



GEEK TO ME

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"LIVING IN INFAMY" COVERS COURTESY OF BEN RAAB

To court a nerd, you have to think like one

I had to chuckle when I read what the folks at Sci-Fi/Virgin Comics are saying about "Superbia," the outfit's upcoming comic book.

"'Superbia' is a ... uniquely original concept that also shows great promise," said Dave Howe, president of Sci-Fi Channel, about the comic that is described as "Justice League meets 'Desperate Housewives.'" It tells the story of a planned community for superheroes.

Apparently Howe has never read Ben Raab's "Living in Infamy," which was published in 2005 and tells a similar story, except it's about a planned community for super villains living under witness protection.

"There's very little that's new under the sun," Raab told me via e-mail. "It's all been done before in one form or another. Especially in the super-hero genre."

I second Raab's belief. The idea behind the Sci-Fi/Virgin Comics partnership is to come up with concepts that will appeal to the geek set, try them out as comic books and develop them into TV series and movies.

Can you create truly original concepts, please? Come on guys, you're the ones with the keys to the nerd kingdom. Knowing what comic book readers will find "unique" should be easy. To manage that all you need to do is—gasp—read comic books.

I just scratch my head when I think of the gaffes Sci-Fi Channel executives have made when it comes to programming decisions, some of which have raised the ire of Nerd Nation:

>> "Battlestar Galactica"

After Ron Moore's "re-imagining" of the classic series won over fans of the original "BSG," Sci-Fi Channel execs further frustrated us by never, after each season, quickly announcing that the show would return for another season. Now they have inexplicably divided the current, final season into two 10-

Ready for Wizard World

Nerdi Gras comes to the Windy City June 26-29 when Wizard World hits the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Attendees will be treated to the world premiere of the animated "Batman: Gotham Knight" on June 28. After the screening, animation producer Bruce Timm will take part in a panel discussion. Get tickets at wizardworld.com. Now if we could only get Adam West as our mayor ...

Sci-fi signing

Sci-Fi writer Cory Doctorow on Thursday will sign copies of his new novel, "Little Brother," at Barnes & Noble in Webster Place.

episode runs. The final 10 will air next year, thus prolonging the agony of fans who want to learn who the Final Five Cylons are and whether the humans will ever reach Earth.

>> "Doctor Who"

This should be a no-brainer, shouldn't it? The show comes ready-made and pre-packaged from BBC, so just air the episodes as-is and you're set, right? Yet a friend of mine, who adores actor David Tennant and his take on the Time Lord of the title, refuses to watch episodes of "Doctor Who" on Sci-Fi because some scenes are edited out. Why is that? Is an extra commercial break all that crucial?

Face it, geeks and nerds are an obsessive bunch and we know our stuff. If you want to court our fancies, better bone up on your science fiction and fantasy and don't think that just throwing a few "Star Wars" references our way is going to placate us. (Unless you're Tina Fey—she has geek cred.)

[ELLIOTT SERRANO IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.]

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