

MARVEL
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WULF



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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1




HAVE YOU EVER
MET SOMEONE...

...AND TAKEN
AN INSTANT
DISLIKE TO
THEM?

THERE ARE OTHERS, THOUGH,
WHO CONSIDER THAT THEORY
MERE FANTASY. ALL THAT
MATTERS IS THE HERE AND
NOW.

REALITY.



THERE ARE SOME WHO
BELIEVE THAT WE MOVE
IN KARMIC CIRCLES
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES,
ENCOUNTERING THE SAME
SOULS REPEATEDLY.

THAT WHEN WE REACT
NEGATIVELY TO SOMEONE...
WE ARE RECALLING ANIMUS
LEFT FROM A PREVIOUS
LIFE.

AND THEN THERE ARE
THOSE TIMES WHEN
FANTASY AND REALITY
OVERLAP. THOSE TIMES
ARE CALLED...

...STORIES.

Reality Check

NONE IN THE TRIBE
KNOW FROM WHERE
THE NEWCOMER HAS
ORIGINATED. HE IS
SIMPLY... THERE.

AND YET HIS ARRIVAL,
ODDLY, IS NOT SUR-
PRISING. IT HAS A
CERTAIN AURA OF...

...INEVITABILITY.

AS IF THE TRIBE KNEW THIS
DAY WOULD COME, AS IF THE
TRIBE'S VERY EXISTENCE--
MOST PARTICULARLY, THE
REIGN OF ITS LEADER--
DEMANDED THIS MOMENT.

ON A DAY SO HOT THAT THE
VERY AIR SCORCHES THE
LUNGS, THE BEHEMOTHS
STUDY ONE ANOTHER FOR AN
INSTANT, AND THEN, WITH NO
WORDS... BECAUSE NO WORDS
EXIST...





...THEY
CHARGE.

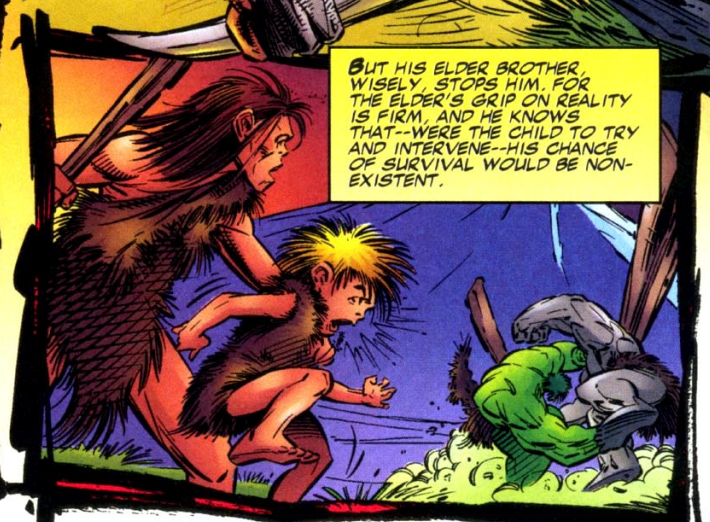
RAAARRRRHHH!

UNHHH!



THE CHILD SEEKS TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBE'S MASTER.

BUT HIS ELDER BROTHER, WISELY, STOPS HIM. FOR THE ELDER'S GRIP ON REALITY IS FIRM, AND HE KNOWS THAT--WERE THE CHILD TO TRY AND INTERVENE--HIS CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WOULD BE NON-EXISTENT.





TWO CREATURES, WITH NO
NAMES THAT ANY WOULD
COMPREHEND.

FIGHTING A BATTLE
OF SUCH LENGTH,
VIOLENCE AND
FEROCITY...

...THAT IT WILL
IMPRINT IN THE
RACIAL MEMORY OF
HUMANITY.

IT WILL INSPIRE
COUNTLESS
VARIATIONS IN
MYTH AND
LEGEND.

AND CAUSE MANY AN
UNEASY NIGHT FOR
PEOPLE WHO WILL
AWAKE WITH NO CLEAR
RECOLLECTION OF
WHAT THEY'VE
"REMEMBERED."

THEY CAN ONLY PULL
THEIR COVERS TIGHTLY
AROUND THEMSELVES...
AND TRY TO FALL BACK
TO SLEEP.

AND FAIL.



THE CHILD REALIZES
A MOMENT BEFORE THE
OTHERS, WHAT IS ABOUT
TO HAPPEN. FEELS THE
BUILDING HEAT, SENSES
THE LOINS OF THE EARTH
WRITHING, ABOUT TO
RELEASE...



...AND...
INSANELY...



...SMILES.

AS IF HE
CONSIDERS IT
SOMEHOW...



...FITTING.



PITTSDALE UNIVERSITY...



THIS IS IT!
WE LOVE PITT!



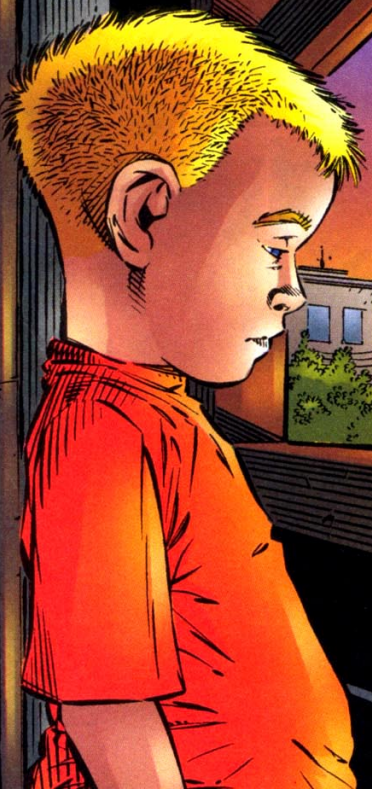
'CAUSE PITT DON'T EVER TAKE NO

PRISONERS!

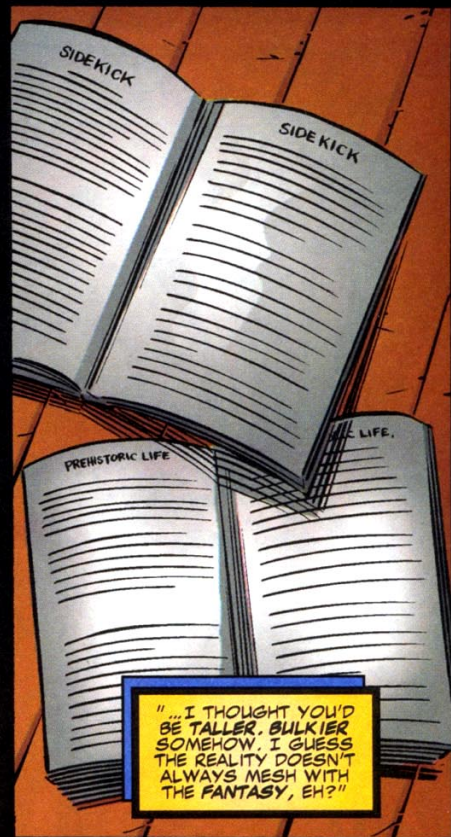


"WHAT AN EXCITING LIFE YOU LEAD, MR. JONES!"

"IT'S FUNNY...AND PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS WRONG..."



"BUT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU... AND ALL THE TIMES I'VE SEEN YOUR TALK SHOW, WELL, FOR SOME REASON..."



"...I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TALLER, BULKIER SOMEHOW, I GUESS THE REALITY DOESN'T ALWAYS MESH WITH THE FANTASY, EH?"



"SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. IT'S HOMECOMING. ANYWAY ..."

"...LITTLE TIMMY HAS READ YOUR BOOK SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HE'S ARRIVED. SINCE YOU WERE IN THE AREA ON A PROMOTIONAL TOUR, WE THOUGHT YOU COULD GIVE US A TEENSY HELP."

ONE OF OUR CASEWORKERS, DARLA MILLER, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH HIM. I THINK TIMMY HAS A CRUSH ON HER.

BUT HE'S STILL RATHER TIGHT-LIPPED.

AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE COMES FROM, MRS. RIGGS?

NONE. HE JUST...SHOWED UP IN A PLAYGROUND ONE DAY WITH SOME WILD STORY. POLICE BROUGHT HIM HERE TO THE ORPHANAGE.

THE "WILD STORY" BEING...?

THAT HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY AN ODDLY COLORED MONSTER NAMED "PITT."

I SURMISE HE GOT THE NAME FROM A LOCAL SIGN.

IN ANY EVENT, I THOUGHT YOU AND HE MIGHT HAVE COMMON GROUNDS.

SO WHERE IS HE?

UPSTAIRS BUT...BEFORE YOU GO, WELL...

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULDN'T MIND...?

AUTOGRAPHING A COPY OF SIDE-KICK? HAPPY TO.

I HOPE THIS DOESN'T COME ACROSS AS GLUSHING, BUT...WELL...

YOU'RE ONE OF THE MORE EXCITING THINGS TO HIT PITTSDALE.



UNREALITY TWISTS AND
TURNS AROUND HIM,
FOLDING BACK UPON
ITSELF.

AND SEARED INTO HIS MIND IS
THE RECOLLECTION OF AN ANGRY
CHILD...A CHILD APPARENTLY
CAPABLE OF BENDING REALITY
TO HIS VERY WHIM. A CHILD WHO
SCREECHES...

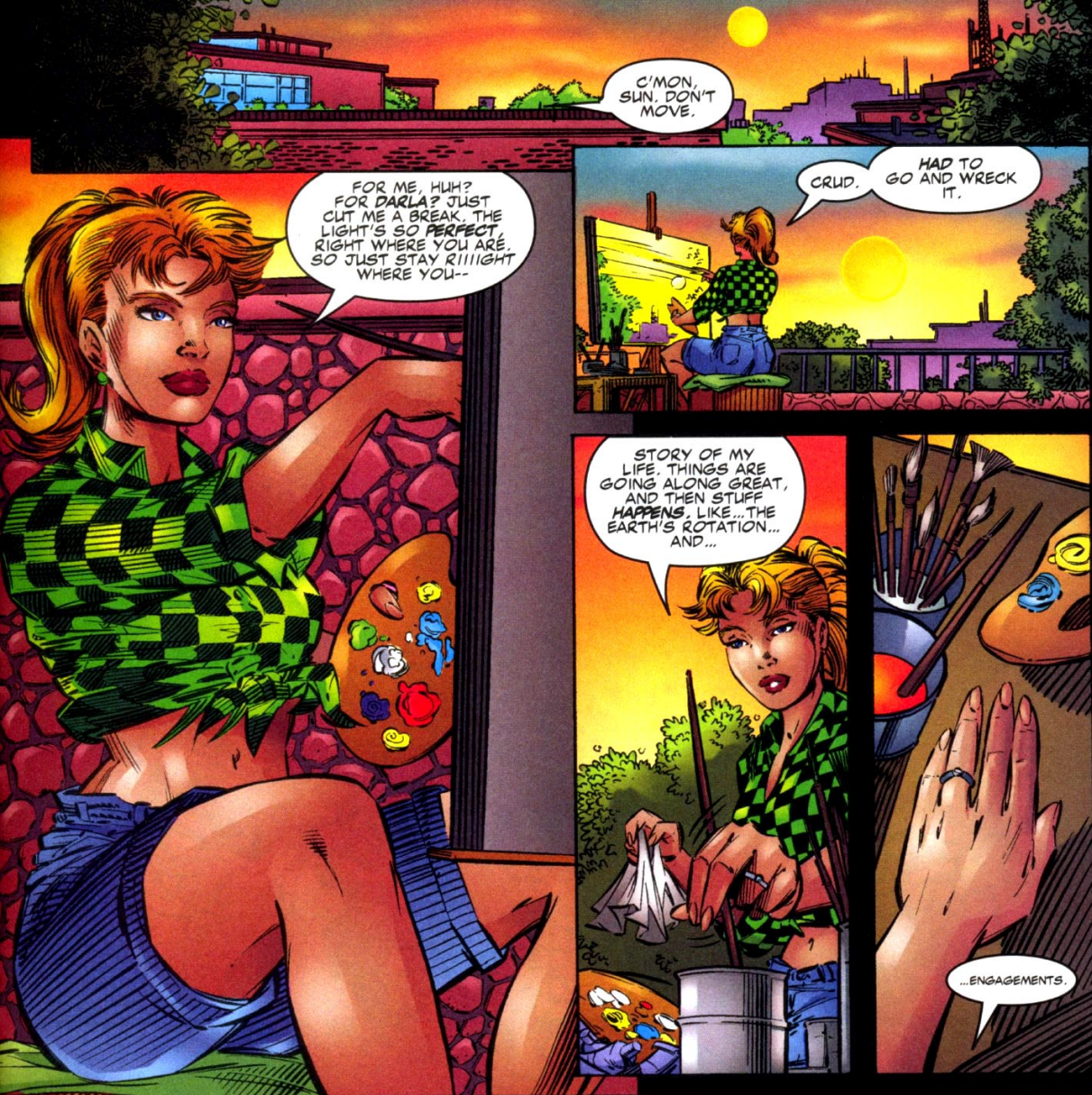
I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE WERE
EVER FRIENDS! I
DON'T WANT YOU
IN MY LIFE!

I WANT
SOMETHING
REAL!
NORMAL!

I WANT
A MOM! AND
MOST OF
ALL...

...I WANT
TO BE AS FAR
AWAY FROM
YOU AS I
CAN!

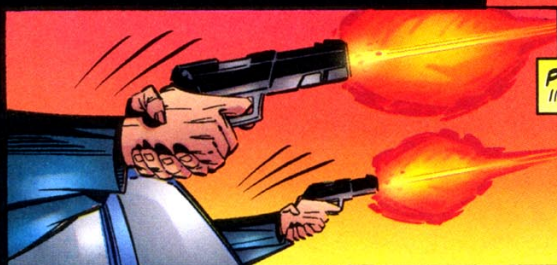
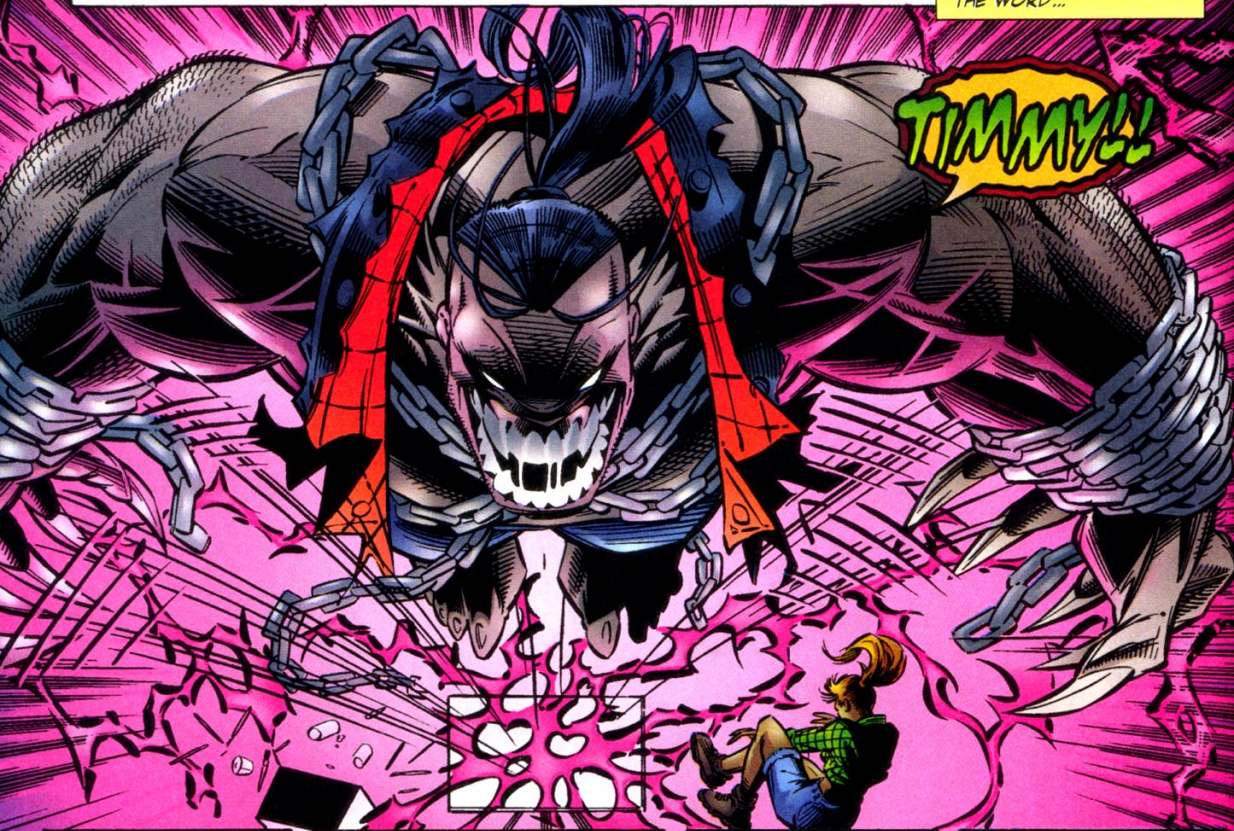
CAN!



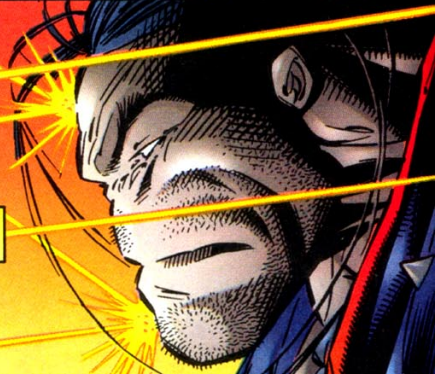


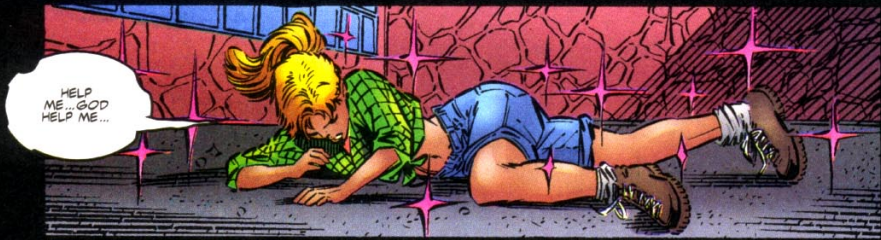
FOR A BRIEF SECOND...
ALL THAT IT TAKES...
OTHERWORLDLY ENERGY
SURGES AROUND DARLA...

...AND THEN A WORD
IS RIPPED FROM PITT,
EVEN AS HE IS RIPPED
FROM BETWEEN WORLDS.
THE WORD...

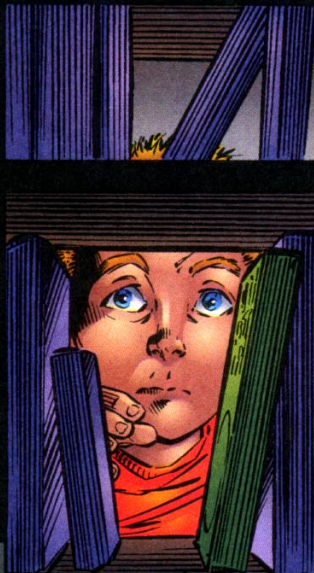


THE OUTCOME
IS THE SAME.





HELP
ME...GOD
HELP ME...



HI, YOU
TIMMY?



I'M
RICK. RICK
JONES.

FOLKS HERE
THOUGHT YOU
COULD USE
SOMEONE TO
TALK TO.

NO
THANKS.
MY MOM'S
COMING
FOR ME.

WELL...UNTIL
SHE DOES...
HOWZABOUT YOU
TELL ME ABOUT
THIS MONSTER
THAT'S BEEN
CHASING YOU.



SURE, LIKE
YOU'LL BELIEVE
ME--

KIDDO, YOU'D
BE AMAZED WHAT
I'D BELIEVE.



THE HULK'S THOUGHTS
ARE USUALLY QUITE
ORDERLY.



BUT THE SIGHT OF
RICK JONES IS
ENOUGH TO BRING
ROARING BACK THE
SORT OF TURMOIL
HE'D HOPED HE'D LEFT
BEHIND.

HE HAD NOT SOUGHT RICK JONES. HE HAD JUST HAPPENED TO BE OUTSIDE THE TV STATION WHEN JONES EMERGED TO A THRONG OF ADMIRING FANS.

THEN AGAIN, IF RICK HADN'T "JUST HAPPENED" TO BE OUT ON THAT MILITARY TESTING RANGE YEARS AGO...

...THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO HULK.

THE RELATIVE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES OF THAT HAPPENANCE ELUDE HIM AT THE MOMENT.

BUT EVEN AS HE REFLECTS ON IT, HE TRIES TO DISMISS IT.

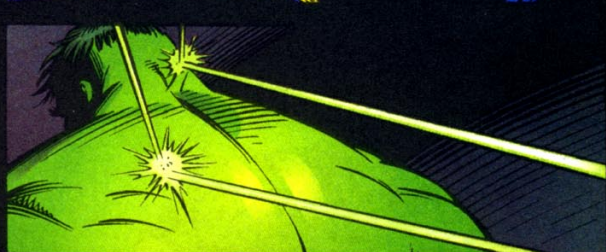
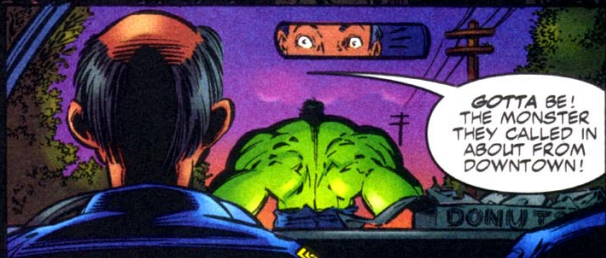
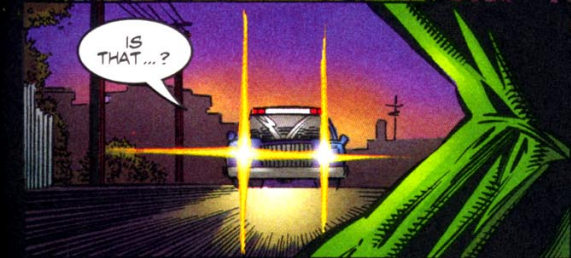
WHAT GOOD IS COMPANIONSHIP OF ANY KIND, HE WONDERS, RICK, OR EVEN BETTY. WHAT GOOD DID SHE EVER...

HE IS THINKING ONLY OF...A FRIEND.

OH, RIGHT.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU?!

REMEMBERING.





STOP!
I'M...

I'M
WARNING
YOU!



'PRECATE
IT.



BETTER
STAY THERE.



YOU LOOK
TIRED.

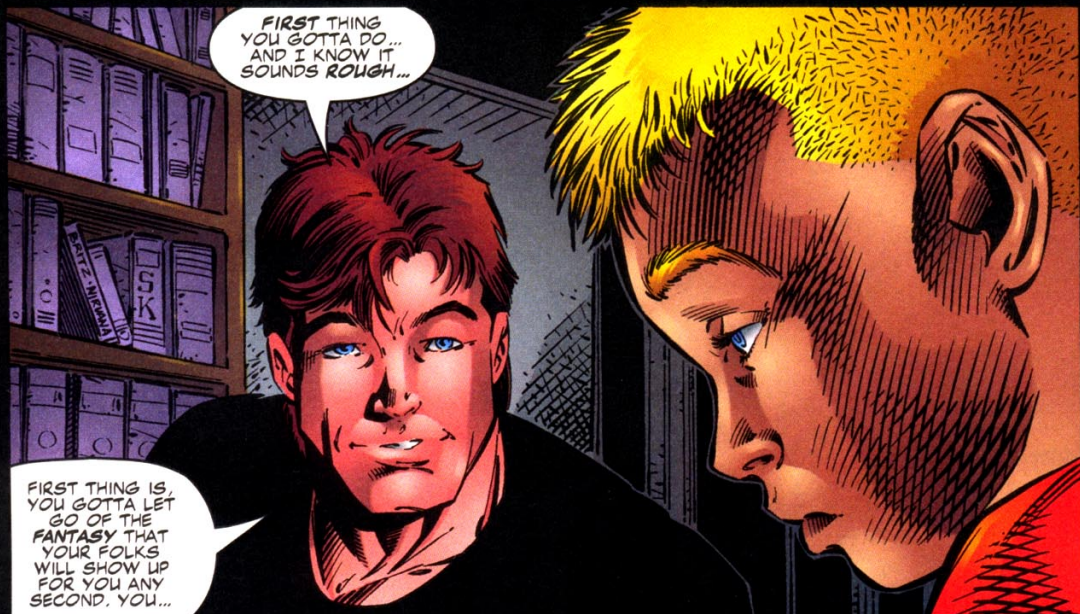




I HAD A MOM...
AND A BROTHER...
NEVER GOT ALONG
WITH HIM, THOUGH...
HE WASN'T ANYTHING
LIKE YOU, RICK.

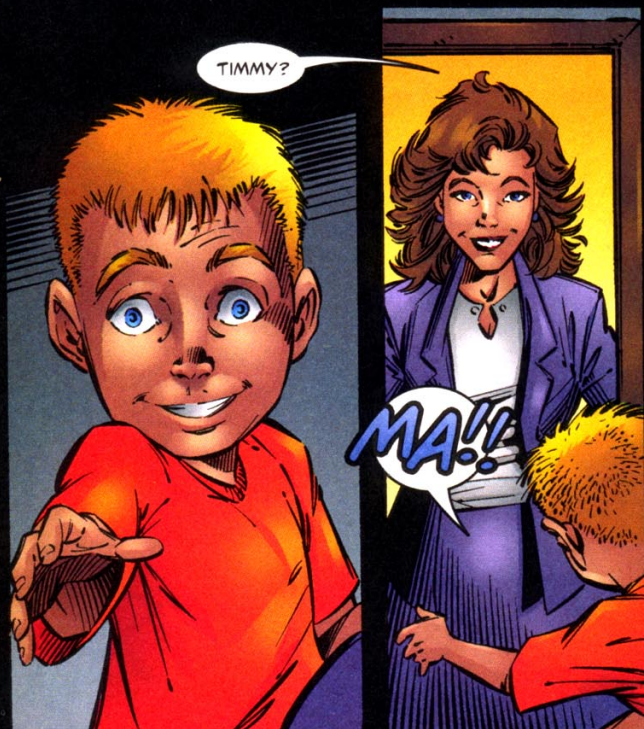


I KNOW BEING
AN ORPHAN'S TOUGH,
BUT YOU CAN DEAL
WITH IT.



FIRST THING
YOU GOTTA DO...
AND I KNOW IT
SOUNDS ROUGH...

FIRST THING IS,
YOU GOTTA LET
GO OF THE
FANTASY THAT
YOUR FOLKS
WILL SHOW UP
FOR YOU ANY
SECOND. YOU...

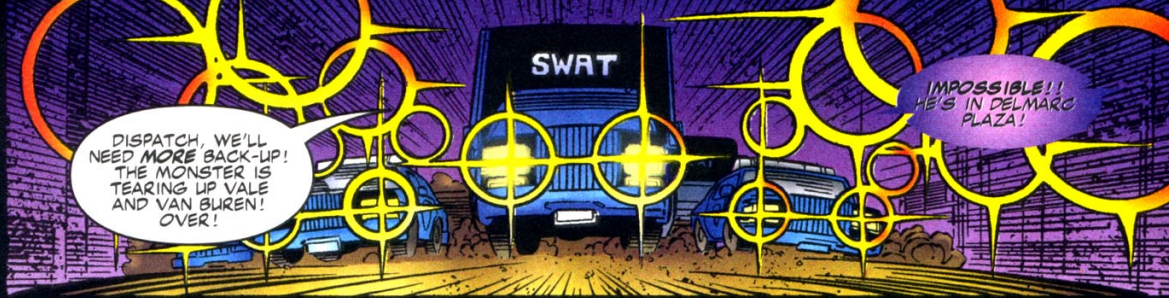


TIMMY?

MA!!!



I KNEW
YOU'D COME
BACK!



DISPATCH, WE'LL
NEED MORE BACK-UP!
THE MONSTER IS
TEARING UP VALE
AND VAN BUREN!
OVER!

IMPOSSIBLE!!
HE'S IN DELMARC
PLAZA!



I DON'T
THINK I COPIED
THAT, DISPATCH!

DELMARC
PLAZA IS ACROSS
TOWN! HE CAN'T
BE THERE!



TIMMY IS
NORTH OF HERE.
I CAN SENSE
HIM.

THE
CONNECTION IN
THIS WORLD IS
EVEN STRONGER.



WHATEVER
THIS WORLD
IS.



NO
MATTER.



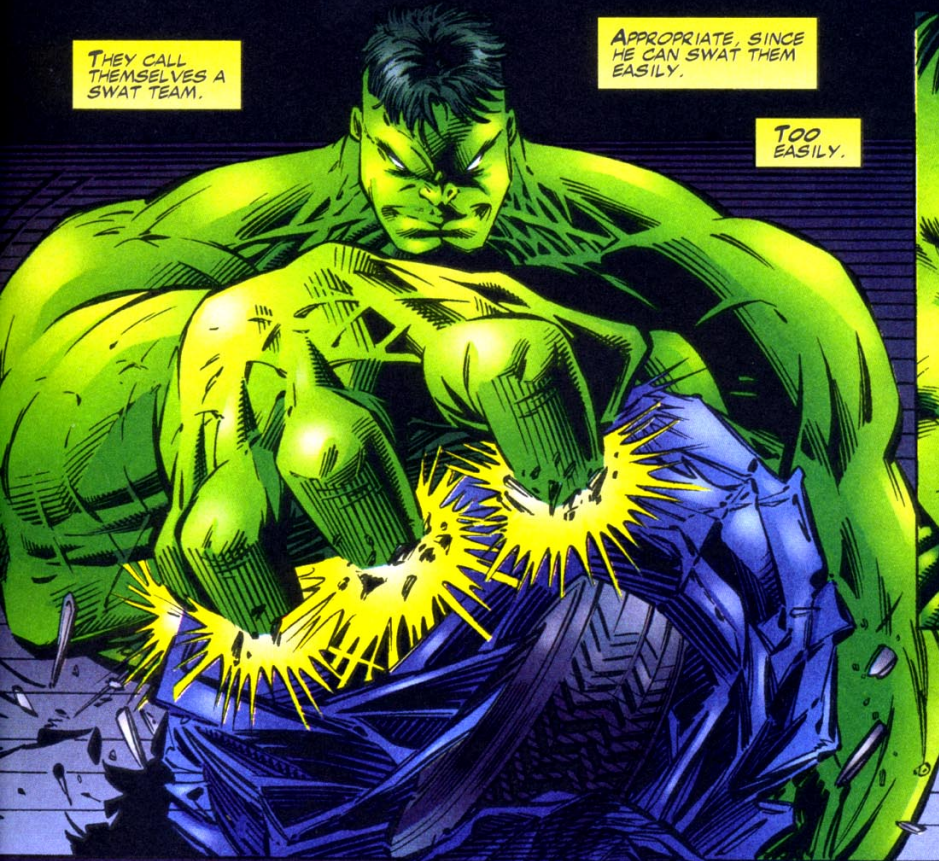
ONLY TIMMY
MATTERS.



ONLY
TIMMY.



HE WATCHES
THEM SWARM,
LIKE GNATS.



THEY CALL
THEMSELVES A
SWAT TEAM.

APPROPRIATE, SINCE
HE CAN SWAT THEM
EASILY.

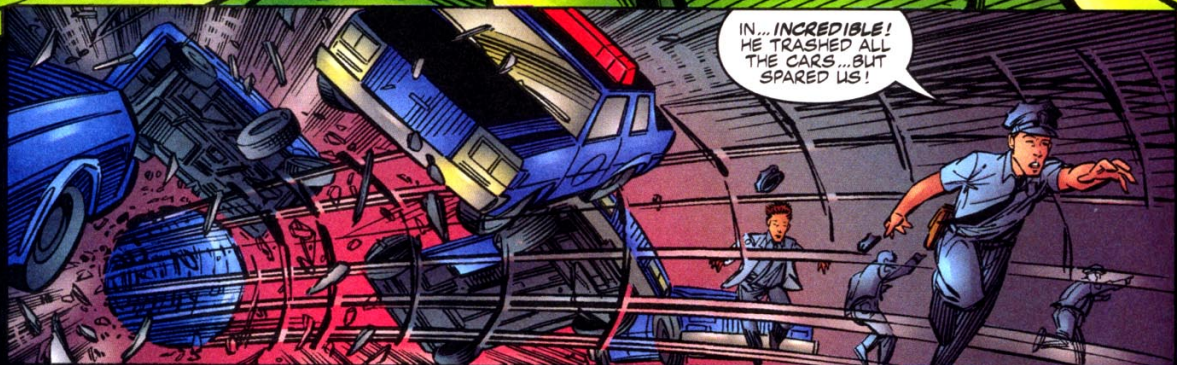
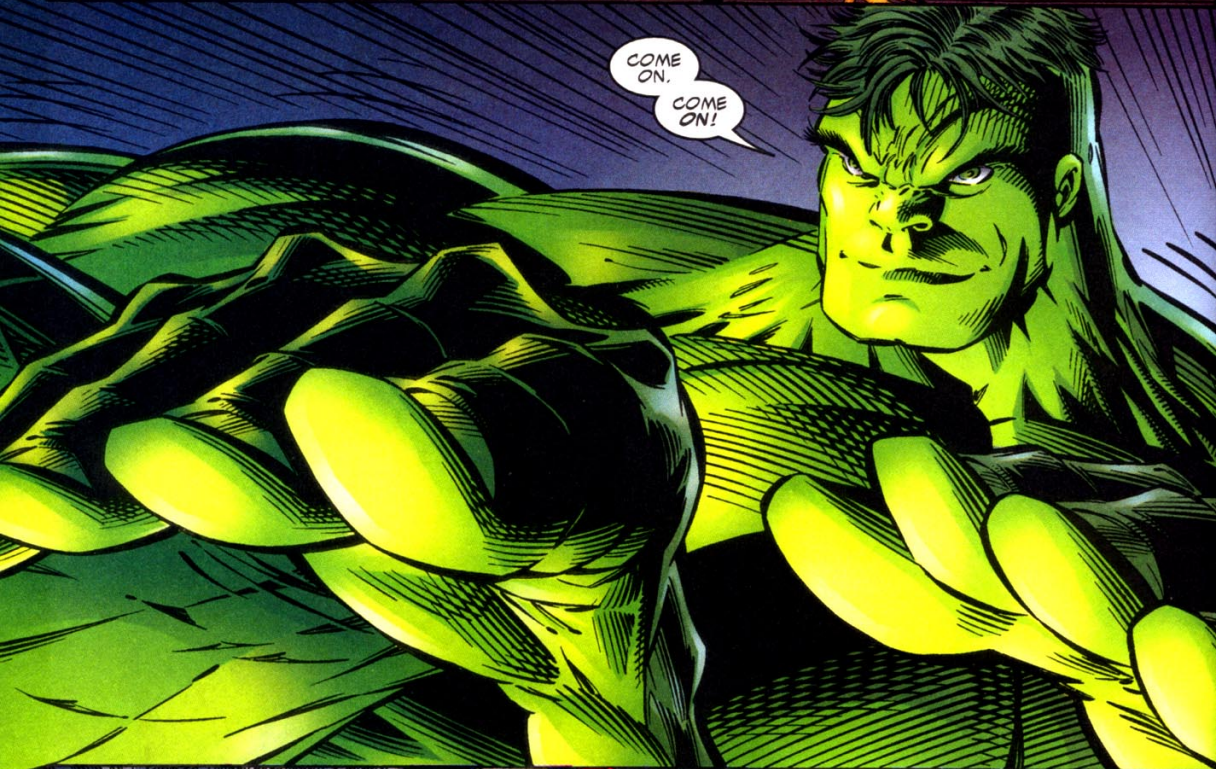
TOO
EASILY.



SOMETHING WITHIN
HIM--BOREDOM, ANGER,
SADISM--WHO CAN
SAY...?

WHATEVER IT IS,
IT REQUIRES...
AMUSEMENT.







WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE!? I HEAR A TON OF SIRENS...



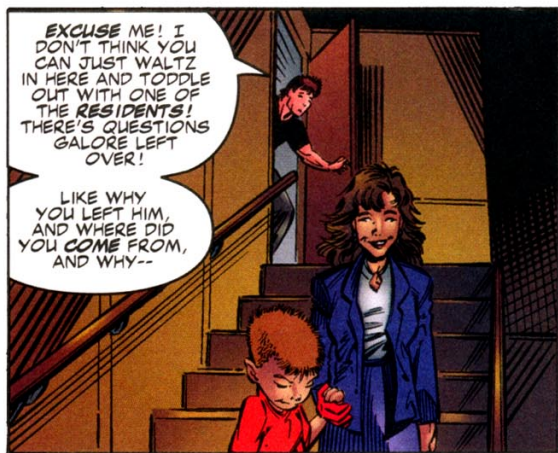
...BUT THERE'S NO FIRE OR ANYTHING.

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OR SOUND OF ANY OF THAT.

TIMMY, MAYBE YOU AND YOUR MOM SHOULD STAY PUT UNTIL...



HUH?



EXCUSE ME! I DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND TODDLER OUT WITH ONE OF THE RESIDENTS! THERE'S QUESTIONS GALORE LEFT OVER!

LIKE WHY YOU LEFT HIM, AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, AND WHY--



SHE'S MY MOM, RICK.



THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.



THAT'S...

...GOOD TO HEAR.



JONES.

THE HULK REALIZES THAT THIS UNKNOWN "MONSTER" HAS PROBABLY, FOR SOME REASON, ZEROED IN ON RICK JONES.



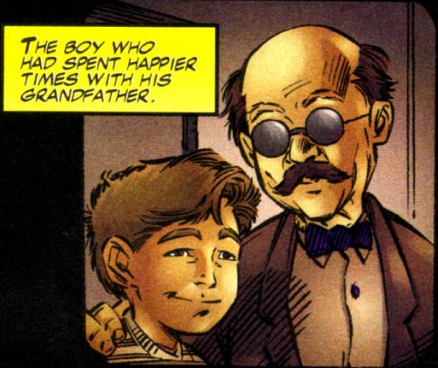


THERE...
NOW STAY
OUT...
...OF MY
WAY...

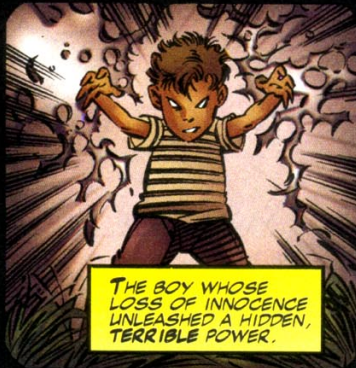
NEED
TO...FIND
HIM...



HE CAN FEEL THE BOY'S
PRESENCE AS CLEARLY
HE CAN FEEL HIS OWN
HEART BEATING.



THE BOY WHO
HAD SPENT HAPPIER
TIMES WITH HIS
GRANDFATHER.



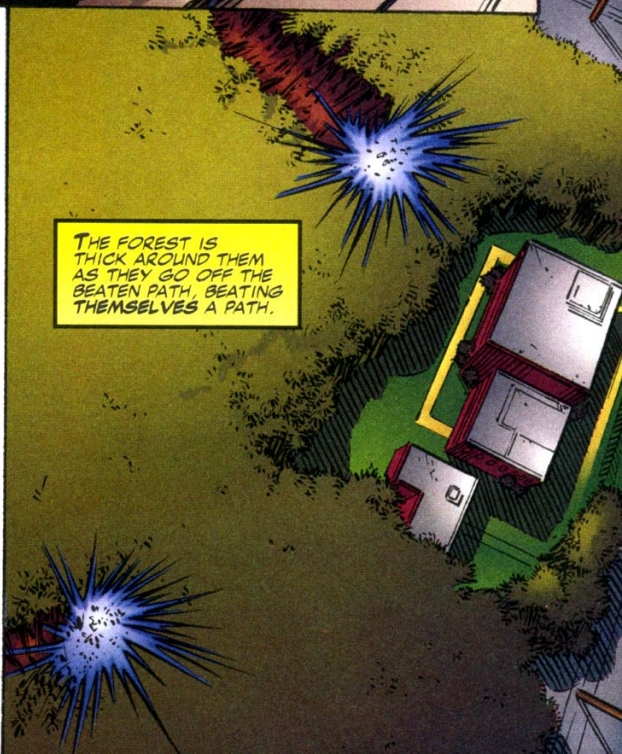
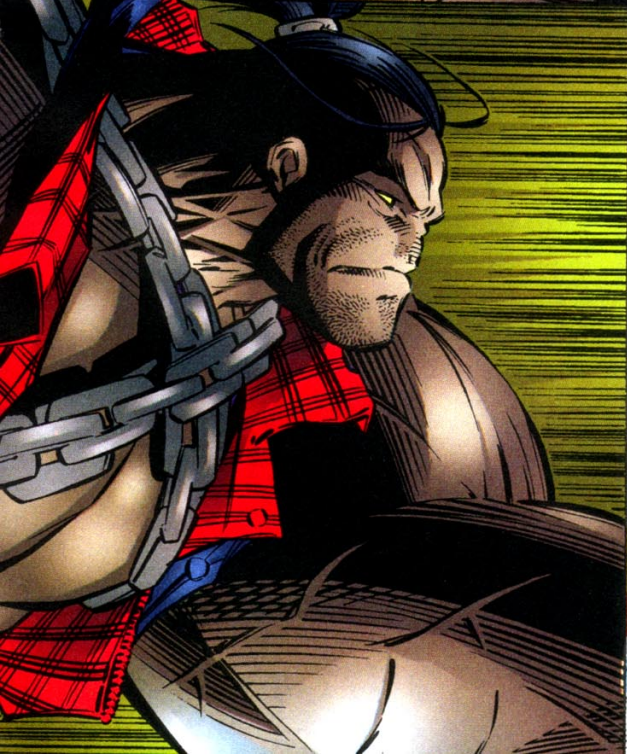
THE BOY WHOSE
LOSS OF INNOCENCE
UNLEASHED A HIDDEN,
TERRIBLE POWER.



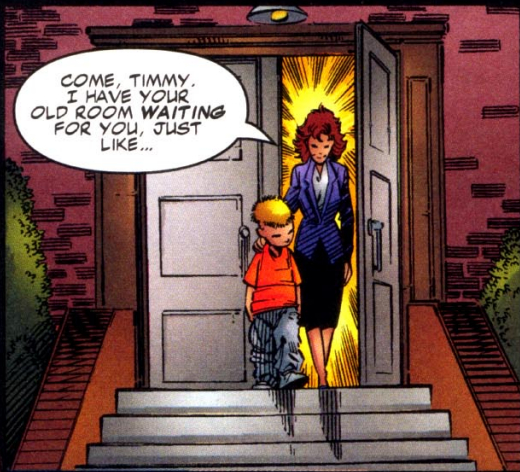
THE BOY TO WHOM
PITT IS FOREVER
BOUND. THE BOY...



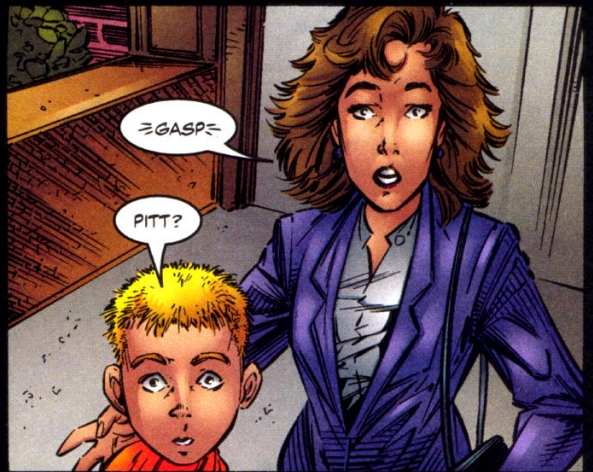
TIMMY...



THE FOREST IS
THICK AROUND THEM
AS THEY GO OFF THE
BEATEN PATH, BEATING
THEMSELVES A PATH.

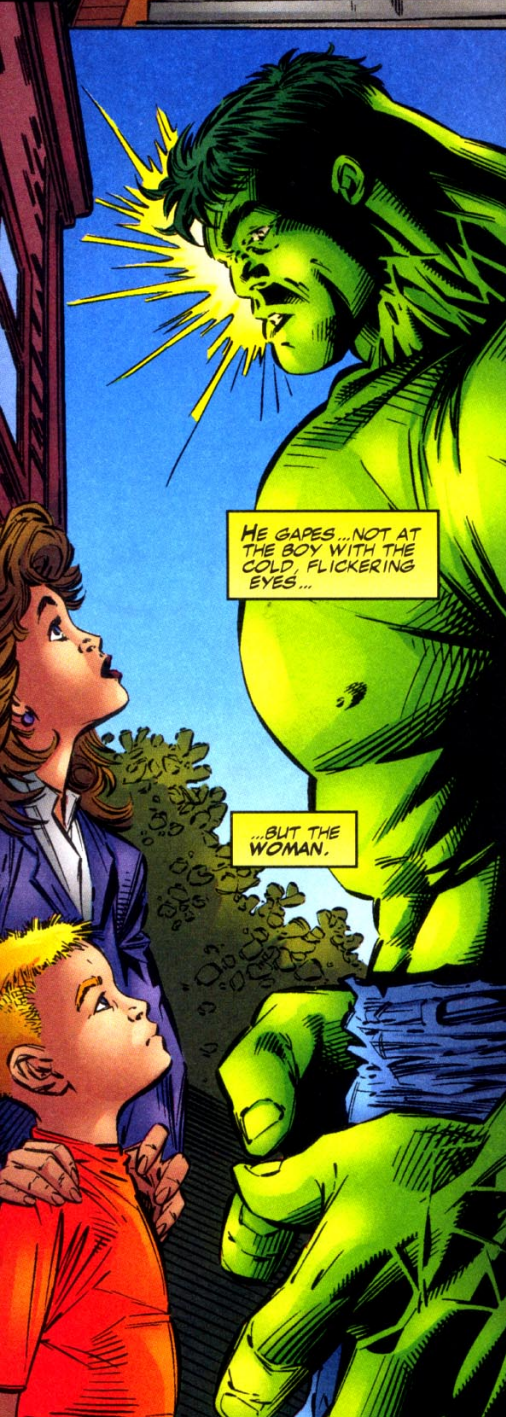


COME, TIMMY.
I HAVE YOUR
OLD ROOM WAITING
FOR YOU, JUST
LIKE...



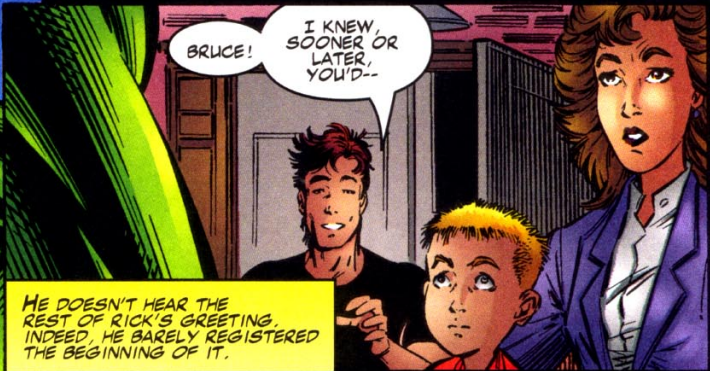
=GASP=

PITT?



HE GAPES...NOT AT
THE BOY WITH THE
COLD, FLICKERING
EYES...

...BUT THE
WOMAN.



BRUCE!

I KNEW
SOONER OR
LATER,
YOU'D--

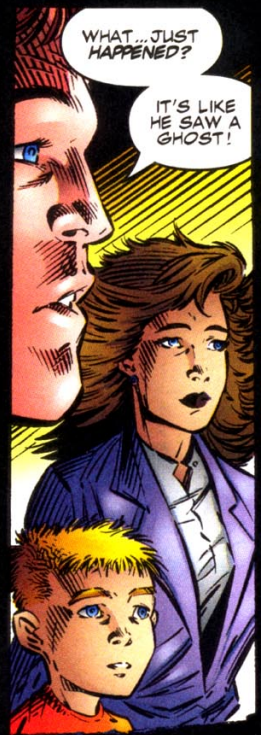
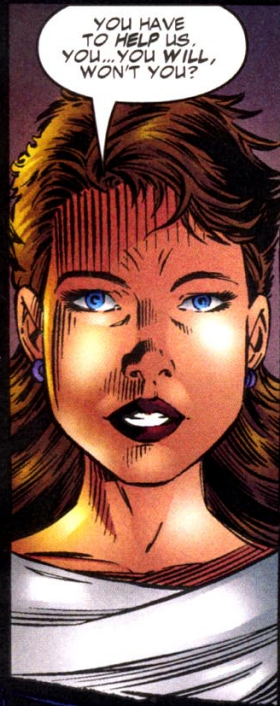
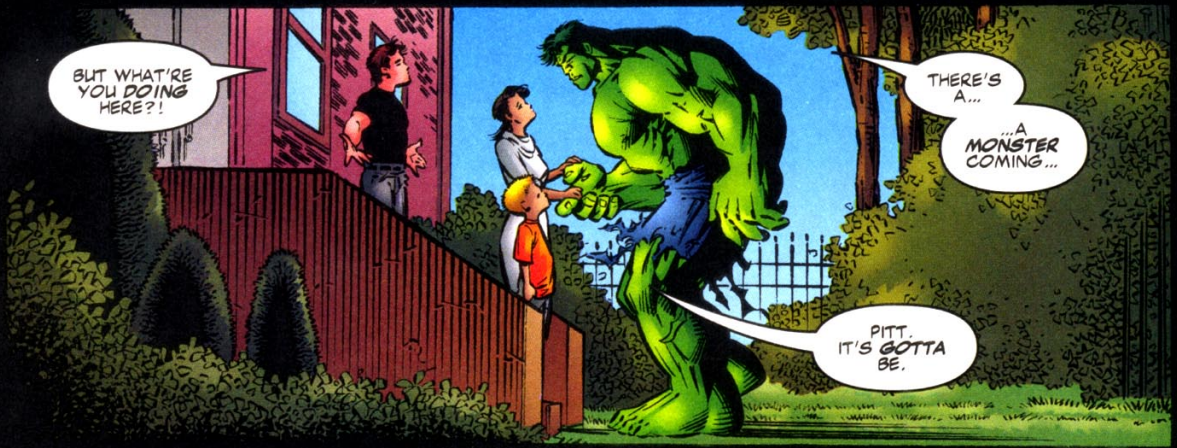
HE DOESN'T HEAR THE
REST OF RICK'S GREETING.
INDEED, HE BARELY REGISTERED
THE BEGINNING OF IT.



INSTEAD HE CANNOT
TEAR HIS EYES AWAY
FROM THIS WOMAN...

...THE WOMAN
WHO LOOKS SO
MUCH LIKE...

...LIKE HER.





...AND TAKEN AN
INSTANT DISLIKE
TO THEM?

THERE ARE SOME WHO
BELIEVE THAT WE MOVE
IN KARMIC CIRCLES
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES
ENCOUNTERING THE SAME
SOULS REPEATEDLY.

THAT WHEN WE REACT
NEGATIVELY TO SOMEONE...
WE ARE RECALLING ANIMUS
LEFT FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE.

THERE ARE OTHERS,
THOUGH, WHO CONSIDER
THAT THEORY MERE FANTASY.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE
HERE AND NOW.

REALITY.

AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE
TIMES WHEN FANTASY AND
REALITY OVERLAP. THOSE
TIMES ARE CALLED...

...CONFLICT.

GO AWAY...
OR I'LL HURT
YOU.

TRY.





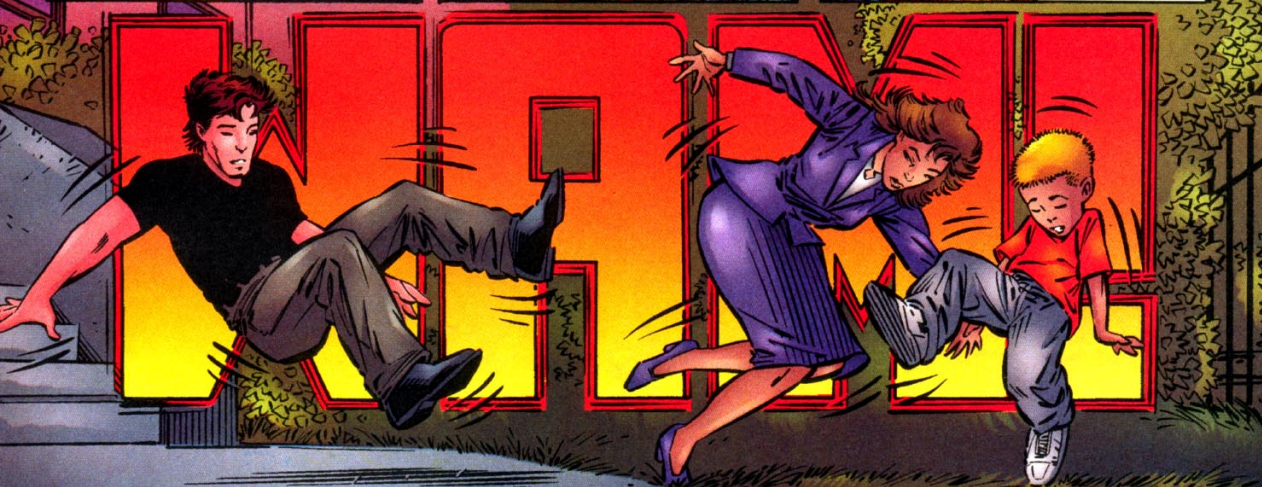
I LOVE YOU, TIMMY. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU, AND FROM NOW ON--



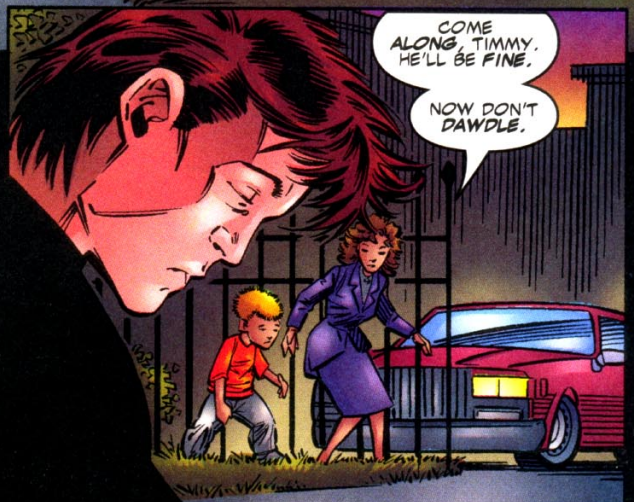
HOLD IT, LADY. THIS IS TOO WEIRD. YOU COME OUTTA NOWHERE...

...THIS "PITT" THING SHOWS UP, LIKEWISE OUTTA NOWHERE...

...THERE'S SOMETHING WAY BIZARRE GOING ON AROUND HE--



UNFFFF!!!



COME ALONG, TIMMY. HE'LL BE FINE.

NOW DON'T DAWDLE.

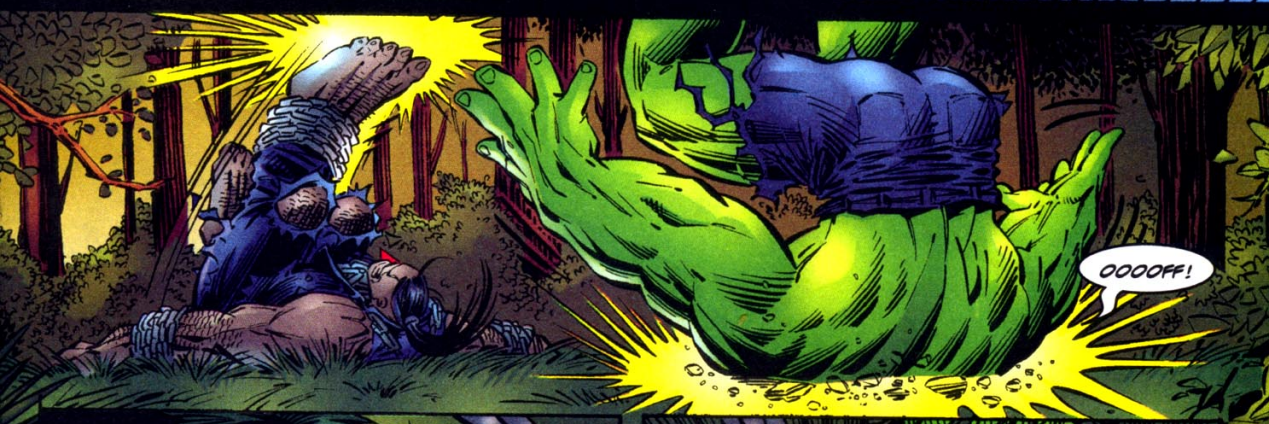




OF MY
"SOUL" ...

OF MY
"BONDS" ... OF
THE WOMAN
I LOVE ...

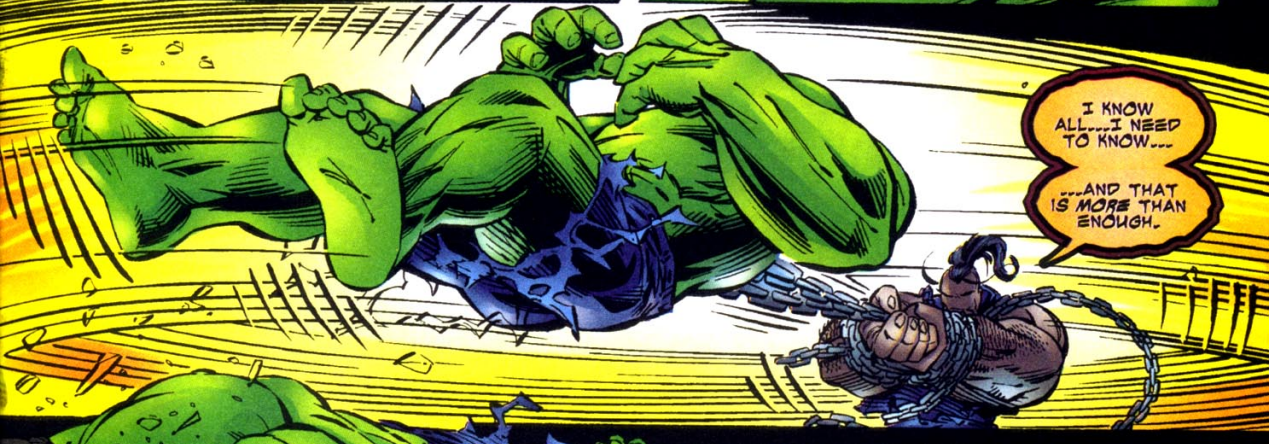
... YOU KNOW ...
NOTHING.



OOOOFF!



URKHH!



I KNOW
ALL... I NEED
TO KNOW...

... AND THAT
IS MORE THAN
ENOUGH.



AWWW...MAN...
I WISH THEY'D
MAKE SOFTER
BUILDINGS...



OH.
HI.



TIMMY!



HOLD
IT, MONSTRO!
LEAVE THAT
KID ALONE!

RAWWRRRR!



RAWWWWRRR!

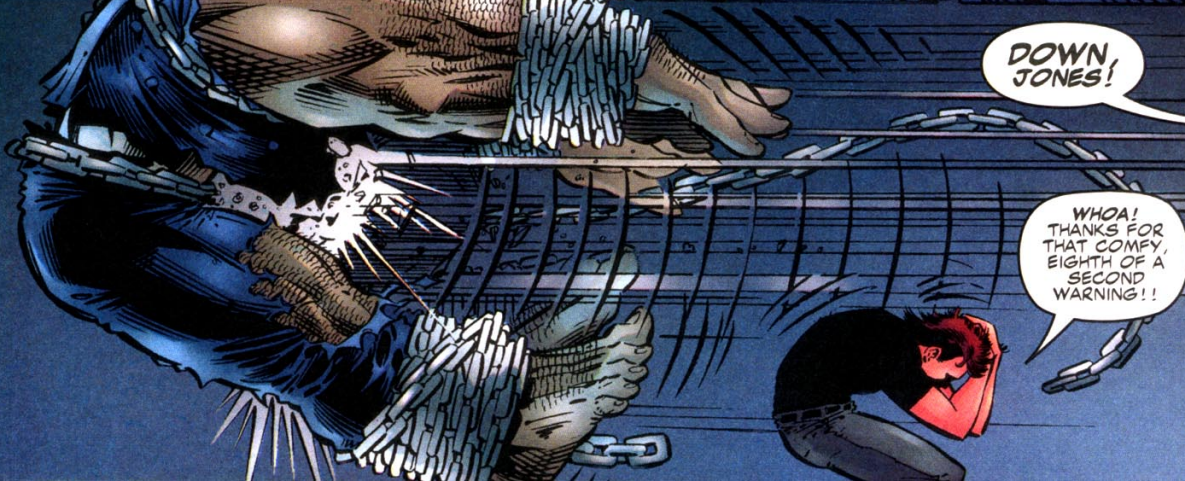


HEH



**DOWN
JONES!**

WHOA!
THANKS FOR
THAT COMEY,
EIGHTH OF A
SECOND
WARNING!!





WHO...
ARE YOU...?

NO...
NEVER
MIND...

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER,
DOES IT.

NO.

ALL THAT
MATTERS...

...IS...

...THAT...

I

...WIN!

FOR A MOMENT...JUST
ONE MOMENT...HE
CONSIDERS HOLDING
BACK THE NEXT BLOW...

...TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
THIS OPPONENT.

AND THEN
THE MOMENT
PASSES.



MR...MR. JONES...
THAT WAS THE HULK,
WASN'T IT?!?

YUP.

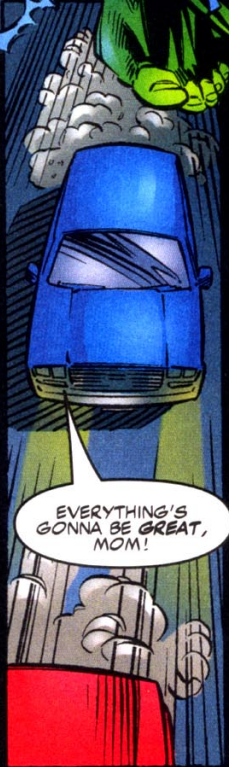
IS
THERE
ANY WAY
TO STOP
THEM?

NONE
COME TO
MIND.



THEN
WHAT'LL WE
DO?

CHARGE
\$5.99 TO
WATCH
IT?



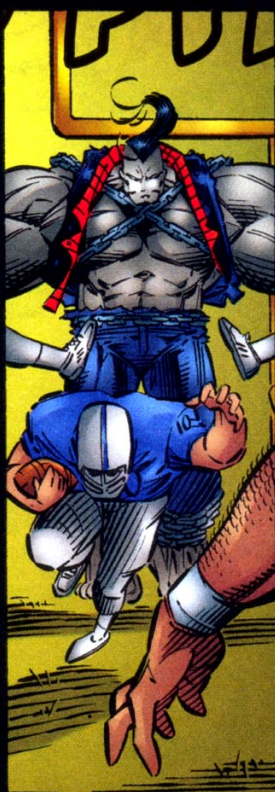
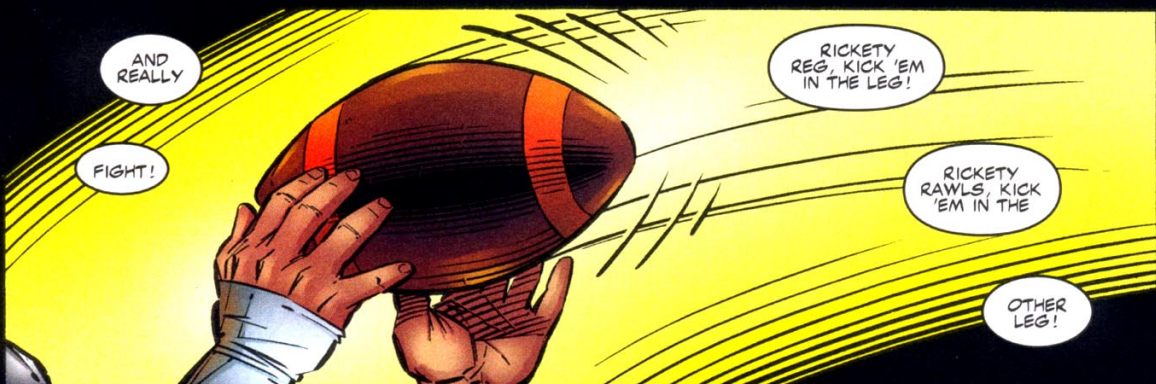
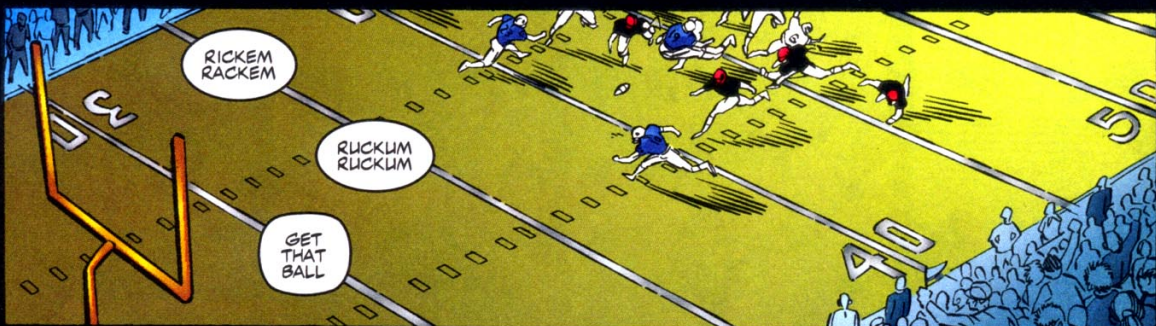
EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE GREAT,
MOM!



IT'S
GOING TO
BE...



OH
NO...
NO, DON'T
GO AWAY...BE
THE WAY I
WANT...



THE PLAYERS, BALL
AND GAME FORGOTTEN,
DASH AT FULL STEAM
FROM THE MONSTER AT
THE ONE END...



...ONLY TO RUN
AFOUL OF THE
MONSTER AT
THE OTHER.



THE HULK PAUSES A
MOMENT TO SEE IF
HIS EARLIER BLOWS
HAD ANY EFFECT ON
HIS OPPONENT.



THE HESITATION
IS A MISTAKE.

AND THE ANSWER
IS SELF EVIDENT.





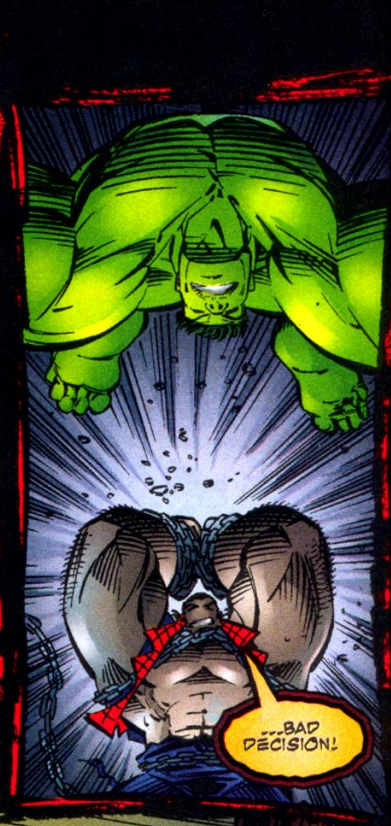


THEN YOU MADE...

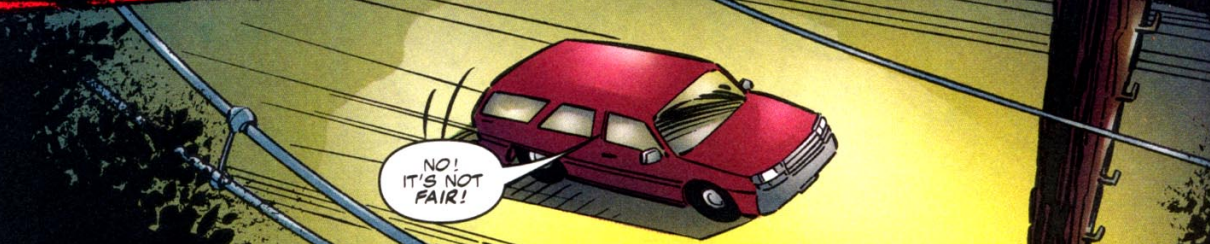


...A VERY...

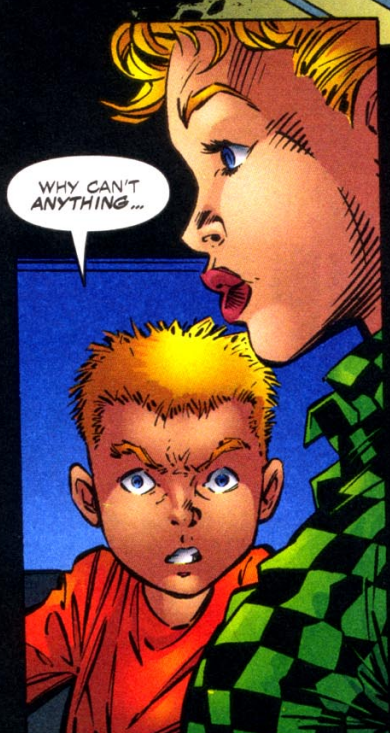
...VERY...



...BAD DECISION!



NO! IT'S NOT FAIR!

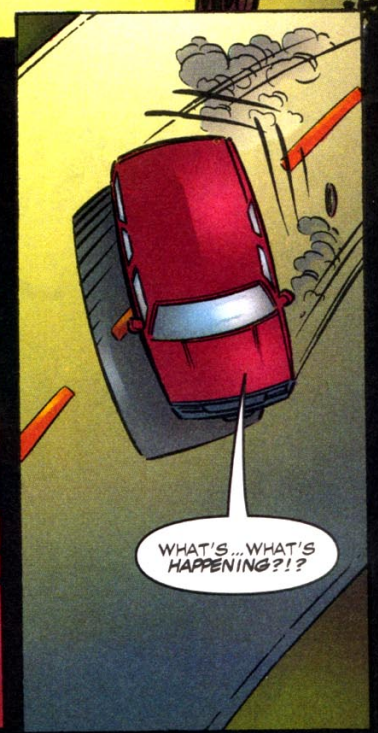


WHY CAN'T ANYTHING...



...EVER BE THE WAY I WANT IT TO BE?!?

TI...TIMMY?



WHAT'S...WHAT'S HAPPENING?!?



TIMMY...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TO
YOURSELF...

...TO
US?

DON'T YOU
SEE...YOU CAN'T
BRING MOM BACK...
YOU CAN'T...

THE HULK HEARS
PITT'S MONOLOGUE
AND REALIZES THAT
THIS IS NO ORDINARY
CIRCUMSTANCE.

THAT THIS APPARENTLY ALIEN
BEING IS WRACKED WITH
APPARENTLY HUMAN TURMOIL...

...JUST AS HE, THE HULK,
IS AT CORE, HUMAN BUT--
EVER SO SLOWLY--IS
MOVING FURTHER AWAY
FROM HUMAN CONCERNS.

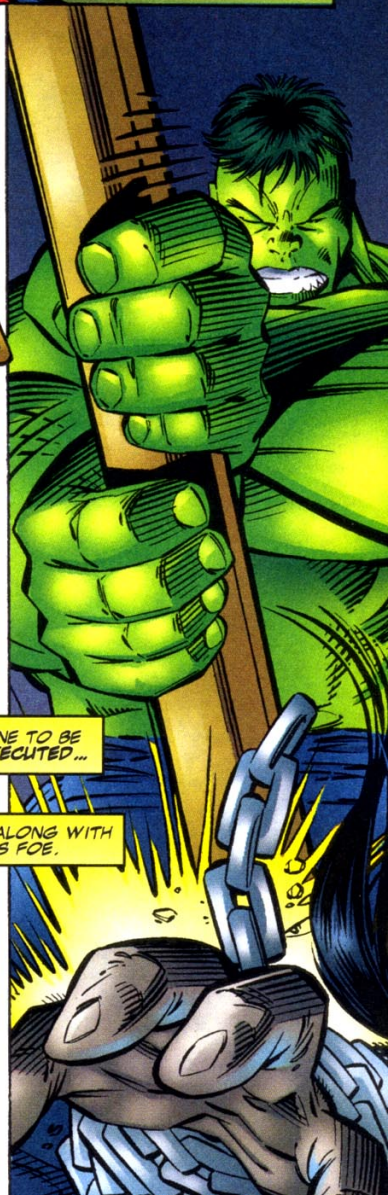
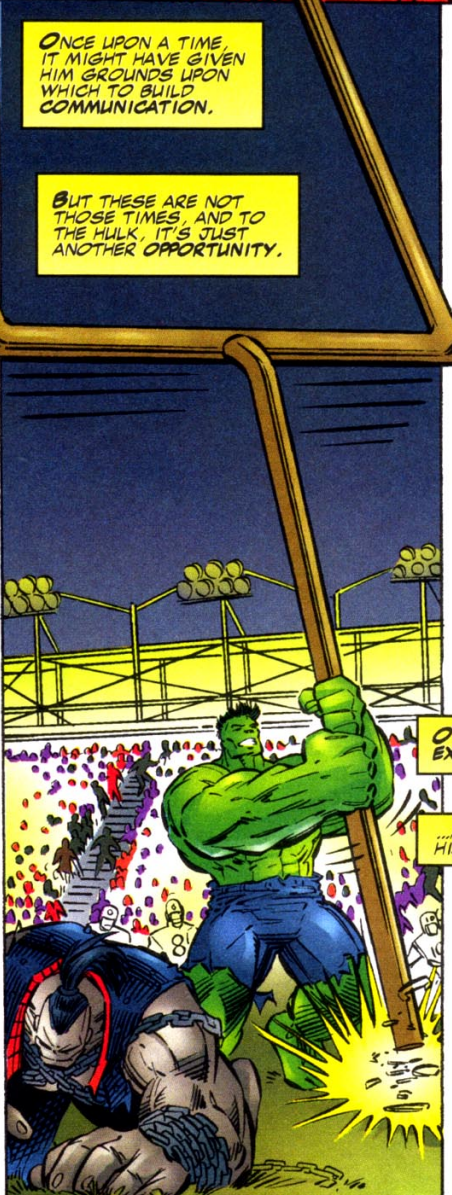
THE IRONY OF THAT
IS NOT LOST ON THE
HULK.



IT'S MERELY
EXPLOITED.

ONCE UPON A TIME
IT MIGHT HAVE GIVEN
HIM GROUNDS UPON
WHICH TO BUILD
COMMUNICATION.

BUT THESE ARE NOT
THOSE TIMES, AND TO
THE HULK, IT'S JUST
ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.

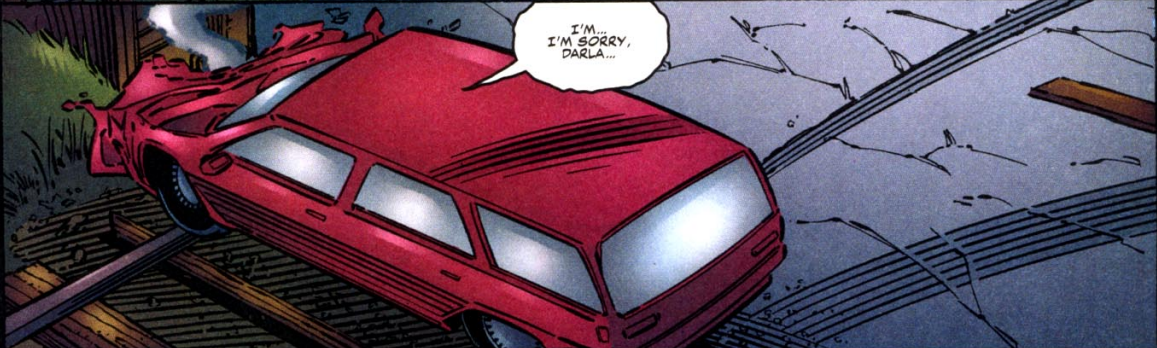


ONE TO BE
EXECUTED...

...ALONG WITH
HIS FOE.



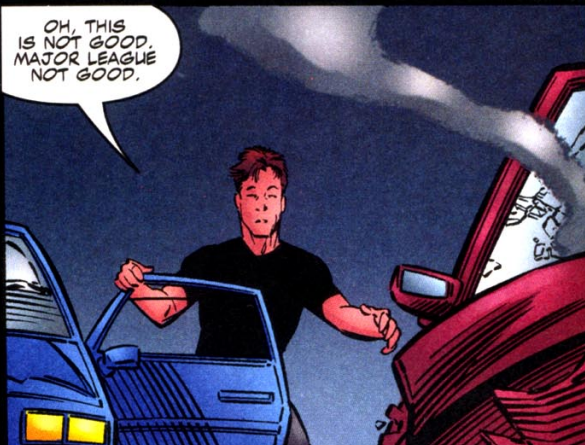
OOOOOHHHHHHH...



I'M...
I'M SORRY,
DARLA...



I JUST
WANTED IT...
SO MUCH...



OH, THIS
IS NOT GOOD.
MAJOR LEAGUE
NOT GOOD.



GREAT.
DOOR'S
JAMMED.

TIMMY?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME,
KIDDO?



I SHOULDN'T REALLY BE
MOVING YOU GUYS...NOT
AFTER AN ACCIDENT...

...BUT IN
CASE YOU
DIDN'T NOTICE,
YOU'RE ON A
TRACK.



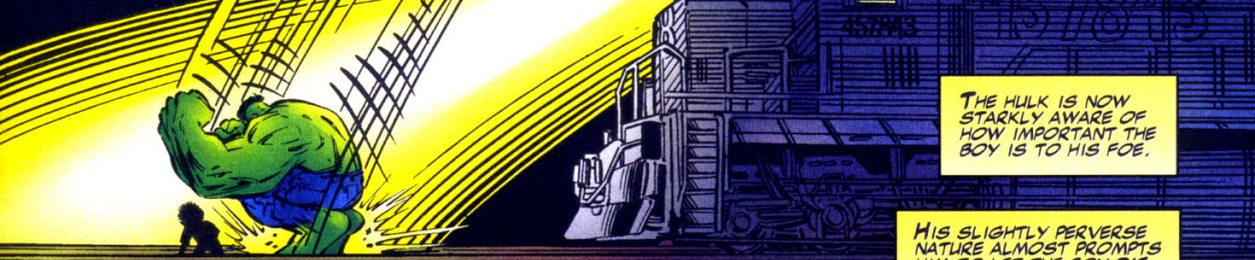
AND WHERE
THERE'S TRACKS,
SOMETIMES
THERE'S A...



...GREAT.







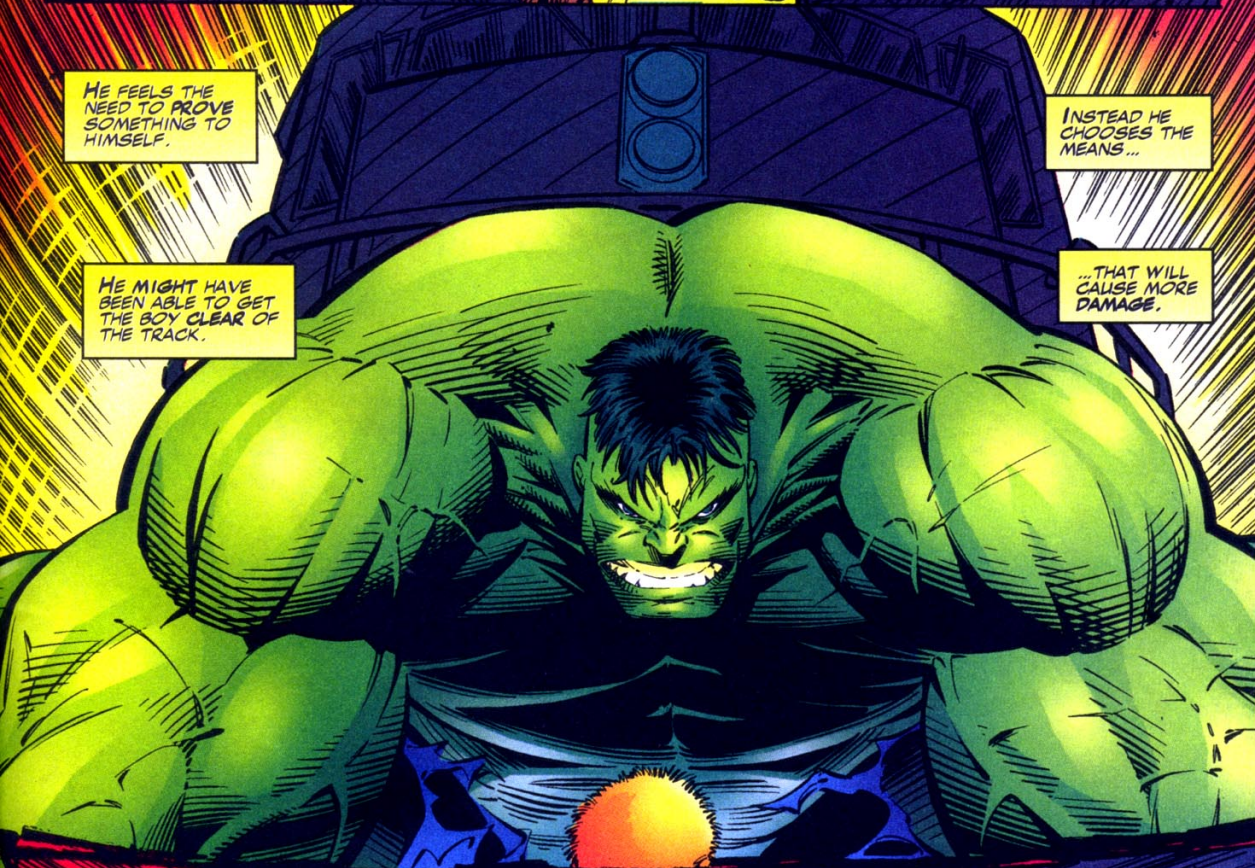
THE HULK IS NOW STARKLY AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT THE BOY IS TO HIS FOE.

HIS SLIGHTLY PERVERSE NATURE ALMOST PROMPTS HIM TO LET THE BOY DIE... JUST TO UPSET PITT.



HE CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO DO IT.

THIS SOFTNESS ANGERS HIM...FOR IT MAKES HIM LESS THAN HE WOULD LIKE TO BE.



HE FEELS THE NEED TO PROVE SOMETHING TO HIMSELF.

INSTEAD HE CHOOSES THE MEANS...

HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THE BOY CLEAR OF THE TRACK.

...THAT WILL CAUSE MORE DAMAGE.



IT GIVES HIM SOME SMALL SATISFACTION.





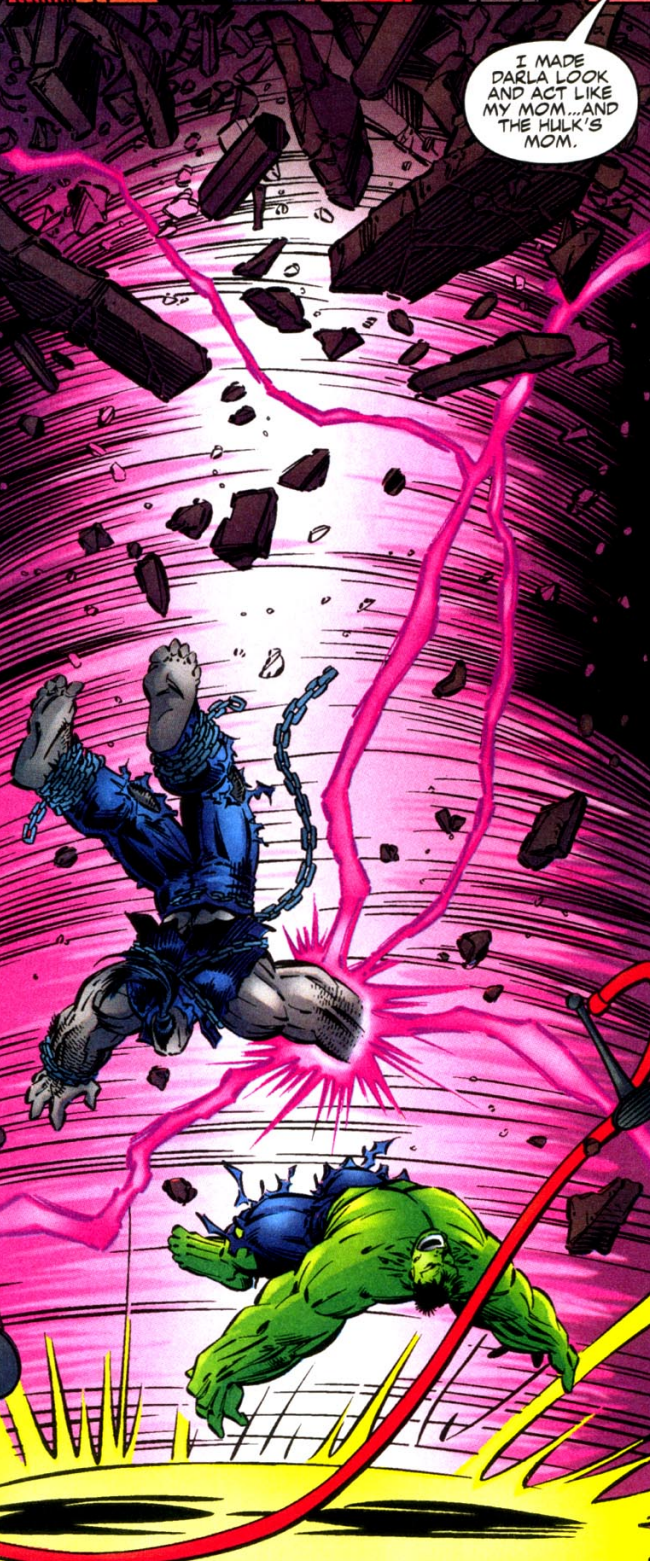
PITTSDALE
MUSEUM
OF
NATURAL HISTORY

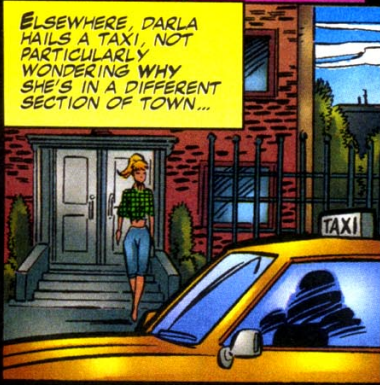
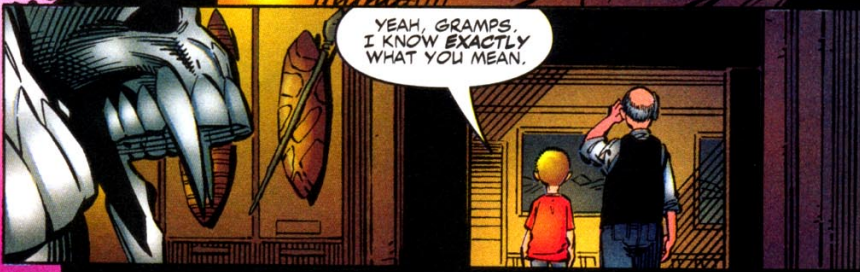
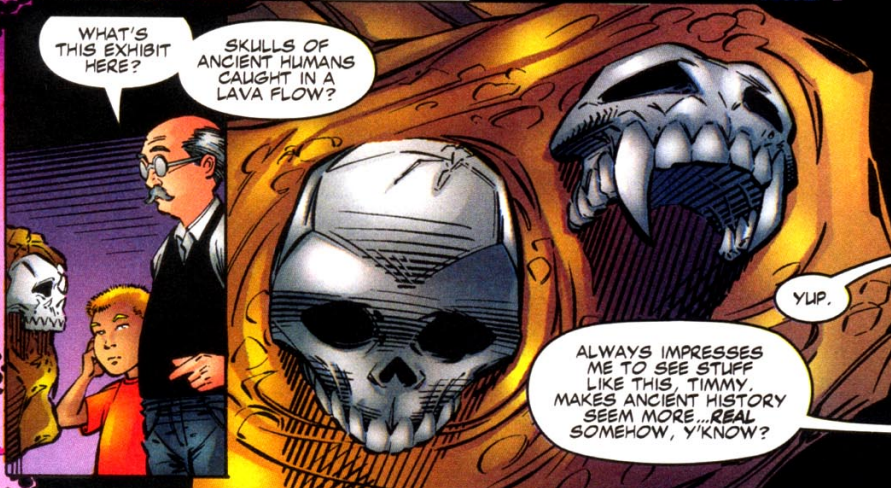
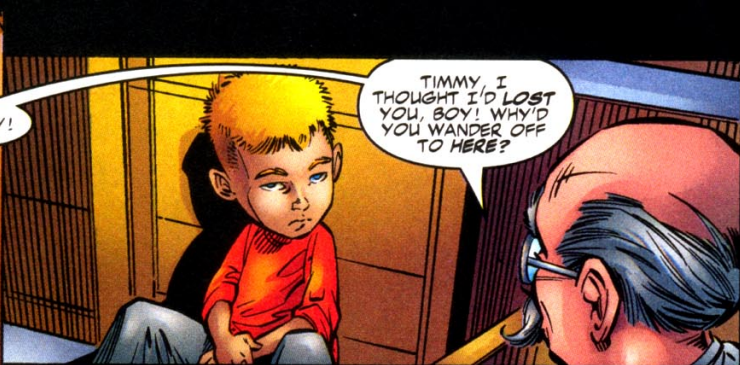
IN THE MIDST OF A
PREHISTORIC EXHIBITION,
THEY BATTLE AGAINST
THEIR OWN EVOLUTION.

PITT STRENGTHENING
HIS HUMAN TIES THE
HULK LEAVING HIS
BEHIND.

EACH ENVYING AND
FEARING WHAT THE
OTHER HAS, SEEING
THE BEST AND THE
WORST OF EACH
OTHER.

EVERYTHING THAT
THEY BOTH ASPIRE
TO...AND FEAR THAT
THEY COULD
BECOME.





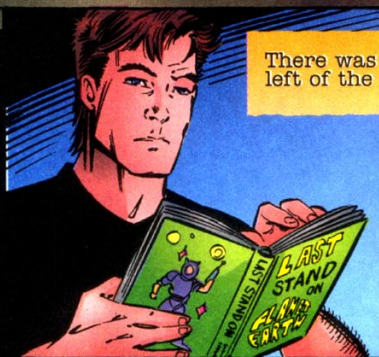


THAT WAS WEIRD...

HAVEN'T BEEN THIS CONFUSED SINCE THAT PHILOSOPHY CLASS I TOOK YEARS AGO...

...THE ONE WHERE HE TRIED TO TELL US THAT MAYBE ALL OF REALITY EXISTS AS SOMEONE'S DREAM.

THAT EVERYTHING IS SUBJECTIVE...NOTHING'S REAL...AND THERE'S WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS OF...HUH! TIMMY LEFT SOME BOOKS...



There was nothing left of the great cities.



The two generals had leveled everything that was between them.



And now nothing stood...except them.



From across centuries of hatred, they snarled at each other, for such was the enmity between General Hlk and General Pyt.



It had always been thus, since their first encounter.



Have you ever met someone... and taken an instant dislike to them?



THE END

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE...

Having Dale draw again for Marvel. Reunited with Peter. And me. Doing a hulk project. It's been a dream of mine and the whole Marvel bullpen for what seems like ages! And then having the project be a team-up with Dale's gargantuan gray guy and our green goliath is icing on the cake!

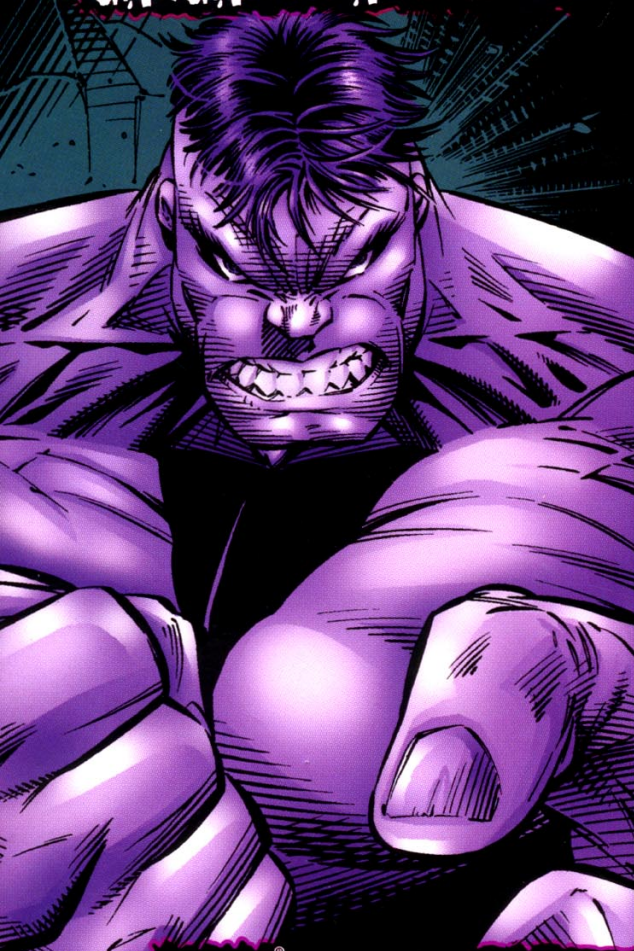
Thanks to everyone who worked on this, from the aforementioned, to the fabulous ones Dan Panosian, Steve Buccellato, Chris Eliopoulos, assistant editor extraordinaire Polly Watson, Ski and Carol Platt for internal help, and Phil Foxhoven, who brought this gem to us.

And thanks to all of you for reading!

-Bobbie Chase



STRENGTH vs. STRENGTH!
BAD ATTITUDE vs. WORSE!
GARGANTUAN SIZE vs. HUMONGOUS PROPORTION!



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