

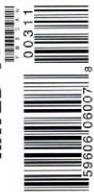
ULTIMATE POWER™

ISSUE
3
OF NINE



DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

BENDIS
LAND
RYAN
PONSOR

MARVEL

LAND
Ryan
J.R.

PREVIOUSLY IN THE ULTIMATE UNIVERSE:

Young Reed Richards is handpicked to join the Baxter Building—a think tank of young geniuses right in the heart of New York City... It is there that Reed meets young scientist Sue Storm and her little brother Johnny.

Reed, his childhood friend Ben Grimm, Sue and Johnny are accidentally transformed into superhumans during a dimensional teleportation accident. This is the birth of the now world-famous Fantastic Four.

Though their adventures are already the stuff of legend, Ben Grimm lives in constant despair over the rocky Thing he has become. Reed has promised to do everything in his power to change him back to normal.

Reed has sent a series of probes into other dimensions, to attempt to map them—against the wishes of Nick Fury (who heads both the Baxter Building and the U.S. Superhuman Defense Initiative, the Ultimates). Reed hopes the information gleaned from this experiment will provide a cure for Ben's condition.

The next morning, the Baxter Building is attacked by a group of super-powered humans called the Squadron Supreme.

The battle is joined by the Ultimates, the X-Men (a famous group of mutant super heroes) and even Spider-Man (in reality, teenager Peter Parker)...but the fight comes to a swift end as the Squadron presents Reed with one of his own sensor devices—and claims that it is responsible for destroying their world!



ULTIMATE POWER

PART 3 of 9

**Brian Michael
BENDIS**
WRITER

**Greg
LAND**
PENCILS

**Matt
RYAN**
INKS

**Justin
PONSOR**

with **Sotocolor's
A. CROSSLEY**
COLORS

**UC's Cory
PETIT**
LETTERS

**Kate
LEVIN**
PRODUCTION

**John & Ralph
BARBER
MACCHIO**
EDITORS

**Joe
QUESADA**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Dan
BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

SPECIAL THANKS TO: J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI, JEPH LOEB, and AXEL ALONSO

ULTIMATE POWER No. 3, February, 2007. Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. ©2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, personas, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.75 in Canada (GST #R127030655) in the direct market plus \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.25 in Canada (GST #R127030655) through the newsstands; Canadian Agreement #48868507. Printed in Canada. ALAN FINE, President & CEO of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GARRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.



Yes, Mister President.

Is that actor and his "wife" in the Lincoln Bedroom?

I believe so, sir.

Okay, no more actor sleepovers! I don't care how much they gave to who.

Yes, sir.



This is the White House for heaven's sake...

FUMP



BOOM!



We have Eagle One!!

Sir, you need to come with us immediately!!

What-God!!

We have to get you to the safehouse.



We're in the residence-main hallway heading south!!

What is going on!!!???

Everybody out of the way, now!!

What is it???

Oh my God!! What is that???

Keep moving sir!!

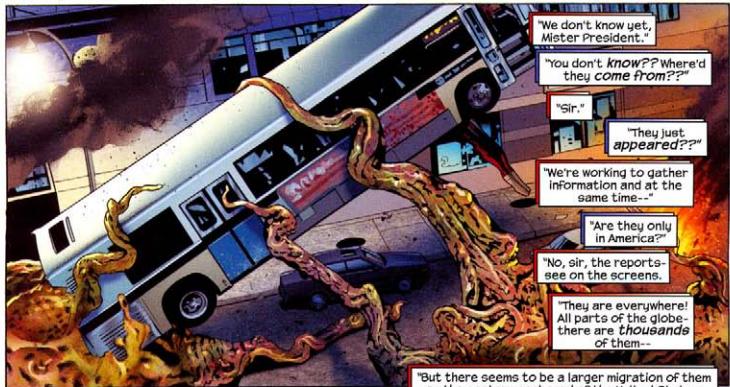


What is that???









"We don't know yet, Mister President."

"You don't *know*?? Where'd they *come from*???"

"Sir."

"They just *appeared*???"

"We're working to gather information and at the same time--"

"Are they only in America?"

"No, sir, the reports-- see on the screens."

"They are everywhere! All parts of the globe-- there are *thousands* of them--"

"But there seems to be a larger migration of them on the eastern seaboard of the United States. That's why we *have* to evacuate all the major--"

"And they're growing? They look like they're growing."

"Yes, sir."

"Oh my God, look at *Manhattan*!!"

"Sir, you need to call for a full scale *evacuation*!"

"Of the *entire eastern seaboard*?? And where should I *put* everyone? *Your* house???"

"Sir, the organisms are growing with each second we--"

"What *are* they?!!!"

"Sir, calm down."

"*You* calm down!! My *entire presidency* is going up in flames because of these-- these--"

"I know *you* did this, Steadman!!"

"Sir?"



"This is Project Hyperion coming back to bite me, isn't it? I *inherited* that stupid crap and now *look* at it!"

"Sir, right now Hyperion and his teammates are the only thing out there saving people from--"

"What is it???"



"Sir, the second we have the data--"

"Oh my God!! What is happening now?"

"Hyperion and the rest of the Squadron are trying to-- they're engaging the organisms."

"They shouldn't be *touching* it without some analysis."

"Mister President, we're getting some reports here."

"What?"

"According to FEMA and the National--"

"Just spit it out."

"The- the organisms are changing the *oxygen* content and barometric pressure of the atmosphere in their direct vicinity and the--"

"Oh my God."

"What does that *mean*?"

"It means the organisms are probably alien."

"Oh my God!!"



"And they are either changing the environment to suit their- (this is all conjecture-) but it seems that the organisms are changing the environment to suit their needs..."

"...or just by *being* here they are changing the environment around them."

"Either way, this is a high level threat to our way of life and we have to get those people *out* of there and we have to run tests."

"We're still waiting on more environment readings. But--"

"No! We have to find out *who* they are, what they are, and how they *got here!*"

"I agree. But first the safety of our--"

"Are we being invaded?? We're being invaded!!"

"Sir, please..."

"This is a *biological attack!*"

"Sir, we don't *know* that!"

"This is a terrorist attack!! Get me the Joint Chiefs, get me the United Nations--"

"Sir, if it were a biological weapon we would have some intelligence reports, some *knowledge* of the type of attack. We'd be aware that--"

"What if this is Hyperion's daddy coming back to get him?"

"Sir?"





No offense
Steadman, but *you* don't
know *what* this is, you don't
know *what* you're doing and all
you can tell me is how *stupid*
I am for knowing as much
as *you* do!!

Sir,
people are
dying.

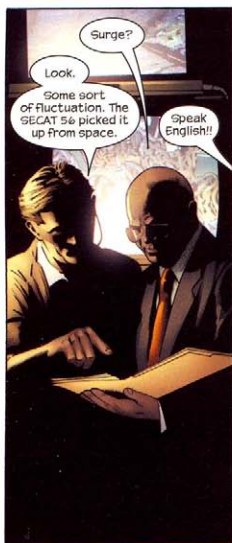


Mister
President.

What
now?

There's-
right before
the- the whatever
they are showed
up...

There was
some sort of
surge.



Surge?

Look.

Some sort
of fluctuation. The
SECAT 5% picked it
up from space.

Speak
English!!



In New
York?

What
kind of
surge??



Hyperion.
Get
Hyperion on
comm.





I'm- hold on...

Mark?? Get out of there!!

There's some sort of radiation.

Get out of there!!

I've never felt anything like this...

Hold on...



I see it.

Mark, get out of there!!



I- I think I have it.

Whatever you do, don't touch it until we--



Is anything happening?

Did you touch it?

A little.

I just told you not to--

Are they still growing?



We can't tell yet.

Get Nighthawk.

And Spectrum.



Okay, so what is it?

What is it doing?

I think it's broadcasting.

Broadcasting what?



Data.



Where? Where's it broadcasting to?

Another country?

Another planet?

The President's asking for an update.



Can you make out that reading?

No.

Alien technology?

I don't think so. I just think it's...very advanced.

But it is an attack.

Now I don't think so.



Whoever it's broadcasting to is who we need to get our hands on.

Doctor Spectrum, would you mind using your power crystal for a different type of cursory examination?

Not sure what I'm looking for.

I- um- neither am I.



Hello. Greetings.

Uh--

(I didn't do that.)

My name is Reed Richards and I am broadcasting this message in colloquial English, a popular language on the planet Earth in my home dimension.

I am a scientist from the planet Earth and I am conducting a data retrieval experiment across multiple dimensions.

Your scanners or probing devices triggered this message, and my message to you...is one of peace.

This data retrieval sensor is just that, and in no way a weapon or an act of hostility of any kind.

What is he, nine years old?

Quiet!

I am part of a group of super-powered adventurers and scientists working towards a goal of peace and technological advancement.

All the data recovered from your dimension--

Dimension?

--is being used for the grand idea of scientific advancement, and if you have the technology to respond to this message--

I will gladly share my research with you as a gesture of good faith.

Please do not destroy or dismantle the sensor until it has run its program in full.

Thank you.

Oh my God...

A child.

What does this mean?

It means a child tried an inter-dimensional scientific experiment and by doing so nearly destroyed our world and endangered the lives of everyone on the planet.

I don't know.

And how did he do this?

I don't do inter-dimensional exploration because we didn't know there were other dimensions to explore until four seconds ago.

But the boy did?







Reed Richards, you're under arrest.

Oh yeah? How about you're under arrest.
Fury, uh, put him under arrest.

Yeah! You're under arrest!!

Everyone just calm down...





Hey!!

Whoah!

Agh!



Oh! Not cool.

Back!!

Everyone back!!



Stop!! Stop!!

Please, no more...

Please...



I did this.

Ben, I-I was trying to find a cure for you, I promised you I would.

I didn't mean for any of this. I wasn't trying to hurt anybody, I was trying to--

I-I made a promise.

Fury. You were right and I didn't listen.

Ben, Johnny, just keep her safe.



NO!!

NNNNOO!!

I'm sorry.



Get off of me!!



Oh, God...







I'm
working
on it.

To be continued...

NEXT ISSUE:

