

MARVEL

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FANTASTIC FOUR

Life Story 2
The '70s



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Mark Russell
Sean Izaakse
Nolan Woodard

In 1961, Reed Richards, his girlfriend, Sue Storm, her kid brother, Johnny, and pilot Ben Grimm were bombarded by cosmic rays during a spaceflight and gained incredible powers. Together they became the Fantastic Four and, over the next decade, used their abilities to protect humanity. Sue and Reed married and had their first child, while Ben struggled to find peace within himself and the team due to his monstrous new form. Reed remained haunted by a cosmic force that their initial flight had awakened—a being called Galactus who now has his sights set on Earth!

WRITER
MARK RUSSELL

ARTIST
SEAN IZAAKSE

COLOR ARTIST
NOLAN WOODARD

LETTERER
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

FANTASTIC FOUR: LIFE STORY

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COVER ARTIST
DANIEL ACUÑA
VARIANT COVER ARTIST
ACO

DESIGNER
CARLOS LAO
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MARTIN BIRO
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
ALANNA SMITH

EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

FANTASTIC FOUR CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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I THINK A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE CHANGES YOU SOMEHOW. MAKES YOU MORE PHILOSOPHICAL. YOU BEGIN TO ASK YOURSELF--WHAT IF THAT **HAD** BEEN THE END?

THEN WHAT DID IT ALL MEAN?



AND I DON'T KNOW THAT WE EVER FIND THE **ANSWER** TO THAT QUESTION.

AS A SPECIES, WE DON'T REALLY SEEM CUT OUT FOR **HAPPINESS**. SO IF I HAD TO GUESS...



...I'D SAY THAT WE WERE PUT ON EARTH TO **GROW**.



TO DISCOVER OURSELVES.

TO FIND THE LIVES THAT FIT US.



OR, IF NOT...

BONANZA!
GUEST-STARRING...
BEN GRIMM AS THE
LONE HORSEMAN.

OH,
THAT POOR
HORSE.

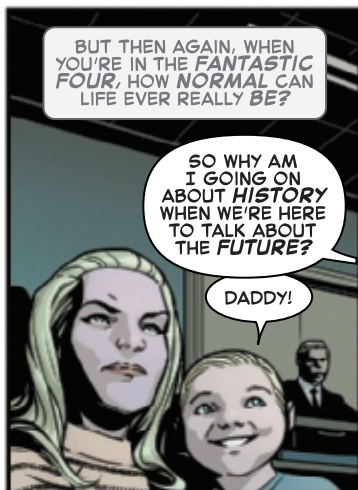
...THEN TO AT LEAST FIND SOME PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE CAN ENJOY THE LACK OF ANSWERS.

1972.



MARRIED. WITH A KID. FOR A WHILE, LIFE CONTINUED NORMALLY.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WHEN YOU'RE IN THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, HOW *NORMAL* CAN LIFE EVER REALLY *BE*?



SO WHY AM I GOING ON ABOUT *HISTORY* WHEN WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE *FUTURE*?

DADDY!



TO ANSWER THAT, ASK YOURSELF...WHAT DOES *EVERY* SUCCESSFUL COLONIAL EMPIRE IN HISTORY HAVE IN COMMON?

IN SHORT-- THEY CAN COME TO *YOUR* HOME WHILE YOU CAN'T GO TO *THEIRS*.

HISTORY IS THE STORY OF *CIVILIZATIONS*. AND IT'S A STORY THAT USUALLY COMES TO AN *ABRUPT END* THE MOMENT TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR STRANGERS ARRIVE.



WHICH BRINGS ME TO *GALACTUS*.

OH, HERE WE GO.

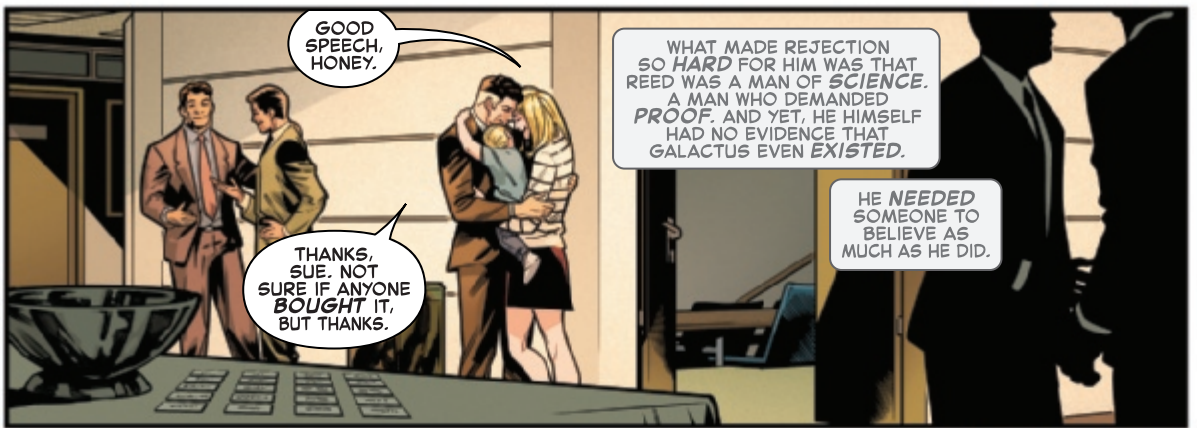
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT *GALACTUS* WITH HIM, ISN'T IT?



MAKE NO MISTAKE...HE IS *COMING*. AND WHEN HE ARRIVES, WE'D BETTER BE *READY*.

WHO'S NEXT?

I THINK IT'S THE *RADIOACTIVE ANTS* GUY. WANNA GET LUNCH?



GOOD
SPEECH,
MONEY.

THANKS,
SUE. NOT
SURE IF ANYONE
BOUGHT IT,
BUT THANKS.

WHAT MADE REJECTION
SO **HARD** FOR HIM WAS THAT
REED WAS A MAN OF **SCIENCE**.
A MAN WHO DEMANDED
PROOF. AND YET, HE HIMSELF
HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT
GALACTUS EVEN **EXISTED**.

HE **NEEDED**
SOMEONE TO
BELIEVE AS
MUCH AS HE DID.



PEOPLE HAD
A HARD TIME
BELIEVING THE
GALACTUS
STUFF.

MR. STARK,
YOU'VE MET MY
WIFE, HAVEN'T
YOU?

WHO
COULD FORGET
THE INVISIBLE
WOMAN?

ALSO
KNOWN AS
SUE.

AND YET, THEY ALL **RESPECTED**
HIM AS THE GREAT REED
RICHARDS. **MR. FANTASTIC**.
WHICH, IN A WAY, MADE IT **WORSE**.



YOU SAID
SOME **INTERESTING**
THINGS UP THERE,
REED.

I MEAN,
CRAZY THINGS,
BUT INTERESTING
TOO!

BECAUSE HE WAS THE CENTER
OF ATTENTION. REGARDLESS
OF WHETHER HE WAS BEING
APPLAUDED OR **LAUGHED AT**.



STILL, I THINK YOU'RE
CORRECT ABOUT OFF-WORLD
THREATS. **WHATEVER** SHOWS
UP, WE NEED TO START
PREPARING **NOW**.

DR. RICHARDS,
CAN I GET A
PICTURE WITH
YOU?

MR. STARK,
COULD I TALK TO
YOU ABOUT MY
GRANTS?

INVISIBILITY IS AN
OVERRATED POWER.
AND AS THE WIFE OF
REED RICHARDS...



...USUALLY
RÉDUNDANT.



IT'S AN **HONOR**, DR. RICHARDS!

THE STUFF ABOUT **GALACTUS**? TOTALLY **NUTS**! BUT AN HONOR, NONETHELESS.



...AND SO, ALL THESE NUCLEAR REACTORS BURY THEIR WASTE UNDERGROUND, AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AIRTIGHT TO CONTAIN ALL THE **RADIATION**, RIGHT? BUT IT'S NOT!

SOMETHING CAN GET DOWN THERE, **EXPOSE ITSELF** TO THE RADIATION AND THEN RETURN TO THE **SURFACE**.

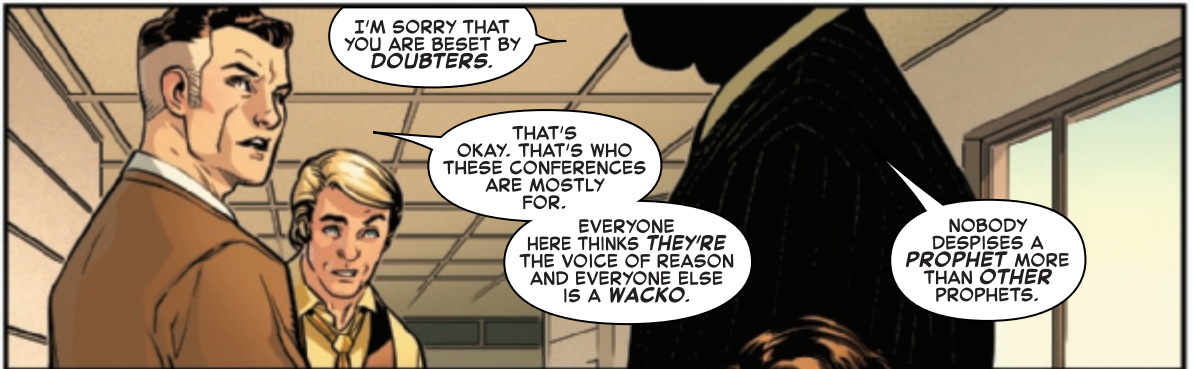
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M TALKING ABOUT **RADIOACTIVE ANTS**!

FASCINATING THEORY, DR. PYM.



BILLIONS OF THEM!

DR. RICHARDS?

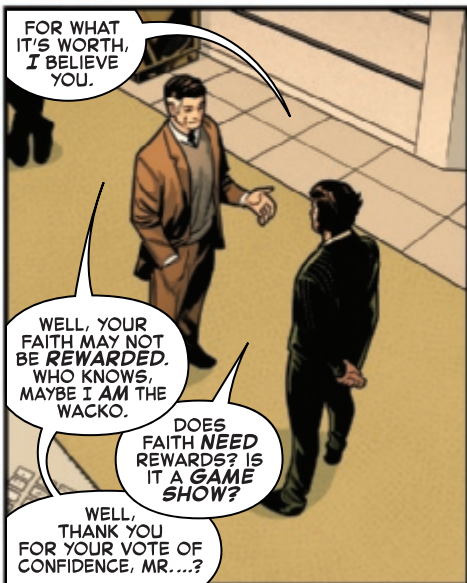


I'M SORRY THAT YOU ARE BESET BY **DOUBTERS**.

THAT'S OKAY. THAT'S WHO THESE CONFERENCES ARE MOSTLY FOR.

EVERYONE HERE THINKS **THEY'RE** THE VOICE OF REASON AND EVERYONE ELSE IS A **WACKO**.

NOBODY DESPISES A **PROPHET** MORE THAN **OTHER** PROPHETS.



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I BELIEVE YOU.

WELL, YOUR FAITH MAY NOT BE **REWARDED**. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I AM THE **WACKO**.

DOES FAITH **NEED** REWARDS? IS IT A **GAME SHOW**?

WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, MR....?



DOOM. VICTOR VON DOOM.