

**MARVEL**  
PG 52 493

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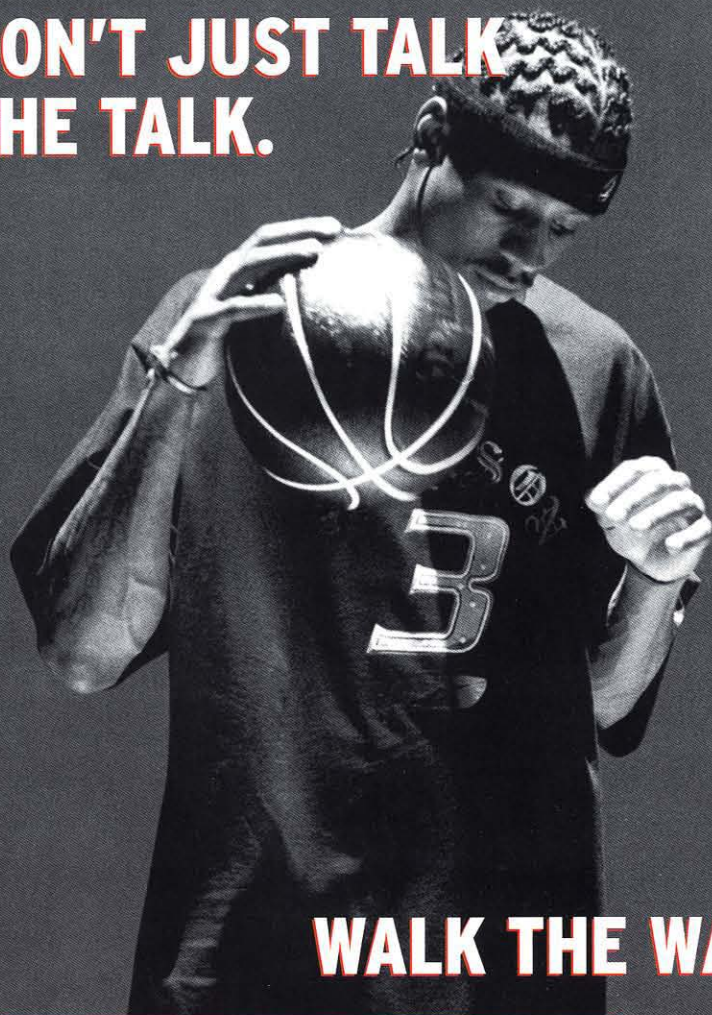


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A lot of people think that my advantage comes in the form of my strength, agility, spider sense.

You know... the usual.

They're wrong. It's a fifty-fifty split between all that, and the fact that I have a scientist's mind.

I approach any given situation and work to deduce what's going on, what my liabilities are, and who I'm up against.

And who the hell are you in that getup?

He's loud, annoying, he's broken up this party and he doesn't care who I am.

Deduction: he's from the Bronx.

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PICTURES

# DIE THIS



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Hey, yo!  
That's Spider-  
Man, dude, and  
he's gonna kick  
your green  
ass!

That  
so?



THEN  
LET'S GO,  
PUNK! DIGGER'S  
IN TOWN AND  
WE'RE GONNA  
HAVE FUN!

Holy...

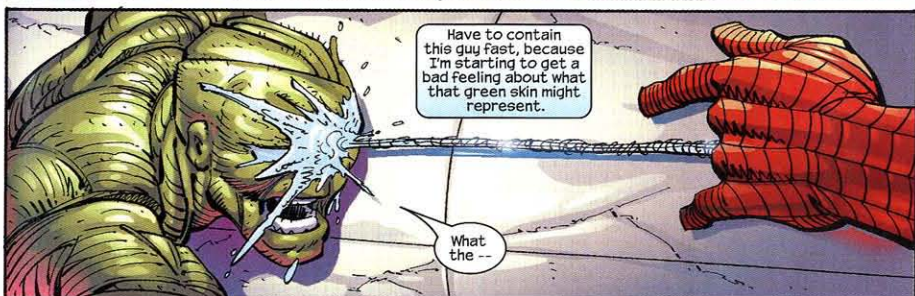


Close quarters,  
he's strong,  
somebody's liable  
to get hurt.

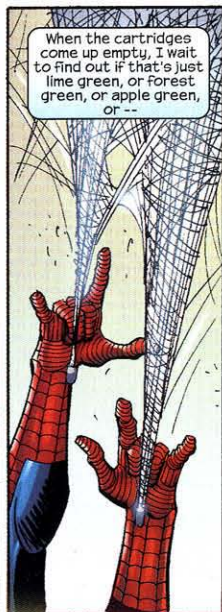


Listen, I've  
got an idea, why  
don't we take this  
outside, away from  
all these nice  
people?











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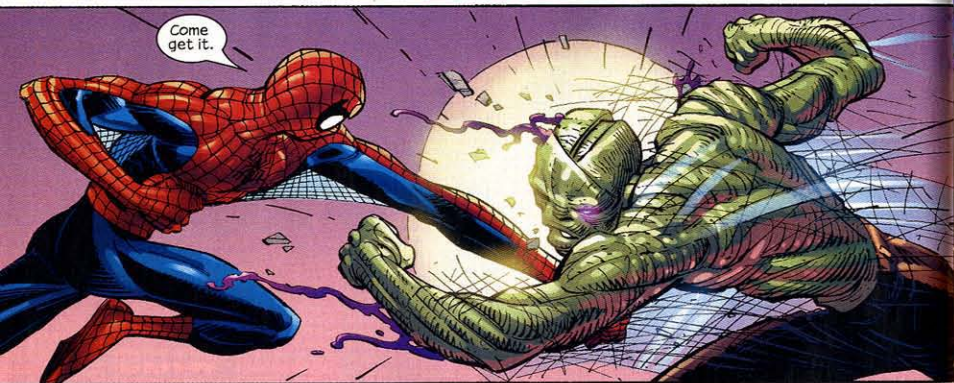
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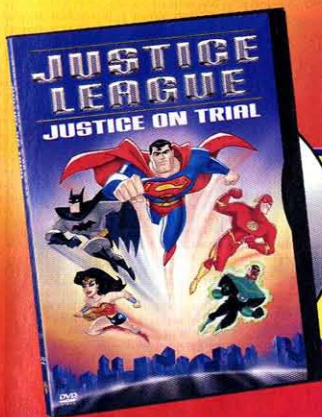
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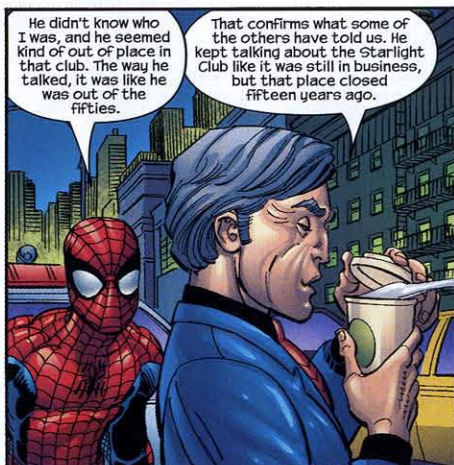






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He didn't know who I was, and he seemed kind of out of place in that club. The way he talked, it was like he was out of the fifties.

That confirms what some of the others have told us. He kept talking about the Starlight Club like it was still in business, but that place closed fifteen years ago.



You said his prints matched three different guys, all of whom disappeared something like forty years ago.

Yeah. So the cultural gap matches.

Still doesn't explain how this guy can have multiple prints.

Maybe he's planting them, to throw us off?

Maybe.



Lieutenant, you got a second?

Sure.

I decide not to mention my suspicions about the green skin until I have more information. I want to be sure of what I'm talking about before I raise the red flag on something that big.



I've done all I can here, I should probably --

Hey, you.



You talking to me?

What, you see some other hey-you in a funny costume standin' here?

If it's about autographs, I really don't do that sort of thing, so tell your mom I can't --

My boss, Mr. Forelli, wants to see you.



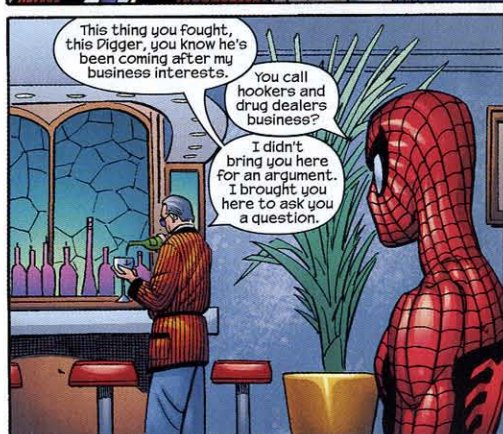
Forelli. Lamont said that was the name Pigger mentioned the last time he broke up a place.

Yeah? What does he want?













You're kidding.

Were you listening to what I said before about not having a sense of humor? I want to hire you for protection.

My guys can take care of most problems, but this guy is way outside their league.

Sorry. Not interested.



I can pay very well for a man of your skills.

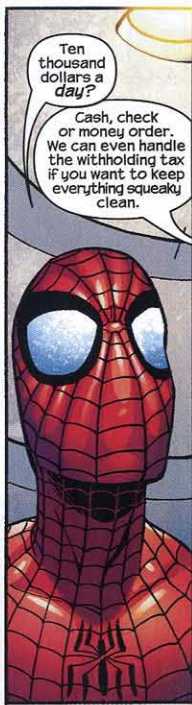
Not interested.

You wouldn't have to do anything more than you already do, which is to protect people. It would just give me a measure of comfort to know I could call on you.

Not interested.



I'm offering ten thousand dollars per day.



Ten thousand dollars a day?

Cash, check or money order. We can even handle the withholding tax if you want to keep everything squeaky clean.



Ten grand a day.

We just covered that.

To do nothing illegal.

Not even litter.

Just to protect you from somebody I'd protect you from anyway if I happened to come by.

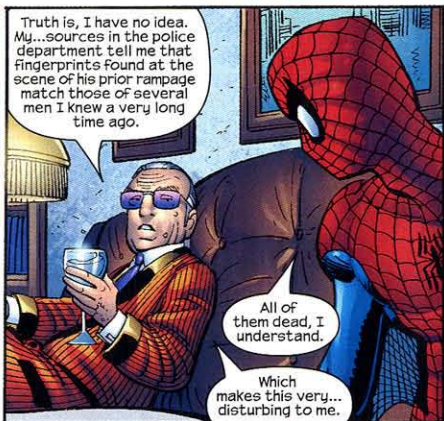
Just to guarantee you'll come by at the right time.



Plus expenses.

Deal. Plus one other thing.







# SLAM

# SLAM

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

More 'Mmm in the middle.

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



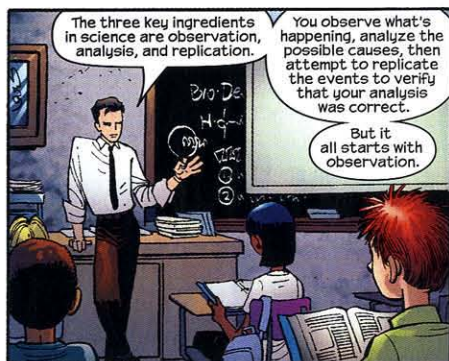








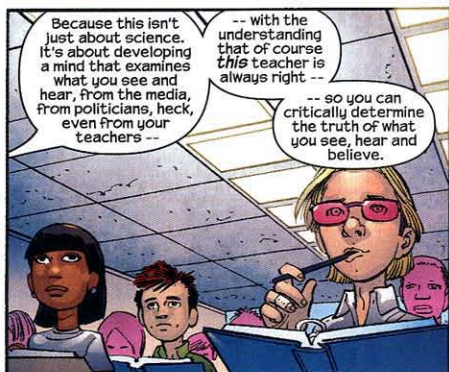




The three key ingredients in science are observation, analysis, and replication.

You observe what's happening, analyze the possible causes, then attempt to replicate the events to verify that your analysis was correct.

But it all starts with observation.



Because this isn't just about science. It's about developing a mind that examines what you see and hear, from the media, from politicians, heck, even from your teachers --

-- with the understanding that of course *this* teacher is always right --

-- so you can critically determine the truth of what you see, hear and believe.



"It starts with making a conscious effort to be aware of the world around you."

Vietnam?  
Where the hell is Vietnam?



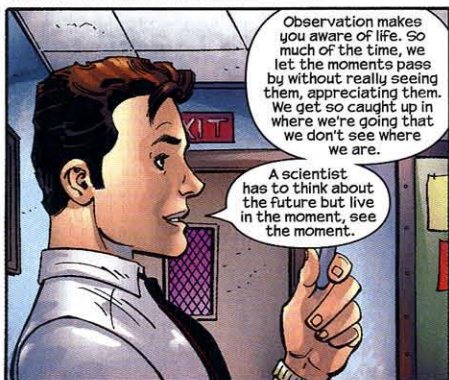
"Otherwise you will find that truth is a constantly shifting concept."

So eight-track tapes are the format of the future...

No, wait, cassettes --

CDs, right, that's the --

DVDs? They're storing music in underwear now? No, that's BVDs, get hold of yourself...



Observation makes you aware of life. So much of the time, we let the moments pass by without really seeing them, appreciating them. We get so caught up in where we're going that we don't see where we are.

A scientist has to think about the future but live in the moment, see the moment.



"Otherwise the world can just pass you by."

We built the biggest towers in the world...and somebody knocked them down?

We elected an actor president?!

Priests are under suspicion and a half-nude singer is called Madonna?

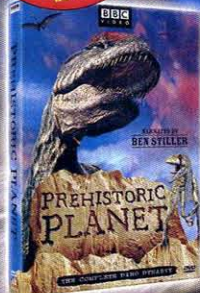
Rock-and-roll? Gas masks in grade schools?



HAS THE WHOLE FREAKING WORLD GONE NUTS?



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*The Explosive Conclusion to 'The Return Of The King' In Issue #33!*

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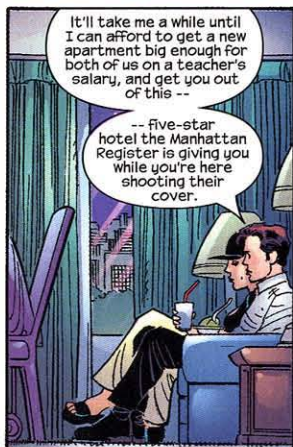


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I prefer to think of it as high-tech spidey sense.

The text-page said to meet Forelli at the end of pier seven.



From a distance, he looks like an old, tired man staring at the end of his life and the consequence of sins past.

I force myself to remember who and what he was, and still is. Even bad guys grow old.

More's the pity.

Okay, you can start the celebrations, I'm here. So what's the problem?



Look at the water. What do you see?

All the junk that'll wash up on the Jersey shore by morning, just as God intended. Other than that...not much.

Exactly.



One hour ago, there was a boat here.

It came in under cover of darkness. It was from one of our...overseas suppliers.

Drugs or smuggled goods?

I do not deal in drugs. Bad business.

Okay. Smuggling, then. And...?



Do you see a boat here now...?



"The captain radioed in to say they had arrived. Then silence. Minutes later, we received one last message.

"They were screaming.



"Then... silence."





The captain, his crew, they were from Sicily. Half of them did not even know or understand what it was they were carrying. They knew only that it was a good job, a paying job. A chance to see New York.



You are concerned with the safety of innocents, Spider-Man. This I know about you. These men... many of them, not all of them... were innocents.



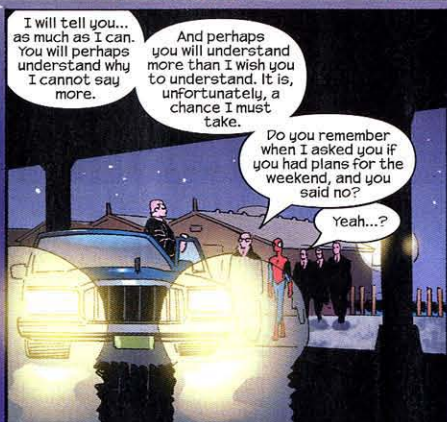
As is... as is my daughter.



She knows little of what is said about me, and believes less. What I have done in the past... is what I have done. If there was a price to be paid, I was willing to pay it.

It is not right that she should pay the price for my sins.

Not right at all.



I will tell you... as much as I can. You will perhaps understand why I cannot say more.

And perhaps you will understand more than I wish you to understand. It is, unfortunately, a chance I must take.

Do you remember when I asked you if you had plans for the weekend, and you said no?

Yeah...?



"You do now."



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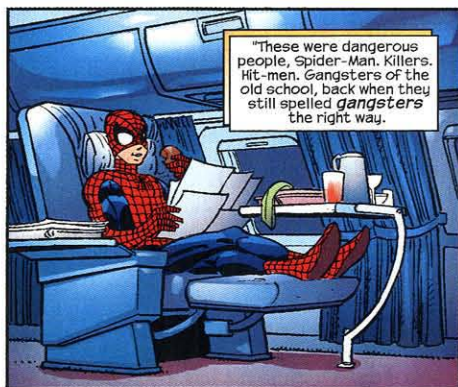
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No lines at the airport.  
No waiting for a car. No  
fuss, no muss, right into  
the slickest set of wheels  
I've ever touched.



The private jets, the  
money, the women,  
the style...I begin to  
understand how a guy  
can get pulled into  
this life.

Which just  
makes it that  
much scarier,  
if you ask me.



It would be "x-marks-  
the-spot," wouldn't it?  
But mob guys aren't  
exactly known for  
their imagination.

**HONK!  
HONK!**

Does make it a bit  
harder to find what I'm  
looking for, though.



What the --



**EVEN NINETY YEAR OLD GRAMMAS SAY STOP MESSING AROUND WITH GAMMAS!**



Hey...  
how's it  
going?

Well,  
I --

Great  
dude, where've  
you been?



No sweat, man. We've  
been here for days. Always  
time for new blood to show  
up, so the rest of us can  
take a break.

They snuck  
the first test past  
the media before we  
could do anything, but  
now that we're here,  
they can't test any  
more bombs.





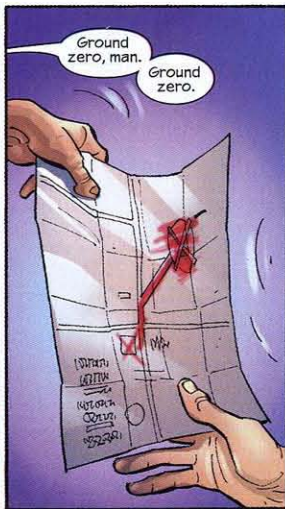


The Army boys are pissed, but we're on public land, and they can't do anything until they can get a restraining order, and our guys in town are fighting it all the way.



That's great. I mean, it's a good cause. But what made you think I'm with you? I was just driving and --

C'mon, man, don't play around. We saw what you had.



Ground zero, man.

Ground zero.

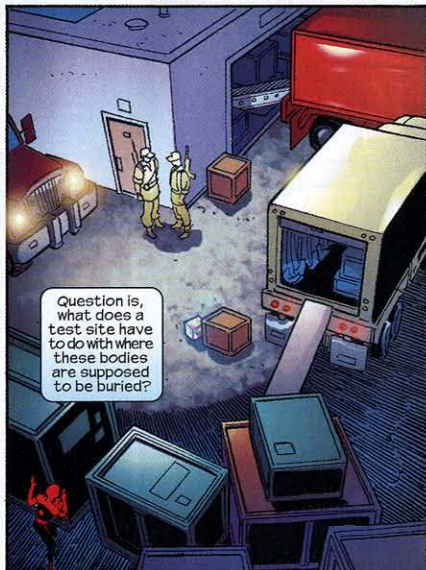


The problem with the desert is that there's nothing to swing from.



But like I always say, when life hands you a lemon...

...squirt it in somebody's eye and run like hell.



Question is, what does a test site have to do with where these bodies are supposed to be buried?





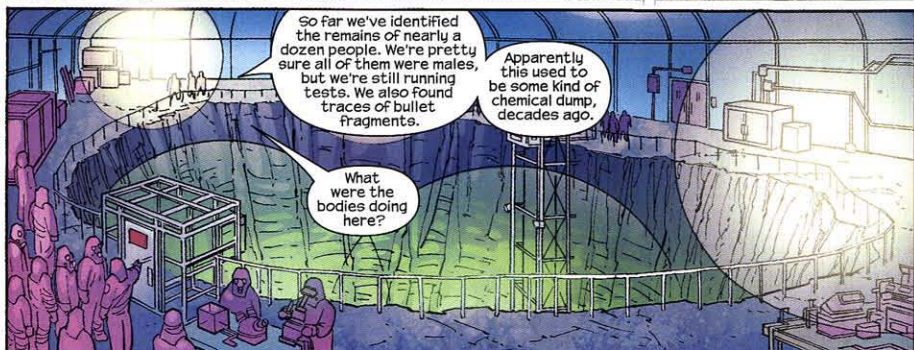
Better to be safe than sorry.



-- if you'll come this way, General, we'll show you the latest.



Ever since we found the first tissue samples, we've been carefully digging through the layers, pulling out whatever we can find.



So far we've identified the remains of nearly a dozen people. We're pretty sure all of them were males, but we're still running tests. We also found traces of bullet fragments.

Apparently this used to be some kind of chemical dump, decades ago.

What were the bodies doing here?

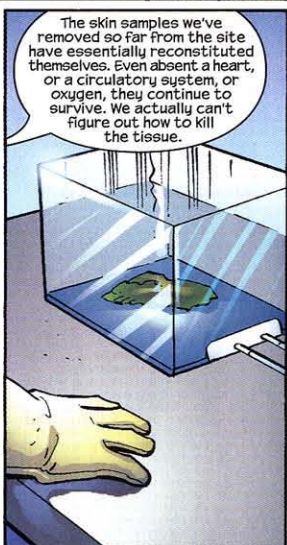


Unknown. All we do know is that all these chemicals saturated the skins of the deceased, preserving them against the ravages of time. The desert climate also helped, the heat cooking the chemicals over the course of decades.



When the gamma bomb was detonated above ground, it must have interacted with the chemicals and the preserved organic material and --

And what?



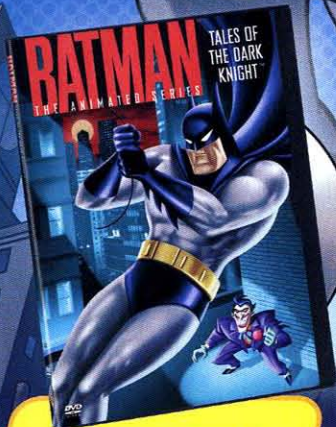
The skin samples we've removed so far from the site have essentially reconstituted themselves. Even absent a heart, or a circulatory system, or oxygen, they continue to survive. We actually can't figure out how to kill the tissue.



# SUPER HEROES™

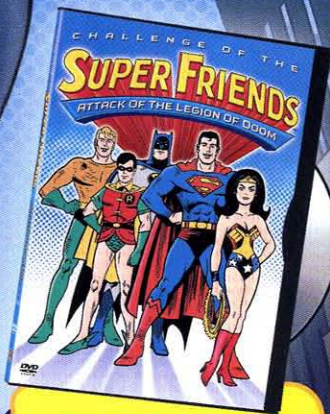
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But this is what we're worried about the most. As you can see, something dug its way out of the blast crater after the explosion.

Not possible. Nothing could have survived that explosion.



That's correct, sir. Nothing that was alive *before* the blast.

But that doesn't cover something that was dead...or artificially preserved...prior to the blast.



We don't know for sure, but given the missing body parts, it's possible that some of the pieces may have actually merged into one coherent form. Given what it would have taken to dig out from under tons of debris, the gamma burst may have also given it tremendous strength.

Great... just great. That's just what we need...



...a jigsaw-puzzle Hulk that can't be killed because it's already dead...

"...I'd sure hate to meet one of those in a dark alley somewhere."



To be  continued.



charge up  
with a  
chicken  
wrap  
sandwich!



FUEL  
UP for  
FUN!

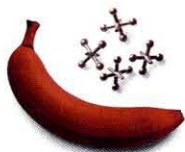


100% juice  
gives you an  
extra boost!

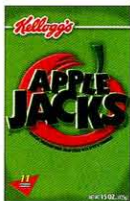
Get a  
burst from  
strawberry  
yogurt!







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