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ISSUE
72
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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES





The Story So Far: Mysterious, powerful immortals known collectively as the Pantheon have subtly influenced the course of human existence since the dawn of recorded time. Every one hundred years they gather to discuss current events. This century, the party has been secretly observed by the TMNT... who have just been found out by the Rat King!

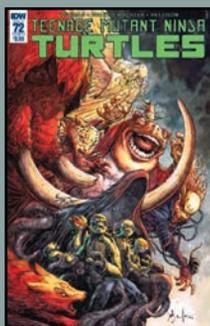
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

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Yesteryear Exclusive Cover

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Special thanks to Joan Hilty & Linda Lee for their invaluable assistance.

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NOW.

UH, HEY, DUDES AND DUDETTES, I—

—EW, EW, EW—



—I THINK THESE LITTLE GUYS BELONG TO YOU.



SORRY FOR CRASHIN' YOUR PANTHEON PARTY.



BEFORE.

LET ME MAKE CERTAIN I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT-



-YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THERE'S A GROUP OF SHAPE-SHIFTING, MIND-CONTROLLING... IMMORTALS, WHO HAVE BEEN PULLING THE STRINGS OF HUMANITY SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, PLAYING SOME SORT OF DEMENTED GAME...

...AND THAT IT'S OUR JOB TO THWART THEIR EFFORTS?



UM, YEAH... MORE OR LESS, DR. STOCKMAN.

KINDA HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?



ON THE CONTRARY, IN A WORLD FILLED WITH MEGALOMANIACAL INTER-DIMENSIONAL INTER-DIMENSIONAL ALIENS, REINCARNATED NINJA WARRIORS, NOT TO MENTION OTHER ASSORTED MONSTERS AND MUTATED FREAKS, PRESENT COMPANY INCLUDED—

—BELIEVING IN IMMORTAL DEMI-GODS IS NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION BY ANY MEANS.

WATCH IT, STOCKMAN.

NO—THE PART I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING IS THE SO-CALLED RESPONSIBILITY WE SHARE IN STOPPING THEM.



QUITE FRANKLY, I FAIL TO SEE WHY I SHOULD GIVE A SINGLE DAMN.

WHAT HAS ANY OF THIS TO DO WITH ME?



YOU SELFISH LITTLE—

HOLD ON, RAPH. LET APRIL TALK.



IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE, DOCTOR, IN THIS SCROLL WE RECOVERED FROM THE FOOT CLAN'S ARCHIVES.

IT DETAILS HOW THE PANTHEON'S LITTLE COMPETITION AGAINST EACH OTHER COULD HAVE HUGE RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY.

WHICH AFFECTS YOU JUST AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE ON THIS PLANET.



HM. SO YOU SAY, MISS O'NEIL...



... BUT THIS IS ALL CHINESE TO ME.

JAPANESE, DUDE!

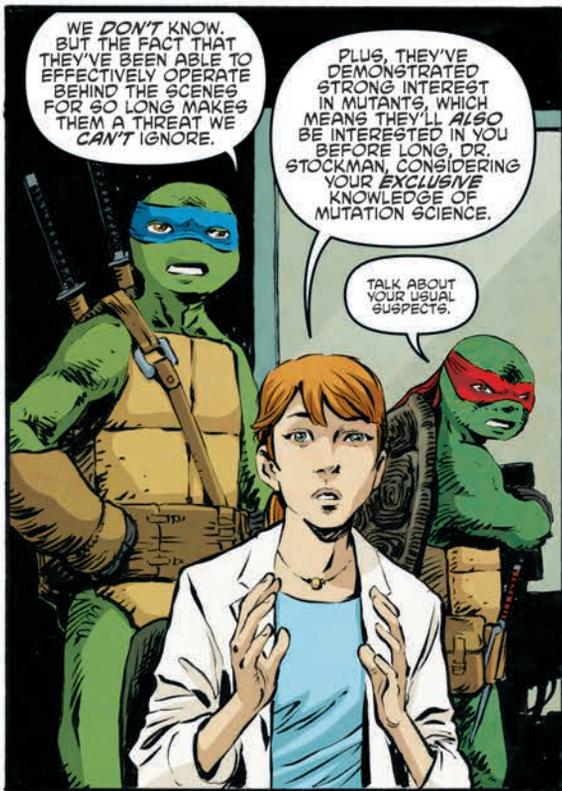
FIGURE OF SPEECH... "DUDE."



SO ANOTHER END-OF-HUMANKIND SCENARIO, IS IT? YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY FAILURE TO QUAKE IN MY SHOES.

AS I'M SURE YOU RECALL, THE PREVIOUS CULPRIT INTENT ON WIPING US ALL OUT ENDED UP LOSING FAR MORE THAN HE HAD HOPED TO GAIN—HIS FREEDOM, TO BE EXACT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS SO-CALLED PANTHEON WILL BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THAT IMBECILE KRANG WAS?



WE DON'T KNOW. BUT THE FACT THAT THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY OPERATE BEHIND THE SCENES FOR SO LONG MAKES THEM A THREAT WE CAN'T IGNORE.

PLUS, THEY'VE DEMONSTRATED STRONG INTEREST IN MUTANTS, WHICH MEANS THEY'LL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN YOU BEFORE LONG, DR. STOCKMAN, CONSIDERING YOUR EXCLUSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF MUTATION SCIENCE.

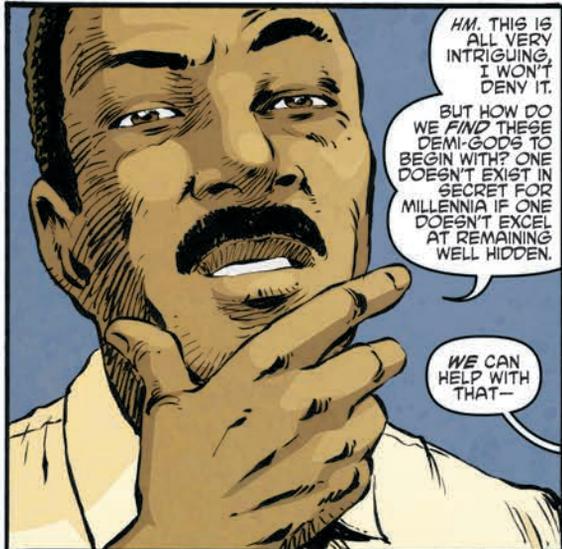
TALK ABOUT YOUR USUAL SUSPECTS.



AND IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT SAME EXCLUSIVITY COULD POTENTIALLY BE VERY PROFITABLE FOR TCRI IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, DOCTOR.

I'M GUESSING THE FIRST COMPANY TO DIP THEIR TOES INTO THE PANTHEON'S UNDISCOVERED SCIENTIFIC WATERS IS SETTING ITSELF UP FOR A HUGE PAYDAY DOWN THE LINE.

SICK CASH, BRO. MUCHO DINERO.



HM. THIS IS ALL VERY INTRIGUING, I WON'T DENY IT.

BUT HOW DO WE FIND THESE DEMI-GODS TO BEGIN WITH? ONE DOESN'T EXIST IN SECRET FOR MILLENNIA IF ONE DOESN'T EXCEL AT REMAINING WELL HIDDEN.

WE CAN HELP WITH THAT—



—ME AND ALOPEX FOUND OUT WHERE THEY'RE ALL GONNA MEET UP SOON.

YEAH. THE HARD WAY.*

*See TMNT Universe #9 & #10 - B.L.



ONE OF 'EM TRIED TO KIDNAP US—TRIPPY DUDE CALLED THE TOAD BARON. GUY'S HOUSE IS LIKE SOMETHIN' STRAIGHT OUTTA ALICE IN WONDERLAND.

HE CALLED IT THE DEN OF DELIGHTS. MORE LIKE THE DEN OF DELIRIUM.

YEAH. AND WE BARELY GOT AWAY, BUT NOT BEFORE WE LEARNED ABOUT SOME WEIRD FAMILY REUNION THEY GOT COMIN' UP AT THE TOAD'S CRIB.

AND NOT BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO JACK THE COORDINATES TO THE PLACE. IT'S ALL ON THIS DRIVE.



I'M THINKIN', IF WE CAN BREAK IN THERE, MAYBE WE CAN GET THE INTEL WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO STOP 'EM.

YES, YOU WOULD THINK.

BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO INFILTRATE THIS "DEN OF DELIGHTS" WITHOUT BEING DETECTED?



EASY. TELEPORTATION AND CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY.

THANKS TO HAROLD LILJA AND THE STREET PHANTOMS, WE HAVE ALL THE TOOLS WE NEED TO GET IN AND OUT OF TOAD BARON'S HOUSE UNSEEN.

ALL WE NEED FROM YOU IS HELP FROM THIS SIDE WITH THE TELEPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS WHILE WE'RE THERE.

I CAN GIVE YOU A QUICK PRIMER ON HOW TO RUN IT ALL—HAROLD DID A GREAT JOB OF MAKING IT UNCOMPLICATED, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.



AND WE STILL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO HIS OLD LABS.

AH, YES, MR. LILJA. I KNEW OUR PATHS WOULD CROSS AGAIN...



FINE. I'LL COOPERATE WITH THIS MADNESS... FOR NOW. BUT LET ME BE COMPLETELY FRANK ABOUT ONE THING.

I AM MORE THAN A LITTLE DOUBTFUL THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT BEING EXPOSED.

IF I'M RIGHT—AND I SO OFTEN AM—YOU MAY VERY WELL FIND YOURSELF ON YOUR OWN FROM THAT POINT.



ARE WE CLEAR?

QUIT WORRYIN' SO MUCH, DOC. WE'RE NINJAS, REMEMBER?

SNEAKIN' AROUND IS LIKE TOTALLY OUR MIDDLE NAME—