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STEPHEN STRANGE was a brilliant neurosurgeon whose exceptional skills nearly matched his ego. When a car accident caused nerve damage in his hands, Strange scoured the globe looking for a cure to his condition. His search led him to Tibet, where he found **THE ANCIENT ONE**. Although he refused to cure Strange's condition, the Ancient One revealed to him a world of magic and power that humbled the brilliant doctor. Strange gave himself over to being the Ancient One's protégé, eventually mastering the mystic arts and becoming...

DOCTOR STRANGE

SORCERER SUPREME

IN

SELF-SURGERY

FRANK BARBIERE – writer

MARCO RUDY – artist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA – letterer

MARCO RUDY – cover artist

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A NOW.
THE MOUNTAINS
OF TIBET.

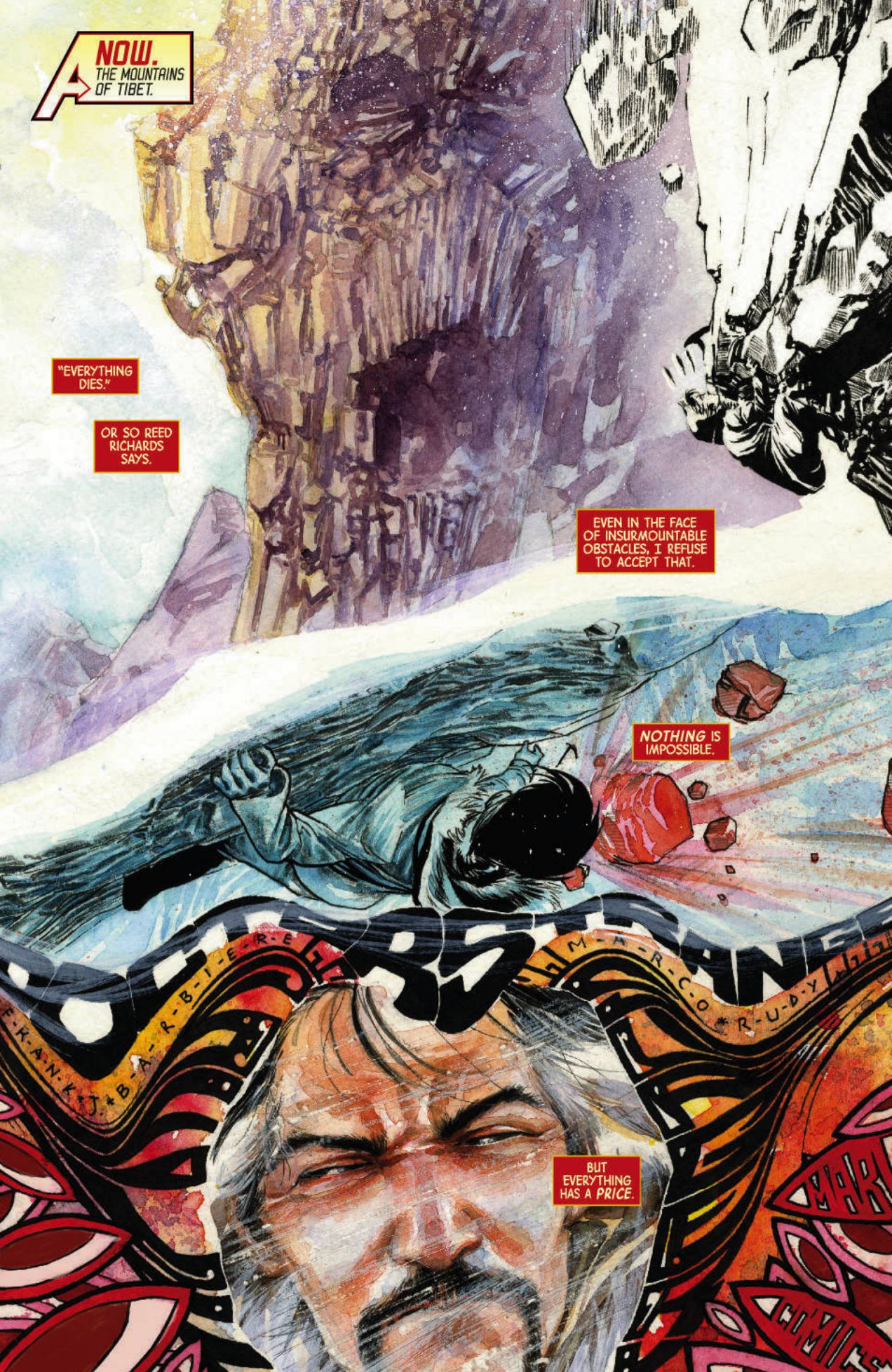
"EVERYTHING
DIES."

OR SO REED
RICHARDS SAYS.

EVEN IN THE FACE
OF INSURMOUNTABLE
OBSTACLES, I REFUSE
TO ACCEPT THAT.

NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT
EVERYTHING
HAS A PRICE.



LIFE IS SPENT
LEARNING THE
COST.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.
THE DAYS OF RECKLESS YOUTH.

--WHICH BRINGS
US TO THE HOSPICE
WING. AS ASPIRING MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS, IT'S IMPORTANT
YOU RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE
NOT **MAGICIANS**. WE
CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.

I KNOW, I
KNOW--YOU'RE PROBABLY
THINKING I'M WRONG, THAT THIS
IS **DEFEAT**. BUT NO--SOMETIMES
IT'S OUR JOB TO HELP SEE OUR
PATIENTS OUT OF THIS WORLD
PEACEFULLY, TO HAVE THEM
ACCEPT DEATH AND THE
NATURAL ORDER--



PSSSSH.
NONSENSE!




DR. STRANGE...
YOU'RE LATE.

I'M JUST IN
TIME TO STOP YOU
FROM FILLING THESE
YOUNG MINDS WITH
MISINFORMATION,
DEAR.




WHAT YOUR
LOVELY ADVISOR
MEANS TO SAY IS
THAT SOMETIMES...WE
GIVE UP. SOMETIMES, WE
LET DEATH WIN. AND
FRANKLY? THAT IS
UNACCEPTABLE.

STEPHEN--



I WAS IN
YOUR SHOES BUT A
YEAR AGO, TIMID AND
AFRAID, BUT FEAR?
SHE'S JUST ANOTHER
ILLNESS.

AND WE ARE
DOCTORS.



SO LET THIS
VISIT BE A LESSON,
YES--OF ALL THE GOOD
YOU'VE YET TO ACHIEVE,
IN HOW YOU MUST PUSH
FURTHER...WE MUST ALL
LEARN TO FACE THE
IMPOSSIBLE.

**CLASS
DISMISSED.**

I HAVE FACED THE IMPOSSIBLE. I HAVE SEEN THE OTHER SIDE, WHERE GOOD AND EVIL MEAN NOTHING.

I DO NOT FEAR THE IMPOSSIBLE.

I WELCOME IT... WITH OPEN EYES.

AND WITH THE GREAT EYE... ALL IS REVEALED.

GODS... WHAT MANNER OF ENTRY IS THIS?

WELCOME, DR. STRANGE.



THIS PLACE IS...
UNCANNY.

YES, SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE WE HAVE EMBRACED MODERNITY IN A WAY THAT SOME MAY FIND...**UNCONVENTIONAL**.

OUR ORDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY THE SCIENCES...**ARCANE** AND OTHERWISE.

PERHAPS WE ARE TOO CURIOUS, WHICH HAS LED TO OUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT.

ALL KNOWLEDGE HAS ITS PRICE. WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME?

THIS WAY, DOCTOR. I WILL EXPLAIN **EVERYTHING**.

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HANS MATHESON AND RODRIGO SANTORO MUSIC BY JUNKIE XL COSTUMES BY ALEXANDRA BYRNE EDITOR VYATT SMITH DAVID BREVNER, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER PATRICK TATOPOULOS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON DUGGAN, A.C.S. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THOMAS TULL FRANK MILLER STEPHEN JONES CRAIG J. FLORES JON JASHNI BASED UPON THE "XERXES" BY FRANK MILLER
SCREENPLAY BY ZACK SNYDER & KURT JOHNSTAD PRODUCED BY GIANNI NUNNARI MARK CANTON ZACK SNYDER DEBORAH SNYDER BERNIE GOLDMANN DIRECTED BY NOAM MURRO

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WE BELIEVE IN
PROGRESS, IN HARNESSING
THE POWER OF SCIENCE
AND EVOLUTION TO PROPEL
OURSELVES...WE BELIEVE
IN CHANGE.

THERE IS A
BEAUTY IN THE
UNKNOWN, AS WELL AS
DANGER. WE MUST KEEP TO
OUR LIMITS...TO WHAT'S
NECESSARY.

IT'S BEEN YEARS
SINCE THE GREAT
SORCERER SUPREME
FIRST SOUGHT SANCTUARY
HERE. I SENSE YOU
HAVE ALSO CHANGED,
STEPHEN.

I HAVE
SIMPLY EMBRACED
THAT WHICH I
MUST BE, OLD
FRIEND.

OH?
AND WHAT IS
THAT?

WHAT IS
NECESSARY.

PERHAPS
YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED SO
MUCH AFTER
ALL.

OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE TAKES US TO NEW PLACES. WE HAVE BROADENED OUR HORIZONS BEYOND THIS PLANE OF REALITY--WE'VE VENTURED INTO THE TERRA INCOGNITA OF THE DIMENSIONAL FOLD.

I HAVE... EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH THINGS.

WE WERE NOT PREPARED FOR WHAT WE FOUND. IT WAS BEYOND OUR CONTROL...STEPHEN, SOMETHING CAME THROUGH. SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

THIS DEMON... IT ESCAPED FROM OUR TEMPLE AND SOUGHT OUT THE VILLAGE BELOW. IT DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH, SLAUGHTERING THE TOWNSFOLK BEFORE WE COULD ARRIVE TO HELP.

WHEN WE ARRIVED, WE MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY... IT WASN'T JUST A DEMON--IT WAS A PARASITE.

...AND IT HAD TAKEN TO ONE OF OUR OWN.

SHE'S...
JUST A
GIRL...

PRINCESS PHAN
IS NOT JUST ANY
GIRL...SHE IS OUR
GREATEST PUPIL, DAUGHTER
OF AN EMPEROR, SENT HERE
TO LEARN FROM US.
IT IS BEYOND
A TRAGEDY...

"THE PRINCESS WAS
VISITING THE VILLAGE
BELOW, HELPING THE
VILLAGERS...SHE IS
IMMENSELY POWERFUL,
IT MAKES SENSE THAT
THE DEMON WOULD
SEEK HER OUT."

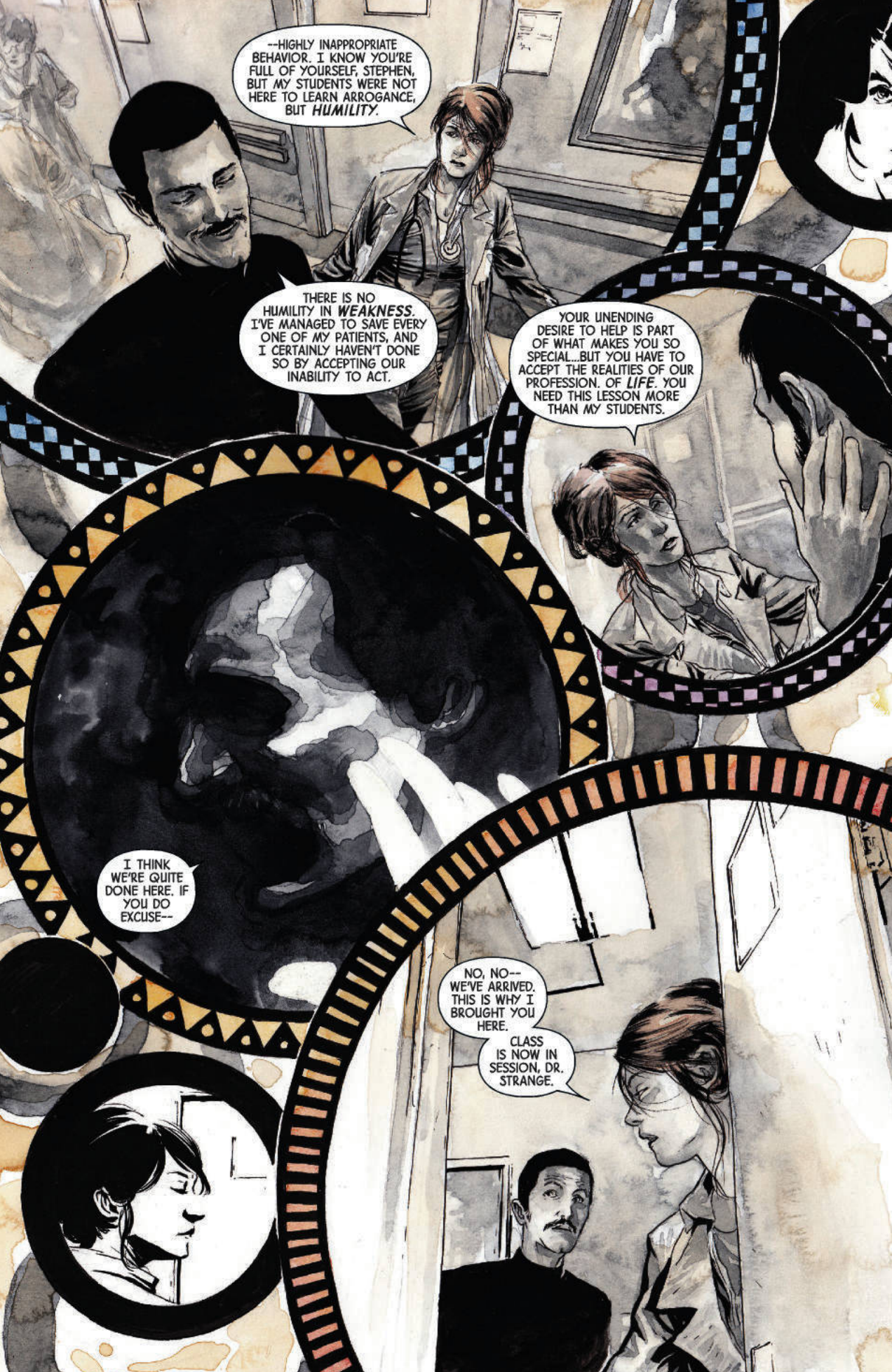
"WE...WE FEAR
THEY CANNOT BE
SEPARATED."

"WE NEED YOU,
STRANGE. THIS GIRL...
IF THE DEMON TAKES
CONTROL OF HER, SHE
WILL BURN THE WORLD."

WE CAN
BARELY CONTAIN
HER ON THE ASTRAL
PLANE--WE KNOW OF
YOUR EXPERTISE IN
SUCH MATTERS--

I'VE HEARD
ENOUGH.

SEAL THE
CHAMBER.

A man with a mustache and a woman in a lab coat are in a hallway. The man is speaking to the woman. The scene is framed by a film strip border.

--HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. I KNOW YOU'RE FULL OF YOURSELF, STEPHEN, BUT MY STUDENTS WERE NOT HERE TO LEARN ARROGANCE, BUT **HUMILITY**.

THERE IS NO HUMILITY IN **WEAKNESS**. I'VE MANAGED TO SAVE EVERY ONE OF MY PATIENTS, AND I CERTAINLY HAVEN'T DONE SO BY ACCEPTING OUR INABILITY TO ACT.

YOUR UNENDING DESIRE TO HELP IS PART OF WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL...BUT YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE REALITIES OF OUR PROFESSION. OF **LIFE**. YOU NEED THIS LESSON MORE THAN MY STUDENTS.

I THINK WE'RE QUITE DONE HERE. IF YOU DO EXCUSE--

NO, NO-- WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE.

CLASS IS NOW IN SESSION, DR. STRANGE.



AUNTIE MARTHA!



MARTHA. GOOD TO SEE YOU.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO, COLIN. HOW'RE YOU FEELING?

I'M... FINE. WHO'S THIS?

THIS IS MY... FRIEND, DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE. HE'S A NEURO-SURGEON.



GOD KNOWS I'VE MET ENOUGH OF THOSE IN MY LIFE, HA! BUT YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME, EH, STRANGE?

YES, UHM. I SUPPOSE YOU DO.



SO, WHAT CAN A DYING MAN DO FOR YOU?

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE COMFORTABLE. THAT YOU HAD EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

YOU'RE A DOLL, BUT I'M FINE. ME AN' BILLY ARE JUST WATCHING SOME TV.

I...I WANT TO BE WITH DADDY... BEFORE...

HEY, HEY! NONE OF THAT NOW!

I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU TWO. I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING WELL, COL--MAKE SURE TO TELL TRISH I SAID--

EXCUSE ME, YOU SAID YOU HAVE A TUMOR AT THE BASE OF THE SKULL?

INOPERABLE AS THEY COME, DR. STRANGE. BUT I'VE MADE MY PEACE, AND MARTHA HAS BEEN A HELL OF A ROCK.

YOU'RE SO STRONG. I'LL BE BACK SOON-- BE WITH YOUR SON!

THANKS FOR STOPPING BY, HON.

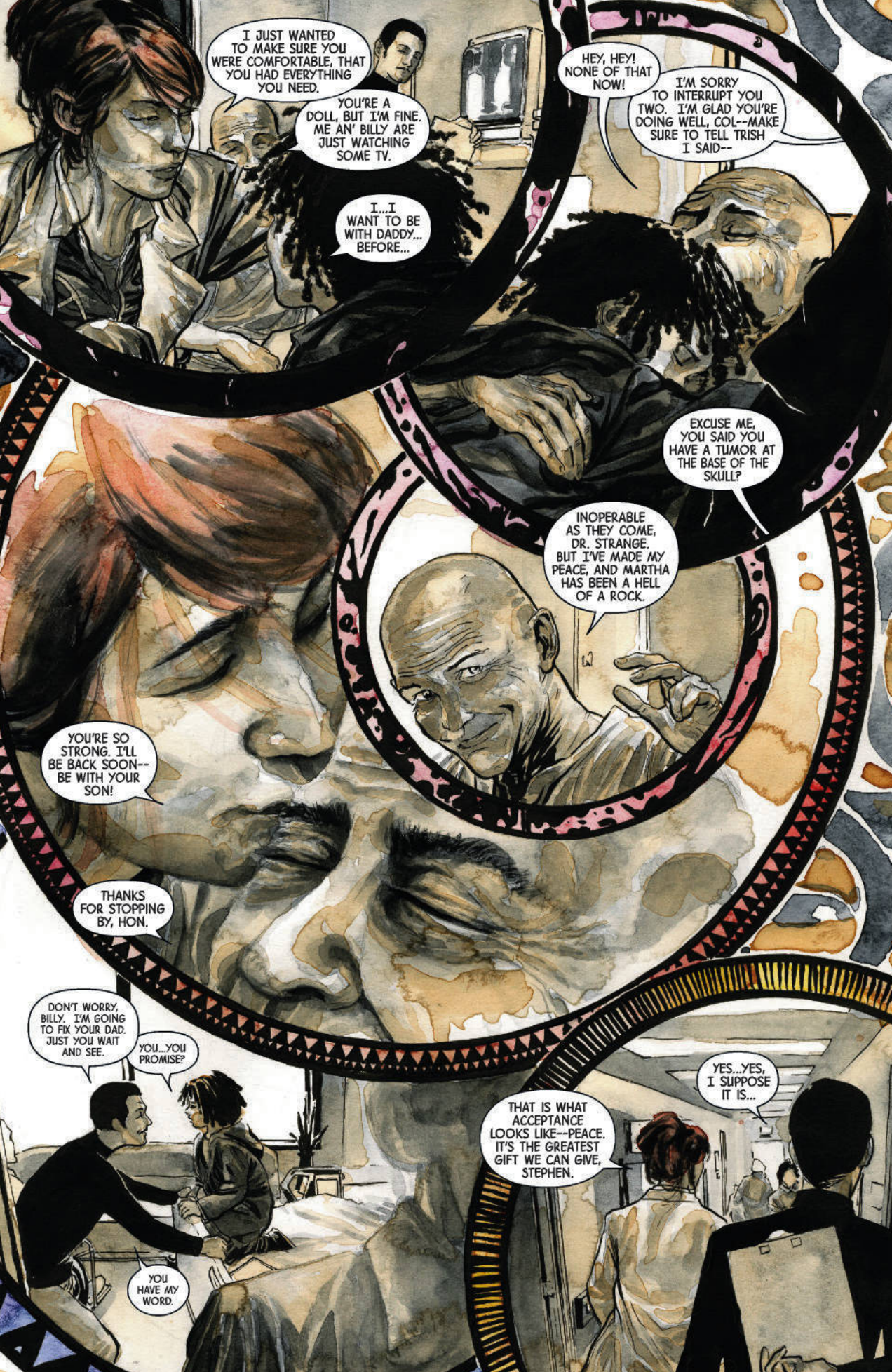
DON'T WORRY, BILLY. I'M GOING TO FIX YOUR DAD. JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.

YOU...YOU PROMISE?

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

THAT IS WHAT ACCEPTANCE LOOKS LIKE--PEACE. IT'S THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE, STEPHEN.

YES...YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS...





THE ROOM IS
EERILY QUIET,
ALMOST
PEACEFUL.

BUT BENEATH THE
DULCET TONES OF
CHANTING AND
BREATH, I CAN
HEAR THEM.

SCREAMING
OUT, SUFFERING--
FIGHTING FOR
THEIR LIVES.



AND SO I
REACH BEYOND
THIS MORTAL
VESSEL...

TO
THE ASTRAL
PLANE!

BY THE
HOARY
HOSTS OF
HOGGOTH!



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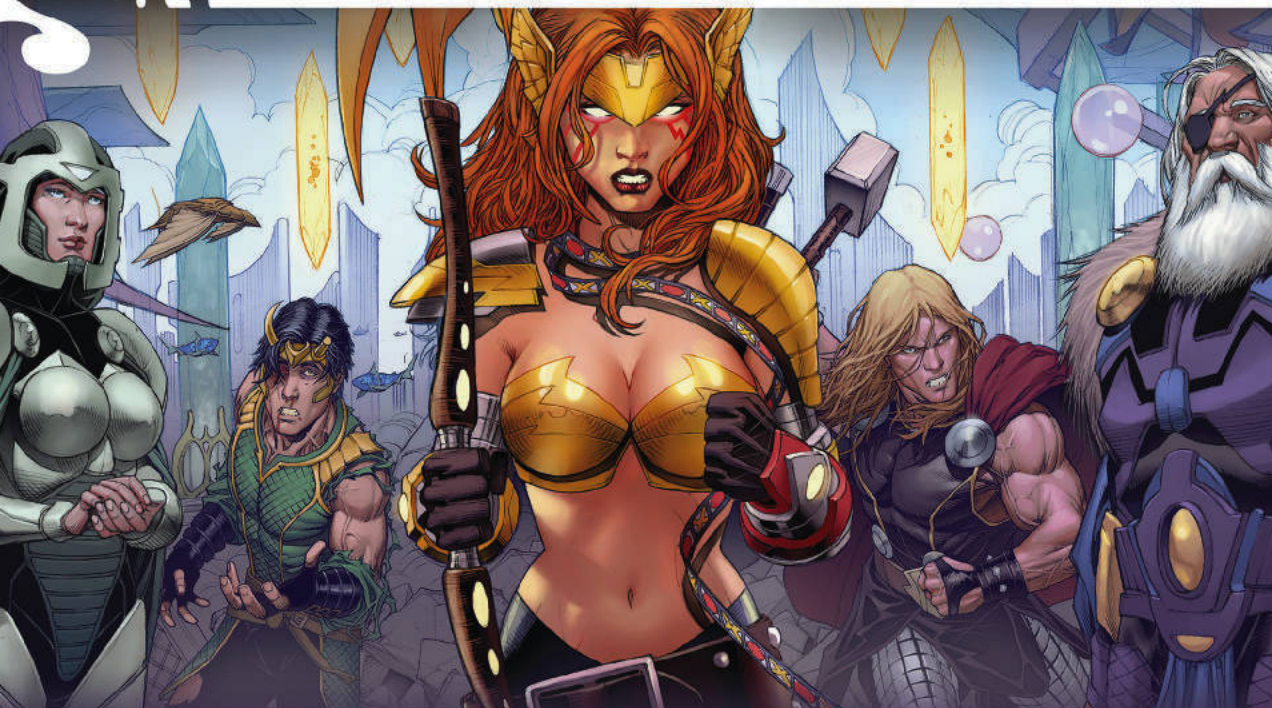
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ORIGINAL
SIN

HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A SISTER SCORNED.



JASON AARON
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THOR & LOKI:
THE TENTH REALM #1-5

ORIGINAL SIN
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COMICS

AND WHAT MANNER OF FOUL THING ARE YOU?

TINY MAN... YOU STINK OF OTHER WORLDS.

I WILL DESTROY YOU!

YOU WILL BE GONE, PARASITE. I AM THE DOCTOR. AND I'VE COME TO--

HELP ME

HELP ME

HELP ME

HELP ME

ARRGH!

OH YES, THIS SHALL BE AMUSING.

GRAWR!





BE
GONE, PUNY
FLESHINGS!

HALT! WITH
THE POWER OF
AGAMOTTO,
I BID YOU BE
STILL!

ENOUGH OF
THESE GAMES--YOU
MUST ABANDON YOUR
HOST OR SUFFER
DESTRUCTION AT
MY HANDS.

OH, SORCERER,
IF ONLY THINGS
WERE SO SIMPLE.
TWO ARE NOW ONE...IF
YOU ARE TO DESTROY
ME, YOU DESTROY
THE GIRL AS
WELL.

HELLLP
MEE....

SHE IS PART
OF ME NOW. IF
YOU ARE WILLING
TO SACRIFICE HER,
YOU MAY
PROCEED.

WILL
YOU TAKE AN
INNOCENT LIFE
TO CONTAIN
ME?

"DARE YOU
BE SO BOLD,
SORCERER?"

...YES, YES...
THE GAMMA
KNIFE WOULD
WORK...

STEPHEN?
WHAT HAVE YOU
BEEN UP TO IN
HERE?

MARTHA,
MY DEAR--I
WANTED TO TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT--

IS...IS
THAT COLIN?
YOU STOLE HIS
CHART?!

I CAN FIX
HIM. I'VE REACHED
OUT TO COLIN'S
FAMILY--THEY'VE GIVEN ME
THEIR BLESSING TO PROCEED.
THE GAMMA KNIFE RESEARCH
HAS YIELDED AN AMAZINGLY
PRECISE SURGICAL METHOD
THAT CAN EXTRACT
THE MOST--

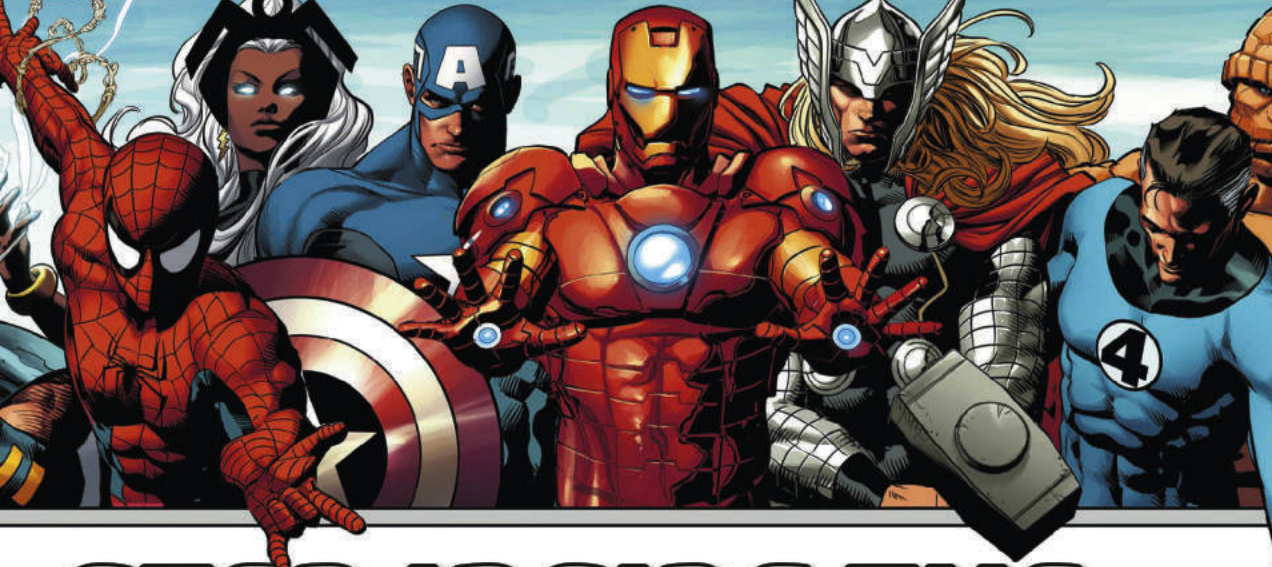
OH, STEPHEN,
STEPHEN--YOU TRULY
ARE LOST IN YOUR HUBRIS.
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY? AT
THIS STAGE? THIS ISN'T
WHAT HE WANTED--

I HAVE
GIVEN THIS MAN
HOPE. HE WANTS
HIS LIFE BACK, AND
I WILL--

YOU'VE
STOLEN THEIR
PEACE, STEPHEN. AND
WHAT OF ME? I'M THE
ONE WHO HAD HIM MOVED
TO HOSPICE...WOULD YOU
DISMISS MY DIAGNOSIS?
DISCREDIT MY
PROFESSIONAL
OPINION?

THIS IS FOR
YOU, MARTHA! WHY
CAN'T YOU SEE THE
GOOD IN WHAT
I'M DOING?!

WHY CAN'T
YOU ACCEPT
THAT SOME THINGS
ARE BEYOND
EVEN YOUR
SKILLS?



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"WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT THE IMPOSSIBLE?"

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE STRONG AND THE WEAK IS AS SIMPLE AS WHO IS WILLING TO PAY...

TO GIVE EVERYTHING THEY ARE FOR EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HOPE OF VICTORY.

I HAVE GIVEN MYSELF TO THE DARKNESS. I HAVE PAID IN FULL.

I AM THE DOCTOR.

AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED.

FWA **ASH**

THE MUNTU
SPLITTING OF THE
SELF. SUCH MAGIC...
WHAT HAVE YOU
SACRIFICED FOR
THIS POWER?

I HAVE...
GIVEN...
ALL.

AND I
WILL NOT
LOSE!

IN...
INCREDIBLE...





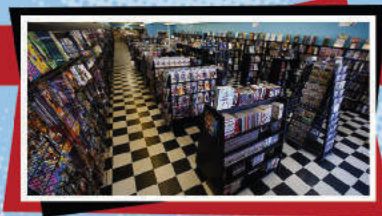
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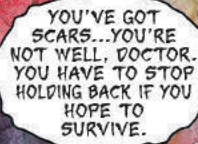
ENOUGH!



CRUNCH!



ARRRRGH!



YOU'VE GOT SCARS... YOU'RE NOT WELL, DOCTOR. YOU HAVE TO STOP HOLDING BACK IF YOU HOPE TO SURVIVE.



MUST... CONSOLIDATE ENERGY.



MUST... WIN.



I KNOW
YOUR KIND, PARASITE...
I'VE HAD SOMEONE IN
MY MIND. I WILL NOT
STAND FOR SUCH
VIOLATIONS!

NO
MATTER THE
COST!

BLOOD
MAGIC? YOU
REALLY HAVE
GIVEN YOUR
SOUL....

YOU PLAY
A DANGEROUS
GAME, SORCERER...
BUT WILL IT
BE ENOUGH?

FACE THE
SORCERER
SUPREME!

YOUR
SIZE IS NO
LONGER AN
ISSUE.

THE
ODDS ARE
EVEN.

NOW
FACE
ME!

ZODIAC

NOW...
YOU...SHALL...
SUFFER!

THE
BINDING CHAINS
OF VALTORR
CANNOT BE
BROKEN.

HAVE
YOU LOST
YOUR TONGUE?
WHERE ARE YOUR
TAUNTS NOW,
DEMON?!

KILL US.
END IT. YOU
ARE...MORE
POWERFUL.

BUT CAN
YOU DO WHAT FATE
REQUIRES OF YOU? CAN
YOU BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR TAKING THIS
INNOCENT
LIFE?

ARE YOU
EXCITED, AUNTIE?
DADDY'S GONNA BE
ALL BETTER!

YOUR FATHER
IS STRONG, BILLY...NO
MATTER WHAT, HE'S SO
STRONG, AND YOU
KNOW HE LOVES YOU
VERY MUCH...

M-MARTHA...

YOU WERE
RIGHT...I
COULDN'T...I'M
NOT--

WHERE'S
DADDY? CAN
I SEE HIM?

HE...HE'S
GONE, BILLY...
HE DIDN'T
MAKE IT...

MY
DADDY...?

YOU
PROMISED!
LIAR!



I'VE NEVER...
I'VE NEVER LOST
A PATIENT--I
CAN'T--

THIS ISN'T
ABOUT YOU...GOD,
WHY CAN'T YOU
SEE THAT?

THAT MAN...HIS
FAMILY...YOU KNEW THE
RISK, BUT YOU ACTED
ANYWAY. YOU EXPLOITED
THEIR HOPE, AND NOW
YOU'VE DESTROYED
THEIR PEACE.

I JUST HOPE
YOU CAN NOW ACCEPT
YOUR LIMITS. YOU'LL
LIVE WITH THIS MISTAKE
FOREVER. I PRAY YOU
LEARN FROM IT.

EVERYTHING
HAS A PRICE,
STEPHEN.
EVERYTHING.

"IT'S HIGH
TIME YOU
PAID."

I WILL
NOT DESTROY
YOU, DEMON.


THEN...
WHAT?

I OFFER
YOU AN
ALTERNATIVE.

A NEW
HOST.

MYSELF,
IN EXCHANGE
FOR THE
GIRL'S LIFE.





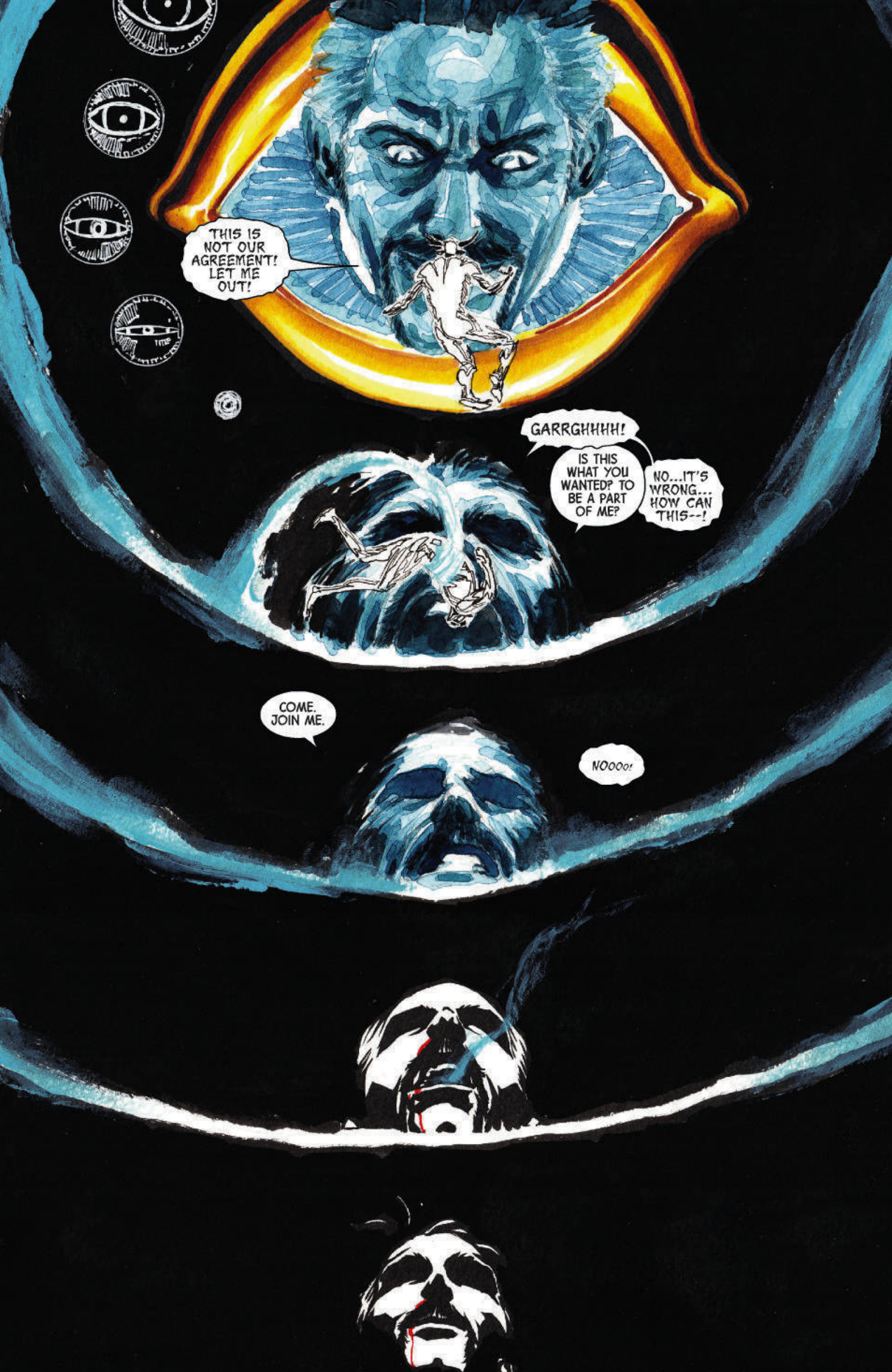
I ACCEPT,
HUMAN! WITH
YOUR POWER, THE
MORTAL WORLD
WILL BE MINE!

YESSSS...
THE POWER...
THE POWER--

I WILL
TEAR THIS
UNIVERSE APART!
THIS VESSEL
WILL GRANT
ME--

--WHAT
IS
THIS?!





THIS IS NOT OUR AGREEMENT! LET ME OUT!

GARRGHHHH!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED? TO BE A PART OF ME?

NO...IT'S WRONG... HOW CAN THIS--!

COME. JOIN ME.

NOOOO!

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#1



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SHE...
SHE'S ALIVE!
BUT HOW? THE
DEMON...

I HAVE...
TAKEN HIM INSIDE
ME. HE IS...NO
LONGER A
THREAT.

GET
AWAY, GET
AWAY!

THE
FORBIDDEN
SPELLS...BLOOD
MAGIC!

YOU...YOU
ARE THE REAL
DEMON HERE! SUCH
AN ACT...IT IS...
UNHOLY! WHAT
ARE YOU?!

I
AM...THE
DOCTOR.

YOU ARE UNWELCOME TO RETURN, STRANGE. YOUR DARK ARTS HAVE BROUGHT A FOUL AIR HERE.

YOUR PRINCESS HAS BEEN RETURNED TO YOU.

AT WHAT COST, STEPHEN? TAKING ALL THAT EVIL INTO YOU... WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME?

WHAT WAS NEEDED. WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND.



I HAVE SEEN THINGS YOU COULD NOT IMAGINE.

I HAVE BEEN WHERE DEMONS FEAR TO TREAD.

I HAVE BECOME WHAT THIS WORLD REQUIRES OF ME.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE PRICE...

...AND I HAVE PAID DEARLY.





1/1

MARVEL
© MARVEL

Always One of a Kind





ROAD FORCE WRECKED & RUINED

PART TWO OF SIX

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STARCORP BASE,
ROAD FORCE HQ,
AREA 51.

I'VE SAVED
THE PLANET FROM
SHAPE-CHANGING
ALIENS! NO ONE
TELLS ME WHAT
TO DO!

EXCEPT
SHADOW, OUR
LEADER...

THERE ARE
OTHER PEOPLE
WHO BLINK HERE,
CROSSHAIRS.

...WHO ALSO
HAPPENS TO BE A
SHAPE-CHANGING
ALIEN. JUST
SAYIN'.

I'M JUST ASKING
YOU TO SHOW SOME
DECENCY AND CLEAN
UP AFTER YOURSELF
FOR ONCE.



YOU'RE
NOT MI MADRE,
NAPALM.

MAYBE NOT.
BUT UNTIL I GET
HOME TO MY SON, ROAD
FORCE IS THE CLOSEST
THING TO A FAMILY I'VE GOT.



VRFEET
VRFEET
VRFEET

IF
YOU TWO ARE
FINISHED...



EMERGENCY BEACON ACTIVATED.
RIDER: SONIC STORM.
LOCATION: MOJAVE DESERT.
TELEPORTATION ENGINE ACTIVATING...

...IT LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE GOT
MORE IMPORTANT
BATTLES TO
FIGHT.



JUST WALK
AWAY AND WE
WON'T HAVE A
PROBLEM.

WE WERE ABOUT TO
SAY THE SAME TO
YOU, PUNK!

SERIOUSLY?
YOU REALLY THINK ONE
GUY ON A BIKE CAN TAKE
DOWN THE WRECKING CREW?!

THE MOJAVE DESERT.



FLASH

I DON'T
KNOW...

...BUT I
BET FIVE
CAN.

ROAD FORCE...
RIDE!

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!