

# Randomville comics

● reviews

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Giants in the Earth  
Charles Fetherolf/  
(Giant Earth Press)



There's a war on science being waged right now by those who would replace rational thought and scientific theory with religious zeal and a literal reading of the Bible. And the poster child of this war is the current "debate" involving evolutionary theory. The forces of creationism/intelligent design (which are really the same wolf, just in different sheep's clothing) eschew actual scientific fact-finding and research, instead employing showmanship tactics and public relations assaults designed to keep the actual science of evolutionary theory hidden and obscured.

Which is why it's nice to see a comic book tackle the evolution of man so thoroughly and yet so succinctly. *Giants of the Earth* doesn't require a degree to understand, but it does deserve a very close reading. This hefty comic starts with what appears to be a pre big-bang universe (possibly related to brane cosmology, but it's difficult to tell, and ultimately not too important as far as this comic goes). And then the massive explosion that signals the beginning of humanity's story.

Creator (of this comic, not the universe) Charles Fetherolf then guides the reader on a historical tour of the origin of the universe. Gasses expand and collide, and matter forms into solid materials and accumulates until planetoids are born. Shortly after its birth, the third planet of the solar system is struck by another planetoid, which, after a cataclysmic detonation, becomes the sole moon of that

planet. Volcanoes erupt, mountains rise, and oceans form. The story of creation is acted out before the reader's eyes, and then the first form of life arises from within the sweltering waters.

It's tiny, insignificant – a one-celled organism that only seeks to repeat itself across the earth. And then one of its descendants grows a flagellum, and now, with an advantage over the others, begins to multiply and prosper until single-cell becomes multi-cell and all sorts of wondrous creatures are born – jellyfish, nematodes, squid, trilobites, the first fish, the first amphibians, reptiles, insects, dinosaurs, and yes, humanity's distant ancestor, a small furry rodent-like mammal.

Ages pass and finally man appears, and suffers from his environment until he learns how to conquer it. Tool-making and the discovery of fire are the keys to early man's successful adaptation, although *Giants in the Earth* doesn't venture past early man's first steps towards civilization. Fetherolf does a very good job of illustrating the overall picture of evolutionary progress. Using no words, he decides to let the pictures do the talking. And the comic is stronger because of it.

Fetherolf is an unknown in the comic book world, but his art is polished and professional, and often times gorgeous in its evocation of times ancient. Many artists have a difficult time drawing animals, but Fetherolf sketches the participants of history's greatest story with rich detail, almost as if he was there. Particularly impressive are the initial big bang explosion, the moon's collision with the earth and the chaos of the meteor hit that wiped out the dinosaurs.

It's too bad there can't be more *Giants in the Earth*. A wholly original concept, and one that is much needed in the comics world, *Giants in the Earth* shows what humanity's origins might have looked like, and what scientific consensus says likely happened.

It won't convince any of the creation science/intelligent design fanatics. But this comic would make a great supplement to any biology course dealing with evolutionary theory. *Giants in the Earth* is highly recommended for everyone who loves science and is curious about the planet's origin and humanity's origin. You likely won't find it in your local comic store, but you should be able to order it. Do so at once.

Allan Muenzler  
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