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#32  
#473

STRACZYMSKI  
ROMITA JR.  
HANNA

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AUG

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08

Powerpuff power.



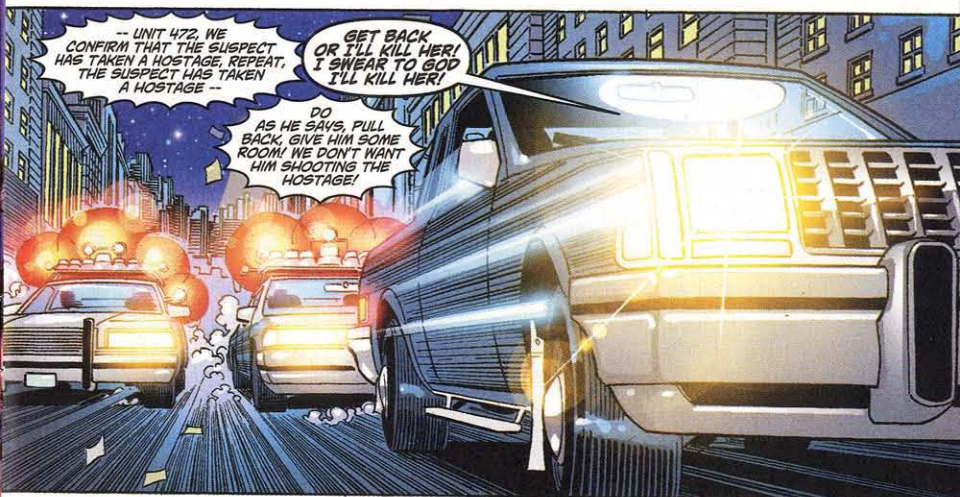
Banana, chocolate and strawberry  
mils are tasty and yummy with vitamins  
and minerals to help you play hard.  
Once again, the day is saved.

got milk?<sup>®</sup>

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-- UNIT 472, WE  
CONFIRM THAT THE SUSPECT  
HAS TAKEN A HOSTAGE, REPEAT,  
THE SUSPECT HAS TAKEN  
A HOSTAGE --

GET BACK  
OR I'LL KILL HER!  
I SWEAR TO GOD  
I'LL KILL HER!

DO  
AS HE SAYS, PULL  
BACK, GIVE HIM SOME  
ROOM! WE DON'T WANT  
HIM SHOOTING THE  
HOSTAGE!



NOT STOPPIN'...NO WAY, WE'RE NOT  
STOPPIN' TILL WE HIT THE STATE LINE,  
THEY'RE NOT TAKING ME ALIVE...  
I DIE, YOU DIE...

PLEASE,  
I --

SHUTTUP!



AIN'T  
NOBODY  
STOPPING  
US NOW!





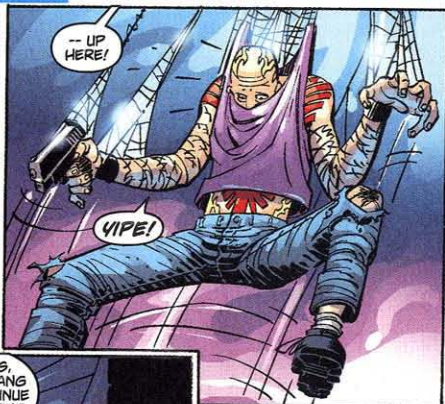
FUNNY HOW I ALWAYS HAVE  
THAT EFFECT ON WOMEN...  
CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT...





FREAK...  
DAMN FREAK...  
NOT GONNA  
GET ME, NOT  
GONNA --

PSST...HEY,  
EINSTEIN --



-- UP  
HERE!

YIPE!



SEE, THING IS,  
I'D LOVE TO HANG  
OUT AND CONTINUE  
THIS FASCINATING  
DIALOGUE --

LEMME  
GOLEMMEGO  
LEMMEGO!

EXACTLY.  
YOU BIG OL' SMART  
GUYS WITH YOUR BIG  
CITY WAYS AND YOUR  
FANCY TALK. BUT I'M  
ALMOST LATE FOR  
WORK.



SO THIS IS GOING TO  
BE...QUICK.

WHICH WOULD  
YOU PREFER: TO BE  
UNCONSCIOUS OR  
INSULTED?



PICK  
ONE.

I...  
I --

GOOD  
CHOICE.



FOUR-  
DAVID-NINE,  
WE ARE IN  
PURSUIT! WE  
ARE --

HOLY --!

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# THE LONG, DARK PIZZA OF THE SOUL

WHAT  
THE #\*%&  
ARE YOU  
LOOKIN'  
AT?

"HUMANS ARE FUNNY  
CREATURES..."

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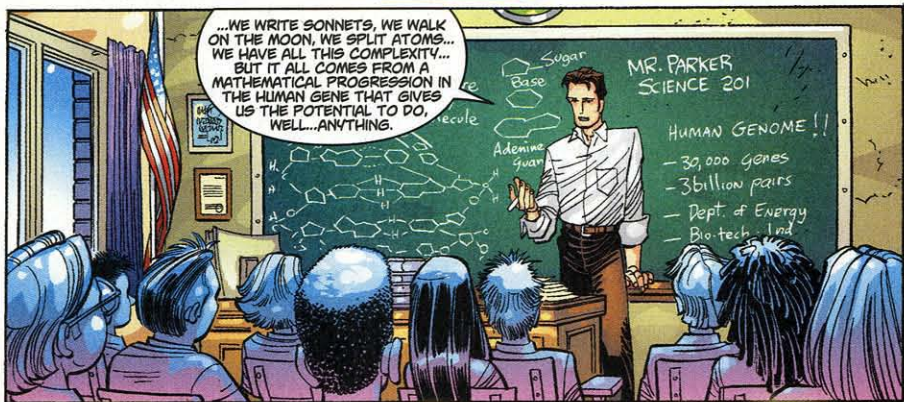
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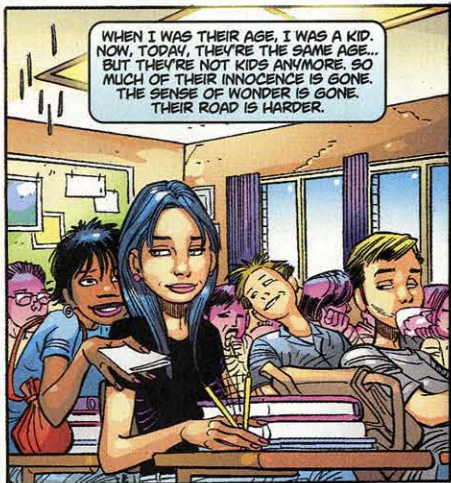
...WE WRITE SONNETS, WE WALK ON THE MOON, WE SPLIT ATOMS... WE HAVE ALL THIS COMPLEXITY... BUT IT ALL COMES FROM A MATHEMATICAL PROGRESSION IN THE HUMAN GENE THAT GIVES US THE POTENTIAL TO DO, WELL...ANYTHING.



THAT'S WHAT SO MANY DON'T UNDERSTAND. MUSIC IS MATH. ART IS MATH. WE...ARE MATH. THE MATH IN OUR GENES FUNNELS INTO THE MATH OF OUR DREAMS, OUR ART, OUR AMBITION.

SCIENCE ISN'T JUST BEAKERS AND TEST TUBES...IT'S WHO AND WHAT WE ARE. ARTISTIC. ECCENTRIC. HUMAN.

I WATCH THEM, AND I SEE THE LIGHT GO ON IN A FEW EYES. JUST A VERY FEW EYES.



WHEN I WAS THEIR AGE, I WAS A KID. NOW, TODAY, THEY'RE THE SAME AGE... BUT THEY'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE. SO MUCH OF THEIR INNOCENCE IS GONE. THE SENSE OF WONDER IS GONE. THEIR ROAD IS HARDER.



SO I'LL JUST WORK THAT MUCH HARDER TO GET THROUGH. I KNOW I CAN DO IT. I HAVE TO DO IT.

SOMEHOW.

-- SO THE FUNNY THING IS... AND YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS...IT ALL STARTED WITH SCIENTISTS MESSING AROUND WITH THE LOVE LIVES OF FRUIT FLIES...

**RRRIIINNNGG**



AND READ CHAPTER TWELVE FOR TOMORROW!

WAS PRETTY COOL --

SO LAME, GIVE ME A BREAK --

THE PART ABOUT THE MATH OF ART, I NEVER THOUGHT --

YOU WANNA COME OVER, MY DAD'S AWAY, WE CAN GET LOADED --









THAT'S THE THING ABOUT NEW YORK, P. YOU GET THE BEST PIZZA HERE. I THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE QUALITY OF THE MOZZARELLA --

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

BECAUSE I LIKE PIZZA.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.



YOU KNOW WHO AND WHAT I AM. YOU'VE CLEARLY BEEN KEEPING TABS ON ME, SINCE YOU KNOW ABOUT MY NEW JOB.

THAT'S CORRECT. I FIGURE YOU TOOK ON THE JOB TO DO SOME GOOD. I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA. FIGURED I'D DO THE SAME. IT'S LAUDABLE, IT'S DEDUCTIBLE...

...AND IT GOT YOUR ATTENTION.

LOOK, PETER, I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO TRUST ME, AND I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD.



ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT YOU'RE IN DANGER, AND THE INFORMATION I HAVE MAY HELP YOU SURVIVE IT.

AND WHAT'S THAT TO YOU?

WE'RE... KINDRED SPIRITS, REMEMBER? I KNOW THINGS ABOUT YOUR POWERS EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW. SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT.



FINE. YOU WANT TO TALK? GO RIGHT AHEAD.

AND IT'S THE WATER THAT GOES INTO THE DOUGH, NOT THE MOZZARELLA. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT...

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT MY POWERS THAT I DON'T? I MEAN, WHAT, CAN I TALK TO SPIDERS OR SOMETHING?



HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T HAVE YOU EVER TRIED?

NO.

SO GIVE IT A SHOT.

YOU'RE KIDDING.

IS THIS THE FACE OF A KIDDER? GO ON.



SO...HOW'S IT GOING? EAT ANY GOOD FLIES TODAY?





# WIN!

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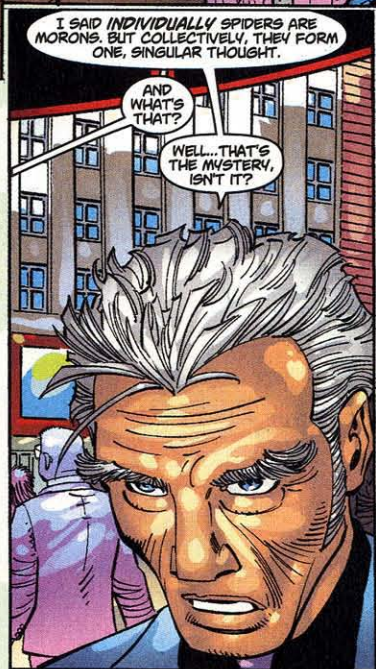


NOTHING.



OF COURSE NOT. BECAUSE INDIVIDUALLY, SPIDERS ARE MORONS.

THEN WHY --



I SAID INDIVIDUALLY SPIDERS ARE MORONS. BUT COLLECTIVELY, THEY FORM ONE, SINGULAR THOUGHT.

AND WHAT'S THAT?

WELL... THAT'S THE MYSTERY, ISN'T IT?

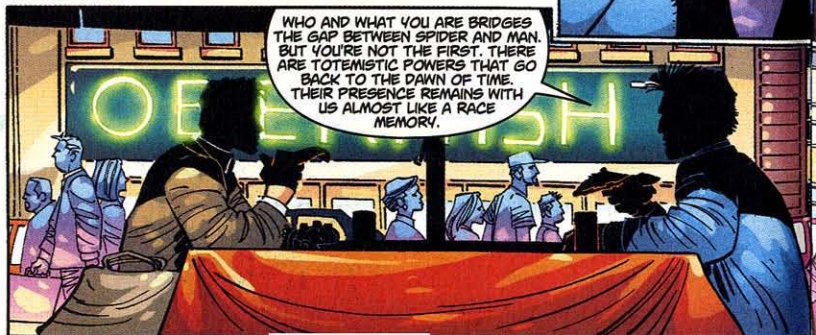


ASK A STUPID QUESTION YOU GET A STUPID ANSWER...

NO, PETER. IT'S NOT STUPID AT ALL.

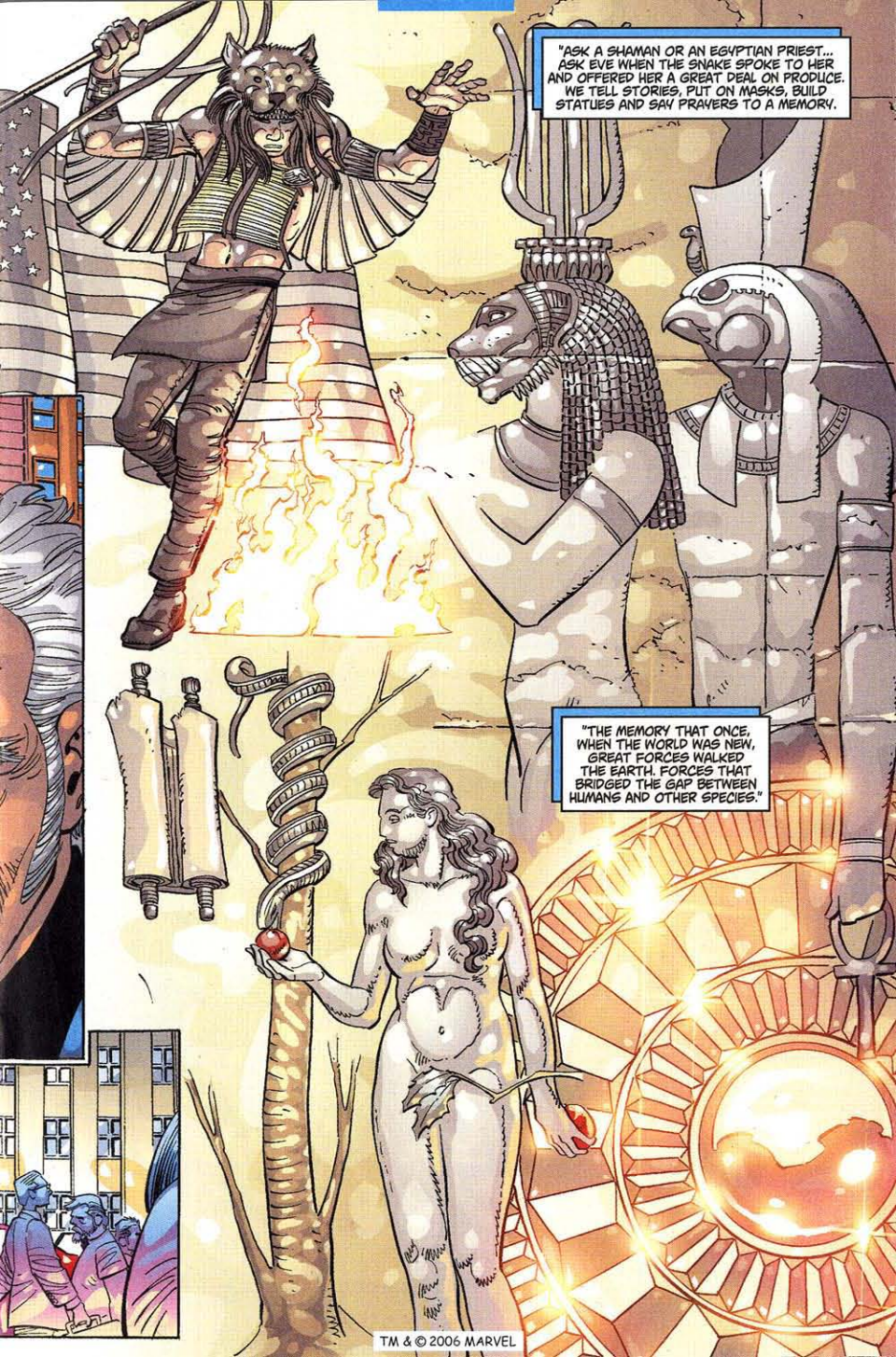


YOU ASKED ME TO TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW ABOUT YOUR POWER THAT YOU DON'T. BUT IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS TELLING YOU WHERE THE RIGHT BUTTON IS ON THE DASHBOARD OF A NEW CAR. YOU HAVE TO RECONSIDER HOW YOU'VE LOOKED AT YOUR LIFE.



WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN SPIDER AND MAN. BUT YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST. THERE ARE TOTEMISTIC POWERS THAT GO BACK TO THE DAWN OF TIME. THEIR PRESENCE REMAINS WITH US ALMOST LIKE A RACE MEMORY.





"ASK A SHAMAN OR AN EGYPTIAN PRIEST...  
ASK EVE WHEN THE SNAKE SPOKE TO HER  
AND OFFERED HER A GREAT DEAL ON PRODUCE.  
WE TELL STORIES, PUT ON MASKS, BUILD  
STATUES AND SAY PRAYERS TO A MEMORY."

"THE MEMORY THAT ONCE,  
WHEN THE WORLD WAS NEW,  
GREAT FORCES WALKED  
THE EARTH. FORCES THAT  
BRIDGED THE GAP BETWEEN  
HUMANS AND OTHER SPECIES."



ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

## CAPTAIN AMERICA #44

Cap's girlfriend has discovered his secret identity — and it's not going to help his love life! Plus: Taskmaster strikes! By Dan Jurgens!

## CAPTAIN MARVEL #20

Mario's comic book shop competitor puts his master plan into play, forcing Genis to take on the oldest threat of them all! By Peter David & Chriscross!

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## GHOST RIDER #1

Break out your leather, the Spirit of Vengeance is back! Johnny Blaze thought his life was getting boring — but nothing could prepare him for this flame headed demon! By Devin Grayson & Trent Kaniuga!

## INCREDIBLE HULK #29

Bruce Banner, Angela and Doc Samson have woven a tangled emotional web around each other — and now the Hulk starts twisting those strands! By Fabian Nicieza & Kyle Hotz!

INCREDIBLE HULK:  
DOGS OF WAR tpb

General Ryker wants the Hulk dead — and he'll use mutated soldiers, irradiated dogs and even the green goliath's own body to see that it happens! Collecting the nine-part shocker by Paul Jenkins & Ron Garney!

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PETER PARKER,  
SPIDER-MAN #32

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FIND  
THE  
POWER

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...before they can fulfill their destiny and free the island.



POHATU

TAHU

KOPAKA

GALI

LEWA

ONUA

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Collect the Toa and join them on their quest for the Great Masks of Power. This fall, look for exciting BIONICLE™ games from LEGO Software for **GAME BOY ADVANCE** and PC CD-ROM.



TECHNIC



WE DO THESE THINGS OUT OF AN ALMOST CELLULAR NEED TO RECREATE THAT TRUTH, TO GET A MOMENTARY TASTE OF TOTEMISTIC FORCE. SOME DO IT FOR RITUAL. OTHERS FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

AND SOME DO IT TO PROJECT A SENSE OF POWER.

AND YOU SHOULD KNOW, PETER, YOU'VE FOUGHT MANY OF THEM.

LOOK, EZEKIEL, YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE RIGHT ABOUT SOME OF THIS, BUT I *KNOW* WHO I'VE FOUGHT, AND NONE OF THEM ARE --

YOU EVER HEAR THE PHRASE "YOU KNOW A MAN BY HIS ENEMIES"? LOOK AROUND...

"CAPTAIN AMERICA WOUND UP WITH GUYS LIKE BARON ZEMO AND THE RED SKULL."

"THE X-MEN GOT MAGNETO."

"THOR'S GOT LOKI..."

YOU'RE STILL NOT LISTENING.





ONE TYPE ATTRACTS ANOTHER, SIMILAR TYPE. GODS AGAINST GODS, PATRIOTS AGAINST PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE PATRIOTS, MUTANTS AGAINST MUTANTS. THE KIND OF ENEMY YOU GET TELLS SOMEONE A LOT ABOUT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE.

NOW CONSIDER YOUR SITUATION. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE, YOU HAVE BEEN BESET BY TOTEMISTIC PRETENDERS. AND THE KICKER IS...THEY PROBABLY DON'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

"VULTURES AND CROCODILES, SCORPIONS AND COBRAS, JACKALS AND CATS AND FOXES AND OCTOPI AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. LOOK AT THEM, PETER. LOOK AT THE PATTERN."

"THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY URGES AND EVENTS OUTSIDE THEIR CONTROL, BEYOND EVEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING... BUT WHICH HAVE LED THEM TO EMBRACE A TOTEM, TO TRY AND GRASP THE POWER OF THAT IMAGE ONTO THEIR OWN SOULS, THEIR OWN BODIES."

"OVER THE YEARS YOU FOUGHT THEM, AND STROVE WITH THEM, BUT YOU NEVER SAW THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE."

"PRETENDERS."





"BUT IF THEY'RE  
PRETENDERS...  
THEN WHAT DOES  
THAT MAKE ME?"



"THE REAL  
DEAL,  
PETER."



"THE REAL  
DEAL..."



"I SEE..."

"NO, YOU  
DON'T. NOT  
REALLY, AND  
NOT YET.  
BUT YOU  
WILL."



"SO IF I'M THE REAL DEAL,  
WHERE DO YOU FIT INTO  
ALL OF THIS? HOW DID  
YOU GET YOUR...  
ABILITIES?"

"ME?"



"MY ROAD...  
WAS NOT  
QUITE THE  
SAME AS  
YOURS."



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"IT WAS NOT  
AS...PURE  
AS YOURS."

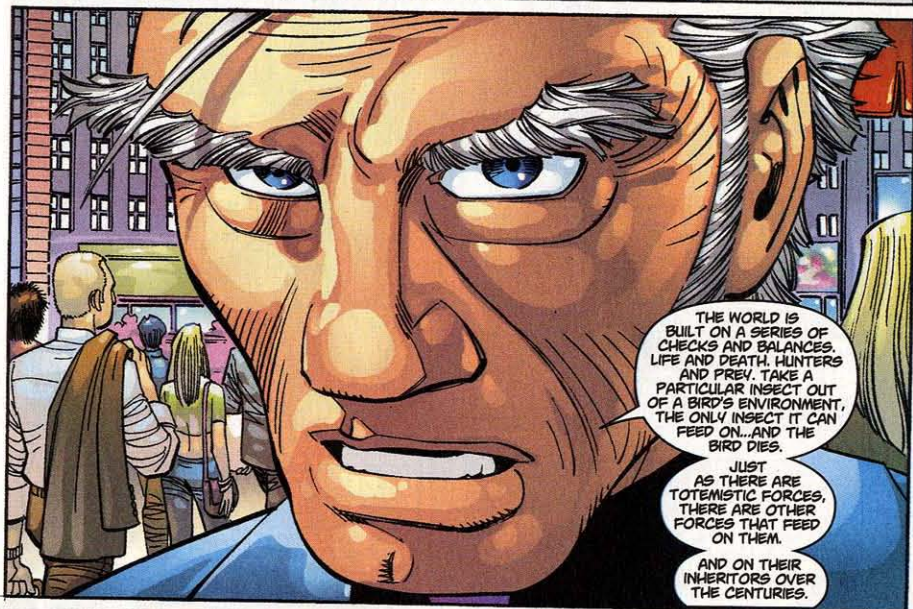


"I'LL TELL YOU  
ABOUT IT  
SOMETIME."



"I'M SURE YOU'LL  
GET A KICK OUT  
OF IT."









"ONLY A FEW OF THEM STILL WALK THE EARTH. THEY ARE USED TO HUNTING DOWN YOUR KIND. THEY HAVE DONE SO FOR UNCOUNTED CENTURIES. THEY CAN SUSTAIN THEMSELVES ON LESSER SOURCES FOR A WHILE, BUT EVERY SO OFTEN, THEY MUST GO BACK TO THE SOURCE, MUST DRINK DEEP, MUST FEED COMPLETELY."

"AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT ONE OF THEM HAS COME HERE? LOOKING FOR ME?"

"YES."



"YOU...AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, I...CAN SENSE HIS PRESENCE ON AN ALMOST CELLULAR LEVEL. I KNOW YOU'VE FELT HIM, FELT SOMETHING WRONG."

"SO WHY HASN'T HE COME AFTER ME?"

"HMMM... I DON'T KNOW..."



"OVER THE CENTURIES, THE FEEDING HAS TAKEN ON THE AIR OF RITUAL, OF FORMALITY. AT THIS MOMENT, YOUR ADVERSARY IS PROBABLY STILL PREPARING FOR THE HUNT, USING WHATEVER UNHOLY RITUALS MAY BE APPROPRIATE."

"...DO YOU THINK THIS MAKES MY BUTT LOOK FAT?"

"NO, MORLUN."



"SO HOW DOES THIS GUY --"

"MY PEOPLE BELIEVE HIS NAME IS MORLUN."

"HOW DOES THIS MORLUN KNOW I'M THE ONE HE WANTS?"



"PETER...YOU DRESS LIKE A SPIDER. THIS WAS NOT YOUR BEST MOVE, I MEAN, YOU PUT THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER RIGHT THERE ON YOUR CHEST."

"OKAY --"

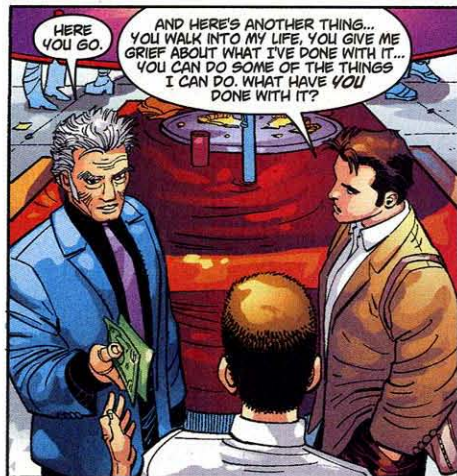
"WHAT IF CAPTAIN AMERICA CALLED HIMSELF SUPER-SERUM MAN, OR THE HULK WAS GAMMA-RAY MAN, OR --"

"ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, JEEZ..."

"I WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, CUT ME A LITTLE SLACK, HERE."









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UHM...  
HMM...

AND THEN  
WHAT?

AND THEN WHAT,  
WHAT?



"WITH GREAT  
POWER COMES GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITY."

RIGHT...

SO WHAT  
COMES WITH GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITY?  
WHAT'S THE OTHER  
HALF OF THE  
EQUATION? POWER?  
FREEDOM?  
GUILT?

I... I  
DON'T... I  
MEAN...



YOU  
ENJOY DOING  
THIS, DON'T  
YOU?

OF  
COURSE  
NOT.



THIS...  
IS YOUR  
OFFICE?

YOU APPROVE?

I'LL TAKE  
TWO.



UNFORTUNATELY,  
THE...OFFICE...I WOULD  
LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER  
HAS A BIT LESS OF  
A VIEW.

NONE  
AT ALL, TO BE  
PRECISE.

AN  
OFFICE?

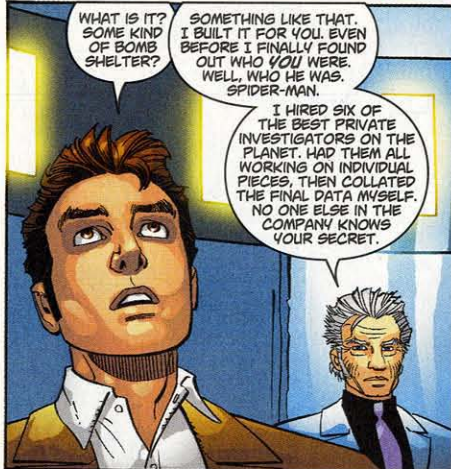
PLEASE...  
STEP INSIDE.



I HAD MY BEST  
ENGINEERS WORKING  
ON THIS FOR ALMOST TWO  
YEARS. IT'S TWO FEET OF SOLID  
STEEL, WRAPPED AROUND AN  
ADAMANTIUM CORE. IT HAS SELF-  
CONTAINED RECYCLING  
SYSTEMS FOR AIR AND WATER,  
A FOUR MONTH SUPPLY OF  
FOOD BENEATH THE  
FLOOR.

FOR THE SAME  
AMOUNT OF MONEY, I  
COULD'VE BOUGHT A  
SMALL LATIN AMERICAN  
COUNTRY.

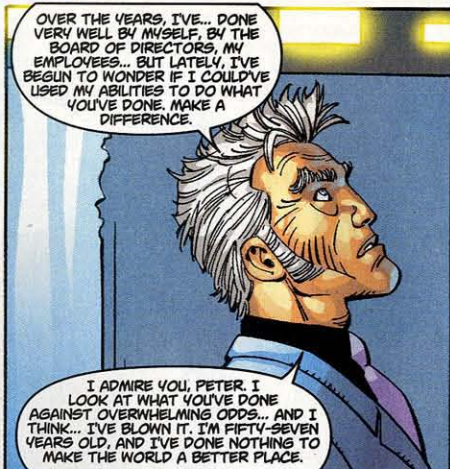




WHAT IS IT?  
SOME KIND  
OF BOMB  
SHELTER?

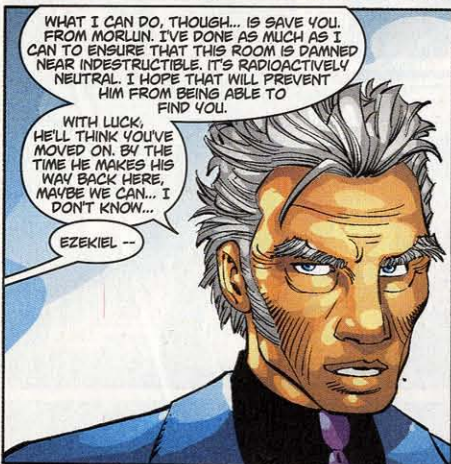
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.  
I BUILT IT FOR YOU. EVEN  
BEFORE I FINALLY FOUND  
OUT WHO YOU WERE.  
WELL, WHO HE WAS.  
SPIDER-MAN.

I HIRED SIX OF  
THE BEST PRIVATE  
INVESTIGATORS ON THE  
PLANET. HAD THEM ALL  
WORKING ON INDIVIDUAL  
PIECES, THEN COLLATED  
THE FINAL DATA MYSELF.  
NO ONE ELSE IN THE  
COMPANY KNOWS  
YOUR SECRET.



OVER THE YEARS, I'VE... DONE  
VERY WELL BY MYSELF. BY THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MY  
EMPLOYEES... BUT LATELY, I'VE  
BEGUN TO WONDER IF I COULDFE  
USED MY ABILITIES TO DO WHAT  
YOU'VE DONE. MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.

I ADMIRE YOU, PETER. I  
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE  
AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS... AND I  
THINK... I'VE BLOWN IT. I'M FIFTY-SEVEN  
YEARS OLD, AND I'VE DONE NOTHING TO  
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.



WHAT I CAN DO, THOUGH... IS SAVE YOU.  
FROM MORLIN. I'VE DONE AS MUCH AS I  
CAN TO ENSURE THAT THIS ROOM IS DAMNED  
NEAR INDESTRUCTIBLE. IT'S RADIOACTIVELY  
NEUTRAL. I HOPE THAT WILL PREVENT  
HIM FROM BEING ABLE TO  
FIND YOU.

WITH LUCK,  
HE'LL THINK YOU'VE  
MOVED ON. BY THE  
TIME HE MAKES HIS  
WAY BACK HERE,  
MAYBE WE CAN... I  
DON'T KNOW...

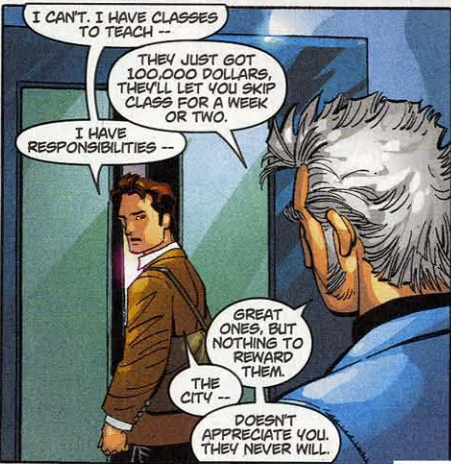
EZEKIEL --



-- I'M... WELL, I'M  
FLATTERED THAT  
YOU'D DO ALL THIS.  
SPEND... ALL THIS.  
BUT I CAN'T JUST  
SIT IN HERE  
AND HIDE --

YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM,  
PETER. OTHERS HAVE  
TRIED. THEY'VE ALL DIED.  
THE PART OF YOU THAT IS  
SPIDER WANTS TO HIDE  
FROM THIS, AND THAT'S  
THE CORRECT  
RESPONSE.

IF YOU  
TRY TO FIGHT HIM,  
HE'LL KILL YOU. I CAN'T  
PUT IT TO YOU ANY  
PLAINER THAN THAT.  
LET ME DO AT LEAST  
THIS MUCH WITH  
MY LIFE.



I CAN'T. I HAVE CLASSES  
TO TEACH --

THEY JUST GOT  
100,000 DOLLARS.  
THEY'LL LET YOU SKIP  
CLASS FOR A WEEK  
OR TWO.

I HAVE  
RESPONSIBILITIES --

GREAT  
ONES, BUT  
NOTHING TO  
REWARD  
THEM.

THE  
CITY --

DOESN'T  
APPRECIATE YOU.  
THEY NEVER WILL.

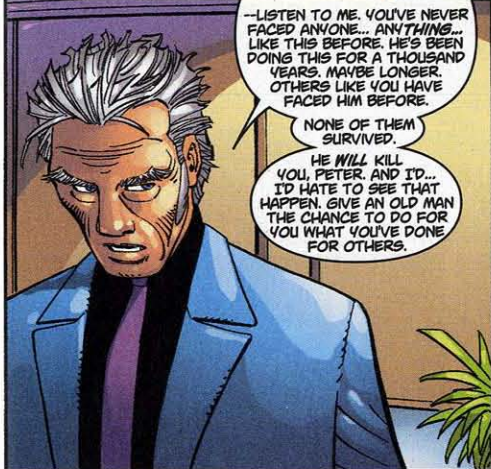


LOOK, I APPRECIATE  
YOUR INTENTION, BUT I'M  
NOT GOING TO JUST HIDE  
FROM THIS GUY. WHO  
KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO  
WHILE HE'S LOOKING  
FOR ME?

I'VE FACED  
GUYS BEFORE  
WHO SAID THEY  
WERE GOING TO KILL  
ME. HE ISN'T THE FIRST  
AND HE WON'T BE THE  
LAST. I'LL DEAL  
WITH IT.

PETER --









MORLUN...?



IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED? YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY QUIET SINCE WE GOT BACK. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN --

NO. NOT ANYMORE.



I'M READY.



-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE ONCE AGAIN NOBODY IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP THE VANKEES FROM HEADING FOR THE NEXT WORLD SERIES --

-- BZZZT --

WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN.



REPORTS ARE COMING IN BY PHONE DESCRIBING A SCENE OF COMPLETE CARNAGE ON THE EAST SIDE. WE'VE DISPATCHED REPORTERS TO THE SCENE AND WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION TO YOU SHORTLY.



WE NOW RETURN YOU TO YOUR PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM.



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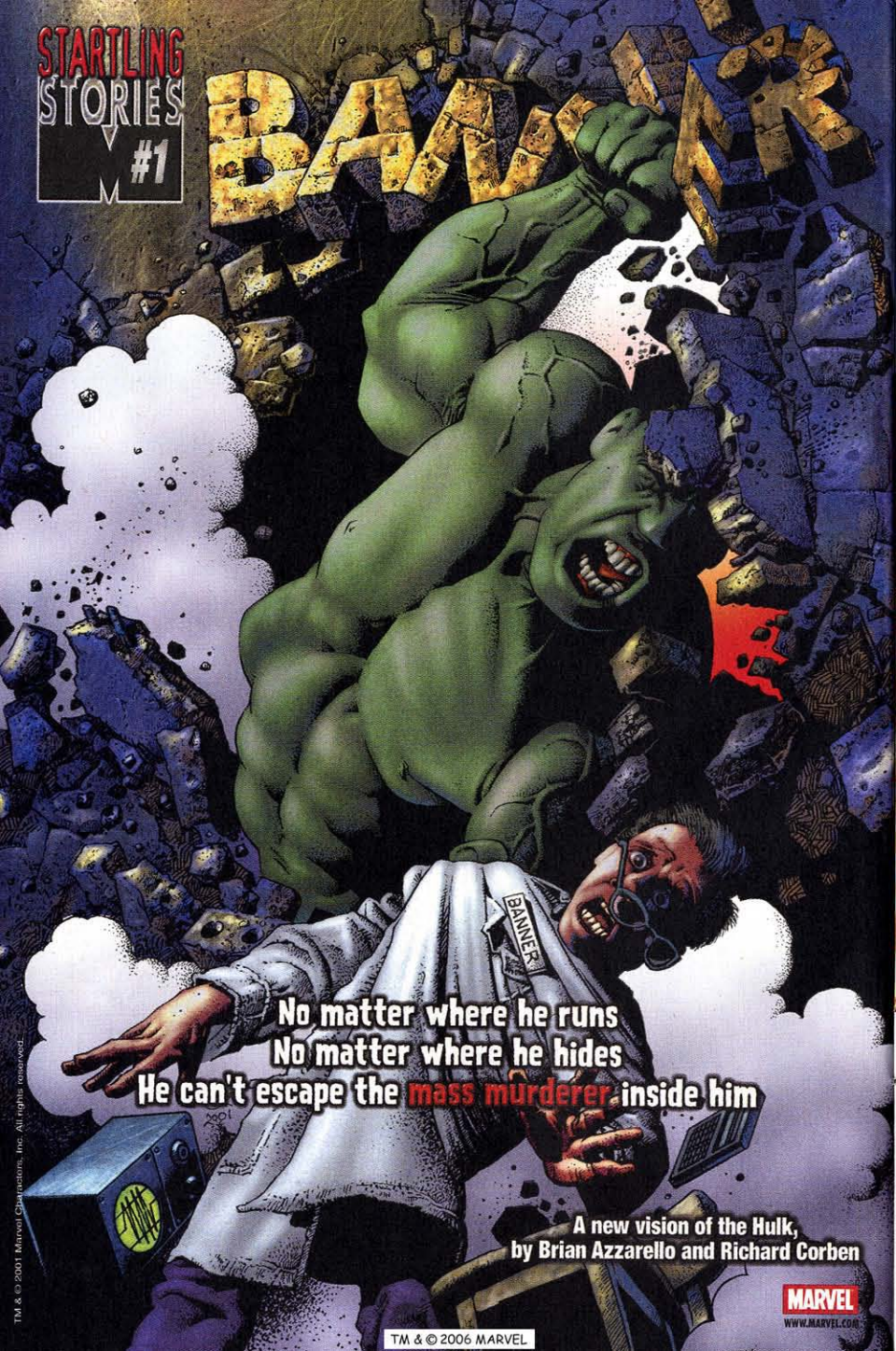
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STORIES  
#1

BANNNNNK



No matter where he runs  
No matter where he hides  
He can't escape the **mass murderer** inside him

A new vision of the Hulk,  
by Brian Azzarello and Richard Corben

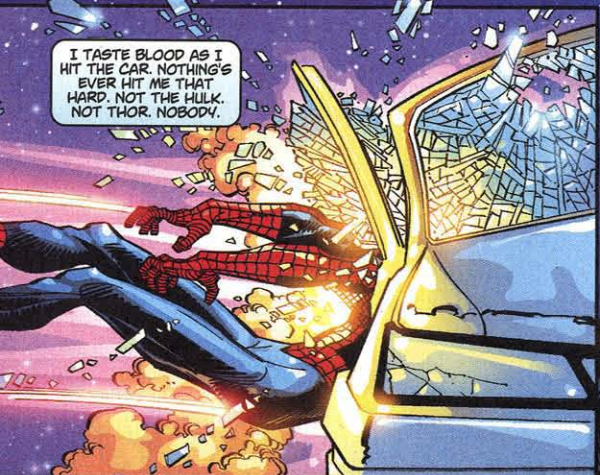
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I TASTE BLOOD AS I  
HIT THE CAR. NOTHING'S  
EVER HIT ME THAT  
HARD. NOT THE HULK.  
NOT THOR. NOBODY.



WELL, THAT  
WAS... THAT  
WAS...

AND FOR THE  
FIRST TIME,  
I DON'T HAVE  
A WISCRACK  
RIGHT AT HAND.



BECAUSE  
NOTHING'S  
FUNNY  
ANYMORE.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



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Some snacks have all the fun!

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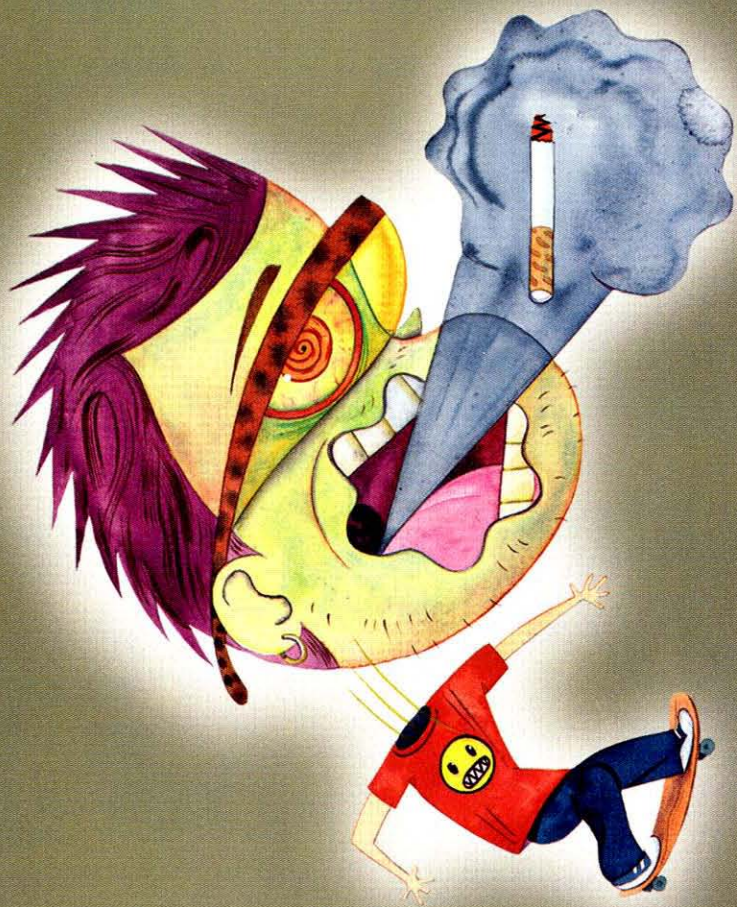
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