

PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

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ORIGIN
ISSUE

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INVINCIBLE



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INVINCIBLE

Welcome to our big issue 0 origin spectacular. If you're a regular reader of INVINCIBLE you'll be glad to see this special issue continues right from where issue 22 left off and leads directly into issue 23. If you're new to INVINCIBLE and this is your first experience with the guy, welcome, it's good to have you here. This issue should serve as a bare bones recap giving you all the important info to bring you up to speed while also, hopefully, being an entertaining little yarn.

If you like what you see here, don't feel intimidated about picking up issue 23 next month. You should be able to hop right on and enjoy the ride. Or if you want to go back and start at the beginning there are four volumes of INVINCIBLE trade paperbacks collecting issues 1-19 in stores or available for order right now.

Another option, if you're into that sort of thing, would be picking up the INVINCIBLE: ULTIMATE COLLECTION VOLUME 1 hardcover. It'll be in stores in June and will retail for a measly \$34.95. It'll get you issues 1-13 for pennies a serving, along with all those DVD style extras that the kids seem to dig so much these days.

So enjoy the story and thanks for forking out the half dollar to purchase this thing. I hope to see you around these parts again real soon.

-Robert Kirkman

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MY BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW UNBELIEVABLY COOL THAT IS. I'M STILL IN SHOCK.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO FINALLY GET THAT OFF MY CHEST. I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE TAKING THIS SO WELL.

I'VE BEEN PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT THIS.



TELL ME EVERYTHING. YOU HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING.



EVERYTHING? YOU'VE SEEN MOST OF IT ON THE NEWS. YOU KNOW ME-- THE SUPERHERO STUFF IS ALL TELEVISED.

NO-- I WANT TO KNOW HOW EVERYTHING HAPPENED... I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. I WANT TO KNOW IT ALL.



START FROM THE BEGINNING.



THE BEGINNING? IT'S KIND OF LATE ALREADY. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY TONIGHT?

MARK, LISTEN TO ME. MY BOYFRIEND, YOU, JUST REVEALED TO ME HE'S A SUPERHERO. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DANGER OF ME SLEEPING AT ALL TONIGHT. LET ALONE ANY TIME SOON.

TELL ME.

RIGHT NOW.

THE WHOLE STORY.



OKAY-- UNDERSTOOD. WILL DO.

JUST LET ME FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START.



MARK.

START AT THE BEGINNING.



OKAY--LET ME REPHRASE.

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE BEGINNING IS.



CUT ME SOME SLACK, OKAY? I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SAT DOWN AND TOLD THIS STORY BEFORE.

OKAY--YOU KNOW NOW THAT MY DAD WAS **OMNI-MAN**, THE DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY OR **WHATEVER** THEY CALLED HIM.



YEAH. GOT THAT MUCH.



I DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL I WAS ABOUT SEVEN YEARS OLD. UP UNTIL THAT POINT--I JUST THOUGHT MY DAD WAS A **WRITER**...



WHO WENT ON A LOT OF TRIPS.

YOU DIDN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING?



NOPE. IN FACT, UP UNTIL THE POINT WHERE HE SAT ME DOWN TO TELL ME--I HAD **NO CLUE** WHAT WAS GOING ON.

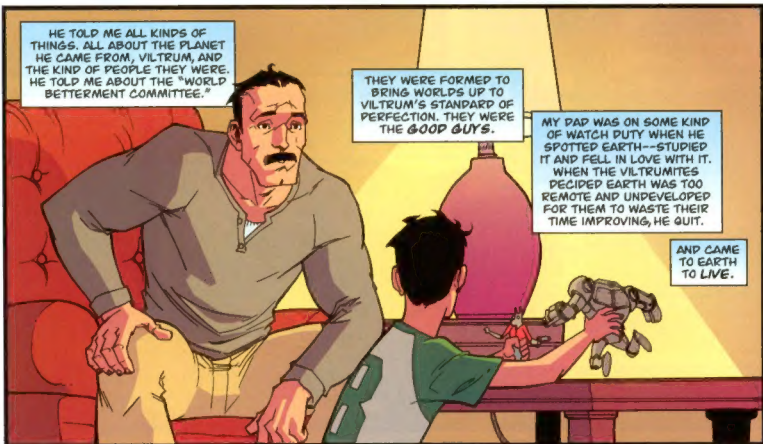


HE TOLD ME ALL KINDS OF THINGS. ALL ABOUT THE PLANET HE CAME FROM, **VILTRUM**, AND THE KIND OF PEOPLE THEY WERE. HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE "WORLD BETTERMENT COMMITTEE."

THEY WERE FORMED TO BRING WORLDS UP TO **VILTRUM'S** STANDARD OF PERFECTION. THEY WERE THE **GOOD GUYS**.

MY DAD WAS ON SOME KIND OF WATCH DUTY WHEN HE SPOTTED **EARTH**--STUDIED IT AND FELL IN LOVE WITH IT. WHEN THE **VILTRUMITES** DECIDED **EARTH** WAS TOO REMOTE AND UNDEVELOPED FOR THEM TO WASTE THEIR TIME IMPROVING, HE QUIT.

AND CAME TO **EARTH** TO LIVE.



THAT WAS HIS STORY.



I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THAT.



WHILE HE WAS TELLING ME THIS STORY--HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS POWERS, FLIGHT, SUPER-SPEED, SUPER-STRENGTH. HE SAID THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT I WOULD GET THEM.

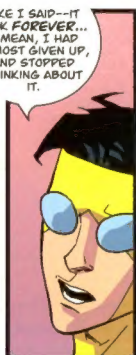


WHEN YOU WERE **SEVEN**?



NO. HE TOLD ME WHEN I WAS SEVEN. HE SAID IF I WAS GOING TO GET POWERS THEY'D PROBABLY KICK IN AROUND PUBERTY--**THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN**.





I CAN SHOW IT TO YOU. I STILL HAVE IT AT HOME... EXCEPT THE GLOVES. MY MOM USED THOSE ON DISHES...



ANYWAY--MY DAD SAW ME IN THAT GETUP ONCE AND TOOK ME TO GET MY FIRST COSTUME.

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR THAT?



MY DAD KNEW A GUY--A TAILOR-- SUPER SECRET STUFF. HE STILL MAKES ALL MY COSTUMES. HE'S A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.



ONCE I HAD THE COSTUME I DROVE HEAD FIRST INTO MY LIFE AS A SUPERHERO. I FOUGHT SOME GUYS--MET SOME OTHER HEROES--ALL IN THE SPAN OF A MONTH.



AFTER A WHILE--I EVEN GOT TO GO ON A FEW MISSIONS WITH MY DAD.



SEEING HIM IN ACTION WAS--I WAS IN AWE. I'D SEEN HIM ON THE NEWS MILLIONS OF TIMES WHILE GROWING UP. YOU'D THINK I WOULD BE USED TO IT.

BEING THERE, SEEING HIM IN PERSON--WATCHING HIM UP CLOSE--IT WAS MESMERIZING. HE WAS MOVING SO FAST HE WOULD JUST SEEM TO APPEAR WHERE HE WAS NEEDED.



HE WAS A FIGHTING MACHINE-- I DIDN'T SEE HIM HESITATE FOR EVEN A SECOND. HE TRULY WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO.

I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH HIM WHEN WE FLEW TOGETHER.

MARK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



OH, SORRY. I WAS JUST--I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE. BEFORE HE--



ARE YOU OKAY?



YEAH, OF COURSE. SORRY I--WHERE WAS I?



YOU HAD JUST BECOME A SUPERHERO.

OH, YEAH. AROUND THAT SAME TIME, STUDENTS AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL, YOU'LL REMEMBER, WERE TURNING UP ALL OVER TOWN, WITH BOMBS INSIDE THEM-- BLOWING STUFF UP.

I REMEMBER. TWIN PINES MALL WAS CLOSED FOR LIKE--FOUR MONTHS. IT WAS HORRIBLE.

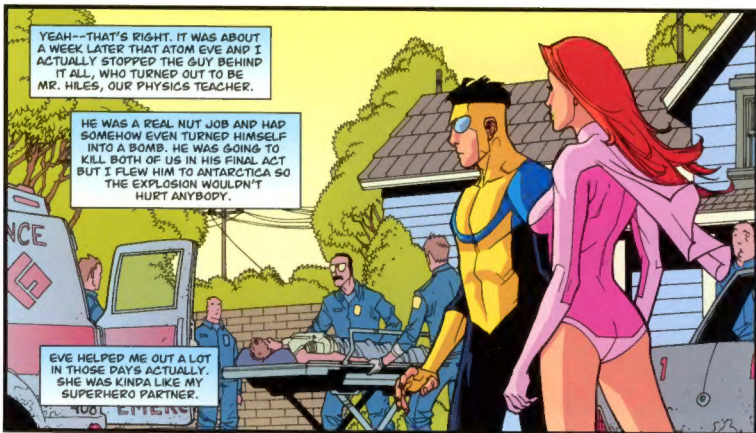
THE WHOLE THING--NOT JUST THE MALL BEING CLOSED--OF COURSE.

OF COURSE, ANYWAY-- I FIRST DISCOVERED THEY WERE STUDENTS FROM OUR SCHOOL BECAUSE MY DAD AND I ENCOUNTERED ONE OF THEM IN LAKESIDE MALL.

THE GUY MUST HAVE HATED MALLS. ANYWAY, WE GOT TO HIM JUST BEFORE HE WENT OFF--

I RECOGNIZED HIM FROM SCHOOL. DAD THREW HIM INTO THE SKY AND SAVED THE MALL.

YOU WERE ON TV, THEN. THAT WAS WHEN YOU CALLED OMNI-MAN "DAD" AND EVERYONE FOUND OUT YOU WERE HIS SON.



ATOM EVE? SHE'S NOT--I MEAN--THAT'S NOT OUR EVE IS IT?

YEAH--IT KINDA IS. JEEZ, DON'T SAY ANYTHING, THOUGH. SHE'D BE REALLY PISSED IF SHE FOUND OUT I TOLD YOU.

YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARK. I PROMISE. IF NOTHING ELSE COMES OF THIS TALK--I REALLY WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU AT LEAST KNOW THAT.

I TRUST YOU, AMBER. I WOULDN'T BE TELLING YOU ALL THIS IF I DIDN'T. IT'S JUST SOMETHING YOU GOTTA SAY, Y'KNOW.

SO YEAH, HILES WAS MY FIRST BIG SUPERVILLAIN. IF YOU CAN EVEN CALL HIM THAT.



I FACED A FEW GOOD ONES: THE MAULER TWINS, TITAN, DOC SEISMIC, THE LIZARD LEAGUE, AND THIS ONE DUDE CALLED "THE ELEPHANT" BUT HE WAS JUST A LAME RIP-OFF OF "THE RHINO."

THAT GUY KINDA SUCKED.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OF THOSE GUYS.

YEAH, WELL--THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT IN "THE BUSINESS." OTHERWISE YOU'D TOTALLY KNOW WHO THEY WERE.

NO. I WATCH THE NEWS. THERE'S A NEW SUPERVILLAIN ON THERE EVERY WEEK. THE CHRONOPILE, MEGA-BRAIN, SEBASTIAN KAHN... I SEE VILLAINS ON TV-- BUT NONE OF THE GUYS YOU MENTIONED.

YEAH--UH--ANYWAY, THINGS WENT ALONG PRETTY SMOOTHLY FOR A LONG TIME. THEN--SHORTLY BEFORE YOU AND I GOT TOGETHER EVERYTHING CHANGED.



NOBODY BUT YOU...

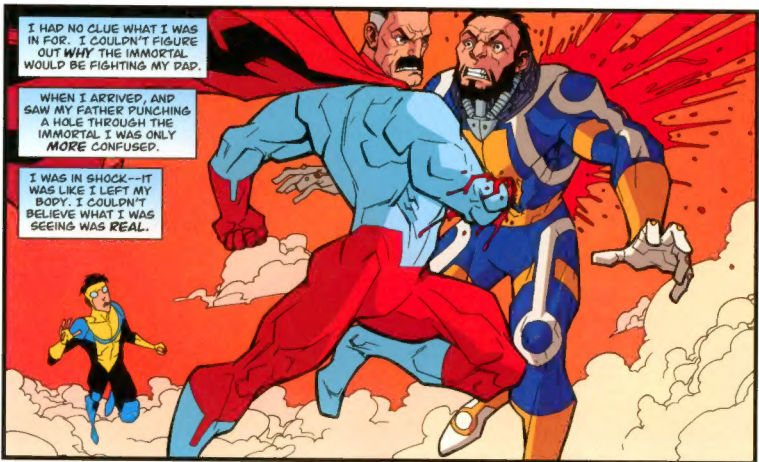
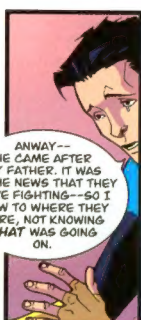
RIGHT?

NO! I HAD NO IDEA WHO HAD DONE IT.

OH--HOW LONG WAS IT BEFORE YOU FOUND OUT?

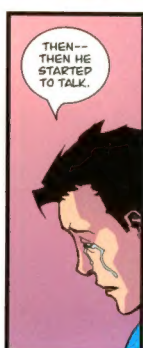
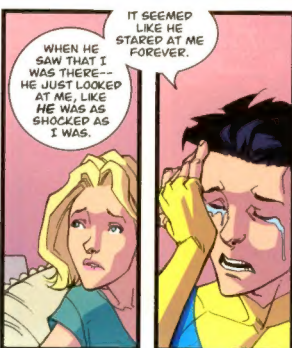
I DON'T KNOW... A MONTH.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?



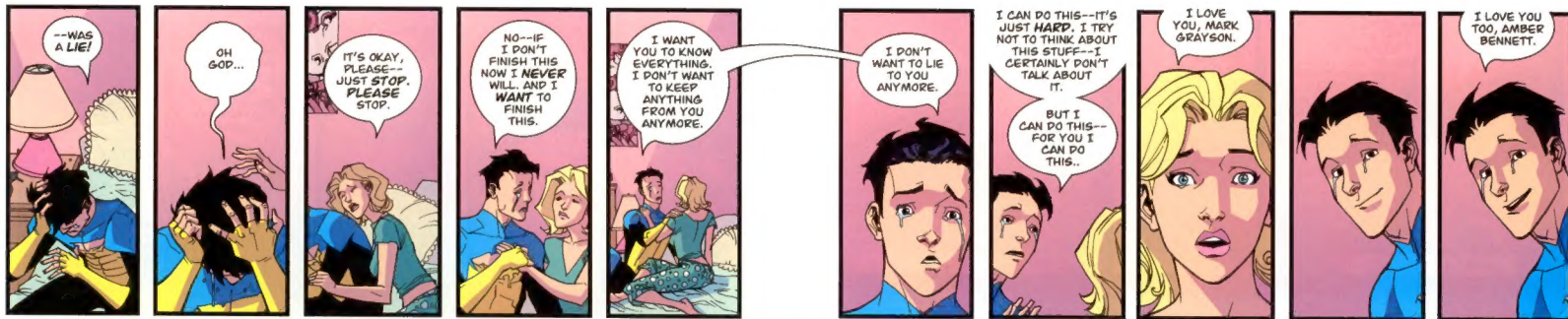
HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS THERE YET--I HEARD THEM TALKING WHILE THEY FOUGHT.

THAT'S WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT MY FATHER--MY FATHER KILLED THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.



HE TOLD ME--HE TOLD ME THAT EVERYTHING HE HAD EVER TOLD ME ABOUT HIMSELF--





--WAS A LIE!

OH GOD...

IT'S OKAY, PLEASE-- JUST STOP. PLEASE STOP.

NO--IF I DON'T FINISH THIS NOW I NEVER WILL, AND I WANT TO FINISH THIS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW EVERYTHING. I DON'T WANT TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM YOU ANYMORE.

I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO YOU ANYMORE.

I CAN DO THIS--IT'S JUST HARD. I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THIS STUFF--I CERTAINLY DON'T TALK ABOUT IT.

I LOVE YOU, MARK GRAYSON.

BUT I CAN DO THIS--FOR YOU I CAN DO THIS..

I LOVE YOU TOO, AMBER BENNETT.

EVERYTHING WAS A LIE. THERE WAS NO "WORLD BETTERMENT COMMITTEE" IT WAS THE "WORLD CONQUERING COMMITTEE." THE VILTRIMITES WEREN'T PERFECTING WORLDS. THEY WERE CONQUERING THEM.

MY FATHER WASN'T HERE TO PROTECT EARTH--HE WAS HERE TO ENSLAVE US. EVERY MINUTE OF MY LIFE WITH HIM WAS A LIE.

HE SAID HE NEVER LOVED MY MOTHER.

HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM--AFTER RAISING ME AS A HUMAN--HE WANTED ME TO ENSLAVE THEM. I REFUSED.

I TOLD HIM I WOULD STOP HIM.

WE FOUGHT.

HE BEAT ME NEARLY TO DEATH.

THEN HE FLEW INTO SPACE.



THE GOVERNMENT HAD A RECORDING OF YOUR ARGUMENT--EVERYTHING HE SAID. IT WAS LEAKED TO THE MEDIA. I SAW THE SPECIAL--I HEARD EVERYTHING HE SAID TO YOU.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU--

I BARELY DO.

MY MOM TOOK IT THE HARDEST--STARTED DRINKING. SHE BARELY EVER LEAVES THE HOUSE.

THERE'S BEEN A COUPLE TIMES WHEN YOU CAME OVER TO THE HOUSE I'VE SHUFFLED YOU UP TO MY ROOM OR SUGGESTED STAYING OUTSIDE TO KEEP YOU FROM SEEING HER--PASSED OUT--DRUNK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I MEAN--I KNOW EXACTLY HOW SHE FEELS, WELL, ALMOST. I MEAN, I LOST MY FATHER--SHE LOST HER HUSBAND.

BUT WE WERE BOTH BETRAYED.

I'M SORRY. I NEVER EVEN KNEW.

I MEAN--I THOUGHT YOUR DAD DIED IN A CAR CRASH, THIS IS SOMEHOW WORSE.

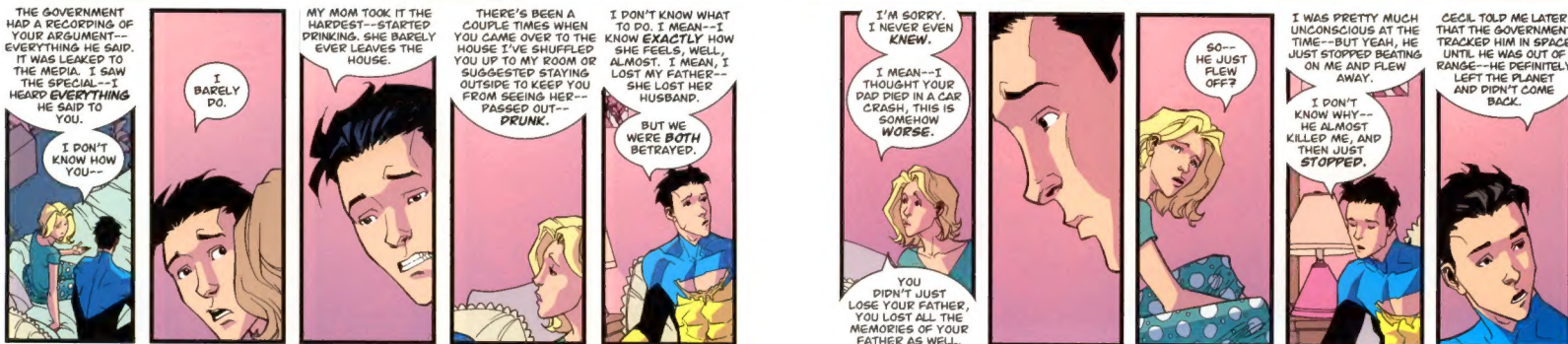
YOU DIDN'T JUST LOSE YOUR FATHER, YOU LOST ALL THE MEMORIES OF YOUR FATHER AS WELL.

SO-- HE JUST FLEW OFF?

I WAS PRETTY MUCH UNCONSCIOUS AT THE TIME--BUT YEAH, HE JUST STOPPED BEATING ON ME AND FLEW AWAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHY--HE ALMOST KILLED ME, AND THEN JUST STOPPED.

CECIL TOLD ME LATER THAT THE GOVERNMENT TRACKED HIM IN SPACE UNTIL HE WAS OUT OF RANGE--HE DEFINITELY LEFT THE PLANET AND DIDN'T COME BACK.





WAIT-- WHO'S CECIL?



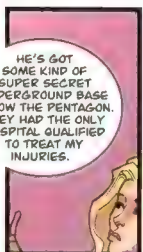
OH, SORRY. I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE AHEAD OF MYSELF. CECIL WAS THE GUY THAT SAVED ME--AFTER MY DAD LEFT ME FOR DEAD, THAT IS.



OH, IS HE A SUPERHERO?



CALLED CECIL? OH, NO--HE'S A SPOOKY GOVERNMENT GUY--REALLY NICE THOUGH. I LIKE HIM.



HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF SUPER SECRET UNDERGROUND BASE BELOW THE PENTAGON. THEY HAD THE ONLY HOSPITAL QUALIFIED TO TREAT MY INJURIES.



HE REALLY SAVED MY LIFE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE--HELPING OUT MY MOTHER AND ALL. AFTER HE PATCHED ME UP, HE HIRED ME ON TO REPLACE MY DAD.

SEEMS MY DAD HAD BEEN WORKING FOR HIM, ALLOWING CECIL TO MONITOR THE PLANET AND TELL MY DAD WHERE TO BE--WHERE HIS POWERS WOULD HELP THE MOST PEOPLE.

HE RIGGED IT TO WHERE ALL MY DAD'S NOVELS WERE BESTSELLERS ALL OF A SUDDEN, GIVING MY MOM A STEADY INCOME. HE ALSO GOT ME A SCHOLARSHIP TO UPSTATE UNIVERSITY.

IN RETURN, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ALLOW HIM TO DIRECT MY SUPERHERO ACTIVITIES--I'D BE SAVING PEOPLE ANYWAY--AND HE JUST HELPS ME SAVE THE MOST PEOPLE POSSIBLE.

I'VE GOT AN EAR PIECE HE TALKS TO ME THROUGH AND I CARRY A BEEPER SO I'VE GOT AN EXCUSE FOR GETTING UP AND LEAVING WHILE I'M OUT OF COSTUME.

HE SITS IN HIS LITTLE CONTROL CENTER AND I GO OUT AND SAVE THE WORLD. THAT'S WHY I MISSED SO MUCH SCHOOL TOWARDS THE END OF SENIOR YEAR.



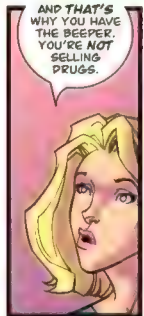
OH, AND DON'T EVER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HIM TO ANYONE. HE'S WAY TOP SECRET. I KNOW--I CAN TRUST YOU. JUST GOTTA SAY IT Y'KNOW?



UNDERSTOOD. SO EARLIER TONIGHT WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING TO YOURSELF?



YEP. THAT WAS HIM.



AND THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE THE BEEPER. YOU'RE NOT SELLING DRUGS.



NOPE. I'M OUT SAVING THE WORLD--FIGHTING BAD GUYS AND STUFF. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THOUGHT I WAS A DRUG DEALER.

WITH ALL THAT--ALL THIS SUPERHERO STUFF--HOW DO YOU EVEN HAVE TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL?



IT'S NOT THAT BAD-- THERE ARE ENTIRE WEEKS THAT GO BY WITHOUT ME GETTING CALLED TO DO ANYTHING.



BUT THERE ARE SOME WEEKS... WHERE I'M WORKING NON-STOP. MAN, THE WEEK I WENT TO MARS ALMOST KILLED ME.



YOU WENT TO MARS? WHEN?

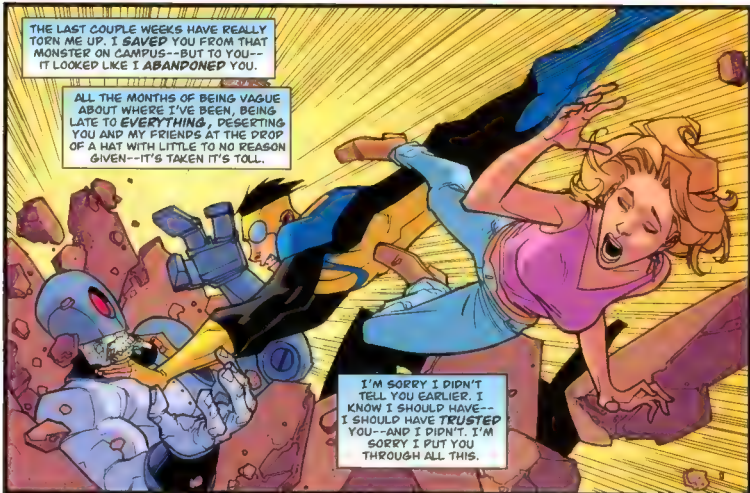


IT WAS LIKE, A WEEK BEFORE I STARTED COLLEGE. NOT LONG AGO. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER, JUST--I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU BEFORE I FINISH.



THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS HAVE REALLY TORN ME UP. I SAVED YOU FROM THAT MONSTER ON CAMPUS--BUT TO YOU--IT LOOKED LIKE I ABANDONED YOU.

ALL THE MONTHS OF BEING VAGUE ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN, BEING LATE TO EVERYTHING, DESERTING YOU AND MY FRIENDS AT THE DROP OF A HAT WITH LITTLE TO NO REASON GIVEN--IT'S TAKEN IT'S TOLL.



I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU EARLIER. I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE-- I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU--AND I DIDN'T. I'M SORRY I PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S ALL BETTER NOW.



YEAH-- IT REALLY IS.



SO THAT'S ME-- SUPERHERO MARK. THAT'S EVERYTHING.

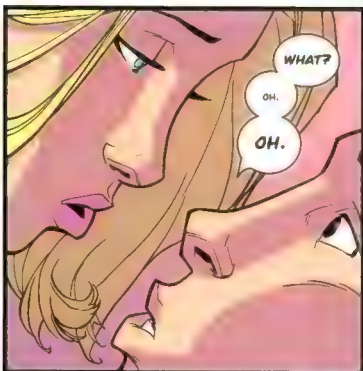
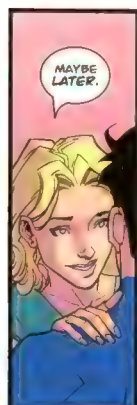


MY BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO.



YOUR BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO.





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 23. IT PICKS UP RIGHT WHERE ISSUE 0 LEAVES OFF AND IS THE PERFECT LEAD-IN TO THE BIG EVENTS THAT START IN ISSUE 25. 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.

2

TRADE PAPERBACKS

AVAILABLE FOR ORDER NOW ARE FOUR COLLECTED EDITIONS OF THE INVINCIBLE SERIES. THE FOUR VOLUMES COLLECT ISSUES 1-19 AND WILL BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON THE SERIES LICKETY SPLIT. ASK YOUR LOCAL RETAILER TODAY!



3



HARDCOVER

SHIPPING IN JUNE IS A MASSIVE 400-PAGE HARDCOVER COLLECTING ISSUES 1-13 ALONG WITH SCADS OF EXTRAS IN ONE GIGANTIC OVERSIZED HARDCOVER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE BACK COVER.

NOW THERE'S NO EXCUSE! START READING INVINCIBLE TODAY!

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**JUNE
2005**



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