

M A R V E L C O M I C S



#34

#475

STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



Michael Choi
ILLUSTRATION

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The background of the poster features a dramatic night scene of Hogwarts Castle perched on a dark, craggy cliff. The castle's numerous windows and towers are illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden glow that contrasts with the dark, stormy sky above. In the foreground, the dark, still water of a lake reflects the castle's lights. A path of small, round boats, each carrying a single candle, leads from the bottom of the frame towards the castle, creating a sense of journey and mystery.

Harry Potter

AND THE
SORCERER'S
STONE

THE MAGIC BEGINS NOVEMBER 16

WWW.HARRYPOTTER.COM AMERICA ONLINE KEYWORD: HARRY POTTER

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MELTDOWN

THE UNIVERSE GIVETH
AND THE UNIVERSE
TAKETH AWAY.

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RS & COMICRAFT'S WES
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AXEL ALONSO
editor

JOE QUESADA
chief

BILL JEMAS
president

BUT RIGHT NOW THE UNIVERSE
SEEMS TO BE SPENDING A LOT MORE
TIME TAKETHING THAN GIVETHING.

THIS PLACE WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
A SHELTER AGAINST
MORLIN, THE GUY
WHO'S SWEARED ME
ACROSS MOST OF
NEW YORK CITY.

NOW EZEKIEL
TELLS ME IT'S
USELESS.

AND THE
HITS JUST
KEEP ON
COMING.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
IT'S TOO
LATE?

THIS SHELTER -- ADAMANTIUM
ALLOYS, THE AIR RECYCLING
SYSTEM, THE REINFORCED STEEL
SKIN -- WAS DESIGNED TO HELP
KEEP MORLIN FROM FINDING
YOU. IN TIME, HE WOULD HAVE
GIVEN UP AND GONE
ELSEWHERE.

BUT ONCE HE
TOUCHED YOU...
ALL THIS BECAME
IRRELEVANT. HE
CAN FIND YOU
WHEREVER YOU
GO.

YOU CANNOT
RUN. YOU CANNOT
HIDE.

YOU
CAN ONLY
FIGHT, AND
EVENTUALLY
DIE.

THAT'S
IT. I'M
SORRY.

SWELL.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO 'WE HAVE
SIMILAR POWERS BUT
I'M GETTING OLD AND
I WANT TO DO ONE
LAST GOOD THING
WITH MY LIFE'?

I MADE
YOU AN
OFFER. YOU
DECLINED.

OKAY, I
GOT THAT PART.
I'M PAST THAT.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M
UP AGAINST. HOW
ABOUT A HELPING
HAND?

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I CAN'T.
YOU'RE THE
MAIN TARGET. THE
ONE ON WHOM HE
CAN MOST FULLY
FEED. THE PURER
THE SOURCE, THE
MORE HE CAN
ABSORB.

BUT
I'M CLOSE ENOUGH
TO BE A PRETTY DECENT
APPETIZER. THAT'S WHY I'VE
BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID
HIM. SO FAR I DON'T THINK
HE EVEN KNOWS I EXIST.



I CAN'T
RISK EXPOSING
MYSELF TO HIM,
NOT EVEN FOR
YOU.

THEN AT
LEAST GIVE ME
SOMETHING I
CAN USE.



I'VE NEVER ASKED FOR MUCH.
LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, I KNOW
THE ODDS ARE ALWAYS AGAINST
US. THAT'S JUST THE WAY THE
UNIVERSE WORKS. I DON'T WANT
GUARANTEES, PROMISES,
ASSURANCES OR FALSE
HOPES.

ALL I'VE EVER ASKED IS FOR
ONE CHANCE TO TRY. TO STAND
ON MY OWN FEET AND GIVE IT MY
BEST SHOT. SUCCEED OR FAIL,
LIVE OR DIE, IF I KNOW I TRIED,
THEN I CAN ACCEPT
WHATEVER HAPPENS.



I'M SORRY, PETE.
I HAVE MORE MONEY
THAN I EVER WANTED.
I CAN BUY YOU
ANYTHING YOU
WANT.

BUT I
CAN'T GIVE
YOU THIS. I DON'T
KNOW ANY WAY
TO STOP MORLUN.
LET ALONE
BEAT HIM.



YOU'RE
ON YOUR
OWN.



WELL... IT
WON'T BE
THE FIRST
TIME.



GOODBYE,
EZEKIEL.



AS I TRY TO KEEP MY CRACKED
RIBS FROM GRINDING, I WEIGH MY
REMAINING OPTIONS THAT DON'T
INVOLVE GETTING TURNED INTO
A WET SPOT ON THE CONCRETE.

OPTION ONE: I CAN GET
ON A PLANE AND GET OUT
OF THE COUNTRY. BUT
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW
MUCH DAMAGE HE'LL DO
ONCE HE REALIZES I'M
GONE... TO TRY AND PULL
ME BACK AGAIN.

OPTION
TWO...



OPTION
TWO...

DAMN... THERE'S
NEVER A GOOD
OPTION TWO
AROUND WHEN
YOU REALLY NEED
ONE. AND WORST
OF ALL...



I THINK HE'S
DECIDED NOT
TO WAIT AROUND
FOR ME TO
SHOW UP AGAIN.



I CAN'T... I HAVE
OBLIGATIONS.

I HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES.

I HAVE A BOARD
OF DIRECTORS AND
SHAREHOLDERS AND
ACCOUNTANTS AND
ANNUAL REPORTS AND
AN ITINERARY.

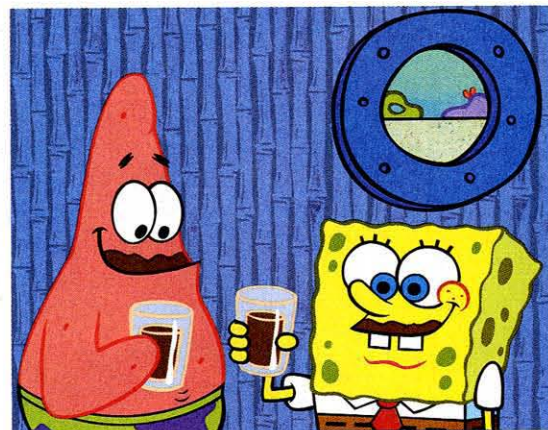
I
HAVE...



...TO GO
TO WORK
NOW.



Milk
mustaches
don't
last long
when you're
a sponge.

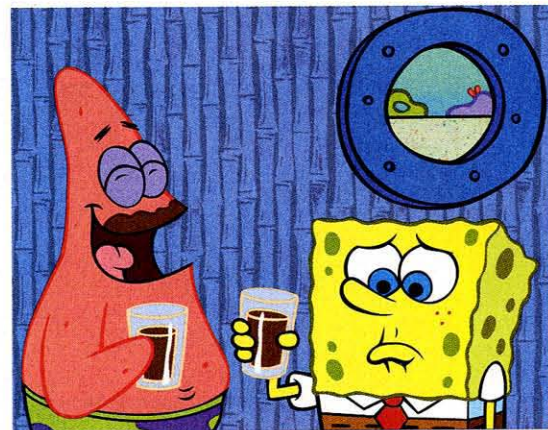


Which means
I may have
to drink
another glass
of yummy
chocolate
milk.

Or two.

Or three.

Or four.

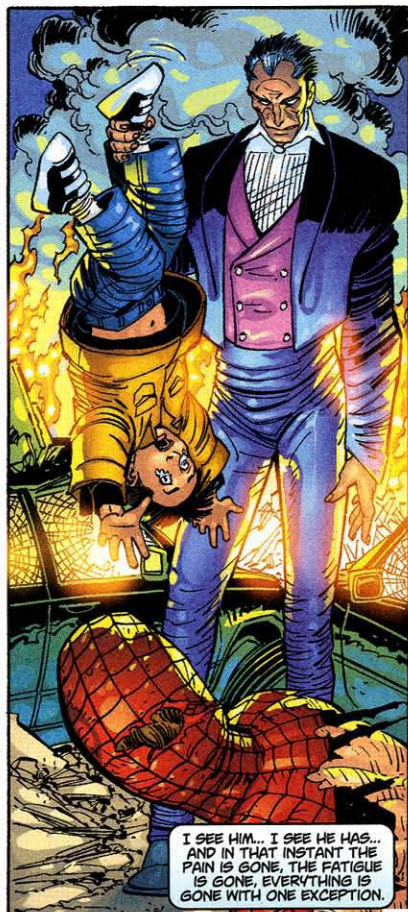


CHOCOLATE
got milk?

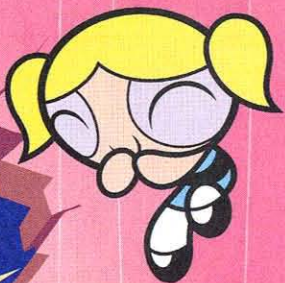
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RAGE AGAINST THE BULLIES
WHO BEAT ME AS A KID. RAGE
AGAINST EVERY STERIOD-CRAZED
FREAK WHO THINKS HE SHOULD
TURN INNOCENT BYSTANDERS
INTO PULP JUST BECAUSE HE CAN.



RAGE AGAINST
THE PEOPLE WHO
JUST DON'T GIVE
A DAMN WHO
THEY HURT.

GOT
YOU!



LOOK
OUT!

BUT I ALREADY KNOW
HE'S COMING, EVEN IF
I COULDN'T FEEL HIM. I
KNOW HE'D BE THERE,
TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF THE SITUATION.

NOT THAT I CARE
ANYMORE.



I JUST WANT
A PIECE OF
THE CREEP.

YAAA
AHH!



I GET IN SOME GOOD SHOTS. HE BARELY FEELS THEM.



BUT I FEEL EVERY ONE OF HIS. DOESN'T MATTER.



JUST KEEP SWINGING. JUST...KEEP...SWINGING.



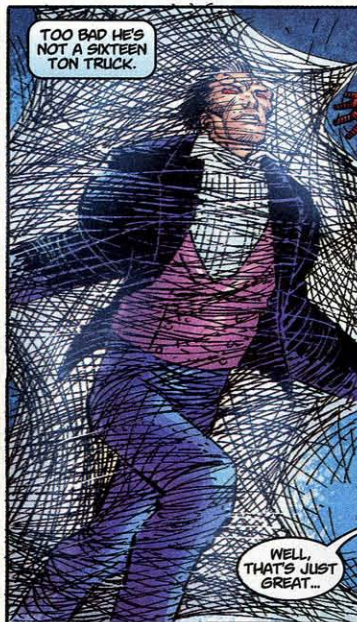
THIS PROBABLY WON'T WORK. BUT I'VE GOTTA TRY EVERYTHING.

NOT THAT YOU NEED A FASHION CONSULTANT OR ANYTHING... WELL, MAYBE A GOOD PSYCHOLOGIST... AND AS MUCH AS I LIKE A GOOD GOTH COAT --



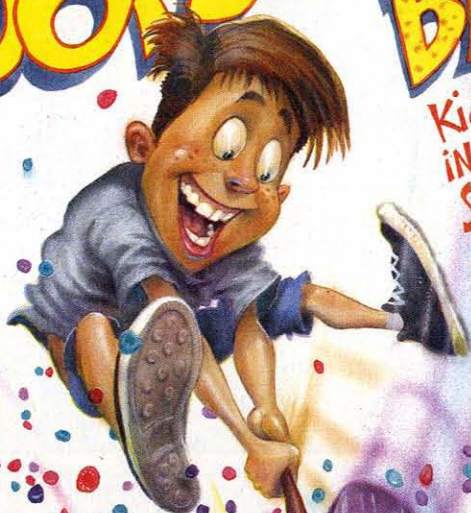
-- I THINK IT JUST NEEDS SOMETHING A LITTLE EXTRA WEBBING, MAYBE.

I POUR IT ON, RUNNING BOTH WEB-SHOOTERS DOWN TO HALF-CAPACITY.

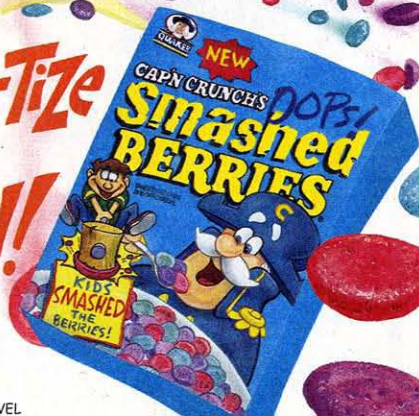


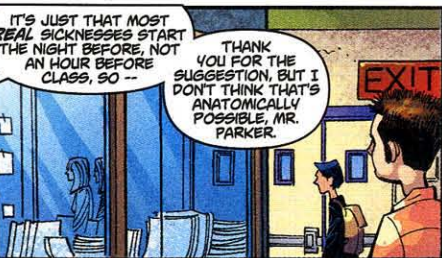
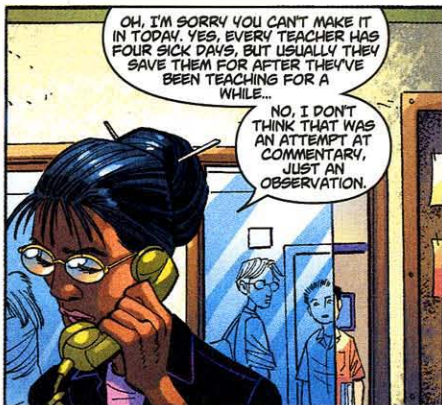
OOPS! SMASHED BERRIES

KIDS SMASHED 'EM
IN THE FACTORY
SO YOU CAN FIT
MORE IN YOUR
MOUTH!!

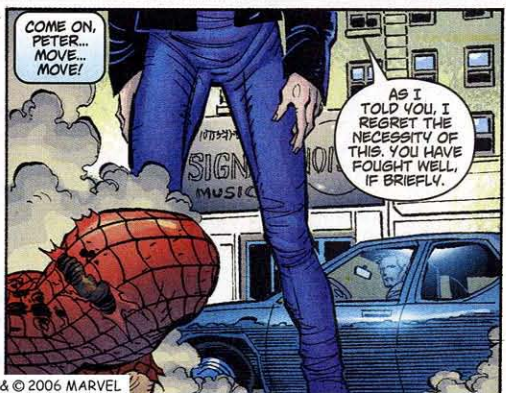


CRUNCH-A-Tize
ME
CAP'N!











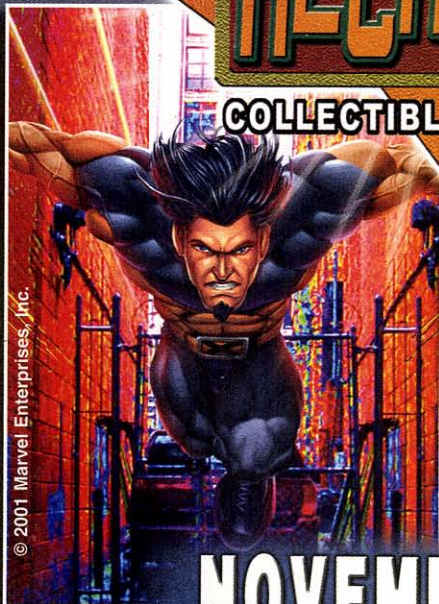
PLAYING NICE WILL GET YOU NOWHERE



MARVEL

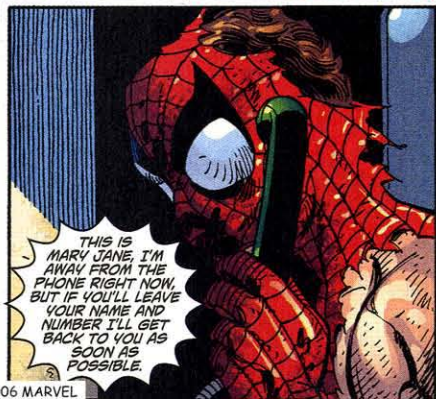
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RING...RING...

CLICK
HELLO?

HI, IT'S ME.



PETER?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

YEAH...
YEAH, AUNT
MAY, I'M
FINE --

YOU SOUND
TERRIBLE. ARE YOU
COMING DOWN WITH
SOMETHING?

YEAH... I
DUNNO... MAYBE...
I'M JUST TIRED,
THAT'S ALL. WANTED
TO SEE HOW
YOU WERE.

YOU'RE SO
SWEET... ALWAYS
LOOKING OUT
FOR EVERYBODY
ELSE.



I'M FINE, FINE. I'M GOING
TO BE DROPPING OFF MY
SPRING CLOTHES AT THE
CLEANER'S TOMORROW
MORNING. IF YOU LIKE,
I COULD STOP BY YOUR
PLACE AND PICK UP
YOURS TOO ON THE
WAY OUT.

OUT WITH THE WINTER
CLOTHES, IN WITH THE
SUMMER,
RIGHT?

RIGHT...
RIGHT... I...
LISTEN, AUNT
MAY --

PETER...?



YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, RIGHT? I MEAN,
I GET BUSY SOMETIMES, AND I MAY
FORGET TO SAY IT, BUT I NEVER
FORGET TO THINK IT.

YOU'RE MY
FAVORITE AUNT
IN THE WORLD, MAY.
AND I LOVE YOU.
WHATEVER HAPPENS,
REMEMBER
THAT.

PETER?
I --



PLEASE
DEPOSIT ANOTHER
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS
FOR THREE
MINUTES.

I HAVE...
I HAVE TO
GO NOW. I'LL
TALK TO YOU
LATER.

PETER,
WAIT, I --

TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.



YOU TOO,
PETER.

click



I ALWAYS KNEW
THAT SOONER OR
LATER, I'D LOSE.
IT'S MATH, YOU SEE.
STATISTICS. NO ONE
WINS FOREVER.



NO ONE.

ONLY THING THAT
MATTERS IS HOW
YOU FACE IT WHEN
THE CARDS DON'T
COME UP YOUR WAY.



I'M NOT
AFRAID.



I'M TIRED, BUT
I'M NOT AFRAID.

JUST
SO YOU
KNOW...



...I WON'T
GO DOWN
EASY.
AND THIS
I SWEAR TO
YOU... I WILL NOT
GO DOWN
ALONE.



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- ☐ CAM Captain America
- ☐ CMV Captain Marvel
- ☐ DEF Defenders
- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ ELK Elektra (Mature Readers)
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ INC Hulk
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ PUN Punisher (Mature Readers)
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MARVEL



I
CHANGED
MY MIND.

IT'S A MOMENT...
A MOMENT WHEN
EVEN MORLUN SEEMS
TAKEN ABACK.

AND IN THAT MOMENT, ODDLY
ENOUGH, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE FOR SOMEONE
ELSE TO LOOK UP AND SEE ME.



AND IT'S GREAT.
TOTALLY, FREAKIN'
GREAT.



BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT
HE'S RISKED IT ALL BY
TOUCHING MORLUN, WHO
CAN NOW FIND EZEKIEL AT
WILL IF I FAIL TO STOP HIM.





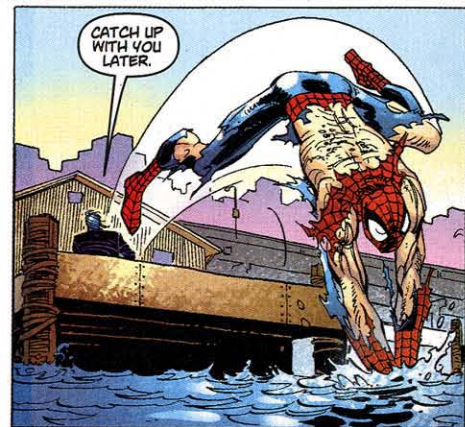


WE GO AT HIM TOGETHER.
IT'S A NEW EXPERIENCE,
RELYING ON SOMEONE
WITH SIMILAR POWERS
TO WHAT I HAVE.

HIS INSTINCTS ARE THE SAME
AS MINE, HIS MOVEMENTS MUCH
LIKE MY OWN. IT'S LIKE FIGHTING
SIDE BY SIDE WITH AN OLDER
VERSION OF MYSELF.

I THINK MY UNCLE BEN
WOULD'VE LIKED HIM.
I THINK THEY WOULD'VE
HAD A LOT IN COMM-





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BECAUSE EZEKIEL TOOK MORLUN OFF GUARD, HE WAS ABLE TO TAG HIM ONCE, REAL GOOD. JUST ONCE, BUT IT WAS ENOUGH.

ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM BLEED. UP UNTIL NOW, MORLUN'S KNOWN ALL HE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT ME, BUT I'VE KNOWN NOTHING ABOUT MORLUN.

THAT JUST CHANGED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I HAVE, HOW MUCH TIME EZEKIEL BOUGHT ME. BUT HE GOT ME SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN TIME. SOMETHING I DIDN'T HAVE UNTIL NOW.



HE BOUGHT ME A CHANCE.

AND THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER NEEDED. JUST A CHANCE.

I MAY NOT BE REED RICHARDS, BUT BY GOD I'M A SCIENTIST, AND I'VE GOT THE EQUIPMENT TO PROVE IT. OKAY, MOST OF IT CAME FROM CATALOGS, BUT STILL --

HIS BLOOD IS AN AMALGAM OF EVERY KIND OF CELL: ANIMAL, BIRD, HUMAN AND INSECT. PUREST FORMS OF DNA I'VE EVER SEEN.

AH-HA!

THAT EXPLAINS HOW HE CAN GO AFTER ME OR ANYONE ELSE EZEKIEL DESCRIBED AS A TOTEM.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE CELLS BREAK DOWN OVER TIME AND REQUIRE PERIODIC RECHARGING FROM A SOURCE LIFE-FORM IN EACH CATEGORY.



THE PURER THE
SOURCE, THE
STRONGER THE
CHARGE.



THAT'S WHY HE WANTS
ME. EZEKIEL THINKS
THAT I'M CLOSER TO THIS
TOTEMISTIC SOURCE.



TRUTH IS,
I'VE NEVER
ENTIRELY
ACCEPTED
HIS STORY.



MAYBE IT'S TRUE. MAYBE IT
ISN'T. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
INFORMATION TO MAKE AN
INFORMED DECISION.

BUT I DO KNOW
ONE THING.



WHATEVER MORLUN MAY
THINK, I'M NOT PURE, AND
THAT MAY BE MY ONE
CHANCE TO BEAT HIM.



AND I INTEND TO
DO JUST THAT.

SOUTHERN NEW YORK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

-- SO HE SAYS TO ME, "HOW CAN YOU WATCH THAT BABYLON 5 CRAP? I MEAN, IT TAKES FIVE YEARS TO PAY OFF SOMETHING YOU SEE IN YEAR ONE!" AND I SAID, "THAT'S EXACTLY IT!"

THAT'S GREAT, I--

OH, JEEZ...THAT'S THE REACTOR ALERT!

THIS IS THE PLANT SUPERVISOR...YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY...I REPEAT...EVACUATE THE FACILITIES AT ONCE...

A LITTLE WORK ON THE WIRES, A LITTLE JIGGLING OF THE EQUIPMENT... A LITTLE WEBBING TO LOCK THE RIGHT PEOPLE OUT OF THE BUILDING...

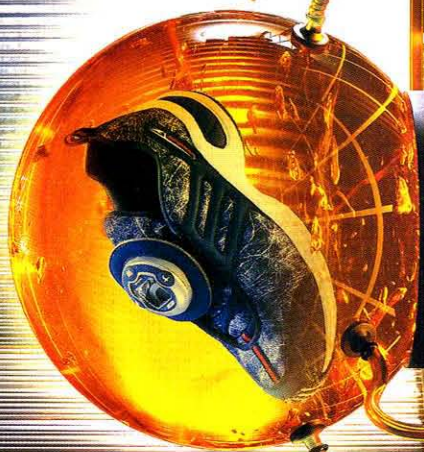
...AND VOILA, ONE SIMULATED MELTDOWN AND NOBODY AROUND TO GET IN THE WAY.

I FIGURE IT'LL TAKE ABOUT THREE HOURS FOR THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY TEAMS TO SHOW UP AND GET INSIDE TO FIND OUT IT'S A FALSE ALARM. BUT THAT'S ALL I NEED.

WE'RE GONNA DANCE, YOU AND I, MORLUN. AND THIS IS GONNA END, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, FOREVER.

BECAUSE I'VE REACHED MY OWN CRITICAL MASS.

AND I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME.



In ancient Egypt
there existed
a force so powerful,
it had to be locked away
for a Millennia.

Now one boy
has released the power!
IT'S TIME TO DUEL



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