

**THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY!**



# VERSUS MARVEL COMICS

**#1**

\$3.95  
\$5.50 CAN

**IT ALL  
STARTS  
HERE!**



**MARZ • JURGENS • CASTELLINI • RUBINSTEIN • NEARY**



MANHATTAN.

I LOVE  
THIS  
TOWN.

JUST WHEN  
YOU'VE HAD IT,  
WHEN YOU THINK YOU  
CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE  
FROM THE BIG APPLE, IT  
GIVES YOU AN HONEST-  
TO-GOD QUIET NIGHT  
FOR A CHANGE.

NIGHTS LIKE  
THIS I KNOW I DID  
THE RIGHT THING  
COMING BACK TO NEW  
YORK AND GETTING  
MY LIFE  
TOGETHER...

...PUTTING ON  
THE COSTUME  
AGAIN. WELL,  
A COSTUME,  
ANYWAY.

MAYBE WITHOUT  
THE MASK I'M STILL  
GOING BY THE NAME BEN  
REILLY, BUT THIS IS WHO  
I REALLY AM. IT FEELS  
GOOD BEING  
SPIDER-MAN.







AW,  
NO!

COME ON,  
DON'T RUIN  
MY NIGHT. IT'S  
TOO PEACEFUL  
FOR MY SPIDER-  
SENSE TO BE  
GOING OFF!

NOTHING IN  
THE ALLEY BUT  
A GRUBBY-  
LOOKING GUY  
AND A CARDBOARD  
BOX.

WHAT KIND  
OF DANGER COULD  
I BE DETECT--?



HOLD  
ON!

WHY'S THE  
BOX GLOWING?  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE--



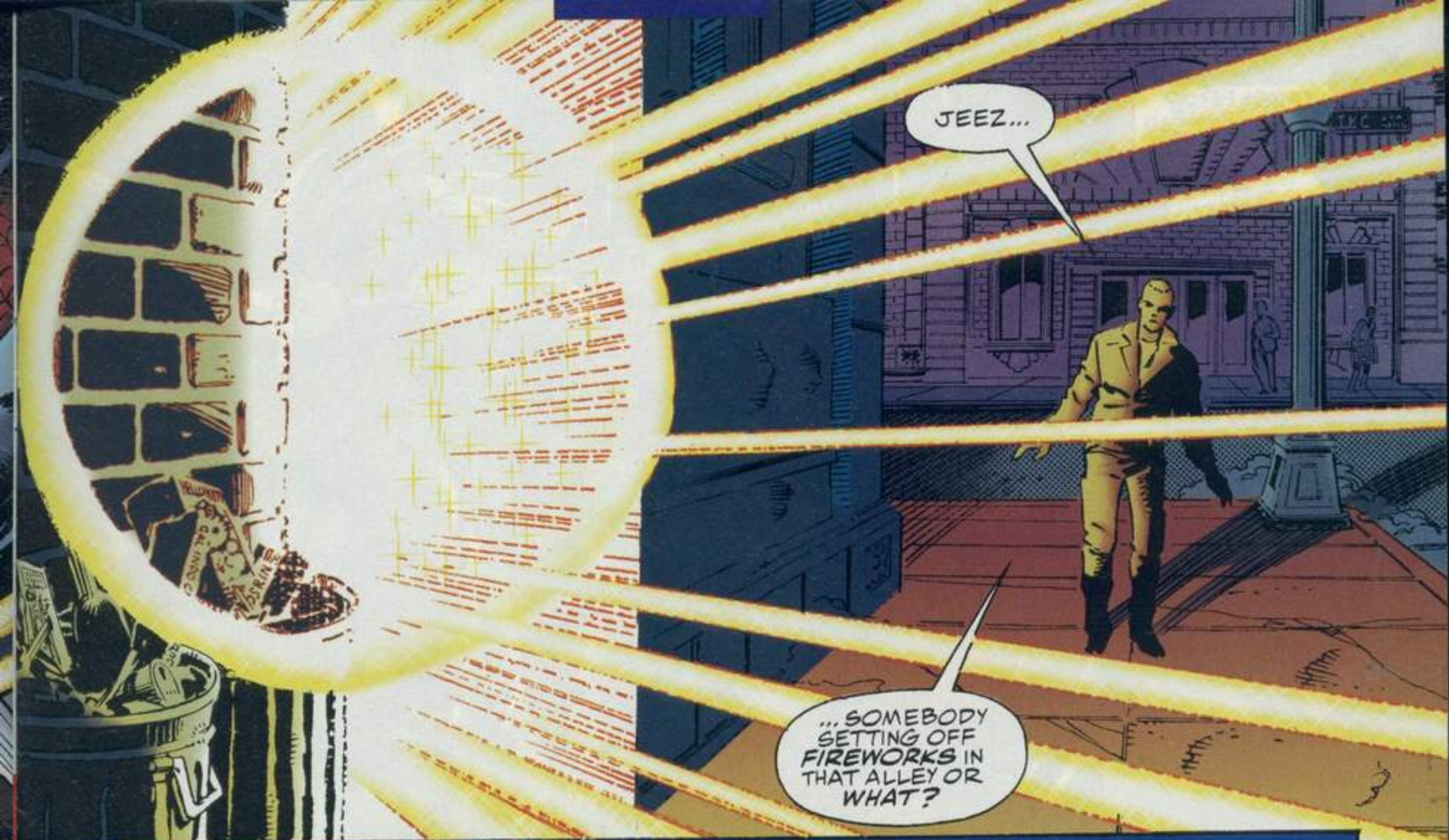
HEY!

GOT HIT,  
BUT I DIDN'T  
FEEL ANY...



...THING.





JEEZ...

... SOMEBODY  
SETTING OFF  
FIREWORKS IN  
THAT ALLEY OR  
WHAT?



YOU OKAY,  
MAN?

hwuh?

TOO  
SOON.



IT'S STARTING,  
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE  
HERE!

IT'S ALL  
COMING  
TOGETHER,  
BOY! I  
NEED YOUR  
HELP!



LOOK, I DON'T  
WANT ANY PART  
OF WHATEVER'S  
GOING ON IN  
THERE.

I'M  
GONE  
ALREADY,  
OKAY?



WHOA!

THAT GUY  
WAS WARPED.  
LAST THING I  
NEED...



"...IS TO GET  
TANGLED UP  
WITH SOME  
CRAZY DUDE."

OUCH.

FELT...  
**STRANGE**...  
FOR A SECOND.  
AND...

...IT'S  
RAINING  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN.  
WHERE  
AM I?

NO.

NO.

NO.

THE  
QUESTION  
IS, **WHO**  
ARE YOU?



SPIDER-MAN, I PRESUME, BUT YOU'VE CHANGED TAILORS SINCE LAST WE TANGOED.

huh? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE, LAUGHING BOY! SINCE WHEN IS THE CIRCUS IN NEW YORK?

NEW YORK?

DEAR BOY, THIS FAIR GEM IS GOTHAM, FAMED FAR AND WIDE FOR ITS FLYING RODENTS AND MURDEROUS, DISFIGURED PSYCHOTICS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHAT'S A GOTHAM?

"WHAT'S A GOTHAM?" HOO, THAT'S GOOD. THAT'S RICH. REMINDS ME OF A JOKE...

...ACTUALLY, EVERYTHING REMINDS ME OF A JOKE...

...BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

YOU ARE IN GOTHAM. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH, YOU HAVE A SERIOUS REALITY PROBLEM.

YEAH, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULD.

WHAT'S A CLOWN DOING ON TOP OF A BUILDING IN A DOWNPOUR, ANYWAY?

OH, I THOUGHT I MIGHT BLOW IT UP...

...BUT FIREWORKS ARE SO ABYSMALLY DULL IN THE RAIN.

AND I WOULD KNOW.



HA HA.  
YOU'RE A  
RIOT.

LOOK, SOMETHING'S  
PRETTY WEIRD HERE  
AND I'D LIKE SOME  
QUESTIONS ANSWERED.  
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD  
ME WHO YOU ARE.

MY  
CARD.

NO!

ARE  
YOU...

...INSANE?

COUNT  
YOURSELF LUCKY  
I'M MORE FOND  
OF BUGS THAN I  
AM OF BATS.

SO MUCH FOR  
THE LOVELY EVEN-  
ING I HAD PLANNED.  
I COULD JUST  
KILL THE WEATHER-  
MAN.

hmm,  
THERE'S A  
THOUGHT.

TA.

WOULD  
SOMEBODY PLEASE  
TELL ME...





"...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?"

WESTCHESTER.

BACK DOWN,  
M'SIEUR...

...WE  
DONE DIS  
DANCE TOO  
OFTEN.

LET HIM  
COME, CAJUN.  
ME AN' MARKO  
ALWAYS GOT  
BUSINESS TO  
FINISH.

ALL THE  
X-MEN CAN'T  
STOP THE  
JUGGERNAUT,  
WOLVERINE. WHAT  
CHANCE YOU, GAMBIT  
AND STORM  
GOT?

NONE.

WHICH  
IS HOW MUCH  
BREATHIN'  
YOU'RE GONNA  
BE DOIN' IN  
ABOUT TWO  
SECONDS,  
SHORT  
STUFF.

MARKO?  
WHAT'S--

KRUNK!







HEY...

...WHERE'D  
THE RUNT  
GO?

WHERE'D  
I GO?



GHN!!

I DON'T KNOW  
WHO YOU ARE  
OR WHERE YOU  
CAME FROM, BUT I  
DO KNOW...

WHUD!



...YOU'RE  
IN THE  
WRONG  
PLACE,  
MISTER.





THAT  
SHOULD HOLD  
IT.

CAN'T HAVE NO  
MORE **CROSSING**  
OVER. IF THE TWO  
OF THEM GET  
TOGETHER...

...DON'T EVEN  
WANNA **THINK**  
ABOUT WHAT'D  
HAPPEN THEN!  
DON'T WANNA...



...NO.



**NO!**

IT'S STILL  
HAPPENING!

HOLD IT  
**BACK!** PLEASE,  
THERE'S GOTTA  
BE SOME WAY...



...TO  
HOLD...

...IT  
BACK.



CAPTAIN AMERICA.

IT'S OVER!  
HYDRA DOESN'T  
HAVE ENOUGH HEADS  
TO KEEP ME OUT OF  
ACTION...

PWING!

PWING!

SHOOT!

...OR  
YOU ON  
YOUR FEET!

NOW...

...I  
WANT TO  
KNOW  
WHO  
SENT  
YOU.  
WHO'S  
BEHIND  
--?

WHERE...

...WHERE'D  
HE GO?

OFF!

CLANG!



WONDER WOMAN.

STAY DOWN,  
OFFICER!

WONDER  
WOMAN!

AM I GLAD  
TO SEE YOU! THE  
BRIDGE COLLAPSE  
WOULD'VE KILLED  
ME AND PLENTY  
MORE BESIDES.

THERE.

THAT  
SHOULD DO  
UNTIL A CREW  
CAN MAKE A  
THOROUGH  
REPAIR.

WRUNCH!

CAN'T THANK YOU  
ENOUGH. YOU'VE  
BEEN A HUGE HELP  
SINCE YOU SETTLED  
HERE IN GATEWAY--

--LORD,  
WHAT'S  
THAT?!

WONDER  
WOMAN?



HULK.

HULK  
SMASH!

BRUCE  
BANNER, DON'T  
YOU EVEN  
PRETEND.

JUST  
HEARING THAT  
GIVES ME THE  
CREEPS. REMINDS  
ME TOO MUCH OF  
THE CRAZY OLD  
DAYS.

SORRY,  
BETTY.

I'M  
CERTAINLY  
NOT THE  
HULK I  
USED TO  
BE, AM  
I?

NO MORE  
RAMPAGING MONSTER.  
I'VE GOT BRAINS IN MY  
HEAD, CONTROL OF MY  
ANGER...

...AND A  
BEAUTIFUL  
WIFE AT MY  
SIDE.

YOU  
CAN SAY  
THAT LAST  
PART  
AGAIN. I  
LIKE--

--BRUCE?

OH, NO,  
WHAT IS  
IT THIS  
TIME?





SUPERBOY.

AND THIS ISN'T ALL. I CAN FLY, I HAD THESE X-RAY SPECS...

...WHICH I'M REALLY WISHING I STILL HAD RIGHT NOW...

...I CAN EVEN--



I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR A SECOND!

THAT ROVING EYE OF YOURS NEVER STOPS.



TANA!

COME ON, TANA, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT. I WAS JUST...



...YOU KNOW, SHOWING OFF MY TACTILE TELEKINESIS.

OH, IT WAS TACTILE, ALL RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN PUT UP WITH YOU. SOMETIMES...



...I JUST WISH YOU'D DISAPPEAR.



DEEP SPACE.

LOBO.

C'MERE,  
YA BASTICH!

NOBODY  
CALLS LOBO A  
SIX-TOED CZARNIAN  
TREE SLOTH AN'  
LIVES T' TELL TH'  
TALE!

SO I'M GONNA  
KILL YA ANYWAY!

BUT  
I DIDN'T  
CALL--!


DOESN'T  
MATTER, YA  
MIGHT HAVE  
LATER!

huh?

WHAT  
TH'  
FRAG?

≡whew!≡





WESTCHESTER.

YOU'RE SAYING HE SIMPLY DIS-APPEARED? NO SIGN OF HIM AT ALL?

NONE WHATSOEVER, PROFESSOR.

THE THREE OF US WERE ENGAGED WITH JUGGERNAUT WHEN THE SHAFT OF LIGHT STRUCK HIM AND HE FADED AWAY. THE LIGHT SEEMED TO COME FROM NOWHERE.

IF I MIGHT INTERJECT, I TRIED MATCHING TRACE READINGS I TOOK IN THE AREA TO KNOWN TRANSPORTATIONAL OR TEMPORAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEM.

NO MATCHES, NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY SIMILAR.

WHICH MEANS WHAT, HENRY?

SCIENTIFICALLY?

HE JUST DISAPPEARED.





ONE OF THE GREAT TRAGEDIES OF MY LIFE IS THAT MY STEPBROTHER HAS BEEN AMONG OUR DEADLIEST ENEMIES...

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, AND WHY.

I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE, CHUCK.

LET MARKO BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.

LOGAN, YOU KNOW WE CANNOT TURN OUR BACKS ON ANYONE, MUTANT OR HUMAN. IF WE DO SO, WE ARE NO BETTER THAN--



GODDESS!

DIS IS IT! DE SAME LIGHT!



ALL THREE OF THEM GONE, PROFESSOR! RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...

...AND I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO EXPLAIN IT!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'M AFRAID, SCOTT, WE SHOULD BE ASKING...



"...WHO'S NEXT?"

GREEN LANTERN

ELEKTRA

FLASH

THOR

AQUAMAN





SILVER  
SURFER



CAPTAIN  
MARVEL



THE SUB-  
MARINER



CATWOMAN




QUICKSILVER



"I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING..."



A large, detailed illustration of Batman in a cave. He is in the center, looking down with a determined, slightly menacing expression. He wears his iconic blue and grey suit with a yellow bat emblem on the chest. Above him, a giant, yellow, scaly monster with a single large green eye looms. To the right, a figure in a blue suit is seen from behind, looking towards the monster. The cave walls are dark and rocky.

...I DON'T  
KNOW HOW YOU  
GOT IN HERE, BUT  
WE CAN **END THIS**  
WITHOUT ANYONE  
GETTING HURT.

BUT FIRST  
YOU HAVE TO  
**PUT DOWN THE**  
KNIFE...

...AND  
LET THE  
BOY  
GO.

**NO!**

NO, I  
WANT ANSWERS  
NOW! WHAT'S  
GOING ON?!

THERE'S THIS  
LIGHT, YOU KNOW?  
THEN I'M NOT  
WHERE I'M  
**SUPPOSED TO**  
BE!

I'M HERE IN  
THIS CAVE AND I  
DUNNO HOW I  
GOT HERE. SO  
YOU TELL ME...

...YOU TELL  
ME WHERE I  
AM! YOU TELL  
ME WHO  
**YOU** ARE!

IF YOU HURT  
THE BOY... I  
AM YOUR WORST  
NIGHTMARE.

I AM THE  
**BATMAN.**













MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALFRED PUT ANTI-SEPTIC ON THAT CUT, ROBIN.

YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO PULL THAT STUNT. I HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

I'M SURE YOU DID, BUT I WAS THE ONE HE WAS POKING WITH THE KNIFE.



CALLED HIMSELF BULLSEYE. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE BAT-CAVE?

I DON'T KNOW.

HE'S NOT ONE OF GOTHAM'S USUAL ROGUES GALLERY, AND HE SEEMED MORE SURPRISED BY HIS PRESENCE HERE THAN WE WERE.



OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING STRANGE IS OCCURRING. BUT I'M AT A LOSS TO--



--ROBIN!  
TIM...



"...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?"

JUBES?

WERE YOU EXPECTING A BOY TO BE DELIVERED?

NOPE...

...BUT I LIKE HIS FASHION SENSE ALREADY.





4

METROPOLIS.



KENT!  
WHERE THE  
DEVIL--

--IS CLARK  
KENT?! I NEED  
THAT STORY  
NOW!

WELL, I'M  
SURE HE'S JUST  
CHECKING FACTS,  
OR MAYBE--

JAPAN  
SURRENDERS



SOMEBODY  
LOOKING FOR  
ME?

THE PLANET'S  
A DAILY, KENT,  
NOT A WEEKLY!  
MAYBE THE WORD  
DEADLINE DIDN'T  
HOLD MUCH MEANING  
FOR YOU BEFORE...



...BUT NOW THAT  
**I'M** THE EDITOR  
AROUND HERE, YOU'LL  
GET YOUR STORIES IN  
ON TIME!

PEOPLE ARE  
COPING WITH ALL  
THE WEIRDNESS GOING  
ON OUT THERE, BUT  
THEY WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT'S HAPPENING!  
WE'RE GOING TO FIND  
OUT AND TELL THEM...

I'LL GET  
RIGHT ON  
IT. AND,  
UH...

...THIS IS A  
NON-SMOKING  
BUILDING,  
CHIEF.

...OR MY  
NAME ISN'T  
J. JONAH  
JAMESON!







I'LL SMOKE ANYWHERE I WANT TO, KENT!

AND DON'T CALL ME CHIEF!



HE'S CERTAINLY GOT A DIFFERENT STYLE THAN PERRY.

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

I WISH WE COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS "MYSTERIOUS PUBLISHER" WHO TOOK OVER THE PLANET AND FORCED OUT PERRY!

WITH EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, WE CAN'T LET THAT BE OUR MAIN CONCERN, THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE THERE'S A CONNECTION...



HI, GUYS!

HEY, HOW'S LIFE TREATING JIMMY OLSEN NOW THAT HE'S A HOT-SHOT TV REPORTER?

BUSY.

WGBS SENT ME TO DO THE STORY ON PERRY'S FIRING.

BY THE WAY, FRONT DESK WANTS SOMEBODY TO SHOW AROUND A NEW PHOTOG. EITHER OF YOU FREE?

I'LL DO IT.



OH, CLARK, I PULLED A PHOTO OFF THE WIRE FOR YOU. IT'S ON YOUR DESK.

SEE YA, CLARK.

GOT IT.

TAKE CARE, JIMMY.

hmmm...

...STEEL BATTLING SOME KIND OF... ABSORBING MAN, I GUESS... IN WASHINGTON.

ANOTHER UNFAMILIAR FACE, ANOTHER INCIDENT AMONG ALL THE OTHERS. SOMEHOW...







"...IT MUST  
ALL ADD  
UP."

BY CLARK KENT  
Planet reporter

"What's happening?"



Everyone from school children to Superman is asking the same question as our reality inexplicably changes around us.

Nothing, apparently, is safe. Not the buildings in which we live and work, not the people we know and love, not even the heroes on whom we depend.




Among the most visible reminders of our suddenly unstable reality are the disappearances of familiar costumed heroes...

... coupled with appearances of new and different ones, sporting names like Captain America...



...or Daredevil, the man without fear.






We concern ourselves with heroes because they are mirrors in which we see ourselves.


Their reactions during this crisis reflect the range of our reactions.



Some face threats posed by unfamiliar villains as bravely as ever...



...while encounters between those more likely to be considered anti-heroes...



...have erupted in a violence bred of fear or confusion.







Although misunderstanding has led to blows in some cases...



...more often we have risen above our differences, united by a spirit of learning...



...or friendship...



...or teamwork.



We all want to find a cause  
for our fractured reality,  
and we have no answers.

So all of us, from  
super hero to common  
man, are left to fight  
our individual battles.

Heroes, both  
familiar and  
unfamiliar, battle  
new menaces...

We must hope that in  
trying to win these  
battles...

...we're not  
losing a more  
epic war we  
don't yet  
understand...

CLARK?  
IF YOU'VE  
GOT A  
MINUTE...

...while the rest of  
us fight the battle  
of everyday lives  
buffeted by forces  
beyond our  
control.





...TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
THIS.

SURE  
THING,  
LOIS.

THE MAN-BAT  
AND... NO, I DON'T  
RECOGNIZE THE  
OTHER. VERY NICE  
WORK, THOUGH.



MEET THE MAN  
WHO TOOK THAT SHOT.  
CLARK, THIS IS OUR NEW  
PHOTOGRAPHER.

HECK OF A  
PHOTO. SORRY,  
I DIDN'T GET  
YOUR NAME.

WELL, IT'S REALLY  
BEN REILLY, BUT MY  
PROFESSIONAL NAME  
IS PETER PARKER, SO  
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT  
YOU CAN CALL ME.

AND THANKS,  
BUT I REALLY  
GOT LUCKY WITH  
THE PHOTO. RIGHT  
PLACE AT THE  
RIGHT TIME.



DON'T BE  
SO MODEST,  
PETER.  
PLEASUED TO  
MEET  
YOU.

YEAH,  
YOU  
TOO.

THEY TELL  
ME WE'RE  
GOING TO BE  
WORKING  
TOGETHER.

GREAT...



... MAYBE  
BETWEEN THE  
TWO OF US, WE CAN  
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S  
HAPPENING.

OH, I DUNNO  
ABOUT THAT. I THINK  
IT'LL TAKE SOMEBODY  
BIGGER THAN EITHER  
OF US...





"...TO REALLY GRASP IT."

WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE? THE **UNIVERSE ITSELF** RIPPLES WITH DISTURBANCE.

I SENSE THE WORKINGS OF FORCES I HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED, POWERS WHICH MAKE ME **INCONSEQUENTIAL** BY COMPARISON.

EVENTS ARE BEING SET IN MOTION...

...THAT NOT EVEN THE **SPECTRE** CAN STOP.



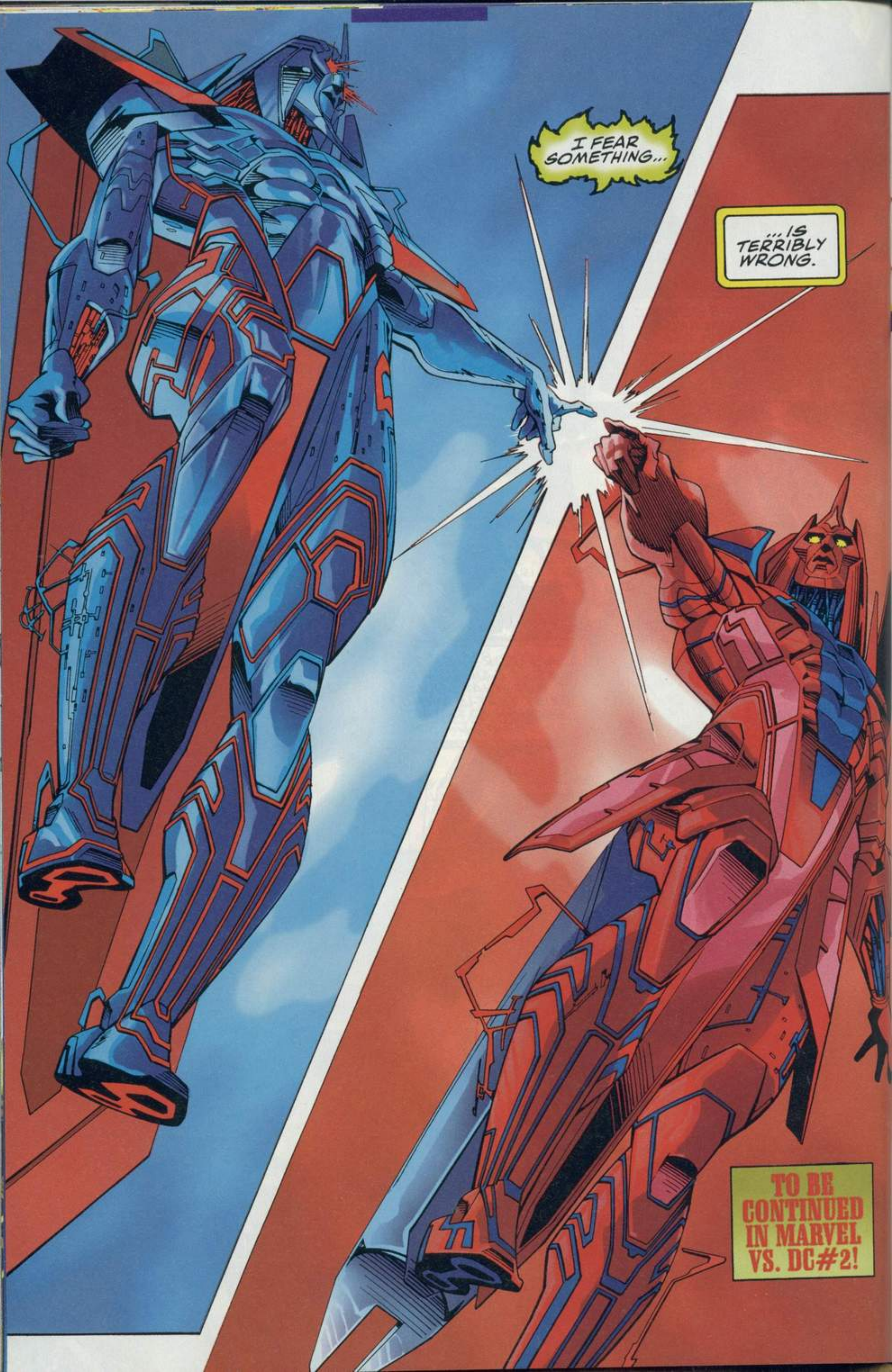


THE COSMIC  
BALANCE  
TILTS...

... AND FOR THE FIRST  
TIME, I CANNOT RIGHT  
IT. BUT WHAT COULD  
EXIST THAT IS MIGHTY  
ENOUGH TO THWART  
THE WILL...

... OF THE  
LIVING  
TRIBUNAL?





I FEAR  
SOMETHING...

...IS  
TERRIBLY  
WRONG.

TO BE  
CONTINUED  
IN MARVEL  
VS. DC #2!



About 60 years ago, the first comic book appeared featuring a hero with a cape, long underwear, and powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Many others soon followed. Heroes with long bat-ears, heroes with magic rings, heroes who could run as fast as bullets, and so on. Unfortunately, I wasn't born yet so I wasn't there to read about them.

About 30 years ago, another major comics publisher was coming into its own with a whole new breed of hero. Heroes who spun webs, heroes who turned into green monsters, heroes who burst into flame, and so on. I was a young lad in Oshkosh, Wisconsin when I discovered comic books with all these fascinating figures at the drugstore where my mother worked. These colorful heroes seized my imagination—I learned how to read just so I could figure out what was in those white balloons floating above their heads. It didn't take long before I began investing all my allowance and all my lawn-mowing money in these strangely compelling periodicals.

As I carefully pored over each and every new treasure I acquired, certain questions were sparked in my adolescent mind, questions that soon were fanned into flame. Questions of a cosmic nature. Questions like ... who's stronger, Superman or the Hulk? Who's a better fighter, Captain America or Batman? Who's a better swimmer, Sub-Mariner or Aquaman?

About 15 years ago, I fulfilled a childhood dream by joining the staff of Marvel Comics. The perplexing conundrums of my youth had at that time still gone unaddressed. The heroes lived in their separate worlds and as powerful as they were, they could not surmount the dimensional—and legal—barriers that kept them apart. Now that I was on the other side of the comic-book page, I learned my younger self was not the only one preoccupied by these long-unanswered questions—not a month went by that I didn't see at least one fan letter from somebody suggesting we pit all our guys against all of theirs in a definitive knock-down, drag-out contest of champions.

With the publication you hold in your hands, it has finally come to pass. The ultimate fantasy of untold thousands of comics readers has at last become reality. And me—I'm as pleased as a kid discovering his first comic book to be a part of this epic undertaking. My co-editor Mike Carlin and I are bosom buddies from the early eighties and we've seized the massive challenges coordinating this monumental project with the manic glee of two super heroes righting a longstanding wrong. If you have anywhere near as much fun reading this four-issue extravaganza as we're having putting it together, you're in for a treat that won't be equaled for a long time to come.

—Mark Gruenwald  
Co-editor  
Marvel Comics

*P.S. Vote Marvel!*

As Mark just mentioned, he and I have been pals for about 15 years. I joined Marvel Comics as Mark's assistant, and we quickly overcame any boss/worker baloney and became fast friends. Mark's story of how he came to find comics, learn from them and ultimately live the dream of actually helping to create them parallels mine to a T. What we had in common (love of comics) helped us forge a bond that mirrors the bond that has brought many readers together in fan clubs, comic-book conventions and on the internet. The last 30 or so years have really brought the comics reader and fan to the forefront.

The readers are the ones who first realized that Superman and Batman actually shared a space and not only could interact but should. And what's more, they could team up with the rest of the DC Universe's great heroes (Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Hawkman and others) and form various Justice Leagues to participate in Infinite Crises. The readers are the ones who wanted all the characters of the Marvel Universe (Captain America, Thor, Rogue and others) to get together in various Contests of Champions and Secret Wars.

Sixty years, all told, and there has been only one major event the readers have been hoping/asking for that hasn't happened—an all-encompassing crossover set on a scale so big, so cosmic, that you would need two entire universes in which to fit it all!

I left Marvel about ten years ago and have since been at DC (where I actually interned over twenty years ago—so I am back where I belong!) and truth to tell, the denizens of both the Marvel and DC Universes, *behind the scenes*, actually mingle and merge way more than you might suspect. At the aforementioned conventions, at local watering holes, even at each others weddings (Mark and I have both been in each other's wedding parties over the years)... anywhere and everywhere we've had crossovers *behind the scenes*! Comics is a small enough pond that us fish (writers/artists/editors) keep swimming back and forth from company to company.

Now is the time for the characters to do the same. Now is the time to fulfill the dreams of millions of comics readers (Mark, myself, and the writers and artists of DC VERSUS MARVEL included). Now is the time for the characters to meet en masse... the way we creators have for lo, these many years (though with probably a smidgen more physical conflict)... to decide the fate of not one, but two Universes!

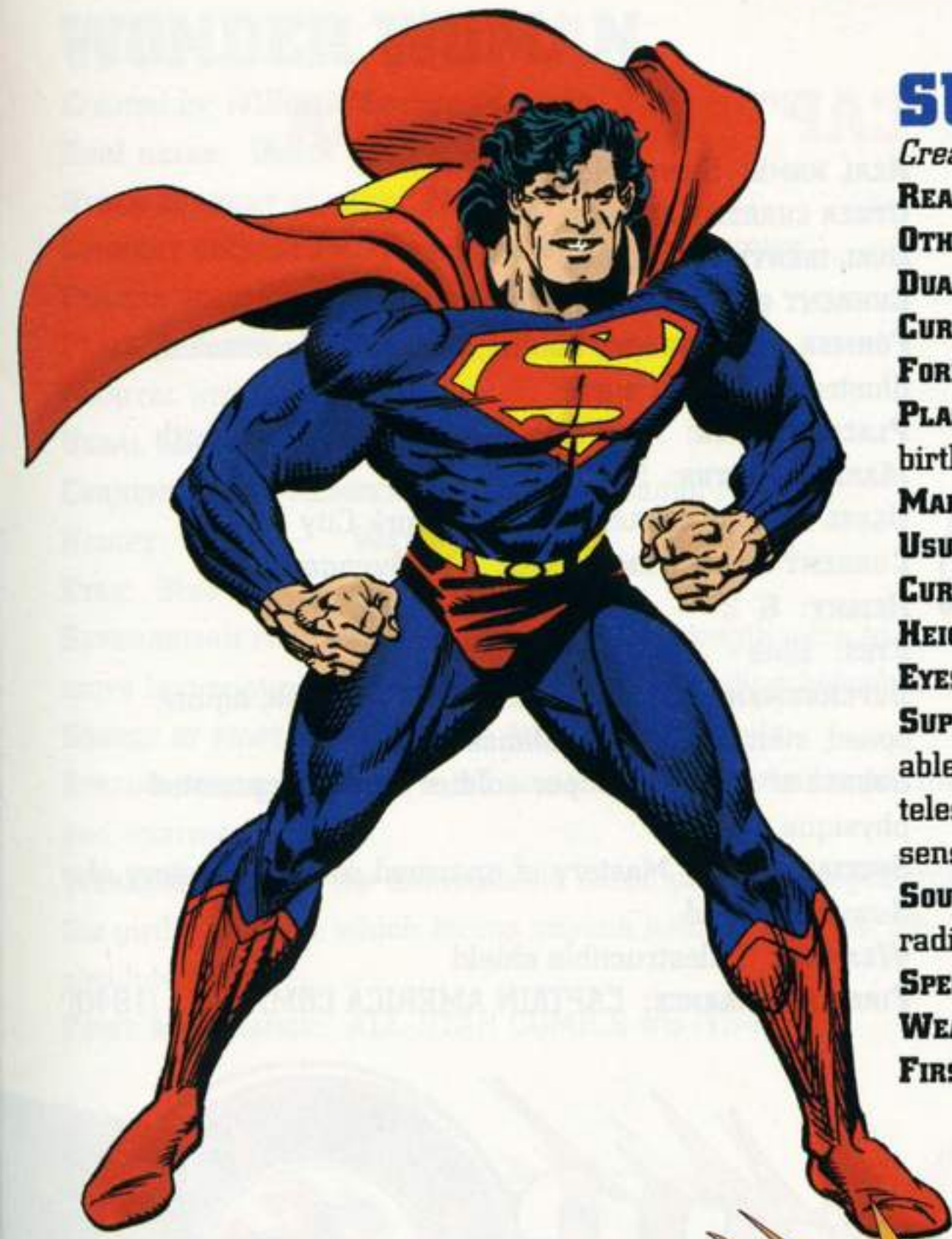
And, y'know, IF our heroes can survive all this life/death baloney they, too, might be able to become fast friends. (Luckily there will always be villains to keep those happy heroes—and us writers and artists and editors—on their toes!)

Let the games begin!

—Mike Carlin  
Co-editor  
DC Comics

*P.S. Vote DC!*





## SUPERMAN

*Created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster*

**REAL NAME:** Clark Kent

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Reporter, columnist, novelist

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Editor of Newstime magazine

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Conceived on planet Krypton, "born" out of birthing matrix in Smallville, Kansas, U.S.A., DC-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Engaged to Lois Lane

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Metropolis

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** None

**HEIGHT:** 6' 3"      **WEIGHT:** 225 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Vast superhuman strength; invulnerability; able to move, fly and react at superhuman speeds; X-ray vision, telescopic vision, microscopic vision, heat vision, superhuman senses

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Kryptonian physiology charged by solar radiation

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** None

**WEAPONS:** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** ACTION COMICS #1 (1938)



**VERSUS** **MARVEL COMICS**

## THE HULK

**REAL NAME:** Robert Bruce Banner

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** Bob Danner

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Unemployed

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Nuclear physicist, enforcer, covert operations leader, auto mechanic

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Dayton, Ohio, U.S.A., Marvel-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married to Elizabeth "Betty" Ross

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Mobile

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** None

**HEIGHT:** 6' 6"      **WEIGHT:** 1,150 lbs.

**EYES:** Green

**HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Vast superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury; ability to leap miles in a single bound

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Gamma radiation mutated physique

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** None

**WEAPONS:** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** INCREDIBLE HULK #1 (1962)







## CAPTAIN AMERICA

**REAL NAME:** Steven Rogers

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Professional hero

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Soldier, police officer, teacher, illustrator, special agent

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City, U.S.A., Marvel-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** New York City

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** The Avengers

**HEIGHT:** 6' 2"

**WEIGHT:** 240 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** Blond

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Peak human strength, agility, speed, stamina, and resistance to injury

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Super-soldier serum augmented physique

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Mastery of unarmed combat, mastery of throwing shield

**WEAPONS:** Indestructible shield

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS #1 (1940)



## BATMAN

*Created by Bob Kane*

**REAL NAME:** Bruce Wayne

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** "Matches" Malone, Sir Hemingford Gray

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Multimillionaire socialite

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** None

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Gotham City, U.S.A., DC-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Gotham City

**CURRENT GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**HEIGHT:** 6' 2"

**WEIGHT:** 220 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** None

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Not applicable

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Incomparable athlete, skilled in all forms of physical combat; world's greatest detective; master of escape and disguise.

**WEAPONS:** Utility belt contains wide array of devices such as lasers, gas pellets, ropes, and Batarangs.

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (1939)





# WONDER WOMAN

*Created by William Moulton Marston*

**Real name:** Diana

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Ambassador, visiting lecturer

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Princess

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Themyscira, DC-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Gateway City

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** Justice League America

**HEIGHT:** 5' 11"      **WEIGHT:** 135 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue      **HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Vast superhuman strength, able to fly and move fast enough to deflect bullets with her silver bracelets

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Gift of the ancient Greek gods

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Trained in all ancient Greek methods of armed and unarmed combat

**WEAPONS:** Wields the unbreakable Lasso of Truth, forged from the girdle of Gaea, which forces anyone held by it to tell the absolute truth

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** ALL-STAR COMICS #8 (1941)



# VERSUS

# MARVEL COMICS



## STORM

**REAL NAME:** Ororo Munroe

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Professional hero

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Rain goddess, thief

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City, U.S.A.—Marvel-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Salem Center, New York

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** The X-Men

**HEIGHT:** 5' 11"      **WEIGHT:** 127 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue      **HAIR:** White

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Psionic manipulation of the weather, including rain, fog, lightning, and wind; she can fly by riding wind currents

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Benevolent mutation

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Mastery of lockpicking, escape arts, and battle strategies

**WEAPONS:** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1 (1975)





## WOLVERINE

**REAL NAME:** Logan (no known first name)

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Professional hero

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Soldier, covert operative

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Somewhere in Canada, Marvel-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Salem Center, New York

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** The X-Men

**HEIGHT:** 5' 3"      **WEIGHT:** 195 lbs.

**EYES:** Brown      **HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Superhuman strength, agility, reflexes, and stamina, heightened senses, rapid healing powers, possesses retractable claws on each hand

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Benevolent mutation

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Mastery of many forms of unarmed combat

**WEAPONS:** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** INCREDIBLE HULK #180 (1974)



## LOBO

*Created by Keith Giffen and Roger Slifer*

**REAL NAME:** Just Lobo

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** The Main Man, the Master of Frag

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Just Lobo, okay?

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Bounty hunter, assassin, scourge of th' cosmos, thug

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Bounty hunter, assassin, scourge of th' cosmos, thug

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** The formerly delightful planet of Czarnia

**MARITAL STATUS:** Confirmed bachelor

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** At large on his spazzfrag spacehawg or in some divey space bar

**CURRENT GROUP AFFILIATION:** No one would have him!

**HEIGHT:** 6' 4"      **WEIGHT:** 305 lbs.

**EYES:** Blood red      **HAIR:** Sepulchre black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Vast superhuman strength, intergalactic tracking ability, healing factor, deal with heaven that makes him immortal

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Hideous twist of fate

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Good with his hook and chain, good brawler, mean biker

**WEAPONS:** Gutting hook with chain, various sidearms

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Goofy version: OMEGA MEN #3 (1983); cooler version: JLA #18 (1988)





# SUPERBOY

**REAL NAME:** Superboy

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** None

**DUAL IDENTITY:** None

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Hero and student

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Defender of Metropolis

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Project Cadmus, U.S.A.—DC-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** He's single and likes it that way.

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Hawaii

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** Honorary Legionnaire

**HEIGHT:** 5' 7"      **WEIGHT:** 150 lbs.

**EYES:** Blue      **HAIR:** Black

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Tactile telekinesis power enables him to fly, lift anything he touches, and protect himself and those he touches from direct physical harm. He can also extend t.k. causing objects to break apart, move, or explode.

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Genetically altered clone

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Popular with the ladies

**WEAPONS:** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500 (1993)



# VERSUS

# MARVEL COMICS



## SPIDER-MAN

**REAL NAME:** Peter Parker

**OTHER CURRENT ALIASES:** Ben Reilly

**DUAL IDENTITY:** Secret

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** Waiter

**FORMER OCCUPATIONS:** Newspaper photographer

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City, U.S.A.—Marvel-Earth

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**USUAL BASE OF OPERATIONS:** New York City

**CURRENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP:** None

**HEIGHT:** 5' 10"      **WEIGHT:** 165 lbs.

**EYES:** Hazel      **HAIR:** Brown (dyed blond)

**SUPERHUMAN POWERS:** Superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury, ability to leap 20 feet in a single bound, ability to stick to walls

**SOURCE OF POWERS:** Irradiated blood

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Inventive genius

**WEAPONS:** Wrist-worn web-shooters projecting strong, fast-drying web for a variety of uses, including impact webbing; stingers

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** AMAZING FANTASY #15 (1962)