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# INVINCIBLE

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# INVINCIBLE

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**image**

NO, SO FAR EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL. NOTHING'S HAPPENED-- NOT EVEN A MINOR SET BACK. LAST TIME I TALKED TO THE ASTRONAUTS, AT LEAST--THINGS WERE RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

WELL, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. THIS IS A DANGEROUS MISSION--THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THERE.

I KNOW WHY I'M HERE. IF THEY LOSE CONTAINMENT--I HELP THE ASTRONAUTS INTO THE ESCAPE POD AND ZIP THEM BACK TO EARTH BEFORE THEY RUN OUT OF AIR. IT'S SIMPLE, CECIL--THIS IS EASY.

EASY--RIGHT. JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, WHO KNOWS WHAT'S OUT THERE--AND FOR GOD'S SAKE--AT LEAST STAND UP AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE READY TO SAVE THEM IF SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG.

I AM STANDING.

I CAN SEE YOU, MARK. I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU.

FINE, FINE, FINE.



WHAT IS IT?  
WHY ARE YOU  
CONSTANTLY  
STARING  
AT HIM?

DO YOU  
TRUST HIM? I  
MEAN--REALLY  
TRUST HIM? HE'S  
ONLY HALF HUMAN--  
AND HIS ALIEN FATHER  
TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE  
WORLD FOR HIS PEOPLE--  
THE VILTRUMITES  
OR WHATEVER THEY'RE  
CALLED. DON'T  
YOU REMEMBER  
THE--

I REMEMBER  
THE TRAGIC EVENTS  
OF MARCH SIXTEEN.  
HIS FIGHT WITH OMNI-  
MAN WAS ALL OVER THE  
NEWS FOR MONTHS.  
ALL THOSE PEOPLE  
DIED--IT WAS  
TRAGIC, YEAH.

I'VE  
BEEN TO THE  
MONUMENT.



YEAH--HIS FATHER,  
WHO WAS ONE OF OUR  
MOST BELOVED HEROES,  
OMNI-MAN, TRIED TO  
TAKE OVER THE WORLD.  
HIS FATHER KILLED  
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE  
THAT DAY.

IF THAT'S  
TRUE--INVINCIBLE  
HERE WOULD HAVE  
HAD SOMETHING TO DO  
WITH IT. REGARDLESS--  
THIS KID'S FATHER  
WAS AN EVIL--  
EVIL MAN.

THEN HIS  
FATHER JUST  
LEFT THE PLANET--  
DISAPPEARED. OR  
SO WE'VE BEEN LED TO  
BELIEVE. YOU'VE HEARD  
THEORIES--THAT  
THE GOVERNMENT  
STRUCK A DEAL WITH  
OMNI-MAN--THAT  
HE NEVER  
LEFT.

BUT I'M  
SUPPOSED TO  
IGNORE THAT  
AND TRUST THAT  
THIS GUY IS GOING  
TO SAVE ME IF  
SOMETHING GOES  
WRONG. I DON'T  
TRUST THIS  
KID--I JUST  
DON'T.

YES--OMNI-MAN  
TRIED TO TAKE OVER  
THE WORLD--BUT  
DON'T FORGET,  
INVINCIBLE STOPPED  
HIM. HE SAVED  
US ALL THAT  
DAY.

HE  
TURNED  
AGAINST HIS  
FATHER--AND  
PROTECTED US.  
YOU HEARD THE  
RECORDING OF  
THEM TALKING  
DURING THE FIGHT.  
INVINCIBLE  
DIDN'T BACK  
DOWN.

THE  
KID'S  
GOT MY  
TRUST.

AND DIDN'T YOU SEE  
THE PARADE? HE  
JUST STOPPED SOME  
BIG ALIEN MENACE  
FROM REACHING EARTH  
AND TAKING  
OVER.

NOW HE'S  
HELPING US  
PUT AN OUTPOST  
ON THE MOON SO  
WE CAN MONITOR  
FOR MORE SPACE  
BORNE THREATS  
BEFORE THEY  
REACH US.

SEEMS  
TO ME  
LIKE HE'S  
EARNED  
THAT  
TRUST.

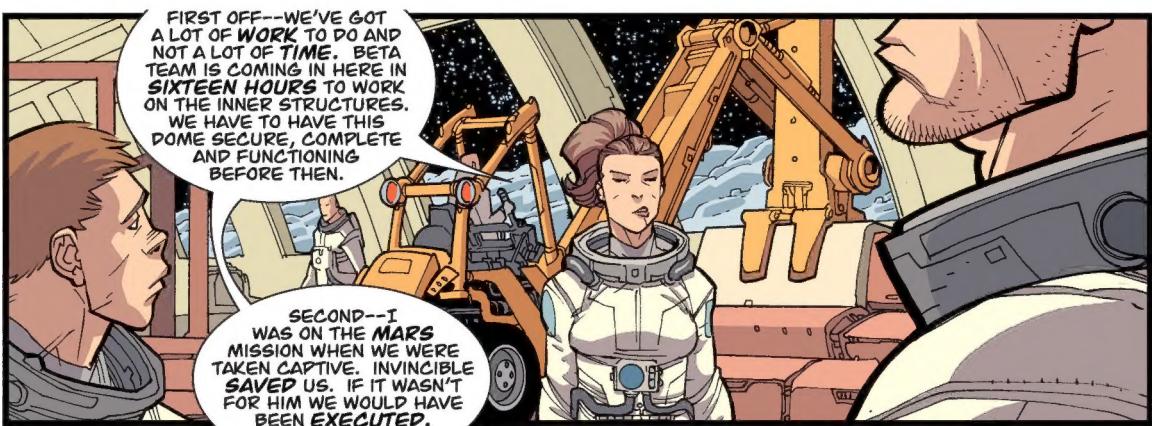
WHATEVER.

THE GUY  
JUST SEEMS  
KIND OF  
SHADY TO  
ME.



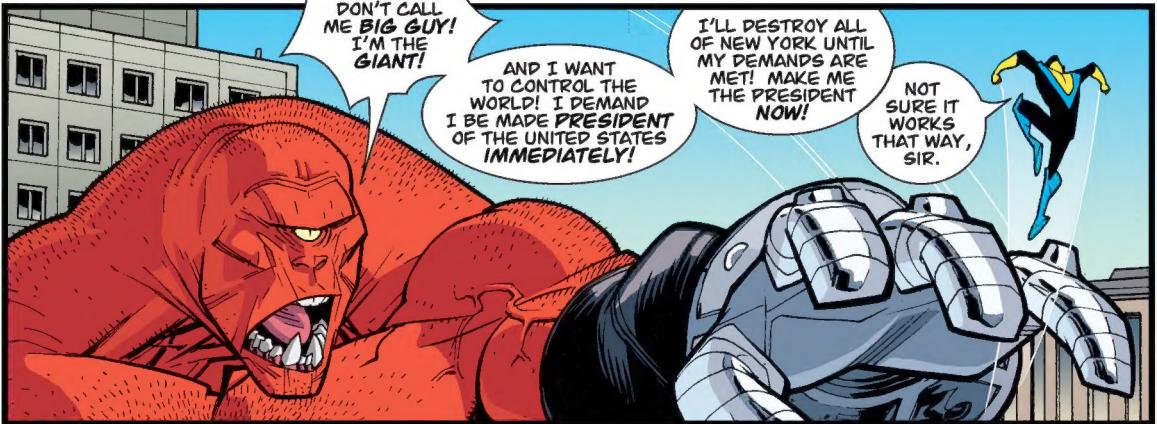
FIRST OFF--WE'VE GOT  
A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND  
NOT A LOT OF TIME. BETA  
TEAM IS COMING IN HERE IN  
SIXTEEN HOURS TO WORK  
ON THE INNER STRUCTURES.  
WE HAVE TO HAVE THIS  
DOME SECURE, COMPLETE  
AND FUNCTIONING  
BEFORE THEN.

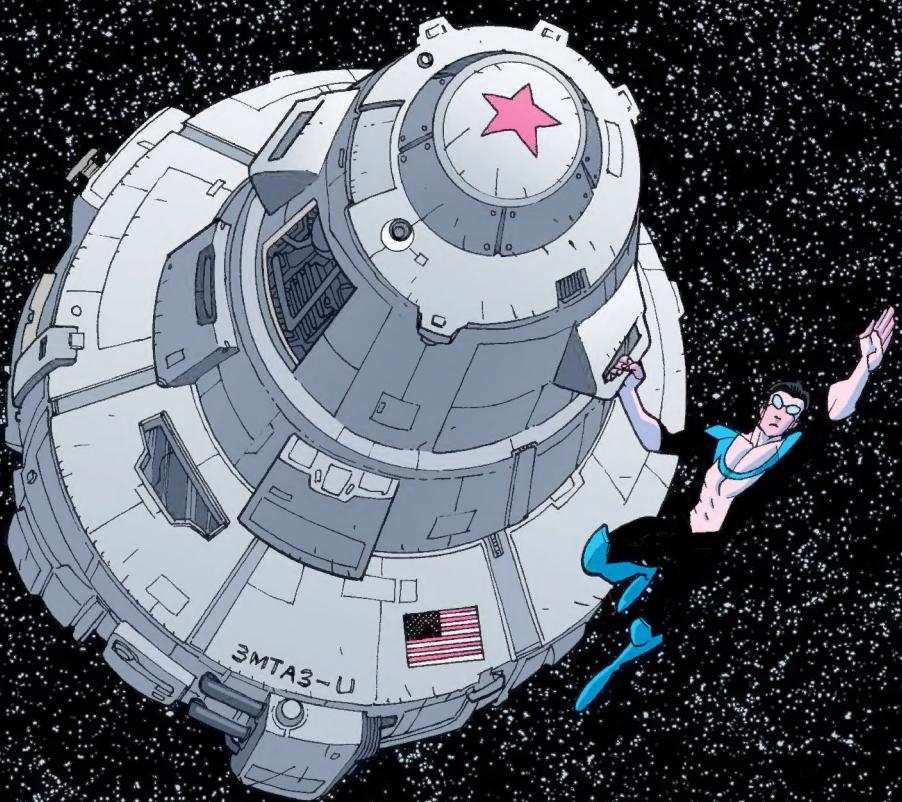
SECOND--I  
WAS ON THE MARS  
MISSION WHEN WE WERE  
TAKEN CAPTIVE. INVINCIBLE  
SAVED US. IF IT WASN'T  
FOR HIM WE WOULD HAVE  
BEEN EXECUTED.











THE PENTAGON, WHERE CECIL STEP MAN RUNS THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, WHICH EMPLOYS INVINCIBLE.

# UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear



HOW'D THAT BUSINESS WITH THE GIANT GO? DID THE GUARDIANS TAKE HIM DOWN? EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

WELL--FIFTEEN PEOPLE DIED AND OVER ONE HUNDRED WERE INJURED IN THE WHOLE THING, SO NO--EVERYONE IS NOT ALL RIGHT.

BUT THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE TOOK HIM DOWN. YOU WANT TO HEAR THE REAL KICKER OF THE WHOLE THING?

SURE.

THE GIANT IS AN EIGHT YEAR-OLD BOY.

I SWEAR I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP.

THE TWO OF THEM WERE PULLED INTO THE OTHER DIMENSION. WHILE THERE--THE BOY WAS ENCHANTED BY SOME SORCERER, TURNED INTO THAT MONSTER AND...

HE BECAME KING OF SOME VAST EMPIRE OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR--UNTIL ONE OF HIS ENEMIES SENT HIM BACK HERE.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT--THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME. IT JUST USUALLY DOESN'T RESULT IN DAMAGE THIS... PUBLIC.

SERIOUSLY?

HIS GRANDMOTHER ACCIDENTALLY OPENED SOME PORTAL TO ANOTHER DIMENSION WHEN SHE WAS MAKING SOME KIND OF HERBAL REMEDY FOR THEIR CAT.

REALLY?

SPEAKING OF THE PUBLIC...

DON'T BE NERVOUS, KID. YOU'VE DONE A WORLD OF GOOD FOR THESE PEOPLE-- AND THEY LOVE YOU FOR IT.

THIS WILL BE EASY.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

UH... YEAH, ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THIS.

AND, MARK--

YOU DID GOOD TODAY.

THANKS.

GATHERED MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE. I NOW TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO THE MAN OF THE HOUR HIMSELF-- INVINCIBLE.



YOU'VE BEEN VERY DILIGENT IN YOUR WORK OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE INVASION FROM MARS, SAVING THESE ASTRONAUTS TODAY...

NOT REALLY, NO. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HELPING OUT--DOING MY PART. I GUESS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING LATELY IS A BIT MORE NEWS-WORTHY?



IS THERE ANY REASON FOR YOUR INCREASED PUBLIC PROFILE?



I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

YOUR FATHER, OMNI-MAN, TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD AND ENSLAVE US ALL-- YOU OPPOSED HIM.



DO YOU THINK YOU DO WHAT YOU DO AS A WAY OF ATONING FOR THE SINS OF YOUR FATHER?



UH...  
MY FATHER...



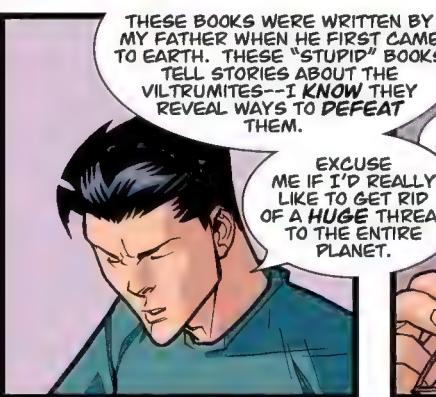
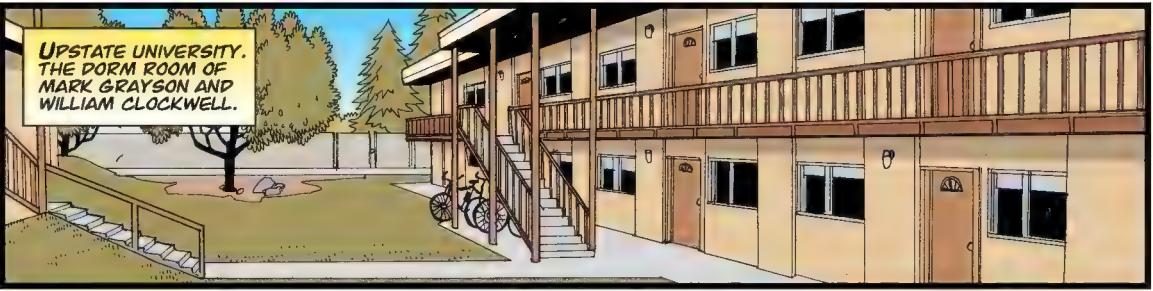
I'M WELL AWARE OF THE HORRIFIC ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS FOR THIS PLANET WERE-- AND I STOPPED HIM FROM CARRYING THEM OUT.

BUT I DO WHAT I DO--NOT AS AN APOLOGY TO THE HUMAN RACE--OR TO TRY AND ERASE THE ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I HELP PEOPLE BECAUSE I WANT TO-- BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY ARE SOMETHING THAT ARE ALWAYS ON MY MIND. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'LL EVER FORGET AND IT DOES GUIDE MY ACTIONS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

I'M ONLY TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.







LATER.

YOU AM BIG HERO.  
OCTOBoss SEE YOU IN TELEVISION.  
ME AM NOT CARE HOW LARGE HERO BE.  
YOU IS FOOL AM FACE OCTOBoss.

ME DID NOT INSTIGATE FIGHT. I MINDING AM OWN BUSINESS--  
KILLING MANY ENEMIES. NOT YOU--  
YOU HAVE NO REASON AT ATTACK.

YOU SOUND TOTALLY RETARDED.



ME COME HERE FROM OTHER WORLD! BEGINNING AM MISUNDERSTOOD-- SHOUT BUT NOT HEARD. ME TAKE TIME OFF TO LEARN LANGUAGE OF ENEMY. ME PLACE EFFORT AM TASK.

ALL GET I BE RIDICULE?!

OCTOBoss AM KILLING YOU FOR INSULT!



YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS?

I'M INVINCIBLE!









UM...

I HAVEN'T  
TOLD MOM YET.  
I WANTED TO  
SURPRISE  
YOU.

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED.

WOW.



# INVINCIBLE – The Story So Far...

Written by David Campbell

Mark Grayson was a normal high school student with normal high school student problems: SATs. Getting into college. Girls. Crappy part-time job. The usual stuff.

But Mark was a little different than other kids his age. His father Nolan was actually Omni-Man, hands down the most powerful superhero on the planet. An alien from the planet Viltrum, Omni-Man (aka author Nolan Grayson) married an Earth woman named Debbie Grayson, who gave birth to Mark. They lived as a happy, normal suburban family for years — until Mark started getting Viltrumite superpowers.

It started during an afternoon shift at Mark's crappy Burger Mart job. While taking out the trash, Mark tossed a garbage bag into the air... it would later land somewhere in England.



Mark quickly discovered his other powers — flight, super-speed, invulnerability, the works. He began sneaking out at night, testing his powers by fighting crime. Nolan approved of Mark's super heroics and introduced his son to Art Rosenbaum, designer of costumes and superhero tailor extraordinaire.

Soon, Mark had a cool blue and yellow costume and an equally cool code name: Invincible.

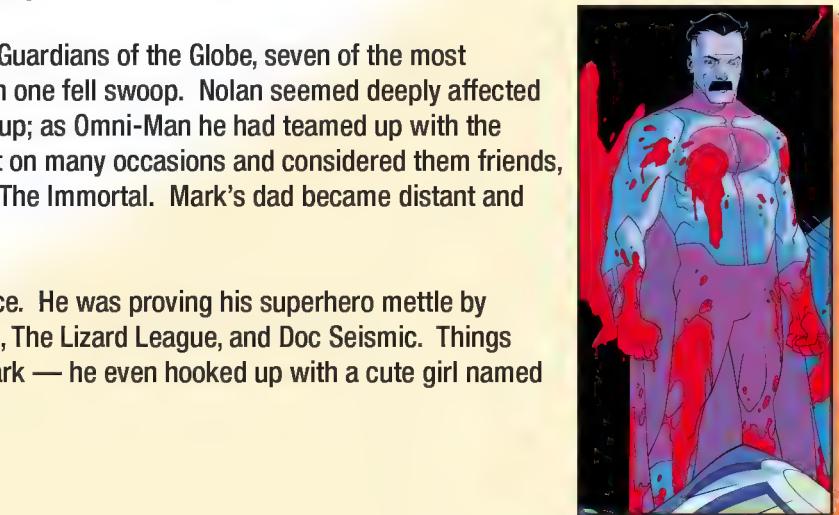
Things went pretty well at first. Mark stopped some bank robbers, foiled the plans of his maniacal physics teacher, battled an alien in space, and even helped his dad stop an inter-dimensional invasion. He joined forces with the Teen Team, a group of young heroes led by the enigmatic Robot that included Atom Eve, a cute girl who happened to go to his school. This hero stuff was pretty fun.

But soon life started to get complicated. The homework didn't go away just because he was Invincible, and he wasn't getting a lot of sleep between crime fighting and classes. Plus, keeping a secret identity was harder than it looked — Mark's best friend William easily figured out he was Invincible during a campus visit to Upstate University.

And then somebody killed the Guardians of the Globe, seven of the most powerful heroes on Earth, all in one fell swoop. Nolan seemed deeply affected by the grisly murder of the group; as Omni-Man he had teamed up with the Guardians to defend the planet on many occasions and considered them friends, with the possible exception of The Immortal. Mark's dad became distant and preoccupied.

But Mark was too busy to notice. He was proving his superhero mettle by defeating villains like Elephant, The Lizard League, and Doc Seismic. Things were starting to go well for Mark — he even hooked up with a cute girl named Amber from his school.

Then everything went to hell.



When the Immortal was resurrected for nefarious purposes by the criminal clones the Mauler Twins, the reborn hero went berserk and tracked down his killer, Omni-Man, who was fighting a giant monster at the time. The Immortal attacked Omni-Man in a blind fury.

Mark arrived in time to see Omni-Man — his own father — confess to the murder of the Guardians and then tear The Immortal in half.



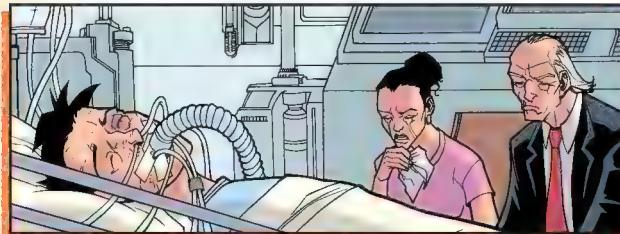
Covered in The Immortal's blood, Nolan calmly explained that he had killed the Guardians of the Globe as part of a plan to eliminate Earth's defenses against a Viltrumite invasion. As Mark listened, aghast, Nolan said that the stories he had told him about a benevolent Viltrumite federation were all lies. In reality, this federation was an empire of subjugated civilizations that served the master species, the super-powerful Viltrumites. He was here as an advanced scout of sorts to claim this planet of inferior beings and prepare its inhabitants for assimilation into the Viltrumite Empire.

Mark couldn't believe it. His dad told him that his mother, Debbie was nothing more than a pet to him. Viltrumites had such extremely long life spans that his time with Debbie was fleeting and inconsequential. They couldn't live among these frail, inferior beings. They were meant to rule them. Now that Mark had come of age and manifested his Viltrumite powers, it was time for him to act like a Viltrumite as well. Nolan asked Mark to join him in conquering Earth. Together they would rule for nearly five hundred years before turning the planet over to Viltrum.

Outraged, Mark refused to join Nolan. He also couldn't step aside... the fight was on.

Mark bravely attacked his father, but he was outmatched. Nolan pounded Mark with super strong punches without regard to the death or damage he caused. Hundreds of frail humans died as the destructive battle brought down office buildings, collapsed a subway system, and buried an alpine village under an avalanche.

Finally Mark lay beaten and bloody on the side of a mountain, utterly defeated. Nolan brought back his fist for a fatal blow... and paused. He couldn't do it. Turning from his shattered son, he flew up, up out of the atmosphere into space and kept going. Omni-Man had left the planet.



Cecil Stedman, the powerful and hideously scarred director of the Global Defense Agency, had the wounded Mark treated in a GDA paramedicine facility below the Pentagon. He had listened to the entire encounter via an earpiece communicator he used to talk to Omni-Man, who he revealed to be his top operative.

At Stedman's direction, Omni-Man would respond to threats around the world that required superhuman intervention. Now that their primary superhuman operative was AWOL, the GDA needed a replacement. Stedman saw real potential in the young hero, and asked Mark if he'd like to work for him in return for a generous allowance for his family and a full scholarship. Mark agreed.

Mark was injured physically and emotionally by his father's betrayal, but his mother was devastated.

A recording of the conversation between Nolan and Mark before their battle was leaked to the media, and Debbie Grayson had to listen to every painful word. She became deeply depressed and started drinking to cope with her pain.

Cecil Stedman also oversaw the all new government-sponsored Guardians of the Globe, led by Robot. Much like his father before him, Invincible teamed up with the Guardians of the Globe to defend mankind against threats like a huge alien invasion and an attack by the other dimensional Flaxans. Soon the Guardians roster grew to include young heroes like Rex Splode, Monster Girl, and Dupli-Kate as well as seasoned veterans like Black Samson and the resurrected (again) Immortal.

Mark was becoming more involved with Amber, who wasn't aware of his alter ego and believed Mark's dad died in a car crash. Atom Eve had broken up with her cheating boyfriend Rex Splode and was now dating Mark's friend William, but she clearly had feelings for Mark.

Relationships aside, Mark's solo work for Cecil kept him busy. He battled the super villain Furnace, averted a diplomatic crisis with Atlantis, and even secretly tagged along with a NASA mission to Mars.



On the Mars mission, Mark had to rescue the astronauts from malicious, shape-shifting Martians. These metamorphs ruled an underground empire kept running by Sequids, tentacled creatures that the Martians used as slaves for all manner of work. The shape shifting Martians were immune to the Sequids' ability to possess a host life form and engage their hive mind — without a host the Sequids remained docile.

Unfortunately, the Sequids found a host in astronaut Rus Livingston, who was marooned on Mars when a rebel Martian took his place on the space shuttle departing for Earth. The Sequid hive mind awoke, and a disastrous chain of events began on Mars.

Unbeknownst to Mark, a brilliant scientist named Angstrom Levy was planning to harness his unique power to transit between parallel worlds. Using his powers, Levy freed the hulking geneticist Mauler Twins from prison and hired them to create a device that would allow him to download the knowledge of thousands of his dimensional duplicates directly into his head, giving him total mastery of his powers. They began their work in secret.



The school year was extended after the aforementioned huge alien invasion trashed the high school, but Mark and his friends finally graduated from high school. As Mark prepared to go to Upstate University in the fall, Amber became increasingly suspicious and frustrated with Mark's lateness and sudden disappearances. Why did Mark have that pager? Where was he always rushing off to? Was he dealing drugs or something?



The super-thug Titan enlisted Invincible's help to help take down Machine Head, the most feared crime boss in the country. When they burst into Machine Head's headquarters, Invincible and Titan were attacked by a squad of supervillains, including Battle Beast, an incredibly powerful feline predator who quickly defeated Mark and most of the Guardians team who showed up to help before teleporting away. Machine Head was captured, but it was later revealed that Titan was manipulating events in order to take over the crime lord's empire.

Atom Eve told Mark that she was retiring as a superhero and was going to use her matter-manipulating powers to use helping people overseas. She left without telling Mark how she really felt about him.

Mark started at Upstate University, where he lived on campus with his roommate William. Amber was enrolled in another college that was a two-hour drive away (or a two-minute flight). When Amber visited Mark on campus, one of the zombie cyborg Reani-Men went on a rampage. Mark ducked out to change into Invincible, and although he saved Amber from the Reani-Man, to her it looked as if Mark had abandoned her in the panic. Amber was furious and hurt. Mark knew that if he wanted to stay with her he had to tell her everything. So he did.



Shortly thereafter Cecil directed Invincible to take down the fugitive Mauler twins, who had just reached the climax of their work with Angstrom Levy. As Levy hooked himself up to a huge machine and began the process of absorbing the knowledge of thousands of Angstrom Levys from other dimensions, Mark burst into their secret lab.

Levy summoned a mob of Maulers from other Earths to keep Invincible occupied while the download continued. The horde of villains overpowered Mark and began beating him to death. Levy was amoral but not a murderer — he wanted no part in Invincible's death. He detached himself from the device to stop the Maulers, and in doing so Levy accidentally triggered a huge explosion that destroyed the device and killed all the Mauler clones. The process was a partial success, but at a horrible cost — Angstrom Levy was grievously injured, deformed, and quite mad. He vowed revenge on Invincible, then slunk off to another dimension to heal.



Mark was then visited by an emissary from the Mantis Race, alien insectoids with a very short life span who needed his help defending their planet. Despite Cecil Stedman's protests, Mark decided to travel back to the Mantis Planet with the emissary and help out. It was there that Mark met the ruler of the Mantis Race.

His father.

Thinking that his Vilrume superiors might look more kindly on him abandoning his original post if he presented the empire with an alternate prize, Nolan decided to "adopt" this planet. As the most elder being by far, the Mantis people made Nolan their supreme leader. Nolan married a local girl and had a son, a purple-skinned boy who was growing up incredibly fast.

Mark was torn with conflicting emotions — anger at his father's betrayal and happiness to see him again. Their reunion was not an entirely happy one, however, for Nolan had summoned Mark to his planet to help defend their own people. Vilrume had found him.

They sent three of them — Vilrume warriors. The superpowered aliens destroyed huge sections of Mantis civilization, killing thousands. Mark and Nolan battled the Vilrume across the globe, but ultimately they were overcome. As the Vilrume took the injured Nolan away, he told his son, "Read my books, Mark."

The Vilrume, who respect strength above all else, were grudgingly impressed with Mark's performance. They named Mark the temporary designated Vilrume agent of Earth and gave him a hundred years to prepare the planet for takeover. If he failed in this task, he would be executed.



Mark returned to Earth with his purple half-brother, who he foisted upon his mother to raise. Amber was upset — Mark had been gone in space for two months. Being the girlfriend of a superhero was proving to be more stressful than either had anticipated.

To make it up to Amber, Mark took her on a vacation to Atom Eve's new home in Africa. Although Atom Eve was jealous of Mark's relationship with Amber, she was happy to see him. But Mark's African sojourn was cut short by a sinister phone call from his mom's house.

Angstrom Levy had his mother and his brother.

Mark rocketed across the Atlantic and confronted Levy, now a deformed and twisted master of transdimensional travel. While he held Debbie Grayson and Mark's half-brother hostage, Levy cast Mark through a gauntlet of dangerous dimensions hand-picked by Levy to wear him down. Mark bounced through alternate worlds full of dinosaurs, zombies, other heroes, giants, and monsters.

Finally Mark managed to grab hold of Levy and pull himself back into his home dimension. Levy had hurt his mom; when Mark saw her badly broken arm, he freaked out. He tumbled with Levy through a portal into a post-apocalyptic wasteland, where the deranged genius physically attacked him with newly acquired super-strength. Now that he had worn Mark down, he intended to exact his revenge by killing him with his bare hands.



Furious, Mark punched Levy. Again, and again, and again. It took him a moment to realize that he was covered with blood — Mark had overestimated Levy's toughness and had accidentally beaten the villain to death.

In shock, Mark staggered around the lifeless world Levy had stranded him on. Fortunately, a Guardians of the Globe team from the future, including an older Atom Eve, rescued Mark and sent him back to his home dimension — but not before this Atom Eve from the future declared her love for Mark and urged him to tell the Atom Eve of his time how he felt.

Now Mark had to decide between a normal life with Amber, or a life of superhero romance with Atom Eve.

While he was bitching about his romantic woes to the tailor Art, Mark mentioned that on the Mantis Planet Nolan had said "Read my books" as the Viltrumites hauled him away. Mark thought his dad only wrote travel books, but Art produced a forgotten series of pulp sci-fi books Nolan had written when he was younger. As Mark looked through his dad's books, he realized that they may contain information about how to beat the Viltrumites!



Meanwhile, the Martian who had impersonated astronaut Rus Livingston on the return flight of the Mars shuttle decided that his shape-shifting powers would be best put to use as the morphing superhero

Shapesmith. He concocted a fake origin story about unauthorized NASA testing and had soon earned a spot on the Guardians of the Globe.

When a gigantic space warship showed up heading for Earth, Shapesmith had to come clean to Cecil Steadman and the Guardians about his true identity. The Sequids found a solid host on Mars in marooned astronaut Rus Livingston and re-awakened the hive mind. Millions of Sequids woke from their mindless state and took over the Martian warship — now they were heading for Earth, a planet with an abundance of hosts.



Cecil Stedman interrupts a spur of the moment kiss between Mark and Eve by issuing a red alert. Stedman assembles Invincible, Atom Eve, and a select strike team of Guardians intercepted the Martian battleship and battled the possessed Rus Livingston and endless waves of Sequids. In a desperate battle, the heroes managed to neutralize the Sequids and rescue Livingston.

Back on Earth, Mark had a tough decision to make. He and Amber mutually decided to break up; the strains of a superhero lifestyle were too great.

Now, Mark is opening a new chapter of his life. Will he ever get together with Atom Eve? Is the Sequid threat to Earth truly over? What about his purple half-brother Oliver, who is growing at an insane rate? And when will the Viltrumites reappear?

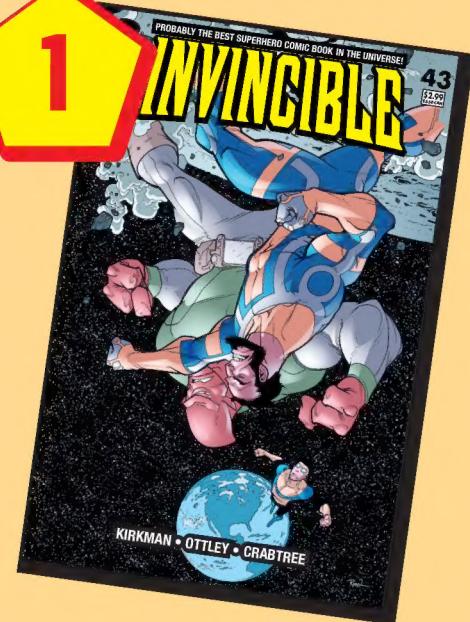
One thing is certain — whatever threats this world faces — Mark Grayson will be there to stop them — no matter the cost. He's Invincible.



# WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

IF YOU LIKED THIS STORY AND WANT TO PURCHASE INVINCIBLE ON A REGULAR BASIS, HERE ARE THREE EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED:

1



## MONTHLY ISSUES

SHIPPING NEXT MONTH IS ISSUE 43. IT PICKS UP RIGHT WHERE ISSUE 42 LEAVES OFF, AND IS THE PERFECT LEAD-IN TO THE BIG EVENTS LEADING UP TO OUR MONUMENTAL ISSUE 50. IF YOU LIKED THIS ISSUE EVEN A LITTLE BIT, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT'S IN STORE FOR OUR HERO IN THAT ISSUE.

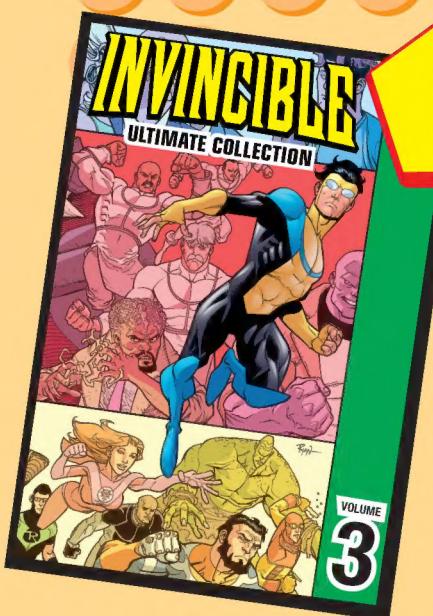
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