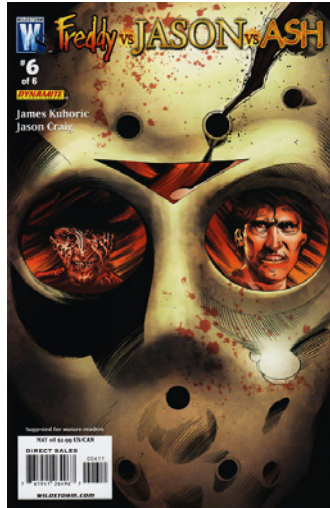


FREDDY vs. JASON vs. ASH #6 COMMENTARY



Participants:

Jason Craig (JC)
Jeff Katz (JK)
James Kuhoric (JAK)
Thomas Mason (TM)
Scott Peterson (SP)
Joe Rybandt (JPR)

Prepared by James Kuhoric

March came in like a lion and is going out like a lunatic. A bloody Spring dawn is here and for the last time in this series, the slackers, slashers, and suckers are coming together to see our little comic book fright flick out with a bang. Welcome back to the final installment of the Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash “directors’ commentary.”

When last we met, Freddy and Jason just brought the house down on themselves as an unconscious Ash does his best drunken yard gnome impression on the front lawn of the old Voorhees house. Now as Caroline cradles her fallen Chosen One she realizes that it takes more than a few tons of debris to stop these two mythic movie monsters.

Our cast of contributors has returned one last time to give you even more behind the scenes insight into the Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash original movie pitch, the comic book, and the upcoming trade paperback collection. Join Jason Craig (artist), Thomas Mason (colorist), James Kuhoric (writer), Scott Peterson (executive editor / Wildstorm), Joe Rybandt (executive editor / Dynamite Ent), and Jeff Katz (Original FvJvA writer and Fox VP) as they share their personal thoughts about every aspect of the comic book and how it would have translated into movie format. This “directors’ commentary” is a way for all the creators involved with the collaboration to talk directly with the readers about our opinions of the story and what led us to this point.

Grab a copy of the Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash #6 comic and join our bloody book club as the creators take you page by page through the rising body count and fill in the blanks on how this mega event became a reality. Then visit the MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/freddyvsjasonvsash>.

Page 1
Panel 1

JAK: It's hard to believe, but we're here at the finish line. The horror event of the decade has come to a close after six months of bloody good insanity. It seems like the perfect place to take a minute to thank everyone for making this dream project into a reality. And so...in front of the assembled horror critics and fans, I'll try to make my speech blessedly short.

Thanks to Robert Englund, Kane Hodder (and the other actors to portray Jason Voorhees), and Bruce Campbell. Your charisma (or lack there of) made the characters what they are and left a lasting impression on our lives. These movies are more to us than 90 minutes of blood, violence, and gore – they are an eviscerating escape from the mundane pressures of the real world. Keep your white bread Academy Award accolades and your stuffed shirt Oscars; give me a good old fashion grueling horror flick anytime.

Thanks to Scott Peterson, Hank Kanalz, and Joe Rybandt– a better group of editors one could not ask for.

Thanks to Jason Craig and Thomas Mason for being two of the absolute best creators, contributors, and co-conspirators an old horror hack could ask for. Your dedication to the characters and concepts made this what it is.

Thanks to Jeff Katz for having the vision to pair up three of the all-time best horror franchises in film. Your creative vision, passion for the genre, and professionalism is unmatched my friend.

Thanks to the fine folks at New Line Cinema and MGM for letting us romp in these storied playgrounds. Keep these monsters alive in our hearts and on film. The horror genre is unappreciated by most in film but the fans are the most loyal and energetic there are. We will support more films, keep 'em coming!

And special thanks to my best friend and president of Dynamite Entertainment, Nick Barrucci, for giving me a chance to participate in this project. Besides being a visionary and a true comic book enthusiast, you are “the most electrifying #@#\$% ##@%\$! in the comic book industry!”

And most of all, thank you to the comic book and horror fans who've read along with us each month. Your praise, feedback, criticism, and sheer energy for this book has made us all very happy. This little nightmare on paper is the culmination of your passion for some of the most influential horror movies of all time.

Alright...not so short...so sue me. Now...”da-da-da, da-dad-da, on with the show!”

JC: I Just realized that like at the Oscars, we all want to say essentially the same thing, and eventually they start lowering the microphone to the floor to shut the people up to go to commercial...lol

I'd like to say two things: I will back all of what James has said, and say I have nothing but love for the crew of this book. I've made new friends in the series, and we've had so much fun we would love to work with each other again. It's truly been a dream come true, but literally everything that could possibly go bad in one person's personal life has happened to me during this project. The last being on issue #6 when I found out I had Pneumonia in both lungs, was in bad shape and the pneumonia had put bacteria in my bloodstream that caused an arthritic attack, made my joints in my entire body swell, and I couldn't hardly walk without assistance for a couple days. In the end I knew the clock was ticking, hated to leave the book but really had no choice that I saw.

Luckily, in the end I did stay on the book, and I think I did the art in about 9 days to finish that last issue. To be honest, I was just as proud of the art I did on issue #6 as I was the others previous books. Thomas and I have been like brothers working together for a few years now, and you literally couldn't knock the

smile off our faces on this project. A few weeks ago I got to talk to Robert Englund and most the cast of Nightmare on Elm Street, and they really loved the comic series. Robert said he “was glad it really felt like Freddy on the page,” which was an awesome compliment to all of us.

So the microphone is almost down on me, love all my co workers and most of all the fans that made this series the success it was.

JK: I'd just like to quickly thank everyone involved for a first class effort all around. To see this thing brought to life so well after all this time has been a dream come true for me. It's been a pleasure to be a part of. I hope we can all do it again sometime.

JR: I'm going to step back into the shadows on this last run of commentary and let the real stars take the stage: James Kuhoric who scripted and directed the hell out of this one, mastermind Jeff Katz without whom none of it would be possible and of course, our incredible artists Jason Craig and Thomas Mason, both of whom, to use an overused cliché – knocked it out of the f'in park! Now then, who wants a sequel!

Panels 1-3

JAK: Little Easter egg here (appropriate, given the season, I suppose) – Jason does such a good job sneaking these things in. Freddy and Jason brought the house down in their battle last issue. Sifting through the rubble we spot something that looks quite a bit like a furnace from Freddy's trademark boiler room. Coincidence? Heh...I think not!

Panels 1-6

JAK: I love the look of Freddy melding up out of the rubble and then bursting into his maniacal self.

JC: Loved doing the homage to first Nightmare on Elm Street bedroom scene, and Freddy coming through the wall.

Page 2 Panels 4-5

JAK: This next scene is one of the most irreverent that I have ever seen on paper. Yes...it pretty much guarantees that I'm going to Hell and I don't think I can ever show my face in church again. But on the positive side, this scene is one I've actually had reoccurring nightmares about. There is something so unnerving about the chase and its eventual conclusion. Caroline is hiding, hoping that Freddy won't find her in the little fishing huts on Crystal Lake. Sure...why not hide in the most obvious spot you can? That'll work...

But the real fright begins on panel four. Picture it on film...you hear Caroline's frightened and labored breathing. Things are quiet outside the sheds...until the bottoms of Freddy's soles glide into the frame, hovering ten feet off the ground and the taunting begins. He knows where you are. He likes it when you're scared. And he has your life in his burned and bladed hands.

Page 3 Panels 1-5

JAK: You can tell Jason Craig was really into this sequence from the brilliant illustrating here. Freddy is spot on and you can picture the action taking place on film. Flicking his gloved hand, the small huts surrounding Caroline explode into tiny bits leaving just one left...



JC: This really was one of my favorite sequences to do. I had a lot of fun with the cat and mouse games Freddy was playing with Caroline. If memory serves me correctly I jumped into this part of the story first when I started the book from my Pneumonia. I really felt the sequence, and could see it clear as day in my head and was really proud of how it came out.

JK: Jason really makes things feel authentic here. It just feels like a Nightmare moment from the films. Again, it's the little touches that have made a big impact here.

Panels 4-5

JAK: As Caroline's fear grows, Freddy's power does too. Rocking in fear and denial she tries to keep it together as the fishing hut lifts off the ground right behind her...

Page 4 Panels 1-3

JAK: Then – WHOOSH! The hut flies overhead revealing the dream demon right otop of you. BOOM! It explodes into shreds and rains debris down on you, while a laughing manic cackles like Satan himself.

Panels 4-6

JAK: And then, to your horror, this laughing hangman mocks your cry for salvation. Your very prayer to God is turned into a blasphemy of the highest order. This monster turns a symbol of faith and goodness into a frightful precursor to a tortured death. With Robert Englund using his trademark flare for mockery this scene is one of the most sacrilegious things I've ever dreamed up. But in my nightmares, it is the sense of utter helplessness that makes it so frightening. You can't move. You can't scream. You can't do anything but wait for the killing blow.

JC: I remember this sequence all so well because I remember calling James and the script read, Freddy cuts his chest in the shape of a cross mocking God, and I said can I make it an upside down cross since its Demon Freddy and to me, that will really make it a sick and sadistic moment, and really ensure me being black balled from my family and church. It's really a scary moment just with that simple two slash action.

TM: We are all SO going to hell for this series! Cool huh?!

JK: But at least we're enjoying the ride!

Page 5 Panel 1

JAK: Oh! I'd just like to say "I'm sorry" to my old pastor. But you know the saying..."evil is as evil does." Freddy was gonna say it, I just happened to help give him the forum to do so.

Panel 4

JAK: Hah..."bitchbox to whore-hole." Crude, Mr. Krueger, oh so crude.



Page 6
Panels 2-5

JAK: This scene would be so very cool on film and really needed about two or three pages worth of space to do it right. But unfortunately we were at a real premium for extra space in this issue so we did our best to make it play out well. Jason is back and out to get his pounds of flesh from Freddy. As he starts out across the frozen lake he hesitates just a bit. That intelligence spark tells him to be careful walking out on the ice...there is water under there and he knows it. But Jason continues on determined to get his prize. Freddy plays on that fear deep in Jason's mind. On film we'd see the ice turn blood red beneath his feet and then explode upward in geysers of ichor. The shattering ice, the blasting blood-water, and the cackling Freddy combine to make an incredibly surreal sequence.

JK: This is just one of those facts of life in adapting for comics. There just isn't enough space to get in everything intended, so you have to make small sacrifices. All told I think James and the guys did a really good job of keeping the money moments and cutting the moments that, while cool, didn't necessarily move the story forward. Who knows, maybe we'll be able to do a "Special Edition" someday and get that stuff in.



Page 7
Panels 1-6

JAK: If we had more room, you would have seen Freddy's last ditch geyser blast a wall of bloody water up in front of us, completely hiding Jason from view. Looking over Freddy's shoulder from behind we'd see the vague shadow of Jason before his machete splits down through the water and cleaves Krueger's head in twain. Jumping out of his cracked noggin we see little bloody souls trying to escape from their prison. But it's too late for that now...Freddy is just too powerful for something as simple as a machete to stop him. Using his newly found power from the Necronomicon, he spews out a Johnny Depp-like NOES gusher of blood and instantly freezes Jason into...well...

Page 8
Panel 1

JAK: ...a giant "hillbilly shitcicle." Take that, Man of Popsicle! Hah!

Panels 3-5

JAK: Freddy is done playing games. He's gonna use the book to send Jason somewhere that his continued interference won't be a reoccurring Deliverance distraction. All he has to do is say the magic words... "Klattu Verata Nickt-oof!" Looks like Ash is back in the picture and he even got the old clunker started. See, when the chips are down, the old classics are still the best.

TM: Looks like Ash got that piece of shit Delta to run again!!!

Page 9
Panel 1

JAK: "Sorry, Hash Brown, I only go down on one thing, and it sure as shit ain't the likes of you." Damn, straight, Skippy.

TM: Jason says he only goes down on... oh... never mind...LOL!

Panels 3-5

JAK: Alright...I love Nightmare on Elm Street and Friday the Thirteenth. But the Evil Dead / Army of Darkness movies are my passion. I've been waiting five and a third issues to give Ash his chance at kicking the living ____ out of some slashers and that time has come. Hope you enjoyed killing those hapless teenagers Freddy, cause Ash is about to give you a lesson in payback, Detroit S-Mart style, tough guy. You think those parents on Elm Street gave you a raw deal? You ain't seen nothin' yet!

Page 10 Panels 3-4

JAK: Oh! That's not right! Getting kicked in the nuts is painful enough, but a double barrel blast to the crotch. Man...

Page 11 Panels 1-2

JAK: This is so "Ash." He manages to dive out of the way before Jason's hammer fisted blow can shatter his spine but wait...that old Williams luck holds true. He isn't able to get away from the shattered ice and plummets into the Crystal Lake depths...chainsaw and all.

Page 12 Panels 1-5

JAK: With Ash out of the way, Freddy and Jason pair off for one last battle, winner take all. Using his now limitless power and his knack for the dramatic, Freddy splits into five doppelgangers and starts beating the tar out of Jason. Jason (Craig) told me that this was one of the hardest pages in the entire series to draw. Freddy is a very detailed character and having to draw five of him on every panel leaves for one hell of a tough sequence.

Page 13 Panels 2-5

JAK: Ash's fate looks pretty grim. Until he manages to use the diamond tipped blade of Chain Lighting to bust through the ice and finish it off with a powerful gauntleted fist through the fracture. He's not out of this yet!

TM: Can a chainsaw start underwater? That Chain Lighting is sweet!

JAK: True, its unique carbon steel antechamber and unique waterproof oxygen intake filter that manages to allow just enough of the air trapped in the casing to turn the engine over momentarily. If Ash didn't have the power of his steel gauntlet to finish off the ice, he wouldn't have had enough O2 left to cut a complete circle from the surface. A lesser or less manly saw model surely would not have started up...

JR: You are so talking out your ass here.

JAK: Not true, negative Nancy. I personally read the Chain Lighting specs and they comply with everything stated above. Don't believe me? Call the manufacturers. They'll tell ya. See if they don't.

Page 14 Panel 5

JAK: Jason manages to kill the duplicate Freddies one by bloody one. And what can you say to that? Guess that means "Freddy's Dead"...huh?

**Page 15
Panel 3**

JAK: Hey...where's that retail clerk, anyway? Oh, yeah...there he is. I can see him right there through the fist sized hole in Jason's chest. Man, by the time we are done brutalizing these three guys, they'll each need a full body cast just to hold the pieces together.

TM: Peek-A-Boo... I see you!

**Pages 16-17
Panels 1-5**

JAK: Ash is in the middle of a war here. He's starting to figure out that fisticuffs with these two aren't going to cut it. They just don't go down. He needs the Necronomicon to do its dirty deed and blast these two to Kingdom Come.

Panel 6

JAK: This is a beautiful spread. Picking up Ash from the scruff, Jason tosses him face first at Freddy. Hey, if you don't have a weapon to throw at your enemy, just throw another foe at him. Classic military strategy here, folks.

JK: Yes, apparently Jason has been studying the works of Patton and Eisenhower...

**Pages 18-19
Panel 1**



JAK: Damn, Jason (Craig) nails this shot! Finally having read the Necronomicon passages, Caroline unleashes a classic AOD vortex. That rift in space and time pulls Freddy toward it along with just about everything else that isn't bolted or rooted down.

TM: I think that's one of my favorite shots in this issue.

JK: Totally. It looks so much like the real deal. Makes me think of Monster Squad too! Bo-gus!

Panels 2-7

JAK: As Ash and Caroline cling to a tree to avoid being pulled into the maw of the rift; they spot a single non-compliant entity. One that is the unstoppable force. Jason Voorhees is coming on and seemingly nothing can stop him. Well...nothing but a flying Delta. Ouch!

Page 20

Panel 1

JAK: Jason gets driven into Crystal Lake by the force of the car. And the book...oh crap, the book flies out of Caroline's hands and into Freddy's waiting mitts. This is another scene that we just didn't have enough room to do justice to. On film we've just seen Jason Voorhees taken out of the picture and Freddy has his hands on the one thing that can reverse the vortex before he gets dragged kicking and screaming into the Deadites' twisted world. In an ideal scenario we would have had the space to show Ash still clinging to a tree reach out with one trembling arm and fire the boom-stick dead on knocking the book into the void. Without the text, Freddy has no way to stop the pull of the vortex. He's sucked up and out of this world.

Page 21

Panels 1-2

JAK: The vortex closes leaving Ash and Caroline alone in the snow. Jeff was very specific about how this all played out. Once the monsters are gone our battered hero gets a big old "gimme some sugar" kiss from the girl. Having talked with Jeff, I know he really dug the idea of the girl being the one to make the move. It was a really nice way to bring it all home.

JK: I'm a sucker for aggressive women. Guilty as charged.

Panels 3-6

JAK: So it's over. Ash got rid of the monsters, got the girl, and the boom-stick. Can't ask for a better ending in AOD land. It is the end...right? Right?

TM: This is the end? But I thought.....

JK: Cough-sequel-cough...

Page 22

Panels 1-6

JAK: The sun shines over the now placid Crystal Lake. Birds are singing, squirrels fight over some strangely burnt nuts, and the Necronomicon falls from the sky with a creepy image of things to come just as our boy Jason opens his eyes and peers out from his frozen grave. As they say in the movies..."that's all folks"...for now...

I hope you all enjoyed Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you. Long live horror and hail to the king! -JAK