

The Amazing Spider-Man

This two-part story from *The Amazing Spider-Man* features plot twists that were considered controversial and shocking at the time. Not the sort of thing you would find in *Superman* or *Batman* comics. This leads to a darkening tone that would grow in the comics.

<https://comiconlinefree.net/the-amazing-spider-man-1963/issue-121>

<https://comiconlinefree.net/the-amazing-spider-man-1963/issue-122>

Captain America

As the Watergate scandal was raging and Americans were questioning how much they could trust the government, Captain America has a crisis of conscience. Note what he has to say about his role as a symbol and how his distress mirrors what so many Americans were feeling at this time.

<https://www.comicextra.com/captain-america-1968/chapter-176>

Batman

On the verge of being cancelled and considered something of a joke due to the camp 1960's television show bearing his name, Batman was a character in need of serious overhaul. Writer Denny O'Neil and artist Neal Adams set out to create a darker more serious character as well as recasting the book's villains as more violent and psychotic. This issue features their first crack at the Joker, the first step towards making him a darker, more complex character.

<https://www.comicextra.com/batman-1940/chapter-251>

The Fantastic Four

These two issues of The Fantastic Four feature the debut of the Black Panther, the first African superhero. Note the amount of dialogue in the book, Jack Kirby's dynamic art and the incredibly positive portrayal of the Black Panther and Wakanda.

<https://www.comicextra.com/fantastic-four-1961/chapter-52>

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