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KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

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THE DEFENDERS

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THE DEFENDERS



WE'RE THE DEFENDERS.

AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU...WE WILL BE THERE TO DEFEND YOU.

WE JUST TOOK DOWN ONE KINGPIN AND WE'RE GETTING READY TO TAKE OUT THE NEXT.

HE CALLS HIMSELF *THE HOOD*.

REAL NAME--PARKER ROBBINS.

KIND OF A DEMONICALLY POSSESSED GANGSTER.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

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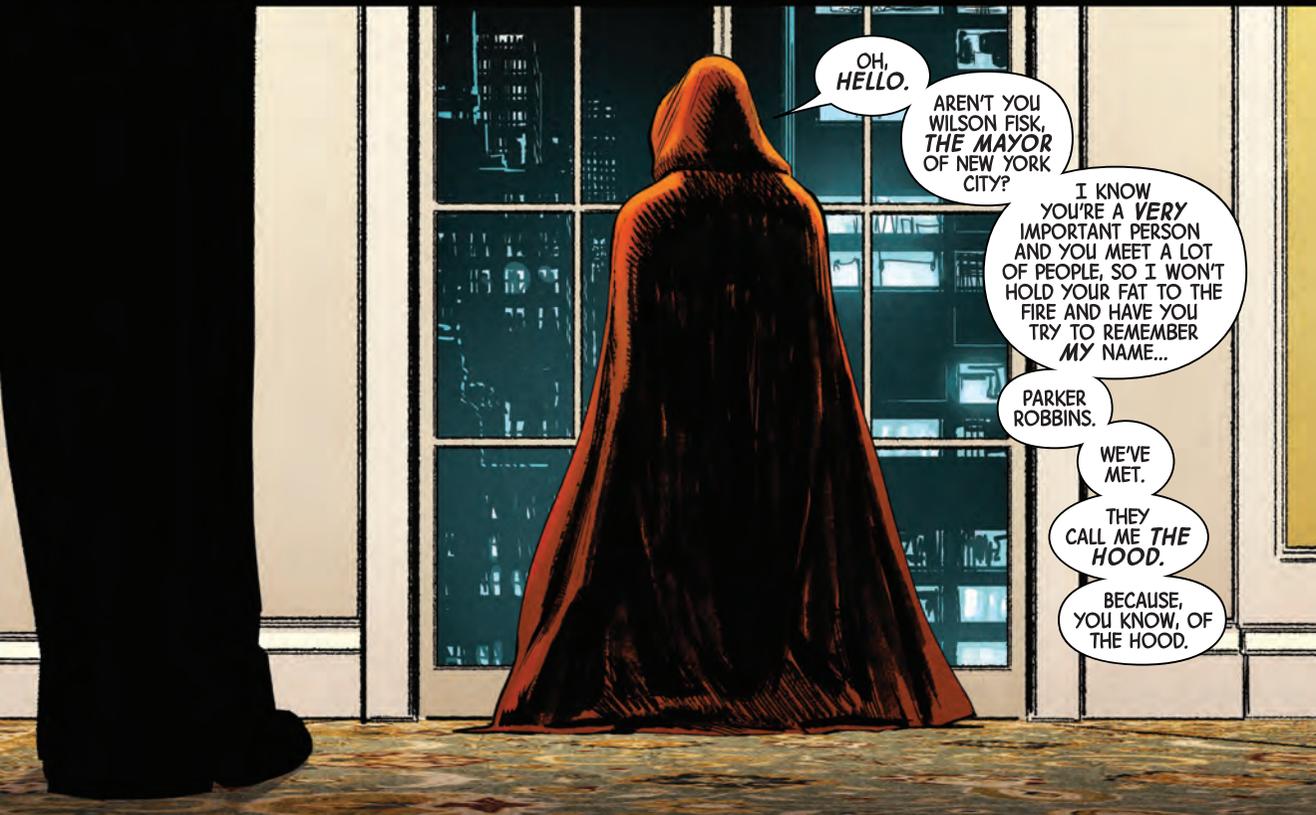
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OH,
HELLO.

AREN'T YOU
WILSON FISK,
THE **MAYOR**
OF NEW YORK
CITY?

I KNOW
YOU'RE A **VERY**
IMPORTANT PERSON
AND YOU MEET A LOT
OF PEOPLE, SO I WON'T
HOLD YOUR FAT TO THE
FIRE AND HAVE YOU
TRY TO REMEMBER
MY NAME...

PARKER
ROBBINS.

WE'VE
MET.

THEY
CALL ME **THE
HOOD.**

BECAUSE,
YOU KNOW, OF
THE HOOD.



SO HERE'S WHAT'S WHAT--IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ALREADY...

...DIAMONDBACK IS DONE.

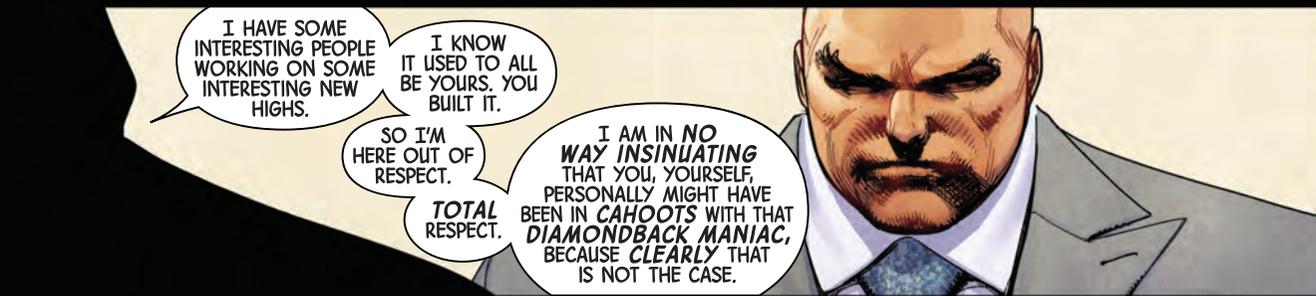
THE DEFENDERS DEFENDED HIS FACE FROM HIS NOSE.

AND IN HIS ABSENCE, I TOOK HIS TERRITORY.

THE BOROUGHS, THE CLUBS, THE TRADE ROUTES, THE BOOK-MAKERS...

ALL OF IT.

THAT DRUG HE WAS PUSHING WAS CRAP. THAT IS DONE.



I HAVE SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE WORKING ON SOME INTERESTING NEW HIGHS.

I KNOW IT USED TO ALL BE YOURS. YOU BUILT IT.

SO I'M HERE OUT OF RESPECT.

TOTAL RESPECT.

I AM IN **NO WAY INSINUATING** THAT YOU, YOURSELF, PERSONALLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN **CAHOOTS** WITH THAT **DIAMONDBACK MANIAC**, BECAUSE **CLEARLY** THAT IS NOT THE CASE.



NO WAY.

I AM NOT SAYING--AND I WOULD **NEVER EVER BE CAUGHT DEAD** SAYING--THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU MIRACULOUSLY GRADUATED TO MAYOR OF THE GREATEST CITY ON **THIS**, THE PLANET EARTH...

(...AND, BY ANY DEFINITION OF THE WORDS, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES...)

I WOULD **NEVER EVER SAY** THAT, BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN YOU ARE EITHER SO INCREDIBLY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND GREEDY THAT EVEN **MY** BRAIN COULDN'T PROCESS IT, OR...

...YOU **STILL** COULDN'T GIVE UP CONTROL OF YOUR BLOOD-COVERED CRIMINAL EMPIRE.

OR YOU'RE JUST OUT OF YOUR FAT #\$\$#\$ MIND.



NOPE.

THIS IS NOTHING BUT A COURTESY CALL TO TELL YOU THAT I AM THE NEW KINGPIN.

SO! ANY ADVICE FOR ME, KINGPIN TO KINGPIN?





LISTEN, TRUTH TOLD, I WILL BE RUNNING THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU DID.

BUT DO NOT, EVEN FOR ONE SECOND, TAKE THAT AS AN OUNCE OF DISRESPECT COMING FROM MY DIRECTION.

WHAT WORKED FOR YOU, WORKED FOR YOU.

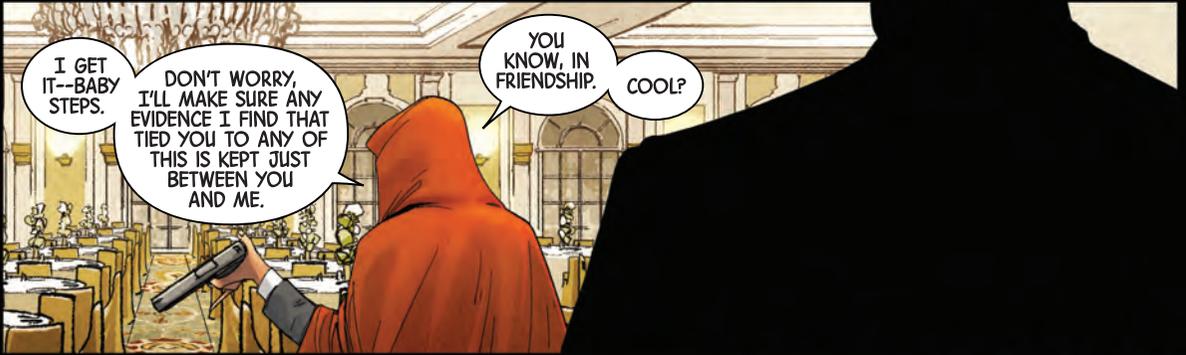


BUT IT'S TIME TO SHAKE THINGS UP, AND I HAVE SOME NEW IDEAS I'M GOING TO TRY OUT.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW IT IS NOT OUT OF DISRESPECT.

NEW KINGPIN, NEW MAYOR. NEW RULES.

AND I HOPE WE--YOU AND I-- CAN START TO THINK OF WAYS TO HELP EACH OTHER.



I GET IT--BABY STEPS.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE ANY EVIDENCE I FIND THAT TIED YOU TO ANY OF THIS IS KEPT JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

YOU KNOW, IN FRIENDSHIP.

COOL?



"HERE'S THE THING..."

"IT'S NOT THE STORIES WE'RE TOLD..."

"...IT'S THE STORIES THAT WE'RE NOT..."



THE NEWS YOU READ OR SEE, SOMETIMES THAT'S THE STORY YOU GET **JUST** BECAUSE WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE OF MAKING THE NEWS--THEY JUST **HAPPEN** TO HAVE SOME FOOTAGE.

SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

SO BASED ON THAT AND **ONLY** THAT...IT BECOMES **NEWS**.



I **THINK** IT'S ALL PERSPECTIVE.

I **THINK** YOU HEAR THE STORIES YOU NEED TO HEAR.

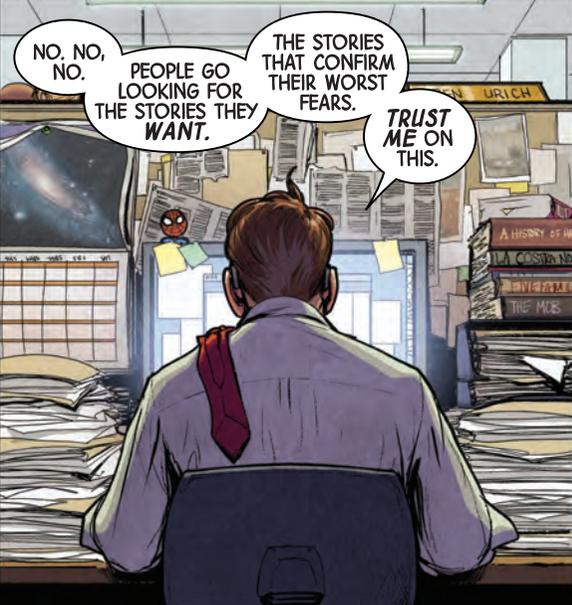


BUT STUFF HAPPENS EVERY DAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BUT NO ART, NO STORY.

ALSO, I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S, I THINK, ONLY SO MANY STORIES A PERSON CAN **HEAR** IN A DAY.

THAT IS TRUE.



NO. NO, NO.

PEOPLE GO LOOKING FOR THE STORIES THEY **WANT**.

THE STORIES THAT CONFIRM THEIR WORST FEARS.

TRUST ME ON THIS.



I **THINK** PEOPLE LOOK FOR STORIES THAT GIVE YOU HOPE WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND ANY IN FRONT OF YOU.

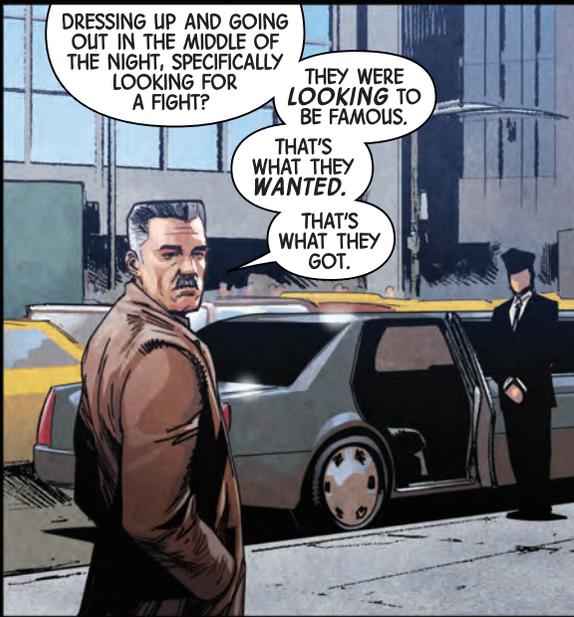
AW, THAT'S TRUE.



YOU KNOW, THERE ARE STORIES THAT HAVE ACTUALLY HAPPENED **TO** ME THAT I HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN...

BUT THAT DOES **NOT** ANSWER THE QUESTION--WHAT HAPPENED--THE **DEFENDERS**?

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM'S WEDDING.



DRESSING UP AND GOING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?

THEY WERE **LOOKING** TO BE FAMOUS.

THAT'S WHAT THEY **WANTED**.

THAT'S WHAT THEY **GOT**.



LISTEN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NOT **WELL-KNOWN**.

WE'RE **WELL-KNOWN**.

(I WAS AN AVENGER.)

I WAS ONE OF **ROLLING STONE'S HOTTEST AVENGERS**.



(HE WAS #77.)

THING IS, YEAH, WE'RE USED TO **STICKING OUT**.

I USED TO WEAR A **BIG METAL TIARA**.

WHY? BECAUSE, LOOK AT ME, I **COULD**.

AND, IF NOT ME, WHO?



WHEN I SAW THE NEWS, I WAS LIKE--I USED TO **DREAM** OF THAT KIND OF PRESS.

BUT IF IT WERE ME THE HEADLINE WOULD HAVE SAID, "**CREEPY SPIDER-BOY RUINS LIMO**."



BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO US AFTER **DIAMONDBACK**...

THAT WAS **WEIRD**.

THAT... WAS **UNEXPECTED**.



NO, IT WASN'T.

PEOPLE ARE **SO SICK** OF BEING PICKED ON AND PREYED ON...

MY HUSBAND WALKED UP TO ONE OF THOSE ASSHATS WHO WAS PICKING AND PREYING ON PEOPLE AND HE PUNCHED HIM RIGHT IN HIS FACE.

AND HE DID IT ON **CAMERA**.

SO, YEAH, WHAT HAPPENED **NEXT**?

SURE.