

CHAPTER 4

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

WETWORKS

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CANADA

JONATHAN
PETERSON

CEDRIC
NOCON

CHUCK
GIBSON



250,000 MILES FROM
THE EARTH, THERE
STANDS AN OASIS.

AN ENORMOUS, TANGLED MASS OF
METAL, PIPES, SOLAR PANELS AND
AIR REPROCESSORS, IT LACKS THE
TRANQUIL IMAGERY OF PALM TREES
AND CRISP BLUE WATER, BUT IT
WILL STILL DO.

HI,
GUYS! BET YOU'RE
GLAD TO BE SAFELY
BACK IN THE STUDIO!
AS FOR ME...

FOR THIS IS TRANQUILITY BASE,
A TECHNOLOGICAL WONDER. IT WAS
BUILT TO REPLACE THE STORMWATCH
COMMAND CENTER DESTROYED
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.*

WITHIN ITS WALLS LIE THE HEARTS
AND MINDS OF OVER FOUR HUNDRED
MEN AND WOMEN, ALL DEDICATED
TO PUSHING THE FRONTIERS OF
SCIENCE --

-- WHILE SILENTLY HOPING
THAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO
AVOID THE OMINOUS FATE
THAT BEFELL THEIR
PREDECESSORS.

THEY WON'T.

...I'M STANDING
HERE IN THE EYE OF
THE STORM, JUST WAITING
FOR ALL HELL TO BREAK
LOOSE.

WINDS HAVE BUILT TO
HURRICANE FORCE, AND
THE NATIONAL WEATHER
BUREAU HAS ISSUED AN
ALERT THAT EVERYONE
IN THE GULF COAST
REGION CAN EXPECT
THE WORST...

...HELPS REPORTING
FROM SAN MADEO,
BRAZIL, WHERE MASSIVE
EARTHQUAKES
HAVE LEVELLED THE
CITY.

COLONEL
JAMESON?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

HUH?
OH, SORRY,
SUZAN. JUST
THINKING.

GUESS
I JUST DON'T
LIKE ANY OF
THIS.

OKAY,
SO LET'S
HEAR IT. WHAT
HAVE WE
GOT?

WELL...

IT'S NOT
GOOD.

*See StormWatch #24.



SO THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT IS US.

SOMETHING IS AFFECTING THE MOON'S ORBIT. TO US, IT MAY ONLY SEEM LIKE A MINOR DEVIATION --

-- BUT THE EFFECT ON THE EARTH IS MAGNIFIED TENFOLD. THAT'S JUST THE GRAVITATIONAL LAWS OF NATURE KICKING IN.

OKAY, EINEY -- SO WHAT'S YOUR THEORY?

I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CRAZY --

-- BUT I THINK A RIP IN SPACE HAS BEGUN TO TEAR OPEN.



RIGHT ABOUT... HERE.

BUT WE'VE FLOWN OVER THAT SPOT COUNTLESS TIMES AND ZIP! NOTHING.

UNTIL A WEEK AGO, NOW WE'VE GOT ENERGY SIGNATURES OFF THE SCALE.

BUT THEY'RE STILL COMING OUT OF NOWHERE. IT'S LIKE "SOMETHING" IS TRYING TO PUSH ITSELF INTO OUR CONTINUUM.

IT'S NOT LIKE THE DISTURBANCE IS COMING OUT OF THIN --



-- AIR?!

V
N
N
N
N

IT BEGINS WITH A GLOWING BLADE THAT APPEARS IN MID-AIR AND CUTS ITS WAY THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL PLANES WITH A FIERY ARC.

AND SECONDS LATER, THE NIGHTMARES OF THE ASTRO-PERSONNEL HAVE COME TRUE --

-- AS TRANQUILITY BASE IS UNDER ATTACK FROM A GROUP OF INTERDIMENSIONAL BOUNTY HUNTERS!



GREETINGS, DISCIPLES.

I AM THE SWORD -- HERALD TO DAMOCLES.

AND TODAY IS JUDGMENT DAY.

EARTH...

WAERING INDUSTRIES,
CENTER OF TECHNOLOGICAL
COMMERCE AS WELL AS
THE HOME OF WETWORKS.

SO
WHAT'S
GOING ON,
JESTER?

I
DON'T KNOW.
BUT IT'S ON
EVERY
CHANNEL.

...PHELPS
REPORTING FROM
SAN MADEO, BRAZIL,
WHERE MASSIVE
EARTHQUAKES
HAVE LEVELLED THE
CITY AND KILLED
HUNDREDS...

NATURAL
DISASTERS ARE
BREAKING OUT ALL
OVER. DOZER, THAT'S
WHAT'S UP. WHAT
HAVE YOU GOT,
MOTHER?

I'M TRYING TO
COORDINATE ALL
INCOMING SATELLITE
INFORMATION.

IT WILL TAKE ME
A WHILE TO COME
TO A THEORY.

MR. LIPO,
WHAT IS YOUR
TAKE ON
THIS?

WELL,
TEMPORARILY
I'M GOING TO RULE
OUT THE VAMPIRE
NATION. I DON'T THINK
THIS IS THEIR
HANDIWORK.

NOT ON
THIS KIND OF
SCALE.

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

CHAPTER 5: JUNGLE PARTY

STILL, THESE
CALAMITIES
ARE GLOBAL.

THE HELL
WITH PRECEDENTS!
WE HAVE THE GOLD FOR
A REASON. WE GOTTA
START MAKING A
DIFFERENCE --

-- INSTEAD
OF JUST
KILLING
THINGS ALL
THE TIME.

IF THE
COLONEL WAS
HERE, YOU KNOW
HE'D AGREE WITH
THAT!

WHAT
DO YOU THINK,
JESTER?

HEY, EASY
THERE, BIG MAN.
HOW ARE WE GONNA
KNOW WHAT'S THE
RIGHT THING TO
DO HERE?

WE WERE
TRAINED TO BLOW
THINGS UP, NOT
TO PUT 'EM BACK
TOGETHER!

GRAIL,
YOU GOT
SOMETHING TO
SAY, SO SAY IT.

UP TO THIS POINT, WE
HAVE CONCENTRATED ON COVERT
MISSIONS SOLELY AGAINST THE
VRAPIRE NATION. ARE WE TO
ESTABLISH A NEW PRECEDENT?

I WISH
DANE WERE HERE.
WHERE THE HELL
DID OUR FEARLESS
LEADER RUN OFF
TO, ANYWAY?

I
THOUGHT
WE WERE A
TEAM.

THIS TEAM NEEDS A
LEADER, SINCE OURS
TOOK A LITTLE
VACATION.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING --
WE SHOULD HOLD
AN ELECTION?

YOU
NOMINATING
YOURSELF,
GRAIL?

STOP
THIS BICKERING.
ALL OF YOU!


THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. I WILL NOT
HAVE THIS CHAOS RUIN THEIR COMBAT
EFFECTIVENESS.

THEIR CONCERN IS
UNDERSTANDABLE, MR.
WAERING. THEY ARE MISSING
THE ALPHA MALE OF
THEIR PACK.

THAT IS A
METAPHOR I CAN
APPRECIATE, MR. LUPO.
YET THIS ANARCHY
THREATENS TO DESTROY
EVERYTHING I HAVE
WORKED SO CAREFULLY
TO CREATE.

HOW
DID THINGS FALL
APART LIKE THIS?

THAT'S
JUST WHAT
I WAS
THINKING...



SEEMS LIKE AGES AGO WHEN
WE WERE TEAM 7 -- THE
GOVERNMENT'S BEST, WE WERE
KICKIN' \$\$\$ AND TAKIN' NAMES.

I GUESS IT STARTED
TURNING SOUR WHEN OUR
BOSSSES AT I.O.* SENT
US INTO TRANSYLVANIA.

EASY OP, THEY SAID.
CLEAN HOUSE ON A
HOSTILE POSITION,
THAT'S ALL.

SO WE 'CHUTE IN
AND DO THE DEED.

AND WE'RE FIGHTING
MONSTERS. THINGS
THAT JUST WON'T DIE!

THEN IT GETS REAL
WEIRD. CLAYMORE FINDS
THESE BIG TUBES FULL
OF GOLDEN LIQUID.

THE TUBES
BREAK, AND
HE'S COVERED
WITH THE STUFF!

THEN WE'RE ALL
COVERED...AND WE
MEET OUR NEW
BEST FRIENDS,
THE SYMBIOTES.

WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT
CRAVEN BACK AT I.O. WANTED
THE SYMBIOTES FOR HIMSELF...
SANS HOSTS. THAT MADE US
INSTANTLY EXPENDABLE...

...AND WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING
FOR OUR LIVES EVER SINCE.
WE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT
THIS FAR IF MOTHER ONE
HADN'T TURNED ON CRAVEN
AND LED US INTO THIS DEAL
WITH ARMAND WAERING,
A BILLIONAIRE WITH SOME
KIND OF GRUDGE AGAINST
THE BLOODSUCKERS.

*International
Operations.

I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT ONE. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO **START**. SEEMS THERE'S MORE TO WAERING THAN WE THOUGHT...

ONE THING'S FOR SURE. DANE DITCHED US.* MAYBE WE **SHOULD** ELECT A NEW FIELD BOSS.

*See WetWorks #15.

HOLD ON, JOEL. I WANT TO ASK A QUESTION.

MR. WAERING, DO YOU KNOW WHERE COLONEL DANE IS?

THIS... IS A LARGE STEP, LIEUTENANT. I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THIS.

WHY AM I SO **HESITANT**? THIS CAUTION IS **UNLIKE** ME. WHAT IS **HAPPENING**...?

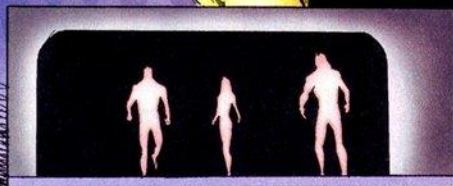
THE HELL WITH THIS!

WE CAN PICK SOMEONE TO LEAD THIS TEAM WHEN DANE'S AWOL... BUT HE'LL ALWAYS BE OUR **COMMANDER**.

I DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU, MENDOZA.

I DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANY OF YOU! THIS TEAM IS STAYING PUT AND THAT IS **FINAL!**

YOU ARE DISMISSED!



SIR?
ARE YOU...?

I'M FINE.

WE MUST GET READY. THERE IS THAT PARTY TONIGHT, REMEMBER?

A SHORT WHILE
LATER BACK IN HIS
PRIVATE QUARTERS...

I NEED
TO GET OUT
OF HERE FOR
AWHILE.

**BZZZ
BZZZ**

COME
IN! IT'S
OPEN!

MAYBE A
WALK AROUND
THE COMPOUND AND
SOME FRESH AIR
WILL --

HUH?

MOTHER?
ERR...HELLO!
WHAT'S THE
MATTER? IS
SOMETHING --

RELAX.
NOTHING'S WRONG.
I JUST WANTED TO
SEE IF YOU WERE...

...OKAY.

I THOUGHT
THAT WAS VERY
ADMIRABLE THE
WAY YOU SPOKE
ABOUT THE
COLONEL
EARLIER.

I THINK YOUR
COMMITMENT
EVEN CAUGHT
ARMAND
OFF GUARD.

AHH...
COME ON. I ONLY
SAID WHAT WAS
ON EVERYONE
ELSE'S MIND.

STILL, YOU
WERE THE
ONE WHO
DID SPEAK
UP.

JUST HUMAN
NATURE,
MOTHER.

I WISH I COULD
FEEL LIKE THAT
AGAIN. WERE YOU
GOING SOMEWHERE?

OUT
FOR A WALK.
I NEED ONE.

COULD I
JOIN YOU?
I...

I'D REALLY
LIKE TO BE
WITH --

NO!

I...I HAVE
TO GO!

MOTHER?
WHAT'S
WRONG?



DANE,
DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA
WHERE WE'RE
GOING?

JUST GUT
INSTINCT. DAMN!
I COULDN'T
DO WITHOUT AN
EARTHQUAKE
SEPARATING US
FROM ALL THE
OTHERS!*

*See Backlash #19.

WELL, CONSIDERING
EVERYTHING ELSE YOU
GUYS PROBABLY WENT
THROUGH TO GET HERE,*
WHAT'S A LITTLE VOLCANIC
ERUPTION BETWEEN
FRIENDS?

I JUST
HOPE MARC
IS OKAY...

SLAYTON
CAN TAKE
CARE OF
HIMSELF.

BESIDES,
LOOK ON THE
BRIGHT SIDE. HE'S
NOT SUFFERING
LIKE THE REST OF
TEAM 7.

*And then check out
Fire From Heaven #1!

SOMETHING'S GONE
WRONG WITH THE ORIGINAL
GEN FACTOR SERUM WE WERE
ALL EXPOSED TO AS TEAM 7. AND
NOW WE'RE ALL DYING. ME,
GRIFTER, DEATHBLOW,
LYNCH...

WE'VE GOT
TO GET INTO
KAIZEN'S LAB AND
RESUSCITATE TSUNG.
HE'S THE ONLY MAN
WHO CAN SAVE
US NOW.

WAITAMINUTE!
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE--?

HALT
RIGHT
THERE!

YOU ARE
IN VIOLATION OF
UNITED NATIONS
ACT 467 AND ARE
TRESPASSING
ON SOVEREIGN
TERRITORY!

STAY
WHERE YOU
ARE OR YOU
WILL BE FIRED
UPON!



THAT'S A MARCH 4 A.T.A.K. GUNHEAD! THEY'RE MADE BY WARDING INDUSTRIES. I DON'T KNOW THEY WENT OPERATIONAL!

BOY, TALK ABOUT YOUR SONS!

WHO CARES WHAT IT IS?

DOES THAT LOOK FRIENDLY?

ROGUE 3, YOU ARE ORDERED TO PROCEED WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.

ROGER THAT, BASE.

TARGET ACQUIRED. OPENING FIRE.

TABOO! DON'T WAIT ON ME, RUN!

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF JUNGLE! THERE'S A CLEARING AHEAD!

POW!

EXPLOSION

OH, COME ON! WHAT A DAY I'M HAVING!

GREAT. CAN YOU SWIM?

DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

YEAH, YOU CAN STAY HERE AND GET SHOT INSTEAD.

SLEETON, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I EVER DO, I'M GONNA GET EVEN WITH YOU FOR THIS!

WHOA! DID YOU SEE THAT?!

CRAZY BASTARDS! LMA, BASE, THIS IS ROGUE 3.

OUR TARGETS PREFERRED TO TAKE A TWO HUNDRED FOOT FALL OFF A CLIFF RATHER THAN BE TAKEN IN. NO SURVIVORS.

WILLIAMS, ARE YOU SURE YOU NAILED THAT?

HEY, SLEETON, TRUST ME...

"...THERE'S
NOTHING
ALIVE IN
THESE
WATERS."

THE PACIFIC
OCEAN.

FATHOMS
BELOW
ITS CHOPPY
SURFACE,
SOMETHING
IS NOT ONLY
ALIVE...

...BUT
CONSPIRING
AS WELL!

LOOK!
THERE IT IS
AGAIN!

SEISMIC
METERS
REGISTER
NEW
TREMORS.

IT'S
THEM, I
TELL
YOU!

BUT MY
STUDIES SHOW
THAT THE
MOON --

NO, NO!
GEEGAN'S RIGHT!
THE FIGHT BEGINS
ANEW!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
MY LIEGE?

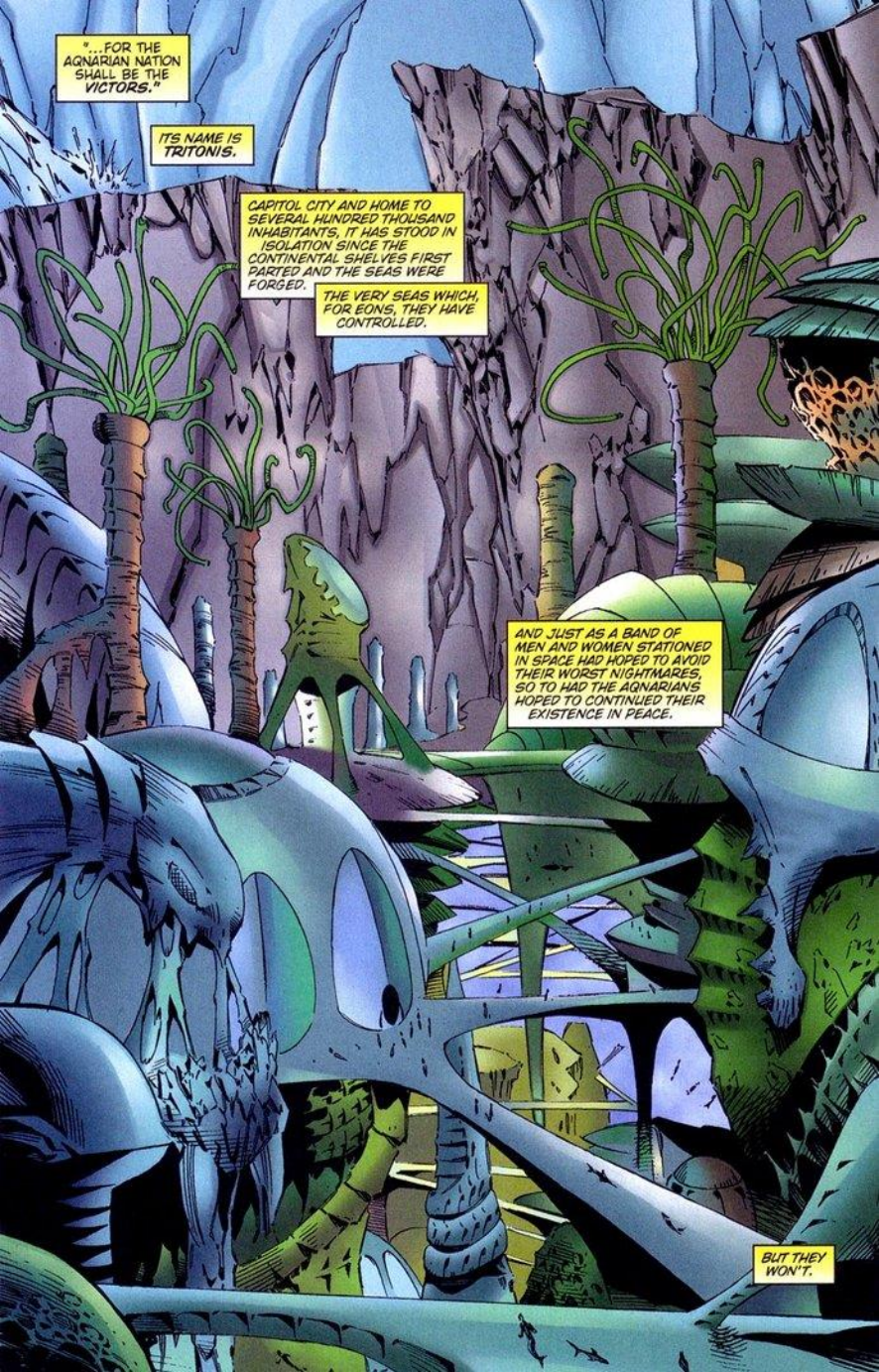
I
DON'T LIKE
THIS.

FOR EONS,
WE'VE TRUSTED THE
VAMPIRE NATION AND
THE WERE NATION TO KEEP
THEIR RESPECTIVE PACTS
WITH US. WE'VE BEEN
CONTENT TO KEEP
THE SEA...

...BUT PERHAPS
GEEGAN IS RIGHT.
ACCORDING TO OUR
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS,
BOTH CLANS HAVE BEEN
SNIPING AT EACH OTHER
OF LATE, THEIR AGE OLD
FEUD REACHING A
NEWFOUND BOILING
POINT.

IT WOULD
SEEM THAT THEY
BELIEVE ONLY ONE
NATION CAN CLAIM
THIS WORLD.

AND IF
THAT'S TRULY
THEIR INTENT,
THEY'RE IN
FOR A RUDE
SURPRISE...



"...FOR THE
AGNARIAN NATION
SHALL BE THE
VICTORS."


ITS NAME IS
TRITONIS.

CAPITOL CITY AND HOME TO
SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND
INHABITANTS, IT HAS STOOD IN
ISOLATION SINCE THE
CONTINENTAL SHELVES FIRST
PARTED AND THE SEAS WERE
FORGED.

THE VERY SEAS WHICH,
FOR EONS, THEY HAVE
CONTROLLED.

AND JUST AS A BAND OF
MEN AND WOMEN STATIONED
IN SPACE HAD HOPED TO AVOID
THEIR WORST NIGHTMARES,
SO TO HAD THE AGNARIANS
HOPED TO CONTINUE THEIR
EXISTENCE IN PEACE.

BUT THEY
WON'T.



I'VE GROWN WEARY OF THE WAIT. THIS IS A STORM LONG IN COMING. STILL...

...IT SADDENS ME. OUR PEOPLE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER NATION...

...HAVE HONORED THE NEUTRAL PACT.

"BUT IF DRAKKEN AND WAERING NOW WANT A WAR, THEY ARE GREATLY MISTAKEN TO THINK WE WON'T FIGHT BACK.

"BECAUSE WE'LL FIGHT. AND WE'LL WIN. WE'LL REMIND THEM BOTH OF 800 YEARS AGO WHEN WE --"

THE MONARCH'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY A SERIES OF TREMORS --

-- THAT ANNIHILATE HIS ONCE-PROUD KINGDOM.

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? THE MA-MACHINERY SMASHED... EVERYTHING'S IN RUINS! DRAKI! NORK! ARE YOU...

MY LORD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! HOLD STILL WHILE I --

DEAD.

THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS... PERHAPS EVEN THOUSANDS... DEAD.

THIS WAS THE WORK OF THE OTHERS. I KNOW IT.

I SWEAR THERE SHALL BE VENGEANCE!

WAERING INDUSTRIES,
SEVERAL HOURS LATER,
AS NIGHT BEGINS TO FALL...

OUR
DRIVER'S OUT
FRONT. ARE YOU
READY TO
GO?

WHAT?
OH, THANK YOU,
LUPO. FORGIVE ME,
I WAS JUST
THINKING ABOUT
TODAY.

THE
TEAM SEEMS
QUITE AGITATED
OVER RECENT EVENTS.
EVER SINCE DANE LEFT
THEM UNEXPECTEDLY,
THEY'VE BEEN A BIT
ON EDGE.*

YOU CAN'T
HIDE THE TRUTH
ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING FROM THEM
FOREVER. PERHAPS
IF WE GIVE THEM A
DISTRACTION?

MAYBE WE
COULD USE DOZER'S
STANCE TO OUR
ADVANTAGE. WE COULD
BROADEN THEIR MISSION
SCOPE AND ALLOW THEM
TO THINK THEY'RE DOING
MORE TO HELP THEIR
OWN KIND.

NO. THESE
PEOPLE ARE THE
GREATEST WEAPON WE
COULD EVER HAVE HOPED
TO FIND IN OUR BID TO
FINALLY ERADICATE THE
VAMPIRE NATION. I WON'T
SQUANDER THEIR TALENT
ON PETTY BANK
ROBBERIES.

BESIDES, I
KNOW WHERE DANE
HAS GONE. MY SPIES
HAVE INFORMED ME THAT
HE AND HIS FORMER
TEAM 7 COMRADES ARE
ON THEIR WAY TO
GANORRA.

HOWEVER,
I DON'T THINK THIS
TEAM WOULD APPROVE
OF A PARTICULAR "TRUCE"
THAT I HAVE WITH KAIZEN
GANORRA. ALLOWING THEM
TO SET FOOT ON HIS
ISLAND DOMAIN WOULD
ONLY...COMPLICATE
THINGS.

STILL, IT
WOULD SEEM THAT I
UNDERESTIMATED
THEIR
DETERMINATION.

I
FEAR THEY'RE
BECOMING UNCON-
TROLLABLE.



W AERING INDUSTRIES
CENTRAL COMPLEX. SUB
LEVEL 2. MAIN HANGAR BAY.



GENTLEMEN, I NOW PRESENT
ONE **STEALTH JET**,
COMPLETELY ARMED.

WAERING'S
UP TO SOMETHING.
THE COLONEL NEEDS
US AND HE'S TRYING
TO HOLD US BACK.
WELL, NOT
ANYMORE.

DOZER,
CLIMB IN.
WE'RE GOING
AFTER DANE.

NOW IF
WE CAN JUST
AVOID ANY
MORE --

-- SURPRISES?

MOTHER!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING IN
HERE?

I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO KNOWS WHERE
WE NEED TO GO.

SWOOSH

THE FAIRMONT

THE FAIRMONT.

SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST ELITE HOTEL, IT MAINTAINS ITS STELLAR REPUTATION THROUGH ITS CLASSICAL STYLE, HOSPITABLE HELP, ELEGANT SUITES...

...AND SPECTACULAR SOCIETAL AFFAIRS.

YOU KNOW, WITHOUT THOSE GLASSES ON, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE --

...SO I TOLD HIM TO STUFF HIS LAWSUIT.

BULLY GOOD SHOW, OLD MAN!

...AND THAT'S WHY MR. WAERING HAS PROVEN HE'S THE BEST THERE IS.

NOW, NOW, LUPO. THERE'S NO REASON TO BRAG. ALTHOUGH THIS MILITARY CONTRACT WILL ALLOW ME TO EXPAND IN ALL NEW WAYS.

SO YOU'VE REALLY LOCKED IT DOWN? I HEARD--

REALLY? THAT'S FUNNY. OUR LATEST LIMO GOT ME HERE JUST FINE.

GORTECH WAS IN THE RUNNING. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, THEY COULDN'T BUILD A BICYCLE THAT ROLLED PROPERLY.

WHO--?

WAYNE GORDON. I THOUGHT I SLIPPED ON SOME DIRTY MONEY ON THE WAY IN.

HELLO, ARMAND. NICE TO SEE THE HOME LET YOU OUT FOR A NIGHT.

I'M SURE.

LADIES, WOULD YOU EXCUSE US? I NEED A WORD WITH MR. WAERING ALONE.

SEE YOU IN THE LIMO, WAYNE. --SMOOCH--



SO ARMAND,
HOW HAVE YOU
REALLY --

CUT THE
CRAP AND GET
DOWN TO BUSINESS,
GORDON.

EVER THE
DIPLOMAT.
TALKED TO
COLONEL
BAUER
LATELY?

WHY? YOU
JEALOUS OVER THE
MODIFICATION CONTRACT
WE GOT ON THE
ENDEAVOR
SHUTTLE?



ACTUALLY,
HE NOTED
TO ME THAT
THE SPECIFICATIONS
YOU SUBMITTED
WERE RATHER...
SUBPAR.

AND SINCE
THAT JOB IS THE
FOUNDATION OF YOUR
PENTAGON SPACE
CONTRACT --



-- I TOOK
THE LIBERTY OF
NOTIFYING A FEW...
SELECT PEOPLE. YOU
KNOW, YOU REALLY
SHOULD PROTECT
YOUR STOCK VALUE
MORE...
VIGOROUSLY.

YOU
HAVEN'T BEEN
PAYING ATTENTION,
MY FRIEND. WAERING
INDUSTRIES HAS
BECOME RIFE FOR
A HOSTILE
TAKEOVER.

WELL...
IF THAT WAS
SOMEONE'S
ULTIMATE
GOAL.

NOW,
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE ME,
DUTY CALLS.



HOSTILE --

WHY
THAT LITTLE
SON OF A --

ARMAND...
NO...



THIS
IS NOT THE
TIME TO REVEAL
YOURSELF!

I --

-- DON'T --

-- CARE!
THAT
INSIGNIFICANT
PIECE OF
MEAT!

DOES HE HAVE
ANY IDEA WHO HE'S
THREATENING?!

GROWL

I DOUBT
HE KNOWS YOU'RE A
LEADER OF THE WERE-
NATION. NOT UNLESS HE
OR ONE OF THE OTHER
GUESTS COMES OUT HERE
IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.
NOW CALM DOWN AND
REVERT BACK TO
HUMAN FORM!

YES...
YES. THANK YOU
LIPO. ONCE AGAIN
YOUR GUIDANCE
SERVES ME RIGHT.
GORDON WILL HAVE
TO WAIT.

FOR
NOW.



LAMORRA.

->COUGH
COUGH-

WELL
THAT'S GOT
TO BE ONE
-KAFF!- FOR
THE RECORD
BOOKS.



MAN, MY HEAD IS RINGING
NOW! DESPITE ANY
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MY
BODY IS GETTING FROM MY
SYMBIOTE --

-- THE
GEN-FACTOR IS
REALLY STARTING
TO FAIL..

NEED TO
REST... BUT I CAN'T.
HAVE TO ->COUGH- GO
BACK AND FIND TABOO...



HEY,
LET GO, YOU
BIG APES!

VOICES...
SOMEONE'S
COMING.

AND
FROM THE
SOUND OF
THINGS --

-- I'VE
GOT A PRETTY
GOOD IDEA
WHO!

SECONDS LATER,
A ROVING JUNGLE
PARTY ENTERS
THE CLEARING --

-- TO REIGN IN
THEIR CAPTURED
PREY!

FINE!
YOU WANT
TROUBLE?
**YOU GOT
IT!**



SNAP

DAMN.



HUH? WHAT
WAS THAT--?



I THOUGHT I
SAW SOMEONE.

CHECK THE
LAGOON.

I WAS
RIGHT!

THAT WAS
PROBABLY
HER PRINT.

THERE'S
NO ONE
HERE.

AARGH!


GRRK!

FWOOSH!

FWOOSH!

WRONG
AGAIN.

SPLOOSH



I'VE HAD ENOUGH
OUT OF YOU. MAYBE
IT'S JUST TIME
YOU --

I'M
WITH YOU
DANE!

WITH THE PRECISION
OF A COMBAT VETERAN,
JACKSON DANE LEAPS
INTO ACTION.

AS FORMER COMMANDER OF A
TEAM 7 UNIT, HE WAS THE BEST
THE MILITARY HAD TO OFFER.
EVEN DEADIER NOW THAT HIS
BODY IS COVERED WITH AN ALL-
PROTECTING ARMORED SYMBIOTE...

...AN ENTITY SIMILAR
TO THAT WHICH IS
WORN BY TABOO

ACTING TOGETHER, THE PAIR
SLICE THEIR WAY THROUGH
THE REMAINING WINTER-KILLERS,
THEIR RETRIBUTION DEADLY...

...AND
SWIFT.

WELL,
THAT TAKES
CARE OF THEM.
NOW WHAT?

WE'VE
STILL GOT
TO GET
TO --

SORRY, BUT
YOU CAN BAG YOUR
TRAVEL THINGIES
RIGHT NOW.

Uh-
Oh!



YOU'RE
BOTH COMING
WITH ME!

**THE BATTLE
HEATS UP!**

IT'S A FREE-FOR-ALL WHERE ANYTHING
GOES AND THE MAYHEM BREAKS OUT IN...
STORMWATCH #35!

APRIL '96



Fire From Heaven is at full steam this month. There's so much to talk about, we're going to have two WildStorm News pages this month instead of one, so watch for a different one in books shipping later in April!

Backlash #19

Fire From Heaven, Chapter 2
Sean Ruffner • Brett Booth •
Mark Pennington

After a rough ride to Gamorra, Backlash runs across Taboo and Crimson. And Cybernary has to make a tough call — she encounters all three heroes, but can save the life of only one! This issue also features Burnout.

Gen13 #10

Fire From Heaven, Chapter 3
Brandon Choi • J. Scott Campbell •
Alex Garner

Ivana and the Deviants make things tough for the team. Also, Lucius and the Pirates return — and they've got Alex Fairchild with 'em!

WetWorks #16

Fire From Heaven, Chapter 4
Jonathan Peterson • Cedric Nocon

Dane and Taboo face Battalion — would you want to be in their shoes?

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

Black Ops #4

Shon Bury • Dan Norton • Sandra Hope
NOT part of Fire From Heaven -

We still have other books, too.

In this fourth installment of the high-tech espionage adventure, the Black Ops team are both hunters and hunted, hot on the trail of General Markov, but with Santini and his Black Razors at their backs!



BEHIND THE SCENES

Congratulations are in order to J. Scott Campbell, who returned from the latest WildStorm European Tour with the news that he and fiancée Keyke Beek are engaged to be married later this year! The wedding will probably be in her native Netherlands, but the happy couple will live here in the States. And remember, ladies — Gen13 inker Alex Garner is still single!!!



Strikeback! #4

Sigma #2

WildC.A.T.S #29

Deathblow #27

DefCon 4 #3

Griiter/Shi #2

Team 7 III: Dead Reckoning #4

StormWatch #35

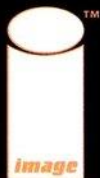
This month from
WildStorm

In case Fire From Heaven wasn't hot enough for you...
Here's something that is.



J.Scott Campbell,
Adam Hughes,
Ryan Benjamin,
Jason Pearson,
Scott Clark, and
many more,
drawing
WildStorm's
women -- and
men -- in the
season's sexiest
special.

Coming
in May
from



and



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C/O HOMAGE STUDIOS • 7910 IVANHOE AVE. STE. 438 • LA JOLLA, CA 92037
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IN CASE YOU'RE JUST TUNING IN...

The latest group of soldiers to be called TEAM 7 was America's greatest secret weapon, until the day they invaded a VAMPIRE ENCLAVE. Instead of an enemy target, they found themselves bonded with GOLDEN SYMBIOTES that gave them strange abilities-- just before INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS tried to have them killed.

Betrayed and hunted by their government, they struck a deal for sanctuary with industrialist ARMAND WAERING (who, unknown to them, is also a leader among the WEREWOLVES of the WERE NATION); they hunt his enemies, the vampires and their allies, and he conceals them from the U.S. government. Now calling themselves WETWORKS, the team is locked in mortal combat against the vampires and their ruler, KING DRAKKEN. During the struggle, some have fallen, others have vanished. But those remaining-- COLONEL JACKSON DANE, GRAIL, JESTER, CLAYMORE, DOZER, and MOTHER-ONE-- are still hunting monsters wherever they may hide.

Alongside his comrades from the original TEAM 7, Dane is now on the island of GAMORRA, racing to recover the GEN-FACTOR that was ripped from his system before he dies. Meanwhile, the other TEAM 7 veterans (GRIFTER, LYNCH, DEATHBLOW, and BACKLASH) are on the island with the GEN¹³ kids, trying to complete the mission and discovering that events are much larger than any of them suspected. WETWORKS, realizing that Dane may need their help, is on the way to Gamorra...

Now, on to this month's fan mail.

Dear WETWORKS,

Just picked up WETWORKS 14. The artwork in this issue was magnificent; every segment of every page was a masterpiece. WetWorks displays outstanding teamwork-- this is one of the best action teams out in the market. Will there ever be an animation series based on WETWORKS?

I admire the team's abilities and it gave me shivers down my spine when the words were spoken: "the symbiotes can destroy our bodies but not our spirit." My brother once showed me a letter he wrote from Vietnam to his girlfriend in which he said similar words: the Vietnam war was unpopular and his girlfriend dumped him. No matter how strong his spirit was, his letter was sent back to him "return to sender- address unknown."

I must say Grail is one of the coolest characters out there. I wouldn't mind seeing him spinning off into his own series. I like the way he's drawn, the way he interacts with the other team members, and everything. Grail has potential of expanding into greatness of his own.

I saw the drawing of the "Temple of Yacuzemal" and it looks very similar to a Mayan temple my dad and step-mother visited while in Mexico and Central America. Is this an accurate drawing of an existing temple? I haven't had a chance to show my dad the picture.

OK, what is Mother-One's secret agenda? I know, it wouldn't be a secret if you told us. I guess I can wait, but not too long! Francis Takenaga writes good stories-- he is a writing genius and I'm glad you have him on your

staff. Well, now I'm going to go wait for the next issue...

Sincerely yours,

Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, CA.

Thanks for your enthusiastic letter, Paul. We like to think we give the readers good value for their entertainment dollar-- and it looks like you agree!

WetWorks' greatest strength lies in their fighting spirit, the drive inside that doesn't let them quit. That spirit is going to be put to some extreme tests pretty soon...

Grail's undergoing some radical changes-- don't be surprised if he's a MUCH different guy as WETWORKS moves forward.

And we'll reveal Mother-One's secret agenda (and some things even she wasn't aware of) soon enough.

Dear Deep End,

Now that I've read issue six to issue eleven--FUKANASEY! Those books left an aftertaste that want me to eat...err, to read more. Shucks! I missed the first five and I cannot find them. HELP! S.O.S! TABANG!

I am all praises to the whole Wetworks creative team! In fact, your books are the BEST--numero uno kayo sa akin. In fact, I'm also looking into the crevices of Image where guest appearances of the WetWorks team or characters are popping up in other books--such as BACKLASH, BAL-LISTIC, and DEATHBLOW. Did I miss some books?

COMMENTS:

Mind-boggling and unpredictable plots! Great cinematic framing and

visuals, and daring layouts, especially in #6 to #8! Fantastic characterization, precise and essential action sequences! Nothing beats Whilce's pencils and Scott's inks! When can we see another whole book from both?

QUESTIONS:

1. Issue #6, page 20, frame 1/2, "Your sensor acuity has increased another threefold. I am impressed, daughter".

Is this another sub-plot regarding Mother-One's identity? Is this her *real* mother? Is this connected to Mother-One's S.H.O.C. origins (as seen in BALLISTIC #3)? My guess is that "mother" is--The Blood Queen! Who would supply the symbiote to Mother-One, but... Right? How come nobody in Dane's group, including Dane, is asking where she got it? When are you guys gonna spill the rest of Mother-One's origin?

2. Issue #6, page 21, frames 2 & 3; Issue #7, page 7 to 12; and Issue #11, pages 12-13.

Is issue #6 the start of Pilgrim's metamorphosis? My initial reaction is that she is a vampire ("My reflection it...it's not there...")! Wrong? But issue #7 shows that she could deliberately shield herself from detection even though she is wearing the symbiote, and even cut off her reflection on the mirror in issue 6!

In issue #7, the other Pilgrim--let's call her Pilgrim2--with the coils/cords, is she just a projection of Pilgrim's "evil"? Is P2's materialization an effect of her metamorphosis? Like battling with herself or identities before finally "choosing" the dominant self. What does P2 mean in issue #6, page 8, frame 5, "You're the last in a series..."? Are there more than two Pilgrims existing in different dimensional planes or in other parallel worlds?

Is Pilgrim's new form in issue #11 the final look? Is phasing from one dimension to another the asset of Pilgrim? Why doesn't she doesn't stay long after saving Dane? Does this mean that

Pilgrim will have her own mini-series?

In short, are all of these manifestations caused by the symbiote? When will all the subplots/hints shown so far be tied up?

3. In The Deep End in #9, it was mentioned that two separate spin-off books will branch out from WETWORKS. Will each book focus just on the Vampire Nation and the Were Nation? How about the other Night Tribes?

Are you going to discontinue putting in backup stories like The Lone One? I hope not.

Are the other Night Tribes based just on existing beliefs of a culture or are you going to add more myths, like you did on the vampires and werewolves? I hope you'll do the latter-- it would not be corny.

I think this is all for now, people. Keep up the good work! I hope to read your response soon. Godspeed.

Abraham Garcia, Jr.
Davao City, Mindanao,
Philippines

Hey, Abraham! Hope you find THIS issue! As part of our big FIRE FROM HEAVEN crossover, it's going to be a must-have for WETWORKS fans like you!

I think you picked up most of WETWORKS' guest appearances, if you're keeping track of our other fine titles like BACKLASH and DEATHBLOW. To the best of my knowledge, BALLISTIC is the only non-WildStorm title that has included our golden guys and gals.

Now, to answer a few of your questions...

- 1) Mother-One was talking to Waering's mainframe computer. They have a weird mother/daughter relationship, which we'll be exploring in upcoming issues. (Man, just when you thought Mother couldn't get any more creepy!) We'll also spill the beans on where she picked up the

symbiote. There are a few clues in place already...

- 2) Issue #6 is absolutely where Pilgrim finds out she's got a power-- and invisibility proved to be only the tip of the iceberg. P2 was *indeed* killing off other-dimensional counterparts, for reasons not yet revealed, and our Pilgrim was the only one (so far) to give her trouble. Is P2 dead? Could be... and it could be we'll reveal what happened to Pilgrim while she's been gone in upcoming issues. Look for her big return soon!
- 3) Despite previous announcements, there are no plans to launch any Night Tribes mini-series at the moment. If this changes, you'll hear it here first.

CROSSOVER ALERT!

Now that you've read this installment of FIRE FROM HEAVEN, go right to STORMWATCH 35 to see the battle between WildStorm's mightiest psionics.

Oh, yeah, and SkyWatch II is in the crosshairs when the Sword and his henchmen set up a gigantic energy cannon... on the moon!

See you next time!
-Drew Bittner

BY THE WAY...

Keep those cards and letters coming! You can send us mail at our usual address or you can send us fanmail care of our new website:

<http://www.wildstorm.com>.

It's got tons of great stuff for WildStorm fans!

We're also having a contest. The BEST LETTER and the BEST PIECE OF FAN ART we receive before June 1st will each win a prize, which we'll announce in WETWORKS 18.

In an upcoming Deep End, we'll show you readers the winners, plus some of the runners-up. Look for it!

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

SIGMA and DAMOCLES are the only survivors of a dead parallel Earth. SIGMA is a young man who is just learning that he has unbelievable power, while DAMOCLES is the madman who destroyed their homeworld in a misguided effort to save it. Now, these two are on our planet-- and the final battle between them is inevitable.

SIGMA, TEAM 7 (DEATHBLOW, LYNCH, BACKLASH, DANE, and GRIFTER), GEN¹³, and the mysterious MOTHER GOOSE have come to Gamorra. Their mission is to find DR. SIMON TSUNG, SIGMA's friend and mentor, who has been forced to help KAIZEN GAMORRA create a clone of the superpowered youth. If TEAM 7 can't find TSUNG and replace the GEN-FACTOR that has been ripped from their systems, they will die very soon.

After crashing on Gamorra and being scattered by an earthquake, the heroes at the crash site battle and defeat STORMWATCH, who have been manipulated into "protecting" Gamorra from any superpowered incursions. After that fight, the heroes manage to infiltrate KAIZEN'S laboratory, where they liberate TSUNG and FREEFALL...

...only to find themselves facing off against IVANA BAIUL and her team of DEVIANTS. To make matters worse, KAIZEN himself appears and unveils his brainchild: GEN-OMEGA, SIGMA'S powerful clone!

Meanwhile, the SWORD OF DAMOCLES and his INTERDIMENSIONAL BOUNTY HUNTERS have launched an attack on the UN MOONBASE, to secure it for DAMOCLES' arrival. He is ready to cross the dimensional barrier separating our Earth from his and commence the final destruction of our world.

Time is running out.

WETWORKS®

ISSUE NUMBER SIXTEEN

STORY

JONATHAN PETERSON

PENCILS

CEDRIC NOCON

INKS

CHUCK GIBSON (1-5, 7, 8)

DANNY BULANADI (6, 9-22)

COLORS

MIKE ROCKWITZ

LETTERS

BILL O'NEIL

COMPUTER COLORS: INColor

PRODUCTION: WILDSTORM EFFECTS

ASSISTANT EDITOR: DREW BITTNER

EDITOR: MIKE ROCKWITZ

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COVER BY CEDRIC NOCON & CHUCK GIBSON

WILDSTORM EFFECTS

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RAY BRITT, JESSIE BUDDILL, CLAUDIA CHONG,
JEREMY COX, LAURA DUPUY, BEN DIMAGMALIW,
TAD EHRLICH, IAN HANNIN, MATT HOERR, NICK KOZIS,
EMILIO MEDINA, MERV, CHRISTIAN MILOS, JASON
MORLON, TODD PARSONS, CHRIS PROVINZANO,
TOBIAS QUECK, ROB RO, JAMES ROCHELLE,
JESSICA RUFFNER, JOHN UHRICH, & CARLOS VASQUEZ**

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