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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
PART II OF III**

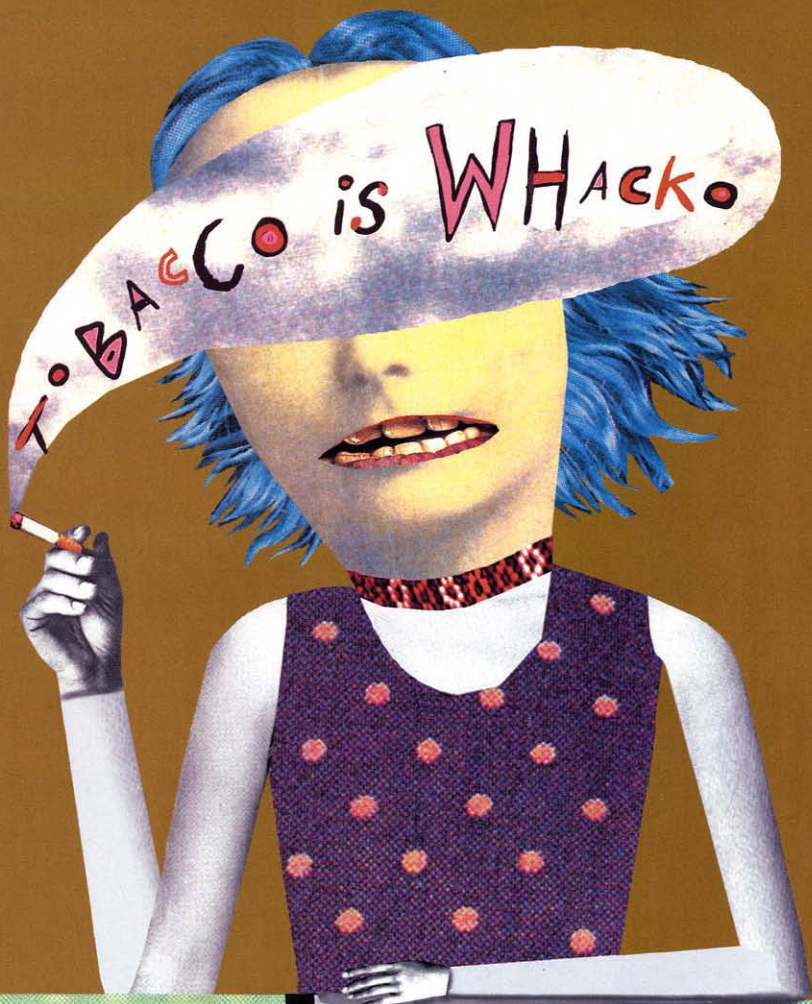


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It is  
as I feared.  
Dormammu has  
returned.

Stan Lee  
Presents...

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Part  
Two

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI  
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I thought you said he couldn't come across to this dimension on his own.

And he did not. By tricking you into gathering all the magical energies from every dimension to try and close the portal, you summoned his essence from where it had been dissipated and scattered.

He could not pierce the veil on his own. Which is why he needed all of you to unwittingly act on his behalf. So that your combined power could bring him here, in pieces, and reconstitute his essence.

Hello?  
Standing right here.



It's just...if he's barely managed to pull himself together, maybe he's still vulnerable. The sooner we hit him, the better.

He is correct.

Thanks. So if we all hit him at once--

Right up until that point.

Nuts.



Physical strength will not suffice against Pormammu. I must confront him myself, mystic against mystic.

You will have more than enough to do keeping his minions, the Mindless Ones, from doing more damage than they already have.



Protect the city. But leave Pormammu to me.

You heard the man.

Yeah, but if something happens to the Doc--

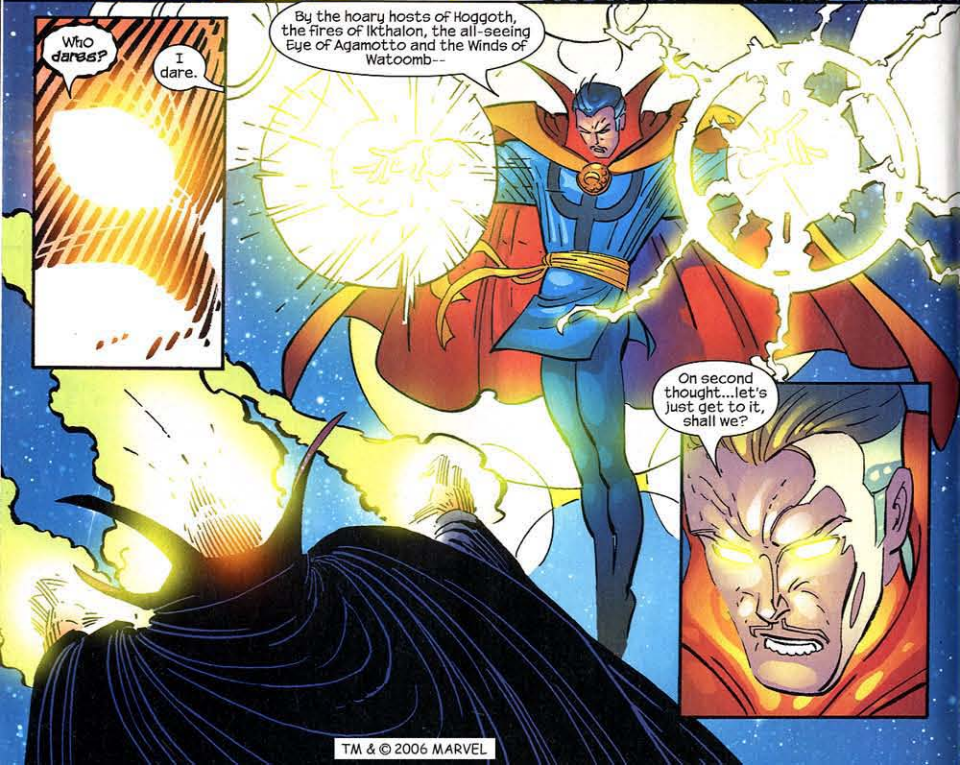


Let's get busy!









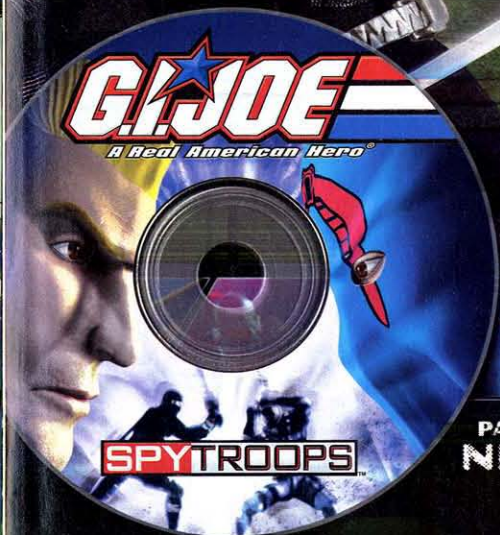


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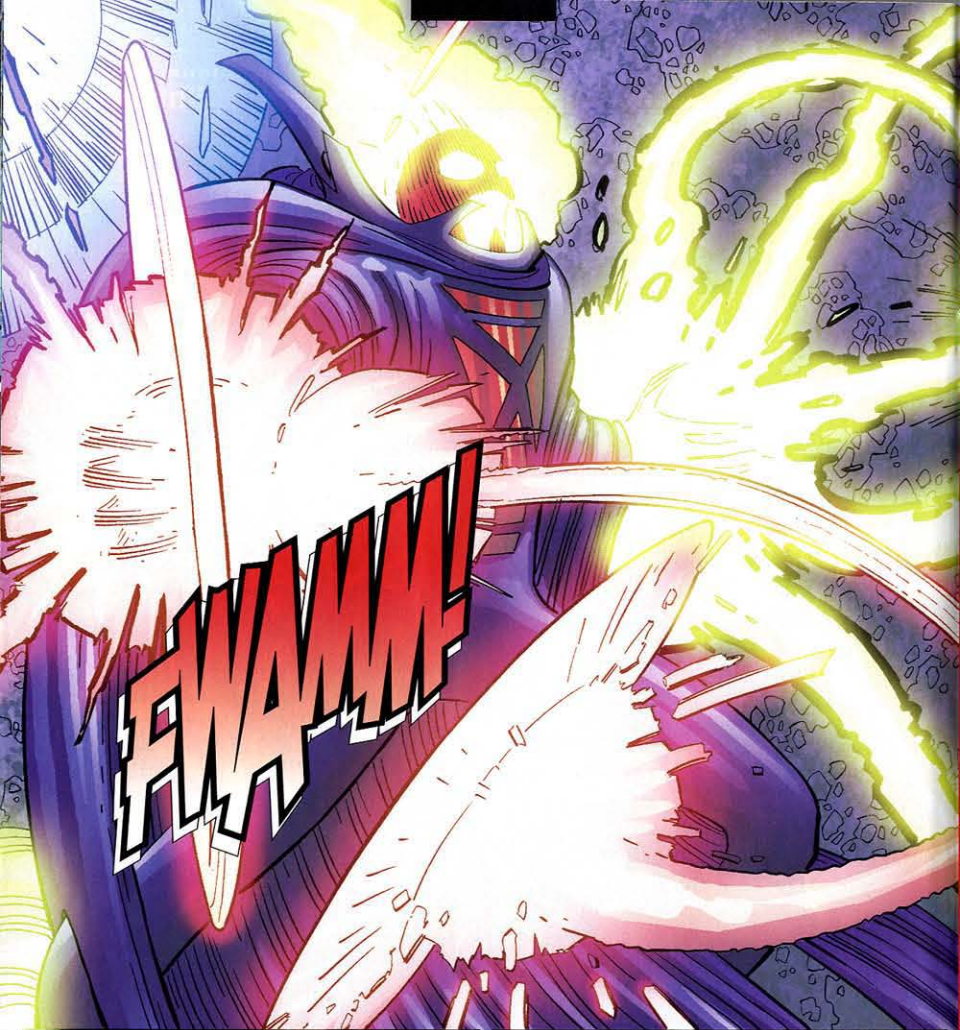
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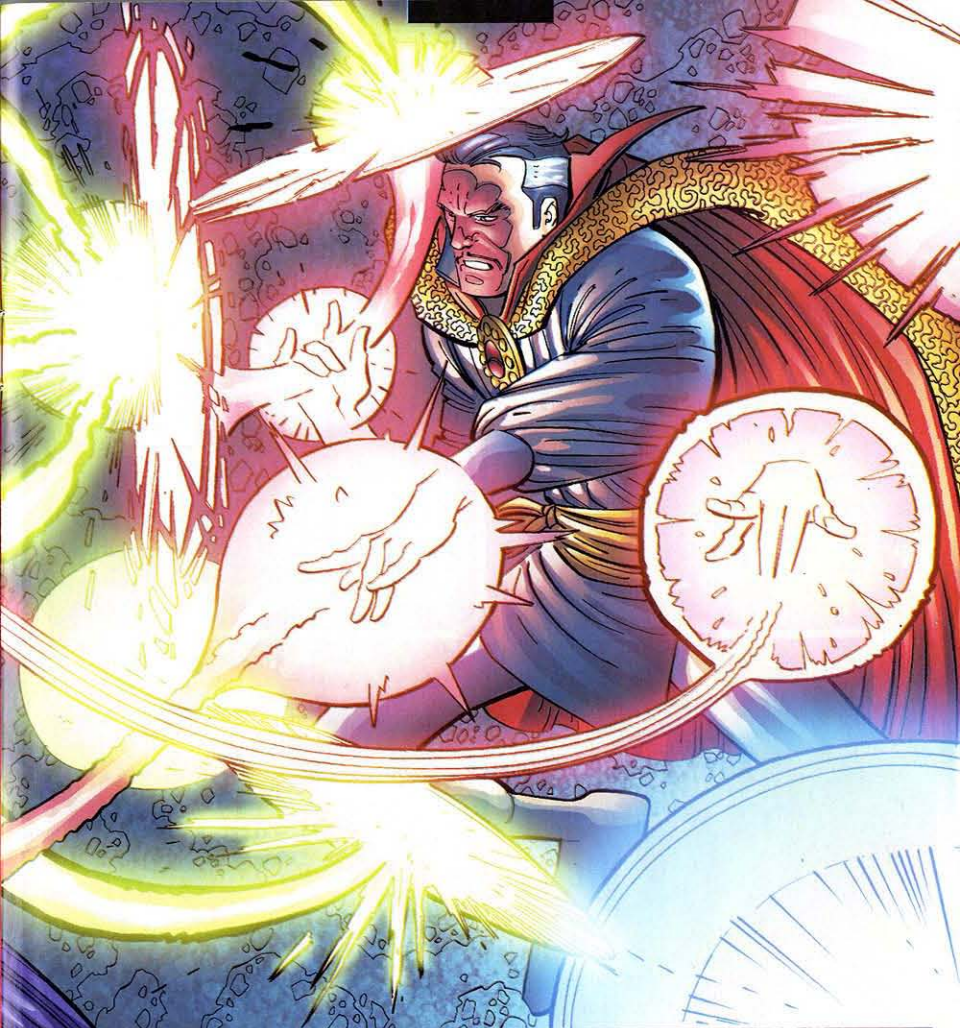
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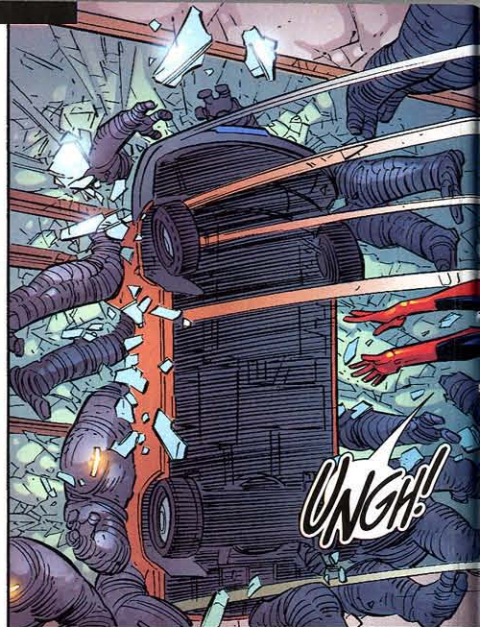














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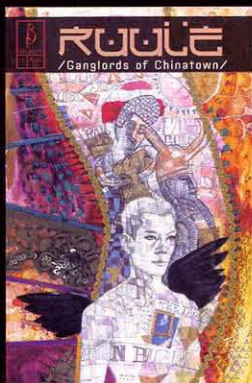


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...you  
shouldn't be  
here...



...your  
presence is  
changing the  
dynamic of the  
spell...

...get  
out...get  
out while you  
still...



...no!

**BA-DOOM!**



ABC KIDS BALL, 'Cuz THIS SEASON IS FULL OF SURPRISES!

WATCH THE  
GUESS 1



WATCH OUT  
for the  
**BALL!**



SUDDENLY...

ABC Kids  
**RULES!**

STARTS  
SEPT.  
20TH



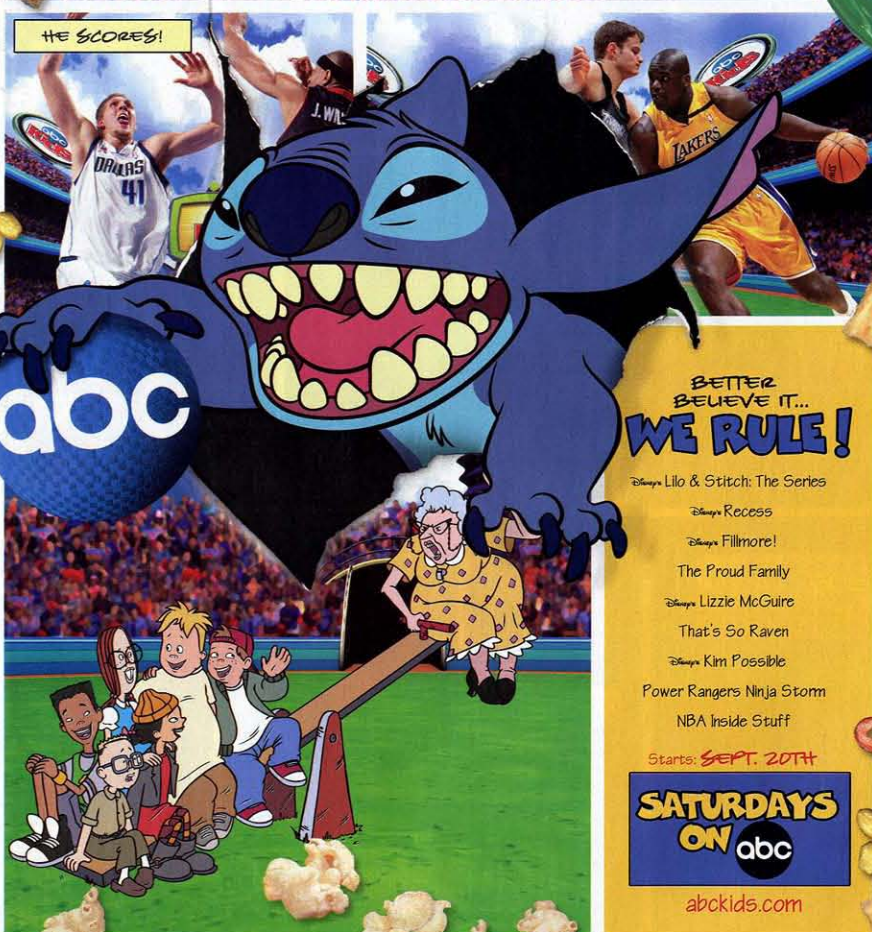
KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN  
GUESS 2



(DON'T MISS A MOMENT!)



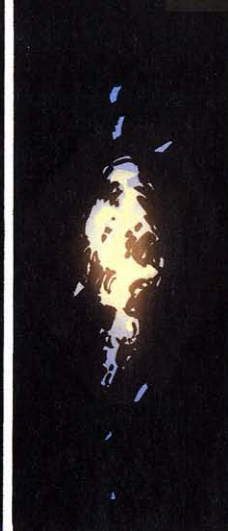
RULE 3: WATCH OUT FOR STITCH! THIS LITTLE BLUE GUY PLAYS BY HIS OWN RULES!



RULE 4: ABC KIDS RULE!!!

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Am I  
dead?

Because if I'm  
dead...then who  
or what is the I  
that's asking this  
question?

And if I'm  
dead, why does  
my nose itch?

And what's weirder  
is I can't *find* my  
nose anymore.

Okay, this  
is seriously  
starting to creep me--

Be.

Silent.

Doc? Doc,  
is that--

BY THE VAPORS OF  
THE VISHANTI DOES IT  
TAKE A COURT ORDER  
TO GET A LITTLE  
SILENCE AROUND HERE?

Yep. It's  
you, all right.

Sorry.

Does that  
count as  
a word?

One word--just one  
more word--and when we  
return to our dimension  
you will do so in the  
form of a toad.

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ  
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ  
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ



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It is taking all my power to reconstitute our physical forms in a place outside the physical.

Meaning...?



I am sworn to protect our dimension from Dormammu and all such entities of darkness. Once up to his full strength, no one could oppose him. He would reduce Earth to a smoking cinder and move on to every other world we know.

My purpose was to force him to act before his strength was fully controlled, then turn it, bend it to disrupting space-time around us until--



Until you were both torn apart and scattered to the multi-dimensional winds, is that it?

You were going to throw away your own life to--

Extreme problems often require extreme solutions.

Your presence alarmed Dormammu, and he countered in a way I had not expected. The mystical equation was altered.



Good. Then I'm glad it happened. Because nothing's worth throwing your life away. There's always another way.

I was not willing to risk the life of the universe itself to determine that. There was not enough time.

Unfortunately, time is now all we have.



So what does that--

I believe you will now find your nose acceptably close to where it has always been.

What do you mean *acceptably* close? I--

Back away a bit, Strange, you're creeping me out.

Where are we, anyway?

Your eyes are functioning again. Look around. See for yourself where your intrusion has brought us.



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**WOW!**

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Walkie Talkies**

**Awesome!  
3-D Spider-Man  
Walkie  
Talkies!**

**Ad**

**COOL!**

**& M  
Glas**

**ready  
for  
TION**

**Talk to  
friends the  
Spider-Man  
Way!**

**2 Mile Ran**

**COOL**

**Walkie Talkie**

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Welcome to the void. The long *precreation hesitation* which existed before there was time and space, and remains forever outside them both.

Wow...

...we're trapped outside time and space. Don't you just hate it when that happens?

Then this has happened to you before?

Nnnnnnnno, but I figured it'd probably happened to you, but if it hadn't, I was, u'know, trying to keep a positive outlook, like this happens all the time--

It *may* be within my power to return us to our dimension or an approximation thereof.

It is *definitely* within my power to leave you here.

Well, *somebody* sure got up on the wrong side of the incantation this morning.

And what did you mean when you said we might return to an *approximation* of our dimension?

As I said, we are outside time and space. My skills may correct one, but not both simultaneously. Even if we return to the correct part of space, we will remain outside time, moving back and forth unpredictably.

Anything I can do to help? Other than, u'know, shutting up so you can concentrate?

That would be a most admirable start.

Ni, ni infalli tu dishok, ni amagotto, ni faltine, tu darkanno--









It can't be...  
it can't--

Hey,  
move it,  
buddy.











# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #500



**MARVEL**

**J. MICHAEL STRACYZNSKI  
JOHN ROMITA JR. & JOHN ROMITA SR.!**

**Cover by J. SCOTT CAMPBELL**

**October 2003**







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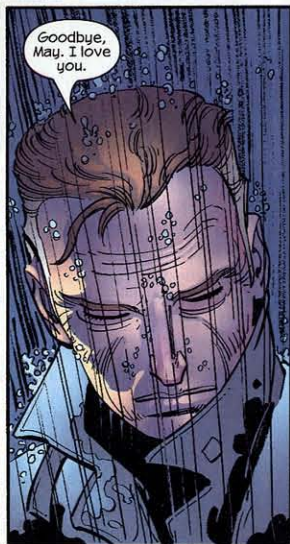
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This  
can't be.



Can't  
be.

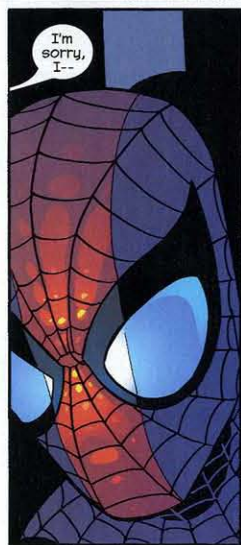


I shouldn't  
be here, I--



You  
shouldn't  
be here.

What--



I'm  
sorry,  
I--



This area is  
off limits except  
to authorized  
personnel.

No...it  
can't be...



Yeah, typical  
Parker, can't see  
where he's going  
even *with* the  
glasses.





"We are inside the moment *between* moments."



"We may even be able to affect what happens when the quantum possibilities collapse into one reality."



"Our reality."

"Our future."

**To Be Concluded In "Happy Birthday, Part Three" Issue 500!**



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