Image 1

COVER

THE ELEMENTAL

Caption: “Origin” Introducing the all new Elemental! Find out more inside…

GEOFF: Do I have what it takes to be a… hero?

PAGE 1

Panel 1

New York / The City where anyone can *be* anyone

Panel 2

I remember… When I was a kid… I wanted to be a hero / A superhero / Sure, it woulda been nice to “fly faster than a speeding bullet”

Panel 3

But I loved the idea of doing right by people / There’d be only right and wrong – Good and Bad. So blissfully simple

Panel 4

Of course, soon life happened. I get a job – a *wife*… No time for childish aspirations… / But I’d try to help out where I could.

Panel 5

I suppose that got me *into* this mess in the first place! / My name is Geoff MacMahon and I am – *Was* – a physicist. And a good one too! But times are tough…

GEOFF: ‘Morning Bill!

CONTRACTOR: You’re *late*, Geoff!

So now I work *here*, as an Architect’s assistant.

Panel 6

Suddenly…

SNAP

GEOFF: LOOK OUT!

Panel 7

I saved that man’s life

THAK

Panel 8

But in the process, I fell into the building foundation

GEOFF: WHOA!

Panel 9

I was unhurt, but I found something amazing…

GEOFF: Wow!

A Gold Medallion!

Image 2

Page 2

Panel 1

I was overcome by the inexplicable urge to wear it

Panel 2

And then blackness

Panel 3

As I came to, there was naught but one before my eyes.

Panel 4

WIZARD: MacMahon! You have been chosen as defender of your world – Guardian of your race!

Panel 5

GEOFF: But…

Panel 6

WIZARD: Your intentions are pure! You are a testament to mankind’s capability! Lead them; Guide them; Protect them!

Panel 7

WIZARD: I grant you the powers of earth! Mastery over air, fire, water and earth through my medallion. Use them wisely, MacMahon!

Panel 8

GEOFF: HELLLOOO? Look mister – I can’t do this. You’ve got the wrong guy.

Panel 9

GEOFF: Dammit! I’m no hero, OK? I’ve got a wife to take care of. I’ve responsibilities! – A life! I can’t do this!

Panel 10

And then I woke up in bed with my brother, Joe, and wife, Carrie, next to me.

JOE: Thank goodness you’re awake!

Panel 11 – None

Panel 12

JOE: The cops found *this* on you. Does it mean anything?

Panel 13

After Carrie fell asleep, I explained everything to Joe, not wanting to worry my wife.

GEOFF: I just can’t do it! I wish this whole thing would go away!

JOE: Nah, man! I *totally* understand.

Panel 14

The next day, the medallion was gone! / Not that I cared much anyway…

Page 3

Panel 1

But then I saw the news…

NEWS ANCHOR: *BREAKING NEWS!!* A Mysterious man has summoned a tornado in New York, terrorizing citizens!

Panel 2

And I remembered the medallion...

GEOFF: Oh no… no, no, no, no, no. This is just great.

Panel 3

Joe must have taken it…

GEOFF: No! You’re my brother! You don’t need to do this!

OFFICER: Stay back, Mister!

Panel 4

GEOFF: You’re better than this!

Panel 5

JOE: No, You’re wrong! I’ve never felt more alive! This power – It’s… ….*Amazing!*

Panel 6

JOE: SEE?

BOOM!

Panel 7

BANG

Panel 8

JOE: HAHAH-

Panel 9

GEOFF: NO!

OFFICER: Stay back, Mister!

Panel 10

GEOFF: This is all my fault! / At least the Police won’t *misuse* the medallion…

Image 3

Page 4

Panel 1

Miraculously, the next morning, the medallion was somehow on my desk!

Panel 2

GEOFF: NO!

Panel 3

GEOFF: I already decided *not* to become a hero. I have responsibilities. Abandoning my wife and life for spandex is anything *but* heroic!

Panel 4

GEOFF: But my doubts and cowardice cost my brother his life! I can’t run from the medallion anymore! Only *I* can wear the medallion… / Or else, the *whole world* will suffer on my account!

CARRIE: Honey, what are you welling about?!

GEOFF: Uh… Nothing!

Panel 5

So I secretly designed a suit to protect my identity and compliment my temperamental powers.

GEOFF: Looking slick!

As immoral as I construed heroics to be, this felt great.

Panel 6

And I flew away in the middle of the night. / It was exhilarating / *Liberating…* / Something about this experience – Maybe the mask, Maybe the pure unadulterated *freedom* did something to me.

Panel 7 – None

Panel 8

I never felt more alive.

THUG: AAGH!

WHOOSH!

Reborn… / *This* was who I was.

Panel 9

Not a freelance physicist struggling to make ends meet… / Just a man trying to do good. It felt so simple… / So Right.

Page 5

Panel 1

Soon I was making *national* headlines!

NEWSPAPERS: ELEMENTAL SAVES SCHOOL BUS!

CRIME RATE DROPS!

NYPD PROTESTS HERO FOR “STEALING JOBS”!

In *more* ways than one!

Panel 2

I had been affectionately dubbed *“The Elemental”* due to my powers / A new identity for a new man.

Panel 3

But this euphoria was but an illusion – an *escape* from my stressful reality

CARRIE: Geoff, dear, did you read the news

GEOFF: Hmm?

As the elemental blossomed, Geoff MacMahon slowly began to disappear

Panel 4

CARRIE: You know, how that blasted vigilante is stealing the livelihood of good cops! Horrible, isn’t it?

Panel 5

GEOFF: Oh yeah…yeah… um… terrible. Look, I gotta run…

CARRIE: Wait! Where are you going?

Panel 6

GEOFF: Just to the office… Gotta work late today.

CARRIE: Again?! This is the fourth time this week!

Panel 7

I’ll admit it. I felt bad about what I had to do to her…

GEOFF: … / Yeah… I know… Sorry… Love ya… bye!

SLAM!

But I always figured that the safety of New York was always more important.

Panel 8/9 – None

Image 4

Page 6

Panel 1

But this morning was different. Up until this point, I had only waged war on petty crime, but today…

BOOM!

… I met my match. / The *yin* to my yang / He curiously referred to himself as Doctor Long-Legs.

Panel 2

MAN: AAAHH!

Panel 3 / 4 - none

Panel 5

ELEMENTAL: Oh no… I have to stop this destruction

Panel 6

But his power was anything *but* laughable

LONG-LEGS: Surrender, Elemental! This city is mine!

ELEMENTAL: I have to – *WOW*, THAT’S A *HUGE* ROBOT! $!@ [Other Expletive symbols]!\*

Inter-Panel dialogue: \*We apologize for any language offensive to readers – The editors

Panel 7

REPORTER: All eyes are on the elemental – The *one* man who can save the city! Back to you, Lois!

Panel 8 – none

Page 7

Panel 1 / 2 – None

Panel 3

ELEMENTAL: Ugh!

Panel 4

GASP!

Panel 5

ELEMENTAL: Gotta stop him! Unf!!

Panel 6

RUMBLE / CRACK

Panel 7

CRA – KOOOM!

LONG – LEGS: NOOOO!

Panel 8

BOOM!

Whoooosh!

Panel 9

ELEMENTAL: HERE IS YOUR VILLAIN!

I did it

Panel 10

ASSORTED BYSTANDERS: YEAH! / WHOO! / WE LOVE YOU! / OUR HERO!

I saved… 8 *million people* from certain doom that day

Image 5

Page 8

Panel 1

But There is *always* collateral – Sacrifices to be made. / As I found out once I returned home.

Panel 2

CARRIE: Geoff! Oh my god! Where have you been?!

GEOFF: I told you – I had to work

Panel 3

CARRIE: Oh… Don’t give me that! The city was attacked! I *needed* you here! And where were you? Probably off wallowing in your woe!

Panel 4

GEOFF: No! I-

Panel 5

CARRIE: No! You’re my *Husband!* Geoff – We need to be there for each other. I could have died! / I just can’t rely on you anymore.

Panel 6

GEOFF: No, no, no. You don’t understand. I never meant for any of this to happen! Look – I *am* the Elemental. That’s why I was gone!

Panel 7

GEOFF: I was… Just trying to do the right thing. Please believe me.

Panel 8

CARRIE: The *right* thing?! Focus on your *own* life, Geoff! Your wife, your job. You’re no hero! Leave that to the cops.

Panel 9

CARRIE: In fact… I’m going to call them *now*! I love you, Geoff, but you need help.

Panel 10

GEOFF: NO! Don’t! / You won’t be safe…

Panel 11

GEOFF: …If the world knows who I *am!*

*Fwoosh!*

Panel 12

CARRIE: Ohmigod! You *burned* my hand! What the *hell* are you *doing,* Geoff?!

Page 9

Panel 1

GEOFF: I-I don’t know. What have I done? / You just *didn’t* understand

Panel 2

GEOFF: Why couldn’t you understand?! I’m trying to keep you *safe!* If the world knows my name, every *thug* out there will want *your* blood too!

Panel 3

CARRIE: And whose fault is that?

GEOFF: …

CARRIE: I’ll *take* my chances!

Panel 4

CARRIE: All you seem to care about is yourself – *and* your *delusions! /* And I can’t *stand* it!

GEOFF: Wait, no!

Panel 5

SLAM!

Panel 6

…Come Back

Was this the cost of doing what’s right?

Panel 7 / 8 / 9 – none

Panel 10

Could she be right? / What if I *can’t* be a hero? / How can I be? I can’t even protect my wife.

Panel 11

WEE – OOOO WEE – OOOO

Image 6

Page 10

Panel 1

I don’t suppose it even matters anymore / I blew it.

Panel 2

But the next day in the precinct

OFFICER: MacMahon! Top brass wants t’ talk wit’cha!

Panel 3

GEOFF: What do you want?

CLERK: You’ve been bailed out

Panel 4

As it turned out, the *UN* needed me as an enforcer of UN Mandates – A formidable agent of *international* peace, justice and humanitarian relief. / And if I ever went rogue, they could just as easily off me. / I was expendable

Panel 5

In an instant, Geoff MacMahon ceased to exist. All I was was a mere classification. / “*The Elemental”*

Panel 6

In a way, this was better for me. / No longer do I have to juggle two lives. / No longer do I have to decide who to help and who to abandon. / All I do is help people – in the clearest most indisputable way possible – As per the *world’s* discretion. / But, I’m not a hero. At least not in the conventional sense. Heroes save everybody and never do wrong. Because they don’t exist. / I’m just a man / A flawed, imperfect man just trying to do the right thing. / And if that makes me a hero, so be it. Either way… / … It’s fine by me.

The End.