

AMALGAM



DOCTOR STRANGE FATE

#1
APR 96

\$1.95 US
\$2.75 CAN



RON
MARZ
JOSE LUIS
GARCIA-
LOPEZ
KEVIN
NOWLAN

DIRECT SALES 00111



HE'S OUT THERE...

... SOMEWHERE...

I HAVE TO STOP HIM.

...NOT TRULY UNDERSTANDING WHAT HE IS, BUT CARRYING THE KEYS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS.

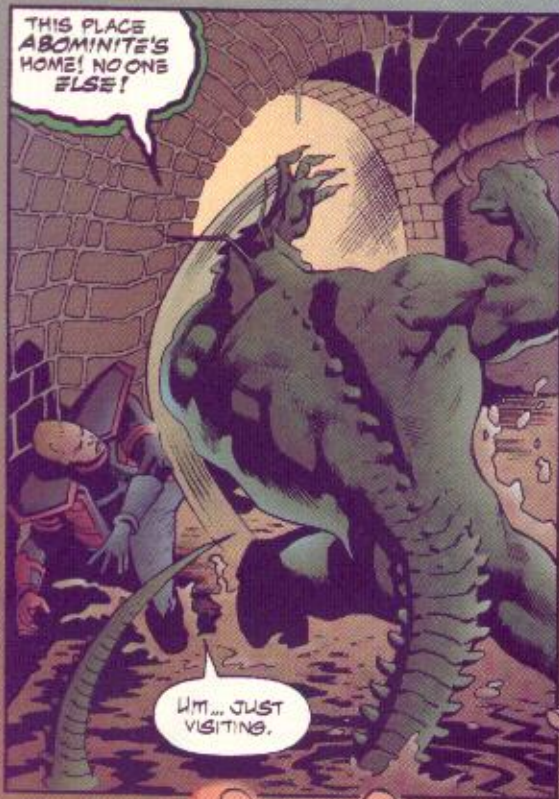
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CUM-
CAN'T...
STOP...





THIS PLACE
ABOMINITE'S
HOME! NO ONE
ELSE!

UM... JUST
VISITING.



NO
VISITORS!
VISITORS
DIE!

COME ON,
I DIDN'T GO
THROUGH ALL
THAT STUFF WITH
THE OLD GUY
AND THE BOX
IN THE ALLEY...



... TO WIND
UP SPLATTERED
ACROSS SOME
SEWER WALL!



No!

KRAKOOOM



NO?
WHAT...WHAT THE
HELL JUST HAPPENED?
HOW'D I GET HERE?



COME.





I AM
PREPARED.

THE DECREES OF FATE

RON MARZ SCRIPT
JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ PENCILS
KEVIN NOWLAN INKS
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH COLORS & SEPARATIONS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS-LETTERS
DAN THORSLAND-EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO
MICHAEL HAGEN



SUMMON THEM, MYX. ALL THREE OF THEM.

AS DOCTOR STRANGEFATE COMMANDS...



...SO SHALL IT BE DONE.





AS YOU WISHED, MASTER, YOUR CHOSEN AGENTS...



"...BRUCE BANNER, SKULK..."



"...FRANKIE RAYNER, JADE NOVA..."

I WAS BUSY.



"...WANDA ZATARA, WHITE WITCH."



YOU ARE BROUGHT TO MY SANCTUM BECAUSE I AGAIN HAVE NEED OF YOU. YOU WILL PERFORM A SERVICE FOR ME.

I'M ALWAYS WILLING, DOC.



PAST CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PLACED EACH OF YOU IN MY DEBT. SO I PLACE A TASK BEFORE YOU.

YOU WILL SEEK OUT A MAN, AND DELIVER HIM TO ME.



OH, PLEASE.

YOU NEED THREE OF US FOR THAT? YOU WANT SOME GUY GRABBED, I CAN DO IT MYSELF.

DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS EVERY TIME WITH YOU?

YOU KNOW, DOC...



...I'M NEVER ONE TO GIVE ANOTHER WOMAN HER DUE, BUT THE REDHEAD IS RIGHT. THERE'S NO REASON FOR ALL OF US TO BE HERE.

YOU WANT A MAN FOUND...

...ALL YOU NEED IS ME.

DON'T TEST MY PATIENCE, WITCH.

NOT TODAY.



ATTEND.

THIS IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR SEARCH.

HE IS CALLED ACCESS. HE IS AN OUTSIDER, A WILD CARD, AND HE IS NEAR, SOMEWHERE IN NEW GOTHAM CITY.

THE FULL EXTENT OR NATURE OF HIS POWERS IS UNCERTAIN, YET I CAN TELL YOU HE WIELDS MIGHT ON A UNIVERSAL SCALE. HE REPRESENTS A GREATER DANGER THAN ANY PREVIOUS FOE...

...MEPHISATANUS AND BARON WOTAN INCLUDED.



YOU'VE BEEN TOLD WHAT'S NECESSARY. THE REST IS MY CONCERN, NOT YOURS.

COME ON, THIS ONE GUY IS THAT BIG A THREAT? WHAT ARE WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT HERE?



HE LOOKS LIKE SUCH A SWEET BOY.

WHAT ARE YOU INTENDING? IMPRISON HIM BELOW IN ARKHAM?

I'M AFRAID A CONSIDERABLY MORE SEVERE SOLUTION IS WARRANTED.


THESE ARE NOT IDLE WARNINGS. ACCESS THREATENS THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR REALITY.



BE SERIOUS. THAT KID LOOKS ABOUT AS THREATENING AS SANTA CLAUS.

LIKE I SAID, YOU WANT HIM TAKEN OUT, I CAN FLY SOLO ON IT, NO PROBLEM.

HIS DESTRUCTION IS NOT YOUR MISSION.




IF YOU CAN'T GRASP THAT, ANOTHER AGENT CAN BE SUMMONED TO REPLACE YOU. THE ARCANIC WOMAN, PERHAPS.

I WANT HIM FOUND AND BROUGHT TO ME. NOTHING MORE.

UNDERSTOOD?

UM... SURE THING. JUST BRING HIM BACK HERE.

GOT IT.



I'VE ENTRUSTED THIS MATTER TO YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE THE MOST RELIABLE OF MY AGENTS. YOU'VE NOT FAILED ME IN THE PAST.

DON'T DO SO NOW.

DISPERSE THEM, MYX.

YES, MASTER.

DON'T WORRY, DOC...

...WE'LL GET YOUR MAN.

MASTER?
IF I MIGHT?

SPEAK.

I ASK WHY
YOU DO NOT
SEEK THIS MAN
YOURSELF. IF THE
THREAT HE REPRESENTS
IS SO DIRE, WHY
DO YOU EMPLOY
YOUR AGENTS?

THE AGENTS
ARE PAWNS.

THEY SERVE TO
PROBE, TO DETERMINE
STRENGTHS AND WEAK-
NESSES. I WILL KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT
FROM MY OPPONENT
BEFORE I ENGAGE
HIM.

AND THEN
I WILL DEAL
WITH THIS
ACCESS
PERSONALLY.

AH.

YOU SIT
ON HIGH AND
ORCHESTRATE. AS
ALWAYS, YOU GAIN
YOUR ENDS THROUGH
MANIPULATION.

I SUPPOSE
MY SERVITUDE IN THIS
DIMENSION IS PROOF
ENOUGH OF THAT.

THIS CIRCUMSTANCE
IS WHOLLY DIFFERENT
FROM ANY OTHER I'VE
FACED, MYX, THOUGH
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHY.

IF ACCESS IS
NOT ELIMINATED,
EVERYTHING I'VE
ACCOMPLISHED, ALL
I'VE BUILT...

"... COULD
COME
CRASHING
DOWN."

"... DOWN IN
A SEWER..."



THIS IS TOO MUCH.

COSMIC BEINGS, COMBINED UNIVERSES. AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WHO'S--



KID...
...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE LOST.

NO... I, UH, I'M FINE, THANKS, I WAS JUST GOING.



IT'S OKAY. I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALONE IN THE WORLD.

I KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE, TO BE AN OUTCAST, TO BE HUNTED. HERE...



...LET ME HELP.



LOOK, I DON'T NEED ANY HELP. WHAT I NEED IS TO BE LEFT--

WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME WITH ME?

... ABOUT TO GET MY HEAD PULPED BY...

... WELL, WHATEVER THAT THING WAS...



... THEN I'M UP ON A ROOFTOP.

WHAT'S GOING ON?



STAY AWAY FROM ME!

IT WOULD'VE BEEN...
...IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER.



I WANTED TO THINK...



...THAT IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS...



...BUT IT ALWAYS DOES...



...ALWAYS...



COME HERE!

OH, JEEZ...

THROW OUT



... I AM NEVER STEPPING INTO ANOTHER ALLEY IN MY LIFE.



HI THERE, HANDSOME.

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

HUH? WHERE'D YOU --



YOU OUGHT TO SLOW DOWN A LITTLE...



... PEOPLE'LL THINK YOU'RE HEADED FOR A FIRE.

FWASH

GAH--





HOW DO I DO THAT?

IF I'M IN TROUBLE I JUST... GO SOMEWHERE ELSE... BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW. I CAN'T...

...CONTRA...

...IT?

YAA!

EASY. EASY.

ANOTHER ONE? WHAT DO YOU TURN INTO?

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET WITH ME.



HOW'D YOU FIND ME?

OH, YOU KNOW...

...MAGIC.

RELAX, I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. I WANT YOU TO JUST LIE BACK...

... AND ENJOY THIS.



mmpH!



DON'T SEND A GIRL AND A MONSTER TO DO A WOMAN'S JOB.



A JOB WELL DONE.

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? YOU WANT A MAN CAUGHT...

... YOU ASK ME.

THE OTHERS?

PROBABLY STILL ROAMING AROUND OUT THERE LOOKING FOR HIM. WHAT CAN I SAY? AMATEURS.



SO...

... I WAS A GOOD GIRL. I DID WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO. WHAT'S MY REWARD?

JUST REVIVE HIM.



=SIGH=
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

YOU'RE NOT AS MUCH FUN AS YOU USED TO BE, DOC.

I NEVER WAS.
SHOW HER OUT, MYX.

WITH PLEASURE, MASTER.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MYX? BUSY TONIGHT?

WHY...



...AH!



I AM DOCTOR STRANGEFATE.
I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THIS UNIVERSE.



WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ARE YOU?!



UH... ... THIS UNIVERSE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THIS UNIVERSE?

DON'T INSULT ME. THIS WILL BE MUCH EASIER IF WE'RE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND WHENCE YOU CAME.
YOU'VE TAKEN THE NAME ACCESS, YOU ARE THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE TWO UNIVERSES THAT CAME BEFORE, THE UNIVERSES FROM WHICH THIS ONE WAS CONSTRUCTED, AND WITHIN YOU...

... YOU HOLD THE KEYS TO RESTORING THOSE UNIVERSES, THEREBY DESTROYING MY OWN. ALL THIS IS KNOWN TO ME, AND ME ALONE.

HOW... CAN YOU KNOW?

I AM THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITY IN THIS UNIVERSE, EVEN BEFORE NABU THE ANCIENT ONE INSTRUCTED ME IN THE SORCERER'S ARTS AND GRANTED ME THIS HELM...

... I WIELD CONSIDERABLE PSYCHIC ABILITIES. YOUR MIND IS AN OPEN BOOK TO ME, AND IT IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER THAT EXISTS IN THIS REALITY.

YOU DO NOT BELONG.



I MEAN TO PRESERVE THIS UNIVERSE, AND MY PLACE IN IT. THE THREAT YOU POSE...

...MUST BE ELIMINATED.



NO!

NONE OF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO EXIST! NOT LIKE THIS!

STRUGGLE WILL GAIN YOU NOTHING, NOT IN MY SANCTUM.

I AM MASTER HERE. EVEN YOUR CONVENTIONAL TRANSPORTATIONAL EFFECT WILL NOT FUNCTION WITHIN THE WALLS OF MY TOWER.



UNDERSTAND...

... I BEAR YOU NO MALICE, BUT YOUR LIFE MUST BE FORFEIT IN ORDER TO INSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THIS REALITY.

I DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD MY UNIVERSE. AND YOU...

... YOU ARE SIMPLY A WILD CARD TO BE CAST FROM THE DECK.

THE ALL-SEEING EYE GAZES TO THE CORE OF YOUR BEING, ERASING EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE...

... AND FOREVER DESTROYING THE SHARDS OF THE PREVIOUS UNIVERSES CARRIED WITHIN YOU.

EEYAAAAAH!



YOU DON'T...

...YOU DON'T HAVE THEM, DO YOU? THE KEYS, THE SHARDS OF WHAT CAME BEFORE.

...MNNF...

... I NEVER SAID... I DID.

THIS IS... UNFORESEEN. I DIDN'T EXPECT...

... I'M NOT PREPARED...



WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THEM?!

HID THEM, SOMEPLACE THEY'RE NOT GONNA BE FOUND.

AND WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THEM, I'M GONNA PUT EVERYTHING BACK. I'LL UNZIP ALL THIS INTO TWO UNIVERSES AGAIN...

... ONCE I FIGURE OUT HOW...

...AND YOU CAN'T DO A THING TO STOP ME!

DON'T!

DON'T TAKE MY WORLD...
... APART...



COME ON...

...COME ON...


...COME--

NOT INSIDE THE TOWER ANYMORE...

...SO IF I'M EVER GONNA CONTROL THIS POWER, NOW'D BE A GOOD TIME...

...A REALLY, REALLY GOOD TIME.






EVERYTHING I MEANT TO ACCOMPLISH BY BECOMING STRANGEFATE. THE BETTER WORLD I WOULD CREATE.

ALL GONE.

I FAILED.

I BELIEVED MYSELF THE PROTECTOR OF THIS UNIVERSE. I VOWED TO PRESERVE IT.

AND I FAILED.



I WASN'T THIS UNIVERSE'S SAVIOR. ULTIMATELY I'M NOTHING MORE THAN THE MAN UNDER THE MASK...

... CHARLES XAVIER.



IT'S OVER.

NEXT: THE END ...OR THE BEGINNING?