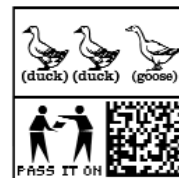


"I'm a 10th level Vice President."  
-Al Gore

# THE NEW NEW YORK Alert Nerdian



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www.alertnerd.com

Priceless and/or Free

## MATT'S GRAMMY MOMENTS

by Matt Springer

- I understand Sir George Martin waved Ringo Starr in front of him when he went up to get his Grammy for the soundtrack to that Weird French Circus Show, Love, but it still felt like Ringo had to upstage Martin...yet again. It seems like the Fabs are constantly downplaying the contribution of George Martin to their sound, their records, and their overall greatness, as if it somehow diminishes their absolute brilliance that they had a *producer*. Martin's gotta be nearing death; it's time to be gracious and give him the accolades he's earned. Let the old boy accept a damn Grammy on his own, with his son, and get a standing ovation, by himself, for his work. Jeez.

- Jason Bateman introducing the odd "My Grammy Moment" contestants was just unbelievably funny. Of course a cello is "a violin with a thyroid problem." OF COURSE.

- Is it weird that I like the fact that Kanye West is kind of an asshole? He doesn't seem really apologetic about it, either. I really don't believe his ego trips are calculated strategy or a "character" he plays; I think he really is that big of a jerk, and I'm glad for it. Pop music today needs more unrepentant dick-head geniuses.

- Amy Winehouse. I wasn't quite prepared for the extent to which she dominated the evening; it seems a bit late, but I'm glad the USA is finally embracing her as somewhat of a rare talent. I hope she gets her shit together.

## NERD PICK-UP LINES



http://flickr.com/photos/maliala

"The body is made up of 90% water and I'm thirsty. There are also trace amounts of tungsten. Heh, I said tongue."

"Well Princess, it looks like you managed to keep me here a while longer."

"You remind me of someone I once knew. She was... Queen of the Netherlands."

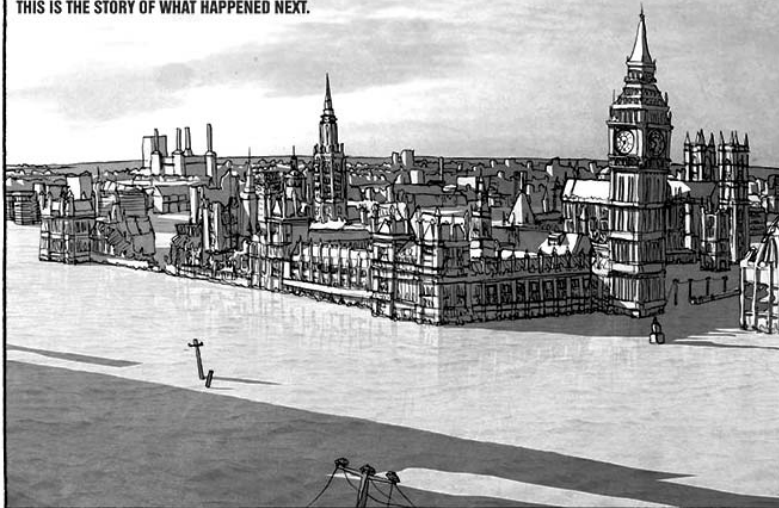
For more pick-up lines and great articles, check out the Spring 08 issue of Grok! Coming Soon!

## ELLIS FREEBIE: FREAKANGELS

23 YEARS AGO, TWELVE STRANGE CHILDREN WERE BORN IN ENGLAND AT EXACTLY THE SAME MOMENT.

6 YEARS AGO, THE WORLD ENDED.

THIS IS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.



by Chris Stewart

There is a fine line between homage and rip-off. Done right, you provide a fresh take on a classic idea, which, one hopes, will provide new material for old fans and direct new fans to the original source.

Recent years have seen some of England's best take their shot - most notably Alan Moore's League of Extraordinary Gentlemen - at the vast archives of British genre fiction.

Now Warren Ellis has waded in with his latest, *Freakangels* - a free, weekly, online comic, drawn by artist Paul Duffield.

How is it an homage (and yes, it's a good homage, and thus far not a rip-off), you ask?

John Wyndham.

Take a look at the image above and readers of Wyndham will know what I'm talking about - in the single opening shot of the book, we instantly spot the major plot points of Wyndham's *Midwich Cuckoos* (or *Village of the Damned*, for those who prefer to watch

rather than read) and *The Kraken Wakes*, in which deep-sea loving extraterrestrials cause the Earth's oceans to rise.

Admittedly, there is no sign of the aliens, rather he's just using the idea of a flooded London. But the *Midwich Cuckoos* reference is strong, with a group of telepathic youths living in *Whitchapel* - each born at the exact same time. I would even go so far as to say that he's touching on some of the mental powers found in *The Chrysalids*. Add a touch of steampunk (a very slight one) and you have *Freakangels*.

So far the series is a month in - four weeks of approximately six pages each - but already the stage is well set. What caused the end of the world (besides the flooding, London is very, very empty)? Who caused the end of the world? Who the fuck is Mark and why has this *Freakangel* gone rogue?

I'll be continuing to read the comic, and if you haven't already, I recommend you catch up on your Wyndham - more of his work may come into play.

<http://www.freakangels.com>

redshift  
awesome!



- Dawn "Mary-Ann" Wells busted for pot.  
- *America's Best Dance Crew*. Our money is on Jabberwockeez, but dude... Rollerskates! C'mon! Old school!  
- *Justice League New Frontier* DVD

blueshift  
boring.



- Brad Meltzer to write *Buffy* season 8 arc.  
- *Zombie* movies. Seriously. Time out.  
- *Ninja* sunburns. Shady palm trees my ass. Thank god for rum.  
- *Fucking Damon* or *Affleck*. Yes, seen it.