

JAMES PATTERSON

# MAX RIDE

FIRST FLIGHT



**MAXIMUM RIDE** doesn't remember much about her past.

She remembers **THE SCHOOL**, a secret lab where **SCIENTISTS** experimented on her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel. She remembers the **ERASERS**, the half-human, half-wolf monsters who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who gave his life to help **THE FLOCK** escape and find a life of peace...

Recently the Erasers found the Flock, destroyed their home and kidnapped Angel, so Max and the others set out to rescue her.

Not knowing the Erasers were actually tracking them, the Flock was again ambushed. Only Nudge and Fang managed to escape, while Max, Iggy, and Gazy were captured and drugged.

Later, Max awoke in a cage only to discover that Jeb is still alive and working for The School!

**MARGUERITE BENNETT**

WRITER

**ALEX SANCHEZ**

PENCILER

**ALEX SANCHEZ** (1-5,8,13-16)  
**MARK PENNINGTON** (6-7,9-12,17-20)

INKERS

**ESTHER SANZ**

COLORIST

**VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM**

LETTERER

**STEPHANIE HANS**

COVER ARTIST

ASSISTANT EDITOR

**CHARLES BEACHAM**

EDITOR **SANA AMANAT**

EDITOR IN CHIEF **ALEX ALONSO**

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **JOE QUESADA**

PUBLISHER **DAN BUCKLEY**





BLIND. DEAF. SENSELESS.

NOTHING. THERE'S NOTHING.

THERE'S NOTHING!

ANGEL?! IGGY?! GAZZY?!



I CAN'T SEE, I CAN'T--



GEE, WONDER WHAT THAT'S LIKE--

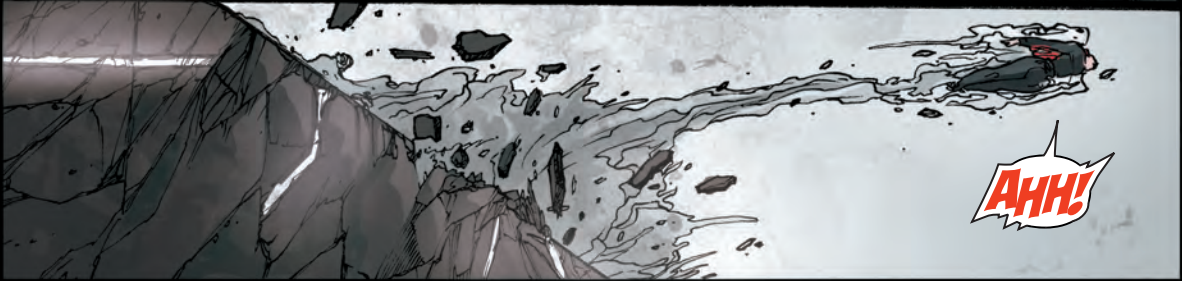


MAX? MAX?!

--CAN'T--I CAN'T BREATHE! DROWNING!



I'M COMING, ANGEL.



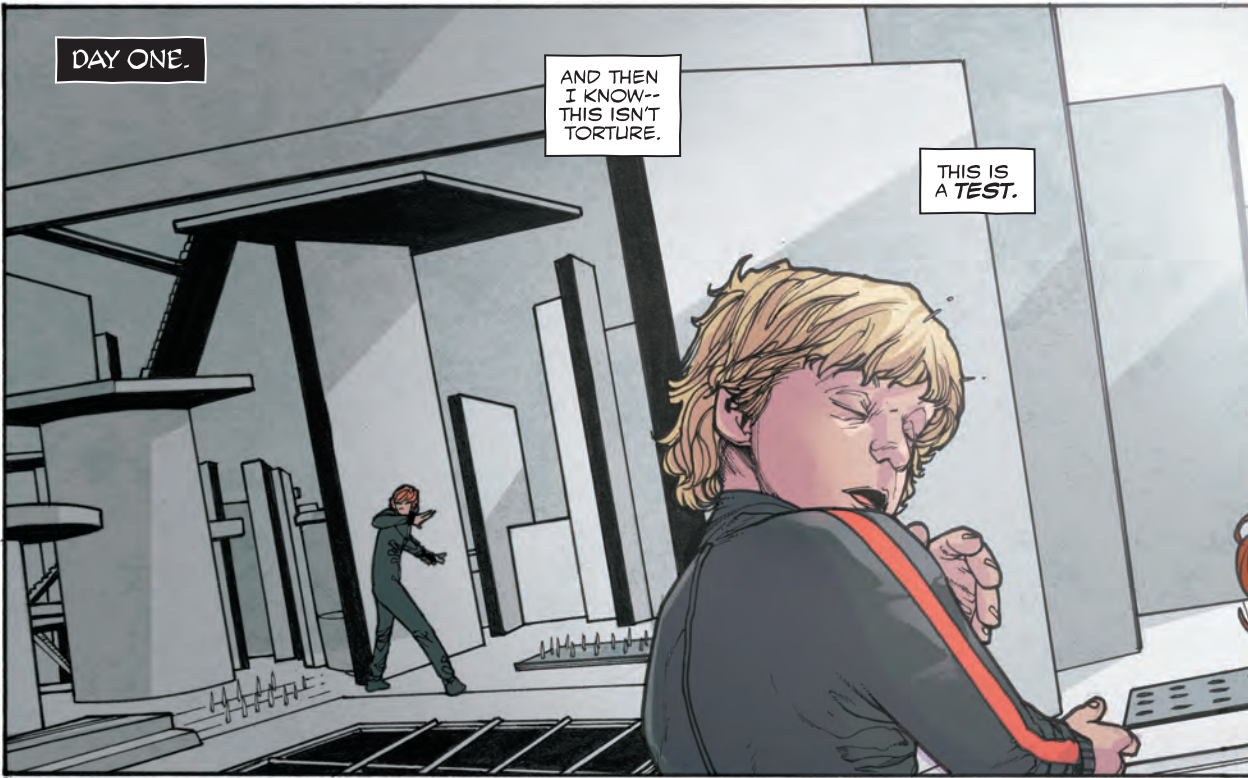
AHH!



DAY ONE.

AND THEN I KNOW--  
THIS ISN'T  
TORTURE.

THIS IS  
A TEST.



IGGY!  
HIT THE  
DECK!

GAZZY?!

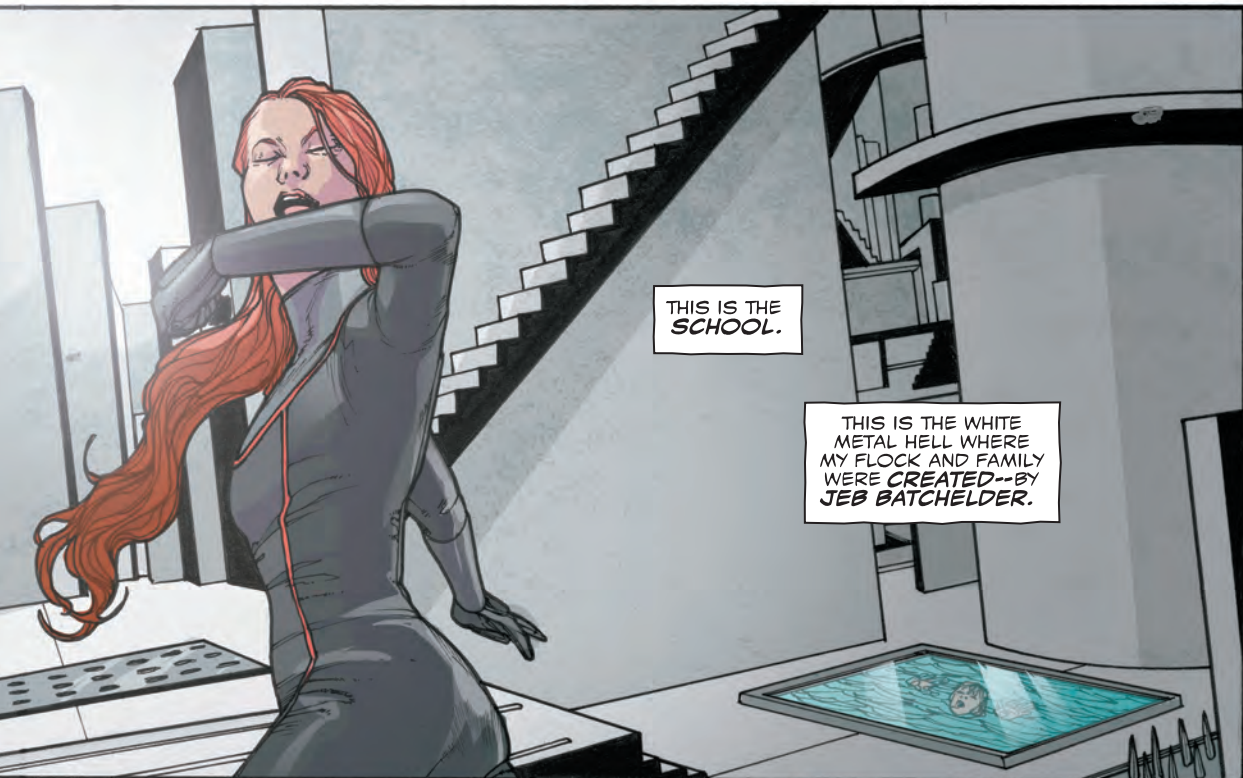


**CRUNCH**

OH JEEZ.  
BE GLAD YOU  
CAN'T SEE, IGGY. I  
THINK I'M GOING  
TO BE SICK.







THIS IS THE SCHOOL.

THIS IS THE WHITE METAL HELL WHERE MY FLOCK AND FAMILY WERE CREATED--BY JEB BATCHELDER.



ANGEL!

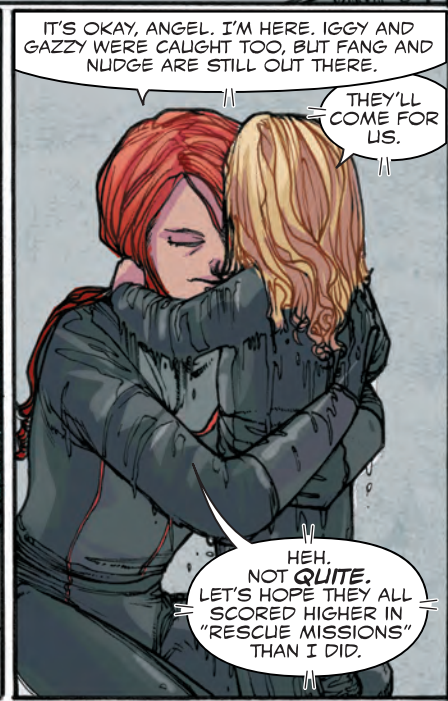
MAX!  
CAN'T BREATHE,  
CAN'T--



DON'T TALK, LITTLE MINDREADER, DON'T TALK--ARE YOU HURT?

→KROFF!  
KROFF!←

N-NO...THE TESTS, THEY MADE ME DO ALL KINDS OF-- I'M HEALING.



IT'S OKAY, ANGEL. I'M HERE. IGGY AND GAZZY WERE CAUGHT TOO, BUT FANG AND NUDGE ARE STILL OUT THERE.

THEY'LL COME FOR US.

HEH. NOT QUITE. LET'S HOPE THEY ALL SCORED HIGHER IN "RESCUE MISSIONS" THAN I DID.





DAY TWO.

ANGEL,  
CAN YOU HEAR  
WHAT THE SCHOOL  
SCIENTISTS ARE  
THINKING?

THEY'RE...  
PLEASED.  
THEY THINK WE'RE  
PROGRESSING,

DAY THREE.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
JEB?

JEB IS...  
JEB IS...

SILENT.

JUST  
WHITE NOISE,  
MAXIMUM.

DAY FOUR.

HOW COULD JEB DO  
THIS TO US?! HOW IS  
HE EVEN HERE?

IN TRUTH, I  
GOT NOTHING.

ANGEL, FANG, NUDGE,  
IGGY, AND GAZZY...THEY'RE  
COUNTING ON ME.

IT'S UP TO  
ME TO TAKE  
CARE OF  
THEM.

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA THE  
DEPTHS TO WHICH JEB AND THE  
SCIENTISTS MIGHT SINK TO TEST  
THE LIMITS OF OUR ABILITIES--

WAIT--  
THAT'S IT!

ANGEL? YOU  
AWAKE?

...KINDA...

SORRY TO  
WAKE YOU. CAN  
YOU TRY TO FEEL  
NUDGE AND FANG?





WE FOUND HIS BODY IN THE GORGE BY OUR HOUSE. WE BURIED HIM. WHO WAS THAT, IF NOT HIM? A CLONE?

DAY FIVE.

DID HE EVER EVEN CARE ABOUT US, OR WAS HELPING US ESCAPE PART OF SOME ELABORATE PLAN? SOME TEST?

ANGEL?

CAN YOU GET A MESSAGE TO IGGY AND GAZZY?

YEAH?

TELL THEM EVERYTHING WILL BE OK...

TELL THEM... I'VE GOT A PLAN.



YOU MEAN, OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL? I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REACH THAT FAR.

TRY. THEY'VE GOT TO BE CLOSE--

MAX! I CAN FEEL THEM! THEY'RE IN THE DESERT, THEY JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET TO US--

LISTEN CAREFULLY AND TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT I SAY.

THEY NEED TO FOLLOW MY EVERY WORD...