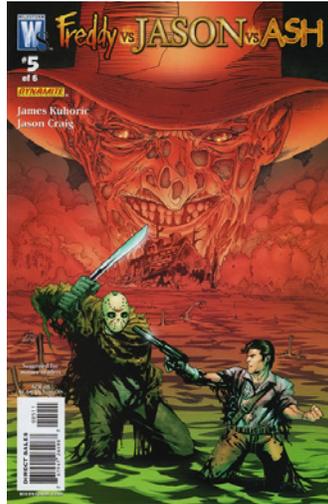


## FREDDY vs. JASON vs. ASH #5 COMMENTARY



### Participants:

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

Prepared by James Kuhoric

Welcome to our frightful fifth installment of the Freddy vs. Jason vs. Ash “Directors’ Commentary.”

When last we met, Ash was “hanging around” courtesy of Freddy’s little severed claw helpers and Jason was getting re-acquainted with some of his more memorable Crystal Lake kills. As it turns out, Freddy read the Necronomicon and was not only made flesh once again in the real world, but was also given the god-like power to change the world around him in a living nightmare motif. Now he’s doling out his anger on the two things that have frustrated him for the past four issues – Jason and Ash.

Our cast of contributors has returned once again 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 #5 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.

**Page 1**  
**Panel 1**

JAK: Bam! That's right, Jason Craig does his best Deadite possessed Emeril impersonation to start this issue out with a sweet full page splash. Freddy read the Necronomicon in the last installment and now has dominion over the waking world. This sequence was the ultimate kick for Jason to draw. It's no secret that "Crazy Jay" was just waiting for the opportunity to draw all the classic Voorhees' kills over the years. Jeff's original treatment called for Freddy to summon the various Crystal Lake kills out of the ground to drag Jason back to Hell with them. Notice how we get a little peek under Jason's mask here? Trust me; you don't want to see what's hiding under there. Just like you wouldn't want to look up Henry the Red's kilt, getting a gander at Jason's face up close is a sure way to get your ticket punched good 'n quick.



JAK: Keep reading...one of the biggest payoffs of the entire series is coming on the bloody horizon. Make sure you check out the photo in the background. That's the twisted Voorhees family portrait...Jason can fill you in on this little Easter egg.

JPR: When last we left our, uh, "not heroes", they were exacting the kind of sick, twisted, back-stabbing revenge ... on each other! Ouch! I love the random Christ-imagery that Freddy's pulling there, along with the swirly stuff that Tom added... great page!

TM: This is another fun moment in the series... getting to see those past F13 kills.

JC: Yea, I really wanted a memorable shot to start the book. I think Freddy has a holier than thou attitude and I wanted to reflect that right off the bat. The family portrait in the background was simply me adding a little possible history to the Friday the 13th lineage. Maybe Jason wasn't the first handicapped child in the family. I just wanted to plant the seed of 'What If'

TM: Rex also has that holier than thou attitude as well...lol!

**Page 2**  
**Panel 1**

JAK: Love this action panel and especially the little Shelly zombie kid jumping on the pile in the background. Don't know if it was subconscious or what, but I thought it was the Corey Feldman character of Tommy Jarvis when I first saw the page. Yeah...I'd love to see Jason take the old skull cleaver to Corey part deux in a Friday film. That's what you get for being the sucky Goony, there Corey! Over the years, so many name actors have met their end in a Friday film. It's nice to see them have an opportunity to come back and get a crack at the monster that slammed the brakes on their colorful but brief F13 careers. Even the old sleeping bag girl is getting her "pound of flesh" from our boy Jason. That was one of my all time favorite Jason kills.



JK: Ditto the sleeping bag girl. That one's a classic. But Corey Feldman never died! He came back as Thom Mathews and then survived again. A little cheat, maybe, but still a very cool moment by Jason – the artist, not the killer. Loves me some Tommy Jarvis.

JPR: I had this very dream last night, scary!

JC: The Friday the 13th look to me started with Shelly. Simply he was the prankster that finally met his end, and Jason took his hockey mask. If it wasn't for Shelly, Jason would still be running around with a Feed bag on his head.

TM: Shelly is my fave character from the F13 films besides Jason.

### Panels 2-4

JAK: With the denizens of the dead clawing and tearing at him, Jason edges ever closer to his trademark machete. I get the feeling (and apparently so does Freddy) that if he were to reach it, he'd be slaughtering these "Crystal Lake Campateers" all over again. But just as he reaches his goal, one of those pesky little Freddy claws snatches it away. Jason (Craig) has a real knack for creating the illusion of kinetic motion with his use of panel breaking illustrations. The sweeping Freddy claw grabs the machete in panel three and busts through into panel four creating a really cool effect. Dude – you rock those sequences!

### Page 3 Panel 1-5

JAK: Oh! That is one wicked hand job you don't want to be involved with...sort of an "unhappy ending." Freddy's lil' ankle biter skewers Jason on his own machete! I'll take Freddy's word for it that you don't want that machete tickling your ribcage from the inside. Have to admit; even more than the brilliant pencils in this book, I love the little touches that Jason (Craig) adds to the story. Check out the teeth behind Jason's mask in the third panel. Freakin' phenomenal! I call this last three panel sequence Jason's "Hulk Hogan" moment – he's being pulled down by zombies, has his own machete rammed through his chest, and looks on the verge of collapse when Freddy makes the fatal mistake. Don't call smart Jason a "dumb ass" or he might make "slash-a-mania" run wild on you!

JK: Whatcha gonna do, BROTHER!

JPR: Hulk Hogan moment? As in "No Holds Barred"? One of the greatest films ever produced? Whatever happened to Tim "Tiny" Lister Jr. anyway? You kids think you've got the golden age of wrestling in front of you now and to that I say no way, it was all back in the glorious late 80s.

JC: I think one of my personal curiosities about Jason has always been what's going on behind the mask. So any chance I can show a little to me helps sell the emotion, because, let's face it, Jason is a character that says nothing, and is sold entirely on body language. So any chance to show a little emotion through the holes in his mask I was all for.

### Page 4 Panel 1

JAK This would be such an amazing sequence to watch on film. Jason grabs the machete by the blade protruding from his ribcage and pulls it out through the front of his chest. This is a beautiful gory shot that just adds to the unstoppable mystique of Jason. How can you stop him? Freddy's starting to get the picture...you can't!

JPR: Now if it were me, I would be more than skittish about grabbing onto the machete and pulling it through, because that would like totally cut into your fingers, there'd be a lot of humor in it I think... a lot of stopping and starting to do the deed as it were. Here though,



we just have an undead killing machine taking care of business...

JAK: One of the funniest stories behind the making of this series has been the difficulty we've had keeping track of the damage wrought out on poor Jason. He's been sliced up with a power saw, nearly cut in half by a chain saw, shot with a boom stick, and stabbed with his own machete. The guy is a walking wound but he keeps going. At one point Jason (Craig) actually made an injury chart so he could continue to accurately illustrate the injuries as the book goes on. Give him and Thomas Mason all the credit in the world for making this series so true to the movies.

JK: We've said it before but Thomas and Jason are truly horror nerds of the first order. And it shows – or bleeds through, if you will – in each and every panel. It's such a clear labor of love.

TM: I think all of us involved have bled for this series in one way or another and i think the fans have really jumped on board with us and really pushed us to do the best we can!

JC: It's true, at one time I thought, 'Hell, he's just going to be a walking spine by the end of this story. The one thing I hate in movies is something they call a lack of 'Blood Continuity.' In films it's usually because there shot out of order so they have to guess where or how bad an injury will be as the movie progresses. In this were going in chronological order, but the wounds are stacking up. I wanted to ground the believability (if I can use that phrase) by keeping all wounds consistent.

## **Panels 2-5**

JAK: I love this sequence. Freddy has had enough; he realizes that Jason is just going to keep going, so he decides to blow. Turning to grab the Necronomicon he realizes that while his attention was focuses on the undead hillbilly, the smart mouthed retail clerk slipped away with the book. I see this as a "Kaaahhhnnn!!!" moment that gives us a few chuckles but should also be a little scary. Freddy's power is growing by the minute and his dominion over the waking world is a damn frightening proposition. You can already see the telltale signs of his demonic ascension here in the tips of his ears and the sharpened angular features of his face. Freddy is turning more and more satanic with the building energy of the Necronomicon.

## **Page 5**

JAK: Ash does what he does best – gets the #\$%#! outta dodge while he still can. Having snagged the Book of the Dead while Freddy was busy monologuing, he bolts for the woods while the getting's good. Unfortunately for Ash, Freddy has a way of bringing your personal nightmares to life. In this case, a form of the Deadite possessed forest from the ED/AOD trilogy is re-animated here and does its best to slow the Chosen One down just long enough for Freddy to catch up. I really liked that the possessed trees have twisted bark faces that look quite a bit like the rotted flesh cover of the Necronomicon.

JPR: Back in the day, first watching the Evil Dead films, it was the tree sequences that truly separated Evil Dead from the other horror films out at the time. And by tree sequences you all know what I mean... they were the scenes that truly pushed the envelope and still do in a lot of ways... here, looks like the forest is round second and heading for third on poor ol' Ash.

JC: This was a sequence I was excited about. As Joseph said, the tree sequence was truly a memorable moment, and getting to bring the trees back, I thought, I want to show how the trees would look if this movie had an unlimited budget, and that's how this whole series has been treated. Whether it's the Necronomicon or the trees, when the Evil is in control, we wanted to give it life. Glowing eyes, the works.

TM: I think one of the things that works best for this series as a comic as opposed to the movie is the amount of over-the-top effects we can do. There are always those differences between what you can do on film and what you can get away with in comics and that's what has made this book so much fun.

**Page 6**  
**Panels 1-3**

JAK: Beautiful execution here on this three-panel spread image. The script called for the triptych image but I had no idea how good it would come out. We see Ash strung up and immobilized by the Deadite trees as a flock of killer crows start to feast on a heaping helpin' of Chosen One.



**Page 7**  
**Panels 1-2**

JAK: Ash does his best “Ozzie” impersonation by biting the head right off one of the possessed birds. Check out the black Deadite blood – nice touch, Thomas! Hey...anyone know what Ash is saying through that mouth full’a putrid feathers? I’m thinking it’s not too pleasant, with that “Deadite ass” aftertaste in his mouth. Heh.

JPR: A little Ozzy and a little Conan here as Ash takes a bite.

**Page 8**

JAK: “Hail to the king, birdies. Hail to the king.”

JPR: Is there any cooler move than the over the shoulder, not looking shotgun blast? I don’t think so...

**Page 9**

JAK: Aw, no. Looks like our “Scooby Doo” crew didn’t get to unmask old man Jenkins this time. While this is a classic Friday death reveal, perfected in the sequels, we did have to sacrifice Raoul and Jarvis’ death scenes due to the lack of space remaining in the series. So much story and so little time...you’ll have to catch Jason, Jeff, or me at a convention to talk about how your favorite smart ass kids died.



**Panel 3**

JAK: Check out the sweet little Easter Egg Jason dropped in here with the necklace. And it was only \$19.99 at S-Mart after his employee discount. Nice!

JC: Yea, that necklace in the films is kind of poked fun at, in the sense, it’s a pretty unattractive piece of jewelry to give to a love interest, so I had to add the ‘C’ touch. So it appears Caroline has bad taste buds too.

TM: It’s always fun to put Easter eggs into the books even if they are only obvious to us. We like to pick on our assistant Rex Stabbs a lot on the books we do since he is our uncredited hero...lol! In issue 3 on page 8 we added Rex into the book with a goofy look on his face as Jason walks into the S-Mart and in issue 2 i put Rex's real phone number on Ash's S-Mart employee discount card but lucky for Rex the letters covered it up...lol! At this point I'm not sure any of us have counted all the Easter eggs in this series.

**Page 10**  
**Panel 3**

JAK: Wow – that Freddy image of his leering face forming in the clouds over the Voorhees house is really haunting. I can see it developing from a gathering storm cloud and then overwhelming the natural sky with an intense presence. As Ash and Carrie reunite in the foyer of the old house, we start to put together bits and pieces of the puzzle. Ash has seen the Necronomicon send the evil back to the past and has first hand experienced it sending him to every freaking dimension there is. It looks like there may be an opportunity to get rid of both of these psychotic killers in one fell swoop.

**Page 11**  
**Panel 3**

JAK: Another amazing panel! Jason draws the Necronomicon spread with beautiful precision. This looks exactly like the classic pages of the book from the ED/AOD trilogy. And what have we here...Jason is some kind of Deadite monster? We don't really know, but it certainly makes sense. If Pamela Voorhees used the Necronomicon (last seen in Jason Goes to Hell) to help bring her baby back, maybe he is in the Deadite possessed family tree. Unfortunately we don't find out for sure here, the book never gives you a straight answer. In this case, it gives you just enough to put together some of the puzzle but not all. And ask yourself this...why is it telling you anything? It's hatred of Ash is legendary, would it help him in any way unless it had no choice? Can it be that Freddy having the book is an even worse fate in its mind than helping the one stinking flesh bag it despises most in the world? Damn...that's saying something.

JPR: Over in the Dynamite Army of Darkness book (which Mr. Kuhoric here also writes), we play around a good deal with the Necronomicon and when it comes to pages like this – showing a bit done in the style of the Kandarian Demons who wrote the book – the artist always shines, no exception here..

JC: Another moment we have seen before in the AOD universe, but again with that unlimited budget, we really wanted to show the book 'SPark' to life

**Page 12**  
**Panel 6**

JAK: Ash musters his moxie and turns to take on Krueger and Voorhees at the same time if he has to. But what's this? As he exits the Voorhees house he finds himself somewhere else. Ash doesn't know it yet, but he's just walked out onto Elm Street. Freddy is here and making things a little more...familiar.

**Page 13**  
**Panels 1-5**

JAK: This is a beautiful Nightmare on Elm Street homage sequence. Ash finds himself at Nancy's Elm Street house with a group of kids jumping rope on the street. Imagine how screwed up that is for him, having never been in the NOES movies. I love the nod to the original Nightmare with Freddy pulling Caroline back through the door of the house and then the jump rope finds his neck in a brutal choke hold. Never turn your back on a bunch of preteen girls, Ash. Come on, everyone knows that.

JK: The Ash vs. Jump Rope Girls sequence was one of the first things I came up with when I was first dabbling around with the crossover idea. It seemed so absurd, yet so obvious. The beauty of Ash is he's naturally slightly over the top as a personality, so letting him loose in over the top situations becomes just too delicious an opportunity to pass up. And the idea of Bruce Campbell fighting those little girls – such a classic constant of the Nightmare series – is just hilarious to think about. You know he'd have just nailed that moment. Jason and Thomas do an awesome job of bringing it to life here.

TM: I think there is a whole lot of potential for a book just on those lil girls...lol!

**Page 14**  
**Panels 1-3**

JAK: This is a jump out of your seat moment in the film as the little girls turn into classic demon faced Deadites. And the jump rope turns into a Freddy snake. OK...maybe a little Freudian, but very cool nonetheless.

JPR: Weird, I had this dream last night too!

**Page 15**  
**Panel 1**

JAK: There are so few mistakes in this book that I hesitate to point one out. But we missed the boat a little in this first panel. The script called for Ash to be grabbing at his throat and the Freddy rope/snake that is choking him as he turns to fight the Deadite girls. He's choking in his word balloon with a big ol' "kkkkaah" and grabbing at his neck, but you don't see the rope here.

JPR: Great, now we can't give out any no-prizes!

**Panels 2-4**

JAK: Jason and Thomas rocked the gore in these panels! splaterific! Goretastic! Intestinible! Bloodyalafragalisticexpialdocious!

JK: What he said!

TM: There can never be enough blood in a book like this!

JPR: Good GOD is that disturbing, disgusting and beautiful all in one! That snake in the last panel reminds me of one of the those Rubik Snakes... anyone remember those or am I just growing older and more irrelevant by the second?

**Page 16**  
**Panel 4**

JAK: Jason is finally back in the picture having pulled himself free of the Crystal Lake cadavers and tracked the crew back to Casa Voorhees. But what's this? He steps through another of Freddy's dimension altering reality bubbles and into Elm Street right in the middle of Crystal Lake. Thomas Mason really makes this effect pop with brilliant color treatment where the natural snow meets the unnatural pavement of Elm Street. Great job guys!

**Panel 6**

JAK: Check out Freddy "Gene Simmons" Krueger and that wicked tongue. I thought this was a real classic Krueger "dirty old man" moment. He always finds a way to take it a step too far and really creep you out.

JPR: Speaking of Gene, you see his tape? Dude keeps his socks on... that's so not rock and roll...

TM: Uh... Ok? I'm starting to worry about you Joe...lol!

JC: This page was a page where we got a chance to show the little world Freddy has created at Crystal Lake. In the script it called for the Nightmare on Elm Street house/neighborhood to be in the Crystal Lake woods and so I looked at it like this. If you're inside the 'bubble', so to speak, you would see Springwood, neighborhoods, streets, etc. If you were outside the 'bubble' you would see the house etc, but almost like seeing into a snow globe of another dimension. When it said Jason walks to the house, I thought, OK, we

will get to show Jason literally walking through this dimension. I thought Thomas really sold it on the colors.

**Page 17**  
**Panel 1**

JAK: I loved the line Freddy drops here – “Just another little retail clerk tease, aren’t cha?”

**Panels 4-5**

JAK: Jason (Craig) was totally on vibe with what we were going for in this sequence. Freddy’s power is growing by the moment and when Jason (Voorhees) finally busts back into the picture, he takes the opportunity to flex his new muscles. This is really an homage to the FvJvA construction yard battle between Freddy and Jason. When Freddy leans back and unleashes the pelvic thrust, launching a beam right out of the floor structure into Jason’s chops, you can just feel the wicked glee in his posture. Part Freudian insult and part “suck it – you can’t touch this,” you can see Freddy’s growing certainty of his newfound strength as he toys with Jason.

JPR: Jason is getting beat up BY A HOUSE! How awesome is this book...

JC: The one thing I have tried to maintain in all these books is that Jason doesn’t kick in doors, or do anything dynamic like were used to in comics. Jason’s beauty is that he’s a bulldozer. He simply walks head first into everything. A lot of Jason’s mannerisms are very subtle but stand out and a lot of attitude can be sold in how he carries himself in a scene.



**Page 18**  
**Panels 1-6**

JAK: Freddy relentlessly pounds on Jason knocking him around like a bloody bingo ball in the rolling cage. Just when it looks like Freddy is focused on finishing off tall, dark, and undead, Ash and Caroline finally get around to reading the Necronomicon verse. Klattu...verata...nikt – uh-oh! Check out the intensity in Jason’s eye as he realizes what is going on here.

JAK: Can you feel it? It’s coming...the moment everyone’s been waiting for...wait for it...wait for it...

**Page 19**  
**Panels 1-5**

JAK: This may be my very favorite page in the entire book so far. Jason grabs the Necronomicon out of Caroline’s hands before she can complete the recitation of the passage to send them to the Deadite dimension. Ash leads with the boomstick and gives Jason a buckshot exfoliation blowing off the bottom of his hockey mask, giving us our first look at the face that has been hidden for so long. Jason (Craig) was extremely true to the F13 film franchise in his rendering of this iconic slasher’s face. Check out the bone extrusions on the lower skull and jawbone from the shotgun blast. Beautifully gory and truly frightful – GREAT job, man!

JPR: The sequence with the shot is pitch perfect...



JC: This was the moment I couldn't wait to tackle. I managed to find a picture of Jason that we didn't get to see in Freddy v Jason. This shot is true to the reference, only we got to add a little gore to the mix keeping true to one of my favorite Friday the 13th movies, which was pt 7, that John Carl Buechler did. He really had a make-up that was zombie-ish and showed all the wear and tear that Jason had gone through in all the films. With Jason starting over in the Freddy v Jason series it was cool to take what had been done, but not seen, and 'gore it up'. I loved the burns Thomas added, it's always the little details that sell it.

TM: This is also one of my faves from the series... seeing Jason's face shot to hell is just cool!

JAK: Oh...but that's not the last big surprise in this issue. The next page has another really cool first for these franchises.

## Page 20

JAK: How do you get the book out of the hands of an unstoppable killer? Just cut off the whole arm! Oh! Jason lost some fingers in FvJvA but here Ash takes the saw to his arm and lops it off at the forearm. I suppose that's a turn about in fair play since he was forced to lop off his own hand back in the ED/AOD trilogy. When I read the original treatment Jeff wrote and came to this part I was surprised. But that's nothing compared to what's coming on the next page. See how "smart Jason" is eyeing up Ash's Chain Lighting arm in that last panel...

JK: The working idea was that the FvJvA film would be the proverbial "final chapter" for the Freddy and Jason characters. Of course, as any horror fan knows, there's never a final chapter. These characters will always come back as long as the audience demands it. But it was very much a "go wild" mentality originally when it came to where we could have Freddy and Jason go creatively in this film. So doing some unique and permanent damage to Jason was very high on my to-do list. Lopping off a limb seemed to suffice. But, then, to have Jason go weapon for weapon with Ash, each guy now physically augmented with a killing tool, it just made too much sense and seemed too cool not to do. It was something I wanted to see as a fan.

## Page 21 Panel 1

JAK: Another timeless panel here. Taking his trademark machete by the blade, Jason rams it hilt deep into his stump making his own severed arm weapon. I remember reading the treatment for this sequence and thinking "holy sh#t, he did not just do that." If we were watching this fight on film, I think we would all be quoting this as being in the top five of memorable horror moments of all time. All the credit in the world goes to Jeff Katz here. It was his vision that gave us this incredible scene!

JPR: Now see, here again, assuming I survived getting my arm cut off, I'd still be all unable to grab that machete without dropping it a million times because it was cutting my fingers... and then to stick it IN the stump? Forget it... I wouldn't last a minute in this book I guess... But I can beat up a whole mess of five year olds (<http://www.howmanyfiveyearoldscouldy...nafight.com>)

TM: This is one of those sequences that I wish we woulda had more space for... seeing Ash and Jason go to blows like this would have been priceless.



### **Panels 3-4**

JAK: Say, Ash, how'd ya like the taste of that plate glass? I don't care for it myself, just a little too "sharp" for my tastes.

### **Page 22**

#### **Panels 1-3**

JAK: With Ash out of the way, Freddy turns his full attention to demolishing Jason and the very house around them. The issue ends with the Voorhees / Elm Street house crashing down around everyone as a semi-conscious Ash plays garden gnome on the front lawn. What? Garden gnomes are cool, man. They're kinda creepy like those damn ventriloquist dummies that you everyone knows run around at night after you go to sleep. Never turn your back on a dummy.

JC: It was funny, even though I drew the book; I never noticed until Thomas pointed it out that the house collapsing in the final panel looked like the Necronomicon. So with that said, I take full credit, meant to do it all along.

TM: I knew you would take credit for that...lol!

We'll see you in thirty dreadful days when the FvJvA horror marathon concludes.