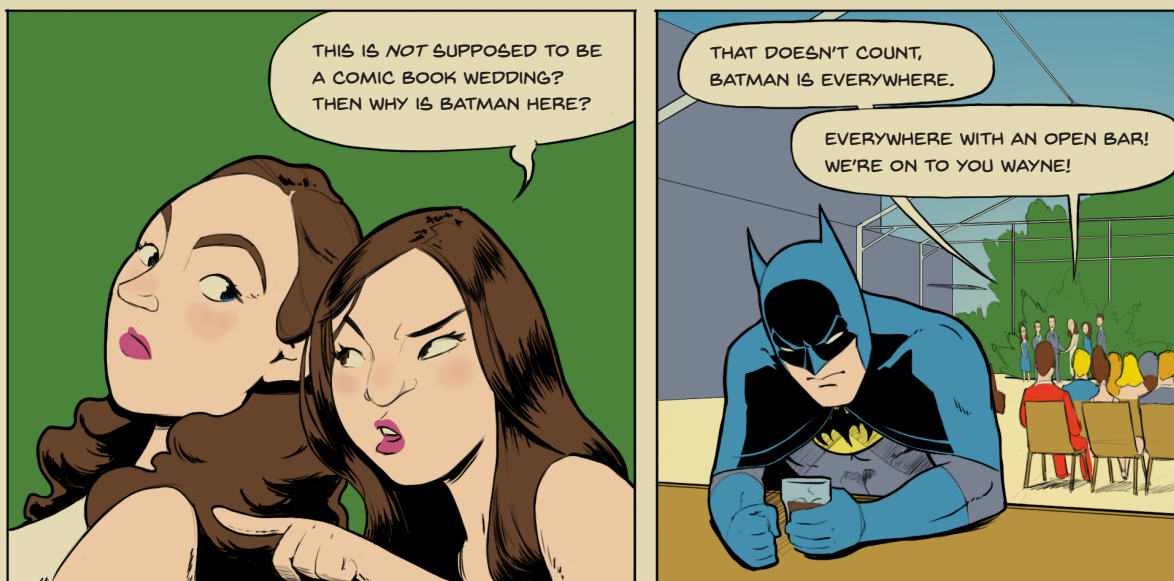
JOSIE AND MARLY MET THROUGH
THEIR COLLEGE COMEDY TROUPE.

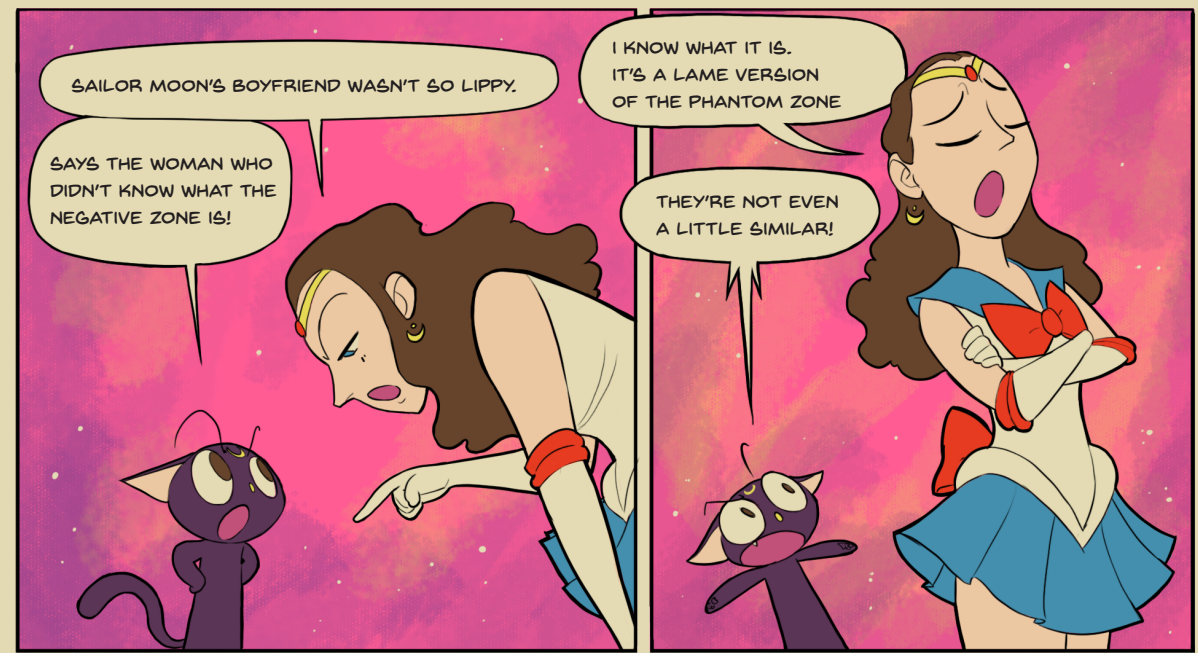
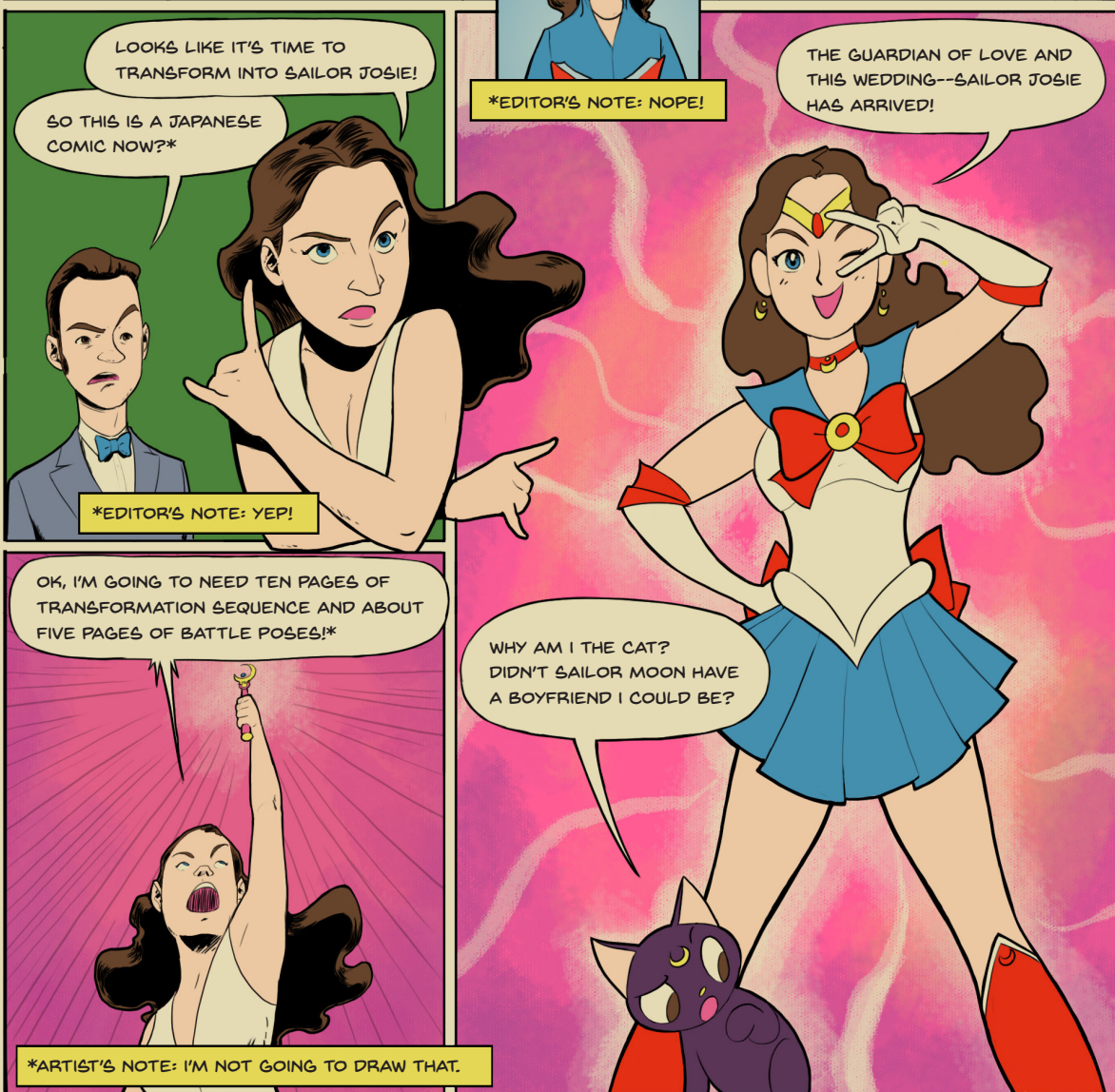
THEY BECAME BEST FRIENDS!

THEN THEY GRADUATED AND
MOVED OUT TO LOS ANGELES.

THEY FELL IN LOVE!

NOW, SEVEN YEARS LATER...





WOW! CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU JUST READ?!

That’s the kind of non-stop excitement fans have come to expect from this comic, and the thrills aren’t about to slow down anytime soon!

But now it’s time for “Jovial” Josie and “Marvelous” Marly to answer letters from you, the readers!

Dear Editors:

After following your relationship devotedly from the beginning, I cannot help but notice your hero and heroine are hopelessly weird. I mean, your hero is a home-schooled Wiccan who gave up his dreams of being a herpetologist to work in Hollywood, and your heroine is a female comic-book nerd (totally unbelievable) and militant feminist screen-writer who has been seen reading story books to lobsters before boiling them alive. Will they please get married already? They clearly need to marry each other because they are too weird for normal people.

I wish I wasn’t so normal or I would have married both of them a long time ago.

Live long and prosper,
Rosie

ROSIE,

You got it, Rosie! In fact, Josie and Marly got married in this very issue! That’s right, the one you’re holding right now. Here at *Josie & Marly* we like to give fans what they want before we even knew they wanted it! We hope you also wanted a scene where a family of lobsters finally get their revenge on Josie because that’s happening next issue and it’s too late to call it back from the printer!

Dear Editors,

How did Josie and Marly become the most adorable comic-book loving couple on planet earth? Was there a rigorous training process? A lab accident? Otherworldly forces at work? Also, are alternate universe Josie and Marly getting married today too?

Eva Gross
Los Angeles

EVA,

We’ve never told the origin of Josie and Marly but we’ll finally reveal it here! It WAS a lab accident. But not a fun lab accident where everyone got super powers. It was the kind of lab accident where they had to change the laws

afterward to make sure it never happened again. The kind where someone unironically said, “Oh, the humanity,” when they saw the aftermath. We don’t want to bore you with the details but suffice it to say Josie and Marly are no longer legally allowed in Massachusetts.

As for the fate of Alternate Universe Josie and Marly, you’ll just have to read *Josie & Marly: Secret Wars* for the answer! On sale now!

Dear Josie and Marly,

Overall we LOVE the comic.

Our ONE criticism however has to do with the 2 protagonists. Why not just create/combine them into 1 hero? They are almost EXACTLY the same personnnn. Like OMG srsly. Perhaps consider giving Marly a unique super power instead of just enhancing Josie’s? ANDDDD is it really believable that 2 people would find 1 person who happens to like and hate all the same things they like and hate? Also, Y do they talk about READING COMIC BOOKS so muchhhh. It’s like whatever guyz you are IN a comic book already stop being so meta and go on that mission already.

Also, we loved/hated the parts when Josie’s nemesis Dr. Chiro Practy depletes her power. It was kinda boring when Josie was recovering and Marly had to go on missions without her help. Watching Marly go do missions on his own or with his bearded friend (/lover??) Beckstein Bear wuz a lil funne tho.

But we really do LOVE the comic. I guess Marly and Josie are better when they are together and we can’t wait for future issues to see these heroes rise up, defeat Dr. P once and for all / also overcome new challengers.

Oh and more scream fights starring Beckstein Bear. We like it when his screams powerjet him up to space where no one can here him scream.

Please send more to:
ADDRESS WITHHELD

Thanks!
MK and Yaffe Balls

MK AND MR. BALLS,

Thanks for your letter! We’re glad to see that all those comics we donated to the psyche ward have wound up in good hands! One clarification: Marly and Beckstein Bear are just friends. You can read more about the bear in *Beckstein Bear: Secret Wars!*

Dear Editors,

I’ve been reading *Josie & Marly* since before the issues were zeroed out (the first time) when Marly stopped stewing like “*Demon In a Bottle*”-era Tony Stark and first told Josie how he felt! So, I saw this one coming a mile away, but it’s been long overdue! The last issue was the one I’ve been waiting for: action, subplots, character development, levity, and a break from the usual insightful, but erudite, literary and pop-culture criticism/theory! Instead we got some plain old romance—it’s like wow, sometimes the characters act almost like real humans! I love these two so much!

However, I have some important thoughts you might want to consider:

- 1. I hate Marly’s costume change. I know tie-dye and mutton chops aren’t “trendy” right now but these characters are timeless icons and should be able to do whatever they want. Also, going a little heavy on the cross-promotion aren’t you? I know your writers like The Hulk, but maybe you could draw Marly in another T-shirt sometime? The scene where he went shopping for suits with James, Prophet of New Genesis, was cute. Meanwhile Josie continues to shine like a diamond in every panel (so glad she’s recovered from when the Shadow King crushed her legs—that was unnecessary).
- 2. Enough cosmic stuff already! When Josie found cosmically-powered Celestial Skis and then had an existential crisis on one of Saturn’s moons for like 6 issues, I was bored.
- 3. The basketball game scene was cool, though I think I’m beginning not to like Gambit. He’s cocky and he flirts with all the girls, even in battle.
- 4. More crossovers!

faithful reader,
Lee Noble
Los Angeles

LEE,

Glad you’ve enjoyed the direction our comic has taken. Some said that having Josie and Marly act like real humans would alienate the core fans, but you proved them wrong! As for your comments:

- 1. We get \$1 from Marvel/Disney every time Marly wears that Hulk shirt so don’t expect that to change anytime soon.
- 2. Josie has an endorsement deal with Space Chalet so she’s legally required to wear the Celestial Skis every day.

- 3. Marly agrees that Gambit needs to get his priorities straight. Josie thinks, if anything, he’s not flirty enough.
- 4. We’ve got good news and bad news. We will be doing another crossover but it’s called *Josie & Marly vs Gambit: The Celestial Skis/Hulk Shirt War*.

Dear Editors,

Call me old-fashioned, but I do NOT like these new character designs. The new Josie costume looks beautiful, but the Marly redesign is completely wrong! You can’t do better than the original Marly costume; long, patchy mutton chops, *Benny & Joon*-era Johnny Depp hair/ hat combo, and a tree frog shirt. The character is supposed to be a off-putting weird hippy manchild, not a happy, successful, well-adjusted adult! When I look at him in a sharp suit and haircut and I’m like does he even *like* tree frogs let alone know enough facts about them to annoy anyone who accidentally makes eye contact with him?

I had my doubts when you retooled the character to drink beer and talk to girls, but this is too much. Give him a tie-dye fleece or I’m done.

—Justin from 6 Arlington

JUSTIN,

A lot of fans have been asking for a return to “Classic Marly” but we’ve noticed no one seems to be clamoring for a return to Josie’s iconic college look. It’s a real missed opportunity, in our opinion. Just picture it: the baggy men’s shirts! The baggy cargo pants! The baggy army jacket! It’s high time for a return of early 2000s “Teen Sandinista Josie!” And we’re pleased to announce that due to the success of the *Josie: Teen Sandinista* one shot, we will be publishing just that! Look for it!

DEAR EDITORS:

The AntiChrist here. Long-time reader, first-time writer. I am contacting you today to convey my deep concern regarding the upcoming Halpern-Graser/Campbell nuptials. My apprehension is threefold:

- 1. If Josie and Marly do indeed wed, they will be uniting their vast superhero, sci-fi, and fantasy knowledge— combining it into a sort of encyclopedia of limitless geek wisdom. How am I supposed to bring about the apocalypse when, together, they have already read or watched how each crisis could be averted? Alien invasion. Zombies. Plague. Ragnorak. They both have seen countless stories about how to avoid each of these things. What the heck am I supposed to throw at the world that they won’t be able to overcome?! For Satan’s sake, I’m just one demon man!

2. Their creative prowess, when combined, will be entirely too great. Think about it. They're already creative geniuses on their own. Once married, their story-telling talents will quickly overshadow every other writer in history. William Shakespeare, Maya Angelou, and Ernest Hemingway will all be shown for the hacks they are when the world is introduced to the first Marly & Josie collaboration. The publishing industry is already standing on shaky ground. Realizing that every other author in the world can't hold a candle to Josarly Halperbell (their obvious pen name) will be the final nail in its coffin. Do you really want to do that to the world?

3. And lastly, they're entirely too pretty together. Those smiles. That hair. Stop it! Just get out! Where are we supposed to look when they're walking down the aisle, arm-in-arm, in their finest attire? How will we not be blinded by their ridiculous cuteness and charm? Sweet Beelzebub, it's just too much.

No, I say. This union cannot be allowed to pass. For the badness of the world, I am against this marriage, and you should be too. Won't somebody please think of the demons children?!

Warm Regards,
The AntiChrist

ANTICHRIST,

It's always great to see how far our comic reaches. I bet Batman never gets letters from the AntiChrist! On to your questions:

1. You're right, with their powers combined Josie and Marly are, intellectually, very strong. Luckily for you they are, physically, very weak. Our advice would be to forget about the world shattering events and just make them lift something heavy. That should take care of your problem.
2. Maybe it's time for Shakespeare, Angelou and Hemingway get thrown from their undeserved pedestals. Which do YOU think is better, The Old Man and the Sea or that Scooby-Doo episode Josie and Marly wrote where the ghost turned out to be fake? I think the answer is obvious.
3. Correct!

Hey Josie and Marly,

I'm no hater, but that having been said, I HATE the writing in your comic. It's super UNBELIEVABLE! Like I'm really supposed to buy that two people would be SO PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER!?!? BLARG!!!! SO DUMB!!!! You guys are a loving, supportive couple and you only seem to get happier with every moment you spend together. THAT'S NOT HOW THE REAL WORLD WORKS!!!! Here are some things that NEED TO HAPPEN in your comic if you want me to keep reading.

1. Josie was a ghost the whole time.
2. Marly finally reveals his secret werewolf heritage.
3. The peace treaty between The Ghost Council and The Werewolf Council is finally broken.
4. The great war between ghosts and werewolves arrives and everyone must choose a side.
5. Marly and Josie get in argument over who came first, Garfield or Heathcliff.

All of those things would make WAY MORE SENSE then what's happening now. But from the rumors I'm hearing the story isn't going to change, YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO BE HAPPY AND IN LOVE FOREVER!!!! UGH! Well consider my subscription CANCELED!!!! I'm going to read something more realistic, like that comic where The Predator murders Jughead.

—John Ford

P.S. Whatever happened to that Eric Larnick character. He was around all the time then just disappeared. Did he die?

JOHN,

Always sorry to lose a reader but if you haven't been keeping up with the top selling spin off, Eric Larnick: Secret Wars, then you were never much of a fan anyway. Also we find that it's YOUR suggestions that are unrealistic.

1. We know from that Scooby-Doo episode that all ghosts are fake.
2. Everyone already knows Marly is a werewolf, but not an observant one.
- 3 & 4. How did you get the plot of our newest screenplay?
5. This is the most unrealistic of all. Josie and Marly would never argue about this because they know full well that Heathcliff was launched September 3rd, 1973 and Garfield was launched on June 19th 1978

THANKS FOR ALL
YOUR LETTERS
AND REMEMBER
TO KEEP READING!

—JOSARLY HALPERBELL


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