



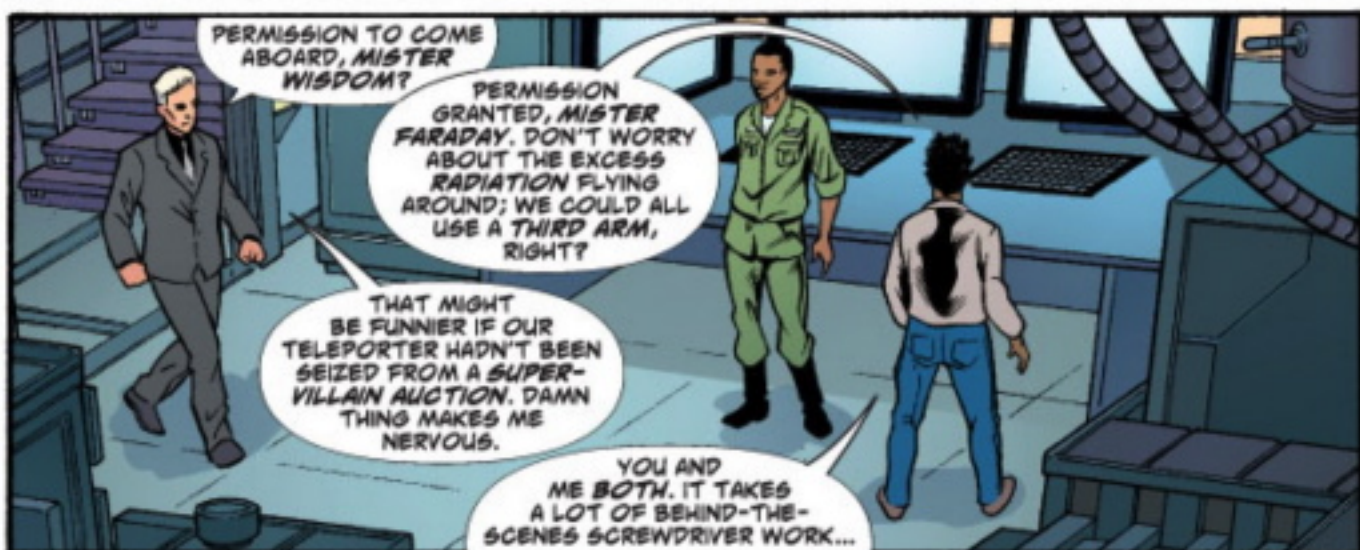
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★ ★ THE ★ ★
MIGHTY
CRUSADERS

TRAUTMANN
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ARIÑO
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LIBERTY STATION,
WASHINGTON STATE

NEW
CRUSADERS

INFILTRATION



THE WEB

**AGENT
CAROL STANDER**

THE SHIELD

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WE'RE SET TO *CONDITION ZULU* AS PER YOUR ORDERS, JACK. IF YOU COULD COME WITH ME TO THE COMMAND CENTER--

I'LL NEED A FEW MINUTES.

THIS CAN'T WAIT.



I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE THEY BROKE GROUND ON THE PROJECT A FEW MONTHS AGO. I LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE.



OH, GOD...
MMMMRRKK!



THAT'S A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, YOU KNOW.

NO, IT'S A SIGN THAT TURNING YOUR BODY INTO ENERGY WAVE-FORMS AND SPRAYING THEM ALL OVER THE WORLD IS NOT NORMAL...

...BUT I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.



HEY, YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET SINCE LATHAM HAD HIS ONE-ON-ONE WITH YOU.

I'M FINE.

ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE--

I'M FINE.



I JUST SPOKE TO PRESIDENT SUAREZ.

WELL, SORT OF.

RIGHT. MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT YELLED, AND I LISTENED. HE'S...UNHAPPY.



UNHAPPY ABOUT WHAT, EXACTLY?

ABOUT THIS.

--GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED METAHUMANS, THE CRUSADERS--

--PART OF THE RESCUE EFFORT FOLLOWING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE RAYMOND INDUSTRIES BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY--

--DISTURBING EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE SHOWS THE CRUSADER KNOWN AS INFERNO USING HIS FIRE-BASED POWERS TO INCINERATE THE BODIES OF THE TEAM'S ENEMIES--

--OUR ON-SITE REPORTER SAYS THAT SEVERAL INNOCENT SURVIVORS WERE CAPTURED AND INTEGRATED INTO THE BODIES OF MECHANIZED CREATURES--

--WHY COULDN'T THESE ALLEGED SUPERHEROES SAVE THESE PEOPLE? FAILING THAT, WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO PERFORM THIS SICK KIND OF ARBITRARY CREMATION OF THEIR BODIES?--

--WHAT ARE THEY HIDING?



...CRAP...



LET'S GIVE INFERNO A FEW MINUTES ALONE, AND THEN I'LL SEND COMET IN TO TALK TO HIM.

UH...THE COMET'S STILL IN THE FIELD, SIR.



OF COURSE HE IS. SORRY, I THINK THE TELEPORTER TRIP MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE HARDER ON ME THAN I REALIZED.



I'LL BE BACK. I THINK I NEED TO TRACK DOWN AN ASPIRIN OR SOMETHING...