



★ ★ THE ★ ★  
MIGHTY

# CRUSADERS

1

FIRST  
ISSUE  
OF SIX  
SEP '10



TRAUTMANN  
JERWA  
LOPEZ  
LUCAS

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CHURCHILL  
TRAPPING  
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TUNGUSKA, SIBERIA.  
JUNE, 1908.

"THE FIRST OF OUR  
KIND FELL TO EARTH  
OVER A CENTURY AGO,  
LIMPING AWAY FROM  
A FATAL ENCOUNTER  
THAT LIT UP THE MILKY  
WAY FOR HOURS.

"OUR OWN PLANET HAD LONG  
BEEN DIVIDED BY TRIBAL  
IDEOLOGIES. WAR WAS INEVITABLE...

"...BUT NO ONE COULD HAVE  
PREDICTED THAT THE WAR  
WOULD ONLY LAST SIX MINUTES.

MARCH, 1927.

"MERE HOURS BEFORE THEIR  
HOMELAND--AND THEIR  
BRETHREN--WERE FOREVER  
ALTERED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
A CLAN OF SCIENTISTS AND  
SCHOLARS FLED INTO SPACE  
HOPING TO PRESERVE OUR  
RACE'S TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVANCEMENTS."

«IT'S  
GIGANTIC--!»

#--TRANSLATED  
FROM RUSSIAN

«THIS WAY,  
THERE'S  
A BREACH  
IN THE  
HULL.»

«MOVE  
QUICKLY. IF  
WE FAIL TO  
CLEAR THE SITE  
BEFORE THAT  
FOOL KULIK'S  
UNIVERSITY  
EXPEDITION,  
THE GULAG IS  
THE BEST WE  
CAN HOPE  
FOR.»

«LOOK AROUND, COMRADES; HOW COULD WE EVER  
DENY OUR BELOVED MOTHER RUSSIA THE GIFT OF  
SUCH GLORIOUS WONDERS?»

"THE STASIS-TUBES HAD BEEN BADLY DAMAGED UPON IMPACT. SOME MAY HAVE SURVIVED, BUT THEY WERE ULTIMATELY DOOMED WITHOUT FUNCTIONING REPAIR SYSTEMS. THEIR SLEEPING CHAMBERS HAD BECOME COFFINS."

"HUMANS POSSESS SUCH A NATURAL CURIOSITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF THE UNKNOWN. PERHAPS THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED NEXT."

(INTERESTING. THESE... BIOLOGICAL PRESERVATION DEVICES... APPEAR TO BE FUNCTIONING.)

(LET US SEE...)

מאדן  
אין די מאן  
די יא...

(THERE IS NO INTELLIGENT LIFE ONBOARD THIS CRAFT. IF YOU SEE ANY MORE OF THEM STILL MOVING, PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY.)



END RECORDING.  
OPEN TRANSMISSION NET TO ALL ASSETS.

AFTER A LIFETIME OF LURKING IN THE SHADOWS, WE ARE ONCE AGAIN FACING THE BRIGHT DAWN OF WAR.

THERE WILL BE THREE SIDES IN OUR WAR: THE TWO OPPOSING FACTIONS, AND EVERY OTHER LIVING CREATURE ON THIS PLANET.

MY ONLY CONCERN IS VICTORY FOR THE BRAVE SOLDIERS WHO FOLLOW ME.

"WITH NO REGARD FOR LIFE, THOSE MEN STRIPPED THAT STAR-LOST REPOSITORY OF EVERY SECRET THEY COULD FIND.

"IF THEY HAD FOCUSED JUST A MOMENT LONGER ON THE LIFE THEY HAD JUST ENDED...

"...EVERYTHING MIGHT BE DIFFERENT NOW.

"BUT IN THEIR HASTE TO LOOT THE CRASH SITE, THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTIFACT IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE WAS CARTED AWAY BY AN AVARICIOUS PROFITEER."



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
IT IS MY HONOR TO INTRODUCE  
TO YOU...

THE WEB!

FLY-  
GIRL!

INFERNO!

WAR  
EAGLE!

**ERIC S. TRANTMANN** - Plot  
**BRANDON JERWA** - Dialogue  
**JULIAN LOPEZ** - Penciller **JOHN LUCAS** - Inker  
**TRAVIS LAMMAM** - Letterer **JOHN KALLISZ** - Colorist **STANLEY "ARTURIN" LAM** - Cover  
**MIK CIPICHELLI & NORM RAPHAEL** with **CAREN STRACHAN** - Variant cover **RACHEL GLOCKSTEIN** - Editor

WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF ASSEMBLING AND VETTING A SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE TEAM, BUT THE KEY PLAYERS ARE ALL IN PLACE AND READY TO ACT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.



OUR  
MEDIA LIAISON,  
SCOTT SPENCER,  
WILL MAKE SURE  
YOU ALL RECEIVE AN  
ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT  
TODAY, BUT I THINK  
WE HAVE TIME FOR  
A FEW QUESTIONS.



WILL  
THE SHIELD  
CONTINUE TO  
SERVE IN THE  
ARMY?

WHAT  
ABOUT FLY-  
GIRL? IS SHE  
THE WEB'S  
SIDEKICK?  
ARE THEY A  
COUPLE?

HOW DO YOU  
DETERMINE THE TEAM'S  
JURISDICTION?

PRESIDENT  
SUAREZ! HOW  
WILL THE  
CRUSADERS  
INTERACT  
WITH OTHER  
HEROES?



ONE  
AT A TIME,  
PLEASE. WE'LL  
TRY TO GET TO  
EVERY QUESTION.  
LET'S START  
WITH JAMES  
TUDOR.

THANK YOU,  
MISTER PRESIDENT.  
I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE  
THE RATHER CONSPICUOUS  
ABSENCE OF YOUR USUAL  
SECRET SERVICE DETAIL.

# MIGHTY CRUSADERS

THE COMET...

...AND THE SHIELD!

AFTER LEARNING THAT MEMBERS OF OUR OWN MILITARY HAD ENGAGED IN... QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES... IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREAT OF NEW KRYPTON AND GENERAL ZOD, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS AUTHORIZED THE CREATION OF A GOVERNMENT-BACKED METAHUMAN RESPONSE TEAM.

LED BY RESPECTED FORMER GENERAL JACK LATHAM, AND ANSWERABLE TO FEDERAL AUTHORITY, THE CRUSADERS WILL WORK IN THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE. THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY SHOULD ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO LOOK TO THE SKIES AND SEE HOPE, NOT FEAR.

ON THIS STAGE, WITH THESE FINE MEN AND WOMEN BEHIND ME? I THINK I'M ALL RIGHT. I TOLD MY GUYS TO TAKE A LONG LUNCH.

GENERAL... ER, SORRY... DIRECTOR LATHAM?

I HAVE SOME UNUSUAL CHATTER FROM DULLES AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND NOW I'VE GOT A PROXIMITY ALERT GOING OFF...

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, EXACTLY?

