ZDARSKY | CHECCHETTO | MENYZ

A MARVEL EVENT

DEVIL'S REIGN

1 OF 6

Years ago, teenager MATT MURDOCK was blinded after being exposed to radioactive waste. He lost his sight, but his remaining senses began to function with superhuman acuity and gifted him with an ability similar to echolocation. Dubbed his 'radar sense,' it grants him a unique perspective on the world as he tries to better it as the costumed vigilante called DAREDEVIL.

No foe has stood in the way of Murdock's pursuit of justice more than WILSON FISK — formerly the KINGPIN of a vast criminal empire that touched every corner of New York (and beyond), now the duly elected mayor of New York. Despite his best efforts, Fisk has failed to truly grow into his office and wash his hands of his old life — and the bloodshed it bore.

Now, after wedding TYPHOID MARY and retreating to upstate New York for their honeymoon, Fisk has discovered a secret that has made his blood boil…

DEVIL'S REIGN

PART 1

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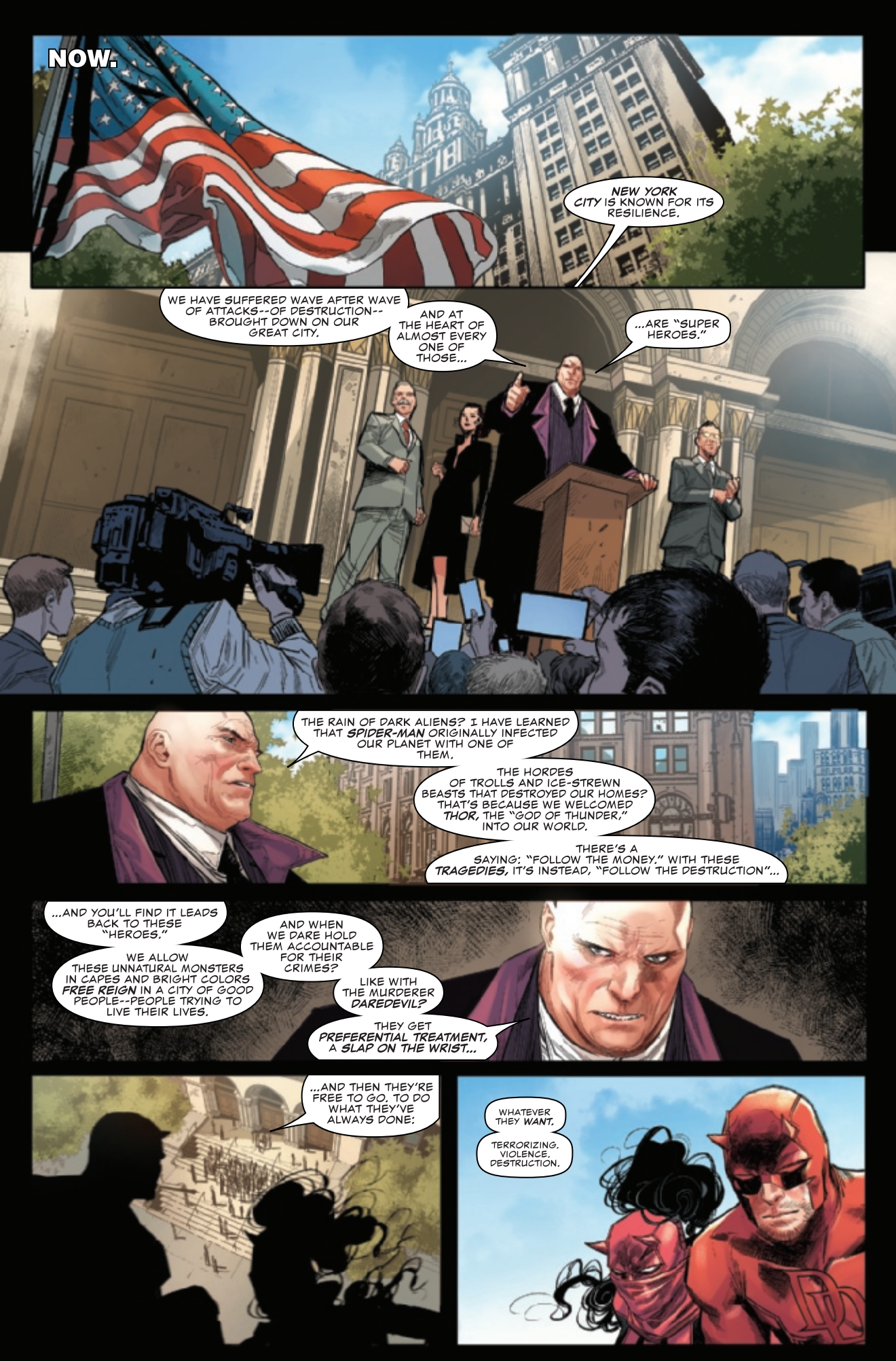
NEW YORK CITY.
ONE WEEK AGO.
How did it begin? My hatred of this man.
There are so many things to hate, really.
His piousness. His outdated sense of morality.
But the thing I always come back to...

FISK.
...is his hypocrisy.
He looks down on our baser natures as he grins in a fistfight.
He puts on airs of a saint tasked with succumbing to violence...
NYPD
CORDONING OFF A STREET IN HELL'S KITCHEN?
YOU CLEARLY WANTED MY ATTENTION. SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT HOME...
...but he's truly the devil.
...WITH YOUR NEW BRIDE?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WHATEVER THIS IS.
AND I DIDN'T BRING MY READING GLASSES.
THEN I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THAT IS, DAREDEVIL.
IT'S NOTHING.
BUT IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING.
IT'S A FOLDER FROM MY PRIVATE SAFE, WHICH I DIMLY REMEMBER PUTTING TOGETHER, REMEMBER MAINTAINING...

...LABELED DAREDEVIL'S IDENTITY.
AND THE PAGES INSIDE ARE EITHER BLANK OR MEANINGLESS.
LIKE A SICK JOKE. LIKE SOMEONE SWITCHED THEM OUT FROM MY MOST SECURE AND SECRET PLACE.
EXCEPT THEY DIDN'T, DID THEY?
DID THEY?
I CAN FEEL IT!
YOU! YOU DID SOMETHING TO MY MIND!
WHO ARE YOU?!
SORRY, WILSON.
BUT IT'S CALLED A SECRET IDENTITY.
You are the devil.
And I'll tear everything down to destroy you.
Because nobody knows you like I do. Nobody else knows your true Achilles' heel:
your guilt.


NOW.
NEW YORK CITY IS KNOWN FOR ITS RESILIENCE.
WE HAVE SUFFERED WAVE AFTER WAVE OF ATTACKS--OF DESTRUCTION--BROUGHT DOWN ON OUR GREAT CITY.
AND AT THE HEART OF ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THOSE...
...ARE "SUPER HEROES."
THE RAIN OF DARK ALIENS? I HAVE LEARNED THAT SPIDER-MAN ORIGINALLY INFECTED OUR PLANET WITH ONE OF THEM.
THE HORDES OF TROLLS AND ICE-STREWN BEASTS THAT DESTROYED OUR HOMES? THAT'S BECAUSE WE WELCOMED THOR, THE "GOD OF THUNDER," INTO OUR WORLD.
THERE'S A SAYING: "FOLLOW THE MONEY." WITH THESE TRAGEDIES, IT'S INSTEAD, "FOLLOW THE DESTRUCTION"...
...AND YOU'LL FIND IT LEADS BACK TO THESE "HEROES."
WE ALLOW THESE UNNATURAL MONSTERS IN CAPES AND BRIGHT COLORS FREE REIGN IN A CITY OF GOOD PEOPLE--PEOPLE TRYING TO LIVE THEIR LIVES.
AND WHEN WE DARE HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR CRIMES?
LIKE WITH THE MURDERER DAREDEVIL?
THEY GET PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, A SLAP ON THE WRIST...
...AND THEN THEY'RE FREE TO GO, TO DO WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS DONE:
WHATEVER THEY WANT.
TERRORIZING. VIOLENCE. DESTRUCTION.

WELL, NO LONGER.
WE HERE IN NEW YORK CITY FEEL THAT ISN'T ENOUGH. OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH LAWMAKERS TO DRAFT THE POWERS ACT.
RECENTLY, OUR FRIENDS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WISELY OUTLAWED UNSANCTIONED "SUPER HERO ACTIVITY" FOR THOSE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE.
TO THOSE OF YOU OUT THERE WITH SUCH ABILITIES, I SAY THIS TO YOU:
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO EXHIBITS A USE OF POWERS DEEMED "SUPERHUMAN" OR COMMITS ACTS OF DESTRUCTIVE VIGILANTISM WILL BE CHARGED AS A THREAT.
YOU ARE NOT BETTER THAN US. NOT BETTER THAN THE HARDWORKING PEOPLE OF THIS CITY.
NOT BETTER THAN THE FINE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIGHT OUR FIRES, WHO POLICE OUR STREETS, WHO MEND OUR SICK.
YOU WISH TO HELP SOCIETY?
BE A PART OF IT.
NOT ABOVE IT.
MAYOR FISK!
WILL THERE BE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS LAW?
THE MAYOR WILL BE TAKING QUESTIONS LATER.
FOR NOW, I'LL WALK YOU THROUGH WHAT'S BEEN RELAYED TO THE NYPD.
WILSON...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?
I DON'T MIND A GOOD FIGHT, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO COME FOR YOU...
MARY, MY DEAR...
...LET THEM.