

REST IN POWER

CHADWICK BOSEMAN

1976 - 2020



MARVEL

7

LGY#322

THOMPSON
SANDOVAL
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PARENTAL ADVISORY

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REST IN POWER

TRIBUTE BY TA-NEHISI COATES

"Death is just a different kind of journey...to the land that I am king of."

—T'Challa, *Secret Wars* #7

In the Black Panther mythos, T'Challa often retreats to his City of the Dead, where all the previous kings and queens of Wakanda have been buried. There, T'Challa finds wisdom and counsel from his ancestors who have gone before. It was in such a city, almost 25 years ago, that I met Chadwick "Chad" Boseman. Our City of the Dead was Howard University, a place where we felt our ancestors — Kwame Ture, Donny Hathaway, Zora Neale Hurston — walked with us. The word "ancestor" is key here. It was not simply that Howard had produced "notable" or "accomplished" alumni; it was that it had produced warriors, men and women who'd spent their lives employing their chosen weaponry in the very same war that both Chad and myself, by virtue of color, felt ourselves drafted into. Like T'Challa in his own City of the Dead, we were so inculcated with their spirit that we felt we had a responsibility to do much the same. So it would not have been enough for Chad to become a leading man in Hollywood. His art would have to somehow advance the ancestral war for justice.

Not that Chad needed much urging. I met him leading a protest with my friend Kamilah Forbes to preserve the dignity of Howard's fine arts college. What I am saying is that before I knew Chad the artist, I knew Chad the warrior. And he was regal even then. There was something almost otherworldly about Chad — I would listen to him talk and only catch about 60 percent of what he was actually saying. It took time to realize that this was because Chad was always a few steps ahead of everyone.

I got to watch him through the years — advancing out of student theater, on to TV and film, and then finally cast as T'Challa. He was perfect. He had T'Challa's royal spirit, the sense that he did not represent merely himself, but a nation. And this is how I am understanding his death. It is personally sad to lose him at such a young age. But for those of us who so needed him right now, in these dark times, those of us who went to war with him, the loss is unthinkable. We simply cannot afford to be without Chad.

My recourse is inadequate, but it's all I have to make meaning of this tragedy. It is the idea of ancestry. It is the notion that when someone like Chad wields their weapons as fiercely as he once did, they are remembered. It is the idea that Chad's wisdom and power are still with us in ancestral form. It is the thought that just as Chad once walked into the City of the Dead and harnessed the energy of those who'd gone before him, so he too may be harnessed, by all those warriors to come.

CHADWICK BOSEMAN

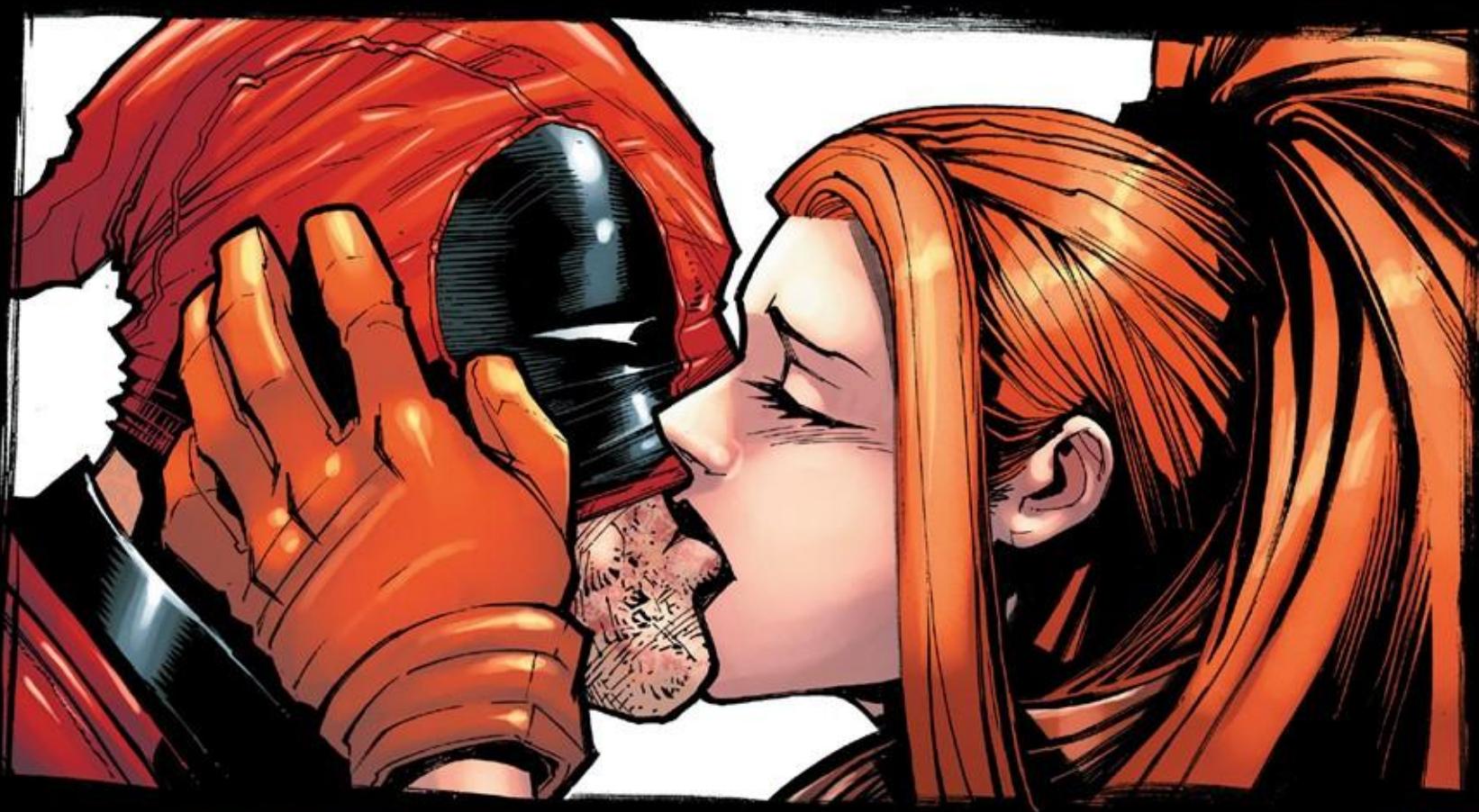


1976



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TRIBUTE BY BRIAN STELFREEZE





WADE!
HOLD ON!

S#%&!

CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN A TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, WADE WILSON WAS BESTOWED WITH THE ABILITY TO HEAL FROM ANY WOUND. HE BECAME A MERCENARY. THEN, FOR A WHILE, HE TRIED TO BE A HERO. IT... WELL, IT WENT PRETTY BADLY. SO BADLY THAT WADE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO BEING A CLASSIC CHAOS AGENT, THE MERC WITH THE MOUTH, THE REGENERATIN' DEGENERATE KNOWN AS...

DEADPOOL

WHEN MONSTERS TOOK OVER STATEN ISLAND THANKS TO A CENTURIES-OLD LEGAL CLAIM, DEADPOOL WAS HIRED TO SLAY THE MONSTER KING. WADE KILLED THE KING, WHICH, ACCORDING TO MONSTER LAW, MADE HIM THE NEW KING OF THE MONSTERS!

BEING KING TURNED OUT TO BE A LOT LESS FUN THAN IT SEEMED. DEADPOOL'S REIGN BEGAN WITH NUMEROUS BUREAUCRATIC COMPLAINTS, A HOSTILE ROYAL GUARD CORPS, THE APPEARANCE OF MONSTER HUNTER ELSA BLOODSTONE, AND TENSE RELATIONS WITH THE NEIGHBORING BOROUGHS. BUT AFTER SAVING HIS MONSTER CITIZENS FROM A KILLING SPREE BY KRAVEN THE HUNTER, DEADPOOL GAINED THE TRUST OF HIS ROYAL SUBJECTS, AS WELL AS THE LOYALTY OF HIS ROYAL GUARDS.

OF COURSE, NOTHING IN DEADPOOL'S LIFE EVER STAYS HUNKY-DORY FOR LONG. LIKE A BAD PENNY, ELSA TURNED UP WITH SOME DIRE NEWS: THE BLOODSTONE EMBEDDED IN HER PALM IS KILLING HER, AND SHE NEEDS WADE'S HELP TO STOP IT—BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

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THE ISLAND FORMERLY KNOWN AS STATED.
KING DEADPOOL'S THRONE ROOM. FANCY.







SOMEWHERE IN GREENLAND.

ALL RIGHT.
IT'S TIME YOU
TOLD ME WHAT
WE'RE **REALLY**
WALKING INTO
HERE.

I TOLD YOU,
WE'RE GOING
INTO THE SEAM...
THIS TEAR BETWEEN
OUR DIMENSION AND
THE DIMENSION
OF THE BONE
BEASTS.

AND THEN
WE KILL THE
BONE
BEAST QUEEN THAT
INFECTED ME,
AND THEN...

...THEN WE
COME HOME.
EASY.

RIGHT.
YOU'LL FORGIVE
ME IF I NEED
MORE DETAILS.

LIKE, HEY...
WHAT IN THE HELL
IS A DAMN BONE
BEAST?

THEY'RE...I
DON'T KNOW HOW
TO BLOODY EXPLAIN
IT. THEY'RE BONE BEASTS.
THEY'RE ALL BLACK AND
SORT OF FLUID AND
SWIRLY. BIG SHARP
TEETH. HARD TO
KILL. MESSY.

AND THEY'RE
A HIVE MIND, SORT
OF, SO THE QUEEN
CONTROLS THEM.
KILL HER AND THE
REST DIE OFF.



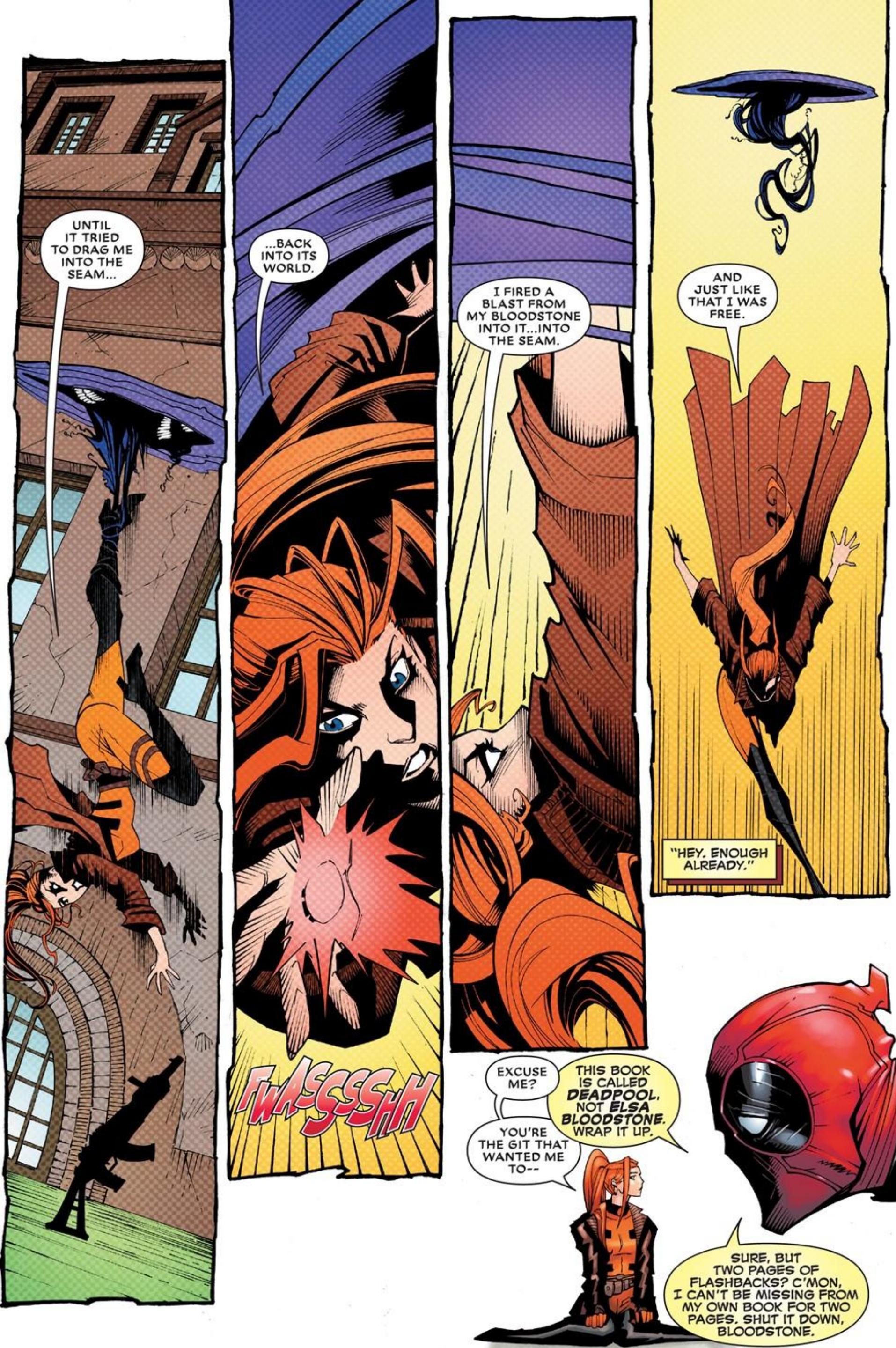
THIS IS A FLASHBACK.
KEEP UP.

I WAS JUST
DOING MY USUAL
MONSTER HUNTER
THING. I DON'T
EVEN REMEMBER
WHERE I WAS.



ANYWAY.
SAVING THE
WORLD. NO
BIG.

UNTIL...



SOMEWHERE IN
GREENLAND... AGAIN.

BUT IT
WAS TOO LATE.
THE INFECTON
HAD ALREADY
BEGUN.

GREAT STORY.
I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU WERE ONE OF
THOSE "DECOMPRESSED
STORYTELLING IN
COMICS" FANS.

I FEEL LIKE
YOU SHOULD HAVE
MENTIONED THAT.
LEARN TO EDIT...
COMPRESS... JUST A
LITTLE ADVICE FROM
ME TO YOU.

THIS IS
ADVICE FROM
YOU? FROM THE
MERC WITH THE
MOUTH?

I LIVE TO GIVE
CONSTRUCTIVE
CRITISM.

LOOKS LIKE
THE SUN WENT
DOWN WHILE YOU
WERE YAMMERING...
WE READY TO DO
THIS?

YEAH. ALL RIGHT.
IT'S JUST AROUND
THE CLIFF EDGE
THERE. FOLLOW
ME.

TOO BAD
WE'RE HERE TO
KILL THINGS. IT'S
LOVELY. I COULD
HAVE A VACATION
HOME HERE.
IF I TOOK
VACATIONS.

THERE
IT IS.

\$!@%
ME.

MRRR.



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THESE THINGS? LIKE, WHAT'S THEIR MOTIVATION?

THEY WANT BONES, WADE. IT'S IN THE NAME.

LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE THEIR OWN BONES AND WANT THEM?

YOU ABSOLUTE MORON. THEY WANT TO EAT THEM. THEY EAT THE BONES.



OHHHHH.
OKAY, SURE, I
GET IT. BONE
BEASTS.

I MEAN, DON'T
GET ME WRONG,
THEY'LL EAT ABSOLUTELY
ANYTHING, BUT BONES ARE
WHAT THEY CRAVE AND
THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL
ALL THE BONES ARE
DEVOURIED.

CHOP

SLICE











...YOU HAVE
BROUGHT ME
HE WHO SHALL
REPLACE YOU
AS MY NEW
HOST BODY.



WHAT?!

ARE YOU #\$%&
KIDDING ME,
BLOODSTONE?!

NEXT: THE FIRST CUT
IS THE DEEPEST...



DEAR KING DEADPOOL,

YEESH. I GO AWAY FOR A COUPLE MONTHS AND NOW I'M WAY BEHIND ON ANSWERING LETTERS. LET US NOT DALLY WITH OUR DILLIES AND GET RIGHT TO IT!

HOWDY, MR. KING DP. EU GOSTEI MUITO DO SENHOR BELLUS.* PLEASE MAKE THAT \$.

STEVEN

[*ROYAL TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: PORTUGUESE FOR "I REALLY LIKED MR. BELLUS." ME TOO, BUDDY. ME TOO.]

THANK YOU FOR THE KIND WORDS FOR BELLUS, STEVEN. SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE HE'S STILL HERE WITH US. PROBABLY BECAUSE WE KEEP FINDING HIS MOLTED FEATHERS NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE VACUUM THE THRONE ROOM. MISS YOU, FEATHER LOCKLEAR, WHICH IS THE NICKNAME I CAME UP WITH FOR YOU BUT YOU DIED BEFORE I COULD USE IT. SIGH.

HELLO, KING DEADPOOL! I AM ABSOLUTELY LOVING THIS STORY SO FAR. THE ART IS SIMPLY AMAZING AND ADDING KRAVEN AS THE BIG BAD HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING TOUCH. (R.I.P. BELLUS.) SO I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS I WAS HOPING YOU COULD ANSWER FOR ME.

1. HOW MUCH IS RENT ON MONSTER ISLAND?
2. IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY MONSTER FROM MOVIES OR TV JOIN YOUR COURT, WHO WOULD YOU PICK AND WHY?
3. WHAT IS MONSTER ISLAND'S TAKE ON KRAKOA—POTENTIAL THREAT OR ALLY OR NEUTRAL?

THANKS A BUNCH.
CATCH YOU IN THE NEXT
ISSUE,

SEÁN FROM WATERFORD,
IRELAND

- P.S. IF JEFF IS HARMED IN ANY WAY, WE RIOT!

1. AFFORDABLE! SOMETHING ABOUT A NEIGHBORHOOD FULL OF MONSTERS SEEMS TO DRIVE DOWN REAL ESTATE PRICES.

2. MONSTER IN MY POCKET, FOR, I THINK, FAIRLY OBVIOUS REASONS.

3. YOUR ANSWERS LIE IN ISSUE #5. HOPE YOU ENJOYED THEM. I DIDN'T.

4. NO ONE HURTS JEFF! I HOPE! THIS BONE BEAST QUEEN LOOKS...PRETTY FORMIDABLE.

DEAR DEADPOOL:

LAST ISSUE, WHEN YOU DECIDED TO ALIGN WITH THE MONSTERS, YOU GOT ME THINKING ABOUT A PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN A LITTLE OBSESSION OF MINE SINCE I STARTED READING YOUR COMICS. SEE, I IN FACT AGREE THAT YOU COULD BE CONSIDERED A MONSTER. BUT, BEFORE YOU KILL ME, LET ME SAY THAT I ALSO BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEST

THING YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE. ONE IS NOT A MONSTER BASED ON ONE'S APPEARANCE. YOU NEVER CAN BE MESSY ENOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A LAYERED AND INTERESTING INNER LIFE, FULL OF STRUGGLES AND PAIN BUT ALSO OF IMMEASURABLE BEAUTY AND POTENTIAL. THIS IS WHAT I SEE IN YOU. SOMEONE BELIEVABLE ENOUGH TO BE MISTAKEN FOR REAL. BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL WASN'T ENOUGH, WAS IT? YOU HAD TO CROSS THAT INVISIBLE FRONTIER AND BECOME ONE OF US. WHAT ELSE CAN BE SAID? YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH, FRIEND. CONGRATULATE WHOEVER IS WRITING YOU FOR ME. BECAUSE EVEN IF SOMEHOW COMICS DIED OFF, THANKS TO THEIR WORK, YOU WOULD LIVE IN OUR MEMORIES FOR A LONG TIME.

TAKE CARE,
DANA MARTÍN

P.S. HAPPY LATE BIRTHDAY!
HOPE YOU GET LOTS OF TACOS AND CHIMICHANGAS!

DANA, I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHAT HALF OF THAT MEANT, BUT IT SOUNDED VERY NICE. THANK YOU. AND NOW THAT I'M KING I HAVE INSTALLED AN ENDLESS TACO BAR IN MY BEDROOM. IT IS, POSSIBLY, THE ONE AND ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT BEING KING.

I GOTTA KNOW: WHAT WAS THE SICK BURN DEADPOOL HAD FOR WHEN HE SKEWERED KRAVEN? I CAN'T STAND IT BEING LOST FOREVER! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK, Y'ALL!

JOHNNY P.

YOU KNOW, I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT TYING KRAVEN TO POE'S "THE RAVEN," LIKE "QUOTH THE KRAVEN, NEVERMORE WILL I WEAR SENSIBLE DRESS PANTS" OR SOMETHING. I HAD THE WORDING JUUUUUST RIGHT, BUT LOST IT SOMEWHERE AROUND THE SEVENTH OR EIGHTH SPEAR TO THE GUT, AND I'VE NEVER FOUND IT AGAIN. LOOK, JOHNNY, I COME UP WITH GOLD ALL DAY EVERY DAY, CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO REMEMBER EVERY NUGGET.

DEAR KING DEADPOOL,

I THINK YOU ARE SO COOL. I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO BELLUS. SENDING YOU SOME LOVE TO HELP YOU CHEER UP!

LOVE,
YOUR FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-LIZ

LIZ, MY LEGAL ADVISOR VAQTAR THE CAUTIOUS ASKED ME NOT TO SHOW THE LOVELY PICTURE YOU SENT FOR SOME REASON (LAWYERS, AMIRIGHT?), BUT IT CHEERED ME UP GREATLY. YOU ARE, INDEED, FRIENDLY AND WELCOME IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD ANY TIME.

I GOTTA BE HONEST AND SAY I HAVEN'T REALLY READ MANY OF YOUR BOOKS, MR. KINGPOOL. I HAVE READ THE ODD ISSUE HERE AND THERE, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN INTO ANY OF YOUR SERIES. WHEN I DECIDED TO PICK UP YOUR NEW BOOK, I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY GOOD. KELLY'S WRITING AND CHARACTERIZATION OF YOU WAS ON POINT AND NOT ANNOYING. IT MUST BE HARD BEING KING OF MONSTERS,

HUH? AND I HAVE A QUESTION: WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE DRAWN BY CHRIS BACHALO?

TOMAS

"ON POINT AND NOT ANNOYING" IS WHAT WE STRIVE FOR, TOMAS. AS FOR HOW I'M DRAWN, AS LONG AS THEY SHOW I'M NOT SKIPPING LEG DAY AND GOT 'DEM CUTES GLUTES, I'M GOOD.

HI-DE-HO, MR. POOL!

SO YOU'RE A SOLDIER FOR HIRE TURNED CANCER PATIENT TURNED SUPER-SOLDIER TURNED KING! QUITE THE IMPRESSIVE RÉSUMÉ TO BE SURE, WADE!

MY QUESTION IS THIS: AFTER A LONG DAY OF BREAKING SO MANY FOURTH WALLS, BUSTING SO MANY BADDIES, AND SAVING SO MANY DAMSELS, WHAT DOES DP DO TO WIND DOWN?

P.S. I WOULD BE THE GREATEST SOON-TO-BE HUSBAND IF YOU COULD GIVE A SHOUT-OUT TO ONE CELINA!

YOU THE MAN!

YOURS FOREVER AND
ALWAYS,
DANIEL

WELL, DANIEL, I KNOW THIS IS VERY LATE IN GETTING TO YOU, BUT MAYBE THE POX ON ALL OUR HOUSES HAS DELAYED YOUR WEDDING SO THIS STILL GETS TO YOU IN TIME FOR YOU TO BE THE GREATEST SOON-TO-BE-HUSBAND AND NOT THE ALREADY-TIRED-OF-YOUR-INABILITY-TO-WASH-THE-DISHES-IN-A-TIMELY-MANNER HUSBAND. REGARDLESS, CELINAAAAAAA!!!! I AM

SHOUTING YOU OUT, YOU MINX! I HOPE THAT DOES THE TRICK! AS FOR WHAT I DO TO WIND DOWN, I OBVIOUSLY WRITE AVENGERS/DEADPOOL FRIEND-FIC.

I LOVED THE GWENPOOL LOOK AT THE END OF DEADPOOL #4. I HOPE SOME OF THE OTHER WEST COAST AVENGERS BESIDES JEFF GET TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE. OR ROGUE AND GAMBIT. AS YOU CAN TELL, I'VE REALLY LOVED ALL OF KELLY THOMPSON'S WORK.

THANKS,
BRIAN

*JIMINY CHRISTMAS, PEOPLE!
GO READ ISSUE #5! MUTANTS
ARE LAME NOW. SORRY NOT
SORRY, ROGUE.*

ALL RIGHT, THERE'S LIKE A MILLION LETTERS LEFT, BUT I'M TIRED OF HAVING TO TALK ABOUT HOW POORLY TREATED I WAS BY THE X-MEN. I'VE BEEN POORLY TREATED BY FAR BETTER, BELIEVE YOU ME!

I'M GOING TO THE TACO BAR.

ALL HAIL ME,
KINGPOOL



NEXT

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ENTREATIES, WELL-WISHES, OR GENERAL STATEMENTS OF SUPPLICATION AND FEALTY TO
KING DEADPOOL SHOULD BE SENT TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARKED "OK TO PRINT."