

The Last Superhero

Patrick Bain

Grace Rock Media

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Page 1

Full page: An older man, strong and athletic in appearance with salt and pepper facial hair, wades waist deep through a jungle river. He is dressed in explorer type gear, has a rifle strapped to his back, and is holding up an electronic device to keep it out of the water.

Caption 1: SOUTH AMERICA...

Caption 2: ON THE IMAGINARY BORDER THAT SEPARATES BRAZIL AND PERU, HIDDEN IN THE DENSE FOLIAGE OF THE AMAZON RAINFOREST.

Insert panel 1: Silhouette of sky diver floating over the jungle.

Insert panel 2: A man in explorer type gear runs quickly away from his abandoned chute.

Insert panel 3 (inside): [shape of panel matches the shape of the cliff] The man peers over the edge of a cliff.

Insert panel 3 (outside): He rappels down the side of the cliff.

Insert panel 4: The man has descended to the bank of a murky foreboding river surrounded by dense foliage and inhabited by dangerous wildlife.

Caption 3: THE UNCIVILIZED JUNGLE – FAR FROM THE REACH OF MODERN SOCIETY – ONLY ACCESSIBLE BY SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS... **AND DETERMINATION.**

Caption 4 (Man thinking): DOUBT IS LURKING IN MY MIND... **FURTIVELY...**

Caption 5 (Man): LIKE THE ALLIGATORS LEERING VORACIOUSLY MY DIRECTION.

Caption 6 (Man): MY RESEARCH WAS FLAWLESS – THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS METHODICAL –

Caption 7 (Man): BUT WHAT IF I FAIL? WHAT THEN, WHAT IF I'M WRONG?

Caption 8 (Man): (emphatic) **NO! DON'T THINK THAT WAY...**

Insert panel 5: Close up on the older man's hardened face.

Caption 9 (Man): I REMEMBER WHEN I DIDN'T THINK LIKE THAT.

Page 2

Panel 1: The older man stands on the bank of the river, water dripping off of him. He is apparently oblivious to his surroundings, peering down at the device in his hand.

Man: GPS BETTER WORK... I'D HATE TO FIND OUT I'M IN A **DEAD ZONE!**

Man: IF MY PILOT DID HIS JOB, I SHOULDN'T HAVE FAR TO GO.

Panel 2: Close up on GPS device in the hand of the man. Device is showing his position and the position of what he is looking for.

Man: HE DID REAL WELL! I CAN'T BE MORE THAN A FEW HUNDRED METERS AWAY. OF COURSE, THERE'S NOT EXACTLY A PAVED SIDEWALK BETWEEN HERE AND THERE – **WOULDN'T HAVE DONE MUCH GOOD TO BRING THE KID'S HOVERBOARD!**

Panel 3: Close up on the man's profile. He is glancing out of the corner of his eye.

Man: Uh oh, COMPANY!

Panel 4: The man is poised for action. He is suddenly alert and aware of his surroundings as someone who is intimately familiar with dangerous situations. The man's hand is clenched as if he is holding something. He is on a worn path with underbrush on each side of him. There are indications of natives glaring menacingly out at him from each side of the path.

Man: TWENTY YEARS AGO IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT LESS THAN 100 INDIGENOUS TRIBES OF UNCONTACTED PEOPLE GROUPS WERE LEFT IN THE WORLD. WITH THE EROSION OF CIVILIZATION SINCE **THE SUPPRESSION**, THE NUMBER OF REMAINING TRIBES IS UNKNOWN... BUT THOSE REMAINING ARE EXTREMELY HOSTILE TO OUTSIDERS.

Man: (emphatic) **I AM DEFINITELY AN OUTSIDER!**

Panel 5: The man throws down pellets immediately resulting in a billowing cloud surrounding him.

Panel 6: He charges out of the cloud to escape the Indians. Darts are sailing harmlessly through the smoke behind him.

Page 3

Panel 1: The man flees in the foreground with hostile Indians racing to catch him.

Man: THE SMOKE DIDN'T SLOW THEM LONG... THEY'RE GAINING FAST!

Panel 2: The man is crashing through the jungle undergrowth as quickly as he can. He is holding his device in front of him while a huge boa silhouette hangs in the foreground.

Device: (burst balloon) VEER 10 DEGREES NORTH.

Panel 3: The man is facing a vertical rock wall. He is looking up and swinging a rope with a hook.

Man: FORTUNATELY, I MAPPED AN ESCAPE ROUTE USING THE SATELLITE AERIAL I PROCURED FROM MY NSA CONTACTS.

Panel 4: Zoom out to see the man pulling himself up onto a flat portion of the rock wall.

Man: *Whooh!* WORKING OUT DOESN'T SIMULATE THE REAL THING!

Panel 5: The man rock-climbs perilously up the cliff while primitive arrows bounce harmlessly off the rocks.

Panel 6: Close up of hand, rocks are crumbling around his hand-hold.

Man: (emphatic) **MY HAND-HOLD IS GIVING OUT!**

Panel 7: The man's strength in spite of his age is evident as he hangs perilously from where the rock wall juts out. Surprisingly, there is a smug look of satisfaction on his face rather than fear or panic.

Man: SOMEHOW, **IT FEELS GOOD** TO BE FOUR FINGERS FROM SUDDEN DEATH... TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE LAST TIME I FELT THIS WAY! *IT'S BEEN TOO LONG...*

Panel 8: Multiple images of the man acrobatically flipping himself up to a level portion of the rock wall. He immediately breaks into a run up a narrow rocky path.

Page 4

Panel 1: The man has scaled to the top. He looks down at his GPS device and points at a dark crevice in the side of the rocky mountain.

Man: (emphatic) **I FOUND IT!**

Panel 2: Silhouette of the man as he steps through the cave entrance. His flash light beam projects out in front of him.

Man: A CAVE... IRONIC!

Panel 3: The man is taken by surprise and falls back as hundreds of bats fly over his head towards the cave entrance.

Man: BATS!!!

Man: I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT!

Panel 4: Seeing a light, he reaches out to put his hand in the beams mysteriously shining overhead from a source deep within the cave.

Man: I'M DEEP UNDERGROUND. WHERE IS THIS LIGHT COMING FROM?

Panel 5: Instincts and reflexes trigger in the man allowing him to suddenly lean back to avoid a heavy metal pendulum that swings out at him.

Man: IT'S A TRAP!!!

Word Art: GONNNGGG (reverberating graphic)

Panel 6: He investigates a door built into tons of solid granite.

Man: WAIT, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A TRAP. THE EVIDENCE FOR THAT IS A WALNUT DOOR BUILT INTO TONS OF SOLID GRANITE!

Panel 7: Looking around, the man spies a dozen or more signs in various languages that all say 'Keep Out'.

Man: KEEP OUT IN A DOZEN LANGUAGES – (emphatic) **NOT AFTER I'VE COME THIS FAR!**

Man: I'VE FINALLY FOUND WHAT I CAME LOOKING FOR...

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Page 5

Splash: The older man frames the page as he enters the doorway. A colorful superhero garbed in full costume poses iconically as he stands in the center of the page.

Balloon title (top): THE LAST SUPERHERO

Logos for Supreme and The Caped Chiropter as well as credits in the bottom 3rd of the page.

Page 6

Panel 1: Supreme is in the foreground with his back to the older man. The older man is holding out his hands as if to say, 'what are you doing?'

Man (Brent): MARK... (emphatic) *POSING?* ARE THOSE THE ONLY CLOTHES YOU HAVE?

Panel 2: Close up on Supreme (Mark), still youthful in appearance.

Supreme: Come on, Brent, I just gave you what you wanted. I heard your plane overhead and saw you sailing in.

Panel 3: Brent, the older man, looks fired up as he speaks to Supreme (Mark). He may be exaggerating for effect.

Brent: RIGHT! YOU COULD HAVE PICKED ME UP! I HAD TO FEND OFF NATIVES WITH LETHAL PROJECTILES... AVOID HUNGRY ALLIGATORS, CLINGY SNAKES, AND FATAL FALLS... ALL TO SEE YOU!

Panel 4: Supreme (close) has an amused look on his face. Brent is in the background.

Supreme: BRENT, YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR A LIMO RIDE TO THE HILTON!

Supreme: YOU MAY HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE BUSINESS FOR A COUPLE DECADES, NOW, BUT ***DANGER IS STILL IN YOUR DNA!***

Brent: >>*grunt*<<

Supreme: WHY ***DID*** YOU COME HERE, ANYWAY?

Panel 5: Brent looks nonchalant and evasive. He appears to be surveying the cave and its contents.

Brent: WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS PLACE... SUPREME HQ... THE SUPER CAVE? YOUR OLD *CRIB* WAS A LOT NICER. WHY AREN'T YOU THERE... INSTEAD OF THIS -- ***HIDEOUT?***

Panel 6: Supreme is sober, no longer confident and airy, somewhat despondent.

Supreme: THAT PLACE HAD TOO MANY MEMORIES. I NEEDED TO GO SOMEWHERE FREE OF ***DISTRACTIONS***... SOMEWHERE WITH A PERSPECTIVE ON MY POSITION IN THE UNIVERSE.

Supreme: BRENT, YOU'RE BEING EVASIVE... TRYING TO DIVERT ME FROM ***MY*** QUESTION? ***WHY DID YOU COME HERE?*** WHAT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO LEAVE A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS, A LOVING FAMILY...

Supreme: AND LONG RETIREMENT FROM YOUR DAYS AS THE CAPED CHIROPTER!

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Panel 7: (Not too close) Now Brent is pensive.

Panel 8: Zoom in on Brent speaking with conviction.

Brent: YOU ARE AS OUT OF TOUCH AS YOUR UN-CONTACTED NEIGHBORS! THE WORLD HAS CHANGED IN THE TWENTY YEARS YOU'VE BEEN ON 'RADIO SILENCE'. VIOLENCE HAS ESCALATED, THRONGS ARE LIVING DESPERATE, HOPELESS LIVES, AND A NEW MENACE HAS ARISEN THAT CAN'T BE DEFEATED WITH CONVENTIONAL MEANS!

Brent: I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'VE SOUGHT SPIRITUALITY AND MEANING. I CONSIDERED IT YEARS AGO WHEN FACED WITH MY OWN CRISIS MOMENT. BUT...

Brent: EARTH NEEDS HOPE... AND *THE LAST REMNANT* OF THE HEROIC AGE!

Brent: ***EARTH NEEDS SUPREME!***

Panel 9: Supreme looks every bit a hero, hands open as if to say "I'm back". Brent wistfully looks on as if a memory has been triggered of a bygone day.

Supreme: I'M DRESSED FOR A PARTY... LET'S GO!

Brent: I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT. I DIDN'T BOOK A RETURN FLIGHT.

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Page 7

Full Page: Supreme flying with Brent back to civilization.

Insert Panel 1: (top left) Supreme crashing through the top of the mountain like a spouting volcano.

Supreme: ***UP, UP, AND HIGHER!***

Scattered around the this page are dreamy looking inserts with happy recollections of Supreme as a superhero along with some of his partners and friends from past exploits. One significant person is missing from the collage of memories.

Caption 1: THE FLIGHT TO THE MODERN WORLD WILL BE BRIEF COMPARED TO TRAVELLING BY A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE...

Caption 2: BUT NOT SO BRIEF THAT PAINFUL INTRUDERS WON'T OVERWHELM ANY FOND REMINISCENCE HELD BY THE RETURNING HERO, SUPREME.

Page 8

Word art title: Part 1: Wedding Blues

Splash: Flashback begins – Supreme is flying in response to a bank heist. Below him are buildings including a bank and a men’s clothing shop ‘Tennessee Tuxedo’. Also on the street is a giant marionette puppet causing mayhem to pedestrians and cars alike.

Caption 1: TWO DECADES EARLIER.

Supreme: A MECHANIZED MARIONETTE! LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE INVENTOR’S SHORT CIRCUITED SCHEMES!

Supreme: POTENTIAL HOSTAGE SITUATION INSIDE!

Page 9

Panel 1: The three mechanical puppets are predominant in the panel (back of head to the reader). Terrified people and a nervous bank guard with a pistol pointed at the marionettes are in the background.

Puppets: (burst balloon emanating from all three puppets at the same time) I AM A PUPPET – SEE MY STRINGS – MY MASTER CRAVES SOME PRECIOUS THINGS.

Puppets: (burst balloon from all three at once) ENJOY THE SHOW – LIE ON THE FLOOR – EXPECT A GUEST FOR THE ENCORE.

Panel 2: Puppet 1 reaches out with 'string' that appears to be a steel cable wrapping up the bank guard. The guard is helpless, held horizontally in the air with his pistol lying on the floor.

Puppet 1: (burst balloon) AGGRESSIVE BANK GUARD – REMOVE FROM CENTER STAGE.

Panel 3: Puppet 2 is drilling into closed bank vault.

Puppet 2: (burst balloon) OPEN VAULT STAGE LEFT IN 10 SECONDS.

Panel 4: Close up on Puppet 3.

Puppet 3: (burst balloon) SPECIAL GUEST ANTICIPATED IN 15 SECONDS STAGE RIGHT.

Panel 5: Cut back to Supreme. He is using x-ray vision to assess the situation inside the bank.

Supreme: THREE PUPPETS INSIDE... TWO DOZEN EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS... MAYBE I CAN TAKE THE INVENTOR'S TOYS BY SURPRISE!

Panel 6: Supreme zooming down towards the marionette on the street. Add sound effect: whooosh

Panel 7: Supreme punches the first puppet. The puppet is falling back clearly disabled. Add sound effect: blaamm

Outside puppet: (burst balloon) BEGIN ACT II – SPECIAL GUEST HAS ARRIVED... SKKTCKKCH... ARRIVED... ZZPPTTT.

Supreme: NO SURPRISE... BETTER HIT 'EM HARD AND FAST. TIME TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.

Page 10

Panel 1: Multiple images of Supreme flying towards the bank doors. The first marionette is broken/fried on the ground at his feet. Bystanders are cheering.

Insert to Panel 1: Full-size Tonka style truck with Green army men is racing to the scene.

Tonka Truck: (burst balloon) COPY MARIONETTES. COMMENCING ACT II. TROOPS DEPLOYED.

Panel 2: Close up of Supreme ripping the arm off marionette 1 to release the captive bank guard.

Supreme: FIRST STEP... DISARM THE INVENTOR'S TOYS.

Panel 3: Supreme spins to toss the first marionette into the second one.

Panel 4: The other marionette that is near the vault projects his steel string at Supreme.

Puppet 3: COUNTER MEASURES INITIATED TO PROLONG ACT I.

Panel 5: Supreme is blasted back by the puppets' deadly string.

Panel 6: Close up of Supreme, determination plays on his face.

Supreme: NICE WALLOP FOR A PUPPET. IT'S TIME TO END THIS PERFORMANCE AND FIND THE MISFIT THAT'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS!

Page 11

Panel 1: Human-sized green plastic army men are running out of the Tennessee Tuxedo store, arms are full of tuxedos. Meanwhile, the crowd has gathered and is standing in front of the bank (which is next door) looking in to see Supreme mop up the marionettes.

Panel 2: Tonka truck, filled with army men, races away.

Tonka Truck: (burst balloon) TANGO – UNIFORM - X-RAY... MISSION COMPLETE. RETURNING TO BASE.

Panel 3: In the foreground, Supreme is examining one of the disabled puppets. A mother with a young son who were in the bank are watching Supreme with admiration.

Boy: MOM! WHO IS THAT?

Mother: HE'S SUPREME! HE IS A... SUPERHERO.

Panel 4: The TUX store owner breaks through the crowd at the bank. The man is excited and distraught.

Store Owner: (emphatic) SUPREME, MY STORE HAS BEEN ROBBED!

Insert to Panel 3: Close up of the store owner. Supreme is looking at him with a distressed appearance.

Store Owner: THEY STOLE A DOZEN TUXEDOS, SHIRTS, SHOES, CUMBERBUNDS... I EVEN HAD TO FIND MIDNIGHT BLUE CUMBERBUNDS AND BOW-TIES!

Panel 5: [Background color change to indicate time has passed.] Supreme and The Caped Chiropter (CC) meet on a building top.

CC: YOU DIDN'T WASTE ANYTIME GETTING HERE.

Supreme: YOU NEVER CALL TO TALK ABOUT TELEVISION SHOWS OR FANTASY SPORTS... BUT YOU COULD.

Supreme: WHAT'S THREATENING THE FREE WORLD, TODAY?

Panel 6: Close up on CC. There is no smile of acknowledgement at the glib comments of Supreme.

CC: I READ ABOUT THE RECENT CLOTHING ROBBERY COINCIDING WITH THE MISDIRECTION AT THE BANK. WE HAD A BREAK-IN AT A BRIDAL SHOP, TODAY. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BAFFLING CRIME OUT OF CONTEXT... BUT THE LINK SEEMS OBVIOUS IF WE CONSIDER THE LIKELY INVOLVEMENT OF THE INVENTOR.

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Caption 1: "THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED."

Panel 1: CC swings through the night sky with buildings below and around, a huge moon behind him.

Panel 2: Swarm of flying metal objects converging on a bridal shop after hours

Panel 3: Close up on CC.

CC: SILENT ALARM NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.

Panel 4: CC is racing towards the store. He can see through the store front window hovering drones.

CC: DRONES! SOME APPEAR TO BE SELECTING OUTFITS. I BETTER BE READY FOR ANYTHING FROM THE OTHERS!

Panel 5: CC bursts into the store. Drones are hovering, lining the various walls of the store. The drones are mounted with cameras, projectors, or weapons. There are also drones that are carrying gowns.

Panel 6: CC is poised to go into action.

CC: SOME PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID THE CROWDS!

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Full Page: View of CC from the back. Drones mounted with projectors are semi-transparent and projecting images for CC. Futuristic but menacing female clowns are charging at CC with lasers blasting. In the background, Drones are working collecting the gowns they are stealing.

CC: (burst balloon} WHHAAATTT?!?

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Panel 1: CC attacks the nearest of the futuristically armed female clowns. His attack goes through the clown harmlessly. There is an indication that the image broke up as his attack passes through.

CC: VIRTUAL REALITY! I CAN'T TRUST WHAT I SEE.

Panel 2: A laser blast zips past CC catching some clothing on fire.

CC: THE CLOWNS AREN'T REAL, BUT THEIR BLASTERS ARE. THE COLORS AND FEMALE FORMS OF THESE MADCAP MERRYMAKERS SUGGEST **PUNCHIN ELLA** HAS RESURFACED!

Panel 3/4/5: CC changes his tactics by directing his attack at the weapons held by the VR clowns rather than the clowns themselves.

Panel 6: Close up of a broken drone.

Panel 7: Close up of CC flipping goggles onto his eyes.

CC: I NEED TO SEE THE METAL IN THESE DRONES RATHER THAN THE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES THEY'RE PROJECTING.

Panel 8: Now the metallic skeletons of the drones stand out. CC flips some beads at the four projector drones. They explode.

CC: MAGNETS AND PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE ENDED THE VIDEO GAME, BUT THE DRONES WITH THE DRESSES GOT AWAY!

Panel 9: Back in the present, Supreme and The Caped Chiropter are conversing.

Supreme: I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TO FIGURE OUT...

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Panel 1: In the Inventor's hideout, he and Punchin Ella are reveling in the success of their plan.

Caption 1: "...THE **INVENTOR** AND **PUNCHIN ELLA** ARE WEDDING PLANNING!"

Inventor: ELLA, MY JOY, THE ONLY DELIGHT I HAVE THAT EXCEEDS SEEING OUR PLAN TURN SUPREME AND CHIROPTER INTO BUFFOONS IS KNOWING THAT YOU WILL SOON BE MY BRIDE.

Ella: INVENTOR, LOVE, THE MUSHY WAY YOU TALK TICKLES ME LIKE A CREAM PIE IN THE FACE!

Panel 2: The Inventor and Punchin Ella splat cream pies in each other's face laughing hysterically.

Panel 3: Close up of the Inventor sticking the finger in his mouth that he used to wipe his face.

Inventor: ELLA, I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THE BITTERNESS THAT HAS DRIVEN ME ALL THESE YEARS. I GUESS THAT'S WHAT LOVE FEELS LIKE!

Panel 4: Close up of Punchin Ella's face. She has a look that does not seem consistent with the 'school boy puppy love' that the Inventor is expressing. The Inventor is in the background explaining the next part of his plan.

Inventor: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW... THE NEXT PART OF THIS FLAWLESS SCHEME REQUIRES SOMETHING BORROWED.

Panel 5: The Inventor and Punchin Ella are looking at each other, her hand is caressing his face

Inventor: I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT 'BORROWING' THE STORY OF ROMEO AND JULIET. THERE MUST BE OTHER LOVER STORIES... WITH A HAPPIER ENDING.

Ella: NO, MY LOVE, IT MUST BE ROMEO AND JULIET.

Panel 6: Full view of Punchin Ella. She is pontificating expressively, with not a little malice in her visage.

Ella: IT IS SUCH A ROMANTIC TALE... FILLED WITH PREJUDICE, SECRETS, REBELLION, AND SUICIDE.

Panel 7 (Insert of Panel 6) Close up on Ella's face. She has a tear running down her garishly made up face.

Ella: (emphatic) IT MOVES ME!

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Panel 1/2: Split between CC in front of video communication screen in his cave hideout and Supreme in front of his video screen in his fortress.

CC: I THINK I HAVE A LINE ON THE INVENTOR'S NEXT TARGET. HE USED MECHANIZED PUPPETS, A TONKA TRUCK, AND GREEN ARMY MEN WHEN HE WENT AFTER THE TUXEDOS... ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 'OLD'.

Supreme: I FOLLOW YOUR LOGIC. THE DRONES AND VIRTUAL REALITY ARE EXAMPLES OF THE NEW.

CC: NEXT UP IS SOMETHING 'BORROWED'.

Supreme: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING BORROWED, SOMETHING BLUE.

CC: MEET ME AT THE METROPOLITAN PUBLIC LIBRARY. WE NEED TO REVOKE THE INVENTOR'S LIBRARY CARD.

Panel 3: Establishing shot of Metropolitan Public Library. It looks peaceful.

Panel 4: Tour guide in the library with a large group of people at an exhibit displaying an oversized picture of Shakespeare and a sign that says FIRST FOLIO.

Tour Guide: WELCOME TO THE TOURING SHAKESPEARE EXHIBIT. IT IS OUR HONOR TO DISPLAY AN ORIGINAL COPY OF THE **FIRST FOLIO** FROM 1623 ON LOAN FROM THE **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Panel 5: Close up of the display case containing the First Folio.

Tour Guide: WHAT IS AMAZING ABOUT THE **FIRST FOLIO** IS THAT IT PRESERVED THE WORKS OF **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**, INCLUDING SUCH IMPORTANT PLAYS AS *ROMEO AND JULIET*. THE FIRST FOLIO WAS COMPILED BY FRIENDS OF SHAKESPEARE AFTER HIS DEATH. YOU MIGHT SAY THEY BORROWED HIS MATERIAL TO PUBLISH IT. OF COURSE, THERE WERE NO COPYRIGHT LAWS AT THE TIME.

Panel 6: Close up of the tour guide gesturing towards the First Folio.

Tour Guide: HERE'S SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT REALIZE. WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR ACTUALLY BORROWED THE IDEA OF *ROMEO AND JULIET* FROM A STORY CALLED **MARIOTTO AND GONOZZA** WRITTEN BY **MASUCCIO SALERNITANO** FROM ITALY. HIS STORY WAS IN *IL NOVELLINO*... A VERY CONTROVERSIAL BOOK AT THE TIME.

Panel 7: Someone in the group has a question. The person has a baseball cap on.

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Tour Guide: HOLD ALL YOUR QUESTIONS UNTIL THE END, PLEASE.

Panel 8: The inventor pulls off his hat to reveal himself. The remote control he holds appears to be a weapon.

Inventor: THIS IS THE END! MY QUESTION IS 'DO I NEED TO CHECK OUT THE ENTIRE FIRST FOLIO, OR CAN I JUST PULL OUT THE PAGES FOR ROMEO AND JULIET?'

Tour Guide: GASP...

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Panel 1: CC is also in the crowd. He pulls off his disguise to confront the Inventor.

CC: SORRY, INVENTOR, THERE'S NO INTERLIBRARY LOAN WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

Panel 2: The inventor is defiant, he holds out a remote control in his hand.

Inventor: THEN LET ME RETURN SOME BOOKS INSTEAD!

Panel 3: Books start flying off the shelves as dangerous projectiles.

Panel 4: Supreme flies into action in multi-image shot collecting the 'books' and preventing injuries and property damage.

Panel 5: CC reaches out and grips the shoulder of the Inventor.

Panel 6: Close up of Punchin Ella's hand with a hypodermic needle jabbing CC.

Ella: HANDS OFF, HE'S MY MAN. (hysterical laughing)

Panel 7: CC crumples immediately at the feet of Punchin Ella.

Ella: SHAKESPEARE NEVER SAID WHAT POISON KILLED ROMEO, BUT IT MAY HAVE BEEN DISTILLED FROM THE HENBANE FLOWER. LIKE ROMEO, YOUR PARTING WILL BE SWEET SORROW, CHIROPTER!

Ella: LET'S GO INVENTOR, BEFORE SUPREME SHELVES ALL OUR SPECIAL BOOKS.

Panel 8: The Inventor looks back as if he disapproves.

Inventor: BUT, LOVE, WHAT ABOUT THE CAPED CHIROPTER?

Panel 9: Close up of Punchin Ella laughing hysterically.

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Panel 1: Close up of CC's hand pulling something out of a utility pouch.

Panel 2: A hypodermic type device is slapped into CC's vein

Panel 3: Supreme is propping CC up.

Supreme: ARE YOU OK, BUDDY?

CC: YEAH, I'LL BE COMPLETELY CLEANSED IN A COUPLE HOURS. ELLA'S BOAST ALLOWED ME TO PICK THE ANTI-SERUM WITH THE HIGHEST EFFECTIVITY.

CC: I JUST WISH WE HAD ENDED THIS TODAY. THE INVENTOR'S A CLOWN... BUT THE CLOWN—SHE'S WIRED TO KILL.

Supreme: I'LL ECHO THAT! I HAVE A NASTY FEELING THAT STARTED IN MY HEAD, BUT NOW IT'S LIKE A CHUNK OF ASPHALT IN MY INVULNERABLE STOMACH. TRUST ME, IT'S NOT PRE-WEDDING BUTTERFLIES, SOMEONE'S GOING TO DIE BEFORE THEY'RE DONE.

Panel 4: Back at the hideout of the Inventor and Punchin Ella. Establishing shot of a dimly lit warehouse.

Ella: (Not in scene) I want that book, Inventor, my love!

Inventor: (Not in scene) Patience – Smile of my life—it will soon be yours.

Panel 5: The Inventor is working on his next project, a room containing machinery, a video display, coal, diamond cutting equipment, etc. Punchin Ella is in the background. She can be seen through a glass window in the room.

Inventor: I have some qualms about stealing the First Folio. After all, it may be bad 'karma' to purloin a story of star-crossed lovers when a couple is on the verge of marriage!

Panel 6: Close up of Punchin Ella. She is doing something mischievous. Her grin is not pleasant, rather it is evil.

Ella: HOW ARE OUR OTHER WEDDING PREPARATIONS COMING LOVE?

Page 19

Panel 1: Establishing shot of office building headquarters for Andromeda Broadcasting

Caption 1: “WE WILL SOON HAVE YOUR LADIES IN WAITING... AND WITH THOSE LADIES, THE MEANS TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING EVEN I CAN’T CREATE—BUT WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN!”

Caption 2: THE HIGH RISE OFFICE COMPLEX OF THE WORLD’S LEADING MEDIA COMPANY... AND SIXTY HOURS A WEEK STOMPING GROUND OF ROSIE RANER AND JONNY MOLZEN.

Panel 2: Medium shot inside the office – Rosie is at her desk working. Jonny is standing nearby. Others are milling around working.

Jonny: COME ON, ROSIE! WHAT WILL IT HURT TO TAKE ME ON THE JONESBURROUGH ASSIGNMENT?

Rosie: DON’T MAKE ME REMIND YOU WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME, JONNY.

Panel 3: Zoom in on Jonny pleading his case.

Jonny: YEAH, BUT THE ODDS ARE WITH ME! THAT COULD **NEVER** HAPPEN AGAIN IN A MILLION YEARS.

Panel 4: Rosie has her purse and is heading towards the elevator.

Rosie: I’VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TODAY. *I’LL THINK ABOUT IT, JONNY.*

Panel 5: Jonny standing at the elevator, the doors quickly closing. Rosie is inside with a grin on her face. Jonny has a big smile on his face.

Jonny: **THANKS, ROSIE!** I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU... **AGAIN.**

Panel 6: Rosie hails a taxi.

Panel 7: Rosie is inside. There is no driver. She has a look of alarm on her face. The doors click locked.

Taxi Radio: WELCOME MISS RANER. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE WEDDING OF **THE INVENTOR AND MISS PUNCHIN ELLA!**

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Panel 1: Birds-eye view of Starling on her motorcycle weaving through busy urban traffic.

Starling: THERE'S A BREAK-IN AT APEX JEWELRY. FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD OF CHIROPTER AND SUPREME'S CURRENT CASE, I BET THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE.

Panel 2: Close up of Starling having pulled her motorcycle right up in front of the jewelry store's display window. The window only has shards of glass remaining. Inside, there is a shadowy figure.

Panel 3: Starling is about to go inside when she is surrounded by 4 clowns carrying props such as an oversize hammer, rubber chicken, fire hose, and oversize butterfly net.

Starling: I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS WASN'T GOING TO BE A LAUGHER.

Panel 4/5/6: Starling dispatches with each of the first three clowns with martial arts and club shaped like a bird claw.

Panel 7: Only the clown with the butterfly net is left. He looks sheepishly at his net.

Starling: DO YOU WANT THE EASY WAY OR THE HARD WAY?

Panel 8: The clown pulls the net over his own head. Gas is released that chokes Starling

Insert to Panel 8: Close up on Starling covering her face with her hands but it is too late as she is already tipping over.

Panel 9: The four clowns are carrying Starling away, two holding her legs and two holding her arms.

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Panel 1: On the street reporter with electronic billboard in the background. On the billboard in big colorful letters is the word Supreme.

Reporter: WE HAVE BREAKING NEWS... NEARLY TEN MINUTES AGO EVERY ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD IN THE CITY STARTED FLASHING THE NAME OF **SUPREME**. SUPREME'S NAME WAS FOLLOWED BY THE WORDS—*'SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN EXACTLY 10 MINUTES'*.

Reporter: WE WILL STAND BY AND ROLL THE CAMERAS LIVE TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. *HOPEFULLY, **SUPREME** IS WATCHING!*

Panel 2: Focus on Billboard. Pictures of Rosie Raner and Starling with the title MISSING appear on the screen. Underneath the picture of Rosie is the caption Supreme's Girlfriend. Below the picture of Starling is the caption Chiropter's Sidekick.

Panel 3: Billboard says 7575 LOVERS LANE 15 SECONDS AND COUNTING

Reporter: THERE'S THE ANNOUNCEMENT... BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Panel 4: Overhead view of a warehouse with the large numbers 7575 on the side.

Panel 5: Supreme crashes through a second story window to land in front of The Inventor's specially prepared room (In balloon letters, the countdown is going on) ...13 ... 12

Panel 6: Supreme has entered room, sees a video screen with Rosie and Starling each bound at the wrists and hanging perilously over some large vats. ...11

Inventor: (burst balloon – transmitted voice) WELCOME SUPREME. THE DRONES HOLDING YOUR FRIENDS ARE PRE-PROGRAMMED TO OPEN THEIR GRAPPLING CLAWS IN MERE SECONDS, THUS DROPPING THE YOUNG LADIES INTO MOLTEN VATS OF LIQUID PORCELAIN. WHEN PULLED OUT AND DRIED, THEY WILL MAKE FABULOUS FIGURINES FOR WEDDING DÉCOR!

PAGE 22

Panel 1: View of machinery including a toggle switch that is labelled DISENGAGE. ...10 ...9

Inventor: HOWEVER IF UNLOCKED, THE MACHINERY BEFORE YOU CAN TRANSMIT THE CODE TO DISENGAGE THE COUNTDOWN!

Insert of Panel 1: Close up of Coal, Boron, diamond cutting tools. ...8 ...7

Inventor : TO UNLOCK THE DEVICE, YOU MUST CREATE THE MISSING PIECE. IF DESIGNED PROPERLY – SIZE, WEIGHT, SHAPE, COLOR, AND CLARITY – ONCE INSERTED, IT WILL ACT AS A PRISM DISPERSING LIGHT OF JUST THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH TO RELEASE THE TUMBLERS.

Panel 2: Supreme is working in a blur: crushing coal, using heat vision, cutting the diamond. Countdown clock is running ...6 ...5 ...4 ...3

Supreme: *THERE'S NO TIME TO TRY EVERY COMBINATION.* MIRRORS IN HIS DEVICE APPEAR TO POINT AT VARIOUS PINHOLES THAT MIGHT BE THE LOCK TUMBLERS. AN **IDEAL CUT** DIAMOND IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AT REFLECTING LIGHT.

Supreme: HE TALKED ABOUT A WAVELENGTH OF LIGHT THAT WAS NECESSARY. THAT IMPLIES HE'S LOOKING FOR A PARTICULAR COLOR. THE COLOR IN A DIAMOND RESULTS FROM SMALL IMPURITIES MIXED WITHIN THE MATRIX FORMED BY THE CARBON ATOMS. THE INVENTOR CONSPICUOUSLY SUPPLIED BORON—A FEW PARTS PER MILLION OF BORON BONDED WITH THE CARBON CREATES A BLUE DIAMOND SIMILAR TO THE 45 CARAT **HOPE DIAMOND.**

Supreme: IT'S SAFE TO SAY **PUNCHIN ELLA** WANTS ONE BIGGER THAN THAT!

Panel 3: Supreme places his finger on something that looks a like a balancing scale with a receptacle to hold the diamond that he is working on. ...2

Supreme: THE ARM IS LIKE A BALANCING SCALE, A DIAMOND OF PRECISELY THE CORRECT WEIGHT WILL BE PERFECTLY POSITIONED.

Panel 4: Supreme places the diamond in its receptacle. The effect is a scattering of blue light into the tumblers of the machine's pinholes. ...1

Panel 5: Close up of Supreme toggling the switch marked 'Disengage'.

Inventor: WELL DONE SUPREME! I KNEW YOU WOULD SUCCEED. THANK YOU FOR THE WEDDING GIFT. YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE SAFELY WHISKED AWAY TO ENJOY THE BRIDAL SHOWER. YOU AND

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THE CAPED CHIROPTER ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR WEDDING. ANNOUNCEMENT FORTHCOMING.

Panel 6: Screen changes to drones sailing away with Rosie and Starling in tow.

Supreme: THAT LANDSCAPE LOOKS FAMILIAR. I HOPE THE GIRLS DON'T MIND ME POPPING IN ON THEIR PARTY.

Page 23

Panel 1: Starling and Rosie hanging from sailing drones.

Starling: I COULD GET FREE IF I WASN'T HANGING HERE LIKE A SIDE OF BEEF!

Panel 2: Starling acrobatically flips herself on top of the drone. She is now off the hook that was holding her. She is gripping the drone.

Starling: GIVE ME A MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE YOU FREE AS WELL!

Panel 3: Close up on Rosie hanging.

Rosie: DON'T COUNT **ME** OUT! I SAW HOW YOU DID IT!

Panel 4: Cut to Supreme. He is flying in a search and rescue pattern.

Supreme: THEY MUST BE CLOSE, *THIS IS* THE LANDSCAPE I SAW IN THE VIDEO.

Panel 5: Cut to room at The Inventor's warehouse. The girls are still on the screen. Punchin Ella is alone in the room.

Panel 6: Punchin Ella takes the diamond, laughs, and the countdown begins again. ...1 ...0

Panel 7: Rosie is beginning her swing. There is a CLICK sound effect on the drone at the hook holding her.

Panel 8: Rosie falls and falls; Screaming sound effect.

Page 24

Panel 1: Supreme rushes onto the scene screaming NOOOO, but it's already too late.

Panel 2: Supreme holds Rosie's lifeless body, head down with tears streaming.

Panel 3: Chiropter and Starling appear on the scene. They each place a hand on Supreme's shoulders.

Panel 4: Cut to The Inventor and Ella. We see Ella from the back looking at The Inventor. The Inventor looks genuinely upset.

Inventor: ELLA... WHY?

Panel 5: Close up of Ella looking at her diamond and laughing.

Panel 6: News reporter standing in front of the police station where The Inventor is being brought in.

Reporter: THE NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL GENIUS THE INVENTOR **TURNED HIMSELF IN** TODAY. HE CONFESSED TO VARIOUS ROBBERIES AND BEING AN ACCESSORY IN THE DEATH OF CELEBRATED MEDIA MAVEN ROSIE RANER. ROSIE WAS BEST KNOWN AS SUPREME'S GIRLFRIEND.

Reporter: THE STORY IS MORE AMAZING BECAUSE THE INVENTOR SUPPLIED POLICE WITH INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF **PUNCHIN ELLA**. SHE IS EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED TO THE ASYLUM. ROLL THE VIDEO FROM **THE INVENTOR'S** ARREST.

Panel 7: The Inventor is on the TV screen. He has tears in his eyes and appears genuinely remorseful.

Inventor: I OFFER MY DEEPEST REGRETS TO SUPREME AND THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF ROSIE RANER. *I WAS BLINDED BY LOVE*, BUT I DON'T OFFER THAT AS AN EXCUSE. I ONLY HOPE THAT IN TIME SUPREME CAN **FORGIVE ME**.

END OF PART 1

PART 2 – THE LAST SUPERHERO - SUPPRESSION

Page 1

Splash page: The Caped Chiropter and the warden are in the warden's office looking down on the prison courtyard. The Inventor (arms folded, looking at the others), Iorg the Icer (creating ice sculptures with his hands), Bernie aka BlockNRoll (bending railroad ties), and Perry aka Peregrine (wings extended gliding in the courtyard) are in the courtyard.. There are also some prison guards, but their countenances indicate they are not at all concerned.

Block letters at the top of the page: SUPPRESSION

Caption: IRON HAVEN: THE ONLY PRISON IN THE WORLD CAPABLE OF SECURING 90% OF ITS POPULATION—THE MOST DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAINS IN THE WORLD.

CC: YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, WARDEN? YOU'VE GOT HALF THE SINISTER SOCIETY DOWN THERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THEIR MAXIMUM SECURITY LIVING ROOMS.

Warden: I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU, CHIROPTER. WHEN **BRENT VANE** CONTACTED ME ON BEHALF OF HIS ADVANCED GENETICS RESEARCH LAB, I IMAGINED ALL THE THINGS THAT COULD GO WRONG. BUT HE WAS VERY PERSUASIVE IN HIS PROPOSAL, AND IT COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE CURRENT PENAL SYSTEM IF SUCCESSFUL.

CC: AND YOU'RE CONFIDENT THESE MEN ARE THE BEST SUBJECTS?

Warden: YOU RECALL HOW CONTRITE THE INVENTOR WAS AFTER... WELL, YOU KNOW.

Warden: HE FOUND RELIGION—TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF **JESUS FREAK**—GOT SOME OF HIS OLD BUDDIES BELIEVING THE SAME WAY—THEY'VE BEEN MODEL CITIZENS EVER SINCE.

Warden: I PLANNED A LITTLE TEST. YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

Page 2

Panel 1: Large man in prison clothes runs into the courtyard.

Guard (out of view): SOUND THE ALARM, BERZERK IS LOOSE!

Panel 2: Cut to CC. He has alarm on his face and is looking towards the Warden.

CC: I BETTER GET DOWN THERE!

Panel 3: Cut to the Warden, appearing calm.

Warden: JUST WAIT... AND WATCH.

Panel 4: The four men in the courtyard turn to see Berzerk run in.

The Inventor: PERRY... YOU NEED TO GET HIS ATTENTION AND KEEP HIM IN ONE PLACE!

Panel 5: Peregrine flies in circles around Berzerk to bewilder him and keep him in one spot.

Panel 6: Ice flows from the hands of the Icer as he piles ice around the legs of Berzerk.

Icer: DO YOU KNOW IF HE MINDS COLD FEET?

Inventor: BLOCK, IT'S YOUR TURN NOW! DON'T **YOU** GET COLD FEET!

Panel 7: Block grabs Berzerk from behind to hold him. The Inventor is running toward a guard.

Block: BLOCK IS WEARING HIS SHOES. BLOCK WON'T GET COLD FEET.

Inventor: NOW, I NEED TO BORROW A TASER FROM A GUARD.

Panel 8: The Inventor grabs a guard's TASER. The guard looks dumbfounded.

Guard: THAT WON'T WORK ON BERZERK!

Inventor: NOT IN IT'S NORMAL CONFIGURATION, ANYWAY.

Panel 9: The Inventor is playing with circuits inside the unit.

Panel 10: The Inventor blasts BERZERK with powerful electrical charges emanating from the TASER.

Inventor: *BLOCK, WHEN I SAY NOW, LET GO OF BERZERK AND STAND BACK...**NOW!***

Page 3

Panel 1: Establishing shot of Vane Tower, home of Brent Vane's Advanced Genetics Research Lab.

Caption: "I'M SATISFIED, PREP THEM TO GO TO THE RESEARCH LAB, WARDEN!"

Caption: "I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THAT, CHIROPTER."

Panel 2: Inside the lab: the inmates are cuffed, an older man in a lab jacket addresses the inmates, CC and a young man in a lab jacket are off to the side.

Chief Scientist Thorpe: I APPRECIATE YOU MEN VOLUNTEERING FOR MY EXPERIMENT. YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THE DANGER. THE TREATMENT IS MORE LIKE CANCER THAN CHEMO-THERAPY.

Inventor: I UNDERSTAND THE RISKS MORE THAN MY BROTHERS, BUT WE ALL FEEL A DEBT THAT CANNOT BE REPAID. WE ACCEPT THE OUTCOME WHATEVER IT IS... AND HOPE THE RESULT WILL CHANGE SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER.

Panel 3: Come in close on the Chief Scientist and his research assistant. His research assistant is Jonny Molzen!

Thorpe: JONNY, REMOVE THEIR HANDCUFFS AND PREP THEM EACH FOR TREATMENT. **THRICE-CHECK** TO ENSURE THE CORRECT THERAPY IS READY FOR EACH OF THEM.

Panel 4: Jonny is removing the handcuffs from The Inventor. The Inventor recognizes Jonny as a close friend of Rosie Raner. He has an uncomfortable look on his face. Jonny appears very determined, perhaps calloused, certainly not in the mood to accept an apology.

Inventor: MR. MOLZEN, I'M...

Jonny: **SORRY...?** WHAT YOU DID PUT A *NEW FOCUS* ON MY LIFE!

Jonny: I TOOK ALL MY PAST EXPERIENCES, ALL MY ACQUAINTANCES... CHANNELED THEM INTO BECOMING THE LEADING EXPERT ON POWERS AND WHAT MAKES EACH OF YOU SUPER. I'VE CLASSIFIED **OVER 3000** SUPER VILLAINS AND THEIR SPECIFIC POWERS.

Panel 5: The Inventor is taking his place on a treatment table while Jonny straps him in. There is a look in Jonny's eyes that would make observers uncomfortable.

Jonny: IF YOU HADN'T KILLED ROSIE... THIS **TREATMENT** WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED!

Insert to Panel 5: Close up on The Inventor, tears and pain are expressed in his eyes.

Inventor: I'M SORRY...

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Panel 6: Chief Scientist Thorpe is prepping his equipment and making final checks. He is talking quietly to the Caped Chiropter.

Thorpe: IF YOU ARE UNAWARE, CHIROPTER, HERE IS HOW IT WORKS.

Thorpe: THE STUDY OF DNA HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR DECADES, FRIEDRICH MIESCHER IDENTIFIED IT IN 1869. HE CALLED IT NUCLEIN. IT WASN'T UNTIL 1953 THAT WATSON AND CRICK DISCOVERED THE DOUBLE HELIX STRUCTURE OF DNA. IN 2001, THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT RELEASED ITS STUDY RESULTS: A 90% COMPLETE SEQUENCE OF THE 3 BILLION BASE PAIRS IN THE HUMAN GENOME.

Panel 7: Thorpe is standing over The Inventor about to administer the therapy via hypodermic needle.

Thorpe: THANKS TO INCREDIBLE ADVANCES SINCE 2001... AND MY RESEARCH ASSISTANT'S PASSION TO IDENTIFY UNIQUE SUPER POWERS, AT VANE'S LAB, WE ISOLATED THE SPECIFIC DNA CONFIGURATION THAT CREATES SPECIFIC POWERS.

CC: BUT EVERYONE'S DNA IS UNIQUE.

Thorpe: UNIQUE, YET 99.5% COMMON. USING DNA SAMPLES FROM THE GENERAL POPULATION AND THE POPULATION OF SUPER INMATES, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED WHAT GIVES SOMEONE THE ABILITY TO FLY, HAVE SUPER STRENGTH, CREATE ICE FROM THEIR HANDS, AND EVEN GRASP TECHNOLOGY IN WAYS BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

Panel 8: Close up on hypodermic being injected in The Inventor's vein.

Thorpe: THIS WILL JUST **PINCH** A LITTLE.

Thorpe: **THE DATA IS ALL THERE!** WE JUST NEEDED TO CORRELATE AND IDENTIFY!

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Page 4

Panel 1: Inside the studio of TV broadcast news. A female anchor is speaking.

Anchor 1: INTERNET SERVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE SHUT DOWN BY THE TRAFFIC VOLUME OF BILLIONS OF TWEETS, POSTS, AND BLOGS ALL FOCUSED ON AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY VANE LABORATORY OF A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT TO REMOVE SUPERPOWERS FROM FOUR WELL KNOWN CRIMINALS.

Panel 2: Close up on female news anchor.

Anchor 1: MOST PROMINENT AMONG THOSE IN THE EXPERIMENT IS THE INVENTOR WHO WAS ARRESTED TWO YEARS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF ROSIE RANER. RANER WAS BEST KNOWN AS THE GIRL FRIEND OF SUPREME.

Panel 3: Pull back to bring Anchor 2 into the panel. He is a parody of Ted Baxter.

Anchor 2: NO ONE'S HATED MORE THAN THE INVENTOR.

Anchor 1: WELL, NO ONE'S LOVED MORE THAN SUPREME!

Anchor 2: IT OCCURS TO ME, WITH THIS ADVANCEMENT IN GENETICS, ARE WE CLOSE TO A CURE FOR MALE PATTERN BALDNESS?

Anchor 1: <giggle> LET'S GO TO DAVE AT THE WEATHER DESK!

Panel 4: Three super villains are knocking over a couple armored vehicles using lightning bolts, fire balls, and magnetism.

Panel 5: Zip dashes into the scene carrying the Golden Archer.

Golden Archer: YOU KNUCKLEHEADS SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN HIDING. DON'T YOU KNOW THE JUSTICE FEDERATION IS WORKING 24/7 TO ROUND UP SUPER-BADDIES?

Panel 6: Zip circles Fire Baller at high speed snuffing him out.

Zip: ARCHER, YOU KNOW THESE GUYS ARE ALL SHOW... **SO SLOW**, AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO **GOOD** DECISION-MAKING.

Panel 7: Magnetic is using his powers to hold the armor car over his head preparing to fling it at the Archer.

Insert to Panel 7: Archer plunks him with a wooden arrow weighted with a hard ball on the end

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Panel 8: Magnetic is unconscious underneath the truck. Golden Archer is standing up looking at him.

Archer: SLOW IS RIGHT.. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN READY TO SWING WHEN I HURLED THAT 95 MPH FASTBALL AT HIM.

Page 5

Full Page: Full figure of Discharge in the middle of the page, lightning crackling out from him in every direction. Discharge looks fanatical. Zip is racing around building a lightning rod. Archer fires an arrow that releases a wire net.

Discharge: STAY AWAY FROM ME HEROES!

Discharge: NO ONE'S TAKING AWAY MY POWERS.

Discharge: NO ONE IS GOING TO STEAL WHAT I AM FROM ME!

Insert to Page 5: Discharge is fizzled out. The wire net is around him, the arrow is in the lightning rod created by Zip. Word balloon sound effect: AARRRGH!

Insert to Page 5: Close up of the Golden Archer.

Archer: YOU'RE GROUNDED.

Page 6

Panel 1: Zip and Archer are talking in the foreground, the three villains are tied up sitting in the background.

Zip: THAT'S 13 IN A WEEK! BY MY COUNT, WE'RE LEADING **CATEGORY 5** AND **GREEN GUARDIAN** BY TWO.

Panel 2: Close up of Zip and Archer's hands in their own unique superhero fist bump/handshake.

Archer: AWESOME!

Panel 3: Archer with a sober look on his face, examining his equipment.

Archer: STILL, I WONDER IF WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING. YOU KNOW... BRINGING THEM IN SO THEY CAN BE GENETICALLY NEUTERED OF THEIR POWERS.

Panel 4: Close up on Zip, with a brighter outlook.

Zip: HEY, THEY'RE WANTED CRIMINALS. WE **HAVE** TO BRING THEM IN.

Panel 5: Archer is looking sympathetically at the captured misfits.

Archer: ZIP, YOU ENHANCED GUYS SHOULD BE WORRIED. I'M GLAD I DON'T HAVE ANY SUPER POWERS.

Panel 6: Zip places his hand on Archer's shoulder.

Zip: DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. CARROTS DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE ACUITY AND COORDINATION NECESSARY TO SHOOT LIKE YOU DO. THAT'S GENETICS!

Archer: ALL THE MORE REASON TO WONDER IF THIS IS RIGHT.

Zip: DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL GET THEIR DAY IN COURT.

Page 7

Panel 1: Establishing shot of the Supreme Court

Caption: IN THE CASE OF *JAMES V. THE FEDERAL PENAL SYSTEM*, THE COURT IS RULING ON WHETHER OR NOT USING GENETIC THERAPY TO REMOVE THE POWERS OF AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IS A VIOLATION OF **THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT**. IN PARTICULAR, *IS IT CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT?*

Caption: FURTHER, THE PLAINTIFF ARGUES THAT ADMINISTRATION OF THE THERAPY CONSTITUTES AN **EX POST FACTO LAW**. THAT IS, THE SENTENCE OF THE PLAINTIFF HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM LIFE IMPRISONMENT TO LIFE PLUS FORCED GENE MANIPULATION.

Panel 2: Inside the court room. The advocates for the Penal system are speaking.

Lawyer: WE ARGUE THAT THE GENE THERAPY IS NO DIFFERENT THAN REQUIRING A DRUG ADDICT OR ALCOHOLIC TO UNDERGO COUNSELING AND OTHER PROGRAMS INTENDED TO MITIGATE THEIR RISK TO SOCIETY. INDEED, THEY ARE A RISK TO THEMSELVES.

Lawyer: AS FAR AS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT... DNA SAMPLES ARE ROUTINELY TAKEN FOR ALL OF THE INMATES ALREADY. THE TREATMENT IS A ONE-TIME THERAPY THAT MAY BE ADMINISTERED BY VARIOUS MEANS. IT HURTS NO MORE THAN A PIN-PRICK!

Panel 3: Super powered thugs are sitting in front of the TV. They are watching the court proceedings live.

Thug 1: I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE WATCHING COURT TV... UNLESS MY OWN MOTHER WAS ON TRIAL! <HA HA GRUNT>

Thug 2: DON'T LAUGH ABOUT THAT, **MY MA** WAS ON COURT TV LAST MONTH!

Panel 4: View of thugs sitting on the couch and around the room.

Mental: INDUBITABLY, YOU CRETINS FAIL TO UNDERSTAND EXHAUSTIVELY THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS EVENTUAL RULING. WHAT THEY INJECT BINDS TO YOUR EXISTING DNA—CHANGING IT. IT GROWS AND TAKES OVER YOUR DNA LIKE CANCER. LIKE MAD COW DISEASE, IT CAN'T BE DESTROYED.

Mental: AS FOR ME, MY MATCHLESS INTELLIGENCE...

Thug 2: <cough> **ARROGANCE!**

Mental: INTELLIGENCE... IS AS MUCH A PART OF ME AS MY HANDS OR FEET. I WAS BORN THIS WAY.

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Thug 1: AREN'T THERE PLACES WHERE THEY CUT OFF YOUR HAND IF YOU'RE CAUGHT STEALING.

Panel 5: Close up on Doctor Mental

Mental: THE PUNISHMENT IS EVEN MORE SEVERE FOR CHILD MOLESTERS!

Panel 6: Close up on the first thug. A look of dismay and fear is on his face.

Thug 1: I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE UNTIL THIS WHOLE THING BLOWS OVER!

Panel 7: Category 5 and the Green Guardian break through the door. Tornadic winds and power gloves are blasting toward the super-powered thugs.

Panel 8: Thugs are being towed in tornadic winds and a powered cage.

Guardian: *I THINK THIS PUTS US BACK ON TOP!*

Page 8

Panel 1: CC is in front of his wall of computer monitors reviewing the summary of the worldwide manhunt for super powered criminals

CC: GOOD PROGRESS! ONLY 6% STILL AT LARGE AND ANOTHER 3% ASSUMED DEAD. ANY THAT REVEAL THEMSELVES WILL EVENTUALLY BE CAUGHT. THE OTHERS MAY LIVE IN ANONYMITY AS LONG AS THEY DON'T REVERT TO THEIR NATURAL PATTERN.

Panel 2: Zoom out to see that CC is in his cave hideout, but he is not alone. Supreme is also there.

CC: YOU SHOULD BE PLEASED. YOUR PAL JONNY HAS BEEN A KEY PLAYER. FIRST, HE TOOK WHAT HE LEARNED FROM YOU AND THE REST OF US TO GUIDE THE RESEARCH THAT CREATED INDIVIDUAL CONCOCTIONS FOR EACH SUBJECT. AND RECENTLY, HE'S BEEN A KEY WITNESS AT THE SUPREME COURT.

Panel 3: Zoom in on Supreme.

Supreme: JONNY IS ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THAT CONCERN ME. ROSIE'S DEATH HAS CAUSED ME TO REFLECT... PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE... FOR JONNY, IT'S BECOME A PERSONAL VENDETTA.

CC: I WOULD SAY, 'DON'T WORRY, HE'LL COME AROUND', BUT I'M THE LAST ONE THAT SHOULD DISMISS A PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT BECOMES A LIFE CALLING.

Panel 4: Supreme gives CC a playful punch in the shoulder.

Supreme: OBSESSION!

Panel 5: Pull back to see more of Supreme. He is holding his hands in front of him to suggest doubt.

Supreme: **YOU'RE SURE** THIS IS RIGHT?

Panel 6: CC is looking in a lab microscope suggesting he is reviewing evidence or clues. He speaks without looking up.

CC: I BEGAN FUNDING THE RESEARCH YEARS AGO. ROSIE'S DEATH WAS THE TIPPING POINT THAT ACCELERATED EVERYTHING. JONNY'S PASSION PLAYED A PART.

Panel 7: Supreme is walking around and seems uncharacteristically concerned, not as confident as usual.

Supreme: IF DNA CAN BE MODIFIED TO TAKE SOMETHING AWAY, CAN IT BE CHANGED TO PUT SOMETHING IN? HOW ABOUT TRADING ONE CHARACTERISTIC FOR ANOTHER: A BABY IS BORN

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WITH BROWN EYES AND BLACK HAIR SO A DICTATOR SAYS IF YOU WANT THIS BABY TO LIVE, GIVE IT THE THERAPY! BOOM, NOW THE BABY HAS BLUE EYES AND BLONDE HAIR!

Panel 8: CC looks up from the microscope.

CC: IT'S ALL SUPPOSITION... BUT I AGREE, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO STOPPING THE ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY.

Panel 9: Close up on Supreme and CC.

Supreme: WOULD IT WORK ON ME?

CC: DOUBTFUL. MULTIPLE POWERS HAVE A CONFOUNDING EFFECT THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO IDENTIFY THE SIGNIFICANT PAIRS. ALSO YOUR INVULNERABILITY MAY MAKE YOU RESISTANT.

CC: THE BIG THING, THOUGH, **ALIEN DNA**! ALL OF THE RESEARCH IS BASED ON HUMAN DNA.

Panel 10: CC in the foreground, back to the reader, Supreme in the background.

Supreme: I'VE GOT TO GO... AND BY THAT, I MEAN, **GO AWAY**. I'LL TIE UP LOOSE ENDS AND TALK TO A FEW PEOPLE...

CC: AND THEN...

Supreme: SUPREME BECOMES A FADING LEGEND... **AND I** SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERY OF LIFE AND DEATH, LOVE AND HATE.

CC: UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN?

Panel 11: Supreme flying off. Face is close enough that the tear in Supreme's eye can be seen.

Supreme: NO—JUST GOODBYE.

Page 9

Panel 1: Establishing shot outside of the Supreme Court. A crowd has gathered with TV crews.

Reporter: JONNY, YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE COURT'S DECISION!

Jonny: IT'S ABSOLUTELY A GREAT DAY IN AMERICA, AND REALLY, THE WHOLE WORLD!

Panel 2: With a crowd around, a female reporter has a microphone in front of Jonny's face.

Jonny: THE RULING THAT GENE THERAPY CAN BE TREATED LIKE COURT-ORDERED COUNSELING IS HUGE. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE COURT HADN'T ALLOWED INDIVIDUALS, CURRENTLY INCARCERATED, TO BRING SUITS RELATIVE TO THEIR UNIQUE SITUATION. THAT'S GOING TO CLOG THINGS UP, BUT IT'S STILL A BIG WIN FOR LAW ABIDING CITIZENS!

Reporter: FOR ANY NEW CONVICTIONS, THE JUDGE PASSING SENTENCE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER THE GENE THERAPY?

Jonny: THAT IS CORRECT!

Panel 3: The Vane Advance Genetics Research Lab: Chief Scientist Thorpe is clearly visible talking to someone in the shadows.

Thorpe: WE ANTICIPATED THIS RULING. THE CONTINGENCY PLAN IS IN PLACE. NOW, WE SIMPLY EXECUTE THE GREAT ESCAPE TO ENSURE THERE ARE NEW CHARGES AGAINST ANY THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERING A LAWSUIT TO HOLD ON TO THEIR POWERS!

Panel 4: Nighttime: Zip, Category5, Green Guardian, and the Golden Archer are patrolling.

Zip: ANYONE ELSE BORED?

Green Guardian: SUPER VILLAINS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE SCARED.

Archer: 'COWARDLY LOT IS RIGHT'. **CHIROPTER WISHES** HE COULD HAVE BOTTLED THIS!

Category5: I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT SAY THAT I AM THANKFUL FOR THE CHANGE.

Zip: **BUZZKILL!**

Page 10

Panel 1: Establishing shot of Iron Haven Maximum Security prison. Word art: Siren sound.

Panel 2: Officers in the control tower are attempting to lock cells that have been unlocked.

Officer 1: GENERAL ALERT: CELLS ON THE FIRST FLOOR IN THE NORTH, EAST, AND WEST WINGS HAVE BEEN UNLOCKED AND THERE IS NO WAY TO OVERRIDE THE UNLOCK SIGNAL. ALSO, CELLS ON THE SECOND FLOOR IN THE SOUTH AND WEST WINGS HAVE BEEN UNLOCKED!

Officer 2: ALL GUARDS PULL BACK TO SECURE POSITIONS. THE ESCAPED PRISONERS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. THE JUSTICE FEDERATION HAS BEEN NOTIFIED!

Panel 3: A flood of super-villains are running back and forth to attempt to escape. Complete bedlam.

Panel 4: Two of the inmates are still in a cell with an open door. One of the inmates is standing next to the door ready to leave. The other one is staying in his bunk.

Inmate 1: GEORGE, DON'T JUST SIT THERE! LET'S SCRAM!

Inmate 2: YOU CAN GO IF YOU WANT, I'M NOT LEAVING!

Panel 5: Close up on the inmate by the door. He looks baffled.

Inmate 1: WHY NOT?

Panel 6: Inmate on the bunk is working a crossword puzzle.

Inmate 2: WE'RE BEING PLAYED! ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE IS A CRIME. THOSE OTHER BOZOS WILL BE ROUNDED UP BY THE DO-GOODER FEDERATION. THEY'LL GO BACK TO COURT. THE JUDGE WILL ORDER GENE THERAPY. POOF! THEIR POWERS ARE ALL GONE.

Inmate 2: I'LL JUST STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR MY LAWSUIT TO GO TO COURT.

Panel 7: Inmate 1 is in the foreground, smile on his face. There is a silhouette of a person that is indistinguishable behind him.

Inmate 1: YEAH, GEORGE! YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M STAYING HERE, TOO!

Mystery man: WE ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD BE A FEW RELUCTANT CONS. **THIS WILL JUST PINCH A LITTLE.**

Panel 8: Close up of something that looks like a gun in the gloved hand of the mysterious person. A needle is fired out.

Page 11

Full Page: Various scenes of Zip, Golden Archer, Green Guardian, and Category5 battling and subduing the escapees. None of them get away.

Insert to Full Page: Four heroes are surveying the situation after the mop-up.

Archer: THAT WAS FUN... BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE CONTRIVED THAT A MASS ESCAPE WAS ATTEMPTED RIGHT NOW?

Zip: IF THEY WEREN'T SO DUMB, THEY WOULD HAVE JUST CLOSED THE DOORS AND STAYED IN THEIR CELLS.

Green Guardian: NO JUDGE WILL THINK TWICE ABOUT ORDERING GENE THERAPY, NOW. NOT AFTER AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT THAT FORCED THE GUARDS TO A SECURE LOCATION FOR THEIR SAFETY.

Page 12

Panel 1: CC is swinging down from the top of a building.

CC: DR. LUMEN HAS BEEN STAYING WAY OUT OF VIEW, LATELY. EITHER THE MOTION DETECTOR ON HIS LIGHT SWITCH IS BROKEN, OR HE'S BEEN AFRAID TO MOVE!

Panel 2: CC crashes through an apartment window.

CC: IT'S TIME TO LIGHT HIM UP!

Panel 3: DR. Lumen is cowering in a corner chair. The lights are all out, but DR. Lumen glows.

Lumen: CHIROPTER... PLEASE DON'T!

Panel 4: CC is in the foreground, back to the reader, looking at Lumen cower.

Lumen: I STARTED GOING STRAIGHT TWO YEARS AGO. YOU PROBABLY GOT SOME DATABASE THAT CAN CONFIRM THAT.

Lumen: THEN THIS WHOLE DNA THING CAME UP... I'VE BEEN HIDING OUT IN MY APARTMENT EVER SINCE THE BIG SUPER-VILLAIN ROUND UP STARTED.

Panel 5: Close up on Lumen, he looks pitiful.

Lumen: I ONLY USE MY POWERS NOW BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF THE DARK. PLEASE, DON'T TAKE THAT AWAY.

Panel 6: Tight shot on CC's face.

CC: I VOWED TO BE THE TERROR IN EVERY CRIMINALS HEART UNTIL CRIME WAS ERADICATED.

CC: WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Panel 7: CC turns to leave. He drops a roll of bills.

CC: SORRY ABOUT THE WINDOW.

Page 13

Panel 1: Supreme swoops down to the balcony of Jonny's apartment. He has a bent horseshoe in his hand.

Jonny: HEY SUPREME, IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WHAT'S THE HORSESHOE FOR?

Supreme: JUST A REMINDER OF OLD TIMES. I GUESS I WAS FEELING NOSTALGIC.

Jonny: WELL THANKS... I CAN PROBABLY FIND A KID THAT WOULD GET A THRILL OUT OF IT.

Panel 2: Close up of Supreme and Jonny.

Supreme: I TOLD YOU I NEEDED SOME TIME TO STUDY... CONTEMPLATE...

Jonny: SURE...

Supreme: I WANTED TO SAY BYE BEFORE I LEFT. I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER FRIEND.

Panel 3: Close up on Jonny. He looks like a man of conviction.

Jonny: I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO LEAVE. WE'VE GOT THE BAD GUYS ON THE RUN! A WORLD WITHOUT SUPER-VILLAINS IS ALMOST A REALITY.

Supreme: ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO LEAVE. PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR THE WARS BETWEEN SUPER POWERED PEOPLE TO END. TOO MANY INNOCENTS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DEATH RAYS AND THE ELECTRICAL BOLTS.

Panel 4: Supreme looks wistful like his mind is on something far away. Jonny is in the foreground.

Supreme: IF YOU EVER NEED ME, SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY, THE CAPED CHIROPTER WILL FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIND ME.

Jonny: I DON'T HAVE THE CHIROPTER ON SPEED-DIAL.

Supreme: BRENT VANE IS THE CAPED CHIROPTER.

Jonny: Oh...

Panel 5: Jonny is holding the bent horseshoe, looking down at it as if all he needed was a little good luck to change their fortunes.

Jonny: I WISH ROSIE HAD THIS.

Panel 6: Supreme grabs Jonny's hand in a firm handshake. He looks Jonny directly in the eyes.

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Supreme: JONNY, I'M GOING NOW.

Supreme: YOUR **ANGER** TOWARDS THE INVENTOR AND PUNCHIN ELLA WILL LEAVE YOU IN A PRISON CELL NEXT TO THEIRS.

Supreme: **I'M SORRY IF THIS HURTS**, BUT THE INVENTOR IS AT PEACE WITH HIS PAST SINS. ELLA, SHE'S SO CRAZY HALF THE TIME SHE PROBABLY THINKS SHE'S IN A PRINCESS CIRCUS.

Supreme: SOMEHOW, **PLEASE** LET IT GO, JONNY.

Panel 7: Supreme flies off in the distance. Jonny is looking up at him from his balcony.

Jonny: **RIGHT...**

Page 14

Panel 1: TV studios: Close up on Female (anchor 1) at the desk.

Anchor 1: JONNY MOLZEN, WHO SPEARHEADED THE END OF SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS, ANNOUNCED TODAY A BANQUET AT THE METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER TO HONOR ALL SUPERHEROES.

Anchor 1: MOLZEN SAID IT WOULD HONOR HEROES FOR THEIR SACRIFICES, CELEBRATE THE NEW ERA TO COME, AND BENEFIT UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Panel 2: Zoom out to include Anchor 2 in the picture

Anchor 1: THE BANQUET IS FREE IF YOU'RE A SUPERHERO, OTHERWISE PLEASE BRING YOUR BANK CARD.

Anchor 2: CAN I GET IN FREE IF I WEAR MY COSTUME FROM LAST HALLOWEEN?

Panel 3: Female anchor's hand is over her mouth.

Anchor 1: <SPPPUUTRR> EXCUSE ME. <HAAhkh> LET'S GO TO DAVE AT THE WEATHER DESK.

Panel 3: Establishing shot of Metropolitan Convention Center. Huge crowd outside.

Panel 4: Inside there are huge banners saying thank you, large pictures of heroes and tables and tables of food with superheroes seated enjoying the meal.

Panel 5: Jonny is at a podium. Presumably, he will soon give a speech. At the moment, he is talking to someone in a control room via wireless mic.

Jonny: I'D SAY 95% OF KNOWN SUPERHEROES SHOWED UP TODAY. YOU HAVE THE EXACT COUNT AND THE CHECKLIST OF WHO'S HERE, DON'T YOU?

Jonny: GOOD. ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION... THE CAPED CHIROPTER IS NOT HERE. IT'S OK, I'LL INVITE HIM TO MY APARTMENT TOMORROW FOR A CIGAR.

Jonny: GET BACK AND WORK ON IT. IT'S TIME FOR MY SPEECH.

Panel 6: The Caped Chiropter is in a darkened lab reviewing computer files.

Panel 7: CC is looking at some refrigerators holding marked DNA samples.

CC: I WAS AFRAID OF THIS. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY DETECTIVE SENSE EARLIER.

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Panel 8: CC is exiting by a window. From this view, it is clear that his investigation was in his own Vane Advanced Genetics Lab.

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Panel 1: Jonny is sitting in a chair with his leg propped up on the coffee table. He is smoking a cigar. The whole room is smoky.

Word Art: RIIINNGGG

Jonny: COME IN, THE DOOR'S OPEN.

Panel 2: Jonny is up shaking the hand of Brent Vane.

Jonny: SORRY ABOUT THE SMOKE, BRENT. IT'S A NEW HOBBY. THANKS FOR COMING, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

Brent: I WAS PLANNING TO PAY YOU A VISIT, ANYWAY.

Panel 3: Jonny is next to his refrigerator. He looks amicable.

Jonny: CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK.

Brent: NO, I WOULD LIKE TO GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS.

Jonny: THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.

Panel 4: Jonny is sitting opposite of Brent. He is leaning forward in a very earnest manner.

Jonny: HERE'S THE DEAL, BRENT. I NEED TO BE UPFRONT AND TELL YOU THAT **I ENGINEERED** THE MASS ESCAPE AT IRON HAVEN!

Jonny: IT WAS WRONG. *I KNOW IT WAS WRONG...* BUT I ALSO KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU KNOW MY INTENTIONS. I VOW TO YOU THAT I ONLY DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS RIGHT. I DID NOTHING WITH ANY MALICE TO ANY **GOOD** PERSON.

Panel 5: Close up on Brent.

Brent: I BELIEVE YOU, JONNY... AND YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I CAN'T LET YOU BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADVANCED GENETIC RESEARCH LAB ANY LONGER.

Brent: BY THE WAY. I **LET THORPE GO** TODAY, AS WELL. THORPE WAS **FREELANCING** IN WAYS THAT I DOUBT YOU EVEN SUSPECTED. I ADVISE YOU NOT TO HAVE ANY MORE CONTACT WITH HIM.

Panel 6: Jonny is on his cell phone. Brent has left. Apartment is dark.

Jonny: HE'S GONE NOW. YOU GOT CANNED TODAY, HUH!

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Jonny: YEAH, I SMOKED LIKE A THIRD WORLD DICTATOR. HE BREATHED PLENTY OF THE LACED CIGAR SMOKE.

Jonny: HOW DID I GET CHIROPTER TO COME TO MY APARTMENT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IN A FEW MONTHS THE CAPED CHIROPTER'S ABILITY TO INSTANANEOUSLY MAKE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS WILL BE GONE. HE'LL BE AS ORDINARY AS THE NEXT MAN. I REGRET IT, BUT IT HAS TO HAPPEN.

Jonny: JUST LIKE ALL THE HEROES THAT INGESTED THEIR UNIQUE RECIPE AT THE BANQUET. **AS LONG AS SUPER POWERS EXIST**, THE WARS WILL ESCALATE. *I HAD TO DO IT!*

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Page 16:

Panel 1: Omnicon, a powerful villain, is striding down a busy downtown street. Cars are veering off or getting thrown out of the way by Omnicon. Police have arrived on the scene, but so far they are not doing anything.

Omnicon: I AM THE LAST SUPER VILLAIN! I CHALLENGE ALL OF THE SUPERHEROES. DEFEAT ME IF YOU CAN!

Panel 2: Zip is the first on the scene. Omnicon stands defiant while Zip repeatedly runs in and hits him from different directions.

Panel 3: Close up of Omnicon's backhand swinging and knocking Zip backwards.

Panel 4: Golden Archer and the Green Guardian arrive on the scene. Archer and Zip are in the foreground talking, Green Guardian is going on the attack in the background.

Zip: I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ARCHER. I'VE BEEN FEELING **SLOWER** LATELY. ON TOP OF THAT, I'M **TIRED** FROM RUNNING. THAT *NEVER HAPPENS* TO ME.

Archer: THAT'S A STRANGE COINCIDENCE. I ACTUALLY MISSED SOMETHING YESTERDAY. SURE, IT WAS 200 METERS AWAY, BUT I USUALLY CAN HIT THOSE BACKWARDS USING A MIRROR *WHILE BLINDFOLDED*.

Panel 5: Category5 and some other heroes appear. They are fighting valiantly, but without much effect. Omnicon has been absorbing the heroes powers and has grown to the size of a three story building.

Green Guardian: WE'RE NOT DOING ANY GOOD. OMNICON'S JUST ABSORBING OUR POWERS. THE MORE ENERGY WE EXPEND, THE BIGGER HE GETS.

Category5: OUR ENERGY BASED POWERS ARE USELESS. WE NEED TO SUBDUE HIM WITH MORE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. THE CHALLENGE IS ENHANCED BY OUR OWN DIMINISHING POWERS.

Green Guardian: YOU'RE RIGHT, CATEGORY5, I NOTICED MY POWERS WEAKENING EVEN BEFORE ENGAGING WITH OMNICON.

Panel 6: CC has arrived. He trips getting out of his car and appears to be a shell of himself.

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Page 17

Full Page: Omnicon in the center of the page, very large. All of the heroes are attacking at once.

Insert panel: Close up on CC.

CC: IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO FOCUS. EVERY TIME I FORMULATE A PLAN, I REALIZE IT WON'T WORK. IF I COULD JUST STAY WITH ONE PLAN LONG ENOUGH...

Page 18

Panel 1: Jonny is on his balcony to see what is going on. He is overlooking the battle between Omnicon and the failing heroes.

Jonny: OMNICON! HOW COULD WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM HIS POWER TO ABSORB THE ENERGY OF OTHERS MAKES HIM ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT!

Insert to Panel 1: Closeup - Jonny looks extremely concerned.

Jonny: IT'S NOT GOING WELL FOR THE HEROES!

Panel 2: CC is directing the team to have an energy assault from one side and conventional battle gear on the other side.

CC: ARCHER, YOU, ZIP, AND I NEED TO GET BEHIND HIM TO WEAKEN HIM. I THINK. NO, YES, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO. EVERYONE ELSE POUR ALL YOUR ENERGY INTO HIM FROM THE FRONT.

Panel 3: MOST THE HEROES ARE BLASTING OMNICON WITH EVERYTHING THEY GOT FROM THE FRONT.

Category5: I AM WEAKENING, GUARDIAN.

Green Guardian: I'M SPENT, BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP POURING IT ON, NO MATTER WHAT.

Panel 4: Close on Jonny, he looks scared, still watching what is going on.

Jonny: THEY'RE SPILLING THEIR GUTS FOR THIS!

Panel 5: CC swings in behind Omnicon and releases an explosives of some type at Omnicon.

Panel 6: Archer comes from the other side shooting multiple explosive arrows at Omnicon. Most hit him, but some miss.

Panel 7: Zip comes in with a blur of images hitting Omnicon in his kidneys.

Panel 8: Zip up close.

Zip: I'M GETTING TIRED, CC!

Panel 9: CC is fumbling with something in his utility pouch.

CC: IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE!

CC: FOUND THEM!

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Panel 1: Omnicon reaches back and grabs Zip

Omnicon: YOU'RE BUGGING ME, LITTLE BUG

Panel 2: Zip is hurled away like a rag doll.

Panel 3: Close up on Green Guardian. He is horrified.

Green Guardian: NOOOO, ZIP!!!

Panel 4: Jonny sees from above and also registers horror and pain.

Panel 5: CC has finally found what he is looking for . He looks at his hand in satisfaction.

CC: THE HERO THERAPIES FOR EVERYONE FIGHTING OMNICON, TODAY. HE HAS ABOROBED THEIR ENERGY AND POWER.

Panel 6: CC fires the hypodermic darts at Omnicon's exposed back.

Panel 7: Omnicon shrinks and collapses. CC stands over him and looks pleased. He is oblivious that all the other heroes have gathered in the background where Zip was tossed.

Panel 8: CC has found the others and kneels next to Zip.

CC: ZIP, I'M SORRY. IT JUST TOOK ME TOO LONG TO FIND THE CORRECT GENE THERAPIES. I JUST.. I JUST WASN'T DECISIVE.

Page 20

Panel 1: Man in the shadows is bitterly complaining to Chief Scientist Thorpe.

Man: IT'S MY FAULT ZIP IS DEAD. I TOOK THEIR POWERS AWAY. NOT FAST... BUT SLOWLY... SO THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD MAKE IT THROUGH ONE MORE BATTLE. DO YOU UNDERSTANT THAT, DOCTOR!

Panel 2: Thorpe is in the foreground. The mystery man is in plain view, now. It is Jonny.

Thorpe: JONNY, WE KNEW THERE WERE RISKS, BUT IT IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

Panel 3: Close up on Thorpe's hand. He has a vial in his hands.

Thorpe: OMNICON IS NOW POWERLESS. HE IS THE LAST KNOWN VILLAIN. THE SUPER HEROES ARE POWERLESS. NOW, WE'RE READY TO REBUILD ENHANCED PEOPLE ACCORDING TO A PLAN, A CAREFUL STRATEGY.

Panel 4: Close up on Jonny. A shocked look is on his face.

Jonny: WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, THORPE! YOU'RE CRAZY. WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH ALL THIS TO CREATE NEW SUPER POWERED PEOPLE!

Panel 5: Close up on the vial between Thorpe's thumb and forefinger.

Thorpe: I DID. THIS IS THE FIRST VIABLE TREATMENT TO ENHANCE ORDINARY PEOPLE. INSTEAD OF A PROCESS THAT TAKES MONTHS. THIS WILL WORK IN SECONDS. I JUST NEED A TEST SUBJECT.

Panel 6: Jonny grabs the vial from Thorpe and sticks it in his pocket. Jonny knocks down Thorpe in the process.

Jonny: I'M TAKING THIS AND GOING TO VANE! I'LL EXPOSE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING!

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PAGE 21

Panel 1: Jonny is walking head down through the dark fuming about how disastrous everything has turned out.

Jonny: ZIP'S DEAD BECAUSE OF ME. IF THE WORLD FACES A CRISIS, THERE WON'T BE ANY HEROES.

Panel 2: Three burly and seedy looking guys have cornered a girl and are moving her to an alley. Jonny is lost in his own world and doesn't notice.

Girl: <whimper> HELP SOMEONE!

Panel 3: Jonny finally notices the girl's plight. Without hesitation he runs toward the three thugs.

Panel 4: Jonny jumps on the bunch of them.

Jonny: LET HER GO!

Panel 5: The thugs gain the advantage and beat Jonny down, nearly senseless.

Panel 6: Jonny is on the ground, from his view he can see the three men are taking the girl into the alley. She is whimpering.

Girl: NO... NO...

Panel 7: Close up of Jonny's hand with the vial in it.

Panel 8: Jonny swallows it down. He begins a transformation becoming large and grotesque. His eyes are wild. He is intent on the last thing that his rational mind was focused on.

Panel 9: Jonny attacks the men, bashing them like paper mache pinatas.

Panel 10: The girl is horrified and runs off.

Panel 11: Jonny clutches his chest and collapses.

Page 22

Full Page: Brent and Golden Archer without his mask are standing in the middle of a cemetery. The gravestones of Jonny Molzen and Rosie Raner are next to each other. Zip's gravestone is nearby as well. Some of the other heroes without their costumes are in other parts of cemetery.

Brent: CEMETERIES HAVE NOT BEEN A PLACE OF PEACE FOR ME IN THE PAST.

Archer: AND NOW...?

Brent: NOW, IT'S TIME TO BURY THE CAPED CHIROPTER AND FIND PEACE.

Archer: IS THERE A RETIREMENT HOME FOR SUPER HEROES IN THEIR 30'S. MAYBE I COULD COACH ARCHERY PART-TIME.

Brent: VANE ENTERPRISES IS ALWAYS HIRING.

Archer: I'VE STILL GOT A FEW ARROWS IN THE QUIVER I WANT TO EXPLORE. DO YOU PLAN TO GET MARRIED, HAVE KIDS... ALL OF THAT.

Brent: YEAH... NOW THAT I CAN... YEAH, I DO.

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Panel 1: Establishing shot of a laboratory. All is dark and silhouettes except a video screen.

Man: YES... YES!

Panel 2: Close up on the TV screen, it is footage taken of Jonny taking the vial.

Man: PERFECT... ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!

Panel 3: Chief Scientist Thorpe is revealed to be back in business. He is holding a slide for his microscope.

Thorpe: THIS TISSUE SAMPLE FROM JONNY IS THE KEY TO REPLICATING AND REFINING MY RESEARCH. WITH THE LIMITED BUDGET AND RESOURCES I HAVE...

Thorpe: IT WON'T BE TODAY, IT WON'T BE TOMORROW, BUT IN MAYBE TWENTY YEARS I WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AN ARMY OF SUPERMEN THAT WILL HEED MY EVERY COMMAND!

END OF PART II

PART III – BAD GENE RISING