

**MARVEL**  
PG 51 492

STRACZYNSKI  
ROMITA JR  
HANNA

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



05

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# SLAM

# SLAM

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**CHEESE TASTE THAT'S  
IN YOUR FACE!**

More 'Mmm in the middle.

Tiny Ritz crackers deliver  
a big cheese  
**CRUNCH!**





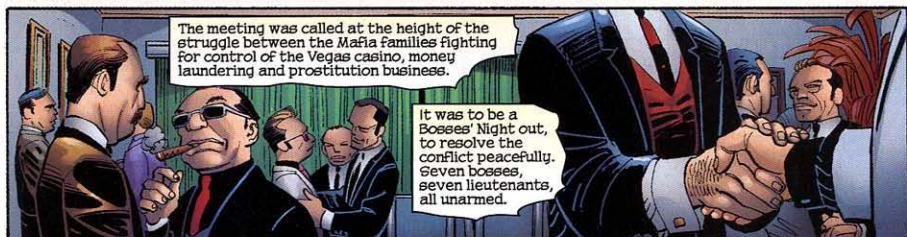


## PROLOGUE.

Las Vegas. July 3, 1957.

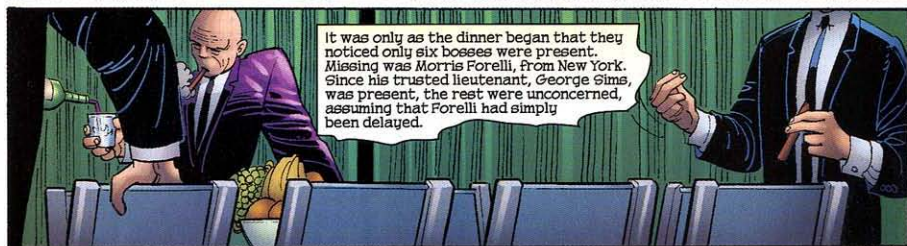


The story of the Vegas Thirteen is a piece of unsubstantiated lore dating back to the fifties. The story involved a meeting of some of the most powerful Wise Guys from New York and Nevada.



The meeting was called at the height of the struggle between the Mafia families fighting for control of the Vegas casino, money laundering and prostitution business.

It was to be a Bosses' Night out, to resolve the conflict peacefully. Seven bosses, seven lieutenants, all unarmed.



It was only as the dinner began that they noticed only six bosses were present. Missing was Morris Forelli, from New York. Since his trusted lieutenant, George Sims, was present, the rest were unconcerned, assuming that Forelli had simply been delayed.



They did not know that Forelli had discovered Sims was working for one of the rival families, and had helped arrange a recent hit on one of Forelli's sons. To say the least, Sims was out of favor.



And Forelli was out of patience.





The result, according to Mob word of mouth, was the biggest hit of its kind since the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. Six leading Mafia figures and their lieutenants, plus Forelli's consigliere, wiped out in one night, in one bold move.

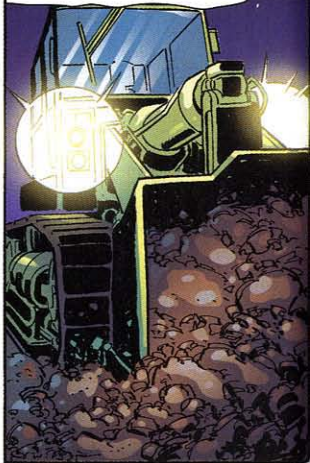
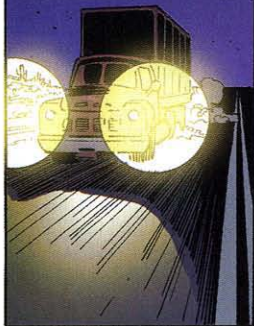
But the Mob had learned a few lessons since the last time something like this was attempted. They wanted no evidence that could be printed in newspapers or magazines. No photos. No witnesses.

No bodies.

Forelli's men carried the bodies out of the Goldigger Hotel and Casino and transported them across the Nevada desert, well off the beaten track.

The story suggests that the bodies were brought to a pit dug by earth movers in an isolated part of the desert, far from cities or roads, and Forelli's men proceeded to pile the bodies into a mass grave once used for illegally dumping chemicals from several nearby factories.

Here ended the careers of some of the most notorious members of the New York and Nevada crime families. Men raised in blood, who understood only violence, and whose lives ended in a shower of bullets.







STAN  
LEE  
PRESENTS:

# DIGGER

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JOHN ROMITA Jr.  
PICTURES

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Their bodies were left where no one would ever find them, with only the whispers of their conscience, and the rage of their souls, to keep them company. For the Vegas Thirteen, it was the end of their story.

*Marshall LeGrand,*  
A Brief History of the  
Gangland Wars, 1950-1963.




April 3, 2003







AP NEVADA - In a move designed to keep United States military assets at peak readiness, the Pentagon today announced a return to limited testing of high-energy weapons.



"We're looking to gather data on the new technologies we've developed and the degree they may maximize the amount of energy output involved, giving us bigger yields from smaller payloads," explained General Maxwell Sinclair, Pentagon Liaison.



"We'll start out with underground testing using what we call pocket devices, small enough to have no effect or environmental impact outside a very small part of the Nevada desert. No fallout, no seismic damage."



"Our first test will be with a pocket Gamma device."

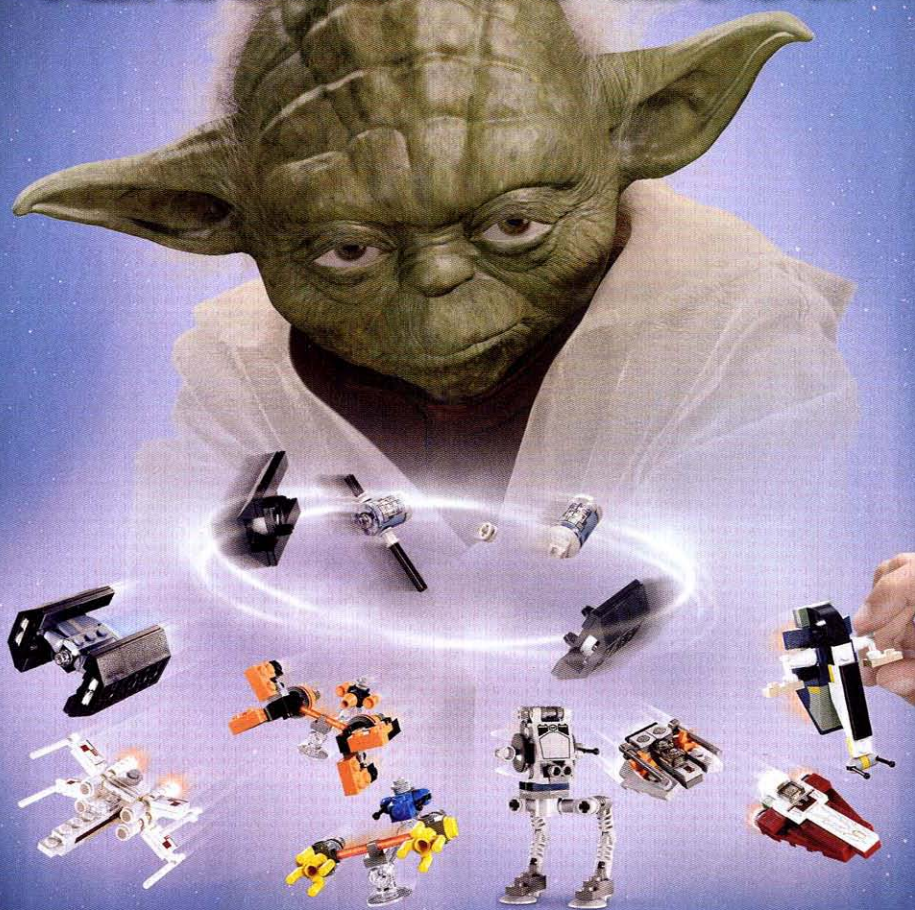
"We don't anticipate any problems."



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play on







"We believe that gamma rays may have been crucial to the development of life on Earth," explained UCLA's Dr. Henry Davis, a leading proponent of gamma ray research.




"That process was set in motion when gamma rays struck the pre-organic compounds and chemical soup of primordial Earth."




"And from that dark, barren emptiness, came life."



"Then, as God said on the seventh day..."

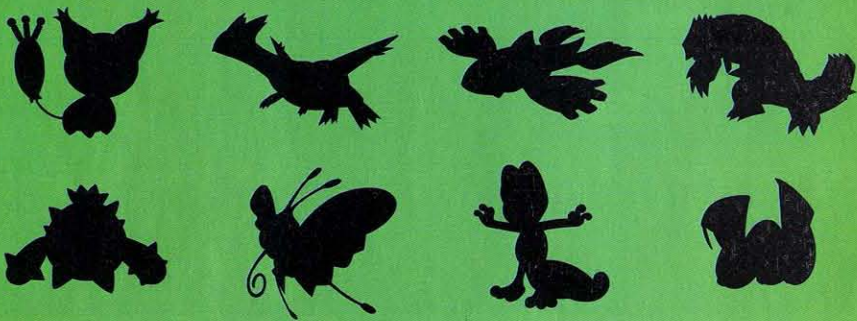


"...let the good times roll."

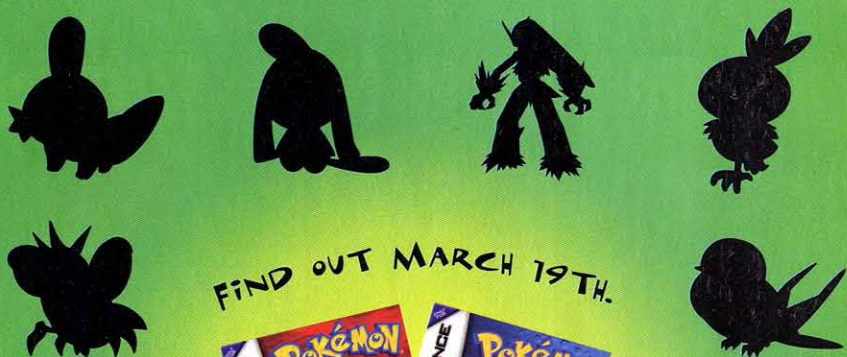


"So, are we having a good time, or what?"





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Yes. We're having fun. We're having so much fun, I...

What was the question?

Who cares?

Exactly!



The question is, what would sir like for his entree?

Steak tartare.  
Well done.

?enicker!?



I believe sir may be mistaken. Steak tartare is prepared uncooked.

Obviously a problem in the kitchen.  
Shhhh!

If sir would prefer, I could have someone run across the street and return with a Happy Meal.



I know! Bring me a hammer, twelve oysters and twelve teeny, tiny revolvers. That way at least it'll be a fair fight. Poor bastards...

?SNORT!?

In fact, make it a ballpeen hammer. I'm feeling lucky.

Stopstopstop... stop or I'm gonna have to go to the bathroom...



Perhaps I should return later, when sir is on the same dimensional plane --

No...it's okay...make it a steak. Two New York steaks. Medium-well. We're celebrating.

My wife has come back to me.



She must have forgotten the keys to the car...

Peter...when we're done here, and we go to my hotel, since your place is a disaster, I have an idea.

Yeah? What.













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To enter without making a purchase, hand-print your name, complete address, daytime phone number, and date of birth on a 3" x 4" piece of paper, place your entry in an envelope and mail to: Frigo® Cheese Heads® "Marvel Super Hero" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 8029, Pleasant Ridge, IL 60774. You may enter one time after the deadline without purchase, but each entry must be mailed separately. No cash prizes. Complete, accurate, and verifiable information is required for all entries. Sweepstakes begins the property of Saputo Cheese USA Inc. (the "Sponsor") and now will be returned. Alternate entries without purchase must be received by 5:01:00 PM. T-Shirt orders must be received by 5:01:00 PM to be eligible for the drawing. **ELIGIBILITY:** Sweepstakes is open to legal U.S. residents who are at least 18 years of age or older at time of entry. Employees of Saputo Cheese USA Inc., its parent affiliates, subsidiaries, sales representatives, distributors, retailers, publishers, promotion, production, and its immediate families and household members of all the aforementioned are not eligible. For purposes of these rules, "Married" includes common-law marriages. **PRIZES:** One (1) Grand Prize: 5-day/4-night trip for two to Universal Studios Islands of Adventure® in Orlando, FL, including round-trip coach airfare from major airport nearest winner's home, 2 hotel rooms (double occupancy), tickets to park for four persons for five days including VIP studio tour, and \$10,000 cash. Approximate retail value: \$19,100. Actual value will depend on point of departure and other fluctuations in airfare costs. Any expenses not specified above are the sole responsibility of the Grand Prize winner. Prizes may be completed by 5:00:00 PM. Sweepstakes requires 60 days advance notice to be included in the entries. Shaded dates may apply. Accommodations and travel arrangements at Sponsor's choice and some restrictions may apply. If Grand Prize winner is a minor, he/she must designate a parent or legal guardian to be the sole holder of prize on his/her behalf. Five Thousand (\$5,000) First Prize: Universal Studios Comic Book, \$15.95 each. Total ARV of all prizes: \$25,750. **GENERAL:** Odds of winning depend on the number of qualified entries received. Grand Prize winner will be notified by overnight express delivery and will be required to sign and return Affidavit of Eligibility & Liability Release (where permitted) within 14 days of notification. Sponsor will not agree in any correspondence except with the Grand Prize winner. Grand Prize winner's prize must be signed and return a Liability Release (where permitted) by 30 days before travel. Failure of the Grand Prize winner or any of his/her guests to comply results in forfeiture of prize. If Grand Prize winner or a guest is a minor, all required forms must be signed by his/her parent or legal guardian. No cash alternatives or prize substitutions are available. Except by the Sponsor, who may substitute a Grand Prize of equal or greater value but not exceed \$50,000 USD should happen prior to the availability. By accepting prize, Grand Prize winner and guests agree to release Sponsor, its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the employees, officers and directors of all such entities from all liability with respect to acceptance, possession or cash payment of the prize awarded and consent to the use of their names and/or likeness without charge for advertising, except where prohibited. Agreement to participate in the Sweepstakes and to agree to be responsible for printing, distribution or production errors. Winners will be contacted for all uses in prize. Sweepstakes is subject to all federal, state and municipal laws and regulations. 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Then  
get the  
money.

I'm doing  
the best I  
can. I got the  
girls working  
all night --

It's all penny  
ante stuff, and  
I've seen your girls.  
What happened? Was  
it bargain night at the  
plastic surgeon's  
office?



I swear, I'll  
have the money  
I owe you by  
Friday --

Not good enough.  
We let you work this  
part of town for five  
G's a week. You don't  
pony up the dough,  
we'll find someone  
who will.



FWUMP!

After we  
break your  
legs.

I was  
just getting  
to that. Stop  
getting ahead.  
you're always  
getting ahead.

That you,  
Rachel? You  
shouldn't be  
here. Rachel?



I don't care if you keep the  
girls out there until dawn, either  
we get the five grand by tomorrow,  
or you got a problem with us, and  
most of all, you got a problem  
with Mister Forelli.

...Forelli...

Yeah,  
that's --



What  
the --

...Forellllllllll...

...We  
remember  
Forellllll...



...have a  
message...for  
Forellllll...







FRIEND...

OR FOE?



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when you can do everything, the hardest part is doing



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Yep.  
You talk to the girls?  
Yep.  
They're pretty shaken up.



Yep.



They said this place was paying off the Forelli family. You think it's a mob hit?

Nope.

Why not?



Oh... just a guess.

So what're you gonna do now?

First, I'm gonna wash out my ears with hydrochloric acid. After that...



I may need to bring in a consultant.

Yeah? What, like one of those psychic detectives? I got a guy, his sister is real good with that stuff --

Well, well, look what I found over here.

What's that?



"The part of your brain that knows when to shut the hell up. Get an evidence bag. A *small* one."

So here's what I'm thinking: we get dinner, then maybe a show, I'm thinking Producers, even if it isn't the A team anymore, or we can do that new show, the one I can't ever remember --

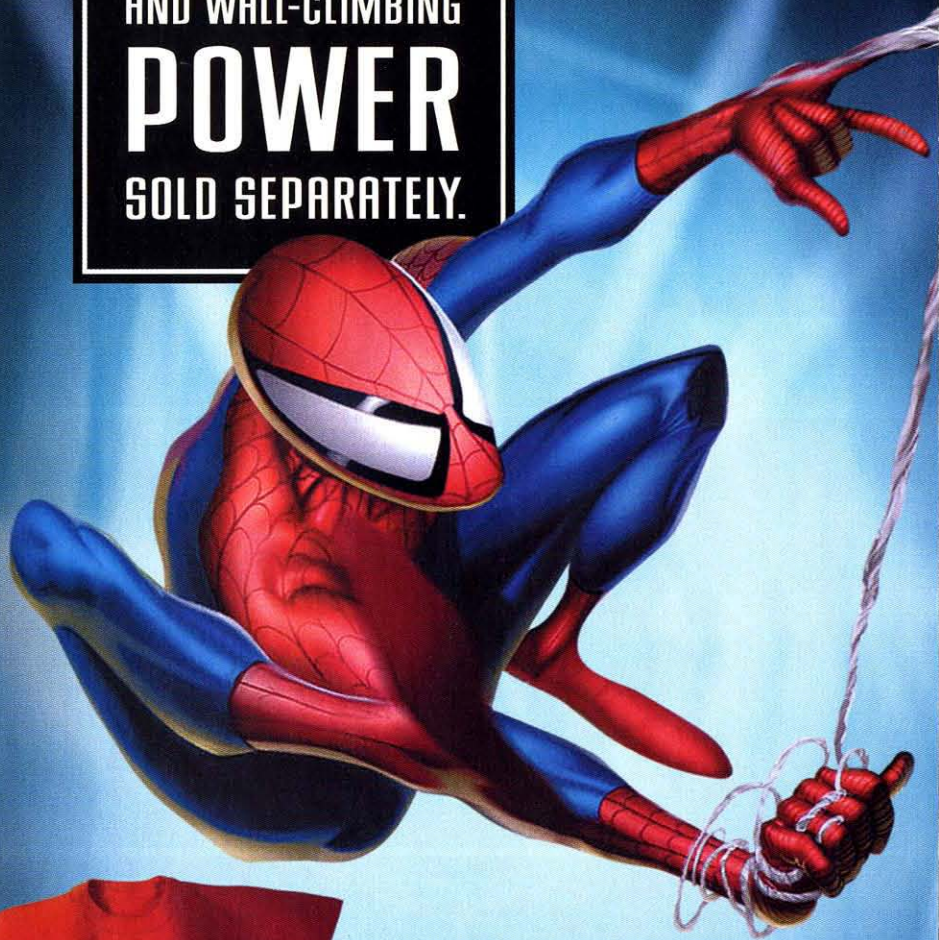



-- or we can --

-- we can --



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AND WALL-CLIMBING  
**POWER**  
SOLD SEPARATELY.



FRUIT  OF THE LOOM.

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It's not cannon fire,  
it's just your heart...  
it's not cannon fire...  
it's just your heart...  
it's not cannon fire,  
it's just your heart....

Peter?

You know that thing people  
do, where they talk a lot,  
because they're nervous so  
they try to keep things moving,  
don't let any silence into the  
conversation, just keep  
it all light?

Maybe.

I was just thinking that...it's a  
good thing we're past that. I mean,  
it's been a while since we've been  
around each other, but I think it  
would be a shame if there were  
that kind of awkwardness,  
don't you?

Silence is good.  
I like silence. I like  
that song, "Sounds of  
Silence," I liked "Silence  
of the Lambs," I'm even big  
on "Silent Night," even  
when it's sung off-key,  
which it always is,  
and --



Could I have another one of those,  
if you've got a spare, because that  
was good, the whole lips thing, and  
the face touching, because I could  
do that all night until I go on  
patrol and --

Deal.

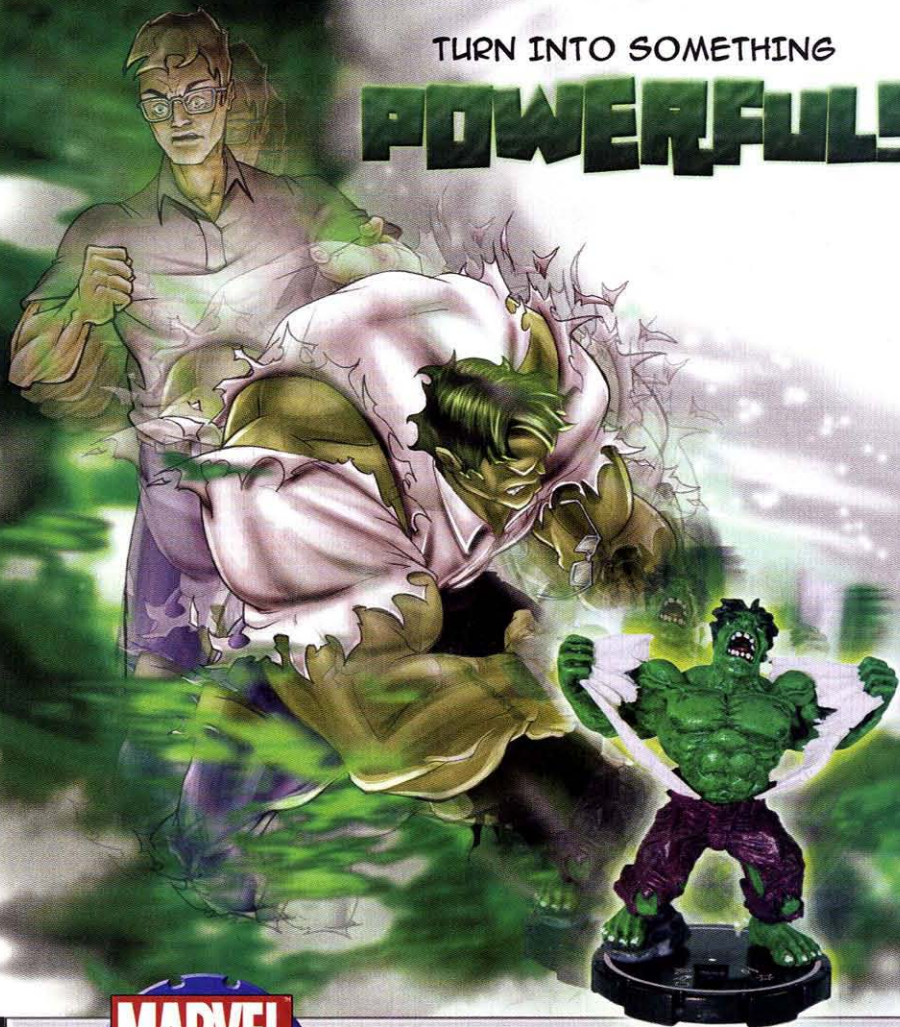


Funny how  
things work out  
sometimes.





TURN INTO SOMETHING  
**POWERFUL!**



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**WIZARDS**

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When MJ came back, I was afraid the Parker luck would hold up, and we wouldn't have any time to spend with each other, that one of my favorite stalkers would come out to play, but so far it's been --

**EEEEEEEEEE!  
HELP!**

-- quiet.

**EEEEEEEEEE!  
SOMEONE  
HELP!**

Stupid, Peter.  
Never comment  
on a no-hitter  
until *after* the  
game.

Lamont?  
What the hell  
are you --

About time.  
I wondered  
when you were  
gonna show  
up.

**EEEEEEEEEE!**

You did this  
to get my  
attention?

It's not like you  
gave me your phone  
number. What else am  
I gonna do?

You know how  
many other guys  
came by before  
you finally showed  
up? Daredevil, Thor,  
half the Fantastic  
Four, which I guess  
would be the  
Terrific Two --

So why didn't  
you use one of  
them?

I don't know  
them. I know you.  
One costume in my  
life is plenty,  
thanks.

Two dates  
and already we're  
going steady. You're  
such a sweetie.

One more remark  
and I'm playing "YMCA"  
on the boom-box. Loud.  
In German.

I'm all  
yours.



"So, where are we going?"

"Best if you see for yourself."

**LOMBARDI  
DEMOLITION**

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(516) 555-1359

Must've been some party.

Yeah. The handprint over there pretty much confirms it was one of your kind.

You mind explaining that "one of your kind" remark?

No, it's not. Look, there's good guys and bad guys. I'm one of the good guys, okay? I don't go around killing people, or --

What's wrong, mask cutting off the blood to your brain? It's pretty obvious.

Smashing buildings? Scaring people? Getting into fights with each other, fights so big the city takes weeks to fix it all just so you bunch can do it all over again?

You're a costume. You're a power. You live in my city.

And you're a pain. All of you.

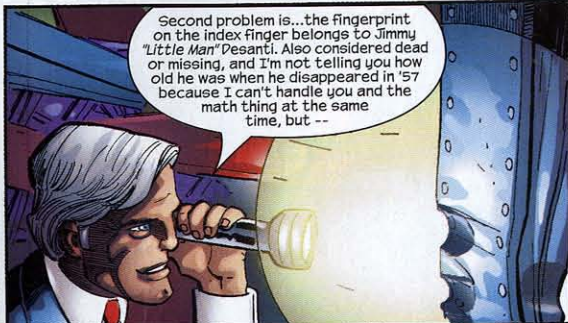
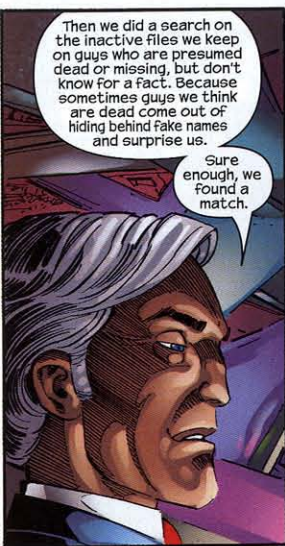
Sure, you can do some good, and right now, I need you. But tell the truth: if every costume disappeared and the city was just the ordinary bad guys and the ordinary cops...don't you think it'd be just a little better for everybody?

I --

What did you want to show me?

I had my people take the impressions off this and get them over to the lab for fingerprint analysis. We checked every active perp file and came up empty.





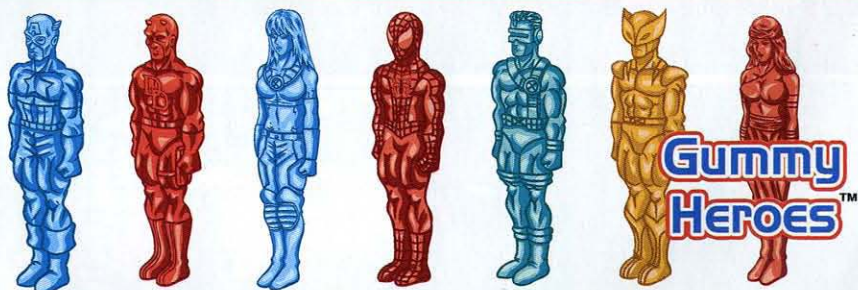




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"Well, one thing's  
for sure....a guy  
like that --"

STARLIGHT

ABYSS

"-- it's not like  
he can just throw  
on a coat and fit  
in, y'know?"

-- and I'm never  
never never gonna go  
back! Never look back!  
'Cause the devil's  
comin' for me on a  
fast track.

Eyes like  
needles, hands  
like knives but he  
doesn't know I got  
nine lives.

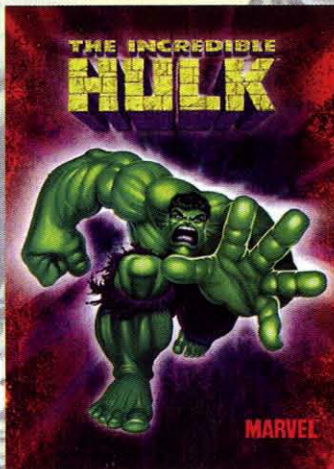
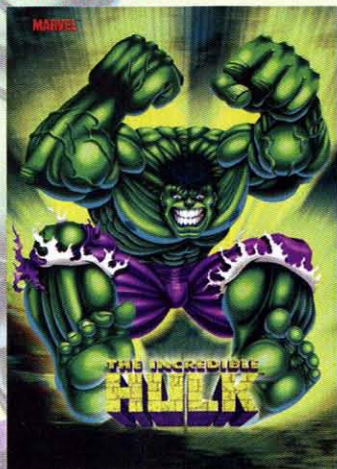
What the  
hell kind of  
place is this,  
anyway?

Yo, son,  
chill --



# THE INCREDIBLE HULK

## WALL SCROLLS



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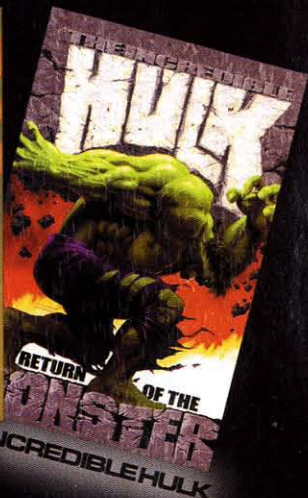






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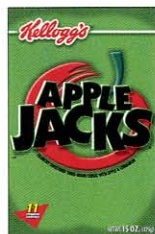
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