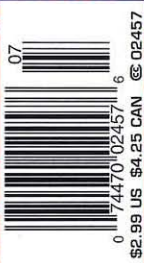


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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



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who are you?



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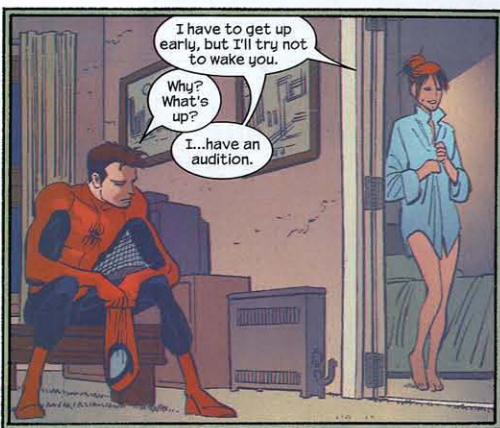
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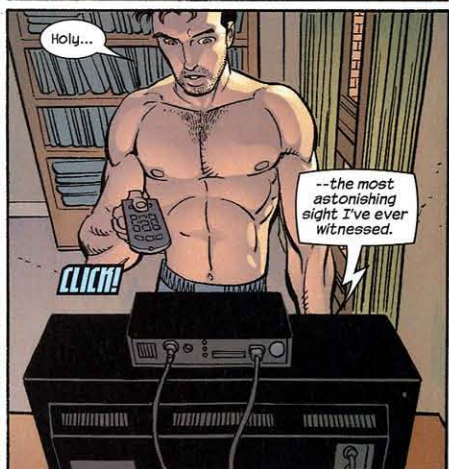
Cartoon Violence
Comic Mischief



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THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

CHAPTER TWO

J. MICHAEL
STRACZYNSKI
STORY

JOHN
ROMITA JR.
PICTURES

SCOTT
HANNA
INKS

MATT
MILLA
COLORS

VICENT CALABROFF'S
CORY PETT
LETTERS

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Literally millions of spiders have come out of every hiding place in the city, every nook and cranny, and have swarmed over nearly half a mile of prime Manhattan real estate. And they show no sign of stopping. Thousands of people have been bitten by the spiders, and hundreds more have been frightened into heart attacks and seizures.

Entomologists contacted by WQED have no explanation for this swarming behavior but say they are concerned because the average home can have as many as two hundred spiders in, on and below the structure.

For another opinion, we contacted J. Jonah Jameson, of the Daily Bugle.

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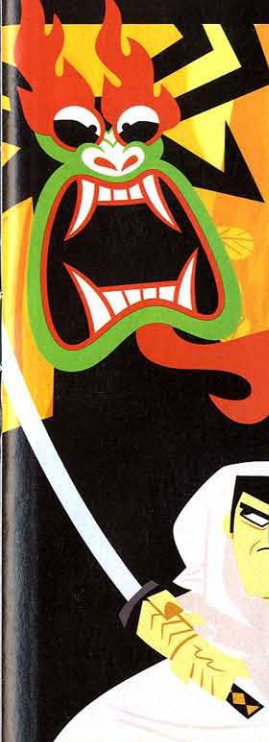
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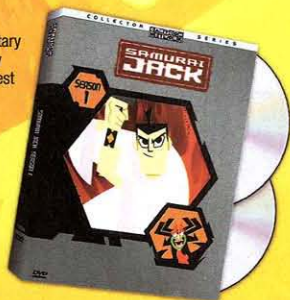
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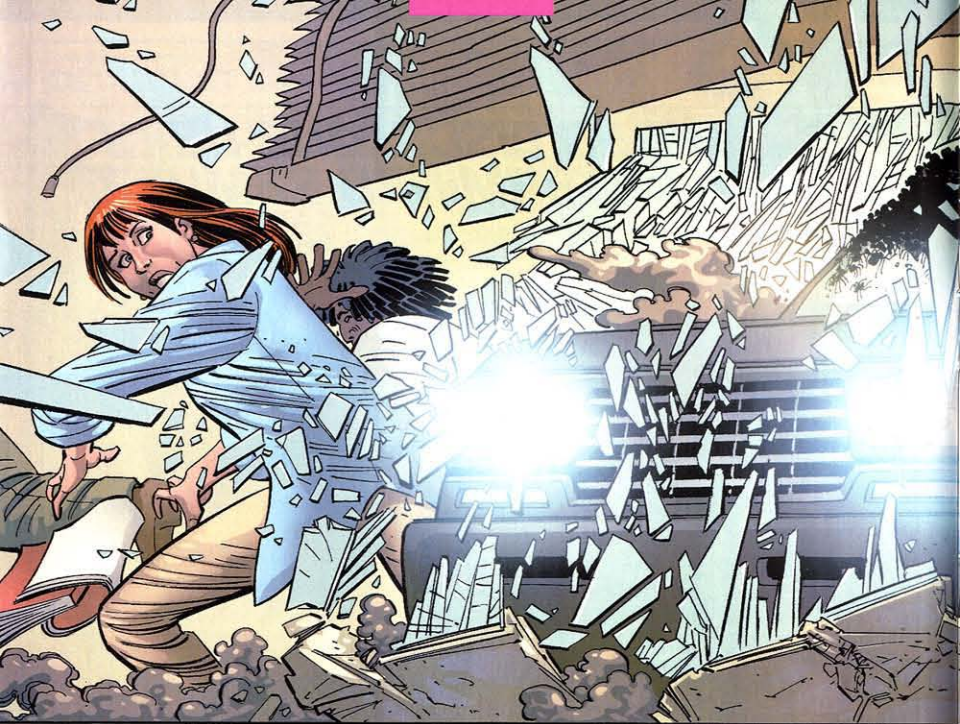
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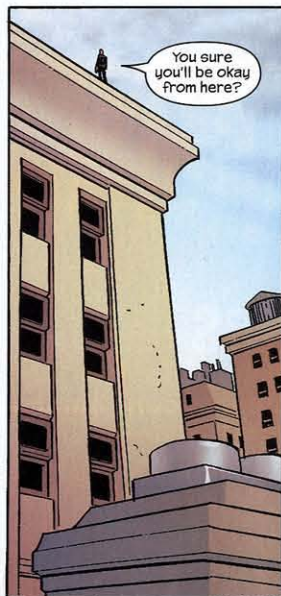
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A thousand bites
slice into me...all
over me...can't
move--

Can't see...
can't see to
web onto...
anyth...

This is stupid...
I can't go like
this...I can't...

...can't...
feel...my
legs....

You are
not the one.
Learn...

Learn...

You believe
you stand upon solid
ground, that the earth
is firm beneath
your feet.

You are
wrong.



The ground
moves beneath
you, it swarms and
flexes and flows, like
water through sand,
like muscle beneath
tissue. In constant
motion.

Put your
hand to the
ground, and feel
the heartbeat of
the earth.



Hear
the whisper of
builders and
shapers.

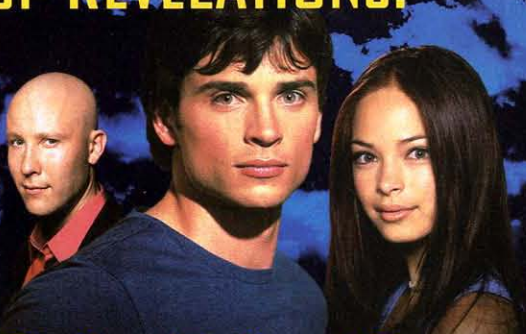
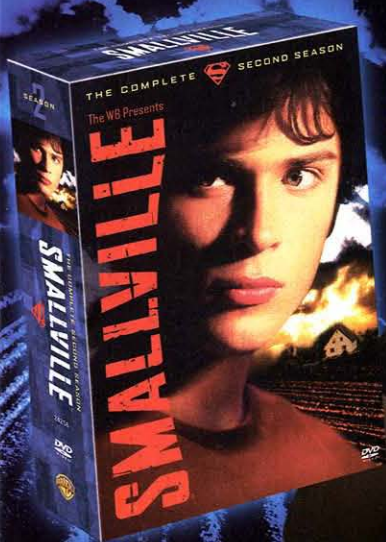


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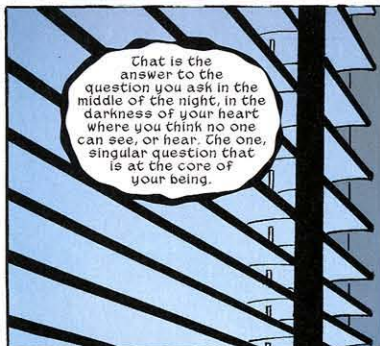
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| 7-29-04 | Mansfield, MA | Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts |
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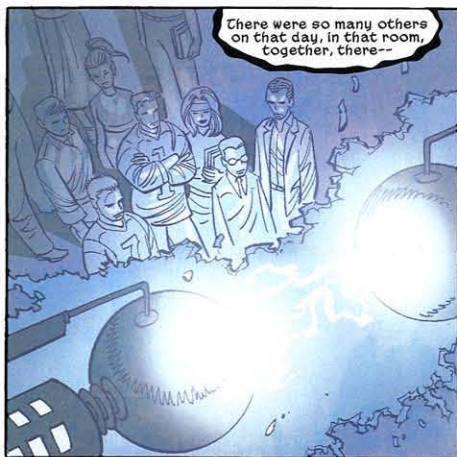


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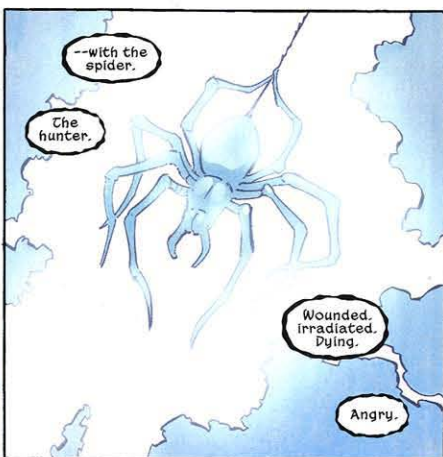


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There were so many others
on that day, in that room,
together, there--



--with the
spider.

The
hunter.

Wounded.
Irradiated.
Dying.

Angry.



Why you?

Given
the power, what
would they have
done with it?

They
would have
sought renown,
perhaps, sought
riches.



They were
soft, especially the ones
who thought themselves
so hard.

They would
have crumbled
under the weight of
the gift. They would not
have known what to
do with it.



Because
they were not
hunters.



Why you?

Because
you were a hunter
without teeth.

You
were chosen for
your rage.

spin a whose new web.



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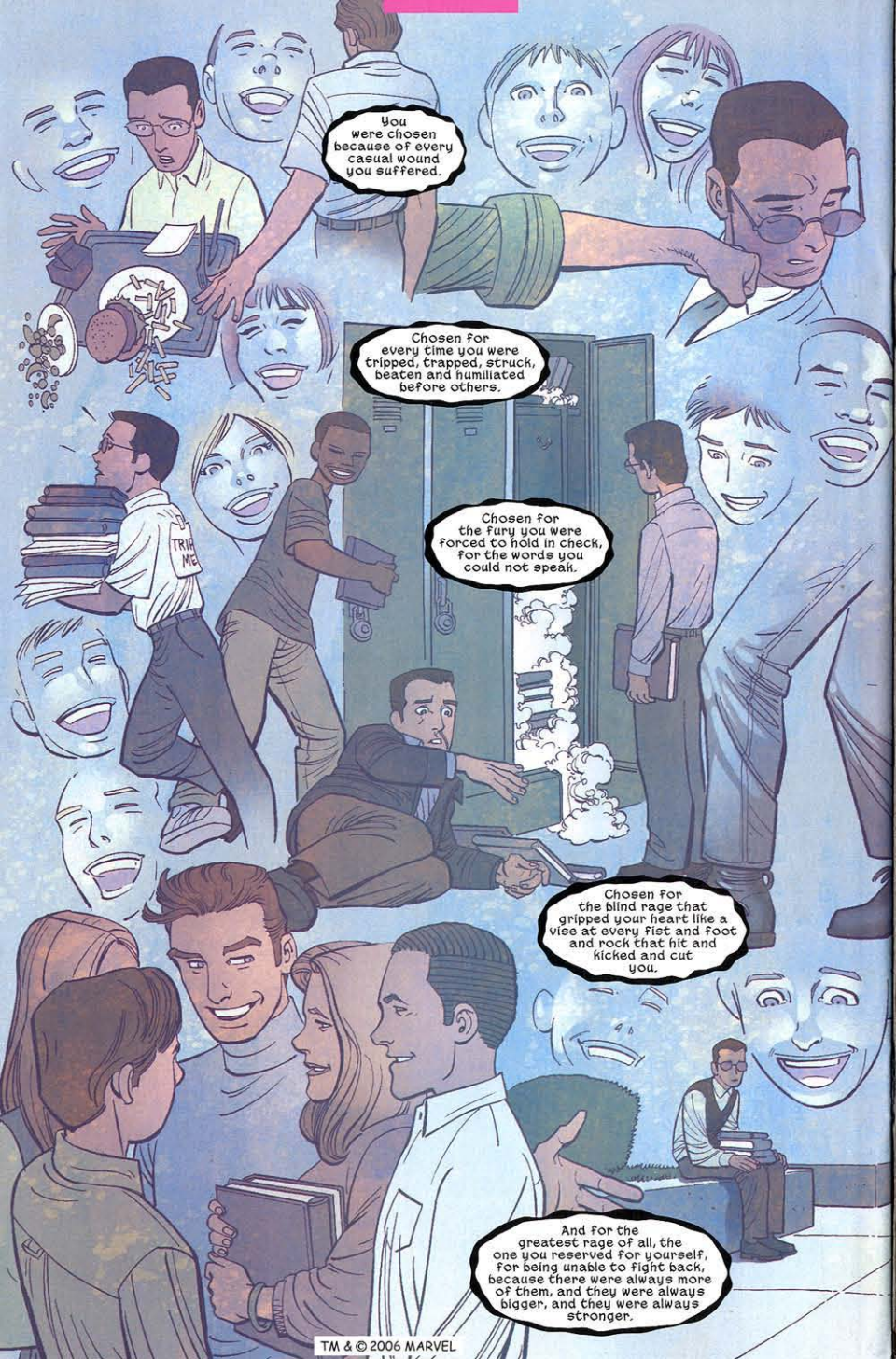
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A complex collage of faces and figures. At the top, a man in a green shirt points towards the viewer. To his left, a man in a yellow shirt looks on. Below them, a man in a brown shirt is being pushed or tripped. In the center, a man in a dark jacket is on the ground, looking up in shock. To his right, a man in a light blue shirt stands with a book. At the bottom, a group of four people (two men and two women) are smiling and talking. In the bottom right, a small figure of a man sits on a bench. The background is filled with various faces, some smiling and some looking distressed. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, purples, and greys, with some warmer tones in the characters' clothing.

You were chosen because of every casual wound you suffered.

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Chosen for the fury you were forced to hold in check, for the words you could not speak.

Chosen for the blind rage that gripped your heart like a vise at every fist and foot and rock that hit and kicked and cut you.

And for the greatest rage of all, the one you reserved for yourself, for being unable to fight back, because there were always more of them, and they were always bigger, and they were always stronger.

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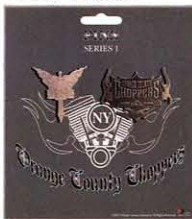
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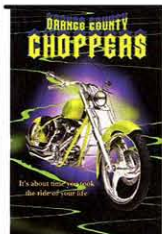


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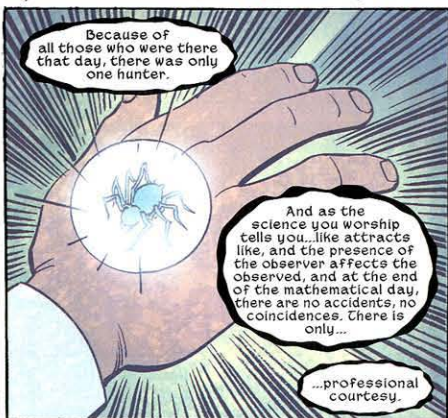
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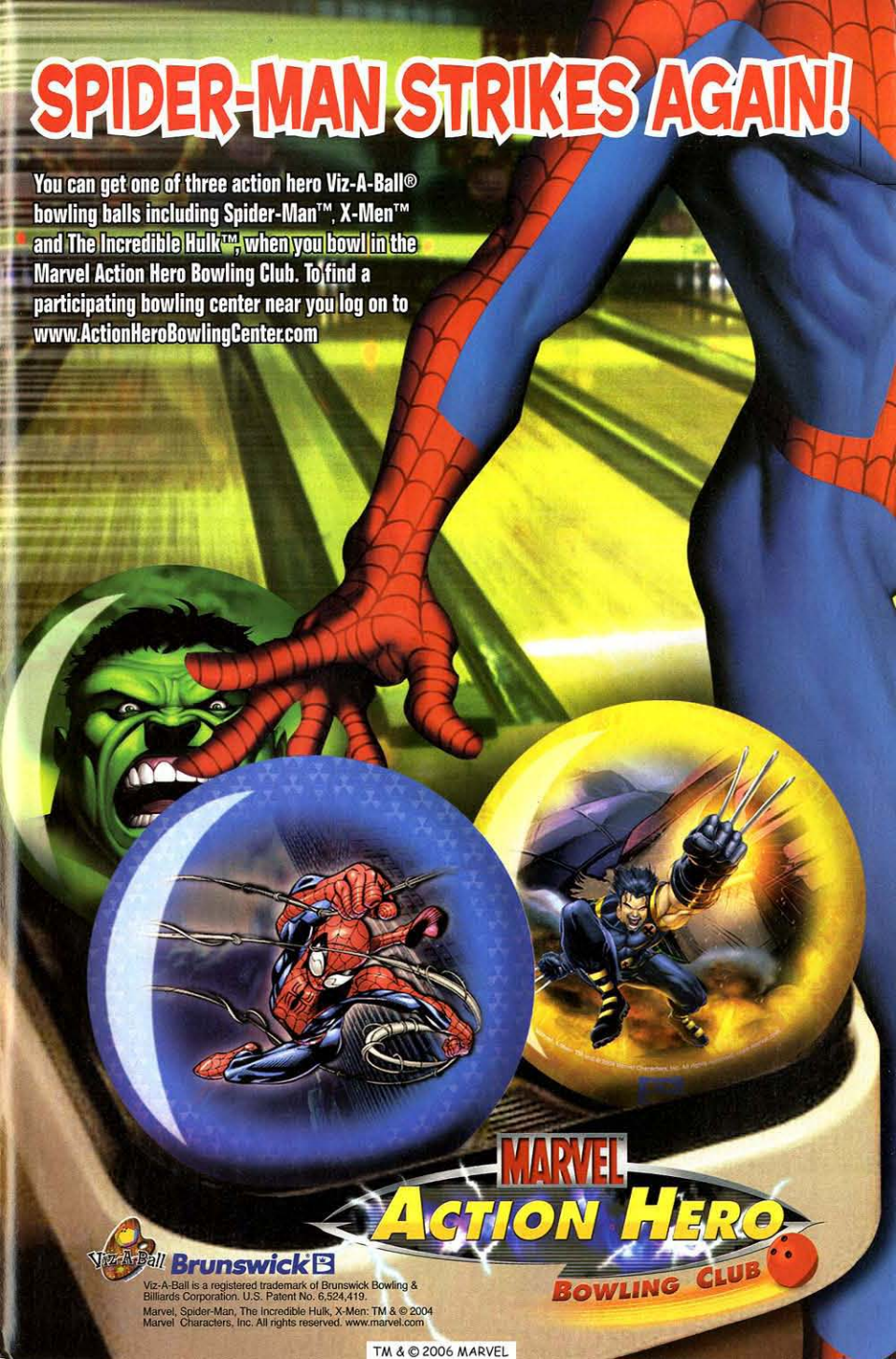


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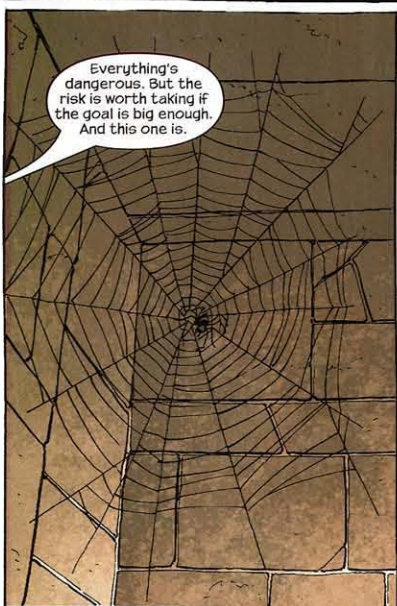
But...I don't understand...if all this is...if this is true... why are you...I thought--

It was necessary, that you might see the truth. See the pretender.



See... with the eyes of a spider.

"What you are doing is dangerous. I ask you again to reconsider."



Everything's dangerous. But the risk is worth taking if the goal is big enough. And this one is.



If you take from the spider that which is not yours to take, one day a price will be asked in return.

To this generation, there is one chosen. You are not that one.

But I can *make* myself that one.

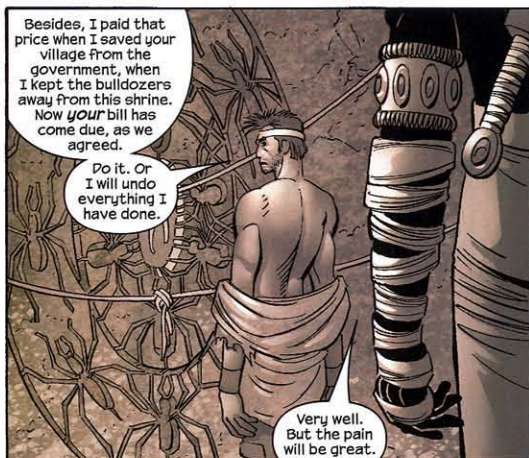
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Besides, I paid that price when I saved your village from the government, when I kept the bulldozers away from this shrine. Now *your* bill has come due, as we agreed.

Do it. Or I will undo everything I have done.

Very well. But the pain will be great.



I spent years and more money than you can imagine to find this place, I'm not backing off because of a little pain.

A little pain? Until tonight, Ezekiel, you have never known the meaning of that word.



AAAAAGGHHH!



--huh... huh--
Is that... is that the worst you can do?

Oh, no. Not at all. The blood is merely the signal.



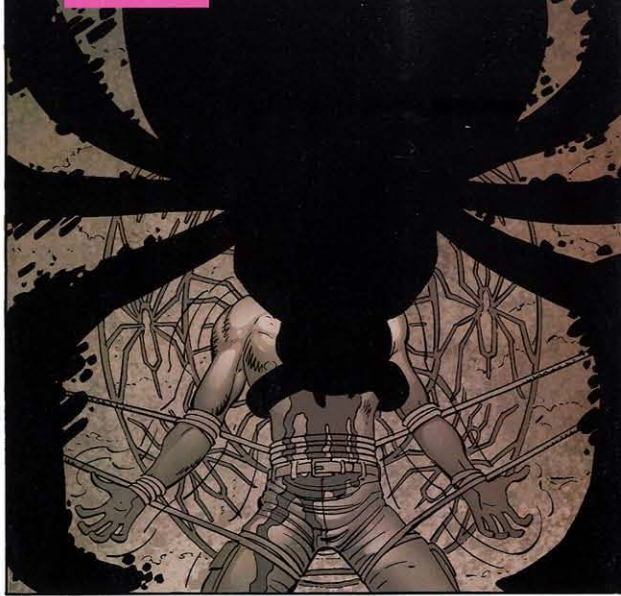
The blood calls to the magic. The magic that will sustain you, until the true one, the chosen one, appears in the world. Then it will come and it will find you, and it will finish the meal it begins tonight.



Because blood is the milk of the world.



AAAAAIIIEEE!



"When that time comes, Ezekiel, your only hope is to divert the powers you have bargained with, to bring them to attack the chosen, and in so doing eliminate your competition."



"Or, failing that, to convince him to fight them on your behalf...and bring him here, to the beginning, to this place...that his blood may take the place of your own when the madness, and the death, follows..."

Uhhhh...
Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh--



--HUUCCCHH!

Lungs working again...
I can breathe...some
kind of drug...induced
hallucinations....



But if any of
that was true...

That's why Ezekiel
wanted me to come
with him to South
America...maybe it's
why each of the
supernatural forces
I've fought came the
same time he showed
up...he was trying to
get me to fight them
on his behalf...

When they were never
really after me in the
first place. They were
after him. If that's true,
then as long as I don't
go to South America,
I should be--

Hello, P.

Surprised?
Don't be. There are
spiders everywhere, you
know. Once you enter the
magic, once you enter the
story, there's no telling
where you'll come
out.

The only thing
I do know, P, and I'm real
sorry about this...is that
having gotten here, you
won't be allowed to leave.
Not alive.

Because
now it's my life
or yours. And I
intend to live.

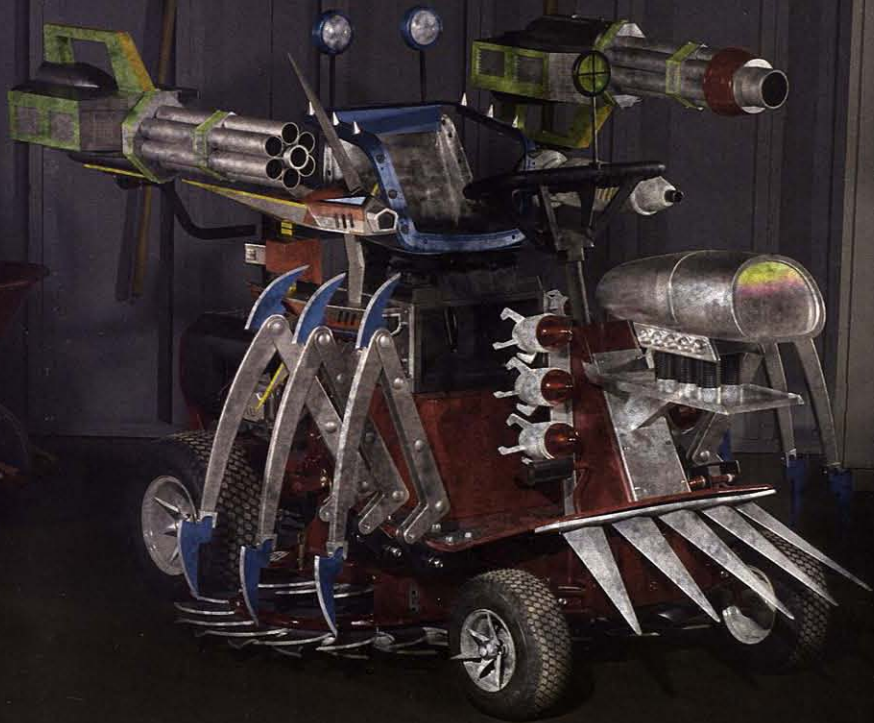
But for
what's coming,
and how you'll go,
I am sorry, P.

Honest
and true.



To Be Continued...

who are you?



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