

While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

While in New Orleans for the funeral of Dr. Burstein, the man who gave him his powers, Luke's mourning became an investigation into Burstein's suspicious death. With assistant Dr. Lenore Mornay, Burstein had repeatedly used the "Burstein Process" that super-powered Luke on a number of patients:

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magnate Cyril Morgan's son, KevLar and his gang the Ninth Ward Mafia, and Frankie Corello, who went mad as a result, killed his criminal father, and attacked Luke and Mitchell "Warhawk" Tanner--Burstein's first test subject.

> Warhawk was slashed by a Damocles blade, which cuts bulletproof skin and which, unbeknownst to Luke, Cyril Morgan has given to KevLar. Meanwhile, Warhawk, suffering from his wounds and the Burstein Process madness, can only be saved by Burstein himself. Luckily, he's just reappeared, very much not dead...

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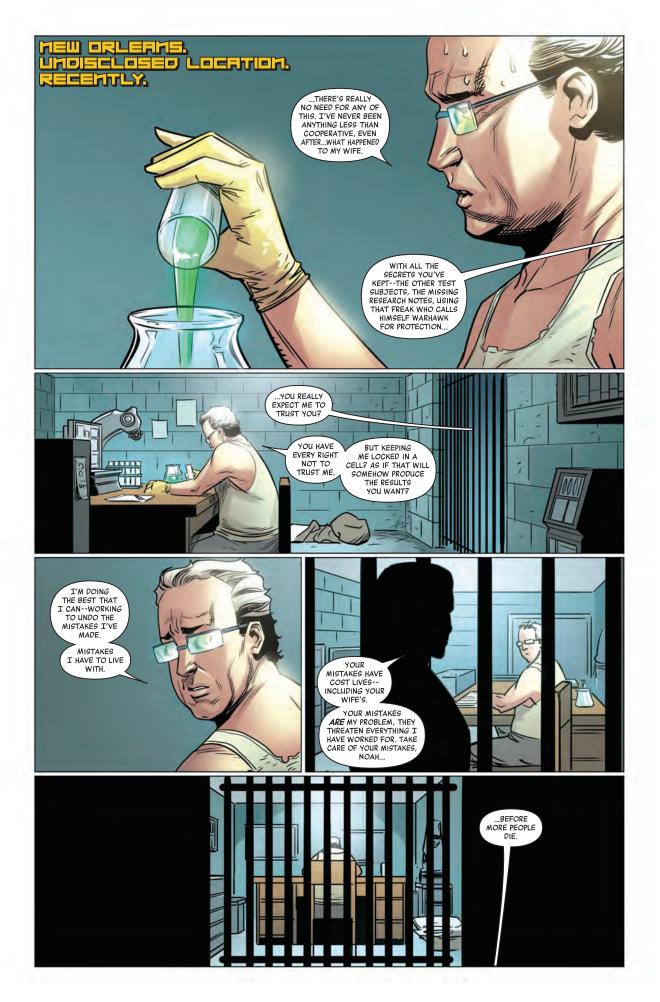
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I WATCH HIM. I LISTEN TO HIM.

> I REALIZE I'VE NEVER SEEN THE BIG PICTURE WHEN IT COMES TO NOAH BURSTEIN.

AND THAT'S WHEN IT HITS ME--HARDER THAN ANYTHING HAS EVER HIT ME BEFORE--NOT LIKE THE HULK PUNCHING YOU IN THE FACE, BUT LIKE THE HULK SMASHING YOUR SOUL...