

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

VOLUME 2



THE DARKNESS WITHIN



STORY

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PLEASE, DONNIE, YOU GOTTA HELP—HE'S KILLIN' ME!

I REALLY WISH I COULD, RAPPH...



...BUT IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND. I TOLD YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH MIKEY, BUT DID YOU LISTEN? NOOOO. SO...

...RIGHT FOOT TO TRIANGLE.



WHERE... GAH! WHERE'D YOU FIND THIS STUPID GAME ANYWAYS, MIKE?

STUPID?! BRO, THIS IS... ERK! CLASSIC! FOUND IT HIDIN' ON... UNF! ON ONE OF THE STORE SHELVES.



MAN, THAT LOOKS PAINFUL. I THOUGHT THE TAI CHI I JUST DID WAS KILLER.



HEY, THIS IS LIKE... ACK! TAI CHI ON 'ROIDS, DUDE!

MORE LIKE TORTURE. I THINK MY SPLEEN JUST EXPLODED.



DUDE, THAT WAS *SICK!* BEST TWO OUTTA THREE?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? HOW THE HECK CAN YOU EVEN TELL WHO WON?



OH, I'D SAY *WE* WERE THE WINNERS, HUH, LEO?

YOU KNOW IT.

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING, MIKEY— THAT WAS DEFINITELY "CLASSIC."



HARDY HAR, MR. TAI CHI. IT AIN'T LIKE STANDIN' AROUND LIKE A DUMB ONE-LEGGED CRANE IS ANY BETTER.

MASTER SPLINTER WOULD PROBABLY DISAGREE.



SPEAKIN' OF MASTER...



...WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM LATELY?



HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE THE WHOLE THING WITH SHREDDER AND THE FOOT. IT'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.

YEAH, BUT WE KICKED THEIR BUTTS, RIGHT?

NO, WE *ESCAPED* WITH OUR BUTTS. BIG DIFFERENCE, MIKEY. WE MIGHT'VE HAD SHREDDER DOWN, BUT HE WAS DEFINITELY NOT OUT.



I TRIED TO CHEER GENSEI UP BY INVITING HIM TO PLAY THE GAME WITH US, BUT HE KINDA BIT MY HEAD OFF WHEN I ASKED.

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL, LITTLE BRO. HE'S JUST GOT A LOT ON HIS MIND NOW THAT HE KNOWS OROKU SAKI'S BACK IN THE PICTURE. WE ALL DO.



I GUESS. I'M JUST HAPPY WE GOT FATHER BACK OKAY, EVEN IF HE'S GRUMPY. I WAS KINDA WORRIED WE WEREN'T GONNA FIND HIM.



YOU NEED TO GIVE HIM SOME SPACE, MIKE. THIS THING WITH THE FOOT'S NOT OVER BY A LONG SHOT. SHREDDER'S NOT GONNA STAND BY NOW THAT HE KNOWS WHO WE ARE. WE GOTTA BE READY FOR *ANYTHING*.

I KNOW, LEO, AND I *GET* WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. BUT WE DON'T GOTTA STRESS ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME, DO WE?

WELL, WAY I SEE IT, IF WE WANNA *SURVIVE*, THEN IT'S BETTER TO STRESS TOO MUCH THAN NOT ENOUGH.



BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT? WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW. YOU *DO* NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME KICKING YOUR BUTT IN THIS GAME, THOUGH. YOU READY?

REALLY?! BRING IT ON, BIG BRO!

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SMART ONE OF THE BUNCH, LEO.

SECOND SMARTEST!



WHATEVER, DONNIE.



OLD DANGERS—
OLD WARS—HAVE
BECOME NEW.



AND WHILE MY SONGS PLAY—WHILE THEY
ENJOY THESE FEW PEACEFUL MOMENTS
AS ONLY CHILDREN CAN—I FIND MYSELF
STRUGGLING UNDER A WEIGHT I THOUGHT
LIFTED FROM MY TROUBLED SHOULDERS
A LIFETIME AGO.



THEY ARE NOT READY FOR WHAT IS TO
COME—I KNOW THIS, JUST AS I KNOW
IT FALLS ON ME TO PREPARE THEM
FOR THE LONG CONFLICT THAT LIES
AHEAD—AND FOR THE GRIM REALITIES
THAT EXIST WITHIN ALL WARS.

BUT AM I, MYSELF, READY?
READY TO LEAD THEM DOWN
A PATH WHERE RIGHT AND
WRONG SO OFTEN BECOME
INDISTINGUISHABLE?



THE ONLY CERTAINTY IS
THIS—TO OPENLY DEFEY
SHREDDER IS TO COURT
DEATH, AND IT IS INEVITABLE
THAT HE WILL MOVE AGAINST
US, STRIKING FROM THE
SHADOWS WHEN WE LEAST
EXPECT IT.

WE CANNOT FORESEE
WHAT DANGER IS
COMING NEXT.





*See TMNT: CASEY JONES: Microseries #6 - B.C.

