

Strength in Numbers

Written by Christopher Howard Wolf

PAGE ONE

PANEL ONE - INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

This is a nicely decorated talk show set within a sound stage. An AUDIENCE sitting in rows of CHAIRS faces a small SOFA and DESK. Any CAMERAS here also face toward the sofa and desk. Sitting at the desk is BILLI BANES, a beautiful woman around her mid to late thirties, your standard "talk show" fare. Sitting on the sofa is KEITH MILLER, a man around his mid to late fifties. Keith is a refined-looking, well-dressed older man, full of charm and wit. Billi is addressing one of the cameras.

BILLI: Okay! Welcome to the Billi Banes show. Our first guest today is Keith Miller. You know him better as "golden age" crime fighter, The Golden Fleece.

PANEL TWO - INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Billi turns to Keith and welcomes him to the show. Keith seems flattered to be on the show.

BILLI: Welcome to the show, Mr. Miller.

KEITH: Call me Keith... or "The Astonishing Golden Fleece", if you prefer. It's a pleasure to be here.

BILLI: What is it like to be one of American history's greatest icons?

PANEL THREE - INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

We now see Keith turning on the sofa, angling to look at a large SCREEN behind him. The screen displays an image of his alter ego, THE GOLDEN FLEECE, in action. The Golden Fleece wears a shining ram's head MASK, and what looks to be a ram's FLEECE across his muscular, powerful chest and shoulders. He also carries a golden shepherd's STAFF, which seems to radiate sheer power.

KEITH: Embarrassing, honestly. Just look at that outfit!
All the power of a Greek God... apparently no fashion sense
whatsoever.

BILLI: Everyone here is dying to know... that Golden Fleece
costume must have been itchy, right?

AUDIENCE: (off panel) Ha ha ha ha!

PANEL FOUR - INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

The screen now shifts to show an image of HUNDREDMAN.
Hundredman is a clean-cut, muscular, grinning fellow in a
retro spandex costume with a "100" symbol on his chest.
Hundredman appears to be issuing a powerful BLAST from his
hands. In the foreground, Billi and Keith are once again
talking with each other.

BILLI: If it's alright, I'd like to talk about Hundredman.

KEITH: Yes, yes. Quite alright.

BILLI: We're approaching the 40th anniversary of his death...
most of us can only imagine what it was like to see him in
action, but you actually fought alongside him...

PANEL FIVE - INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

We now see a close-up shot of Keith as he solemnly faces
the reader, addressing a "camera".

KEITH: He was a great man. We'll never again feel the same
sense of safety... the same sense of pride as we did when
Hundredman patrolled our skies. When he was murdered, we
lost more than his amazing one hundred super-powers... we
lost someone one hundred times the man any of us could hope
to be.

AUDIENCE: (off panel) Aawww...

PAGE TWO

PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

We now see a STORE FRONT with a flat-screen TELEVISION in the window, on display. The screen is playing the Billi Banes show with Keith Miller, keeping in step with the previous page. Passersby on the street hustle past on this COLD day, most of them bundled up in warm clothing.

BILLI: (On television) So level with us, Keith... will the world ever see another super-human? Are the rumors of more super-powered people just wishful thinking?

PANEL TWO - EXT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

We now pass the storefront with the television and see the store next door. It is small COFFEE SHOP. We see STPHANIE, a beautiful young woman in her 20s. She is wearing warm clothing in keeping with the rest of the citizens here, along with a colorful SCARF. She is currently ducking into the coffee shop.

KEITH: (off panel) Well... unfortunately that's not for me to decide, Billi.

PANEL THREE - INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The interior of this small shop seems homey and quaint compared to most modern, antiseptic chain stores. Fliers mark the walls, and any customers here seem generally at home. Stephanie stands at the COUNTER here. Behind the counter stands LESTER MOORE, your standard 20-something drone, dressed in an APRON and wearing a NAME TAG. He's average in looks, neither handsome nor hideous, and appears as of he could use a break some time soon.

LESTER: Can I get you something, ma'am?

STEPHANIE: Yes, though I have to warn you I'm very picky. One mistake and you'll lose me as a customer!

PANEL FOUR - INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Lester leans forward on the counter. Stephanie seems amused at what he has to say.

LESTER: You're Stephanie - my girlfriend. You're not a *customer*, so I don't have to do what you want.

STEPHANIE: On what planet does that make sense??

LESTER: On... Mars, I guess? Cold... arid... lonely Mars. You're right, it doesn't make sense.

PANEL FIVE - INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Lester is now stepping out from behind the counter, and is pulling off his apron haphazardly, as if tearing it from his body.

LESTER: Urraahh! Watch in awe as I strip away the shackles of workaday oppression and become the normal Lester you know and love.

STEPHANIE: Nice, but maybe leave the name tag on. In case I forget.

PANEL SIX - EXT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Stephanie and Lester now leave the coffee shop. Lester has thrown on a jacket.

STEPHANIE: My big strong provider, bringing home the bacon.

LESTER: What can I say? It's how I roll.

STEPHANIE: Speaking of bacon... I hope you're taking me someplace nice tonight. I can't take another greasy diner...

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PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

The couple has now stopped a little further down the street. Lester turns and talks to Stephanie, shrugging at her.

LESTER: Hey, I happen to like those 'greasy diners'. The world doesn't revolve around you, y'know.

PANEL TWO - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

This is a shot of Stephanie as she silently arches an eyebrow.

PANEL THREE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester jokingly slouches down in front of Stephanie, who is still giving him 'the look'.

LESTER: Lies... Why would I lie like that? Of course the world revolves around you.

STEPHANIE: Mm-hmm.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, a draft of frigid winter air catches the two lovers. Lester and Stephanie are caught off guard, each pulling their coats tight.

SFX: (wish) Wwshhhh.

LESTER: Whoa. Let's get going.

STEPHANIE: Right.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

As Lester and Stephanie walk into the wind, Stephanie's scarf flutters from her throat and into the wind, much to her surprise.

STEPHANIE: Oh!

PANEL SIX - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester takes off after the scarf almost automatically. Stephanie calls to him.

STEPHANIE: It's just a scarf!

LESTER: No woman of mine is going around with a chilly gullet.

STEPHANIE: Ah, Jeeze. My hero.

PAGE FOUR

PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester pushes past an uptight BUSINESS MAN, knocking the CELL PHONE from his hand. The scarf is still caught in the wind, just ahead of him.

BUSINESS MAN: Hey!

LESTER: You're right!

PANEL TWO - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester pushes past two YOUNG MEN, thugged-out and possibly looking for trouble. The scarf continues to dance in the air just ahead of Lester.

YOUNG MAN #1: Watch it, man!

YOUNG MAN #2: Jerk!

LESTER: You're right!

PANEL THREE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester pushes past an agitated OLDER MAN, who is pushing a SHOPPING CART. The scarf is nearly within Lester's grasp.

OLDER MAN: Devilman! Devilman!!

LESTER: You... have issues, honestly.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester has now grabbed the scarf, and clutches it triumphantly in his hand.

LESTER: Yes!

PANEL FIVE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see a TAXI CAB bearing down on Lester, who finds he is standing in the middle of the lane. The cab obviously has no time to stop as Lester nonetheless seems prone to move.

LESTER: No...

SFX: (taxi's brakes) Screeeeeeeeeeee...

PANEL SIX - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

This is a pulled back shot of the area as a tremendous EXPLOSION rocks the surroundings. The blast emanates from Lester's location, sending cars and people flying. Windows shatter as the very pavement below cracks and crumbles.

SFX: (explosion) WHOOOOOMMMM!!

PAGE FIVE

PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see a hazy cloud of smoke where Lester once stood, concealing all around him. The ground is basically a shallow crater.

PANEL TWO - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

As the smoke begins to clear, we can see Lester. he is largely unharmed, though his clothes have been somewhat burnt and tattered by the force of the blast. Lester holds his hands out in front of him, as if frozen in the position of trying to stop the taxi that was about to hit him.

PANEL THREE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester looks down at his hands, which are smoldering and bloody. Needless to say, he seems confused.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see Lester from behind as he looks forward. A smoking heap of metal that was once the taxi cab sits ahead of him. Lester is wiping his hands on his jeans, smearing them with his blood.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see a close up of Lester's still perplexed face as he turns to look to the side. We can see blood trickling down from his ear.

PANEL SIX - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see over Lester's shoulder once again. In the distance, a group of citizens are pulling a bloodied, injured man out from under a chunk of displaced earth. Other bodies lie strewn about in various states of injury.

PAGE SIX

PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, Lester runs back the way he came, presumably realizing that Stephanie may be in trouble. He'll try to understand all of this later.

PANEL TWO - EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Lester makes his way through the crowds of people who have come to see what happened here. The shattered windows and cracked buildings show that the range of the explosion was quite expansive.

PANEL THREE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We now see Stephanie, sitting against a wall. She has been cut by flying glass, and now wears several bloody streaks across her face and arms. Blood is quickly pooling around her. Most of the crowd here seems to be looking toward the area of the explosion, but Lester is now standing nearby. He is dumbstruck by what his is seeing.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester now kneels, holding Stephanie in his arms. She is saying something, though nothing can be heard. Lester is, of course, horrified.

STEPHANIE: (empty word balloon)

LESTER: My ears, I can't hear anything... baby, I can't hear you...

PANEL FIVE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Stephanie goes limp in Lester's arms. His expression shows his fear at losing her.

LESTER: Don't go...

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PANEL ONE - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lester now carries Stephanie's limp body in his arms as he once again pushes back through the crowd.

LESTER: I need a doctor!! For God's sake, is anyone a doctor?

PANEL TWO - EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

We see a pulled-back shot of the crowd gathering in this area. Lester and Stephanie seem lost in a sea of injured and curious citizens.

LESTER: Someone save her!

PANEL THREE - INT. DARKENED ROOM - AT THAT MOMENT

For now we simply see a COMPUTER SCREEN, displaying a CITY MAP and the word "EVENT".

PANEL FOUR - INT. DARKENED ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We now see that we are in a darkened room filled with COMPUTER SCREENS. Some screens display a MAP with a DOT pinpointing the city Lester and Stephanie are in, others display different readings. Sitting at a DESK with one of the screens is a SHADOWY FIGURE with a cup of COFFEE. Standing next to him is yet another SHADOWY FIGURE.

SHADOWY FIGURE #1: Yikes. Did you see that?

SHADOWY FIGURE #2: It was off the charts... has to be one of ours.

PANEL FIVE - INT. DARKENED ROOM - CONTINUOUS

One of the figures lifts a nearby RED PHONE.

SHADOWY FIGURE #1: I'll get the boss on the line.

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PANEL ONE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

We now see a sterile hospital room. There is a BED here, with CURTAINS drawn around it. Sitting in the bed is Lester. His hands are BANDAGED, and he has several spots where bloody bandages mark his skin. His ears are also filled with gauze and covered over with bandages. A NURSE stands nearby, looking at Lester's CHART.

LESTER: How long has it been? Where is she?

PANEL TWO - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The nurse looks up at Lester with a solemn face. He rips the bandages and gauze from one of his ears.

LESTER: Tell me how she is!

NURSE: Easy, Mr. Moore. You need to relax.

PANEL THREE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lester holds the Nurse's hand and looks into her eyes.

LESTER: Look, the longer you don't say anything, the worse I think it is. Tell me.

NURSE: Her injuries were very bad... lacerations... head injury...

LESTER: So is she...

PANEL FOUR - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The nurse moves to leave the area as Lester puts his face in his bandaged hands.

NURSE: She's alive... We've done all we can for her, but... she's in a coma.

LESTER: This is all my fault...

NURSE: That can't possibly be true. Please, you have to relax, now... for your sake and hers. She'll need you to talk to her, to keep her mind stimulated...

PANEL FIVE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lester now sits alone on his bed, he looks up from his hands.

VOICE: (off panel) She's right, you know. It's not your fault.

PANEL SIX - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lester leaves the curtains around his bed, barely able to stand. Standing by the room's WINDOW is TWO. Two is a tall, older gentleman, dressed in slacks, a dress shirt, and tie. He's too well dressed to be a casual passerby, but not well dressed enough to be suspicious. His haggard face tells of a hard life.

TWO: You couldn't control it.

LESTER: You... you saw?

TWO: I didn't see, but I understand.

PAGE NINE

PANEL ONE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Two looks out the window, barely regarding Lester. Lester approaches him warily.

LESTER: You're with the police.

TWO: Heh. No. I'm not local.

LESTER: FBI, then? Listen, I know what you think...

TWO: I don't believe you do. We already have one who does that.

PANEL TWO - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lester is no really confused yet again. He no longer wishes to approach this strange man.

LESTER: I'm sorry, I'm lost...

TWO: You'll have to forgive me. I don't mean to act mysterious, but sometimes we pick up the wrong person. Now that we've spoken, I'm sure it was you.

LESTER: You're not helping. Now I'm more lost than ever.

PANEL THREE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Two turns to Lester with a grin.

TWO: You'll know everything soon enough... but unfortunately I'll have to show you. Otherwise you won't believe me.

PANEL FOUR - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Lester walks alongside Two as they pass through the hallway. Lester is now wearing a SWEATER covered in pictures of KITTENS and a pair of SWEAT PANTS.

LESTER: I don't think I'm supposed to be out of bed.

TWO: I won't tell anyone if you don't.

LESTER: Also, not that I'm ungrateful or anything, but... these clothes...

TWO: Got 'em on short notice. If you want, you can walk around naked in the middle of winter...

LESTER: Forget it. The kittens are hardcore.

PANEL FIVE - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lester stops walking. Two turns back toward him.

LESTER: I want to see Stephanie. My girlfriend. She's here somewhere.

TWO: Hmm? I don't think that's a good idea.

LESTER: Uhhmm... screw what you think?

PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Two grabs Lester firmly by the arm as Lester turns to leave.

TWO: Look, this is really not going to-

LESTER: Dude, I know you are *not* grabbing me.

TWO: If you'll just-

PANEL TWO - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lester takes a swing at Two, socking him firmly in the jaw. Two simply grins and remains unaffected as the blow is struck.

SFX: (hand on jaw) Krakk!

LESTER: That's enough!

PANEL THREE - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lester kneels down, clutching his now broken hand. Two is still unaffected from by the swing, and looks more empathetic toward Lester than angry.

LESTER: AAAHHHH!!

TWO: Is it out of your system now?

LESTER: Good God, what the Hell...

PANEL FOUR - INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Two now has his arm around Lester's shoulder, basically forcing him down the hallway. Lester is now more concerned about the pain in his hand than where Two is taking him.

TWO: Really, did you think you were the only one who was special? As they say, you are not a unique snowflake.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Two now ushers Lester past a few POLICE CARS that are sitting outside the front of this large building. Two is still grinning as they pass by.

TWO: Act natural.

LESTER: Where are you taking me?

TWO: It was only a matter of time before the police followed your tracks here. I'm taking you someplace they won't be able to question you.

PANEL SIX - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Lester once again pulls away from Two. Two is now beginning to get frustrated.

TWO: Oh, not again. You still have a good hand. I suppose you want to break that, too?

LESTER: If the cops want to talk to me, the last thing I should do is run away. How do you think that's going to make me look?

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL ONE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, a group of POLICE OFFICERS burst through the front doors of the hospital. The nurse is with them, pointing in Lester's direction.

NURSE: There! There he is, officers!

OFFICER #1: Okay, get her out of here, this man is dangerous!

PANEL TWO - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Two turns to Lester with a scowl on his face.

TWO: Well, I hope you're happy, now.

PANEL THREE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Lester raises his hands in the air, ready to surrender, as Two steps in front of him. Two has his hands in his pockets, his usual grin now back on his face.

TWO: Officers... What do you say we settle this like gentlemen?

LESTER: I don't know this guy.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

The cops draw closer, their guns aimed squarely at Two, who is still in front of Lester.

OFFICER #1: Shut up, Terrorist scum!

OFFICER #2: Get your hands out of your pockets!

PANEL FIVE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Still shielding Lester by standing in front of him, Two quickly pulls his hands out of his pockets, making "gun" shapes with his index fingers and thumbs. He's still smiling.

TWO: Bang bang!

PANEL SIX - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Two remains grinning as he is struck by a hail of gunfire. The bullets tear holes in his clothes, but bounce off of his skin beneath. He's knocked back a bit, but manages to stay on his feet.

SFX: (gunshots) KRAKK! KRAKK! KRAKK!

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Two now hurries Lester along once again, shoving him into a nearby CAR. Two is still in perfect health, though his clothes are riddle with holes.

LESTER: What the Hell!

TWO: C'mon, get in while they're figuring that one out.

PANEL TWO - EXT. HOSPITAL - AT THAT MOMENT

We now see one of the police officers on his RADIO, calling in backup.

OFFICER: ...That's right, two suspects, one wearing some sort of body armor or... something... they're in a vehicle traveling south on Fulley street...

PANEL THREE - INT. CAR - AT THAT MOMENT

Two is now driving this vehicle as Lester sits in the passenger's seat, basically petrified. The care is moving at a high rate speed.

TWO: I'm Two.

PANEL FOUR - INT. CAR - AT THAT MOMENT

This is largely the same scene. Lester still seems motionless and petrified.

LESTER: That's a disturbing thing to say.

TWO: No, it's my name. You can call me Two.

LESTER: Oh...

PANEL FIVE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester now seems to be coming around, realizing the situation he's currently in.

LESTER: I really need to know what this is all about, now. I'm not kidding.

TWO: Where to start? Well... ever see a man get shot fifteen times and shrug it off?

LESTER: Only all the time.

TWO: Ha ha! I'm going to like you.

PANEL SIX - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two continues to push the car to break-neck speeds as he and Lester discuss the situation.

TWO: You've heard of super-humans.

LESTER: Of course... Wait... You're one of them. You have to be.

TWO: That's right, and there's another one right here.

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL ONE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester sits back in his seat. His mind has just been blown.

LESTER: Another? You mean... I'm one, too?

PANEL TWO - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two looks over at Lester briefly. Lester jumps, surprised by THIRTEEN, who pops up from the back seat. Thirteen is a man in his late 20s to early 30s with a half-shaved head, several tattoos and facial piercings. He looks as if he has a severe hangover.

TWO: You are, but actually I was referring to Thirteen.

THIRTEEN: You rang?

LESTER: Oh Christ!

PANEL THREE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester turns as best he can to look back at Thirteen, who sticks his tongue out at Lester and jams his finger in his nose.

LESTER: What the Hell is he doing back there?

THIRTEEN: Solving Global Warming. What's it look like?

PANEL FOUR - EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

We now see the outside of the car as it speeds down side street. Several POLICE CARS have caught up with it and are now in hot pursuit, their lights ablaze.

TWO: (from inside car) Thirteen, we have some admirers. Would you mind?

PANEL FIVE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester is once again glued to his seat as Thirteen turns and looks back at the police cars following them.

THIRTEEN: Tsk. Fine.

TWO: Thank you so much.

PAGE FOURTEEN

PANEL ONE - EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Thirteen is now leaning out of the back seat window, facing back toward the police cars. Thirteen is inhaling a deep breath.

THIRTEEN: Huuffff...

PANEL TWO - EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Thirteen exhales a tremendous plume of FIRE from his mouth!

THIRTEEN: PIIGGGS!

SFX: (fire) FWOOOOOSHH

PANEL THREE - EXT. POLICE CARS - CONTINUOUS

The police cars screech to a halt and swerve as a large FIREBALL sails over them. Though the flames are close, it is clear that no one will be harmed.

SFX: (cars stopping) Screeeeeeeechhh

PANEL FOUR - INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Thirteen now slumps in the back seat, holding his head in his hands.

THIRTEEN: Nnnngh... hangover didn't need that.

PANEL FIVE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester is awe struck by what he has seen. He turns to Two, an adrenaline rush taking hold of him.

LESTER: That... was... incredible. It's really true... you are super-heroes. I'm a super-hero. I can't believe it. Super-heroes in a jet-car, headed for a secret headquarters...?

PANEL SIX - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two grins.

TWO: Jet-car? Jeeze, kid... It's just a rental.

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PANEL ONE - EXT. HOSPITAL - AT THAT MOMENT

We now see a NEWS CREW outside the hospital. A NEWSWOMAN stands in front of the building as a CAMERAMAN focuses on her.

NEWSWOMAN: I'm here on the scene of a violent gun battle between police and two terror suspects linked to what's now being called the "Bloody Winter" bombing.

PANEL TWO - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

We now see TWENTY TWO, a young girl in her 20s, dressed in vibrant, colorful clothing. She is clearly a largely carefree soul as she skips past a group of POLICE OFFICERS.

TWENTY TWO: Hey dudes. What happened?

OFFICER #1: Ma'am, you'll have to keep moving.

TWENTY TWO: Ma'am? Like, do I look elderly? What's the name of that bomber guy you're looking for?

OFFICER #2: The man said move along, miss.

TWENTY TWO: 'Kay... But, like, my name isn't Ma'am or Miss. It's Twenty Two.

PANEL THREE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two skips away as the police officers look at each other in confusion. Twenty Two's eyes seem to be giving off an unnatural glow as she smiles sweetly.

TWENTY TWO: I've got lots 'n lots of people to talk to, anyway. Seeya.

OFFICER #1: Hey, who are we looking for?

OFFICER #2: Some guy... what's his face... Damn, I just had it...

PANEL FOUR - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two now skips up to the Newswoman.

NEWSWOMAN: Though the police aren't releasing many details, they say that the cause of the explosion can't be explained at this time.

TWENTY TWO: Hi, don't you think you should be somewhere else right now?

NEWSWOMAN: What? You... I... yeah... I should be... somewhere else right now. There's no story here.

PANEL FIVE - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - AT THAT MOMENT

We are now in a dark, metal bunker. The walls and fixtures here are all heavy-duty steel, and several metal cabinets line the walls. A single TELEVISION sits on a table here, playing the news report from the previous panels.

NEWSWOMAN: (on television) I'm wasting my time here. Back to you in the studio, Bob.

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PANEL ONE - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The television now displays a NEWS ANCHOR as a single gloved HAND reaches to turn the television off.

NEWS ANCHOR: (on television) Well... that was odd. Though it hasn't been confirmed, sources close to the scene say the explosion was caused by a single man who actually managed to walk away from the scene.

PANEL TWO - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The gloved hand turns off the television.

SFX: (television) Klik

VOICE: (off panel) Another one.

PANEL THREE - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

We now see a SHADOWY FIGURE standing near the television, his head lowered.

FIGURE: Another one, and another one, and another one.

PANEL FOUR - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The shadowy figure lifts the television into the air, over his head.

FIGURE: GRRR!!

PANEL FIVE - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The shadowy figure slams the television to the ground with a crash, destroying it.

SFX: (television on ground) Kruunnch!

FIGURE: RRAAGGHH!

PANEL SIX - INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The shadowy figure opens a nearby CABINET, bathing the room in light, though his identity is still obscured.

FIGURE: Another one to destroy.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

PANEL ONE - INT. CAR - NIGHT

Two now drives the vehicle through the COUNTRYSIDE as night falls. Lester is half asleep from his whole ordeal. Thirteen is passed out in the back as Two continues to drive, a little dopey himself.

LESTER: I need to call the hospital.

TWO: It speaks! I thought you were giving me the silent treatment.

LESTER: I need to find out if Stephanie's okay.

PANEL TWO - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

This is largely the same scene as Two puts his hand on Lester's shoulder, his eyes still on the road ahead.

TWO: I hear ya', but that's not possible right now.

LESTER: Screw possible. The minute we get wherever you're taking me, I'm calling.

PANEL THREE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two goes back to steering the car as Lester becomes more annoyed.

TWO: We've got one of ours on the job. She messes with people's thoughts. Once she gets to everyone who knows your identity, she's going to give me a call. Until she does, you're not doing anything that gives away our location.

LESTER: Great. You've got a fortune teller. How many of you people are there?

PANEL FOUR - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two tries to explain something to Lester, who isn't interested.

TWO: She's not a fortune teller.

LESTER: Whatever.

TWO: I mean, she doesn't see the future. She makes people think things... or not think things.

LESTER: Are you really going to get particular with me right now? I'm calling the damned hospital.

TWO: ...She's just not a fortune teller, is all.

LESTER: Get over it!

PANEL FIVE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two tries to diffuse the situation.

TWO: It's a long drive. Let's talk about something else.

LESTER: If it's such a long drive, how did you get to me so fast? You must've already known I was going to... explode. Why didn't you stop me?

TWO: Our guys spotted your power signature after you had your little incident. No way to stop it.

PANEL SIX - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two continues to explain.

TWO: We have a guy who teleports things. He sent us to you. Can't send himself, but he can put just about anything almost anywhere.

LESTER: Then what are we driving for?

TWO: It's a one-way kind of thing.

LESTER: Of course. How silly of me to even ask.

PAGE EIGHTEEN

PANEL ONE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Two and Lester continue to talk.

TWO: You ever hear of Hundredman, kid?

LESTER: Yeah, I've heard of the Pope, too.

TWO: Never can tell with you young ones. Seems the old heroes are fading into obscurity these days.

LESTER: So what about him?

TWO: Well...

PANEL TWO - EXT. SKY - DAY

We now see a flashback to the "golden age". Hundredman is soaring through the air, a true archetypal icon. It seems as if he hasn't a care in the world.

TWO: (caption) Hundredman wasn't like all the other heroes of his day. Everyone else was using gizmos, gadgets, and magical artifacts to fight crime. His one hundred powers were based in his genes.

PANEL THREE - EXT. BANK - DAY

We see another flashback of Hundredman. This time, he stands at the ready while a hail of BULLETS bounce off of him.

TWO: (caption) Impenetrable skin...

PANEL FOUR - EXT. MUSEUM - DAY

We see another flashback of Hundredman. This time, he is holding his fingers to his temples as RIPPLES of energy emanate from his forehead.

TWO: (caption) Mental telepathy...

PANEL FIVE - EXT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

We see another flashback of Hundredman. This time, he is spewing a plume of FIRE BREATH.

TWO: (caption) Fire breath.

PANEL SIX - INT. CAR - AT THAT MOMENT

We are now back in the car with Two and Lester. Lester is coming to a calm realization as Two grins once again.

LESTER: ... Explosive blasts...

TWO: Ladies and Gentlemen, he's catching on.

PAGE NINETEEN

PANEL ONE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester looks out his window, as if pondering his own origins.

LESTER: So we're all related to him.

TWO: Sort of.

PANEL TWO - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester arches an eyebrow in disbelief as Two speaks.

TWO: Relatives. Clones. Same difference, right?

PANEL THREE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester suddenly goes bananas, banging on the door as Two reacts with shock. Thirteen stirs in the back seat.

LESTER: That's it! Pull over, right now. I mean it!

TWO: Whoa, whoa, whoa, cowboy... Hold on, now...

PANEL FOUR - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester starts to open the door even through the car is still moving. Thirteen sits up in the back seat.

TWO: WHOA!!

LESTER: Pull over or I'll blow us all up, I mean it!

THIRTEEN: Wha's th' hubbub...?

PANEL FIVE - EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car pulls over to the side of the road. As it does, Lester leaps out.

SFX: (car pulling over) Vrrmm...

TWO: (inside car) Kid, wait!

LESTER: Screw you!

PAGE TWENTY

PANEL ONE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester is now walking back in the direction they were driving. Two is out of the car, following him.

LESTER: You had me going, man. You really had me going.

TWO: What got up your rear, kid?

PANEL TWO - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester turns around and points a finger in Two's face, yelling at him.

LESTER: Clones? Clones?! Are you kidding me? That's the oldest, lamest, most cliché routine in the history of clichés!

TWO: Listen, kid, I-

LESTER: Stop calling me kid! My name's Lester.

PANEL THREE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester starts walking away again.

LESTER: It's not a great name, but it's mine. If you think you're a number, then I feel sorry for you.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester is now walking away from Two, who is standing solemnly in the background.

TWO: You've got a scar on your back.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester stops.

LESTER: So what? I've got a lot of scars, now.

PANEL SIX - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Two turns around and lifts his shirt to reveal a SCAR on his back, just below his ribs.

TWO: I mean a scar you've always had... I've got it, too. We all do. Somehow, the wound that killed Hundredman marks all of us. You've seen me get shot. You know I don't get injured... but I have the scar, too. Can you explain that?

PAGE TWENTY ONE

PANEL ONE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester doesn't look back at Two, even though he has stopped walking. Two has turned back to Lester, his shirt ruffled, but pulled back down.

LESTER: I have parents.

TWO: Adoptive parents.

PANEL TWO - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester turns back toward Two.

LESTER: Great parents.

TWO: No one's questioning that.

PANEL THREE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester gives up, mentally and physically exhausted. He slumps.

LESTER: Man... what do you want from me...?

TWO: Get back in the car. Come with us. Meet your "family". We're not perfect, but we'll protect you.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester walks back toward Two, though he's not sure if he's going to do what Two wants.

LESTER: Protect me from what? You said you were already taking care of the police... that your girl with the brain-powers was going to tell everyone to leave me alone.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester stops again, just short of meeting up with Two.

LESTER: You know... I deserve to be arrested. Put in jail. I killed people, get it? I nearly killed the woman I love.

PAGE TWENTY TWO

PANEL ONE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester and Two seem to stare each other down for a moment.

TWO: That's what we want to protect you from. Not the police, not the government... we need to protect you from yourself. You *cannot* and *will not* control this thing inside of you. Not without help.

PANEL TWO - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Two takes a few steps toward Lester, his hand outstretched.

TWO: When Hundredman died, there were folks who wanted to preserve his unique genetics. They created new life from his DNA. The children, called "Numbers", were placed into the adoption system. Anonymity kept them safe from anyone

who might do them harm. When their powers become potent, they get brought back into the fold.

PANEL THREE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

We see a shot of Two as he reaches his hand out.

TWO: It's your time, now.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester takes Two's hand firmly.

LESTER: If we're clones, how come I don't look like you?

TWO: You're just not that lucky. C'mon.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. ROAD SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Lester walks back to the car with Two.

LESTER: We really all have the same scar? What's up with that...

TWO: Not a clue, kid, not a clue.

PAGE TWENTY THREE

PANEL ONE - EXT. HOSPITAL - AT THAT MOMENT

It is now dark outside the building. All of the police cars have gone, and not a hint of a crime scene remains. Twenty Two is sitting in front of the building with a COLORING BOOK, busily filling in the pictures with CRAYONS.

PANEL TWO - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two stops coloring and looks up with a casual expression.

TWENTY TWO: I know someone's out there.

PANEL THREE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, SEVEN steps out of the shadows near Twenty Two. Seven is a large, heavy man, dressed in urban 'gear' with sunglasses pushed up on his head.

SEVEN: Aw, you're no fun to sneak up on.

TWENTY TWO: Hi, Seven. Like, way to leave me sitting here for hours.

SEVEN: Hey, didn't want to cramp your whole "these aren't the droids you're looking for" mojo. That stuff creeps me out every time.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Seven and Twenty Two walk away from the building.

SEVEN: How I know you won't pull that junk on me? Melt my mind or something...

TWENTY TWO: Oh, Seven... what mind?

SEVEN: Ouch, girl. Ouch.

TWENTY TWO: I need more time to get to all the witnesses. Let's hit a hotel.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two suddenly stops and looks over her shoulder.

SEVEN: What's up?

PANEL SIX - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Seven and Twenty Two continue to walk off into the night. As they do, a CLOAKED FIGURE barely emerges from the shadows behind them.

TWENTY TWO: Nothing. Thought I heard screaming... someone really mad... Forget it.

PAGE TWENTY FOUR

PANEL ONE - EXT. NUMBER HEADQUARTERS, GATES - MORNING

This is a large pair of metal gates, attached to heavy-duty walls which enclose the grounds of a tremendous COMPLEX. Pulling up to the gates is the car containing Two, Thirteen, and Lester.

TWO: (from car) Home again, home again, jiggy-jig.

PANEL TWO - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

We now see that Lester is wearing a BLINDFOLD over his eyes. Thirteen is alert and sitting in the back as usual. Two is still driving, looking quite exhausted.

THIRTEEN: He always freakin' says that.

PANEL THREE - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lester folds his arms as Thirteen becomes irate.

LESTER: I don't understand why I have to wear a blindfold.

THIRTEEN: I had to wear it when I came here, so you have to wear it too! Shut up!

TWO: It's just a security measure. For the time being, the less you know about where we are, the better.

PANEL FOUR - INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Thirteen does a mocking "dance" from the waist up.

THIRTEEN: Yeah. You gotta wear the blindfold now, ya' blindfolded turd.

LESTER: Is that really necessary?

PANEL FIVE - INT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

We see nothing but blackness now, as we see from Lester's point of view.

TWO: (voice only) Okay, you can take it off now.

PAGE TWENTY FIVE

PANEL ONE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

We now see a close-up of Lester's face as he blinks, the light stinging his eyes.

PANEL TWO - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

We now see the courtyard. It is meticulously landscaped, various beautiful plants adorning the grounds. At the end of the courtyard is the large COMPLEX, an imposing, faceless monolith of a building.

LESTER: Wow.

PANEL THREE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Lester turns to Two as Thirteen seems to wander aimlessly in the background.

TWO: So what do you think?

LESTER: I think someone here has an impressive bank account.

THIRTEEN: I left my Frisbee out here somewhere.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Two and Lester walk toward the complex as Thirteen continues to mill about.

TWO: Deepest pockets you can imagine.

LESTER: When do I meet whoever's in charge?

TWO: You don't. None of us do. Kick in the ass, isn't it?

THIRTEEN: Over here, I think.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Lester turns to Two.

LESTER: You never answered me when I asked how many of you there are.

TWO: You mean how many of "us". You're one of us.

LESTER: Whatever, just answer the question.

THIRTEEN: (off panel) Where the Hell is that thing?

PAGE TWENTY SIX

PANEL ONE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Two puts his hand on Lester's shoulder.

TWO: There are some things you should know, and some you shouldn't. Suffice to say there are a lot of us, but not all have been "initiated".

LESTER: So most of... "us"... are still out there, with no idea who they truly are.

TWO: Exactly.

PANEL TWO - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

A FRISBEE suddenly whizzes through the air between Two and Lester.

PANEL THREE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Ignoring the interruption, Lester continues his inquisition.

LESTER: And they all have powers.

TWO: A power. They all have a power. Just one.

LESTER: Why is that?

TWO: It's like the scar - the scientists can't explain it.

LESTER: So there are scientists, too.

PANEL FOUR - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Lester and Two once again approach the complex as Thirteen runs by in the background.

THIRTEEN: Bwaaahhh!

TWO: There are scientists, technicians, psychologists, you name it. It's a pretty big operation.

LESTER: Psychologists.

TWO: Right. They say that it's absolutely integral that all clones experience unique, real-world upbringings. It keeps us from seeing ourselves as copies. This way, we have our own motivations, our own reasons to fight and survive.

PANEL FIVE - EXT. NUMBER HQ, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Lest and Two are now at the immense metal DOORS to the complex, presumably about to enter.

LESTER: Whoa. You never said anything about fighting.

TWO: Come now. What *else* do "super-heroes" do?

PAGE TWENTY SEVEN

PANEL ONE - INT. NUMBERS HQ, THE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The lobby is the bustling center of the Numbers complex. Various staff members are moving from one point to another, carrying computer discs and briefcases along with them. Standing at the center of the chaos are Lester and Two.

TWO: Welcome to Number Headquarters. This is the Lobby. Sit here long enough and you'll see every member of our staff at least twice.

LESTER: ... Great. It's like a bus station.

PANEL TWO - INT. NUMBERS HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Two stops someone who is walking past. The person is EIGHTEEN, a beautiful young woman in her 20s with long, flowing hair and casual business attire.

TWO: Lester, this is Eighteen. Eighteen, this is Lester.

EIGHTEEN: Charmed.

TWO: Eighteen is our resident telekinetic.

EIGHTEEN: That means I move things with my mind.

TWO: I bet you do.

PANEL THREE - INT. NUMBERS HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Lester rolls his eyes as Two leans on him with a grin.

TWO: Too bad she's basically your twin, huh? Huh?

PANEL FOUR - INT. NUMBERS HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Two now stops yet another passerby. This time it is TEN, a generally nerdy-looking young man in his late teens to early twenties wearing glasses and an "UNDYING DEAD" movie T-Shirt. He looks generally sheepish toward Two and Lester.

TWO: Ah, this guy's Ten. Not much for conversation, but his laser peepers can cut a man in half.

TEN: I h...haven't though.

LESTER: Huh?

TEN: Cut a man in half. I... I wouldn't do that.

PANEL FIVE - INT. NUMBER HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Lester now stops one of the passersby, a normal looking young man, dressed casually and carrying a cup of coffee. The young man seems uninterested in Lester.

LESTER: What about you? What's your power?

YOUNG MAN: I talk to fish.

LESTER: Really?

YOUNG MAN: No, I just work in the research lab. I'm nobody.

PAGE TWENTY EIGHT

PANEL ONE - INT. NUMBER HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Two ushers Lester through the bustle of the lobby.

TWO: C'mon, there's one other I want you to meet.

LESTER: Alright, but then I *have to* call the hospital.

PANEL TWO - INT. NUMBER HQ, THE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Two continues to usher Lester through.

TWO: Haven't got the call yet. Once I do, you're on the first available line. I promise.

PANEL THREE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - MOMENTS LATER

We are now in the expansive research lab, an antiseptic room devoid of furniture and other such items. Various

markings on the walls and floor seem to denote measurement of some distance, height, and radius of different super powers. Two is standing with Lester once again. Standing in front of them is SARA FROUD, a bookish young woman in lab coat and gloves, her hair pulled back. She seems to have quite a flat personality.

TWO: This is Sara Froud. She's in charge of research, and that includes discovering your full potential.

LESTER: And how to control this, right?

TWO: Of course.

PANEL FOUR - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lester reaches out his hand to shake Sara's. She does not reciprocate.

LESTER: Hi. Lester Moore.

SARA: You'll have to forgive me for not shaking hands, but I've heard you're a pyrokinetic, specifically in relation to explosive combustion.

LESTER: Fancy words for... "someone who could blow your hand off by mistake"?

SARA: Quite.

PANEL FIVE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lester retracts his hand.

LESTER: I won't take it personally. I've met Thirteen, so there's little you could do to offend me right now.

SARA: Thirteen is an anti-social, borderline personality with self-destructive tendencies.

PAGE TWENTY NINE

PANEL ONE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Two wanders off now, leaving Lester and Sara alone.

TWO: I'm going to go check in with the others. You guys have fun... Watch this one, Lester, she's tricky.

PANEL TWO - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lester grins at Sara as Sara types on a small hand-held computer device, seemingly oblivious to him.

LESTER: That guy's something. Like the demented, scary uncle I never wanted.

SARA: Two is suffering from a deep-rooted fear of being second-best. This stems mostly from his classification as the second clone to be initiated. When One passed away, Two became the most senior of the numbers and began overcompensating for his perceived inadequacy.

PANEL THREE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sara turns away from Lester and continues typing on her small device. Lester follows, curious about this woman.

LESTER: How unsettlingly analytical of you...

SARA: You, on the other hand, have no qualms with inadequacy, and in fact find safety in the idea that you're not perfect and don't need to be. I'd venture to guess you were a textbook slacker, but... that might be a bit presumptuous.

LESTER: Ohh, now it's getting ugly.

PANEL FOUR - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lester continues to follow Sara as she approaches a large DOOR.

LESTER: Scathing personal insight. Is that your power?

SARA: I'm not one of the Numbers. I don't have a power, save for being naturally intelligent and intuitive.

PANEL FIVE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sara now stands next to the large door as a crystal clear TUBE rises from the floor, encircling her. Lester stands back, caught off guard by this.

SFX: (tube) Shffff

LESTER: Whoa. Unexpected tube.

PAGE THIRTY

PANEL ONE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sara is now fully enclosed in the tube. Lester is unsure of what to make of this.

SARA: Step away please, Twenty Seven.

LESTER: What?

PANEL TWO - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sara begins typing on her hand-held device again. Lester is now becoming a little frustrated with this odd woman.

LESTER: Listen, lady-

SARA: Sara.

LESTER: Listen, Sara. I'm not "Twenty Seven". I'm not any number.

PANEL THREE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lester looks around quizzically as a mechanical rumbling echoes through the room.

SFX: (rumbling) Vvrrrrrrnnnggg

LESTER: What are you messing with in there?

SARA: It's a remote control device.

LESTER: For what?

PANEL FOUR - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

The large door near Sara and Lester suddenly opens, revealing nothing but darkness beyond. Lester reels back from it.

SARA: For Brutus. Again, I think you should step back, number Twenty Seven.

PANEL FIVE - INT. NUMBER HQ, RESEARCH LAB - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, BRUTUS, a giant ROBOT seemingly built for destruction lumbers out of the giant door. Lester staggers back from the gigantic metal beast as Sara remains casual inside her protective personal shield.

SFX: (lumbering robot) Chunngg... Chunngg...

SARA: I'd like to take some readings. A demonstration, if you would be so kind.

PAGE THIRTY ONE

PANEL ONE - EXT. HOSPITAL - AT THAT MOMENT

We now see Seven and Twenty Two outside the building again. Twenty Two is about to enter the building while Seven remains outside.

SEVEN: Get your caboose in gear. We should be done by now.

TWENTY TWO: I just have to do one more thing, promise.

PANEL TWO - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Now left alone, Seven leans against a wall and begins to light a CIGARETTE.

SEVEN: That girl's 'bout to kill me.

PANEL THREE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

We see a close-up of Seven's face as his eyes widen in shock.

SFX: (impacts) THUKK THUKK THUKK

PANEL FOUR - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Seven looks down to see three small golden BLADES stuck in his chest and stomach, blood gathering around the wounds.

SEVEN: Uh?

PANEL FIVE - EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Seven has now fallen on his knees and is clutching his chest.

SEVEN: Uh... uhhh!!

PAGE THIRTY TWO

PANEL ONE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

This sterile hospital room contains a single bed. Lying in that bed is Stephanie, hooked up to machines and covered in bandages. Standing by the bedside is Twenty Two.

TWENTY TWO: Good morning. My name's Twenty Two. What's yours?

PANEL TWO - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

This is the largely the same image. Though no conversation seems to be taking place between the two, Twenty Two continues to speak.

TWENTY TWO: Stephanie's a pretty name.

PANEL THREE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two takes Stephanie's hand.

TWENTY TWO: I have some stuff I have to make you forget...
Oh! He's your boyfriend.

PANEL FOUR - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two smiles as she continues to hold Stephanie's hand.

TWENTY TWO: Yes, he's alive. So is he cute? Like, cute-cute or hot-cute? ... Oh, just cute-cute.

PANEL FIVE - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twenty Two puts Stephanie's hand back down and pats her on the head.

TWENTY TWO: What's that? Oh, sure I'll tell him. No problem. It was nice meeting you, but I gotta go now...

PANEL SIX - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We now see the back of a FIGURE standing in the doorway to the room. The figure is obscured by a tattered, black CLOAK, and his shadow-obscured head wears some sort of hard gray HEADPIECE with twisted, bone-like HORNS jutting out from either side. Inside the room, we can see that Twenty Two is looking directly at him.

TWENTY TWO: Someone outside is very angry with me...

CAPTION: Continued...