

MARVEL
PSR 515

STRACZYNSKI
DEODATO JR
BROOKS

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



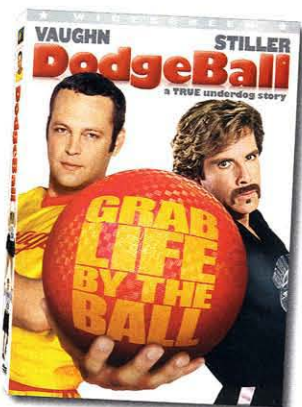
SKIN DEEP
PART 1 of 4



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It's been two days since Gwen's kids disappeared without a trace. I've searched high, and I've searched low.

Hmmm...I haven't searched here in the back of my car... maybe they're under that bag of french fries...

And what *is* that smell, anyway?

I'm just going to have to accept the fact that they've gone to ground pretty thoroughly and I'm not going to learn anything more until and unless they come looking for me.*

There's nothing I can do for now except pick up the pieces and try to go on.

So why is it that every time I've ever tried to get my life together--

--it almost always ends up with me being late for school?

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** A STORY THAT WILL BEGIN IN ISSUE NUMBER 23 OF THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! (THIS NOTE COURTESY OF THE ALPHABETICALLY ADVANTAGED AXEL ALONSO.)

SKIN DEEP

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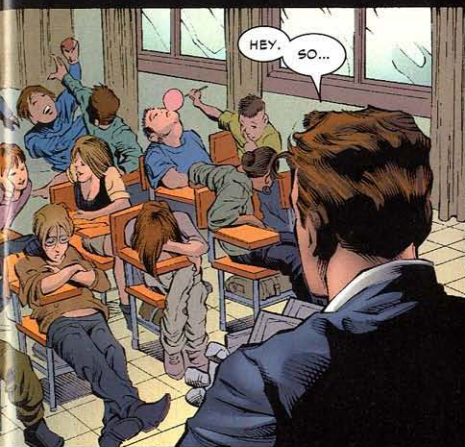
MARK BROOKS
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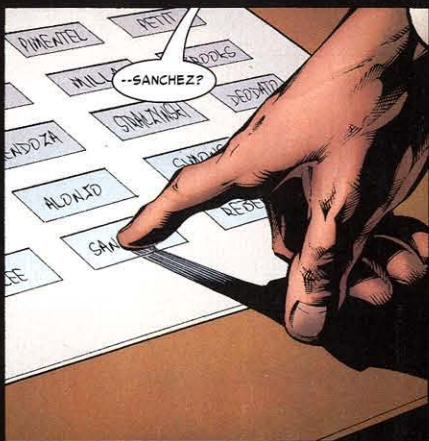
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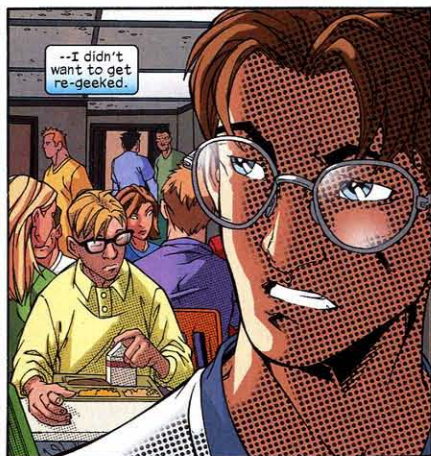
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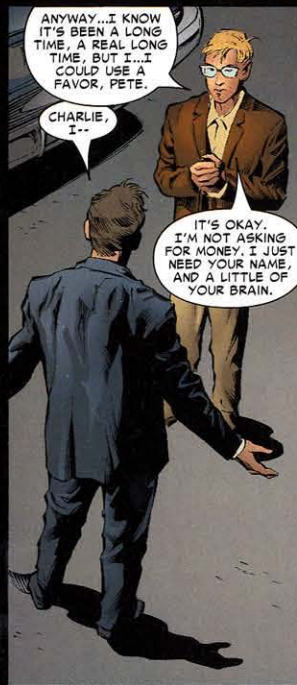
INSOMNIAC
GAMES

PlayStation.2

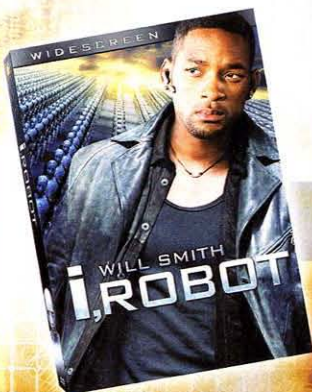


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FOR THE 2000 EDITION OF THE

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EXPECT THE INCREDIBLE!

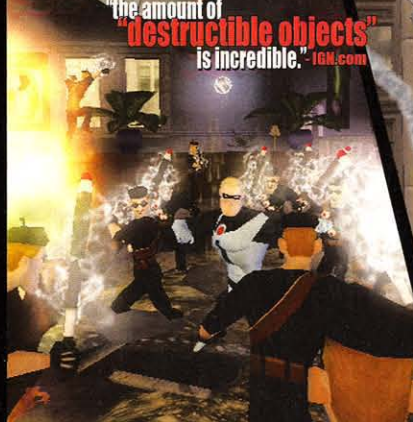
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as the movie."
- Official Xbox Magazine



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other action/adventure games."
- Wizard: The Comics Magazine



"the amount of
"destructible objects"
is incredible." - IGN.com



"An engaging experience even without its license. The varied
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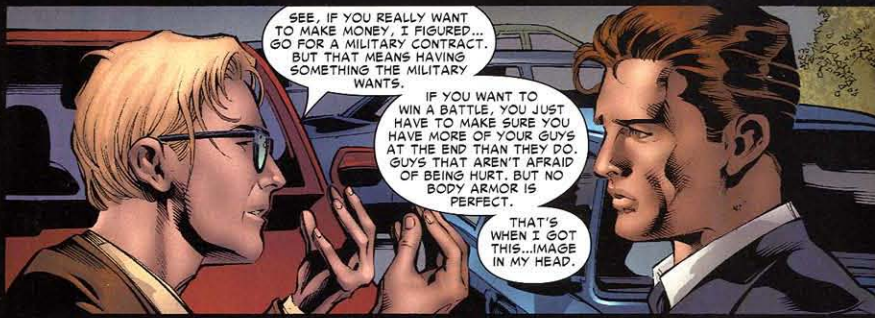


Cartoon Violence

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SEE, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE MONEY, I FIGURED... GO FOR A MILITARY CONTRACT. BUT THAT MEANS HAVING SOMETHING THE MILITARY WANTS.


IF YOU WANT TO WIN A BATTLE, YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE MORE OF YOUR GUYS AT THE END THAN THEY DO. GUYS THAT AREN'T AFRAID OF BEING HURT. BUT NO BODY ARMOR IS PERFECT.

THAT'S WHEN I GOT THIS...IMAGE IN MY HEAD.



"I SAW SOLDIERS GETTING READY TO GO INTO BATTLE, GETTING COVERED HEAD TO TOE IN A SUBSTANCE THAT WOULD MAKE THEM...WELL... FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES...


"INVULNERABLE.



"IMAGINE AN ARMY LIKE THAT. THEY'D BE FEARLESS, NOBODY COULD STOP THEM.

"AS LONG AS THEY KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT WHEN THE BULLETS FLEW.

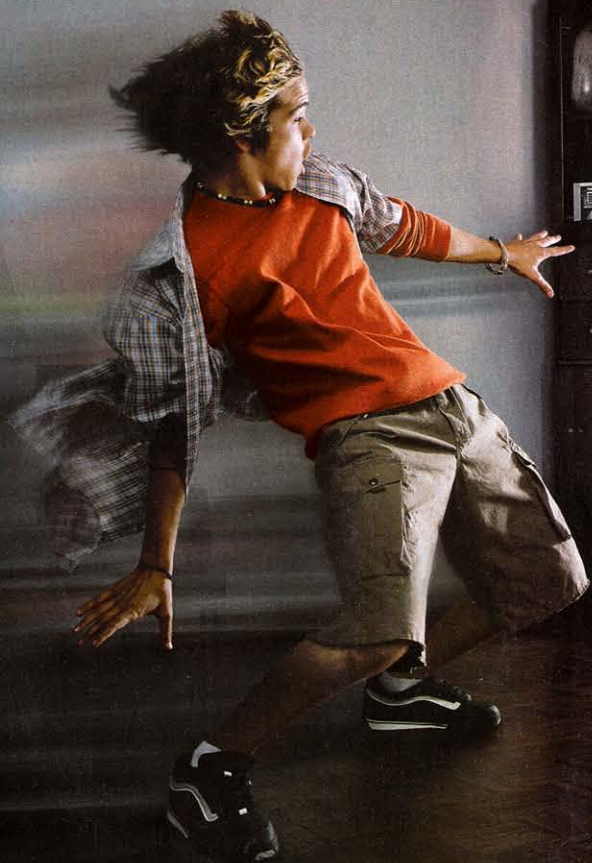
"AND WATCHED OUT FOR THEIR EYES. I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THAT PART YET."



FOR THE BASE, I KNEW I'D NEED SOME KIND OF POROUS POLYMER COMPOUND, SOMETHING THAT COULD COVER EVERYTHING BUT LET OXYGEN THROUGH. BECAUSE IF THEY CAN'T BREATHE--



"--WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT WAS THE HARDEST PART TO WORK OUT."



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PlayStation 2



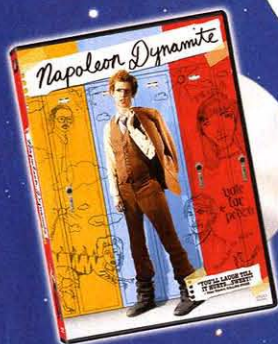
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Fantasy Violence
Language

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WHO ARE YOU?



GAME BOY ADVANCE SP





Then it was my turn to serve in rotation. I could've chosen to serve to anybody on the other side.

C'MON, PARKER... WHAT'RE YOU DOING, WAITING FOR A BUS? HIT IT!



In my heart, I didn't want to do it. I felt sick inside at just the thought of it.



But I did it anyway.



OOOF!

WHOA!



PARKER SMOKED WEINERMAN! EVEN PARKER SMOKED HIM! WAY TO GO!

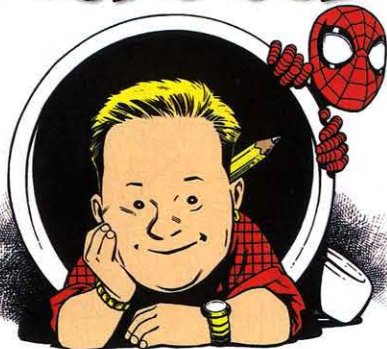
I got high-fived. Nobody had ever high-fived me before.



OUR VICTORY IS IMMINENT



CUP O' JOE



HEY, I'm back! GANG,

Welcome to my new "Cup O' Joe" soapbox! As always this column will be dedicated to helping guide you, our marvelous Marvel True Believer, to the coolest comic consumables currently crashing comic shops near you!!!

This month begins a little initiative we're calling "Marvel Next." What's "Marvel Next" you ask? Well, in this and subsequent months we'll be focusing on some next generation Marvel characters who we feel will in short time become major new staples within the Marvel Universe. This month we're focusing on the extremely popular X-23...

Ripped from the pages of the unbelievably popular NYX series and out of the world of Uncanny X-Men leaps X-23 into her first solo book. This mini series written by Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost and illustrated by Billy Tan will set the record straight about this young lady who is quickly becoming the "it" character in the world of X-Men. This book is going to be *pistol hot*!

Speaking of heat, I have to mention a few white hot creators this month, who will be affecting some familiar faces. We've got famed Brit scribe Peter Milligan taking over X-Men, the Hulk-Man himself, Peter David taking over, well... The Hulk, and Greg Pak and Greg Land on Phoenix Endsong! Phew, that's a lot of incredible talent, how do you guys deal with it all, I'm exhausted.



See ya in
the funnybooks,
JQ
EEK!

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Even though it was in the days before Spider-Sense, I felt like I could find Charlie in my sleep. And I kept at him, earning points in more ways than one.



They say that in a herd, when one of the animals falls sick or behind, it's not the king of the pride that takes it out.

It's always the ones that are almost as bad-off who do the job.

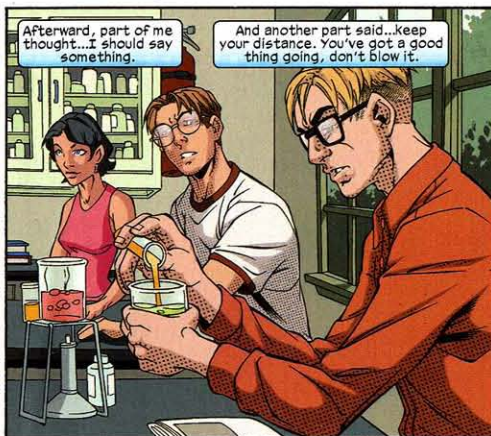


Better thee than me.



I'd never been treated better.

And I'd never felt worse. Or been more ashamed of myself.



THE EPIC JAK TRILOGY IS COMING

REST ASSURED, IT WON'T END LIKE THIS.



JAK 3



Comic Mischief
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PlayStation 2

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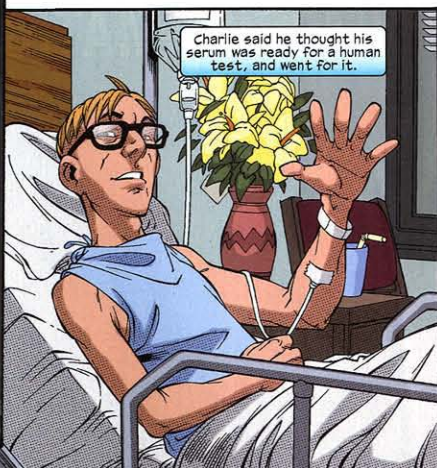
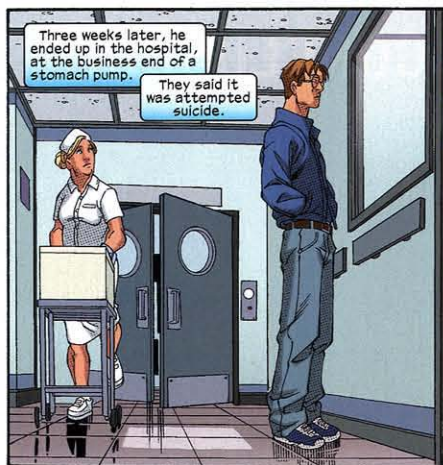
TO ITS DRAMATIC CONCLUSION.



The conclusion,
the answers,
the end of the epic.



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PlayStation 2



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So I gave Charlie the letter. How could I not?

MR. WEIDERMAN?
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
I'M TESSA SPRINGFIELD,
MR. STARK'S ASSISTANT.
HE'S READY TO SEE
YOU NOW.

THANKS.



THANK
YOU, MR.
STARK.

TONY.
MR. STARK IS
MY FATHER.

VIBRANIUM,
EH? YOU ARE
AMBITIOUS.

WELL,
I--

RELAX.
THAT WAS A
COMPLIMENT.



ON THE SURFACE,
YOUR PROPOSAL SEEMS
WELL CONSIDERED.

THANK
YOU, I--

BUT I DO
HAVE SOME CONCERNS
WITH YOUR METHODOLOGY.
SOME OF IT SEEMS HURRIED
AND NOT WELL RESEARCHED.
YOU'RE DEALING WITH SOME
VERY VOLATILE COMPOUNDS
HERE, CHARLIE.



I NOTICED THAT ONE OF
THE LETTERS OF
RECOMMENDATION CAME
FROM PETER PARKER. ARE
YOU WORKING TOGETHER
ON THIS?

I...NOT
PRECISELY, THOUGH
HE HAS ADVISED ME
ON A FEW THINGS.

WOULD HE
BE AN OFFICIAL
PART OF THIS
PROJECT?



WELL, I...
I HADN'T
REALLY...

IF YOU
THOUGHT IT
WOULD HELP.

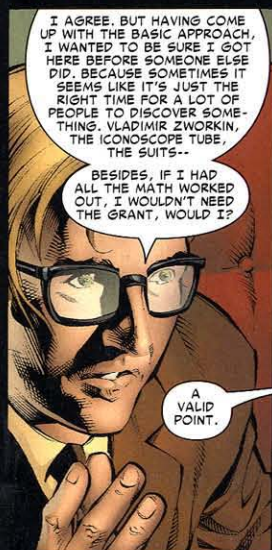
IT
COULDN'T
HURT.

THEN HE'LL
BE THERE FROM
DAY ONE, THROUGH-
OUT THE WHOLE
PROJECT.

SO YOU'RE
FAMILIAR WITH
HIS WORK?



"WELL, MR. WEIDERMAN, YOU
COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.
YOU HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO,
BUT THAT'S A GOOD START."



I AGREE. BUT HAVING COME
UP WITH THE BASIC APPROACH,
I WANTED TO BE SURE I GOT
HERE BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE
DID. BECAUSE SOMETIMES IT
SEEMS LIKE IT'S JUST THE
RIGHT TIME FOR A LOT OF
PEOPLE TO DISCOVER SOMETHING.
VLADIMIR ZWORNIN,
THE ICONOSCOPE TUBE,
THE SUITS--

BESIDES, IF I HAD
ALL THE MATH WORKED
OUT, I WOULDN'T NEED
THE GRANT, WOULD I?

A
VALID
POINT.



PAUL McCARTNEY
 PEARL JAM
 STING
 ANI DI FRANCO
 R.E.M.
 BONNIE RAITT
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NICKELODEON

A full-page comic book illustration depicting a chaotic scene in a city at night. Spider-Man is shown in various positions of falling or being thrown through the air. He is surrounded by several men in suits, some of whom are holding guns. In the background, there are city buildings, including one with a sign that says "PAMSONIC". In the foreground, there is a restaurant scene with people eating at a table. The overall tone is one of action and confusion.

--and I
had mine.

Enjoying the
nightlife...

...going with MJ
to rehearsals...

...great
performances...

...lectures on the
decline of Western
civilization...

...and generally just
hanging around.

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I should've known everything was going too well for comfort.

JUSTA
SEC JUSTA
SEC JUSTA
SEC--



YEAH?

MR. PARKER, THIS IS MOLLY ST. JUPE, NEW PROJECTS MANAGER AT STARK INDUSTRIES, AND I'M CALLING TO FIND OUT WHEN WE MIGHT GET A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROJECT YOU'RE DOING WITH MR. WEIDEMAN.



THE
PROJECT--

YES, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH HIM BY PHONE, BUT HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM. SINCE YOU ARE THE SUPERVISOR OF RECORD ATTACHED TO HIS WORK, WE THOUGHT YOU COULD GIVE US A BRIEFING.

RIGHT...



"...WELL, BE ASSURED THAT I'LL DEFINITELY TOUCH...THAT IS, BE IN TOUCH...WITH MR. WEIDEMAN THIS AFTERNOON."



CHARLIE?
CHARLIE...?

WHY THE HELL DID YOU TELL STARK I WAS WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS?

YOU DID HELP WITH SOME OF THE EARLY--

I JUST CHECKED SOME OF YOUR FIGURES. THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.



HE SAID YOUR INVOLVEMENT WAS CRUCIAL TO GETTING THE FUNDING, PETE.

I DON'T CARE, I--

HE GAVE YOU ALL THIS STUFF BECAUSE I WAS...REALLY? HE SAID THAT? BECAUSE THIS IS...Y'KNOW...A LOT OF STUFF. EXPENSIVE STUFF. HECK, IF I'D KNOWN THAT--

PETE--

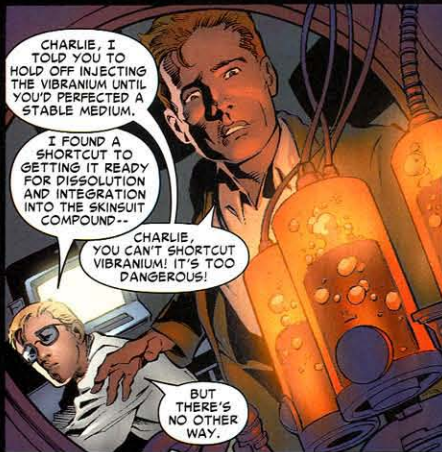


--I'M AT A CRITICAL PART OF MY WORK. IF YOU TELL THEM THE TRUTH, THEY'LL PULL THE PLUG, AND--

I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

IS THAT THE VIBRANIUM?



CHARLIE, I TOLD YOU TO HOLD OFF INJECTING THE VIBRANIUM UNTIL YOU'D PERFECTED A STABLE MEDIUM.

I FOUND A SHORTCUT TO GETTING IT READY FOR DISSOLUTION AND INTEGRATION INTO THE SKINSUIT COMPOUND--

CHARLIE, YOU CAN'T SHORTCUT VIBRANIUM! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.



THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN RETURNING ANY OF THE CALLS FROM STARK, ISN'T IT? IF THEY SAW THIS SETUP, THEY'D SHUT YOU DOWN IN A HOT SECOND.

DID THEY CALL YOU? I...WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM?

NOTHING, I WANTED TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE FIRST. BUT NOW...GOD, CHARLIE--



DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING, PETE, NOT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED THE FIRST TEST.

THAT WON'T HAPPEN!

I CAN'T DO THAT. MY NAME IS ON THIS THING-- SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T TELL ME--AND IF THIS GOES UP, YOU COULD TAKE THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH YOU.

YOU CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT!



YOU SAID YOU WERE MY FRIEND!

I AM YOUR FRIEND, CHARLIE. I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE AND BOTH OUR REPUTATIONS.

YOU'VE GOT UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING TO DO THE RIGHT THING. EITHER YOU TELL THEM THE TRUTH...OR I WILL.



AND NEVER, EVER LIE TO ME AGAIN, CHARLIE.

Somebody once said no good deed goes unpunished.

And there are days I'd like to find whoever said that and kick his butt, because that line comes to mind way too often in my life.



If I'd had any common sense, I would have turned Charlie in right then and there. Shut down the whole thing. But I wanted to give him a chance to do the right thing, and save a little of his reputation.



Charlie had a good mind, maybe even a great mind, but he was impatient. Science requires patience. But Charlie required something else.

Validation.



He had something to prove, most of it to people who had forgotten all about him by this point and didn't care one way or another.

He thought he could show them all, prove to them that he was special, that he was **SOMEONE**--



FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFHHHHHHH!!!

--that he had that...spark.



...NO...



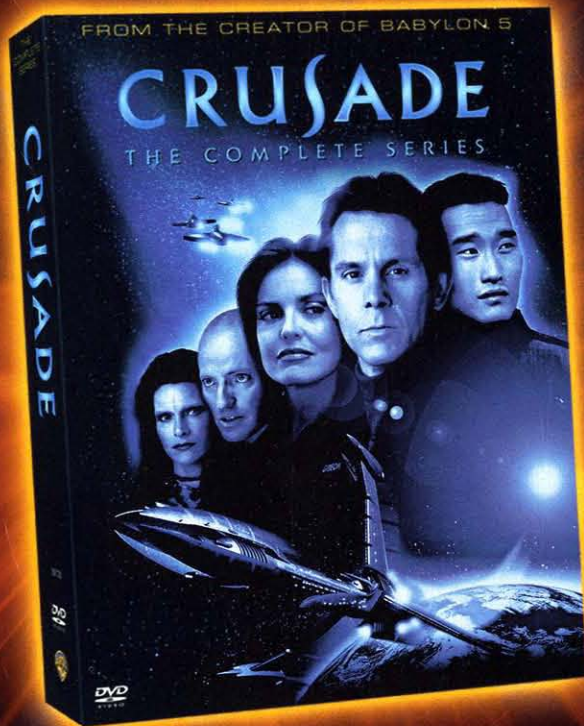
Yeah, it's true. No good deed goes unpunished.



But this one...*THIS* one was going to cut deep.

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