

**MARVEL
COMICS**

80¢ US/85¢ CAN



DC AND MARVEL PRESENT:

BAT MAN vs. HULK

THE INCREDIBLE

HULK

**THE BLAZING BATTLE YOU
NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE!**



ALSO FEATURING THE VILE
VILLAINY OF THE **JOKER**
AND THE **SHAPER OF WORLDS!**

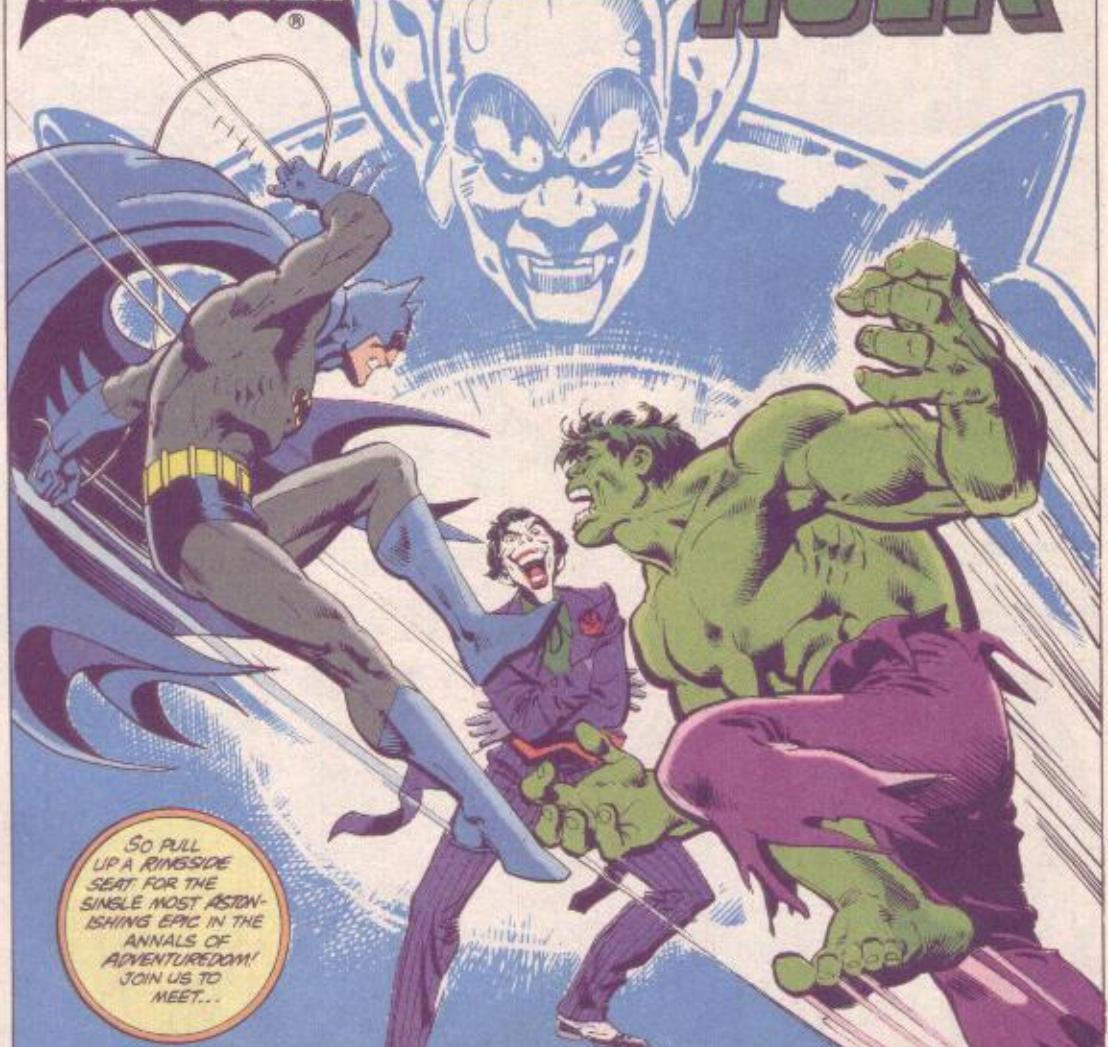
A SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION
OF THE CROSSOVER CLASSIC
DC AND MARVEL PRESENT
BATMAN vs. THE INCREDIBLE HULK

DC COMICS AND MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT:

BATMAN

...IN A HISTORY-MAKING
CONFRONTATION WITH THE
MIGHTIEST MAN-BRUTE TO
EVER WALK THE EARTH...

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®



SO PULL
UP A RINGSIDE
SEAT FOR THE
SINGLE MOST ASTON-
ISHING EPIC IN THE
ANNALS OF
ADVENTUREDOM!
JOIN US TO
MEET...

THE MONSTER AND THE MADMAN

A SUPER-SIZED SPECTACULAR BREATHTAKINGLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
LEN WEIN - JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ - DICK GORDANO - JOHN COSTANZA - GLYNIS WEIN
writer
ILLUSTRATOR COLORIST EDITOR COLORIST
ALLEN MILLSOM & JIM SHOOTER, CONSULTING EDITORS
WITH THANKS TO MARY WOLFMAN & MIKE DECARLO FOR THEIR HELP

PROLOGUE:

THE TEMPERATURE HIT 90° THIS HOT SUMMER'S DAY IN GOTHAM CITY-- AND THE OCCASIONAL ERRANT BREEZE WHICH NOW WHISPERS DOWN THE BENIGHTED STREETS DOES LITTLE TO DISPEL THE OPPRESSIVE HUMIDITY WHICH MAKES EVEN SLEEP A MOIST EFFORT...



THE RIVOLI THEATRE,
ON GOTHAM'S UPPER
EAST SIDE--



--WHERE SCORES OF 'B'
MOVIE DEVOTEE HAVE
COME THIS SMOLDERING
MIDNIGHT TO RELIVE THE
CELLULOID FANTASIES
OF THEIR YOUTH...



BUT WHILE MOST IN THE
AUDIENCE SIT WITH THEIR
EYES FIXED ON THE
SCREEN, THERE ARE
SOME WHO HAVE EYES
ONLY FOR EACH OTHER...



THAT IS, UNTIL THEY
OPEN THOSE STARRY
EYES FOR ONE BRIEF
MOMENT--



--TO DISCOVER THEY
SUDDENLY HAVE AN
AUDIENCE ALL
THEIR
OWN!

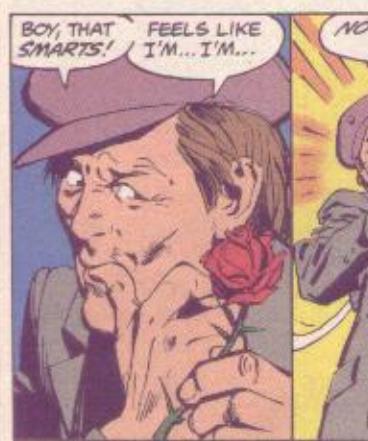


WHILE, IN AN ISOLATED
WAREHOUSE ALONG
GOTHAM'S STEAMING
WATERFRONT...

YOU MUST ACT
QUICKLY-- THE PAIN
IS GROWING
UNBEARABLE!







**CHAPTER
ONE**

WHEN WAKES THE BEHEMOTH...!!

ACCORDING TO HIS SECURITY PASS, HIS NAME IS DAVID BANKS -- HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED HERE, AT THE GOTHAM CITY BRANCH OF WAYNE RESEARCH, FOR ALMOST A WEEK NOW, PERFORMING ODD JOBS AND GENERALLY DOING THE DONKEY WORK --

FOR, IN TRUTH, HE IS DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, UNQUESTIONABLY THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON THE EFFECTS OF GAMMA RADIATION --

-- WHICH IS AN ALMOST-CRIMINAL WASTE OF HIS TALENTS!

-- AND A MAN WHO DWELLS FOREVER IN THE SHADOW OF A HORROR HE CANNOT CONTROL!







FRANTICALLY, THE FRAIL PHYSICIST STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS ATTACKERS--

--AN ADRENALIN RUSH WHICH ONCE MORE CHARGES HIS GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLOOD--

--HIS HEART POUNDING, HIS PULSE RACING--

--AND THUS TRIGGERS A MOST ASTOUNDING TRANSFORMATION--

--FREEING NOT BRUCE BANNER, BUT RATHER THE RAGING BEAST WHO DWELLS WITHIN HIM--

--THE BLUDGEONING BEHEMOTH WHO WAS BORN IN THE NUCLEAR FURY OF A GAMMA-BOMB EXPLOSION--

--THE ALMOST-MINDLESS HALF-TON HORROR MEN HAVE COME TO CALL...

...THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!

RRRAARRGGHHH!

LEAVE HULK ALONE, PLINY HUMANS--

--OR HULK WILL SMASH!!

CRISES! THE PUNK'S TURNED INTO SOME KINDA-- MONSTER!





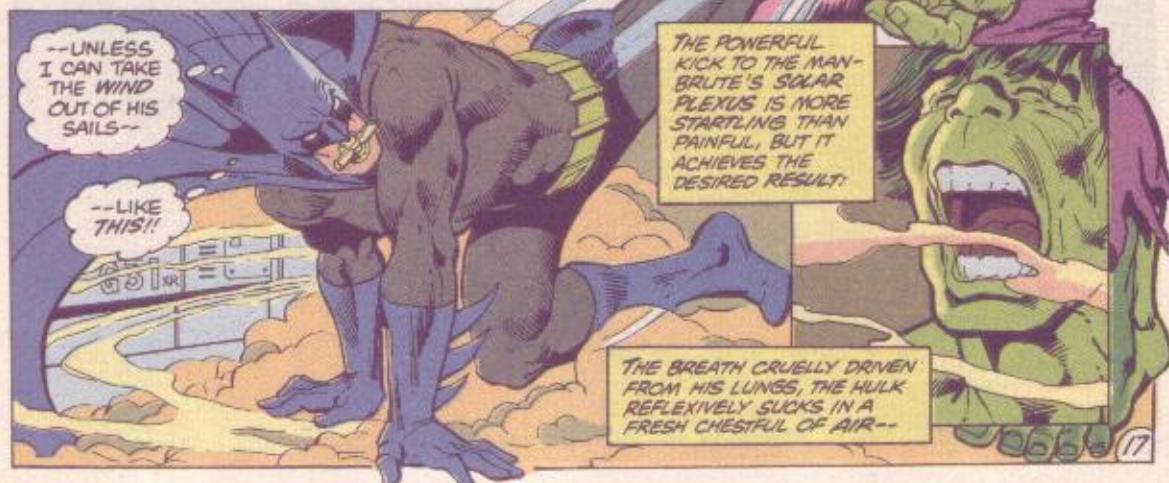
















--TO BE REPLACED, MOMENTS LATER, BY BRUCE WAYNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF WAYNE RESEARCH AND THE PHILANTHROPIC WAYNE FOUNDATION...



CHAPTER "WHEN DREAMS WON'T COME!" TWO:

IT IS QUIET ALONG THESE MOON-LIT DOCKS TONIGHT, SAVE FOR THE PERSISTENT LAPPING OF THE RELENTLESS TIDE AGAINST THE MOLDENED PILING--

--AND THE UNSETTLING ECHO OF LAUGHTER HANGING HEAVY IN THE AIR--

--MAD, TRIUMPHANT LAUGHTER!

SEE?
DIDN'T I
TELL YOU
I ALWAYS
DELIVER?

HAHAH



IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, MY BOYS WILL HAVE YOUR GAMMA-GIZMO PURRING LIKE A PUSSYCAT...

NO! NOT UNTIL I AM WELL ONCE MORE!

IT'S ALL SET, BOSS!

YOU WANT WELL, MY FRIEND--YOU'VE BABY IS GUARANTEED TO CURE EVERYTHING FROM BUNIONS TO THE BUBONIC PLAGUE--!



...SO YOU AND I CAN COMPLETE OUR LITTLE-- AH--BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT!

SPLendid, ORVILLE!

AND, AFTER SOME RATHER HURRIED, ALMOST-FRANTIC INSTRUCTION...

OKAY, I THINK I'VE GOT IT...

...ADJUST THESE POWER-BOOSTERS...

I FOCUS THIS FIELD-INHIBITOR...

...PUNCH THIS LITTLE GREEN BUTTON...



WITH AN ARD HISS, A RAMPANT BEAM OF EMERALD ENERGY LANES FORTH FROM THE PILFERED GAMMA-GUN--



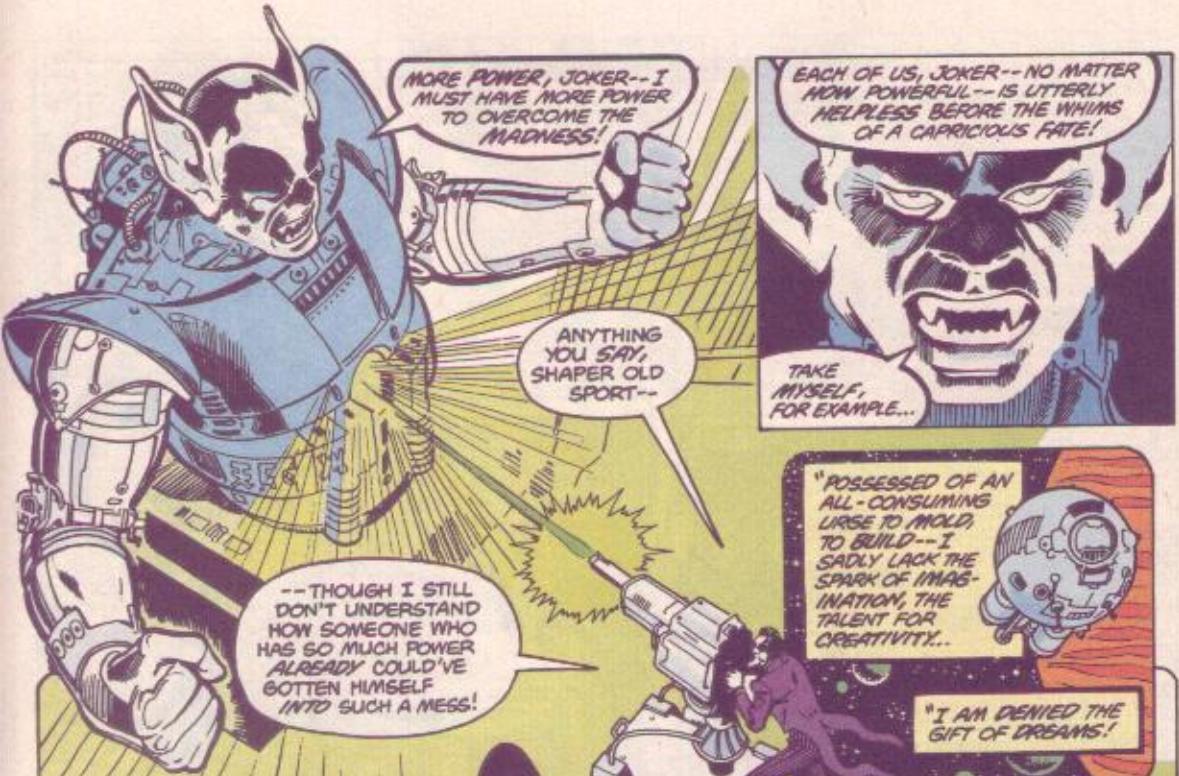
--ENVELOPING THE MONSTROUS, PALE-SKINNED FIGURE WHOSE BULK FAIRLY SEEMS TO FILL THE LIMELIT WAREHOUSE.

FROM THE WAIST UP, THE ALIEN BEHEMOTH SEEKS SOMETHING LIKE A MAN; FROM THE WAIST DOWN, HE APPEARS A MACHINE. IN TRUTH, HE IS BOTH OF THESE THINGS--AND, IN TRUTH, HE IS NEITHER!

WHAT HE ACTUALLY IS IS POWER, POWER FAR BEYOND MAN'S MEAGER ABILITY TO IMAGINE SUCH THINGS--WHICH IS, IN ITS WAY, MOST IRONIC!

FOR THOUGH HE IS KNOWN BY MYRIAD DIFFERENT NAMES THROUGHOUT THE LIMITLESS COSMOS, THE NAME HE MOST FAVORS IS...

...THE SHAPER OF WORLDS, HE WHO MAKES DREAMS LIVE!



"--AND SENT AGONIZING NEEDLES OF UNKNOWN ENERGY SLASHING THROUGH MY BODY!"

"THOUGH NO PERMANENT PHYSICAL DAMAGE WAS DONE ME, THOSE EXTRAORDINARY ENERGIES NONTHELESS HAD THEIR EFFECT--"

"SEEKING A CURE ULTIMATELY LED ME HERE TO EARTH, WHERE MY WANDERINGS HAD BROUGHT ME A TIME OR TWO BEFORE..."

"I MANIFESTED THIS WAREHOUSE TO CONCEAL MY STAR-SPANNING CRAFT--"

"--AND THEN I SENT MY MIND QUESTING IN SEARCH OF HELP..."

"BUT THE MINDS I TOUCHED WERE USELESS TO ME, DREAMING SMALL UNIMPORTANT DREAMS--"

"THAT IS, UNTIL MY MIND TOUCHED YOURS!"

"IN YOU, JOKER, I FINALLY FOUND WHAT I HAD SO LONG BEEN SEARCHING FOR--"

"--FOR I SOON FOUND MYSELF LOSING THE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE DREAMS OF OTHERS--"

"--AND WITHOUT THAT NECESSARY OUTLET FOR MY SURGING SHAPING POWERS, I KNEW I WOULD SOON GO MAD--"

"--AYE, AND THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITH ME!"

"THAT IS WHY I SUMMONED YOU TO ME, JOKER--"

"--AND WHY WE STRUCK OUR BARGAIN!!"
SHAPER, OLD SON, IT WILL BE A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU...
...WON'T IT, BOYS?"

--A MIND UNIQUE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!



CHAPTER THREE: "WHEN THE SEA CHURNS GREEN..."

ANCHORED JUST BEYOND THE THREE-MILE MARK OFF THE SHORES OF GOTHAM CITY, THIS SUPER-TANKER WAS ONCE THE FLAGSHIP OF THE WAYNE ENTERPRISES LINE--

--BUT TODAY, IT SERVES ANOTHER, MORE INTRICATE PURPOSE!

FOR, ITS SPRAWLING INTERIOR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A COMPLEX OF SOPHISTICATED LABORATORIES--

--INCLUDING THIS ONE CURRENTLY DIRECTED BY THE DEDICATED DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

AND TRIPLE-CHECKED IT, DOCTOR.

HAVE YOU DOUBLE-CHECKED THAT ENERGY-CONVERTER?

735-X1
735-X2
EXX

THERE ISN'T A SPECK OF DUST IN THIS LAB THAT HASN'T BEEN TESTED, RE-TESTED, THEN TESTED AGAIN TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT--

--OH LORD.

YOU CLUMSY OAF! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS PROJECT MEANS TO ME?

IF YOU'VE DAMAGED THAT ENERGY-CONVERTOR, WE'RE FINISHED!

I'M SORRY, DR. BANNER--!

SORRY? WHY, I COULD...COULD...

NO! WHAT AM I DOING--?

CAN'T RISK TRIGGERING THE CHANGE AGAIN--NOT HERE--NOT NOW!

HAVE...TO... KEEP...CALM...

BUT MERCIFULLY BRIEF!

F-FORGIVE ME, JACKSON-- I'M AFRAID THE PRESSURE HAS BEEN GETTING TO ME.

THAT'S OKAY, DOCTOR--WE'RE ALL A LITTLE TENSE.

THE BATTLE BRUCE BANNER WAGES WITH THE BEAST WHO DWELLS WITHIN HIM IS BRUTAL--

AND A LITTLE AFRAID...OF YOU.

PERHAPS A SPOT OF TEA WILL CALM YOUR NERVES, DR. BANNER.

WHO--?! OH-- IT'S YOU!

YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO PLAY NURSEMAID FOR ME, ALFRED!

ON THE CONTRARY, SIR. MASTER BRUCE ASKED ME TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU WERE KEPT COMFORTABLE--

--AND

THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I INTEND TO DO!

CREAM OR LEMON WITH YOUR TEA, SIR?

I CAN SEE THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING WITH YOU, ALFRED.

I SINCERELY HOPE NOT, SIR!

--ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERS WHAT IS APT TO HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR TEMPER.

AND SPEAKING OF YOUR BOSS-- JUST WHERE IS WAYNE, ANYWAY?

--BUT HE HAD SOME RATHER PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO BACK IN GOTHAM.

WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS COULD HE HAVE AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

CONSIDERING THE RISK HE'S TAKING WITH ME, YOU'D THINK HE'D WANT TO BE HERE--

--IF ONLY TO MAKE SURE THAT I DON'T ACCIDENTALLY SINK HIS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT!

MASTER WAYNE SENDS HIS RESPECTS, DOCTOR BANNER--

THAT, DOCTOR, IS HIS CONCERN.

TO ANSWER BRUCE BANNER'S CURIOUS QUESTION, WE MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE CONCRETE CANYONWAYS OF GOTHAM--

--WHERE BRUCE WAYNE IS
"ATTENDING
TO BUSINESS"
AS ONLY THE
BATMAN
CAN!

STOGIE,
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING
FOR YOU!

CRISES! I TOL' YA
WE WOULDN'T GET
AWAY WIT' IT!

YOU AIN'T GONNA
PIN THAT HARDWARE
STORE HEIST ON US,
MASKED MAN!

SHUT UP,
SIDNEY!

YOU AIN'T
GONNA LIVE
THAT LONG!

KRAK!

BY NOW,
STOGIE-- YOU
SHOULD KNOW
BETTER THAN
THAT!

UHNNNNH!!

HIT 'IM, FELLAS-- HE PINS THAT
HARD!

HARDWARE JOB
ON US-- AN' WE
ALL DO TWENTY
YEARS' HARD
TIME!

SIDNEY,
YOU'VE JUST
RUN OUT
OF TIME--

--HARD,
SOFT, OR
OTHERWISE!

CHOK!

MHUUNNF









MAD! YES, I'M MAD AT PUNY HUMANS WHO ALWAYS TRY TO HURT HULK!

MAD AT WORLD THAT WILL NOT LEAVE HULK ALONE!

AND THUS, THE SEEMINGLY ETERNAL BATTLE IS JOINED ONCE MORE--

--THOUGH IT IS A DECIDEDLY ONE-SIDED BATTLE AT BEST!

C'MON, YOU GUYS--WE GOTTA BRING THIS MONSTER DOWN!

BAH! LITTLE MEN ARE LIKE ANTS--ALWAYS ANNOYING HULK--MAKING HULK ITCH--!

STOP BOTHERING HULK, LITTLE MEN--OR HULK WILL SQUASH YOU LIKE THE BUGS YOU ARE!

JUST KEEP HIM BUSY A FEW SECONDS LONGER, BOYS--I GOT THE TASER-RIFLE!

THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE IN THIS BABY COULD BRING DOWN KING KONG--

--SO IT SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE AT ALL WITH A CERTAIN GREEN GORILLA!

SWIFTLY, THE REMARKABLE WEAPON IS FIRED, UNREELING TWO SMALL SUCTION-CLAWS--

--WHICH AUTOMATICALLY ADHERE TO THE EMERALD MAN-BRUTE'S MASSIVE CHEST--

HUHN?

--AND INSTANTLY UNLEASH 25,000 STELLING VOLTS OF PURE ELECTRICITY--

--MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO STUN ANY NORMAL CREATURE INTO HELPLESS SUBMISSION--

--BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS ANYTHING BUT NORMAL!

WHY, LITTLE MEN? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DESTROY HULK WITH YOUR PUNY GUNS AND MACHINES?

HULK NEVER WANTS TO FIGHT YOU! HULK ONLY WANTS TO BE LEFT IN PEACE!

BUT IF IT IS WAR THAT LITTLE MEN WANT--

H-HE THREW ME ACROSS THE DECK LIKE--LIKE I WAS JUST SOME KIND OF PAPER DOLL--!

--THEN WAR IS WHAT HULK WILL GIVE YOU!

LORD, IF THE TASER-GUN COULDN'T BEAT THAT MONSTER--WHAT WILL?

IT WOULD TAKE A BIGGER MONSTER, THAT'S WHAT--SOMETHING TOUGHER, MORE POWERFUL--SOMETHING THOSE OVERSIZED FISTS COULDN'T SMASH!

YEAH, RIGHT--AND WHILE I'M AT IT, WHY DON'T I TRY WHISTLING UP THE TOOTH FAIRY?



AND THAT PROVES A
MOST PRUDENT
SUGGESTION--

--AS THE GREEN
GOLIATH SUDDENLY
CHARGES FORWARD,
DULL EYES NARROWED,
THICK LIPS
CURLED, SNARLING
IN BESTIAL FURY--

GHHRRHHH!

--ONLY TO BE SWATTED ASIDE BY
HIS MISSHAPE ADVERSARY AS
CASUALLY AS A MAN
MIGHT SWAT A MOSQUITO!

WHACK!

HUUNNNH!!

IT IS NOT AN EXPERIENCE
TO WHICH THE HULK IS
ACCUSTOMED--

--AND HE IS QUICK
TO MAKE HIS
DISPLEASURE
KNOWN!

YOU HIT HULK--
TRYED TO HURT
HULK--

--AND FOR
THAT... YOU
WILL PAY!!

TATTERING THE REINFORCED DECK LIKE
SO MUCH CONFETTI, THE MADDENED MAN-
BRUTE UNLEASHES A FUSILLADE OF
JAGGED STEEL--

--WHICH MERELY BOUNCES
OFF HIS OPPONENT'S
BROAD CHEST AS IF IT
WERE MADE OF SPONGE
RUBBER...

BAH! BLOB-THING PLAYS
GAMES WITH
HULK!

SHRAK!

HULK DOES
NOT LIKE
GAMES!

AND, BLOB-
THING-- HULK
DOES NOT LIKE
YOU!!

PROPELLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THE ENRAGED HULK HURLS HIMSELF AT HIS GROTESQUE FOE...

--AIMING A BLOW AT THE MONSTER'S MIDRIFT THAT COULD DEMOLISH A SKYSCRAPER--



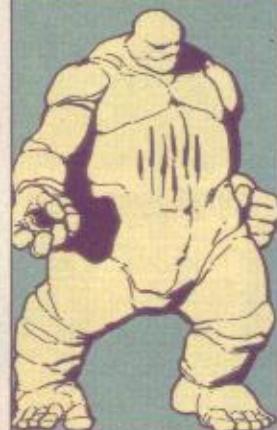
--BUT INSTEAD, MERELY SINKS INTO THE DOUGH-LIKE SUBSTANCE OF THE CREATURE--



--CARRYING THE UN-COMPREHENDING HULK RIGHT ALONG WITH IT!

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, THE DOUGH-CREATURE'S DISTORTED TORSO CONVULSES AS THE HULK STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF...

--UNTIL, AT LAST, THE STRUGGLING STOPS--



--AND THE DOUGH-BEAST SHAMBLES SILENTLY ACROSS THE DECK WITH HIS LESS-THAN-SILENT CAPTIVE!

LET HULK OUT, BLOB-THING!



YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE, GREENIE--

--EXCEPT WHERE WE WANT YOU TO GO!

ENOUGH TALKIN'S! LET'S GET OUR --AH-- SECRET WEAPON HERE ON BOARD--

--AND LET'S FINALLY GET OUT OF HERE!

YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, LITTLE MEN!



AND SECONDS LATER, THE TWO CARGO-COPTERS LIFT HIGH AND AWAY FROM THE SUPER-TANKER--



--LEAVING A FRUSTRATED ALFRED STANDING HELPLESSLY ON DECK, ALONE AND NOT A LITTLE AFRAID...

SOON AFTER...

--AND I FEAR THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU, COMMISSIONER GORDON.

I WISH IT WERE MORE, ALFRED.

I'VE GOT A LOT OF LOOSE ENDS HANGING HERE--

--AND I'M NOT EXACTLY CRAZY ABOUT MY OLD FRIEND BRUCE WAYNE, HARBORING A WANTED FUGITIVE RIGHT UNDER MY VERY NOSE--!

I'M SURE WAYNE HAD HIS REASONS, COMMISSIONER.

WHO--?!!?

I TRY TO BE WHERE I'M NEEDED, OLD FRIEND.

BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE NEEDED HERE, BATMAN.

WE'RE HANDLING THINGS.

STILL, I HAVE COMPLETE FILES ON BANNER AND THE HULK BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE! PERHAPS I CAN--

GENERAL ROSS? GOTHAM POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON CALLING.

COMMISSIONER?

YES?

WE'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO PATCH THROUGH YOUR CALL TO NEW MEXICO, SIR.

WE'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM HERE...

WRONG, GORDON -- YOU'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM!

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAS BEEN NO MILITARY OPERATION MOUNTED IN THE PAST 24 HOURS TO APPREHEND BRUCE BANNER--

--AND, MISTER, I KNOW EVERYTHING!

HEY, IF THEY NEED A LITTLE EXTRA MUSCLE BACK THERE IN GOTHAM, TELL THEM DOG SAMSON WILL BE HAPPY TO LEND A HAND!

AND, AFTER A FINAL EX-CHANGE OF AMENITIES...

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT, ALFRED--

THOSE SO-CALLED SOLDIERS WHO NABBED BANNER WERE PHONY'S!

AND IT DOESN'T TAKE A BATMAN TO GUESS WHO THEY WERE WORKIN' FOR!

CHAPTER
FOUR

WHEN THE SHAPER COMMANDS...

WHILE, BACK AT A CERTAIN WAREHOUSE...

I SEE YOU--AH--DREAMED UP A WAY OF CONTAINING OUR BIG GREEN GUEST WHILE YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE, ORVILLE.

YEAH, BOSS --
THOUGH I STILL
CAN'T FIGURE OUT
HOW THE SHAPER
BROUGHT THAT DREAM
TO LIFE!

WITH THE
FINAL VESTIGES
OF A RAPIDLY-
FADING POWER,
HUMAN--AT THE
JOKER'S
LURKINGS!

BUT WHY BRING THE
HAPLESS HULK HERE,
JOKER? HIS MICROCEPHALIC
MIND IS INCAPABLE OF
ADJUSTING THE GAMMA-
GUN SO IT CAN CURE ME!

RIGHT YOU ARE, SHAPER
OL' SPORT! GREENIE HERE
COULDN'T OUTTHINK AN
OVERRIPE CAULIFLOWER!

BUT HIS ALTER-EGO
DR. ROBERT BRUCE
BANNER-- AH, NOW
THAT'S A VEGETABLE
OF A DIFFERENT
COLOR!

ALL YOU HAVE TO
DO IS CHANGE THE
HULK BACK INTO
BANNER AND--

NO! NOT
BANNER!
HULK HATES
BANNER
MOST OF
ALL!

BANNER MAKES HULK
GO AWAY! BANNER
DRAGS HULK DOWN
INTO DARKNESS!

BANNER
TRIES TO DESTROY
HULK--



--BUT WHILE THE JOKER STANDS TRANSMITTED WITH FEAR AT THE OVERWHELMING SIGHT OF HIS GREATEST ENEMY TRANSFORMED--



THEN, FAIRLY GLOWING WITH FURY, THE HULK ADVANCES ON THE PAIN-MADDENED SHAPER--



--A REMARKABLE REACTION OCCURRING WITH EVERY STEP THE GREEN GOLIATH TAKES--

--THE FURY FADING FROM HIS BODY EVEN AS THE PAIN RELINQUISHES ITS GRIP ON THE SHAPER--

--THE BLUDGEONING MAN-BRUTE DEALS WITH HIS HATED FOE IN TYPICALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION...

--UNTIL, AT LAST, THE TWO UNIQUE FIGURES STAND SILENT FOR A MOMENT--

--CONFUSED, AND EMOTIONALLY DRAINED!

IS IT
OVER?

AM I
ALIVE?

HEY--WHAT
THE DEVIL'S GOING
ON AROUND
HERE?







THUS, WHEN AT LAST THEY COME UPON THE HULK,
ONCE MORE VENTING HIS SEEMINGLY-INEXHAUSTIBLE
RAGE, THEY ALMOST BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF...

AYE--ALMOST.

LITTLE MEN TRIED
TO HURT HULK WHILE
HULK SLEPT IN
ALLEY!

NOW HULK
WILL PUT LITTLE
MEN TO SLEEP--
FOREVER!!

NEXT TIME
YOU WANNA
HURT SOME-
ONE, MORTY--
DO IT ALONE!

YOU TRIED TO
PROTECT THOSE
WHO WOULD
HURT HULK--

--SO HULK WILL SMASH
YOU INSTEAD!

HULK--NO!
WE'RE NOT HERE
TO FIGHT WITH
YOU!

WE ONLY
WANT TO
TALK!

WHY DON'T WE JUST
PHONE HIM, BATS--

--SAY, LONG
DISTANCE?!

BAH! HULK
HATES
TALK!

PUNY HUMANS TWIST
THEIR WORDS TO TRICK
HULK--TO CONFUSE
HULK--!

HULK COULD
CRUSH PUNY
HUMANS LIKE
THIS!

BUT WHY BOTHER--
WHEN HULK CAN
LEAVE PUNY HUMANS
AND THEIR TWISTED
WORDS BEHIND!

IF YOU ARE
SMART, LITTLE
MEN--YOU WILL
NOT FOLLOW
HULK!

IT ISN'T A
QUESTION OF
INTELLIGENCE,
HULK--

--WE SIMPLY
HAVE NO
CHOICE!

LIKE A THING
ALIVE, THE
BATARANG
SNAKES SKY-
WARD, SNARLING
THE FLEEING
HULK'S ANKLE--

--AND THE STEEL-
EYED BATMAN
SUDDENLY BECOMES
AIRBORNE!

QUICK--
LET GO OF
THE ROPE!

NOT A
CHANCE!

WHEREVER
HE GOES,
I GO!

TRY TO
FOLLOW US
AS BEST YOU
CAN!

FOLLOW
YOU--AND
FACE THE
HULK
AGAIN?

YOU'VE GOT
TO BE KIDDING,
RIGHT?

RIGHT?

AHHHH... SOME
PEOPLE HAVE
ABSOLUTELY NO
SENSE OF HUMOR!

AND THE ECHO
OF THE CRIME
CLOWN'S STACCATO
FOOTSTEPS
IS SWALLOWED BY THE
NIGHT...

WHILE, A HALF-
MILE AWAY...

SO FAR THIS
HAS BEEN
SIMPLE!

THAT BRUTE IS SO IMPOSSIBLY
STRONG HE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED
MY ADDED WEIGHT!

KRUMP!

THE HARD
PART IS
GOING TO BE
LANDING--

--DUPLICATING
THE HULK'S
ANGLE OF
DESCENT
THROUGH
THIS PARKING
GARAGE--

--WITHOUT
SPLATTERING
MYSELF ALL
OVER THE
WALLS!

HUH? POINTY-
EARS FOLLOWED
HULK--???

HULK WARNED YOU,
POINTY-EARS! WHY DO PUNY
HUMANS NEVER LISTEN?

I TOLD YOU, HULK--
I HAVE NO CHOICE! AND NO MORE TIME
TO WASTE EITHER! THIS SLEEPING GAS TOOK HIM
OUT CLEANLY BEFORE--



BUT THIS
TIME...



IF YOU LIKE TO
FLY THROUGH THE
AIR SO MUCH,
POINTY-EARS--







FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS, THE WORLD IS SMOKE AND SILENCE--THEN A BRUTISH EMERALD FIGURE FINALLY PULLS HIMSELF FROM THE RUBBLE--



--NEVER DOUBTING FOR AN INSTANT THAT HE WILL FIND THE BATMAN HERE, ALIVE AND RELATIVELY UNHARMED...



SOME TIME LATER, AS THE STILL-SEETHING MAN-BRUTE AIMLESSLY WANDERS THE DESERTED STREETS...



--BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY HULK SMASHES, THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE!

FRIEND: AT THE SOUND OF THE WORD, THE GREEN GOLIATH PAUSES... PONDERS... THEN SLOWLY UNCLENCHES HIS FISTS!

BAH! YOU CANNOT HELP HULK, OLD MAN! NOBODY CAN HELP HULK!

YOU SOUND TROUBLED, MY FRIEND.

OLD MAN, TROUBLE IS ALL HULK KNOWS!

THEN COME-- STAY WITH ME FOR A WHILE!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT IT-- I'D LIKE TO LISTEN.

MAYBE OLD MAN IS RIGHT... MAYBE HULK SHOULD HELP PUNY HUMANS...

...IF HULK ONLY KNEW WHERE TO START!

AND IF THAT'S NOT A CLUE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP THE WORLD, HULK-- JUST COME ALONG WITH ME!

HUH?!

HULK CANNOT STAY LONG, OLD MAN-- IT IS NOT SAFE!

**WHEREVER HULK GOES, PUNY HUMANS FOLLOW
HULK-- HOUND HULK-- TRY TO DESTROY HULK...**

...AND HULK DOES NOT EVEN KNOW WHY!

NEITHER DO I...

...BUT MAYBE IF YOU'D STOP FIGHTIN' PEOPLE AND TRY HELPIN' THEM A LITTLE, THINGS COULD CHANGE FOR YOU.

IF A FELLA WANTS TO HAVE FRIENDS, FIRST HE HAS TO BE A FRIEND.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU, FRIEND?

**WHAT IS STUPID WHITE-FACE DOING HERE?
KEEP AWAY FROM HULK, WHITE-FACE-- OR HULK WILL SMASH!**

NO, MY FRIEND-- YOU'RE ACTING WITHOUT THINKIN' AGAIN!

IF YOU TRULY WANT TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE, YOU MUST GO WITH THE JOKER!

THE MAN'S TALKIN' SENSE, GREENIE-- LISTEN TO HIM!

HUH? THEN HULK WILL GO WITH WHITE-FACE... FOR NOW!

JUST SO LONG AS YOU GO, HULK-- THAT'S ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS!

CHAPTER
FIVE:

WHEN MADNESS REIGNS...!

LIKE RIPPLES ACROSS A POND, WAVES OF PURE CREATIVE ENERGY EXPAND OUTWARD FROM A NOW-FAMILIAR WAREHOUSE...

FOR THE TEMPORARY REMISSION HE EXPERIENCED AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE HULK HAS ENDED--

--AND THE SHAPER OF WORLDS IS OVERWHELMINGLY MAD ONCE MORE!

AARRGGHH!

WHILE, JUST BEYOND THE INFLUENCE OF THE EVER-EXPANDING ENERGY-BANDS...

THERE'S THE PLACE, HULK-- YOU'LL FIND THE SHAPER WAITING FOR YOU!

GO GET 'IM, GREENIE-- AND DON'T LET ANYTHING STAND IN YOUR WAY!

WHAT--?!

JOKER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T LET THAT MINDLESS MONSTER CONFRONT THE SHAPER ALONE!

HEY, I MAY BE CRAZY, BATS--BUT I'M NOT SUICIDAL!

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT WAREHOUSE UNTIL THIS IS OVER!

WHY, YOU SPINELESS WORM--!

SNAKE-EYES!

SOMEBODY HAS TO GO WITH THE HULK--TO SUPPORT HIM--GUIDE HIM--!

UHHHHH!!

WELL, BETTER YOU THAN ME, BATS-- BETTER YOU THAN ME!

HULK--WAIT! I'M COMING WITH YOU!

HUM? WHAT IS POINTY-EARS DOING HERE?

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, HULK... IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.

HULK THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

BEFORE THIS IS FINISHED, FRIEND-- WE MAY BOTH BE!

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FOR A MOMENT, THE BATMAN AND THE HULK STAND BACK-TO-BACK, READY FOR WHATEVER MIGHT COME NEXT--

--AND WHEN NOTHING COMES, THEY CONTINUE THEIR DESPERATE RACE TO THE WAREHOUSE...

DOOR'S LOCKED! I'LL HAVE TO PICK IT!

PERHAPS NOT--BUT SOMETHING CERTAINLY STOPS THE MAN-BRUTE'S CHARGE...

HUH? HULK HAS BEEN THROWN BACK--BY SOMETHING HULK CAN'T SEE!

I THINK I UNDERSTAND, HULK--

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE SOLUTION!

IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THE BARRIER IS STRONGER, HULK!

NO! NOTHING IS STRONGER THAN HULK! NOTHING!!

HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!

WITH UN-IMAGINABLE FURY, THE HULK HAMMERS THE UNSEEN BARRIER--

-PIERCES IT--

...AND THE SHAPER SCREAMS IN AGONY AS THE WORLD EXPLODES INTO EMERALD BRILLIANCE ...

AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE GREEN LIGHT FADES, THE SHAPER OF WORLDS IS ONCE MORE SANE--

--AND THE RAMPAGING HULK IS ONCE MORE ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY FINISHED!





BACK IN GOTHAM CITY,
MADNESS REIGNS!

REVELING IN HIS POWER, THE MAJESTIC JOKER HAS TRANSFORMED ITS PROUD TOWERS INTO SPIRES OF SPUN SUGAR AND CANDY CANES...

YET, SURPRISINGLY,
ALL THE PEOPLE
HERE ARE HAPPY-

--ALL THAT
IS, SAVE
ONE!

OKAY,
JOKER--
FUNTIME IS
OVER!

IS IT,
BATS?

I'D SAY THE FUN'S
ONLY BEGINNING!

WHAT--???

INCREDIBLE!
HE MERELY
GLANCED AT ME...
--AND
TURNED ME INTO
A CLOWN!?

APPROPRIATE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY--
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED!

BETTER LICK THE MARSHMALLOW
OFF YOUR STICKY FINGERS AND
GO HOME!

FACE IT, FELLA--
AS OF NOW,
YOU'RE OUT OF
YOUR LEAGUE!

NO WAY, MANIAC! ONCE
I GET FREE OF THIS GLOP,
I'M GOING AFTER
YOU!

BE MY GUEST,
LOSER! MAYBE THIS
TIME I'LL TURN YOU
INTO A FROG!

YEAH--A BIG BLUE
FROG...WITH PURPLE
POLKA DOTS...AND
TEENY-WEENY LITTLE
PINK--

--URRAPS!!

OKAY--WHO'S THE
WISE-SUY? IT'S NOT
NICE TO PULL THE
RUS OUT FROM
UNDER THE KINS OF
THE WORLD!

BAH! HULK DOES NOT KNOW
WHY SHAPER SENT HULK HERE!

BUT HULK
KNOWS YOU,
WHITE-FACE--

--AND HULK
WILL--

--SMASH?

HUH? WH-WHAT
HAS HAPPENED
TO HULK?

COME NOW,
JADE-JAWS--IS
THAT THE BEST
YOU CAN DO?

I'VE BEEN POPPED
BY NASTIER
POWDER-PUFFS
IN MY DAY!

ANYTHING
I WANT TO
HAPPEN,
GRUESOME!

THIS IS MY WORLD
NOW--AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN'T
DO!

IN THAT CASE,
JOKER--

--I'M
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU!



I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR BEING MORE OF AN ARTIST!

OH--SO IT'S ART YOU WANT NOW, IS IT?

HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

THIS ISN'T ART, JOKER--

--THIS IS MADNESS!

WHAT--? HE'S TURNED THE WHOLE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN!

WRONG-A-ROO, BAT'S OL' BOY!

THIS IS MADNESS!

FIX IT, WHITE-FACE-- NOW!

FIX IT--OR HULK WILL SMASH!!

TOO MUCH FOR
YOUR DELICATE
STOMACHS,
BOYS?

THEN PERHAPS
YOU'D PREFER
ART AGAIN--
--THE ART
OF A
GENIUS!

HUH? WHAT
HAS WHITE-FACE
DONE TO HULK
NOW?

BEING
OMNIPOTENT
DOES HAVE ITS
LITTLE
ADVANTAGES!

ANYTHING
MY
MIND CAN CONCEIVE
BECOMES INSTANT
REALITY!

ANYTHING,
JOKER!

THEN
PROVE
IT!

WITH
PLEASURE,
SMARTY-
PANTS!

BUT
WHERE DO
I BEGIN?

AND WITH THAT, THE CRIME
CLOWN OPENS THE FLOODGATES
OF HIS MIND--TRYING ONE
REALITY AFTER ANOTHER--
TWISTING AND CHANGING
THE WORLD AT HIS
WHIM--

--STRAINING HIS
IMAGINATION
HARDER--

--AND HARDER--

--UNTIL THE STRAIN BECOMES MORE THAN A MAD-MAN CAN ENDURE!

ENOUGH ALREADY! ENOUGH!!!

SO MANY OPTIONS... SO MANY POSSIBILITIES...

AND WITHOUT THE DREAM, THERE IS NO POWER--

I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS!

--AND WITHOUT THE POWER, THE DREAMER SWIFTLY FALLS!

THE JOKER LAPSES INTO BLISSFUL UNCONSCIOUSNESS--

--AND ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD ONCE MORE--

--OR AT LEAST AS CLOSE AS IT EVER GETS!

BUT HE WAS WRONG, MY BIG GREEN FRIEND!

BAH! STUPID WHITE-FACE THOUGHT HE COULD BEAT HULK!

WHEN IT CAME RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THE JOKER COULDN'T EVEN BEAT HIMSELF!

AND IN AN ISOLATED WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE, A TOWERING ALIEN FIGURE NODS HIS AWESOME HEAD, AS IF IN MUTE AGREEMENT.

--THEN SPEAKS, IN A VOICE LIKE DISTANT THUNDER...

IT IS OVER. THE BARGAIN HAS BEEN FULFILLED!

THUS, I TAKE MY LEAVE OF THIS PRIMITIVE WORLD!

FOR THERE ARE OTHER PLANETS... OTHER DREAMS...

...AND FOR THE SHAPER OF WORLDS, THE DREAM IS THE ONLY REALITY!

IN AN INSTANT, HE IS GONE, FADING INTO THE INFINITE VASTNESS LIKE A WISP OF SMOKE...

...OR SOMEONE'S RANDOM DREAM...

EPILOGUE:



--EVEN IF ONLY IN HIS DEMENTED IMAGINATION!

THE DOCTORS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA HOW LONG HE'LL BE LIKE THAT!

FOR HIS SAKE, COMMISSIONER GORDON--I HOPE IT'S FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!



THE ORIGIN OF BAT-MAN

CREATED BY BOB KANE

WHEN YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE SAW HIS PARENTS MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, HE VOWED TO SPEND HIS LIFE MAKING WAR ON ALL CRIMINALS...



TO THIS END, HE PUSHED HIMSELF TO THE VERY LIMITS OF HUMAN ENDURANCE, TRAINING HIS BODY TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION...



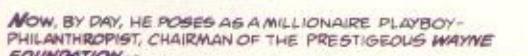
--AND HONING HIS MIND TO RAZOR SHARPNESS, BECOMING A TOP CRIMINOLOGIST AND A MASTER OF DEDUCTIVE REASONING...



HE DEVOTED HIMSELF TO THE ART OF DISGUISE, UNTIL HE WAS VIRTUALLY A HUMAN CHAMELEON WHO COULD ASSUME A THOUSAND DIFFERENT FACES...



--AND HE DEVELOPED A UNIQUE UTILITY BELT, STOCKING IT WITH THE VARIOUS WEAPONS HE WOULD NEED TO AID HIM IN HIS NOBLE CRUSADE...



NOW, BY DAY, HE POSES AS A MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY-PHILANTHROPIST, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESTIGIOUS WAYNE FOUNDATION...



--WHILE, BY NIGHT, HE IS TRANSFORMED INTO A WEIRD FIGURE OF THE SHADOWS... A DARK AVENGER OF EVIL...

BAT-MAN

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WHEN DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER ATTEMPTED TO RESCUE A RECKLESS TEENAGER WHO HAD WANDERED ONTO THE TEST SITE OF THE TOP-SECRET GAMMA-BOMB...



--HE INSTEAD BECAME A VICTIM OF HIS OWN CREATION, BATHED IN UNIMAGINABLE ENERGIES AS THE GAMMA-BOMB EXPLODED!



NOW, IN TIMES OF STRESS, WHEN HIS PULSE QUICKENS AND HIS HEART POUNDS, THE RUSH OF ADRENALIN TRIGGERS A BIZARRE TRANSFORMATION...



--TURNING THE FRAIL BUT BRILLIANT PHYSICIST INTO SEVEN FEET, ONE THOUSAND POUNDS OF RAGING PRIMORDIAL FURY...



--A MONSTROUS MAN-BRUTE POSSESSED OF SEEMINGLY-LIMITLESS POWER--FOR THE Madder he gets, the stronger he gets...

AND YET, THIS BRUTISH EXTERIOR HIDES A BEFOGGED MIND OF CHILDISH SIMPLICITY, A SPIRIT WHICH SEEKS ONLY TO BE LEFT IN PEACE...



THIS, THEN, IS BRUCE BANNER'S CURSE--FORCED TO SHARE HIS LIFE WITH THE MIGHTIEST MONSTER ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

EVOLUTION OF A COVER

